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A NEW

ENGLISH DICTIONARY

ON HISTORICAL PRINCIPLES.

VOLUME IX. PART I. SI—ST.

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A NEW

ENGLISH DICTIONARY

ON HISTORICAL PRINCIPLES;

FOUNDED MAINLY ON THE MATERIALS COLLECTED BY

The Philological Society.

EDITED BY

SIR JAMES A. H. MURRAY,
HENRY BRADLEY, W. A. CRAIGIE, C. T. ONIONS.

VOLUME IX. PART I. SI—ST.

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SI—SQ.

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ST.

By HENRY BRADLEY,
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PREFACE TO VOLUME IX.

THIS volume, which, on account of its great size, is issued in two parts, contains, in Part I, the words beginning with SI–SQ edited by Professor W. A. Craigie, ST by Dr. Henry Bradley, in Part II, SU-SZ by Mr. C. T. Onions, and T–TH by the late Sir James Murray.

The statistics for the whole volume are:—

	Main words.	Subordinate words.	Special Combinations.	Obvious Combinations.	Total No. of Words.	No. of Quotations.
SI–ST (1212 pages)	13,563	3532	3502	6781	27,378	156,397
SU–SZ (396 „)	4935	2417	960	1094	9406	47,112
T–TH (404 „)	6050	1531	1577	1706	10,864	45,900
SI–TH (2012 „)	24,548	7480	6039	9581	47,648	249,409

The 24,548 Main words are distinguished approximately as follows:

	Current.	Obsolete.	Alien.	Total.
SI–ST	10,485	2683	395	13,563
SU–SZ	3594	1133	208	4935
T–TH	4682	965	403	6050
	18,761	4781	1006	24,548

The comparative scale of this work and of certain other Dictionaries is shown as follows:

	Johnson.	Cassell's 'Encyclopædic'.	'Century' Dict.	Here.
Words recorded	3740	17,616	23,119	47,648
Words illustrated by quotations	3029	6176	7177	41,022
Number of illustrative quotations	12,169	9996	19,826	249,409

In the corresponding portion of Richardson's Dictionary the number of quotations is 10,964.

The aggregate numbers for the first nine volumes of the Dictionary (A–TH) are:

Main words.	Subordinate words.	Special Combinations.	Obvious Combinations.	Total No. of words.	Illustrative quotations.
206,565	56,114	41,186	49,905	353,770	1,547,545

Of the 206,565 Main words 181,967 are current, 20,513 obsolete, 4985 alien.

For observations on the etymological and other characteristics of the words included in this volume, and for detailed statistics of the numbers of words of various classes, and of the numbers of quotations, the reader is referred to the separate prefaces to the various sections. A summary statement of the characteristics of the portions SI–ST, SU–SZ will be found in the prefaces to them; observations relating to T–TH are included in the preface to the letter T in Part II.

The statistics for the whole of the letter S are collected at the end of the preface to SU–SZ.

PREFACE TO SI—ST.

THIS half-volume, containing the words from SI to the end of ST, includes 13,563 Main words, 3502 Combinations explained under these, and 3532 Subordinate entries; in all 20,597. The Obvious combinations, illustrated by quotations but not requiring specific definition, number 6781 more, making a total of 27,378. Of the Main words, 2683 are marked † as obsolete, and 395 are marked ‖ as alien or not fully naturalized.*

In the portion comprising SI to SQ the distribution of the usual constituents of the vocabulary is considerably affected by the sound immediately following the initial *s*. The native element, however, is either predominant or prominent throughout, except in SK and a portion of SL. The contributions made by the other Germanic languages are as usual slight in comparison; Scandinavian is best represented in SK (e.g. *skill*, *skin*, *sky*) and SL (e.g. *slaughter*, *slight*, *sly*), Dutch or Low German in SK, SL, and especially in SP. The Romanic element, from all sources, is important throughout, except in SM and in parts of SL and SP;

* The following figures show the comparative scale of this work and some other Dictionaries:—

	Johnson.	Cassell's 'Encyclopædic'.	'Century' Dict.	Here.
Words recorded	2114	9763	12,743	27,378
Words illustrated by quotations	1648	3497	3835	23,959
Number of illustrative quotations	7351	5884	11,433	156,397

In the corresponding portion of Richardson's Dictionary the number of quotations is 6138.

words directly from Latin are naturally absent from SK. The number of words from Old French is considerably increased by the reduction of prefixes, and by the frequency with which *s-* appears in place of the usual OF. *es-*. The Greek element is important only in SO and SP, but is slightly represented in the other portions, even in SQ through med.L. forms. Words from Oriental and remote languages are under the average, and in some portions are almost entirely absent. Some feeling of appropriateness in the use of *sk-*, *sl-*, *sm-*, etc., to express certain ideas is evidently responsible for the large proportion of words beginning with these sounds which have no obvious etymology. This is especially apparent in recent (or comparatively late) formations, such as *skedaddle*, *slang*, *slog*, *slum*, *smash*, *snob*, *snooze*, etc. Equal obscurity of origin, however, attaches to many older words which have long been established in the language, as *skewer*, *skull*, *slender*, *smell*, *smoulder*, *smug*, *snatch*, *sneak*, *sneer*, *snug*, etc.

Although SI–SQ includes a large number of words in very common use, there are very few articles of unusual length, and the great majority are comparatively short. The longest (of 15 columns) is that on SO; next to this come those on SIT, SPEAK, SPRING *sb.*, SIDE, and SPIRIT. A few extend to 8 or 9 columns, as SILVER, SMALL, SOFT, SOUL, SPRING *v.*, but the average length of the longer articles is not above 5 or 6 columns. Extensive illustration of forms has been found necessary only in a few verbs, as *sit*, *slay*, *smite*, but the possibilities of English orthography are strikingly brought out by the numerous spellings of *soldier* and *sovereign*.

In the ST portion, all the principal linguistic sources of the English vocabulary—Old English, French, Latin, and Greek—are abundantly represented. The great majority of the words can be referred to a small number of Indogermanic roots, and it is observable that sometimes derivatives of one and the same root have come into the language through all the different channels. Thus the root **st(h)ā-* has its representatives, among native English words, in *stand*, *staddle*, ? *staff*, *stead*, *stool*, *stow*, and others; among words introduced from Latin and French, in *stable*, *state*, *station*, *statue*, etc.; among words from Greek, in *stater*[1], *static*, *statical*, etc. Words from the modern Teutonic and Romanic languages are numerous. On the other hand, the adoptions from the native languages of Asia, Africa, and America, which abound in many parts of the Dictionary, are here almost entirely absent.

Many of the words with initial *st* are remarkable for the great variety of their senses, requiring for their treatment articles of exceptional length. Among these may be mentioned *stand* (which with its derivatives here occupies 19 pages), *strike* (and the related *stroke*), *stick* vb. and sbs., *stone*; also, of Romanic and Latin origin, *stage*, *standard*, *state*, *station*, *strive*, *study*, *style*.

The material collected for SI to ST down to 1881–2 was subedited at that time as follows:—SI to SOMYR by Mr. P. W. Jacob, SON to SPECIES by Mr. Walter Browne, SPECIFIABLE to SPYTE by Mr. Charles Gray, SQ- and ST- by Mr. P. W. Jacob. SI- to SK- was re-subedited, and new material incorporated, in 1906–8 by Mr. J. Bartlett, B.A., SLA- to SOLF- in 1904–7 by Mr. John Dormer, SOLI- to SONN- in 1908 by Mr. J. Bartlett, and SPA- to SPIS- in 1905–6 by Mr. C. B. Winchester.

For information on special points grateful acknowledgement is made to Professors S. H. Vines, W. H. Perkin, A. E. H. Love, P. Studer, and J. A. Smith, Oxford; Dr. R. L. Poole, Keeper of the University Archives, Oxford; Sir A. J. Evans, D.Litt., Oxford; Dr. J. K. Fotheringham, Magdalen College, Oxford; the late Professor T. L. Bullock and Dr. W. Hoey, Oxford; Dr. F. D. Chattaway, Lieut.-Col. G. S. A. Ranking, and Mr. N. Forbes, Oxford; Mr. L. G. Carr Laughton, the Admiralty Library; Lieut.-Col. J. H. Leslie, Sheffield; the Right Hon. Sir Frederick Pollock, Bart.; Mr. E. W. Hulme and Mr. R. B. Marston, London; Mr. E. J. Thomas, Cambridge; Professor W. J. Watson, Dr. D. Hay Fleming, and Dr. W. K. Dickson, Edinburgh; Dr. O. Bergin, Dublin; Mr. Kenneth Sisam, B.Litt. Oxon.; Mr. C. W. Ernst, Boston, Mass.; Dr. A. Beets, Leiden. In the proof stage much valuable help has been received from Mr. R. J. Whitwell, B.Litt. Oxon.; the Rev. W. B. R. Wilson, M.A., Dollar; Miss Edith Thompson and Miss E. P. Thompson, Bath; the Rev. Canon Fowler, D.C.L.; Mr. G. R. Carline; Mr. H. F. Rutter, M.Inst.C.E., London; Mr. W. W. Jenkinson, London; and Mr. L. Pearsall Smith, M.A.

The editorial assistants who have taken part in the preparation of this half-volume are the following:—In SI to SQ, Mr. L. F. Powell, Mr. F. R. Ray, Mr. G. Watson, and Mrs. L. F. Powell; in ST, Mr. Walter Worrall, B.A., Mr. W. J. Lewis, Mr. H. J. Bayliss, Miss E. S. Bradley, and (in certain portions) Mr. A. T. Maling, M.A.

HENRY BRADLEY.
W. A. CRAIGIE.

OXFORD, JUNE, 1919.

Staddle *sb.* Earlier example of sense 2: 1543 *Act* 35 *Hen. VIII*, c. 17 § 1 (1544) The same stathilles or storers [*elsewhere in the section* standilles or storers]. Earlier example of sense 3 a: *c* 1475 *Pict. Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 785/21 *Hic arcomus* [read *arconius*], a stathele.

Stanstickle. Earlier instance:—*a* 1300 NECKAM *De Utensilibus* in Wright *Voc.* 98 *Gamarus pinosche*, stanstikel.

KEY TO THE PRONUNCIATION.

I. CONSONANTS.

b, d, f, k, l, m, n, p, t, v, z *have their usual values.*

g as in *go* (gō^{u}).
h ... *ho!* (hō^{u}).
r ... *run* (rʊn), *terrier* (te·riəɹ).
ɹ ... *her* (həɹ), *farther* (fā·ɹðəɹ).
s ... *see* (sī), *cess* (ses).
w ... *wen* (wen).
hw ... *when* (hwen).
y ... *yes* (yes).

þ as in *thin* (þin), *bath* (baþ).
ð ... *then* (ðen), *bathe* (bēɪð).
ʃ ... *shop* (ʃǫp), *dish* (diʃ).
tʃ ... *chop* (tʃǫp), *ditch* (ditʃ).
ʒ ... *vision* (vi·ʒən), *déjeuner* (deʒöne).
dʒ ... *judge* (dʒʊdʒ).
ŋ ... *singing* (si·ŋiŋ), *think* (þiŋk).
ŋg ... *finger* (fiŋgəɹ).

(FOREIGN.)
ṅ as in *French nasal*, *environ* (aṅviroṅ).
l^{y} ... It. *seraglio* (serā·l^{y}o).
n^{y} ... It. *signore* (sín^{y}ō·re).
χ ... Ger. *ach* (aχ), Sc. *loch* (loχ, loχ^{w}).
χ^{y} ... Ger. *ich* (iχ^{y}), Sc. *nicht* (nėχ^{y}t).
γ ... Ger. *sagen* (zā·γĕn).
γ^{y} ... Ger. *legen, regnen* (lē·γ^{y}ĕn, rē·γ^{y}nén).

II. VOWELS.

ORDINARY.	LONG.	OBSCURE.
a as in Fr. *à la* mode (a la mod').	ā as in *alms* (āmz), *bar* (bāɹ).	ă as in *amœba* (ămē·bă).
ai ... aye=*yes* (ai), Isaiah (əizai·ă).		
æ ... *man* (mæn).		ă̈ ... *accept* (ă̈kse·pt), *maniac* (mæ·niă̈k).
ɑ ... *pass* (pɑs), *chant* (tʃɑnt).		
au ... *loud* (laud), *now* (nau).		
v ... *cut* (kvt), *son* (svn).	v̄ ... *curl* (kv̄ɹl), *fur* (fv̄ɹ).	v̆ ... *datum* (dē·tv̆m).
e ... *yet* (yet), *ten* (ten).	ē (ĕ^{e}) ... *there* (ðē^{e}ɹ), *pear, pare* (pē^{e}ɹ).	ĕ ... *moment* (mō^{u}·mĕnt), *several* (sc·vĕrăl).
e ... *survey sb.* (sə·vɪve), Fr. *attaché* (ataʃe).	ē (ē^{i}) ... *rein, rain* (rē^{i}n), *they* (ðē^{i}).	*ĕ* ... *separate* (*adj.*) (sc·părĕt).
‖ę ... Fr. *chef* (ʃęf).	ę̄ ... *fair* (fę̄ɹ').	
ə ... *ever* (evəɹ), *nation* (nē^{i}·ʃən).	ə̄ ... *fir* (fə̄ɹ), *fern* (fə̄ɹn), *earth* (ə̄ɹþ).	ė ... *added* (æ·dėd), *estate* (ėstē^{i}·t).
‖ə ... Fr. *eau de vie* (ō də vī').		
i ... *sit* (sit), *mystic* (mistik).	ī (ī^{e}) ... *bier* (bī^{e}ɹ), *clear* (klī^{e}ɹ).	ĭ ... *vanity* (væ·nĭti).
i ... *Psyche* (səi·ki), *react* (ri$_{i}$æ·kt).	ī ... *thief* (þīf), *see* (sī).	*ĭ* ... *remain* (rĭmē^{i}·n), *believe* (bĭlī·v).
o ... *achor* (ē^{i}·koɹ), *morality* (moræ·lĭti).	ō (ō^{e}) ... *boar, bore* (bō^{e}ɹ), *glory* (glō^{e}·ri).	ŏ ... *theory* (þē·ŏri).
oi ... *oil* (oil), *boy* (boi).		
o ... *hero* (hī^{e}·rō), *zoology* (zo$_{i}$ǫlŏdʒi).	ō̆ (ō^{u}) ... *so, sow* (sō^{u}), *soul* (sō^{u}l).	*ŏ* ... *violet* (vəi·ŏlėt), *parody* (pæ·ɹŏdi).
ǫ ... *what* (hwǫt), *watch* (wǫtʃ).	ǭ ... *walk* (wǭk), *wart* (wǭɹt).	ǫ̆ ... *authority* (ǫ̆þo·rĭti).
ǫ, ǫ̀* ... *got* (gǫt), *soft* (sǫ̀ft).	ǭ ... *short* (ʃǭɹt), *thorn* (þǭɹn).	*ǫ̆* ... *connect* (kǫ̆ne·kt), *amazon* (æ·măzǫ̆n).
‖ö ... Ger. *Köln* (köln).	‖ō̈ ... Fr. *coeur* (kō̈r).	
‖ö̆ ... Fr. *peu* (pö̆).	‖ō̆̈ ... Ger. *Göthe* (gō̆̈tĕ), Fr. *jeûne* (ʒō̆̈n).	
u ... *full* (ful), *book* (buk).	ū (ū^{e}) ... *poor* (pū^{e}ɹ), *moorish* (mū^{e}·riʃ).	
iu ... *duration* (diurē^{i}·ʃən).	iū, ^{i}ū ... *pure* (piū^{e}ɹ), *lure* (l^{i}ū^{e}ɹ).	iŭ, ^{i}ŭ verd*ure* (vō·ɹdiŭɹ), meas*ure* (me·ʒ^{i}ŭɹ).
u ... *unto* (*v*·ntu), *frugality* (fru-).	*ū* ... *two moons* (tū mūnz).	*ŭ* ... *altogether* (ǭ̄ltŭge·ðəɹ).
iu ... *Matthew* (mæ·þiu), *virtue* (və·ɹtiu).	iū, ^{i}ū ... *few* (fiū), *lute* (l^{i}ūt).	iŭ ... *circular* (sō·ɹkiŭlăɹ).
‖ü ... Ger. *Müller* (mü·lĕr).		
‖ü̆ ... Fr. *dune* (dü̆n).	‖ū̆ ... Ger. *grün* (grū̆n), Fr. *jus* (ʒū̆).	

^{e} (see ī^{e}, ē^{e}, ō^{e}, ū^{e}) } see Vol. I, p. xxiv, note 3.
^{i}, ^{u} (see ē^{i}, ō^{u}) }
' as in able (ē^{i}b'l), eaten (ēt'n) = voice-glide.

* *ǫ̀* the *o* in *soft*, of medial or doubtful length. ‖ Only in foreign (or earlier English) words.

In the ETYMOLOGY,

OE. *e, o,* representing an earlier *a*, are distinguished as *ę, ǫ* (having the phonetic value of *ę* and *ǫ*, or ǫ, above); as in *ęnde* from *andi* (OHG. *anti*, Goth. *andei-s*), *mǫnn* from *mann*, *ǫn* from *an*.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS, SIGNS, &c.

a. [in Etymol.] ... = adoption of, adopted from.
a (as *a* 1300) ..... = *ante*, before.
a., *adj.*, adj. ..... = adjective.
absol., absol. ..... = absolutely.
abst. ..... = abstract.
acc. ..... = accusative.
ad. [in Etymol.]... = adaptation of.
adv., adv. ..... = adverb.
advb. ..... = adverbial, -ly.
AF., AFr. ..... = Anglo-French.
Anat. ..... = in Anatomy.
Antiq. ..... = in Antiquities.
aphet. ..... = aphetic, aphetized.
app. ..... = apparently.
Arab. ..... = Arabic.
Arch. ..... = in Architecture.
arch. ..... = archaic.
Archæol. ..... = in Archæology.
assoc. ..... = association.
Astr. ..... = in Astronomy.
Astrol. ..... = in Astrology.
attrib. ..... = attributive, -ly.
bef. ..... = before.
Biol. ..... = in Biology.
Boh. ..... = Bohemian.
Bot. ..... = in Botany.
Build. ..... = in Building.
c (as *c* 1300) ..... = *circa*, about.
c. (as 13th c.)..... = century.
Cat. ..... = Catalan.
catachr. ..... = catachrestically.
Cf., cf. ..... = *confer*, compare.
Chem. ..... = in Chemistry.
cl. L. ..... = classical Latin.
cogn. w. ..... = cognate with.
collect. ..... = collective, -ly.
colloq. ..... = colloquially.
comb. ..... = combined, -ing.
Comb. ..... = Combinations.
Comm. ..... = in commercial usage.
comp. ..... = compound, composition.
compl. ..... = complement.
Conch. ..... = in Conchology.
concr. ..... = concretely.
conj. ..... = conjunction.
cons. ..... = consonant.
Const., *Const.* ... = Construction, construed with.
Cryst. ..... = in Crystallography.
(D.) ..... = in Davies (Supp. Eng. Glossary).
Da. ..... = Danish.
dat. ..... = dative.
def. ..... = definite.
deriv. ..... = derivative, -ation.
dial., *dial.* ..... = dialect, -al.
Dict. ..... = Dictionary.
dim. ..... = diminutive.
Du. ..... = Dutch.
Eccl. ..... = in ecclesiastical usage.
ellipt. ..... = elliptical, -ly.
e. midl. ..... = east midland (dialect).
Eng. ..... = English.
Ent. ..... = in Entomology.
erron. ..... = erroneous, -ly.
esp., esp. ..... = especially.
etym. ..... = etymology.
euphem. ..... = euphemistically.
exc. ..... = except.
f. [in Etymol.] ... = formed on.
f. (in subordinate entries) ..... = form of.
em. (*rarely* f.) ... = feminine.
fig. ..... = figurative, -ly.
F., Fr. ..... = French.
freq. ..... = frequently.
Fris. ..... = Frisian.
G., Ger. ..... = German.
Gael. ..... = Gaelic.
gen. ..... = genitive.
gen. ..... = general, -ly.
gen. sign. ..... = general signification.
Geol. ..... = in Geology.
Geom. ..... = in Geometry.
Goth. ..... = Gothic (= Mœso-Gothic).
Gr. ..... = Greek.
Gram. ..... = in Grammar.
Heb. ..... = Hebrew.
Her. ..... = in Heraldry.
Herb. ..... = with herbalists.
Hort. ..... = in Horticulture.
imp. ..... = Imperative.
impers. ..... = impersonal.
impf. ..... = imperfect.
ind. ..... = Indicative.
indef. ..... = indefinite.
inf. ..... = Infinitive.
infl. ..... = influenced.
int. ..... = interjection.
intr. ..... = intransitive.
It. ..... = Italian.
J., (J.) ..... = Johnson (quotation from).
(Jam.)..... = in Jamieson, Scottish Dict.
(Jod.)..... = Jodrell (quoted from).
L. ..... = Latin.
(L.)(in quotations) = Latham's edn. of Todd's
lang. ..... = language. [Johnson.
LG. ..... = Low German.
lit. ..... = literal, -ly.
Lith. ..... = Lithuanian.
LXX. ..... = Septuagint.
Mal. ..... = Malay.
masc. (*rarely* m.) = masculine.
Math. ..... = in Mathematics.
ME. ..... = Middle English.
Med. ..... = in Medicine.
med.L. ..... = mediæval Latin.
Mech. ..... = in Mechanics.
Metaph. ..... = in Metaphysics.
MHG. ..... = Middle High German.
midl. ..... = midland (dialect).
Mil. ..... = in military usage.
Min. ..... = in Mineralogy.
mod. ..... = modern.
Mus. ..... = in Music.
(N.) ..... = Nares (quoted from).
n. of action..... = noun of action.
n. of agent ..... = noun of agent.
Nat. Hist. ..... = in Natural History.
Naut. ..... = in nautical language.
neut. (*rarely* n.) = neuter.
NF., NFr. ..... = Northern French.
N. O. ..... = Natural Order.
nom. ..... = nominative.
north. ..... = northern (dialect).
N. T. ..... = New Testament.
Numism. ..... = in Numismatics.
obj. ..... = object.
Obs., *obs.*, obs. ... = obsolete.
occas. ..... = occasional, -ly.
OE. ..... = Old English (= Anglo-Saxon).
OF., OFr. ..... = Old French.
OFris. ..... = Old Frisian.
OHG. ..... = Old High German.
OIr. ..... = Old Irish.
ON. ..... = Old Norse (Old Icelandic).
ONF. ..... = Old Northern French.
Opt. ..... = in Optics.
Ornith. ..... = in Ornithology.
OS. ..... = Old Saxon.
OSl. ..... = Old Slavonic.
O. T. ..... = Old Testament.
OTeut. ..... = Original Teutonic.
orig. ..... = original, -ly.
Palæont. ..... = in Palæontology.
pa. pple. ..... = passive or past participle.
pass. ..... = passive, -ly.
pa. t. ..... = past tense.
Path. ..... = in Pathology.
perh. ..... = perhaps.
Pers. ..... = Persian.
pers. ..... = person, -al.
pf. ..... = perfect.
Pg. ..... = Portuguese.
Philol. ..... = in Philology.
phonet. ..... = phonetic, -ally.
phr. ..... = phrase.
Phren. ..... = in Phrenology.
Phys. ..... = in Physiology.
pl., *pl.* ..... = plural.
poet. ..... = poetic.
pop. ..... = popular, -ly.
ppl. a., ppl. adj.... = participial adjective.
pple. ..... = participle.
Pr. ..... = Provençal.
prec. ..... = preceding (word or article).
pref. ..... = prefix.
prep. ..... = preposition.
pres. ..... = present.
Prim. sign. ..... = Primary signification.
priv. ..... = privative.
prob. ..... = probably.
pron. ..... = pronoun.
pronunc. ..... = pronunciation.
prop. ..... = properly.
Pros. ..... = in Prosody.
pr. pple. ..... = present participle.
Psych. ..... = in Psychology.
q.v. ..... = *quod vide*, which see.
(R.) ..... = in Richardson's Dict.
R. C. Ch. ..... = Roman Catholic Church.
refash. ..... = refashioned, -ing.
refl., refl. ..... = reflexive.
reg. ..... = regular.
repr. ..... = representative, representing.
Rhet. ..... = in Rhetoric.
Rom. ..... = Romanic, Romance.
sb., *sb.* ..... = substantive.
Sc. ..... = Scotch.
sc. ..... = *scilicet*, understand or supply.
sing. ..... = singular.
Skr. ..... = Sanskrit.
Slav. ..... = Slavonic.
Sp. ..... = Spanish.
sp. ..... = spelling.
spec. ..... = specifically.
subj. ..... = subject, subjunctive.
subord. cl. ..... = subordinate clause.
subseq. ..... = subsequently.
subst. ..... = substantively.
suff. ..... = suffix.
superl. ..... = superlative.
Surg. ..... = in Surgery.
Sw. ..... = Swedish.
s.w. ..... = south western (dialect).
T. (T.) ..... = in Todd's Johnson.
techn. ..... = technical, -ly.
Theol. ..... = in Theology.
tr. ..... = translation of.
trans. ..... = transitive.
transf. ..... = transferred sense.
Trig. ..... = in Trigonometry.
Typog. ..... = in Typography.
ult. ..... = ultimate, -ly.
unkn. ..... = unknown.
U.S. ..... = United States.
v., vb. ..... = verb.
v. str., or *w.* ..... = verb strong, or weak.
vbl. sb. ..... = verbal substantive.
var. ..... = variant of.
wd. ..... = word.
WGer. ..... = West Germanic.
w.midl. ..... = west midland (dialect).
WS. ..... = West Saxon.
(Y.)..... = in Col. Yule's Glossary.
Zool. ..... = in Zoology.

Before a word or sense.
+ = obsolete.
‖ = not naturalized.

In the quotations.
* sometimes points out the word illustrated.

In the list of Forms.
1 = before 1100.
2 = 12th c. (1100 to 1200).
3 = 13th c. (1200 to 1300).
5–7 = 15th to 17th century. (See General Explanations, Vol. I, p. xx.)

In the Etymol.
* indicates a word or form not actually found, but of which the existence is inferred.
:— = extant representative, or regular phonetic descendant of.

The printing of a word in SMALL CAPITALS indicates that further information will be found under the word so referred to.

A NEW
ENGLISH DICTIONARY
ON HISTORICAL PRINCIPLES.

(VOLUME IX. FIRST HALF. SI.—ST.)

SI—SIMPLE.

LIBRARY OF THE BOMBAY BRANCH OF THE ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY

BY

W. A. CRAIGIE, M.A., LL.D.

PREFATORY NOTE.

THIS single section contains 820 Main words, 237 Combinations explained under these, and 178 Subordinate entries of obsolete or variant forms, in all 1235. The obvious Combinations, recorded and illustrated by quotations, but not requiring to be explained, number 343 more, and bring up the total to 1578. Of the Main words, 143 are marked † as obsolete, and 29 are marked ‖ as alien or not fully naturalized.

The following figures exhibit the result of comparison with Johnson's and some recent Dictionaries:—

	Johnson.	Cassell's 'Encyclopædic'.	'Century' Dict.	Funk's 'Standard'.	Here.
Words recorded	127	803	935	829	1578
Words illustrated by quotations	106	221	274	86	1407
Number of quotations	414	365	806	116	8698

The number of quotations in the corresponding portion of Richardson is 361.

In this section the native element has a clear preponderance over the foreign, and includes a large proportion of words which go back to Old or early Middle English, and are still in common use, or survive in dialect. Among the more important of these are *sib*, *sick*, *sicker*, *sickle*, *side*, *sieve*, *sift*, *sigh*, *sight*, *silk*, *sill*, *silly*, *silver*, with numerous derivative forms, as *sicken*, *sickly*, *sideling*(*s*, *sightless*, *silken*, *silvern*. Those which take up most space are SIDE *sb.*[1] (11 columns) and SILVER *sb.* (8½ columns), and each of these is followed by a long series of derivatives or combinations (occupying 15 and 8½ columns respectively). The obscure words which appear to be of English origin are not numerous; the chief are *siddow*, *sillabub*, and *simmer* (earlier *simper*). The Scandinavian element is very slight, and almost entirely confined to dialect words, as *sile* sb.[2] and sb.[3], *sile* v.[2], *sime*, and *simmon* sb.[2]; it is doubtful whether *silt* should be reckoned here.

The Romanic words, though occupying less space than the native, are neither few nor unimportant. In addition to the Latin words which have been adopted without change of form, as *siler*, *silex*, *silicula*, *siliqua*, *simia*, *simile*, there are many which have passed through Old French, or have been assimilated to the usual types, as *sibilant*, *siccative*, *sidereal*, *sigil*, *sign*, *significance*, *signify*, *silence*, *silent*, *similar*, *similitude*, *simoniac*, *simony*, and other derivatives from the same bases as these. More distinctively French in origin are *sice* (six), *siecle*, *siege*, *siffle*, *signal*, *signet*, *signory*, *simnel*, and *simple*; the earlier uses of *simple* are difficult to separate clearly. Italian has contributed *sienna*, *signor*, *signora*, *signoria*, and Spanish *sierra*, *siesta*, and *silo*. From Greek, usually through Latin, have come *Sibyl*, *siderite*, *sidero-*[1], *sigma* (whence *sigmatic*, *sigmoid*, etc.), *Silen*(*us*, *silphium*, *silurus*, and *simosaur*(*us*.

Of the words introduced from India, *Sikh* and *simool* are native; *sicca*, *sidi*, and *silladar* are ultimately of Arabic origin, as are also *sief* and *simoom*. *Siamang* is Malay, and *simaruba* has come from Guiana. Names of peoples or places are represented by *Siamese* (with a curious development as adj. and vb.), *Siberian*, *Sicilian*, *Sidonian*, *Silesia*(*n*, *Sillery*, and *Silurian*.

Some historical interest attaches to *side-bar*, *side*(*s*)*man*, *siege-piece*, *sign-board*, *sign-manual*, *sign-post*, *silhouette*, *silly-how*, *Simeonite*, and *Simon Pure*.

KEY TO THE PRONUNCIATION.

I. CONSONANTS.

b, d, f, k, l, m, n, p, t, v, z *have their usual values.*

g as in *go* (gō^{u}).
h ... *h*o! (h$\breve{o}^{u}$).
r ... *r*un (rʌn), ter*r*ier (te·riəɹ).
ɹ ... he*r* (həɹ), fa*r*the*r* (fā·ɹðəɹ).
s ... *s*ee (sī), *c*ess (ses).
w ... *w*en (wen).
hw ... *wh*en (hwen).
y ... *y*es (yes).

þ as in *th*in (þin), ba*th* (baþ).
ð ... *th*en (ðen), ba*th*e (bēɪð).
ʃ ... *sh*op (ʃɒp), di*sh* (diʃ).
tʃ ... *ch*op (tʃɒp), di*tch* (ditʃ).
ʒ ... vi*s*ion (vi·ʒən), dé*j*euner (deʒönē).
dʒ ... *j*udge (dʒʌdʒ).
ŋ ... si*ng*ing (si·ŋiŋ), thi*nk* (þiŋk).
ng ... fi*ng*er (fiŋgəɹ).

(FOREIGN.)
ṅ as in *French nasal*, environ (aṅvi·roṅ).
l^{y} ... It. se*gl*io (se·rā·l^{y}o).
n^{y} ... It. si*gn*ore (si·n^{y}ō·re).
χ ... Ger. a*ch* (aχ), Sc. lo*ch* (loχ, loχ^{w}).
$χ^{y}$ ... Ger. i*ch* (iχ^{y}), Sc. ni*ch*t (nėχ^{y}t).
γ ... Ger. sa*g*en (zā·γĕn).
$γ^{y}$ ... Ger. le*g*en, re*g*nen (lē·$γ^{y}$ĕn, rē·$γ^{y}$nĕn).

II. VOWELS.

ORDINARY.

a as in Fr. *à la* mode (a la mod^{ə}).
ai ... aye = *yes* (ai), Isa*i*ah (əizai·ă).
æ ... m*a*n (mæn).
ɑ ... p*a*ss (pɑs), ch*a*nt (tʃɑnt).
au ... l*ou*d (laud), n*ow* (nau).
ʌ ... c*u*t (kʌt), s*o*n (sʌn).
e ... y*e*t (yet), t*e*n (ten).
e ... surv*ey sb.* (sə·ɹve), Fr. attach*é* (ataʃ*e*).
‖ɐ ... Fr. ch*ef* (ʃɐf).
ə ... *e*ver (evəɹ), nat*i*on (nē^{i}·ʃən).
əi ... *I*, *eye*, (əi), b*i*nd (bəind).
‖ø ... Fr. eau d*e* vie (ō də vī^{e}).
i ... s*i*t (sit), m*y*st*i*c (mistik).
i ... Psyche (səi·k*i*), react (r*i*$_{i}$æ·kt).
o ... ach*o*r (ē^{i}·koɹ), m*o*rality (moræ·liti).
oi ... *oi*l (oil), b*oy* (boi).
o ... her*o* (hī^{o}·r*o*), z*o*ology (z*o*$_{i}$ɐlŏdʒi).
ɒ ... w*ha*t (hwɒt), w*a*tch (wɒtʃ).
ɒ, *ɒ** .. g*o*t (gɒt), s*o*ft (s*ɒ*ft).
‖ö ... Ger. K*ö*ln (köln).
‖ŏ ... Fr. p*eu* (pŏ).
u ... f*u*ll (ful), b*oo*k (buk).
iu ... d*u*ration (diurē^{i}·ʃən).
u ... unt*o* (*u*·ntu), fr*u*gality (fr*u*·).
iu ... Matth*ew* (mæ·þiu), virt*ue* (və·ɹtiu).
‖ü ... Ger. M*ü*ller (mü·lĕr).
‖ŭ ... Fr. d*u*ne (dŭn).
^{o} (see ī^{o}, ē^{o}, ō^{o}, ū^{o}) } see Vol. I, p. xxiv, note 3.
^{i}, ^{u} (see ē^{i}, ō^{u}) }
' as in able (ē^{i}b'l), eaten (ēt'n) = voice-glide.

LONG.

ā as in *a*lms (āmz), b*a*r (bāɹ).
ə̄ ... c*u*rl (kə̄ɹl), f*u*r (fə̄ɹ).
ē (ē^{o}) ... th*e*re (ðē^{o}ɹ), p*e*ar, p*a*re (pē^{o}ɹ).
ē (*ē*^{i}) ... r*ei*n, r*ai*n (r*ē*^{i}n), th*ey* (ðē^{i}).
ę̄ ... Fr. f*aire* (f*ę̄*r').
ə̄ ... f*ir* (fə̄ɹ), f*e*rn (fə̄ɹn), *ea*rth (ə̄ɹþ).
ī (ī^{o}) ... b*ie*r (bī^{o}ɹ), cl*ea*r (klī^{o}ɹ).
ī ... th*ie*f (þ*ī*f), s*ee* (s*ī*).
ō (ō^{o}) ... b*oa*r, b*o*re (bō^{o}ɹ), gl*o*ry (glō^{o}·ri).
ō (*ō*^{u}) ... s*o*, s*ow* (s*ō*^{u}), s*ou*l (s*ō*^{u}l).
ɒ̄ ... w*a*lk (wɒ̄k), w*a*rt (wɒ̄ɹt).
ɒ̄ ... sh*o*rt (ʃ*ɒ̄*t), th*o*rn (þ*ɒ̄*m).
‖ɔ̄ ... Fr. c*oeu*r (kɔ̄r).
‖*ō* ... Ger. G*ö*the (g*ō*tĕ), Fr. je*û*ne (ʒ*ō*n).
ū (ū^{o}) .. p*oo*r (pūɹ), m*oo*rish (mū^{o}·riʃ).
iū, ^{i}ū ... p*ure* (piū^{o}ɹ), l*ure* (l^{i}ū^{o}ɹ).
ū ... t*wo* m*oo*ns (t*ū* m*ū*nz).
iū, ^{i}ū ... *few* (fiū), l*u*te (l^{i}ū*t*).
‖ŭ ... Ger. gr*ü*n (gr*ŭ*n), Fr. j*us* (ʒ*ŭ*).

OBSCURE.

ă as in *a*mœb*a* (ămī·bă).
ă̆ ... *a*ccept (ă̆kse·pt), mani*a*c (mī^{i}·ni*ă̆*k).
ŏ ... datum (dē^{i}·t*ŏ*m).
ĕ ... m*o*ment (mō^{u}·m*ĕ*nt), sev*e*ral (se·v*ĕ*răl).
ĕ ... separate (*adj.*) (se·p*ă*r*ĕ*t).
ė ... add*e*d (æ·d*ė*d), *e*state (*ė*stē^{i}·t).
ĭ ... van*i*ty (væ·n*ĭ*ti).
ĭ ... remain (r*ĭ*mē^{i}·n), believe (b*ĭ*lī^{e}v).
ŭ ... th*eo*ry (þī·*ŭ*ri).
ŭ ... v*io*let (vəi·*ŭ*lėt), p*a*rody (pæ·r*ŭ*di).
ŭ̇ ... *au*thority (ŭ̇þo·riti).
ŭ̇ ... connect (k*ŭ̇*ne·kt), amazon (æ·măz*ŭ̇*n).
iŭ, ^{i}ŭ verd*ure* (vō·ɹdiŭɹ), meas*ure* (me·ʒ^{i}ŭɹ).
ĭŭ ... altogether (ɒ̄ltŭge·ðəɹ).
iŭ̇ ... circ*u*lar (sō·ɹkiŭ̇lăɹ).

* *ɒ̨* the *o* in *soft*, of medial or doubtful length.

‖ Only in foreign (or earlier English) words.

In the ETYMOLOGY,

OE. *ę*, *ǫ*, representing an earlier *a*, are distinguished as *ę*, *ǫ* (having the phonetic value of *ę* and *ǫ*, or ɒ̨, above); as in *ęnde* from *andi* (OHG. *anti*, Goth. *andei-s*), *mǫnn* from *mann*, *ǫn* from *an*.

Si.—St.

Si (sī). *Mus.* [Cf. quots. 1850 and 1875. For various accounts as to the originator, see Grove *Dict. Music* and Littré.] In solmization, the seventh note of the scale.

1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v., *Si*, in Music, a Seventh Note, added within this Sixty Years, by one le Maire, to the Six ancient Notes. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XII. 545 *note*, A note which is a tone immediately above the tonic, as *re* in the mode of *ut*, and *si* in that of *la*, is termed a sub-tonic. 1850 HELMORE *Plain-Song* iv. 22 The syllable *si* for the seventh sound of our octave was in more recent times added, from the initial letters of the closing words, *S*ancte *I*ohannes. 1875 STAINER & BARRETT *Dict. Mus. Terms* s.v. *Notation*, Here was a *sa* for the seventh note of the scale; but..it was not employed. In later use, in order to mark another semitone by the final *i* (as in *mi*) *sa* was turned into *si*.

Si, obs. pa. t. of SEE *v.* **Siacalle**, obs. variant of JACKAL. **Siad**, obs. variant of SAYYID.

Siagonology (səiăgŏnǫ·lŏdʒi). [f. Gr. σιαγόν-, σιαγών jaw-bone + -OLOGY.] (See quot.)

1895 RAVEN *Hist. Suffolk* 253 Something may be discoverable by craniology, .. odontology, or siagonology, which is the science of jaw-bones.

Siagush, variant of SYAGUSH.

Sialago·gic, *sb.* and *a. Med.* Also **sialo-**. [See next and -IC.] = next.

1891 in *Cent. Dict.*

Sialagogue (səi·ălăgōg), *sb.* and *a. Med.* Also **sialogogue**. [a. F. *sialagogue* (1752), or ad. mod.L. *sialagogus*, *-um*, f. Gr. σίαλον saliva + ἀγωγός leading, drawing forth: cf. *cholagogue*, *emmenagogue*.]

A. *sb.* A medicine which has the effect of producing a flow of saliva.

a. 1794–6 E. DARWIN *Zoon.* (1801) II. 461 Any acrid drug, as pyrethrum, held in the mouth acts as a sialagogue externally by stimulating the excretory ducts of the salivary glands. 1841 *Penny Cycl.* XXI. 448/1 Remote sialagogues are first received into the system by the stomach or other channels. 1855 GARROD *Materia Medica* 231 When chewed it acts as a sialagogue, and is sometimes used in relaxed states of the uvula and tonsils.

β. 1783 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 2) X. 8153/1 *Sialogogues*, medicines which promote the salivary discharge. 1834 *Good's Study Med.* (ed. 4) I. 662 Admitting all that can be said in favour of employing mercury as a sialogogue. 1859 J. TOMES *Dental Surg.* 490 The local remedies for toothache, ..excepting only sialogogues.

B. *adj.* Inducing a flow of saliva.

1855 GARROD *Materia Medica* 54 Its sialagogue power is shown in the increase of the salivary fluid and mucous secretions of the mouth. 1876 BARTHOLOW *Mat. Med. & Therap.* (1879) 262 It has remarkable sialagogue property.

†**Sialoquent**, *a. Obs.*—° [Irreg. f. Gr. σίαλον + pres. pple. of L. *loquī* to speak.] (See quot.)

1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.*, *Sialoquent* (*sialoquus*), that spits much in his speech.

Siamang (səi·ămæŋ). [Malay سيامڠ *si(y)-āmang*, f. *āmang* black.] A species of large ape (*Hylobates syndactylus*), with long black hair, found in Sumatra and the Malay Peninsula.

1822 Sir STAMFORD RAFFLES in *Trans. Linnæan Soc.* XIII. 242, I have recently procured a living Siamang, which is very tame and tractable. 1838 *Penny Cycl.* XII. 408/1 The Siamang of the Malays..has a peculiar formation of the hands or feet of the lower extremities. 1880 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* I. 75 The ability to walk well was proved when a tame Siamang used to walk along a cabin table at sea, without disturbing the crockery.

Siambock, obs. form of SJAMBOK.

†**Siamer.** *Obs. rare.* [See next and -ER.] A native of Siam.

1697 DAMPIER *Voy.* (1729) I. 504 The Siamers were now at Wars with the English. 1727 A. HAMILTON *New Acc. E. Ind.* II. xlviii. 196 When the Siam Army and Fleet threatned Cambodia, the King knew his Inability to withstand the Siamers.

Siamese (səiămī·z), *a.* and *sb.* [f. the name of the country *Siam* + -ESE. Cf. F. *Siamois*.]

A. *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to Siam or its inhabitants; also in the specific names of animals or birds.

1693 A. P. tr. *De la Loubère's Hist. Rel. Siam* 8 The Siamese History is full of Fables. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Aloes*, The Siamese Embassadors. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) I. 494/1 From this Shanscrit are derived the sacred characters of Thibet,..the Singalese, Siamese, Maharatan,.. &c. 1827 GRIFFITH tr. *Cuvier* III. 406 The Siamese Pig is small, long bodied, very low on the limbs. 1876 *Nature* XIV. 343/2 The additions to the Zoological Society's Gardens .. include .. a Siamese Pheasant (*Euplocamus prælatus*). 1880 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* IV. 265 A species.. is called the Siamese Muggar, and has a close resemblance to the Marsh Crocodile of India.

2. *Siamese twins*, two male natives of Siam, Chang and Eng (1814–1874), who were united by a tubular band in the region of the waist.

1829 *Times* 25 Nov. 2/6 The Siamese United Twins. *Ibid.* 26 Nov. 2/3 It is announced..in the Paris papers of Monday, that the Sardinian girl with two heads died on the preceding day. The Siamese twins will therefore have a clear field in that capital. 1883 *Encycl. Brit.* XVI. 765/2 The most intelligible form of double monstrosity, like the Siamese twins.

transf. 1899 *Daily News* 15 Mar. 4/4 The death of M. Erckmann..removes the last of the Siamese twins of French fiction. 1900 H. W. SMYTH *Gk. Melic Poets* 278 Kteatos and Eurytos, the Siamese Twins of Greek mythology.

b. Twin; closely connected or similar.

1833 T. HOOK *Parson's Dau.* I. xii, We must leave the ladies to themselves for a short time, in order to take another glance at the Siamese willow-wearers at Ullsford. 1857 BREEN *Mod. Eng. Lit.* 72 They toss the lord and his page in the same blanket, and then they turn them adrift in the Siamese character of 'milord'. 1904 HICHENS *Woman with Fan* vi, Miss Schley's said to be like me not only in appearance but in other ways. Are we really so Siamese?

c. *Siamese coupling*, a form of coupling used for fire-hose.

1891 *Scribner's Mag.* Jan. 63/2 The siamese coupling, by which the power of two or more engines may be united on one hose.

B. *sb.* **1.** A native of Siam.

1693 A. P. tr. *De la Loubère's Hist. Rel. Siam* 6 The Name of Siam is unknown to the Siamese. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XVII. 449/1 The Siamese prepare the land for tillage as soon as the earth is sufficiently moistened by the floods. 1808 LEYDEN in *Asiatic Res*, X. 240 The *Thay* language is that which is used by the Siamese. 1842 PRICHARD *Nat. Hist. Man* 238 The average height of the Siamese is 5 feet 3 inches.

2. The language of Siam.

1808 LEYDEN in *Asiatic Res*, X. 242 The *T'hay* language, or Siamese. 1854 LATHAM in *Orr's Circle Sci., Org. Nat.* I. 315 The Khamti language..is so like the Siamese of the capital [etc.]. 1886 *Encycl. Brit.* XXI. 855/1 The foreign ingredients in Siamese are principally Sanskrit.

Siamese (səiămī·z), *v.* [f. prec. A. 2.] *trans.* To join, unite, or couple, after the manner of the Siamese twins.

1830 *Fraser's Mag.* I. 427 They are..Siamesed by a cord which defies the knife of the most skilful surgeon. 1834 *Blackw. Mag.* XXXV. 510 We are Siamesed to France; we cannot cut asunder the link without hazarding blood. 1902 *Encycl. Brit.* XXVIII. 405 Three or four lines of 2½ inch hose are united or 'Siamesed' into one larger one.

Hence **Siame·sed** *ppl. a.*

1833 T. HOOK *Parson's Dau.* I. xi, The master of the George appeared at the head of his waiters, bearing the Siamesed repast for the two disconsolate lovers.

†**Siamit(e.** *Obs.* A native of Siam.

1601 R. JOHNSON *Kingd. & Commonw.* (1603) 193 Although he be Lord of nine kingdomes, yet useth he no other nation in the war but the Siamits. 1613 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* v. ii. 387 The Siamites commonly hold, that God created all things. 1699 DAMPIER *Voy.* (1729) II. I. 16 The Siamites and Chinese.

Siampan, obs. form of SAMPAN.

Siatica, obs. form of SCIATICA.

Sib (sib), *sb.*[1] Now *rare*. Also 1 **sibb**, 4 **syb**; (1–3 *inflected*) 5 **sibbe**, 5–6 **sybbe**. [Common Teut.: OE. *sib(b*, = OFris. *sibbe*, OS. *sibbia*, *sibbea* (MLG. *sibbe*), OHG. *sippia*, *sippa* (MHG. and G. *sippe*), ON. **sif* (pl. *sifjar*), Goth. *sibja*, related to next.]

1. Kinship, relationship.

Beowulf 2431 Heold mec and hæfde Hreðel cyning, ȝeaf me sinc and symbel, sibbe ȝemunde. *c* 893 K. ÆLFRED *Oros.* I. ii. 30 Hio ȝesette..þæt nan forbyrd nære æt ȝelizere betwuh nanre sibbe. *c* 1050 *O. E. Chron.* (MS. C) an. 1049, Ða wende Beorn for þære sibbe þæt he him swican nolde. 13.. *K. Alis.* 1712 (Laud MS.), For his nexte by syb Cosyn Beeþ jubiter and Appolyn. *c* 1489 CAXTON *Sonnes of Aymon* i. 18 Manye of theim were of Sybbe to hym. 1491 — *Vitas Patr.* (W. de W. 1495) II. 197/2 They hadde noo sybbe or kyndrede togydre; but oonly of that theyr husbondes were brethern germayn. 1534 MORE *Comf. agst. Trib.* II. Wks. 1186/2 The doughter of pusill-animitie, & therby so nere of sybbe vnto the nights feare. 1549 CHALONER *Erasm. on Folly* C iv, Do you not count hym next of sybbe to a fool? 1804 W. TARRAS *Poems* 14 Lat's try this income, how he stands, An' eik us sib by shakin' hands. 1858 M. PORTEOUS *Souter Johnny* 8 Tam could bauldly claim Sib wi' an auld heroic name.

†**2.** Peace, amity, concord. *Obs.*

c 825 *Vesp. Ps.* xxvii. 3 Ða ðe spreocað sibbe mid ðone nestan. *Ibid.* xxxvii. 4 Nis sib banum minum. *c* 900 tr. *Baeda's Hist.* III. xiv. 194 Ne meahte he hwæðere mid þone cyning..sibbe habban; ac swa micel..unsibb betweoh him aras, þætte heo heora weorod & fyrd ȝesomnodon. *c* 1154 *O. E. Chron.* an. 1140, He helde him for fader, & he him for sune, & sib & sæhte sculde ben betwyx heom. *c* 1205 LAY. 11308 Ich þe wulle luuien & halden þe for lauerd mid sæhte & mid sibbe. *c* 1275 *Duty Christians* 98 in *O. E. Misc.* 144 We schulde among vs habben ay sope luue and sibbe.

Sib (sib), *a.* and *sb.*[2] Forms: 1– **sib**, 1–4, 6, 9 **sibb**, 4–6 **syb** (5 **sybb**), 8 *Sc.* **sub**; (1–3 *inflected*) 4–7, 9 **sibbe**, 4, 6 **sibe**, 5–6 **sybbe** (5 **cybbe**). [OE. *sib(b*, = OFris. (and Fris.) *sib*, MDu. *sib(be*, *sibbe*, OHG. *sippi* (MHG. *sippe*), Goth. (*un*)*sibjis*. With the sb. uses cf. OFris. *sibba*, *sibbe*, MDu. *sibbe*, etc., OS. *sibbio* (MLG. *sibbe*), OHG. *sippo* (G. *sippe*, *sippe*) kinsman. See also I-SIB *a.*]

1. Related by blood or descent; akin. Now chiefly *Sc.* or *arch.*, but also used *spec.* of canaries (see quot. 1882).

Beowulf 387 Hat in gan seon sibbe ȝedriht samod ætgædere. *c* 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Luke xiv. 12 Nelle ðu ȝeceiȝa friondas ðina..ne sibbo *vel* cuðo menn. *c* 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 157 Alse þe man doð þe ȝifeð his almes fader oðer moder, suster oðer broðer, oðer oðre swo sibbe þat he aghte mid rihte to helpen to feden. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 1468 Do wurð Rebecca childre bere,..At on burdene ghe under-stod two ðe weren hire sibbe blod. 13.. *Cursor M.* 20068 (Gött.), Iesu crist..caïd til him sant iohan þat was his sibe ner kines-man. *a* 1350 *SS. Simon & Jude* 237 in Horstm. *Altengl. Leg.* (1881) 140 þat he suld haue done licheri With ane þat was his sib woman. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* III. 332 Bot of hem tuo a man mai liere What is to be so sibb of blod. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 586, I of my blode haue, Ane of my sede, I supose, & sibbire of þe twa. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* v. 872 Sib sister sone he wes to gud Wallace. *a* 1529 SKELTON *E. Rummyng* 100 The deuyll and she be syb. *a* 1578 LINDESAY (Pitscottie) *Chron. Scot.* (S. T. S.) I. 299 [He] intendit to marie hir gif he might haue had the popis lecence, because hir husband befoir and hie was sibe. 1816 SCOTT *Antiq.* xxxiii, By the religion of our holy Church they are ower sibb thegither. 1882 *Bazaar* 15 Feb. 175 'Sib breed'..is a word used in the North for the particular kind of canary employed for mule breeding, and really means that the birds have been bred in-and-in for a number of years. 1888 D. GRANT *Chron. Keckleton* 48 The Brodies, as the sibbest relatives,..had taen chairge. 1891 *Bazaar* 20 Feb., Grand sib hen canaries, pink eyed strain, to breed light mules.

b. *transf.* Closely related in some way.

1500-20 DUNBAR *Poems* vi. 55 We weir als sib as seue & riddill. 1567 DRANT *Horace, Sat.* H vij b, Pithagoras, when shall thy beanes, or colewoorte sybbe of kynde, Refreshe my hungry appetyte? *c* 1620 A. HUME *Brit. Tongue* (1865) 21 For c and k are sa sib, that the ane is a greek and the other a latin symbol of one sound. 1637 RUTHERFORD *Lett.* (1862) I. cvi. 269 Sense of death is a sib friend and of kin and blood to life. 1897 *Naturalist* 84 The singular stability and depth of his conviction, often reiterated to those mentally sib, that Matter was All.

2. Related by blood or kinship *to* (or † *with*) a person. † In early use also with dative.

c 1200 ORMIN 323 To streonenn streon, to wurrþenn sibb Wiþþ kingess & wiþþ preostess. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 228 Ut of his side he toc a rib, And made a wimman him ful sib. *c* 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 12648 A knyght þer was, hight Quyntalyn, Syb þemperour, & his cosyn. ?*a* 1366 CHAUCER *Rom. Rose* 1199 Largesse..Hilde by the honde a knyght of prys, Was sibbe to Artour of Britaigne. *c* 1440 *Gesta Rom.* lxx. 323 Þou art..wele ny sybbe to my lord, for he is thyne Eem, and þou art his cosyn. 1470-85 MALORY *Arthur* III. iii. 103 This poure man..is not his fader; he is no thyng syb to hym. 1534 MORE *Comf. agst. Trib.* III. vi, Many one..that neither shall be sib to thy blood, nor any word bear of thy name. 1579 SPENSER *Sheph. Cal.* May 269 Sicker, I am very sybbe [*gloss*, of kinne] to you. 1600 *Maid's Metam.* IV. ii, That Shepheardesse so neare is Sib to me, As I ne may (for all this world) her wed. 1808 SOUTHEY *Chron. Cid* 244 You are sib to the damsels. 1848 LYTTON *Harold* I. i, She is sibbe to Githa, wife of Godwin. 1888 H. MORTEN *Hospital Life* 43 Remember, I am sib to none but yourself now, and you should be good to me.

b. *transf.* or *fig.* Closely related, allied, akin, or similar, *to* some other thing.

c 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 219 Þe uuemeste bou is sib þe neþemeste rote. *c* 1380 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* III. 86 Witeþ wel, þis maundement is sibbe to many synnes. *c* 1430 *Hymns Virgin* (1867) p. xvi, At .xxx. yere he is named a man And syb to the bull of nature stronge. 1532 MORE *Confut. Tindale* Wks. 469/1 But there is none of those storyes any thyng sybbe to saynt Johns ghospel. 1577-87 HOLINSHED *Chron.* I. 13/1 The English interiection, Fough, which is vsed in lothing a ranke or strong sauour, seemeth to be sib to the other. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* II. 101 It must be vsed with moderation, for otherwise it breedeth drowsinesse, sib to the lethargy. 1637 GILLESPIE *Eng. Pop. Ceremon.* Ep. B, Nearer to Sycophancy then to Sincerity, and.. sibber to appeaching Hostility, then fraternall Charity. 1760-74 FERGUSSON *Rising of the Session* Poems (1845) 29 Though a dram to Rob's mair sib Than is his wife. 1786 T. WALKER *Ep. to Burns* (Jam.), I'm but a ragget cout mysel', Owre sib to you. 1826 J. WILSON *Noct. Ambr.* Wks. 1855 I. 220 The seeds of an aphorism—at least if it be..sib to an apophthegm—never were in him. 1894 LATTO *Tam. Bodkin* ix. 88 A toom head an' licht heels bein' raither sib to ane anither.

† **c.** *Sc.* Having a right or claim *to* a thing. *Obs.*

1701 *Suppl. Dict. Decis. Crt. of Session* (1826) IV. 503 Some argued..that creditors seemed to be much sibber to these annual rents than the factors. 1721 KELLY *Scot. Prov.* 197 It is something to be Sub to a good Estate.

3. *absol.* as *sb.* **a.** As *pl.* Kinsfolk, relatives. Also *fig.*

a 1000 *Soul & Body* 4 Þonne se deað cymeð, asundrað þa sibbe, þa þe ær somud wæron. *a* 1200 [see FREMD *a.* 4]. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 2503 He bad sibbe cumen him bi-foren, Or he was ut of werlde boren. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 7086 Þis child wax so wel & þeu, as iseie fremde & sibbe. *c* 1315 SHOREHAM I. 68 So drawyþ hy affinite Wyþ alle þyne sibbe, Ase þou of hire sibben dra3st. *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (Roxb.) XXV. 115 Nowþer of fader ne broþer, sibbe ne fremmed. 1440 J. SHIRLEY *Dethe K. James* 25 His tirannye ynmeasurable, without pite or mercy to sibbe or to freme. 1755 R. FORBES *Shop Bill* xii, Gloves likewise, to hap the hand of fremt an' sib. 1882 *Mrs. Raven's Temptation* III. 350 All nice people are related to each other, and so are all nasty people —God's sib, and Satan's sib—the two!

b. A kinsman or kinswoman.

a 1023 WULFSTAN *Hom.* XXX. 146 Pær ne byð sybbes lufu to oðrum. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 27174 Quat man he es þat did þe sin,..Sib or fremd, lok quar it es. 1393 LANGL. *P. Pl.* C. VII. 135 Dame purnele, a prestes file [*v.r.* sibbe], prioresse worth hue neuere. 1582 STANYHURST *Æneis* I. (Arb.) 29 Thee murther he whusted, His syb in her mourning with long coynd forgerye feeding. *a* 1593 MARLOWE *Edw. II*, III. ii, Tush Sib, if this be all, Valoys and I will soone be friends againe. 1625 BP. MOUNTAGU *App. Cæsar* 139 So also with our Puritans, very Sibs unto those Fathers of the Society. 1868 BROWNING *Ring & Bk.* II. 513 From goody, gossip, cater-cousin and sib. 1894 F. S. ELLIS *Reynard the Fox* 213 It is Lapreel the Coney, My old-time sib, my ancient crony.

Sibbed, *a. dial.* [f. SIB *a.*[2]] Akin.

1674 RAY *N. C. Words* 40 *Sib'd*: a kin; *no sole sib'd*, nothing akin: No more sib'd then sieve and riddle, that grew both in a wood together. 1818 WILBRAHAM *Chesh. Gloss., Sibbed*, related to, of kin.

Si·bbens (also **-ans, -ins**), var. of SIVVENS.

1792 *Statist. Acc. Scot.* V. 146 The disease called Sibbins ..has made its appearance once or twice in this parish. 1798 J. PATERSON in Beddoes *Contrib. Phys. & Med. Knowl.* (1799) 410 The sibbens affecting the surface of the body, more than the common lues. 1822 HIBBERT *Desc. Shetl. Isl.* 542 There is a great variety of cutaneous complaints.. Sibbens, a disease hitherto ill defined, I saw occasionally. 1851 in W. Cramond *Ann. Banff* (1891) I. 369 A case of 'Sibbans' reported by Dr. Whyte in the Gallowhill.

Sibbered, -ridge: see SIBRED.

Sibber-sauce. *Obs.* exc. *dial.* [Perh. ad. L. *cibāri-us* pertaining to food.] A sauce; a compound or concoction of this nature. Also *fig.*

1556 OLDE *Antichrist* 132 b, To this use serue..many drinkes and sibber sawces. 1583 STUBBES *Anat. Abus.* I. (1879) 64 They would neuer go about to coulour their faces with such sibber-sawces. *a* 1603 T. CARTWRIGHT *Confut. Rhem. N. T.* (1618) 588 Which with another sibber-sawce of vain words they haue set before him here again. *c* 1613 SIR E. COKE in Amos *Gt. Oyer Poisoning* (1846) 249 The composition of his own sibber sauces. 1868-98 in Yorkshire glossaries (in the form *sipper-sauce*).

Sibbil, obs. f. SIBYL. **Sibbits:** see SIBRED.

Si·bboleth, *v. rare*[−1]. [See SHIBBOLETH.] *intr.* To speak with a special pronunciation.

1638 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* (ed. 2) 154 At this day [it] is call'd *Spawhawn* (or as they Sibboleth, *Sphawhawn*) and by most writers differently spelled.

Siberian (səibī·riăn), *a.* and *sb.* Also 8 **Sibirian.** [f. the name of the country *Siberia* + -AN.]

A. *adj.* **1.** Of or belonging to, characteristic of, Siberia.

1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* II. (Globe) 600 A faithful Muscovite Servant, or rather a Siberian Servant. 1789 G. WHITE *Selborne* cvi, The writer..thinks he never before or since has encountered such rugged, Siberian weather. 1802 PINKERTON *Mod. Geogr.* I. 317 Russia exchanges her precious Siberian furs for tea, silk, and nankeen. *Ibid.* II. 72 The oak, and the hazle,..cannot exist in a Siberian climate. 1890 GUNTER *Miss Nobody* xv, The draughts in the lobbies of this house are simply Siberian.

2. In special applications: **a.** In names of animals or birds, as *Siberian cow, dog, ibex, rabbit, weasel*; *Siberian crane, crow, falcon, finch*, etc.

1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) III. 32 The zebu, or little African cow, and the grunting, or *Siberian cow, are but different races of the bison. 1785 LATHAM *Gen. Synop. Birds* III. I. 37 *Sibirian Crane..inhabits the vast marshes and lakes in Sibiria. 1829 GRIFFITH tr. *Cuvier* VIII. 331 The Siberian Crane,..*Ardea Gigantea. *Ibid.* VII. 181 *Siberian Crow, *Corvus Sibiricus*. 1800 SHAW *Gen. Zool.* I. II. 278 The *Siberian Dog (*Canis Sibiricus*)..may be subdivided into several races, differing as to strength and size. 1781 LATHAM *Gen. Synop. Birds* I. I. 113 *Siberian Falcon.. has the bill and air of a Kestrel. 1872 COUES *N. Amer. Birds* 130 *Siberian Finch. Dusky purplish; neck above pale yellowish. 1854 MEALL *Moubray's Poultry* 177 Russian or *Siberian [Fowl]. 1783 LATHAM *Gen. Synop. Birds* II. I. 124 *Sibirian Grosbeak. 1809 SHAW *Gen. Zool.* VII. I. 207 *Siberian Hawk. *Falco Sibiricus*. 1827 GRIFFITH tr. *Cuvier* V. 356 The *Siberian Ibex, *Ibex Alpium Sibiricarum*. 1881 LYELL *Pigeons* 81 The smooth-legged chequered or spangled ones are known in this country as Ural ice, while the rough-legged spangled birds are called *Siberian ice [-pigeons]. 1781 LATHAM *Gen. Synop. Birds* I. I. 391 *Siberian Jay..inhabits Siberia; but its manners are totally unknown. 1827 GRIFFITH tr. *Cuvier* III. 90 The *Siberian Rabbit (*Lepus Tolai*). 1783 LATHAM *Gen. Synop. Birds* II. II. 556 *Sibirian Titmouse, *La Mesange de Siberie*. 1884 COUES *N. Amer. Birds* 267 *Parus cinctus*, Siberian Titmouse. *Ibid.* 284 *Motacilla oculatis*, *Siberian Wagtail. 1783 LATHAM *Gen. Synop. Birds* II. I. 456 *Sibirian Warbler, *Motacilla montanella*. 1800 SHAW *Gen. Zool.* I. II. 431 *Siberian Weesel, *Viverra Sibirica*. 1827 GRIFFITH tr. *Cuvier* II. 291 The Siberian Weasel, or Chorok ..., resembles the Polecat in size, form, and proportions.

b. In names of plants, trees, or fruits, as *Siberian barley, crab* (apple), *iris, larkspur, oat*, etc.

1831 LOUDON *Encycl. Agric.* (1857) § 5083 The *Siberian barley .. was introduced to this country in 1768, but is believed to be now lost or merged in the parent species. 1767 ABERCROMBIE *Ev. Man his own Gardener* (1803) 671/2 The *Siberian Crab; the tree dwarfish and the fruit small. 1887 RUSKIN *Præterita* II. 142 Nor were all the apples..worth a single dishful of the Siberian crabs of Herne Hill. 1823 J. BADCOCK *Dom. Amusem.* 48 Another variety that flourishes well, comes from the Foxley apple and the *Siberian harvey. 1802 PINKERTON *Mod. Geogr.* II. 72 The black and white hellebore, the *Siberian iris. 1882 *Garden* 3 June 391/3 Other upright-shaped bouquets are of..Siberian Iris. *Ibid.* 25 Mar. 201/3 The *Siberian Larkspur, with its handsome foliage and tall spikes of dark ..flowers. 1805 R. W. DICKSON *Pract. Agric.* I. 578 In the *Siberian or Tartarian oat the grains are thin and small. 1856 MORTON *Cycl. Agric.* II. 489/1 Siberian Early White Oat.—This variety is originally from the north of Europe, and was sent to this country in 1839. 1832 *Planting* (L. U. K.) 34 *Pinus Siberica*, *Siberian pine. 1802 PINKERTON *Mod. Geogr.* II. 72 The *Siberian plum, and crab,.. form thickets of exquisite beauty. 1837 P. KEITH *Bot. Lex.* 204 If the *Siberian Sowthistle shuts at night the ensuing day will be fine. 1832 *Planting* (L. U. K.) 125 The *Siberian stone or Cembra pine, is a highly ornamental species in England. 1861 BENTLEY *Man. Bot.* 659 *Pinus Cembra*, the Siberian Stone Pine, has also edible seeds. 1763 MILLS *Pract. Husb.* I. 475 Another species of vetch, viz. the *Siberian,..bids fair to become, perhaps, the most useful of all for fodder. 1775 *Ann. Reg.* 150 A field of *Siberian wheat..in..Yorkshire.

c. Miscellaneous, as *Siberian oil-seed, plague.*

1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade, Siberian oil-seed*, a local name in Canada for the *Camelina sativa*, or Gold of pleasure. 1884 *Encycl. Brit.* XVII. 58/1 Anthrax..is epizootic..in..Siberia, where it is known as the *Sibirskaja jaswa* (Siberian boil-plague). 1885 *Western Daily Press* 19 Jan. 7/5 The woolsorters' disease, known also as splenic fever, malignant pustule, and Siberian plague.

B. *sb.* **1.** A native of Siberia.

1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* II. (Globe) 605 The Siberian, who was Servant to the young Lord, told us [etc.]. 1782 J. BROWN *Compend. View Religion* I. ii. 35 The Siberians..cast their newly born infants into rivers. 1854 *Orr's Circle Sci., Org. Nat.* I. 324 The Arctic Ocean, which washes the sea-board of the Laps and Siberians.

2. *pl.* Shares in Siberian gold-mines.

1906 *Westm. Gaz.* 21 Nov. 11/1 The catalogue of 'Siberians' will..be added to in a day or two by the registration of the Kluchi Gold Mines.

Hence **Siberianize** *v.*, to send to Siberia; to render Siberian in character.

1864 *Daily Tel.* 9 Aug., After a century of Cossacking, bombarding, knouting, and Siberianising. 1880 MISS BIRD *Japan* I. 3 The climate of Northern Yezo is Siberianized by the cold current from the Sea of Okotsk.

† **Sibe·rite.** *Min. Obs.* [f. *Siber-ia* + -ITE; named by C. Lermina (1799).] = RUBELLITE.

1802 *Phil. Trans.* XCII. 316 The tourmalin of a purplish red colour..is exactly similar to that of Siberia, to which the names of rubellite, of daourite, and of Siberite, have been successively given. 1823 W. PHILLIPS *Min.* (ed. 3) 127 Rubellite..occurs in a granite mountain in the Uralian chain in Siberia,..whence this mineral has been also called Siberite. 1868 WATTS *Dict. Chem.*

Si·bilance. *rare.* [See SIBILANT and -ANCE, and cf. F. *sibilance.*] The character of being sibilant; a hissing sound.

1823 SOUTHEY *Lett.* (1856) III. 397 The word preceding ends with *s*, and would occasion too marked a sibilance to be admitted without necessity. 1892 ZANGWILL *Bow Myst.* 116 He felt like the author to whose ears is borne the ominous sibilance of the pit.

Si·bilancy. *rare.* [See next and -ANCY.] = prec.

1871 EARLE *Philol. Eng. Tongue* i. 88 At present the sibilancy of English is a European proverb. 1876 LOWELL *Among my Bks.* Ser. II. 288 Certainly Milton would not have avoided them for their sibilancy.

Sibilant (si·bilănt), *a.* and *sb.* [a. L. *sībilant-, sībilans*, pres. pple. of *sībilāre* to hiss, whistle. In 1 b directly a. F. *sibilant.*]

A. *adj.* **1.** Having a hissing sound; of the nature of, characterized by, hissing.

1669 HOLDER *Elem. Speech* 45 It were easie to add a Nasal Letter to each of the other pair of Lisping and Sibilant Letters. 1817 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* (1818) II. 240 A third [insect] of the same tribe..emits a small sibilant or chirping noise. 1842 BORROW *Bible in Spain* vii, The language..had become less sibilant, and more guttural. 1880 *19th Cent.* XXXIX. 829 The ghost of Shakspere.. would probably join in the sibilant chorus.

b. *spec.* in *Pathol.* (See quots.)

1833 *Cycl. Pract. Med.* I. 229 The dry bronchial rhonchus ..includes two varieties, the sibilant and sonorous rhonchus. 1876 BRISTOWE *Th. & Pract. Med.* (1878) 388 As a general rule, hissing and whistling sounds or sibilant rhonchi arise in the smaller tubes. 1898 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* V. 30 The respiratory murmur..may be replaced by sibilant râles.

2. Making a hissing or whistling sound.

1802 SHAW *Gen. Zool.* III. 530 Sibilant Snake. *Coluber sibilans.* *a* 1876 M. COLLINS *Pen Sketches* (1879) I. 77 Home chestnuts and elms and sibilant poplars in front.

B. *sb.* A speech-sound having a hissing effect; a sound of the nature of *s*.

1822 J. THELWALL *Poet. Recreat.* 165 There must be no clashing of consonants, no hissing of sibilants, particularly in the termination of the lines. 1844 *Proc. Philol. Soc.* I. 195 A sibilant of which the exact sound is still a matter of some doubt. 1876 S. BIRCH *Rede Lect. on Egypt* 32 The final sigma of the Greeks is represented by the Egyptian sibilant.

Hence **Si·bilantly** *adv.*

1891 *Harper's Mag.* Apr. 739/1 It echoed sibilantly.

Sibilate (si·bile·t), *v.* Also 9 **sibillate.** [f. ppl. stem of L. *sībilāre* to hiss, whistle.]

1. *intr.* To hiss; to utter a hissing sound.

1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.*, *Sibilate*, to whistle or hiss. 1823 *Examiner* 332/1 The disposition to sibilate became uncontroulable. 1863 BATES *Nat. Amazons* iv. (1864) 71 Its voice is a harsh, grating hiss: it makes the noise when alarmed, all the individuals sibilating as they fly..away.

2. *trans.* **a.** To announce with a hissing sound.

1837 *New Monthly Mag.* XLIX. 577 The 'Goose and Gridiron' sibillates the joys of supper.

b. To assail (an actor) with hissing.

1864 *Daily Tel.* 28 Dec. 5/1 Vociferous tragedians who would now be sibilated by a Victoria gallery.

Hence **Si·bilating** *ppl. a.*; **Si·bilatingly** *adv.*

1776 BURNEY *Hist. Mus.* (1789) II. iv. 309 Why the Spanish should have so many sibillating endings. 1831 *Fraser's Mag.* III. 399 He then proceeds..in a circumlocutory sibillating whisper. 1862 SALA *Accepted Addr.* 190 The pit began to be sibilatingly cat-calling, uproarious.

Sibilation (sibilē·ʃən). Also 9 **sibill-.** [ad. late L. *sībilātio*, noun of action f. *sībilāre*. So F. *sibilation.*] The action of hissing or whistling; a hissing or whistling sound.

1626 BACON *Sylva* § 176 All Metals quenched in water give a Sibilation or hissing Sound. 1684 tr. *Bonet's Merc. Compit.* IX. 328 When children make a noise and sibilation as they suck the Milk. 1755 JOHNSON *Dict.*, *S*..unhappily prevails in so many of our words that it produces in the ear of a foreigner a continued sibilation. 1802 W. TAYLOR in *Monthly Mag.* XIII. 10 Its sibillations are attached to its most necessary inflections. 1847 TENNYSON *Princ.* i. 174 He with a long low sibilation, stared As blank as death in marble. 1892 W. H. HUDSON *La Plata* 8 The sharp fitful sibilations of the dry wiry grasses on the barren places.

b. *spec.* Hissing as a sign of disapproval.

1822 *Examiner* 109/2 The ecstasies of..the major part.. set sibilation at defiance. 1854 *Blackw. Mag.* LXXVI. 703 The play was sent to Orcus..amidst hideous sibilation.

Sibilator (si·bile·tər). *rare.* In 5 **siblatour,** 9 **sibillator.** [Agent-noun, on L. types, f. SIBILATE *v.*] One who hisses or whistles.

c 1440 *Gesta Rom.* XXXV. 137 (Harl. MS.), In that obere side is an hisser or a siblatour, and he hissithe so swetlye [etc.]. 1844 J. T. HEWLETT *Parsons & W.* V, 'What's up?' replied the sibillator.

Sibilatory (si·bilătəri), *a.* Also **sibill-.** [See SIBILATE *v.* and -ORY.] Of the nature of, marked or expressed by, hissing.

1830 *Fraser's Mag.* I. 621 Mr. Hunt, however, notwith-

standing his sibillatory reception, told the saintly squad a homely truth. 1858 *Chamb. Jrnl.* IX. 213 Emitting a long sibillatory whistle. 1881 *World* 28 Dec., A suspicion of sibilatory indignation.

Sibilous (si·bilәs), *a.* [f. L. *sībil-us* adj. + -OUS.] Hissing, sibilant.

1768 G. WHITE *Selborne* xvi, The grasshopper lark began his sibilous note in my fields last Saturday. 1768 PENNANT *Brit. Zool.* II. 240 Its sibilous note is observed to cease about the latter end of July. 1822 GOOD *Study Med.* I. 537 He [Laennec] distinguishes five principal kinds of rattle:..4 The dry sibilous, or hissing. 1859 SEMPLE *Diphtheria* 68 The respiration was accelerated, was becoming sibilous. 1890 *Australian Girl* I. xiii. 192 There was a faint sibilous sound.

‖ Sibilus (si·bilvs). [a. L. *sībilus* sb.]

†**1.** A hissing in the ears. *Obs.*

c 1400 *Lanfranc's Cirurg.* 254 Greet sownynge in þe eeris & sibillus, & defaute of heeringe & deefnes.

2. *Path.* A sibilant râle.

1887 in *Cassell's Encycl. Dict.* 1898 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* V. 146 When rhonchus and sibilus are present over the whole of both lungs..it is unlikely that the bronchitis is complicated with pneumonia.

Siblatour, obs. form of SIBILATOR.

†**Sib-laȝ.** *Obs.*—[1] [f. SIB *sb.*[1] or *a.* + ON. *lag* community, partnership.] = SIBRED.

c 1205 LAY. 412 He hefde muchele strengþe..of þan Troyscen monnen, þe weren his moder isib; for þare sibelaȝe luue hem wes bi-tweonen.

†**Sibling.** *Obs.* [f. SIB *a.* + -LING [1].] One who is of kin to another; a relative.

c 1000 ÆLFRIC *Gen.* xix. 12 Hæfst þu suna oððe dohtra on þisre byriȝ..oððe ænigne sibling? *c* 1425 *Eng. Conq. Ireland* 102 He yaf hymself to lecherye; & nat only to many sengle wommen, bot he ne synned [=shunned] neþer spousbrych ne syblynges.

†**Sibman.** *Obs.* [f. SIB *a.* + MAN. *Sib man* or *men* also freq. occur written as separate words.] Kinsman.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 20243 Til hir scho cald Hir sibmen. *Ibid.* 27943 Incest, þat es for to lij Bi þat þi sibman has line bi. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* III. 403 For his sibmen wonnyt thar-by, That helpyt him full wilfully. 14.. *Nom.* in Wr.-Wülcker 690 *Hic affinis*, a sybmane. *c* 1440 *Alph. Tales* 11 Sho lete hur carvur, þat was hur awn syb-man, hafe at do with hur.

Sibness (si·bnės). In later use only *Sc.* Also 3, 7 **sibnesse**, 6–7 *Sc.* **-nes**; 3, 5 **sybnesse**, 4 **subnes**. [f. SIB *a.* + -NESS. Cf. Fris. *sibbens.*]

1. Relationship, kinship.

a 1240 *Wohunge* in *O. E. Hom.* I. 275 Nu, mi swete ihesu, leaued haue i for þi luue flesches sibnesse. *c* 1275 *On Serving Christ* 76 in *O. E. Misc.* 92 Þureh þe sybnesse of seynt iohan.. Louerd haue mercy of vs euervychon. *c* 1300 *Harrow. Hell* 208 For þi godnese art þou min, More for þi godnesse þen for þine sibnesse. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* VIII. x. (Bödl. MS.), If mercurius is coniuncte þereto..he disposeþ a man..to writing and is the hous of kynrede & nyȝe subnes. 1535 STEWART *Cron. Scot.* I. 58 For sic sibnes and also sic incest For till abhor, him thocht that that wes best. *a* 1598 ROLLOCK *Serm.* Wks. 1849 I. 386 Thou will count thy sibnes with this man and that man. 1609 SKENE *Reg. Maj.* 29 Gif she be separate fra him, for parentage, and sibnes of blude. 1872 MICHIE *Deeside Tales* (1908) 9 People were wont to say of any inextricable problem, 'ye might as soon unravel the sibness o' the Gordons o' Girnock'. *c* 1892 RANKIN in Storey *Ch. of Scotl.* II. 421 The relation of godfather and godmother which had nothing to do with bodily *sibness* at all.

b. *transf.* or *fig.*

a 1638 DURHAM *Comm. Revelation* xi. (1680) 433 We would observe the sibnesse and identity of this trumpet with the seven viols. 1692 A. PITCAIRN *Assembly* IV. iii. 53 Pastoral Relations and Scriptural Sibnesses. 1744 E. ERSKINE *Serm.* Wks. 1871 III. 216 The wondrous sibness between Christ and His Church.

†**2.** *collect.* Kinsfolk, relatives. *Obs.*—[1]

a 1390 *Pains of Hell* (MS. Digby 86) 109 þe wreiеþ his sibnesse oþer his steleþ Abouen his heien þe fiod heleþ.

Si·bred. *Obs.* exc. *dial.* Forms: *α.* 1 **sibreden**, 5 **-redin, sybredyn(e**; 4–5 **sib(be)radyn**, *β.* 3–5 **sibrede**, 4–5 **sybrede** (5 **cybrede, sybreed**), 6 **sybrade**; 4 **sibred**, 5–6 **syb(b)red**, 6 **sybberid**, 7 **sibbered**; 7 **sibrit**, 9 *dial.* **sibberet(s), sib(b)ret(s), -rit(s)**, etc.. *γ. Sc.* 5 **sibrend, sibrent.** [See SIB *a.* and -RED, and cf. GOSSIPRED.]

1. Relationship, kinship, consanguinity.

α. 1127 *O. E. Chron.* an. 1127, Þes ilce Willelm hæfde æror numen ðes eorles dohter of Angeow to wife, oc hi wæron siððan to-tweamde for sibreden. ?*a* 1400 *Morte Arth.* 691 For the sybredyne of me, fore-sake noghte this offyce. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 10326 Þurgh sibradyn first, Thou was aliet to þat lynage. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 338/2 A Sybredyn, *consanguinitas*.

β. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 10108 Þulke 3er þe king him let vor sibrede to dele. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 12674 Iesu broþer cald was he For sibred, wirschip, and bunte. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* III. 284 Every man it scholde drede, And nameliche in his Sibrede. *c* 1425 *Eng. Conq. Ireland* 42 All other,.. that sybrede or other frendshypp hadden to hym,..weren I-dryue out of englond. *c* 1470 HARDING *Chron.* CXXIX, But for sibrede & consanguinitee They were departed by papall iudgement.

transf. 1575 LANEHAM *Lett.* (1871) 4 Ioyning these too togither, with the nighness allso of the woords, and sybred of the toongs.

γ. c 1425 WYNTOUN *Cron.* II. i. 75 Til sibrent [*v.r.* sibrend] haffande na knawlage And but al reuerens of maryage.

2. *E. Anglian dial.* The banns of marriage.

Prob. from the mention, in the banns, of 'sibred' as an impediment to the marriage.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 455/1 Sybrede,.. *banna*. *c* 1440 *Jacob's Well* 21 Alle, þat..don swyche weddynges be solemnysed, & wyth-oute syb-redes, in cherchys, in chapellys, or in oratoriis. 1513 *Will of Poly* (Somerset Ho.), If she bee maried as sone as hir sybbred bee asked. 1674 RAY *S. & E. C. Words* 76 *Sibberidge*, or *Sibbered*; the Banes of Matrimony, *Suff.* 1823 E. MOOR *Suffolk Words* 348 *Sibrit*, banns of matrimony. 1860 AGNES STRICKLAND *Old Friends* 214 After their sibright was out-asked. 1884 J. S. ORTON *Beeston Ghost* 4 T'will be a precious long awhile afore the paarson axes my sibbret.

†**Si·bsomeness.** *Obs. rare.* [f. OE. *sibsum*, f. SIB *sb.*[1]] Peace, concord.

a 900 *O. E. Chron.* (Parker MS.) an. 860, On godre ȝeþuærnesse and on micelre sibsumnesse. *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 91 Þa weren alle mid sibsumnesse, and fuleden þam apostles. *c* 1275 *Passion our Lord* 599 in *O. E. Misc.* 54 Sibsumnesse eu beo among, ne beo ye nouht of-dredde.

Sibyl (si·bil). Forms: *α.* 4–7 **sibil** (4 **sibbil**), 5–7 **sibill** (7 **sibell**); 4–5, 7 **sibille**, 4, 6 **sibile** (5 *Sc.* **sebile**), 6 **sibylle**; 7– **sibyl**, 7–8 **sibyll**. *β.* 4 **sybyl**, 5 **-ylle**, 7 **-yll**; 4, 6– **sybil**, 5–7 **sybill**, 6–7 **sybille**. [a. OF. *Sibile, Sebile* (F. *Sibylle*), or ad. med.L. *Sibilla*, L. *Sibylla, Sibulla*, a. Gr. Σίβυλλα; the explanation of this as Doric Σιοβόλλα = Attic Θεοβούλη is given by Jerome. In sense 1 now usually written with a capital, in sense 2 with a small letter.]

1. One or other of certain women of antiquity who were reputed to possess powers of prophecy and divination.

In later times the number of these was usually set down as ten, flourishing at different times and places in Asia, Africa, Greece, and Italy.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 6999 þe first sibile o pers, Men findes of in al wers. *c* 1374 CHAUCER *Troylus* v. 1450 He for sibille his suster sente, That called was Cassandre al aboute. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* II. 383 That Sibille of whom ye wite, That alle men yit clepen sage. *c* 1450 *Myrr. our Ladye* 299 Hethen prophesyes, whiche spake of the comynge of Crist, & specyally one of the Sybylles. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* VI. Prol. 70 Oft by Sibillis sawis he [Virgil] tonis his stevin. 1547–64 BALDWIN *Mor. Philos.* (Palfr.) 2 Lactantius doubteth not to count him [Hermes] among the sibiles and prophets. 1591 SHAKS. *1 Hen. VI*, I. ii. 56 The spirit of deepe Prophecie she hath, Exceeding the nine Sibyls of old Rome. 1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* V. xi. 250 The Pictures of the sybills are very common, and for their Prophecies of Christ in high esteem with Christians. 1712 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 495 ₱ 10 The Prophecies of the Sybils..made many Years after the Events they pretended to foretell. 1788 GIBBON *Decl. & F.* xliii. IV. 307 Their industry had scooped the Sibyll's cave into a prodigious mine. 1831–3 E. BURTON *Eccl. Hist.* xvii. (1845) 373 The verses of the Sibyls were known to the heathen from a remote antiquity. 1870 EMERSON *Soc. & Solit.* Wks. (Bohn) III. 54 The grand sibyls and prophets, painted in fresco by Michel Angelo.

transf. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* VI. Prol. 145 Thou art our Sibill, Cristis modir deir.

2. A prophetess; a fortune-teller, a witch.

1589 GREENE *Menaphon* (Arb.) 56 How now Samela, wilt thou be a Sybil of mishap to thy self? 1604 SHAKS. *Oth.* III. iv. 70 A Sybill..In her Prophetticke furie sow'd the Worke. 1632 HEYWOOD *1st Pt. Iron Age* I. i, Thou art no Sibill, but from fury speak'st, Not inspiration; we reguard thee not. 1775 SHERIDAN *Duenna* I. iii, Thou wanton sybil, thou amorous woman of Endor. *Ibid.* II. iii, Handsome! Venus de Medicis was a sibyl to her. 1811 J. B. S. MORRITT *Let.* 28 Dec. in Lockhart *Scott*, I often heard of her in my early youth, from a sibyl who lived in the park. 1856 BOKER *Francesca da Rimini* I. i, Bah! on your sibyl and her prophecy! 1871 B. TAYLOR *Faust* (1875) I. vi. 111 O sibyl excellent, enough of adjuration!

attrib. and *Comb.* *a* 1718 PARNELL *Fairy Tale* 181 This tale a Sybil-nurse areed. 1811 W. R. SPENCER *Poems* 115 To pow't like thine no sybil spells pretend. 1831 CARLYLE *Sart. Res.* II. vii, Shouting question after question into the Sibyl-cave of Destiny. 1839–52 BAILEY *Festus* (1848) xix. 220 She sibyl-like Instinct with inspiration.

3. *Ornith.* (See quot.)

1829 GRIFFITH tr. *Cuvier* VI. 437 Sibyl Warbler, *Sylvia Sperata*.

‖ Sibylla (sibi·lă). Also 4 **sibila**, 6–7 **sibilla**; 4 **sybila**, 6–7 **sybilla**. [a. L. *Sibylla*: see prec.] = SIBYL 1.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 7031 Þan ras þe thrid sibila, þat man clepis delphica. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* VI. i. 99 Gevand respons onto this Sibilla. 1596 SHAKS. *Merch. V.* I. ii. 116 If I liue to be as olde as Sibilla, I will dye as chaste as Diana. 1611 COTGR., *Sibyllin*, prophecying, of a Sybilla, or Sybilla-like. 1842 *Smith's Dict. Gr. & Rom. Antiq.* s.v. *Divinatio*, The Sibylla whose books gained so great an importance at Rome, was, according to Varro, the Erythraean. *Ibid.*, Prophecies by some Bacis or Sibylla.

†**Sibyllianist.** *Obs. rare.* = SIBYLLIST 1.

a 1641 BP. MOUNTAGU *Acts & Mon.* (1642) 209 So farre, that for their frequent testimonies from them, the Fagans commonly styled Christians, Sibyllianists.

Sibyllic (sibi·lik), *a.* Also **Sybilic**. [f. SIBYL + -IC.] = next.

a 1849 POE *Ulalume* Poems (1859) 71 Its Sybilic splendor is beaming with Hope and Beauty. 1870 *Nation* XI. 390 Sibyllic enough to be extremely puzzling to the average mind. 1894 TABLE *Poems* 19 With sibyllic omen Seeming thus to say.

Sibylline (si·bilәin), *a.* and *sb.* Also 8–9 **Sybil(l)ine**, 9 **Sibyline**. [ad. L. *Sibyllīn-us*, f. *Sibylla* SIBYL. Cf. F. *sibyllin*, † *sibillin*.]

A. *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to, uttered or written by, one or more of the Sibyls.

In this sense usually with a capital, and qualifying *books* or *oracles*: on the nature of these see *Encycl. Brit.* XXII. 13.

1579–80 NORTH *Plutarch, J. Cæsar* (1612) 738 That it was written in the Sybilline prophecies, how the Romaines might ouercome the Parthians. 1678 CUDWORTH *Intell. Syst.* 282 Concluding the whole business of the Sibylline Oracles ..to have been a mere Cheat and Figment; and that there never was any thing in those Sibylline Books [etc.]. 1725 tr. *Dupin's Eccl. Hist. 17th C.* I. 21 The Fathers are to be excused for citing the Sybilline verses as true. 1776 GIBBON *Decl. & F.* xi. I. 361 The Sibylline books enjoined ceremonies of a more harmless nature. 1841 *Penny Cycl.* XXI. 477/1 It may be that at this time a number of Sibylline oracles were forged and circulated. 1882 FARRAR *Early Chr.* II. 219 It had probably originated from the expectations of Jews and Christians, and is found again and again in the Sibylline books.

2. Oracular, occult, mysterious.

1817 COLERIDGE (*title*), Sibylline Leaves; a Collection of Poems. 1834 H. MILLER *Scenes & Leg.* I. (1857) 3 The Sibyline tomes of tradition are disappearing in this part of the country. 1852 MRS. JAMESON *Leg. Madonna* (1857) 42 Looking out, with..her slightly dilated, sybilline eyes, quite through the universe. 1888 R. GARNETT *Emerson* I. 21 Her habitual mode of expressing herself was abrupt and sibylline.

Comb. 1834 H. MILLER *Scenes & Leg.* X. (1857) 152 Here are a few sybilline-like leaves, the sole records, of his common everyday affairs.

3. Excessive, exorbitant.

In allusion to the Sibyl who sold three books to Tarquinius Superbus at the price of the original nine.

1859 HELPS *Friends in C.* Ser. II. Introd. 11 My terms are Sybilline. 1876 LOWELL *Among my Bks.* Ser. II. 224 To set a Sibylline value on their verses in proportion as they were unsalable.

4. Resembling a Sibyl.

1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. V. iv, See Camille Desmoulins ..rushing out, sibylline in face; his hair streaming. 1861 PEARSON *Early & Mid. Ages Eng.* II. 14 Suetonius Paulinus penetrated to the sacred island of Mona, exterminated the priests and white-robed Sibylline women who thronged the shores.

B. *sb.* In *pl.*, the Sibylline oracles or books.

1875 *Encycl. Brit.* II. 177/2 It was still the main object of the sibyllines to combat heathenism itself. 1895 SALMOND *Doctr. Immortality* IV. i. 411 These Sibyllines have come down to us only in the most confused and uncertain form.

Si·byllism. [f. SIBYL + -ISM.] Prophecy, soothsaying.

1833 CARLYLE *Misc.* III. 225 And himself, in a moment of sibyllism, emitted that surprising announcement. 1875 *Encycl. Brit.* II. 177/2 Fusing the remnants of Greek sibyllism with their native prophecy.

Sibyllist (si·bilist). Also 7 **Sybillist**. [ad. late Gr. Σιβυλλιστής: see SIBYL and -IST.]

1. One who believes in the Sibylline prophecies; especially applied to the early Christians who accepted the Sibylline writings as genuine.

1605 J. DOVE *Confut. Atheism* 53 The heathens called the Christians Sybillistes, because Christian religion was most of all proued out of the Sybils Oracles. 1678 CUDWORTH *Intell. Syst.* 284 Upon Celsus mentioning a Sect of Christians called Sibyllists, Origen tells us, that these..were called so in way of disgrace, by other Christians. 1846 S. SHARPE *Hist. Egypt fr. Earliest Times* xiii. 429 Celsus charges the Christians with being sibyllists.

2. A writer or compiler of Sibylline oracles.

1899 *Contemp. Rev.* Dec. 811 A favourite device on the part of a Sibyllist is to review all the kings of the period just before his own time.

Sibylli·stic, *a. rare.* [f. SIBYL + -ISTIC.] Of or pertaining to, characteristic of, the Sibyls.

1797 T. GREEN *Diary Lover of Lit.* (1810) 39 The sudden and violent transitions..from sibyllistic fury to colloquial familiarity. 1853 *Blackw. Mag.* LXXIV. 559 The sybilistic Latin inscription..has sometimes driven curious travellers frantic to discover its purport.

Sic (sik), *a.* *Sc.* and *north.* *α.* (Chiefly *Sc.*) 5– **sic** (6 **syc**), 5–9 **sick**, 5–7, 9 **sik** (5 **syk**). *β.* (Chiefly *north.*) 5–7 **syke** (6 **sayk**, 7 **syik**), 5– **sike**. [Reduced form of *swik, swilk*: see SUCH *a.* The form *sīke* may have arisen under the influence of SLIKE *a.* The examples from early texts are probably due to the 15th century scribes.] = SUCH *a.*

1. In ordinary attributive use.

α. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* VIII. 180 Sloppis..left he..of sic quantite, That fyffe hundir mycht sammyn ryde. 1424 *Sc. Acts, Jas. I* (1814) II. 6/1 At þai þat sik treis pertenys to [etc.]. *c* 1450 HOLLAND *Howlat* 93 With sic courtassy as he couth, on knels he fell. 1508 KENNEDIE *Flyting w. Dunbar* 26 Pretendand the to wryte sic skaldit skrowis. 1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* I. 5 The beimes of the Sone..in sik brichtnes. 1609 SKENE *Reg. Maj.* 6 In his court..there is sick vprightnes. 1678 SIR G. MACKENZIE *Crim. Laws Scot.* II. (1699) 235 Together with sick witnesses as best knows the verity of the Premisses. 1721 RAMSAY *Prospect of Plenty* 6 That store which Heav'n In sic abundance to their hands has giv'n. 1814 A. WILSON *Loss o' the Pack*, Sic cheeks! sic een! Sic smiling looks! were never, never seen. 1858 M. PORTEOUS *Souter Johnny* 30 At sic change ye'll grow clean wud.

β. c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xvi. (*Magdalene*) 166 Sike lufe til hyre had Ihesu swet. *c* 1400 *Pol. Poems* 125 Whether thy dayes, lord, be syke As mennys dayes, that dwellen here? 1480 *Newcastle Merch. Vent.* (Surtees) I. 3 Wppon payn of syke fin as shalbe thought reasonable. 1579 SPENSER *Sheph. Cal.* Feb. 211 Sike fancies weren foolerie. 1589 PEELE *Eclogue Gratulatory* 31 Sike verse, I tell thee, ought have a great vaunt. 1604 *Urie Court-bk.* (1892) 4 Fewaill..syik as petteis, turris, or haidder. 1665 BRATHWAIT *Comment Two Tales* 84 Is it Love, a God's Name, or some

sike giddy thing that girds you? 1787 Grose *Prov. Gloss.*, *Sike*, such. 1855 Robinson *Whitby Gloss.*, *Sike*.., such, similar. 'Sike and sike like',..all are alike in the matter.

b. Used with numerals in comparisons, as *by sic seven*, seven times (more, better, etc.).

c 1470 Henry *Wallace* v. 388, I meyn fer mar the tynsell off my men, Na for my selff, mycht I suffir sic ten. 1500–20 Dunbar *Poems* xxx. 22 In haly legendis haif I hard..Ma sanctis of bischoppis, nor freiris, be sic sevin. 1560 Rolland *Seven Sages* 45, I beleue to haue ane better..be sic thre Nor is the auld. 1574 *Sat. Poems Reform.* xlii. 347 Quhais number..Is greiter..3ea, be sic thre.

2. Followed by *a* (or † *ane*).

a. 1375 Barbour *Bruce* I. 77 Thir twa..Quhilk suld succeid to sic a hycht. *c* 1475 *Rauf Coilȝear* 67, I wait na worthie harberie..to serue sic ane man. 1567 *Satir. Poems Reform.* iii. 98 Think on, thairfoir, quhill ȝe haue sic ane cryme. 1596 Dalrymple tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* II. 65 The king commandes thame..to be present at sik a day. 1609 Skene *Reg. Maj.* 133 To answere to sic ane man, anent sic ane thing, or in sic ane cause, or to sic ane Breive. *a* 1724 in Ramsay *Tea-t. Misc.* (1733) I. 8, I think my doghter winna gloom On sick a lad as ye. 1786 Burns *Twa Dogs* 86 Buirdly chiels, and clever hizzies, Are bred in sic a way as this is. 1814 Scott *Wav.* xxix, I cannot enter into ony carnal transactions on sic a day. 1816 — *Old Mort.* xxxv, De'il tak me if they mak sic a guse o' Cuddie.

β. a 1400–50 *Alexander* (D.) 1968 With syke a soume for to seke a sawt vs to ȝelde. *c* 1526 Skelton *Magnyf.* 1103 Herde ye euer syke another? 1586 Ferne *Blaz. Gentrie* 21 It would make a man mad to heare this fable-teller make sýke a declaration. 1674 Ray *N. C. Words* 64 *Sike* a thing, such a thing. 1692 *Sc. Presbyt. Eloq.* (1738) 118 Do you remember how you put out sike a sweet Saint of mine? *a* 1718 Parnell *Fairy Tale* 118 Was never wight in sike a case.

3. *absol.* Such person(s) or thing(s).

c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xxxviii. (*Adrian*) 14 For-þi folk mony fundine ware, þat for to sla sik wald nocht spare. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 4272 Sike as growis on þe gronde..þat we fede vs with in-fere. *c* 1470 Henry *Wallace* II. 353 Perchance ye say, that Bruce he was none sik. 1561 Winȝet *Wks.* (S. T. S.) I. 15 Sen we reid nane callit be God onlie, except sick as schew thair power geuin to thaim be Him. 1588 A. King tr. *Canisius' Catech.* 125 Bot sic as..willinglie sinnes agane, thay sinne aganis Christ. *a* 1724 in Ramsay *Tea-t. Misc.* (1729) 17, I hae na meikle, But sick's I hae ye's get a Pickle. 1825–1876 [see Sic-like *sb.*].

‖ **Sic,** *adv.* [L. *sic* so, thus.] A parenthetical insertion used in printing quotations or reported utterances to call attention to something anomalous or erroneous in the original, or to guard against the supposition of misquotation.

1887 Sweet *Second Anglo-Sax. Reader* Pref., A prefixed star calls attention to an erroneous or anomalous form, being thus equivalent to 'sic'.

Hence **Sic** *v.*, to mark with a 'sic'. *nonce-wd.*

1889 Bax *Ethics Socialism* (1902) 94 The modern reviewer's taste is not really shocked by half the things he *sics* or otherwise castigates.

Sic, obs. or dial. form of Sike.'

Sicamor(e, sicamour, obs. ff. Sycamore.

Sica·nian, *a. poet.* [f. L. *Sīcani-us*, f. *Sīcanī* (usually *Sicānī*), Gr. Σικανοί, a tribe inhabiting part of Sicily.] Sicilian.

1647 Cowley *Mistr., Coldness* iv, Alphæus found not a more secret trace, His lov'd Sicanian Fountain to embrace. 1795 Landor *Gebir* VI. 173 And now Sicanian Etna rose to view. 1875 Morris *Æneid* v. 24 The way..To brother-land of Eryx leal and safe Sicanian port.

Sicarian (sikē·ᵊriăn). *rare.* Also 4 **-ien, -yen.** [f. L. *sicārius*, f. *sīca* dagger.] An assassin. Also *attrib.* or as *adj.*

a 1400 N. T. (Paues) *Acts* xxi. 38 [He] ledde into deserte foure þowsande of men sicaryens. (Sicariens wore men þat maden fauchons or lytel swerdes.) 1654 Vilvain *Epit. Ess.* vi. 33, 4 Sicarians..slu..Becket. 1879 Farrar *Christ* II. lx. 362 In a nation which produced the sicarii, Pilate had given a fatal precedent of sicarian conduct.

So **Sica·rious** *a. rare*⁻¹.

1811 W. Taylor in *Monthly Rev.* LXV. 236 These prejudices..may occasion Sicilian vespers, and expose to sicarious destruction every British resident.

Sicatrize, obs. form of Cicatrize *v.*

‖ **Sicca** (si·kă). *Anglo-Indian.* Also 7 **secau, seccawe, siccau, sickaw,** 9 **sikka.** [a. Pers. (Arab.) سكة *sikkah* a die for coining, the impression on money.]

1. *Sicca rupee* (also † *rupee sicca*), originally, a newly-coined rupee, accepted at a higher value than those worn by use; latterly, a rupee coined under the Government of Bengal from 1793, and legally current till 1836, of a greater weight than the Company's rupee.

1619 in W. Foster *Eng. Factories in India* (1906) I. 113 Wherein wee have observed your request of rupees secaus coorah. 1620 *Ibid.* 182 In the exchange of rupees secaus for hundies. 1683 in Yule & Burnell *Hobson-Jobson* 633/1 Having received 25,000 Rupees Siccas for Rajamaul. 1776 *Trial of Nundocomar* 24/1 One lack of sicca haulee Banāris rupees. 1777 Richardson *Pers. Dict.* I. 1033 A sicca rupee, of full standard weight. 1806 T. Maurice *Ind. Antiq.* 246 The gross amount of its revenue is stated at 54,47,985,13 sicca-rupees. 1859 Lang *Wand. India* 177 'You shall, in future, receive it in sicca rupees', said the Lieutenant.

b. *ellipt.* = prec.

1757 in Scrafton *Indostan* (1770) 68 The Company shall be allowed..to coin siccas, both of gold and silver, of equal fineness with those of Muxadavad. 1763 *Ann. Reg., St. Papers* (1764) 191, I will cause the rupees coined in Calcutta to pass respect equal to the siccas of Morshedabad. 1886 Yule & Burnell *Hobson-Jobson* 632/2 This rupee, which is the sicca of more recent monetary history, weighed 192 grs. troy, and then contained 176·13 grs. of pure silver.

2. *Sicca weight*: (see quot. 1833).

1833 *India Regulation* (Y.), The use of the sicca weight of 179·666 grains,..being in fact the weight of the Moorshedabad rupee of the old standard,..shall be discontinued. 1850 *Directions Rev. Off. N. W. Prov.* 224 The liquor..is liable to a fixed duty per gallon of 304 Sicca Weight, on being removed from the enclosure.

Siccan (si·kăn), *a. Sc.* and *north.* Forms: 6 **sikkin, sickin,** 6, 8 **sicken,** 8– **siccan,** etc. [f. Sic *a.* + Kin *sb.*¹ 6 b.] Such, such-like.

1513 Douglas *Æneid* v. xii. 69 Thus as he mvsis, stad in sikkin dowt. 1573 *Satir. Poems Reform.* xli. 58 For thow may rew by all the rest That this day thow wants sickin ane. 1589 *Marprel. Epit.* B, He hath giuen the cause sicken a wipe in his bricke. 1725 Ramsay *Gentle Sheph.* iv. ii, My lad frae books can gather siccan sense. 1786 *Har'st Rig* xl, Minden plain, Whare siccan heaps o' French were slain. 1816 Scott *Antig.* xxi, The savour of the wallflowers, and siccan shrubs as grow on thae ruined wa's. 1899 Crockett *Kit Kennedy* 96 There never was siccan a boy as that Kit o' yours.

Sicca·neous, *a. rare.* [f. L. *siccāneus* (Columella), f. *siccus* dry.] Dry, arid.

1656 Blount *Glossogr.*, *Siccaneous*, dry of nature, that hath no Rivers or Springs to water it. 1821 R. Pollok in *Life* 77 Some of our addle-headed modern critics have certainly dug the sentiment from the siccaneous heaps of ancient criticism.

† **Si·ccate,** *v. Obs. rare.* Also as *pa. pple.* [f. ppl. stem of L. *siccāre*.] *trans.* To make dry.

1570 J. Drout *Gaulfrido & Bernardo* F viij, Whose watered plants scarse sicate were, Till he this same did close. 1623 Cockeram I, *Siccate*, to dry vp. 1657 Tomlinson *Renou's Disp.* 214 They are used..to roborate and siccate the brain.

† **Sicca·tion.** *Obs.* [ad. L. *siccātio* (Pliny), f. *siccāre* to dry.] The action or process of drying.

1612 Woodall *Surgeon's Mate* Wks. (1653) 274 Siccation is the drying up of excremental humidity in bodies. 1657 Tomlinson *Renou's Disp.* 146 Seeds after siccation are reposed in glass vessels.

Siccative (si·kătiv), *a.* and *sb.* [ad. late L. *siccātīv-us*, f. *siccāre* to dry: see -ative.]

A. *adj.* Having the property of absorbing moisture; drying.

1547 Boorde *Brev. Health* § 377 If the wounde be depe, vse siccatiue playsters. 1615 G. Sandys *Trav.* (1637) 134 So did they with the juyce of cedars; which by the extreame bitternesse, and siccative faculties..subdued the cause of interior corruption. 1839 Ure *Dict. Arts* 896 Such oils are said to be drying or siccative. 1847 A. Smeaton *Builder's Man.* 143 It may be rendered siccative at pleasure, by adding a little vitriol of zinc. 1869 *Eng. Mech.* 19 Mar. 575/1 Lead is siccative with reference to..linseed oil.

B. *sb.* A substance that dries up moisture, esp. as used in oil-painting; a dryer.

1825 J. Nicholson *Operat. Mechanic* 639 To which add some powerful siccative, or dryer, as red lead. 1882 Gosse *Gray* v. 98 The successive criticisms of a swarm of Dryasdusts, each depositing his drop of siccative.

† **Sicced,** *a. Obs.*⁻¹ [f. L. *sicc-us*: perh. intended for **siccid.*] Dry.

1667 Primatt *City & C. Builder* 2 A Season that is too sicced or dry.

† **Si·ccicate,** *v. Obs. rare.* [irreg. f. L. *siccus* or *siccāre*.] = Siccate *v.*

1639 T. de Gray *Expert Farrier* 21 The scorching heats will so siccicate and dry the planks. *Ibid.* 238 Corrupt cholericke bloud siccicating the flesh. *Ibid.* 291 They do siccicate and dry up many bad humours.

† **Sicci·fic(al,** *a. Obs.*⁻⁰ [f. L. *siccific-us*, f. *siccus* dry.] (See quots.)

1656 Blount *Glossogr.*, *Siccifical*, that hath power to make dry. 1721 Bailey, *Siccifick*, causing Siccity.

† **Si·ccitude.** *Obs.*⁻¹ [f. L. *siccus.*] = next.

1599 Linche *Anc. Fiction* X iij, A general siccitude throughout the whole composition of our bodies.

Si·ccity. ? *Obs.* [ad. L. *siccitas*, f. *siccus* dry: see -ity. So F. *siccité* (1425), It. *siccità*.] Dryness; absence of moisture.

1477 Norton *Ord. Alch.* v. in Ashm. (1652) 62 It is humor sollid constant with siccitie. *Ibid.* 76 Thick Liquor with us hath siccity. 1594 Plat *Jewell-ho.* I. (1653) 96 The eating of much salt..breeds barrennesse to mans body by the extream siccity thereof. 1615 G. Sandys *Trav.* 288 Those sands, which a long calme disunites by reason of their siccitie. 1646 Sir T. Browne *Pseud. Epid.* 172 The reason some..attempt to make out from the siccity and drines of its flesh. 1698 Fryer *Acc. E. India & P.* 328 An undeniable Argument of its Frigidity, and thence a farther concomitant of its Siccity. 1762 tr. *Busching's Syst. Geogr.* III. 186 If the blood retains its siccity, the people are struck with terror. 1782 *European Mag.* II. 350 Heat is the common property of fire and air,..siccity of earth and fire. *a* 1849 H. Coleridge *Ess.* (1851) II. 290 This must..express not physical siccity, but that unfruitfulness which in the desert results from want of moisture.

Siccophant, obs. form of Sycophant.

Sice (səis), **size** (səiz). Forms: *α.* 5 **sysse,** 5–6 **sys,** 6 **syse, syis**; 5 **sis,** 5– **sise,** 6– **size.** *β.* 5– **sice,** 6–7 **syce.** [a. OF. *sis, sis* (mod.F. *six*) :–L. *sex* six. So MDu. *sijs* (infl. *sise*).]

1. The number six marked upon dice; a throw in which the die turns up six. Often in figurative contexts and phrases, as *to set at cinque and sice* (see Cinque 3).

a. c 1386 Chaucer *Monk's T.* 671 Thy sys fortune hath turned in-to Aas. 1474 Caxton *Chesse* III. viii, He caste thre dyse, and on eche dyse was a sise, which made xviij poyntes. 1509 Barclay *Shyp of Folys* (1874) I. 295 Thoughe sys or synke them fayle, The dyse oft renneth upon the chaunce of thre. *a* 1550 *Image Hypocr.* in *Skelton's Wks.* (1843) II. 438 Seke some better chaunce Yourselves to avaunce, With sise, synke, or synnes, For he laughes that wynnes. *Ibid.* 442 With sise, sinke, and quatter. 1668 Dryden *Evening's Love* III. i, So, I have a good chance, two caters and a size. 1684–5 South *Serm.* (1715) I. 297 What Reason in the World can he have to presume, that he shall..throw an Ace rather than a Size? 1712 Swift *Jrnl. Stella* 31 May, The die is cast, and is a spinning, and till it settles, I cannot tell whether it be an ace or a sise. 1837 Lockhart *Scott* III. x. 327 He no more knew whether he had written well or ill, than whether a die thrown out of a box was to turn up a size or an ace.

β. c 1430 Lydg. *Min. Poems* (Percy Soc.) 166 Whos chaunce gothe neyther on synk nor sice. 1572 *Satir. Poems Reform.* xxxiii. 124 Quhilk thing thay did sa Syce vp and Sink downe. 1576 Fleming tr. *Caius' Dogs* (1880) 26 Our countrymen for their carelessnes of lyfe, setting all at cinque and sice, are of a contrary iudgement. 1600 W. Watson *Decacordon* (1602) 144 Topsie turvie, vpside downe, sincke shall vp and sice shall vnder. 1688 [see 1 c (*b*)]. 1789 M. Madan tr. *Perseus* (1795) 79 What The lucky sice would bring. 1861 Paley *Æschylus* (ed. 2) *Agam.* 32 Each of the three dice falling with the sice uppermost.

b. *Sice cinque*, a throw with two dice turning up six and five. Similarly *sice quatre, trey, deuce.* In quot. *a* 1618 with pun on *cinquepace.*

c 1386 Chaucer *Man of Law's Prol.* 125 Your bagges been nat fild with ambes as But with sys cynk, that renneth for your chaunce. 1552 Huloet, Nomber of eyghte on the dyce, as sice deux. [*a* 1618 Sylvester *Lacrymæ Lacrymarum* 102 Bats, Harpies, Syrens, Centaurs, Bib-all-nights, Sice-sink-ap-Asses, Hags.] 1658 J. Jones *Ovid's Ibis* 75 Deuce ace cannot pay scot and lot, and Sice Sink will not pay. 1694 Motteux *Rabelais* v. x. (1737) 37 They were call'd.. Sice cinque, Sice quater, Sice trey. 1748 Hoyle *Backgammon* iii. § 8 Size-Deuce, a Man to be brought from the five Men placed in your Adversary's Tables. *Ibid.* iv. § 6 A probability of throwing..Quatre-Trois, or Size-Cinque.

c. *Size-ace, sice-ace.* (*a*) A throw with two dice turning up six and one; also *fig.* (*b*) A variety of backgammon (see quot. 1688).

(*a*) 1592 *Nobody & Someb.* in Simpson *Sch. Shaks.* (1878) I. 337 *Sico.* Give me some bales of dice. What are these? ..*Som.* Those bar Sizeaces. 1594 Nashe *Unfort. Trav.* Wks. (Grosart) V. 172 A number of good fellowes would giue size ace and the dice that with as little toyle they could leaue Tyburne behinde them. 1641 in Rushw. *Hist. Coll.* (1692) III. I. 217 Here Satan stays, when these Persons..will give Satan Size-ace and the Dice, at Irish, in enthralling the Lives of the Subjects. 1663 Dryden *Wild Gallant* I. iii, Size ace I have thrown. 1748 Hoyle *Backgammon* iii. § 7 Size Ace, you are to take your Barr Point, for a Gammon, or for a Hit. 1832 *Fraser's Mag.* V. 475 Behind this size-ace of our species we think we recognise Mr. John Bowyer Nichols. (*b*) 1688 Holme *Armoury* III. xvi. (Roxb.) 63/2 Sice-Ace. It is played with six or more men apeece where the one load the other with Aces, and sices beares onely and dubbletts throws againe, and he that hath first borne his men wins.

2. *Size-point.* **a.** In backgammon, the sixth point from the inner end of each table.

1552 Huloet, Sice or the nombre of sixe on the dice or ye sice poynt in tables, *senio.* 1748 Hoyle *Backgammon* viii. § 7 Suppose A to have 2 Men upon his Size Point in his own Tables. 1801 Strutt *Sports & Past.* IV. ii. 282 Changing the ace point in the English game for the size point.

† **b.** The six in dice. *Obs.*

1648 Hexham II, *Sesken*, the Size point on a Die.

3. *slang.* Sixpence.

1660 Tatham *Rump* IV. i. Wks. (1879) 254 He..allows me the merry sice a day to spend till better times come. 1684 *Roxb. Ball.* (1885) V. 459 He'l print for a Sice, (For that is his price) Your Name (that you may brag 'twas so done) on the Ice! 1709 *Brit. Apollo* No. 56. 3/1 For want of Sice to hire a Bed. *Ibid.* No. 71. 3/2 For two and six Pence and a Sice too. [1830 Lytton *Paul Clifford* iii, As Mrs. Lobkins expressed it, 'two bobs for the Latin, and a sice for the vartue'!]

Sice, obs. form of Size.

† **Sicer.** *Obs.* Forms: 4 **ciser, cisar,** 5 **cisere, cysar, cyser, cesare**; 4 **seser,** 5 **sychere, syser,** 6–7 **sicer,** 7 **sicere.** [ad. late L. *sicera* (med.L. *cisera, cisara*): see etym. note to Cider.] Intoxicating liquor, strong drink.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 10982 Mikel for right sal he suinc, And noþer win ne ciser [*Gött.* seser] drinc. *Ibid.* 12679 He dranc neuer cisar ne wine. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xxxvi. (*Baptista*) 67 Wyne & cesare he ne sal drinke. *c* 1450 *Mirour Saluacioun* (Roxb.) 116 Teres of synners certein whilk ere contrite trewely Ere wyne and Cisere to seintis. 1582 N. T. (Rhem.) *Luke* i. 15 Wine and sicer he shal not drincke. 1609 Bible (Douay) *Deut.* xiv. 26 Thou shalt buy .. wine also and sicere. [1623 Lisle *Ælfric on O. & N. Test.* To Rdr. p. xxx, No man hauing but the English tongue onely is able to vnderstand it. Witnesse their Parasceue of the Pasche, their Azimes, their Wine and Sicer.]

Sich(e, obs. or dial. ff. Sitch, Such.

† **Siche,** *sb. Obs. rare.* [Related to next: cf. Sike *sb.*] A sigh.

c 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* I. 388 Ic me..on godes helde bebeode, wiþþ þane sara sice, wiþ þane sara slege. *c* 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 83 Þeh he him bidde mid his muð, he ne fecheð noht þe sore siches onnecerward his heorte.

† **Siche,** *v. Obs.* Also 3–5 **syche.** *Pa. t.* 3 **sihte, syhte,** 3–4 **siȝte,** 4 **syȝte, siȝt,** 5 **syght.** *Pa. pple.* 4 **y-siȝt.** [OE. *sīcan*, whence in ME. both *sīchen* (sīʧ-) and *sīken* Sike *v.* In OE. a strong verb (cf. the past t. *onsāc*), but in ME.

transferred to the weak class represented by *ræcean, tæcean*, etc. After *siche* became obsolete, the pa. t. *sight* was associated with SIGH *v.*, and remained in use till the 17th c.] *intr.* To sigh.

a. c 893 K. ÆLFRED *Oros.* II. viii. 92 Pæt wæron þa tida þe Romane nu æfter sicað. *c* 1000 *Ags. Psalter* (Thorpe) vi. 5 Ælce niht on minum bedde ic sice and wepe. *c* 1205 LAY. 12772 Þe king gon siche sare. *c* 1275 *Passion our Lord* 463 in *O. E. Misc.* 50 Louerd, he seyde, þench on me, and bi-gon to syche [*rime* kyneriche]. 13.. *St. Gregory* (Vernon MS.) 31 For þi suster i mai wel siche [*rime* riche]. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) V. 353 Þe kyng byhelde þe man and þe place, and siched sore. 1422 tr. *Secreta Secret., Priv. Priv.* 232 Yf he syche,..that man lowyth the and dreddyth.

β. c 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 169 Iob..an-hefde þo his egen to heuene..and sore sihte. *c* 1250 *Owl & Night.* 1291 Þe nyhtegale sat and syhte. 13.. *Guy Warw.* 4683 Þan stode þer sir Gij vp-riȝt; Wel depe in hert he haþ y-siȝt. *c* 1350 *Will. Palerne* 2971 Sorwfuliche sche siȝt. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) VIII. 227 Whanne he wook and syȝte [L. *suspirante*]. *c* 1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 3420 He ansuerd noȝt, bot sare syght.

Hence † **Si·ching** *vbl. sb. Obs.*

1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) IV. 287 Herodes..was i-tormented..wiþ ofte brekynge of sore sichinges [*v.r.* sychyngs].

† **Sichet.** *Obs.* [f. ME. *siche* SITCH; recorded only in Latinized forms *sichetus, -a, -um.*] A small watercourse. Cf. SIKET.

c 1133 in Dugdale *Mon. Angl.* (1825) V. 323/1 Ad quendam sichetum versus austrum. 1258 in Madox *Formul. Angl.* 88 Tres [selliones] jacentes inter Terram..et Sichetam sive Sicheta. [*c* 1260–80 in Eyton *Antiq. Shropshire* (1859) IX. 187 Nine seylions.., whereof three lay beyond the sichet towards Sponleg.] 1319 *Reg. Dunfermline* (Bann. Cl.) 149 Ascendendo..per vnum Sychetum se extendentem apud Le Aly.., & sic ab illo sycheto [etc.].

Sichomure, obs. form of SYCAMORE.

Sicht, Sc. form of SIGHT.

Sicilian (sisi·liăn), *a.* and *sb.* [f. L. *Sicilia* Sicily + -AN.]

A. *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to Sicily or its inhabitants; characteristic of Sicily or the Sicilians.

1611 SHAKS. *Wint. T.* v. i. 164 My best Traine I haue from your Sicilian Shores dismiss'd. 1649 OGILBY *Virg., Bucolicks* iii. (1684) 14 *note,* Archimedes, that famous Sicilian Mathematician. 1693 DRYDEN *Persius* (1697) 451 Sicilian Tortures, &c. Some of the Sicilian Kings were so great Tyrants, that the Name is become Proverbial. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Silk,* Part of the Sicilian Silks are Raw. 1781 COWPER *Heroism* 24 All the charms of a Sicilian year. 1842 W. C. TAYLOR *Anc. Hist.* xiv. § 1 (ed. 3) 381 Zancle..deriving its first name from the old Sicilian word Zanclos signifying a reaping-hook. 1871 *Schellen's Spectrum Anal.* 259 In most of the Sicilian drawings there is a tendency to an annular form.

2. a. In special collocations, as *Sicilian embroidery* (see quot. 1882); *Sicilian opening* (in chess); *Sicilian Vespers* (see quot. 1728).

1611 COTGR., *Vespres Siciliennes,* the Sicilian Evensong; mischiefes done, or death inflicted, in a place, and time, of imagined securitie. 1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.* s.v. *Vespers, Sicilian Vesperas,* is taken proverbially [etc., copying Cotgrave]. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Vespers,* Sicilian Vespers,.. a general Massacre of all the French in Sicily, in the Year 1282; to which the first Toll that call'd to Vespers was the Signal. 1802 PINKERTON *Mod. Geogr.* II. 638 After the Sicilian vespers, 1282, Sicily was seized by a fleet sent by the kings of Arragon. 1882 CAULFEILD & SAWARD *Dict. Needlewk.* 448/2 *Sicilian Embroidery,* an effective and easy work, formed with muslin, thin cambric, and braid, and is used for trimmings to washing dresses or for tea cloths and ornamental linen. 1883 *Standard* 28 Apr. 3/1 Noa and Tchigorin drew a Sicilian opening.

b. In names of plants, products, etc., as *Sicilian hore-hound, radish, toad-flax; Sicilian earth, saffron; Sicilian sword-fish.*

1731 MILLER *Gard. Dict.* s.v. *Linaria,* Sicilian Toad-Flax, with many Stalks, and a Leaf of the White Lady's Bedstraw. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* II. i. 117 A vast profusion of turnips and Sicilian radishes. 1770 PENNANT *Brit. Zool.* IV. 141 Sicilian Sword-Fish. 1822 *Hortus Anglicus* II. 98 *Marrubium Peregrinum.* Sicilian White Horehound. 1846 LINDLEY *Veg. Kingd.* 761 Sicilian saffron is obtained from Crocus odorus, according to Gussone. 1867 BRANDE & COX *Dict. Sci.,* etc. III. 440/2 *Sicilian Earth,* a name sometimes given to fossil bezoar, which appears to be of a similar character to Armenian Bole.

B. *sb.* **1.** A native of Sicily.

1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* v. vi. 16 Of Troianis samyn and Sicilianis a rout. 1644 MILTON *Areop.* (Arb.) 60 He whom an honest quæstorship had indear'd to the Sicilians. 1685 DRYDEN *Pref. to Sylvæ* Ess. (Ker) I. 266 Theocritus writ to Sicilians, who spoke that dialect. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Silk,* The rest of Italy and Spain learned from the Sicilians and Calabrians the Management of the Silk-Worms. 1788 LEMPRIÈRE *Class. Dict.* s.v. *Metelli,* A general of the Roman armies against the Sicilians and Carthaginians. 1825 LYTTON *Zicci* 5 The Sicilians are all ill-bred, bad-tempered fellows. 1880 'OUIDA' *Moths* III. 10 Her Sicilian had been also on the banks of the Tepe.

2. = SICILIANA. *rare*⁻¹.

1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl., Sicilian,* in Music, &c., a Kind of gay sprightly Air, or Dance; somewhat of the Nature of an English Jig.

3. = SICILIENNE.

1908 *Daily Chron.* 11 June 11/5 Machinists.—Skirts, voiles, and Sicilians.

‖ **Sicilia·na.** Also pl. **-ane.** [It., fem. of *Siciliano* Sicilian.] A dance of the Sicilian peasantry, resembling a jig; the music for this.

1724 *Short Explic. For. Wds. in Mus. Bks., Siciliane,* a Kind of Jig. 1782 *Ann. Reg.* II. 11 In Christmas time all quarters of Naples resound with pastorali or Siciliane, a kind of simple rural music, executed by..shepherds, upon a species of bagpipes. 1866 *Chambers's Encycl.* VIII. 704/1 *Siciliana,* in Music, a name given to a slow, soothing, pastoral description of air, in $^6/_8$ time. 1873 H. C. BANISTER *Music* 250 *Siciliana,* an old Sicilian dance in $^6/_8$ time, with a Satarello movement.

‖ **Sicilienne** (sisilie·n). [F., fem. of *sicilien* Sicilian.] A fine poplin made of silk and wool.

1881 MISS BRADDON *Asphodel* II. 235, I had quite made up my mind to wear that pearl-gray sicilienne which you all so much admired. *Ibid.* III. 225 Her pale-gray cashmere gown, and flounced sicilienne petticoat. 1889 *Tablet* 16 Feb. 260 The bridesmaids' dresses were composed of white sicilienne.

Sick (sik), *a.* and *sb.* Forms: *α.* 1–3 seoc (1 seoch, sioc), 2–3 seo(c)k; 3 sæc, seac, seak (9 *dial.*), 3, 6 seake; 1–3 sec (5 cec), 2–5 sek (5 cek), 2–6 seke (5 ceke), 5 seeke; 3 siec, 4 siek(e, 4–6 (9 *dial.*) seek, 5 seyk, 5–6 *Sc.* seik. *β.* 3 suc, sic, 3–6 sik (4 zik), 6–7 sicke (6 sycke), 6– sick (9 *dial.* sick). *γ.* 3–5 sijk (4 siik, syyk, 5 siyk), 4–5 sijke (4 siike 5 syike); 3–5 syk, 4–6 syke (4 zyke); 3–5, 7 sike. [Common Teut.: OE. *séoc,* = OFris. *siak, sieck, sek* (WFris. *siik,* †*sjeack*), MDu. *siec, ziec* (Du. *ziek*), OS. *siok, seok, siak* (MLG. *sêk, seik, sik,* LG. *seek, siek, sük*), OHG. *stuh, sioh, seoh, siach, siech* (MHG. and G. *siech*), ON. and Icel. *sjúkr* (Norw. and Sw. *sjuk,* Da. *syg*), Goth. *siuks.* Relationship to other Teutonic roots is uncertain, and no outside cognates have been traced. The variation of vowel in some ME. forms is not easy to account for.]

A. *adj.* **I. 1.** Suffering from illness of any kind; ill, unwell, ailing. Now chiefly literary and *U.S.*

α. c 888 K. ÆLFRED *Boeth.* xxxvi. § 5 Swa swa læca ȝewuna is..ðonne hi siocne mon ȝesioð. 971 *Blickl. Hom.* 59 Eal swylce seo lange mettrumnes bið þæs seocan mannes. *c* 1020 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1015, Þa læȝ se cyng seoc æt Cosham. *c* 1205 LAY. 6781 Swa þe king seoc [*c* 1275 seac] læi. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 1175 Abimalech wurð sek on-on. 13.. *K. Alis.* 6978 (Laud MS.), Now man is hool, now man is seek. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 65 He makth him siek, whan he is heil. *c* 1440 *Generydes* 199 Youre fader is right seke this day. 1477 CAXTON *Dictes* 9 It profiteth as a good medicine counably yeven to them that be seke. 1549 *Compl. Scotl.* xx. 165 Quhat medycyn can help ane seik man that hurtis hym selue vilfully? 1580 HAYE in *Cath. Tract.* (S. T. S.) 46 Is any seake amang you, let him call for the preistes of the kirk. 1855 [ROBINSON] *Whitby Gloss.* s.v. *Seak,* 'I was nowther seak nor sair when I said it',.. that is, in no way incapable of giving my evidence.

β. c 1200 *Moral Ode* 201 (Trin. Coll. MS.), Nare noman elles dead ne sic ne non unsele. *c* 1275 LAY. 2794 Þo iwarþ þe king sick. *c* 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 3867 Elydour feyned hym sik to lye. *c* 1380 WYCLIF *Wks.* (1880) 46 Þou3 I be simpul & sik nebeles I wile euere haue a clerk þat schal do me dyuyne office. *c* 1450 LOVELICH *Grail* li. 187 These herbes don me but distresse,..for I am Sykkere thanne I was before. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 16 b, So that none of them was sycke or miscaryed by ye waye. 1568 GRAFTON *Chron.* II. 493 In this meane while, king Henry waxed sicker and sicker. 1630 *R. Johnson's Kingd. & Commw.* 291 The one of these being very sicke, and, as was thought, in danger of death. 1674 GODFREY *Inj. & Ab. Physic* 83 Instead of growing sicker, they are far more chearfull. 1709 *Tatler* No. 86 P 3 At whose right hand he had sat at every Quarter-Sessions this Thirty Years, unless he was Sick. *a* 1774 GOLDSM. *Hist. Greece* II. 183 At Issas he barbarously put to death all the Greeks who were sick in that city. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* xxxiv, If she could be spared to come down and console a poor sick lonely old woman. 1891 FREEMAN in Stephens *Life* (1895) II. 443 She too has been sick and sent up to Ilkley in Yorkshire.

fig. 1593 SHAKS. *Rich. II,* II. i. 96 Thy death-bed is no lesser then the Land, Wherein thou lyest in reputation sicke. 1596 — 1 *Hen. IV,* IV. iii. 56 Sicke in the Worlds regard.

γ. c 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 28 Þis bok he leide ope þis man, ase he so sijk þer lay. *Ibid.* 132 Þe Monenday sore syk þe bischop thomas lay. *a* 1320 *Sir Tristr.* 3126 þat wende þe quen wald dye, So sike sche was bi sigt. ?*a* 1366 CHAUCER *Rom. Rose* 1358 That is a fruyt ful wel to lyke, Namely to folk whan they ben syke. *c* 1449 PECOCK *Repr.* II. ix. 194 The feend..made the peple sijk. *c* 1489 CAXTON *Sonnes of Aymon* xii. 294, I have lever deye than be longe syke. 1552 LATIMER *Serm. Lincoln* v. (1571) 101 Our Saulour was going to the house where this young mayde lay syke.

b. Const. *of, with* († *in, on*).

Also in figurative contexts, cf. 3 and 4.

c 1380 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* II. 23 Men þat ben siike in þe palesy. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* II. 148 Be war..thou be noght sik Of thilke fievere [jealousy] as I have spoke. *a* 1533 LD. BERNERS *Huon* cxi. 385 Many sondry frutys so fayre..that a syke man of any infyrmyte shuld sone recouer helth. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VI,* 13 b, Thon Lilie fel sicke on the gowte. 1579 W. FULKE *Heskins' Parl.* 136 To a sicke man of the ague, all drinkes seeme bitter. *a* 1618 SYLVESTER *Auto-Machia* 68 Sick to my Self I run for my reliefe: So, Sicker of my Physicke than my Griefe. 1643 TRAPP *Comm. Gen.* xxxvii. 11 Self-love, ignorance, &c...make the soul sick of the fret. 1731–8 SWIFT *Polite Conv.* i. Wks. 1751 XII. 209 You are sick of the Mulligrubs with eating chopt Hay. *a* 1774 GOLDSM. tr. *Scarron's Com. Romance* (1775) I. 320 This inn-keeper..being sick of a violent fever. 1884 QUINCY *Figures of Past* 199 New York had succumbed to the influenza. Everybody had been..sick with it.

c. Of parts of the body: Not in a sound or healthy state.

In later use usually with suggestion of sense 2.

1340 *Ayenb.* 148 Yef þe on leme is zik oþer y-wonded. *c* 1400 *Brut.* cci. 229 Seynt Thomas come vnto him, and enoynted oueral his sike side. 1471 CAXTON *Recuyell* (Sommer) I. 35 Wher the heed is seke or euyll, be membres may not be hoole ner good. 1561 HOLLYBUSH *Hom. Apoth.* 33 b, Laye thys upon the sycke place. 1668 CULPEPPER & COLE *Barthol. Anat.* I. xvii. 48 The kidneys might be sick, or..could not be nourished with good blood. 1700 *Transactioneer* 48 At last his Third Finger was sick. 1786 MRS. A. M. BENNETT *Juvenile Indiscr.* I. 169 And had a sick stomach. 1807 SOUTHEY *Espriella's Lett.* II. 115 A Sick Stomach will not digest the food that may be forced down it. 1821 SHELLEY *Hellas* 781 All that it inherits Are motes of a sick eye.

d. *Sick man,* a term frequently applied, during the latter part of the 19th cent., to the Sultan of Turkey.

The first quot. refers to a conversation between the Czar Nicholas I and Sir G. Seymour at St. Petersburg on the 21 Feb. 1853.

1853 *Ann. Register, Hist.* 252, I am not so eager about what shall be done when the sick man dies, as I am to determine with England what shall not be done upon that event taking place. 1855 J. MARTINEAU *Essays,* etc. I. (1890) 428 It was all right not to let the 'sick man' be frightened into convulsions. 1860 MOTLEY *Netherl.* ii. I. 30 That formidable potentate, not then the 'sick man' whose precarious condition and territorial inheritance cause so much anxiety in modern days.

transf. 1901 *Daily Express* 18 Mar. 4/4 French dealings with the Sultan of Morocco, the Sick Man of Africa.

e. *north. dial.* In childbed, confined, lying-in.

1828 *Craven Gloss.* 1878 *Cumbld. Gloss.*

2. Having an inclination to vomit, or being actually in the condition of vomiting.

1614 B. JONSON *Bart. Fair* v. vi, O lend me a bason, I am sicke, I am sicke. 1656 [? J. SERGEANT] tr. *T. White's Peripat. Inst.* 130 Those who are sick with riding in a Coach. 1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* II. (Globe) 341 He was very sick, and brought it up again. 1778 MME. D'ARBLAY *Let.* 5 July, Precipices, that, to look at, make my head giddy and my heart sick. 1815 *Croker Papers* (1884) I. iii. 75 The men were all sick, and the women and children thought they were going to the bottom. 1900 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* V. 628 The patient, if he is in the house, usually crouches over the fire and feels sick and giddy.

fig. 1855 TENNYSON *Maud* I. XIII. 11 But his essences turn'd the live air sick. 1856 BRYANT *Autumn Woods* vi, When the noon of summer made The valleys sick with heat.

b. More fully *sick at* (or *in*) *the stomach.* ? *Obs.*

1653 H. MORE *Antid. Ath.* II. vii, The Dog, when he is sick at the Stomach, knows his Cure, falls to his Grass, vomits, and is well. 1671 H. M. tr. *Erasm. Colloq.* 489 Antronius comes..to say, that he is sick at the stomach. 1753 A. MURPHY *Gray's Inn Jrnl.* No. 48, Sick in my Stomach all the Morning—Owing to their hard Food. 1796 *Grose's Dict. Vulgar T.* (ed. 3), *Sick as a horse.* Horses are said to be extremely sick at their stomachs, from being unable to relieve themselves by vomiting. 1831 T. HOPE *Ess. Orig. Man* II. 320 The elephant [will] eat sugar-plums till he turns sick at the stomach.

c. In phrases *sick as a dog, horse,* etc.

1705 VANBRUGH *Confederacy* II. i, If..he shou'd chance to be afond, he'd make me as sick as a Dog. 1731–8 SWIFT *Polite Conv.* i. Wks. 1751 XII. 209 Poor Miss, she's sick as a Cushion, she wants nothing but stuffing. 1765 STERNE *Tr. Shandy* VII. ii, I am sick as a horse, quoth I, already. *a* 1843 SOUTHEY *Doctor* (1847) VII. 79 T' Trees gang fleeing by..an' gars yan be as seek as a peeate. 1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss., Sick as a horse,* a common vulgar simile, used when a person is exceedingly sick without vomiting.

II. † **3.** Spiritually or morally ailing; corrupt through sin or wrong-doing. *Obs.*

c 960 *Rule St. Benet* (Schröer) ii. 11 ȝif he..his seocum, þæt is synfullum dædum ealle lacnunge ȝeȝearewade. *a* 1000 *Juliana* 65 Hæðne wæron bezen, synnum seoce, sweor & apum. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 176 Þet fleschs wolde.. makien sic þe soule. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 25329 Bot if þi saul it be sua seke þat þou þi mode mai nagat meke. 1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. XX. 303 Go salue þo þat syke ben and þorw synne ywounded. 1404–8 *Pol. Poems* vii. 5 The flesch..Is wormes mete, and sek of synne. 1435 MISYN *Fire of Love* 90 To so seyk & vnclene myndis..Aungell foyd sall not sauyr. 1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* I. 109 Mony was seik of ane vice; to wit, immoderat libertie of lyfe. 1613 SHAKS. *Hen. VIII,* II. iv. 204, I meant to rectifie my Conscience, which I then did feele full sicke. 1738 WESLEY *Ps.* VI. i, And heal my Soul diseas'd and sick.

4. Deeply affected by some strong feeling, as (*a*) sorrow, (*b*) longing, (*c*) envy, (*d*) repugnance or loathing, producing effects similar or comparable to those of physical ailments.

(*a*) *a* 1000 *Fate of Apostles* 2 Ic þysne sang siðȝeomor fand On seocum sefan samnode wide. *a* 1000 *Guthlac* 1050 Ne beo þu ón sefan to seoc! *c* 1374 CHAUCER *Boeth.* III. met. xii. (1868) 107 He song..wiþ as myche as loue..myȝte ȝeuen hym and teche hym in his seke herte. 1581 PETTIE *Guazzo's Civ. Conv.* II. (1586) 77 It will make you sicke at the heart to see it. 1591 SHAKS. *Two Gent.* I. i. 69 Thou Iulia thou hast..Made Wit with musing, weake; hart sick with thought. 1611 BIBLE *Prov.* xiii. 12 Hope deferred maketh the heart sicke. 1784 COWPER *Task* II. 6 My soul is sick, with ev'ry day's report Of wrong and outrage. 1820 SHELLEY *Witch Atl.* 178 Liquors..whose healthful might Could medicine the sick soul to happy sleep. 1850 TENNYSON *In Mem.* I. 3 When..the heart is sick, And all the wheels of Being slow. 1886 ROBINSON *Courting May Smith* VI. i, She was ill at ease, and sick at heart.

(*b*) *c* 1388 WYCLIF *Song Sol.* v. 8 If ȝe han founde my derlyng, that ȝe telle to hym, that Y am sijk [L. *langueo*] for loue. *c* 1460 SIR R. ROS *La Belle Dame* 53 These seke lovers I leve that to hem longes. 1597 SHAKS. 2 *Hen. IV,* V. iii. 142 Boote, boote Master Shallow, I know the young King is sick for mee. 1613 — *Hen. VIII,* II. ii. 83, I would not be so sicke though for his place. 1637 B. JONSON *Sad Shepherd* I. ii, She's sick of the young shepherd that beKiss'd her. 1820 SHELLEY *Prometh. Unb.* II. ii. 28 When one

[nightingale].., Sick with sweet love, droops dying away. 1842 TENNYSON *Talking Oak* 71 This girl, for whom your heart is sick, Is three times worth them all. 1875—*Harold* I. i, Sick as an autumn swallow for a voyage.

(*c*) 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 159 If evere yit thin herte was Sek of an other mannes hele? 1606 SHAKS. *Tr. & Cr.* I. iii. 132 So euery step Exampled by the first pace that is sicke Of his Superiour, growes to an enuious Feauer. 1613 — *Hen. VIII*, I. ii. 82 What we oft doe best, By sicke Interpreters..is Not ours, or not allow'd.

(*d*) 1590 SHAKS. *Mids. N.* II. i. 212, I am sicke when I do looke on thee. 1599 — *Much Ado* II. ii. 5 Any barre..will be medicinable to me, I am sicke in displeasure to him. 1819 SHELLEY *Cenci* II. i. 122 Thy milky, meek face makes me sick with hate! 1860 TENNYSON *Sea Dreams* 155 It makes me sick to quote him.

b. *slang.* Disgusted, mortified, chagrined.

1853 SURTEES *Sponge's Sp. Tour* (1893) 254 Thinking.. how sick he was when the jury..gave five hundred pounds damages against him. 1895 *Westm. Gaz.* 28 Mar. 7/1 Those who backed the popular fancies in the winter must be feeling, in popular parlance, pretty sick.

transf. 1896 KIPLING *Seven Seas, Rhyme Three Sealers*, The sickest day for you..was the day that you came here.

5. Thoroughly tired or weary *of* a thing.

1597 SHAKS. 2 *Hen. IV*, I. iii. 87 The Common-wealth is sicke of their owne Choice. 1603 BRETON *Dial. Pithe & Pleasure* Wks. (Grosart) II. 14/1 Where the sonne is sike of the father, the sister of the brother. 1710 *Tatler* No. 257 P 3, I was quickly sick of this tawdry Composition of Ribands, Silks and Jewels. 1797-1805 S. & HT. LEE *Canterb. T.* I. 7 Heartily sick of his host, himself, and his travels. 1842 MIALL in *Nonconf.* II. 281 The world is sick of such societies. 1884 *Manch. Exam.* 7 May 5/4 There are plenty of Tories everywhere who are sick of the old party traditions.

III. 6. Mentally affected or weak. Now *rare.*

Cf. OE. *séocmód* adj. in Napier *Contrib. O.E. Lex.*

c 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 772 Þan waxes his gaste seke and sare, And his face rouncles. 1551 T. WILSON *Logike* (1580) 10 b, Some menne are so sicke in their braine, that thei are neuer wise. 1692 S. PATRICK *Answ. Touchstone* 223 If they are not sick in their wits. 1817 SHELLEY *Rev. Isl.* v. xxvii. 3 It was a tone Such as sick fancies in a new-made grave Might hear.

7. Of things: Out of condition in some respect; corrupted or spoiled; *spec.* of wine which has become turbid, or of quicksilver (see quot. 1875).

1388 WYCLIF *Isaiah* xxiv. 7 Vyndage morenyde, the vyne is sijk [L. *infirmata*]. *c* 1440 tr. *Pallad. on Husb.* III. 939 Thy tre is seek, oyldregges water mynge [etc.]. *c* 1460 RUSSELL *Bk. Nurture* 116 in *Babees Bk.* 125 Þiff swete wyne be seeke or pallid, put in a Rompney for lesynge. *a* 1470 *Dives & Pauper* (W. de W.) VII. x. 290/1 Yf a man or woman selle a seke thynge for an hole thynge wyttyngly to begyle the byer, he doth theeft. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* III. ii. 153 The seik ground denyis his fruite and fudis. 1697 TRYON *Way to Health* xv. (ed. 3) 369 A Medicine of a loathing Quality, and far Sicker in Nature than the distempered Patient. 1703 *Art & Myst. Vintners* 7 Renish [wine].. commonly grows sick in June, if not rack'd. 1743 *Lond. & Co. Brewer* III. 208 If the Wort is sick, it cannot fail of communicating its unwholesome Quality to the Blood. *a* 1821 KEATS *Hyperion* I. 189 Instead of sweets, his ample palate took Savour of poisonous brass and metal sick. 1868 H. C. R. JOHNSON *Argentine Alps* 103 The people very generally drink the wine new, the year after it is made—just as likely it is sick. 1875 *Ure's Dict. Arts* II. 696 The quicksilver constantly became 'sick',..and lost apparently all its natural affinity for gold. 1892 *Longman's Mag.* Nov. 83 Should the hot and dry weather long continue, a curious phenomenon takes place. The mere is said to be 'sick'; that the eels are so there can be no doubt.

fig. 1596 SHAKS. *Merch. V.* v. i. 124 This night methinkes is but the daylight sicke. 1606 — *Tr. & Cr.* I. iii. 103 O, when Degree is shak'd, .. The enterprize is sicke. 1781 COWPER *Retirem.* 738 A sepulchre..Where all good qualities grow sick and die. 1822 J. FLINT *Lett. fr. Amer.* 111 When the sick system dies, the public will see the full amount..they have to suffer for their credulity.

b. Said of the young and ungrown feathers of a bird in moulting-time.

1589 PUTTENHAM *Eng. Poesie* III. xxiii. (Arb.) 272 These fowles in their moulting time, when their feathers be sick. 1592 GREENE *Disput.* 22, I see the fayrest Hawke hath oftentimes the sickest feathers. 1655 FULLER *Ch. Hist.* V. 187 If a Seraphim himself should be a Bishop, he would either finde or make some sick feathers in his wings. 1820 KEATS *Eve St. Agnes* xxxvii, A dove..with sick unpruned wing.

c. Of fish, etc.: In the spawning stage.

1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Herring*, The shotten and sick Herrings [are sorted] by themselves. 1885 *Encycl. Brit.* XVIII. 107/1 The mass of ova..is spoken of by oyster fishers as 'white spat', and an oyster containing them is said to be 'sick'.

d. *Naut.* Requiring repairs.

More common in combs. as IRON-SICK, NAIL-SICK.

1854 ELIZ. S. SHEPPARD *Counterparts* I. 7 And the *Shelley*, she lays down at X, sick of paint. 1893 ALSTON & WALKER *Seamanship* (ed. 3) 55 Sick Seams.—Are those in which the stitches are worn, and give way here and there.

e. *Stock Exchange.* Slow, dull.

1870 MEDBERY *Men & Mysteries of Wall St.* 137 A Sick market; the market is Ill. When brokers very generally hesitate to buy. 1880 *Daily News* 13 Dec. 7/2 The [wool] market has been somewhat sick. 1904 *Daily Chron.* 22 Mar. 2/5 Kaffir shares were again rather sick, and closed lower.

8. Of a sickly hue; pale, wan.

1592 SHAKS. *Rom. & Jul.* II. ii. 8 Be not her Maid since she is enuious, Her Vestal liuery is but sicke and greene. *a* 1822 SHELLEY *Triumph Life* 430 A light of heaven, whose half-extinguished beam Through the sick day..Glimmers. 1845 MANGAN *Germ. Anthol.* I. 139 Out, out, sick light! Out, flickering taper!

9. Accompanied by illness or sickness; denoting sickness. Also in fig. contexts.

1593 SHAKS. *Rich. II*, II. ii. 84 Now comes the sicke houre that his surfet made. 1647 TRAPP *Comm. Rom.* ii. 19 So spending thy time in a still dream, but thou shalt have sick waking. 1656 EARL MONM. *Boccalini's Advts. fr. Parnass.* 273, I did first exactly consider the body of the State of Rome in its sick condition. 1746 FRANCIS tr. *Horace, Ep.* I. xviii. 159 They dread A sick Debauch and aching Head. 1799 *Med. Jrnl.* I. 286 A dissertation on the sick head-ach, ..by Dr. Nathaniel Dwight. 1827 CARLYLE *Germ. Rom.* II. 176 Seventeen sick and pitiable years, before death put a period to her sufferings. 1889 *Repentance of Paul Wentworth* III. 297 A sick despair was at his heart.

10. (Chiefly from the absolute or substantival use: see B.)

a. Appropriated or given up to, occupied by, one or more persons in a state of illness, as *sick-bay, -berth, -bungalow, -bunk, -chamber, -couch,* etc. Also SICK-BED, -HOUSE, -ROOM.

Cf. older Flem. *sieckkamer, -stoel* (Kilian), G. *siechkammer, -stube, -zimmer*, Sw. *sjukstuga, -sång.*

1813 J. THOMSON *Lect. Inflam.* 465 The temporary *sick-bay, in which they had been heretofore, being pulled down. 1846 A. YOUNG *Naut. Dict., Sick-bay*, a place set apart in a ship for invalids or wounded men. 1803 *Med. Jrnl.* IX. 284 We offer the plan of a *Sick Berth, which is to be considered as the hospital of a ship of the line. 1863 A. YOUNG *Naut. Dict., Sick-berth attendant*, formerly termed Loblolly Boy; in a ship of war, a person who attends the surgeon and his assistants. 1845 STOCQUELER *Brit. India* 244 At Almorah there are five bungalows, called *sick bungalows, belonging to government. 1856 KANE *Arct. Expl.* I. xvii. 200 Nearly all our party..were tossing in their *sick-bunks. 1825 SCOTT *Betrothed* xxvii, Margery, whose element was a *sick-chamber. 1886 RUSKIN *Præterita* I. 431 The grief and anxiety of a sick chamber. 1760–72 H. BROOKE *Fool of Qual.* (1809) IV. 4 The *sick-couch is preparing, with..agonies and death. 1817 SHELLEY *Rev. Islam* IV. v. 5 That gentle Hermit..By my sick couch was busy to and fro. 1856 KANE *Arct. Expl.* II. xviii. 187, I had carried Mr. Goodfellow to the *sick-station with my dog-sledge. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* II. ii. 132 We set up a..copper-oven near the *sick tents. 1632 SHERWOOD, The *sick-ward of an hospitall, *la maladerie*. 1813 J. THOMSON *Lect. Inflam.* 491 The efficacy of these vapours in destroying the offensive smells which occur in sick-wards.

b. Of or pertaining to, connected with, persons suffering from illness, as *sick-allowance, -book, -club, cookery,* etc.

1863 TREVELYAN *Compet. Wallah* (1866) 198 His first ideas ..run in the line of sick-leave and *sick-allowances. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.*, **Sick-book*, an account of such officers and men as are on the sick list on board, or are sent to an hospital, hospital-ship, or sick-quarters. 1851 MAYHEW *Lond. Lab.* (1864) II. 331 Among these workmen are no Trade Societies, no Benefit or *Sick-Clubs. 1871 NAPHEYS *Prev. & Cure Dis.* II. iii. 489 *Sick-cookery should more than half do the work of the poor patient's weak digestion. 1731–8 SWIFT *Polite Conv.* I. 137 This is my *sick Dish; when I am well, I'll have a bigger. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.*, **Sick-flag*, the yellow quarantine flag. 1849 F. B. HEAD *Stokers & Pokers* v. (1851) 53 A portion of the proceeds being handed over to the *sick-fund for persons.. hurt in the service. 1899 *Month* May 462 To master the principles of *sick-insurance. 1840 COL. HAWKER *Diary* (1893) II. 179 He would use all interest to get home on *sick leave. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.*, **Sick-mess*, a table for those on the doctor's list. *a* 1660 in J. Morris *Troubles Cath. Foref.* (1872) vi. 277 The Cellaress and *Sick Mistress ..remained there. 1739 BP. HERRING in J. Duncombe *Lett.* (1773) II. 135 A woman, in a *sick night-cap hanging over the stairs. 1887 *Spectator* 15 Oct. 1385 A member of a Benefit Society is not allowed, when receiving *sick-pay, to put his hand to a stroke of work. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* II. 953 A low temperature is always accompanied by a decrease in the *sick-rate. 1595 SHAKS. *John* IV. i. 52 But you, at your *sicke seruice had a Prince. 1802 MRS. E. PARSONS *Myst. Visit* IV. 37 Discharged with a *sick ticket to go home. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk., Sick-ticket*, a document given to an officer, seaman, or marine, when sent to an hospital. 1846 MCCULLOCH *Acc. Brit. Empire* (1854) II. 593 In like manner the *sick-time is augmented principally by the attacks.

11. *Comb.*, as *sick-brained, -feathered, -hearted, -thoughted; sick-fallen, -pale, -tired*; also *sick-child, -heart* used attrib.

1658 *2nd Narr. Parl.* in *Harl. Misc.* (1809) III. 474 Whether the protector, and the great men his confederates, be not rather to be termed fanatick, whimsical, and *sick-brained, than those who [etc.]. 1824 MISS FERRIER *Inher.* XXVII, In a soft, whining, *sick-child sort of voice. 1605 *Tryall Chevalr.* I. ii. in Bullen *Old Pl.*, Idle love, The *sick-fac't object of an amorous brayne. 1595 SHAKS. *John* IV. iii. 153 And vast confusioun waites As doth a Rauen on a *sicke-falne beast. 1687 DRYDEN *Hind & Panther* III. 614 The latter brood,..*Sick-feather'd, and unpractis'd in the sky. 1875 MORRIS *Æneid* XII. 850 *Sick-heart men. *a* 1835 MRS. HEMANS *Poems* (1875) 541 Sing to thy child, the *sick-hearted, Songs of a spirit oppress'd. 1810 CRABBE *Borough* XX. 314 She and that *sick-pale brother. 1592 SHAKS. *Ven. & Ad.* 5 *Sick-thoughted Venus makes amaine vnto him. 1631 QUARLES *Samson* viii, From his loathed Bed, Sicke-thoughted Samson rose. 1861 J. BARR *Poems* 11 (E. D. D.), I'm *sick tired o' a bachelor life. 1896 *Harper's Mag.* Apr. 742/2 Gordon was sick-tired of journalistic chatter.

B. *absol.* or as *sb.*

1. *absol.* as pl. Those who, such as, are suffering from illness.

a. c 1000 *Ags. Gosp., Mark* xvi. 18 Ofer seoce hi hyra handa settað & hi beoð hale. *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 37 To seke gan and þa deden helpen to buriene. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 330 Sume helpe..uorte lecnen mid þe seke. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 14078 Giueand mani seke þair hele. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 265 Ther is phisique for the seke. *a* 1450 MYRC 1841 When þow schalt to seke gon, Hye þe faste. 1483 CAXTON *Gold. Leg.* 95 b/2 He comanded that the feble and seke shold be sette aparte by them self. 1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scott.* I. 90 To restore to thair health seik and waik.

β. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 153 b, Visytynge the sycke, comfortynge ye prisoner. 1592 LYLY *Gallathea* I. i, It's hard for the sicke to followe wholesome counsaile. 1639 S. DU VERGER tr. *Camus' Admir. Events* 218 The sicke of the dropsie augment their thirst in drinking. 1681 BELON *New Myst. Physic* 49 Supposing that the Sick are duly prepared. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* III. i. 293 Fresh provisions were distributed amongst the sick. 1803 *Med. Jrnl.* X. 224 The sick were so numerous that it became necessary to call in.. a nurse. 1888 H. MORTEN *Hospital Life* 49 Her friends were the sick and suffering.

γ. a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 32 Gedereð in owre heorte alle sike & alle sorie. *c* 1250 *Kent. Serm.* in *O. E. Misc.* 28 Uisiti þe poure and to sike. *a* 1300 *Assump. Virg.* (Camb. MS.) 63 Poure and sike he dude god, And seruede hem. 1340 *Ayenb.* 267 Ich y-ze3..þe tribz..of poure, and of zyke. 1404–8 *26 Pol. Poems* vi. 39 Fede non hungry, ne clobe no bare;..Visite no syke. *c* 1440 *Jacob's Well* 254 To haue compassioun on alle syke & sory.

2. A person suffering from illness. ? *Obs.*

c 888 K. ÆLFRED *Boeth.* XXXVIII. § 7 Swa swa se sioca ah þearfe þæt hine mon læde to þæm læce. *c* 1205 LAY. 17716 Ne ræche ich nane garsume.., Ah ælche seocken ich hit do For luue of mine drihtene. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 8060 To se þat seke a turn he made, In sekenes sar he fand him stad. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* ix. (*Bartholomew*) 90 And with þat wourd..þe seke wes heylit of his care. 1412 LYDG. *Troy Bk.* I. 3627 A medicine Availeth nat, whan þe seke is ded. *c* 1450 *Merlin* 52 Plese it yow to axe of youre devynour, yef this seke shall euer be hoill of this sekenesse. 1526 TINDALE *Matt.* ix. 6 Then sayd he vnto the sicke of the palsey. 1799 UNDERWOOD *Dis. Child.* (ed. 4) I. 301 In which interval the sick passes a high-coloured urine.

3. A disease or illness (*obs.*); a fit of sickness; a sickening. *rare.*

It is doubtful whether even the older examples have any direct connexion with such forms as Goth. *siukei*, OHG. *siuhht* (G. *seuche, sieche*), Icel. *sýki*, etc.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 10407 Þai..Wit-vten want has alle þair wis, Wit-vten seke, wit-vten sare. 13.. *Ibid.* 14147 (Gött.), Þe seke him saris fra heued to fote. 1808 JAMIESON, *Sick*, sickness, a fit of sickness; as, 'The sick's na aff him'. 1897 MAUGHAM *'Liza of Lambeth* i, This is too bloomin' slow, it gives me the sick.

Sick, *v.*[1] Forms: 2 seocan, 4 seke, 5 cekyn, seeke(n; 4 sijken, 5 syken, sike, syk; 6– sick (7 sicke). [f. SICK *a.* Cf. Fris. *siikje*, MDu. *sieken* (Du. *zieken*), MLG. *sêken, sûken* (LG. *sîken, süken*), OHG. *siuhhan, -ên, -ôn* (MHG. and G. *siechen*), ON. *sjúkask* (refl.), Goth. *siukan.*]

†**1.** To suffer illness; to fall ill, sicken. *Obs.*

a 1150 in *Archiv Stud. neu. Spr.* CXVII. 25 *Languet*, seocet. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 11816 þat caitif vn-meth and vn-meke, Nu bigines he to seke. 1382 WYCLIF 2 *Kings* xiii. 14 Helise forsothe sikide in sijknesse. *c* 1400 *Brut* CXXVIII. 303 þat he þat siked þis day, deid on þe iij. day after. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 65 Cekyn or wexe seke, *infirmor*. 1594 PEELE *Battle of Alcazar* I. ii, To sick as Envy at Cecropia's gate, And pine with thought and terror of mishaps. 1597 SHAKS. 2 *Hen. IV*, IV. iv. 128 A little time before That our great Grand-sire Edward sick'd, and dy'de.

†**2.** *trans.* To cause to sicken; to make ill. *Obs.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 14147 Þe sare him sekes fra hede to fote. *a* 1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* xxvi. 4 Myn enemys þat angirs me, þei are sekid & doun fell. *a* 1645 HEYWOOD *Apollo & Daphne* Wks. 1874 VI. 289 His piercing beams I never shall endure, They sicke me of a fatall Calenture.

3. *intr.* To act as a sick-nurse. *nonce-use.*

1844 DICKENS *M. Chuzzlewit* xxv, Whether I sicks or monthlies, ma'am, I hope I does my duty.

Sick (sik), *v.*[2] Also **sic.** [dial. var. of SEEK *v.*]

1. *trans.* Of a dog: To set upon, attack (an animal). Chiefly in imperative.

1890 *Golden Days* (Philadelphia) 6 Sept. (Cent.), 'Sic 'em, Andy!' screamed Granny...The growls and snarls of the fighting animals..made a terrific din. 1908 *Westm. Gaz.* 19 Sept. 8/2 'Sick 'un then'. Now 'sicking' a hedgehog is a job which few dogs care to tackle.

2. To incite or encourage (a person) to attack. Const. with *on* adv. or prep.

1885 MARY N. MURFREE *Prophet Gt. Smoky Mountains* xi, He sick-ed him on all the time. 1892 KIPLING & BALESTIER *Naulahka* v. 50 Tarvin applauded both parties, sicking one on the other impartially for the first ten minutes.

Sick, obs. f. SEEK *v.*; var. SIC *a.*, SIKE.

Sick-bed. [SICK *a.* Cf. MDu. *siecbedde* (Du. *ziekbed*), LG. *sükbedde*, MHG. *siechbette* (G. *-bett*), Sw. *sjukbädd.*] A bed upon which a person lies ill.

c 1425 *Cursor M.* 3632 (Trin.), Ar he deyed in seke bed his benisoun he wolde him 3yue. 1662 STRYPE in *Lett. Lit. Men* (Camden) 177 That is wont to bring you upon a sick bed. *a* 1673 CARYL in Spurgeon *Treas. David* CXVI. 2 If from a sick bed he be raised to health. 1705 STANHOPE *Paraphr.* II. 297 The many fruitless Remorses, and broken Vows, of Affliction and Sick-beds. 1749 FIELDING *Tom Jones* v. ii, Considered a sick-bed to be a convenient scene for lectures. 1837 LOCKHART *Scott* I. ix. 301 Much exhausted with their attendance on a protracted sickbed. 1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) I. 98 Had not many a man better never get up from a sick bed?

attrib. 1730 BOSTON *Mem.* xi. 375 A design..that it might be a convenient sick-bed room. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* xix, Sick-bed homilies and pious reflections are..out of place in mere story-books.

Sicken (sik'n), *v.* Forms: *α.* 3 **secnen,** 4–5 (9 *dial.*) **seeken** (5 **-enyn**), 5–6 **seken** (5 **-ene**), **sekyn,** 9 *dial.* **seaken.** *β.* 3 **sikni,** 4–5 **sionen, sijknen, sikynyn,** 6 **sycken,** 6– **sicken.** [f. SICK *a.* + **-EN** 5. Cf. OIcel. *sjúkna*, MSw. *siukna* (Sw. *sjukna*).]

I. *intr.* To become affected with illness, to fall ill or sick. Also const. *of* or *with*.

a. c 1200 ORMIN 4772 He warrþ all..Full hefiglike secnedd. 1382 WYCLIF 2 *Kings* viii. 29 Ochozias..came doun to visyten Joram..in Jezrael, the whiche seekened there. *c* 1460 METHAM *Wks.* (E.E.T.S.) 148 To knowe qwat schuld be-falle off hym that sekenyth in ony day off the mone. 1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* Contents XXI. xii, How syr Launcelot began to sekene & after dyed. 1509 HAWES *Past. Pleas.* XVI. (Percy Soc.) 63 My hert sekened and began to waxe sore. 1530 PALSGR. 708/2, I sekyn, I waxe sycke.

β. c 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 293/187 Anon-riȝt he bigan to sikni; and þare riȝt adoun lay. 1382 WYCLIF 1 *Sam.* XXX. 13, I bigan to sikynyn the thridde dai hens. — *Isaiah* XXXVIII. 1 In tho daȝes sicnede Ezechie vnto the deth. 1530 PALSGR. 708/2 My father syckened first upon sayncte Bartylmewes evyn. 1568 GRAFTON *Chron.* II. 162 At this tyme the king sickened, and [was] forced to kepe his bed. *c* 1600 SHAKS. *Sonn.* CXVIII. 4 We sicken to shun sicknesse when we purge. 1657 *Penit. Conf.* xii. 331 Being in Normandy [he] sickned, of that disease whereof he died. 1705 J. LOGAN in *Pennsylv. Hist. Soc. Mem.* X. 35 The same night he sickened, as he thought of a surfeit of cherries, and in two days died. 1771 T. HULL *Sir W. Harrington* (1797) IV. 113, I was told that Lord C. had sickened much after his bleeding. 1807 *Med. Jrnl.* XVII. 249 The people who were sickening very fast with the small-pox. 1847 PRESCOTT *Peru* (1850) II. 327 Some sickened and sank down by the way. 1868 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* (1877) II. 354 Soon after his restoration the Earl began to sicken.

transf. a 1822 SHELLEY '*Music, when soft voices die*' 3 Odours, when sweet violets sicken, Live within the sense they quicken. 1825 *Gentl. Mag.* XCV. I. 130 A small white insect, which caused..the trees to sicken and to bear no fruit that year.

b. *fig.* or in fig. contexts.

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 368 Monie ancren..witeð so hore heale, þet þe gost unstrencðeð & secneð ine sunne. 1607 SHAKS. *Jul. C.* IV. ii. 20 When Loue begins to sicken and decay. 1629 MILTON *Hymn Nativity* xiv, Speckl'd vanity Will sicken soon and die. 1706 ESTCOURT *Fair Example* II. i, Why did she swear, unless it was to strengthen her Resolution, that began to sicken? 1770 GOLDSM. *Deserted Vill.* 262 In these..The toiling pleasure sickens into pain. *a* 1827 WORDSW. *Somnambulist* 80 Day sickens round her, and the night Is empty of repose. 1861 ALEXANDER *Gospel of Jesus Christ* 113 The appetite has sickened and so died,

c. Used with complement.

1823 BYRON *Corsair* I. i, Let him..Cling to his couch, and sicken years away.

2. a. To feel faint with horror or nausea; to revolt or experience revulsion *at* something.

1601 SHAKS. *All's Well* V. iii. 207 A most perfidious slaue ..Whose nature sickens but to speak a truth. 1606 — *Ant. & Cl.* III. x. 17 Mine eyes did sicken at the sight, and could not Indure a further view. 1703 POPE *Thebais* 136 The day beheld, and sickning at the sight, Veil'd her fair glories in the shades of night. 1784 COWPER *Tiroc.* 167 The young apostate sickens at the view. 1800 MRS. HERVEY *Mourtray Fam.* II. 157 Sickening with disgust, she rose abruptly, and pulled the bell. 1836 J. GILBERT *Atonement* vi. (1852) 165 How frightful is this portrait! the heart sickens as we contemplate it. 1868 TENNYSON *Lucretius* 196, I hate, abhor, spit, sicken at him.

b. To grow weary or tired *of* a thing.

1782 MISS BURNEY *Cecilia* I. v, Cecilia now began to sicken of her attempt. 1858 O. W. HOLMES *Aut. Breakf.-t.* x. 96 Men sicken of their houses until at last they quit them.

c. To pine with yearning; to long eagerly.

1802 SCOTT *Let.* in *Lockhart* (1837) I. xi. 351 Why is it that a Swiss sickens at hearing the famous Ranz des Vaches? 1815 SHELLEY *Alastor* 181 His strong heart sunk and sickened with excess Of love. 1897 BARTRAM *People of Clopton* 146 I'll catch the next train to Bitham, for I'm sickenin' to get back theer.

3. To grow pale; to fade.

1853 G. JOHNSTON *Nat. Hist. E. Borders* I. 250 The fronds sicken to a rich brown when touched by the first frosts. 1896 *Idler* Mar. 175 Expiring as a whole orb of moon sickens and disappears.

4. *Chem.* Of mercury: To become 'sick'.

1882 A. G. LOCKE *Gold* 21 The mercury employed for amalgamation .. sickens or 'flows' when ground up with pyritous rocks. [See also the *vbl. sb.*]

5. *trans.* To affect with illness; to make sick.

1694 CROWNE *Regulus* 1, A Ghost! a damp evaporates from the word Which sickens me to death. 1714 PURCELL *Cholick* 175 To disengage those Insects from their Adherence to the Guts, to sicken, kill, and discharge them out of the Body. 1775 ROMANS *Hist. Florida* App. 53 I have heard of an instance of one of this kind [hog-fish] having sickened some people. 1843 R. J. GRAVES *Clin. Med.* XIV. 176 The first six doses seemed to sicken him a little, but he did not vomit until after the seventh dose. 1902 BUCHAN *Watcher by the Threshold* 90 His fetid breath sickened me.

b. *fig.* or *transf.*

1613 SHAKS. *Hen. VIII*, I. i. 82, I do know Kinsmen of mine..that haue By this, so sicken'd their Estates, that neuer They shall abound as formerly. 1801 *Farmer's Mag.* Aug. 312 The want of variety in the rotation would sicken the crops. 1850 TENNYSON *In Mem.* LXXII. 7 Which sicken'd every living bloom. 1876 ISA CRAIG KNOX in Whittier *Songs of Three Centuries* 310 The pool was still; around its brim The alders sickened all the air.

6. a. To give (one) a sickener; to make (one) sick or tired *of* a thing.

1797 NELSON in Nicolas *Disp.* (1845) II. 341 The Blenheim, passing between us and the Enemy, gave us a respite, and sickened the Dons. 1809 MALKIN *Gil Blas* XII. viii. P 5 His keeper sickened him of the project. 1824 SCOTT *St. Ronan's* XXXVI, I..learned enough of what was going on, to give Jekyl a hint that sickened him of his commission. 1874 GREEN *Short Hist.* ii. § 1. 63 The long peace sickened men of this fresh outburst of bloodshed and violence.

b. To affect with nausea, loathing, or disgust.

1825 T. HOOK *Sayings* Ser. II. *Sutherl.* (Colburn) 21 The familiarity with which she treated her brother-in-law..so sickened Jane, that she ordinarily affected illness. 1842 LOVER *Handy Andy* XXI, Being already sickened by various disgusting exhibitions of the damsel's affectation.

c. To render faint with fear or horror.

1821 SHELLEY *Hellas* Prol. 109 The storm Of faction, which like earthquake shakes and sickens The solid heart of enterprise. 1867 AUGUSTA WILSON *Vashti* XXII, The strained, almost ferocious expression of her keen eyes sickened his soul. 1883 F. M. CRAWFORD *Dr. Claudius* XVIII, If we look to the right or the left we must see that which sickens the sense of sight.

Hence **Si·ckened** *ppl. a.*

1814 SCOTT *Ld. Isles* II. XXVI, Was not the life of Athole shed To soothe the tyrant's sicken'd bed?

Sickener (si·k'nəɹ). [f. prec. + -ER 1.] Something which nauseates or disgusts; an overdose or excess of anything; a sickening experience.

1809 MALKIN *Gil Blas* V. i. P 30 A fricassee, and..soup, ..greasy with mutton fat, were enough to have given a sickener to the inveterate stomachs of a regiment. 1853 W. JERDAN *Autobiog.* IV. XVI. 306 This was indeed a sickener to a careful biographer. 1882 G. MACDONALD *Weighed & Wanting* II. v. 51 A vision of the kind of creature he was capable of loving..would have been—to use a low but expressive phrase—a sickener to her.

b. Used of a shot or blow.

1834 COL. HAWKER *Diary* (1893) II. 54, I gave him such a sickener with the first barrel that I made him haul his wind. 1895 MEREDITH *Amazing Marriage* I. XVI. 185 Kit fetched his man an ugly stroke on the round of the waist behind.., a sickener of a stroke, if dealt soundly.

Sickening (sik'niŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. the vb. + -ING 1.] The fact of becoming sick or ill; an instance of this.

Also, in dial. use, confinement, child-bed.

1382 WYCLIF *Jer.* XVI. 4 With dethes of sikȝyngus thei shul die. 1816 CHALMERS *Let.* in *Life* (1851) II. 53 To sustain you under all the sickenings, and faintings, and languishings of your earthly disease. 1858 *Merc. Mar. Mag.* V. 305 Not a case nor a sickening has been heard of. 1882 *Electro-Amalg. Co. Prospectus* 5 [It] prevents it from what is technically termed 'sickening' in the presence of arsenic, sulphur, oil, or any other substances..deleterious to the action of mercury in amalgamating with gold or silver.

Sickening (sik'niŋ), *ppl. a.* [f. as prec. + -ING 2.]

1. Falling or turning sick.

1725 POPE *Odyss.* IV. 600 The..gentle power..With nectared drops the sickening sense restored. 1746 HERVEY *Medit.* (1818) 272 The malignant influence gained upon her sickening orb. 1810 SCOTT *Lady of L.* III. viii, Patient the sickening victim eyed The life-blood ebb in crimson tide. 1817 SHELLEY *Rev. Islam* III. XXVI. 9 A whirlwind keen as frost Then in its sinking gulfs my sickening spirit tossed.

fig. 1728 POPE *Dunc.* IV. 636 The sick'ning stars fade off th' æthereal plain. 1748 GRAY *Alliance* 71 Must sick'ning virtue fly the tainted ground? 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* I. Pref., He thus ranges, without an instructor, confused, and with sickening curiosity, from subject to subject.

2. That causes sickness, nausea, or faintness; that disgusts or revolts; repulsive, loathsome.

1789 MME. D'ARBLAY *Diary* 9 Jan., As they all consisted in almost unheard-of indignities..I will not give the sickening relation. 1800 *Med. Jrnl.* III. 123 Nocturnal sweats,.. induced by the sickening influence of digitalis. 1836 J. HALLEY in *Mem.* (1842) 58 Have had a most sickening job in shortening an article of my own for the Presbyterian Review. 1857 MILLER *Elem. Chem., Org.* XI. § 1 (1862) 747 They gradually putrify and emit a sickening odour. 1886 *Athenæum* 30 Oct. 564/3 Nothing more sickening than the Indian wars of the United States is to be found in history.

transf. 1877 RAYMOND *Statist. Mines & Mining* 101 All base substances..cannot be taken up by the mercury, neither do they have any 'sickening' effect upon the mercury.

Hence **Si·ckeningly** *adv.*

1839 LADY LYTTON *Cheveley* (ed. 2) I. VIII. 180 The duchess was sickeningly civil. 1864 *Daily Telegr.* 27 Sept., The outside is generally burnt up, and the inside sickeningly raw. 1886 *Sat. Rev.* 7 Aug. 183 A series of sickeningly inhuman outrages were committed.

Sicker (si·kəɹ), *a.* and *adv.* Now *Sc.* and *north. dial.* Forms: α. 1 sicor, 2–6 sicer (5 sycher), 4–5 sicur(e, 5 sycur), 4, 6 sicir, 9 sicoer, sicoar; 2–9 siker (3 -err), 3–5 sikere, 4–5 sikir, sikur (5 -our, -yr, -re); 3–6 syker (6 -ar), 4–5 sykere, -ir, -yr (4 -ire, -ur); 4 zik-, zykere, 5 cykere, -yr; 5–6 sikkir (5 -yr, 6 sykkyr), 5–6 (9 *dial.*) sikker (6 -ar); 4 sycker, 5–6 sickir, sycker, 4– sicker. β. 4 secir, 4–5 secure (5 -ur, sekur); 4–6 (9) seker (6 secker), 4–6 sekir, -yr (5 cekyr), 5–6 sekire (5 -yre). [OE. *sicor* (rare), = OFris. *sikur*, *siker* (Fris. *siker*), OS. *sikur*, *sikor* (MLG. and MDu. *seker*, Du. *zeker*), OHG. *sihhur*, *sichur*, etc. (MHG. and G. *sicher*); MDa. *seeker*, *secker* (Da. *sikker*), MSw. *siker*, *sigher* (Sw. *säker*) are from German. The word is an early Teutonic adoption of L. *sēcūrus* SECURE *a.*, with the stress shifted to the first syllable.]

In ME. both adj. and adv. were very extensively employed, and the precise sense intended is not always clear. After 1500 the word is rarely used except by Scottish writers, but also remained current in the north of England: for a fuller exhibition of the senses in which it occurs in modern dialect, see the *Eng. Dial. Dict.*

A. *adj.*

I. 1. Free from danger or harm; secure, safe.

c 897 K. ÆLFRED *Gregory's Past.* C. liv. 425 ðif we ðæt ȝedone mid nanum ðingum ne betað ne ne hreowsiað, ne bio we no ðæs sicore. *c* 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 5 þanne beð noman siker, ar he ihere þat luflliche word of ure louerd ihesu cristes swete muðe, *venite benedicti* [etc.]. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) II. 227 Men were first naked and vnarmed, nouȝt siker aȝenst bestes, noþer aȝenst men. 1435 MISYN *Fire of Love* 3 þat felynge of gostely fyer..in þe whilk þai knawe þame-self sekyr. *c* 1491 *Chast. Goddes Chyld.* 7 The thyrde cause is for man sholde not holde hymselfe siker. For grete trust of sikernes engendreth necligence.

b. Associated or attended with safety or security from danger, etc.

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 70 Holi olde ancren muwen don hit.., auh hit nis nout siker þing, ne ne limpeð nout to þe ȝunge. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) IV. 175 And see þeeves grevede and robbede al þe see, so þat þe Romayns..hadde no siker seillynge wiþ oute oþer socour. *c* 1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 6764 Þar ware monkes..[who] Thoght þai stode in sykir case. 1567 TURBERV. *Ovid's Ep.* 125 There may Leander make a safe and sicker stay. 1894 CROCKETT *Raiders* (ed. 3) 152, I'm as great on the side o' the law as it's siccar to be in thae uncertain times.

c. Of places or paths.

c 1275 *Moral Ode* 43 in *O. E. Misc.*, Heo doþ heore ayhte in siker stude þat sendeþ hit to heoue-riche. 13.. *K. Alis.* 7065 (Laud MS.), Þise..ledeu hym, by siker paas, Al to þe gates of Caspyas. *c* 1400 tr. *Secreta Secret., Gov. Lordsh.* 111 Þe stede þat þou fightys on with þy aduersers, be it semynge euer more seker, ffor þarfore shal þyn hoste peyne hem mekyll more to fight. 1508 DUNBAR *Tua Mariit Wemen* 285 A lufsummar leid..That couth be secrete and sure.., And sew bot at certayne tymes, & in sicir places. 1821 SCOTT *Pirate* IV, Na na, he sall walk a mair siccar path, and be a dainty curate.

2. That may be depended on; in which one can put reliance, confidence, or trust; certain, sure.

c 1100 in *Anglia* XI. 377 Swyðe sicore forȝyfonnysse se mæiȝ him biddan æt gode. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 1268 Þo þe emperour hurde þis, he ne truste wel þer to Wiþ oute siker ostage such þing to do. 1303 R. BRUNNE *Handl. Synne* 7538 Seynt Poule techyþ vs..A sykyr fyght þat wyl nat fayle. 1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* VII. XVIII. 240 Syker assurance and borowes ye shal haue. 1546 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* I. 46 In the maist stratest forme, and sikrest still of obligatioun that can be devisit and maid. 1609 SKENE *Reg. Maj.* 86 He may attach him be sicker pledges, to enter and compeir in the Kings court. 1678 SIR G. MACKENZIE *Crim. Laws Scot.* I. vi. § xix, Their Goods should be put under sicker Burrows. 1837 R. NICOLL *Poems* (1843) 90 He was a carle in his day And siccar bargains he could mak.

Proverb, *c* 1440 CAPGR. *Life St. Kath.* II. 250 It is more sekyr a byrd in your fest Than to haue iij. in þe sky a-boue.

b. Of persons.

c 1350 *Leg. Rood* (1871) 76 Seker men he sett to wake. 14.. in *Q. Eliz. Acad.* 85 A goode sykere frende is yuell to fynde. 1493 *Festivall* (W. de W. 1515) 40 A more syker attorney may noo man be than god is. 1533 BELLENDEN *Livy* II. iv. (S.T.S.) I. 142 It is nocht facill to be declarit, nor ȝit Is It writtin be sekire authoris. 1658 CARSTAIRS in Durham *Comm. Rev.* Pref. p. i, The ablest, sickerest and most accomplished ministers. 1768 Ross *Helenore* II. 84 He was a sicker boy. 1878 DICKINSON *Cumbld. Gloss.* s.v., He's a varra sicker body.

c. Of defensive armour.

c 1400 *Rowland & O.* 354 Ane hawberke..þat sekire was of Mayle. *c* 1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 4465, I a siker shelde sall be. *a* 1578 LINDESAY *Chron. Scot.* (S.T.S.) I. 66 To theif and reiver he was ane sicker targe.

3. Having a firm foundation or support; firm, unshaken, fast.

1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 2493 As moche place..þat ich þeruppe mowe a siker bold rere. *c* 1375 *Cursor M.* 2230 (Fairf.), Make we a sicure tour..þat may reyche vn-til heyuen. *c* 1440 *Gesta Rom.* IV. 10 Þo3 such perforacion be goode, and don for þat þe wall shuld be made moore sikir and stronger. *a* 1573 in Calderwood *Hist. Kirk Scot.* (1843) II. 272, I thinke not the ground so sicker, as that I durst build my conscience therupon. 1785 BURNS *Death & Dr. Hornbook* 28 Setting my staff wi' a' my skill, To keep me sicker. 1858 M. PORTEOUS *Souter Johnny* 10 He wad hae stood right steeve and sicker And brav'd their dudgeon.

fig. 1877 THOM *Jock o' Knowe* 28 (E. D. D.) Resolve is sickerest when it's placed On a foundation wrought.

b. Not liable to be disturbed or unsettled; stable, assured, certain.

1340 *Ayenb.* 78 Þet is þe uayriste lyf an þe zykeriste þet is ine þise wordle. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 22 The world stant evere upon debat, So may be seker non astat. 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* lxxii. 130 Grace become gyd and governour, To keip the house in sicker stait. 1591 SPENSER *M. Hubberd* 430 Being some honest Curate, or some Vicker Content with little in condition sicker. 1857 RIDDELL *Psalms* XC. 17 Sete thou siccer the wark o' our han's apon us. 1886 HALIBURTON *Horace* 41 (E. D. D.), Mak' your union siccar.

†c. Of number; Fixed, definite. *Obs.*–1

1377 LANGL. *P. Pl. B.* XX. 254 Kynde wil 3ow teche, That in mesure god made alle manere thynges, And sette hem at a certeyne and at a syker noumbre.

d. Prudent, careful, especially with regard to money matters; wary, cautious.

c 1662 LIVINGSTONE in *Sel. Biogr.* (Wodrow Soc.) I. 208 He is a sicker man: he thinks he will only preach against Poprie, and not make with other controverseis. *a* 1800 R. JAMIESON *Pop. Ball.* (1806) I. 292 There, couthie, and pensie, and sicker, Wonn'd honest young Hab o' the Heuch. 1808 JAMIESON s.v., He, who is tenacious of his own rights or property, is said to be a sicker man. 1894 HESLOP *Northumbld. Gloss., Sicker*, sly, inward minded. It is frequently prefixed by 'gey'. 'He's a gey sicker yen.'

4. That cannot be doubted; indubitable; absolutely certain.

c 1375 *Cursor M.* 4134 (Fairf.), Ful secure veniaunce god

wil take. 1435 Misyn *Fire of Love* 105 Deed to vs is sykyr, þe owre of deed truly vnsikyr. 1567 Turberv. *Ovid's Ep.* 61 My handes displayde gave siker signes and tokens of my paine. 1887 Scott *Tales Grandfather* 1st Ser. viii, 'Do you leave such a matter to doubt?' said Kirkpatrick, 'I will make sicker'. 1881 *Good Words* 774/1 We made sicker that he was wi' you.

†b. Genuine, good. *Obs.*—1

a 1400–50 *Alexander* 1042 Sexti thousand þai him send of sekire besandis.

5. Certain of its effect; effective, sure.

1338 R. Brunne *Chron.* (1810) 41, I salle 3ow say, For to saue 3our lond wele, a fulle siker way. *c* 1400 *Rowland & O.* 1382 A sekere stroke was there sett. *c* 1470 Henry *Wallace* II. 408 A seker straik drewe he. 1560 Rolland *Seven Sages* 76, I..hes the tane into the sicker snair. 1567 *Satir. Poems Reform.* vii. 219 Thir Nobillis dois bot rycht, Gif thay the Quene keip still in sicker gaird. 1710 in Calderwood *Dying Testimonies* (1806) 152 Strive to make sicker work in time. *c* 1820 Beattie *John o' Arnha* (1826) 23 The charm is firm and sicker.

transf. 1843 J. Ballantine *Gaberlunzie* xii. (1875) 309 Time's a sicker master, an' we maun a' bend afore him.

6. Securely fastened or held.

a 1425 *Cursor M.* 16905 (Trin.), Þe princes of prestis of þe lawe went to þat monument And made hit sikur as hem þou3t. 1560 Rolland *Seven Sages* 95 Than art thow sicker in the snair. 1891 A. Gordon *Folks o' Carglen* 139 Aundrew stretchit his length on the grun', an' they had him siccar as a nail.

II. 7. Having assured possession or prospect *of* something. ?*Obs.*

a 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 51 Efter þan þe hie weren wunienede in ierusalem, and weren hole and sunde, and sikere of here giue. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 4134 If yee do suilk an outrake Ful siker may yee be o wrake. *c* 1450 *Merlin* ii. 32 He that wende to be siker of me hath failed of his purpos. 1567 *Gude & Godlie B.* 130 Always sall he be sicker of this, That is neidful to want na thing. 1719 Ramsay *To Hamilton* iii. xi, Sicker of thae, winter and simmer, Ye're well enough.

†b. Having sure mastery *of* an art. *Obs.*—1

c 1470 Henry *Wallace* iv. 559 Few off thaim was sekyr of archary.

8. Having confident or certain knowledge; fully assured or convinced. With various constructions, as dependent clause (usually with *that*), *to* with inf., *of* (*for, in, on, with*), or ellipt. for these.

(*a*) *c* 1200 Ormin 4844 Beo þu sikerr þatt he shall þe 3ifenn eche blisse. 1297 R. Glouc. (Rolls) 7353 Sicker þou be þou ne ssalt me finde in none hurne. *a* 1320 *Sir Tristr.* 2067 Sir, siker 3e be, þi self schal se þat ri3t. *c* 1400 *Laud Troy-bk.* 10013, I am sicur be my dreme That I am lorn. 1552 Abp. Hamilton *Catech.* 31 Thow suld be sikkar that the..matter quhilk thou confermis with ane eith is trew.

(*b*) *c* 1275 *Moral Ode* 40 in *O. E. Misc.*, Þe mon þat wile syker beo to habbe godes blysse, Do wel him seolf þe hwile he may. *c* 1340 Hampole *Pr. Consc.* 8559 þai salle be þare syker and certayne To have endeles ioy. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 7991 Make vs sekur, on the same wise, oure soile for to leue.

(*c*) *c* 1320 *Cast. Love* 952 Ne beo þou in wonhope non, Ac ful siker þou beo þer-on. 1377 Langl. *P. Pl.* B. xvi. 234, I am ful syker in soule þer-of. ?1404–8 *26 Pol. Poems* V. 51 Be not to sykere of þyne hele. *a* 1500 *Songs, Carols*, etc. (E.E.T.S.) 34 Ther-of thow art siker & sure. 1876 F. K. Robinson *Whitby Gloss.* s.v., I'se sikker on't.

(*d*) *c* 1330 *Arth. & Merlin* 5551 (Kölbing), Ac arst 3e schul me make siker. *c* 1470 H. Parker *Dives & Pauper* (W. de W. 1496) II. vi. 115/1 Yf he be not syker, but only weneth to be syker, he shall not swere that it is so. 1876 C. C. Robinson *Mid-Yks. Gloss.* s.v., In idiomatic phrases, expressive of emphatic belief. 'I'm sikker and sure.'

†9. Assured of its object; confident, certain. *Obs.*

a 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 1217 Þurh hwam we mahten habben sikere bileaue to arisen alle efter him. 1340 *Ayenb.* 13 Ine zikere hope þet iesu crist godes zone ssolde come. *c* 1450 *Myrr. our Ladye* 257 Lyghtne oure sowles with seker hope. 1533 Gau *Richt Vay* 29 The sekir faith..quhilk is in godis word and doctrine.

†10. Having a sense of security; confident. *Obs.*

a 1340 Hampole *Psalter* ii. 11 With quakynge, swa þat 3oure ioy be noght ouere sykire. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* iii. (*Andrew*) 957 Be sikyr, douchtyr, and dred nocht!

B. *adv.*

†1. With security; safely; confidently. *Obs.*

c 1205 Lay. 15092 Dead is Vortimer þe king, & siker þu miht hider comen. *c* 1330 R. Brunne *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 14250 3yf Arthur hadde lenger abiden, þe sykerere myghte Moddred haue ryden. 1387 Trevisa *Higden* (Rolls) IV. 163 Forto go þe saveloker and þe sikerer to cruel bataille a3enst Marius. *c* 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* xii. 267 Hem that remayne al sikur maystow sowe.

2. Assuredly, certainly, without doubt.

c 1275 *Passion our Lord* 286 in *O.E. Misc.* 45 Siker þu ert myd him a galilewis mon. 1390 Gower *Conf.* I. 154 So seker as I have a lif, Thou scholdest thanne be my wif. *c* 1450 Lovelich *Merlin* 6442 '3is, Sikyr, lady!' this woman gan seye. 1579 Spenser *Sheph. Cal.* Apr. 159 Sicker I hold him for a greater fon. 1614 *J.* Davies (Heref.) *Commend. Poems* Wks. (Grosart) II. 19 Now, siker (Wernocke) thou hast split the marke. *a* 1717 Parnell *Fairy Tale* Wks. (1833) 18 The board was laid, And siker such a feast was made As heart and lip desire.

b. With verbs of saying or affirming: As a certainty, as a fact.

a 1275 *Prov. of Alfred* 524 Siker ich it te saige, letet gif þe liket. 14.. *Life St. Kath.* (Halliw.) 8 Or ellys sekyr y telle the That thou schalt dedd bee! 1500–20 Dunbar *Poems* xx. 47 Sicker I 3ow asseure, He rewlis weill, that sa weill him can gyd.

3. Effectively, strongly, firmly.

c 1450 *Gesta Rom.* xxv. 96, I put a gret stone aboute thi necke, & yit þou Rise; I triste now I shalle pley sikir with the. 17.. *Laird of Wariston* 22 in Child *Ballads* IV. 31/2 The nurice she knet the knot, And O she knet it sicker!

1792 A. Wilson *On Men sawing Timber*, Experience ne'er sae sicker tells us, As when she lifts her rung and fells us. 1818 Rodger *Poems* (1897) 167 Lay't into our loof, We'll haud it sicker.

4. Securely; without risk of falling or shifting.

a 1586 Montgomerie *Misc. Poems* v. 55 3our feet ar not so sicker sett. 1641 *Ferguson's Sc. Prov.* No. 310 He rode sicker that never fell. 17.. Ramsay *Wyfe of Auchtermuchty* iv, They sicker raid that neir did faw. *a* 1774 Fergusson *Poems* (1788) II. 20 Ye wha canna staun sae sicker. 1863 Quinn *Heather Lintie* 201 Within oor hearts..Aye siccar shalt thou reign. 1867 G. W. Donald *Poems* (1879) 54/1 There's nae man sae sicker set But he may shift his stool.

Sicker (si·kəɹ), *v.*1 Now *rare* or *Obs.* Forms: α. 3 sikeri, -ery, sykery, 4 siker(e, -ir, -ur), 4–5 sykere(n, 5 -yn), 8 sicker, 9 siccar. β. 4–5 sekere, 5 sekyr(e. [ME. *sikeri, sikeren*, etc. (f. Sicker *a.*), = OFris. *sikura, sik(e)ria*, OS. *sikorôn* (MLG. and MDu. *sekeren*, Du. *zekeren*), OHG. *sihhorôn* (MHG. *sicheren*, G. *sichern*).]

1. *trans.* To assure (a person) of safety.

1297 R. Glouc. (Rolls) 11323 In eiþer half to sikeri him freres him gonne lede. 13.. *Metr. Hom.* (Vernon MS.) in *Herrig's Archiv* LVII. 287 þou weore worþi for to dye.. Bote for I er sikerde þe Schalt þou haue no skaþe for me. *c* 1400 *Apol. Loll.* 17 Oþer wis may not þe kirk bring a man out of synne, ne forȝef þe peyn, nor man siker.

2. To assure (a person) of one's good faith by a pledge or formal promise.

1297 R. Glouc. (Rolls) 3155 A þousend pound..ichim wolde ȝiue anon,..& þat ich im wolde mid treuþe sikery him vaste an hond. 1338 R. Brunne *Chron.* (1810) 53 Edward sikerd him wele, to mak William his heyre. *c* 1450 *Erle Tolous* 1030 Wolde ye sekyr me, wythowt fayle, For to holde trewe counsayle.

b. *refl.* To put one's trust *in* a person.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 11868 þat we ger get vs leches tuin, In quilk we mai siker vs in.

c. To betroth (a woman) *to* one.

c 1384 Chaucer *L. G. W.* 2128 *Ariadne*, Now be we duchessis bothe I & ȝe And sekerede to the regalys of Athenys.

3. To assure (one) of a fact.

c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xxxiii. (*George*) 932, I sal be before þame bowne in-to þis sammyne aray ..I sekyre ȝou. *c* 1400 Love *Bonavent. Mirr.* xxvii. (1908) 144 Than he,..willynge that thei schulde no lenger be distourbeled and trauailled, sykerde hem of his presence.

4. To confirm by pledge or surety.

1338 R. Brunne *Chron.* (1810) 69 þerof he mad me skrite, ..& for to sikere his dede, set þer to his seale. 1350 *Will. Palerne* 1463 Sad seurte was sikered on boþe sides þanne, þat menskful mariage to make. *a* 1450 *Le Morte Arth.* 2331 A trews they sette and sekeryd thare.

5. To secure, make sure or certain of; to make fast, fix firmly.

1708 Bruce *Good News in Evil Times* 40 Sicker what ye will, if the main Chance be not sickered, I'll not give a gray Groat for you. 1824 Mactaggart *Gallovid. Encycl.* s.v. *Sned*, The runt must be siccard in the den, so that the [scythe-] blade may have a snanging sound.

Hence **Si·ckering** *vbl. sb.*

a 1450 *Le Morte Arth.* 2322 That thay shall make me A sekerynge A trews to holde vs by-twene.

Si·cker, *v.*2 *rare.* Also 3 **sikeri.** [OE. *sicerian*, = LG. *sikeren*, G. *sickern* (dial. *sikern*), app. related to OHG. *sîhan* to strain, filter: see Sye *v.*] *intr.* Of water: To trickle; to ooze or leak.

c 897 K. Ælfred tr. *Gregory's Past. C.* lvii. 437 Swiðe lytlum sicerað ðæt wæter & swiðe degellice on ðæt hlece scip. *c* 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 318 Þare beoz ase it veynene weren onder eorþe mani on, þat sikeriez [*text* sikeniez] out of þe se. 1903 in *Eng. Dial. Dict.* (Lincolnshire).

†**Si·ckerhead.** *Obs.*—1 [f. Sicker *a.* Cf. Du. *zekerheid*, G. *sicherheit* (OHG. *sihhurheit*), etc.] Assurance, certainty.

c 1250 *Owl & Night.* 1265 Nauef mon no sikerhede, þat he ne may wene & adrede þat sum vnhap neih him beo.

†**Si·ckerlaik.** *Obs.*—1 In 3 **sikerlec.** [f. Sicker *a.* Cf. MSw. *sik(e)rlek.*] Certainty.

a 1225 *St. Marher.* 14 þenne þurh þis sikerlec seche ich earst uppon ham.

Si·ckerly, *adv.* Now *Sc.* and *north. dial.* Forms: see Sicker *a.* Also 1 -lice, 3–5 -liche (3 -lichen, 4 -lich), 4–5 -lyche; 3 -like, 4 -lik, -lic; *comb.* 3 -loker, 4 -laker; 3 -liȝ, 4–5 -li (4 -le), 5–6 -lye, 6–7 (9) -lie. [Late OE. *sicerlice* (f. *sicer* Sicker *a.*), = MDu. *sekerlike, -lijc* (Du. *zekerlijk*), MLG. *sekerliken*, OHG. *sichurlîcho* MHG. *sicherliche* (G. *-lich*), MSw. *sikerlika*, etc.]

†1. With full certainty or conviction. *Obs.*

c 1100 in Napier *Contrib. O.E. Lexicogr.* 57 For þan þe þa apostles scolden witen sicerlice þæt he arisen wæs of deaðe. *c* 1200 Ormin 5322 þe birrþ witenn sikerrliȝ, Forr Goddspellboc itt kiþeþþ. *c* 1375 Barbour *Bruce* iv. 662 That ȝhe trow this sekirly, My twa sonnys with ȝow sall I Send. 1390 Gower *Conf.* I. 327 As he which demeth sikerly That sche be ded. *c* 1449 Pecock *Repr.* II. i. (Rolls) 132 If a treuthe be knowen bi doom of resoun, thanne it is knowen or sureli and sikirli; or it is knowen oonli probabili and likeli. 1552 Abp. Hamilton *Catech.* (1884) 13 To trow sickirly that God is almychty. 1586 Ferne *Blas. Gentrie* 22 But I holde full sickerlie..that he syndeth but few gentlefolks [etc.].

2. Without doubt; undoubtedly, certainly, decidedly, assuredly.

α. *c* 1220 *Bestiary* 106 His hope is al to gode-ward,..ðat is te sunne sikerlike. *a* 1300 *Havelok* 2301 Lokes nou, hw he is fayr; Sikerlike he is hise eyr. 1390 Gower *Conf.* I. 114 Tho wiste he..That he was sikerliche ded.

β. *c* 1200 Ormin 5754 Þa shallt tu wurrþenn sikerrliȝ An

off Drihhtiness chilldre. *a* 1320 *Sir Tristr.* 3237 And meriadok, sikerly, In his help gan he be. *c* 1386 Chaucer *Prol.* 137 And sikurly sche was of gret disport, And ful plesant. *c* 1470 Henry *Wallace* viii. 594 Jornay thai socht, and sekyrly has found. 1548 Udall, etc. *Erasm. Par. Matt.* vi. 44 That sikerly is true praise. *c* 1580 in *Montgomerie's Poems* (S.T.S.) 279, I was applesit to pleiss 3ow sickerly. 1736 W. Thompson *Epithal.* xi. 5 Such colours, sikerly, suit Hymen best. 1825 in Brockett *N. C. Gloss.* 1876 F. K. Robinson *Whitby Gloss.* s.v., 'Ay, ay, sikkerly', yes, yes, assuredly.

b. Qualifying verbs of affirming: Positively.

1340 *Ayenb.* 64 Huanne me zuereþ zikerliche of þinge þet me nis naȝt ziker. *c* 1440 *Generydes* 2095 The xijtewarde the kyng of Orkenaye.., I say yow sekerly. 1533 Bellenden *Livy* I. i. (S.T.S.) I. 15 Quha may sikkerlie afferme sa remote & vncouth historie?

3. With assurance; confidently.

c 1205 Lay. 7883 Sikerlichen we sculden uaren & fehten wiþ þon kæisere. *c* 1340 Hampole *Pr. Consc.* 2469 Na man may trayste sikerly In hys gude dedys, þat he dus here. *c* 1400 *Beryn* 1542 In whom shuld the sone have trust & feith sikirly, If his Fadir faylid hym? 1551 Robinson tr. *More's Utopia* I. (1895) 102 Wherby I can not see what good they haue doone, but that men may more sickerlye be euell.

4. Without danger or harm; securely, safely.

c 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 142 He chaungede is name þe sikerloker forto go. *a* 1340 Hampole *Psalter* lxv. 5 þai sall pass in flode,..in meknes, for swa he passis sikirly. *c* 1412 Hoccleve *De Reg. Princ.* 1093 The poore man slepith ful sikirly On nyghtes, thogh his dore be noght shit. 1533 Bellenden *Livy* I. xv. (S. T. S.) I. 84 þe samyn thing..was possibill and mycht sikkirlie be done. *c* 1668 Livingstone in *Sel. Biogr.* (Wodrow Soc.) I. 268 How sickerly is that laid up from the reach of the roughest hands! 1897 Ld. E. Hamilton *Outlaws* 27 There's nae a man in Liddesdale can sickerly lead a party at night thro' the Foulbogshiel.

5. In a secure manner; firmly, fast.

c 1205 Lay. 26801 þer heo wel wisten sikerliche to halden þene riche mon of Rome. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* iv. (*Jacobus*) 123 His handis bundyne sekyrly behynd his bak. *Ibid.* xxxv. (*Thadee*) 125 [He] closit þe dure sekyrly, & selyt it with led. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 2401 þat Iowell..was full sekirly & soft all in silke falden. *a* 1810 J. Finlay in Ford *Harp of Perthshire* (1893) 419 What sorrow gars him haud it sae sickerlie? 1828 Buchan *Ball.* I. 112 Twa for keepers o' the guard, See that to keep it sickerlie.

b. In the manner of an obligation; bindingly.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 25162 Halden sikerlik es he Vs to here in vr mister. 1340 *Ayenb.* 64 Huanne me behat zikerliche þet me naȝt not yef me hit may noluelle. ?*a* 1400 *Morte Arth.* 439, I salle hym sekyrly ensure, undyre my seele ryche, To seege þe cetee of Rome wyth-in sevene wyntyre.

6. In a stable or steady manner.

c 1375 *Lay Folks Mass Bk.* (MS. B) 526 þou make my loue..sykerly sett..to loue þe wele. *c* 1430 *Pilgr. Lyf Manhode* I. civ. (1869) 56 Thilke that leneth him sikerliche ther to may not falle. 1552 Abp. Hamilton *Catech.* 142 b, That thou may be sickerly groundit in the trew faith of this sacrament. 1822 Galt *Provost* xiv, [He] had again got himself most sickerly installed in the Guildry. 1895 Crockett *Men of Moss-Hags* xlvi, To learn ye how siccarly to sit your beast.

7. With certainty of result; efficaciously.

1340 *Ayenb.* 195 Ase þe lanterne þet me berþ beuore þe manne him let bet and more zikerlaker þanne þe ilke þet me berþ behynde þe regge. 1398 Trevisa *Barth. De P. R.* v. xxviii. (Bodl. MS.), No partie of the body toucheþ so sekerlich as þe hand. *a* 1548 Hall *Chron., Hen. V*, 72 We ..shal ordaine for the gouernance of our sayd father sekyrly, lovingly and honestly. *c* 1817 Hogg *Tales & Sk.* III. 71, I would have aimed as sickerly as possible.

8. Sharply, severely, smartly.

1596 Dalrymple tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* v. lxxxiv. (S. T. S.) I. 304 He first..mett sickerly with the Jnduellaris of Lochquhaber. ?1609 in Row *Hist. Kirk* (Wodrow Soc.) 265 Whilk might make a few..conveen together..and censure sickerlie those corrupters of the Kirk. 1685 Renwick *Serm.* (1776) 177 God shall make them pay sickerly for it. 1775 *Baillie's Lett. & Jrnls.* I. 384 Who spoke against conclusions, got usually so sickerly on the fingers that they had better been silent. 1808 Jamieson, *Sickerly*, .. smartly, severely; in relation to a stroke.

Si·ckerness. *Obs.* exc. *Sc.* [f. Sicker *a.*]

1. †a. Certain prospect or possession *of* something; assurance; certainty. Also with inf. *Obs.*

c 1100 in Napier *Contrib. O.E. Lexicogr.* 57 Heo habbeð blisse for þære sicornysse Godes 1ices. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 27017 Again þe toþer hoping, þat es In werldes welth [to] hald sikernes, We find a..sample laid. *a* 1340 Hampole *Psalter* i. 1 Þe ferth is sykirnes neuer to lose þat goed. 1390 Gower *Conf.* II. 134, I not in what manere I scholde Of worldes good have sikernesse. *c* 1460 *Wisdom* in *Macro Plays* 37 He xall..dey in sekyrnes of joy perpetualle. 1523 Skelton *Garl. Laurel* 1597 Twene hope and drede My lyfe I lede, But of my spede Small sekernes.

b. Certainty with regard to fact.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 3472 Oure lauerd..Had don hir in to sikernes..Quat suld be þaa childer vie. 1390 Gower *Conf.* I. 105 He doth al his thing be gesse, And voideth alle sikerness. *c* 1450 *Myrr. our Ladye* 162 She sayeth as yf yt were paste for syckernesse of the fulfyllynge. 1533 Bellenden *Livy* I. i. (S. T. S.) I. 7 To write þe said history with mare faith and sikkirnes. 1897 *Shetland News* 15 May (E. D. D.), Dis I sed we mair dan ordinar sikkerness.

†2. Sense of security; self-confidence. *Obs.*

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 234 Sikernesse streoneð ȝemeleaste & ouerhowe, & boðe..inobedience. *a* 1340 Hampole *Psalter* ii. 11 Dred is wirkere of vertus, and sykirnes brynges necligence. *a* 1400 Hylton *Scala Perf.* (W. de W. 1494) II. xi, He myȝt so falle into rechelesnes & into fals sikernes. 1587 *Mirr. Magistr.* (1610) 327 In their most weale, let men beware mishap, And not to sleepe in slumbring sickernesse.

3. The state or condition of being secure; freedom from danger or harm.

c 1230 *Hali Meid.* 7 Se seli sikernesse as ha was in..under Godes warde. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 1158 Hou sal ani herthli flesche lende wit þe in sikernese. *a* 1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* cxlv. 1 Till crist, þare is þi rest and þi sikirnes. *c* 1412 HOCCLEVE *De Reg. Princ.* 26 In mene estaat eek sikernesse at all Ne saw I noon. 1464 *Rolls of Parlt.* V. 563/2 Caleis stode in grete sikernesse. 1526 SKELTON *Magnyf.* 2539 A playne example of worldly vaynglory, Howe in this worlde there is no sekernesse. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* III. xi. 55 She..drew her selfe aside in sickernesse.

†**b.** A means or source of security. *Obs.*

1483 CAXTON *Gold. Leg.* 76 b/2 Almesse is a grete sykernesse to fore the hye god unto all them that doo it. *c* 1557 ABP. PARKER *Ps.* civ. 295 The rockes, all inaccesse, To Conies bee theyr sikernesse.

†**4.** Security for the performance of a treaty, contract, etc.; an instance of this, a bond, pledge.

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 342 'And haue ine wille þet tu nult nan more sunegen.' Lo! þus ne askede he non oðer sikernesse. *c* 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 129 þe king him het þe panewes 3elde oþur sikernesse him make. *a* 1375 *Joseph Arim.* 623 'Do me sikernesse þer-to,' seis Ioseph þenne. *c* 1425 *Eng. Conq. Irel.* 8 Of this was good sekernes Imaked on ether half. *c* 1470 [H. PARKER] *Dives & Pauper* (W. de W. 1496) II. ix. 118/2 A Jewe lente a crysten man a grete somme of golde..& toke no sykernesse of hym but his fayth.

†**5.** Sure keeping; safe custody. *Obs.*

1678 SIR G. MACKENZIE *Crim. Laws Scot.* I. ix. § ix, He shall abide in Sickerness (id est, in Prison) at the King's will.

†**Si·ckerty.** *Obs.* In 5 **sykyrte, sikerte(e, sekurtie, sekirite.** [f. SICKER *a.*, after *security.*] = SICKERNESS.

1405 in W. Fraser *The Lennox* (1874) II. 58 To the mar sykyrte and fulfilling of al thir pointis and articulis in thir Indenturis contenit. *c* 1440 *Alph. Tales* 428 þou sulde be bettur provid with sekurtie of a sheperde tofall þan for to hafe a grete hall. *a* 1475 ASHBY *Active Policy* 185 Howe may any estate be in seurtee..Or in any wise be in sikertee, If couetous folke be in his favour?

Sicket, variant of SIKET.

Si·ck-house. Now *rare.* [f. SICK *a.* Cf. MDu. *siechuus, ziechuys*, MLG. *zeekhûs*, MHG. *siechhûs* (G. *-haus*), Sw. *sjukhus.*] A house set apart for sick persons; a hospital.

1491 *Anc. Deed* A. 7494 (P. R. O.), Roberte Bigott Sekeman Ownere of yᵉ Sekehowes of Walsyngham. 1549 *Anc. Cal. Rec. Dublin* (1889) 421 The Maior for the tyme being..shall survey the sek houssis of this cittie. 1612 *Extr. Aberd. Reg.* (1848) II. 308 Agnes Jamesoun..to hawe hir residence and ludging within the almes and seikhous betuixt the tounis. 1658 in J. Morris *Troubles Cath. Foref.* (1872) I. vi. 315 The great room of the sick-house was wholly spoiled. 1787 *Med. Comment.* II. 369 The child..had been admitted into the sick-house. 1799 W. TOOKE *View of Russian Emp.* II. 219 They were principally set against the sick-houses and quarantines. 1845 STOCQUELER *Handbk. Brit. India* (1854) 244 The sick-houses are, of course, totally unfurnished. 1899 KIPLING *Stalky* 103 When he was in the sick-house last month.

Sickinge, obs. variant of SIKING *vbl. sb.*

Si·ckish, *a.* [f. SICK *a.* + -ISH.]

1. Somewhat ill or sick, indisposed; disordered.

1581 MULCASTER *Positions* XXX. (1887) 110 To speake first of the weake and sickish bodie. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* II. 369 As Beares, when they feele themselues sickish or not well at ease, cure themselues with eating Pismires. 1663 BOYLE *Usef. Exp. Nat. Philos.* II. vi. 185 Though..[it] did make her sickish, especially, when she slept upon it. 1710 SWIFT *Jrnl. to Stella* 31 Oct., I had a fit of giddiness :..then it went off, leaving me sickish. 1773 T. PERCIVAL *Ess.* II. 95 He..was chilly, sickish, and had shooting pains in the head. 1824 GALT *Rothelan* III. 199 A sickish and peevish gentlewoman. 1882 STEVENSON *New Arab. Nts.* (1884) 32 You feel a little sickish?..take a little brandy.

fig. 1586 WARNER *Alb. Eng.* v. xxvii. (1612) 132 Our heires waxe sickish of our health, too long oure heere abode.

2. Somewhat nauseating or sickening.

a 1817 T. DWIGHT *Trav. New Eng.* (1821) II. 450 In passing these receptacles, we were saluted by a sweet, sickish effluvium, oppressive to the lungs. 1856 HAWTHORNE *Eng. Note-bks.* (1879) II. 345 The atmosphere was a little faint and sickish.

Hence **Si·ckishly** *adv.*, **Si·ckishness.**

1727 BAILEY (II), *Queasiness*, Sickishness at the Stomach. 1733 G. CHEYNE *Eng. Malady* II. xi. § 2 (1734) 228 [Not] with such frequent Vomitings, but rather a continued Sickishness. 1779 *Sylph* II. 6, I felt a sickishness and chill all over me. 1847 WEBSTER, *Sickishly*, in a sickish manner. 1880 *Literary World* (Boston, U.S.) 24 Apr. 139/1 Most writers upon him are either unpleasantly bitter or sickishly sweet.

Sickle (si·k'l), *sb.* Forms: *a.* 1 **sicul, sicol, sicel,** 3–5 **sikel,** 4 **sikil, sikul(le,** 6 **sikell;** 4 **sykel,** 5 **sykelle, sykyl, sykol,** 6 **sykyll;** 4 **sekil,** 5 **sekelle, -ylle, sekill;** 6 **sick-, sikk-, sykkell;** 4 **sygle,** 6–7 **sicle;** 6 **syckle,** 7 **siccle,** 6– **sickle.** *β.* 5 **cykylle,** 5 **cikle,** 6–7 **cickle,** 7–8 **cycle.** [OE. *sicol, sicel,* = MDu. *sek-, sik-, sykele, siccle, sickele* (Du. *sikkel*), MLG. *sekele* (LG. *sekel*), OHG. *sichila* (G. *sichel*; cf. Flem. *zichel,* †*sichel*); also MSw. *sikil*, MDa. *sig(h)il* (Da. *segel*). It is not certain that the word can be regarded as an early adoption of the Campanian L. *secula*, f. *secāre* to cut.]

1. An agricultural implement similar in form and use to a reaping-hook, but properly distinguished from this by having a serrated cutting-edge.

a. *a* 1000 in Wr.-Wülcker 234 *Falx*,..rifter, *vel* sicul. *c* 1000 *Ags. Gosp.* Mark iv. 29 He sent his sicol forþam þæt rip æt is. *a* 1100 *Gerefa* in *Anglia* IX. 263 Siðe, sicol, weodhoc. *a* 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 825 þu schalt setten sikel forð.

c 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 312 A luyte rondel ase a sikel Men seoth þar-on liȝt. *c* 1340 *Nominale* (Skeat) 527 *Sarcle, faux et faucil*, Wedehoke, sythe and sikulle. 1377 LANGL. *P. Pl. B.* III. 306 But if he do it smythye In-to sikul or to sithe, to schare or to kulter. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 455/2 Sykyl, *falcillus, falcicula.* 1489 CAXTON *Faytes of A.* II. xxxix. 163 A croked yron made after the facion of a zekill. 1523 FITZHERB. *Husb.* § 28 A hande-rake..in the lyfte hande, and a syckle in the ryghte hande. 1542 HEN. VIII *Decl. Causes War w. Scots* Civ, As trew as the allegation of hym that is burnte in the hande, to saye he was cut with a sikell. 1600 NASHE *Summers Last Will & Test.* 871 Roome for the sithe and the siccles there. 1669 WORLIDGE *Syst. Agric.* (1681) 332 *A Sickle*, a toothed Reap-hook. 1750 GRAY *Elegy* 25 Oft did the harvest to their sickle yield. 1796 *Campaigns 1793–4* II. x. 69 The peasants were preparing to put the sickle to the grain. 1833 J. HOLLAND *Manuf. Metal* II. 50 The scythes and the sickles of the present day differ hardly at all from those in use nearly a thousand years ago. 1856 MORTON *Cycl. Agric.* II. 10/1 The saw-edged sickle, the smooth-edged hook, and the heavy sickle employed in cutting beans. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 1898 The reaping-hook..has no teeth, and this distinguishes it from the sickle.

β. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 77/1 Cykylle, *fassilla vel fassicula.* 1497 *Naval Acc. Henry VII* (1896) 88 Cikles, vdd. di.; Sithes, vj. 1565 COOPER *Thesaurus, Falces messoriæ*, cickles: siethes. 1615 G. SANDYS *Trav.* 244 Messana was at the first called Zancle, of the crookednesse of the place, which signifieth a cycle. 1664 BUTLER *Hud.* II. iii. 292 Chase evil spirits away by dint Of Cickle, Horseshoo, Hollow-flint. 1791 NEWTE *Tour Eng. & Scot.* 410 The poor native.. gathers the short and scanty grass with his cycle, or hook.

b. *fig.* or in figurative contexts.

1596 SPENSER *State Irel.* (Globe) 680/1 Godes harvest..is even readye for the sickle. 1602 DEKKER *Honest Wh.* Wks. 1873 II. 103 For all Times sickle has gone ouer you, you are Orlando still. 1658 SLINGSBY *Diary* (1836) 208 Be it your care to reserve a sickle for your own harvest. 1718 *Free-thinker* No. 23. 163 Labourers of every Kind may find Room to put in a Sickle. 1742 YOUNG *Nt. Th.* I. 194 Each Moment has its sickle, emulous Of Time's enormous scythe. 1828 MACAULAY *Ess., Milton* (1897) 6 In the vast field of criticism on which we are entering, innumerable reapers have already put their sickles. 1868 H. LAW *Beacons of Bible* (1869) 148 Wrath's sickle will do its work.

2. Something having the curved or crescent form of a sickle, in various special applications.

†**a.** An ornamental design in metal-work or embroidery. †**b.** An ancient military siege-implement (L. *falx*). **c.** A form of spur or gaff for a fighting-cock. **d.** A tail-feather of a cock. **e.** An instrument used in lacquering.

1459 in *Somerset Med. Wills* (1901) 188 [Two silver gilt basins] pounced [with knots of] sykols. *Ibid.* 189 [Two] Auter clothes [with one] frountell..[with divers] Compassis [of] sikels [curiously embroidered]. 1472 in *Wilts. Archæol. Mag.* XI. (1868) 337 A paire of cruettis of silver and gilte, wᵗʰ knottes of sikels. 1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* (1658) 491 So also doth the Ram sometime put forth the sicle, and sometime pull it in, and hide it within the frame. *c* 1710 in Ashton *Soc. Life Q. Anne* I. 301 A single battle fought with Sickles, after the East India manner. *Ibid.*, One Cock with a Sickle, and 4 Cocks with fair Spurs. 1882 *N. Middlesex Adv.* 7 July 3/2 Against the insertion of false *sickles* ..the judge of Hamburgs and bantams has..to be on his guard, a good tail..being of special importance in competition. 1884 C. G. W. LOCK *Workshop Rec.* Ser. III. 309/1 The tapper then goes round provided with the..scraping sickle.

b. Applied to the crescent moon, etc.

1687 W. RAND tr. *Gassendi's Life Peiresc* II. 128 That secondary-and weak light, which the Moon shewes, besides her silver Sickle, within her Quarter. 1847 TENNYSON *Princ.* I. 100 Ere the silver sickle of that month Became her golden shield. 1875 LONGF. *Amalfi* vii, Far away Sweeps the blue Salernian bay With its sickle of white sand,

c. A group of stars in the constellation Leo.

1882 in OGILVIE. 1885 SIR R. S. BALL *Story of Heavens* xviii. 383 The Sickle is specially famous.., as containing the radiant point from which the periodic shooting star shower known as the Leonids diverges.

3. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *sickle-blade, -maker, -man, -manufacturer, -sweep, -teeth.*

1846–50 A. WOOD *Class-bk. Bot.* 166 Its long, drooping pods..resemble a *sickle blade, or rather a curved sword blade. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 328/1 A *sekylle maker, *falcarius.* 1619 *Canterbury Marr. Licences* (MS.), Lancelot Symans of Horsmonden, sicklemaker. 1610 SHAKS. *Temp.* IV. i. 235 You Sun-burn'd *Sicklemen of August weary. 1821 SHELLEY *Hellas* 249 Yet the harvest to the sicklemen Is as a grain to each. 1855 SINGLETON *Virgil* I. 18 The seasons which the sickleman..should observe. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade*, **Sickle-manufacturer*, a maker of sickles. 1897 CROCKETT *Lochinvar* xxix. 261 Green flats of sparse grass, terminating in sweet *sickle-sweeps of yellow sand. 1897 R. MUNRO *Prehist. Prob.* 330 He discusses the peculiarities of the structure of *sickle-teeth.

b. Similative, as *sickle-billed, -houghed, -pinioned, -shaped, -winged*; *sickle-like, -wise.*

1782 LATHAM *Gen. Synop. Birds* I. II. 705 *Sickle-billed Creeper...Bill an inch and three quarters in length, curved like a sickle. 1872 COUES *N. Amer. Birds* 75 Sickle-billed Thrush. Californian Mockingbird. 1884 *Ibid.* 523 *Rostrhamus*, Sickle-billed Kites. 1607 MARKHAM *Caval.* III. (1617) 15 To bee (as some tearme it) *sickle-hought behinde, that is somwhat crooked in the cambrell ioynt, as Hares and Greyhounds are, is not amisse. 1840 *Penny Cycl.* XVIII. 64 *Sickle-like tail-feathers. 1874 WOOD *Nat. Hist.* 287 The close-set plumage of the Swallow tribe, their long sickle-like wings. 1763 *Phil. Trans.* LIII. 419 There were still remaining several of the suckers..disposed along its *sickle-shaped Pinnulæ. 1849 THACKERAY *Pendennis* vi, The sickle-shaped moon is growing every instant brighter in the heavens. 1884 BOWER & SCOTT *De Bary's Phaner.* 351 A strongly-curved..vascular plate, sickle-shaped in cross-section. 1870 GILLMORE tr. *Figuier's Reptiles & Birds* 468 Among the more remarkable species we may note..the *Sickle-winged Humming-bird. 1876 LANIER *Clover* 100 And curls it, sharp, And *sicklewise, about my poets' heads.

4. Special combs., as †**sickle-bear,** an epithet of the god Saturn; **sickle-bill,** *Ornith.* (see quots.); †**sickle-boon,** tenant-service rendered by reaping (see BOON *sb.*[1] 6); **sickle-feather** (see quots.); **sickle-ham, -hough** (see quot. and *sickle-houghed* in 3 b); **sickle-moon,** the crescent moon (cf. 2 b); **sickle-oyster** (see quot.); **sickle-pea,** a variety of pea having a curved pod; **sickle-pod,** an American species of rock-cress; **sickle-tedder,** a workman who cuts the teeth in a sickle.

1591 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* I. iv. 385 Thou, rich, benign, Ill-chasing Jupiter, Art (worthy) next thy Father *sickle-bear. 1872 COUES *N. Amer. Birds* 262 *Numenius*, Long-billed Curlew. *Sickle-bill. 1880 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* IV. 21 All of these have a long curved bill, and include..the Sickle-bills (*Drepanornis* and *Epimachus*). 1438 *Add. Roll* 41659 (MS.), Reddit per annum v s. iiii d, iiii *sikilbons et i [hay]bone. *Ibid.*, xx d. tres ob. for hys sekylbone. 1546 *Yorks. Chantry Surv.* (Surtees) 290 To John Hunt for sicle bonez, ij[s]. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* II. 251/1 The Cocks..tail consists all of crooked bending feathers (*Sickle Feathers as some call them). 1849 D. J. BROWNE *Amer. Poultry Yd.* (1855) 25 The sickle feathers of the tail are perhaps equally characteristic of the genus. 1799 *Sporting Mag.* XIV. 186 *Sickle-hams or *sickle-houghs, in horses, may be compared to knock or nap-knees in men. 1875 RUSKIN *Hortus Inclusus* (1887) 42 Bright morning. *Sickle moon just hiding in a red cloud. 1758 *Phil. Trans.* I. 526 Small oblong oysters, which the workmen call the *sickle-oyster, some of them being found crooked. 1731 MILLER *Gard. Dict.* s.v. *Pisum*, The *Sickle Pea is much more common in Holland than in England. 1763 MILLS *Syst. Pract. Husb.* IV. 109 The Sickle pea, or Sugar pea, which is much cultivated in several foreign countries. 1856 MORTON *Cycl. Agric.* II. 576 Varieties of Field Peas...White Sickle. 1846–50 A. WOOD *Class-bk. Bot.* 166 *Sickle Pod...A plant remarkable for its long, drooping pods. 1833 J. HOLLAND *Manuf. Metal* II. 56 There is a peculiarity in the handling of his hammer and chisel by a *sickle tedder.

†**Si·ckle,** *a. Obs.* Forms: 3 **sikel,** 5 **sikkil,** 6 **sickil, sickle;** 5 **seckle, sekkul, sekyl, seekle.** [f. SICK *v.* + -LE 1.] Sickly.

c 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 466 Heore beire broþur lazarus was swyþe sikel a man. *c* 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* Tab. 269 Olyuys, sikkil, to hele in Marche. *Ibid.* XI. 139 The tendir plaunte is take anoon,..and sekkul beth the grete ysette. *c* 1475 *Cath. Angl.* (MS. A) 327/2 A Sekylman, *valitudinarius.* 1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 121 Sickle, *valetudinarius.*

†**Si·ckle,** *v. Obs.* Forms: 1 **siclian,** 1–2 **sæclian,** 3 **sæclen, secli,** 4 **seccle.** [f. SICK *a.* + -LE 3.] *intr.* To be or fall ill, to sicken.

c 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* III. 151 *Diu egrotat*, lange he siclaþ. *a* 1122 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1066, Đǽ wæs Leofric abbot of Burh æt þæt ilca feorð & sæclode þær & corn ham. 1154 *Ibid.* an. 1154, Þa sæclede he & ward ded. *c* 1205 LAY. 30549 Þa iward þe king þere isæcled ful swiðe. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 50 Leste..oure soule secli so sone heo is ute. *c* 1350 *Will. Palerne* 575 Sche..seccleed in a seknesse.

Sick-leave: see SICK *a.* 10 b.

Sickle-bill(ed: see SICKLE *sb.* 3 b, 4.

Si·ckled, *ppl. a.* [f. SICKLE *sb.*] **a.** Provided with a sickle. **b.** Cut by means of a sickle.

1730–46 THOMSON *Autumn* 1321 When Autumn's yellow lustre..tempts the sickled swain into the field. 1765 *Museum Rust.* IV. 359 They..can house their mown corn as early as they could house sickled corn.

Si·ckler. [f. SICKLE *sb.*] One who uses a sickle; a reaper.

1638 SANDYS *Paraphr. Job* xxiv, Their Sicklers reape the Corne another sowes. 1855 SINGLETON *Virgil* I. 90 When on his golden tilths The farmer would the sickler bring. 1907 *N. & Q.* 10th Ser. VIII. 114 In the cornfields, where more hands were needed—men as sicklers.

Sickless (si·klĕs), *a.* [f. SICK *a.* + -LESS.] Free from sickness or ill-health.

a 1547 SURREY in *Tottel's Misc.* (Arb.) 6 To languish without ache, sicklesse for to consume. 1567 TURBERV. *Epit.* etc. 75 b, In happie helth when sicklesse limmes haue lyfe. 1606 MARSTON *Sophonisba* IV. i, Giue me long breath, yong beds, and sicklesse ease. 1853 J. CUMMING *Foreshadows* 126 That was an earnest..of a sickless state.

†**Si·cklew,** *a. Obs. rare.* Forms: 4 **siklewe,** 5 **sicke-, sekelew,** 5–6 **syklow.** [f. SICK *a.* + -LEWE.] Sickly; unhealthy.

1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) I. 257 Þe south..is..vnholsom and sikewe for men to wonye ynne. *Ibid.* III. 303 Þey bulde þe citee Sene fore here olde men and sikelewe. 1465 *Paston Lett.* II. 185 The parson seyd he was agyd and syklow, and he wold not be trobelyd herafter. 1482 *Monk of Evesham* (Arb.) 102 His brethirne yat wer sickelew and febul. †1503 in *Lett. Rich. III & Hen. VII* (Rolls) I. 233 The kyngis grace is but a weke man and syklow.

†**Si·cklewort.** *Obs.* [f. SICKLE *sb.*] **a.** The scarlet pimpernel. **b.** The plant self-heal (*Prunella vulgaris*).

Gerarde appears to be the source of all later references.

c 1450 *Alphita* (Anecd. Oxon.) 196/2 †*Ypia] maior*,..*angl.* marie goldwert, *secundum quosdam, an.* sikelwert *vel* chikemete. 1597 GERARDE *Herbal* 507 Brunell is called in English Prunell, Carpenters herbe, Selfeheale, and Hookeheale, and Sicklewoort. 1612 COTGR. s.v. *Oingtreuile.* 1766 *Museum Rust.* VI. 448. 1863 PRIOR *Plant-n.*, Sickle-wort, from the shape of its flowers, which seen in profile resemble a sickle, *Prunella vulgaris.*

Sicklied (si·klid), *a.* [f. SICKLY *a.*] Rendered sickly or mawkish.

1835 LYTTON *Rienzi* VI. ii, Even in the light of heaven there seemed a sicklied and ghastly glare. 1842 MANNING *Serm.* xiv. (1848) I. 205 The poor sicklied workman in the manufactory. 1889 *Spectator* 16 Nov., The sort of sicklied sentiment which the age seems most to appreciate.

Si·cklify, *v. rare.* [f. SICKLY *a.* + -FY.] *trans.* To make sick or sickly.

1851 MAYHEW *Lond. Lab.* II. 76 All I felt was giddy; I wasn't to say hungry, only weak and sicklified. 1876 Miss YONGE *Womankind* viii, Sent forth as supposed good books ..to sicklify and sentimentalise good girls.

Sicklike, obs. form of SIC-LIKE.

Si·cklily, *adv.* [f. SICKLY *a.*] In a sickly manner.

1727 BAILEY (vol. II.), *Peakingly*, sicklily, wearily. 1840 BROWNING *Sordello* II. 846 His will swayed sicklily from side to side. 1870 LE FANU *Willing to Die* III. 22 The first grey chill of winter's dawn hung sicklily over the landscape.

Sickliness (si·klinés). [f. SICKLY *a.* + -NESS.] The state or fact of being sickly; delicacy of constitution, ill-health.

1565 COOPER *Thesaurus, Infirma valetudo*, sickelinesse. 1593 SHAKS. *Rich. II*, II. i. 142, I do beseech your Maiestie impute his words To wayward sicklinesse, and age in him. 1633 G. HERBERT *Priest to the Temple* x, Not only sickness breaks these obligations of fasting, but sickliness also. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Life* (1721) I. 60 His Sickliness, Studies, and the Troubles he met with, turn'd his Hair gray before the usual time. 1777 WATSON *Philip II* (1839) 471 The inclemency of the season, the sickliness of his army,...and a scarcity of provisions. 1822–34 *Good's Study Med.* (ed. 4) IV. 85 Manifesting a considerable degree of sickliness in all their functions. 1896 A. J. C. HARE *Story of my Life* I. 109 [It] had much to do with accounting for my after sickliness.

b. *transf.* and *fig.*

1656 EARL MONM. tr. *Boccalini's Advts. fr. Parnass.* II. lxx. (1674) 223 That action..proceeding..from sickliness of mind, as a lover of novelties. 1818 HAZLITT *Eng. Poets* viii. (1870) 201 His Irish melodies are not free from affectation and a certain sickliness of pretention. 1882 'OUIDA' *Maremma* I. 90 The sickliness of the shore, seems little to affect children.

Si·ckling[1]. [f. SICKLE *sb.*] The action of cutting with a sickle. Also *attrib.*

1598 FLORIO, *Segatura*, a sawing, a mowing, a sickling. 1765 *Museum Rust.* IV. 358 The adoption of our method of sickling. *Ibid.*, The wages..on the sickling scheme.

Si·ckling[2]. [f. SICK *a.* + -LING. Cf. G. *siechling.*] A sickly or delicate person.

1834 *New Monthly Mag.* XLI. 215 That they wear the red and white of health,..these sicklings cannot deny. *a* 1849 MANGAN *Poems* (1859) 297 Why should a man, like a girl or a sickling, Suffer his lamp to be quenched in the tomb?

Si·ck-list. [SICK *a.* 10 b.] An official list of sick persons, esp. soldiers or sailors.

1794 NELSON 10 Oct. in Nicolas *Disp.* (1845) I. 495 Our Sick-list is now seventy-seven, almost all objects for the Hospital. 1834 MARRYAT *P. Simple* (1863) 211 As I could not appear on the quarter-deck, I was put down on the sick-list. 1841 HAWTHORNE *Amer. Note-bks.* (1883) 233, I intend to keep myself on the sick-list this one day longer.

Hence **Sick-listed** *a.*, placed on the sick-list.

1891 in *Cent. Dict.*

Sickly (si·kli), *a.* Forms: 4 **sek-**, 5 **seke-**, **seekly**, 6 *Sc.* **seiklie**; 4 **sykliche**, 6 **syck(e)ly**, 6–7 **sickely**, **sicklie**, 6– **sickly** (7 **-ley**). [f. SICK *a.* + -LY[1]. Cf. MDu. *siekelic* (Du. *ziekelijk*), MHG. (and G.) *siechlich*, OIcel. *sjúkligr*, Norw. *sjukleg*, Sw. *sjuklig*, Da. *sygelig.*]

1. Ailing or indisposed; in a poor state of health; not robust or strong.

c 1350 *Will. Palerne* 1505 Whan þemperour..seie him so sekly þat he ded semed,..sorwe sank to his hert. *c* 1374 CHAUCER *Troylus* II. 1528 Thou nedelees Counseylest me, that sykliche I me feyne! *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 451/2 Seekly, or ofte seke, *valitudinarius*. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 327/2 A Sekely man, *valitudinarius*. 1540 *Act* 32 *Hen. VIII*, c. 44 The impotent syckely and aged people, which be not able to travaile to the said Churches. 1598 SHAKS. *Merry W.* III. iv. 61, I am not such a sickely creature, I giue Heauen praise. 1623 R. CARPENTER *Consc. Christian* 99 When you shall lie on your beds sickly, or in health conferre with your souls secretly. 1691 HARTCLIFFE *Virtues* 55 Another of this way of Life, being sickly, expressed much Courage in..adventuring upon any hard Enterprize. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* I. iv. 50 The Captains of the squadrons represented to the Commodore, that their ships companies were very sickly. 1779 HAMILTON *Wks.* (1886) VII. 575 The troops and seamen arrived in a very sickly condition. 1833 HT. MARTINEAU *Manch. Strike* ii. 20 Being in the air so much..prevents my being sickly, as I used to be. 1894 H. DRUMMOND *Ascent Man* 339 A mother who did not care for her children would have feeble and sickly children.

absol. 1837 T. HOOK *Jack Brag* xi, Jack made an attempt at popularity amongst the sicklies at Cheltenham.

fig. 1561 T. NORTON *Calvin's Inst.* II. 98 Leuing the pretence of necessitie, wherin they haue but a weake and sickly defence. 1613 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* (1614) 17 In this sickely and elder age of the world. 1674 *Essex Papers* (Camden) I. 164 As in Sick bodies, so in Sickly governments, Change is desired. 1757 BURKE *Abridgm. Eng. Hist.* I. iv. Wks. X. 243 Armorica..was then, like many other parts of the sickly empire, become a mere desert.

b. Of plants, etc.: Characterized by a feeble or unhealthy growth.

1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Past.* v. 55 No fruitful Crop the sickly Fields return. 1713 YOUNG *Last Day* I. 63 Yet all must drop, as autumn's sickliest grain. 1748 GRAY *Alliance* 1 As sickly Plants betray a niggard Earth. 1837 LYTTON *E. Maltrav.* 3 The herbage grew up in sickly patches. 1880 C. R. MARKHAM *Peruv. Bark* 79 He found..the seeds of *C. lancifolia* represented by three sickly plants.

c. Of the mind: Weak, disordered.

1741–2 GRAY *Agrippina* 72 How oft in weak and sickly minds The sweets of kindness lavishly indulg'd Rankle to gall. 1781 CRABBE *Library* 60 Here alt'ratives by slow degrees control The chronic habits of the sickly soul.

d. Of things: (cf. SICK *a.* 7).

1826 *Art of Brewing* (ed. 2) 32 The beer..cannot recover itself, but remains sickly, and becomes sour.

2. Of conditions, etc.: Connected with, arising from, characterized by, ill-health.

1406 HOCCLEVE *La Male Regle* 15 My body empty is,.. and ful of seekly heuynesse. *c* 1412 — *De Reg. Princ.* 124 My seekly distresse For-bad myn eres vsen hire office. 1567 *Gude & Godlie B.* (S. T. S.) 40 To satisfie his seiklie appetyte. 1689 EVELYN *Diary* 29 Mar., Things far from settled... by reason of the slothfull, sickly temper of the new King. 1704 F. FULLER *Med. Gymn.* (1711) 140 A sickly Complaining Life they lead, because they will not take Courage. 1783 M. CUTLER in *Life*, etc. (1888) II. 213 The sickly state of several families..in this place. 1832 D. E. WILLIAMS *Life & Corr. Lawrence* II. 490 It represented the youth.. with a pensive and rather a sickly countenance. 1887 Miss BRADDON *Like & Unlike* i, Of all the evils that can befall a man, I think a sickly youth must be the worst.

transf. 1885 *L'pool Daily Post* 30 June 4/6 Faded twigs keeping up a sickly struggle for existence.

†**3.** Pertaining to sickness or the sick. *Obs.*

1601 SHAKS. *All's Well* II. iii. 118 Thou know'st shee ha's rais'd me from my sickly bed. 1640 BROME *Sparagus Garden* IV. vi, Give me my Gowne and Cap though, and set mee charily in my sickly chaire. 1726 SWIFT *Stella's Birthday* 77 Wks. 1751 VII. 127 She at your sickly Couch will wait. *a* 1814 *Apollo's Choice* II. iii. in *New Brit. Theatre* IV., The sweet delight of tending on a sickly couch.

4. Marked by the occurrence or prevalence of sickness; unhealthy.

1602 SHAKS. *Ham.* III. iii. 96 This Physicke but prolongs thy sickly dayes. 1697 DAMPIER *Voy.* (1699) 223 This is a very sickly place and I believe hath need enough of an Hospital. 1744 BERKELEY *Siris* § 77 In the late sickly season of the year. *a* 1774 GOLDSM. *Surv. Exp. Philos.* (1776) II. 39 The island..became sickly and unhealthful to an extreme degree. 1822–34 *Good's Study Med.* (ed. 4) I. 645 The ship lay out in the open bay; no vessel near her was sickly. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* iii. I. 424 The year 1685 was not accounted sickly.

5. Causing sickness or ill-health; producing discomfort or nausea.

1604 E. G[RIMSTONE] tr. *D'Acosta's Hist. Indies* II. xiv. 114 To live vnder a heaven or aire that is contrarie, troublesome or sicklie. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* III. 721 From the vicious Air, and sickly Skies, A Plague did on the dumb Creation rise. 1754 GRAY *Progr. Poesy* 49 Night, and all her sickly dews. 1781 GIBBON *Decl. & F.* XXX. III. 159 The sickly, and almost pestilential, exhalations of low and marshy grounds. 1855 BAIN *Senses & Int.* II. iv. § 20 We have sweet odours that are sickly, in other words, depressing. 1882 DE WINDT *Equator* 113 Dense grey mists..enshrouding the pretty village in their sickly vapours.

6. Of light, colour, etc.: Faint, feeble.

1695 PRIOR *Taking of Namur* xiii, In vain France hopes, the sickly Light Shou'd shine near William's fuller Day. 1813 SHELLEY *Q. Mab* IX. 124 The broad beam of day, which feebly once Lighted the cheek of lean Captivity, With a pale and sickly glare, then freely [etc.]. 1862 Miss BRADDON *Lady Audley* iii, The pale lavender muslin faded into a sickly grey. 1888 'J. S. WINTER' *Bootle's Childr.* x, When the sickly winter sun was feebly trying to shine through the grey clouds.

fig. 1825 MACAULAY *Ess., Milton* (1897) 5 A far-fetched, costly, sickly, imitation.

7. Of feelings, etc.: Weak, mawkish.

1766 GOLDSM. *Vic. W.* iii, His soul laboured under a sickly sensibility of the miseries of others. 1805 FOSTER *Ess.* IV. ii. 138 The fastidiousness of sickly taste. 1869 J. MARTINEAU *Ess.* II. 42 The sure mark of a sickly unreality in morals.

8. *Comb.*, as *sickly-born, -coloured, -looking.*

1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* i, This was the elderly and sickly-looking person, who had been precipitated into the river along with the two young lawyers. 1851 MAYHEW *Lond. Lab.* I. 358 He was sickly-looking, seemed dispirited at first. 1864 TENNYSON *En. Ard.* 260 Now the third child was sickly-born and grew Yet sicklier. 1882 *Garden* 18 Mar. 186/1 A sickly coloured sward throughout the summer.

†**Si·ckly,** *adv. Obs. rare.* [f. SICK *a.* + -LY[2].] In a sick manner; with sickness.

1572 J. JONES *Bathes of Bathes Ayde* Ep. Ded. 2 When the state of the body is sicklie affected. 1605 SHAKS. *Macb.* III. i. 107 Whose execution..Grapples you to the heart and loue of vs, Who weare our Health but sickly in his Life.

Sickly (si·kli), *v.* [f. SICKLY *a.*]

1. *trans.* a. To cover *over* (or *o'er*) with a sickly hue. Chiefly *fig.*

Usually in direct echoes of the Shakspere passage.

1602 SHAKS. *Ham.* III. i. 85 Thus the Natiue hew of Resolution Is sicklied o're, with the pale cast of Thought. 1637 SUCKLING *Aglaura* III. i, Hope..has so sicklied o're Their resolutions that we must not trust them. 1760 C. JOHNSTON *Chrysal* (1822) III. 227 Her features regular; but want had sicklied over their beauty. 1784 *Universal Mag.* I. 204 But there too, Superstition's hand Had sicklied every feature o'er. 1847 *Proc. Berw. Nat. Club* II. v. 225, I have seen the china-rose .. sicklied all over with the myriads that thronged its leaves. 1876 W. PAGE-ROBERTS *Law & God* (ed. 4) 122 A man's virtues begin..to get an unhealthy cast and to be sicklied o'er.

b. To render sickly or pale. Also *fig.*

1763 CHURCHILL *Ep. to Hogarth* Poems 1767 I. 111 Thy Drudge..Sicklies our hopes with the pale hue of Fear. 1807 FENTON *Epistles* 52 Sicklied with age, and sour'd with self-disgrace. 1879 MEREDITH *Egoist* xxiii, The silver lustre of the maid sicklied the poor widow.

2. *intr.* To assume a sickly appearance.

1882 'OUIDA' *Maremma* I. 186 The broad oak foliage sicklied and looked parched.

†**Si·ckman.** *Obs.* [f. SICK *a.* + MAN *sb.* Now only as two words, and so freq. in ME.] A man who is ill.

c 1340 *Nominale* (Skeat) 216 *Homme malade gist en liter*, Sikeman lith in hors-bere. 1422 tr. *Secreta Secret., Priv. Priv.* 202 The Prayer of feyth shall hele the sekeman. *c* 1460 *Play Sacr.* 556 By what deuyll dyleth hym so long to tare, A seekman myght soone myscary. *c* 1520 NISBET *John* xi. 1 Thar was a seekman, Lazarus of Bethanie. 1607 SHAKS. *Cor.* I. i. 182 Your Affections are A sickmans Appetite. 1626 BACON *Sylva* § 953 As if you should tell a Servant of a Sicke-man, that his Master shall recover [etc.].

Sickness (si·knés). Forms: see SICK *a.* Also 1 **-nysse**, 4–5 **-nys**, **-nis**; 3–6 **-nesse**, 3–7 **-nes**, 5 *Sc.* **-nace**. [f. SICK *a.* + -NESS. Cf. obs. Flem. *siecktenisse* (Kilian).]

1. The state of being sick or ill; the condition of suffering from some malady; illness, ill-health.

a. c 967 *Canons Edgar* § 36 We læraþ þæt æniz unfæstende man husles ne abirige, buton hit for ofer-seocnesse sy. *a* 1023 WULFSTAN *Hom.* xliii. (1883) 209 Þæt god wolde.. heo mid mislicre seocnesse æt mannum ȝenyman. *c* 1205 LAY. 19303 Octa iherde suggen of seocnesse þas kinges. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 775 God sente on him sekenesse & care. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 1025 Sekenes suld he neuer drei. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 128 Sche hath seknesse feigned. *c* 1460 METHAM *Wks.* (E.E.T.S.) 155 Yff man or woman take sekenes that day, thei schuld sone recouer. 1540 *Act* 32 *Hen. VIII*, c. 42 § 1 To provide..for the helth of man's body whan infirmities and seknes shalhappen. 1565 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* I. 357 Personis that..takis seiknes in thair Hienessis army. 1894 HESLOP *Northumbld. Gloss.* 614 *Seekness*, sickness.

β. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 188 Al ower wo, sicnesse, & oðerhwat. 13.. *Sir Beues* 3918 While Saber lai in is siknesse. 1340 *Ayenb.* 95 Wyþoute steruinge and wyþoute zyknesse and wyþ-oute ealdinge. 1412 *20 Pol. Poems* xi. 90 Myn enemys y shal..ȝeue syknes and drede. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 5 b, Whiche..whan we be in sycknes is our medycyne and helth. 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 230 b, He is troubled with syckenes. 1606 SHAKS. *Ant. & Cl.* II. ii. 173 Noble Anthony, not sickenesse should detaine me. 1651 HOBBES *Leviath.* II. xxviii. 162 When he falleth into sickneesse by the doing of some unlawfull act. 1712 POPE *To Miss Blount* 60 Those Age or Sickness soon or late disarms. 1772 PRIESTLEY *Inst. Relig.* (1782) I. 25 Pangs.. occasioned by lingering sickness. 1804 COLERIDGE *Lett.* (1895) 451 To whom I owe that my bed of sickness has not been in a house of want. 1864 TENNYSON *En. Ard.* 825 A languor came Upon him, gentle sickness.

γ. 13.. *Sir Beues* 3900 In grete Grese..Saber gret sikenesse tok. 1377 LANGL. *P. Pl. B.* XII. 2 Idel was I neuere ..in sikenesse ne in helthe. *c* 1450 *Godstow Reg.* 404 To which-so-ever she wold..assigne hit in helth or in sikenesse. *c* 1511 *1st Eng. Bk. Amer.* (Arb.) Introd. 27 With sykenesse they dye nat. 1542 WRIOTHESLEY *Chron.* (Camden) I. 140 Toke such a thought and sykenes that he dyed thereof.

b. *transf.* and *fig.*

a 1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* 494 Adam þat broght me in seknes of ded. *c* 1380 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* II. 23 Disciplis of Anticrist agreggen þe siiknesse of þer folk. 1422 tr. *Secreta Secret., Priv. Priv.* 202 Wyth fastynge is sawid the Sekenys of body, and wyth Prayere the Sekenesse of Sowle. 1491 *Chast. Goddes Chyld.* 20 They..deye by longe contynuaunce of ghostli siknesse. 1633 FORD *Broken Ht.* v. ii, Look upon my steadiness, and scorn not The sickness of my fortune. 1695 LD. PRESTON *Boeth.* IV. 185 For if a depraved Temper be, as it were, the Sickness of the Soul. 1721 YOUNG *Revenge* II. i, I urg'd him to it, Knowing the deadly sickness of his heart.

2. A particular disease or malady.

Also freq. with defining terms, as *falling-*, *green-*, *horse-*, *joint-*, *sea-sickness* (q.v.).

a. c 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* III. 126 Þanne ys god þæt mann fore-sceawie hwanne seo seocnysse siȝ. 1338 R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (1810) 103 Þe þrid day of Aduent..Þe kyng a seknes hent. *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (Roxb.) xi. 44 He was made hale, what sekenes so he had. 1486 *Bk. St. Albans* a ij, To vnderstonde theyr sekeneses and enfirmitees. 1526 *Grete Herball* cxxiii. (1529) H ij b, Agaynst sekenesses of the mylt as Plinius sayth. 1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* (S.T.S.) I. 5 That sair seiknes, named the sueit of Britannie, cam nevir till ws.

β. *c* 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 132 Þe bischop thomas lay, In þe syknesse of maldeflanke. 1382 WYCLIF *John* v. 4 He.. was maad hool of what euere siknesse he was holdun. 1489 CAXTON *Faytes of A.* II. xxxv. 149 There is noo sykenes but that som socours is gyuen therunto. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. V*, 82 Every man judged as he thought, and naned a sickenes that he knew. 1563 T. GALE *Antidot.* II. 52 It is then good for Sciaticus and other colde sickennesses of the ioyntes. 1649 BP. REYNOLDS *Hosea* iv. 75 The healing of a sicnesse by a Physician. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* III. 671 The Causes..Of ev'ry Sickness that infects the Fold. 1725 N. ROBINSON *Th. Physick* 199 The Nature of the Sickness will scarce suffer the Patient to remove for the Benefit of the Air. 1849 JAMES *Woodman* xii, One of those sicknesses of childhood which come and pass away.

γ. *c* 1330 *Arth. & Merl.* 64 (Kölbing), Sone after,..A gret sikenes þe king him toke. 1382 WYCLIF *Matt.* viii. 17 He toke oure infirmytees, and bere oure sykenessis. *c* 1425 tr. *Arderne's Treat. Fistula*, etc. 35 Þan owe þe leche..bisily biholde wiþin, and considere if þe sikenes be mortified. 1529 MORE *Dyalogue* II. Wks. 194/2 Saint Roke we sette to se to the great sykenes, bycause he had a sore. 1556 *Chron. Grey Friars* (Camden) 24 The ix. day of the same monyth [July, 1551] beganne the gret sykenes callyd the swetth.

b. *fig.*

1340 *Ayenb.* 16 Þanne is hit (pride] þe meste periluse zicknesse. *c* 1400 *Rom. Rose* 2644 If evere thou knewe of love distresse, Thou shalt mowe lerne in that siiknesse. 1435 MISYN *Fire of Love* 65 þe venemus seyknes of lust. 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* lxv. 8 Ane paralous seiknes is vaine prosperite. 1607 SHAKS. *Timon* v. i. 31 A kinde of Will or Testament Which argues a great sicknesse in his iudgement That makes it. 1719 YOUNG *Busiris* III. i, I feel a deadly sickness at my heart. 1872 MORLEY *Voltaire* (1886) 11 His was one of the robust and incisive constitutions, to which doubt figures as a sickness.

c. A defect in wines. (Cf. SICK *a.* 7.)

1674 W. CHARLETON (*title*), Mysterie of Vintners, or a brief Discourse concerning the various Sicknesses of Wines.

d. A disease in sheep; braxy.

1794 *Stat. Acc. Scott.* XII. 4 Of these, what is called the *sickness*, is generally the most common and the most fatal. 1822 [see BRAXY 1]. 1832 *Sutherland Farm Rep.* 78 in *Husb.* III. (L. U. K.), An inflammatory disease of the stomach, called 'sickness', or 'braxy'.

3. A disturbance of the stomach manifesting itself in retching and vomiting.

1604 E. G[RIMSTONE] *D'Acosta's Hist. Indies* III. ix. 145 The sicknes of the sea, wherewith such are troubled as first begin to go to sea, is a matter very ordinarie. 1732 ARBUTHNOT *Rules of Diet* in *Aliments*, etc. 306 Sickness is one of the most troublesome symptoms attending a Fever. 1771 SMOLLETT *Humph. Cl.* (1857) 183, I was too much engrossed by the Sickness at my stomach to think of anything else. 1821 MOORE *Mem.* (1853) III. 209 Bessy had been obliged to go to bed from sickness of stomach and head. 1889 D. J. MATTHEWS *Dis. Women* (ed. 4) xviii. 149 You have here then..sickness, or sickness and vomiting if the pain is severe.

4. *fig.* Utter disgust or weariness.

1779 MME. D'ARBLAY *Diary* 13 June, His sickness of the world..grows more and more obvious every day. 1821 LAMB *Elia* Ser. I. *Quaker's Meeting*, When the spirit is sore fretted, even tired to sickness of the janglings..of the world.

5. Sickly hue.

1849 RUSKIN *Sev. Lamps* ii. § 16. 45 The green and yellow sickness of the false marble.

6. *attrib.*, as *sickness allowance, benefit, repentance, summer, year.*

1673 KIRKMAN *Unlucky Citizen* A iij b, The late great sickness year 1665. 1674 J. B[RIAN] *Harvest-Home* iii. 12 Sickness-repentance will not be enough. 1690 CHILD *Disc. Trade* (1698) 28 The foregoing discourse I wrote in the Sickness-summer at my country habitation. 1891 *Daily News* 28 Jan. 7/1 The altered term of sickness allowance. *Ibid.*, The plaintiff's sickness benefit was liable to immediate cessation.

Si·ck-nurse, *sb.* [SICK *a.* 10.] A nurse who attends upon the sick.

1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* vii, I could not be expected to watch him like a sick-nurse. 1837 HT. MARTINEAU *Soc. Amer.* II. 155 She was a sick-nurse, when my friend knew her. 1890 'L. FALCONER' *Mlle. Ixe* v. (1891) 133 At one time I was a sick nurse.

Hence **Si·ck-nurse** *v.*, to act as a sick-nurse. **Sick-nursish** *a.*, appropriate to a sick-nurse.

1844 KINGLAKE *Eothen* xix, This homely, sick-nursish illustration of the effect produced upon one's mind by the mere vastness of the great Pyramid. 1897 VOYNICH *Gadfly* (1904) 10/2 All the unhealthy fancies born of loneliness and sickroom watching had passed away.

†Si·ckrel. *Cant. Obs.*-0 [f. SICK *a.* + -REL.] 'A puny, sickly creature.'

a 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew.*

Si·ck-room. [SICK *a.* 10.] A room occupied by, or set apart for, the sick. Also *attrib.*

1749 FIELDING *Tom Jones* v. ii, Seldom out of the sick-room. 1826 SCOTT *Jrnl.* 4 May, On visiting Lady Scott's sick-room this morning I found her suffering. 1871 NAPHEYS *Prev. & Cure Dis.* II. ii. 421 A room especially designed for the sick-room. 1897 VOYNICH *Gadfly* (1904) 10/2 All the unhealthy fancies born of loneliness and sickroom watching had passed away.

Siclato(u)n, variants of CICLATOUN *Obs.*

†Sicle. *Obs.* Forms: *a.* 3–8 sicle, 5–6 sycle, 6–7 sickle. *β.* 4–6 cicle, 6 cycle. [*a.* OF. *sicle, cicle* (mod.F. *sicle*), ad. late L. *siclus*, a. Gr. *σίκλος, σίγλος*, ad. Heb. *sheqel*: see SHEKEL. Cf. MDu. *sicle, cicle, cikel*, Du. *sikkel*, G. †*sickel, sikel.*]

1. A shekel.

a. a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 398 Me solde his euesunge..uor two hundred sicles of seolure. 1382 WYCLIF *Ezek.* xlv. 12 Forsothe a sicle shal haue twenti halpenns; forsothe twenti syclis, and fyue and twenti syclis maken a besaunt. *c* 1400 LOVE *Bonavent. Mirr.* xxxvi. (1908) 188 Tweyne mytes, the ferthe parte of a sicle. 1535 COVERDALE 2 *Kings* vii. 16 A buszshel of fyne meell was solde for a Sycle, and two buszshels of barlye for a Sycle also. 1563 JEWEL *Reply Harding* (1611) 436 With the holy Sicle, we must buy Christ, that may put away our Sinnes. The holy Sicle beareth the forme of our Faith. 1602 L. LLOYD *Briefe Conf.* 77 The Elders of that citie should..mearce him in an hundred sickles of siluer. 1649 JER. TAYLOR *Gt. Exemp.* III. xiv. 45 The accustomed imposition a Sicle or didrachme, the fourth part of an ounce of silver.

β. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) IV. 135 Mina is a manere weiste oper a maner money, and weieþ sixty cicles. *c* 1400 LOVE *Bonavent. Mirr.* ix. (1908) 62 The child..was bouȝt aȝen as a seruaunt for v. penyes, þat weren cleped cicles. 1548 UDALL, etc. *Erasm. Par. Acts* 28 b, A sepulchre whiche Abraham bought for an hundreth siluer cicles. *a* 1591 H. SMITH *Serm.* (1866) I. 405 A cycle or a homer, or an ephah.

2. An ancient Persian coin, worth half of a silver stater. *rare*-1.

1725 tr. *Dupin's Eccl. Hist. 17th C.* v. I. 184 He begs Alexander to send him the figur'd Inscription of the Sicles, of which he had spoke to him.

3. The value of two silver pennies. *rare*-1.

1720 J. JOHNSON *Canons Eng. Ch.* DCCXXXIV. viii, We will that the Adulterers pay thirty Sicles, or sixty Pieces of Silver to the Church.

Sic-like (sik,lәik), *a.*, *sb.*, and *adv. Sc.* and *north.* Forms: see SIC *a.* and LIKE *a.*

A. *adj.* Similar; such-like; of such a kind.

1442 *Extr. Aberd. Reg.* (1844) I. 7 Giff ony man dois sik like case in tyme to cum,..he sal pay sik like payne vnforgiffin. 1474 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* I. 52 To Keire currour passand with sic like lettres, iij*s.* 1549 *Compl. Scot.* x. 84 There is ane syklik exempil of pirrus kyng of eporite. 1588 A. KING tr. *Canisius' Catech.* 2 The holie sacrament off the alter, and sielyk secreit mysteris of our religione. [1614 J. DAVIES (Heref.) *Commend. Poems, Ecl.* 51 Wks. (Grosart) II. 21/2 To gab of sikliche notes of misery.] 1786 BURNS *Twa Dogs* 63 Ev'n the ha' folk fill their peghan Wi' sauce, ragouts, an' sic like trashtrie. 1818 SCOTT *Rob Roy* xxv, Constables, and sic-like black cattle. 1829– in northern glossaries. 1867 W. ANDERSON *Rhymes* 9 (E. D. D.), Flingin' crackers at ither, or some siclike wark.

B. *sb.* Such kind of thing(s) or person(s).

1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* xx. 36 Be nocht in countenance ane skornar,..Bot dowt siclyk sall stryk the in the neck. 1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* I. 93 This was thair maner, and this day the hilande men..weiris even siklyke. *c* 1620 A. HUME *Brit. Tongue* I. iii, In this diphthong we commit a grosse errour,..spelling how, now, and siklyk with w. 1786 BURNS *Twa Dogs* 74 A Cotter howkan in a sheugh,.. Bairan a quarry, an' sic like. 1825 JAMIESON *Suppl.* s.v., 'What sort of fowk are the rest of them?'.. 'They're just sic and sicklike.' 1876 F. K. ROBINSON *Whitby Gloss.* 170/2 'Sike an Sike-like were there.'

C. *adv.* Similarly; in like manner; in such wise.

1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* III. x. 45 Sic lyke as quhar that, with thair hie toppis, The big akis [etc.]. 1597 SKENE *De Verb. Sign.* s.v. *Annexation*, And sik-like..with consent of the three Estaites, it was statute [etc.]. 1640–1 *Kirkcudbr. War-Comm. Min. Bk.* (1855) 50 And sicklyke, it is appoyntit that everie heritor and tennant [etc.]. *a* 1670 SPALDING *Troub. Chas. I* (1850) I. 134 And siclike thair wes aucht gentilmen appointed to watche his lodging. 1708 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4456/1 And sicklyke We..Command all.. the said Dukes..to give all due Respect to Our Commissioners. 1752 LOUTHIAN *Form of Process* 133 And siclike upon the .. Day..foresaid, I passed to the Market-cross. 1888 *Scot. Serm.* in *Brit. Workman* May, An' siclyke it is wi' the Heavenly Word.

Sicomancy: see SYCOMANCY.

Sicomer, -our, obs. forms of SYCAMORE.

Siconye, variant of CICON(I)E *Obs.*

Sicory, obs. form of CHICORY.

Sicsac, variant of ZIGZAG.

Sictuate, obs. form of SITUATE.

Siculo- (si·kiu|lo), used as combining form of L. *Siculus* Sicilian, as in *Siculo-Arabian, -Moresque, -Phœnician, -Punic.*

1764 *Phil. Trans.* LIV. 405 This character on one of the Siculo-Punic medals. 1770 *Ibid.* LXI. 96 The ancient Siculo-Punic, and Siculo-Phœnician, characters. 1884 *Encycl. Brit.* XVII. 639 The true Siculo-Punic coins, that is, those actually struck by the Carthaginians in Sicily.

Sid. *Sc.* [app. a var. of SEED *sb.*, but the pron. (sid) is not used in Sc. in the usual senses of that word.] An inner husk of grain detached from the kernel in grinding. Usu. in *pl.*

1673 *Justiciary Rec.* (S.H.S.) II. 166 [He] called for a lippie of Sidds to his Dogs. 1801 *Farmer's Mag.* Apr. 215 After grinding the sharps, I..sifted them with a common meal sieve; they produced 7 pecks of meal and 1 peck of sids. 1865 *Blue Bk., Dock & Victualling Yard Expend.* 59 Offal Stores. These consist..of sids, husks, and dust, arising from the conversion of oats into oatmeal.

‖ **Sida** (sai·dă) *Bot.* [mod.L., ad. Gr. *σίδη* some water-plant.] A genus of malvaceous plants of a woolly or downy character, indigenous to warm climates; a plant of this genus, esp. *Sida rhombifolia* or Queensland hemp. Also *Sida-weed.*

1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl., *Sida*, in botany, the name of a genus of plants, constituted by Linnæus [etc.]. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XVII. 461/1 This description belongs chiefly to the sida; but it will also apply to the malva crispa. 1819 *Pantologia* X. s.v., The following species are propagated.. Rhomb-leaved sida. .. Great bindweed-leaved sida [etc.]. 1887 MOLONEY *Forestry W. Afr.* 192 While belonging with jute to the lower grade of textile fibres, *Sida* is much to be preferred. 1889 MAIDEN *Useful Plants* 139 *Sida rhombifolia*,..'Common Sida Weed,' 'Queensland Hemp'.

Sidar, obs. variant of CIDER.

†Sidder, *v. Sc. Obs.*-1 (Meaning obscure.)

c 1560 A. SCOTT *Poems* (S.T.S.) ii. 62 Strangmen of armes and of micht Wer sett thame for to sidder.

Sidder, variant of SIDDOW.

Si·ddle, *sb. north. dial.* [Of obscure origin.] Downward slope; dip (of a coal-seam).

1831 GREENWELL *Coal-trade Terms, Northumb. & Durh.* 47 *Siddle*, the inclination of a seam of coal. 1894 HESLOP *Northumb. Gloss.* s.v., The general direction of the strips in open-field tillage lands was regulated by the siddle of the ground.

Hence **Si·ddle** *v.*, to slope downward, to dip.

1894 HESLOP *Northumb. Gloss.* s.v., Just ayont, the seam o' coal begins to siddle.

Si·ddow, si·dder, *a.* Now *dial.* Forms: *a.* 7 sydowe, siddowe, 8– siddow (9 seedow), 8–9 sidda. *β.* 8 sidore, 9 sidder (cidder). [Of obscure origin.] Soft, tender, mellow.

Current in W. Midland counties, chiefly of peas, grain, or other vegetables. It is doubtful whether Grose is right in giving the word as a sb. and vb.

1602 MARSTON *Antonio's Rev.* IV. iii, Finde they a chinke, they'l wriggle in and in, And eat like salt sea in his siddowe ribs. 1622 W. BURTON *Descr. Leicest.* 174 Long agoe it [Lindley] hath had the praise for good sydowe pease (as they tearm them). 1721 MORTIMER *Husb.* I. 66 Sandy Land marled will bear good Sidore, or white or blue Pease, and also Turneps. 1787 GROSE *Prov. Gloss.*, *Sidda*, pease or vegetables that boil soft. These pease will sidda. 1789 W. H. MARSHALL *Glouc.* I. 331 Peas, which become soft by boiling, are said to be 'siddow', a well sounding term, which is much wanting in other districts. 1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss.*, *Sidder*, a term applied to malting barley. A shower of rain on barley, after it is cut, is said.. to make it sidder, i. e. promote its growth in the cistern and make it work better. 1881 *Leicestersh. Gloss.*, *Sidder*, light; loose; friable; mealy: applied to soil that breaks up readily, peas that boil to a flour, yeast dumplings that are properly swelled, &c.

Side (sәid), *sb.*1 Forms: 1– side (1 siide, 3 siče, 4 sijde, zide), 4–5 sid (4 said); 2–6 syde (4 syide, zyde, 5 syede, cyyde, 9 *dial.* seyde), 5–7 syd (5 syyd). [Common Teut.: OE. *síde*, = OFris. (and mod.Fris.) *side*, MDu. *side, zide* (Du. *zijde*) and *sie, syē* (Du. *zij*), OS. *síde* (MLG. *side*), OHG. *sîta* (MHG. *site*, G. *seite*), ON. and Icel. *síða* (MSw. *sida, sidha*, Sw. and Norw. *sida*, Da. *side*); not recorded in Gothic. Perhaps connected with SIDE *a.*, and originally denoting the long part or aspect of a thing.

The form *sîde* in *Gen. & Ex.* 1295 is prob. ad. ON. *síða.*]

I. 1. Either of the two lateral surfaces or parts of the trunk in persons or animals, extending between the shoulders and the hips; the corresponding part in fishes, reptiles, etc.

c 725 *Corpus Gloss.* L 328 *Lumbus*, side. *c* 900 tr. *Bæda's Hist.* III. vii. [ix.] (1890) 178 His hors..ongon wealwian, & on æghwæðre siidan hit ȝelomlicę oferwearp. *c* 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* John xix. 34 An ðara cempa miđ spere sidu his untynde. *c* 1000 ÆLFRIC *Gen.* ii. 21 þa ȝenam he an ribb of his sidan. *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 147 Weren his side mid speres orde iopened. *c* 1200 ORMIN 4777 Sbulldre, & bacc, & side, & halls, & hæfedd. *c* 1275 *Sinners Beware* 266 in *O. E. Misc.*, þer cumeþ god myd his rode, His honde and his syde al a blode. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 627 Vte of his side.. Wit-oten sare a rib he tok. 1300 GOWER *Conf.* I. 40 Whan the sharpnesse of the spore The horse side smit to sore. *c* 1420 LYDG. *Assembly of Gods* 349 She weryd ii bokelers, oon by her syde. 1486 *Bk. St. Albans* e iij b, With the hede, With the shulderis and the sides. *c* 1530 LD. BERNERS *Arth. Lyt. Brvt.* 339 Syr, there is two ribbes broken in sir Rowlandes syde. 1592 SHAKS. *Ven. & Ad.* 625 His brawny sides, with hairy bristles arm'd. 1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* 342 Were this true, it would autoptically silence that dispute out of which side Eve was framed. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* III. 344 Their Dewlaps and their Sides are bath'd in Gore. 1743 BULKELEY & CUMMINS *Voy. S. Seas* 145 Down his Sides, and all the Belly Part, is white Wool. 1782 MISS BURNEY *Cecilia* v. xii, With a look that implied 'I'll fit you for this!' [he] put his hands to his sides. 1824 MRS. CAMERON *Pink Tippet* I. 7 Esther Jones was now come out at the door, her arms were on her side. 1879 BROWNING *Halbert & Hob* 30 At once did [he]..Drop chin to breast, drop hands to sides.

fig. 1605 SHAKS. *Macb.* I. vii. 26, I haue no Spurre To pricke the sides of my intent. 1620 T. PEYTON *Glasse of Time* 62 The earth henceforth shall now no more endure Vnlesse thou till, and much her sides manure. 1738 tr. *Guazzo's Art Convers.* 159 Evil Princes have evil sides; that is, bad Counsellors.

†**b.** Used with reference to generation or birth. (Cf. LOIN *sb.* 2 b.) *Obs.*

a 900 *O. E. Martyrol.* 26 June 106 Hiȝ wæron acennede of Constantines sidan,..þæt ys of ȝestreonde. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 348 Now has þou, woman, .. with-in þi twa sydis Consayued him. *c* 1485 *Digby Myst.* (1882) III. 1758 Þe chyld þat be-twyx my sydes lay. 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* lxxxvi. 25 Thy blyssit sydis bair the campioun. 1634 MILTON *Comus* 1009 From her fair unspotted side Two blissful twins are to be born. 1817 SHELLEY *Rev. Islam* Ded. ix, From thy side two gentle babes are born.

c. In phrases denoting the effect of exertion in speaking (after L. *latera*), or boisterous mirth.

(*a*) 1604 HIERON *Wks.* I. 485 O master preacher!..Spare your sides. I am well enough. 1621 SANDERSON *Serm.* I. 215 Having thus dispatched my message, it is now time I should spare both your ears, and my own sides. *a* 1626 BP. ANDREWES 96 *Serm.* XIX. (1661) 394 It confirmed them: it gave them sides, and strength.

(*b*) 1611 SHAKS. *Cymb.* I. vi. 69 The iolly Britaine..laughes from 's free lungs: cries, oh, Can my sides hold, to think [etc.]. 1632 MILTON *L'Allegro* 32 Sport that wrincled Care derides, And Laughter holding both his sides. 1687 T. BROWN *Saints in Uproar* Wks. 1730 I. 80 You'd break a man's sides with laughing. 1781 COWPER *Expost.* 548 It shakes the sides of splenetic disdain. 1840 DICKENS *Old C. Shop* li, Tom Scott..bade fair to split his sides with laughing.

d. In phr. *through the sides of*, denoting an indirect attack on a person or thing.

1684 BUNYAN *Holy Life* Wks. 1855 II. 527 There are many that..watch for an opportunity to speak against him, even through the sides of those that profess him. 1699 M. HENRY *Life P. Henry* in Wordsw. *Eccl. Biogr.* (1818) VI. 268 That the name of God..be not blasphemed, nor religion wounded through their sides. 1791 BOSWELL *Johnson* an. 1768, About this time Dr. Kenrick attacked him, through my sides, in a pamphlet. 1801 STRUTT *Sports & Past.* Introd. § 33 The other party, who..were not sparing in their severity, but wounded the ordinance itself through the sides of its defender.

2. In phrases denoting close proximity to a person (properly to one hand or the other), as *by one's side.*

a 825 *Vesp. Psalter* xc. 7 Fallaþ from sidan ðire ðusend & ten ðusend. 971 *Blickl. Hom.* 43 Naht feor from þæs mæssepreostes sidan. *c* 1205 LAY. 25756 Arður eode abute, & his cnihtes bi his siden. *c* 1300 *Havelok* 371 Knictes an sweynes bi here siden. 1593 SHAKS. *Rich. II*, III. ii. 80 All Soules that will be safe, flye from my side. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* XI. 176 Let us forth, I never from thy side henceforth to stray. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* IV. 680 Th' Infernal Troops.. list'ning, crowd the sweet Musician's side. 1749 GRAY *Installat. Ode* 34 With Freedom by my side, and soft-eyed Melancholy. 1784 COWPER *Task* VI. 40 Allur'd By ev'ry gilded folly, we renounc'd His shelt'ring side. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* XXXII, She passed five hours by her friend's side. 1859 TENNYSON *Geraint & Enid* 14 Not at my side. I charge thee ride before.

b. *Side by* (†*for*, †*to*) *side*, close together and abreast of each other. In later use also of things, and freq. const. *with*. Hence *side-by-sideness*.

c 1205 LAY. 19824 Þa duȝeðe..hine þer bureden bi leofen his broðer; side bi side beȝene heo þer ligged. 13.. *Cursor M.* 1786 (Gött.), Thinc no man ferli þat þar suam Side bi side, bath wolf and man. *c* 1450 in Aungier *Syon* (1840) 347 So that the syngers sytte togyder syde to syde. 1529 in *Proc. Berw. Nat. Club* II. 63 *note*, Their plouche is drawen be foure beastis going syde for syde. 1614 J. KING *Vitis Palatina* 30 They that walk side to side, and cheeke to cheeke, walke as companions. 1637 RUTHERFORD *Lett.* (1862) I. clxxxviii. 463 That proud thing, myself, will not play, except it ride up side for side with Christ. 1686 tr. *Chardin's Trav. Persia* 88 They rank themselves, either in a circle, or side by side. 1749 FIELDING *Tom Jones* IV. viii, The sculls lay side by side. 1810 SCOTT *Lady of L.* I. xii, Fox-glove and night-shade, side by side. 1850 TENNYSON *In Mem.* cxiv, A higher hand must..guide Her footsteps, moving side by side With wisdom.

Comb. 1865 J. GROTE *Explor. Philos.* I. 166, I suppose co-existence in space means proximity, side-by-sideness—equally exclusive of occupation of the same space or of a remote one.

3. One of the lateral halves of the body of an animal, or the part about the ribs, used for cooking. Now chiefly in *side of bacon*.

In the first quot. the reference is to a child.

13.. *Cursor M.* 8715 (Gött.), Wid suord it sal be delt in tua, And ether sal haue a side in hand. *c* 1430 *Two Cookery-bks.* 25 Loke þat þow haue fayre sydys of Pyggys, & fayre smal Chykenys wyl & clene skladdyd & drawe. *c* 1480 HENRYSON *Fables, Fox, Wolf, & Cadger* XXVI, It is ane syde of Salmond, as it wer. 1599 in *Antiquary* XXXII. 242 One side of baconn. 1665 PEPYS *Diary* 4 April, A great dish of side of lamb. 1727 GAY *Fables* I. XXI, They undermined whole sides of bacon. 1766 GOLDSM. *Vic. W.* V, The 'squire..sent us a side of venison. 1820 SCOTT *Monast.* xiii, The haggis and the side of mutton, with which her table was set forth. 1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* II. 167 After the carcass has hung 24 hours, it should be cut down by the back-bone, or chine, into two sides. 1897 *Daily News* 28 Sept. 8/3 The small carcases from which come the Wiltshire sides most popular with the Canadian consumer.

II. 4. One or other of the two longer (usually vertical) surfaces or aspects of an object, in contrast to the ends, or of the two receding surfaces or aspects, in contrast to the front and back.

The precise application depends to some extent on the form of the object and its position in relation to the observer.

c 825 *Vesp. Psalter* CXXVII. 3 Swe swe wintreow ȝenyhtsumiende in sidum huses ðines. *c* 897 K. ÆLFRED *Gregory's Past. C.* XXII. 169 Twegan stengas..sting ut ðurh ða hringas bi ðære earce sidan. *c* 1340 *Nominale* (Skeat) 878 *A coustes, claies, et roulous*, Be sydes, hirdeles, and cartesoulis. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* XV. 28 Cum we than on thame at a syde. 1382 WYCLIF *Exod.* XXXVII. 5 The whiche he putte into the rynges that weren in the sides of the arke. 1542 UDALL *Erasm. Apoph.* 132 b, When menne dooe mocke any bodye thei wagge their handes up & down by their eares at the sydes of their hedde. 1581 in Feuillerat *Revels Q. Eliz.* (1908) 345 Castell with ye falling sydes. Tree with shydes. 1628 P. SMART *Vanitie Popish Cerem.* 33, I trow there are but two sides of a long table, and two ends. 1654–66 EARL ORRERY *Parthen.* (1676) 520 The credulous Nymph..concealed a Lamp by her Beds side. 1726 LEONI *Alberti's Archit.* I. 71/2 He..fastened these Beams..each with two braces..bound round and fastened of opposite sides. 1794 T. DAVIS *Agric. Wilts.* 69 They seldom use any overlays or outriggers, either at the ends or sides [of a waggon]. 1847 W. C. L. MARTIN *The Ox* 138/1 The sides of the tongue become gangrenous. 1857 T. MOORE *Handbk. Brit. Ferns* (ed. 3) 18 A harder layer,..with thick dotted sides. 1886 BARING-GOULD *Court Royal* I. iii. 37 My boots are scat at the sides.

b. One or other of the bounding lines or surfaces of any right-lined figure or object.

a 1400–50 *Alexander* 2215 All þe sidis of þe cite þat sechus had biggid. 1495 *Trevisa's Barth. De P. R.* (W. de W.) III. xvii, A rounde shape hathe noo sydes wt corners. 1551 ROBINSON tr. *More's Utopia* II. (1895) 120 Neuer a one of them all hath of anye syde lesse then xx. myles of grounde, and of som syde also muche more. 1570 BILLINGSLEY *Euclid* I. prop. 21. 31 Not euery figure hauing three angles hath also onely three sides. 1628 P. SMART *Vanitie Popish Cerem.* 33 Make it [the table] square, and then it will haue foure sides, and no end, or foure ends and no side. 1715 tr. *Gregory's Astron.* (1726) I. 353 Again, in the Triangle *M P N*, the Sides *P M*, *P N* being given,..the base *M N* is found. 1774 M. MACKENZIE *Maritime Surv.* 2 Having two Sides and an Angle opposite to one of them, to find another Angle. 1830 HERSCHEL *Study Nat. Phil.* 254 A ray of light after its emergence from such a crystal acquires sides. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* lxvi, A large window, with three sides of glass. 1863 E. V. NEALE *Anal. Th. & Nat.* 135 The relations of the sides of each triangle to each other..are the effects of its triangular form.

fig. 1857 GEO. ELIOT *Ess.* (1884) 69 On its theoretic and perceptive side, Morality touches Science; on its emotional side, poetic Art.

c. In a rounded, cylindrical, or spherical object, a part of the surface having a particular aspect.

c 1055 *Byrhtferth's Handboc* in *Anglia* VIII. 319 Æfre byð on sumere sidan þære eorðan dæȝ. 1602 SHAKS. *Ham.* I. i. 85 Our Valiant Hamlet (For so this side of our knowne world esteem'd him). 1667 MILTON *P. L.* III. 722 Look downward on that Globe whose hither side With light from hence, though but reflected, shines. 1747 GRAY *Cat* 1 'Twas on a lofty vase's side. 1788 COWPER *Mischievous Bull* 7 Wood-peckers explore the sides Of rugged oaks for worms. 1826 *Art of Brewing* (ed. 2) 141 [Apples] with a tinge of red streaks on the sunny side. 1868 LOCKYER *Elem. Astron.* § 214 Hence we only see one side of our satellite [the moon].

d. *Math.* (See quots.)

(*a*) 1660–1706 [see ROOT *sb.*[1] 14 a]. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl. s.v.*, Side of a Power, is what we otherwise call the Root, or Radix. 1841 *Penny Cycl.* XXI. 490/2 The same geometrical analogies by which a number multiplied by itself was called a *square*, procured for the number itself the name of *side*.

(*b*) 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.*, *Side of a Polygonal Number*, is the Number of the Terms of the Arithmetical Progression, that are summed up. 1795 HUTTON *Math. Dict. s.v. Polygonal Numbers*, The *Side* of a Polygonal number is the number of points in each side of the Polygonal figure when the points in the number are ranged in that form.

e. *Mining.* (See quots.)

1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 981 A compartment, or pannel, formed in working the coal, is called a side of work. 1867 W. W. SMYTH *Coal & Coal-mining* 136 From this latter the main workings, called *sides of work*, are opened in the form of a square or parallelogram.

5. That part of the framework of a ship or boat extending from stem to stern between the gunwale and the main-wale or the water-line.

c 1000 ÆLFRIC *Gen.* vi. 16 Duru þu setst be þære sidan wið neoðan and þu macast þreo fleringa binnan þam arce. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 1670 Quen þi timber es festend wele þou wind þe sides ilk dele. 1530 PALSGR. 270/1 Syde of a bote, *bort.* 1596 SHAKS. *Merch. V.* I. i. 32 Dangerous rocks, Which touching but my gentle Vessels side Would scatter all her spices on the streame. *c* 1614 SIR W. MURE *Dido & Æneas* I. 273 The tumbling billowes fast her syddes assaill. 1705 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4093/1 A French Man of War .. came within Musket-shot along her side. 1795 NELSON 7 Feb. in Nicolas *Disp.* (1845) II. 5 The Ships built at Toulon have their sides, beams, decks, and straight timbers from this Island. 1839 R. S. ROBINSON *Naut. Steam Eng.* 61 Great care is taken in fitting the pipes through the ship's sides. 1889 WELCH *Text Bk. Naval Archit.* 104 On the stronger sides of recent first-class battle ships..the combined thickness of this plating is 2¼ inches.

6. a. The slope of a hill or bank, especially one extending for a considerable distance. (Cf. BANK-, HILL-, MOUNTAIN-SIDE.)

c 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 1295 Men seiȝ ðat dune-is siðen on Was mad temple salamon. 1382 WYCLIF 2 *Sam.* xiii. 34 Myche puple cam bi the out weye fro the side of the hil. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 5863 Hym list for to rest, And bowet fro the batell to þe bonke side. 1553 T. WILSON *Rhet.* (1580) 176 The side of a bancke. 1634 MILTON *Comus* 295 Under a green mantling vine That crawls along the side of yon small hill. 1667 — *P. L.* I. 232 A Hill Torn from Pelorus, or the shatter'd side Of thundring Ætna. 1757 GRAY *Bard* II Down the steep of Snowdon's shaggy side. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) I. 150 It is still overlooked by tremendous mountains; their sides covered with snow. 1811 PINKERTON *Mod. Geogr.* (ed. 3) 303 The eruptions rarely attain the summit [of Etna], but more usually break out at the sides.

b. The outskirts of a wood, town, etc. ? *Obs.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 5734 þe flok he fedd opon a tid, Bi a wildrin wod side. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Wife's T.* 133 In his way, it hapnyd him to ride..under a forest side. *c* 1430 LYDG. *Min. Poems* (Percy Soc.) 228 By a wylde wodes syde As I walked myself alone. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Edw. IV*, 12 Vnder a woddes side, thei couertly espied them passe forward. 1592 SHAKS. *Rom. & Jul.* I. i. 129 Vnderneath the groue of Sycamour, That West-ward rooteth from this City side. 1640 HABINGTON *Edw. IV*, 83 The Earle labouring to escape, at a Woods side where was no passage. 1706 HEARNE *Collect.* (O. H. S.) I. 242 Next Bray-Wood side. 1750 GRAY *Elegy* 101 Him have we seen the Greenwood side along.

7. a. The bank or shore of a river or water; also, the land or district bordering on a river. (Cf. *burn-*, RIVER-, SEA-, WATER-SIDE.)

1320–30 *Horn Ch.* 54 In clifland bi tese side. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 5799 All backward [they] hom bere to þe buerne side, þat fer from þe flode might no freke wyn. 1432–50 tr. *Higden* (Rolls) I. 65 There be monye deipe places of waters nye to the sydes of the sees. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* IX. xiii. 28 Towartis the ryverris syde alaw. 1588 PARKE tr. *Mendoza's Hist. China* 313 If they chance to finde a man in the waters side he wil eate him all. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* III. 230 Let 'em..Range the Forrest, by the Silver side Of some cool Stream. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) IV. 160 The place of meeting..is always by the side of some lake or river. 1810 SCOTT *Lady of Lake* I. xxiii, As her light skiff approach'd the side. 1836 *Penny Cycl.* VI. 317/1 Carrickfergus..situated on the W. shore or Antrim side of Belfast Loch.

b. A surface serving to enclose or bound a space or hollow.

1474 *Coventry Leet Bk*, 389 þat the dryver of the Bochours Carre..throwe his intrelles and oþer stuffe..in myddes of þe pitte & not be þe sides. 1577 B. GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* IV. (1586) 173 In the bankes and sides of these Ponds, you must have Bushes and Creeke holes. 1611 BIBLE 1 *Sam.* XXIV. 3 Dauid and his men remained in the sides of the caue. 1702 *Milit. & Sea Dict.* s.v., Sides of Horn-works.. and such-like Out-works..are the Ramparts and Parapets that enclose them on the Right and Left from the Gorge to the Head. 1797 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Italian* VI, Three sides of this were enclosed by lofty buildings lined with ranges of cloisters. 1857 MILLER *Elem. Chem., Org.* VI. § 2 (1862) 475 A mirror-like coating of reduced silver is formed on the sides of the vessel. 1868 TENNYSON *Lucretius* 253 The very sides of the grave itself shall pass. 1878 T. HARDY *Ret. Native* V. ix, The sides of the pool were of masonry, to prevent the water from washing away the bank.

8. One or other of the two surfaces of a thing having little or no appreciable thickness; also, the outer or inner surface or aspect of a thing.

See also *right* and *wrong side* under these adjs., and cf. the combs. INSIDE, OUTSIDE.

1382 WYCLIF *Exod.* XXXII. 15 Berynge in hoond two tablis of testymonye wrytun on eithir side. 1562 J. HEYWOOD *Prov. & Epigr.* (1867) 71, I know on which syde my bread is buttred. 1588 SHAKS. *L. L. L.* V. ii. 8 A sheet of paper Writ on both sides the leafe. 1604 — *Oth.* IV. ii. 146 Some such Squire he was That turn'd your wit, the seamy-side without. 1711 SWIFT *Jrnl. to Stella* 22 Nov., I'll say no more on this side the paper. 1826 KIRBY & SPENCE *Entom.* III. 529 *note*, They are gratified to see that M. Latreille has adopted this term in the work quoted on the other side. 1895 *Bookman* Oct. 12/1 A small volume of some forty-seven pages, printed on one side only. 1899 RAYMOND *No Soul above Money* iii, He knew both sides of a penny, for all he looked so daft.

b. *spec.* (See quot.)

1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2172/1 *Side*,..the surface on the right or dressed side of cloth.

9. a. A page of a book or writing. *Obs.* or *arch.*

1530 PALSGR. 270/1 Syde of a boke that is written, *pagee.* 1579 W. FULKE *Heskins's Parl.* 241 He rehearseth halfe a side of M. Iewels wordes. 1634 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* 141, I will adde one side concerning Paradice, and then will goe on without digression. 1676 MARVELL *Mr. Smirke* 14 One of his sides in *Quarto*, for Falshood, Insolence, and Absurdity contains a Book in *Folio*. 1742 RICHARDSON *Pamela* III. 104 We thought you should have written a side upon that Subject at least. 1826 LAMB *Pop. Fallacies* ix, A man might blur ten sides of paper in attempting a defence of it.

b. *Tanning.* (See quot. 1885.)

1763 *Ann. Reg.* 92 Georgia..exports: 1602 sides of tanned leather. 1852 C. MORFIT *Tanning & Currying* (1853) 23 The number of sides of sole leather inspected during the last five years. 1885 *Harper's Mag.* Jan. 274/2 After soaking, the hides are..cut through the middle of the back to separate them into 'sides'.

10. An aspect or view of something immaterial.

c 1449 PECOCK *Repr.* v. vi. 514 If thilk gouernaunce be.. profitable to him in othere goostli sidis. 1657 OWEN *Saints' Persev.* XV. Wks. 1851 XI. 539 It being the will of God to give us, as to his [David's] fall, his dark side and his sin to the full. 1840 THIRLWALL *Greece* lvii. VII. 263 The future was not without its bright side. 1858 CARLYLE *Fredk. Gt.* VIII. v. (1872) III. 44 His first aim is to find-out the ridiculous side of everyone. 1891 E. PEACOCK *N. Brendon* I. 139 The better side of his vulgar nature came out.

III. 11. Place or direction with reference to some central point; a point of the compass. (Cf. NORTH-, SOUTH-SIDE.) Also *fig.* (quot. 1838).

c 825 *Vesp. Psalter* xlvii. 3 On sidan norðaeles [is] cestre cyninges ðes miclan. *c* 1205 LAY. 21774 þer walleð of þan mæren a moniare siden..sixti wateres. *c* 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 124 So þat respit was þar-of I-nome, and ech wende in his side. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 5021 Bot þi sire soile in na side see sall þou neuire. *c* 1420 *Sir Amadace* (Camden) xxxix, On summe side wille hit falle. Sum curtas mon ȝette may he fynde. 1648 MILTON *Ps.* lxxx. 45 Her branches on the western side Down to the Sea she sent. 1697 DAMPIER *Voy.* 467 A Fire, with a few Boughs before it, set up on that side the wind was of. 1777 WATSON *Philip II* (1839) 497 He found it necessary to approach the town on that side, on which there lay a wood or forest. 1784 COWPER *Task* V. 150 Lamps gracefully dispos'd, and of all hues, Illumin'd ev'ry side. 1838 MACAULAY in Trevelyan (1876) II. vii. 9 On that side he multiplied his precautions, and set double watch.

b. In phrases *on* (†*of*) *each* or *every side*, *on all sides*.

c 1205 LAY. 621 His ferde he sette on ælchere siden. 1382 WYCLIF *Luke* XIX. 43 Thei schulen make thee streyt on alle sydis. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 16 Tobroke is Cristes folde, Wherof the flock..Devoured is on every side. 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 365/1 On evyrysyde, *undique, circumquaque.* 1513 BRADSHAW *St. Werburge* II. 1060 Coũnyng surgeans were sought vpon euery syde. 1582 STANYHURST *Æneis* II. (Arb.) 53 Troytowne is fired of al sydes. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* I. 178 A most pleasant valley, compassed on all sides with mountaines. 1681 DRYDEN *Abs. & Achit.* 689 On each side bowing popularly low. 1686 tr. *Chardin's Coronat. Solyman* 38 Thus the Apartment is open of all sides. 1711 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 110 ¶ 2 The Ruins of the Abby are scattered up and down on every Side. 1831 SCOTT *Cf. Rob.* viii, Thanks to Heaven were returned on all sides.

12. One or other direction to either hand of an object, space, or imaginary line; the position, space, or area implied in this. †*Of a side*, on each side.

c 1000 ÆLFRIC *Hom.* I. 454 Þeos ðridde India hæfð on anre sidan þeostru, and on oðere ðone grimlican garsecg. *a* 1340– [see RIGHT† *a.* 20]. 1382 WYCLIF *Ezek.* xli. 19 A face of man..of this syde, and a face of lyoun..on the tother syde. *c* 1450 *Contin. Brut* II. 571 They stode on þe lifte syde; and al þat abode within the toun stode on þe right syde. 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* xlvi. 12 Vndir this brench ran doun a revir bricht..Quhair did, vpone the tothair syd, persew A nychtingall. 1613 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* (1614) 51 Taurus divideth it in the middest: On the North side is that which is called Asia interior. 1644 DIGBY *Nat. Bodies* xxxi. § 1, The strength..of the two lights..on this side, and on that side the point of concurse. 1678 BUNYAN *Pilgr.* I. (1900) 144 Upon the bank of the River, on the other Side, they saw the two shining men again. 1701 FARQUHAR *Sir H. Wildair* I. i, The pinners are double ruffled with twelve plaits of a side. 1746 FRANCIS tr. *Horace, Epist.* I. xvii. 73 He, who hears him, chaunts on t'other Side, With me your Bounty, ah! with me divide. 1781 COWPER *Hope* 374 Suppose the beam should dip on the wrong side. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 458/1 The American car has a gangway lengthwise of the car, the seats on each side reversible. *fig.* 1641 in *Buccleuch MSS.* (Hist. MSS. Comm.) I. 288, I know he is fast riveted on that side, if the Commons give him not a jostle. 1722 DE FOE *Plague* (1754) 16 But I had a farther Obligation laid on me on the same Side. 1819 SHELLEY *Peter Bell 3rd* Prol. 25 He who has O'er the grave been forced to pass To the other side.

b. In phrases *on* (†*of*) *either* or *each side*, *on both sides*.

c 1205 LAY. 27242 þa sænde heo a ba siden al þa men auoten. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 6263 þe see on aiþer side þam stod Als walles tua, quils þai for yod. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 1520 He..sanimes þaim on aithire side with silken rapis. *c* 1480 *Little Child. Bk.* 66 in *Babees Bk.* 20 Whan þou etyst, gape not to wyde That þi mouth be sene on yche a syde. 1633 P. FLETCHER *Purple Isl.* II. xxx, At that cave's mouth,

twice sixteen porters stand,..Of each side foure [etc.]. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* II. 649 Before the Gates there sat On either side a formidable shape. 1823 SOUTHEY *Penins. War* I. 415 The altars on either side had their respective relics. 1867 W. L. NEWMAN in *Quest. Reformed Parl.* 79 The mountain backbone,..from which the streams flow down on either side.

13. The space lying to either hand *of*, or in any direction from, a specified place, point, etc.

For fig. uses see also RIGHT *a.* 10 d and WRONG *a.*

1382 WYCLIF *Rev.* xxii. 2 In the mydle of the street of it, and on ech sijde of the flood [was] the tree of lijf. *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (1839) xxii. 234 And at o syde of the Emperours Table, sitten many Philosofres. 1462 *Cal. Anc. Rec. Dublin* (1889) 314 The gardeyn that ys on the north syd of the yat. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VIII*, 73 On the other hand or syde of the gate was set a pyller. 1593 SHAKS. 2 *Hen. VI*, II. i. 43 On the East side of the Groue. 1606 — *Ant. & Cl.* III. ix. 1 Set we our Squadrons on yond side o' th' Hill. 1671 MILTON *P. R.* IV. 33 A river, of whose banks On each side an Imperial City stood, 1782 COWPER *Gilpin* 138 And there he threw the wash about On both sides of the way. 1857 MILLER *Elem. Chem., Org.* I. § 3 (1862) 59 Oxidizing actions are in constant operation unperceived on every side of us. 1871 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* (1876) IV. 74 Of him we have heard in two widely different characters on different sides of the sea.

fig. 1599 SHAKS. *Much Ado* II. i. 327 [My heart] keepes on the windy side of Care. 1828 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* ix, She's not to be forgotten on this side of time. 1891 E. PEACOCK *N. Brendon* I. 8 She was on the less enviable side of fifty.

b. Const. without *of*, in such phrases as *on this, that, the other, side* (a place).

1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 5415 Þe devels on ilk syde þam sal stande. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 1200 All þe bestaill.. Þat he mist se on any syde þe cite of Gadirs. 1432 *Rolls of Parlt.* IV. 410 No place elles where on þat syde þe See. 1523 LD. BERNERS *Froiss.* I. lxxxvi. 110 Than sir Aymery drewe his people alonge on the dykes within the barryers, and the archers redy on bothe sydes the way. 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 188 b, Thre dayes Jorney on this syde Venise. 1651 R. CHILD in *Hartlib's Legacy* (1655) 23 Vines grow threescore miles on this side Paris. 1673 *Essex Papers* (Camden) I. 53 Since you are on that side ye water. 1749 FIELDING *Tom Jones* VIII. xiii, On the other side the willows. 1771 GOLDSM. *Hist. Eng.* I. 339 The provinces were laid waste on each side his passage. 1827 SOUTHEY in *Corr. w. C. Bowles* (1881) 117 Had you been as much on this side London as you are beyond it, you might easily have met us there! 1887 LOWELL *Democracy* 46 This outburst of feeling on both sides the sea.

fig. 1676 WALTON *Angler* (ed. 5) xxi, There be as many miseries beyond riches, as on this side them. 1710 R. WARD *Life H. More* 234 There is nothing absolutely or completely Perfect on this Side Heaven. 1711 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 40 ¶ 1 Good and Evil happen alike to all Men on this side the Grave. 1868 BROWNING *Ring & Bk.* VI. 143 That's all we may expect of man, this side The grave.

c. *On this side (of)*, before (a specified date).

1436 HEN. VI in *Hist. MSS. Comm., Var. Coll.* IV. 198 He that calleth hym Duc of Burgeyne disposyth hym..on this side Estre nyxt to lay assege to oure toun of Caleys. 1472–3 *Rolls of Parlt.* VI. 4/2 The seid x^th part to be assessed..a this syde the morn of the fest of the Purification. 1530–1 *Act 22 Hen. VIII*, c. 12 The seales aboue rehersed, shall bee made..on this syde the feast of the Natiuitie of sayncte John Baptist nexte commynge. 1771 T. HULL *Sir W. Harrington* (1797) IV. 235 But all, I fear, wont be completed on this side Christmas. 1874 T. HARDY *Far fr. Mad. Crowd* lvii, He's not at hand, and won't be this side of eleven o'clock.

d. *On this side (of)*, short of.

c 1449 PECOCK *Repr.* I. xiv. 78 The other is openest in suerte of likelihode or of probabilite a this side suerte. 1647 H. MORE *Poems* Pref., [He] hath attempted bravely, but yet methinks on this side of Mathematicall evidence. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* II. 101 We are at worst On this side nothing.

14. †**a.** *On side*, to one side, aside. *Obs.*

1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* XI. 344 On athir hand The tothir battalis suld be gangand Behynd, on syde a litell space. 1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. XVII. 57 Feith had first sitte of hym, ac he flegh on syde. *c* 1400 *Laud Troy Bk.* 5848 Ector wiste him hurt he feled, He rod on-syde and him keled. *c* 1475 HENRYSON *Abbay Walk* 5 On caiss I kest on syd myne e, and saw þis writtin vpoun a wall. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VI*, 101 This battayl was sore foughten, for hope of life was set on side on euery parte. 1579 TOMSON *Calvin's Serm. Tim.* 350/2 What shall it auaile vs to start on side from the rule which hee hath giuen vs?

b. In various phrases denoting position, movement, or inclination away from a central line or point. Also *fig.*

1586 A. DAY *Eng. Secretary* I. (1625) 23 Stately trees (some tops whereof the wind seemeth to wreath and turne at one side). 1588 *Marprel. Epist.* (Arb.) 43 Put your corner cap a litle nere a toe side. 1611 SHAKS. *Wint. T.* III. iii. 20 To me comes a creature, Sometimes her head on one side, some another. *a* 1688 BUNYAN *Israel's Hope Encouraged* Wks. 1855 I. 600 It would be too great a step to a side to treat of all those mercies. 1712 J. JAMES tr. *Le Blond's Gardening* 169 The middle Shoot..is found.. to lean of one Side a little. 1782 *A. Monro's Compar. Anat.* (ed. 3) 126 From each side..a bony bridge is produced backwards, and to a side. 1820 SHELLEY *Œd. Tyr.* II. ii. 76 Your Majesty In such a filthy business had better Stand on one side. 1827 CARLYLE *Germ. Rom.* II. 162 Happening sometime after to be standing with him by a side at the window. 1887 *Contemp. Rev.* Jan. 64 It must..be understood that I place his private character entirely to one side.

c. *elliptical.* A side-dish, entrée.

1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* xlii, If those sides, or *entrys*, as she calls 'em, were'nt served yesterday, I'm d—d.

d. *Billiards.* Direction given to a ball by striking it at a point not directly in the middle.

1873 BENNETT & CAVENDISH *Billiards* 125 In putting on side, all that has to be done is to strike the ball on the side instead of in the middle. 1901 *Q. Rev.* Apr. 483 The mysteries of 'side' began to perplex players.

15. A part *of* a place or thing lying in one or other direction from a centre or median line. Also without *of*.

1428 *E. E. Wills* 81 To the wherk of the Ill of the toon side of the Cloistere in the Chirchehawe. *c* 1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 883 To þe este syde in england, Of þis prouynce þou ert ordaynd. 1537 LAYTON in *Lett. Suppress. Monasteries* (Camden) 156 To ryde downe one syde [of the country] and to cum up the other. 1607 SHAKS. *Cor.* I. i. 48 The other side a'th City is risen: why stay we prating heere? 1686 BURNET *Trav.* III. (1750) 160 There are whole Sides of Streets without Inhabitants. 1706 E. WARD *Wooden World Diss.* (1708) 43 To keep his Grinders from mouldering..he supplies both Sides with Grists at once. 1707 CHAMBERLAYNE *Pres. St. Gt. Brit.* III. xi. 386 One Side of it [a school] stands upon great Stone Pillars, in a large Court. 1834 K. H. DIGBY *Mores Cath.* V. v. 134 It was the custom..for the men to be placed on one side of the church and the women on the other. 1886 PASCOE *Lond. of To-day* xl. (ed. 3) 342 This side, on an afternoon in the season, is a place where fashionable ladies meet half their fashionable acquaintance.

fig. 1562 J. HEYWOOD *Prov. & Epigr.* (1867) 74 Than were ye deafe, ye could not here on that syde. 1780 COWPER *Progr. Err.* 549 He has no hearing on the prudent side.

b. A region, district, or the inhabitants of this. Cf. COUNTRY-SIDE.

a 1400–50 *Alexander* 2115 All þe citis of þa sidis he sesis þam clene. *Ibid.* 3867. *c* 1410 *Sir Cleges* 87 He dwellyd be Kardyfe syde. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VIII*, 35 The next daye..the forward passed a bridge..into Flaunders syde & there lay. *a* 1623 BUCK *Rich. III*, I. (1646) 8 In Cumberland.., where he much resided,..all that Northerne side generally honouring..his Deportment. 1664 in Dircks *Life Marq. Worc.* (1865) xviii. 329 Not only at Gloucester Side, but all the way to the west. 1743 W. STUKELEY *Palæogr. Sacra* 8 Rejoicing especially was the practice..at public sacrifice, which they call *Panegyres*; a meeting of a side of a county, a province. 1810 SCOTT *Lady of L.* II. xxviii, The King's vindictive pride Boasts to have tamed the Border-side. 1898 N. MUNRO *J. Splendid* xxxii, He had been set on the slip by a wherry that had approached from Cowal side.

c. A portion of a building set apart for particular persons or purposes. Also *fig.*

1340 *Ayenb.* 151 Þes yerþe is priour ine þe cloystre of þe zaule...Verst ine þe herte þet heþ tuo zides. 1482 in *Eng. Hist. Rev.* XXV. 121 The Chaunters of the Queres of the Bretherne and Systerne Sydes of Syone aforeseid. *c* 1529 in *Archaeol.* (1884) XLVII. 52 All the sayd ladyes bothe off the abbesse side and of the misericorde. 1904 GRIFFITHS *50 Yrs. Public Service* xiv. 205 The female 'side' of a prison gives more trouble to the authorities than the male.

d. *Side of bone*: (see quots.).

1820 SCORESBY *Acc. Arctic Regions* I. 456 Each series, or 'side of bone', as the whalefishers term it, consists of upwards of 300 laminæ. 1836 *Uncle Philip's Convers. Whale Fish.* 23 There are in the mouth two 'sides of bone', as the whale fishers call them.

16. The line or limit, on either side, up to which something extends.

1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 4280 His lawes sal pas and his powere Fra þe est syde til þe west, thurgh þe world here. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Edw. IV*, 233 b, The grate, which extended from the one syde of the bridge, even directly to the other. *c* 1655 MILTON *Sonn.* xxii. 12 My noble task, Of which all Europe talks from side to side. 1833 TENNYSON *Lady of Shalott* III. 43 The mirror crack'd from side to side. 1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* I. vii. 54, I followed the veins several times from side to side.

IV. 17. Used to denote the action, attitude, etc., of one person, or a set of persons, in relation to another or others.

c 1250 *Owl & Night.* 429 Euerich blisse him is vnwille.. Al so þu dost on þire syde. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 3167 Þe king ek in is syde is herte up on him caste. *c* 1350 *Will. Palerne* 1463 Sad seurte was sikered on bope sides panne, þat menskful mariage to make. 1362 LANGL. *P. Pl.* A. II. 36 Alle þis Riche Retenaunce..Weoren bede to þe Bruytale on Bo two þe sydes. 1423 in *Hist. MSS. Comm., Var. Coll.* IV. 83 This endenture y made..be thyxte the Dene & the Chapetre of Exter yn the on syde & the Mayer & the Comynce of Exeter..yn the other syde. 1590 *Plain Perc.* 23, I am sure I shall not be pinchd on the parsons side. 1605 SHAKS. *Lear* v. i. 61 Hardly shall I carry out my side, Her husband being aliue. 1768 STERNE *Sent. Journ., The Riddle*, I was sorry on my side for the occasion I had given him. 1822 SCOTT *Nigel* xiv, In declaring your trust in me, you have done what is honourable to yourself,..and in no way undeserved on my side. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* lxvi, He was, on his side too, very anxious to see Mrs. Osborne. 1876 J. PARKER *Paracl.* I. x. 154 From the divine side there can be nothing sudden.

b. In phrases denoting a contrast between different views, considerations, facts, etc. (Cf. HAND *sb.* 32 i.)

c 1250 *Owl & Night.* 299 Alured seyde an oþer syde A word þat is isprunge wide. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 13038 On oþer side was hir ful wa, If sco suld part king herod fra. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 122, I..preie yow That ye wole axe on other side If [etc.]. 1538 STARKEY *England* I. iii. 70 We may..a the one syde to stretly juge..the hole mater,..or els, of the other syde [etc.]. 1581 PETTIE *Guazzo's Civ. Conv.* II. (1586) 61 But on the other side, he must not use superfluous words. 1626 BACON *Sylva* § 902 Men are to be Admonished, on the other side, that [etc.]. 1725 tr. *Dupin's Eccl. Hist. 17th C.* II. 67 As on the one side, Reason discovers it to be fit, that Man should be Immortal; so on the other side [etc.]. 1732 BERKELEY *Alciphr.* III. § 1 After a nice inquiry, and balancing on both sides.

†**c.** *In other sides*, in other respects. *Upon the side of*, with regard to. *Obs.*

c 1340 HAMPOLE *Prose Tr.* 41 Or ells we er noghte disposede by clennes of lyffynge in oþer sydis for to ressayue his grace. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 330 Mi fader, upon loves side Mi conscience I woll noght hyde.

d. One of the two alternative views which may be taken of a question, problem, argument, etc. Also *transf.* in collective sense (quot. 1812).

1597 SHAKS. *Lover's Compl.* 113 But quickly on this side the verdict went. 1711 SHAFTSB. *Charac.* II. iv. (1714) II. 305 One of those timorous Arguers..so intent in upholding their own side of the Argument. 1782 PRIESTLEY *Corrupt. Chr.* I. III. 305 Much was written on both sides of the question. 1812 L. HUNT in *Examiner* 31 Aug. 547/2 Public dinners given by any side of a question. 1884 *Times* (weekly ed.) 19 Sept. 7/3, I am sure that there are two sides to the question.

e. A division of a school devoted to a particular class of studies. (Cf. MODERN *a.* 2 e.)

1884 *Jrnl. Educ.* 1 Sept. 348/2 Modern sides have grown and flourished. *Ibid.*, Latin and Greek on the Classical side. 1890 *Spectator* 13 Dec. 860/2 Efforts to expand the 'modern side', as they call it in English public schools.

18. The position or interests of one person, party, etc., in contrast to that of an opposing one. Chiefly in phr. *on (one's) side.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 7547 Godd es euer on rightwis side, Werraiand again wrangwis pride. *c* 1380 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* I. 124 He þat is on Goddis syde, he heerip Goddis wordis. 1445 in *Anglia* XXVIII. 256 The parlement pierys..Seyen the duke of yorke hath god vpon his side. *c* 1500 *Melusine* 29 Your enemys ben not here, and knowe you, fayre sire, that I am of your party or syde? 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 442 b, Therefore thought they now, or els never, y^t God was on theyr side. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* II. 141 To the end that the Spaniards might see the meere Irish served on our side. 1668 LADY CHAWORTH in *12th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. V. 10 Mr. Ho..deserves a better fate than to be ever of the loosing side. 1714 R. FIDDES *Pract. Disc.* II. 194 The multitude..will always declare on the side of fortune. 1778 MISS BURNEY *Evelina* xxxii, He's the most impertinentest person in the world, and isn't never of my side. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* vi. II. 51 All the influence of Barillon was employed on the other side. 1894 H. DRUMMOND *Ascent Man* 434 All Nature is on the side of the man who tries to rise.

b. In phr. *to take a* (or *one's*) *side, take sides.* Also † *to hold side* (with one).

c 1489 CAXTON *Sonnes of Aymon* ix. 238 Nevertheles he came, and helde syde wyth his broder. 1700 DRYDEN *Pal. & Arc.* III. 576 The nicest eye could no distinction make, Where lay the advantage, or what side to take. 1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* I. (Globe) 249 He would take my Side to the last drop of his Blood. 1823 KEBLE *Serm.* ii. (1848) 38 Careful always to take the safe side in practice. 1877 SPURGEON *Serm.* XXIII. 398 Weak-minded people who cannot take sides with a persecuted truth. 1888 BURGON *Lives 12 Gd. Men* II. xi. 317 Every resident of mark found himself in a measure compelled to take a side.

19. Kinship or descent through father or mother.

c 1400 MAUNDEV. (Roxb.) XXV. 120 Half sisters of þer fader syde wedd þai, bot nott of þer moder syde. 1442 *Rolls of Parlt.* V. 45/1 Englissh of his Moder side,.. and aparte Englissh on his Fader side. *a* 1547 SURREY *Æneid* IV. 331 From his graundfather by the mothers side Cillenes child so came. 1653 H. COGAN tr. *Pinto's Trav.* XXIX. 113 Peradventure a kinswoman to one of you, by his side that begot me in this miserable exile. 1710 STEELE *Tatler* No. 132 ¶ 8 He traced up his Descent on both Sides for several Generations. 1837 LOCKHART *Scott* I. ii. 61 As far as they could be followed, either on the paternal or maternal side. 1847 C. BRONTË *J. Eyre* xi, To be sure I am distantly related to the Rochesters by the mother's side.

20. One of the parties in a transaction, battle, or debate; a political party; a faction.

In phrases with *on* (as *on either side*) the sense may approach that of 12 b and 17.

1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* II. 346 On athir syd thus war thai yhar, And till assemble all redy war. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 9680 Aither syde, after sum, soght to bere holde. 1473 *Rental Bk. Cupar-Angus* (1879) I. 175 The pairtyng of the Grange forsade with the consent of bath the sydis wes made at Martymes. 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 100 b, How obstinate the Romishe syde was in the convocation at Auspurge. 1591 SAVILE *Tacitus, Hist.* II. xciii. 108 In trueth by his comming the side was reuiued. *a* 1639 W. WHATELEY *Prototypes* I. xx. (1640) 207 The Conquering side is often more miserable by sinning than the conquered by slaughter or captivity. 1696 LADY CHAWORTH in *12th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. V. 34, 5000 of each side killed on the place. 1726 *Wodrow's Corr.* (1843) III. 249 A certain side are highly disappointed. 1823 SOUTHEY *Hist. Penins. War* I. 464 The loss on either side, in this pursuit, appears not to have been great. 1888 BRYCE *Amer. Commw.* II. li. 284 A general battle, in which each side feels that it cannot allow any odds to the other.

b. One of the parties in an athletic or sporting contest or game of skill. *No side*, the announcement of the conclusion of a game of football.

1698 LASSELS *Italy* I. 140 That side which throws the ballon over the rails of the other side wins the day. 1716 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 5536/4 There will..be 31 Cocks shewed of a side. 1737 in Waghorn *Cricket Scores* (1899) 17 Kent side went in first and got 99 notches, then Surrey side went in and got 31. 1837 HOOD *Agric. Distr.* i, Which side had won the cricket match. 1862 *Cornhill Mag.* Sept. 378 'We'll play sides, of course', said Lily. 1882 *Standard* 20 Nov. 2/8 When 'no side' was called, the University were left the winners.

21. †**a.** One of the two divisions of a choir. *Side for side, on sides*, alternately. *Obs.*

1519 HORMAN *Vulg.* 11 b, The quere syngeth syde for syde. 1583 FOXE *A. & M.* 1405/2 The Psalmes should be sung on sides, the one side of the quier singing one verse, the other another.

b. In Cambridge University, the body of students under the supervision of a particular tutor in a college. (Still in use at Trinity.)

1852 BRISTED *Five Yrs. Eng. Univ.* 11 A large college

has usually two Tutors,..and the students are equally divided among them—on their sides the phrase is. 1859 Farrar *J. Home* v. Mr. Grayson, the tutor on whose 'side' he was entered. 1882 J. W. Clark in *Old Friends at Cambr.* (1900) 40 Tutor of one of the three *sides*, as they were called, into which Trinity College was then divided.

V. *attrib.* and *Comb.*

22. Attrib. in sense 1, as *side-cover, -fellow, -male, -sore, -stitch.*

1611 Shaks. *Temp.* I. ii. 326 Thou shalt haue cramps, Side-stitches, that shall pen thy breath vp. 1636 Brathwait *Rom. Emp.* 49 Envy (which is alwayes the side-mate of vertue) repined. 1690 C. Nesse *Hist. O. & N. Test.* I. 34 A collateral companion or side-fellow, or yoke-fellow. 1826 Kirby & Sp. *Entomol.* III. xxxv. 598 The *epipleura* or side-cover..that covers the sides of the body. 1898 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* V. 346 The name Pleurisy.., side-sore of Early English.

23. Attrib., denoting 'situated or lying towards or at the side', as *side-aisle, -altar, -bench, -chancel, -channel, -cut, -drain, -gate*, etc.

1711 G. Hickes *Two Treat. Chr. Priesth.* (1847) I. 322 Such tables may be set up in any *side aisle on either side of the chancel. 1858 Hawthorne *Fr. & It. Jrnls.* (1872) I. 6 Here in the recess of every arch of the side-aisles..there was a chapel. 1542 in Legg *Clerk's-bk.* (1903) App. viii. 92 Except the Curatt say masse at a *side awter. 1859 Jephson *Brittany* x. 166 Among the side-altars I observed one dedicated to Saint Anne. *c* 1350 *Will. Palerne* 4565 þe real rinkes..at þe heiȝe dese, & alle oþer afterward on þe *side benches. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 455/1 Sydebynche.., *subsellium.* 1535 Coverd. *Ezek.* xli. 9 The foundacion of the *syde chambres was a meterodde (that is sixe cubites) brode. 1571 in Legg *Clerk's-bk.* (1903) App. iv. 73 The parishe shall have for breakinge the grownd for a pyt, in the *side chanselles x s. 1838 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* I. 97/2 The sides (of the roadway), where the water is received into the gutters, or *side channels. 1679–88 *Secr. Serv. Money Chas. & Jas.* (Camden) 155 The carving work of the tabernacle and the degrees in the *side chappell at Whitehall. 1866 Geo. Eliot *F. Holt* (1868) 40 The space of a large side-chapel was taken up by the tombs of the Debarrys. 1805 Allnutt *Navig. Thames* 24 The Number of *Side-cuts, Pound-locks, and Weirs, that may be required. 1838 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* I. 97 Ditches termed open *side drains, are made parallel to the axis of the road. 1814 *Selby & M. Weighton Road Act* ii. 5 When any new *cide gate or side gates shall be erected. 1601 Holland *Pliny* II. 482 In his time..men began at Rome to bestow siluer vpon their cupboords and *side liuery tables. 1831 Scott *Ct. Rob.* iii, *Side passages opened into it. 1897 *Cath. Mag.* Oct. 246 A *side-path which opened out into a sun-baked space. 1859 *Habits of Gd. Society* Pref., Two *side-pavements and a very bad road. 1535 Coverd. *Judges* xvi. 3 But Samson..toke holde on both yᵉ *syde portes of yᵉ gate of the cite. 1575 *Appius & Virginia* in Hazl. *Dodsley* IV. 136 And at Simkin's *side-ridge my lord stood talking. 1844 H. Stephens *Bk. Farm* II. 404 The dung-hill should be placed on a head-ridge or side-ridge of the field. 1842 Borrow *Bible in Spain* ii, Our repast..we ate in a little *side room with a mud floor. 1711 Steele *Spect.* No. 14 ᴘ 15 At the Hay-Market the Undertakers forgetting to change their *Side-scenes. 1850 Thackeray *Pendennis* iv, He watched her at the side-scene—where she stood waiting to come on the stage. 1617 Moryson *Itin.* I. 273 The rest of the *side streetes and allies being of poore building. 1894 Hall Caine *Manxman* v. xxii, Philip turned into a side street. 1775 *Ann. Reg.* I. 117, 13 culverts, 8 *side trunks, and 4 weirs. 1869 Tozer *Highl. Turkey* I. 299 At last we struck up a *side valley. 1535 Coverdale *Ezek.* xl. 16 The chambers and their pilers within, rounde aboute vnto yᵉ dore, had *syde wyndowes. 1851 Mantell *Petrifactions* i. 7 The rooms are lighted by side-windows, instead of by sky-lights.

b. Denoting 'situated, placed, or fixed at or on the side of something', as *side armour, -band, -beam, -bolt, -chest, -comb, -crust*, etc.

A number of technical combs. of this kind are fully explained in Knight *Dict. Mech.* (1875 and 1884).

1883 *Whitaker's Alm.* 445/2 One iron-clad.., 9-in. *side armour. 1889 Welch *Naval Archit.* 141 Ships provided with thick side armour are known as armoured vessels. 1805 Dickson *Pract. Agric.* I. Pl. xxix, This is put across the ends of them lengthways, so as to form a *side band. 1611 Cotgr., *Iumelles*, the cheekes, or *side-beames of a presse. 1688 Holme *Armoury* III. 306 The several parts of a Bit... The *Side Bolts. 1850 R. G. Cumming *Hunter's Life S. Afr.* (ed. 2) I. 23 Along the sides of the waggon, and outside it, are two longer and narrower chests called *side-chests...The side-chests are very convenient for holding tools. 1897 *Globe* 18 Feb. 6/3 Diamond *side-combs in her hair. 1780 *Mirror* No. 17 It had..battlements like the *side-crust of a Christmas goose-pye. 1814 Scott *Wav.* xxxv, The well-powdered ears which appeared beneath his neat military *side-curls. 1821 — *Kenilw*, vi, The cushions, *side-curtains, and the very foot-cloth. *c* 1475 *Pict. Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 777 *Hoc calatrale*, a *sydedocer. 1862 *Chambers's Encycl.* IV. 349/1 *Side-fishes are long pieces of timber dove-tailed on the opposite sides of a made mast. 1742 Mrs. Delany *Life & Corr.* (1861) II. 185 Order him to send me down a very good coach and four horses with *side-glasses. 1861 Dickens *Gt. Expect.* xxx, He pulled up his shirt-collar, twined his *side-hair. 1591 Percivall *Sp. Dict., Asicates de espuelas*, the *side irons of spurs, *Calcarium costæ.* 1889 Gretton *Memory's Harkback* 116 The pace..was..quite enough to bid a nervous traveller hold hard by the side-iron. 1863 A. Young *Naut. Dict.* 217 *Side-Keelsons, are additional keelsons laid on the floors, one on each side of the main keelson, to afford additional strength and stability. 1728 R. Morris *Ess. Anc. Archit.* 78 If the Key[stone] be double, the *Side-Key is ¼ of the Width. 1846 A. Young *Naut. Dict.* 305 The curved sweep which the ends of the *side-levers describe. 1848 Thackeray *Van. Fair* xxxii, Always giving his *side-locks a twirl. 1881 Greener *Gun* 262 With a strong hand turn-screw turn out the *side-pins, and remove the locks and hammers together. 1768–74 Tucker *Lt. Nat.* (1834) I. 513 To take care that this stone lies firm upon solid ground, and ..do not indeed take its support from some *side-props. 1856 'Stonehenge' *Brit. Rural Sports* 347/1 He [a colt] is led about by the cavesson,..without any *side-reins being attached. 1846 A. Young *Naut. Dict.* 306 The Feed-Pump ..is also worked by *side-rods. *c* 1860 H. Stuart *Seaman's Catech.* 12 Who attends the *side scale? The right rearman. 1867 Smyth *Sailor's Word-bk.* 625 *Side-scale*, a simple graduation..for the quick elevation or depression of the guns. 1513 Douglas *Æneid* I. iii. 49 The storme ourset, raif ruvis and *syde semis. 1844 *Regul. & Ord. Army* 154 Top of Front, from Side-Seam to Side-Seam (when Buttoned), 13 Inches. 1876 *Clin. Soc. Trans.* IX. 73, I then applied a well-padded *side-splint with foot-piece to the inner side of the leg. 1805 R. W. Dickson *Pract. Agric.* I. 36 The *side standards, by being brought nearer to the perpendicular situation, are enabled to sustain considerably more weight. 1827 Sir H. Steuart *Planter's G.* (1828) 260 The two *Side-Stays..are made as short as possible, in order to prevent interference with the branches. 1846 Holtzapffel *Turning* II. 703 The sawpit..has two stout timbers running the whole length, called *side strakes. 1754 Bartlet *Farriery* 356 A is a pad, to which is fastened a circingle B. CC two *side straps, one on each side the horse. 1802 James *Milit. Dict., Side-straps*, in a field carriage, are flat iron bands which go round the side-pieces. 1445–6 *Durh. Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 630 Pro..x paribus de *Sydtrace ad viij *d.* 1794 *Rigging & Seamanship* 10 **Side-trees*, the lower main pieces of a made-mast. *c* 1860 H. Stuart *Seaman's Catech.* 73 Two side trees, one on each side, and dowelled and bolted to the spindle. 1523 Fitzherb. *Husb.* § 4 The dryuinge of his *syde-wedges, forewedge, and helewedge. 1888 Fergus Hume *Mme. Midas* I. ii, Heavy *side whiskers and moustache.

c. Denoting 'growing out to the side', as *side-bough, -branch, -growth, -spray*, etc. See also Side-shoot.

1707 Mortimer *Husb.* (1721) II. 29, I am rather for cutting only of the *Side-boughs, than heading of them. *Ibid.* 73 If you would not have a Tree put forth *side-Branches, prune them up in February. 1880 C. R. Markham *Peruv. Bark* 80 A rapidly rising, slender, tall stem, devoid of side branches. 1868 *Rep. U. S. Comm. Agric.* (1869) 256 Trimming off such straggling *side growth as may be in the way of the workmen. 1864 Hibberd *Rose Bk.* 89 They will be likely to throw out a good deal of *side-spray that will soon cause the trees to be as crowded as before. 1796 W. H. Marshall *Midl. Co.* (ed. 2) II. 387 *Toes* or **sidespurns*, the spreading roots of trees.

24. a. 'Directed or tending sideways, exerted or taking effect laterally, indirect,' etc., as *side-blow, -course, -drawing, -flash, -jump*, etc.

1692 Bentley *Boyle Serm.* 230 What natural agent could .. impell them so strongly with a transverse *side-blow. 1893 F. Adams *New Egypt* 88 The natural trend of the *side-course of the river is from the east to the west. 1884 W. S. B. McLaren *Spinning* 220 The sliver is drawn off by *side-drawing. 1889 Ruskin *Præterita* III. 96 It was impossible for him to speak to any one he cared for, without some *side-flash of witty compliment. 1869 *Routledge's Ev. Boy's Ann.* 386 As a breaker approaches, meet it by a *side jump. 1828 *Life Planter Jamaica* 345 Wishing..to procure, by *side means, information of who he was. *a* 1704 Locke (J.), The parts of water..will, by a *side motion, be easily removed. 1768–74 Tucker *Lt. Nat.* (1834) I. 42 While we work, or study, or converse, we often change our posture, turn our eyes, and make many side motions having no connexion with the purpose we are about. 1856 'Stonehenge' *Brit. Rur. Sports* 363/2 The saddle..being small and light will not bear much *side-pull. 1863 Hawthorne *Our Old Home* (1879) 119 Illuminated by some *side-ray from himself. 1820 Scott *Abbot* xxix, The Lady of Lochleven, at whom this *side-shaft was lanched. 1859 G. Meredith *R. Feverel* xvi, With another *side shot at the confidential clerk. 1863 W. C. Baldwin *Afr. Hunting* iii. 80, I determined on firing at his knee, if I could not get a side-shot between the ear and the eye. 1760–72 H. Brooke *Fool of Qual.* (1809) III. 116 He made a *side-stroke at me. 1873 Bennett & Cavendish *Billiards* 9 The tip being once added to the cue, side-stroke soon followed as a matter of course. 1782 Cowper *Retirement* 690 To..stab religion with a sly *side-thrust. 1821 Lockhart *Valerino* I. xii. 254 Your side-thrust is the only one I would lay an as upon. 1855 *Ecclesiologist* XVI. 338 The lofty and unstable outer walls of the wide nave would be forced apart by the side-thrust of the vaulting. 1894 H. Speight *Nidderdale* 381 A protective wall, preventing a destructive *side-wash, has been built. 1597 J. King *On Jonas* (1599) 257 It is his will by obliquity, a *side-will, vnproper, vndirect.

b. 'Seen from, looking towards, the side,' as *side-elevation, -front.* Also Side-view.

1775 Sheridan *Rivals* iv. ii, I wish the lady would favour us with something more than a side-front. 1853 Ure *Dict. Arts* (ed. 4) II. 509 Fig. 1193. represents this twin furnace in a side elevation.

c. 'Spoken aside or in an undertone,' as *side soliloquy, speech.*

1809 Malkin *Gil Blas* xii. iii. ᴘ 7 This side speech explained to me the plot. 1842 Lover *Handy Andy* xxxiv, In a side soliloquy.

d. 'Apart from the main point or course of anything, subsidiary,' as *side-conflict, -effect, -issue, -result.*

1873 M. Arnold *Lit. & Dogma* (1876) p. xxi, To judge the Creed by that method was a side-issue. 1878 Bosw. Smith *Carthage* 291 Throughout these first six years..a side conflict was raging in Spain. 1884 tr. *Lotze's Metaph.* 435 The view that all psychical life is a side-effect of the physical process of formation. 1894 *Westm. Gaz.* 15 Nov. 2/1 Such mere side-results as an influx of berry-pickers from London and Liverpool into the holly-growing districts.

25. Objective and parasynthetic, as *side-convulsing, -piercing, -shaking; side-mouthed, -sighted, -spotted, -striped.*

1605 Shaks. *Lear* iv. vi. 85 O thou side-piercing sight! 1751 Smollett *Per. Pic.* xciii, Various distortions and side-shakings. 1818 Shelley *Rosalind* 1065 Forcing the point of a barbed dart Into its side-convulsing heart. 1861 Swinburne *Queen Mother* III. i, Cunning little heads And side-mouthed puppets quaintly cut on it. 1879 *Man. Artill. Exerc.* 201 The 80-pr. is side-sighted, and has drop trunnion sights. 1899 W. T. Greene *Cage-Birds* 60 The Diamond Sparrow..is a pretty bird, and is also called the Side-spotted Finch. 1899 F. V. Kirby *Sport E. C. Africa* 324 Side-striped Jackal (*Canis adustus*).

26. Forming combs. used attributively, as *side-spring boot*, etc. (See also *side-wheel* in 27.)

1832 J. Rennie *Consp. Butterfl. & Moths* 178 The Side Spot Triangle. 1862 *Illustr. Catal. Internat. Exhib., Brit.* II. No. 4962, The ordinary side-spring boots. 1884 W. S. B. McLaren *Spinning* (ed. 2) 218 The side-drawing method secures a very large amount of doubling. 1892 Greener *Breech Loader* 17 The side-lever snap-action gun. 1898 *Daily News* 10 May 6/2 A big thousand ton side-paddle frigate.

27. Special combs., as **side-axe**, an axe with a handle slightly bent to one side; **side-basset** (see quot. 1860); **side-bet**, a bet of one side against another; **side-bit**, a part of a shirt; **side-boy** (see quot.); **side-burn**, *U.S.*, a short side-whisker; **side-burthen** (see quot.); **side-car**, a conveyance in which the seats face to the sides, a jaunting-car; **side counter-timber**, *Naut.* (see quot.); **side-cousin**, ? one not quite a cousin; **side-cutting** (see quot.); **side-drawn** *a.*, sketched from the side; **side-drum**, a drum which is slung at the side of the performer; **side-file** (see quot.); **side-filister**, a form of plane; **side-forming** (see quots.); †**side-glass** *v.*, ? to ogle through the side-glass of a coach; **side-grafting** (see quot.); †**side-half**: *on side-half*, apart; *a side-half*, about; †**side-hand**, on one side *of* (see also Sidenhand); **side-handed** *a.*, indirect; †**side-hankle** *v.*, to hobble (a horse) on one side; †**side-haying**, hedging at the sides of land; †**side-hinge**, a butt-hinge; **side-hook** (see quot. 1825); **side-ill**, *Sc.*, some disease in sheep; **side-ladder** (see quots.); **side-land**, a strip of land lying along the side of a ploughed field; also *attrib.*, sloping (cf. *Eng. Dial. Dict.*); **side-laning, -lay, -mark, -nippers** (see quots.); **side-note**, a note made or placed at the side of a page; **side-piece** (see quots.); **side-plane**, a plane which cuts at the side (Knight, 1875); **side-plate, side rebate-** or **rebating-plane, side-rest, side-rib** (see quots.); †**side-school**, *Sc.*, a small school in an out-of-the-way district; †**side-scription**, a former Scottish method of subscribing documents (cf. *side-sign*); **side-seat**, the mode of sitting on horseback which accompanies a side-saddle; †**side-sele** (?); †**side-sign** *v.*, to sign (a document) by writing the name at the side, where the sheets are pasted together; †**side-span** *v.* (see quot.); **side-splitter**, a very funny story, farce, etc.; **side-splitting** *a.*, that convulses with merriment, extremely funny; also as *vbl. sb.*; **side-tackle**, *U.S.* in football, one or other of two players stationed at each end of the rush-line; **side-taking**, taking one side or other in a dispute, etc.; **side-tool**, a tool cutting on the side, used in wood-turning; **side-wheel**, *attrib., of* steamers, having paddle-wheels at the sides; hence *side-wheeler*; **side-work**, (*a*) in fortification, a lateral work; (*b*) the action of bounding sidewards, on the part of a horse.

1875 *Carpentry & Join.* 8 The *side axe.., with one bevel, is free from this drawback, as it is held with the blade vertical. 1686 *Side-basset [see Basset *sb.*²]. 1860 *Eng. & For. Mining Gloss.* (ed. 2) 78 *Side-bassett*, a transverse direction, or at right angles with the line of dip. 1894 H. Gardener *Unoff. Pat.* 277 The *side bet, as they called it, must be won. 1897 *Westm. Gaz.* 6 Feb. 6/1 If Mr. Ives wishes to challenge me for the championship I shall be pleased to accept and make a side-bet of any amount he wishes. 1840 Barham *Ingol. Leg.* Ser. II. *Aunt Fanny* v, One of those queer little three-corner'd straps, Which..ladies call *'Side-bits', that sever the 'Flaps'. 1846 A. Young *Naut. Dict.* 283 **Side-boys*, in a ship of war, are boys employed to take charge of the man-ropes, and attend on any officers or other individuals coming on board from or going off in a boat. 1887 *Chicago Jrnl.* 1 Aug., McGarigle has his mustache and small *sideburns still on. 1857 P. Colquhoun *Compl. Oarsman's G.* 31 *Side burthens are extra thwarts laid in provisionally to carry sitters. 1881 *Macm. Mag.* XLIV. 388 Mrs. Roche wore a silk dress on Sunday and drove to mass on her '*side car'. *c* 1850 *Rudim. Navig.* (Weale) 147 **Side counter timber*, the stern-timber which partakes of the shape of the topside, and heels upon the end of the wing transom. 1875 Tennyson *Q. Mary* II. iii, And little Jenny—though she's but a *side-cousin. 1842 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* V. 84/2 The cutting ..was in the line of railway, or what is called back-cutting, in contradistinction to earth got out of the line, which is called *side-cutting. 1649 G. Daniel *Trinarch.* To Rdr. 166 To run vneuen as a Roman Face *Side-drawne. *c* 1800 Busby *Dict. Mus.*, **Side-drum*, the common military Drum. 1856 Berlioz *Instrument.* 231 The side-drum is only a drum longer than the preceding one. 1875 Stainer & Barrett *Dict. Mus. Terms, Side-drum*, a small military drum frequently used in the orchestra. 1884 Knight *Dict.*

Mech. Suppl. 808/1 **Side File*, for trimming up the outside edges of the cutting points of saws after setting, to prevent setting. 1875 *Carpentry & Join.* 28 The *side filister is a rebate plane of more complicated..construction, being fitted with shifting guides or fences regulating the depth and width of cut. 1838 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* I. 97/1 To make what is termed a *side forming, which is done by raising the whole embankment at once. 1842 FRANCIS *Dict. Arts, Side Forming*, a road-way formed by paring down part of a hill or other steep, so as to form a road upon the side of it. 1689 SHADWELL *Bury F.* III, Then will I..to the Park. *Wildish.* So will I; where I will *Side-glass you. 1693 — *Volunteers* IV. i, My side-glassing you at the park. 1704 *Dict. Rust.* (1726) s.v. *Graft*, *Side Grafting;..take off from a smooth part in the West side, as much Bark as [etc.]. *c* 1400 LOVE *Bonavent. Mirr.* I. (1908) 263 Oure lorde Jesu came and aperede to hir.., gretynge hir on *side half in thise wordes. *c* 1400 *Found. St. Barth.* vii, Herry the first xxx^ty yere, and a sidehalfe [L. *circiter*] the thirde yeare of his reigne. 1577–87 HARRISON *Descr. Brit.* xiii. in *Holinshed* 71 The Avon riseth at Navesbie in the borders of North-hamptonshire, a little *side hand of Gillesborow. 1579–80 NORTH *Plutarch* (1612) 603 He turned his horse head vpon a sudden, and leauing his enemies side-hand of him that had him in chase, he closely stole by them. 1845 THACKERAY *Legend Rhine* xiii, She made some *side-handed enquiries regarding OTTO. 1621 SANDERSON *Serm.* I. 189 A third sort [are]..like an unruly colt...These would be well fettered and *side-hanckled for leaping. 1610 W. FOLKINGHAM *Art Surv.* II. ii. 49 Compound Contiguall Boundage is more significant, as *side-haying, head-shawing. 1679 MOXON *Mech. Exerc.* ix. 160 In a Battend-door,..they use Cross-Garnets. If a Fram'd Door, *Side Hinges. 1823 P. NICHOLSON *Pract. Builder* 252 Every joiner should have, at least, two *side-books of equal size. 1825 J. NICHOLSON *Operat. Mechanic* 585 A flat piece of wood, which has two projecting knobs, on opposite sides, one at each end, called a *side-hook*, is used, to keep the piece which has to undergo the operation of the saw steady. 17.. *Patie's Wedding* in Herd *Coll.* (1776) II. 190 I'se cut the craig o' the ewe That had amaist died of the *Side-ill. 1798 MIDDLETON *View Agric. M'sex.* 87 These carts, with the addition of movable head, tail, and *side ladders or copps, carry hay, corn, and straw. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.* 624 *Side ladder*, or *Accommodation-ladder*, a complete staircase structure used in harbour by most large ships. 1891 C. ROBERTS *Adrift Amer.* 232 There was a side ladder over, which I got hold of, and..climbed on board. 1763 *Museum Rust.* (ed. 2) I. 101 This practice of carrying the upper bed of earth from the head and *side lands on to the field, is very common among the Essex farmers. 1828 *Sporting Mag.* XXIII. 104 The sideland, uneven parts of ground such as small mole-hills. 1838 HOLLOWAY *Prov. Dict.*, *Sidelands*, the outside parts of a ploughed field, adjoining the hedges, running parallel with the lands or warps. 1860 *Eng. & For. Mining Gloss.* (ed. 2) 78 **Side-taming*, making the gate-road (when abandoned for that purpose)..part of the new side of work. 1576 TURBERV. *Venerie* 246 You may deuide your Grey-hounds into three sundry parts, viz. Teasers, *Sidelayes, and Backsets, or Receytes. *Ibid.* 247 The sidelayes are to be let slippe at ye side of a Deare or after him. 1888 JACOBI *Printer's Vocab.* 125 *Side lay*, the margin of a given measurement on one side of a sheet in printing. 1818 HAZLITT *Eng. Poets* vii. (1870) 164 The *side-mark of the age at which they were done, wears out in works destined for immortality. 1888 JACOBI *Printers' Vocab.* 125 *Side mark*, the fixed mark on the side which a sheet is laid to in printing on a machine. 1846 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* II. 906 Other cutting pliers called *side-nippers are oblique. 1858 FROUDE *Hist. England* IV. 537 Persons..who have observed the traces of his pen in *sidenotes and corrections. 1802 JAMES *Milit. Dict.* s.v. *Rider*, The axle-tree, upon which the *side-pieces rest, in a four-wheel carriage. 1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss.*, *Side-pieces*, the longitudinal pieces of timber lying under the rafters between the ridge and wall-plates. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.* 625 *Side-pieces*, parts of a made mast. 1680 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1532/4 A Pair of French Pistols,..the Stocks of Maple, Silver *side-plates, and Silver Caps. 1756 C. SMART tr. *Horace, Sat.* II. iv, I am found to be the first that served up this grape with apples in neat little side-plates. 1879 tr. *Haeckel's Evol. Man* I. 303 The two lateral portions of the mesoderm..are usually called side-plates. 1846 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* II. 489 When..the rebate plane is meant to cut at the side, it is called the *side-rebate plane. 1825 J. NICHOLSON *Operat. Mechanic* 582 The former are used to smooth the side of a rebate, and therefore are called *side rebating-planes. 1680 MOXON *Mech. Exerc.* x. 181 Turners have another Rest, called the *Side-Rest. This they use when they Turn the flat sides of Boards. 1582 STANYHURST *Æneis* IV. (Arb.) 103 Thee top wyth *sideryb of Atlas He sees. 1844 *Regul. & Ord. Army* 106 New side rib for carbine, with ring fitted. 1852 SEIDEL *Organ* 37 Between the upper and under-board there are six boards,..four longer ones, two on each side of the bellows, called *side-ribs. 1863 *Good Words* 727 In the more distant valleys where even the small *side-schools could not penetrate. 1838 W. BELL *Dict. Law Scotland* 916 **Side-scription*. 1856 'STONEHENGE' *Brit. Rural Sports* 538 In spite of her *side-seat, the body should be square to the front. 1395 in *East Anglian* Ser. II. IV. 85, j *sydsele, & j londplate & j rast. 1708 J. CHAMBERLAYNE *Pres. St. Gt. Brit.* (1710) 418 If there be more Sheets than one in the *Decreit*, the Principal Clerk *side-signs the joyning of every Two Sheets. 1750 ELLIS *Mod. Husb.* VI. II. 97 **Side-span* [sheep], as we call it, by tying a fore-leg to a hind-leg, with an allowance for length of string. 1881 *Daily Telegr.* 27 Dec., This..past master of the art of *side-splitting. 1881 *Harper's Monthly* LXIII. 266 No matter how side-splitting the story might be. 1891 *N. Y. Tribune* 20 Oct. 5/4 (Funk), He was..*side-tackle on his college foot-ball team. 1640 BP. HALL *Episc.* II. 140 Emulation and *side-takings amongst, and against their teachers. 1898 B. GREGORY *Side Lights* 504 Side-taking does not become party. 1846 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* II. 516 For the insides of cylinders, the *side-tool..is sometimes used. 1857 M. F. MAURY in Corbin *Life* (1888) 135 She was a *side-wheel steamer. 1884 *Harper's Mag.* Mar. 514/1 Such boats as they are!—*side-wheelers and stern-wheelers. 1748 SMOLLETT *Rod. Random* I. 302 A *sidework composed of earth gabions or fascines. 1890 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Col. Reformer* (1891) 102, I [never] saw a new arrival that could sit a buck-jumper, even if he only propped straight forward, and didn't do any side-work.

Side (səid), *sb.*[2] *slang.* [Of doubtful origin; perhaps identical with prec. (? in sense 14 d), but cf. SIDE *a.* 4.] Pretentiousness, swagger, conceit. Freq. in phr. *to put on side*, to give oneself airs.

1878 HATTON *Cruel London* VIII. ii, Cool, downy cove, who puts side on. 1880 PAYN *Confid. Agent* xi, The Captain sauntered up the Mews, with a good deal of 'side on', which became a positive swagger as he emerged into the more fashionable street. 1882 *Standard* 29 Sept. 5/2 With ..all our 'offishness', or 'side', as they call it, we and our cousins in the Far South get along amazingly well. 1896 J. HOCKING *Fields of Fair Renown* xii. 128 They seem to have no side; they are all as jolly as may be.

Side, Sc. f. SCYTHE; obs. f. SEED *sb.*; var. SITHE (time).

Side (səid), *a.* Now *Sc.* and *north. dial.* Forms: 1–3, 5 sid, 4–6 syd, 4–9 syde, 5 syyd, cyyd(e, 4– side. [OE. *síd*, = ON. *síðr*, MSw. *siper*, *sidher* (Norw., Sw., Da. *sid*); also MDu. *side*, *zide* low, MFlem. *sijt* (rare) extensive.

ON. *síðr* is recorded only in sense 3, but MSw. *siper* and Norw. *sid* have also the MDu. sense of 'low, low-lying'.]

†**1.** Large, ample, spacious, extensive. *Obs.*

Beowulf 437 Þæt ic sweord bere oþðe sidne scyld. *a* 1000 *Andreas* 762 Æfter þyssum wordum weorud hlosnode geond þæt side sel. 1340–70 *Alex. & Dind.* 481 Þe side se we mow sen set vp-on erþe. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 7570 Oure pepull to sle, Oure Citie to sese and oure side londes. *Ibid.* 7670 Saght þai the sure prinse thurgh the syde batell.

†**b.** Far-off, distant; going far. *Obs. rare.*

1399 LANGL. *Rich. Redeles* IV. 28 [They] lete writte writtis all in wex closid,..And sente side sondis to schreuys aboute. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 1513 His towne was takon..; His Suster sesyd and soght into syde londis.

2. Extending lengthways; long. Chiefly in phr. *wide and side* (cf. SIDE *adv.*[1] 1).

a 1000 *Cædmon's Gen.* 1655 Ðesetton þa Sennar sidne & widne leoda ræswan leofum mannum. *c* 1200 ORMIN 9174 And ta wass Romess kinedom Full wid & sid onn eorþe. 13.. *Sir Beues* 818 Þe bor so loude cride, Out of þe forest wide and side. *c* 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 7503 Namore lond, wyd ne syd, þan y may sprede a boles hyd. *c* 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* III. 1052 Chese a boor Gret bodied, side & wide, ek rather rounde Then longe. 1583 [see SIDENESS]. 1591 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* I. ii. 175 Their forms do vanish, but their bodies bide; Now thick, now thin, now round, now short, now side. 1876 WHITEHEAD *Daft Davie* 190 A street so 'syde-and-wyde' that there was elbow-room for everyone in Boulder in it. 1894 HESLOP *Northumbld. Gloss.* s.v., Aa'll tyek some o' this cheek; say, a yard side.

transf. 1399 LANGL. *Rich. Redeles* III. 170 If I sothe shall saie, and shonne side tales.

†**b.** Of a house-roof: High or steep. *Obs.*

c 1440 [implied in SIDENESS]. 1674 RAY *N. C. Words* 41. 1788 W. H. MARSHALL *Yorksh.* II. 351 *Side*, long, deep; spoken of a roof.

3. Reaching or hanging far down on the person; long; **a.** Of garments, sleeves, etc. †*Side-robe* (1658), = LONG ROBE. (See also SIDE-COAT.)

Beowulf 1444 Scolde here-byrne, hondum gebroden, sid ond searo-fah, sund cunnian. *c* 1000 ÆLFRIC in Thorpe *Laws* II. 370 Iohannes .. geseah urne Drihten mid alban gescridne, and seo wæs sid niðer oð ða andcleowa. *a* 1310 in Wright *Lyric P.* x. 37 Betere is were thunne boute laste, then syde robes ant synke into synne. 1382 WYCLIF *Gen.* xxxvii. 23 As he cam to his britheren, thei nakiden hym the side coote to the hele. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 1925 Þat I may..A side slauyn him sewe & send him to his modire. 1459 *Paston Lett.* I. 475 First, a goune of clothe of golde, with side slevis, sirples wise. 1523 FITZHERB. *Husb.* § 151 Theyr cotes be so syde, that they be fayne to tucke them vp whan they ryde. 1545 BALE *Image Both Ch.* I. C v b, I sawe hym clothed wyth a syde lynnen garment doune to the grounde. 1615 G. SANDYS *Trav.* 109 Some of the yonger sort..weare side coates of linnen..girt to their wasts. 1658 F. OSBORNE *Tradit., Mem. Q. Eliz.* 25 It abated the price of his opposers, the most of whom belonged to the side-robe. 1753 *Stewart's Trial* App. 20 Allan was..dressed in a blue side coat, a red vest, and feathered hat. 1781 J. HUTTON *Tour to Caves* (ed. 2) Gloss. 95 *Side*, long, as garments are when too big. *a* 1878 AINSLIE *Land of Burns* (1892) 339 My gude grey plaid, baith syde an' wide, I airtit to the wun', 1886 *S. W. Lincs. Gloss.*, *Side*, long: usually applied to a coat, as 'Side coat', for Great coat.

absol. *a* 1272 *Luue Ron* 47 in *O.E. Misc.* 94 An ende, ne werie mon so syde, he schal to-dreosen so lef on bouh. *c* 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 1534 Now wers men short and now syde.

b. Of the beard, hair, etc.

c 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 368 His berd is long and sid i-nouȝ. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 8079 Lang and side þair brues wern, And hinged all a-bout þair hern. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* ix. (*Bartholomew*) 218 Þare-with a syd berd it had. *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (Roxb.) xxii. 100 In anoþer ile er folk whas eres er so syde þat þai hing doune to þe kneesse. *c* 1500 MEDWALL *Nature* 756 (Brandl), I loue yt well to haue syde here. 1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* I. 29 Oxne and bules ſnawquhyte with a mane thick and syde. 1600 HOLLAND *Livy* XLIV. xix. 1182 The haire of their head long, their beards side and overgrowne. 1616 SURFL. & MARKH. *Country Farme* VII. xxii. 679 He hath a round thicke head, a short nose,..broad and sydelips.

c. Narrow, strait, clinging.

a 1825 FORBY *Voc. E. Anglia* 300 In modern usage..we.. use the word in the sense of strait. 'This sleeve is too side, it must be let out.'

4. a. Haughty, proud.

1508 [implied in SIDE *adv.*[1] 3]. 1674 RAY *N. C. Words* 41. 1695 KENNETT *Par. Antiq.* s.v. *Sidelinge*, A side woman. 1888 *Sheffield Gloss.* s.v., I met Mrs. — in the town, and she was very side.

b. *Sc.* Severe or hard *on* or *upon* one.

1825 in JAMIESON. 1895 ROY *Horseman's Word* iii, Hout, tout, Tam!..you're just some syde on Geordie.

5. *Comb.*, as *side-bellied*, † *-fathomed*, † *-faxed*, *-haired*, *-lipped*, *-tailed*, *-waisted.*

Beowulf 302 Sidfæþmed scip, on ancre fæst. *c* 1000 ÆLFRIC *Saints' Lives* xix. 221 Þa gefeng hine an treow be ðam fexe sona, forðan þe he wæs sidfæxede. 14.. *Tundale's Vis.* 869 His mouthe was wyde, he was syde lyppud. 1523 FITZHERB. *Husb.* § 77 The fourthe [property of a fox is] to be syde-tayled. 1576 TURBERV. *Venerie* 18 When the bytches are lyned, and that they beginne to be sydebellyed. *Ibid.* 50 Of the browne Hartes there be some great, long, and side haired. 1599 NASHE *Lenten Stuff* Wks. (Grosart) V. 227 Of a bounzing side-wasted parish in Lancashire, we haue a flying voyce dispersed. 1631 WEEVER *Anc. Funeral Mon.* 180 Like our side-wasted Parishes in Lancashire, whose extensure is so large [etc.]. 1822 AINSLIE *Land of Burns* 190 He wore an old light blue, side-tailed coat.

†**Side,** *adv.*[1] *Obs.* Also 3 **sid**, 4 **syd**, 6 **syde.** [OE. *side* (f. *síd* SIDE *a.*), = MDu. *side* (Du. *zijd*, Fris. *syd*), MLG. *sîde.*

The usual Eng. phrase *wide and side* corresponds to MDu. *wide en side* (Du. *wijd en zijd*, Fris. *wiid en syd*), MLG. *wide unde side*, *wit unde sît*; also MSw. *sitt oc vitt.*]

1. To a great distance or length; far. Chiefly in *wide and side*, far and wide.

a 900 CYNEWULF *Elene* 277 Heht ða gebeodan..side & wide geond Iudeas [etc.]. *a* 1121 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 959, He..Godes lof rærde, wide & side. *c* 1200 ORMIN 10258 Sannt Johaness word Spraug wide & side o lande. *c* 1275 LAY. 4961 Wide and side he somnede ferde. 13.. *Cursor M.* 1646 (Gött.), Couaytise, lechuri, and pride, Has spred þis world lang and side. *c* 1330 *Arth. & Merl.* 200 (Kölbing), Y..wered þou wiþ mi power, Wide & side, fer & ner. 1621 BP. MOUNTAGU *Diatribæ* 490 For the Grecian Colonies were diffused farre and neere, wide and side.

2. Low down; towards or on the ground.

1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 2513 þis maide out of chambre com.., side drou hire tail. 1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. v. 193 As a letheren purs lolled his chekes, Wel sydder þan his chyn þei chiueled for elde. 14.. in *Tundale's Vis.*, etc. (1843) 152 Her tongis honged owt full syde. *c* 1538 LYNDESAY *Minor Poems* 375, I think it is ane verray scorne That euery Lady of the land Suld haue hir taill so syde trailland!

3. Proudly, boastfully. (Cf. SIDE *a.* 4 a.)

1508 DUNBAR *Twa Maryit Wemen* 196 God wait quhat I think quhen he so thra spekis: And how it settis him so syde to sege of sic materis.

Side, *adv.*[2] [f. SIDE *sb.*[1], by ellipse of prep.]

†**1.** To one side *of* a place. *Obs.*[—1]

1650 FULLER *Pisgah* II. xiii, A good way side of Jerusalem lies a melancholy Bay.

2. *Comb.* with pres. or past ppples., denoting 'by, from, or to the side', as *side-flowing*, *-hanging*, *-lying*; *side-bended*, *-cast*, *-seen.*

1382 WYCLIF *Isaiah* xliv. 4 Buriowne thei shuln among erbes..bisyde the syde flowende watris [L. *præterfluentes aquas*]. 1592 R. D. *Hypnerotomachia* (1890) 5 b, A rare Obelisk..the heigth whereof..did exceed the toppes of the sidelying mountaynes. 1601–2 DANIEL *Civ. Wars* VII. xliv, The cast of her side-bended eye, did showe Both sorrow and reproofe. 1608 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. iv. IV. *Decay* 639 Even as a Winde..Bears down the Trees in a side-hanging Wood. 1807 J. BARLOW *Columb.* V. 275 As on a side-seen storm..The flames fork round the semivault of heaven. 1891 MEREDITH *One of our Conq.* II. i. 1 The head deferentially sidecast.

Side (səid), *v.* [f. SIDE *sb.*[1] Cf. MDu. *siden*, *ziden* to set aside, go aside, obs. G. *seiten* (*syten*), to stand aside.]

I. *trans.* †**1.** To cut or carve (a pig or haddock) into sides. *Obs.*

c 1470 *Hors, Shepe & G.* (Roxb.) 33 A Pigge heded & syded, a lambe & kyde shuldred. 1486 *Bk. St. Albans* F vij b, An Haddoke sided. 1508 *Bk. Kervynge* in *Babees Bk.* 267 Syde that haddocke. [1854 BADHAM *Prose Halieut.* 343 The reader will remember, when he puts the slice into a fish, that he gobbets trout..and sides haddocks.]

2. a. To have (one) on that side. *rare*[—1].

1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* III. ix. 27 His blind eye, that syded Paridell, All his demeasnure from his sight did hyde.

b. To come by the side of. *rare*[—1].

1608 FAIRFAX *Tasso* XIX. lxxvii, He sided there a lustie louely las, And with some courtly tearmes the wench he bords.

c. To walk or stand by the side of; to be side by side with (a person, etc.).

1613 CHAPMAN *Masque Middle Temple & Lincoln's Inn* A 2 b, Euery one of these horse, had two Moores,..that for state sided them. 1631 MASSINGER *Emperor East* IV. iii, Do you hold it, now, As a disparagement, that I side you, lady? 1821 LAMB *Elia* I. *Old Benchers Inner T.*, The terrace is, indeed, left...The old benchers had it almost sacred to themselves...They might not be sided or jostled. 1896 *Archæol. Jrnl.* LIII. 41 The monoliths siding this shrine were pulled down.

d. *fig.* To rival, equal, match.

1603 B. JONSON *Sejanus* IV. v, Whom he..Hath rais'd from excrement to side the gods. 1668 CLARENDON *Life* (1759) I. 53 He had sure read more..than any Man I ever knew, my Lord Falkland only excepted, who I think sided him.

3. To support or countenance (one). *Obs.*

1591 LAMBARDE *Archeion* (1635) 172 The Offenders..were belike so brested, sided, and backed with a many friends, tenants, and followers. 1607 SHAKS. *Cor.* I. i. 197 [They] side factions, & giue out Conjecturall Marriages, making parties strong [etc.]. 1618 FLETCHER *Chances* I. ii, Let it raise wild-fires,..Yet I must through, if ye dare side me.

4. *refl.* To take a side or party. (Cf. 11.)

1591 SAVILE *Tacitus, Hist.* II. xiv. 60 The prouince of Narbon, which had sided itselfe and sworne to Vitellius. 1625 BACON *Ess., On Faction* (Arb.) 83 Kings had need beware, how they Side themselues, and make themselues as of

a Faction or Partie. 1901 *Univ. & Ludg. Mag.* July 296 They side themselves with the light blue or the dark blue, just as their friends belong to a particular university.

5. To assign to one of two sides or parties.

c 1600 SHAKS. *Sonn.* xlvi, To side this title is impannelled A quest of thoughts, all tennants to the heart.

6. *dial.* To put in order, arrange; to clear or tidy up. Freq. *to side up.*

1825- in northern dialect glossaries. 1847 MRS. CARLYLE *Lett.* I. 394, I have plenty to employ me, in siding drawers. 1874 WAUGH *Chimney Corner* (1879) 36 Here, Sally.; help me to side this table.

absol. 1842 R. OASTLER *Fleet Papers* II. 410 It will be left for me to clean, and 'side', and 'make all right again'.

b. To put aside, remove; to clear *away*.

1848 MRS. GASKELL *Mary Barton* x, Mrs. Wilson was 'siding' the dinner things. 1853 — *Ruth* ii, Whenever things are mislaid, I know it has been Miss Hilton's evening for siding away! 1894 HALL CAINE *Manxman* VI. xiv, Now side everything away. The medicines too, put them in the cupboard.

7. *Naut.* To draw (a rope) *over* or *out*.

1834 MARRYAT *P. Simple* (1863) 41 'Ease off the larboard hawser, Mr. Jenkins, if you please.'—'Side her over, gentlemen, side her over.' 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.* 624 *Side out for a bend*, .. to draw the bight of a hempen cable towards the opposite side.

8. To make of certain dimensions on the side; to square the sides of (timber).

1794 *Rigging & Seamanship* 15 *Heel-Pieces* are sided to the same size as the side-trees. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XVII. 402/2 The breast hook should also be..sided nine-tenths of the beams of the lower deck. 1826 HAWKINS *The Oak* 15 The operation of 'siding' or squaring the tree. *c* 1850 *Rudim. Navig.* (Weale) 95 They are sided larger than the rest.

9. To furnish (a structure) with sides.

1868 *Rep. U.S. Comm. Agric.* (1869) 366 Not a doubt exists of the economy of siding and roofing wooden bridges.

II. *intr.* †**10.** With *it*. To enter into rivalry.

a 1635 NAUNTON *Fragm. Reg.* (Arb.) 27 He soon got honour, and no sooner there, but he began to side it with the best, even with the Protector.

11. To take a side; to join or form sides or parties. (Cf. 4.)

1607 SHAKS. *Cor.* IV. ii. 2 The Nobility are vexed, whom we see haue sided In his behalfe. *a* 1658 CLEVELAND *Rustick Rampant* (1687) 450 Many of these unhappy Men were awed to side, without either Malice to his Person or Power. 1712-14 POPE *Rape Lock* v. 39 All side in parties, and begin th' attack. *a* 1738 SWIFT (J.), The equitable part of those who now side against the court, will probably be more temperate. 1887 *Pall Mall G.* 31 Oct. 2/1 Children..differ so much from one another, and 'side' so unexpectedly, that [etc.].

b. Const. *with*. (The more frequent use.)

1600 HOLLAND *Livy* XXIX. vi. 713 The citie of Locri...in the generall revolt of all Italie, had sided also with the Carthaginians. 1647 N. BACON *Disc. Govt. Eng.* I. lxv. (1739) 138 In case the King would not concur, the people generally sided with the Lords. 1712 HEARNE *Collect.* (O. H. S.) III. 368, I was afraid otherwise that Dr. H. would have accidentally..sided with Mr. Oddy. 1766 FORDYCE *Serm. Yng. Wom.* (1767) I. i. 32 The partial world is ready to side with them. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* v. I. 556 Again he encountered a pertinacious opposition. The seamen sided with Hume and Cochrane. 1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) IV. 231 There are few modern readers who do not side with Protagoras, rather than with Socrates.

transf. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* II. 905 Levied to side with warring Winds, and poise Thir lighter wings.

12. To move or turn sideways. Also *fig.*

1668 ETHEREDGE *She wou'd if she cou'd* v. i, We'll foot it, and side, my pretty little miss. 1841 CATLIN *N. Amer. Ind.* (1844) I. xiv. 106 Gradually siding up to the lodge. 1879 *Expositor* IX. 117 In living English there is a tendency to let the word 'holy' side off and appropriate itself to the designation of right moral character.

b. *Mining.* (See quot.)

1851 GREENWELL *Coal-trade Terms, Northumb. & Durh.* 47 *Side over*, to drive headways course across a pillar of coal, in working the broken.

13. To keep alongside; to abut *on* at one side.

a 1641 FINETT *For. Ambass.* (1656) 16 The Savoyard getting the start and siding allwayes close to the Spanish Ambassador. *a* 1647 HABINGTON *Surv. Worc.* (Worcs. Hist. Soc.) II. 201 A plentifull vale..sydinge on Bredon hyll.

14. To measure (so much) on the side.

1891 *Cent. Dict.* s.v., It sides 14 inches.

'Side, aphetic Sc. f. ASIDE *prep.*

1810- in *Eng. Dial. Dict.*

Sideage (səi·dėdʒ). Also **sidage.** [f. SIDE *sb.*[1] + -AGE.] **a.** A charge made for keeping trucks on a railway siding. **b.** The lateral portions of a building or the like collectively.

1896 *Times* 18 Dec. 13/5 The action was..in respect of sidage or standage rent charged upon trucks..which remained more than four days upon their sidings. 1899 *Westm. Gaz.* 18 Aug. 6/1 They are utilising the frontage, or sideage, of the theatre in Drury-lane for shops with flats above.

Si·de-arms. [SIDE *sb.*[1]]

1. *Mil.* Weapons worn at the side, such as sword, dagger, or bayonet.

1760 *Cautions & Advices to Officers of Army* 21 No Man shall appear in the Streets without his Side-arms [etc.]. 1779 A. ST. CLAIR in Sparks *Corr. Amer. Rev.* (1853) II. 303 The garrison are prisoners of war, and the officers have liberty to wear their side-arms. 1821 *John Bull* 7 Jan. 32/1 The soldiers drew their side-arms and wounded several persons severely. 1844 *Queen's Regul. & Ord. Army* 158 The practice of wearing Side-Arms, when not on duty, being forbidden by General Order, is not to be resorted to except on special occasions. 1893 SELOUS *Trav. S. E. Africa* 390 All armed with rifles and side arms.

2. *Artill.* (See quot. 1879.)

1812 MESURIER in Napier *Penins. War* App. (Rtldg.) II. 480 We have the guns posted with their proper side-arms and shot piles. 1879 *Man. Artill. Exerc.* 179 'Side arms' means sponge, rammer, wad hook, and shell-extractor.

Side-bar. [SIDE *sb.*[1]]

1. *Law.* **a.** A former bar in the Outer Parliament House in Edinburgh (see quot. 1838). Also *attrib.*

1708 J. CHAMBERLAYNE *Pres. St. Gt. Brit.* II. (1710) 418 The Ordinary is to make a Report of their Interloquitor, which he Reports in the Outer House the next day ordinarily, or at the side Bar the next Week. 1819 *Blackw. Mag.* IV. 564 He should have stuck to side-bar quirks. 1838 W. BELL *Dict. Law Scotl.* 916 *Side-bar*, the name given to the bar in the Outer Parliament House, at which the Lords Ordinary were in use to call their hand-rolls.

b. A former bar in Westminster Hall. Hence *side-bar rule* (see quot. 1825).

1795 BURKE *Regic. Peace* iv. (C. P. S.) 349 The criminal will climb from the dock to the side-bar, and take his place ..with the counsel. 1825 HONE *Every-day Bk.* I. 156 Formerly, attorneys stood within this bar every morning during term, and moved the judges for the common rules, called side-bar rules, as they passed to their courts..The rules are [now] obtained at the rule-office; but each rule still expresses that it has been granted upon a 'side-bar' motion. 1883 *Law Times* LXXVI. 58/1, I do not now decide whether a view can still be obtained without a motion by a side-bar rule under rule 48 of R. G., H.T. 1853.

2. A toll-bar on a side-road.

1861 *The Star & Dial* 28 Oct., The relief of the parish from the turnpikes and side-bars now existing in the several roads of the parish.

3. *Side-bar keel*, a form of iron keel for ships.

1869 REED *Ship-building* ii. 25 This is the arrangement known as the 'side-bar keel', and a very excellent arrangement it is for external iron keels. 1874 THEARLE *Nav. Archit.* 269 The next kind of keel in order of frequency of adoption is the centre plate or side bar keel.

4. A lateral bar or longitudinal side-piece, as in a saddle, carriage, etc. Also *attrib.*

1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2172/2. 1884 *Ibid.* Suppl. 808/1. 1886 *Pall Mall G.* 7 Sept. 14/1 It has wheels of oak, with springs of the finest steel, arranged like a side-bar buggy.

Sideboard (səi·dbōəɪd). [SIDE *sb.*[1]]

1. a. A table (*esp.* for taking meals at) placed towards the side of a room, hall, etc.

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 1398 Penne was alle þe halle flor hiled with knyȝtes, & barounes at þe side-bordes bounet aywhere. 1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. XIII. 36 Pacience and I were put to be macches, And seten by owre selue at a syde-borde. 1470-85 MALORY *Arth.* VII. v. 220 The knyght..took hym vp and sette hym at a syde bord, and sette hym self afore hym. 1531 *Test. Ebor.* (Surtees) VI. 26 The side borde in the haull with the tristillis sett in the ground. 1575 GASCOIGNE *Flowers* Wks. (1587) 40 Side Boords be laid aside, the tables end is gone. 1616 MIDDLETON *Civitatis Amor* Wks. 1885 VII. 288 They..dined that day in his [the Prince's] presence, at a sideboard. 1690 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 2533/3 A Table raised 3 Steps under a Canopy for the Emperor and King, at each end of which was a Side-board. 1726 POPE *Odyss.* XX. 348 The rich banquet in the dome prepar'd, (An humble side-board set) Ulysses shar'd.

b. A piece of dining-room furniture for holding side-dishes, wine, plate, etc., and often having cupboards and drawers.

1671 MILTON *P. R.* II. 350 At a stately side-board by the wine..in order stood Tall stripling youths rich clad. 1693 CONGREVE in Dryden *Juvenal* xi. (1697) 288 No Side-boards then, with gilded Plate were dress'd. 1710 *Tatler* No. 205 P 1 The sumptuous Sideboard to an ingenuous Eye has often more the Air of an Altar than a Table. 1791 BOSWELL *Johnson* 13 April 1781, It would not be amiss to have some cold meat, and a bottle of wine upon a side-board. 1845 DISRAELI *Sybil* (1863) 198 An immense unwieldy side-board, garnished with a few wine-glasses of a deep blue colour. 1882 MISS BRADDON *Mt. Royal* III. i. 4 The butler..had been carving at the side-board during the conversation.

c. The contents of a sideboard. *rare*—[1].

1782 MISS BURNEY *Cecilia* VI. x, 'I would as soon,' answered Cecilia, 'take with me the side-board of plate.'

d. *attrib.*, as *sideboard cloth, ornament*, † *table*.

1679 *Hist. of Jetzer* Pref. A b, They saw him every day.. Dine at a Side-board Table by himself. *c* 1716 in J. O. Payne *Rec. Eng. Catholics of 1715* (1889) 105 Sideboard cloaths 6. 1785 COWPER *Let. to J. Newton* 19 Mar., The sideboard-table..was equally unfit for my purpose. 1815 W. TAYLOR in *Monthly Mag.* XXXVIII. 42 Montague mentions the sideboard-man of Cardinal Caraffi. 1865 RUSKIN *Sesame* ii. § 80 You bring up your girls as if they were meant for sideboard ornaments.

2. A board forming the side, or a part of the side, of any structure.

1611 COTGR., *Tessons d'un pressouër*, the side-boords of a presse. 1772-84 *Cook's Voy.* (1790) I. 175 The grander canoes..are ornamented with open work..; the side-boards ..are embellished with tufts of white feathers. 1852 SEIDEL *Organ* 130 The side-board of a groove may be cracked. 1861-2 *Ulster Jrnl. Arch.* IX. 145 On the wheel-cars or carts were subsequently put 'side-boards', to rest the feet on. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2173/1 *Sideboard*,..a vertical board at the side of a work-bench,..for supporting one end of a piece of work.

b. An additional and removable board placed on the side of a cart or wagon to increase its carrying capacity.

1832 *Stamford Mercury* 27 Jan. 2/5, 2 narrow wheeled waggons..with raves and sideboards. 1833 *Ridgemont Farm Rep.* 131 in *Husb.* (L. U. K.) III, The waggons..are well formed, with side-boards fixed on the top of the body. 1867- in *Eng. Dial. Dict.*

3. *slang.* in *pl.* **a.** A stand-up collar.

1857 *Slang Dict.* 18.

b. Side-whiskers (*Cent. Dict.* 1891).

Side-bone. [SIDE *sb.*[1]]

1. That part of the pelvis on either side of a bird or fowl which is easily separated from the backbone in carving; also sometimes, the scapula or shoulder-blade.

1819 SYD. SMITH *Wks.* (1859) I. 261 A bird of such monstrous dimensions, that a side-bone of it will dine three real carnivorous Englishmen. 1842 LOVER *Handy Andy* v, After giving away both wings, and all the breast, two side-bones, and the short legs. 1883 *Harper's Mag.* Aug. 456/1 The sweet morsel of the oyster out of a side bone.

2. A rib.

1848 C. C. CLIFFORD *Aristoph. Frogs* 38 A fat paunchy fellow:..his buttocks they strike And his side-bones they poke.

3. Ossification of the side cartilages in a horse's foot.

1886 A. B. ALLEN in *Amer. Agriculturist* (Cent.), Heaves, curb, spavin, sidebone, and ringbone are the most ordinary ailments in horses.

Si·de-box, *sb.* [SIDE *sb.*[1]] A box or enclosed seat at the side of a theatre.

1678 OTWAY *Friendship in Fashion* v. i, The Side-Box at the Play-house. 1703 STEELE *Tender Husb.* I. i, You are only (when my wife goes to the play) to sit in a side box with pretty fellows. 1788 H. MACKENZIE in *Trans. Soc. Edinb.* (1790) II. 174 It is only the mob in the side-boxes who..can hear unmoved the sentiments of compassion, of generosity, or of virtue. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXIV. 297/1 No less preposterous is the practice of continuing the side-boxes up to the proscenium.

attrib. 1695 CONGREVE *Love for L.* v. ii, Hang your side-box beaux! 1703 FARQUHAR *Inconstant* I. ii, You have a good side-box face, a pretty impudent face. 1784 COWPER *Task* II. 624 Soon enough..I" ensure a side-box station at half price.

b. The occupants of a side-box.

1712-4 POPE *Rape Lock* v. 14 Why bows the side-box from its inmost rows? *a* 1732 GAY *Toilette* Poems 1737 II. 80 Nor shall side-boxes watch my restless eye.

Hence **Side-box** *v.*, to gaze at from a side-box.

1689 SHADWELL *Bury F.* III. i, [I will] never have my Eyes off you, while I Side-box you in the Play-house.

Si·de-coat. Now *dial.* [SIDE *a.* 3.]

1. A long coat, a greatcoat.

For unhyphened examples, some of which may strictly belong here, see SIDE *a.* 3a.

1598 BP. HALL *Sat.* IV. ii. 19 Lolioes side-cote is rough Pampilian. 1609 *Ev. Woman in Hum.* II. ii. in Bullen *O. Pl.* IV, I grieve to see this double garded age, all side-coate, all foole. *a* 1653 GOUGE *Comm. Heb.* xii. 1 If a man be to run a race,..he will not run in a long side-coat, which may dangle about his feet, and hinder him. 1695 KENNETT *Par. Antiq.* s.v. *Sidelinge*, In the North, wastcoats are call'd Side-coats. 1856 P. THOMPSON *Hist. Boston* 723 You've got a side-coat on.

† **2.** *pl.* Long clothes worn by children. *Obs.* Cf. LONG COAT.

1607 *Lingua* III. ii, How he played at blow-point with Jupiter, when he was in his side-coats. 1663 S. PATRICK *Parab. Pilgr.* iii. 8 That truth was but a stripling, or rather went in side-coats till it came to their schools.

Sided (səi·dėd), *ppl. a.* [f. SIDE *sb.*[1] and *v.*[1]]

1. Having sides; furnished with sides.

1486 *Bk. St. Albans* f iv b, A Grehounde shulde be..Syded lyke a Teme. 1570 BILLINGSLEY *Euclid* XII. prop. 7. 367 Sided Columnes (sometime called prismes) are triple to pyramids, hauing one base and equall heith with them. 1602 J. DAVIES (Heref.) *Mirum in Modum* Wks. (Grosart) I. 7 The Head is like a House..Vaulted with Bone, and with Bone likewise sided. 1668-9 COSIN in Willis & Clark *Cambridge* (1886) III. 38 A large square area..surrounded or sided with walkes and arched columnes.

b. With qualifying adj. (or adv.) prefixed.

14.. in *Harrow. Hell* Introd. 25 After the fox, [the horse is] prik-eryd, fayr-sided, schorte trottyng. 14.. [see LONG-SIDED *a.*]. 1577 [see DEEP *a.* IV. b]. 1660- [see MANY-SIDED *a.*]. 1669 [see FOUR, C. 1 b]. 1674 N. FAIRFAX *Bulk & Selv.* 91 Take we a square body in the world unevenly sided. 1731 W. HALFPENNY *Perspective* 9 To find the Perspective Plan of a Pentagon, or five-sided Figure. 1804 *Naval Chron.* XII. 161 A French black-sided Cutter. 1871 B. STEWART *Heat* (ed. 2) § 54 The hot water box below was made of zinc, double sided and encased in wood. 1889 WELCH *Text Bk. Naval Archit.* I. 15 It..varies..to more than 100 per cent. in high sided vessels.

2. *Naut.* Having a (specified) dimension in the direction contrary to that of the moulding.

1794 *Rigging & Seamanship* 10 *Sided*, the dimensions of any piece contrary to which it is moulded. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XVII. 398/2 Draw a line in the body plan parallel to the middle line, at a distance equal to the half of what the stem is sided. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.*, *Siding* or *Sided*, the dimensions or size of timber, the contrary way to which the mould side is placed.

3. Of timber: Dressed upon one or more sides.

1865 *Navy Dockyard Acc.* (Blue Book) 8 The average loss on rough timber is found by experience to be about 50 per cent. and on sided and square timber about 30 per cent. 1880 *Lumberman's Gaz.* 7 Jan. 28 A floor is made of 'sided pieces', or boards smoothed only on one side.

† **4.** Allied to one side or another. *Obs. rare.*

1613 in Birch *Crt. & Times Jas. I* (1848) I. 287, I do not readily remember all their names, nor how they were sided. 1620 E. BLOUNT *Horæ Subs.* 142 To take heed, that when factions be sided, his Greatnesse vphold not one faction, to the decay and ruine of the other.

Hence **Si·dedness.** Chiefly in combs., as *many-one-, two-sidedness* (q.v.).

1906 [see POLARIZATION 1].

Si·de-dish. [SIDE *sb.*[1]] A dish which is accessory or additional to the principal one in a course; a dish of the kind commonly used for this purpose.

1725 *Fam. Dict.* s.v. *Leg of Mutton*, A Side-dish of a farced Leg of Mutton. 1747–96 MRS. GLASSE *Cookery* v. 75 The kidneys make a pretty side-dish of themselves. 1820 BYRON *Juan* v. xxxii, A roast and a ragout, And fish, and soup, by some side dishes back'd. 1853 SOYER *Pantropheon* 383 [It] would have been then a little *entre-met*, or a cold side-dish (*hors-d'œuvre*). 1881 'RITA' *My Lady Coquette* ii, Cook suggests various side-dishes for the dinner.

fig. 1819 LOCKHART *Peter's Lett.* lxxi. III. 241 Some practised punster, who has been invited chiefly with an eye to this sort of exhibition (from which circumstance he derives his own nickname of a side-dish).

Si·de-door. [SIDE *sb.*[1] Cf. Fris. *syddoar*, MDu. *zijdore* (Du. *zijdeur*), G. *seitentür.*] A door in the side of a building, garden, or the like; a door on one side of, or subsidiary to, the main door.

1535 COVERDALE 1 *Kings* vi. 34 Ether dore had two syde dores one hanginge to another. 1611 BIBLE *Susanna* 18 They..went out themselues at priuie doors [*marg.* Or, side doores] to fetch the things. 1820 SCOTT *Monast.* xxiv, Christie of the Clinthill..emerged at that instant from the side-door under the archway. 1855 MRS. CARLYLE *Lett.* II. 265 The clerk, opening a small side-door. 1894 *Outing* XXIV. 230/2 In a..fruitless search for some side-door entrance to a shop or restaurant.

Si·de-face. [SIDE *sb.*[1]] The human face in profile; a view or representation of this.

1696 VANBRUGH *Relapse* I. iii, Your honour's side-face is reduced to the tip of your nose! 1712 STEELE *Spect.* No. 485 P 3 It was pleasant to see him diversify his Loveliness, sometimes obliging the Passengers only with a Side-face, with a Book in his Hand. 1752 SIR H. BEAUMONT *Crito* 24 Artists usually chuse to give a Side-face, rather than a Full one. 1889 GRETTON *Memory's Harkback* 306 It is said that no picture is extant of Cardinal Wolsey showing more than the side-face.

Si·de-fly. ? *Obs.* [SIDE *sb.*[1]] A species of horse-fly.

1658 ROWLAND tr. *Mouffet's Theat. Ins.* 935 The English call it a side-fly or a Horse-fly. 1713 DERHAM *Phys.-Theol.* VIII. vi. *note*, A rough whitish Maggot..within the *intestinum Rectum* of Horses; I suspect the Side-Fly proceeds from it. 1773 G. WHITE *Selborne* liii, Familiar to horsemen in the south of England, under the name of forest-fly, and, to some, of side-fly, from its running sideways like a crab.

Si·de-glance, *sb.* [SIDE *sb.*[1]] A glance directed sideways.

1611 COTGR. s.v. *Queue*, To cast a side-glaunce at. 1709 STEELE *Tatler* No. 13 P 1 When a well-made Man appeared, he was sure to have a Side-glance of Observation. 1752 SIR H. BEAUMONT *Crito* 24 The Fascination, or stroke of Love, is most usually, I believe, conveyed, at first, in a Side-glance. 1888 J. PAYN *Myst. Mirbridge* xxiii, 'My lads,' said he with a side-glance at the girls, 'I have got news for you.'

b. *fig.* An indirect or slight reference.

1831 BLAKEY *Free-Will* 4 Some writers pass by the doctrine of free-will with a side glance. 1860 FREEMAN *Hist. Ess.* Ser. I. (1871) iv. 82 Yet it has been with at least a side-glance to questions of this sort.

So **Si·de-glance** *v.*

1737 *Gentl. Mag.* VII. 182/1 But from th' effulgence of a distant eye, Or by the side-glanc'd light'ning pierc'd we die. 1901 G. DOUGLAS *Ho. w. Green Shutters* 35 A big..man, whose little side-glancing eyes seemed always alert for scandal.

Si·de-hill. Now *U.S.* [SIDE *sb.*[1]] A hill-side, an acclivity.

1708 [see below]. 1807 VANCOUVER *Agric. Devon* (1813) 44 The steep side-hills, which form the small but handsome vale of Ashcombe. 1857 THOREAU *Maine W.* (1894) 82, I arrived upon a side-hill, or rather side-mountain. 1893 K. SANBORN *S. California* 85 As to the safety of the ascent, no one need hesitate who is free from settled prejudice against a side-hill.

attrib. 1708 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4489/3 The Fee-simple and Inheritance of the Manor of Park-Manston,..containing.. 46 Acres of Uplands, or Side-hill-Lands,..are to be sold. 1861 STEPHENS & BURN *Farm-buildings* § 1762 Plan of second storey of American side-hill barn. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2173/1 *Side-hill Plow*, a plow whose cutting apparatus is reversible, so as to throw its furrow-slice to the right or left, as may be desired. 1897 HOWELLS *Landlord at Lion's Head* 219 They walked down the side-hill street.

Si·delang(le, *v. north.* and *Sc.* [f. SIDE *sb.*[1] + LANGLE *v.* An example of *side langyel* as a sb. occurs in the *Yorksh. Dial.* (1684) 171.] (See quots. and cf. SIDE-LINE *v.*)

a. 1642 BEST *Farm. Bks.* (Surtees) 28 Those that have theire ewes tupped betimes will usually hopple or sidelange their tuppes. 1788 W. H. MARSHALL *Yorksh.* II. 351 To *Sidelong*; to fetter, as a preventive from straying, or breaking pasture, by chaining a fore and a hind foot of the same side together. 1868– in Yorkshire glossaries. 1869 KENNEDY *Evenings Duffrey* 190 Sidelanged, spancelled, and fettered, they [Irish Papists] must draw a trace [etc.].

β. 1825 JAMIESON *Suppl., Side-langel*, to tie the fore and hind foot of a horse together on one side. 1838 HOGG *Tales, Katie Cheyne* ii, I am settled, tied up, tethered, side-langled.

Si·deless, *a.* [f. SIDE *sb.*[1]] Without sides; open at the sides.

1817 COLERIDGE *Biogr. Lit.* xii. I. 267 No less a contradiction than an infinite circle or a sideless triangle. 1834 PLANCHÉ *Brit. Costume* xi. 163 The sideless garment faced with fur, and terminating in long full skirts. 1877 *Athenæum* 3 Nov. 571/3 The ladies..wear the sideless cotehardies which were so common in their day.

Si·de-light. Also side light, sidelight. [SIDE *sb.*[1] Cf. Fris. *sydljacht, -ljocht* (in sense 2), G. *seitenlicht* (in sense 1).]

1. a. Light coming from the side.

1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* (1637) 818 The side light that the sunne beames cast all night long. 1891 *Cent. Dict.* s.v., To take a photograph by side-light.

b. *fig.* Incidental light or information upon a subject.

1871 B. TAYLOR *Faust* (1875) I. 221 The reader needs all the side-lights which can be thrown upon its translated forms. 1886 SYMONDS *Renaiss. It., Cath. React.* (1898) VII. x. 120 Side light may be thrown upon Sarpi's judgment..by considering [etc.].

2. A window, or opening for light, in the side of a building, ship, lamp, etc.

1827 FARADAY *Chem. Manip.* i. 14 One side light should however in all cases be provided [in a laboratory]. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2174/1 *Side-light*,..a plate of glass in a frame fitted to an air-port in a ship's side. 1898 *Cycling* 61 Sliding side-lights should be fitted,..and lamps with weak springs are to be avoided.

b. A side-portion of a large window; a window by the side of a door or other window.

1851 HAWTHORNE *Ho. Seven Gables* iv, She..gazed through the dusty side-lights of the portal. 1860 G. E. STREET in *Archæol. Cant.* III. 117 The tracery has quatrefoiled circles over the side-lights.

3. *Naut.* **a.** A light carried on either side of a ship under way in the night.

1887 in *Cassell's Encycl. Dict.*

b. A night-lantern in the gangway of a warship.

1891 in *Cent. Dict.*

Si·de-line, *sb.* [SIDE *sb.*[1]]

1. A line extending along or towards one side of a thing or space; *spec.* in *Football* (see quot. 1862).

1768 PENNANT *Brit. Zool.* (1776) III. 226 In young fish the space above the side line is marked with small black spots. 1862 *Chambers's Encycl.* IV. 413/2 Two side-lines, called goal-lines, are drawn from each of the goals.

attrib. 1908 *Westm. Gaz.* 15 June 9/1 (Tennis), Barrett scored many aces by clean side-line drives.

b. A railway or tramway line extending away from the main line.

1898 *Westm. Gaz.* 4 Oct. 10/1 There remain the South London and the Southwark and Deptford Companies' systems. These, however, are but sidelines west and east.

2. A line used for securing an animal by tying together the fore and hind leg on one side.

1831 YOUATT *Horse* xviii. 320 The side-line is a very simple and useful method of confining the horse. *Ibid.* 321 When both legs are included in the hobble or rope (as in another way of using the side line).

3. An auxiliary line of goods, trade, or occupation.

1890 *New York Tribune* 9 Mar. (Cent.), Wanted..Salesman to carry as a side-line a new line of advertisement specialty. 1898 *Westm. Gaz.* 31 Dec. 5/3 In the cycling trade the agents..are exercised in their minds over the question of 'side lines'. They want something to do in the dull season.

Hence **Si·de-line** *v.*, to secure (cattle or horses) with a side-line.

1863 *Pilgr. over Prairies* I. 154 After unharnessing and sidelining our cattle ('sideliming' is tying the fore and hind legs on the same side within eighteen or twenty inches of each other). *a* 1904 A. ADAMS *Log Cowboy* x. 151 We hobbled every horse and side-lined certain leaders.

Sideling (səi·dliŋ), *sb.* Forms: 4 **sydelynge**, 5 **sydlyng**, 6 **syd(e)ling**; 4 **sidelyng**, 8– **side-ling** (9 *Sc.* -lin); 9 **sidling**, *dial.* **siddlin**, etc. [f. SIDE *sb.*[1] + -LING[1].]

†1. A strip or piece of land lying by the side of a larger portion or by a stream. *Obs.*

1399 in Kennett *Par. Ant.* (1695) 531 Fons de Goldwell ..cujus aqua manat..præter dictas buttes, et ideo vocantur Sydelynges. *Ibid.* 532 Ab hoc furlong procedunt le Sidelyngs de quibus patet superius. *c* 1450 *Godstow Reg.* 369 The tythis of ix. buttis I-called Sydlyngis, liyng at the lowsy thorn, bitwene j. acre of lond..and j. pece of lond. 1576 in W. H. Turner *Select. Rec. Oxford* (1880) 387 A bracke betwixte two sydelings called the greate and little sydlings to be dammed uppe. 1726 in W. Wing *Ann. Steeple Aston* (1875) 54 One sideling of Pasture ground of about an acre. *Ibid.* 55 One small sideling of ground and Comon of Pasture for one Cow and one Horse.

2. A slope or declivity, *esp.* one along the side of which a track or road runs.

1808 JAMIESON s.v., *The sidelins* (*sidlings*) of a hill, i. e. the declivity. 1852 MUNDY *Antipodes* v. (1855) 127 We.. got upon a 'sidling' on the slope of the hill. 1881 MRS. C. PRAED *Policy & P.* I. xi. 230 A sideling that afforded no footing for his horse would necessitate a descent into the bed of the creek. 1886 ELWORTHY *W. Som. Word-bk.*

3. *U.S.* = SIDING *vbl. sb.* 7.

1859 BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.* (ed. 2), *Sidling*, a place at which to turn off on a railroad to wait for a passing engine. The English term is siding.

Sideling (səi·dliŋ), *adv.* and *a.* Forms: 4 **sidlyng**, 5 **sydlyng**, 6 **-ling**; 5–6 **sydelyng(e**, 6– **sideling** (7 **-line**; *Sc.* 8 **-lin**, 9 **-lan**); 6–7, 9 **sidling** (*Sc.* **-lin'**). [f. SIDE *sb.*[1] + -LING[2]. Cf. MDu. *side-, zidelinge*, MLG. *syd-, zydeling(e.* An OE. comb. *sidlingweg* occurs in Kemble *Cod. Dipl.* III. 446.]

A. *adv.*

1. With a sideward movement; in a sidelong direction; sideways; obliquely.

c 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 10348 3yf any connyng man of þo Standeþ stille, or sidlyng can go. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 7320 Prothenor..Set hym a sad dynt Sydlyng by-hynd. 1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* x. lxiv. 524 Thenne they lasshed to gyder many sad strokes & tracyd and trauercyd now bakward now sydelyng. 1506 *Mem. Hen. VII* (Rolls) 290 So the King of Castile went sidling into the closet and drew the King in by the arm. 1589 PUTTENHAM *Eng. Poesie* III. (Arb.) 300 Such as retire from the Princes presence..go backward or sideling for a reasonable space. 1609 W. M. *Man in Moone* (1849) 30 Hee hath the witte yet to enter sideling, like a gentlewoman with an huge farthingall. 1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* 142 Crabs move sideling, Lobsters will swim swiftly backward. 1702 S. PARKER tr. *Cicero's De Finibus* I. 14 If all his Atoms must descend Sideling, they'll never join one another. 1789 D. DAVIDSON *Seasons* 45 Sidelin to the fight They both come on. 1830 W. PHILLIPS *Mt. Sinai* I. 392 Or east, or west, or sideling to the north, Or south careering, it is follow'd still.

†2. a. To or on one side (*of* a thing). *Obs. rare.*

1543 RECORDE *Arithm.* 132 b, Farthynges..must be set in a voyde space sydelynge beneth the pennes. 1657 HOWELL *Londinop.* 349 Worcester House lies sideling of it. 1786 BURNS *Lord Daer* v, I sidling shelter'd in a nook, An' at his lordship steal't a look.

†b. With an inclination to one side. *Obs.*

1603 FLORIO *Montaigne* (1634) 518 All Alexanders followers bare their heads sideling, as he did. 1612 SHELTON *Quix.* I. i. viii, I pray you sit right in your saddle, for you ride sideling, which proceeds, as I suppose, of the bruising you got by your fall. 1718 MOTTEUX *Quix.* (1733) I. 62 Sit a little more upright in your Saddle; you ride sideling methinks.

†3. With the side *toward* something. *Obs.*[–1]

1548 PATTEN *Exped. Scotl.* G vj, The enemies were in a fallowe felde, wherof the furrowes lay sydelyng towarde our men.

†4. On a side-saddle; facing to the side. *Obs.*

1603 FLORIO *Montaigne* I. xlviii. (1632) 158 To ride up and downe.., ever sitting sideling, as women use. 1619 MIDDLETON *Love & Antig.* Wks. 1885 VII. 326 Queen Anne..being the first that taught women to ride sideling on horseback. 1698 J. CRULL *Muscovy* 299 This Horse..upon which the Patriarch rides sideling.

†5. So that the top and bottom are turned to the sides. *Obs. rare.*

1611 FLORIO, *Catagràphi*, images or pictures standing biase or sideline. 1712 SWIFT *Public Sp. Whigs* Wks. 1751 VIII. 9 A Fellow nailed up Maps in a Gentleman's Closet, some sideling, others upside down.

B. *adj.*

†1. Situated towards or at the side(s). *Obs.*

1548 VICARY *Anat.* iii, (1888) 27 [The] Parietales..be the bones of the sideling parts of the head. 1552 UDALL tr. *Germinus' Anat.* B iij b/2 The Chekes are the sydelynge partes of the face.

2. Directed or moving sideways; oblique.

1611 COTGR., *Oblique*,..sideling, bowed, winding. 1665 MANLEY *Grotius' Low C. Wars* 18 Sideling and oblique Accusations were admitted. 1678 DRYDEN *Kind Keeper* II. i, The peaking Creature,..with a sideling Look, as if one Cheek carry'd more byass than the other. 1763 DOUGLAS *Leasowes* in *Shenstone's Wks.* (1777) II. 304 The eye is carried by a sideling view down a length of lawn. 1771 FOOTE *Penseroso* v. 237 The sideling glance Of bigot malice. 1828 SCOTT *Fair M. Perth* xxiii, Henry struck him a sideling blow on the steel head-piece. 1845 G. OLIVER *Coll. Biogr. Soc. Jesus* p. iii, They cast no sideling glance to interest. 1890 HALL CAINE *Bondman* II. v, 'We know you are watching him,' he added, with a sideling motion of the head towards Government House.

b. *fig.* Of speech, etc.; Indirect.

1789 ROSS *Helenore* (ed. 3) 105 For Nory's sake, this sideling hint he gae.

3. Having an inclination; sloping, steep.

1611 COTGR., *Callate*,..a sideling, or sloping peece of ground. 1808 in JAMIESON. 1821 CLARE *Vill. Minstr.* II. 44 The green hill's sideling slope. 1854 *Trnl. R. Agric. Soc.* XV. II. 246 It is a good plan to plough sidling ground in a circle. 1894 *Harper's Mag.* Feb. 356/2 Never have I seen hills as sideling as these.

Hence **†Si·delingwise** *adv. Obs.*[–1]

1587 HOLINSHED *Chron., Hist. Scotl.* 102/2 Two Pictish horssemen running at Colgerme sidelingwise, bare him quite through.

Sidelings (səi·dliŋz), *adv.* Now *dial.* Forms: 4–6 **sydlynges** (5 **-lyngs**, 6 **-lyngis**, 9 **-lins**); 4–5 **sidelynges** (6 **sedelinges**, *Sc.* **sidelingis**), 6– **sidelings**, 8–9 **sidlins** (**-lans**, **-lens**); 5 (9 *dial.*) **sidlings**, 6 **-lingis**, 9 **-lins**. [f. SIDE *sb.*[1] + -LINGS. Cf. Fris. *sydlings*, Du. *zijdelings*, G. *seitlings*. In Sc. dial. also used as an adj.]

1. = SIDELING *adv.* 1; also, indirectly, with indirect speech; with a side-look.

c 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 10869 Frolle vp stirte, & sydlynges glent. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 2057 þe pouwere of Persy..Seȝes sidlings doun slayn of paire blonkis. *c* 1430 *Syr Gener.* (Roxb.) 4206 Right befor the king of kinges Manassen fel deid doun sidelinges. 1562 TURNER *Herbal* II. (1568) 93 Theophrast maketh orobum to grow sydlynges. 1593 NASHE *Foure Lett. Conf.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 263 In a verse, when a worde of three sillables cannot thrust in but sidelings. 1613 M. RIDLEY *Magn. Bodies* 16 That she wave not sidelings or turne about. 1675 V. ALSOP *Anti-sozzo* 407 Why should others be forced to crowd in and wedge themselves through a narrow wicket sidelings? 1785 BURNS *To Wm. Simpson* ii, Ironic satire, sidelins sklented, On my poor Muse. 1807–10 TANNAHILL *Poems* (1846) 70 I'll sidelins hint—na, bauldly tell, I whyles think something o' mysel'. 1856 J. SMITH *Merry Bridal* 66 Sidelins he meets the cauld averted gaze O' them that kent him in his better days.

†2. = SIDELING *adv.* 2 a. *Obs.*

?*a* 1400 *Morte Arth.* 1039 Bot thow moste seke more southe, sydlyngs a lyttille. *c* 1450 in Aungier *Syon* (1840) 309 Se

that the deske..be set atte sowth ende of that awter..sidelyngs a fowre fote. 1533 BELLENDEN *Livy* II. xxi. (S.T.S.) I. 216 Ane weyng of horss men come sidlingis þe batall of Veanis. 1579 J. JONES *Preserv. Bodie & Soul* I. xxvi. 49 In what sorte the light in the Chamber is to be placed... If sidelings, it may cause the Infant to proue squint. 1613 M. RIDLEY *Magn. Bodies* 16 If ankors be layd out, either forward, or backward, or sidelings.

† **3.** = SIDELING *adv.* 3. *Obs.*

1561 HOLLYBUSH *Hom. Apoth.* 10 Take a greate basin, set it sedelinges to a wall, so that it do leane holy vpon the wall.

4. Side by side; abreast.

1552 LYNDESAY *Monarche* 2730 Sick breid, abufe the wallis, thare was, Thre cartis mycht sydlingis on thame pas. 1805– in *Eng. Dial. Dict.*

5. = SIDELING *adv.* 4.

a 1825 FORBY *Voc. E. Anglia* 300 Women sit on horseback sidlings, and men straddlings. 1898 in *Eng. Dial. Dict.*

Si·delong, *adv.*[1] and *a.*[1] Also **side-long.** [f. SIDE *sb.*[1] + -LONG. Cf. MDa. *sidelangs*, MSw. *sidhlangs* adv.]

A. *adv.*

1. Towards the side; sideways, obliquely.

1580 BARET *Alvearie*, Sidelong or sidewise, *ex obliquo.* 1589 NASHE *M. Marprelate* Wks. (Grosart) I. 121 A crooked generation, that loues to swym side-long with the Crabbe. 1602 R. CAREW *Cornwall* 10 b, Their maner of working in the Loadmines, is to follow the Load as it lieth, either sidelong, or downe-right. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* VI. 197 As if..waters forcing way Sidelong, had push't a Mountain from his seat. 1718 *Freethinker* No. 17 Taking her Hoop in one Hand in a great Fury, she squeezes side-long through a Passage two Yards wide. 1816 SCOTT *Antiq.* xl, With these words she sunk back on the settle, and from thence sidelong to the floor. 1867 RUSKIN *Time & Tide* x. § 58 That blue-lipped serpent—working its way sidelong in the sand.

2. Along the sides. *rare*—[1].

1592 R. D. *Hypnerotomachia* 19 b, Which aulter (as I may tearme it) sidelong about, wrought with leaves.

3. So as to show the side. *rare*—[1].

1610 GUILLIM *Heraldry* VI. v. (1611) 264 This forme of Helmet placed sidelong and close doth Ger. Leigh attribute to the dignity of Knight.

4. To the side *of*; side by side; presenting the side *to* something.

1643 *True Informer* 40 The Parliaments Forces were within six miles side-long of him. 1803 *Edwin* III. iii. 49 When..our bands were engaged in war, sidelong we fought. 1846 HAWTHORNE *Mosses* II. xii, Seated within the shop, sidelong to the window. 1895 KIPLING *2nd Jungle Bk.* 203 Each [dog] was fastened sidelong to his neighbour's neck.

5. On the side; with the side to the ground.

1667 MILTON *P. L.* IV. 333 Side-long as they sat recline On the soft downie Bank damaskt with flours. 1748 THOMSON *Cast. Indol.* I. xl, Behoves no more, But sidelong, to the gently-waving wind, To lay the well-tun'd instrument reclin'd. 1757 W. WILKIE *Epigoniad* IV. 95 He..sidelong on the beach the galley laid. 1870 MORRIS *Earthly Par.* II. III. 334 Side-long the plough beside the field-gate lay.

b. Inclining to one side in moving along a slope.

1879 JEFFERIES *Wild Life* vi. 119 On the hills where the waggons have to run 'sidelong' to pick up the crops one side higher than the other.

6. As *prep.* By or along the side of.

1523 FITZHERB. *Husb.* § 38 If she wyl not stande syde longe all the lambe, than gyue her a lyttell hey. 1822 SCOTT *Halidon Hill* I. ii, We'll..descend Sidelong the hill; some winding path there must be.

B. *adj.*

1. In a slanting direction; in a sloping position; inclining to one side; lying on the side.

1597 A. M. *Guillemeau's Fr. Chirurg.* 28/4 We must make the apertione sydelonge or contradictorye, when we purpose to iterate the phlebotomye. 1718 ROWE tr. *Lucan* V. 928 This [wave] lays the sidelong Alder on the Main, And that restores the leaning Bark again. 1748 GRAY *Alliance* 91 With side-long plough to quell the flinty ground. *c* 1830 LONGF. *Spirit of Poetry* 30 The..upland where the sidelong sun.., at evening, goes. 1871 PALGRAVE *Lyr. Poems* 36 As he who whilst the side-long vase ran clear Dream'd down whole years in fancy.

b. *spec.* Of ground: Sloping.

1792 BELKNAP *Hist. New-Hampshire* III. 105 In side long ground, the stick by its rolling would overset the sled. 1802 E. DARWIN *Orig. Society* IV. 165 Green sloping lawns construct the sidelong scene. 1838 SIMMS *Public Wks. Grt. Brit.* 36 The area of any cross section in sidelong ground. 1873 ROBERTSON *Engineering Notes* 48 Sidelong ground must be cut into steps before embanking over it.

2. Directed to one side or sideways.

1608 BP. J. KING *Serm.* 24 Mar. 2 The comming so neare togither, of two..so greát festiuities.., giueth mee so iust an occasion, togither with my principal aime at the one, to haue a collateral, sidelong aspect at the other. 1635 SWAN *Spec. M.* V. § 2 (1643) 169 Their motion is a laterall or sidelong motion. 1737 *Gentl. Mag.* VII. 570 With a side-long look, Poor William thro' the heart was struck. 1791 COWPER *Iliad* XXI. 319 With a sidelong sweep Assailing him. 1818 BYRON *Juan* I. clxxiii, Regarding both with slow and sidelong view. 1861 THACKERAY *Round. P., Ogres*, He gives a dreadful sidelong glance of suspicion. 1887 HALL CAINE *Son of Hagar* III. i, Indicating with a sidelong nod the room to the left.

transf. 1743 FRANCIS tr. *Hor., Odes* III. xxii. 10 Yearly shall bleed a festal Swine, That meditates the side-long Wound.

b. Glancing, moving, or extending sideways.

1818 SHELLEY *Rev. Islam* III. xxxiv. 8 Past the pebbly beach the boat did flee On sidelong wing, into a silent cove. 1864 SWINBURNE *Atalanta* 1305 But the sidelong arrow slid. 1877 TENNYSON *Harold* III. i. 87 [It] shot out sidelong boughs across the deep.

3. Indirect; not straightforward or open.

1654 Z. COKE *Logick* 25 We have seen the direct degrees; now follow the Collateral, or sidelong, which is called Difference. 1697 C. LESLIE *Snake in Grass* (ed. 2) 380 Their sidelong Answers, and silly Excuses will not do. 1832 HT. MARTINEAU *Homes Abroad* vi. 82 They did not see the winks, and the side-long smiles. 1853 R. S. SURTEES *Sponge's Sp. Tour* (1893) 148 Hazarding promiscuous sidelong sort of observations, that might be taken up by anybody. 1883 *Longman's Mag.* Nov. 97 A sinister look, which even the Captain could not help noting in a sidelong fashion.

† **Si·delong,** *adv.*[2] and *a.*[2] *Obs. rare.* [f. SIDE *adv.*[1] and *a.* + LONG *a.*] = SIDE *a.* and *adv.*[1]

1576 GASCOIGNE *Steele Gl.* Epil. (Arb.) 82 They be no boyes, which weare such side long gowns. 1591 SPENSER *M. Hubberd* 354 And now the Foxe had gotten him a gowne, And th' Ape a cassocke sidelong hanging downe. — *Vision Bellay* ix, An hideous bodie big and strong I sawe, With side-long beard.

Si·de-look. [SIDE *sb.*[1]] An oblique look; a side-glance. Also *fig.*

1705 STEELE *Tender Husb.* IV. i, That Side-look hides the Mole on the left Cheek. 1820 SYD. SMITH *Wks.* (1859) I. 316 In that straight line he went on for fifty years, without one side-look. 1880 BLACKMORE *Mary Anerley* xli, With a side-look he let her know that he did not wish to hurt her feelings.

So **Si·de-looker, -looking.**

13.. *MS. Digby 86* fol. 168 b, þe hare..þe westlokere, The waldeneie, the sid-lokere. *c* 1435 *Torr. Portugal* 1650 As he caste a side lokyng, He saw a lady in her bed syttyng.

† **Si·dely,** *adv. Obs.*—[1] [f. SIDE *sb.*[1]] In an indirect manner; indirectly.

c 1380 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* I. 324 3if a man aȝenstondiþ God and doiþ aȝens his wille, 3it Goddis wille is fillid asideli [*v.r.* sydely] by punishinge of þis man.

† **Si·deman.** *Obs.* [f. SIDE *sb.*[1]]

1. = SIDESMAN 1.

1570 FOXE *A. & M.* (ed. 2) 2098/1 He beyng one of the Church Wardens or side men. 1577 HARRISON *England* II. v. (1877) I. 134 In villages they are commonlie made churchwardens, sidemen, aleconners, constables. 1602 CAREW *Cornwall* 82 Besides this Incumbent, euery parish had certaine officers, as Churchwardens, Sidemen. 1636 DAVENANT *Wits* III. i, It is worth all the Bells in your Church Steeple, Though your Sexton and Side-men hung there too, To better the peal. 1682 in *Picture of Liverpool* (1834) 108 Thomas Mathews elected sideman for the remainder of the year.

2. A partisan. *rare*—[1].

1600 W. WATSON *Decacordon* (1602) 93 The partie that brought it was a sideman of the Iesuits.

3. (See quot.) *rare*—[1].

c 1600 EDMONDS *Observ. Cæsars Comm.* 130 The first, second and third, and so forward in each file, are called Sidemen in respect of the same numbers in the next file.

4. = OYSTER 3.

1632 SHERWOOD, The sidemen of a pullet, *les huistres d'une poulle.*

† **Si·den,** *adv. Obs.* [OE. *sídan*, f. *síd* SIDE *a.*] = SIDE *adv.*[1] 1.

932 in Birch *Cartul. Sax.* II. 389 Of ȝehwilcum stowum wydan and sydan ȝegaderod. *c* 1205 LAY. 139 Muche lond he him ȝef..siden & widen. *Ibid.* 15405 He lette his men riden widen & siden.

† **Si·deness.** *Obs.* [f. SIDE *a.*] **a.** Length. **b.** Height (of a roof).

c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xli. (*Agnes*) 158 God send sic sydnes in hyre hare þat scho wes cled mare ewinely with hare þane with hire clathis in hy. *c* 1380 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* II. 62 þei maken þer abitis myche, boþe in widnesse and sidnesse. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 474 Stepnesse, or sydenesse of a roof, *elevacio.* 1530 PALSGR. 270/1 Sydenesse, *longevr.* 1583 P. STUBBES *Anat. Abuses* E ij, The other contayneth neither length, breadth or sidenes (beeing not past a quarter of a yarde side) wherof some be paued. 1607 MARKHAM *Caval.* II. (1617) 258 When you..haue made both the bitt cheekes of an euen sidenesse.

† **Si·denhand,** *adv. Obs.* Also 5 **sydnandys.** [f. OE. *sídan*, gen. sing. of *síde* SIDE *sb.*[1] + HAND *sb.*] Aside; on one side *of.*

c 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 5019 Cesar conseilled wiþ Androche, þat he wolde come out of þe cite, And turne a sidenhand o valeye. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 455/1 Sydnandys, or a-syde, *oblique.* 1538 LELAND *Itin.* (1907) I. 9 The hedde of Avon Ryver risethe a litle sidenhand [*printed* -ham] of Gilesborow village, and cummith by it there first receyving a botom. [Cf. *side-hand* under SIDE *sb.*[1] 27.]

Si·de-pocket. [SIDE *sb.*[1]]

1. A pocket in the side-portion of a garment (esp. a coat or jacket).

1760–72 H. BROOKE *Fool of Qual.* (1809) III. 116 Pulling out his butcher's knife from a sheath in his side-pocket. 1796 *Grose's Dict. Vulgar T.* (ed. 3) s.v., He has as much need of a wife as a dog of a side pocket; said of a weak old debilitated man. 1824 SCOTT *St. Ronan's* XXX, Buttoning his coat over the arms, which were concealed in a side-pocket ingeniously contrived for that purpose. 1862 WHYTE MELVILLE *Inside the Bar* iii. 265 He's no more use for a hunter now, than a cow has for a side-pocket. 1901 *Macm. Mag.* Apr. 465/2 He brought an old coat one day, and amused himself firing through the side-pockets.

attrib. 1898 *Westm. Gaz.* 13 Jan. 4/2 He wore a..side-pocket jacket which fitted him like a glove.

2. (See quot.)

1850 R. G. CUMMING *Hunter's Life S. Afr.* (ed. 2) I. 23 Along the sides of the tent are suspended rows of square-cut canvas bags, called side-pockets.

Si·de-post. [SIDE *sb.*[1]]

1. One of the posts at either side of a doorway; a door-post. (Chiefly in Biblical echoes.)

1535 COVERD. *Exod.* xii. 22 Stryke it vpon the vpper poste and vpon the two syde postes. [Similarly 1572 and 1611.] 1697 C. LESLIE *Snake in Grass* (ed. 2) 140 The striking of its Blood upon the Side-posts of their Houses. 1738 WARBURTON *Div. Legat.* II. 635 Striking the blood on the side-posts. 1865 J. H. INGRAHAM *Pillar of Fire* (1872) 562 To sprinkle its blood on the side-posts and on the lintel. 1874 RUSKIN *Val D'Arno* 217, I intended..to have insisted, at some length, on the decoration of the lintel and side-posts.

2. A post supporting a roof at or towards one side of it.

1625 in Willis & Clark *Cambridge* (1886) I. 197 The syde-postes of ye roofe. 1850 PARKER *Gloss. Arch.* (ed. 5) 427 *Side-posts* in a roof-truss, are posts placed in pairs at an equal distance from the middle. 1862 — *Rickman's Gothic Archit.* 200 The vaulting-shafts or half pillars.. carrying either the ribs of the vault, or the side posts of the open timber roof.

Si·der[1]. [f. SIDE *v.* 11.] One who sides *with* a person or cause; a partisan, adherent.

1616 J. LANE *Contn. Sqr.'s T.* III. 211 False dice and carders, with all cheatinge crewes, siders that feede, nay blo self-gaine-made faction. 1656 S. H. *Gold. Law* 4 What then can nocent Charls Stuart, or his siders with, say for themselves? 1665 WINSTANLEY *Loy. Martyrol.* 171 A desparate Enemy to the Old King all along,..a greater Sider with Cromwel.

Hence † **Si·dership.** *Obs.*

1594 NASHE *Unfortunate Trav.* Wks. (Grosart) V. 21 The world is well amended, thought I, with your Sidership.

Si·der[2], forming the second element in a comb. or collocation, as *near sider*, a horse standing on the near side; *hillsider*, one living on a hillside, etc. See also INSIDER and OUTSIDER.

1841 LEVER *C. O'Malley* cxii, I like that near sider with the white fetlock. 1865 H. KINGSLEY *Hillyars & Burtons* xii, Those who think they know something of them might fancy that 'Old hand', 'Vandemonian', or even 'Sydney Sider', were not particularly offensive. 1892 S. C. SCRIVENER *Our Fields & Cities* 11 The Trentsiders have a manner peculiarly their own. 1898 [see HILLSIDER].

Sider, obs. form of CIDER.

Si·de-rail. [SIDE *sb.*[1] 23 b.] A rail placed or fixed at the side of something.

1754 J. BARTLET *Gentl. Farriery* (ed. 2) 354 Let an assistant, standing on the side rail of a brake,..raise the horse's tail very gently. 1790 W. H. MARSHALL *Rur. Econ. Midl.* II. 437 *Geering*, the ladders and side rails of a waggon. 1805 R. W. DICKSON *Pract. Agric.* I. 34 By means of a crooked side-rail, bending archwise over the hind wheel, the bodies..are kept low. 1852 WIGGINS *Embanking* 132 Placing gates and side-rails to those marshes. 1903 *Cornhill Mag.* Oct. 571, I leaned against the side-rail [of the yacht] beside her.

Sideral (sə·ĭdĕrăl, si·dĕrăl), *a.* Also 6 **syderall,** 7–8 **-al**; 7 **siderall.** [ad. L. *sīderālis*, f. *sīder-*, *sīdus* constellation, star. Cf. F. *sidéral*, † *syderal* (16th cent.).]

1. Of or pertaining to the stars; sidereal, starry.

1594 BLUNDEVIL *Exerc.* II. I. xxxviii. (1597) 170 b, The Astronomicall yeare is either Tropicall or Syderall. 1653 GATAKER *Vind. Annot. Jer.* 48 He sends for those of his Egyptian Wizards, whome he deemed most skilful in the Sideral Science. 1683 MOXON *Mech. Exerc., Printing* 38 The Syderal Observations set forth in Tycho's name. 1807 J. BARLOW *Columb.* x. 7 So shone the earth, as if the sideral train, Broad as full suns, had sail'd the ethereal plain. 1870 EMERSON *Soc. & Solit.* Wks. (Bohn) III. 2, I who am only waiting..to..put diameters of the..sideral orbits between me and all souls.

2. Coming from, caused by, the stars. Chiefly of malign influences.

1611 SPEED *Hist. Gt. Brit.* IX. xiii. § 27 As if it had beene a syderall infection or generall Lunacy. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* X. 693 These changes in the Heav'ns..produc'd..sideral blast, Vapour, and Mist, and Exhalation hot. 1708 J. PHILIPS *Cyder* I. 31 The vernal nippings and cold syderal blasts. 1799 *Monthly Rev.* XXX. 570 The virgin mud, fecundated..by the sideral influence. 1805 *Poet. Reg.* 175 Worse than mildew hoar Or Sideral blast is he.

Siderant (si·dĕrănt), *a. Path.* [a. F. *sidérant.*] Striking and paralyzing suddenly.

1896 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* I. 664 The 'type foudroyante' of French authors, which may also be called the fulminant, siderant, apoplectic, or malignant type.

Sidera·phthite. [f. Gr. *σίδηρος* iron + *ἄφθιτ-ος* undecaying.] (See quot.)

1884 C. G. W. LOCK *Workshop Rec.* Ser. III. 39/1 A new alloy, which resembles silver, and is very ductile and malleable, is composed of 65 parts iron, 23 of nickel, 4 of tungsten, 5 of aluminium, and 5 of copper... The metal is called 'siderâphthite'.

† **Si·derate,** *v. Obs.* [f. ppl. stem of L. *sīderārī* to be planet-struck, f. *sīder-*, *sīdus* constellation, star.] *trans.* To strike with malign (sidereal) influence, to blast. Chiefly in passive: To be blasted, struck with lightning; also *fig.*, to be thunder-struck.

1623 COCKERAM I, *Siderate*, to blast. 1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* 335 Parts cauterized, gangrenated, siderated and mortified, become black. 1654 VILVAIN *Epit. Ess.* V. xxxiii. 102 The 2 Persons that were suddenly siderated or slain and scorched in bed together with Lightning. 1679 V. ALSOP *Melius Inq.* II. v. 307 This is Demonstration that puts the Controversie beyond all exception, and the poor Non-conformists are siderated with the violence of it!

Sidera·tion. Now *rare.* Also 7–8 **syd-.** [ad. L. *sīderātio* blast, blight, palsy, f. *sīderārī*: see prec. So F. *sidération*, † *syderation* (16th cent.).]

1. Blasting of trees or plants.

1623 COCKERAM II. A iv b, A Blasting thereof, *Stellation, Syderation.* 1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr., Syderation*, Blasting of Trees with great heat and drought, Tree-plague. 1686 GOAD *Celest. Bodies* III. i. 383 If God hath ordained Sideration of Plants, or blasting of Fruits, must we accuse the

Creation? 1691 RAY *Creation* (1714) 304 Producing a Mortification or Syderation in the parts of Plants. 1721 BAILEY, *Sideration*, the Blasting of Trees or Plants, with an Eastern Wind or with excessive Heat and Drought. [Hence in Miller *Gard. Dict.* (1731).]

2. Sudden paralysis; complete mortification of any part of the body.

1612 COTTA *Disc. Dang. Pract. Phys.* I. vii. 59 The sicke are also sodainly taken..with a senselesse trance and generall astonishment or sideration. 1638 A. READ *Chirurg.* iv. 27 An absolute coldnesse..causeth the sideration or death of the part. 1638 DRUMM. OF HAWTH. *Irene* Wks. (1711) 172 This hath been in them a Sideration, the Blasting of some unhappy Influence. 1702 C. MATHER *Magn. Chr.* VII. vi. (1852) 575 Rabid animals, which, by a most unaccountable syderation from Heaven, had now neither strength nor sense left 'em to do anything for their own defence.

3. *Path.* (See quots.)

[1788 *Med. Comm.* II. 182 *Sideratio*, or Erysipelas of the head and face. 1809 PARR *Med. Dict.* II. 583 *Sideratio*, ..a sphacelus or a species of erysipelas, vulgarly called a *blast*.] 1828–32 in WEBSTER (citing Parr). 1849 CRAIG, *Sideration*, in Pathology, a name given to erysipelas of the face or scalp, from an idea of its being produced by the influence of the planets.

Sidere, obs. form of CIDER.

Sidereal (səidi·ərĭăl), *a.* Also 7–9 **siderial** (7 syd-); 7–8 **sydereal** (7 -all). [f. L. *sidere-us*, f. *sīder-*, *sīdus* constellation, star + -AL.]

1. Of or pertaining to the stars.

1647 H. MORE *Pref. to Antipsychopannychia*, Upon which pure bright sydereal phantasms unprejudiced reason may safely work. 1655 — *Enthus. Tri.* (1712) 32 That a Man has a sydereal body besides this terrestrial which is joined with the Stars. 1692 J. SALTER *Triumphs of Jesus* 24 Display your Glories ye Syderial States. 1739 H. COVENTRY *Philemon to Hydaspes* III. 76 [A] most expressive, as well as permanent Symbol of the Sidereal Splendors. 1792 *Phil. Trans.* LXXXII. 26 Among the changes that happen in the sidereal heavens we enumerate the loss of stars. 1831 CARLYLE *Sart. Res.* I. iii, What thinks Boötes of them, as he leads his Hunting-Dogs over the Zenith in their leash of sidereal fire? 1868 SPENCER *Princ. Psychol.* (1872) I. I. vii. 137 That general Astronomy which includes our whole sidereal system. 1874 FARRAR *Christ* I. iii. 29 That any strange sidereal phenomenon should be interpreted as the signal of a coming king, was in strict accordance with the belief of their age.

2. Star-like, lustrous, bright. *rare.*

1634 BP. HALL *Contempl., N. T.* IV. xiv. 201 With what a blushing astonishment doth she behold his sydereall countenance cast upon her. 1649 J. H. *Motion to Parl.* 30 Provoking some sydereall and flaming soules to display themselves in their full..lustre.

3. Of periods of time: Determined or measured by means of the stars. In *sidereal day, month, year, time* (see quots.).

1681 WHARTON *Disc. Yrs. & Months* Wks. (1683) 71 The Sydereal year is the space of time, in which the Sun returns to the same star from whence he departed. 1715 tr. *Gregory's Astron.* (1726) I. 242 The Astronomic Year is also twofold,..namely, the Sydereal and Tropical. The Sydereal Year..is 365 Days, 6 Hours, and 10 Minutes nearly. 1794 G. ADAMS *Nat. & Exper. Phil.* IV. xiii. 127 There must be one more siderial day in a year than there are solar days. 1812 WOODHOUSE *Astron.* viii. 50 A clock regulated by the transit of fixed stars, or adapted to sidereal time. 1846 A. YOUNG *Naut. Dict.* 95 The interval between the departure and return of a meridian to the sun is called a solar day; in the case..of a star, a sidereal day. 1868 LOCKYER *Elem. Astron.* § 434 The sidereal month is the interval between two successive conjunctions of the moon with the same fixed star.

b. Of a clock: Showing sidereal time.

1812 WOODHOUSE *Astron.* Pref., An observation expressed by..the seconds of a sidereal clock.

4. Of planetary or lunar motion: Relative to the stars.

1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* I. 554 Its annual sidereal revolution is calculated, by Laplace, to be performed in 1681 days, 17 hours, 57 seconds. 1833 HERSCHEL *Astron.* viii. 252 The sidereal periods of the planets may be obtained..by observing their passages through the nodes of their orbits. 1868 LOCKYER *Guillemin's Heavens* (ed. 3) 66 *note*, This revolution is called a sidereal revolution in contradistinction to the 'synodic revolution', because, relatively to the Sun, the planet again occupies the same portion of the heavens.

5. Concerned with the stars.

1833 HERSCHEL *Astron.* 372 Chap. xii. Of Sidereal Astronomy. 1853 — *Pop. Lect. Sci.* v. § 28 (1873) 204 Thus opening another chapter in the history of sidereal mensuration. 1870 tr. *Pouchet's Univers* (1871) 519 The nebulæ mark the limits of sidereal investigation.

Hence **Sidereallize** *v.*; **Sidereally** *adv.*

1816 G. S. FABER *Orig. Pagan Idol.* I. 34 That very goddess, whose peculiar symbol was a ship.., is yet asserted to be sidereally the moon. 1873 PATER *Renaissance* viii. 150 German literature transformed, siderealised, as we see it in Goethe, reckons Winckelmann among its imitators.

Siderean, *a. rare.* [f. as prec. + -AN.] Sidereal, starry.

1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.*, *Sidereal*, of, or like stars, shining, bright; heavenly. 1857 B. W. PROCTER *Dram. Sc.* 342 They brought me down..Siderean music from the Pleiades.

Sidereous, *a. rare*—[1]. [f. Gr. *σίδηρος* iron.] Composed of iron.

1830 *Fraser's Mag.* I. 503 Did the God of Hell, therefore, weep only from one eye, which rained the sidereous torrent of woe—the iron sleet of teary shower?

Siderfic, *a. rare*—[1]. Pertaining to iron.

1876 *Encycl. Brit.* V. 459/2 These elements he asserted were composed of the three principles sideric salt and sulphur and mercury.

Siderism [1]. [f. L. *sīder-*, *sīdus* star.] The doctrine of a sidereal influence upon terrestrial things or events. 1891 in *Cent. Dict.*

Siderism [2]. [f. Gr. *σίδηρος* iron.] The supposed effects of magnetic influence upon the human body.

[1850 OGILVIE, *Siderismus.*] 1891 in *Cent. Dict.* 1898 LANG *Making of Religion* ii. 32 Ritter thought he had detected a new force, 'Siderism.'

Siderite [1] (si·dĕrəit, səidī·rəit). *Min.* [In early use a. F. *siderite* (16th c.), or ad. L. *sidērītes* m., *sidērītis* f., a. Gr. *σιδηρίτης*, *-ῖτις*, f. *σίδηρος* iron. In later use directly f. Gr. *σίδηρ-os* + -ITE [1] 2 b.]

†**1.** Loadstone. *Obs.*

1579 PUTTENHAM *Eng. Poesie, Partheniades* (1811) vii. 50 Not flint, I trowe, I am a lyer; But syderite that feeles noe fier. 1607? BREWER *Lingua* IV. i, Hee fastens a post, vpon which he hangs me in a corde a Siderite, of Herculian stone. 1694 MOTTEUX *Rabelais* IV. lxii, He hang'd on a Gibbet by a Rope a very large Siderite or iron-like Stone,..commonly call'd Load-stone.

2. (See quot. 1623 and SIDERITES.)

1623 COCKERAM III, *Siderite*, a stone like iron, having power to set variance amongst men. 1656 in BLOUNT *Glossogr.* 1862 KING *Antique Gems* (1866) 67 The Siderites, of a steel colour and very heavy, were doubtless Sapphires, for they could be drilled by means of another Diamond.

†**3.** A phosphate of iron; pharmacosiderite, cube-ore. *Obs.*

So named by Bergmann (1790) under the impression that it was a new metal.

1795 *Phil. Trans.* LXXXV. 335 The white matter I supposed was the siderite of Bergman; which is now believed to be phosphate of iron. 1796 KIRWAN *Elem. Min.* (ed. 2) II. 179 Iron in a Reguline state united to Phosphorus is called Siderite. 1805 *Phil. Trans.* XCV. 325 The error which subsisted for a few years, respecting the compound formerly called siderite.

†**4.** Hornblende. *Obs.*

1811 PINKERTON *Petral.* I. 4 Siderite sometimes composes entire mountains...This important substance..is the hornblende of the German miners. *Ibid.* 9 In general..when the substance has a crystallised and silky appearance, it must be classed among the siderites.

5. A blue variety of quartz.

Named by Moll (1797).

1823 W. PHILLIPS *Min.* (ed. 3) 210 Siderite..is compact, of a greyish or greenish blue colour, is nearly as hard as quartz, and possesses a resinous or waxy lustre. 1841 *Penny Cycl.* XIX. 200/1 Blue Quartz, Siderite, occurs crystallized and massive. 1860 PIESSE *Lab. Chem. Wonders* 72 The beautiful amethyst, the blue siderite, the yellow Cairngorm.

6. Rhombohedral carbonate of iron, native ferrous carbonate, spathic iron-ore.

Named by Haidinger (1844); also called SIDEROSE.

1850 ANSTED *Elem. Geol. Min.*, etc. 206 There is a strong tendency in these crystalline carbonates to assume a spherical form; and hence the name Siderite and Sphærosiderite. 1879 *Encycl. Brit.* X. 228/2 Siderite, Chalybite, or Spathic Iron (carbonate of iron) occurs both crystallized and massive. 1894 *Harper's Mag.* Jan. 410 Siderite, or spathic ore, so called from its sparry or glassy crystals, is a combination of iron with carbonic acid ($FeCO_3$).

7. A meteorite consisting mainly of iron.

1875 *Nature* XII. 521/1 The great division of meteorites into iron masses or siderites, mixed masses or siderolites..; and aërolites or stony meteorites,..seems to be a sufficiently logical division. 1881 *Ibid.* XXIV. 508 The detection of carbon, while it agrees with the element's occurrence in siderites and carbonaceous aërolites, reminds us [etc.].

Siderite [2]. *Bot.* [ad. L. *sidērītis*, Gr. *σιδηρῖτις*, f. *σίδηρος* iron: cf. prec.] A plant of the genus *Sideritis*; see IRON-WORT.

1753 *Chambers's Cycl.* Suppl. s.v. *Sideritis*, In all the siderites the flowers grow in circles round the stalks. 1828–32 in WEBSTER (citing Coxe and Parr).

†**Siderites.** *Obs.* = SIDERITE [1] (senses 1–3).

1553 EDEN *Treat. New Ind.* (Arb.) 14 That whiche is of the coloure of yron is called siderites. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* II. 629 Siderites is much like to yron: and supposed it is, That..it will breed discord and maintain dissention still. Of this Siderites is made another stone,..called Sideropœcilos, for the sundry spots therein. 1611 COTGR., *Siderite*, the yron-like stone Siderites, which, as some imagine, hath power to set men at oddes. 1750 *Leonardus' Mirr. Stones* 233 *Siderites*, is a Stone in Colour not much unlike Iron. 1794 SULLIVAN *View Nat.* I. 469 Regulus of manganese, siderites, and regulus of molybdena.

Siderftic, *a. rare.* [f. SIDERITE [1] + -IC.] Of the nature of siderite (in senses 3 and 4).

1796 KIRWAN *Elem. Min.* (ed. 2) II. 180 Sideritic Calx. This consists of Calx of Iron united to Phosphoric acid. 1811 PINKERTON *Petral.* I. 8 As the stones, confessedly called basalts by the ancients, often present marks of crystallisation, being siderific rocks or primitive traps.

Sidero- [1] (si·dĕro, səidī·ro), combining form of Gr. *σίδηρος* iron.

1. In various names of minerals, as *sidero-calcite, -clepte, -graphite, -schisolite*; also *sideromagnesian* adj.

A considerable number of other compounds, which have had little or no currency in English, may be found in Watts' *Dict. Chem.* and Chester's *Dict. Min.*

1794 KIRWAN *Elem. Min.* I. 109 It may be inferred that *braun spar*, or *sidero-calcite, exhibits in its composition various gradations to or from the sparry iron ore. 1811 PINKERTON *Petral.* I. 127 The sidero-calcite and ferri-calcite of Kirwan have little connection with the present subject. 1823 W. PHILLIPS *Min.* (ed. 3) 210 *Sideroclepte..is massive, translucent, of a yellowish green colour. 1820 J. TORREY in *Amer. Jrnl. Sci.* II. 176, I have just discovered a new mineral, or one which I cannot find described. It is a compound of metallic iron and plumbago. ..I have called it *Sidero-graphite. 1896 CHESTER *Dict. Min.*, *Siderographite*,..considered a native compound of iron and graphite, but probably a furnace product. 1811 PINKERTON *Petral.* I. 131 It is so much impregnated with iron, that it belongs to the *sideromagnesian rocks. 1825 *Brewster's Edin. Jrnl. Sci.* II. 372 He [Dr. Wernekingk] described *Sideroschisolite as occurring in small simple three-sided and six-sided pyramids. 1868 WATTS *Dict. Chem.* V. 240 *Sideroschisolite*, a ferroso-ferrous silicate, occurring..in Brazil, in hexagonal crystals.

2. In miscellaneous combs., as **Si·derograph,** an engraving produced by siderography. **Sidero·gra·phic** *a.*, pertaining to siderography; so **Sidero·gra·phical** *a.* (Webster, 1828–32). **Sidero·graphist** (see quot.). **Sidero·graphy,** a method of engraving on steel, introduced by Perkins and Fairman and employed especially for bank-notes. **Sideroli·thic** *a.*, of the nature of a siderolite. **Si·deroscope,** an instrument used to detect minute quantities of iron by means of a combination of magnetic needles. **Siderote·chny,** 'the metallurgy of iron' (*Cent. Dict.*).

1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2174/2 *Siderograph. 1819 (*title*), Specimens and Description of Perkins and Fairman's Patent *Siderographic Plan to prevent Forgery [of bank-notes]. 1820 J. PERKINS in *Trans. Soc. Arts* XXXVIII. 47 We, the proprietors of the Siderographic art. 1847 WEBSTER, **Siderographist*, one who engraves steel plates, or performs work by means of such plates. 1820 *Gent. Mag.* XC. I. 349 *Siderography. 1899 *Edin. Rev.* Oct. 326 Intermediate or *siderolithic varieties consist of an amalgam of metal and stone. 1828–32 WEBSTER s.v., *Sideroscope. 1837 BREWSTER *Magnet.* 352 This apparatus, which he calls a sideroscope, is shewn in the annexed figure.

Sidero- [2] (səi·dĕro, si·dĕro), irregular combining form of L. *sīder-*, *sīdus* star, in **si·derolith,** = SIDEROLITE [2] (*Cent. Dict.*); **si·deropore** [ad. mod. L. *sideropora*, Blainville], one of a genus of zoophytes.

1846 J. D. DANA *Zooph.* (1848) 519 They [the Seriatopores] graduate into the Sideropores on one side, and into the slender Pocillopores on the other.

Siderolite [1] (si·dĕrələit, səidī·rələit). [f. SIDERO- [1] + -LITE.] A meteorite composed of a mixed mass of iron and stone.

1863 *Phil. Mag.* XXV. 49, I propose calling..the intermediate varieties (including the Pallasites of Rose), in which the iron is continuous and associated with silicate, by the term Aërosiderolites or Siderolites. 1875 *Nature* XII. 522/1 The existence of great masses of siderolites like those of Pallas and from Atacama. 1883 *Science* I. 129/1 The iron has the associations usual in siderolite.

Siderolite [2]. [ad. F. *sidérolithe*: see SIDERO- [2].] (See quot.)

1849 CRAIG, *Siderolites*, a name given by Lamarck to those Nummulites which have a stellated appearance, from the margin being bristled with points.

Sideroma·ncy [1]. [f. SIDERO- [1].] (See quot.)

1833 CRABB *Technol. Dict.*, *Sideromancy* (Ant.), a species of divination performed by burning straws, &c., on red-hot iron, in which operation conjectures were formed from the manner of their burning, &c.

Sideroma·ncy [2]. [f. SIDERO- [2].] Forecasting the future by means of the stars.

1859 *Sat. Rev.* VII. 179 What most likely the prophet would in conversation mention as a general scrimmage, but in sideromancy describes as, 'nations bristling with bayonets, &c.'

Si·de-rope. Also 6 **saithe-**. [SIDE *sb.*[1]]

†**1.** A trace for a horse. *Obs.*

1483 *Cath. Angl.* 339/1 A Syde rape, *retinaculum*. *c* 1520 *Mem. Ripon* (Surtees) III. 206, ij lytyll lynys callyd syde ropes. 1556 *Lanc. Wills* (Chetham Soc. N.S.) I. 15 In wheles, ploowes, Iron sydropes, ij shode wheles, wth suche nessesaryes, xxv *s.* 1599 *Ibid.* (1861) III. 9, ix draught oxen wth duble furniture of yokes, waynes, and sitheropes.

2. A guy attached to a mast or pole.

1726 LEONI *Alberti's Archit.* II. 13/1 The head of the mast..we may guide..by means of the two side Ropes, as with two Reins.

3. A rope for clambering up a ship's side.

1839 MARRYAT *Phant. Ship* xli, You might..have let me had a side-rope, my hearties.

Siderose, *a.* and *sb. rare.* [f. Gr. *σίδηρ-os* iron + -OSE [1]. Cf. SIDEROUS *a.*[2]]

A. *adj.* Similar to (that of) iron.

1811 PINKERTON *Petral.* I. 4 Weight, siderose: sometimes approaching the barytose.

B. *sb.* = SIDERITE 6.

Named by Beudant (1832).

1856 DANA *Min.* (ed. 3) 85 Carbonate of Iron (Ironspar; Spathic iron; Siderose).

‖ **Siderosis** (sidĕrō·sis). *Path.* [f. Gr. *σίδηρος*.] Accumulation of oxide of iron in the lungs.

1880 FLINT *Princ. Med.* 186 The changes are similar to those of anthracosis and of siderosis. 1898 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* V. 248 Thus authors have described the results of inhaling..metallic particles as siderosis.

†**Sidero·sous,** *a. Obs.*—[0] [ad. late L. *sīderōsus*, f. *sīder-*, *sīdus* star.] (See quot.)

1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.*, *Syderosous*, Planet strucken; also full of Stars.

Siderostat (si·dĕrostæt). *Astr.* [f. SIDERO- [2], after *heliostat*.] An astronomical instrument by which a star under observation may be kept within the same part of the field of a telescope.

1877 G. F. CHAMBERS *Astron.* (ed. 3) *Vocab.* 916 A form of the instrument [heliostat] specially used for astronomical

purposes is called a siderostat. 1878 Lockyer *Stargazing* 343 One of the most recent additions to astronomical tools is the Siderostat. 1881 Abney *Photogr.* 289 Before the introduction of Foucault's siderostat a telescope would have had to be mounted equatorially, and a clock motion would probably have been necessary.

Hence **Siderosta'tic** *a.*

1879 *Proc. Roy. Soc. Dublin* II. 361 The Siderostatic Telescope..is principally intended for solar spectroscopic investigation. 1885 Agnes Clerke *Hist. Astron.* 450 An instrument with 'siderostatic' mounting.

† Si'derous, *a.*[1] *Obs.*[−1] [f. L. *sīder-, sīdus* star.] Star-like, sidereal.

1646 Sir T. Browne *Psend. Ep.* III. xi. (1686) 104 The mystical conjunction of Hawk and Lion, implying the genial or the syderous Sun.

Siderous, *a.*[2] *rare.* [f. Gr. *σίδηρος* iron.] Having the qualities of iron; ferreous.

1811 Pinkerton *Petral.* Introd. p. xxxviii, The siliceous, the argillaceous, the magnesian [earths]; contemporary with which two last, was that of the ferruginous, or..siderous. *Ibid.* I. i. Domain 1. Siderous.

Siderurgical (sidĕrə̄'ɹdʒikăl), *a.* [f. next + -ICAL.] Pertaining to siderurgy.

1870 tr. *Figuier's Primitive Man* 302 A model..of a siderurgical establishment belonging to the earliest iron epoch. 1878 *Ure's Dict. Arts* (ed. 7) IV. Suppl. 470 At present siderurgical industry yields two series of products.

Siderurgy (sidĕrə̄·ɹdʒi). [a. Gr. *σιδηρουργία* working in iron, f. *σιδηρουργός* an iron-worker, f. *σίδηρος* iron + *ἔργον* work.] The metallurgy of iron and steel.

1891 in *Cent. Dict.* 1897 *Durh. Univ. Jrnl.* 20 Mar. 297 The art of siderurgy must have made considerable advances before it was possible to manufacture a flint and steel.

'Sides (səidz), *prep.* and *adv.* Now *dial.* [aphetic f. Besides.] Besides; moreover.

1579 E. Hake *News out of Powles Churchyd.* D iij, All this theyle haue, and else much more, sydes Marchpane and greene Cheese. 1839– in *Eng. Dial. Dict.* 1901 F. Hume *Golden Wang-ho* i, 'Sides, they'll want to—.

Si'de-saddle, *sb.* (and *adv.*). [Side *sb.*[1]]

1. A saddle so contrived as to enable a woman to sit with both feet on one (usually the left or near) side of a horse; in mod. use *spec.* one with horns or crutches to support and give a hold to the knees of the rider, who sits facing forward with the right knee raised.

1493 *Mem. Ripon* (Surtees) III. 164 Imprimis sol. Willelmo Burton pro emendacione unius syd saddyl quæ fuit dominæ Markyndfeld, 5*d.* *a*1548 Hall *Chron., Hen. VIII*, 214 Wylliam Coffin Master of the Horses leadyng a spare horse with a syde saddle. 1598 Stow *Surv.* 65 King Richard tooke to wife Anne, daughter to the King of Boheme, that first brought hither the riding upon side saddles. 1630 Hakewill *Apol.* (ed. 2) 273 The vse of hoppes in our drinke, of riding in coaches, and of side-saddles, but since the time of Richard the 2 here with vs. 1661 Pepys *Diary* 17 Sept., So I went..to take leave, and of Mr. Townsend did borrow a very fine side-saddle for my wife. 1716–8 Lady M. W. Montagu *Lett.* I. xxxvi. 134 My side-saddle is the first that was ever seen in this part of the world. 1758 Johnson *Idler* No. 13 ¶ 8 She has twenty covers for side-saddles. 1823 Lady Granville *Lett.* (1894) I. 228 Nobody has hinted at a side-saddle or wheeled vehicle for me. 1865 W. G. Palgrave *Arabia* II. 176 We remounted our side-saddles and galloped homewards. 1880 in Mrs. P. O'Donoghue *Ladies on Horseback* 266 Being able to sit square and ride straight on a side-saddle.

b. Used as *adv.* On a side-saddle; sideways.

1885 *Globe* 5 Nov. (Cassell), Anne of Bohemia exhibited the new fashion of riding side-saddle which she had introduced into England. 1905 Sladen *Playing the Game* x. 101 The same bench does for natives and foreigners; the natives squat on it or sit on it side-saddle.

2. *attrib.*, as *side-saddle fashion, rider, riding, shoulders.*

1575 R. B. *Appius & Virg.* B 3 With bobbing and bum, Our side saddle shoulders shal sheilde that doth come. 1788 Cowper *Let. to Rev. J. Newton* 19 April, He thenceforth rode behind, in the side-saddle fashion, with both legs on a side, and thus they proceeded till they came near to Oxford. 1893 Mrs. A. M. Hayes (*title*), The Horsewoman: a Practical Guide to Side-Saddle Riding. 1897 *Westm. Gaz.* 23 Aug. 8/2, I started in the Haute Ecole, as a side-saddle rider.

3. Side-saddle flower (or plant). a. An American swamp-plant of the genus *Sarracenia*, the leaves of which retain a considerable quantity of water.

For various explanations of the name see the earlier quots.

1738 *Phil. Trans.* XL. 347 From the Shape of the Flower, they are in Virginia called the Side-saddle-flower. 1822 *Hortus Anglicus* II. 19 *Sarracenia Flava.* Yellow Side-saddle Flower...*S. Purpurea.* Purple Side-saddle Flower. ..The name is derived from the fancied resemblance of the stigma to a pillion. 1845–50 Mrs. Lincoln *Lect. Bot.* xxxi. 169 This plant is found in swamps; its common name, Side-saddle flower, is given in reference to the form of its leaf. 1861 Bentley *Man. Bot.* 182 They may be seen in the Pitcher plants,..in the Side-saddle plant.., and in many others. 1884 *Harper's Mag.* Nov. 840/2 The small plants called the American 'side-saddle flowers' (*Sarracenia*).

b. The plant *Darlingtonia californica.*

1866 *Treas. Bot.* 384/1 The only species,..known as the Californian Side-saddle flower or Pitcher-plant, is a perennial herb growing in marshy places.

Hence **Si'de-saddle** *v.*

1778 Tickell *Prol. to Camp*, Side-saddle my horse! ah, lace my stays! 1892 A. E. Lee *Hist. Columbus* I. 371 So numerous were the animals, saddled, and 'sidesaddled',.. that they were commonly spoken of as 'the cavalry'.

Si'de-shoot. [Side *sb.*[1] 23 c.] A shoot growing out from the side of a stem. Also *fig.*

1721 Mortimer *Husb.* II. 222 The strongest Side-shoots having Joints sufficient for laying, are to be chosen. 1786 Abercrombie *Gard. Assist.* 110 Plant, and propagate by slips and cuttings of the side-shoots, and rooted off-sets. 1825 *Greenhouse Comp.* I. 129 At no time should more than one flower-bud be allowed to come forward on each side-shoot. 1868 *Rep. U.S. Comm. Agric.* (1869) 256 The first step is to trim away the straggling side-shoots. 1890 Child *Ballads* IV. 40 This broil was no sooner settled than another sprouted, a side-shoot from the same stem.

Si'de-show. [Side *sb.*[1] 24 d.] A 'show' which is subsidiary to a larger one; a minor attraction in an exhibition or entertainment; hence, a minor incident or issue, a subordinate matter or affair.

1855 Barnum *Life* xii. 316 In attending to what might be termed my 'side shows', or temporary enterprises, I have never neglected the American Museum. 1884 *Dickens' Dict. Lond.* 24/3 The price of admission is one shilling, besides 'side shows'. 1893 *Daily News* 11 Jan. 2/3 A charity bazaar, and..the entertainments which are given at those places in what are called the side shows.

fig. 1884 *Times* (weekly ed.) 17 Oct. 17/2 General Butler is conducting his Speech-making 'side-show' through New York. 1900 *Westm. Gaz.* 11 Sept. 2/1 The 'side shows', as the various sectional meetings are termed, were all well attended.

attrib. 1894 *Daily News* 28 June 6/5 With so little side-show attraction.

Si'de-slip, *sb.* [f. Side *sb.*[1] + Slip *sb.* and *v.*]

† 1. ?A slope or rise. *Obs.*[−1]

In mod. Linc. dial. *on the side-slip of* means 'somewhat to the side of'.

1649 in *Archaeol.* (1792) X. 434 The scite of this manor house being placed on the side slipp of a rising ground.

2. An illegitimate child. Cf. By-slip 2.

1872 Geo. Eliot *Middlem.* xl, The old man..left it to this side-slip of a son that he kept in the dark.

3. 'A division at the side of the stage of a theatre, where the scenery is slipped off and on.'

1882 in *Imperial Dict.* (Annandale) Suppl.

4. A slip taken from the side of a plant.

1891 in *Cent. Dict.*

5. The action or fact of slipping sideways, *esp.* on the part of a cycle or motor-car.

1896 *Daily News* 16 Nov. 4/2 Cyclists..came ignominiously to earth by reason of the demon 'side-slip'. 1898 *Westm. Gaz.* 5 Dec. 5/1 A lady cyclist met with a serious accident from side-slip near Leytonstone.

Hence **Si'de-slip** *v.*, to slip sideways.

1887 *Cycling* (Badm. Libr.) 359 Side-slipping.—Most riders of dwarf bicycles have experienced this when riding on greasy roads. 1902 in *Cassell's Dict.* Suppl. 1904 *Blackw. Mag.* Oct. 534/1 They will prance and curvet, sideslip [etc.].

† Sideslips, *adv. Obs.*[−1] In 4 **sideslepis.** [Cf. prec.] ? Sideways, aslant.

*c*1330 R. Brunne *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 13162 On Borel & Cador þat formest went, þe Romayns a-side [*v.r.* sideslepis] on hem glent.

Sidesman (səi·dzmăn). [f. Side *sb.*[1] Cf. Sideman.]

1. One of the persons elected as assistants to the churchwardens of a parish.

There is no foundation for the statement, which is as old as the 17th cent., that *sidesman* in this sense is a corruption of *synodsman.* In the 17th cent. *assistant* is sometimes used interchangeably with *sidesman.*

1632 D. Lupton *Lond. & Co. Carbonadoed, Apparators,* They have much businesse with the Churchwardens and Sides-men. 1667 *Answ. Quest. out of North* 12 There are in all, Threescore and fourteen thousand Churchwardens and Sides-men in England. 1726 Ayliffe *Parergon* 171 A Gift of such Goods, made by them without the Consent of the Sides-men or Vestry, is void. 1766 Entick *London* IV. 45 Two church-wardens, and two sidesmen. 1857 Toulmin Smith *Parish* 70 A part of what has, more lately, been reckoned as one duty of the churchwardens,—the making of presentments—was formerly that of the Sidesmen only. 1898 *Westm. Gaz.* 2 Feb. 5/1 General Moberly was for some twenty years a sidesman at this church.

fig. or *transf.* 1644 Bulwer *Chiron.* 7 But have likewise punctually set downe the office of these sides-men the Hands. 1716 M. Davies *Athen. Brit.* II. 210 Those Preaching sides-men of Prophesying Congregations. 1886 J. Corbett *Fall of Asgard* II. 195 On either side, the men of understanding, whom the young king had taken for his sidesmen, had their place.

b. An assistant to a municipal or civil officer. *local.*

1835 *Municipal Corpor. Rep.* 2585 The Sides-men [of Beaumaris] are assistants merely to the town stewards, and similarly appointed. 1885 *Law Times* LXXIX. 156/1 The cutting of the wood in Wedholme fell into the hands of sixteen sidesmen elected by the tenants.

† 2. A partisan; = Sideman 2. *Obs.*

1648 Milton *Tenure of Kings* 41 How little leasure would they find to be the most pragmatical Sidesmen of every popular tumult and Sedition? 1651 Cleveland *Poems* 22 He, with his little sides-man Lazarus.

3. A player in the game of bowls.

1843 *Proc. Berw. Nat. Club* II. 54 One of the sidesmen runs before, and lays himself down at the spot most suitable for the ball striking, in order that his marrow may direct his aim thither.

4. One who supports another from the side.

1863 *Pilgr. Prairies* I. 271 Placing Wahtogachto on the quietest [horse], supported..by two able sidesmen, [they] took their way across the prairie.

Si'de-step, *sb.* [Side *sb.*[1] or *adv.*[2]]

1. A step to one side. Also *Sc.*, a false step wrenching the limb (Jam. 1882).

1847 *Infantry Man.* (1854) 48 The side or closing step must..be frequently practised. 1859 F. A. Griffiths *Artil. Man.* (1862) 6 The length of the side step, which is always taken in quick time, is 10 inches.

2. A step fixed to the side of a ship, vehicle, etc.

1867 Smyth *Sailor's Word-bk.* 625 *Side-steps*, pieces of wood bolted to the side of a ship for the convenience of ascending.

Hence **Si'de-step** *v.*, to step to one side.

1901 *Scribner's Mag.* Apr. 422/1 Skipper..raised his head, and side-stepped stiffly.

Si'de-stick. *Printing.* [Side *sb.*[1] 23 b.] One of a pair of sticks, usually of wood, with one side slanting, used in locking up a form.

1683 Moxon *Mech. Exerc., Printing* p. viii, By Furniture is meant the Head-sticks, Foot-sticks, Side-sticks,..and Quoyns. 1728 Chambers *Cycl.* s.v. *Printing*, Some of these are placed at the Top of the Pages, call'd *Head-sticks*;.. others at the Sides, call'd *Side-sticks.* 1808 Stower *Printer's Grammar* 203 Having dressed the inside of our pages, we proceed to do the same to their outsides, by putting side sticks and foot sticks to them. 1879 *Print. Trades Jrnl.* xxviii. 12 The inventor claims for them that they are a perfect system of locking-up without side-sticks.

Si'de-table. [Side *sb.*[1] 23.] A table placed beside the wall of a room (*esp.* a dining-room), or to the side of a main or high table.

1377 Langl. *P. Pl.* B. xii. 200 þo þat seten atte syde table or with þe souereignes of þe halle. 1393 — C. xvi. 42 Pacience and ich..seten by ous selue at a syd-table. *c* 1450 in Auzgier *Syon* (1840) 377 Other sustres schal sytte at the syde tables in ther order as they be professyd. 1483 *Cely Papers* (Camden) 135 We schuld paye noo more for owre burdd but iij s. iiij d. fl. a weke at the hye tabull and ij s. viij d. at the syde tabull. *c* 1500 *For to serve a Lord* in *Babees Bk.* (1868) 368 After the high principall tabill sette with brede & salte, thenne salte-selers shall be sette uppon the syde-tablys. 1617 Moryson *Itin.* III. 135 Towards the confines of Flanders, the Hoasts onely cover the table, and a side table, upon which everie passenger hath his glasse. 1665 Pepys *Diary* 13 Sept., The wind, blowing into the room.., flung down a great blow-pott that stood upon the side-table. 1710 Addison *Tatler* No. 148 ¶ 10, I saw a noble Sirloin on the Side-Table. 1760–72 H. Brooke *Fool of Qual.* (1809) IV. 58 Harry ordered a side-table to be covered for him and them. 1848 Dickens *Dombey* xxvi, Besides which, the Native had private zests and flavours on a side-table, with which the Major daily scorched himself. 1888 'J. S. Winter' *Bootle's Childr.* xiii, The pantry-boy and the two kitchen-maids..took their own meals at a side-table in the same room.

Si'de-track, *sb.* Orig. *U.S.* [Side *sb.*[1] 23.] A railway siding.

1881 *Chicago Times* 14 May, The side-tracks of all the roads along nearly their entire lengths were filled with cars loaded with freight. 1894 *Times* 5 May 9/4 The stolen train was eventually run on a side track at Palmer, in Washington State.

Si'de-track, *v.* Orig. *U.S.* [f. prec.]

1. *trans.* To run or shunt (a train, etc.) into a siding. Also *fig.*, to push or set aside.

1881 *Chicago Times* 14 May, It [the corn] has been side-tracked and kept in the sun and rain somewhere along the road. 1886 *Pall Mall G.* 19 June 14/1, I saw several new locomotives which had been side-tracked and allowed to go to ruin.

fig. 1889 *Voice* (N. York) 4 Apr., In the end, that course will side-track and defeat the reform. 1897 *Pop. Sci. Monthly* Nov. 56 Such a project was, in fact, sidetracked in favor of the census of school children.

2. *intr.* To run into a siding. Also *fig.*, to diverge from the main road or course.

1888 *Harper's Mag.* Mar. 650 One train had side-tracked to await the train from the opposite direction. 1893 *Advance* (Chicago) 8 June, The business of the minister is to preach the gospel, not..to side-track on great moral issues.

Hence **Si'de-tracked** *ppl. a.*, **Si'de-tracking** *vbl. sb.*

1892 *46th Ann. Report Amer. Miss.* 140 These side-tracked brothers and sisters of our own Protestant lineage. 1892 A. E. Lee *Hist. Columbus* II. 209 Sidetracking amply sufficient for the great mass of sojourning special trains was provided.

Si'de-view. [Side *sb.*[1] 24 b.] A view of anything obtained or taken from the side. Also *fig.*, a side-reference to something.

1715 Pope *Iliad* Pref. C 3, He not only gives us the full Prospects of Things, but several unexpected Peculiarities and Side-Views, unobserv'd by any Painter but Homer. 1748 Richardson *Clarissa* (1768) II. 75 Only, that I know, she has a side-view to her daughter. 1793 Holcroft tr. *Lavater's Physiog.* i. 14 Passion..will snatch off the mask and give..us a side-view of their true form. 1819 *Pantologia* s.v. *Shipbuilding*, The whole length of the ship is represented according to a side-view, perpendicular to the keel. 1839–52 Bailey *Festus* 105 When both are side-views only of one thing. 1877 *Encycl. Brit.* VII. 170/2 On the side view, by which the valve is presented to the eye of the observer.

Si'dewalk. Also **side-walk, side walk.** [Side *sb.*[1] 23.]

1. A walk or path running parallel to a main or central one. *rare*[−1].

1667 Davenant & Dryden *Tempest* I. ii, 'Tis composed of three walks of cypress-trees; each side-walk leads to a cave...The middle-walk is of great depth.

2. A (raised) path for foot-passengers along the side of a street, road, etc.; a footway or pavement. Now *U.S.*

1739 Labelye *Piers Westm. Bridge* 69 The Side-walks for the Foot-passengers are..raised about a Foot above the Carriage-way. 1815 J. Adams *Wks.* (1856) X. 125 Walking in the streets of Philadelphia, I met, on the opposite side-

walk, Colonel Joseph Lyman. 1837 HAWTHORNE *Twice-told T.* ii, The side walks of the street..are immediately thronged with two long lines of people. 1883 *Harper's Mag.* Apr. 724/1 On the outside of the sidewalk were planted American elms.

attrib. 1883 *Century Mag.* Oct. 929/2 Little sermons in rhyme that are sure to catch the ear and to become hackneyed as a sidewalk song. 1899 *Scribner's Mag.* XXV. 58/2, I followed the shadows of the sidewalk-trees down to the next corner.

Hence **Si·dewalked** *a.* or *pa. pple.*, having, or provided with, sidewalks or foot-pavements.

1884 *Harper's Mag.* Mar. 516/2 There is..no sidewalked street. 1893 *Home Mission N. York* LXV. 593 Miles of streets have been opened, graded, planked, and sidewalked.

Si·de-wall. [SIDE *sb.*[1] 23.] A wall forming the side of a structure, room, or enclosure.

1381 *Durham Halm. Rolls* (Surtees) 171 Et quod le sidwall sit in altitudine vij pedes. *c* 1470 *Gol. & Gaw.* 249 Apone that riche river..The side-wallis war set. 1535 COVERDALE *Ezek.* xli. 9 The thicknesse of the syde wall without. 1642 FULLER *Holy & Prof. St.* IV. xxi. 352 Which two Proverbs speak no more contradiction, then he that saith that the two opposite side-walls of an house hold up the same roof. 1690 W. WALKER *Idiomat. Anglo-Lat.* 238 It was almost side-wall high. 1726 LEONI *Alberti's Archit.* II. 62/2 The rail or side-wall of the Bridge...The height of this side-wall.. must be four foot. 1815 SCOTT *Guy M.* xxvii, The side-walls had long since given way to time. 1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* II. 420 Upon this the side-walls are to be founded. 1884 W. C. SMITH *Kildrostan* 43 One sidewall long had in ruins lain.

transf. 1868 *Rep. U.S. Comm. Agric.* (1869) 258 The stakes are the means of adding side-walls, as it were, to the hedge. 1882 BENTLEY *Man. Bot.* (ed. 4) 52 Sieve-plate on the side-wall.

Sideward (sə͡i·dwŭɹd), *adv.* and *a.* [f. SIDE *sb.*[1] Cf. MDu. *sijtwert, zijdwaert.*]

A. *adv.* Towards one side or the other.

c 1430 *Art Nombryng* 3 We writene in this art to the lift side-warde, as arabiene writene, that weren fynders of this science. *a* 1513 FABYAN *Chron.* (1516) V. CXXVII. 64/1 Ebyn soo became of hym,..he myghte goo or Ryde frowarde or sydewarde, but towarde the Chapell myght he in no wyse atteygne. *a* 1586 SIDNEY *Arcadia* III. (1605) 278 He fell side-ward downe. 1621 QUARLES *Argalus & P.* (1678) 117 With that blow Amphialus last made, his arm had so O'erstruck it self; that sideward to the ground He fell. 1663 MARQ. WORC. *Cent. Inv.* § 95 Whether the Deer run forward, sideward, or start backward. 1831 *Blackw. Mag.* XXX. 972 Stones far outshooting, or sideward leaving the tee. 1851 TRENCH *Study Words* ii. § 36 The leaps and springs, now forward, now sideward, now upward. 1888 *Harper's Mag.* Apr. 740 Frenzied blasts came to buffet the steamer forward, sideward.

B. *adj.* 1. Directed, moving, or tending towards one side.

1831 LARDNER *Hydrost.* vii. 131 In sailing vessels this sideward inclination is a matter of comparatively slight importance. 1878 BESANT & RICE *Celia's Arb.* I. xi. 152 A few weeks before, and they were..striding with a sideward lurch after cows. 1899 *Westm. Gaz.* 9 Aug. 2/1 The sun..then rises with a slight sideward movement.

2. Situated on one side; lateral.

1866 AITKEN *Pract. Med.* II. 59 Sharp collision among the blood-discs, passing from sideward veins into a large vessel.

Si·dewards, *adv.* [f. SIDE *sb.*[1] Cf. Du. *zijwaarts*, G. *seitwärts.*]

Syduardys in the *Promp. Parv.* (E. E. T. S.) 410 is app. an error for *sydnandys* SIDENHAND.

1. To one side. Cf. SIDEWARD *adv.*

a 1648 LD. HERBERT *Life* (1886) 73 When it is requisite only to make a horse go sidewards, it will be enough to keep the reins equal in his hands. 1694 *Martens' Voy. Spitzbergen* in *Acc. Sev. Late Voy.* II. 114 He doth not look downwards, but streight before, and sidewards. 1807 W. TAYLOR in *Monthly Mag.* XXIII. 13 The rash fling sidewards.

2. In a position on one side; aside. Also const. *of* or *from.*

1723 *Pres. State Russia* II. 410 Docks for building of Ships are now Sidewards of the Citadel. 1827 CARLYLE *Germ. Rom.* II. 139 Sidewards from the farm-house lay some offices for the storing of produce and implements. 1871 B. TAYLOR *Faust* (1875) I. xiv. 153 And side-wards she, with young unwakened senses, Her simple, homely life commences.

Si·de-waver. *dial.* Also 7 -wiver, 9 -wafer, -wefer. [f. SIDE *sb.*[1] with obscure second element.

With sense 1 cf. the Northumb. *inwaver, inwiver* a bar of wood inside a boat, on which the seats rest. Sense 2 seems to be derived from the verbs *wave* or *waver.*]

1. A purlin.

1611 COTGR., *Filiere*, .. a side-wauer. 1641 *Louth Rec.* (1891) 110 To Carter for two syne Poules for sidewivers for the schole, vs. vjd. 1671 in Holmes *Pontefract Bk. Entries* (1882) 103 Item, for syde wavers, 2. 0. 0. 1703 THORESBY *Let. to Ray, Bawks*, the large timber beams that support the roof by sign-trees, under the side-wavers. 1768 W. H. MARSHALL *Yorksh.* II. 351 *Sidewaver*, the purline of a roof. 1850 PARKER *Gloss. Arch.* (ed. 5) 377 In some districts purlins are called ribs,..in Lincolnshire side-wavers.

2. *Coal-mining.* (See quot. 1851.)

1851 GREENWELL *Coal-trade Terms, Northumb. & Durh., Side-wavers*, the loose sides of a drift or open-cast, which would, if unsupported, soon fall. 1868 SCOTT *Ventilat. Coalmines* 28 (E. D. D.), A side-wafer, or a frame of stone, most dangerous to look at, as it appeared ready to drop. *Ibid.* 31 The sides of the shaft..had given way; large side-wefers had slidden off.

Si·deway, *sb.* Also side-way. [SIDE *sb.*[1] 23. Cf. MDu. *sijt-, zijdwech* (Du. *zijweg*), G. *seitenweg*, Da. *sidevej*, Sw. *sidoväg.*]

1. A path or way diverging from, or lying to the side of, a main road; a byway: also *fig.*

1552 HULOET, Bypathes, bywaye, or sydewaye, out of the hyghe waye. 1660 F. BROOKE tr. *Le Blanc's Trav.* 220 We took a side-way towards the towns. 1832 BREWSTER *Nat. Magic* ii. 17 In a path or road where there was no side-way by which the figure could escape. 1874 LISLE CARR *J. Gwynne* I. iii. 69 From this her mind would slant off into a sideway.

2. A (raised) path along the side of a road; a footway. Now *U.S.* Cf. SIDEWALK 2.

1738 RICHARDSON *De Foe's Tour Gt. Brit.* (ed. 2) III. 319 A Causeway or Walk, well pav'd with flat Freestone, such as the Side-ways in Cheapside and Cornhil. 1852 D. G. MITCHELL *Reveries Bachelor* IV. i. vii, Below, dim figures are gathering on the narrow sideways to look at the solemn spectacle. 1886 *Philadelphia Times* 9 Apr. (Cent.), Every inch of roadway,..and every inch of sideway,..was covered by people.

attrib. 1804 J. GRAHAME *Sabbath* (1808) 24 Mark the father 'mid the sideway throng.

Si·deway, *adv.* and *a.* [SIDE *sb.*[1]]

A. *adv.* = SIDEWAYS *adv.*

1612 PEACHAM *Gentl. Exerc.* (1634) 33 The beames of the Sunne comming oblikely or sideway. 1715 LEONI *Palladio's Archit.* (1742) I. 8 The first course being laid the lesser part out-side; the second the length laid side-way. 1776 *Trial of Nundocomar* 21/2 Maha Rajah then looked at me sideway angrily. 1793 SMEATON *Edystone L.* § 174 At the distance of a foot sideway it might have got through by piercing the wall alone. *c* 1850 LOWELL *Extreme Unction* vi, My snake-turned nature, sunk in slime, Starts sideway with defiant hiss. 1851 HAWTHORNE *Ho. Seven Gables* vi, The faint gleam..showed the blanched paleness of her cheek, turned sideway towards a corner.

B. *adj.* Directed or moving towards or from one side; indirect; sidelong.

c 1800 R. CUMBERLAND *J. de Lancaster* (1809) I. 274 Paying a side-way compliment to his daughter. 1810 CRABBE *Borough* iii. 322 But there is hope that from these founts may flow A side-way stream, and equal good bestow. 1863 GEO. ELIOT *Romola* iv, [He] turned a slow sideway gaze on the stranger. 1883 *Nonconf. & Independent* 20 Dec. 1146/3 A stolen sideway peep into other men's bosoms.

Sideways (sə͡i·dwē͡iz), *adv.* and *a.* [f. SIDE *sb.*[1] + -WAYS.]

1. From one side.

1577 B. GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* III. (1586) 128 Let him that keepes them, offer them a little meate, not sidewaies, or behinde, but before coying them al the while. 1712 *Spect.* No. 524 P 6 Where they lost the full Prospect of the Radiant Pillar, and saw it but side-ways. 1725 *Fam. Dict.* s.v. *Rabbet*, If the Wind be side-ways, it may do well enough.

2. Presenting the side instead of the face, front, or end; with the side foremost; in the direction of the side; facing to the side, etc.

1598 W. PHILLIP tr. *Linschoten* 5 But it is a side-wind, and we must alway lie sidewaies in the wind almost untill wee come to the cape de Bona Speranza. 1612 PEACHAM *Gentl. Exerc.* III. ix. (1634) 157 A Lion is given sometimes but halfe,..sometime but his head only, which is never borne but sideways, and with one eye. 1713 DERHAM *Phys. Theol.* Pref. (1720) 6 The Beards..are not to be seen, unless they are laid in a due posture in the Microscope, viz. side-ways. 1771 LUCKOMBE *Hist. Print.* 344 Taking..five quires off his Heap in both his hands.., he shakes them long-ways and side-ways, to and fro. 1818 COBBETT *Polit. Reg.* XXXIII. 596 Their great Quack..would have pushed them along, either long-ways or side-ways, head-foremost or heels-foremost, through all their difficulties. 1840 DICKENS *Old C. Shop* v, Some side-ways, some head first, some stern first. 1866 G. MACDONALD *Ann. Q. Neighb.* ix. (1878) 140 A..narrow stair, upon which two people could not pass without turning sideways and squeezing.

b. Const. *to* or *towards.*

1795 SOUTHEY *Lett. fr. Spain* (1799) 104 The course of the Ezla..has altered much since the bridge was built. It now stands sideways to the current. 1825 J. NEAL *Bro. Jonathan* I. 79 Lucy Armstrong..sat..sideways towards Peters.

3. In a lateral or sideward direction; towards one side; obliquely.

1611 COTGR., *A costiere*, aside, sideling, sidewayes. *c* 1618 MORYSON *Itin.* IV. viii. (ROXB.) 142 And two [guns] of like greatnes..were turned towards the Gallye to shoote sydewayes. 1692 BENTLEY *Boyle Lect.* vii. 236 The Atoms may not only fly side-ways, but over likewise and under each other. *a* 1734 GOLDSM. *Surv. Exp. Philos.* (1776) I. 408 Thus far as to water spouting horizontally, or as we usually say sideways from a vessel. 1798 COLERIDGE *Anc. Mar.* III. xiv, We listened and looked sideways up! 1838 WHEWELL *In Life* (1881) 191 The horse slipped down side-ways on a hard-frozen slope, and I fell on my shoulder. 1868 LOCKYER *Elem. Astron.* § 176 He will find that the axis is not then inclined either to or from the Sun, but sideways. 1892 A. RITCHIE *Rec. Tennyson* I. viii. 48 He told me to look..if the field-lark did not come down sideways upon its wing.

b. With a scornful side-glance; askance.

1860 MISS KAVANAGH *Seven Years* III. 142 If any one should look sideways at you for what has passed, let that person expect to settle it with me.

4. So as to incline to one side.

1632 MILTON *Epit. March'ess Winchester* 42 But the fair blossom hangs the head Side-ways. 1870 SWINBURNE *Ess. & Stud.* (1875) 333 A beautiful head of a youth bent sideways.

5. At one side (*of* a place).

17.. in *Chambers' Cycl.* (1753) s.v. *Coursing*, No horseman or footman is to go before or sideways, but all strait behind. 1805 EUGENIA DE ACTON *Nuns of Desert* II. 2 We proceeded ..till we reached a cottage, about a mile sideways of Marston.

6. By an indirect way or route; indirectly.

1723 *Pres. St. Russia* II. 277 Whatever Provisions were with the greatest difficulty bought up Sideways in the Country and carried to them, were to be paid for double and treble the value. 1877 TENNYSON *Harold* I. i. 260 Side not with Tostig in any violence, Lest thou be sideways guilty of the violence.

7. As *adj.* = SIDEWAY *a.*

1868 *Rep. U.S. Comm. Agric.* (1869) 253 There will be no sagging, nor any side-ways deflection of the setting guide or the row. 1899 *Daily News* 6 Dec. 5/1 The present Press seats at Lord's are in the grand stand with a sideways view of the game.

Si·de-wind. Also side wind, sidewind. [SIDE *sb.*[1]]

1. A wind blowing from one side, or on the side of a vessel, etc.

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XI. iii. (Bodl. MS.), Wyndes beþ twelue, foure þerof beþ icleped cardinales, chief windes, and .viii. collaterales, syde windes. *c* 1410 *Master of Game* (MS. Digby 182) ii, þer kynde is for þe moste parte to flee euer in þe wynde, till he be nere ouercome; or at the leste syde wynde so þat it be euer in his nosethrille. 1598 [see SIDEWAYS *adv.* 2]. 1604 E. G[RIMSTONE] *D'Acosta's Hist. Indies* III. xi. 155 The force of the winde continuing still, being a side wind, the Admiralles shippe discovered an opening. 1666 DRYDEN *Ann. Mirab.* CCXXVI, One mighty squadron, with a sidewind sped, Through narrow lanes his cumbered fire does haste. 1776 GIBBON *Decl. & F.* xiii. I. 434 Orators have celebrated the daring courage of the Romans, who ventured to set sail with a side-wind, and on a stormy day. 1801 STRUTT *Sports & Past.* II. i. 56 He ought also to know how to take the advantage of a side wind. 1858 GREENER *Gunnery* 133 A strong side wind was blowing at the time.

b. In figurative contexts.

1611 MIDDLETON & DEKKER *Roaring Girl* I. i, With a side winde Must I now saile, else I no hauen can finde. 1642 FULLER *Holy & Prof. St.* III. iii. 157 Some sail to the port of their own praise by a side-wind. 1697 DRYDEN *Ded. Æneis* Ess. (ed. Ker) II. 164 All this while I have been sailing with some side-wind or other toward the point I proposed in the beginning.

2. *fig.* An indirect means, method, or manner. Chiefly in phr. *by a side-wind.*

1648 C. WALKER *Hist. Independency* I. 119 What they could not carry with a fore-wind, they now brought in againe with a side-wind. 1658–9 *Burton's Diary* (1828) IV. 9 Let us come to a question by a side-wind, rather than by no wind. 1726 SWIFT *Gulliver* I. v, Others..could not forbear some Expressions, which by a Side-wind reflected on me. 1766 BLACKSTONE *Comm.* II. 117 Acts of parliament have by a sidewind countenanced and established them. 1812 *Ann. Reg., Gen. Hist.* 18 The fact of which excess only came out by a side wind when the bill was brought forward. 1841 J. W. CROKER in *C. Papers* 12 Feb., Let the House..pass a distinct law against the practice, but not attempt to do it by a sidewind. 1888 BRYCE *Amer. Commw.* I. x. 132 This is an attempt to evade and by a sidewind defeat the provision of the Federal Constitution.

3. *attrib.* as *adj.* Indirect, oblique; illegitimate.

1680 OWEN *Union among Protestants* Wks. 1851 XIV. 521 This jurisdiction, exercised with a side-wind power distinct from the public justice of the nation, is a great cause of weakening. 1702 *Eng. Theophrastus* Pref. 2 Others, by the nipping strokes of a side-wind Satyr, have endeavoured to tickle men out of their Follies. 1812 *Examiner* May 293/1 The sort of side-wind defence which some of his Majesty's Ministers had set up. 1863 COWDEN CLARKE *Shaks. Char.* xiii. 339 One of those sly, side-wind girds at the French. 1897 *Trans. Devon Assoc.* XXIX. 455 Reginald.., side-wind son of Henry I.

Hence **Si·de-winded** *a.*, = sense 3; also as *adv.*, by a side-wind, indirectly. *rare.*

1710 *New Map Trav. High-Ch. Apostle* 4 [He] had written side-winded for the Pagan Pretender's Title. 1825 T. HOOK *Sayings* Ser. II. *Sutherl.* (Colburn) 19, I discovered ..by a side-winded inquiry, that he is..worth more than two hundred thousand pounds. 1833 — *Parson's Dau.* II. ii, Emma received these side-winded lectures as her father wished.

Si·de-winder[1]. *U.S.* and *dial.* [f. SIDE *sb.*[1] + *winder* a blow.] A heavy blow with the fist delivered from or on the side. Also *fig.*

a 1859 in Bartlett *Dict. Amer.* s.v., To seize..the opportunity of dealing Recorder Smith what the boys call a side-winder. 1860 O. W. HOLMES *Professor* ii, The boys of my time used to call a hit like this a 'side-winder'.

Si·de-winder[2]. *U.S.* [f. SIDE *sb.*[1] + WIND *v.*] A species of rattlesnake, *Crotalus cerastes.*

1888 *Riverside Nat. Hist.* III. 402 The New Mexicans have named this animal the 'side-winder', because of the slightly lateral motion which they have in passing forwards.

Si·de-wipe. *dial.* and *U.S.* [f. SIDE *sb.*[1] + WIPE *sb.*]

1. An indirect rebuke, censure, or hint. *dial.*

1757 in Mrs. Barbauld *Life Richardson* (1804) VI. 279 Your third paragraph..is such a mixture of kindness and crossness, of spite and good nature, of side-wipes plain and friendly intimations. 1828– in dialect glossaries (Sc., Yks., Linc., Northampton).

2. = SIDE-WINDER[1].

c 1850 *Southern Sketches* 31 (Bartlett, 1859), Arch would fetch him a side wipe on the head, and knock him into the middle of next week. 1893 HESLOP *Northumbld. Gloss.*

Si·de-wiper. *dial.* and *U.S.* [f. as prec. + WIPER.]

1. = prec.

1888 J. C. HARRIS *Free Joe* 58 Write him a note,..and fling in a kind of side-wiper about New Jersey. 1893 COZENS-HARDY *Broad Norf.* 94 *Sidewiper*, a blow on the side of anything with a stick.

2. *U.S.* The massasauga, or other rattlesnake of a similar type. Cf. SIDE-WINDER 2.

1889 in *Cent. Dict.* s.v. *Crotalophorus.*

Sidewise (sə͡i·dwə͡iz), *adv.* and *a.* [f. SIDE *sb.*[1] + -WISE.]

1. In a lateral direction; to one side; sidewards.

1571 DIGGES *Pantom.* I. xviii. F b, Go sidewise from thence as afore in a right angle. 1594 T. B. *La Primaud. Fr. Acad.* II. 75 Because man, as also all other creatures goe

forward, and not backward or sidewise. 1616 J. Lane *Contn. Sqr.'s T.* viii. 222 Whole troopes, and shockes of pikes, sidewise, and foreright, vibrant thrustes in strikes. 1661 Lovell *Hist. Anim. & Min.* Isagoge b 7 b, These only amongst crustates swimme not, but goe, and that side-wise. 1728 Chambers *Cycl.* s.v. *Terra*, A Series of very low.. Leaps, which a Horse makes forward, bearing sidewise. 1809 A. Henry *Trav.* 296 The men..each moved sidewise, first up, and then down the room. 1854 Greenwood *Haps & Mishaps* 83 Joltings, backwards, forwards, and sidewise. 1880 H. James *Portrait Lady* ii, 'It's a dear old place,' said the young man, looking sidewise at his neighbour.

2 = Sideways 2.

1608 Topsell *Serpents* (1658) 811 They are not folded round about one another like unto Serpents, but are straightly closed together side-wise. 1646 Sir T. Browne *Pseud. Ep.* 151 Some couple laterally or sidewise as wormes. 1702 *Eng. Theophrastus* 102 They gall us front and side-wise like Rams. 1877 A. B. Edwards *Up Nile* v. 109 A native boat meets us, floating down side-wise with the current. *Ibid.* vi. 150 An old disused water-wheel lying up sidewise against the bank like a huge teetotum. 1880 H. James *Portrait Lady* iii, On the other side..was an old house..standing sidewise to the street.

3. On or from the side.

1613 Purchas *Pilgrimage* ii. xviii. (1614) 207 If they beate spice, the morter must lie side-wise. 1723 Chambers *tr. Le Clerc's Archit.* I. 116 They must needs have a woful Effect, when view'd sidewise.

4. In an indirect manner; indirectly.

1654 Z. Coke *Logick* 18 A reasonable soul..is placed in the Predicament of Substance, but side-wise, not directly.

5. = Sideways 4.

1828-32 Webster s.v., To hold the head sidewise.

6. As *adj.* Directed towards one side; sideward.

1853 Dickens *Bleak Ho.* xii, An enjoyment expressed.. by an additional tightness of face, thin elongation of compressed lips, and sidewise look. 1894 *Outing* XXIII. 392/1 As they passed Nan-mogie, each man gave a sidewise bow.

Sideyns, variant of Sithence *Obs.*

‖ **Sidi** (sī·dī). Forms: 7 **seedi, syddy,** 7-8 **siddy,** 8 **siddee,** 9 **siddhee, seddee, sidi, sídí, seedy.** [a. Urdū *sīdī*, Marāthī *siddhī*, ad. Arab. *sayyidī* 'my lord': see Sayyid.] Originally, a title of honour given in Western India to African Mohammedans holding high positions under the kings of the Deccan; in later use, an African, a negro. Now chiefly in comb. *sidi-boy.*

1615 W. Bedwell *Arab. Trudgman*, Seedi, a name or title of honour, yet attributed vnto meane persons. 1698 Fryer *Acc. E. India & Persia* 147 An Hobsy, or Arabian Coffery (they being preferred here to Chief Employments, which they enter on by the name of Siddies). *Ibid.* 168 Syddies. 1757 Grose *Voy. E. Indies* 91 These [islands] were in the hands formerly of Angria, and the Siddies, or Moors. 1761 Cambridge *War in India* 216 The Mogul appointed the Siddee, who was chief of a colony of Coffrees, to be his Admiral. 1813 J. Forbes *Oriental Mem.* III. 167 Among the attendants of the Cambay nabob..are several Abyssinian and Caffree slaves, called by way of courtesy Seddees, or Master. 1849 Eastwick *Dry Leaves* 197 A long narrow dirty street, crowded with spectators, among whom might be noticed a great number of Sidis or blacks.

Comb. 1890 *Pall Mall G.* 21 Aug. 3/1 Where Malay jostles Chinaman,..and Arab elbows seedy-boy. 1898 P. Manson *Trop. Diseases* xiv. 233 This form of the disease.. among the Lascars and sidi-boys of steamers trading to India.

Siding (sə·idiŋ), *vbl. sb.* Also 7, 9 **sideing.** [f. Side *v.* or *sb.*[1] + -ing [1].]

I. 1. The action of taking sides in a conflict or debate; party spirit, partisanship, factiousness.

Common in the first half of the 17th cent.

1604 Hieron *Wks.* I. 497 When as..men fall to haue great reasoning among themselues, there cannot but follow a kind of division and siding. *a* 1653 G. Daniel *Idyll.* iv. 57 For Sideing is a madnes, where the Hand Acts to a Somewhat we but vnderstand In the Relations. 1661 Baxter *Last Work Believer* Wks. (1846) 255 She was seriously religious without any taint of siding or faction.

attrib. 1605 Sandys *Europæ Spec.* (1632) 183 Having found that siding course..to be a false ground and ruinous to them that take it. 1647 Trapp *Comm. Heb.* x. 25 It was then, it was afterwards, and is still in these siding and separating times.

b. An instance of taking or forming sides.

Common in 17th cent., sometimes in quasi-concrete use.

1603 Holland *Plutarch's Mor.* Ded. p. i, The turbulent tempests and bloudy broiles of factious sidings. 1640 Bp. Reynolds *Passions* xxxviii. 491 Nor indeed is there any thing which had bred more Distempers in the Body of Learning, than Factions and Sidings. 1717 Wodrow *Corr.* (1843) II. 323 What gatherings there have been, and sidings of great men mixing themselves in every case almost.

c. Const. *with.*

1654 Whitlock *Zootomia* 226 It shadeth the minde from the inconveniences of Quarrells, Disputes, Sidings with Opinions. 1662 J. Davies tr. *Olearius' Voy. Amb.* 421 By reason of his siding with the Muscovian Merchants. 1680 Baxter *Cath. Commun.* (1684) 10 All Christians must earnestly oppose Divisions, and Sects, and sidings with Strife and Envy. 1887 *Pall Mall G.* 15 Jan. 6/1 The clear-headed parish priest, whose siding heart and soul with his people is to my mind proof conclusive that they have right on their side.

2. The action of tending or moving to a side.

1646 Sir T. Browne *Pseud. Ep.* 62 The variation of the compasse is..a deflexion and siding East and West from the true meridian. 1894 *Daily News* 7 July 6/6 When the bell rings to clear the course, there is again the 'siding' of the little boats to watch.

3. The action of laying out the sides of a field.

1610 Folkingham *Art of Survey* II. ii. 49 Collaterage Actiue, as siding, furrowing,..impayling, immuring [etc.].

4. *U.S.* The action of dressing or trimming the sides of timber.

1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2175/1 *Siding*,..that part of the operation of forming or trimming ship's timbers, etc., which consists in giving them their correct breadths. 1879 *Lumberman's Gaz.* 15 Oct., Mulays were used in siding down for the gang [saw].

attrib. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2175/1 *Siding-machine*, a machine for sawing timbers. 1879 *Lumberman's Gaz.* 5 Nov., The machinery first put in included a mulay and a siding mill.

II. 5. † **a.** A side of anything. *Obs.*[-1]

1627 Speed *England* xlii. § 2 The forme thereof is Triangle, and differs not much in the Sidings.

b. *U.S.* The boarding forming the sides of a timber building; weather-boarding; also (with *a* and pl.), a piece of this.

1858 Simmonds *Dict. Trade, Sidings*, a name in America for long wedge-shaped boards, used for the sides or roofs of houses. 1866 *Morning Star* 31 Dec., The necessities of heat in the tropical department enforce the use of large quantities of wood for flooring, sidings [etc.]. 1874 J. W. Long *Amer. Wild-fowl* iv. 89 Strips of weather-boarding, or 'siding', as it is called out West, may be made to take their place.

attrib. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2568/2 Siding-tiles are used as a substitute for weather boarding. *Ibid.* 2749/2 *Weather-board*, lapping siding-boards for houses.

6. *Naut.* (See quot. *c* 1850.)

1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XVII. 399/2 Set off in the half-breadth plan the siding of the middle and after fashion-piece. *c* 1850 *Rudim. Navig.* (Weale) 147 *Siding*,..the size or dimensions of timber the contrary way to the moulding, or moulded side. 1869 Sir E. Reed *Shipbuild.* iv. 72 The body post, while retaining a very large siding, has a comparatively small moulding. 1874 Thearle *Nav. Arch.* 10 The logs should be about 14 or 16 inches siding.

attrib. 1846 A. Young *Naut. Dict.* 283 Siding-dimension, in ship-building, implies the breadth of a piece of timber.

7. A short piece of additional track parallel to the main line of a railway or tramway, and connected with it by switches, for enabling trains, trucks, etc., to pass each other or to lie by.

1825 Wood *Pract. Treat. Railroads* 299 BB[1] is a siding or passing for the carriages going in opposite directions. 1849 Sir F. B. Head *Stokers & Pokers* iv. (1851) 50 The carriages, after being unhooked,..are rapidly carried off into the sidings. 1881 Froude *Short Stud.* (1883) IV. vi. 377 Our journey was brought unexpectedly to an end by the train running into a siding.

attrib. 1850 *Mechanic's Mag.* Nov. 370 Beckers' self-acting siding-stop. 1897 *Daily News* 14 June 7/2 To reduce the accounts of traders for siding rents by 50 per cent.

b. A passing-place in a canal.

1852 *Mechanic's Mag.* July 4 Passing-places or sidings, to enable trains of boats going in opposite directions to meet and pass each other. 1883 Dillwyn *Sp. Parl.* 19 July, To increase the carrying capacity of the Canal..in deepening the channel, or by adding sidings.

Siding (sə·idiŋ), *ppl. a.* [f. Side *v.* + -ing [2].]

1. Taking the side or part of a person or cause.

1634 Milton *Comus* 212 The vertuous mind, that ever walks attended By a strong siding champion, Conscience. 1645 — *Tetrach.* Wks. 1831 IV. 243 There is yet to this our exposition, a stronger siding freind, then any can be an adversary. 1833 Mrs. Browning *Prometh. Bound* Wks. (1904) 145 The antique Chronos and his siding hosts.

b. Taking a side; factious, partisan. *rare*[-1].

1661 Baxter *Moral Prognost.* I. xciv. 22 An Opinionative, Modal, and Siding Religiousness, hath ever more Followers ..than true Holiness.

2. Forming a side or border; bordering. *rare*[-1].

1833 Mrs. Browning *Prometh. Bound* Wks. (1904) 150 Along the sands of the siding deep..he follows me.

Sidle, *sb.* [f. the vb.] An act of sidling; a sidelong or oblique movement.

1853 R. S. Surtees *Sponge's Sp. Tour* xxi. 108 Turning the sidle into a stately sail, with a haughty sort of sneer. 1883 *Harper's Mag.* Feb. 394/1 The final sidle up to dock was a very inglorious effort of poling. 1900 *Longman's Mag.* Apr. 533 Susan coming forward with a coquettish sidle.

Sidle (sə·i'd'l), *v.* Also 9 *dial.* **siddle.** [Prob. a back-formation from Sideling *adv.*, on the analogy of verbs in -le 3.]

1. *intr.* To move or go sideways or obliquely; to edge along, esp. in a furtive or unobtrusive manner, or while looking in another direction; to make advances in this manner.

1697 Vanbrugh *Æsop* III, A crab-fish once her daughter told..She could not bear to see her go, Sidle, sidle, to and fro. 1708 Swift *Abol. Chr.* Wks. 1751 IV. 114 No more than one can get in at a time, and that not without stooping, and sideling, and squeezing his Body. 1753-4 Richardson *Grandison* (1781) IV. iv. 24 Sir Harry..sidled to the door,.. and then slipped out. 1780 Cowper *Progr. Error* 362 Halting on crutches of unequal size;..They sidle to the goal with awkward pace. 1822 Lamb *Elia* II. *On Books & Reading*, I used to admire how he sidled along, keeping clear of secular contacts. 1851 D. Jerrold *St. Giles* vii. 63 He sidled into a corner of the room. 1886 Ruskin *Præterita* I. v. 158, I was put on big horses that jumped, and reared, and circled, and sidled.

transf. and *fig.* 1765 Sterne *Tr. Shandy* viii. i, Ever and anon straddling out, or sidling into some..digression. 1821 Clare *Vill. Minstr.* II. 92 Ye know the foot-path sidles down the hill. 1841 L. Hunt *Seer* (1864) II. 72 Till 'Smith's Terrace', or some such interloper, came sidling in front of it with forty new tenements. 1866 R. Chambers *Ess. Fam. & Hum.* Ser. I. 151 He sidles into conversation with some overseer of the workmen.

2. *dial.* **a.** To saunter, lounge about.

1781 J. Hutton *Tour to Caves* (ed. 2) 95 *Sidle*, to saunter. 1828 Carr *Craven Gloss.* s.v., 'To sidle about a place,' to lurk or skulk about. 1841 Foster in *Life & Corr.* (1846) II. 402 Just sidling about to see sights. 1866 Brogden *Prov. Lincs.*, *Sidle*, to lounge about for some ulterior purpose.

b. (See quot.)

1828 Carr *Craven Gloss.* s.v., 'To sidle about a person,' to attend him obsequiously. 1855 [see Sidling *ppl. a.*].

3. *trans.* To move, turn, or direct sideways.

1779 T. Twining in *Recreat. & Stud.* (1882) 62 Let us at least..give it a little gloss of novelty, by spelling it Tuineing,..or something that shall sidle us away a little from those vulgar tribes of Western Twinings and Twynings. 1846 Mrs. Gore *Eng. Char.* (1852) 138 Shoving, sidling, and swerving the said ill-fitting drawer into its original position. 1855 Browning *Old Pictures in Florence* x. 7 Not sidling a glance at the coin of their neighbour. 1887 Jessopp *Arcady* iii. 90 He sidled his horse towards the fence and picked a rosy apple from the bough.

Sidling (sə·idliŋ), *vbl. sb.* Also 8 **sideling.** [f. Sidle *v.* + -ing [1].] The action of the vb. Sidle; an instance of this.

1759 *Compl. Lett. Writer* (ed. 6) 225 Her sidling, and swaddling, and foolish unalterable simper. 1792 *Elvina* I. 139 It was not 'till after many sidlings and swimmings that she was prevailed on to sit down. 1852 Mundy *Our Antipodes* v. (1855) 127 To start off at full speed, and thus to get the wheels to 'bite' again, is the only way to redeem an incipient sidling.

Sidling (sə·idliŋ), *ppl. a.* [f. Sidle *v.* + -ing [2].] That sidles, in the senses of the vb.

1855 [Robinson] *Whitby Gloss.*, *Sideling*, insinuating by word or action. 'A sideling, wheedling sort of a body.' 1864 *Realm* 27 Apr. 1 An apparently quiet, inoffensive, purring, gliding, sidling animal. 1898 Mrs. H. Ward *Sir G. Tressady* 414 [He] walked with rather sidling steps to the door.

Hence **Si·dlingly** *adv.*

1873 Browning *Red Cott. Nt.-Cap* 805 Hand in hand,— Or side by side,..On every good work sidlingly they went.

Sidling, variant of Sideling.

Sidonian (səidōu·niăn), *sb.* and *a.* Also 7 **Syd-, Zid-.** [f. L. *Sīdōni-us*, a. Gr. Σιδώνιος, f. Σιδών (Phœn. and Heb. *Tsīdōn*), the Phœnician city of that name.]

A. *sb.* A native or inhabitant of Sidon.

The Wycliffite versions of the Bible use *Sidonees* (*-eis*), *Sidonyes* (*-yis*), etc. In *Deut.* iii. 9 Coverdale has *Sidons.* The usual spelling (*Zidonian*) in the 1611 version is due to the Hebrew form.

1535 Coverdale *Judges* x. 12 Did not..the Sidonians, the Amalechites and Maonites oppresse you? 1611 Bible *Deut.* iii. 9 Which Hermon the Sidonians call Syrion. *Ibid.*, *Judges* xviii. 7 They were farre from the Zidonians. *a* 1701 Maundrell *Journ. Jerus.* (1721) 31 The second [city was the seat] of the Sidonians. 1788 Lemprière *Class. Dict.* (1792), *Tyrus*, a very ancient city of Phœnicia, built by the Sidonians. 1857 Wilkinson *Egypt. Pharaohs* 102 The Greeks were indebted to the Sidonians for many secrets in the working of metals.

B. *adj.* Of or pertaining to Sidon.

1594 Marlowe & Nashe *Dido* I. i. 213 The kingly seate of Southerne Libia, Whereas Sidonian Dido rules as Queene. 1620 T. Granger *Div. Logike* 71 By her..habite, or attire, *id est*, her Sidonian cloake. 1667 Milton *P. L.* I. 441 Astoreth,..To whose bright Image nightly by the Moon Sidonian Virgins paid their Vows and Songs. 1746 Francis tr. *Horace, Ep.* II. ii. 274 Garments tinctur'd with Sidonian Dye. 1842 Prichard *Nat. Hist. Man* 142 This language.. was the idiom of the Sidonian and Tyrian states. 1886 *Guide Exhib. Galleries Brit. Mus.* 193 To a later period of the Sidonian workshops may probably be referred a number of small bottles of various forms.

Sidre, -ur, obs. forms of Cider.

Sidth. *dial. rare.* Also **sith.** [f. Side *a.* + -th.] Length; depth.

1855 *Norfolk Wds.* in *Trans. Philol. Soc.* 36 As we say, 'the width and the sith,' or the sidth. 1879 Miss Jackson *Shropsh. Word-bk.*, *Sidth*, the measurement of the side of an object,—'lenth, width, and sidth'. 1882 in *Lancs. Gloss.* 1891 Jessie Fothergill *Kith & Kin* 93 A gown should be ..walking width and striding sidth.

† **Si·dy,** *a.*[1] *dial. Obs.* (See quot.)

1674 Ray *S. & E. Co. Wds.* 77 *Sidy*: surly, moody. Suss. [Hence in later glossaries.]

Sidy (səi·di), *a.*[2] *colloq.* [f. Side *sb.*[2]] Inclined to 'put on side'; conceited.

1898 *Woman at Home* Oct. 57/1 Tommy wasn't half a bad fellow once...I never counted him sidey. 1899 *Daily News* 22 June 7/3 A 'sidy chap' is universally detested, and every chance is seized to 'take him down a peg'.

Sie, *sb.* and *v.* : see Sye. **Sieo,** obs. f. Sick.

† **Siecle.** *Obs.* Forms: 5 **sekil, sekyll, syecle,** 6 **seicle, siecle, secle.** [a. OF. *secle, siecle* (mod. F. *siècle*), ad. L. *sæculum*: see Secular. The mod.F. form is occasionally used as a foreign word, esp. in the phrase *fin de siècle* (q.v.).]

1. The world (in the religious sense).

c 1400 *Rule St. Benet* 37 When any wymmen of þe sekil.. cummis at aske þordir [= the order], man salle noght light-like gif it tam. *Ibid.* 39 When any riche man of þe sekil.. offirs his doȝtir til god and til haly kirke. *c* 1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 2500 Of his leuyng þai suld noȝt wondir, Na halde it haly all þof it ware Solitary fra þe sekyll fare.

2. An age or period.

1483 Caxton *Gold. Leg.* 429/1 The whyche god creatour.. be thanked..by all the syecle and syecles. 1549 *Compl. Scot.* 3 The verteouse verkis dune be ȝour antecessours in oure dais ar euident til vs in this present seicle. 1589 Puttenham *Eng. Poesie* II. xi. (Arb.) 125 Yet those trifles are come from many former siecles vnto our times.

3. A century.

c 1532 Du Wes *Introd. Fr.* in *Palsgr.* 1079 The Romayns [reckoned] by lustres, whiche ben fyve yeres :..a secle is an hundred yere.

† **Siede,** *v. Obs.*[-1] [a. MDu. *sieden* (Du. *zieden*): see Seethe *v.*] *trans.* To boil.

1481 CAXTON *Reynard* (Arb.) 30 Ye may doo what ye wille, ..ye may siede me, or roste, hange, or make me blynde.

Siedge, obs. form of SIEGE.

† **Sief.** *Obs. rare.* Also **sieff**, **seif.** [ad. Arab. شياف *shiyāf*, f. شوف to see, to adorn oneself.] (See quots.)

c 1550 H. LLOYD *Treas. Health* F iij, Sief is a confectyon made after the fashion of a suger lofe & most be dyssoluyd in licour before it be receiuid. 1656 RIDGLEY *Pract. Physick* 128 The Collirium or Sieff that follows, is useful. [1704 J. HARRIS *Lex. Techn.* I, *Collyrium*, is an oblong or round Tablet or Trochisk, used formerly in Distempers of the Eyes; and was then called by the Arabian Name of *Seif* or *Sief*.]

Siege (sīdʒ), *sb.* Forms: 3–7 **sege** (5 **cege, seche**), 4–5 **segh(e**; 4 **seeg**, 6–7 **seege, seage**, 6 **saige**; 4–5 **sige**, 5– **siege**, 5–6 **syege**, 5–8 **seige**; 5 **sedche**, 6 **sedge, syedge**, 7 **seidg(e, si(e)dge, segge.** [a. OF. *sege, seige, siege* (mod.F. *siège*):— pop. L. **sĕdicum*, f. **sĕdem* (L. *sēdem, sēdes*) seat. Hence also MDu. *siege, siegye, siedse* seat, siege.]

I. † 1. A seat, *esp.* one used by a person of rank or distinction. *Obs.*

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 238 Þeos sege & teos seoue crunen haueð þi diciple þeos ilke niht of earned. *c* 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 228 Seue taperes weren in þe queor..And foure-and-twenti segene;..And þe Abbodes sege was a-midde þe queor. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* C. 93 'Oure syre syttes,' he says, 'on sege so hyȝe'. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) I. 221 Þerynne is.. dyuers oute goynges, benches, and seges [L. *sedilia*] all aboute. *c* 1412 HOCCLEVE *De Reg. Princ.* 3259 He..ledde hym to his tente,..And in his real seege and his chaiere As blyue hym sette. 1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* III. ii. 101 The Bisshop..blessid the syeges with grete Royalte..and there sette the viij and xx knyghtes in her syeges. 1509 BARCLAY *Shyp of Folys* (1570) 153 The scribe in writing..Sitting in his siege acloyde with couetise. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* II. ii. 39 Guyon..From lofty siege began these words aloud to sound. 1614 LODGE *Seneca* 148 The sieges in a Theater ordained for Knights, appertaine to all Knights of Rome. *a* 1616 B. JONSON *Masque Oberon* 213 *note*, The Knights masquers sitting in their severall sieges.

fig. 1604 SHAKS. *Oth.* I. ii. 22, I fetch my life and being, From Men of Royall Seige.

† **b.** An ecclesiastical see. *Obs.*

1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 2813 Change worþ of bissopriches & þe digne sege iwis Worþ ybroȝt to kaunterbury, þat at londone nou is. *c* 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 7760 He sente to Rome, to seint Romeyn,..He kepte þe sege of the apostoylle. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* ii. (*Paul*) 398 Quhen pape cornel þe sege of rowme gouernyt wele. *c* 1400 *Apol. Loll.* 50 So þat ani þing be askid for bischoppis, abbots, or oþer personis, to be putt in þer segis. 1456 SIR G. HAYE *Law Arms* (S. T. S.) 21 The kirk of Alexandrye.. said that sanct Petir maid his sege thare and his charter. 1547 *Bk. of Marchauntes* c vj, A woman which held and possessed the pontifical syedge two yeres. 1579 FENTON *Guicciard.* IX. (1599) 367 A day wherein..are offered the tributes which are due to the seege Apostolike.

† **c.** *Sc.* A bench or form; a class. *Obs.*

1560 *Bk. Discipline* in Knox *Hist. Ref.* (Wodrow) II. 213 In the first Colledge..of the Vniversitie thair be four classes or saigeis. *a* 1614 J. MELVILL *Diary* (Wodrow) 69 Upon this premonition he continowes halff a yeir as guid a bern as was in the seage.

† **d.** A class or category. *Obs.*⁻¹

1630 BRATHWAIT *Eng. Gentlem.* (1641) 109 Wee shall first proceed with such as follow, being ranked in the same siedge, because recreations of the same nature.

† **2.** A place in which one has his seat or residence; a seat of rule, empire, etc. *Obs.*

c 1374 CHAUCER *Boeth.* I. pr. iv. (1868) 13 Is þis þe librarie wyche þat þou haddest chosen for a ryȝt certeyne sege to þe in myne house. *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (1839) xix. 211 In that Cytee was the firste Sege of the Kyng of Mancy. 1483 CAXTON *Gold. Leg.* 194/2 He ordeyned and Instytuted Parys to be the chyef syege of the royame. 1592 WARNER *Alb. Eng.* VIII. xliii. 206 He [Constantine] made his siege Bizantium, that retaines his name ere since. 1630 BRATHWAIT *Eng. Gentlem.* (1641) 138 They may be fitly compared to the Hedge-hogge, who hath two holes in his siedge: one towards the South, another towards the North.

fig. 1566 PAINTER *Pal. Pleas.* I. 56 He fixed her so fast in the siege of his remembraunce, as if he had been a yonge man. 1591 LODGE *Catharos* vi. 56 The braine, which according to some Philosophers is the siege of humane seed.

† **b.** The place in which a thing is set, or on which a ship lies. *Obs. rare.*

c 1380 *Sir Ferumb.* 2183 Þe dore..fleȝ Out of þe Hokes & fram hir sege x. vet y-mete wel neȝ. 15.. *Ship Laws* in *Balfour's Pract.* (1754) 622 (Jam.), Gif the ship be on ane hard saige, the master sould gar the shipman amend it incontinent, that the ship tak na skaith.

c. The station of a heron on the watch for prey.

A *siege of herons* is included in most of the old lists of 'companies of beasts and fowls'.

c 1452 in *Trans. Philol. Soc.* (1909) III. 51 Sege of Betowrys. Sege of hayrynnys. Sege vnto a Castelle. 1575 TURBERV. *Faulconrie* 113 Having found the Hearon at siege you must get you with your Falcon up into some high place. 1633 MASSINGER *Guardian* I. i, A hearn put from her siege ..shall mount So high [etc.]. 1674 N. COX *Gentl. Recreat.* (1677) 205 If you finde a wild Hern at Siege.

† **3.** A privy. Also *to go to siege*, to go to stool, to ease oneself. *Obs.*

c 1400 *Lanfranc's Cirurg.* 12 (Add. MS.), Ȝif he may noȝt go to sege onys a day, helpe hym þereto oþere wit clysterye, oþere with suppositorye. *c* 1440 *Alph. Tales* 122 Þis clerk..slew þaim bothe, & cut þaim in pecis & keste þaim in a sege. 1544 PHAER *Pestilence* (1553) O j b, He ought euery day to goe to siege once. 1555 BP. BONNER *Prof. & Necess. Doctrine* U j, Dooe they passe into the seage from us as other meates doe?

† **b.** Evacuation. *Obs.*

c 1460 J. RUSSELL *Bk. Nurture* 954 in *Babees Bk.*, Aftur slepe and sege, honeste will not hit denay. 1539 ELYOT *Cast. Helthe* (1541) 55 b, If he which oftentymes uncontrayned hath had great sieges, be sodeynly stopped. 1578 LYTE *Dodoens* 574 The juyce of the wilde Letuce..scoureth by siege the waterie humours. 1605 TIMME *Quersit.* I. v. 19 The philosophicall salt is of greatest virtue and force to purge:..whether it bee the belly, by siege;..or the body, by sweate. 1669 W. SIMPSON *Hydrol. Chym.* 244 Clogging medicines..are..carryed off by seidge. 1700 T. BROWN tr. *Fresney's Amusem.* 97 The Patient should swallow as much *Aqua Fortis*, as would dissolve the Knife.., and bring it away by Seige.

† **c.** Excrement, ordure. *Obs.*

1515 BARCLAY *Egloges* ii. Wks. (1570) B iv, The lordes siege & rurall mens ordure Be like of Sauour. 1561 HOLLYBUSH *Hom. Apoth.* 3 Make pillets thereof..and put that into the bodye; the same retayneth the sege. *a* 1610 HEALEY *Theophrastus* (1636) 72 Then he tels you that his Sieges were blacker then broth. 1662 J. CHANDLER *Van Helmont's Oriat.* 183 Less is discussed out of us, with a small and more hard siege or excrement.

d. *Comb.*, as *siege-hole, -house.*

1440 *Coventry Leet Bk.* 194 The sege houses in þe Westorcherd were graunte to hym. 1477–9 *Rec. St. Mary at Hill* (1905) 87 For clensyng of the Sege holis, xviij d. 1519 HORMAN *Vulg.* 170 b, A segehouse wold be vnder the open aire betwene two wallis. 1647 LILLY *Chr. Astrol.* l. 353 It is hid in a .. Siege-house or Jakes, where people Seldome come.

† **4.** The anus or rectum. *Obs.*

1561 HOLLYBUSH *Hom. Apoth.* 5 The same refrayne the vp braythinge into the head and driue downward to the siege. 1578 LYTE *Dodoens* 37 It helpeth..the inflammation of the eyes, and fundament or siege. 1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* 144, I beheld them excluded by the passage of generation, near the orifice of the seidge. 1670 MILTON *Hist. Eng.* v. Wks. 1851 III. 213 His body was diseas'd in his youth with a great soreness in the Siege.

5. *techn.* **a.** The floor of a glass-furnace.

1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 577 The central space is occupied by the grate-bars; and on either side is the platform or firebrick siege. 1890 W. J. GORDON *Foundry* 136 The rocky crust of clay left by the old pot on the furnace siege.

b. A hewer's table or bench.

1854 H. MILLER *Sch. & Schm.* (1858) 329 To roll up a large stone to the sort of block-bench, or *siege*, as it is technically termed, on which the mass had to be hewn.

II. 6. The action, on the part of an army, of investing a town, castle, etc., in order to cut off all outside communication and in the end to reduce or take it; an investment, beleaguering. Also const. *of*.

In early use sometimes approaching the concrete sense of 'investing force'. For the phrases *to lay* and *to raise a siege* see LAY *v.*¹ 19 and RAISE *v.*¹ 27.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 7070 Her-of thar naman be in were, Forqui þe sege lasted ten yeire. *c* 1385 CHAUCER *L. G. W.* 1909 *Ariadne*, Nysus doughtyr stod vp-on the wal, And of the sege saw the maner al. 1415 HOCCLEVE *Min. Poems* ii. 197 Rede the storie of Lancelot de Lake,..The seege of Troie or Thebes. *c* 1489 CAXTON *Blanchardyn* lii. 200 He was not seen of theym that were atte the syege. 1515 *Scot. Field* 48 in *Chetham Misc.* II, Now leve we our king lying at the sedge. 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 42 After many battels and sundry sieges, he subdueth them. 1609 DEKKER *Peace is Broken* Wks. (Grosart) IV. 165 So many troubles..following both the armies (by meanes of the tedious Siege). 1653 HOLCROFT *Procopius, Goth. Wars* I. 12 Why fear you this seige.., secured by these walls and souldiers? *a* 1738 SWIFT *Hen. I*, Wks. 1768 IV. 275 In hopes to draw the enemy from the siege of so important a place. 1770 LANGHORNE *Plutarch* (1851) I. 237/1 He returned to the siege of Chalcedon. 1814 SCOTT *Ld. of Isles* III. x, We must ..instant pray our Sovereign Liege, To shun the perils of a siege. 1876 VOYLE & STEVENSON *Milit. Dict.* (ed. 3) 383/2 The penetrating power of the arms which would now be used at a siege is far greater than it used to be.

fig. *c* 1600 SHAKS. *Sonn.* lxv, O how shall summers hunny breath hold out Against the wrackfull siedge of battring dayes. 1611 MIDDLETON & DEKKER *Roaring Girl* D j b, Ile lay hard siege to her. 1644 DIGBY *Nat. Bodies* iv. § 4. 29 So that noe part of the body..be free from the siege of the dense body that presseth it. *c* 1700 DRYDEN *Theo. & Hon.* 33 Love stood the siege, and would not yield his breast. 1751 JOHNSON *Rambler* No. 93 ¶ 3 Interest and passion will hold out long against the closest siege of diagrams and syllogisms. 1840 R. H. DANA *Bef. Mast* xxvi, From this [work] we escaped, having had a pretty good siege with the wooding.

b. Without article. *To lay siege to*: see LAY *v.*¹ 19.

c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* vii. (*Jacob*) 443 To Ierusaleme.. [he] com..& gret sege gert till It lay. *a* 1400 *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* xxix. 38 Sone Sire Rollo wiþ his Route Bi-sette þat Citee wiþ sege a-boute. 1436 HEN. VI in *Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm., Var. Coll.* IV. 199 Kyng Edward..lay at sege at the seid towne. 1513 WRIOTHESLEY *Chron.* (Camden) I. 9 The King of England that tyme lyenge at seege before Turney in France. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* II. xi. 5 That castle to assaile..And lay strong siege about it. 1673 TEMPLE *United Prov.* Wks. 1720 I. 26 He took the Place, after three Years Siege. 1814 SCOTT *Ld. of Isles* v. xvi, If my Liege May win yon walls by storm or siege. 1848 W. H. KELLY tr. *L. Blanc's Hist. Ten Y.* II. 415 Since the king declared Paris in a state of siege. 1873 MRS. H. KING *Disciples, Ugo Bassi* vii. (1877) 258 Though choleric at times, Still a good ruler for a state of siege.

7. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, chiefly designating apparatus, etc., used in carrying out a siege, as *siege-artillery, -carriage, -gun, -machine, -park*, etc.; also *siege-craft, -day*, † *-garland, -operations, -ward.*

1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. IV. iv, Fire and thunder of *siege and field artillery. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.* 625 *Siege-artillery*, the ordnance,, used for overpowering the fire and destroying the defences of a fortified place. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2175/1 It is mounted on a *siege-carriage, and forms part of the train of an army. 1898 *Athenæum* 29 Oct. 603/1 There is..a treatise on *siegecraft in the Vatican Library. 1884 *Mil. Engin.* I. II. 17 Separate intermediate depôts..containing the necessary supplies for a '*siege day'. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* I. 116 The same was called also an Obsidionall coronet or *siege-garland. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade*, **Siege-gun*, a heavy gun..used to batter down or effect a breach in an enemy's wall. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2175/2 Siege-gun carriages differ from those of ordinary field-pieces in being stronger and heavier. 1852 GROTE *Greece* II. lxxxii. X. 621 Having provided himself with fresh *siege-machines. 1862 CARLYLE *Fredk. Gt.* XII. ii. III. 194 There ensued a ringing frost;—not favourable for *Siege-operations. 1870 *Pall Mall G.* 13 Oct. 11 If..the German *siege-park is composed of some four or five hundred guns. 1876 VOYLE & STEVENSON *Milit. Dict.* (ed. 3) s.v. *Park*, A siege park comprises the guns collected together at the commencement of the investment of a fortress. 1859 GLEIG *Life Wellington* xviii, He had no *siege-train at hand, nor any other means wherewith to approach the place in regular form. 1876 VOYLE & STEVENSON *Milit. Dict.* (ed. 3) 384 *Siege Train*, the men, guns, and material collected together for the conduct of a siege. *Ibid.*, **Siege Wagon*, a general service wagon fitted with movable trays for shot and shell. *c* 1450 LOVELICH *Grail* xiii. 353 They.. sien there Tholome..That Comeng was tho to the *segeward. 1879 *Man. Artill. Exerc.* 135 Five-feet *siege wheels with metal naves. 1888 *Century Mag.* Sept. 660/1 Pope..surrounded the place by *siege-works in which he could protect his men.

Siege (sīdʒ), *v.* Forms: 4–5 (6 *Sc.*) **sege**, 5 **seyge**, 5 (6–7 *Sc.*) **seige**, 6 *Sc.* **saige**, 4– **siege**; 6 **sedge**, 6–7 **siedge.** [f. prec., or aphetic f. ASSIEGE *v.*]

1. *trans.* To besiege, beleaguer, lay siege to.

13.. *K. Alis.* 2667 (Laud MS.), Quyklich to Tebe toun Hij wenten & seged it environ. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 348 Anon this Cite was withoute Belein and sieged al aboute. *c* 1440 *Alph. Tales* 226 Þer was..neuer cetie þat he segid bod he wan it. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* IX. 1662 The cuntre rais, quhen thai herd off sic thing, To sege Dowglace. 1515 *Scot. Field* 23 in *Chetham Misc.* II, Then our king..Saith 'I will sedge it aboute, within this seaven daies'. 1549 *Compl. Scot.* 89 The kyng of France vas past ouer the alpes to seige pane. 1615 BRATHWAIT *Strappado* (1878) 165 There plant thy Cannon, siedge her round about, Be sure (my Boy) she cannot long hold out. 1637 HEYWOOD *Dial.* iii. Wks. 1874 VI. 141 Great Babylon, Mighty in walls, I sieg'd, and seised on. 1762 *Gentl. Mag.* XXXIII. 333/1 'Tis not for me our arduous toils to shew; Nor tell 'midst dangers how we sieg'd the foe. 1805 SCOTT *Last Minstrel* IV. iv, They sieg'd him a whole summer night. 1893 *Nat. Obs.* 7 Jan. 184/2 He lived in the Castle when the French sieged it.

† **2.** To place; to seat (oneself). *Obs. rare.*

c 1425 WYNTOUN *Orig. Cron.* III. ix. 1086 Qwhar euir þat stane ȝe segit se, Þar sal þe Scottis be regnande. 1594 R. C[AREW] *Godfr. Bulloigne* (1881) 74 Part on the right, part on the left this band Siedgeth it selfe, their wreakfull king before. Pluto sits in the mids.

Hence **Sieged** (sīdʒd) *ppl. a.*

1567 GOLDING *Ovid's Met.* v. (1593) 125 A chil-cold swet my sieged limmes opprest. 1592 WYRLEY *Armorie* 140 These two could not agree, which he should part To sucker sieged frends. *c* 1611 CHAPMAN *Iliad* v. 205 Since in a sieged towne, I thought our horse-meate would be scant. 1612 DRAYTON *Poly-olb.* xviii. 415 Who, to remove the foe from sieged Harflew, sent, Affrighted them like death. 1831 CARLYLE *Sart. Res.* II. vii, In sea-storms and sieged cities and other death-scenes.

† **Sie·geable**, *a.* *Obs.*⁻¹ [f. SIEGE *v.* + -ABLE.] Capable of being besieged.

1569 STOCKER tr. *Diod. Sic.* II. xxxvi. 84 He entrenched it on that side it was siegeable.

Siegenite (sī·gĕnəit). *Min.* [f. *Siegen* in Westphalia.] A nickeliferous variety of linnæite.

1854 DANA *Syst. Min.* (ed. 4) II. 68 Siegenite..is a Nickel-Linnæite. 1866 WATTS *Dict. Chem.* IV. 44 Nickel-Linnæite. Siegenite. Linnæite..in which a considerable proportion of the cobalt is replaced by nickel.

Sie·ge-piece. [SIEGE *sb.* 6.]

1. A coin or piece of money, characterized by unusual shape and imperfect workmanship, struck and issued during a time of siege.

1736 FOLKES *Gold Coins* 7, I have among the Siege-Pieces seen a Twenty-Shilling Piece of Gold, struck at Pontefract. 1798 H. WALPOLE *Reminis.* in *Lett.* (1857) I. p. xcii, My narrative will probably resemble siege-pieces, which are struck of any promiscuous metals. 1853 HUMPHREY *Coin-coll. Man.* i. 5 The rude 'siege pieces' struck without coining apparatus in different parts of the kingdom. 1879 H. PHILLIPS *Notes Coins* 12 There are various siege pieces of Charles I, who never in all his extremities resorted to the expedient of a debased coinage.

2. A piece of ordnance employed in sieges.

1799 *Hist. Europe* in *Ann. Reg.* 25/1 The French found in the towers of Joppa ten pieces of cannon and about twenty indifferent siege-pieces.

Sieger (sī·dʒəɹ). Now *rare.* Also 6 *Sc.* **segear**, 6–7 **seiger.** [f. SIEGE *v.* + -ER.] A besieger.

1533 BELLENDEN *Livy* v. ix. (S.T.S.) II. 179 It had done during all þe said tyme mare dammage to þe segearis þan It gat. 1556 *Aurelio & Isab.* (1608) B v, He ordeyned that the house shoulde be sette aboute with his siegers. 1611 SPEED *Hist. Gt. Brit.* IX. viii. (1623) 555 He gaue commaund to his Seneschalle..to withdraw the Seigers. 1774 *Poetry* in *Ann. Reg.* 215 The more delay the siegers found,.. More fierce they mount the breach. 1825 SCOTT *Betrothed* xxix, Then let us make a fair sally upon the siegers. 1842 I. WILLIAMS *Baptistery* I. iv. (1874) 41 To..take his part With siegers or besieged.

Sieging (sī·dʒiŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. SIEGE *v.*] The action of besieging; a siege.

13.. *Cursor M.* 7070 (Gött.), Here-of thar na man be in were, For qui þe seging lastid ten 3ere. 1382 WYCLIF *Isaiah* xxix. 3, I shal kaste a3en thee an hep, and the strengthis I shal sette in to thi seging. *c* 1440 *Gesta Rom.* lxi. 255 Thenne the duke besegid long this castelle. And as thei wer thus in segeing [etc.]. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* XI. 855 Wallace..At Sanct Jhonstoun was at the segeyng still. 1504 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* II. 431 To Hannis, gunnar,..for to pas in the Ilis to the segeing of Carneburgh. 1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* II. 18 S. Jhones toun, efter lang seigeng, is tane. 1858 CARLYLE *Fredk. Gt.* IV. v. (1872) I. 435 Stralsund has been taken, since that, by Prussian sieging.

attrib. 1809 CAMPBELL *Gert. Wyom.* I. iv, On plains [which] no sieging mine's volcano shook. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. VII. x, Well for them, that Insurrection has only pikes and axes; no right sieging-tools! 1858 — *Fredk. Gt.* XVIII. xii. (1872) VIII. 21 Friedrich is not thought to shine in the sieging line as he does in the fighting.

Siegnior, obs. f. SIGNOR. **Siek(e,** obs. ff. SICK. **Siel,** obs. f. CEIL *v.*, SEEL *v.*; var. SILE *v.* **Sieling,** obs. f. CEILING. **Siely,** obs. f. SEELY. **Sien(ce,** obs. ff. SCION. **Sienc(e,** obs. ff. SCIENCE.

Sienese (səiĕnī·z), *sb.* and *a.* Also **Siennese.** [f. *Siena, Sienna* (see def.) + -ESE.]

A. *sb.* An inhabitant or native of Siena, a city in Tuscany.

1756–7 tr. *Keysler's Trav.* (1760) II. 86 The Siennese produce this inscription to invalidate the boast of the Florentines. *c* 1830 *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) XII. 479/1 For a while the Siennese flattered themselves that their liberty would be recoverable. 1887 *Encycl. Brit.* XXII. 43 The Sienese took possession of their fortress.

B. *adj.* Of or pertaining to Siena.

c 1830 *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) XII. 499/2 They obtained possession of many of the Siennese ports. 1850 Mrs. JAMESON *Leg. Monast. Ord.* (1863) 392 In a rare Sienese print of the fifteenth century. 1882 'OUIDA' *Maremma* I. 73 The winged boys of the Siennese Masters.

Sienite, Sienitic, var. SYENITE, SYENITIC.

Sienna (si,e·nă). Also 8 **siena.** [Elliptic for *terra di Sienna*: see SIENESE.] **a.** A ferruginous earth used as a pigment in oil and water-colour painting (called *burnt sienna* when it has been exposed to a red heat). **b.** The colour of this pigment, a rich reddish brown. Also *attrib.* or *Comb.*, as *sienna-brown, -red.*

[1760 SHENSTONE *Wks. & Lett.* III. 309 A terra-sienna or very rich reddish brown. *Ibid.* 314 Terra-sienna is a delightful colour.] 1787 W. WILLIAMS *Mech. Oil Colours* 44 Siena earth..is a fine colour, but comes little into use. [1825 J. NICHOLSON *Operat. Mechanic* 642 Fawn-colour with burnt terra de sienna, or burnt umber and white.] 1853 *Zoologist* II. 4059 Minute granules of a rich sienna-brown hue. 1874 COUES *Birds N. W.* 150 They are of a light-green color,..speckled with sienna and other rich shades of brown. 1876 *Pall Mall G.* 18 Oct. 4/1 Satchels of seeds, deep purple, sienna red, russet gold, and green.

Siennese, var. SIENESE. **Siens, Sienz,** obs. ff. SCIENCE. **Siens, Sient,** obs. ff. SCION. **Sier, Sierce, Sierge,** obs. ff. SIRE, SEARCE, CIERGE.

‖ **Sierra** (si,e·ră). Also 7 **ser(r)a.** [Sp. *sierra*:—L. *serra* saw.]

1. In Spain and parts of America now or formerly Spanish: A range of hills or mountains, rising in peaks which suggest the teeth of a saw.

1613 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* (1614) 873 Peru is diuided into three parts, which they call Llanos, Sierras, and Andes. 1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* X. 445 Spaine generally, is a masse of mountaines,..the Rockie Seraes or Alpes so innumerable. 1691 EVELYN *Corr.* (1879) III. 469 There are vast ones [caves] under those Alps & Sierras from whence our rivers derive their plentifull streames. 1745 P. THOMAS *Jrnl. Anson's Voy.* 68 The Andes and Scirras [*sic*] are two Ridges of Mountains that run from North to South. 1812 BYRON *Ch. Har.* I. XXXII, Doth Tayo interpose his mighty tide? Or dark Sierras rise in craggy pride? 1843 PRESCOTT *Mexico* III. V, Although the bleak winds of the sierra gave an austerity to the climate. 1885 *Encycl. Brit.* XVIII. 673/1 The sierra of Peru may be..divided into four sections.

attrib. 1884 COUES *N. Amer. Birds* 422 *Cyanocitta stelleri frontalis*,..Sierra Jay.

b. In general use: A mountain-range of this description.

1850 W. IRVING *Mahomet* XXXII. (1853) 141 Their rocky sierras on the east separated Azerbijân from..the shores of the Caspian. 1865 W. G. PALGRAVE *Arabia* I. 96 The main range of Djebel Shomer, a long purple sierra of most picturesque outline.

2. *Astr.* = CHROMOSPHERE.

1851 G. B. AIRY in *Mem. R. Astron. Soc.* XXI. 7, I saw that the sierra, or rugged line of projections,..had arisen. 1871 PROCTOR *Light Sci.* 97 The objectionable word *chromosphere* (for *chromatosphere*) should be replaced by *sierra.* 1883—in *19th Cent.* Nov. 876 In the sierra or chromatosphere the presence and nature of many other vapours are noted.

Hence **Sie·rran** *a.*

1873 B. HARTE *Fiddletown*, etc. 92 It was in a Sierran solitude, where I had encamped. 1885 *Encycl. Brit.* XVIII. 673/1 Sierran flora.

Sierse, obs. form of SEARCE *v.*

Sie·st, *v.* [f. next.] *intr.* To take a siesta.

1839 CHALMERS in Hanna *Mem.* (1852) IV. vi. 76, I addressed a full church and siested as usual.

‖ **Siesta** (si,e·stă). [Sp. *siesta* (Pg. *sesta*):—L. *sexta* sixth (hour); hence, in Sp. and Pg., the hottest part of the day, rest or sleep taken at this time.] An afternoon rest or nap; *esp.* that commonly taken during the hottest hours of the day in tropical countries.

1655 HOWELL *Lett.* IV. i, When he slept his *Siesta* (as the Spaniard calls it) or afternoon sleep. 1667 EARL BRISTOL *Elvira* I. in Dodsley *O. Pl.* (1780) XII. 147 What, sister, at your Siesta already? if so, You must have patience to be wak'd out of it. 1788 BURKE *Corr.* (1844) III. 76 We have just risen from our *siesta*, and have no news. 1816 KEATINGE *Trav.* (1817) I. 156 Without his siesta and segar,..he would think his lot a hard one in this world. 1840 R. H. DANA *Bef. Mast* xix, After dinner we usually took a short siesta, to make up for our early rising. 1882 MISS BRADDON *Mt. Royal* I. viii. 243, I must go and get my siesta, or I shall be as stupid as an owl all the evening.

fig. 1856 R. A. VAUGHAN *Mystics* (1860) II. 29 Most men prefer a sleeping conscience to a tender one; and for such the Romish Church offers a perpetual siesta. 1884 SIME *To & Fro* 8 On duty which knows no siesta.

b. Without article.

1834 MARRYAT *P. Simple* (1863) 123, I called with my handkerchief full of segars for the father, but he was at siesta, as they called it. 1869 MRS. S. HAWTHORNE *Notes Eng. & Italy* III. ii. 322 It was the hour of siesta, and the monks were..fast asleep. 1892 E. REEVES *Homeward Bound* 318 Deep recesses on either side for cushioned luxurious siesta.

† **Siester,** Anglicized form of SISTRUM. *Obs.*

1595 DUNCAN *App. Etym.* (E. D. S.), *Plectron*, a fiddle-stick, or a siester pen.

Sie·stose, *a. rare*—1. [f. SIESTA.] Reposeful, indolent.

1845 FORD *Handbk. Spain* VII. 516 They prefer to enjoy a siestose negation not merely of comforts but of necessaries rather than to labour.

Sieth, variant of SITHE *v.*, to strain.

Siethe, obs. form of SCYTHE.

Siethes, variant of SITHES, chives.

Sieve (siv), *sb.* Forms: *α.* 1 **sibi,** 1–2 **sife,** 1–2, 5–6 **syfe** (**syfa**), 4 **syfue,** 4, 6 **syffe,** 5 **syff,** 6–7 **siff**; 4 **seyf,** 5 **seyfe, sefe,** 6 **seiffe.** *β.* 4–7 **sive** (**siue**), 6 **cive**; 4–6 **syve** (**syue**), **cyve** (**cyue**), 6 **scyve.** *γ.* 4–6 **seve** (**seue,** 5 **sewe, ceve**), 6 **seeue, ceeue,** 7 **seeve,** 6–7 **seave.** *δ.* 7 **seive, scieve,** 6– **sieve.** [OE. *sife,* = MDu. *seve* (Du. *zeef*), MLG. *seve* (LG. *seve, sefe*, etc.), OHG. *sib, sip* (G. *sieb*, also dial. *sib, sip, siff*, etc.). The stem, which may be ultimately related to that of SYE, to strain, is the base of SIFT *v.*]

1. A utensil consisting of a circular frame with a finely meshed or perforated bottom, used to separate the coarser from the finer particles of any loose material, or as a strainer for liquids.

In agricultural and similar work a *sieve* is usually distinguished from a *riddle* by having finer meshes.

α. c 725 *Corpus Gloss.* C 873 *Crebrum*, sibi. 9.. *Ags. Gloss.* in Wr.-Wülcker 215 *Crebrum, cribellum*, sife. *c* 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* II. 94 Asift þurh sife, meng wiþ hunige. 1396–7 *Durh. Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 214, 1 syffe. *c* 1430 *Two Cookery-bks.* 20 Take Appelys an sethe hem, an Serge hem þorwe a Sefe in-to a potte. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 339/1 A Syfe, *crybrum*. 1508 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* IV. 110 For ane siff to sift gunpowdir, ij s. 1530 PALSGR. 270/1 Syfe to cyfte corne in, *crible*. 1595 DUNCAN *App. Etym.* (E.D.S.), *Excerniculum*, a sife or boulteclaith.

β. c 1320 *Sir Tristr.* 1946 A siue he fond tite, And bond vnder his fete. *c* 1340 *Nominale* (Skeat) 529 Fan, berelep, and syue. 1382 WYCLIF *Eccl.* XXVII. 5 As in the smyting of a cyue shal abide stille pouder. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 78/2 Cyve for corne clansynge, *cribrum, cribellum*. Cyve, for mele, *furfuraculum*. 1530 PALSGR. 205 Cyve to syfte with, *crible*. 1577 B. GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* IV. (1586) 184 You must strain the waxe through a siue, or such like thing. 1642 FULLER *Holy & Prof. St.* II. XXI. 136 Here they had great plenty of rain, poured (not as in other places, as it were out of sives, but) as out of spouts. 1687 A. LOVELL tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* I. 95 The dust..sticks to the faces of those that handle the Sive.

γ. c 1340 *Nominale* (Skeat) 138 W[oman] weruth seue and riddell. 1357–8 *Ely Sacr. Rolls* II. 181 In ij seves et j redel emptis. *c* 1400 *Lanfranc's Cirurg.* 219 Boile it longe in watir, & þanne cole it þoru3 a seue. *c* 1430 *Two Cookery-bks.* 32 Take a seve or a whete-rydoun. 1577 *Wills & Inv. N.C.* (Surtees, 1835) 422 Five ryddells and seaves to wynnowe corne, x^d. 1594 PLAT *Jewell-ho.* II. 33 If you would keep your rose cakes without worms, you must..set them in ceeues. *c* 1620 BOYD *Zion's Flowers* (1855) 136 Our memory is like a seave. 1683 PETTUS *Fleta Min.* I. 19 Take Ashes burnt from any light Wood..and put them into a Seeve.

δ. a 1591 H. SMITH *Serm.* (1592) 665 Like sieues which hold water no longer than they are in the Riuer. 1703 MOXON *Mech. Exerc.* 251 Sieves..to sift the Lime and Sand withal. 1769 MRS. RAFFALD *Eng. Housekpr.* (1778) 197 When it boils strain it through a fine sieve. 1846 GREENER *Sci. Gunnery* 30 The discs..striking against the sides of the sieves, force it through the apertures. 1869 PHILLIPS *Vesuv.* IV. 113 The upper part of the cone was perforated like a sieve.

b. In phrases denoting something that cannot be done, or that is waste of labour.

1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 294 For as a Sive kepeth Ale, Riht so can Cheste kepe a tale. 1477 NORTON *Ord. Alch.* I. in Ashm. (1652) 17 As he that fetcheth Water in a Sive. 1515 BARCLAY *Egloges* I. (1570) A vj/1 Such thinges..To thee be as sure as water in a siue. 1589 GREENE *Menaphon* (Arb.) 48 Suppose she were a Vestall,..shee might carrie water with Amulia in a siue. 1616 HIERON *Wks.* I. 586 That which is said in the prouerb, where one doth milke a goate, another holds vnder a siue. 1686 HORNECK *Crucif. Jesus* XXII. 741 That's no better, than taking up water in a sieve, which runs out as fast as it is put in. 1813 PICKEN *Poems* II. 135 That wad been milkin' his cow in a sieve.

c. *fig.* Of things.

c 1611 CHAPMAN *Iliad* V. 511 Then stirring th' idle siue of newe, did all their forces aske. 1643 CARYL *Sacr. Cov.* 4 The Articles passe them through a finer Sieve. 1647 MAY *Hist. Parl.* I. VII. 73 Those inventions were but sives, made of purpose to winnow the best men. 1889 GRETTON *Memory's Harkback* 218 All that, as they thought, was past and gone with their ordination..; they had passed through the Bishop's sieve. 1896 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* I. 927 The infection was, so to speak, caught on the sieve—that is to say, the infected ships gave rise to cases of plague within the quarantine station.

d. *fig.* Of persons; *esp.* one who cannot keep a secret.

1601 SHAKS. *All's Well* I. iii. 208 Yet in this captious, and intenible Siue I still poure in the waters of my loue. 1646 QUARLES *Sheph. Oracles* vi, Here's none but wee, I am no Sive? I prithee, Swain, be free. 1668 DRYDEN *Even. Love* I. i, As you are a waiting-woman; as you are the sieve of all your lady's secrets, tell it me. 1704 SWIFT *T. Tub* vii, Those judicious Collectors.., by some called the Sieves and Boulters of Learning. 1811 BYRON *Hints fr. Hor.* 734 *note*, The sieve of a patron let it out.

2. a. As used by witches for sailing in.

a 1585 MONTGOMERIE *Flyting* 461 Nicneuen..to teach it gart take it To saill sure in a seiffe, but compass or cart. 1605 SHAKS. *Macb.* I. iii. 8 But in a Syue Ile thither sayle. *a* 1613 OVERBURY *A Wife*, etc. (1638) 158 Like a witch in a scive. 1820 KEATS *Eve St. Agnes* XIV, Thou must hold water in a witch's sieve. 1830 SCOTT *Demonol.* IX. 312 Another frolic they had, when, like the weird sisters in Macbeth, they embarked in sieves.

b. As used for purposes of divination. Commonly *sieve and shears.* Cf. RIDDLE *sb.*[2] 1 b.

1596 LODGE *Wits Miserie* 18 If he loose any thing, he hath readie a siue and a key. 1602 in Gosdie *Diary J. Mill* 185 To quite his selff..for the turning of ane siff and riddill for ane pair scheiris. *a* 1635 RANDOLPH *Jealous Lovers* I. X, A man cannot find out their Meaning without the 'Sieve and Sheers'. 1692 E. WALKER tr. *Epictetus' Mor.* XXXVIII, Questions which by Sieve and Sheers are try'd. 1843 LYTTON *Last Bar.* I. V, Thinkest thou..I can read thee all riddles without my sieve and my shears?

3. Used as a measure, or for holding anything. Also, a kind of basket used chiefly for market produce.

a 1440 *Found. St. Bartholomew's* (E. E. T. S.) 26 Sche answerd that she hadde but oonly .vii. Ceves ful of malte. 1464 *Mann. & Househ. Exp.* (Roxb.) 272 Payd for di. a tymbre and iij. scyvys of letuse, iiij. s. 1556 *Richmond Wills* (Surtees) 92 Item xx mettes of barle sawne oppon the ground...Item xxvj seves of ottes sowin. 1636 DAVENANT *Wits* I. i, Apple-Wives That wrangle for a Sieve. 1793 STEEVENS *Notes Shaks. Tr. & Cr.* II. ii, Sieves and half-sieves are baskets to be met with in every quarter of Covent-garden market. 1805 R. W. DICKSON *Pract. Agric.* II. 587 In other parts the early gatherings are..sent to the markets in half-bushel sieves. 1887 PARISH & SHAW *Kentish Gloss.* 149 In West Kent, sieve and half-sieve are equivalent to bushel and half-bushel.

4. In calico-printing: (see quots.).

1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 215 The colouring matter..is spread ..upon fine woollen cloth, stretched in a frame over the wax cloth head of a wooden drum or sieve. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* I. 197/2 The mordant..is applied to the block by pressing the latter upon what is termed a 'sieve' (a box covered with woollen cloth).

5. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *sieve-basket, -bottom, -cloth, -drum, -fashion, -frame*; *sieve-witted* adj.

1598 CHAPMAN *Seven Bks. Iliad* Ded. A 4 b, Our siue-witted censors, through whose braines all things exact and refinde, run to the earth in heapes. 1609 N. F. *Fruiterers Secrets* 4 They poure them out gently into their siues, or broad baskets made siue-fashion. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 215 The inverted sieve drum should fit the paste tub pretty closely. *Ibid.* 216 The printer seizes the block..and daubs it twice..upon the sieve cloth. 1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* II. 332 The sieve-frame..is 28 inches in length and 5 inches in depth. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade, Sieve-bottoms*, attachments for the frame of a sieve made of horse-hair or wire, etc. 1893 K. SANBORN *S. California* 140 They ..placed acorns in a sieve basket.

6. Special combs.: † **sieve-alphabet, -bone** (see quots.); **sieve lackey,** a species of moth; † **sieve prophet** (see 2 b); **sieve-raggings** (see RAGGING *vbl. sb.*[3] 2); † **sieve-stone,** a species of tufa.

1663 MARQUIS OF WORCESTER *Cent. Inv.* Index p. iv, A *Sieve-alphabet [§ 34 To write..by holes in the bottom of a Sieve]. 1594 T. B. *La Primaud. Fr. Acad.* II. 123 A little bone in the top of the nose, which is pierced through like to a litle siue. Hereupon it is called by the Phisicions the *siue-bone. 1832 J. RENNIE *Butterfl. & Moths* 46 The *Sieve Lackey (*Eulepia Cribrum*) appears in June. 1638 MAYNE *Lucian* (1664) 131 If but a *Sive-prophet appear among them,..they presently flock together, and gape at him. 1681 GREW *Musæum* III. i. v. 305 The *Seive-Stone. *Lapis Cribriformis.*

b. In botanical terms having reference to sieve-like openings in the walls or ends of plant-cells, as **sieve-cell, disk, -pore, -tissue, -tube, -vessel**; also SIEVE-PLATE 1.

1875 BENNETT & DYER tr. *Sachs' Bot.* 23 The Sieve-structure which occurs in the sieve-cells of the fibro-vascular bundles of vascular plants. *Ibid.* 24 The opening of the sieve-pores has not yet begun. *Ibid.* 101 The latticed cells or sieve-tubes frequently have sieve- or latticed discs in their longitudinal walls. 1887 BENTLEY *Man. Bot.* (ed. 5) 55 What are commonly known as sieve-tubes or sieve-vessels.

Sieve, obs. form of SEAVE, a rush.

Sieve (siv), *v.* Also 5 **cyue,** 6 **sy(e)ue, syve.** [f. SIEVE *sb.* Cf. MDu. and MLG. *seven, seven* (LG. *seven, sefen*, etc.), MHG. *siben* (G. *sieben*), *siffen.*]

1. *trans.* To pass through a sieve; to sift or strain.

1499 [see the *vbl. sb.*]. 1530 PALSGR. 719/2 You can never make so fyne floure whan you do but syve your meale, as you shall do whan you boulte it. 1552 HULOET, Bult,

raunge, or syeue meale, *succerno*. 1824 MACTAGGART *Gallovid. Encycl.* 442 Sieving milk through a syle. 1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* III. 909 A strong brine of salt and boiling-water..is made and sieved through a cloth. 1885 *Encycl. Brit.* XVIII. 225/2 The fibres of wood..are then sieved according to fineness, collected, and pressed into pulp.

b. To take *out* by sifting. In quots. *fig.*

1860 GEN. P. THOMPSON *Audi Alt.* cxxiii. III. 74 They will find no lack of reasons why they and their representatives should not be sieved out of parliament. 1885 *Eng. Mech.* 235 The blue or short wave-lengths of the spectrum are sieved out first.

2. a. To perforate with holes like a sieve.

1853 *Whistle-Binkie* Ser. II. 29 Tak care o' your breeks that they dinna get sieved.

b. To bore in the manner of a sieve.

1875 LANIER *Symphony* 32 We sieve mine-meshes under the hills.

3. *intr.* To pass as through a sieve.

1863 H. MELVILLE *Moby Dick* cxxv, Oh God! that man should be a thing for immortal souls to sieve through!

Hence **Sie·ving** *vbl. sb.*

1499 *Promp. Parv.* (Pynson), Cyuynge or clensinge, *colatura*. 1598 NASHE *P. Penilesse* (ed. 2) 8 Greedinesse.. busies himselfe..in syuing of Muckhills and shop dust, whereof he will boult a whole cartload to gaine a bowd Pinne. 1824 LANDOR *Imag. Conv.* Wks. 1853 I. 79/1 After this sieving, after this pounding and trituration of the coarser particles [etc.].

Sie·veful. [See -FUL 2.] The fill of a sieve. Also *fig.*

a 1440 *Found. St. Bartholomew's* (E. E. T. S.) 26 She mesurid one cevefull And yaue it to the mynystris. *a* 1658 CLEVELAND *Char. of Diurn. Maker* (1677) 102 A Sieveful of Ballads and Godly Books. 1693 DRYDEN *Let.* Wks. 1893 XVIII. 111 For feare the few damsins shou'd be all gone, desire her to buy me a sieve-full. 1725 *Fam. Dict.* s. v. *Hop Garden*, When it is thus fastned, cast in two or three Sieve-fulls of Hops. 1856 MORTON *Cycl. Agric.* I. 193/2 A skilful workman takes a sieveful from the unfinished heap. 1895 SAINTSBURY *Corrected Impressions* x. 89 A very sieveful of holes.

Sieve-like, *a.* [f. SIEVE *sb.*] Resembling a sieve; perforated like a sieve.

1591 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* I. i. 369 Thence is't that Garden-pots, the mouth kept close, Let fall no liquor at their sive-like nose. 1639 W. SCLATER *Worthy Commun.* 3 So sieve-like are our memories, that they doe..let slip.. what should better be retained. *a* 1650 MAY *Old Couple* III, So dying aldermen Pour out at once upon their sieve-like heirs Whole gusts of envi'd wealth. 1766 *Compl. Farmer* s.v. *Glanders*, The os ethmoides, or sieve-like bone, through which the olfactory nerves pass. 1837 P. KEITH *Bot. Lex.* 257 When the juice of the sugar-cane has been boiled down to a syrup, it is put to cool into sieve-like vessels. 1887 BENTLEY *Man. Bot.* (ed. 5) 56 The partition walls..are..only thickened in a sieve-like manner.

Sie·ve-maker. [SIEVE *sb.*] One who makes sieves.

14.. *Nom.* in Wr.-Wülcker 686 *Hic cribrarius*, syfmaker [*printed* fys-]. *c* 1470 *Promp. Parv.* (K.) 457/2 Seve makere, ..*cribrarius*. 1572 in *Essex Rev.* (1906) XV. 212 Hugh Humfrey, the syvemakers son. 1601–*a* 1661 [see SIEVIER]. 1723 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 6159/3 John Griffin,..a Sieve-maker by Trade. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade, Sieve-maker*, a manufacturer of screening machines and sieves. 1892 *Daily News* 9 Nov. 5/4 A peasant on foot and a sievemaker driving a single horse tarantass.

Sieve-plate. [SIEVE *sb.*]

1. *Bot.* A sieve-like plate on the wall of a plant-cell. (Cf. SIEVE *sb.* 6 b.)

1875 BENNETT & DYER tr. *Sachs' Bot.* 24 The sieve-plates do not at present show anything of the subsequent more complicated structure. 1882 VINES *ibid.* 89 In this condition the septum, perforated by a number of pores, is termed a *Sieve-plate*; it is usually broader than the diameter of the tube, which therefore appears dilated at..the sieve-plates.

2. *Zool.* (See quot.)

1888 ROLLESTON & JACKSON *Anim. Life* 566 A calcareous plate placed at the base of the arm interradially, and called in the latter case a sieve-plate.

3. In paper-making, a plate through which pulp is strained. 1891 in *Cent. Dict.*

Sie·ver. Now *rare* or *Obs.* Also 5 **cyver, 7 seaver.** [f. SIEVE *sb.*]

1. A sieve-maker.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 78/2 Cyver, or maker of sevys.., *cribrarius*. 1616 *Mem. St. Giles, Durham* (Surtees) 46 Rec^d of Rychard Robeson, Seaver. *c* 1800 in H. Speight *Nidderdale* (1894) 384 Sievers, fellmongers, tanners, weavers, bleachers.

2. A sifter.

1835 CARRICK *Laird of Logan* (1854) 189 Robin's associates were three of the 'Sievers' of Sessantilly, the rival mill to Goodie.

†Sie·vier. *Obs.* Forms: (see quots.). [f. SIEVE *sb.* + -IER.] = prec.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 457/1 Syvy3ere, or maker of syvys (*K.* siveyer,..*P.* syuyer), *cribrarius*. *c* 1460 *Ibid.* (Winch.) 84 Cyue3ere. 1601 F. GODWIN *Bps. of Eng.* 529 The son of a poore man there, a Syueyer or Syve-maker by his occupation. *a* 1661 FULLER *Worthies* I. *Durham* (1662) 297 William Siveyer was born at Shinkley.., where his Father was a Siveyer or Sive-maker. [1894 WYLIE *Hist. Eng., Hen. IV*, II. 481 His father is said to have been a sievier or bolter-maker.]

†Sie·vy, *a. Obs.*[−1] [f. SIEVE *sb.* + -Y.] Like a sieve, unable to retain.

1724 tr. *Castelnau's Mem.* 47 When affairs of this kind come to be imparted to women, a sex so generally sievey that they can keep no secrets.

Siew, Siex, obs. forms of SUE *v.*, SIX.

Siff, obs. form of SIEVE *sb.*, SIFT *v.*

Si·fflate, *v. rare*[−1]. [irreg. f. F. *siffler*: see next.] *trans.* To whisper.

1837 MARRYAT *Dog Fiend* ix, 'He's gone,' was siffilated above and below.

Siffle (si·fl), *v.* Also 4–5 **syfle, 5 sifle.** [ad. F. *siffler*, †*sifler*:—L. *sīfilāre*, var. of *sibilāre*: see SIBILATE *v.*] *intr.* To blow with a sibilant sound; to whistle, hiss.

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* C. 470 Syben he..sayez vnte Zeferus þat he syfle warme. 13.. *Gaw. & Gr. Knt.* 517 Quen Zeferus syflez hym-self on sedez & erbez. 1480 CAXTON *Ovid's Met.* xv. viii, The gode in forme of a serpent..syfled after his avenement. 1491 — *Vitas Patr.* (W. de W. 1495) I. viii, 13 b/1 Incontynent that the dragon aperceyued hym he came to hym siflinge.

1862 D. RICHMOND *Through Life & For Life* xviii. 231 The damp, raw morning air, which siffled in from the open door. 1876 MRS. WHITNEY *Sights & Ins.* xxv, The air siffled gently through the low grass.

Hence **Si·ffling** *vbl. sb.* and *ppl. a.* Also **Si·ffle** *sb.*, a sibilant râle (*Cent. Dict.* 1891).

1603 HOLLAND *Plutarch's Mor.* 1221 Neither doe ordinary hounds understand the signes that huntsmen use, nor every horse the siffling and chirring of the escuirry. 1866 *Cornh. Mag.* Mar. 313 What joy when Angus drew a long siffling breath.

†Si·fflement. *Obs.*[−1] [a. F. *sifflement*, f. *siffler*: see prec.] A whistling noise.

1607? BREWER *Lingua* I. i, Like to the winged chanters of the wood, Uttering nought else but idle sifflements, Tunes without sense, words inarticulate.

Sift, *sb. rare.* [In sense i = MDu. *sifte, zifte* (Du. *zift*), also MDu. and MLG. *sichte*. In other senses f. SIFT *v.*]

†1. A sieve. *Obs.*

1499 *Promp. Parv.* (Pynson), Cyue or cifte, *cribrum, cribellum*. 1648 HEXHAM II. s.v. *Zijgen*, To Runne through a Sift, or a Strainer.

2. The act of sifting (in quot. *fig.*); the fact of falling as from a sieve.

1814 MME. D'ARBLAY *Wanderer* I. 60, I don't say this by way of a sift. 1866 B. TAYLOR *Poet's Jrnl.* Dec., The rustling sift of falling snow.

3. 'Something that falls or passes as if from the meshes of a sieve; sifting or sifted material' (*Cent. Dict.* 1891).

Sift (sift), *v.* Forms: 1 **siftan,** 4 **sifte**n (5 **-yn**), 6–7 **sifte** (6 **sifte**), 4– **sift** (7 **siff**); 1 **syftan,** 4–6 **syfte,** 5 **cyftyn,** 6 **cyfte**; 1 **seftan,** 5, 7 **seft**; also *pa. pple.* 5 **syfte,** 6 **sefte.** [OE. *siftan, syftan,* = MDu. *siften, suften* (Du. *zeven*), MLG. *sifte*n; also MDu. and MLG. (and hence G.) *sichten*, Du. and WFlem. *zichten*. The stem is that of SIEVE *sb.*]

1. *trans.* To pass (something) through a sieve, in order to separate the coarse from the fine particles, or to strain.

c 725 *Corpus Gloss.* C 873 *Crebrat*, siftiõ. *c* 888 K. ÆLFRED *Boeth.* xxxiv. § 11 Swa swa mon meolo seft [*v.r.* sift]; ðæt meolo ðurzcrypõ ælc ỳrel. *c* 1000 ÆLFRIC *Gram.* (Z.) 137 *Cribro*, ic syfte. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Can. Yeom. T.* 388 Al this mullok in a sive y-throwe, And sifted, and y-piked many a throwe. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XVII. lxvii. (Tollem. MS.), Mele is grounde at mylle, and sefted with a seue. *c* 1415 *Rec. St. Mary at Hill* (1905) p. xcvi, A dyssh full of aysshes fayre syfte, *c* 1430 *Two Cookery Bks.* 38 Pan bray hem smal y-now; & þerow a crees bunte syfte hem. *c* 1449 *Promp. Parv.* 77/1 Cyftyn, *cribro*. 1530 PALSGR. 718/2, I wyll nat syft my meale thorowe this syve, it is to coarse. 1555 EDEN *Decades* IV. (Arb.) 82 The myners..in dyuers places syfted the same on the drye lande. 1603 in Gage *Hist. & Antiq. Hengrave* (1822) 23 Item, one fier sholve made like a grate to seft the seacole wth. 1687 A. LOVELL tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* II. 85 They sweep a place very clean to sift the lime in, and when it is sifted they make it up in a heap. 1709 STEELE *Tatler* No. 69 ¶ 11 Two of the Fair Sex, who are usually employed in sifting Cinders. 1769 MRS. RAFFALD *Eng. Housekpr.* (1778) 171 Pound and sift three quarters of a pound of loaf sugar. 1832 G. R. PORTER *Porcelain & Glass* 303 The same powdered whiting..may be used again..upon being ground and sifted. 1865 DICKENS *Mut. Fr.* I. viii, A country contract which was to be sifted before carted.

b. In *fig.* or *transf.* uses.

1535 COVERDALE *Amos* ix. 9 Though I siffte ye house of Israel amonge all nacions. 1589 ? LYLY *Pappe w. Hatchet* L.'s Wks. 1902 III. 408 They haue sifted the holie Bible, and left vs nothing as they say, but branne. 1611 BIBLE *Isaiah* xxx. 28 To sift the nations with the sieue of vanitie. 1653 H. COGAN tr. *Pinto's Trav.* iv. 8 The things of God..lose their value and force, when they are sifted through so many hands. 1822 W. TENNANT *Thane of Fife* I. lxxv, When the North [wind] should burst his bleak confines, And in his icy boulter sift the snow. 1871 TYNDALL *Fragm. Sci.* (1879) I. iv. 129 The solar light is sifted by the landscape.

2. *fig.* a. To make trial of (a person).

In early quots. after Luke xxii. 31.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 15523 He wil þe sift nu if he mai, as man dos corn or bran. 1535 COVERDALE *Luke* xxii. 31 Satan hath desyred after you, that he might siffte you euen as wheate. *c* 1590 MARLOWE *Faustus* xiii, Sathan begins to sift me with his pride. 1624 T. SCOTT *Vox Dei* 76 Is it not a great and dangerous temptation, (o all yee that know what temptation is, what it is to be siffed, what it is to resist) that young men meet in the world? 1642 FULLER *Holy & Prof. St.* IV. xv. 315 For these reasons Lady Elizabeth was closely kept and narrowly sifted all her Sisters reigne. 1718 *Free-thinker* No. 74. 140 The more..the Sincere Man..is sifted, the more he is intrusted.

b. To subject (one) to close questioning.

a 1566 R. EDWARDS *Damon & Pithias* (E. E. D. S.) 47 The knave beginneth to sift me. 1588 GREENE *Pandosto* (1843) 37 He therefore began to sifte her more narrowly on this manner. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* III. 30 Being curiously sifted by the guard at the City-gate, and being asked many questions. 1694 GIBSON in *Lett. Lit. Men* (Camden) 235 For fear it should be some you have employ'd, I have got one to sift him. 1726 SWIFT *Gulliver* II. vi, He multiplied his Questions, and sifted me thoroughly upon every Part of this Head. 1756 H. WALPOLE *Let. to Mann* 16 May, I sifted Dr. Pringle himself, but he would not give me a positive answer. 1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* xvii, You must speak with this wench,..you must sift her a wee bit. 1861 READE *Cloister & H.* Iv, Blind Hans's boy..was sifted narrowly by my master, and stammered and faltered.

3. *fig.* To examine closely into, to scrutinize narrowly, so as to find out the truth.

1573 G. HARVEY *Letter-bk.* (Camden) 11 Thes men..whos opinions I have desirid to be thurrouly siftid. 1592 TIMME *Ten Eng. Lepers* L 4, Let no man take upon him to scan and sift Gods workes. 1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pstud. Ep.* I. viii. (1686) 23 We may explore and sift their verities. 1735 BERKELEY *Free-think. in Mathemat.* § 15 Others who are not afraid to sift the principles of human science. 1774 J. BRYANT *Mythol.* II. 189, I have endeavoured with great pains to sift the history to the bottom. 1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* xxxiv, We will sift this matter to the uttermost. 1849 ROBERTSON *Serm.* Ser. I. xxi. (1866) 350 It is..very hard to sift a slander. 1884 L. J. JENNINGS *Croker Papers* I. i. 14 The art with which he sifted the evidence of the witnesses.

b. Similarly with *out*.

1577 HANMER *Anc. Eccl. Hist.* (1619) 85 When as Tatianus promised to sift out the darke speeches and hidden mysteries of Holy Scripture. 1594 T. B. *La Primaud. Fr. Acad.* II. 578 This word..ought to teach us not to sift out the life of our soveraigne prince. 1642 FULLER *Holy & Prof. St.* IV. vii. 272 If the cause be difficult, his diligence is the greater to sift it out. 1662 J. DAVIES tr. *Olearius' Voy. Amb.* 70 They were lodg'd in my house for some dayes, which I spent in sifting out their humour and manner of life. 1737 WHISTON *Josephus, Hist.* II. ii. § 2 He tried to sift out the accounts of the money. 1827 POLLOK *Course T.* 1, Severely sifting out The whole idea.

†c. To search; to try. *Obs.*

1611 MIDDLETON & DEKKER *Roaring Girl* D.'s Wks. 1874 IV. 148, I will sift all the tauernes ith citty,..Ile find her out. 1627 E. F. *Hist. Edw. II* (1680) 18 They sift each way might break this fond inchantment.

4. To separate, to take or get *out*, by the use of a sieve. Also *transf.* and in fig. contexts.

1428 *Eng. Misc.* (Surtees) 6 He syfted oute of yt half a bushell of plaster and lyme. 1502 ARNOLDE *Chron.* (1811) 87 The marchauntis straungers nowe use..to sarse, syfte & trye out the best greyne. 1554–9 *Songs & Ball., Phil. & Mary* (Roxb.) 4 And eke the fyne flowr from the bran nerly syfft. 1602 *Narcissus* (1893) App. I. 7, I have sifted out..the flower of my fancye. 1631 GOUGE *God's Arrows* I. § 15. 21 Yet can the Lord..as a few precious jewels in..a great heap of rubbish sift them out. 1758 REID tr. *Macquer's Chym.* I. 262 Having sifted out and thrown away all the finest particles. 1843 CARLYLE *Past & Pr.* I. v. 39 That it will be got sifted, like wheat out of chaff, from the Twenty-seven Million British subjects. 1872 W. K. CLIFFORD *Lect.* (1879) I. 176 The lightest gas comes out quickest, and is as it were sifted from the other.

refl. 1874 L. STEPHEN *Hours Libr.* (1892) I. iii. 109 In Pope..the grain has sifted itself from the chaff.

b. *fig.* To find *out*, get to know, by a process of elimination or close inquiry.

1586 A. DAY *Eng. Secretary* II. 87 When by interrogation we sift out any thing. 1651 HOBBES *Leviath.* III. xxxii. 195 To labour in sifting out a Philosophicall truth. 1726 *Adv. Capt. R. Boyle* (1768) 240, I endeavour'd to sift the Secret from him. 1805 G. ELLIS *Let.* in Lockhart *Scott* (1837) II. ii. 75, I should think Ritson himself..would be puzzled to sift out a single additional anecdote of the poet's life. 1833 T. HOOK *Parson's Daus.* II. vii, Then, perhaps, you may sift out some farther particulars. 1851 HELPS *Comp. Solit.* x. (1874) 170 It will be investigated, and what is true in it be sifted out.

5. To clear or clean *from* impurities, etc., by means of a sieve; also *fig.*, to clean (one) *out of* money.

1591 GREENE *Conny Catch.* II. Wks. (Grosart) X. 95 He.. little suspected that his Countreyman the Setter had sifted him out of his money. *c* 1632 DRUMM. OF HAWTH. *Elegy Gustavus Adolphus*, You are at best but honourable Earth; ..how e're sifted from that courser Bran Which doth compound, and knead the common Man. 1660 SHARROCK *Vegetables* 17 Sift it from stones and rubbish.

6. a. To cover *over*, by letting something fall through a sieve.

1563 HYLL *Arte Garden.* (1593) 14 The which allies and walkes you shall sift ouer with the finest sand.

b. To let fall through, scatter from or by means of, a sieve. Also *fig.*

1664 EVELYN *Kal. Hort.* (1729) 204 If this [soil] be too stiff, sift a little Lime discreetly with it. 1674 FLAVEL *Husb. Spiritualized* (ed. 2) 264 The finest and richest mould must be sifted about the roots. 1747–96 MRS. GLASSE *Cookery* xx. 316 You must sift some fine sugar upon your cake when it goes into the oven. 1772 T. SIMPSON *Vermin-Killer* 26 Cover it lightly over with earth,..sift it over the trap. 1821 CLARE *Vill. Minstr.* I. 85 Along the floor some sand I'll sift. 1855 DELAMER *Kitchen Garden* (1861) 37 After sowing, ..sift over the top a thin layer of cinder-ashes or lime-rubbish. 1869 B. HARTE *Luck Roaring Camp* 31 Again from leaden skies the snow-flakes were sifted over the land.

7. *intr.* To use a sieve; to do sifting. Chiefly *fig.*, esp. to pry *into*, make inquiry.

1535 COVERDALE *Amos* ix. 9 Like as they vse to sifte in a syue. 1590 GREENE *Never too Late* Wks. (Grosart) VIII. 153, I hope this proffer is but a tryall..to sift at my secret intent. *a* 1625 FLETCHER *Noble Gent.* v. iii, Although he puts his nobles in disguise..to sift into my words. 1641 MILTON *Animadv.* Wks. 1851 III. 205 You sifted not so clean before, but you shuffle as foulely now. 1699 BENTLEY *Phal.* 287, I will not sift into them too minutely. 1779

Mme. D'Arblay *Let.* Dec., He has desired me to sift for what room you have, and to sound as to convenience. 1874 *Slang Dict.* 290 *Sift*, to embezzle small coins, those which might pass through a sieve—as threepennies and fourpennies—and which are, therefore, not likely to be missed.

8. To pass or fall as through a sieve.

1599 A. M. tr. *Gabelhouer's Bk. Physicke* 2/2 Madefye it with Rosewater least that it fal on á heap and sift throughe. 1855 Longf. *Hiaw.* ii. 137 He it was who sent the snowflakes Sifting, hissing through the forest. 1867 Augusta Wilson *Vashti* xxxiv, Golden leaves were sifting down on the marble floor. 1893 *Scribner's Mag.* Sept. 305/1 The April sunshine sifts in through an open window.

Hence **Si·ftage**, sifted matter. *rare* —[1].

1881 Blackmore *Christowell* vii, At this he worked hard, ..pulling asunder the fibrous clods, but not reducing them to siftage.

Sifted (si·ftĕd), *ppl. a.* [f. Sift *v.*] That has been passed through a sieve.

1485 *Nottingham Rec.* III. 243, vij stryke of syfted lyme. 1563 Hyll *Arte Garden.* (1593) 154 Put fine sifted earth, either into an old basket, or deepe earthen pan. 1605 Willet *Hexapla Gen.* 353 The plowed, tilled, or sifted feilds. 1707 Mortimer *Husb.* (1721) I. 298 A Composition made of slacked-sifted Lime and Linseed Oil. 1819 Shelley *Peter Bell* vii. viii. 3 A genteel drive up to his door, With sifted gravel neatly laid. 1888 Rutley *Rock-Forming Min.* 8 A sifted sample..of such fineness that each particle consists of one mineral species only.

fig. 1589 Nashe *Martin Marprelate* Wks. (Grosart) I. 95 The sifted Greeke witte of Father Augustine. 1878 *Masque Poets* 75 The sifted silver of the night Rained down a strange delight.

Sifter (si·ftəɹ). [f. as prec. + -er [1].]

1. One who sifts, in lit. or fig. senses.

1579 Lyly *Euphues* Epist. Dedicatory, Though the stile nothing delight the dayntie eare of the curious sifter. 1587 Golding *De Mornay* xxxiv. (1592) 547 Some searchers and sifters of words. 1611 Cotgr., *Cribleur*, a sifter. 1720 T. Boston *Fourfold State* (1797) 312 Such is the exactness of the sieve and care of the sifter. 1752 Fielding *Covent Gard. Jrnl.* No. 23, They elude the enquiries of the most diligent sifters of antiquity. 1851 Mayhew *Lond. Lab.* II. 172/2 A medium-sized dust-yard will employ..six sifters. 1871 R. B. Vaughan *S. Thomas of Aquin* II. 646 He did not take for granted like the Sophist...He was a winnower and a sifter.

b. *Ornith.* (See quot.)

1872 Darwin *Orig. Species* (ed. 6) vii. 183 Ducks..subsist by sifting the mud and water; and the family has sometimes been called *Criblatores*, or sifters.

2. A utensil or apparatus for sifting; a sieve; also *dial.*, a fire-shovel, kitchen shovel.

1611 Cotgr., *Crible*, a siue, or sifter; raunging siue. 1840 *Penny Cycl.* XVII. 209/1 The pulp is first made to flow from the vat upon a wire frame, or sifter. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2175/2 Sifters are used for sifting ashes from cinders; flour from lumps, etc. 1881 *Porcelain Wks., Worcester* 7 The number of pumps, sifters, and presses which are employed.

Si·fting, *vbl. sb.* [f. as prec. + -ing [1].]

1. The action of the verb, in various senses.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 77/1 Cyftynge, *cribracio.* *c* 1460 *Ibid.* (Winch.) 410 Syftynge [*P.* siffinge] or clensynge, *collacio, collatura.* 1473 *Rental Bk. Cupar-Angus* (1879) I. 171 Tha sal do thar diligens..with wedyng, renouyng and syftyng of seid. 1555 Eden *Decades* (Arb.) 212 They moue them rownde aboute after the maner of syftynge. 1579 Fulke *Heskins' Parl.* 222 He scoffeth..at our spirituall sifting of the sacrament. 1607 Hieron *Wks.* I. 262 To intend the sifting and scanning of euery pretended way of saluation. 1615 Chapman *Odyss.* xvi. 432 Time will aske much, to the sifting out Of each mans disposition, by his deeds. 1736 Hervey *Mem.* I. 138 Examinations and siftings seldom turning to the account of those who have the reins of power. 1841 Myers *Cath. Th.* III. § 19. 70 The weighing and sifting of traditional testimony. 1884 *Athenæum* 24 May 660/1 The heap has undergone a certain sifting and classification.

attrib. 1844 H. Stephens *Bk. Farm* II. 283 Sifting-machines have been contrived for the purpose. 1861 Stephens & Burns *Farm-buildings* § 1773 In Mr. Downing's work, a plan of what is there termed a 'sifting-shed' [for separating pigs] is given.

2. *pl.* That which is removed or separated by means of a sieve.

1600 Surflet *Countrie Farme* I. xxii. 131 The sheaues of wheate and rie are good for them: and sometimes bran mixed with siftings. 1611 Cotgr., *Cribleure*,..siftings. 1763 Mills *Pract. Husb.* II. 280 *note*, The siftings would otherwise have been more considerable in so many years. 1845 *Beck's Florist Jrnl.* 30, I would recommend to add to it.. either sand, lime rubbish, or lime siftings. 1886 *Daily News* 15 Sept. 2/4 Tea..; black leaf, 8*d.* to 1*s.* *id.*; siftings, 5½*d.*

Si·fting, *ppl. a.* [-ing [2].] That sifts or separates; searching.

1642 H. More *Song of Soul* I. ii. cviii, How had she admired Thy sifting wit, thy speech and person lov'd. 1762 *Crazy Tales* 24 He was in such a sifting cue, Till she discover'd all she knew. 1850 McCosh *Div. Govt.* I. ii. (1874) 51 Its superstitions could not stand the sifting light of modern science. 1895 *Tablet* 9 Nov. 739 The sifting power of water in motion is very great.

Sig, *sb. dial.* and *U.S.* Also **seg**, **sigg**, **zig**(g. [Of obscure origin; the form does not correspond to older Flem. *seycke* (Kilian), G. *seiche*, in the same sense.] Urine.

1691 Ray *S. & E. Co. Wds.* 113 *Sig*, Urine, Chamber-lie. 1746 *Gentl. Mag.* XVI. 408/2 [Exmoor Vocab.], *Zigg*, urine. 1825 Jennings *Observ. Dial. W. Eng.* 67. 1886 Elworthy *W. Somerset Word-bk.* 670 The woollen factories used to supply to any householder who would..undertake to 'save' the 'sig', a tub or vat for the purpose.

† Sig, *v. Obs.*—[1] [Cf. prec.] *trans.* To steep in, or sprinkle with, urine.

1581 in *Southern Times* 27 Oct. (1883) 3/4 That no tuckers do sig or wash any cloths upon the Sabbath Day.

Sig., in printing, abbreviation of Signature.

† Sigalder, *sb. Obs. rare.* [f. OE. *sige* victory + Galder.] A charm or incantation.

c 1000 *Saxon Leechd.* I. 388 Syge-gealdor ic begale, sige-gyrd ic me wege. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 208 Sigaldren [*v.r.* sigaldrie], & false teolunges, leuunge on ore & of swefnes, & alle wichchecrefetes.

Hence **† Sigalder** *v.*, to enchant, bewitch. *Obs.*

1303 R. Brunne *Handl. Synne* 503 Pere was a wycche, and made a bagge, A bely of lepyr,..She sygaldryd so pys bagge bely þat hyt ȝede and soke mennys ky.

† Sigaldry. *Obs. rare.* Also 3 **-rie**, 4 **sygaldrye.** [f. prec. + -y.] Enchantment, sorcery.

a 1225 [see Sigalder *sb.*]. 13.. *K. Alis.* 7015 (W.), Quede and harme he wil me spye,..Gef he wot of this sygaldrye [*Laud* trigoldrye] That this trowes [=trees] kan lye. ?*a* 1500 *Chester Pl., Crucifixion* (Shaks. Soc.) II. 69 Burye hym wher thy wil be, But look thou make no sigaldry To raise him up agayne.

Sig(g)e, obs. forms of Siege *sb.*

Sigge(n, obs. forms of Say *v.*[1]

Sigh (sai, *Sc.* siχ), *sb.* Forms: *α.* 5 **syhe**, 5–6 **syghe**, 6 **sygh**; 4–7 **sighe**, 4– **sigh.** *β. Sc.* 6 **sych(e**, 6, 8–9 **sich**, 6, 9 *arch.* **siche**, 9 **sicgh**; *north.* 9 **seegh.** [f. the vb.]

1. A sudden, prolonged, deep and more or less audible respiration, following on a deep-drawn breath, and esp. indicating or expressing dejection, weariness, longing, pain, or relief.

α. 13.. *Cursor M.* 15169 (Gött.), Ful mani sari sigh, i-wis, þar sank tille his herte. *c* 1381 Chaucer *Parl. Foules* 248 Withyn the temple of syghes [*v.r.* syhes] hote as fyre.., Whyche syghes engendryd were with desyre [etc.]. *c* 1400 *Pilgr. Sowle* (Caxton, 1483) IV. xxxi. 80 He draweth a depe sighe fro the herte rote. *c* 1489 Caxton *Sounes of Aymon* xvi. 372 Rowland..sawe not durandall his sword, wherof he dyde caste a grete syghe. 1500–20 Dunbar *Poems* viii. 2 Thou may complain with sighis lamentable The death of Bernard Stewart. 1595 Daniel *Civ. Wars* I. lxxxvii, Wringing her hands (as one that griev'd and prayd) With sighes commixt with words. 1611 Shaks. *Wint. T.* I. ii. 287 Stopping the Cariere Of Laughter, with a sigh. 1642 Fuller *Holy & Prof. St.* v. xix. 440 In their sighes they breathed many a prosperous gale to Nassau's party. 1711 Addison *Spect.* No. 7 ¶ 1 The Lady..said to her Husband with a Sigh, My Dear, Misfortunes never come Single. 1757 Gray *Clerke* 14 A sigh; an unavailing tear. 1822 Hazlitt *Table-t.* II. ii. 19 A sigh uttered from the fulness of the heart, an involuntary aspiration born and dying in the same moment. 1878 M. A. Brown tr. *Runeberg's Nadeschda* 38 A sigh of admiration is His full heart's only language now.

transf. 1817 Keats *I stood tip-toe* 12 There crept A.. noiseless noise among the leaves, Born of the very sigh that silence heaves.

β. 1513 Douglas *Æneid* XIII. v. 115 Drawand the sobbis hard and sychis smart. 1567 *Satir. Poems Reform.* xi. 116 With sobbing sych I to ȝou send This my complaint. 1593 A. Hume *Treat. Consc.* vi, [He] will vtter his passions ..with sichis, and with sobbes. 17.. Ramsay *Some of the Contents* ix, His eisy sangs..Sall be esteimd quhyle sichs saft lufe betray. 1802 R. Anderson *Cumbld. Ball.* (c 1850) 32 Now, hey for seeghs and sugar words. 1879 G. Macdonald *Sir Gibbie* xlvi, She gae a gret sich, an' a sab.

2. *transf.* A sound made by the wind, suggestive of a sigh.

1810 Scott *Lady of L.* I. xi, Creeping shrubs, of thousand dyes, Waved in the west-wind's summer sighs. 1815 Shelley *Alastor* 8 Autumn's hollow sighs in the sere wood. 1848 L. Hunt *Jar of Honey* v. 64 Like the sigh that answers a wind over a churchyard.

3. *Comb.*, as *sigh-blown*, *-born*, *-broken*, *-clogged*, *-like*, *-swollen*, etc.

a 1586 Sidney *Arcadia* (1622) 396 At length he ended His oft sigh-broken dittie. 1601 Markham *Mary Magd. 3rd Lament* 15, I will suppresse my sigh-swolne sadnesse. 1611 Cotgr., *Han*, the..sigh-like voyce, wherewith woodcleauers, &c., keepe time to their stroakes. 1633 G. Herbert *Temple, The Collar* 19 Recover all thy sigh-blown age On double pleasures. 1648 J. Beaumont *Psyche* xvii. lxiii, With such potent passion did she breath That sigh-clogg'd Word. *a* 1847 Eliza Cook *Under the Moon* ix. 1 We may breathe a farewell in a sigh-deepened tone. 1849 De Quincey *Eng. Mail Coach* Wks. 1862 IV. 331 Suggesting solemn and sigh-born thoughts. 1873 Brennan *Witch of Nemi* 12 Bathed in the streams of sigh-fermented tears.

Sigh (sai, *Sc.* siχ), *v.* Forms: *α.* 4 **sihe(n**, 4–5 **syhe(n**, 5 **syh(gh)yn**; 4–5 **si3(h)e**, **si3ze** (4 **six-**), **sy3(h)e**, 5 **sye.** *β.* 4–5 **sighen**, 4–7 **sighe** (5 **sighye** ?), 5–6 **syghe**, 6– **sigh.** *γ. Sc.* 5–6 **sych**, 5–6, 9 **sich.** *δ.* 4–6 **seigh**, 5 **seye** (?), 6 **segh**; *Sc.* 5 **seych**, 9 **seich**, **seech.** *ε. Pa. t.* 6–7 (9 *dial.*) **sight** (7 **sigh't**), 6 **seight.** [ME. *sihen*, *si3en*, *sighen*, etc., prob. a back-formation on *sihte*, *si3te*, pa. t. of Siche *v.*, through the guttural having more phonetic appropriateness than the palatal sound. The old pa. t., however, survived in literary use down to the 17th cent.; it may also have been the source of the variant Sight *v.*[2] Further variations are Sithe *v.* and the dialect *sife*, *siff.*]

1. *intr.* To emit, give, or heave a sigh.

In ME. freq. in phrase *to sigh sore.*

α. 13.. *Cursor M.* 2959 (Göt.), Abraham syhid in his hert ful sare. 1382 Wyclif *Joshua* xv. 18 She si3ide [1388 si3ride], as she sat in the asse. — *Job* iii. 24 Er I shul ete, I si3he. *c* 1420 *Prymer* (1895) 34 To þee we si3en, gronynge in þis valey of teeris. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 455/2 Syhghyn, for mornynge (*K.* syhyn..), *suspiro.*

β. a 1300 *Cursor M.* 14221 Quen thomas..Hard þat ded was lazarus,..He sighed sar. 1390 Gower *Conf.* II. 319 Sche fond non amendement To syghen. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 5584 þe berne..Sighis selcuthly sare & sadli he wepis. 1434 Misyn *Mending Life* 130 It is no meruell þof it say syghand: 'Qwho sall gif me þe, my broþer?' 1530 Palsgr. 718/1 He syghed tyll his herte dyd nerehande bruste. 1560 Daus tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 342 To sigh, and to wincke as thoughe he were a slepe. 1669 Dryden *Tyrannic Love* III. i, And when his strength is wanting to his mind, Looks back, and sighs on what he left behind. 1697 — *Virg. Georg.* IV. 673 On thee,..in Desarts all alone, He call'd, sigh'd, sung. 1727–46 Thomson *Summer* 1188 They..talk'd the flowing heart, Or sigh'd and look'd unutterable things. 1781 Cowper *Expost.* 722 My soul shall sigh in secret, and lament A nation scourg'd. 1819 Scott *Ivanhoe* xli, The young knight sighed, therefore, and held his peace. 1854 Tennyson *Marriage Geraint* 307 Then sigh'd and smiled the hoary-headed Earl.

γ. 1375 Barbour *Bruce* III. 350 Men mycht haiff sene.. knychtis, for thar luffis sak, Baith sich, and wep. *c* 1470 Henry *Wallace* IX. 972 Wallace tharfor sichit with hart full sar. 1508 Dunbar *Twa Mariit Wemen* 446, I sich, without sair hert, or seiknes in body. 1583 *Leg. Bp. St. Androis* 459 The vther gaid hame..Sichand, and durst say no mair. 1791 Learmont *Poems* 113 She sicht sair i' her bed. 1884 D. Grant *Lays & Leg. North* 92 The Cooper didna sich an' grain.

δ. 1377 Langl. *P. Pl.* B. xviii. 89 He seighed & sayde, 'sore it me nthynketh'. *c* 1400 *St. Alexius* 122 (Laud MS. 108), His fader at hom seyet3 sore, & seyþ 'allas! allas!' *c* 1440 *Generydes* 1416 Ye seigh gretly, I prae yow telle me why. 1529 More *Dyalogue* I. Wks. 130/2 Some sely woman seking saint Sythe when she seghyth for miscasting of her kayes. 1877 Neilson *Poems* 57 (E.D.D.), They sech loud an' lang. 1883 Currie *Poems* 44 (E.D.D.), Nae langer noo I seich and mane.

ε. ?*c* 1550 *Sir Andrew Barton* in *Surtees Misc.* (1890) 65 The merchauntes answered, soore they sight. 1592 Breton *Pilgr. Paradise* Wks. (Grosart) I. 14/2 Shrinking downe, it sight, and spake no more. 1633 Cowley *Poet. Blossoms. Constantia & Philetus* 329 With that..He sight, as if they'd coole his torment's ire. 1689 Carlile *Fortune-Hunters* I. i, He lookt indeed and sight, and set his Cravat-string, and sight agen. 1828 Carr *Craven Gloss., Sight*, sighed.

b. *fig.* and *transf.*

1667 Milton *P. L.* IX. 783 Nature from her seat Sighing through all her Works gave signs of woe. 1708 *Brit. Apollo* No. 83. 3/1 To hear her after, *Sigh in Welsh*, (Which ill-bred Clowns will call a Belch). 1775 Sheridan *Duenna* I. i, Tell me, my lute, can thy soft strain..So softly sing, so humbly sigh, That [etc.]?

c. Of the wind, trees, etc.: To make or give out a sound suggestive of a sigh.

1757 Gray *Bard* 24 Hark, how each giant-oak, and desert cave, Sighs to the torrent's aweful voice beneath! 1764 Goldsm. *Trav.* 104 Like yon neglected shrub..That..sighs at every blast. 1820 Scott *Monast.* ix, A chill easterly wind was sighing among the withered leaves. 1830 Tennyson *Claribel* 4 The solemn oaktree sigheth. 1855 — *Maud* I. xxii. vii, Whenever a March-wind sighs He sets the jewel-print of your feet In violets.

2. a. To express desire or longing by the utterance of sighs; hence, to wish or long ardently. Const. *for* († *after*), or *to* with inf.

1549 Coverdale, etc. *Erasm. Par. Phil.* 8 Yet in soule our conuersacion is in heauen, sighing continuallye thither. 1565 Cooper *Thesaurus, In aliquam suspirare*, to sigh after one, or for one. 1596 Spenser *F. Q.* VI. viii. 20, I was belou'd of many a gentle Knight,..Full many a one for me deepe groand and sight. 1604 E. G[rimstone] tr. *D'Acosta's Hist. Indies* I. vi. 18 Many Spaniards..sigh for Spaine, having no discourse, but of their countrie. 1711 Addison *Spect.* No. 205 ¶ 3 The Foreigner sighs after some British Beauty, whom he only knows by Fame. 1746 Francis tr. *Horace, Ep.* I. xx. 5 You..fondly praise The public World, even sighing to be read,—Unhappy Book! 1847 Marryat *Childr. N. Forest* iv, He sighed for the time when the King's cause should be again triumphant. 1855 Tennyson *Maud* I. ii, Long have I sigh'd for a calm.

b. To be sorry, feel sorrow. Const. *that*, *to.*

1642 H. More *Song of Soul* I. iii. 39 Fair semblances these Apterites Do make of good, and sighen very sore, That God no stronger is. 1670 Dryden *Conq. Granada* I. iii. i, May your Heroick Act so prosperous be, That Almahide may sigh you set her free. 1734 Pope *Ess. Man* iv. 148 And which more blest? who chain'd his country, say, Or he whose Virtue sigh'd to lose a day?

3. *trans.* **a.** To speak or utter (words, etc.) with a sigh. Chiefly with advs., as *forth* and *out.*

1553 T. Wilson *Rhet.* 117 b, Some sighes out their woordes. Some synges their sentences. 1588 Shaks. *L. L. L.* III. i. 13 To..sigh a note and sing a note. 1607 — *Cor.* I. i. 209 They ..sigh'd forth Prouerbes. 1624 Quarles *Job Militant* § 8 Bvt wretched Iob, sigh't forth these words, and said, Ah me! 1797 Jane Austen *Sense & Sens.* xxxvii, Marianne sighed out her similar apprehension. 1825 T. Hook *Sayings* Ser. II. *Man of Many Fr.* (Colburn) 120 It is rather too late ..for you and I to sit up sighing out romances in real life. 1859 Tennyson *Elaine* 1341 The Queen..sigh'd in passing, 'Lancelot, Forgive me'. 1879 Miss Braddon *Cloven Foot* xxxviii, 'Yes,' sighed Celia, 'He went early on Tuesday morning'.

b. To emit, give out, impart, etc., by sighing. Freq. with advs., as *away*, *forth*, *out.* Also *transf.*

1593 Shaks. *Rich. II*, III. i. 20 [I] Haue..sigh'd my English breath in forraine Clouds. 1607 — *Cor.* IV. v. 121 Neuer man Sigh'd truer breath. 1638 Sir T. Herbert *Trav.* (ed. 2) 273 Sapores..sighed out his affrighted ghost, at the age.. of seventy one. 1725 Pope *Odyss.* XIV. 51 Far from his country roams my hapless lord! Or sigh'd in exile forth his latest breath. *a* 1796 Burns *On a Bank of Flowers* iii, He gaz'd, he wish'd, he fear'd, he blush'd, And sigh'd his very

soul. 1850 TENNYSON *In Mem.* LXXXV[1]. iii, Sweet after showers, ambrosial air,..sigh The full new life that feeds thy breath Throughout my frame. 1875 FARRAR *Silence & Voices* i. 5 Hundreds of martyrs sighed away their souls amid the flames.

4. a. To spend, consume, or while away (time) by sighing. Also with *away* and *out*.

1599 SHAKS. *Much Ado* v. i. 204 Thou wilt needes thrust thy necke into a yoke,..and sigh away sundaies. 1653 MILTON *Ps.* vi. 11 Wearied I am with sighing out my dayes. 1700 PRIOR *Carmen Sec.* 229 Sighing the Moments that defer Our Ease.

b. To bring into a certain state or condition by sighing. Also *transf.* and *refl.*

1603 SHAKS. *Meas. for M.* I. ii. 178 Thy head stands so tickle on thy shoulders, that a milke-maid, if she be in loue, may sigh it off. 1813 SCOTT *Rokeby* II. i, The gale had sigh'd itself to rest. 1850 MRS. BROWNING *Sonn., Prospect*, As fretful children do, Leaning their faces on the window-pane To sigh the glass dim.

5. a. To lament (an event, circumstance, etc.) with sighing.

c 1600 SHAKS. *Sonn.* XXX, I sigh the lacke of many a thing I sought. 1602 MARSTON *Ant. & Mel.* III, No..kinsman left To weepe my fate, or sigh my funerall. 1695 PRIOR *Ode Queen's Death*, Ages to come..Shall bless her Name, and sigh her Fate.

† **b.** To desire or long for (something). *Obs.*

1650 EARL MONM. tr. *Senault's Man bec. Guilty* 224 God's beauty is then..that, that we ought to sigh, all other desires are unjust.

Sigh, erron. var. of SITH, since; obs. var. SYE.

Sigher (sə͡i·ər). [f. SIGH *v.*] One who sighs.

1602 MARSTON *Antonio's Rev.* IV. iii, When my daughters exequies approach, Let's all turne sighers. 1612 *Two Noble K.* II. i, I could wish my selfe a Sigh to be so chid, or at least a Sigher to be comforted. 1703 STEELE *Tender Husb.* IV. i, Never was there such a sigher..as that unfortunate youth, during the absence of her he loved. 1740 CIBBER *Apol.* (1756) I. 225 Their lovers are generally constant simple sighers, both of a mind. 1826 SCOTT *Jrnl.* 16 June, I have been no sigher in shades—no writer of 'Songs and sonnets [etc.]'. 1879 BLACK *Macleod of Dare* xxx, Is she likely.. to prove a sigher?..A woman who goes about the house all day sighing.

Sighful (sə͡i·ful), *a. rare.* [f. SIGH *sb.* + -FUL.] Sorrowful; sad.

1606 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. iv. I. *Tropheis* 1285 In a cave hard by he roareth out A sigh-full Song. *a* 1618 — *Hymn of Alms* 276 A sighfull Air (though Soule-less) to respire. 1893 F. THOMPSON *Poems* 53 The dank thoughts that shiver Upon the sighful branches of my mind.

Hence **Si·ghfully** *adv. rare.*

1900 *Academy* 27 Oct. 375/2 Cromwell..'sought the Lord'..sighfully and tearfully, beating his breast.

Sighing (sə͡i·iŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. SIGH *v.*]

1. The action of the verb; sorrow, grief.

a. a 1300 *E. E. Psalter* XXXVII. 9 Lauerd,..fra þe noght hid es mi sighinge. *a* 1400 *Hymns Virgin* (1867) 27 My loue is euere in sikinge While y dwelle in þis way. 1412–20 LYDG. *Chron. Troy* I. 2295 Whan þat þei were to-gidre sette, þis Medea with syȝing first abreyde. 1535 COVERDALE *Isaiah* lxi. 2, I might geue vnto them..ioyful oyntment for sighinge. 1596 SHAKS. *1 Hen. IV*, II. iv. 365 A plague of sighing and griefe, it blowes a man vp like a Bladder. 1629 MILTON *Hymn Nativ.* XX, From haunted spring..The parting Genius is with sighing sent. 1703 ROWE *Ulysses* IV. i, Your Breasts that heave with sighing. *a* 1827 GOOD *Study Med.* (1829) I. 510 Often accompanied, in sighing, with deep and long drawn intonations, which we call groans. 1877 M. FOSTER *Physiol.* II. ii. (1879) 356 Sighing is a deep and long-drawn inspiration chiefly through the nose followed by a somewhat shorter, but correspondingly large expiration.

attrib. *a* 1300 *E. E. Psalter* vi. 6 (Vesp. MS.), I swanke in mi sighinge-stede. 1603 PETOWE *Eliza's Funerall* A iv, Your sighing weedes put off. 1615 CHAPMAN *Odyss.* XXI. 15 In the quiver were Arrows a number, sharp and sighing gear. 1746 FRANCIS tr. *Horace, Ep.* I. vii. 37 And o'er the flowing Bowl, in sighing Strain, [give me] To talk of wanton Cinera's Disdain.

β. c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* i. (*Peter*) 666 Cristne men þat saw þis thinge, faste cuth gret with ser sichinge. 1528 LYNDESAY *Dreme* 333 Dolour Infinyte,..With sobbyng, syching, sorrow, and with syte. *a* 1586 MONTGOMERIE *Misc. Poems* lii, Oursett with inwart siching sair. 1819 W. TENNANT *Papistry Storm'd* (1827) 224 Was nocht but grief.. And sichan' 'mang the monkish bands.

b. With *a* and pl. An instance of this; a sigh.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 1088 Quen he eie a-pon him kest, A sighing of his hert brest. *c* 1380 *Sir Ferumb.* 1040 Fyrumbras ..made a grete syȝyng. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 5052 With sare sighingis & sadd for sake of his wirdis. *c* 1440 *Gesta Rom.* ii. 6 As he lay in a certeyne tyme by the fire, in sighingis and gryntingis. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 59 b, Shewynge the same with swete teares and often syghynges. *a* 1568 A. SCOTT *Poems* (S.T.S.) x. 53 Thair is nocht wie Can estimie My sorrow and my sichingis sair. 1651 WITTIE tr. *Primrose's Pop. Err.* III. 158 Broth made of an old cock..is good for long feavers, sighings [etc.]. 1877 M. ARNOLD *New Sirens* 70 Round our hearts with long caresses, With low sighings, [1849 sighs hath] Silence stole.

2. *transf.* Of the wind, etc.

1653 JER. TAYLOR *Serm. for Year* v. 60 The poor bird was beaten back with the loud sighings of an eastern winde. 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* XXX, No sound was heard, except the sighing of the wind among the battlements. 1817 SHELLEY *Pr. Athanase* II. ii. 43 The far sighings of yon piny dale Made vocal by some wind. 1842 LOVER *Handy Andy* XXI, The gentle sighing of a broken pane of glass. 1869 TOZER *Highl. Turkey* II. 258 The sighing of the wind in the trees.

Sighing (sə͡i·iŋ), *ppl. a.* [f. SIGH *v.*]

1. Accompanied by, uttered with, a sigh. Also *transf.*

c 1440 *Found. St. Bartholomew's* (E.E.T.S.) 22 This man, cummynge a-forne the Auter.., with sighynge terys his mercy mekely besowght. 1509 HAWES *Past. Pleas.* XVI. (Percy Soc.) 68 And than to hym..I did complayne, wyth syghing teres depe. 1633 P. FLETCHER *Elisa* II. l, Sleep sighing words; stop all your discontenting: Sleep beaten breast [etc.]. 1821 SHELLEY *Adonais* XVI, Wan they stand and sere.., With dew all turned to tears; odour, to sighing ruth. 1863 I. WILLIAMS *Baptistery* II. XXIX. (1874) 155 Happy he, when..earth's sighing gladness Wrings the heart no more.

2. Of persons, etc.: That sigh(s). Also *transf.*

1593 SHAKS. *3 Hen. VI*, II. v. 117 My sighing brest, shall be thy Funerall bell. 1753–4 RICHARDSON *Grandison* VI. XXXIX. 255 In our happiest prospects, the sighing heart will confess imperfection. 1781 COWPER *Expost.* 309 Successive loads succeeding broils impose, And sighing millions prophesy the close. 1810 JANE PORTER *Scottish Chiefs* XLIII, I am no gloomy, no sighing recluse. 1850 MRS. BROWNING *Sonn. fr. Portug.* IX, To let thee..hear the sighing years Re-sighing on my lips renunciative.

b. *transf.* Of the wind, trees, etc.

1746 HERVEY *Medit.* (1818) 192 Let sighing Gales breathe ..in harmonious consonance to Him. 1821 SHELLEY *Hellas* 178 A wind Will rush out of the sighing pine-forest. 1860 KINGSLEY *Misc.* II. 139 Between the high banks of sighing reed. 1890 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Col. Reformer* (1891) 302 The sighing, whispering, sad-voiced water-oaks.

Si·ghingly, *adv.* [f. prec. + -LY 2.] In a sighing manner; with or accompanied by sighing.

1402 HOCCLEVE *Lett. of Cupid* 22 Her wordes spoken ben so syghyngly. 1491 CAXTON *Vitas Patr.* (W. de W. 1495) II. 307 She answered syghynly; alas, holy fader [etc.]. 1621 LADY M. WROTH *Urania* 253 Then turnd she sighingly within her bed. 1678 BUNYAN *Pilgr. Progr.* (1900) 40 Christian..had no more talk but with himself, and that sometimes sighingly. 1760–72 H. BROOKE *Fool of Qual.* (1809) I. 137 The populace, sighingly, gave my Arabella for lost. 1791 MME. D'ARBLAY *Diary* 5 Aug., The statues, busts, and pictures, which again I sighingly quitted, with a longing wish [etc.]. 1833 MRS. JAMESON *Crt. Beauties Chas. II* (1872) 170 He was for this time seriously and sighingly in love. 1842 MRS. BROWNING *Gk. Chr. Poets* ii. P 3 To go back sighingly to the tragedy, where we shall have to sigh again.

† **Si·ghingness.** *Obs.*[1] [f. as prec. + -NESS.] The condition of uttering sighs.

a 1300 *E. E. Psalter* ci. 6 Fra steuen of mi sighingnesse [*v.r.* sikingnesse] Kliued mi mouth to mi flessche.

Sighless (sə͡i·lės), *a. rare.* [f. SIGH *sb.* + -LESS.] Giving or sending forth no sigh.

c 1835 MRS. BROWNING *Felicia Hemans* i, O'er the sighless songless lips, the wail and music wedding. 1838 — *Seraphim* Epil. iii, So soon to lie Sighless, because then breathless, in the tomb.

Sight (sə͡it), *sb.*[1] Forms: *a.* 1 sihð, 2–3 sihðe (3 sihh-), 4 sipe, 4–5 sith, syth, 5 sythte; 1 sighð, 3 sig(ð)he, sihȝeðe, 4 siȝþe, zyȝþe, 5 syȝth, 6 sygth. *β.* 2–3 syhte, 2–4 siht(e, 3 seht(e, sichte, 4–6 *Sc.* sicht, sycht, 7 *Sc.* seicht; 3–4 seȝt (4 seiȝt), 3–5 siȝt(e, 4 -tte), siȝhte, syȝt(e; 3 sigt(e, sygte, 5 sygt; 4–6 sycht (5 seght), 4–7 syghte, sighte, 3– sight; 4–7 site, 9 *north.* seet. [OE. *sihð* (rare, usually *gesihð, gesiht,* I-SIGHT), = MDu. *sicht, zicht* (Du. *zicht,* Fris. *sicht*), MLG. *sichte* (hence Da. and Sw. *sigt*), OHG. *siht* (G. *sicht*), f. *sih-* the stem of SEE *v.* + -TH.]

I. 1. A thing seen, esp. of a striking or remarkable nature; a spectacle.

In early use chiefly of something strange or supernatural.

c 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Mark ix. 9 [He] bebead ðæm þætte ne ænigum..ða sihðo gesægdon. *c* 1160 *Hatton Gosp.* Mark xvi. 8 Hyo..wæren aferde for þare sihðe þe hyo geseagen. *a* 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 1607 Ha awundreden ham swiðe of þat sihðe. *c* 1275 LAY. 3897 Þreo daiȝes hit reinede blod... Þat was a wel wonder siht. *c* 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* II. 911 Swa grysly a sight saw he never nane. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 115 Wherof the Cite sore afflyhte, Of hem that sihen thilke syhte. *c* 1450 *Merlin* ii. 37 Vnder that water be two dragons that see no sight. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* vii, 441 The sycht with out was awfull for to se. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 306 b, My hert bresteth to se this syght. 1561 T. HOBY tr. *Castiglione's Courtyer* I. (1577) F ij, White teeth is a good sight in a woman. 1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* X. 433 I saw in Irelands North-parts, two remarkable sights:..The other as goodly sight I saw. 1700 DRYDEN *Ovid's Met.* XIII. *Acis, Polyphemus, & Galatea* 157 What fouler sight can be, Than the bald branches of a leafless tree? 1742 YOUNG *Nt. Th.* I. 306 How sad a sight is human happiness To those whose thought can pierce beyond an hour! 1803–6 WORDSW. *Ode Intim. Immort.* i, The earth, and every common sight. 1854 BREWSTER *More Worlds* ii. 17 There is, perhaps, no sight in the material world more magnificent than that of the starry firmament. 1889 MIVART *Orig. Human Reason* 53 A name can only be a certain sound, or, if written, a certain sight.

† **b.** A vision. *Book of sights,* the Apocalypse.

c 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* John, Int. 1 Iohannes..in pathma ealond þæt boc ðæra sighðana [L. *apocalipsen*] eac awrat. *c* 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 32 Him-sulf he cam bi nihte, And schewede heom ȝware is heued lay ase it were in a sihte. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 18984 Yur yongmen [sal] sightes se. Yur eldrin men sal dremes dreme. 1340 *Ayenb.* 133 Þou miȝt.. ete of þe trawe of liue, ase god zayþ ine þe boc of ziȝþe. 1530 PALSGR. 270/1 Sight that disceyveth ones jugement, *illusion.* 1581 A. ANDERSON *Shield of Safetie* (title-p.), Vpon Symeons sight, in hys Nunc dimittis. 1611 COTGR., *Vision,* a vision, sight, apparition, fantasie. 1825 LAMB *Mem. Liston* in *Eliana* (1867) 64 He was subject to sights, and had visions.

c. *pl.* Those features or objects in a particular place or town which are considered to be specially worth seeing.

1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* IX. 400 We tooke a Guide, and so proceeded in our sights. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* Apr. 2646, We came this evening to Brescia, which next morning we traverst..in search of antiquities and new sights. 1760–2 GOLDSM. *Cit. W.* lxv, You may go and see sights the whole day. 1835 MRS. CARLYLE *Lett.* I. 44 Other sights we have seen none, except the British Museum and the King and Queen. 1886 RUSKIN *Præterita* I. vi. 183 A high class courier, well acquainted with the proper sights to be seen in each town.

2. A show or display *of* something; hence, a great number or quantity; a multitude; a 'deal' or 'lot'. Now *colloq.* or *slang.*

1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 121 Out of his sepulture Ther sprong ..Of floures such a wonder syhte [etc.]. 1432–50 tr. *Higden* (Rolls) VI. 239 He..brouȝhte to Yorke also a noble sighte of bookes. 1449 *Paston Lett.* I. 85 Ye sawe never suche a syght of schyppys take in to Englond thys c. wynter. 1538 LELAND *Itin.* (1769) V. 91 A great redy Poole, whither an innumerable sight of Stares resort at night. 1577–82 BRETON *Flourish upon Fancie* Wks. (Grosart) I. 10/1 A sight of Asses then, there stoode in Battell ray. 1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* II. iii. III, O ye Gods, what a sight of things do not I want? 1752 STUKELEY *Mem.* (1882) I. 83 An infinite sight of rare flowers. 1778 SHERIDAN & TICKELL *Camp* I. ii, They wear..a large hat and feather, and a mortal sight of hair. 1800 JANE AUSTEN *Lett.* (1884) I. 232 She expresses herself more warmly than the rest, for she sends him a 'sight of thanks'. 1871 M. COLLINS *Marq. & Merch.* III. viii. 216 A sight of gentlemen goes over to see that old lady.

b. Used adverbially. *colloq.* or *slang.*

1836 T. HOOK *G. Gurney* II. 49 One..eats and drinks a considerable sight more than one does at home. 1854 HAWTHORNE in Bridge *Pers. Recoll.* (1893) 144 It is a devilish sight harder to write to a President..than to a private man. 1860 GEO. ELIOT *Mill on Floss* I. ii, He's had a fine sight more schoolin' nor I ever got. 1889 G. ALLEN *Tents of Shem* II. 122 You're a sight too clever for me to talk to.

† **3.** Aspect, appearance, look. *Obs.*

c 1205 LAY. 25586 Com an wunderlic deor æst in þan leofte ladlic an sehte. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 147 Ely of fairest place, of fairest siȝt roucestre. 1362 LANGL. *P. Pl. A.* I. 57 þat dungun in þat deope dale þat dredful is of siht. 1382 WYCLIF *Ecclus.* xi. 2 Preise thou not a man in his fairnesse; ne dispise thou a man in his siȝt [L. *visu*]. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 452/1 Semely, yn syghte, *decens.* 1486 *Bk. St. Albans* c vj, Neuer the lees this engraylyng is no propur langage aftir the sight of thys cros. 1535 COVERDALE *Ezek.* xliii. 2 His sight to loke vpon was like the first. 1581 MARBECK *Bk. Notes* 280 His bearde, which was now growne and did chaunge the sight of his face verie much. 1609 BIBLE (Douay) *Ezek.* i. 22 *comm.*, A similitude over the heades of the living creatures of the firmament, as it were the sight of christal dreadful. *c* 1680 BEVERIDGE *Serm.* (1729) I. 532 All that by false weights, false measures, or false sights have imposed upon their customers.

II. 4. The perception or apprehension *of* something by means of the eyes; the presentation *of* a thing to the sense of vision.

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 94 Ȝe schulen hebben..þe brihte sihðe of Godes nebscheft. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 10841 þis leuedi duted noght þe sight O þis angel þat was sa bright. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Knt.'s T.* 1239 Wel hath Fortune yturned thee the dys, That hast the sighte of hire, and I thabsence. 1491 CAXTON *Vitas Patr.* (1895) 75 The sonne of a heerd man, the whyche was as deed only by the syghte of the sayde dragon. *a* 1533 LD. BERNERS *Huon* XXIII. 68 They loste yᵉ syght of yᵉ castell, it was clene vanysshyd a way. 1585 T. WASHINGTON tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* II. i. 31 Wee had on our left hande the sight of the Handes. 1635 J. HAYWARD tr. *Biondi's Banish'd Virg.* 30 But no sooner lost shee once the sight of him [etc.]. 1640 BP. REYNOLDS *Passions* Ep. Ded., So far hath your Highness vouchsafed (having happened on the sight of this Tractate) to express favour thereunto. 1743 BULKELEY & CUMMINS *Voy. S. Seas* 15 Therefore he never inform'd the Captain of the Sight of Land. 1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* XXXII, I did think the sight on her would but vex your Reverence. 1845 PATTISON *Ess.* (1889) I. 27 Unable any longer to bear the sight of one who had pleaded guilty to so great a crime. 1885 E. GARRETT *At Any Cost* v. 85 He had had a preconceived idea which the sight of Mr. Sandison shattered for ever.

b. With possessive pron. or genitive case.

c 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 79 Ierusalem bitacneð griþes sihþe. *c* 1200 ORMIN 674 ȝiff he seþ þatt mann iss ohht Forrfæredd off hiss sihhþe. *c* 1275 *Moral Ode* 361 in *O. E. Misc.*, Nis þer no Murehþe so muchel so is godes syhte. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Can. Yeom. T.* 866 If þat youre eyen kan nat seen aright, Looke þat youre mynde lakke noght his sight. 1594 DANIEL *Cleopatra* IV. 1074 Although they need such actors of deceit, Yet still our sight seemes to vpbraid their wrong. 1607 SHAKS. *Timon* I. i. 255 You must needs dine with me...I am ioyfull of your sights. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Past.* X. 70 You, (alas, that I shou'd find it so!) To shun my sight, your Native Soil forego. 1702 ROWE *Tamerl.* I. i, When thy lov'd Sight shall bless my Eyes again, 1873 BROWNING *Red Cott. Nt.-cap* 263 Sully yourselves no longer by my sight!

c. Without article, chiefly in phrases as *to catch, have, lose sight of.*

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 106 To ȝiuen þe ancre brihte sihðe of heouene. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 23330 Þe seli sal o þaim ha sight, Bot þof þai se þam [etc.]. 1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. XVII. 57 Feith had first siȝte of hym, ac he flegh on syde. *c* 1425 *Eng. Cong. Ireland* (1896) 6 Mych hit gladet his hert..þat he myght in fayr weder haue somdell syght of his lond. *c* 1595 CAPT. WYATT *R. Dudley's Voy. W. Ind.* (Hakl. Soc.) 49 Our Generall sent Captain Jobson and the master to take sight of such commodities as they weare ladend withall. 1674 BOYLE *Excell. Theol.* II. iii. 155 That he was able at first sight of them to give each of the beasts a name expressive of its nature. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* III. 289 With Sight of Arms and Sounds of Trumpets nurst. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* II. xii. 263 Our people ran after him.., but as he had the advantage of being on horseback, he soon lost sight of them. 1820 KEATS *Isabella* XLVIII, Wondering, Until her heart felt pity to the core At sight of such a dismal labouring.

1837– [see CATCH *v.* 46]. 1898 FLOR. MONTGOMERY *Tony* 13 As if he dreaded losing sight of her.

fig. 1737 *Gentl. Mag.* VII. 73/1 It would not be much Matter what I began upon, for I would presently lose Sight of that. 1837 P. KEITH *Bot. Lex.* 296 The conjecture was not lost sight of by contemporary or succeeding botanists. 1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) IV. 42 The higher the view which men take of life, the more they lose sight of their own pleasure or interest.

d. The first perception or view *of* something. Usually in phr. *at* or *upon* (*the*) *sight of*.

1471 *Little Red Bk. Bristol* (1900) II. 130 That incontinent vpon the sighte of thies ye schew [etc.]. 1565 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* I. 341 The thrid day nixt eftir the resset and sycht heirof. 1582 N. LICHEFIELD tr. *Castanheda's Conq. E. Ind.* I. ii. 7 At sight of which the Captaine generall went to lande. 1625 in Rymer *Fœdera* (1726) XVIII. 60 Upon Sight of theis our Letters Pattents. 1670–98 LASSELS *Voy. Italy* II. 9 The servant upon sight of the paper, presently threw her fifty crowns. 1734 tr. *Rollin's Anc. Hist.* (1827) I. 361 On sight of them drew up their forces. 1771 *Encycl. Brit.* III. 351/1 At sight of the sharps or flats prefixed to the tune to be sung,..you have of course the places of the semitones. 1810 SCOTT *Lady of Lake* II. xxvii, Sir Roderick..Redden'd at sight of Malcolm Græme.

e. A position or point commanding or giving a view *of* something. Chiefly *in* or *within* (†*the*) *sight of*. Also *transf.*

a 1533 LD. BERNERS *Huon* lxxxi. 241 He came within the syght of Burdeux. 1585 T. WASHINGTON tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* I. xii. 14 Passing further towards the sight of the yles De la Galite, & des Symboles. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* (1637) 700 Fountaines, built within the sight of it [Ripon]. 1662 J. DAVIES tr. *Mandelslo's Trav.* (1669) 279 The 16. About 10. in the morning we passed in sight of Dover-Castle. 1807 W. IRVING *Salmag.* (1824) 321 When that the army of the Hoppingtots did peregrinate within sight of Gotham. 1822 SHELLEY tr. *Calderon's Mag. Prodig.* I. 71 Even within the sight of the high towers of Antioch. 1890 *Spectator* 29 Nov. 764/1 We are not yet in possession of ritual peace, but for the first time we are fairly in sight of it.

5. A view, look, or glimpse *of* something.

c 1205 LAY. 20929 Nænne siht of londe iseon heo ne mahten. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 1623 He nolde þe gywes leue 3iue.. þat hii moste of þe boru enes abbe an sixte. 1393 LANGL. *P. Pl.* C. xx. 57 Faith on hym hadde furst a sight ac he fleih a-syde. *c* 1440 *Sir Amadace* (Camden) lii, Quen aythir of othir hade a sixte, Suche a lufue be-tuene hom lixte. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* v. 240 Schyr Jhone Butler..Out fra his men of Wallace had a sicht. 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 204 b, Whan the Pristes not without monye let them have a syght therof. 1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* IX. 397 [His] presence to me after so long a sight of Hethnike strangers was exceeding comfortable. 1692 RAY in *Lett. Lit. Men* (Camden) 198 You should have had a sight of the Copy. 1766 GOLDSM. *Vic. W.* xxviii, He had some difficulty, he said, to get a sight of his landlord. 1832 HT. MARTINEAU *Homes Abroad* vii. 99 One sight of a savage in a life-time was as much as most settlers had. 1857 TROLLOPE *Barchester T.* xii, A sight of you, Mr. Harding, is good for sore eyes.

† **b.** *At one sight*, in a single look, from one point of view. *Obs.*

c 1470 *Gol. & Gaw.* 483 Seuyne score of scheildis thai schew at ane sicht. 1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* VI. 283 The City..can not be seene all at one sight; saue on this Mountaine.

c. *fig.* A look *into* a matter. Cf. INSIGHT *sb.*[1] 2 b.

1592 GREENE *Ned Browne* Wks. (Grosart) XI. 27 There is no Art but he will haue a superficiall sight into. 1760–72 H. BROOKE *Fool of Qual.* (1809) II. 131, I joined myself to a house-painter..on condition of his giving me a sight into his business.

d. *Sc.* A station on the bank of a river, etc., from which the movements of salmon are observed.

1805 *State Leslie of Powis*, etc. 56 (Jam.), That the fishers used sights, during the fishing season, upon Fraserfield's grounds..; that the westmost sight was above the Fluicky-shot [etc.].

6. With omission of the dependent genitive, in phrases related to 4 d:

a. *At* (†*the*, *as to the*) *first sight.*

(*a*) *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 8029 He kneu þam at þe first sight. *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (1839) v. 40 At the firste sight..Men knele to him. 1456 SIR G. HAYE *Law Arms* (S. T. S.) 160 As to the first sicht, it semys that [etc.]. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VIII*, 43 b, Hys serjante porter, which knewe hym at the fyrste sighte. 1579, 1702 [see FIRST *a.* 1 e]. 1730 BAILEY (fol.), *Axiom*,..a Proposition whose Truth every Person perceives at the first Sight.

(*b*) *a* 1593, 1611 [see FIRST *a.* 1 e]. 1651 HOBBES *Leviath.* II. xxvi. 137 In which definition, there is nothing that is not at first sight evident. 1710 STEELE *Tatler* No. 166 ¶ 3 You may see them at first Sight grow acquainted by Sympathy. 1773 *Life N. Frowde* 29 I'm glad to see him, however, he has pleased me at first Sight. 1846 MILL *Logic* I. vi. § 1 Propositions which at first sight present themselves as verbal. 1875 [see FIRST *a.* 1 e].

b. *At* (formerly also *on* or *upon*) *sight*, used spec. with reference to the payment of bills. Also, in this connexion, *after sight* (see quot. 1835).

(*a*) 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* I. 277 Let it be expressed in your bill that the money be paid upon sight. 1682 SCARLETT *Exchanges* 63 He that receives a Bill payable at sight, or some dayes after sight, &c. 1708 MRS. CENTLIVRE *Busy Body* II. i, The frugal hand can bills at sight defray. 1767 FRANKLIN *Wks.* (1887) IV. 86 Being payable in cash, upon sight, by the drawer. 1835 *Penny Cycl.* IV. 399/1 At first, no doubt, the order was to pay..'on sight'. *Ibid.*, In modern times, the more frequent practice has been to make them payable at so many days after sight. 1861 GOSCHEN *For. Exch.* 53 We have..considered all bills as drawn payable at sight.

(*b*) 1673 *Humours Town* 60 One that will play at sight, tilt at sight (that is without Thought or Consideration), and whore at sight. 1721 RAMSAY *Ode to the Ph—* vi, If they command the storms to blaw, Then upo' sight the hailstanes thud. 1773 *Phil. Trans.* LXIII. 270 Those who are not able to sing at sight. 1890 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Col. Reformer* (1891) 205, I swore to shoot the old warrigal at sight. 1892 *Speaker* 3 Sept. 277/1 The cowboy who lives in constant apprehension of being shot at sight.

c. *At* (so many) *days'* (etc.) *sight*, of bills.

1701 *Loud. Gaz.* No. 3730/4 A Bill drawn..at 6 days sight. 1716 *Ibid.* No. 5472/4 A Bill..payable..at 15 Days Sight. 1818 SCOTT *Rob Roy* xv, A goldsmith's bill at six days' sight. 1866 CRUMP *Banking* v. 100 Inland bills of exchange are drawn on demand, at so many days', or weeks', or months', sight or date, as the case may require.

7. A look or glance (at something or in a certain direction). Now *rare.*

c 1275 *Moral Ode* 280 in *O. E. Misc.*, þer schule þe wrecche soulen iseon þat sunegeden bi sihtes. 13.. *Cursor M.* 7886 (Gött.), þe king kast anis on hir a sight. *a* 1400 *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* xxix. iii. 119 þe damysele caste on hire a siht. 1559 *Mirr. Mag., Dk. Suffolk* v, Fortune euer since I was a lad, Did smile vpon mee with a chearefull sight. *a* 1568 A. SCOTT *Poems* (S. T. S.) iii. 18 Be sicht or smyle lat non knaw 3our intentis. 1611 COTGR., *Oeil*, the eye;..a sight, a looke. 1700 MOXON *Math. Dict.*, *Compass*, an Instruument..much more easy to be understood by a Sight, than the best description. 1844 MRS. BROWNING *Drama of Exile* 141, I fell..struck blind By the sight within your eyes. 1894 HALL CAINE *Manxman* III. xx, When you are coming down the alley give a sight up, sir, and you'll see me.

b. An observation with a surveying or other similar instrument; an aim with a gun, etc.

1835 SIR J. ROSS *Narr. and Voy.* viii. 121 Some sights obtained for the chronometer gave the longitude 94° 40′. 1849 H. MILLER *Footpr. Creator* Pref. (1874) p. lxvi, Across which he may safely take his sights and lay down his angles. 1882 FLOYER *Unexpl. Baluchistan* 151 All the way down I was either taking sights or working them out, and soon got pretty handy with my sextant.

c. *slang.* (See quots.)

1836 T. HOOK *G. Gurney* II. 77 She proceeded to place her two hands extended in a right line from the tip of her nose.., after the fashion of what is called taking a double sight. 1860 *Slang Dict.* 214 'To take a sight at a person,' a vulgar action employed by street boys to denote incredulity, or contempt for authority, by placing the thumb against the nose and closing all the fingers except the little one, which is agitated in token of derision. 1872 *Routledge's Ev. Boy's Ann.* 186/1 Playfully 'taking a sight' with extended finger and thumb.

d. *U.S.* 'A straight stretch of road, as one along which a sight may be taken in surveying; a line uninterrupted by a bend or an elevation' (*Cent. Dict.*).

III. 8. The faculty or power of seeing, as naturally inherent in the eye; eyesight.

c 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 61 3if he binimeð us ure sihte,.. oðer us croked on fote oðer on honde. *c* 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 27 Ore swete louerd..smot him and bi-nam him is sixt. 13.. *Sir Beues* 3108 þow hauest so swonke.., þow hauest nei for-lore þe sixt. *c* 1380 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* II. 308 þre sixtis fallen to man; þe first is bodili sixt, þat fallip to mannis eien, þe while he wakip. 1460 CAPGR. *Chron.* (Rolls) 8 He began first graving in metallis, to plesaunt of the sith. 1484 CAXTON *Fables of Alfonce* xii, I praye to the goddes that they vouchesauf to send me my syght ageyne. 1530 PALSGR. 270/1 Sight, *ueve*, *uision*. 1599 DAVIES *Immort. Soul* xxx. 13 Most Eyes have perfect Sight, tho' some be blind. 1637 HEYWOOD *Lond. Spec.* Wks. 1874 IV. 315 Sight is the most soveraigne sence, the first of five. 1664 POWER *Exp. Philos.* Pref. 15 The knowledge of Man..hath hitherto been determin'd by the view or sight. 1743 BULKELEY & CUMMINS *Voy. S. Seas* 145 They are exceeding nimble, of an exquisite quick Sight. 1832 HT. MARTINEAU *Ella of Gar.* iii. 35 He has a keener sight into the place of storms than we. 1833 MRS. BROWNING *Prometh. Bd.* 77 A spectacle that turns The sight o' the eyes to pity. 1872 MORLEY *Voltaire* (1886) 7 His sight was exquisitely keen and clear.

b. *fig.* Mental or spiritual vision. See also SECOND SIGHT.

c 1200 ORMIN 5799 Fowwre der..þatt Godess þeww Ezechyel Sahh þurrh gastlike sihhþe. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 94 þis ..cnowunge kumeð of gostliche sihðe. *c* 1350 *S. Ambrosius* 43 in Horstm. *Altengl. Leg.* (1878) 8/2 þat inward siht þat Ambrose hedde in God Almiht. *c* 1380 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* II. 308 þe þridde..is sixt of mynde of mannis soule. 1412–20 LYDG. *Chron. Troy* II. 2848 3if þat euery wi3t Aduerten schuld & castyn in his sixt Of future þing [etc.]. *a* 1586 SIDNEY *Ps.* xxv. i, To thee, O Lord most just, I lift my inward sight. 1664 H. MORE *Myst. Iniq.* I. xiv. § 7 The sight of their Mind more directly penetrative into the Divine presence. 1735 BOLINGBROKE *On Parties* 135 The Sight of the Mind differs very much from the Sight of the Body. 1781 COWPER *Charity* 395 The soul, whose sight all-quick'ning grace renews.

9. The sense or power of vision in relation to the individual possessing or exercising it; freq. approaching to a concrete use, = eye or eyes. † Formerly also in *pl.* of a number of persons, etc.

c 1200 ORMIN 5495 Wiþþ þatt itt iss inn heoffness ærd Biforenn Godess sihhþe. *a* 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 904 He is to ure sihðe unsehelich in his ahne cunde. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 7886 þe king kest ans on hir his sight. 1340 *Ayenb.* 267 Ich wente myne zixþe uor to yzi þe ilke holy ordres of þe gostes. *c* 1380 WYCLIF *Wks.* (1880) 206 To make his soule fair..to goddis sixte as he makiþ him bisi..for þe sixte of men. *c* 1450 in Aungier *Syon* (1840) 307 Kepyng ther syȝth, and ther counnynaunce saddly and religiously. 1484 CAXTON *Fables of Æsop* III. x, Thow arte now moche playsaunt and fayr to the syghte of me. 1561 HOLLYBUSH *Hom. Apoth.* 35 The same are pale under their syghte and leane. 1592 GREENE *Disput. Conny Catch.* Wks. (Grosart) X. 257 He.. would present his hart as a Tragick sacrifice to the sight of his cruel mistresse. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* IV. 587 The slipp'ry God will..various Forms assume, to cheat thy sight. 1700 — *Sigism. & Guisc.* 715 Nor farther word she spoke, but closed her sight. *a* 1771 GRAY *Tophet* 5 Our mother-church with half-averted sight. 1827 KEBLE *Chr. Y.* 7 A fouler vision yet; an age of light, Light without love, glares on the aching sight.

pl. 1509 HAWES *Past. Pleas.* IX. (Percy Soc.) 33 O all ye cursed and such evyll fooes, Whose syghtes be blynded over all wyth foly. 1589 GREENE *Tullie's Love* Wks. (Grosart) VII. 112 Beautiful Ladies tickled with an earnest desire to satisfie their sightes with his Personage. 1638 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* (ed. 2) 125 From the hill tops wee dazell our sights in view of that sandy, stony, sterill desert.

b. *In one's sight*, before one's eyes.

c 1205 LAY. 25597 Me þuhte a mire sih3eðe [*c* 1275 in mine sihte] þat þa sæ gon to berne. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 622 Eiss on sund, and fouxl on flight, Was broght all fort in his sight. 1382 WYCLIF *Rev.* xiii. 13 It made fijr for to come doun fro heuen in to erthe, in the sixt of alle men. *c* 1450 HOLLAND *Howlat* 62 Be I seyne in thar sicht,..Sum will me dulfully dicht. 1509 HAWES *Past. Pleas.* XLIV. (Percy Soc.) 214 All thyng was visible In Goddes syght. 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 5 b, He was advised by his frendes not to come in the Cardinalles syght. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* I. 232 In the sight of the World, so as none should be able to denie it. 1812 CRABBE *Tales* ii. 370 His wife, his children, weeping in his sight.

c. *To sight*, to the eye; so as to be seen.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 23968 þai had him bath for-driuen and draun, Als sceud es us to sight. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 1252 It was semand to sixt as all þe soyle trymblid. 1582 STANYHURST *Æneis* I. (Arb.) 28 We hard of no showting, too sight no sister apered. 1746 FRANCIS tr. *Hor., Art Poet.* 208 He breaks to Light, And pours his specious Miracles to Sight. 1784 COWPER *Task* I. 602 Not rude and surly,..And terrible to sight.

10. The range or field of one's vision; chiefly in phr. *out of one's sight*. Also *spec.* (quot. *c* 1865).

c 1200 ORMIN 3387 þe33 wenndenn fra þa wakemenn All ut off þe33re sihhþe. *c* 1350 *Will. Palerne* 420 [He told] how sone of his seiȝt þe bestes seþþen ware. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* III. 377 Or be me lief or be me loth, Out of my sighte forth he goth. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* IV. 19 For he na tyme suld be fra hys sicht. 1595 DUNCAN *App. Etym.* (E. D. S.), *Horizon*, the circle bounding our sicht. 1638 JUNIUS *Paint. Ancients* 18 The visible things are gone out of our sight. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* I. 500 Watchful Herons..Gain on the Skies, and soar above the Sight. 1761 HUME *Hist. Eng.* (1812) I. vi. 321 The two armies lay in sight of each other. 1772–84 *Cook's Voy.* (1790) V. 1787 The ridge of mountains is interrupted by a plain of several leagues in extent, beyond which the sight was unbounded. 1819 SHELLEY *Cenci* I. iii. 168 Now get thee from my sight. *c* 1865 WYLDE in *Circ. Sc.* I. 76/1 The difficulty experienced by all persons.., is to find what is called their 'sight'; that is, the focal distance of the lens.

b. Without article, in the phrases *in sight*, *out of sight.*

(*a*) *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 15884 Petre he folud him on ferr, For durst he noght in sight. 1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. XIX. 175 Blessed mote þei alle be..That neuere shal se me in sixte as þow doste nouthe. *c* 1420 *Sir Amadace* (Camden) XXXVII, He wende that no mon hade him herd, For he sezhe non in sixte. 1550 CROWLEY *Last Trumpet* 1330 Kepe Gods feare in syght. 1656 EARL MONM. tr. *Boccalini's Advts. fr. Parnass.* II. lxxix. (1674) 231 For fear of their Creditors, they have all played least-in-sight. 1717 POPE *Iliad* X. 222 And hostile Troy was ever full in Sight. 1816 SCOTT *Old Mort.* XXXVII, Bothwell Bridge was at a little distance, and also in sight. 1887 BOWEN *Æneid* III. 220 Goats in the meadows feeding without one watchman in sight.

(*b*) ? *a* 1400 *Arthur* 342 þey sayleþ faste; Arthour owt of syȝt ys paste. *c* 1450 tr. *De Imitatione* I. xxiii. 30 Whan man is oute of sixt, sone he passiþ oute of mynde. *c* 1530 H. RHODES *Bk. Nurture* in *Babees Bk.* 79 If thou must spit, or blow thy nose, keepe thou it out of sight. 1562 J. HEYWOOD *Prov. & Epigr.* (1867) 133 Out of sight out of minde. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* I. 171 As soon as I was out of sight, I walked further towards the East. 1721 BUDGELL *Spect.* No. 77 ¶ 6 Remembering the old Proverb, Out of Sight out of Mind, I left the Room. 1797–1805 S. & H. LEE *Cant. T.* I. 350 He perceived [them] driven down the coast, and nearly out of sight. 1840 R. H. DANA *Bef. Mast* xxiii, When the sea breeze died away she was nearly out of sight. 1885 *Law Rep.* 14 Q.B.D. 874 He remained, as he alleged, out of sight of anyone entering the shop.

c. *Out of* (*all*) *sight*, immeasurably, beyond all comparison.

1821 in *Byron's Wks.* (1846) 586/1, I consider Don Juan as out of all sight the best of your works. 1835 MRS. CARLYLE *Lett.* I. 26 In most respects my situation is out of sight more suitable than it was at Craigenputtock. 1880 *Ch. Times* 22 Oct. 684 Under the old management, it was out of sight the most comic journal in England.

11. The exercise of the faculty of vision; the act of seeing or looking; esp. *by sight*, freq. denoting merely visual, as contrasted with more intimate, knowledge.

1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 183 Me knoweþ hem in eche lond bi sixte þar me hem seþ. *c* 1330 *Assump. Virg.* 628 (Brit. Mus.), Oure mayne þee knewe þat ilke nyȝt, Bothe bi speche and by syȝt. 1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. XIV. 13, I..soiled it with syȝte or sum ydel speche. 1509 HAWES *Past. Pleas.* XX. (Percy Soc.) 98 On whome my hole delyght Dayly was sette, upon her to have sight. *a* 1568 A. SCOTT *Poems* (S.T.S.) xiv. 5 The kocatrice keilis wt hir sicht. 1604 E. G[RIMSTONE] tr. *D'Acosta's Hist. Indies* III. xvi. 172 A thousand sortes of hearbes and flowers,..in such sort, as a man cannot well conceive them without sight. 1680 EVELYN *Diary* 30 Aug., He told us that the things most worthy of our sight would be [etc.]. 1700 ASTRY tr. *Saavedra-Faxardo* I. 334 Then came flocking to him..those too who knew him not but by sight. 1831 *Society* I. 292, I assure you I mistook the person; Lord Conway is barely known to me by sight.

b. Examination, inspection, scrutiny. *Bill of sight*: (see quot. 1821).

In quots. 1452 and 1655 sense 12 a is possible.

1452–3 *Cal. Rec. Dublin* (1889) 278 To gywe in the names of the tenantis..by the sighte of R Dowdall. 1619 in W. Foster *Eng. Factories in India* (1906) 79 Pretending itt to

reserve them only for his first sight. 1655 in Picton *L'pool Munic. Rec.* (1883) I. 188 Repaired and amended..at ye sight and discression of Mr. Maior. 1662 *Order Ho. Comm. as to Customs* (1663) 1 For a Bill of sight, Bill of Sufferance, or any other imperfect Warrant. 1821 J. SMYTH *Pract. of Customs* 327 A Merchant,..ignorant of the real quantities and qualities of his Goods,..may apply to the Collector and Comptroller for a Bill of Sight or View, in order that they may be brought on shore and examined. 1833 *Act* 3 & 4 *Will. IV*, c. 52 § 24 An entry by Bill of Sight.

c. *Line of sight*: (cf. LINE *sb.*[2] 11).

1559 [see LINE *sb.*[2] 11]. 1893 BALL *Story of Sun* 184 The amount of their movements along the line of sight.

12. a. Opinion, estimate, judgement; respect, regard, view. Now *rare*.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 11853 'Godd men,' he said, 'quat es your sight O mi fader þat þus es dight?' 1362 LANGL. *P. Pl.* A. Prol. 32 Summe chosen Chaffare to cheeuen þe bettre, As hit semeþ to vre siht þat suche men scholden. ? *a* 1400 *Morte Arth.* 3289 The secunde sir .. þat sewede thame aftyre Was sekerare to my sighte, and saddare in armes. 1536 BELLENDEN *Cron. Scot.* IX. xix. (1541) B b iv, He had nothir reuerence to god, nor sicht to the commoun weil. *a* 1572 KNOX *Hist. Ref.* Wks. 1846 I. 419 At youre awin sychtis sche will sett fordwart that caus at hir power. 1607 in *Antiquary* XXXII. 242 To be disposed at the sight of [supervisors of will]. 1674 *Playford's Skill Mus.* III. 2, I assume that the true sight and judgment of the upper three must proceed from the lowest. 1851 WESTCOTT *Introd. Study Gospels* viii. (ed. 5) 396 The first step to a right understanding of the Gospels must be the abandonment of this point of sight.

† **b.** Knowledge, skill, insight. Const. *in*. *Obs.* (Very common in the 16th cent.)

1530 PALSGR. 270/1 Sight, knowledge, *perspicasité*. 1535 CRANMER *Misc. Writ.* (Parker Soc.) II. 303 Surely I do much marvel of them both..having such sight in scriptures and doctors. 1581 in *Confer.* II. (1584) M iij, His sight in Greke was very litle or none at all. 1600 *Dr. Dodypoll* I. ii. in Bullen *O. Pl.* IV. 108 His sweete discourse, His sight in Musick and in heavenlie Arts.

IV. 13. a. The pupil of the eye. Now *dial.*

c 1400 *Lanfranc's Cirurg.* 247 Macula is a wem in a mannys iȝe, & summe be white þerof & sittiþ vpon þe siȝt of þe iȝe, & summe bisidis þe siȝt. 1530 PALSGR. 270/1 Sight of the eye, *le noyre de loyil*. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* I. 155 In either eie they haue two sights or apples. 1683 SNAPE *Anat. Horse* III. viii. (1686) 123 The horney Tunicle or Coat of the Eye, with the pupilla or sight. 1736 BRACKEN *Farriery Impr.* (1757) II. 14 What they mean by the Ground of the Eye, is the Pupil or Hole thro' the Iris and Uvea, which the common People call the Sight of the Eye. 1751 R. PALTOCK *P. Wilkins* xiv. (1883) 43/1 His eyes were small and blue, with a large black sight in the middle. 1808 JAMIESON, *Sicht* of the ee. 1889 in *Eng. Dial. Dict.* (Yorksh.).

† **b.** A visor. *Obs.*

1508 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* IV. 122 For the grathing of the gilt ermyt [*sic*] my Lord of Owbigne gaif the King and for making of ane new sicht to it. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Edw. IV*, 197 b, The point of the axe of the lord Scales happened to enter into the sight of the healme of the bastard. 1597 SHAKS. 2 *Hen. IV*, IV. i. 121 Their eyes of fire, sparkling through sights of Steele. 1654–66 EARL ORRERY *Parthen.* (1676) 647 He pull'd down the sight of his Helmet.

c. *pl.* Spectacles. Now *dial.*

1619 H. HUTTON *Follies Anat.* (Percy Soc.) 39 An aged man, which spectacles did use Having them fight..., Fearing the thiefe would not his sights restore [etc.]. 1667 PEPYS *Diary* 18 Oct., I bought me two new pair of spectacles of Purlington..; and his daughter..do advise me two very young sights. 1823 E. MOOR *Suffolk Words* 350 *Sights*, spectacles, glasses. 1899 in *Eng. Dial. Dict.*

† **d.** (See quot.) *Obs.*[—1]

1640 in Entick *London* (1766) II. 165 Glass-plates, or sights for looking-glasses.

14. An appendage to a surveying or observing instrument, serving to guide the eye.

1559 W. CUNNINGHAM *Cosmogr. Glasse* 137 A ruler with two sightes, which we moue to and fro. 1571 DIGGES *Pantom.* I. vii. D j b, Forget not to haue two equall fine plates of brasse persed in the middes (for your sightes). 1669 STURMY *Mariner's Mag.* II. xvi. 93 Take the Quadrant and look through the Sight at E. 1676 PHILLIPS *Purch. Pattern* 131 If a man have but a Ruler with sights..he may draw the foresaid lines to the several angles of the field. 1725 tr. *Gregory's Astron.* (1726) I. 282 A Quadrant..and an Index moving upon its Center, furnished with Telescopic Sights. 1790 BURKE *Fr. Revol.* Wks. V. 312 An accurate land-surveyor, with his chain, sight, and theodolite. 1833 HERSCHEL *Astron.* ii. 83 The tube or sight, fastened on the circle, works in the solid metallic centring. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* IV. 93/1 This prism..has, when so placed, a notched 'sight' on its upper surface.

b. A device, of the nature of a projection or notch, on a fire-arm or piece of ordnance, etc., to assist in taking aim.

In fire-arms and ordnance the sights are usually two in number, one at or near the muzzle and the other near the breech, the latter being adjustable so as to vary with the distance. In large guns the forms are often very complex.

1588 LUCAR tr. *Tartaglia's Colloq. Shooting* 18 When the levell sight which is set uppon the mouth of the peece is precisely so high as the levell sight which is set uppon the taile of the peece. 1591 SIR J. SMYTH *Instr. Milit.* 19b All their mosquets should be of one heigth or caliver of bullets with open sights. 1647 HEXHAM I, The sight of a crosse-bow, *het gesight*. 1681 W. ROBERTSON *Phraseol. Gen.* (1693) 1128 The sight in a gun or cross-bow, *scutula*. 1847 *Infantry Man.* (1854) 34 The foresight is aligned through the back sight with the object. 1890 *Times* 6 Dec. 15/3 Thousands of rounds were fired so rapidly..that in some cases the sights were actually melted.

15. The opening in a picture-frame; that part of the picture which shows in this.

1850 [see *sight-measure* in 17].

V. 16. *attrib.* and *Comb.* (chiefly objective), as *sight-aching, -fitting, -hungry, -hunter*, etc.

1593 NASHE *Christ's Tears* Wks. (Grosart) IV. 224 The.. *sight-acking botches of theyr vnsatiate intemperance, they will vnblushingly lay foorth. 1611 COTGR., *Advenant*, handsome,..well beseeming,..*sight-fitting. 1880 L. WALLACE *Ben-Hur* V. xii. 349 There the close of the exercises found them, patient and *sight-hungry as at the beginning. 1848 *Blackw. Mag.* Aug. 185 That professional *sight-hunters should go *sight-hunting. 1743 BLAIR *Grave* 288 The Star-surveying Sage close to his Eye Applies the *Sight-invigorating Tube. 1593 NASHE *Christ's Tears* Wks. (Grosart) IV. 194 *Sight-killingly with his..frownes, he shall teache him, both that he is, and what he is. 1605 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. iii. I. *Vocation* 1008 What can the Sight of the *Sight-maker dim? 1610 SHAKS. *Temp.* I. ii. 203 Ioues Lightning, the precursers O'th dreadfull Thunder-claps more momentarie And *sight out-running were not. 1870 LOWELL *Study Wind.* I. 12 Their enemies were hidden in their own *sight-proof bush. 1784 COWPER *Task* IV. 759 That *sight-refreshing green Is still the liv'ry she [Nature] delights to wear. 1844 ALB. SMITH *Adv. Mr. Ledbury* vi, The majority of *sight-seekers..know..little about the venerable edifice. 1895 E. OWEN in *Wks. G. Edwards* p. ix, There were then no fashionable inns to give accommodation to sight-seekers. 1896 *Cath. Mag.* June 350 It would be happiness to add its name to our list of *sight-seen countries. 1596 FITZ-GEFFREY *Sir F. Drake* (1881) 31 Monsters of nature, Nile-bred Crocodiles, *Sight-slaying Basilisks. 1676 MARVELL *Mr. Smirke* 44 The King of Virginia, that had two Squires..to lift up his Eye-lids...I am not bound to be any of his *Sight-supporters. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VI. 613 There was a slight attack of left hemiplegia with headache, vertigo, and *sight-troubles.

b. In terms relating to the taking of surveys or observations, or denoting appliances used for this purpose, as *sight-alidade, -aligner, -angle, -beam*, etc.

1900 H. M. WILSON *Topogr. Surveying* vii. 161 A small *sight-alidade was devised by the author both for sighting directions, and for determining elevations by vertical angulation. 1892 GREENER *Breech-Loader* 97 The *sight-aligner and adjustable gun, invented in 1882. 1571 DIGGES *Pantom.* I. xxxiv. K iij b, From the Centre thereof, extend right lines..., wryting as before vppon euery of them the names of their places or markes, whereof they are the *sight Angles. *a* 1400 in Halliw. *Rara Mathem.* (1841) 63 Go toward it and froward it til þi *sight beme passe by þe heght of þe ȝerde and of þat thyng. 1669 STURMY *Mariner's Mag.* II. xiii. 82 The Sight-beams over the ends of the Crosses. 1859 RUSKIN *Perspective* Introd. 9 Through the Sight-point, S, draw a horizontal line GH, right across your paper from side to side, and call this line the *Sight-line. *Ibid.* i. 99 The *Sight-magnitude of a line is the magnitude which bears, to the real line, the same proportion that the distance of the picture bears to the distance of the object. 1874 J. W. LONG *Amer. Wild-fowl* i. 24 *Sight-piece small and close to the muzzle. 1859 RUSKIN *Perspective* Introd. 9 The point S is to represent the point opposite which you wish the observer of your picture to place his eye in looking at it. Call this point the *Sight-point. 1883 R. G. WHITE *W. Adams* 121 He threw up his left arm, and took a *sight rest on it [with his revolver]. 1731 W. HALFPENNY *Perspective* p. iv, The Groove E, wherein the *Sight-Staff slides to and fro. 1669 STURMY *Mariner's Mag.* II. xiv. 85 If you see all Skie and no Water, then draw your *Sight-Vane a little lower. 1863 A. YOUNG *Naut. Dict.* (ed. 2) 297 The sight vanes are pieces of brass standing perpendicularly to the plane of the instrument.

17. Special combs.: **sight-chase**, a chase in which the dogs hunt by sight; † **sight-court**, a place for public shows; † **sight-glasses**, spectacles; **sight-measure** (see sense 15); **sight-reader**, one who is able to read music at sight; so *sight-reading*; † **sight-shot**, the range of vision; **sight-singing**, the practice or art of singing at sight.

1897 *Outing* XXX. 127/1 Just in time to witness a short but pretty '*sight chase'. The dogs have seen the fox. 1553 GRIMALDE *Cicero's Offices* (1556) 87 *Sightcourts, galereywalkes, and new churches, the more reuerentlie I fynde faulk with for Pompeyus sake. 1605 tr. *P. de Loyes' Treat. Spect.* 59 It is well knowne that ordinarily the spectacles or *sight-glasses do make letters to seeme more great than they are indeede. 1850 *Jrnl. of Design* IV. 58 *Sight measure 4½ × 3½. 1866 *Athenæum* No. 2000. 277/2 The best *sight-readers in Europe. 1874 OUSELEY *Mus. Form* 5 A man may be a thoroughly accomplished musician,..a perfect sight-reader [etc.]. 1864 *Reader* 30 Apr. 551/2 The singer's power of independent '*sight-reading'. 1663 COWLEY *Ess., Obscurity*, It only makes me run faster from the place, till I get, as it were, out of *sight-shot. 1801 BUSBY *Dict. Mus.* s.v. *Solmization*, This preparatory exercise, so necessary to *sight-singing. 1898 *Westm. Gaz.* 29 Oct. 5/2 Sight-singing in elementary schools.

† **Sight**, *sb.*[2] *Obs.* Forms: 4 siȝt(e, 4–6 **sight**, 6 **syght**. [Cf. SIGHT *v.*[2] Not related to Du. *zucht*, which is for earlier **suft*.] A sigh.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 15169 Mani sari sight [*v.r.* sigh, sikyng] ..þar sanc vn-til his hert. *c* 1350 *Will. Palerne* 924 My seknes wiþ my siȝtes sumtime slakes. 1584 LODGE *Forbonius & Prisceria* 30 Not waying of her many louing sightes, Her watrie eyes, her secret moane by nights. 1584 *Pleas. Com. Two Ital. Gentl.* Dj, By the smoake of loouers scalding sightes [*vime* flightes].

† **Sight**, *sb.*[3] *Obs. rare.* [? ad. LG. *sichte*: see SIFT *sb.*] A sieve or strainer.

1559 MORWYNG *Evonym.* 376 Pres it out strongly and put the decoction prest out through a wullen sight, and pres it out, that the substance may remaine in the sight.

Sight (səit), *v.*[1] Also 6 *Sc.* **sycht**, **sicht**. [f. SIGHT *sb.*[1] Cf. MDu. *sichten, zichten* (rare), G. *sichten* (naut.), Da. *sigte*, Sw. *sigta*.]

1. *trans.* † **a.** *Sc.* To look at, view, inspect, examine, scrutinize. *Obs.*

1556 *Peebles Burgh Rec.* (1872) 234 To..pas done with ane of the baillies to sycht the saidis stanis. 1578 *Supplication General Assembly* in *Misc. Wodrow Soc.* (1844) 402 Quhen as zour Grace hes sichtit thir our laboris. 1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* VII. 303 None of us all knowing what was in the Clogbags till they were sighted. 1678 SIR G. MACKENZIE *Crim. Laws Scot.* I. viii. § 1 The Body must in this case be sighted by Physitians. 1706 in J. Watson *Jedburgh Abbey* (1894) 42 That necessar it is workmen be imployed to sight and repair the samyn.

b. To examine by taking a sight.

1884 *Truth* 13 Mar. 372/1 He reports..that the rails, sighted crosswise, are not as true as they should be.

2. To get or catch sight of, to see, to get or go within sight of (anything).

1602 WARNER *Alb. Eng.* XIII. lxxvi. 315 Nor doth our Eie-sight see it selfe, nor Soule that sighteth it. 1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* VIII. 375 Wilde beasts, whose hollow cryes, as we heard in the night, so we too often sighted their bodies in the day. 1819 O'MEARA *Trans. St. Helena* 36 The remarks which he asserts to have been made relative to sighting Napoleon. 1853 KANE *Grinnell Exped.* iv. (1856) 33 On the same day..we sighted the mountainous coast of Greenland. 1887 BESANT *World Went* vii, We sighted her one morning at daybreak.

b. *spec.* Of bills: (see quot.).

1866 CRUMP *Banking* v. 103 A bill drawn at so many days' sight, must be computed exclusively of the day on which it is sighted, and inclusively of the day it falls due.

3. *intr.* To take a sight, *esp.* in shooting.

1842 J. F. COOPER *Jack o' Lantern* xxviii, Together they sighted, and together they fired. 1883 *Harper's Mag.* Jan. 201/1 Then stooping and sighting along it, he moves the outer end of the lath. 1896 *Daily News* 27 July 9/3 He took matters very coolly, and sighted several times before he was satisfied.

† **Sight**, *v.*[2] *Obs.* Also 5 *Sc.* **sicht-**, 6 **sycht**. [? f. *sight(e*, pa. t. of SICHE *v.*] *intr.* To sigh.

c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xxvi. (*Nicholas*) 1138 In his hart he mad mayne & sichtit sare. *c* 1450 *Abce* in *Q. Eliz. Acad.* 67 Be not to sadde, to sorry, ne sight not to deep. *c* 1475 in *Rel. Antiq.* I. 71 Whan other men doyth sleype, Thene do I sight and weype.

Si·ghtable, *a.* [f. SIGHT *v.*[1]] Comparatively clear.

1888 *Times* 18 Aug. 5/1 At 3 o'clock the chief officer reported that the weather was 'sightable', with occasional rain.

Sighted (səi·tĕd), *ppl. a.* [f. SIGHT *sb.*[1] + -ED.]

1. Having sight of a specified kind.

See also *dim-, far-, long-, sharp-, short-, weak-sighted.*

1552– [see QUICK-SIGHTED]. 1586– [see CLEAR-SIGHTED]. 1594 NASHE *Unfort. Trav.* Wks. (Grosart) V. 159 Of an ill tree I hope yon are not so ill sighted in graffing to expect good frute. 1596 SPENSER *Hymn Beauty* 235 Louers eyes more sharply sighted bee Then other mens. 1615 CHAPMAN *Odyss.* VI. 162 That he might see this lovely-sighted maid. *a* 1680 BUTLER *Rem.* (1759) II. 6 By which both senses being united Does render them much better sighted. 1791–3 in *Spirit Publ. Jrnls.* (1799) I. 17 Who guide the helm of Britain half-seas over, Yet double-sighted keep an eye on Port. 1846 RUSKIN *Mod. Paint.* II. III. xii. § 1 Any of us whose heart is rightly tuned, or whose mind is clearly and surely sighted. 1866 S. B. JAMES *Duty & Doctr.* (1871) 153 Uncivilized, imperfect-sighted heathen men.

b. Having sight *like* something specified.

1602 DOLMAN *La Primaud. Fr. Acad.* (1618) III. 643 Those are sighted like the bat, who see not the things most manifest in nature. 1611 SHAKS. *Wint. T.* I. ii. 388 Make me not sighted like the Basilisque.

2. Endowed with sight; able to see. Also *absol.*

1836 LANDOR *Minor Prose Pieces* Wks. 1853 II. 467/2 Above all others, blind or sighted, he is so ready to take advantage of the slightest word, that [etc.]. 1860 *Macm. Mag.* III. 56 If the sighted would help the blind. 1888 *Pall Mall G.* 31 July 2/2 Two pretty boats manned each by six blind little lads and one sighted person.

transf. 1887 *Athenæum* 17 Dec. 818/3 Without sighted supervision the industrial competition [of the blind] with seeing workmen is too unequal to be maintained.

3. Furnished or fitted with a sight or sights.

1859 *Musketry Instr.* 28 It may sometimes occur that the rifle is not accurately sighted as to elevation. 1879 *Man. Artill. Exerc.* 142 The gun is sighted centrally. 1893 SELOUS *Trav. S. E. Africa* 432 One's rifle ought to be carefully sighted up to at least four hundred yards.

4. (See quot.)

1873 MAXWELL *Electr. & Magn.* I. 306 If the hair as seen through the lens appears straight and bisects the interval between the black dots it is said to be in its sighted position.

Si·ghtening. [f. SIGHT *sb.*[1]] In calico-printing, a fugitive colour used to test the quality of the work.

1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2176/2.

Sighter (səi·tər). [f. SIGHT *v.*[1]]

† **1.** *Sc.* An inspector. *Obs.*

1708 in *Hist. Regality of Musselburgh* (1857) 22 The two present magistrates and sighters to be present at the cutting and selling.

2. In card-sharping: (see quot.).

1894 MASKELYNE *Sharps & Flats* 196 'Sighters'..are simply minute dots upon the faces of the cards.

3. A sighting shot in rifle or artillery shooting.

1897 *Times* 23 July 8/1 Black, a sighter for tie shots, made 11 [bulls] in succession. 1899 *Westm. Gaz.* 24 July 4/3 They had..to fire three tie-shots off with a sighter allowed.

† **Si·ghtful**, *a.* *Obs.* [f. SIGHT *sb.*[1]]

1. Visible.

c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* I. (*Catherine*) 369 [He] is a god,.. wnsichtfull and sichtfull bedene. 1387–8 T. USK *Test. Love* Prol. (Skeat) I. 58 The unsene privitees of god, made to us sightful..in our contemplacion and understonding. *Ibid.* III. ix. 98 How was it, that sightful manna in deserte to children of Israel was spirituel mete? 1545 RAYNOLD *Byrth Mankynde* Hh vij, These vaynes appering .. immediatly vnder the skyn, very conspicuous and syghtful.

2. Endowed with sight; seeing. Also *fig.*

1594 CAREW *Huarte's Exam. Wits* (1596) 59 The vnderstanding groweth more sharpe and sightfull. *Ibid.* 97, I cannot forgoe to thinke, that the reasonable soule seuered from the body..hath a power sightfull. 1613 CHAPMAN *Masque Inns of Crt.* Plays 1873 III. 106 Tis passing miraculous that your dul and blind worship should so sodainly turne both sightful and witful.

3. Sightly, pleasant to the eye.

1565 STAPLETON tr. *Bede's Hist. Ch. Eng.* 180 His priest.. set forth the buildinges with divers comely and sightfull workes. 1571 GOLDING *Calvin on Ps.* xvi. 11 The fulnesse of joye is matched ageinste the syghtfull entycements of the worlde.

Hence †**Si·ghtfulness,** the power of seeing. *Obs.*

a 1586 SIDNEY *Arcadia* II. (1605) 149 Let vs not winke though void of purest sightfullness. *Ibid.* 219 My praier is Thou maist loue her, that I may see thy sightfullnesse.

Sighth, obs. form of STHE, to sigh.

Si·ght-hole. [SIGHT *sb.*1] A hole to see through, *esp.* in a surveying or other instrument.

1559 W. CUNNINGHAM *Cosmogr. Glasse* 29 Then rayse up and downe the ruler (having two sight holes made in it) unto the sonne. 1596 SHAKS. 1 *Hen. IV*, IV. i. 71 Wee of the offring side Must.. stop all sight-holes. 1646 EARL MONM. tr. *Biondi's Civil Wars* VI. 72 Slain by the splinter of a Lance which wounded him thorow the sight-hole of his Helmet. 1692 *Capt. Smith's Seaman's Gram.* II. xxiv. 130 Which will shew at what height the Sight-hole standeth. 1769 *Phil. Trans.* LIX. 296 A small sight-hole, made through a piece of brass. 1823 J. BADCOCK *Dom. Amusem.* 50 The sight-hole..is still unfurnished with a glass of any sort. 1898 *Engineering Mag.* XVI. 110/2 The sight-holes provided in the smoke-boxes of certain stationary boilers of the locomotive type.

†**b.** The pupil of the eye. *Obs.*

1670 *Phil. Trans.* V. 1027 They contract much their pupilla or sight-hole of the Eye.

Sighting (sə·itiŋ), *vbl. sb.*1 [f. SIGHT *v.*1]

†**1.** A method of cheating at dice. *Obs.*

c 1752 *Art & Myst. Gaming* Title-p., The Art and Manner of working with a Great-Box; Eclipsing, Sighting, Waxing and Popping, &c.

2. The action of looking, catching sight *of*, inspecting or examining, etc.

1853 KANE *Grinnell Exp.* XXV. (1856) 203 The mere sighting of a distant coast. 1896 *Daily News* 21 Dec. 2/1 Thus enabling the docking, sighting, cleaning, painting, and undocking of vessels to be accomplished in one tide.

3. The action of giving to a gun the proper elevation and direction to hit the object aimed at.

1884 *Times* (weekly ed.) 8 Feb. 1/3 The gunners were ignorant of the process of sighting. 1893 F. ADAMS *New Egypt* 235 The British Admiral bore ungrudging witness.. to the excellent sighting of the guns.

4. *attrib.*, esp. *sighting-shot*, a preliminary shot allowed to each competitor in a shooting-match.

1861 *Times* 12 July, They had sold..8,000 tickets for the sighting targets. 1872 *Daily News* 15 July, He..fired his two sighting-shot bull's-eyes straight from the shoulder. 1895 *Outing* XXVI. 397/2 The disk of the sighting rod is turned up to coincide with the sight. 1897 *Westm. Gaz.* 30 Nov. 5/1 The sighting-room of the Royal Gun Factories.

†**Si·ghting,** *vbl. sb.*2 [f. SIGHT *v.*2] Sighing.

13.. *Cursor M.* 10496 (Gött.), To-quilys scho mened þus hir care, wid weping and wid sihting sare. 1520 *Calisto & Melib.* A iij, Craft in them renewyng that neuer decays, Theyre seyenges, sightynges, prouokynges, theyr plays.

†**Si·ghting,** *vbl. sb.*3 [? ad. LG. *sichting* (G. *sichtung*), vbl. sb. f. *sichten* to sift: cf. SIGHT *sb.*3] The result of straining; strained matter.

1559 MORWYNG *Evonym.* 376 Sieth this sighting to the thiknes of hony.

Sightless (sə·itlés), *a.* [f. SIGHT *sb.*1 + -LESS.]

1. Unable to see; destitute of the power of sight; blind.

c 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 1528 Ysaac Wurðede sighteles and elde swac. 1387–8 T. USK *Test. Love* I. i. (Skeat) 15 Thus witless thoughtful, sightles lokinge, I endure my penaunce in this derke prison. 1435 MISYN *Fire of Love* 54 And for he þis vtward ioys onely desirs, in in-wardly & vnsene blyndyd als wer sytheles to fyre gois. *a* 1585 MONTGOMERIE *Cherrie & Slae* 305 Baith sichtles, and michtles, I grew almaist at ainis. *c* 1600 SHAKS. *Sonn.* xliii, When in dead night thy faire imperfect shade..on sightlesse eyes doth stay. 1674 N. FAIRFAX *Bulk & Selv.* 47 Were all seeing things sightless, there would be no colours. 1725 POPE *Odyss.* VIII. 221 He who sightless wants his visual ray. 1791 COWPER *Iliad* V. 824 Sightless, of all thought bereft, He sank. 1842 LONGF. *Warning* ii, A cruel mockery of his [Samson's] sightless woe. 1879 G. ALLEN *Colour-Sense* iii. 27 The eye of the bee, of the cuttlefish, and of the eagle, have each apparently been separately developed from unlike remote sightless ancestors.

fig. 1781 COWPER *Charity* 416 The truth she loves a sightless world blaspheme. 1881 H. JAMES *Portr. Lady* iiii, She performed this journey with sightless eyes, and took little pleasure in the countries she traversed.

b. Deprived of the sight *of* something. *rare*—1.

1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* x. 470 Being sightlesse of company, and humane faces.

2. Invisible, unseen, dark; impenetrable by vision.

1589 WARNER *Alb. Eng.* II. xi. 44 The scouring windes that sightlesse in the sounding aire doe flie. 1603 HARINGTON in *Nugæ Ant.* (1804) I. 343, I have been well nighe driven heretofore into narrowe straits, amongste state rocks and sightless dangers. 1613 HEYWOOD *Eras. Age* Wks. 1874 III. 249 Hath any sightlesse and infernall fire Laid hold vpon my flesh? 1740 [S. BOYSE] *Deity* (1749) 11 He shuns the view of Sense, Lost in the blaze of sightless excellence. 1789 MRS. PIOZZI *Journ. France* I. 45 Following a soaring falcon through the half-sightless regions of the air. 1812 J. HENRY *Camp. agst. Quebec* 115 They were even sightless to us, we could see nothing but the blaze from the muzzles of their muskets. 1850 TENNYSON *In Mem.* CXV, Drown'd in yonder living blue The lark becomes a sightless song. 1888 B. W. RICHARDSON *Son of a Star* I. xii. 184 Touchless with human hands, Sightless with human eyes.

†**3.** Unsightly. *Obs.*

1595 SHAKS. *John* III. i. 45 Full of vnpleasing blots, and sightlesse staines. 1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* VIII. 375 Ah! sightlesse desarts! fil'd with barren Sands!

4. Out of sight.

1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* IX. 381 Tvnneis beene sightlesse left, I sought the Ile Of little Malta. 1816 SCOTT *Antiq.* xxxi. (motto), Their tears..as they fall, sink sightless.

Hence **Si·ghtlessly** *adv.*, without having the faculty of sight.

1847 in WEBSTER. 1883 E. ARNOLD *Indian Idylls* 241 He lay,..with fierce eyes Roving the wood, and seeing sightlessly. 1892 ZANGWILL *Bow Myst.* 159 His eyes ranged sightlessly after the boy.

Si·ghtlessness. [f. prec.] Lack of sight.

1847 in WEBSTER. 1853 RUSKIN *Stones Ven.* III. iv. § 13 It is one instance only out of the myriads which might be given of sightlessness in modern art. 1854 GREENWOOD *Haps & Mishaps* 90 There was a full assortment of the halt ..and the crippled—all degrees of sightlessness and unsightliness. 1893 R. JEFFREY *Visits to Calvary* 227 Your sightlessness is a sad deprivation.

Sightliness (sə·itlinés). [f. next.] Comeliness, handsomeness, beauty.

1561 T. HOBY tr. *Castiglione's Courtyer* I. A 2 b, A Citye in fourme of a palaice, and that not onelye with ordinarie matters,..but also for sightlynesse. 1598 BARKCLEY *Felic. Man* (1631) 658 The delectible shew and sightliness of the tree. 1642 FULLER *Holy & Prof. St.* IV. 303 Thus glasse-eyes may be used, though not for seeing but for sightlinesse. 1740–1 RICHARDSON *Pamela* (1824) I. xv. 253, I, a poor girl, who..had only a kind of impuded sightliness of person. 1767 T. BOSTON *Crook in Lot* (1805) 11 Faith will discover a hidden sightliness in it, under a very unsightly outward appearance. 1846 TRENCH *Mirac.* xviii. (1862) 313 Much that for its little sightliness was nothing accounted of, shall prove true metal. *a* 1878 SIR G. SCOTT *Lect. Archit.* (1879) II. 170 Another mode of giving sightliness to the squared dome.

Sightly (sə·itli), *a.* and *adv.* [f. SIGHT *sb.*1 Cf. MDu. *sichtelijc* (Du. dial. *sichtelijk*), MHG. *sihtlich* (G. *sichtlich*), visible, etc.]

†**1.** Visible; conspicuous. *Obs.*

1532 MORE *Confut. Barnes* VIII. Wks. 775/1 The wel knowen church [is] so builded .. that it shal alway be syghtlye, and can not be hyd. 1571 GOLDING *Calvin on Ps.* lxxiv. 12 Many manifest deliverances had bin exhibited too the elect people as it were uppon a syghtly stage. 1579 TOMSON *Calvin's Serm. Tim.* 2/1 [God] doeth not come downe from heauen, in sightly shape to speake vnto vs.

b. *U.S.* Of places: Open to the view; that may be seen from a distance; commanding a wide prospect.

1828–32 WEBSTER, We say, a house stands in a sightly place. 1892 ALICE M. EARLE *Sabbath in New Engl.* i. 5 Our Puritan ancestors dearly loved a 'sightly location'; and were willing to climb uphill cheerfully..for the sake of having a meeting-house which showed off well.

2. Pleasing to the sight; fair to look at; handsome, beautiful.

1562 J. HEYWOOD *Prov. & Epigr.* (1867) 148 In a luggler, that lightnes is sightly. 1592 GREENE *Conny Catch.* III. 11 In such sightlie roumes it may easily bee thought, Citizens vse not to haue anie thing meane. 1611 BIBLE *Transl. Pref.* P 12 They did not..proportion the houses in such comely fashion, as had bene most sightly and conuenient. *a* 1652 BROME *Covent Garden* I. i, Here's Architecture exprest indeed! It is a most sightly scituation, and fit for Gentry and Nobility. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* II. xii. 264 They were mounted on very sightly horses. 1790 BURKE *Fr. Rev.* (ed. 2) 265 If their schemes were perfectly consistent in all their parts, it would make only a more fair and sightly vision. 1850 W. SCORESBY *Cheever's Whalem. Adv.* viii. (1858) 107 The sightly constellation of the southern cross. 1887 BALL *Nat. S. Amer.* 322 The absence of sightly buildings is not felt.

b. As *adv.* Handsomely, finely.

1591 HORSEY *Trav.* (Hakluyt Soc.) 224 This ambassador was..sightly enterteyned. 1592 WYRLEY *Armorie, Ld. Chandos* 42 They forward came bedect right sightly. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* I. 290 Nor Rhodes, with Alcal and Elba, regard the robes with crosse Sightly beset. 1784 COWPER *Task* III. 649 He, therefore, who would see his flow'rs dispos'd Sightly and in just order,..Forecasts the future whole.

Si·ghtman. *Sc.* [f. SIGHT *sb.*1] One who is stationed to watch the movements of salmon.

1794 *Statist. Acc. Scot.* XI. 93 They are..called sightmen, because..they become wonderfully quick-sighted in discerning the motion and approach of..salmon.

Si·ght-see, *v.* [Back-formation from *sight-seeing* (cf. first quot.), f. SIGHT *sb.*1 I c.] *intr.* To see sights, visit objects or places of interest.

1835 *Court Mag.* VI. 146 The ruins of Tintern,..Alas! now profaned by a sight-seeing crew. 1843 LADY GRANVILLE *Lett.* (1894) II. 345 She sight-sees from the dawn of day. 1887 *World* 23 Feb. 15 Who..sight-see all day, and return to their gilded cars to dine and sleep.

Si·ght-seeing, *vbl. sb.* [f. SIGHT *sb.*1 I c.] The action or occupation of seeing sights.

1847 FR. A. KEMBLE *Later Life* III. 250 It involves what I have no taste for—i. e., sightseeing. 1883 F. M. PEARD *Contrad.* xiv, The duke escaped the sight-seeing which bored him.

attrib. 1863 J. C. JEAFFRESON *Sir Everard's Dau.* 87 Amongst the country folk..who paid Sharsted a sight-seeing visit. 1892 GUNTER *Miss Dividends* (1893) 109 Mrs. Livingston proposes a sight-seeing drive about the city.

Si·ght-seer. [f. as prec.] One who goes about to see the sights of a place or places.

1849 CURZON *Monast. Levant* XV. 204 Nothing better or worse than Englishmen and sightseers. 1860 THACKERAY *Round. Papers, Week's Holiday*, Humour and grotesqueness, which gives the sight-seer the most singular zest and pleasure. 1884 SALA *Journ. South* I. XX, The..society-loving patrons of the Roman season are a very different class from the sightseer.

Sightsman (sə·itsmăn). [f. SIGHT *sb.*1 Cf. SIGHTMAN.]

1. One who points out sights or objects of interest; a local guide, a cicerone.

a 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 6 Nov. 1644 Our Sights-man (for so they name certain persons here who get their living by leading strangers about to see the City).

2. One who reads or performs music at sight.

1776 BURNEY *Hist. Music* (1789) IV. vi. 263 This musician, who was..of considerable eminence..both as a sights-man and voluntary player. 1801 BUSBY *Dict. Mus.*, *Sightsman*, the appellation given to him who reads, or sings, music readily at first sight: hence we say, 'such a one is a good Sightsman'.

3. ? One who takes sight with a pistol.

1799 *Bystander* 169 How serious a thing it is to call all the duellists that ever lived, from the Roman Gladiators to the sightsmen of the present day, rascals.

Sight-worthy (sə·itwɒ̆ɹði), *a.* [f. SIGHT *sb.*1 + WORTHY *a.*] Worth seeing or visiting.

1605 DANIEL *Queen's Arcadia* Ded., For maiesty, and power, can nothing see Without it selfe, that can sight-worthy be. 1642 FULLER *Holy & Prof. St.* III. iv. 159 Cambridge..and Oxford,..where the worst Colledge is more sight-worthy then the best Dutch Gymnasium. 1791 BENTHAM *Mem. & Corr.* Wks. 1843 X. 263 For sight-worthy persons at Plymouth, More mentioned Mudge, whom you know of old. 1894 C. H. COOK *Thames Rights* 111 Objects not so sight-worthy as broadcloth.

Hence **Si·ght-worthiness.**

1849 J. FORBES *Physician's Holiday* ii. (1850) 13 A temporary halt may be called, according to the nature or sight-worthiness of the locality.

Si·ghty, *a. Obs.* exc. *dial.* [f. SIGHT *sb.*1 + -Y. Cf. obs. Flem. *sightigh* (Kilian), MLG. *sichtich*, OHG. (*gi*)*sihtig*, MHG. *sihtig* (older G. *sichtig*), visible (in G. also 'seeing').]

†**1.** Sightly, fair, handsome. *Obs.*

1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) V. 269 A wonder faire mayde,..and wonder sigty for men to byholde. 1533 BELLENDEN *Livy* I. iv. (S.T.S.) I. 28 The romanis dressit furth þis play In the maist solempne maner þai culd or mycht, to mak It þe more sichty and glorius to the pepill.

†**2.** Visible, conspicuous. (See also quot. *c* 1440.)

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XIX. i. (Bodl. MS.), The resoñ of sigty þinge is roted and ischape in liȝt. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 455 Syghty, *visibilis*. *Ibid.*, Sighty, or glarynge,..*rutilans*. *c* 1475 *Partenay* 1229 Antony..in hys iaw bare A hurt ful of pain Off a lyon, which al hys life bare ful sighty. 1533 BELLENDEN *Livy* V. xvi. (S.T.S.) II. 203/2 Þare souerane manhede & vertew was sa notabill and sichty. 1536 — *Cron. Scot.*, *Cosmogr.* v. B iij, The peple thairof ar..maist sychty in craft of cheualrie. 1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 111 Sighty, *visibilis*.

3. Keen-sighted; clever. Now *dial.*

a 1425 *Cursor M.* 13448 (Trin.), Is noon so sigty foule of eȝe [as the eagle]. Ny so fer to fle may dreȝe. 1579 TOMSON *Calvin's Serm. Tim.* 453/1 We are sighty inough to our owne profite. 1869 *Lonsdale Gloss.*, *Sighty*, quick at seeing how a thing ought to be done.

Sigil (si·dʒil). Also 7 **sigill.** [ad. late L. *sigillum* (in class. L. *sigilla* neut. pl.), dim. of *signum*: see SIGN *sb.*]

1. A seal or signet. Also *attrib.*, as *sigil-mark.*

a 1610 PARSONS *Leicester's Ghost* (1641) 14 Giges went invisible By turning of the sigill of his Ring Toward his palme. 1657 TOMLINSON *Renou's Disp.* 132 Another figure ..imprinted by some sigil. 1814 CARY *Dante, Par.* XXVII. 48 Sigil-mark Set upon sold and lying privileges. 1880 WEBB *Goethe's Faust* I. i. 41 A book with sevenfold sigil is the Past! 1883 A. DOBSON *Old World Idylls* 243 Touched by the awful sigil of his right.

2. *Astrol.* An occult sign or device supposed to have mysterious powers.

1659 T. PECKE *Parnassi Puerp.* 153 Love scorns, that any Remora should be: That's the true Sigil, moving Gallantrie. 1672 SIR T. BROWNE *Let. Friend* § 131 Amulets, spells, sigils, and incantations, practised in other diseases, are seldom pretended in this. 1711 POPE *Temple of Fame* 105 Of Talismans and Sigils [they] knew the pow'r, And careful watch'd the Planetary hour. 1813 SCOTT *Trierm.* I. vi. Sign and sigil well doth he know. 1842 BARHAM *Ingold. Leg.* Ser. II. *Raising the Devil*, He drew the mystic circle's bound,..He traced full many a sigil there.

3. *Rom. Antiq.* A small image.

1738 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Sigillaria*, Some derive the origin of sigils and figures, in this solemnity, from the argei [etc.].

Sigilism (si·dʒiliz'm). [ad. mod.L. *sigilism-us*, f. Sp. *sigilo* seal (of confession).] (See quot.)

1865 *Englishman's Mag.* Feb. 114 The following appear to be the principal crimes against which the edicts of the Inquisition were fulminated..: immorality in the confessional, sigilism (or revealing the secrets of the confessional).

Sigilla, pl. of SIGILLUM.

†**Si·gillar,** *a. Obs.*—° = SIGILLARY *a.* 1.

1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.*, *Sigillar*, of or belonging to a Seal or Mark. 1658 PHILLIPS, *Sigillar*, belonging to a seal or sealing.

‖ **Sigillaria** (sidʒilē·riă). *Geol.* [mod.L., f. *sigillum* seal: see SIGIL. Named by Brongniart (1822).] A fossil tree, the leaf-scars of which resemble the impressions of a seal, found chiefly in coal deposits.

1831–3 LINDLEY & HUTTON *Fossil Flora* I. 155 It is ex-

tremely probable..that Sigillaria was a Dicotyledonous plant. 1836 Buckland *Geol. & Min.* I. 473 The longitudinal flutings of the trunks of Sigillariæ. 1849 J. H. Balfour *Man. Bot.* § 1183 Some suppose Sigillarias to be allied to Tree-ferns, others to Coniferæ. 1876 Page *Adv. Text-bk. Geol.* xiv. 255 We may notice the sigillaria, so called from the seal-like impressions on its fluted trunk.

Hence **Sigilla·rian** *a.* and *sb.*; **Sigilla·rid**; **Sigilla·r(i)oid** *a.*

1870 *Geol. Mag.* VII. 293 The fossil *sigillarian forests of Nova Scotia. 1883 *Science* I. 523/2 A number of animals entombed in stumps of sigillarians in the coal-measures of Nova Scotia. 1877 Le Conte *Elem. Geol.* (1879) 316 The Lycopods [were represented] by gigantic Lepidodendrids and *Sigillarids. 1870 *Geol. Mag.* VII. 293 These specimens ..probably represented other types of *Sigillarioid trees. 1872 Nicholson *Palæont.* 474 The Sigillarioid plants, regarded by different authorities as being Coniferous, or Lycopodiaceous. 1879 Geikie in *Encycl. Brit.* X. 345/2 Lepidodendroid and *sigillaroid plants abound, as well as calamites.

Si·gillarist. *rare*$^{-1}$. [irreg. f. L. *sigill-um* Sigil: cf. next.] A sigillographer.

1898 *Berks., Bucks.,& Oxon Archaeol. Jrnl.* Jan. 110 Mr. A. P. Ready, the well known sigillarist.

Sigillary (si·dʒilări), *a.* [f. (late) L. *sigill-um* Sigil: see -ary. Cf. F. *sigillaire* and med.L. *sigillarius, -aris* sb.]

1. Of or pertaining to a seal or signet; connected with the use or making of seals, etc.

1652 Evelyn *Corr.* (1827) IV. 4 All those sigillary formalities of a perfect instrument. 1895 *Athenæum* 13 July 57/2 Several of their seals are given, which are striking examples of the sigillary art.

2. Subject to, or characterized by, the influence of a sigil or charm.

a 1834 Surtees in G. Taylor *Mem.* (Surtees) 233 That maiden kiss hath holy power O'er planet and sigillary hour.

Sigillate (si·dʒilĕt), *ppl. a.* [ad. late L. *sigillāt-us*, pa. pple. of *sigillāre*: see next.]

1. *Bot.* Marked with impressions resembling those made by a seal.

[1856 Henslow *Dict. Bot. Terms* 173 *Sigillatus*, when a rhizoma is marked by scars left by the fall of branches successively developed upon it.] 1858 in Mayne.

2. Of pottery: Decorated with impressed patterns.

1891 in *Cent. Dict.*

Sigillate (si·dʒilĕt), *v.* Also § *pa. pple.* sygylate. [f. *sigillāt-*, ppl. stem of late L. *sigillāre* to seal, f. *sigillum* Sigil.] *trans.* To seal; to seal up. Also *transf.*

1471 Ripley *Comp. Alch.* x. vii. in Ashm. (1652) 180 And in one Glas do all thys surely sygylate. 1612 Woodall *Surg. Mate* Wks. (1653) 229 Mercurie..To sigillate thou do'st not fail. 1620 Venner *Via Rectæ* vii. 111 By sigillating the mouth of the stomacke..they represse..the hot fumes that vaporate to the head. 1652 S. S. *Secretaries Studie* 200 To fasten, and, as it were, to sigillate, and affix to us the unmercifulness of men. 1833 *Fraser's Mag.* VII. 269 In one moment the passport was sigillated.

Si·gillated, *ppl. a.* [f. prec. + -ed 1.]

1. Impressed with a seal; esp. *sigillated earth*, Lemnian earth, sphragide (after med.L. *terra sigillata*).

Cf. Lithgow *Trav.* (1632) III. 97, 'The latter [name] is in force, because the earth being made up in little pellets, is sealed with a Turkish signet.'

1657 Tomlinson *Renou's Disp.* 396* The best of medicinal earths..is that the shop-men call Lemnian Earth, and sometimes Sigillated Earth. 1697 Evelyn *Numismata* i. 11 Baked and sigillated Earth..used for money, 1852 Th. Ross tr. *Humboldt's Trav.* II. xxiv. 302 It is known that great use is still made in the East of the bolar and sigillated earths of Lemnos, which are clay mingled with oxide of iron.

2. = Sigillate *ppl. a.* 2. (*Cent. Dict.*)

Sigillation (sidʒilē·ʃən). [See Sigillate *v.* and -ation.] The action of sealing; the fact of being sealed; the impression of a seal.

1642 R. C. *Union Christ & Ch.* 4 That which..receiveth the Sigillation here below is like to the Shape and Forme of those things above. 1657 Tomlinson *Renou's Disp.* 132 This..impressed form or sigillation is of little moment. 1802-12 Bentham *Ration. Judic. Evid.* (1827) II. 462 Since the art of writing has become comparatively common, sigillation, in the character of a source of real evidence, has gone completely out of use. 1840 G. S. Faber *Prim. Doctr. Regen.* 70 Its outward sigillation or official ratification is the ordinance of Baptism.

†**Si·gillative,** *a.* and *sb. Med. Obs.* [ad. med.L. *sigillātīv-us*: see Sigillate *v.* and -ive. So obs. F. *sigillatif.*] **a.** *adj.* Serving to seal or close up. **b.** *sb.* An application serving to close a wound.

c 1400 *Lanfranc's Cirurg.* 342 Sigillatiuis, & cicatrizatiuis, & consolidatiuis ben al oon. 1541 Copland *Guydon's Forme.* T ij b, The helpes conglutynatyues, consolydatyues, and sigillatyues be of .xvj. fourmes. 1612 Woodall *Surg. Mate* Wks. (1653) 171 Quicksilver .. is .. so incarnative and so sigillative or siccatrizing. *a* 1693 *Urquhart's Rabelais* III. xxvi. 215 Sigillative cod.

Sigilled (si·dʒil'd), *a.* [f. Sigil + -ed 2.] Wearing a seal or signet-ring.

1864 R. S. Hawker *Quest Sangraal* 17 Beneath, came up a gloved and sigill'd Hand.

Sigillistic (sidʒili·stik), *a.* [See Sigil and -istic.] Pertaining to seals.

1867 *Herald & Genealogist* IV. 14 The study of our sigillistic antiquities.

Sigillographer (sidʒilo·grăfəɹ). [f. L. *sigillum* Sigil: see -grapher.] One who pursues, or is skilled in, the study of seals.

1882 *Proc. Soc. Antiq.* IX. 53 Of the foreign heraldic seals ..I have little to say..; their importance for the English sigillographer is but slight. *Ibid.* 181 This eminent palæographer and sigillographer.

Sigillography (sidʒilo·grăfi). [f. as prec.: see -graphy.] The science or study of seals.

1879 *Athenæum* 27 Dec. 827 The splendid volume devoted by M. Demay to sigillography. 1886 *Ibid.* 11 Sept. 341/3 It is only of late years that much attention has been paid to Byzantine sigillography.

‖ **Sigi·llum.** *rare*$^{-1}$. [See Sigil.] A small figure of a person.

1637 B. Jonson *Sad Shepherd* II. ii, Binding characters, through which she wounds Her puppets, the sigilla of her witchcraft.

‖ **Si·gla.** [L. *sigla* neut. pl., perh. a contracted form of *sigilla*, pl. of *sigillum* Sigil.] Letters (esp. initials) or other characters used to denote words; abbreviations or marks of abbreviation.

1706 in Phillips (ed. Kersey). 1801 *Gentl. Mag.* LXXI. II. 1097 The characters..belong not to any alphabet, but are probably *Sigla*. 1832 Gell *Pompeiana* II. 122 The sigla which are supposed to be the private marks of the scribes. 1869 Tozer *Highl. Turkey* II. 358 The small mark after the T is one of the sigla which it was customary in inscriptions ..to put..before and after numeral letters.

Hence **Sigla·rian** *a.*, pertaining to sigla.

1818 Burney in *Parr's Wks.* (1828) VIII. 643 Garrard is the only book on the Siglarian subject which I possess.

†**Si·gle.** *Obs. rare.* [ad. L. *sigla.*] (See quots. and Sigla.)

1614 Selden *Titles Honor* 21 Their supposed Coat also, of later time, being foure *Betaes*... The *Betaes* are interpreted as the sigles of Βασιλεὺς Βασιλεων, Βασιλεύων Βασιλεῦσι. *Ibid.* 162 About those times χ alone was a known sigle for our Sauiour. 1656 Blount *Glossogr., Sigles*, notes, breviatures, initial Letters set for words.

Sigleton, late variant of Ciclatoun *Obs.*

Sigma (si·gmă). [L. *sigma*, Gr. σίγμα, the 18th letter of the Greek alphabet.]

1. The name of the Greek letter Σ, σ, ς, the equivalent of the English S, s, in its uncial form having the shape of **C**.

1607 Topsell *Four-f. Beasts* 290 Written with *Iota* and simple *Sigma*. 1736 Ainsworth *Lat. Dict.* s.v. S, Which opinion is made more probable by the small form of the Greek *sigma*. 1833 *Penny Cycl.* I. 385/2 The difference between the *shin*.., and the Greek *sigma*..depends solely upon the altered position. 1859 Millard tr. *Kühner's Gr. Gram.* 4 The Sigma (σ), at the end of a word, takes the form ς. 1876 S. Birch *Rede Lect. on Egypt* 32 The final sigma of the Greeks is represented by the Egyptian sibilant.

2. Something having the form of **S** or **C**.

1788 Gibbon *Decl. & F.* liii. V. 481 The square before the sigma [= semicircular portico] was decorated with a fountain. 1877 Coues & Allen *N. Amer. Rod.* 32 The loops of enamel..do form a sort of sigma [etc.; see Sigmodont].

Hence **Si·gmaspire** (see quot.). **Si·gmate** *a.*, having the form of a sigma. **Si·gmate** *v. trans.*, to add a sigma or *s* to (a word, stem, etc.); hence *sigmated* ppl. a. **Sigmatic** (sigmæ·tik) *a.*, characterized by the addition of sigma or *s* to the stem. **Sigma·tion,** the addition of *s* to a word, etc. **Si·gmatism,** ‖ **Sigmati·smus,** the marked use or repetition of *s*; an instance of this. **Si·gmatize** [cf. late Gr. σιγματίζειν] *v. trans.*, to mark with the letter *s*.

1887 *Encycl. Brit.* XXII. 417/2 (Sponges), One of the simplest forms [of microscleres] is the *sigmaspire..; it looks like the letter C or S, according to the direction in which it is viewed, its actual form being that of a single turn of a cylindrical spiral. 1887 *Amer. Naturalist* XXI. 937 [Sponges] with *sigmate flesh-spicules. 1849 T. K. Arnold *First Gr. Bk.* 5 The root of the future is got from the root of the present (or infinitive) by *sigmating it. *Ibid.* 22 The first Aorist of the Active is formed by adding ă to the *sigmated root..and prefixing the augment. 1889 *N. & Q.* 7th Ser. VIII. 216/2 The question of the plural treatment, or otherwise, of some sigmated words is fair matter for discussion. 1888 King & Cookson *Sounds & Infl. Gr. & Lat.* xv. 444 The inflexions of the *sigmatic aorist. 1897 *Trans. Philol. Soc.* 233 We have also a subjunctive of the sigmatic aorist. 1889 *N. & Q.* 7th Ser. VII. 142/1 This fondness for pluralizing..is constantly showing itself both in a purely senseless *sigmation and in a duplication of the plural ending. 1889 *Classical Rev.* III. 270 The *sigmatism is quite Ovidian. 1891 *Athenæum* 21 Feb. 246/2 Sophocles, 'O.T.' 425, should have been quoted as the most remarkable, and at the same time effective, example of sigmatism in Greek tragedy. 1887 *Q. Rev.* Oct. 369 There are three inseparable necessities which may be remembered by a *sigmatismus —site, soil, and sympathy. 1654 H. L'Estrange *Chas. I* (1655) 145 Mr. Prynne..was..to be stigmatized, or if you will *sigmatized, on both Cheeks with the letter S for a Schismatick.

Sigmodont (si·gmŏdɒnt), *a.* and *sb. Zool.* [f. Gr. σίγμα Sigma + ὀδοντ-, ὀδούς tooth.] **a.** *adj.* Belonging to the *Sigmodontes*, a class of murine animals in which the molars exhibit sigmoid patterns. **b.** *sb.* An animal belonging to this class.

1877 Coues & Allen *N. Amer. Rod.* 32 The loops of enamel..do form a sort of sigma, but it is usually a broken and always a distorted one, never more evident than in some other sigmodont forms. 1884 *Encycl. Brit.* XVII. 5/1 A represents the upper molars of a Mus, and B the corresponding teeth of a Sigmodont. *Ibid.* 6/2 Other groups,..probably descendants of Sigmodont Muridæ.

Si·gmoid, *a.* and *sb.* Chiefly *Anat.* [ad. Gr. σιγμοειδής: see Sigma and -oid.]

A. *adj.* **1.** Having the shape of the uncial sigma **C**; crescent-shaped, semicircular.

Chiefly in *sigmoid cavity, notch, valve.*

1670 *Phil. Trans.* V. 2097 We did also observe two Ventricles with the tricuspid or sigmoid-valves. 1741 A. Monro *Anat. Nerves* (ed. 3) 252 A large semicircular or sigmoid Concavity is left. 1798 Hinderwell *Hist. Scarborough* II. I. 213 Nautilites, or Ammonites,..with sigmoid or curved ridges. 1831 Knox *Cloquet's Anat.* 74 The condyle is separated from the coronoid process by the sigmoid notch. *Ibid.* 206 It is the inner side..of the head of the radius that is received into the small sigmoid cavity of the ulna. 1898 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* V. 922 Relative insufficiency of the sigmoid valves due to dilatation of the aortic ring.

2. Having a double curve like the letter S.

Esp. *sigmoid flexure*, the last curving portion of the colon before terminating in the rectum.

1786 *Phil. Trans.* LXXVI. 306 The sigmoid flexure of the colon immediately presented itself to view. 1797 M. Baillie *Morbid Anat.* (1807) 174 The gut..is narrower at the sigmoid flexure than at any other part. 1848 *Proc. Berw. Nat. Club* II. 267 The flower stalk is..round,..gracefully bent in a sigmoid flexure. 1873 Mivart *Elem. Anat.* ii. 61 The beautiful sigmoid curvature of the vertebral column.

B. *sb.* **a.** The sigmoid flexure of the colon.

1891 in *Cent. Dict.* 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* III. 967 The sigmoid may be so distended as to reach quite over to the right side of the abdomen.

b. A sigmoid curve (*Cent. Dict.*).

Hence **Si·gmoidscope** (see quot.).

1904 *Brit. Med. Jrnl.* 3 Dec. 1503 By means of the electric sigmoidscope..a clear view of every portion of the inside of the bowel may be obtained, even as high as the top of the sigmoid flexure.

Sigmoidal (sigmoi·dăl), *a.* [See prec. and -al.] = Sigmoid *a.*

1666 J. Smith *Solomon's Portrait. Old Age* 233 The sigmoidal Portals hindering its return, it [the blood] must pass through the Streiner of the Lungs. 1753 *Chambers's Cycl.* Suppl. s.v. *Sigmoides*, The semicircular cavity of the cubit.. is sometimes also called the sigmoidal-cavity. 1826 Kirby & Sp. *Entomol.* IV. xxxviii. 55 The pupa..has likewise a pair of long sigmoidal ones [respiratory organs] on the back of the trunk. 1833-4 *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) VI. 598/2 The beds of coal and accompanying strata are bent into a sigmoidal flexure. 1879 Rutley *Study of Rocks* xi. 187 At times they have a somewhat sigmoidal flexure.

Hence **Sigmoi·dally** *adv.*, in a sigmoidal manner.

1854 *Orr's Circ. Sci., Org. Nat.* I. 218 The femur..is sigmoidally bent. 1886 *Geol. Mag.* (N.S.) III. 150 The sigmoidally curved folds of the ganoine.

Sign (səin), *sb.* Forms: α. 3-6 sygne, 3-7 signe (4 sigine ?), 5-6 sygn (5 sygyn ?), 4- sign; 4-5 singne, 4-5 syngne (5 synn-); 4, 6-7 *Sc.* sing(e, 5-6 *Sc.* syng(e, 5 senge). β. 4-7 sine, 4-6 syne (4 synne, 5 syn, cyne, scien, 6 *Sc.* synd). [a. F. *signe*, † *sine*, ad. L. *signum* mark, token, etc.]

I. 1. A gesture or motion of the hand, head, etc., serving to convey an intimation or to communicate some idea. Freq. in the phrases *to make a sign* or *signs*, and *by signs.*

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 70 Heo schal habben leaue to..makien signes touward hire of one glede chere. *c* 1350 *Will. Palerne* 2740 To þe hert & þe hinde he turned him a-zeine, & bi certeyn signes sone he hem taust. *c* 1385 Chaucer *L. G. W.* 2367 *Philomene*, She.. preyede hym with signys to gon Vn-to the queen..And be signys swor hym manye an oth [etc.]. *c* 1400 Maundev. (Roxb.) xxii. 190 Þai speke noȝt, bot ..makez signes as mounkes duse. 1508 Dunbar *Tua Maritt Wemen* 467, I have ane secrete serwand,..That me supportis of sic nedis, quhen I a syne mak. 1530 Palsgr. 702/2 I spake nothyng to him, but I shewed hym of it by signe otherwise. 1595 Shaks. *John* IV. ii. 237 Thou didst vnderstand me by my signes, And didst in signes againe parley with sinne. 1626 Bacon *New Atl.* 4 Warning us off by signes that they made. 1664 Butler *Hud.* II. ii. 758 Then Hudibras, with face and hand, Made signs for Silence. 1712 Steele *Spect.* No. 454 ₱ 4 The Coachmen make Signs with their Fingers..to intimate how much they have got that Day. 1791 Mrs. Radcliffe *Rom. Forest* x, The moment Peter saw her he made a sign of silence. 1839 Fr. A. Kemble *Resid. in Georgia* (1863) 32 More by signs and dumb show than words. 1873 Dixon *Two Queens* xvi. ii. III. 293 Scores of starving men were ready on a sign to hunt him down.

†**b.** A show or pretence *of* something. *Obs.*

c 1400 Maundev. (Roxb.) iii. 10 He made signe of etyng and feyned as he had etyn. 1485 Caxton *Chas. Gt.* 230 The whyche..made to hym synge of loue and of subgectyon ..vnder the shadowe of decepcyon. *a* 1548 Hall *Chron., Hen. VI*, 91 b, Then he and all his companye made a signe of retraite.

c. A signal.

1601 Shaks. *Jul. C.* v. i. 23 Mark Antony, shall we giue signe of Battaile?..No Cæsar. 1615 G. Sandys *Trav.* 298 The Charioteers started their horses upon a signe given. 1678 *Life Black Prince* in *Harleian Misc.* (1809) III. 144 The sign of battle, being given by King Philip, was entertained with clamours and shouts. 1708 Chamberlayne *Pres. St. Gt. Brit.* (1710) 349 From the top..they made a Sign by Fire, when they apprehended any imminent Danger. 1817 Shelley *Rev. Islam* x. vii, With secret signs from many a mountain-tower, With smoke by day, and fire by night.

2. A mark or device having some special meaning or import attached to it, or serving to distinguish the thing on which it is put.

Freq. in *sign of the Cross* (cf. Cross *sb.* 3 b).

c 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 84 Heo made þe signe of þe croiz. 13.. *Cursor M.* 6078 (Gött.), On ilk a post..A sine of tau T

make 3e þer. 1393 LANGL. *P. Pl.* C. xv. 40 Crist cam and confermede and holy kirke made, And in sond a sygne wrot. *c* 1440 LYDG. *Assembly of Gods* 1040 Vertew commaundyd euery wyght To pauyse hym vndyr the sygne of the roode. *c* 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* XI. 22 Now nede is sette a signe on euery vyne That fertile is, sciouns of hit to take For settyng. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 26 b, Marked..not onely with the sygne of the crosse in our garmentis,..but also (I trust) with the sygne of tau in our soules. 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 334 With his crosiers staffe [he] maketh the signe of the crosse upon the highest walles. 1653 H. MORE *Antid. Ath.* II. vi, Observing that several Herbs are marked with some Mark or Sign that intimates their virtue. 1733 BERKELEY *Th. Vision Vind.* § 40 A great number of arbitrary signs, various and opposite, do constitute a Language. 1769 ROBERTSON *Chas. V, State Europe* Note x, It was usual for persons who could not write, to make the sign of the cross in confirmation of a charter. 1833 N. ARNOTT *Physics* (ed. 5) II. 236 The common visual signs on the retina..are of all signs the most readily learned or understood. 1884 *Cath. Dict.* (1897) 258/1 The Church, accustomed to bless everything with the sign of the cross.

† **b.** A bookmark; = REGISTER *sb.*[1] 7 a. *Obs.*—[0] 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 340/1 A Syne of a buke, *registrum.*

c. A conventional mark, device, or symbol, used technically (as in music, algebra, botany, etc.) in place of words or names written in ordinary letters.

1557 RECORDE *Whetst.* S j b, Nombers Cossike, are soche as bee contracte vnto a denomination of some Cossike signe. *Ibid.* S ij b, There be other .2. signes in often vse, of whiche the firste is made thus + and betokeneth more: the other is made – and betokeneth lesse. 1597 MORLEY *Introd. Mus.* 104 The note whereupon the following part must begin, is marked with this signe :. 1609 DOWLAND *Ornith. Microl.* 87 A signe is the successiue distribution of one and the same Close, in..a Song. 1662 PLAYFORD *Skill Mus.* I. x. (1674) 32 The Perfect of the Less..; its Sign or Mark is made thus. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Character*, Ordinarily..in Algebra, the Sign [of multiplication] is omitted, and the two Quantities put together. 1832 LINDLEY *Introd. Bot.* 422 In botany a variety of marks, or signs, are employed to express particular qualities or properties of plants. 1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) IV. 150 Two minus signs in arithmetic or algebra make a plus.

† **d.** *Math.* A point. *Obs. rare.*

1570 BILLINGSLEY *Euclid* I. def. 1, A signe or point is that which hath no part. *Ibid.*, Vnity..is lesse materiall then a signe or poynt.

† **3.** A mark of attestation (or ownership), written or stamped upon a document, seal, etc. *Obs.*

1362 LANGL. *P. Pl.* A. II. 82 þe Deede was a-selet, Be siht of sir Symoni and Notaries signes. 1377 *Ibid.* B. XX. 270, I wolde..þat 3e were in þe Registre, And 3owre noumbre vndre notaries sygne. *c* 1460 *Oseney Reg.* 133 The forsaide x. acris..lien in the Northefelde of the foresaide towne with owre syne woonyd i-seeled. 1474 CAXTON *Chesse* II. i. (1883) 22 Not only her promises but their othes her sealis and wrytynges & signes of their propre handes. 1558 in *10th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. V. 388 In wittnes hereof we have..set hereunto our signes and common sealle. 1609 BIBLE (Douay) *Jer.* XXXII. 44 The fieldes..shal be written in a booke, and the signe shal be stamped on, and a witnes shal be taken.

† **4.** A figure or image; a statue or effigy; an imprint. *Obs.*

1362 LANGL. *P. Pl.* A. IV. 112 Bere no seluer ouer see þat bereþ signe of þe kyng. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) I. 229 Þere is anoþere signe and tokene to fore þe popes paleys; an hors of bras and a man sittynge þeron. *c* 1440 *Pol., Rel., & L. Poems* (1903) 152 Ther ys 3ette a syne of his fote On a marbull stone þer as he stode. 1589 WARNER *Alb. Eng.* VI. XXIX. (1602) 143 For often Vprores did ensue for him, as vndeceast, Howbeit solemnely inter'd, himselfe, or Signe at least.

† **5. a.** A device borne on a banner, shield, etc.; a cognizance or badge. *Obs.*

c 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 158 Ane Croiz, þat Man fer isaiȝ,.. þat was signe of is baner. *c* 1350 *Will. Palerne* 3213 Swete sire, 3e me saye what signe is þe leuest to haue schape in þi scheld to schene armes? 1399 *Rolls of Parlt.* III. 452 That thei..gyf no Liverees of Sygnes, no make no Retenue of men. *c* 1420 LYDG. *Assembly of Gods* 355 A garland of yuy he [Bacchus] chase for hys sygne. 1461 *Coventry Leet-bk.* II. 319 [That they] neyther were ne vse oure most honnorable signe, nor any other lordes or gentilles signe, tokyn or lyuere. 1562 LEGH *Armorie* 47, I will therfore shewe you of signes y[t] are borne, and do occupie the same Escocheon.

† **b.** Something displayed as an emblem or token; *esp.* an ensign, banner, standard. *Obs.*

c 1400 *Song Roland* 503 An C thoussand of good men.. with proud synes of silk lifte on loft. *c* 1440 *York Myst.* XVII. 222 Vn-to þat Prince I rede we praye, That till vs sente his syngne [*sc.* the star] vnsoght. 1483 CAXTON *Gold. Leg.* 305/1 He is had among the companye of Angels as banerer and berynge the signe of oure lord. 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* XXXVIII. 4 The signe trivmphall rasit is of the croce. 1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scotl.* II. 300 Monie standarts and syngis..left be the Jnglismen, be the Scotis ar tane. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* VI. 776 The great Ensign of Messiah blaz'd Aloft by Angels born, his Sign in Heav'n.

† **c.** *spec.* A pilgrim's token. *Obs.*

1362 LANGL. *P. Pl.* A. VI. 12 An hundred of ampolles on his hat seeten, Signes of Synay and Schelles of Galys. *c* 1400 *Beryn* 171 Then, as manere & custom is, signes þere þey bouȝte. *Ibid.* 175, 191.

† **d.** *pl.* Insignia. *Obs. rare.*

1591 SPENSER *M. Hubberd* 1016 Yet at the last..He all those royall signes had stolne away.

6. A characteristic device attached to, or placed in front of, an inn († house) or shop, as a means of distinguishing it from others or directing attention to it; in later use commonly a board bearing a name or other inscription, with or without some ornament or picture.

1467 in *Eng. Gilds* (1870) 405 That no person sille none ale out of his place, but he haue a signe at his dorre. *c* 1470 *Promp. Parv.* (K.) 456/1 Syne of an in. 1539 TAVERNER *Erasm. Prov.* (1552) 42 The Englysh prouerbe is this. Good wyne nedeth no signe. 1593 SHAKS. 2 *Hen. VI*, V. ii. 67 Vnderneath an Ale-house paltry signe, The Castle in S. Albons. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* III. 156, I did never see nor heare that they have any publike Innes with signes hanging out. 1667 PRIMATT *City & C. Build.* 69 Note, That they weigh with the Balconie, the Bars that are to fasten the sign thereunto. 1727 SWIFT *Imit. Horace* II. vi. 72 To read the Lines Writ underneath the Country Signs. 1780 *Mirror* No. 82 Putting up their pictures as signs for their taverns and ale-houses. 1816 J. SCOTT *Vis. Paris* (ed. 5) 91 The signs of the shops are very elegant;—that is to say, they are elegant for signs. 1859 JEPHSON *Brittany* IX. 134 The first thing that met my eye..was a sign over a public-house.

fig. 1642 FULLER *Holy & Prof. St.* I. VIII. 20 Fools! who to perswade men that Angels lodged in their hearts, hung out a devil for a signe in their faces. *a* 1684 LEIGHTON *Wks.* (1816) 429 Fantastic garb in apparel, which is the very bush or sign hanging out, that tells a vain mind lodges within. 1825 SCOTT *Talism.* IV, I am but the vile and despised sign, which points out to the wearied traveller a harbour of rest and security, but must itself remain for ever without doors.

b. In phr. *at the sign of* (*the Bell, Sun*, etc.).

1501 *Alcock's Mons Perfect*, Colophon, Enprynted at London in flete strete at the sygne of ye sonne by Wynkin de worde. 1542–3 *Act* 34 & 35 *Hen. VIII*, c. 12 One little lane stretching from the said way, to the signe of the bell at Drewry lane ende. 1672 *Heath's Flagellum* Title-p., Sold at his Shop at the Signe of the Crown. 1722 DE FOE *Col. Jack* (1840) 94 We baited at an inn, at the sign of the Falcon. 1749 FIELDING *Tom Jones* VIII. viii, Chose for their house of entertainment the sign of the Bell. 1828 SCOTT *F. M. Perth* XX, An appointment to meet with the others of his company at the sign of the Griffin.

† **c.** *At the sign of the moon*, in the open air by night. (After Fr. *à l'enseigne de la lune.*) *Obs.*

1613 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* III. x. (1614) 294 They often lodge (saith Willamont) at the signe of the Moone; and the like moderation they vse in diet and apparel. 1679 G. R. tr. *Boaistuau's Theat. World* II. 107 The Souldier is for the most part always waking, having his Quarters at the Sign of the Moon.

II. 7. A token or indication (visible or otherwise) *of* some fact, quality, etc.

1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 3744 þer nas nour aboute kniȝt.. bot hii of sute were Of king arthures hous, oþer som signe þer of bere, Of robes oþer of armes. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 489 þat was þe syngne of sauyte þat sende hem oure lorde. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Melib.* § 53 It is signe of gentil herte whan a man..desireth to han a good name. *c* 1400 *Lanfranc's Cirurg.* 181 If þe place be whijt & neische..it is a signe of fleume. 1484 CAXTON *Fables of Avian* VIII, [He] hath shewed to the grete sygne or token of loue. *a* 1533 LD. BERNERS *Gold. Bk. M. Aurel.* (1546) C iii b, He bare in his hande the signe or token of the office, wherby he lyued. 1594 in *Cath. Rec. Soc. Publ.* V. 285 All with black hoods, which with us is a signe of gentlewomen. 1638 JUNIUS *Paint. Ancients* 228 Though it be no signe of a more polished, yet is it a marke of a greater wit. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* III. 670 The Causes and the Signs.. Of ev'ry Sickness that infects the Fold. 1750 GRAY *Long Story* 89 [It was] no sign of grace, For folks in fear are apt to pray. 1849 T. L. PEACOCK *Misfort. Elphin* X, They here found..materials of spinning and embroidering, and other signs of female inhabitancy. 1863 GEO. ELIOT *Romola* XXII, Working people..bearing on their dress or persons the signs of their daily labour. 1874 GREEN *Short Hist.* IV. § 5. 202 The exile of Gaveston was the sign of the Barons' triumph.

b. Used without const., or with clause following.

c 1380 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* II. 258 Signes of þe olde lawe weren toknes of oure signes now, as þei ben tokenes of þe blisse of hevene. 1422 tr. *Secreta Secret., Priv. Priv.* 232 They haue many tokenys or syngnes by wych a man may deme the Physnomye. 1483 CAXTON *Cato* 5 Of the foure Sygnes or tokens by whiche is knowen trewe loue. 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 55 b, To axe of God a sygne wherby he maye testifie, that he careth for us. *a* 1656 BP. HALL *Rem. Wks.* (1660) 192 The thing signed is usually put for the sign itself. 1690 LOCKE *Hum. Und.* III. x. (1695) 277 The using of Words, without clear and distinct Ideas; or, which is worse, signs without any thing signified. 1766 GRAY *Impromptus* 12 A sign you have eat just enough and no more. 1833 TENNYSON *Two Voices* 270 Know I not Death? the outward signs? 1885 S. O. JEWETT *Marsh Island* XII, She never had given a single sign that she loved or meant to marry him.

c. Without article, in phr. *in sign of* (or *that*).

1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 3986 Branches hii bere Of oliue, as in signe þat hii aȝen pays nere. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 5121 He kist þam all in signe o saght. 1362 LANGL. *P. Pl.* A. XI. 98 In signe þat I schulde bi-sechen hire of grace. 1474 CAXTON *Chesse* II. iv. (1883) 44 The kynge..gyrdeth a boute them a swerde in signe that they shold abyde and kepe hym. 1546 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* I. 30 In signe and takin herof my Lord Governour hes takyn baith thair handis. 1593 SHAKS. 3 *Hen. VI*, IV. viii. 26 In signe of truth, I kisse your Highnesse Hand. 1611 SIR W. MURE *Mes Amours* 39 Receaue, in sing that thou hes won the field, The bow. 1718 POPE *Iliad* X. 321 In sign she favour'd their intent, A long-wing'd heron great Minerva sent. 1865 MILL *Exam. Hamilton* 381 An animal is called a bull, in sign of its possessing certain attributes.

d. *U.S.* The trail or trace of wild animals, etc. Sometimes in pl., but the sing. is the technical use.

1847 RUXTON *Mexico & Rocky Mts.* XXI. 170 On the banks of the river I saw some fresh beaver 'sign'. *Ibid.*, We saw Indian sign on the banks of the river. 1851 MAYNE REID *Scalp Hunt.* XXXII. 243 Buffalo 'signs' appeared as we rode into them. 1890 L. C. D'OYLE *Notches* 68 We had noticed bear 'sign' in a thick patch of rose-bushes. *Ibid.*, Lots of fresh 'sign', but no bear.

8. A trace or indication *of* something; a vestige. Chiefly in negative phrases.

13.. *Seuyn Sag.* 2934 (W.), So he traueld monethes thre, And no signe of hyr kowth he se. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* III. 315 With the craftes whiche he couthe, He soghte and fond a signe of lif. *c* 1440 *York Myst.* XI. 100, I se 3ondyr a ful selcouth syght, Wher-of be-for no synge was seene. 1567 ALLEN *Def. Priesthood* 228 Wherof yet in most Churches ther remaineth a smal signe, by disciplin geuen [etc.]. *c* 1586 C'TESS PEMBROKE *Ps.* CXV. iii, [No] signe of sound their throates can show. 1715 LEONI *Palladio's Archit.* (1742) II. 66 The Aqueducts..whose Ruins and Signs are to be seen on the Road. 1726 SWIFT *Gulliver* I. i, I..could not discover any Sign of Houses or Inhabitants. 1795 *Ann. Reg., Hist.* 109 No signs of such an intention were perceivable. 1872 BLACK *Adv. Phaeton* XXX. 407 There is no sign of life in this wild place.

† **b.** A mere semblance *of* something. *Obs.*

1607 BRETON *A Murmurer* Wks. (Grosart) II. 8/2 Oh fine foole, how thou wouldest haue the signe of a man stand for a man? 1673 DRYDEN *Marr. à-la-Mode* II. i, If it be but to punish that sign of a Husband there; that lazy Matrimony. 1693 CONGREVE *Old Bach.* III. iii, I would not have you draw yourself into a premunire, by trusting to that sign of a man there.

9. An indication of some coming event; *spec.* an omen or portent.

13.. *Cursor M.* 22430 (Gött.), Forn domes-dai þai sal be sene, wid sorful sines ful fijf-tene. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) II. 165 Soche þey declareþ certeynliche by schewynge of tokenes and of synnes [*v.r.* synes] þat beeþ in suche a schulder boon. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* IV. viii, How Dido send hir sistir Enee to pray, And of the grisly singis did hir affray. 1542 BOORDE *Dyetary* xl. (1870) 302 That there is lykle [*sic*] hope of amendment, but sygnes of deth. 1593 SHAKS. 3 *Hen. VI*, V. vi. 44 The Owle shriek'd at thy birth, an euill signe. 1622 T. WILLIAMSON tr. *Goulart's Wise Vieillard* 94 The auncient Iewes had this saying, that it is *bonum omen*, a good signe to see an old man in a house. 1725 *Fam. Dict.* s.v. *Clouds*, When..waterish Clouds appear on the Tops of Hills, it is a Sign of Rain to follow. 1793 COWPER *Tale* 61 Seamen much believe in signs. 1817 SHELLEY *Rev. Islam* X. XVI, These signs the coming mischief did foretell. 1833 TENNYSON *May Queen* III. x, If it come three times, I thought, I take it for a sign.

10. An act of a miraculous nature, serving to demonstrate divine power or authority.

In Biblical use, after L. *signum*, Gr. σημεῖον.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 13420 þis was þe formast sign he did. *Ibid.* 13438 Sli signe did crist at þis bridall. 1382 WYCLIF *Acts* IV. 22 The man was more than of fourty 3eeris, in the which this sygne of heelthe was maad. 1611 BIBLE *Acts* II. 43 Many wonders and signes were done by the Apostles. 1665 J. SPENCER *Vulg. Proph.* 59 But every Sign is not (if we speak accurately) a Miracle. 1727 DE FOE *Syst. Magic* I. iii. (1840) 73 Pharaoh, in contempt of Moses and Aaron, and the sign or miracle they had shown. 1876 MELLOR *Priesth.* IV. 179 His hearers no sooner caught the word 'faith', than they demanded a sign which might warrant it.

† **b.** A marvel or wonder. *Obs.*—[1]

a 1400–50 *Alexander* 4934 Sire, þou sall see with þi siȝt slike signes, or þou passe, As neuire segge vndire son saȝe bot þine ane.

11. *Astr.* One or other of the twelve equal divisions of the Zodiac, each distinguished by the name of a constellation and frequently denoted by a special symbol.

c 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 4803 þe twelfte day aftir, þe sternes alle And þe signes fra þe heven sal falle. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* III. 108 Ther ben signes tuelve, Whiche have her cercles be hemselve Compassed in the zodiaque. *c* 1430 LYDG. *Min. Poems* (Percy Soc.) 2 Whan Phebus whas.. yronne Out of the signe, wiche callyd is aquary. 1483 CAXTON *Cato* e v b, The man whych is borne in a good planette or sygne. 1509 HAWES *Past. Pleas.* XXII. (Percy Soc.) 105 He sette..The bodies above to have their moving, In the xii. signes them selfe to domify. 1555 EDEN *Decades* (Arb.) 279 At that tyme the soonne was in the north signes. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* (1637) 182 Vnder what Signe in heaven Britaine lieth. *a* 1646 J. GREGORY *Posthuma* (1650) 299 Now look what Sign of the twelv shall bee found to rise up in the Horoscope or Angle of the East, that is the Sign-Regent of that Hous or Citie. 1709 STEELE *Tatler* No. 100 § 3, I was looking..on that Sign in the Heavens which is called by the Name of the Ballance. 1812 WOODHOUSE *Astron.* XXIX. 289 The motions of Jupiter's satellites are according to the order of the signs. 1868 LOCKYER *Elem. Astron.* § 37 These are called the zodiacal constellations (very carefully to be distinguished.. from the signs of the zodiac bearing the same name).

† **b.** A constellation. *Obs. rare.*

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* VIII. XXIII. (Bodl. MS.), Arcturus is a signe ymade of vij. sterres. *Ibid.*, Orioun is a signe that ariseth in wintere. 1490 CAXTON *Eneydos* XII. 46 The sygne of Oryon. 1565 COOPER *Thesaurus, Orion..* was.. translated among the sterres, & there is the signe called in latine *Jugula*. 1611 COTGR. s.v. *Orion.*

III. 12. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as (sense 1) *sign-language, -maker, -speech, -talk*; (sense 2 c) *sign-symbol*; (sense 5) *sign-mark*; (sense 6) *sign-iron, -painter*; (sense 7) *sign-word*; (sense 11) † *sign-carrier.*

1653 R. SANDERS *Physiogn.* 1 A Zodiack..; the Latins call it *Signifer*, that is to say, *Sign-carrier.* 1778 *Phil. Trans.* LXIX. 44 On passing through the streets of London in his walks, before the *sign-irons were taken down. 1836 in *Hist. Chesterfield* (1839) 45 Having a sign, sign-iron, sign-post, or shew-board suspended from or in front of such house. 1865 TYLOR *Early Hist. Man.* ii. 25 The teacher remarked that I did not seem to be quite a beginner in the *sign-language. 1889 MIVART *Orig. Hum. Reason* 66 Such a movement is a true *sign, being a movement made depicting a fact with the intention of conveying to other minds the ideas of the *sign-maker. 1840 BROWNING *Sordello* IV. 387 The Kaiser's ominous *sign-mark had first place, The crowned grim twy-necked eagle. 1776 BURNEY *Hist. Mus.* I. 221 The painter should have had about the same degree of merit with a good *sign-painter in Europe. 1814 SIR R.

Wilson *Priv. Diary* (1862) II. 346 For fear the head should not be recognised as the saint's, a brown cap is put upon it by the sign-painter. 1873 Cayley in *Messenger Math.* II. 17 Theorems in Relation to Certain *Sign-Symbols. 1897 Kipling *Capt. Cour.* 133 How was it my French didn't go, and your *sign-talk did? 1894 *N. & Q.* 8th Ser. V. 6/1 It is a *sign-word only, not a term of affinity.

Sign (sain), *v.*[1] Also 4–7 **signe**, 5–6 **sygne**, 6 **syne**, 7 **sine**, *Sc.* **singe**. [ad. F. *signer* († *siner*) or L. *signāre*, f. *signum* Sign *sb.*]

I. 1. *trans.* To mark, protect, consecrate, etc., *with* the sign of the cross.

c 1305 *St. Edmund* 66 in *E. E. P.* (1862) 72 In mie foreheuede iwrite mie name þu schalt iseo; Signe þerwiþ þi foreheued & þi breost also. *c* 1315 Shoreham I. 15, Ich signi þe wiþ signe of croys. 1552 *Bk. Com. Prayer, Bapt. Inf.*, We receyue this childe into the congregacion of Christes flocke and doe sygne hym wyth the signe of the crosse. 1634 Canne *Necess. Separ.* (1849) 248 They are to wear surplices, sign children in baptism with the sign of the cross. 1753 Challoner *Cath. Chr. Instr.* 3 The Use of signing ourselves with the Sign of the Cross. 1834 K. H. Digby *Mores Cath.* v. vii. 193 St. Gregory the Great says, that it was the custom to sign the penitential bread with a cross. 1878 Gairdner *Rich. III*, vi. 269 He kissed the ground and signed himself with the cross.

b. To cross (*esp.* oneself).

c 1400 Love *Bonavent. Mirr.* xlvii. (1908) 252 Than sche wipeth his face and kisseth it,..and so signede and blessed hym. 1530 Palsgr. 718/1, I shall syne me on the forheed from the dyvell and all his angels. 1648 J. Beaumont *Psyche* xvii. cxxvii, How know I but thou art some fair-dress'd Feind To make me foul? and here himself he sign'd. 1855 Browning *Fra Lippo Lippi* 155 Shaking a fist at him with one fierce arm, Signing himself with the other because of Christ. 1861 Lytton & Fane *Tannhäuser* 100 Then, sign thyself, and peaceful go thy ways.

c. To make the sign of (the cross) by a movement of the hand.

1810 Scott *Lady of Lake* III. iv, He pray'd, and sign'd the cross between. 1872 A. de Vere *Leg. St. Patrick, Baptism* ii, With that small hand..He signed the Cross. 1896 A. Austin *England's Darling* I. i, Nay, sign the cross upon your brow and sleep.

d. To figure (the cross) *in* some material.

1825 Scott *Betrothed* x, Pointing to the cross signed in white cloth upon his left shoulder.

2. To place some distinguishing mark upon (a thing or person); to mark with a sign.

1398 Trevisa *Barth. De P. R.* xvi. viii. (Bodl. MS.), Grauers vse the peces þerof [i. e. adamant] to signe and to þirle precious stones. 1601 Shaks. *Jul. C.* III. i. 206 Heere thy Hunters stand Sign'd in thy Spoyle, and Crimson'd in thy Lethee. 1615 G. Sandys *Trav.* 228 They..wore garments of black, signed with a white crosse. 1697 Dryden *Æneid* IX. 130 There sprung A Light that sign'd the Heav'ns, and shot along. 1726 Pope *Odyss.* XIX. 456 The scar, with which his manly knee was sign'd. 1843 Ruskin *Mod. Paint.* I. II. vii. § 20. 94 The reversed imagery of their darkness signed across by the soft lines of faintly touching winds.

fig. 1582 N. T. (Rhem.) *John* vi. 27 For him the Father, God, hath signed. — *Eph.* iv. 30 The holy Spirit of God: in which you are signed vnto the day of redemption. *a* 1652 J. Smith *Sel. Disc.* vii. 329 Since the Israelites are signed with the holy seal in the flesh, they are thereby acknowledged for the sons of God. 1697 Dryden *Virg. Georg.* I. 634 Earth, Air, and Seas, with Prodigies were sign'd. 1862 F. T. Palgrave in *Bk. of Praise* (1866) 242 Saviour pure and holy, Sign us with thy sign.

b. To stamp as a sign *upon* something. *rare.*

1605 Bacon *Adv. Learn.* I. vi. § 16 The omnipotency of God, which is chiefly signed and engraven upon his works.

c. In *pass.* To have as signatures.

1706 Hearne *Collect.* 4 Feb., The leaves signed, a i. a iij.

† **3.** To put a seal upon (something). Also *intr.*, to use seals. *Obs.*

1382 Wyclif *Rev.* xxii. 10 Signe, or seele, thou not the wordes of prophecie of this book. 1581 Marbeck *Bk. Notes* 969 He..put him in the bottomles dungeon, & shut him vp, & signed him with his seale. 1638 Junius *Paint. Ancients* 178 The Easterne Countries or Ægypt doe not yet signe, sayth he, being contented with bare letters.

4. To attest or confirm by adding one's signature; to affix one's name to (a document, etc.).

1477 Earl Rivers (Caxton) *Dictes* 11 Signe nor seale them not til thou haue ouerseen them. 1513–4 *Act* 5 *Hen. VIII*, c. 1 Preamble, Every writting obligatorie..signed and sealed in fourme aboue rehersed. 1596 Shaks. *Merch. V.* IV. i. 397, I am not well, send the deed after me, And I will signe it. 1617 Morvson *Itin.* II. 52 The Lord Deputies entertainement to be paid according to the List after following, which List was to be signed by the Lords. 1686 tr. *Chardin's Trav. Persia* 63 The Caimacan was ready to sign the Pass. 1713 Swift *Jrnl. to Stella* 16 Mar., They have had some expresses, by which they count that the peace may be signed by that time. 1776 *Trial of Nundocomar* 22/2 It is the custom of Shroffs to get the body of the bond wrote by their Gomastahs, and they sign it with their own hands. 1818 Cruise *Digest* (ed. 2) II. 199 Where an account is regularly settled between the parties, and signed by them, it will carry interest. 1874 T. Taylor *Leic. Square* iii. 64 His commission was not signed till April, owing to delays.

fig. 1613 R. Hill *Pathw. Piety* (1615) M 4 As the preaching of the Gospell is Gods powerfull instrument to sign our saluation. 1659 Milton *Rupt. Comm.* Wks. 1851 V. 401, I perswade me, that God was pleas'd with this Restitution, signing it as he did, with such a signal Victory. 1878 Ruskin *Notes* 50 Turner always signs a locality with some given incident.

b. To fix *down*, make *over*, give *away*, by signing.

1589 Greene *Menaphon* (Arb.) 75 We would with our blood signe downe such spels on the Plaines [etc.]. 1712 Hearne *Collect.* 21 June, This Tenement he signed over to his Sons. 1846 Dickens *Battle of Life* I, Signing away vague and enormous sums of money. 1858 Trollope *Dr. Thorne* I. xiv. 284 A man signs away a moiety of his substance.

5. *intr.* To affix one's signature. Also const. *to.*

1617 Morvson *Itin.* II. 150 Another letter..signed below, not above (as she usually signed). 1655 tr. *Sorel's Com. Hist. Francion* XII. 27 It was therefore better..to cause him ..to sign to whatsoever he had confessed. 1726 Shelvocke *Voy. round World* (1757) 32 The articles we signed to at Plymouth, were never read in our hearing. 1766 Blackstone *Comm.* II. 377 Though the witnesses must all see the testator sign,..yet they may do it at different times. 1818 Lady Morgan *Autobiog.* (1859) 27 Having signed and sealed for the future 'Italy', he will not let me allude to it now. 1858 Ld. St. Leonards *Handy-Bk. Prop. Law* xviii. 137 They must both sign in your presence. 1879 O. W. Holmes *Archbishop & Gil Blas* 24 That is why my hand looks shaky when I sign for dividends.

fig. *a* 1704 T. Brown *Lett. to Gent. & Ladies* Wks. 1709 III. II. 91 Thou hast the daintiest smacking Lips in the Universe, that would invite a Hermit to sign and seal upon them.

b. With *off*, *on*. (Cf. 6 c.)

1838 Emerson *Addr. Cambr.* Wks. (Bohn) II. 200 In the country neighbourhoods, half parishes are signing off, to use the local term. 1859 Bartlett *Dict. Amer.* (ed. 2), *To sign off*, to release a debtor by agreeing to accept whatever he offers to pay. 1878 Mrs. Stowe *Poganuc P.* iii. 18 The revolution..which broke up the State Church and gave to every man the liberty of 'signing off', as it was called, to any denomination that pleased him. 1885 *St. James's Gaz.* 23 Sept. (Cassell), One set of men signed on after having only seven hours' absence from work.

6. *trans.* To write or inscribe (one's name) as a signature.

1817 Scott *Lett.* I. 407, I am about to sign my name three hundred times. 1858 Ld. St. Leonards *Handy-Bk. Prop. Law* xviii. 137 Then you should sign your name in their presence. 1888 Besant *Fifty Yrs. Ago* 78 Forty per cent. of the men..could not sign their own names.

b. *refl.* To denominate or designate (oneself) in a signature or signatures.

1885 *Manch. Exam.* 28 Sept. 5/2 A correspondent of last week's *Spectator*, who signs himself a 'Liberal Solicitor'.

c. To engage by the signing of an agreement. Also with *on*.

1889 in *Cent. Dict.*, The Athletics have signed a new player. 1894 *Times* 25 Sept. 10/6 When crews are not signed on board, a large proportion of them are missing when the boat is ready to sail. 1894 *Westm. Gaz.* 27 Sept. 1/3 The men can only be 'signed on' in the presence of the Board of Trade officer.

II. 7. a. *trans.* To indicate, signify, betoken.

a 1375 *Joseph of Aramathie* 185 Þat signede Ihesu erist ..was nout out-wiþ so cler bote wiþ-inne he was clene. *a* 1585 Polwart *Flyting w. Montgomerie* 633 His asse eares..signe in short space, The franticke foole sall grow madde like Mahowne. 1628 Gaule *Pract. The.* 36 That he hath lost it, doth but signe he had it not. 1652 — *Magastrom.* 184 A broad forehead signes or marks a man stupid. 1845 Bailey *Festus* (ed. 2) 135 This branch, Which waveth high o'er all, oh, let it sign Thine own Eternal Son's humanity. 1884 R. H. Newton *Bk. Beginnings* 127 The Asherah, the original of the Maypole, signs the productivity of nature.

† **b.** *intr.* To prognosticate, bode. *Obs.*

1601 Weever *Mirr. Mart.* C viij, To prophesie from Comets, or deuine, Tis foolerie; they neither cause nor signe. 1606 Shaks. *Ant. & Cl.* IV. iii. 15 Musicke i' th' Ayre...It signes well, do's it not?

† **8.** *trans.* To designate. *Obs.*—[1]

1669 Sturmy *Mariner's Mag.* I. ii. 23 An Angle is most commonly signed by three Letters, the middlemost whereof sheweth the Angular Point.

9. a. *intr.* To make a sign or signs by some movement of the hand, etc.

1700 Dryden *Pal. & Arc.* III. 494 Then signing to their heralds with his hand, They gave his orders from their lofty stand. 1819 Scott *Ivanhoe* viii, Prince John with his truncheon signed to the trumpets to sound the onset. 1869 Tennyson *Coming Arthur* 317 She..sign'd To those two sons to pass, and let them be.

b. *trans.* To intimate, convey, by a sign.

1719 De Foe *Crusoe* I. (Globe) 208 Upon this he sign'd to me, that he should bury them with Sand. 1820 Scott *Monast.* xix, He..held up his finger to him as he signed farewell. 1821 — *Kenilw.* xii, He, too, signed a mournful greeting to Tressilian. 1896 *Harper's Mag.* Apr. 724 [He] signed me next morning that we should camp here.

† **Sign,** *v.*[2] *Obs.* Forms: 4–6 **signe**, 5 **segne**, 5–6 **sygne**; 4 **syngne**, 5–6 **syne**. [Aphetic f. Assign *v.*] *trans.* To assign, appoint.

1338 R. Brunne *Chron.* (1810) 163 Tent & pauillon tille Isaac did he signe. 1389 in *Eng. Gilds* (1870) 35 Þat alle the bretheren..shullen ben redy at that day..in wat stede that he synngyt hem. *c* 1430 Lydg. *Paternoster* 284 in *Min. Poems* (E. E. T. S.), Cause his lord was ageyn hym ffell He was fetryd and signed to prysoun. 1467–8 *Rolls of Parlt.* V. 621/1 Many arraunt Theves..become Provers, and desire a Coroner to be signed unto theym to make their appelles of dyvers Felonyes. *c* 1510 Barclay *Mirr. Gd. Manners* (1570) E iij, Like as a wise warriour signeth a souldiour For enemies aproching to watche and to espie. *a* 1533 Ld. Berners *Huon* cxxix. 473 So euery man londyd excepte suche as were sygned to kepe the shyppes. 1582 Stanyhurst *Æneis* I. (Arb.) 19 The Emperor heaunlye..too thee the auctorityе signed Too swage seas surging.

Sign, obs. form of Sine *sb.* and Sing *v.*

Signable (sai·năb'l), *a.* [f. Sign *v.*[1] + -able.]

1. That may be signed (Ogilvie *Suppl.* 1855).

2. Capable of signing.

1802 Canning *Let.* in *Diaries & Corr. Ld. Malmesbury* IV. 96, I commit the paper to your discretion. If signable people should fall in your way, or if unsignable,..use it.

† **Signacle.** *Obs.* Also 4–5 **sygn-**, 5 **synacle**; *Sc.* 6 **signakle**, 8 **sinacle**. [a. OF. *signacle*, *sinacle*, etc., ad. late L. *signāculum*, dim. from *signum* Sign *sb.*]

1. A sign, seal, mark, figure.

1382 Wyclif 1 *Cor.* ix. 2 3e ben the sygnacle, or litil signe, of myn apostilhed in the Lord. ?*c* 1400 Lydg. *Æsop's Fab.* iii. 171 The name of god..Is the signacle of the celestial seale. *c* 1450 tr. *De Imitatione* III. lix. 140 This grace is..a propre signacle of þe chosen children of god. 1483 Caxton *Gold. Leg.* 431 b/1 He had the Sygnacle or fygure of the holy crosse in soo right grete reuerence that he eschewed to trede on hit. 1500–20 Dunbar *Poems* lxxxv. 18 All thing maling we dovne thring, Be sicht of his signakle. *a* 1555 Bradford *Medit.* (1607) 96 The sacrament of circumcision, which as the Apostle calleth the seale or signacle of righteousnes. 1656 in Blount *Glossogr.*

2. A sign or gesture.

c 1450 Lovelich *Grail* xxxviii. 62 Whanne Nasciens knew that he hol was Be the signacle of [= made by] þe Man In that plas. 1490 Caxton *Eneydos* v. 21 The sayd wymmen were alle dyssheuelled,..makynge merueylous synacles, as theyr custume was in that tyme.

3. *Sc.* A slight token or trace.

1768 Ross *Helenore* I. 8 Never a sinacle of life was there. 1790 Shirrefs *Poems* Gl. 32 *Sinacle*, a grain, a small quantity.

Signal (si·gnăl), *sb.* [a. F. *signal* (OF. also *seignal*, *seignau*, etc.), = Pg. *sinal*, Sp. *señal*, It. *segnale*, med.L. *signāl(e*, a Romanic formation on L. *signum* Sign.: see -al 4. Used by Chaucer and Gower, but otherwise evidenced only from the end of the 16th century.]

† **1. a.** A visible sign; a badge or symbol. *Obs.*

c 1384 Chaucer *Ho. Fame* I. 459 Tho saugh I..alle the mervelouse signals Of the goddys celestials. 1390 Gower *Conf.* III. 57 In his hond He bar the signal of his lond With fisshes thre. 1602 Sir W. Cornwallis *Disc. Seneca* (1631) 7 His other signals of authority, the deckings of a corrupt minde.

† **b.** A mark of distinction or honour. *Obs.*

1655 M. Carter *Honor Rediv.* (1660) 3 Vertue being still admired, and honored, and some signall put upon it. 1685 Bunyan *Seventh-day Sabbath* v, Now what another signal was here [i. e. at the day of Pentecost] put upon the first day of the week.

2. A sign, token, or indication (*of* something). In later use not clearly separable from sense 4.

1591 Shaks. 1 *Hen. VI*, II. iv. 121 In signall of my loue to thee. 1594 — *Rich. III*, V. iii. 21 (Qtos.), The wearie sonne ..Giues signall of a goodlie day to-morrow. 1646 Sir T. Browne *Pseud. Ep.* I. iv, The bread and wine which were but the signalls or visible signes..were made the things signified. 1715 De Foe *Fam. Instruct.* I. 1 (1841) I. 12 'Tis a signal that he has no thought of mercy in store for them. 1725 — *Voy. round World* (1840) 320 All this while we saw no people, nor any signals of any. 1782 V. Knox *Ess* xcv. (1819) II. 190 To whom we wish to display some signal of our love. 1820 Shelley *Ode to Naples* 113 The signal and the seal..Art thou of all these hopes. 1848 Thackeray *Van. Fair* xviii, The arrival of the piano, which, as she conjectured, must have come from George, and was a signal of amity on his part.

3. A sign agreed upon or understood as the occasion of concerted action, *esp.* one ordering the movement of troops or ships; also *fig.*, an exciting cause.

1593 Shaks. *Rich. II*, I. iii. 116 Attending but the signall to begin. 1611 Coryat *Crudities* 16 Presently they gaue the Signall to Hernand Teillo, that lay vnder the towne with his ambuscado. 1667 Milton *P. L.* V. 702 All obey'd The wonted signal. 1724 De Foe *Mem. Cavalier* (1840) 176 The signal of battle being given with two cannon shot we marched in order of battalia. 1770 Langhorne *Plutarch* (1851) I. 60/2 The pæan..was the signal to advance. 1816 J. Wilson *City of Plague* III. iii, Go on deck, and tell me if thou seest The signal flying for close line of battle. 1860 Tyndall *Glac.* I. xix. 134 This was the signal for a grasp all round. 1874 Green *Short Hist.* vi. § 5. 318 The meeting of the Emperor [Charles] with Henry at Southampton gave the signal for a renewal of the war.

4. A sign or notice, perceptible by sight or hearing, given especially for the purpose of conveying warning, direction, or information.

1598 Drayton *Heroical Ep.* Poems (1619) 212, I..being ship'd, gave signall with my Hand Vp to the Cliffe where I did see thee stand. 1667 Milton *P. L.* XI. 72 The Son gave signal high To the bright Minister that watch'd, hee blew His Trumpet. 1698 T. Froger *Voy.* 8 We likewise made signals to the other ships. 1719 De Foe *Crusoe* I. 12 The Master..order'd to fire a Gun as a Signal of Distress. 1732 Lediard *Sethos* II. ix. 281 The garrison beat..a signal of surrender. 1797 Mrs. Radcliffe *Italian* xii, And, as she drew nearer to Olivia, gave a signal and passed on to her cell. 1814 Scott *Ld. of Isles* III. xxiii, It was a keen and warning look, And well the Chief the signal took. 1896 *Law Times Rep.* LXXIII. 615/1 A bell rang which was a signal..that a train was coming.

b. An object serving to convey an intimation.

1687 A. Lovell tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* I. 94 There is a small Church in the Sea,..which serves for a Light-house and Signal. 1774 Mackenzie *Mar. Surv.* II. 84 When the Surveyor is at a proper Station, the Assistant must set up the black Signal. 1838 Railway signal [see Railway 3]. 1859 Geo. Eliot *A. Bede* xlvii, He has something in his hand—he is holding it up as if it were a signal. 1878 Gurney *Crystallogr.* 105 Let these signals..be so placed that the same horizontal plane will pass through each of them.

5. *attrib.* and *Comb.* **a.** Attrib. with sbs. denoting something employed as, or used in giving, a signal or signals, as *signal apparatus*, *beacon*, *bell*, *fire*, *flag*, etc.

1841 *Penny Cycl.* XIX. 258/1 It is usual to affix a *signal

apparatus to them. 1856 KANE *Arct. Expl.* I. xxvi. 345 A large *signal-beacon or cairn. 1897 D. BUTLER *Ch. & Par. Abernethy* 180 The mere use of the *signal-bell of the hand-bell-ringer. 1832 MARRYAT *N. Forster* xli, Captain Drawlock..had the *signal-book in his hand. 1865 ALEX. SMITH *Summer in Skye* I. 266 The sailor in possession of the signal-book reads the signal. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* iii. I. 290 The *signal fires were blazing fifty miles off. 1802 JAMES *Milit. Dict.* s.v., Although *signal flags, in modern engagements, have been generally laid aside [etc.]. 1814 SCOTT *Ld. of Isles* IV. xxx, Might not my father's beadsman hoar..Kindle a *signal-flame? 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XVIII. 336/2 A *signal-gun to be fired. 1842 LEVER *J. Hinton* vi, When the signal-gun announced the commencement of the action. 1837 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* I. 13/2 The..height of the lower or *signal lamp. 1804 NELSON 23 Feb. in Nicolas *Disp.* (1846) VII. p. ccxix, It is recommended..to be careful that the *Signal-lights for knowing each other are clear. 1844 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* VII. 237 Igniting the composition forming the signal light. 1873 M. ARNOLD *Lit. & Dogma* (1876) 270 These three texts.. may well stand as the great *signal-marks pointing to it. *a* 1873 LYTTON *Pausanias* 36 From several of the vessels the trumpets woke a sonorous *signal-note. 1766 R. JONES *Fireworks* IV. 135 *Signal-rockets..are headed with stars, serpents, &c. 1887 *Spectator* 30 July 1019/2 A signal-rocket sent up from the flag-ship. 1802 JAMES *Milit. Dict.* s.v., A continual discharge of these *signal shells. 1812 S. ROGERS *Columbus* Poems (1839) 43 When hark, a *signal shot! 1850 R. G. CUMMING *Hunter's Life S. Africa* (1902) 101/1 Their comrades..requested me to fire signal-shots at intervals. 1828 *Lights & Shades* II. 259 The distant *signal-whistle of a gang of robbers. 1895 *Mod. Steam Engine* 51 The signal whistle is shown at *g*. 1814 SCOTT *Ld. of Isles* VI. xxx, When mute Amadine they heard Give to their zeal his *signal-word. 1831 — *Ct. Rob.* xxii, Thou wilt not forget that the signal word of the insurrection is Ursel.

b. With sbs. denoting a place or thing from which signals are given or worked, as *signal box, bridge, cabin, house*, etc.

1829 MARRYAT *F. Mildmay* vi, I was..intent on looking for the telegraphic *signal-box. 1884 *Encycl. Brit.* XX. 238/2 Distant signals..worked by wire communication from the signal box, were, it is believed, first introduced..in 1846. 1899 F. T. BULLEN *Way Navy* 75 As I write comes a messenger from the *signal-bridge..with a copy of signal just made from the flagship. 1889 FINDLAY *Eng. Railway* 69 The *signal cabin contains a most complicated piece of mechanism, called the 'locking frame'. 1796 *Gentl. Mag.* LXVI. I. 369 In the first distance is seen the *signal-house, with Bogner..beyond. 1892 E. REEVES *Homewd. Bound* 160 Most of the signal-house keepers and dredge men along the canal seem French. 1811 SIR W. SCOTT *Dodson's Rep.* I. 19 Notice was given from the Spanish *signal-post that an enemy was hovering on the coast. 1848 K. H. DIGBY *Compitum* I. 15 The notices, the signal-posts as it were, in life's forest. 1802 JAMES *Milit. Dict.* s.v., It is usual to fix a red flag..to point out the spot where the general or officer commanding takes his station in front of a line. This is called the *signal staff. 1898 SIR G. PARKER *Battle of Strong* xxxv, Not far from her was the signal-staff which telegraphed to another signal-staff inland. Upon the staff now was hoisted a red flag. 1816 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* xvii. (1818) II. 43 The soldiers at these *signal-stations sat quite still during the intervals of silence. 1867 AUGUSTA WILSON *Vashti* xxv, Under his steady gaze the blood rose slowly to its old signal-station on her cheeks. 1766 SMOLLETT *Trav.* I. x. 159 It seems to have been intended, at first, as a watch, or *signal-tower.

c. With sbs. denoting persons connected with signalling, as *signal boy, corps, lieutenant*, etc. Also objective, as *signal fitter*.

1888 *Daily News* 18 Dec. 6/4 The dead body of..the *signal boy at Spa-road Station..was found..on the line. 1895 *Outing* XXVI. 396/1 The *Signal Corps is a body of highly trained soldiers whose duty it is to provide the methods of communication between the different forces of an army. 1898 *Westm. Gaz.* 15 July 5/3 Two *signal fitters were standing in the four-foot way. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade*, **Signal-lieutenant*, an officer in the Royal Navy having the charge of signals on board a flag-ship. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.* 626 *Signal-officer*, in a repeating frigate, a *signal-midshipman; in a flag-ship, a flag-lieutenant. 1829 MARRYAT *F. Mildmay* iii, The *signal officers ..had to make out the number of the flag. 1898 *Westm. Gaz.* 23 Apr. 8/2 Accompanied by a signal officer and a small prize crew. 1895 *Outing* XXVI. 399 A new equipment for the *Signal Service, the captive balloon. 1871 *Fair France* ii. 66 Female officials, down to *signalwomen and pointswomen, who at country stations stood, flag in hand, solemnly attentive to duty.

Signal (si·gnăl), *a.* [irreg. ad. F. *signalé*, pa. pple. of *signaler* to distinguish. In senses 2 and 3 the meaning has been influenced by the sb.]

1. Striking, remarkable, notable, conspicuous:

a. Of persons.

1641 J. JACKSON *True Evang. T.* I. 23 Two great and signall Historians give in evidence against him [etc.]. 1670 CLARENDON *Hist. Reb.* XV. § 57 He then betook himself wholly to the sea, and quickly made himself signal there. 1702 *Eng. Theophrastus* 16 It is very easie to decide which of these impertinents is the most signal. *c* 1780 H. WALPOLE *Last Jrnls.* (1910) II. 36 The signal criminal [Dr. Dodd] suffered decently. 1805 FOSTER *Ess.* II. v. I. 178 Signal villains of every class.

b. Of things or events.

1647 CLARENDON *Hist. Reb.* I. § 100 He died in a season most opportune,..and which in truth crowned his other signal prosperity in this world. 1662 STILLINGFL. *Orig. Sacræ* II. iv. § 8 The extraordinary Prophets whom God did call out on some more signal occasions. 1705 ADDISON *Italy* (1733) 46 Those that are in any signal Danger. 1760–2 GOLDSM. *Cit. W.* lxxx, All now thought that he would take the most signal revenge. 1772 PRIESTLEY *Inst. Relig.* (1782) II. 195 The Israelites gained a most signal victory. 1839 JAMES *Louis XIV*, IV. 393 But the same French general suffered a signal reverse..in the following year. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* vi. II. 30 The ministers were told that the nation expected, and should have, signal redress. 1878 LECKY *Eng. in 18th C.* II. I It was a signal proof of the wisdom of the English legislators.

†**2.** Distinctive, significative. *Obs.*

1652 NEEDHAM tr. *Selden's Mare Cl.* 84 Badges or signal Ornaments of the Proconsul of Asia. *a* 1663 SANDERSON *Cases Consc.* (1678) 190 The signal note of the Godly party.

3. Constituting or serving as a sign.

1655 FULLER *Ch. Hist.* I. 2 The signall Oak which the Druides made choice of, was such a one, on which Mistetoe did grow; by which privie token, they conceived, God marked it out, as of soveraigne vertue, for his service. 1873 M. ARNOLD *Lit. & Dogma* 244 Long before his signal Crucifixion Jesus had died, by taking up daily that cross which his disciples..were to take up also.

Signal (si·gnăl), *v.* [f. the sb.]

1. *trans.* To make signals to (a person, ship, etc.); to summon, direct, or invite by signal.

1805 in Nicolas *Disp. Nelson* (1846) VI. 463 The Captain of the Ship was signalled on board the Victory. 1892 STEVENSON *Across Plains* I It was..five o'clock when we were all signalled to be present at the Ferry Depôt. 1897 WATTS-DUNTON *Aylwin* XII. iii, The girl came out, and signalling me to enter, went leisurely down-stairs.

2. a. To communicate or make known by signalling; to notify or announce by signal(s).

1871 R. ELLIS *Catullus* lxiv. 233 Soon as on home's fair hills thine eyes shall signal a welcome. 1885 *Manch. Exam.* 17 June 5/2 Even when storms are signalled off the Irish coast, they often take a totally new..course. 1889 G. FINDLAY *Eng. Railway* 65 In 1830 the only arrangement made for signalling the trains was a flag by day or a lamp by night.

b. To mark out clearly; to signalize.

1869 SWINBURNE *Ess. & Stud.* (1875) 308 The noble dirge which signals with its majesty of music the consummation of Calantha's agony. 1873 M. ARNOLD *Lit. & Dogma* (1876) 280 Signalling and extolling that character in Christianity into which fineness of perception enters most.

3. To work (a railway) in respect of signals; to furnish with signalling apparatus.

1888 *Pall Mall G.* 21 Jan. 2/1 This line was a part of the London and Greenwich Railway, and was..maintained and signalled by us. 1904 *Westm. Gaz.* 19 June 10/2 Some portions of the principal railroads are fully signalled, but on many others hardly any signals are used.

4. *intr.* To give notice, warning, or information, or make any other communication, by signal.

1864 HOSMER *Color-Guard* 76 They are signalling night and day..by flag and fire. 1877 J. D. CHAMBERS *Divine Worship* 199 The Officiator,..signalling to the Penitents, should begin the Antiphon.

Signaletic (signăle·tik), *a. Math.* [irreg. f. SIGN *sb.* or SIGNAL *sb.* Cf. F. *signalétique* (in a different sense), f. *signaler* vb.] Relating to the algebraic signs plus and minus.

1853 SYLVESTER in *Phil. Trans.* CXLIII. 546 A signaletic or Semaphoretic series is a sequence of disjunctive terms, considered solely with reference to the algebraical signs of plus and minus which they respectively carry. 1889 CAYLEY in *Nature* XXXIX. 218/1 They are signaletic functions, indicating in what manner..the roots of the one equation are intercalated among those of the other.

Signalist (si·gnălist). [f. SIGNAL *sb.* + -IST.] One who makes signals; one specially employed in signalling; a signaller.

1836 *Fraser's Mag.* XIV. 39 For the cause of my coming, you know that, my charming little signalist. 1881 *Appleton's Ann. Cycl.* 548 He was enabled to furnish each army corps ..with a competent force of skilled signalists.

Signa·lity. Now *rare.* [f. SIGNAL *sb.* or *a.*]

†**1.** The quality of a sign or indication. *Obs.*

1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* 224 Had they conceived any more then a bare signality in this Star,..they would not have computed from its Heliacall ascent which was of inferiour efficacy.

†**2.** Signification; significance. *Obs.*

1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* I. xi. (1650) 33 That the same should fall out at a remarkable time..may admit a Christian apprehension in the signality. 1658 — *Garden Cyrus* Wks. (Bohn) II. 502 Though he that considereth the plain cross [etc.]..will hardly decline all thought of Christian signality in them. 1693 J. BEAUMONT *On Burnet's Th. Earth* II. 111 Blew and red, denoting the two great destructions of the World..; so that the Rainbow carries a mixt signality.

3. Notability, distinction.

1650 BULWER *Anthropomet.* Ep. Ded., Had I had a Signality of Spirit to summon Democriticall Atomes to conglobate into an intellectuall Forme. 1665 GLANVILL *Scepsis Sci.* Address p. xi, Now it seems to me a Signality in Providence in erecting your most Honourable Society in such a juncture of dangerous Humours. 1899 *Contemp. Rev.* Sept. 442 The battle of Azincourt reproduced the astonishing facts of Crècy and Poictiers with, if possible, even greater signality.

Signalize (si·gnăləiz), *v.* [f. SIGNAL *a.* + -IZE.]

1. *trans.* To make signal; to distinguish; to render conspicuous, remarkable, or noteworthy.

1654 FLECKNOE *Ten Years Trav.* 102 Let none ever hope the like advantages, that are not signaliz'd by some remarkable qualities. 1686 PLOT *Staffordsh.* 21 The death of Germanicus was signaliz'd by another [meteor]. 1704 HEARNE *Duct. Hist.* (1714) I. 244 When..his Glory [was] sufficiently signalized, then he discarded those Instruments. 1761 HUME *Hist. Eng.* II. xli. 425 She named Whitgift.., who had already signalised his pen in controversy. 1861 MAY *Constit. Hist. Eng.* (1863) I. i. 45 This debate was signalised by the opposition speech of Sir Fletcher Norton, the Speaker. 1883 *Contemp. Rev.* XLIV. 7 Leo the Tenth ..desired to signalize his reign by building the grandest church in the world.

b. To make known or display in a striking manner.

1702 FARQUHAR *Twin Rivals* III. i, Has he ever signalised his courage? *a* 1716 SOUTH *Serm.* (1744) X. 146 The final issue of God's dealing with such as have signalized their patience. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* II. x. 322 He was very desirous of signalizing his talents by some enterprize. *a* 1806 C. J. FOX *Reign Jas. II* (1808) 125 The parliament opened..with an enthusiastick zeal, to signalize their loyalty.

c. *refl.* To distinguish (oneself) by some notable action or qualities. † Also const. *from.*

1654 EARL MONM. tr. *Bentivoglio's Wars Flanders* 289 There were two Captains of Launces with the Prince who had particular occasion to signalize themselves. 1689 LUTTRELL *Brief Rel.* (1857) I. 577 A list of the officers in Derry that signalized themselves against the enemy. 1709 STEELE *Tatler* No. 77 ₱ 5 A thousand extravagancies, by which they would signalize themselves from others. 1763 J. BROWN *Poetry & Music* iv. 37 Among the savage Tribes, the Chiefs are they who most signalize themselves by Dance and Song. 1813 T. CHALMERS in Hanna *Mem.* (1849) I. xii. 324 Let me make a point of bringing forward nothing in conversation for the purpose of signalising myself. 1869 TYNDALL *Notes Lect. Light* § 462 Gypsum possesses three planes of cleavage,..one of which particularly signalizes itself by its perfection.

2. To characterize or mark conspicuously.

1698 FRYER *Acc. E. India & P.* 95 Their Habit is the main thing that signalizes them more than their Virtue. 1776 ADAM SMITH *W. N.* V. i. (1904) II. 316 The inhabitants ..have been frequently united..and the havoc and devastation of Asia have always signalised their union. 1817 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* (1818) II. 241 The symbol of death which signalizes its thorax. 1861 LD. BROUGHAM *Brit. Const.* xi. 160 Such tyrannous acts as we thus find to have signalized the Anglo-Norman reigns. 1882 PEBODY *Eng. Yankism.* x. 74 He awoke in time to hear the cheers which signalised the success of the Minister's speech.

3. To point out, note or mention specially, draw attention to.

a 1711 KEN *Hymns Evang.* Poet. Wks. 1721 I. 131 Our Lord..At John's request the Traytor signaliz'd. 1833 I. TAYLOR *Fanat.* vi. 196 Some of the most portentous exhibitions of ungovernable violence that..have been signalized in history. 1835 SIR W. HAMILTON *Disc.* (1853) 543 Not a single voice was raised in either House to signalize the misstatement. 1885 FFOULKES *Prim. Consecration* viii. 379 The Gallican spirit breathing throughout his works has been already signalised.

4. To make signals to; to communicate with by means of a signal.

1824 BYRON *Let. to Muir* 2 Jan., They were signalising their consort with lights. 1857 R. TOMES *Amer. in Japan* vii. 153 Two guns were fired..for the purpose probably of signalizing the authorities at the Capital. 1874 HOLLAND *Mistr. Manse* xix. 75 She saw a stalwart man arise..And pause a breath, to signalize Some one beyond her stinted view.

b. *intr.* To make or send signals.

1853 FELTON *Fam. Lett.* i. (1865) 8 We have signalized to Liverpool by way of Holyhead. 1857 *Chamb. Jrnl.* VII. 78 Developing a theory of signalising by pulsations.

5. To announce by a signal or signals.

1875 BEDFORD *Sailor's Pocket-bk.* vi. (ed. 2) 216 Who would then signalize to them where they might safest attempt to land.

Hence **Si·gnalized** *ppl. a.*

1652 EARL MONM. tr. *Bentivoglio's Hist. Relat.* 53 One of the gallantest and most signalized Princesses that ever lived. 1819 T. CHALMERS *Serm.* (1836) I. 214 The special and signalised object of his kindness. 1870 W. ARNOT in *Life* x. (1877) 439 This is a signalised and monumental spot of the continent.

Signallee (signălī·). Also **signalee.** [f. SIGNAL *v.* + -EE[1].] One to whom a signal is made or transmitted.

1898 KIPLING *Fleet in Being* iii. 31 Presently we saw a signal, but end on, as flags are apt to be when the signaller is dead up wind and the signallee down.

Signaller (si·gnălər). Also *U.S.* **signaler.** [f. SIGNAL *v.* + -ER[1].]

1. One who signals; *esp.* one specially employed to transmit signals.

1863 LITTLEDALE *Offices East. Ch.* 209 About the hour of Dawn all the signallers sound. 1869 *Pall Mall G.* 21 Aug. 12 A large force..without signallers or telegraphists. 1887 *Times* 25 Aug. 4/4 The signallers with the column were very busy.

b. One who uses signals in card-playing.

1885 PROCTOR *Whist* IX. 98 An original signal..should mean..that the signaller is..very strong in trumps.

2. A thing or apparatus used for signalling.

1872 SHIPLEY *Gloss. Eccl. Terms* 108 A hand-clapper or signaller used as a bell. 1894 *Westm. Gaz.* 15 Oct. 7/2 An automatic signaller, which will..save fogmen's lives and be always ready.

Signalling (si·gnălin), *vbl. sb.* Also *U.S.* **signaling.** [f. SIGNAL *v.*] The action of making or transmitting signals.

1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* II. x. 276 By rough signalling he first stood near the place where the first stake was to be driven in. 1876 VOYLE & STEVENSON *Milit. Dict.* 424/1 Visual signalling was formerly carried on by semaphores, but it has been superseded by army signalling and sun telegraphy. 1886 *Pall Mall G.* 21 May 4/1 Any new system of signalling which may be arranged between two or more players.

attrib. 1876 *Daily News* 30 Nov. 5/3 The loss of the Vanguard..was in the main due to imperfect signalling arrangements. 1889 G. FINDLAY *Eng. Railway* p. vi, My obligations to..the Signalling Superintendent.

Signally (si·gnăli), *adv.* Also 7 **signaly.** [f. SIGNAL *a.* Cf. obs. F. *signalement* in the same sense.] In a signal or striking manner.

1641 in *Archæologia* I. 99 The Lord of hosts did signally appear for us. *a* 1676 HALE *Prim. Orig. Man.* II. viii. (1677) 205 But if we follow the Account of the Septuagint, ..the advantage of the Increase would be signally greater. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* II. iii. 139 The same cruelty which they had so often and so signally exerted against their Spanish neighbours. *c* 1800 FOSTER *Life & Corr.* (1846) I. 230 A being signally marked from her co-evals. 1856 STANLEY *Sinai & Pal.* i. (1858) 55 It is hard to recall another institution, with such opportunities so signally wasted. 1868 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* (1877) II. 433 All attempts to limit the choice of the electors beforehand had always signally failed.

Si·gnalman. [f. SIGNAL *sb.* 3 and 4.]

1. A man employed to make, convey, display, or give signals. (Chiefly in *Naval* use.)

1737 *Chamberlayne's St. Gt. Brit.* II. 115 Mr. John Dominick Grana, Signal-man. 1834 CAPT. MARRYAT *P. Simple* (1863) 117 Our captain was determined not to see it, and ordered the signal-man not to look that way. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.* 626 *Signal-man*, the yeoman of the signals; a first-class petty officer in the navy. 1898 KIPLING *Fleet in Being* 16 A signalman pattered by to relieve his mate on the bridge.

2. A railway employee who attends to the signals which show whether the line is clear or not.

1840 *B'ham Jrnl.* 28 Nov. 4/2 At every station there shall be an officer or officers under the name of 'signal men'. 1866 *Chamb. Jrnl.* III. 271 A very simple and complete method of communication between the signalman and switchman.

Signalment (si·gnălmĕnt). *rare.* [ad. F. *signalement*, f. *signaler* to mark out.] A description of a person wanted by the police; a distinguishing mark.

1778 *Ann. Reg.* 196 A French signalment, or hue and cry, was received at..Bow Street..of a most horrid murder. 1804 BENTHAM *Mem. & Corr.* Wks. 1843 X. 414 Were a signalment of this kind once established in the character of a mark of infamy is it not to be apprehended that the abovementioned custom of self-marking would cease? 1856 MRS. BROWNING *Aur. Leigh* VI. 399 The foiled police Renounced me. 'Could they find a girl and child, No other signalment but girl and child?'

† Si·gnance. *Obs. rare.* Also 5 sygn-. [See SIGN *v.*[1] and -ANCE.] Signification, indication.

c 1400 *Rowland & O.* 1074 A glofe to his pensalle he hase, In Sygnance of his were. 1610 W. FOLKINGHAM *Art of Survey* II. vi. 57 The Kalender or Index serues for a Directory to expedite the intimation of particulars with signance of due Characters.

‖ Signa·nter, *adv. rare.* [Late L.] Expressly, distinctly, definitely.

1614 JACKSON *Creed* III. 58 He might signanter say to the one [etc.]. 1656 HEWLIN *Extraneus Vapulans* 172 The Doctrine being confessed on all sides to be signanter, and expressly pointed at.

† Si·gnantly, *adv. Obs.*[-1] [f. L. *signant-*, ppl. stem of *signāre* to mark, etc.] ? = prec.

a 1656 VINES *Lord's Supper* (1677) 394 Chrysostom takes this word [οὖν] signantly.

Signatary (si·gnătări). [ad. F. *signataire*.] = SIGNATORY *sb.*

1858 *Times* 13 Aug. 7/1 The signataries of these two remarkable petitions. 1867 *Queen's Speech* in *Hansard* CLXXXV. 4 All the Powers, Signataries of the Treaty of 1856. 1884 SYMONDS *Shaks. Predec.* viii. 269 Within the jurisdiction of the signataries.

Signate (si·gnĕt), *a.* and *sb.* [ad. L. *signāt-us*, pa. pple. of *signāre* to mark, etc.]

A. *adj.* Marked or distinguished in some way.

1649 J. ELLISTONE tr. *Behmen's Epist.* xxxii. § 14 The Signate-star above your pole shall help you. 1710 tr. *Werenfels' Disc. Logom.* 101 Then follow..the States, Amplications,..Signate Matter,..and whole Cart-loads of Qualitys. 1826 KIRBY & SPENCE *Entomol.* xlvi. IV. 286 *Signate..*, marked with signatures. 1888 ROLLESTON & JACKSON *Anim. Life* 152 The second form of quiescent pupa, known as obtected, larvate, or signate, is characteristic of *Lepidoptera*.

† **B.** *sb.* A distinguishing mark or quality. *Obs.*

1662 J. CHANDLER *Van Helmont's Oriat.* 116 The power of the Species or particular kinde being unfolded, it assumeth divers Colours and Signates.

† Si·gnate, *v. Obs.*[-1] [f. ppl. stem of L. *signāre*: see prec.] *trans.* To stamp, mark.

1653 R. SANDERS *Physiogn.* bj b, All plants..which have their stalks signated with cuts and slits (as it were) are sanative to scars and wounds.

Signate, variant of SENNET *Obs.*

Signation (signē·ʃən). Now *rare.* [ad. late L. *signātiōn-em*, noun of action f. *signāre* to SIGN.]

1. The action of signing with the cross, or of marking with a seal.

1607 *Schol. Disc. agst. Antichr.* 1. ii. 76 Whence is the Vnction called signation, consignation, obsignation (with the like) but from the Crosse? 1637 C. DOW *Answ. H. Burton* 207 The blessed Eucharist wherein they acknowledge..no other exhibition than by way of signation or obsignation. 1679 C. NESSE *Antichrist* 13 John makes no mention of him in the signation of the tribes. 1883 *Ch. Times* XXI. 953/1 The Greek signation with the Cross is made from right to left.

† **b.** The action of marking in a particular way, or the fact of being so marked. *Obs.*

1659 H. MORE *Immort. Soul* III. iii. 7 Those other Examples of the Signation of the Fœtus from the Mothers' Fancy, which Fienus rejecteth.

† **2.** A distinctive mark. = SIGNATURE *sb.* 4. *Obs.*

1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* 100 It somewhat resembles an horseshooe, which..Baptista Porta hath thought too low a signation, and raised the same unto a Lunarie representation. 1653 R. SANDERS *Physiogn.* bj b, The shels of Seasnails having the signation of long ears.

† Si·gnator[1]. *Sc. Law. Obs.* Also 5–7 signatour. [App. ad. L. *signātōr-ius*: see SIGNATORY.] = SIGNATURE *sb.* 1.

1473–4 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* I. 2 A remissione be the King to certane personis..grantit be a signatour subscriuit with the Kingis hand. 1510 *Exch. Rolls Scot.* XIII. 649 That all the tennentis and forestaris..that has tane thair stedingis that thai cum and raise thair signatouris. 1580–1 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* III. 349 Sindrie his subjectis..ceissis not to present thair signatouris, letters, and petitiounes, unto his Majesties self. 1626 CHAS. I *in 3rd Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* 423/1 He did passe a signator of the said honour in your name. 1678 SIR G. MACKENZIE *Crim. Laws Scot.* II. xi. § i, The *habilis modus* of granting which Rights is by Signator.

Signator[2] (signēi·tɑr). *rare.* [a. L. *signātor*, agent-noun from *signāre* to SIGN.] A signatory.

1650 J. FRENCH tr. *Paracelsus' Nat. Things* IX. 100 It is convenient for us..to declare by whom things are signed, and who the Signator is. 1893 *Westm. Gaz.* 29 Dec. 6/1 The signators to the above letter are members of high standing on the Stock Exchange.

Signatory (si·gnători), *a.* and *sb.* [ad. L. *signātōrius* of or belonging to sealing, f. ppl. stem of *signāre* to SIGN.]

A. *adj.* **† 1.** Used in sealing. *Obs.*

1647 TORSHELL *Design to Harmonize the Bible* 24 Georg. Longus of Milain, concerning signatory Rings. 1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.*, *Signatory*, that is used or serves to seal withal; As *Annulus signatorius*, a Seal-Ring, a Signet.

2. Forming one of those (persons or states) whose signatures are attached to a document.

1870 *Standard* 16 Nov., The Emperor is ready to come to an understanding with the signatory Powers. 1892 A. E. LEE in *Hist. of Columbus* I. 116 The signatory chiefs agreed to deliver up all captives, and to keep the peace forever.

B. *sb.* One of those whose signatures are attached to a document of any kind. (Cf. SIGNATARY.)

1866 *Contemp. Rev.* I. 261 That the twenty signatories were..the majority of the members present in the Lower House. 1893 LIDDON *Life Pusey* I. xi. 268 An address to the Archbishop of Canterbury, assuring him of the adherence of the signatories to the doctrine..of the Church.

Si·gnatural, *a. rare*[-1]. [f. SIGNATURE *sb.* 6.] According to signatures.

1683 MOXON *Mech. Exerc., Printing* XXV. P 2 Laying the Heaps is to place them..in an orderly Signatural Succession.

Signature (si·gnătiŭi), *sb.* [ad. med.L. *signātūra*, f. *signāre* to sign, mark, etc., or a. F. *signature* (16th c.).]

1. *Sc. Law.* A writing prepared and presented to the Baron of Exchequer by a writer to the signet, as the ground of a royal grant to the person in whose name it is presented. (Bell.) Cf. SIGNATOR[1].

1534 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* VI. 219 To pas with writingis and signaturis to be subscrivit be the Kingis grace. 1574 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* II. 383 Ane signature anent the confirmatioun of ane charter grantit to hir. *c* 1630 SIR T. HOPE *Minor Practicks* (1726) 85 All Signatures of Prelacies, and great Benefices; and also all Signatures of the Officers of State, pass under the Great Seal only. 1690 *Scot. Acts Parl.* (1822) IX. 200/1 The signatures and Charters of all vassalls of Kirklands. 1765–8 ERSKINE *Inst. Law Scot.* II. v. § 82 Before the union of the two crowns in 1603, all signatures passed under the King's own hand. 1838 W. BELL *Dict. Law Scot.* s.v., Every Crown charter is preceded by a signature containing the principal clauses of the charter, and specifying the seal or seals through which it is to pass.

2. The name († or special mark) of a person written with his or her own hand as an authentication of some document or writing.

1580 HOLLYBAND *Treas. Fr. Tong, La signature d'vn Notoire*, the signature or marke of a Notarie. *a* 1633 COKE *On Litt.* (1642) II. 556 A bill superscribed with the signature or signe manuall, or royall hand of the King. 1771 *Junius Lett.* liv. (1780) 294 He asserts that he has traced me through a variety of signatures. 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* xxix, To make a last effort to procure that signature which would transfer her estates in Languedoc. 1829 SOUTHEY *All for Love* IX. xv, The fatal signature appear'd To all the multitude, Distinct as when the accursed pen Had traced it with fresh blood. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* ix, I wish I had Miss MacWhirter's signature to a cheque for five thousand pounds. 1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) V. 424 On so much of what has been said..they shall put the seals of all the judges with their signatures in writing.

b. The action of signing one's name, or of authenticating a document by doing so.

1621 LD. KPR. WILLIAMS in *Fortescue P.* (Camden) 162 Some things wee must offer to the kings signature when the clarkes are not to bee found. 1803 J. MARSHALL *Const. Opin.* (1839) 5 The last act to be done by the president is the signature of the commission. 1818 CRUISE *Digest* (ed. 2) VI. 63 He therefore did not mean the signature of the two first sheets as a signature of the whole will: there never was a signing of the whole.

† **3.** The action of impressing or stamping. *Obs.*

1605 BACON *Adv. Learn.* II. xxi. § 2 There is impressed upon all things..a third [desire] of Multiplying and extending their fourme upon other things: whereof the multiplying or signature of it upon other things, is that which we handled by the name of Active good.

4. A distinctive mark, a peculiarity in form or colouring, etc., on a plant or other natural object, formerly supposed to be an indication of its qualities, esp. for medicinal purposes. Now only *Hist.*

1613 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* (1614) 505 Some also pretending themselues Natures Principall Secretaries, haue found out in these..not onely Temperatures.., but Signatures of Natures owne impression. 1638 MEDE *Wks.* (1672) p. v, He would take occasion to speak of the Beauty, Signatures, useful Vertues and Properties of the Plants then in view. 1697 COLLIER *Ess. Mor. Subj.* II. (1703) 127 Whether men, as they say of plants, have signatures to discover their nature by, is hard to determine. 1748 tr. *Werenfels' Diss. Superst.* 21 There are some that think those Herbs the fittest for curing those Parts of a Man's Body, to which they bear some Sort of Resemblance, commonly called a Signature. 1806 A. HUNTER *Culina* (ed. 3) 240 It is probable that the golden colour of the fish..induced the ignorant to suppose, that it was given by Providence as a signature to point out its medicinal quality. 1858 CARPENTER *Veg. Phys.* § 756 In former times such resemblances were greatly attended to by physicians, who termed them 'signatures'. 1898 *Westm. Gaz.* 3 June 5/1 According to this law, the best way of obtaining the 'signatures' of drugs is by healthy persons testing them on themselves.

b. A distinguishing mark of any kind.

a 1626 ANDREWES *Serm.* (1856) I. 12 The Saviour..taking on Him 'Abraham's seed' must withal take on Him the signature of Abraham's seed, and be..circumcised. 1659 *Gentl. Calling* 33 It is become..the badge and signature of a modern Wit, thus to be one of David's fools, in saying there is no God. 1750 G. HUGHES *Barbados* Pref. p. iv, There is not the smallest part of this Globe left without evident signatures of God's goodness. 1775 J. HARRIS *Philos. Arrangem.* Wks. (1841) 298 It is a kind of universal signature, by which nature makes known to us the several species of her productions. 1850 ROBERTSON *Serm.* Ser. II. (1856) 89 The capacity of ennui is one of the signatures of man's immortality.

c. A stamp, impression. Also *fig.*

1649 JER. TAYLOR *Gt. Exemp.* Disc. iii. § 9 So does meditation produce those impresses and signatures which are the proper effects of the mystery. 1697 BURGHOPE *Disc. Relig. Assemb.* 71 It wou'd..dissolve the..foot-steps and signatures of the Deity on our souls. 1725 POPE *Odyss.* IV. 76 Vulgar parents cannot stamp their race With signatures of such majestic grace. 1781 COWPER *Retirement* 54 To trace, in nature's most minute design, The signature and stamp of pow'r divine. 1814 CARY *Dante, Par.* VII. 105 Goodness celestial, whose broad signature Is on the universe. 1849 RUSKIN *Seven Lamps* iii. § 8. 71 See by how many artifices ..time and storm will set their wild signatures upon it. 1871 J. R. MACDUFF *Mem. Patmos* 142 The martyrs of the Roman catacombs, who have left the significant signature of their sufferings on vases and monumental tablets.

5. An image; a figure; an imitative mark. Now *rare* or *Obs.*

1658 SIR T. BROWNE *Garden of Cyrus* iii, The Bryar.. maintains its pentagonall figure, and the unobserved signature of a handsome porch within it. 1673 RAY *Journ. Low C.* 237 Sir Thomas Brown..sent me the picture of one [a hen's egg]..having the perfect signature of a Duck swimming upon it. 1681 GREW *Musæum* III. i. i. 259 A Stone with the Signature of a Button-Fish upon it. 1782 PRIESTLEY *Corrupt. Chr.* II. VIII. 108 They added the signature of the cross. 1826 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* xlvi. IV. 286 *Signatures*,..markings upon a surface resembling in some degree letters and characters.

† **b.** A nævus, a birth-mark. *Obs.*

1682 GLANVILL *Sadducismus* I. 15 The fancy of the Mother can [form] the stubborn matter of the Fœtus in the womb, as we see it frequently doth in the instances that occur of Signatures and monstrous Singularities.

6. *Printing.* A letter or figure, a set or combination of letters or figures, etc., placed by the printer at the foot of the first page (and frequently on one or more of the succeeding pages) of every sheet in a book, for the purpose of showing the order in which these are to be placed or bound. Abbrev. *sig.*

1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.* s.v., Among Printers the mark or letter they set at the bottom of every sheet printed, as A, B, C, &c. to tell their Quires by, and distinguish one sheet from another, is called the Signature. 1683 MOXON *Mech. Exerc., Printing* XXII. P 4 If it be the First Page of the first Sheet of a Book the Signature is A. 1707 HEARNE *Collect.* (O. H. S.) I. 339 The Signatures (there being no pages) are towards the top of the Leaf. 1710 *Ibid.* III. 47 The Signatures shew it to be 8vo. 1775 WARTON *Hist. Eng. Poet.* II. 15 *note*, It is in quarto, with signatures to K k. 1824 J. JOHNSON *Typogr.* II. 135 It is customary to begin the first sheet of every work with signature B, leaving A for the title sheet. 1864 *N. & Q.* 3rd Ser. VI. 266 Detached Sheet: 4to; signature, Ddddddddd. 1895 *Trans. Bibliogr. Soc.* II. II. 112 It is usually said that the earliest instance in which printed signatures were employed was the *Praeceptorium Divinae Legis* of Johannes Nider, printed by Koelhoff at Cologne, in 1472.

attrib. 1888 JACOBI *Printers' Vocab.* 123 *Signature line*, the line of quadrats at the bottom of a page in which the signature letter or figure is placed. *Ibid.*, *Signature page*, the first page of a sheet, on which the signature appears. 1896 *Moxon's Mech. Exerc., Printing* p. xviii, The old signature marks that would confuse the bookbinder.

b. A sheet, as distinguished by its signature.

1712 HEARNE *Collect.* (O. H. S.) IV. 37, I shall send you.. the Signatures F, G, H, I, of Mr. Dodwell's Dissertation. 1785 W. TOOKE in *Lett. Lit. Men* (Camden) 430 As soon as such a number of books are perfected, the surplus of the various signatures are thrown aside for wrappers.

7. *Mus.* A sign, or set of signs, placed at the beginning of a piece of music, immediately after the clef, to indicate its key or time.

1806 CALLCOTT *Mus. Gram.* II. iv. 126 All the Signatures beyond six may be expressed by a smaller number by changing the name of the Tonic. 1839 *Penny Cycl.* XIII. 206/2 There are in name thirty different keys, and as many signatures are in actual use. 1875 STAINER & BARRETT *Dict. Mus. Terms* s.v., There are two kinds of signature, the time-signature and the key-signature.

Hence **Si·gnatureless** *a.*, having no signature, unsigned; without signatures.

1830 LYTTON *P. Clifford* xxiii, Thus (abrupt and signatureless) ended the expected letter. 1892a *Athenæum* 18 June 790/2 In the volume called 'Love's Looking Glass' the poems are ranged signatureless.

Signature (si·gnătiŭɪ), *v.* [f. the sb.]

†1. *trans.* To indicate symbolically; to mark out, designate. *Obs.*

1653 R. SANDERS *Physiogn.* b j, Plants which signature the Secrets, have a secret specifique vertue against sterility. 1740 CHEYNE *Ess. Regimen* p. xxx, Those who..have been signatur'd to intellectual Professions. *Ibid.* liv, Water being signatur'd, by its greatest Fluidity and Insipidity, for carrying alimentary particles..through all the strait meanders of animal Life.

2. *Printing.* To put a signature on (a sheet).

1889 T. MACKELLAR *Amer. Printer* (ed. 17) 135.

3. To put one's signature to; to authenticate or confirm by one's signature.

1900 *Westm. Gaz.* 2 June 2/3 Then followed the signatured address of a substantial householder of Courbevoie. 1909 *Eng. Rev.* Mar. 636 The meaning..was that he should 'signature' the ugly thing.

Si·gnaturist. *rare.* [f. SIGNATURE *sb.* 4 + -IST.] One who maintains the theory or doctrine of signatures in plants, etc.

1646 Sir T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* 96 Signaturists have somewhat advanced it, who..have made men suspect there was more therein, then ordinary practice allowed. [Hence in Blount *Glossogr.* (1656), but wrongly explained.] 1786 FERRIAR in *Manch. Mem.* (1790) III. 50 Baptista Porta was not only a demonologist, but a signaturist, that is, a believer in the conformity of the virtues of plants to certain external appearances, supposed to be impressed by guardian angels.

†**Si·gnaturize,** *v. Obs.*[−1] [f. as prec. + -IZE.] *trans.* To symbolize, signify.

1669 W. SIMPSON *Hydrol. Chym.* 224 Making the character to signaturize the thing represented.

Sign-board (sə·inˌbōəɪd). [SIGN *sb.* 6.] A board on which the sign of a shop, inn, or other place of business is painted or otherwise displayed.

1632 in E. B. Jupp *Carpenters' Co.* (1887) 297 All signe boards of Wainscott or carved. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 102/1 A Chandler..Dipping of a Staff or Rod of Candles in Tallow..I have seen often times Painted on Sign-boards, to signifie the dwelling-house of a Chandler. 1793-4 WORDSW. *Guilt & Sorrow* xvi, No swinging sign-board creaked from cottage elm. 1817 COLERIDGE *Biogr. Lit.* (Bohn) 89 Our very sign-boards..give evidence that there has been a Titian in the world. 1844 EMERSON *Misc.* (1855) 308 Let him in the county-town..put up his sign-board, Mr. Smith, Governor. 1872 YEATS *Techn. Hist. Comm.* 90 Some of the sign-boards of these ancient Roman inns have been disclosed amongst the ruins of Herculaneum and Pompeii.

Signe, obs. f. SIGN *sb.* and *v.*, SING *v.*, SINE *sb.*

Signed[1] (səind), *ppl. a.* [f. SIGN *v.*]

†1. Sealed. *Obs.*—[0]

1647 HEXHAM I, A signed letter, *een gezegelden brief.*

2. Provided with a signature or signatures.

1648 HEXHAM II, *Geteeckende artijckelen*, signed articles. 1752 J. LOUTHIAN *Form Process* (ed. 2) 76 Upon an signed Information given in against the said C. D. 1772 *Ann. Reg.* II. 202/1 A protest was entered against a signed list, pretending to be sent by Lord Forbes.

3. *Mus.* Placed as a signature. *rare.*

1662 PLAYFORD *Skill Music* (1674) 8 These three Cliffs are called the three signed Cliffs, because they are always set at the beginning of the Lines on which is prickt the Song or Lesson. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Character*, Characters of Sign'd Clefs.

†**Signed**[2], aphetic f. ASSIGNED *ppl. a. Obs.*

1898 MORRIS *Austral Eng.* 418 *Signed Servant*, obsolete contraction for *Assigned Servant.*

Signed, obs. form of SINGED.

Signer (sə·inəɪ). [f. SIGN *v.*[1] + -ER[1].]

1. One who signs; a signatory.

1611 COTGR., *Signeur*, a signer, subscriber; marker. 1718 WODROW *Corr.* (1843) II. 404, I am flattered with a hundred signers at Glasgow. 1771 LUCKOMBE *Hist. Print.* 121 This was laid open in the said petition: the signers of it were, John Harrison [etc.]. 1854 E. G. HOLLAND *Mem. J. Badger* x. 172 He secured more than a hundred signers to the pledge. 1884 MRS. F. MILLER *Life Ht. Martineau* 199 Her name headed the list of signers.

2. One who communicates by signs.

1893 *World's Congress Instruct. Deaf* 89 These associations produce the best and most graceful signers.

Signet (si·gnĕt), *sb.* Forms: 4– **signet,** 4–7 **signett** (6 -eth), 4, 6 **signete,** 5–6 **-ette**; 5 **sygnet, -at,** 5–6 **sygnette,** 6 **-ete**; 4 **syngnette,** 5 *Sc.* **singnet.** [a. OF. *signet* (also *sinet* SINET), or ad. med.L. *signētum*, dim. of OF. *signe*, L. *signum* seal, SIGN *sb.* Hence also MDu. and MLG. *signet* (Du. *signet*, dial. *singenet*).]

1. A small seal, usually one fixed in a finger-ring.

c 1374 CHAUCER *Troylus* II. 1087 With his salte teres gan he bathe The ruby in his signet, and hit sette Upon the wex. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* II. 320 Sche..lappede it togedre tho And sette hir signet therupon. 1450 *Rolls of Parlt.* V. 212/2 Robbed hym of..his Signet, and other dyvers Juelx. 1463 *Bury Wills* (Camden) 38 My signet of gold, with a pellican and my armys grave ther in. 1535 COVERDALE *Jer.* xxii. 24 Though Iechonias..were the signet off my right honde, yet will I plucke him of. 1580 LYLY *Euphues* (Arb.) 449 All hys victoryes and vertues were not for to bee drawne in the Compasse of a Sygnette. 1638 JUNIUS *Paint. Ancients* 177 They wrought onyx stones encloused in ouches of gold, graven as signets are graven. 1726 AYLIFFE *Parergon* 483 A Bishop's private Seal or Signet bearing his own Coat-Armour. 1770 LANGHORNE *Plutarch* (1851) I. 353/2 Taking his signet from his finger. 1825 SCOTT *Talism.* ii, That diamond signet, which thou wearest on thy finger, thou holdest it, doubtless, as of inestimable value? 1889 J. DICKIE *Words of Faith*, etc. (1893) 254 Your name is graven on the signet on his hand.

2. A small seal of this kind in formal or official use, esp. as employed to give authentication or authority to a document.

c 1400 MAUNDEV. viii. (1839) 82, I hadde Lettres of the Soudan, with his grete Seel; and comounly other Men han but his Signett. 1428 *E. E. Wills* (1882) 83 þerto I point my signet and my syne manuell. 1459 *Paston Lett.* I. 455 Doutyng that summe of the forseyd sealys of armys or syggnettes remayne stille amonges myn officeres. 1535 COVERDALE 1 *Kings* xxi. 8 She wrote a letter vnder Achabs name, and sealed it with his signet. 1561 *Maitland Club Misc.* III. 283 Gewyn vnder ye Superintendentis signet and subscripsion at Sanctandrois. 1634 Sir T. HERBERT *Trav.* 46 Euery house of Quality, Magazen and Monastery were sealed vp, with the Signets of the Duke and Merchants. 1726 SWIFT *Gulliver* I. i, His Excellency..producing his Credentials under the Signet Royal [etc.]. 1754 ERSKINE *Princ. Scot. Law* (1809) 34 All our supreme courts have seals or signets, proper to their several jurisdictions. The Courts of Session and Justiciary used formerly the same signet, which was called the King's. 1821 BYRON *Sardanap.* I. ii, Empower me with thy signet To quell the machinations. 1839 THIRLWALL *Hist. Greece* VII. 61 In packages sealed with his own signet.

fig. 1742 YOUNG *Nt. Th.* VII. 254 In man the more we dive, the more we see Heav'n's signet stamping an immortal make.

†**b.** In phr. *clerk of one's signet. Obs.*

1546 *Supplic. Poore Commons* (E. E. T. S.) 78 The clerke of his signet no doubte it was, for he vsed to cary his masters ryng in his mouth. 1577-87 HOLINSHED *Chron.* III. 920/2 A clearke of his closet..and two clearks of his signet.

3. *spec.* The smaller seal originally used by the sovereigns of England and Scotland for private purposes and for certain documents of an official character; in later Scottish use serving as the seal of the Court of Session. Also called *privy* or *King's* (*Queen's*) *signet.* Hence *Clerk of* (or *to*), *Keeper of, the signet*, and Sc. *writer to the signet* (see WRITER).

(*a*) 1417 in Déprez *Dipl. Angl.* (1908) 100 Yeven under owr signet atte owr castel of Touque ye xii day of aoust. 1578 in Feuillerat *Revels Q. Eliz.* (1908) 300 For the privie seale and the signet for the Revells money. 1607 COWELL *Interpr.*, *Clerk of the Signet*, is an officer attendant continually upon his maiesties Principal Secretary, who alwaies hath the custody of the priuie signet. *a* 1633 COKE *On Litt.* (1642) II. 556 The duty of the Clerk of the Signet is to write out such grants or letters patents as passe by bill signed..to the Privy Seal. 1663 GERBIER *Counsel* f 3, One of the Clarkes of the Signet.

(*b*) 1489 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* I. 108 Item, to the clerkis of the singnet for the writin of letteris, be a precep, ij vnicornis, xxxvj *s.* 1561 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* I. 186 And ordanis the signet to ansuer lettres upoun his deliverance. 1592 *Sc. Acts Parl.* (1814) III. 569 The kepair of the signet sall write on the bak of þe signatur the speciall day that he affixit the signet. 1638 *Reg. Privy Counc. Scot.* VII. 101 Wee..command..all keepers of the signet, from signeting thairof. 1695 *Sc. Acts Parl.* (1822) IX. 462 All Writs passing under the Signet, called the Signet of the Lords of Session, be subscribed by a Writer as Clerk to the said Signet. 1708 J. CHAMBERLAYNE *St. Gt. Brit.* (1710) 667 The Keepers and other Officers of the Queens Signet. 1765-8 ERSKINE *Inst. Law Scot.* I. iii. § 39 When the signet is mentioned indefinitely, that of the session is commonly understood; which is also called the King's signet. 1838 W. BELL *Dict. Law Scot.* 168 The clerks or writers to the signet. *Ibid.*, The society is now under the keeper of the signet. 1851 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xiii. III. 350 The Parliament..assumed the power of stopping the signet, in other words, of suspending the whole administration of justice.

†**b.** A document given under this signet. *Obs.*

1477 in *Antiquary* (1891) 105/1 The foresaid Mayor receyved a prive signet by the hande of a servante of the Kyngs, the tenour whereof herafter ensueth. 1490 *Coventry Leet Bk.* 538 Ther was delyuered fro the Kynges grace a priue signet vnto Master R. Colman, Mair of þis Cite; the tenour wherof hereaftur ensueth.

4. An impressed seal or stamp; *esp.* the stamp or impression of a signet.

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* A. 837 Lesande þe boke with leuez sware, þere seuen syngnettez wern sette in-seme. 1382 WYCLIF *Rev.* v. 2 Who is worthi for to opene the boke, and for to vnbynde the signetes of it? 1559 *Rec. Monast. Kinloss* (1872) 150 To thir our Literis of Bailziaries..our signet is affixed. 1603 SHAKS. *Meas. for M.* IV. ii. 209 Heere is the hand and Seale of the Duke: you know the Charracter I doubt not, and the Signet is not strange to you? 1701 STANHOPE *Medit. S. Aug.* 249 Let me bear thee upon my heart as a signet. 1746 FRANCIS tr. *Horace, Epist.* II. ii. 202 Although the Felon's Fork Defac'd the Signet of a Bottle-Cork. 1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* xli, See, here is his signet, in token of his instant and pressing commands. 'It is false!' said the Countess; 'thou hast stolen the warrant.'

b. *fig.* A mark, sign, stamp.

1662 OWEN *Animad. Fiat Lux* XX. Wks. 1851 XIV. 162 The time will come when this Platonical Signet [the theory of purgatory]..shall be utterly exterminated out of the confines of the church of God. 1814 CARY *Dante, Parad.* XI. 100 [St. Francis] from Christ Took the last signet, which his limbs two years Did carry. 1852 HAWTHORNE *Blithedale Rom.* xviii, I fancied that this smile..was the Devil's signet on the Professor.

†5. A signal. *Obs. rare.*

1590 *Pasquil's Apol.* I. D iiij b, The signet shall be giuen, and the fielde fought. 1687 TAUBMAN *London's Triumph* 8 The Boatswain having given his signet by his Whistle.

6. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *signet-cylinder, letter, -office, seal, -wise*

1626 in Rushw. *Hist. Coll.* (1659) I. 223 That your Committees have..sent a general Warrant to his Signet-Office. *a* 1722 FOUNTAINHALL *Decis.* (1759) I. 5 The Lords declined to meddle, pretending they would not annul the King's signet letters. 1762-71 H. WALPOLE *Vertue's Anecd. Paint.* (1786) III. 158 Lewis Payne engraved two signet seals for Charles II. 1838 W. BELL *Dict. Law Scot.* 889 It is more than probable that, when the..forms of the old law came to be disused, Signet Letters, as they are termed, succeeded them. 1871 P. SMITH *Anc. Hist. East* x. § 9 (1881) 205 The delicately striped and fringed dresses shewn on the most ancient signet-cylinders. 1877 W. JONES *Finger-ring* 466 The bezel is an irregular octagon, in the centre there is cut, signet-wise, a device. 1908 SCARGILL-BIRD *Guide Doc. P. Rec. O.* 81 The Signet Letter differed from the Writ of Privy Seal by omitting from the face of the document both the name and titles of the King and of the person to whom it was addressed.

Signet, obs. variant of CYGNET.

Si·gnet, *v. Sc.* Also 6 **signat.** [f. the sb.] *trans.* To stamp with a signet. Also *fig.*

1496 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* I. 321 Giffin to a boy, to ryn fra Edinburgh to Linlithquho to Watte Chepman to signet tua letteris to pas to woddis, xij *d.* *a* 1578 LINDESAY (Pitscottie) *Chron. Scot.* (S. T. S.) I. 90 This wreittand [= writing] beand subscryuit and signatit with the kingis signit was..delyuerit to Schir Patrick Gray. 1609 SKENE *Reg. Maj.*, *Forme of Proces* 111 Stewards, or Baillies, sall haue ane signet..with the quhilk they sall signet all letters, and precepts execut be them. 1638 *Reg. Privy Counc. Scot.* VII. 101 Wee..command..all keepers of the signet, from signeting thairof. 1685 Sir G. MACKENZIE *Religious Stoic* i. 6 With whose image it is signeted. 1752 J. LOUTHIAN *Form Process* (ed. 2) 71 These Letters are signet with the Seal of Court. 1858 CARLYLE *Fredk. Gt.* II. iii. (1872) IV. 48 Friedrich..soon manufactured the necessary Passport, signeted in due form. 1868 *Act* 31 & 32 *Vict.* c. 100 § 13 Summonses passing the signet shall continue to be signeted as at present.

transf. 1829 SCOTT *Anne of G.* XXXV, The citation was.. written, as was the form, upon parchment, signeted with three crosses, and stuck to the table with a knife.

Hence **Si·gneting** *vbl. sb.*

1687 A. HAIG in J. Russell *Haigs* (1881) xi. 332 It cost 1 lib. 10 sh. for signeting. 1875 *Sc. Acts* XII. Index s.v. *Signet*, Ratification of an act of sederunt regarding the signeting of summonses.

Signet-ring. [SIGNET *sb.*] A finger-ring containing a signet.

1681 GREW *Museum* III. i. iv. 290 All the smaller Gems were used especially for Signets and Signet-Rings. 1726 AYLIFFE *Parergon* 132 Such are sealed on Wax only,..that is to say, with the Impression of a Signet-Ring. 1813 SCOTT *Let. in Lockhart* (1837) III. ii. 101 A Sultan who consulted Solomon on the proper inscription for a signet-ring. 1861 KING *Antiq. Gems* (1866) p. xxxviii, Signet-rings must have attained universal popularity in Greece before 600 B. C. 1878 J. MILLER *Songs of Italy* 82, I would be the richest King That ever wore a signet-ring.

†**Si·gneur,** obs. variant of SENIOR *sb.*

1588 SHAKS. *L. L. L.* I. ii. 10 *Boy.* By a familiar demonstration of the working, my tough signeur. *Brag.* Why tough signeur? Why tough signeur?

So †**Si·gneury,** seniority. *Obs.*

1594 SHAKS. *Rich. III*, IV. iv. 36 If ancient sorrow be most reuerent, Giue mine the benefit of signeurie.

Signeury, obs. form of SEIGNEURY.

Signifer (si·gnifəɪ). Now *rare.* [a. L. *signifer*, f. *signum* SIGN *sb.* + *-fer* bearing. So obs. F. *signifer* (in sense 2).]

†1. The Zodiac. *Obs.*

c 1374 CHAUCER *Troylus* V. 1020 Cynthea hir char-hors over-raughte..And Signifer his kandles sheweth brighte. *c* 1425 WYNTOUN *Cron.* I. xvi. 1582 His coursse haldande be hym selff..Sex monethe and twa þer Fra he entre in þe Signifere. 1535 STEWART *Cron. Scot.* I. 89 He knew..Of signifer the greit obliquitie Fra Aries to Cancer. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* II. iv, The circle called Signifer, or the Zodiake.

2. A standard-bearer, leader.

c 1450 HOLLAND *Howlat* 359 The Empriour Almane the armes he weris, As signifer souerane. 1596 WARNER *Alb. Eng.* X. lix. (1602) 257 Now to the Tribes was Dauid as the Zodiacke in the Signes, Euen Signifer to euery Prince that circled his Confines. 1902 *Speaker* 14 June 305/2 Quiet are Clan and Chief, and quiet Centurion and Signifer.

So **Signi·ferent** [cf. OF. *signiferant*], **Signi·ferous** *adjs.*, bearing a standard.

1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.*, *Signiferous*,..that bears a sign, Standard or Image. 1819 *Blackw. Mag.* V. 548 Let the present work..be lauded in the tuneful periods of his signiferent admirer.

Signifi·able, *a. rare.* [f. SIGNIFY *v.*] Capable of being signified.

1885 *Encycl. Brit.* XVIII. 766/2 Now what is it that is directly signifiable in the world about us?

†**Signi·fiance.** *Obs* Also 3–4 **signefi-a(u)nce,** 4–5 **signifiaunce** (5 **-yfi-, -yffy-**); 4 **syngnefi-,** 5- **fyaunce,** etc. [a. OF. *signe-, signifiance*, etc.: see SIGNIFY *v.* and -ANCE.] = SIGNIFICANCE.

c 1250 *Kent. Serm.* in *O. E. Misc.* 28 Nu ye habbet i-herd þo signefiance of þo offringes þet maden þo þrie kinges of heþenesse to gode. *c* 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 8243 Þe white dragon ys syngnefiaunce þat þey schul take of þe vengaunce. *c* 1374 CHAUCER *Troylus* V. 362 A straw for alle swevenes signifiaunce! 1422 tr. *Secreta Secret., Priv. Priv.* 135 A signyfiance and a tokyne of connynge and vndyrstondynge. 1483 CAXTON *G. de la Tour* e b, Here may the sinnar take faire signyffyaunce or ensample. *c* 1570 *Pride & Lowl.* (1841) 3 Of his woords and speach who did misdeeme, Or sought not rather their signifiance.

Significance (signi·fikăns). [a. OF. *signifiance*, or ad. L. *significantia*, f. L. *significāre* to SIGNIFY: cf. SIGNIFIANCE. Not frequent before the 19th cent., but cf. next.]

1. The meaning or import *of* something.

c 1450 *Merlin* ii. 39 Often axed Vortiger of Merlyn the significance of the two dragons. [*Ibid.* 40 significaunce.] 1649 MILTON *Eikon.* viii. 73 Empty sentences, that have the sound of gravity, but the significance of nothing pertinent. *a* 1699 STILLINGFL. (J.), If he declares he intends it for the honour of another, he takes away by his words the significance of his action. 1825 COLERIDGE *Rem.* (1836) II. 349 What the several significances of each must or may be according to the philosophic conception. 1851 D. WILSON *Preh. Ann.* (1863) II. iv. ii. 225 The special significance of the symbols. 1871 RUSKIN *Fors Clav.* iii. 11 One great species of the British squire, under all the three significances of the name.

b. Without const.: Meaning; suggestiveness.

1814 SCOTT *Wav.* xxxvii, She gave Waverley a parting smile and nod of significance. 1863 GEO. ELIOT *Romola*, III. xxiv, To one who is anxiously in search of a certain object the faintest suggestions have a peculiar significance. 1866 G. MACDONALD *Ann. Q. Neighb.* xxix. (1878) 501 She had looked at me strangely—that is, with some significance in her face.

2. Importance, consequence.

1725 DE FOE *Voy. round World* (1840) 15 Of such significance, that, for many years, it was counted a great exploit to pass this Strait. 1733 P. SHAW tr. *Bacon's De Sap. Vet.* (1893) 77 All their endeavours, either of persuasion or force, are of little significance. 1841 MYERS *Cath. Th.* III. § 4. 12 Many of the statutes and ordinances..derive their chief significance from their reference to Egyptian rites and institutions. 1867 SPENCER *First Princ.* I. i. § 4 (1875) 17 In the existence of a religious sentiment..we have a second evidence of great significance. 1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) III. 155 The omission is not of any real significance.

Significancy (signi·fikănsi). [See prec. and -ANCY.]

1. The quality of being highly significant or expressive; expressiveness.

c 1595 CAREW *Excell. Eng. Tongue* in G. G. Smith *Eliz. Crit. Ess.* II. 286 What soeuer tongue will gaine the race of perfection must runn on those fower wheeles, Significancye, Easynes, Copiousnes, & Sweetnes. *Ibid.* 288 Neither maye I omitt the significancy of our prouerbes, concise in wordes but plentifull in number. 1641 J. JACKSON *True Evang. T.* II. 142 It is of brave significancy to expresse the..cleansing quality of Christs blood. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg.* Postscr. to Rdr., Antiquated words..are never to be reviv'd, but when Sound or Significancy is wanting in the present Language. 1709 BERKELEY *Th. Vision* § 125 By the clearness and significancy of what he says. 1712 SWIFT *Let. Eng. Tongue* Wks. 1751 IV. 241 Dunces of Figure, who had Credit enough to give rise to some New Word,.. tho' it had neither Humour nor Significancy. 1824 COLERIDGE *Aids Refl.* (1848) I. 301 Though its own beauty, simplicity, and natural significancy had pleaded less strongly in its behalf. 1847 C. BRONTË *J. Eyre* xvii, 'I will tell you in your private ear,' replied she, wagging her turban three times with portentous significancy. 1871 J. R. MACDUFF *Mem. Patmos* xii. 162 This interpretation is brought out with greater force and significancy in the verse which follows.

2. The quality of being significant, of having a meaning or import.

1631 J. BURGES *Answ. Rejoined, Lawfuln. Kneeling* 53 Significancy maketh a Ceremony to bee evill. 1672 MARVELL *Reh. Transp.* I. 247 The imposing of a significant Ceremony, is no more than to impose significancy upon a word. 1707 NORRIS *Treat. Humility* vii, 273 As there is significancy in motion, so there are some passions which motion only can speak. 1754 EDWARDS *Freed. Will* II. x. (1762) 96 Again (if Language is of any Significancy at all) if Motives excite Volition, then they are the Cause of its being excited. 1816 J. GILCHRIST *Philos. Etym.* 23 As there is a relation between these two methods of significancy, the one may be employed to explain the other. 1850 BLACKIE *Æschylus* II. 296 The significancy of a name affords of itself no presumption against its historical reality.

b. The meaning or import (*of* something).

1641 J. JACKSON *True Evang. T.* I. 50 If we withall take the word Martyr in the fullest importance and significancy of the word. 1668 HOWE *Blessedness Righteous* (1825) 6 The word..hath the significancy we here give it. 1774 *Chesterfield's Lett.* (1792) I. Advt. p. xi, They are so varied and their significancy thrown into .. so many different lights, that they could not be altered. 1786–1805 H. TOOKE *Purley* (1829) I. 40 The right use, significancy, and force of all words except the names of Ideas. 1840 *Blackw. Mag.* XLVII. 153 These symbols had lost their significancy to the mob. 1866 CANDLISH *1st Ep. St. John* xv. 167 Such is the import and significancy of the proposition that Jesus is the Christ.

† **c.** A significant thing. *Obs.*

1635–56 COWLEY *Davideis* IV. Note 28 That Oyl mixt with any other liquor, still gets uppermost, is perhaps one of the chiefest Significancies in the Ceremony of Anointing Kings and Priests.

3. Importance, consequence.

1679 in *Somers' Tracts* I. 75 Of what little Significancy the Resolves of the Council..are to the imposing a Supreme Ruler upon the Nation. 1712 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 317 ¶ 2 They are neither missed in the Commonwealth, nor lamented by private Persons. Their Actions are of no Significancy to Mankind. 1753 HANWAY *Trav.* (1762) I. Ded. p. viii, This opinion of our own significancy will however be corrected by the judgment of the public. 1847 S. AUSTIN *Ranke's Hist. Ref.* III. 71 Zwingli..kept mainly in view the practical significancy of scripture as a whole. 1864 J. H. NEWMAN *Apol.* ii. (1904) 39/1 Men on either side..attached no significancy to the fact.

Significant (signi·fikănt), *a.* and *sb.* [ad. L. *significant-*, stem of *significans*, pres. pple. of *significāre* to SIGNIFY.]

A. *adj.* **1.** Full of meaning or import; highly expressive or suggestive: **a.** Of words, etc.

1579 E. K. *Ded. Spenser's Sheph. Cal.*, Other some.., if they happen to here an olde word, albeit very naturall and significant, crye out streightway [etc.]. 1596 BACON *Max. & Use Com. Law* Pref., Because it is most familiar to the Students and..most significant to expresse conceits of law. 1620 SHELTON *Quix.* To Rdr. A 2 b, Endeuour to deliuer with significant, plaine, honest, and wel-ordred words thy Iouiall and cheerefull discourse. 1668 *Publisher's Pref. to Rolle's Abridgment* 2 His Arguments were fitted to prove and evince,..his words few, but significant and weighty. 1769 E. BANCROFT *Guiana* 328 They are mutually entertained..with a variety of fables, which are merry, significant, and replete. 1781 J. RIPLEY *Sel. Orig. Lett.* 41 Let the words English and Scotch be obliterated and lost in that more ancient and significant word Britons. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* vi. II. 117 He lived and died, in the significant phrase of one of his countrymen, a bad Christian, but a good Protestant. 1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) I. 262 [He] breaks off with a significant hint.

b. Of things, gestures, actions, etc.

1643 TRAPP *Comm. Gen.* xli. 11 That is, no vain dreame, but significant, and deserving an interpreter. 1710 SHAFTESB. *Charac.* (1737) II. iii. ii. 393, I saw so significant a Smile on Theocles's Face, that it stopt me. 1778 MISS BURNEY *Evelina* lxxii, She looked at me with a significant archness that made me colour. 1831 LAMB *Elia* II. *Ellistoniana*, Gathering up his features into one significant mass of wonder, pity, and expostulatory indignation. 1858 FROUDE *Hist. Eng.* III. 87 The upper house had been treated in disputes which had arisen with significant disrespect. 1874 GREEN *Short Hist.* iv. § 5. 204 A significant act followed these emphatic words.

c. Important, notable.

a 1761 LAW *Comf. Weary Pilgr.* (1809) 19 Whoever he is ..that seems..to have made himself significant in any kind of religious distinction. 1857 MAURICE *Mor. & Met. Philos.* IV. vi. § 6. 209 A little man may be a very significant man. 1890 *Amer. Jrnl. Sci.* Ser. III. XL. 66 Arsenic acid can be evaporated..without danger of significant volatilization.

2. Having or conveying a meaning; signifying something.

1597 HOOKER *Eccl. Pol.* v. lxv. § 5 A special dislike they have to hear that ceremonies now in use should be thought significant. 1608 TOPSELL *Serpents* (1658) 626 Their voyce was not a significant voyce, but a kinde of scrietching. 1693 J. EDWARDS *Author. O. & N. Test.* 103 Adam gave..proper and significant names to all creatures. 1751 HARRIS *Hermes* Wks. (1841) 124 For all words are significant, or else they would not be words. 1843 MILL *Logic* I. vii. § 1 A general, which is as much as to say a significant name. 1871 C. DAVIES *Metric Syst.* III. 157 The names of the months were to be significant.

b. *Significant figure*, in ordinary notation and decimal fractions, any one of the figures from 1 to 9, in contrast to the cipher.

Earlier terms are *significative* and *signifying figure*.

1690 LEYBOURN *Curs. Math.* 148 To have 6 Cyphers before the significant figure of each of them. 1706 W. JONES *Syn. Palmar. Matheseos* 22 Multiply the Significant Figures by the former Rules, and annex to the Product as many Cyphers. 1798 HUTTON *Course Math.* (1799) I. 4 The first nine are called Significant Figures, as distinguished from the cipher, which is quite insignificant of itself. 1879 THOMSON & TAIT *Nat. Phil.* I. i. § 431 Few measurements of any kind are correct to more than six significant figures.

3. Expressive or indicative *of* something.

1793 HOLCROFT tr. *Lavater's Physiog.* viii. 48 Blue eyes are generally more significant of weakness..than brown or black. 1827 G. HIGGINS *Celtic Druids* Pref. p. i, Thus words are sounds significant of ideas. 1841 HELPS *Ess., Judgm. Other Men* (1842) 37 The most important of his actions may be anything but the most significant of the man. 1867 SMILES *Huguenots Eng.* ix. (1880) 143 One of the first acts of Louis XIV..was significant of his future policy with regard to the Huguenots.

4. quasi-*adv.* = SIGNIFICANTLY.

1861 LYTTON & FANE *Tannhäuser* 14 The sullen barons on each other stared Significant.

B. *sb.* Something which expresses or conveys a meaning; a sign, symbol, indication.

1588 SHAKS. *L. L. L.* III. i, 131 Beare this significant to the countrey Maide Iaquenetta. 1591 — 1 *Hen. VI*, II. iv. 26 Since you are tongue-ty'd, and so loth to speake, In dumbe significants proclayme your thoughts. 1628 FELTHAM *Resolves* II. xx. 64, I see not, but that Diuinity, put into apt significants, might rauish as well as Poetry. 1655 STANLEY *Hist. Philos.* (1687) 435/2 The second Question concerning Words, is of their Power, περὶ σημαινόντων, of Significants. 1825 COLERIDGE *Aids Refl.* (1848) I. 273 The contradictory admission, that Regeneration is the *significatum*, of which Baptism is the significant. 1830 WORDSW. *Egyptian Maid* 251 In my glass significants there are Of things that may to gladness turn this weeping.

Hence **Signi·ficantness**, 'significancy' (Bailey, vol. II, 1727).

Significantly (signi·fikăntli), *adv.* [f. prec. + -LY 2.] In a significant manner; so as to convey some meaning; expressively, meaningly

1577 tr. *Bullinger's Decades* (1592) 445 He doth more significantly expres his meaning in that which followeth. 1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* (1658) 75 Therefore Terence did significantly describe a good servant by the name of Dromo. 1663 MARQ. WORC. *Cent. Inv.* § 33 To write with a Needle and Thred..so that one stitch shall significantly shew any letter. 1738 tr. *Guazzo's Art Convers.* 107 There are many who have a good Invention, yet want to express themselves significantly. 1794 SULLIVAN *View Nat.* I. 321 There are those [waters]..that are significantly called mineral and medicinal. 1801 CHARLOTTE SMITH *Lett. Solit. Wand.* I. 307 They looked significantly at each other. 1877 FROUDE *Short Stud.* (1883) IV. i. vi. 69 An embassy was despatched to Rome, John of Oxford..being significantly one of its members.

Significate (signi·fikĕt), *sb.* Also 5, 7 -at. [ad. L. *significāt-um*, pa. pple. neut. of *significāre* to SIGNIFY. So obs. F. *significat.*] That which is signified or symbolized.

c 1449 PECOCK *Repr.* II. v. 163 The likenes of a signe to his significat (that is to seie, to the thing signified bi him). 1569 J. SANFORD tr. *Agrippa's Van. Artes* 7 Wyse men haue taken in hand to make rules of speaking, that is, the constructions of the Regimente, and of the Significates. 1655 STANLEY *Hist. Philos.* (1687) 435/2 Chrysippus divided Dialectick into two parts,..of Significants, and Significats. 1827 WHATELY *Logic* II. i. § 3 A common term stands for several individuals. *Note.* These individuals are called its *significates*. 1874 *Contemp. Rev.* XXIV. 692 In a symbol there is always something more to be understood than the symbol itself—namely, the significates.

† **Significate,** *pa. pple. Obs. rare.* [ad. pa. pple. of L. *significāre*: see prec.] Signified, indicated.

1432–50 tr. *Higden* (Rolls) II. 373 Thaughe fables be not trewe, neuertheles thei cause trawthe in the thynge significate by theyme. 1533 BELLENDEN *Livy* (S. T. S.) II. 272 Thus war sex centuris of horsmen ekit..vnder the auld Names as war significate afore be augurys.

Signification (signifikē·ʃən). Forms: 4– **signific-** (5 **singn-**), 5 **signe-**, 6 **signifyc-**; 4–5 **signyfyc-**; 4 **sygnyfic-**, 5–6 **sygnifyc-**, **sygnyfyc-** (5 **-ffyc-**), 6 **sygnific-**; also 4 **-acioun**, 5 **-acyoun**, **-aciown**, 4–6 **-acion**, **-acyon** (5 **-asion**). [a. OF. *signification*, *-aciun*, etc., or ad. L. *significātio*, noun of action f. *significāre* to SIGNIFY.]

1. The fact or property of being significant or expressive of something.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 3380 Bot þai it did for sum reson, And thoru signification. *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (Roxb.) xxi. 96 It es noȝt done withouten a grete significacion and a grete cause. *c* 1450 *Merlin* ii. 38 Send after alle the gode men of thi londe to se the bataile, for it hath grete signification. 1532 MORE *Confut. Tindale* Wks. 471/2 He sayth that so it might in dede, yf yᵉ the wycked Pope had not taken away the significacions of our sacramentes from vs. 1597 HOOKER *Eccl. Pol.* v. lxv. § 5 Ceremonies destitute of signification are no better than the idle gestures of men whose broken wits are not masters of that they do. 1643 TRAPP *Comm. Gen.* ix. 14 The Rainbow hath *in* it two contrary significations, *viz.* of rain, and fair-weather. 1788 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) II. 290/2 An additional character..is necessary, which has no signification when placed by itself.

b. Importance, consequence, significance. Now *rare* or *dial.*

1670 CLARENDON *Hist. Reb.* xv. § 42 Who, as soon as they were removed,..were found to be of no signification, or to have influence upon any men. 1725 DE FOE *Voy. round World* (1840) 276 A station of life where..gold..would be of no value.., nay, not of signification enough to make a present of. 1760 *Impostors Detected* I. Advt. 7, I met with the following MSS. which at that time I thought of little signification. 1794 GODWIN *Caleb Williams* 84 It is no signification putting your questions to us. We only do as we are directed. 1839 SIR G. C. LEWIS *Gloss. Heref.* s.v., *Of no signification*, of no importance. 1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss.* s.v., It's of NO signification.

2. That which is signified by something; meaning, import, implication. Freq. const. *of*. **a.** Of words, etc.

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* xvii. clxii. (Bodl. MS.), Tabula..is in one significacioun a mete borde. 1432–50 tr. *Higden* (Rolls) III. 155 Cresus askede then cownsaile of his Goddes, whiche deceyuede hym by a worde equiuocate,.. hauenge diuerse significaciones. *c* 1465 *Pol., Rel., & L. Poems* (1866) 37 This worde Anima hath many significacions. 1532 MORE *Confut. Tindale* Wks. 417/1, I sayde..that this is trewe of the vsuall significacion of these wordes themselfe in the English tounge. 1588 FRAUNCE *Lawiers Log.* I. ii. 10 b, Which are Greeke woordes of like signification. 1611 BIBLE *Transl. Pref.* ¶ 15 Diuersitie of signification and sense in the margine..must needes doe good. 1651 HOBBES *Leviath.* I. iv. 13 The Name *Body* is of larger signification than the word *Man*. 1718 *Free-thinker* No. 62. 47 Care was taken, that the Children..should have such Names as were of an agreeable Signification. 1769 E. BANCROFT *Guiana* 206 The Fire Snake, as it is called, from the signification of its Indian name. 1844 *Proc. Philol. Soc.* II. 1 The form of the word, its sound and spelling, and the signification. 1881 *Nature* XXIV. 443 As one conversant with geography in any extended signification of the word.

b. Of things, events, etc.

c 1450 LOVELICH *Merlin* 2929 Thou behyhgtest forto tellen me here the signefycacioun of the dragowns tweyne. *c* 1489 CAXTON *Sonnes of Aymon* vi. 152, I shall expowne and declare vnto you the signyfycasion of this dreme. 1535 COVERDALE *Daniel* ii. 6 Shewe me the dreame and the significacion of it. *a* 1610 HEALEY *Cebes* (1636) 206 Much talke had wee about the signification of this portraiture, but none could conceive truly what it should intend. *a* 1720 SEWEL *Hist. Quakers* To the King, To dig up Antiquities from the dark, by searching out the Signification of Statues and Inscriptions. 1794 T. TAYLOR *Pausanias' Descr. Greece* III. 104 The signification, too, of the entrails gave them the highest reason to hope that the gods would be propitious to them. 1855 PUSEY *Doctr. Real Pres.* Note A. 21 The natural signification is not changed on account of a signification annexed by the institution.

3. A thing, event, action, etc., which is significant or expressive of something.

13.. *Coer de L.* 339 The tayle henge to the grounde: That was sygnyfycacioun The hethene folke to brynge doun. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Nun's Pr. T.* 159 That dremes ben significacioun As wel of ioye as tribulacioun. 1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* X. lxiii. 523 The whiche was a ful wonderful beest and a grete sygnyfycacyon, for Merlyn profecyed moche of that beest. 1525 LD. BERNERS *Froiss.* II. clxxxvii. [clxxxiv.] 572 As he rode forwarde in the forest of Mans, a great

sygnifycacyon fell to hym. 1579 FULKE *Heskins' Parl.* 233 Saint Luke, & S. Paule, vse manifest tropes, figures, and significations. 1612 T. TAYLOR *Comm. Titus* ii. 14 Other Papists teach us, that in the masse is not the very same true and reall oblation, but onely a commemoration and signification of it. 1683 *Perswasive to Communion* 26 Are not Kneeling, and lifting up the Eyes, significations of the Reverence we owe? 1849 LYTTON *Caxtons* 16 In all these fables, certain philosophers could easily discover symbolic significations of the highest morality.

b. *In signification of*, in token of. *rare.*

c 1391 CHAUCER *Astrol.* II. § 31 Now is thin Orisonte departed in 24 parties.., in significacion of 24 partiez of the world. 1586 A. DAY *Eng. Secretary* I. (1625) A 2 In signification of the will I have to doe unto your Lordship any acceptable service.

† **c.** A sign, mark, indication, trace. *Obs.*

1576 FLEMING tr. *Caius' Eng. Dogges* (1880) 5 (So that there be some signification of bloud shed) these Dogges.. can disclose & bewray the same by smelling. 1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* (1658) 98 They have nothing but small bunches—as it were, significations of their horns to-come. *Ibid.* 395 A great floud of waters..swept them all away, leaving no more behinde then naked and bare significations of former buildings.

† **d.** A sign, gesture, cry, etc., serving to indicate desire or feeling. *Obs.*

1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* (1658) 112 By his gestures and movings they conjecture his meaning..; giving..ready obedience to his significations. 1691 RAY *Creation* I. 43 No Cruelty could be exercised towards them, which is contrary to the doleful Significations they make when beaten or tormented.

4. An indication or intimation of something.

1426 LYDG. *De Guil. Pilgr.* 22234, I..Prayed hir..That sche wolde anoon devyse There-off by exposicyoun, A cleer sygnyffycacyoun. 1432–50 tr. *Higden* (Rolls) II. 209 The creaciones of wendres be causede otherwhile to the significacion of thynges to comme. 1542 HEN. VIII *Decl. agst. Scottes* B iij, All these..gyue suche signification of theyr arrogancy, as it is necessary for vs to oppresse it in the begynning. 1586 BURGHLEY in *Leicester Corr.* (Camden) 306 Comming to me with signification that he was to depart erly in the next morning. 1638 JUNIUS *Paint. Ancients* A 3 Feeling myself inspired with courage by the signification of your noble desire.., I stoutly fell to my taske. 1674 *Essex Papers* (Camden) I. 238 You gave me an intimation of a..Letter coming..., I returne you many thanks for this signification. 1719 *Col. Rec. Pennsylvania* III. 73 Until further Signification of his Majestys or their Excellencys Pleasure. 1741 MIDDLETON *Cicero* III. IX. (ed. 3) 15 Caesar ..could never draw from the people any public signification of their favour.

b. *spec.* Notification in proper legal form.

1533–4 *Act* 25 *Hen. VIII*, c. 20 § 5 Letters patentes..commaundyng such archebishop, to whom any such significacion shalbe made, to confirme the said election. 1586 T. B. *La Primaud. Fr. Acad.* (1589) 299 Patents and commandements should be held in suspence and deferred, thirtie daies after signification and knowledge of them. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v., Some Significations are to be made to the Person himself; or, at least, at his House. 1881 *Daily News* 17 Jan. 5/1 It was contended that the statutory deprivation.. displaced the old proceeding by signification to the Court of Chancery.

† **Signi·ficatist.** *Obs. rare.* [Cf. next and -IST.] (See quots.)

1585–7 T. ROGERS *39 Art.* (1607) 289 The Symbolists, Figurists, and Significatists, who are of opinion that the faithful at the Lord's supper do receive nothing but naked and bare signs. 1625 BP. MOUNTAGU *App. Cæsar* 297 The Figurists, Significatists, Symbolists, taught you this Doctrine, who acknowledge nothing..but naked and bare signes.

Significative (signi·fikătiv), *a.* and *sb.* Also 5 significatyf, 6 -tyue, 6–7 -tiue, 7 -tyve. [a. OF. *significatif, -ive*, or ad. late L. *significātīv-us*: see SIGNIFY *v.* and -ATIVE.]

A. *adj.* **1.** Serving to signify something; having a signification or meaning.

a 1400 in Halliw. *Rara Mathem.* (1841) 29 A cifre tokeneth nothinge but he maketh other the more significatyf that comith after hym. *c* 1425 *Crafte Nombrynge* (1897) 13 þou most borow on of þe next figure significatyf in þat rewe. 1541 COVERDALE *Old Faith* x. (1547) H j b, Wherby Christ testified..that all thinges significatyue in the tabernacle.. were now fulfilled and abrogate. 1589 PUTTENHAM *Eng. Poesie* III. iv. (Arb.) 159 Which surplussage to auoide, we are allowed to draw in other words single, and asmuch significatiue. 1607 *Schol. Disc. agst. Antichr.* I. i. 32 You shall finde the Crosses of the Lordes Supper to be significatiue alone. 1639 ROBARTS *God's House & Service* x. 81 It must be taken in that significative sence, which we give thereof. *a* 1734 NORTH *Lives* (1826) I. 33 To say truth, barbarous as it [law French] is thought to be, it is concise, aptly abbreviated, and significative. 1756 J. WITHERSPOON *Treat. Regeneration* (1804) 146 Multitudes cannot be described in juster or more significative terms. 1816 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* xvii. (1818) II. 65 It does not appear that, like the bees, they emit any significative sounds. 1861 MAX MÜLLER *Sci. Lang.* Ser. I. (1864) 338 In these sesquipedalian compounds the significative root remains distinct.

b. Serving as a sign or indication *of* something.

1637–50 in ROW *Hist. Kirk* (Wodrow Soc.) 264, I have receaved your short but right significative letter of your sound and ardent affection .. toward the cause. 1651 HOBBES *Leviath.* II. xxxi. 192 Those Attributes are to be held significative of Honour, that men intend shall so be. 1664 H. MORE *Myst. Iniq.* 240 So plain is it that an Hail-storm is significative of the incursion and assault of an enemie. 1713 *Guardian* No. 170, The use of letters, as significative of these sounds. 1859 RUSKIN *Two Paths* v. § 164 Your closest wooden paling..is significative of pleasant parks. 1875 *Good Words* II. 130 On various minds it [Niagara] leaves various impressions; and perhaps this is significative of its real power.

2. Highly significant or suggestive.

1677 MARVELL *Corr.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 540 After this weighty and significative message, the Secretary added [etc]. 1678 R. BARCLAY *Apol. Quakers* v. § 20. 157 A familiar Example, yet very significative in this case. 1855 MOTLEY *Dutch Rep.* II. 122 On the night of the 8th September, Egmont received another most significative and mysterious warning. 1860 RUSKIN *Mod. Paint.* V. IX. XI. § 31 How strangely significative, thus understood, those last Venetian dreams of his become.

B. *sb.* A thing or word serving to signify or indicate something.

1641 'SMECTYMNUUS' *Vind. Answ.* ii. 36 The Surplice is a significative of divine alacritie and integritie. 1765 in *Ann. Reg., Charact.* (1767) 135 Attacah, Deliverance, Pihahiroth, whether an appellative or significative. 1788 tr. *Swedenborg's White Horse* 16 Scarce any one knows..that those Significatives were derived from the Ancient Representative Churches to the Gentiles. 1893 *N.Y. New-Church Messenger* 19 Apr. 243 Our entire written language is a system of significatives pure and simple.

Hence **Signi·ficativeness.**

1665 J. SERGEANT *Sure Footing* 31 You hold that any particular Text you alledge is truly a part of the Scriptures Letter, and not foisted in, or some way altered in its significativeness. 1697 — *Solid Philos.* 276 From the Nature of the Words, as Words; that is, from their Significativeness. 1860 WORCESTER (citing *Westm. Rev.*).

Significatively (signi·fikătivli), *adv.* [f. prec. + -LY 2.] In a significative manner; by signification; suggestively; expressively.

1564 RASTELL *Confut. Jewel's Serm.* 140 The body of Christ is, onlye..sacramentallie, significatiuelye,..imaginatiuelie, in the Sacrament. 1579 FULKE *Heskins' Parl.* 203 The same is eaten in the sacrament as in a mysterie, significatiuely. 1624 GATAKER *Transubst.* 13 That the Bread be Christs body significatively (that is, by signification onely). *a* 1661 FULLER *Worthies* I. vi. (1662) 18 *Amiral* (thus compounded) was significatively comprehensive of his Jurisdiction.

Significator (si·gnifike·ltəɹ). [a. med.L. *significātor*, agent-noun f. L. *significāre* to SIGNIFY. Cf. F. *significateur.*]

1. *Astrol.* **a.** The planet by which the querent or the quesited is specially signified (see quot. 1647).

1584 R. SCOT *Discov. Witchcr.* XI. XXI. (1886) 169 They seeke to find out the meaning of the significators, attributing to them the ends of all things. 1647 LILLY *Chr. Astrol.* 48 When we name the Lord of the Ascendant, or Significator of the Querent, or thing quesited; we meane no other thing then that Planet who is Lord of that Signe which ascends, or Lord of that Signe from which house the thing demanded is required. 1671 BLAGRAVE *Astrol. Pract. Phys.* Pref. 4 Who is strongest in the Heavens by essential dignities, shall afflict the Principal significator of the sick. 1815 SCOTT *Guy M.* iv, There was one significator, which pressed remarkably upon our astrologer's attention. 1895 *Mod. Astrol.* I 21 The position of the Significator, or lord of the Ascendant, in the fixed sign Taurus.

b. (See quot.)

1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Ascendent*, The Degree of the Equator which rises upon the Horizon, at the Time of the Birth of any one,.. is also called the First House, the Oriental Angle, and the Significator of Life.

2. That which signifies or indicates. *rare.*

1649 HEYLIN *Relat. & Observ.* II. 252 To leavy warre against the Parliament, shall stand alone, be the onely significator, and take up the whole roome in the Endictment. 1669 WORLIDGE *Syst. Agric.* (1681) 292 The most principal significator of the varieties of weather, the Countryman esteems the Moon to be.

Significatory (signi·fikătəri), *a.* and *sb.* [ad. late L. *significātōri-us.*]

A. *adj.* Serving to signify or intimate.

1579 FENTON *Guicciard.* VII. (1599) 288 Cæsar caused to be publikely read the Popes writ, with many other letters significatorie from diuerse places. 1641 WILKINS *Mercury* XX. (1707) 82 These Informations by significatory Fires, have been of Ancient Use. 1663 OWEN *Vind. Animadv.* Wks. 1851 XIV. 430 Hadrian..refused to receive him into the society of patriarchs upon his sending of his significatory epistle. 1831 KEIGHTLEY *Mythol.* 68 His name appears to denote invisibility, significatory of the nature of the realm over which he ruled. 1880 *19th Cent.* Sept. 430 The significatory relation between a substantive and its..verb.

B. *sb.* A thing significative. *rare.*

1660 JER. TAYLOR *Worthy Communicant* i. 42 Here being (as in baptisme) a double significatory of the spirit, a word and a signe.., it is certain he will joyn in this ministration.

Significa·trix. *Astrol.* [L. fem. form corresponding to *significator.*] = SIGNIFICATOR 1 a.

1647 LILLY *Chr. Astrol.* [xxiii. 421 The ☽ her Significatrix [being] neer the ☉. 1653 R. SANDERS *Physiogn.* 152 The Moon is..commonly significatrix in Flegmatick nativities.

Signi·ficature. *rare*—1. = SIGNIFICANCE I.

1855 MCCOSH *Div. Govt.* II. i. (ed. 4) 124 The morphological significature of the limbs of vertebrate animals has likewise been determined by Professor Owen.

‖ **Significavit** (signifkə·ivit). *Eccles. law.* [L., 3rd sing. perf. indic. of *significāre* to SIGNIFY. Cf. OF. *significavit* (Godef.).] A form of writ employed in ecclesiastical cases; *spec.* one formerly issued by Chancery for the arrest of an excommunicated person; also, the bishop's certificate on which such a writ is based.

c 1386 CHAUCER *Prol.* 664 Of cursing oghte ech gilty man him drede..And also war him of a significavit. 1559 *Boke Presidentes* 14 b, The fourme of a Sygnyficauit to the Metropolytane of the prouins vpon a newe foundacyon of a byshopriche. 1562–3 *Act* 5 *Eliz.* c. 23 § 6 After any Significavit being of Recorde in the sayd Courte of Chancerie, the tenour of suche Significavit by Mittimus shalbee sent [etc.]. 1607 MIDDLETON *Phœnix* II. iii, No, No I say; if it bee for defect of Apparance, take me out a speciall Significauit. *a* 1683 J. OWEN *True Nat. Gosp. Ch.* x. (1689) 216 Of what use a Significavit and Capias may be in this case I know not. 1714 BURNET *Hist. Ref.* III. III. v. 261 He sent a Significavit of some Heretics to be delivered to the Secular Arm. 1767 BURN *Eccl. Law* II. 206 At the common law, a certificate of the bishop, whereupon a significavit was to be granted, ought to express the cause. 1881 *Daily News* 17 Jan. 5/1 The first point taken..was that the Judge..had no power to enforce obedience to an inhibition issued under the Act by the process of significavit.

Signi·fics. [f. SIGNIFIC-ANCE, on the analogy of forms in *-ics* (see -IC 2). Introduced by Lady Welby in 1896.] A proposed science and educational method based upon the importance of realizing the exact significance of terms and conceptions, and their influence on thought and life.

The terms *signific(al* adjs., *significally* adv., and *significian* sb., have also been employed.

1896 LADY WELBY in *Mind* (Jan.) 32 Taking advantage of the child's endless store of interest and curiosity, it ought to be easy to make 'Significs' or 'Sensifics' the most attractive of studies. 1903 — *Ibid.* 161 Significs, then, will bring us the philosophy of Significance, i. e. a raising of our whole conception of meaning to a higher and more efficient level.

Si·gnified, *ppl. a.* [f. SIGNIFY *v.*] Indicated.

1638 W. MOUNTAGU in *Buccleuch MSS.* (Hist. MSS. Comm.) I. 277 God fit us for the signified time. 1644 MILTON *Areop.* (Arb.) 33 More gently..then other Courts.. would have endur'd the least signifi'd dislike. 1786 A. GIB *Sacr. Contempl.* I. 33 A signified and sealed promise of eternal life.

Si·gnifier. [f. as prec. + -ER 1.] One who or that which signifies; a significator.

1532 MORE *Confut. Tindale* Wks. 383/2 He meaneth yᵗ.. yᵉ sacrament..is no cause thereof..but only a bare signyfier & a shewer therof. 1586 LUPTON *1000 Notable Things* § 59 Whosoeuer falles sicke in that yere wherein there is an Eclipse, and the Signifiers of the sayd Eclipse be in the Ascendent [etc.]. 1607 *Schol. Disc. agst. Antichr.* 97 It is God who is the signifier vnto vs of things spirituall. 1624 [see SIGNIFYING *ppl. a.*]. 1668 CULPEPPER & COLE *Barthol. Anat.* III. vii. 143 It hath Muscles, which Platonis terms the signifiers of the Affections of the Mind.

† **Signifure.** *Obs. rare.* [app. a. OF. **signifeure*, f. *signifier* to SIGNIFY.] Signification, sign.

c 1450 *Coventry Myst.* (Shaks. Soc.) 200 My baptyme is but signifure Of his baptyme. *Ibid.* 367 Have not prophetys ..Spoke be tokenys in signifure That Cryste xuld deye for 3our valure?

Signify (si·gnifəi), *v.* Also 3–5 **signe-** (3, 5 **singne-**), 4–6 **signy-**; 4–6 **sygni-** (5 **sygne-, syni-**), 5–6 **sygny-** (5 **syngny-**); and 4 **-fi**, 3–5 **-fie**, 4–6 **-fye.** [ad. F. *signifier* (12th c., = Prov. *signifiar, -ficar*, Sp. and Pg. *significar*, It. *significare*), ad. L. *significāre*, f. *signum* SIGN *sb.*]

1. *trans.* To be a sign or symbol of; to represent, betoken, mean.

c 1250 *Kent. Serm.* in *O.E. Misc.* 27 Þet Gold þet is bricht.. signefieth þe gode beleaue þet is bricht ine þe gode cristenemannes herte. *a* 1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* Prol., Þis boke is distyngid in thris fyfty psalmes, in þe whilk thre statis of cristin mannys religion is sygnifyd. 1402 *Pol. Poems* (Rolls) II. 56 Foure angels singneſien foure general synnes. 1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* XIII. xiv. 631 The two knyghtes sygnefyen the two dedely synnes. 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 65 b, This signifieth my body. 1597 HOOKER *Eccl. Pol.* v. lviii. § 2 The secret grace which they [the sacraments] signifie and exhibit. 1611 BEAUM. & FL. *Philaster* I. i, Then took he up his Garland and did shew, What every flower as Country people hold, Did signifie. 1687 DRYDEN *Hind & P.* I. 424 For what is signify'd and understood, Is, by her own confession, flesh and blood. 1729 BUTLER *Serm.* Wks. 1874 II. 56 These words are intended to signify certain forms of civility. 1753 HOGARTH *Anal. Beauty* xi, The arrows [of Apollo] may be allowed to signify the sun's rays. 1869 RUSKIN *Q. Air* § 8 It may be easy to prove that the ascent of Apollo in his chariot signifies nothing but the rising of the sun.

absol. 1533 FRITH *Answ. More* (1829) 231 Now, if they be signs, then they do signify, and are not the very thing itself. 1652 GAULE *Magastrom.* 228 Every voyce, therefore, that is significative, first of all signifies by the influence of the cœlestial harmony.

b. To betoken, foreshow, indicate as something that is to take place. Also *absol.*

13.. *K. Alis.* 596 (Laud MS.), Þe eye rounde shal signifie þat he shal habbe seignorye Of þis rounde myddell erd. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 306 A Raven, be whom yit men mai Take evidence, whan he crieth, That som mishapp it signefieth. *c* 1440 *York Myst.* XV. 15 Or he be borne in burgh hereby, ..A sterne shulde schyne and signifie, With lightfull lemes. *a* 1450 *Knt. de la Tour* (1868) 11, Y wille shewe you what youre auision signifiethe. *c* 1475 *Brut* (1908) 603 Þere aperyd in þe ffirmament a gret sterre,..whiche synified gret sorw, & myschef þat fylle aftyrward. 1530 PALSGR. 718/1, I sawe a marvaylouse thyng in the ayre yesterday what so ever it dothe signifye. 1665 COWLEY in Johnson *L.P.* (1868) 8 What this signifies, or may come to in time, God knows; if it be ominous it can end in nothing less than hanging.

2. Of words, etc.: To have the import or meaning of; to mean, denote.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 22988 Ierom sais .. þat Iosaphat mai signifi Vr lauerd dome. *a* 1400 *Pistill of Susan* 287 What signefyes, gode sone, þese sawes þat þou seis? 1432–50 tr. *Higden* (Rolls) II. 151 For *dal* in the langage of theyme signifiethe parte. *c* 1510 MORE *Picus* Wks. 18/1 This name Jesus signifieth a sauioure. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* (1637) 204, I have heard likewise, that *Caer* in the Syriack tongue, signified, *a Citie*. 1696 WHISTON *Th. Earth* II. (1722) 173 The very Name of Typhon..signifies a Deluge

or Inundation. 1770 J. CLUBBE *Misc. Tracts* II. 141 Which is expressed by a word in the Hebrew, that signifies *to initiate*. 1837 P. KEITH *Bot. Lex.* 40 The autumn is designated by a term signifying the fall of the leaf. 1876 TAIT *Rec. Adv. Phys. Sci.* (ed. 3) 365 We now employ the term *Energy* to signify the power of doing work.

absol. 1668 H. MORE *Div. Dial.* IV. xiii. (1713) 315 You are to understand..that the Kingdom of God in the New Testament signifies variously. 1681 T. FLATMAN *Heraclitus Ridens* No. 66 (1713) II. 161 Conscience and Honesty are general Words, and signify, according to the mind of the Speaker.

3. To make known, intimate, announce, declare.

1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 3233 Me cluped him Vter pendragon ..& þat was to singnefie þat merlin him clupede dragon in is prophecye. 1382 WYCLIF *Acts* xi. 28 Oon of hem.. signyfiede bi the spirit a greet hungir to comynge in al the roundnesse of erthis. *c* 1400 *Rom. Rose* 7165 Thus myche wole our book signifie, That while Petre hath maistrie May never Johan shewe welle his myght. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* VII. v. 141 The self stranger, quham fatale destane Signifyit to cum furth of ane wncouth stede To be his son in law. 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 228 It is reported not onlie in Germany, but also sygnyfyed oute of Italye, and other places. 1604 E. G[RIMSTONE] *D'Acosta's Hist. Indies* VI. v. 442 A man of iudgement may aske, how they could signifie their conceptions by figures. 1663 GERBIER *Counsel* d 5, When no living creature was come from Europe into that part of America to signifie that newes. 1749 FIELDING *Tom Jones* (1775) III. 69 The 'squire and the parson..were smoaking their pipes together, when the arrival of the lady was first signified. 1781 GIBBON *Decl. & F.* xix. (1787) II. 132 His first step was to signify a concise and haughty mandate. 1837 LOCKHART *Scott* III. x. 324 In compliance with Scott's wish as signified in the letter last quoted. 1884 *Graphic* 16 Aug. 162/3 Her Majesty has signified her intention of subscribing 200*l.* to the Building Fund.

b. Const. *to* († *unto*).

c 1430 LYDG. *Min. Poems* (Percy Soc.) 127 To signefie to pope and to prelate, How this world is a thurghfare ful of woo. 1490 CAXTON *Eneydos* xvii. 65 He..stroof wyth hymself by what wayes he myghte signyfie it vnto her..for to gyue her lesse sorowe. 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 226 b, The Duke of Saxon and the Lantzgrave immediatly signifye to themperour by letters the whole matter. 1597 MORLEY *Introd. Mus.* Ded., To publish these labors of mine vnder your name..to signifie unto the world my thankfull mind. 1605 CAMDEN *Rem., Allusions* (1623) 140 It was also signified vnto him, they were borne in..Northumberland. 1689 *Col. Rec. Pennsylv.* I. 300 He thought they were obliged to ye Govr. for signifying these things to them. 1776 ADAM SMITH *W. N.* I. ii. (1904) I. 15 Nobody ever saw one animal, by its gestures and natural cries, signify to another, this is mine, that yours. 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xviii. IV. 162 A prince who obstinately refused to comply with the general wish of his people signified to him by his Parliament.

†4. To compare, liken *to* something. *Obs.*

1456 SIR G. HAYE *Law Arms* (S.T.S.) 284 The quhyte colour..is signyfyit to the vertu of puritee. 1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* XVII. ix. 703 Wel oughte oure lord be sygnefyed to an herte.

†5. To hint at. *Obs. rare.*

1513 MORE *Rich. III* (1883) 70 Other thinges, which the said worshipful doctor rather signified then fully explaned.

†6. To notify or inform (a person). *Obs.*

1523 LD. BERNERS *Froiss.* I. lxxxvi. 108 Sir Gaultier of Manny sent certayne messangers to the kyng of Englande, signyfieng hym howe [etc.]. 1566 in Marsden *Court Adm.* (Selden) II. 135 Plezeth your..Lordshipp to be signifyed that I have receivid your..writ of supersedeas to me dyrectid. 1610 HEYWOOD *Gold. Age* III. i, Messengers dispatch'd to signifie My sonne of our distresse. [1690 LOCKE *Hum. Und.* II. xiv. § 23 Without some regular periodical Returns, we could not..signify others the Length of any Duration.]

7. *intr.* To be of importance or consequence; to have significance; to avail or matter: **a.** With advs., as *much, little, nothing*, or in questions with *what*.

1661 MARVELL *Corr.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 58 The House left Liddall to prosecute him at law, but I believe it will not signify much. 1686 tr. *Chardin's Trav. Persia* 33 But it signify'd little. *a* 1715 BURNET *Own Time* (1724) II. 38 His speech signified nothing towards the saving of himself. 1757 FOOTE *Author* I, Lord! what signifies carrying such a lumb'ring thing about? 1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* iii, 'It signifies little,' replied Captain Porteous; 'your pain will be soon at an end'. 1845 M. PATTISON *Ess.* (1889) I. 27 Condemned Praetextatus must be, and what did it signify by what semblance of law or justice? 1878 BROWNING *La Saisiaz* 30 What signifies repugnance? Truth is truth howe'er it strike.

b. Without qualifying word.

1677 W. HUGHES *Man of Sin* II. iii. 48 Is he not made to stand by as a Cypher, when she alone must signifie in all these Devotions? 1743 BULKELEY & CUMMINS *Voy. S. Seas* 14 The Captain's Answer was, It does not signify. 1762–71 H. WALPOLE *Vertue's Anecd. Paint.* (1786) III. 113 The anecdotes of Cooper's life are few; nor does it signify; his works are his history. 1817 LADY GRANVILLE *Lett.* (1894) I. 91 His eye is still bloodshot, but nothing to signify. 1894 BARING-GOULD *Kitty Alone* II. 156 There was no metal to signify at the butt-end.

Si·gnifying, *vbl. sb.* [f. prec. + -ING^1.] Signification, intimation, indication.

13.. *K. Alis.* 587 (Laud MS.), Þe kyng..had þerof dotaunce,..And bad hem telle of whiche þing It mi3th be signifieyng? 1382 WYCLIF 1 *Mac.* vii. 45 Thei sungen in trumpis after hem with signyfiyngus. *c* 1450 LOVELICH *Merlin* 2868 Thanne of merlyne often axede þe kyng what of the dragouns was þe signefyeng. 1535 COVERDALE *Isaiah* xx. 3 It is a token and signifienge of the thinge, that after thre yeare shal come vpon Egipte and Ethiopia. 1580 HOLLYBAND *Treas. Fr. Tong, Denoncement*, a signifying, a declaring. 1664 H. MORE *Myst. Iniq.* 33 Signes appropriated to the signifying of that honour we owe to God.

Si·gnifying, *ppl. a.* [-ING^2.] That signifies or denotes; significant. †*Signifying figure, number*: (see SIGNIFICANT *a.* 2 b).

1542 RECORDE *Gr. Artes* (1575) 43 Of those ten one doth signifie nothing... The other nyne are called Signifying figures. 1579 FULKE *Heskins' Parl.* 69 The same offering ..is called the passion..of Christ,..in a signifying mysterie. 1624 BEDELL *Lett.* xii. 161 If..you finde you haue taken manie nullities for signifying numbers, manie smaller signifiers for greater; correct the totall. 1644 BULWER *Chirol.* 2 There is a signifying voyce in the naturall signes of the Hand.

Signing (səi·niŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. SIGN $v.^1$ + -ING^1.]

1. The action of making or appending one's signature; confirmation by signature.

1611 COTGR., *Signature*, a signature, signing, subscribing. 1655 *Nicholas Papers* (Camden) II. 329 Since the signeing of my letter I received yours of Jun. 1st. 1711 STEELE *Spect.* No. 82 ¶ 1 My Steward brings his Receipt ready for my Signing. 1771 LUCKOMBE *Hist. Print.* 102 A patent ready drawn for queen Elizabeth's signing. 1809 R. LANGFORD *Introd. Trade* 20 The signing and endorsement must be attested by one witness. 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xvii. IV. 104 The signing of the treaty was deferred till the Lords Justices..should arrive.

2. *Eccl.* The action of making the sign of the cross.

1782 PRIESTLEY *Corrupt. Chr.* II. VII. 84 They made several signings with the cross. 1877 J. D. CHAMBERS *Divine Worship* 362 The number and time of these Signings certainly varied.

Si·gning, *ppl. a.* [-ING^2.] That signs; entitled to sign; esp. *signing officer* (see quot. 1867).

1805 COLLINGWOOD 28 Oct. in Nicolas *Disp. Nelson* (1846) VII. 219 Signed by yourself, First Lieutenant and signing Officers. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word Bk.* 624 A document.. certified by the signing officer and the surgeon. *Ibid.* 626 *Signing officers*, the captain, senior lieutenant, master and purser (now paymaster).

Signior, etc.: see SIGNOR.

Signioresse, variant of SEIGNORESS.

Signless (səi·nlės), *a.* [f. SIGN *sb.* + -LESS.]

1. Destitute of a sign, sign-board, or sign-post.

1684 S. G. *Angl. Spec.* 482 Their Signless Houses are a Sign of Rich and Eminent inhabitants. 1887 HISSEY *Holiday on Road* 190 The modern hotel, of course, is signless. 1903 *Smart Set* IX. 110 That signless, dusty road.

2. *Math.* Of quantities: Having no sign of direction; having no distinction of positive or negative.

1875 STEWART & TAIT *Unseen Universe* iii. § 97 We now deal with quantities which cannot possess direction,..and are therefore all to be treated..as signless quantities...Now mass is of course a signless quantity.

3. Making no sign; motionless.

1856 MRS. BROWNING *Aur. Leigh* VIII. 595 Poems..Which moved me in secret, as the sap is moved In still Marchbranches, signless as a stone.

Sign-manual. [SIGN *sb.* + MANUAL *a.* 1.]

1. An autograph signature (*esp.* that of the sovereign) serving to authenticate a document.

1428 *E. E. Wills* 83 And þerto I point my signet and my syne manuell. 1459 *Rolls Parlt.* V. 351/2 All the Lordes ..and every of theym..settyng therto his Seale and Signe manuell, as here under apperith. 1536 *Wardr. Acc. Hen. VIII* in *Archæologia* IX. 252 Geven under oure signe manuelle, at oure castille of Wyndesore. 1560 in Feuillerat *Revels Q. Eliz.* (1908) 112 Thiese our Lettres signed with our signemanuell shalbe your sufficient warraunt. 1648 CHAS. I *Let.* in Thoms *Notes on Combe Martin* (1902) 37 Giuen under our Sign Manuel At Court at Newport. 1688 *Pennsylv. Arch.* I. 103 Untill Wee shall send you New Orders under Our sign manual. 1724 SWIFT *Drapier's Lett.* iii. Wks. 1751 VIII. 325 Orders, and Directions,.. have been issued under the Royal Sign Manual. 1764 T. HUTCHINSON *Hist. Mass.* (1765) 344 They were distinguished by King James.., by a letter under his sign manual. 1818 SCOTT *Let.* in *Lockhart* (1837) IV. iv. 113 The Crown-room .. was opened by certain Commissioners, under authority of a sign-manual. 1863 H. COX *Instit.* III. vi. 671 The Royal sign-manual, or signature of the Sovereign, is usually written on the upper-left-hand corner of the instrument. 1898 BODLEY *France* III. iii. II. 142 A personage..who, by his sign-manual, can soften the severity of the revenue officials.

fig. 1894 MRS. DYAN *Man's Keeping* (1899) 58 The handshake, sign-manual of fealty.., did not pass between them.

2. A sign made with the hand or hands.

1841 CATLIN *N. Amer. Ind.* (1844) I. xvi. 116 Commands which were uniformly given by signs manual.

† Si·gnment^1. *Obs.* In 5 si(g)ne-, 6 sygnement. [Aphetic form of ASSIGNMENT: cf. SIGN $v.^2$] Assignment, appointment.

1429 *Pol. Poems* (Rolls) II. 147 He is redy to delyvir hym, and not abasshe, By signement of the kyng, tyme and place. 1479–81 *Rec. St. Mary at Hill* (1905) 106 Item, payd to Nevell the iremonger at the synement of the parysshe for diuerse stuffe boght of hym. 1525 LD. BERNERS *Froiss.* II. xxxix. 121 They were payde of theyr wages, or had suffycyent sygnement, so y^t they were pleased.

† Si·gnment^2. *Obs.*$^{-1}$ [f. SIGN $v.^1$] A body of persons who have signed a document or agreement.

a 1660 *Contemp. Hist. Irel.* (Ir. Archæol. Soc.) I. 223 They name the former signment the Assembly of Ireland both Nobles and Comons;..all the nobilitie of the faction did signe to this Henritian oathe.

‖ **Signor** (sī·nyoɹ), *sb.* Also 6–9 **signior** (7 **-iour, -ier**). [It. *signor*, reduced form of *signore* SIGNORE, = Sp. *señor*, Pg. *senhor*, F. *seigneur*:—L. *seniōr-em*, acc. of *senior* SENIOR *a.* and *sb.* See also SEIGNEUR and SEIGNIOR.]

1. In Italian use, or with reference to Italians: A term of respect placed before the name of a man in addressing him or speaking of him, now equivalent to the English 'Mr.'

1584–7 GREENE *Tritameron of Loue* II. Wks. (Grosart) III. 140 By my faith (Signior Aretino) you haue found such a knot in a Rysh as will bee so hard to vntye as Gordias was. 1596 SHAKS. *Tam. Shr.* II. i. 85 A thousand thankes signior Gremio. 1605 B. JONSON *Volpone* I. i, Signior Coruino, come most wisht for! 1736 *Gentl. Mag.* VI. 648/1 These are the Thoughts of Signior Muffei. 1756–7 tr. *Keysler's Trav.* (1760) III. 350 The houses of..the signiors Verzi, Pompeii, and Pellegrini. 1818 SHELLEY *Tasso* 3 Did you inform his Grace that Signor Pigna Waits with state papers for his signature? *Ibid.* 13 O trust to me, Signor Malpiglio, Those nods [etc.]. 1863 *Chambers's Encycl.* V. 657/1 Ratazzi..was succeeded in office by Signor Farini.

fig. 1630 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Wks.* Ddd i, Mounsieur Claret, and sweet Signior Sacke.

b. Used without the name, as a form of address, equivalent to 'sir' in English.

1590 SHAKS. *Com. Err.* IV. i. 36 Good Signior take the stranger to my house. 1599 B. JONSON *Ev. Man out of Humour* IV. iii, O but Signior, had you such a wife as mine is. 1797 MRS. RADCLIFFE *The Italian* i, The stranger ..said, 'Signor, your steps are watched'. 1842 LOVER *Handy Andy* iv, 'Isn't one fight a day enough for you, signor?' said the doctor. 1863 'OUIDA' *Held in Bondage* (1870) 68 Thank you, signor, a thousand thanks.

c. An Italian gentleman, *esp.* a singer.

1779 SHERIDAN *Critic* I. i, Haven't we the Signors and Signoras calling here, sliding their smooth semibreves? 1782 V. KNOX *Ess.* (1819) II. cxvi. 290 The door is always open to player signiors and signioras.

2. A person of note or distinction; one having rank or authority; a gentleman or nobleman; an overlord. See also GRAND SIGNIOR.

a 1577 SIR T. SMITH *Commw. Eng.* (1609) 12 Amonge whom there is no right Lawe nor Commonwealth compact but onely the will of the Lord and Signior. 1630 MASSINGER *Picture* II. ii, You *Signiers* Haue no businesse with the souldier. 1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* II. 63 The commodity of which redounds yearely to the Venetians, for they are Signiors thereof. 1668 R. L'ESTRANGE *Vis. Quevedo* (1708) 50 You know they are Cavaliers and Signiors already, and now (forsooth) they have an Itch upon them to be Princes. 1748 SMOLLETT *Roderick Random* lxvi, [He] promised to procure for us the company of an English signior. 1803 SYD. SMITH *Wks.* (1859) I. 56/2 The great mass of territorial proprietors in Denmark are the signiors, possessing fiefs with very extensive privileges. 1885 J. PAYN *Talk of Town* I. 47 Wise and reverend signors may well have learnt by experience to take trifling annoyances with equanimity.

† Signor, *v.* *Obs.*$^{-1}$ In 6 signour. [a. OF. *signourer, seignorer*, etc., f. *seignor* SEIGNEUR.] *intr.* To have lordship.

1559 *Kal. Shepherds* xxxviii. (Wally) k v b, Leo hath the great trees, that is to say he signoureth ouer them.

‖ **Signora** (sinˈyō·rǎ). Also 7–8 **signiora.** [It. *signora*, = Sp. *señora*, Pg. *senhora*, a fem. formed on *signore*, etc.: see SIGNOR *sb.*] A term of respect applied to Italian ladies, corresponding to 'Mrs.' and 'Madam' in English; hence (with *a, the*, etc.), a lady of Italian nationality.

α. 1636 MASSINGER *Gt. Dk. Florence* IV. i, I am in private to conferre a while With this Signiora. 1654 GAYTON *Pleas. Notes* I. vi. 19 The acts [of] Chivalry of the twenty four Signiora's. 1766 [ANSTEY] *Bath Guide* x, But talks of the Op'ras and his Signiora, Cries bravo, benissimo, bravo, Encora. 1775 *Ann. Reg.* II. 63 Anecdotes of Signiora Gabrieli, the celebrated Opera Singer.

β. 1766 SMOLLETT *Trav.* v. I. 64 An Italian *signora* makes no scruple of telling you [etc.]. 1806 SURR *Winter in London* III. 39 'This is Francis's writing beyond all question,' said the signora. 1821 BYRON in Moore *Life* (1832) V. 262 Got off my horse to walk in an avenue with a Signora for an hour. 1847 C. BRONTË *J. Eyre* xxvii, I sought my ideal of a woman amongst English ladies, French countesses, Italian signoras, and German Gräfinnen. I could not find her.

‖ **Signore** (sinˈyō·re). [It., the fuller form of *signor*.] = SIGNOR.

1594 [see SIGNORY 3]. 1622 PEACHAM *Compl. Gent.* i. 15 In Naples .. euery base groome .. must be termed Signore. 1641 MILTON *Ch. Govt.* II. i, I know Bilson hath decipher'd us all the galanteries of Signore and Monsignore. 1820 T. S. HUGHES *Trav.* I. ix. 267 That worthy signore was enjoying his siesta. 1856 BOKER *Betrothal* III. iii, I have an airy weapon that can..make our satin signore Grovel for life.

‖ **Signoria** (sinˈyorī·a). [It., = Sp. *señoria*, Pg. *senhoria*, F. *seigneurie*: cf. SIGNORY.] The governing body of some of the old Italian republics, *esp.* that of Venice.

1549 THOMAS *Hist. Italie* 79 b, All offices of preeminence, as of the Signoria. 1622 in *Crt. & Times Jas. I* (1848) II. 334 The Venetian ambassador gave notice of such a thing.., by order, as he said, from the signoria. 1686 AGLIONBY *Painting Illustr.* 362 When a Fisherman presents the Signoria of Venice with Saint Mary's Ring. 1763 *Brit. Mag.* IV. 327 His Excellency then made his speech to the Doge, and Signoria, in the English language. 1841 W. SPALDING *Italy & It. Isl.* II. 276 Few towns appear to have fared so ill as Siena, in which..for the signoria he also nominated the first set of members.

Signorial (sinyōə·riăl), *a.* [f. SIGNORY + -AL. Cf. SEIGNORIAL.] Pertaining to a signory.

1875 MAINE *Hist. Inst.* v. 123 The legacy from tribal sovereignty to signorial privilege. 1883 SYMONDS *Ital. Byways* iv. 69 They regarded knighthood as a part of their signorial parade.

‖ **Signorina** (sinˈyorī·na). [It., dim. of *signora* SIGNORA.] The Italian term of respect applicable to a young unmarried lady.

1820 T. S. HUGHES *Trav.* I. ii. 42 A long story about a

beautiful signorina of ancient times. 1884 F. M. CRAWFORD *Roman Singer* I. 31 The signorina was born here. *Ibid.* 72 My time is yours, signorina.

† **Signo·rity.** *Obs. rare.* In 5 **sygnyoryte, 6 signioritie, 8 -ty.** [Cf. OF. *seignourité* (Godef.), med.L. *senioritas*. See also SEIGN(I)ORITY.] Lordship, government.

a 1529 SKELTON *Col. Cloute* 927 They shewe them polytyke, Pretendyng grauyte And sygnyoryte, With all solempnyte. 1547 BALDWIN *Mor. Philos.* 29 The Athenians and Megarenes had made great warre..to haue had the signioritie of his [Solon's] country Salamina. 1792 SIBLY *Occult Sci.* I. 26 Besides these signiorities of the sun, moon and planets, the fixed stars have also their principalities in the heavens.

† **Si·gnorize,** *v. Obs.* Also **signiorize.** [f. SIGNOR + -IZE, or ad. obs. F. *signoris(s)-, signoriz-*, lengthened stem of *sign-, se(ĭ)gnorir*, f. *seigneur* SEIGNEUR. See also SEIGNORIZE *v.*]

1. *intr.* To rule, reign, have or exercise dominion. Usually const. *in* or *over*.

a. 1594 KYD *Cornelia* III. iii. 212 Now Caesar..Sits signiorizing in her seate. 1612 J. DAVIES (Heref.) *Muse's Sacr.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 49/1 Let that which thou mad'st not, neuer signiorize O'er me that thou hast made. *a* 1658 HEWYT *Serm.* 171 (Todd), At the time that He was to come, Judah must lose the scepter; not then to rule or signiorize in Judah.

β. 1594 KYD *Cornelia* I. 55 So many Nations..Ore whom (saue heauen) nought could signorize. 1613 tr. *Mexia's Tyeas. Anc. & Mod. Times* 26/2 To the perdition of him [Adam] who had bin Created to Signorize and beare Maistry over all Beastes in the World. 1651 HOWELL *Venice* 24 Upon the Continent of Italie She [Venice] doth Signorize over three entire Provinces.

b. With *it*: To play the master. *rare.*

1611 COTGR., *Faire le dessus*, to domineere, to signorize it.

2. *trans.* To govern, control, exercise dominion or rule over (anything).

1594 KYD *Cornelia* III. ii. 8 Rome, thou are tam'd, and th' earth..Doth laugh to see how thou art signiorizd. 1600 FAIRFAX *Tasso* IV. xlvi, As proud as he, that signoriseth hell. 1602 J. DAVIES (Heref.) *Mirum in Modum* Wks. (Grosart) I. 8/2 There doth shee sit..And by hir might doth signiorize the Minde. *Ibid.* 26/2 Alphons, the tenth that Spaine did signiorize.

Hence † **Si·gnorizing** *vbl. sb.* and *ppl. a. Obs.*

1588 KYD *Househ. Phil.* Wks. (1901) 261 Admonition..vttered with more austeritie and signiorising termes. 1593 NASHE *Christ's T.* Wks. (Grosart) IV. 89 Eleazer..was the first that seminarizd thys hope of signiorizing and freedome amongst them. 1609 J. DAVIES (Heref.) *Holy Rood* Wks. (Grosart) I. 26/1 Fraile-Fleshes signiorizing Tyrant, fell.

† **Si·gnorship.** *Obs. rare.* In 7 **signior-.** [f. SIGNOR *sb.*] The rank or condition of a signor. Used as a form of address.

1636 MASSINGER *Gt. Dk. Florence* IV. i, 'Tis a device..as shal make your Signiorship know I have not beene your Butlar for nothing. 1637 — *Guardian* I. i, Make choice Of either title, which your signiorship please.

Signory (sī·nyŏri). Forms: *α.* 5 *Sc.* **signeriey** (!), 6 **sygneoury, 6–7 signiorie, 6–9 signory.** *β.* 5 *Sc.* **signery, 6–7 sygnory** (6 **syng-**), **signorie** (6 **sygn-**), 5– **signory.** [Originally a. OF. *signerie, signorie*, etc., varr. of *seignorie* (see SEIGNIORY), subsequently influenced by It. *signoria* (see SIGNORIA).]

1. Lordship, domination, rule.

α. c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xxxvii. (*Vincent*) 106 Othir til our goddis sacrify & haf riches & signeriery [*sic*]. 1509 HAWES *Past. Pleas.* XI. (Percy Soc.) 44 Makyng them lese theyr worthy sygneoury. 1594 KYD *Cornelia* III. iii. 107 Th' inextinguible thyrst of signiorie. 1604 T. WRIGHT *Passions* V. § 2. 216 His Lord and Maister will give him signiorie and authority over all he possesseth. 1632 W. LITHGOW *Trav.* II. 64 The Signiory thereof belongeth to Venice. 1790 BURKE *Fr. Rev.* 146 This our recognition of a signiory paramount. 1818 HALLAM *Mid. Ages* (1872) I. 423 The same sanction was given to those temporary delegations of the signiory to a prince. *a* 1850 ROSSETTI *Dante & Circle* I. (1874) 232 My heart, my mind, and all my life, Are given in bondage to her signiory.

β. c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xxviii. (*Margaret*) 330 And sa thru his ded mychtely of deid [he] oure-come þe signery. *c* 1440 *Generydes* 6980 He was a man of grete renown, Sowdon of perce with all his signory. 1523 LD. BERNERS *Froiss.* I. xxvii. 41 The ysle of Creth, the which was vnder their sygnorie. 1533 BELLENDEN *Livy* III. xvii. (S. T. S.) II. 17 Quhat signorie, quhat wikkit empire is this..þat ȝe pretend? 1600 HOLLAND *Livy* XXVI. i. 582 To..returne unto their old alleagence and obedience to their wonted signorie of Rome. *a* 1660 *Contemp. Hist. Irel.* (Ir. Archæol. Soc.) II. 166 His..designe is noe other thinge then the temporall signorie of this distracted kingdome. 1875 MAINE *Hist. Inst.* V. 123 Eldest son after eldest son succeeded to the signory.

b. Authority or supremacy expressed in looks or bearing. *rare.*

1598 YONG *Diana* 243 They sawe two louely Shepherdesses (though by their coye lookes shewing a kinde of signorie and statelinesse aboue any other). 1856 MRS. BROWNING *Aur. Leigh* IV. 300 Among the gallery portraits of our Leighs, We shall not find a sweeter signory Than this pure forehead's.

2. A lordship, domain, territory.

α. 1555 EDEN *Decades* (Arb.) 211 The kyngedomes and signiories whiche confine with the sayde sea. 1605 VERSTEGAN *Dec. Intell.* vi. (1628) 181 Their proper Signiories, Lordships or places which they possessed. 1698 FRYER *Acc. E. India & P.* 51 This region of Malabar..is divided into several Petit Signiories. 1796 H. HUNTER tr. *St.-Pierre's Stud. Nat.* (1799) III. 673 They were empowered to receive gifts and bequests of money, houses, lands, signiories, nay even of slaves.

transf. 1607 J. DAVIES (Heref.) *Summa Totalis* Wks. (Grosart) I. 11/1 These thrust out Reason of her Signiorie (The Braines) where erst she sate in Siluer Throne.

β. a 1533 LD. BERNERS *Huon* CXIV. 404 To conquere agayne your herytage, londys, and sygnoryes. 1598 STOW *Surv.* i. (1603) 3 The state, comunalty or Signory of the Trinobantes. 1613 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* V. viii. 412 To divide the soile into many Signories and Kingdomes. 1670 MILTON *Hist. Eng.* I. Wks. 1851 III. 15 His Sons..won them Lands and Signories in Germany. 1753 RICHARDSON *Grandison* (1781) V. XXIX. 202, I shall take a view of the works projecting by the Duke of Modena, in order to render his little Signory considerable.

† **3.** = SIGNORSHIP. *Obs. rare*⁻¹.

1594 CAREW *Huarte's Exam. Wits* 225 Signore, your signory shall vnderstand, that souldiers who haue enioyed the libertie of Italy, cannot content themselues to make abode in Spain.

4. A governing body, *esp.* that of Venice or other mediæval Italian republic. Cf. SIGNORIA.

1604 T. WRIGHT *Passions* V. 159 The Arcadian signorie consider..the inhabitants..barbarous, sauage, and wild. 1612 W. SHUTE tr. *Pougasses's Venice* II. 481 A goodly Church..whither the Signory and Clergy doe yeerely goe in procession. 1652 M. NEEDHAM tr. *Selden's Mare Cl.* 99 The Venetians and their Signiory for very many ages have been and are in possession of the aforesaid Gulf. 1756 NUGENT *Gr. Tour, Italy* III. 138 The legislative authority is lodged in the great senate, consisting of the signory, and 400 noblemen. The signory consists of the Doge and twelve other members. 1820 BYRON *Mar. Faliero* I. i. 3 But still the Signory is deep in council. 1837 HALLAM *Hist. Lit.* I. iii. § 59 The Palazzo Vecchio, in which the signiory of Florence held their councils. 1873 DIXON *Two Queens* IV. XX. viii. 108, 'I hear on good authority,' said Fisher to the Signory, 'that Cardinal Wolsey is not now in favour of a divorce'.

Sign-post. [SIGN *sb.*]

1. A post supporting a sign, usually that of an inn or shop.

1620 FLETCHER *Chances* III. i, If this geer hold, Best hang a sign-post up, to tell the Signiors, Here ye may have lewdness at Liverie. 1642 MILTON *Apol. Smect.* Wks. 1851 III. 258 Hung out like a toling signe-post to call passengers. 1670 *Moral St. Eng.* 92 A good Inn hath very seldome a bad Sign-post. 1711 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 28 ¶ 3 When did the Lamb and Dolphin ever meet, except upon a Sign-Post? 1784 COWPER *Task* IV. 483 Fell Discord,..Perch'd on the sign-post, holds with even hand Her undecisive scales. 1818 BYRON *Juan* I. ii, [They] fill'd their sign-posts then, like Wellesley now. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* V. I. 634 The signpost of the White Hart Inn served for a gallows. 1876 BANCROFT *Hist. U. S.* III. xix. 521 He..was menaced with being hanged, like Porteus of Edinburgh, upon a sign-post, if he did so.

fig. 1889 DOYLE *Micah Clarke* 107 We..were gazing in silence at this sign-post of death, when..a bundle of rags ..at the foot of the gallows began suddenly to move.

b. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *sign-post dauber, painter, painting, picture.*

1677 DRYDEN *To Lee* 51 But how should any sign-post dauber know The worth of Titian or of Angelo? 1682 — *Medal* Ep., But Sign-post painting will serve the turn to remember a Friend by. 1751 EARL ORRERY *Rem. Swift* (1752) 83 While there remained a sign-post painter in the world. 1779 *Mirror* No. 9 Those same Latin scraps,.. which you sometimes hang out by way of sign-post inscription at the top of your paper. 1815 L. SIMOND *Tour Gt. Brit.* II. 216, I never saw such a collection of miserable sign-post pictures any where before.

2. A guide- or direction-post, set up to indicate the proper road to a place; a finger-post.

1863 LD. LYTTON *King of Amasis* I. II. iii, The stretched forefinger of a common sign-post. 1889 GRETTON *Memory's Harkback* 149, I came to a signpost directing me to the left.

‖ **Signum** (si·gnŏm). Pl. **signa.** [L., see SIGN *sb.*] A mark or sign.

1848 *Scottish Jrnl. Topogr.* I. 296/2 The sword hilts [are] filagreed over with peculiar signa, probably cabalistic charms for the prevention of witchcraft. 1862 *Chambers's Encycl.* III. 638/2 In addition to his subscription, the notary was formerly in use in Scotland to add his *signum*, which was a flourish of the pen. 1875 STAINER & BARRETT *Dict. Mus. Terms, Signa*, characters and signs in mediæval music.

† **Sigrim** (also **sigrums**), obs. var. ISEGRIM.

a 1300 *Vox & Wolf* in Hazl. *E.P.P.* I. 62 Quod the vox: 'Wo is now there? Iche wene hit is Sigrim that ich here', *c* 1430 LYDG. *Min. Poems* (Percy Soc.) 169 The sleyghti fox ..And sigrums chief wardeyn of the folde.

Sih, obs. pa. t. of SEE *v.* **Siht(e, sihpe,** obs. ff. SIGHT. **Sihte,** pa. t. of SICHE *v.* to sigh. **Siik, sijk,** obs. ff. SICK *a.* **Sijken,** var. SICK *v.* **Sijt,** obs. f. SITE.

Sik, obs. form of SIC *a.*, SICK, SIKE, SIKH.

Sika (sī·kă). [ad. Japanese *sika* deer.] A species of deer (*Cervus sika*) native to Japan and Manchuria.

1891 in *Cent. Dict.* 1898 *Westm. Gaz.* 25 Feb. 4/3 The elk, the Virginian deer, and the Japanese and Manchurian sikas. 1900 *Q. Rev.* July 202 The Japanese sika, Chinese swamp deer and hybrids live wild in the state forests.

Sike, syke (sīk), *sb.*¹ *north.* and *Sc.* Forms: *α.* 4– **syke,** 6 **sy(o)k,** 9 **seyke.** *β.* 7– **sike,** 8–9 **sick** (9 **saik**). [The northern form repr. OE. *sīc* SITCH. Cf. ON. *stk*, Icel. *síki*, Norw. *sik, sike*, Da. *sig* (MDa. *siig, sige*), in the same sense.]

1. A small stream of water, a rill or streamlet, esp. one flowing through flat or marshy ground, and often dry in summer; a ditch or channel through which a tiny stream flows.

In former times freq. used as a boundary between lands, fields, etc. (cf. sense 2).

[*c* 1169 in Dugdale *Monast. Angl.* (1830) VI. 236 Ex alia parte nigræ quercus, usque ad sicam Polterkeved, quæ cadit in Ring. *a* 1214 *Liber de Melros* I. 78 Usque ad primum sicum ex aquilonali parte de Lilisyhates.]

α. c 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 8165 Sykes do ȝe graue & groupe, þe water þer-inne men schal scoupe. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* XI. 300 The sykis alswa thair doune Sall put thame to confusioune. *c* 1425 *Cast. Persev.* 427 in *Macro Plays*, Myth I ryde be sompe & syke,..certis þanne schulde I be fryke. *c* 1480 HENRYSON *Fables, Trial Fox* XXXVI, To fetche watter this fraudfull foxe furth fure, Sydelingis abak he socht vnto ane syke. 1573 *Nott. Rec.* IV. 152 Stakyng of serteyne plankes in the medowes ouer serteyne syckes. 1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scotl.* I. 145 Ouir dykes and dubis, sykes and seuches thay sould spang and leip. 1664–5 *Act* 16–17 *Chas. II*, c. 11 § 1 Forty Acres..in..Thurlby Fenn..are to be left for Lakes and Sykes for the receipt of Waters. 1726 THRELKELD *Stirp. Hibern.* 138 Marsh Marygold..in the small Sykes or watery Plashes of moist Meadows..copiously. 1818 SCOTT *Lett.* II. 4 My lake is but a millpond, my brooks but sykes. *a* 1849 H. COLERIDGE *Poems* (1850) II. 192 He prized the stream that turned the wealthiest mills Less than the syke that trickles down the fell. 1889 RAINE *Hist. Hemingborough* 165 Fenny ground traversed by sykes and ditches.

attrib. 1719 *Min. Baron Crt. Stitchill* (S. H. S.) 180 Ground carrying grass tho' never so coarse, such as that called Syke grass.

β. 1611 *N. Riding Rec.* (1884) I. 219 The passage at Noletbridge sike..is decayed and many times very dangerous. 1674 RAY *N. C. Words* 41 A *Sike*: a little Rivulet. 1787 GROSE *Prov. Gloss.*, *Sick*, a small stream or rill. 1811 WILLAN in *Archæologia* XVII. 157 *Bor-sike*, the name of a place, signifies the cottage by the sike. 1831 HODGSON in Raine *Mem.* (1858) II. 221 The bed of a sike that runs in the direction of the road. 1896 BLASHILL *Sutton-in-Holderness* 13 Certain low marshy channels called 'sikes'.

b. A gully; a dip or hollow.

1859 W. WHITE *Northumbld. & Border* 363 On one of the slopes, a syke—that is a gully—was pointed out to me. 1884 *N. & Q.* 6th Ser. X. 455/1 In Yorkshire *syke* is understood to be a dip in the ground.

† **2.** A stretch of meadow; a field. *Obs. rare.*

1479 *Priory of Hexham* (Surtees) II. 6 Idem t[enet] ij sykes prati,..Adam del Hyll t[enet] j syk, et r. p. a. ij d. 1641 *Best Farm. Bks.* (Surtees) 38 The Mount-Sikes is 5 dayworkes, and had in it..seaven score and two grasse cockes ..; the waine-way into this close is att the gate a little within the gate of the Greate-Sikes. 1669 WORLIDGE *Syst. Agric.* (1681) 331 A *Sike*, a Quillet or Furrow.

Sike, *sb.*² Now *dial.* Forms: 3 **sic,** 3–4 **sik,** 3–5, 9 **sike**; 4–5 **syk(e,** 9 *dial.* **soik.** [var. of SICHE *sb.* Cf. Fris. *sike* a breath.] A sigh.

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 284 ȝif eni is þet naueð nout þe heorte þus afeited, mid seoruhfule sikes..grede on ure Louerd. *c* 1310 in Wright *Lyric P.* XXXII. 92 Ich have siked moni syk, lemmon, for thin ore. *c* 1374 CHAUCER *Troylus* III. 801 With a sik she sorwfully answerde. *c* 1386 — *Frankl. T.* 136 Thanne wolde she sitte adoun..And seyn right thus, with sorweful sikes colde. 14.. HOCCLEVE *Minor P.* XXII. 364 Vp he threew an heuy syk, And hire awook. 1878 *N. & Q.* 5th Ser. IX. 396 Her give a great sike, and then died. 1885 BRIERLEY *Ab-o'th-Yate Yankeeland* ii. (E. D. D.), A good soik of relief.

† **b.** Without article: Sighing. *Obs.*

c 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 1239 Þor sat his moder in sik and sor. *c* 1310 in Wright *Lyric P.* xi. 40 Me thuncheth min herte wol breke a two, for sorewe ant syke. *a* 1400 *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* XXIX. 61 Wiþ syk and serwe..Heo souhte wher heo mihte wiþ him mete.

Sike (sēik), *v.* Now *dial.* Forms: *α.* 3–4 **siken,** 4–5 **sikyn**; 3– **sike** (5 **sijke**), 9 *dial.* **soik**; 5–9 **sick** (9 *dial.* **sic**). *β.* 3 **syken,** 4– **syke** (4 **syke**). [var. of SICHE *v.* Cf. MDu. *versiken* to sigh, Fris. *sykje* to draw breath.]

1. *intr.* To sigh.

a. c 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 43 Summe of þan monne sare wepeð...Summe þer graninde sikeð. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 32 Alle monne sores setteð in ower þouhte, & sikeð to vre Louerd. *c* 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 122 Seint Thomas wep In is heorte, and sore bi-gan to sike. *a* 1320 *Sir Tristr.* 2621 Tristrem..sikeþ, for soþe to sain, Wiþ sorwe and michel pain. *c* 1385 CHAUCER *L. G. W.* 1165 *Dido*, She siketh soore, and gan hire selfe turmente. 1423 JAS. I *Kingis Q.* xliv, Gif ȝe be warldly wight, that dooth me sike. *c* 1450 *Pride of Life* 163 (Brandl), Þou nast no nede to sike sore. 1864 RAMSBOTTOM *Lanc. Rhymes* 17 His mother, eh, Lord! heaw hoo soikt. 1889 T. PINNOCK *Black Country Ann.* 67 (E.D.D.), We chaps cast..eyes on the ground an' we siked.

β. c 1250 *Owl & Night*, (J.) 1352 Þat heo vor summe sottes lore þe yorne bit and sykeþ sore. *a* 1310 in Wright *Lyric P.* xxix. 85, I syke when y singe, for sorewe that y se. 1393 LANGL. *P. Pl. C.* XIX. 16 'Now, certes,' ich seide and sykede for ioye. *c* 1430 *Syr Gener.* 1046 Friuelie than he gan to syke. 1482 *Monk of Evesham* (Arb.) 23 He was seyn often ..sykyng alow in his breste as a manne slepyng had wepte. 1515 *Scottish Field* 388 in *Chetham Misc.* (1856), His servauntes they maie syke, and sorowe for his sake.

b. *dial.* To sob or cry.

1841 HARTSHORNE *Salop. Antig.* Gloss., *Sike*, to cry, lament, sob. 1851 STERNBERG *Northampt. Dial.*, *Sike*, to cry, sob, or violently bewail.

† **2.** *trans.* To emit or give (a sigh). *Obs.*⁻¹

c 1310 in Wright *Lyric P.* XXXII. 92 Ich have siked moni syk, lemmon, for thin ore.

Sike, var. SIC *a.*, SICK *a.* and *v.* **Sikel(l,** obs. forms of SICKLE *sb.* **Sikelatoun,** var. CICLATON *Obs.* **Sikenes(se,** obs. ff. SICKNESS. **Siker,** obs. f. SICKER.

Siket. Now *dial.* Forms: 3–5, 9 **siket** (4 **syket**), 5–6, 9 **sicket, 9 secket.** [f. SIKE *sb.*¹ + -ET: cf. SICHET. Recorded chiefly in the Latinized forms *sikettus, -etus*.] A small watercourse or sike.

1300 in *Archæologia* (1857) XXXVII. 435 Per quendam sikettum qui vocatur Cavereswellebrok. *Ibid.*, Inde per

eundem sikettum usque ad..Kavereshull: 1318-9 in Dugdale *Monast. Angl.* (1830) VI. I. 558/1 In longitudine inter duos sikettos, quorum unus cadit inter Northwayt et Waytwra. 1479 *Priory of Hexham* (Surtees) II. 16 A fonte praedicto versus austrum per j sikettum usque Sewynscheles moss. *Ibid.*, Per dictum bogg usque quoddam siketum. 1550 *Survey Borders* in Hodgson *Northumb.* (1828) II. III. 184 From thence till a place over a letche or litle sicket called the stepping stones. 1894 Heslop *Northumbld. Gloss.*, *Sicket, siket, secket*, a small syke, a small brook, a rivulet.

Sikh (sik, sīk). Forms: α. 8-9 **Seek, Seik,** 8 **Seekh,** 9 **Seikh.** β. 8 **Syke, Syc, Sicque,** 8-9 **Sik** (9 **Sik**), 9- **Sikh** (**Sik'h, Sikh**). [Hindī *sikh* (Skr. *śishya*), disciple. The spellings *seek(h, sīk(h*, and the pron. (sīk), may have been due to association with Hindī *sīkh* learning, *sīkhna* to learn.]

1. A member of a military community belonging to the Punjab, where it was originally established as a religious sect by Nanak Shah in the early part of the 16th century.

α. 1781 Wilkins in *Asiatic Res.* (1799) I. 288 That sect of people who are distinguished from the worshippers of Brahm, and the followers of Mahommed, by the appellation Seek. 1784 in Seton-Karr *Select. fr. Calcutta Gaz.* (1864) I. 13 The Seekhs..have plundered all that quarter. 1800 *Asiatic Ann. Reg.* III. 51/1 It is imagined he has taken refuge in the country of the Seiks. 1830 *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) XXI. 283/2 *marg.*, Seiks.

β. 1785 *European Mag.* IX. 453 For ease the slow Mahratta spoils, And hardier Sik erratic toils. 1815 Elphinstone *Acc. Caubul* (1842) I. 109 All that is desirable to know respecting the Siks, the most remarkable part of the population. 1838 *Penny Cycl.* XII. 233/2 The Sikhs.. consider the profession of arms the religious duty of every individual. 1896 Youngson *40 Yrs. Punjab Mission* v. 39 A Sikh must possess five things—a dagger, an iron bracelet, short breeches, long hair, and a comb.

2. *attrib.* or as *adj.* Of or pertaining to the Sikhs.

1845 *Encycl. Metrop.* XXV. 1348/1 The principal alphabets formed from the Nāgarī, are the Bengalī..and Sikh or Punjābī. 1853 Stocqueler *Mil. Encycl.* 257/1 A proclamation was issued, declaring the Sikh states..attached to the British dominions. 1866 *Chambers's Encycl.* VIII. 718/2 The second volume of the Sikh scriptures. 1896 Youngson *40 Yrs. Punjab Mission* v. 39 Gobind Singh.. renewed an old Sikh rite.

Hence **Si'khism,** the tenets or principles of the Sikhs.

1866 *Chambers's Encycl.* VIII. 719/2 The numerous divisions into which Sikhism, as a system of belief and practice, has ramified. 1880 Sir R. Temple *India in 1880* 120 Sikhism..is one of those inflammable things which a spark might kindle into a flame. 1896 Youngson *40 Yrs. Punjab Mission* i. 4 Sikhism is like Buddhism a revolt from priestcraft and ritual.

Sikil, obs. f. Sickle *sb.*; var. of Swikel *a. Obs.*

Si'king, *vbl. sb.* Now *dial.* [f. Sike *v.* + -ing 1.] = Sighing *vbl. sb.* 1.

a 1300 *Havelok* 234 Þer was sobbing, siking, and sor. 1340 *Ayenb.* 171 Vorþenchinge aceþ grat zorȝe and greate zykinges of herte. *c* 1400 *Laud Troy Bk.* 662 Loue.. trauayles here wondir strong With thought and sykyng euere among. *c* 1420 *Chron. Vilod.* 1865 He with sore sykyng and snobbyng bothe Vnswered þe monke. 1482 *Monk of Evesham* (Arb.) 24 Amonge his lamentacions and sykynges..he asayde..to opene his yes. 1886 Brierley *Cast upon World* xviii, I hate to yer [= hear] that soikin' an' meeonin'.

attrib. 13.. *E. E. Psalter* vi. 6 (Egerton MS.), I ȝwank in mi sikinge-stede.

Siking, *ppl. a. rare*$^{-1}$. [f. Sike *v.* + -ing 2.] That sighs; sighing. Hence † **Si'kingness.**

13.. [see Sighingness]. *c* 1616 Fletcher *Thierry & Theod.* v. i, Thou hast a bonny countenance and a blithe, promising mickle good to a siking wemb.

Sikkell, obs. f. Sickle *sb.* **Siklatoun,** variant of Ciclaton *Obs.* **Sikness(e,** obs. f. Sickness. **Sikni,** obs. f. Sicken *v.* **Sikonye,** var. Cicon(i)e, stork, *Obs.* **Sikul(le,** obs. ff. Sickle *sb.* **Sikynyn,** obs. f. Sicken *v.*

† **Sil.** *Obs. rare.* [a. L. or Fr. *sil* ochre.] Some kind of ochre.

1601 Holland *Pliny* xxxiii. xiii. II. 485 As touching Ochre or Sil, it is exceeding hard to be reduced into pouder. 1610 W. Folkingham *Art of Survey* I. iii. 5 Colours amongst the Minerall Oare of Gold and Siluer, as Sil, Azure.

Silage (sai·lédʒ), *sb.* [Alteration of Ensilage, after Silo.] Green fodder preserved by pressure in a silo or stack; = Ensilage 2. Also *attrib.*

1884 *Pall Mall G.* 25 Nov. 5/2 The testimony of all who have tried ensilage is that a given quantity of grass converted into silage [etc.]. 1888 *Times* 24 July 13/1 In a season like the present a good silage stack is about the only means of securing and preserving grass. 1894 J. K. Fowler *Recoll. Old Co. Life* xii. 136 The silo was opened and the silage proved excellent.

Hence **Si'lage** *v. trans.*, to preserve by ensilage.

1885 *Field* 19 Dec. (Cassell), Any grass in excess of the requirements of the stock could be silaged.

Silc(k, obs. ff. Silk. **Sild(e,** var. Seld *adv.* **Silde,** obs. f. Seld *sb.* (shed, building). **Silden,** obs. f. Shield *v.* **Sildom,** obs. f. Seldom.

Sile (sail), *sb.*[1] *north.* and *Sc.* Also 4-5, 9 **syle,** 6 **syelle.** [Of doubtful origin; perh. repr. OE. *sýl* pillar, column.] A large roofing-timber or rafter, usually one of a pair. Also *sile-tree.*

1338-40 *Durham Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 377, vij copule de syles longitudinis xvj pedum, et iiij^{or} copule de syles longitudinis xxviij^{to} pedum. 1371 *Durham Halm. Rolls* (Surtees) III Reparabit unam grangiam de uno pare de siles et duobus gauil forks. 1582 *Wills & Inv. N. C.* (Surtees, 1860) 46 In the hay barne. Certaine sawen baulkes, viz., ix dormonds, and j sile. 1811 Aiton *Agric. Surv. Ayrsh.* 114 The roof was formed of strong cupples termed Syles, set up 8 or 10 feet distant from each other. 1825 Brockett *N. C. Gloss.*, *Syles*, the principal rafters of a house. 1878 Dickinson *Gloss. Cumbld.*, *Sile trees*, the timber roof-blades of a thatched clay house.

Sile (sail), *sb.*[2] *north.* (and *Sc.*). Also 5-7, 9 **syle,** 6 **syell.** [a. ON. **síl* (Norw. and Sw. *sil*): cf. Sile *v.*[2]] A strainer or sieve, esp. one for milk.

1459-60 *Durham Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 89, j pelvis cum foraminibus vocata j Syle. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 339/2 A mylke Syle, *colatorium*. 1563 *Wills & Inv. N. C.* (Surtees, 1835) 207, ij great bowells, iij wodd skailles, one syle, *Ibid.* 208 One syell, j vergeus barrell, vj mylk bowlls. 1570 Levins *Manip.* 130 A Sile, *colum*. 1615 Markham *Eng. Housew.* II. vi. (1668) 144 The bottom of this Syle through which the milk must pass, must be covered with a very clean-washt fine linnen-cloth. 1684 *Yorkshire Dial.* 35 Now let us hame and late for Bowls and Sile. 1788 W. H. Marshall *Yorksh.* II. 352 *Sile*, a milk-strainer. 1825- in dial. gloss. (Yks., Northumbld., Lancs., Nott., Linc., etc.).

Sile (sail), *sb.*[3] *north.* and *Sc.* Also 9 **syle** (**soil**); **sill.** [Of Scand. origin: cf. ON. and Icel. *síld*, MSw. *sildh, silþ* (Sw. *sill*), Norw. and Da. *sild* herring; also Icel. *síli* (older *síl*) a herring.] Young herring.

α. 1769 Pennant *Brit. Zool.* III. 288 The young herrings ..are then from half an inch to two inches long: those in Yorkshire are called Herring Sile. 1863 Jean Ingelow *Poems* 186 Our folk call them syle and nought but syle, And when they're grown, why then we call them herring. 1883 Day *Fishes Gt. Brit. & Irel.* II. 210 Small ones [herring] not larger than a sprat are termed sills, or sile.

β. 1847 Halliw., *Sill*, the young of a herring. *North.* 1863 *Rep. Commiss. Herring-trawling Scotl.* § 51. 26 The herring is found under four different conditions: 1st, Fry or Sill. 1883 [see a].

Sile, dial. variant of Soil *sb.*

Sile, *v.*[1] *Obs.* exc. *north. dial.* Also 4-5, 9 **syle.** [Prob. of Scand. origin: cf. Norw. and Sw. dial. *sila* to flow gently, to pour with rain; but these senses have something in common with Sile *v.*[2], and are usually associated with that word.]

1. *intr.* To go, pass, move; to glide. Usu. with preps. or advs.

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 231 He..Solased hem with semblaunt & syled fyrre; Tron fro table to table & talkede ay myrþe. *c* 1400 *Rowland & O.* 401 Til a chambire gan þay syle, And gayly gan hym dighte. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 1973 Sile furth of my sight in a sad haste. *c* 1430 Lydg. *Lyfe Our Ladye* (Caxton) d ij, And fysshe eke with fynnes silid fayre. 1821 Clare *Vill. Minstr.* I. 14 As sober evening sweetly siles along. 1876 F. K. Robinson *Whitby Gloss.*, *Sile past*, to glide by.

2. To fall or sink (*down*). Also *dial.*, to subside.

a 1400-50 *Alexander* 3043 (Ashm.), Siles doun on aithire side selcuth kniȝtis, Sum darid, sum dede, sum depe wondid. *c* 1420 *Avow. Arth.* xvi, With sit siles he a-downe, To brittun hitn the king was bowne. *c* 1470 *Gol. & Gaw.* 524 He hard ane bugill blast..As the seymly sone silit to the rest. 1674 Ray *N. C. Words* 41 To *Sile* down: *Lincoln*, to fall to the bottom, or subside. 1827 Clare *Sheph. Cal.* 180 The white sand..Now swimming up in silver threads, and then Slow siling down to bubble up again.

b. *dial.* To fall down in a swoon; to faint *away.*

1790 Grose *Prov. Gloss.*, *To sile away*, to faint away. 1820 Clare *Rural Life* (ed. 3) 152 'Your Nelly's beguiled!' She said, and she siled on the floor. 1854 Miss Baker *Northampt. Gloss.*, *Sile*, to faint, to sink, or subside gradually.

3. † a. Of tears, etc.: To flow. *Obs.*

c 1400 *Destr. Troy* 9210 Terys on his chekes Ronen full rifely...þen he driet vp the dropes, & [*read* þat] dreghly can syle. 1790 Grose *Prov. Gloss.*, *To sile o'er*, to boil over. *a* 1800 *Lord Derwentwater* iii. in Bell *Rhymes N. Bards* (1812) 225 When he read the three next lines The tears began to sile. 1807 [see the *ppl. a.* below]. 1829 Brockett *N. C. Gloss.* (ed. 2), *Sile*, to percolate, to flow. 1878 Dickinson *Cumbld. Gloss.* s.v. *Syle*, 'It syl't and bled,' after the manner of a syle.

b. *dial.* To rain: To pour (*down*).

1703 Thoresby *Let. Ray* (E. D. S.), *It Siles*, i. e. rains fast. 1828 Carr *Craven Gloss.*, *Sile*,..to pour down with rain. 1865 *Cornh. Mag.* July 33 Rain in the Northern counties, when it falls perpendicularly, is said to 'sile down', as if in allusion to its passing through a sieve. 1870 E. Peacock *Ralf Skirl.* III. 271 'It'll sile down till night, ..replied the groom.

Hence † **Si'ling** *vbl. sb.* and *ppl. a. Obs.*

c 1400 *Destr. Troy* 1307 þe kyng..siket full sore with sylyng of teris. † *a* 1400 *Morte Arth.* 3794 Thane syghande he saide, with sylande terys. 1807 Stagg *Poems* 65 Rashly they scale the scattran swathe,..An' seylin sweats their haffets bathe.

Sile, *v.*[2] Now *dial.* Also 5-7, 9 **syle,** 8-9 *Sc.* **seil,** 8 **soil.** [Of Scand. origin: cf. MSw. *sila, síla*, Sw. and Norw. *sila* in the same sense, perh. related to Fris. *silje* to sift.]

1. *trans.* To strain; *esp.* to pass (milk) through a sieve or strainer.

14.. *MS. Lincoln A. i. 17* fol. 281 in *Halliw.* s.v., Temper it with hate ale, and sythene syle it thorowe a hate clathe. *c* 1450 *Bk. Curtasye* in *Babees Bk.* 322 þo euwere thurgh towelle syles clene His water into þo bassynges shene. 1570 Levins *Manip.* 131 To syle milke, *colare lac.* 1615 Markham *Eng. Housew.* (1660) 150 You shall take your milk..as it comes from the Cow, and syle it into a clean Tub. 1674 Ray *N. C. Words* 44 To *Soil* milk, to cleanse it. 1721 Kelly *Sc. Prov.* 274 Our Sowins are ill sowr'd, ill seil'd, ill-salted,..and few o' them. 1788 W. H. Marshall *Yorksh.* II. 352 *To Sile*, to strain, as fresh milk from the cow. 1818 Scott *Hrt. Midl.* xiv, The brown four-year-auld's milk is not seiled yet. 1825- in dial. glossaries (E. Anglia, Northampt., Linc., etc.). 1892 J. Lucas *Kalm's Eng.* 173 That which was over was siled in the above-named manner and made into butter.

transf. 1820 *Blackw. Mag.* May 159 The..gentle Nith canna call a single fin its ain,—they syle its current through the herling nets 'tween yule and yule. 1847 J. Halliday *Rustic Bard* 264 The purest o' water is siel'd through the rock.

† 2. *dial.* To pour. *Obs.*

1787 Grose *Prov. Gloss.* s.v. *Syle*, He siled a gallon of ale down his throat.

Hence **Siled** *ppl. a.*; **Si'ling** *vbl. sb.* Also **Si'ler,** a milk-strainer (cf. Siling-dish).

1615 Markham *Eng. Housew.* II. iv. 109 *marg.*, Silling of milke. *a* 1800 Pegge *Suppl. Grose*, *Sil'd Milk*, skimmed milk. 1856 Henderson *Pop. Rhymes* 82 He handed her the milk-strainer, the milsey, or seiler.

† **Sile,** *v.*[3] *Obs.* Chiefly *Sc.* Also 6-7 **syle.** [ad. OF. *ciller* (*siller*), f. *cil* eyelash, or med.L. *ciliare* (Du Cange). The usual English form is Seel.]

1. *trans.* To sew up (the eyes of a hawk). *rare*$^{-1}$.

1398 Trevisa *Barth. De P. R.* XII. ii. (Tollemache MS.), Ofte þe yȝen of suche briddes [hawks] beþ þere siled, closid oþer hid.

2. To cover (the eyes or sight). Also with *up.*

c 1500 Kennedie *Passion of Christ* 448 Sum..filit his cristall eyne, And silit his sicht, as he a fule had bene. 1575 *Reg. Privy Counc. Scotl.* II. 479 Tuke thame nakit furth of thair beddis, and sylit thair eyis unto the tyme thay had distroyit the saidis houssis. 1629 Sir W. Mure *True Crucifix* 649 Now, siling vp his eyes, Hee streight must show Who him did most with causelesse strips infest.

b. *fig.* To deceive (the sight).

1584 Hudson *Du Bartas' Judith* II. 155 Thus siling humain sight, it changed form: One while a Rod, one while a creeping worm. *c* 1614 Sir W. Mure *Dido & Æneas* III. 422 Wast for this thow sought by slight To syle my sight, thy curst designes to cloake?

c. To deceive, beguile, or mislead (a person).

A common Scottish use in the 16th century.

1508 Dunbar *Gold. Targe* 217 Dissymulance was besy me to sile. *c* 1550 Lyndesay *Trag. Abp. St. Andrews* 205 With sweit and subtell wordis I did hym syle. 1585 Jas. I *Ess. Poesie* (Arb.) 33 With doubtsum talk she craftely begylde, Not only Grece, but Spaine and Indes she sylde.

3. To cover, hide, conceal.

c 1480 Henryson *Test. of Cresseid* 20 Quhen Titan had his bemis bricht Withdrawin doun, and sylit vnder cure. *c* 1500 Kennedie *Passion of Christ* 92 Silit he wes vnder schaddew of syn. 1513 Douglas *Æneid* XIII. Prol. 42 Baith man and beste..Involuit in tha schaddois warrin sild. 1552 Abp. Hamilton *Catech.* 70 Thai offend the Juge, fra quhom thai syle and hyde the veritie.

Hence † **Siled** *ppl. a. Obs.*

1567 *Satir. Poems Reform.* iv. 129 Quhair Venus anis gettis in hir gouernance Sic sylit subiectis felterit in hir snair. 1612 J. Davies (Heref.) *Muse's Sacr.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 48/2 While like a siled Doue, we (Lord) aspire.

† **Sile,** *v.*[4] *Obs.* Also 5-6 **syle.** [Sc. and northern var. of Ceil *v.*] = Ceil *v.* 2.

c 1450 Holland *Howlat* 671 [A palace] Pantit and apparalit proudly in pane, Sylit semely with silk. *c* 1532 Du Wes *Introd. Fr.* in *Palsgr.* 949 To sile a wale, *lambroisser*. 1535 Coverdale 1 *Kings* vi. 20 He syled the altare with Ceder.

Hence † **Siled** *ppl. a.*, ceiled.

1535 Coverdale *Judges* iii. 20 He sat in a syled Sommer perler. — *Haggai* i. 4 Ye youre selues can fynde tyme to dwell in syled houses.

Sile-clout, -dish. [f. Sile *sb.*[2] or *v.*[2]] (See quots.)

1668 *Markham's Eng. Housew.* II. vi. 144 After your Milk is come home, you shall strain it from all unclean things through a neat and sweet kept Syledish. 1691 Ray *N. C. Words* 67 A *Sile-dish*, a straining or cleansing Dish. 1876 F. K. Robinson *Whitby Gloss.*, *Sile-clout*, the cloth stretched over the hole of the milk-strainer.

Silen (sai·lĕn). Also 6, 7 **sylen.** [ad. L. *Silēn-us*, ad. Gr. Σειλην-ός: see Silenus.]

1. *Gr. Mythol.* One of the *Sileni* or wood-gods; a species of satyr.

1584 R. Scot *Discov. Witchcr.* VII. XV. (1886) 155 In our childhood our mother's maids have so terrified us with.. satyrs, pans, faunes, sylens,..that we are afraid of our own shadowes. 1601 Holland *Pliny* XXXV. X. II. 544 Lascivious wantonnesse, which he pourtraied by three drunken Sylenes making merrie and banketting togither. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 184/2 His [i. e. Socrates] appearance was not unlike that of the Silens and Satyrs. 1854 Keightley *Mythol.* (ed. 3) 206 Hermês and the Silens 'mingle in love' with the nymphs in pleasing caverns.

2. *Zool.* A species of macaque.

1848 tr. *Hoffmeister's Trav. Ceylon*, etc. 147 They were Silens, (*Inuus Silenus*) a species of short-tailed monkey.

Silena·ceous, *a. Bot.* [f. Silen-e + -aceous.] Belonging to the *Silenew*, a division of the order *Caryophyllacew*. Also **Sile·nal** *a.* and *sb.*, typified by the genus *Silene*; a plant of this kind.

1836 Lindley *Veget. Kingd.* (1846) 495 The Silenal Alliance. *Ibid.*, Natural Orders of Silenals. 1838 *Penny Cycl.* VIII. 475/2 *Dianthus*, a beautiful genus of Silenaceous Dicotyledonous plants.

Silence (sai·lĕns), *sb.* Forms: 3-6 **scilence,** 4-6 **scylence,** 6 **scylens**; 4-5 **cilence**; 5 **sylens(e,** 6 *Sc.* **silens,** 5-6 **sylence,** 3- **silence.** [a. OF. *silence, scilence*, ad. L. *silentium*, f. *silēre*

to be silent: cf. Prov. *silenci*, Sp. and Pg. *silencio*, It. *silenzio*.]

1. The fact of abstaining or forbearing from speech or utterance (sometimes with reference to a particular matter); the state or condition resulting from this; muteness, reticence, taciturnity. Occas. with *a* or in pl.

For the proverbial phrase *Silence gives consent*, see CONSENT *sb.* 1 c.

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 78 Ine silence & ine hope schal beon ower strencõe. *Ibid.*, Heo mei ec hopien þet heo schal ec singen þurh hire scilence sweteliche ine heouene. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xxxiii. (*George*) 637 [He] gert scilence be mad, til he had sad þat wes in his gule. 1388 WYCLIF *Acts* xix. 33 And Alisaundre axide with his hoond silence, and wolde 3elde a resoun to the puple. *c* 1420 LYDG. *Assembly of Gods* 44 In Plutoys name [there was] commaundyd silence. 1474 CAXTON *Chesse* II. iii. (1883) 38 And oftetymes they selle as welle theyr scilence as theyr vtterance. 1535 COVERDALE *Job* xxix. 21 Vnto me men gaue eare,..& with sylence they taried for my councell. 1597 SHAKS. 2 *Hen. IV*, II. ii. 178 No word to your Master that I am yet in Towne. There's for your silence. 1601 CAMPION *Wks.* (1909) 24 Doe not demaund why I am mute: Loues silence doth all speech confute. *a* 1668 DAVENANT *News fr. Plymouth* I. i, Silence becomes Men best, when Women talk. 1720 OZELL *Vertot's Rom. Rep.* I. iii. 157 The People intimidated, kept in a profound Silence for some Time. 1781 COWPER *Retirement* 414 The tongue..Shall own itself a stamm'rer in that cause, Or plead its silence as its best applause. 1818 SHELLEY *Julian* 363 Nor dream that I will join the vulgar cry; Or with my silence sanction tyranny. 1847 EMERSON *Poems* Wks. (Bohn) I. 471 Ye taught my lips a single speech, And a thousand silences. 1875 FARRAR *Silence & Voices* ii. 29 What is called the silence of ignorance may sometimes be the silence of repudiation, sometimes even the reticence of scorn.

personif. 1607 SHAKS. *Cor.* II. i. 192 My gracious silence, hayle: Would'st thou haue laugh'd, had I come Coffin'd home? 1667 MILTON *P. L.* IV. 604 The wakeful Nightingale ..all night long her amorous descant sung; Silence was pleas'd. 1815 SHELLEY *Alastor* 65 And Silence, too enamoured of that voice, Locks its mute music in her rugged cell.

b. In the phrases *to keep* (or † *hold*) *silence*, *to break silence*, *in silence*.

(*a*) *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 22 Vrom þet, efter Preciosa, holdeð silence. *c* 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 228/324 Hov holde 3e so silence þat neuer on ne spekez with oþur? *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xl. (*Ninian*) 336 As þai come til his presence, he gert þe puple kepe scilence. *c* 1450 *Rule Syon Monast.* liii. in *Collect. Topogr.* I. (1834) 31 Alle schal there kepe hyghe silence. 1471 CAXTON *Recuyell* (Sommer) I. 122 With this Iupiter helde his pees and kept scilence. 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 18 He required him that his adversaries might kepe silence. 1782 PRIESTLEY *Corrupt. Chr.* II. ix. 211 They kept a strict silence all the week. 1819 SHELLEY *Cenci* IV. iv. 88 He keeps firm silence; but these lines found on him May speak. 1841 LANE *Arab. Nts.* I. 102 This is an event respecting which it is impossible to keep silence.

(*b*) 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 86 Thus fulofte my silence I breke. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 2525 Than Troilus..brake Sylense belyue, and abrode saide. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* I. i. 42 He [Morpheus] mumbled soft, but would not all his silence breake. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* IX. 895 At length First to himself he inward silence broke. 1718 POPE *Iliad* XIX. 461 He broke Eternal silence, and portentous spoke. 1783 BURNS *Poor Mailie* 12 At length poor Mailie silence brak. 1842 BROWNING *Pied Piper* iv, An hour they sate in council, At length the Mayor broke silence.

(*c*) *c* 1380 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* I. 93 We shulden be tymes reste, and preye to God in scilence. *c* 1430 LYDG. *Min. Poems* (Percy Soc.) 41 He kept the nyhte in peas and silence. *c* 1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 993 Þan sole in silence sall he sitt, And rays him self abouen his witt. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* (1637) 566 In speech will I ever render thankes, and in silence acknowledge my selfe most deepely endebted. 1746 FRANCIS tr. *Horace, Epist.* I. xvii. 75 But had the Crow his Food in Silence eat, Less had his Quarrels been. 1757 W. WILKIE *Epigoniad* VII. 192 Amaz'd we stood; in silence, each his mind To fear and hope alternately resign'd. 1827 in Scott *Chron. Canongate* Introd. App., The next toast..he wished to be drunk in solemn silence. 1889 *Sat. Rev.* 9 Feb. 145/2 A brave man suffers in silence.

c. *To put to silence*, to silence by argument or prohibition; † to put to death; also † *to put silence* (*un*)*to*, to reduce to silence.

(*a*) 1382 WYCLIF *Matt.* xxii. 34 Pharisees, heerynge that he hadde put silence to Saducees. 1508 KENNEDIE *Flyting w. Dunbar* 41 Heir I put sylence to the in all partis. 1677 YARRANTON *Eng. Improv.* 155, I know writing Books of Trade..puts a silence unto the whole History, be it never so good.

(*b*) 1502 ARNOLDE *Chron.* (1811) p. xxxvii, The ii. sonnys of Kinge Edward were put to silence. 1529 MORE *Dyalogue* I. Wks. 127/1 Ye haue put me to sylence, that I dare not nowe bee bolde to tell you that I haue sene it my selfe. 1579 W. WILKINSON *Confut. Fam. Love* Brief Descr. iiij b, Which wordes so often he repeated, that thereby he put Barry to silence. 1601 SHAKS. *Jul. C.* I. ii. 290 Murrellus and Flauius, for pulling scarffes off Cæsars Images, are put to silence. *c* 1680 BEVERIDGE *Serm.* (1729) I. 499 So as to put them to silence. 1846 TRENCH *Mirac.* xix. (1862) 326 He had put them to silence and to shame before all the people. 1879 M. J. GUEST *Lect. Hist. Eng.* xlii. 424 Tyndale ..would..sometimes put all the dignitaries to silence by his arguments.

fig. 1581 J. BELL *Haddon's Answ. Osor.* 254 Such force and dexterity, as may be able to putte your overthwart obstinacy to scilence. 1590 J. SMYTH in *Lett. Lit. Men* (Camden) 60 My little Booke..shall be put to silence and abolished.

d. Used imperatively, = Be silent; make no noise.

1590 SHAKS. *Mids. N.* v. i. 266 But silence, heere comes Thisby 1667 MILTON *P. L.* VII. 216 Silence, ye troubl'd waves, and thou Deep, peace. 1728 POPE *Dunc.* III. 165 Silence, ye Wolves! while Ralph to Cynthia howls. 1819 SHELLEY *Cyclops* 475 Silence now! Ye know the close device. 1873 SYMONDS *Grk. Poets* vii. 225 Silence! Hush! what noise was this?

2. The state or condition when nothing is audible; absence of all sound or noise; complete quietness or stillness; noiselessness. Sometimes personified. Also const. *of* (the night, etc.).

1382 WYCLIF *Isaiah* viii. 6 The watris of Siloe, that gon with silence. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* x. ii. (1495) 27 b, Derknesse is seen yf noo thynge is seen, & scylence is knowen yf noo thynge is herde. 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* xxxv. 1 Lucina schynnyng in silence of the nicht. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* III. i. 59 Whenas all the world in silence deepe Yshrowded was. 1602 SHAKS. *Ham.* II. ii. 506 But as we often see against some storme, A silence in the Heauens. *c* 1630 MILTON *Upon the Circumcision* 5 Through the soft silence of the list'ning night. 1738 WESLEY *Hymns*, '*Regent of all the Worlds above*' iii, Fair Queen of Silence, Silver Moon. 1784 COWPER *Task* VI. 84 Stillness, accompanied with sounds so soft, Charms more than silence. 1832 MACAULAY *Armada* 49 Then bugle's note and cannon's roar the deathlike silence broke. 1850 TENNYSON *In Mem.* xix, There twice a day the Severn fills;..And makes a silence in the hills. 1878 BROWNING *La Saisiaz* 25 Can I..sharpen ear to recognize Sound o'er league and league of silence?

b. Used allusively to denote the state beyond this life. Chiefly in pl. and with initial capital.

1803–6 WORDSW. *Ode Intimat. Immortality* ix, Power to make Our noisy years seem moments in the being Of the eternal Silence. 1851 CARLYLE *Sterling* I. i, To return silently, with his small, sorely foiled bit of work, to the Supreme Silences. 1908 E. MILLER *Martyrs of the Moors* 55 In fear and darkness his soul floated out to the great Silence.

c. *Tower of Silence*, one of a number of small towers upon the summit of which the Parsees place their dead (see quot. 1865).

1865 *Chambers's Encycl.* VII. 300 Their dead are not buried, but exposed on an iron grating in the Dokhma, or Tower of Silence, to the fowls of the air. *c* 1880 GRANT *Hist. India* I. lxix. 359/1 The exposure of their dead in the Towers of Silence, to be eaten by the birds.

3. Omission of mention, remark, or notice in narration. Chiefly in phrases *to pass with*, *pass over in*, *silence*.

1513 BRADSHAW *St. Werburge* Prol. 114 It were no reason her name be had in scylence, But to the people her name be magnyfyed. 1585 T. WASHINGTON tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* IV. xxxiii. 156 Ordinances, which I passe with silence. 1600 J. PORY tr. *Leo's Africa* III. 131, I would much rather haue smothered such matters in silence. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* VI. 385 Eternal silence be thir doome. 1711 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 1 P 3 As for the rest of my Infancy, there being nothing in it remarkable, I shall pass it over in Silence.

b. Neglect or omission to write (about something); failure to communicate or reply.

1617 MORYSON *Itin.* II. 206 By Don Jeans silence from Spaine, this overture..tooke no effect as long as the Queene lived. 1698 FROGER *Voy.* A j, The silence of all those who made the voyage with me, constrained me to expose it to publick view. 1771 *Junius Lett.* liv. (1788) 292, I understand that the public are not satisfied with my silence;—that an answer is expected of me. 1790 PALEY *Horæ Paul.* II. i. 9 The silence of the historian..concerning any contribution, might lead us to look out for some different journey.

† **4.** A small hammer used to command silence or order. *Obs.*—1

1556 in Jupp *Acc. Carpenters' Comp.* (1887) 139 He helde not his peess before the master hade knockyd with the sylence iij tymes.

5. *Mus.* A rest.

1752 tr. *Rameau's Treat. Music* 171 This Silence or Rest can be made but upon a Concord or consonant Note. 1856 MRS. BROWNING *Aur. Leigh* v. 342 The soul..With all its grand orchestral silences To keep the pauses of its rhythmic sounds.

6. *Distill.* Want of flavour in distilled spirit. (Cf. SILENT *a.* 5 c.)

1879 *Spon's Encycl. Manuf.* I. 229 Owing to its 'silence', there is no possibility of detecting afterwards from what source it has been obtained.

7. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *silence time*, and in recent use *silence-box*, *command*, *room*, *rule*, etc.

1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) V. 19 Speke wolde he nevere, as it is i-write in þe questiouns þat he wroot in his scilence tyme. *c* 1450 in Aungier *Syon* (1840) 268 Eche suster..shalle answer thus aȝene in lyke voyce thof it be sylence tyme. 1894 *Daily News* 28 Mar. 3/1 These particulars are telephoned into a silence-box at the Central Savings Bank. *Ibid.* 14 May 5/1 He promised the modification and virtually the abolition of the silence rule.

Silence (sə͡i·lĕns), *v.* Also 6 silense. [f. prec.]

1. *trans.* To cause or compel (one) to cease speaking on a particular occasion; also, to overcome in argument.

1603 SHAKS. *Meas. for M.* v. i. 181 Silence that fellow: I would he had some cause to prattle for himselfe. 1683 D. A. *Art of Converse* 18 If they happen to be silenc'd by another they become on a sudden ill humour'd. 1733 *Present State of Popery* 21 This learned priest has silenc'd the parson. 1797 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Italian* xiii, Paulo was silenced for a while by a significant look from his master. 1825 SCOTT *Betrothed* xvii, Silenced by this hint, the chirurgeon betook himself to his proper duty. 1877 FROUDE *Short Stud.* (1883) IV. i. iv. 47 The Archbishop of York peculiarly irritated Becket, and was silenced by a violent answer.

refl. 1604 SHAKS. *Ham.* III. iv. 4 Ile silence me e'ene heere: Pray you be round with him.

fig. 1736 BUTLER *Anal.* I. i. Wks. 1874 I. 18 How difficult it is to silence imagination enough to make the voice of reason even distinctly heard. 1791 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Rom. Forest* i, And, for a time, silenced his conscience.

b. To cause (an animal or thing) to cease from giving out its natural sound; to still, quieten.

1604 SHAKS. *Oth.* II. iii. 175 Silence that dreadfull Bell, it frights the Isle, From her propriety. 1735 SHERIDAN in *Swift's Lett.* (1768) IV. 99 Upon desiring him to silence our dog. 1789 COWPER *Mrs. Throckmorton's Bulfinch* 59 That beak..Might have repaid him well, I wote, For silencing so sweet a throat. 1810 SCOTT *Lady of Lake* III. iii, The mountain eagle..spread her dark sails on the wind, And..Silenced the warblers of the brake. 1859 TENNYSON *Merlin & V.* 391 It is the little rift within the lute That by and by will make the music mute, And ever widening slowly silence all.

c. To stop, suppress (a noise or sound).

1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* xvii, Silence her cursed noise, if you should throttle her. 1819 — *Ivanhoe* xxxi, An awful pause of horror silenced each murmur of the armed spectators.

2. To reduce (a person, etc.) to silence by restraint or prohibition, esp. in order to prevent the free expression of opinions.

1597 SHAKS. 2 *Hen. IV*, v. ii. 97 Imagine me, taking your part, And in your power, soft silencing your Sonne. 1607 — *Cor.* II. i. 263 He would Haue..silenc'd their Pleaders, And dispropertied their Freedomes. 1644 MILTON *Areop.* (Arb.) 38 We may not marvell, if not so often bad, as good Books were silenc't. 1691 WOOD *Ath. Oxon.* I. 157 He saw that the R. Cath. Religion would be silenced in England. 1727 BOYER *Dict. Royal* II, To silence the Play-house, *interdire la Comedie*. 1861 HOOK *Lives Abps.* I. i. 2 Oppression was legalised and Parliaments were silenced. 1879 B. TAYLOR *Germ. Lit.* 165 If arms silence laws, they silence letters all the more speedily.

b. To put down, repress (any expression of feeling, etc.).

1647 SANDERSON *Serm.* II. 207 To silence all tumultuous thoughts and secret murmurings of our evil hearts. 1651 HOBBES *Leviath.* IV. xlvi. 380 Let them [*sc.* opinions] be silenced by the Laws of those, to whom the Teachers of them are subject. 1788 GIBBON *Decl. & Fall* xlv. IV. 434 The complaints of the people could no longer be silenced by the splendid names of a legislator and a conqueror. 1833 HT. MARTINEAU *Tale of Tyne* vii. 124 She vehemently silenced poor Tim's suggestions. 1874 GREEN *Short Hist.* iii. § 5. 139 A threat of excommunication silenced the murmurs of the clergy.

3. a. *Mil.* and *Naval.* To compel (a gun, battery, or ship) to cease firing; to disable by superior fire; to stop (the fire of a gun).

1748 SMOLLETT *Rod. Rand.* xxxiii, The enemy's fire.. slackened, and towards evening was quite silenced. 1755 in *Naval Chron.* (1799) I. 9 We silenced three of her lower deck guns. 1844 H. H. WILSON *Brit. India* I. 345 The batteries..opened on the town and fort, and soon silenced their fire. 1893 FORBES-MITCHELL *Gt. Mutiny* 96 A number of the best shots..were selected to try and silence the fire from the battery.

b. *slang.* (See quot.)

1785 GROSE *Dict. Vulgar T.*, *To silence a man*, to knock him down, or stun him.

† **4.** To leave unmentioned or unnoticed; to pass over in silence, to omit. *Obs.*

1602 WARNER *Alb. Eng.* Epitome 381 The Surname Tuder: wherein..that of Plantagenet is inclusiuely silenced. 1627 W. SCLATER *Exp.* 2 *Thess.* (1629) 133 The..coniectures of the late Interpreter..I willingly silence. 1660 HOLMWOOD in J. Bland *Trade Revived* Pref., I was..injoyned..to silence his name, and have accordingly delivered sundry books to divers worthy Persons under a Nonemus.

† **5.** To get rid of (a thing) by maintaining silence. Const. *away*. *Obs.*—1

1788 MME. D'ARBLAY *Diary* IV. iv. 197 The subject.. being always embarrassing to me,..I silenced it away.

6. *intr.* To cease speaking; to become silent or still. *rare.*

1560 ROLLAND *Seven Sages* 30 The Heralds bad sone silence all and ceis. 1594 R. CAREW *Tasso* (1881) 13 The olde man silenst here. *Ibid.* 91 There silenc'd she, and seemed a disdaine Royall and noble flamed in her face. 1886 RANDOLPH *Mostly Fools* III. i. 25 The busy bustling room silenced and sobered instantly.

Silenced (sə͡i·lĕnst), *ppl. a.* [f. prec.] That has been reduced or put to silence; *spec.* forbidden to preach or hold services on account of refusal to comply with some order.

1606 (*title*), A Christian..Offer of a most indifferent Conference..abovt the maine and principall Controversies betwixt the Prelats, and the late silenced and deprived Ministers. 1644 in Wilkins *Polit. Ball.* (1860) I. 15 The silenc'd clergy..In your damnation will bear share. 1681 BAXTER *Apol. Nonconf. Min.* 1 Apology for the Silenced ministers. 1731 CALAMY *Life* (1830) I. i. 77, I went afterwards to Mr. Tatnal's, who was the silenced minister of St. John Evangelist. 1737 POPE *Horace, Ep.* II. i. 237 The silenc'd Preacher yields to potent strain. 1818 BYRON *Ch. Har.* IV. cxii, In yon field below, A thousand years of silenced factions sleep. 1825 LD. COCKBURN *Mem.* (1856) 352 Its old and long silenced claims.. were now revived. 1836 H. ROGERS *Life Howe* iv. 150 Though Howe was an ejected minister, he could not consent to be a silenced one.

Silencer (sə͡i·lĕnsəɹ). [f. SILENCE *v.* + -ER 1.]

1. One who, or that which, silences; a conclusive argument or retort.

1635 STRAFFORD *Lett.* (1739) I. 419 Death (the great Silencer of all our Words and Thoughts). 1684 BAXTER *Twelve Argt.* Post. N 3, Both Extreams..are silencers of all that would undeceive them. 1817 KEATS *To Georgiana A. Wylie* 64 Bane of every wicked spell; Silencer of dragon's yell. 1871 G. MEREDITH *Harry Richmond* xv, But my retort..was a silencer.

2. A piece of mechanism attached to a motor vehicle and used to silence or reduce the sound

naturally caused by its working; also, a similar contrivance attached to a maxim gun or rifle.

1898 *Autocar* 5 Feb. 93/2 A more satisfactory silencer than the average run of silencers on Bollées.

Si·lencing, *vbl. sb.* [f. SILENCE *v.* + -ING 1.] The action of the verb in various senses.

1596 NASHE *Saffron Walden* Wks. (Grosart) III. 123 Neuer exceeding a penny a quart, day nor night; and this deare yeare, together with the silencing of his loombes, scarce that. 1635 STRAFFORD *Lett.* (1739) I. 406 This only.. hath been my motive for the silencing this Business thus long. 1651 BAXTER *Saints' Rest* II. vi. § 4 *marg.*, About the time of the silencing of Ministers. 1691 WOOD *Ath. Oxon.* II. 607 From that time to his silencing, he was a very zealous person for promoting the cause. 1751 J. BROWN *Ess. Shaftesb. Charac.* 62 So much for the silencing, which is the only conviction, of obstinacy and ignorance. 1895 *Athenæum* 31 Aug. 281/2 Very probably there was some partial silencing of the archery on one flank of the English host.

Si·lencing, *ppl. a.* [-ING 2.] That reduces to silence; conclusive.

1800 SWANSTON *Serm. & Lect.* I. 224 This was a silencing question. 1870 *Daily Telegr.* 6 Oct., It is impossible to give any silencing answer to those pestilent querists.

†**Si·lency.** *Obs. rare.* [See SILENCE *sb.* and -Y.] Silence.

1634 LENTON *Inns of Crt. Anagrammatist* B iv, And, in Love's silency, Whisperd each other, Lord, what a back hath he! 1642 H. MORE *Song of Soul* I. ii. 20 The Moon in silency Doth passe by night. *Ibid.* iii. 65 In solem silency this vapour rose.

Silene (səilī·nī). *Bot.* [mod.L. (Linnæus), f. L. *Sīlēnus* SILENUS.] A genus of caryophyllaceous plants typifying the tribe *Sileneæ*; a plant belonging to this genus; catchfly.

1785 MARTYN *Rousseau's Bot.* xix. (1794) 274 In *Cucubalus* it [the calyx] is much inflated, and in *Silene* it is swelling. 1796 WITHERING *Brit. Pl.* (ed. 3) II. 414 It is evident from Ray's description that the Dover plant is a Silene, and not a Cucubalus. 1846 LINDLEY *Veget. Kingd.* 497 Some Silenes are scattered in many different parts of the globe. 1882 *Good Words* Mar. 184 Overgrown by masses of pink silene or tall graceful asphodels.

Silenic (səilī·nik), *a.* [f. SILEN-US + -IC.] Resembling Silenus or one of the Sileni.

In both passages the reference is to Socrates.

1822 SHELLEY *Prose Wks.* (1888) II. 108 Appearances in themselves excessively Silenic. 1850 GROTE *Greece* II. lxviii. VIII. 605 Its effect was enhanced.. by the very eccentricity of his Silenic physiognomy.

Silenite, obs. form of SELENITE.

Silent (sai·lĕnt), *a.* and *sb.* [ad. L. *silent-em*, pres. pple. of *silēre* to be silent.]

A. *adj.* **1.** Keeping or maintaining silence; refraining from speech or utterance; speechless, mute, dumb. Also, taciturn, reticent, reserved.

1565 COOPER *Thesaurus, Taciturnulus*, somwhat silente. 1580 FULKE *Dang. Rock* 164 He is as silent as a Stone. 1588 GREENE *Perimedes* Wks. (Grosart) VII. 22 Delia by being silent, seemed to consent. 1611 SHAKS. *Wint. T.* IV. iv. 178 *Pol.* She dances featly. *Shep.* So she do's any thing, though I report it That should be silent. 1664 MARVELL *Corr.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 167 Upon so extraordinary occasions..had I an hundred tongues I should be struck silent. 1715 POPE *Iliad* I. 430 At awful Distance long they silent stand, Loth to advance, or speak their hard Command. 1797 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Italian* I, Which kept him silent, notwithstanding his wish to speak. 1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* vi, If I could think myself the cause of Tressilian's ruin,..I might be brought to be silent. 1848 DICKENS *Dombey* I, They were both silent for a time; she weeping. 1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) IV. 374 Throughout the two dialogues Socrates continues a silent auditor.

absol. 1778 MISS BURNEY *Evelina* lxiv, She has neither leisure nor thought to attend to the silent.

b. *transf.* and *fig.* of things.

1605 SHAKS. *Lear* I. iv. 70 My duty cannot be silent, when I thinke your Highnesse wrong'd. 1659 *Gentl. Calling* (1696) 160 Idleness though a Crying sin..hath been the silentest of my guilts. 1757 GRAY *Epitaph Mrs. Clarke* 1 Where this silent marble weeps, A friend, a wife, a mother, sleeps. 1779 *Mirror* No. 61, There is a silent chronicle of past hours in the inanimate things amidst which they have been spent. 1824 BYRON *Juan* XVI. viii, The song was silent, and the dance expired. 1838 LYTTON *Alice* 16 Respect the silent heart of your mother. 1862 TENNYSON *Ded. Idylls* 16 All narrow jealousies Are silent; and we see him as he moved.

c. Of animals, birds, etc.

1801 LATHAM *Gen. Synop. Birds* Suppl. II. 204 Silent Tanager...Inhabits the thick woods of Guiana...A solitary bird. 1809 SHAW *Gen. Zool.* VII. II. 330 Silent shrike...Native of the interior of Africa and the Cape of Good Hope. 1832 TENNYSON *Œnone* 25 The grasshopper is silent in the grass. *phrase.* 1828 LYTTON *Pelham* IX, The silent sow sups all the broth. 1855 HALIBURTON *Nature & Hum. Nature* I. vii. 201 The silent pig is the best feeder.

2. Of writers, books, etc.: Omitting mention of or reference to, passing over or disregarding, something in narration; containing no account or record. Const. † *in*, *of*, *as to*, † *to*.

1601 R. JOHNSON *Kingd. & Commw.* (1603) 171 For (to be silent *in* matters of more auncient memory) about the yeare of our lorde 1300 [etc.]. 1629 PEMBLE *On Zachary* 92 Why were they silent of the other fasts, and touch onely vpon this? 1686 PLOT *Staffordsh.* 398 Our Historians..would not certainly have been silent of so considerable a structure, had they been the Authors of it. 1762 FOOTE *Orators* I. Wks. 1780 II. 25 The Court-Register has been silent to the members of common-council. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) I. 280 Although history be silent as to many other inundations of the like kind. 1858 *Nat. Rev.* Oct. 505 The men of letters are so silent of them as to indicate [etc.]. 1871 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* (1876) IV. xviii. 224 As to the other shire..history is equally silent.

3. Characterized or marked by silence or absence of speech; performed, made, suffered, etc., in silence or without speaking.

The silent system, a method of discipline enforced in a prison, penitentiary, etc., which imposes complete silence on all occasions.

1592 DANIEL *Compl. Rosamond* 128 Sweet silent Rhetorique of perswading eyes. 1597 HOOKER *Eccl. Pol.* V. lxv. § 5 Religion hauing likewise her silent rites. 1655 FULLER *Ch. Hist.* IX. 204 Princes politickly understanding their mutual secret language (not to say silent signs). 1691 HARTCLIFFE *Virtues* 319 His Religion was to be placed in a sober and silent Piety. 1746 FRANCIS tr. *Horace, Epist.* I. xiv. 20 A Country-Life was then your silent Prayer. 1779 *Mirror* No. 27, That silent and majestic sorrow which commands our reverence and our admiration. 1819 SCOTT *Ivanhoe* XXXVIII, The younger knights told each other with their eyes, in silent correspondence [etc.]. 1836–7 DICKENS *Sk. Boz, Scenes* XVII, We went over the House of Correction.. to witness the operation of the silent system. 1866 GEO. ELIOT *F. Holt* (1868) 14 She took care that they should be silent tears. 1891 *Fishing Gaz.* 14 Feb. 85/3 Then he drank a silent whiskey and left.

b. Of letters: Not sounded or pronounced; mute. See also quot. 1662.

1605 CAMDEN *Rem.* (1623) 27 The adding..of our silent E, in the end of some words. 1662 PLAYFORD *Skill Mus.* I. viii. (1674) 26 Pauses or Rests are silent Characters, or an artificial omission of the Voyce or Sound. 1711 J. GREENWOOD *Eng. Gram.* 301 Other Letters..are quiescent or silent. 1869 ELLIS *E. E. Pronunc.* I. 570 The final *e* seems to have become silent even in 14. or 13. in the northern parts of the country. 1881 TYLOR *Anthrop.* vii. 179 The now silent letters are relics of sounds which used to be really heard in Anglo-Saxon.

c. Unmentioned, unrecorded; marked by the absence of any record. *rare.*

1616 in *Cath. Rec. Soc. Publ.* III. 46, I cannot keep silent the singular pietie & bouldnesse of a certaine woeman. 1868 MILMAN *St. Paul's* ii. 28 He was bishop..for ten silent years.

d. (See quot.)

1888 HERON *Church Sub. Apostolic Age* 90 His quotations are what have been called 'Silent', without any mention of the source.

4. Characterized by the absence of sound or noise; quiet, noiseless, still.

1588 SHAKS. *L. L. L.* II. i. 22 Till painefull studie shall out-weare three yeares, No woman may approach his silent Court. 1594 — *Rich. III*, v. iii. 85 The silent houres steale on, And flakie darkenesse breakes within the East. 1638 JUNIUS *Paint. Ancients* 14 The nights.. whose length is abundantly able..to stirre up our phantasie by a silent quietnesse. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* II. 547 Others more milde, Retreated in a silent valley. *a* 1770 JORTIN *Serm.* (1771) V. 42 The Providence of God acts in a silent and mysterious manner. 1794 COLERIDGE *Tears in Solitude* 1 A green and silent spot, amid the hills, A small and silent dell! 1833 TENNYSON *Lotos Eaters* 16 Three mountain-tops, Three silent pinnacles of aged snow. 1887 L. OLIPHANT *Episodes* iv. 67 It involved..bark-canoeing on distant and silent lakes.

b. Making, or giving out, no noise or sound.

1753 CHALLONER *Cath. Chr. Instr.* 220 From..this Day.. our Bells are silent throughout the Catholic Church. 1798 in Nicolas *Disp. Nelson* (1846) VII. p. clvi, The Guerrier and Conquérant..continued for a considerable time to fire.. a gun or two, and about 8 o'clock..were totally silent. 1827 POLLOK *Course Time* IX, He went abroad, With foot as silent as the starry dews. 1859 TENNYSON *Marriage of Geraint* 321 A piece of turret stair Worn by the feet that now were silent. 1890 *R. Academy Catal.* 52 North Sea fishermen call screw steamers 'Silent Deaths', from their noiseless approach.

5. †**a.** Of the moon: Not shining. *Obs.*

a 1646 J. GREGORY *Posthuma* (1650) 202 The most easie deliverie..is alwaies in the increas, toward and in the full of the Moon, and the hardest labors in the new and silent Moon. *a* 1727 NEWTON *Daniel* I. xi. (1733) 160 The Jews referred all the time of the silent moon, as they phrased it, that is, of the moon's disappearing, to the old moon.

b. Inactive, quiescent, not operative.

1745 tr. *Columella's Husb.* IV. xxx, The proper time for setting them is before they bud, while the rods are silent [L. *dum silent virgæ*]. 1828–32 WEBSTER s.v., A silent partner in a commercial house. 1867 ARGYLL *Reign of Law* I. 34 In many animal frames there are what have been called 'silent members', members which have no reference to the life or use of the animal. 1878 HUXLEY *Physiogr.* 203 A volcano, after being silent for ages, may suddenly start forth into fresh life. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VII. 643 One of the so-called 'silent' areas of the brain; for lesions in this situation are not infrequently latent, that is unattended with definite localising symptoms.

c. Of distilled spirit: Possessing no flavour.

1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 405 Well purified or clean spirits, such as the distillers call silent whiskey. *Ibid.* 1255 A little silent spirit of wine being poured in. 1879 *Spon's Encycl. Manuf.* I. 228 The Irish distillers..assert further that the Scotch produce or 'silent spirit' as they agree to term it.. possesses no flavour.

6. *Comb.* **a.** With adverbial force, as *silent-blessing*, *-falling*, *-gliding*, *-marking*, *-speaking*, etc.

c 1612 CHAPMAN *Iliad* XV. 35 Thou Flood, whose silent-gliding waues, the vnder ground doth beare. 1728–46 THOMSON *Spring* 882 Like silent-working Heaven, surprising oft The lonely heart with unexpected good. 1786 BURNS *Lament* ix, Oft has thy silent-marking glance Observ'd us. 1820 KEATS *Lamia* II. 148 Wherefore flout The silent-blessing fate, warm cloister'd hours? 1850 TENNYSON *In Mem.* XCV. 26 On the silence broke The silent-speaking words. 1868 J. H. NEWMAN *Verses Var. Occas.* 157, I will..view Each shrivelling stalk and silent-falling leaf.

b. Parasynthetic, as *silent-footed*, *-lighted*.

1850 TENNYSON *In Mem.* Concl. 112 The silent-lighted town. 1895 CLIVE HOLLAND *My Japanese Wife* 11 A white cat flits ghost-like and silent-footed across the path.

B. *sb.* †**1.** The time of silence. *Obs.*—1

1593 SHAKS. 2 *Hen. VI*, I. iv. 19 Deepe Night, darke Night, the silent of the Night.

2. A device by which a clock or alarm may be prevented from striking or acting.

1834–6 *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) VIII. 634/1 The three-armed piece *s t u*, which is called the strike or silent. 1871 R. S. CULLEY *Pract. Telegr.* (ed. 5) 228 A switch of this kind attached to an alarum is called a 'silent'.

Silential, *a. rare.* [Cf. next and -AL.] Accompanied by, connected with, silence.

1709 S. SEWALL *Diary* 6 Nov., Mr. Pemberton..read her Confession immediately, and by the silential vote restored her. 1712 *Ibid.* 2 Apr., What the Church had done in their Nomination, was by a Silential Vote Approved. 1859 J. WILSON *Mem.* ix. 390 From some unknown silential principle..he had declined to reveal the secrets.

Silentiary (səile·nʃări). [ad. late L. *silentiari-us*, f. L. *silentium* silence: see -ARY. So F. *silenciaire*.]

1. One who observes or recommends silence, *esp.* from religious motives.

1611 COTGR., *Silentiaire*, a silenciarie, a patron or patterne of silence. 1657 TRAPP *Comm. Ps.* v. 4 The word signifieth Be dumb; and hereupon all our Silentiaries have founded their superstitious opinions and practices. 1844 *N. British Rev.* I. 141 A few solitaries, silentiaries, stylites,..from their caves and pillars, pleaded this interposition. 1883 SWINBURNE in *Fortn. Rev.* XXXIV. 513 The Gospel according to St. Coprostom the Silentiary [i.e. Carlyle].

2. An officer of the Byzantine court, whose duty originally was to obtain silence, but who frequently acted as a confidential adviser or agent. Now *Hist.*

Blount *Glossogr.* (1656) has: '*Silentiary*, a Gentleman Usher, who sees good rule and quietness kept'.

a 1677 BARROW *Pope's Supremacy* VI. xvi. (1680) 400 That notable passage in the Synod of Chalcedon; where Bassianus ..saith, Our..Emperor..afterwards sent his rescript by Eustathius the Silentiary. 1788 GIBBON *Decl. & F.* xlii. IV. 263 He had served ten years a silentiary of the Byzantine palace. 1833 *Blackw. Mag.* XXXIV. 117 Agathias' friend, Paul the Silentiary.., who at the court of Justinian held an..office corresponding to that of Gentleman Usher. 1895 *Edin. Rev.* Apr. 479 The contemplation of the spectacle raises the Silentiary to his highest key.

b. An official whose duty it is to command silence.

1838 *Fraser's Mag.* XVIII. 180 The silentiary, standing by the main pillar of the hall, smote lustily upon it with his rod, to command silence. 1883 SEEBOHM *Eng. Village Comm.* 240 The columns..are sometimes cased in metal, and the silentiary, to call attention, strikes one of them with his staff.

Silentious (səile·nʃəs), *a.* [Cf. late L. *silentiōsus*, It. *silenzioso*, Sp. and Pg. *silencioso*, F. *silencieux*.] Given to silence.

1879 WEBSTER *Suppl.*, *Silentious*, habitually silent; taciturn; reticent. 1895 HOWELLS in *Century Mag.* June 184/1 Those silentious minstrels who grind small, mute organs at the corners of the pavement.

Si·lentish, *a. rare.* [f. SILENT *a.*] Somewhat silent.

1737 OZELL *Rabelais* IV. 175 A small, still, silent (or, if you will, Silentish) Sound.

Si·lently, *adv.* [f. SILENT *a.* + -LY 2.]

1. In a silent manner; without speaking, in silence; without noise or commotion, noiselessly, quietly; without mention or notice.

1570–6 LAMBARDE *Peramb. Kent* (1826) 157, I could not silently slip over such impieties. 1590 SHAKS. *Mids. N.* III. i. 206 Tye vp my louers tongue, bring him silently. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* I. 246 The Turkey company in London was at this time..silently enjoying the safety and profit of this trafficke. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* V. 330 She..silently a gentle tear let fall. 1730 WATERLAND *Rem. Clarke's Exp. Ch. Catech.* ii, What the compilers recommended chiefly to our faith, he silently passes over. 1784 COWPER *Task* IV. 419 These ask with painful shyness, and, refus'd Because deserving, silently retire! 1832 LYTTON *E. Aram* I. xi, Ellinor silently made room for her cousin beside herself. 1878 LECKY *Eng. in 18th C.* I. 313 Most of the..congregations had silently discarded the old doctrine of the Trinity.

†**2.** Gradually, imperceptibly. *Obs.*—1

1668 CULPEPPER & COLE *Barthol. Anat.* I. xiii. 30 It goes by little and little straight forward, and is silently terminated towards the spleen.

Si·lentness. [f. SILENT *a.* + -NESS.]

1. Maintenance of silence; avoidance of speech or utterance; reticence; speechlessness.

a 1623 AINSWORTH *Annot. Ps.* xl, 3 [=xxxix. 2] With stillnesse, or, silentnesse. 1727 BAILEY (vol. II.), *Silentness*, silence. 1817 BYRON *Lament of Tasso* V, And if my eyes reveal'd it, they, alas! Were punish'd by the silentness of thine. 1836 MRS. BROWNING *Poet's Vow* V. iv, I charge thee, by the living's prayer, And the dead's silentness. 1882 MRS. CRAIK *Little Mother* II. 39 Dorcas with her silentness and careworn face.

transf. 1860 FABER *Bethlehem* iii. (1865) 153 There was something in the silentness of His look, which compelled worship.

2. The condition of being silent or still; absence of sound or noise; silence, stillness, noiselessness, quietness. Chiefly *poet.*

1795 COLERIDGE *Anc. Mar.* VI. xvii, The moonlight steeped in silentness The steady weathercock. 1813 SHELLEY *Q. Mab* VIII. 74 Where the shrill chirp of the green lizard's

love Broke on the sultry silentness alone. 1849 *Tait's Mag.* XVI. 105 The tingling silentness of solemn midnight ..lulled the spirit. 1886 RUSKIN *Præterita* I. vi. 201 The smooth pavement under the wheels adding with its silentness to the sense of dream wonder in it all.

b. With *a.*

1819 WIFFEN *Aonian Hours* 88 A sound beneath—a silentness above. 1865 *Cornh. Mag.* XI. 360 In the keen cold air There was a hush, a sleepless silentness.

‖ **Silenus** (səilī·nŏs). Pl. **Sileni** (səilī·nəi). [L. *Silēnus*, ad. Gr. Σειληνός: cf. SILEN.]

1. *Gr. Mythol.* The foster-father of Bacchus, and leader of the satyrs; also, a wood-god, a satyr.

1710 W. KING *Heathen Gods & Heroes* xxvii. (1722) 134 Several cruel Dæmons, Satyrs, Sileni and Tityri. *a* 1734 NORTH *Lives* (1826) II. 44 He was a very Silenus to the boys, ..the students of the law, to make them merry whenever they had a mind to it. 1738 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Satyr*, The poets usually confound the Satyrs, Sylvans, Sileni, Fauns, and Panes. 1820 SHELLEY *Hymn of Pan* 18 The Sileni, and Sylvans, and Fauns, And the Nymphs of the woods and the waves. 1831 KEIGHTLEY *Mythol.* 204 The Satyrs..when old were called Sileni.

2. *Zool.* A species of macaque. Also *attrib.*

1871 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* I. 117 The Silenus Ape, usually miscalled Wanderoo, is so baboonish that, although it has a long tail, it cannot be placed with the Common Macaque.

† **Si·ler.** *Bot. Obs.* [a. L. *siler*.]

1. With the epithet *mountain*: An umbelliferous plant of the genus *Seseli*.

Given without the distinguishing epithet in Crabb *Technol. Dict.* (1823) and *Treas. Bot.* (1866).

1548 TURNER *Names Herbes* (E. D. S.) 73 Seseli massiliense is called in the Poticaries shoppes, siler montanum, it may be called in englishe, siler montayne. 1551 — *Herbal* I. (1568) 4 Dronken with syler mountayne and Frenche spykenarde. 1605 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. i. III. 621 The Mountain-Siler helpeth Goats to yean. 1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* (1658) 236 Some use Siler of the Mountains to procure conception in Mares and Cowes. 1656 RIDGLEY *Pract. Physick* 344 Take..Siler mountain, one dram.

2. A species of willow or osier.

The orig. sense of L. *siler*; app. never current in English.

1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* (1658) 201 The root of the greater Siler decocted in Goats milk. [1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s.v.]

† **Siler,** obs. form of CELLAR. Cf. SILLER.

1525 *Test. Ebor.* (Surtees) V. 212 My tenementes in the Hye Strete with a grete siler bowndyng next to Cristofer Lurte.

Silery, obs. variant of CILERY.

Silesia (səilī·ʃiă). Also 7–8 **Slesia,** 7 **Sleasia.** [The Latinized form of the name of a province in the east of Germany (G. *Schlesien*). See also SLEAZY *a.*]

1. Used *attrib.* with *cloth, lawn,* etc. =next.

1674 BLOUNT *Glossogr.* (ed. 4) s.v. *Sleasie Holland*, That onely is properly Slesia, or Silesia linnen cloth, which is made in, and comes from the Countrey Silesia in Germany. [1696 J. F. *Merch. Wareho. laid open* 28 Being called Sleasie-Lawns, the name Sleasia it takes from a town called Sleasia in Germany.] 1710 WHITWORTH *Acc. Russia* (1758) 82 The Hollanders..bring wines, paper,..brocades, Silesia cloth, and all sorts of gallanteries. 1712 E. COOKE *Voy. S. Sea* 363, 3 of Silesia Linnen.

b. A fine linen or cotton fabric originally manufactured in Silesia.

1727 W. MATHER *Young Man's Comp.* 411 The Commodities ..exported..are Iron, Copper, Slesias, Sheets, Sayes [etc.]. 1764 *Ann. Reg.* 107 Fine printed linens of all sorts, cambricks, Britannias, Silesias, hats, etc. 1769 *Public Advertiser* 14 Nov. 3/3 Buckrams, glazed Linens,..and Quadruple Silesias. 1800 *Hull Advertiser* 3 May 2/2, 10 pieces containing 1223 ells of 7-eights fine white Silesia. 1807 J. HALL *Trav. Scot.* I. 213 The principal manufacture of Newburgh is that of Silesias. 1893 *Outing* XXII. 122/2 Some dull-tinted light cloth, as lawn, cambric or silesia.

2. The distinctive name of a variety of lettuce.

In Mills (1763) and Loudon (1824) the form is *Cilicia*.

1731 MILLER *Gard. Dict.* s.v. *Lactuca*, The most valuable of all the Sorts of Lettuces in England are the Versailles, the Silesia and Cos. 1796 C. MARSHALL *Gardening* xv. (1813) 241 The Silesia lettuce is much admired by some, though at present but little cultivated.

Silesian (səilī·ʃiăn), *a.* and *sb.* [f. prec. + -AN.]

A. *adj.* Of or pertaining to Silesia. Also in special applications, as *Silesian beet, bole, cloth,* etc.

c 1645 HOWELL *Lett.* (1650) II. 81 In a different character from the Dalmatian, Croatian,..Silesian, and other nations towards the West. 1681 GREW *Museum* III. iii. 348 Silesian Bole..feels as smooth as Castile-Soap. 1707 ADDISON *Pres. St. War* Wks. 1766 III. 271 The Silesian fund..enabled that Prince [Eugene] to make a conquest of Italy. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s.v. *Terra*, Silesian Earth, in the materia medica, a fine astringent bole. 1839 *Penny Cycl.* XIII. 243/2 Lettuce (Hardy Hammersmith,..Large White Malta, or White Silesian). 1851–4 *Tomlinson's Cycl. Useful Arts* (1866) II. 687/2 The second group is represented by the white Silesian beet. 1876 BANCROFT *Hist. U.S.* VI. xxxii. 120 A plan for a direct commerce with America, so as to open a sale for Silesian cloths. 1881 LYELL *Pigeons* 86 The Silesian swallow pigeon..is marked on the head with only a frontal spot.

B. *sb.* A native of Silesia.

1669 J. OWEN *Truth & Innocence Vind.* Wks. 1852 XIII. 418 A Silesian who gave the ensuing account of his faith. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XIV. 565/1 The Silesians and Bohemians have corrupted their dialects in the very same manner. 1862 CARLYLE *Fredk. Gt.* XII. ii. III. 177 Printed ..Proclamation, briefly assuring all Silesians, of whatever rank, condition or religion (etc.).

Silex (sə·ilex) [L. *silex* flint. So F. *silex*.] Flint, silica.

a 1592 GREENE *Orpharion* Wks. (Grosart) XII. 68 The precious stone Silex is full of secret vertue.

1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl., *Silex*, flint, in natural history, the name of a genus of semi-pellucid stones [etc.]. 1794 SULLIVAN *View Nat.* I. 433 Most of the ambiguous stones ..contain, besides portions of calcareous and argillaceous earths, certain portions of the silex also. 1805 *Phil. Trans.* XCV. 231 If the stone contain silex, this earth will be separated in the process of solution and evaporation. 1840 J. BUEL *Farmer's Companion* 35 Silex is apparent in the epidermis of Indian corn, wheat, oats, and the hollow grasses. 1878 HUXLEY *Physiogr.* xvi. 271 It would..be a highly fossiliferous limestone with more or less silex.

attrib. 1887 *Daily News* 20 June 2/6 Valuable seams of hematite ore and silex pottery clay. 1895 *Outing* XXVI. 36/1 The collection of silex grains that for courtesy we called the road.

Silf(e, obs. forms of SELF.

Silgreen, dial. variant of SENGREEN.

Silhouette (silu,e·t), *sb.* [From the name of Étienne de *Silhouette* (1709–1767), a French author and politician.

According to the usual account, which is that given by Mercier *Tableau de Paris* 147, the name was intended to ridicule the petty economies introduced by Silhouette while holding the office of Controller-general in 1759, but Hatzfeld & Darmesteter take it to refer to his brief tenure of that office. Littré, however, also quotes a statement that Silhouette himself made outline portraits with which he decorated the walls of his château at Bry-sur-Marne.]

1. A portrait obtained by tracing the outline of a profile, head, or figure by means of its shadow or in some other way, and filling in the whole with black; an outline portrait cut out of black paper; a figure or picture drawn or printed in solid black.

Details within the outline are sometimes indicated by white or gold lines. For an account of various methods employed in obtaining such portraits or pictures, see the *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 8.

1798 W. TAYLOR in *Monthly Rev.* XXVII. 388 At best but the shadow of a shade,..the silhouette of a bust. 1801 FUSELI *Lect. Art* i. 9 Skiagrams, simple outlines of a shade, similar to those which have been introduced to vulgar use by the students and parasites of Physiognomy, under the name of Silhouettes. 1806 J. BERESFORD *Miseries Hum. Life* XII. xxix, Whenever they send me their silhouettes, or what do they call them, I chuck them out of the window. 1860 THACKERAY *Lovel* ii, She had..silhouettes of her father and mother..hung up in the lodgings. 1880 *Print. Trades Jrnl.* XXX. 40 The beauty of silhouettes (pictures printed in solid black) depends upon two things—artistic ability and careful printing.

attrib. 1835 [see *Silhouettist* below]. 1841 BARHAM *Ingol. Leg.* Ser. II. *Auto-da-fé* ii, A garment..stuck thick With multiplied silhouette profiles of Nick. 1895 *Daily News* 1 May 6/4 The archaic, dry, and silhouette style of the picture.

b. *fig.* A slight verbal sketch or description in outline of a person, etc.

1819 LADY MORGAN *Autobiog.* (1859) 3. 3 The baron's *silhouette* of the Lady of Copet..was certainly very amusing. 1857 C. BRONTE *Professor* iii, The silhouette I have just thrown off. 1894 J. KNIGHT *Garrick* xvii. 311 Actors..of whom Pepys has given us silhouettes, and Colley Cibber portraits.

2. A dark outline, a shadow in profile, thrown up against a lighter background.

1847 C. BRONTE *Y. Eyre* xxviii, Entering the gate and passing the shrubs, the silhouette of a house rose to view; black, low, and rather long. 1866 WHITTIER *Snow-Bound* 167 The cat's dark silhouette on the wall. 1887 RIDER HAGGARD *A. Quatermain* 186, I saw the black silhouette of the old Zulu raise its arm in mute salute.

3. *En* (or *in*) *silhouette*, in outline, in profile.

1832 J. P. KENNEDY *Swallow B.* (1860) 18 At that hour nature draws her pictures *en silhouette*. 1886 *Illustr. Lond. News* 6 Feb. 142/2, I shall be presented to you *en silhouette*, all black, and you will be required to recognise the portrait. 1889 *Harper's Weekly* XXXIII. Suppl. 60 This framing of trees, which stand out in silhouette against a bright blue sky.

Silhoue·tte, *v.* [f. prec.]

1. *trans.* To represent in silhouette, to throw up the outline of. Chiefly used in past participle, and const. *against* or *upon*.

1876 R. F. BURTON *Gorilla L.* I. 137 We guided ourselves ..towards a ghostly point, whose deeper blackness silhouetted it against the shades. 1882 BRET HARTE *Flip* i, A spur of the coast range, which had been sharply silhouetted against the cloudless western sky. 1897 MARY KINGSLEY *W. Africa* 48, I have seen it silhouetted hard against tornado-clouds.

refl. 1890 S. J. DUNCAN *Social Departure* 311 The great ships silhouetted themselves upon a sky..gloriously blue.

2. *intr.* To show like a silhouette.

1884 *Harper's Mag.* June 110/2 Their huge crowns silhouetting in clear-cut outlines against the eastern sky.

Hence **Silhoue·tted** *ppl. a.*, **Silhoue·tting** *vbl. sb.* Also **Silhoue·ttist,** a maker of silhouettes.

1835 (*title*), Treatise on Silhouette Likenesses, by Monsieur Edouart, Silhouettist to the French Royal Family. 1888 W. D. LIGHTHALL *Young Seigneur* 97 The delicate silhouetting of the trees along the shore. 1890 *Eng. Illustr. Mag.* July 748 The photographer..has focussed the silhouettist out of existence. *Ibid.* 752 If silhouetting be allowed to possess an artistic side. 1894 MAX PEMBERTON *Sea Wolves* iv. (1901) 23 The black hulls of innumerable barges and the silhouetted shapes of great steamers.

Silica (si·likă). [f. L. *silic-, silex* SILEX. Cf. F. *silice*.] An important mineral substance (the dioxide of silicon), which in the form of quartz enters into the composition of many rocks, and is contained in sponges and certain plants.

1801 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) Suppl. I. 254/1 Silica, when dried, is a soft white powder, without either taste or smell. 1851 RICHARDSON *Geol.* (1855) 81 Silica and alumina besides being present in almost all vegetable and animal substances. 1878 HUXLEY *Physiogr.* 202 The water generally holds silica in solution.

b. *attrib.* and *Comb.*

1859 R. HUNT *Guide Mus. Pract. Geol.* (ed. 2) 114 A silicaborate of lead, prepared by Professor Faraday. 1870 tr. *Pouchet's Universe* 26 Ehrenberg, on analyzing a shower of fine dust.., found eighteen species of silica-plated animalcules. 1882 VINES tr. *Sachs' Bot.* 36 Silica-skeletons are obtained most abundantly from epidermal cells and from Diatoms.

Silicate (si·likĕt). [f. prec. + -ATE 4. So F. *silicate*.] A salt produced by the action of silicic acid. Cf. SILICIATE.

1811 *Phil. Trans.* CI. 176 A compound salt, consisting of silicate of alumina, and fluate of alumina. 1846 J. BAXTER *Libr. Pract. Agric.* (ed. 4) I. 36 The cereals require the alkalies and silicates liberated by the lime. 1872 W. S. SYMONDS *Rec. Rocks* i. 12 Amongst the other volcanic minerals the most important are the silicates of alumina, lime, magnesia, potash, and soda.

b. *Comb.*, as **silicate board,** a board made fireproof by being saturated with silicate; **silicate cotton, slag-wool; silicate paint,** 'natural silica, when dried and forming an almost impalpable powder, mixed with colours and oil' (Annandale *Imperial Dict.* 1882).

1881 *Daily News* 24 Dec. 3/4 Some incombustible, non-conducting material—preferably silicate cotton, which is manufactured from blast furnace slag. 1884 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* Suppl. 810/1 *Silicate Board*, an incombustible board for roofing.

Silicated (si·likeitĕd), *a.* [f. L. *silic-, silex*: cf. prec. and F. *silicaté*.] Coated or impregnated with silex or silica.

1800 HENRY *Epit. Chem.* (1808) 100 With a larger proportion of alkali,..this earth affords a compound called silicated alkali. 1819 J. G. CHILDREN *Chem. Anal.* 427 A concentrated solution of silicated potassa. 1849 MURCHISON *Siluria* xiv. 356 The silicated moulds of shells. 1879 RUTLEY *Stud. Rocks* xi. 177 Liparites, trachytes, andesites and other highly-silicated eruptive rocks.

Silication (silikē·ɪ·ʃən). [Cf. prec. and -ATION.] Combination with silica; silicification.

1869 PHILLIPS *Vesuv.* xi. 311 According to the nature of the particular current, its order of silication, [etc.]..changes in the mineral constituents are more or less easy.

So **Silicatiza·tion,** 'the process of combining with silica, so as to change to a silicate'.

1864 WEBSTER, citing DANA. [Cf. F. *silicatisation*.]

[Silice, an error for SILICLE.

Webster (1828–32), citing Martyn. The word is misprinted in the second edition (1796) of the *Language of Botany*.]

Sili·ceo-, combining form of SILICEOUS, as in *siliceo-calcareous, -felspathic, -fluoric.*

1816 *Edin. Rev.* XXVI. 163 Siliceo-calcareous sand. 1822 IMISON *Sci. & Art* II. 78 A permanent acid gas, called the Siliceo-fluoric acid. 1839 DE LA BECHE *Rep. Geol. Cornwall*, etc. vii. 203 A hard siliceo-felspathic compound.

Siliceous (sili·ʃəs), *a.* [ad. L. *siliceus*, f. *silic-, silex* flint: cf. F. *siliceux* and SILICIOUS *a.*] Containing or consisting of silica; of the nature of silica: **a.** Of mineral substances.

1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.*, *Siliceous*,..of or pertaining to flint, flinty. 1783 WITHERING tr. *Bergman's Mineral.* 59 Siliceous Earth. 1794 SULLIVAN *View of Nature* I. 430 What some call vitrescent earths, others denominate siliceous. 1813 SIR H. DAVY *Agric. Chem.* (1814) 194 Siliceous sandstone, which is composed of fine quartz or sand, united by a siliceous cement. 1851 RICHARDSON *Geol.* xii. 380 The upper greensand, in some localities,..consists of a sharp siliceous sand. 1879 D. M. WALLACE *Australasia* iv. 71 They consist of..sandy ironstone, or even hard siliceous rock enclosing quartz pebbles.

b. Of plant or animal structures.

1813 SIR H. DAVY *Agric. Chem.* (1814) 57 The siliceous epidermis..protects the bark from the action of insects. 1845 DARWIN *Voy. Nat.* i. 5 This dust consists..of infusoria with siliceous shields, and of the siliceous tissue of plants. 1868 CARPENTER in *Sci. Opin.* 174/2 Imbedded in this mud there came up an extraordinary collection of siliceous sponges.

Silici- (si·lisəi), combining form of SILEX or SILICA, as in *silicicalcareous, -fluoric; silicicalce, -murite.*

1796 KIRWAN *Elem. Min.* (ed. 2) I. 102 Silicicalcareous freestones, which are often porous, and serve for filtering stones. *Ibid.* 144 Magnesia mixed with Silex. Silicimurite. 1811 PINKERTON *Petral.* II. 202 Contiguous, on the one side to the white chalky stone, and on the other to the silicicalce. 1826 HENRY *Elem. Chem.* I. 646 The effects of heating potassium in silici-fluoric gas. 1855 SCOFFERN in *Orr's Circ. Sci., Chem.* 168 Silici-fluoric acid.

† **Sili·ciate,** obs. var. SILICATE.

1814 J. BLACK tr. *Berzelius' Syst. Mineral.* 29 Silica considered as an acid possesses the property of giving siliciates of many different degrees of saturation... These we shall hereafter call siliciates. 1854 RONALDS & RICHARDSON *Chem. Technol.* (ed. 2) I. 107 The oxide of iron which remains in the coke forms with the silicíate a slag or scar when the carbon is consumed.

Silicic (sili·sik), *a. Chem.* [f. SILIC-A (or L. *silic-* SILEX) + -IC. Cf. F. *silicique*.] Pertaining to, consisting of, or formed from silica. Chiefly in *silicic acid* (H_4SiO_4).

1817 T. THOMSON *Syst. Chem.* (ed. 5) II. 92 It might therefore be distinguished by the name of silicic acid, which would be more systematic than the term silica 1857 MILLER

Elem. Chem., Org. iii. § 3 (1862) 188 Every acid forms at least one ether, and some, such as the silicic and boracic, furnish more than one. 1883 *Science* I. 490/1 The silica was prepared by decomposing silicic fluoride with water.

Silicide (si·lisəid). *Chem.* [f. SILIC-A + -IDE.] A compound of silicon with one other element.

1868 WATTS *Dict. Chem.* s.v., Silicide of calcium has a lead-grey colour, metallic lustre, and scaly crystalline structure. 1880 *Encycl. Brit.* XIII. 352/1 Silicious spiegeleisen (or manganese silicide..) is prepared by the ordinary blast furnace methods.

Silicifa·ction. *rare.* = SILICIFICATION.

1881 *Jrnl. Bot.* X. 27 He distinguishes between silicifaction and petrifaction.

Siliciferous (silisi·fĕrəs), *a.* [f. L. *silici-*, *silex* SILEX + -FEROUS. So F. *silicifère*.] Yielding or producing silex or silica.

1796 KIRWAN *Elem. Min.* (ed. 2) I. 101 Siliciferous Marlites.—Of these there are many varieties. 1799 — *Geol. Ess.* 184 It is so much the more siliciferous as it approaches more to granitic mountains. 1839 DE LA BECHE *Rep. Geol. Cornwall*, etc. xii. 372 The siliciferous and calciferous hydrates of iron. 1853 TH. ROSS tr. *Humboldt's Trav.* III. xxvi. 118 It is a siliciferous subsulphate of alumina and potash.

Silicification (silisifikē·ʃən). [f. as prec. + -FICATION. So F. *silicification*.] The process of becoming silicified; conversion into silica.

1830 LYELL *Princ. Geol.* I. 214 In some places where silicification is in progress, the sources from whence the mineral matter is derived are as yet unknown. 1844 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* VI. 444/1 The act of petrifaction being the act of silicification and consequent change of the organic body. 1884 BOWER & SCOTT *De Bary's Phaner.* 510 The old wood of plants which are characterised by extensive silicification of almost all their parts.

Silicified (sili·sifəid), *ppl. a.* [f. next + -ED 1. Cf. F. *silicifié*.] Converted into silica. Chiefly in *silicified wood*.

1822 J. PARKINSON *Outl. Oryctol.* 49 The nodules of chalk flint frequently contain the silicified remains of sponge. 1844 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* VI. 442/1 The silicified and other mineralized bodies. 1876 PAGE *Adv. Text-bk. Geol.* xv. 279 The silicified trunks of tree-ferns.

Silicify (sili·sifəi), *v.* [Cf. prec. and -FY.]

1. *trans.* To convert into, impregnate with, silica.

1830 LYELL *Princ. Geol.* I. 120 The wood and fruit of the cocoa-nut tree..silicified by the waters of some mineral spring. 1849 DANA *Geol.* ix. (1850) 526 Ejections of basalt ..buried the mud,..silicifying the shells, and hardening the rock. 1872 NICHOLSON *Palæont.* 4 Fossil wood which has been 'silicified' or converted into flint.

2. *intr.* To undergo silicification.

1828-32 in WEBSTER. 1844 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* VI. 442/1 The term petrifaction being an absurdity as applied to bodies in the act of silicifying.

Hence **Sili·cifying** *vbl. sb.*

1863 DANA *Man. Geol.* 70 All the fossils of a rock..are changed to silica (quartz) by a silicifying process.

Silicious (sili·ʃəs), *a.* [f. L. *silic-*, *silex* SILEX + -IOUS.] = SILICEOUS *a.*

(*a*) 1721 BAILEY, *Silicious*, Flinty, belonging to Flint. 1801 *Farmer's Magazine* Nov. 389 Argile or pure clay, silicious or sandy earth, and calx, or calcareous substances. 1850 DAUBENY *Atom. The.* xii. (ed. 2) 395 By far the greater number of silicious minerals are examples of the kind last alluded to. 1876 PAGE *Adv. Text-bk. Geol.* iii. 60 The silicious sinter of the Iceland geysers.

(*b*) 1851 RICHARDSON *Geology* iv. 72 Many deposits..are composed of the silicious shields of fossil infusoria. 1859 T. MOORE *Brit. Ferns* (1864) 107 The jointed tubular silicious stems, and terminal cones of fructification. 1896 DK. ARGYLL *Philos. Belief* 104 The silicious sponges, whose skeletons are composed of glass.

† **Silicite.** *Obs.* [f. L. *silic-* SILEX + -ITE 1 2 b.] Labradorite, or a variety of this.

1843 T. THOMSON in *Philos. Mag.* Ser. III. XXII. 190 The fourth mineral..I have distinguished by the name of Silicite, from the great resemblance which it has to quartz in its external aspect. 1850 ANSTED *Elem. Geol., Min.* etc. 193 Glaucolite and Silicite are other varieties [of Labradorite].

† **Si·licited,** *a. Obs.* [irreg. f. L. *silic-* SILEX.] = SILICATED.

1796 KIRWAN *Elem. Min.* (ed. 2) I. 499 Precipitated from *liquor silicum* (silicited alkali). 1799 — *Geol. Ess.* 283 Hence those that are most silicited, as they contract less, discover less verticality.

Silicium (sili·ʃĭm). [mod.L., f. *silic-* SILEX + -IUM. Named by Sir H. Davy.] = SILICON.

1808 *Phil. Trans.* XCVIII. 353 Had I been so fortunate as..to have procured the metallic substances I was in search of, I should have proposed for them the names of silicium, alumium, zirconium, and glucium. 1822 IMISON *Sci. & Art* II. 91 It is imagined, however, that Silicium forms an alloy with iron. 1861 SIR W. FAIRBAIRN *Iron* 156 The silicium is first attacked, neither the iron nor carbon being operated upon to any extent while any silicium remains. 1871 TYNDALL *Fragm. Sci.* (1879) I. i. 9 The flints within the chalk we know to be a compound of oxygen and silicium, called silica.

Sili·ciuret. *Chem.* [f. prec. Cf. F. *siliciure*.] = SILICIDE.

1827 F. LUNN in *Encycl. Metrop.* IV. 662/1 A siliciuret of potassium is obtained, which cannot exist in water. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 9/2 Some of the metals may be combined with silicon: these compounds, which are not important, are termed Siliciurets.

Sili·ciure·tted, *a.* [f. prec. + -ED 1.] Combined or impregnated with silicon.

1857 GRAHAM *Elem. Chem.* (ed. 2) II. 675 Siliciuretted hydrogen, a remarkable gaseous compound of silicon and hydrogen, is produced when a bar of aluminium containing silicon is connected with the positive pole of a Bunsen's battery. 1869 ROSCOE *Chem.* 149 Siliciuretted Hydrogen is a colourless gas formed by the action of hydrochloric acid upon a compound of magnesium and silicon.

Silicle (si·lik'l). *Bot.* [ad. F. *silicule* or L. *silicula*.] A small short seed-pod.

1785 MARTYN *Rousseau's Bot.* ii. (1794) 31 The second [order] contains those [flowers] whose seed-vessel is a silicle, that is, a small and very short pod. 1812 *New Botanic Gard.* I. 46 The silicle is entire, oval, and full of brown seeds. 1846 J. BAXTER *Libr. Pract. Agric.* II. 257 It will flower and produce abundance of seed, which, when the silicles or pouches become ripe, may be gathered. 1861 MRS. LANKESTER *Wild Flowers* 29 The fruit is a pod... When long, it is called a silique, and, when short, a silicle.

Silico- (si·liko), combining form of SILICA or SILICON: **a.** With adjs., as *silico-alkaline*, *-ferruginous*, *-fluoric*, *-magnesian*, *-skeletal*, *-talcose*.

1851-4 *Tomlinson's Cycl. Useful Arts* (1866) I. 783/1 Charcoal in excess in a mixture of *silico-alkaline glass, gives a yellow colour. 1875 FORTNUM *Maiolica* i. 4 The vitreous silico-alcaline or glass glazed wares. 1849 DANA *Geol.* viii. (1850) 439 They owe their appearance..to a *silico-ferruginous solution. 1827 F. LUNN in *Encycl. Metrop.* IV. 656/1 The compounds of silicon and boron, being also Acids, [should] be called *silico-fluoric and boro-fluoric Acids. 1868 *Fownes' Chem.* (ed. 10) 368 Silicofluoric acid gives a white precipitate with barium salts. 1842 J. B. FRASER *Mesopot. & Assyria* xv. 344 Gray or blueish sandstone, containing red nodules of a *silico-magnesian substance. 1885 *Encycl. Brit.* XIX. 849/2 *Silico-skeletal Radiolaria in which the central capsule is uniformly perforated all over by fine pore-canals. 1849 DANA *Geol.* xvii. (1850) 622 The *silico-talcose rocks..project in jagged points.

b. With nouns, as *silico-aluminate*, *-borate*, *-borocalcite*, *-fluate*, *-fluoride*, *-titanate*.

1868 WATTS *Dict. Chem.* V. 266 *Silico-aluminates, -borates. 1868 *Philos. Mag.* Ser. IV. XXXV. 40 The exclusive occurrence of the hard nodules of *silicoborocalcite in anhydrite. 1827 F. LUNN in *Encycl. Metrop.* IV. 656/1 The *silico-fluates of potash, soda, lime, and barytes are formed [etc.]. 1836-41 BRANDE *Chem.* (ed. 5) 1031 A total condensation ensues, and a dry silico-fluate of ammonia results. *Ibid.* 1032 *Silico-fluoride of barium is gradually precipitated when silico-fluoric acid is mixed with chloride of barium. 1869 ROSCOE *Chem.* 147 A compound of this substance with..potassium silico-fluoride. 1868 WATTS *Dict. Chem.* V. 263 Mosandrite is a hydrated *silicotitanate.

Silicon (si·likŏn). [f. L. *silic-* SILEX. Named by T. Thomson, in place of Sir H. Davy's SILICIUM.] A non-metallic element, which in respect of its abundance in nature ranks next to oxygen, and is usually found combined with this as *silica*; it may be obtained in the form of powder, scales, or crystals. Chemical symbol Si.

1817 T. THOMSON *Syst. Chem.* (ed. 5) I. 252 The base of silica has been usually considered as a metal, and called silicium. But..as it bears a close resemblance to boron and carbon, it is better to class it along with these bodies, and to give it the name of silicon. 1857 MILLER *Elem. Chem., Org.* iii. § 3 (1862) 197 When absolute alcohol is gradually added to chloride of silicon, a powerful reaction occurs. 1876 ROUTLEDGE *Disc.* 32 The silicon, most of the carbon, and some of the iron itself are oxidized in this process.

attrib. 1869 ROSCOE *Chem.* 342 Silicon ethyl..is obtained by the action of zinc ethyl on silicon tetrachloride. 1884 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* Suppl. 810/1 *Silicon Steel*, a steel in which silicon replaces a part of the usual carbon.

Hence **Si·liconize** *v.*, to combine with silicon.

1880 *Encycl. Brit.* XIII. 351/2 The presence of alkaline silicates in the furnace promotes the siliconizing of the iron.

Silicosis (silikō·sis). *Path.* [f. *silic-* SILEX + -OSIS.] A lung disease induced by inhaling flinty or siliceous particles.

1891 in *Cent. Dict.* 1898 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* V. 248 Thus authors have described the results of inhaling siliceous particles as chalicosis or silicosis. 1903 *Nature* 1 Oct. 527/2 The malady is silicosis pure and simple, a dust disease.

‖ **Silicula** (sili·kĭlă). *Bot.* [L., dim. of SILIQUA.] A short pod containing seed; a silicle.

1760 J. LEE *Introd. Bot.* ii. iii. (1765) 79 In the first order *Siliculosa*, the Pericarpium is a *Silicula*, little *Siliqua*. 1793 MARTYN *Lang. Bot.* s.v. *Siliqua*, The *Silicula* does not differ from this essentially, but only in form and size. 1830 LINDLEY *Nat. Syst. Bot.* 14 Fruit a siliqua or silicula. 1847 W. E. STEELE *Field Bot.* 109 Silicula roundish or oblong, entire or notched. 1872 OLIVER *Elem. Bot.* II. 138 Compare the long capsule of Wallflower (a siliqua); the short capsule of Shepherd's-purse Capsell (a silicula).

Hence **Sili·cular** *a.*, 'having the shape or appearance of a silicula' (*Cent. Dict.* 1891).

Si·licule. *Bot. rare.* [a. F. *silicule*, ad. L. *silicula*.] = SILICULA.

1793 MARTYN *Lang. Bot.*, *Silicula*, a Silicule, Silicle, little Pod or Pouch. 1857 J. G. WOOD *Comm. Obj. Seashore* 33 Its specific title 'siliculosus' is given to it on account of the silicules, or little pod-like bodies, that are found on the branches.

Siliculose (silikiz̆lōu·s), *a. Bot.* [ad. mod.L. *siliculōs-us*, f. *silicula*: cf. F. *siliculeux*.] Bearing small short pods.

1731 BAILEY vol. II. (ed. 2), *Siliculose*, husky or full of husks. 1759 B. STILLINGFLEET *Misc. Tracts* (1762) 357 Horses are nicer in choosing than any of our cattle; siliquose and siliculose plants particularly are not relished by them. 1785 MARTYN *Rousseau's Bot.* xxiii. (1794) 320 The *Siliculose* or short-podded order leads the way. 1857 A. GRAY *First Less. Bot.* (1866) 230 *Siliculose*, bearing a silicle, or a fruit resembling it.

So **Sili·culous** *a.*, 'having silicles or little pods, or pertaining to them' (Webster, 1828-32).

Silicum, variant of SILICIUM.

1812 SIR H. DAVY *Chem. Philos.* 364 No compound of silicum and chlorine is known. 1868 JOYNSON *Metals* 57 A portion of the carbon, and almost the whole of the silicum, is removed from it.

† **Silicuret,** obs. variant of SILICIURET.

1842 PARNELL *Chem. Anal.* (1845) 12 The platinum combining with the silicon in the ashes to form a silicuret of platinum.

Siligineous, *a. rare*—°. [ad. L. *siligineus*, f. *siligin-*, *siligo* winter wheat.] 'Belonging to, or made of fine flour' (Blount, ed. 4, 1674). Also **Siliginose** *a.*, 'made of fine Wheat' (Bailey, vol. II, 1727); **Sili·ginous** *a.* (Craig, 1848).

† **Si·ling,** *vbl. sb. Obs.* Also 5 cyl-, 5-6 **sylynge**(e; 6 **sylinge**, *Sc.* **syling**, 6-7 **syling**. [f. SILE *v.*4 + -ING 1.] = CEILING *vbl. sb.*

1483 *Tintinhull Churchw. Acc.* (Som. Rec. Soc.) 195 It. pro le sylyng ecclesie, ij^{s}. ix^{d}. It. pro factura le cylyng, xv^{s}. 1497 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scotl.* I. 357 To the kervour that tuk in task the siling of the chapel. 1543 in *Essex Rec.* XV. 42 The chancell is in decay in tymber, tyling and sylynge. 1589 *Lanc. Wills* (Chetham Soc.) II. 207 All the sylinge and wainescott in the hall and parlor. 1629 Z. BOYD *Last Battell* 612 The olde syling that was once fast joyned together with nailes will begin to cling. *Ibid.*, The stars which are like golden nailes into the syling of the world.

attrib. 1535 COVERDALE *Ps.* lxxiii. 6 They cutt downe all the sylinge worke of ye Sanctuary. 1565 *Richmond Wills* (Surtees) 179 Plew tymbre and sylinge bourds, with other hustlements.

Si·ling-dish. *dial. rare.* [f. *siling* SILE *v.*2] A strainer for milk.

1573 BARET *Alvearie*, A Siling dish, *vide* Colander and Strainer. 1578 in *Linc. N. & Q.* (1889) I. 232 In the Mylke House:..Item a sileing dishe. 1828 CARR *Craven Gloss.*, *Siling dish*, a dish for the purpose of straining milk.

‖ **Siliqua** (si·likwă). [L., a pod.]

† **1.** The carob-tree. (Cf. SILIQUE 1.) *Obs.*

c 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* III. 978 Now..is to renewe The siliqua in plaunte & seedes trewe.

2. *Bot.* A long pod-like seed-vessel.

1704 J. HARRIS *Lex. Techn.* I, *Siliqua*, in Botany, is the Seed-vessel, Husk, Cod, or Pod, of such Plants as are of the Leguminous kind. 1760 J. LEE *Introd. Bot.* I. vi. (1765) 13 *Siliqua*, a Pod, is a Pericarpium of two Valves, wherein the Seeds are fastened along both the Sutures or Joinings of the Valves. 1793 MARTYN *Lang. Bot.* s.v., The proper *Siliqua* is two-celled, having a partition running the whole length of it. 1861 S. THOMSON *Wild Fl.* III. (ed. 4) 268 The wallflower seed-vessel is a Siliqua. 1872 OLIVER *Elem. Bot.* II. 138 Compare the long capsule of Wallflower (a siliqua);.. the siliqua of Radish.

3. *Anat.* A formation suggesting a husk or pod.

1891 in *Cent. Dict.*

Hence **Siliqua·ceous** *a.*, of the nature of, suggestive of, a siliqua.

1744 *Phil. Trans.* XLIII. 97 A siliquaceous Aperture, with a Row of Seeds ready to fall through it.

Siliquæform: see SILIQUIFORM.

† **Siliquastre.** *Obs. rare.* [ad. mod.L. *siliquastrum* (which in class.L. means pepperwort), f. L. *siliqua* pod.] (See quots.)

1708 in *Phil. Trans.* XXVI. 79 *Punctularia*, the Punctulary, Sope stone, or Porous Marble Siliquastre. *Ibid.*, *Siliquastrum*, the Shale, or Siliquastre: An Ichthyodont, resembling leguminous Husks.

Silique (silī·k). *Bot.* Also 5 **selyque**. [a. F. *silique*, or ad. L. *siliqua* pod.]

† **1.** = SILIQUA 1. *Obs.*

c 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* XII. 312 The serue and medlar & selyque [*v.r.* Silique] tre.

2. = SILIQUA 2.

1785 MARTYN *Rousseau's Bot.* ii. (1794) 30 When it is ripe, it becomes a kind of flat pod, called *silique*. 1806 J. GALPINE *Brit. Bot.* 242 Silique covered with roughish tubercles. 1864 *Reader* 30 Apr. 559 Iodanthus..and Thelypodium.. have terete and torulose siliques. 1872 DARWIN *Orig. Spec.* (ed. 6) vii. 174 The flowers..in the upper part of the spike [bear] lanceolate, two-valved, and two-seeded siliques.

Siliqui·ferous, *a. Bot.* [f. L. *siliqua*: see -FEROUS.] Pod-bearing.

1693 *Phil. Trans.* XVII. 619 A siliquiferous Tree, with the Leaves of Beech. 1725 SLOANE *Jamaica* II. 32, I told him that this tree of Jamaica had a papilionaceous flower, and was siliquiferous.

Sili·quiform, *a. Bot.* [f. as prec.: see -FORM. So F. *siliquiforme*.] Having the form of a silique.

1847 in WEBSTER, citing SMITH. 1861 BENTLEY *Man. Bot.* 320 When a fruit possesses the general structure of the siliqua,..it has been named a *Ceratium* or a siliquiform [1887 siliquæform] capsule.

Siliquose (silikwōu·s), *a.* [ad. mod.L. *siliquōs-us*, f. L. *siliqua*: cf. F. *siliqueux* (1549).]

1. *Bot.* Bearing pods or siliques.

1693 *Phil. Trans.* XVII. 687 In this Sixth Volume we have describ'd and figur'd 61 Trees and Shrubs, the greatest part whereof are Siliquose. 1712 *Ibid.* XXVII. 425 This is not a Siliquose Tree. 1759 [see SILICULOSE]. 1822 GOOD *Study Med.* III. 247 A free use of the siliquose and coniferous plants as a part of the common diet. 1839 HALLAM *Hist. Lit.* III. iii. § 13 This is manifest in siliquose plants and in palms. 1857 A. GRAY *First Less. Bot.* (1866) 231 *Siliquose*, bearing siliques or pods which resemble siliques.

2. Having the form of a silique: **a.** In *Bot.*

1821 W. P. C. BARTON *Flora N. Amer.* I. 83 Capsule siliquose, stipitate. 1830 LINDLEY *Nat. Syst. Bot.* 235 Fruit capsular or succulent; the former siliquose and 2-valved. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 255 The fertile..[fronds are] divided into linear somewhat siliquose segments.

Comb. 1830 LINDLEY *Nat. Syst. Bot.* 9 The siliquose-fruited genera, such as Glaucium and Eschscholtzia.

b. *Path.* (See quots.)

1825 GOOD *Study Med.* (ed. 2) III. 85 Under this variety [of small-pox] was reckoned by the best writers the siliquose, or that which consists of soft and empty vesicles. *a* 1827 *Ibid.* (1829) IV. 234 Schmidt supposed that, in infants, the siliquose cataract might be caused by convulsions.

Si·liquous, *a. Bot.* Now *rare.* = SILIQUOSE 1.

1668 WILKINS *Real Char.* II. iv. § 5. 96 Herbs..considered according to their Seed-vessels, may be distinguished into.. Siliquous; containing their seeds in long pods. *Ibid.* 100 Siliquous Herbs not Papilionaceous. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* II. 117/2 Siliquous seed [are] such as are born in husks, cods, or shells. 1731 MILLER *Gard. Dict., Siliquous*, having Seed-Vessels, Husk, Pod, or Shell. 1895 H. CALLAN *From Clyde to Jordan* xviii. 188 Siliquous vegetables like double peas.

Silk (silk), *sb.* and *a.* Forms: α. 1 sioloc, seoloc, seoluc, seolc, 3 seolk (solk), 4 seolke; 3 selc, 4–5 selk(e, β. 4 silc, 4– silk (6 silck), 4–7 silke; 4–5 sylk(e, 5 cylk(e, 6 sylcke. [OE. *sioloc, seoloc*, etc. (for earlier **siluc*) masc., varying in form and gender from ON. and Icel. *silki* neut. (Norw., Sw., and Da. *silke*); not found in the other Germanic languages, but represented also by OSlav. *shelkŭ* (Russ. шёлкъ *shelk'*). The ultimate source is commonly supposed to be L. *sēricus* or Gr. σηρικός silken, f. L. *Sēres*, Gr. Σῆρες, the oriental people (perhaps the Chinese) from whom silk was first obtained. The change of *r* to *l* may have taken place in some language through which the word passed into Slavonic use and thence into the early Baltic trade.]

I. 1. The strong, soft, lustrous fibre produced by the larvæ of certain bombycine moths which feed upon mulberry leaves, etc., and by certain spiders; silken thread or filament.

Virginian silk (a plant-name): see VIRGINIAN.

c 888 [implied in SILKEN *a.* 1]. *a* 1000 *Boeth. Metr.* viii. 24 Næs þa scealca nan þe..cuðe..heora wæda..sioloce siowian. *c* 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* II. 56 Seowa mid seolce fæste. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 790 Royl rollande fax to raw sylk lyke. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) III. 33 Arbaces fond hym spynnynge reed selk at þe distaf. 1463–4 [see RAW *a.* 2 a]. *c* 1511 *1st Eng. Bk. Amer.* (Arb.) Introd. 35/1 They spynne lyke the wormes yat the sylke spynneth. 1535 COVERDALE *Isaiah* xix. 9 Soch as laboure vpon flax & sylcke. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* I. 124 The Seres, famous for the fine silk that their woods do yeeld. 1634 MILTON *Comus* 716 Spinning Worms, That in their green shops weave the smooth-hair'd silk. 1712 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 5010/4 China Raw and Thrown Silk and Sleeve Silk. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) VIII. 52 After some months feeding, they lay, upon every leaf, small bundles, or cones of silk. 1835 URE *Philos. Manuf.* 234 The matter of the silk is liquid in the body of the worm, but it hardens in the air. *Ibid.* 235 The silk of a cocoon weighs two and a half grains. 1882 CAULFEILD & SAWARD *Dict. Needlewk.* 459/1 That part of ravelled silk thrown on one side in the filature of the cocoons.

transf. 1608 TOPSELL *Serpents* 694 They bowel them, and fill their bodies with sugar, and silk of wooll.

b. In the phr. *of silk,* denoting the substance of which a garment, etc., is composed; freq. passing into sense 2.

c 1205 LAY. 22764 Claðes soften al of white seolke. *c* 1275 *Ibid.* 4549 Of solke was þat seil-cloþ. *c* 1340 *Nominale* (Skeat) 551 Bauderik of sylke. 1362 LANGL. *P. Pl. A.* Prol. 84 þer houeþ an Hundret In Houues of selk. *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (Roxb.) xix. 87 Wele arraid with clathez of gold and of silke. 1451 CAPGR. *Life St. Gilbert* xxxviii. 117 þe seide relikes were wounde..in a cloth of silk precious I-now. 1535 COVERDALE 1 *Sam.* ii. 19 His mother also made him a litle cote of sylke. 1576 GASCOIGNE *Steele Gl.* (Arb.) 60 Our sutes of Silke. 1611 SHAKS. *Cymb.* II. iv. 69 Her Bed-chamber..was hang'd With Tapistry of Silke. 1640 in Entick *London* (1766) II. 169 Boradoes of silk. 1842 TENNYSON *Launcelot & Guinevere* 24 A gown of grass-green silk she wore.

c. In comparisons, esp. *soft as silk.*

a 1310 in Wright *Lyric P.* ix. 36 Body ant brest wel mad al,..Eyther side soft ase sylk. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Sqr.'s T.* 605 Theigh thou..straw her cage faire and soft as silk. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 3993 Cassandra..was a Clene Maydon, Semely of a Sise, as the silke white. *c* 1400 *26 Pol. Poems* 126 My bloode ys nessher than ys sylke. 1508 DUNBAR *Tua Maritt Wemen* 96 Soft and soupill as the silk. *a* 1732 GAY *New Song of New Similies* v, Plump as a Partridge was I known, And Soft as Silk my Skin.

d. A silken thread.

1684 R. WALLER *Nat. Exper.* 67 We took..the bladder out of another Fish, and tyed the two Ends with a Silk. 1891 *Penny Postage Jubilee* iv. 69 Three red and two blue silk threads run parallel across the Mulready cover, the two 'silks' appearing under the design.

2. The cloth or textile fabric woven or made from this.

c 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* III. 174 Syf man mæte ðæt he seoluc oððe godweb hæbbe. *c* 1275 *On Serving Christ* 23 in *O.E. Misc.* 91 For seolk, ne for cendal, ne for deore wedes. *c* 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 392 With clene linnene cloth..And noþer in pal ne in seolke. 1362 LANGL. *P. Pl. A.* VII. 19 And 3e, loueli Ladies.., þat habbeþ selk, and sendel souweþ.. Chesybles for Chapeleyns. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 2401 þat Iowell..was full sekirly & soft all in silke falden. 1534 MORE *Comf. agst. Trib.* III. Wks. 1220/1 It maketh vs.. gooe much more gay and glorious in sight, garnyshed in sylke. 1579 W. WILKINSON *Confut. Fam. Love* 75 They.. affirmed, it was vnlawfull to weare silke. 1650 HOWELL *Lett.* III. 33 Cloth is the more substantiall..; But silk is more smooth and slik. 1654 tr. *Martini's Cong. China* 35 Their Boots, which they make either of Silk, or of Horse-skin. 1708 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4472/4 At the Marine Coffee-house..will be expos'd to Sale..92 Chests China Silk,..3 Bales of super-fine Piedmont Silk. 1760 GOLDSM. *Cit. World* lxxvii, I was this morning to buy silk for a night-cap. 1834 MCCULLOCH *Dict. Commerce* (ed. 2) 1029 Silk had..been used by persons of distinction two centuries previously. 1908 *Betw. Trent & Ancholme* 276 This lady wore grey silk.

fig. c 1315 SHOREHAM I. 33 Ne wynd þou naut þy senne ine selke. 1796 H. HUNTER tr. *St.-Pierre's Stud. Nat.* (1799) II. 90 The beauty of that [goat] which Nature clothes with silk on the rocks of Angora. 1843 LYTTON *Last Bar.* I. iii, He who has little silver in his pouch must have the more silk on his tongue.

b. Used allusively to indicate the rank of a King's (or Queen's) Counsel, marked by the right to wear a silk gown, esp. in the phrases to *receive, obtain,* or *take silk.* Also collectively, denoting the persons wearing such gowns. (Cf. 3 d.)

1810 BENTHAM *Art of Packing* (1821) 49 Our solicitor has heard with due attention the speeches delivered from learned silk. 1882 *Daily News* 25 May 2/5 He received silk in 1868. 1882 *Society* 4 Nov. 20/1 Ere long he 'spoiled silk' (as the saying is), and was made a Serjeant. 1897 *Standard* 16 Oct. 3/4 [He] soon obtained great distinction .., which increased on his taking silk.

c. As the material of a jockey's jacket.

1891 *Daily News* 10 Dec. 2/5 A capital start was made with the Snow Steeplechase for which seven sported silk.

3. With *a* and pl. A particular make of silk cloth or fabric.

1538 STARKEY *England* I. iii. 94 Fyne clothys, says and sylkys. 1568 GRAFTON *Chron.* II. 672 Sondry riche merchaundises, as cloth of Gold, Siluer, Veluet, Satten, and other silkes. 1613 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* (1614) 399 Our silkes haue the name of this Region, where it is made of a most fine wooll. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* II. x. 238 Chinese silks coming almost directly to Acapulco. 1797 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Italian* i, She passed whole days in embroidering silks. 1859 TENNYSON *Geraint & Enid* 693 One among his gentlewomen Display'd a splendid silk of foreign loom. 1897 WATTS-DUNTON *Aylwin* VIII. ii, An eccentric dress of Japanese silks.

b. *pl.* Garments made of silk; silk stockings.

1508 DUNBAR *Tua Maritt Wemen* 68 My self suld be full semlie with silkis arrayit. 1602 *How to Choose a Good Wife from a Bad* IV. iii, A huffing wench..whose ruffling silks Make with their motion music unto love. 1691– [see RUSTLE *v.* 2 b]. *a* 1704 T. BROWN *Sat. French King* Wks. 1730 I. 60 My spouse, alas! must flaunt in silks no more. 1784 COWPER *Task* VI. 941 As she sweeps him with her whistling silks. 1837 DICKENS *Pickw.* XXI, A very dusty skeleton in a blue coat, black knee-shorts, and silks.

c. A lady's silk dress.

1861 TROLLOPE *Tales Countries* 211 The black silk was not long,..nor wide in its skirts. 1897 SARAH GRAND *Beth Bk.* XXXIX, She had never worn her white silk trimmed with myrtle.

d. A King's (or Queen's) Counsel; a 'silk gown'. (Cf. 2 b.)

1884 *St. James's Gaz.* 8 Feb. 5/1 The retainer of some eighteen 'silks' and at least as many junior counsel. 1889 GRETTON *Memory's Harkback* 120 Jervis, afterwards Justice of Chester, was the senior silk.

4. *U.S.* The silk-like filiform styles of the female flower of unripe maize.

a 1817 T. DWIGHT *Trav. New Eng.*, etc. (1821) II. 403 Their favourite food is clover and maize. Of the latter they devour the part which is called the silk, the immediate means of fecundating the ear. 1894 *Century Mag.* Apr. 850 The pistillate flower of the maize..was appropriately called the 'silk'.

5. *ellipt.* **a.** A silk snapper. (See sense 10 and cf. SILT *sb.* 3 and 4.)

a 1818 M. G. LEWIS *Jrnl. W. Ind.* (1834) 104 Of the Sea Fish which I have hitherto met with, the Deep-water Silk appears to me the best.

b. A silk-covered cylinder in a flour-dressing machine.

1879 *Encycl. Brit.* IX. 345/1 These [cylinders] are mounted horizontally on a spindle for revolving, and externally they are covered with silk of different degrees of fineness, whence they are called 'silks' or silk dressers.

II. *attrib.* and *Comb.*

6. Attrib., passing into *adj.* **a.** Made of silk or silken material; silken.

a 1350 *Will. Palerne* 4430 þat riche ring..with a red silk þrede þe quen bond..a-boute þe wolwes necke. 1362 LANGL. *P. Pl. A.* III. 276 Schal no seriaunt for þat seruise were a selk houue. 1546–7 *Test. Ebor.* (Surtees) VI. 252 My best silke hat. 1551 in Strype *Mem. Ref.* (1721) III. 116 No man under the degree of a gentleman to wear any silk points. 1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* VI. 272 [They] pay no Custome..for any silke ware. *a* 1653 GOUGE *Comm. Heb.* ix. 1 The roomes within it were divided by Silk curtains. 1730 A. GORDON *Maffei's Amphith.* 350 Pure Silk-Stuff was valued at the like Weight of Gold. 1741 *Corr. betw. C'tess Hartford & C'tess Pomfret* (1805) III. 216 With a black silk snail-string about their necks. 1825 J. NICHOLSON *Operat. Mechanic* 395 The silk-yarn employed by the weavers. 1866 *Cornhill Mag.* May 558 Cecilia sits down to the jangling instrument, with the worn silk flutings. 1893 'J. O. HOBBES' *Study in Temptations* 138 She had also designed a black silk dolman for her Aunt Caroline.

Prov. a 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew* s.v. *Luggs,* Ye can ne make a Silk-Purse of a Sowe's Luggs, a Scotch Proverb. 1764 FOOTE *Mayor of G.* I. Wks. 1799 I. 174 Who can make a silk purse of a sow's ear? 1812 SCOTT 16 July in *Lockhart* (1869) III. xxiv. 401, I am labouring here to contradict an old proverb, and make a silk purse out of a sow's ear.

Comb. 1648 HEXHAM II, *Een Zijde-laecken-verkooper,* a Silke-cloath-seller. 1833 *Penny Cycl.* I. 60/2 *Acacia Julibrissin,* silk-tassel acacia. 1846 LINDLEY *Veg. Kingd.* 31 Silk button galls. 1868 *Rep. U.S. Comm. Agric.* (1869) 287 Products of the silk-ribbon loom were exhibited. 1895 *Baily's Mag.* May 336/2 A regular silk jacket affair, with 'open' races, and an 'open' ditch.

b. With names of special fabrics, as *silk camlet, canvas, damask, drugget,* etc.

1530 PALSGR. 270/1 Sylke chamlet, *camelot de soye.* 1548 in Strype *Mem. Ref.* (1721) II. 208 A counterpoint of silk-say. 1611 COTGR., *Burat,* silke-rash; or any kind of stuffe thats halfe silke, and halfe worsted. *a* 1618 SYLVESTER *Monodia* Wks. (Grosart) II. 330/1 Embroidered gowns Of grass-green silk-shag. 1722 DE FOE *Col. Jack* XIX, Fine English broad-cloths, silk, silk-druggets. 1779 *Phil. Trans.* LXIX. 673, I have also excited a very considerable electrical force on strong silk velvet. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade, Silk-plush,* a material used for articles of ladies' dress; also very extensively for covering the stuff bodies of men's hats. 1882 CAULFEILD & SAWARD *Dict. Needlewk.* 449/2 Silk Canvas or Berlin .. is of a very even and delicate make. *Ibid.,* Silk Damask is now superseded as a dress material.

Comb. 1594 *Canterbury Marriage Licences* (MS.), Jacobus Denewe.., Canterbury, silkrashweaver. 1597 *Lanc. Wills* (Chetham Soc.) II. 229 My silke rash gowne. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* I. 410 The silk-russet grape Ravuscula, the asse-hued grape Asinisca, please not the eie. 1825 J. NICHOLSON *Operat. Mechanic* 457 This thick liquid is passed..through fine hair and silk lawn sieves. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade, Silk-gauze manufacturer,* a gauze-weaver.

c. Of persons: Clad in silk. *rare.*

1603 DEKKER & CHETTLE *Grissil* (Shaks. Soc.) 19 Those changeable silk gallants, who..read no books but a looking-glass. 1624 PURCHAS *Verses in Capt. Smith's Virginia,* Fetters are forged For Silke-sotts, Milk-sops.

d. Resembling silk in lustre; silky.

1600 SHAKS. *A. Y. L.* III. v. 46 'Tis not..your blacke silke haire..That can entame my spirits.

7. Attrib. **a.** With terms referring to the structure, operations, or produce of the silkworms, as *silk-bag,* † *-bottom, -cavity, -cod, -gland,* etc.

1817 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* xxvii. (1818) II. 467 A superabundance of the gum which fills its *silk-bags. 1622 BONOEIL *Art of Making Silke* 72 [They] are bigger bodied, and make larger *silke-bottomes. 1882 TYNDALL *Floating Matter of Air* 11 They..fill the *silk cavities. 1620 *Observ. Silkwormes* Dj, *Silke coddes, two shillings sixepence the pound. 1870 ROLLESTON *Anim. Life* 81 The disappearance of the *silk-glands during the pupa stage. 1881 TYNDALL *Floating Matter of Air* 14 The *silk organ itself was charged with corpuscles. 1759 *Phil. Trans.* LI. 54 This new species of *silk-pod. 1826 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* IV. xl. 112 There are a pair of *silk reservoirs (*sericteria*). *Ibid.* xli. 122 In general, the outlet of the *silk-secretors is at the mouth. 1622 BONOEIL *Art of Making Silke* 70 They make of one ounce of Spanish *silke-seede, eight, nine and tenne pound of silke. 1836–9 *Todd's Cycl. Anat.* II. 973/2 In the larva they [the salivary glands] constitute the *silk vessels.

b. With terms relating to the production, manufacture, or commercial handling of silk, as *silk-commodity, country, culture, district,* etc.

1622 BONOEIL *Art of Making Silke* 71 Their clymate is nothing so proper for this *silke-commodity as Virginia is. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Silke,* Ardebil, another City of Persia, not far distant from these *Silk Countries. 1858 *Homans' Cycl. Commerce* 1721/2 The *silk culture was introduced into Louisiana in 1718. 1835 URE *Philos. Manuf.* 262 Throughout the *silk district of France. 1777 *Phil. Trans.* LXVII. 462 The smaller end of that part of a *silk engine called a star. 1835 URE *Philos. Manuf.* 269 Bobbin Mechanism of the Silk Engine. *Ibid.* 474 The *silk factories throughout the kingdom make little or no demand on muscular effort. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XVII. 487/1 The *silk-loom has been much improved lately. 1868 *Rep. U.S. Comm. Agric.* (1869) 300 A company was formed..and some silk-looms were imported. 1835 URE *Philos. Manuf.* 276 The portion of the *silk-machinery which contains the swifts. 1703 *Sc. Acts, Anne* (1824) XI. 50/1 The managers of the woollen and *silk manufactories. 1701 in *Cath. Rec. Soc. Publ.* VII. 98 Then we saw their *Silk Manufacture. 1825 J. NICHOLSON *Operat. Mechanic* 399 The silk manufacture now may be compared with what the cotton manufacture was about thirty years ago. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Mill,* There are also *Silk-Mills, for spinning, throwing, and twisting Silks. 1835 URE *Philos. Manuf.* 266 When these mechanicians took the silk-mill in hand. 1825 J. NICHOLSON *Operat. Mechanic* 393 In Piedmont..the manufacture is carried on by aid of the *silk reel. 1703 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 3918/4 Enquire..of Mr. Kimpson at the Castle, a *Silk-shop. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v., The *Silk Trade is the Principal in China. 1835 URE *Philos. Manuf.* 246 The silk trade of Great Britain..may be valued at 7,000,000 *l.* sterling.

8. Objective: **a.** With agent-nouns, as *silk-breeder, -carder, -doubler, -dresser, -maker, -manufacturer, -mercer,* etc.

1865 *Pall Mall G.* 26 June 10 The *silk-breeders of France are..in a position of the greatest distress. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v., Carding, which was perform'd by the common *Silk-Carders. 1662 *Act* 14 *Chas. II,* c. 15 § 6 Every such Silk-winder and *Doubler. 1723 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 6187/4 Ann Brown, late of Wapping Stepney, Silk-Doubler. 1771 *Burrow's Rep.* III. 1346 In their said Trade and Business of *Silk-Dressers. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade, Silk-dresser,* a stiffener and smoother of silk. 1858 *Homans' Cycl. Commerce* 1719/2 This filament the *silk growers..unwind by various ingenious means. 1636 DAVENANT *Wits* Wks. (1673) 212 'Twill make 'em sing, like *Silk-Knitters of Cocklane. 1712 BLACKMORE *Creation* II. 66 They..ripen Food For the *Silk-Labourers of the Mulberry Wood. 14.. *Nom.* in Wr.-Wülcker 692 *Hec sereatrix,* a *sylkmaker. 1834–6 *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) VIII. 717/2 The various plans which ..our *silk manufacturers have introduced into their mills. 1779 JOHNSON *L. P., Gay,* [Gay] was sent to London..and placed apprentice with a *silk-mercer. 1823 SCOTT *Quentin Durw.* vi, The house of..Maître Pierre, the great *silk-merchant. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade,* **Silk printer,* a stamper of silk. 1844 G. DODD *Textile Manuf.* vi. 186 The

*silk-reelers of Italy transfer the silk to a..reel, as they draw it from the cocoons. 1720 Stype *Stow's Surv.* II. 233/2 There were several..*Silk-Twisters, Foreigners, .. living [*c* 1560] in St. Marten's Liberty. 1800 *Asiatic Ann. Reg.* 54/2 The Pundraca and Pattasutracára, or feeder of silk-worms and silk-twisters, deserve notice. 1858 Simmonds *Dict. Trade*, **Silk-waterer*, one who clouds, waves, or waters silk, by passing two pieces..between metallic rollers.

b. With vbl. sbs. and ppl. adjs., as *silk-bearing, -emitting, -growing, -reeling*, etc.

Also in names of machines, as *silk-doubling, -sizing, -softening, -sorting machine*: see Knight *Dict. Mech.* (1875) and Suppl. (1884) s.v.

1872 Duncan tr. *Figuier's Insect World* iv. 221 The double *silk-bearing gland. 1729 Savage *Wanderer* v. 217 The leaf the *silk-emitting reptile feeds. 1887 *Encycl. Brit.* XXII. 60/2 The ailanthus silkworm..now spread through many *silk-growing regions. 1579 *Sc. Acts, Jas. VI* (1814) III. 152/2 The offer and contracting anent the art of *silk-making. 1858 *Homans' Cycl. Commerce* 1719/2 These being the chief *silk-producing countries. 1868 *Rep. U. S. Comm. Agric.* (1869) 314 The *Bombycidæ*, or spinners, including the silk-producing moths. 1888 *Harper's Mag.* June 47 *Silk reeling is one of the industries [of Kansas]. 1844 G. Dodd *Textile Manuf.* vi. 173 A subdivision is sometimes made between a 'silk-throwing mill' and a '*silk-spinning mill'; the former being for the manufacture from..perfect raw silk, and the latter from..inferior silk. 1677 Marvell *Corr.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 354 Yesterday a Committee was appointed to consider how to encourage the *Silk-weaving in England. 1835 Ure *Philos. Manuf.* 264 There has been a constant depreciation of the wages of silk weaving in France, from the year 1810. 1611 Florio, *Indouanadura*, a *silke-winding. 1841 Browning *Pippa* Introd. 71 The next twelve-month's toil At wearisome silk-winding, coil on coil!

9. Instrumental, etc., as *silk-broidered, -covered, -hosed, -jacketted*, etc.

1753 West *Odes Pindar*, etc. I. 234 And to thy Tomb, as Offrings, shall be brought *Silk-broider'd Mantles. 1849 Noad *Electricity* (ed. 3) 367 They are all coated with coils of *silk-covered wire. 1820 Scott *Monast.* xxvii, No *silk-hosed reveller of the presence-chamber. 1876 'Ouida' *Winter City* xii. 369 Postillions, *silk-jacketted.., and with ribboned straw hats. 1820 Keats *Lamia* II. 220 Each..*silk-pillow'd at his ease. 1857 G. W. Thornbury *Songs Cavaliers & Roundheads* 306 The *silk-robed men with peacock plumes. 1884 Browning *Ferishtah Fancies* (1885) 8 Inside—gold-roofed *silk-walled silence round about! 1639 G. Daniel *Vervic* 679 Noe *silke-wrapt wantons here..Shall graspe Luxurious Edward.

10. Special combs.: **silk-coal**, a variety of coal found in Shropshire; **silk-glue, sericin**; **silk gown**, = sense 3 d; **silk green**, a colour-substance used in paper making; **silk-gut**, the gut in the silkworm from which the silk is produced; **silk hat**, a cylindrical hat having a light stiff body covered with silk plush or shag; †**silk-maid**, a maid employed to make silk articles of dress; **silk paper**, a kind of tissue-paper; **silk-shag** (see quot.); **silk snapper**, a Bermudan fish (see quot. and sense 5 a, and cf. *silt-snapper*); †**silk snatcher** (see quot.).

1803 Plymley *Agric. Shropsh.* 55 Coal, called the *silk-coal. 1886 tr. *Benedikt's Chem. Coal-tar Colours* 39 Both fibroine and sericine (*silk-glue) consist of carbon, nitrogen, hydrogen and oxygen. 1836–7 Dickens *Sk. Boz, Tales* v, 'I presume you have studied for the bar?'..'No..'. 'But you have been much among the *silk gowns?' 1880 J. Dunbar *Pract. Papermaker* 58 *Silk green is a chemically pure colouring matter, producing beautiful shades of green. 1839 Ure *Dict. Arts* 1115 The rest of the entrails resembles boiled spinage, and therefore can occasion no mistake as to the *silk-gut. 1834–6 *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) VIII. 760/2 The *silk hat, with a body of felt and a nap of silk plush. 1893 Georgiana Hill *Hist. Eng. Dress* II. 253 The tall silk hat, introduced from France about 1840. 1474 *Paston Lett.* III. 118 My *sylkemayde whyche makyth perte off suche as she shall weer. 1796 Withering *Brit. Pl.* (ed. 3) IV. 345 Thin as *silk paper. 1841 *Penny Cycl.* XX. 375 There were formerly manufactures of silk-paper in this town [Samarcand]. 1883 Day *Fishes Gt. Brit.* II. 210 Young herring in Northumberland..are likewise termed *silk-shag. 1876 Goode *Fishes of Bermudas* 55 The Schoolmaster Snapper and *Silk Snapper of the fishermen probably belong to this genus [*Lutjanus aya*, family *Pristipomatidæ*]. 1884 *Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus.* VII. (1885) 454 Some young 'Silk Snappers' brought by Mr. Gilbert from Aspinwall. 1785 Grose *Dict. Vulgar T.*, **Silk snatchers*, thieves who snatch hoods or bonnets from persons walking in the streets.

b. *Bot.* In the names of trees, shrubs, or plants, as **silk-maudlin, -oak, -tree, -wood, -wort**: (see quots.).

1712 *Phil. Trans.* XXVII. 419 Stoll's Cape *Silk-Maudlin [is]..an ever-green Shrub, with deep dented Leaves. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 551/2 Lofty trees..with a girth of eight feet, as in *Grevillea robusta*, the *Silk Oak of the colonists. [*Ibid.* 798/2 Silky, or Silkbark Oak.] 1852 Johnson *Cottage Gard. Dict.* 511 *Acacia julibrissia* (*silk-tree). 1868 *Rep. U.S. Comm. Agric.* (1869) 201 The silk tree (*Albizzia julibrissin*) is a low-headed spreading-tree, possessed of the most graceful foliage. 1880 Bessey *Botany* 547 Some East and West Indian trees of the genus *Bombax*...are known as Silk Trees. 1775 G. White *Selborne* lxviii, Stalks of the *polytrichum commune*, or great golden maiden-hair, which they [*sc.* foresters] call *silk-wood. 1891 *Cent. Dict., Silkwood*, a shrub, *Muntingia Calabura*. 1897 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* Dec. 617 One [water-weed] known locally as network or *silkwort, on account of its thread-like stems.

c. *Ent.* In the names of various silk-producing insects: †**silk-fly**, the silkworm moth; **silk insect, moth** (see quots.); **silk-spider**, one or other of various species of silk-spinning spiders.

1599 T. M[oufet] *Silkwormes* 26 *Silke-flies I meane, which not on breast alone But all throughout..Besides pure white, else colour carry none. 1798 Cruttwell *Univ. Gazetteer* (1808) s.v. *China*, The *silk insects, which are different from silk-worms, resemble caterpillars. 1826 Kirby & Sp. *Entomol.* III. xxx. 220 *Attacus Paphia*, a giant *silk-moth. 1871 Darwin *Desc. Man* II. x. (1890) 278 The male and female cocoons of the silk-moth (*Bombyx mori*). 1728 Chambers *Cycl.* s.v. *Silk*, The *Silk-Spider make[s] a Silk, every whit as beautiful..as the Silk-worm. 1866 *Athenæum* No. 2019. 26/1 A species of silk-spider.

d. *Ornith.* In the names of birds or fowls: **silk-bunting**, *U.S.*, one or other of the buntings of the genus *Spiza*, esp. *S. americana*; **silk cock**, a species of domestic fowl, esp. *Phasianus gallus* or *Gallus lanatus*, native to eastern Asia; **silk fowl**, a silk-cock or -hen; (see also quot. 1835–6); **silk-hen**, the female of the silk-cock; † **silk stare**, =next; **silk starling**, a species of starling (*Sturnus sericeus*), native to China.

1884 Coues *N. Amer. Birds* 387 *Spiza*, *Silk Buntings. 1783 Latham *Gen. Synop. Birds* II. II. 708 *Silk Cock, *Phasianus gallus*. 1829 Griffith tr. *Cuvier* VIII. 222 The Silk Cock..is of a pure white.. 1835–6 *Todd's Cycl. Anat.* I. 270/1 The *Silk or Negro-fowl of the Cape de Verd Islands (*Gallus Morio*, Temminck). 1885 *Encycl. Brit.* XIX. 645/2 The silk fowl best known is that in which the plumage is perfectly white. 1868 Darwin *Variation Anim. & Pl.* xiv, I reared a large number of mongrels from a *silk-hen by a Spanish cock. 1884 *St. James's Gaz.* 27 Nov. 5/2 In Germany the silk hen is frequently remarkable for the length of her spurs. 1783 Latham *Gen. Synop. Birds* II. I. 10 *Silk Stare. Size of a Starling...The plumage in general glossy and silky. 1817 Stephens in Shaw *Gen. Zool.* X. II. 497 *Silk starling.

Silk, var. *swilk*, obs. form of Such.

Silk-cotton. [f. Silk *sb.* + Cotton *sb.*[1]]

1. The silky, elastic down or fibre obtained from various bombaceous and other tropical trees, and chiefly used for packing, stuffing pillows and cushions, making paper, etc.

1697 Dampier *Voy.* (1698) I. vii. 164 They [white cotton-trees] bear a very fine sort of Cotton, called Silk Cotton,.. like the Down of Thistles. 1703 *Ibid.* III. i. 21 The Silk-Cotton grows on tender Shrubs, 3 or 4 Foot high, in Cods as big as an Apple. 1785 Martyn *Rousseau's Bot.* xxiv, (1794) 340 You have here Silk-Cotton, the True Cotton, so much used in our manufactures [etc.]. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1009/2 The silk-cotton of the Simool..is, like other silk-cottons, not adapted for spinning. 1882 Caulfeild & Saward *Dict. Needlewk.* 449/2 The Silk Cotton is enclosed within the capsules containing the seed, which is embedded in it.

attrib. 1857 Henfrey *Bot.* 246 *Sterculiaceæ*. The Silk-Cotton Order. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1551/1 *Bombaceæ*, the Silk-cotton family, a group..belonging to Lindley's Malval alliance.

2. *Silk-cotton tree*, one or other of various species of tropical trees belonging to the genera *Bombax, Eriodendron, Ochroma*, and *Pachira*, which produce silk-cotton, esp. *B. malabaricum, Munguba*, or *Ceiba*, and *E. anfractuosum* or *orientale*. Cf. Cotton-tree 1.

1712 E. Cooke *Voy. S. Sea* 117 We found here some Guinea Pepper, and silk Cotton-Trees. 1781 *Phil. Trans.* LXXI. 168 This insect is most probably to be found in all countries where the silk-cotton-tree (*Bombax*) is indigenous. 1852 Th. Ross tr. *Humboldt's Trav.* I. iv. 148 A silk-cotton tree.., the trunk of which, in its fourth year, had reached nearly two feet and a half in diameter. 1885 Lady Brassey *The Trades* 99 Herds of cattle grazed beneath the shade of huge silk-cotton trees.

Silk-dyer. One who dyes silks.

c 1515 *Cocke Lorell's B.* 10 Table makers, sylke dyers, and shepsters. 1621 Elsing *Debates Ho. Lords* (Camden) 33 The Wardens of the Company of sylke dyers to sende hether 4 sylke dyers. 1709 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4535/4 Mr. James Taylor, a Silk Dyer. 1839 Ure *Dict. Arts* 125 The silk-dyers keep a black vat, and its very complex composition varies in different dye-houses.

Silke, var. *swilk*, obs. form of Such.

Silked (silkt), *a.* [-ed [1].] Coated with silk

1844 Noad *Electricity* (ed. 2) 246 Twenty-two feet of silked wire wound on a quill. 1858 J. P. Joule *Sci. Papers* (1884) 405, 2798 yards of no. 30 silked copper wire.

Silken (si·lk'n), *a.* Forms: α. 1 seolocen (2 -ken), seolcen (siolcen), 3 seolken(e; 2 seleken, 4 selkyn, 5 selken. β. 3 sulkene, 4 silkine, 5 -in, -yn, 6 sylken, -yn, 4 silken. [f. Silk *sb.* + -en [4].]

I. 1. Made or consisting of silk.

α. *c* 888 K. Ælfred *Boeth.* xv, Seolocenra hræzla mid mistlicum bleowum hi ne zimdon. 9.. *Ags. Gloss.* in Wr.-Wülcker 195 *Bombicinum*, seolcen wæzeria. *c* 1160 *Hatton Gosp.* Matt. xxvii. 28 Hyo..scrydden hine mid seleken reade sicchele [*read* scyccelse]. *c* 1275 *Sinners Beware* 164 in *O. E. Misc.* 77 Heo drawep heore wede Mid seolkene þrede. 13.. [see β]. *a* 1400 *Pistill of Susan* 197 Nou is Susan..sengeliche arayed, In a selken schert. 1475–6 *Sarum Churchw. Acc.* (Swayne, 1896) 362, iiij vnce j quarter of selken frenge, v s. ij d.

β. *c* 1205 Lay. 4549 Sulkene wes þat seil-clæð. 13.. *K. Alis.* 278 (Laud MS.), Yhiled myd a silken [*W.* selkyn] webbe. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 1520 He..sammes þaim on aithire side with silken rapis. 1474 Caxton *Chesse* III. vii. (1883) 142 A silken threde so small that no man myght see hit. 1553 Eden *Treat. New Ind.* (Arb.) 18 A silken fyllet of scarlet colour tied about their heddes. 1594 Spenser *F. Q.* IV. i. 13 Like a silken veile in compasse round About her backe. 1645 Pagitt *Heresiogr.* (1661) 13 They would not suffer a man to were a Ring, or a woman a silken gown. 1725 Pope *Odyss.* VI. 95 The silken reins Shine in her hand. 1781 Gibbon *Decl. & F.* xxii. (1787) II. 343 Their silken robes were embroidered with gold. 1815 Kirby & Sp. *Entomol.* iii. (1818) I. 63 The caterpillar attached itself to a leaf by a silken girth. 1852 Mrs. Stowe *Uncle Tom's C.* xix, Merry laughs were heard through the silken curtains.

fig. 1673 Dryden *Mar. à la Mode* II. i, Tho' nature gives you power To bind his duty, 'tis with silken bonds. 1746 Hervey *Medit.* (1818) 32 How silken the yoke to such a pair, and what blessings were twisted with such bands! 1799 Sickelmore *Agnes & Leonora* II. 68 He became firmly attached, in the silken bond of friendship, to a youth.

2. Worked in silk. *rare.*

1587 Fleming *Cont. Holinshed* III. 1346/2 Those silken pictures hallowed by the pope. 1597 Shaks. *Lover's Compl.* 17 Oft did she heaue her Napkin to her eyne, Which on it had conceited charecters: Laundring the silken figures in the brine [etc.].

3. Producing silk; characterized by the prevalence of silk.

1601 Holland *Pliny* II. 407 Insomuch as we need not wonder any more at the Seres or Indians for their cotton and silken trees. 1820 Keats *Eve of St. Agnes* xxi, The maiden's chamber, silken, hush'd and chaste. *Ibid.* xxx, Spiced dainties, every one, From silken Samarcand.

4. Clad in silk. (See also 8.)

1640 Chilmead *Ferrand's Love Melanch.* 51 Every silken coxcombe that has but a Page at his heels. 1648 J. Beaumont *Psyche* VII. cxxxv, All Inns by Silken and by Purple Things Were taken up. 1738 Johnson *London* 164 With brisker air the silken courtiers gaze. 1806 Mant *Poems* I. 17 And distant in the glittering sunshine ride The silken sons of luxury and pride. 1820 Scott *Abbot* xx, Her four noble Marys and all their silken train. 1896 *Daily News* 2 July 9/2 One would look instinctively for a vision of silken ankles and the red drugget on the pavement.

5. Of or pertaining to silk stuffs or goods.

1719 W. Wood *Surv. Trade* 219 The Encouragement of our Woollen Manufacture; the Consequence of which, is the Encouragement of the Silken.

II. 6. Silky, silk-like; soft; glossy, shining, lustrous.

1513 Douglas *Æneid* XII. Prol. 129 The balmy vapour from thar sylkyn croppis Distylland hailsum..hunny droppis. 1591 Spenser *M. Hubberd* 591 Now blessed be the day, That I see .. your silken hyde Fil'd with round flesh. 1597 Shaks. *Lover's Compl.* 87 His browny locks did hang in crooked curles, And euery..wind Vpon his lippes their silken parcels hurles. 1607 Rowlands *Guy Warw.* (Hunterian Club) 8 Pleasing, smooth, and silken skin. 1625 Milton *Death Fair Infant* 2 O fairest flower.., Soft silken Primrose fading timelesslie. 1697 Dryden *Virg. Georg.* I. 468 Sleeps are sweeter on the silken Ground. 1820 Shelley *Ed. Tyr.* II. i. 64 The milk-white Bulls..in fresh dews.. Sleeking their silken hair. 1857 Miller *Elem. Chem., Org.* v. § 3 (1862) 362 It crystallizes in anhydrous silken needles. 1871 Palgrave *Lyr. Poems* 76 All day between them in silence The silken butterflies glide.

fig. 1854 Miss Baker *Northampt. Gloss., Silken skin*, in good humour. 'He has a fine silken skin to-day.'

b. Spec. in scientific names (see quots.).

1611 Cotgr., *Cotine*, Venice Sumach, silken Sumach, red Sumach. 1804 Shaw *Gen. Zool.* V. I. 221 Silken Carp, *Cyprinus Sericeus*...Brilliant violet-silvery Carp...Native of slowly-running streams in many parts of Dauria. 1832 J. Rennie *Consp. Butterfl. & Moths* 111 The Silken Carpet (*Alcis sericearia*, Curtis) appears in July. Wings..silky-brown, or brick-red.

7. Of words, etc.: Elegant; ingratiating, soft, flattering.

1588 Shaks. *L. L. L.* v. ii. 406 Taffata phrases, silken tearmes precise. 1644 Jessop *Angel of Ephesus* 62 A late Patron of Episcopacie, who seemeth to be very neere of kinne to the Remonstrant in confidence and silken language. 1672 Owen *Christian Love* iii, Love may work as regularly by sharp rebukes as by the most silken and compliant expressions. 1703 Rowe *Ulysses* I. i. 307, I cannot court you with a silken Tale. 1741 Watts *Improv. Mind* (1801) 90 To be restrained by such mild and silken language.

b. Similarly of persons, their looks, voice, etc.

1594 Shaks. *Rich. III*, I. iii. 53 His simple truth must be abus'd, With silken, sly, insinuating Iackes. 1598 Marston *Pygmal., Sat.* ii, Then with a silken face [he] Smiles on the holy crue. *c* 1765 Churchill *Proph. Famine* Poems 1767 I. 88 Thus speak a form, by silken smile, and tone Dull and unvaried, for the Laureat known. 1885 *Manch. Exam.* 27 Apr. 5/4 Mr. Russell's voice, usually so soft and silken, was absolutely husky with passion.

8. Effeminate, luxurious.

In some examples sense 4 may be intended.

1599 Shaks. *John* v. i. 70 Shall a beardlesse boy, A cockred-silken wanton braue our fields? — *Hen. V*, II. Prol. 2 Now all the Youth of England are on fire, And silken Dalliance in the Wardrobe lyes. 1648 J. Beaumont *Psyche* XVI. clx, Whilst fooled Thou..Lin'st thy Commands with silken downy Ease. 1652 C. B. Stapylton *Herodian* 65 These Silken Syrians are no Souldiers Martiall. 1703 Rowe *Ulysses* II. i. 433 The silken Minions of the Samian Court. 1741–2 Gray *Agrippa* 98 The silken son of dalliance, nurs'd in ease. 1821 Byron *Sardanap.* III. i. 314 Baal himself Ne'er fought more fiercely to win empire, than His silken son to save it. 1877 L. Morris *Epic of Hades* II. 135 Their silken ease And royal luxury changed for blood and tears.

9. Soft, sweet, balmy; gentle.

1599 B. Jonson *Cynthia's Rev.* III. v. 215 Silken thoughts attend this deare beautie. 1601 — *Ev. Man in Hum.* (Qto.) III. iii. 17 In smoothe silken peace. *a* 1635 Bp. Corbet *Poems* (1807) 224 Those deeds..which ne'er affright The silken slumbers in the night. 1894 G. Egerton *Discords* 178 It is so good to sit thus bathed in silken air. 1895 W. Wright *Palmyra & Zenobia* iii. 23 A splendid charger, whose neck ..swayed hither and thither to her silken touch.

b. Of sounds: Soft, low.

1784 Cowper *Task* IV. 212 Time..has a dove's wing, Unsoil'd, and swift, and of a silken sound. *c* 1800 H. K. White *Clift Gr.* 81 The gray owl's silken flight. 1844 Mrs. Browning *Lady Geraldine's Courtship* V, In her lovely silken murmur.

c. Of wine: Mellow, silky.

a 1704 T. Brown *To J. Haines* in Coll. Poems (1705) 117 'Tis all Sincerity, a Silken Wine; It Charms the Taste, and Gratifies the Nose.

10. *Comb.*, as *silken-coated, -fastened, -folded, -sailed, -sandalled, -threaded, -winged,* etc. Also *silken-shining, -soft, -stapler.*

1593 Shaks. 2 *Hen. VI*, IV. ii. 136 As for these *silken-coated slaues I passe not. 1868 Morris *Earthly Par.* (1890) 6 1/2 A *silken-fastened book. 1847 Tennyson *Princ.* iv. 49 Fancies hatch'd In *silken-folded idleness. *a* 1835 Mother-well *Poet. Wks.* (1847) 64 'Tis softer than down, or This *silken-leafed flower. 1833 Tennyson *Lady of Shalott* I. iii, Unhail'd The shallop flitteth *silken-sail'd. 1847 — *Princ.* Prol. 149 Her tiny *silken-sandal'd foot. 1887 Meredith *Ball. & Poems* 157 O'er the *silken-shining pastures of the continents and the isles. 1859 Ld. Lytton *Wanderer* (ed. 2) 199 Your young feet there, *Silken-soft in each quaint slipper. 1599 T. M[oufet] *Silkewormes* 74 Go we, let vs learne the *silken-staplers trade. 1766 *Phil. Trans.* LVI. 58 A Newtonian telescope..furnished with a *silken-threaded micrometer. 1868 Morris *Earthly Par.* (1870) I. 1. 338 In her lap her open hand did lie, The silken-threaded needle close thereby. 1820 Shelley *Witch Atlas* Ded. 9 What hand would crush the *silken-winged fly.

Hence **Si·lken** *v. trans.*, to invest with a silky lustre; **Si·lkened** *a.*, dressed in silk.

1757 Dyer *Fleece* I. 494 Nightly to house them [*sc.* sheep] dry on fern or straw, Silk'ning their Fleeces. 1841 Catlin *N. Amer. Ind.* (1844) I. xxx. 244 The cheering smiles and graces of silkened beauty.

Si·lkenly, *adv.* [f. Silken *a.* + -ly 2.] In a silken manner; also in *nonce-use* (quot. 1846).

1846 Landor *Exam. Shaks.* Wks. 1853 II. 286 This is not the doctrine..of the silkenly and lawnly religious. 1861 *Temple Bar* II. 178 He makes his thoughts flow silkenly to the purring of the cat. 1865 Meredith *Rhoda Fleming* xxi, She was..as silkenly insipid every evening of her life.

Silkette (silke·t). [f. Silk *sb.* + -ette.] A fabric made of silk and cotton, chiefly used for lining dresses.

1895 *Daily News* 5 Feb. 6/6 The skirt reveals itself to be lined throughout with rose-coloured 'silkette'.

Silk grass. *Bot.* Also **silk-grass.** [f. Silk *sb.* + Grass *sb.*1]

1. a. One or other of various species of lustrous grasses native to America and the West Indies, esp. *Bromelia* or *Nidularium Karatas*; also, the fibrous leaves produced by these.

1620 *Observ. Silkwormes* D j, Silke grasse to bee vsed for Cordage, sixe-pence the pound. 1699 Wafer *Voy.* 94 They have a Plant also which is of good use to them, call'd by us Silk-grass, tho' 'tis indeed a kind of Flag. 1703 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 3898/3 Goods out of the Mary Man of War from Vigo, consisting of..Coppras, Silk Grass, &c. 1771 Smollett *Humph. Cl.* 13 July, He..made her a present of a purse of silk-grass. 1807 P. Gass *Jrnl.* 184 A number of the Chinook Indians came to the fort with hats..made of the cedar bark and silk grass. 1827 Roberts *Voy. Centr. Amer.* 56 Large bags made of silk grass. 1864 Grisebach *Flora Brit. W. Ind.* 787/2.

attrib. 1699 Wafer *Voy.* 95 The Spanish Women make Stockins of it, which are call'd Silk-grass Stockins.

b. The name of various species of aloe, agave, or yucca, or of the fibre derived from these.

1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. *App.*, *Silk-grass*, a name used for two very different genuses of plants, the aloe and dog's bane. 1847 Webster (citing *Farm. Encycl.*), *Silk-grass*, a filamentous plant of the genus Yucca. 1858 Simmonds *Dict. Trade, Silk-grass*, a name for the fine fibres of the *Agave vivipara*, and of *A. succæfolia*. 1859 Bartlett *Dict. Amer.* (ed. 2) s.v. *Bear-grass*, Bear-Grass (*Yucca filamentosa*). Sometimes called Silk Grass, from the fibres which appear on the edges of the leaves. It is not a grass.

attrib. 1769 E. Bancroft *Nat. Hist. Guiana* 48 The Silk Grass Plant nearly resembles the American Aloes.

† **2. a.** Dog's-bane (*Apocynum*). *Obs. rare.*

1670 *Phil. Trans.* V. 1152 In the same Box are Pods of a Vegetable, we call Silk-grass, which are full of a kind of most fine down-like Cotton-wool. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. *App.*

† **b.** Cotton-grass. *Obs.*—1

1727 in *Gentl. Mag.* (1747) XVII. 23/2 A plant named silk or cotton grass from its white tuff on the top resembling the finest cotton wool.

3. The grass *Oryzopsis cuspidata* of the western United States, the glumes of which bear long silky hairs; also *Stipa comata* of the same region.

1891 in *Cent. Dict.*

Silkily (si·lkili), *adv.* [f. Silky *a.* + -ly 2.] In a silky manner.

1815 *Sporting Mag.* XLVI. 53 The favourite animal is silkily painted. 1859 Meredith *R. Feverel* xv, His hair..fell away slanting silkily to the temples. 1870 Hooker *Stud. Flora* 428 Glumes silkily ciliate.

Silkiness (si·lkinès). [f. Silky *a.* + -ness.] The quality of being silky, in various senses of the adj.

1752 Sir H. Beaumont *Crito* 11 That appearing Softness or Silkiness of some Skins. *a* 1773 Chesterfield (T.), The claret had no silkiness. 1832 *Examiner* 19/1 Sycophancy, pliancy,..silkiness on one side, and a rasping roughness on the other. *a* 1864 Hawthorne *Dr. Grimshawe* vi. (1891) 60 A dose of his famous preparation..causing a delightful silkiness of sensation. 1870 Hooker *Stud. Flora* 339 Ovary similarly variable in silkiness.

Si·lking, *vbl. sb.* Silken rustling.

1871 G. Macdonald *W. Combermede* I. xiii. 131 The silking of her frock aroused me.

Si·lk-like, *a.* [f. Silk *sb.* + -like.] Resembling silk; glossy, lustrous.

1672 Josselyn *New Eng. Rarities* 7 They breed in little Nests made up like a bottom of soft Silk-like matter. 1776 Da Costa *Elem. Conch.* 63 They have beards..of fine, long, glossy silk-like brown fibres. 1860 *Chambers's Encycl.* I. 468/1 The silk-like down of the seeds. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 99/2 A number of seeds provided with a tuft of glossy silk-like hairs.

Silkman (si·lkmăn). [f. Silk *sb.* + Man *sb.*1] One who makes or deals in silks.

1553 in *Archaeologia* XII. 394 Laurence Ball, sylkeman. 1576 in Feuillerat *Revels Q. Eliz.* (1908) 413 John Weaver ..in London silkman. 1597 Shaks. 2 *Hen. IV*, II. i. 31 Hee is indited to dinner..to M. Smoothes the Silkman. 1621 Elsing *Debates Ho. Lords* (Camden) 32 Four sylkemen and four dyers to be chosen by the Master and Wardens. 1720 Strype *Stow's Surv.* II. 246/1 The Silkmen were incorporated by King Charles I..; now they are not so. 1841 *Penny Cycl.* XIX. 491/2 The silk is bought through the London brokers or the Coventry silkmen, at a credit of five months.

Si·lkness. *rare*—1. (App. a mock title, but the text may be corrupt.)

1601 B. Jonson *Poetaster* III. i, Sir, your silkenesse Cleerely mistakes Mecœnas, and his house.

Si·lk-soft, *a.* [f. Silk *sb.* + Soft *a.*] Having the characteristic softness of silk.

1570 T. Preston *Cambyses* D j b, Thy mother yet wil kisse thy lips silk soft and pleasant white. 1648 Herrick *Hesperides, To Sir L. Pemberton* 121 To annoint the silke-soft-skin, or bath in Asses' milke. 17.. in Herd *Sc. Songs* (1776) II. 4 Oh, there,..I'd feast on beauty a' the night, Seal'd on her silk-saft falds to rest. 1833 Tennyson *Eleanore* ii, A glorious child, dreaming alone, In silk-soft folds, upon yielding down. 1879 E. Arnold *Light Asia* 29 Her dark and silk-soft waist.

Silk stocking. Also **silk-stocking.**

1. A stocking made of silk; usu. in *pl.*

1597 Shaks. 2 *Hen. IV*, II. ii. 17 To take note how many paire of Silke stockings thou haste. 1611 Middleton & Dekker *Roaring Girl* H iv b, Why, haue not many handsome legges in silke stockins villainous splay feete for all their great roses? 1710 *Tatler* No. 245 P 2 Four pair of silk-stockings curiously darned. 1791 Boswell *Johnson* (Oxf. ed.) I. 135 The silk stockings and white bosoms of your actresses. 1834-6 *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) VIII. 709/1 Henry VIII. wore the first pair of silk stockings in England. *attrib.* and *Comb.* 1812 Jefferson *Let. to Gerry* 11 June, [They] will find their levees crowded with silk stocking gentry, but no yeomanry. 1842 Aiton *Domest. Econ.* (1857) 93 One-third of them..are sure to catch a cold..from every silk-stocking affair in the winter season. 1858 Simmonds *Dict. Trade* s.v. *Silk-throwing*, Preparing hard silk..for yarn for the silk-stocking maker.

2. a. A wearer of silk stockings.

1891 in *Cent. Dict.*

b. *U.S. politics.* (See quots. 1895 and 1896.)

1894 Stead *If Christ came to Chicago* 36 Hopkins was elected by the silkstockings on the one hand and the short-hairs on the other. 1895 *Funk's Stand. Dict., Silk-stocking*, a member of a branch of the Whig party in the earlier part of the 19th century. 1896 *Century Mag.* Nov. 6/2 Another class rejoice in this holiday as an opportunity to sit at home..reading in slippered ease.., or fondling the pet hobby. The 'people' call them 'silk-stockings'.

Hence **Silk-stockinged** *a.*

1850 Thackeray *Pendennis* xxxvii, John..was leaning against the door-pillar, with..his legs crossed; beautiful, silk-stockinged. 1861 Whyte Melville *Mkt. Harb.* 34 The languid man's silk-stockinged foot having been re-shod.

Si·lkstone. [See def.] A variety of coal obtained at Silkstone near Barnsley in Yorkshire.

1867 W. W. Smyth *Coal & Coal-mining* 57 The Arley mine or seam, which occupies the place of the Black Shale or Silkstone. 1891 *Times* 5 Oct. 4/4 Silkstones are still to be purchased..for moderate quantities up to 12*s.* 9*d.*

Si·lk-tail, [tr. G. *seidenschwanz*, f. G. *seide* silk + *schwanz* tail.] The waxwing or Bohemian chatterer, *Ampelis garrulus* or *G. Bohemicus.*

1685 *Phil. Trans.* XV. 1161 Ad lanios ea Avicula referenda est, quam a Germanis Silk-tail vulgo appellari audio. 1703 Ray in *Thoresby's Lett. Eminent Men* (1832) II. 23 The Silk-tail is to me a bird altogether new. 1767 G. White *Selborne* xii, I pronounced it the male *garrulus bohemicus*, or German silk-tail. 1864 Hibbert in *Intell. Obs.* V. 24 The silktail, the grosbeak, the snowflake..may occasionally be seen [in England]. 1899 *Daily News* 14 Jan. 5/1 The eggs of the common fly-catcher..acquire a blueish-green shining colour, and are then sold..as the eggs of the silk-tail.

Silk-thrower. [f. Silk *sb.* + Thrower.] = Silk-throwster.

1670 R. Coke *Disc. Trade* 45 The discouragement put upon the Silk-throwers by the Corporation and Company of London. 1720 Strype *Stow's Surv.* II. 233/2 This Company of Silk-Throwers..having gained their Trade..from the Strangers since Anno quinto of Queen Elisabeth. 1731 Bailey (vol. II) s.v., Their arms are Argent, three bundles of silk Sable, on a chief a silk thrower's mill. 1858 Simmonds *Dict. Trade, Silk-throwers-company*, one of the minor livery companies of London, which has no hall.

Silk-throwing. [f. Silk *sb.*] The process of converting raw silk into silk yarn or thread.

1621 in Strype *Stow's Surv.* (1720) II. 234/1 Sundry Strangers that use the Trade of Silk-throwing. 1668 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 259/4 An Act to regulate the Trade of Silk-throwing. 1768 *Ann. Reg., Chron.* 70/2 The proposal for setting up the business of silk-throwing was read. 1887 *Encycl. Brit.* XXII. 62/1 Numerous attempts have been made to simplify the silk-throwing.

attrib. 1834-6 *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) VIII. 709/1 In 1719, a silk-throwing mill was erected at Derby. 1880 *Encycl. Brit.* XIII. 453/1 The raw material for these silk-throwing factories.

Silk-throwster. [f. Silk *sb.* + Throwster.] One who converts raw silk into silk thread.

1621 in Strype *Stow's Surv.* (1720) II. 234/1 The Silk-Throwsters humbly desire to be made a Fellowship. 1648 C. Walker *Hist. Independency* 86 One of the new Captains of the Hamlets, a Silk-Throster, and a Tub-Preacher. 1755 *Gentl. Mag.* XXV. 185 A paper..signed by forty eminent silk-throwsters and weavers. 1835 Ure *Philos. Manuf.* 239 There may..be a great increase of..Turkey raw silks without much increase in the silk-throwster's business. 1866 *Chambers's Encycl.* VIII. 726/1 This is a special trade, the silk throwster usually conducting it in large mills with extensive machinery.

Silk-weaver. [f. Silk *sb.* + Weaver.] One who weaves silk stuffs; a weaver of silk fabrics.

1572 in Feuillerat *Revels Q. Eliz.* (1908) 156 The silk-weaver and her parcells. 1645 *Knaresb. Wills* (Surtees) II. 184 John Turpine of Rippon, silkweaver. 1676 Dryden *Aurengz.* Epil. 21 True English hate your Monsieur's Paultry Arts; For you are all Silk-Weavers, in your hearts. 1803 *Med. Jrnl.* IX. 140 A silk weaver, thirty-four years of age. 1835 Ure *Philos. Manuf.* 260 By this disposition, the minds of the silk-weavers in France become elevated and refined.

Si·lkweed. *Bot.* Also **silk-weed.** [f. Silk *sb.* + Weed *sb.*]

1. *U.S.* = Milkweed 2.

1846-50 A. Wood *Class-bk. Bot.* 458 *Asclepias cornuti*, Decaisne (*A. Syriaca*, Linn...). Common Silkweed. *Ibid.* 459 *A. phytolaccoides*, Poke-leaved Silkweed. 1857 A. Gray *First Lessons Bot.* (1866) 135 A coma, or tuft of long and soft hairs, such as we find in the Milkweed or Silkweed.

2. A plant of the genus *Conferva.*

1857 Henfrey *Bot.* 450 *Confervoideæ*, Silk-weeds...Plants ..of bright green, or more rarely (often temporarily) red colour. 1875 *Encycl. Brit.* I. 508/2 This is seen in Confervæ, such as the green matter often seen in ponds, and called *silk-weed.*

Silk-winder. [f. Silk *sb.* + Winder.]

1. One who winds or coils silk filament or thread preparatory to weaving.

1621 Florio, *Indouanadore*, a silke-winder. 1662 *Act* 14 *Chas. II*, c. 15 § 6 Every such Silk-winder and Doubler. 1786 *Phil. Trans.* LXXVII. 103 Since it came out of the hands of the silk-winder.

2. a. A silk-reel. **b.** A machine by which silk thread in the hank is transferred to the bobbin before spinning.

1858 in Simmonds *Dict. Trade.* 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2182/1 Fanshaw's silk-winder, English patent, 1827, was designed to avoid the breakage of the filament in winding the skein silk on to bobbins.

So † **Silk-windress, -windster.** *Obs.*

1598 Florio, *Diuidatrice*, a silke winderesse. 1723 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 6187/4 Eleanor Brown, late of Milk-yard Shadwell, Silk-windster.

Si·lk-woman. Now *Hist.* [f. Silk *sb.* + Woman *sb.*] A woman engaged in the manufacture, use, or sale of silk.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 77/2 Cylke woman, *devacuatrix* (P. *auriscecа*). 1455 *Rolls of Parlt.* V. 325 The Silkewymmen and Throwestres of the Craftes and occupation of Silkewerk. *c* 1515 *Cocke Lorell's B.* 10 Sylke women, pursers, and garnysshers. 1567-9 Jewel *Def. Apol.* (1611) 59 The same Spirit prepared and opened the Silke-womans heart. 1834-6 *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) VIII. 709/1 Henry [VI] having silk women, who were..probably only employed in needlework of silk. 1841 *Penny Cycl.* XIX. 488/2 In the reign of Edward III., an act was passed to prevent artificers from using more than one trade.., the silk-women..being exempted from its operation.

Si·lk-work. [f. Silk *sb.* + Work *sb.*]

1. Silk embroidery.

a 1375 *Joseph Arim.* 427 Fourti knihtes doustres he wolde haue .. forte souwe selk-werk. 1661 Tatham *London's Tryumphs* 5 The Pentioners bearing the severall sort of Silk-works. *a* 1700 Evelyn *Diary* 31 Oct. 1645, The Nunns of St. Catherine's sent me flowers of silk-work.

2. The manufacture or production of silk.

1455 [see Silk-woman]. 1728 Chambers *Cycl.* s.v. *Silk*, To make a further Enquiry into this New Silk-work.

3. *pl.* An establishment where silk is wrought.

1622 Bonoeil *Art of Making Silke* 76 To certifie you from the English Factory in Persia, of the art and order that they use..in the Silke-workes there. 1728 Chambers *Cycl.* s.v. *Silk*, In the French Silk-works, the greatest Part of this Silk passes for little better than a Kind of very fine Fleuret.

Silkworm (si·lkwŏrm). Also 1 **sioluc-, seolc-wyrm, 5 sylke-wyrme; 5 selke-, sylk(e)-, cylke-, 5-7 silkeworme,** etc. [f. Silk *sb.* + Worm *sb.* In older use freq. written as two words, and from *c* 1600 often with hyphen.]

1. The caterpillar of the mulberry-feeding moth *Bombyx* (or *Sericaria*) *mori*, orig. a native of northern China, which on changing into the pupa state spins a cocoon made of silken filament; also, the caterpillar of any bombycid or other moth which thus yields silken cocoons of commercial value.

c 1000 Ælfric *Gloss.* in Wr.-Wülcker 151 *Bombix*, seolcwyrm. *c* 1050 *Voc.* ibid. 360 *Bombix*, sioluc wyrm, oððe sidwyrm. 1398 Trevisa *Barth. De P. R.* xvii. xcix, Leues of hyze beri tren ben grete and brode,..and gladly wormes eten þerof: and so silke wormes ben beste fed and norischid. *c* 1425 *Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 643 *Hic bombex*, sylkworme. *a* 1450 *Fysshynge w. Angle* (1883) 26 A bayte that bredyth on an oke leyf & a sylke worme and a cod worme togyder. 1559 W. Cunningham *Cosmogr. Glasse* 196 We call them in Englishe Silke Wormes, of which at this day the Spaniardes have greate plentye. 1599 T. M[oufet] (*title*), Silkewormes and their Flies, lively described in verse. 1622 Bonoeil *Art of Making Silke* 1 This discourse is therefore touching

the feeding and intertainement of your Silke wormes. 1677 HORNECK *Gt. Law Consid.* i. (1704) 8 Their prophets,..like *silk*worms, spun out their own bowels. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Silk*, The Work of 12 Spiders..only equals that of one Silk Worm. 1788 GIBBON *Decl. & F.* xl. IV. 71 Till the reign of Justinian, the silk-worms who feed on the leaves of the white mulberry-tree, were confined to China. 1836 *Penny Cycl.* V. 109/1 During the time of spinning the cocoon the silkworm decreases in length very considerably. 1871 TYNDALL *Fragm. Sci.* (1879) I. v. 139 A plague had raged among the silkworms of France.

transf. 1838 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* I. 266/1 An Improved Machine called the Silkworm, for the purpose of Spinning, Twisting, and Doubling Silk. 1856 EMERSON *Eng. Traits* x. *Wealth*, A man should not be a silk-worm; nor a nation a tent of caterpillars.

b. One who wears a silken gown or dress. Used contemptuously. *rare.*

1613 BEAUM. & FL. *Honest Man's Fortune* v. iii, Thou silk-worm, What has thou in thee to deserve this woman? *a* 1704 T. BROWN *Cont. Quaker's Serm.* Wks. 1709 III. II. 3 Root out of them [*sc.* thy churches] all Anti-Christian Tiranny of most abominable Bishops; let not those Silk-worms and Magpies have Dominion over us. 1820 BYRON *Mar. Fal.* II. ii. 115 Better..call A Tartar lord, than these swoln silkworms masters! 1820 SCOTT *Monast.* xvii, Shall that English silkworm presume to beard me in my father's house?

†**c.** A woman given to frequenting drapers' shops and examining goods without buying. *Obs.*

1712 STEELE *Spect.* No. 454 ¶ 5 The Silk-worms are, it seems, indulged by the Tradesmen; for tho' they never buy, they are ever talking of new Silks, Laces, and Ribbands, and serve the Owners in getting them Customers.

2. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *silkworm breeder, disease, egg, -like* adj., *shed*; also **silkworm gut**, a fine, strong, light gut, made of the drawn-out glands of the silkworm (see GUT *sb.* 4 d); **silkworm moth**, one or other of various bombycid moths, whose larvæ produce cocoons; **silkworm rot** (see quot.).

1876 *Encycl. Brit.* IV. 596/2 The *silkworm breeder allows a few of the pupæ to develop into moths. 1887 *Cassell's Encycl. Dict.* s.v., *Silkworm disease. 1835 URE *Philos. Manuf.* 251 An ounce of *silk-worm eggs in France is worth two francs and a half. 1833 J. RENNIE *Alph. Angling* 66 Hook-lines .. are usually made of *silk-worm gut. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* IV. 349 The sutures may be silk, kangaroo tendon, or silkworm gut. 1672 DRYDEN *Conq. Granada* II. i. ii, I..*silkworm-like, so long within have wrought, That I am lost in my own web of thought. 1815 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* x. (1818) I. 335 About the year 550..two monks..procured in India the eggs of the *silk-worm moth. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 946 The transmission..of the sporozoa of pebrine from the silkworm moth to its eggs and caterpillar. 1855 OGILVIE *Suppl.* 362/1 **Silk-worm rot*, a fungous plant, the *Botrytis bassiana*, which kills silkworms in great numbers. 1898 *Folk-Lore* IX. 8 The same formula must be used on entering a *silkworm-shed.

Silky (sĭ·lki), *a.* (*sb.*). [f. SILK *sb.* + -Y.]

1. Silken; made or consisting of silk.

1611 COTGR., *Soyeux*, silky; bristlie (full of silke or of bristles). 1724 RAMSAY *Health* 20 Cosmellius may on silky twilts repose. 1743-6 SHENSTONE *Eleg.* xviii. 52 But Albion's youth..In silky folds each nervous limb disguise. 1868 *Rep. U.S. Comm. Agric.* (1869) 288 The regeneration and spinning of silky waste of all kinds.

2. Having the delicate softness of silk.

1666 J. SMITH *Old Age* 144 The several graces..of Musick, the soft and silky touches, the quick and pleasant relishes. 1710 CONGREVE *An Impossible Thing* 79 His eyes a silky slumber seiz'd. 1820 PRAED *Changing Quarters* 72 Are hearts of stone So small, and soft, and silky grown? 1870 *Eng. Mech.* 11 Feb. 534 A true Cremona..may be known by the..silky quality of its tone. 1897 WATTS-DUNTON *Aylwin* II. ix, The touch of Winnie's clasping fingers, silky and soft.

b. Of liquor: Having a soft delicate taste.

1743 *London & Country Brewer* IV. (ed. 2) 291 If they do not brew and sell a clear, pleasant, silky Beer. 1834 MCCULLOCH *Dict. Comm.* (ed. 2) s.v. *Wine*, The first mentioned [variety of claret]..is characterised by its silky softness on the palate. 1894 *Outing* XXIV. 473/1 Copious draughts of soft and silky claret.

absol. 1852 BRISTED *Five Yrs. Eng. Univ.* 50 A very enticing mixture appropriately called *silky*,..made of rum and madeira.

3. Of speech, manners, etc.: Smooth, pleasing, ingratiating, insinuating.

1778 EARL MALMESBURY *Diaries & Corr.* I. 197 Whilst they permitted themselves to be amused with silky speeches ..they were only allowing their ill-wishers to gain time. 1794 MATHIAS *Purs. Lit.* (1798) 73 Better preach With silky voice, and sacred flow'rs of speech. 1836 HOOD *Poetry, Prose, & Worse* xxiv, No documents tender and silky Are writ such as poets would pen. 1866 MRS. GASKELL *Wives & Daughters* xxix, Mrs. Gibson..petted him in her sweetest, silkiest manner. 1885 *Manch. Exam.* 12 Mar. 5/5 He stated his case in his silkiest and most persuasive accents.

b. Of persons: Quiet or smooth of manner.

1826 MISS MITFORD *Village* Ser. II. (1863) 325 Her smooth silky husband crept behind me with the stealthy pace of a cat. 1880 MEREDITH *Tragic Com.* (1881) 279 Imagine a quiet little advocate, very precise and silky. 1890 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Col. Reformer* (1891) 427 The silky, graceful *serviteur des dames.*

4. a. Having the gloss of silk; resembling silk in lustre.

1730 *Phil. Trans.* XXXVI. 344 His Tongue not hard, ..but of its natural Colour, with a silky Driness. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XI. 446/1 Such are the minerals called silky copper ores, and several white and green earths. 1838 T. THOMSON *Chem. Org. Bodies* 764 The crystals are either silky needles or short prisms. 1857 MILLER *Elem. Chem., Org.* iii. § 2 (1862) 171 White silky crystals of ethionic anhydride.

b. Having a texture like that of silk.

1757 DYER *Fleece* II. 137 To spread upon its fields the dews of heav'n, And feed the silky Fleece. 1796 WITHERING *Brit. Pl.* (ed. 3) II. 50 Leaves thick,..clothed on both sides with a silvery white silky down. 1828 STARK *Elem. Nat. Hist.* I. 80 Fur dark brown, very soft, and silky, shaded with chestnut. 1840 *Penny Cycl.* XVIII. 65/1 The webs of the white feathers..are silky to the sight and touch. 1856 LEVER *Martins of Cro' M.* 121 The young girl..wrung out the rain from her long and silky hair.

5. *Bot.* **a.** Covered with fine, soft, close-set hairs having a silk-like gloss; sericeous.

1776 J. LEE *Introd. Bot.* 385 *Sericeum*, silky, covered with soft silky Hairs. 1796 WITHERING *Brit. Pl.* (ed. 3) IV. 192 Stem cylindrical, silky, pinky. 1850 *Beck's Florist* Jan. 15 The leaves are narrow, lanceolate, and densely silky on both sides. 1870 HOOKER *Stud. Flora* 116 *Potentilla anserina* ..softly silky, especially on the leaves.

b. In the specific names of trees or shrubs.

1866 *Treas. Bot.* 789/2 Silky, or Silkbark Oak, *Grevillea robusta*. 1889 MAIDEN *Useful Plants* 514 *Eucalyptus saligna*...Other New South Wales names for it are 'Grey Box' and 'Silky Gum'. *Ibid.* 581 *Orites excelsa*,..'Red Ash'. 'Silky Oak'. 1891 *Ardrossan Herald* 30 Oct. 2 The little Silky Willow, *Salix fusca*, commands attention from the peculiarity of its growth.

6. *Nat. Hist.* Having silk-like hair, plumage, etc.

a. In names of monkeys.

1781 PENNANT *Hist. Quadrup.* I. 210 Silkey Monkey. 1827 GRIFFITH tr. *Cuvier* V. 42 *Simia Midas rosalia* (the Silky Tamarin). 1876 *Nature* XIV. 121/2 A Silky Marmoset (*Midas rosalia*). *Ibid.* 538/1 Two Silky Marmosets (*Hapale chrysoleucus*) from S.E. Brazil.

b. In names of birds; also as *sb.*, a silk-fowl.

1783 LATHAM *Gen. Synop. Birds* II. i. 96 Silky Chatterer ..inhabits the province of Maynas, in South America. 1823 — *Gen. Hist. Birds* VII. 9 Silky Warbler (*Sylvia sericea*)...Inhabits the Southern parts of Spain. 1829 GRIFFITH tr. *Cuvier* VIII. 82 Silky Pigeon, *Columba Holosericea*. 1849 D. J. BROWNE *Amer. Poultry Yd.* (1855) 81 The 'silky' and 'negro' fowls,..with skin, combs, and bones which are black. 1885 *Daily News* 14 July 2/3 The little Japanese silkies are valuable for sitting on pheasants' or partridges' eggs on account of their light weight.

c. In names of moths; also as *sb.*

1832 J. RENNIE *Consp. Butterfl. & Moths* 186 The Silky (*Orthotelia sericea*). *Ibid.* 211 Dale's Silky (*Melia? sericea*, Stephens). 1887 *Cassell's Encycl. Dict., Silky-wainscot*, a British night-moth, *Senta maritima*. *Ibid., Silky-wave*, a British geometer-moth, *Acidalia holosericata*.

7. *Comb.*, as *silky-black, -leaved, -looking, -soft, -textured, -voiced.*

1742 YOUNG *Nt. Th.* iv. 241 Silky-soft Favonius breathe still softer, or be chid. 1817 STEPHENS in Shaw *Gen. Zool.* X. i. 95 Silky-black Swallow, beneath white, with the forehead and throat rusty yellow. 1855 MISS PRATT *Fl. Pl.* V. 94 Silky-leaved Osier, or Smith's Willow. Leaves..white and glossy beneath. 1857 MILLER *Elem. Chem., Org.* (1862) 781 Sericin is a white silky-looking substance. 1895 CLIVE HOLLAND *Jap. Wife* 124 Wrapping up our presents in soft, silky textured rice-paper.

Sill (sil), *sb.*[1] **Forms**: *α.* 1 **syl**, 1, 5-6 **syll**(e, 2, 4 **sulle**, 4, 7 **sille**; 6 *Sc.* **schyll**, 7, 9 **sil**, 7- **sill**, 9 **cill**. *β.* 5 **selle**, 7-9 **sell**; 5 **celle**, 8-9 **cell**. [OE. *syll* and *sylle*, = MDu. *sulle*, MLG. *sulle*, *sul* (LG. *süll*), related to MDu. *sille*, *zille* (Fris. *sille*), MLG. *sille* (LG. *sill*), and to ON. and Norw. *svill*, *syll* (mod.Icel. *sylla*), MSw. and Sw. *syll* (dial. *svill*), Da. *syld*, also OHG. *swelli*, *swella* (MHG. *swelle*, G. *schwelle*). The precise relationship of these types to each other, and to Goth. *gasuljan* to found, or to L. *solea* the foundation of a wattled wall (Festus), is not clear.]

1. A strong horizontal timber (occas. a stone or iron substitute for this) serving as the foundation of a wall (esp. in the building of framed houses) or other structure, = GROUNDSEL *sb.*[2] **1**; hence, † a large beam or piece of squared timber. Also *fig.*

In ME. poetry sometimes used in the sense of 'floor'.

Beowulf 775 Pær fram sylle abeag medu-benc monig. *c* 897 K. ÆLFRED *Gregory's Past. C.* i. 27 Đonne hi ne beoð mid nanre sylle understotene ðæs godcundlican mægenes. *c* 1000 ÆLFRIC *Hom.* II. 144 Đa bæd he hi anre sylle, þæt he mihte þæt hus on ða sæ healfe mid þære underlecgan. 13.. *Gaw. & Gr. Knt.* 55 For al was þis fayre folk in her first age, on sille. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Miller's T.* 636 He fond nowthir to selle, Ne breed ne ale, til he com to the selle, Upon the floor. *c* 1400 *Rowland & O.* 9 Of doghety men I schall 3ow telle, þat were full..Semely appon Sille. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 456/1 Sylle, of an howse, *silla, soliva*. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* IX. 830 Off hewyn temyr in haist he gert thaim tak Syllys off ayk, and a stark barres mak. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* XI. ix. 70 Sum to the 3ettis weltis wechty stanis, And sum gret geistis and sillys for the nanis. 1536 BELLENDEN *Cron. Scot.* VIII. xix. 58 Ambrose..brocht mony huge sillis & treis out of the nixt wod. 1652 BAXTER *Inf. Baptism* 11 Every stone under the Sill supports not the house. 1710 J. HARRIS *Lex. Techn.* II, *Sell*, in Architecture, is the Term..for the lowest piece of Timber in a Timber-building. 1725 *Fam. Dict.* s.v. *Bay*, A cross Cell to hold in the side Cells from flying out. 1793 SMEATON *Edystone L.* § 100 Three-inch planks..spiked down upon the ridge-tree and upon the sills on each side. 1838 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* I. 387/1 The sills upon the pier-piling of the Selby bridge are fixed as opportunities are presented at low water. 1861 STEPHENS & BURN *Bk. Farm-buildings* 375 The lining..should be carried over the sill and nailed to it; the sill being wider than the studding [etc.]. 1877 E. PEACOCK *N.W. Linc. Gloss., Sill*,..the bottom of a fixed bench, pew, or other like wooden erection.

attrib. *c* 1340 *Nominale* (Skeat) 449 *Traches et trenchons*, Sulle-trees and splentes. 1886 WILLIS & CLARK *Cambridge* I. 330 The floor and sill wall of the upper study. *Ibid.* II. 14 The arches are fenced below by a low sill-wall.

b. *dial.* and *U.S.* One of the lower framing-timbers of a cart or railway-car.

1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 457/2 The bodies consisting of sills, to which the journal-boxes were bolted. 1879 MISS JACKSON *Shropsh. Word-bk., Sills*, the bottom and side pieces which form the skeleton-frame of the body of a cart or waggon—the foundation of its superstructure.

2. The piece of wood- or stone-work forming the lower horizontal part of a window-opening. Cf. WINDOW-SILL.

1428 in Heath *Grocers' Comp.* (1869) 6 Unwroughte Stapylton stoone; reidy hewe for the saame for wyndowes, wyndow Iambes and sills. 1663 GERBIER *Counsel* 29 The head of the Windowes, as well as the..James, and Sils. 1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* I. 252 The sills of windows have been mostly made from three feet to three feet six inches distant from the level of the floor. 1851 TURNER *Dom. Archit.* I. ii. 37 A recess in the sill with a seat in each side, the usual characteristic of a domestic window. 1873 W. BLACK *Pr. Thule* xviii. 297 She..placed the plate outside the open window, on the sill.

fig. 1858 KINGSLEY *Longbeard's Saga* 80 High in Valhalla A window stands open; Its sill is the snow-peaks.

Comb. 1895 *Funk's Stand. Dict., Sill-course*, a course of masonry in line with a window-sill.

b. *Naut.* A port-sill (see quots. and PORT *sb.*[3] 6).

1815 BURNEY *Falconer's Mar. Dict., Sills of the Ports*, or *Port-sills*..., pieces of oak timber, let in horizontally between the frames to form the upper and lower sides of the ports. 1841 DANA *Seaman's Man.* 123 *Sills*, pieces of timber put in horizontally between the frames to form and secure any opening; as, for ports. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.* 626.

c. *Fortif.* (See quots.)

1859 F. A. GRIFFITHS *Artil. Man.* (1862) 248 *The sill* is the front of the sole. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2182/2 *Sill* ..., the inner edge of the bottom or sole of an embrasure.

3. The threshold of a door or gateway; the lower horizontal part of a door-case. Cf. DOOR-SILL and GROUNDSEL *sb.*[2] **2.**

1591 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* I. i. 845 Travailers..Make haste enough, if only the First Day From their owne Sill they set but on their way. 1600 HOLLAND *Livy* 1359 The lintell, cheekes and sill of the Capitoll dore, were made all of brasse. 1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* 1. ii. 1. ii. (1651) 445 When he can scarce lift his leg over a sill. 1716 SWIFT *Progr. Poetry* Wks. 1751 VII. 170 The Farmer's Goose.. Grown fat with Corn..Can scarce get o'er the Barn-Door Sill. 1787 GROSE *Prov. Gloss., Sill* (of a door), threshold. 1823 P. NICHOLSON *Pract. Builder* 310 Cills—These belong to the apertures of the doors and windows, at the bottom of which they are fixed. *a* 1850 ROSSETTI *Dante & Circle* I. (1874) 173 O Poverty!..he who on thy naked sill has stood [etc.]. 1906 *Expositor* Aug. 131 He laid bare an ancient gateway with four sills, one above the other.

transf. 1611 COTGR., *Sursueil*, the vpper sill, or headpeece of a doore; the peece of timber that lyes ouer a doore.

b. *Mining.* (See quots.)

1747 HOOSON *Miner's Dict.* S iv, When Doorsteds are used, and the Sole of the Drift so soft, that it will not bear the Forks,..then we clap a Sill under them, which is a piece of Wood lay'd across the Drift. 1881 RAYMOND *Mining Gloss., Sill*,..a piece of wood laid across a drift to constitute a frame with the posts and to carry the track of the tramway.

c. A horizontal timber (or structure) at the bottom of the entrance to a dock or canal-lock, against which the gates close.

1789 *Trans. Soc. Arts* 55 To raise the sill or threshold of the flood-gates..twenty inches. 1838 SIMMS *Publ. Wks. Gt. Brit.* II. 6 The gates clap against a sill of oak. 1861 SMILES *Engineers* III. 162 The bottom of 'the Deeps'..was only two feet, six inches above the cill of Maud Foster Sluice. 1892 *Law Times Rep.* LXV. 590/1 The lock had been lengthened since its original construction, but an old sill had been left.

d. A horizontal timber, etc., rising above the level of a roadway.

1853 SIR H. DOUGLAS *Milit. Bridges* 318 The whole is easily moved forward to the edge of the gap, where a high sill should be laid, to prevent the wheels from approaching too near.

4. a. A kind of clay found in coal-measures. Also *attrib.*, as *sill-coal, -pencil.*

1774 *Phil. Trans.* LXIV. 491 A shining kind of stony clay, called by the miners *sill*, lying in large beds in coal grounds. 1841 HARTSHORNE *Salop. Ant.* Gloss., *Sill-coal*, coal which my informant describes as being found 'in the clunches'. 1899 DICKINSON & PREVOST *Cumbld. Gloss., Sill*, the soft clay of the coal measures, used for slate pencils, which are called sill pencils.

b. A bed, layer, or stratum of rock, esp. of an intrusive igneous rock.

1794 HUTCHINSON *Hist. Cumb.* I. [49]/1 Great sill red, near the bottom is alabaster, *gypsum alabastrum*. 1821 W. FORSTER *Strata* 95 Slate Sills. These Strata are of a Siliceous kind, and frequently contain small particles of mica. 1880 *Geol. Mag.* 433 The 'Slate Sills' and the 'Coal Sills' are particular beds of sandstone in the Yoredale Series. 1894 *Naturalist* 222 Intrusive igneous rocks in sills and dykes in all the Silurians.

attrib. 1877 RAYMOND *Statist. Mines & Mining* 159 The east drift, same level, on the sill-floor, has attained a length of 92 feet.

5. a. The foot or lower part *of* a title-page or title.

1834 LOWNDES *Bibliogr. Man.* I. 426 On the sell of the compartment of the title-page is the date of 1534. 1881 BRADSHAW in *Bibliographer* Dec. 10/2 The sill of the text-title contains the device of Martin de Keyser, while the sill of the general title contains a blank shield.

b. (See quots.)

1877 E. PEACOCK *N.W. Linc. Gloss., Sill*..., the bottom part of a plough which slips along the ground in ploughing. 1895 W. RYE *E. Angl. Gloss., Sill Iron*, the iron which connects the plough with the standards, jigs, or carriage, of a Norfolk plough.

c. The bottom *of* a hedge.

1883 *Daily News* 1 Sept. 4/7 Although the hen prefers the sill of a hedgerow for her rough nest, she not unfrequently makes it in a cornfield.

Sill, *sb.*[2] Dial. var. of THILL. Also *attrib.*

1787 GROSE *Prov. Gloss., Sills* (of a waggon), the shafts, the same as thills. 1788– in northern dial. glossaries. 1828 CARR *Craven Gloss., Sill-horse*, the shaft horse. 1877 E. PEACOCK *N. W. Linc. Gloss., Sill-hank*, the hooks in the shafts of a cart or waggon for the shaft-horse to pull by.

Sill, *v. rare.* [f. SILL *sb.*[1]] *trans.* To furnish with a sill. Also *fig.*

1552–3 *Inv. Ch. Goods Stafford* 48 Ther was one bucket of brasse solde by the wardens, Thomas Yate & Thomas Yomans, to sylle ther church gate. 1908 *Academy* 11 July 29/2 Beneath your windows, deeply silled In red, red roses.

Sill, obs. f. SEAL *sb.*; obs. var. *sel*, northern f. SELF; obs. f. SELL *v.*; var. SILE (herring-fry).

Sillab, Sillabary, Sillable; see SYLLAB, etc.

Sillabub, syllabub (si·lăbʌb). Forms: *α.* 6 solybubbe, 7 sullabub, sullibib, 7–8 sullibub. *β.* 6 selybube, 6–7 seli-, 7 sellibub, sallibube. *γ.* 6 sillye-, 6–7 syllibub, 7 sillie bube, cilli-, 7–8 sillibub, 9 *Sc.* sillybob. *δ.* 6 sillabubbe, 6– silla-, 7– syllabub. [Of obscure origin: cf. SILLIBOUK and SILLUB. The most frequent spelling from *c* 1700 has been *syllabub*, under the influence of *syllable*.]

1. A drink or dish made of milk (freq. as drawn from the cow) or cream, curdled by the admixture of wine, cider, or other acid, and often sweetened and flavoured.

In common use from the 16th cent. to about the middle of the 19th.

a. c 1537 *Thersytes* (1848) 79 You and I..Muste walke to him and eate a solybubbe. 1628 WITHER *Brit. Rememb.* IV. 1186 Some, Sulli-bibs among the Milk-maids, making. 1668 SEDLEY *Mulberry Gard.* IV. Wks. 1778 II. 52 Then they must..have the Sullabubs and Tarts brought into the Coach to 'em. 1748 MRS. S. HARRISON *House-kpr.'s Pkt.-Bk.* vii. (ed. 4) 17 Sullibubs.

β. 1570 in J. J. Cartwright *Chapters Hist. Yks.* (1872) 55 They brough this examynent a selybube to drynk. 1584 COGAN *Haven Health* cc. (1636) 190 A posset or Selibub made of Verjuice, is good to coole a cholerick stomacke. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* I. 348 They vsed to thicken their milk into a kind of pleasant soure curd in manner of a Sellibub.

γ. 1591–2 NASHE *Prognostication* Wks. (Grosart) II. 165 Maides this quarter shall make sillyebubbes for their Louers. 1602 in *Lyly's Wks.* (1902) I. 492 First you shall haue a dayntie sillibub; next a messe of clowted creame. *c* 1645 HOWELL *Lett.* I. IV. v, Leaue the smutty Ayr of London, and com hither.., wher you may pluck a Rose, and drink a Cillibub. 1737 *Ochtertyre House-bks.* (1907) 104 Sillibubs and cold beefe. 1822 GALT *Provost* XXX, Instead of the light tarts, and nice jellies and sillybobs that were expected.

δ. 1598 MARSTON *Pygmal.* 60 Ye Granta's white Nymphs, come & with you bring Some sillabub. 1631 BRATHWAIT *Whimzies, Pedlar* 138 This purchaseth him, upon better acquaintance, a posset or a sillabub. *a* 1668 DAVENANT *Vacation in London* Wks. (1673) 289 Her Elbow small she oft does rub; Tickled with hope of Sillabub! 1704 W. KING *Mully of Mountown* 18 Thy White-Wine, Sugar, Milk, together Club To make that gentle Viand Syllabub. 1758 JOHNSON *Idler* No. 15 ¶ 6 Besides what it costs me in tea and hot rolls, and syllabubs. 1817 MME. D'ARBLAY *Let.* 5 July, Some other ingredient that, when it is poured into a pan, bubbles up like a syllabub. 1853 SURTEES *Sponge's Sp. Tour* lxii. 352 How nice it would be to have..a sillabub, under those cedars. 1861 HUGHES *Tom Brown at Oxf.* xxiii. (1889) 220 We retire to tea or syllabub beneath the shade of some great oak.

b. *attrib.*, as *sillabub-pot.*

a 1648 DIGBY *Closet Opened* (1677) 230 A large syllabub-pot. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. xiv. (Roxb.) 9/2 He beareth sable, a possett pott, or a wassell cup, or a sallibube pott.

2. *fig.* a. Something unsubstantial and frothy; *esp.* floridly vapid discourse or writing.

1706 PHILLIPS (ed. 6), *Sillabub*, or *Sillibub*,..is figuratively taken for a florid, but frothy and empty Discourse. 1768 WESLEY *Wks.* (1872) XII. 410 Latin and Greek books (compared with which most of the English are whipped Syllabub). 1847 SEDGWICK in Clark & Hughes *Life & Lett.* (1890) II. 113, I shall never again endure the rounded periods and syllabub of Robertson. 1852 HAWTHORNE *Blithedale Rom.* xvii, I resolved to pause, and enjoy the moral sillabub until quite dissolved away. 1889 *Daily News* 11 May 2/1 The new bonnets are the veriest trifles; mere syllabubs of frothed-up lace.

attrib. 1849 C. BRONTE *Shirley* XXXVI, When did I whip up syllabub sonnets, or string stanzas fragile as fragments of glass?

b. A mixture, combination.

1859 THACKERAY *Virginians* lxxvii, Aunt Lambert..was one great syllabub of human kindness.

Sillack, variant of SILLOCK.

Silladar (si·lădāi). *Anglo-Ind.* Also silledar, sillahdar. [a. Urdū (Pers.) سلاح دار *silāhdār* armour-bearer, squire, f. Arab. *silāh* arms, armour.] An irregular cavalryman who provides his own horse and arms; often used *attrib.*

1802 WELLINGTON in Gurw. *Disp.* (1844) I. 312 The horse are 2000 good,..and 1500 [of these are] silladar. 1803 *Ibid.* 323 A body of silladar horse. 1813 J. FORBES *Oriental Mem.* III. 349 A silledar, or soldier of fortune. 1842 W. MILES tr. *Hist. Hydur Naik* 173 With only six thousand stable horse, nine thousand Sillahdars,..and six guns.

Sillag, variant of SILLOCK.

† **Siller,** obs. form of CELLAR *sb.*

1422 tr. *Secreta Secret., Priv. Priv.* 142 In Suche a tyme thow shalt thy graunges and thy gerners opyn, thy Sillers disclose. 1543 *Cal. Anc. Rec. Dublin* (1889) 414 Every siller and shope within the wallis.

Siller, variant of SILOUR; obs. f. SELLER; Sc. variant of SILVER.

Sillery (si·lərі). Also 7 Cel(l)ery. [f. *Sillery*, a village in the department of Marne, Champagne.] A high-class wine produced in and around the village of Sillery in Champagne.

The name usually denotes a still wine known as *Sillery sec* or *dry Sillery*, formerly made from the produce of the Sillery vineyards, but now mainly obtained from the neighbouring ones of Verzenay and Mailly.

1680 SHADWELL *Woman Captain* I. i, The richer Wines of Greece and Sicely, And Celery, Champaign and Burgundy. *a* 1688 VILLIERS (Dk. Buckhm.) *Works* (1752) 116 As for French kickshaws, cellery and champain,..in troth we 'ave none. 1819 *Metropolis* III. 182, I am sure we can muster a sandwich, and I rather think that we may get a glass of sillery with it. 1845 *Encycl. Metrop.* XXV. 1279 Of these [Champagne wines] the still is considered the choicest, under the name of Sillery, much drank in England. 1859 H. KINGSLEY *G. Hamlyn* (1900) 80/2 His Majesty's right honourable ministers in the ante-room, drinking dry Sillery in honour of the event.

attrib. 1844 THACKERAY in *Colburn's Mag.* May 28 Sillery Champagne (4 bottles), £2.

Sillgreen, dial. variant of SENGREEN.

Sillibouk. *dial.* Forms: 6 sillibucke, 8 -buck; 7 sillibouke, 9 sylibewk; 8 silli-, 9 sillybauk. [var. of SILLABUB; for the ending cf. MERRIBOWK.] A sillabub. Also *attrib.*

1573 BARET *Alvearie*, A Sillibucke, *Lac in ceruisia suffocatum vel iugulatum.* 1632 SHERWOOD, Sillibouke, or sillibub, *laict aigre.* 1701 W. BAXTER *Note Horace's Art Poet.* 239 Unde et nostrum *Sillabub*, quod rectius ab agrestibus *Sillibuck* profertur. 1721 BAILEY, *Sillibauk*, a Sillabub. *Lincolnsh.* 1819 PAUL BOBBIN *Sequel* 40 (E.D.D.), Th'.. black two bule'd sylibewk pot. 1866 BROGDEN *Prov. Lincs., Silly-bauk*, a corruption of sillabub.

Sillik, var. SILLOCK. **Sillibub,** obs. f. SILLABUB.

Si·llikin. *slang.* [f. SILLY *a.* + -KIN.] A simpleton.

1860 G. A. SALA *Lady Chesterfield* 32 Poor sillikin! he knows nothing of the secret clause in the treaty. 1882 F. W. ROBINSON *Women are strange* xxiii, A self-satisfied sillikin.

Sillily (si·lili), *adv.* [f. SILLY *a.* + -LY[2].]

† 1. Poorly, badly. *Obs. rare.*

1581 MULCASTER *Positions* XXXV. (1887) 126 The soule it selfe is but sillyly looked to, while the bodie is in price. 1611 COTGR. s.v. *Manger*, He that makes himselfe simple shall be sillily vsed.

2. In a foolish, absurd, or senseless manner.

1627 W. SCLATER *Exp. 2 Thess.* (1629) 256 How doe wee sillily call all Idolatrous, that is in vse amongst Idolaters? 1658 A. FOX *Würtz' Surg.* III. xi. 248 Such Wounds which were very deep, and were sillily and ignorantly stitched. 1712 STEELE *Spect.* No. 466 ¶ 6 [She] affects to please so sillily, that..you see the Simpleton from Head to Foot. 1740–1 RICHARDSON *Pamela* I. xxiv. 67 He sat down, and look'd at me, and..as sillily as such a poor Girl as I. 1805 *Spirit Publ. Jrnls.* IX. 4 They sillily interested themselves in the event of a new experiment. 1843 MRS. CARLYLE *Lett.* I. 254 Neither have I sillily paid four or five pounds away for it. 1864 BROWNING *Dram. Pers.* Wks. 1896 I. 573/2, I took your arm And sillily smiled.

Sillimanite (si·limănəit). *Min.* [f. the name of Benjamin *Silliman*, an American chemist (1779–1864); named by G. T. Bowen in 1824.] A silicate of alumina, occurring in slender rhombic prisms or in fibrous masses.

1830 *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) VI. 476/2 Sillimanite. 1837 DANA *Min.* 321 Sillimanite occurs in slender prisms, thickly traversing quartz, in a vein of gneiss. 1888 RUTLEY *Rock-Forming Min.* 167 Sillimannite is a mineral of frequent occurrence in gneiss and other crystalline schists.

Sillinder, obs. form of CYLINDER.

Silliness (si·linės). [f. SILLY *a.* + -NESS.]

1. The quality of being silly; foolishness, senselessness.

1604 SHAKS. *Oth.* I. iii. 309 It is sillynesse to liue, when to liue is torment. 1634 CANNE *Necess. Separ.* 220 He sayth, that the Prelates may well laugh at Mr. Iohnsons simplicity and sillinesse of wit, that thinkes to fright them with such a bugbeare as this. 1705 BERKELEY *Commonpl. Bk.* Wks. 1871 IV. 427 The sillyness of the current doctrine makes much for me. 1779 *Mirror* No. 35, If all this..proceed from silliness, we must pity the man, and there's an end on't. 1865 LIVINGSTONE *Zambesi* viii. 179 It is a combination of silliness with absurdity quite odious. 1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) IV. 410 The silliness of the so-called laws of thought..has been well exposed by Hegel himself.

b. An instance of this; a silly thing, act, etc.

1740–1 RICHARDSON *Pamela* I. 62, I shall write on,..tho' I should have nothing but Sillinesses to write. 1854 J. S. C. ABBOTT *Napoleon* (1855) I. xxxii. 491 Behold a silliness fit for a medical student, but not for me. 1882 STEVENSON *Fam. Stud.* ii. 104 If he had said 'the love of healthy men for the female form', he would have said almost a silliness.

2. Mental weakness.

1822–7 GOOD *Study Med.* (1829) IV. 194 *Moria demens stultitia.* This, which is what we ordinarily denominate silliness, is generally a natural infirmity. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VII. 695 Melancholia, or mere silliness, may be the earliest feature of the disease.

Sillion, obs. form of SELION.

Sillock (si·lək). *Sc.* Forms: 7 sellak, 8 -ok, 9 -ock; 8 silak, 9 sillack, -ag; 8–9 sillik, -uck (9 -uk), 8– sillock. [Orkney and Shetland dial.] A young coal-fish (saithe), at a certain stage of its first year.

1654 BLAEU *Atlas Scotia* 138 Piscium variorum, præcipue silurorum minimorum majorum et maximorum (vulgo Sellaks, Kuythes, Colmouses) captura felix. 1793 *Statist. Acc. Scotl., Orkney & Zetland* VII. 589 Sillocks set in, in great quantities, to the bays or voes in winter. 1822 HIBBERT *Desc. Shetl. Isl.* 434 Throwing his line among the throng of sillocks with which the inlet was filled. 1854 H. MILLER *Sch. & Schoolm.* XXV. (1857) 558 A flock of sea-gulls that had been sporting in the sunshine over a shoal of sillocks. 1881 DAY *Fishes Gt. Brit.* I. 295 At this period they are from six to ten inches in length, and much esteemed as sillucks.

attrib. 1822 HIBBERT *Desc. Shetl. Isl.* 122 It is to the sinewless arm of youth..that the light task is resigned of wielding the sillock-rod. 1888 SAXBY *Lads of Lunda* 34 A long, tapering, sturdy wand known as a 'sillack rod'.

Sillogism(e, obs. forms of SYLLOGISM.

Si·llograph. *rare.* [ad. L. *sillograph-us*, ad. Gr. σιλλογράφος, f. σίλλος a satirical poem.] A writer of satires or lampoons; *spec.* applied to Timon of Phlius (*c* 268 B.C.).

1845 LEWES *Hist. Philos.* I. 77 His state of mind is finely described by Timon the sillograph. 1849 GROTE *Hist. Greece* II. XXXVII. IV. 526 The sillograph Timon of the third century B.C.

So **Sillo·grapher, Sillo·graphist.**

1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr., Sillographer*, a writer of scoffs, taunts and revilings; such was Timon. 1775 ASH, Sillographist. 1845 *Encycl. Metrop.* X. 393/1 Menippus indeed, in common with the Sillographers, seems to have introduced much more parody than even the earliest Roman Satirists.

Sillo·meter. [ad. F. *sillomètre*, irreg. f. *siller* to make way, of a ship.] An instrument intended to serve the same purpose as a log-line.

1842 *Mechanic's Mag.* XXXVII. 141 The speed, as shown by the Sillometer, was gradually reduced from 8 miles per hour to 4.

Sillour(e : see SILOUR.

Sillow : see SULL, plough.

† **Sillub,** obs. Sc. variant of SILLABUB.

1583 *Leg. Bp. St. Androis* 386 For ony herb scho lykis to luike : It will instruct hir how to tak it; In sawis and sillubs how to mak it.

Sillu(o)k, variants of SILLOCK.

Silly (si·li), *a.*, *sb.*, and *adv.* Forms: 5 syly, 6 sylie, silie, 7 sily; 6 cillie, 6–7 sillie (6 -ye), 5– silly; 6–7 sylly (6 -ye). [Later form of ME. *sely* SEELY *a.*]

From *c* 1550 to *c* 1675 *silly* was very extensively used in senses 1–3, and in a number of examples it is difficult to decide which shade of meaning was intended by the writer.

A. *adj.* 1. Deserving of pity, compassion, or sympathy. Now *north.* and *Sc.* Cf. POOR *a.* 6.

c 1425 *Seven Sages* (Percy Soc.) 1361 The sylyman lay and herde, And hys wyf answerd. *c* 1489 CAXTON *Blanchardyn* liv. 213 With these or the like exclaimes, this silly aged King..lay still a while. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* I. vi. 69 Ane husband, quhilk Sicheus hecht, had sche,..And stranglie luvit of the silly Dido. 1556 in W. H. Turner *Select Rec. Oxford* 246 The fire raging upon the silly Carcase. 1641 J. JACKSON *True Evang. Temper* III. 187 What is poore, and silly man alone, but a very scrich-owle, and satyre. 1680 OTWAY *Orphan* II. v. 685, I might have trusted him with all the secret, Open'd my silly heart, and shewn it bare. 1724 RAMSAY *Tea-t. Misc.* (1733) I. 84 Good wife, for your courtesie, Will ye lodge a silly poor man? 1764 REID *Inquiry* i. § 6. 103 Is this thy pastime, O Nature, to put such tricks upon a silly creature? 1808 JAMIESON, *Silly* ..in the same sense as E. *poor* is often used, denoting a state which excites compassion. 1894 HESLOP *Northumbld. Gloss.* s.v., The bit bairn's asleep noo, silly thing.

† b. Helpless, defenceless; *esp.* of women and children. *Obs.*

1587 TURBERV. *Trag. Tales* (1837) 31 Making him repine, To see a sillie dame so sore distreste. 1591 SHAKS. *Two Gentl.* IV. i. 72 Prouided that you do no outrages On silly women, or poore passengers. 1610 GUILLIM *Heraldry* III. XXVI. (1660) 260 Not unlike those devillish Witches, that do work the destruction of Silly Infants. 1647 CLARENDON *Hist. Reb.* VII. § 171 Who behaved themselves with such inhumanity, that they Charged among the silly Women. 1665 MANLEY *Grotius' Low-C. Wars* 938 There remained fresh Examples of their Barbarism against weak Sea-men, and silly Fisher-men.

absol. c 1580 SIDNEY *Ps.* x. 7 Lift up Thy heavnly hand, And by the sylly stand.

c. Of animals, *esp.* as a conventional (poetic) epithet of sheep.

1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* XXXII. 59 In the silly lambis skin, He crap als far as he micht win. 1564–78 BULLEIN *Dial. agst. Pest.* (1888) 63 The poor cillie Mouse crept out of her small caue..., thinkyng no harme. 1577–82 BRETON *Toyes Idle Head* Wks. (Grosart) I. 38/2 This Lady..To hunt this silly harmlesse Harte dooth take a great delight. 1620–6 QUARLES *Feast for Wormes* Introd. 46 The Woolfe shall fawne vpon the silly Sheepe. 1646 — *Judgem. & Mercy* Wks. (Grosart) I. 120/1 The silly Sheep reposed in their warm fleeces. 1780 COWPER *Progr. Error* 119 His silly sheep, what wonder if they stray? 1866 M. ARNOLD *Thyrsis* v, He could not keep..Here with the shepherds and the silly sheep.

2. Weak, feeble, frail; insignificant, trifling:

† a. Of persons or animals. *Obs.*

1567 MAPLET *Gr. Forest* 71 b, Here we see that a smal sillie Bird knoweth how to match with so great a Beast. 1577 *St. Augustine's Man.* T viij b, Why raungest thou then through so many thynges O sillie man? 1611 SPEED *Hist. Gt. Brit.* IX. iii. (1632) 465 A Colliers Cart..drawn with one silly leane Beast. 1633 HERBERT *Temple, Sighs & Grones* i, Thou onely art The mightie God, but I a sillie worm. 1665 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* (1677) 339 They are..so innocent as not to take away the life of the silliest vermin.

b. Of inanimate things. Now *Sc.*

1587 GOLDING *De Mornay* xxxii. (1617) 558 He [Christ] leaueth neither children nor kinsfolk behind him to vphold his silly kingdome. 1598 BP. HALL *Sat.* v. i. 59 Of one bayes breadth, God wot, a silly cote. 1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* II. iii. III. (1651) 329 When as the lofty oke is blown down, the silly reed may stand. 1660 F. BROOKE tr. *Le Blanc's Trav.* 144 Many times 'tis but a scarf or silly taffeta ribbon. 1794 G. ADAMS *Nat. & Exp. Philos.* I. xi. 35 By dissection you discover this Worker of Miracles to be nothing but a poor silly contemptible Knob or Protuberency. 1889 BARRIE *Window in Thrums* 209, I was sawin'.., an' little Rob was haudin' the booards, for they were silly but things.

c. Weakly, feeble, sickly, ailing. *Sc.* and *north.*

a 1585 MONTGOMERIE *Cherrie & Slae* 1512 To do the thing we can To pleise..This silly sickly man. 1777 *Ferguson's Scot. Prov.* I A silly bairn is eith to lear. 1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* xvii, Is there onything you would particularly fancy, as your health seems but silly? 1821 GALT *Ann. Parish* i, She was but of a silly constitution. 1889 BARRIE *Window in Thrums* vi. 49 There's Leeby 'at I couldna hae done withoot, me bein' sae silly.

† **d.** Scanty, sorry, meagre, poor. *Obs.*

1593 SHAKS. 3 *Hen. VI*, III. iii. 93 A Pedigree Of threescore and two yeeres, a silly time To make prescription for a Kingdomes worth. 1613 JACKSON *Creed* I. 187 Where they found but silly shelter. 1767 SIR R. COLVILLE in Dossie *Mem. Agric.* (1768) I. 412 Marsh land, of a light, silly, hungry soil.

3. Unlearned, unsophisticated, simple, rustic, ignorant. *Obs.* or *arch.*

a 1547 SURREY *Æneid* II. 392 The silly herdman all astonnied stands. 1597 HOOKER *Eccl. Pol.* v. lxxx. § 5 To make the sillie people believe that the contrarie is maintained by the Bishops. 1632 HERBERT *Priest to Temple* xxi, Socrates ..found Philosophy in silly Tradesmen. 1687 LOVELL tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* I. 4 From Hell (of which the silly people of the Country think the top of this hill to be the mouth). 1739 *Better Regulation Free-Thinking* 2 The glaring Absurdities of Priest-craft..daily become the Scorn and Contempt of the sillyest Part of the People. 1795 SOUTHEY *Joan of Arc* I. 41 If, as I believe, this is of Heaven, My silly speech doth wrong it.

† **b.** Of humble rank or state; lowly. *Obs.*

a 1568 A. SCOTT *Poems* (S.T.S.) vi. 26 So luvaris lair no leid suld lak, A lord to lufe a silly lass. 1577–87 HOLINSHED *Chron.* II. 96 He was shot thorough with an arrow amongst his men by a sillie footman. 1607 HIERON *Wks.* I. 258 Little thought shee that that silly man that sate there..was the Sauiour of the world. 1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* IX. 388 This Duke, before whose face the silly ones did shine, and the proud stiffe-necked oppressours did tremble. 1647 FULLER *Gd. Th. in Worse T.* (1841) 108 The silliest and simplest, being wronged, may justly speak in their own defence.

c. Of things: Plain, simple, rustic, homely.

1570 FOXE *A. & M.* (ed. 2) 926/1 Dauid had no more but a sylie slynge, and a few stones. 1587 GOLDING *De Mornay* Ep. Ded. p. iv, Consider how the sillie nets of those Fishermen drew the pride of the world..to beleeve. 1610 GUILLIM *Heraldry* IV. v. (1660) 281 Before the invention of Printing, the onely means of preserving good Arts..was by this silly instrument the Pen. 1629 MILTON *Hymn Nativity* viii, Perhaps their loves, or els their sheep, Was all that did their silly thoughts so busie keep. 1753 FOOTE *Englishm. in Paris* II. Wks. 1799 I. 46, I am quite enchanted with this new instrument; 'tis so languishing and so portable, and so soft and so silly. 1798 COLERIDGE *Anc. Mar.* v. ii, The silly buckets on the deck..I dreamt that they were filled with dew.

4. Weak or deficient in intellect; feeble-minded, imbecile. In early use *Sc.*

15.. *Christ's Kirk* 24 in *Bann. MS.* 283 Fow yellow yellow wes hir heid, But scho of lufe wes sillie. 1721 WODROW *Hist. Suff. Ch. Scotl.* (1722) II. 318 He did not recover the Exercise of his Reason fully, but was silly, and next to an Idiot. 1814 SCOTT *Wav.* lxiv, Davie's no just like other folk..; but he's no sae silly as folk tak him for. 1881 GOLDW. SMITH *Lect. & Ess.* 193 The King's uncle, being rather weak in intellect, was called Silly Billy. 1889 H. O'REILLY *50 Yrs. on Trail* 9 A girl..who was a trifle silly. She could remember nothing, and was a great trouble.

5. Lacking in judgement or common sense; foolish, senseless, empty-headed.

1576 FLEMING *Panopl. Epist.* 24 Wee sillie soules, take the matter too too heauily. 1598 FLORIO s.v. *Zane*, A sillie Iohn, a gull, a noddie. 1611 BIBLE 2 *Tim.* iii. 6 Of this sort are they which creep into houses, and leade captiue silly women. 1691 HARTCLIFFE *Virtues* 3 A wise and good Man..will neither be so stupid, as to be surpriz'd with any Disaster, nor so silly, as to encrease it by a fruitless Anxiety. 1728 YOUNG *Love of Fame* v. 212 Her soul is silly, but her body's wise. 1766 C. O'CONOR *Dissert. Hist. Scotl.* 64 Silly Man! The Ridicule recoils doubly on his own Head. 1833 HT. MARTINEAU *Fr. Wines & Pol.* v. 77, I should be very silly to pay when I might have them without. 1840 DICKENS *Barn. Rudge* iii, 'Heaven help this silly fellow,' murmured the perplexed locksmith. 1889 GRETTON *Memory's Harkback* 312 The gentlemen often came into the drawing-room with glassy eyes, and silly of speech.

b. Of words, actions, etc.: Evincing or associated with foolishness.

1588 SHAKS. *L. L. L.* III. i. 77 By vertue thou inforcest laughter, thy sillie thought, my spleene. 1590 — *Mids. N.* v. i. 212 This is the silliest stuffe that ere I heard. 1639 FULLER *Holy War* I. viii, His silly looks carried in them a despair of any worth. 1669 R. MONTAGU in *Buccleuch MSS.* (Hist. MSS. Comm.) I. 461 He writes every week the silliest, foolishest stories in the world. 1764 GRAY *Y. T.* 10 At our time of life 'twould be silly, my dear. 1780 COWPER *Progr. Err.* 380 With awkward gait, stretch'd neck, and silly stare. 1835 URE *Philos. Manuf.* p. x, The silly blunder of estimating their own intrinsic resources above those of all the world beside. 1871 R. ELLIS tr. *Catullus* xxxix. 16 For silly laughter, it's a silly thing indeed.

c. *Silly season*, the months of August and September, when newspapers supply the lack of real news by articles or discussions on trivial topics. Hence *silly-seasoner*, *-seasoning*.

1871 *Punch* 9 Sept. 102/2 The present time of the year has been named 'the silly season'. 1884 *Illustr. Lond. News* 23 Aug. 171/1 The 'silly season' having begun in real earnest, the newspapers are, as a necessary consequence, full of instructive and amusing matter. 1893 *Westm. Gaz.* 18 Aug. 2/2 The *Chronicle's* suicide 'silly-seasoner' promises well. 1897 *Ibid.* 20 Aug. 7/3 Various questions of bathing..form the *Telegraph's* 'silly seasoning' this year.

d. *Cricket.* (See quot. 1897.)

1897 *Encycl. Sport* I. 246 *Silly*—Applied to point, mid-on and mid-off, when they stand dangerously near the striker. 1904 *Westm. Gaz.* 11 June 3/1 Strudwick..jumped from silly-point and caught it almost on the leg side of the wicket.

e. *Comb.*, often with quasi-adverbial force, as *silly-bold*, *-looking*, *-mild*; *silly-faced*, *-titled*; *silly-like* adv.

1592 SHAKS. *Ven. & Ad.* 1151 It [love] shall be raging mad or sillie milde. 1760 R. JAMES *Treat. Canine Madness* 186 The reason of which was owing to his [i.e. a sheep-dog's] being what we vulgarly call silly mad. 1807 ANNA SEWARD *Lett.* (1811) VI. 388 A few extracts from the silly-titled poem Epics of the Ton. 1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* viii, A tall gawky silly-looking boy of fourteen or fifteen. *a* 1825 FORBY *Voc. E. Anglia* 301 *Silly-bold*, impertinently and unbecomingly free; assuming unseemly airs. 1903 LD. R. GOWER *Rec. & Rem.* 258 Silly-faced Charles X in the same apparel.

6. Stunned, stupefied, dazed, as by a blow.

1886 COLE *S. W. Linc. Gloss.* s.v., It made me quiet silly for a time. 1889 RIDER HAGGARD *King Solomon's Mines* 217, I charged with them, and got knocked silly for my pains. 1892 BESANT *Ivory Gate* II. i. 9 We're knocked a bit silly just at first.

B. *sb.* A silly or foolish person. *colloq.*

1858 K. H. DIGBY *Children's Bower* I. 68 While your regular critics, like great sillies, are mistaking jewels or fruits for dirt. 1889 W. S. GILBERT *Gondoliers* II, She is what is called a silly. 1896 *Punch* 14 Mar. 124 You are not to be a silly.

C. *adv.* = SILLILY *adv.* 2. Now *dial.* or *colloq.*

1704 CIBBER *Careless Husband* I. i, If you did but see how silly a man fumbles for an excuse, when he is a little asham'd of being in love. *a* 1774 GOLDSM. tr. *Scarron's Com. Romance* (1775) II. 268, I certainly behaved very silly, and she had a right to be angry with me. 1881 W. B. EVANS *Leicestersh. Gloss.* s.v., How can you talk so silly?

Silly (si·li), *v.* Chiefly *dial.* [f. the adj.]

1. *trans.* & *refl.* To render (oneself) foolish.

1866 W. GREGOR *Banffsh. Gloss.*

b. To render silly; to stupefy, stun.

1886 COLE *S. W. Linc. Gloss.* s.v., It didn't kill it, it only sillied it a bit.

2. *intr.* To act foolishly; to fool *about.*

1877 E. PEACOCK *N. W. Linc. Gloss.*, *Sillying about*, acting foolishly. 1891 KIPLING *Naulahka* vi, When a man sillies about like that, promising to meet a man..and not showing up.

Sillybob, Sillyebub, obs. ff. SILLABUB.

Silly-hood. *dial.* = next.

1836 FURNESS *Medicus-Magus* 61 Three weeks ago his silly-hood was lost. 1877 E. PEACOCK *N. W. Linc. Gloss.*

Silly-how. Now *Sc.* and *north.* Forms: 6, 8–9 *Sc.* sely how, 9 *Sc.* seely-, seeliehoo'; 7 syllie-hoe, 7– silly-how (7 sillie), 9 *Sc.* silly-hoo, *north.* -hue, -hew. [f. *sely* SEELY *a.* and SILLY *a.* + *how* HOUVE. Cf. the equivalent Sc. *happy how* and G. *glückshaube.*] A child's caul.

1574 J. JONES *Nat. Beg. Growing & Living Things* 26 Termed in Greeke..Chorion, Secundina of the Latines, of most in English, the Sely how. 1616 A. ROBERTS *Treat. Witchcraft* 66 That naturall couer wherewith some children are borne, and is called by our women, the sillie how. 1648 G. DANIEL *Eclog* ii. 25 May wee not pull The Syllie-Hoe ..Away? but tarrie Infants, in the wombe Of Ignorance. 1710 RUDDIMAN *Gloss. to Douglas* s.v. *How*, In Scotland the women call a haly or sely How..a film or membrane stretched over the heads of Children new born. 1808 JAMIESON s.v. *How.* 1867 W. ANDERSON *Rhymes* 67 *note* (E.D.D.), Anyone possessing a seelyhoo' legally is always progressing in fortune. 1894 HESLOP *Northumbld. Gloss.* s.v., The silly-hue is usually preserved, and is believed to sympathise with the person whose face it covered.

Si·llyish, *a. rare.* [f. SILLY *a.* + -ISH.] Somewhat foolish.

1761 MRS. SHERIDAN *S. Bidulph* IV. 175 We were all infinitely good humoured, but rather sillyish.

Si·llyism. [f. SILLY *a.* + -ISM.] A silly expression or utterance.

1706 BAYNARD *Cold Baths* II. 268 They fled with a blushless face to their old Sillyism, 'Ha! Lord! who would have thought it?' 1840 *Blackw. Mag.* XLVII. 714 Let any contemporary sumph give vent to a sillyism respecting a great man and it is sure to be transmitted to the latest posterity.

Sillyon, obs. forms of SELION.

† **Si·llyton.** *Obs.*—[1] A simpleton.

1725 BAILEY *Erasm. Colloq.* (1878) II. 351 Sillyton [L. *inepta*], forbear railing, and hear what's said to you.

Silo (sai·lou), *sb.* [a. Sp. *silo* (hence also F. *silo*) :—L. *sīrum*, acc. of *sīrus*, a. Gr. σιρός a pit to keep corn in.]

1. A pit or underground chamber used for the storage of grain, roots, etc.

1835 *Partington's Brit. Cycl. Arts* II. 692/2 The grain put in his *silos*, in 1819, was sound and fresh in 1824. 1852 MUNDY *Antipodes* (1857) 31 The great curiosity of Cockatoo Island is the Siloes—excavations in the solid rock, shaped like a huge bottle, 15 or 20 feet deep, by 10 wide, with a narrow neck, closed with a stone capsule luted with plaster. 1860 DOMENECH *Deserts of N. Amer.* II. 278 Winter family provisions are also placed in silos like those of the Arabs. 1894 BARING-GOULD *Deserts S. France* I. 245 There are receptacles for the manure cut in the floor, also silos for grain.

2. *spec.* A pit, or an air- and water-tight chamber, in which green food is preserved for fodder by ensilage (cf. SILAGE).

1881 *Leeds Mercury* 6 June 7 Storing green maize or rye in air and water-tight concreted pits or 'silos'. 1885 *Spectator* 21 Feb. 249 Tares are very difficult to deal with in the silo. 1893 *Times* 11 July 4/1 Coarse hop bines may be chopped while green and put into the silo.

Hence **Si·lo** *v. trans.*, to put (green food) into a silo; to turn into ensilage.

1883 *Standard* 5 Dec. 2/3 The cost of siloing grass..was eleven shillings. 1884 *Pall Mall G.* 17 Sept. 3/2 His crop, which was siloed yesterday in Cheshire, only yielded 18 tons per acre.

† **Silour.** *Obs.* Also 5 silloure (siller), 6 siloure, siler; 5 sylour, cylour, cyllowre; sylure, cylere, 6 syler, *Sc.* sylar. [var. of CELURE: cf. SILE *v.*4]

1. A canopy. Also *attrib.*

1394 *Durh. Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 598 In uno Silour empt. pro d'no Priore, cum tinctura de Canevas et Ridell. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 4915 Þe silloure full of Seraphens & othire sere halows, With curtyns all of clene silke. 1418–*c* 1450 [see CELURE]. 1465 *Durh. Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 243 Lectus blodius..cum tapeta ejusdem coloris. Item j silour ejusdem coloris. 1523 in *Archaeologia* (1860) XXXVIII. 364 In the ..Knyghton chamber,..syler and tester of whyte..and the conterpoynte of the same. 1548 *Will of Colman* (Somerset Ho.), One coverlett of siloure worke.

2. A ceiling. Also *attrib.*

1424–5 *Durh. Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 272 Pro emendacione de sylour in aula, cum clavis empt., vj *d.* 1497 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* I. 357 To Dauid, wricht,..in part of payment of v lib. for the sylour completing. 1513 *Ibid.* IV. 524 To James Carvour, ij° sylour naile, xij *d.* 1535 STEWART *Cron. Scot.* II. 56 The sylar alss wes of the sypar tre,.. Richt curious carvit with mony ane knot.

So † **Siloured** *ppl. a.*; † **Silouring** *vbl. sb.*

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 77/2 Cyluerde (*H.* cyluryd, *P.* cylered), *celatus. Ibid.* 456/1 Sylyryd, *celatus.* 1450–1 *Durh. Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 276 Pro le silorynge ejusdem camere. 1452–3 *Ibid.* 277 Pro le sylorynge domus rasture. 1494 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* I. 238 Bocht j° estland burdis for the silouring of the chapell in Striueling. 1558 *Wills & Inv. N. C.* (1835) I. 284 V° sillering in the parler.

‖ **Silphium** (si·lfiŭm). [L., ad. Gr. σίλφιον.]

1. A plant of the Mediterranean region, yielding a gum-resin or juice much valued by the ancients as a condiment or medicine; the juice obtained from this plant, also called LASER.

The plant has been variously identified as *Thapsia garganica* or *silphion*, and *Narthex silphium*. It was largely cultivated for export at Cyrene on the north coast of Africa. [1706 PHILLIPS (ed. 6), *Silphium*, the Herb Laserwort.] 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s.v. *Laser*, When Cyrene no longer afforded the *silphium*, it was sought for in other places. 1781 PENNANT *Hist. Quadr.* II. 432 These, with the plant Silphium, were used to denote the country of Cyrene, where both were found. 1820 MITCHELL *Aristoph.* I. 239 The silphium, or herb Benjamin, was much used by the ancients in medicine. 1858 BIRCH *Anc. Pottery* I. 268 The subject of Arcesilaus..attended by the different officers of his stores, and watching the weighing of the silphium. 1869 RAWLINSON *Anc. Hist.* 81 A trade by which Carthage obtained the commodities that she needed, wine, oil, dates, salt fish, silphium.

b. *attrib.*, as *silphium land, plant, -spice.*

1820 MITCHELL *Aristoph.* I. 239 Do you remember, sir, when silphium-spice was sold so cheap? 1886 *Guide Exhib. Galleries Brit. Mus.* 189 Representations of what is thought to be the silphium plant—an early source of commerce in Cyrene. 1899 MACNAGHTEN tr. *Catullus* vii. in *Story of Catullus* 28 As many grains as are of Libyan sand By rich Cyrene in the silphium land.

2. A genus of N. American composite plants including the rosin-weed or compass plant and the prairie dock; a plant of this genus.

1771 *Encycl. Brit.* III. 602/1. 1800 *Abercrombie's Ev. Man own Gard.* 689/2 *Silphium*, bastard chrysanthemum. 1819 *Pantologia* X. s.v., Jagged-leaved silphium...Broad-leaved silphium. 1846–50 A. WOOD *Class-bk. Bot.* 336 *Silphium Trifoliatum*, Ternate-leaved Silphium.

Silt (silt), *sb.* Also 5 cylt(e, 6 sylt, 9 silth. [Of doubtful origin, but app. denoting a salty deposit: cf. Da. and Norw. *sylt*, Norw. and Sw. dial. *sylta* salt-marsh, sea beach; OLG. *sulta* (MLG. and LG. *sulte*, *sülte*, older Flem. *sulte*, Du. *zult*), OHG. *sulza* (MHG. *sulze*, G. *sülze*) salt-marsh, salt-pan, brine, all f. *sult-*, ablaut-variant of *salt-*: see SALT *sb.*[1] and *v.*[1] One or other grade of the same stem is also represented by OE. *un(ge)sylt* unsalted, Du. *zilt* adj. salt.]

1. Fine sand, clay, or other soil, carried by moving or running water and deposited as a sediment on the bottom or beach; sometimes occurring as a stratum in soil.

a. c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 77 Cylte, soonde, *glarea.* 1523 SKELTON *Garland Laurel* 23 Thus stode I in the frythy forest of Galtres, Ensowkid with sylt of the myry mose. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* I. 529 This Country which the Ocean hath laied to the land, by sands heaped and cast together, they it terme Silt. *a* 1676 HALE *Prim. Orig. Man.* (1677) 191 The great Changes that have been between the Sea and Lands..by casting up Silt and Sand. 1692 RAY *Disc.* 45 The interjacent Fretum having been filled up by the Silt brought down by the River Nilus. *a* 1707 PATRICK *On Deut.* xi. 11 Many times there followed, after the water was gone off, great sicknesses and diseases, by the smell of

the silt which it had left behind. 1799 *View Agric. Lincoln* 265 The stratum of *silt* in this neighbourhood is every where impregnated with *salt*. 1833 Buckland *Reliq. Diluv.* 190 On the east coast of England there is also a considerable addition of silt and mud on some parts. 1863 Kingsley *Water-Bab.* viii, Before Tom had stood there five minutes, he was buried in silt up to his ankles. 1878 Huxley *Physiogr.* xvii. 280 When the Thames has overflowed its banks it has deposited silt on the neighbouring land.

fig. 1870 Lowell *Among my Bks.* Ser. I. (1873) 223 The perpetual silt of some one weakness. 1890 Hall Caine *Bondman* iv, Such was the grey silt that came up to him that night from the deposits of his memory.

β. 1813 Priest *View Agric. Bucks.* 23 These streams..are suffered to be filled with silth, rubbish, and all sorts of aquatic plants. 1839 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* II. 99/1 There will be water undoubtedly, as the ground is sand and gravel, with silth below.

b. A bed or layer of this matter.

1881 *Rep. Geol. Expl. N. Z.* 34 A dyke occurring close to the silts, which stretch from Tokatoka south past the Dwaroa river.

†**2.** *pl.* Dregs, refuse, scum. *Obs.*—1

1635 Heylin *Sabbath* II. (1636) 107 The common prostitutes, such as received the silts of all the towne.

3. A silt-snapper (see 4).

App. an alteration of the earlier *silk* (*-snapper*).

1863 *Jamaica Notes* in *Intellect. Obs.* III. 194 The mode of fishing for deep-water Silts is very effective. 1883 *Fish. Exhib. Catal.* (ed. 4) 170 The principal salt-water fishes are ..Silts,..King-fish, Barracouta and many others.

4. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *silt-bearing* adj.; **silt-bucket, grass, -ground** (see quots.); **silt-snapper**, a Jamaican fish (cf. 3).

1863 *Jamaica Notes* in *Intellect. Obs.* III. 194 [A canoe] on its way to the Silt-ground at two hundred fathoms depth. *Ibid.*, The deep-water Silt-Snappers include some five different species, all similar in colour. 1884 *Manch. Exam.* 3 May 4/7 A silt-bearing river like the Mersey. 1884 *Health Exhib. Catal.* 57/1 Silt-buckets for preventing the choking of drains. 1889 Maiden *Useful Plants* 104 *Paspalum distichum*,..'Sea-side Millet', 'Water Couch', 'Silt Grass'.

Silt, *v.* [f. the sb.]

1. *intr.* Of a channel, river-bed, etc.: To become filled or choked *up* with silt or sediment.

1799 *View Agric. Lincoln* 16 [The well] runs equally every year, and in all seasons,..but it is apt to silt up. 1830 Lyell *Princ. Geol.* I. 304 There is naturally a tendency in all estuaries to silt up partially. 1840 *Evid. Hull Docks Com.* 79 The harbour is silting up at the east point. 1873 G. C. Davies *Mountain & Mere* v. 28 As the years rolled on, the water subsided, the hollows silted up.

b. To flow or drift *in* after the manner of silt. Also *transf.* to pass gradually *away*.

1863 H. Kingsley *A. Elliott* I. 33 If the wreck of the Mary Anne was moved, the sand would silt in again. 1892 Clark Russell *List, ye Landsmen* iii, It seemed to me that the electric mass was silting away north, and that there would come a clear sky in the south presently.

2. *trans.* Of silt: To fill, block, or choke *up* (a channel, the bed of a river or the sea, etc.) by gradual accumulation. Also rarely without *up*. Chiefly in *pa. pple.*

a 1825 Forby *Voc. E. Anglia* 301 *Silt-up*, to obstruct..by a large accumulation of sand. 1832 Lyell *Princ. Geol.* II. 275 The deposits which within the historical period have silted up some of our estuaries. 1865 Esquiros *Cornwall* 158 The sands with which the mouth of the Exe is silted. 1875 Croll *Climate & T.* xxix. 469 That the tendency of the sea filling this valley is to silt it up rather than to deepen it.

transf. a 1853 Robertson *Lect.* i. (1858) 43 The sand of the desert daily silting up the temples. 1860 Maury *Phys. Geog. Sea* x. § 481 The whole Atlantic ocean would..be finally silted up with salt.

fig. 1855 Bailey *Mystic* 59 While Time's last sands silt up the streams of soul.

b. To cover *up* or *over* with silt.

1830 Herschel *Study Nat. Phil.* II. vi. (1851) 145 To leave his shell in the mud where it becomes silted over and imbedded. 1878 Huxley *Physiogr.* 224 If, by the overflow of a river, the plant should become silted up in mud.

Hence **Si·lted** *ppl. a.*

1890 *Clacton News* 25 Jan. 2/4 The silted matter from the ditch is generally required to make up the bank.

Siltage (si·ltēdʒ). *rare.* [f. Silt *sb.* + -age.] Silt, silted matter.

1876 *Daily News* 30 Oct. 6/4 Siltage was brought into the canal to the extent of nearly three million cubic yards. 1902 *Monthly Rev.* Sept. 113 Internally the siltage of centuries had preserved the colouring.

Si·lting, *vbl. sb.* [f. Silt *sb.* or *v.* + -ing 1.]

†**1.** Siltage. *Obs. rare.*

1739 Labelye *Piers Westm. Bridge* 5 A Shoal..made up of Sand and of the Washing or Silting of the River. *Ibid.* 64 The Silting of the River, which must accumulate in a long Course of Years.

2. The action of the verb; an instance of this. Usually with *up*.

1840 *Evid. Hull Docks Com.* 230 There will be a most rapid silting up of the timber pond. 1860 *Merc. Mar. Mag.* VII. 308 The slight silting of a few inches at Holyhead.. Harbour. 1894 Jessopp *Rand. Roam.* ii. 71 That causeway would..help..to bring about a gradual silting up of the little river.

attrib. 1876 Page *Adv. Text-bk. Geol.* xx. 416 Many of these sandy tracts are no doubt the result of ordinary silting operations.

Silty (si·lti), *a.* [f. Silt *sb.* + -y.] Of the nature of, or resembling, silt; composed of, or containing, silt.

1658 Franck *North. Mem.* (1694) 84 Should I silently pass by and imprint no Remarks on their Silty Sands, and Silver Streams. 1838 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* I. 290/2 The ground towards the Middlesex side being of a looser and more sandy and silty nature. 1847 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* VIII. I. 115 The land..consists of a good thick loam upon a porous silty subsoil. 1883 E. P. Ramsey *Food Fishes N. S. Wales* 42 Depth of water from 6 to 9 feet, with oyster-shells and silty bottom.

Siluan(e, obs. forms of Sylvan.

Silure (siliū·ə1). *Ichth.* [a. F. *silure*, ad. L. *silūrus* Silurus.] A siluroid fish, esp. the sheat-fish (*Silurus glanis*).

In Shaw's *Gen. Zool.* (1804) V. I. 9–27 several species are enumerated.

1802–3 *Pallas' Trav.* (1812) I. 21 The silures and sterlets, a smaller species of sturgeon, are caught only in the spring. 1804 Shaw *Gen. Zool.* V. I. 10 European Silure. *Silurus Glanis*...The great or common Silure may perhaps be considered as the largest of all European river fishes. *Ibid.* 20 Rufous Silure...Native of South America.

Silurian (siliū·riăn), *a.* and *sb.*1 [f. L. *Silur-es*, an ancient British tribe which inhabited the south-eastern part of Wales.]

1. Of or belonging to the ancient Silures, or to the district inhabited by them.

1708 J. Philips *Cyder* II. 89 To the utmost Bounds of this Wide Universe, Silurian Cyder borne shall please all Tasts. 1740 Somerville *Hobbinol* III. 97 Others apart, in the cool Shade retir'd, Silurian Cyder quaff. 1757 Dyer *Fleece* I. 492 If your sheep are of Silurian breed. 1839 Murchison *Silurian Syst.* p. xxxi, We have no precise definition of the geographical limits of the Silurian kingdom. 1908 *Outlook* 14 Nov. 656/1 The hero who is sometimes called a 'British', and sometimes a 'Silurian' chief.

2. *Geol.* The name given to the system or series of Palæozoic rocks lying immediately below the Devonian or Old Red Sandstone; of or belonging to this formation, or to the period when it was deposited.

1835 Murchison in *Philos. Mag.* July 48, I venture to suggest that..the term 'Silurian System' should be adopted as expressive of the deposits which lie between the old red sandstone and the slaty rocks of Wales. 1842 Miller *O. R. Sandst.* xiii. (ed. 2) 275 The animal organisms of the newer Silurian strata form essentially different groups from those of the Lower Old Red Sandstone. 1851 Richardson *Geol.* viii. (1855) 208 The seas of the silurian and oolitic periods. 1876 *Nature* XIV. 557/2 The classification of the Silurian, Devonian, and Permo-Triassic (Poikilitic) formations.

b. As *sb.* in *pl.* Silurian strata.

1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 13/2 Upper Silurians,..Lower Silurians. 1855 J. Phillips *Man. Geol.* 89 It [*sc.* gneiss] may be regarded as older than the silurians of that region. 1862 *Chambers's Encycl.* III. 541/1 The clay-slates of the Lower Silurians.

Silu·rian, *sb.*2 *Ichth.* [f. Silur-us + -ian.] A siluroid fish. Also **Silu·rid, Silu·ridan, Silu·ride, Silu·rine,** *a.* and *sb.*, = Siluroid.

1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 16 A small *Silurian from Cayenne, in which there is no adipose fin. *Ibid.* 17 The head..is flat and broader than in the other Silurians. 1891 *Cent. Dict.*, *Silurid. 1896 tr. *Boas' Text-bk. Zool.* 388 The electric Silurid (*Malapterurus electricus*). 1835 Kirby *Hab. & Inst. Anim.* I. ii. 121 A species of fish..belonging to a genus of the family of the *Siluridans. *Ibid.* 123 The serrated bone, or first ray of the pectoral fin,..is found in other Siluridans. 1863 Bates *Nat. Amazons* ix. (1864) 247 A good supply of Jandia, a handsome, spotted *Siluride fish. 1891 *Cent. Dict.*, *Silurine.

Si·lurist. [f. L. *Silur-es* (see Silurian *a.*) + -ist.] A native of the district anciently inhabited by the Silures.

Commonly used as the distinguishing epithet of H. Vaughan, who was born in Brecknockshire.

1650 (*title*), Silex Scintillans; or, Sacred Poems and Priuate Eiaculations by Henry Vaughan Silurist.

Siluro- (siliū·rō), used as combining form of Silurian *a.*, as *Siluro-Cambrian* adj.

1855 J. Phillips *Man. Geol.* 118 The Siluro-Cambrian series of Ireland is not yet certainly known to be anywhere complete in one district. 1873 Dawson *Earth & Man* iv. 56 The Lower Silurian, is the Upper Cambrian of Sedgwick, and may properly be called the Siluro-Cambrian.

Siluroid (siliū·roid), *a.* and *sb. Ichth.* [f. Silur-us + -oid.]

A. *adj.* Of fishes: Belonging to the family *Siluridæ*, of the order *Physostomi*, characterized by the want of true scales, having only a naked skin or large bony plates.

1849 Murchison *Siluria* x. 242 A lower position in the scale than existing Ganoid or possibly Siluroid fishes. 1871 Darwin *Desc. Man* II. xii. 10 A siluroid fish, inhabiting the fresh waters of South America. 1884 *Athenæum* 13 Dec. 775/1 Certain marine forms—for example,..the siluroid family Ariinæ.

B. *sb.* A fish belonging to this family.

1851 Mantell *Petrifactions* 439 The Siluroids are related to the Silurus. 1896 *Beneden's Anim. Parasites* 7 A siluroid of Brazil of the genus Platystoma. 1883 *Fish. Exhib. Catal.* (ed. 4) 98 The males of some tropical sheat fishes or Siluroids also perform maternal duties.

Silurus (siliū·rŭs). *Ichth.* Pl. **Siluri.** [a. L. *silurus*, a. Gr. σίλουρος. Cf. Silure.] A genus of fish typical of the family *Siluridæ*; a fish belonging to this genus, esp. the sly silurus (*S. glanis*) or sheat-fish, one of the largest fresh-water fishes of Europe.

1601 Holland *Pliny* I. 243 As for the Silurus, a cut-throat he is wheresoeuer he goeth, a great deuourer. 1774 Goldsm. *Nat. Hist.* III. i. (1862) II. 299 The Silurus or Sheath-fish. 1836 Yarrell *Brit. Fishes* I. 403 The Sly Silurus, *Silurus glanis*. 1840 tr. *Cuvier's Anim. Kingdom* 317 Their flesh is less disagreeable than that of the other Siluri. 1865 *Spectator* 14 Jan. 50 It is said that the silurus, when the prey is plentiful, will attain over 56 lb. in four years.

Silva: see Selva. **Silvage,** obs. f. Salvage, Selvage. **Silvagee,** obs. f. Selvagee. **Silvan, -ite, -ity,** varr. Sylvan, -ite, -ity.

Silver (si·lvəɹ), *sb.* and *a.* Forms: *α.* 1 siolfor (siolofr-, siolufr-), seolfor, -fur, -fer (seolfr-, seulfr-), 2–3 seoluer (seolur-, 2 seolure), 3 soluer, solure. *β.* 2, 5 selfer (2 selfr-), 4 selfur; 3–5 seluer (3 selur-, 4 zeluer), 4–5 selver. *γ.* 1 sylofr, sylfor, -fur, 2 syluer, sylure; 1 sulfer (suulfr-), 3 suelfer, 3–4 suluer. *δ.* 1 silofr, 3 sillferr; 2–7 siluer (2 silur-, 5 siluere, 6–7 *Sc.* silwer), 4– silver; 4–6 siluir, -vir (5 -uire, -uyre); 4–5 syluere (5 cyl-), 4–7 syluer (5 cyl-), 5–7 sylver (5 -fer, 6 -var); 4 syluyre, 5 -uir, 5–6 -vir; 5 sylure, -wor, 6 -uur. *ε. Sc.* 6 syller, 6– siller. [Common Teut.: OE. *siolfor, seolfor*, etc., = OFris. *selover*, sever (later *selvir, silver*; WFris. *sulver*, dial. *selver*), OLFrank. *silver* (MDu. *silver, selver, sulver*, Du. *zilver*), OS. *silubar, silobar* (MLG. and LG. *silver, sülver, sulver*, etc.), OHG. *sil(a)bar, silbir*, etc. (MHG. and G. *silber*), ON. *silfr* (Icel. *silfur*, Sw. *silfver*; MSw. *silf, self, sylf*, Norw. *sylv*, Da. *sølv*), Goth. *silubr*. Related forms are found in the Balto-Slavic languages, as OSlav. *sĭrebro*, Russ. *serebro*, Pol. *śrebro*, etc., Lith. *sidabras*, Lett. *sudrabs*; as to the relationship of these and the ultimate origin of the word no definite conclusions have been established.]

I. 1. One of the precious metals (in general use ranking next to gold), characterized in a pure state by its lustrous white colour and great malleability and ductility. Chemical symbol Ag.

Various forms of the metal, pure or mixed with other substances, are distinguished by defining terms, as *antimonial, bromic, horn, native, red, ruby silver*; *capillary, shell silver*, etc. The name is also given to several natural or artificial substances resembling or imitating the real metal, as *cat, German, inflammable, mock silver*.

α. β. c 825 *Vesp. Psalter* lxv. 10 Swe mid fyre bið ameared seolfur. *c* 897 K. Ælfred *Gregory's Past. C.* xxxvii. 268 Ðonne bið hit swiðe leaslice on siolofres [*v.r.* siolufres] hiewe. 971 *Blickl. Hom.* 127 Nu hit is mid golde & mid seolfre ȝefrætwod. *a* 1175 *Cott. Hom.* 227 Hi worhtan ham anlicnessen, sum of golde, sum of selfre. *a* 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 493 Þeos maumez beoð imaket of gold, & of seoluer. *c* 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 4/113 Of seluer and of gold one riche schrine heo wrouȝte. *a* 1400 N. T. (Paues) 1 *Cor.* iii. 12 Gold, oþer selfer, oþer precyous stones. 1418 in *E. E. Wills* 32, vj disshes & vj Sawcers of seluer.

γ. δ. c 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* John p. 188 Mid suulfre ofergylded. *a* 1000 *Riddles* xv. 2 Nu mec wlonc þeceð ȝeong hagostealdmon golde & sylfore. *a* 1300 *E. E. Psalter* lxv. 9 Þou fraisted vs, als siluer fraisted isse. *a* 1340 Hampole *Psalter* xi. 7 Imange all metalles nan is þat swetterly chymes þan syluere. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 77 Cyluer, *argentum*. 1463 *Bury Wills* (Camden) 42 A peyre of bedys of sylvir. 1586 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 3 Saynt Gregory..sayth that electrum is a myxture of syluer & golde myngled togyder. 1591 Sylvester *Du Bartas* I. iii. 902 Deck't with Coperass, With Gold and Silver, Lead, and Mercury. 1613 Dekker *Strange Horse Race* Wks. (Grosart) III. 327 There likewise should you behold a Mine of Siluer, ambitiously aspiring to bee as glorious Gold. 1697 Dampier *Voy.* I. 269 The Silver here, and all over the Kingdom of Mexico, is said to be finer and richer in proportion than that of Potosi or Peru. 1738 Gray *Tasso* 59 Sulphurous veins and liveing silver shine. 1779 *Mirror* No. 17, A crooked piece of silver, which he, at first, mistook for a shilling. 1813 Sir H. Davy *Agric. Chem.* (1814) 47 Silver..burns more readily than platinum or gold. 1870 Yeats *Nat. Hist. Comm.* 359 Silver is obtained from its ores chiefly by roasting, crushing, and amalgamation with mercury.

fig. a 1628 Preston *Breastpl. Love* (1631) 187 The goodman..there is silver and golde in his speeches and actions, that is, they are likewise precious. 1897 Rhoscomyl *White Rose Arno* 45 His tongue was silver and his heart was fire.

ε. 1575 *Gammer Gurton* II. i, As bright as any syller,..& straight as any pyller. 1725 Ramsay *Gentle Sheph.* I. i, With sprainges like gowd, and siller cross'd with black.

†**b.** *transf.* Quicksilver. *Obs.*

1607 J. Davies (Heref.) *Summa Totalis* Wks. (Grosart) I. 13/1 Siluer selfe-mouing, we call Siluer-quick.

c. With *a* and pl. A piece or strip of silver.

1856 *Orr's Circle Sci., Pract. Chem.* 80 They are connected, all the zincs by one wire, and all the silvers by another wire.

2. The metal regarded as a valuable possession or medium of exchange; hence, silver coin; also (chiefly *Sc.*), money in general.

α. c 825 *Vesp. Psalter* civ. 37 Dryhten..utalædde hie in seolfre & golde. *c* 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* John p. 188 Æhtu ora seulfres. *a* 1122 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1102, Þeofas..bær inne naman mycel to gode on golde & on seolfre. *c* 1205 Lay. 15050 ȝe..senden after cnihtes, & ȝeuen heom soluer & gold. *c* 1275 in *O. E. Misc.* 89 Habbe he þe yeftes of seoluer and of golde.

β. a 1200 *Vices & Virtues* 33 Ne haue ðu hope te golde ne to seluer. *c* 1250 *Serm.* in *O. E. Misc.* 188 Euer of þe purse þat seluer heo tulleþ. 1340 *Ayenb.* 6 Aye þise heste zeneȝeþ þo þet to moche louieþ hire guod gold oþer ȝeluer. *c* 1450 *Bk. Curtasye* 745 in *Babees Bk.*, Seluer be [the almoner] deles rydand by way. 1472 *Presentmts. Juries* in *Surtees Misc.* (1890) 24 Yf it cane be prewyd þat he his bed [= is bid] no selver tharfor.

γ. *c*897 K. Ælfred *Gregory's Past. C.* xlviii. 368 Gold & sylofr ic him sealde ȝenoh. *c*950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Matt. x. 9 Nallas ȝe agnege gold ne sulfer [*Rushw.* sylfur] ne feh on ȝyrdilsum iurum. 1154 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1135, Wua sua bare his byrthen gold & sylure. *c* 1205 Lay. 3570 Wenne þu wult more suluer sæche hit at me suluen: 1297 R. Glouc. (Rolls) 7779 þe king in such manere suluer wan ynou. 1393 Langl. *P. Pl.* C. iv. 116 þe meyre hue bysouhte Of alle suche sellers suluer to take.

δ. *c*897 K. Ælfred *Gregory's Past. C.* xlviii. 368 Donne he dod..ðæt silofr to diofolzieldum. 1128 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1128, Se kyng..micele ȝersumes him ȝeaf on gold & on silure. *c* 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 228 [They] waren al to gradi of siluer and of golde. *c* 1340 Hampole *Pr. Consc.* 4434 He sal gyf þam..Of gold and silver gret plente. 1411 *E. E. Wills* (1882) 20 þe siluer þat schal be reseyvyd for þe londes. 1484 *Coventry Leet Bk.* 517 To gedur syluer for the Reparacion of the same. 1583 *Leg. Bp. St. Androis* 971 The vther..Concludit schortlie for to slea him, For vyling of his syluer fra him. 1604 E. G[rimstone] *D'Acosta's Hist. Indies* iv. xxxii. 295, I meane by profitable plants, those, which..bring silver to theyr maisters. 1620 T. Granger *Div. Logike* 201 He hath bequeathed all his siluer to me: *ergo*, his ready money. 1800 *Asiatic Ann. Reg.* 67/2 He afterwards distributed silver, to the amount of one lack of rupees. 1845 Browning *Lost Leader* 1 Just for a handful of silver he left us.

ε. *c* 1720 Ramsay *Last Speech Miser* i, Am I forc'd to die, And nae mair my dear siller see? 1790 Burns *Tam o' Shanter* 24 Ilka melder, wi' the miller, Thou sat as lang as thou had siller. 1818 Scott *Rob Roy* xx, She'll hae a hantle siller. 1843 Bethune *Sc. Fireside Stor.* 48 Nobody will lend him siller. 1896 W. Harvey *Kennethcrook* 52 (E.D.D.), It was seldom the weaver would come to any terms other than 'siller doon'.

† **b. The price in silver *of* something.** *Obs.*—1

1411 *E. E. Wills* (1882) 29 þat alle þe londes..be sold, and þe Siluer þere-of spendyd to þe avaunсement of lucie, my dowter.

8. Articles made of silver; silverware, silver-plate.

13.. *K. Alis.* (Laud MS.) 1156 He dude seruen Olympias In golde, in siluer [*W.* seolver], in bras, in glas. *c* 1420 *Anturs of Arth.* xxxvi, In siluer sa semly þai serue þame of the beste. *c* 1480 *Paston Lett.* III. 271, ij. lynen bagges ..with broke silver and j. old harneis gilt. 1665 Sir T. Herbert *Trav.* (1677) 313 The Persians for the most part eat in Porcellane or earth, not valuing Silver. 1794 Mrs. Radcliffe *Myst. Udolpho* xliv, The profusion of gold and silver that glittered on the sideboards. 1842 Tennyson *Will Waterproof* 127 [He] Sipt wine from silver. 1864 — *Enoch Arden* 742 For cups and silver on the burnish'd board Sparkled and shone.

pl. 1830 Tennyson *Recoll. Arab. Nts.* 125 A million tapers flaring bright From twisted silvers.

4. The metal as used for the ornamentation of textile fabrics; silver thread. *Cloth of silver*: see Cloth *sb.* 9 c.

1423 *Rolls of Parlt.* IV. 255/1 Brauderie..wrought with Gold or Silver of Cipre. 1566 in Hay Fleming *Mary Q. of Scots* (1897) 499 Ten hankis off gold and ten hankis of silver the fynest that can be gottin. 1599 Shaks. *Much Ado* III. iv. 20 Cloth a gold and cuts, and lac'd with siluer. 1611 — *Cymb.* II. iv. 69 Her Bed-chamber..was hang'd With Tapistry of Silke, and Siluer. 1805 Scott *Last Minstrel* v. xvi, His cloak was all of Poland fur, His hose with silver twin'd.

5. As a tincture in heraldry, more commonly called Argent, but cf. quot. 1868.

c 1450 Holland *Howlat* 415 A lyoun..Of siluir ȝe se shold To ramp in array. 1478 in W. G. D. Fletcher *Shropsh. Grants of Arms* (1909) 12 A cross engrayled gold or bythwen foure rosses silver, and to his tymbre a gauntelet sillver sette in a wrethe gold. 1562 Legh *Armory* (1597) 4 Called Siluer, and blased by the name of Argent. 1728 Chambers *Cycl.* s.v. *Metal*, In Engraving [arms], Gold is expressed by dotting the Coat, &c. all over; Silver, by leaving it quite blank. 1814 Scott *Lord of Isles* v. xxxii, Saint Andrew's cross, in blazonry Of silver, waving wide! 1868 Cussans *Her.* (1893) 50 In blazoning a Charge ..supposed to be actually composed of metal..the terms *gold* and *silver* should be employed.

6. A silvery colour or lustre.

1481 Caxton *Reynard* xxxii. (Arb.) 85 Wherin stode somme strange hystoryes whiche were of gold, of sable, of siluer. 1592 Shaks. *Rom. & Jul.* II. ii. 108 By yonder Moone I vow, That tips with siluer all these Fruite tree tops. 1784 Cowper *Task* I. 310 The willow such, And poplar, that with silver lines his leaf. 1820 Shelley *Prometh. Unb.* III. iii. 71 See the pale azure fading into silver. 1848 Thackeray *Van. Fair* lviii, There were scarce three lines of silver in her soft brown hair. 1896 Black *Briseis* xvii, A swan came breasting along,..leaving behind it two flashing divergent lines of silver.

7. a. A variety of insect, fish, bird, etc., having silvery colouring or markings.

1832 J. Rennie *Butterfl. & M.* 76 The Tawny Silver. 1875 *Spectator* (Melbourne) 19 June 81/1 Common fish, such as..garfish, strangers, silvers, and others. 1879 L. Wright *Pigeon Keeper* 96 Silvers are divided into what is called brown barred and black-barred. 1903 F. Simpson *Bk. Cat* xii. 138 At present our silvers are too full of tabby markings.

b. *Photogr.* A salt of silver, *esp.* nitrate of silver.

1891 in *Cent. Dict.* 1892 *Photogr. Ann.* II. 61 In the dark room add the silver to the collodion.

II. *attrib.* passing into *adj.*

8. Made or consisting of silver.

These collocations may be employed as the base of formations like *silver medallist, silver trumpeter*, etc.

1032 in *Anglia* XI. 8 Do hi ealle to gædere þæt þritig seolfor sticca. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 4858 He..did a siluer cupe at hide In a sek. *Ibid.* 8242 A siluer cercle. ?1366 Chaucer *Rom. Rose* 97 A sylvre nedle forth I drogh Out of an aguiler. 1424 *E. E. Wills* (1882) 58 One of my siluere girdeles. 1457–8 *Cal. Anc. Rec. Dublin* (1889) 297 To ber ii. sylver masys befor the Baylyffys. 1486 *Bk. St. Albans* c vij, Clense theym clene with a syluer spone. 1530 Palsgr. 270/1 Sylver vessell, *uessaile dargent*. 1563 Winȝet *Wks.* (S.T.S.) I. 114 Quhy iuge ȝe the goldin and siluir chalissis? 1621 Elsing *Debates Ho. Lords* (Camden) 33 The manufacture of gold and sylver thrydd. 1669 R. Montagu in *Buccleuch MSS.* (Hist. MSS. Comm.) I. 440, I am sure without this my Lord St. Alban's would not have left a silver spoon in the house. 1685 Boyle *Eff. Motion* v. 55, I caused a Watch to be suspended by a little Silver-chain. 1728 *Portland Papers* VI. (Hist. MSS. Comm.) 83 Plenty of silver tumblers. 1764 *Ann. Reg.* 79 The size of the watch is something less than a silver two-pence. 1808 Scott in *Lockhart* (1869) III. xviii. 159, I..have only hopes that he may be shot with a silver bullet. 1858 Simmonds *Dict. Trade* s.v., The British silver coinage consists of crowns, half-crowns [etc.]. 1889 Gretton *Memory's Harkback* 84 You will value the old silver inkstand.

b. In fig. contexts. (See also Spoon *sb.*)

1602 *2nd Pt. Return fr. Parnass.* II. v. 764 We schollers fish for a liuing in these shallow foardes without a siluer hoock. 1605 Breton *Honour Valour* viii, To fish for honour with a siluer hooke. 1611 Cotgr. s.v. *Combattre*, Those that with siluer weapons fight are sure to ouercome. 1679, 1798 [see Key *sb.*[1] 3 b]. 1805 Scott *Last Minstrel* v. xiii, True love..is the secret sympathy, The silver link, the silken tie [etc.]. 1843 Le Fevre *Life Trav. Phys.* II. i. xiii. 22 They may be bribed, as we proved..when our cavalcade passed the barriers with a silver key.

c. Containing threads of silver, or some imitation of this.

1728 Chambers *Cycl.* s.v., Threads of pure Silver, interwove like a Silver Galoon, that has been burnt to get out the Silk. 1799 G. Smith *Laboratory* II. 298 Silver-twist-hackle. Dub with the herl of an ostrich feather. 1858 Simmonds *Dict. Trade, Silver-lace*, wire coated with silver, and woven into lace. 1882 Caulfeild & Saward *Dict. Needlewk.* 225/1 The Gold and Silver Laces of the present day consist of warp threads of silk, or silk and cotton combined.

d. Mounted or plated with silver; wrapped in silvered paper.

1898 *Daily News* 6 Apr. 5/3 The prizes include silver handglasses and scent-bottles. 1904 *Windsor Mag.* Jan. 238/2 Tiny silver comfits wedged into ever available little space.

9. Producing or yielding silver.

c 1475 *Pict. Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 798 *Hec argentifodina*, a sylverquarelle. *a* 1490 Botoner *Itin.* (Nasmith, 1778) 105 Beereferrys ubi les sylver mynes fodiuntur. 1548 Elyot, *Argentaria fodina*, a..syluer myne. *c* 1610 *Women Saints* 1 The precious earth of golde and siluer mines. 1648 Hexham II, *Een Zilver-ader*, a Silver-veine. 1701 De Foe *True-born Eng.* 1. 6 With all the Silver Mountains of Peru. 1789 J. Williams *Min. Kingd.* I. 257 They have for a long time been working it as a rich silver mine. 1839 De la Beche *Rep. Geol. Cornwall* x. 284 As true silver-lodes are found in it, it may also be termed argentiferous. 1877 Raymond *Statist. Mines & Mining* 344 Some promising silver-lodes have lately been taken up. 1892 Gunter *Miss Dividends* (1893) 9 A promising market for various silver properties.

b. *U.S.* (See quot.)

1896 *Westm. Gaz.* 10 July 2/1 The 'Silver Senators'—that is, the representatives of silver-producing States.

10. Of or pertaining to, connected with, characteristic of, silver.

1620 Healey *St. Aug. Citie of God* 262 The gold-smith in the silver-streete. *a* 1618 J. Davies (Heref.) *Witte's Pilgr.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 47/1 Riuers of Nectar ran on golden Sand (With siluer-cleerenesse) through that Paradice. 1670 Pettus *Fodinæ Reg.* 33 Near to which are conveniently placed the Smelting and Refining Mills, which therefore are called the Silver Mills. 1681 Grew *Museum* III. ii. 324 White Silver Ore, or of a silver-colour, from Cremnitz in Hungary. 1813 *Edin. Rev.* XXII. 148 Von Buch engaged a place in the silver-waggon. 1860 *Chambers's Encycl.* I. 158/1 Our gold and silver standards similarly stated would be 917 and 925 respectively. 1887 *Encycl. Brit.* XXII. 73/2 This alleged fall, its causes, consequences, and remedies, constitute the 'Silver Question'.

b. Denoting compounds of which silver forms a part.

1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XI. 442/1 Some silver amalgama is pressed upon it through a chamois skin. 1849 D. Campbell, *Inorg. Chem.* 8 Silver-salts exposed to light become black by the absorption of oxygen. 1868 *Fownes' Chem.* (ed. 10) 354 When chlorine gas is passed over fused silver fluoride, silver chlorine is formed. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* II. 123/1 Gold of 20 carats with 4 carats of silver alloy.

c. Of or pertaining to silver articles or silverware.

1648 Hexham II, *Een Zilver-schapp'raeye*, a Silver-cupboord. 1686, 1725 [see Scullery 1 b]. 1883 *Pall Mall G.* 17 April 5/1 Finding that the silver trade has rejected..what he proposed as a boon. 1897 *Westm. Gaz.* 4 Jan. 1/3, I should probably catch hold of..the things off my silver-table.

d. Advocating, relating to, etc., the adoption of silver as a currency or standard.

1890 *Daily News* 10 Feb. 2/4 Why should we not have stored bullion instead? Silver men will probably answer [etc.]. 1893 *Nation* 29 June 467/1 The very little game which our silver-bugs..are trying to play on us. 1901 *N. Amer. Rev.* Feb. 271 The silver cabal won at every point.

11. a. Used for holding (silver) money. *rare.*

1526 *Galway Arch.* in *10th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. V. 402 Every man or woman which makith aquavitie, honied alle [or] singill alle to be ratiffied and sold, to paye the accostomid ratte to the silver boxe. 1773 Fergusson *Sitting of Session* vii, Gin ony..has na lous'd his siller pocks. *a* 1837 R. Nicoll *Poems* (1842) 110 Misers make Their heaven o' a siller bag.

† **b. *Sc.*** Of payments, etc.: Made or levied in (silver) money. *Obs.*

1579 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* III. 143 To pay to thame the..sylvir prices and maillis of the samyn. 1596 Melvill *Autobiog.* (Wodrow Soc.) 332 Setting..lyff-rents successive for peyment of small silver-dewtie. 1597 Skene *De Verb. Sign.* s.v. *Firmarius*, Quhidder it be siluer-maill, victuall, or vther duetie. *a* 1688 Dallas *Stiles* 279 Which Lands.. amount in yearly free Rent..to [so much] Silver-Rent. 1754 Erskine *Princ. Law Scot.* IV. ii. (1870) 587 Even intromission with the silver rent.

c. Played for stakes in silver coin.

1748 H. Walpole *Lett.* (1846) II. 223 There were silver pharaoh and whist for the ladies.

12. Having the whiteness or lustre of silver; silvery. Chiefly *poet.*

Silver lining: see Lining *vbl. sb.*[1] 2 b.

c 1386 Chaucer *Knt.'s T.* 636 And firy Phebus..dryeth in the greues The siluer dropes hangynge on the leues. *c* 1407 Lydg. *Reson & Sens.* 937 The freshnes of the clere wellys..Made the colde siluer stremes To shyne ageyn the sonne bemes. *c* 1450 — *Secrees* 1316 The lusty Silvir dewh in the grene meedys. *c* 1450 Holland *Howlat* 410 Ane..bure in till asure..Siluer sternis so fair. 1593 Shaks. *Rich. II*, II. i. 46 This precious stone, set in the siluer sea. 1605 — *Macb.* II. iii. 118 Here lay Duncan, His Siluer skinne lac'd with his Golden Blood. 1697 Dryden *Virg. Past.* VII. 52 Fair Galatea, with thy silver Feet, O, whiter than the Swan. 1738 Gray *Propertius* iii. 21 Yonder Star..with silver light Relumes her crescent Orb to cheer the dreary Night. 1792 S. Rogers *Pleas. Mem.* II. 202 In gentler climes their silver currents flow. 1855 Kingsley *Westw. Ho!* xii, A lodging..which looked out upon the silver Thames (for Thames was silver then). 1879 Farrar *St. Paul* I. 257 Brightening more and more with the silver dawn.

b. Of the hair, beard, or head, when white with age. Also in fig. context.

1590 Nashe *Pasquil's Apol.* Wks. (Grosart) I. 253 Auncient men, vpon whose siluer heads the Almond-tree hath blossomde. 1592 Lyly *Midas* II. i, If one be olde, & haue siluer haires on his beard. 1606 *Sir Gyles Goosecappe* v. i, This speech hath siluer haires, and reverence askes. 1633 P. Fletcher *Purple Isl.* VII. xl, Her silver heads adorning, (Her dotage index). 1810 Jane Porter *Sc. Chiefs* xxviii, The long silver beard..hung over his hands. 1833 Tennyson *May Queen* III. iv, O blessings on his kindly heart and on his silver head! 1850 — *In Mem.* lxxxiv, To reverence and the silver hair.

transf. 1597 Shaks. 2 *Hen. IV*, IV. i. 43 You, Lord Archbishop,..Whose Beard, the Siluer Hand of Peace hath touch'd. 1635–56 Cowley *Davideis* II. 706 No Silver Rev'rence guards the stooping Age.

13. Of sounds: Having a clear gentle resonance like that of silver; soft-toned, melodious.

1536 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 142 We shal yelde a benigne & gentyll answere, & gyue a swete syluer sounde as yᵉ tryed syluer. 1592 Breton *C'tess Pembroke's Love* vii, Some brought in musicke of most siluer sounde. 1613 W. Browne *Brit. Past.* I. v. 93 A Swaine (with Lawrell crown'd) Marrying his sweet Notes with their siluer sound. 1629 Milton *Hymn Nat.* xiii, Let your silver chime Move in melodious time. 1725 Pope *Odyss.* I. 426 The vaulted roof..Reflecting to the queen the silver sounds. 1801 Busby *Dict. Mus.* s.v. *Viol d'amour*, A kind of silver sound, at once..soft, sweet, and tender. 1839 Marryat *Phant. Ship* iii, He recalled..her silver voice. 1857 Ld. Dufferin *Lett. High Lat.* 160 A mingled stream of music, light, and silver laughter.

b. Eloquent, persuasive, sweet-spoken.

1594 in Ingelby *Shaks. Cent. Praise* 12 As worthie subjects of your silver pen. 1713 Arbuthnot *John Bull* II. viii, Serjeant such-a-one has a Silver Tongue at the Bar. 1833 Ht. Martineau *Briery Creek* iv, It must be such a silver tongue as never yet spoke that could persuade any nation [etc.]. 1881 D. Jerrold *St. Gites* xv. 150 Mr... Crawley; to whose silver tongue the world owed the liberty of many a ruffian. 1896 Mrs. Caffyn *Quaker Grandmother* 198, I..would give my eyes for..the silver tongues of them.

14. a. *poet.* Soft, gentle.

1596 Spenser *F. Q.* VI. ix. 22 All the night in siluer sleepe I spend.

b. Prosperous, happy. Cf. Silver age 1.

1659–60 *Ph. Skippon's Petit. to Citie of London* 1 Alas, those Silver daies are done, and this iron Age hath overtaken your poor Petitioner.

15. Of or pertaining to the silver age of Latin (see Silver age 1 b).

1889 Jacobs *Æsop* 14 Some of the fables..were products of Silver Latinity. 1896 *N. & Q.* 8th Ser. IX. 487 In any given passage in a silver Latin author. *Ibid.*, One of the best-known authors of the silver period, Juvenal.

III. *Comb.*

16. Objective or obj. genitive: a. With agent-nouns, as *silver-chaser, -plater, -polisher*, etc.

a 1400 N. T. (Paues) *Acts* xix. 24 For one, whos name was Demetrye, þat was a siluer-maker,..he gafe [etc.]. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 340/1 A Sylver maker or keper, *argentarius*. 1680 C. Ness *Ch. Hist.* 242 Those sordid silver-lovers..being courtiers had a fair opportunity. 1692 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 2770/4 A Silver-spinner in Bunhill-fields. 1718 W. Penn *Wks.* (1726) I. 713, I being a Silver-Spinster. 1772 *Ann. Reg.* 153 Mr. Mansel, silver polisher, in Corbet-court. 1819 *Pantologia* X, *Silver-beater*, one that foliates silver. 1846 Holtzapffel *Turning* II. 732 The silver-piercer sits at the silversmiths' and jewellers' ordinary work-bench. 1848 Dickens *Dombey* viii, She is alive,..and is married to a silver-chaser. 1858 Simmonds *Dict. Trade, Silver-plater*, an electrotyper. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2195/2 The bane of the gold and silver miner.

b. With pres. pples., as *silver-bearing, -producing, -shaming, -shedding.*

1591 Shaks. *Two Gentl.* III. i. 230 Sad sighes, deepe grones, nor siluer-shedding teares. 1648 Herrick *Hesper., Vision*, Sitting alone..Close by a Silver-shedding Brook. *a* 1699 J. Beaumont *Minor Poems, Whiteness*, The Silver-shaming Grace Of the Moon's unclouded Face. *c* 1710 Valden *To Sir H. Mackworth* xiv, The Silver-shedding Beams of Orient Light. 1877 Raymond *Statist. Mines & Mining* 251, 2 to 3 feet of silver-bearing quartz. 1888 *Daily News* 5 Apr. 5/2 If Lancashire depends for custom upon silver-using countries to this extent. 1891 *Ibid.* 23 Feb. 5/7 The popular reaction against free coinage continues, extending even to the silver-producing States.

c. With vbl. sbs. or nouns of action, as *silver-mining, -plating, -reduction.*

1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 25/1 The art of silver-plating was introduced at Sheffield about the middle of the last century. 1856 *Orr's Circ. Sci., Pract. Chem.* 47 The vats used for ordinary silver-plating are about twenty-four or thirty inches deep. 1877 RAYMOND *Statist. Mines & Mining* p. ix, In all silver-reduction works. *Ibid.* 245 The silver-mining of Beaver Head County.

17. Parasynthetic and instrumental, of the types *silver-armed, -axled, -bearded, -browed; silver-bound, -mounted*, etc.

Such combinations have been very extensively used, esp. in poetry, and the number which *might* be formed is very great. In addition to those illustrated here, see SILVER-COLOURED, -FOOTED, -HAIRED, etc.

a. Denoting the use of the metal itself.

1598 MARSTON *Sco. Villanie* I. iii, A hoode, and siluer-handled fan. 1634 MILTON *Comus* 442 Fair siluer-shafted Queen for ever chaste. *c* 1640 — *Arcades* 33 Fair siluer-buskind Nymphs. 1680 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1495/4 A Case of Silver-hafted Knives. 1753 HANWAY *Trav.* (1762) II. I. ix. 49 The serjeants of the guards have silver-laced regimentals. 1813 SCOTT *Let.* in *Lockhart* (1837) III. ii. 99, I..delight in collecting silver-mounted pistols and ataghans. 1819 — *Ivanhoe* xlv, Rowena opened the small silver-chased casket. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* xxxvii, There was the jewel-case, silver-clasped. 1869 TOZER *Highl. Turkey* II. 259 [He] bids [his horse]..to dig for him a grave..with his silver-plated hoofs. 1889 P. H. EMERSON *Eng. Idyls* 18 The grandmother looked..over her silver-rimmed spectacles.

b. With allusion to the sound of silver.

1593 T. WATSON *Poems* (Arb.) 191 Ioyfull birds..Whose siluer tuned songs might well haue moued her. 1608 SHAKS. *Per.* v. i. 111 My dearest wife was like this maid,.. As silver-voiced. 1642 H. MORE *Song of Soul* Tó Rdr., I strike my silver-sounded lyre. 1844 MRS. BROWNING *Lady Geraldine's Courtship* xxii, Though sometimes she would bind me with her silver-corded speeches. 1884 *Cassell's Fam. Mag.* Apr. 271/2 The beautiful note of the silver-voiced bell-bird.

c. With reference to the colour or lustre of silver.

1591 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* I. iii. 214 The silver-fronted Star, That swells and shrinks the Seas. 1596 FITZ-GEFFRAY *Sir F. Drake* (1881) 25 Her silver-feathered turtle-doves. 1606 DEKKER *Seven Deadly Sins* Wks. (Grosart) II. 69 Euen the siluer-bearded..cittizens haue giuen him welcomes. 1645 G. DANIEL *Poems* Wks. (Grosart) II. 76 When silver-winged Peace againe shall Shine. 1791 COWPER *Iliad* II. 924 The silver-eddied Peneus. 1820 SHELLEY *Witch Atlas* lvii, Like a calm flock of silver-fleeced sheep. 1830 MISS MITFORD *Village* Ser. III. (1863) 82 A silver-barked beech, or a lime tree in full blossom. 1852 TENNYSON *Ode Wellington* 136 A saviour of the silver-coasted isle. 1884 BROWNING *Ferishtah* 112 And where's the gloom now?—silver-smitten straight, One glow and variegation!

d. In specific names of animals, birds, fishes, plants, etc.

1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 55/2 The Spanish *Silver-cupped Moly. 1752 HILL *Hist. Anim.* 252 The *silver-eyed Sparus. 1802 SHAW *Gen. Zool.* III. II. 431 Silver-eyed Snake...A Siberian species. 1809 *Ibid.* VII. II. 366 Silver-eyed crow. ..Native of South America. 1902 *Encycl. Brit.* XXXI. 876/1 Another useful race of compact form..., called the *silver-laced Wyandotte. 1887 BELDON in Wright *Illustr. Bk. Poultry* 382 These and all other names are gradually giving way to that of *Silver-pencilled Hamburghs. 1849 D. J. BROWNE *Amer. Poultry Yd.* (1855) 59 In the '*silver-spangled' variety, the only perceptible difference is, that the ground color is a silvery white. 1871 DARWIN *Desc. Man* II. xiv. (1890) 426 The Golden and Silver-spangled Polish..breeds. 1803 SHAW *Gen. Zool.* IV. II. 540 *Silver-spotted Sciæna...Native of the Arabian seas. 1884 GOODE *Nat. Hist. Aquat. Anim.* 320 The Silver-spotted Tunny, *Orcynus argentivittatus.* 1804 SHAW *Gen. Zool.* V. I. 174 *Silver-striped Herring...Native of the Indian and American seas. 1833 *Penny Cycl.* I. 78/2 The sycamore maple,.. Silver-striped. 1882 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* VI. 45 The *Silver-studded Blue (*Polyommatus ægon*) is common on heaths. 1819 G. SAMOUELLE *Entomol. Compend.*, *Argynnis Paphia*, the *silver-washed Fritillary. 1859 W. S. COLEMAN *Woodlands* (1866) 147 One of our handsomest butterflies—The Silver-washed Fritillary.

18. With pres. pples., in the sense of 'like, or with, silver', as *silver-eddying, -flashing, -flowing*, etc.

1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* II. xii. 71 The siluer sounding instruments. 1593 SHAKS. *Lucrece* 24 The morning's silver-melting dew. 1594 GREENE & LODGE *Looking Gl.* G.'s Wks. (Rtldg.) 117 Rounded with Lycus' silver-flowing streams. 1634 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* 46 The Siluer-shining Sand expresseth Sulpher. 1648 J. BEAUMONT *Psyche* x. cclxxiv, When Eloquence's tributary streams After the Silver-thrilling Current run. 1725 POPE *Odyssey* I. 464 Pallas..In slumber clos'd her silver-streaming eyes. 1742 GRAY *Eton* 10 Wanders the hoary Thames along His silver-winding way. 1830 TENNYSON *Recoll. Arab. Ats.* 51 The central fountain's flow Fall'n silver-chiming. 1845 HIRST *Poems* 77 Whence arise..his silver-swelling strains? 1871 PALGRAVE *Lyr. Poems* 46 The steel..Hung silver-glittering on high.

19. Qualifying other adjectives, as *silver-bright, -clear, -golden*, etc.

1592 SHAKS. *Rom. & Jul.* II. ii. 166 How siluer sweet, sound Louers tongues by night. 1595 — *John* II. i. 315 Their Armours that march'd hence so siluer bright. 1603 J. DAVIES (Heref.) *Microcosmos* Wks. (Grosart) I. 91/1 Many a glitt'ring siluer-golden spang. 1749 GRAY *Installat. Ode* 32 Oft woo'd the gleam of Cynthia silver-bright. 1830 TENNYSON *Lilian* 24 Silver-treble laughter trilleth. 1833 — *Two Voices* 428 A little whisper silver-clear. 1871 BROWNING *Pr. Hohenstiel* 308 Where some segment silver-true Stays clear.

20. With sbs., forming an attributive comb.

1675 HOBBES *Odyssey* (1677) 38 Then by Alcandre t' Helena divine A silver brim guilt basket given was. 1677 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1238/4 A bright silver-hair bay Gelding. 1678 PHILLIPS (ed. 4), *Silver-spoon-head*, in Archery, is the Head of some sort of Arrows, so called from the resemblance they have to the knobs of some sorts of Silver-spoons. 1799 [A. YOUNG] *Agric. Lincoln.* 385, 2000 couple of silver hair [rabbits]. 1804 SHAW *Gen. Zool.* V. I. 108 Silver-stripe Pike, *Esox Hepsetus.*

IV. 21. Special combs.: **silver-balli, bar** (see quots.); **silver bath**, a solution, esp. of silver nitrate, used for sensitizing photographic plates and printing paper; a dish to contain this; **silver-beggar, -black** (see quots.); **† silver bridal,** = *silver marriage*; **silver bronze** (see quot.); **† silver caustic**, lunar caustic; **† silver-eyed** *a.*, wall-eyed; **silver-feast,** = *silver wedding*; **† silver-foam**, litharge; **silver-fork,** used *attrib.* to designate a school of novelists about 1830 distinguished by an affectation of gentility; **silver glass** (see quots.); **† silver-glet,** litharge; **† silver-hider**, a miser; **silver lustre**, a composition used for silvering potter's ware; **† silver-marriage** (in Sc. form *siller*), a marriage at which each guest contributed a money-offering; **silver oar** (see quot. 1867); **Silver Office**, an office formerly attached to the Court of Common Pleas; **silver piece** (see the quotation for *silver bar*); **† silver-pill** (see quot.); **silver-point**, the process of making a drawing with a silver pencil on specially prepared paper; a drawing made in this way; **silver-powder**, a preparation of bismuth, tin, and mercury, used by japanners, etc. (Knight, 1875); **silver print**, a photograph produced by silver-printing; **silver-printing**, (*a*) the process of producing a photograph on paper sensitized with a silver salt; (*b*) printing in which the letters, etc., have a silver colour; **† silver quinsy,** = *silver sickness*; **silver rain** (see RAIN *sb.*[1] 4 c); **silver sand**, a fine white sand used in horticulture, etc.; **† silver-sick** *a.*, avaricious; **† silver sickness** (see quot. 1706 and cf. *silver quinsy*); **silver-side**, the upper and choicer part of a round of beef; **silver-skin**, (*a*) a variety of potato; (*b*) an inner skin on coffee-beans; **silver solder**, a solder partly composed of silver; hence *v.* and *vbl. sb.*; **† silver-spat**, a silver-bearing rock; **silver-spoonism** (see quot.); **† silver squinsy,** = *silver sickness*; **silver steel**, a fine steel containing a small amount of silver; **silver-stick** (see quot.); **† silver stone**, a variety of granite; **silver streak**, the English Channel; also *attrib.*; **silver string, -tail, -tailed** *a.* (see quots.); **silver thaw**, the phenomenon of rain freezing as it falls and forming a glassy coating on the ground, trees, etc.; (see also quot. 1867); **silver thread**, used *attrib.* to denote a variety of ironstone; **silver top**, *U.S.*, a disease in grasses which whitens the upper part of the stalk; **† silver web**, a kind of confection in sugar; **silver wedding**, the twenty-fifth anniversary of a wedding (cf. *silver-feast*); **silver weight**, (*a*) the weight used for silver; (*b*) the equivalent weight in silver; **† silver-worm**, a glow-worm; **silver wreck**, a wrecked silver-ship.

1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade*, *Silver-balli*, a wood obtained in Demerara from a species of Nectandra. 1884 F. J. BRITTEN *Watch & Clockm.* 241 [The] *Silver Bar [or] Silver Piece [is] the graduated arc at the extremity of a watch regulator when it is made of silver. 1878 ABNEY *Photogr.* (1881) 61 The following formula for the *silver-bath solution is a standard one. 1889 *Anthony's Photogr. Bulletin* II. 38 The silver bath..standing in the sun,..that it may do its dark work the better. 1864 *Slang Dict.* 230 *Silver-beggar* or *Lurker*, a vagabond who travels through the country with 'briefs' containing false statements of losses by fire, shipwrecks, accidents, &c. 1805 R. JAMESON *Min.* II. 152 *Silver-black...Colour bluish-black, which inclines a little to dark lead-grey. 1867 BRANDE & COX *Dict. Sci.* III. 457/2 *Silver Black*, an earthy form of Silver Glance..found in several Saxon and Hungarian mines. 1624 *Rec. Presbytery of Fordyce* (MS.), Abuses at *Sylver brydells. 1888 JACOBI *Printers' Vocab.* 125 **Silver bronze*, a metallic powder used for silver printing. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s.v. *Silver*, This powder applied to ulcers, acts in the manner of the lapis infernalis, or *silver-caustic. 1695 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 3086/4 A dark Iron grey Mare,..*Silver Eyed. 1702 *Ibid.* No. 3857/4 A small black Gelding about 13 hands,..Wall or Silver-Ey'd. 1796 STEDMAN *Surinam* II. 216 The celebration of what he called his *Silver-feast, being the twenty-fifth anniversary of his marriage. 1806 MRS. BARBAULD *Wks.* (1825) II. 125 We should have great pleasure in keeping with you your silver feast, as the Germans call it when a couple have lived happily a quarter of a century together. 1565 COOPER *Thes.*, *Argyritis*, *siluer fome. 1611 COTGR., *Litharge d'argent*, siluer foame. 1834 *Tait's Mag.* I. 59/1 A man who would die a martyr to his faith in the *silver-fork school of manners and morals. 1884 J. PAYN *Lit. Recollect.* 154 It had the culture of the silver-fork school without their affectation. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XII. 62/2 Some of the rich silver ores are easily tried: for instance, *minera argenti vitrea*,..*silver-glass, which consists only of silver and sulphur. 1884 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* Suppl. 813/1 *Silver Glass*, an ornamental ground and cut glass. This glass can be used in the place of plaster, marble floors, or wood inlaid work. 1668 CHARLETON *Onomast.* 306 *Lithargyros*, Litharge, or *Silver-glet. 1611 COTGR., *Serargent*,..a scrape-good, penny-father, *siluer-hider, money-hoorder. 1834–6 *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) VIII. 468/2 The *silver lustre is differently prepared. 1825 JAMIESON *Suppl.*, **Siller-Marriage*, the same with *Penny-Brydal.* 1851 W. ANDERSON *Rhymes* (1867) 181 (E. D. D.), Siller marriages fifty years syne war in vogue. 1771 *Ann. Reg.* I. 66 Captain Ferguson..was carried from Newgate, the Marshal of the Admiralty, the officer carrying the *silver oar, &c., attending. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.* 626 *Silver-oar*, one of the badges of the civil court afloat, conferring the power to arrest for debt if not less than £20. 1708 J. CHAMBERLAYNE *St. Gt. Brit.* (1710) 573 Clerk of the Queen's *Silver-Office. 1886 *Encycl. Brit.* XX. 312/1 The king's Silver Office books are the chief indexes to the fines. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s.v., **Silver-pill*, a chemical preparation of silver, formerly highly commended. 1882 HAMERTON *Graphic Arts* xii. 97 *Silver-point, as practised by the best masters. 1893 M'CARTHY *Red Diamonds* I. 219 Marvellously artistic etchings and 'silver-points'. 1878 ABNEY *Photogr.* (1881) 138 The colour of the *silver print when appearing through this other metal may give a pleasing tint. 1901 *Athenæum* 12 Oct. 497/1 The views here given..cannot compare in sharpness with the unfortunately perishable silver prints. 1878 ABNEY *Photogr.* (1881) 28 In determining the fixing agent to employ in *silver printing, this point has to be taken into consideration. 1888 [see *silver bronze*]. 1706 PHILLIPS (ed. 6), *Argentangia*, the *Silver-Quinsey. 1843 LIDDELL & SCOTT, Ἀργυρᾴγχη, the silver-quinsy, which Demosthenes was said to have [etc.]. 1851 *B'ham & Midl. Gardeners' Mag.* Aug. 135, I put them [*sc.* seeds] into a wood or paper box,..with a little dry *silver sand. 1856 DELAMER *Fl. Garden* (1861) 164 How are you off for silver-sand, pasture-loam? *c* 1480 HENRYSON *Fables, Wolf & Fox* xiii, Ye ar *siluer-seik, I wait richt weill. 1548 ELYOT *Lat. Dict.*, *Argentagina*, the *sylver sycknesse. 1706 PHILLIPS (ed. 6), *Silver-sickness*, or *Silver-squincy*, is when an Advocate or pleading Lawyer, being brib'd by the other Party, feigns himself sick, or not able to speak. 1876 BESANT & RICE *Son of Vulc.* I. vi, Such a beautiful bit of beef too, *silverside. 1881 BLACKMORE *Cristowell* iii, I can milk a cow, and pot a vine, and bed down a pony, and salt a silver-side. 1797 BILLINGSLEY *View Agric. Somerset* 116 The sorts [of potato] cultivated are the kidney..and *silver skin. 1883 *Cassell's Fam. Mag.* Aug. 528/1 The beans [of coffee are] put through a winnower, which takes off a delicate skin still remaining, called the 'silver-skin'. 1682 BOYLE *Contin. New Exper.* II. 18 And therefore *silver-solder could not be used in cementing the parts, but onely lead-solder. 1843 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* I. 434 The hard solders most commonly used are the spelter solders, and silver solders. 1900 HASLUCK *Mod. Eng. Handy-bk.* 87 The flanges can be made separately, and either brazed or *silver-soldered on ends of tube. 1843 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* I. 443 The practice of *silver-soldering is essentially the same as brazing. 1668 CHARLETON *Onomast.* 301 *Saxa Metallaria*, *Silver-Spat. 1859 *Habits of Gd. Society* 50 *Silver-spoonism is, after all, vulgarity; it is an assumption of delicacy superior to the majority. 1611 COTGR., *Argentangine*, the *siluer Squinzie, a disease wherwith many besides Demosthenes.. haue beene troubled. 1681 W. ROBERTSON *Phraseol. Gen.* (1693) 1278 The silver-squincy, when a pleader being bribed by the other side, feigns himself sick, and not able to speak. 1831 J. HOLLAND *Manuf. Metal* I. 248 *Silver steel, having the advantage of euphony .., becomes a popular denomination in the market. 1882 OGILVIE (Annandale), **Silver-stick*, the name given to a field-officer of the Life Guards when on palace duty. 1758 BORLASE *Nat. Hist. Cornw.* 100 The *Silver Stone..is of great lustre in the microscope, every other granite placed by its side looking flat and tame. 1879 *Even. Standard* 11 Nov., The answer of the citizens of London to the '*silver-streak' politicians. 1888 J. PAYN *Myst. Mirbridge* v, The silver streak, on the other side of which is dear England. 1875 STAINER & BARRETT *Dict. Mus. Terms*, **Silver strings*, the covered strings used on violins, tenors, violoncellos, guitars, etc. 1898 MORRIS *Austral Eng.* 419 **Silver-tail*, a bush term for a 'swell'; a man who goes to the manager's house, not to the men's hut. 1890 VOGAN *Black Police* 116 Those upper circles..termed in Australian parlance '*silver-tailed', in distinction to the 'copper-tailed' democratic classes. 1902 *Bladud* 19 Feb. 14/2 During the Peninsular War the 61st were the 'Silvertailed Dandies', owing to the unusual amount of silver on the tails of the officers' coatees. 1860 P. H. GOSSE *Rom. Nat. Hist.* 3 A phenomenon I have often seen in the woods of the transatlantic countries named above, where it is familiarly called *silver-thaw. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.* 626 *Silver-thaw*, the term for ice falling in large flakes from the sails and rigging, consequent on a frost followed suddenly by a thaw. 1891 *Standard* 26 Dec. 3/3 A 'silver thaw' is the result of rain falling from a warmer current of air at some little distance above the earth. 1855 J. PHILLIPS *Man. Geol.* 193 Blue flats, *silver thread, and diamond iron-stone. 1890 *American Naturalist* 970 It is probable that these leaf-hoppers are responsible for much of the *silver-top. 1769 MRS. RAFFALD *Eng. Housekeeper* (1778) 191 Observe you don't put too much sugar down at a time for a *silver web. 1862 H. MARRYAT *Year in Sweden* II. 417 *note*, '*Silver' and 'Golden' weddings are generally kept in the North. 1889 GRETTON *Memory's Hawkbach* 134 An old man on the verge of the silver-wedding he might have kept as Chancellor. *c* 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* III. 92 Se sester sceal wezan twa pund be *sylfyr zewyht. 13.. *Sir Beues* 1725 For him a zaf seluer wiȝt, Er he þat hors haue miȝt. *c* 1475 *Pict. Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 766 *Hic auriglus*, a *sylverwurme. 1700 WALLACE *Acc. New Caledonia* in *Misc. Curiosa* (1708) III. 421 He pretends it was to search for a *Silver Wreck.

b. In names of animals, insects, etc.; **silver buckie** (see quot. 1866); **† silver fly** (?); **silver fox**, a North American variety of the red fox with black silver-tipped hairs, the black fox; **silver gibbon**, the silvery gibbon (*Hylobates leuciscus*); **silver lady** (see SILVER-FISH 2); **silver-line(s)**, a species of moth; **silver-marmoset, -sprig** (see quots.); **silver-tip**, a grizzly bear with white-tipped hairs; **silver y (moth)**, the gamma moth.

Various other names of moths, as *silver bar, cloud, fringe, ground*, etc., are given by Rennie (1832).

1841 *Proc. Berw. Nat. Club* I. 264 Our children call the shell **Silver-buckies* or *Silver-Willies*. 1866 GREGOR *Banffsh. Gloss.*, *Siller-buckie*, the Grey purple-streaked pyramid shell (*Trochus cinerareus*). 1868 CHARLETON *Onomast.* 42 *Herbivora Erinopteros*,..the *Silver-fly. 1827 GRIFFITH tr. *Cuvier* V. 148 *Canis Argentatus* (*Silver Fox). 1889 *John Bull* 2 Mar. 150/1 Bordered..with silver-fox fur and lined with cream-coloured velvet. 1893 LYDEKKER *Roy. Nat. Hist.* I. 559 The beautiful silver, or black fox,..is usually nearly or entirely black, with the exception of the tip of the tail, which is generally white. *Ibid.* 65 The grey or *silver gibbon, or wou-wou,..comes from the island of Java. 1832 J. RENNIE *Butterfl. & M.* 155 The Green *Silver Lines. 1876 SMILES *Sc. Nat.* vi. 102 The Cream-spot Tiger moth,..the Green Silver-line. 1893 LYDEKKER *Roy. Nat. Hist.* I. 192 The *silver marmoset of Brazil (*Hapale chrysoleucus*). 1799 [A. YOUNG] *View Agric. Linc.* 385 The sort [is] *silver sprig, which will not do well in other counties. 1800 MISS EDGEWORTH *Moral T., The Will* i, The true silver grey rabbits—silver sprigs, they call them—do you know that the skins of those silver sprigs are worth any money? 1890 L. C. D'OYLE *Notches* 70 The bear..was an old '*silver-tip', and a big one. 1832 J. RENNIE *Butterfl. & M.* Index, *Silver Y. 1848 *Proc. Berw. Nat. Club* II. 329 The caterpillars of..*Plusia Gamma* (Silver Y Moth)..are of this description. 1882 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* VI. 65 The well-known Gamma Moth, or Silver Y.

c. In names of birds, as **silver-bill**, (*a*) one of several birds of the genus *Munia*; (*b*) a South American tyrant bird of the genus *Lichenops*; **† silver bird**, some East Indian bird; **silver-dun**, a particular breed of domestic pigeon; **silver-eye** (see quot.); **silver-mealy**, a breed of pigeon; **silver pheasant** (see quots. and PHEASANT 2); **silver plover** (see quots. and PLOVER 2); **silver-tongue**, *U.S.*, the song-sparrow.

1883 *List Anim. Zool. Gardens* 239 *Munia malabarica*, Indian *Silver-bill. Hab. India. *Ibid.*, *Munia cantans*, African Silver-bill. Hab. North-east Africa. 1892 W. H. HUDSON *La Plata* 202, I have also seen gaucho boys catch the Silver-bill (*Lichenops perspicillata*) by hurling a stick or stone at the bird, then rushing at it. 1775 *Phil. Trans.* LXVIII. 402 Some *silver birds. 1879 L. WRIGHT *Pigeon Keeper* 187 The *silver-duns are the aristocrats of the family. 1888 NEWTON in *Encycl. Brit.* XXIV. 824/1 By most English-speaking people in various parts of the world the prevalent species of *Zosterops* is commonly called 'White-eye' or '*Silver-eye'. 1879 L. WRIGHT *Pigeon Keeper* 149 Such kite-barred birds are termed '*silver-mealies' by Scotch breeders. 1829 GRIFFITH tr. *Cuvier* VIII. 23 The *Silver Pheasants (*Phasianus Nycthemerus*). 1862 C. P. HODGSON *Resid. Japan* 324 Silver pheasants come from Nambu, partridges from Sataki. 1876 *Nature* XIV. 121/2 The additions to the Zoological Society's Gardens..include a Silver Pheasant (*Euplocamus nycthemerus*). 1887 BELDON in Wright *Illustr. Bk. of Poultry* 366 The Silver-spangled Hamburgh, or Silver Pheasant as it is commonly called in Yorkshire. 1899 DEWAR *Hamps. Highl.* v. 130 The *silver plovers or lapwings..are to be seen and heard in every direction. 1899 DICKINSON & PREVOST *Cumbld. Gloss.*, *Silver plover*, the gray plover, *Squatarola helvetica*. 1884 COUES *N. Amer. Birds* 371 *Melospiza fasciata*, .. Song Sparrow. *Silver-Tongue.

d. In names of fishes, as **silver-belly, bream, char, eel, -eyes, garfish, king, lamprey, pike, salmon, -sides, sole, -spot** (see quots.).

A number of other American, and some Australian, fishes are also designated in this way, as *silver bass, cero, chub, hake*, etc.: see Jordan & Gilbert *Fishes N. Amer.* (1882), Goode *Nat. Hist. Aquat. Anim.* (1884) and *Amer. Fishes* (1888), Morris *Austral English* (1898).

1882 TENISON-WOODS *Fishes N. S. Wales* 43 It is necessary to cook the *silver-belly, as it is often called, perfectly fresh. *Ibid.*, Mr. Hill..speaks of a *silver-bream or white-bream. It is probable he refers to *Gerres ovatus*, a common fish of very compressed form. 1883 E. P. RAMSAY *Food Fishes N. S. Wales* 10 *Gerres ovatus*, a small but delicious fish, known to the fishermen as 'silver bream', 'silver bellies', &c. 1769 PENNANT *Brit. Zool.* III. 269 The two others were inscribed, the Red Charr, the *Silver or Gilt Charr. 1838 *Proc. Berw. Nat. Club* I. 175 *Anguilla latirostris*,..the Broad-nosed Eel...In the Tweed..it is distinguished from the others by the name of *Silver-Eel. 1882 JORDAN & GILBERT *Syn. Fishes N. Amer.* 910 *note*, This species [*Trichiurus lepturus*] is known as 'Sabre-fish' and 'Silver Eel', on the coast of Texas. 1880 DAY *Fishes Gt. Brit.* I. 35 These fishes are commonly known as sea-breams. One form termed *silver eyes is said to pursue small fishes in Cardigan Bay. 1869 BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.* (ed. 2), Bill-Fish (*Belone truncata*), a small sea-fish fond of running up into fresh water during the summer...Also called Sea-pike, *Silver Gar-fish. 1889 *Scribner's Mag.* Aug. 164/1 No one..had fared any better than I as regards tarpon...No one could boast of having even hooked a '*Silver King'. 1894 *Cosmopolitan* XVII. 31 You never have seen the equal of the silver-king—the grande coy—the tarpon. 1865 COUCH *Brit. Fishes* IV. 400 The *Silver Lamprey is always of less size than the ordinary dimensions of the Lampern. 1883 DAY *Fishes Gt. Brit.* II. 359 *Petromyzon fluviatilis*,.. Lampern and silver lamprey. 1804 SHAW *Gen. Zool.* V. 1. 109 *Silver Pike, *Esox argenteus*...Native of New Zealand and other islands in the Southern Ocean. 1882 JORDAN & GILBERT *Syn. Fishes N. Amer.* 307 *Oncorhynchus kisutch*, *Silver Salmon. 1901 *Scotsman* 26 Mar. 5/1 The silver salmon or coho..are freely taken by means of spinning. 1873 T. GILL *Catal. Fishes East N. Amer.* 26 *Cynoscion carolinensis*.., spotted sea-trout..; spotted *silver-sides. 1882 DAY *Fishes Gt. Brit.* I. 225 Smelt or sand smelt...A local name is silver-sides, from its colour. 1891 *Cent. Dict.* s.v., The brook-silversides is a graceful little fresh-water fish, *Labidesthes sicculus*. 1803 SHAW *Gen. Zool.* IV. II. 308 *Silver Sole, *Pleuronectes Argenteus*..; native of the Indian seas. 1865 COUCH *Brit. Fishes* IV. 300 The fishes of the family [*Maurolicus*] which we have denominated *Silver-Spots.

e. In names of plants or trees, as **silver beet, bell (tree), bennet, berry, birch, chain, chickweed, fern, -head, herb, knapweed, oak, pine (tree), poplar, thistle, wattle** (see quots. and the various sbs.).

Some other names of this type, as *silver feather, grass, hair-grass, lavender*, are current in dialect or local use.

1882 *Garden* 15 Apr. 256/1 The *Silver or Seakale Beet is grown for the sake of the midribs of the leaves. 1831 AUDUBON *Ornith. Biog.* I. 123 The Snow-Drop Tree, *Silver-Bell Tree, or Wild Olive. 1847 DARLINGTON *Amer. Weeds* (1860) 218 The *Halesia*, or Silver Bell, two species of which..are common in cultivation. 1880 BESSEY *Bot.* 505 *Halesia tetraptera*, the Silver-Bell or Snow-Drop Tree of the Southern United States. 1750 W. ELLIS *Mod. Husbandm.* I. II. 79 Black and *Silver Bennets. 1856 A. GRAY *Man. Bot.* (1860) 382 *Elæagnus argentea*,..the *Silver-Berry, may perhaps be found within our northwestern limits. 1884 *Contemp. Rev.* Aug. 334 It is here that the finest specimens of *silver birch are to be found. 1847 HALLIW., **Silver-chain*, the white laburnum. 1856 A. GRAY *Man. Bot.* (1860) 62 *Paronychia argyrocoma*. *Silver Chickweed. 1858 A. IRVINE *Brit. Plants* 176 *Gymnogramma*. This genus is .. distinguished by a yellow or white powdery substance, [and] hence called Gold and *Silver Ferns. 1889 *Chambers's Encycl.* IV. 590/2 Gymnogramme,..of which *G. chrysophylla* and *G. tartarea*, both West Indian, are cultivated as the Golden Fern and Silver Fern. 1890 *Cent. Dict.* s.v. *Paronychia*, *P. argyrocoma*, the silver chickweed, or, as recently named, *silverhead. 1611 COTGR., *Tanaisie sauvage*, Wild Tansie, *Siluer hearbe. 1597 GERARDE *Herbal* 591 The great *siluer knapweed hath at his first comming vp diuers leaues spred vpon the grounde, of a deepe greene colour. 1889 MAIDEN *Useful Pl.* 220 *Stenocarpus salignus*,..'*Silver Oak'. 1694 *Phil. Trans.* XVII. 664 [The tree] brought from the Cape of Good-hope, where it is called the *Silver Pine. *Ibid.* 665 The Silver Pine-Tree. 1880 BESSEY *Bot.* 173 A branch of the *Silver Poplar. 1578 LYTE *Dodoens* 526 *Siluer Thistel. This Thistel is called in..Englishe..Wilde white Thistell, and Argentine. 1874 *Treas. Bot.* 1229/1 *Silver Wattle, *Acacia mollissima*. Silver Wattle of Tasmania, *Acacia dealbata*. 1884 *Cassell's Fam. Mag.* Apr. 271/1 The beautiful cool grey-green of the silver wattle.

Silver (si·lvəɹ), *v.* Forms: 5 **siluerȝn, sylveryn**, 6 **sylver**, 6–7 **siluer**, 7– **silver**; also 9 *Sc.* **siller**. [f. the sb. Cf. G. *silbern, versilbern*, Du. *verzilveren*.]

1. *trans.* To cover or plate with silver; to coat with silver-leaf. Freq. with *over*.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 456/1 Sylveryn, *argento*. 1530 PALSGR. 718/1, I wyll sylver the hafte of my dagger thorowe out. *a* 1540 BARNES *Wks.* (1573) 343/2 Their stockes be polished of the carpenter, and they bee gilded & siluered. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* II. 517 They haue taken vp of late another custome, to siluer the trappings especially and caparisons of their horses of seruice. 1611 COTGR., *Argenter*, to siluer ouer; to gild, or couer with siluer. 1669 PEPYS *Diary* 30 Apr., My coach..is silvered over, but no varnish yet laid on. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. *App.* s.v. *Silvering*, Rub with this mixture the metal you want to silver. 1842 FRANCIS *Dict. Arts* s.v., Copper may be silvered over by rubbing it with the following powder. 1892 GUNTER *Miss Dividends* (1893) 191 There ain't enough in this vein to silver a tea-pot.

absol. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v., Metal-Gilders silver by the Fire: Painter-Gilders, all the other Ways.

fig. 1839–52 BAILEY *Festus* 433 Stay thy pretty little tuneful tongue, Nor silver o'er thy syllables. They will not Pass.

b. To coat (glass) at the back with a mixture of tinfoil and quicksilver, esp. for use as a mirror.

1635 [GLAPTHORNE] *Lady Mother* I. ii, This glasse Is falsly silverd, maks me look as gray As if I were four score. 1753 FRANKLIN *Lett.* Wks. 1887 II. 287 Leaf tin, such as they use in silvering looking-glasses, is best to coat them with. *c* 1790 IMISON *Sch. Arts* II. 7 After this method common window glass, &c. may be silvered. 1833 *Penny Cycl.* I. 412/1 The amalgam of tin is largely used in what is termed silvering mirrors. 1879 NEWCOMB & HOLDEN *Astron.* 93 The horizon-glass is divided into two parts, of which the lower one is silvered.

2. To invest or suffuse with a silvery hue or lustre.

1594–9 GREENE *Orlando Furioso* 1178 Is not..Her face siluer'd like to the milke white shape That Ioue came dauncing in to Semele? 1633 P. FLETCHER *Purple Isl.* IX. viii, In azure arms, Silver'd with starres, and gilt with sunnie rayes. 1648 J. BEAUMONT *Psyche* XXII. CCXV, Venus whose pure lustre silvers Night. 1725 POPE *Odyss.* X. 108 Smiling calmness silver'd o'er the deep. 1797–1805 S. & HT. LEE *Canterb. T.* I. 362 The moon in full splendour silvered the wood on one side. 1822 BYRON *Juan* VII. vii, While she still silvers o'er your gloomy path. 1853 KANE *Grinnell Exp.* XXVIII. (1856) 230 It silvered the hummocks and frozen leads, and gave a softened lustre to the snow. 1900 *Westm. Gaz.* 21 Mar. 10/1 A few kelts, silvered by a short trip to the sea, have been taken.

b. To turn (the hair, beard, etc.) white or silvery.

1602 SHAKS. *Ham.* I. ii. 242 His Beard was .. A Sable Siluer'd. 1725 POPE *Odyss.* XI. 429 Sage Echeneus, whose grave, rev'rend brow The hand of time had silver'd o'er with snow. 1784 COWPER *Task* II. 703 His head Not yet by time completely silver'd o'er. 1825 SCOTT *Betrothed* XV, She who mocks the gray hairs of a parent, never shall one of her own locks be silvered with age! 1870 DISRAELI *Lothair* XXXII, Thought, not time, had partially silvered the clustering of his raven hair.

c. In *pa. pple.* Shaded *off* with silver.

1902 *Fur & Feather* 29 Sept. 229/1 Feet, ears, and face, nicely silvered off..grand undercolour, well silvered off.

3. *intr.* **a.** To flow with a silvery gleam.

1807 J. BARLOW *Columb.* I. 652 And bason'd high..The bright Superior silvers down the day. 1821 CLARE *Vill. Minstr.* I. 75 While underneath their mingling grains, The river silver'd down the plains.

b. To take on a silvery lustre; to fade *away* in this manner.

1878 W. H. MALLOCK *New Republic* iv, The moon was rising over the sea, and the sea was slowly silvering under it.

1890 R. BRIDGES *Shorter Poems* III. 15 The darkness silvers away, the morn doth break.

Silver age.

1. The second age of the world, according to the Greek and Roman poets, inferior in simplicity and happiness to the first or golden age.

1565 GOLDING *Ovid's Met.* I. 131 When..the siluer age came in more somewhat base than golde. 1621 G. SANDYS *Ovid's Met.* I. (1632) 3 After Saturne was throwne downe to Hell, Ioue rul'd; and then the Siluer Age befell. 1710 W. KING *Heathen Gods & Heroes* x. (1722) 30 In Comparison of the next succeeding and the present Age,..this of Jupiter had no lower Character than that of the Silver Age. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) I. 234/2 The silver age commenced when men began to deviate from the paths of virtue. 1860 *Chambers's Encycl.* I. 76/1 Hesiod mentions five Ages—the golden, simple and patriarchal; the silver, voluptuous and godless.

b. The period of Latin literature from the death of Augustus to that of Hadrian.

1736 AINSWORTH *Lat.-Eng. Dict.* p. XXX, Tacitus, Pliny the historian, Suetonius, and some other prose writers, flourished in the silver age. 1826 BUTLER *Grotius* 31 The language of the Pandects is of the silver age. 1859 TRENCH *Sel. Gloss.* 6 While 'animosus' belongs to the best period of Latin literature, 'animositas' is of quite the later silver age.

2. An age marked by the extensive production or use of silver.

1740 tr. *Barba's Metals & Min.* 111 There was very little use or consumption of Quicksilver before the beginning of this new Silver Age of the World.

Silver-bush. Also **silver bush.**

1. The plant Jupiter's beard.

1640 PARKINSON *Theatr. Bot.* 1459 *Iovis barba frutex*, the Silver Bush. 1668 WILKINS *Real Char.* 112 Winged hoary shining leaves, bearing yellow flowers in clusters...Silver Bush. 1678 PHILLIPS (ed. 4), *Silverbush*, a Plant called in Latin *Barba Jovis*, kept as a great rarity by divers Herbalists. 1731 MILLER *Gard. Dict.* s.v. *Colutea*, Ethiopian Bladder-Sena, with Scarlet Flowers, and Leaves like the Silver Bush. 1785 MARTYN *Rousseau's Bot.* XXV. (1794) 353 That which is generally called Jupiter's beard or Silver bush, from the splendid whiteness of the leaves. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1059/1.

2. *local.* Traveller's joy.

1886 BRITTEN & HOLLAND *Plant-n.*, Silver Bush, *Clematis Vitalba*,—Jersey.

Silver-coloured, *a.* [SILVER *sb.* 17.] Having the colour of silver; of a greyish white hue with a metallic lustre.

1594? GREENE *Selimus* 154 Aged winter hath besprent my head With a hoarfrost of silver-coloured haires. 1611 COTGR., *Ravel*,..a little sea-fish, that hath..a siluer-coloured bellie. 1679 RUSDEN *Further Disc. Bees* 5 Having three partitions in his belly, with silver-coloured lines going cross. 1707 MORTIMER *Husb.* (1721) II. 163 The Silver [Rosemary] denominated from its Silver-colour'd Leaves. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1824) III. 228 It has also four expansive silver-coloured wings. 1831 *A. Wilson's Amer. Ornith.* IV. 358 Silver coloured tern. *Sterna argentacea*. 1871 DARWIN *Desc. Man* II. XV. (1890) 446 Dragons not rarely produce silver-coloured birds.

† Silver-cooper. *Obs.*[–1] [Alteration of Du. *ziel-verkooper* 'soul-seller'.] A kidnapper.

1796 [see CRIMP *sb.*[1] 2].

Silvered (si·lvəɹd), *ppl. a.* [f. SILVER *v.* + -ED[2].]

1. Coated with silver or silver-foil; also of mirrors, glass, etc., backed with an amalgam of tin and quicksilver.

c 1481 CAXTON *Dialogues* 21 Thinges silverid. 1582 BENTLEY *Mon. Matrones* II. 183 The siluered scepter of peace is offered vnto us. 1674 MOXON *Tutor Astron.* (ed. 3) 206 Place the Golden Ball representing the Sun, and the Silvered (representing the (in two opposite points of the Ecliptick. 1694 MOTTEUX *Rabelais* V. XXV. (1737) 109 The Silver'd Knight took the Golden Warden. 1774 C. J. PHIPPS *Voy. N. Pole* 157 In the middle..is fixed a piece of silvered-glass. 1794 W. FELTON *Carriages* (1801) I. 185 The common reflector is only a silvered back burnished. 1840 ARNOLD *Hist. Rome* II. XXXI. 255 There were a number of gilded and silvered shields. 1881 *Trans. Obstet. Soc.* XXII. 125 It was..secured by a stout silvered-copper wire.

b. *Photogr.* Treated with a silver solution.

1890 *Anthony's Phot. Bulletin* III. 407 Not permanent prints,..but on silvered paper, which were tedious to get in dull weather.

2. Suffused with silver lustre; silver-coloured; whitened with age; silver-haired.

c 1600 *Ballad Spanish Trag.* I. 15 in *Kyd's Wks.* (1901) 343 Vntill that age with siluered haires My aged head had ouerspred. 1620 T. PEYTON *Glass of Time* I. 50 The dores thereof of siluer'd Pearle most white. 1622 DRAYTON *Polyolb.* XXVI. 260 Not Ancum's silvered Eel exceedeth that of Trent. *c* 1743 FRANCIS tr. *Horace, Sec. Poem* 169 Indulge the waning Days Of silver'd Age with placid Ease. 1792 A. YOUNG *Trav. in France* 20 The amazing frame of the Pyrenees, rearing their silvered head far above the clouds. 1853 M. ARNOLD *Scholar Gypsy* XXII, Brushing through, By night, the silver'd branches of the glade. 1861 W. F. COLLIER *Hist. Eng. Lit.* 41 The thinly silvered scalp of weak old age. 1897 WATTS-DUNTON *Aylwin* II. V, That love-dream on the dear silvered sands.

† 3. Of sounds: Sweet- or silver-toned. *Obs.*[–1]

1642 H. MORE *Song of Soul* II. App. 66 If an Harper harped in the Moon, His silvered sound would touch our tickled ear.

Silveren (e, obs. forms of SILVERN.

Si·lverer. [f. SILVER *v.* + -ER[1].] One who silvers, *esp.* one who practises silvering or silver-plating as a trade.

1598 FLORIO, *Inargentatore*, a siluerer of any thing. 1706 J. STEVENS *Eng.-Sp. Dict.*, A silverer, *argentador*. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 1138 Among the metals, copper or brass

are those on which the silverer most commonly operates. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* II. 931 The silverers used to suffer considerably from mercurialism.

Silverette. [f. SILVER *sb.*] A fancy breed of domestic pigeon; a bird belonging to this breed.

1879 L. WRIGHT *Pigeon Keeper* 174 Silverettes have silver shoulders, with white bars edged with black only, tail grey, with the usual spots.

Silver-eye(s): see SILVER *sb.* 21 c, d.

Silver fir. [SILVER *sb.*]

1. A tall species of fir (*Abies* or *Picea pectinata*), native to southern and central Europe and some parts of Asia, introduced into Britain in the 17th century and extensively used for planting.

The bark of the young tree is of a silvery grey, and the leaves have two broad white lines on the under-surface.

1707 MORTIMER *Husb.* 365 Firs are of several sorts,..but the best sort both for Beauty and Timber, is that which they call the Silver-Fir. 1789 EMMERICH *Forests* XX. 78 There are three species of Needle Wood or Firs: the Norway Fir, the Scotch Fir, and the Silver Fir. 1832a *Planting* (L. U. K.) 89 The specimens of the silver fir (*Pinus picea*) at Blair Adam .. are remarkable for size and symmetry. 1882a *Garden* 23 Dec. 548/2 The Silver Fir is a majestic tree either singly or in clump.

attrib. 1871 KINGSLEY *At Last* vii, Among the high Silver-fir forests of the Pyrenees.

b. A tree belonging to this species.

1789 *Trans. Soc. Arts* I. 72 The greatest number of Silver Firs. 1892 *Gardener's Chron.* 27 Aug. 251/1 Some fine Silver Firs are here, one over 100 feet in height.

2. Applied to various other species of fir, usually with distinctive epithets (see quots.).

The 'silver firs' are sometimes classed under the genus *Picea*, and the 'spruce firs' under *Abies*.

1834 AUDUBON *Ornith.* II. 426 The Balsam or Silver Fir.. is abundant in the State of Maine. 1874 STEWART & BRANDIS *Flora N. West India* 528 *Abies Webbiana*,..Himalayan Silver Fir. 1879 *Encycl. Brit.* IX. 225/1 The Silver Fir of Canada (*P. balsamea*)..furnishes the 'Canada balsam' used in medicine. 1880 BESSEY *Botany* 412 The Giant Silver Fir, *A. grandis*, of Oregon and California.

Silver-fish. Also **silver fish.** [Cf. Du. *zilvervisch*, G. *silberfisch*.]

1. One of various silver-coloured fishes found in different parts of the world.

1703 DAMPIER *Voy.* III. i. 26 Mullets, Snappers, Silver-fish, Garfish. 1712 E. COOKE *Voy. S. Sea* 342 The Silver Fish is smooth, broad, and thin, of a shining Pearl, or Silver Colour. 1731 MEDLEY *Kolben's Cape G. Hope* II. 203 The fish at the Cape call'd Silver-Fish is of the shape of a carp. 1745 P. THOMAS *Jrnl. Anson's Voy.* 195 The Fish they call the golden and silver Fish, that are found in divers Provinces [of China]. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* II. i. 125 We caught..maids, silver fish, congers. 1852 GORDON in *Zoologist* X. 3458 Common Sea Bream...In 1849 many were caught by the fishermen, who gave them the name of 'Siller-fish'. 1884 GOODE *Nat. Hist. Aquat. Anim.* 611 The Tarpum .. is the 'Silver-Fish' of Pensacola. 1888 STEARNS in Goode *Amer. Fishes* 407 The Silver fish or Grande Ecaille, is common everywhere on the Gulf coast.

2. An insect of the genus *Lepisma*, esp. *L. saccharina* or *domestica*; a bristletail or springtail.

1855 *Lardner's Museum Sci. & Art* VI. 62 A little insect, vulgarly called the *silver-fish*, or the *silver-lady*,..usually found in damp and mouldy cupboards, and in old wood-work. 1879 JEFFERIES *Wild Life* 96 Some tall volume which he ..bent over with such delight, heedless of dust and silver-fish and the gathered odour of years. 1893 *Academy* 7 Oct. 292/1 The pest of all book lovers, the 'silver-fish' or 'silver coloured book-worm'.

Silver-foil. [SILVER *sb.* 8.] Also **silver foil.** Silver beaten out thin; silver-leaf.

1439–40 *Norwich Sacrist's Roll* (MS.), Pro thurificacione ..cum sylverfoile circumsparso. 1499 in T. Sharp *Dissert. Cov. Myst.* (1825) 35 For colours and gold foyle & sylver foyle for iiij capps. 1565 COOPER *Thesaurus* s.v. *Argenteus*, *Argenteum folium*, siluerfoile. 1685 COLE in *Ray's Lett.* (1718) 197 Some..covered with a superficies as thin, and exactly of the Colour of silver Foil. 1835 *Partington's Brit. Cycl. Arts* II. 695/1 While the artist draws the paper from between the silver foil and the glass. 1883 HARDWICH *Photogr. Chem.* 103 To illustrate its action in that particular,..place pieces of silver-foil in two test-tubes.

Silver-footed, *a. poet.* [f. SILVER *sb.* 17, after the Homeric ἀργυρόπεζα as an epithet of Thetis.] Having silvery feet; white-footed. Often *fig.*

1620 MIDDLETON & ROWLEY *World Tost at Tennis* Induct. 34 By her side The silver-footed Thamesis doth slide. 1646 G. DANIEL *Poems* Wks. (Grosart) I. 94 Yet Silver-footed Peace may blesse our feilds. 1685 DRYDEN *Sylvæ* II. 50 By silver footed Thetis thou wert won For fierce Achilles. 1718 POPE *Iliad* XVI. 702 Who, chas'd for Murder thence, a Suppliant came To Peleus, and the silver-footed Dame. 1747 MALLET *Amyntor & Theodora* Wks. 1759 I. 124 The silver-footed dews. 1818 KEATS *Endym.* III. 51 The ministring stars..Waiting for silver-footed messages. 1870 BRYANT *Iliad* I. i. 30 The silver-footed Thetis has contrived To o'erpersuade thee.

Silver gilt. Also **silver-gilt.**

1. Gilt silver or silverware.

1422 in *E. E. Wills* (1882) 50 Also I bequeth to Ionet Knolles a stondyng cuppe of siluer gilte couered. 1487 *Paston Lett.* III. 463 A playn standing cupp of silver gilt. 1533 *Act 24 Hen. VIII*, c. 13 No man shall weare..any maner aglettes, buttons, broches of golde or silver gilte. 1583 STUBBES *Anat. Abus.* II. (1882) 25 Some will not sticke to sell you siluer gilt for gold. 1684 EVELYN *Diary* 17 Dec., Cover'd with chaines of silver gilt. 1844 A. P. DE LISLE in E. Purcell *Life* (1900) I. vii. 123 In the sacristy is the shrine of St. Engelbert made of silver gilt. 1886 *Guide Exhib. Galleries Brit. Mus.* 180 A group of horsemen and prostrate figure, beaten out in silver gilt. Found at Perugia.

fig. 1871 M. COLLINS *Marq. & Merch.* I. iv. 133 Amy.. was pure gold: Angelina..was only silver-gilt.

b. *attrib.* or as *adj.* Made of silver gilt.

1705 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4099/1 The Envoy was served in Silver-Gilt Plate. 1842 LOVER *Handy Andy* xlvii, He sported a silver-gilt snuff-box which was presented to him. 1895 JEWITT & HOPE *Corporation Plate* I. 240 The earliest pieces in point of date are the magnificent silver-gilt rose-water dish and ewer.

2. An imitation of gilding, consisting of silver-foil varnished with a yellow lacquer.

1891 in *Cent. Dict.*

So † **Silver-gilted** *a. Obs.*–1

1560–1 *Will of M. Bisset* (Somerset Ho.), My silver gilted caul with chains.

Silver-glance. Also **silver glance.** [ad. G. *silberglanz*: see GLANCE *sb.*2] A variety of silver ore; argentite.

1805 R. JAMESON *Min.* II. 155 Silver-glance...Colour dark blackish lead-grey. 1808 *Ibid.* III. 267 Silver-glance..is one of the most common and abundant of the silver-ores. 1856 DANA *Min.* (ed. 3) 94 Silver Glance.., when pure, consists of 86·5 parts of silver, and 13·5 parts of sulphur. 1877 RAYMOND *Statist. Mines & Mining* 214 The metallic contents are..ruby silver, brittle silver, and sulphide of silver or silver-glance.

Silver grain. Also **silver-grain.** [SILVER *sb.* and GRAIN *sb.*1 15.] (See quot. 1882.)

1801 [see GRAIN *sb.*1 15]. 1832 *Planting* 8 in *Lib. Usef. Kn., Husb.* III, The wood of the elm..is distinguished by having the medullary rays, or silver grain, equal, and not crowded. 1858 CARPENTER *Veg. Phys.* § 99 The thin plates which they form..are known to carpenters and cabinet-makers as the silver grain. 1882a VINES tr. *Sachs' Bot.* 131 If a thick stem is split longitudinally, the rays have the appearance, in many close woods, of glistening bands (the 'Silver-grain'), traversing the prosenchymatous woody tissue in a radial direction.

Silver grass. Also **silver-grass.** [cf. G. *silbergras.*] One or other of various species of grass, *esp.*: a. The striped or ribbon-grass. b. The Australasian grasses *Danthonia pallida*, and *Poa cæspitosa*. Also c. *dial.* The silverweed.

1600 R. SURFLET *Countrie Farme* II. xlii. 261 Siluer-grasse (so called, because the leaues doe resemble siluer on the backe side) doth delight in a moist and grassie ground. 1633 T. JOHNSON *Gerarde's Herbal* 18 Round headed Siluer-grasse. At the top of the stalks..there grow two or three round heads consisting of soft and white downie threds. *Ibid.*, The heade of this (which I haue thought good to call Siluer-grasse). 1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss., Silver-grass*, striped grass; common in gardens. 1889 MAIDEN *Useful Plants* 82 *Danthonia pallida*,.. Silver Grass. 1893 *Wiltsh. Gloss.* 144 Silver-fern or Silver-grass, *Potentilla Anserina.*

Silver-grey, *a.* and *sb.* [SILVER *sb.* 19.]

A. *adj.* Of a silvery or silver-flecked grey colour; also, having silvery grey hair.

1607 BARKSTED *Mirrha* (1876) 22 You blushing girles, and parents siluer-gray. 1686 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 2121/4 Lost a fine large silver grey Mare. 1785 SMELLIE *Buffon's Nat. Hist.* (1791) VII. 272 The silver-gray fox of North America ..is the isatis. 1810 *Sporting Mag.* XXXVI. 102 A silver-grey cock belonging to Mr. John Angood. 1857 DUFFERIN *Lett. High Lat.* (ed. 3) 268 The silver-grey ridges of gneiss and mica slate that hem in the Nordland shore. 1897 MARY KINGSLEY *W. Africa* 177 Wreaths and clouds of silver-gray mist.

B. *sb.* a. A silvery grey colour.

1712 tr. *Pomet's Hist. Drugs* I. 16 These little Insects.. are of a Silver Grey. 1792 BURNS *The Posie* v, The hawthorn .. wi' it's locks o' siller grey. 1864 TENNYSON *The Ringlet* 6 Never chilling touch of Time Will turn it silver-gray. 1907 MABEL PEACOCK *Lincolnshire Rhymes* 43 Because his hair has caught A touch of silver-gray.

b. *U.S. Politics.* (See quot. 1859.)

1856 *Household Wds.* 9 Aug. 86 Silver-gray..politically means a worshipper of the past,—a hoary-headed conservative. 1859 BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.* (ed. 2), *Silver Grays.* This term originated in the State of New York, and was applied to the conservative portion of the Whig party...It was observed that many were men whose locks were silvered by age, which drew forth the remark from some one present, 'There go the silver grays!'

c. A variety of Dorking fowl having silvery grey plumage.

1889 E. BROWN *Poultry* 45 Silver Greys.—This is perhaps the most beautiful of all the Dorking tribe.

Silver-haired, *a.* [SILVER *sb.* 17.]

1. Having hair silvered with age. Also *fig.*

1665 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* (1677) 148 Such..as have a due esteem of Silver-hair'd Antiquity. 1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* xiii, The same tall, thin, silver-haired turnkey, whom he had seen on the preceding evening. 1890 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Col. Reformer* (1891) 147 He made the acquaintance of more than one silver-haired pioneer.

2. Having hair naturally of a silvery colour.

1678 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1301/4 Mounted upon a brown silver-haired Gelding. 1766 *Compl. Farmer* s.v. *Rabbit*, The skins of the silver-haired ones [rabbits] sell better than any other. 1827 GRIFFITH tr. *Cuvier* V. 26 *Simia Lagothrix Canus* (Silver-haired Monkey). 1836 SIR G. HEAD *Home Tour* 248 Rabbits..of a description called by the poulterers 'silver-haired', that is to say black with a sprinkling of white hairs, more or less. 1893 LYDEKKER *Roy. Nat. Hist.* I. 279 The silver-haired bat has the most northern range of any American species.

Silver-headed, *a.* [SILVER *a.* 17.]

1. = SILVER-HAIRED 1.

1643 A. ROSS *Mel Helic.* 128 Silver-headed age, which bows The back. 1797–1805 S. & HT. LEE *Canterb. T.* I. 378 A silver-headed domestic..stood near. 1848 DICKENS *Dombey* XXX, The silver-headed butler had withdrawn.

2. Headed with silver.

1759 STERNE *Tr. Shandy* I. x, Garnished with a double row of silver-headed studs.

Silver-hilted, *a.* [SILVER *sb.* 17.] Of a sword: Having the hilt of silver.

1002 in Thorpe *Dipl. Angl. Sax.* (1865) 544 Twa seolfor-hilted sweord. 1596 J. DAVIES *Epigr.* ii, A silver-hilted rapier by his side. 1690 LUTTRELL *Brief Rel.* (1857) II. 111 Our men..found among them 50 silver hilted swords. 1842 BORROW *Bible in Spain* xl, The famous Sheppard.. when he appeared in public generally wore a silver-hilted sword at his side. 1887 MORRIS *Odyssey* X. 262 My war-sword silver-hilted.

Si·lveriness. [f. SILVERY *a.* + -NESS.] Silvery quality or character.

Cf. Sc. '*Sillerieness*, richness in regard to money' in Jamieson *Suppl.* (1825).

1856 MEREDITH *Shav. Shagpat* 352 None of earth were like to them in silveriness. *c* 1875 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* III. 103 A fourth excels in the silveriness of his voice. 1885 *Westmorl. Gaz.* 17 Oct. 2/1 Salmon, whose silveriness had vanished by a month or two's living in the fresh water.

Si·lvering, *vbl. sb.* [f. SILVER *v.* + -ING 1.]

1. The action of the vb. in various senses.

1738 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Paper*, Silvering of paper, as it is called, is another secret among the Chinese, practised [etc.]. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. *App.* s.v., Silvering..is a species of gilding. 1825 J. NICHOLSON *Operat. Mechanic* 728 To plate Looking-Glasses.—This art is erroneously termed silvering. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 592 The silvering of plane mirrors consists in applying a layer of tin-foil alloyed with mercury to their posterior surface. 1883 *Science* II. 60/2 On some occasions the silvering has been done at night.

b. *attrib.*, as *silvering bath, process, room.*

1855 *Orr's Circle Sci., Pract. Chem.* 13 Any of the well-known silvering compositions. *Ibid.* 41 Iron boilers..in close proximity to the silvering-room. 1872 E. SPON *Workshop Rec.* Ser. I. 171/2 If the pieces..are plunged into a gilding or silvering bath.

2. *concr.* Silver plating; a coating of silver, silver nitrate, or quicksilver.

1710 *Tatler* No. 245 ¶ 2 A silver cheese-toaster with three tongues, an ebony handle, and silvering at the end. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. *App.* s.v., The quick-silver thus laid on..will make a fine silvering. 1832 BABBAGE *Econ. Manuf.* xvi. (ed. 3) 149 If the silvering is injured, it can.. be re-silvered. 1873 E. SPON *Workshop Rec.* Ser. I. 209/1 Should a first silvering not be found sufficiently durable,.. apply a second or third coat.

Si·lvering, *ppl. a.* [f. SILVER *v.* + -ING 2.] That silvers; making or becoming silvery.

1801 SOUTHEY *Thalaba* VI. xxiv, The very light came cool'd through silvering panes Of pearly shell. 1818 MILMAN *Samor* 264 Eamont..Went laughing down its sunny silvering course. 1873 G. C. DAVIES *Mount. & Mere* IV. 24 Beneath the silvering willows.

Si·lverish, *a. rare.* [f. SILVER *sb.* + -ISH.] Silver-hued, silvery; † containing silver.

1530 PALSGR. 324/1 Sylveryssh, *argentin.* 1648 HEXHAM II, *Zilverachtigh*,..Silverish, or full of Silver. 1747 *Phil. Trans.* XLIV. 503 The Crystal or Oriental Pebble..is of a silverish Hue. 1890 *Harper's Mag.* Oct. 739/1 His eyes were a bright silverish blue.

Si·lverism. [f. SILVER *sb.* + -ISM.] The policy of adopting a silver standard for coinage.

1895 *Forum* Feb. 674 The panic of 1893 was due to two social crazes—silverism and protectionism. 1896 *Westm. Gaz.* 14 July 9/2 The Chicago Convention has..carried Silverism to a reckless extreme.

Silverist. *rare.* = next.

1879 *Madras Mail* 5 Dec. 3 The..Yankee, who thought he had converted the great Chancellor from the evil of his golden ways, and made him a silverist.

Si·lverite. Chiefly *U.S.* [f. SILVER *sb.* + -ITE.] An advocate of a silver monetary standard.

1886 *Science* VII. 267 The attempt is made to cast a slur upon the 'silverites' by calling them inflationists. 1892 *Nation* 28 Apr. 313/2 The silverites contribute to the gayety of nations from time to time.

Si·lverize, *v. rare.* [f. SILVER *sb.* + -IZE.] *trans.* To silver; to treat with a preparation of silver; to render silvery in colour.

a 1618 SYLVESTER *Quadrains of Pibrac* cxix. Wks. (Grosart) II. 34 When like age shall silverize thy Tresse. 1808 JAMIESON, *Silverize*, to cover with silver-leaf. 1832 H. SMITH *Poet. Misc.* 29 He had glaz'd the streamlet o'er,..And silveris'd the bow'r. 1864 WEBSTER s.v. *Silverize*, This word and its derivatives are much used by photographers in reference to daguerreotype plates; as, a silverized plate.

Silver lead. Also **silver-lead.**

†1. A composition of lead and tin. *Obs.*

1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* II. 517 There is another deuise to sophisticate tin, to wit, by mixing white and blacke lead one with another.., and this maslen some call at this day, siluer lead or argentine.

2. Silver in combination with lead, esp. in the form of ore. Chiefly *attrib.*

1860 PIESSE *Lab. Chem. Wonders* 80 Small portions are also obtained from the silver-lead mines of 'Old England'. 1877 RAYMOND *Statist. Mines & Min.* 227 The mines.. possess as much..value as those of any other silver-lead camp on the coast. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* IV. 111/2 A button of silver lead is the result. *Ibid.*, The assay of silver lead ores.

Silver-leaf. Also **silver leaf.** [SILVER *sb.*]

1. Silver beaten out thin; silver-foil.

1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.*, *Silver-Leaf*, is that the Gold-beaters have reduced into fine, thin Leaves, to be used by Gilders, &c. 1780 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 2) V. 3300/1 In this manner silver-leaf is fixed and burnished upon brass in the making of what is called *French plate.* 1843 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* I. 376 In the instances of tin-foil, gold and silver leaf, and

some others, the hammer is again resorted to after the metals have been rolled. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 995/2 A yellow, transparent varnish spread over silver-leaf to give it the appearance of gold.

b. A single piece of this.

1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Couch*, The Gilders use Couch for the Quantity of Gold or Silver Leaves applied on the Metals in gilding or silvering. 1799 G. SMITH *Laboratory* I. 195 You may lay on the gold or silver leaves with brandy. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 1240 A silver leaf is sometimes laid over the knots in superior work.

2. A tree or plant having silvery leaves, as the white poplar. Also *attrib.*, having silvery leaves.

1846-50 A. WOOD *Class-bk. Bot.* 507 Abele or Silver-leaf Poplar. 1881 *Gentl. Mag.* Jan. 66 Silver-leaf iron-bark country is always in high repute for grazing. 1889 MAIDEN *Useful Pl.* 363 *Acacia pendula*,..Boree,or Silver-leaf Boree.

3. *local.* Some disease or blight in plants.

1890 BLACKMORE *Kit & Kitty* III. ii, 27 Blister in a peach, or silver-leaf, or shanking in grapes.

Silver-leaved, *a.* Also -leafed. [SILVER *sb.* 17.] Having silvery leaves.

1731 MILLER *Gard. Dict.* s.v. *Coronilla*, Silver-leav'd.. Colutea of Candia. 1822 *Hortus Anglicus* II. 231 *A. Barba Jovis.* Silver-leaved Anthyllis, or Jupiter's Beard. 1831 TENNYSON in *Gem* 131 With..drooping daffodilly, And silver-leaved lily,..I wove a crown. 1881 *Gentl. Mag.* Jan. 66 The silver-leafed variety [of iron-bark trees] is more ornamental than useful. 1889 MAIDEN *Useful Plants* 492 *Eucalyptus melanophloia*,..Silver-leaved Ironbark.

Si·lverless, *a.* Also 8–9 *Sc.* siller-. [f. SILVER *sb.* + -LESS.] Without money; having no money.

c 1325 *Pol. Songs* (Camden) 324 Voiz of clerk is sielde i-herd at the Court of Rome,..silverles if he come. 1393 LANGL. *P. Pl.* C. x. 119 He sente hem forth seluerles in a somer garnement. 1737 RAMSAY *Sc. Prov.* (1750) 14 A silverless man gangs fast thro' the market. 1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* xxvi, Ye maunna gang this wilfu' gate sillerless, come o't what like. *a* 1837 NICOLL *Poems* (1842) 96 Folk silverless may ca' us,—We ha'e unco little gear.

Silver-like, *a.* [f. SILVER *sb.* + -LIKE.] Resembling silver in colour or substance.

1611 COTGR., *Argentin*, argentine, siluerie, of siluer, siluerlike. 1674 N. FAIRFAX *Bulk & Selv.* 131 A roping, tough, silver-like thread of seed. 1684 LISTER in *Phil. Trans.* XIV. 745 Sand..with Mica of..Silver like, Gold like [particles]. 1849 D. CAMPBELL *Inorg. Chem.* 133 Calcium is a white silver-like metal. 1900 *Academy* 30 June 556/1 Silver-like his naked limbs.

Si·lverling. Now *arch.* [ad. G. *silberling* (OHG. *silabarling*), Du. *zilverling.*] A shekel.

1526 TINDALE *Acts* xix. 19 They counted the price of them and founde it fifty thousande silverlynges. 1535 COVERDALE *Isaiah* vii. 23 Though there be a thousand vynes in one, and were solde for a thousand siluerlinges. *c* 1592 MARLOWE *Jew of Malta* I, Here haue I purst their paltry siluerlings. 1641 J. TRAPPE *Theol. Theol.* Ep. Ded. A 4, Every of them for the fruits thereof, was to bring a thousand silverlings. 1740 POCOCKE *Theol. Wks.* II. 120/1 These are called *Cesaphim*, pieces of silver, or Silverlings. 1873 KINGSBURY in *Speaker's Comment.* IV. 698/2 At least two hundred silverlings should be theirs.

Si·lverly, *adv.* [f. SILVER *sb.* + -LY 2.]

1. With a silvery appearance or colour.

1595 SHAKS. *John* v. ii. 46 Let me wipe off this honourable dewe, That siluerly doth progresse on thy cheekes. 1818 KEATS *Endym.* I. 541 This river..begins to progress silverly Around the western border of the wood. 1844 MRS. BROWNING *Drama Exile* 1397 Ask, if I caught not fair and silverly His blessing. 1871 R. BROWNING *Pr. Hohenstiel* 1144 On you glide Silverly till you reach the summit edge, Then over.

2. With a silvery sound.

1752 C. SMART *Omniscience of Supreme Being* 7 Cherubic Gratitude, whose voice To pious ears sounds silverly so sweet. 1820 KEATS *Hyperion* II. 128 When other harmonies, stopt short, Leave the dinn'd air vibrating silverly. 1888 MRS. H. WARD *R. Elsmere* 368 Midnight! the sounds rolled silverly out.

Silver mine: see SILVER *sb.* 9.

Silvern (si·lvəɹn), *a.* Now *poet.* and *arch.* Forms: *a.* 1 seol(o)fren, seolfryn, selfren, 3 selvren; 1 seolfern, 3 seoluern, 4 seluern. *β.* 1 syl(o)fren, silfren, 5 sylvryn; 4–5 syl·, silueren(e, 5 cil-, silueryn, siluern(e, 6–7 silverne, 6– silvern. [OE. *seolfren, silfren*, etc., = OFris. *selvirn*, MDu. *sil-, selverijn, sulveren* (Du. *zilveren*, dial. *zulveren*), OS. *silu-, silobrin* (MLG. *sulveren*, LG. *sülvern, silvern*), OHG. *silbarîn, silberîn* (G. *silbern*), Goth. *silubreins*: see SILVER *sb.* and -EN 4.]

1. Made of silver; consisting of silver.

a. c 888 K. ÆLFRED *Boeth.* xxxiv. § 8 Þa gyldenan stanas, & þa seolfrenan. *a* 900 *O. E. Martyrol.* 29 Aug., Hi plezodon mid gyldenum applum on selfrenum disce. *a* 1122 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1070, Hi namen þære twa gildene scrines & ix seolferne. *c* 1205 LAY. 22783 Þa bollen seoluerne mid wine iuulled. *c* 1285 in *Anglia* IV. 194 Mid selvrene stikke me shal gold graven. *c* 1350 *Leg. Rood* 29 Þat he wuste bi þe seluerne byȝe.

β. a 1000 *Boeth. Metr.* xxi, 21 Gylden maðm, sylofren sincstan. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 6145 Þe folk of israel to boru Asked siluеren vessel sere. 1382 WYCLIF *Gen.* xlv. 22 To Beniamyn he ȝaf thre hundryd siluеren þens. 1420 *E. E. Wills* (1882) 42 My Sylvryn Gyrdyll to Thomas Pertnale. 1597 A. M. tr. *Guillemeau's Fr. Chirurg.* 26/3 In the which wound, we must impose a silvern or goulden pipe. 1616 J. LANE *Contn. Sqr.'s T.* VII. 227 White silverne swoord, and in his hand a pike. 1863 GROSART *Small Sins* (ed. 2) 37 Not a bell, silvern or golden, but was 'holy'. 1897 F. THOMPSON *New Poems* 70 Make me chainlets, silvern, golden.

fig. 1831 CARLYLE *Sart. Res.* III. iii, As the Swiss Inscription says: *Sprechen ist silbern, Schweigen ist golden* (Speech is silvern, Silence is golden). 1868 *Silent Hour* i. 4 Speech is, after all, not the silvern but the golden thing, when rightly used.

b. *Silvern wedding*, = silver wedding (SILVER *sb.* 21).

1880 *Daily Telegr.* 29 Dec. 5/4 Silvern Weddings are celebrations of tolerably frequent occurrence nowadays.

2. Silver-coloured. *rare.*

1885 *Harper's Mag.* Apr. 815/2 Silvern as a silver bream. 1885 O. CRAWFURD *Woman's Reputation* i, The little Ringwood brook.., a silvern thread amid the green meadow-land.

Si·lverness, *nonce-wd.* [f. SILVER *sb.* + -NESS.] The essential quality of silver.

1862 F. HALL *Hindu Philos. Syst.* 168 Instead of perceiving nacreness, he transfers the silverness..to the nacre lying in his sight.

Silver ore. Also silver-ore. [SILVER *sb.*] An ore containing silver. *Dark red silver ore*, pyrargyrite. *Light red silver ore*, proustite.

1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 16 Engelonde is vol ino3..Of seluer or & of gold. *c* 1325 *Pol. Songs* (Camden) 338 He fareth in a while as thouh he hadde silver ore. *c* 1350 in Horstm. *Altengl. Leg.* (1881) 150 Men þat soght for siluer ore, Within þe erth so gun þai crepe. *Ibid.*, Oþer mynours þeder fore For to seke þam sylуer ure. 14.. *Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 596 *Mineria*, a myne *vel* Ore.., as..syluer ore, etc. 1454 *Rolls of Parlt.* V. 272 Many mynes of silver oures. 1670 PETTUS *Fodinæ Reg.* 2 The Metal which is digged from those Veins is called Oar, as Silver oar. 1789 J. WILLIAMS *Min. Kingd.* I. 257 The cobalt was last of all cut out below by silver ore. 1796 KIRWAN *Elem. Min.* (ed. 2) II. 122 Red Silver Ore.—This species is denominated *Red* chiefly from the colour of its streak. 1805 R. JAMESON *Min.* II. 177 Black Silver-Ore... Colour iron-black. 1834-6 *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) VIII. 414/1 Silver ores, properly so called, are very rare in England. 1837 DANA *Min.* 417 Brittle Silver Ore, *Lunites rhombicus. Ibid.* 425 Flexible Silver Ore, *Elasmites rhomboideus.* 1877 RAYMOND *Statist. Mines & Min.* 443, I have roasted nearly four thousand tons of silver-ore during the past year.

Silver paper. Also silver-paper.

1. A fine white tissue-paper.

1817 BYRON *Beppo* lvii, The..frontispiece of a new Magazine,..Colour'd, and silver paper leaved between That and the title-page. 1851 MAYHEW *London Lab.* I. 374/1 Those gown-pieces..are almost as thin as silver-paper. 1873 MISS BROUGHTON *Nancy* II. 246 As if I had just emerged from the manifold silver papers of a bandbox.

attrib. 1854 MRS. GASKELL *North & South* iii, The pear, which he had delicately peeled in one long strip of silver-paper thinness.

2. Paper covered with silver-foil.

1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2186/1.

3. *Phot.* Paper sensitized with a silver solution.

1898 H. MACLEAN *Photogr. Print. Process* xvi. 139 Those known as silver papers, such as gelatino-chloride, collodio-chloride, albumenised, and bromide papers.

Silver plate. Also silver-plate.

1. A thin flat piece of silver.

1526 TINDALE *Matt.* xxvii. 5 And he cast doune the syl-ver plates in the temple and departed. 1563 *Homilies* II. *Agst. Idolatry* I. F f j, Shall the goldsmyth couer hym with golde and caste hym into a fourme of syluer plates? 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Silver*, A Tincture of Silver {made} by dissolving thin Silver Plates..in Spirit of Nitre. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XV. 37/2 The ring..is first tinned, and then the silver-plate is gently hammered upon it. 1845 *Athenæum* 203 The delicately sensitive film which is formed on the silver plate in the Daguerréotype process. 1865 *Chambers's Encycl.* VII. 509/1 The sensibility of the silver plate was still further increased by Mr. Goddard.

b. A silver dish in the form of a plate.

1710 *Tatler* No. 245 ¶ 2 A broad brimmed flat silver plate for sugar with Rhenish wine.

2. *collect.* Vessels or utensils made of silver.

1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* (1637) 184 Pewter vessels ..compared with silver plate. *a* 1653 GOUGE *Comm. Heb.* xiii. 1 As silver-plate cleared is counted new, so this Commandment. 1717 RAMSAY *Elegy on Lucky Wood* iv, Her peuther glanc'd..Like siller plate. 1851-4 *Tomlinson's Cycl. Useful Arts* (1867) II. 531/1 The alloy of silver and copper used..for the manufacture of silver-plate. 1861 PATTISON *Ess.* (1889) I. 45 Round the apartment..was displayed in close array the silver and pewter plate.

Comb. 1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* X. 469 Areta, his siluer plate keeper.

Silver-scaled, *a.* [f. SILVER *sb.* 17.] Having silvery scales.

1430-40 LYDG. *Bochas* VIII. XXV. (1558) 18 Bryght siluer scaled domageth the dragon. *c* 1450 — *Secrees* 674 Whysperyng-tounges of taast moost serpentyn, Silvir scalyd whoos mouth is ful of blood. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* XII. Prol. 55 The syluer scalyt fyschis on the greit. 1653 WALTON *Angler* i. 37 The silver-scaled fish that softly swim Within the sweet brooks chrystal, watry stream. 1827 SCOTT *Highl. Widow* v, Will the ocean afford you the silver-scaled salmon of the Awe? 1861 W. F. COLLIER *Hist. Eng. Lit.* 403 A silver-scaled twenty-pounder.

Silversmith (si·lvəɹsmiþ). [f. SILVER *sb.* Cf. MDu. *silver-, selver-, sulversmit* (Du. *zilversmid*), OHG. *silbir-, silbersmit* (G. *silberschmied*), Sw. *silfversmed*; ON. *silfrsmiðr*, MSw. *silfsmiþer.*] A worker in silver; one who makes silverware.

a 1000 *Colloq. Ælfric* in Wr.-Wülcker 99 Ic hæbbe..isenesmiþas, goldsmiþ, seolforsmiþ. 1382 WYCLIF *Wisd.* xv. 9 That me spute with gold smythis, and siluer smythis. 1534 TINDALE *Acts* xix. 24 Demetrius, a silversmyth [1526 gold-smyth], which made silver schrynes for Diana. 1706 PHILLIPS (ed. 6), *Silver-smith*, one that makes all sorts of Silver and Gold-Plate. 1794 LD. AUCKLAND *Corr.* (1862) III. 250, I wrote to you on the 9th of this month a sort of silversmith's letter. 1827 SOUTHEY *Hist. Penins. War* II. 476 Silversmiths were forbidden to purchase any articles in silver. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* IV. 146 The productions of the silversmith are principally the result of hammering.

Silver-tongued, *a.* [f. SILVER *sb.* 17.] Having a pleasant or melodious utterance; sweet-spoken; eloquent.

1592 NASHE *P. Penilesse* Wks. (Grosart) II. 61 Siluer-tongu'd Smith, whose well tun'd stile hath made thy death the generall teares of the Muses. 1618 VICARS *Commend. Verses* in *Sylvester's Wks.* (Grosart) I. 10/2 Admired Silver-Tongued Sylvester. 1713 WARDER *True Amazons* 17 Relying too much upon the silver-tongued Virgil. 1827 POLLOK *Course of Time* VII. (1860) 178 Silver-tongued Hope Promised another harvest. 1851 D. JERROLD *St. Giles* xv. 150 He—good, silver-tongued man—heeded not the miserable jest.

Silver-tree. Also silver tree.

1. A tree with silvery lanceolate leaves (*Leucadendron argenteum*), native to Cape Colony.

1731 MEDLEY *Kolben's Cape G. Hope* II. 224 The Silver Tree...These trees..are, particularly, much seen about Constantia. 1785 G. FORSTER tr. *Sparrman's Voy. Cape G. Hope* (1786) I. 32 The silver-tree, as it is called, exhibited the whole year throughout its glossy white, or silver gray leaves. 1845-50 MRS. LINCOLN *Lect. Bot.* 145 The Silver-tree (*Protea argentea*) has soft leaves resembling satin, of a silver colour. 1893 K. SANBORN *S. California* 159 To S. Africa they are indebted for the silver tree.

2. A West Indian tree or shrub belonging to the genus *Eugenia.*

1756 P. BROWNE *Jamaica* (1789) 240 The shrubby Philadelphus, with Myrtle leaves; or the Silver Tree...This little tree is frequent in the red hills.

3. An Australian forest-tree.

1889 MAIDEN *Useful Pl.* 604 *Tarrietia argyrodendron*,.. Silver Tree.

Si·lverware. [SILVER *sb.*] Articles, esp. tableware, made of silver.

1860 RUSKIN *Unto this Last* iv. § 57, I very seriously inquire why ironware is produce, and silverware is not? 1892 GUNTER *Miss Dividends* (1893) 17 The supper table with its fruit, flowers, crystal, silverware and decorated china.

Si·lverweed. Also silver-weed, silverweed. [SILVER *sb.* Cf. Du. *zilverkruid*, G. *silberkraut.*]

1. A common wayside plant of the genus *Potentilla* (*P. anserina*) with prostrate rooting stems and silvery leaves; goose-grass or wild tansy.

1578 LYTE *Dodoens* 86 This herbe is now called..in English Wilde Tansie or Siluer weede. 1605 TIMME *Quersit.* III. 181 Let them be steeped or infused in water of siluer weed, called wilde tansey, and of parietory of the wall. 1671 PHILLIPS (ed. 3), *Silverweed*, an herb called in Latin *Argentina.* 1712 J. JAMES tr. *Le Blond's Gardening* 187 Silver-Weed, Bull-Rushes, and other aquatick Herbs. 1782 J. SCOTT *Poet. Wks.* 12 Comfry white, and hoary silver-weed. 1832 *Veg. Subst. Food of Man* 182 Silver-weed..growing in some parts of Scotland..in times of scarcity made a substitute for bread. 1863 *Gardener's Chron.* 23 May 493 The Silver Weed is a great pest in the arable field, and especially where some damp spots remain. 1886 JEFFERIES *Gt. Estate* 129 Underfoot..the silverweed opened its yellow petals.

2. (See quots.)

1796 WITHERING *Brit. Pl.* II. 326 *Sibbaldia procumbens*.., Procumbent Silver-weed. 1848 CRAIG, *Argyreia*, Silver-weed. An East Indian genus of plants, so named from the silvery appearance of their leaves.

Silver-white, *a.* and *sb.* [SILVER *sb.*]

A. *adj.* Of a silvery whiteness.

1588 SHAKS. *L. L. L.* v. ii. 905 Ladies,smockes all siluer white. 1715 ROWE *Lady Jane Grey* IV. i, Say thou, whose Head is grown thus Silver White. 1810 CRABBE *Borough* xiii. 31 His hair all silver-white, Shaking and shining. 1864 SKEAT tr. *Uhland's Poems* 2 Buoyed on clouds all silver-white.

B. *sb.* 1. *local.* The white trout or finnoc.

1834 *Proc. Berw. Nat. Club* I. 51 This fish I consider to be..the Silver White of the Tweed tacksmen. 1882 DAY *Fishes Gt. Brit.* II. 85 White-salmon..is locally known as ..whiting, phinock, moudie-trout, silverwhite.

2. A pure white lead used by artists; Chinese white.

1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2772/1 Kremnitz white, krems white, and silver white are synonyms of white-lead.

Silver wire. Also silver-wire. [SILVER *sb.*] Wire made from silver. Also with *a* and pl.

14.. *Lat.-Eng. Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 565 *Argentifilum*, sylver wyre. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.*, *Silver-Wire*, is Silver drawn thro' the Holes of a Wire-drawing-Iron, and by this Means reduced to the Fineness of a Thread or Hair. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 21/2 When leaf-silver or fine silver-wire is heated by voltaic electricity, it burns with a fine green flame. 1879 *Encycl. Brit.* X. 754/1 The..silver wire being, of course, composed of pure silver. 1884 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* Suppl. 728/2 A porous jar..surrounded by a silver wire.

attrib. 1849 NOAD *Electricity* 203 Chloride of silver.. decomposed by silver-wire poles. 1879 *St. George's Hosp. Rep.* IX. 617 A portion was then removed from the middle line, and the edges united again by silver-wire sutures.

Hence **Silver-wiry** *a.*

1891 HARDY *Tess* (1900) 9/2 Elderly women.., their silver-wiry hair and wrinkled faces.

Silver-wood. [SILVER *sb.*] One or other of several West Indian trees and shrubs (see quot. 1864).

1693 in *Phil. Trans.* XVII. 620 The Silver-wood or White-wood, called by our Author *Leucoxylum*, is by him supposed the same with the white Brasil. 1725 SLOANE *Jamaica* II. 78 Silver-Wood. This tree..has an almost smooth grey bark, with some very white spots on it. 1864 GRISEBACH *Flora Brit. W. Ind.* 787/2 Silver-wood, *Guet-*

tarda argentea, Zuelania lætioides, and *Mouriria myrtilloides*.

Silver-work. [SILVER *sb.* Cf. MDu. *silver-, sulverwerc* (Du. *silverwerk*), MLG. *sulverwerk, -wark*, MHG. and G. *silberwerk*.]

1. Articles made of silver; silver vessels or ornaments; silverware. † Also *pl.*

1535 COVERDALE *Isaiah* xxx. 22 Yf ye destroye the syluer workes of youre Idols. 1538 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* VII. 87 All furnist chaip and ruvell witht silver werk. 1648 HEXHAM II. s.v. *Zilver-werck*, Plate or Silver-worke to serve at a table. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s.v. *Silver*, Silver works, as spurs, wrought hilts, &c. are boiled in salt, alum and argol, to give it a whiteness and clearness. 1820 SCOTT *Monast.* xvi, Every bit of..silver work have we been spoiled of since Pinkie Cleuch. 1899 *Daily News* 16 May 8/4 The artificer may be seen at work in the room in which Messrs. Liberty show the silverwork.

2. A place where silver is smelted.

1674 RAY *Collect. Wds., Smelting Silver* 119 The History of these Silver-works may be seen in Dr. Fullers *Worthies of Wales*, General, p. 3.

† **Silverwort.** *Obs.*—° = SILVERWEED 1.

1611 FLORIO, *Atandsi*, tansie or siluerwort.

† **Silvery,** *sb. nonce-wd.* [f. SILVER *sb.*] = Silver sickness (SILVER *sb.* 21).

1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) III. 335 þanne oon of þe peple cride and seide, 'It is no squynacie but silverie [*v.r.* selvery] that it aillep'.

Silvery (sĭ·lvəri), *a.* [f. SILVER *sb.* + -Y. Cf. Du. *sulverich, zilverich*, G. *silberig*.]

1. Having the hue or lustre of silver.

1611 COTGR., *Argentin*, argentine, siluerie. 1704 PETIVER *Gazophyl.* iii. § 26 This is a flat edible Fish,..Silvery above and brown below. 1742 POPE *Dunciad* IV. 421 Of all th' enamell'd race, whose silv'ry wing Waves to the tepid Zephyrs of the spring, Or swims along the fluid atmosphere. 1796 TWINING *Trav. India*, etc. (1892) 2 His thin silvery locks curled round the collar of his old-fashioned..coat. 1812 J. WILSON *Isle of Palms* I. 86 While yet the silvery glory lies, Above the sparkling foam. 1857 LIVINGSTONE *Trav. S. Africa* viii. 167 This bush has fine silvery leaves. 1886 RUSKIN *Præterita* I. 290 One small bright silvery likeness of a cloud.

b. *Silvery iron*, an inferior kind of pig-iron, more commonly called *white iron*.

1861 SIR W. FAIRBAIRN *Iron* 67 Under these conditions, it makes what is called white or silvery iron.

2. a. In names of animals, birds, and fishes, as **silvery fox, gibbon, gull, shrew mole; silvery gade, hair-tail, salmon** (see quots.).

Also in some names of moths, as *silvery arches, broad bar, hawk* (Rennie, 1832).

1781 PENNANT *Hist. Quadrup.* I. 241 The *Silvery Fox ..abound in the wooded eminences in Louisiana. 1827 GRIFFITH tr. *Cuvier* II. 44 The Silvery or Black Fox. *Ibid.* 368 The Silvery Fox (*Canis Argentatus*) is a species which has been known for a long time. 1836 YARRELL *Brit. Fishes* II. 195 The *Silvery Gade, *Motella argenteola*. 1881 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* V. 64 The second species (*Couchia argentata*) is commonly known as the Silvery Gade. 1827 GRIFFITH tr. *Cuvier* I. 209 The Ash-coloured or *Silvery Gibbon, also called the Wou Wou. 1871 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* I. 81 A species which is called the Wow-wow, or Silvery Gibbon (*Hylobates leuciscus*). 1785 PENNANT *Arctic Zool.* II. 533 *Silvery Gull, *Larus argentatus*, Gull with a white head and neck. *c* 1875 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* IV. 207 The last-named species..from its lighter colour is often called the Silvery Gull. 1836 YARRELL *Brit. Fishes* I. 182 The *Silvery hairtail, *trichiurus lepturus*. 1871 DAY *Fishes Gt. Brit.* I. 154 The hair-tail or silvery hair-tail, blade-fish. 1804 SHAW *Gen. Zool.* V. I. 63 *Silvery Salmon, *Salmo Argentinus*. 1871 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* I. 374 The Prairie Mole, or the *Silvery Shrew Mole (*Scalops argentatus*).

b. In names of trees or plants, as **silvery acacia, hair-grass, honeysuckle, oak.**

1859 MISS PRATT *Brit. Grasses* 75 *Aira caryophyllea*.. (Silvery Hair-grass)...Its panicle is of a silvery grey colour. 1889 MAIDEN *Useful Pl.* 293 *Acacia subcærulea*,..Silvery, or Blue-leaved Acacia. *Ibid.* 552 *Grevillea striata*,.. Silvery Honeysuckle. *Ibid.* 599 *Stenocarpus salignus*,.. Silky Oak. Silvery Oak.

3. Having a clear gentle metallic resonance; silver-toned, melodious.

1600 *Dr. Dodypoll* III. v. in Bullen *Old Pl.* III, Hanging on every leafe an orient pearle Which strooke together with the silver winde Of their loose mantels, made a silvery chime. 1824 BYRON *Juan* XV. lxi, The silvery bell rang. 1853 KINGSLEY *Hypatia* ix, In his ears one silvery voice was ringing. 1884 *St. James's Gaz.* 21 June 5/1 A peculiar soft silvery tone which contrasts very strikingly with the English bands.

b. Silver-voiced.

1821 BYRON *Diary* Wks. (1846) 531/2 Burdett is sweet and silvery.

4. Producing silver; containing silver.

1870 J. ORTON *Andes & Amazon* vii. (1876) 120 At one end of the valley, perched above the clouds, is silvery Potosi. 1875 JEVONS *Money* (1878) 154 It is only requisite to melt the silvery gold.

5. *Comb.* a. Qualifying other adjs., as *silvery-green, -silken, -white*, etc.

1796 WITHERING *Brit. Pl.* (ed. 3) IV. 242 Stem hollow, silvery grey. 1802 SHAW *Gen. Zool.* III. II. 588 Silvery-brownish Slow-Worm. 1831 POE *To Helen* Poems (1859) 62 Through heaven There fell a silvery-silken veil of light. 1836–9 *Todd's Cyl. Anat.* II. 174/1 The brilliant silvery-white appearance so characteristic of the fibrous membranes. 1882 *Garden* 25 Nov. 469/3 Silvery pink, becoming darker with age.

b. Parasynthetic or instrumental, as *silvery-eyed, -leaved, -lined, -sided, -tongued*, etc.

1752 HILL *Hist. Anim.* 252 The silvery-eyed, red Sparus ..is also a very beautiful fish. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XVII. 461/2 Silvery-leaved iron-wood, a native of Carolina. 1822 *Hortus Anglicus* II. 196 *Geranium Argenteum*. Silvery-leaved Crane's Bill. 1864 TENNYSON *Islet* 20 Overstream'd and silvery-streak'd With many a rivulet. 1872 JENKINSON *Guide to Lakes* (1879) 211 The storm was succeeded by masses of silvery-lined clouds.

Silvester, -trial, varr. SYLVESTER, -TRIAL.

Sim [1]. [abbrev. of the personal name *Simon*.] † *Sim subtle*, a subtle or crafty person. *Obs.*

1581 J. BELL *Haddon's Answ. Osorius* 170 b, Whereupon Simme Suttle argueth from destruction of the consequent on this wise. 1599 HAKLUYT *Voyages* II. II. 84 In his latter yeeres this Sim suttle buried himselfe in a fouresquare graue,..seuerely forbidding it to be opened.

Sim [2]. Now *Hist.* [abbrev. of SIMEONITE.] A Simeonite; *esp.* at Cambridge, an evangelical, religious, or quiet man.

1851 BRISTED *Five Yrs. Eng. Univ.* 40 Passing for a terribly hard-reading man, and a 'Sim' of the straightest kind. 1860 *Slang Dict.* 214 *Sim*, one of a Methodistical turn in religion; a low-churchman; originally a follower of the late Rev. Charles Simeon. 1883 *Times* 22 Oct. 9/5 To be a Simeonite at Cambridge—the undergraduates abbreviated it into 'Sim',..was to wear a badge of reproach.

Sim, var. of SUM *adv.* and *conj.*; dial. f. SEEM *v.*

Sima, obs. variant of CYMA.

‖ **Simagre.** *Obs. rare.* [ad. F. *simagrée*, of unknown origin.] An affected air or look.

1678 DRYDEN *Kind Keeper* III. i, By these languishing Eyes, and those Simagres of yours, we are given to understand, Sir, you have a Mistress in this Company. 1700 — *Ovid's Met.* XIII. *Acis, Polyphemus & Galatea* 31 Now in the Crystal Stream he looks, to try His Simagres, and rowls his glaring eye.

Simar (simā·ɹ). Forms: 7– **simarre, simar** (7 **-arr**); 8– **symar** (9 **seymar**). [ad. F. *simarre*, ad. It. *cimarra, zimarra*: cf. CYMAR and CHIMER [1].]

1. = CYMAR 1. Also *fig.*

a. 1641 *Ariana* 201 A Persian simarre, or mantle. 1671 tr. *Palafox's Cong. China* xxxii. 581 Their Habit is either a certain Vest, or Simar. 1720 POPE *Iliad* XVIII. 685 The maids in soft simars of linen drest. 1784 tr. *Beckford's Vathek* (1883) 128 They were wrapped in simars whiter than alabaster. 1819 SCOTT *Ivanhoe* vii, A simarre of the richest Persian silk. 1828 tr. *Manzoni's Betrothed Lovers* I. iv. 119 Trailing simars, broidered with work of Arabia. 1893 *Cent. Mag.* Aug. 640/2 The dancing girl in soft simar.

β. 1700 DRYDEN *Flower & Leaf* 341 The ladies, dress'd in rich symars were seen Of Florence satten. 1796 MRS. J. WEST *Gossip's Story* II. 78 A white frock altered into a Grecian symar for the occasion. 1813 BYRON *Giaour* 1273, I saw her..shining in her white symar, As through yon pale gray cloud the star. 1831 J. WILSON *Noctes Ambr.* Wks. III. 328 The winter .. in green symar changin afore the gratefu' gaze intil the .. spring. 1886 W. ALEXANDER *S. Augustine's Holiday* 217 Dark sultanas dress'd in white symars.

2. = CYMAR 2, CHIMER [1].

1840 H. AINSWORTH *Tower of London* (1864) 5 They were attired in the scarlet simar, and surplice with its snowy lawn sleeves, proper to their order. 1886 tr. *Hugo's Notre Dame* VIII. ii, The simar had the worst of it in its collision with the cassock.

Simaruba (simărū·bă). *Bot.* and *Med.* Also 8–9 **simarouba.** [Native name in Guiana, known in Europe from *c* 1713, at first in the French form *simarouba*; the ending *-ba* is characteristic of Carib tree-names.]

1. A tree of the genus *Simaruba*, esp. *S. amara* or *officinalis* (formerly called *Quassia Simaruba*), a native of northern Brazil, Guiana, and some West Indian islands. Also *attrib.*, as *simaruba bark* (see 2), *family, tree*.

1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl., *Simarouba*. The bark of this plant is very successful in the cure of dysenteries. 1756 BROWNE *Nat. Hist. Jamaica* 345 The bark of the root of this tree [Terebinthus] is thought to be the Sima-rouba of the shops. 1769 E. BANCROFT *Nat. Hist. Guiana* 84 The Simaruba tree is peculiar to Guiana. 1812 J. SMYTH *Pract. Customs* (1821) 40 Simarouba Bark, is the Bark of the root of a species of Birch-tree, not yet sufficiently described. 1849 J. H. BALFOUR *Man. Bot.* § 831 *Simarubaceæ*, the Quassia and Simaruba Family. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1060/1 *S. amara*..yields the drug known as Simaruba-bark, which is, strictly speaking, the rind of the root.

2. The bark of the root of *Simaruba amara*, which contains quassine and is employed medicinally as a tonic or astringent.

1778 WRIGHT in *Edin. Trans.* (1790) II. 79 The disorder was happily cured by the simaruba. 1789 CULLEN *Mat. Med.* II. 75 My account of the effect of bitters in the dysentery will perhaps explain the virtues ascribed to simaruba. 1822–34 *Good's Study Med.* (ed. 4) IV. 376 Decoction of bark with simarouba. 1876 CURLING *Dis. Rectum* 115 Vegetable astringents, such as simaruba and krameria. 1898 P. MANSON *Trop. Dis.* xviii. 312 Boil half an ounce of simaruba in a pint and a half of water.

Simarubaceous (simărubēi·ʃəs), *a. Bot.* [f. mod.L. *Simarubaceæ* (Richard, 1808), f. prec.] Belonging to the order of tropical trees and shrubs which includes *Simaruba* and *Quassia*.

1841 *Penny Cycl.* XIX. 200/2 A genus of plants belonging to the Simarubaceous order. 1852 TH. ROSS tr. *Humboldt's Trav.* I. vi. 213 Among simarubaceous plants, the Quassia amara, celebrated in the feverish plains of Surinam.

Simbal(l, obs. forms of CYMBAL.

Si·mball. *U.S.* [Cf. CYMBAL 4.] A doughnut.

1865 MRS. WHITNEY *Gayworthys* iii, They had popped corn, and roasted apples, and eaten simballs. 1892 MARIA L. POOL *Roweny in Boston* xvii. 263 Mrs. Tuttle was frying doughnuts... Mrs. Tuttle called these fried cakes 'sim-balls'.

Simber, obs. form of SIMMER *v.*

Simber salt, obs. form of SOMERSAULT.

† **Si·mblic,** *a. Obs.* [f. Gr. σίμβλιος or σιμβλήιος, f. σίμβλος beehive.] (See quot.)

1658 ROWLAND tr. *Mouffet's Theat. Ins.* 1004 Mingled with liquid Pitch and Simblick Honey; Dioscorides saith Sicilian Honey is called Simblick.

Simblin, variant of SIMLIN.

Sime. *north. dial.* Also **syme, seyme.** [a. ON. *síma* neut. (Norw., older Sw. and Da. *sime*, Sw. dial. *simme*), = OS. *sîmo* masc. (hence OE. *síma*), OFris. *sîm* rope, cord. See also SIMMON *sb.*[2]] a. A straw rope. b. (See quot. 1781.)

1781 J. HUTTON *Tour to Caves* (ed. 2) Gloss. 97 *Syme*, a frame of straw to set pans on. 1825 J. BRIGGS *Rem.* 223 (E.D.D.), He could twist the syme, but could not wash it in the Cocker. 1899 DICKINSON & PREVOST *Cumbld. Gloss.*, *Syme, seyme*, a straw rope used for holding down the thatch of stacks.

Simenel(l, obs. forms of SIMNEL.

Simeonite (si·mĭənəit). [f. the name of the Rev. Charles *Simeon* (1759–1836) + -ITE [1] 1 b.] A follower or adherent of Simeon or a supporter of his theological doctrines; a Low Churchman or Evangelical. Also abbrev. SIM.

1823 EGAN *Grose's Dict. Vulgar T., Simeonites* (at Cambridge), the followers of the Rev. Charles Simeon..; they are, in fact, rank methodists. 1837 WILBERFORCE in Ashwell *Life* (1880) I. iv. 112 The Simeonites are not likely to invite us. 1884 *World* 3 Dec. 16/2 Dr. Law attracted a vast number of Low Church people to Weston, and at one time the town was as full of 'Simeonites' and their disciples as Bath or Cheltenham.

b. *attrib.* or as *adj.*

1837 WILBERFORCE in Ashwell *Life* (1880) I. iv. 112 The good people there tell him one of us is to be the new (Simeonite) Rector. 1850 MACAULAY in Trevelyan *Life* (1876) II. 254, I found the stairs, the passages, and the very street .. full of parsons, Puseyite and Simeonite. 1893 'MARK RUTHERFORD' *Catharine Furze* vi, The patronage was in the hands of the Simeonite trustees.

‖ **Simia** (si·miă). Pl. **simiæ** (si·mi,ī). [L. *simia*, perh. f. *sīmus*, Gr. σῖμός snub-nosed, flat-nosed.] The class of animals consisting of the apes and monkeys, and more specifically of the tailless apes only, or of certain kinds of these, as the orang-utan; also, an animal of this kind.

1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s.v., More regularly, the word *simia* is the name of that kind only which has no tail. 1783 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 2) X. 8166/2 The simiæ being more numerous in their species than any other animals [etc.]. 1800 SHAW *Gen. Zool.* I. I. 70 It should seem rather to belong to the genus Lemur than that of Simia. 1840 *Cuvier's Anim. Kingd.* 56 The developement of brain, in all the *Simiæ*,..is arrested at a particular stage of advancement. 1872 DARWIN in *Life & Lett.* III. 162, I cannot at present give up my belief in the close relationship of man to the higher Simiæ.

Si·miad, *a. rare* —[1]. [f. prec. + -AD.] Simian.

1874 R. F. BURTON tr. *Camoens' Lusiad* v. (1880) I. 183 The simiad Negro swaying Africk strand.

Simial (si·miăl), *a.* Now *rare.* [f. SIMIA + -AL.]

1. Of or pertaining to, consisting of, apes.

1827 FONBLANQUE in *Life* (1874) 414 Had a Monkey Reviewer..admonished the tribe of the aggregate of loss to the simial stomach. 1828 — *Eng. under 7 Administr.* (1837) I. 150 Somewhere they worship a blue ape, and somewhere they incense another variety of the simial species. 1849 H. MILLER *Footpr. Creat.* viii. (1874) 136 The sea-inhabiting progenitors of the simial family. 1864 *Q. Jrnl. Sci.* I. 91 It is quite a Simial characteristic and rarely if ever occurs in Man.

2. Characteristic of apes; ape-like.

1830 MARRYAT *King's Own* xiii, The builder..skipping with all the simial ecstasy of a Frenchman. 1851 D. JERROLD *St. Giles* xxiv, Vulgar souls who, judging from their simial selves, may doubt the continence of Scipio.

Simian (si·miăn), *a.* and *sb.* [f. as prec. + -AN. Cf. F. *simien, -enne*.]

A. *adj.* 1. Characteristic of apes; resembling that of apes; ape-like, apish.

1607 T. WALKINGTON *Opt. Glass* vii. 82 Ther is a Simian or apish wit. 1862 MRS. SPEID *Last Yrs. India* 209 The poor little puny Tamul race of Southern India, whose general effect .. is unequivocally simian. 1883 BARING-GOULD *Y. Herring* II. xxxi. 162 His face was simian in its ugliness and malignity. 1884 M. MACKENZIE *Dis. Throat & Nose* II. 428 Giving the whole face a markedly simian expression.

2. Of or belonging to, comprising or consisting of, the apes or *Simiæ*.

1863 LYELL *Antiq. Man* v. 90 Those [differences] which separate the human from the simian brain. 1871 DARWIN *Desc. Man* I. vi. 199 The early progenitors of the whole Simian stock including man. 1889 *Edin. Rev.* CLXX. 375 The developement of man's intellect from simian ancestry.

B. *sb.* An ape or monkey.

1880 L. WALLACE *Ben-Hur* VII. iv. 455 She..saw Indra passing with an army of simians. 1890 STANLEY *Darkest Africa* I. xvii. 423, I should never have credited that any of the Simians understood the art of making fire.

† **Similable,** *a. Obs. rare.* [ad. med.L. type **similābilis*: cf. Pg. *semelhavel*, Sp. *semejable*, It. *simiglievole*,] = SIMILAR *a.* 2.

1493 *Acta Dom. Conc.* 17 Oct. 305/1 A ȝeris proffitis..takin vp..be þe said erle, as wes in similable wise previt before the lordis. 1494 *Ibid.* 7 July 361/1 Lik as he tuk apone him to preif in similable wise.

Similacioun, obs. form of SIMULATION.

Similaere, variant of SIMULACRE *Obs.*

Similar (si·milăr), *a.* and *sb.* Also 7 **similare**. [ad. F. *similaire* (= Sp. and Pg. *similar*), or med. L. **similāris*, f. L. *similis* like: see -AR[1], and cf. the earlier SIMILARY.]

A. *adj.* †**1.** Of the same substance or structure throughout; homogeneous; esp. *similar parts* (see quot. 1704). Also *transf.* (quot. 1728). *Obs.*

(*a*) 1626 BACON *Sylva* § 16 Simple Bodies, which consist of severall similare Parts. 1651 HOBBES *Leviath.* II. xxii. 123 Which may be compared..to the Similar parts of mans Body. 1678 CUDWORTH *Intell. Syst.* I. i. 32 The same kind of Nourishment taken in by animals, is turned into Blood, Milk, Flesh, Bones, Nerves, and all the other Similar Parts. 1704 J. HARRIS *Lex. Techn.* I, *Similar*, or *simple Parts*, by Anatomists are called such as are throughout of the same nature and texture, as all the Parts of a Bone are Bony, &c. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Disease*, Diseases of the Solids, he [Boerhaave] considers, either as of the simple, and Similar Parts; Or of the Organical. Similar Diseases are [etc.].

(*b*) 1669 BOYLE *Physiol. Ess.* (ed. 2) 50 Minerals appearing to the eye either to be perfectly similar, as Metals, or at least to consist but of two or three distinct ingredients, as Cinnaber. 1704 NEWTON *Optics* (1721) 4 The Light whose Rays are all alike Refrangible I call Simple, Homogeneal and Similar.

2. Having a marked resemblance or likeness; of a like nature or kind.

1611 COTGR. s.v. *Similaire*, Similar; like, resembling. 1665 HOOKE *Microgr.* 198 The Carter Spider..has, for two particularities, very few similar creatures that I have met with. 1750 JOHNSON *Rambler* No. 78 ¶ 3 Something similar, or analogous, may be observed. 1790 BURKE *Fr. Rev.* Wks. 1898 II. 124 At home we behold similar beginnings. We are on our guard against similar conclusions. 1819 SHELLEY *Peter Bell 3rd* III. iv, A set Of thieves who by themselves are sent Similar thieves to represent. 1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* II. i. 229 Dr. Wollaston pointed out a similar fact as regards hearing. 1897 TROTTER *Life J. Nicholson* iii. (1908) 51 The rest of the party were threatened with similar tortures.

b. Const. *to*; also formerly *with*.

a 1740 WATERLAND *Serm.* Wks. 1823 IX. 23 The commandment to love our neighbour, which is a duty second and similar to that of the love of God. 1749 FIELDING *Tom Jones* VIII. xiii, They..produce similar effects with Exercise. 1832 THIRLWALL in *Remn.* (1878) III. 86 A legend of similar import with that of the death of Hercules. 1868 LOCKYER *Elem. Astron.* § 357 The effect of the Earth's daily movement upon the Sun is precisely similar to its effect upon the stars. 1896 (see B. 2 below).

3. *spec.* **a.** *Math.*, etc. (See quots.)

1704 J. HARRIS *Lex. Techn.* I, *Similar Segments* of a Circle are such as contain equal Angles. *Ibid.*, *Similar Triangles* are such as have all their three Angles respectively equal to one another. 1706 W. JONES *Syn. Palmar. Matheseos* 72 Similar Products are those whose Corresponding Factors are Proportional. 1798 HUTTON *Course Math.* I. 322 Equiangular triangles are similar, and are proportional to the squares of their like sides. 1823 BROOKE *Crystallog.* 57 If all the planes of any primary form be similar, as those are of the cube, rhomboid, and some other forms. 1840 LARDNER *Geom.* 111 Two geometrical figures which have the same shape or form, but are constructed on a different scale, are said to be similar figures. 1878 GURNEY *Crystallog.* 30 The edges..which are equally inclined to each other are said to be similar.

b. *Mus.* Of motion: (see quots.).

1861 J. S. ADAMS *5000 Mus. Terms* 91 *Similar Motion*, that in which two or more parts always ascend or descend at the same time. 1875 STAINER & BARRETT *Dict. Mus. Terms* s.v. *Motion*, Similar or direct motion is when parts move in the same direction either by single degrees or by skips.

4. *Comb.*, as *similar-looking, -sided, -sized.*

1776 DA COSTA *Elem. Conchol.* 87 Equal or similar-sided Bivalves, or whose cardo is central. 1849 D. CAMPBELL *Inorg. Chem.* 20 A similar-sized tube..at the opposite extremity. 1874 *Treas. Bot.* 285/1 Similar-looking barks may be produced by very different species.

B. *sb.* **1.** A thing or person similar to or resembling another; a counterpart. Also const. *of.*

1654 Z. COKE *Logick* 202 Let it be considered whether the Integral part be Similar or dissimilar, for Similars come rarely under consideration. 1719 SAMBER tr. *Boerhaave's Meth. Physick* 143 Therefore the Corpuscula of all firm Parts are Similars the most minute. 1763 CHURCHILL *Duellist* I, Thou Similar of Lust! 1778 *Learning at a Loss* II. 110 Admiring the horizontal Verdure of her Father's clipt Hedges; with fifty pretty little Similars full as indolently entertaining. 1831 D. E. WILLIAMS *Life Sir T. Lawrence* I. 7 In manner and conversation, he was one whose similar you seldom met with. 1885 J. MARTINEAU *Types Eth. Th.* I. I. i. § 3. 161 If representative ideas, or similars, are for ever flowing off from all things in heaven and earth. 1894 *Cent. Mag.* Apr. 872/1 When had the similar of this preacher led the service in that..house of worship?

2. *Med.* (See quot.)

1896 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* I. 222 Hippocrates pointed out the occasional value of similars, that is of drugs which produce symptoms similar to those observed in the disease for which they are given.

†**Si·milariness.** *Obs.*[-1] [f. SIMILARY *a.*] Similarity, homogeneity.

1669 W. SIMPSON *Hydrol. Chym.* 44 It makes no alteration in the water, because of similariness of parts.

Similarity (similæ·rĭti). [f. SIMILAR *a.* + -ITY, or ad. F. *similarité*.]

1. The state or fact of being similar; likeness, resemblance. (Common from *c* 1780.)

1664 POWER *Exp. Philos.* I. 56 Both which experiments do prove an homogeneity and similarity of their substance. 1721 in BAILEY. 1771 *Junius Lett.* lxvii. (1788) 340 It arose from a fortunate similarity of principles. 1794 SULLIVAN *View Nat.* II. 280 There is a strong similarity between the Hebrew and the Scythiac languages. 1843 BETHUNE *Sc. Fireside Stor.* 91 Nothing has a greater tendency to unlock the heart..than a similarity of misfortunes. 1879 LUBBOCK *Sci. Lect.* ii. 41 Certain insects escape danger by their similarity to plants.

2. *pl.* Points of resemblance.

1838 *Murray's N. Germ.* 142 Those who are acquainted with the French metropolis will find here many similarities. 1865 LUBBOCK *Preh. Times* xv. (1878) 570 Presenting many remarkable similarities. 1897 *Sat. Rev.* 17 Apr. 418/1 There are many curious similarities between the inhabitants of Europe and North America.

Si·milarize, *v. rare*[-1]. [f. SIMILAR *a.*] *trans.* To compare, liken.

1806 ANNA SEWARD *Lett.* (1811) VI. 304 The twenty-fourth canto opens with a description of hoar-frost similarized to snow.

Similarly (si·milărli), *adv.* [f. SIMILAR *a.* + -LY[2].] In a similar or like manner.

1764 REID *Inquiry* vi. § 13. 324 The point which is situate similarly to that on which the picture is made on the other eye. 1801 FOSTER in *Life & Corr.* (1846) I. 141, I have been ..just the same kind of being I was before, and just similarly employed. 1859 *Christian Remembr.* XXXVIII. 223 In that case, all other rivers..ought to overflow similarly. 1886 *Law Rep.* 32 Chanc. Div. 28 The same observations are true of all other contracts similarly circumstanced.

Comb. 1862 SPENCER *First Princ.* II. x. § 84 (1875) 258 The similarly-caused general currents in the air. 1874 CARPENTER *Ment. Phys.* II. xix. (1879) 680 An example of the similarly-fatal influence of undue emotion. 1878 ABNEY *Photogr.* i. 4 When such a reversed facsimile was placed over similarly-prepared paper.

†**Si·milarness.** *Obs. rare.* Similarity.

1670 W. SIMPSON *Hydrol. Ess.* 104 The main Objection ..against the identity or similarness of this Artificial, with the Natural Sulphur Water. 1732 in BAILEY (vol. II.).

†**Si·milary,** *a. Obs.* Also 7 **-iary.** [See SIMILAR *a.* and -ARY[2]. Common in the 17th cent.]

1. = SIMILAR *a.* 1.

(*a*) 1564 P. MOORE *Hope Health* I. iv. 7 Soche members are compounded and doe consiste of the saied similarie and like partes. 1594 T. B. *La Primaud. Fr. Acad.* II. 29 The partes then of the body are diuided into two sortes or kindes: the first is, the simple or similary parts, the other the compound parts. 1654 Z. COKE *Logick* 196 Similary parts, as blood and other Humors, Flesh, Bones, Sinews, Arteries. 1671 GREW *Anat. Pl.* I. (1682) 4 Having thus taken a view of the Organical Parts of the Bean, and other Seeds; let us next examine the Similary, *sc.* those whereof the Organical are compos'd.

(*b*) 1635 HEYWOOD *Hierarchy* III. Comm. 157 Anaxagoras ..conferred the first generation upon small and Similaria particles. 1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* (1650) 40 Ice is a similary body, and homogeneous concretion, whose materiall is properly water. 1668 CULPEPPER & COLE *Barthol. Anat.* I. iii. 4 Fat is a similary Body void of Life.

2. = SIMILAR *a.* 2.

1628 FELTHAM *Resolves* II. lxix, Hence growes the height of friendship, when two similiary Soules shall blend..in their commixions. 1641 H. L'ESTRANGE *God's Sabbath* 125 As Augustine saith in a similarie case [etc.]. 1692 SOUTH *Serm.* (1718) IV. 46 Rhyming cadencies of similary words.

Similat(e, obs. ff. SIMULATE *ppl. a.*, and *v.*

Similation, obs. form of SIMULATION.

Simile (si·milĭ), *sb.* Also *β.* 7 **similie,** 7–9 **simily.** [L. *simile*, neut. of *similis* like. With the form *simily* (pl. *-ies*), cf. *query* for *quere, quære.*]

1. A comparison of one thing with another, esp. as an ornament in poetry or rhetoric.

α. 1393 LANGL. *P. Pl.* C. xx. 160 By this *simile*..ich seo an euidence, That ho so synegeþ in þe *seynt espirit* asoilled worth he neuere. 1589 GREENE *Menaphon* (Arb.) 51 Samela had learnd..to anatomize wit, and speake none but Similes. *Ibid.* 88 Stuft with prettie Similes and farre fetcht Metaphores. 1602 MARSTON *Ant. & Mel.* I, No simile is pretious, choyce, or elegant enough. 1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* I. ix. (1686) 26 Playing much upon the simile or illustrative argumentation. 1712 ADDISON *Spect.* No 303 ¶ 20 Milton..never quits his Simile till it rises to some very great Idea, which [etc.]. 1779 JOHNSON *L. P., Pope*, A simile, to be perfect, must both illustrate and ennoble the subject. 1825 LYTTON *Falkland* 8, I could wish..that this simile were in all things correct. 1858 DORAN *Court Fools* 167 Some of his similes are drawn from his profession. 1873 C. M. DAVIES *Unorth. Lond.* (ed. 2) 72, That was aptly illustrated by the simile of the infant that can only cry.

β. 1600 SHAKS. *A. Y. L.* II. i. 45 Did he not moralize this spectacle?..O yes, into a thousand similies. 1636 DAVENANT *Platonic Lovers* Wks. (1673) 390 An excellent Similie for a Painter, That would draw a good face. 1695 J. EDWARDS *Perfect. Script.* 386 The same simily is made use of in Terence. 1728 POPE *Dunc.* I. 64 There motley Images her fancy strike, Figures ill-paired, and Similies unlike. 1759 STERNE *Tr. Shandy* II. ii, Even my similies,..my illustrations, my metaphors, are erudite. 1824 LANDOR *Imag. Conv., Delille & Landor*, The simily is imperfect, because the fact is untrue. 1846 WRIGHT *Ess. Mid. Ages* I. i. 13 [In] Anglo-Saxon poetry ..Similies..are rare.

b. Without article.

1682 SHEFFIELD (Dk. Buckhm.) *Ess. Poetry*, They sigh in simile and die in Rhyme. *c* 1700 PRIOR *Dial. Dead, Locke & Montaigne*, Simile is the very Algebra of Discourse. 1707 — *A Simile* 4 'Tis but by way of Simile. 1864 LOWELL *Fireside Trav.* 165 How would he have run him up and down the gamut of simile!

c. *Comb.*, as *simile-maker, -monger.*

1676 WYCHERLEY *Pl. Dealer* II. i, I cou'd not..sit to a vain young Simile-maker, tho' he flatter'd me. 1868 HELPS *Realmah* viii. (1876) 178 That sort of confusion is indulged in by all simile-mongers.

†**2.** Likeness, resemblance; similarity. *Obs.*

1604 R. CAWDREY *Table Alph.*, *Similie*,..likenes, or resemblance. 1613 J. DAVIES (Heref.) *Muses Teares* Wks. (Grosart) I. 5/1 The Simile twixt God and Man is such, That God is said to be immortall Man. 1692 TRYON *Good Housew. made Doctor* xiv. 103 What likeness or correspondence is there between Cloves, Mace,..and..Herbs or Flesh? Verily there is no simile between them.

†**b.** The likeness of a thing. *Obs.*[-1]

1742 *Lond. & Country Brew.* II. (ed. 2) 151 Everything deligheth to produce its own Simile.

Hence **Si·mile** *v. trans.*, to express by a simile.

1727 *Philip Quarll* 219 Having similed every different Part, he proceeds in the Representation thereof.

Simili-, comb. form of L. *similis* like, used in the sense of 'imitation', as *simili-diamond, -gold*, etc. Also *ellipt.*

1886 GRENVILLE-MURRAY *Young Widows* 33 Gold often runs to gold, or to simili-gold, like steel to the magnet. 1892 *Harper's Mag.* Sept. 500/2 He provides the French middle classes with the finest simili-literature that there is in the market. 1898 E. P. EVANS *Evol. Ethics* v. 175 Rubies, spinels, and simili distinguishable from real diamonds only by experts.

†**Simi·liancy.** *Obs. rare.* [ad. Sp. *semejanza*: cf. Pg. *semelhança, similhança*, It. *simiglianza.*] Similarity, likeness.

1622 MABBE tr. *Aleman's Guzman d'Alf.* II. 21 Some long Treaty or Communication, Similiancie in condition, or some other pledges of loue. 1631 — *Celestina* I. 26 The great similiancy and suteablenesse which both of you have in vertue.

Simi·litive, *a. rare*[-1]. [irreg. f. L. *similis* like.] Expressing likeness.

1678 R. BARCLAY *Apol. Quakers* v. § 25. 183 This similitive Particle [*As*] makes the [*All*] which goes before, and comes after, to be of one and the same extent.

Similitude (simi·litiud). Also 4–5 **symyli-, 5 simyli-, 5–6 symyly-, simyly-, symili-, 6 symily-, similytud(e**; 5 **semeli-, 6 semylytude**; 6 **similitewd.** [a. OF. *similitude* (= Sp. *similitud*, It. *similitudine*), ad. L. *similitūdo*, f. *similis* like.]

1. A person or thing resembling, or having the likeness *of*, some other person or thing; a counterpart or equal; † a similarity.

c 1386 CHAUCER *Miller's T.* 42 He knew nat Catoun,..That bad man sholde wedde his similitude. — *Sqr.'s T.* 480 Pitee renneth soone in gentil herte, Feelynge his similitude in peynes smerte. *c* 1430 LYDG. *Minor Poems* (Percy Soc.) 97 This gostly manna..To us figurithe..A symilitude of the sacrament. *c* 1480 HENRYSON *Poems* (S. T. S.) III. 167 Haif rewth, lord, of thyne awin symilitude. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 272 b, The similitude of an hande sent downe, toke me by the heer of my heed. 1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* I. 19 Romanists will worship their counterfeit similitude, in stone or tree. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* III. 384 Begotten Son, Divine Similitude, In whose conspicuous count'nance ..th' Almighty Father shines. 1714 STEELE *Poet. Misc.* Ded., Men of your Talents oblige the World, when they are studious to produce in others the Similitude of their Excellencies. 1764 GOLDSM. *Hist. Eng. in Lett.* (1772) II. 174 Accustomed to cruelty,..they expected a similitude of treatment. 1791 COWPER *Iliad* II. 23 The shadow stood, similitude exact Of Nestor. *a* 1822 SHELLEY *Triumph Life* 117 Nor wanted here the just similitude Of a triumphal pageant. 1876 MOZLEY *Univ. Serm.* vi. 130 Nature..bearing a relation to something moral of which it is the similitude and type.

2. The form, likeness, or image *of* some person or thing.

a 1400–50 *Alexander* 1627 Slike a segg in my slepe me sodanly aperid, Euyn in slike a similitude & þis same wedis. *c* 1440 *Gesta Rom.* (1879) 62 By the lady..we shall vndirstond the soule formed to the symylitude of god. 1484 CAXTON *Fables of Poge* v, He hadde from the nauyle vpward the symylytude or lykenesse of a man. *a* 1513 FABYAN *Chron.* VII. (1811) 421 He had a feende in his house in the symylytude of a catte. 1594 T. B. *La Primaud. Fr. Acad.* II. 191 The first degree of this image and similitude that is in man. 1612 T. TAYLOR *Comm. Titus* ii. 13 He that waiteth for Christ..conformeth himselfe daily vnto his similitude. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* VII. 520 Let us make now Man in our image, Man In our similitude. 1871 B. TAYLOR *Faust* (1875) II. 147 Behold this flame in man's similitude.

3. † **a.** A sign or symbol; the symbolic representation of something. *Obs.*

c 1374 CHAUCER *Boeth.* III. pr. v. (1868) 75 A tyraunt..shewide by similitude þe dredes of realmes by gastnesse of a swerde þat heng ouer þe heued of his familier. *c* 1440 *Astron. Cal.* (MS. Ashm. 391), W^t yn it is an hoole which shewt by similitude how þe moone wexeþ and wanseþ. *c* 1440 LYDG. *Hors, Shepe & G.* 17, I fond to purpos A similitude Ful craftily depeyntid vpon a wall. 1558 BP. WATSON *Sev. Sacram.* vii. 39 In this Sacrament is a sygne or a figure, or a similitude of Christes body.

b. A comparison drawn between two things or facts; the expression of such comparison; † a simile.

c 1386 CHAUCER *Sec. Nun's T.* 431 Almache answerde vn-to that similitude, 'Of whennes comth thyn answeryng so rude?' *c* 1400 LANGL. *P. Pl.* C. xx. 160 'By this simile [*v.r.* similitude],' he seide, 'ich seo an euidence' [etc.]. 1477 EARL RIVERS (Caxton) *Dictes* iij b, By similitude ryght so is the kyng..with his people as the saule with the body. 1522 MORE *De quat. Noviss.* Wks. 84/1, I shal put thee a more ernest ymage of our condicion & that not a fained similitude but a very true fassion & fygure of oure worshipful estate. 1553 WILSON *Rhet.* 100 b, A similitude is a likenesse when two thynges, or mo then two, are so compared and resembled together, that thei bothe in some one propertie seme like. 1635 SWAN *Spec. M.* v. § 2 (1643) 116 A similitude may be taken from a chest-nut..breaking in the fire. 1699 BENTLEY *Phal.* 266 To sneak away like a Cock, seems to

be a very improper Similitude. 1712 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 303 ¶ 20 Those who are acquainted with Homer's and Virgil's way of Writing, cannot but be pleased with this kind of Structure in Milton's Similitudes. 1791 BOSWELL *Johnson* 11 April 1776, Nor could I think of a similitude to illustrate it. 1854 EMERSON *Lett. & Soc. Aims, Poet. & Imag.*, We cannot utter a sentence in sprightly conversation without a similitude. 1875 HELPS *Soc. Press.* iii. 44 London is often likened to Babylon; but the similitude is a very unjust one.

attrib. 1670 EACHARD *Cont. Clergy* 52 As for our metaphorical and similitude-men of the pulpit, these things to them are too still and languid.

c. A parable; an allegory.

Chiefly in Biblical use, after L. *similitudo*, used to render Gr. *παραβολή*.

c 1380 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* II. 207 Luc telliþ how Jesus seide to his disciplis þis similitude: þer was a man þat hadde a fige tree. 1388 — *Luke* viii. 4 He seide bi a symylitude, He that sowith, 3ede out to sowe his seed. *c* 1440 *Gesta Rom.* xcvi. 426, I shall say to the an Ensawmple and a semelitude of a woman, that was a paynym. 1484 CAXTON *Fables of Æsop* I. iii, This fable made Esope for a symylytude whiche is prouffitable to many folkes. 1535 COVERDALE *Eccles.* xlvii. 15 He couered and fylled the whole londe with similitudes and wyse prudent sentences. 1582 N. T. (Rhem.) *Luke* viii. 4 He said by a similitude. 1684 BUNYAN *Pilgr.* II. Introd. 138 A dark Similitude Will on the Fancie more it self intrude,..Then things from Similies not borrowed.

d. In proverbial use.

1674 HICKMAN *Quinquart. Hist.* (ed. 2) 15 Similitudes do not run on all four, as the Proverb is. 1695 in *Misc. Curiosa* (1708) III. 89 If..this very Place was a Temple of Jupiter Belus, the Similitude will run upon all Four. 1699 BENTLEY *Phal.* Pref. p. lxxvi, Similitudes, even when they are taken from Asses, do not walk upon All Four.

4. The quality or state of being like; resemblance, similarity, likeness. Now somewhat *rare*.

1387–8 T. USK *Test. Love* III. iv. (Skeat) I. 186 So than in that, it is more similitude to the everlasting presence. 1447 BOKENHAM *Seyntys* (Roxb.) 10 Be congruite Of symylytude. 1484 CAXTON *Chivalry* 1 Kynges owen to haue puyssaunce and seygnorye upon the knyghtes, and the knyghtes by symylytude oughten to haue power..ouer the moyen peple. *c* 1532 DU WES *Introd. Fr.* in *Palsgr.* 923 Specially havyng symilytude of maners togyder. 1594 T. B. *La Primaud. Fr. Acad.* II. 279 Similitude and likenesse is a great cause of loue,..because similitude maketh many things to be as one and the same thing. 1651 HOBBES *Leviath.* Introd. 2 The similitude of Passions, which are the same in all men. 1699 BENTLEY *Phal.* 287 Casaubon writ a whole Book on purpose, to shew they had no Similitude nor Affinity with one another. 1750 JOHNSON *Rambler* No. 143 ¶ 14 As not every instance of similitude can be considered as a proof of imitation. 1794 GODWIN *Caleb Williams* 25 A young man whom similitude of manners had rendered one of his principal confidants. 1837 P. KEITH *Bot. Lex.* 405 Such deviations..as will efface all traces of similitude of structure. *a* 1854 H. REED *Lect. Eng. Lit.* I. (1878) 42 The law which reconciles similitude and dissimilitude, the harmony of contrast. 1878 MISS J. J. YOUNG *Ceramic Art* 43 No better examples can be given of similitude.

† **b.** Likelihood, probability. In phr. *by* or *of* (*all, any, some*) *similitude*. *Obs.*

c 1460 METHAM *Wks.* (E. E. T. S.) 154 Qwat that a man dremyth schuld turne to trwthe be sum symylytude. 1509 HAWES *Past. Pleas.* I. (Percy Soc.) 5 To knowe whether and unto what place It woulde me bryng by any similitude. 1513 HEN. VIII in Strype *Ann. Ref.* (1824) V. 317 In caas the said retardation had not been, our said ship of al similitude had not happened into the said daungier. 1538 LELAND *Itin.* (1769) VII. 31 This castel..cam to them be similitude by Maryage. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. IV*, D vj b, The Frenchemen whiche by all symilitude had knowledge of the kynges passage entered amongest the kynges nauie.

Hence † **Simi·litudeness**, = SIMILITUDE 2. *Obs.*

Simi·lituding *vbl. sb.*, a drawing of comparisons.

Similitu·dinize *v.*, to make comparisons.

1547 BOORDE *Brev. Health* § 182 Man is made to the similitudenes of God. 1681 COLVIL *Whigs Supplic.* (1751) 147 Thy own and other souls deluding, By such prophane similituding. 1837 *Fraser's Mag.* XV. 316 Melodiously similitudinising in Sapphics languid or Alcaics terse.

† **Similitu·dinarily**, *adv. Obs.* [f. next + -LY 2.] In the manner of a similitude or simile.

1624 GATAKER *Transubst.* 48 A man, (for example) as Christ was, cannot but similitudinarily be a Vine; a Lyon, a Rocke, &c. 1641 'SMECTYMNUUS' *Vind. Answ.* xiii, They (labouring to do it in a familiar way) did similitudinarily call them Bishops.

† **Similitu·dinary**, *a., adv.*, and *sb. Obs.* [ad. med.L. *similitūdinārius* (also *-āriē* adv.), f. *similitūdo*: cf. Sp. and Pg. *similitudinario*.] **a.** *adv.* In figurative language. **b.** *sb.* A thing resembling another. **c.** *adj.* Of the nature of a similitude or figure; expressing comparison or likeness; symbolic.

1432–50 tr. *Higden* (Rolls) IV. 33 Kepenge silence or spekenge similitudinary (L. *ænigmatice*) where eny thynge of the Trinite was in theire werke. 1541 R. COPLAND *Guydon's Quest. Chirurg.* F iij b, There be...iij. in the rumpe which be nat very spondyles, but symylytudynaries, & as vycares. 1581 MULCASTER *Positions* xli. (1887) 242 In their similitudinarie applications. 1607 *Schol. Disc. agst. Antichr.* 1 ii. 107 Sacramentall signes are similitudinary. 1642 T. GOODWIN *Heart of Christ* 111 This..is not wholly to be understood in a metaphoricall or a similitudinary sense. 1680 DR. POTTER *Christophalg.* 44 (T.), Our Saviour chose this similitudinary way to express our union with himself.

† **Simi·lity.** *Obs. rare.* [irreg. f. L. *similis*.] Similarity.

c 1470 HARDING *Chron.* I. x, As he herde in all similitee Howe Ioseph had his graund-ser enformed. 1652 BIGGS *New Disp.* ¶ 291 Contrariety and simility. *Ibid.* ¶ 295 Although simility doth proximely include familiarity.

Similize (si·miləiz), *v.* Now *rare*. [f. L. *similis* or SIMILE: see -IZE.]

† **1.** *trans.* To imitate, copy. *Obs.*

1605 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. iii. IV. *Captaines* 454 He similize These Gebeonites: I will my selfe disguise To gull thee. 1616 J. LANE *Contn. Sqr.'s T.* III. 202 Sithe castinge, how his formes and faces viewe mote similize his father, yet vntrewe.

† **2.** To compare, liken. Const. *to, with*. *Obs.*

1620 E. BLOUNT *Horæ Subs.* 16 Some haue similized these kind of men with the Camelion. 1653 DUCHESS OF NEWCASTLE *Poems & Fancies* 136 Similizing the Braine to a Garden. *a* 1670 HACKET *Abp. Williams* i. (1692) 53 The best to whom he may be similized herein, is Frier Paul the Servite.

3. To symbolize; to express or describe in similes.

a 1668 DAVENANT *Poems* Wks. (1673) 296 We need not bring So many Flowers..To shew or similize you more. 1864 LOWELL *Fireside Trav.* 165 How Calderon would have similized this pretty creature, had he ever seen it!

b. *intr.* To use a simile or comparison.

1686 DRYDEN *Duchess of York's Paper Defended* Misc. Wks. 1800 II. 496 If I may similize in my turn, a dull fellow might ask the meaning [etc.].

Similor (si·milɔr). [a. F. *similor* (1742), f. L. *simil-is* like + F. *or* gold.] A very yellow kind of brass used in making cheap jewellery.

1783 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 2) X. 8172/1 *Similor*, a name given to an alloy of red copper and zinc, made in the best proportions, to imitate silver and gold. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 30 This alloy may exist in many different proportions, under which it has different names, as tombac, similor, pinchbeck, &c.

Hence **Si·milored** *a.*, faced with similor.

1838 *Penny Cycl.* XI. 220/1 Yellow similored goods must only have the mercury fairly removed from them.

Simily, obs. variant of SIMILE.

Si·mioid, *a.* [f. SIMIA + -OID.] Resembling the apes; simian.

1895 *Pop. Sci. Monthly* Jan. 371 Man's ancestors, therefore,..were simial or simioid, 'monkeylike'.

Simious (si·miəs), *a.* [f. SIMIA + -OUS.]

1. Belonging to the race of apes; having apish characteristics.

1804–6 SYD. SMITH *Sk. Mor. Philos.* (1850) 190 A model of perfect conformation to the whole simious tribe. 1807 — *P. Plymley's Lett.* iii. (ed. 3) 5 *note*, That simious parasite who is always grinning at his heels. 1864 *Sat. Rev.* 21 May, Neither woman nor man, but some simious interloper from Equatorial Africa. 1887 G. SALMON *Non-miraculous Christ.* (ed. 2) 141 Tribes of simious men gradually groping their way..from savage ignorance to..limited knowledge.

2. Typical or characteristic of apes.

c 1835 SYD. SMITH *Ballot* Wks. 1859 II. 307/1 That strange simious schoolboy passion of giving pain to others. 1839 C. A. MURRAY *Trav. N. Amer.* I. 320 A low receding forehead, a nose somewhat *simious*. [*Note.*] I believe I can justly claim the invention or anglicising of this word. 1882 TRAILL *Sterne* iv. 35 A novel in which he might give full play to his simious humour.

Hence **Si·miousness.**

1878 *Fraser's Mag.* XVII. 59 The obtrusive simiousness of the Mongolian features.

Simitar, obs. or U.S. form of SCIMITAR.

† **Si·mity.** *Obs. rare.* [f. L. *sīmus* snub-nosed, flat-nosed.] The fact of being flat-nosed.

1650 BULWER *Anthropomet.* vii. 83 Midwives..are wont to compresse the lateral parts of the Nose, that this simity of children may be the sooner abolished. *Ibid.* 127 Simity therefore is the cause, not the disease.

Si·mkin[1]. *rare.* Also 9 **Simpkin.** [Diminutive form of the personal name *Sim* Simon: see -KIN.] A fool; a simpleton.

a 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew, Simkin*, a Fool. 1785 GROSE *Dict. Vulg. T., Simkin*, a foolish fellow. 1861 MAYHEW *Lond. Lab.* III. 145/1 This Pierrot is the Simpkin of the ballet, and he's dressed in white, with long sleeves, and a white face.

Si·mkin[2]. *Anglo-Indian.* Also **simpkin.** [Urdū corruption of *champagne*.] Champagne.

1853 W. D. ARNOLD *Oakfield* II. iv. 127 The dinner was good, and the iced simkin, Sir, delicious. 1863 TREVELYAN *Compet. Wallah* (1866) 164 We agreed to drink our last two bottles of Simkin in honour of our signal victory. 1886 *Illustr. Lond. News* 24 July 90/3 There is a good deal of 'Simpkin' or champagne consumed in the three Presidencies.

Simlin (si·mlin). Also 8–9 **cymling**, 9 **simblin.** [Alteration of SIMNEL.]

1. *U.S.* A species of squash having a scalloped edge. Cf. SIMNEL 2.

1794 MORSE *Amer. Geogr.* 148 Cymlings (*Cucurbita verrucosa*). 1814 BRACKENRIDGE *Views Louisiana* 63 Hunters tell of some curious plants on the Arkansas, amongst which are the common sun-flower, the bean, and the simblin. 1847 DARLINGTON *Amer. Weeds & Usef. Pl.* (1860) 142 *Cucurbita melopepo* .., Round Squash. Cymling. 1896 *Columbus Dispatch* 24 July 9 Peel and slice tender young simlins.

2. *dial.* = SIMNEL 1 b.

1847– in dialect texts and glossaries (*Eng. Dial. Dict.*); also in combs., as *simlin-cake, -Sunday*.

Simment, obs. form of CEMENT *v.*

Simmer (si·mər), *sb.* [f. the vb.] The state or condition of simmering. Chiefly in phr. *on the* (or *at a*) *simmer*. Also *fig.*

1809 MALKIN *Gil Blas* II. v. ¶ 4 The kettle was kept on the simmer. 1825 LAMB *Refl. in Pillory* in *Eliana* (1867) 141 This nubbling might have helped the pot boil, when your dirty cuttings from the shambles.. shall stand at a cold simmer. 1896 MRS. CAFFYN *Quaker Grandmother* xii, In a constant simmer of trying to be good.

Simmer, Sc. form of SUMMER.

Simmer (si·mər), *v.*[1] Also 7 **simber.** [Later form of SIMPER *v.*[1], the change being probably due to a feeling of phonetic appropriateness.]

Simming in Beaum. & Fl. *Coxcomb* IV. vi. ('Tis still simming in her blood') may be an error for *simmering*.

1. *intr.* Of liquids: To make a subdued murmuring sound under the influence of continued heat; to be at a heat just below boiling-point. Also *transf.* of the containing vessel, etc.

1653 MORE *Antid. Atheism* II. xii. § 12 That their vital heat and moisture may not always only simber in one sluggish tenour, but some times boil up higher and seeth over. 1684 tr. *Bonet's Merc. Compit.* IV. 135 Let it simmer on a gentle Fire, then let it cool. 1750 JOHNSON *Rambler* No. 51 ¶ 7 To watch the skillet on the fire, to see it simmer with a due degree of heat. 1791 COWPER *Iliad* XVIII. 432 The water in the singing brass Simmer'd. 1840 DICKENS *Old C. Shop* xviii, A large iron cauldron, bubbling and simmering in the heat. 1862 MISS BRADDON *Lady Audley* xxxix, Over the handful of fire, upon which the broth..still bubbled and simmered. 1882 'OUIDA' *Maremma* I. 37 While her frugal supper was simmering.

transf. and *fig.* 1817 BYRON *Beppo* xliii, That sort of farthing candlelight which glimmers Where reeking London's smoky caldron simmers. 1841 B. HALL *Patchwork* I. ix. 150 The patient..keeps simmering [in the bath] eight or ten hours.

refl. 1882 G. H. HOLLISTER *Kinley Hollow* xv, Green wood will at last simmer itself into a blaze.

b. Of feelings, tendencies, etc.: To be in a state of gentle activity; to be on the verge of becoming active or breaking out.

a 1764 R. LLOYD *Author's Apol.* Poet. Wks. 1774 I. 2 Whose friendship serves the talking turn, Just simmers to a kind concern. 1850 MERIVALE *Hist. Rom. Emp.* liv. (1865) VI. 457 A spirit of reform..still simmered with genial warmth on the surface of society. 1860 FROUDE *Hist. Eng.* VI. 145 The disaffection was already simmering in Devonshire. 1883 *19th Cent.* May 821 This mean business had simmered on, and was at last at boiling point.

c. Of persons, etc.: To be in a state of suppressed excitement or agitation.

1840 CARLYLE *Heroes* (1858) 235 This great fiery heart, seething, simmering like a great furnace of thoughts. 1876 GLADSTONE *Gleanings* II. 320 When they had left him boiling, or, at least simmering, in unanimity of wrath. 1884 *Spectator* 4 Oct. 1322/1 The tribes of Afghanistan were simmering to revolt.

2. *trans.* To keep in a heated condition just below boiling-point.

1823 J. BADCOCK *Dom. Amusem.* 147 Boil and simmer it until the water having evaporated leaves the kali behind. 1850 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* III. 1377 It is then skimmed and simmered for about three hours. 1883 'ANNIE THOMAS' *Mod. Housewife* 62 Simmer the whole for two hours, and strain.

† **Si·mmer**, *v.*[2] *Obs.*[—1] [app. a var. of SIMMON *v.*] *trans.* To cement.

1725 W. HALFPENNY *Sound Building* 49 You must add to the under Side by a Closier..; which, if simmer'd to the Brick, will add much to the Strength..of the Work.

Si·mmering, *vbl. sb.* [f. SIMMER *v.*[1] + -ING [1].] The action of the vb.; the state of being near boiling-point; the gentle murmuring of a liquid under the influence of heat. Also *fig.*

1707 MORTIMER *Husb.* (1721) II. 323 Experience shews it wastes less, and ferments better after so long boiling than simmering. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s.v. *Wine*, Any considerable heat, or even a degree of simmering, or tepidity. 1822 SCOTT *Peveril* xxxv, The simmering of a small pot which he had placed on the flame. 1869 BLACKMORE *Lorna D.* ii, A simmering buzzed in my heavy brain. 1898 L. STEPHEN *Stud. Biogr.* II. 56 The fact illustrates the vague simmering of an interest in German speculation.

Si·mmering, *ppl. a.* [f. SIMMER *v.*[1] + -ING [2].] That simmers; murmuring with a subdued sound.

1791 E. DARWIN *Bot. Gard.* I. 26 Nymphs! you erewhile on simmering cauldrons play'd. 1843 CARLYLE *Past & Pres.* II. vii, Such is the buzz and frothy simmering ferment of the general mind. 1859 TENNENT *Ceylon* VII. vii. II. 255 The woods resounding with the simmering hum of insects. 1872 GEO. ELIOT *Middlemarch* V. 36 The simmering dislike of the other medical men.

Hence **Si·mmeringly** *adv.*

1681 CHETHAM *Angler's Vade-m.* xxxix. § 24 (1689) 276 Let the Liquour boil very leisurely and simmeringly only.

Simmetrian, -triated, -trie, obs. forms of SYMMETRIAN, -TRIATED, -TRY.

Si·mmon, *sb.*[1] Now *dial.* Forms: 5 **symonde**, 6 **semonde**, 7 **sim(m)ond, symond**; 7– **simmon** (8 **simon**). [var. of CEMENT *sb.*] Cement. (Cf. quots. 1706 and 1890.) Also *attrib.*

c 1440 *York Myst.* viii. 102 Þus sall I iune it..And sadly sette it with symonde fyne. 1575 TURBERV. *Faulconrie* 98 Glewe it in with Semonde or Rosen and waxe molten togither. *Ibid.* 275 The gummie fatte of a fygge, the yolcke of an egge, or some kinde of Semonde made of purpose. 1641 *Churchw. Acc. Pittington*, etc. (Surtees) 191 Wax, rossel, and stone pitch to make symond for mending the fount stone broken by the Scotts. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 382/2 A Simmon Stick..is an handle with a round head ..which hath a certain Simond clapt upon it [etc.]. *Ibid.* (Roxb.) 231/1 These vessells are..stopped close togeither by a certaine morter, clay or simmond. 1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), *Cement*, commonly pronounced *Simmon*, a Compound made of Pitch, Brick-dust, Plaister of Paris, &c. us'd by Chacers, Repairers, and other Artificers. 1828 CARR *Craven Gloss., Simmon*, cement. 1890 J. NICHOLSON *Folk-Lore E. Yks*, 80 When bricklayers wish to give a reddish

colour to the mortar, they used pounded bricks or tiles to mix with it. This powder is called simmon, and simmon pounding was formerly the hard labour punishment in Beverley Gaol.

Si·mmon, *sb.*[2] *Sc.* (chiefly *Shetland*). Also 9 simmin, -an, symmon; simmond, -ind. [f. ON. *sima* SIME. Cf. Gael. *siomain.*] A rope or band made of straw or heath, esp. one used in thatching; rope of this material. Also *attrib.*

a. c 1690 in *Macfarlane's Geogr. Collect.* (S.H.S.) III. 252 The common..thacking is of a kind of Divet,..and Straw and Simmons above the same. 1812 J. HENDERSON *Agric. Surv. Caithness* 27 These [divots] are secured on the houses with ropes made of heath, or straw (provincially simmons). 1871 COWIE *Shetland* 92 The roof consists of..thin divots of dried turf, spread on wood, and covered with straw placed in a vertical direction, and held in its place by simmins or straw ropes.

β. 1808 JAMIESON, *Simmonds*, ropes made of heath and of Empetrum nigrum. 1822 HIBBERT *Desc. Shetl. Isl.* 115 Over these they lay the straw, and afterwards secure the whole with simmonds or bands formed also of straw. 1888 EDMONSTON & SAXBY *Home Naturalist* 145 A bit of simmond was woven. 1899 SPENCE *Shetland Folk-Lore* 195 Making numerous articles for domestic use from straw, such as..simmond-chairs [etc.].

Si·mmon, *v.* Now *dial.* Also 6 symon, 6–7 simon. [f. SIMMON *sb.*[1]] *trans.* To cement.

1568–9 *Sarum Churchw. Accs.* (Swayne, 1896) 283 Wex and Rosen and a fagot to symon the Stones. 1583 in Hutton *St. John Bapt. Coll.* (1898) 63 Item to Jhon Herberte simoninge certaine loose stones in the newe gate. 1663 GERBIER *Counsel* 83 French Glasse wrought with good lead, well simmoned, is worth sixteen pence a foot. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 385/1 The Second thing in this quarter is the Oyle, or Simoning Brush. *Ibid.*, The Leading of the glasse is..oyled and Simoned to keep out foule weather. 1828 CARR *Craven Gloss., Simmon'd*, cemented. 'It's fearful weel simmon'd.'

Simnel (si·mnĕl). Now *arch.* or *local.* Forms: 3–4 simenel(l, 5 syme-, symynel; 5–6 symnelle (5 -nylle), 5–7 -nell, 5–9 -nel; 6–7 simnell, 6– simnel; 5 cymnel, 7 -nell, 7–8 cimnel(l. [a. OF. *simenel, seminel*, etc. (mod.F. dial. *simnel*), app. related in some way to L. *simila* or Gr. σεμίδαλις fine flour.

Med.L. *simen-, siminellus*, is merely an adaptation of the OF. or ME. word. L. *similа* is the direct source of OHG. *simela, semala*, etc. (MHG. *simele, semele*, G. *semmel*, with corresponding forms in LG., Du., Da., and Sw.).]

1. A kind of bread or bun made of fine flour and prepared by boiling, sometimes with subsequent baking. Now chiefly *Hist.*

12.. *Liber de situ Ecclesiæ Belli* in Dugdale *Monast.* (1821) III. 242 Constituens..panem regiæ mensæ aptum, qui simenel vulgo vocatur, habere pondere lx solidorum. *c* 1290 *Fleta* II. ix. § 1 Panis..de Symenel [ponderabit] minus Wastello de ij s[olidis], quia bis coctus erit. *c* 1300 *Munim. Gildhallæ* (Rolls) III. 411 Item, panis artocopi (*i.* simenel) ponderabit minus wastello per duos solidos.

c 1300 *Havelok* 779 For hom he brouthe fele sipe Wastels, simenels with þe horn. 14.. *Lat.-Eng. Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 565 *Artocopus*, a symynel. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 77 Cymnel, brede, *artocopus*. 1464 in Anstey *Munim. Acad.* (Rolls) II. 710 Panes vulgariter nuncupatos 'Wygges' et 'Symnelles'. 1535 COVERDALE *Ezek.* xvi. 19 Thou didest eate nothinge but symnels, honny & oyle. 1584 COGAN *Haven Health* (1636) 26 Cakes of all formes, Simnels, Cracknels, Buns, Wafers, and other things made of wheat flowre. 1608 WILLET *Hexapla Exod.* 663 Cakes tempered with oyle in the frying pan, and wafers boyled in water..like vnto our simnels. 1655 MOUFET & BENNET *Health's Improv.* (1746) 237 Others sod it [bread] in seam like fritters; others boild it in water like cimnels. 1725 *Fam. Dict.* s.v., Having provided Simnels made of Water according to the size of your Dish, cut 'em in Halves as it were an Orange. 1783 *Gentl. Mag.* LIII. ii. 578 Some things customary probably refer simply..to the idea of feasting..Of these, perhaps, are.., cross-buns, saffron cakes, or symnels, in Passion week.., these being formerly at least unleavened. 1854 *N. & Q.* 1st Ser. X. 393 *Simnel.* In the island of Jersey the name is still applied to a kind of thin biscuit made of the finest wheaten flour and water.

b. A rich currant cake, usually eaten on Mid-Lent Sunday in certain districts.

1648 HERRICK *Hesper., To Dianeme*, Ile to thee a Simnell bring, 'Gainst thou go'st a mothering. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 293/2 A Simnell, is a thick copped Cake, or Loaf made of white Bread, Knodden up with Saffron and Currans. 1841 HARTSHORNE *Salop. Ant.* Gloss., *Simnel*, a plumb-cake having a raised crust for the exterior. 1851 *N. & Q.* 1st Ser. III. 506 A rich sort of cake, consisting of a thick crust of saffron-bread filled with currants, citron, and all the usual ingredients of wedding-cake, which is called a simnel. 1872 HARDWICK *Trad. Lanc.* 76 The 'simnels' eaten on Mid-Lent, or 'Mothering' Sunday.

c. *attrib.*, as *simnel bread, -cake*; **simnel-Sunday,** Mid-Lent or Mothering Sunday. Also *simnel-wise* adj.

1674 BLOUNT, *Simnel-bread*,..bread made of fine meal of corn. 1711 HEARNE *Collect.* (O. H. S.) III. 134 A Noble Cake, made Simnel-wise. 1766 *Compl. Farmer* s.v. *Bread*, We also meet with symnel bread, manchet or roll bread, and French bread. 1819 SCOTT *Ivanhoe* xiv, A quantity of rich pastry, as well as of the simnel-bread and wastle cakes. 1837 HOWITT *Rur. Life* VI. xvi. (1862) 590 In Lancashire and Cheshire they still eat Simnel-cake on Mid-lent Sunday. 1863 CHAMBERS *Bk. of Days* I. 336/1 A sort of rich and expensive cakes, which are called Simnel-cakes.

2. *U.S.* A variety of squash. Cf. SIMLIN 1.

1648 B. PLANTAGENET *Descr. New Albion* 25 Strawberries, Mulberries, Symnels, Maycocks and Horns like Cucumbers. 1705 R. BEVERLEY *Virginia* II. § 19 (1722) 124 The Clypeatæ are sometimes call'd Cymnels (as are some others also), from the Lenten Cake of that Name, which many of them very much resemble.

†**Simon.** *slang.* [Prob. a fanciful use of the personal name.] A sixpence.

a 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew, Simon*, Six-pence. [Hence in later slang Dicts.]

Simon(d, obs. forms of SIMMON, cement.

†**Si·moner.** *Obs. rare.* In 5 **Sym-.** [var. of SIMONIER.] A simonist, simoniac.

?*a* 1407 W. THORPE *Exam. & Test.* in Foxe *A. & M.* (1563) 171/1 Proude obstinate heritikes, couetous Symoners. *Ibid.*, These Symoners sell synne, suffering men and women..to lie and continue from yeare to yeare in diuers vices.

Simoniac (simō·niăk), *sb.* and *a.* Forms: *a.* 4 symoniak, 5–6 -yake, 6 -iake, 7 -iack; 6–7 simoniak(e, 6–8 -iack(e, 6– simoniac. *β.* 7 simonaick. [a. OF. *symoniake, simoniaque* (= Sp., Pg., and It. *simoniaco*), or ad. med.L. *simoniac-us*, f. *simonia* SIMONY.]

A. *sb.* One who practises simony; a buyer or seller of benefices, ecclesiastical preferments, or other spiritual things. Freq. with initial capital.

a. 1340 *Ayenb.* 41 Peruore hi byeþ y-cleped Symoniaks alle þo þet wylleþ zelle oþer begge þe gostliche þinges. *c* 1420 LYDG. *Assembly of Gods* 680 Pryuy symonyakes, with false vsurers. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VIII*, 246 He saied that the Pope was a Simoniack, euer sellyng gyftes. 1592 TIMME *Ten Eng. Lepers* D 3, Both the seller and the buier of spirituall things are Simoniacks. 1636 PRYNNE *Unbish. Tim.* (1661) 84 A Bishop.., although he be a Simoniack, Heretick, excommunicate Person,..may yet firmly ordain others. 1681 BAXTER *Answ. Dodwell* iii. 22 Such as divers General Councils judged Hereticks, Infidels, Simoniaks, &c. 1726 AYLIFFE *Parergon* 234 If the Bishop appears, and alledges..that the Person presented is a Simoniac, unlearned, and the like, then they are to proceed to Tryal. 1854 MILMAN *Lat. Chr.* VI. iii. (1864) III. 476 Peter Bishop of Florence was accused as a Simoniac. 1881 *Church Times* Apr. 211 We should say that simoniacs seldom disturb congregations.

β. 1637–50 ROW *Hist. Kirk* (Wodrow Soc.) 56 The contraveeners to be punished with all severitie and rigour as simoniacks. 1678 JONES *Heart & Right Soveraign* 349 There was but one bishop in all the isle of Britain then, and he afterwards a Simoniack.

B. *adj.* =next.

1632 D. LUPTON *Lond. & Co. Carbonadoed* (1857) 306 Like a false Canoniere, that came by his place by Simoniacke meanes. 1681 COLVIL *Whigs Supplic.* (1751) 157 [To] part the simoniac pelf, And take the one half to himself. 1688 *Act 1 Will. & Mary* c. 16 Preamble, Persons simoniack or simoniacally promoted to benefices. 1900 *Speaker* 3 Mar. 588 The Simoniac baseness of the Universities.

Simoniacal (simŏnəi·ăkăl), *a.* Also 7 **simoniacall.** [f. prec. + -AL.]

1. Of the nature of, pertaining to, or involving simony.

a. 1567 JEWEL *Def. Apol.* V. 562 These thinges are Simoniacal..that are forebidden in the Olde and Newe Testamente. *a* 1600 HOOKER *Eccl. Pol.* VII. xxiv. § 8 Simoniacal corruption I may not..suspect to be amongst men of so great place. 1642 ROGERS *Naaman* 145, I may say of this Selfe, as we say of Simoniacall contracts for Benefices, that such Simony creates a lapse. 1740 RICHARDSON *Pamela* (1824) I. lxxxiii. 443 Mr. Williams..declined the stipulated eighty pounds.., as he thought it would have a Simoniacal appearance. 1765 BLACKSTONE *Comm.* I. 60 When the common law censures simoniacal contracts. 1827 *Bentham's Ration. Judic. Evid.* V. 582 To dispute his lessor's title, by proving that his presentation was simoniacal. 1876 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* V. 380 The exaction of such a price ..was both oppressive and simoniacal.

β. 1648 GAGE *West Ind.* 2 If he would deliver at once all those his Purgatory Prisoners without the Simoniacall receipt of money.

2. Of persons: Guilty of or practising simony.

a. 1569 in Strype *Aun. Ref.* (1709) I. lv. 563 Yea, and in simoniacal heeps cathedral churches are stuffed with them, as dens of thieves. 1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* To Rdr. (1651) 44 What shall we expect that have such multitudes of Achans, church robbers, simoniacal patrons. 1641 MILTON *Animadv.* Wks. 1851 III. 233 Away with such young mercenary striplings and their Simoniacall fathers. 1712 STEELE *Spect.* No. 298 P 8 The Simoniacal Ladies, who seduce the sacred Order into the Difficulty [etc.]. 1759 ROBERTSON *Hist. Scot.* VI. Wks. 1813 I. 427 Declaimed loudly against the simoniacal faction. 1848 *Q. Rev.* Mar. 122 One piece..is a song levelled at Simoniacal prelates. 1897 MRS. OLIPHANT *Makers Rome* 236 They condemned the simoniacal clergy in every rank.

β. 1631 *High Commission Cases* (Camden) 249 It is but to punish him as simoniacall. 1638 LITHGOW *Trav.* I. 20 The bribing hands of the Simoniacall Minions.

3. Tainted or marked by simony.

1575–85 ABP. SANDYS *Serm.* xx. 346 We haue happely forsaken..that polluted Church, that simoniacall temple. 1641 MILTON *Ch. Govt.* II. iii, Would he preferre those proud simoniacall Courts?

Hence **Simoni·acalness,** 'the being of a Simoniacal Nature' (Bailey, vol. II, 1727).

Simoniacally (simŏnəi·ăkăli), *adv.* [f. prec.] In a simoniacal manner; with the guilt of simony.

1600 O. E. (M. SUTCLIFFE) *Repl. Libel* II. iv. 85 They are ordeined simoniacally, and by excommunicate persons. 1688 [see SIMONIAC B]. 1695 KENNETT *Par. Antiq.* ix. 619 After his decease, a certain Clerk was simoniacally presented by those Regular Patrons. 1767 BURN *Eccles. Law* III. 325 Canons .. whereby a person simoniacally promoted is punished by deprivation. 1778 JOHNSON in *Boswell* 12 May, He had purchased a living in the country, but not simoniacally. 1877 MRS. OLIPHANT *Makers Flor.* xii. 297 A bad pope, a simoniacally-appointed pope.

†**Simoniacle.** *Obs.*–[1] [a. OF. *simoniacle*, var. of *simoniaque*: cf. next.] A simoniac.

1502 *Ord. Crysten Men* (W. de W. 1506) IV. viii. R ij, He þt well shall practyse an hondreth thyrty & foure cases of excomunycacyon..& then conforme with symonyacles and other excomunycacyons.

†**Simoniacre,** *a. Obs. rare.* In 6 symoniakre. [a. OF. *simoniacre*, var. of *simoniaque*: cf. prec.] Simoniacal.

1533 *State Papers Hen. VIII*, VII. 534 They sayd that we call the Pope Byshop of Rome, bastard, and symonakre. *Ibid.*, As touchyng whyddyr He be bastard or symonakre, or bothe.

†**Simonial.** *Obs. rare.* In 4 symonyal. [a. OF. *simonial*, f. *simonie* SIMONY.] =SIMONIAC *sb.*

c 1386 CHAUCER *Pars. T.* P 784 Both he þat selleth and he þat byeth thynges espirituels ben cleped Symonyales.

Simonian[1], *sb.* and *a. rare.* Also 4 symonyan, -yen. [f. SIMONY + -AN, or ad. OF. **simonien.*]

†**A.** *sb.* A simoniac, simonist. *Obs.*

c 1380 WYCLIF *Serm.* Sel. Wks. II. 148 Hise giftis ben not mesurid bi man, alzif symonyens mesuren þer grace, & 3yven pleyner absolucion..for more money. *c* 1380 — *Last Age Ch.* (1840) 25 Chaffare walkynge in derkenessis is þe pryui heresie of symonyans. 1567–8 ABP. PARKER *Corr.* (Parker Soc.) 311, I sent my visitors into Norwich,..whereof I heard..that *Quid vultis mihi dare?* had so much prevailed there among the Simonians.

B. *adj.* Simoniacal.

1854 MILMAN *Lat. Chr.* VIII. i. III. 271 The clergy of Saxony resolved to expel all the intruding and Simonian bishops (those who had received investiture from the Emperor).

Simonian[2] (səimō·niăn), *sb.* and *a.* [ad. med.L. **Simonianus*, f. *Simon* (see def.).]

A. *sb.* A member of an early Christian sect named after Simon Magus and regarded as heretical. (Cf. SIMONIST[2].)

1585–7 T. ROGERS *39 Art.* (1625) 57 Some thinke, that to attend vpon vertue, and to practise good workes, is a yoke too heauy, and intollerable; as the Simonians. 1655 BAXTER *Quaker's Catech.* Pref. B ij, He followed the first Hereticks, the Simonians and their followers, with the same kinde of judgements. 1677 GILPIN *Demonol.* (1867) 129 There were no less than ten sorts of heretical Antichrists in the apostle John's days, the Simonians, Menandrians, Saturnalians, &c. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl., Simonians*, a Sect of ancient Hereticks, the first that ever disturb'd Christianity. 1831–3 E. BURTON *Eccl. Hist.* (1845) 235 We are assured, that this convenient doctrine was a characteristic of the Simonians and other Gnostics. 1887 *Encycl. Brit.* XXII. 79/1 Even the Tübingen critics themselves could not deny the existence of a sect of Simonians.

B. *adj.* Pertaining to, characteristic of, the sect of the Simonians.

1883 SCHAFF *Encycl. Relig. Knowl.* III. 2184 The Simonian teachings gradually take on the form of an elaborate gnostic system. 1887 *Encycl. Brit.* XXII. 79/1 *note*, Hippolytus..gives extracts from a Simonian book.

Hence **Simo·nianism,** the doctrine of the Simonians.

1887 *Encycl. Brit.* XXII. 80/2 We have therefore in Simonianism a rival system to Christianity. 1902 *Expositor* Sept. 227 There had been a revival of Simonianism in Samaria.

†**Simo·nical,** *a. Obs.* Also symonical(l. [f. SIMON-Y + -ICAL.] =SIMONIACAL.

1570 FOXE *A. & M.* (ed. 2) 221/1 Where is Peters spirite, by whose power couetousnes is destroyed, and simonicall heresie is condempned? 1588 *Marprel. Epist.* (1843) 22 Since you were a Symonical Deane. 1646 L. OWEN *Running Register* 54 Paulus Quintus that great Symonicall Pope. 1649 MILTON *Eikon.* xiv. Wks. 1851 III. 449 Compiler of that unsalted and Simonical praier. 1686 J. S. *Hist. Monast. Convent.* 157 His Office is to enquire whether there be any Simonical Practices..in the resignation of Benefices.

Hence †**Simo·nically** *adv. Obs.*

1660 R. COKE *Power & Subj.* 268 That patron who should simonically promote any Clerk,

†**Simo·nient,** *sb.* and *a. Obs. rare.* Also 4–5 symonient, -yent. [Cf. SIMONIAN[1] and -ENT.]

A. *sb.* =SIMONIAC *sb.*

c 1380 WYCLIF *Wks.* (1880) 26 And sib þei sillen treuþe.. þei ben cursed symonyentis & so heretikis. 1395 PURVEY *Remonstr.* (1851) 9 Symonientis ben sovereyne eretikis. *a* 1470 H. PARKER *Dives & Pauper* (W. de W. 1496) VII. 303/1 [They] that bye ony thyng spirytuel..ben called proprely symonientes.

B. *adj.* =SIMONIACAL *a.* 1.

1395 PURVEY *Remonstr.* (1851) 11 Such appropringe..is theefli, fals, and symonient. *a* 1470 H. PARKER *Dives & Pauper* (W. de W. 1496) VII. 302/2 Some thynges be forboden for they be symonyent, as byenge and sellynge of the sacramentes of holy chirche.

Hence †**Simo·niently** *adv. Obs.*

c 1400 *Apol. Loll.* 51 No man presume..symonyently, þat is to sey, for coueytise, for his labour tak ani þing.

†**Simo·nier.** *Obs.* Also 4 symoniour, -ier, 5–6 -yer. [Cf. prec. and -ER[1].] =SIMONIAC *sb.*

c 1380 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* III. 103 þes proude clerkes, symoniours, silleres of pardoun and indulgences. *Ibid.* 211 Þer ben two maner of heretikis of whiche Englond schuld be purgid, and symonieris ben þe first. *c* 1440 *Alph. Tales* 480 Þus þies symonyers war confusid, & belife þe abbay was wele rewlid and clere oute of dett. 1502 *Ord. Crysten Men* (W. de W. 1506) II. i, Be in no wyse..a symonyer, or a rauenour. 1520 *Caxton's Chron. Eng.* VII. 76 b, Gregorius the 7..proceded sharply agaynst prelates and preestes that were symonyers.

Simo·nious, *a.* Now *rare* or *Obs.* Also 7 symonious. [f. SIMONY + -OUS.]

1. = SIMONIACAL 1 and 3.

1612 DEKKER *If it be not good* Wks. 1873 II. 276 None shall hold Three or four Church-liuings (got by Symonious gold). 1648 MILTON *Tenure Kings* 54 Going themselves on the simonious places of their outed predecessors. 1839 LADY LYTTON *Cheveley* (ed. 2) I. ix. 192 A simonious suit decided against her in the Ecclesiastical Court had been the result.

2. = SIMONIACAL 2.

1653 MILTON *Hirelings* Preface, The oppressions of a Simonious decimating clergie. 1670 — *Hist. Eng.* VI. Wks. 1851 III. 292 At this relation..Stigand the Simonious Archbishop..is said to have laugh't.

Si·monism. *rare*⁻¹. [Cf. next and -ISM.] The practice or advocacy of simony.

1895 *Sat. Rev.* 23 Mar. 370 For simonism and lack of manly straightforwardness, this letter has not often been paralleled.

Simonist[1] (si·mŏnist). Also 7 symonist. [f. SIMON-Y + -IST.] One who practises or upholds simony.

1567 JEWEL *Def. Apol.* v. 564 The Heresie of Macedonius ..is more tolerable, then is the Heresie of these simonistes. 1583 BABINGTON *Commandm.* (1590) 5 b, No excommunicate person or Simonist shall bee a patron to present. 1621 BP. MOUNTAGU *Diatribæ* 102 The Sacrilegist, and Symonist, the two Prophaners of holy things. 1670 MILTON *Hist. Eng.* IV. Wks. 1851 III. 163 Wulfer..selling the Bishoprick of London, to Wini the first Simonist we read of in this story. 1705 HICKERINGILL *Priest-cr.* II. v. 49 An Adulterer, Simonist,..Arrian. 1767 BURN *Eccles. Law* III. 336 The ecclesiastical court may proceed against a simonist. 1864 *Athenæum* 9 Apr. 502/3 A Turk might say,..if you are a Christian, you are a simonist and a persecutor.

attrib. 1681 HICKERINGILL *Vind. Naked Truth* II. 11 The Symonist Arch-bishop.

Simonist[2] (sə̆i·mŏnist). *rare.* [f. *Simon* + -IST.] = SIMONIAN *sb.*[2]

1880 *Encycl. Brit.* XI. 854/2 The various heresies..are taken up in chronological order and arranged in five main groups, the Ophite, Simonist,..and Noetian.

† **Si·monite.** *Obs.* = SIMONIST 1.

1508 KENNEDIE *Flyting w. Dunbar* 525 Sarazene, symonyte, provit Pagane pronunciate. 1555 W. WATREMAN *Fardle Facions* II. x. 235 Thei ware all busie vsurers, and Simonites: bothe spirituall and Temporall. 1588 in *Liturg. Serv. Q. Eliz.* (1847) 617 All Simonites, wᶜʰ bye and sell, or unfytlie bestow livinges and offices.

Simon Pure. *colloq.* Also Simon-pure, simon-pure. [The name of a Quaker in Mrs. Centlivre's comedy *A bold stroke for a wife* (1717), who is impersonated by another character during part of the play.] *The (real) Simon Pure,* the real, genuine, or authentic person or thing.

1815 SCOTT *Guy M.* lvi, 'Here,' proceeded the counsellor, 'is the real Simon Pure—here's Godfrey Bertram Hewit'. *a* 1832 — *Monast.* Introduction *note,* Each insisting that his Jedediah Cleishbotham was the real Simon Pure. 1860 W. C. PRIME *Boat Life Egypt* xxxiii. 357 If we would come with him the other way he would show us the real mummy, the Simon Pure. 1882 FLOYER *Unexpl. Baluchistan* 381, I believe the real Simon pure had been in the crowd all the time.

b. *attrib.* or as *adj.* Real, genuine, authentic.

1889 *Cent. Mag.* Jan. 337 The home of the Simon-pure wild horse is on the southern plains. 1894 HOWELLS *Trav. fr. Altruria* 125 If you want to see American individuality, the real, simon-pure article.

† **Simont, symont,** obs. ff. CEMENT *sb.* and *v.*

1502 DOUGLAS *Pal. Hou.* III. lxvii, The purifyit siluer.. Insteid of symont was ouir all that wone. 1505-6 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* III. 46 Item.., to set on the simont riall quhilk wes deliverit to Quinta Essencia. 1598 in Willis & Clark *Cambridge* (1886) II. 252 The windoes..shalbe well glazed and simonted.

Simony (si·mŏni). Forms: 3-6 symonye, -ie (4 -i), 4-9 symony; 3-7 simonie (4 -ye), 6 simoni, 6- simony. [a. OF. *symonie, simonie* (= Sp., Pg., It. *simonia*), ad. med.L. *simonia,* f. the name of *Simon* Magus, in allusion to his offer of money to the Apostles, Acts viii. 18-19.]

1. The act or practice of buying or selling ecclesiastical preferments, benefices, or emoluments; traffic in sacred things. Freq. with initial capital.

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 202 Simonie, Gauel, Oker. *c* 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 435 Wel vnnebe he it fond with-oute symonie. Simonie so is i-cleoped foreward for-to make To bugge liflode of holie churche. 1303 R. BRUNNE *Handl. Synne* 5511 Symonye ys, as men telle, When 3yftys of holy cherche men selle. *a* 1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* lxxviii. 1 Ill men..come in ..till dignytes of halykirke, þorgh maystry and symony. *c* 1380 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* III. 328 Siche curatis..comen not into here benefices bi þe dore,..but symonye, pride and coveitise. *c* 1449 PECOCK *Repr.* III. viii. 321 The fruyt of the chirchis riche endewing is synne of..symonye. 1482 *Monk of Evesham* xlvi. (Arb.) 93 He tolde me that for the synne of symony that he dyd..he sofred ful greuys peynys. 1534 MORE *Comf. agst. Trib.* II. Wks. 1200/2 If he came therto by simony, or some such other euyll mene. 1580 LUPTON *Siuqila* 11 Then I thinke none is admitted into that function with you, that intrude themselves into it by giftes or Simonie. 1616 R. C. *Times' Whistle* (1871) 45 But Simonie is now soe common growne, That 'tis account noe sinne, if kept vnknowne. 1664 H. MORE *Myst. Iniq.* 434 Those Revenues and Preferments which Simony..had made mere Merchandise. 1704 NELSON *Fest. & Fasts* x. (1739) 603 The Christian Church..proceeded with great Severity against such as were found guilty of Simony. 1766 BLACKSTONE *Comm.* II. 278 By simony, the right of presentation to a living is forfeited, and vested *pro hac vice* in the crown. 1823 LINGARD *Hist. Eng.* VI. 223 A pontiff unfit for his station through ignorance, incapable of holding it through simony. 1876 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* V. 315 In his ecclesiastical patronage Stephen stands vaguely charged with Simony.

fig. 1600 W. WATSON *Decacordon* 83 Which foule abuse is nothing else but a meere mentall Simonie, vsurie, sacriledge and most impious hypocrisie. 1656 EARL MONM. tr. *Boccalini's Advts. fr. Parnass.* I. lxxvii. 103 The prevarications of Advocates, the Symony used of Judges.

attrib. 1859 SALA *Two round Clock* (1861) 120 If you have a fancy to see Simony sales by auction, and advowsons.. knocked down for so many pounds sterling.

† **b.** Personified. *Obs.*

c 1325 *Poem time Edw. II* (Percy) iv, Trewth..dare not come..for ferde, if symonye may meet hym, he wil smyte of his berde. 1362 LANGL. *P. Pl. A.* II. 37 Sir Simonye is of-sent to asseale þe Chartres. *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (1839) iii. 19 For now is Symonye Kyng crouned in Holy Chirche. 1588 *Marprel. Epist.* (1843) 25, I thinke Simonie be the bishops lacky. *a* 1640 J. DAY *Peregr. Schol.* (1881) 72, I haue but a poore vicaridge which one Mr. Symon-Monye, or more familiarlie sym-monie, helpt me to.

† **2.** The money paid in simony. Also *transf.,* a tip (to a verger). *Obs. rare.*

1598 MARSTON *Sco. Villanie* II. v. 196 What though pale Maurus paid huge Symonies For his halfe-dozen gelded vicaries. 1706-7 FARQUHAR *Beaux' Strat.* II. ii, Then I, Sir, tips me the Verger with half a Crown; he pockets the Simony and Inducts me into the best Pue in the Church.

‖ **Simool.** [Bengālī, Hindī, etc. *sīmul* (also *semul, sēmul, sēmal*).] The (red) silk-cotton tree of India (*Bombax malabaricum*).

1855 ROYLE *Fibrous Plants India* 265 A report from the Society of Arts on two pieces of cloth made from the Simool or Silk Cotton tree. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1009/2 The silk-cotton of the Simool..is..not adapted for spinning.

‖ **Simoom** (simū·m), *sb.* Also sam-, semoom, simúm; simoon, -oun. [a. Arab. سموم *semūm,* f. the root *samm* to poison. With the form *simoon* cf. F. *semoun, simoun.*] A hot, dry, suffocating sand-wind which sweeps across the African and Asiatic deserts at intervals during the spring and summer.

a. 1790 BRUCE *Trav.* IV. 559 The simoom..still continued to blow, so as to exhaust us entirely. 1799 W. TAYLOR in *Monthly Mag.* VII. 139, I should have caught an ague on these sands, Did not a simoom cheer me now and then. 1817 BYRON *Manfred* III. i. 128 The red-hot breath of the most lone simoom, Which dwells but in the desert. 1849 EASTWICK *Dry Leaves* 131 This place is sometimes visited with a furious tornado, or simúm, from the desert. 1865 *Fortn. Rev.* I. 461 The samoom, which is so rare a phenomenon in the Egyptian desert. 1865 W. G. PALGRAVE *Arabia* I. 18 The semoom was fairly upon us. 1870 EMERSON *Soc. & Sol., Courage,* Wks. (Bohn) III. 108 The hunter is not alarmed by bears..nor an Arab by the simoom.

attrib. 1854 J. S. C. ABBOTT *Napoleon* (1855) I. xiv. 239 Every passion..had swept with simoom blast over the cities and villages of France.

β. 1847 WEBSTER, Simoon. 1860 MRS. HARVEY *Cruise Claymore* vi. 129 Two days after their departure an unusually violent simoon came on, and every soul was buried in the sand. 1878 H. S. WILSON *Alpine Ascents* ii. 58 A simoon of impalpable fine cloud dust sweeps by.

b. *transf.* and *fig.*

1839 CARLYLE *Chartism* v, Force itself..has doubtless a composing effect;—against inanimate Simoons. 1847 BUSHNELL *Chr. Nurture* II. ii. (1861) 264 It is as if there were a simoon of piety blowing through the house. 1885 *Pall Mall G.* 25 Feb. 1/1 All the force and fury of Mr. Gladstone's oratorical simoom.

Hence **Simoo·m** *v.*, to exterminate as by a simoom.

1821 *Blackw. Mag.* VIII. 532 They are simoom'd—blasted —annihilated.

Simorg(h, variants of SIMURG.

Si·mosaur. *Palæont.* [See next.] An animal belonging to the fossil genus *Simosaurus.* So **Simosau·rian.**

1880 *Libr. Univ. Knowl.* V. 410 They comprise two groups, the ichthyosaurians and simosaurians. 1896 LYDEKKER *Roy. Natural Hist.* V. 103 In the allied nothosaurs and simosaurs the limbs were better adapted for walking.

Simosaurus (sə̆imōsō·rŭs). *Palæont.* [mod.L., f. Gr. σῖμός snub-nosed + σαῦρος lizard.] A genus of Plesiosaurians belonging to the Triassic period.

1870 NICHOLSON *Man. Zool.* (1875) 492 Of the other genera .., *Simosaurus* and *Nothosaurus* are from the Trias. 1881 *Nature* XXIV. 472 Prof. H. G. Seeley gave a detailed description of the skeleton of Simosaurus recently discovered in the Trias near Stuttgart.

Simo·sity. *rare*⁻⁰. [f. L. *simus* snub-nosed.] 'A being crooked nosed' (Bailey, 1721).

Simoun, variant of SIMOOM.

Simous (sə̆i·məs), *a.* [f. L. *simus,* Gr. σῖμός: see -OUS.]

† **1.** Bending or curving inward; concave. Also of the nose: Snub, flat. *Obs.*

1634 T. JOHNSON *Parey's Chirurg.* III. xx. (1678) 73 This Gate-vein coming out of the simous part of the Liver, is divided into six branches. 1666 J. SMITH *Old Age* (ed. 2) 71 It is on the external or forepart, gibbous or bunching outward; on the internal or hind part, simous or bending inwards. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* II. 295/2 A Swallow tailed Shelldrake. This Fowl hath a short Bill, and simous. 1697 EVELYN *Numismata* ix. 297 The nose..long, short, simous.

2. Having a flat nose; snub-nosed. *rare.*

1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr., Simous,* flat nosed. 1803 SHAW *Gen. Zool.* IV. i. 172 Simous Blenny, *Blennius Simus.*

Simpai. [Malay.] (See quots.)

1840 *Cuvier's Anim. Kingd.* 58 The Simpai..is of a very lively red; beneath white: its face is blue; and a crest of black hairs reaches from one ear to the other. 1871 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* I. 87 The Black-crested Monkey, or the Simpai,.. *Semnopithecus Melalophus.*

Simpathy, obs. form of SYMPATHY.

Simper (si·mpəɹ), *sb.* [f. SIMPER *v.*[2]] An affected and self-conscious smile; a silly smiling look; a smirk.

1599 B. JONSON *Cynthia's Rev.* v. iv, You become the simper, well, ladie. 1711 ADDISON *Spectator* No. 179 ₱ 7 The Whistler relaxed his Fibres into a kind of Simper. 1728 POPE *Dunc.* II. 6 The proud Parnassian sneer, The conscious simper, and the jealous leer, Mix on his look. 1779 G. KEATE *Sketches fr. Nat.* (ed. 2) I. 23, I suppose, by your simper,..that but few people come now to Becket's shrine for a kiss. 1831 CARLYLE *Sart. Res.* I. iv, Some men wear an everlasting barren simper. 1872 BLACK *Adv. Phaeton* xxii, With an idiotic simper on his face.

Comb. 1817 *Lintoun Green* II. 22 The Boar was round as any clue, Was smooth and simper fac'd.

b. An affectation; a pose.

1828 *Life Planter Jamaica* I Few would believe him, if he fell into the common simper of whining about the comfort of convicted felons.

Si·mper, *v.*[1] *Obs.* exc. *dial.* Also 6 sympер. [Prob. imitative; connexion with next appears unlikely.]

1. *intr.* To simmer.

1477 NORTON *Ordin. Alch.* iv. in Ashm. (1652) 47 Remember that Water will buble and boyle, But Butter must simper and also Oyle. 1530 PALSGR. 718/1, I symper, as lycour dothe on the fyre byfore it begynneth to boyle. *a* 1608 DEE *Relat. Spirits* I. (1659) 214 It seemeth to be a great Lake of pitch: and it playeth or simpreth, as water doth, when it beginneth to seethe. *a* 1691 BOYLE *Medicin. Exp.* v. (1693) 41 Let the Vessel stand in a moderate heat, that the Liquor may simper for many hours. 1725 *Fam. Dict.* s.v. *Verjuice,* The Verjuice must not be boil'd, but let it simper only. 1736 in *Ochtertyre Ho. Bk.* (S. H. S.) Introd. p. xxxix, Letting the berries Simper in a pan. *a* 1825 FORBY *Voc. E. Anglia* 301. 1881 *Antrim & Down Gloss.* 90. 1888 *Sheffield Gloss.* 215.

2. *trans.* To cause to simmer. *rare*⁻¹.

1694 W. SALMON *Bate's Dispens.* (1713) 686/2 You are then to add the Balsam de Tolu..and Rose-water, simpering it till the Rose-water is evaporated.

Simper (si·mpəɹ), *v.*[2] [Of obscure origin. In sense 1 perh. related to a continental *semper* or *simper,* which is represented by Da., Norw., and Sw. dial. *semper, simper,* Swiss dial. *semper,* G. *zimper, zimpfer* (also MDu. *simper-, zimperlijc,* G. *zimpf-, zimperlich*), elegant, delicate, nice, dainty, affected, etc., and G. *zimpf-, zimpern, -eln* to be coy, etc. Mod.W.Fris. has *simperje* in sense 3, with adj. *simperich* peevish.]

1. *intr.* To smile in a silly, self-conscious, or affected manner; to smirk.

Perh. implied earlier in SIMPER-DE-COCKET.

c 1563 *Jack Juggler* (Roxb.) 9 She simperith, she prankith and getteth with out faylle, As a pecocke that hath spred, and sheweth hir gaye taile. 1576 FLEMING *Panopl. Ep.* 277 Simpering and smiling, he began somwhat leisurely to write. 1611 BEAUM. & FL. *Philaster* I, She is one that may..simper when she is Courted by her Friend. 1652 OLEY *Life G. Herbert* (1836) p. cv, His birth and spirit prompted him to martial achievements,..and not to sit simpering over a book. 1770 MME. D'ARBLAY *Early Diary* 20 Apr., She..lisps affectedly, simpers designedly, and looks conceitedly. 1832 R. & J. LANDER *Exped. Niger* III. xx. 215 Addigetta..smiles or simpers most engagingly whenever she is more than ordinarily pleased. 1891 M. WILLIAMS *Later Leaves* v. 61 She smiled and simpered and tried to avoid the question.

† **b.** So *to simper it. Obs.*

1575 NORTH tr. *Philibert's Philosopher at Crt.* 16 Counterfaite Courtiers which simper it in outwarde shewe, making pretie mouthes [etc.]. 1602 ROWLANDS *Greenes Ghost* (Hunterian Club) 27 She simpered it, and made curtesie,..as if she had neuer seene them before. 1626 MIDDLETON *Women Beware Women* III. ii, See how she simpers it, as if marmalade Would not melt in her mouth!

† **c.** With allusion to SIMPER *v.*[1] *Obs.*

1594 NASHE *Unfort. Trav.* Wks. (Grosart) V. 37, I simpered with my countenance lyke a porredge pot on the fire when it first begins to seeth. 1731-8 SWIFT *Polite Conv.* 45 And yet she simpers like a Firmity-Kettle.

† **2.** To glimmer, twinkle. *Obs. rare.*

c 1620 BEAUM. & FL. *Lover's Progress* III. i, The Candles are all out. *Lanc.* But one i' th' Parlour. I see it simper hither, pray come this way. 1633 G. HERBERT *Temple, Search* iv, Yet can I mark how starres above Simper and shine.

3. *dial.* To whimper.

1865 SLEIGH *Derbyshire Gloss.* 1888 *Sheffield Gloss.* 215 *Simper,* to cry, to begin to cry as a spoiled child does.

4. *trans.* To say or utter with a simper.

1801 MAR. EDGEWORTH *Angelina* x, 'He, he, he,' simpered Nat. 'I am Orlando, of whom you have heard so much.' 1856 MERIVALE *Rom. Emp.* I. (1865) VI. 208 'Friends everywhere!' simpered the fool; 'pray how came you all here?'

b. With advs., as *away, forth, out.*

1838 D. JERROLD *Men of Char.* III. v, He simpered away nothing of its reality into conventual no-meaning. 1843 LYTTON *Last of Barons* II. iii, Must I go bonnet in hand and simper forth the sleek personals of the choice of her kith and house? 1873 C. M. DAVIES *Unorth. Lond.* (1876) 429 Drawing-rooms, where Browning and Tennyson were simpered out to coteries.

† **Simper-de-cocket.** *Obs.* Forms: (see the quots.). [app. a fanciful formation on SIMPER

v.[2] and COCKET *a.*] An affected coquettish air; a woman characterized by this; a flirt.

In quot. 1562 used as an adj. or adv.

a. a 1529 SKELTON *E. Rummyng* 55 She wyll iet..In her furred flocket, And gray russet rocket, With symper the cocket. 1621 B. JONSON *Gipsies Metam.* Wks. (Rtldg.) 619/2 Lay by..using your nimbles, In diving the pockets, And sounding the sockets Of simper-the-cockets.

β. a 1530 J. HEYWOOD *Weather* 877 (Brandl), I saw you dally with your symper de cokket. 1562 — *Prov. & Epigr.* (1867) 43 Vpright as a candle standth in a socket, Stoode she that daie, so simpre de cocket. 1607 R. C[AREW] tr. *Estienne's World of Wonders* 238 Another sort of simper-de-cockets, who counterfet puppets, in speaking so finely that they wil scarce open their mouthes. 1611 COTGR., *Coquine*, a begger-woman; also, a cockney, simperde-cockit, nice thing. 1707 tr. *Wks. C'tess D'Anois* (1715) 384, I have here in my Custody, said she, a little Simper de cockit that will not let me be at quiet.

Si·mperer. [f. SIMPER *v.*[2] + -ER [1].] One who simpers or smiles affectedly.

1769 NEVILE *Imit. Juvenal* 11 A simp'rer, that a court affords. 1810 SCOTT *Lady of Lake* v. xxi, Well the simperer might be vain. 1816 GILCHRIST *Philos. Etym.* 216, I know what courtly simperers will think and say..of this ..style of writing. 1863 MRS. OLIPHANT *Salem Chapel* vii, Those self-engrossed simperers should yet be startled out of their follies.

Si·mpering, *vbl. sb.*[1] [f. SIMPER *v.*[1] + -ING [1].] Simmering.

1477 NORTON *Ordin. Alch.* iv. in Ashm. (1652) 46 To know of the simperinge of our Stone. 1598 FLORIO, *Cremore*,.. the creame or simpring of milke when it seethes.

Si·mpering, *vbl. sb.*[2] [f. SIMPER *v.*[2] + -ING [1].] The action of the verb; an instance of this.

1582 STANYHURST *Æneis*, etc. (Arb.) 141 Her look's, her simpring, her woords with curtesye sweetning. 1596 NASHE *Saffron Walden* Wks. (Grosart) III. 103 Some little coy bridling of the chin, and nice simpring and wrything his face 30. waies. 1633 G. HERBERT *Temple, Church-Porch* xxi, Simpring is but a lay-hypocrisie. 1675 TRAHERNE *Chr. Ethics* 314 Without which humility is but baseness,.. modesty but simpering, devotion but hypocrisie. 1748 RICHARDSON *Clarissa* (1811) II. xx. 140 My mother's hand was kindly put into his, with a simpering altogether bridal. 1780 MME. D'ARBLAY *Diary* May, We were now not content with simpering, for we could not forbear downright laughing. 1894 *Forum* July 584 [Co-education] takes the simpering out of the girls—the roughness out of the men.

Si·mpering, *ppl. a.* [f. SIMPER *v.*[2] + -ING [2].]

1. That simpers or smiles affectedly. Said of persons or their features. Also *transf.*

1586 A. DAY *Eng. Secretary* i. (1595) 70 Then is she.. a simpring puppet to woonder on. 1602 DEKKER *Satirom.* Wks. 1873 I. 185 These pretty, simpring, setting things, call'd brides. 1648 HERRICK *Hesper., To Anthea lying in bed*, Like to a Twi-light, or that simpring Dawn, That Roses shew, when misted o're with Lawn. 1768 GOLDSM. *Good-n. Man* Epil., His simpering friends, with pleasure in their eyes, Sink as he sinks. 1782 MISS BURNEY *Cecilia* I. v, Young ladies dwindle into mere listeners, simpering listeners, I confess. 1826 POLWHELE *Trad. & Recoll.* I. ii. 29 A pretty silly simpering girl..was dazzled by his wit. 1877 BRYANT *Wind & Stream* iii, The simpering stream, The fond, delighted, silly stream.

2. Accompanied by or associated with simpering; mincing, affected.

1595 T. P. GOODWIN *Blanchardine* II. (1890) 216 Pacing toward the Queene with a simpering smile, neither presaging mirth nor mourning. 1626 MIDDLETON *Women Beware Women* III. ii, I had rather hear one ballad sung..Than all these simpering tunes. 1653 R. SANDERS *Physiogn.* 156 The man walks with a proud and simpring pace. 1712 W. KING *Little Mouths* 20 Betty, with bridled chin, extends her face, And then contracts her lips with simpering grace. 1862 THACKERAY *Round. P., Notch on Axe* 253, I went on meanly conversing with him, and affecting a simpering confidence. 1865 LIVINGSTONE *Zambesi* 503 It is no simpering smile.

† **Si·mperingly,** *adv.*[1] *Obs.*[—1] [f. *simpering*, SIMPER *v.*[1]] Simmeringly.

a 1648 DIGBY *Closet Opened* (1677) 110 When you see the milk begin to boil simp'ringly.

Si·mperingly, *adv.*[2] [f. SIMPERING *ppl. a.* + -LY [2].] With a simper; in a simpering manner.

1592 NASHE *P. Penilesse* Wks. (Grosart) II. 32 Mistris Minx, a Marchants wife,..that lookes as simperingly as if she were besmeared. 1598 MARSTON *Sco. Villanie* III. ix. 220 Why lookes neat Curus all so simpringly? 1612 *Benvenuto's Passenger* II. ii. 533 She affably and simpringly answered. 1862 SALA *Seven Sons* III. 12 He..made use of some simperingly good-hearted expressions.

Simpiesometer: see SYMPIESOMETER.

† **Si·mplar,** *a. Obs.*[—1] [ad. late L. *simplār-is*, f. *simplus* SIMPLE *a.*] Single.

1610 [see DUPLAR *a.*].

Simple (si·mp'l), *a.* and *sb.* Also *a.* 4 simpil, -ul, 5 simpel, -ill, -ulle; 4–5 sympile, 5–6 -ill, 5 sympel(l, 5–6 sympyll (5 -yl, -ylle, cympylle), sympul (5 -ull), 4–6 symple. *β.* 4–6, *Sc.* 8–9 semple, 5–6 sempill (6 -yll). [a. OF. *simple* (12th cent., = Prov., Sp., and Pg. *simple*), ad. L. *simplus* or *simplex*. Hence also Du., Fris., G., Da., and Sw. *simpel* (MDu. also *sempel*).

L. *simplus* (in class. L. only in neut. *simplum*) is cognate with Gr. ἁπλόος, ἁπλοῦς, the first element in both being **sem-* 'one'. In *simplex* the second element is related to L. *plicāre*, Gr. πλέκειν 'to fold': cf. AFALD *a.*]

A. *adj.*

In early examples it is often difficult to decide in which of several possible senses the word is to be taken.

I. 1. Free from duplicity, dissimulation, or guile; innocent and harmless; undesigning, honest, open, straightforward.

c 1200 *Bestiary* 790 Simple [as the dove] and softe be we alle. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 128 [False ancres] habbeð efter þe uoxe a simple semblaunt sume cherre, & beoð þauh ful of gile. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 746 Now sayned be þou sauiour, so symple in þy wrath! 1382 WYCLIF *Matt.* x. 16 Be 3e war as serpentis, and symple as dowues. *Ibid., Luke* xi. 34 If thin y3e schal be symple, al thi body schal be liȝtful. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 4404 To sawe emang þir simpill men sedis of debate. 1485 CAXTON *St. Wenefryde* 14 A man of good lyf and symple courage. 1508 DUNBAR *Tua Mariit Wemen* 255, I semyt sober, and sueit, & sempill without fraud, Bot I couth sexty dissaif that suttillar wer haldin. 1565 JEWEL *Repl. Harding* (1611) 411 Wherein also appeareth some suspition of no simple dealing. 1614 RALEIGH *Hist. World* v. iii. 404 Bostar, the Gouernour of Saguntum, a simple man. 1669 *Relat. Raleigh's Troubles* in *Harl. Misc.* IV. 60 The Lord Cobham, a simple passionate man, but of very noble birth and great possessions. 1781 GIBBON *Decl. & F.* xxxi. (1787) III. 191 The edict which the fanaticism of Olympius dictated to the simple and devout emperor. 1781 CRABBE *Library* 243 Here wily Jesuits simple Quakers meet. 1822 SHELLEY *Fragm. Unf. Drama* 85 He was a simple innocent boy. I loved him well. 1842 LYTTON *Zanoni* 27 A simple heart may be its own best guide. 1859 TENNYSON *Guinevere* 367 The simple, fearful child meant nothing, but my own too-fearful guilt..betrays itself.

2. Free from, devoid of, pride, ostentation, or display; humble, unpretentious.

c 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 140 His oste nam wel gode ȝeme.. hov luytel he et him-selue, with wel simple mode. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* A. 1134 His lokez symple, hym self so gent. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* II. 41, I am so simple of port, That forto feigne som desport I pleie with hire litel hound. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 4664 All be we suggets in oure-selfe & simpill oure latis. *a* 1450 *Knt. de la Tour* lxiii. (1868) 84 She deigned not to do reuerence and worshippe unto the kinge..for because he was symple and debonaire. 1508 DUNBAR *Gold. Targe* 272 Be ewir obedient, Humble, subiect, and symple of entent. 1535 COVERDALE *Zech.* ix. 9 Lowly and symple is he, he rydeth vpon an asse. 1630 WADSWORTH *Pilgr.* iii. 30 A third sort of Iesuites there are, not vnfitly termed simple ones; these are wonderfull austere in their life. 1738 WESLEY *Ps.* lxxxii. ii, Harmless, and pure, and undefil'd, A simple Follower of the Lamb. 1855 TENNYSON *Maud* I. x. v, A man with heart, head, hand, Like some of the simple great ones gone For ever and ever by.

3. Free from elaboration or artificiality; artless, unaffected; plain, unadorned.

Usually implying that the simplicity is a merit, but sometimes (as in quot. 1827) with suggestion of sense 7.

c 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* Prol. (Rolls) 93 Als þai haf wryten & sayd, haf I alle in myn Inglis layd, In symple speche as I couthe, þat is lightest in manres mouthe. 1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. XIII. 217 Sobrete, and symple speche, and sothfaste byleue. *c* 1450 in Aungier *Syon* (1840) 320 Ther songe schal be sadde, sober, ande symple withe out brekyng of notes. 1530 PALSGR. 324/1 Symple styll, *simple*. 1601 SHAKS. *Jul. C.* IV. ii. 22 There are no trickes, in plaine and simple Faith. 1696 PHILLIPS (ed. 5) s.v., Simple Style, an easie plain Stile. 1726 SWIFT *Gulliver* IV. xii, I rather chose to relate plain Matter of Fact, in the simplest Manner and Style. 1750 GRAY *Elegy* 32 The short and simple annals of the poor. 1752 HUME *Ess. & Treat.* (1777) I. 209 Sophocles and Terence..are more simple than Lucretius. 1827 SCOTT *Chron. Canongate* vii, It is, however, but a very simple tale, and may have no interest for persons beyond Janet's rank of life or understanding. 1860 WARTER *Sea-Board* II. 446 The simplest sermons, conveyed in the simplest language, usually do most good. 1881 FREEMAN *Subj. Venice* 249 The arcades themselves, though very good and simple, do not carry out the wonderful boldness..of the outer range.

b. Of persons: Free from over-refinement, unsophisticated, unspoiled.

1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* iii, The inhabitants of these mountains are a simple people. 1821 SHELLEY *Epipsych.* 429 Pastoral people.., Simple and spirited; innocent and bold.

II. 4. Of persons, or their origin: Poor or humble in condition; of low rank or position; undistinguished, mean, common.

c 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 49 Among lowe Men and simple deol þere was i-nou3. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 15007 þe simple folk al o þe tun þai went him for to mete. *c* 1350 *Will. Palerne* 714 þer nys lord in no lond..þat sohli nere simple i-nou3 þat semly to haue. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 2631 A! nobill kyng,..suffers me to say, Symple þof I be. 1441 *Pol. Poems* (Rolls) II. 206 Alas! what was myne adventure, So sodenly down for to falle,..Now am I made sympulest of alle. 1474 CAXTON *Chesse* III. i. (1883) 78 Kynge Dauid that was first symple & one of the comyn peple. 1535 STEWART *Cron. Scot.* I. 423 All sic like..That cuming ar of sic sempill degrie. 1570 FOXE *A. & M.* 1346/1 Thomas Cromwell,..borne of a simple parentage & house obscure. 1647 FULLER *Good Th. in Worse T.* (1841) 108 The silliest and simplest being wronged may justly speak in their own defence. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* XII. 365 His place of birth a solemn Angel tells To simple Shepherds. 1746 FRANCIS tr. *Horace, Sat.* II. vi. 112 How you joke, And love to sneer at simple Folk! 1794 BURNS *Gane is the day* ii, There's wealth and ease for gentlemen, And semple folk maun fecht and fen'. 1864 *Spectator* 537 It is sometimes objected to Mr. A. Fripp's peasant children that they are more gentle than simple.

b. In modest or apologetic use.

In some examples sense 9 may be intended.

c 1440 *York Myst.* xiv. 3, I praye þe, lord, for thy grete myght Vnto thy symple seruand see. 1481 CAXTON *Godfr.* ccxii. 311 Reduced out of Frensshe in to englysshe by me symple persone Wylliam Caxton. 1539 *Test. Ebor.* (Surtees) VI. 88 My simple bodie to be buried at Ratclif. *c* 1560 A. SCOTT *Poems* (S.T.S.) i. 223 Send be thy sempill servand Sanderris Scott. 1572 R. EDWARDS *Damon & Pithias* in Hazl. *Dodsley* IV. 94 When I am dead, my simple ghost.. Shall hover about the place.

† **c.** In phr. *as simple as*, or *simple though, I stand here. Obs.*

1598 SHAKS. *Merry W.* I. i. 228 *Slender.* He's a Iustice of Peace in his Countrie, simple though I stand here. 1598 B. JONSON *Ev. Man in Hum.* I. i, I am his next heire as the common law, Master Stephen, as simple as I stand here. 1728 SWIFT *Mullinix & Timothy* Wks. 1751 VII. 213 And simple as I now stand here, Expect in Time to be a P—.

5. With designations or titles: Ordinary; not further distinguished in office or rank.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 26226 Es na simple preist þat mai Sli scrift on man bot biscop lai. 1389 in *Eng. Gilds* (1870) 8 3if it so bifalle þat a symple brother dye. 1474 CAXTON *Chesse* II. iv. (1883) 50 Alexander of Macedone cam on a tyme lyke a symple knyght vnto the court of Porus kynge of Inde. 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* xxii. 64 Ane semple vicar I can nocht be. 1593 SHAKS. 2 *Hen. VI*, I. iii. 77 Salisbury and Warwick are no simple Peeres. 1657 *Narr. Late Parl.* in *Harl. Misc.* (1809) III. 456 One of the simple and new-made knights. 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xiv. III. 456 Perhaps no simple presbyter of the Church of England has ever possessed a greater authority over his brethren. 1875 STUBBS *Const. Hist.* II. xv. 201 This change affected however only the simple barons.

6. Of persons or their attire: Not marked by any elegance or grandeur; very plain or homely.

1362 LANGL. *P. Pl. A.* IX. 110 He was long and lene, to loken on ful symple, Was no pride on his apparail, ne no pouert noþer. *c* 1400 *Rom. Rose* 6822, I, that were my simple cloth, Robbe bothe robbed and robbours. *c* 1450 *Merlin* XXVI. 478 The kynge..and his knyghtes..hadde don of theire helmes from theire heedes and valed theire coiffes of mayle vpon theire sholderes and com full symple. 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 55 The body must be chastened and made leane with fasting and simple apparel. 1567 *Gude & Godlie B.* 49 3e sall him find, but mark or wyng, Full sempill in ane Cribe lying. 1633 T. STAFFORD *Pac. Hib.* II. xviii. 191 Cloathed in a simple mantle, and torne trowsers.

b. Similarly of living, diet, abode, etc.

The simple life, a mode of life in which anything of the nature of luxury is intentionally avoided.

13.. *Cursor M.* 13272 (Göll.), Chese him felaus will he bigin, ..mene men of simpil liif. 13.. *Gaw. & Gr. Knt.* 503 þe crabbed lentoun, þat fraystez flesch wyth þe fysche & fode more symple. *c* 1380 WYCLIF *Wks.* (1880) 149 What euere þing curatis holden of þe auterage ouer a sympule liflode,.. it nys not here but oþere mennus. *c* 1400 LOVE *Bonavent. Mirr.* (1908) 64 Mekenesse, pouerte, and buxumnesse, that weren openly sehewed in her symple dwellynge. 1474 CAXTON *Chesse* III. v. (1883) 120 But they ought to make good and symple colacion to geder. 1568 GRAFTON *Chron.* II. 88 Leopold..did take the king captiue at Dena in a village nere therevnto, in a simple house. 1579 LYLY *Euphues* (Arb.) 96 In that my welcome is so colde, and my cheere so simple. 1596 SPENSER *F. Q.* VI. ix. 16 His simple home; Which though it were a cottage clad with lome [etc.]. *c* 1610 *Women Saints* 80 Her bodie she allowed but such like short and simple foode, stanching hir hunger with herbes and barlie bredd. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* III. 790 Simple his Bev'rage, homely was his Food. 1764 GOLDSM. *Trav.* 17 Blest be those feasts, with simple plenty crown'd. 1820 SHELLEY *Prometh. Unb.* III. iii. 22 There is a cave [etc.],..A simple dwelling, which shall be our own. 1889 R. BUCHANAN *Heir of Linne* vii, The meal consisted of the very simplest fare, and was soon over. 1901 tr. *Wagner's The Simple Life* p. vii, What is the simple life?..It is a form of life, described by the pastoral poets, or the New Testament, but not livable to-day [etc.].

† **c.** Ordinary, not festival. *Obs.*[—1]

1480 CAXTON *Myrr.* III. x. 155 In worshippyng our lord on hye dayes and simple.

7. Small, insignificant, slight; of little account or value; also, weak or feeble.

1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* v. 258 That ves a sympill stuff to ta, A land or castell for to vyn! ?*a* 1400 *Morte Arth.* 967 Siche sex ware to symple to semble with hyme one. *c* 1450 *Merlin* vii. 116 Thei were so astoned with the hete of the fier that theire deffence was but symple. 1486 *Bk. St. Albans, Hawking* d iij b, The symplest of theis iij. will slee an Hynde calfe. 1509 BARCLAY *Shyp of Folys* (1874) II. 80 They spoyle this pore man, so that sympyll is his porcion. 1597 DANIEL *Civ. Wars* VI. ii, Supposing some small powre would have restrained Disordred rage, sends with a simple crew Sir Humfrey Stafford. 1613 SHAKS. *Hen. VIII*, II. iv. 106 *Queen.* I am a simple woman, much too weake T'oppose your cunning. 1662 J. DAVIES tr. *Mandelslo's Trav.* 62 It lies almost in the midst of the Kingdome, and till of late was but a simple Village. 1839 SIR G. C. LEWIS *Gloss. Heref., Simple*, sickly, feeble, helpless. 1875 TENNYSON *Holy Grail* 668 Their wise men.. scoff'd at him, And this high Quest as at a simple thing.

† **b.** Of price or sale: Low, poor. *Obs.*

a 1436 *Rolls of Parlt.* IV. 499/1 If it seme come to, that utterance and sale of the seid Wolle..be so escarse and symple as likly is to be. 1439 *Ibid.* V. 24/1 For so sympyl prys that it may not goodly bere the costes of Staple. *c* 1480 *Pol. Poems* (Rolls) II. 284 The pryce ys sympylle, the cost ys never the lesse.

† **8.** Poor, wretched, pitiful, dismal. *Obs.*

13.. *Sir Beues* 4050 Be þe sweuene ful wel I wat, þat Beues is in semple stat. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 8247 His worshipful wife,..With his Suster beside,..þat were sory for þe sight, Semple of chere. *c* 1420 *Sir Amadace* (Camden) xxxviii, Quat mon is this, That alle this mowrnyng makes thus, With so simpulle chere? *c* 1477 CAXTON *Jason* 48 b, Jason..hering the fayr Myrro so ordeyne,..of theyr sodayn departing began to make simple chere.

9. Deficient in knowledge or learning; characterized by a certain lack of acuteness or quick apprehension: **a.** Of persons (and animals).

1340 *Ayenb.* 137 He is ase þet simple sseþ ine huam al hit is guod and profitable..and ne wenþ and ne þan naȝt ne naȝt ne þengþ. *a* 1400 *Wycliffite Bible* Prol. (1850) I. 58 No doute to a symple man..men miȝten expoune..shortliere the bible in English [etc.]. *c* 1460 J. RUSSELL *Bk. Nurture* 1247 Symple as y had insight somwhat þe ryme y correcte.

a 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. V*, 29 b, Thynke you..that I am so ignorant..? Judge you me so simple, that I know not wherin the glory of a conquerour consisteth? 1596 SPENSER *State Irel.* Wks. (Globe) 609/1 A vayne conceit of simple men, which judge thinges by theyre effectes, and not by theyre causes. 1612 BRINSLEY *Lud. Lit.* xix. (1627) 220 If there be one simple in a fourme, or harder of learning then the rest, they will make him a right *Asinus*. 1640 WILKINS *New Planet* III. (1707) 169 It is a Book for the simpler and ignorant People. *a* 1718 W. PENN *Life* Wks. 1726 I. 38 Why should you render yourself unhappy, by associating with such a Simple People? 1768 WALPOLE *Hist. Doubts* 16, I say not this from any partiality or to decry the simple man as crossing my opinion. 1780 COWPER *Progr. Err.* 506 Women,..With all the simple and unletter'd poor, Admire his learning. 1822 SCOTT *Peveril* v, Thou art as simple, I see, in this world's knowledge as ever. 1865 MOZLEY *Mirac.* i. 22 The religion too of the intelligent as well as of the simpler portion of society.

b. Of mental powers, etc.

1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 4435 Men of symple connyng He sal turne thurgh miracles and prechyng. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* VIII. 3052* This povere bok heer I presente,..Write of my simple besinesse. *c* 1430 LYDG. *Min. Poems* (Percy Soc.) 108 Sympylle ys there consayet, when yt ys forthe broughte. *c* 1460 J. RUSSELL *Bk. Nurture* 277 Symple Condicyons of a persone þat is not taught, y wille ye eschew. 1523 LD. BERNERS *Froiss.* I. ciii. 123 They had sene parte of the demeanour of the frenchemen, the which they thoght to be but symple. 1591 SHAKS. *Two Gentl.* I. ii. 8 He shew my minde, According to my shallow simple skill. 1812 CRABBE *Tales* v. 257 Leave admonition,..Nor take that simple fancy to thy brain, That thou canst cure the wicked and the vain.

c. Of compositions, etc., esp. in apologetic use.

c 1430 LYDG. *Min. Poems* (Percy Soc.) 22 On my rudnesse ..to have pitee, My simple makyng for to take at gree. 1474 CAXTON *Chesse* IV. viii. (1883) 187 Prayngе your good grace to resseyue this lityll and symple book. 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* Pref. 3 Humbly beseching your honour to accept this simple translation. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* II. x. 28 Whose simple answere, wanting colours faire To paint it forth, him to displeasance moou'd. 1595 T. P. GOODWIN *Blanchardine* (1890) 233 To larum foorth my simple musicke.

10. Lacking in ordinary sense or intelligence; more or less foolish, silly, or stupid; also, mentally deficient, half-witted (now *dial.*).

1604 E. GRIMSTONE *Hist. Siege Ostend* 63 A Germaine.. was lame of halfe his body, and simple. 1653 J. TAYLOR *Serm. for Year* I. xxiii. 290 Unwary fools and defenselesse people were called simple. 1713 ARBUTHNOT *John Bull* II. ix, The good old Gentlewoman was not so simple, as to go into his project; she began to smell a Rat. 1778 MISS BURNEY *Evelina* lxxvi, I was extremely disconcerted..and I am sure I must look very simple. 1798 JANE AUSTEN *Northang. Abb.* (1833) II. xv. 201 You are fretting about General Tilney, and that is very simple of you! 1814 SCOTT *Ld. of Isles* v. xxi, Nay, weep not so, thou simple boy! But sleep in peace, and wake in joy. 1883 *Hampshire Gloss.* s.v., He be quite simple, poor chap.

b. *Simple Simon* (see quots. 1785, 1865).

'Simple Simon is the subject of various nursery rhymes, which may have given rise to the general use.

1785 GROSE *Dict. Vulgar T.*, *Simple Simon*, a natural, a silly fellow. 1865 *Slang Dict.* 230 *Simon*, or *Simple Simon*, a credulous gullible person. 1899 *Westm. Gaz.* 12 June 5/1 A tall, ungainly Simple Simon of a peasant.

c. In bird-names, as *simple tern* (or *viralve*), *warbler*.

1783 LATHAM *Gen. Synop. Birds* II. ii. 500 Simple Warbler, *Motacilla campestris*. 1785 *Ibid.* III. ii. 355 Simple Tern. Size of the Noddy. 1826 STEPHENS in Shaw *Gen. Zool.* XIII. i. 172 Simple Viralve (*Viralva simplex*)...Inhabits Cayenne.

†**III. 11.** With nothing added; considered or taken by itself; mere, pure, bare; † single.

1340 *Ayenb.* 134 þet me yleſþ god ope his simple worde þet al is zoþ þet he zayþ. 1483 CAXTON *Gold. Leg.* 201/2 Wicked spirites went out of the bodyes of creatures by his symple regarde and syghte. 1578 *Sc. Acts, James VI* (1814) III. 113 The haill Iniureis and attemptatis committit of befoir..suld be reparit to the sempill availl. 1590 SHAKS. *Com. Err.* v. i. 211 Nere may I looke on day,..But she tels to your Highnesse simple truth. 1600 E. BLOUNT tr. *Conestaggio* 74 It was not probable they shoulde yeelde vpon a simple Letter. 1601 SHAKS. *All's Well* II. i. 78 A medicine.. whose simple touch Is powerfull to araise King Pippen. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* III. 207 They who are hanged for simple theft. 1732 POPE *Ess. Man* I. 103 Yet simple Nature to his hope has giv'n..an humbler heav'n. 1797–1805 S. & HT. LEE *Cant. T.* I. 84 What need of invention? We have only to tell the simple truth. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* vi. II. 38 A simple majority, provided that it consisted of twelve, was sufficient to convict. 1857 MILLER *Elem. Chem., Org.* iii. § 4 (1862) 219 Many of the compounds..have an affinity for oxygen so powerful that they take fire by simple contact with it. 1870 MAX MÜLLER *Sci. Relig.* (1873) 321 What M. Jacolliot calls a simple translation..is, as far as I can judge, a simple invention of some slightly mischievous Brahman.

b. In phr. *pure and simple*. Cf. PURE *a.* 3.

1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) I. 29 That of which we are speaking is knowledge pure and simple. 1895 *Bookman* Oct. 16/2 The matter, both literary and pictorial,..has been garbage pure and simple.

12. *a. Med.* Of wounds, diseases, etc.: Unaccompanied by complications.

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* VII. lxix. (Bodl. MS.), Also semple euel schal be heeled with medicyns þat beþ semple. 1541 COPLAND *Guydon's Form.* S iv b, Al symple woundes ..ben new woundes in the partyes of ye flesshe, that onely requyreth consolydacyons. 1580 BLUNDEVIL *Horsemanship* IV. ii, For, as they [causes] be simple or compound, so doe they ingender simple or compound diseases. 1597 A. M. tr. *Guillemeau's Fr. Chirurg.* 45/4 As touchinge the simple fractures, in thre dayes once we dresse them. 1758 J. S. tr. *Le Dran's Observ. Surg.* (1771) 250 The Suppuration proceeding kindly, the Wound became a simple Wound. 1826 S. COOPER *First Lines Surg.* (ed. 5) 94 A wound is called *simple* when it occurs in a healthy subject; has been produced by a clean, sharp-edged instrument; is unattended with any serious symptoms; and the only indication is to re-unite the fresh-cut surfaces. 1877 BURNETT *Ear* 223 Simple Erythema is usually caused by local irritation from bites of insects.

b. *Law.* Unattended by any strengthening circumstance; not specially confirmed.

Simple contract, one made by word of mouth or not under seal; also *attrib.*

1546 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* I. 37 Quhatsumevir clame, sempill supplicatiоun, bill or summondis. 1765–8 ERSKINE *Inst. Law Scot.* IV. i. § 24 Simple reductions, where improbation is not also libelled, are now seldom made use of. 1798 DALLAS *Amer. Law Rep.* I. 244 In the case of an intestacy, simple contract debts..must be paid out of the personal estate. 1818 CRUISE *Digest* (ed. 2) I. 468 The plaintiffs had no lien on the estates purchased by Lockyer; being creditors by simple contract only. *Ibid.* III. 41 A general resignation bond, simple and unattended with any other fact or circumstance.

13. Consisting or composed of one substance, ingredient, or element; uncompounded, unmixed (or nearly so): **a.** Of bodies or substances, esp. natural or organic.

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* X. iii. (Bodl. MS.), An element is semple and leste perticle of a bodie þat is compowned. 1471 RIPLEY *Comp. Alch.* v. viii. in Ashm. (1652) 150 The Compound corporall..Uprysyth agayne Regenerat, Sympill, and Spyrytuall. 1594 T. B. *La Primaud. Fr. Acad.* II. 29 The partes then of the body are diuided into two sortes or kindes: the first is, the simple or similary parts. 1626 BACON *Sylva* § 16 Simple Bodies, which consist of severall similare Parts. 1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* VII. 319 The Sunne, beating continually vpon [the Nile water]..maketh it become more Lighter, Purer, and Simple. 1704 NEWTON *Optics* (1721) 4 The Light whose Rays are all alike Refrangible, I call Simple, Homogeneal and Similar. 1724 WATTS *Logic* I. ii. (1736) 15 A Needle is a simple Body, being made only of Steel; but a Sword or a Knife is a Compound. 1796 KIRWAN *Elem. Min.* (ed. 2) I. 4 Simple earths are those which are incapable of being converted or analyzed..., either with each other, or into any other substance. 1811 A. T. THOMSON *Lond. Disp.* (1818) p. xlii, *Sulphur*...I have.. followed Dr. Thomson in regarding it as a simple solid. 1843 J. A. SMITH *Product. Farming* (ed. 2) 11 The number of simple, or elementary substances, at present known..is fifty-four. *a* 1862 BUCKLE *Civiliz.* III. 420 Simple solids retain after death the properties which they possessed during life.

b. Of medical or other preparations. *Simple colours* (see quot. 1771).

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* VII. lxix. (Bodl. MS.), If he know what medicyne is semple, what compowned, what colde, what hote. *c* 1400 *Lanfranc's Cirurg.* 92 Medicyns bope þe symple & þe compound. 1558 WARDE tr. *Alexis' Secr.* 32 b, Let the fyrste glyster be symple: that is to saye, made with water wherin ye haue boyled or sodden wheat bran, common oyle and salt. 1598 SHAKS. *Merry W.* III. v. 32 *Fal.* Go, brew me a pottle of Sacke finely. *Bard.* With Egges, Sir? *Fal.* Simple of it selfe. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* III. 178 In the time of Queene Elizabeth the Courtiers delighted much in darke colours, both simple and mixt. 1669 W. SIMPSON *Hydrol. Chym.* 372 Volatile saline Spirit, either simple or aromatiz'd with Essences. 1738 tr. *Guazzo's Art of Conversation* 7 Not Esculapius himself, can, by the Means of Medicine, either Simple or Compound,..give you the least Help. 1771 *Encycl. Brit.* II. 223/2 Painters also distinguish colours into simple and mineral. Under simple colours they rank all those which are extracted from vegetables, and which will not bear the fire. 1825 E. HEWLETT *Cottage Comforts* xi. 145 A tablespoon full of simple peppermint water. 1859 *Habits of Gd. Society* i. 104 In Paris I learned to abjure *café au lait*, and to drink my tea simple. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VII. 550 A simple aperient, and a stomachic or febrifuge mixture.

c. In general use.

1586 W. WEBBE *Eng. Poetrie* (Arb.) 69 A foote of two sillables, is eyther simple or mixt, that is, of like time or of diuers. *a* 1619 FOTHERBY *Atheom.* II. iv. § 4 (1622) 231 This *mens*..was the first Beginning of all things, being it selfe most simple, and without any mixture. 1655–60 STANLEY *Hist. Philos.* (1687) 195/2 If desire and fear are not principal passions, it will doubtless follow, that none of the other affections are simple. *a* 1676 HALE *Prim. Orig. Man.* 11 Though he is but one, and one most simple uncompounded Being.

14. Not composite or complex in respect of parts or structure.

a 1425 tr. *Arderne's Treat. Fistula*, etc. 33 It was oonly symple by itself in þe flesshe, hauyng no passyng to þe tother hole. *c* 1450 *Myrr. our Lady* 107 To the souerayne Trynyte, one symple God, fader and sonne and holy gooste. *a* 1475 ASHBY *Dicta Philos.* 1142 Thre thinges be in a right simpul knot. 1530 PALSGR. 68 Dyvers substantyves be symple, that is to saye, be nat compounde with any other wordes. 1636 B. JONSON *Eng. Gram.* I. xviii, The change of vowels is, either of simple vowels, or of diphthongs. 1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr., Un*, is an English Privative, which may be added at pleasure to simple words. 1731 *Phil. Trans.* XXXVII. 107 Then they fasten Potlarts to the several simple Chords, that draw up the Rings. 1779 *Mirror* No. 24, Take the simplest blossom that blows. 1824 L. MURRAY *Eng. Gram.* (ed. 5) I. 149 Those tenses are called simple tenses, which are formed of the principal, without an auxiliary verb. 1843 *Proc. Philol. Soc.* I. 63 Thousands of compound words or characters which the Chinese ingeniously formed by the combinations of the simple roots. 1857 MILLER *Elem. Chem., Org.* iii. § 4 (1862) 238 Both the simple and the double radicles are formed upon a similar molecular plan.

b. *spec.* in scientific use (see quots.).

(*a*) 1727 BAILEY (vol. II.), *Simple Leaf* (with Botanists) is that which is not divided to the middle in several Parts, each resembling a Leaf it self, as in a Dock. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s.v. *Leaf*, *Simple leaf* is otherwise defined, that of which the petiole carries only one. 1793 MARTYN *Lang. Bot.* s.v. *Simplex*, A Simple root...A Simple stem... A Simple fructification. 1796 WITHERING *Brit. Pl.* (ed. 3) I. 82 *Simple Cup*, one that consists of a single series of segments. *Ibid.*, *Simple Stem*, one that is undivided; or, only sending out small branches. 1855 MISS PRATT *Flower Pl.* I. 10 A flower-stalk bearing one flower only, is termed simple, as the Daisy. 1872 OLIVER *Elem. Bot.* I. vii. 73 Leaves..which are not divided into separate leaflets are termed simple. 1879 A. GRAY *Struct. Bot.* VII. (1880) 291 Simple fruits, those which result from the ripening of a single pistil. 1880 BESSEY *Botany* 433 The simple pistil is synonymous with carpel.

(*b*) 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Microscope*, The Simple [microscopes] are those which consist of a single Lens, or a single Spherule. 1867 J. HOGG *Microsc.* I. ii. 31 The simple microscope may consist of one..or of two or three lenses; but these latter are so arranged as to have the effect only of a single lens.

(*c*) 1799 *Med. Jrnl.* I. 306 He distinguishes..between simple and compound muscles: in the former, the fibres lie only in one direction. 1826 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* IV. xlvi. 287 *Simple Ocellus*, when the ocellus consists only of iris and pupil. 1863 BATES *Nat. Amazons* I. 31 A twin ocellus, or simple eye, of quite different structure from the ordinary compound eyes. 1867 J. HOGG *Microsc.* II. i. 324 Simple hairs are merely single epidermal cells produced in a tubular filament. 1875 HUXLEY in *Encycl. Brit.* I. 130/1 Simple organisms,..that is, in which the primitive actinozoon attains its adult condition without budding or fission.

c. *Eccl.* (See quots.)

1850 *Vesper Book* Pref. p. xii, The Office as regards Vespers is said to be..Simple, when the Antiphons being sung as on Semi-doubles, the Psalms of the Feria are substituted for the Psalms proper to Feasts. 1874 *Breviary Offices* Pref. p. x, On Simple Feasts the Antiphons and Psalms at First Vespers are of the feria, and the Proper Office begins at the Chapter. 1883 *Catholic Dict.* (1897) 375 On lesser feasts the office was simple—*i. e.* the feast was merely commemorated. *Ibid.* 376 The office for simple feasts differed little from that of the feria.

15. Not complicated or involved; presenting little or no complexity or difficulty.

c 1555 HARPSFIELD *Divorce Hen. VIII* (Camden) 30 The knowledge of all Christendom should be so simple and grosse. 1601 SHAKS. *Twel. N.* I. v. 55 If that this simple Syllogisme will serue, so: if it will not, what remedy? 1668 CULPEPPER & COLE tr. *Barthol. Anat.* II. vi. 106 The motion of the Elements is simple, never circular. 1670 BAXTER *Cure Ch. Div.* I. ii. Pref., The simple terms of Christian Unity left us by Christ and his Apostles. 1704 NORRIS *Ideal World* II. xii. 446 God never does that by difficult ways, which may be done by ways that are simple and easie. 1797–1805 S. & HT. LEE *Canterb. T.* II. 177 A most simple train of circumstances had produced this romantic meeting. 1833 HERSCHEL *Astron.* viii. 248 All that apparent irregularity..resolves itself into one simple and general law. 1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* II. x. 277 A simple calculation determined the daily motion of the stake. 1884 tr. *Lotze's Logic* 356 We must prefer the simpler hypothesis to the more complicated.

b. In various technical uses, as in *Mus.*, *Math.*, *Logic*, etc.

In some of these there is connexion with sense 14.

(*a*) *c* 1475 HENRYSON *Orpheus & Eurydice* 117 First dyatesseron,..And dyapason, symple and duplycate. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Concord*, A simple, or original Concord. *Ibid.* s.v. *Counter-point*, Simple Counter-point, or the Harmony of Concords. 1801 BUSBY *Dict. Mus.* s.v., *Simple fugue*, or *Simple imitation*, is that style of composition in which a single subject is adopted, or some partial echo preserved among the several parts. 1867 MACFARREN *Harmony* ii. 34 In this form of note against note it is called Plain or simple Counterpoint. 1871 STAINER *Harmony* iii. § 41 Intervals not exceeding the compass of an octave are termed Simple. 1873 H. C. BANISTER *Music* 10 When the beats are of the value of an aliquot part of a Semibreve..the time is termed Simple.

(*b*) 1594 BLUNDEVIL *Exerc.* I. xxix. (1636) 78 The Fractions wherewith you have to deale, are either simple or compound. 1704 J. HARRIS *Lex. Techn.* I, *Simple Quantities* in Algebra, are such as have but one Sign, whether Positive or Negative. 1798 HUTTON *Course Math.* I. 221 A Simple Equation, is that which contains only one power of the unknown quantity, without including different powers. *Ibid.* 110 Simple Interest is that which is allowed for the principal lent or forborn only, for the whole time of forbearance. 1859 B. SMITH *Arith. & Alg.* (ed. 6) 194 A quantity consisting of one term, as a, bx, 3abx, is called a Simple quantity, and also a Monomial. 1894 CAYLEY *Math. Papers* (1897) XIII. 533 A group,...when it cannot be thus expressed as a permutable product of two factors,..is prime or simple.

(*c*) 1620 T. GRANGER *Div. Logike* 12 Artificiall Argument is either..simple, or comparate. The simple is considered simply, and absolutely without comparison. 1689 LOCKE *Hum. Und.* II. ii. § 2 The simple ideas, the materials of all our knowledge, are suggested..only by..sensation and reflection. 1697 tr. *Burgersdicius' Logic* I. i. 2 Themes simple are those which are understood without a composition or complexion of notions. *Ibid.* xxvii. 109 Simple enunciation is that which cannot be resolved into more. 1704 NORRIS *Ideal World* II. iii. 139 That apprehension or perception, which is rightly said to be *simple*, because it rests in the pure view of things as they are. 1724 WATTS *Logic* 36 That idea, which represents one particular determinate thing to me, is called a singular idea, whether it be simple, or complex, or compound. 1846 MILL *Logic* I. iv. § 3. 108 A simple proposition is that in which one predicate is affirmed or denied of one subject. 1864 BOWEN *Logic* v. 127 In respect to the Relation of the Predicate to the Subject, Judgments are divided into simple or absolute, and conditional.

(*d*) 1730 BAILEY (fol.) s.v. *Benefices*, *Simple Benefices*, are such where the Parsons are only obliged to read prayers, &c.

IV. †**16.** In advb. phr. *in simple*, simply; by itself; without any other fact or circumstance. *Obs.*

A NEW ENGLISH DICTIONARY ON HISTORICAL PRINCIPLES.

(VOLUME IX: FIRST HALF. SI.—ST.)

SIMPLE—SLEEP

BY

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PREFATORY NOTE.

THIS double section contains 1611 Main words, 220 Combinations explained under these, and 577 Subordinate entries of obsolete or variant forms, in all 2408. The obvious Combinations, recorded and illustrated by quotations, but not requiring to be explained, number 869 more, and bring up the total to 3277. Of the Main words, 269 are marked † as obsolete, and 46 are marked ‖ as alien or not fully naturalized.

The following figures exhibit the result of comparison with Johnson's and some recent Dictionaries:—

	Johnson.	Cassell's 'Encyclopædic'.	'Century' Dict.	Funk's 'Standard'	Here.
Words recorded	259	1109	1250	1265	3277
Words illustrated by quotations	212	417	568	133	2709
Number of quotations	791	656	1600	178	17316

The number of quotations in the corresponding portion of Richardson is 750.

This portion of the Dictionary contains the second half of the words beginning with SI-, the whole of those with initial SK-, and about a third part of those beginning with SL-; in addition to these, SJ- is represented by the word *sjambok*. Each of the three main divisions has special characteristics, and the two later in particular present some interesting etymological features. The space occupied by the SI- words is almost equally divided between those of native and those of foreign origin. The former include many common words, such as *sin, since* (with the older *sith, sithen, sithence*), *sinew, sing, sink, sister, sit* (rich both in forms and senses), *six*; of the others the Latin element is the largest and most important, although there are also considerable contributions from French, Greek, and some more remote sources.

A complete contrast to this is presented by the pages containing the SK- words, in which both the Old English and the Latin element are conspicuously absent, since OE. *sc-* gave later SH-, while Latin Sc- remained unchanged. The actual sources are very varied; among the leading words may be noted the Scandinavian *skald, skate* (fish), *ski* (a very recent adoption), *skill, skin, skirt, skoal, skulk, sky*, the Dutch or Low German *skate* (for ice), *skellum, sketch, skink, skipper, skive*, the Old French *skein, skellat, skiff, skim, skirmish*, the Gaelic *skene*, the Greek *skeleton, skiagram, skink* (lizard), and the American *skunk*. The neighbouring languages afford no clear explanation of a certain number, as *skewer, skid, skillet, skittle, skull*.

In the SL- portion native words reappear, such as *slack* (with its derived verbs *slacken, slake, sleak*, and *sleck*), *slade, slay* (with a remarkable variety of forms), *sleave, sledge* (hammer), *sleek, sleep*. They are, however, outnumbered by the foreign Teutonic element, e.g. the Scand. *slack* (dell), *slam, slaughter, slaver*, and the LG., Du., or Flem. *slabber, slag, slap, sled, sledge*. In a few common words the *sl-* represents earlier *scl-* from OF. *escl-*, as in *slander, slash, slat, slate, slave*. Of obscure origin are *slab* sb.[1], *slang* sb.[3], *slattern, sleazy*.

Among words of miscellaneous interest, in addition to many of those specified above, may be mentioned *sincanter, sindon, sinople, si quis, sir, sirdar, sirloin, sisera ry, skedaddle, Skimmington, skirret*, and *slate* v.[2]

KEY TO THE PRONUNCIATION.

I. CONSONANTS.

b, d, f, k, l, m, n, p, t, v, z *have their usual values.*

g as in *go* (gō^{u}).
h ... *ho!* (hō^{u}).
r ... *run* (rʊn), *terrier* (te·riəɹ).
ɹ ... *her* (həɹ), *farther* (fä·ɹðəɹ).
s ... *see* (sī), *cess* (ses).
w ... *wen* (wen).
hw ... *when* (hwen).
y ... *yes* (yes).

þ as in *thin* (þin), *bath* (baþ).
ð ... *then* (ðen), *bathe* (bēið).
ʃ ... *shop* (ʃǫp), *dish* (diʃ).
tʃ ... *chop* (tʃǫp), *ditch* (ditʃ).
ʒ ... *vision* (vi·ʒən), *déjeuner* (deʒönē).
dʒ ... *judge* (dʒʊdʒ).
ŋ ... *singing* (si·ŋiŋ), *think* (þiŋk).
ŋg ... *finger* (fiŋgəɹ).

(FOREIGN.)
ṅ as in *French nasal*, *environ* (aṅvi·roṅ).
lʸ ... It. *seraglio* (serä·lʸǫ).
nʸ ... It. *signore* (sin^{y}ō·re).
χ ... Ger. *ach* (aχ), Sc. *loch* (lǫχ, loχ^{w}).
χʸ ... Ger. *ich* (iχ^{y}), Sc. *nicht* (nėχ^{y}t).
ɣ ... Ger. *sagen* (zä·ɣĕn).
ɣʸ ... Ger. *legen*, *regnen* (lē·ɣʸĕn, rē·ɣʸnĕn).

II. VOWELS.

ORDINARY.

a as in Fr. *à la* mode (a la mǫd').
ai ... *aye=yes* (ai), *Isaiah* (əizai·ă).
æ ... *man* (mæn).
ɑ ... *pass* (pɑs), *chant* (tʃɑnt).
ɑu ... *loud* (lɑud), *now* (nɑu).
ʊ ... *cut* (kʊt), *son* (sʊn).
e ... *yet* (yet), *ten* (ten).
e ... *survey sb.* (sə·ɹve), Fr. *attaché* (ataʃe).
‖ę ... Fr. *chef* (ʃęf).
ə ... *ever* (evəɹ), *nation* (nē^{i}·ʃən).
əi ... *I*, *eye*, (əi), *bind* (bəind).
‖ə ... Fr. *eau de vie* (ō də vī·).
i ... *sit* (sit), *mystic* (mistik).
i ... *Psyche* (səi·ki), *react* (*ri*$_{i}$æ·kt).
o ... *achor* (ē^{i}·koɹ), *morality* (moræ·liti).
oi ... *oil* (oil), *boy* (boi).
o ... *hero* (hī·ro), *zoology* (*zo*$_{i}$ǫlŏdʒi).
ǫ ... *what* (hwǫt), *watch* (wǫtʃ).
ǫ, *ǫ̇** .. *got* (gǫt), *soft* (sǫ̇ft).
‖ö ... Ger. *Köln* (köln).
‖*ö* ... Fr. *peu* (pö).
u ... *full* (ful), *book* (buk).
iu ... *duration* (diurē^{i}·ʃən).
u ... *unto* (*u*·ntu), *frugality* (fru-).
i*u* ... *Matthew* (mæ·þiu), *virtue* (və·ɹtiu).
‖ü ... Ger. *Müller* (mü·lĕr).
‖*ü* ... Fr. *dune* (dün).

* (see ī^{o}, ē^{o}, ō^{o}, ū^{o}) } see Vol. I, p. xxiv, note 3.
‡ ^{u} (see ē^{i}, ō^{u}) }
' as in able (ē^{i}b'l), eaten (ī't'n) = voice-glide.

LONG.

ā as in *a*lms (āmz), b*a*r (bāɹ).

ē ... *curl* (kēɹl), *fur* (fēɹ).
ē (ē^{o})... *there* (ðē^{o}ɹ), *pear*, *pare* (pē^{o}ɹ).
ē (ē^{i})... *rein*, *rain* (rē^{i}n), *they* (ðē^{i}).
ę̄ ... Fr. *faire* (fę̄r').
ə̄ ... *fir* (fə̄ɹ), *fern* (fə̄ɹn), *earth* (ə̄ɹþ).

ī (ī^{o})... *bier* (bī^{o}ɹ), *clear* (klī^{o}ɹ).
ī ... *thief* (þī̆f), *see* (sī).
ō (ō^{o})... *boar*, *bore* (bō^{o}ɹ), *glory* (glō^{o}·ri).

ō (ō^{u})... *so*, *sow* (sō^{u}), *soul* (sō^{u}l).
ǭ ... *walk* (wǭk), *wart* (wǭɹt).
ǭ ... *short* (ʃǭɹt), *thorn* (þǭɹn).
‖ō̃ ... Fr. *coeur* (kō̃r).
‖*ō̃* ... Ger. *Göthe* (gō̃tĕ), Fr. *jeune* (ʒō̃n).
ū (ū^{o}) .. *poor* (pū^{o}ɹ), *moorish* (mū^{o}·riʃ).
iū, ‡ū ... *pure* (piū^{o}ɹ), *lure* (l‡ū^{o}ɹ).
ū ... *two moons* (tū mūnz).
iū, ‡ū ... *few* (fiū), *lute* (l‡ūt).

‖ū̃ ... Ger. *grün* (grūn), Fr. *jus* (ʒū̃).

OBSCURE.

ă as in *a*mœb*a* (ămē·bă).

ă̈ ... *a*ccept (ă̈kse·pt), mani*a*c (mē^{i}·niă̈k).

ă̆ ... d*a*t*u*m (dē^{i}·tă̆m).
ĕ ... m*o*ment (mō^{u}·mĕnt), sev*e*ral (se·vĕrăl).
ĕ ... separate (*adj.*) (se·pă̆rĕt).

ė ... added (æ·dėd), estate (ėstē^{i}·t).

ĭ ... van*i*ty (væ·nĭti).
ĭ ... remain (rĭmē^{i}·n), believe (bĭlī·v).
ŏ ... th*eo*ry (þĭ·ŏri).

ŏ ... v*io*let (vəi·ŏlėt), p*a*rody (pæ·ŏdi).
ǫ̆ ... *au*thority (ĭ·þǫ·ŏriti).
ǫ̆ ... connect (kǫ̆ne·kt), amazon (æ·măzǫ̆n).

iŭ, ‡ŭ verd*u*re (vē·ɹdiŭɹ), measure (me·ʒ‡ŭɹ).
ŭ ... altog*e*ther (ǫltŭge·ðəɹ),
iŭ ... circ*u*lar (sē·ɹkiŭlăɹ).

* *ǫ̇* the *o* in *soft*, of medial or doubtful length.

‖ Only in foreign (or earlier English) words.

In the ETYMOLOGY,

OE. *e*, *o*, representing an earlier *a*, are distinguished as *ę*, *ǫ* (having the phonetic value of ę and ǫ, or ǫ, above); as in *ęnde* from *andi* (OHG. *anti*, Goth. *andei-s*), *mǫnn* from *mann*, *ǫn* from *an*.

1548 GESTE *Pr. Masse* 96 Thee wordes also of thee masse canon, yᵗ importe ye same ought so in simple to be taken without any far fetched glosse.. *Ibid.* 102 It standeth wythe catholique doctryne yᵗ in symple the..naked utterance of the consecration wordes enforce not the sacrament. *a* 1633 AUSTIN *Medit.* (1635) 103 Hee delights to have Man in simple; (alone, by himselfe) unmixt.

17. quasi-*adv.* Simply.

1598 GRENEWEY *Tacitus, Germania* i. (1622) 259 Those which dwell further in the land, go more simple to worke, and..haue no buying and selling, but by exchange of commodities. 1816 BYRON *Ch. Har.* III. xvii, The moral's truth tells simpler so. 1844 LADY FULLERTON *Ellen Middleton* (1854) II. x. 30 She was dressed perfectly simple in a brown silk gown.

18. *Comb.* Chiefly in parasynthetic adjs., as *simple-answered, -headed, -lettered, -mannered*, etc.; also *simple-seeming*.

c 1425 *Saints' Lives*. Apol. in *Anglia* VIII. 107/7 þe wryter, þat is but symple-letterd, neiþer can ne purposis to folowe þe wordes. 14.. in *Tundale's Vis.* (1843) 115 Ye schuld have pete To se a lady of soo hee degre So symple tyred. 1600 BRETON *Pasquil's Footes Cap* lxi, A poore silly simple witted Asse. 1605 SHAKS. *Lear* III. vii. 43 Be simple answer'd, for we know the truth. *a* 1618 SYLVESTER *Panaretus* 332 Wks. (Grosart) II. 127 Royall Eumenia.. And simple-manner'd Pistia. 1818 COLERIDGE *Friend* (1865) 177 Mere incendiary declamation for the simple-headed multitude! 1849 MURCHISON *Siluria* viii. 147 The same species of simple-plaited Orthidæ. 1859 TENNYSON *Guinevere* 307 Our simple-seeming Abbess and her nuns. 1880 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* III. 145 The long series of simple-toothed Rodents.

B. *absol.* or as *sb.*

1. As *pl.* Persons in a humble or ordinary condition of life.

c 1350 *Will. Paterne* 338 Be..euer of faire speche, & seruisabul to þe simple so as to þe riche. 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* xxii. 32 Gentill and semple of euery clan. 1535 COVERDALE *Job* xxiv. 14 Tymely in the mornynge do they aryse, to murthur the symple and poore, *c* 1569 A. SCOTT *Poems* (S. T. S.) vi. 2 Luve preysis but comparesone Both gentill, sempill, generall. 1816 SCOTT *Antig.* xxxii, Gentle or semple shall not darken my doors the day my bairn's been carried out a corpse. 1848 KINGSLEY *Saint's Trag.* II. viii, To hear no cause, of gentle or of simple.

b. As *sing.* A person of this class. † Also, one of modest unassuming manners.

a 1400 *Relig. Pieces fr. Thornton MS.* 55 Ouer grete symplesse may make of þe symple a sott. *c* 1440 *York Myst.* xxx. 288 She beseches you as hir souerayne þat symple to saue. 1824 SCOTT *Redgauntlet* let. xi, A shilling makes a' the difference that Maggie kens between a gentle and a semple. 1882 *Mrs. Raven's Tempt.* III. 8 The simples are not bound to pick up what the gentles throw away.

2. As *pl.* Those who are unlearned, ignorant, easily misled, unsuspecting, etc.

1560 DAUS tr. *Steidane's Comm.* 23 The Heresyes of Wiclife and Husse.., whiche by the false enterpretation of Scripture glueth to the simple an occasion to sinne. 1579 W. WILKINSON *Confut. Fam. Love* Ep. Ded., Whisperyng peruerse thynges to seduce and beguile the simple. 1611 BIBLE *Ps.* cxix. 130 The entrance of thy wordes..glueth vnderstanding vnto the simple. 1754 SHERLOCK *Disc.* (1759) I. iii. 97 His Doctrine was framed to give Wisdom to the Simple. 1807 CRABBE *Par. Reg.* I. 182 Seeking their fate, to her the simple run. 1853 CDL, WISEMAN *Ess.* II. 338 A snare to the simple of heart.

b. As *sing.* An ignorant or foolish person.

1643 TRAPP *Comm. Gen.* xxxix. 12 The harlot caught the silly simple, and kissed him. 1654 WHITLOCK *Zootomia* 440 With such like Judges..Simples passe for Physitians, and modest Physitians for Simples. 1894 H. D. LLOYD *Wealth agst. Commw.* 319 This action the paper described as 'a scheme for gulling simples'.

3. *pl.* Foolish or silly behaviour or conduct; foolishness, folly. *Obs.* exc. *dial.*

1648 GAGE *West Ind.* 114 A little troubled with the simples, but a good hearted man. 1699 W. WALKER *Idiomat. Anglo-Lat.* 415 'To be sick of the simples,' to Act the fool. 1706 E. WARD *Wooden World Diss.* (1708) 44 His bare Shadow has cur'd many a poor Creature of the Simples. 1785 GROSE *Dict. Vulgar T., Simples*, ..also follies. 1894 NORTHALL *Folk Phr.* (E.D.S.) 26 To be sick of the simples, i. e. silly.

b. *To be cut for* († *of*) *the simples* (see quots. *a* 1700, 1828). Orig. *cant* or *slang*, and now *dial.*

a 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew* s.v., *He must be cut of the Simples*, Care must be taken to cure him of his Folly. 1731–8 SWIFT *Polite Conv.* i. 17 You should be cut for the Simples this morning. 1828 CARR *Craven Gloss.* s.v., 'Want's cutting for 't simples,' is a ludicrous expression applied to one who has been guilty of some foolish act. 1834 SOUTHEY *Doctor* cxxxvi, What evils might be averted..by clearing away bile, evacuating ill humours, and occasionally by cutting for the simples. 1880 MRS. PARR *Adam & Eve* vi. 28 'Tis time her was cut for the simples.

† **4.** A single thing. *Obs.*—[1]

1483 CAXTON *Gold. Leg.* 379/1 God rewardeth for one Symple an hondred folde.

5. A simple word; a verb in its simple form or without prefix. (Cf. COMPOUND *sb.*[1] 2 c.)

1530 PALSGR. Introd. p. xxxi, In maner ever of one syllable, except he be a compounde, and than his symple is but of one syllable. 1530 *Ibid.* 395 *Je prens* is a symple whiche hath for his compoundes *je reprens* [etc.]. 1659 [O. WALKER] *Instruct. Oratory* 25 Monosyllables..making the language dull and slow. Hence compounds more elegantly used, than their simples. 1848 VEITCH *Irreg. Grk. Verbs* Pref., The frequent absence of *simples* in whole or in part.

6. A medicine or medicament composed or concocted of only one constituent, *esp.* of one herb or plant (*obs.*); hence, a plant or herb employed for medical purposes. Now *arch.*

In common use from *c* 1580 to 1750, chiefly in *pl.*

pl. 1539 ELYOT *Cast. Helthe* (1541) 43 Where a sycknesse may be cured with symples, that is to saye, with one onely thinge that is medicinable. 1563 T. GALE *Antidot.* Pref. 2 There are an infinite number of simples which want Englyshe names. 1588 GREENE *Perimedes* Wks. (Grosart) VII. 15 Their stomacks bee made a verie Apotecaries shoppe, by receiuing a multitude of simples and drugges. 1603 DRAYTON *Bar. Wars* III. viii, The mixed Juices, from those Simples wrung, To make the Med'cine wonderfully strong. 1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* I. vi, From the knowledge of Simples she had a Receipt to make white hair black. 1698 M. LISTER *Journ. Paris* (1699) 183 Houses well stored with tender Exoticks, and the Parterrs with Simples. 1725 POPE *Odyss.* IV. 318 Where prolific Nile With various simples cloaths the fat'ned soil. 1785 MARTYN *Rousseau's Bot.* Introd. (1794) 2 It was simples, not vegetables that they looked after. 1843 R. J. GRAVES *Syst. Med.* xxix. 368 An Irish Father, or Priest, whose knowledge is all comprehended in the virtues of two or three simples. 1889 JESSOPP *Coming of Friars* ii. 93 Cordials..were kept by the lady of the house among her simples.

sing. 1587 GREENE *Penelope's Web* Wks. (Grosart) V. 155 The Phisition..knoweth the nature of the Simple as well as the Gardiner that planteth it. 1598 J. DICKENSON *Greene in Conc.* (1878) 108 There is for euery sore prouided a salue, yet no simple for hartes sorrow. 1637 EARL MONM. tr. *Malvezzi's Romulus & Tarquin* 225 Men walking in the fields, ..cast their eyes suddenly upon such a flower or simple. *a* 1654 SELDEN *Table-T.* (Arb.) 39 Suppose a Planet were a Simple, or an Herb. 1807 CRABBE *Par. Reg.* II. 95 From many a fragrant simple, Catharine's skill Drew oil and essence from the boiling still.

attrib. 1598 SHAKS. *Merry W.* III. iii. 79 These lisping-hauthorne buds, that..smell like Bucklers-berry in simple time. 1726 *Adv. Capt. R. Boyle* (1768) 50, I am only distilling some simple Waters for your Closet.

7. A single uncompounded or unmixed thing; a substance free from foreign elements, *esp.* one serving as an ingredient in a composition or mixture.

1560 WHITEHORNE *Ord. Souldiours* (1588) 27 b, Gunpouder, is made of three simples only, that is salt peter, brimstone and coles. 1593 *Bacchus Bountie* in *Harl. Misc.* (1809) II. 273 A dainty deuised compound, of sundry simples pastiewise, as the trimming of tripes [etc.]. 1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* 141 To these noxious simples we may reduce an infinite number of compound, artificial, made dishes. 1648 GAGE *West Ind.* 106 Cacao..as every simple..contains the quality of the four elements. 1655 MOUFET & BENNET *Health's Improv.* (1746) 90 Their chiefest Perfume .. was made of sixteen Simples; namely, Wine, Honey [etc.].

transf. 1612 BRINSLEY *Lud. Lit.* p. xvi, Letters (which are the simples of this Art). 1622 MALYNES *Anc. Law-Merchant* 251 The three Simples or Essentiall parts of Trafficke, namely Commodities, Money, and Exchange of Moneys. *c* 1750 FIELDING *On Conversation* Wks. 1784 IX. 380 But besides pride, folly, arrogance, and insolence, there is another simple which vice never willingly leaves out of any composition.

b. A simple proposition, quantity, idea, etc.

1654 Z. COKE *Logick* 119 As much as may be, this proposition is to be reduced to a meer simple. 1690 C. NESS *Hist. O. & N. T.* I. 29 Adam wisely understood all simples, singulars and universals. 1798 HUTTON *Course Math.* (1799) I. 114 Alligation teaches how to compound or mix together several simples of different qualities. 1879 BAIN *Educ. as Sci.* iii. 57 To strengthen an energy we must know what it is: if it is a simple, we must define it in its simplicity; if.. a compound, we must assign its elements.

c. A simple need or requirement; a necessity.

1859 CAPERN *Ball. & Songs* 123 My wishes and wants down to simples will sink.

8. *Weaving.* One of a number of lines or cords attached to the warp in a draw-loom (cf. quots.).

1731 *Phil. Trans.* XXXVII. 107 From each of these Packthreads, just by the side of the Loom, are fastned other Packthreads called Simples, which descend to the Ground. 1825 J. NICHOLSON *Operat. Mechanic* 415 Below the warp these lines, which are called the simples, are kept in a state of tension by weights,..and in order to keep them distinctly apart, are made to pass through a board perforated with holes. 1890 *Scot. N. & Q.* III. 158 M. Simblot..connected to the neck a separate series of cords called the 'simple'.. so that the draw boy could work when standing at the side of the loom.

b. 'A draw-loom employed in fancy weaving' (Knight *Dict. Mech.* 1875).

† **Si·mple,** *v.*[1] *Obs. rare.* [f. SIMPLE *a.*]

1. *trans.* To render (one) simple; to humble in respect of knowledge.

c 1425 *St. Mary of Oignies* II. iv. in *Anglia* VIII. 163/7, I, heryngе þis,..and countyngе my resoune noon, was sympled in myne owne sighte.

2. *intr.* With *at*: ? To make light of.

a 1652 BROME *Queen & Concubine* I. ii, That did your Champion, Madam, The Queens old Souldier, and your Father, Lady: D'ye simple at it? such a Souldier breaths not.

Simple (si·mp'l), *v.*[2] Now *arch.* [f. SIMPLE B. 6.] *intr.* To seek for, or gather, simples or medicinal herbs. Chiefly in phr. *to go* (*a*) *simpling* (cf. SIMPLING *vbl. sb.*). Also *fig.*

(*a*) 1643 SIR T. BROWNE *Relig. Med.* II. § 8. 160 When I did but know an hundred [plants], and had scarcely ever Simpled further than Cheap-side. 1664 BUTLER *Hud.* II. iii. 823 Witches Simpling, and on Gibbets Cutting from Malefactors snippets. 1706–7 FARQUHAR *Beaux' Strat.* Prol., Simpling our author goes from field to field, And culls such fools as may diversion yield. 1718 OZELL tr. *Tournefort's Voy.* I. 172 We simpled in the Marshes. 1791 *Pop. Tales Germans* II. 88 Never did the poor physician venture to simple on the mountain again.

(*b*) 1648 ASHMOLE *Diary* (1774) 307 This day .. was the first time I went a simpling. 1658 ROWLAND tr. *Mouffet's Theat. Ins.* 924 As by chance I carelesly wandered here and there a simpling. 1725 DE FOE *Voy. round World* (1840) 102 Our doctors never went a simpling. 1772 GOLDSM. *Prol. to 'Zobeide'*, While botanists..Forsake the fair, and patiently—go simpling. 1791 *Pop. Tales Germans* II. 85 A doctor..who used to go a simpling on the mountain. 1851 *Monthly Jrnl. Med. Sci.* XII. 344 In former days the Scottish herbalists used to go a-simpling after Roman medical plants.

† **Simplehead.** *Obs.*—[1] [f. SIMPLE *a.* + -HEAD. Cf. MDu. and G. *simpelheit* (Du. *-heid*).] Simpleness, ignorance.

c 1470 HARDING *Chron.* CCXXVI. iv. 5 Of his symplehead He coulde litle within his brest conceyue.

Simple-hearted, *a.* [f. SIMPLE *a.* + HEART *sb.*] Possessed of, or characterized by, a simple heart or spirit; ingenuous, sincere, unsophisticated; † ignorant, simple-minded (*obs.*). Also *absol.*

c 1400 *Pilgr. Sowle* (Caxton, 1483) IV. xxx. 80 Oftyme copre is coloured wondre lyke to gold by crafte done therto, soo that symple herted folke wene that it be fyn gold. *c* 1412 HOCCLEVE *De Reg. Princ.* 1889 Assay! þou simple-hertid goost! What grace is shapen þe, þou naght ne woost. 1711 SHAFTESB. *Charac.* (1737) II. 387 How he, with dire hypocrisy and false tears, beguiles the simple-hearted. 1775 *Hist. Voy. C. Evans & S. Cheevers Malta* 149 A brief discovery of God's Eternal Truth and a way opened to the simple hearted. 1814 SCOTT *Wav.* lx, The distress of his situation, among this honest and simple-hearted race, being considered as no reason for increasing their demand. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* lxvi, He made the most astounding revelations to the simple-hearted Major. 1897 WATTS-DUNTON *Aylwin* III. vii, It was a comfort to me to..hear the simple-hearted Cymric folk talking.

Hence **Simple-hea·rtedness.**

1837 LOCKHART *Scott* II. x. 343 Where..the old Statesman entered with such simple-heartedness into all the ways of the happy circle. 1877 RUSKIN *St. Mark's Rest* x. § 204 Exquisite in its purity, simple-heartedness, and joyful wonder.

Simple-minded, *a.* [f. SIMPLE *a.* + MIND *sb.*] Having a simple mind; possessing little or no subtlety of intellect; also, feeble- or weak-minded.

1744 AKENSIDE *Pleas. Imag.* III. 112 How sublime they move, And bending oft their sanctimonious eyes, Take homage of the simple-minded throng. 1768 BLACKSTONE *Comm.* III. 145 The weak and simpleminded part of mankind (which is by far the most numerous division). 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* xxxiii, My Lord Southdown,..an epileptic and simple-minded nobleman. 1878 J. P. HOPPS *Jesus* iv. 16 These were mostly simple-minded, honest, and earnest men.

b. Belonging to, proceeding from, a simple mind.

1866 *N. & Q.* 3rd Ser. IX. 458/1 Characteristic..of the.. simple-minded tenderness, and the silly superstition of the period. 1876 MOZLEY *Univ. Serm.* iv. 101 Action upon a theatre may doubtless be as simple-minded action as any other.

Hence **Simple-mi·ndedness.**

1847 WEBSTER, *Simple-mindedness*, artlessness. 1881 BRIGHT in *Standard* 17 Nov. 3/3 These men..call in question the Free-trade policy, and they have the courage or the simple-mindedness to believe [etc.].

Simpleness (si·mp'lnĕs). [f. SIMPLE *a.* + -NESS. Cf. Fris. *simpelens*.]

The indefinite character of the early uses of the adj. *simple* is naturally reflected in this noun, making it often difficult to assign the examples to a specific sense.

1. Absence of pride, ostentation, or pretentiousness; plain or unassuming disposition or manners.

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* A. 909 Now hynde þat sympelnesse coueȝ enclose, I wolde þe aske a þynge expresse. *c* 1380 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* (1880) 383 He þat is gratter of 3ow, loke þat he be made as 3ongar in sympilnes. *c* 1400 LOVE *Bonavent. Mirr.* (1908) 59 The mayster of mekenes and louer of sympilnesse. *c* 1450 *Mirk's Festial* 12 All his lyfe-dayes, he huld þat name of a chyld, and..mekenes, and sympulnes, and wythout maleys. 1509 BARCLAY *Shyp of Folys* (1570) 158 So muche were they geuen to simplenes And other vertues chiefe and principall. 1590 SHAKS. *Mids. N.* v. i. 83 Neuer any thing Can be amisse, when simplenesse and duty tender it. 1609 DANIEL *Civil Wars* VI. xxxv, Inlarge this vninquisitiue Beliefe: Call vp mens spirits, that simplenes retaine. 1866 JEAN INGELOW *Poems* 194 In his reverend face There was a simpleness we could not sound. 1869 MRS. WHITNEY *Hitherto* ix, So rich and beautiful that it made me afraid; but for Allard's kindness and Mrs. Cope's simpleness.

2. Absence of duplicity or guile; innocence, integrity, guilelessness.

1382 WYCLIF *Gen.* xx. 5 In symplenes of myn herte, and clennes of myn hondis I dide this. — 1 *Macc.* ii. 37 Dye we alle in oure symplenesse. *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (Roxb.) xviii. 85 þe folk..wirschepez þe ox, in steed of Godd, for þe sympilnes and þe gudeness þat commez of him. 1401 *Pol. Poems* (Rolls) II. 71 To shewe the colour that signefieth symplenesse, and withinne..ȝe ben ravenous wolves. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 83 b, The nexte vertue in order is simplicite or simplenes, the contrary to doublenes. 1572 BOSSEWELL *Armorie* II. 71 This byrde is the messenger of peace, ensample of simplenesse. 1616 W. BROWNE *Brit. Past.* II. iii, You ever did possesse No wisedome, but was mixt with simplenesse; So wanting malice. *a* 1850 ROSSETTI *Dante & Circle* I. (1874) 82 So much truth and simpleness entered into his heart.

3. Deficiency in knowledge or learning, ignorance; also, lack of mental acuteness, intellectual weakness, foolishness.

1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) VII. 369 Aldredus, þat hopede to blende his robborie by þe sympilnesse of Wolston. *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (1839) xv. 167 It is no marvaylle thanne, that the Paynemes..beleeven more largely, for here symplenesse. 1479 in *Eng. Gilds* (1870) 426 Such thinges as I of my sympilnesse haue not duely ne formably executed. 1482 *Monk of Evesham* (Arb.) 90 By processe of tyme

owther they be ouercumme by onstabulnes or els ben dysceyuyd by sympylnes. 1535 COVERDALE *Eccl.* xiii. 8 Bewarre, that thou be not disceaued and brought downe in thy symplenesse. 1555 EDEN *Decades* (Arb.) 150 Their sympelnes is suche that they nother feared the muititude or poure of owre men. *c* 1620 Z. BOYD *Zion's Flowers* (1855) 72 That by her promises..she gull not my simplenesse. 1668 M. CASAUBON *Credulity* (1670) 185 Our Author doth declaim against the simpleness, and credulity of ordinary people. 1873 BROWNING *Red Cott. Nt.-cap* 557 'Heaven,' saith the sage, 'is with us, here inside Each man.' 'Hell also,' simpleness subjoins. 1894 *The Voice* (N.Y.) 29 Nov. 7/3 Such were the men who, in vapid simpleness, caught at the impertinent refrain of some doggerel song.

† **b.** Foolish conduct or behaviour; a foolish act or thing. *Obs.*

c 1450 tr. *Higden, Harl. Contin.* (Rolls) VIII. 451 He wolde avoide from his servyce his cownsellours whiche movede hym unto that symplenesse. *c* 1500 *Melusine* 194 My lordes, grete symplenes it is to you thus to traueylle your peuple for nought. 1523 CROMWELL in Merriman *Life & Lett.* (1902) I. 43 Hyt ys but a Symplenesse for us to thyncke to kepe possessions in Fraunce. 1592 SHAKS. *Rom. & Jul.* III. iii. 77 Run to my study:..Gods will, What simplenesse is this!

4. Poor or lowly condition; also, lack of elegance or refinement; plainness of dress, etc.

a 1400–50 *Alexander* 4051 Quen he þaire simpilnes sees, he soroȝes in his hert, Pleynes of þaire pouerte. *c* 1440 *York Myst.* xviii. 16 Thow myghtfull maker, haue mynde on me, And se vnto my symplenes. 1538 BALE *John Baptist* in *Harl. Misc.* (1808) I. 113 Soch autoryte As thy grace hath geuen to my poore symplenesse. 1648 J. BEAUMONT *Psyche* xx. clxxviii, Reverend John array'd in Simpleness, Did proudlyest-decked Mortals so excel. 1651 HOBBES *Gov. & Soc.* Ep. Ded., Whatsoever things they are in which this present Age doth differ from the rude simplenesse of Antiquity. 1873 MORRIS *Love is Enough* 86 He is poor, and shall scorn not our simpleness surely.

† **b.** Insignificance; trifling character or value.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 456/1 Sympylnesse, or lytylle of valew, *exilitas*. 1530 PALSGR. Ep. to King p. iv, The symplenesse of my poore labours in that behalfe. 1570 GOOGE *Pop. Kingd.* Pref., Most humblie beseeching you to beare with the simplenesse thereof.

5. Absence of complexity; freedom from complications; simple character.

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* IV. i. (1494) e iij b, For the symplynes [*sic*] of a boystous thynge is subtylnes. *Ibid.* VII. lxix. (Bodl. MS.), Hym nedeþ to knowe þe duyring, contrarynes, semplenes, qualite and quantite of þe pacient. 1502 *Ord. Crysten Men* (W. de W. 1506) Prol. 5 Prechoures of the symplenes of the gospell. 1609 J. DOULAND *Ornith. Microl.* 83 The Ancient simplenesse of Musicke. 1618 BOLTON *Florus* III. xii. (1636) 210 The simplenesse and purity of that shepherdish originall continued. 1823 LAMB *Elia* II. *Child Angel*, O the inexplicable simpleness of dreams! 1882 *Nature* XXVII. 51 From a simpleness in structure to a wonderful differentiation thereof.

Simpler[1] (si·mplə1). Now *arch.* [f. SIMPLE B. 6 + -ER.] One who collects or studies simples; a herbalist, a simplist.

1591 GREENE *Farewell to Folly* Wks. (Grosart) IX. 289 Menecas the Macedonian was a very good simpler. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* XXI. xx. II. 105, I canot but detect the knauery of these Harbarists and simplers. 1656 W. COLE *Art of Simpling* Pref. p. i, What a rare happiness was it for Matthiolus that famous Simpler, to live in those dayes. 1720 DE FOE *Serious Refl.* ii. 33 Your Simplers have had some disputes about the sorts of it. 1774 *Westm. Mag.* II. 137 This Simpler..might..stand the foremost amongst his own vegetative tribes. 1830 JAMES *Darnley* xxxvii, Bradford had gone to seek remedies from a simpler at Boulogne. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 35/1 Its properties are..slightly tonic; hence it comes within the province of the 'simpler'.

b. Simpler's joy, the plant vervain.

1760 J. LEE *Introd. Bot.* App. 327 Simpler's Joy, *Verbena.* 1863 PRIOR *Plant-n., Simpler's joy*, from the good sale they had for so highly esteemed a plant, *Verbena officinalis*.

† **Simpler**[2]. *Cant. Obs.* [f. SIMPLE *a.*] (See quot. 1592.)

1592 GREENE *Conny Catch.* Wks. (Grosart) X. 39 They haue sundry praies that they cal simplers which are men fondly and wantonly geuen, whom for a penaltie of their lust, they fleece of al that euer they haue. 1602 ROWLANDS *Greenes Ghost* (1860) 43 She returneth with two or three fleshly minded Rabbets or Simplers.

Si·mplesse. *Obs.* exc. *arch.* Also 4 **simplece**, 4–6 **symplesse** (5 **-esse**), 7 **simpl'esse.** [a. OF. *simplesse, -esce, -ece*, etc., = Prov., Sp., and Pg. *simpleza*: see SIMPLE *a.* and -ESS[2]. In ME. usually stressed *simple·sse*, but cf. Gower *Conf.* I. 62 and III. 213.]

1. = SIMPLENESS 1.

1340 *Ayenb.* 140 Vor one of þe guode doȝtren þet mildenesse heþ is holy simplesse. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 112 Whan he..to so vil a povere wrecche Him deigneth schewe such simplesce. *a* 1400 *Relig. Pieces fr. Thornton MS.* 55 Ouer grete symplesse may make of þe symple a sott. 1483 CAXTON *Gold. Leg.* 195 b/1 There ben twelue vertues vyrgynal,.. that is to wete feythe,..symplesse, Innocence, concorde.

2. = SIMPLENESS 2.

1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 70 These Prestes..with a contrefet simplesse, Which hid was in a fals corage, Feignende an hevenely message. *a* 1470 HARDING *Chron.* CCXXVIII. iii. 2 Therle Richard of Warwike then conceyued Of the symplesse and great innocense Of Kyng Henry. 1613 W. BROWNE *Brit. Past.* I. iii, Had Nature unto man such simpl'esse given He would like Birds be farre more neere to heaven.

3. = SIMPLENESS 3.

c 1400 *Rom. Rose* 6381, I lede right a Ioly lyf, Thurgh simplesse of the prelacye; They know not al my tregetrye. 1456 SIR G. HAYE *Law Arms* (S.T.S.) 182 He throu ignorraunce and sympless gafe the sauf condyt. 1471 CAXTON *Recuyell* (Sommer) I. 107 Beholde than what symplesse shall hit be to the to hold me thus enfermed. 1537 *in* Ellis *Orig. Lett.* Ser. II. II. 93 Suplying your Lordship to admytte my symplesse for I have don in hit the moost of my power. 1889 LOWELL in *Atlantic Monthly* Aug. 148 Property's dividing line No hint of dispossession drew On any map my simplesse knew.

4. = SIMPLENESS 4.

1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 62 He clotheth richesse, as men sein, Under the simplesce of poverte. *c* 1440 *Gesta Rom.* xxxvi. 272 (Add. MS.), Therfore I had me in all thynges as a Religious man in symplesse. 1579 SPENSER *Sheph. Cal.* July 172 Their weedes bene not so nighly wore; Such simplesse mought them shend. *a* 1637 B. JONSON *Underwoods, Epithalamion* vi, Darting forth a dazling light On all that come her Simplesse to rebuke.

5. = SIMPLENESS 5.

c 1374 CHAUCER *Boeth.* IV. pr. vi. (1868) 136 þilke cercle þat is inrest or moost wiþynne ioineþ to þe symplesse of þe myddel.

Simpleton (si·mp'ltən). [A fanciful formation on SIMPLE *a.* Cf. *idleton* in the *Eng. Dial. Dict.*]

1. One who is deficient in sense or intelligence; a silly or foolish person; a fool.

Characterized by Johnson (1755) as 'a low word'.

1650 B. *Discollim.* 28 If a solemn Synod may erre, what may a single Simpleton doe? 1672 *Rosemary & Bayes* 16 It was a wish of St. Austin.., but I see now that the Father was a simpleton. 1716 HEARNE *Collect.* (O.H.S.) V. 281 This Morning preached at St. Marie's Mr. Poynter (that Dull Simpleton) of Merton Coll. 1769 *Junius Lett.* XXV. (1788) 139 The silly invectives of every simpleton who writes in a newspaper. 1801 MAR. EDGEWORTH *Angelina* IV. (1832) 82 A simpleton of sixteen is more an object of mercy than a simpleton of sixty. 1878 C. GIBBON *For the King* xvii, He is something of a simpleton, and did not recognise you.

attrib. 1859 HELPS *Friends in C.* Ser. II. II. viii. 158 The simpleton hero of one novel has no connexion with the simpleton hero of another.

2. *U.S.* The American dunlin or sandpiper, *Tringa* (*Pelidna*) *pacifica*. 1891 in *Cent. Dict.*

Hence (chiefly as nonce-words) **Simpleto·nian, Simpleto·nic, Si·mpletonish** *adjs.*, characteristic of or resembling (that of) a simpleton; **Simpleto·nianism, Si·mpletonism,** character or quality characteristic of a simpleton.

1847 LADY EASTLAKE *Jrnls. & Corr.* (1895) I. 212 Simple and childlike, and *simpletonish* in his manner. 1848 *Blackw. Mag.* LXIV. 467 The eccentricity of the baronet, the overtrust and the mistrust of mankind,..are of the simpletonian school. 1860 MAYHEW *Upper Rhine* 331 That childish or simpletonic quality which..young gentlemen.. denominate as 'verdant'. 1863 COWDEN CLARKE *Shaks. Char.* xvi. 394 His imagination was beguiling him with some image of captivating simpletonism; frequently and oddly confounded with simplicity. 1869 *Pall Mall G.* 13 Oct. 11 It is a pity to mark the decay of simpletonianism, even in the fashion of dolls.

† **Si·mplety.** *Obs. rare.* Forms: 3 **simplete**, 4 **simplite, symplete**, 5 **symplyte.** [a. OF. *simpleté* (Godef.): see SIMPLE *a.*] Simplicity.

c 1230 *Hali Meid.* 41 Simplete of semblaunt, & buhsumnesse & stilðe. 1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. x. 165 þanne shaltow se sobrete and symplete-of-speche. 1382 WYCLIF *Job* ii. 9 Sit forsothe thou abidist stille in thi symplete. *c* 1400 *Launfal* 225 Thus sat the knyght yn symplyte, In the schadowe unther a tre.

Simplex (si·mpleks), *a.* and *sb.* Also *pl.* **simplicia.** [a. L. *simplex* single: see SIMPLE *a.*]

A. *adj.* Consisting or composed of, characterized by, a single part, structure, etc.

1594 BLUNDEVIL *Exerc.* I. xx. (1636) 43 Simplex [proportion], is when the Antecedent..contayneth the Consequent. 1866 CAYLEY *Math. Papers* (1892) V. 402 The cone may consist of a single sheet; it is then of the simplex kind. 1895 *Funk's Standard Dict., Simplex telegraph*, a single-needle dial telegraph. 1897 *Westm. Gaz.* 10 Apr. 7/2 The new form of traction called the 'simplex traction'...The conduit is laid, not between the two rails but beneath one of the rails.

B. *sb.* A simple uncompounded word.

1892 *Classical Rev.* Feb. 58/2 When..a complex was formed from any two of the above *simplicia*. 1904 *Expositor* Nov. 361 In the New Testament..the simplex ἰδεῖν is exceedingly common.

Simple·xity. *nonce-wd.* [f. L. *simplex*, or f. SIMPLE *a.*, after *complexity*.] Simplicity.

1849 *Tait's Mag.* XVI. 380/1 Its absolute simplexity and universality demonstrate the oneness and ubiquity of its author.

† **Simpli·cian.** *Obs.* Also **simplitian, -sian.** [f. SIMPLE *a.* or L. *simplic-, simplex*: see -ICIAN.] A simple or ignorant fellow; a simpleton. (Common *c* 1600–1650.)

1600–9 ROWLANDS *Knaue of Clubbes* (Hunterian Club) 37 My aprehension did Ingenious-scan, That he was meerely a Simplitian. 1616 R. C. *Time's Whistle* (1871) 148 Be he a foole in the esteeme of man, In worldly thinges a meer simplician. 1662 HIBBERT *Body of Divinity* I. 152 These simplicians are much better than scorners.

† **Si·mplicist.** *Obs. rare.* [f. L. *simplic-, simplex* (see SIMPLE B. 6) + -IST. So older G. *simplicist.*] One who has a knowledge of medicinal simples; a simplist.

1594 CAREW *Huarte's Exam. Wits* (1596) 176 We behold many Phisitions,..great anotomists and Simplicists. *a* 1615 DONNE *Ess.* (1651) 201 As Simplicists which know the venom and peccant quality of every herbe but cannot fit them to Medicin.

Simplicita·rian. *nonce-wd.* [f. SIMPLICIT-Y + *-arian.*] One who aims at simplicity of life.

1837 LOFFT *Self-form.* I. 71 A man of letters..was in hardly better repute..with those noble simplicitarians.

‖ **Simpliciter** (simpli·sitəɹ), *adv.* [L., adv. from *simplic-, simplex* simple.] Simply, absolutely, unconditionally; without any condition or consideration. Chiefly in *Sc. Law.*

1545 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* I. 8 The keping of the said place sall cease simpliciter. 1570 FOXE *A. & M.* 1243/1, I sayd, yt seing they had ben *simpliciter* giuen to me, I would neuer thanke him for them. 1603 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* VI. 547 To..ressave him to his Majesteis peax, and gif to him or ony in his name the wand thairof simpliciter in tyme cuming. 1664 BUTLER *Hud.* II. i. 185 This thing call'd Pain, Is..Not bad *simpliciter*, nor good, But merely as 'tis understood. 1765–8 ERSKINE *Inst. Law Scot.* IV. iii. § 22 Suspending the letters of diligence on which the charge was given, *simpliciter*. 1884 *Law Rep.* 27 Chanc. Div. 210 The outlay upon Cardiff Docks is not *simpliciter* a question between tenant for life and remainderman.

Simplicity (simpli·siti). Also 4 **symplicite**, 5–6 **symplycyte**, 6–7 **simplicitie**, 6 **-tye.** [a. OF. *simplicité* (12th c.), or ad. L. *simplicitāt-em*, f. *simplic-, simplex* simple: see -ITY.]

1. The state or quality of being simple in form, structure, etc.; absence of compositeness, complexity, or intricacy.

1374 CHAUCER *Boeth.* IV. pr. vi. (1868) 136 In so mochel as it is forbest fro þe mydel symplicite of þe poynt. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* I. xvi. (Add. MS. 27944), He is alwey impartabil & turneþ & ioyneþ creation to his symplicite. *Ibid.* XIX. cxvi. (1495) 920 One in nombre and one in symplycyte. 1587 GOLDING *De Mornay* iii. 32 Then is it this first simplicitie which is the King. *a* 1619 FOTHERBY *Atheom.* II. x. § 3 (1622) 304 His vncompounded simplicitie, is the true matter of his Vnitie. 1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* 191 There being in them no diversitie or difference, but a simplicity of parts, and equiformity in motion. 1684 T. BURNET *Theory Earth* I. 36 We are led..to conceive this great machine of the World..to have been once in a state of greater simplicity than now it is. 1743 EMERSON *Fluxions* p. xii, The Easiness and Simplicity of this Method of Demonstration. 1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* I. 324 In contriving machines, simplicity of parts should always be studied. 1861 J. R. GREENE *Man. Anim. Kingd., Cœlent.* 73 It was once an ovum, whose extreme simplicity of structure might almost be said to verge upon homogeneity. 1871 T. R. JONES *Anim. Kingd.* (ed. 4) 443 The simplicity which the organ of hearing presents in this its earliest appearance.

b. A simple or easy task or duty.

1875 BEDFORD *Sailor's Pkt. Bk.* V. (ed. 2) 167 A..ready knowledge of the many important simplicities of his calling.

2. Want of acuteness or sagacity; lack of ordinary knowledge or judgement; ignorance; rusticity.

1514 BARCLAY *Cyt. & Uplondyshm.* (Percy Soc.) 25 Seest thou not playnly how they of the cyte Dayly dysceyveth our poore symplycyte. 1579 NORTHBROOKE *Dicing* (1843) 66 If he had done it of ignorance, necessitie, and simplicitie, then shoulde not he have died. 1613 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* v. xvii. (1614) 537 Columbus vsed the like simplicitie of the Jamaicans to his preseruation. 1665 MANLEY *Grotius' Low C. Wars* 138 By these Subtilties..he deluded the simplicity of such as were not very circumspect. 1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* I. 198 This was really a whimsical Thought, and I reprov'd my self often for the Simplicity of it. 1771 SMOLLETT *Humph. Cl.* (1815) 223 By the help of Humphry Clinker, who is a surprising compound of genius and simplicity. 1836 THIRLWALL *Greece* III. 1 His grandfather..had incurred a nickname expressive of extreme simplicity. 1842 LOVER *Handy Andy* i, The postmaster, laughing at his simplicity, told him he could not tell what letter to give him unless he told him the direction. 1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) III. 276 That other simplicity which is only a euphemism for folly.

b. An instance of this. *rare.*

1592 G. HARVEY *Four Lett.* Wks. (Grosart) I. 205 Let it be..one of our simplicities to suffer that iniury. 1610 A. COOKE *Pope Joan* 46 There are so many incongruities, simplicities, absurdities..in his verie narration of it.

c. A simple person; a simpleton. *rare.*

1633 FORD *'Tis Pity* II. vi, How do you know that, Simplicity? 1860 GEN. P. THOMPSON *Audi Alt.* civ. III. 11 Undergraduate Oxford exhorts the grown simplicities to persevere, till hopeful youth can come to their relief.

3. Freedom from artifice, deceit, or duplicity; sincerity, straightforwardness; also, absence of affectation or artificiality; plainness, artlessness, naturalness.

1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 54 b, Excepte..our mynde be subdued to simplicite and mekenes, surely our vyne wyll waxe wylde. 1587 A. DAY *Daphnis & Chloe* Title-p., Excellently describing the weight of affection, the Simplicitie of loue. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* 742 A man of the ancient Christian simplicity. 1649 JER. TAYLOR *Gt. Exemp.* II. x. 2 Nathanael was..full of holy simplicity, a true Israelite without guile. 1702 *Eng. Theophrastus* 112 Plain-dealing and simplicity are the best game a man can play. 1771 WESLEY *Wks.* (1872) V. 139 Simplicity regards the intention itself, sincerity the execution of it. 1833 HT. MARTINEAU *Brooke Farm* iv. 40 Everybody..looked up to him with respect for the simplicity of his character. 1856 KINGSLEY *Misc.* (1859) II. 18 A charming simplicity, quietly enjoying life in poverty and ignorance.

personif. 1597 MORLEY *Introd. Mus.* 183 To decke a lowlie matter with loftie and swelling speech, will be to put simplicitie in plumes of feathers. 1609 DEKKER *Gull's Horn-bk.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 204 That excellent country Lady, Innocent Simplicity. 1773 HAN. MORE *Search after Happiness* II. 144 Hail, artless Simplicity, beautiful maid.

b. *transf.* A simple or ingenuous child.

1887 RUSKIN *Præterita* II. 228 His little blue-eyed twelve-years-old simplicity of a goat-herd sister.

c. Simple, unsophisticated ways or manners; absence of or freedom from luxury; plainness of life. Also (in *pl.*), an instance of this.

1585 T. WASHINGTON tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* IV. xxxvi. 159 b, These Patriarches..liue in all simplicitie & modestie. 1726 SHELVOCKE *Voy. r. World* 404 Such is the original simplicity prevailing amongst them, that the men go quite naked. 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* i, He had known life in other forms than those of pastoral simplicity. 1849-50 ALISON *Hist. Europe* VII. xliii. § 82. 256 The simplicity of all surprised the conqueror, who was accustomed to the magnificence of St. Cloud. 1874 GREEN *Short Hist.* viii. § 10. 583 There was a grand simplicity in the life of his [Milton's] later years.

pl. 1805 WORDSW. *Prelude* VI. 2 When to Esthwaite's banks And the simplicities of cottage life I bade farewell. 1878 C. STANFORD *Symb. Christ* v. 123 He still loved the simplicities of a shepherd's life.

4. Of language or style: Absence or lack of elegance or polish; in later use, freedom from ornateness or over-elaboration; plainness or directness of an attractive kind.

1553 EDEN *Treat. New Ind.* (Arb.) 10 Goddes woorde, (whyche they contemned for the simplicitie of the same). 1592 G. HARVEY *Four Lett.* iii. Wks. (Grosart) I. 178 If anie haue charged mee, or do charge mee..with simplicity, I yeeld. *a* 1625 SIR H. FINCH *Law* (1636) 386 By his gesture, countenance, or simplicity of speech, it may be discouered; which the artificiall speech of his Councell learned would hide and colour. 1697 DRYDEN *Virgil, Ess. Georg.*, The Precepts of Husbandry are not to be deliver'd with the Simplicity of a Plow-man, but with the Address of a Poet. 1783 COWPER *Lett.* 24 Nov., Wks. (1876) 149 Simplicity is become a very rare quality in a writer. 1840 H. ROGERS *Ess.* (1874) II. v. 259 True simplicity..as it regards the expression.. means, that thoughts worth hearing are expressed in language that every one can understand. 1879 B. TAYLOR *Germ. Lit.* 73 Tennyson has endeavored to imitate the old epic simplicity.

pl. 1875 LOWELL *Among my Bks.* Ser. II. *Wordsworth*, The grand simplicities of the Bible.

5. Absence of ornament or decoration; freedom from useless accessories.

1609 B. JONSON *Sil. Wom.* I. i, Give me a look, give me a face, That makes simplicity a grace. 1774 PENNANT *Tour Scotl. 1772*, 57 That [window] in the East end has a magnificient simplicity. 1781 COWPER *Truth* 27 It stands like the cerulean arch we see, Majestic in its own simplicity. 1828 LANDOR *Imag. Conv., Epictetus & Seneca* III. 497 What is decorated is simplicity no longer. 1856 EMERSON *Eng. Traits* vi. *Manners*, Even Brummel their fop was marked by the severest simplicity in dress. 1893 MORRIS *Gothic Archit.* 31 The cant of the beauty of simplicity (i. e. bareness and ugliness) did not afflict it.

pl. 1854 RUSKIN *Lect. Archit. & Paint.* i. 7 Your decorations are just as monotonous as your simplicities.

† **6.** *U.S.* = HUMILITY 3. *Obs.*

1634 W. WOOD *New Eng. Prosp.* I. viii. (1865) 34 The Humilities or Simplicities (as I may rather call them) bee of two sorts, the biggest being as big as a greene Plover, the other as big as birds we call knots in England.

Si·mplicize, *v. nonce-word.* [f. L. *simplic-, simplex* simple: see -IZE.] *trans.* To make simple.

1814 L. HUNT *Feast Poets* 94 In like manner, he [Wordsworth] would clear up and simplicize our thoughts.

Simplification (simplifikē·ʃən). [a. F. *simplification*, f. *simplifier* to SIMPLIFY.] The action or process of simplifying or rendering less complex or elaborate; the result of this.

1688 NORRIS *Love* I. iv. 39 Men eminently good who.. have attained to the highest degree of Mortification and Simplification of Desire.

1802 JAMES *Milit. Dict.* s.v., The simplification of army accounts is perhaps one of the most desirable objects in finance. 1834 HT. MARTINEAU *Moral* II. 60 Nothing being wanted to its efficacy but the simplification which time and practice were sure to bring. 1884 *Law Times* LXXVII. 43/1 Military law..appears to us to be more complicated than it need be in these days of simplification of the statutes.

Si·mplificator. [f. SIMPLIFY *v.*, after Latin types.] One who simplifies.

1829 I. TAYLOR *Enthusiasm* iv. (1867) 83 This is the supposition of simplificators, who..must needs disbelieve, because theology would otherwise afford them no intellectual exercise.

† **Si·mplifier**[1]. *Obs.*-[1] [f. SIMPLE B. 6.] A maker of simples.

1594 PLAT *Jewell-ho.* III. 33 This skil is verie requisite for a good simplifier, because he may drie the leafe of any hearb in this maner.

Simplifier[2] (si·mplifəiəɹ). [f. SIMPLIFY *v.* + -ER[1].] One who or that which simplifies.

1824 MOORE *Mem.* (1853) IV. 260 A chastener and simplifier of style, it being the very reverse of ambition or ornament. 1896 *Cent. Mag.* Feb. 601 He is a great simplifier of details.

Simplify (si·mplifəi), *v.* [ad. F. *simplifier* (15th c.), ad. med.L. *simplificāre*, f. L. *simplus* simple: see -FY.]

† **1.** *trans.* (See quots.) *Obs. rare.*

1653 H. MORE *Conject. Cabbala* IV. i, That Precept of the Pythagoreans,..Simplifie your self, Reduce your self to One. 1692 NORRIS *Pract. Disc.* (1711) III. 132 This will recollect and simplify our souls and free us of that..dispersion of Thought which is so great an hindrance to us.

2. To make simple; to render less complex, elaborate, or involved; to reduce to a clearer or more intelligible form; to make easy.

1759 CHESTERF. *Lett.* cccIv. (1792) IV. 169 Let us simplify it and see what it [a disappointment] amounts to. *c* 1782 JEFFERSON *Autobiog.* Wks. 1859 I. 168 It will simplify the system of our mint to alloy both metals in the same degree. 1788 GIBBON *Decl. & F.* xliv. IV. 362 Their philosophic spirit had..simplified the forms of proceeding. 1803 SYD. SMITH *Wks.* (1859) I. 57/2 The laws of commerce..are simplified and expanded. 1841 LANE *Arab. Nts.* I. 73 Early in this age, they began to simplify their spoken language. 1853 J. H. NEWMAN *Hist. Sk.* (1873) II. I. iv. 163 In a state of nature man..does not simplify and fix his motives.

absol. 1878 LOCKYER *Spectrum Anal.* 166 That is a wonderful simplification, and science always simplifies.

Hence **Si·mplied** *a.* and *ppl. a.*; **Si·mpliedly** *adv.*; **Si·mplifying** *vbl. sb.*

a 1681 PORDAGE *Mystic Div.* (1683) 75 They are all pure simplified Spirits, not like the Angels,..but they are pure abstracted Spirits, proceeding from the supreme Unity. 1683 E. HOOKER *ibid.* 67 Where..uncompoundedly, abstractly and simplifiedly Hee stood. 1721 R. KEITH tr. *T. à Kempis, Valley of Lilies* 48 He that is simplified and innocent, and humbly obedient. 1789 MORSE *Amer. Geogr.* Pref., It furnishes a simplified account of other countries.

† **Si·mpling,** *vbl. sb. Obs.* [f. SIMPLE B. 6 or *v.*[2] + -ING[1].] The gathering or study of simples or medicinal plants.

1597 *Gerarde's Herbal, Ded. Verses*, In commendation of Mr. John Gerard for his diligence in simpling. 1656 W. COLE *Art of Simpling* Pref. p. i, In our times, the Art of Simpling is so farre from being rewarded, that it is grown contemptible. 1718 OZELL tr. *Tournefort's Voy.* I. 14 As for us, whose prevailing Passion was Simpling, we were perpetually on the hunt all round the City. 1774 *Westm. Mag.* II. 137 Upon reading a little further, I found the Hero was a Botanist, and his toils Simpling.

b. *attrib.* in *simpling voyage.*

1597 GERARDE *Herbal* I. xxii, The Journall that I wrot of this simpling voyage. 1671 RAY *Corr.* 87, I intend .. to begin a simpling voyage into the north. 1699 *Phil. Trans.* XXI. 62 An Account of a Simpling Voyage of John Baptista Triumphetti, Botanick Lecturer.

So † **Si·mpling** *ppl. a. Obs.*

a 1643 W. CARTWRIGHT *Poems* (1651) 230 'Twas..approv'd by the simpling brotherhood.

Si·mplism. *nonce-word.* [f. SIMPLE *a.* + -ISM.] Affected or overdone simplicity of literary style.

a 1882 EMERSON in *Century Mag.* (1890) Feb. 624 Other writers have to affect what to him [Wordsworth] is natural. So they have what Arnold calls *simplism*, he, simplicity.

Simplist (si·mplist). Also 6 **symplist.** [f. SIMPLE B, 6 + -IST.] One who studies simples or medicinal plants; a herbalist. Now *rare.*

1597 GERARDE *Herbal* I, lxviii. 95 The which controuersie ..may be decided by the least and simplest Symplist in these our daies. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* II. 214 The Grecian Simplists describe this Moly with a yellow floure. 1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* II. vi. 100 It hath been mistaken by some good Simplist for Amomum. 1672 JOSSELYN *New Eng. Rarities* 84 This Plant is taken by our Simplists to be a kind of Golden Rod. 1816 KEITH *Phys. Bot.* I. 39 This is a phenomenon that seems to have puzzled the simplists of antiquity not a little. 1837 — *Bot. Lex.* 94 The simplists of earlier times were content [etc.].

Simpli·stic, *a.* [f. SIMPLE B, 6 or SIMPLE *a.*] **1.** Of or pertaining to a simplist or to simples.

1860 in WORCESTER (citing Wilkinson).

2. Of the nature of, or characterized by, (extreme) simplicity.

a 1881 J. F. CLARKE (Worc.), The facts of nature and of life are more apt to be complex than simple. Simplistic theories are generally one-sided and partial.

Simply (si·mpli), *adv.* Forms: *a.* 3-4 **simpleliche** (4 **-lyche**), 5 **semplelyche**; 4 **sympel-**, 4-5 **sympliliche**; 3 **simpliche**, 4 **symplich**(e. *β.* 4-5 **symplely** (6 **-lily**), 4-6 **simplely** (4 **-li**), 7 **simplyly**; 4-5 **sympylly**, **-illy** (6 *Sc.* **-illie**), 5 **-el(l)y**, 5-6 **simpely** (6 *Sc.* **-illie**); 4-6 **symply** (6 **-li**), 6-7 **simplie**, 6- **simply.** [f. SIMPLE *a.* + -LY[2], with later contraction as in *gently, nobly.* Cf. MDu. *sent-, simpelike* (Du. *simpellijk*).]

1. With simplicity (of mind) or sincerity; in an honest or straightforward manner; also, in later use, unaffectedly, artlessly.

1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 2663 Þo hii come In eiþer side to Ambresbury..& þe brutons al simpleliche In god pays hii vnderstode. 1340 *Ayenb.* 134 He him lefþ simpleliche of al þet he zayþ, ase deþ þe litel child his mayster. 1382 WYCLIF *Prov.* ii. 7 He shal kepen the helthe of riȝt men, and defende the goende symplely. *c* 1440 *Jacob's Well* 181 Ne telle noȝt in þi schryfte flateryng iapys..; but symplely late þin herte & þi tunge acorde in one. *c* 1450 *Merlin* x. 140 The kynge he receyved [their homage] with gode herte and sympilliche with wepynge. 1603 SIR R. WESTON in *Lismore Papers* Ser. II. (1887) I. 80, I..protest that att my deliuery of his obligacon I delt singlyly and simplyly with you. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* XII. 569 By things deemd weak Subverting worldly strong, and worldly wise By simply meek. 1770 GOLDSM. *Des. Village* 25 The dancing pair that simply sought renown, By holding out, to tire each other down. 1867 RUSKIN *Time & Tide* v. § 24 She did it beautifully and simply, as a child ought to dance. 1867 FREEMAN in W. R. W. Stephens *Life* (1895) I. 382, I was rather amused at Huxley asking me very simply whether I had read Thierry.

2. a. In a plain, homely, or frugal manner.

1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* I. 331 Sone to Paryss can he ga, And levyt thar full sympylly. 1395 PURVEY *Remonstr.* (1851) 94 Freris owen to lyue sympliere and streitliere than othere religiouse. *c* 1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 7654 Pare in hungir and calde full pure þai leuyd, and sympely þai fure.

b. Humbly in respect of dress or surroundings.

c 1400 LOVE *Bonavent. Mirr.* (1908) 56 Suche a litell childe so sympilly clothed. 1568 GRAFTON *Chron.* II. 255 She went as simply as she might, to thentent that the king should not phansie her. 1570 FOXE *A. & M.* 2075/2 As he was but a Deacon, so was hee but simply or at least not priestly apparelled. 1596 DRAYTON *Legends* iv. 42 Whose meanest Cottage simply Me did shrowd.

3. a. In simple language, with simplicity of speech, with no attempt at style; also, so as to be readily understood, plainly, clearly.

c 1380 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* (1880) 46, I in fewe wordis & sympliche maade to write it. *c* 1384 CHAUCER *H. Fame* 854 Haue y not preved thus symply, With-outen any subtilite Of speche? *c* 1400 *Pilgr. Sowle* (Caxton, 1483) II. xli. 46 Somwhat as I can sympelly reporten I shall it now rehercen. 1474 CAXTON *Chesse* II. v. (1883) 64 Whan he speketh to hem swetly and conuerseth with hem symply. *a* 1591 H. SMITH *Serm.* (1637) 143 To preach simply, is not to preach rudely, nor unlearnedly, nor confusedly, but to preach plainly. 1638 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* (ed. 2) 12 As if a stupid sense made her carelesse of danger, which to sympathize I have as simply for your sport depicted. 1648 HEXHAM II, *Slechtelick seggen*, to speake Simply, or in Briefe.

b. Without unnecessary elaboration or superfluous ornament; plainly and pleasingly.

1746 FRANCIS tr. *Horace, Art Poet.* 293 Few were its [the flute's] notes, its form was simply plain. 1816 J. SCOTT *Vis. Paris* (ed. 5) 61 This is a fine massive piece of architecture, simply grand. 1850 *Beck's Florist* Apr. 101 We found the gardens..very pretty, simply laid out, and well kept up.

Comb. 1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* V, A simply-attired pretty maiden.

c. Without complication or intricacy.

1864 BOWEN *Logic* vii. 202 That it is to be converted simply. 1867 SPENCER *First Princ.* (ed. 2) § 108. 308 Evolution..is illustrated most simply and clearly by this [etc.]. 1874 LOWELL *Agassiz* I. 144 A mortal..taking life as simply as a tree!

† **4.** Poorly, badly, indifferently; meanly, inadequately; weakly, feebly. *Obs.*

1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* XVII. 134 Quhan thai the baner saw sympilly Swa standand, stuffit with sa quhoyn. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) VI. 355 He koupe his gramer but sympilliche, for þat tyme was nouȝt oon techer of gramer in al his kyngdom. *Ibid.* VIII. 59 He..restored sympelliche [L. *exiliter*] þe Chartre Hous at Witham besides Salisbury. 1432-50 tr. *Higden* (Rolls) III. 85 This Anchus Marcius.. made hym tutor of his childere, but this Tarquinius remembrede that luffe symplely [L. *male*]. 1465 *Paston Lett.* II. 207 In good feyth I have ben symply intretid among them. 1489 CAXTON *Faytes of A.* II. v. 99 Other that he knewe sholde doo lytel good and that were symply armed. 1523 LD. BERNERS *Froiss.* I. lxxxix. 112 The Scottes helde but simply the trewse concludedde the yere before. 1597 MORLEY *Introd. Mus.* 182 Being inioyned to make a song [he] wil do it so simplie as one would thinke a scholler of one yeares practise might easelie compose a better. 1753-4 RICHARDSON *Grandison* I. xv. 89 Had he once gained entrance, perhaps I might have come off but simply.

5. In a foolish, silly, or stupid manner; without common sense or sagacity; † ignorantly. Also *simply disposed*, of a simple disposition.

1466 *Paston Lett.* II. 263 She hathe demenyd her ful symply bothe for youre worship and also for her awne. 1535 COVERDALE 2 *Sam.* XV. 11 But they wente on symply, and knewe not of the matter. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* I. 195 If an elephant chance to meet with a man wandering simply out of his way in the wildernesse. 1662-3 PEPYS *Diary* 2 Jan., Sir W. Batten was paying off tickets, but so simply and arbitrarily..that I was weary of it. 1789 MRS. PIOZZI *Journ. France* I. 362 Omitting, simply enough, to carry a thermometer, one can measure the heat of nothing. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* li, People declared that she got money from various simply disposed persons, under pretence of getting them confidential appointments under Government.

6. Without addition or qualification.

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XIX. CXVI. (1495) 920 One symply is one that may not be departyd in dede though he may be departyd atweyne. *a* 1425 tr. *Arderne's Treat. Fistula*, etc. 25 Eueriche of þise medicynes symply by hymself .. stauncheþ wele blode. *c* 1440 *Gesta Rom.* lii. 231 (Harl. MS.), Yf eny thinge be yevin to two simplely, and that on be take or dede, al is in the powr of him or hir that is present. 1559 MORWYNG *Evonym.* 188 Smellinge waters as we call them simplely. 1598 SHAKS. *Merry W.* III. ii. 78 If he take her, let him take her simply: the wealth I haue waits on my consent. 1610 HEALEY *St. Aug. Citie of God* XVI. XXVIII. (1620) 569 His body was not simply dead, but respectiuely. 1616 T. ADAMS *Pract. Wks.* (1862) III. 11 Abstractively and simply understood, it is an exceeding excellent member. 1695 LD. PRESTON *Boeth.* IV. 168 But that they have any Being, purely and simply, I deny.

b. Merely, only. † Also *all simply.*

c 1400 MAUNDEV. (Roxb.) XXXII. 144 Þai..sweres nane athes for nathing, bot symply saise it es or it es noȝt. *c* 1430 *Pilgr. Lyf Manhode* I. xcix. (1869) 53 In the time that I made the scrippe, it sufficed al sympilliche to leeue in god perfytliche. 1561 DAUS tr. *Bullinger on Apoc.* (1573) 134 b, Therfore sayth he not simplely that there shall be no more tyme: but addeth [etc.]. 1650 T. HOBBES *De Corpore Pol.* 190 Now in those Laws which are simply Laws, the Commandement is addressed to every man. 1682 NORRIS *Hierocles* 57 For the Law does not punish Man simply, as Man, but as Evil. 1762 HUME *Hist. Eng.* (1806) IV. lxiv. 768 He ordered that such of the prisoners as should simply promise to obey the laws for the future should be set at liberty. 1787 BENTHAM *Def. Usury* ii. 9 The penal law must depend upon the simply prohibitive. 1836 J. GILBERT *Chr. Atonem.* iii. (1852) 66 It is simply a question of degrees. 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* XX. IV. 387 The highest praise due to the royalist.. was simply that he was not a traitor. 1879 MCCARTHY *Own Times* II. xix. 53 These men simply followed their judgment and their conscience.

† **c.** Unconditionally. *Obs. rare.*

1523 LD. BERNERS *Froiss.* I. xxvi. 38 They of the cite wolde nat yelde them vp symply, for alwaies they thought to be rescued. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VI*, 104 The Frenchmen fled into the Castle and there continued five daies, at the ende wherof thei rendered themselfes symply.

d. Without exception; absolutely.

Common in recent use as an intensive.

1590 SHAKS. *Mids. N.* IV. ii. 9 Hee hath simply the best wit of any handycraft man in Athens. 1600 HOLLAND *Livy* XXIX. XXXIV. 735 b, Hee levied .. the Numidians especially, the

best horsemen simplie in all Affricke. 1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* I. ii. II. iv, Other Retentions and Evacuations there are, not simply necessary, but at some times. 1856 KINGSLEY *Lett.* (1878) I. 475 Your general political economy is simply undeniable. 1888 STOKES *Celtic Ch.* 176 The plates are simply magnificent. 1893 EARL DUNMORE *Pamirs* I. 247 The spot where we camped was simply too lovely for words.

Si·mpson, *sb. slang.* [From the surname *Simpson.*] (See quot. 1874.) Hence **Si·mpson** *v.* and **Si·mpsonize** *v.*

1871 *Echo* 13 Dec., It was found that the tank from which was drawn the water used in washing the cans, and, it may be, in 'Simpsonising' the milk, was in communication with a drain. 1874 *Slang Dict.* 291 *Simpson,* water used in the dilution of milk. Term in use among cowkeepers. From this the parish pump has been called Mrs. Simpson. 1901 *N. & Q.* 9th Ser. VII. 263 *To simpson,* to adulterate milk by adding water thereto, from a dairyman of this name who in the sixties was prosecuted on this account.

Simptom(e, obs. forms of SYMPTOM.

‖ **Simpulum** (si·mpiŭlŏm). Pl. **simpula** (si·mpiŭlă). [L.] *Rom. Antiq.* A small ladle, used for dipping out wine for libations.

1745 POCOCKE *Descr. East* II. ii. 249 An altar, with two reliefs on it, one being a person holding a simpulum. 1756 J. KENNEDY *Curiosities of Wilton Ho.* (1786) 116 She holds in her Right-Hand a Simpulum. 1858 BIRCH *Anc. Pottery* II. 315 The vases used in sacrifices were principally of earthenware, and comprised the simpulum [etc.].

Simson (si·msən). *dial.* Also 7 **simpson.** [Alteration of *sinchon, sinsion* SENCION.] The plant groundsel.

1674 RAY *S. & E. Co. Words* 77 *Simpson,* Groundsell, *senecio,* Ess. Suff. 1777 JACOB *Catal. Plants* 105 *Senecio vulgaris,* Common Groundsel, or Simson. 1823 E. MOOR *Suffolk Words* 350 *Simson,* the common name of the groundsel—the *senesio vulgaris.* *a* 1825 FORBY *Voc. E. Anglia* s.v. *Sencion.*

Sim subtle, suttle: see SIM [1].

Simulacral (simiŭlē·krăl), *a. rare*⁻¹. [f. SIMULACRE + -AL.] Resembling an image.

1875 DRAPER *Confl. Relig. & Sci.* (1876) v. 123 Their anthropomorphic notions of the nature of God and the simulachral form of the spirit of man.

Simulacre (si·miŭlēkəɹ). Forms: 4–5 **symyl-, similacre** (5 **-achre, semylacre**); 4–5, 7 **symulacre** (5 **semulacre, symolachre**), 6–7, 9 **simulachre** (6 **-acher**), 4, 7– **simulacre.** [a. OF. *simulacre* (=Catal. *simulacre,* Prov. *simulacra,* Sp., Pg., It. *simulacro*), ad. L. *simulacrum*: see SIMULACRUM.]

1. An image (of a god, etc.) to which honour or worship is rendered.

c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* vi. (*Thomas*) 653, I þe commawnd, ful fend, þat þare-In is dwelland, þat þu þat semulacre brake. 1382 WYCLIF 1 *John* v. 21 Litil sones, kepe ȝe fro simulacris. *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (Roxb.) xviii. 82 Simulacres er ymages made to þe liknes of sum thing þat es kyndely; and ydoles er ymages made to þe liknes of what thing a man will þat es noȝt kyndely. 1485 CAXTON *Chas. Gt.* 206 Alle thydolles and other symylacres that he fonde, he dyd do destroye. 1531 ELYOT *Gov.* I. viii, Phidias..made of yuory the simulachre or image of Jupiter, honoured by the gentiles. 1577 HELLOWES *Gueuara's Chron.* 300 Albinius did sweare by the simulachre of Diana, not once, but thrice. 1613 *Treas. Anc. Mod. Times* I. 765/2 Infamous Dæmons possessed themselues of these Statues and Symulacres. 1800 W. TAYLOR in *Monthly Mag.* VIII. 598 Distributions have been made..of engraved and waxen simulacres of saints, with the view..of introducing..a taste for image-worship, and a love of holy idolatry. 1851 MADDEN *Shrines & Sepulchres* I. 45 As temples had their origin in tombs, so idols had theirs in the simulacres of deceased men.

2. An image, a material or mental representation, *of* a person or thing.

1483 CAXTON *Gold. Leg.* 66 b/1 Whan the messagers cam they fonde a symylacre or an ymage in his bedde. 1590 FENNE *Frutes* 12 When Perdicas had espied the sumptuous simulachre of dead Alexander. 1658 *Bergerac's Satirical Charac.* xvii. 71 In fine, Simulacre of envy, leave your biting. 1830 JAMES *Darnley* (1846) 160 A knight, in whom Sir Osborne might easily distinguish the simulacre of himself. 1863 HAWTHORNE *Our Old Home* (1883) I. 306 Give the emotions that cluster about it,..and you get something like a simulachre of the object in the midst of them. 1871 FREEMAN in W. R. W. Stephens *Life* (1895) II. 17, I..sang 'Salve mundi Domine' before the simulacre of Fred. B.

Hence **Si·mulacrize** *v. intr.*, to pretend.

1845 S. JUDD *Margaret* II. ii, 'Are you sincere?' she asked. 'Are you not simulacrizing?'

‖ **Simulacrum** (simiŭlē·krŭm). Pl. **simulacra** (7 **-achra**), and **-acrums.** [L., f. *simulāre* to make like, to SIMULATE. See also SIMULACRE.]

1. A material image, made as a representation of some deity, person, or thing.

1599 SANDYS *Europæ Spec.* (1632) 229 The Heathen themselves call them every where the *Effigies* and *Simulachra* of other. 1833 LYTTON *Godolphin* xxvi. 52 The far-famed simulacrum (the image of Cybele) which fell from Heaven. 1869 *Pall Mall G.* 13 Oct. 11 The dead-alive gape, stare, and hue of the lumpish simulacrums of a wax show. 1887 B. V. HEAD *Hist. Numorum* 634 The mountain is flanked by two tall conical simulacra, with radiate summits.

2. Something having merely the form or appearance of a certain thing, without possessing its substance or proper qualities.

1805 *Edin. Rev.* VII. 183 Does he mean..films, shadows, or *simulacra* proceeding from real external existences. 1840 CARLYLE *Heroes* (1858) 268 An ambitious charlatan, perversity and simulacrum. *Ibid.* 280 It behoved men to quit simulacra and return to fact. 1861 THACKERAY *Four Georges* iv. (1862) 184 Nothing but a coat, and a wig, and a mask smiling below it—nothing but a great simulacrum. 1881 *Contemp. Rev.* Feb. 235 The true succession lies with those who carry the principles of the master to a more fruitful development, and not with those who embalm them as.. sacred but sterile simulacra.

b. A mere image, a specious imitation or likeness, *of* something.

1833 *Edin. Rev.* LVII. 334 Some spirit of life breathed into their simulacrum of a faith. 1856 RUSKIN *Mod. Painters* IV. v. xix. § 6 Nightly we lay down our gold, to fashion forth simulacra of peasants, in gay ribands and white bodices. 1858 CARLYLE *Fredk. Gt.* VII. vi. (1872) II. 302 He is become a mere enchanted simulacrum of a Duke. 1877 BLACK *Green Past.* xli, A vehicle..that appeared to be the mere simulacrum of a vehicle.

Si·mulance. *rare*⁻¹. [Cf. next and -ANCE.] = SIMULATION 2.

1885 D. WILSON *Anthropology* 7 (Stand.), Man embodies an..immortal spiritual principle..which makes the resemblance of the apes to him but a mocking simulance.

Simulant (si·miŭlănt), *a.* and *sb.* [ad. L. *simulant-em,* pres. pple. of *simulāre* to SIMULATE.]

A. *adj.* Simulating; presenting the appearance *of* something else.

1826 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* IV. xlvi. 348 *Simulant,*.. when the mesothorax is covered by the prothorax, and the Metathorax only is visible, under the form of an elongated or enlarged scutellum. 1891 *Cent. Dict.* s.v., A good many parts and organs..are thus simulant of others from which they are morphologically different.

B. *sb.* One who, or that which, simulates something else.

1860 W. H. RUSSELL *Diary India* I. 103 These are, indeed, solemn processions, which not even youth and beauty, or their simulants, can make gay.

Simular (si·miŭlăɹ), *sb.* and *a.* [irreg. f. L. *simul-āre* to simulate + -AR, perh. suggested by SIMILAR *a.*]

Some examples (in the 17th and 18th cents.) of *simular, simularity, simularly,* in the sense of *similar,* etc., are app. mere misprints or individual errors.

A. *sb.* One who, or that which, simulates, or puts on a false appearance (*of* something).

1526 TINDALE *Prol. Romans* a ij b, Christ..rebuketh the Phareses.., and calleth them ypocrites, that is to saye Simulars. 1605 SHAKS. *Lear* III. ii. 54 Hide thee, thou Bloudy hand; Thou Periur'd, and thou Simular [*Qq.* simular man] of Vertue: That art Incestuous. 1791 COWPER *Odyss.* XIII. 95 His eye-lids, soon, sleep, falling as a dew, Closed fast, death's simular, in sight the same. 1809 MALKIN *Gil Blas* VI. i. P 13 Telling us how this simular of a Catholic is more than ever wedded to his Jewish customs and ceremonies.

B. *adj.* Simulated, pretended, counterfeited. Also, simulative *of* something.

1611 SHAKS. *Cymb.* V. v. 200, I return'd with simular proofe enough, To make the Noble Leonatus mad. 1847 EMERSON *Poems* Wks. (Bohn) I. 439 As in the old poetic fame The gods are blind and lame, And the simular despite Betrays the more abounding might. *a* 1859 DE QUINCEY *Posth. Wks.* (1893) II. 247 That auburn wig which was presumed by its wearer to be simular of native curls.

Simulate (si·miŭlēt), *ppl. a.* Also 5 **similate,** 6 **symulate**; 5 **similat,** 6–7 *Sc.* **simulat.** [ad. L. *simulāt-us,* pa. pple. of *simulāre*: see next.] = SIMULATED *ppl. a.*

1435 MISYN *Fire of Love* 4 Deuocion not holy bot similate. 1447 BOKENHAM *Seyntys* (Roxb.) 29, I wyl not tellyn..what accyoun he feynyd,..and how and be what similat facyoun Meche peple to hys favour he dreu. 1550 BALE *English Votaries* II. Pref., The sodometrouse vowe of their symulate chastyte. 1581 MARBECK *Bk. of Notes* 450 By their fained simplicitie and simulate holinesse. 1671 [? R. MACWARD] *Case Accomod. Exam.* 75 He can not prevail by his simulat condescendencies. *a* 1676 BP. GUTHRIE *Mem.* (1702) 102 The simulat division betwixt the two Marquesses of Hamilton and Argile. 1804 J. GRAHAME *Sabbath* 622 'Tis war alone that never violates The hallow'd day by simulate respect. 1845 JANE ROBINSON *Whitehall* xix. 133 Imprisoned in all that simulate magnificence.

Simulate (si·miŭlēt), *v.* Also 7 **similate.** [f. L. *simulāt-*, ppl. stem of *simulāre* to make like, imitate, counterfeit, etc., f. *similis* like.]

1. *trans.* To assume falsely the appearance or signs of (anything); to feign, pretend, counterfeit, imitate; to profess or suggest (anything) falsely.

1652 GAULE *Magastrom.* 267 This magicall sorcerer simulated the Christian faith, and was baptized. *a* 1661 FULLER *Worthies, Berkshire* I. (1662) 112 The Royalists were at night fain to hang lighted matches on the Hedges, (so to similate their aboad thereabouts) whilst they drew of. 1735 THOMSON *Liberty* III. 485 What tho' the first smooth Cæsars arts caress'd, Merit, and virtue, simulating Me? 1791 BOSWELL *Johnson* an. 1752, To suppose that Johnson's fondness for her was *dissembled* (meaning simulated or assumed). 1835 ARNOLD in *Life & Corr.* (1844) I. 407 A government ..in word and action simulating reform. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* x. II. 610 He did not think it worth his while to simulate regret for his past errors. 1874 L. STEPHEN *Hours Libr.* (1892) I. i. 9 These..show the pleasure which he took in simulating truth.

b. To have the external features of to present a strong resemblance to (something).

a 1661 FULLER *Worthies* (1840) III. 204 If it [a vault] be merely natural, it doth curiously imitate art; if purely artificial it doth most lively simulate nature. 1853 E. K. KANE *Grinnell Exped.* xlv. (1856) 413 We passed the hills of Disco in review, with their terraced summits, simulating the Ghauts of Hindostan. 1874 M. COOKE *Fungi* 2 Yet there are some flowering plants, which, at first sight,..simulate cryptogams.

c. *Zool.* = MIMIC *v.* 5.

1876 SPENCER *Princ. Sociol.* I. i. viii. 126 Many caterpillars, beetles, moths, butterflies, simulate the objects by which they are commonly surrounded.

† **2.** To convert *into* by simulation. *Obs.*⁻¹

a 1658 HEWYTT *Serm.* 176 We must not similate good into evil, nor truth into falshood, by wicked words or works.

† **3.** To put forward deceptively. *Obs. rare*⁻¹.

1652 GAULE *Magastrom.* 366 Whereupon Hilarion..was simulated for a witch or wizard, by the paganish party.

4. *intr.* To pretend or feign.

1823 ROSCOE tr. *Sismondi's Lit. Eur.* (1846) II. xxxvi. 470 Doomed to suffer and smile and simulate.

Hence **Si·mulating** *ppl. a.*

1875 POSTE *Gaius* (ed. 2) Add. 669 The simulating disposition..was free from the supervening rules of the simulated disposition.

Si·mulated, *ppl. a.* [f. prec. + -ED [1].] Pretended, feigned, assumed.

1622 MABBE tr. *Aleman's Guzman d'Alf.* II. 318 The simulated sanctitie of a wicked and counterfeit Rogue. 1664 H. MORE *Myst. Iniq.* 358 The Horns are simulated Vertues. 1810 BENTHAM *Packing* (1821) 171 The carelessness, real or simulated, of the Judge. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* I. 62 The Puritans..prayed, and with no simulated fervour, that she might be kept from the dagger of the assassin. 1878 BROWNING *Poets Croisic* 64 Our simulated thunderclaps which tell us counterfeited truths.

† **Si·mulately,** *adv. Obs.* In 6–7 **simulatlie,** 7 **-ly.** [f. SIMULATE *ppl. a.* + -LY [2].] Deceitfully, by or with pretence.

1592 *Sc. Acts, Jas. VI* (1814) III. 575/1 Vnder pretens and cullour of..giftis of þair escheattis simulatlie purchest. 1629 *Reg. Privy Counc. Scot.* Ser. II. III. 197 Of the whilks arreistments the most pairt ar simulatlie and fraudulentlie made. 1654 VILVAIN *Epit. Ess.* ii. 83 Job..seriously (not simulatly) wished he had never been born. *a* 1657 SIR J. BALFOUR *Ann. Scot.* (1825) II. 29 He confessed (simulatly..) to liberat the King of suche grossnes.

Simulation (simiŭlē·ʃən). Forms: 4–5 **simil-, symylacioun** (5 **-acioune, -acion**), 7 **similation**; 5–6 **symulacion, -acyon** (5 **-acioun**), 4–6 **simulacion,** 6– **simulation.** [a. OF. *simulacion, -ation* (=Prov. and Sp. *simulacion,* It. *simulazione*), ad. L. *simulātiōn-em,* noun of action f. *simulāre* to SIMULATE.]

1. The action or practice of simulating, with intent to deceive; false pretence, deceitful profession.

1340 *Ayenb.* 23 And þerof wexeþ uele zennes, ase ariȝthalf; þet is to wytene: lozengerie, simulacion. *c* 1400 *Rom. Rose* 7230 He nys no full good champioun That dredith such similacioun. 1412–20 LYDG. *Chron. Troy* IV. 4504 Amonge hem silfe to bringe in tresoun, Feyned troube and symulacioun. 1542 UDALL *Erasm. Apoph.* 170 He..did with mutual simulacion on his partie cover & kepe secrete the colorable dooyng of the saied feloe. 1577 tr. *Bullinger's Decades* (1592) 319 This precept doth commaunde vs..that ..wee doe our neighbor harme..neither by simulation nor dissimulation. 1611 SPEED *Hist. Gt. Brit.* VI. (1632) 114 His nature relishing too much of the Punick craft and simulation. 1692 SOUTH *Serm.* (1697) I. 525 A Deceiving by Actions, Gestures, or Behaviour, is called Simulation, or Hypocrisie. 1711 STEELE *Tatler* No. 213 P 1 Simulation is a Pretence of what is not, and Dissimulation a Concealment of what is. 1788 WESLEY *Wks.* (1872) VII. 43 Simulation is the seeming to be what we are not; dissimulation, the seeming not to be what we are. 1836 LANDOR *Pericles & Aspasia* Wks. 1846 II. 379, I wish he were as pious as you are: occasionally he appears so. I attacked him on his simulation. 1872 SHIPLEY *Gloss. Eccl. Terms* 71 Fraud.., whether it consists in simulation or dissimulation.

b. Tendency to assume a form resembling that of something else; unconscious imitation.

1870 MARCH *Anglo-Saxon Gram.* 28 *Simulation.* The feigning a connection with words of similar sound is an important fact in English and other modern languages: asparagus > sparrow-grass.

2. A false assumption or display, a surface resemblance or imitation, *of* something.

c 1380 WYCLIF *Wks.* (1880) 392 For als miche as it is done by symylacion of holynes, þe whiche is double wickidnes. 1471 CAXTON *Recuyell* (Sommer) II. 659 How Anthenor and Eneas..dyde hit vnder symylacion of peas. 1532 MORE *Confut. Tindale* Wks. 357/2 Woulde God they would ones rather folow him truely in faith & good workes, then in simulacion of like santytie. *a* 1667 COWLEY *Ess., Liberty,* So by the artificial simulation of some virtues, he made a shift to ensnare some honest..persons. 1873 MIVART *Elem. Anat.* 12 A solid partition or simulation of a notochord. 1876 MISS BRADDON *J. Haggard's Dau.* I. 74 Miserly as the arrangements of the household were, it was kept up with a faint simulation of a gentleman's establishment.

Simulative (si·miŭlĕtiv), *a.* Also 5 **-tyue.** [f. L. stem *simulāt-*: see SIMULATE *v.* and -IVE. Cf. med.L. *simulātīvē* adv.] Characterized by simulation or pretence.

1490 CAXTON *Eneydos* xxi. 77, I do not somone hym for taccomplysshe his promyse simulatyue of the mariage of vs two. 1840 G. S. FABER *Prim. Doctr. Regen.* 296 If the Adult..returned an insincere and simulative Answer: then.. he would fail of being inwardly regenerated. 1851 — *Many Mansions* 248 The simulative phantom of the particular individuals. 1875 POSTE *Gaius* (ed. 2) 666 The formal dispositions of Roman jurisprudence were frequently simulative.

Hence **Si·mulatively** *adv.*

1826 G. S. FABER *Orig. Pagan Idol.* III. 396 Truly beginning with Nimrod, though simulatively..with Noah. 1851 — *Many Mansions* 201 Evil will be mingled with good, the simulatively holy with the truly holy.

Simulator (si·miŭlĕitəɹ). [ad. L. *simulātor* a copier, a feigner, agent-noun from *simulāre* to

SIMULATE. Cf. F. *simulateur*, Sp. and Pg. *simulador*, It. *simulatore*.]

1. One who practises simulation.

1835 *Fraser's Mag.* XI. 343 Churchmen and women are of necessity simulators. 1843 GAVIN *Feigned & Fictitious Dis.* 30 That severe pain of the body will not influence some simulators to return to their duty, may be still farther evidenced. 1862 F. HALL *Hindu Philos. Syst.* 147 If a simulator..is outwardly courteous to his friends, but inwardly bears them malice, can he..be a doer of proper works?

2. A thing which simulates another.

1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 687 Myoma and fibromyoma are also possible simulators [of keloid].

† Si·mulatory, *a. Obs. rare.* [See SIMULATE *v.* and -ORY.] Simulative.

1618 *Hist. Perkin Warbeck* 35 These words were vttered ..with simulatory maiesty. 1623 BP. HALL *Contempl., O.T.* XIX. x, Jehoram wisely suspects this flight of the Syrians to be but simulatory and politick.

† Simule, *v. Obs. rare.* Also 6 symule, simyll. [ad. F. *simuler* (14th cent.), or L. *simulāre* to SIMULATE.] *intr.* and *trans.* To simulate or feign.

c 1480 HENRYSON *Fables, Cock & Fox* vi, Dissimuland in to countenance and cheir, On kneis fell, and simuland thus he said. 1528 TINDALE *Obed. Chr. Man* 159 They.. simyll discorde amonge them selves when they are most agreed. 1534 WHITINTON *Tullyes Offices* III. (1540) 140 An honest man shal neyther symule nor dissymule any thyng for thentent to bye better or to sell better.

Hence **† Si·muled** *ppl. a.*, simulated. *Obs.*

1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 81 Than let us despyse this symuled & false obedyence. 1585 T. WASHINGTON *tr. Nicholay's Voy.* III. xviii. 104 b, His simuled holinesse.

† Si·muler. *Obs.*⁻¹ [f. prec. + -ER 1.] A simulator, feigner.

1534 WHITINTON *Tullyes Offices* I. (1540) 48 We haue herde say that Socrates was swete and ornate of speche in all comunycacion a symuler whome the grekes call irona.

† Simultal, *a. Obs.*⁻¹ [irreg. f. L. *simul* + -AL.] Simultaneous.

1654 VILVAIN *Chronogr.* 16 Such a sudden simultal surreption of 10 or 12 dais, wil..beget much confusion.

Simultaneity (simŏltănī·iti). [f. next : see -ITY, and cf. F. *simultanéité* (1754), Sp. *-eidad*, Pg. *-eidade*.]

1. The quality or fact of being simultaneous; occurrence at the same time.

1802-12 BENTHAM *Ration. Judic. Evid.* (1827) II. 546 By the supposition, this asserted simultaneity is false. 1855 GROVE *Corr. Phys. Forces* (ed. 3) 13 The actual priority of cause to effect has been doubted, and their simultaneity argued with much ability. 1893 BALL *Story of Sun* 35 We may..suppose that they [sc. observations] have been made with absolute simultaneity.

2. A simultaneous attack. *rare*⁻¹.

1858 CARLYLE *Fredk. Gt.* XIX. vii. (1872) VIII. 230 He stands now elaborately divided into Three groups against those Three simultaneities.

Simultaneous (simŏltē·ni·ŏs), *a.* [ad. L. type **simultāneus*, formed (prob. after *mōmentāneus*) on L. *simul* at the same time : cf. F. *simultané* (1740), Sp., Pg., and It. *simultaneo*.

Med.L. *simultāneus* is given by Du Cange only in the sense of 'simulated'. Blount (*Glossogr.* 1656), citing *simultaneous* from L'Estrange, wrongly associates it with L. *simultas*, and explains it as 'that is privily displeased or hates with dissembling countenance'. Phillips (1658), as usual, repeats the mistake in different words. Marvell in his *Def. Howe* (1678) refers to the word as 'an elegant term of *The Discourse's* own production' (*Wks.*, ed. Grosart, IV. 199).]

1. Existing, happening, occurring, operating, etc., at the same time ; coincident in time.

a 1660 HAMMOND *Wks.* (1683) IV. 570 All that we have need of..is only Gods concurrence, whether previous or simultaneous. 1677 OWEN *Justific.* ix. Wks. 1852 III. 213 There are they [faith and repentance] so frequently conjoined in the Scripture as one Simultaneous duty. 1701 NORRIS *Ideal World* I. ii. 45 He [God]..compares both means and ends together in one simple simultaneous view. 1815 KIRBY & SP. *Entom.* (1818) I. 498 They are not moved to it by a simultaneous but by a successive impulse. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* ii. I. 267 It was proposed that there should be simultaneous insurrections in London..and at Newcastle. 1879 HARLAN *Eyesight* iii. 42 The simultaneous use of both eyes is called 'binocular vision'.

transf. 1896 HOWELLS *Impress. & Exper.* 39 The railroad and the telegraph have made the little place simultaneous with New York and London.

2. *spec.* in *Math.*, as *simultaneous equation, function, root*, etc. (see quots.).

1816 BABBAGE in *Phil. Trans.* 183 There may be another second function of $\psi(x, y)$, which..may for the sake of distinction be called the second simultaneous function relative to x and y. 1842 COLENSO *Elem. Algebra* (ed. 3) § 72 Simultaneous Equations of one Dimension...Equations of this kind,..to be satisfied by the same pair or pairs of values of x and y, are called simultaneous equations. 1842 G. PEACOCK *Treat. Algebra* I. 232 Such pairs or sets of equations in which the same unknown symbols appear, which are assumed to possess the same values throughout, are called simultaneous equations. 1882 CAYLEY *Math. Papers* XII. (1897) 124 The summation extends to all the simultaneous roots x', y' of the equations U=0, V=0.

Simultaneously (simŏltē·ni·ŏsli), *adv.* [f. prec. + -LY 2.]

1. At the same time ; coincidently.

1675 BAXTER *Cath. Theol.* I. I. 28 To make the same numerical act which is a Volition simultaneously to be no Volition. 1762 KAMES *Elem. Crit.* (1764) I. 127 Dissimilar emotions may succeed each other with rapidity, but they cannot exist simultaneously. *a* 1763 SHENSTONE *Ess., Writing & Bks.* lix, He introduces the deities of both acting simultaneously. 1816 BABBAGE in *Phil. Trans.* 192 If in the function $\psi(x, y)$ we put simultaneously $\alpha(x, y)$ for x, and $\beta(x, y)$ for y. 1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* I. ii. 22 An exclamation of surprise burst simultaneously from my companion and myself. 1880 HAUGHTON *Phys. Geogr.* v. 242 The actual banks are rarely, if ever, simultaneously visible.

2. By means of simultaneous equations.

1816 PLAYFAIR *Nat. Phil.* II. 225 In this way all the elements of any of the planetary orbits may be determined simultaneously.

Simultaneousness (simŏltē·ni·ŏsnės). [f. as prec. + -NESS.] The fact, state, or quality of being simultaneous.

1784 tr. *Beckford's Vathek* 165 The ideas..flashing before his imagination, with the simultaneousness of lightning. 1817 COLERIDGE *Biogr. Lit.* XV. (1907) II. 18 The poet gives us the liveliest image of succession with the feeling of simultaneousness! 1861 LAMONT *Seasons w. Seahorses* v. 75 The simultaneousness with which they dive and reappear again is remarkable. 1890 *Spectator* 6 Sept., It is.. the simultaneousness of the desire to migrate which makes the migration so gregarious.

† Simultation. *Obs. rare*⁻¹. [irreg. f. L. *simultas* : see next.] Quarrelling.

1605 G. POWEL *Refut. Epist. Puritan Papist* 43 They can hardly liue peaceably among themselues without simultation.

† Simulty 1. *Obs. rare.* [ad. L. *simultas*, f. *simul* together, at the same time. Cf. OF. *simulté*.] A quarrel or contention.

a 1637 B. JONSON *Timber* (1641) 113 Imbarking himselfe in the Factions of the Family : to inquire after domesticke simulties. 1679 F. P. CRESSY *Gen. Disc.* 131 Thus we see.. in what inveterate..simulties, dissensions, and Book-warres the Protestants of all kinds and sorts doe liue.

† Simulty 2. *Obs.*⁻¹ [irreg. f. L. *simul* + -TY.] Simultaneity.

1677 GALE *Crt. Gentiles* III. I. 16 Some scholemen say, that in free wil there is a simultie of power to opposites but not a power of simultie, i. e. a power of embracing opposites at one and the same time.

Simum, variant of SIMOOM.

‖ Simurgh (simē·ɹg). Also simurg, simorg(h. [Pers. سیمرغ *sīmurgh*, f. Pahlavi *sīn* (Av. *saēna*, Skr. *çyena*) eagle + *murgh* bird.] A monstrous bird of Persian legend, imagined as rational, having the power of speech, and of great age.

α. 1786 tr. *Beckford's Vathek* 89 Is the Simurgh coming to pluck out my eyes? *a* 1843 SOUTHEY *Comm.-pl. Bk.* Ser. II. (1849) 459 In the Bahar Danush the Simurgh is mentioned as a genus, not an individual. This is heresy, the unity of the Simurgh being expressed in all the books of canonical romance. 1886 P. ROBINSON *Teetotum Trees* 152 Some Brobdingnagian condor like the Simurg, with feathers that were large enough for oars—or the Roc itself.

β. 1801 SOUTHEY *Thalaba* VIII. xix, In Kaf the Simorg hath his dwelling place The all-knowing Bird of Ages. 1864 BAILEY *Festus* (ed. 7) 305 Simorgh, and rokh, and phœnix, comet-like, Which nested in the sun. *a* 1871 DE MORGAN *Budget Parad.* (1872) 329, I am an 'old bird',..a Simorg, an 'all-knowing Bird of Ages' in matters of cyclometry.

Sin (sin), *sb.* Forms : α. 1 syn(n, 1-2 synne, 2-5 sunne (3 sune). β. 1-4 senne (4 zenne, 5 senn), 3 seonne (4 sene). γ. 2-7 sinne (3-4 sine), 4-6 synne (5 cynne, 5-6 syne), syn (6 synn), 4- sin (4 sinn). [OE. *syn(n*, for original **sunjō*, related to continental forms with extended stem, viz. OFris. *sende*, MDu. *sonde* (Du. *zonde*), OS. *sundea, sundia*, OHG. *sunt(e)a, sund(e)a* (G. *sünde*), ON. *synð, synd* (Icel., Norw., Sw., Da. *synd*). The stem may be related to that of L. *sons, sont-is* guilty. In OE. there are examples of the original general sense, 'offence, wrong-doing, misdeed'.]

1. An act which is regarded as a transgression of the divine law and an offence against God ; a violation (esp. wilful or deliberate) of some religious or moral principle.

The expression *for my sins* (see quot. 1842) is freq. employed in a trivial or jocular way. For *the seven deadly sins* see DEADLY *a.* 5.

α. *c* 825 *Vesp. Psalter* cviii. 14 Syn modur his ne sie adilgad. *c* 888 K. ÆLFRED *Boeth.* XXXIV. § 3 Þæt is swiðe dyslic & swiðe micel syn þæt mon þæs wenan scyle be Gode. 971 *Blickl. Hom.* 25 Ure dæghwamlican synna þe we wið Godes willan ġeworht habbaþ. *Ibid.* 63 Manize men wenaþ þæt morþor sy seo mæste synne. *c* 1100 *O. E. Chron.* (MS. D) an. 1066, Þa Frencyscan ahton wælstowe ġeweald, eall swa heom God uðe for folces synnon. *a* 1122 *Ibid.* (Laud MS.) an. 1086, Se ælmihtiga God..do him his synna forgifenesse. *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 35 Vfel is þet mon..nule him biþenchen þet his sunnen waxað. 12.. *Prayer our Lady* 31 in *O. E. Misc.* 193 Ich habbe..wel feole sunne ido þe me ofþincheð nuðe. *a* 1250 *Owl & Night.* 1395 Ne beoþ noht ones alle sunne, Vor þan hi beoþ tweire ikunne. *c* 1300 *Harrow. Hell* 12 (Digby MS.), In helle was..Dauit þe prophete and abraham, For þe sunnes of adam. 1362 LANGL. *P. Pl.* A. XI. 69 Heore seed for þat sunne þe same wo drien.

β. 971 *Blickl. Hom.* 43 Hie wenaþ þæt he heora senna alysan mæge. *c* 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 11 Þe werc of þesternesse, þat ben alle heuie sennen. 12.. *Prayer our Lady* 5 in *O. E. Misc.* 192 Ich eom i-bunde sore mid wel feole seonne. *c* 1315 SHOREHAM III. 268 Þe dede ydo in lechery Hys ryȝt a dedleche senne. 1340 *Ayenb.* 15 Þe zeue heauedes of þe beste of helle byeþ þe zeuen hauedliche zennes. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* III. 224 The comun poeple..hath the kinges Senne aboght, Al thogh the poeple agulte noght.

γ. 1154 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1137, Suilc & mare.. we þolenden xix wintre for ure sinnes. *c* 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 7 Sainte Powel..sagh..þat hem likede here loðliche sinnes. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 553 So cam on werlde wreche and wrake for to blissen swilc sinnes same. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 14010 Sco wepe hir sinnes sare. *c* 1380 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* III. 108 Þes two beþ synnus of þe flesche. 1471 CAXTON *Recuyell* (Sommer) II. 480 All thy dayes [thou] hast lyuyd in multeplyyng of synnes & vices. 1524 WRIOTHESLEY *Chron.* (Camden) I. 14 Plenary remission of their synnes. 1594 GREENE & LODGE *Looking Gl.* F j b, And sir I pray you, what greater sinne is then iealousie? 1628 J. DOUGHTY *Serm. Church-schismes* (1628) 4 Austin..chargith them with no lesse a sinne, then with that of the holy ghost. 1676 OWEN *Serm.* Wks. 1851 IX. 325 As some men's sins grow very high, other men's graces grow very low. 1727 DE FOE *Syst. Magic* I. iv. (1840) 111 Making her dream..of the sin which he resolved to allure her to commit. 1797 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Italian* xiv, 'My mistress has committed some great sin, truly,' said the servant. 1842 BORROW *Bible in Spain* xi, At present, for my sins, I live in a village of the plain. 1874 HARDY *Far fr. Mad. Crowd* XXVIII, She felt like one who has 'Sinned a great Sin'.

b. *transf.* A violation of some standard of taste or propriety.

1780 *Mirror* No. 92 All those sins against nature and simplicity, which artists of inferior merit are glad to practise. 1907 PHYLLIS DARE *From School to Stage* viii. 146 The many literary sins I know I must have committed.

2. Without article or pl. Violation of divine law ; action or conduct characterized by this ; a state of transgression against God or His commands.

Original sin : see ORIGINAL *a.* 1 b.

c 825 *Vesp. Psalter* cviii. 7 Ȝebed his sie in synne. *c* 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* John viii. 34 Eghuelc seðe wyrcas synn, ðræl is synnes. *a* 1050 *Liber Scintill.* (1889) 230 Mænize lif butan leahtre habban maȝon, butan synne hi na maȝon. *a* 1175 *Cott. Hom.* 227 Heo was buton senne acenned and his lif was all buton synne. *a* 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 91 Ha wes offearet of scheome & of sunne. *c* 1250 *Kent. Serm.* in *O. E. Misc.* 28 So us defendet þo ilke þinges fram senne. 1303 R. BRUNNE *Handl. Synne* 3485 More pryde, no more synne, Þan skorne god, mayst þou falle ynne. *c* 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 2357 Here may men se..How foul es syn and how sylande. *c* 1400 *Rom. Rose* 5078 Trowe not that I wolde hem twynne, Whanne in her love ther is no synne. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* III. 323 Bot thou do so, forsuth thou dois gret syne. 1553 T. WILSON *Rhet.* 60 This lesson must not so curiously bee kept, as though it were sinne to make the deuision of fower, or fiue partes. 1588 SHAKS. *L. L. L.* IV. iii. 177, I that am honest, I that hold it sinne To breake the vow I am ingaged in. 1631 *High Commission Cases* (Camden) 210 Such as will lye in sinne and goe on without repentance. 1681 DRYDEN *Abs. & Achit.* 613 Because 'tis sin to misemploy an hour. 1758 S. HAYWARD *Serm.* I. 4 We are all under the guilt of Sin. 1773 MRS. CHAPONE *Improv. Mind* (1774) II. 14 It is your part to retire from such an occasion of sin. 1807-8 WORDSW. *Eccl. Sonn.* II. XXV, Mother! whose virgin bosom was uncrost With the least shade of thought to sin allied. 1842 TENNYSON *St. Simeon Stylites* 120 A sinful man, conceived and born in sin. 1876 MOZLEY *Univ. Serm.* ii. 32 Old Jewish sin was heathen sin—it was open.

b. Personified.

1593 SHAKS. *Lucr.* 882 In thy shady cell..Sits Sin, to seize the souls that wander by him. 1632 R. BERNARD *Isle of Man* 5 Thus we see what an ungrateful Villaine Sin is to his best friends. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* X. 230 Meanwhile,, Within the Gates of Hell sate Sin and Death. 1818 SHELLEY *Eugan. Hills* 249 Sin smiled so as Sin only can. 1842 TENNYSON *Love & Duty* 8 Shall..Sin itself be found The cloudy porch oft opening on the Sun?

c. In phrases *child*, or *man, of sin* ; *as black*, or *ugly, as sin*.

1610 SHAKS. *Temp.* III. iii. 53 You are three men of sinne. 1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* x, Though I am as ugly as sin, I would not have you think me an ass. 1827 — *Chron. Canongate* iv, They..bowed civilly if folk took aff their bannets as they gaed by, and lookit as black as sin at them that keepit them on. 1842 TENNYSON *Vision Sin* 5 From the palace came a child of sin.

3. a. A pity ; a shame.

Still in colloquial use, esp. in Sc.

c 1300 *Havelok* 1976 It is hof him mikel sinne ; He maden him swilke woundes þrinne. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* V. 501 'To dede in Forth he may for vs be brocht.' Lord Persye said, 'Now suthlye that war syne'.

† b. A fear of doing wrong. *Obs. rare.*

c 1300 *Havelok* 2375 Þat he ne sholde neuere blinne, Ne for loue, ne for sinne, Til þat he haueden Godard funde. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* VIII. 518 To byrn and sla off thaim he had na syne.

4. *Comb.* a. With pa. ppples., chiefly in instrumental use, but sometimes denoting 'in sin' or 'from sin', as *sin-absolved, -born, -burthened, -clouded, -crushed, -drowned*, etc.

Combs. of this type are extremely common from about 1590 to 1670, and again from about 1850.

1563 B. GOOGE *Eglogs* viii. (Arb.) 68 With gredy mouth he alwayes feeds vpon the Syndrownd soule. 1591 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* I. v. 832 Christ, who, sin-thrall'd man to free, Became a captive. 1594 NASHE *Unfort. Trav.* Wks. (Grosart) V. 137 Farewell sinne sowed flesh. *Ibid.* 161 This triple headed Pope with all his sin-absolued whoores. 1648 J. BEAUMONT *Psyche* XIII. CCXV, The Curse which Heav'n injoin'd to grow On Sin-condemned Earth. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* X. 596 Whom thus the Sin-born Monster answerd soon. 1681 FLAVEL *Meth. Grace* ix. 188 What joy must it be to a sin-burthened soul to hear the voice of pardon. 1792 R. CUMBERLAND *Calvary* (1803) II. 49 That sacred flesh, whose bleeding stripes Heal'd our sin-wounded souls. 1849 J. C. HARE *Par. Serm.* II. 98 The inmost Desire of his own sin-crusht soul. 1868 J. H. NEWMAN *Verses Var. Occas.* 253 While song is hushed..In the sin-laden air. 1882 H. S. HOLLAND *Logic & Life* (1885) 187 The borders..of this sin-clouded sky.

b. With pres. pples. and vbl. sbs. in objective use, as *sin-afflicting*, †*-beeling*, *-chastising*, *-concealing*, *-doing*, etc. Also instrumental, as *sin-soiling* (see 4 e).

This type is common in the 17th and 19th centuries.

c **1200** *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 121 Ich com to..understonden þo sinbetende on rihtwisnesse. *c* **1440** *Alph. Tales* 3 Not alonelie for hur syn-doyng..sho was sparred in a cloce cell iij yere. **1493** *Festivall* (W. de W. 1515) 148 They be in greete peryll that breke the feest..in synnedoynge. **1592** NASHE *P. Penilesse* Wks. (Grosart) II. 44 Wise was that sin-washing Poet that made the Ballet of Blue starch and poaking stick. **1593** SHAKS. *Lucr.* 767 O comfort-killing Night, ..Vast sin-concealing chaos! **1611** J. DAVIES (Heref.) *Sco. Folly* ccxviii, Thy scourge of Vice, thy sinne-afflicting Muse. **1681** J. FLAVEL *Meth. Grace* xxviii. 492 Earnest desires of our souls to God in prayer..for sin-mortifying grace. **1738** WESLEY *Ps.* lxxx. 20 The Sin-consuming Virtue. **1774** J. EDWARDS *Hist. Redemption* (1793) I. iv. 85 If they came to such a dreadful sin-revenging God immediately they should die. **1819** SHELLEY *Cenci* IV. ii. 32 His death will be But as a change of sin-chastising dreams. **1860** PUSEY *Min. Proph.* 18 Very beautiful to devils must be the sin-loving soul.

c. With agent-nouns, in objective use, as *sin-absolver*, *-discerner*, *-forgiver*, etc.

1592 SHAKS. *Rom. & Jul.* III. iii. 50 Being a Diuine, a Ghostly Confessor, A Sin-Absoluer. *a* **1716** BLACKALL *Wks.* (1723) I. 88 One that makes Sin, We might render it a Sin-maker. **1839** J. ROGERS *Antipapopr.* xv. § 1. 312 A huge, disciplined, active army:..not of sinopposers, but of slave-makers. **1849** J. A. CARLYLE *Dante's Inf.* 48 That sin-discerner sees what place in Hell is for it. **1870** W. GRAHAM *Lect. Ephesians* vi. 137 The character of the sin-forgiver should not degenerate into the sin-indulger.

d. With adjs., as *sin-black*, *-guilty*, *-like*, *-proud*.

1594 NASHE *Terrors of Night* Wks. (Grosart) III. 220 The diuell keepeth his audit in our sin-guilty consciences. **1614** SYLVESTER *Bethulia's Rescue* 197 Thou couldst not cleanse These Sin-proud shining Halls. **1617** A. NEWMAN *Pleas. Vis.* 22 The stately Court,..whose sin-like hew Dazles the Eyes of euery Wight. **1812** SHELLEY *Devil's Walk* xxii, Cormorants are sin-like lean, Although they eat from night to morn. **1855** BAILEY *Mystic* 29 With sin-black hills engirthed.

e. With vbs., in the sense 'by sin', as *sin-eclipse*, *-merit*.

1593 NASHE *Christ's T.* Wks. (Grosart) IV. 214 Our soules they keepe not from sinne-soyling, but are the onely instruments, so to soile and sinne-eclipse them. *Ibid.* 257 To make vs more wary of sinne-meriting it.

5. *attrib.*, as *sin-bane*, *custom-house*, *-entanglement*, *-gluttony*, *-guilt*, *-guiltiness*, etc.

1605 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. iii. 1. *Vocation* 100 Sucking the *Sin-bane of Assyrian ayre. **1673** EGANE (*title*), The Book of Rates now used in the *Sin Custom-House of the Church of Rome. **1668** J. OWEN *Expos. Ps.* cxxx. Wks. 1851 VI. 381, I who am in the depths of *sin-entanglements. **1593** NASHE *Christ's T.* Wks. (Grosart) IV. 79 [To] kill the body & the soule both of her vnbounded *sinne-gluttonie. **1645** RUTHERFORD *Tryal & Tri. Faith* (1845) 227 He.., by a *sin-guilt, hath transgressed a law. **1650** TRAPP *Comm. Exod.* xx. 17 That the people might..bee admonished of their *sin-guiltiness. **1861** READE *Cloister & H.* lxvii, The pair were driving a bargain in the *Sin market. **1850** LYNCH *Theoph. Trinal* x. 201 The *sin-miasma from the evil will of a man. **1650** HUBBERT *Pill Formality* 14 A form of godliness without the power of it, may well be called the devils *Sin-Mould. **1535** COVERDALE *Zech.* xiv. 18 This shalbe the *synneplage of Egipte and the synneplage of all people. **1624** GATAKER *Transubst.* 202 Nor was there ever any *sinne-sacrifice without blood-shead. **1824** SOUTHEY *Sir T. More* (1831) I. 327 The *sin-score was settled with St. Kentigern in the regular way. **1598** SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. i. II. *Imposture* 562 The farther this foule *sin-spring flowes, It still more muddy and more filthy growes. **1615** BRATHWAIT *Strappado* (1878) 154 True, I was blind, when thy *sin-Syren voice Made me despise my selfe.

6. Special combs.: †**sin-boot**, repentance, penance; **sin-eater**, one hired to take upon himself the sins of a deceased person by means of food eaten beside the dead body; so *sin-eating*; **sin-flood** [after G. *sündflut*, an alteration of OHG. *sin-vluot* general flood], the Deluge; †**sin-money**, money brought as an offering in expiation of sin; **sin-rent**, a payment made to obtain absolution for sins; †**sin-wood**, mad with sin.

c **1175** *Lamb. Hom.* 135 Alle weldede beoð freomfulle to *sun-bote. *c* **1200** *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 137 Ure drihten him bed fulcnen on watere to synbote. **1686-7** AUBREY *Gentilisme*, etc. (1881) 35 A Loafe of bread was brought out, and delivered to the *Sinne-eater over the corps. **1860** *Murray's Handbk. S. Wales* Introd. 26 The superstition of the Sin-Eater is said to linger even now in the secluded vale of Cwm Amman. **1832** HONE *Year Bk.* 19 July 858 An usage called *sin-eating undoubtedly arose in catholic times. **1550** COVERDALE *Spir. Perle* xxiv. (1560) 232 When as the whole worlde beside were destroyed with the *sinne flood. **1892** J. LUCAS tr. *Kalm's England* 408 Whether all these strata came into their present shape at the sin-flood..I leave others to divine. **1611** BIBLE 2 *Kings* xii. 16 The trespasse money, and *sinne-money was not brought into the house of the Lord. **1899** TREVELYAN *Age Wycliffe* 142 Wycliffe's position about pardons, *sin-rents, and the abuse of the confessional. *c* **1250** *Gen. & Ex.* 1073 Đat folc vnseli, *sinne wod,..wulden him ðor gret strengðe don.

Sin (sin), *v.* Forms: *α.* 1 **syngian** (**synngiza**, **-eza**), 3–4 **sungen**; 1 **singian**, 3 **singen**, 4 **syngen**. *β.* 2–3 **sunegen** (2 **-eghen**, 3 **-egi**), 3 **sinegen**, **sinigen**, **synegen**, 4 **synegy**, **senegen**. *γ.* 3 **sunezen**, **sinezen** (**sinnzhen**), 4 **sen(ne)zen**, **senezi**, **synewi**, **sinie**. *δ.* 3, 5 **sunne**, 5 **senne**; 4–7 **sinne**, 4– **sin**; 4–6 **synne** (5 **synnyn**, **cynnyn**), 5 **syn**(e. [OE. *syngian*:—**sunigôjan*, f. **sunjô*, OE. *syn*(*n* SIN *sb.*; cf. Du. *zondigen*, G. *sündigen*, ON. *syndgask* refl. (Icel. *syndga*). This is normally represented in ME. by *siingen*, *singen* (cf. MING *v.*), but in early ME. the types *siinigen* and *sünigen* also appear. The shorter *sünnen*, *sinnen* are probably due to the influence of the sb., with which the vb. finally became identical in form.]

1. *intr.* To commit sin; to do a sinful act.

α. c **825** *Vesp. Ps.* iv. 5 Eorsiað & nyllað syngian. *c* **897** K. ÆLFRED *Gregory's Past. C.* xvii. 109 Is ðearf ðæt hie zedon ..ðæt hie ne durren syngian. *c* **1000** ÆLFRIC *Numbers* xxii. 34 Balaam cwæð, Ic singie nitende. *a* **1200** *Moral Ode* 258 Þer inne boð..þo þe sungede muchel a drunke and an ete. *a* **1225** *Ancr. R.* 420 *note*, Ancren, sume sungið in hare wim[p]lunge na lesse þene lefdi. *c* **1250** *Gen. & Ex.* 172 God sa3 bi-fore quat after cam, ðat singen sulde firme adam. *c* **1320** *Cast. Love* 1381 Þorw Adam we sungeden furst vchon. **1362** LANGL. *P. Pl. A.* VIII. 165 Þat..preyers don sauen Soules þat han sunget seuen siþes dedlich. **1393** *Ibid.* C. I. 109 Hure syre sauh hem syngen and soffrede hem don ille.

β. c **1175** *Lamb. Hom.* 19 3if we suneged, we hit sculen beote. *c* **1250** *Owl & Night.* 928 Ich wisse men myd myne songe, þat hi ne sunegi nowiht longe. *c* **1290** *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 44/336 Þe menbre þov most keruen of 3ware-wiþþ þou i-sunegut hast. *c* **1340** *Nominale* (Skeat) 384 *Homme suette et pecche*, M[an] wischith and senegith. **1393** LANGL. *P. Pl.* C. xv. 112 He þat knoweþ cleregie can sonnere a-ryse Out of synne, and be saf þow he synegy ofte.

γ. c **1200** ORMIN 3970 þatt illke mann ne sinn3heþþ nohht. **12**.. *Prayer our Lady* 29 in *O. E. Misc.* 193 Ifurn ich habbe isuneȝet mid wurken & midd muðe. *c* **1310** *St. Edmund* 450 in *E. E. P.* (1862) 83 If y ne wende synewi dedliche, y nolde neuere hit do. **1315** SHOREHAM VII. 874 þo man senneȝed in paradys, Al chaungede þat fiesch a-mys. **1340** *Ayenb.* 20 Ine þri maneris me may zeneȝi be þise zenne. **1393** LANGL. *P. Pl.* C. XXIII. 15 Soþeliche he syneweþ nat þat so wynneþ hus fode.

δ. a **1300** *Cursor M.* 7955 'Sinned i haf,' coth dauid þan. **1338** R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (1810) 339 Adam first gan synne, did þat God forbede. **1422** tr. *Secreta Secret., Priv. Priv.* 194 He syneth not, but whoso asketh I-styrryd with concupiscens..senneth venialy. **1426** AUDELAY *XI Pains of Hell* 21 Hengyng..Sum be þe membirs of here body, þat þai han sunnyd with in herthe leuand. **1530** PALSGR. 718/2, I have synned in glotonny to night, I have stolne a horse. **1569** ROGERS *Glasse Godly Love* 186 Wee dailie and hourely continually sinne. **1603** SHAKS. *Meas. for M.* II. ii. 163 The Tempter, or the Tempted, who sins most? **1688** DRYDEN *Brit. Red.* 285 Thus Israel sinned, impenitently hard. **1714** R. FIDDES *Pract. Disc.* II. 237 A man may..deceive himself, and sin on with the hopes of an after-repentance. **1825** LYTTON *Falkland* 119 Do not tell me that I sin, when I..nurse the delirium [etc.]. **1859** TENNYSON *Merlin & V.* 610 That he sinn'd is not believable.

b. Const. *against* (†*in*, *to*, *with*, etc.).

c **825** *Vesp. Psalter* CXVIII. 11 In heortan minre ic ahydde ȝespreocu ðin, ðæt ic ne syngie ðe [L. *tibi*]. *c* **893** K. ÆLFRED *Oros.* VI. x. 264 Þa sæde him hiora an..þæt he..miclum on þæm syngade. *c* **1000** *Ags. Gosp.* Matt. xviii. 15 Ðyf þin broþor syngað wið þe. **13**.. *Cursor M.* 2986 (Gött.), Fra touche of hir i saued þe, þat þu suld noght sinne in me. *c* **1380** WYCLIF *Wks.* (1880) 313 3if þin brother synneþ in þee, þou shalt snybbe hym. **1414** BRAMPTON *Penit. Ps.* (Percy Soc.) 22, I have synned to the alone, And forfetyd ofte before thi syȝt. **1535** COVERDALE *Gen.* XXXIX. 9 How shulde I then do so greate euell, and synne agaynst God? **1605** SHAKS. *Lear* III. ii. 59, I am a man, More sinn'd against, then sinning. **1651** HOBBES *Leviath.* II. XXIX. 169 He that is subject to no Civill Law, sinneth in all he does against his Conscience. **1732** POPE *Ess. Man* I. 130 Who but wishes to invert the laws Of Order, sins against th' Eternal Cause. **1772** *Junius Lett.* lxviii; (1788) 343 Your conscience already tells you, that you have sinned against knowledge. **1841** TRENCH *Parables* (1877) 408 Strictly speaking, we can sin only against God. **1876** GEO. ELIOT *Dan. Der.* XXXII, I think I have never sinned against her.

c. *spec.* To commit fornication or adultery *with* (or †*on*) one.

a **1225** *Ancr. R.* 56 Bersabee..makede him sunegen on hire, so holi king ase he was. *c* **1290** *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 262/46 To alle þat with hire sunegy wolde euere redi heo was. **1375** *Cursor M.* 26261 (Fairf.), Þou prest take kepe þou synne noȝt wiþ þine awen shepe. **1387** TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) V. 143 3if I seie eny of ȝoure ordre synne wiþ a womman, I wolde helye hym wiþ myn mantel. *c* **1440** *Gesta Rom.* 140 (Add. MS.), Whan he hadde synned with her, he had her more in hate than he before loved her. **1530** PALSGR. 719/1 All sortes of lecherye be naught, but specially to synne with a wedded woman. **1859** TENNYSON *Elaine* 248 Another sinning on such heights with one, The flower of all the west and all the world, Had been the sleeker for it.

d. To offend *against* some principle, standard, etc.; to be faulty or wrong.

a **1704** T. BROWN *Wks.* (1711) IV. 99 This Government..sins against the Spirit of the Revolution. **1822** BYRON *Juan* VI. lii, The most regulated charms of feature, Which painters cannot catch like faces sinning Against proportion. **1861** LD. BROUGHAM *Brit. Const.* v. 74 Our English system sins against all these canons, and sins grievously. **1888** *Nation* (N. Y.) 6 Dec. 464/2 Quite cleverly painted, and sinning chiefly by excessive prettiness.

2. *trans.* **a.** To do, perform, or perpetrate sinfully; to commit (a sin).

c **1315** SHOREHAM I. 136 Al þat he heþ iseneged her.. Eliinge brengeþ hit to nou3te.

1682 SOUTHERNE *Loyal Brother* IV. ii, Gifted rogues, That..Sin or unsin rebellion to the crowd. **1823** PRAED *Troubadour* I. 80 He sinned few crimes, loved many times. **1859** HAWTHORNE *Marb. Faun* xi, While there remains so much to be sinned and suffered in the world. **1879** J. HAWTHORNE *Laughing Mill*, etc. 81 In the end the sin was sinned.

b. *To sin one's mercies*, to be ungrateful for one's blessings or good fortune.

1824 SCOTT *Redgauntlet* let. i, I know your good father would term this *sinning my mercies*. **1849** MRS. OLIPHANT *Marg. Maitland* I. viii. 244 Surely, Mr. Allan,..it would be sinning your mercies. **1891** *Sat. Rev.* 14 Mar. 328/1 Without wishing in any way to sin our mercies.

c. *To sin one's soul*, to incur the guilt of sin. *dial.*

1894– in *Eng. Dial. Dict.*

3. With preps. and advs. **a.** To bring (oneself) *into* a state, or *beyond* something, by sinning.

1665 WALTON *Life Hooker* 37 These had sinned themselves into a belief that there was no God. **1680** C. NESSE *Ch. Hist.* 191 They had sinned themselves beyond the reach of all remedies. *a* **1716** SOUTH *Serm.* (1823) I. 170 Few consider what a degree of sottishness and confirmed ignorance men may sin themselves into.

b. To drive or force *away* (also *hence*) by sinning.

1684 BUNYAN *Pilgr.* II. (1900) 164, I have sinned away your Father, and he is gone. **1688** DRYDEN *Brit. Rediv.* 292 For we have sinned him hence. **1694** *Providences of God* 84 The Lord grant we may not sin away our Mercies. **1860** PUSEY *Min. Proph.* 207 Souls which have sinned away the grace of God and are beyond its reach.

c. (See quots.)

1652 LOVEDAY tr. *Calprenède's Cleopatra* Ded. A 2, At such times as your silent Authority gave me leave to want better imployment, this trifle was Sinn'd into English [from French]. **1777** FLETCHER *Bible Calvinism* Wks. 1795 IV. 241 The basest and vilest of men who have not yet sinned out their day of salvation.

Sin, Sc. variant of SUN.

Sin (sin), *adv.*, *prep.*, and *conj.* Now *Sc.* and *north. dial.* Also 4–6 (9) **syn**, 8–9 **sin'**, 8 **sun**; 4 **sine**, 6 **syne**; 5–6 **synne**, 6–7 **sinne**. [Contracted form of SITHEN: cf.. SEN, SYNE, and SINCE. In later use freq. written *sin'*, as if an abbreviation of *since*.

The common early spelling *syn*, and the rare *sine*, *syne*, do not indicate a long vowel.]

A. *adv.* **1.** Then, thereupon; thereafter, afterwards, subsequently.

Frequent in Caxton.

c **1330** R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 290 Alwey on dragon hem kepte; Syn were þey stolen þe while he slepte. **13**.. *E. E. Allit. P.* C. 218 Hapeles hyȝed in haste with ores ful longe, Syn her sayl was hem aslypped on sydez to rowe. **1471** CAXTON *Recuyell* (Sommer) I. 92 He hath putte hym self in armes wyth oute my knowleche And syn sendeth for me. *c* **1489** — *Sonnes of Aymon* ii. 64 Theyr moder..ranne for to kysse theym..and sin asked what thei had doon of theyr fader. *c* **1500** *Melusine* 245 He toke by force of armes the Erle of Fyerbourgh and syn passed in Austeryche.

2. From that time onwards.

1405 *Mann. & Househ. Exp.* (Roxb.) 178 He hathe occupyde the lond evyr syn. **1484** CAXTON *Fables of Æsop* v. x, Yf euylle is syn happed to me it is wel bestowed. **1485** *Rolls of Parlt.* VI. 339/1 The first day of this present Parlement or at any tyme syn. **1828** CARR *Craven Gloss.* s.v., I sa him last Jamsmas and I hennot sin him *sin*. **1886** *S. W. Linc. Gloss.* 131 He's never addled owt sin.

3. Ago; before now. Also *long sin*, for a long time before (quot. 1596).

1490 CAXTON *Eneydos* xii. 44 The bodyes longe syn destroyed & conuerted in-to poulder. **1530** *Hickscorner* in Hazl. *Dodsley* I. 175 Devotion is gone many days sin. **1596** SPENSER *F. Q.* VI. xi. 44 Knowing his voice although not heard long sin, She sudden was reuiued therewithall. **1796** R. WALKER *Plebian Pol.* (1801) 32 Boh this war ov eawars wud hah bin ore monyoah yeor sun. **1869** *Lonsdale Gloss.* 74/2 It's a gud lang time sin. **1886** *S. W. Linc. Gloss.* 78, I heard the bell knoll a piece sin.

B. *prep.* From, after; subsequent to.

a **1300** *Cursor M.* 5670 Sin quen was þou vr dempster? *Ibid.* 13651 Ne it i-wiss was neuer herd Sin þe biginning o þe werld. **1455** in Scoones *Four Cent. Eng. Lett.* (1880) 5 The King is wel amended,..and hath ben syn Cristemesday. *c* **1489** CAXTON *Sonnes of Aymon* ix. 225 Never sin that tyme was no kyng crowned in gascoyn. *c* **1500** *Melusine* 102 My lady syn your departyng hath doo made..this toun. **1788** W. H. MARSHALL *Yorksh.* II. 352, I have not seen him sin Tuesday. **1818** SCOTT *Rob Roy* xix, Things were strangely changed..sin' the sad and sorrowfu' Union. **1886** in *Cheshire Gloss.*

C. *conj.* **1.** From or since the time that. †Also rarely with *that*.

a **1300** *Cursor M.* 9323 For sin þat we war born in werld Sua selcut sagh we neuer herd. **13**.. *Ibid.* 22192 (Edinb.), A soru suilc was neuir are, Sin man was made..And sine þe werde it firste bigan. *c* **1385** CHAUCER *L. G. W.* Prol. 229 (Fairf.), The fresshest syn the worlde was first bygonne. **1405** *Mann. & Househ. Exp.* (Roxb.) 178 He owyth my mastyr ffor the londe that the sayd Roper had syn he deyde ffor hys wyffe. *a* **1533** LD. BERNERS *Huon* lxi. 212 Shew me where ye haue ben syn I saw you. **1534** MORE *Comf. agst. Trib.* II. Wks. 1192/2 It neuer hath had any sample lyke, sinne the world began vnto now. *a* **1536** *Songs, Carols*, etc. (E.E.T.S.) 52 Owr kynde ys frayle,..& ever hath bene syne we knew vs. **1785** BURNS *Death & Dr. Hornbook* xii, It's e'en a lang, lang time indeed Sin' I began to nick the thread. **1859** GEO. ELIOT *A. Bede* iv, Adam's niver touched a bit o' victual sin' home he's come.

2. Seeing or considering that.

a **1300** *Cursor M.* 11212 Sin godd wald þat it sua suld be. *c* **1340** HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 946 God war worthy mare to be lufed þan any creature,..Syn he es maker of althynge. *c* **1400** *Apol. Loll.* 28 Syn al power is of God,..man may do no þing, but if he 3eue him þe mi3t. **1484** CAXTON *Fables of Avian* xvi, Syn I hold the now, thou shalt not scape fro me. *a* **1533** LD. BERNERS *Huon* lxi. 211, I care not whether I lyue or dye syn I haue founde you. **1724** RAMSAY *Tea-t. Misc.* (1733) I. 8 Now, woer, sin ye are lighted down Where do ye win. **1818** HOGG *Brownie of Bodsbeck* iii, I wish ye had suffered under ony hand but mine, sin' it be your lot. **1877** *Holderness Gloss.* 126/1.

†b. So *sin that*. *Obs.*

c 1375 *Cursor M.* 3167 (Fairf.), Quar sal we take a beste þis sacrifise to make, syn þat we haue broȝt nane. *c* 1391 CHAUCER *Astrol.* II. § 4 Me semeth conuenient, sin þat I speke of the assendent, to make of it special declaracioun. 1474 CAXTON *Chesse* II. iv. (1883) 44 Syn that a knyght is capitayn of a batayll the lyf of them..lyeth in his hand.

Sinabar, obs. form of CINNABAR.

Sinæan (sɪnī·ăn), *a. rare.* [irreg. f. late L. *Sīnæ*, ad. Gr. Σῖναι (Ptolemy), prob. ad. Arab. صين *Sīn*, the empire of China.] Chinese.

1667 MILTON *P. L.* XI. 390 From the destind Walls Of Cambalu..To Paquin of Sinæan Kings. 1893 R. WILSON tr. *Figuier's Human Race* iii. 292 The nations belonging-to the Sinæan branch..have not the features of the Yellow Race so well defined as those belonging to the Mongolian branch.

Sinaic (sɪnē·ɪk), *a.*[1] *rare*[−1]. [irreg. f. late L. *Sīnæ* (see prec.) + -IC.] = prec.

1872 tr. *Figuier's Human Race* 205 We will separate it [the Yellow Race] into three branches—the Hyperborean, the Mongolian, and the Sinaic branches.

Sinaic (sɪnē·ɪk), *a.*[2] [f. *Sinai* + -IC.] = next.

a 1769 RICCALTOUN *Wks.* (1772) III. 117 Neither of these were inforced with that terrible sanction..as the Sinaic law was. 1803 A. KIRKWOOD in *Mem.* (1856) 22 This first gave me a proper view of the Sinaic covenant. 1848 HAMILTON *Sabbath* i. 18 The Sabbath..was antecedent to the Sinaic code. 1863 J. G. MURPHY *Comm., Exod.* xix. 1–2 Cosmas regards Horeb as a part of the Sinaic cluster of hills.

Sinaitic (sɪnēi·ɪ·tɪk), *a.* [f. *Sinai* (a. Heb. סִינַי *Sīnai*) + -ITIC.] Of, or pertaining to, Mount Sinai or the peninsula in which it is situated; given or promulgated at Mount Sinai.

1786 A. GIB *Sacr. Contempl.* II. II. v. 106 Many things pertaining to the Sinaitic dispensation..are not necessary for being considered in this place. 1853 HORNER tr. *Lepsius' Lett. fr. Egypt*, etc. xxxiii. 294 The Sinaitic inscriptions on the sides of the valley become more frequent. 1856 STANLEY *Sinai & Pal.* I. 20 One such oasis in the Sinaitic desert seems to be the palm-grove of El-Wâdy. 1883 *Century Mag.* XXVII. 309 The actual subdivision of the pages of the Sinaitic manuscript.

Sina·lbin. *Chem.* [f. L. *sin-āpis* mustard + *alb-a* white: cf. SINIGRIN.] (See quots.)

1875 WATTS *Dict. Chem.* 2nd Suppl. 832 White mustard seed contains a glucoside sinalbin, which is soluble in alcohol, and..decomposes in contact with aqueous extract of mustard. 1876 HARLEY *Royle's Mat. Med.* 735 The characteristic constituent..of white mustard [is] sinalbin. 1887 BENTLEY *Man. Bot.* (ed. 5) 451 A crystalline principle ..called sinalbin or sulpho-sinapisin.

Sinalogue, variant of SINOLOGUE.

†Sinamer (synamer), ? obs. var. of SINOPER.

1486 *Bk. St. Albans, Her.* a iij, A loys is calde sinamer or sanguine in armys. 1586 FERNE *Blaz. Gentrie* 146 Sanguine was blazonned by the name of Synamer.

Sinamine (sɪ·năməin). *Chem.* Also **sinnamine.** [f. L. *sin-āpis* mustard + AMINE.] A basic compound obtained from thiosinamine (see quots.).

1850 *Fownes' Chem.* (ed. 3) 510 Sinnamine..has a powerful bitter taste, is strongly alkaline to test-paper, and decomposes ammoniacal salts. 1858 *Ibid.* (ed. 10) 853 Sinamine..crystallizes very slowly from a concentrated aqueous solution. 1868 WATTS *Dict. Chem.* V. 307 Sinamine forms a resinous precipitate with nitrate of silver.

Sinamome, -mon(d), obs. ff. CINNAMON.

Sinapate (sɪ·năpe·ɪt). *Chem.* [f. SINAP-IC + -ATE[1] c.] A salt formed by the action of sinapic acid on an alkali.

1857 MILLER *Elem. Chem., Org.* vii. § 1. 498 *note*, An insoluble sinapate of baryta. 1868 WATTS *Dict. Chem.* V. 308 All the sinapates, excepting the barium-salt, decompose with great facility.

Sinaper, variant of SINOPER.

Sinapic (sɪnæ·pɪk), *a. Chem.* [See next and -IC.] Of, pertaining to, or derived from sinapine.

Sinapic acid, an acid obtained from sinapine by the action of potash and soda.

1857 MILLER *Elem. Chem., Org.* vii. § 1. 497 *note*, This base, when acted upon by potash or soda, is decomposed into sinapic acid, and a new alkali, termed sinkaline. 1868 WATTS *Dict. Chem.* V. 308 Sinapic acid crystallises in small prisms.

Sinapine (sɪ·năpɪn). *Chem.* Also **-in.** [f. L. *sināp-is* mustard + -INE[5].] 'An organic base, existing as a sulphocyanate in white mustard-seed' (Watts).

1838 THOMSON *Chem. Org. Bodies* 903 There exists in it [mustard] a peculiar crystallizable body, to which they gave the name of *sulphosinapisin*; but which has been shortened by Berzelius into *sinapin*. 1857 MILLER *Elem. Chem., Org.* vii. § 1. 497 *note*, An aqueous solution of sinapine has an intense yellow colour. 1878 KINGZETT *Anim. Chem.* 277 Von Babo and Huschbrunn discovered a base named sinkaline as a decomposition product of sinapine.

Sina·pisin(e. *Chem.* [irreg. f. L. *sināpis* + -INE[5].] (See quots.)

1840 PEREIRA *Elem. Mat. Med.* II. 1267 We learn that black mustard seed contains myronate of potash, myrosyne,..sinapisin, free acid,..and some salts. 1868 WATTS *Dict. Chem.* V. 310 *Sinapisine*, the name given by E. Simon..to a white, scaly, crystalline substance, which he obtained from black mustard-seed by extraction with alcohol and ether. 1875 *Ibid.* 2nd Suppl. 832 Sinapisine sulphate is insoluble in ether.

Sinapism (sɪ·năpɪzm). *Med.* Also 7 **-isme.** [a. F. *sinapisme*, or ad. L. *sināpismus*, Gr. σινάπισμα mustard plaster, σιναπισμός the use of this, f. σίναπι (σίνᾶπυ, etc.) mustard.] A plaster or poultice consisting wholly or partly of mustard flour; a mustard plaster.

1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* XXIX. vi. II. 364 The places ought..to be well prepared with the razour, and a sinapisme or rubificative made of mustard-seed. 1684 tr. *Bonet's Merc. Compit.* I. 33 To reckon up all Causticks..from a Sinapism to a Burning-Iron. 1710 T. FULLER *Pharm. Extemp.* 359 It is a Sinapism..which the Antients used much. 1783 MARTYN *Geogr. Mag.* I. 269 The sinapisms and warm cataplasms of European practise. 1834 J. FORBES *Laennec's Dis. Chest* 181 Blisters and sinapisms are of less frequent benefit. 1877 F. T. ROBERTS *Hdbk. Med.* (ed. 3) I. 29 To draw blood away from the seat of congestion by means of sinapisms, heat, or other irritants applied to the skin.

fig. 1895 *Contemp. Rev.* Aug. 226 So far as the writer is aware this species of military sinapism is not known in foreign armies.

Sinapi·stic, *a. rare*[−1]. [f. L. *sināpis* mustard: see -ISTIC.] Consisting of mustard.

1879 SALA *Paris Herself Again* (1880) I. xviii. 318 In the majority of [French] places of public entertainment the sinapistic condiment is simply vile.

†Si·napite. *Obs. rare.* Also 7 **sinepites.** [f. L. *sināp-is* mustard + -ITE.] A concretionary stone composed of small granules resembling mustard-seed; a species of oolite.

1681 GREW *Musæum* III. i. v. 295 The Sinepites, as it may be called. Being a Cluster of small hard Globules, like Mustard-seeds. 1811 PINKERTON *Petral.* I. 456 The analogy between pisolite and sinapite is also preferable, both being derived from the vegetable kingdom. *Ibid.* 457 Sinapite from Iceland.

†Si·napize, *v. Obs. rare*[−1]. [ad. F. *sinapiser* (Rabelais), ad. L. *sināpīzāre*, Gr. σινᾶπίζειν, f. σίναπι mustard.] *trans.* To sprinkle after the manner of mustard powder.

1653 URQUHART *Rabelais* II. xxx, He..took his head and into it synapised some powder of diamerdis.

Sina·poline. *Chem.* [f. L. *sināp-is* mustard + -OL + -INE[5].] (See quots.)

1850 *Fownes' Chem.* (ed. 3) 511 When mustard-oil is treated with oxide of lead,..carbonic acid and another basic substance [is] produced, which, when pure, crystallizes in colourless plates...Sinapoline, the body so formed [etc.]. 1857 MILLER *Elem. Chem., Org.* vii. § 1. 499 Sinapoline is a feeble base which crystallizes in brilliant greasy flakes from its solution in water. 1868 WATTS *Dict. Chem.* V. 310 Sinapoline. Diallyl-carbamide...An organic base discovered by Simon..formed from cyanate of allyl, by addition of water and elimination of carbonic anhydride.

†Sinca·nter. *Obs.* Forms: α. 6 **cenkanter,** 6–7 **sinckanter,** 7 **sinkanter, sincaunter.** β. 6–7 **singcantor,** 7 **sincantor.** [Of obscure origin; the β-forms have been assimilated to *sing* and *cantor*. The variants *cinque-cater, cincater*, etc. (see examples under CINQUANTER), are no doubt due to association with the dicing terms *cinque* and *quatre*.] A contemptuous or depreciatory term applied to men, usually with the epithet *old*. Also *attrib.* (quot. *c* 1540).

α. *c* 1540 *Pilgrim's Tale* 708 in *Thynne's Animadv.* App. (1865) 97 The good yo[u]th..leuis the slechy podell, full of frogis, to the old cenkanter phariziecall dogis. 1596 NASHE *Saffron Walden* Epistle Ded. C 2, Being sent for to some tall old sinckanter, or stigmaticall bearded Master of Arte. 1597 G. HARVEY *Trimming of T. Nashe* Wks. (Grosart) III. 41 Then thou callest them sinckanters, which is a proper Epithite vnto thy-selfe, for Sinckanter commeth of sincke and *antrum* a hole. 1602 MUNDAY *Downfall Earl of Huntingdonn* A. K j, A plague on ye for a blinde sinksanker [*sic*]. 1611 COTGR., *Rocard*, a hoarse mouldichaps, an ouerworne sincaunter, one that can neither whinnie, nor wag the taile. 1617 COLLINS *Def. Bp. Ely* II. x. 410 He would conjure you into a boote, or into a benchhole for your labour, like a sawcy Sinckanter. *a* 1640 JACKSON *Creed* X. xix, One Volanerius an old Sinkanter or Gamester and Scurrilous Companion by profession,

β. 1582 HANMER *Jesuites Banner* E j b, It should appeare M. Censurer, that yee are but a nouice: you were best confer with the old singcantors, and learn further of their order. 1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr., Succentor*, he that singeth the Base, ..Our phrase, *an old Sincantor*, is either a corruption from this word; or if it be written with a *C*, then tis from the Fr. *Cinquante*,..and so may be taken for one that is fifty years of age or above. 1672 R. WILD *Lett.* 8 And now I talk of the old Singcantor [the Pope], our Gracious King is worth all the Clements in Christendom.

Sincar, obs. Sc. f. SINKER.

Since (sins), *adv., prep.,* and *conj.* (also *a.* and *sb.*). Forms: α. 5 **synnes,** 5–6 **syns,** 6 **sins, synz, synce, cynce;** 5– **since.** β. 5 **sennes,** 6 **sennys, sens, senz,** 6, 9 **sence,** 7 **cence.** [Reduced form of SITHENCE, or f. SIN *adv.* + -s. Cf. Du. *sinds*.]

A. *adv.*

1. Then, thereupon; immediately afterwards.

c 1450 *Langland's P. Pl.* C. v. 15 Conscience..seide hym as þe kyng saide and sitthe [*Ilchester MS.* synnes] tok hus leue. *Ibid.* XII. 171 In a myrour..hue made me to loke, And sutthe [*v.r.* sennes] seide to me [etc.]. 1483 *Cely Papers* (Camden) 139 They were..browght upp theyr and syns sworne unto the jurdyccyon of the towne. 1568 SPENSER *Visions Bellay* v. Wks. (Globe) 700/2, I hearde the tronke to grone...And since I saw the roote..Sende forth againe a twinne of forked trees.

†b. *Since..since* (or *sith*): Now..then. *Obs.*

1530 PALSGR. 841/2 Synce on the one syde, synce on the other, *puis dung coustè, puis de laultre*. *Ibid.* 884/1 Syns on the one syde and sythe on the other.

†c. Now, already. *Obs. rare.*

a 1553 UDALL *Royster D.* I. iii. (Arb.) 23 Haue we done singyng since? then will I in againe. *Ibid.* III. v. 55 But lo and Merygreeke haue not brought him sens?

2. From that time till now. In positive clauses implying continuity of action, etc., and commonly strengthened by *ever*.

1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* IX. xli. 407 Euer syns he hath kepte me at his owne will. 1590 SHAKS. *Com. Err.* IV. i. 2 You know since Pentecost the sum is due, And since I haue not much importun'd you. 1623 LISLE *Ælfric on O. & N. Test.* Introd., Where they..haue lived in sorrow and paines-taking ever since. 1658 J. JONES *Ovid's Ibis* 36 He [Midas] washed himself in this river and was restored; Since the streams are feigned to be golden. 1731 *Gentl. Mag.* I. 391/1 Bluster..quitted the Surgery in a Pet, and has liv'd in the Country ever since. 1824 SOUTHEY in *Corr. w. Caroline Bowles* 62 The first of these inveterate catarrhs, which I never failed to have every year since. 1885 *Law Times* LXXX. 118/1 In 1879 he went abroad, and had ever since remained abroad.

3. Within the period, at some or any time, between then and now; subsequently, later.

1549 LATIMER *4th Serm. bef. Edw. VI* (Arb.) 119, I hearde once a tale of a thinge yat was done at Oxforde xx. yeres a go, and the lyke hath bene sence in thys realme. 1590 SHAKS. *Com. Err.* IV. iv. 81 My bones beare witnesse, That since haue felt the vigor of his rage. 1613 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* (1614) 36 It was written and since is lost. 1629 WADSWORTH *Pilgr.* i. 4 Her foure children, Hugh the eldest, since dead in Madrid [etc.]. 1766 GOLDSM. *Vic. W.* ix, I am since informed that swearing is perfectly unfashionable. 1798 O'KEEFFE *Wild Oats* I. i, That rogue's trick you play'd poor Miss Amelia, by..leaving her..and since marrying another lady. 1833 T. HOOK *Parson's Dau.* III. xi, More like Noah's Ark than any thing that has been since seen floating upon the face of the waters. 1885 *Spectator* 8 Aug. 1041/1 This was dimly felt at the time and has been more distinctly recognised since.

Comb. 1598 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. ii. 1. *Ark* 418 A vast multitude Of since-born mongrels. 1876 GLADSTONE in *Westm. Gaz.* 31 Dec. (1894) 1/3 The since-promoted agents of the Turkish Government.

b. As *adj.* That has been since. *rare.*

1598 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. i. 1. *Eden* 317 That first travell had no sympathy With our since-travel's wretched cruelty. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 28 July 1641, Eldest sonne of the since Earle of Norwich. 1849 FROUDE *Nemesis Faith* 116 My since experience of Sunday evenings.

4. Ago; before now. With time specified, or preceded by *long*.

a. c 1489 CAXTON *Blanchardyn* liv. 213 Long time since..shee fell sicke and died. 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 94 The cause..of that sedition was declared also foure yeares synce in the assembly. 1624 *Cosin's Corr.* (Surtees) I. 32 Though his minde had ben that way 20 yeares since. 1662 J. DAVIES tr. *Mandelslo's Trav.* 226 It is certain..the Chineses have some Books printed above seven hundred years since. 1721 in J. J. Babson *Hist. Glouc., Mass.* (W.), Captain Robinson..built the first of that sort about eight years since. *a* 1774 GOLDSM. tr. *Scarron's Com. Romance* (1775) I. 33 A merchant from Lower-Maine bespoke it not half an hour since. 1823 DE QUINCEY *Lett. Educ.* iii. (1860) 58 The mere rubbishy sweepings from the works of literati long since defunct. 1862 T. L. PEACOCK *The Deceived* Wks. 1875 III. 309 He went out a little while since.

β. 1555 W. WATREMAN *Fardle Facions* I. vi. 94 That nacion had long sence bene vttrely destroied.., excepte [etc.]. 1597 in Feuillerat *Revels Q. Eliz.* (1908) 417 Beinge longe sence signed by her Majeste.

B. *prep.*

1. Ever or continuously from (a specified time, etc.) till now.

a. 1530 PALSGR. 812/2 Syns that daye, *puis ce jour la*. 1562 *Child Marriages* 49 The said John Starkie is xiiij yeres of age, and as muche as sins Whitsonday-Monday last past. 1611 BIBLE *Gen.* XXX. 30 The Lord hath blessed thee since my comming. 1734 H. *Rollin's Anc. Hist.* II. ii. (1827) II. 6 It was five months and a half since his first setting out. 1780 *Mirror* No. 103, I inherited a law-suit, kept alive by various means, ever since the year thirty-three. 1802 WORDSW. *The Small Celandine* 14 I'm as great as they,..Since the day I found thee out. 1861 THACKERAY *Four Georges* iv. (1862) 184 He sleeps since thirty years.

β. 1535 COVERDALE 1 *John* iii. 8 The deuell synneth sence ye begynnynge. 1565 STAPLETON tr. *Staphylus' Apol.* 168 b, For sence the time of S. Gregory only,..we englishmen haue had the faith of Christ. 1879 MISS JACKSON *Shropshire Word-bk.* 369.

2. During the period between (a specified time) and now; at some time subsequent to or after.

a. 1544 in Leadam *Sel. Cas. Crt. Requests* (Selden Soc.) 70 The seid sir John..synz his entre in to the seid lordshipe.. haith gotten..dyuerse of the seid copiez of courte roll. 1582 in *Cath. Rec. Soc. Publ.* V. 27 Hee hathe said vj or vij Masses cynce his cumminge over. *c* 1645 HOWELL *Lett.* v. xxxi. (1655) I. 226 My last was of the first current, since which I received one from your Lordship. 1676 GLANVILL *Ess. Philos. & Relig.* III. 9 Diophantus, who lived long since the times of Aristotle. 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Udolpho* xxxiv, Sounds which, since that period, have there sunk into silence. 1808 SCOTT *Marm.* I. xxi, Even our good chaplain ..Since our last siege we have not seen. 1837 KEITH *Bot. Lex.* 115 Many advances have been made in carpological investigation since the time of Gærtner. 1880 CHURCH *Spenser* i. 25 They seem to have changed since Spenser's time.

β. 1515 A. WILLIAMSON in *Douglas's Wks.* (1874) I. Introd. p. xxi, The Kyng..has sent now sens Cristmes an vysse clerk off his Consell. *a* 1533 FRITH *Answ. More* (1548) C 6 v, I receiued a letter from him, which was written sens Chrystmas. 1552 *W. Powell's Chron. Yeres* Title-p., The noble Actes done in and sens the reigne of Kyng Henry the fourthe. 1637 HOBART in *Verney P.* (1853) 190 There has bine nothing don cence the taking in of the hornworke.

C. *conj.* I. From the time that.

1. Denoting a point of time to which the action or event mentioned is subsequent.

α. 14.. *Langland's P. Pl.* B. x. 224 (MS. Rawl.), Was neuer gome vpoun þis grounde, synnes god made þe worlde, Fairer vnderfonge, ne frendloker at ese, þanne me self. 1511 *Guylforde's Pilgr.* (Camden) 70 We sayled further that nyght thanne we dyde in anye daye syns we departed from Jaffe. 1588 Kyd *Househ. Philos.* Wks. (1901) 252 A small patrimonie,..twice as much encreased since my father left it. 1611 Bible *Exod.* ix. 24 There was none like it in.. Egypt, since it became a nation. 1756 Burke *Subl. & B.* v. v, Since I wrote these papers, I found two very striking instances [etc.]. 1776 *Trial of Nundocomar* 23/1 Has he ever been out since he was last at the court house? 1825 Scott *Betrothed* xxvii, Since you went hence, we have received certain notice, that [etc.]. 1875 Tennyson *Harold* I. i, Albeit no rolling stone,..Thou hast rounded since we met.

β. 1526 Tindale *Acts* xix. 2 Have ye receaved the holy gost sence ye beleved? 1549 Latimer *Ploughers* (Arb.) 24 Sence lording and loytrying hath come vp, preaching hath come downe.

2. Following upon a statement (or inquiry) as to the duration of the period in question.

α. 1557 N. T. (Geneva) *Acts* xxiv. 11 There are yet but twelue dayes since I went vp to Ierusalem. 1601 Shaks. *All's Well* I. ii. 70 How long is't, Count, Since the Physitian at your fathers died? 1661 Walton *Compl. Angler* (ed. 3) v. 124 It is so long since I learnt it, that I have forgot a part of it. 1711 Steele *Spect.* No. 32 ¶ 2 Nor is it so very long since Richard the Third set up half the Backs of the Nation. 1753 Foote *Eng. in Paris* II. Wks. 1799 I. 49 'Tis an age since I saw you. 1780 *Mirror* No. 95 It is now above four years since I became the wife of a gentleman. 1825 Scott *Betrothed* v, It is long since the kites have had such a banquet. 1883 *Daily News* 22 Sept. 4/5 It is just a fortnight since Mr. Gladstone embarked.

β. 1535 Coverdale *Joshua* xiv. 10 It is now fyue and fortie yeare sence ye Lorde spake this vnto Moses. 1565 Cooper *Thesaurus* s.v. *Cum*, It is two yere, sens he came to me first.

b. Used in place of 'that'.

1647 W. Browne tr. *Polexander* II. ii. 194 It is..five moneths now, since these honor'd personages have suffer'd ..indignities in these Dungeons. *a* 1774 Goldsm. tr. *Scarron's Com. Romance* (1775) I. 313 Though it is now fourscore years since he has plagued all those who have any dependence on him, yet he is so well in health [etc.]. 1804 Charlotte Smith *Conversations*, etc. I. 162 It is near four months since Ella has been away.

c. As quasi-*sb. rare.*

1654 Whitlock *Zootomia* 157 My Friend..knoweth no History but some ten or twelve Sinces in his Almanack: How long since the World was created. *Ibid.* 298 The most famous of thy Exploits will not be eminent enough to make an Almanacks Since.

3. In sentences implying continuity of action or fact during the period indicated. Also with *ever*, and (rarely) with *that*.

α. 1594 Shaks. *Rich. III*, I. i. 82 The iealous..Widdow, and her selfe, Since that our Brother dub'd them Gentlewomen, Are mighty Gossips. 1647 W. Browne tr. *Polexander* II. ii. 194 Ever since I have been able to carry Armes, I have try'd divers wayes to [etc.]. 1653 Walton *Compl. Angler* ii, We were here an hour before Sun-rise, and have given her no rest since we came. 1697 Vanbrugh *Relapse* I. iii, Here you have stood ever since you came in. 1779 *Mirror* No. 25, My gardener has tied his hair behind..ever since he saw Mr. Papillot. 1816 J. Wilson *City of Plague* I. i. 122 Thus have I been since first the Plague burst forth. 1863 Mrs. Carlyle *Lett.* III. 155 She has lived in England since she was ten years old. 1877 Mrs. Forrester *Mignon* I. 253, I have known him ever since he was in petticoats.

β. 1535 Coverdale 2 *Pet.* iii. 4 For sence the fathers fell on slepe, euery thinge contynueth as it was from the begynnynge. 1565 Cooper *Thesaurus* s.v. *A*, Euer sens thou waste a yonge man.

†**b.** With verbs of recollection: When; the time when. *Obs.*

1590 Shaks. *Mids. N.* II. i. 149 Thou remembrest Since once I sat vpon a promontory [etc.]. 1611 — *Wint. T.* v. i. 219 Remember, since you ow'd no more to Time Then I doe now. 1690 Child *Disc. Trade* (1698) 73 He can remember since we had not above three merchants ships of 300 tons.

II. 4. Because that; seeing that; inasmuch as.

α. *c* 1450 *Old Treat.* in *Roy's Rede me*, etc. (Arb.) 174 Syns Christ bought vs as he did other. *c* 1489 Caxton *Blanchardyn* liv. 213 But since all humane flesh is mortall,..what auailes my sorowful grones and passions? 1540 Palsgr. *Acolastus* II. i. I iij, Go to, let it be,..syns it lyketh so. 1577 B. Googe *Heresbach's Husb.* i. (1586) 7 b, Sins it is not yet dinner tyme, let vs walke about. 1611 A. Stafford *Niobe* 152 Whereunto I giue credit, since his succeeders do the same. 1664 Butler *Hud.* II. ii. 483 But since no reason can confute ye, I'll try to force you to your Duty. 1711 Addison *Spect.* No. 215 ¶ 4 Since I am engaged on this Subject, I cannot forbear mentioning a Story [etc.]. 1766 Goldsm. *Vic. W.* xxvi, What signifies..courting his friendship, since you find how scurvily he uses you? 1833 Ht. Martineau *Briery Creek* iii. 59 You shall have them cheap, since there is but a poor demand for them to-day. 1895 *Manch. Guardian* 14 Oct. 5/6 All the tunnelling has to be done..by the pick, since boring machines cannot be used.

β. *a* 1533 Ld. Berners *Huon* xxiv. 71 Sennys he spekyth of god, me thynke we ought to speke to hym. *a* 1553 *Respublica* 1565 But sens Respublica hathe putt me to exile, where maye I goo?

b. So *since that.*

1540–1 Elyot *Image Gov.* 6 The saied proverbe seemeth by hym, whiche lacked learnyng, to bee devised, sens that he preferreth ignoraunce before cunnyng. 1588 Shaks. *Com. Err.* II. i. 114 Since that my beautie cannot please his eie, Ile weepe what's left away. 1639 Gentilis *Servita's Inquis.* (1676) 878 Since that by the Princes Ministers, such a disorder is put in practice. 1682 Creech *Lucret.* 55 For since that men born blind..Know things by touch [etc.].

Sincere (sinsī·ə·r), *a.* Also 6 **sincer**, *Sc.* -ceir, 6–7 **syncere**, 7 **sinceare**, **senseare**. [ad. L. *sincēr-us* clean, pure, sound, etc. Cf. F. *sincère* (1549), Sp., Pg., and It. *sincero.*

The first syllable may be the same as *sim-* in *simplex*: see Simple *a.* There is no probability in the old explanation from *sine cērā* 'without wax'.]

1. Not falsified or perverted in any way:

a. Of doctrine, etc.: Genuine, pure.

1536 *Act* 27 *Hen. VIII*, c. 42 § 1 The syncere and pure doctrine of Goddes worde. 1597 Beard *Theatre God's Judgem.* (1612) 189 A Popish priest that was once a professor of the sincere religion. 1653 ? Hale *Brevis Disq.* in *Phenix* (1708) II. 340 Many think..that these are the true and genuine Doctrines.., which nevertheless have nothing at all common with the sincere Gospel of Christ. 1679 Burnet *Hist. Ref.* (Pocock) I. 583 It was necessary to establish a form of sincere doctrine. 1827 G. S. Faber *Sacr. Calend. Prophecy* (1844) III. 209 When sincere Christianity was propounded in all its native lustre.

b. True, veracious; correct, exact.

1555 (*title*) [Lydgate's] The Avncient Historie and onely trewe and syncere Cronicle of the warres betwixte the Grecians and the Troyans. 1583 Fulke (*title*), A Defense of the sincere and true Translations of the holie Scriptures into the English tong. 1665 G. Havers *P. della Valle's Trav. E. India* 26 Those great Expeditions..: Of which nevertheless, little sincere fame arrives to us; there being no Europæan who hath written truly thereof. 1693 J. Edwards *Auth. O. & N. Test.* 74 If some few..copies had been corrupted.., the sincere number would have detected the corrupt. 1698 Hearne *Duct. Hist.* (1714) I. 161 Things worthy of our Knowledge; collected out of the most sincere and uncorrupted Monuments of Antiquity. 1861–2 R. Williams *Notes to Counsel* 16 Some sincere editions of the Bible no longer contain those warrants. 1876 Lowell *Among my Bks.* Ser. II. 19 That is the only sincere glimpse we get of the living, breathing, word-compelling Dante.

c. Morally uncorrupted, uncontaminated.

1649 Roberts *Clavis Bibl.* 513 Keeping them pure and sincere against all temptations.

2. Pure, unmixed; free from any foreign element or ingredient: **a.** Of immaterial things.

1538 Starkey *England* II. ii. 181 The lawys, wyche be syncere and pure reson, wythout any spot or blot of affectyon. *c* 1555 Harpsfield *Divorce Hen. VIII* (Camden) 214 For the lack of pure and sincere demonstration of the fact. 1610 Guillim *Heraldry* III. ii. (1660) 100 The motion of the Heavens is the most sincere and unlaboured of all motions. *a* 1676 Hale *Prim. Orig. Man.* (1677) 375 By this means their enjoyments are sincere, unallayed with fears or suspitions. 1722 Wollaston *Relig. Nat.* ix. 217 His present pleasures (if not so many) are more sincere and natural.

b. Of colours or substances.

1546 Langley tr. *Pol. Verg. de Invent.* VI. vii. 123 b, The white coloure was thought fittest for the ded bicause it is clere, pure, and sincer, and leaste defiled. 1595 B. Barnes *Div. Cent. Sonn.* xlviii, All angels might..out bring Victorious palmes, arraide in sincere white. 1601 Holland *Pliny* XXXIII. vii. II. 476 If a man would know the true and syncere Vermillion indeed, it ought to have the rich and fresh colour of skarlet. 1615 Crooke *Body of Man* 412 Milke.. is not mingled with the bloud, but passeth out by vrine pure and sincere. 1662 J. Chandler *Van Helmont's Oriat.* 244 Surely the drink should under the first narrow examination of digestion, put off every stone, and that which is most exceeding hard and sincere. 1744 tr. *Boerhaave's Instit.* III. 254 About the Tendons the Fat in this Membrane is rather watery and mucous than sincere Fat. 1763 *Phil. Trans.* LIII. 233 Scarce any sincere gall issued forth on incision. 1802 Paley *Nat. Theol.* xxi. ii, [Water] having no taste of its own, it becomes the sincere vehicle of every other.

c. *spec.* Unadulterated; genuine.

1557 N. T. (Geneva) 1 *Pet.* ii. 2 As newe borne babes desire the syncere [Gr. ἄδολον] mylke of the worde. 1576 Baker *Jewell Health* 230 It is a noate or token that the spirit of the wyne was not syncere and pure. 1648 J. Beaumont *Psyche* III. cxxiv, Those courteous Trees, to mend his fare, Into his Mouth sincerest honey shed. 1679 *Hist. of Jetzer* 4 Down he kicks his Cruet of Holy-Water, adding,.. they had none sincere and pure these eleven years, the Church-warden always dashing it with common water. 1868 Browning *Ring & Bk.* VII. 238 And wood is cheap And wine sincere outside the city gate. 1888 H. James *Partial Portraits* 368 There has not been as yet an American Renascence, in spite of the taste for 'sincere' sideboards and fragments of crockery.

†**d.** Free from hurt; uninjured. *Obs.*

1700 Dryden *Ovid's Met.* XII. 133 He tried..a tough well chosen spear; The inviolable body stood sincere.

e. Devoid *of* something. *rare.*

a 1754 W. Hamilton *To Lady Mary Montgomery*, The pleasing look, sincere of art. 1874 Lowell *Agassiz* IV. ii, Our air, sincere of ceremonious haze Forcing hard outlines mercilessly close.

3. Containing no element of dissimulation or deception; not feigned or pretended; real, true.

1539 *Act* 31 *Hen. VIII*, c. 14 Almightie god, the very author and fountaine of al true vnitie and sincer concorde. 1595 in *Cath. Rec. Soc. Publ.* V. 346 At length stirred up with the instinct of the Holy Ghost & zeale of syncere pietie. 1667 Milton *P. L.* X. 915 Witness Heav'n What love sincere, and reverence in my heart I beare thee. *a* 1699 Lady Halkett *Autobiog.* (Camden) 13 Nothing that could expresse a sinceare affection. *a* 1703 Burkitt *On N.T.*, Rev. iii. 9 Weak grace, if sincere, shall always find acceptance with Christ. 1771 *Junius Lett.* lv. (1788) 302, I am satisfied that he is a Christian upon the most sincere conviction. 1810 Miss Mitford in L'Estrange *Life* (1870) I. iv. 106 You are quite right in believing my fondness for rural scenery to be sincere. 1849 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* vi. II. 151 A sincere anxiety for the prosperity and dignity of his excellent friend the treasurer.

4. Characterized by the absence of all dissimulation or pretence; honest, straightforward:

a. Of life, actions, etc.

1533 Frith *Answ. More* (1829) 344 Master Wickliffe was noted..to be a man..of a very sincere life. 1603 Knolles *Hist. Turks* (1621) 1300 Such as pervert the good and sincere life of Commonweales. 1641 Hinde *J. Bruen* vi. 23 By the sincere simplicity and plainnesse of the truth of God..he mightily confuted them. 1700 Rowe *Amb. Step-Mother* II. i, Thy function Which like the Gods thou Serv'st, should be sincere. 1746 Hervey *Medit.* (1818) 112 My.. sincerest acts of religion must not presume to challenge a reward. 1839 De Quincey *Recoll. Lakes* Wks. 1862 II. 176 Entering upon the dignity and the sincere thinking of mature manhood. 1841 Emerson *Ess., Friendship*, Three cannot take part in a conversation of the most sincere and searching sort.

b. Of persons, their character, etc.

1539 Bible (Cranmer) 2 *Pet.* iii. 1, I stere vp your syncere mynde. 1570 *Satir. Poems Reform.* xxiii. 10 The worthie deids done be that Prince sinceir. 1651 Hobbes *Leviath.* III. xlii. 300 So they doe it out of a sincere conscience. 1686 tr. *Chardin's Coronat. Solyman* 25 Not having altogether the Reputation of a sincere man. 1711 Addison *Spect.* No. 57 ¶ 6 A Woman is too sincere to mitigate [etc.]. 1750 Gray *Elegy* 121 Large was his bounty, and his soul sincere. 1775 Sheridan *Rivals* I. ii, If he is as..sincere as you have represented him to me. 1824 Byron *Juan* XVI. xcvii, For surely they're sincerest Who are strongly acted on by what is nearest. 1837 Thirlwall *Greece* xxxv. IV. 393 She had not one sincere friend left. 1878 Morley *Carlyle* 175 He had the unspeakable advantage..of being ruggedly sincere.

absol. 1611 Bible *Ps.* cxix. 1 Blessed are the vndefiled [*marg.* Or, perfect, or sincere] in the way. 1780 Cowper *Progr. Err.* 578 That prize belongs to none but the sincere. 1813 Shelley *Queen Mab* I. 124 The envied boon, That waits the good and the sincere.

Sincerely (sinsī·ə·rli), *adv.* Also 6 **syncerlye**, **syncerely**, *Sc.* **sinceirlie**, **-ly**, 7 **sincerelie**, **sincerily**, [f. prec. + -LY 2.] In a sincere manner.

†**1.** Without falsification or perversion; in a proper or correct manner. *Obs.*

1535 Wriothesley *Chron.* (Camden) I. 30 All bishops and curates should preach the gospell of Christe syncerlye and truly. 1597 Hooker *Eccl. Pol.* v. lxii. § 14 The sacrament ..is administered but not sincerely. 1613 Purchas *Pilgrimage* (1614) 107 Strabo, Iustine, and others, haue written of this people, but not sincerely.

†**b.** In good faith. *Obs.*

1607 Topsell *Four-f. Beasts* (1658) 23, I have been sincerely informed, that there was a Horse conceived of a Bull and a Mare.

2. Without dissimulation or pretence; honestly, straightforwardly.

1560 Daus tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 229 That..they wolde not followe their affections, but treate syncerely. *Ibid.* 231 b, Therfore must they worke syncerely. 1596 Dalrymple tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* I. Prol. 1 Returneng sinceirlie to the catholik concorde. *c* 1605 Rowley *Birth of Merlin* v. ii, Sincerely, Gloster, I have told you all. 1641 J. Jackson *True Evang. T.* II. 102 The doctrine of the Gospell, sincerely obeyed, first Christianizeth men, and then civilizeth them. 1711 Addison *Spect.* No. 166 ¶ 8 He was so very sensible of his Fault, and so sincerely repented of it. 1802 H. Martin *Helen of Glenross* III. 286 But I envied him too much, I fear, when he won her to sincerely love him. 1856 Froude *Hist. Eng.* (1858) I. ii. 125 The nation at that time was sincerely attached to Spain. 1872 M. Collins *Princess Clarice* II. ix. 130, I most sincerely..and heartily declare that I love the Thames next to my wife.

Comb. 1872 *Routledge's Ev. Boy's Ann.* 5/1 Many kind and sincerely-meant words.

b. Used in the subscription of letters.

1702 Charlett *Let. to Pepys* 3 Sept., Excuse all..defects in, Sir, your most sincerely obedient Servant. 1735 Mrs. Pratt in *Swift's Lett.* (1768) IV. 87, I long to have the pleasure of assuring you in person, how sincerely I am, Sir, your ever obliged and most faithful humble servant. 1817 Scott *Let. in Lockhart* (1837) IV. ii. 75, I beg my kindest respects to Mrs. Southey, and am always sincerely and affectionately yours, Walter Scott. 1818 Moore *Fudge Fam. Paris* vi. 228 Good-bye—my paper's out so nearly, I've only room for Yours sincerely.

†**3.** In a pure or innocent manner. *Obs.*—[1]

1578 Timme *Calvin on Gen.* 91 She [Eve] might have sincerely beheld the tree, that no lust of eating might first have assailed her mind.

†**4.** In a pure, absolute, or perfect manner or degree. *Obs.*

a 1577 Sir T. Smith *Commw. Eng.* (1633) 10 Seldom or never shall you find governments which are absolutely and sincerely made of any of them above named, but always mixed with another. 1605 Bacon *Adv. Learn.* II. i. § 4 Narrations which are meerly and sincerely naturall. 1610 Healey *St. Aug. Citie of God* 381 His..ministers heard not with eares, but more sincerely, with intellects. 1655–60 Stanley *Hist. Philos.* (1687) 185/2 The Gods being void of corporeal mixtion understand purely and sincerely.

b. Completely, thoroughly, wholly.

1576 Newton *Lemnie's Complex.* (1633) 221 When the blood is sincerely purified,.. the spirits consequently are made pure. ?1630 Milton *On Time* 14 Every thing that is sincerely good And perfectly divine. 1681 Dryden *Abs. & Achit.* 43 But life can never be sincerely blest.

†**5.** Carefully; without injury. *Obs. rare*—[1].

1607 Topsell *Four-f. Beasts* (1658) 483 There was a monument erected in writing in the publick place at Ardea, which untill his time was there sincerely preserved.

Sincereness (sinsī·ə·rnés). Also 6 **syncerenes**(se, 6–7 **sincerenes**(se. [f. as prec. + -NESS.] The state or quality of being sincere, in various senses of the adj.; sincerity.

1537 Cromwell in Merriman *Life & Lett.* (1902) II. 67 Preparing in the meane tyme with suche pure syncerenes, trewly to open the worde of god. 1561 T. Norton *Calvin's Institit.* I. 5 b, Whereas they ought to haue serued him with holinesse of life and syncerenesse of hart. 1605 Bacon *Adv. Learn.* II. xxi. § 3 The good of fruition or contentment, is placed eyther in the Sincerenesse of the fruition, or in the quicknesse and vigor of it. *a* 1668 Davenant *Albovine* Wks. (1673) 429 Things do differ much from the sincereness Of

their first creation. 1695 TEMPLE *Introd. Hist. Eng.* 224 Conditions..observed with great Faith and Sincereness. 1844 BROWNING *Colombe's Birthday* IV, The doubts yourself, in after-time, May call up of your heart's sincereness now. 1879 ARNOLD in *Macm. Mag.* July 203 The profound sincereness with which Wordsworth feels his subject.

Sincerity (sinse·riti). [ad. L. *sincēritas*, f. *sincērus* SINCERE: see -ITY. Cf. F. *sincérité* (1519), Sp. *sinceridad*, Pg. *sinceridade*, It. *sincerità*.] The character, quality, or state of being sincere.

†**1.** Freedom from falsification, adulteration, or alloy; purity, correctness. *Obs.*

1546 UDALL in Strype *Ann. Ref.* (1824) I. 651 That England might the better attain to the sincerity of Christ's doctrine. 1579 W. WILKINSON *Confut. Fam. Love* Brief Descr. ij b, Such dayly danger honge over their heades that professed the sinceritie of the Gospel. *a* 1623 AINSWORTH *Pentateuch* I. Advt., Some objections made against the sinceritie of the Hebrew Text. 1653 BAXTER *Saints' R.* I. vii, Our Rest..will be absolutely Perfect and Compleat; and this both in the Sincerity and Universality of it.

†**b.** Genuineness (*of* a passage). *Obs.*—1

1678 CUDWORTH *Intell. Syst.* I. iv. § 19. 363 Though this [passage]..be no where now to be found in those extant Tragedies of this Poet.., yet the sincerity thereof cannot reasonably be at all suspected by us.

2. Freedom from dissimulation or duplicity; honesty, straightforwardness.

1557 N. T. (Geneva) 2 *Cor.* ii. 17 But as of synceritie.. speake we in Christ. 1611 BIBLE *Josh.* xxiv. 14 Feare the Lord, and serue him in sinceritie, and in trueth. 1691 J. NORRIS *Pract. Disc.* 281 When we Contemplate his Sincerity, which consists in his candid, open and ingenuous dealing with the Sons of Men. *a* 1718 W. PENN in *Life* Wks. 1726 I. 137 Sincerity goes farther than Capacity. 1789 BELSHAM *Ess.* II. xxxii. 212 Martyrdom .. is a very satisfactory proof of the sincerity of those who voluntarily submit to it. 1839 KEIGHTLEY *Hist. Eng.* II. 27 Who can question the sincerity of these men? 1856 FROUDE *Hist. Eng.* (1858) II. ix. 337 Henry..felt no confidence either in the sincerity of the pope, or in the sincerity of the French King. 1870 LOWELL *Study Windows* 158 There is nothing so pitilessly and unconsciously cruel as sincerity formulated into dogma.

b. Of feelings: Genuineness.

1611 BIBLE 2 *Cor.* viii. 8 To prooue the sinceritie of your loue. 1726 POPE *Odyss.* XI. 559 For thee she feels sincerity of woe. 1781 GIBBON *Decl. & F.* xviii. (1787) II. 75 The sincerity of his friendship has been suspected. 1904 BUTCHER *Harvard Lectures* 191 At the root of all good writing lies sincerity of conviction.

c. *pl.* Sincere feelings or actions.

1840 CARLYLE *Heroes* (1858) 279 Loyalty and Sovereignty ..are grounded not on garnitures and semblances, but on realities and sincerities. 1843 — *Past & Pres.* (1858) 90 Exchange our dilettantisms for sincerities. 1877 STUBBS *Lect. Med. & Mod. Hist.* (1886) 101 Men of flesh and blood, with beliefs, sincerities and virtues.

Sincesyne: see SINSYNE.

Sinch, variant of CINCH *sb.* and *v.*

1875 in KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2186/2. 1878 TUTTLE *Border Tales* ix. 35 The whole is fastened by a broad 'belly-band', termed a sinch. *Ibid.* 38 The first hard pull is made upon the sinch. *Ibid.* 36 All soon learn to swell themselves out when being sinched.

Sincipital (sinsi·pităl), *a. Anat.* [ad. L. type **sincipitāl-is*, f. *sinciput*: see next. So F. *sincipital* (1812).] Of or pertaining to the sinciput.

1653 URQUHART *Rabelais* I. xliv, The two triangularie bones called sincipital. 1835-6 *Todd's Cycl. Anat.* I. 745/2 He found the entire syncipital region very irregular. 1843 WILKINSON tr. *Swedenborg's Anim. Kingd.* I. ii. 62 The frontal, sincipital, temporal, and sphenoid bones. 1863 *Battlefields of South* II. 315 *note*, The occipital and sincipital regions are both large and well-balanced.

Sinciput (si·nsipʊt). Chiefly *Anat.* Also 7 **syncipute.** [L. *sinciput*, for early **semiciput*, f. *sēmi* half + *caput* head. So F. *sinciput* (1586).] The front part of the head or skull.

1578 BANISTER *Hist. Man* 8 The fore part [of the head], called Sinciput, or Bregma. 1650 BULWER *Anthropomet.* 11 When the Temples are eminent, the occiput and syncipute depressed. 1689 MOYLE *Abstr. Sea Chirurg.* II. vii, Mind that you apply not your Traphine on the temporal Bones, Sutures, or Sinciput. 1711 ADDISON *Spectator* No. 275 ₱ 5 We observed a large Antrum or Cavity in the Sinciput. 1767 GOOCH *Treat. Wounds* I. 279 A girl, who..was struck with the hand upon the sinciput, and became immediately blind. 1809 BYRON *Bards & Rev.* Argt., Wks. 1898 I. 305 Incorporation of the bullets with his sinciput and occiput. *a* 1848 HOLMES *Nux Postcœnatica* 46 All the longest heads That ever knocked their sinciputs in stretching on their beds. 1873 MIVART *Elem. Anat.* iii. 77 We have the base or basilar region, and opposite to it the vertex, sinciput, or sincipital region.

fig. c 1638 *Strafford Papers* II. 158, I..judge the other [to be]..the very sinciput, the vertical point of the whole faction.

Sinck, obs. var. of SINK *sb.* and *v.*

Sinckanter: see SINCANTER.

†**Sincke,** obs. variant of CINQUE.

1577-82 BRETON *Toyes Idle Head* Wks. (Grosart) I. 28/1 Setting all at sincke and syce. 1600 W. WATSON *Decacordon* (1602) 144 Sincke shal vp and sice shall vnder.

Sinckfoile, obs. variant of CINQUEFOIL.

Sincopacion, Sincope, obs. vars. SYNCOPATION, SYNCOPE.

Sind (sɔind), *sb.* In 8 **synd,** 9 **syne.** [f. the vb.] A rinsing; a draught, a potation.

a 1774 FERGUSSON *Farmer's Ingle* iii, A heartsome meikrith, and refreshing synd O' nappy liquor. 1899 CROCKETT *Kit Kennedy* 57 'Thae Shire-folk are no *content* wi' giein' a pot a bit syne wi' a jaw o' water,' said Heather Jock.

Sind (sɔind), *v. north.* and *Sc.* Also 5 **synde,** 8– **synd**; 9 **syne, sine.** [Of obscure origin. The Sc. pron. also has a diphthong (seɪnd), in contrast to the short vowel of *bind* (bind), *find*, etc.] *trans.* To rinse, to wash out or *down.*

a. a 1350 *St. Nicholas* 202 in Horstm. *Altengl. Leg.* (1881) 13 Als þe childe stouped þam bihind, To tak water, þe coup to sind. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 340/1 To Synde, *vbi* to wesche. 1752 *Scotland's Glory* 70 A cup of beer goes round at first their thirsty throats for synding. 1790 D. MORISON *Poems* 148 A lass..There sinding out her duds. *Ibid.* 185 Wi' nimble hand she sinds her milking-pail. 1825 BROCKETT *N. C. Gloss.* s.v., To sind it down, being to take a drink after meat. 1841 W. AITKEN *Poet. Wks.* 55 A waught o' ale to sind their gab. 1860 F. FARQUHARSON in Ford *Harp of Perthshire* (1893) 216 Katie and Lizzie come in frae the kye, An' synd their milk coggies an' lay them a' by.

β. 1807-10 R. TANNAHILL *Poems* (1846) 13 Now Mirren's to the burn to sine her kirn. 1853 *Whistle-Binkie* Ser. II. 78 They syned doun the sappy, substantial food, Wi' a cap-fu' o' yill.

Hence **Si·ndings,** rinsings.

1824 SCOTT *St. Ronan's* ii, A' the bits of vinegar cruets.., and ilk ane wi' the bit dribbles of syndings in it. 1868 JANET HAMILTON *Poems* 221 The milky syn'ins o' the kirn. 1876 ROBINSON *Whitby Gloss.* 171 *Sindings*, watery dregs; washings.

Sindal(l, obs. forms of SENDAL.

Sindar, obs. form of CINDER.

†**Sindaw.** *Obs. rare.* Also 6 **syndow, -daw.** [ad. G. *sindau* (also *sinnau, sinau*), f. *sin-* always (cf. SENGREEN) + *dau* dew.] The plant *Alchemilla vulgaris*, common Lady's mantle.

In Lyte (1578) and Parkinson (1640) as a German name only. In quot. 1621 the plant sundew may be intended.

1548 TURNER *Names Herbes* (E.D.S.) 82 Alchimilla, other wyse called Pes leonis, is called in english our Ladies Mantel or syndow. 1562 — *Herbal* III. (1568) 24 Alchimilla is named in English syndaw, and oure ladies mantil. 1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* II. iv. I. iii. (1651) 369 Bernardus Pentottus prefers his Herba solis, or Dutch-Sindaw, before all the rest in this disease.

Sindel, obs. form of SENDAL. **Sinder,** obs. f. CINDER; Sc. var. of SUNDER. **Sinderesis,** obs. form of SYNDERESIS. **Sindic(k,** obs. ff. SYNDIC. **Sindle,** var. of SENDLE *adv.* seldom.

Sindon (si·ndən). Now only *Hist.* Also 5–6 **syndone,** 5–7 **sindone**; 5–7 **syndon** (5 **-oun**). [a. OF. *syndone, sindone*, or a. L. *sindon* (*-ōnis*), a. Gr. *σινδών* (*-όνος*), prob. of Oriental origin.]

1. A fine thin fabric of linen; a kind of cambric or muslin.

c 1450 *Mirour Saluacioun* (Roxb.) 95 The body bewrapped in Syndone. 1582 N. T. (Rhem.) *Matt.* xxvii. 59 Ioseph taking the body, wrapt it in cleane sindon. *Ibid., Mark* xiv. 51 A certaine yong man folowed him clothed with sindon vpon the bare. 1601 R. JOHNSON *Kingd. & Commw.* (1603) 163 The countrey of Media, whether the Russie merchants trauell for raw silkes, sindon, saffron and other commodities. 1631 WEEVER *Funeral Mon.* 16 They..inuested the defunct, with..perfumed sereclothes, fine Aromaticke Sindon, and the like. 1679 BLOUNT *Anc. Tenures* 64 A Head-peece, lin'd with Syndon or fine Linen. [1860 *Our English Home* 29 A square piece of this fabric, lined with silk or scarlet sindon.]

2. A piece of this fabric used for various purposes: **a.** As a shroud, *spec.* that in which the body of Christ was wrapped.

c 1500 KENNEDIE *Passion of Christ* 1219 Ane pretius claith, quhilk we ane syndon call, That kingly corps to couer he coft syne. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 259 The corporas [signifyeth] the syndone or sudary wherin his blessed body was..wrapped. 1610 A. COOKE *Pope Joan* 40 Many Papists are perswaded they haue that Syndon wherein Christs body was lapped. 1650 FULLER *Pisgah* IV. vi. 117 Afterwards they were wrapped up in a Sindon, bound hand and foot with grave cloaths. 1670 LASSELS *Voy. Italy* (1698) I. 54 The Holy Syndon, wherein they say our Saviour's body was wound up and buried.

b. As a corporas.

1553 *Respublica* 873 Thei had thalter clothes,..with the sindons in which wer wrapte the chalices. 1885 J. H. NEWMAN *Callista* (1890) 340 The deacon received from the acolyte the *sindon*, or corporal,..and spread it upon the sacred table.

c. As a garment or wrapper.

1577 HANMER *Anc. Eccl. Hist.* (1619) 32 He vsed no woollen vesture, but wore a Sindone. 1582 N. T. (Rhem.) *Mark* xiv. 52 But he casting of the sindon, fled from them naked. 1609 BIBLE (Douay) *Judges* xiv. 12, I wil geve you thirtie sindones, and as many coates. 1626 BACON *New Atl.* (1650) 10 There were found in it a Book, and a Letter; Both..wrapped in Sindons of Linnen. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 23 Apr. 1661, Then was a coyfe put on [the King], and the cobbium, syndon, or dalmatic.

d. As a surgical appliance, being made up into a small roll or pledget, usually with some medicament, and used to fill up an open wound.

1657 TOMLINSON *Renou's Disp.* 199 Pulverated and sowed in a double syndon or pure cloth. 1684 tr. *Bonet's Merc. Compit.* III. 76 A Syndon (that is a piece of fine cloth,.. having a thread fastened to the middle to draw it forth by). 1736 *Phil. Trans.* XLI. 497 A large and thick Sindon dipt in a warm detergent Lotion. 1758 J. S. *Le Dran's Observ. Surg.* (1772) 78 We placed Linen Sindons upon the *Dura Mater.*

3. *attrib.* Made or consisting of sindon.

c 1500 KENNEDIE *Passion of Christ* 1298 Thir twa knychtis ..In syndoun claith him wand with reuerence. 1573 L. LLOYD *Marrow of Hist.* (1653) 168 They [the Egyptians] sow up the body, which being done, they did put it in fine sindon cloth. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* I. 11 That Auriflamb, that was so much admired by the French, was but of one color, a square red Syndon Banner. *Ibid.* III. xviii. (Roxb.) 122/1 Holy-oke termes it a church Banner, flag or streamer, others a Syndon Banner.

Hence **Si·ndonless** *a.* (in sense 2 c).

c 1595 SOUTHWELL *St. Peter's Complaint* 25 With easie losse sharpe wrecks did he eschew, That Sindonlesse aside did naked slip.

†**Si·ndony.** *Obs.* Also 6 **sendony.** = SINDON.

c 1450 *Cov. Myst.* (Shaks. Soc.) 336, I gyf the this sindony that I have bowth, To wynde the in whyl it is new. *c* 1502 *Joseph Arim.* 22 So Ioseph layde Ihesu to rest in his sepulture, And wrapped his body in a clothe called sendony.

Sindri, -dry, obs. or Sc. ff. SUNDRY.

†**Sine**[1]. *Obs.* Forms: *α.* 1 **sionu, sinu, sino** (*obl.* **sine,** *pl.* **sinu**), 3, 5 **syne,** 4, 6 **sine,** 5 **zyne,** *Sc.* **seyne.** *β.* 4–5 **syn**; *pl.* 5 **synnes.** [OE. *sionu*, etc. (originally a *wō*-stem: see SINEW), = OFris. *sini, sine, sin* (Fris. *sine*), MDu. *sene, zene* (Du. *zeen*), MLG. and LG. *sene*, MHG. *sene, senne* (G. *sehne*, † *senne*), ON. and Icel. *sin* (Norw. *sin, sēn*), MSw. *sina, sena* (Sw. *sena*), MDa. *sinæ, senæ* (Da. *sene*). The *β*-forms may be due to Scand. influence. Cf. also HUXEN and HOCKSHIN.] A sinew.

α. c 725 *Corpus Gloss.* N 97 *Nervus*, sionu. *c* 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* II. 6 Læcedomas ȝif sin [*sic*] scrince..& ȝif sino clæppette & cwacige. *c* 1000 ÆLFRIC *Gen.* xxxii. 25 Þa æthran he his sine on his þeo, and heo þær-rihte forscranc. *c* 1300 *Beket* 2429 That ther nas no flesch ileved bote synes and bar bon. *c* 1375 *Cursor M.* 3944 (Fairfax MS.), For þis enchesoun..of sine of bestes etes nane of ȝou. *c* 1430 *Two Cookery-bks.* 37 Also choppe a-mong þe zynes of þe fete clene y-pikyd. *Ibid.*, Choppe þe synȝys in-to þe same milk rythte smal. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* II. 401 Wallace.. Throw brayne and seyne in sondyr straik the bayne. 1544 *Extr. Reg. Aberdeen* (1844) I. 207 Selling of tauch, sine, flesche, fische.

β. c 1400 *Beryn* 588 For þe egge of þe panne met with his shyn, And karff a ȝoo a veyn, & þe nexte syn. 14.. *Towneley Myst.* xxiii. 165 Let now se and lefe youre dyn, And draw we ilka syn from syn. *c* 1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 1073 So þat þe synnes in his ham Be þat bolnyng was drawen samen.

Sine[2] (sain). Also 6–7 **sign**(e. [ad. L. *sinus* a bend, bay, etc.; also, the hanging fold of the upper part of a toga, the bosom of a garment, and hence used to render the synonymous Arab. جيب *jaib*, applied in geometry as in sense 2. Cf. F. *sinus*, Sp. and It. *seno*.]

†**1.** A gulf or bay. *Obs. rare.* (Cf. SINUS 5.)

1591 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* I. iii. 98 Such is the German Sea, such Persian Sine, Such th' Indian Gulf. 1598 *Ibid.* II. ii. III. *Colonies* 94 Between the Erythrean Sea, and Persian Sine.

2. *Trig.* One of the three fundamental trigonometrical functions (cf. TANGENT, SECANT): Originally, the length of a straight line drawn from one end of a circular arc parallel to the tangent at the other end, and terminated by the radius; in mod. use, the ratio of this line to the radius, or (equivalently, as a function of an angle) the ratio of the side of a right-angled triangle opposite the given angle to the hypotenuse (the sine of an obtuse angle being numerically equal to that of its supplement). Abbrev. *sin.*

For *coversed, logarithmic, natural, subversed*, and *versed sines*, see the adjs.

1593 FALE *Art of Dialling* 60 This Table of Sines may seeme obscure and hard to them who are not acquainted with Sinicall computation. 1662 HOBBES *Seven Prob.* Wks. 1845 VII. 62 You take B R,..which is the Sine of forty-five degrees. 1663 BUTLER *Hud.* I. i. 123 [He could] Resolve by Signs and Tangents streight, If Bread or Butter wanted weight. 1710 J. HARRIS *Lex. Techn.* II. s.v., Sines on the Plain Scale, Gunter's Scale, and almost all Scales have a Line, called the *Line of Sines*. 1738 *Gentl. Mag.* VIII. 10/1 The Sine of the visible Semidiameter of the Earth. 1774 M. MACKENZIE *Maritime Surv.* 63 The Sines of the Complement of the Altitude. 1833 HERSCHEL *Astron.* v. 185 The sines or tangents of such small arcs being proportional to the arcs themselves. 1847 TENNYSON *Princ.* vi. 239 Of sine and arc, spheroid and azimuth. 1880 HAUGHTON *Phys. Geogr.* III. 155 *note*, This will convert all the periodic terms ..into the sums of sines and cosines of arcs.

b. Const. *of* an angle.

1728 PEMBERTON *Newton's Philos.* 361 The sine of the angle of incidence bears to the sine of the refracted angle a given proportion. 1823 BROOKE *Crystallogr.* 296 The analogy between the sines of the angles of triangles, and the sides subtending those angles. 1859 SABINE in *Man. Sci. Enq.* 91 The intensity of the Earth's magnetic force in different localities is inversely as the sines of the angles of deflection. 1864 BOWEN *Logic* xii. 407 The ratio of the sines of the angles of incidence and those of refraction is constant for the same medium.

†**3.** *Right sine*, = prec. *Obs.*

1594 BLUNDEVIL *Exerc.* II. (1636) 103 *Sinus complementi*, is the right Sine of that Arch which is the complement of the given Arke. 1596 W. BURROUGH *Variation Compass* B v b, Which is the seconde right signe of the semidiurnall arke. 1715 tr. *Gregory's Astron.* (1726) II. 797 The Ratio between..the Radius and the Right Sine of the Angle *A S D*. 1795 HUTTON *Math. Dict.* II. 456/1.

4. *attrib.*, as *sine compass, complement, galvanometer, -inductor, -integral, rhumb, -wave.*

1706 PHILLIPS (ed. 6) s.v., Sine Complement of an Arch or Angle, is what that Arch or Angle wants of 90 Degrees [etc.]. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XII. 693/1 The extent

from 8 points to 3¼ points, the complement of the course on sine rhumbs. 1828 MOORE *Pract. Navig.* 15 Sine rhumbs, marked (SR), is a line which contains the logarithms of the natural sine of every point and quarter point of the Mariner's Compass, figured from the left hand towards the right [etc.]. 1873 F. JENKIN *Electr. & Magn.* xiii. § 8 Sine galvanometers can be easily made much more sensitive than tangent galvanometers. 1879 *Encycl. Brit.* VIII. 49/2 A is the fixed and B the suspended coil of the electrodynamometer, and S the sine-inductor. *Ibid.* X. 52/1 The earliest forms of standard galvanometer were the tangent and sine compasses invented by Pouillet. 1880 *Ibid.* XIII. 39/2 These functions .. were styled the sine-integral and the cosine-integral.

Sine, obs. f. SIGN *sb.* and *v.*; var. of SIND *v.*

Sinecal, obs. variant of SINICAL *a.*

Si·necural, *a. rare.* [f. next + -AL.] 'Relating to a sinecure.'

1860 WORCESTER (citing *Ecl. Rev.*). Hence in later Dicts.

Sinecure (səi·nɪ̆kiūəɪ), *sb.* and *a.* Also 7 **sine cura, 7–8 sine-cura, sine cure, sine-cure.** [ad. L. *sine cūrā* in the phrase *beneficium sine cūrā* (see def.), from *sine* without, *cūrā* abl. sing. of *cūra* care. F. *sinécure* is from Eng. In Scotland and America the first vowel is freq. pronounced short.]

1. An ecclesiastical benefice without cure of souls.

α. 1662 BAGSHAW in *Acc. Baxter's Suspension* 45, I hope the Bishop will be so Charitable as to provide a *Sine-Cura* for him. 1676 DEGGE *Parson's Counsellor* (1681) 197 Parsonages, Vicarages and *Sine Cura's.* 1706 PHILLIPS (ed. 6), *Sine-Cura,* or *Sine-Cure,* a Benefice without Cure of Souls.

β. 1672 MARVELL *Reh. Transp.* I. 8 He can not have deserved less than a Prebend for his first Book, a Sine-cure for his second. 1700 DRYDEN *Fables, Charac. Good Parson* 71 The publick fair..Where bishopricks and sine cures are sold. 1748 LIND *Lett. Rel. Navy* (1757) III. 131 The Island has..a chaplain; but for some years past it has been made a Sine Cure. 1765 BLACKSTONE *Comm.* I. 386 When the clerk so presented is distinct from the vicar, the rectory thus vested in him becomes what is called a *sine-cure*; because he hath no cure of souls. 1850 HT. MARTINEAU *Hist. Peace* v. iv. (1877) III. 241 This act abolished many ecclesiastical sinecures. 1862 GOULBURN *Pers. Relig.* IV. iv. (1873) 278 The spirit of the age is to..hate and abolish sinecures.

† **b.** An income derived from such a benefice.

1700 T. BROWN tr. *Fresny's Amusem.* iii. Wks. 1709 III. I. 22 The Residentiary's Stalls, whose Owners made a *Sine Cure* of 400 *l. per Annum.*

2. Any office or position which has no work or duties attached to it, esp. one which yields some stipend or emolument.

1676 WYCHERLEY *Pl. Dealer* v. i, Well, a Widow, I see, is a kind of a sine cure. 1705 HEARNE *Collect.* 26 Nov., He.. makes yᵉ Place in a manner a *sine-cure*; as most other Publick Readers do. 1766 ENTICK *London* IV. 368 The magistracy of the city of London have adopted this ward only as a *sine cure* for the senior alderman. 1800 COLQUHOUN *Comm. Thames* viii. 272 Many of the best institutions moulder into Sinecures. 1841 MIALL in *Nonconf.* I. 553 If all men were under the influence of religion government would be a sinecure. 1885 'E. GARRETT' *At Any Cost* vi, Grace's duties were never oppressive, but on Sunday they were a sinecure.

3. *attrib.* or as *adj.* **a.** Of the nature of a sinecure; involving no duties or work.

1761 LD. BARRINGTON in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* Ser. II. IV. 432, I never could myself understand the difference between a Pension and a Sinecure Place. 1791 NEWTE *Tour Eng. & Scot.* 360 It was not Mr. Pultney's intention to erect a sinecure place. 1810 BENTHAM *Packing* (1821) 61 By means of sine-cures in general, and judicial sine-cure offices in particular. 1861 BERESF. HOPE *Eng. Cathedr. 19th C.* 277, I must strongly plead for the simultaneous creation of a chapter however sinecure for the present. 1868 J. H. BLUNT *Ref. Ch. Eng.* I. 22 Royal blood seems to have been thought ample excuse for a complete sinecure life. 1889 GRETTON *Memory's Harkback* 158 Martinsthorpe, a sinecure living, which consists of one ancient house and some half-dozen occupants.

b. Holding or enjoying a sinecure.

1812 L. HUNT in *Examiner* 12 Oct. 643/1 The Courtiers, the Sinecure-men,..who grow rich from what empties our pockets. 1844 STEPHEN *Comm. Laws Eng.* II. i. III. 76 A sinecure rector, or rector without cure of souls. 1871 M. COLLINS *Marq. & Merch.* II. v. 128 The little sinecure governess came face to face with her master.

Hence **Si·necure** *v. trans.*, to appoint to, place in, a sinecure (Ogilvie *Suppl.* 1855); also **Si·necured** *ppl. a.*

1832 *Lincoln Herald* 20 Nov. 4/3 Mr. Brougham, the Lord Chancellor's sinecured brother.

Si·necureship. *rare.* [f. SINECURE *sb.*] A position or post of the nature of a sinecure.

1828 P. CUNNINGHAM *N. S. Wales* (ed. 3) II. 310 The culprit is merely sent back to a sinecureship in a government gang.

Si·necurism. [f. SINECURE *sb.* + -ISM. Cf. F. *sinécurisme.*] The practice of holding or permitting sinecures; the prevalence of sinecures in the church or any other sphere of work.

1817 BENTHAM *Parl. Reform* Introd. 233 In one point of view more flagrant is this abuse [non-attendance], even than sinecurism. 1858 GOLDW. SMITH in *Oxford Ess.* 280 Such sinecurism would..be accompanied by an undue depression and starvation of the working staff. 1878 *N. Amer. Rev.* CXXVI. 224 The English universities have suffered deeply from..clericism, celibacy, and sinecurism.

Si·necurist. [f. as prec. + -IST. Cf. F. *sinécuriste.*] One who has or seeks a sinecure.

1817 W. HONE (*title*), The Sinecurist's Creed. Whosoever will be a Sinecurist [etc.]. 1845 LD. CAMPBELL *Lives Chancellors* xvii. (1857) I. 266 The Masters in Chancery were considered overgrown and oppressive sinecurists. 1884 *Law Times* LXXVIII. 9/1 What else is a ground landlord but a sinecurist quartered on the land.

attrib. 1818 BENTHAM *Ch. Eng., Catech. Exam.* 306 The parsonages deserted by Sinecurist Incumbents. *Ibid.* 325.

‖ **Sine die** (səi·nɪ̆ dəi·ɪ). [L., *sine* without + *diē*, abl. sing. of *diēs* day.] Without any day being specified (for reassembling, resumption of business, trial of a person or cause, etc.); indefinitely.

1631 in Birch *Crt. & Times Chas. I* (1848) II. 125 My Lord of Salisbury's cause is put off *sine die.* 1641 SIR E. DERING *Sp. on Relig.* 9 Among all these I observe one, a very main one, to sleep *sine die.* a 1734 NORTH *Examen* I. iii. § 146 (1740) 217 They seemed to lie there, without Bail or Trial *sine Die.* 1771 GIBBON *Lett.* 18 Nov., If I hear that your journey to Denham is put off *sine die*, or to a long day, I shall on Monday set off for London. 1803 CUTLER in *Life*, etc. (1888) II. 118 At fifteen minutes after twelve at night, the House adjourned *sine die.* 1842 BARHAM *Ingol. Leg.* Ser. II. *St. Cuthbert* vi, The *fête* was postponed *sine die.* 1892 *Nation* 22 Dec. 466/1 The reasons given for taking a recess instead of adjourning *sine die* are extremely puerile.

Sinegen, obs. form of SIN *v.*

‖ **Sine qua non** (səi·nɪ̆ kwēɪ nɒn). Also 8- **quâ.** [L., *sine* without + *quā*, abl. sing. fem. of *quī* which (agreeing with *causa*) + *nōn* not.

The Latin phrase, which is common in scholastic use, occurs in Boëthius, and had its source in Aristotelian expressions. The corresponding plural *sine quibus non* has occasionally been employed.]

1. With adjectival force: Indispensable, absolutely necessary or essential. **a.** Following upon a noun (orig. *cause*).

[1588 GREENE *Perimedes* Wks. (Grosart) VII. 44 They proceede not of necessitie, as *causa sine qua non*, but as infections that flowe from the abuse.] 1615 in Birch *Crt. & Times Jas. I* (1848) I. 378 He..was in some sort as a cause *sine qua non* of their blood that were dead for the fact before him. 1678 CUDWORTH *Intell. Syst.* I. iv. 382 Which kind of Philosophers (saith he) do not seem to me, to distinguish betwixt the True and Proper Cause of things, and the Cause *Sine qua non.* a 1734 NORTH *Examen* III. vii. § 64 (1740) 550 The Preliminary Article *sine quâ non*, was that..he should surrender his Place of Recorder. [1811 J. ADAMS *Wks.* (1856) I. 673 They would not insist upon the fisheries or western lands as conditions *sine quibus non* of peace.]

b. Used attributively.

1798 M. G. LEWIS in Lockhart *Scott* (1837) I. ix. 291 A ghost or a witch is a *sine qua non* ingredient in all the dishes of which I mean to compose my hobgoblin repast. 1840 DE QUINCEY *Style* IV. (1860) 312 Publication..is a *sine qua non* condition for the generation of literature. 1870 J. H. NEWMAN *Gram. Assent* I. iv. 39 Though acts of assent require previous acts of inference, they require them, not as adequate causes, but as *sine quâ non* conditions.

2. Somebody or something indispensable.

1602 CECIL *Let.* in Moryson *Itin.* (1617) II. 221 You are not the efficient cause or *sine qua non.* 1622 MABBE tr. *Aleman's Guzman d'Alf.* I. I. ii, My mother agreed with her marriage-maker, her *Sine qua, non*,..to come one day thither to make merry. 1774 H. WALPOLE *Lett.* (1857) VI. 111 Remember, a brother is the *sine quâ non* of my reconciliation. 1786 LD. KENYON in *Brown's Chanc. Cases* II. 46 Certainty of the property, though one of the *sine quâ nons*, was wanting. 1814 *Amer. St. Papers, For. Relat.* (1832) III. 709 It was a *sine qua non* that the Indians should be included in the pacification. 1853 'C. BEDE' *Verdant Green* I. xviii, It seemed a sine quâ non with the gentlemen who superintended the training. 1885 *Law Rep.* 29 Chanc. Div. 285 Every finding of fact that was a *sine quâ non* of the judgment.

b. *pl.* Breeches. (Cf. INDISPENSABLE *sb.* c.)

1850 SMEDLEY *Frank Fairleigh* xvii, Your..negotiation with that raw-boned giant in the blue plush *sine qua nons.*

Hence **Sine-qua-no·nical** *a.*, indispensable; **Sine-qua-no·nniness,** indispensability.

1816 MOORE *Mem.* (1853) II. 95 The shabbiness with which they are daily surrendering so many wise, indispensable, and sine-quâ-nonical measures to the bullies of Opposition. 1834 SOUTHEY *Doctor* iii. (A. 1) I. 20 Nature herself shows us the utility, the importance,..the sinequanonniness of pockets.

‖ **Sine quo non.** Chiefly *Sc. Law.* [f. as prec., with the masc. *quō* (also pl. *quibus*) in place of the fem. *quā.*] Indispensable; also *absol.*, an indispensable person, *spec.* a curator, trustee, etc., appointed under this designation.

1693 STAIR *Institutes* (ed. 2) IV. xx. § 31 By a *Quorum*, or *sine quibus non*, in which case though the *Sine quibus non* accept not,..the Interdiction remains. 1765–8 ERSKINE *Inst. Law Scot.* I. vii. § 15 The concurrence of the number fixed for the quorum, of which he who is *sine quo non* must be always one. 1819 SCOTT *Let.* in *Lockhart* (1837) IV. x. 331 Harper is a *sine quo non.* 1838 W. BELL *Dict. Law Scot.* 245 A curator *sine quo non* cannot act by himself. *Ibid.* 918 By the death or non-acceptance of the *sine quo non* the nomination fails.

† **Sines.** *Obs. rare.* In 5 **synys,** 6 **sinnes.** [a. OF. *sines*, also *senes*, ad. L. *sēnī*, the distrib. answering to *sex* six.] Two sixes in dicing.

c 1450 *Book of Brome* 16 Synys and Catyr that ȝe haue cast. *Ibid.*, That ȝe haue cast synys and trey. 1589 NASHE *M. Marprelate* Wks. (Grosart) I. 161 Their Dice are so cunninglie coggd: as though they cast Sinnes for the moste parte, yet they maie in the end with a tripsie Tray, carrie all awaie smoothe.

Sinesa·lary. *nonce-word.* [f. L. *sine* (as in *sinecure*) + SALARY *sb.*] An office without pay.

a 1843 SOUTHEY *Life A. Bell* (1844) I. 110 Some of these offices may have been Sinecures; but..none of them were Sinesalaries.

Sinescri·ptual, *a. nonce-word.* [Cf. prec. and SCRIPTURAL *a.*] Not possessing the Scriptures.

1840 G. S. FABER *Christ's Disc. Capernaum* 101 He places Ireneus and the contemporary sinescriptual nations an entire century later than that in which he was writing.

Sinesian (səinī·ʃiăn), *a.* [f. late L. *Sin-æ* (see SINÆAN) + -ESE + -IAN.] Of or pertaining to the Chinese and kindred races or to those parts of Asia inhabited by them.

1899 *Eng. Hist. Rev.* Apr. 226 A remarkable fact in the history of Sinesian civilisation. 1905 *Athenæum* 16 Sept. 361/2 Now, through Japan, the West has made a definite breach in Sinesian exclusiveness.

Sinester, obs. form of SINISTER *a.*

† **Sinet.** *Obs.* Also 6 **synat, synet, senett.** [a. OF. *sinet*, var. of *signet* SIGNET *sb.*] A signet.

c 1440 *Gesta Rom.* xlviii. 213 (Harl. MS.), He openid hit, & sawe þerein letters selid withe the sinet of þe Emperoure. 1502 *Croscombe Churchw. Acc.* (Somerset Rec. Soc.) 25 A ryng of sylver and gylt and a synat of sylver. 1530 PALSGR. 187 *Signet*, a synet. 1554 MACHYN *Diary* (Camden) 51 Ther was a man..hangyd, dran, and quartered, for conterffeyting the quen senett.

† **Sineth,** *adv., prep.,* and *conj. Obs.* In 5 **senith, sinneth.** [app. an alteration of *sethen* SITHEN.] = SINCE *adv., prep.,* and *conj.*

1542 HARVEL in *St. Papers Hen. VIII* (1849) VIII. 706, I wrote to the same the first of thinstant; and senith her is arivid..the Turkes Ambassadour. — *Ibid.* IX. 38 Senith my last letters..the comming owt of Barbarossa hath ben her divulgid. 1556 *Aurelio & Isab.* (1608) B ij, Sinneth that what soever loveth well, is never lefte of the unluckie.

Sinetic (sine·tik), *a.* [var. of SINITIC *a.*] Chinese.

1893 R. WILSON tr. *Figuier's Human Race* 235 We shall separate it into three branches—the Hyperborean, the Mongolian, and the Sinetic branches. 1898 *Blackwood's Mag.* Jan. 144 Their low foreheads, leering Sinetic eyes, the lewd lips and heavy hair.

† **Sineti·tular,** *a. Obs.* [f. L. *sine* without + *titul-us* title.] Without a title (for ordination).

1642 JER. TAYLOR *Episc.* (1647) 183 That decree of Chalcedon against Sinetitular ordinations.

Sinew (si·niu), *sb.* Forms: *α.* 1 *pl.* **seonuwa, seon(o)we,** 2 **seonewe,** 3 **sen(u)we,** 3–4 **senue,** 3–7 **senewe,** 4–5 **zenew,** 5–6 **senew;** 4–6 **senow, -owe,** 5–6 **senou;** 6 **senaw.** *β.* 1 **sionwe, sinwe, sinu(w)-,** 4–7 **sinewe** (6 **sinn-**), 5– **sinew,** 6–7 **sinue** (6 **sinnue**); 1, 4–7 **synewe** (7 **synn-**), 4–6 **synew** (5 **cynew,** 6 **syneu**); 4 **synue,** 4–5 **syn(u)we** (5 **cynwe**), 5 **synu, cynu.** *γ.* 4 **synoghe,** 4, 6 **synou,** 5 **synnou,** 5–7 **synnow** (5 **cynow-**); 4 **sinou,** 5–7 **sinow-,** 6–8 **sinnow.** *δ. Sc.* (and *north.*) 5 (9) **senon,** 6 **sennon,** 9 **sennen;** 5–6 **senown** (5 **sennoun, -own**); 6 **synnoun,** 9 **sinnon, sinnen** (**sinner**). [OE. *seon(o)we, sionwe*, etc., oblique forms from the nom. *sionu, sinu*: see SINE *sb.*[1] The *w* of the stem also appears in OHG. *senewa, senuwa, senwe*, etc., and in MDu. *zenewe, zenuwe* (Du. *zenuw*). With the Sc. and northern forms in *-n* cf. *minnon* for MINNOW and *talloun* for TALLOW.]

1. *Anat.* A strong fibrous cord serving to connect a muscle with a bone or other part; a tendon. Also in fig. context (quot. 1560).

α. *Beowulf* 817 Seonowe onsprungon, burston ban-locan. c 1000 *Saxon Leechd.* III. 48 Seonuwa [synd] fortoȝene & ða tan scrinceð up. a 1200 *St. Marher.* 7 Ant þenne ichulle tellen, hwen þu al to torren art,..alle þine seonewen. c 1205 LAY. 6498 Þat deor..forbat him þa breste, ban and þa senuwen. c 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 175 Þere nas no flesch bi-leued bote senue and bare bon. c 1380 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* II. 23 Paralitikes..mai not riȝtli move þer partis for feblenesse of þer senewis. c 1400 *Destr. Troy* 8794 The bavme..Bret thurgh the bones and the big senowis. 14.. *Metr. Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 627 *Neruus*, zenew. c 1450 *Merlin* xx. 339 Grete and lene and full of veynes and of senewes. a 1529 SKELTON *P. Sparowe* 46 Wherewith my handes I wrange, That my senaws cracked. 1547 BOORDE *Brev. Health* x. 10 b, A senowe the whyche doth growe out of the myddle of the spondyls. 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 101 To sende their ayde against the Turke..were to unarme them selves and to cut their owne senewes.

β. a 1000 *Andreas* 1425 Nu sint sionwe toslowen. c 1000 *Saxon Leechd.* II. 282 On þa saran sinua & aswollenan.. bind on gate tyrdelu. *Ibid.* 328 Ȝif sinwe syn forcorfene, nim renwyrmas [etc.]. a 1300 *Cursor M.* 3941 Þe maister sinu of his the. *Ibid.* 3944 O sinnu etes neuer juu. c 1305 *St. Christopher* 194 in *E. E. P.* (1862) 65 Hire lymes burste.. Necke & synuen & oþer ek. 1382 WYCLIF *Gen.* xxxii. 25 He towchide the synwe of his hip. a 1400–50 *Stockh. Med. MS.* 97 To stawnche blod of weyne or of synuwe. c 1430 *Two Cookery Bks.* 53 Take fayre Buttes of Porke..& clene pyke a-way þe bonys & þe Synewes. c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 78/1 Cynew,..of armys, or leggys, *nervus.* 1584 R. SCOT *Discov. Witchcr.* III. vi. 37 A spirit hath no flesh, bones, nor sinewes. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* II. 162 The oil or ointment..is comfortable to the sinues. 1658 A. FOX *Würtz' Surg.* I. iii. 11 It happeneth..that through this needless stitching of the sinews, is caused the running of sinews. 1727–46 THOMSON *Summer* 507 While his big sinews full of spirits swell. 1771 SMOLLETT *Humph. Cl.* (1815) 215 You cannot conceive..how it braces every sinew of the human frame. 1810 SCOTT *Lady of L.* III. xiii, Such cause of haste Thine active sinews never braced. 1865 SEELEY *Ecce Homo* iii. (ed. 8) 23 No one questioned the stoutness of Samson's sinews.

γ. c 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 1917 Ilka vayn and ilka synoghe and lith. c 1425 tr. *Arderne's Treat. Fistula*, etc. 39 Þe mouþe of þe lure wiþ þe lacertes and þe synowes.. was vtterly gnawen away. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 341/1 With owtyn Synows, *enervus.* 1535 COVERDALE *Ezek.* xxxvii. 6,

I wil geue you synowes, & make flesh growe vpon you. 1577 B. Googe *Heresbach's Husb.* III. (1586) 126 His thighes full of synowes, and his legs well knitte. 1604 Breton *Passionate Sheph.* Wks. (Grosart) I. 7/2 Each Sinow, Limme and ioynt, Perfect shape in euery point. 1611 Cotgr., *Nerf*, a Synnow.

δ. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* vii. (*James the Less*) 631 His senownys þat drawyn ware to-gyddyre, lousyt rycht þare. 1470 Henry *Wallace* v. 297 His houch sennownnis he cuttyt all atanys. *c* 1500 Kennedie *Passion of Christ* 450 All his body þai fret, Saris his senonis. 1552 Lyndesay *Monarche* 4921 Quhen that cald humour dounwart dois proceid, In Senownis it causis Arthetica. 1596 Dalrymple tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* I. v. 287 Vanes, synnounis, banes. 1829 Brockett *N.C. Gloss.* (ed. 2), *Sinnon*, for sinew. 1894 Heslop *Northumbld. Gloss.* 616 He cut yen o' the senons o' his leg wi' the adge.

b. A tendon taken out of an animal body and used for some purpose, esp. for binding or tying with; hence, † a snare; a string in a musical instrument.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 7195 Wit seuen sinous wa sa me band, I tint my strenth. *c* 1388 Wyclif *Judges* xvi. 7 Seuene coordis of senewis. *a* 1400 *Prymer* (1891) 82 Thou settest my foot in a synewe [L. *in nervo*]. 1535 Coverdale *Judges* xvi. 7 Samson sayde vnto her: Yf I were bounde with seuen roapes of fresh senowes, which are not yet dryed vp, I shulde be weake, and as another man. 1555 Eden *Decades* (Arb.) 95 They thrust the synew within the sheethe therof. 1591 Sylvester *Du Bartas* I. v. 513 Th' inchanting sinnewes of his Instrument. 1855 Longf. *Hiawatha* iii. 77 His linden cradle, .. Safely bound with reindeer sinews. 1875 Bancroft *Native Races Pacific St.* I. 56 A sling or net made of woven sinews.

† **c.** *transf.* A rib in a leaf. *Obs. rare.*

1551 Turner *Herbal* I. B j, Whose leues are..more depe cut in, towarde the synowe that goeth thorow the myd lefe. 1578 Lyte *Dodoens* 251 The stemmes whereof, with the synewes of the leaues.., are all redde. 1585 [see Nerve *sb.* 6 a].

d. In sing., as a substance or material.

1825 J. Neal *Bro. Jonathan* I. 268 He appeared powerful enough to crush the boy—sinew and bone. 1845 Darwin *Voy. Nat.* vi. (1879) 118 The tassels had been fastened by split sinew.

† **2.** A nerve. *Obs.*

1398 Trevisa *Barth. De P. R.* III. xvii. (1495) 62 The synewe that hyghte *nervus obticus*, an holow sinew, is hidde in the vtter partye of the brayne. *c* 1400 *Lanfranc's Cirurg.* 24 From þe brayn comen .vij. peire cordes, & þei ben clepid sensible senewis. 1545 Raynold *Byrth Mankynde* I. x, The brayne, of whom all the sinewes take their originall. 1578 Banister *Hist. Man* I. No portion of sinewes, which are the immediate organs of sence, is in their [bones] substaunce disseminated. 1612 Woodall *Surg. Mate* Wks. (1653) 86 When..the Marrow of the back bone is hurt, there followeth the resolution of the sinewes (which hindereth the function of the sense and motion). 1621 Burton *Anat. Mel.* I. i. II. iii, Nerves or Sinews, are Membranes without, and full of Marrow within.

3. Chiefly *pl.* Strength, energy, force.

1560 Daus tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 393 b, For this intent.., yᵗ ther should no sinewes nor force at all be lefte in all Germany. *c* 1595 Carew in G. G. Smith *Eliz. Crit. Ess.* (1904) II. 292 The Italyan is pleasante but without synewes, as to stillye fleeting water. 1617 Moryson *Itin.* III. 194 His authoritie hath no sinews. 1722 Wollaston *Relig. Nat.* iii. 49 That they may not be ignorant..what it is that gives sinews to an inference, and makes it just. 1856 Froude *Hist. Eng.* III. 61 He should find..that their arms had not wholly lost their ancient sinew. 1878 Morley *Carlyle* 175 It [Carlylism] is Byronism with thew and sinew.

4. The main strength, mainstay, or chief supporting force, *of* something.

The plural has been more freq. employed than the sing.

sing. 1579 North *Plutarch, Cleomenes* (1896) V. 223 He that sayed first, that Money was the sinewe of all thinges, spoke it chiefly in my opinion, in respect of the warres. 1589 *Pasquil's Return* B, Bursting the sinewe of peoples obedience. 1606 Shaks. *Tr. & Cr.* I. iii. 143 The great Achilles, whom Opinion crownes, The sinew, and the forehand of our Hoste. 1684 Bp. Burnet tr. *Utopia* 151 There must follow upon it a dissolution of all Justice, which is the chief Sinew of Society. 1721 Ramsay *Prospect of Plenty* 210 Thou nervous sinnow of baith war and law! 1880 *Christian World* 137 The advanced Liberals..supply the bone, the sinew, the muscle, and the fighting power of the party.

plur. 1587 Fleming *Contin. Holinshed* III. 343/2 A man may well saie, that chiualrie is the fundation and sinewes of a commonweale. 1600 Holland *Livy* VII. xxxix. 277 The principall authors of the mutinie, who were the sinewes and strength thereof. 1624 Bedell *Lett.* vi. 104 Take away these words, and the sinewes of the sentence are cut. 1691 Hartcliffe *Virtues* p. xiv, The Principles of Irreligion do unjoynt the Sinews of all Government. 1760 Johnson *Idler* No. 96 P 4 Indolence and effeminacy..relaxed the sinews of his resolution. 1791 Mrs. Radcliffe *Rom. Forest* I, The time may come..when death shall dissolve the sinews of Avarice. 1818 Hallam *Mid. Ages* (1872) I. 252 Whenever he thought fit to exert the sinews of his prerogative. 1857 Ruskin *Pol. Econ. Art* 23 The discipline of the masses has hitherto knit the sinews of battle. 1870 J. Bruce *Life Gideon* xi. 197 It is pre-eminently practical as touching the very soul and sinews of our faith.

b. In phr. *the sinews of war*, i.e. money. † Also in sing. (quot. 1598).

After L. *nervi belli pecunia* (Cicero *Phil.* v. ii. 5).

c 1550 *Disc. Common Weal Eng.* (1893) 87 These coins and treasures be not with out cause called of wise men.. The sinowes of warre. 1560 Daus tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 272 The Duke of Saxon, although he wanted the Senewes of warre, yet..he battred Gemund. 1598 Barret *Theor. Warres* 120 His Indian fleet bringing the sinew of his warres. 1621 Brathwait *Nat. Embassie* (1877) 139 We surpasse their state, In power, in riches, sinewes of sharpe warre. 1668 Dryden *Even. Love* III. i, If you had the sinews of war, I am sure you would be flying out. 1751 *Narr. H.M.S. Wager* 5 That part of the World, from whence their immense Wealth, the Sinews of War, is chiefly derived. 1827 Hallam *Const. Hist.* (1876) II. viii. 87 There was one possible..method of obtaining the sinews of war—the convocation of parliament. 1874 Burnand *My Time* v. 39 As to the sinews of war, had he not already provided for the improbable adversities of the future?

5. *Comb.* **a.** In terms denoting contraction or strain of the sinews, as *sinew-bound, -grown, -shrunk(en), -strained.*

1603 Florio *Montaigne* II. viii. (1632) 214 An old, crazed, sinnow shronken, and nigh dead father. 1645 Daniel *Poems* Wks. (Grosart) II. 23 My Sober Muse can say how it did wound My Sinnew-bound Vnusefull Members. 1654 H. L'Estrange *Chas. I* (1655) 105 The King..was sinew-shrunk, and wanted money the sinews of war. 1686 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 2163/4 A brown bay Mare.., Sinew-strain'd on the near Leg before. 1705 *Ibid.* No. 4125/4 He is a little Sinew-strain'd of the inside of the off Foot before. 1828 Carr *Craven Gloss., Sinner-grown*, having a contraction in the sinews, of which sinner is a corruption.

b. Miscellaneous, as *sinew-backing, -bruise, -corded, -shrinking, -singer*; **sinew-water**, synovia, joint-oil.

1598 Sylvester *Du Bartas* II. i. III. *Furies* 173 The sinew-shrinking Dead-laughing Apium. *Ibid.* II. ii. IV. *Columnes* 717 The Guide of supplest fingers On (living-dumb, dead-speaking) sinnew-singers. 1599 A. M. tr. *Gabelhouer's Bk. Phys.* 312/1 These Playsteres cure all woundes, whether they do thruste, or cut, yea and althoughe the very sinnuewater did issue therout. 1658 A. Fox *Würtz' Surg.* I. vi. 26 That corrosive..resisteth forcibly the sinew-water, called the joynt-water. 1725 *Fam. Dict.* s.v. *Horse-feeder*, Strains, Over-Reaches, Sinew-Bruises, and the like. 1847 Tennyson *Princ.* v. 524 Supple, sinew-corded, apt at arms. 1896 Grinnell *Story Indian* 151 The nocks were cut, and the sinew backing applied.

Sinew (si·niu), *v.* [f. prec.]

1. *trans.* To run through, tie together, cover over with, or as with, sinews. *rare.*

1592 Nashe *P. Penilesse* 13 Her gray breast, and her speckled side sayles, all sinnowed with siluer quilles. 1596 Shaks. 3 *Hen. VI*, II. vi. 91 So shalt thou sinow both these Lands together. 1607 Markham *Caval.* VI. (1617) 55 After the tree is sinewd, you shall then glew strong canuase all ouer the wood also.

2. To supply with sinews; to strengthen as by sinews; to nerve, harden. Chiefly *fig.*

a 1614 Donne *Biathanatos* (1648) 86 Out of a duty to Sinew and strengthen..the Doctrine of our Blessed Saviour. 1625 — *Serm. 3 Apr.* 6 Thy Almightie Arme, sinewed euen with thine owne indignation. 1643 Spinkes *Serm. Oxford 19 Apr.* C 3 b, The kingdome being sinewed and flesht with the addition of so much new strength and force, flourisheth. 1718 D'Urfey *Grecian Heroine* v. i, My Clindor's, and Clorona's Wrongs,..sinew my old Flesh. 1766 Goldsm. *Vic. W.* xxvii, We should then find that creatures, now stuck up for long tortures,..might, if properly treated, serve to sinew the state in times of danger. 1852 Culross *Lazarus Revived* 34 Christianity needs something to nerve and sinew it. 1879 Todhunter *Alcestis* 14 Sinew thy heart to hear; for death is dreadful. 1892 F. Tennyson *Poems* 480 Such might Sinews old custom.

Sinewed (si·niud), *ppl. a.* Also 8 **sinnewed.** [f. Sinew *sb.* or *v.*]

1. Having sinews of a specified kind.

1588 Kyd *Househ. Phil.* Wks. (1901) 239 A youth..well proportioned, tough sinewed, and of a strong constitution. *a* 1700 Dryden (J.), Strong sinew'd was the youth, and big of bone.

2. Strengthened with sinews; strong, firm, vigorous, powerful, sinewy.

1604 Drayton *Owle* 1450 The great Eagle..Whose sinewed wings..Beat the thin air. 1644 Bulwer *Chiron.* 5 This strengthens Speech with nerves and the sinewed cords of twisted Reason. *c* 1720 Tickell *Ode to Earl of Sunderland* iii, The flower of chivalry, who drew With sinew'd arm the stubborn yew. 1894 Whitby *Mary Fenwick's Daughter* III. 82 Five feet eight of sinewed stature.

† **3.** Seated in the sinews. *Obs.*—[1]

1601 Chester *Love's Martyr*, etc. (1878) 85 Tis good for sinewed aches.

Si·newer. *rare.* [f. Sinew *v.*] A strengthener.

1810 A. Wilson *Poems & Lit. Prose* (1876) II. 352 Toil, blest sinewer of the poor.

Si·newiness. *rare*—[1]. [f. Sinewy *a.* + -ness.] The character, state, or quality of being sinewy.

1727 Bailey (vol. II.), *Nervousness*, fulness of Nerves, sinewiness, Strength, &c.

† **Si·newish,** *a. Obs. rare.* Also 6 synowysshe, sinuishe. [f. Sinew *sb.* + -ish [1].] Pertaining to the sinews; having sinews; sinewy.

1530 Palsgr. 324/1 Synowysshe, belongynge to ones synouse, *arterique*. 1586 Hooker *Hist. Irel.* II. xxiv. in *Holinshed*, His [Hugh de Lacy's] neck was short, and his bodie..sinewish. 1597 A. M. tr. *Guillemeau's Fr. Chirurg.* 2 b/1 The sinuishe partes of the boddye.

† **Si·newize,** *v. Obs.*—[1] [f. Sinew *v.* + -ize.] *trans.* To furnish with sinews.

1599 B. Jonson *Ev. Man out of Hum.* III. i[ii], Such an Anotomie of Witte, so Sinewiz'd and Arteriz'd, that 'tis the goodliest Modell of pleasure that euer was, to beholde.

Si·newless, *a.* Also 6 sinewe-, 7 sin(n)ewlesse. [f. Sinew *sb.* + -less.]

1. Destitute of sinews.

1552 Huloet, Sinewelesse, or hauing no sinewes. 1767 S. Paterson *Another Trav.* I. 245 That were to make headless trunks, and sinewless arms. 1798 W. Taylor in *Monthly Rev.* XXV. 515 The Farnesian Hercules, so muscular before, so sinewless behind. 1815 Byron *Hebrew Melodies, Saul* i, His foot, in bony whiteness, glitter'd there, Shrunken and sinewless.

2. Lacking vigour; feeble, weak, powerless.

1644 [H. Parker] *Jus Populi* 44 Regiment in the first ages was rather too milde and sinewlesse than too violent and rigorous. 1656 *Artif. Handsom.* 193 All that ever was said against these Helps of beauty, seems to many wise women..weak and sinnewlesse. 1829 K. H. Digby *Broadstone of Honour* I. *Godefridus* 294 The arms which once slew the Nemæan lion may become sinewless. 1869 J. Ker *Serm.* (1874) I. 63 A weak sinewless Christianity. 1872 S. Mostyn *Perplexity* I. viii. 145 Look at those hands; they are white, thin, sinewless.

Sinewous (si·niuəs), *a.* Also 5 **synew-**, 7 **sinnew-**, 8 **sineuous.** [f. Sinew *sb.* + -ous.] Sinewy; also *fig.*, strenuous, vigorous.

In quot. 1745 perh. intended for *synovial.*

1495 *Trevisa's De P. R.* v. xxv. 134 The necke is synewous to make wylfull meuynge. 1586 Hooker *Hist. Irel.* II. x. in *Holinshed*, His armes and other lims more sinewous than fleshie. 1663 in Kendall *Travels* (1809) I. xii. 143 Errors corrupt, by sinnewous dispute, He did oppugne and clearly them confute. 1745 Eliza Heywood *Female Spect.* III. 298 They [*sc.* snails] are..furnished with a sineuous juice, which, distilling from their pores, becomes a hard consistence. 1861 Lytton & Fane *Tannhäuser* 13 Men, who..scann'd His sinewous frame, compact of pliant power.

Sinewy (si·niui), *a.* Also *a.* 4 **senewy**; 5 **synnevy**, 7 **synewy**, **-ie**; 6 **sinnewie**, **sinewye**, 6–7 **sinewie**, 7 **-ewey.** *β.* 5 **senowy**; **synnowy**, 5, 7 **synowy** (6 **-owie**); 6 **sinnowy**, 7 **-ie**, 6–7 **sinowie**, **-owy** (6 **-owye**). [f. Sinew *sb.* + -y. Cf. Du. *zenuwig*, G. *sehnig* († *zenich, synnig*).]

† **1.** Made of sinews. *Obs. rare*—[1].

1382 Wyclif *Judges* xvi. 7 If with seuen senewy [L. *nerviceis*] coordis..Y were boundun, Y shal be feble as other men.

2. Furnished with, full of, sinews.

1398 Trevisa *Barth. De P. R.* v. xxv. (Bodl. MS.), The nekke..[is] senewy to make wilfull meuyng. *a* 1425 tr. *Arderne's Treat. Fistula*, etc. 85 Þe face and þe leggez, and synowy placez and bony. 1563 T. Gale *Antidot.* II. 32 It..helpeth the sinowye partes. 1576 Turberv. *Venerie* 233 The sides of the dogges bulke, or vpon his thighes, or suche sinewye places. 1603 J. Davies (Heref.) *Microcos.* Wks. (Grosart) I. 24/1 For in the sinewes..This pow'r is plac'd, or in the Synewy skin. 1633 P. Fletcher *Purple Island* II. xx. *note*, The fleshie pannicle is a membrane very thick, sinewy, woven in with little veins. 1725 *Fam. Dict.* s.v. *Embrocation*, Nothing is more powerful to remove obstinate Swellings in the sinewy Parts. 1885 *Where Chineses Drive* 186 The only meat he could find to operate on was part of an awfully sinewy leg of beef.

Comb. 1844 H. Stephens *Bk. Farm* II. 246 The usual price received for lean, stringy-fleshed, sinewy-legged fowls, is far from remunerative.

3. Having strong, well-developed, or prominent sinews.

Usually implying strength, but sometimes leanness.

1422 tr. *Secreta Secret., Priv. Priv.* 226 Who-so hath the fete well shappyn, grete toes and synnowy, sholde bene stronge and hardy. *c* 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* IV. 704 The thies sadde and senowy, not to side. 1586 Marlowe *1st Pt. Tamburl.* II. i, His armes and fingers long and sinowy. 1606 Shaks. *Tr. & Cr.* II. iii. 259 [Let] Bull-bearing Milo his addition yeelde To sinnowie Aiax. 1667 *Phil. Trans.* II. 567 Those [whales] have great teeth..and are very sinewy. 1725 Pope *Odyss.* v. 581 Fainting as he touch'd the shore, He dropt his sinewy arms. 1817 Shelley *Rev. Islam* I. xiii. 7 The vast bird would,..with his sinewy neck, Dissolve in sudden shock those linked rings. 1855 Motley *Dutch Rep.* VI. vii, In person, Orange was above the middle height, perfectly well made and sinewy. 1882 Sergt. Ballantine *Exper.* xxiii. 227 He was a sinewy little fellow.

transf. 1656 Heylin *Surv. France* 171 The Gates are very large and strong, as well in the sinewie composition of themselves, as in the addition of the Drawbridge.

b. *transf.* Of qualities, attributes, etc.: Derived from the possession of (strong) sinews; having the strength characteristic of sinews.

1588 Shaks. *L. L. L.* IV. iii. 308 As motion and long during action tyres The sinnowy vigour of the traualler. 1602 Marston *Ant. & Mel.* Prol., Oh! that our Muse Had those abstruse and synowy faculties. 1641 Milton *Animadv.* Wks. 1851 III. 186 Even this veine of laughing..hath oftimes a strong and sinewy force in teaching and confuting. 1784 Cowper *Task* v. 288 When at length mankind Had reach'd the sinewy firmness of their youth. 1810 Scott *Lady of Lake* I. xxviii, Few were the arms whose sinewy strength Sufficed to stretch it forth at length. 1873 'Ouida' *Pascarel* I. 7 Men were glad with the same sinewy force.. as made them in other times laborious.

c. Of language, writings, arguments, etc. (Cf. Nervous *a.* 3.)

1600 E. Blount tr. *Conestaggio* A 2 A faithfull, elegant, sinewie, and well digested historie. 1641 J. Jackson *True Evang. T.* iii. 194 Nervous and sinewy Arguments. 1718 *Free-thinker* No. 18 The Latin Tongue has something Masculine, and Sinewy. 1863 *Sat. Rev.* 284 An out-of-door life encourages and produces a straightforward, intelligible, sinewy style. 1885 *Manch. Exam.* 18 Mar. 3/3 His nervous sinewy literary style will not be thrown away.

d. Similarly of speakers and writers.

1598 Sylvester *Du Bartas* II. ii. II. *Babylon* 605 Cæsar, who knowes as well to write, as war: The Sinnewie Salust. 1644 Bulwer *Chirol.* 162 Thus the sinewie Epigrammatist.

4. Of the nature of sinews; tough, stringy.

1578 Banister *Hist. Man* 52 They [the muscles] are sinewie and broad in their begynning. 1594 T. B. *La Primaud. Fr. Acad.* II. Ep. to Rdr., Being dispersed into the muscles and skinne by meanes of certaine sinowie threedes concurring in manner of a net. 1612 Woodall *Surg. Mate* Wks. (1653) 95 Sinowie Ligaments bruised and broken. *a* 1631 Donne *Poems* (1650) 49 For if sinewie thred my braine lets fall Through every part. 1909 Patterson *Grip of the Nyika* 247 Tied up with bands of sinewy tree-bark.

† **5.** Strung with sinews. *Obs. rare.*

† *a* 1593 MARLOWE *Hero & Leander* I. 371 All deepe enrag'd, his sinowie bow he bent. 1624 QUARLES *Job Militant* xv, The sinowy Bow, and deadly-headed Launce, Shall breake in shiuers. 1659 LOVELACE *Poems* (1864) 242 So by the sinewy lyre now strook we see Into soft calms all storm of poesie.

Sinewy, obs. variant of SENVY.

† **Siney,** obs. form of *sené* SENNA.

1580 HOLLYBAND *Treas. Fr. Tong, Vn petit arbre dict Baguenaudier*, a tree called Siney.

Sinful (si·nfŭl), *a.* and *sb.* Forms: 1 synn-, 1–6 syn- (5 cyn-), 4–6 synne-; 2–3 sun-, 3 sune-; 2–3 sen-, 4 zen-; 3- sin- (3 sinn-, 6 sinne-); also 1–6 -full, 3 -uull, 3–4 -fol, -uol. [f. SIN *sb.* + -FUL. Cf. ON. and Icel. *syndafullr* (Norw. and Sw. *syndfull*, Da. *syndefuld*).]

1. Of persons, etc.: Full of sin; wicked, corrupt.

c 825- [see b and c]. *c* 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Luke v. 8 Ꝿeong from me, forðon monn synnfull Am. 971 *Blickl. Hom.* 43 Þa lareowas sceolan synnfullum mannum eadmodlice tæcan. *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 149 Þis is alle sunfulle monne leddre. *c* 1200 ORMIN 12048 Nohht ne wære he þanne Godd Acc sinnfull mann & wrecche. *c* 1250 *Kent. Serm.* 31 in *O. E. Misc.*, Se leprus signefieþ þo senuulle men. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 9050 Es nan sinfuller þan i. 1399 GOWER *Praise of Peace* 45 This sinful world was al paiene tho. *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (Roxb.) xv. 70 Þai call vs synfull and wikked. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 78/1 Cynfulle,..*peccosus*. 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* xc. 7 We synfull folk sulde be more deligent. 1526 TINDALE *Romans* viii. 3 In the similitude of synfull flesshe. *a* 1586 SIDNEY *Ps.* I. iv, They that sinne in sinfull breast do cherish. 1662 STILLINGFL. *Orig. Sacræ* III. iv. 5 To execute his justice upon the sinful World. 1671 MILTON *P. R.* I. 162 His weakness shall o'ercome Satanic strength.., and mass of sinful flesh. 1781 COWPER *Truth* 383 What is man? Sinful and weak, in ev'ry sense a wretch. 1849 JAMES *Woodman* ii, You will not find it in this sinful world.

b. *absol.* in *pl.* (with or without *the*).

c 825 *Vesp. Psalter* ix. 18 Bioð ꝿecerde ða synfullan in helle. *c* 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Mark ii. 16 He æt..mið synfullum & bærsynnigum. *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 95 He nalde mid his to-cume þa sunfullen forðemen. *a* 1240 *Lofsong* in *O. E. Hom.* I. 209 Þuruh al þet ðu tawhtest and þoledest for sunfule in eorðe. 13.. *Cursor M.* 104 (Gött), Scho.. rayses þe sinful quen þai fall. 1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. XIX. 22 Synful aren solaced & saued bi þat name. 1624 FLETCHER *Wife for a Month* IV. v, Shame attend the sinful, I know my innocence.

c. *absol.* in *sing.* † Also with *a*, a sinful person.

c 825 *Vesp. Psalter* CXXXIX. 4 Hald mec, dryhten, of honda synfulles. 971 *Blickl. Hom.* 61 Þonne se synfulla..his lif ꝿeendaþ. *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 85 Þe prost þet scal among cristene monkun þene sunfulle of sunne clensen. *c* 1275 *On Serving Christ* 25 in *O. E. Misc.*, Þer is þe sunfulle vnsofte to beon Hwer he not no wey fyr for to fleon. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 13978 A seli sinful was sco þis. 1340 *Ayenb.* 90 To wende þane zenuolle and connynge an speches. *c* 1400 *Pol. Poems* (Rolls) I. 317 Christ suffered a sinful to kisse his fete.

2. Of acts, etc.: Involving sin; characterized or marked by sin.

c 1200 ORMIN 4182 Fra sinnfull word & werrc, Fra sinnful þohht & wille. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 8357 Help hom & vorȝif hom þulke sunuol dede. *a* 1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* xvii. 49 Þai ere eldid, þat is in þaire ald synful lyf. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 365 For certein Somme of gold [they] acorden That thilke horrible sinfull dede Assoiled was. 1535 COVERDALE *Wisd.* iii. 13 Blessed is..y' baren & vndefyled, which hath not knowne the synfull bedd. 1552 ABP. HAMILTON *Catech.* (1884) 4 It is..ane synfull and ane damnabil thing. *c* 1600 SHAKS. *Sonn.* ciii, Were it not sinfull then striuing to mend, To marre the subiect that before was well? 1649 ROBERTS *Clavis Bibl.* 160 Notwithstanding all Davids Piety and integrity he was overtaken with many sinfull failings. 1742 C. WESLEY *'God of all power'* iv, Purge me from every sinful blot,..Cleanse me from every sinful thought. 1835 J. H. NEWMAN *Par. Serm.* (1837) I. iii. 42 Like that bad prophet at Bethel..while he sat at his sinful meat. 1866 GEO. ELIOT *F. Holt* (1868) 25 But many sinful things were highly agreeable to her.

b. Highly reprehensible.

1863 T. G. SHAW *Wine* 33 He considered it 'sinful' to expend 10/6 on a bottle of any wine.

Hence † **Sinfulhead,** sinfulness. *Obs.*

c 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 180 Wilde der..pine man wið sorwe and dred, And don hem monen his sinfulhed. *a* 1400 *St. Bernard* 541 in Horstm. *Altengl. Leg.* (1878) 50 For I knowe my sunfolhede Boþe in word, þou3t and dede.

Sinfully (si·nfŭli), *adv.* Forms: (see quots.). [f. SINFUL *a.* + -LY 2.]

1. In a sinful manner; wickedly, iniquitously.

a. c 1200 ORMIN 16155 Follc..þatt tær wass inne unnlaȝhelið & sinnfullike sammnedd. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 9147 Þe erchebissop of kanterbury..Sacred him..wel sunuolliche [*v.r.* synuolyche] alas. *c* 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 14055 Moddred..synfullyke had reysed stryf. *c* 1450 *Merlin* XXVI. 497 Sir,..ye sey euill and synfulliche.

β. a 1300 *Cursor M.* 28431 In tendes haue i lett don in Sinfully in tent to wyn. *c* 1385 CHAUCER *L. G. W.* 2550 *Phyllis*, Syn thus synfully ȝe me be-gile. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 78 Cynfully, *criminose*. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 239 b, Neuer inordynatly couet thy neyghbours wyfe, to vse her synfully. 1594 SHAKS. *Rich. III*, II. i. 119 All this from my Remembrance, brutish wrath Sinfully pluckt. 1685 BAXTER *Paraphr. N. T.* Matt. xiii. 13 They have..sinfully shut their own eyes. 1879 R. T. SMITH *Basil the Great* ix. 108 Adam by eating sinfully transmitted sin.

2. Very reprehensibly.

1888 D. C. MURRAY *Weaker Vessel* xiii, We were a sinfully indiscreet and curious young couple to talk of the affairs of others as we did. 1898 KIPLING *Fleet in Being* i, Affable young gentlemen prepared, even sinfully delighted, to take chances not set down in books.

Sinfulness (si·nfŭlnès). Also 5 synfullnes, 5–6 -fulnesse. [f. SINFUL *a.* + -NESS.] The state or character of being sinful; wickedness, iniquity.

14.. in *Tundale's Vis.* (1843) 148 Of my wreched synfullnes To gyff me grace. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 456/1 Synfulnesse, *peccabilitas, viciositas*. 1530 PALSGR. 270/2 Synfulnesse, *maluatie*. 1653 H. MORE *Antid. Ath.* I. i. § 2 By reason of the Sinfulness and Corruption of their Natures. 1675 BURTHOGGE *Causa Dei* 43 The Sinfulness therein is only against God. 1761 WESLEY *'Jesus, if still'* vi, The sinfulness of sin. 1838 DICKENS *Nickleby* xvi, Mr. Gallanbile dines late on the day of rest, in order to prevent the sinfulness of the cook's dressing herself. 1878 LECKY *Eng. in 18th C.* II. 192 The absolute sinfulness of resistance.

Sing (siŋ), *sb.* [f. SING *v.*1]

1. The sound made by a bullet in its flight.

1871 *Daily News* 1 Mar., I distinctly heard the sing of the bullet overhead. 1897 C. BIGHAM *With Turkish Army in Thessaly* vi. 43 Here the first bullets began to pass over our heads; but from the sing we judged them to be spent.

2. An act of singing; the power of singing.

1884 *Congregationalist* Febr. 103 An English audience.. enjoy a good, hearty, congregational 'sing'. 1907 *Cassell's Mag.* Feb. 324/2 Why don't you sing..? You have heaps of 'sing' in you.

Sing (siŋ), *v.*1 Pa. t. **sang, sung.** Pa. pple. **sung.** Forms: *Inf.* 1 singan, 3–4 singen (3 sinken, 4 singyn), 3–4 singe (4 zinge), 4–sing; 1 syngan, 3–5 (6) syngen (4–5 syngyn, 5 cyngyn), 4–5 synge (4 seynge, zynge), 5–6 syng (6 synng). *Pa. t. sing.* 1– sang (4 zang), 4–6 sange; 1, 4–7 song, 4–6 songe, soong, 6 soung, 6– sung (6 sunge); also *2nd pers.* and *subj.* 3 sunge, songe. *Pa. t. pl.* 1 sungon, -an, 1, 4–5 sungun, 2–4 sungen (3 sunggen), 4 songen, so(u)nguen, 3–4 sunge, songe. *Pa. pple.* 1 ꝿesungen, 3 i-sunge(n; 1, 4–6 sungen (4 sungun), 4–6 sunge, 6 soung, sownge, soong(e, 6– sung; 3–4 i-songe, 4–6 songen (4 -yne, 6 -in, 5–6 -on), 5–6 songe, 5–7 song. [Common Teut.: OE. *singan*, = OFris. *sionga* (WFris. *sjonge*, dial. *soenge*), MDu. *singen* (Du. *zingen*), OS. and OHG. *singan* (G. *singen*), ON. *syngva* (Icel. and Norw. *syngja*, Sw. *sjunga*, Da. *synge*), Goth. *siggwan* (=*singwan*). No related forms have been traced in other languages.

Sung was the usual form of the pa. t. in the 17th and 18th cents., and is given by Smart in 1836 with the remark 'Sang ..is less in use'. Recent usage, however, has mainly been in favour of *sang*.]

I. *intr.* **1.** To articulate or utter words or sounds in succession with musical inflections or modulations of the voice, so as to produce an effect entirely different from that of ordinary speech; *spec.* to do this in a skilled manner, as the result of training and practice.

To sing dumb, small: see DUMB *a.* 3 c, and SMALL *adv.*

c 825 *Vesp. Ps.* CXXXVII. 5 Alle cyningas..singen in songum dryhtnes. *c* 888 K. ÆLFRED *Boeth.* i, He..ongan wepan & þus singend cwæð. *c* 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Matt. xi. 17 We sungun iuh & ne plæzdeȝe. 971 *Blickl. Hom.* 149 Hwæt is..þis folc þe her þus hlude singeþ? *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 34 Ðu giue me seli timinge..Queðer so hic rede or singe! 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 2349 Ech mon..songe al day bi þe stret ase vor is onour. *c* 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 15085 To þe cite þey come singand. 1362 LANGL. *P. Pl.* A. XI. 190 Þus bed þe do-bet,..Sike with þe sory, singe with þe glade. *c* 1400 *Pilgr. Soule* (Caxton, 1483) IV. xx. 65, I songe to rathe, for I sange by the morowe And now at eue I wepe. *c* 1420 *Chron. Vilod.* 3073 Angels, þat weron bothe bryȝt & shene,..song lowde with myelde steuene. 1517 TORKINGTON *Diary* (1884) 63 On of the Jewys began to syng, and than all the women daunsed. 1614 J. DAVIES (Heref.) *Eclogue* 74 Enaunter they..songen lowdly for so deere desart. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* II. 553 The harmony (What could it less when Spirits immortal sing?) Suspended Hell. 1750 GRAY *Long Story* 58 They flirt, they sing, they laugh, they tattle. 1769 SIR W. JONES *Palace Fortune* Poems (1777) 27 No shepherd sung beneath the rosy bowers. 1803–5 WORDSW. *Solitary Reaper* 27, I saw her singing at her work. 1852 MRS. STOWE *Uncle Tom's C.* xvi. 157 I've been up in Tom's room, hearing him sing. 1884 F. M. CRAWFORD *Rom. Singer* I. 10 He never sang except in Church.

fig. c 825 *Vesp. Psalter* xxix. 13 Ðæt singe ðe wuldur min. 1382 WYCLIF *Isaiah* lv. 12 Mounteynes and hilles shul singe bifor ȝou preising. 1611 BIBLE *Job* XXXVIII. 7 The morning starres sang together. 1757 GRAY *Bard* 123 Bright Rapture calls, and soaring, as she sings, Waves [etc.]. 1775 SHERIDAN *Duenna* I. i, Tell me, my lute, can thy soft strain..So softly sing, so humbly sigh. 1871 LOWELL *Study Windows, Pope*, I do not think that Pope's verse anywhere sings.

b. Const. *to* († *by*, *in*) an instrument of music.

c 825 *Vesp. Psalter* lxx. 22 Ic singu ðe in oitran,. *a* 1000 *Ags. Ps.* (Thorpe) lxx. 20 And [ic] þe on sealm-fatum, singe be hearpan. 1382 WYCLIF 1 *Chron.* xvi. 5 Asaph forsothe schuld syngyn in cymbalis. 1565 COOPER *Thesaurus, Canere ad tibiam*, to singe to the shalme. 1608 SHAKS. *Per.* IV. Prol. 26 When to the lute She sung. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 10 Oct. 1645, Who had a daughter..that played and sung to nine severall instruments. 1792 A. YOUNG *Trav. France* 132 Mademoiselle Le Blanc singing to her systrum..

c. *fig.* To cry out with pain; to make a noise, to boast, *about* something. *To sing different* (cf. 10 a).

c 1386 CHAUCER *Friar's T.* 13 But certes, lechours dide he grettest wo; They sholde singen, if that they were hent. 1897 *Westm. Gaz.* 22 Dec. 4/1 Matters are looking up. Still there is nothing much to sing about on our part even now. 1897 E. PHILLPOTTS *Lying Prophets* I. ix, If you comed to be a bride, you'd sing different.

2. To tell *of* († *by*) in song or in verse.

c 900 tr. *Baeda's Hist.* IV. xxiv. 346 Song he ærest be middangeardes ꝿesceape & bi fruman moncynnes. *c* 1205 LAY. 24211 Sone heo gunnen singe of Arður þan kinge. 13.. *K. Alis.* 7613 (Laud MS.), Þe lefdy wandreþ in a plas, And syngeþ of Dido & Eneas. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 290 Ha, who herde evere singe or rede Of such a thing as that was do? *a* 1529 SKELTON *Maner of World* 169 Sometime we song of myrth and play. 1565 COOPER *Thesaurus, Cantatus*, songe of: praysed. 1605 CAMDEN *Rem.* (1623) 8 Most truely our Lucan singeth of this our countrey. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* IV. 807 Thus have I sung of Fields, and Flocks, and Trees, And of the waxen Work of lab'ring Bees. 1788 COWPER *Gratitude* 56 The poets will swear that I dream, When I sing of the splendour of mine. 1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* XXXVII, Marshalled by two Minstrels, who sung of war and ladies love. 1864 DASENT *Jest & Earnest* (1873) II. 233 So he began his song, and first he sung of the Orkney Earls across the western main.

fig. 1887 *Illustr. Lond. News* Summer No. 2/1 His gait and carriage Sang..of ploughed fields.

b. To compose in verse; to make poetry.

1637 MILTON *Lycidas* 10 Who would not sing for Lycidas? he knew Himself to sing, and build the lofty rhyme. 1709 POPE *Ess. Crit.* 659 He..judg'd with coolness, tho' he sung with fire. 1784 COWPER *Task* II. 312 Studious of song, And yet ambitious not to sing in vain. 1827 POLLOK *Course T.* X, Thus have I sung beyond thy first request. 1871 SMILES *Charac.* X. (1876) 267 Horace, Virgil, and Dante still sing as when they lived.

† **3.** To chant or intone, in the performance of divine service; to say mass. *Obs.*

1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 3932 Clerkes songe as riȝt was, þat ioye it was to hure. 1362 LANGL. *P. Pl.* A. Prol. 83 Persones and parisch prestes..askeþ leue and lycence at londun to dwelle, To singe þer for Simonye. *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (1839) iii. 19 Thei suffre not the Latynes to syngen at here Awteres. 1432–50 tr. *Higden* (Rolls) V. 9 [The pope] ordeynede that brede ordeynede to synge with scholde be pure brede and clene. 1538 *Lett. Suppress. Monast.* (Camden) 222 He songe in thys chapell, and hadde the offeringes for hys lyving. 1599 SHAKS. *Hen. V*, IV. i. 319, I have built two Chauntries, Where the sad and solemne Priests sing still For Richards Soule.

4. Of birds: To produce tuneful or musical sounds; to warble.

a 1000 *Phœnix* 124 Se haswa fuzel.. swinsað & singeð swezle toȝeanes. *c* 1250 *Owl & Night.* 1663 Foweles boþe grete & smale..sungen al so uale wise. 13.. *Cursor M.* 1031 (Gött.), Soun of foulis þat þar singes. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 53 He herde among the leves singe The Throstel with the nyhtingale. *c* 1440 *Jacob's Well* 149 Þei fare as þe cuccuke, þat syngyth but of him-self. 1515 *Scottish Field* 435 in *Chetham Misc.* (1856), Birdes brayden to the bowes, And boldlie they songen. 1588 SHAKS. *Titus A.* III. i. 158 Did euer Rauen sing so like a Larke? 1611 — *Cymb.* II. iii. 22 Hearke, hearke, the Larke at Heauens gate sings. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* V. 198 Ye Birds, That singing up to Heaven Gate ascend. 1766 GRAY *Kingsgate* 10 No tree is heard to whisper, bird to sing. 1774 G. WHITE *Selborne* lx, Wrens sing all the winter through, frost excepted. 1822 COLERIDGE *Lett.*, etc. II. 116 Like a gleam of sunshine..setting all the birds a-singing. 1908 *Betw. Trent & Ancholme* 29 The birds singing in the old apple-trees.

b. Of cocks: To crow. Also with *out*.

In early use after L. *cantare* in the Vulgate.

c 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Matt. xxvi. 34 On ðisser næht ær ðon hona singe *vel* crawe. *c* 1000 ÆLFRIC *Hom.* II. 248 Se hana sona hlud-sweȝe sang. 1382 WYCLIF *Mark* xiv. 72 Bifore the cok synge twyes, thries thou schalt denye me. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Reeve's T.* 313 This joly lyf han thise two clerkes lad, Til that the thridde cok bigan to synge. 1602 SHAKS. *Ham.* I. i. 160 The Bird of Dawning singeth all night long. 1830 TENNYSON *Mariana* 27 The cock sung out an hour ere light.

c. Said of the raven, sea-mew, toad, etc., and (in later use) of the cricket.

a 1000 *Cædmon's Genesis* 1983 Sang se wanna fuzel under deoreðsceaftum. *a* 1000 *Seafarer* 22 Dyde ic me to gomene ..mæw singende fore medodrince. 1340 *Ayenb.* 156 Þe asse ..beginþ to iheape and yernþ to-yens him..and beginþ zinge grat-liche. 1555 EDEN *Decades* (Arb.) 220 These toades synge after three or foure sortes. 1608 SHAKS. *Per.* III. Prol. 7 And crickets sing at the oven's mouth. *a* 1668 DAVENANT *Man's the Master* III. ii, When crickets sing, why should not we? 1789 G. WHITE *Selborne* lxxxviii, The new inhabitants [i. e. crickets] stayed some time, and fed and sung. 1846 DICKENS *Cricket on Hearth* III, A Cricket sings upon the Hearth.

5. With *out*. Also *spec.* in nautical use.

1530 PALSGR. 718/1, I synge out, or I synge a loude, *je chante a playne voix*. 1840 R. H. DANA *Before Mast* II, The sailors 'singing out' at the ropes in their hoarse and peculiar strains. *Ibid.* XVII, Sailors, when heaving at a windlass.., always have one to sing out.

b. To call or cry *out*.

1813 *Sporting Mag.* XLI. 43 Sing out, and we shall come. 1850 W. SCORESBY *Cheever's Whalem. Adv.* iii. (1858) 34 Sing out when we head right! 1889 JEROME *Three Men in Boat* 93 They all got crazy at last, and sang out for the keeper. 1901 MRS. C. BAGOT *Links with Past* 44 A marine made it a point of honour to take a flogging in silence—a sailor thought it no disgrace to 'sing out'.

† c. *Cant.* To peach, turn informer. *Obs.*

1815 SCOTT *Guy M.* XXVIII. *note*, To sing out or whistle in the cage, is when a rogue, being apprehended, peaches against his comrades. 1816 — *Old Mort.* xliii, The thing will never keep two days longer, and the first bird that sings out will get the reward.

6. Of things: To give out a ringing, murmuring, or other sound having the quality of a musical note.

Beowulf 323 Hringiren scir song in searwum.. *c* 897 K. ÆLFRED *Gregory's Past. C.* xxiii. 174 Se hearpere..ȝeðeð ðæt hie [the strings] noht unȝelice ðæm sone ne singað þe he wilnað. *a* 1023 WULFSTAN *Hom.* xl. (1883) 183 In þæm dæze singað þa byman. 1523 FITZHERB. *Husb.* § 10 Go

vppon the lande, that is plowed, and if it synge or crye, or make any noyse vnder thy fete, than it is to wete to sowe. 1596 Shaks. *Merch. V.* IV. i. 49 When the bag-pipe sings i' the nose. 1642 Fuller *Holy & Prof. St.* I. viii. 20 One said; He loved to heare his carter though not his cart to sing. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XVIII. 872/2 When the liquor in the barrel has done singing, stop the vessel close. 1839 Ure *Dict. Arts* 1271 They hear these stoppings begin to sing or call, as they say, whenever an interruption takes place in any point. 1850 S. Dobell *Roman* vi. Poet. Wks. (1875) 85, I do forget..that the music of her shores is singing Still in your ears. 1887 Besant *The World went* i, On the other hob stood a kettle, singing comfortably.

b. Of missiles, etc.: To sound in this way by reason of rapid motion through the air; to move with a singing sound.

1565 Cooper *Thesaurus* Introd. 2 An arrowe that singeth as hee goeth. 1633 Bp. Hall *Hard Texts, N.T.* 213 The plagues of God shall be sent as so many arrowes singing into thy bosom. 1676 Hobbes *Iliad* (1677) 235 So many spears went singing by his head. 1716 Pope *Odyss.* VIII. 138 The discus flies, And sings with unmatch'd force along the skies. 1761 Gray *Fatal Sisters* 22 Pikes must shiver, javelins sing. 1813 Byron *Br. Abydos* II. xxv, Whose bullet through the night-air sang? 1883 Stevenson *Treas. Isl.* xviii, It did all our hearts good to see him..make the blade sing through the air.

7. Of the ears: To ring, tingle, be filled with a humming sound.

1621 Burton *Anat. Mel.* I. iii. II. ii, Their eares sing now and then. 1819 Scott *Ivanhoe* xl, I had forgotten the buffet, though mine ear sung after it for a whole day.. 1849 Eastwick *Dry Leaves* 112 The eye grows dizzy, and the ear sings with heat.

8. To admit of being sung; to be usually sung.

1728 Chambers *Cycl.* s.v. *Melody*, Yet so far as the Bass may be made airy, and to sing well, it may be also properly said to be Melodious. 1821 Mrs. Hemans *Lett.* in H. F. Chorley *Mem.* (1837) I. 83, I am anxious that the words should both sing well and read well. 1873 O'Curry *Lect. Anc. Irish* III. 391 Those verses..which sing to the air of *Ar Eire*, etc.

II. *trans.* **9.** To utter (songs, etc.) with musical modulations of the voice; also (quot. 1553), to articulate (words) in a singing tone.

Said of birds, etc., as well as of persons. Sometimes used *fig.* (cf. sense 2) to denote the composition of verse.

c 825 *Vesp. Psalter* cxxxvi. 4 Hu singað we song dryhtnes in eorðan fremðre? *c* 888 K. Ælfred *Boeth.* ii, Ða lioð þe ic wrecca ʒeo lustbærlice song, ic sceal nu heofiende singan. *c* 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* II. 352 þas galdor mon mæg singan on wunde. *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 7 Ebreisce folc sungen heore leof song ure helende to wurðinge. *a* 1250 *Prov. of Alfred* 355 Ne lief þu neuer..alle þe þinge þat þu iherest singe. 1297 R. Glouc. (Rolls) 3940 So murye & so gret was þat song þat me song þerinne wyde. 13.. *K. Alis.* 5195 (Laud MS.), Mery tyme it is in maij, þe foules syngeþ her lay. 1340 *Ayenb.* 268 Hy zonge þane zang þet non oþer ne may zynge. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 3698 Þai made as mery melody & musik þai sanng As in þe moneth of Mai. 1470–85 Malory *Arthur* x. xxxi. 464 The harper had songe his songe to the ende. 1530 Palsgr. 718/1, I synge him..a balade. 1553 T. Wilson *Rhet.* 117 b, Some sighes out their woordes. Some synges their sentences. 1601 [Bp. W. Barlow] *Serm. Paules Crosse* Pref. 14 How the late Earle:..song eyther the 54. or the 94. Psalme. 1660 Ingelo *Bentivo. & Ur.* I. (1682) 149 If they have not the words, which are sung, by heart, they have Copies of them given to them. 1710 Pope *Windsor For.* 434 To the list'ning swains First in these fields I sung the sylvan strains. 1798 Coleridge *Fears in Solitude* 18 The singing-lark (that sings unseen The minstrelsy that solitude loves best). 1827 D. Johnson *Ind. Field Sports* 202 A hundred dancing-girls sung their sprightly airs. 1846 Dickens *Cricket on Hearth* I, It's a dark night, sang the Kettle. 1848 Thackeray *Van. Fair* lxi, Suppose, on the other hand, your swan sings quite a different sort of dirge.

b. With object denoting the key, voice, note, etc. Also *fig.* (quot. 1600).

c 1386 Chaucer *Miller's T.* 146 Ther to he song som tyme a loud quynyble. 1423 Jas. I *Kingis Q.* liv, Quhare are thy notis smale, That thou of loue has song this morowe-tyde? ? *a* 1450 [see Bass *sb.*[6] 1]. 1500–20 Dunbar *Poems* xxii. 17 The pyet .. Fenʒeis to sing the nychtingalis nor. 1552 Huloet, Tenor, or he that singeth a tenor, *succentor*. 1600 Holland *Livy* xlv. xxxi. 1222 The third [statesman] betweene, sung a meane, and was crosse to the one and the other. 1611 Cotgr. s.v. *Chanter*, Who doth sing so merrie a note as he that cannot change a groat? *a* 1700 Evelyn *Diary* 25 July 1684, A Frenchman who sung an admirable basse. *a* 1791 Wesley *Wks.* (1872) VIII. 319 They must sing only the tenor. 1888 *Encycl. Brit.* XXIV. 275/1. So that an adult male can still sing the soprano parts.

c. With advs., as *forth, out, over*,.

1390 Gower *Conf.* I. 134 Thus I sang hem forth fulofte In halle. *a* 1400 *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.*..xxix..ii. 42 þe child..neuer-þe-latere song forþ his song. 1611 Bible *Wisd.* xviii. 9 The fathers now singing out the songs of praise. 1675 Brooks *Gold. Key* Wks. 1867 V. 303 How can he sing out the high praises of God? 1813 Scott *Rokeby* II. xvi, While linnet, lark, and blackbird gay, Sing forth her nuptial roundelay. 1848 Thackeray *Van. Fair* xxvi, She sate down at the piano.., and sang over all her father's favourite old songs.

10. In phrases: **a.** *To sing another song* or *a different tune*, to speak or act in a very different manner.

1390 Gower *Conf.* I. 260 O thou, which hast desesed The Court of France be thi wrong, Now schalt thou singe an other song. 1588 J. Udall *Diotrephes* (Arb.) 18 If they had euen my experience, they would sing another song. 1600 Heywood *If you know not me* Wks. 1874 I. 207 The Queene must heare you sing another song Before you part with vs. 1711 W. King tr. *Naude's Ref. Politics* iii. 91 The Jesuits begin to play their part, and sing another song. 1828 Scott *F. M. Perth* xxxiii, If it was not within two days of Palm Sunday, herself would make you sing another song. 1890 Henty *With Lee in Virginia* 124, I imagine he would sing a different tune if the blue coats ever get to Richmond.

b. *To sing the same* (or *one*) *song*, to tell the same tale, to harp on the same strain.

1550 Bale *Eng. Votaries* II. O j, In all their counsels they songe styll one song. 1583 Stubbes *Anat. Abus.* II. 39, I haue hard prisoners (and not any almost but they sing the same song)..arie out against brookers. 1646 Bp. Maxwell *Burd. Issach.* 14 This is so much obeyed, that the Ministers of the Kings Family, or Parish, must sing the same song. 1863 tr. *Ruffini's Vincenzo* II. xi. 183 After you have been here twelve *months*..you will sing the same song as I do now. 1898 Ld. E. Hamilton *Mawhin* viii, He was singing the same song himself just, no later than yestreen.

c. *To sing sol-fa, sorrow, woe*, to lament.

1566 Gascoigne *Supposes* IV. ii, If I come neere you, hempstring, I will teache you to sing sol fa. 1748 Jarvis *Quix.* I. iii. iv, It would be of service and use only to those who are dubbed knights..; as for the poor squires, they may sing sorrow. 1818 Scott *Rob Roy* xxxii, I will take such ample vengeance, that the very stones of their glens shall sing woe for it this hundred years to come!

d. *To hear a bird sing*, etc., denoting the receipt of private information. (Cf. Bird *sb.* 4.)

1597 Shaks. 2 *Hen. IV*, v. v. 113, I heare a Bird so sing, Whose Musicke (to my thinking) pleas'd the King. 1618 Fletcher *Loyal Subj.* IV. ii, I heard a Bird sing, they mean him no good office. 1672 Villiers (Dk. Buckhm.) *Rehearsal* II. ii. (Arb.) 53, I.. heard besides a grave Bird sing That they intend, sweet-heart, to play us pranks. 1845 Disraeli *Sybil* 285, I have had a bird too singing something in my ear these two days past.

11. To chant or intone (a lesson, mass, etc.).

Sometimes used in much the same sense as Say *v.*[1] 9.

a 850 *Lorica Prayer* 9 in *O. E. Texts* 174 Sing ðonne pater noster. *c* 960 *Rule St. Benet* (Schröer) xi. 35 Singe man ærest sex sealmas & þonne on ende fers. *c* 1030 *Ibid.* (Logeman) 39 Si an [ræding] of ðære ealdan ʒecyðnysse..ʒeræd oððe sungen. *c* 1122 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1122, þa hwile þe þa munecas sungen þære messe. *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 51 þe halie ureisuns þe me singeð in halie chirche. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 424 Bi þe weie ase heo geð go singinde hire beoden. 1297 R. Glouc. (Rolls) 9348 þe bissop of lincolne is masse song þo. 1320 *St. Brendan* (Bälz) 315 þe wile we singeþ evesong, hi scholleþ sitte and ete. 1338 R. Brunne *Chron.* (1810) 172 Better him wer..messe [to have] songen, & serued God alle myght. 1431 *Rec. St. Mary at Hill* (1905) 14 An honest Preest sufficiantly lerned in dyvynete to syng & sey dyuyne seruice. 1483 in *Lett. Rich. III & Hen. VII* (Rolls) I. 9 The masse of requiem .. was songon by the archbishop of Yorke. 1503 *Ibid.* 201 The Pater Noster was songen. 1593 Nashe *Christ's T.* (1613) 172 Because we may not build Monasteries, or haue Masses, Dirges, or Trentals sung for our soules [etc.]. 1699 J. Jackson *Let. to Pepys* 25 Dec., The Cardinals, &c., entering afterwards to sing vespers. 1700 T. Brown tr. *Fresny's Amusem.* iii. Wks. 1709 III. i. 22 Those Ladies that look thro' their Fingers while the Service is Singing. 1753 Challoner *Cath. Chr. Instr.* 93 In the high or solemn Mass the Gospel is sung by the Deacon. 1808 Scott *Marm.* VI. Introd. 31 On Christmas eve the mass was sung.

fig. 1827 Pollok *Course T.* VII, Whom fierce Winter seized,..And sang the requiem of his shivering ghost.

† **b.** With *out*: To exhaust the value of (a sum of money) in the celebration of masses. *Obs.*

c 1530 *Plumpton Corr.* (Camden) 228 When your prest at Boynton had song out all your ten pound, he kepes him still at his cost.

12. To declare, relate, recount, or celebrate, in song or verse.

c 825 *Vesp. Psalter* xx. 14 Hefe up, dryhten, in meʒne ðinum; we singað..mezen ðin. *c* 888 K. Ælfred *Boeth.* vii. § 3 Hwæt singað þa leoðwyrhtan oðres be ðisse woruld buton mislica hwearfunga? 971 *Blickl. Hom.* 231 He þa ..wæs Drihtnes lof singende on þæm carcerne. *c* 1205 Lay. 22976 Ne [is] al so[t]h ne al les, þat leod-scopes singeð. *a* 1325 *Prose Psalter* xx. 13 We shul syngen & psalmen þy vertuz. 1390 Gower *Conf.* I. 203 Thurgh tresoun of hire false tunge, Which thurgh the lond was after sunge: *c* 1400 *Beryn* 786 Philippus Augustinus, as songen is in layis,.. Was Emperour I-chose. 1531 Elyot *Gov.* I. vii, After he.. had songen the gestes and actes marcial of the ancient princis of Greece. 1557 *Tottel's Misc.* (Arb.) 150, I haue not songen, how This mischiefe came: but I intend With wofull voice to sing it now. 1636 Heywood *Challenge Beauty* II. i, I shall be Ballated, Sung up and downe by Minstrills. 1697 Dryden *Virg. Georg.* IV. 3 Mecænas, read this other part, that sings Embattel'd Squadrons and advent'rous Kings. 1738 Gray *Propertius* iii. 15 Sing with what a careless Grace she flings Her artful hand. 1762 Sir W. Jones *Arcadia* Poems (1777) 122 He sung the woes of artless swains. 1820 Byron *Juan* III. lxxix, He sung the Sultan and the Pacha. 1850 Mrs. Jamieson *Leg. Monast. Ord.* (1863) 61 He sang the creation of the world, and the origin of man.

transf. 1749 Fielding *Tom Jones* XII. xii, Jones afterwards proceeded very gravely to sing forth the happiness of those subjects who live under such a magistrate.

b. *To sing one's praises*, to be loud in laudation of (a person, etc.).

1565 Cooper *Thesaurus* s.v. *Cantus*, To synge ones greate prayses. 1610 B. Jonson *Alch.* II. i, I'll Be bound the players shall sing your praises, then, Without their poets. 1778 Mme. D'Arblay *Diary* 26 Aug., Dr. Johnson..was so caught by it..that he has sung its praises ever since. 1858 Thackeray *Virgin.* xxxi, May we modest Œnophilists not sing the praises of our favourite plant?

c. To proclaim in a musical or resonant manner; to announce clearly or distinctly. Also *fig.*

1605 *First Part of Ieronimo* I. i, My knee sings thanks vnto your highnes bountie. *c* 1616 Fletcher *Thierry & Theod.* I. ii, I hear a tempest coming, That sings mine and my kingdom's ruin: *a* 1668 Davenant *Man's the Master* III. ii, They sung us thanks ere we made them a fire. 1837 A. Tennent *Vis. Glencoe* 5 Hark how the pibroch shrilly sings The deeds of other years. 1848 Thackeray *Van. Fair* xviii, Before whose door the watchman sang the hours when she was asleep. 1897 *Pall Mall Mag.* Nov. 356 Put my eyes out, and I'll sing you the soundings foot by foot.

d. To call *out*. Also *transf.*

1833 M. Scott *Tom Cringle* i, 'Port your helm,' sung out the boatswain. 1837 Disraeli *Venetia* I. xvii, Suddenly a scout sang out that a party was in sight. 1848 Thackeray *Van. Fair* lvii, Moon and stars shining overhead, and the bell singing out the watch. 1850 — *Pendennis* iv, Clavering clock sang out one. 1901 *Daily Express* 28 Feb. 6/5, As the baskets go down they sing out the number where the money is to be placed.

13. a. To bring into a certain state, or to a certain place, by or with singing. Const. with preps. and advs. Also, † to lull by singing.

a 1500–34 *Coventry Corpus Christi Plays* (1902) 29 Here the wemen cum in wythe there chyldur, syngyng them. 1530 Palsgr. 718/1, I have songe thy brother aslepe. 1595 Shaks. *John* v. vii. 23 This pale faint Swan, Who..sings His soule and body to their lasting rest. 1600 — *A. Y. L.* IV. ii. 13 Then sing him home, the rest shall beare this burthen. 1730–46 Thomson *Autumn* 190 Like the gay birds that sung them to repose. 1778 Miss Burney *Evelina* xxi, If ever they do again, I'll give them leave to sing me to Bedlam for my pains. 1821 Clare *Vill. Minstr.* II. 3 The blackbird sang the sun to bed. 1868 Morris *Earthly Par.* (1870) I. 1. 306 The garden birds sang down the setting sun. 1877 Mrs. Oliphant *Makers Flor.* i. 21 All Florence danced and sung the sweet May in.

b. To take, drive, force, etc., by or with singing. Const. *away, forth, off, out of*, etc.

1604 Shaks. *Oth.* IV. i. 200 Oh she will sing the Saueagenesse out of a Beare. 1650 A. B. *Mutat. Polemo* 15 To be chirpingly drunk, and sing away sorrow. 1788 Cowper *Mischievous Bull* 23 The angry Muse thus sings thee forth, And claps the gate behind thee. 1810 Crabbe *Borough* xxiii. 154, I put on the man, Sing off my sighs, and trifle as I can. 1830 Praed *Palinodia* vii, When Laura sings young hearts away. 1875 M'Laren *Serm.* Ser. II. vi. 102 A truth which syren voices are constantly trying to sing us out of believing.

c. To spend or pass *away* (life) in singing.

1816 Shelley *Dæmon of World* II. 163 The winged habitants, That in the woods their sweet lives sing away.

d. To make (one's way) with singing.

1890 Hall Caine *Bondman* II. iii, There is a full stream that tumbles into the sea..after singing its way down from the heights of Barrule.

III. 14. In combs., as † **sing-alone**, a solo singer; † **sing-man**, a singing man. *nonce-words.*

1691 tr. *Emillianne's Frauds Rom. Monks* 208 Besides these there were in a little Box near the Altar, four Musicians, called Sing-alones. *Ibid.* 221 The Abbot sung the first Verse of Even-song, which was continued by the Music and Sing-men.

Sing (siŋ), *v.*[2] *Sc.* (and *north.*). Also 6 **signe**. *Pa. t.* **singed**, **singet**, **-it**; also **sang**, **sung**. [Northern form of Singe *v.*, perh. based on the early pa. t. and pa. pple. *sengde, sengd.* Frequently conjugated after Sing *v.*[1]] *trans.* To singe.

1543–5 *Aberdeen Register* XVIII. (Jam.), Sche causand sing the said houiss with ane turf of hedder. 1596 Dalrymple tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* I. 95 Thay thresche na stuf, bot with fyre thay signe it into the pile vpon the ground. *Ibid.*, Quhen thay haue signet it, thay winnow it. 1633 *Orkney Witch Trial* in Dalyell *Darker Superst. of Scot.* (1834) 193 Fyre ane piece of linying cleath, and sing ane hair of the beast. *a* 1689 W. Cleland *Poems* (1697) 19 Rebellious Books, Whose paper well might serve the Cooks, To sing their Poultrie. 1725 Ramsay *Gentl. Sheph.* II. i, Fat are the puddings,—heads and feet well sung. 1828 Buchan *Ballads* (1875) I. 122 [It] sang the points o' her yellow hair. 1884 Grant *Lays & Leg. North* 29 He steed until the flames hed sung The whiskers on his cheek.

Sing, obs. Sc. form of Sign *sb.*

Singable (siˈnjăbˈl), *a.* Also 4 **syngabil**. [f. Sing *v.*] That can be sung; suitable for singing.

In common use only from about 1865.

a 1340 Hampole *Psalter* cxviii. 54 Syngabil [L. *cantabiles*] was til me þi rightwisyngis. 1597 Morley *Introd. Mus.* Annot., The Minime they esteemed the least or shortest note singable, and therefore indiuisible. 1681 Morelli *Let. to Pepys* 11 Apr., All Baptist's bases are singable, where many of Pedro's are not so. *a* 1861 Mrs. Browning *Lett. R. H. Horne* (1877) I. 268 You probably know his ballads, which have a certain singable beauty in them. 1880 Haweis *Poets Pulpit* 178 He knew that the singable parts were generally imbedded in a portion which was not singable.

Hence **Siˈngableness**; also **Singabiˈlity**.

1869 *Pall Mall G.* 2 Dec. 12 That consummate simplicity and *singableness* which make Heine's lyrics so dear to his countrymen. 1888 *Alliance News* 5 May 352 Lyric character (singability).

Singalese, variant of Sinhalese.

Singalie, obs. Sc. form of Singly *adv.*

Singara, variant of Singhara.

Singcantor, variant of Sincanter *Obs.*

Singe (sinj), *sb.* Also 7 **sindge**. [f. the vb.] The act or effect of singeing; a slight surface burn, a scorch. Also *fig.*

1658 Sir T. Browne *Hydriot.* iii. 34 Other incinerable substances were found so fresh, that they could feel no sindge from fire. 1760–72 H. Brooke *Fool of Qual.* (1809) III. 80, I could not be cast into the furnace, and come forth without a singe. 1850 Ht. Martineau *Hist. Peace* IV. xiii. (1877) III. 123 Lafayette traversed a purgatory of human passions without a singe from any flame. 1855 Browning *Bp. Blougram* 722 Break fire's law..., although the penalty Be just a singe? 1888 Shorthouse *Countess Eve* xi, An appalling mystic light—the singe and glow of the flame of the pit!

Singe (sindʒ), *v.* Forms: 1 *sæn(c)gan*, **sen(c)gan**, 4 **seng**, 4–6 **senge** (5 **seenge**), 7 **sendge**; 5–6 **synge**, 6 **syndge**, 6–8 **sindge**, 7 **sindg**, 6– **singe**. See also SING *v.*[2] [OE. *sengan*, = OFris. *senga*, *singa* (WFris. *singe*, dial. *sinje*), MDu. and Du. *zengen*, MLG. and MHG. *sengen* (G. *sengen*, †*sängen*), related to Icel. *sangr* singed, *sengja* singed taste, Norw. *sengra*, *sengla* to smell of burning. The stem **sang-* may be related to SING *v.*[1] and have reference to the sound produced by violent singeing.]

1. *trans.* **a.** Of persons, etc.: To burn (something) superficially or lightly, to burn the ends or edges of (hair, wings, etc.); *esp.* to subject (the carcase of a pig, fowl, or other animal) to flame or fire in order to remove the bristles or hair.

c 1000 in Thorpe *Laws* I. 436 Ȝyme eac swan ðæt he æfter sticunge his slyht-swyn wel behweorfe, sænge. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Wife's Prol.* 349 For who so wolde senge a Cattes skyn, Thanne wolde the Cat wel dwellen in his In. *a* 1420 *Wycliffite Bible* Lev. xxiii. 11 *marg.*, The eeris of corn weren sengid in fier, and the cornes..weren schakun out. 1474 CAXTON *Chesse* III. ii. 74 He wold not that they shold vse ony yron but to brenne and senge his heeris. 1530 PALSGR. 718/1 Take away this candell, I have synged my heare. 1577 B. GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* III. (1586) 152 b, With a flame made with strawe, or stickes, syndge him. 1626 T. H[AWKINS] tr. *Caussin's Holy Cyt.* 42 No man blameth the candle..though butter flyes sindge theyr winges in it. 1675 HOBBES *Odyssey* (1677) 167 He..fetcht in two young pigs: not long he staid, But kill'd, sindg'd, jointed, roasted. 1710 STEELE *Tatler* No. 112 ¶ 2 [He] either clipped the Wings, or singed the Tails, of his innocent Captives. 1769 MRS. RAFFALD *Eng. Housekpr.* (1778) 57 Take your goose ready dressed, singe it and pour over it a quart of boiling milk. 1836 W. IRVING *Astoria* II. 103 The hunters..will venture so near as sometimes to singe his hair with the flash of the rifle. 1886 PASCOE *London of To-day* xl. (ed. 3) 345 If the hair is..to be dressed, singed, shampooed. *fig.* 1583 GREENE *Mamillia* II. Wks. (Grosart) II. 259 They are singed at the sight of her faire face. 1771 SMOLLETT *Humph. Cl.* (1815) 71 She had gone such lengths in the way of flirting with a recruiting officer, that her reputation was a little singed. 1855 KINGSLEY *Westw. Ho!* xxix, I go forthwith..down the coast, to singe the King of Spain's beard. 1869 BROWNING *Ring & Bk.* VII. 1640 'Twas truth singed the lies And saved me.

† **b.** To burn, consume with fire; to cauterize (a sore). *Obs.*

a 1400–50 *Alexander* 5206 We sall his cite & him-selfe synge in-to poudire. 1615 G. SANDYS *Trav.* 242 Who will forget Catania? of high fame For pietie of brothers sindg'd in flame. 1621 SANDERSON *Serm.* I. 171 It must needs be some grief..to the patient to have an old festered sore searched and singed.

c. *techn.* To pass (a woven fabric) over a heated plate or roller, or through gas flame, in order to remove superfluous fibres, or to dress the nap.

1728, 1800 [see SINGEING *vbl. sb.*]. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 1139 In some shops, semi-cylinders of copper..have been substituted for those of iron, in singeing goods prior to bleaching them. 1875 *Ure's Dict. Arts* (ed. 7) I. 369 For goods to be finely printed both sides are singed.

2. Of fire or flame: To burn (something) slightly or superficially. Also *techn.* (cf. 1 c).

1340 *Ayenb.* 229 Þet uer þet zengþ and bernþ ofte þe huyte robe of chastete and of maydenhod. 1494 *Act* 11 *Hen. VII*, c. 27 They..take a light candell..which sengieth and brenneth away the cotton of the same fustyan. 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 255 b, It singed trees and turned them up by the rootes. 1596 SHAKS. *Merch. V.* II. ix. 79 Thus hath the candle sing'd the moath. 1659 LOVELACE *Poems* (1864) 191 The fire Might sindge thy upper down attire. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 7 Sept. 1666, The..smoake and fiery vapour, continu'd so intense that my haire was almost sing'd. 1782 J. BROWN *Nat. & Rev. Relig.* II. iii. 202 It did not singe their clothes or hair. 1871 L. STEPHEN *Playgr. Eur.* (1894) vii. 159 A bright flash of lightning seemed to singe our beards. 1884 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* Suppl. 813/2 The flame applied directly under the roller singes the cloth thoroughly.

transf. 1612 DRAYTON *Poly-olb.* v. 312 The scorching sky Doth singe the sandy wilds of spiceful Barbary.

† **b.** Used to describe the effect produced by intense cold. (Cf. BURN *v.*[1] 13 d.) *Obs.*

1600 HOLLAND *Livy* XXI. xxxii. 411 The cattell, sheepe, oxen, and horses, singed with cold. 1601 — *Pliny* II. 319 Hogs grease..healeth burns and scaldings, yea, though one were scortched and sendged with snow.

3. To take *off*, remove, by superficial burning.

1590 SHAKS. *Com. Err.* v. i. 171 The Doctor, Whose beard they haue sindg'd off with brands of fire. 1651 HOBBES *Leviath.* IV. xliv. 348 Depose their erroneous Doctrines, and Traditions, and have them as it were sindged off. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* III. viii. (ed. 4) 503 The galeon's colours being singed off the ensign-staff in the beginning of the engagement. 1825 J. NICHOLSON *Operat. Mech.* 415 These operations consist generally of singing the superfluous fibres from the surface of the cloth, by drawing it over hot irons. 1844 G. DODD *Textile Manuf.* ii. 48 *Singeing-furnace*, a heated surface of copper, over which the strip of cotton is drawn rapidly.., by which the light airy filaments are singed from the surface of the cloth.

Singe, obs. f. SIGN *sb.* and *v.*[1], SING *v*

Singed (sindʒd), *ppl. a.*[1] Forms: 4 **seynd**, 5 **seynt**; 4 **senged**, 6 **singde**, 6–7 **sindg'd**, 7–8 **sing'd**, 7– **singed**. [f. SINGE *v.* + -ED [1].] That has been subjected to the process of singeing; scorched or slightly burnt, or presenting the appearance of this; parched.

c 1386 CHAUCER *Nun's T.* 25 Milk and broun breed..Seynd Bacon and somtyme an Ey or tweye. *c* 1395 *Plowman's Tale* 19 (Thynne), He knew wel by hys senged snoute, He was a man wonte to walke about. 1426 LYDG. *De Guil. Pilgr.* 13703, I sawh a wekke..Pyled and seynt as any kaat. 1594 *1st Pt. Contention* I. iv, Where Pluto in his firie Waggon sits, Ryding amidst the singde and parched smoakes. 1634 MILTON *Comus* 928 Summer drouth, or singed air Never scorch thy tresses fair. 1693 DRYDEN *Persius* vi. 497 Shall I be fed With sodden Nettles, and a sing'd Sow's Head? 1700 — *Fables, Cock & Fox* 34 Rashers of sindg'd bacon on the coals. 1725 POPE *Odyss.* XIV. 475 Tnen the sing'd members they with skill divide. 1820 SCOTT *Monast.* xvi, Flesh, which, in its sable and singed shape, seemed [etc.]. 1829 GRIFFITH tr. *Cuvier* VIII. 42 Singed Grous, *Pterocles Exustus*. 1884 W. S. B. MCLAREN *Spinning* (ed. 2) 27 A yellow singed appearance is given by using soap with much resin, or much alkali.

b. *Singed cat*, in allusive use (see quots.). *U.S.*

1847 HALIBURTON *Old Judge* I. ii. 44 It don't do to hang a feller for his looks, after all, that's a fact; for that crittur is like a singed cat, better nor he seems. 1858 in Bartlett *Dict. Amer.* (1859), We reckon there'll be fun; as a Cincinnati paper says Pryne is a perfect singed cat. 1859 *Ibid.*, *Singed cat*, an epithet applied to a person whose appearance does him injustice.

Singed (si·nĕd, sind), *ppl. a.*[2] *Sc.* (and *north.*). Also 8–9 **singet**, 9 **singit**. [f. SING *v.*[2] + -ED [1].] = prec. Also *fig.* and *Comb.*

a 1682 SEMPILL *Blythsome Wedding* 64 A sing'd sheep's head and a haggize. 1737 RAMSAY *Sc. Prov.* (1750) 40 He's like the singed cat, better than he's likely. 1789 BURNS *Kirk's Alarm* vii, Singet Sawney! Singet Sawney! Are ye huirdin' the penny? 1808 JAMIESON, *Singit-like*, puny, shrivelled. 1857 J. STEWART *Sk. Scot. Character* 64 (E.D.D.), Your singit shargie o' a laddie.

Singeing (si·ndʒiŋ), *vbl. sb.* Also 7 **cingeing**, etc. [f. SINGE *v.* + -ING [1].] The action of the vb., in various senses. Also *fig.*

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 453/1 Seengynge,..*ustillacio*. 1591 PERCIVALL *Sp. Dict.*, *Chamusquina*, singeing with fire. *c* 1626 BACON *Advt. touching Holy War* (1629) 40, I remember Drake, in the vaunting stile of a Souldier, would call this Enterprise: The Cingeing of the King of Spaines Beard. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Sheering*, Some use the Phrase Sheering of Hats, for the passing of Hats made of Wooll over the Flame of a clear Fire...Others call this Flaming and others Sindging. 1764 HARMER *Observ.* iv. § 23. 183, I do not remember an account of any things being prepared for food by singeing. 1800 *Patent Specif., Bleaching, Dyeing*, etc. (1859) 78 All kinds of woollen cloth..may be finished.. by singeing instead of cropping or shearing. 1820 BYRON *Juan* v. cli, The singeing of a single inky whisker. 1859 CORNWALLIS *New World* I. 177 The forest, instead of being burnt up, merely showed signs of singeing. 1895 J. L. MAXWELL *Life W. B. Thomson* x. 101 My attention was drawn to an intolerable smell of singeing.

b. *Comb.*, as *singeing-furnace, -lamp, plate, -machine, stove*, etc.

1800 *Patent Specif., Bleaching, Dyeing*, etc. (1859) 78 Drawing the cloth..over the singeing plate. 1805 LUCCOCK *Nature of Wool* 158 For this purpose he employs the shears, the singing stoves and the press with its heated plates. 1844 G. DODD *Textile Manuf.* ii. 48 Singeing-furnace. 1872 GEO. ELIOT *Middlem.* XXVII, Flirtation, after all, was not necessarily a singeing process. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2186/2. 1884 *Ibid.* Suppl. 813/2 A gas singeing machine intended for removing or dressing the nap on woven goods.

Si·ngeing, *ppl. a.* [-ING [2].] That singes; burning, scorching.

1598 YONG *Diana* 286 Then thornes More sharpe and pricking with thy singing scornes. 1602 MARSTON *Antonio's Rev.* III. ii, May I be numd with horror, and my vaines Pucker with sing'ing torture. 1891 MISS DOWIE *Girl in Karp.* 229 In the singeing heat of..ten o'clock.

Hence **Si·ngeingly** *adv.*

1655–87 H. MORE *App. Antid.* (1712) 220, I confess that the Bodies of Devils may be not only warm, but sindgingly hot. *Ibid.* 221.

Singel, obs. form of SHINGLE *sb.*[1]

Singer[1] (si·ŋəɹ). Also 4 **syngere**, 5–6 **synger**; 5 **synggare**, 6 **syngar**, **singar(e**. [f. SING *v.*[1] + -ER [1]. Cf. Fris. *sjonger*, MDu. *singer*, MHG. *singære*, G. *singer*.]

1. One who sings; a trained vocalist; also *spec.* in eccl. use (quot. 1843).

c 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 4024 After Sysilly com Glegabret, A syngere of þe beste get. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Pard. T.* 17 And right anon thanne comen Tombesteres,.. Syngeres with harpes. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 456/1 Syngare, *cantor*. 1486 *Rec. St. Mary at Hill* (1905) 5 Namely, that he..help the Syngers after his cunnyng in the honour of our blessed lady. 1538 STARKEY *England* II. i. 154 Marchauntys therof [pleasures] and craftys men, syngarys and playarys apon instrumentys. 1598 SHAKS. *Merry W.* I. iii. 29 His filching was like an vnskilfull Singer, he kept not time. *a* 1652 BROME *City Wit* III. ii, He has been..one of the sweet singers to the city Funerals. 1756–7 tr. *Keysler's Trav.* (1760) IV. 393 The vocal musicians, or singers,..perform even in private houses for money. 1781 GIBBON *Decl. & F.* XXXI. III. 216 Three thousand singers, with the masters of the respective chorusses. 1828 SCOTT *F. M. Perth* x, My judgment is not deep, my lord; but the singer may dispense with my approbation. 1843 HAMMOND *Def. Faith Œcumen. Councils* 183 If a Subdeacon, Reader, or Singer commits the same things. 1880 'VERNON LEE' *Haly* III. ii. 113 Farinelli..was proud of being a singer and afraid of being a political agent.

b. Of song-birds. (More frequently *songster*.)

1626 BACON *Sylva* § 239 We see also, that Cock-birds, among Singing-birds, are ever the better singers. 1849 CRAIG s.v., The canary is a fine singer. 1896 tr. *Boas' Text-bk. Zool.* 462 Singers (*Sylviadæ*)...Some of them noted singers.

2. A composer of poetry or verse; a poet.

1560 BIBLE (Geneva) 2 *Sam.* xxiii. 1 Dauid.., the swete singer of Israel. 1652 (*title*), Herbert's Remains, or, sundry Pieces of that sweet Singer of the Temple. *a* 1704 T. BROWN *Presbyt. Proposals* Wks. 1711 IV. 126 Quakers, Muggletonians and Sweet-Singers of Israel. 1874 GREEN *Short Hist.* vii. § 7. 423 Amidst the throng in Elizabeth's antechamber the noblest form is that of the singer who lays the 'Faerie Queen' at her feet. 1880 LANIER *Sci. Eng. Verse* Pref., Wyatt, Surrey, Sackville, and a host of less known or unknown singers.

attrib. *c* 1843 CARLYLE *Hist. Sk.* (1898) 74 A sterling man, a true Singer-heart. 1906 *Month* July 90 Some prayer that has come through the centuries from a singer-saint.

Singer[2] (si·ndʒəɹ). [f. SINGE *v.* + -ER [1].] One who or that which singes.

1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2187/1 *Singer*, an apparatus through which cotton or woolen goods are passed to relieve them of their fluff, preparing them for the dyer. 1891 in *Cent. Dict.*

† **Si·ngeress.** *Obs. rare.* [f. SINGER [1] + -ESS.] A female singer.

1382 WYCLIF *Ezra* ii. 65 In hem singeres and singeressis, two hundrid. — *Ecclus.* ii. 8, I made to me singeris and singeresses.

Singhalee·. *rare* −[1]. = SINHALESE 2.

1847 *Simmons' Col. Mag.* May 14 We've been a studying Singhalee.

Singhalese, variant of SINHALESE.

‖ **Singhara** (siŋghā·ra). Also **singara.** [Hindī *singhārā*.] The water-chestnut (*Trapa bispinosa*) of India, or the edible nut produced by this. Usually *attrib.* with *nut.*

1834 *Penny Cycl.* II. 478/2 The Singhara nut..forms an object of general cultivation in the lakes which surround the city of Cashmere. 1859 *All Year Round* No. 32. 126 The seeds of the araucarian pine,..and the singhara, or water-nut, are all highly recommended..as substitutes for potatoes. 1885 *Encycl. Brit.* XVIII. 71/2 The jhils supply the villages with wild rice..and the singhara water-nut.

Singilly, obs. form of SINGLY *adv.*

Singing (si·ŋiŋ), *vbl. sb.* Also 4–6 **syngyng**(e, 5 **syngynge**, etc. [f. SING *v.*[1] + -ING [1].]

1. The action of the verb; chanting; also, matter suitable for singing.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 20587 Omang þat singing and þat gleu Our leuedi hir sun ihesu knew. 1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. XI. 145, I [was] saued, as ȝe may se, with-oute syngyng of masses. *c* 1400 *Rule St. Benet* 1162 In ayn oþer plase sais he þat angels sal our synging se. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 78 Cyngynge of songe, *cantus*. *Ibid.*, Cyngynge of masse, *celebracio*. 1484 *Paston Lett.* III. 314 Sche seyd that ther wer non dysgysyngs, ner harpyng, ner lutyng, ner syngyn. 1535 COVERDALE 1 *Chron.* vii. 31 They mynistred before the habitacion of the Tabernacle of witnes with synginge. 1579 SPENSER *Sheph. Cal.* May 21 With singing, and shouting, and iolly chere. 1611 BIBLE *Song Sol.* ii. 12 The time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land. 1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* III. 90 They are naturally inclined to singing. 1700 TYRRELL *Hist. Eng.* II. 763 Yet was he received by the Clergy with a Solemn Procession and Singing. 1772 WESLEY *Jrnl.* 21 Apr., Every one stood up at the singing. 1817 SHELLEY *Fragm., To one Singing* 2 Upon the liquid waves of thy sweet singing. 1863 W. C. BALDWIN *Afr. Hunting* 72 The horrid noise which the Kaffirs made, and call singing. 1872 T. HARDY *Under Greenw. Tree* Pref., Some of these compositions which now lie before me..are good singing still.

b. With *a* and pl. An instance of this.

c 1374 CHAUCER *Troylus* III. 1716 In blisse, and in syngynges, This Troylus gan all his lyf to lede. *c* 1440 *Jacob's Well* 164 Leccherous maners, as kyssynges, felynges, dern syngynges. 1591 SPENSER *M. Hubberd* 454 Their Diriges, their Trentals, and their shrifts, Their memories, their singings, and their gifts. 1661 *Papers Alter. Prayer-bk.* 80 They use not the same prayers, singings or readings. 1684 *Foxe's A. & M.* III. 390 Neither their singings, nor their sayings, shall bring us out of Hell.

2. The emission of a clear musical note by fermenting or heated liquids.

c 1460 J. RUSSELL *Bk. Nurture* 113 ȝiff þe wyne reboyle, þow shalle know by hys syngynge. 1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss.* s.v., The sound made by damp wood when burning is also called singing.

3. A sound of a musical character having its origin *in* the ears or head.

1605 CHAPMAN *All Fools* v. i, I'll swear I had A singing in my head a whole week after. 1614 W. B. *Philosopher's Banquet* (ed. 2) 78 The iuyce..allayes the singing in the Eares. 1656 HARRINGTON *Oceana* (1700) 163, I have a singing in my head like that of a Cartwheel. 1766 *Phil. Trans.* LVII. 70 The giddiness in my head, singing in my ears,.. were now considerably abated. 1889 *Jrnl. Anthropol. Instit.* XIX. 119 Singings in the ear, gurglings in the throat.

4. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *singing face, gear, -master, matter, robes, -school, skill, -voice*; **singing-bone,** *dial.*, the funny-bone; † **singing-book**, a book to sing from; **singing-e'en**, *Sc.*, New Year's eve; † **singing gift** (see quot.); † **singing loaf**, = SINGING BREAD; **singing-muscle**, one of the syringeal muscles of a singing-bird (*Cent. Dict.*); † **singing psalms**, the metrical version of the psalms used for singing in church; † **singing wine**, ? wine used in celebrating mass.

1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss.*, **Singing-bone*, the sharp bone at the edge of the elbow. 1580 ALLEN in J. Gillow *Haydock Papers* (1888) 17 To employ the same summe..upon a payre of organs, one table, and certayne *singing bookes. 1607 [? BREWER] *Lingua* I. ix, When shall wee heare a new set of singing-books, or th' viols, or the consort of Instruments. 1806 A. DOUGLAS *Poems* 24 *Singin'-e'en she's owre aft seen, She's shakin' hands wi' fifty. 1846 DICKENS *Cricket on Hearth* II, He hadn't what is generally termed a *singing face. 1530 *Knaresb. Wills*

(Surtees) I. 26 That he shall have his tytle and *singynge geyr boughte at the coste of my sayd wyeffe. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 456/2 *Syngynge 3yfte, or reward for syngynge, *syparium*. 1530 TINDALE *Pract. Prelates* f viij, A great deale of flower wolde not make so manye hostes, as they call them, or *synginge loues. 1546 PHAER *Bk. Childr.* (1553) T viij b, Make a fewe pylles of aloes,..wynde them in a piece of a singing lofe,..and let them be swalowed. 1711 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 112 P 2 He..employed an itinerant *Singing-Master..to instruct them rightly in the Tunes of the Psalms. 1818 SCOTT *Rob Roy* XXXVII, If there is any truth in your news, is it a *singing matter, you scoundrel? 1679 BUNYAN *Fear of God* Wks. 1852 I. 473, I will set it before thee both as it is in the reading and in the *singing psalms. 1710 W. BEVERIDGE *Wks.* (1846) VIII. 615 Great endeavours..have been made..to cast out the Old, and bring in a New Version of the Singing-Psalms. 1841 DE QUINCEY *Homer & Homeridæ* Wks. 1857 VI. 362 When his *singing robes were on,..the *rhapsodos* held his stick in his right hand. 1736 AINSWORTH, A *singing school, *ludus musicus*. 1838 G. F. GRAHAM *Mus. Comp.* Introd. p. x, In the sixth century Pope Gregory I established a singing-school at Rome. *c* 1600 F. DAVISON in Farr *S. P. Eliz.* (1845) II. 331 Let my tongue lose *singing skill. 1880 LANIER *Sci. Eng. Verse* i. 28 These are the limits for the human *singing-voice. 1558 *Fraternity Holy Ghost, Basingstoke* (1882) 9 Item payed for *singinge wyne, ij d.

b. Of places used for singing in, as *singing-gallery, -house, loft, -pew, -place, -seat, theatre.*

1688 MIÈGE *Grt. Fr. Dict.* I, *Jubé*,..a singing Place. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 14 Sept 1644, At the end of it is a Cupola or singing theatre. 1750 *Phil. Trans.* XLVI. 708 The Reading-Desk stands just by the Singing-Pew. 1770 *Ibid.* LXI. 74 The lightning entered..through two places in the roof, one near the singing loft. *c* 1820 S. ROGERS *Italy, Como* (1839) 211 That shady nook, a singing place for birds. 1850 THACKERAY *Pendennis* XX, The theatres and singing-houses which these roaring young blades frequented. 1864 WHITTIER *Wreck of Rivermouth* 109 In the singing-seats young eyes were dim. 1883 C. C. PERKINS *Ital. Sculp.* 139 A singing-gallery (cantoria) in the Cathedral.

Si·nging, *ppl. a.* Also 4–5 **syngynge.** [-ING².]

I. 1. That sings; giving forth song.

c 1340 *Nominale* (Skeat) 128 Syngynge man silden weputh. *c* 1586 C'TESS PEMBROKE *Ps.* LXVI. ii, All earth, I say, and all earth dwellers, Be of his worth the singing tellers. 1599 SHAKS. *Hen. V*, I. ii. 198 The singing Masons building roofes of Gold. 1779 *Mirror* No. 24, We have the whistling plowman, the singing milk-maid. 1798 COLERIDGE *Fears in Solitude* 3 O'er stiller place No singing skylark ever poised himself. 1820 SHELLEY *Prometh. Unb.* IV. 515 The bright visions, Wherein the singing spirits rode and shone. 1882 J. PARKER *Apostolic Life* I. 12 Like a singing angel newly sent from the glad heavens.

b. In names of birds, etc.

1864–5 WOOD *Homes without H.* xii. (1868) 218 A most beautiful pensile nest is made by the Singing Honey-Eater (*Ptilotus sonorus*). 1884 GOODE *Nat. Hist. Aquat. Anim.* 253 The *Batrachidæ* are represented on the Pacific coast by the 'Singing-fish', or 'Toad-fish', *Porichthys porosissimus*.

2. Specially or professionally employed in singing; engaged or hired to sing: **a.** *Singing man*, a man engaged to sing in an ecclesiastical choir.

1527–8 *Rec. St. Mary at Hill* (1905) 346 Paide to a singing-man of Sent Anthis..for keping of our lady mas. 1597 MORLEY *Introd. Mus.* 156 To haue plaide it on the Organes with a quier of singing men. 1602 CAMPION *Art Eng. Poesie* ii. 6 Sir Thomas Moore..makes two sundry Epitaphs vpon the death of a singing man at Westminster.* 1655 FULLER *Ch. Hist.* II. xvii. 179 He heavily aggravated the debauchednesse of Singingmen. 1725 *Portland Papers* VI. (Hist. MSS. Comm.) 100 Mr. Bierly..married a daughter of Dan. Williams the Singing-man of Westminster. 1789 BURNEY *Hist. Mus.* III. i. 22 He procured a singing-man's place in the cathedral of Norwich. 1801 BUSBY *Dict. Mus.*, *Singing-Man*, the appellation formerly given by the common people to the gentlemen of cathedral choirs. 1905 E. CANDLER *Unveiling of Lhasa* xiv. 269 The Abbot begins the chant, and the monks, facing each other like singing-men in a choir, repeat the litany.

fig. 1594 NASHE *Unfort. Trav.* Wks. (Grosart) V. 120 As many sortes of shrill breasted birdes, as the Summer hath allowed for singing men in her siluane chapels.

b. Similarly *singing boy, clerk.* Also, in other than ecclesiastical use, *singing girl, woman.*

1535 COVERDALE 2 *Chron.* XXXV. 25 All the synginge men and wemen [1611 the singing women]. 1548 ELYOT *Dict., Cantrix*,..a syngyng woman. 1666 PEPYS *Diary* 26 Feb., And hither come cushions to us, and a young singing-boy to bring us a copy of the anthem to be sung. 1682 N. O. *Boileau's Lutrin* IV. 25 Let Singing-boyes Whose Pension's pay for 't, do those Drudgeries I. 1709 STEELE *Tatler* No. 41 P 6 Mr. John Taplash..desires your Vote for Singing-Clerk of this Parish. 1776 *Addit. Wks. Pope* I. 35 With wives I never sin, But singing girls and mimicks draw me in. 1820 T. MITCHELL *Aristoph.* II. 302 The dicast..enters with a torch in one hand, and leads a singing-girl in the other. 1880 BROWNING *Mulleyheh* 59 For a couple of singing-girls his robe has he torn in two.

3. *Singing bird*, a bird that sings; a songster. Usually applied to cage-birds; the pl. is also sometimes used as a rendering of OSCINES 2.

1565 COOPER *Thesaurus, Cantrices aues*, syngyng byrdes. 1593 SHAKS. *Rich. II*, I. iii. 288 (Q.¹), Suppose the singing birds musitions. 1626 [see SINGER¹ 1 b]. 1711 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 5 P 7 The next time it is Acted, the Singing Birds will be Personated by Tom-Tits. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) V. 339 Of the Canary-bird, and other hard billed Singing-birds. 1818 SCOTT *Rob Roy* v, They are like imprisoned singing-birds. 1871 T. R. JONES *Anim. Kingd.* (ed. 4) 772 It is owing to the capacity of the air-cells that the Singing Birds are enabled to prolong their notes.

transf. 1848 KINGSLEY *Saint's Trag.* III. iv, Mealy-mouthed inquisitors, and shaven singing-birds.

4. That makes or gives out a sound of a musical character (cf. SING *v.*¹ 6).

1565 COOPER *Thes., Sagitta stridens*, a syngyng arow. 1629 QUARLES *Argalus & P.* III. Wks. (Grosart) III. 274/1 His winged messenger..did hide His singing feathers in his wounded side. 1642 FULLER *Holy & Prof. St.* V. xvi. 423 Malice, which,..like hollow singing bullets, flies but halfway to the mark. 1716 POPE *Iliad* V. 214 Through the thick storm of singing spears he flies. 1791 COWPER *Iliad* XVIII. 432 The water in the singing brass Simmer'd. 1820 SHELLEY *Prometh. Unb.* IV. 235 Sounds Sweet as a singing rain of silver dew. 1855 LONGF. *Hiaw.* Introd. 48 Beyond them..Stood the groves of singing pine-trees. 1897 MARY KINGSLEY *W. Africa* 175 A patch of singing sand under my feet.

b. *Singing-buoy*, a buoy having something attached which gives out a singing sound. *Singing coal* (see quot. 1883). *Singing glass* (see quot. 1875). *Singing hinny* (north. dial.), a kind of cake which emits a hissing sound while cooking on a girdle. *Singing tree*, a West Indian tree, the pods of which make a singing sound when stirred by the wind.

1894 *Outing* XXIV. 460/2 A *singing-buoy had been torn from its moorings. 1855 J. PHILLIPS *Man. Geol.* 193 Strata, including *singeing [*sic*] coal. 1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coalm.* 223 *Singing Coal*, a bed of coal from which gas is ordinarily issuing from the partly-exposed face in the mine, producing a hissing sound. 1669 PEPYS *Diary* 23 Feb., I had one or two *singing-glasses made, which make an echo to the voice, the first that ever I saw. 1792 G. GALLOWAY *Poems* 34 To see..Mr. Cartwright's singing glasses. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2187/1 *Singing-glass*, a thin, sonorous glass vessel, which yields an echo when vibrated by a sound. 1825 BROCKETT *N. C. Gloss., Singin* or *Singing-hinny*, a kneaded spice cake baked on the girdle; indispensable in a pitman's family. 1863 MRS. GASKELL *Sylvia's Lovers* IV, Neither cream nor finest wheaten flour was wanting for 'turf-cakes' and 'singing-hinnies'. 1885 LADY BRASSEY *The Trades* 340 The *flamboyant*..is very abundant here [the Bahamas]; as is also the '*singing' tree, which we first saw in Jamaica.

II. 5. Of the nature of singing; having the musical qualities of song.

a 1425 *Cursor M.* 11244 (Trin.), Aungels..brouȝt word with syngynge steuen. *a* 1586 SIDNEY *Ps.* XXXIII. ii, O now accord Viols with singing voice. *c* 1586 C'TESS PEMBROKE *Ps.* LXVIII. xi, On the Lord your singing gladnes spend. 1697 C. LESLIE *Snake in Grass* (ed. 2) 115 A She-Preacher..with a Trembling Voice, and Singing Tone. 1725 RAMSAY *Gentl. Sheph.* I. ii, The water fa's, and makes a singand din. 1762 *Ann. Reg.* II. 37, I have acquired by habit that singing tone of voice which is common in our mountains. 1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* II. xvii. 317 The intervals between the louder reports being filled by a low singing noise.

†Singing bread. *Obs.* [Cf. SING *v.*¹ 3 and 11.] The wafer used in the celebration of the mass.

1432–3 *Will of E. Strete* (Comm. Crt. London), Duo par de bakyngirnes, unum pro shosynlyngbred [?] & aliud pro singyngbred. 1453 *Test. Ebor.* (Surtees) II. 190 Item j box of silver covered, for syngyngbrede. 1527 in Lewis *Life Fisher* (1855) I. 314 These prestis makith us to beleve, that the synginge brede they holde ouer their hedes is god, and it is but a cake. 1570 B. GOOGE *Pop. Kingd.* IV. 51 b, And least in grave he shoulde remaine, without some companie, The singing bread is layde with him. 1616 SURFL. & MARKHAM *Country Farme* V. xxii. 585 Singing breads are made after the manner of Oublies, saue only that the meale whereof they are kneaden is not mingled with Honey, Sugar, or any manner of Leaven whatsoever.

Singing cake.

†1. = SINGING BREAD. *Obs.*

1553 BECON *Reliques of Rome* (1563) 258 A patten with the hoste or singing cake. 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 43 He hath..delivered into his handes a chalice with wine and water, also the gilt Patent with a singing Cake. 1577–87 HOLINSHED *Chron.* III. 1102/2 A cat.., with hir fore feet tied togither, and a round peece of paper like a singing cake betwixt them. 1607 R. C[AREW] tr. *Estienne's World Wond.* 342 Vnconsecrated singing cakes (as they terme them).

† b. Used as a wafer for sealing with. *Obs.*

1582 MUNDAY *Eng. Rom. Life* 5 These Letters finished, and sealed vp with singing Cake, he delyuered vnto vs.

2. *Sc.* A cake given to singers on Hogmanay.

1894 'H. HALIBURTON' (J. L. ROBERTSON) *Furth in Field* 28 Money was sometimes added to the ordinary gift of 'singing' cakes and cheese. 1894 MELDRUM *Margrédel* I. 6, I remember that dining at the Ollphant's crowned the joy of singing-cakes and other delights.

Si·ngingly, *adv.* [f. SINGING *ppl. a.*] In a singing manner or tone.

1575 G. NORTH tr. *Philibert's Philosopher at Court* 16 Counterfaite Courtiers..speaking lispingly, and answering singingly. 1856 DORAN *Knights & their Days* viii. 122 He ..takes the half dozen damsels..and swings singingly along with them in search of the roving Scot.

Single (si·ng'l), *sb.* Also 5 **sengle,** 6 **syngle,** *Sc.* **singill.** [Substantival use of SINGLE *a.*]

1. a. *Falconry.* The middle or outer claw on the foot of a hawk or falcon. Now only *arch.*

Chiefly in *pl.*, the middle claws being called the *long singles*, and the outer the *petty singles*. In early use the singles were distinguished from the pounce and talon; later writers sometimes use the word vaguely to denote all the claws.

1486 *Bk. St. Albans* a iiij, The clees that are upon the myddil stretchers ye shall call the longe sengles. And the uttermost clees ye shall call the pety sengles. 1575 TURBERV. *Falconrie* 123 If a falcon trusse..you muste cope his tallantes, his powlse, and his petie single. 1607 HEYWOOD *Wom. killed w. Kindn.* Wks. 1874 II. 99 Both her petty singles And her long singles griped her more than other. 1614 LATHAM *Falconry* (1633) 134 When you do perceiue that your Hawke hath caught a straine..in any of the lesser ioynts of the singles. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* II. 237/2 The Singles, or Petty Singles, are the Toes of the Hawk. 1820 SCOTT *Monast.* xxiv, What! struggling, fluttering, aiming at me with beak and single? 1860 H. AINSWORTH *Ovingdean Grange* 61 Like the Barbary falcon, armed with strong singles and pounces. 1882 *Blackw. Mag.* Sept. 368 Like the muirfowl quivering in the singles of a falcon.

b. *Hunting.* The tail of a deer.

1576 TURBERV. *Venerie* 243 The tayle of Harte, Bucke, Rowe, or any other Deare, is to be called the Syngle. 1590 COCKAINE *Hunting* D j, He will close vp his mouth as though he had not been..hunted that day, making a bragge and setting vp his single. 1634 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* 14 Such as want that treasure, make use of singles of Deere, beaks of Birds [etc.]. 1675 COTTON *Burlesque upon B.* 175 That single wagging at thy Butt, Those Gambrils, and that cloven foot. 1711 PUCKLE *Club* 90 His next discourse was of the tail or single of a deer. 1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss., Single*, the tail of a deer. Used on the north-eastern side of the county. 1865 G. F. BERKELEY *Life & Recoll.* II. 280 We found a doe..I killed her myself, and cutting off the single..I presented it to D'Anchald.

transf. 1592 LYLY *Midas* IV. iii, There was a boy leasht on the single...*Licio*. Whats that? *Pet.* Why, a boy was beaten on the taile with a leathern thong.

† c. *pl.* Entrails, intestines. *Obs.*—¹

1567 GOLDING *Ovid's Met.* VII. 353 She put thereto the..flesh and feathers of a Witch.., The Singles [L. *prosecta*] also of a Wolfe.

2. *Sc.* and *north. dial.* A handful or small bundle of gleanings.

The form current in the west midlands is SONGLE.

1508 DUNBAR *Flyting* 116 Thow lay full prydles in the peise this somer, And fane at evin for to bring hame a single. 1615 in Ritchie *Churches of St. Baldred* 150 He did thresh but a verie short space—twa or thre Singles—in his necessitie. 1786 *Har'st Rig* XXVI, They're great thieves. For which they're ordered far behind, To mak such singles as they find. 1806 A. DOUGLAS *Poems* 123 They're fu' glad To gather singles on the shade. 1894 HESLOP *Northumbld. Gloss.* 643 Gleaning is often described as 'gatherin singles' or as singlin..Singles are bundled and carried home on the 'gatherer' and afterwards 'bittled'.

3. In various specific or technical senses.

† a. A particular step in dancing. *Obs.* **b.** A simple uncompounded word. **† c.** *Sc.* One half of a doubled amount. *Obs.* **d.** A form of change in bell-ringing. **e.** A single (as opposed to a double) flower. **f.** A silk thread consisting of a single strand. **g.** *Cards.* (See quots.) **h.** *Cricket*, etc. A hit for which one run is scored; a single point. **i.** *Tennis, Golf*, etc. A game or match in which only one person on each side plays at one time.

a. 1531 ELYOT *Gov.* I. xxiii, The thirde motion, called singles, is of two unities seperate in pasinge forwarde. 1611 COTGR., *Simple*,..a single in dauncing. **b.** 1589 PUTTENHAM *Eng. Poesie* II. xvi. (Arb.) 145 The sillable *proune*..is long in all his singles and compoundes *reprodue, approdue, disprodue*. **c.** 1592 *Exch. Rolls Scotl.* XXII. 574 He sall mak payment..for the singill of the dowbill of the fewferme of the landis of Catslak. **d.** 1684 R. H. *School Recreat.* 93 Another Way of Ringing Twenty Four Changes, Doubles and Singles on Four Bells. **e.** 1796 C. MARSHALL *Gardening* V. (1813) 62 The farina of the singles transported by bee or wind will spoil the seed of the doubles. **f.** 1831 G. R. PORTER *Silk Manuf.* 197 Raw silk, before it can be used in weaving, is made to take one of three forms, being converted into either singles, tram, or organzine. 1844 G. DODD *Textile Manuf.* vi. 184 There is a kind called dumb singles, which consists of silk merely wound and cleaned.. Another manufactured variety, called thrown singles, is silk which has been wound, cleaned, and thrown. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* II. 154/2 By *singles* is signified one of the reeled threads twisted. **g.** 1850 *Bokn's Handbk. Games* 162 *Single*, (at long whist) scoring the game after your adversary has scored five or more; at short whist, after he has scored four. 1876 CAMPBELL-WALKER *Correct Card* (1880) Gloss., *Single, a.*—making game after your adversary has scored three or four up. **h.** 1858 *New York Tribune* 25 Aug. 5/6 Smith made three by singles. 1883 *Daily Telegr.* 15 May 2/7 Mr. Hawke added another single off that bowler. **i.** 1884 *Daily News* 3 Sept. 3/5 The first rounds of the Gentlemen's Singles..were decided as follows. 1896 *Westm. Gaz.* 26 Nov. 4/1 J. H. Taylor won the singles competition with a score of 76.

4. A single thing, person, etc. *In singles*, each one separately, singly.

1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* II. vi, If..any [trees] be so strongly constituted,..they may..perform that in some singles which is observable in whole kinds. 1826 J. WILSON *Noct. Ambr.* Wks. 1855 I. 133 Houndin the wolves in singles or pairs or flocks. 1838 HOOD *Clubs* v, Friends dropping in at close of day To singles, doubles, rubs. 1895 *Scottish Antiq.* X. 79 In singles or in pairs men began to put in an appearance,

† Single, obs. var. of (or error for) SINGLO.

1721 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 5934/3, 35 Tubs Single Tea per Hertford. 1730 CAPT. W. WRIGLESWORTH *MS. Log-bk. of the 'Lyell'* 12 Oct., 50 Chests of Bohea and 50 Chests of Single.

Single, obs. or dial. f. CINGLE (horse-girth, etc.).

Single (si·ng'l), *a.* Forms: 4–5 **sengle** (4 **seyngle**), 5 **sengil**(**l, sengell**(**e, cengylle,** 6 **sengyll**; 5–6 **syngle, singill** (5 **syngyll**), 5– **single.** [a. OF. *single, sengle* (also *saingle, sangle*, etc.; mod.Picard dial. *single*, Norman *sangle*):—L. *singulum* (in class.L. only pl. *singulī*, etc.) one, individual, separate; the first syllable is identical with the *sim-* of *simplus* SIMPLE *a.*

Some of the senses placed under branch II, though less original than those of branch I, are slightly earlier and more common in Middle English.]

I. 1. In predicative use: Unaccompanied or unsupported by others; alone, solitary. **a.** With the substantive verb, or in constructions implying this.

1340–70 *Alex. & Dind.* 33 We ben sengle of us silf, & semen ful bare, Nouht welde we now [etc.]. *c* 1407 LYDG. *Reson & Sens.* 3225 And my partye is but in veyn, So sengle that I stonde in doute; For Venus hath so gret a route

Ageynes me [etc.]. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VII*, 60 b, Hys eyes graye, hys teethe syngle and heare thynne. *a* 1593 MARLOWE *Edw. II*, IV. v, Edmund away,..be not found single for suspect: Proud Mortimer pries neare into thy walkes. 1648 J. BEAUMONT *Psyche* XVI. XXV, Still I'm alone, yea singler than alone; In Absent Him I from my self am gone. 1678 BUTLER *Hud.* III. i. 796 Our Noblest Senses act by Pairs,..But those that serve the Body alone, Are single and confin'd to one. 1741 MIDDLETON *Cicero* I. v. 392 They left Clodius single in the opposition. 1780 *Mirror* No. 90, He is left alone, single and unsupported, like a leafless trunk. 1803-5 WORDSW. *Solitary Reaper* i, Behold her, single in the field. 1860 MILL *Repr. Govt.* (1865) 115/2 In the first place, each executive officer should be single, and singly responsible for the whole of the duty.

b. With other verbs, in quasi-advb. use.

13.. *Gaw. & Gr. Knt.* 1531, I com hider sengel, & sitte. *a* 1648 LD. HERBERT *Hen. VIII* (1683) 342 His Birth being otherwise so obscure and mean, as no man had ever stood so single. 1673 DRYDEN *Amboyna* IV. i, I desir'd that he would leave the Company and meet me single here. 1711 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 7 ¶ 1 My Dear, Misfortunes never come Single. 1798 WEBBE in Owen *Wellesley's Desp.* (1877) 6 All our former..exertions were made against Tippoo single, and unsupported by the French. 1841 DANA *Seaman's Man.* 16 The royal braces go single. 1855 M. ARNOLD *Balder Dead* III. 6 See, here is Hermod, who comes single back From Hell.

† **c.** Unsupported by other evidence. *Obs.*—1

c 1449 PECOCK *Repr.* III. xii. 356 Wherfore this that Girald writith of this voice is ful sengil to be beleued.

2. Individual, as contrasted with larger bodies or numbers of persons or things.

c 1400 *Destr. Troy* 7867 For þere-as men are so mony,..All put in a purpos with a plain wille; Þof the syngle mon say, & it sothe be, Hit is demyt for dulle. 1641 'SMECTYMNUUS' *Vind. Answ.* iv. 56 Though these were but single men yet they were martyrs. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* III. 713 Nor do those Ills on single Bodies prey; But oft'ner bring the Nation to decay. 1717 POPE *Iliad* x. 196 Each single Greek..Stands on the sharpest edge of death or life. 1741 MIDDLETON *Cicero* I. vi. 409 Laws to inflict penalties on single persons by name. 1856 FROUDE *Hist. Eng.* (1858) I. i. 68 No single mind in single contact with the facts of nature could have created out of itself a Pallas..or a Lear. 1876 MOZLEY *Univ. Serm.* iv. 93 We hear sometimes of single remarkable acts of virtue, which spring from minds in which there is not the habit of virtue.

absol. 1865 NEALE *Hymns Paradise* 48 There the gifts of each and single All in common right possess.

b. Of, pertaining to, or connected with, one person only. Freq. with possessive pronoun.

1592 KYD *Sol. & Pers.* II. ii, With my single fist Ile combat thee. 1616 R. C. *Times' Whistle* (1871) 58 Although he had noe other company But his sole single selfe to satisfie. 1672 MARVELL *Corr.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 397 So that I must adventure to give you my single opinion, submitting to better judgements. *c* 1710 CELIA FIENNES *Diary* (1888) 74, I observ'd their prayers were all made on the first person and single, though before the body of people. 1781 GIBBON *Decl. & F.* xix. II. 139 Constantius..acknowledged, that his single strength was unequal to such an extent of care. 1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* xxxvii, He had, almost by his single and unassisted talents, stopped the irruption of the banded force of all the Highland chiefs. 1842 TENNYSON '*You ask me, why*' v, Should banded unions..induce a *time* When single thought is civil crime. 1878 B. TAYLOR *Deukalion* II. ii. 60 What hinders me to make my single will The world's whole law?

† **c.** *At single hand*, single-handed, unaided. *Obs.*

1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* (1658) 575 There is hardly any Dog so couragious, as to adventure upon a Wolf at single hand.

3. Separate; distinct from each other or from others; not combined or taken together.

In the first quot. used distributively, after the Latin.

1432-50 tr. *Higden* (Rolls) II. 309 Iacob..blessenge his childer with single benedicciones. 1573 L. LLOYD *Marrow of Hist.* (1653) 11 The poor Greek..opened his purse and gave unto the Emperour four single halfpence. 1599 B. JONSON *Ev. Man out of Hum.* II. i, He might have altered the shape of his argument, and explicated them better in single scenes. 1658 SIR T. BROWNE *Hydriot.* ii. (1736) 22 All Urns contained not single Ashes. *a* 1693 *Urquhart's Rabelais* III. xvii, A Rams Cod stored with Single Pence. 1711 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 124 ¶ 1 A Man..who communicates his Writings to the World in loose Tracts and single Pieces. 1779 *Mirror* No. 24, It will readily be admitted, that the preference, in every single object, is due to the former. 1826 *Art of Brewing* (ed. 2) 89 Dropped by single pieces into the copper while in full boil. 1864 BOWEN *Logic* x. 316 The beginning of all Knowledge is in single acts of the Perceptive or Acquisitive Faculty. 1884 tr. *Lotze's Metaph.* 486 Each single fibre, at the spot where it receives the stimulus, can attach to it the extra-impression described.

4. Undivided, unbroken, absolute. *rare.*

1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* II. x. 21 Being consorted with Manild, For thirst of single kingdome him he kild. 1634 MILTON *Comus* 204 Yet nought but single darknes do I find. 1701 SWIFT *Contests Nobles & Commons* iii, The madness of the people, who..were now wholly bent upon single and despotick slavery.

5. One only; one and no more. Sometimes strengthened by *one*.

1538 ELYOT, *Simplus*, sengle in numbre, one only. 1590 SHAKS. *Mids. N.* II. ii. 50 Two bosomes interchanged with an oath, So then two bosomes, and a single troth. *c* 1600 — *Sonn.* xxxix, For this, let vs deuided liue, And our deare loue loose name of single one. 1687 A. LOVELL tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* I. 34 He'll order the Master to take no money from them, and that with a single word. 1728 YOUNG *Love Fame* III. 59 Thus all will judge, and with one single aim. 1790 PALEY *Horæ Paul.* vi. § 5 Wks. 1825 III. 169 The prisoner was bound to the soldier by a single chain. 1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* xiii, He observed that Wayland purchased in each [shop] only one single drug. 1856 SIR B. BRODIE *Psychol. Inq.* I. iii. 92 In one case, the mind may be occupied with a single object, or a single idea. 1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) IV. 495 We have observed the tendency of Plato to combine two or more subjects..in a single dialogue.

absol. 1833 MRS. BROWNING *Prometh. Bound* 94 Why how could they Draw off from thee one single of thy griefs?

b. In emphatic use after a negative, or an adv. denoting scarcity.

1709 STEELE *Tatler* No. 50 ¶ 11, I will not write one single Word about any such Matters. 1743 BULKELEY & CUMMINS *Voy. S. Seas* 188 What must become of the rest who have not a single Penny? 1780 *Mirror* No. 94, Hardly a single house did I find inhabited by the same persons I left in it. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* vi. II. 123 During a whole week, not a single private letter from beyond the Tweed was delivered in London. 1857 BUCKLE *Civiliz.* I. xii. 664 France had not possessed a single man who dared to think for himself.

c. With *even*, or implying this.

1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) V. 351 Sometimes they find a difficulty in rearing even a single nest. 1816 J. WILSON *City of Plague* II. iii. 25, I don't expect this Plague Will change its quarters, long as it has left A single man alive. 1879 L. STEPHEN *Hours Libr.* Ser. III. 183 From a single phrase, as from a single gesture, we can often go far to divining the character of a man's thoughts.

6. a. Sole, only, one. **b.** Mere.

1639 LD. DIGBY *Lett. conc. Relig.* (1651) 61 By the easy abuse, if not by the single use of Images. 1728 R. MORRIS *Ess. Anc. Archit.* xviii, These are not the single Enemies I have to encounter with. 1748 MELMOTH *Fitzosborne Lett.* xlviii. (1749) II. 30 That he should not leave so important a creature as man, to the single guidance of his own precarious faculties. 1827 SOUTHEY *Hist. Penins. War* II. 672 Heroes who carry victory with their single presence. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* iii. I. 287 The single bed of a poor family had sometimes been carried away and sold. 1862 STANLEY *Jew. Ch.* (1877) I. v. 87 To the outer world the earlier period of the race, with the single exception of Abraham, was an entire blank.

7. Standing alone in comparison with other persons or things; unique, singular.

1633 FORD '*Tis Pity* IV. i, That you may know my single charity, Freely I here remit all interest I e'er could claim. 1658 *Whole Duty Man* vi. § 13 He will be sure to commit them [sins], rather than run the disgrace of being too single and precise. 1728 R. MORRIS *Ess. Anc. Archit.* 22 Some there are who appear single in Opinion, only to be continually opposite to the common Judgment of Mankind. 1750 H. WALPOLE *Lett.* (1848) II. 347, I..am almost single in not having been to see him. 1786 J. JAY in Sparks *Corr. Amer. Rev.* (1853) IV. 131 Favor your country with your counsels on such an important and single occasion. 1815 MACKINTOSH *Sp. Ho. Comm.* 27 April, Wks. 1846 III. 358 Single among representative assemblies, this House is now in the seventh century of its recorded existence. 1817 H. T. COLEBROOKE *Algebra*, etc. Notes & Illustr. p. xlvii, The Rómaca and Paulisa are single of the names.

II. 8. Unmarried, celibate. (See also quot. 1847.) Also *absol.* as pl.

A single man, a bachelor. *A single woman*, a spinster; †a prostitute (quots. 1530 and 1657).

1303 R. BRUNNE *Handl. Synne* 7361 3yf weddyd man sengle woman takeþ. *c* 1380 WYCLIF *Wks.* (1880) 73 And sugetis taken ensaumple at here curatis, boþe weddid men & sengle. *c* 1449 PECOCK *Repr.* II. iv. 155 A syngil man and a syngil womman. 1509 HAWES *Past. Pleas.* XXXII. (Percy Soc.) 156 Who that is single and wyll have a wyfe, Right out of joy he shall be brought in stryfe. 1530 PALSGR. 270/2 Syngle woman, a harlot, *putayn*. 1620 T. GRANGER *Div. Logike* 28 The Single man committing fornication sinneth lesse than the Adulterer. 1657 HOWELL *Londinop.* 337 No Stew-holder, or his Wife, should let or stay any single Woman to go and come freely at all times. 1685 BAXTER *Paraphr. N. T.* 1 Cor. vii. 26 No doubt but it is much more for their..quiet to be single, than to have a Wife or Husband. 1747 *Gentl. Mag.* 485 A lady..thinking Mr. C. single and disengaged. 1782 MISS BURNEY *Cecilia* x. x, A single woman is a thousand times more shackled than a wife. 1817 BYRON *Beppo* XXXVIII, The fair *single* part of the creation. 1847 LIPSCOMB *Buckingham* I. 582 The inmates,..being ..single persons, whether having been married or not. 1888 BRYCE *Amer. Commw.* xciii. III. 298 No one dreams of drawing any distinction between the single and the married.

fig. 1613 SHAKS. *Hen. VIII*, I. i. 15 Men might say Till this time Pompe was single, but now married.

b. Of, pertaining to, or involving celibacy, *esp.* in *single life*.

For the phrase *single blessedness*, see BLESSEDNESS b.

1549 COVERDALE, etc. *Erasm. Par. 2 Cor.* 55 As in my other letters I required you not to leade a syngle lyfe. 1557 N. T. (Geneva) 1 *Cor.* Argt., He answereth to certeine pointes .. touching single life. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* 596 Lawes were enacted touching the single lives of Priests. 1612 BACON *Ess., Marr. & Single Life* (Arb.) 266 A single life is proper for Churchmen. 1751 JOHNSON *Rambler* No. 112 ¶ 6 They that have grown old in a single state. 1773 FOOTE *Bankrupt* I. Wks. 1799 II. 100 A single service is best suited to me. 1812 CRABBE *Tales* viii. 251 But shall his Bride your single state reproach? 1836 T. HOOK *G. Gurney* I. iv. (1850) 62 Without having changed her state of single-unblessedness.

Comb. 1597 BEARD *Theat. God's Judgem.* (1631) 410 These are the godly fruits of those single life-louers, to whom the vse of marriage is counted vnlawful.

† **9.** In slight raiment; without cloak or armour; marked by scantiness or simplicity *of* clothing. *Obs.*

13.. *K. Alis.* 204 (Laud MS.), Dame olympias, amonge þis pres, Sengle rood, al mantel les. 13.. *Coer de L.* 1067 And seyngle in a kertyl he stood, Abood the lyon fers and wood. 1380 *Sir Ferumb.* 1071 [They] ounarmede him þo anon, & wan he was sengle amoung hem þer, hy auysed is schap echon. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) I. 353 Men of þis lond..beeþ sengle of clopinge, scarse of mete, cruel of herte. *a* 1450 *Knt. de la Tour* (1868) 168 He was not so gay aourned, ne so sengle of clothes, but he had on hym good and warme gownes.

† **10.** Of cloth, garments, etc.: Of one thickness of material; unlined. *Obs.*

c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* v. (*John*) 152 Skantly had Ilkane of þa a singill clath, fore-owtine ma. *a* 1450 *Knt. de la Tour* (1868) 168 A hood of scarlatte sengle & wythoute furynge. *Ibid.* 169 A shorte and sengle gown withoute lynynge. 1459 *Paston Lett.* I. 475 Item, j. gowne of blewe felwett.., slevys sengle. 1530 PALSGR. 270/2 Syngle gowne, *robe seugle. Ibid.*, Syngle kyrtell, *corset simple*. 1552 *Inv. Ch. Goods* (Surtees) 24 One vestment of blewe single sattene. 1670 EACHARD *Cont. Clergy* 90 A much more sparing dyet is fitter; and a single-coat, though it be never so ancient and thin, is fully sufficient.

11. Composed or consisting of only one part, feature, etc.; not double, compound, or complex; also, of the ordinary or small size, as distinguished from DOUBLE *a.* 4.

For various special uses, see 17.

1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) I. 347 Many depe diches and castelles sengle, double, and treble, and many wardes strongliche i-walled. 1449 in *Cal. Proc. Chanc. Q. Eliz.* (1830) II. Pref. 55 Þe sengell gistes of þe same flore at þe fronte shullen be in brede .. ix inches. 1466 *Mann. & Househ. Exp.* (Roxb.) 347, v. doble polyves and a sengelle. 1521 FISHER *Serm. agst. Luther* Wks. (1876) 324 A sengell threde is nothynge so stronge as is a double. 1540 in Greene *Hist. Worcester* II. App. p. ii, Item ij masers, one with a dowbilbond, the other with a sengylbond. 1592 WEST *1st Pt. Symbol.* I. § 26 b, When a thing is purchased or gotten..by gift or legacie, or some other such single title. 1663 GERBIER *Counsel* 45 Single Rafters six and three Inches. *Ibid.* 96 Nor do provident builders rivet locks only at the one side, for that a thief within doores..makes that single riveting of no use as to security. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. xix. (Roxb.) 154/2 The maner of which beatings is performed by single and double..blows. 1711 *Milit. & Sea Dict.* s.v. *Tenaille*, The Single Tenaille, a Work, the Head whereof is form'd by two Faces, making one Angle Rentrant. 1827 STEUART *Planter's G.* (1828) 192, I mean single carts, or carts drawn by one horse. 1845 *Proc. Philol. Soc.* II. 89 The vowels generally, whether single or diphthongal, are sounded as they are in Italian. 1862 SMILES *Engineers* III. 89 A single line furnished with sidings to enable the laden waggons to pass the empty ones. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2480 A single whip..is the simplest tackle. It consists of one single block and a fall.

† **b.** Of artillery. *Obs.*

1546 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* I. 54 Small artaillyery sik as double falcoun, single falcoun. *a* 1578 LINDESAY (Pitscottie) *Chron. Scot.* (S.T.S.) I. 367 Collveringis, myans and doubill falcouns, singill falcouns and hagbuttis of fund.

c. Of flowers: Having only one whorl or set of petals; also, of plants: Bearing such flowers; opposed to DOUBLE *a.* 1 d.

1551 TURNER *Herbal* (1568) 30 Ther groweth a flour like a syngle rose in the tope of thys herbe. 1594 PLAT *Jewel-ho.* III. 33 You may also drie Paunsies, Stock-gilliflowers, and other single flowers. 1615 W. LAWSON *Country Housew. Gard.* (1626) 54 The sweet muske Rose double and single. 1664 EVELYN *Kal. Hort.* (1729) 198 Single and double Hepatica. 1731 MILLER *Gard. Dict.* s.v. *Hyacinthus Turberosus*, The Single sort is by far the fairer Flower. 1796 C. MARSHALL *Gardening* v. (1813) 62 No single flowers should be suffered to grow in a garden where there are double ones. 1812 *New Botanic Garden* I. 29 With single blue flowers, with double blue flowers. 1852 G. W. JOHNSON *Cottage Gard. Dict.* 339 In double flowers..the corolla is much more durable than in single ones.

d. Intended for or accommodating one person.

a 1859 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xxiii. V. 73 A single bedroom. 1867 AUGUSTA WILSON *Vashti* XXXIII, A strip of faded carpet stretched in front of a small single bedstead. 1886 PASCOE *London of To-day* i. (ed. 3) 34 Single bed-rooms cost from 4*s.* to 15*s.* per day.

† **12. a.** Simple; plain; without further qualification or addition. *Obs.*

c 1421 *26 Political Poems* 105 While obley in yrnes or boyst ys stoken, Hit nys but bred, and sengyl bake. *c* 1450 LOVELICH *Grail* lii. 705 Whanne Piers vndirstood that he A kyng was Of so hy degre, and wende he hadde ben A sengle knyht [etc.]. 1453 *Rolls of Parlt.* V. 271/1 Bynde hem .. by obligation or obligations, aswell sengell as conditionell. 1600 SURFLET *Countrie Farme* III. liv. 556 Some doe make this oile after the simplest and singlest sort. 1678 SIR G. MACKENZIE *Crim. Laws Scot.* I. xix. § vi, God Almighty intended not that single Theft should be punished by death. 1736 BUTLER *Anal.* I. ii. 47 Perhaps divine goodness..may not be a bare single disposition to produce happiness.

† **b.** Slight, poor, trivial. *Obs.*

c 1449 PECOCK *Repr.* II. viii. 184 Ymagis of God .. forto make bi hem sengil and leuke remembraunciis. 1585 DANIEL *Notable Deuises* Wks. (Grosart) V. 302 Hauing..maried a wife of singulare beautie, but (according to the common rumour) of single honestie. 1597 SHAKS. 2 *Hen. IV*, I. ii. 207 Is not your voice broken? your winde short? your wit single? *a* 1616 BEAUM. & FL. *Queen of Corinth* III. i, He utters such single matter in so infantly a voice. 1638 RAWLEY tr. *Bacon's Life & Death* (1650) 19 The Sect of the Essenes among the Jews..used a single or Abstemious Diet.

13. Of beer, ale, etc.: Weak, poor, or inferior in quality; small. Now *arch.* Also *transf.*

1485 in *9th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* I. 177/2 A vessell of single bere to the gonners, xii d. 1505 in *10th Rep.* ibid. App. V. 392 That there be no sale bread, singill ale, nor honyed alle..mad in towne, but by ffre men. 1594 *Knack to Know a Knave* in Collier *Five Old Plays* (Roxb.) 386 Your drinke is too strong...Single beere is better far both for your profit and your seruants health. *a* 1635 BP. CORBET *Poems* (1647) 30 Although I thinke Poets were nee'r infus'd with single drinke. *Ibid.*, Let your Channels flow with single tiffe. 1704 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4032/4, 11 Pieces of single French Brandy. 1820 SCOTT *Monast.* xviii, An hogshead of ale at Martlemas, of the double strike, and single ale at pleasure.

14. Simple, honest, sincere, single-minded; free from duplicity or deceit.

1519 HORMAN *Vulg.* 55 He is a good sengyll soule, and can

no harme. 1595 SPENSER *Col. Clout* 727 Single Truth and simple Honestie Do wander up and downe despys'd of all. 1613 SHAKS. *Hen. VIII*, v. iii. 38, I speake it with a single heart, my Lords. 1633 FORD *Broken H.* IV. i, Sure, he's an honest, very honest gentleman; A man of single meaning. 1682 Sir T. BROWNE *Chr. Mor.* III. § 20 To single Hearts doubling is discruciating. 1809 JEFFERSON *Writ.* (1830) IV. 134 To those whose views are single and direct, it is a great comfort to have to do business with frank and honorable minds. 1848 DICKENS *Dombey* xxxiii, [Such as] nothing but a pure and single heart [could have] expressed. 1873 WHITNEY *Oriental & Ling. Stud.* 83 The single devotion of the Brahman student.

b. Of the eye, after Biblical use.

1526 TINDALE *Luke* xi. 34 When thine eye is single: then is all thy body full of light. 1577 *F. de Lisle's Legendarie* I iv, Considering with a single eye the parties in this cause, ye shall finde that [etc.]. 1669 N. MORTON *New Eng. Mem.* A 2, I onely crave of thee to reade this following Discourse with a single eye. *c* 1680 BEVERIDGE *Serm.* (1729) I. 63 He that looks upon these words with a single eye. 1863 KINGSLEY *Water-Bab.* 343 Keep your eye single, and your hands clean. 1884 *Century Mag.* Mar. 925 All readers of his know..how absolutely single his eye is.

15. Of a combat or fight: Between two persons; man to man. (See also COMBAT *sb.* 1 b.)

[1590 Sir J. SMYTH *Disc. Weapons* 46 b, If it be enemie to enemie single, they then are not to discharge their peeces.] 1592 KYD *Sp. Trag.* I. iii, I saw him, hand to hand, In single fight with their Lord Generall. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* 360 Who in this Iland by a single combate tried it out. 1639 FULLER *Holy War* II. i. (1840) 48 He..killed Rodulphus, the duke of Saxony, in single fight. 1711 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 9 P 7 The President..was said to have killed half a dozen in single Combat. *Ibid.* No. 70 P 5 Let you and I end our Quarrel in single Fight. 1820 SCOTT *Monast.* xxxvii, Reserving my right to defy my Lord of Murray and my Lord of Morton to single duel. 1838 ARNOLD *Hist. Rome* I. 4 At last Ascanius met him man to man and slew him in single fight. 1867 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* (1877) I. App. 706 That the two kings shall decide the matter by single combat.

16. In quasi-advb. use.

a 1450 *Le Morte Arth.* 1795 Non Armore he dyde hym vppon Bot A Robe All sengle wrought. *a* 1483 *Liber Niger* in *Househ. Ord.* (1790) 58 [The] Countroller..is thirde in estate..aftyr the Steward,but at no tyme..within thys courte covered in servyse, and but single served. 1681 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1663/4 They lye Unmored, and ride single, and intend to Sail this Afternoon. 1707 MORTIMER *Husb.* (1721) I. 83 They commonly lay twelve or fourteen loads of Chalk upon an Acre, where they lay it single. 1837 LOCKHART *Scott* III. x. 343 My venerated friend,who was—unlike, perhaps, some others of the company at that hour—able to hear accurately, and content to *see single*.

III. 17. Special collocations.

Single anchor (see quot. 1867). †*Single billet*, single-stick. *Single care* (see quot.). *Single change* (see quot. 1688). *Single chant* (see CHANT *sb.* 2). *Single entry* (see ENTRY 9 b). *Single file*, a line of men one behind the other. *Single Gloucester* (see GLOUCESTER). *Single house* (see quot. 1818). *Single line* (see quot.). †*Single officer* (see quot.). †*Single rapier*, the rapier only (without dagger). †*Single sentinel* or *soldier*, a private soldier (*Sc.*). †*Single sword*, ? singlestick. *Single ten*, the ten of a card-suit; (see also quot. *a* 1700).

1839 MARRYAT *Phant. Ship* viii, The *Ter Schilling*..lay at *single anchor. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.* 627 *Single anchor*, a ship unmoored, having hove up one bower, rides by the other. 1613 BEAUM. & FL. *Captain* II. i, No more Than..Fighting at *single Billet with a Barge-man. 1898 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 429 The law which enables a person of unsound mind..to be placed..under what is technically designated '*Single Care'—that is, under certificates in the house of a medical man or other person. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 462/2 The *Single Change, is when all the Bells ring, and one is changed only from Round Ringing. 1872 ELLACOMBE *Bells of Ch.* in *Ch. Bells Devon* iii. 39 About the year 1642..single changes were first attempted. 1861 J. S. ADAMS *5000 Mus. Terms* 91 **Single Chant*, a simple harmonized melody extending only to one verse [etc.]. 1875 STAINER & BARRETT *Dict. Mus. Terms* s.v. *Chant*, A single chant is in two strains, the first of three, and the second of four bars in length. 1826 *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) I. 462/2 The more obvious method.., which is called Book-keeping by *Single Entry. 1849 FREESE *Comm. Class-Bk.* 103 If my books were kept by single entry, I should simply credit Smart & Co. for the coffee. 1670 COTTON *Espernon* II. 394 He therefore commanded some Foot Companies to steal over silently, and by *single Files. 1853 Sir H. DOUGLAS *Milit. Bridges* 255 Sufficient only to support infantry marching in single file. 1865 TYLOR *Early Hist. Man.* v. 83 To place the different elements of a sentence in succession, in single file so to speak. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 16 July 1654, The humourous old Knight has built a long *single house of 2 low stories. 1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* xxvi, Dumbiedikes was what is called in Scotland a *single* house; that is, having only one room occupying its whole depth from back to front. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2187/2 **Single-line*, a single rein leading from the hand of the driver to a strap forked a little behind the hames, and proceeding thence to the bit-rings. 1759 in *Eng. Historical Rev.* (1897) XII. 763 We are *Single Officers, that is, only one Livetenant to a Company. 1709 STEELE *Tatler* No. 31 P 3 The historian mentions, when he attack'd Thalestris, it was only at *single Rapier. 1721 WODROW *Hist. Suff. Ch. Scot.* II. v. (1830) II. 168 A person of quality,..standing before an ensign, lieutenant, or *single sentinel. 1816 SCOTT *Antiq.* xxvii, Not knowing..how far the manners of a *single soldier might have been corrupted by service in a great house. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. xix. (Roxb.) 159/1 *Two Fencers, ..makeing triall of their skill, with back-sword or *single sword, sword and buckler and the like. 1593 SHAKS. 3 *Hen. VI*, v. i. 43 Whiles he thought to steale the *single Ten, The King was slyly finger'd from the Deck. *a* 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew, Single-ten*, a very foolish, silly Fellow; also Nails of that size. 1829 HUNTER *Hallamshire Gloss.*, *Single-ten*, A person playing at Whist may be heard to say: I have neither ace, face, nor single-ten.

b. With sbs. in *-er*, as *single-driver*, *-hander*, *-loader*, *-peeper*, *-roomer*, *-sticker*, *-striker*, etc.

1897 *Pall Mall Mag.* Mar. 347 The '*single driver' is the familiar name applied to locomotives propelled by one pair of driving-wheels. 1893 *Outing* XXII. 145/2 The cost of a *single-hander depends on the size of the boat. 1887 *Daily News* 6 Oct. 6/2 The rifle can then be used as a *single-loader. 1785 GROSE *Dict. Vulgar T.*, **Single peeper*, a person having but one eye. 1889 GRETTON *Memory's Harkback* 305 They are recorded as 'single peepers',.. having lost an eye. 1887 *Daily Telegr.* 10 Sept. 2/5 None of the big *single-stickers..showed any signs. 1898 *Cycling* 62 Repeating bells are preferable to *single-strikers. 1889 *20th Cent.* (N. Y.) Apr. 6 He says that is a fair question which no *Single-taxer ever answers, but that if it is evaded the whole single-tax theory vanishes.

18. With sbs., forming combs. used attributively, as *single-action*, *-beat*, *-cell*, *cylinder*, etc.

Combs. of this type have been very frequent in recent use. For a number of technical examples, see Knight *Dict. Mech.* (1875) and *Suppl.* (1884).

1852 SEIDEL *Organ* 36 *Single-action bellows..is generally very small. 1863 A. YOUNG *Naut. Dict.* 20 Atmospheric, or Single Action, Engine. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 398 A *Single Beak Pellican with a screw, of some..called a Screw'd tooth Forcer. 1884 F. J. BRITTEN *Watch & Clockm.* 241 The chronometer and duplex are the best known examples of *single-beat escapements. 1838 BELL *Dict. Law Scot.* 867 In the *Single Bill roll is inserted all petitions.. and other notes or applications to either Division of the Court. 1849 NOAD *Electricity* (ed. 3) 228, Fig. 152 represents the *single-cell apparatus. 1888 JACOBI *Printers' Vocab.* 125 **Single cylinder machines*, machines for printing one side at a time only. 1860 *All Year Round* No. 66. 382 'Which knot?' asked Toby. 'Single or double wall, *single or double diamond?' 1868 *Rep. U. S. Comm. Agric.* (1869) 238 One and three-quarters pound of *single-eye pieces produced ten pounds. 1899 MORROW *Bohem. Paris* 138 A *single-file march round the room is started. 1857 MILLER *Elem. Chem., Org.* i. § 1 (1862) 15 An additional screen of *single iron plate. 1892 GREENER *Breech Loader* 6 The cheaper quality laminated steel,..known in the trade as single-iron Damascus. 1771 LUCKOMBE *Hist. Print.* 271 Neat Workmen prevent a division of a *single-letter syllable at the end of lines. 1876 VOYLE & STEVENSON *Milit. Dict.*, **Single lever bridge*, composed of two frames locking into each other, and not meeting at a greater angle than 120°. 1886 WILLIS & CLARK *Cambridge* I. 330 Each chamber had a lofty narrow *single-light window. 1846 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* II. 543 The shaft of..the *single-lip auger. 1889 *Pall Mall G.* 29 Oct. 2/1 In 1885, the country was practically divided into *single-member electoral districts. 1860 G. PRESCOTT *Elect. Telegr.* 108 The double-needle telegraph may easily be arranged so that it shall act as a *single-needle telegraph only. 1843 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* I. 31 The '*single-piece bow' is made of one rod of hickory, lancewood, or yew-tree. 1832 BABBAGE *Econ. Manuf.* xv. (ed. 3) 138 A kind of lace, called '*single-press', was manufactured. 1856 'STONEHENGE' *Brit. Rur. Sports* II. ii. xi. 363/2 One pound is the usual allowance for *single-rein bridles. 1868 *Rep. U. S. Comm. Agric.* (1869) 251 Neither neat nor efficient *single-row hedge can be made without the aid of stakes. 1845-50 MRS. LINCOLN *Lect. Bot.* v. 166/2 *Sicyos angulata*, *single-seed cucumber. 1892 BRIGHTON *Sir P. Wallis* 278 One of the finest *single-ship actions ever fought. 1577 STANYHURST *Descr. Irel.* in *Holinshed* I. 23/2 A meaner tower might serue such *single soule kings as were at those daies in Ireland. 1622 MABBE tr. *Aleman's Guzman d'Alf.* I. 105 To see what a single-sole Gentleman I was, and how like a naked cottage I lookt. 1841 *Penny Cycl.* XXI. 410/2 Single-sole shoes or 'pumps'. 1872 *Dublin Rev.* Apr. 444 What can be done in the way of *single-span Gothic churches. 1825 J. NICHOLSON *Operat. Mechanic* 47 When a *single-stroke steam-engine is made to turn a mill. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 398 The second [instrument]..is termed a *Single tooth Pincer, of some a Forcer. *c* 1860 H. STUART *Seaman's Catech.* 74 The top-masts are made in one spar, and are called *single tree. 1865 LUBBOCK *Preh. Times* 345 They have single-tree canoes. 1883 *Whitaker's Alm.* 445/1 The *Huascar* is an iron low freeboard *single-turret ram. 1860 *Single wall knot [see *single diamond knot*]. 1707 MORTIMER *Husb.* (1721) I. 48 In Sussex they use much the *single Wheel-plough. 1825 J. NICHOLSON *Operat. Mechanic* 497, B, the *single worm screw.

19. Parasynthetic, as *single-banked*, *-barrelled*, *-blossomed*, *-edged*, etc. Also *single-seatedness* sb.

Many examples of this type occur in recent use.

1861 *Illustr. Lond. News* 13 July 35 One of its best *single-banked life-boats. 1850 R. G. CUMMING *Hunter's Life S. Afr.* (1902) 83/1, I took my heavy *single-barrelled rifle. 1762 *Phil. Trans.* LII. 660 Some *single blossomed plants ..of the Gardenia. 1598 HAKLUYT *Voy.* I. 62 The richer sort haue *single edged swords with sharpe points. 1817 MILLER *Bampt. Lect.* 40 The single-edged sword of temporal visitation fell blunted from the hearts of stone. 1803 SHAW *Gen. Zool.* IV. II. 265 *Single-finned Bullhead...The gill-covers consist of a single lamina. 1707 MORTIMER *Husb.* (1721) II. 209 Of both which sorts there are great Variety of Colours, some being double, and others *single Flowered. 1756 HILL *Brit. Herbal* 440 Great single-flowered Mountain Hawkweed. 1840 HODGSON *Hist. Northumb.* III. II. 361/2 *Orthotrichum cupulatum*, *Single-fringed sessile fruited Bristle-moss. 1846 GROTE *Greece* I. xxi. II. 261 The case..against *single-headed authorship of the Odyssey. 1847 LD. LINDSAY *Chr. Art* I. 130 A black single-headed, hoary-haired giant. 1889 G. FINDLAY *Eng. Railway* 48 The steel rails..are of the single-headed section. 1721 R. BRADLEY *Philos. Acc. Wks. Nature* 91 Some of the Figs will be Cloven-footed, and others *single-hoof'd. 1777 PENNANT *Brit. Zool.* IV. 16 Claws with a *single-hooked moveable fang. 1800 SHAW *Gen. Zool.* I. i. 198 *Single-horned Rhinoceros. 1721 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 6012/6 A Man and a Woman in a Lane, *single Hors'd. 1899 *Westm. Gaz.* 8 Sept. 5/3 He was driven in a single-horsed brougham. 1725 *Fam. Dict.* s.v. *Colchicum*, A yellow, *single-leav'd Flower. 1829 MARRYAT *F. Mildmay* v, They were *single-masted. 1884 BOWER & SCOTT *De Bary's Phaner.* 300 Many have certainly a reticulum of bundles, even when they are '*single-nerved'. 1840 J. W. BOWDEN *Life Gregory VII*, I. 60 The long *single-pointed mitre. 1808 BENTHAM *Sc. Reform* 36 The many-seated has given place to *single-seated judicature. 1830 — *Corr.* Wks. 1843 XI. 40 In this sub-department..you find..many-seatedness established—by you,*single-seatedness, I see, is preferred. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s.v. *Sicyoides*, The *single-seeded Canada cucumber. 1870 GARROD *Mat. Med.* (ed. 3) 272 The olive fruit..is a smooth, elliptical, single-seeded drupe. *a* 1834 COLERIDGE in *Lit. Rem.* (1839) IV. 165 This is not quite so perspicuous and *single-sensed as Archbishop Leighton's sentences in general are. 1851 H. MELVILLE *Whale* lxxviii. A whip..travelling through a *single-sheaved block. 1679 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1403/4 A Silver hilted *single sheld Sword. 1803 SHAW *Gen. Zool.* IV. II. 335 *Single-spotted Chætodon. 1856 MEREDITH *Shav. Shagpat* (1909) 245 The Queen..being now the mistress of the *single-thoughted. 1603 J. DAVIES (Heref.) *Sonn., To Univ. of Oxford*, With double lines of *single-twisted Rime. 1702 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 3840/4 A black Hat with a single-twisted white Hatband. 1879 MAXWELL *Electr. & Magn.* (1881) II. 252 The potential of the magnetic system is *single valued at every point of space. 1796 W. H. MARSHALL *W. England* II. 211 *Single-wheeled plows.

20. With pa. ppples. and ppl. adjs., as *single-cut* (of files), *-dyed*, *-filed*, *-grown*, *-hung*, *-lanted*, *-reefed*, *-refined*, *-riveted*.

1831 J. HOLLAND *Manuf. Metal* I. 302 In this state the file is what is called a *single-cut. 1846 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* II. 819 When the file is spoken of, a double-cut file is always implied, unless a single-cut file, or a rasp, is specifically named. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2187/1 *Single-cut File*, a file having but a single rank of teeth. 1696 J. F. *Merch. Wareho. laid open* 9 Pillow Fustians,..some of them *single dyed. 1853 G. JOHNSTON *Nat. Hist. E. Bord.* I. 207 Let us walk on, *single-filed. 1833 TENNYSON *Palace of Art* i, Musk-scented blooms.., In bunch or *singlegrown. 1823 P. NICHOLSON *Pract. Build.* 593 **Single-hung*; in window-sashes, when one only is moveable. 1630 *Tincker of Turvey* Ep. Ded., I have drunke double-lanted ale, and *single-lanted. 1860 *Merc. Mar. Mag.* VII. 173 The topsails were *single reefed. 1718 MRS. M. EALES *Receipts* 28 A Pound of *single-refin'd Sugar. 1869 RANKINE *Machine & Hand-tools* App. 44 In *single-rivetted joints there is but one row of rivets.

b. With pres. ppples., as *single-cutting*, *-driving*, *-living*, *-shooting*.

1563 in Strype *Ann. Ref.* (1709) I. xxxv. 349 Single-living men, that is to say, unmaried, and especially unmaried priests. 1846 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* II. 549 The cone countersink may be viewed as a multiplication of the common single-cutting drill. 1888 *Encycl. Brit.* XXIII. 559 Single-driving rear-steerers were at this time [1877] very common. 1891 *Daily News* 4 Feb. 3/3 All magazine rifles must be more costly than single-shooting rifles.

c. With vbs., as *single-knock*, *-plate*, *-rivet*.

1834 *Tait's Mag.* I. 735/1 The original plotter.., who has single-knocked at so many mansions in Grosvenor Square [etc.]. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 998 The ingot is now dressed carefully with the file on one or two faces, according as it is to be single or double plated. 1874 THEARLE *Naval Archit.* 103 The edges of the plating above this height..may be single riveted.

Single (sĭ·ngˈl), *v.*[1] [f. the adj.]

1. *trans.* To separate or part from each other; to take asunder. Now *rare*.

1570–6 LAMBARDE *Peramb. Kent* (1826) 114 For as much as the office[s]..of later daies have been united inseparably, I wil not lose the labour in going about to single them againe. 1584 D. FENNER *Def. Ministers* (1587) 11 Wee will ..single them a little, and deale with them seuerallie. *a* 1600 HOOKER *Eccl. Pol.* VII. i. § 2 Not..to offer the edge of the axe unto all three boughs at once, but rather to single them, and strike at the weakest first. 1828 *Trial W. Dyon & his Son at York* 20 The reports were so near together, that I could scarcely single them.

refl. 1596 DANETT tr. *Comines* 144 Whensoeuer his men scattered & singled themselues, some of them came short home. 1600 BRETON *Strange Fort. Two Princes* Wks. (Grosart) II. 11/2 Spying certaine Ladies..comming into the garden, they singled themselues one from another. 1623 BINGHAM *Xenophon* 115 That the Army should more easily passe singling themselues .. than if they clustred and thronged at a Bridge.

2. *Hunting.* To separate (one deer, etc.) from the herd; to pick out and chase separately. Also with *forth* or *out*.

1575 GASCOIGNE *Flowers* Wks. 1907 I. 109 The meanes to single forth The stricken Deare which doth in heard remaine. 1590 COKAINE *Treat. Hunting* D j, Then the Huntsmans part is to applie the hounds well vntill they haue singled the wearie Deere againe. 1674 N. COX *Gentl. Recreat.* (1677) 60 Follow the largest Head of the whole Herd, which you must endeavour to single out for the Chase. 1735 SOMERVILLE *Chase* III. 324 The grisly Boar is singled from his Herd As large as that in Erimanthian Woods. 1841 LANE *Arab. Nts.* I. 127 From the moment he singles out an Antelope the whole body are in motion. 1873 BLACK *Pr. Thule* xiii. 202 The hound had at length singled out a particular deer.

fig. 1579 LYLY *Euphues* (Arb.) 35 He behaued himselfe so warily, that hee singled his game wiselye. 1588 SHAKS. *Titus A.* II. i. 117 Single you thither then this dainty Doe, And strike her home by force, if not by words. 1593 — 3 *Hen. VI*, II. iv. 12 Nay Warwicke, single out some other Chace, For I my selfe will hunt this Wolfe to death. 1711 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 125 P 8 We should then single every Criminal out of the Herd, and hunt him down.

3. To separate (one person or thing) from others; to draw or take aside or apart.

1593 SHAKS. 3 *Hen. VI*, II. iv. 1 Now Clifford, I haue singled thee alone. 1632 HEYWOOD *Four Prentises* I. Wks. 1874 II. 216 Why have you singled me alone? *a* 1658 ROWLEY, TOURNEUR, etc. *Witch Edmonton* III, I have not shewn this cheek in company, Pardon me now: thus singled with your self [etc.]. *a* 1672 STERRY *Freed. Will* (1675) 25 Singling every thought, setting it naked in its own proper form.

refl. 1588–9 GREENE *Metam.* Wks. (Grosart) IX. 73 When wee were in the greene meades, Meribates and my daughter had singled themselues. 1602 BRETON *Wonders Worth Hearing* Wks. (Grosart) II. 9/1 A couple..for serious cause of conference had singled themselues together.

b. Const. *from.*

1582 STANYHURST *Æneis* II. (Arb.) 58 Theare stood an od corner from vulgar companye singled. 1587 FLEMING *Contn. Holinshed* III. 401/2 Sir Richard Greenefield being singled from his fleet, all alone arriued in the Iland of Hispaniola. 1697 DRYDEN *Æneid* XI. 991 Him soon she singled from the flying Train, And slew with ease.

refl. a 1639 SPOTTISWOOD *Hist. Ch. Scot.* VI. (1677) 320 He singled himself from his company. 1698 FRYER *Acc. E. India & P.* 2 That our Ships might have the Liberty that Night to single themselves from the Crowd of other Ships.

† **c.** With *forth* (cf. 5). *Obs.*

1593 SHAKS. 3 *Hen. VI*, II. i. 12, I..watcht him how he singled Clifford forth. 1599 B. JONSON *Ev. Man out of Hum.* v. i, If wee can, [let us] single her forth to some place. 1636 tr. *Florus' Hist.* 10 Horatius..faynes himselfe to flie, so to single forth the enemie.

4. To pick out or distinguish from others.

In quot. 1671 with allusion to a challenge.

1588 SHAKS. *L. L. L.* II. i. 28 In that behalfe..we single you, As our best mouing faire soliciter. 1604 T. WRIGHT *Passions* VI. 304 How, when we would remember, can we single a Flye from the vniversity of beastes, foules and fish. 1671 MILTON *Samson* 1092 Dost thou already single me? I thought Gives and the Mill had tam'd thee. 1701 STANHOPE *St. Aug. Medit.* II. vii. (1720) 129 He singled thee from the rest. 1749 SMOLLETT *Regicide* IV. ii, He, whom my jealousy..Hath singled for destruction! 1805 SOUTHEY *Madoc* I. v, Up the side he sprang, And look'd among the crew, and singling me Fell at my feet. 1822 SHELLEY *'We meet not as we parted'* iii, That moment from time was singled As the first of a life of pain.

refl. 1812 COLERIDGE in *Lit. Rem.* (1836) I. 383 The instinct .. in each man of declaring his particular existence, and thus of singling or singularizing himself.

5. With *out.* To choose or select from a number of persons or things, *esp.* (in later use) in order to distinguish by particular notice or attention; to pick or mark out, to destine.

1629 BAKER in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* Ser. II. III. 258 This bearer will convey hether such bookes as it shall please you to single out and deliver to him. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Past.* IV. 74 Begin, auspicious Boy,..and with a smile thy Mother single out. 1710 ADDISON *Tatler* No. 120 ¶ 2 Every Man singled out some Woman to whom he offered his Addresses. 1782 MISS BURNEY *Cecilia* V. i, Having singled her out, he was regarding her. 1846 TRENCH *Mirac.* XXX. (1862) 434 The man .. now singles out the blessing which he craves. 1888 BURGON *Lives 12 Gd. Men* II. v. 18 Singling out..from the entire body of the Clergy a man under suspicion of heresy.

b. Const. *as, for,* or with inf.

1633 BP. HALL *Occas. Medit.* (1851) 88 The want whereof dejects us beyond measure, as men singled out for patterns of misery. 1662 PEPYS *Diary* 10 May, I find that he do single me out to join with me apart from the rest. 1692 BENTLEY *Boyle Lect.* vi. 186 This is the Passage which Lucilio Vanino singled out for his Text. 1726 DE FOE *Hist. Devil* I. xi. (1840) 159 Satan saw God had evidently singled out the Israelites..to favour them. 1780 *Mirror* No. 88, I doubted not that they would single me out as a prodigy of learning and genius. 1833 HT. MARTINEAU *Manch. Strike* viii. 85 This woman having been singled out as an example. 1856 BOND *Russia at Close of 16th c.* (Hakl. Soc.) Introd. 61 The Protector..had singled him out for the execution of a secret commission. 1869 TROLLOPE *He knew,* etc. XXXI, The one she has singled out as the recipient of her kindness.

c. To select for special mention or comment.

1628 PRYNNE *Cens. Cozens* 66, I will onely single out some three or four of his chiefe absurdities. 1672 SIR G. MACKENZIE *Pleadings* Pref. A iij b, Pointed and short pleading, wherein the Speaker singles out a point, and presses it. 1711 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 35 ¶ 11, I shall not scruple..to single out any of the small Wits, that infest the World with such Compositions. 1872 BLACK *Adv. Phaeton* XXX. 404 America and not Germany had been singled out by the poet. 1891 *Spectator* 5 Dec. 809 It is time to single out one or two works by members.

d. *refl.* To separate (oneself) from a number of others.

1885 PASCOE *London of To-day* XIII. 120 Two or three horses at last emerge again, and single themselves out.

6. To bestow singly. *rare*—1.

1652 FULLER *Holy & Prof. St.* (ed. 3) 498 Wishing that.. whatsoever good was singl'd on them, may joyntly be heaped upon you.

7. To thin (seedling plants), so as to leave each plant separate; to pick *off* (shoots). Also const. *out.*

1731 MILLER *Gard. Dict.* s.v. *Dipsacus,* Singling out the Plants to about six or eight Inches Distance. 1801 *Farmer's Mag.* Jan. 51 The turnip being singled by the hand-hoe. 1846 J. BAXTER *Libr. Pract. Agric.* (ed. 4) II. 196 As they grow up in the spring the young shoots should be singled off to one. 1884 F. J. LLOYD *Sci. Agric.* 255 When the turnip plants are tolerably advanced, or rough leaved, they are singled.

transf. 1858–61 J. BROWN *Horæ Subs.* ii. 42 He has not the art of 'singling' his thoughts, an art..as necessary for young fancies as young turnips.

absol. 1886 [see SINGLER *sb.*]. 1896 P. A. GRAHAM *Red Scaur* xii. 175 This 'll never do, singlin' wi' your best things on.

8. To render single, to reduce to one; to concentrate. Also *refl.*

1824 *Blackw. Mag.* XVI. 29 The acquisition of knowledge..is best..made, by limiting, almost by singling to the mind, the objects of attainment. 1836 LANDOR *Pericles & Aspasia* Wks. 1846 II. 371 This reproof..singled his aim.

b. *Naut.* (See quot.)

1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.* 627 *To Single,* to unreeve the running part of topsail sheets, &c., to let them run freely, or for harbour duty.

9. *intr.* **a.** To go singly; to separate from others. Also with *out* and *off.*

1616 J. LANE *Contn. Sqr.'s T.* v. 338, Theare them he findes in martial discipline well ordred,..taught..to double ranckes, and singel backe in place. 1676 HOBBES *Iliad* IV. 292 Let..all go on At once. To single is to weaken you. 1759 GOLDSM. *Pres. State Pol. Learn.* viii. Wks. (Globe) 435/1 A reflection somewhat mortifying to the author who breaks his ranks, and singles out for public favour. 1769 — *Hist. Rome* (1786) I. 204 Titus Manlius.., burning with shame to see the whole body of the Romans intimidated, boldly singled out against Metius. 1904 in *Eng. Dial. Dict.* s.v., Single off, as cattle do when they are sick, or going to calve, &c.

b. *U.S.* (See quot. and cf. SINGLE-FOOT.)

a 1864 W. S. CLARKE (Webster), Many very fleet horses, when overdriven, adopt a disagreeable gait,..in which the two legs of one side are raised almost .. simultaneously. Such horses are said to single, or to be single-footed.

c. Of a railway track: To become single.

1899 *Daily News* 19 Sept. 6/7 Just before Penybont the track singles for a short tunnel.

Hence **Si'ngled** *ppl. a.*, selected.

1870 SWINBURNE *Ess. & Stud.* (1875) 108, I take to witness four singled poems.

† **Si'ngle,** *v.*2 *Obs. rare.* [ad. F. *singler* (now *cingler*), nasalized form of OF. *sigler,* ad. ON. *sigla* to sail.] *intr.* To sail. Also † **Si'ngling** *ppl. a.*

1584 HUDSON *Du Bartas' Judith* IV. 122 The perfite pylot ..with singling sheet doth shunne Cyanes straits. 1587 GREENE *Euphues his Censure* Wks. (Grosart) VI. 189 The Maryners ready with a Cockboate to set them aboorde hoysed sayles, and singling into the mayne, bad farewell to Ithaca.

Single-acting, *ppl. a.* [f. SINGLE *a.* 20 b.] Acting in one direction or by one method, *spec.* of a steam-engine (see quot. 1875). Opposed to DOUBLE-ACTING.

1825 J. NICHOLSON *Operat. Mechanic* 174 The double-acting engine..exerting twice the power of the single-acting engine. 1869 RANKINE *Machine & Hand-tools* Pl. F 3, Single-acting hammers are those which are raised by the pressure of steam, and fall by gravity alone. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2187/1 *Single-acting Engine,* an engine in which steam is admitted to one side only of the piston.

Si'ngle-breasted, *a.* [f. SINGLE *a.* 19.] Of a coat, waistcoat, etc.: Having only one thickness over the breast; not doubled by overlapping. Opposed to DOUBLE-BREASTED.

1796 TWINING *Trav. India,* etc. (1894) 2 His thin silvery locks curled round the collar of his old-fashioned single-breasted coat. 1828 *Lights & Shades* I. 296 Next in favour to the frock is the short single-breasted jacket. 1862 BURTON *Bk. Hunter* 31 Had chance thrown to him a court single-breasted coat [etc.]. 1885 PASCOE *London of To-day* XII. 112 The coat altered its form, and became a dress coat, single-breasted.

Single-eyed, *a.* [f. SINGLE *a.* 19.]

1. *fig.* Having the eye single or sound; sincere, honest, straightforward. (Cf. SINGLE *a.* 14 b.)

1705 HICKERINGILL *Priest-cr.* (1721) I. 32 The..general Council..was at Ariminum, who were all (but one single-ey'd Man) Arians. 1857 KINGSLEY *Two Y. Ago* XX, You are..too noble, single-eyed, self-sacrificing to endure my vanity. 1890 *Spectator* 19 July 74/1 Those who best understand what may be done by single-eyed, eager, and resolute clergymen.

2. *lit.* Having one eye or eye-like mark; one-eyed, monoculous.

1839 *Penny Cycl.* XV. 348/1 None of these single-eyed monsters [*Cyclopia*]..live for more than an hour or two after birth. 1872 *Routledge's Ev. Boy's Ann.* June 420/1 Its single-eyed spot near the tip of the fore-wings.

† **Single-fold,** *a. Obs.*—1 Simple.

1651 BIGGS *New Disp.* ¶ 82 The single-fold doctrine of simples hath stood deserted, and forlorn.

Single-foot, *sb. U.S.* [Cf. SINGLE *v.*1 9 b.] A particular gait of a horse, variously identified with the amble and the rack; see also quot. 1882.

1882 STILLMAN *Horse in Motion* 117 Single-foot is an irregular pace,.. distinguished by the posterior extremities, moving in the order of a fast walk and the anterior ones in that of a slow trot. 1893 MUYBRIDGE *Descr. Zoöpraxogr.* 31 The amble has various local names, such as the 'single foot', the 'fox trot', etc. 1897 HOWELLS *Landl. at Lion's Head* 154 This mare can walk like a Kentucky horse, ..I believe I could teach her single-foot.

So **Single-foot** *v.*, **Single-footed** *a.*, **Single-footer, Single-footing** *ppl. a.*

a 1864 Single-footed [see SINGLE *v.*1 9 b]. 1890 *Harper's Mag.* Jan. 246 The horse often single-foots faster than he trots. *Ibid.*, It is often said that a single-footing horse never trots well. *Ibid.* 247 My best single-footer is my fastest trotter.

Single-hand, *a.* [f. SINGLE *a.* 18 + HAND *sb.*]

1. Performed, worked, managed, played, by one 'hand' or person. † *Single-hand cricket,* = SINGLE-WICKET.

1761 in Waghorn *Cricket Scores* (1899) 54 A great match at single-hand cricket. 1835 URE *Philos. Manuf.* 245 In our single-hand ribbon-loom, the weaver can make but a piece and a half a week. 1872 RAYMOND *Statist. Mines & Mining* 3 The gradual extension of 'single-hand drilling'. 1893 *Outing* XXII. 143 A single-hand cruiser is a sail-boat ..capable of being managed by one man.

2. *Single-hand weaver,* one who works his loom without assistance. So *single-hand trade.*

1768 *Ann. Reg.* I. 58 Several of the journeymen single-hand weavers were seized by their antagonists. 1841 *Penny Cycl.* XIX. 491/1 The undertaking system applies now only to the single-hand trade in the country districts. *Ibid.,* Three-fourths of the single-hand weavers are women.

Single-handed, *a.* [f. SINGLE *a.* 19.]

1. a. Of actions: Carried on or performed by one person, ship, etc., alone or unaided, or by one person on each side.

1709 *Brit. Apollo* No 18. 2/2 Q. D. and T. play at single handed whisk. 1818 SCOTT *Rob Roy* XXXIX, Rashleigh.. maintained a desperate and single-handed conflict with the leader of the band. 1824 MISS MITFORD *Village* Ser. I. (1863) 129, I shall never forget one single-handed course of our good friend's favourite little bitch Helen. 1840 MARRYAT *Poor Jack* XLVII, They had two single-handed encounters. 1881 *Encycl. Brit.* XII. 808/2 Despite the single-handed exertions of Lieutenant..Edwardes.

b. Adapted for using with one hand.

1834 MEDWIN *Angler in Wales* I. 172 Do you use a single or double-handed rod?

c. = SINGLE-HAND *a.* I.

1886 *Field* 30 Jan. 140/1, I should not advise any topmast for a single-handed sailing boat.

2. a. Working alone or unassisted; without the aid, help, or support of others; by one's self; unaided, unsupported.

1768 *Ann. Reg.* I. 57 Many journeymen weavers, distinguished by the names of single-handed weavers. 1815 JEFFERSON *Writ.* (1830) IV. 249 We have beaten them single-handed at sea. 1840 THIRLWALL *Greece* IV. VII. 100 Rome, single-handed, could not long have withstood such an army. 1877 CREIGHTON *Age of Elizabeth* V. i, He was surrounded by an atmosphere of suspicion, and..stood single-handed.

b. Using one hand only.

1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* II. 511 A single-handed sower makes a bout to sow a ridge.

c. Having only one hand or workman.

1847 in WEBSTER. [Hence in recent Dicts.]

Hence **Single-ha'ndedly** *adv.*, **-ha'ndedness.**

1882 EBSWORTH *Roxb. Ball.* IV. Introd. p. x, He hopes to press on vigorously and single-handedly, to the speedy completion of the entire work. 1899 *Westm. Gaz.* 18 May 2/1 Singlehandedness among menservants is the last resource of the incompetent.

Single-hearted, *a.* [f. SINGLE *a.* 19.]

1. Possessed of a single or sincere heart; straightforward, honest, sincere; simple-hearted.

1577 *Test. 12 Patriarchs* (1604) 83 The single-hearted man coveteth not gold,..but only hath an eye to God's will. 1644 CROMWELL *Lett.* 6 Sept., In this Cause I hope to approve myself an honest man and single-hearted. 1658–9 in *Burton's Diary* (1828) III. 593, I can say I am plain hearted and single-hearted. 1812 SCOTT *Let.* in *Lockhart* (1837) II. xii. 392 The Duke's mind was moulded upon the kindliest and most single-hearted model. 1838 DICKENS *Nickleby* XXX, He is the most grateful, single-hearted, affectionate creature, that ever breathed. 1899 *Edinb. Rev.* Oct. 508 Life at Court was distasteful to the single-hearted priest.

2. Of actions, etc.: Proceeding from or characterized by sincerity of heart or purpose.

1804 MATILDA BETHAM *Biog. Dict. Women* 736 Her eloquent, and, as it were, single-hearted appeal to impartial posterity. 1874 SYMONDS *Sk. Italy & Greece* (1898) I. ix. 185 [He] had hitherto acted with a single-hearted view to his own interests. 1893 *The Advance* (Chicago) 22 June, The single-hearted earnestness of the Templars is impressive.

Hence **Single-hea'rtedly** *adv.*, **-hea'rtedness.**

1642 H. MORE *Song of Soul* Notes 163/1 *Monocordia,*.. Single-heartednesse. 1837 T. HOOK *Jack Brag* I, The sincerity and single-heartedness of one of the purest, gentlest Nora Creenas that ever walked. 1857 RUSKIN *Elem. Drawing* II. 192 The more quietly and single-heartedly you take each step in the art, the quicker..will your progress be. 1881 HOWELLS *Foregone Conclusion* X, I would fain have lived single-heartedly.

Si'nglehood. [f. SINGLE *a.* + -HOOD.] The state of being single or unmarried; spinsterhood.

1840 LADY C. BURY *Hist. of Flirt* XX, My mother..would not see me the last day of my singlehood. 1881 MRS. A. R. ELLIS *Sylvestra* II. 166 Betty was satisfied with her singlehood so long as [etc.].

Single-horse, *a.* [f. SINGLE *a.* 18.]

1. Of vehicles: Made to be drawn by a single horse; one-horse.

1764 *Ann. Reg., Chron.* 96/1 He regularly attended unkennelling the fox in his single-horse chair. 1780 *New Newgate Cal.* V. 105 They stopped a single-horse chaise, in which were a Mrs. Constable..and her servant-maid. 1805 R. W. DICKSON *Pract. Agric.* I. 35 They are..thought inferior to the single-horse cart. 1851 *Official Catal. Gt. Exhib.* 366 Light single-horse cart, for farming purposes. 1860 W. G. CLARK *Vac. Tour* 49 We engaged a large-wheeled single-horse vehicle.

2. Used with or for one horse.

1798 R. DOUGLAS *Agric. Surv. Roxb.* 50 A smaller hook coming from the middle of two lesser stretchers, or single-horse-trees.

Single-line, *a.* [f. SINGLE *a.* 18.]

1. Consisting of or having only a single line of plants, rails, etc.

1868 *Rep. U. S. Comm. Agric.* (1869) 256 In single-line hedge the saplings are so wound between as to press against the stakes. 1889 GRETTON *Memory's Harkback* 322 Some few years since a single line railway was made between the two towns. 1897 *Daily News* 1 Sept. 3/1 Between Malvern and Hereford there are two long single-line tunnels.

2. Taking up, or making, one line in writing or printing.

1892 A. OLDFIELD *Man. Typogr.* iv, A single-line motto in pearl caps. 1892 PLUMMER *Two Saxon Chron.* I. 132 *n.*, After [the year] 1001 several single-line annals had been marked out.

Single-minded, *a.* [f. SINGLE *a.* 19.]

1. Sincere in mind or spirit; honest, straightforward; *simple-minded, ingenuous;* single-hearted.

1577 HARRISON *England* II. i. (1877) I. 34 Or else the single minded bishops shall see the living bestowed upon such as doo deserve it. 1668 H. MORE *Div. Dial.* I. iv. (1713) 10 Such a single-minded Soul as Philopolis will..prove a glorious Citizen of Heaven. 1815 JANE AUSTEN *Emma* XXXVIII, An unpretending, single-minded, artless girl. 1859 MILL *Liberty* ii. 50 Single-minded in his devotion. 1869 LECKY *Europ. Morals* I. 42 The single-minded religious enthusiast, incapable of dissimulation or procrastination.

2. Proceeding from or characterized by sincerity or honesty of mind.

1836 H. ROGERS *J. Howe* iii. (1863) 67 The letters..serve to show, with what single-minded purpose, these great men laboured. 1864 BURTON *Scot Abr.* I. i. 50 The single-minded fidelity that had been nourished within them.

3. Having but one aim or purpose.

1860 *All Year Round* No. 44. 413 He was a more single-minded and one-idea'd man than even his patron and master.

Hence **Single-mi'ndedly** *adv.*, sincerely, frankly; with singleness of aim or purpose; **Single-mi'ndedness.**

1579 W. WILKINSON *Confut. Fam. Love* 39 We might..stand *single myndedly obedient vnto his documentable Sentences. 1876 MEREDITH *Beauch. Career* III. viii. 136 Single-mindedly selfish men may be seen through and through. 1876 F. E. TROLLOPE *Charming Fellow* x, Such force of character as consists in pursuing one's own way single-mindedly. 1833 T. HOOK *Parson's Dau.* II. ii, If *single-mindedness, straightforward policy, and a resolution to do good, are characteristic of simplicity. 1865 *Sat. Rev.* 4 Feb. 148/2 The seriousness and singlemindedness which made him an influence on all who came in contact with him.

† Single money. *Obs.* [SINGLE *a.* 3.] Small money, small change.

1591 GREENE *Conny Catch.* II. Wks. (Grosart) X. 117 There came an other and bought a knife and should haue single money againe. 1593 NASHE *Christ's T.* Wks. (Grosart) IV. 96 If there were euer a good fellow..would sweare and forsweare for single-money. 1625 in Rymer *Fœdera* (1726) XVIII. 143/1 They are growne .. of very necessary and daily Use instead of single Money. 1641 BROME *Joviall Crew* v. i, Tell fortunes, and cozen our poor country-people of their single money. *a* 1693 *Urquhart's Rabelais* III. iv, Gold, Silver, single Money.

Si'ngleness. [f. SINGLE *a.* + -NESS.]

1. Sincerity, straightforwardness, honesty, integrity; freedom from deceit, duplicity, or guile.

1526 TINDALE 2 *Cor.* ix. 11 That..ye maye be made ryche in all Synglenes. 1549 COVERDALE, etc. *Erasm. Par.* 2 *Cor.* 54 The poorer they became..throughe theyr godly liberalitie, the rycher are they growen in gentle heartes and singlenes. 1796 MME. D'ARBLAY *Camilla* III. 392 Ashamed to have heeded..advice so contrary to the singleness of the doctrines of her father. *a* 1822 SHELLEY *Assassins* i. Prose Wks. 1888 II. 148 A character superior in singleness and sincere self-apprehension to the slavery of pagan customs. 1845 DISRAELI *Sybil* (1863) 108 With artlessness..and a degree of earnest singleness. 1874 CREIGHTON *Hist. Ess.* i. (1902) 13 The purity and singleness of his first motive was gone.

b. Const. *of* heart, mind, eye, etc.

1535 COVERDALE *Wisd.* i. 1 Haue a good opinion of the Lorde, & seke him in the synglenesse of hert. 1575–85 ABP. SANDYS *Serm.* xx. 357 The thirde [virtue] is singlenesse of heart. 1660 JER. TAYLOR *Worthy Comm.* i. v. 94 We must speak of his power..with joyfulness and singleness or simplicitie of heart. 1798 V. KNOX *Chr. Phil.* (ed. 3) Pref. p. x, A consciousness of having, with singleness of heart, espoused a cause beneficial to mankind. 1828 MACAULAY *Hallam* Ess. (1897) 57 Unsparing devotion, boldness of speech, and singleness of eye. 1842 MISS MITFORD in L'Estrange *Life* (1870) III. ix. 154 Miss Martineau is a person of great singleness of mind, sincere and truthful. 1846 J. BAXTER *Libr. Pract. Agric.* (ed. 4) II. p. xxxiii, Respected for his integrity, industry, and singleness of character. 1885 *North Star* 18 May 3/2 Doing what he held to be his life-work with singleness of soul.

2. The state or condition of being unmarried, or of not marrying again (quot. *a* 1817); celibacy.

1560 BIBLE (Geneva) 1 *Cor.* vii. 28 *note*, He doth not preferre singlenes as a thing more holy than mariage. 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 437 Whether becometh better the ministers of the church, mariage or singlenesse. 1788 MME. D'ARBLAY *Diary* 24 July, Whether he is happy or not in marrying, I am sure he will be wretched in singleness. 1800 WORDSW. *Michael* 78 His days had not been passed in singleness. His Helpmate was a comely matron. *a* 1817 JANE AUSTEN *Persuasion* i, Sir Walter's continuing in singleness requires explanation. 1881 H. JAMES *Portrait of Lady* xliv, She appeared to have accepted the idea of eternal singleness.

b. A single or unmarried person. *rare*—1.

1818 BYRON *Let. to Rogers* 3 March, They are marrying the remaining singleness of the royal family.

3. The quality of being single; the fact of consisting of one *in* number or kind; oneness.

In the Shaks. quotation used punningly for 'simplicity'.

1592 SHAKS. *Rom. & Jul.* II. iv. 70 O single sol'd ieast, Soly singular for the singlenesse. 1608 ARMIN *Nest Ninn.* (1842) 4 Since all is one, and one all that's car'd for, singlenesse hath such regard [etc.]. 1620 VENNER *Via Recta* viii. 176 Neither alwaies..ought variety, or singlenes of meats to be exhibited. 1839 MURCHISON *Silur. Syst.* I. xlii. 574 The mind becomes impressed with the singleness of nature's laws. 1841 D'ISRAELI *Amen. Lit.* (1867) 130 The first writers, combining in a singleness of taste, may construct a particular style. 1870 ROLLESTON *Anim. Life* p. xcv, The singleness of the larval velum.

† b. Unmixed nature or quality. *Obs.*—1

1695 LD. PRESTON *Boeth.* IV. 194 That pure Simplicity or Singleness, dwelling in the Divine Nature.

† c. Singularity. *Obs. rare.*

1728 R. MORRIS *Ess. Anc. Archit.* 21 Novelty and Singleness were as destroying..to Art, as all the Barbarism..of the Enemies of the Romans. *Ibid.* 22 To appear single for the sake of Singleness.

4. The fact of standing alone; solitude, solitariness, isolation.

1805 WORDSW. *Prelude* XIV. 211 Here keepest thou in singleness thy state: No other can divide with thee this work. 1816 BYRON *Chillon* xiii. *note*, From its singleness and diminutive size [it] has a peculiar effect upon the view.

5. The quality or fact of having one single aim or purpose; concentration of the faculties upon one object. Const. *of* (purpose, aim, etc.).

1806 WORDSW. *Happy Warrior* 40 Who comprehends his trust, and to the same Keeps faithful with a singleness of aim. 1833–5 J. H. NEWMAN *Hist. Sk.* (1873) II. ii. 234 His unrivalled charm..lies in his singleness of purpose. 1873 HAMERTON *Intell. Life* x. ii. 344 He lived in it with an unhesitating singleness of purpose. 1886 *Athenæum* 30 Oct. 560/3 His failure seems..due to a want of singleness of aim.

Si'ngler, *sb. local.* [f. SINGLE *v.*[1] 7 + -ER [1].] One who singles or thins out plants.

1878 'SAXON' *Gall. Gossip* 333 (E. D. D.), Singlers, my boy, singlers;..they're always grumbling. 1886 *S. W. Lincs. Gloss.* 131 She's gone singling, they can't get singlers enew. 1899 *Dundee Advt.* 21 Nov. 4/2 The singler has more at his control in the making or unmaking of the crop than average observers imagine.

Singler, variant of SANGLIER, wild boar.

† Si'ngler, *a. Obs.* Forms: α. 5 **sengler,** 5–6 **syngler** (5 -e), 4–6 **singler.** β. 5–6 **synglar** (6 -e). [ad. OF. *sengler, seingler*:—L. *singulār-is* SINGULAR *a.*] = SINGULAR, in various senses.

α. *c* 1374 CHAUCER *Boeth.* II. pr. vii. (1868) 57 Nat only þe names of singler men ne may nat strecchen, but eke þe fame of Citees. 1469 *Cal. Rec. Dublin* (1889) 336 If any of the portoures goo owt with cariage into the contry, for ther sengler avayle. 1486 *Bk. St. Albans, Hawking* b iij b, Iff ye haue a chastised hounde,..vncouple him..and goo to a sengler partrich. 1514 in *Eng. Gilds* (1870) 146 To alle and syngler covenantes and grauntes. 1579 FENTON *Guicciard.* VII. (1599) 295 Maximilian retaining still a singler ambition in this iorney, would admit no companion.

β. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* XI. 241 Bot for a dog...I will haiff nayn, bot synglar as I ga. *c* 1500 *Sc. Poem on Heraldry* 190 in *Q. Elis. Acad.* 100 The quhiche stanis..ar so precyus singlare. 1542 UDALL in *Lett. Lit. Men* (Camden) 2 My singlar good Maister.

So **† Si'nglerly** *adv.*, singularly; **† Si'nglerty,** singleness. *Obs.*

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* A. 429 Now for synglerty o hyr dous our, We calle hyr fenyx of Arraby. *c* 1400 *Apol. Loll.* 8 It longiþ to þe gretnes of God to graunt singlerly þeis priuileges. *c* 1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 714 Þe singlerte [L. *solitudo*] of þi lyfis ende. 1487 HEN. VII in *Epist. Acad. Oxon.* (1898) II. 524 Wherby ye shall singlerly please us.

Single-soled, *a.* [f. SINGLE *a.* 19. Cf. *single-sole* in attrib. use, s.v. SINGLE *a.* 18.]

1. Of boots or shoes; Having a single thickness of material in the sole.

1541 *Extr. Reg. Aberdeen* (1844) I. 453 The best dowbill solit schoine..and the best singill solit schoine thai can mak. 1596 NASHE *Saffron Walden* F 4, In the single-soald pumpes of his aduersitie. 1640–1 *Kirkcudbr. War-Comm. Min. Bk.* (1855) 149 The inch of single-solled schoes, of the best sort, at xvjd. the inch...The secund sort of single-solled schoes, at xiiijd. the inch. 17.. *Souters of Selkirk* in Scott *Border Minstr.* (1802) I. 249 And up wi' a' the braw lads, That sew the single soaled shoon. 1820 SCOTT *Monast.* xiii; Commendations of her fair guest, from the snood, as they say, to the single-soled shoe. 1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib., Brit.* II. No. 4977, The fastening can be used with single-soled or light boots.

† 2. *fig.* Of persons: Poor, mean, of little account or worth. *Obs.*

1588 FRAUNCE *Lawiers Log.* I. xvii. 62 Singlesowld Lawyers and golden Asses. 1593 P. STUBBES *Motive to Good Wks.* 93 Then should not our land haue beene pestered with so many up-start single-soled Gentlemen. 1607 R. C[AREW] tr. *Estienne's World of Wonders* 189 Those silly soules, the singlesoled priests. 1611 COTGR., *Gentilhommeau*, a small, or single-soled, Gentleman; a Gentleman of low degree. 1640 BASTWICK *Ld. Bishops* iv. D 3 b, Excommunication is a Solemne businesse, not to be..done in a blind Court, and by a single soled Priest.

Single-stick, *sb.* Also **singlestick.** [f. SINGLE *a.* + STICK *sb.*] Fighting, fencing, or exercise with a stick provided with a guard or basket and requiring only one hand.

1771 SMOLLETT *Humph. Cl.* (1815) 200 An exciseman, whom he challenged to a bout at single-stick. 1806 *Sporting Mag.* XXVII. 5 A grand match at single-stick was played at.. Botley. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* lvii, He larked with the midshipmen, played single-stick with the mates. 1895 SNAITH *Mistress Dorothy Marvin* xxxii, To fence and play singlestick or quarterstaff.

attrib. 1881 *Times* 2 Feb. 10/5 The single-stick play.. was remarkable for its ambidexterity. 1885 PASCOE *London of To-day* xiii. 139 The main features of the tournament are single-stick combats, sword and bayonet contests [etc.].

b. A stick used for this.

1837 LOCKHART *Scott* III. i. 8 Tall, vigorous, athletic, a dauntless horseman, and expert at the singlestick. 1850 THACKERAY *Pendennis* xxxi, A man who..has his opponent's singlestick before him.

c. 'A wooden sword used on board ship for teaching the use of the cutlas' (*Cent. Dict.*).

Hence **Single-stick** *v. intr.*, to fight or fence with a single-stick.

1900 G. SWIFT *Somerley* 39, I was Laertes because I could singlestick rather well.

Singlet (si·ŋglĕt). Also *dial.* **senglet, cinglet.** [f. SINGLE *a.* + -ET, after DOUBLET.]

1. An unlined woollen garment (knitted or woven), now usually close-fitting and worn as an undershirt or jersey. Also *attrib.*

c 1746 J. COLLIER (Tim Bobbin) *View Lanc. Dial.* (1806) 31 When I..come to grope in my Singlet pocket for my sawt. 1790 GROSE *Prov. Gloss.*, *Singlet*, a waistcoat not lined, as opposed to a doublet. 1828 CARR *Craven Gloss.*, *Singlet*, an under waistcoat. *c* 1861 J. T. STATON *Rays fro th' Loominary* 40 Ben Brattles had as good a hert in him.. as ever beat below a senglet. 1885 *Longman's Mag.* V. 493 He desired his dresser to strip off his singlet. 1899 F. T. BULLEN *Log Sea-waif* 67 My only garments were a flannel singlet and a pair of canvas trousers.

† 2. A single sheaf (of grain). *Obs. rare.*

1778 [W. H. MARSHALL] *Minutes Agric.* 18 Aug. 1776, For, in case of rain, it [i.e. wheat] is much safer in singlets, than even in shock. 1796 — *W. Eng.* I. 175 Setting up mown corn in singlets..would..be the most eligible practice.

† Si'ngleton [1]. *Obs.* [a. OF. *singleton*, var. of *sigleton*, etc.: see CICLATOUN.] A coverlet of cloth of gold used in creating a Knight of the Bath.

The quot. is translated from a French account of the ceremonies at the creation of Knights of the Bath, printed in N. Upton *De Studio Milit.*, etc. (ed. Bysshe, 1654) 22.

1656 DUGDALE *Warwickshire* 533 The Chandler shall take for his Fees..the Bed wherein he first lay, after his Bathing, together with the Singleton and other necessaries. [Hence in Holme (1688) III. 56/1.]

Singleton [2] (si·ŋg'ltən). [f. SINGLE *a.* Cf. SIMPLETON.]

1. *Card-playing.* In whist or bridge: The only card of a suit in a hand. Also *attrib.*

1876 CAMPBELL-WALKER *Correct Card* vi. (1880) 41 If..the lead is a singleton..it may be right to put on the ace. 1885 PROCTOR *Whist* Pref., The absolute rejection of the Singleton lead. *Ibid.* viii. 91 While doubt remains as to the position of trump strength, avoid..discarding a singleton.

2. A single thing, as distinct from a pair.

1892 *Athenæum* 6 Aug. 191/1 The Duke de Broglie has usually issued the volumes of his elaborate history..in pairs. He now appears with a singleton.

3. A single entry in a competition. Also *attrib.*

1898 *Field* 27 Aug. 368 Two instances of singleton entries, and of consequent walks over for the leading prize.

Single-tree, *U.S.* and *Austr.* = SWINGLE-TREE.

1847 WEBSTER s.v., A single-tree is fixed upon each end of the double-tree when two horses draw abreast. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade, Single-tree*, a crosspiece for fastening harness. 1890 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Miner's Right* iii. 24 The old mare ..moved herself square to a singletree by which her trace-chains were fastened.

Single-wicket. [f. SINGLE *a.* 5.] A form of cricket in which there is only one wicket and consequently only one batsman at a time.

1736 in Waghorn *Cricket Scores* (1899) 13 Whom they beat before at single-wicket. 1770 J. LOVE *Cricket* 16 Scarce any youth wou'd dare At single Wicket, try the doubtful War. 1833 NYREN *Yng. Cricketer's Tutor* 49 The parties in a match at single wicket vary in number from one to six on a side. 1887 J. ASHBY STEARY *Lazy Minstrel* (1892) 55 She'll vanquish any boy her size At games of single-wicket!

attrib. 1736 in Waghorn *Cricket Scores* (1899) 16 A great single-wicket match was played between the three countymen and the three Londoners. 1803 *Laws of Cricket* 9 In single-wicket matches, if the striker moves out of his ground to strike the ball, he shall be allowed no notch.

Si'ngling, *vbl. sb.* [f. SINGLE *v.*[1] + -ING [1].]

1. The action of the verb; selection from a number; separation from others. Also with *out.*

1625 BACON *Ess., Dispatch* (Arb.) 249 Order, and Distribution, and Singling out of Parts, is the life of Dispatch. 1660 *Trial Regic.* 79 It is not the singling out of a few persons that makes a Parliament. 1667 *Termes de la Ley* 560 Severance is the singling of two or more that are joyned in a writ.

2. The action of singling or thinning out plants. Also *attrib.*

1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* II. 16 Whether the great deficiency is occasioned by the death of plants after the singling process has been completed?..or the distance left by the singling is greater than we desire? 1899 *Dundee Advt.* 21 Nov. 14 Much of the success in root-growing depends on the singling process.

3. *Distill.* (See quots.)

1830 M. DONOVAN *Dom. Econ.* I. 226 The distillation may proceed as rapidly as [it] can run without coming foul or muddy, until 2400 gallons have been drawn off: these constitute what are called singlings. 1884 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* Suppl. 816/1 *Singlings*, the first to come over, the crude spirit of distillation.

Si'ngling, *ppl. a. rare.* [f. as prec. + -ING [2].] That renders single or separates.

1598 MARLOWE *Hero & Leander* I. 258 Wilt thou liue single still? one shalt thou bee, Though neuer-singling Hymen couple thee. 1621 QUARLES *Esther* iii, Till singling Death this sacred knot vndoe, And part this new-made One, once more in two.

Singlo (si·ŋlo). Also 9 **sunglo.** [See def.] A kind of green China tea, orig. obtained from the Sung-lo range of hills in the southern part of the province of Gan-hwuy (or Anhui). Also *singlo tea.*

The form SINGLE, occurring in the 18th cent., is prob. a mere error of printing or transcribing.

1699 OVINGTON *Ess. Tea* 11 The second sort is Singlo, or Soumlo with the Chinese. 1701 *Phil. Trans.* XXIII. 1206 The Bing Tea is the second growth in April: and Singlo the last in May and June. 1760 *Ann. Reg.* 132 The East-India ships..have brought..1,533,200 [lb.] of singlo. 1832 *Veg. Subst. Food of Man* 379 The kind of green tea..most abundant is called Singlo,.. the name of a mountain on which it grows. 1852 FORTUNE *Tea Countrys China* 86 Travellers who seek Sunglo tea may now search in vain, that which is sold in the markets is a mere counterfeit.

† Singlure. *Obs.*—[1] In 4 synglure. [f. SINGLE *a.*] Singleness, uniqueness.

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* A. 8 Quere-so-euer I lugged gemmez gaye, I sette hyr [the pearl] sengeley in synglure.

Singly (si·ŋgli), *adv.* Forms: 4 **senglely**, 5 **syngnlelie**, 6 **singlely**; 4 **sengeley**, **-ly**, **-(l)lic**, 5 **sengeliche**; 4 **singelli**, 6 **singilly**, *Sc.* **singalie**; 4 **sengli**, 5 **senglyche**, 6– **singly**. [f. SINGLE *a.* + **-LY**[2], with later contraction as in *simply*, etc.]

1. As a single thing or person; apart from others or a number; by its (her, him, one) self; separately.

a 1300 *E. E. Psalter* cxl[i]. 11 Sengli I am til I forthfare. *c* 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 6081 Let vs senglely a-wey fare. *c* 1374 CHAUCER *Boeth.* III. pr. ix. (1868) 85 Þei ne mowe ȝeuen but o þing senglely of alle þat men seken. *c* 1440 *Alph. Tales* 463 Þe same iij hostis at sho had had away syngnlelie, ilkone be þer one, sho broght þaim agayn in hur byll. *a* 1555 LATIMER *Serm. & Rem.* (Parker Soc.) 353 Fearing..lest while singly I have to answer to so many [etc.]. 1597 J. KING *On Jonas* (1618) 70 If there be more Gods, than one, then singlely and apart they must needs haue lesse strength. 1649 DAVENANT *Love & Hon.* V. iii, And wish some man that boasts your masters bloud Were singly here to undergoe their fate. 1673 [R. LEIGH] *Transp. Reh.* 98 He is greater then his subjects singly and apart. 1717 PRIOR *Alma* III. 118 Mingl'd with the neighb'ring Herd, She slights what erst She singly fear'd. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* III. ii. 310 The fruit..grows singly and not in clusters. 1826 LAMB *Pop. Fallacies* xiii, The good things of life are not to be had singly, but come to us with a mixture. 1871 R. ELLIS *Catullus* lxxxvi. 2 Each point singly 'tis easy to grant.

b. Without the aid or support of others; unaided, unassisted, single-handed.

1608 SHAKS. *Tr. & Cr.* III. iii. 247 Hee must fight singly to morrow with Hector. 1633 HEYWOOD *Eng. Trav.* IV. Wks. 1874 IV. 73 Singlie of my selfe I will oppose all danger. 1698 FRYER *Acc. E. India & P.* 173 He was not able to cope with him singly. 1725 POPE *Odyss.* III. 268 Great Ulysses shall suppress these harms, Ulysses singly, or all Greece in arms. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* II. 199 Such was her strength.., that no enemy could singly withstand her.

2. † **a.** Simply; without any more. *Obs.*

a 1400 *Pistill of Susan* 196 Nou is Susan in sale, sengeliche arayed, In a selken schert, with scholdres wel schene. 1579 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* III. 127 The said Capitane being in the menetyme singalie accumpanyit with ane servand.

† **b.** Slightly, poorly, ineffectively. *Obs.*—[1]

1548 PATTEN *Exped. Scotl.* L v b, Their crosses wear so narrowe and so singly set on, that a puff of wynde might haue blowen them from their brestes.

c. Solely, only; merely. Now *rare* or *Obs.*

1654–66 EARL ORRERY *Parthen.* (1676) 263 Neither was it singly Canitius's treachery, which gave the Roman General this confidence. 1686 BURNET *Trav.* IV. (1750) 177 For if the Pope derives anything from St. Peter, all that is singly in himself. 1740 CHESTERF. *Lett.* C. (1792) I. 279 People do not improve, singly, by travelling, but by the observations they make. 1762–71 H. WALPOLE *Vertue's Anecd. Paint.* (1786) II. 222 Sir Toby Matthew's title to a place in this work depends singly upon a letter from the Duchess of Buckingham to the Duke. 1795 HORSLEY *Serm.* (ed. 2) 235 St. Peter upon this occasion spoke singly for himself.

† **3.** Sincerely, truly, honestly. *Obs.*

1526 TINDALE *N. T.* To Rdr., My Conscience beareth me recorde, that of a pure entent, singilly and faythfully I have interpreted itt. 1637 RUTHERFORD *Lett.* (1862) I. lxxxiii. 212 If your Lordship and others with you..set yourselves singly to seek the Lord and His face.

4. *Comb.*, as *singly-read*, *-refractive*, *-seated*.

1711 SHAFTESB. *Charac.* (1737) III. 320 Inquiring..whether it were the apocryphal scripture, or the more canonical?.. The singly-read, or that of various readings? 1829 BENTHAM *Justice & Cod. Petit., Abr. Petit. Justice* 86 Sufficient ..should be the power of the singly-seated absolutist. 1879 RUTLEY *Stud. Rocks* x. 115 A singly-refractive substance containing fixed bubbles also occurs in some sodalite.

Singnet, obs. form of CYGNET, SIGNET.

Singrene, obs. form of SENGREEN.

Sing-sing [1]. *nonce-word.* [Imitative.] A singing or ringing sound.

1659 TORRIANO, *Tintinno*, any shrill ting.., gurgling, sing-sing, or sharp sounding of bells or bazons.

Sing-sing [2]. [Native name.] An African antelope, *Kobus sing sing* or *defassa*. Also *attrib.*

1854 *Eng. Cycl., Nat. Hist.* I. 254 This animal is called Sing-Sing by all the negroes...The English on the Gambia call it a Jackass-Deer from its appearance. *c* 1875 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* III. 19 The Nagor,..the Sing-sing, and the Water-buck are closely allied African Antelopes. *Ibid.* 20 The Sing-sing Antelope. 1894 LYDEKKER *Roy. Nat. Hist.* II. 304 The sing-sing (*Cobus defassa*), from Western and Central Africa,..differs from the water-buck by its fine and soft hair.

Sing-song, *sb.* [f. SING *v.*[1] + SONG *sb.*]

1. A ballad, a piece of verse, having musical rather than poetical qualities, esp. one of a monotonous or jingling character.

1609 *Ev. Woman in Hum.* IV. i. in Bullen *O. Pl.*, My posts shall not be garded with a little sing song. *a* 1661 FULLER *Worthies, Berks.* I. (1662) 86 This sing-song was made on the English by the Scots. 1709 *Brit. Apollo* No. 70. 3/2 Her Sing-Songs..sound as well as Country Ding-Dongs. *a* 1734 NORTH *Examen* I. ii. § 130 (1740) 101 There was a Magazine provided of..Pictures and Sing-songs for the Service at Oxford. 1851 D. JERROLD *St. Giles* XXX. 315 A beautiful legend; a nice sing-song to send men to sleep.

transf. 1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss., Sing-song*, a wearisome repetition of any tale or grievance. 'Don't make such a sing-song about it.'

2. Verse or rhyme of the above type.

1693 T. RYMER *Short View Trag.* 34 Campanella tells us, that the German and Gallican Heresie began with Sing-Song, and is carried on by Comedy and Tragedies. 1735 POPE *Prol. Sat.* 226, I ne'er..daggled thro' the town, To fetch and carry sing-song up and down. 1775 MME. D'ARBLAY *Diary, Let. to Crisp* 19 Nov., I would recommend to such worthy judges, the sing-song and prettiness of Waller and Cowley. 1833 *Westm. Rev.* Jan. XVIII. 35 Its place is taken by the despised melodrame, the sing-song of opera. 1856 MERIVALE *Rom. Emp.* I. (1865) VI. 207 His actions are celebrated in most grandiloquent sing-song.

b. Tone of voice marked by a monotonous rise and fall, with a kind of singing effect.

1822 C. B. BROWN *Carwin*, etc. II. 115 Their tone was an insipid sing-song, or a monotonous uniformity. 1835 WILLIS *Pencillings* II. xliii. 43 Crying out the invitation to prayer in a long drawling sing-song. 1887 JESSOPP *Arcady* ii. 50 The fine old Norfolk words, and twang, and squeaky sing-song have gone.

† **3.** A singer, minstrel. *Obs.*—[1]

1694 MOTTEUX *Rabelais* V. xviii, Rhimers, Poets,..Sing-songs, Musitianers.

4. An amateur concert of an informal nature; a convivial meeting where each person is expected to contribute a song.

1769 *Trinculo's Trip* 19 The dinner o'er, the sing-song done. 1857 RITCHIE *Night Side London* 192 The wealthy [have] their 'ancient concerts'—the costermongers what they term their sing-song. 1865 *Slang Dict.* 231 *Sing-Song*, a choral meeting at a pot-house. 1885 *Times* 11 Feb. 8/1 On Christmas night the whole camp was *en fête*, a capital sing-song having been got up.

b. The style of singing usual at a concert or gathering of this description.

1893 MILLIKEN *'Arry Ballads* 3 A sand-parlour'd shanty devoted to sing-song and swipes.

5. *attrib.* **a.** Of persons: Making mere jingling rhyme or monotonous verse; delighting in trivial or simple singing.

a 1687 VILLIERS (Dk. Buckhm.) *Poems* (1775) 141 And sing-song Durfey..Lives by his impudence, and not the muses. 1700 T. BROWN tr. *Fresny's Amusem.* 51 The poets ..from Huffing Dryden, to Sing-Song Durfey. 1760 MRS. DELANEY *Life & Corr.* (1861) III. 620 A good-humoured sing-song man. 1794 W. COMBE *Boydell's Thames* I. 282 The severity of the sing-song satirist. 1872 *Punch* 16 Nov. 200/1 You know that the sing-song lot mostly dislike good music.

b. Of the nature of sing-song; characterized by a jingling triviality or a monotonous rise and fall.

1734 *Prompter* 24 Dec. 1/1 Are the Opera's any more than Sing-song Concerts? 1739 WHITEHEAD *Manners* 8 What sing-song Riot, and what Eunuch-squawling. 1810 SCOTT 24 Oct. in *Fam. Lett.* (1894) I. vi. 196, I have other four little tales, or sing-song kind of verses. 1812 *Baker's Biogr. Dram.* II. 313/2 A satire on the sing-song and raree-show insignificance of modern operas. 1832 MACAULAY *Let.* 21 July in *Trevelyan*, Shall I tell you the news in rhyme? I think I will send you a regular sing-song gazette.

c. Monotonous in cadence.

1825 J. NEAL *Bro. Jonathan* I. 89 A regular sing-song intonation. 1857 HUGHES *Tom Brown* i, Repeating in true sing-song vernacular the legend of St. George. 1874 BURNAND *My Time* xxii. 198 He addressed him in an unctuous tone, and in a sing-song style.

Hence **Si·ng-so·ngy** *a.*

1900 *Pall Mall Mag.* Sept. 107 Reading in deep guttural tones, and in a sing-songy way.

Sing-song, *v.* [f. prec.]

1. *trans.* **a.** To force by means of singing.

1726 WELSTED *Dissembled Wanton* I. i, In Short, we are Sing-Songed at once out of our Senses and our Money.

b. To utter or express in a monotonous chant.

1867 *Our Young Folks* March (Stand.), Some singsonged the multiplication table. 1882 'EDNA LYALL' *Donovan* vi, Now they sing-song all the things so, and I can't seem to pick myself up. 1884 *Graphic* 15 Nov. 519/3 One sing-songing the alphabet.

2. *intr.* To sing, make verses, utter words, etc., in a sing-song manner.

1830 W. TAYLOR *Hist. Surv. Germ. Poetry* I. 131 On the linden, birds were thronging, All chirping, warbling, singing songing. 1875 TENNYSON *Q. Mary* II. i, There's no glory Like his who saves his country: and you sit Sing-songing here. 1901 G. DOUGLAS *Ho. w. Green Shutters* 267 He sing-songed, always saying '*this* fine bullock' in exactly the same tone of voice.

† **Singster.** *Obs. rare.* [f. SING *sb.* + -STER.] A singer.

1388 WYCLIF 2 *Sam.* xix. 35 May Y here more the vois of syngeris ether of syngsters? 1553 BECON *Reliques of Rome* (1563) 120* All the worshippyng of God semeth to be set in these singsters. 1606 S. GARDINER *Bk. Angling* 103 The singster of Israel hath taught vs our Lesson.

Singstress. *rare.* = SONGSTRESS.

1873 LELAND *Egypt. Sketch-Bk.* 127 When they call a singstress a Ghawâzi, it is as if you were to call Nillson a *corps de ballet*.

Singular (si·ŋgiŭlăr), *a., adv.*, and *sb.* Forms: *a.* 4–6 **synguler**, 4–5 **-ere**; 4–7 **singuler**, 4–5 **-ere**, 4–6 **-ier**, 5 **-eer**; 5 **senguler**(e. *β.* 4–6 **syngular**, 6 (chiefly *Sc.*) **singulair**, 6–7 **-are**; 5– **singular**. [a. OF. *singuler*, *-eir*, *-ier*, and *singulaire*, or ad. L. *singulāris*, f. *singuli* SINGLE *a.* The form with *-er* from OF. continued in use till the 17th cent.]

A. *adj.*

I. 1. † **a.** Living alone or apart from the herd. Only as an inaccurate rendering of L. *singularis ferus* in Ps. lxx[i]x. 14, where *singularis* is the sb. (see SANGLIER).

c 1340 HAMPOLE *Ps.* lxxix. 14 Þe bare of þe wod outtermyd it; and þe syngulere wildbest has etyn it. 1382 WYCLIF *Ps.* lxxix. 14 The bor of the wode outlawide it; and the singuler wilde beste destroyde it. *a* 1400 *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* xxiii. 942 Hegge þou a-boute vr vyn-3ard,..þat woodnes us hurte ne make aferd Of þe wylde best singulere. 1609 BIBLE (Douay) *Ps.* lxxix. 14 The singular wilde beest hath eaten it.

b. Alone; away from others; solitary. *rare.*

1382 WYCLIF *Mark* iv. 10 And whenne he was singuler, or by hym silf, the twelue..axiden hym for to expowne the parable. 1728 VENEER *Sincere Penitent* Pref. p. xi, His way of living was singular and retired. 1787 W. H. MARSHALL *E. Norfolk* (1795) II. 388 *Singular*, lone or single, as a singular house, or farm.

2. One only; one and no more; single.

In quot. 1377 prob. with allusion to sense 3 a.

1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. IX. 35 He was synguler hym-self and seyde *facianus*. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Pars. T.* P 14 Þe repentaunce of a singuler synne & nou3t repente of alle his oþer synnes..may nou3t auaile. 1485 CAXTON *Chas. Gt.* 221 This geaunte yssued oute of the towne, and demaunded synguler persone ayenst a persone. *a* 1500–20 in *Dunbar's Poems* (1893) App. iv. 8 Thocht sevin ȝeir I war avysit..Ane singulare thing to put in dyte; It suld with sum men be dispysit. 1576 NEWTON *Lemnie's Complex.* (1633) 22 Thus the soule, although it be singular,..yet bringeth forth sundry and manifold actions. 1625 BP. MOUNTAGU *App. Cæsar* 147 Some of the antient Fathers..apply it unto one singular individuall man onely, and no otherwise. 1648 J. BEAUMONT *Psyche* XXI. lvi, Knit up in a most mysterious Knot Of simple singular Triplicity. 1765–8 ERSKINE *Inst. Law Scot.* II. vii. § 1 He succeeds to that subject by a singular title.

† **b.** Exclusive; sole. *Obs.*

c 1380 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* III. 342 Oon mai seie þat he aloone is Cristis viker here in erþe, and he haþ power singuler to taxe gracis as him likiþ. 1395 PURVEY *Remonstr.* (1851) 68 What auctorite is to the bisshop of Rome to appropre to hymsilf principal power, eithir singuler, of byndinge and assoilinge. 1528 ROY *Rede me* (Arb.) 34 The masse was only oure singuler suffrage To delivre the people from their synne. 1592 HARVEY *Foure Lett.* iv. Wks. (Grosart) I. 228 The singular marke, whereat euery Arte & euery vertue is to leuell.

c. Forming the only one of the kind; unique, solitary, single. Also (with *the*), sole, only.

a 1555 LATIMER *Serm. & Rem.* (Parker Soc.) 101 Now I will shew you what man is..; but I will not speak of that singular Son of man, which was Christ. *a* 1641 BP. MOUNTAGU *Acts & Mon.* (1642) 215 The Copy being singular, and none extant any where else. 1687 A. LOVELL tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* I. 21 The arch whereof is..almost singular in its kind and architecture. *a* 1715 BURNET *Own Time* (1766) I. 2 He was the singular instance in Scotland. 1756 WASHINGTON *Lett.* Writ. 1889 I. 241 A laudable example this, and I hope not singular one. 1788 FRANKLIN *Autobiog.* Wks. 1840 I. 156 This is perhaps a singular instance in the history of mankind. 1881 WESTCOTT & HORT *Grk. N. T.* Introd. § 308 Singular readings, as they are usually called, which have no other direct attestation whatever. 1897 *Daily News* 28 Aug. 4/5 But the Reign of Terror is a singular event, and the Commune of 1871..is no parallel whatever.

† **d.** Of practice: Confined to one object. *Obs.*—[1]

1592 G. HARVEY *Four Lett.* iv. 55 Singular practise the only singuler, and admirable woorkeman of the world.

3. **a.** *Gram.* Denoting or expressing one person or thing. Chiefly in *singular number* (also used *fig.*). Opposed to PLURAL *a.* 1.

L. *singularis* appears in this sense from the time of Varro onwards.

1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) IV. 17 Everiche in þe singuler nombre was i-cleped Anthiochus. 14.. *Crowned King* (Skeat) 46 To shewe you my sentence in singuler noumbre; To peynte it with pluralitee my prose wolde faile. 1530 PALSGR. Introd. p. xxvi, Theyr synguler nombre hath a great meyny of dyvers terminations. 1561 T. NORTON *Calvin's Inst.* I. 21 b, They simply vsed the singular name of God as if they were contented with one God alone. 1591 PERCIVALL *Sp. Dict.* B 3, There are two numbers, the singular speaking of one, the plurall of moe. 1611 COTGR. s.v. *Que*, An interrogatiue of the Singular Number. *a* 1708 BEVERIDGE *Thes. Theol.* (1711) I. 258 Why, *I believe*, in the singular number? 1818 STODDART *Gram.* in *Encycl. Metrop.* I. 64/1 (1845) We call 'I love' singular, and 'we love' plural. 1872 MORRIS *Eng. Accidence* 99 *Alms*, *eaves*, *riches*, though treated as plurals, are singular in form. *Ibid.* 100 *Summons* is a singular form..and is usually treated as such, making the pl. *summonses*.

b. *Logic.* (See quots.)

After various uses of L. *singularis* in scholastic logic: cf. the note to B. 1 d.

1654 Z. COKE *Logick* 200 A singular accident is [that] which cleaves to a singular substance. 1697 tr. *Burgersdicius' Logic* II. viii. 32 Singular syllogisms depend upon this maxim, whatever things agree in one single third, those also agree amongst themselves. 1724 WATTS *Logic* I. iii. § 3 That idea which represents one particular determinate thing to me, is called a singular idea. 1846 MILL *Logic* I. ii. § 3 An individual or singular name is a name which is only capable of being truly affirmed, in the same sense, of one thing. *Ibid.* iv. § 4 The proposition is singular when the subject is an individual name. 1855 ABP. THOMSON *Laws Th.* § 74 A judgment about an intuition, as 'Northumberland House is near Charing Cross', is a Singular judgment. 1870 JEVONS *Elem. Logic* iii. (1875) 18 A singular term is one which can denote only a single object.

c. *Math.* (See quots.)

1845 DE MORGAN in *Encycl. Metrop.* II. 370/1 There is.. what we may call a *singular* solution for every particular form of θ_3 which deserves the attention of mathematicians. 1859 G. SALMON *Less. Introd. Higher Algebra* 45 We shall call those values which make all the differentials vanish, the *singular roots* of the quantic. 1867 BRANDE & COX *Dict. Sci.*, etc. III. 461/2 A singular solution of a differential equation..is a function of x and y [etc.]. *Ibid.* 462/1 The discovery of such solutions depends upon that of singular integrals of the differential equation under consideration. 1869 CAYLEY *Math. Papers* VII. 244 Certain forms of the singular curve. 1886 *Ibid.* XII. 395 The point $x = a$ is in

this case said to be a singular point in regard to the differential equation.

4. Of persons: † **a.** Holding no office; having no special position; private. *Obs.*

c 1386 CHAUCER *Melib.* P 40 (Cambr. MS.), Ryȝt as a senguler persone synnyth in takynge vengeaunce of a-nothir man, righ[t] so synnyth the Iuge ȝif he do no vengeaunce. *c* 1400 *Brut* CCX. 242 Þat fro þis day afterward ȝe shulle nouȝt be cleymede Kyng,..but..shul bene holde a singuler man of all þe peple. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 8 b, As moche as is in me, I forbede all syngular persones from the studyenge of this treatyse. 1583 STUBBES *Anat. Abus.* II. 79 You would not haue anie priuate or singuler man of what degree soeuer, to haue the patronage..of anie ecclesiastical liuing.

b. *Singular successor*, in Scots Law, one who acquires feudal property by a single title (usually that of purchase) as distinguished from an heir, who succeeds by a general or universal title.

c 1630 Sir T. HOPE *Minor Practicks* (1726) 138 The Assignation will not be valid against a singular Successor who acquires a real..Right with the Liferent. 1747 *Act* 20 *Geo. II*, c. 50 § 12 The Methods of procuring Entry by Heirs, or Singular Successors, or Purchasers of lands in Scotland. 1797 HOME & KAMES *Decis. Crt. Session* IV. 69 It was a fixed point, that general burdens are ineffectual against creditors and singular successors. 1838 W. BELL *Dict. Law Scot.* 957 He holds them as his inherent right,.. of which he cannot be deprived..by the right of the vassal's heir or singular successor. 1887 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 9 Aug. 4/1 It is a quibble of the worst kind..first to tax them as singular successors and then to tax the heir when he succeeds to the family property.

† **5.** Of a fight or combat: = SINGLE *a.* 15. *Obs.*
From the 16th cent. chiefly in Sc. use.

1382 WYCLIF 1 *Sam.* xvii. 8 Chesith of ȝou a man, and come he doun to a synguler strijf. 1432–50 tr. *Higden* (Rolls) III. 331 Lucius Mallius callede a Frensche man to a singuler bataile. 1483 CAXTON *Gold. Leg.* 65 b/2 They shold chese a man to fight a synguler batail ayenst golyas. 1567 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* I. 525 He had cowarthe refusit singular combat bayth of a Barroun and Gentilman undefamit. 1606 BRYSKETT *Civ. Life* 66 The singular fights or combats..happened evermore betweene enemies of contrary nations. 1678 Sir G. MACKENZIE *Crim. Laws Scot.* I. xii. § 2 Wherein singular Combats are discharged, there is an exception made of such as are fought with His Highness licence. 1752 J. LOUTHIAN *Form of Process* (ed. 2) 22 Of old, the Party accused had his Election, whether to vindicate himself, by singular Combat, or be tried by an Inquest. 1826 SCOTT *Woodst.* xiv, Those in his high place fight no singular combats.

† **6.** Single in form or dimensions. *Obs.*—1

1452 in Willis & Clark *Cambridge* (1886) I. 282, iij sengulere Principalls..in Scantlyon accordyng to the Principalls.

II. † **7.** Separate, individual, single. *Obs.*

c 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 7457 Þan bihoves þam,..For ilka syn þat þai dyd here, Have certayne payne singulere. 1387–8 T. USK *Test. Love* III. vi. (Skeat) I. 59 Right as everich hath thus singuler instrumentes by hemselfe, they han as wel dyvers aptes and dyvers maner usinges. 1414 *Rolls of Parlt.* IV. 58/2 To be bounde to hem, and to othere persones,..in singuler obligacions. *c* 1430 LYDG. *Minor Poems* (Percy Soc.) 63 In whiche psalmes..in synguler letris fyve, This blessid name Maria, there may he see. 1578 BANISTER *Hist. Man* I. 5 It is tyme we approche to the singular description of Bones. 1592 tr. *Junius on Rev.* i. 4 This is the particular or singular inscription. 1614 RALEIGH *Hist. World* III. (1634) 127 He equalled all others in the seuerall vertues, which in each of them were singular. 1668 CULPEPPER & COLE *Barthol. Anat.* I. xxviii. 68 The confusion and rupture as it were, of the singular determinate parts. 1701 SWIFT *Contests Nobles & Commons* v, That because Clodius and Curio happen to agree with me in a few singular notions, I must therefore blindly follow them in all. 1719 LONDON & WISE *Compl. Gard.* 135 Common Remarks for certain singular Cases relating to the Pruning of all manner of Trees.

† **b.** Esp. in *singular man* or *person*. *Obs.*

c 1380 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* III. 442 Þe generalte of þis preyere lettes not oure Lord God to here synguler persons, aftur þei ben worþi. *c* 1450 PECOCK *Bk. Faith* I. vii. (1909) 89 Every singuler persoone of the same chirche. *a* 1513 FABYAN *Chron.* VII. (1811) 244 Lyke as one man is kynde of all synguler men, and in euery synguler man is ye kynde of all mankynde. 1523 LD. BERNERS *Froiss.* I. ccxii. 260 Our subiectes, comons, colleges, vniuersities, or synguler personnes, what someuer they be. 1615 CROOKE *Body of Man* 243 Not..for conseruation of the life of the *individuum* or singular man, but for propagation of the whole species. 1642 JER. TAYLOR *Episc.* (1647) 93 The succession therefore..was made by singular persons, not by a Colledge. *a* 1677 BARROW *Serm.* Wks. 1716 II. 85 Thus doth humane nature, being in each singular man, shew the existence of..its original author and pattern.

c. In phr. *all and singular*, every one. Also rarely *each and singular*. Now *arch.*

(*a*) 1472 *Rec. St. Mary at Hill* (1905) 17 To..fulfille all & singuler my willes & ordenaunces herevnder wreten. 1546–7 *Test. Ebor.* (Surtees) VI. 248 All and singuler thos my landes. 1583 in Feuillerat *Revels Q. Eliz.* (1908) 360–1 Summa Totallis of..all & singuler the paimentes. 1656 SANDERSON *Serm.* (1689) 20 All and singular the 39 Articles. 1739 *Col. Rec. Pennsylvania* IV. 346 Inviolably observed in all and singular the parts thereof. 1781 *Articles of Confederation U.S.* § 13 Each and every of the said Articles.., and all and singular the matters..therein contained. 1838 in W. Bell *Dict. Law Scot.* 558 All and singular the felonies, ..and all and singular other the premises.

(*b*) 1535–6 *Act* 27 *Hen. VIII*, c. 42 § 1 The tenthe of all and singuler dignyties. 1552 *Bk. Com. Prayer, Ordering of Deacons*, All and synguler actes and Statutes. 1838 in W. Bell *Dict. Law Scot.* 558 The truth..of all and singular articles and circumstances.

(*c*) 1667 DRYDEN *Maiden Q.* I. i, With both of 'em; with each and singular of 'em. 1843 GEO. ELIOT in Cross *Life* (1885) I. 123 To say to all and singular, 'Swallow my opinions and you shall be whole'. 1875 STUBBS *Const. Hist.* II. xiv. 152 The common concordant and unanimous consent of all and singular.

† **8.** Of or pertaining to, connected with or affecting, the individual, in contrast to what is common or general; personal, private, one's own.

c 1340 HAMPOLE *Prose Tr.* 5 When I had takene my synguleres purpos and lefte þe seculere habyte. *c* 1380 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* III. 509 Alle persones of what kynne privat sectis, or singuler religioun. *c* 1380 — *Wks.* (1880) 82 To seie þe pater noster þat crist made hym self, & not..singuler preieres made of vs self. *c* 1400 LOVE *Bonavent. Mirr.* (1908) 60 And for they wolde no singuler prerogatif thei kepten the comoun lawe as othere. 1475 *Bk. Noblesse* 7 The duc off Burgoyn ..slow many thowsands..to revenge a synguler querel. 1514 BARCLAY *Cyt. & Uplondyshm.* (Percy Soc.) 33 Of lyberte, wyll, & synguler pleasure,..poore people they devour. 1581 J. BELL *Haddon's Answ. Osor.* 92 b, Not accordyng to the proportion of that singular righteousnesse whiche is of ourselves, and peculiar to every of us. 1651 BIGGS *New Disp.* 18 Many truths, now of reverend esteem and credit, had their birth and beginning once from singular and private thoughts. 1692 R. L'ESTRANGE *Josephus, Antiq.* IV. vi. (1733) 87 Yours is a singular God, that's only to your selves.

† **b.** *esp.* Of profit, advantage, gain, etc. *Obs.*

c 1384 CHAUCER *Ho. Fame* I. 310 That shal be take for delyte, Loo, or for synguler profite. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* III. 152 Anon for singulier beyete Drouh every man to his partie. 1422 tr. *Secreta Secret., Priv. Priv.* 132 Sum Pryncis ther bene, that for thar owyn Synguler auauntage ..takyn atte har talent trew men goodis. 1474 CAXTON *Chesse* III, iii. (1883) 95 For they entende to theyr synguler wele and prouffyt and not to the comyn. 1542 UDALL *Erasm. Apoph.* 257 b, One that preferred the dignitee..of the commenweale, before his owne singulare avauntage. 1581 W. STAFFORD *Exam. Compl.* ii. (1876) 61 For a time they gat much, and so abased the credite of theyr Predecessors to theyr singuler Luker. 1656 EARL MONM. tr. *Boccalini's Pol. Touchstone* (1674) 280 The Spaniards (whose proper nature it is, to reap singular profit from the fear in which they..have put..neighbouring Princes).

† **c.** Special; peculiar *to* one. *Obs. rare.*

1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* lxxxiii. 31 And to ȝour schervand singulair, Welcum, my awin Lord Thesaurair. 1590 SIR J. SMYTH *Disc. Weapons* 2 The excellent effects of our peculiar and singular weapon the Long Bowe. *c* 1710 CELIA FIENNES *Diary* (1888) 266 Common Law which is singular to our nation.

III. † **9.** Separate from others by reason of superiority or pre-eminence. *Obs.*

1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. XIII. 283 So syngulere by hym-self as to syȝte of þe poeple, Was none suche as hym-self. ? *a* 1400 *Morte Arth.* 172 Twa knyghtes hym servede, Singulere sothely, as Arthure hym selvyne. 1613 DAY *Dyall* ix. (1614) 234 Are we not bound to keep it [the Sabbath] singular and inviolable. 1635 PAGITT *Christianogr.* II. v. (1636) 31 Lucifer, that would have beene singular, and alone above all his fellow Angels.

† **b.** Of persons: Eminent, distinguished, notable.

1497 BP. ALCOK *Mons Perfect.* i. 1 A suppreme & a synguler mayster to teche you al thynge. 1554 in Strype *Eccl. Mem.* (1822) III. App. xx. 58 If..ye neglect so singular a pilot in such a tempest of affairs. 1582 MARBECK *Bk. of Notes* 1 Common places..gathered out of the workes of diuers singular Writers. 1606 CHAPMAN *Mons. D'Olive* I. i, Her behaviour to it Is like a singular musitian To a sweete instrument. 1647 LILLY *Chr, Astrol.* clxvi. 710 A late Minister of the Church of England, and a Singular Astrologian. 1691 WOOD *Ath. Oxon.* I. 817 A great Linguist, a singular Grecian, and an exact Philologer.

† **c.** Used in forms of address, esp. to a person of title. *Obs.* (Common in the 16th c.)
In later use only with *good*: cf. 14.

c 1450 HOLLAND *Howlat* 483 My singuler souerane, of Saxonis the wand! 1485 CAXTON *Chas. Gt.* 3 To satysfye.. my good synguler lordes..I haue enprysed..to reduce this ..book in to our englysshe. *a* 1555 LATIMER *Serm. & Rem.* (Parker Soc.) 367 To the right honourable master, secretary to the king's grace, his singular good master. 1586 A. DAY *Eng. Secretary* I. (1625) 19 To the right Worshipfull and my singular good Lady Mother. 1616 W. HAIG *Let.* in J. Russell *Haigs* (1881) VII. 155 To the Right Honourable my singular good Lords, the Earl of Dunfermline [etc.]. 1638 JUNIUS *Print. Ancients* Ded. A 2, The Countesse of Arundell and Surrey, my singular good Ladie and Mistresse.

† **d.** Specially active *in*, or good *at*, something.

1606 in *Lismore Papers* Ser. II. (1887) I. 98 The humble affection we have to be singulare in your service. 1654 GAYTON *Pleas. Notes* IV. ii. 183 With Pathetick expressions, which he was singular at, the Manchegan could not choose but melt into pity.

10. Above the ordinary in amount, extent, worth, or value; especially good or great; special, particular. Common from *c* 1500 to *c* 1650; now *rare*.

a. Of immaterial things, qualities, etc.

α. *a* 1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* lxxix. 14 Þe deuel..is þe wild best þat is of syngulere creulte. *Ibid.* p. 523 This blessid mayden..in synguler ioy..was glad in cryst. 1424 HEN. VI in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* Ser. II. I. 99 The singulier diligence and the ful notable service that ye doon unto us. 1477 EARL RIVERS (Caxton) *Dictes* I To gyue therfore synguler louynges and thankes. 1566 *Pasquine in Traunce* 110 The same is a singuler token and most plaine demonstration of his worde. 1585 T. WASHINGTON tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* I. ii. 1 b, My Lady of Aramount of most feruent desire and singuler affection was attending her husbande.

β. *c* 1460 FORTESCUE *Abs. & Lim. Mon.* xvii. (1885) 152 And so þe kynge shall lese the offices, as ffor any singular service he shall haue ffor hem. 1509 FISHER *Funeral Serm. C'tess Richmond* Wks. (1876) 291 She was also of singular easynes to be spoken vnto. 1579 W. WILKINSON *Confut. Fam. Love* A ij b, An euident declaration of the singular good will..of God towardes his creatures. 1612 BRINSLEY *Pos. Parts* (1669) p. v, I find a singular benefit hereby in causing all my lowest to stand or sit together. 1651 HOBBES *Leviath.* II. xxviii. 164 Offices, or any other singular marke of the Soveraigns favour. 1725 DE FOE *Voy. round World* (1840) 277 To our singular satisfaction we found the water.. ran..eastward. 1769 ROBERTSON *Chas. V*, x. III. 219 For this, too, he found an expedient with singular art and felicity. 1841 MYERS *Cath. Th.* III. § 28. 104 The instance ..is of singular significance in this matter. 1847 HELPS *Friends in C.* I. iv. 56 A theory that has done singular mischief to the cause of recreation.

† **b.** Of remedies, medicines, etc.: Excellent; highly efficacious or beneficial. In predicative use freq. const. *against* or *for*. *Obs.*

(*a*) *a* 1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* xvii. 7 My lord; þat is remedy syngulere amange anguysses of þis warld. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XIX. lxxiii. (1495) 904 Butter taken in to the body is a synguler helpe ayenst venym. 1538 STARKEY *England* II. i. 152 A syngular remedy for the sklendurnes of our polytyke body. 1615 MARKHAM *Country Contentm.* I. xvii, Cast out all the mud and filth, which is a singular compost for Land, upon the bank. 1657 W. COLES *Adam in Eden* lvii, It is a singular drink for the falling sicknesse. 1694 SALMON *Bate's Dispens.* (1713) 245/1 It is a singular Thing against a Gonorrhæa.

(*b*) 1578 LYTE *Dodoens* 55 Pimpernell..is singuler against the bytings of venemouse beasts. 1600 SURFLET *Countrie Farme* I. xii. 70 In the paine of the hemorrhoides there is nothing more singular then the perfume made of shauings of iuorie. 1657 S. PURCHAS *Pol. Flying-Ins.* 174 It [i. e. honey]is singular for gout and for the cure of all wounds. 1712 tr. *Pomet's Hist. Drugs* I. 4 It is singular for the Stone.

† **c.** Of persons. (Cf. 9 b.) *Obs.*

1485 CAXTON *Paris & V.* (1868) 54 Dere and speeyal brother and synguler frende. 1605 BACON *Adv. Learn.* I. vii. § 4 Six princes, all learned, or singular favourers and advancers of learning. 1654 tr. *Martini's Conq. China* 132 One only City.., whose President was..my very singular friend. 1738 tr. *Guazzo's Art of Convers.* 6 A most able Physician and singular Friend.

11. Remarkable; extraordinary, unusual, uncommon. Hence, rare, precious.
A common sense of *singularis* in classical Latin.

c 1400 *Pilgr. Sowle* (Caxton) v. v. (1859) 76 There I sawe a merueylous cerkle, of syngulere gretnesse. 1474 CAXTON *Chesse* III. vi. (1883) 133 Boece whiche was..tresor of rychesses, singuler house of sapience. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) I b, I sholde haue a synguler iewell to bere in my bosom. 1585 T. WASHINGTON *Nicholay's Voy.* IV. vi. 117 [They] are much giuen to..vsing singular perfumes. 1643 Sir T. BROWNE *Relig. Med.* 54, I could not chuse but say, it was the singularest, and superlative piece that hath been extant since the Creation. *a* 1680 BUTLER *Rem.* (1759) II. 5 A great Philosopher,..famous far and near, As one of singular Invention. 1766 PORNY *Elem. Heraldry* v. (1777) 140 Had it not been for the singular conduct of this brave person, the King had then remained a prisoner. 1779 *Mirror* No. 62, This was a proof of his good-nature, as well as of his singular presence of mind in critical situations. 1812 WOODHOUSE *Astron.* xiii. 135 One or two theorems of singular geometrical elegance and beauty. 1853 J. H. NEWMAN *Hist. Sk.* (1873) II. I. i. 30 The Romans..admired the singular quality and workmanship of the wooden columns. 1862 STANLEY *Jew. Ch.* (1877) I. i. 9 To refuse to do so would be to decline the use of..a singular gift of Providence.

† **12.** Differing *from* others in opinion; standing alone; peculiar in this respect. *Obs.*

1621 BP. MOUNTAGU *Diatribæ* 152 Iarhi, you confesse, was of another minde; and thinke you, that Iarhi was therein singular from all the old Iewes? 1653 WALTON *Angler* I. v, Lest you will think him singular in this opinion, I will tell you, this seems to be believed by our learned Doctor Hakewill. 1709 POPE *Ess. Crit.* 425 The Vulgar thus through Imitation err; As oft the Learn'd by being singular. 1754 FRANKLIN *Lett.* Wks. 1887 II. 343, I find the author has been led..to the same strange conclusion..in which I feared I should for some time have been singular. 1791 BOSWELL *Johnson* Feb. 1766, Sir, he must be very singular in his opinion, if he thinks himself one of the best of men.

13. Different from or not complying with that which is customary, usual, or general; strange, odd, peculiar.

a 1684 LEIGHTON *Wks.* (1835) I. 119 It is no Wonder that the Godly are by some called Singular and Precise. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 27 Apr. 1667, Suitable to her extravagant humour and dresse, which was very singular. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) IV. 341 Its manner of procuring its prey, is one of the most singular in all natural history. 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* XXXIV, In one of my excursions..I overheard a singular conversation. 1824 LANDOR *Imag. Conv.* Wks. 1846 II. 155 He was called strange and singular long before he was acknowledged to be great. 1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* I. vii. 55, I clambered up among these singular terraces. 1875 MANNING *Mission Holy Ghost* vii. 189 Those who make themselves singular in their dress and manners are seldom free from vanity.

† **14.** Quasi-*adv.* Singularly, especially, particularly. *Obs.* (Cf. 9 c.)

1530 PALSGR. 270/2 Synguler pure thyng, *chose deslite.* 1548–9 *Bk. Com. Prayer, Offices* (Mar.) 23 That shall be to hym a singuler great coumforte. 1581 W. STAFFORD *Exam. Compl.* iii. (1876) 90 When a singuler good workeman in any mistery comes. *a* 1604 HANMER *Chron. Irel.* (1809) 123 Hee proved a singular learned man. *Ibid.* 318 The Realme of Ireland at this time was singular well governed. 1693 CONGREVE *Old Bach.* I. iv, A singular good principle.

15. *Comb.*, as *singular-looking, -minded, -witted* adjs.

1610 HEALEY *St. Aug. Citie of God* VIII. xii. 302 He was an admirable, singular witted man, inferior to none. 1815 SCOTT *Guy Mann.* xxiii, This wild and singular-looking woman. 1831 — *Ct. Robert* vii, The survivors of these singular-minded men. 1878 SMILES *Robt. Dick* iii, [He] took up a singular-looking nut.

B. *sb.*

1. a. A single person; an individual. Now *rare*.

1480 in Rymer *Foedera* (1710) IX. 917 Tounes, Comunaltees and Singulers. 1549 COVERDALE, etc. *Erasm. Par. Thess.* 14 So deare a singular, and so necessarie a companion. 1619 W. SCLATER *Exp. 1 Thess.* (1630) 15 Of Singulars, all we haue, is a probable conjecture. *a* 1637 B. JONSON *Timber* Wks. (Rtldg.) 756/1 Eloquence would be but a poor thing, if we should only converse with singulars; speak with man and man together. 1854 S. DOBELL *Balder* xxiv. 158 This..I give To thee, and am no poorer; no, nor thou.., nor a singular of all Who ever shall possess it.

b. A single thing; a single point or detail.

1615 CROOKE *Body of Man* 700 All compound thinges are of greater force then Singulares. 1620 E. BLOUNT *Horæ Subs.* 204 As for *Epitomes*..for one that meanes to goe through all the singulars; they seeme quite vnnecessary. *a* 1711 KEN *Hymnarium* Poet. Wks. 1721 II. 121 The whole Creation heedfully survey, Each Singular minutely weigh.

c. Contrasted with a class or species.

1640 *Canterburians Self-Conviction* Postscr. 1 To make them but two singulars under one spece. 1642 H. MORE *Song of Soul* II. II. III. xxvi, She..Calls kinds immortall, though their singulars do waste. 1661 GLANVILL *Van. Dogm.* 124 Every man..owns something, wherein none are like him: and these are as many, as humane nature hath singulars. 1832 AUSTIN *Jurispr.* (1879) II. 1037 A species; that is to say, a class consisting exclusively of mere individuals or singulars.

d. *pl.* Contrasted with universals.

The use of L. *singulare, -aria*, in contrast to *universale, -alia*, goes back to Boëthius.

1643 DIGGES *Unl. Taking Arms* ii. 46 This notion of universall speculatively distinguished from singulars. 1669 GALE *Crt. Gentiles* I. I. i. 4 His Universal Ideas..he makes to be the..great Exemplar and image of al singulars. 1690 C. NESS *Hist. O. & N.T.* I. 29 Adam wisely understood all simples, singulars and universals. 1737 *Gentl. Mag.* VII. 15 Think you, that God's Providence is..employ'd about Universals?..But if God takes care of Singulars [etc.]. 1864 BOWEN *Logic* vii. 180 Their Knowledge being confined, as we have seen, to Intuitions,—to Singulars.

2. *Gram.* The singular number; a word in its singular form.

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XVII. CXXXIII. (Bodl. MS.), *Porrum* is *hoc Porrum* in þe singuler & *hii porri* in þe plurel. 1530 PALSGR. 127 Howe all maner participles forme theyr..plurel nombres out of theyr singulars. *a* 1637 B. JONSON *Eng. Gram.* I. xiii, The first [declension] maketh the plural of the singular, by adding thereunto *s*. 1751 HARRIS *Hermes* Wks. (1841) 162 The..imperative has no first person of the singular. 1799 *Asiatic Researches* II. 211 Their Feminine Singulars are used in the Persian as Participles. 1839 *Penny Cycl.* XIII. 313/1 The aspirate has taken the place of the τ or σ in the nominative singular. 1872 MORRIS *Eng. Accidence* 99 The plurals of some substantives differ in meaning from the singulars.

†**3.** Personal or private profit or gain. *Obs.*—[1]

1419 in *26 Polit. Poems* 71 For defaute of Iustice, and singulere to wynne, þey were rebell.

†**4.** A single or ordinary rafter. *Obs.*

Cf. the mod. Somerset *singler* (Elworthy *Word-bk.* 671).

1452 in Willis & Clark *Cambridge* (1886) I. 282 Atte euery joynt of the Crest tre atte the Principalls and sengulers shalbe halff Angells. Also atte..euery end of the sengulers atte the Jowpye shalbe an Angel.

†**5.** = SANGLIER. *Obs. rare.*

1486 *Bk. St. Albans* e iij, A Synguler is he so: for a lone he will goo. 1688 [see SANGLIER].

Si·ngularist. [f. SINGULAR *a.* + -IST.]

†**1.** One who differs from others, or from what is generally accepted; one who affects singularity.

1593 G. HARVEY *Pierce's Super.* II. 101 One vnlearned Singularist hath more in him, then ten learned Precisians. 1596 NASHE *Saffron Walden* Wks. (Grosart) III. 66 Some smirking singularists, brag Reformists, and glicking Remembrancers..seeke to be masons of infinite contradiction. *a* 1641 BP. MOUNTAGU *Acts & Mon.* (1642) 45 The private faults, opinions, conceits of Factionists, Singularists, or so, bee Fathered upon the Church. *a* 1677 BARROW *Serm.* XXXIV. (1686) III. 378 Men not enduring to be termed..a clownish singularist, or non-conformist to ordinary usage, a stiff opiniatre.

2. *Eccl.* One who holds a single benefice, as contrasted with a PLURALIST. *rare.*

1799 MORNINGTON in Stanhope *Life Pitt* III. 192 To make my brother Gerald a fat pluralist: he is at present a meagre singularist. 1832 *Fraser's Mag.* V. 550 The effect.. will be..to make the rich and influential clergyman a pluralist, and keep the poorer class singularists probably for life.

†**Singula·ritan.** *Obs. rare.* [Cf. next and -AN.] = SINGULARIST 1

1647 TRAPP *Marrow Gd. Authors* in *Comm. Ep.* 697 *Patres sic judicant, ego vero sic*, saith another Singularitan. 1653 BP. WEBBE *Pract. Quiet.* (1657) 237 Such Singularitans there were among the Corinthians, who standing upon their own proud conceit contemned others.

Singularity (singiŭlæ·riti). Also 4 **syngularyte**, 5–6 **-ite**; 5–6 **singularite**(**e**, 5 **-yte**(**e**, 6–7 **-itie**, 6 **-itye**. See also SINGLERTY and SINGULERTY. [ad. F. *singularité* (12th c.), or late L. *singulāritas*, f. *singulāris* SINGULAR: see -ITY.]

I. †**1.** Singleness of aim or purpose. *Obs. rare.*

a 1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* iv. 10 Þai perisch þat sekis many thyngs, and syngularite is halden in halymen, for þai sett all þaire hert to luf anly a god. 1640 in Rushw. *Hist. Coll.* III. (1692) I. 130 Is there in us that which God requires, Unity, Purity, and singularity of heart?

†**2.** A single or separate thing or entity; a unit.

c 1374 CHAUCER *Boeth.* V. met. iii. (1868) 160 Whan þe soule..seeþ..god, þan knoweþ it to-gidre þe somme and þe singularites, þat is to seyn, þe principles and eueryche by hym self. 1548 GESTE *Pr. Masse* 139 'Wee' importeth a multitude and not a singularitee. 1606 BRYSKETT *Civil Life* 162 (As Aristotle sayth) the knowledge of vniuersalities springeth from singularities. 1682 SIR T. BROWNE *Chr. Mor.* (1756) 120 Persons of short times..know not singularities enough to raise axioms of this world. 1708 *Brit. Apollo* No. 40. 1/2 Tho it be an Usual thing in the Hebrew ..for a Plural Word to denote a Singularity.

3. The quality or fact of being one in number or kind; singleness, oneness. Now *rare.*

1583 STUBBES *Anat. Abus.* II. (1882) 80 The singularitie of one man may easilie be abused. 1593 BILSON *Govt. Christ's Ch.* 245 The singularitie of one Pastour over each flocke is commanded. 1608 HEYWOOD *Lucrece* II. ii, Barren Princes Breed danger in their singularitie. 1671 FLAVEL *Fount of Life* viii. 20 He is described by the Singularity of his Mediation, One Mediator, and but one. 1711 G. HICKES *Two Treat. Chr. Priesth.* (1847) II. 390 The unity of each Church resteth on the singularity of the pastor. 1713 ARBUTHNOT *John Bull* II. xx, Why may not John Bull be *Us*..? I hope John Bull is no more confined to Singularity than Nic. Frog. 1806 *Phil. Trans.* XCVI. 225 The projectile motions of the planets..are all decidedly in favour of a marked singularity of direction. 1850 ROBERTSON *Serm.* Ser. III. xi. (1853) 132 Not merely the singularity in the number of God's Being.

II. 4. †**a.** The fact or condition of being alone or apart from others; solitariness. *Obs. rare.*

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* VI. XXIII. (1495) 212 Men vsyd to ete togyders in open place, leest syngularite [*Bodl. MS.* singulerite] schuld brede lechery. 1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* (1658) 189 Goats love singularity, and may well be called Schismaticks among Cattel, and therefore they thrive best lying together in small numbers.

b. A solitary instance.

1814 J. ADAMS *Wks.* (1856) X. 106 A friendship of forty years, I have found a rarity, though not a singularity.

†**5.** Private or personal profit or gain. *Obs.*

1426 LYDG. *De Guil. Pilgr.* 23661 Wherfore the Spon that thou hast seyn ys callede 'Syngularyte', thyng to possede in propurte. 1436 *Pol. Poems* (Rolls) II. 190 But covetyse and singularite Of one [*v.r.* owne] profite..Hathe done us harme. *c* 1450 BURGH *Secrees* 2223 Comende that Officeer.. As hym that loueth moore prosperite, vnyversal of thy Regioun Than pryvat avayl to his singularyte.

†**b.** Desire to be specially favoured. *Obs.*—[1]

c 1491 *Chast. Goddes Chyld.* x. 26 Some of thyse men by a grete singularytee desire of god some specyalle yefte.

†**6.** Distinction due to, or involving, some superior quality; special excellence or goodness. *Obs.*

c 1450 in Aungier *Syon* (1840) 378 No singularite of metes and drynkes be had in the freytour. 1538 STARKEY *England* II. i. 153 Dylygently to attayne in al artys and crafte gret syngularyte. 1558 WARDE tr. *Alexis' Secr.* (1568) 62 b, In lyke maner may you dresse and trymme Peches and other fruites: a thing of great singularitie. 1620 E. BLOUNT *Horæ Subs.* 358 There were conioyned all singularities together, best workmen, best wits,..and so in euery kinde Superlatiue. 1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* X. 482 The kindnesses of whom..argued in them a greater singularitie of kindnesse and compassion.

7. The fact or quality of differing or dissenting from others or from what is generally accepted, esp. in thought or religion; personal, individual, or independent action, judgement, etc., esp. in order to render one's self conspicuous or to attract attention or notice. (Common from 1590 to 1700.)

1502 *Ord. Crysten Men* (W. de W. 1506) IV. XXX, Syngularyte, as not to vouchesaufe to do as done other. *a* 1568 ASCHAM *Scholem.* II. (Arb.) 147 This mislikyng of Ryming beginneth not now of any newfangle singularitie. 1593 G. HARVEY *New Letter* B, Excellency hath in all ages affected singularity. 1601 CORNWALLIS *Ess.* II. i, It comes too neere singularitie, and a desire to be noted. 1665 BOYLE *Occas. Refl.* (1848) 359 The Day will come, when those that despise his Singularity, will envy his Happiness. 1715 BENTLEY *Serm.* X. 369 He that zealously vends his Novelties, what is he but a Trader for the fame of Singularity? 1753–4 RICHARDSON *Grandison* VI. XXIX. 181 Singularity is usually the indication of something wrong in judgment. 1814 CARY *Dante, Par.* XXIX. 92 So much the restless eagerness to shine, And love of singularity, prevail. 1887 LOWELL *Democracy* 10 That conceit of singularity which is the natural recoil from our uneasy consciousness of being commonplace.

b. Const. *of* (opinion, etc.).

1617 MORYSON *Itin.* II. 114 Doctor Latwar,..affecting some singularitie of forwardnesse, more then his place required,.. was mortally wounded. 1622 in *Fortescue Papers* (Camden) 184, I neaver affected singularity of opinion either in myself or any other man. 1771 *Ann. Reg.* II. 166 Tacitus's only aim seems to have been singularity of expression. 1779 *Mirror* No. 19, That singularity of opinion, which is the natural consequence of his want of opportunities of comparing his own ideas with those of others. 1822 HAZLITT *Table-T.* Ser. II. xvi. (1869) 327 Avoid singularity of opinion as well as of every thing else.

†**c.** Dissent or separation *from* (something). *Obs.*

1680 BAXTER *Answ. Stillingfl.* vi. 15 Is our Consent with the Universal Church, or your Singularity from it, liker to Schism or Separation? 1681 *Whole Duty Nations* 12 These Holy Men['s]..Singularity from Sin and False Worship.

8. a. Individual character or property; individuality; distinctiveness.

1583 STUBBES *Anat. Abus.* II. (1882) 11 There is a certaine singularitie, interest, and proprietie in euerie thing. 1613 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* (1614) 491 Some particulars..may be said touching some of them in other places, according to the singularitie of each Nation in this so manifolde a profession. 1648 J. BEAUMONT *Psyche* XXI. liii, That Singularity which seemeth so Close girt to every Individual Creature. 1778 MISS BURNEY *Evelina* I, This room..is without ornament, elegance, or any sort of singularity, and merely to be marked by its length. 1836–7 SIR W. HAMILTON *Metaph.* XXVIII. (1859) II. 169 All the special determinations which give it [a triangle]..singularity or individuality.

b. The fact or condition of departing or deviating from what is customary, usual, or normal; peculiarity, eccentricity, oddity, strangeness.

1768 STERNE *Sent. Journ., Passport*, The Count smiled at the singularity of the introduction. 1794 S. WILLIAMS *Vermont* 150 The manners and customs of the Indians are marked with a singularity peculiar to the savage. 1815 W. H. IRELAND *Scribbleomania* 122 *note*, The following anecdote, which, for its singularity, surpasses even the attempts of Chatterton. 1821 CRAIG *Lect. Drawing*, etc. v. 303 There is another species of rock which I shall mention, on account of its singularity. 1830 D'ISRAELI *Chas. I*, III. iv. 56 The singularity of his manners had attracted as much notice as his eminence at the bar.

†**c.** A special or particular kind *of* (something).

1776 ADAM SMITH *W. N.* I. vii. (1869) I. 63 Some natural productions require such a singularity of soil and situation, that [etc.].

9. With *a* and pl. **a.** An instance of individual departure from common ideas or practice.

1570 GRINDAL *Let.* in *Rem.* (Parker Soc.) 305 He hath a busy head, stuffed full of Singularities. 1613 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* II. ix. (1614) 154 When afterwards in a singularitie he had gone aside into a Caue, and there mewed vp himselfe. 1692 DRYDEN *St. Euremont's Ess.* 98 He fear'd the singularities which came from a false Spirit. *Ibid.* 336, I pardon our religious Men the sad Singularity of eating nothing but Herbs. 1710 STEELE *Tatler* No. 166 P 1 The World is so overgrown with Singularities in Behaviour, and Method of Living. 1790 PALEY *Horæ Paul.* i. 7 Numerous expressions and singularities of style. 1849 MISS MULOCK *Ogilvies* 14 Even slight singularities of dress—usually puerile and contemptible affectations. 1884 *L'pool Mercury* 22 Oct. 5/4 The singularities of his character and the misfortunes of his life.

b. A distinctive, noteworthy, or curious thing; esp. *pl.*, notable features or objects; †the sights (*of* a place).

1570–6 LAMBARDE *Peramb. Kent* (1826) 131 Since Douer is not far off let us make unto it and unfold the singularities of the same. 1593 MUNDAY *Def. Contraries* 15 Countrey houses..beset with cleere fountaines, Vineyardes, Meadowes, ..and other singularities. 1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* I. 15 Many haue wrote of the singularities of old Rome. 1653 H. COGAN tr. *Pinto's Voy.* lvii. 225 When we had well observed the singularities of this Temple. 1760 *Ann. Reg., Chron.* 78 Numbers are daily crouding from this city..to view these singularities [petrified human bodies]. 1801 STRUTT *Sports & Past.* IV. ii. 275 One of them [chess-boards], a perfect singularity, is of circular form. 1808 BENTHAM *Scotch Reform* 2 But as Africa of old was noted for physical, so have the British islands been in modern times for psychological singularities.

transf. 1599 B. JONSON *Cynthia's Rev.* IV. v, Al the choisest singularities of the court were vp in pantofles.

c. A peculiar, exceptional, or unusual feature or characteristic.

1663 J. SPENCER *Prodigies* (1665) 382 There is a singularity therein in regard of the nature of it. 1796 WITHERING *Brit. Pl.* (ed. 3) I. 121 From these singularities of structure, it is probable that the generation of these plants is effected in some mode not yet understood. 1817 MILL *Brit. India* II. iv. I. 167 The trials by ordeal..have been thought a mighty singularity in the institutions of our Gothic ancestors. 1822–7 GOOD *Study Med.* (1829) III. 227, I have..seen several of these singularities, and especially the renewal of the sight and hearing. 1852 CAYLEY *Math. Papers* II. 28 On the singularities of curves. 1883 WALLEM *Fish Supply Norway* 22 It is a singularity of the export..of cured fish that [etc.].

Singularize (si·ŋgiŭlărəiz), *v.* [f. SINGULAR *a.* + -IZE. Cf. F. *singulariser*.]

1. *trans.* To mark conspicuously; to make distinct or conspicuous; to distinguish, signalize.

1589 G. HARVEY *Pierce's Super.* I. Wks. (Grosart) II. 111 If any thing miraculously singularizeth witt, it is Impudence. 1644 J. GOODWIN *Innoc. Triumph.* (1645) 35 Separated from all its fellows by this parenthesis of preferment, ..and one other of them..singularized with this parenthesis. 1657 J. SERGEANT *Schism Dispach't* 402 There is not a word there expressing any distinction..to any other Apostle, much lesse singularizing each of them distinctly. 1704 *Collect. Voy.* (Churchill) III. 2/2 It has some Properties which do..singularize it. 1735 J. HUGHES tr. *Fontenelle's Dial.* III. iv. (ed. 3) 145 True Wisdom wou'd too much distinguish and singularize its Possessors. 1894 *The Voice* (N.Y.) 20 Dec. 6/3 He was a Capet, a family name singularized by the recurrence of these warrior prelates.

refl. 1685 *Gracian's Courtier's Oracle* 202 They affect.. to singularize themselves by an extraordinary air. 1771 SMOLLETT *Humph. Cl.* 30 Apr., The two Amazons who singularised themselves most in action. 1785 C'TESS OF R. *Ess.* II. 16 Resolving to do..something good, in order to singularize themselves. 1818 COLERIDGE in *Lit. Rem.* (1836) I. 383 The instinct..in each man of declaring his particular existence, and thus of singling or singularizing himself.

2. To make singular or one; to individualize; to convert into the singular number. *rare.*

1663 SPARKE *Prim. Devotion* 337 What is the meaning of this hymn so trebled, so singularized, but three distinct Persons, yet one onely Lord God? 1694 R. BURTHOGGE *Reason* 154 The Great Work..of the Body is to Singularize and Individuate the General Vital Principle of the Universe. 1828 [J. R. BEST] *Italy as it is* 404 The situation of Baia, the moderns have singularized the name, is preferable to that of Naples.

Hence **Si·ngularized**, **Si·ngularizing** *ppl. adjs.* Also **Singulariza·tion.**

1614 JACKSON *Creed* III. 247 Thus we..speake of the Church indefinitely taken,..not appropriated to any indiuiduall, or singularized person. 1657 J. SERGEANT *Schism Dispach't* 415 Where no such distinction or singularizing expression was found. 1889 *N. & Q.* 7th Ser. VII. 310/2 Your correspondent asks for examples of ignorant singularization.

Singularly (si·ŋgiŭlărli), *adv.* Forms: *a.* 4 **syngulerlyche**, 5 **singuleerliche**; 4–6 **syng-**,

singularly (4 -li, 6 -lie, -lye). *β.* 5–6 **syngularly**, 6– **singularly** (6 -lie). [f. SINGULAR *a.* + -LY 2.]

1. Singly; apart from, unaccompanied or unaided by, any or all others; by oneself or itself; one by one, separately, individually. Now *rare.*

a 1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* xxi. 21 All proude men, þat raises þaim vp syngularly, and suffers na felaghis. 1387–8 T. USK *Test. Love* III. v. (Skeat) I. 94 Ye, and yet other-whyle with wil assenteth, singularly by him-selfe. *a* 1400 *Pilgr. Sowle* (Caxton, 1483) IV. xx. 65 On the wylle I oute throwe my salt teres, for syngulerly on the my look is set. *a* 1470 HARDING *Chron.* CCVI. iii, [He] faught full worthely With George Turnaile in lyestes syngulerly. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 29 Therefore by theyr parcelles syngularly they be to be declared. 1541 *Act* 33 *Hen. VIII*, c. 28 § 2 Euery of them..maie retaine singulerlie to euery one of them in his house..one chaplein. 1653 BAXTER *Christian Concord* 109 That man..who will do all alone, singularly or on his own head. 1690 LEYBOURN *Curs. Math.* 345 In truth there are 4 Roots, but every one singularly equal to *b*. 1839–48 BAILEY *Festus* 70/1 He..Would solemnly and singularly curse Each minute [etc.].

b. With special application or reference to one person or thing.

1456 *Paston Lett.* I. 390 Yf I have rehersed wyttyngly the text of the Gospell syngularly unto your maistership, I beseche you to be had excused. 1592 G. HARVEY *Four Lett.* iii. 49, I speake generally to euery springing wit: but more specially to a few: and at this instante singularly to one. 1644 JESSOP *Angel of Ephesus* 11 The denomination is not to be taken..Singularly or Personally, but..collectively. 1679 MOXON *Mech. Exerc.* viii. 138 Though I have spoken singularly of one Principal Post, yet as you work this, you must work all four Principal Posts.

c. After one's own fashion; independently.

1669 GURNALL *Chr. in Arm.* Introd. i. 3/2 The Christian is to walk singularly, not after the World's guise. 1671 MILTON *P. R.* III. 57 His lot who dares be singularly good. [1806 S. ROGERS *Written in Westminster Abbey* 16 Round Him, who dared be singularly good.]

2. In the singular number; so as to denote one.

c 1380 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* II. 345 He seid not pluraliche, þat he shulde 3yve it to his seedis, but singulerly, to his seed. *a* 1522 LILY *Grammar* in *Shaks. Jahrbuch* (1908) 89 How verbes..varye in ther modes,..and in theyr persones, bothe syngularly and plurally. 1575 FENTON *Gold. Epist.* (1577) 74 Christ pardoning this theefe, sayd not, *Amen dico vobis*, but speaking singularly, he sayd, *Amen dico tibi.* 1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* (1658) 181 The Hebrews call them [goats] singularly *Ez*, and plurally *Izim.* 1678 CUDWORTH *Intell. Syst.* 246 Though that Poet speak more than once of God Singularly.

3. In a special manner; to an unusual degree or extent; specially, particularly, unusually.

c 1430 *Pilgr. Lyf Manhode* II. cv. (1869) 115 Youre wit is singuleerliche to alowe and to preyse. 1447 BOKENHAM *Seyntys* (Roxb.) 8 Most singulerly Verteuous be hyr excellent cheryte. 1509 FISHER *Funeral Serm. C'tess Richmond* Wks. (1878) 290 In which ,iiii. [things] the noble woman Martha..was syngulerly to be commended and prayesed. 1549 COVERDALE, etc. *Erasm. Par. Rom.* 44 Salute Persis, whome I syngulerlye loue. 1620 E. BLOUNT *Horæ Subs.* 344 You shall see the ouercomming of the Citie, liuely set forth, and the holy things..singularly expressed. 1664 H. MORE *Myst. Iniq.* xiv. 47 They were singularly well accomplished therein. 1725 DE FOE *Voy. round World* (1840) 122 They had something singularly honest and sincere in their faces. 1797–1805 S. & HT. LEE *Canterb. Tales* I. 81 A forgetfulness of himself, that was singularly charming. 1825 W. COBBETT *Rur. Rides* (1885) II. 1 The afternoon was singularly beautiful. 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xxii. IV. 718 A man of singularly clear judgment and singularly lofty spirit. 1884 R. W. CHURCH *Bacon* ix. 223 His Latin..is singularly forcible and expressive.

†4. Excellently, admirably, particularly well. *Obs.*

1576 FLEMING *Panopl. Epist.* 76 Caesar, the proper youth, is singularly disposed. 1599 B. JONSON *Cynthia's Rev.* IV. i, That rebatu becomes thee singularly. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* II. 72 Master Secretary..spake singularly for the justifying of her Majesties speciall care.

5. Oddly, strangely, peculiarly. *rare.*

1752 J. HILL *Hist. Anim.* 292 *Cyclopterus*, the lump-fish: This is a very singularly-shaped fish..and of a remarkably clumsy figure. 1820 SCOTT *Monast.* Introd. Ep., The quires of paper thus singularly conferred on me. *a* 1864 HAWTHORNE *Amer. Note-bks.* (1879) I. 39 Here I am, settled since night before last,..and living very singularly.

Singularness (si·ngiŭlărnės). Now *rare.* [f. SINGULAR *a.* + -NESS.] The quality or state of being singular; singularity, †singleness.

1530 PALSGR. 270/2 Syngularnesse, *singularité*. 1549 COVERDALE, etc. *Erasm. Par.* 2 *Cor.* 58 Nor by anye other waye proue [they] theyr owne syngularnesse, but by deprauynge other mennes actes. 1571 GOLDING *Calvin on Ps.* lxv. 12 That the frutefull yeeres excell in singularnesse of beauty. 1650 WEEKES *Truth's Conflict* Pref. A 2 They do require a singularnesse of intention, and raisednesse of mind. 1657 *Deuine Louer* 17 The greatnesse or singularnesse of our Priuiledges. 1727 BAILEY (vol. II.), *Singularness*,..also, a particular way of behaviour, &c., affectedness. 1900 P. C. SIMPSON *Fact of Christ* ii. 32 A singularness by which He is not only separate from sinners, but is also distinct from saints.

Singuler(e, obs. forms of SINGULAR.

†Singulerty. *Obs.* In 5 **sin-, syngulerte.** [a. OF. *singulerté*: see SINGULAR *a.* and -TY.] = SINGULARITY.

1414 in *26 Polit. Poems* 58 Syngulerte is sotyle þefte, Þey calle hit custom, troupe to blende. *c* 1440 *Jacob's Well* 70 Syngulerte..is whan a man folwyth his owyn wyll for pompe, & wyll no3t do as wysere don. *a* 1470 HARDING *Chron.* LXXXVI. vii. (MS. Ashm. 34), The publyke cause afore þe singulerte, [He] Preferred ay as it of ryght shuld be.

Si·ngulo-, comb. form of L. *singulus* single, in **singulo-silicate**, a unisilicate.

1883 *Encycl. Brit.* XVI. 62/2 Of cuprous..silicates,..the singulo-silicate is red, dense, and rather refractory. *Ibid.*, The singulo-silicate and bi-silicate combinations.

Si·ngult. Now *arch.* [ad. L. *singultus* a sob, a speech broken by sobs.]

1. A sob.

In the two quotations from Spenser, as well as in *Tears Muses* 232 and *Colin Clout* 168, the word is misprinted *singulf* in the original editions.

1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* III. xi. 12 There an huge heape of singultes did oppresse His strugling soule. 1596 *Ibid.* V. vi. 13 With deepe sighes, and singults few. 1616 BROWNE *Brit. Past.* II. i, When her teares were stopt from eyther eye, Her singults, blubbrings, seem'd to make them flye Out at her oyster-mouth. 1621 QUARLES *Esther* xv, Thus her plain'full mone, Commixt with bitter singults, she exprest. 1748 MELMOTH *Fitzosborne Lett.* (1763) 291 Whiles frequent singults check'd his faltring tale. *a* 1756 G. WEST *Educ.* in *Dodsley's Coll. Poems* (1782) IV. 30 Heart-thrilling cries, with sobs and singults sore. 1820 SCOTT *Monast.* xxix, Had he foreseen it was to cost you these tears and singults.

†2. = SINGULTUS I. *Obs.*[−1]

1661 LOVELL *Hist. Anim. & Min.* 366 The singult, or hicket, which is a convulsive motion of the stomach.

Singu·ltient, *ppl. a. rare.* [ad. ppl. stem of L. *singultīre* to sob: see prec.] Sobbing.

1660 HOWELL *Parly of Beasts* 23 Som of ripe age will screech, cry, and howle in so many disordered notes and singultient accents. 1879 L. MORRIS *Ode of Life* (1880) 4 The great Universe wakes with a deep-drawn singultient breath.

Singu·ltous, *a. rare*−°. [f. SINGULT: cf. next.] 'Relating to, or affected with, hiccough.'

1851 DUNGLISON *Med. Lex.*

†Singu·ltuous, *a. Obs.*[−1] [ad. obs. F. *singultueux*, f. L. *singultus.*] Characterized by or attended with hiccuping.

1575 BANISTER *Chyrurg.* I. (1585) 190 There hath followed singultuous feuers and death itself at the length.

†Singulture. *Obs.* [f. L. *singult-us.*] = next.

1657 TOMLINSON *Renou's Disp.* 235 Its faculty is..to abate singulture.

‖Singultus (singgv·ltŭs). [L. Cf. SINGULT.]

1. *Path.* Hiccups, hiccuping.

Given in the *Physical Dict.* (1657) and in Blancard, Harris, etc., but without evidence of actual use in English.

1754–64 SMELLIE *Midwifery* III. 180 A fever intervened..attended with singultus. 1767 GOOCH *Treat. Wounds* I. 395 Sickness, vomiting, singultus, languor, anxiety. 1828–20 E. THOMPSON *Cullen's Nosologia* 197 Dry cough, vomiting, singultus. 1880 FLINT *Princ. Med.* 313 Singultus may be produced by pressure on the phrenic or branches of the pneumogastric nerve.

2. A sob. *rare.*

1824 BYRON *Juan* XV. ii, But, more or less, the whole's a syncope Or a singultus—emblems of emotion.

Sinhalese (sinhălī·z), *sb.* and *a.* Also **Singhalese, Singalese.** [f. Skr. *Siṅhala* Ceylon + -ESE. Cf. CINGALESE.

The plural *Singales* used by Purchas (1613) and Herbert (1634) does not appear to be of this formation: it may represent the Skr. pl. *Siṅhalās.*]

1. As *pl.* The native inhabitants of Ceylon.

1802 PINKERTON *Mod. Geogr.* II. 313 The natives of Ceylon, called Singalese,..are not so black as those of Malabar. 1842 PRICHARD *Nat. Hist. Man* 242 The Kandians and the Singhalese resemble each other in manners, language, and religion. 1887 *Encycl. Brit.* XXII. 198/2 The 'tic-polonga' of the Singalese.

2. The language spoken in Ceylon.

1802 PINKERTON *Mod. Geogr.* II. 318 The language is Singalese; and there are some Mahometans. 1861 *Chambers's Encycl.* II. 738/2 Their [*sc.* the Veddahs] language..is a dialect of the Singhalese.

3. As *adj.* Belonging or pertaining to Ceylon or to the native inhabitants of that island.

1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) I. 494/1 From this Shanscrit are derived the sacred characters of Thibet, the Cashmirian,.. and Tamoul; the Singalese, Siamese, Maharattan [etc.]. 1802 PINKERTON *Mod. Geogr.* II. 311 In the reign of Claudius, embassadors were sent to Rome by a Singalese rajia. *Ibid.* 314 Religious books in the Tamulic..and Singalese languages. 1890 *Contemp. Rev.* LVII. 257 Sixty years ago the Sinhalese priesthood were intensely illiterate. *Ibid.* 270 According to the Sinhalese narrative.

Sinic (si·nik), *a.* Also 7 **Sinick.** [ad. med.L. *Sinic-us* (med.Gr. Σινικός), f. late L. *Sīnæ*: cf. SINÆAN *a.*] Chinese.

1662 STILLINGFL. *Orig. Sacræ* III. iv. § 8 Martinius tells us ..that the antient writers of the Sinick history speak much of the Flood. 1801 HULME tr. *Moquin-Tandon* I. iv. 27 Bory de St. Vincent..admits fifteen species of Men. These are, 1st, the Japetic;..5th, the Sinic.

Sinical (si·nikăl), *a. Math.* Also 6 **sinicall,** 8 **sinecal** (?). [f. SINE 2 + -ICAL.] Of or relating to a sine or sines; employing or founded upon sines.

1593 FALE *Art of Dialling* 60 This Table of Sines may seeme obscure and hard to them who are not acquainted with Sinicall computation. 1673 FLAMSTEED in Rigaud *Corr. Sci. Men* (1841) II. 171 By this sinical projection..I can find the hour of the day to a minute. 1762 FALCONER *Shipwr.* I. 751 In chiliads next the analogy is sought: And on the sinical triangle wrought.

†b. *Sinical quadrant*, a former nautical instrument having intersecting sines drawn from each side.

1669 STURMY *Mariner's Mag.* II. i. 47 Instruments in esteem amongst Navigators..are chiefly..the Plain Scale, the Sinical Quadrant, the Plain Sea-Chard, and the True Sea-Chard. 1695 ALINGHAM *Geom. Epit.* 69 Several Mathematical Instruments, as sinical Quadrant, Forestaff [etc.]. 1701 MOXON *Math. Instr.* 18 [Description given, copied by Harris, Kersey, etc.]. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Quadrant.*

1781 J. ADAMS (*title*), The Description and Use of a new much-improved Sinical Quadrant. 1788 *Trans. Soc. Arts* VI. 185 The plain Triangle..[is] better than the sinecal Quadrant.

Sinicism (si·nisiz'm). [f. SINIC *a.* + -ISM.] Chinese manners, customs, or principles; affectation or adoption of what is Chinese.

1891 in *Cent. Dict.* 1899 *Eng. Hist. Rev.* Apr. 228 The reference is a mere sinicism. Even cowry shells, commonly used in early China as currency, were never so employed in Japan.

Sinicization (si·nisəizē·ʃən). [f. next + -ATION.] The action or process of Sinicizing.

1898 *Athenæum* 26 Nov. 747/3 Shinto might have become a religious and ethical system, but its development was arrested by Sinicization and Buddhism. 1899 *Eng. Hist. Rev.* Apr. 209 It is of primitive Japan, of its birth and final sinicisation, that the story..is attempted in the following pages.

Sinicize (si·nisəiz), *v.* [f. SINIC *a.* + -IZE.] *trans.* To invest with a Chinese character.

1889 *Athenæum* 28 Sept. 414/2 While the civilization of Japan becomes every year more and more Westernized, her language..becomes more and more Sinicized. 1904 *Ibid.* 22 Oct. 547/3 Japan was never really sinicized, and what was best in China never became hers.

Hence **Si·nicized** *ppl. a.*

1899 *Eng. Hist. Rev.* Apr. 218 A thoroughly sinicised and variously manipulated version. 1905 *Athenæum* 16 Sept. 361/2 Even the Buddhism which rules the minds of men ..from the Himalayas to Sagalin is of a sinicized character.

Sinification (si·nifikē·ʃən). [See next and -FICATION.] Sinicization.

1900 *Athenæum* 4 Aug. 145/3 The Japanese have introduced the whole Chinese system of ideographs, one result of which..is a peculiar sinification..of the vocabulary.

Sinify (si·nifəi), *v.* [f. *Sini-*, comb. form of L. *Sinæ* (see SINÆAN *a.*) + -FY.] *trans.* To Sinicize.

1900 *Spectator* 15 Sept. 330 The Europæan who becomes Sinified is a degraded being.

Si·nigrin. *Chem.* Also **sinnigrine.** [irreg. f. L. *si-nāpis* mustard + *nigra* black + -IN 1 or -INE 5.] Myronate of potassium.

1876 HARLEY *Royle's Mat. Med.* 735 The characteristic constituent of black mustard is myronate of potassium, or sinigrin. 1887 BENTLEY *Man. Bot.* (ed. 5) 451 The elements of this oil exist in the seed [of Black Mustard], in the forms of myronate of potash or sinigrin and myrosin.

Sinister (si·nistəɹ), *a.* Forms: *α.* 5–6 **synystre, synistre,** 5–7 **sinistre**; 6 **syne-,** 7–8 **sinester**; 5–6 **syny-,** 5–7 **syni-,** 5– **sinister.** *β.* 5 **senestre,** 5–6 **sene-,** 5 **seni-,** 6 **senyster.** [a. OF. *senestre, sinistre* (mod.F. *sinistre*, = Pg. and It. *sinistro*, Sp. *siniestro*), or L. *sinister* left, left-hand. The more original senses of the word are in English later and less common than the transferred.

The stressing shown by examples in verse down to the time of Pope is *si·nister.* Johnson (ed. 4, 1773) gives *si·nister*, but adds 'it seems to be used with the accent on the second syllable, at least in the primitive, and on the first in the figurative sense', and this distinction is retained by Smart (1836), though previously rejected by Walker.]

I. †1. Of information: Given with intent to deceive or mislead, esp. so as to create a prejudice against some person; prompted by malice or ill-will. *Obs.*

1411 *Rolls of Parlt.* III. 650/2 And of all that by sinistre information, I havyng doute of harme of my body,..dyd assemble thise persones. 1485 *Exch. Rolls Scotl.* IX. 646 *note*, Gif..Johne informit the kingis heines that the said acris pertenit nocht to the said tennandis, that it was wrang and senister informacion. 1534 MORE in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* Ser. I. II. 49 That..no synistre information move your noble Grace to have eny more distrust of my trowth. 1566 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* I. 416 Vpoun sinister informatioun maid to thair Lordships,..the said Robert wes lattin to libertie; albeit the saidis Lordis perfytelie now undirstandis the contrarie.

†b. Similarly of suggestions, advice, etc. *Obs.*

1450 *Rolls of Parlt.* V. 179/2 By sotill meanes and sinistre suggestions. 1480 *Coventry Leet Bk.* 433 þe hasty, sinistre and seductous suggestion & labour made be Laurens Saunders. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. IV*, 8 b, The evell & sinister councell of perverse and flatteryng persons. 1559 *Mirr. Mag., R. Trestilian* xvi, Kynge Richarde,..By synister aduyse, had tourned all vpsodowne. 1569 in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* Ser. I. II. 257 Doubting what synister complainte may be now againste me. 1601 B. JONSON *Poetaster* V. iii, The sinister application Of the malicious, ignorant, and base Interpreter.

†2. Of opinions, etc.: Prejudicial, adverse, unfavourable, darkly suspicious. *Obs.*

1432 *Paston Lett.* I. 35 That the said Erle may have knowleche therof, to th' entent that he may..not dwelle in hevy or synistre conceit or opinion. 1533 MORE *Apol.* xxxvii. Wks. 904/1 It wyl be hard to bring anye suche sinister opinion of him in any good honest mans head. 1589 G. HARVEY *Pierce's Super.* I. 17 Let me not bee mistaken by sinister construction. 1604 T. WRIGHT *Passions* VI. 313 We passe into the corners of other mens soules..by rash judgements and sinister suspitions. 1648 BOYLE *Seraph. Love* xxiv. (1700) 146 We are apt to harbor sinister thoughts of the Contriver of a Plot. *a* 1713 ELLWOOD *Autobiog.* (1765) 67 Some evil Suspicion or sinister Thoughts concerning me. 1795 *Sewel's Hist. Quakers* I. Pref. p. xv, This is a very sinister and preposterous conceit.

3. Of actions, practices, etc.: Dishonest, unfair; not straightforward, underhand; dark.

Common *c* 1470 to 1650, esp. with *arts, courses, labours, means, ways.*

1455 *Paston Lett.* I. 326 The sinistrez, maliciouse, and fraudulent laboures and rapportes of our sayd ennemyes. 1483 *Plumpton Corr.* (Camden) 43, I am right sory & any synister wayes of my adversaryes be shewed unto you. 1502 ATKYNSON tr. *De Imitatione* III. li, Thou .. sekest for thy defence derke & synyster excuses. 1549 *Compl. Scotl.* xix. 160 The sinister ministratione of thy office, is the special cause of the scisma. 1612 BACON *Ess., Of Judicature* (Arb.) 456 Persons that are full of nimble and sinister trickes and shiftes. 1655 FULLER *Ch. Hist.* v. 165 Such who consult with covetousness in matters of conscience, embracing sinister courses to save charges. 1759 DILWORTH *Pope* 84 Private letters..which were obtained in a sinister manner by him. 1800 COLQUHOUN *Comm. Thames* xv, Cheap Fish..might be sold all the year if no sinister arts were used to prevent it. 1829 I. TAYLOR *Enthus.* i. (1867) 18 We ought not to heed the injudicious, and perhaps sinister, delicacy of some persons who had rather that truth should remain for ever sullied [etc.].

4. Corrupt, evil, bad, base.

1474 *Rolls of Parlt.* VI. 110/1 Contynuyn in habundaunce of goodes and havour, to their sinister pleasure. 1477 EARL RIVERS (Caxton) *Dictes* 7 Leste ye be let or withdrawen ther-fro by eny sinistre or euil temptacion. 1549 *Compl. Scotl.* Ep. Ded. 2 Ane sinister inuentit false titil contrar our realme. 1574 WHITGIFT *Def. Aunsw.* iii. Wks. 1851 I. 302 When do partial and sinister affections more utter themselves, than when an election is committed to many? 1612 T. TAYLOR *Comm. Titus* ii. 12 Many in some blind and sinister respect or other, can come to heare Ieremie speaking from the Lord. 1656 BRAMHALL *Replic.* 16 He speaks of bad manners and vitious humors and sinister affections,.. as envy, contention, contumacy, incontinency. 1780 BURKE *Sp. Econ. Reform* Wks. 1842 I. 254 To see us pervert our skill into a sinister and servile dexterity, for the purpose of evading our duty. 1823 BYRON *Juan* XIII. XXI, These were advantages:..he thought—It was his foible, but by no means sinister—That [etc.]. 1827 HOOD *Craniology* 79 Till one gets mastery good or sinister, And comes in like a new prime-minister. 1860 W. COLLINS *Wom. in White* xi, To the same bidden source and the same sinister influence.

b. Of motives, aims, etc.

Common from *c* 1590, esp. with *designs, ends, motives, views.*

a 1533 LD. BERNERS *Gold. Bk. M. Aurel.* (1546) Q viij, Ye suppose my good desyres be sinister. 1594 HOOKER *Eccl. Pol.* IV. ix. § 3 Is it so strange a matter to find a good thing furthered by ill men of a sinister intent and purpose? 1628 PRYNNE *Love-lockes* 14 Men in our dayes doe nourish their Haire and Loue-lockes out of Vaine-glory, Pride,..and such like Sinister and sinfull ends. 1656 BRAMHALL *Replic.* viii. 324 If Henry the eighth had any other private sinistre grounds known only to himself, they doe not render the Reformation one jod the worse in it self. 1710 PRIDEAUX *Orig. Tithes* ii. 45 They may out of sinister and corrupt designs give false Judgments. 1771 *Junius Lett.* lxv. (1788) 337, I do not mean to enter into an examination of the partial, sinister motives of your conduct. 1804 WELLINGTON in Gurw. *Desp.* (1837) III. 133 The Marhatta Chiefs..have frequently applied to him to exert the influence..to carry their sinister objects. 1856 FROUDE *Hist. Eng.* (1858) I. ii. 133 Wolsey..soon satisfied the king that he had no sinister intentions. 1871 MORLEY *Condorcet* in *Crit. Misc.* Ser. I. (1878) 43 All the evils came from the sinister interests of the nobles.

† **c.** Erring; erroneous; astray *from* the right path. *Obs. rare.*

1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 63 b, Despyse suche synystre feares and shames, for they come communly of the ennemy. 1549 COVERDALE *Erasm. Par. Gal.* 18 The sinistre rooted persuasion of the Jewes. 1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* IV. 157 They haue also this sinister opinion, that at the day of Iudgement .. Mahomet shall appeare. 1634 HABINGTON *Castara* I. (Arb.) 12, I never felt a wanton heate, nor was my invention ever sinister from the straite way of chastity.

† **5.** Of persons: Acting or advising to one's detriment. *Obs. rare.*

c 1500 *Melusine* 258 Yf some of his synester frendes haue informed geffray. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VI*, 91 The displeasures to hym doen by the quene and her sinister counsailors.

6. Of omens, etc.: Portending or indicating misfortune or disaster; full of dark or gloomy suggestiveness; inauspicious, unfavourable.

Orig. denoting omens seen on the left hand, which was regarded as the unlucky side: cf. 9 c and DEXTER *a.* 1 c.

1579 NORTH tr. *Plutarch, Marcellus* (1895) II. 370 To withdraw the evill from them these sinister tokens did threaten. 1600 E. BLOUNT tr. *Conestaggio* 29 Guided by some sinister starre. 1611 JONSON *Catiline Consp.* I. i, All the several ills that visit earth, Brought forth by night with a sinister birth, Plagues, famine, fire. 1700 MOXON *Math. Dict.* s.v., [When] Saturn [is] in *Aries*, and Mars in the same Degrees of *Gemini*,..Saturn is said to cast a Sinister Aspect to Mars. 1792 GOUVR. MORRIS in Sparks *Life & Writ.* (1832) II. 180 From such facts it is impossible not to draw the most sinister presages. 1828 SCOTT *F. M. Perth* xix, Dorothy..had that strong appetite for collecting and retailing sinister intelligence, which is often to be marked in the lower classes. 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xviii. IV. 230 Many said that those words, when examined, would be found full of sinister meaning. 1873 HORNER *Florence* (1884) I. xv. 226 The death of a lion [in Florence] was deplored as a sinister omen.

b. Of looks, etc.: Suggestive of evil or mischief.

1797–1805 S. & HT. LEE *Canterb. T.* I. 374 In the countenance of St. Auber he thought he discerned something watchful and sinister. 1824 W. IRVING *T. Trav.* II. 112 The sinister expression with which she regarded the travellers. 1853 LYTTON *My Novel* III. ii, Such a smile!—so disagreeable and sinister! 1864 BURTON *Scot Abr.* II. i. 9 The typical Irish immigrant, with his sinister animal features.

fig. 1838 THIRLWALL *Greece* XXXVIII. V. 68 This article, of so sinister an aspect, seems to have been inserted chiefly with a view to Thebes. 1838 PRESCOTT *Ferd. & Is.* (1846) I. vii. 318 It gives a sinister expression to her otherwise unblemished character.

Comb. 1838 DICKENS *O. Twist* XXXI, A rather ill-favoured countenance, and a turned-up, sinister-looking nose. 1884 COLBORNE *With Hicks Pasha* 131 Their only visible tenants being sinister-looking vultures.

c. Of natural objects, places, etc.

1844 HOOD *Forge* 31 As wild a night As ever was known on that sinister height. 1856 KANE *Arctic Expl.* I. vii. 69 The sky looks sinister; a sort of scowl overhangs the blink. 1894 P. PINKERTON *Adriatica, Venice in Autumn*, I hear the madmen scream From sinister San Servolo.

7. Attended with mishap, misfortune, or disaster; unlucky, unfortunate; adverse.

Common *c* 1580 to 1670, esp. with *accident, chance, fate, fortune.*

1576 FLEMING *Panopl. Epist.* 115 If I be intercepted with some sinister chaunce. 1580 LYLY *Euphues* (Arb.) 242 A trauailer that hath sustained harm by sinister fortune. 1642 ROGERS *Naaman* 8 Promising but a Sinister successe. 1670 MILTON *Hist. Eng.* III. Wks. 1851 III. 112 Thir Countrie, whose sinister fate had now blinded them for distruction. 1761 HUME *Hist. Eng.* I. xii. 287 Leicester himself, in case of any sinister accident, could easily take shelter in the city. 1792 COWPER *Lett.* 16 Sept., With no sinister accident to retard or terrify us. 1860 MOTLEY *Netherl.* xliv. IV. 243 A sinister event..had opened the series of transactions in the East, and had cast a gloom over the public sentiment at home.

8. Unfavourable, harmful, or prejudicial *to* a person, his interests, etc.

1725 POPE *Odyss.* XX. 304 The bird of Jove Truss'd..a trembling dove: Sinister to their hope! 1771 BURKE *Corr.* (1844) I. 285 By some accident very sinister to me, you absolutely forget the defence. 1805 *Brathwait's Barnabees Jrnl.* Introd. (1818) 40 A place very sinister to English princes. 1851 HAWTHORNE *Twice-told T.* Ser. II. *Main Street*, Such a life was sinister to the intellect, and sinister to the heart.

II. 9. Situated on the left side of the body.

c 1475 *Partenay* 3049 The sinistre Arme smote he vppon. *c* 1500 *Melusine* 84 Raymondyn..putte..the hand senester at hys nek. 1597 A. M. tr. *Guillemeau's Fr. Chirurg.* 54/1 My Lord of Gyuri receaved a terrible shot in his sinistre shoulder. 1606 SHAKS. *Tr. & Cr.* IV. v. 128 My Mothers bloud Runs on the dexter cheeke, and this sinister Bounds in my fathers. 1682 DRYDEN *Mac-Fl.* 120 In his sinister hand..He placed a mighty mug of potent ale. 1842 LOVER *Handy Andy* XXXIX, The old lady substituted a black silk shade to obfuscate her sinister luminary.

Comb. a 1658 LOVELACE *Poems* (1864) 158 That which still makes her mirth to flow, Is our sinister-handed woe.

absol. 1861 in A. E. Lee *Hist. Columb.* (1892) II. 437 All the infinite variety of shakes..was executed upon the devoted sinister and dexter of the President.

b. Lying on or towards the left hand.

1483 CAXTON *Gold. Leg.* 436 b/2 The preest translateth his book to the synyster parte of the aulter. 1600 DYMMOK *Ireland* (1843) 39 The sinister winge of the vantguard. *c* 1611 CHAPMAN *Iliad* XIII. 310 In the Greeks' left wing, The Trojans saw the Cretan king..And his attendant.. Both cheering the sinister troops. 1650 FULLER *Pisgah* 67 We have placed the name of Amorites on the sinister front of this our description. 1830 GLEIG *Country Curate* I. iii. 48 Of the doors,..that behind is fastened to the sinister lintel by..five latches. 1871 M. COLLINS *Marq. & Merch.* III. iii. 74 A card with the name of the journal..engraved in the sinister corner.

c. With reference to omens. (Cf. 6.)

1675 HOBBES *Odyss.* XX. 24 Then o'er their heads an Eagle flew on high Sinister. 1717 POPE *Iliad* XII. 257 The victor eagle, whose sinister flight Retards our host. 1734 tr. *Rollin's Anc. Hist.* (1827) I. Pref. 50 By the sinister flight of birds.

10. *Her.* Forming, or situated on, the left half of a shield (regarded from the bearer's point of view; cf. DEXTER). Also *absol.*

Cf. also BAR-, BATON-, BEND-SINISTER.

1562 LEIGH *Armorie* 41 The sinister point..is in the left side of the same escocheon. 1637 HEYWOOD *Royal Ship* 43 Shee pointeth to Hercules on the sinister side, with his club in his hand. 1709 STRYPE *Ann. Ref.* I. Introd. 8 The sinister half [of the escutcheon] being as it were obscured or cut off. 1730 BAILEY (fol.), *Tenne*..is expressed in Engraving by Lines diagonal, from the Sinister Chief and Traverse. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) VIII. 447/2 The Bend is an ordinary formed by two diagonal lines, drawn from the dexter-chief to the sinister-base. 1864 BOUTELL *Her. Hist. & Pop.* xiv. 169 The sinister half of the impaled shield. 1868 CUSSANS *Heraldry* (1893) 53 *Purpure*, diagonal lines drawn from sinister to dexter.

b. *Sinister bend*, = *Bend-sinister*, BEND *sb.*2 3.

1612 J. DAVIES (Heref.) *Muse's Sacr.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 83/2 A Sanguine-field, that beareth Harts, in chiefe, crost with sinister-bends. 1820 LAMB *Elia* I. *South-Sea Ho.*, His lineal pretensions, like his personal, favoured a little of the sinister bend.

11. Directed to the left; characterized by moving or turning towards the left. *rare.*

1615 G. SANDYS *Trav.* 84 A hundred Knights Circling the sad pile with sinister rites [L. *ex more sinistro Orbe*]. 1644 BULWER *Chiron.* 102 To draw sinister circles, or rashly to fling the Hand up and downe. 1822 J. PARKINSON *Outl. Oryctol.* 224 *Ostrea serra*: suborbicular, sinister, gigantic.

12. Relating to the use of the left hand. *rare* −1.

1818 W. TAYLOR in *Monthly Rev.* LXXXVI. 7 It became practicable to keep the left hand habitually clean,..and there was no longer any occasion to persist in those sinister forbearances, which are..commanded.

Sinisterity (sinisteˈriti). Now *rare.* [ad. late L. *sinisteritas*: see prec. and -ITY.]

† **1.** Sinister character; perversity; dishonesty. *Obs.*

1647 TRAPP *Comm. 1 Thess.* i. 5 Sinisterity of ends is here opposed to sincerity in Gods work. 1659 FULLER *App. Inj. Innoc.* II. 101 The activity of the Romish Priests to gain Proselites: their dexterous sinisterity in seducing Souls. 1758 JORTIN *Life Erasmus* I. 113 On this point they judged not amiss, nor with their accustomed sinisterity, if we may be permitted to use that word.

† **2.** Lack of skill or dexterity; clumsiness, awkwardness. *Obs.*—0

1623 COCKERAM I, *Sinisteritie*, vnhandsomnesse. 1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.*, *Sinisterity*,..lack of grace in doing a thing.

3. Use of the left hand; skill in this.

1877 SHILLETO in *Cambr. Jrnl. Philol.* VII. 155 The Latin thief's *sinisterity* of hand became proverbial.

Sinisterly (siˈnistəɹli), *adv.* Forms: see SINISTER *a.*; also 6 -lye, 6–7 -lie. [f. SINISTER *a.* + -LY 2. Cf. L. *sinistrē*, F. *sinistrement.*]

1. In an inauspicious or unlucky manner; unfortunately; ominously. *rare.*

1465 *Paston Lett.* II. 174 Yff onye thyng falle sinistrely only yn theyr deffaut, as God defend. 1586 WARNER *Alb. Eng.* II. vii. (1602) 30 Beholding how sinisterly the double fight hath past. 1611 COTGR., *Malheureusement*,..vnluckily, vnfortunately, sinisterly, disastrously. 1624 HEYWOOD *Gunaik.* I. 37 If any thing sinisterlie happen unto him through his owne temeritie.

† **2.** In a derogatory manner; with malicious depreciation. *Obs.*

1491 CAXTON *Vitas Patr.* (W. de W. 1495) II. 260 b/1 They asked what man..had so euyll and synystryly spoken of the sayd abbot. 1506 *Eng. Misc.* (Surtees, 1890) 52 Oon Bartrame Dawson..is senysterly defamed that he shulde be a Scottysshman borne. 1579 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* III. 158 Heiring that his just and necessarie intentioun..to be sinisterlie reportit of. 1606 J. CARPENTER *Solomon's Solace* vii. 26 He hath not opened..both [his ears] vnto him which hath sinistrelie..slaundered me. 1608 D. T. *Ess. Pol. & Mor.* 128 b, Hee ouerthrewe Marcellus, by accusing him to haue spoken somewhat sinisterly of Caesar.

† **3.** In an unfavourable sense; with a bias towards the worst view. *Obs.*

Very common down to *c* 1650, esp. with *conceive, interpret*, and *judge.*

1529 MORE *Supplic. Souls* Wks. 297 Such as would be glad sinisterly to misseconster euery thyng towarde the clergy. 1538 WRIOTHESLY in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* Ser. II. II. 110, I write this unto You bicause you may peraventur here sumwhat hereof, and the thing percase sinisterly interpreted. 1581 G. PETTIE tr. *Guazzo's Civ. Conv.* (1586) I. 13 b, The mallice of men is so greate, that they..thinke sinisterlie and preposterouslie of all the good deedes which are wrought. 1600 HEYWOOD *1st Pt. Edw. IV*, Wks. 1874 I. 77 If now some giddy fancy in your braine Make you conceiue sinisterly of her. 1653 GAUDEN *Hierasp.* 274, I would have nothing in Him, that is justly to be blamed, or sinisterly suspected.

† **4.** With evil intent or purpose; maliciously, malevolently. *Obs.*

1549 *Compl. Scot.* Ep. Ded. 2 Quhen thai & mordocheus var sinisterly accusit, and alse persecutit, be amman. 1586 A. DAY *Eng. Secretary* I. (1625) 88 A matter sinisterly suggested unto you against mee without any maintainable reason. 1642 *Consid. Duties Prince & People* 20 As there are those that are sinisterly officious to the one, so are there toward the other. *a* 1691 A. WOOD *Hist. & Antiq. Univ. Oxf.* (1796) II. 444 The scholars' arms..were not borrowed of them, as some had sinisterly suggested.

† **b.** Unfavourably; adversely. *Obs.*

a 1600 HOOKER *Answ. Travers' Supplic.* § 6 That I am.. one which refuse to be at peace with such as embrace the truth, and side my selfe with men sinisterly affected thereunto. 1618 *Barneveit's Apol.* B 3, The Gouernours of the free cities were sinisterly affected towards the State.

† **5.** In a wrongful or wicked manner. *Obs.*

1532 MORE *Confut. Tindale* Wks. 615/2 Nowe is not the tytle of hys Chapter so sinistrelye written and wryed awaye from the poynte. 1581 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* III. 394 Sinisterlie purchest upoun wrang narratioun maid to oure Soverane Lord. 1617 COLLINS *Def. Bp. Ely* II. ix. 381 Dissembling our sinnefulnesse, and reioycing sinisterly in our supposed perfection. 1625 B. JONSON *Staple of N.* v. ii, You told me you had got a growen estate, By griping meanes, sinisterly.

† **6.** Clumsily; awkwardly. *Obs. rare.*

1628 EARLE *Microcosm.* (Arb.) 41 Hee [the scholar] ascends a horse somwhat sinisterly, though not on the left side. 1633 BP. HALL *Hard T., N.T.* 258 The fooles heart and hand goes sinisterly to work. 1650 B. *Discollim.* 14 Some of our new Architectors have read some Authors..with their left eyes, which makes them work with their left hands, so sinisterly.

Siˈnisterness. *rare.* [f. as prec. + -NESS.] The quality of being sinister, in various senses.

1659 GAUDEN *Tears Ch.* 62 The ignorance,..precipitancy and sinisternesse of their silly censures. 1727 BAILEY (vol. II. ed. 2), *Sinisterness*, Unfairness, Self-Interestedness [1730 (fol.) *adds* Aukwardness].

Siˈnistrad, *adv. rare.* [f. L. *sinistra* left hand + *-ad* (see DEXTRAD).] To or towards the left side; sinistrally. Also with *of.*

1803 J. BARCLAY *New Anat. Nomencl.* 166 In the head and trunk,.. Sinistrad will signify towards the sinistral [aspect]. 1808 — *Muscular Motions* 331 All muscles..must ..be situated either dextrad or sinistrad of the mesial plane. 1885 *Buck's Hand-bk. Med. Sci.* VIII. 109 The section-plane..passed just sinistrad of the meson.

Sinistral (siˈnistrăl), *a.* Also 5 **sinistralle**, 6 **synys-, synis-, sinistrall.** [a. OF. *sinistral* (*senestral*), or ad. med.L. **sinistrālis*: see SINISTER and -AL.]

I. † **1.** Adverse; unlucky. *Obs. rare.*

c 1475 *Harl. Contin. Higden* (Rolls) VIII. 445 Dredynge not sinistralle fortune in batells.

† **2.** Likely, or designed, to cause mischief. *Obs.*

1534 in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* Ser. III. II. 298 To geue to yow notycyon of certyn synystrall matters, contrary to or realme of Ynglond. 1536 BOORDE *Let.* in *Introd. Knowl.* (1870) 52 Stultycyusly thorow synystrall words, I dyd as many of

þat order doth. 1561 F. Cox *Retraction* (title-p.), Certain sinistral and devilish acts.

† 3. Darkly suspicious; very unfavourable. *Obs.*

1560 Daus tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 365 Neither will they therefore conceive any sinistrall suspicion of so great a king. *Ibid.* 392 b, Divers men have had a sinistrall opinion of him. 1572 Kethe *Serm. Blandford* Pref. A 2, Their sinistral reportes of my Sermon.

† 4. Heterodox; unsound. *Obs.*

1545 Coverdale *Abridgem. Erasm. Enchirid.* Prol., But what so euer is spoken..that same is..iudged of them to be of a wrong and synistrall oppinion. 1547 Boorde *Introd. Knowl.* xvi. (1870) 165 Synistrall opinions, as concernynge prestes to haue wyues, wyth such like matters.

II. 5. Situated on the left side of the body; of or pertaining to the left hand or side.

1803 J. Barclay *New Anat. Nomencl.* 121 As for the lateral parts of the trunk, *Right* and *Left* might still denote these; although..*Dextral* and *Sinistral* might perhaps be preferable. 1828 *Harrovian* 185 A letter of goodly dimensions in the digits of our sinistral hand. 1894 *Nation* 30 Aug. 163/3 Because so few people are left-handed, a very good clue is afforded when a sinistral sign is discovered.

b. *spec.* (See quot. 1866.)

1839 *Penny Cycl.* XIII. 498/1 Shell thin..; internal lip dilated, the aperture ovate or ovato-lanceolate, sinistral. 1866 R. Tate *Brit. Mollusks* iii. 45 When the aperture is on the left hand side it is said to be sinistral.

c. *fig.* Illegitimate. (Cf. Left-handed *a.* 5.)

1897 Hazlitt *Four Generations* II. 172 To the country which paid him so well, he proved himself grateful by distributing his sinistral representatives of both sexes pretty freely, when there was a berth at his disposal.

6. *Conch.* Characterized by turning spirally from right to left; reversed, left-handed.

1833 *Penny Cycl.* I. 510/2 The *Syphonariæ*..are the only shells they can be confounded with, by their being sinistral. 1839 *Ibid.* XIII. 499 [They] explain how..appearances place a sinistral animal in a dextral shell. 1881 Bock *Head-Hunters Borneo* xxiii. 242 They also brought me a sinistral Helix of a dark, reddish-brown colour. 1888 Rolleston & Jackson *Anim. Life* 474 It is rare for a left-handed or sinistral twist to be normal in a given genus or species.

7. Of flat-fishes: Having what is properly the left side converted into the upper or coloured one.

1882 Day *Fishes Gt. Brit.* II. 1 When referring to the pleuronectoids the terms right (dextral) or left (sinistral) are employed with reference to the position of the upper or coloured side.

8. Of persons: Left-handed.

1904 *Westm. Gaz.* 6 Aug. 11/3 Two per cent. of mankind are naturally sinistral.

Sinistrality (sinistræ·lĭti). [f. prec. + -ITY.] The state or quality of being sinistral.

1852 Roget *Thesaurus* p. xxii. *note*, I have..framed from the adjectives..*sinistral*, and *gaseous*, the abstract nouns.. *sinistrality*, and *gaseity*. 1888 *Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus.* XI. 604 A certain coincidence between conditions of temperature and dextrality or sinistrality of the species [*Synaptura*]. 1904 *Sat. Rev.* 10 Sept. 326 The meaning which the disputants attach to what they call sinistrality.

Sinistrally (sinistrăli), *adv.* [f. as prec.]

† 1. In a sinister manner; perversely, wrongly.

1548 Udall, etc. *Erasm. Par. Matt.* vii. 49 Sinistrally expounding thynges that be doutfull. 1560 Daus tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 467 He..had heard how sinistrally..many euill men spake and thought of him.

2. Towards the left.

1847 in Webster. 1881 Le Conte *Sight* 19 To rotate it on its axis outward, i.e. dextrally..for the right and sinistrally for the left.

3. *Conch.* and *Bot.* With the whorl, spathe, or the like turning towards the left.

1854 Woodward *Mollusca* II. 202 Operculum sinistrally sub-spiral. 1881 *Jrnl. Linnean Soc.* XV. 273 Sinistrally inclined ribs. 1883 *Jrnl. Bot. Brit. & For.* 237 The spathes ..are rolled up indifferently either way—either dextrally or sinistrally.

Sinistration. *rare.* [f. L. *sinistr-*, stem of *sinister* + -ATION. Cf. med.L. *sinistrāre* to go on the left hand, to be adverse.] a. A moving or turning leftwards. b. The state or condition of being sinistral. 1891 in *Cent. Dict.*

Sini·strine, *a.* [f. as prec. + -INE 1.] Left.

1792 *Baron Munchausen* xxix. 133 Either [champion] stamped his foot sinistrine.

Sinistro- (sini·stro), used as combining form of Sinister, in the sense 'on, situated in, directed or turning towards the left', as *sinistro-cerebral*, *-gyrate*, *-gyric* adjs.; *sinistro-sacrad* adv.

1803 J. Barclay *New Anat. Nomencl.* 174 The position of the heart in the thorax;..we may say its direction from the mesial plane is sinistrad and sacrad, or sinistro-sacrad. 1885 *Proc. Soc. Psychol. Research* III. 43 The replacement of some sinistro-cerebral by some dextro-cerebral centre of sight or speech. 1887 *Amer. Jrnl. Psychol.* I. 194 All movements of the hand..from right to left are sinistrogyric. 1898 *Daily Graphic* 16 Feb. 9/4 The writing..was sinistrogyrate, or centrifugal.

Sinistrorsal (sinistrō·rsăl), *a.* [f. next + -AL.] a. (See first quot.) b. = Sinistral *a.* 6.

1828–32 Webster (citing Henry), *Sinistrorsal*, rising from left to right, as a spiral line or helix. 1840 *Cuvier's Anim. Kingd.* 345 The whorls turn obliquely to the right side in nearly all the species, but in a small number to the left; and the latter are named *reversed*, (or *sinistrorsal*). 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 51/2 Shell sinistrorsal, pyriform, very ventricose. 1868 *Nat. Encycl.* I. 697 *Ancylus*, a genus of little fresh-water snails..; the animal being, as Rang considers, sinistrorsal.

Hence **Sinistro·rsally** *adv.*

1884 *Proc. Zool. Soc.* May 364 The heterostrophe or sinistrorsally spiral apex.

Sinistrorse (sinistrōs), *a.* [ad. L. *sinistrorsus*, contracted f. **sinistrōvorsus*, f. *sinister* left + *vertĕre* to turn.]

1. *Bot.* Twining or turning spirally from right to left.

The word has been used in two opposite senses, owing to a difference in the supposed position of the observer: see quot. 1870 and cf. note on Dextrorse.

1856 Henslow *Dict. Bot. Terms* 174 *Sinistrorse*,..towards the left hand. 1870 *Henfrey's Bot.* (ed. 2) 100 In determining the direction of spirals,..it is usual to suppose one's self standing in the axis of the organ; but many authors suppose themselves standing in front of it;..hence great confusion in the application of the terms *dextrorse* and *sinistrorse*. 1879 A. Gray *Struct. Bot.* (ed. 6) iv. § 3. 140 Direction of Overlapping.., may be either to the right (dextrorse) or to the left (sinistrorse).

2. Moving or going towards the left.

1891 in *Cent. Dict.*

Sinistrous (si·nistrəs), *a.* Also 6 **sinistrus, -terous, sinystrous.** [f. the stem of L. *sinister* Sinister *a.* + -ous.

The stressing *sini·strous* appears occasionally in verse, and is given by Smart (1836) as proper to sense 5.]

I. †1. Erroneous, perverse, heretical. *Obs.*

1560 Whitehorne tr. *Machiavelli's Arte Warre* 1 b, There hath growen these sinisterous opinions, which maketh men to hate the warlike seruice. 1581 J. Hamilton in *Cath. Tract.* (S. T. S.) 76 Euerie curious heid..mycht.. apply thame to ane peruerse and sinistrous sense. 1632 Lithgow *Trav.* v. 194 They approue the apprehension of such a sinistrous opinion with these arguments.

† **2.** Malicious, unfair, prejudiced. *Obs.*

1593 in Spottiswood *Hist. Ch. Scot.* VI. (1677) 400 The sinistrous informations of ill-disposed people. 1632 Lithgow *Trav.* I. 2 Concerning sinistrous censures. 1693 R. Fleming *Disc. Earthquakes* 14 How sad a Token is it, when such are not only rejected, but have a sinistrous and false Application made of the same. 1752 Johnson *Rambler* No. 176 ₱8 The sinistrous interpretations or absurd remarks of haste and ignorance.

† **3.** Underhand; dishonest; corrupt. *Obs.*

1600 W. Clarke in *Archpr. Controv.* (Camden) I. 168 These moste indirecte and sinisterous procedinges. 1637 Gillespie *Eng. Pop. Cerem.* Ep. A 2, A pitty it is to see the crooked and sinistrous courses of the greattest part. 1689 *Trial Pritchard v. Papillon* 34 Embark'd in sinistrous and unjustifiable ways. 1717 Wodrow *Corr.* (1843) II. 327 The coming in by this door..is..a proof of..sinistrous designs in entering upon the holy office of the ministry.

4. Betokening or attended with misfortune or disaster; ill-omened, inauspicious, unlucky; baleful, malign, etc.

a 1575 tr. *Pol. Verg. Eng. Hist.* (Camden, No. 36) 177 Aswaldus..likewise with sinistrus fortune obteined the regall sceptre. 1598 Yong *Diana* 148 Those fauourable or sinistrous successes of Fortune. 1607 Earl Stirling *J. Cæsar* IV. ii, Which to my soule sinistrous signes impart. 1633 Hart *Diet of Diseased* III. v. 244 Some have observed some sinistrous accident to have insued the use of this remedy. 1733 Budgell *Bee* I. 498 Nor Thunder-Crack Sinistrous roar'd Presage. 1775 Johnson *Journ. Hebrides* Wks. 1825 IX. 126 The arrival of a beggar on an island is accounted a sinistrous event. 1832 Southey in *Q. Rev.* XLVIII. 277 An English traveller noticed it, in his journal, as a sinistrous omen. 1873 Browning *Red Cott. Nt.-cap* 1026 Not one grace Outspread before you but is registered In that sinistrous coil.

II. †5. Of or pertaining to, situated on, the left hand or side. *Obs.*

1646 Sir T. Browne *Pseud. Ep.* IV. ii. 182 The heart doth seem to incline unto the left,..because its sinistrous gravity is drawne that way. *Ibid.* 191 The distance of the North and Southerne pole..is equall unto the space between the East and West, accounted the dextrous and sinistrous parts thereof. 1678 Cudworth *Intell. Syst.* 221 The Contrarieties and Conjugations of things, such as..Dextrous and Sinistrous, Eaven and Odd, and the like.

† **6.** *fig.* Left-handed; slow. *Obs.*—1

1682 Sir T. Browne *Chr. Mor.* III. xx, Many, who are sinistrous unto Good Actions, are Ambi-dexterous unto bad.

7. Of flat-fishes: = Sinistral *a.* 7.

1803 Shaw *Gen. Zool.* IV. 318 Sinistrous Flounder, *Pleuronectes Passer*...Brown Flounder, with eyes toward the left.

Sinistrously (si·nistrəsli), *adv.* [f. prec.]

† **1.** Unfavourably, *esp.* with display of prejudice against a person. *Obs.*

In the first quot. there is connexion with sense 3.

1560 Whitehorne tr. *Machiavelli's Arte Warre* 90 b, If the Capitaine..in lightynge of his horse fell, it was of ye souldiours interpreted sinisterously. 1639 Drumm. of Hawth. *Magical Mirror* Wks. (1711) 174 Evil-affected and malicious Spirits..may sinistrously interpret and calumniate the Resolution. 1682 Sir T. Browne *Chr. Mor.* I. xvi, To accuse, calumniate,..detract, or sinistrously interpret others. *a* 1733 R. North *Lives* (1826) I. 266 He had his jury to deal with, and if he did not tread upon eggs, they would conclude sinistrously, and be apt to find against his opinion.

2. In an erroneous manner; incorrectly, wrongly, perversely; awkwardly.

1581 *Satir. Poems Reform.* xliv. 223 Scripture perqueir he hes sinistrouslie. *a* 1670 Hacket *Cent. Serm.* 354 Some of them take Scripture to prove it, but most untowardly;.. yet more sinistrously from those words 'If I be lifted up'. 1684 tr. *Bonet's Merc. Compit.* VIII. 307 Digestive and abstersive remedies, applied sinistrously and amiss. 1699 Bentley *Phalaris* xiii. 407 Mr. B.'s general Reflections upon the Stability of the Greek Tongue; which he has made so sinistrously, and with so very little Judgment. 1880 S. Cox *Comm. Job* 416 The Critics misconceive Elihu as completely and sinistrously as Job was by his friends.

† **3.** Inauspiciously, unfortunately. *Obs.*

1607 Earl Stirling *J. Cæsar* III. ii, Pacifie thy brest Lest sorrows but sinistrously presage That which theou would'st not wish. 1611 Cotgr., *Sinistrement*, sinisterously, vnluckily.

4. Corruptly; by underhand means.

1817 Bentham *Parl. Reform* Introd. 209 The promiscuous multitude being by intellectual weakness prepared for the reception of mental poison—the select few, by sinistrously derived strength, for the injecting of it—observe [etc.].

5. With a tendency to use the left hand in preference to the right; with the left hand.

1646 Sir T. Browne *Pseud. Ep.* 190 Many in their infancy are sinistrously disposed, and divers continue all their life ..left handed. 1830 *Blackw. Mag.* XXVIII. 888 We often stand shut up in that sentry-looking canvass box, dexterously, and sin strously fingering the string.

† **Sini·struous,** *a. Sc. Obs. rare.* [f. L. *sinister*: cf. forms like *monstruous*.] = Sinistrous *a.*

1582–8 *Hist. & Life of Jas. VI* (1804) 275 Twa poets of Edinburgh, perceauing his sinistruous dealling, did publish the same to the people. 1671 [R. Mac Ward] *True Nonconf.* 351 A most effectuall corrective, both of sinistruous designes, and evill mixtures. 1687 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 2221/4 Considering that some Oaths are capable of being Wrested by Men of Sinistruous Intentions.

Hence † **Sini·struously** *adv. Obs. rare.*

1582 in Sir J. Melville *Mem.* (1735) 259 Sinistruously perverting the same. *a* 1615 *Brieue Cron. Erlis of Ross* (1850) 17 He was sinistruously and wrongously put out of the Abbay.

Sinitic (sini·tik), *a.* [f. late L. *Sin-æ* (see Sinæan) + -itic.] Of, pertaining or relating to, the Chinese, or other peoples of the Yellow Race.

1895 in *Funk's Stand. Dict.* 1900 *Speaker* 8 Sept. 614/1 The Professor of Sinitic languages replied in our rough Western way.

Sink (sink), *sb.*[1] Forms: 5–6 **synke** (5 **cynke**), 6 **syncke, synk**; 6–7 **sin(c)ke, sincke**, 6– **sink.** [f. Sink *v.* Cf. LG. and G. dial. *sinke* a hollow or depression in the ground; Fris. *sink* sinker on a net.

Kilian gives 'Sincke. *vetus.* Cloaca, latrina. *Ang. sincke*'; but there is no independent evidence for this, and the citation of the English word renders the entry suspicious.]

I. 1. a. A pool or pit formed in the ground for the receipt of waste water, sewage, etc.; a cesspool; a receptacle for filth or ordure. Now *rare.*

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 456/2 Synke, for water receyvynge,.. *exceptorium.* 1463 *Bury Wills* (Camden) 20 Y^e^ newe prevy hous ovir the synke. 1515 Barclay *Egloges* II. (1570) B iij, Of a trene vessell then must thou nedely drinke, Olde, blacke and rustie, lately taken fro some sinke. 1589 *Hay any Work* 39 If you would haue a good sauour, you must go to the sincke for it. 1603 H. Crosse *Vertues Commw.* (1878) 117 A Play is like a Sincke in a Towne, where vnto all the filth doth runne. 1662 J. Davies tr. *Olearius' Voy. Amb.* 373 He converted..the Sepulchre into a Sink or common House of Ease. 1726 Leoni *Alberti's Archit.* I. 58/1 Make good large Sinks, and..fill them up with Sand, which will suck up..the superfluous moisture. 1731 Swift *To Gay* Wks. 1751 X. 204 You want a Hand to clear a filthy Sink; No cleanly Workman can endure the Stink. 1856 Stanley *Sinai & Pal.* iii. 179 The cave within being the sink described in the Talmud as that into which the blood and offal of the sacrifices were drained off.

fig. 1567 *Gude & Godlie B.* (S. T. S.) 185 The watter of life we gaif thame neuer to drink, Bot stinkand pulis of euerie rottin synk. 1588 Shaks. *Tit. A.* III. ii. 19 Against thy hart make thou a hole, That all the teares that thy poore eyes let fall May run into that sinke.

b. A conduit, drain, or pipe for carrying away dirty water or sewage; an opening specially made for this purpose; a sewer. Now *rare.*

1499 *Promp. Parv.* (Pynson), Cynke of Lawere, *mergulus.* 1509–10 *Durh. Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 105 Pro layng le Synkys in lardariis carnium et piscium. 1564 Haward *Eutropius* I. 3 He builded..sinkes also to avoid the filthe & ordure of the city. 1601 Holland *Pliny* II. 582 The vaulted sinks also and draughts..which he deuised, by..cutting through the seuen hils. 1683 Moxon *Mech. Exerc., Printing* ii. ₱ 1 The Lye-Trough and Rincing-Trough he places towards some corner of the Room,..and under these he causes a Sink to be made to convey the Water out of the Room. 1719 De Foe *Crusoe* I. 95 To cut a Hole thro' my new Fortification like a Sink to let Water go out. 1774 *Beverley & Hessle Road Act* ii. 9 Ditches, watercourses, sinks or drains. 1847 W. C. L. Martin *The Ox* 96/1 Two sinks, or drains, with iron gratings over them, to catch the fluid refuse from the gutters.

c. A basin or receptacle made of stone, metal, or other material, and having a pipe attached for the escape of water to a drain, etc.; *esp.* such a basin fitted in a kitchen or scullery, and having a supply of water connected with it.

1566 *Eng. Ch. Furniture* (Peacock, 1866) 65, ij alter Stones —One Mr. Sheffield haith made a sinck of in his kitchine. 1611 Cotgr., *Aiguier*, a sinke, or washing stone, in a kitchin. 1634 in *Archaeologia* XXXV. 197 In the kitchen..A grate for the sincke. 1726 Leoni *Alberti's Archit.* I. 95/2 A large Kitchen..with an oven, stove, pump and sink. 1827 Faraday *Chem. Manip.* i. 17 So advantageous is the unlimited use of water, and a regular sink with its drain. 1852 Mrs. Stowe *Uncle Tom's C.* xiii. 115 Simeon..was washing his hands at a neat sink, in a little back porch. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* III. 759 Attention must be paid to the housemaid's sink.

fig. 1893 Sir R. Ball *Story of Sun* 190 Certain [sun-] spots are, as it were, sinks by which cooler gases descend into the Sun's interior.

2. *fig.* **a.** A receptacle or gathering-place of vice, corruption, etc.

In common use from *c* 1560; sometimes of single persons.
• **1526** *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 242 Manasses was as the pyt and synke of all fylth & synne. **1547** J. HARRISON *Exhort. to Scottes* b v b, Afore I will stirre that vnsauery sinke of treson and trecherie. **1684** tr. *Bonet's Merc. Compit.* VI. 160 Unless that humour be discharged, it will become a sink of many difficult evils. **1707** J. STEVENS tr. *Quevedo's Com. Wks.* (1709) 410 The Man..was the very sink of Fraud and Deceit. **1764** GOLDSM. *Trav.* 359 Where kings have toil'd..., One sink of level avarice shall lie. **1822** HAZLITT *Table-T.* Ser. II. x. (1869) 196 The low, dull, level sinks of ignorance and vulgarity. **1855** MOTLEY *Dutch Rep.* II. v. (1866) 215 The justice and finance councils were sinks of iniquity. **1879** G. MACDONALD *P. Faber* II. x. 185 What vaults of uncleanness, what sinks of deathful horrors, would not the souls of some of us grow!

b. A place in which vice or corruption is rank or rampant.

1550 BALE *Eng. Votaries* II. A ij, Rome hath bene so synnefull a syncke & pernicious puddell. **1587** GOLDING *De Mornay* xi. (1592) 160 To toyle it selfe..in this sincke here beneath, I meane this elementall world. **1622** DRAYTON *Poly-olb.* xix. 25 A city's but a sink, gay houses gawdy graves. **1647** FULLER *Good Th. in Worse T.* (1841) 116 This necessary severity doth sweep their state from being the sink of sinners, the rendezvous of rogues. **1691** NORRIS *Pract. Disc.* 258 Any good that this World, this Sediment and Sink of the Creation, can afford. **1874** DEUTSCH *Rem.* 247 The wanton and absurd insult expressly thrown in the face of London..as compared to Rome, that sink of sinks. **1884** SHARMAN *Hist. Swearing* viii. 150 The sinks and hiding-places of a great city.

† **c.** A collective mass of unsavoury or objectionable matters. *Obs.*

1577-87 HOLINSHED *Chron.* III. 1047/1 So manie greeuous faults meeting togither in one sinke. **1589** NASHE *M. Marprelate* Wks. (Grosart) I. 160 To leaue furder stirring of this stinking sink. **1657** SANDERSON *Serm.* (1674) 29, I irk to rake longer in this sink.

† **d.** The scum or dregs *of* a place or set of persons. *Obs.* (Cf. L. *sentina.*)

1573 BARET *Alv.* s.v. *Rascals*, The rascall and vile sort of men: ye sinke of the citie..., *sentina, colluuies vrbis.* **1658** CLEVELAND *Rustic Rampant* Wks. (1687) 407 No less than 5000 of the sink of the People meet ill armed. **1692** R. L'ESTRANGE *Josephus, Wars of Jews* IV. vi. (1733) 702 As to their Quality, they are the very Scum and Sink of Mankind. **1740** in Wordsw. *Scholæ Acad.* (1877) 313, 2 of King's College..happened to meet with some of ye sink of ye Town.

e. A place where things are swallowed up or lost.

1648 J. BEAUMONT *Psyche* VI. cxciv, That dark Cave Where Sorrows find their sink, and Cares their grave. **1789** B. RUSH *Med. Enquiries* 79 Dr. Rush..terms them [*sc.* hospitals], 'The sinks of human life in an army,' and says, 'they robbed the United States of more citizens than the sword'. **1813** WELLINGTON in Gurw. *Desp.* (1838) XI. 76 As the Secretary of State's office is a sink of papers, and these are really curious,..I shall be glad to have them [*sc.* papers] again.

3. *transf.* A receptacle of foul or waste matter.

1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* I. i. 22 She poured forth out of her hellish sinke Her fruitfull cursed spawne of serpents small. **1601** WEEVER *Mirr. Mart.* C ij b, The sea [is now] a sinke, and riuers to the same Are rotten pipes. **1655** CULPEPPER, etc. *Riverius* XIII. ii. 363 The Mesentery..is as it were the sink into which the Noble Parts do send their superfluous Excrements. **1684** *Contempl. State of Man* II. vii. (1699) 206 Hell is the Worlds sink, and the receptacle of all the Filth in this Great Frame.

† **b.** *The sink(s) of the body*, the organs of digestion and excretion. *Obs.*

1607 SHAKS. *Cor.* I. i. 126 The Cormorant belly.., Who is the sinke a th' body. **1649** JER. TAYLOR *Gt. Exemp.* III. 102 From the sinks of our body no such sweet or salutary emanations are observed. **1691** RAY *Creation* (1714) 230 It is also observable that the Sinks of the Body are removed as far from the Nose and Eyes as may be.

II. † **4. a.** The well or fountain of a lamp. *Obs.*—°

c **1440** *Promp. Parv.* 456/2 Synke, of a lampe (*P.* holdinge the risshe), *mergulus.*

† **b.** *Founding.* ? A hole dug in the ground for placing a gun-mould. *Obs. rare.*

1541 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* VIII. 125 Gevin to v men..making and drying of the mulde and spindill, casting of the sink. **1542** *Ibid* 126 Clengeing of the sink and rynnyng of the mettell.

† **c.** A waxen tube or pipe for carrying off melted wax from the model of a statue. *Obs. rare.*

1756 *Chambers' Cycl.* s.v. *Foundery*, When the wax-work is finished and every part corrected, all these pieces are placed again upon the core, in order to fix hollow pipes of wax in them from every part of the figure,..called sinks.

† **5.** The well of a ship. *Obs.* (= L. *sentina.*)

1611 COTGR., *Lossec*, the sinke, or well, of the pumpe of a ship. **1638** HEYWOOD *Descr. Royall Ship* 14 Her sinke drew no more water than one man might easily empty by a pumpe. **1687** A. LOVELL tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* I. 270 In the lower Deck they had a very convenient Pump; it is an Iron-Chain..that reaches down to the Sink. **1711** *Phil. Trans.* XXVII. 365 A stink, much like that of the Sink of a Ship.

6. *Mining.* **a.** A pit-shaft. Now *rare.*

In quot. 1896 the sense may be 'process of sinking'.

1576 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* II. 507 To serche out..leid mynes.., to brek the ground and mak sinkis and pottis thairin. *a* **1578** LINDESAY (Pitscottie) *Chron. Scot.* (S.T.S.) II. 316 Ane woman..cuist hir sellff in ane coill sink. **1601** *Charter* in Dallas *Stiles* (1697) 769 For..upholding of Sinks, Syers, Gutters, Eyes,..Airholls [etc.]. **1739** SIR J. CLERK in *Mem. W. Stukeley* (Surtees) II. 91 The sink goes down perpendicularly 80 fathoms below the sea. **1896** *Daily News* 14 Jan. 2/6 Have struck a rich body of ore in the sink worth 11 ounces of gold.

b. A well or pool *of* water.

1834 MEDWIN *Angler in Wales* II. 126 If this man had really seen ore in the bottom of a sink of water in a mine.

c. (See quot.)

1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-mining* 224 *Sinks*, natural cavities met with in iron mines.

7. A flat, low-lying area, basin, etc., where waters collect and form a bog, marsh, or pool, or disappear by sinking or evaporation. Now *U.S.*

1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* I. 99 Be thir sinkes [*supra* certane difficile myres] wil gang not only the Reiuers selfes.., bot the horses in lyke maner. **1702** E. WEST *Mem.* (1865) 186 The way being full of mires, sinks, and snares. [**1753** HANWAY *Trav.* (1762) I. III. XXV. 107 Ghilan is generally esteemed the sink of Persia. **1801** SKRINE *Rivers Gt. Brit.* 68 This may be called the sink of Yorkshire, the country being deep, and occasionally sandy.] **1850** B. TAYLOR *Eldorado* xxi. (1862) 223 On the arid plains around the sink of Humboldt's River. **1872** RAYMOND *Statist. Mines & Mining* 194 Even large rivers, like the Humboldt, spread out into shallow lakes, erroneously called 'sinks', and, exposing thus a large area to evaporation, dry up.

b. = SINK-HOLE 2. Chiefly *U.S.*

1791 W. BARTRAM *Trav.* 174 Though the waters of these ponds in the summer and dry seasons, evidently tend towards these sinks. **1854** BARTLETT *Personal Narr.* I. 110 We stopped to look at some limestone sinks near the road. **1885** *Boston* (Mass.) *Jrnl.* 6 Apr. 2/3 But in some places veins of sand..run through the rock..Water,..percolating through, sometimes causes the entire vein to fall through. When the vein..comprises an acre or two it is called a 'sink'.

8. *Kinematics.* (See first quot.)

1878 W. K. CLIFFORD *Elem. Dynamic* I. 214 The point S is called a source of strength μ when the fluid streams out in all directions; when μ is negative, so that the fluid streams inwards, it is called a sink. **1882** MINCHIN *Unipl. Kinemat.* 208 The problem to find the velocity..due to the given causes (sources, sinks, etc.).

III. † **9.** A quantity *of* hemp sunk in a retting-pit. *Obs.*—[1]

16.. in *N.W. Linc. Gloss.* (1889) 485 Drowned in a hempe pitt neare a litle sinke of hempe.

† **10.** *Mining.* = CHUN 1. *Obs.*—°

1747 HOOSON *Miner's Dict.* s.v., A Sink..is the same thing with a Chun.

11. a. *Dancing.* (See quot.)

1706 J. WEAVER *Orchesography* 2 Sinkings are the bending of the Knees. Risings are when we rise from a Sink.

b. A dropping or lowering of the voice. *rare* —[1].

1786 MRS. A. M. BENNETT *Juvenile Indiscr.* III. 189 Their ignorance of the subject of the whispering dialogue ..was..owing..to a soft sink in the voice of both Henry and Clara.

12. a. *U.S.* A kind of oblong boat used in wild-fowl shooting, which becomes submerged to the water-level and serves to conceal the sportsman.

1857 E. J. LEWIS *Amer. Sportsman* 284 It is better..to have two or more double-barrelled guns in the Sink. **1859** BARTLETT *Dict. Amer., Battery*, a sort of boat used for duck-shooting...It is also called..a Surface-boat, Sink, or Box. **1874** J. W. LONG *Amer. Wild-Fowl* XXV. 252 When done with, the brush may be thrown off, and the labor of towing about the 'sink' avoided.

b. = SINKER 5.

1865 *Pall Mall G.* 17 Aug. 11/1 You want..nothing else but a good rod, with..a lead sink, and an inch of mackerel by way of bait.

c. *Theatr.* A part of the stage constructed to sink and rise by means of machinery.

Cf. *sinking stage*, s.v. SINKING *ppl. a.* 3.

1859 *Punch* 5 Feb. 58/2 Gorgeous transformations,..scruto work, gas-battens, and all the resources of 'sink and fly'. **1859** SALA *Twice round Clock* (1861) 255 The scene-shifters ..seeing..the traps greased, and all the 'sinks' and 'flies', ropes and pullies,..in due working order.

13. A depression or hollow, esp. one made in a flat surface.

1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2616/2 *Trap*, a sink or depression in a sewer-pipe. **1884** BRITTEN *Watch & Clockm.* 94 For making square sinks to receive screw heads and the like, a pin drill is used. **1885** C. G. W. LOCK *Workshop Rec.* Ser. IV. 215/2 [In electrotyping] any depressions or 'sinks' must be marked with a pair of callipers.

IV. 14. *attrib.* and *Comb.* (chiefly in sense 1), as *sink-cleansing*, † *-house*, *-pan*, *-pipe*, *-top*, *-trap*; also **sink-box** *U.S.*, = sense 12 a; **sink-dirt** *dial.* (see quot.); **sink-room** *U.S.*, a scullery.

1874 J. W. LONG *Amer. Wild-Fowl* XXV. 252 The usual method of taking canvas-back in the West is by the aid of decoys, shooting..from a *sink-box. *a* **1661** HOLYDAY *Juvenal* (1673) 37 Such can turn black to white; hire temples, ports, Rivers, *sink-cleansing, bus'ness of all sorts, And gain by't. **1838** HOLLOWAY *Prov. Dict.*, *Sink-dirt*, channel mud. *c* **1614** *Brasenose Coll. Muniments, Harrowden* (MS.), A *sinkehouse with a chamber over it. **1587** GOLDING *De Mornay* (1592) 38 Rome became the very *sinckpan of all Idolatries of the Worlde. **1793** SMEATON *Edystone L.* § 308 The *sink pipe of lead would convey it to the outside. **1869** MRS. STOWE *Old Town* vi. The conversation was interrupted by a commotion in the back *sink-room. **1875** KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2188/1 The *sink-top is of cast-iron. *Ibid.* 2188/2 **Sink-trap*, (Hydraulics), a trap for a kitchen sink, so constructed as to allow water to pass down, but not allow reflow of air or gases.

† **Sink**, *sb.*[2] *Obs.*—° [app. ad. L. *cinct-us* girdle.] (See quot.)

14.. *Lat.-Eng. Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 611 *Semicinctorium*, a synk or a lace.

Sink, obs. form of CINQUE.

Sink (siŋk), *v.* Pa. t. **sank, sunk.** Pa. pple. **sunk, sunken.** Forms: *Inf.* 1 **sincan**, 3, 5 **sinken** (*Orm.* **sinnkenn**), 5 **synken**, **-yn**, **cynkyn**; 3–7 **sinke**, 4–6 **synke** (5 **synkke**), 4, 7 **sincke**, 6 **syncke**; 4, 6– **sink** (5 **senk-**), 4–5 **synk**, 4 **sinc**, 7 **sinck**. *Pa. t. a. Sing.* 1, 3–4 **sanc**, 5 **sanck**; 4–5 **sanke**, 4–5, 8– **sank**. *Pl.* 5–7 **sanke**, 6 **sancke**, 9– **sank**. *β. Sing.* 1 **sonc**, 4 **sonk**. *Pl.* 3–5 **sonken**, 5–6 **sonke**, 6 **soncke**, 6–7 **soonke**. *γ. Pl.* 1 **suncon**, 3 **sunken**, **sunke**, 5 **sunkyn**; also *sing.* 6 **suncke**, 6–7 **sunke**, **sunck**, 7– **sunk**, *δ.* 5 **synked**, 7 (9 *dial.*) **sinked**. *Pa. pple. a.* 1 **suncen**, 3 **i-sunken** (*Orm.* **sunnkenn**), 3– **sunken**, 4 **sunkin**, **-yn**, 6 **suncken**; 4–7 **sunke**, 6–7 **sunck(e**, 7– **sunk**. *β.* 4–5 **sonken**, 5 **sonkyn**; *Sc.* 5 **sonkine**, **-yne**, 6 **sonkin**; 4 **i-sonke**, 6 **son(c)ke**, **soonke**, 7 **soonk**. *γ.* 9 **sank**, *dial.* **sinken**. [Comm. Teut.: OE. *sincan* (*sanc*, *suncon*, *suncen*), = OFris. **sinka* (WFris. *sinke*), MDu. *sincken*, *sinken* (Du. *zinken*), OS. *sinkan* (MLG. and LG. *sinken*), OHG. *sinchan* (MHG. and G. *sinken*), ON. *sökkva* (:—**sink-wan*; Icel. *sökkva*, Norw. *søkka*, *søkkja*; MSw. *sionka*, Sw. *sjunka*; Da. *synke*), Goth. *sigqan* (= **sinkwan*). In trans. use the form *sink* takes the place of OE. *sencan*, ME. *senchen* SENCH *v.*

The use of *sunk* as the pa. t. has been extremely common. Johnson (1755) says 'pret. *I sunk*, anciently *sank*'. In sense 21 c the pa. t. was *sinked*, which otherwise is very rarely found.]

**Intransitive uses.*

The perfect and pluperfect tenses were formerly freq. conjugated with the vb. *to be* instead of *have.*

I. 1. To become submerged in water; to go under or to the bottom; (of ships) to founder.

c **975** *Rushworth Gosp.* Matt. xiv. 30 Þa [Peter] in-gon sincan, cegde cwęþende 'hæl mec drihten'. *c* **1205** LAY. 4582 Scipen þer sunken, þer þreo & fifti scipen feollen to grunde. *c* **1220** *Bestiary* 538 in *O. E. Misc.*, Þe fir he [the whale] feleð and doð hem sinken. *a* **1300** *Cursor M.* 2904 Þai sink in þat wele þar neuer man sank þat was o sele. **1398** TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XIII. xxi. (Bodl. MS.), An egge fleteþ in salt water and sinketh downe in fresche watere. *c* **1400** *Destr. Troy* 12525 [Ajax] Hym-seluyn in the sea sonkyn belyue, Swalpit & swam. **1471** CAXTON *Recuyell* (Sommer) I. 279 The boot was full of water and sanck. **1530** PALSGR. 718/2 Some say that a man shalt synke thrise or ever he synke to the bottome. **1555** EDEN *Decades* (Arb.) 51 His shyppes were so laden with golde that they soonke. **1641** J. JACKSON *True Evang. T.* III. 209 The other [emblem] is two pots floting on a pond,..with this word, 'If we knock together, we sink together'. **1660** F. BROOKE tr. *Le Blanc's Trav.* 64 Leaving his other ship..to the mercy of the water, which in a moment sunk before his face. **1748** LIND *Lett. Navy* (1757) II. 107 They were resolved to sink rather than to strike. **1767** SIR W. JONES *Seven Fountains* Poems (1777) 35 The light bark, and all the airy crew, Sunk like a mist beneath the briny dew. **1827** D. JOHNSON *Ind. Field Sports* 142 If she sunk, they considered her innocent. **1858** LARDNER *Handbk. Nat. Phil.* 44 Glass sinks in water, but floats in quicksilver; ebony sinks in spirits of wine, but floats in water.

fig. **1575** *Mirr. for Mag., Induction* v, Sithe those..Ofte sooniste sinke, in greatest seas of care. **1611** COTGR. s. v. *Nager*, A fauourite..of authoritie, may boldly swimme where another would sinke.

Phr. **1825** *Ann. Reg., Chron.* (1826) 98/2 Dubbed a wizard .., Stebbings .. proposed at length, of himself, the old-fashioned ordeal of 'sink or swim'.

b. To become partly or completely submerged in quicksand, marshy ground, snow, etc. Also in fig. context.

a **1340** HAMPOLE *Psalter* i. 1 Qwik grauel þat gers him synk þat standis þar on. *c* **1380** WYCLIF *Wks.* (1880) 339 Whenne a man synkis in þe myre. *c* **1511** *1st Eng. Bk. Amer.* Introd. (Arb.) 28/1 They muste goo vpon brode trenchers that they falle not & synke [in sand]. **1530** PALSGR. 718/2 Foure great peces of artillery be sonke in yonder maresse. **1610** HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* 529 It is so throughly wet..with waters, that a mans foote is ready to sinke into it. **1686** tr. *Chardin's Trav. Persia* 242 They sink up to the Belly in the looser snow. **1784** COWPER *Task* I. 272 We..feel at ev'ry step Our foot half sunk in hillocks green and soft. **1821** CLARE *Vill. Minstr.* II. 110 Each footstep sinking ankle-deep in moss. **1860** TYNDALL *Glac.* I. xviii. 127 [The] snow..was yielding enough to permit the feet to sink in it a little way. **1890** 'EDNA LYALL' *Hardy Norseman* v, Your feet sank into the softest of carpets.

Comb. **1632** LITHGOW *Trav.* X. 428 All my dayly solace, was sincke down comfort; whiles Boggy-plunging deepes kissing my horse belly.

2. † **a.** To go down, to descend, *into* hell. Also without const. *Obs.*

c **1200** ORMIN 13381 All þatt wannteþþ Cristess hald All sinnk-eþþ inntill helle. *a* **1225** *St. Marher.* 7 Mi sawle schulde sinken..to sorhen in helle. *c* **1366** CHAUCER *A. B. C.* 123 Whan j me bithinke þat j agilt haue boþe him and þee And þat my soule is wurthi for to sinke. **1377** LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. XIV. 80 Þei sonken in-to helle þo citees vchone. **1508** KENNEDIE *Flyting w. Dunbar* 552 Spynk, sink with stynk ad Tertara Termagorum.

b. To subside or go down into, to be swallowed up by, the earth, etc. Also const. *in, into, within.*

c **1250** *Gen. & Ex.* 3775 Alle he sunken ðe erðe wið-in, Wið wifes, and childre, and hines-kin. *a* **1300** *Cursor M.* 2810 Þou lede þam suith out o þis tun, Are þat hit be sunken don. *c* **1386** CHAUCER *Can. Yeom. Prol.* 193 Somme of hem synke in to the ground. *c* **1400** MAUNDEV. (1839) ix. 101 In to that See sonken the 5 Cytees. *a* **1450** *Knt. de la Tour* 13 God had made mani citees to sinke for the synne that thei delited hem inne. **1508** DUNBAR *Flyting* 13 For and I flyt sum sege for schame sould sink. **1526** *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 99 Amonge other of the euylles of Sodom and Gomor, whiche sanke for synne. **1605** SHAKS. *Macb.* IV. i. 106 Let me know. Why sinkes that Caldron? **1611** BIBLE *Lam.* ii. 9 Her gates are sunke into the ground. **1736**

GRAY *Statius* ii. 16 The ponderous mass sinks in the cleaving ground.

3. To descend to a lower plane or level; to slip, drop, or fall *down*; to pass *in* by falling. Also *spec.* (quot. 1891).

c 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* II. 218 ȝif þæt sie omihte wæte innan onburnenu tyhte hie mon ut mid lipum mettum sincendum. *c* 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 251 Þe coupe ful out of his hond, & anon to grounde sonk. 13.. *Seuyn Sages* 212 (W.), Other ich am of wine dronke, Other the firmament is i-sonke. *c* 1425 *Abraham's Sacr.* in *Non-Cycle Myst. Plays* 42 A! Lord of Heuyn, thy grace let synke. 1563 FULKE *Meteors* (1640) 47 Clouds..by their heavinesse doe by little and little sinke downe lower into the lowest region. 1602 MARSTON *Antonio's Rev.* IV. iii, With that her head sunk down upon her brest. 1651 HOBBES *Leviath.* IV. xlvi. 374 Some kind of bodies sink naturally downwards toward the Earth. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 8 Feb. 1645, This subterranean grott..is in some places obstructed by the earth which has sunk in. 1711 ADDISON *Spect.* 159 ¶ 6 Their Footing failed and down they sunk [from the bridge]. 1831 SCOTT *Ct. Robt.* xxxii, Birds, incapable of sustaining themselves, sunk down exhausted out of their native element. 1852 M. ARNOLD *Empedocles* II. 73 He lets his lax right hand..Sink upon his mighty knees. 1891 *Cent. Dict., Sink*, to swim deep, as a school of fish; specifically, to pass below a net.

transf. 1878 BROWNING *La Saisiaz* 59 Power that sinks and pettiness that soars.

b. To subside; to give way and go *down*, to fall *away*; to be beaten *in*.

1530 PALSGR. 718/2, I synke in, as a mans harnesse synketh by vyolence of strokes, *je me esfondre.* 1563 FULKE *Meteors* (1640) 21 When some part of the land sinketh downe, and in stead thereof arise Rivers, Lakes [etc.]. 1776 SEMPLE *Building in Water* 3 The Cause of this West Side sinking more than the East Side. 1852 MRS. STOWE *Uncle Tom's C.* xix. 189 If the whole country would sink, and hide all this injustice,..I would willingly sink with it. 1897 WATTS-DUNTON *Aylwin* IV. iv, The very airth under your feet seems to be a-sinkin' away.

c. Of the sun or moon: To descend in the sky; to move toward or pass beneath the horizon.

1601 SHAKS. *Jul. C.* v. iii, 61 O setting Sunne: As in thy red Rayes thou doest sinke to night [etc.]. 1637 MILTON *Lycidas* 168 So sinks the day-star in the Ocean bed. 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* i, Sweeter still, when the sun sinks to rest. 1801 SOUTHEY *Thalaba* XI. xxxix, The Moon is sunk; a dusky grey Spreads o'er the Eastern sky. 1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* I. vii. 57 The sun sank behind the neighbouring peaks.

transf. 1821 SHELLEY *Ginevra* 106 The day sinks fast, the sun is set. 1850 TENNYSON *In Mem.* cvi[i], A bitter day that early sank Behind a purple-frosty bank Of vapour.

d. To pass out of sight, to be lost to view; to disappear.

1521 in *Bradshaw's St. Werburge* (1887) 201 Make hym domestique Within the heuyns, in whiche that thou art sonke. 1749 FIELDING *Tom Jones* v. x, Caught a view of the lovers just as they were sinking out of sight. 1896 A. E. HOUSMAN *Shropshire Lad* xxxvii, Low in the forsaken west Sank the high-reared head of Clee.

e. Of land, etc.: To have a downward lie or slope; to descend gradually; to dip.

1726 LEONI *Alberti's Archit.* II. 10/2 If the plain be smooth.., not rising or sinking on any side. 1747 *Gentl. Mag.* 208/1 His belly hangs low, being not far from the ground, as it sinks much in the middle. 1825 SCOTT *Betrothed* iv, The hill sinks downward to an extensive plain. 1873 BURTON *Hist. Scot.* I. i. 25 Descending and ascending as the country sinks and swells.

f. Of the eye: To glance or look downwards; to droop.

1834 WHITTIER *Mogg Megone* 374 The eye of Boniton Sinks at that low, sepulchral tone.

4. a. Of water, etc.: To go down; to fall to a lower level; to subside. Also *transf.*

a 1000 *Cædmon's Gen.* 1437 (Gr.), Þa fandode forðweard scipes, hwæðer sincende sæflod þa ȝyt wære under wolcnum. *a* 1400 *Theophilus* ix. in *Engl. Studien* XXXII. 6 Al his wisdam & his good, Ryȝt as doth þe salte flood, It sanc doun to grounde. 1565 COOPER *Thesaurus, Flumina subsidunt*, the riuers sinke. 1741–3 POCOCKE *Descr. East* I. 199 That the water may have a fall from them [*sc.* the higher parts] to all other parts, when the Nile sinks.

b. Of flames, etc.: To die down; to burn less strongly; to go out.

1611 BIBLE *Numb.* xi. 2 When Moses prayed.., the fire was quenched [*marg.* sunke]. 1728 POPE *Dunc.* I. 260 Down sink the flames, and with a hiss expire. 1827 SCOTT *Chron. Canongate* i, A flash of intelligence seemed to revive in the invalid's eye—sunk again.

5. To drop or fall gradually down to the ground, on a seat, etc., from want of power to remain erect; †to faint *away*.

To be sinking, to be ready to drop (with fatigue, etc.).

1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. XVIII. 67 þe ded bodye..sank with þat til erthe. 1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* I. xvi. 59 The knyght sanke doune to the erthe dede. *Ibid.* xx. xxii. 838 Syr Gauwayn synked doun vpon hys one syde in a swounde. 1592 SHAKS. *Ven. & Ad.* 593 She trembles at his tale, And ..sinketh down, still hanging by his neck. 1608 CHAPMAN *Duke Byron* v. iii, As a savage boar that..keeps off the baying hounds, Though sunk himself. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* III. 735 The Victim Ox, that was for Altars prest,.. Sunk of himself. 1760–72 H. BROOKE *Fool of Qual.* (1809) II. 159, I reached [the house] with much difficulty, and then sunk away on the threshold. 1782 MISS BURNEY *Cecilia* II. iv, If he gets a seat, he never offers to move, if he sees one sinking with fatigue. 1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* xxxiii, Jeanie sunk down on a chair, with clasped hands, and gasped in agony. 1837 P. KEITH *Bot. Lex.* 274 If the stem of a balsam sinks down for lack of moisture till it touches the earth. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* IV. 95/2 He was sinking with hardship, fatigue, and hunger.

b. To fall down, fall *in* ruin; to give way through weakness or fatigue. Also of soil: To be soft or yielding.

1535, 1597 [see SINKING *ppl. a.* 1 a]. 1608 SHAKS. *Per.* IV. vi. 128 Your house, but for this virgin that doth prop it, Would sink and overwhelm you. 1700 T. BROWN tr. *Fresny's Amusem.* 13 The Ground is Hard in some Places and Sinks in others. 1770 GOLDSM. *Deserted Village* 47 Sunk are thy bowers in shapeless ruin all. 1843 R. J. GRAVES *Syst. Clin. Med.* iii. 403 When the patient attempted to stand up or walk, he was totally unable to do either, his legs sinking under him.

c. To drop down in a slow or easy manner into a lying or sitting posture.

1825 SCOTT *Betrothed* xiii, The hound sunk down to his couchant posture. 1831 *Society* I. 267 'Will you let me repay myself thus,' added he, sinking into the seat beside her and taking her hand. 1885 'E. GARRETT' *At Any Cost* x, Mrs. Brander..sank down on a billowy chair, and took possession of Tom.

6. Of water or other liquids: To pass into or penetrate a substance, to be soaked up or absorbed. Const. *in, into, through*, etc. †Also, to ooze *out of* something.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 535 In to þe see all watres sinkes. *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (Roxb.) xxxiii. 150 Þir flodez sinkez doune in to þe erthe. *c* 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* I. 37 The watir out of gaseyn or of myre Be not ybrought, ner out of metal synke. 1535 COVERDALE *Isaiah* xix. 4 Nilus shal synke awaye, & be dronke vp. 1593 SHAKS. 3 *Hen. VI*, v. vi. 62 Will the aspiring blood of Lancaster Sinke in the ground? 1662 J. DAVIES tr. *Olearius' Voy. Amb.* 412 The continual Rains had..sunk through our Tents and cloaths. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* III. 655 In muddy Pools, the Water sinks. 1738 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Paper*, Blotting Paper is paper.. in which..ink readily sinks or spreads. 1745 P. THOMAS *Voy. S. Seas* 247 This Ink is..extremely black, and..sinks when the Paper is fine. 1843 WAY *Promp. Parv.* 78 The drain..which allowed the water..to sink into the earth. 1859 GULLICK & TIMBS *Painting* 222 The tendency some colours have, in certain circumstances, to what is called 'sink-in'.

fig. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* III. 5, I with love am so bethrowe, And al myn herte is so thurgh sunke, That I am verraliche drunke. 1567 *Satir. Poems Reform.* vii. 120 Gif the poysone in hir hart be sonkin, That sho will not consent he puneist be. 1844 MRS. BROWNING *Drama of Exile* 1977 Those sins Have sunken to all Nature's heart. 1871 R. ELLIS *Catullus* c. 7 Into my inmost veins when love sank fiercely to burn them.

†**b.** Of paper: To cause ink to spread or 'run' on being applied to it; to absorb ink. *Obs.*

1594 PLAT *Jewell-ho.* 46 If the paper should happen to sinke, which is an especiall fault in many of our late yeere bookes. 1688 MIÈGE *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II. s.v., This Paper sinks, or blots..*ce Papier boit.* 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XIII. 715/2 To hinder paper from sinking, take..rock alum, dissolve it in..water, and apply it to the paper.

7. a. Of a weapon or blow: To make way *into* or *through* some part, etc. Also with advb. complement.

c 1330 *Arth. & Merl.* 5310 (Kölbing), Wawain on þe helme him smot, Þe ax sank depe. *Ibid.* 9352 Arthour on þe helme him smot, Þe dent sanke þurch. *a* 1400 *Sir Beues* (Kölbing) p. 212 Hit [*sc.* a stroke] sanke þrou3 helm and basnette. 1611 BIBLE 1 *Sam.* xvii. 49 The stone sunke into his forehead.

b. To recede, be depressed, *into* something.

1530 PALSGR. 718/2 As a mans eyes sinke in to his heed for thought, or sycknesse.

II. 8. a. To penetrate *into* (†*to, unto, through*), enter or be impressed *in*, the mind, heart, etc.

In quot. 1612 it is not clear whether the meaning is 'to enter into the mind', or 'to find acceptance'.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 15170 Mani sari sight, i-wiss, þar sanc vn-til his hert. *Ibid.* 25997 Sua sar þin sakes to for-thingk þat soru thoru þin hert sink. *c* 1374 CHAUCER *Anel. & Arc.* 8 Hit ful depe is sonken in my mynd. *c* 1422 HOCCLEVE *Learn to Die* 604 In-to thyn herte let my wordes synke. 1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* XXI. xi. 858 There kyndenes and myn vnkyndenes sanke so to myn herte that I myȝt not susteyne my self. 1508 DUNBAR *Tua Mariit Wemen* 115 Quhen that the sound of his saw sinkis in my eris, Than ay renewis my noy. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Edward IV*, 18 These reasons..so sancke in the Dukes stomacke, that he promised [etc.]. 1612 T. TAYLOR *Comm. Titus* iii. 3 Very fewe assent vnto the truth we teach; it hardly sinketh with men that God should become man. *c* 1645 HOWELL *Lett.* I. vi. 1, That which sinks deepest into me is the Sense I have of the common Calamities of this Nation. 1814 SHELLEY *Stanza written at Bracknell* 1 Thy dewy looks sink in my breast. 1852 MRS. STOWE *Uncle Tom's C.* xix. 185 These things sink into my heart, Tom. 1884 J. QUINCY *Figures of the Past* 250 Then a pause, that the absurdity of the position of his antagonist might sink in and be vividly realized.

b. To press or weigh *on* one.

1764 GOLDSM. *Hist. Eng. in Lett.* I. 337 The sense of his subjection to his own vassals, sunk deep on his mind. 1858 CARLYLE *Fredk. Gt.* x. iv. (1872) III. 250 This misadventure sank heavily on the spirits of Luiscius.

c. To descend or fall (*up*)*on* a person or place; to settle down *over* a district.

1808 SCOTT *Marm.* III. xii, Silence sunk on all around. 1814 — *Lord of Isles* v. xv, Over Carrick..Had sunk dejection's iron sleep. 1817 SHELLEY *Rev. Islam* I. 638 With clinging charm Sinking upon their hearts. 1865 SWINBURNE *Poems & Ballads* Ded. xiii, Night sinks on the sea.

9. a. To be immersed or plunged deeply *in* something; to dip deep *in*; to be absorbed *in* thought, etc. Chiefly in *pa. pple.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 29037 Quat bote for-bere bath mete and drink, And saul in sulwines to sink? *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xxxiv. (*Pelagia*) 179, I..þat has nocht anerly my-selfe sonkyne in syne vnhapely. *c* 1400 *Rom. Rose* 5113 In gret myscheef and sorwe sonken Ben hertis that of love arn dronken. *c* 1460 *Vrbanitatis* 55 in *Babees Bk.*, To depe in þy cuppe þou may not synke Thow3 þou hane good wylle to drynke. *c* 1600 SHAKS. *Sonn.* xii. 2 When I..see the braue day sunck in hidious night. 1711 STEELE *Spect.* No. 262 ¶ 4 No Man is so sunk in Vice and Ignorance, but [etc.]. 1731–8 SWIFT *Polite Conv.* Introd. 24 A great Variety of new Terms, which are annually changed, and those of the last Season sunk in Oblivion. 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* xlv, He pursued his way through the woods sunk in deep thought. 1814 SCOTT *Lord of Isles* v. xiii, In night the fairy prospects sink. 1842 BORROW *Bible in Spain* vi, Where, sunk in dreamy rapture, I sat during a bright sunny hour. *c* 1850 *Arab. Nts.* (Rtldg.) 2 They..were both sunk in the deepest sleep. 1877 L. MORRIS *Epic of Hades* I. 9 The young dear body bathed And sunk in its delight.

†**b.** To fall away *from* one. *Obs.*

c 1430 *How the Good Wijf*, etc. 79 in *Babees Bk.*, Þo þat ben ofte drunke, þrift is from hem sunke. *a* 1660 *Contemp. Hist. Irel.* (Ir. Archæol. Soc.) II. 174 The well affected would either joine with them..or sincke from them.

10. Contrasted with *swim* (or †*flete*), to denote success, prosperity, etc., in contrast to failure or adversity, or (in later use) determination to do something without regard to consequences.

c 1368 CHAUCER *Compl. Pite* 110 Ye rekke not whethyr I flete or sinke. *c* 1386 — *Kn.'s T.* 1539 She..reccheth neuere wher I synke or fleete. 1538 STARKEY *England* I. iii. 85 They care not (as hyt ys commonly sayd) 'whether they synke or swyme'. 1553 BECON *Reliques of Rome* (1563) 53 Our Recluses neuer come out of their lobbeis, sincke or swimme the people. 1637 GILLESPIE *Eng. Pop. Cerem.* Ep. A 2 b, If the Court swimme, he cares not though the Church sinke. 1668 R. STEELE *Husbandman's Calling* iii. (1672) 29, I will be just and honest, sink or swim. 1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* xxvi, Sink or swim, I am determined to gang to London. 1889 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Robbery under Arms* xxiii, It's sink or swim with all of us.

11. To fall, lapse, or degenerate *into* some inferior or unsatisfactory state or condition. Also const. *from* (a better state).

c 1310 in Wright *Lyric P.* x. 37 Betere is were thunne boute laste, then syde robes ant synke into synne. 1642 ROGERS *Naaman* To Rdr. 4 Those that are not sunke into a prophane way, yet may be sunke from a zealous. 1711 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 55 ¶ 2 The Republick sunk into those two Vices.., Luxury and Avarice. 1775 JOHNSON *Tax. no Tyr.* 28 The constitution sunk at once into a chaos. 1839 THIRLWALL *Greece* II. 190 The nation sank into that state of utter corruption and imbecility which Xenophon..has painted. 1859 GEO. ELIOT *A. Bede* xxxi, She could better bear something quite new than sinking back into the old everyday round.

b. To pass *into* oblivion, insignificance, etc. Also const. *from* (notice).

1704 SWIFT *Tale Tub* Author's Apol., Such treatises.. which are already sunk into waste paper and oblivion. 1783 MME. D'ARBLAY *Diary* 6 Apr., I..catch at the first chair in my way, and take possession of it, merely to sink from notice. 1834 MACAULAY *Ess., Pitt* (1897) 302 The favourite of the people rose to supreme power, while his rival sank into insignificance. 1877 BROCKETT *Cross & Crescent* 286 The songs..are so ancient that their authors have sunk into oblivion.

c. To change, turn, be transformed *into* some lower form.

a 1770 JORTIN *Serm.* (1771) IV. ix. 187 Prudence without piety sinks into knavish craft. 1849 RUSKIN *Sev. Lamps* ii. § xx. 50 It is, indeed, possible..for men to sink into machines themselves. 1888 'J. S. WINTER' *Bootle's Childr.* i, The afternoon was just sinking into dusk.

12. To pass or fall gently *into* (or *to*) sleep, rest, peace, etc.

1718 *Free-thinker* No. 82. 190, I have observed above Half of his Hearers sunk into Slumbers. 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* xxxvi, She at length sunk to repose. 1850 TENNYSON *In Mem.* xxxiv, 'Twere best at once to sink to peace, Like birds the charming serpent draws. 1868 HOLME LEE *B. Godfrey* xlvi, He..seemed to sink into a doze. *fig.* 1743 FRANCIS tr. *Hor., Odes* III. iii. 29 Since the long War now sinks to Peace. 1845 BROWNING *How they brought the Good News* i, Behind shut the postern, the lights sank to rest.

b. To lapse or fall *into* reverie, contemplation, etc.

1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* xxvii, She was soon recalled from the reverie into which she sunk. 1831 SCOTT *Ct. Robt.* vi, The officer at once reassumed his superiority, and the soldier sunk back..into his wonted silence and reserve. 1891 E. PEACOCK *N. Brendon* I. 121 He turned away from her and sunk into reverie.

13. To give way *under* (or *beneath*) misfortune, affliction, etc.; to be weighed down or crushed.

1592 SHAKS. *Rom. & Jul.* I. iv. 22 Vnder loues heauy burthen doe I sinke. 1602 MARSTON *Ant. & Mel.* IV. Wks. 1856 I. 54 Courage, sweet boy, sinke not beneath the weight Of crushing mischiefe. 1681 DRYDEN *Abs. & Achit.* 822 But sinking underneath his master's fate: In exile with his godlike prince he mourned. 1711 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 163 ¶ 7 If we sink under such little Stroaks of Fortune. 1737 *Gentl. Mag.* VII. 570/2 Harissa with triumphant smile.., left him sinking in despair. 1802 MRS. E. PARSONS *Myst. Visit* II. 69 Such as many with weak spirits must have sank under. 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xx. IV. 433 That France had at length made overtures to him was a sufficient proof that she felt herself spent and sinking. *a* 1862 BUCKLE *Civilis.* (1873) III. iv. 274 Under this accumulated pressure, we shall assuredly sink, if we imitate the credulity of our forefathers.

b. To become depressed or dejected; to droop or languish.

1605 1*st Pt. Jeronimo* III. ii. 170 Iust at this instant her hart sincks and dies. 1655 in *Nicholas Papers* (Camden) III. 221 My heart as well as purse being quite sunck. 1727 BOYER *Fr. Dict.* II. s.v., His Courage sinks or lowers,..*son*

Conrage s'abbat, le Cœur lui manque. 1773 GOLDSM. *Stoops to Conq.* v. iii, My spirits are so sunk with the agitations I have suffered. 1835 THIRLWALL *Greece* I. ix. 350 Their spirit began to sink, and they sought advice from Delphi. 1850 TENNYSON *In Mem.* xx, So much the vital spirits sink To see the vacant chair. 1873 BLACK *Pr. Thule* xi. 167 While she was outwardly calm, .. her heart sank within her.

c. To decline rapidly; to fail in health or strength; † also, to die. Freq. const. *under* (some trouble or ailment).

1718 HICKES & NELSON *Life Kettlewell* III. 457 He sunk all of a sudden; for being raised to take some Chocolate for his Re-freshment, he Died in a Moment in that Posture. 1780 *Mirror* No. 106, His health began to sink under the vexations of his mind. 1804 ABERNETHY *Surg. Obs.* 65 The patient being previously much exhausted, sunk under this last complaint. 1829 COOPER *Good's Study Med.* (ed. 3) I. 385 The patient..did not sink till his stomach became disordered. 1832 *Academy* 13 Feb. 161/1 He sank quietly and died on the 1st February.

14. To go downwards in the scale of fortune, success, or relative position.

1599 B. JONSON *Ev. Man out of Hum.* IV. vi, It was his beaule fortune to sinke;..therefore talke no more of him. 1607 SHAKS. *Timon* II. ii. 240 Neu'r speake, or thinke, That Timons fortunes 'mong his Friends can sinke. 1640 BROME *Sparagus Gard.* IV. xi, Now for a trick to rid us of this Clowne, Or our trade sinks. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 16 May 1681, Lord Sunderland was much sunke in his estate by gaming. *a* 1715 BURNET *Own Time* (1766) II. 200 Who was sinking in his business and began to think that of a witness would be a better trade. 1829 *Sporting Mag.* XXIV. 125 The Clubs appear to be sinking. 1859 *Habits of Gd. Society* iii, The sight of decayed gentility..may call forth our pity..: 'You have evidently sunken,' we say to ourselves. 1887 JESSOPP *Arcadyi.* 17 It would be an immense calamity to the rural population if the clergy were to sink in the social scale.

b. To descend to a lower level or type; to degenerate. Also const. *to.*

1678 CUDWORTH *Intell. Syst.* 269 Such as are..grosly sunk and debauched in their Lives. 1763 J. BROWN *Poetry & Music* xii. 194 Thus the musical and poetic Arts sunk along with the Roman Empire. *a* 1770 JORTIN *Serm.* (1771) I. iii. 57 An understanding sunk beneath the capacity of a brute. 1868 J. H. BLUNT *Ref. Ch. Eng.* I. 427 Intellect as well as holiness had sunk down to a level of low mediocrity. 1894 SIR E. SULLIVAN *Woman* 29, I don't want to see the morality of women sink to the morality of men.

c. To diminish, decrease, or fall in estimation; to decline in value or appreciation. Also const. *to.*

1685 BURNET *More's Utopia* 11 The Reputation of their Wisdom would sink. 1746 FRANCIS tr. *Horace, Epist.* II. i. 58 Shall he..sink with Moderns to Contempt and Shame? 1780 *Mirror* No. 70, He sunk in his own esteem, in being reduced to use the language of solicitation. 1780 *Ibid.* No. 71, Former services..sunk to nothing. 1802 MAR. EDGEWORTH *Moral Tales* (1816) I. v. 32 Flora soon sunk many degrees in his opinion. 1852 THACKERAY *Esmond* II. xv, He had sunk by this time to the very worst reputation. 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xv. III. 516 The Whigs, conscious that they had lately sunk in the opinion both of the King and of the nation.

15. To fall low; to diminish or decrease; also, to disappear, to vanish.

1655 in *Nicholas Papers* (Camden) 221 My..pursse being quite sunck. 1776 ADAM SMITH *W. N.* I. xi. III. (1904) I. 218 The value [of superfluities]..sinks in times of poverty and distress. 1801 *Farmer's Mag.* Jan. 85 Towards the beginning of Harvest, prices sunk much. 1812 SCOTT *Let.* in *Lockhart* (1837) III. i. 7 While my trees grow and my fountain fills, my purse, in an inverse ratio, sinks to zero. 1826 *Art of Brewing* (ed. 2) I The abstruseness and difficulty of such research..sink before the mind capable of valuing the importance of general laws.

b. Of sounds: To become gradually fainter; to die away.

1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* xxxiii, The sound of her steps soon sunk in distance. 1820 SHELLEY *Prometh. Unb.* II. i. 195 How the notes sink upon the ebbing wind! 1873 BROWNING *Red Cott. Nt.-cap* 169 Chatting and chirping sunk inconsciously To silence.

** *Transitive uses.*

III. 16. To cause (a vessel, etc.) to plunge or go down beneath the water; to submerge by rendering incapable of floating; to destroy in this way. † Also with *up* (quot. 1591).

a 1300 *E. E. Psalter* lxviii. 3, I come in heghnes of þe see, And þe storme it sanke me. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 26846 A thirl sinkes þe schipp to grund. 1471 CAXTON *Recuyell* (Sommer) II. 677 Many [ships] were drowned and sonken into the see. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. V*, 54 After long fight.. they toke and sonke almost all the whole nauy of Fraunce. 1591 SPENSER *Vision Bellay* xiii, The storme impetuous Sunke vp these riches..Within the gulfe of greedie Nereus. 1623 BINGHAM *Xenophon* 126 If I take any of you vpon the Sea, I will sinke you. 1687 A. LOVELL tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* I. 17 They hinder any Ship..to pass them without leave, else they would run a danger of being sunk. 1726 SWIFT *Gulliver* II. vii, The largest balls, thus discharged, would.. sink down Ships..to the Bottom of the Sea. 1839 THIRLWALL *Greece* XXVI. III. 429 Seven were so disabled, yet none went down, and they sank three of the Corinthians. 1884 *Manch. Exam.* 21 Oct. 5/4 A single well-directed shot would have sunk them because of the absence of watertight bulkheads.

fig. and in fig. context. 1613 SHAKS. *Hen. VIII*, II. i. 131 Those you make friends..fall away Like water from ye, neuer found againe But where they meane to sinke ye. *a* 1658 CLEVELAND *On a Fly* 14 Wks. (1687), 'Twas bravely aim'd,..Th' hast sunk the Fable o'er and o'er. 1809 MALKIN *Gil Blas* I. xvii. P 4 There is no sinking me; I always float on the surface of ill-luck. *Ibid.* IV. vii. P 11 If you catch any relation..sneaking about him,..trust me for sinking, burning, and destroying him in less than no time. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* lvii, I think Miss O'Dowd would have done for me,..and when she had sunk me she would have fallen upon you.

b. To submerge; to put or thrust under water.

c 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 12292 Ilka tyme þat y him se, Y wilde be sonken, for y ne may fle. 1530 PALSGR. 718/2 Sythe we must nedes be taken, let us synke our letters. 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 406 b, The Archebyshop, fyrste synkynge hys great Artylarie in the Rhyne,..fled awaye, to save hym selfe. 1578 in *N. W. Linc. Gloss.* (1877) 224/1 That no man synke anie hempe..in the North more. *a* 1687 PETTY *Pol. Arith.* (1690) 66, I have heard Wise Men ..wish that..that Island were sunk under Water. 1856 'STONEHENGE' *Brit. Rur. Sports* 251/2 The line is shotted so as just to sink it.

17. To cause (a thing) to descend or fall to a lower plane or level; to force, press, or weigh down in any way.

c 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 754 Ðus it is..brent wið brimfir, sunken and shent. *Ibid.* 1108 Siðen loth wente ut of hine, brende it ðhunder, sanc it erðe-dine. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Frankl. T.* 345 Prey hire to synken euery Rok adoun In to hir owene dirke Regioun Vnder the ground. *a* 1450 *Knt. de la Tour* (1868) 71 Thus the .viij. citeez were sonken and brent. 1610 SHAKS. *Tempest* I. ii. 11, I would Haue suncke the Sea within the Earth. *Ibid.* II. i. 201 Doth it not then our eyelids sinke? 1678 MOXON *Mech. Exerc.* iv 71 Keep the Iron in this Posture, without either mounting, or sinking its ends. 1712 J. JAMES tr. *Le Blond's Gardening* 65 The Rain forcing down the Earth, and sinking the Seed. 1787 *Phil. Trans.* LXXVIII. 44 The blast from an air-gun was repeatedly thrown on the bulb of a thermometer, and it uniformly sunk it about two degrees. 1814 SCOTT *Lord of Isles* V. xxx, He raised the page, where on the plain His fear had sunk him with the slain. 1836–41 BRANDE *Chem.* (ed. 5) 169 Mr. Walker succeeded in sinking the spirit-thermometer to −91°. 1889 WELCH *Text Bk. Naval Archit.* i. 11 Finding the weight necessary to sink the ship one inch from the assigned water line.

fig. 1670 in *Caldwell Pap.* (Maitland) I. 140 The dead weight of his brethrein..sunk him into his grave.

refl. 1833 *Penny Cycl.* I. 66/1 Air-vessels, by means of which the animals can raise or sink themselves in the water.

b. To send, let, or push, down from a higher plane or level. Also with *down.*

1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* V. 229 We found this auncient Well so wondrous deepe, that scarcely all our ropes could sinke our bucket in the water. 1648 HERRICK *Hesper., Oberon's Palace* 103 A Spinners circle is bespread, With Cob-web-curtains: from the roof So neatly sunck [etc.]. 1663 GERBIER *Counsel* 33 A compleat form..which the Grecians and Romans have found to be a Dimension sunk down from above. 1851–4 *Tomlinson's Cycl. Arts* (1866) I. 168/1 The bore-hole is apt to become crooked, so that it is often impossible to sink the pipes required to protect the hole.

c. To allow (the hand, etc.) to fall lower.

1680 MOXON *Mech. Exerc.* xii. 213 Then sink your Right hand somewhat below the Level of the Rest. 1829 SCOTT *Anne of G.* vi, The two combatants sunk the points of their swords. 1832 — *Ct. Robt.* iii, Each sentinel sunk his weapon. 1850 TENNYSON *In Mem.* lxvii[ii], When in the down I sink my head, Sleep, Death's twin-brother, times my breath.

18. To excavate (a well, pit-shaft, etc.) by digging vertically downwards; to bore; to lower (ground, etc.) by excavation.

1358 *Durh. Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 561 In uno puteo de novo sinkando in campo de Fery. 1571 DIGGES *Pantom.* I. xxxi. K j, If a well bee soonke. 1680 BOYLE *Scept. Chem.* vi, They dig up iron in the fields by sinking ditches two foot deep [etc.]. 1708 J. C. *Compl. Collier* (1845) 15 To Sink a Pit, we must have a stock of Timber prepared. 1776 SEMPLE *Building in Water* 42 The Men went on with their sinking that Floor. 1863 MRS. GASKELL *Sylvia's Lovers* xxxiii, She saw that the last tenants had had a pump sunk for them. 1879 FROUDE *Cæsar* xxiii. 404 Fresh water was happily found by sinking wells.

absol. 1862 ANSTED *Channel Isl.* IV. xx. 471 Water is obtained by sinking..to the surface of the granite. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2757/2 This rock was sunk through for 273½ feet.

19. a. To excise or cut out; to form (a cavity, etc.) in this way, or by heavy pressure.

1632 in E. B. Jupp *Carpenters' Co.* (1887) 297 Carved workes either raised or Cutt through or sunck in with the grounde taken out. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* I. 253 On either side the Head produce an Ear, And sink a Socket for the shining Share. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Dock*, Any Place in the Ouze, out of the Tide's Way, where a Ship may..dock herself, or sink herself a Place to lie in. 1793 SMEATON *Edystone L.* § 331 Words..were sunk into the Moorstone with the point of a pick. 1814 SCOTT *Lord of Isles* V. xxi, See yonder oak, within whose trunk Decay a darken'd cell hath sunk.

b. To lower by cutting away; to cut patterns or designs in (a die, etc.).

Implied much earlier in SINKER 1.

1679 MOXON *Mech. Exerc.* ix. 157 Hew away the underside of that Board.., and so sink it to a flat superficies to comply with the first Board. 1683 *Ibid., Printing* i, The Founder [would] not sinck the Matrices. 1825 JAMIESON *Suppl., To Sink*, to cut the die used for striking money.

c. To let in or insert into the substance of a thing by scooping, hollowing, or cutting.

1825 J. NICHOLSON *Operat. Mechanic* 596 The holes for sinking the heads of..screws. 1834 L. RITCHIE *Wand. by Seine* 84 There is a stone sunk in the wall containing a sculpture in bas-relief. 1884 BRITTEN *Watch & Clockm.* 122 Hollow Fusee,..a fusee in which the upper pivot is sunk into the body of the fusee.

20. To lower the level of (ground, water, etc.).

1627 CAPT. SMITH *Seaman's Gram.* ii. 6 To sinke a Decke is to lay it lower. 1712 J. JAMES tr. *Le Blond's Gardening* 68 Rolling the Surface of it with great Cilinders..to sink and level it as much as possible. 1713 ADDISON *Cato* III. v, You sunk the river with repeated draughts.

b. To lose sight of (an object on the horizon) by sailing away.

1762 FALCONER *Shipwr.* II. 227 Sunk were the bulwarks of the friendly shore. 1810 *Naval Chron.* XXIV. 313 This island was sunk from the deck. 1840 R. H. DANA *Bef. Mast* iv, They were..far off.., and in a few hours we sank them in the northeast. 1888 CLARK RUSSELL *Death Ship* I. 191 At dusk we had sunk the Englishman to his lower yards.

c. To descend, move down (a slope, etc.).

1862 COLLYNS *Chase Wild Deer* 199 She now sank the bottom for Exford and crossed just above the village. 1892 *Field* 27 Feb. 299/1 Captain Helmes' first grave, which he skirted, to sink the hill for the gorses above Bigbury.

IV. 21. To reduce or bring to ruin or a low estate; to overwhelm, destroy; to weigh down.

1599 B. JONSON *Ev. Man out of Hum.* Prol. 9 Black ravnous ruine,..Readie to sinke us downe, and cover us. 1613 SHAKS. *Hen. VIII*, II. i. 60 If I haue a Conscience, let it sincke me,..if I be not faithfull. 1637 R. ASHLEY tr. *Malvezzi's David Persecuted* 5 The same action which at one time hath reared up a Prince, should at another sink him. 1725 POPE *Odyss.* XXII. 451 Fate, and their crime, have sunk them to the dust. 1749 FIELDING *Tom Jones* XIV. vii, Whether he will sink these wretches down for ever, or..raise them all from the brink of misery and despair. 1850 SCORESBY *Cheever's Whalem. Adv.* ii. 22 The king was taking huge morsels that would almost sink a common man. 1865 RUSKIN *Arrows of Chace* (1880) II. 72 Such another article would sink the *Gazette.*

absol. 1718 PRIOR *Solomon* II. 943, I raise or sink, imprison or set free; And Life or Death depends on My Decree.

Comb. 1600 W. WATSON *Decacordon* (1602) 7 [The Jesuits] had discouered themselues..to be..shelues of sinke-downe to all princely regalitie. 1688 BUNYAN *Heavenly Footm.* Wks. 1851 III. 385 The..soul-entangling flatteries of such sink-souls as these are.

b. Used as an imprecation. Now *arch.*

Freq. *sink me*, used in quot. 1666 as a quasi-*sb.*

1630 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Dog of Warre* Wks. II. 229 Who make (God sinke 'em) their discourse [etc.]. 1642 R. ANDREWES *Decl.* A j b, The Cavalliers swore 'Damme me and sinke me if we doe not kill all the Puritans..in the towne'. 1666 M. M. *Solomon's Prescr.* 28 Who can scarce speak a sentence without their Dammee's and Sinkmee's. 1710 MRS. CENTLIVRE *Bickerstaff's Burying* 7 Estate! sink the Estate! 1768 GOLDSM. *Good-n. Man* II. i, Sink the public, Madam, when the fair are to be attended. 1821 SCOTT *Pirate* XXXIV, I had rather you tried your saw..upon the ship's knee-timbers than on mine, sink me! 1855 TROLLOPE *Warden* IV. 58 Sink them all for parsons.

c. *absol.* To use profane language; to imprecate, swear. Now *dial.* or *arch.*

1663 *Proposal to use no Conscience* 6 We swear like Gentlemen of Rank, Curse, Damn, Sink. 1681 *Trial S. Colledge* 132 'Tis a strange sort of thing to believe..that he should fall a damning and sinking against Colledge. 1704 TRAPP *Abra-Mulé* Prol. 37 Fools..think All Wit and Valour is to damn and sink. 1750 H. WALPOLE *Lett.* (1846) II. 311 He has constantly been damming and sinking. 18.. *Rakes of Mallow* i, Breaking windows, damning, sinking. 1882 *Jamieson's Sc. Dict.* IV. 225/2 *To Sink and Graem*, to curse, to imprecate; Shetl[and].

22. To lower; to make of less repute or estimation.

1601 SHAKS. *All's Well* V. iii. 181 Let your highnes Lay a more noble thought vpon mine honour, Then for to thinke that I would sinke it heere. 1707 ADDISON *Pres. State of the War* Wks. 1721 IV. 301 They catch at all opportunities of ..ruining our trade, and sinking the figure which we make among the nations of Europe. 1779 *Mirror* No. 60, Far from sinking their dignity in our estimation, it adds to it. 1815 JANE AUSTEN *Emma* xlvi, I cannot say how it has sunk him in my opinion.

b. To debase or degrade (a person).

1706 DE FOE *Jure Divino* III. 2 Why..the Rewards of Vertues are possess'd By him that sinks the Man to raise the Beast. 1779 *Mirror* No. 18, To sink the lower orders of men far beneath that station to which by nature they are entitled. 1781 BURNS *Stanzas Prosp. Death* 15 Again I might..exalt the brute and sink the man.

c. To reduce *to*, lose *in*, something lower.

1751 JOHNSON *Rambler* No. 103 P 9 The necessity of doing something, and the fear of undertaking much, sinks the historian to a genealogist. 1781 COWPER *Table T.* 415 When a country..In prostitution sinks the sense of shame.

23. a. To reduce the inflexibility of (a bow).

1634 MARKHAM *Art of Archerie* vii, Take your Bow into the Field, shoote in it, sinke it with dead heavy shaftes. 1875 *Encycl. Brit.* II, 378/2 *Sinking a Bow*, reducing its force.

b. To cause (a person, the mind, spirits, etc.) to become dejected or depressed.

1630–50 BRADFORD *Hist. Plymouth Plantation* (Mass. Hist. Soc.) 208 It is a marvell it did not wholy discourage them, and sinck them. 1665 BUNYAN *Holy Citie* (1669) 65 The Walls of the Canaanites..did even sink the Hearts of those that beheld them. 1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* I. (Globe) 177 The Thoughts of this sometimes sunk my very Soul within me. 1730 SHENSTONE *Ode to Health* 52 Nor growing cares could sink my cheerful mind. 1782 MISS BURNEY *Cecilia* IV. ii, I hate a solo; it sinks, it depresses me intolerably.

c. To reduce, weaken, or exhaust the strength of (a person). Now *rare.*

a 1715 BURNET *Own Time* III. (1724) I. 523 All these things, together with a load of age..sunk Duke Lauderdale so that he died. 1782 *Med. Comm.* I. 32 Bleeding sunk the patient much. 1818 HENNEN *Princ. Milit. Surg.* (1820) 217 Repeated and copious venous bleedings now came on, which rapidly sunk the patient.

24. To reduce in amount, value, or price.

a 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 31 Oct. 1645, We invited all..to a feast, which sunk our excellent wine considerably. 1727 POPE & GAY *What passed in London* Swift's Wks. 1751 VI. 261 It being by our greatest Dealers in Stocks, thought only a Court-Artifice to sink them. 1757 WESLEY *Wks.* (1872) IX. 228 Who would have sunk his own market, by telling his customers there would be plenty the next day?

Comb. 1822 W. IRVING *Braceb. Hall* (1823) II. 312 I've been a complete sink-pocket, that's the truth of it.

b. To drop or lower (the voice) in speaking; to render less audible.

1821 Scott *Kenilw.* xxvi, He..sunk what he had to say in a whisper. 1882 Besant *Revolt of Man* vi. (1883) 140 She sank her voice, although they were not within earshot of any one. 1889 Conan Doyle *Micah Clarke* 261 'It was in this way,' he went on, sinking his voice.

25. a. To abandon or cease to use; to give up; to allow to be merged *in* something else.

1705 Addison *Italy* 23 He took upon him the Title of Duke of Suffolk, which had been sunk in the Family. 1776 Sir J. Reynolds *Disc.* vii. (1876) 407 [It] must..disqualify him for the practical part of his profession and make him sink the performer in the critic. 1809 Malkin *Gil Blas* III. vii, I..have not sunk the lover in the husband. 1840 Marryat *Poor Jack* iii, She sunk her assumed rank. 1854 Thackeray *Wolves & the Lamb* (1899) 11 When I come into the property I shall sink the name of Milliken.

b. To avoid mentioning or alluding to (a person or matter); to pass over in silence; *spec.* in *Piquet* (see quot. 1885). Also const. *upon* the person or persons spoken to.

1749 Fielding *Tom Jones* vi. xi, Mr. Allworthy,..out of modesty, sunk everything that related particularly to himself. 1772 Johnson in *Boswell* 21 Mar., He sunk upon us that he was married; else we should have shewn his lady more civilities. 1809 Malkin *Gil Blas* VIII. iii. P 10, I dined at a cheap ordinary, and sunk the secretary upon my messmates. 1849 Robertson *Serm.* Ser. I. xiv. (1866) 240 A certain courtly willingness to sink obnoxious truths. 1860 Whyte Melville *Mkt. Harb.* (1861) 43 Too small to be put in training, he had fallen into the hands of a steeplechasing horse-dealer, who sank his pedigree. 1885 *Encycl. Brit.* XIX. 116/1 Experienced players pot unfrequently omit to call some small score..in order intentionally to mislead you. This manœuvre (called sinking a score) is especially resorted to [etc.].

Comb. 1887 T. A. Trollope *What I remember* I. 301 He, as well as I, utterly scouted the stupid sink-the-shop rule of conversation.

c. To suppress in pronouncing.

1742 Pope *Dunc.* IV. 221 To sound or sink in *cano*, O or A. 1760–1 Gray *Eng. Metre* Wks. 1884 I. 328 To sink the vowel and abridge it, as was usual, according to the necessity of their versification.

d. To deduct (the offal) when reckoning the weight of a carcase.

1798 *Monthly Mag.* Apr. 307 Mutton from 3*s.* 6*d.* to 4*s.* per stone of 8 lb. sinking the offal. 1844 H. Stephens *Bk. Farm* II. 470 A calf..weighs from 10 to 11 stones imperial, sinking the offal, as it is called in London. 1895 *Times* 28 Jan. 13/2 This custom of 'sinking the offal' is very old, and originated in the days when this part of the beast possessed comparatively little value.

ellipt. 1801 *Farmer's Mag.* Nov. 481 Lean cattle.., if they had been killed immediately, would have come to 10*s.* per stone (of 14 lib.) sink.

e. To set aside; to leave out of consideration.

1860 F. W. Robinson *Grandmother's Money* VI. i, He was sinking self so much, and struggling so hard towards one noble action,..that [etc.]. 1884 *L'pool Mercury* 18 Feb. 5/2 A happy knack of sinking individual opinion. 1888 *Times* (weekly ed.) 17 Feb. 2/1 Sinking minor differences, all parties ought to unite [etc.].

26. To make away with; to appropriate (money, etc.) for one's own use. Also *spec.* (quot. 1819).

1713 Addison *Trial of Ct. Tariff* Wks. 1721 IV. 324 That the said Count had either sunk or mis-laid several books, papers, and receipts. 1727 Bover *Dict. Royal* II. s.v., To sink or keep part of a Sum of Mony. 1760 C. Johnston *Chrysal* (1822) I. 32 By sinking the greatest part of her fortune to my own use. 1819 J. H. Vaux *Mem.* II. 57, I took up..the broaches, and immediately 'sunk' a very handsome one..in my coat-sleeve.

27. To pay up or wipe out (a debt, etc.).

1727 Bover *Dict. Royal* II. s.v., To sink a Fund, *éteindre, supprimer, amortir un Fond.* 1740 W. Douglass *Disc. Curr. Brit. Plant. Amer.* 16 Their Bills became of less Value than those of New-York; but being yearly in good Faith, sunk, they became equal. 1787 Jefferson *Writ.* (1859) II. 102 That impost will suffice to..sink the principal in a very few years. 1895 *Daily News* 18 Apr. 3/1 This windfall should properly go to sink the unfunded debt.

28. = Invest *v.* 9.

1727 Bover *Dict. Royal* II. s.v., In..Annuities, the Capital is sunk for the Lender. 1789 Brand *Newcastle* II. 197 The revenue of the Corporation..including the sums that had been sunk with them for lives. 1797 Burke *Reg. Peace* iii. (1892) 243 The Grand Junction Company,..having sunk half a million,..applied to your House, for permission to subscribe half as much more. 1831 *Society* I. 139 It is in my power to add to my own income by sinking my small principal. 1848 Mill *Pol. Econ.* I. vi. § 1 (1876) 57 Capital sunk (as the expression is) in permanent improvements of land. 1866 Rogers *Agric. & Prices* I. xxviii. 672 To these we must add the capital sunk in the mills.

29. To invest or spend unprofitably; to lose (money) in unfortunate investment, war, etc.

1777 J. Reed in Sparks *Corr. Amer. Rev.* (1853) I. 388, I found that in two or three years I should probably sink my little fortune. 1780 J. Howard *Prisons Eng. & W.* 263 There is an account of several..bequests to prisoners. Whether they be now totally sunk,..I cannot say. 1818 Scott *Hrt. Midl.* xxxv, Some stock sunk in the South-Sea funds. 1847 De Quincey *Sp. Mil. Nun* Wks. 1853 III. 16 The unknown amounts of cash, that had been sunk in that unhappy speculation! 1872 Yeats *Growth Comm.* 310 The enormous sums sunk in war.

Sinkable (siˑŋkăbˈl), *a.* [f. Sink *v.* + -able.] Capable of being sunk.

Cf. *non-sinkable*, of a life-boat, in recent use.

1865 *Times* 11 Mar. 8/5 The most seaworthy vessel is but too likely to be the most sinkable.

Sinkage (siˑŋkĕdʒ). [f. Sink *v.* + -age.] The act of sinking; subsidence; an instance of this. Also, that which sinks or has sunk.

1883 *Harper's Mag.* Jan. 174/1 When they lean sideways, they admit the mouldering pile beneath, and own to the sinkage. 1889 Welch *Text Bk. Naval Archit.* i. 11 The sinkage due to putting weights of moderate amount into the ship. 1891 *Pall Mall G.* 23 Oct. 5/1 The buoyancy of the timber in resisting sinkage when butted against.

Sinkanter, var. Sincanter *Obs.* **Sinkapace,** var. Cinquepace *Obs.* **Sinke,** obs. f. Cinque. **Sinkefoile, -foyle,** obs. ff. Cinquefoil.

Sinker (siˑŋkəɹ). Also 6 **synkker,** 7 **syn-,** 6–7 **sincker**; 6–7 **sinkar** (6 *Sc.* **sincar**). [f. Sink *v.* + -er 1. Cf. G. *sinker* (spec. in mining).]

I. 1. One who engraves figures or designs on dies. Chiefly *Sc.* (Cf. *die-sinker* s.v. Die *sb.*1 8.)

1526 *Sc. Acts, Jas. V* (1814) II. 317/1 þe sayaris fe, and þe sy[ŋ]karis of þe Irnis fee. 1582 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* III. 481 The generall, maister cunyeoure, warden, sincar and assayer. 1605 *Ibid.* VII. 27 The Lords..commands Thomas Foulis, sinkar of His Majesties irones, to mak ane new greit seale. 1656 in Grose *Antiq. Rep.* (1808) II. 411 The offices of under-engraver and sinker of our saide stamps. 1674 in Dallas *Stiles* (1697) 110 Constituting the said T. W. Graver and Sinker of his Majesties said Mint.

2. One who sinks a pit-shaft, well, or the like.

1708 J. C. *Compl. Collier* (1845) 22 Perhaps the Sincker, (or Labourer) has..12*d.* or 14*d.* a Day. 1710 *Act* 9 *Anne* c. 28 § 9 No Coal-Owner..shall knowingly employ..any Overman,..Pitman, Sinker, Carriage-man [etc.]. 1816 W. Smith in Phillips *Mem.* (1844) 81 These stony nodules the sinkers have called rock, but no regular rock has yet been found. 1862 Smiles *Lives Engineers* III. 51 Kit Heppel, who was a sinker at the pit. 1897 *Daily News* 8 Mar. 3/1 Fourteen sinkers..were at work in the bottom of the Simpson Shaft.

3. One who causes (something) to sink.

1632 Sherwood, A Sinker of poore people with exactions, *oppresseur.* 1823 Byron *Juan* XII. lxxxix, Meantime, read all the national-debt sinkers. 1867 *Morning Star* 25 Feb., Without Scialoja there is a chance for Ricasoli in swimming with the anti-clerical spring tides. The [ship-] sinker has been dropped.

II. 4. †**a.** A weight for pressing cheese. *Obs.*

1568 *Wills & Inv. N. C.* (Surtees, 1835) 282, x ches fatts wth iij° sinkers, iij°. 1596 *Ibid.* (1860) 271, iij sinckers for to couer cheese.

b. In a stocking-frame or knitting-machine, a jack-sinker or a lead-sinker.

1779 in 6*th Rep. Deputy Keeper Rec.* App. II. 164 A Machine for Knitting without the use of Jacks or Sinkers. 1839 Ure *Dict. Arts*, etc. 652 Fig. 560, where both kinds of sinkers appear in section. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 1237/2 The sinkers..are at the same time depressed, one after another, by the cam or slur above them.

c. A weight attached to the chain or rope of a horse's stall-collar.

1842 J. Aiton *Domest. Econ.* (1857) 251 Have also a ball of wood called a sinker, as a straw wisp and all such slovenly expedients are said to be dangerous. 1844 H. Stephens *Bk. Farm* I. 127 A leather stall-collar, having an iron-chain collar-shank to play through the ring.., with a turned wooden sinker at its end, to weigh it to the ground.

5. A weight of lead, stone, or other material for sinking a fishing-line or -net in the water. Cf. Sink-stone 2.

1844 in W. H. Maxwell *Sports & Adv. Scotl.* (1855) 323 The loops in the lower baulk are loaded with sinkers of stone. 1866 Laing *Prehist. Rem. Caithn.* 34 Such grooved stones have also been found in Denmark, where they are supposed to have been sinkers for fishing lines or nets. 1888 Goode *Amer. Fishes* 7 A large float and heavy sinker and a worm or minnow for bait.

fig. 1849 Longf. *Kavanagh* xx, I perceive you fish with a heavy sinker; down far down in the future.

b. A weight of lead or other metal for sinking a sounding-line, buoy, or mine, in water.

1882 Nares *Seamanship* (ed. 6) 18 Rope supporting the sinker. 1892 *Daily News* 29 July 6/6 It occupied about five minutes to haul in his sinker and compare the indication of his tube with the scale.

c. *slang.* A base coin; also *U.S.* a dollar.

1839 *Slang Dict., Sinker,* bad money. 1864 *Slang Dict., Sinkers,* bad money—affording a man but little assistance in keeping afloat. 1900 Flynt *Tramps* 342 'Give you a sinker (a dollar),' I said.

6. A sink, cesspool, or drain. Now *dial.*

1623 Cockeram I, *Lauatrine,* a square stone in a Kitchin, with a hole to auoid water, a sincker. 1847 Halliw., *Sinker,* a cesspool; used in the neighbourhood of Spilsby. *Linc.* 1866 Brogden *Prov. Lincs., Sinker,* a drain to carry off dirty water, etc. *Ibid.,* The rat has run down the sinker-hole.

7. *attrib.,* as *sinker-bar, -wheel* (in a knitting-machine), *sinker-bar, -rod* (in boring apparatus).

1834–6 *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) VIII. 747/2 The lead sinkers ..being all fixed to one bar, called the *sinker bar. 1883 *Century Mag.* July 330/1 The drilling tools consist of the 'bit',..the sinker-bar resembling the auger stem, and the rope-socket. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2441/2 *Substitute,* ..a short section of *sinker-rod having flanges to ream the hole and keep it straight. *Ibid.* 1237/1 The wings of the..*sinker wheel..press the yarn in between the needles.

Hence **Siˑnkerless** *a.,* having no sinker (5).

1892 W. O Stoddard in *Arkansas Mite* 31 Under that bank the sinkerless line carried..its little green prisoner. 1905 *Westm. Gaz.* 25 Mar. 2/1, I had but to bait my line and cast it, sinkerless, into the water.

Sinkfield, -foil(e, obs. ff. Cinquefoil.

Sink-hole (siˑŋkhōul). [f. Sink *sb.* + Hole *sb.*] **1.** A hole or hollow into which foul matter runs or is thrown; † a sink, or a hole by which a sink is emptied. Also *fig.* and in fig. contexts.

1456 in *Cockersand Chartul.* (Chetham) II. p. 471 *note,* Following the said strind to the Sinkehole, and fro' Sinkeholl..into the Black polles. 1548 Patten *Exped. Scotl.* D vij b, James of the synk hole (sauyng your reuerence) a frier, forsooth that wrote the Legendaurie. 1576 Fleming *Panopl. Epist.* 152 Wee satt at ye sterne,..but now we haue no place allowed vs, no not scarsely next the pump, or the sinck-hole. *a* 1625 Fletcher *Wife for Month* v. ii, Thou wilt be hang'd as handsomly..as if thou wert Heir apparent To all the impious Suburbs, and the sink-holes. 1665 M. N. *Med. Medicinæ* 89 Instead of clearing the body of Scorbutick Humors, they drain the best Juices down through the common Sink-hole. 1687 A. Lovell tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* I. 132 This passage, or rather sink-hole, as being very steep and shelving,..goes sloaping down Seventy-six Foot. 1830 Gen. P. Thompson *Exerc.* (1842) I. 259 The law is to be made a sink-hole for the storing-up of old abuses. 1847– in dialect use (Yks., Linc., Derby, Warw., Oxf.).

attrib. 1895 Rye *E. Angl. Gloss.* 196 *Sink-hole Thief,* a despicable small thief, capable of creeping through a sink-hole (Arderon).

2. A hole, cavern, or funnel-shaped cavity made in the earth by the action of water on the soil, rock, or underlying strata, and frequently forming the course of an underground stream; a swallow-hole. Chiefly *U.S.*

1791 W. Bartram *Carolina* 174 The vast grotto or bason of transparent waters, which is called by the traders a sink-hole, a singular kind of vortex or conduit, to the subterranean receptacles of the waters. 1812 Brackenridge *Views of Louisiana* (1814) 106 The number of funnels, or sinkholes, formed by the washing of the earth into fissures of the limestone rock. 1834 M. Scott *Cruise Midge* xx. (1863) 330 As for those sink-holes, or caverns in the rock, I can compare them, from their sinuosities, to nothing more aptly than the human ear. 1889 G. F. Wright *Ice Age N. Amer.* 129 What are called sink-holes, frequent in limestone regions, where a great amount of material below the surface is removed in solution.

3. *U.S.* a. A soft place in a marsh, remaining unfrozen in winter. b. An unprofitable undertaking which is carried on in spite of losses.

1895 *Funk's Stand. Dict.*

Sinking (siˑŋkiŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. Sink *v.* + -ing 1. Cf. Fris. *sinking,* Du. *zinking,* G. *sinkung.*]

1. The action of the vb. in intransitive senses:

a. Denoting an actual downward movement.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 78/1 Cynkynge, *dimersio, submercio.* *a* 1500 in *Bernard. de cura rei fam.* (E. E. T. S.) 33 þe barge of bariona [sall] bowne to the senkyne. 1565 Cooper *Thesaurus, Sedimentum,* a sinkyng downe to the botome. 1590 Shaks. *Com. Err.* I. i. 78 The Sailors..left the ship then sinking ripe to vs. 1630 in Binnell *Descr. Thames* (1758) 74 No Trinck shall stand to fish..at the rising or sinking of any Mother-Fishes. 1662 Gerbier *Principles* 19 To prevent the sinking and bending of their Walls. 1765 Foote *Commissary* II. Wks. 1799 II. 22 One, two, three, ha. There are risings and sinkings [of the body in dancing]! 1799 *Med. Jrnl.* II. 460 The alternate swelling and sinking of the brain, during inspiration and expiration. 1837 P. Keith *Bot. Lex.* 348 The sinking of the one knob and the swimming of the other. 1890 *Q. Jrnl. Geol. Soc.* XLVI. I. 34 The numerous deep crevasses, sinkings in and landslips. 1895 *Outing* XXVII. 203/1 Bend the knees quickly and fall soft—a sinking down is better for the flesh than a down-right tumble.

b. In various *fig.* or *transf.* uses.

1717–8 Hearne *Collect.* (O. H. S.) VI. 126 This sinking of the value of Money creates abundance of Murmuring. 1727 Pope (*title*), Peri Bathous: or, Martinus Scriblerus his Treatise of the Art of Sinking in Poetry. 1740–1 Richardson *Pamela* (1824) I. 11 These are wonderful sinkings from purpose. *a* 1851 Moir *Poems* (1852) II. 11 In his soarings he was Heavenly, In his sinkings he was man. 1897 *Daily News* 18 June 4/3 The sinking of the prices paid in the London markets.

c. A lowering or drooping of the spirits, etc.

1663 Spencer *Prodigies* (1665) 326 Those horrors and sinking of sprit in bad men. 1829 Scott in *Croker Papers* 30 Jan., Johnson, however indulgent to his own sinkings of the spirits. 1851 Jerrold *St. Giles* xvi. 168 St. Giles, with a sinking of the heart, passed on. 1888 *Times* (weekly ed.) 23 Jan. 13/2, I felt a sinking at my heart, lest..I should find myself unable to go any further.

d. Decline or diminution of vital power.

1730 Bailey (fol.), *Arythmos,* a Sinking and Failure of the Pulse, so as it can be no longer felt. *a* 1776 James *Dissert. Fevers* (1778) 125 That kind of sensation which patients describe by a sinking. 1813 J. Thomson *Lect. Inflam.* 169 We may, by too free a detraction of blood, produce a sudden sinking of the powers of life. 1843 R. J. Graves *Syst. Clin. Med.* ix. 101 Coldness of the extremities and sinking of the pulse. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 146 In this form of neurasthenia, pains, sinkings and acidities of the stomach are frequent.

2. The action of the vb. in transitive senses.

Sinking and drawing, a method of angling, in which the hook is allowed to sink and then gently drawn up again. Also called the 'sink-and-draw' style, principle, etc.

1605 Camden *Rem., Epitaphs* (1623) 322 His conquering of Cyprus, the sinking of the great Galleasse of the Saracens. 1683 Moxon *Mech. Exerc., Printing* xv. P 1 When I come to the sinking and justifying of Matrices. 1705 J. Blair in W. S. Perry *Hist. Coll. Amer. Col. Ch.* I. 150 Some proposing the cancelling of the said Aspersions, other, the sinking of the whole paper. 1856 'Stonehenge' *Brit. Rur. Sports* I. v. iii. 251/2 Chub-Fishing..Sinking and drawing is therefore practised, because by this mode the line is not so likely to be entangled. 1890 W. J. Gordon *Foundry* 223 Though rotary presses at £7,000 apiece require a somewhat alarming sinking of capital.

b. The process or act of boring or excavating

downwards in search of coal, etc.; the pit or shaft thus formed.

1708 J. C. *Compl. Collier* (1845) 11 The Earth, Minerals and Water, that may be met with in our way of Sinking. 1802 PLAYFAIR *Illustr. Huttonian Th.* 294 The sinking of perpendicular shafts. 1839 MURCHISON *Silurian Syst.* I. ii. 22, I..learned that sinkings in search of coal had been prosecuted..in the district. 1890 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Miner's Right* (1899) 16/2 Our party consists of four, which is much the most common number, particularly where the sinking is deepish.

3. A depression, or the amount of this; a recess or worked hollow.

1712 J. JAMES tr. *Le Blond's Gardening* 27 Niches cut for Figures, and two Sinkings for Shells and Buffets of Water. *Ibid.* 137 The Depth or Sinking you would give the Bowling-green. 1797 T. HOLCROFT tr. *Stolberg's Trav.* II. xxxviii. 27 The sinking under the stage is of a great depth. 1825 J. NICHOLSON *Operat. Mechanic* 615 A beech mould is next made..of the profile of the intended cornice, ..with the quirks, or small sinkings, of brass or copper. 1863 *Archaeol. Cant.* V. 16 One piece with chamfered sinkings, probably a piece of Norman moulding. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* (1894) III. 176/2 A dovetail sinking is cut on the upper surface of the stones at the ends.

Si·nking, *ppl. a.* [f. SINK *v.* + -ING 2.]

†1. a. Of ground: Soft, yielding. *A sinking sand,* a quicksand. *Obs. rare.*

1535 STEWART *Cron. Scot.* III. 148 Thair schippis..drevin vpoun the land, Quhair tha war ebbit on ane sinkand sand. 1597 SHAKS. 2 *Hen. VI,* III. ii. 97 The splitting Rockes cowr'd in the sinking sands. 1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr., Slough,* ..a deep, sinking, mudy place.

†b. Of paper: Allowing ink to spread. *Obs.*

1585 HIGINS tr. *Junius' Nomencl.* 5/2 *Papier qui passe,* blotting or sinking paper. 1638 JUNIUS *Paint. Ancients* 273 A writer purposing to write well,..doth sometimes come short of his intent, if he meeteth with sinking and blotting paper. 1665 GURNALL *Chr. in Arm.* (1669) 393/2 By thy religious duties thou settest a fair copie, O do not write it in sinking paper. 1772 *Gentl. Mag.* XLII. 192 Will any paper match him?—Yes, throughout He's a true *Sinking Paper,* past all doubt. 1799 G. SMITH *Laboratory* II. 83 You must take a paper that will bear ink very well for this use, for a sinking paper will separate with the wet, and spoil all.

2. That sinks, in senses of the intransitive verb.

1676 DRYDEN *Aurengz.* I. i, As Seas and Winds to sinking Mariners. 1725 POPE *Odyss.* XIII. 95 At once they bend,.. And leave the sinking hills, and less'ning shores. 1746 HERVEY *Medit.* (1818) 35 Her hands..sometimes stay the sinking head on her gentle arms. 1817 SHELLEY *Rev. Islam* I. 179 Like a great ship in the sun's sinking sphere Beheld afar at sea. 1863 LD. LYTTON *Ring of Amasis* I. I. ix, He is within but a few arm-lengths of the sinking child. 1897 WATTS-DUNTON *Aylwin* I. iii, I can see the rim of the sinking sun burning fiery red low down between the trees. *fig.* 1704 PRIOR *Celia to Damon* 88 Another Nymph with fatal Pow'r may rise To damp the sinking Beams of Celia's Eyes. 1740 WESLEY *'Jesus, the all-restoring Word'* ii, Quicken my soul,..My sinking footsteps stay.

b. Lapsing into ruin or decay; failing, losing; declining, decadent.

1693 BOWLES in Dryden *Juvenal* v. (1697) 103 No Man expects..what Piso us'd to send, To raise, or to support a sinking Friend. 1703 ROWE *Ulysses* III. i, Save the sinking House of thy Ulysses. 1781 GIBBON *Decl. & F.* (1787) III. 67 Amidst the misfortunes and terrors of a sinking nation. 1818 SCOTT *Br. Lam.* ii, In the civil war of 1689, he had espoused the sinking side. 1821 SHELLEY *Hellas* 459 Live! oh live! outlive Me and this sinking empire.

c. Of the heart, spirits, health, etc.: Drooping, flagging.

1820 SCOTT *Monast.* XXI, The hope of which issue has cheered the sinking heart of many a duellist. 1862 STANLEY *Jew. Ch.* (1877) I. xvii. 325 Their appearance..roused..the sinking spirit of the army. 1879 FROUDE *Cæsar* XIV. 212 [They] cowered in their tents with sinking hearts,..and composed last messages for their friends.

3. Special uses: **sinking-chain,** part of the apparatus of a pit-shaft boring-rod; **sinking-fire, heart-burn, -jar** (see quots.); †**sinking-lead,** a sounding-lead; **sinking stage** (see quot.).

1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 994 The beam centered at *c,* having an arc-head and martingale *sinking-chain. 1881 RAYMOND *Mining Gloss.,* **Sinking-fire,* a forge in which wrought-iron scrap or refined pig-iron is partially melted or welded together by means of a charcoal-fire and a blast. 1822–7 GOOD *Study Med.* I. 163 *Cardialgia..syncoptica,* *Sinking heart-burn. The pain or uneasiness extending to the pit of the stomach; with..failure of strength, and great tendency to faint. 1837 *Penny Cycl.* IX. 24/2 After due agitation of the wash three samples should be taken by the dipping cylinder, or *sinking-jar. 1648 HEXHAM II, *Een Zinck-loot,* a *Sinking-lead or Plummet to sound the depth of water. 1841 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* IV. 430/1 The stage,..including a considerable portion formed to rise or fall by suitable machinery, and called the *sinking stage.

Sinking fund. [See SINK *v.* 27 and FUND *sb.* 4 a.] A fund formed by periodically setting aside revenue to accumulate at interest, usually for the purpose of reducing the principal of a national, municipal, or company's debt.

Sinking funds were established by the British Government in 1716, 1786, and 1875 for reducing the National Debt. In the Act 3 George I (1716) c. 7 it is termed 'a General Yearly Fund'.

1724 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 6232/1 It must be a..great Satisfaction..to see the sinking Fund improved. 1765 BLACKSTONE *Comm.* I. 329 The surplusses..are usually denominated the sinking fund, because originally destined to sink and lower the national debt. 1824 BYRON *Juan* XVI. xcix, The Sinking Fund's unfathomable sea..leaves The debt unsunk, yet sinks all it receives. 1862 ANSTED *Channel Isl.* IV. 573 No special sinking fund exists; but the general revenue is in excess of the expenditure.

attrib. 1846 *Daily News* 21 Jan. 5/5 A loan of 18,840,000 florins is to be raised by the sinking-fund commission. 1906 *Westm. Gaz.* 30 Apr. 9/1 A restoration of Sinking Fund purchases.

Sink pors: see CINQUE PORTS.

Si·nksman. [f. SINK *v.*] = SINKER 2.

1887 P. M'NEILL *Blawearie* 46 Foul air, completely extinguishing..the lights of the sinksmen.

Sink-stone (si·ŋkstōun). Also **sinkstone.** [f. SINK *sb.*1 or *v.* + STONE *sb.*]

1. *dial.* A stone basin or sink, having a pipe attached for the escape of water; a hollowed stone with an opening leading to a drain.

1766 *Complete Farmer* s.v. *Gravel,* It will be proper to have sink-stones laid by the sides of the walk,..to let off the wet. 1828 CARR *Craven Gloss., Sink-stone,* an excavated stone, with a small grate, to receive the off-scourings of a kitchen. 1877– in dial. glossaries (Lanc., Yks., Linc.).

2. A stone sinker for submerging a fishing-line or -net in water.

1865 LUBBOCK *Preh. Times* 76 Many of them were used as sinkstones for nets. 1872 EVANS *Anc. Stone Implements* 212 Sink-stones are by no means rare in Ireland, and continue in use to the present day.

Sinky (si·ŋki), *a. rare.* [f. SINK *v.* + -Y.] Of sand or soil: Yielding; = SINKING *ppl. a.* 1 a.

1827 STEUART *Planter's G.* (1828) 249 If the forced-up surface also of the pit be too soft and sinky. 1895 'G. SETOUN' *Sunshine & Haar* vii. 145 It was a heavy enough walk over the 'sinky' sand even in the best of weather.

Sinless (si·nlės), *a.* Forms: 1–2 **synleas,** 4 **sinles,** 7– **sinless**; 2 **synneleas,** 4–5 **-les,** 6 **-lesse**; 3 **sinnelæs,** 7 **-lesse**; 4 **senne-, sunneles.** [f. SIN *sb.* + -LESS. Cf. OS. *sundilôs,* OHG. *suntilôs* (MHG. *sundelôs,* G. *sündenlos*), ON. and Icel. *syndalauss* (Sw. *syndalös,* Da. *syndeløs*).] Free from, devoid of, without sin. Also const. *of.*

c 897 K. ÆLFRED *Gregory's Past C.* liv. 423 Swa bið eac swiðe oft synleas yfel gedoht ðæm godum. *c* 1000 *Ags. Gosp.* John viii. 7 Hwylc eower si synleas [*Hatton* synneleas], wurpe ærest stan on hi. *a* 1023 WULFSTAN *Hom.* xxiv. 121 Crist þrowade for us synleas. *c* 1200 ORMIN 11020 Soþ mann, all þweorrt ut sinnelæs Off bodiȝ & off sawle. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 913 O man sinles þan mad i þe. 1362 LANGL. *P. Pl. A.* VII. 217 Miht I sunneles don as þou seist? 1532 MORE *Confut. Tindale* Wks. 525/2 He..beyng synnelesse hymselfe, paynefullye payed for oures. *a* 1639 W. WHATELEY *Prototypes* I. iv. (1640) 33 Such a Law, as was given to a sinnelesse and immortall creature. 1671 MILTON *P. R.* IV. 425 In calm and sinless peace. 1680 in Howell *State Trials* (1816) VII. 1170 Sir Thomas was as sinless of it [the plot] as the child that was unborn. 17.. RAMSAY *Lady Somerville's Bk. Songs* 5 If she thy sinless faults forgive. 1738 WESLEY *Ps.* VI. vi, Make ev'n me..A sinless Saint below. 1813 SHELLEY *Q. Mab* I. 11 Hath then the gloomy Power..Seized on her sinless soul? 1877 E. R. CONDER *Basis Faith* ii. 66 To pronounce any human being sinless is to pass a positive judgment carrying immense consequences.

Hence **Si·nlessly** *adv.*

1696 LORIMER *Rem. Goodwin's Disc.* vii. 69 To be always Sinlesly Holy in Heart and Life. 1831 *Blackw. Mag.* XXIX. 290 The image of virgin growing up sinlessly to womanhood. 1867 *Contemp. Rev.* IV. 474 A sinlessly holy co-redeemer.

Sinlessness (si·nlėsnės). [f. prec. + -NESS.] The quality or state of being sinless; freedom from sin, innocence.

1661 BOYLE *Motives Love of God* Wks. 1772 I. 287 The sinlessness of whose condition will keep them [etc.]. 1849 C. S. BIRD *Mariolatry* 32 The original sinlessness of Mary is at length fully developed. 1862 F. HALL *Hindu Philos. Syst.* 127 When man was in a state of sinlessness. 1880 'OUIDA' *Moths* II. v. 126 A sullen reverence for her..sinlessness and her honour.

Sinn, obs. f. SIN *sb.*; Sc. var. SUN.

Si·nnable, *a. rare.* [f. SIN *v.* + -ABLE.] Capable of sinning. Hence **Si·nnableness.**

1662 GURNALL *Chr. in Arm.* VII. (1669) 291/2 Though they never sinned, yet they are sinnable. 1863 tr. *Réville's Man. Relig. Instruct.* 205 If our nature was not sinnable. *Ibid.* 202 Original sin..is not sinfulness but sinnableness.

Sinner (si·nəɹ), *sb.* Forms: *a.* 4 **sin-, synȝer, zeneȝere, sinnier,** 5 **synnyer.** *β.* 4 **synnere,** 4–7 **synner,** 4– **sinner.** *γ.* 4 **synnour,** 4–5 (6 *Sc.*) **synnar,** 5 *Sc.* **synar,** 6 *Sc.* **sinnar.** [f. SIN *v.* Cf. OFris. *sondere,* MDu. *sondaer* (Du. *zondaar*), MLG. *sunder,* OHG. *suntari* (MHG. *sundære,* G. *sünder*), ON. and Icel. *syndari* (Sw. *syndare,* Da. *synder*).]

1. One who sins; a transgressor against the divine law.

a. c 1325 *Prose Psalter* I. 1 Blessed be þe man, þat..stode nouȝt in þe waie of sinȝeres. *Ibid.* I. 6 Þe sinniers. 1340 *Ayenb.* 33 Sleuþe and uoryetinge blendeþ þe zeneȝeres. 1422 tr. *Secreta Secret., Priv. Priv.* 201 He did so myche for Pagans and Synnyers.

β. c 1325 *Prose Psalter* I. 7 Þe waye of synners schal perissen. 1382 WYCLIF *Mark* II. 17, I cam not for to clepe iuste men, but synners. *c* 1440 *Alph. Tales* 470 A riche man..þat was a synner of his bodie. 1509 FISHER *Funeral Serm. C'tess Richmond* Wks. (1876) 298 It perceth my stomacke to se the rest & ease that synners often haue. 1579 in W. Fulke *Heskins' Parl.* 31 Contrition maketh a man more sinner. 1651 HOBBES *Leviath.* III. xxxviii. 248 Salvation of a sinner, supposeth a precedent Redemption. 1721 YOUNG *Revenge* I. i, Sinners shall..bid the light adieu. 1784 COWPER *Task* III. 96 Now..they are safe, sinners of either sex. 1820 SHELLEY *Witch Atl.* LXXVI, Both, like sinners caught, Blushed. 1881 BESANT & RICE *Chapl. of Fleet* I. 179 Sir Miles enjoyed the lamentations of a sinner the morning after a debauch.

fig. 1610 SHAKS. *Temp.* I. ii. 101 Like one Who..Made such a synner of his memorie To credite his owne lie.

Comb. 1797 T. PARK *Sonn.* 72 She ponders o'er her follies past, And, sinner-like, repents at last.

γ. a 1400 *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* xxiii. 183 Olde Adames sone, þe furste synnour [*rime* sauour]. *c* 1400 *Apol. Loll.* 27 Þus was Crist callid a synnar and blasfemer. 1567 *Gude & Godlie B.* (S.T.S.) 120 Sinnaris hes *thy* Celsitude Resistit cruellie.

b. *spec.* An unchaste woman.

14.. *Nom.* in Wr.-Wülcker 693 *Hec fornicatrix,* a sinner. 1630 *R. Johnson's Kingd. & Commw.* 143 The Servants, Pages, Lacquies, and *Filles de joye* (Punkes or pleasant sinners) which follow the Court. 1688 BUNYAN *Jerusalem Sinner saved* (1886) 41 They knew that she [the woman of Samaria] was a town sinner, an adulteress.

c. In phrase *as I am a sinner.*

1682 N. O. *Boileau's Lutrin* IV. 329 As I am a sinner, My eager stomach crokes, and calls for Dinner! ?1800 SHELLEY *Verses on a Cat* i, As I am a sinner, It waits for some dinner. 1844 THACKERAY *Contrib. to Punch* Wks. 1900 VI. 59 My acquaintance..was in the boat with fifteen trunks, as I am a sinner.

2. In trivial use: A reprobate, rogue; an offender against some rule or custom.

1809 MALKIN *Gil Blas* III. x, A thousand broad hints.. seasoned exactly to the taste of these old sinners. 1851 MAYNE REID *Scalp Hunt.* XXX. 231 The smoky old sinner chuckled with delight at the remembrance of his adventure. 1871 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* IV. xxii. 53 The original sinners of the Herefordshire border..were still lords of English soil.

Hence **Si·nner** *v.* (with *it*), to act as a sinner.

1735 POPE *Ep. Lady* 15 Whether the Charmer sinner it, or saint it, If Folly grow romantic, I must paint it. 1880 A. I. RITCHIE *Ch. Baldred* 26 He sainted it and sinnered it.

†**Si·nneress.** *Obs. rare.* [f. prec. + -ESS.] A female sinner.

1382 WYCLIF *Luke* VII. 37 A womman synneresse, that was in the citee. *Ibid.* 39 She is a synneresse. 1647 HEXHAM I, A Sinneresse, *een sondaresse.*

Sinnership (si·nəɹʃip). [f. SINNER *sb.* + -SHIP.] The condition of being a sinner.

c 1750 J. NELSON *Jrnl.* (1836) 66 Many..told me to my face that I never knew the gospel liberty, nor what it was to enjoy the poor sinnership. 1818 BENTHAM *Church-of-Englandism* 175 Exists there any scale..by which the sinnership and the miserableness of the Archbishop can be measured? 1868 BROWNING *Ring & Bk.* III. 114 Which the more Tends to the reconciling us, no saints To sinnership. 1887 — *Parleyings, F. Furini* xi, Show saintliness that's simply innocent Of guessing sinnership exists to cure All in good time!

Sinnes (in dicing): see SINES.

Sinnet (si·nėt). Also 7 **sinnett, sinnit,** 8–9 **sinnate.** Cf. SENNIT. [A nautical term of obscure origin.] A kind of flat braided cordage formed by pleating together several strands of rope-yarn, coarse hemp, grass, or other fibrous material.

1611 COTGR., *Trene,* a threefold rope, cord, string, or twist, called by Marriners, a Sinnet. 1627 CAPT. SMITH *Seaman's Gram.* v. 25 Sinnet is a string made of rope yarne commonly of two, foure, six, eight or nine strings platted in three parts, which being beat flat they use to sarue ropes or Mats. 1706 E. WARD *Wooden World Diss.* (1708) 28 If he have but Hands enough to Furl, Rief, and make Sinnate. 1840 R. H. DANA *Bef. Mast* XXVI, The boys..laid up grass into sinnet for the men. 1847 H. MELVILLE *Omoo* LXXIV, A roll of grass sinnate (of the kind which sailors sew into the frame of their tarpaulins). 1880 J. S. COOPER *Coral Lands* I. x. 105 They stand about six feet high, the gables being filled in with sinnet.

attrib. and *Comb.* 1856 KANE *Arct. Expl.* II. x. 101 Our sinnet-laid twine would not stand the powerful struggles of the beast. 1894 B. THOMSON *South Sea Yarns* x, A man may make many signs by jerking a sinnet cord which another holds.

Sinnet, variant of SENNET.

Sinning (si·niŋ), *vbl. sb.* Forms: *a.* 1 **syngung**; 3 **sineginge, siniging** (4 **-yng**), **sunegunge, -ynge, -ing**; 4 **seneȝynge.** *β.* 5 **cynn-, synnynge,** 6 **synnyng,** 7– **sinning.** [f. SIN *v.* + -ING 1.] The action of the verb in various senses.

a. c 1000 *Ags. Hom.* (Assmann) 149 Us is swiðe þearle to efstanne,..þæt we..ðære syngunge ȝeswican. *c* 1220 *Bestiary* 193 No mod ðu ne cune..Oc swic of sineginge. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 52 Lo hu holi writ..telleð hu sunegunge bigon. *c* 1315 SHOREHAM I. 669 Ine wyl of seneȝynge. *a* 1400 in *Herrig's Archiv* CIV. 307 God is more greuet of þat defendyng þen of þe furste sinigyng.

β. c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 78/1 Cynnynge, *peccamen.* 1493 *Communycacyon* (W. de W. 1535) A iij, Thou purposed..To set my people in synnynge. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 227 Not onely for ones, twyse, or seuen tymes synnyng. 1611 BIBLE *Ecclus.* xviii. 27 In the day of sinning he will beware of offence. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* VI. 661 Spirits of purest light,..now gross by sinning grown. 1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* II. (Globe) 429 The Blessing of God does not ordinarily follow a presumptuous Sinning against his Command. 1818 BYRON *Juan* I. vii, The regularity of my design Forbids all wandering as the worst of sinning. 1841 BROWNING *Pippa Passes* Poems (1905) 171 To think She would succeed in her absurd attempt, And fascinate by sinning.

attrib. 1643 TRAPP *Comm. Gen.* vi. 17 God will not alway serve men for a sinning-stock. 1673 R. HEAD *Canting Acad.* 147 A sinning-house near Whetstones-Park.

Si·nning, *ppl. a.* [f. SIN *v.* + -ING 2.] That sins or commits transgressions.

1609 BIBLE (Douay) *Amos* IX. 8 Behold the eyes of our Lord upon the sinning kingdom. 1616 J. LANE *Contn. Sqr.'s T.* VIII. 370 Tis not yond noble kinges intent to kill

his sinninge subiectes that repent. 1885 *Athenæum* 5 Sept. 300/2 The implacable wrath which he subsequently felt for the sinning guest at last melted.

Hence **Si·nningly** *adv.*, **Si·nningness.**

1647 TRAPP *Comm.* 1 *John* iii. 9 Sinningly, so as to be transformed into sin's image. 1674 J. B[RIAN] *Harvest-Home* i. 3 Nor shall they offend Sinningly. 1863 tr. *Réville's Man. Relig. Instruct.* 201 The liability to sin may be called sinnableness; the tendency, sinningness.

Sinno·graphy. *nonce-word.* [f. SIN *sb.*: see -GRAPHY.] (See quot.)

1654 WHITLOCK *Zootomia* 495 Sinnography (as I may tearm it), the description or consideration of the kinds & differences of Sin.

† **Sinnomon,** obs. form of CINNAMON.

1609 ARMIN *Maids of More-cl.* (1880) 108 Stuft with sweet sinnomon and cloues.

Sinnon, Sinnowe: see SINEW *sb.*

† **Si·nny,** *a. Obs. rare.* In 1 **synniz,** 5 **synny.** [f. SIN *sb.* + -Y.] Sinful, wicked.

c 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Matt. xix. 9 He synzias *vel* synniz biđ. *c* 1475 *Partenay* 5218 Off his synny crime [he] lefte not more ne lesse.

Sinny, Sc. variant of SUNNY *a.*

Sino- (si·no), combining form of Gr. Σίνα, L. *Sinæ* (see SINÆAN *a.*) the Chinese, as in **Si·no-gram,** a Chinese written character; **Sino·loger,** = SINOLOGUE; **Sinolo·gical** *a.*, 'relating to the Chinese language or literature' (Webster *Suppl.* 1879); **Sino·logist, Si·nologue,** one versed in the Chinese language, or in the customs and history of China; **Sino·logy,** the study of things Chinese (*Imp. Dict.* 1882); **Si·nophil** *a.*, fond of the Chinese.

Sinologist and *sinologue* have been in common use from *c* 1880 and 1860 respectively.

1898 E. P. EVANS *Evol. Ethics* viii. 318 *Sinograms, ideograms, and all hieroglyphics and picture-writing. 1857 *Sat. Rev.* 3 Jan. 12/2 One of the greatest living French *Sinologers. 1838 DU PONCEAU *Chinese Syst. Writing* Introd. 26 Those *sinologists who consider ideas to be inseparably inherent in the Chinese characters. 1884 *Harper's Mag.* Sept. 643/2 The Sinologist who read the scratches .. as Chinese! 1856 MEADOWS *Chinese* 375 The metaphysical reader, even if no *sinologue, will at once decide in favour of my version. 1880 *Sat. Rev.* No. 1306. 581 A gifted young sinologue who bids fair to introduce a new era in the study of Chinese. 1894 *The Liberal* 24 Nov. 50/1 The *Sinophil author of Primitive Civilization.

Sinod, -al(l, Synode, obs. ff. SYNOD(AL. **Sinodoches,** obs. f. SYNECDOCHE. **Sinody,** var. SYNODY *Obs.*

Si·n-offering. [f. SIN *sb.* 6, prob. after G. *sündopfer*, used by Luther to render Heb. *ḥaṭṭāth*, f. *ḥāṭā'* to sin.] In the older Jewish religion, an offering (of an animal for sacrifice) made as an atonement for sin. Also *transf.*

See especially *Lev.* iv and vi. The distinction between *sin-offering* and *trespass-offering* has been the subject of much controversy.

1535 COVERDALE *Lev.* iv. 3 He shall brynge..a yonge bullocke..for a synofferynge. 1597 HOOKER *Eccl. Pol.* v. lxxviii. § 1 With what sinne-offering once euery yeere they reconciled..the people vnto God. 1643 J. CARYL *Expos. Job* i. 5-6 Of other Sacrifices, as the Sin-offering,..there were parts..reserved for the Priest. 1786 A. MACLEAN *Chr. Commiss.* I. (1846) 39 The sin-offering or sacrifice of expiation. 1819 SCOTT *Ivanhoe* xxxvi, The death of a Jewess will be a sin-offering sufficient to atone for all the amorous indulgences of the Knights Templars. 1865 R. W. DALE *Jew. Temp.* xvii. (1877) 187 In the sin-offering the idea of atonement was supreme.

Sinologer, etc.: see SINO- above.

Sinon (sai·nən). Also 6-7 **Synon.** [The name of the Greek who induced the Trojans to bring the wooden horse into Troy (Virgil *Æneid* II. 57 sqq.).] One who misleads by false tales; a perfidious person; a deceiver or betrayer.

In *Peele's Jests* viii. Dyce reads *she-Sinon* for *she-sinnow* of the old editions.

1581 J. BELL *Haddon's Answ. Osorius* 483 b, You come to late gentle Synon with these fables and bables. 1592 ? KYD *Soliman & Pers.* II. i. 95 Heere comes the Synon to my simple heart: He frame my selfe to his dissembling art. 1635 NAUNTON *Fragm. Reg.* (Arb.) 38 They decipher him for another Solon, and the Synon of those times. 1638 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* (ed. 2) 133 The Ambassador easily descryed him to be a Synon, sent meerly to betray his credulity. 1807 COLLINSON *Thuanus* 82 They are a company of Sinons, who watch opportunities of enriching themselves by the ruin of others. 1818 SCOTT *Rob Roy* iv, Osbaldistone inveighed..against the arts of these modern Sinons.

Hence **Si·nonism.**

1864 *Daily Telegr.* 29 Oct., Another 'dodge'—another Sinonism, if that phrase sounds more agreeably to classical ears—is conceived.

† **Sinoper.** *Obs.* Forms: 5 **zinopre,** 5-6 **synopre, -pyr** (6 *Sc.* **-pir**), 5-7 **synoper** (6 *Sc.* **-peir**), 6 **syneper, synapour** (*Sc.* **-par, -pir,** 7 **-per**), 6-8 **sinoper** (6 **seno-**); 6 **cinaper,** 7-8 **cinoper.** [A. OF. *sinopre* (cf. Pg. *sinopera*), var. of *sinople* SINOPLE. Some of the forms may be partly due to confusion with CINNABAR.]

1. A colour of some shade of red. Also *attrib.*

1412-20 LYDG. *Chron. Troy* II. 964 With knottis graue clene, Depeynt with azour, gold, zinopre, & grene. *c* 1450 *Merlin* xxvii, 530 Lo hym ther that thow sechest, with the shelde of synopre. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* XII. Prol. 57 The syluer scalyt fyschis .. Wyth *fynnis* schynand brovn as synopar. 1530 LYNDESAY *Test. Papyngo* 1112 3e..sall knaw hir be hir moste heuinly hewis,—Gold, Asure, Gowles, Purpour, and Synopeir. 1573 *Art of Limming* 5 To temper good Synapour, grind Synapour lake and Synapour topes ech by himselfe. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* I. 13/2 Colours derived from Sangujne..Synaper, or Lake colour.

2. **a.** A kind of red earth used as a pigment (originally one brought to Greece from Sinope in Paphlagonia). **b.** Cinnabar.

The latter may have been the more usual sense.

1501 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* II. 63 Item, ij unce synapir, xvj d. 1510 in Willis & Clark *Cambridge* (1886) II. 199 Ceruse, Synoper, red okyr, yelowe oker. 1565 COOPER *Thesaurus, Cinnabaris*, a softe redde stone founde in mines, called in latin *Minium*, in Englysh, Cinoper...The common Cinoper is counterfayted of brimstone and quicke siluer. *Ibid.*, *Sinopis*, a redde stone commonly called Sinoper, or Ruddle. 1599 HAKLUYT *Voy.* II. 229 Great quantitie of quicksilver and Cinaper. 1610 B. JONSON *Alch.* I. iii, You shall deale much, with mineralls,..argaile, alkaly, Cinoper. 1610 MARKHAM *Masterp.* II. viii. 233 Other Farriers take a dramme of Synoper. 1611 COTGR., *Cinabre*, Synoper; Vermillion; or, a kind of Lybian minerall, redder then Vermillion. 1725 *Fam. Dict.* s.v. *Bezoar-Stone*, Others use Cinoper, Antimony, and Quicksilver. 1726 LEONI *Alberti's Archit.* II. 46/1 Sinoper, or Terra Pontica.

Sino·pian, *a. rare.* = next.

1611 COTGR. s.v. *Bol*, Sinopean red earth. *Ibid.*, *Rubrique Sinopique*, Sinopian red earth.

Sinopic (sino·pik), *a.* [ad. L. *Sinōpic-us*, a. Gr. Σινωπικ-ός, f. Σινώπη, a Greek colony in Paphlagonia.] Obtained from Sinope or its neighbourhood.

1748 J. HILL *Hist. Fossils* 61 Theophrastus expressly says, that it was a Cappadocian Earth, tho' call'd Sinopic. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl., *Sinopis*,..the Sinopic ochre, commonly called *rubrica Sinopica*. 1868 DANA *Min.* 477 The sinopic earth of the ancients was brought from Cappadocia, and used as a red paint.

So **Sino·pical.** *rare*$^{-0}$.

1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.*, *Sinopical*,..of or belonging to that Stone.

Sinopite (si·nopəit). *Min.* [ad. G. *sinopit* (Hausmann, 1847), f. L. *Sinōp-is* or *Sinōp-ē* (see next) + -ITE^1 2 b.] (See quots.)

1868 WATTS, *Sinopite, Bole of Sinope*,..a ferruginous bole occurring in masses with fine earthy fracture, in Cappadocia. 1868 DANA *Min.* 477 *Sinopite*,..a clayey earth of a brick-red color dotted with white, adhering to the tongue.

† **Sinople.** *Obs.* Also 5 **cinople,** 6-7 **synople,** 8 **senople.** [a. OF. *sinople* (cf. Sp. *sinople*, Pg. *sinopla*, It. *sin-*, *senopia*), ad. L. *Sinōpis*, a. Gr. Σινωπίς, f. Σινώπη: see SINOPIC *a.*]

1. = SINOPER 1.

? *c* 1450 *Lydgate's Chron. Troy* II. (1555) xi. 964 Green Depeynt with asure, golde, cinople, & grene. 1567 MAPLET *Gr. Forest* 98 The Parret hath all hir whole bodie greene, sauing that..she hath a Coller or Chaine naturally wrought like to Sinople or Vermelon. 1569 J. SANFORD tr. *Agrippa's Van. Artes* 159 From hence came the temperatures of Asure, of Cinnaber, of Sinople, of Purple.

attrib. 1552 HULOET, Synople coulour or redde.

2. = SINOPER 2.

1548 ELYOT, *Miniaria*, the place where synople is dygged. *Ibid.*, *Minium*, synople or redde leade. 1611 COTGR., *Minion*, Synople, red lead, Vermillion. 1683 PETTUS *Fleta Min.* II. 7 The Common Armoniack he [Pliny] calls Synoper (and we Synople).

3. The colour green; *spec.* in *Her.*, vert.

The origin of this use (prominent in French) is not apparent. In quot. 1838-9 used as if the name of a charge.

1489 CAXTON *Faytes of A.* IV. xvii. 280 That other coloure of armoyrie is grene that men calle sinople or verte. 1602 *Palmerin of Eng.* II. lxii, In this was pictured in a field of Sinople the lively and naturall forme of the Princesse. 1611 COTGR., *Synople*, Sinople; Greene, in Blazon. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.*, *Sinople* or *Senople*, in Heraldry, the Green Colour in Armories. [1838-9 THACKERAY *Major Gahagan* iv, The well known device of Holkar, argent and or gules, between a sinople of the first, a chevron truncated, wavy.]

b. *attrib.* or as *adj.* Of a green colour.

1590 LODGE *Euphues' Gold. Legacy* O 2 b, The Sinople tree, whose blossomes delight the smell. 1610 GUILLIM *Heraldry* I. i. (1660) 5 They beare three Toades, Sable, in a Field Vert, *alias* Sinople. *a* 1649 DRUMM. OF HAWTH. *Sonnets* xliv, The delightfull Green Of your fair radiant Een,.. Sinople Lamps of Jove. 1698 T. FROGER *Voy.* 116 A White Flag with a Sinople or green Cross in it.

4. *Min.* A variety of ferruginous quartz.

1796 KIRWAN *Elem. Min.* (ed. 2) I. 313, 4th Family [of Siliceous Genus]—Sinople. It is said to contain 18 per ct. of iron. 1798 JAMESON *Min. Shetland Isles* 34 Frequently also considerable veins of red sinople, intermixed with chalcedony .., run in this rock. 1836 T. THOMSON *Min., Geol.*, etc. I. 71 Sinople, ribbon jasper, Egyptian jasper.

Sinovia(l, obs. ff. SYNOVIA(L. **Sinow(e, -ie,** obs. ff. SINEW, SINEWY. **Sinque,** obs. f. CINQUE.

Sinque a pace, Sinquepace, varr. CINQUEPACE.

Si·n-sick, *a.* [SIN *sb.* 6.] Sick with sin.

1609 DANIEL *Civ. Wars* IV. xlvi, Is there no meanes, but that a sin-sicke Land Must be let bloud with such a boysterous hand? *a* 1618 SYLVESTER *Paradox agst. Libertie* 1068 Wks. (Grosart) II. 64 The poysony humour fell Wherewith my sin-sick heart already 'gan to swell. 1760-72 H. BROOKE *Fool of Qual.* (1809) III. 2 The manifold distempers of your sin-sick soul. 1779 COWPER *Olney Hymns* lix, O God, whose favourable eye The sin-sick soul revives. 1845 G. MURRAY *Islaford* 46 The sin-sick heart reposed in hope and prayer.

Hence **Si·n-sickness.** *rare*$^{-1}$.

1633 EARL MANCH. *Al Mondo* (1636) 161 Commonly good men are best at last, even when they are dying; for they seldome dye of a sinne-sicknesse

Sinsion, variant of SENCION.

Sin-soiled (si·n,soild), *a.* [SIN *sb.* 6.] Blemished, stained, or soiled by sin.

1593 NASHE *Christ's T.* Wks. (Grosart) IV. 214 Our costly skinne-cases could keepe vs from..beeing sinne-soyled. 1612 J. DAVIES (Heref.) *Muse's Sacr.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 50/1 If the Heau'ns, sinne-soiled, must not stand, much lesse must Man. *a* 1618 SYLVESTER *Little Bartas* 907 That B'allblinded, bloud-soild, sin-soild Pair. 1842 MANNING *Serm.* xxiii. (1848) I. 344 No man that is not..repenting of his sin-soiled state. 1891 G. F. X. GRIFFITH tr. *Fouard's Christ the Son of God* I. 204 The depth of degradation from which the Saviour rescued this sin-soiled creature.

Sinsyne (sinsəi·n), *adv. Sc.* and *north.* Forms: *α.* 7- **sinsyne,** 9 **sin-, sin', sin syne**; *north.* 8 **sinsaan,** 9 **sin-seyne.** *β.* 8-9 **sincesyne, since syne.** [f. SIN *prep.* + SYNE *adv.* Cf. the earlier SENSYNE.] Since then, from that time.

α. *a* 1657 SIR J. BALFOUR *Ann. Scotl.* (1825) II. 228 The forme of worschipe..receaued at the reformatione, and vniwersally practissed sinsyne. 1724 RAMSAY *Royal Archers Shooting* ix, Just fifty years sinsyne. 1793 BURNS *Logan Braes* 3, Years sinsyne hae o'er us run. 1802 ANDERSON *Cumbld. Ball.* (*c* 1850) 43 Monie a thousand happier days We beath ha'e kent sin-seyne. 1824 SCOTT *St. Ronan's* ii, Mony a mad measure has been danced sin' syne. 1865 G. MACDONALD *A. Forbes* 43, I hae eaten ower muckle sin syne.

β. 1725 RAMSAY *Gentle Sheph.* v. iii, She has pass'd sincesyne As a poor orphan. 1786 *Har'st Rig* lvi, Ay since syne he's tint the way For her to spear. 1823 GALT *R. Gilhaize* xiv, We twa hae forgathered no lang sincesyne. 1891 BARRIE *Little Minister* xxiii, It has been turned sax times since syne.

Sinter (si·ntəɹ). [a. G. *sinter*, the equivalent of Eng. *sinder* CINDER.]

1. A hard incrustation or deposit formed upon rocks, etc., by precipitation from mineral waters; esp. *siliceous sinter*, geyserite.

1780 *Von Troil's Iceland* 344 The porous crustated stone, or sinter, which is found in the moor surrounding the border of the bason. 1796 KIRWAN *Elem. Min.* (ed. 2) II. 279 The massive are often called Cobaltic Sinters. 1830 LYELL *Princ. Geol.* I. 213 The hot springs..precipitate vast quantities of siliceous sinter. 1857 J. D. DANA *Min.* (1862) 249 Iron sinter is a yellowish or brownish hydrous arsenate of the peroxyd of iron. 1881 GEIKIE in *Macm. Mag.* Oct. 432 The tendency of each geysir to build up a cylinder of sinter around its vent.

2. *Sinter coal* [ad. G. *sinterkohle*], cherry coal.

1854 RONALDS & RICHARDSON *Chem. Technol.* (ed. 2) I. 105 Sinter coal approaches nearest to caking coal, but the fusion of the separate pieces into one is not so perfect.

Hence **Si·ntered** *ppl. a.*, converted into cinders; **Si·ntering** *vbl. sb.*, conversion into cinders.

1871 *Trans. Amer. Inst. Mining Eng.* I. 225 In reference to Western coals we cannot talk about the sintering or fusion of carbon. 1877 RAYMOND *Statist. Mines & Mining* 309 To separate the sintered lumps from the well-roasted fine ore.

Sintery (si·ntəri), *a.* [f. prec. + -Y.] Consisting of sinter.

1863 BARING-GOULD *Iceland* xxi. 362 The Great Geysir.. is indicated by a mound of sintery deposit like a heap of dry grey leaves. 1897 *Westm. Gaz.* 13 Aug. 2/1 Here and there..the sintery veneer was broken off in large uneven patches.

Sintheresis, obs. form of SYNTERESIS.

Sinto(o, Sintu, etc.: see SHINTO, etc.

‖ **Sintoc.** Also **sindoe,** ? **syndoc.** [Malay سنتوق *sintoq*.] (See quot. 1842.) Also *attrib.*

1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 45/2 Sintoc, or Sindoc, sometimes written Syndoc, is the bark of a species of Cinnamomum,.. called C. Sintoc by Blume...It resembles the Calilawan bark, called clove-bark by some. 1861 BENTLEY *Man. Bot.* 630 Sintoc bark, which has analogous properties, is the produce of *Cinnamomum sintoc.*

Sintyr: see CINTRE. **Sinu(e,** obs. ff. SINEW *sb.*

Sinuate (si·niuɛ̤t), *a.* [ad. L. *sinuāt-us*, pa. pple. of *sinuāre*, f. *sinus* SINUS; cf. F. *sinué.*]

1. *Bot.* Of leaves: Having a margin made wavy or uneven by alternate rounded and somewhat large sinuses and lobes; sinuous. Also similarly *Ent.* of wing-cases, etc.

1688 HOLME *Armoury* II. 117/2 Sinuate leaves, such as are crooked, bent or crumpled about the edges. 1760 J. LEE *Introd. Bot.* III. v. (1765) 179 *Sinuate, hollowed*; when they have broad and spreading Openings in the Sides. 1785 MARTYN *Rousseau's Bot.* xii. (1794) 126 The Wild Clary has the leaves serrate, sinuate, and smoothish. 1826 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* III. xxxi. 258 The margins of these cases are sinuate. 1871 GARROD *Mat. Med.* (ed. 3) 290 The leaves are large, ovate, smooth, unequally sinuate. 1882 VINES tr. *Sachs's Bot.* 212 A rudimentary branching, as in indented, toothed, and sinuate leaves.

b. *Comb.*, as *sinuate-angular, -dentate, -lobate, -pinnatifid, -runcinate, -serrate, -undulate*; *sinuate-leaved, -lobed, -toothed.*

1793 MARTYN *Lang. Bot., Sinuato-angulosum*, a sinuate-angular leaf. *Ibid.*, *Sinuato-dentatum*, a sinuate-toothed leaf. 1822 *Hortus Anglicus* II. 152 Sinuate-leaved Mad Wort. 1847 W. E. STEELE *Field Bot.* 11 Leaves cordate at base,..lower sinuate-runcinate. 1870 HOOKER *Stud. Flora* 335 Leaves .. of branches .. sinuate-lobed. *Ibid.*, Leaves..of branches..sinuate-serrate.

2. *Ornith.* (See quot.)

1872 COUES *N. Amer. Birds* 30 The gape is..curved, sinuate, when they [*sc.* rictus and tomia] lie in the same curved or waved line.

Si·nuate, *v. rare*$^{-1}$. [f. ppl. stem of L. *sinuāre*: cf. prec.] *intr.* To creep or crawl in a winding course.

1848 *Blackw. Mag.* LXIV. 104 When you are sinuating like a serpent towards the especial stag of your heart.

Sinuated (si·niu,ēˈtĕd), *ppl. a.* [f. as SINUATE *a.* + -ED [1].]

† **1.** Having a sinus or hollow. *Obs. rare* —[1].

1578 BANISTER *Hist. Man* I. 36 A round head..is admitted into the..rounde sinuated side of the Boatelyke Bone.

2. *Bot.* Of leaves or their margins: = SINUATE *a.* 1.

1727 BAILEY (vol. II), A Sinuated Leaf..is that which is cut about the Edges into several long Segments, as in Oak-Leaves. 1757 *Phil. Trans.* L. 68 The radical leaves..are not sinuated on the edges. 1828 J. E. SMITH *Engl. Flora* II. 11 The last, from which it differs in being generally more bushy, with more deeply toothed, or sinuated, leaves. 1847 W. E. STEELE *Field Bot.* 13 Leaves lanceolate, unequally spiny, sinuated. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1062/2.

b. Similarly of shells, parts of insects, etc.

a 1728 WOODWARD *Fossils* (J.), Another was very perfect, ..and more sinuated. 1771 *Phil. Trans.* LXI. 233 Its figure is oblong,..and the hinge somewhat sinuated at the opening. 1835 J. DUNCAN *Beetles* 103 This piece is usually ..sinuated or notched in the middle of its anterior edge. 1851 WOODWARD *Mollusca* I. 104 Shell rather ventricose;.. outer lip..sinuated near the notch of the anterior canal. 1875 M. C. COOKE *Fungi* (ed. 2) 67 A cellular mass, consisting of the sinuated hymenium and young spores.

3. Sinuous, winding.

1859 R. F. BURTON *Centr. Africa* in *Jrnl. Geogr. Soc.* XXIX. 127 The sinuated beds of watercourses and the steep inclines of hills.

Si·nuately, *adv.* [f. SINUATE *a.* + -LY [2].] In a sinuate manner.

1847 W. E. STEELE *Field Bot.* 92 Leaves ovate-rhomboid, sinuately toothed. 1874 M. C. WOOD *Fresh-Water Algæ* 135 Polar lobe with its apex broadly sinuately excised.

Sinuation (siniu,ēˈ·ʃən). [ad. late L. *sinuātio*, f. *sinuāre* to curve, etc.]

1. The act or fact of winding about, or pursuing a winding course.

1653 R. G. tr. *Bacon's Hist. Winds* 80 We call those Accidentall generations of windes, which doe not..beget the impulsive motion of windes, but..by sinuation or winding doe agitate and tumble it.

2. A winding or bending in and out; a sinuosity.

a 1676 HALE *Prim. Orig. Man.* 65 The humane Brain is in proportion to the Body much..larger than the Brains of Brutes,..and fuller of *anfractus* or sinuations. 1760 J. LEE *Introd. Bot.* III. v. (1765) 175 The Form of the Circumference of Leaves where there are no Angles or Sinuations. 1832 SOUTHEY *Hist. Penins. War* III. 148 A road..winding in numberless sinuations along the edge of a deep precipice. 1877 HUXLEY *Anat. Inv. Anim.* vi. 351 A median sinuation divides this extremity into two lobes.

Sinuato- (si·niu,ēˈtō), used as combining form of SINUATE, prefixed to adjectives in the sense 'sinuately', 'sinuate and', as *sinuato-dentate, -pinnatifid, -undulate*; *sinuato-contorted, -dentated, -serrated.*

1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s.v. *Leaf*, Sinuato-dentated leaf expresses a leaf like the former [*sc.* sinuated], but with the lateral lobes of a linear figure. 1775 J. JENKINSON *Brit. Plants* Gloss., *Sinuato-serrated*, serrated and partly sinuated. 1826 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* IV. xlvi. 290 Sinuato-Undulate.., when the sinuses are obtuse. 1857 T. MOORE *Handbk. Brit. Ferns* (ed. 3) 46 Fr[onds] coriaceous sinuato-pinnatifid, densely scaly beneath. 1887 PHILLIPS *Brit. Discomyc.* 11 The margin is.. undulate, sinuato-contorted, and crisped.

Sinu-auri·cular, *a. Zool.* [f. *sinu-*, SINUS + AURICULAR *a.* 5.] Of or belonging to, situated between, the sinus venosus and the auricle.

1875 HUXLEY in *Encycl. Brit.* I. 764/1 The sinu-auricular aperture, by which the sinus and the right auricle communicate,..has an oval form.

Sinu·mbra. ? *Obs.* [ad. L. *sine umbrā* without a shadow.] *Sinumbra lamp* (see quot. 1851–3).

1834 M. SCOTT *Cruise Midge* (1863) 109 A mild radiance like that cast by the ground glass globe of a Sinumbra lamp. 1851–3 *Tomlinson's Cycl. Arts* (1867) II. 5 In Phillips's Sinumbra lamp..the shadow if not destroyed is rendered imperceptible by the peculiar form given to the circular oil vessel.

Hence **Sinu·mbral** *a.*

1839 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* II. 329/2 Sinumbral and pneumatic fountain lamps. 1854 *Lardner's Museum Sci. & Art* II. 207 The old English ring-lamp called the Sinumbral lamp.

Sinuose (siniu,ōuˈs), *a.* [ad. L. *sinuōs-us*, f. *sinus* SINUS: see -OSE [1].] Full of or characterized by bends or windings; sinuous, sinuated.

1829 LOUDON *Encycl. Plants* Gloss. (1836) 1105/1. 1861 BENTLEY *Man. Bot.* 250 In the Gourd tribe [the anther lobes are]..linear, and sinuose or convoluted.

Hence **Sinuo·sely** *adv.*

1874 M. C. WOOD *Fresh-Water Algæ* 84 Thallus membranaceous saccate, obovate, sinuosely-bullose.

Sinuosity (siniuˌɒˈsiti). [ad. F. *sinuosité* or med.L. **sinuōsitas*: see prec. and -ITY.]

1. The character, condition, or quality of being sinuous or winding in and out.

1598 DRAYTON *Heroical Ep.* Wks. (1810) 58/2 Meander is a river..famous for the sinuosity and often returning thereof. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v., 'Tis the Sinuosity of the Sea Coasts that forms Bays, Ports, Capes, &c. 1774 PENNANT *Tour Scotl. in 1772* 33 The multitude of pretty bays that give such an elegant sinuosity to its shores. 1830 LYELL *Princ. Geol.* I. 170 The extreme sinuosity of the river has caused it to return for a brief space in a contrary direction to its main course. 1873 G. C. DAVIES *Mount. & Mere* xiii. 100 Owing to the sinuosity of the brook, the pools..are yet not within fish sight.

fig. 1857 M. PATTISON *Ess.* (1889) II. 212 The natural difficulty of the German language,..enhanced by the elaborate sinuosity of the period. 1885 *Society in London* 251 Something of the sinuosity of the Oriental.

2. (Chiefly *pl.*) A curve or bend, *esp.* one of a series.

1720 S. PARKER *Biblioth. Bibl.* I. 235 There was no need ..of..so much as of a Helm for steering, or indeed of any Sinuosity or Protuberance whatsoever. 1731 MILLER *Gard. Dict.* s.v. *Leaves*, The Sinuosities or Circuits, which are found throughout the whole Structure [of the leaf]. 1766 SMOLLETT *Trav.* xxvii. II. 46 So delicately cut, as to shew ..all the swellings and sinuosities of the muscles. 1831 R. KNOX *Cloquet's Anat.* 679 It exactly accompanies the phrenic nerve, forming several sinuosities. 1855 RAMSBOTHAM *Obst. Med. & Surg.* 3 A considerable sinuosity or arch, forming, when the bone is joined to the sacrum, a very long notch. 1876 BARTHOLOW *Mat. Med.* (1879) 88 Care being taken to penetrate to all the sinuosities of the sore.

b. A curve, bend, or winding in a road, river, valley, etc.

a 1774 GOLDSM. *Surv. Exp. Philos.* (1776) I. 334 The fewer the sinuosities of the rivers, the farther was he removed from the sea. 1774 J. CAMPBELL *Polit. Surv. Britain* I. 274 The very irregular indented Line, which forms its Shore, comprehends, allowing for those Sinuosities, at least eight hundred Marine Leagues. 1829 SCOTT *Anne of G.* i, Winding by a narrow path along the sinuosities of the valley. 1835 SIR J. ROSS *Narr. 2nd Voy.* xxix. 406 The further point of this sinuosity. 1882 B. HARTE *Flip* ii, She..watched Lance's figure as it vanished..in the shadows and sinuosities of the ascent.

c. *fig.* A complexity or intricacy.

1827 MISS SEDGWICK *H. Leslie* (1872) II. 180 One accustomed to all the sinuosities of the human mind. 1849 BRIGHT *Sp., Ireland* 2 Apr. (1876) 171, I certainly never heard the right hon. gentleman steer through so many sinuosities in a case. 1864 BURTON *Scot Abroad* I. i. 28 The sinuosities of the discussion.

3. A sinuous movement.

a 1892 TENNYSON in *Mem.* (1897) I. 41, I kept a tame snake. ..I liked to watch his wonderful sinuosities on the carpet.

Sinuo·so-, combining form of L. *sinuōsus*, prefixed to adjs. in the sense 'sinuately', 'sinuate and', as *sinuoso-lobate, -plicate.*

1846 DANA *Zooph.* (1848) 142 Dilated and profoundly sinuoso-lobate. *Ibid.* 191 Short turbinate, sinuoso-plicate at margin.

Sinuous (si·niuəs), *a.* Also 7 **sinewes** (?). [ad. L. *sinuōs-us* (see SINUS and -OUS) or F. *sinueux*; cf. It., Sp., and Pg. *sinuoso.*]

1. Characterized by or abounding in turns, curves, or sinuosities; sinuate, curving.

1578 BANISTER *Hist. Man* I. 28 It behoued the head of Radius also to be more depressed, and somewhat sinuous. 1626 BACON *Sylva* § 132 It would be tryed, how..the Voice will be carried..in a Trumpet, which is a line Retorted; Or in some Pipe that were Sinuous. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* VII. 481 Whatever creeps the ground, Insect or Worme,..Streaking the ground with sinuous trace. 1686 SNAPE *Anat. Horse* App. i. 11 The Seed-leaf on its outside is sinuous or full of crinkles. 1708 OZELL tr. *Boileau's Lutrin* 20 In a Cap's round sinuous Bottom laid. 1717 BERKELEY *Tour Italy* Wks. 1871 IV. 585 Obstinate, deep, and sinuous ulcers. 1822 J. PARKINSON *Outl. Oryctol.* 117 The mouth large, widely sinuous. 1843 R. J. GRAVES *Syst. Clin. Med.* xxiii. 280 The lungs..containing several sinuous cavities. 1862 DARWIN *Orchids* i. 12 The slightest touch causes it to rupture transversely, in a sinuous line.

b. Of rivers, coasts, roads, routes, etc.

1633 J. DONE *Hist. Septuagint* 51 The Flood Meander running with his Sinewes returnes and windings. 1635 J. HAYWARD tr. *Biondi's Banish'd Virg.* 179 Roving from Port to Port in that sinuous Region. 1784 COWPER *Task* I. 165 Here Ouse, slow winding through a level plain..., Conducts the eye along his sinuous course. 1797 COLERIDGE *Kubla Khan* 8 There were gardens bright with sinuous rills. 1810 T. L. PEACOCK *Genius of the Thames* 7 While Thames impels, with sinuous flow, His silent-rolling stream below. 1854 HOOKER *Himal. Jrnls.* I. xviii. 379 Its bold spurs enclosing sinuous river gorges. 1878 HUXLEY *Physiogr.* xviii. 303 A sinuous band of highlands stretches almost continuously.

c. *transf.* Intricate, complex; roundabout.

1853 CDL. WISEMAN *Ess.* II. 338 The perplexities of this formulary,..its sinuous involutions,..make its character too plain, as a snare to the simple of heart. 1860 O. W. HOLMES *Poet Breakf.-t.* ix, I have been sinuous as the links of Forth ..; sinuous, I say, but not..hard to follow for a reader of the right sort.

d. *fig.* Deviating from the right; not straightforward or direct; morally crooked.

1850 WHIPPLE *Ess. & Rev.* (1856) I. 207 A man..who has acquired high station by no sinuous path. 1859 HELPS *Friends in C.* Ser. II. II. x. 230 The beginning of a sinuous course of extravagance. 1901 *Scotsman* 28 Feb. 6/3 The end of his sinuous career is in view.

2. Of movements: Taking place in curves.

1877 ROSENTHAL *Muscles & Nerves* 11 A..whip-like process by the sinuous motions of which these animals move themselves about in the water.

3. Of animals: Moving with supple bends of the body.

1897 F. THOMPSON *New Poems* 143 The stealthy terror of the sinuous pard.

4. quasi-*adv.* Sinuously.

1885 MISS BRADDON *Wyllard's Weird* I. i. 2 Now the line seems strung like a thread of iron.., now winds sinuous as a snake.

Hence **Si·nuously** *adv.*, **Si·nuousness.**

1684 *Phil. Trans.* XIV. 513 The..Streams which do arise from under the Mountains do evidence the hollowness, and Sinousness [*sic*] of them. 1727 BAILEY (vol. II), *Sinuousness*, Fulness of Turnings and Windings. 1847 *Proc. Berw. Nat. Club* II. 249 Whence it narrows rather sinuously to the posterior angles. 1880 HODGKIN *Italy & her Invaders* III. v. II. 409 The dragon ensigns floated sinuously to the breeze.

Sinupa·llial, -pa·lliate, *adjs. Conch.* [f. *sinu-* stem of SINUS + PALLIAL *a.*, or PALLIATE *a.* 4.] Of certain lamellibranchs: Having the pallial line deeply incurved or inflected beneath the impression of the posterior adductor muscles, for the retraction or expansion of the pallial siphons.

1863 DANA *Man. Geol.* 192 This division, the Sinupallial, was far less common in the Silurian than the integripallial. 1877 HUXLEY *Anat. Inv. Anim.* viii. 486 The integropalliate are far more numerous than the sinupalliate forms in the older rocks. 1883 *Encycl. Brit.* XVI. 687/1 The valves of the Sinupalliate genus Cytherea.

Sinus (sai·nŏs). Pl. **sinuses** (7 **sinus**, 7–9 **sinus's**, 8 **sinusses**). [a. L. *sinus* a curve, bend, bay, etc.]

1. *Path.* An impostume, abscess, or sore, forming a narrow suppurating tract and having a small orifice; the cavity or hollow caused by this.

1597 A. M. tr. *Guillemeau's Fr. Chirurg.* 45/1 If the Sinus be in the legge, & the bottome of the same vnder the Knee. 1693 tr. *Blancard's Phys. Dict.* (ed. 2), *Sinus*, is when the beginning of an Abscess or Ulcer is narrow, but the bottom large. 1748 tr. *Vegetius Renatus' Distempers of Horses* 238 When the *Pus*..has been squeezed out, the Sinus itself, which contained it, is washed. 1804 ABERNETHY *Surg. Obs.* 124 Sinuses remained where the abscesses had been. 1881 *Med. Temp. Jrnl.* XLVI. 83 There was a sinus discharging pus on the inside of the right thigh above the knee.

2. A curvature, flexure, or bend; *spec.* in *Zool.*, a curved recess in a shell.

1615 CROOKE *Body of Man* 995 The third bone hath two Sinus distinguished by a long knot, whereinto the heads of the second bone are receyued: againe the knub of the third bone entreth into the Sinus of the second [etc.]. 1656 tr. *Hobbes' Elem. Philos.* (1839) 177 Howsoever a line be bowed, it makes always a *sinus* or cavity. 1720 S. PARKER *Biblioth. Bibl.* I. 235 There was no Sinus or Inequality, or perhaps so much as one Pore left open, according to this Hypothesis of the Figure of the Ark. · *a* 1728 WOODWARD *Fossils* (1729) II. 73 Another [echinus], depress'd by some external Force, so as to make a large Sinus on one side. 1802 PALEY *Nat. Theol.* iii, The root of this outward ear, the folds, and sinuses thereof..conducting the air towards it. 1822 J. PARKINSON *Outl. Oryctol.* 156 A wing or lobe, having a sinus distinct from the notched canal at the base. 1840 *Cuvier's Anim. Kingd.* 360 There is a broad notch or sinus in the columella.

b. *Bot.* One of a series of small rounded depressions on the margin of a leaf.

1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s.v. *Leaf*, A leaf with sinus's at the sides. 1785 MARTYN *Rousseau's Bot.* xxviii. (1794) 437 The sinuses being opposite. 1830 LINDLEY *Nat. Syst. Bot.* 59 Their sinuses sometimes lengthened into other lobes. 1870 HOOKER *Stud. Flora* 325 Auricles rounded incurved almost enclosing the deep sinus.

3. *Anat.* a. One or other of various irregular venous cavities, reservoirs, or dilated blood-vessels in different organs or parts of the body; a venous channel or receptacle of blood.

These are frequently distinguished according to their extent, particular form, or position.

1672 *Phil. Trans.* VII. 5134 Whether there is any sinus or common Trunk, into which all the veins are gathered. 1731 *Ibid.* XXXVII. 92 We found the Veins much distended with Blood, as were also the Veins and Sinuses of the Brain. 1761 *Ibid.* LII. 267 The brain was..no-ways loaded with blood, either in its proper vessels, or in the contiguous sinuses of the dura mater. 1831 R. KNOX *Cloquet's Anat.* 437 Inferior Longitudinal Sinus.., occupying the lower edge of the cerebral falx. 1851 WOODWARD *Mollusca* I. 31 Both the arteries and veins form occasionally wide spaces, or sinuses. 1877 HUXLEY *Anat. Inv. Anim.* i. 58 The venous system presents many large sinuses in the lower vertebrates.

b. A natural hole, cell, or cavity in the substance of a bone or other tissue, and either closed or having a relatively small opening.

1704 J. HARRIS *Lex. Techn.* I. s.v., Any Cavity in or between the Vessels of an Animal Body, the Anatomists call a Sinus. 1741 A. MONRO *Anat.* (ed. 3) 28 *Sinuses*, large Cavities within the Substance of the Bones, with small Apertures. 1767 GOOCH *Treat. Wounds* I. 297 The application of the trepan to the frontal sinuses. 1835–6 *Todd's Cycl. Anat.* I. 434/2 In the bones of the head we find certain cells, called *sinuses*, which contain air, not marrow. 1871 DARWIN *Desc. of Man* I. iv. 121 The frontal sinus, or the projection over the eye-brows is largely developed.

† **4.** A cavity or hole in the earth. *Obs.*

a 1676 HALE *Prim. Orig. Man.* (1677) 299 By the excavation of certain *Sinus* and Tracts of the Earth,..the Water subsided into those Caverns..prepared for its reception. 1684 *Phil. Trans.* XIV. 513 They meet with [natural cavities in the earth] very frequently, some..running away with small Sinus's. 1784 TWAMLEY *Dairying Exemp.* 145 The Earth..abounding every where with canals and sinuses, wherein the Dew and Rain-water..glide.

† **5.** A bay, gulf, or arm of the sea; = SINE [2]r.

1684 T. BURNET *Theory Earth* I. 110 The promontories and capes shoot into the sea, and the sinus's and creeks.. run as much into the land. 1693 RAY *Three Disc.* II. ii. 85 The Sea would rather run into them, and make Sinus's. 1717 BERKELEY *Tour Italy* Wks. 1871 IV. 549 A bridge over a narrow sinus of the sea. 1749 W. DOUGLASS *Summary* I. 399 A salt water sinus, commonly called a continuation of Taunton river. 1789 J. WILLIAMS *Min. Kingd.* II. 163 The great number of friths, sinuses, or arms of the sea.

6. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *sinus affection, aneurysm,*

phlebitis, pyæmia, thrombosis; sinus-like adj. Also **sinus probe** (see quot. 1884).

1883 *Encycl. Brit.* XVI. 678/1 Sinus-like spaces surrounding the viscera. 1884 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* Suppl. 816/2 *Sinus Probe*, a vermicular pointed uterine curved probe, used in its peculiar branch of surgical operations. 1898 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* V. 940 The presence or absence of sinus aneurysm. 1899 *Ibid.* VII. 575 The tissue intermediate between the original inflammation and the sinus wall.

Sinusoid (sə̇i·nŏsoid). [a. F. *sinusoïde*, f. L. *sinus* SINUS + -OID.]

1. *Math.* A curve of sines (CURVE *sb.* 1).

1823 LARDNER *Algebraic Geom.* I. 200 A curve, represented by the equation y = sin. x, related to rectangular co-ordinates, is called the curve of sines, or the sinusoid. 1876 *Proc. Lond. Math. Soc.* VII. 213 Prof. Cayley described a surface, depending upon the sinusoid, which was being constructed for him. 1884 tr. *Glaser de Cew's Magn. & Dynamo-electric Machines* 254 If the magnetic field in which the armature rotated were uniform, this curve would be a true 'sinusoid', or curve of sines.

2. (See quot.)

1900 MINOT in *Proc. Boston Nat. Hist. Soc.* 185 The [blood-] vessels of the first type are true capillaries...The vessels of the second type I propose to name 'sinusoids', on account of their resemblance to true sinus and also to separate them clearly from genuine capillaries.

Sinusoidal (sə̇inŏsoi·dăl), *a.* [f. prec. + -AL; cf. F. *sinusoïdal*.] Resembling, pursuing, flowing in, the wave-like course of a sinusoid.

1878 MAYER *Sound* 64 Hold the glass up to the light, and you will see a delicate wavy line, a sinusoidal trace. 1879 G. PRESCOTT *Sp. Telephone* 54 The curve expressive of a simple pendulous vibration—that is a sinusoidal curve. 1900 *Lancet* 1 Dec. 1580/1 These patients have all been treated with the electrical bath and the sinusoidal current.

Hence **Sinusoi·dally** *adv.*

1888 *Philos. Mag.* Ser. v. XXVI. 373 Let *f* vary sinusoidally with the time.

Sinward (si·nwō̤rd), *adv.* [f. SIN *sb.* + -WARD.] Toward or in the direction of sin. †Also *to sinward*.

1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. XIII. 346 Vche a mayde þat he mette he made hir a signe Semynge to-synne-ward. *c* 1440 *Jacob's Well* 111 Feendys noumbre þe steppys of man & womman to synne warde. 1642 ROGERS *Naaman* 45 The thoughts that were roving helward, worldward, and sinward. 1644 T. CASE *Quarrel of Covenant* 74 A people..may enter Covenant with God, with their hearts, Rome-ward, and Earth-ward, and Sin-ward. 1820 MRS. GRANT OF LAGGAN *Mem. & Corresp.* (1844) II. 268 An infirmity always verging sinward.

‖ **Sion.** *rare.* [L. *sion* water-parsley, a. Gr. σίον some kind of marsh plant.] = LAVER *sb.*[1] 1.

c 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* I. 254 Ðeos wyrt þe man sion & oðrum naman laber nemneþ byð cenned on wætum stowum. 1562 TURNER *Herbal* II. (1568) 138 Sion is so muche hote as it is well smelling, when it is tasted. 1861 READE *Cloister & H.* xciv, His remedies were 'womanish and weak'. Sage and wormwood, sion, hyssop,..and Faith, and all in small quantities except the last.

Sion, Sioun, obs. forms of SCION.

Sion(er, etc.: see ZION(ER, etc.

Sip, *sb.* Also **7 sippe.** [f. the vb.] A single act of sipping; a small quantity *of* some liquid taken in this way.

It is possible that *sype* in Caxton's text of Chaucer's *Anel. & Arc.* 193 may have been intended for *sip*, but the correct reading is *schipe* reward.

1633 P. FLETCHER *Poet. Misc.* 131 The wine..did appeare no common grape: my haste could not forbeare a second sippe. 1665 PEPYS *Diary* 19 Aug., A bottle of strong water, whereof, now and then, a sip did me good. 1687 A. LOVELL tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* I. 33 They..bring it to you scalding hot, and so you must drink it, but at several sips, else it is not good. 1715 CHAPPELOW *Right Way Rich* (1717) 169 A sip of some comforting syrup. 1768-74 A. TUCKER *Lt. Nat.* (1834) II. 234 A sip of Daffy's Elixir, in the morning rising, has proved a powerful means of grace. 1828 SCOTT *F. M. Perth* xvi, However Oliver might have relished a moderate sip of the same good wine. 1856 LONGF. *Gold. Leg.* IV. Poet. Wks. (1910) 495/1 Between this cask and the Abbot's lips Many have been the sips and slips. 1887 JEFFERIES *Amaryllis* iii, If it was to be had, a sip of port wine.

b. *fig.* A mere taste *of* something.

1728 YOUNG *Love Fame* VI. 442 Will the great Author us poor worms destroy, For now and then a sip of transient joy? 1852 DE QUINCEY *Sir W. Hamilton* Wks. 1890 V. 307 A sip is all that the public collectively ever care to take from reservoirs of abstract philosophy. 1871 N. SHEPPARD *Shut up in Paris* 246 They take a little sip of a stroll, a little sip of sleep, and a little sip of manual labour.

Sip, *v.* Forms: 5 **syppy(n, cyppyn,** 6 **syppe**; 5, 7 **sippe** (5 **scippe**), 6– **sip.** [Of obscure origin; possibly a modification of *sup* intended to express a slighter action.

Kilian's '*Sippen*, pitissare, sorbillare' is not otherwise certified, and is rendered suspicious by his citing 'Ang. *sippe*'; but a LG. *sippen* in the same sense is given in the Bremisches Wörterbuch, and appears to be genuine.]

1. *intr.* To take up liquid in small quantities with the lips; to drink by a sip or sips; freq. with *of* (a specified liquid, etc.). Also in fig. contexts.

c 1386 CHAUCER *Wife of Bath's Prol.* 176 Than maystow chese, whether thou wolt sippe Of that tonne that I shal abroche. 14.. *Lat.-Eng. Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 604 *Potisso*, to syppy. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 456/2 Syppyn, nowȝt fully drynke, *potisso, subbibo*. 1530 PALSGR. 719/1 Syppe on, Cysse, and tell me what it is. 1584-7 GREENE *Carde Fancie* Wks. (Grosart) IV. 162 Yea, let thy Concubine Castania..to sippe of the same sorrow. 1602 SHAKS. *Ham.* IV. vii. 161 Ile haue prepar'd him A Challice..; whereon but sipping, ..Our purpose may hold there. *a* 1628 PRESTON *Breastpl. Love* (1631) 182 Vee doe here but sippe of this cuppe, but then ye shall drinke up the dreggs of it for ever. 1687 A. LOVELL tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* I. 33 They all drink it sipping for fear of scalding themselves. 1733 POPE *Hor. Sat.* II. i. 47 Ridotta sips and dances, till she see The doubling Lustres dance as fast as she. 1780 COWPER *Progr. Err.* 581 With caution taste the sweet Circean cup; He that sips often, at last drinks it up. 1789 — *Annus Mem.* 18 As the bee.. Assiduous sips at ev'ry flow'r. 1810 SOUTHEY *Kehama* XXIV. v, As a man in social hour Sips of the grateful cup. 1859 DICKENS *T. Two Cities* I. v, Who bent over their shoulders, to sip, before the wine had all run out.

transf. 1601 B. JONSON *Poetaster* III. i, As many as haue but the..audacitie to—sip of their lips. 1871 *Athenæum* 26 Aug. 273 The whole French nation..sip in drinking, they sip in reading, and they sip their work.

2. *trans.* To drink (liquid, etc.) in very small draughts; to imbibe, or partake of, by sipping. Said also of bees, etc.

1611 COTGR., *Humé*, supped, sipped, or sucked vp [etc.]. *a* 1650 CRASHAW *Carmen Deo Nostro, Mary Magd.* v, Every morn from hence A brisk Cherub somthing sippes. 1662 R. MATHEW *Unl. Alch.* 191 Drink one quarter of a pint as hot as you can sip it. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* III. 505 Let 'em sip from Herbs the pearly tears Of Morning Dews. 1746 HERVEY *Medit.* (1818) 187 Bees, industrious workmen! that..sip the mellifluous dews. 1784 COWPER *Task* III. 391 He enjoys..Sweet converse, sipping calm the fragrant lymph Which neatly she prepares. 1825 LAMB *Elia* II. *Wedding*, None told his tale. None sipt her glass. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* lxii, The knowing way in which he sipped, or rather sucked, the Johannisberger. 1886 PASCOE *Lond. of To-day* xl. (ed. 3) 350 The places where ladies go to eat creams..and sip coffee.

b. *fig.* and *transf.*

1602 MARSTON *Ant. & Mel.* v. Wks. 1856 I. 67 Weele drinke a health, while they two sip a kisse. *c* 1614 SIR W. MURE *Dido & Æneas* I. 274 The shippe..sinking sippes the seas, by weight downe borne. 1632 MILTON *Penseroso* 172 And every Herb that sips the dew. 1769 SIR W. JONES *Palace Fortune* Poems (1777) 13 The maid attentive sips Each word that flows, like nectar, from her lips. 1871 [see sense 1 *transf.*].

c. With advs., as *off, up.*

1656 EARL MONM. tr. *Boccalini's Advts. fr. Parnass.* I. (1674) 50 The Macedonians..thought to have sipt up every mans State in less than a moneths time. *a* 1763 W. KING *Polit. & Lit. Anecd.* (1819) 13 Pope had sipped up all the brandy. 1863 W. C. BALDWIN *Afr. Hunting* vii. 278 A large spoonful of mustard in a pint of warm water, which he sipped off like coffee!

d. *fig.* To take a mere taste of (something).

1618 BOLTON *Florus* 105 That he might not seeme to have once sipt or skimd the honour of their Chastity. 1639 FULLER *Holy War* III. xiv. (1840) 139 Pleasures he rather sipped than drank off.

3. To take honey from (a flower) by sipping.

1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* IV. 76 The winged Nation.., skim the Floods, and sip the purple Flow'rs. 1727 GAY *Beggar's Opera* I. i, My heart..roved like the bee,..I sipt each flower. 1878 J. MILLER *Songs of Italy* 81, I should sip but one, this one Sweet flower underneath the sun.

4. *refl.* To bring (oneself) into a certain state by sipping.

1823 SCOTT *Quentin D.* Introd., I gradually sipped and smoked myself into a certain degree of acquaintance with *un homme comme il faut*.

Hence **Si·pping** *ppl. a.*

1670 EACHARD *Cont. Clergy* 32 That would much better fit some old soker..than his sipping..bibbership. 1871 N. SHEPPARD *Shut up in Paris* 246 This sip, sip, sipping race have been devoured by a race which does nothing by sips. 1898 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* V. 993 Then peptonized milk.. may be swallowed in sipping fashion.

Sipage (sə̇i·pédʒ). *Sc.* and *U.S.* [f. SIPE *v.* + -AGE. Cf. SEEPAGE.] Leakage or oozing of water.

1825 in JAMIESON *Suppl.* 1892 *Trans. Amer. Soc. Civil Engin.* XXVI. 572 The new levees..and..the land behind them [were]..very much affected by sipage.

Sipahee, sipahi, variants of SEPOY.

Sipars, obs. form of CYPRESS 8.

Sipe (səip), *sb.* Chiefly *Sc.* and *U.S.* Also **sype.** [Related to SIPE *v.* Cf. MDu. *sijp, zijp* (Du. dial. *zijp*), MLG. *sîp, sipe*, Fris. *syp, sipe* a ditch, channel, etc.]

1. The act of percolating or soaking through, on the part of water or other liquid; the water, etc., which percolates. (Cf. SEEP *sb.*)

c 888 K. ÆLFRED *Boeth.* XXXIII. § 5 Seo eorðe hit helt & be sumum dæle swilgð, & for þam sype heo bið zeleht. *a* 1583 in Sir J. Balfour *Minor Pract.* (1754) 588 Gif thair be ony persounis that settis furth under the yeird the sype of thair bark cobill,..or ony sype of kitching, to the King's water or well. 1777 in Cramond *Ann. Banff* (1893) II. 97 By the general sipe of the slating there is no mending of the slating without terring the sclates. 1839 STONEHOUSE *Hist. Isle of Axholme* 25 The water obtained from the wells sunk in the warp..is what is termed ground sype, i. e. water filtering through from the surface. 1894 *Naturalist* 23 There is no inflow or spring here apparently, so the water is only sipe.

attrib. 1892 *Trans. Amer. Soc. Civil Engin.* XXVI. 568 The water which thus transpires through the soil is called.., by the Americans of the Mississippi Valley 'sipe-water' (pronounced *seep*).

2. A small spring or pool of water.

1825 JAMIESON *Suppl., Sipe, Sype*, .. a slight spring of water; *Perths.* 1897 BUTLER *Brit. Birds* IV. 65 Here and there, many small ponds or 'sypes', and birch trees.

Sipe (səip), *v.* Chiefly *Sc.* and *north. dial.* Also **sype.** [OE. *sipian* wk. vb., = Fris. *sypje*, MLG. *sipen* (pp. *gesypet*): cf. MDu. *sîpen, sypen* (Du. dial. *zijpen*), MLG. *sîpen*, MHG. *sîfen* str. vb. Sw. dial. *sipa*, Da. *sive* are prob. from LG.

The length of the vowel in OE. *sipian*, and the relation between this vb. and the OE. sb. *sype*, are not clear. If the vowel was short, the modern representative would normally be SEEP *v.*, and the form *sipe* may really correspond to the continental strong vb.]

intr. Of water or other liquid: To percolate or ooze through; to drip or trickle slowly; to soak.

For various dialect modifications of sense, and transitive uses, see the *Eng. Dial. Dict.*

c 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* II. 252 Asete þonne on hate sunnan,.. þæt hit sipige & socige .iiii. dazas oþþe ma. 1398, 1503 [see the *vbl. sb.* and *ppl. a.*]. 1559 MORWYNG *Evonym.* 2 Plinie ..writes of the wode that is called Smilax, how it will let sype through water mixt with wyne, and kiep the wyne still. 1781 J. HUTTON *Tour to Caves* (ed. 2) Gloss. 97. 1825 BROCKETT *N. C. Gloss., Sipe*, to leak, to ooze or drain out slowly through a small crevice. 1891 ATKINSON *Moorland Par.* 446 In this way a considerable amount of water was permitted to ooze and 'sipe' out and away.

Sipee·ra. *Bot.* Also sip(e)ira, -(i)era, **sipiri.** [Native name in Guiana.] **a.** *Sipeera-tree*, the greenheart tree (*Nectandra Rodiæi*) of Guiana; = BEBEERU. **b.** The bark of this tree.

1769 E. BANCROFT *Nat. Hist. Guiana* 333 They contentedly recur to the use of Sipera, or Green-Hart-tree Apples. 1829 *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) XX. 6/2 The timber of the Green Hart, or Sipiera tree, is very valuable. 1863 *Chambers's Encycl.* V. 92/2 The timber is commonly called Greenheart; the bark is better known as Bebeeru..and Sipiri or Sipeira.

Hence **Sipee·rine.** *Chem.* [Named by Maclagan in 1843.] (See quot.)

1868 WATTS *Dict. Chem., Sipeerine, Sipirine, Sepeerine*, an alkaloid existing, together with bebirine, in the..greenheart-tree...It was discovered by Rodie in 1834.

Siper (sei·pəɹ). *north. dial.* Also s(e)yper. [f. SIPE *v.*] An immoderate drinker; a toper.

1803 R. ANDERSON *Cumbid. Ball.* (*c* 1850) 66 The Hiverby lads at fair drinkin are seypers. 1885 HALL CAINE *Shadow of a Crime* XXV, You're worse than he is, you old sypers.

Sipers, obs. form of CYPRESS 3.

†**Siphac.** *Anat. Obs.* Also **α. 5 syphac, 6 cyphac, sifac, 7 siphack. β. 6–7 siphach.** [a. med.L. *siphac, syphac* (whence also obs. F. *siphach*, Pg. *sifac*), a. Arab. صِفَاق *çafāq*, from the root صَفَقَ *çafaqa* to cover.] The peritoneum.

α. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* VII. lv. (Bodl. MS.), Hernia is a skynne in þe wombe and hatte Siphac also and brekeþ somtyme, *c* 1400 *Lanfranc's Cirurg.* 169 For to holde alle þese þingis, þe stomak & þe guttis is ordeyned a skyn, þat is clepid þe siphac. 1541 R. COPLAND *Guydon's Quest. Chirurg.* B j, The voyde places that are betweene the cyphac and the myrac. 1548 VICARY *Anat.* (1888) 64 That [part] which appeareth next vnder the Sifac is *Omentum*.

β. 1552 UDALL tr. *Gerninus' Anat.* C vj, Nexte within thys Abdomen or Mirach is contayned Siphach. 1587 T. THOMAS *Lat.-Eng. Dict.* (1613), *Peritonæum*,..the inner rim of the bellie,..: the Anatomists call it Siphach. [Hence in later Eng. Dicts.]

†**Siphany.** *Obs. rare.* Also sy-. [Of obscure origin.] The name of some flower.

1509 *Invent. Plate*, etc. (St. John's Coll., Camb.), Item ij copes of blew satyn..embrodride with Rede rosis and white syphanyes orfreide with rede satyn..embrodrid with portculis and white and blew syphanyes. *Ibid.*, A vestment and ij tunycles..garnyshed with siphanyes and margaretes with my ladies pose.

Sipher, obs. form of CIPHER *sb.*

†**Si·pher,** obs. form of CIPHER *v.* 8.

15.. in Grose *Antiq. Rep.* (1809) IV. 407 To myche wyndinge of the pipis is not the best, Whiche may cause them to sypher wher armoney shulde rest. *Ibid.*, Wronge handlynge of the stoppis may cause them sipher fro the kynde.

Siphilitic, obs. form of SYPHILITIC.

‖ **Sipho** (səi·fo). *Zool.* [L. *sipho* SIPHON *sb.*] = SIPHUNCLE 1.

1888 ROLLESTON & JACKSON *Anim. Life* 458 The chambers are traversed by a tube—the sipho or siphuncle. *Ibid.* 464 The sipho is formed by two free folds.

Siphon (səi·fən), *sb.* Also 7–8 **cyphon,** 7– **syphon.** [ad. L. *sīphōn-, sīpho* (cf. prec.), ad. Gr. σίφων pipe, tube. Cf. F. *siphon* (1611), Sp. *sifon*, Pg. *sifão*, It. *sifone*.]

1. A pipe or tube of glass, metal, or other material, bent so that one leg is longer than the other, and used for drawing off liquids by means of atmospheric pressure, which forces the liquid up the shorter leg and over the bend in the pipe.

α. 1659 LEAK *Waterworks* 6 A Syphon..hath that end which is without the vessell longer then the other. 1698 FRYER *Acc. E. India & P.* 306 The Water..forces it self in nature of a Syphon up to the highest Cliffs. 1710 J. CLARKE tr. *Rohault's Nat. Philos.* (1729) I. 75 If the Water in the Vessel be made to rise up into the Syphon. 1794 SULLIVAN *View Nat.* I. 283 The ebb and flow of springs..are likewise to be accounted for on the simple principle of the syphon. 1827 FARADAY *Chem. Manip.* XXIV. 634 Bend a piece of glass tube into a syphon. 1907 HODGES *Elem. Photogr.* 28 A syphon to carry off the contaminated water.

β. 1660 BOYLE *New Exp. Phys. Mech.* XXXV. 263 We resolved, instead of a List of Cotton, or the like Filtre, to make use of a Siphon of Glass. 1661 — *Examen* vi. (1682) 72 The passage of water through Siphons. 1745 FRANKLIN *Lett.* Wks. 1887 II. 11, I applied the siphon..to the pipe of a water-engine. 1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 125 Water will not therefore rise in a siphon, any more than in a pump, beyond the height of 33 feet. 1887 *Encycl. Brit.*

XXII. 95/2 The siphon has practically a certain minimum diameter for each liquid.

b. *transf.* A channel or tube through which water passes on the principle of the siphon.

1744 THOMSON *Autumn* 829 Beneath th' incessant weeping of these Drains, I see the rocky Siphons stretch'd immense. 1756–7 tr. *Keysler's Trav.* (1760) IV. 139 A communication betwixt the caverns that lie one over another, by a kind of natural syphons. 1837 WHITTOCK *Bk. Trades* (1842) 200 A vertical 'syphon in the embankment of the reservoir composed of well wrought masonry or brick-work. 1878 STEVENSON *Inland Voy.* 148 We had to take to the canal..; because, where it crossed the river, there was, not a bridge, but a siphon. 1889 WELCH *Text Bk. Naval Archit.* xi. 129 The pump then becomes a syphon, the flow of water continues without further pumping.

c. *ellipt.* A siphon-bottle, *esp.* one containing aerated water.

1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2189/2. 1898 G. B. SHAW *Plays* II. *You never can tell* 307 *Waiter*...Scotch and syphon for you, sir? 1905 VACHELL *The Hill* iii, Upon the table were some siphons.

2. † **a.** A fire-bucket. *Obs.*—°

1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 296/2 A Fire Bucket, (or a Leather Bucket)...This is also called a Syphon, which is a kind of Vessel made of Tanned Hydes to carry Water in, to quench Fire that is raging amongst Dwelling Houses.

† **b.** (See quot.) *Obs.*—1

1724 MASON in *Abridg. Patent Spec., Shipbuilding* (1862) 10 A new machine called a siphon or an attracting engine,.. composed of two tubes one within the other.

c. A form of tube for milking cows.

1844 STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* II. 468 He..introduces the small tube of the siphon an inch or more into the teat. 1881 SHELDEN *Dairy Farming* 58/1 A silver 'syphon' or 'milking tube'.

3. *Zool.* **a.** = SIPHUNCLE 1.

1822 J. PARKINSON *Outl. Oryctol.* 174 The partitions, siphon, &c., of this fossil are those which are to be found in every species of *Belemnite*. 1858 GEIKIE *Hist. Boulder* vi. 107 The inner tube that traverses the centre of the chambers from end to end of the shell is called the syphon.

b. A tube-like organ serving as a canal for the passage of water or other fluid; also, a breathing-tube or suctorial organ.

1826 *Phil. Trans.* 353 The Buccinum, when completely buried, is enabled to communicate with the water by its respiratory syphon. 1840 *Cuvier's Anim. Kingd.* 445 A sucker, or siphon,..occupies the place of the mouth. 1872 H. A. NICHOLSON *Palaeont.* 217 The margins or lips of these orifices are usually drawn out..into longer or shorter muscular tubes,..termed the siphons. 1888 ROLLESTON & JACKSON *Anim. Life* 449 The mid-foot..forms two lobes which usually fuse together, and constitute the siphon.

c. (See quots.)

1888 ROLLESTON & JACKSON *Anim. Life* 561 In the *Desmosticha* and *Petalosticha* a tube—the siphon—arises from the posterior extremity of the oesophagus and lies closely applied to the inner margin of the intestine into which it opens again at or near the end of the inferior coil. 1896 tr. *Boas' Text Bk. Zool.* 137 The so-called siphon, or accessory intestine, is a very peculiar structure occurring in most Echinoids.

4. *Bot.* One or other of a number of elongated cells which surround the large monosiphonous cell in the frond of certain florideous red algæ.

1889 *Cent. Dict.* s.v. *Monosiphonous*, Certain of the higher algæ..in which the siphons or pericentral tubes are wanting. 1902 *Encycl. Brit.* XXV. 269/1 The species of *Polysiphonia*, the 'siphons' of which may be regarded as one-celled branches.

5. *attrib.* In names of apparatus, etc., of which a siphon forms a part, or which involve the principle or use of the siphon, as *siphon barometer, bottle, can* (sense 2 c), *condenser, cup, fountain, gauge, pump, recorder, trap*, etc. Also *siphon pipe, tube*, = sense 1; **siphon-shell**, a gasteropod having a siphon (3 b); **siphon-worm** (see quot.).

Descriptions of most of these are given by Knight *Dict. Mech.* (1875) 2189–90 and *Suppl.* (1884) 817–8.

1835 *Penny Cycl.* III. 482/2 The *siphon barometer..was early adopted as more convenient than that of Torricelli. 1856 *Orr's Circ. Sciences, Pract. Chem.* 244, I employ a *siphon bottle such as is here represented. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2189/2 An apparatus for filling *siphon-bottles with aerated liquids. 1844 STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* II. 468 The milker sits down as in the common method, fixing the *siphon can (pail) firmly between his knees. 1851 *Official Catal. Exhib.* I. 419 *Syphon douche. 1819–24 *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) III. 388/1 Of the *siphon-fountain. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 47/2 Such are Tantalus's Cup and the siphon fountain. 1819–24 *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) III. 372/2 The *siphon-gage..differs from the short barometer-gage merely in this circumstance, that [etc.]. 1831 LARDNER *Pneumatics* v. 294 The siphon gauge must be regarded as a more direct measure of the elastic force of the air in the receiver than the barometer gauge. 1838 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* I. 237/2 The whole circle of pipes..is supplied with water..by means of the *syphon pipe. 1873 F. JENKIN *Electr. & Magn.* xxiii. § 5 Sir William Thomson's *syphon recorder actually draws on paper the curves which we have learnt to construct theoretically. 1884 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* Suppl. 788/1 The common *siphon trap as used in most sinks and water-closets. 1688 J. SMITH *The Baroscope* § 74, I shall endeavour to demonstrate it in a *Cyphon-Tube... Take then a Glass Tube [etc.]. 1880 BASTIAN *Brain* iv. 75 Other bivalves possessing prolongations of the mantle known as siphon-tubes. 1856 *Eng. Cycl., Nat. Hist.* IV. 802 The Sipunculidæ (*Syphon-Worms) have a retractile proboscis, at the base of which is placed the vent.

6. *Comb.*, as *siphon-bearing, cleaning, -filling; siphon-like* adj. and adv.; *siphon-mouthed, -shaped.*

1688 J. SMITH *Baroscope* § 74 Let about a Foot of the other End be turned up, Cyphon-like, in the Form of a Fish Hook. 1842 BRANDE *Dict. Sci.*, etc. 1120 A family of Crustaceans, comprehending those which have a siphon-shaped mouth. 1858 MAYNE *Expos. Lex.*, *Siphonostomus*, having a siphon-like mouth. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2189/2 *Siphon-filling Apparatus*, an apparatus for filling siphon-bottles with aerated liquids.

Siphon (səi·fən), *v.* Also **syphon**. [f. SIPHON *sb.* Cf. mod.F. *siphonner*.]

1. *trans.* To draw off or bring up (liquid, etc.) by means of a siphon. Const. with advs., as *off, out*, or with preps., as *from, into*.

1849 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* XX. i. 135 The tolerably clear liquid was syphoned off. 1877 RAYMOND *Statist. Mines & Mining* 304 It is..siphoned off and a fresh charge put in. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* III. 558 The contents [of the stomach] may be syphoned out.

2. To empty after the manner of a siphon.

1892 *Pall Mall G.* 15 Feb. 3/1 During this time many gullies and traps have been syphoned, giving free egress for sewer gas.

Hence **Si·phoning** *vbl. sb.*

1895 PARKES *Health* 53 The discharge of one closet may cause the siphoning of the trap of the other.

Siphon-, combining form of Gr. *σίφων* before vowels (cf. SIPHONO-), occurring in a few terms of *Zool.* and *Bot.*, of doubtful currency in English, as *siphonanth, -anthous, -apter, -apteran, -apterous.*

1842 BRANDE *Dict. Sci.*, etc. 1120 (Siphonapterans). 1858 MAYNE *Expos. Lex.* (Siphonanthous, Siphonapterous). 1895 *Funk's Stand. Dict.*

Siphonage (səi·fŏnĕdʒ). Also **sy-**. [f. SIPHON *sb.* + -AGE. Cf. F. *siphonage*.] The action of drawing off liquid by means of a siphon; also *spec.*, the accidental emptying of a siphon-trap.

1855 *Orr's Circ. Sci., Elem. Chem.* 353 A heavy yellow liquor..sinks to the bottom, and may be withdrawn by syphonage. 1884 *Century Mag.* Dec. 260/1 Siphonage is due to the rapid movement through the trap of air. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* III. 437 The stomach-pump or a free syphonage of the stomach may be promptly used.

Siphonal (səi·fŏnăl), *a.* Also **sy-**. [f. SIPHON *sb.* + -AL.] Having the form or character of a siphon; or of pertaining to a siphon. Chiefly *Zool.*

(*a*) 1826 *Phil. Trans.* 353 The syphonal, or posterior extremity of the valves [of *Pholas candida*]. 1851 WOODWARD *Mollusca* i. 85 The siphonal lappets of Paludina. 1880 GÜNTHER *Introd. Study Fishes* 130 The siphonal [stomach of Teleosteans]..presents the form of a bent tube or canal.

(*b*) 1853 PHILLIPS *Rivers Yorks.* iii. 112 Variable pressure on the water, derived from a curved or siphonal passage underground.

‖ **Siphonaria** (səifŏnē·riă). [mod.L. *Siphonaria* (Sowerby, 1824), f. L. *sīphōn-* SIPHON.] A pulmonate gasteropod of the genus *Siphonaria*, distinguished by a siphon passing from the apex to the margin.

1861 P. P. CARPENTER *Lect. Mollusca* 82 (Cent. Dict.), The Siphonarias have solid, conical shells, often overgrown with sea-weeds and millepores...They are found on almost all tropical shores.

Siphonate (səi·fŏnĕt), *a.* and *sb. Zool.* [f. SIPHON *sb.* + -ATE[2] 2.]

A. *adj.* Of molluscs: Furnished with, or characterized by having, a siphon.

1870 ROLLESTON *Anim. Life* 61 Representing the inhalant siphon of the siphonate orders. 1883 *Encycl. Brit.* XVI. 686/2 In this way the notches..are in the Siphonate forms converted into two separate holes.

B. *sb.* A mollusc furnished with a siphon.

1877 LE CONTE *Elem. Geol.* (1879) 304 Lamellibranchs are divided into siphonates and Asiphonates, i. e. those with and those without breathing siphons behind. The Siphonates are the higher. *Ibid.*, At present the Siphonates are the more abundant.

Si·phonated, *a. Zool.* [f. prec. + -ED[1] 2.] = SIPHONATE *a.*

1851 WOODWARD *Mollusca* i. 13 Most of the siphonated univalves are animal-feeders. 1863 LYELL *Antiq. Man* xxii. 442 A greater number in the lower division, that of entire-mouthed univalves, than in that of the siphonated.

Siphoned (səi·fənd), *a.* Also **syphoned**. [f. SIPHON *sb.* + -ED[1].]

1. *Zool.* Siphonate.

1889 HYATT *Genesis Arietidae* 13 The smaller siphoned species of the genera Endoceras and Sannionites.

2. Operated on by means of a siphon.

1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* III. 512 My first syphoned patient..was admitted into the Leeds Infirmary with benignant pyloric stenosis.

Siphoneous (səifō·nĭəs), *a. Bot.* Also **sy-**. [f. SIPHON *sb.* + -EOUS.] Of the fronds of algæ: Composed of tubes; having a tubular structure.

1858 MAYNE *Expos. Lex.* s.v. *Siphoneus*. 1892 *Athenæum* 14 May 636/2 Spirit specimens of *Ascothamnion intricatum*, an organism described as a siphoneous alga.

Si·phonet. *Ent.* [f. SIPHON *sb.* + -ET.] A small siphon or tube by which an aphis emits a sweet, honey-like fluid; a honey-tube.

1826 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* III. xxxiii. 393 *Siphonuli* (the Siphonets). *Ibid.* IV. xl. 120 The Aphides all secrete a fluid excrement.., which is ejected not only at the anal passage, but, in many, by two little siphonets also above it.

† **Sipho·nia.** *Obs.* [Of obscure origin.] A light kind of overcoat.

1853 *Household Words* VIII. 76 Not less can I set down as slang the verbiage by which coats are transformed into bis-uniques, alpacas,..and siphonias. 1859 SALA *Gaslight & D.* xxxiv. 391 Incongruously picturesque garments such as ponchos, togas, vicunas, siphonias, Inverness wrappers, &c. 1863 *Morning Star* 21 May, The Derby Days, when blue veils and siphonias..have been the main characteristics of the journey by road.

Siphonic (səifŏ·nik), *a.* Also **sy-**. [f. SIPHON *sb.* + -IC.]

1. *Zool.* Of or pertaining to a siphon; siphonal.

1832 OWEN *Mem. Pearly Nautilus* 63 The siphonic artery. 1836 BUCKLAND *Geol. & Min.* (1837) I. 322 *note*, The siphonic apertures of the transverse plates.

2. Of or pertaining to, working by means of, on the principle of, a siphon.

1884 *Century Mag.* XXIX. 257 The siphonic action, or suction. 1884 *Health Exhib. Catal.* 59/2 Syphonic Water Closets, Urinal and Cistern. *Ibid.* 74/1 Automatic Syphonic System of Ventilation.

Siphoni·ferous, *a. Zool.* [f. SIPHON *sb.* + -(I)FEROUS.] Having a siphon; siphonate.

Brande *Dict. Sci.*, etc. (1842) 1120 gives *Siphonifers* as a rendering of mod.L. *Siphonifera*.

1835–6 *Todd's Cycl. Anat.* I. 519/1 All the other genera.. are provided..with an internal siphoniferous polythalamous shell. *Ibid.* 700/1 In the siphoniferous acephala having the foot short and rudimentary. 1837 *Penny Cycl.* VII. 432/1 In the siphoniferous branch of the family [*Conchifera*]. 1858 in MAYNE *Expos. Lex.*

Sipho·niform, *a.* [f. as prec. + -(I)FORM.] Having the form or shape of a siphon.

1891 in *Cent. Dict.*

Si·phonless, *a. rare*—1. [f. SIPHON *sb.*] Destitute of a siphon.

1862 DANA *Man. Geol.* 258 In both groups the species are mostly siphonless.

Siphono- (səi·fŏnŏ), a. Gr. *σιφωνο-*, combining form of *σίφων* SIPHON, used in various terms of *Zool.* and *Bot.*, as **si·phonobra·nchiate** *sb.* and *a.*; **sipho·nogam**; **si·phonoga·mic** *a.*; **sipho·nogamous** *a.*; **siphono·gamy**; **sipho·noglyph** (-glif); **si·phonogly·phe** (-gləi·fī); **siphono·phoran** *sb.* and *a.*; **si·phonophore** (-fōəl) *sb.* and *a.*; **siphono·phorous** *a.*; **sipho·nopod**; **siphono·podous** *a.*; **si·phonosto·matous** *a.*; **si·phonostome**; **siphono·stomous** *a.*; **si·phono·zo·oid**: (see quots.).

Various other combs. of doubtful currency, such as *siphonocladaceous, -clamydate, -gnathoid*, etc., are given in recent Dictionaries.

1842 BRANDE *Dict. Sci.*, etc. 1120 **Siphonobranchiates*,..an order of Gastropods, including those in which the branchial cavity terminates in a tube or siphon more or less prolonged, by which the respiratory current of water is received and expelled. 1849 CRAIG, *Siphonobranchiate *a.* 1898 tr. *Strasburger's Text-Bk. Bot.* 431 The pollen-tubes..conduct the two generative cells to the egg-cell. The Phanerogams have accordingly been termed by Engler, *Siphonogams. 1900 B. D. JACKSON *Gloss. Bot. Terms* 242/1 *Siphonogamic. 1891 *Nature* 17 Sept. 484 From another point of view karyogamy is..*Siphonogamous: karyogamy is effected by a tubular outgrowth from one or both of the gametes. 1900 B. D. JACKSON *Gloss. Bot. Terms* 242/1 *Siphonogamy. 1894 *Jrnl. Marine Zool.* I. 78 The single *siphonoglyph giving attachment to the ventral pair of directive mesenteries. 1883 *Phil. Trans.* CLXXIV. 693 On the Ciliated Groove (*Siphonoglyphe) in the Stomodæum of the Alcyonarians. *Ibid.* 694, I propose to call this groove 'the siphonoglyphe'. 1888 ROLLESTON & JACKSON *Anim. Life* 725 [One end of the mouth] leading into well marked grooves strongly ciliated known as gonidial grooves or siphonoglyphes. *Ibid.* 775 A *Siphonophoran has been variously regarded (1) as an assemblage of organs, or (2) as a colony of polymorphic zooids. *Ibid.* 775 *note*, The *Siphonophoran tentacle..is sometimes attached directly to the coenosarc. 1842 BRANDE *Dict. Sci.*, etc. 1120 **Siphonophores*,..a name given by Escholtz to an order of Acalephes, to which he refers those species which have no central digestive cavity, but simply isolated tubes. 1883 *Century Mag.* Sept. 733/2 The vapory, translucent siphonophores..lived contentedly in their glass prison. 1884 *Riverside Nat. Hist.* I. 106 The *Siphonophore fauna of the Mediterranean Sea. *a* 1843 *Encycl. Metrop.* VII. 267/1 The *Siphonophorous Order are..distinguished by the absence of any stomach. 1881 *Encycl. Brit.* XII. 555/1 The variously modified units of the siphonophorous colony. *Ibid.* XVI. 684/1 In embryo *Siphonopods..the sucker-bearing lobes of the fore-foot are truly podial structures. *Ibid.* 669/1 *Siphonopodous Cephalopods in which the inflected lateral margins of the mid-foot are fused so as to form a complete tubular siphon. 1872 H. A. NICHOLSON *Palaeont.* 244 In a second group the aperture of the shell is notched in front; and the shell is said to be '*siphonostomatous'. 1837 *Penny Cycl.* IX. 460/1 Latreille..admitted into the class *Crustacea* 12 orders,.. the Ostrapods, the Xyphosures, and the *Siphonostomes. 1842 BRANDE *Dict. Sci.*, etc. 1120 **Siphonostomes*,..a family of Crustaceans, comprehending those which have a siphon-shaped mouth for suction. *Ibid.*, *Siphonostomes*...By M. de Blainville the term is applied to those gastropods which have the opening of the shell prolonged into a siphon. *a* 1843 *Encycl. Metrop.* VII. 278/1 All the pieces of the mouth can be accounted for in the *Siphonostomous Order. 1855 OGILVIE *Suppl.*, *Siphonostomous*, a designation of animals with a siphon-shaped mouth for suction. 1881 H. N. MOSELEY *Corals* in *Rep. Sci. Results Voy. Challenger 1873–76* II. 118, I propose to term in the case of Alcyonarians, in which there are two kinds of zooids,..the aborted polyps (zooids of Kölliker) '*siphonozooids'. *Ibid.* 119 The siphonozooid cavities are only about one-fifth the length of the autozooid cavities. 1896 tr. *Boas' Text Bk. Zool.* 114 The constant presence, in various Alcyonarians, of arrested individuals (siphonozooids).

Si·phosome. *Zool.* [f. Gr. *σίφω-ν* siphon + *σῶμα* body.] The lower part of a siphonophore stem, bearing the reproductive and nutrient organs.

1891 in *Cent. Dict.* 1898 SEDGWICK *Textbk. Zool.* I. 139 Two parts may be distinguished in it [the coenosome]—an upper part, the nectosome.., and a lower part, the siphosome, bearing the nutritive and reproductive organs.

Siphre, -yre, obs. forms of CIPHER *sb.*

Siphuncle (sai·fʊŋk'l). [ad. L. *sīphunculus*, dim. of *sīpho* SIPHON.]

1. *Zool.* A small canal or tube traversing and connecting the shell-chambers in certain cephalopods; = SIPHUNCULUS, and SIPHON *sb.* 3 a.

1822 J. PARKINSON *Outl. Oryctol.* 161 The most important part of this organ, the continuous siphuncle. 1862 KEARLEY *Links in Chain* v. 103 A membranous tube termed the Siphuncle, which originating in the body of the nautilus in the outer chamber passes through all the partitions in succession. 1870 H. A. NICHOLSON *Man. Zool.* li. (1875) 368 The function of the siphuncle is unknown, except in so far as it doubtless serves to maintain the vitality of the shell.

transf. 1866 BLACKMORE *Cradock Nowell* xxxv. (1883) 213 This flint has traversing it from pole to pole a thread, a spindle, a siphuncle of the richest golden hue.

2. *Ent.* A small siphon or suctorial organ.

1826 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* III. xxxiii. 363 Replaced by an exarticulate retractile tube, which exerts a retractile siphuncle. *Ibid.* xxxiv. 472 The siphuncle, which is the suctorious part, being first retracted within the tubulet.

Si·phuncled, *a. Zool.* [f. prec. + -ED [1].] Possessing or furnished with a siphuncle.

1847 in WEBSTER (citing Buckland). 1851 WOODWARD *Mollusca* I. 77 *Shell, mucro* (only known) chambered and siphuncled.

Siphu·ncular, *a. Zool.* [f. L. *sīphuncul-us* + -AR.] Of or pertaining to, acting or serving as, a siphuncle.

1832 OWEN *Mem. Pearly Nautilus* 46 The siphuncular apertures of the septa. 1851 RICHARDSON *Geol.* viii. (1855) 230 An external, many-chambered shell, with a siphuncular tube passing through the chambers. 1888 ROLLESTON & JACKSON *Anim. Life* 464 Siphuncular collars generally directed backwards.

Siphu·nculate, *a. Zool.* [f. as prec. + -ATE.] = next.

1875 BLAKE *Zool.* 244 A shell which is external, many-chambered, and siphunculate. 1877 *Encycl. Brit.* VI. 738/2 The spiral-chambered and siphunculate shell of *Spirula*.

Siphu·nculated, *a. Zool.* [Cf. prec.] Possessing or furnished with a siphuncle.

1828–32 in WEBSTER (citing Say). 1851 MANTELL *Petrifactions* v. § 5. 459 The Phragmocone, or chambered, siphunculated, internal shell. 1877 HUXLEY *Anat. Inv. Anim.* viii. 532 The *Tetrabranchiata* possess an external chambered siphunculated shell.

‖ **Siphu·nculus.** *Zool.* Pl. **-culi.** [L. *sīphunculus* a little pipe, dim. of *sīpho* SIPHON.] = SIPHUNCLE 1.

Anglicized as *siphuncule* by Mayne *Expos. Lex.* (1858).

1752 J. HILL *Hist. Anim.* 121 A siphunculus carried the whole length of the shell [of the nautilus]. 1764 *Phil. Trans.* LIV. 48 The siphunculus of the Belemnite is always upon the verge of the chamber, or cell. 1822 J. PARKINSON *Outl. Oryctol.* 164 The chambers divided by winding septa, pierced by a siphunculus always placed at the outer side. 1836 BUCKLAND *Geol. & Min.* xv. § 3 (1837) I. 332 Families of fossil chambered shells, that possessed siphunculi.

Sipid (si·pid), *a. rare.* Also 7 **sippid.** [Back-formation from INSIPID *a.*]

1. Savoury; = SAPID *a.* 1.

1623 COCKERAM I, *Sippid*, sauorie. 1660 F. BROOKE tr. *Le Blanc's Trav.* 237 The flesh of Crocodile..was wholesome, white, and sipid.

2. *fig.* = SAPID *a.* 3.

1908 A. SYMONS in *Sat. Rev.* 17 Oct. 480/2 The music was ..gay, rattling, sipid, voluptuously melodious.

Hence **Sipi·dity,** savour, flavour. *rare* [−1].

1880 MISS BIRD *Japan* I. 233 It is..used everywhere.. to give sipidity to their otherwise tasteless food.

Siping (sai·piŋ), *vbl. sb.* Now *dial.* [f. SIPE *v.*] The action of percolating, oozing, etc.; the result of this; also *pl.*, water or other liquid that has oozed or leaked.

1503 *Eng. Misc.* (Surtees) 30 So that no fylth..discend from the same swynstye..excepte yt it be by sipynge, or casualtie. 1621 GRANGER *On Eccl.* 316 The siping through of waters into the house. 1808 in JAMIESON. 1825- in dialect glossaries, etc. (Northumb., Yks.). *c* 1880 in Heslop *Northumbld. Gloss.* (1894) 644 Sandy gravel, with a small siping of water.

So **Si·ping** *ppl. a.* Also as *adv.*

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* VII. lix. (Bodl. MS.), Whanne þe posteme is in state men schal vse temperinge þinges and scheding and naisschinge and cypingg. 1642 H. MORE *Song of Soul* I. iii. 24 Here fifty Sisters in a sieve do draw Thorough-siping water. 1862 C. C. ROBINSON *Dial. Leeds* 408 A siping wet neet.

Sipirs, obs. form of CYPRESS 3.

Sipling (si·plin), *north.* and *obs. Sc.* Forms: 6 **suppline, syplin, syeppaling,** 8 **sippleing;** 7, 9– **sipling,** 9 **siplin', -lin.** [perh. ad. OF. *souplin* a shoot of a tree (Godef.); as a mere var. of SAPLING the change of vowel would be difficult to account for.] A sapling.

1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* III. i. 47 Quhar hepthorne buskis.. grew hye, And evin syplinnis of myrthus. *Ibid.* VII. xiv. 87 And a haill suppline of a gret myrtre. 1610 *North Riding Rec.* (1884) I. 186 To cutt upp young siplings of asshe & hassells. 1708 J. C. *Compl. Collier* (1845) 35 Young Plants or Sippleings, as we here call them, of Oak, Ash or Aller. 1807 R. ANDERSON *Cumbld. Ball.* (1881) 108 Wid a spur on my heel, a yek [= oak] siplin in han. 1849– in dialect glossaries (Northumb., Durh., Cumb.).

Sipman, obs. form of SHIPMAN.

Sipper (si·pəɹ). [f. SIP *v.* + -ER [1].] One who sips; hence, a drinker or toper.

1611 COTGR., *Piailleur*, a bibber, sipper, wine-swiller. 1614 B. JONSON *Barth. Fair* III. i, They are all sippers, sippers o' the city; they look as they would not drink off two pen'orth of bottle-ale amongst 'em. 1702 BAYNARD *Cold Baths* II. (1709) 381 Sippers of Brandy and spirituous distill'd Liquors. 1806 SURR *Winter in London* II. 233 Only look..at the difference of beef steak breakfasters, and the sippers of souchong! 1866 MEREDITH *Vittoria* viii. (1889) 62, I promised my Rosellina, my poppy-headed sipper, a red-wine evening. 1891 *Leeds Mercury* 27 May 5/2 Half a dozen gentlemen..sipping tea..; each sipper wears a tall hat. *fig.* 1850 MCCOSH *Div. Govt.* (1852) 206 He is probably an idle dreamer, or a sipper of the sweets of literature.

Sipper-sauce, *dial.*: see SIBBER-SAUCE.

† **Si·ppet,** *sb.*[1] *Obs. rare.* Also 6 **syppet.** [Cf. SIP *sb.* and -ET.] A little sip.

a 1529 SKELTON *E. Rummyng* 367 Here is an olde typpet, And ye wyll gyue me a syppet Of your stale ale. 1574 HELLOWES *Gueuara's Fam. Ep.* (1577) 98 Shee drinketh.. but water mixed with wine: in such wise, that with her sippets none may..kill his thirst.

Sippet (si·pĕt), *sb.*[2] Also 6–7 **syppet,** 7 **sippit, -ett, cippet.** [app. intended as a diminutive of SOP *sb.* Cf. *supett* in the earlier Wycl. version 2 *Sam.* xiii. 8.]

1. A small piece of toasted or fried bread, usually served in soup or broth, or with meat, or used for dipping into gravy, etc.; a small sop.

1530 PALSGR. 270/2 Syppet a lytell soppe, *tatin.* 1600 SURFLET *Countrie Farme* v. xxi. 720 Some do make sippets or small slices (as they call them) of bread dried vpon the coales. *a* 1655 SIR T. MAYERNE *Archimag. Anglo-Gall.* No. 47 (1658) 41 Serve it up with brown bread, and sippets fryed with butter. 1693 CROWNE *Country Wit* III. iii, See that the mutton broath have white bread sippets in it. 1747–96 MRS. GLASSE *Cookery* v. 42 Lay round them stewed spinage pressed and cut like little sippets. 1764 ELIZ. MOXON *Eng. Housew.* (ed. 9) 71 When you dish it up take off the lid, and..cut the lid in sippets. 1826 POLWHELE *Trad. & Recoll.* I. 139 The fresh boiled round of beef, with onions and sippets, welcomed my arrival. 1843 *Tait's Mag.* X. 142 Having leisurely buttered his sippets of crisp dry toast. 1887 FENN *Master Cerem.* iii, She threw some of the sippets in, and began tasting the broth in an unpleasant way.

b. *transf.* A small piece of something; a mere fragment.

1613 BEAUM. & FL. *Captain* IV. iii, Come pre'thee leave this sadness,..This mumps, this Lachrymæ, this love in sippets. 1647 J. C[LEVELAND] *Char. Lond. Diurn.* 1 It is an History in Sippets; the English *Iliads* in a Nut-shell. 1751 LD. COBHAM in Walpole *Geo. II* (1822) I. v. 117 He did not like cutting the government out into sippets. 1761 COLMAN *Prose on Sev. Occas.* (1787) I. 83 A vast variety of thin volumes, containing certain sippets of philosophy, morality, and the arts. 1888 *Athenæum* 30 June 822/2 Those fragments are portions of a whole.., not [to be] doled out in literary sippets.

2. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *sippet-brewis, -pudding, -shaped.*

1653 URQUHART *Rabelais* I. xxi, Store of good minced meat, and a great deal of sippet-brewis. 1830 DOLBY *Cook's Dict.* 452/2 *Sippet Pudding.*—Cut a small loaf into extremely thin slices [etc.]. 1837 BARHAM *Ingol. Leg.* Ser. I. *Leech of Folkestone* (1905) 74 The occasional presentation of a sippet-shaped *billet-doux.*

Hence **Si·ppet** *v.*, to cut into sippets. *rare.*

1681 CHETHAM *Angler's Vade-m.* XXXIX. § 6 (1689) 257 Sippet it and garnish the dish.

Sipping (si·piŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. SIP *v.* + -ING [1].]

1. The action of the vb.; drinking by sips; also, a single act of this; a quantity taken at a sip.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 78 Cyppynge of drynke, *subbibitura.* 1483 *Vulgaria* 15 b, See now wyth their syppynge what wyne thei haue dronken. 1534 MORE *Comf. agst. Trib.* III. xxvi. (1847) 306 The little sipping that our hearts should have here now. 1597 J. PAYNE *Royal Exch.* 6 O praye for a fore taste and sum sippinge of this greate supper. 1611 COTGR., *Piaison*, a bibbing, sipping, tipling. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* III. 89 The Weomen of Germany have a custome to helpe their..Friends, by sipping of the cup. 1822–7 GOOD *Study Med.* (1829) I. 187 A little toast and water alone, taken in small sippings. 1826 F. REYNOLDS *Life & Times* I. 34 The sipping and gurgling of tea.

transf. 1886 F. HARRISON *Ess.* 211 How different this from the critic's sipping of new books! 1891 MISS DOWIE *Girl in Karp.* 219 Her aprons were darker than in the other villages of my sipping.

b. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *sipping-drink*, etc.

1589 NASHE *Anat. Absurd.* Wks. (Grosart) I. 61 May not a man as soone surfet by eating a whole sheepe..as by the sipping taste of sundry dainties? 1648 HEXHAM II, *Een.. Zuyp-dranck*, ..a Sipping-drinke. 1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* i, If you call on your host for help for such a sipping matter as a quart of sack. 1873 *Athenæum* 26 Aug. 273 Perhaps their sipping disposition has something to do with their fall.

† 2. = SIPPET *sb.*[2] 1. *Obs. rare.*

1535 COVERDALE 2 *Sam.* xiii. 6 Let my sister..make me a syppynge or two, and that I maye eate it of hir hande. *Ibid.* 8 She toke floure,..and made him a syppynge.

Si·ppingly, *adv.* [f. SIPPING *ppl. a.* + -LY 2.] By or in sips. Also *transf.*

1814 W. TAYLOR in *Monthly Rev.* LXXIV. 275 Theology is sippingly tasted. 1858 *Chamb. Jrnl.* IX. 201 He takes it, not sippingly and with gusto,..but..in large quantities.

Sipple (si·p'l), *v.* Also 6 **syp-,** 7 **scipple.** [f. SIP *v.* + -LE 3.]

1. *trans.* To drink (liquor, etc.) slowly or by small sips; to sip *up.*

1568 DRANT *Horace, Sat.* I. iii. B v, The man doth sipple up the brothe. 1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 141 To sypple, *sorbillare.* 1683 G. M[ERITON] *Yorkshire Ale* (1685) 7 At the first they did but sipple up This rare Ambrosia. 1748 SMOLLETT *R. Random* xlvi. (1817) II. 96 Improperly applied to the taking of coffee, inasmuch as people did not drink, but sip or sipple that liquor. 1832–53 *Whistle-Binkie* Ser. I. 14, I had not learn'd to sipple tea.

2. *intr.* To sip liquor or the like leisurely.

1607 MARKHAM *Caval.* VII. (1617) 19 Distempered with heate.., which you shall plainely perceiue by his continuall desire to drinke and scipple. 1816 SCOTT *Antiq.* ix, The body had got sic a trick of sippling and tippling wi' the bailies and deacons when they met. 1819 — in *Lockhart* (1837) IV. ix. 294 You had better drink a bottle of wine on any particular occasion, than sit..and sipple at an English pint every day.

Hence **Si·ppling** *vbl. sb.* Also *attrib.*

1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* XX. xxi. II. 72 The seed of Mallows ..sodden in milk and taken after a sippling sort. 1681 W. ROBERTSON *Phraseol. Gen.* (1693) 1159 To spend all the day in sipling. 1687 A. LOVELL tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* I. 33 They all drink it sipping..; so that being in a Coffee-hane..one hears a pretty pleasant kind of sippling musick.

† **Sippo.** *Obs.*[−1] [ad. Pg. *sipo.*] A liana.

1657 S. PURCHAS *Pol. Flying-Ins.* 207 They run among some Sippoes or Withes that run into the tree.

Sipress, -is, -ous, obs. ff. CYPRESS 3.

Sipu·ncular, *a. Zool.* [f. SIPUNCUL-US + -AR.] Of or belonging to the genus *Sipunculus* of gephyrean worms.

1841 FORBES *Hist. Brit. Starfishes* 254 Pallas, in his Miscellanea Zoologica,..has figured two English Sipuncular worms.

Sipu·nculid. *Zool.* [f. as prec. + -ID [3].] A gephyrean worm of the family *Sipunculidæ.*

1888 ROLLESTON & JACKSON *Anim. Life* 619 A caecum is sometimes present at the commencement of the rectum in Sipunculids. 1893 *Proc. Zool. Soc.* 328 The papillæ..characteristic of the skin of Sipunculids.

Sipu·nculiform, *a. Zool. rare.* [f. as prec. + -(I)FORM.] Having the form of a small pipe or of a sipunculus.

1838 *Penny Cycl.* XII. 270/2 The Sipunculiform Holothuriæ. Body more or less suddenly attenuated backwards.

Sipu·nculoid, *sb.* and *a. Zool.* [-OID.]

A. *sb.* Any member of the group *Sipunculoidea* of gephyrean worms.

1857 AGASSIZ *Contrib. Nat. Hist. U.S.* I. 78 The Sipunculoids appear to be more closely related to the Annulata than to the Holothurioids. 1885 *Encycl. Brit.* XIX 430 Forming with the Brachiopoda and Sipunculoids an isolated group.

B. *adj.* Of or belonging to the group *Sipunculoidea.*

1881 *Nation* 1 Dec. 435/1 The report on the *Gephyrea*, or Sipunculoid worms. 1885 *Encycl. Brit.* XIX. 431/1 The Sipunculoid Gephyræans..possessing identically this arrangement.

‖ **Sipunculus** (səipʌ·ŋkiŭlŏs). *Zool.* Pl. **-culi.** [L. *sipunculus*, var. of *sīphunculus* SIPHUNCULUS.] A gephyrean annelid with a retractile proboscis, belonging to the typical genus of the family *Sipunculidæ.*

1841 FORBES *Hist. Brit. Starfishes* 252, I have represented the Sipunculus alive in a Periwinkle shell. *Ibid.* 255 It is very probable that several other minute Sipunculi inhabit the British seas. 1877 HUXLEY *Anat. Inv. Anim.* v. 247 A larval Sipunculus about 1/12 of an inch long.

Sipylite (si·pilait). *Min.* [f. *Sipyl-us*, one of the children of Niobe + -ITE [1] 2 b.] (See quots.)

1877 MALLET in *Amer. Jrnl. Sci.* 3rd Ser. XIV. 397 On Sipylite, a new Niobate, from Amherst County, Virginia. 1881 WATTS *3rd Suppl.*, *Sipylite*, a niobate, ..associated with albanite and magnetite, and occasionally with a few large crystals of hydrous zircon.

† **Siquare.** *Obs.* Also 4 **siquar, sequar;** 5 *Sc.* **sith(t)-, syth(t)ar, -ware.** [Origin and precise form doubtful.] Period or point of time; moment. Chiefly in phr. *in that siquare.*

Very common in the Cotton MS. of the *Cursor M.*, but usually altered in the other MSS. Otherwise recorded only in the *Sc. Leg. Saints*, where the forms should perhaps be written with *sich-*, as in Horstmann's edition.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 5656 He sagh an egypcien ful sare Smit a juu in þat si-quare. *Ibid.* 12301 þe barn frendes fra þat siquar Held iesum in wirscip mar þan ar. *a* 1400 *Sc. Leg. Saints* i. (*Peter*) 631 He saw cryst in þat sythware pas in hewine. *Ibid.* ii. (*Paul*) 306 In þat sithar.

‖ **Si quis** (sai kwis), *sb.* Also **si-quis, siquis.** [L. *sī* if, *quis* any one (sc. *invēnerit*, etc.), the opening words of the notice or bill (see def.) when written in Latin.]

1. A public intimation, notice, or bill, freq. one exhibited on a post, door, etc., requesting information, advertising something lost, or the like; in later use only *Eccl.*, a notice, required in certain cases, intimating that a candidate seeks ordination, and asking if any one knows of any impediment.

1597 BP. HALL *Sat.* II. v, Saw'st thou ever *Siquis* patch'd on Paul's church dore, To seek some vacant Vicarage before? 1599 JONSON *Ev. Man out of Hum.* III. i, Enter Caualier Shift, with two Siquisses in his hand. *Ibid.*, The aduancement of a *Siquis* or two. 1601 WEEVER *Mirr. Martyrs* A 3 b, Set vp a Siquis, giue intelligence, That such a day shall be my Tragedie. 1611 COTGR., *Plaquard*, ..a Bill, Siquis, or Libell stucke vpon a post, &c. 1646 H. MOSELEY in *Beaum. & Fl.'s Plays* I. (1905) p. xiii, Therefore now I put up this *Si quis*, that whosoever hereafter happily meetes with it [etc.]. 1674 MARVELL *Reh. Transp.* II. 48, I understood that he had sent out a general Siquis

thorow his own Province. 1817 C. HODGSON *Instr. Candidates Holy Orders* 3 Form of notice or 'Si quis', and of the certificate of the same having been published in the church of the parish where the candidate usually resides. 1843 HOOK *Ch. Dict.* 523 In the case of a Bishop, the Si quis is affixed..on the door of Bow Church. 1904 WRIGHT & NEIL *Protestant Dict.* s.v. *Ordination*, If the candidate had left the university and is living elsewhere, a notice must be published...This notice is known as a *si quis*.

attrib. 1609 DEKKER *Gull's Horn Bk.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 235 The first time that you venture into Powles.., presume not..to cast an eye to Si quis doore.

2. *slang.* (See quot.)

1864 *Slang Dict.* 231 *Si Quis*, a candidate for orders.

Hence ‖ **Si quis** *v. trans.*, to advertise for.

1713 *Gentleman Instructed* II. x. 186, I must excuse my Depart.., otherwise he may send Hue and Cry after me, and *Si quis* me in the next Gazette.

Sir (sɜ̄r), *sb.* [Reduced form of *sire* SIRE *sb.*, the shortening being due to the absence of stress before the following name or appellation. The forms *sore*, *sur(e* may represent OF. *sor* or *sieur*, the oblique case of *sire*.]

A. Illustration of forms.

α. 4– **sir** (6 **sirr**, 6–7 **Sr**), 5–7 **syr.**

1297– (see examples in B).

β. 3–6 **ser**, 4–5 **sere.**

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 27450 Sere biscop, ta god kepe. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Sir Thopas* 6 (Cambr.), His name was sere Thopas. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 182 Seses, seris, of 3our syte. *c* 1444 CAPGRAVE *Life St. Kath.* IV. v. 441 This grete noyse, seres, what may it bee? 1451 — *Life St. Gilbert* 112 The fayre tour..whech þou say, Ser Pope, is þe grete excellens of þi dignite. 1509 in *Scott. Jrnl. Topogr.* (1848) II. 120/2 Ser Wilȝeam Synclair of Wairseytt, Kny[ch]t.

γ. 5 **sur, sure, sore.**

? *a* 1400 *Arthur* 285 Hys worthynesse, sur Emperour, Passeþ Muche alle 3owre. *a* 1400 *Sir Degrev.* 289 The doughty knyght sure Degrevaunt. *c* 1410 *Sir Cleges* 443 Sore, for thy corteci, Smyghte me no more! *c* 1425 *Abraham's Sacr.* 435 in *Non-Cycle Myst. Plays*, Lo! sovereyns and sorys, now haue we schowyd [etc.].

δ. Sc. 4–5 **scher**(e, 5 **schyr**, 5–6 **schir** (5 **shir**).

In later Sc. also STIR (cf. STIRRAH).

1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* XVII. 494 Till schir Robert the douchty king. 1396 in *Scott. Antiq.* XIV. 217 Scher Henry Synclar, Erle of Orkynnay. *c* 1425 WYNTOUN *Cron.* IX. xviii. 125 Schirris, I thank God and al 3ow. *c* 1459 *Regist. de Aberbrothoc* (Bann.) II. 105 Honorabile and wirschypful schyris. 1473 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scott.* I. 43 A lettre to Schire James Ogilvy of Erly. 1550 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* I. 84 Schir George Douglas of Petindreicht Knycht. 1574 *Satir. Poems Reform.* xlii. 6 Schirs, is thair ony heir Quhais Iornay lyes unto Dundie?

B. Signification.

I. 1. The distinctive title of honour of a knight or a baronet, placed before the Christian name († rarely the surname).

1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 10822 Sir hubert de boru & obere þat in prison were ido. 13.. *Gaw. & Gr. Kn.* 387 Sir Gawan, so mot I þryue,..þis dint þat þou schal dryue. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Sir Thopas* 6 (Lansd.), A knyht was faire and gent.., His name was sir Thopas. *c* 1440 *Contin. Brut* (1908) 437 Sir Henry Beauford, Cardynall, and Bisshop of Winchestre. 1488–94 LD. FITZWALTER in *Paston Lett.* III. 343 Zowir lofyng cosyn, J. Sir Fytz Wauter. 1556 *Chron. Grey Friars* (Camden) 41 The lady Margarete Bowmer wyffe unto sir John Bowmer,..but she was the wyffe of one Cheyny, for he solde hare unto sir Bowmer. 1596 SPENSER *State Irel.* (Globe) 667/2 [A grant] of New-castell to Sir Henry Harrington, and of..Fearnes to Sir Thomas Masterson. 1627 HAKEWILL *Apol.* (1630) 272 Sir Drake whom well the worlds end knew. 1645 SYMONDS *Diary* (Camden) 217 Sir Nich. Kemys was governour when Gerard came. 1711 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 112 P 2 My Friend Sir Roger, being a good Churchman [etc.]. 1819 SHELLEY *Peter Bell 3rd* VI. xv, He never read them;—with amaze I found Sir William Drummond had. 1899 FITZPATRICK *Transvaal fr. within* (1900) 286 Sir Alfred Milner..commanded the entire confidence of the Uitlanders.

b. In *transf.* uses, as *Sir Harry*, *John*, *Sydney*, *Timothy* (see quots.).

See also BARLEYCORN 1 b and ROGER DE COVERLEY.

a 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew*, *Sir Timothy*, one that Treats every Body, and Pays the Reckonings every where. 1808 JAMIESON, *Sir John*, a close stool. 1812 J. H. VAUX *Flash Dict.*, *Sir Sydney*, a clasp knife. *a* 1825 FORBY *Voc. E. Anglia*, *Sir Harry*, a close-stool.

2. Applied retrospectively to notable personages of ancient, esp. sacred or classical, history. Now only *arch.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 4249 Sir putifar wel vndirstod þat ioseph was o gentil blod. *c* 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* 24 Sen þe tyme of sir Noe. *c* 1400 *Sc. Trojan War* (Horstm.) I. 215 Jasone, the gentile, With hys falow, schyr Hercules. *c* 1440 *York Myst.* XXX. 208 We will prese to Sir Pilate. *c* 1475 HENRYSON *Orpheus & Eurydice* 116 At þe last schir orpheus couth heir. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* VII. v. 110 Schir Dardanus, born of this cuntre eik. 1582 STANYHURST *Æneis* III. (Arb.) 71 Woorthye syr Æneas, why..teare you A caytiefe forlorne?..I am named syr Polydor. 1598 SHAKS. *Merry W.* I. iii. 83 Shall I Sir Pandarus of Troy become? *Ibid.* II. i. 122 Goe thou like Sir Acteon. 1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* XXXII, The valiant Sir Pandarus of Troy. 1881 R. F. BURTON tr. *Camoens' Lusiad* IV. 23 The Oriental hordes..Wherewith Sir Xerxes crost the Hellespont.

3. Used fanciſully, or as a mock title.

1362 LANGL. *P. Pl. A.* II. 82 þe Deede was a-selet, Be siht of sir Symoni. *a* 1500 *Bernard. de cura rei fam.* (E.E.T.S.) 13 Schir drunkyiness þat syre doys no thing rycht. 1567 JEWEL *Def. Apol.* V. 561 Here, yee saie, 'Sir Defender is pretily seene in humanitie'. 1582 T. HOWELL *Deuises* (1879) 185 Tyll syr Phebus beames shall lose their light. 1592 GREENE *Disput.* Wks. (Grosart) X. 254 Though the other youth beare the charges and was made sir pay for all. 1600 SHAKS. *Merch. V.* I. i. 93 (Qq.), I am sir Oracle, And when I ope my lips, let no dog barke. 1610 — *Temp.* II. i. 286 This Sir Prudence, who Should not vpbraid our course. 1781 COWPER *Hope* 416 Lowest at the board..sat Sir Smug. 1822 SHELLEY *Faust* II. 114 Does not Sir Mammon gloriously illuminate His palace for this festival? *Ibid.* 150 Sir Urian is sitting aloft in the air. 1879 FARRAR in *Expositor* IX. 214 He suddenly confounds the highly self-satisfied Sir-oracle.

b. *Sir Rag* (see quots.).

1764 in *N. & Q.* 7th Ser. XII. 29/1 Thomas Hunt, from Leicester (a Sir-Rag to a Waggoner), died at ye George. 1891 *Ibid.* 132/2 A dusty set of tatterdemalions..constantly attended fairs and race-courses, and these poor scarecrows used to be called in my young days 'Sir-Rags'. *Ibid.*, In the Midland Counties..the chief of a band of servants or workers, a foreman or overseer,..is the 'sir-rag'. *Ibid.* 133/1 Sometimes he or she is the 'head sir-rag', or, as some put it, 'head sir-rag, chief cork and bottle-washer'. 1901 J. PRIOR *Forest Folk* II. 18 He looks at a body as if he were head Sir Rag.

†4. Placed before the Christian name of ordinary priests (also that of a pope). *Obs.* (Cf. SIRE *sb.* 1 b, and DAN[1] a.)

It has been supposed that this use arose out of sense 5, but there appears to be no evidence for this, although the title (at least in later times) was clearly used in contrast to *Master*, and denoted that the priest had not graduated in a university. For the generalized use of *Sir John* see JOHN 3.

c 1386 [see JOHN 3]. *c* 1425 WYNTOUN *Cron.* VII. vii. 207 Kynge Henry..wrat richt reuerendly Til þe pape Schir Adryane. 1450 *Paston Lett.* I. 170 Sir John Bukk, Parson of Stratford, physshed my stankys at Dedham. 1511–2 *Rec. St. Mary at Hill* (1905) 277 To sir Robert for Candell to sey his matens in the mornynges. 1550 BALE *Image Both Ch.* II. f vj, The most ragged ronnagate, and idle idiote among theym, is no lesse then a syr, whiche is a Lord in the Latin, as syr John, syr Thomas, syr Wylliam. 1554 HILARIE *Resurr. Masse* A viij, My smered Chaplens..I make them to be called Syrs euery one. 1573 TYRIE (*title*), The Refutation of ane Ansver made be schir Johne Knox. 1595 ?GREENE *George a Greene* 1191 Well preacht sir Iacke, downe with your staffe. 1635 [see JOHN 3].

†5. Used (as a rendering of L. *dominus*), with the surname of the person, to designate a Bachelor of Arts in some Universities. *Obs.*

1557 in Lamb *Collect. Hist. Univ. Camb.* (1838) 229 Mr Turner, Father, Syr Whytgyfte the bachelor, Syr Bryges the eldest son. 1575 in Fowler *Hist. C. C, C.* (O.H.S.) 150 Too Sr huker of Corpus christie college in Oxforde. 1614 SELDEN *Titles Honor* 54 How *Dominus*..is now familiar for *Sir* to euery Batchelor of Art in the Schools, all men know. 1655 FULLER *Ch. Hist.* IX. 71 Hall and his Popish faction (whereof Mr. Potto, Mr. Binnion, and Sr. Appleby the Leaders) opposed his admission. 1690 S. SEWALL *Diary* 2 July, Sir Mather in England yet had a Degree conferred on him. 1714 in Aubrey *Lett.* (1814) I. 294 Pray, Sir, will you do so much as send to Sir Wilkinson of Queen's? 1763 in Pierce *Hist. Harvard Univ.* 234 (Cent. Dict.), That Sir Sewall, B.A., be the Instructor in the Hebrew and other learned languages for three years. 1822 NARES s.v. *Sir*, At the Universities..a bachelor, who in the books stood *Dominus* Brown, was in conversation called *Sir* Brown. This was in use in some colleges even in my memory.

II. 6. Placed before a common noun, and forming with it a term of address, as *Sir clerk*, *king*, *knight*, etc. Now *arch.*

1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 10282 Sir king,..wé beþ icome fram verre londe iwis. *Ibid.* 10309 Nou sir clerc, quaþ þe king, 3e mowe þretni ynou. *c* 1330 *Amis & Amil.* 757 Sir knight,..Whi seystow euer nay? *c* 1400 *Rom. Rose* 6390 Sir Preest, in shrift I telle it thee, That he..Hath me assoiled. 14.. *Chaucer's Doctor's Prol.* 10 Sir Doctour of Phisyke.., Telle us a tale. *c* 1440 *York Myst.* XXX. 211 Sir Knyghtis [*sc.* Roman soldiers], þat are curtayse and kynde. 1591 SPENSER *M. Hubberd* 589 Ah! sir Mule, now blessed be the day [etc.]. *Ibid.* 1033 Nay (said the Foxe) Sir Ape, you are astray. 1601 SHAKS. *Twel. N.* III. iv. 298, I am one, that had rather go with sir Priest, then sir knight. 1611 — *Wint. T.* I. ii. 135 Come (Sir Page) Looke on me with your Welkin eye. 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* xliv, 'Sir knight,' replied the baron, 'how is it possible that' [etc.]? 1820 SCOTT *Monast.* XXXIII, Saint Mary! what call you yon, Sir Monk? 1842 TENNYSON *Morte d'Arth.* 152 Sir King, I closed mine eyelids, lest the gems Should blind my purpose. 1865 KINGSLEY *Herew.* IV, Now, then, sir priest,..go on with your story.

transf. 1826 SCOTT *Jrnl.* 14 May, Look where you will, Sir Sun, you look upon sorrow and suffering.

b. With contemptuous, ironic, or irate force.

c 1386 CHAUCER *Wife's Prol.* 242 (Harl.), Sir [*v.r.* Sire] olde lecchour, let thi japes be. *a* 1529 SKELTON *Against Scotles* 101 Syr skyrgalyard, ye were so skyt [etc.]. 1591 *Troublesome Raigne of King John* (1611) 27 *Lim.* Good words sir sauce, your betters are in place. *Phil.* Not you sir doughtie, with your Lyons case. 1599 SHAKS. *Much Ado* V. i. 83 Come sir boy, come follow me Sir boy, ile whip you from your foyning fence. 1759 STERNE *Tr. Shandy* II. ii, So, Sir Critic, I could have replied; but I scorn it. 1825 SCOTT *Betrothed* xxix, 'How, sir knave!' said the King, angrily, 'is it for such as thou to dictate to our judgment?'

7. Used as a respectful term of address to a superior or, in later use, an equal (sometimes with additions as *dear*, †*fair*, †*gentle*, *good*); also formally in addressing the Speaker of a legislative assembly.

1320–30 *Horn Ch.* 721 Sir, miȝtestow hold him to þi nede,..Batayle miȝt þou bide. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xli. (*Agnes*) 102 Certis, gud sir, maryt ame I. *c* 1460 *Towneley Myst.* iv. 228 Hir answere bese belife—'nay, sir!' 1509 FISHER *Fun. Serm. C'tess Richmond* Wks. (1876) 307 But ye wyll say vnto me, Syr yf we were sure of this we wolde not be sory. 1535 COVERDALE *Ruth* ii. 13 She sayde: let me fynde fauoure (syr) before thyne eyes. 1590 SHAKS. *Com. Err.* I. ii. 57 The Sadler had it Sir, I kept it not. 1638 CHILLINGW. *Relig. Prot.* I. ii. 97 For Gods sake, Sr, tell me plainly. 1662 STILLINGFL. *Orig. Sacræ* Ded. 11 You see, Sir, to what an unexpected length my desire to vindicate [etc.]. 1709 STEELE *Tatler* No. 45 P 1, I heard a Voice cry, Sir, Sir!—This raised my Curiosity. 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* xliv, 'Dear sir!' said Henri, 'here is an armchair..massy with gilding'. 1849 THACKERAY *Pendennis* x, 'Sir to you,' said Mr. Foker politely. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.* 627 'Aye, aye, sir,' is the well-known answer from seamen. 1873 in Hansard *Parl. Deb.* 31 July 1389/1, I rise, Sir,..to make the Indian Financial Statement.

b. In *pl.*, used in addressing two or more persons. In Scottish use passing into a mere exclamation (see the later quots.).

c 1400 *Destr. Troy* 4907 Perfore, sirs,..Let make vs a message. 1459 *Rolls Parlt.* V. 369/2 Sirres, be mery, for yet we have moo frendis. *c* 1500 *Adam Bel* cxiv. in Child *Ballads* III. 271/2 Good syrs, of whens be ye? 1615 RUGGLE *Ignoramus* IV. (1736) 50 Goodly, Sirs,..I shou'd have sworn it had been my Master Antonio. 1766 FORDYCE *Serm. Young Wom.* (1767) I. vii. 304 Have you forgotten, Sirs, that what they see you admire,..they will be induced *to* think..worthy of admiration? 1816 SCOTT *Old Mort.* XXXIX, 'But eh, sirs,' she continued,..'Eh, sirs! ye're sair altered, hinny'. 1825 JAMIESON *Suppl., Sirs, Sirse, Serse*, interj., a common mode of address to a number of persons, although of both sexes; often pron. q. *Sirce*. 1894 CROCKETT *Raiders* (ed. 3) 96 Eh, sirce, but there's mony wonderfu' things in the warld.

c. Used in commencing or subscribing letters.

1425 *Paston Lett.* I. 19 Right worthy and worshepefull Sir. *a* 1448 *Ibid.* 71 Syr, I recummawnd me to zow. 1535 STARKEY *England* (1878) p. xiii, Syr, I most hertely commend me vn to you. 1568 *Peebles Burgh Rec.* (1872) 73 His supplicatioun..:—Schirris, baillies, counsale, and communite of the burgh. 1628 USSHER in *Lett. Emin. Lit. Men* (Camden) 138 Deare Sir, I know not who should beginne first [etc.]. 1655 in *Nicholas P.* (Camden) 300 Which I shall desire you to keepe for yᵉ use of, Sir, Your..humble seruant, Robert Phelipps. 1745 J. ELTON in Hanway *Trav.* (1762) I. v. lxvii. 304 Sirs, I have been acquainted with your resolutions of August last. 1789 BURNS *Let. to Cunningham* 4 May, My dear Sir, Your duty-free favour..I received two days ago. 1822 LAMB *To J. Taylor* 7 Dec., Dear Sir, I should like the enclosed Dedication to be printed. 1861 BREWSTER in Mrs. Gordon *Home Life* xix. (1869) 345 Sir,—I have only this moment seen..an advertisement of your picture [etc.].

8. Used with scornful, contemptuous, indignant, or defiant force. (Cf. SIRRAH.)

1592 GREENE *Conny Catch.* Wks. (Grosart) XI. 84, I.. account thee no honest man: For sir know I haue learned your pettegree. 1600 SHAKS. *A. Y. L.* I. i. 80 Well sir, get you in: I will not long be troubled with you. 1632 MASSINGER *City Madam* II. ii, *Lacy.* By the city custom, madam? *Lady.* Yes, my young sir. 1675 BAXTER *Cath. Theol.* II. XIII. 283 Sir, the City ringeth of you as one that greatly wrongeth the cause of God. 1782 in *Brit. Tourist* (1809) IV. 119 *Sir!* in a surly tone, [signifies] a box on the ear at your service!—to a dog it means a good beating. 1824 SCOTT *St. Ronan's* XXX, Sir, this is either a very great mistake or wilful impertinence...I am Captain Jekyl, sir. 1855 J. D. BURN *Autobiogr. Beggar Boy* (1859) 44 His uniform manner of addressing me was, by the withering and degrading title of 'sir!' 1861 GEO. ELIOT *Silas M.* ix, I've been too good a father to you all...But I shall pull up, sir.

b. *My dear sir*, in remonstrance or expostulation.

1825 R. P. WARD *Tremaine* II. XXVI. 238 'And, indeed, my dear Sir—' 'I won't be Sir'd,' cried the Doctor.

9. Applied to women. Now *dial.*

1578 WHETSTONE *Promos & Cassandra* I. IV. vii, [To Dalia.] Ah syr, you would, be like, let my Cocke Sparrow goe. 1611 BEAUM. & FL. *King & No K.* II. i, *Pan.* [to waiting-women]. Sirs, leave me all. (Exeunt Women.) 1621 FLETCHER *Pilgr.* II. i, *Juletta.* Would you know o' me, Sir? *Alphonso.* O' thee, Sir? ay, o' thee, sir; What art thou, Sir? 1688 CROWNE *Darius* II. Dram. Wks. 1874 III. 411 *Barzana* [to her confidante, Oronte]. How ill you dress me, sir? 1818 MISS FERRIER *Marriage* ii, 'And ye tu bonny sir,' addressing Lady Juliana.

10. A person of rank or importance; a lord, a gentleman; one who might be addressed as 'sir'.

In early use equivalent to *sire*; in later examples usually by direct transference from sense 7.

13.. *Coer de L.* 3567 Whos hed it was my seres aske? *c* 1500 *Young Children's Bk.* 88 in *Babees Bk.*, Wer-euer þou commys, speke honestly To ser or dame. 1585 T. WASHINGTON tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* I. xvii. 20 Taking with him to accompanie him the sir of S. Veran. 1601 SHAKS. *Twel. N.* III. iv. 81 A sad face, a reuerend carriage,..in the habite of some Sir of note. 1611 — *Cymb.* I. vi. 160 A Lady to the worthiest Sir, that euer Country call'd his. 1698 FRYER *Acc. E. India & P.* 45 In one of their open Pagods..stands a Venerable Sir at the upper end. 1703 ROWE *Fair Penit.* II. ii, A talking Sir that brawls for him in Taverns. 1740–1 RICHARDSON *Pamela* II. 354 On Tuesday Morning, my dear Sir rode out, attended by Abraham. 1847 TENNYSON *Princ.* Concl. 102 Why should not these great Sirs Give up their parks some dozen times a year? 1854 EMERSON *Lett. & Soc. Aims, Poet. & Imag.*, Our little sir, from his first tottering steps,..does not like to be practised upon.

11. A parson or priest. Now *dial.* (Cf. 4.)

1591 SPENSER *M. Hubberd* 390 But this good Sir did follow the plaine word. 1869 *Lonsdale Gloss.* 74/2 'Here's t' sir cumman'=Here's the clergyman coming.

Sir (sɜ̄r), *v.* [f. prec.]

1. *trans.* To address (a person) as 'sir'. Also with *up*.

1576 R. PETERSON *Galateo* (1892) 47 He that is wont to be (*Sird*) and likewise (*Sirreth*) other. 1600 *1st Pt. Sir J. Oldcastle* II. i, *Sum.* Sir, I brought it not my lord to eate. *Harp.* O, do you sir me now? 1722 DE FOE *Relig. Courtsh.* I. ii. (1840) 68 Don't worship me and sir me now. 1748 RICHARDSON *Clarissa* (1768) I. viii. 43 My Brother and Sister..Sirr'd him up, at every word. 1806–7 *Poet. Reg.* 179 Learn..To frown importance while they cap and sir ye.

1861 Leys *Mem. J. D. Maclaren* v. 94 In his kind and sincere way he sirred some cabman, porter, or poor man. 1890 L. C. D'Oyle *Notches* 8 'I don't know, sir, I'm sure,' said the stranger...'Don't *sir* me! don't you know my name?'

2. *intr.* To use the term 'sir' in addressing a person.

1798 Southey *To M. Hill* 7 Sir-ing and Madam-ing as civilly As if the road between the heart and lips Were..a weary and Laplandish way.

Hence **Si·rring** *vbl. sb.*

1836 W. E. Forster in Reid *Life* (1888) I. 76 [He is] remarkably civil to me, and he gives me such quantities of *sirrings*—that is, he says *sir* so often.

Sir, obs. f. Sire *sb.* **Sír**, variant of (*Anglo-Ind.*) Seer. **Sirah**, obs. f. Sirrah. **Sirbace**, obs. f. Surbase. **Sircar**: see Sirkar. **Sirce** (Sc.): see Sir *sb.* 7 b. **Sircot**, obs. f. Surcoat. **Sircue**, var. Circue *v. Obs.* **Sircule**, obs. f. Circule *v.*

† **Sirculey**, var. *circulet* Circlet.

15.. *Bk. of Precedence* in *Q. Eliz. Acad.* 16 The sword borne by an Earle, the cappe and Sirculey borne by an Earle.

Sircumsycion, obs. f. Circumcision. **Sircuyte**, obs. f. Circuit.

‖ **Sirdar** (sə̄·ɹdāɹ, səɹdā·ɹ). Forms: *α.* 7, 9 **serdar**, 7 **serdaar**. *β.* 8 **sardar, surdâr**, 9 **surdar**. *γ.* 8 **sirdâr**, 9 **sirdar**. [Urdū (Pers.) سردار *sardār*, f. Pers. *sar* head + *dār* possessor.]

1. In India and other Eastern countries, a military chief, a leader or general of a force or army; also *spec.* in recent use, the British commander-in-chief of the Egyptian army.

α. 1615 Sandys *Trav.* 211 This Ioseph..got to be made Seidar [*sic*] of Damasco (which is Generall of the Souldiery). 1686 tr. *Chardin's Trav. Persia* 256 He has also the Title of Serdar or General of the Army. 1819 F. Hamilton *Nepal* 109 Military officers, named Serdars, frequently are appointed to command over different portions of the country.

β. 1718 Ozell tr. *Tournefort's Voy.* II. 349 The Janizaries are there under the Command of a Sardar. 1753 Hanway *Trav.* (1762) I. iii. li. 231 The begler-begs have the power of life and death, as have also those sardares, who are on the frontiers. 1800 *Asiatic Ann. Reg.* 178 He is a Sardar of five thousand horse in the Mahratta empire.

γ. 1803 Wellington in Owen *Wellesley's Desp.* (1877) 788, I had also a long and difficult negotiation with the Nizam's sirdars. 1815 Elphinstone *Acc. Caubul* (1842) I. 337 There are many other shops which accompany the camp, to supply the sirdars and the soldiers. 1885 *Times* (weekly ed.) 26 June 4/3 The Turcoman shepherds or sirdars, who alone traverse these little frequented routes. 1898 — 5 Sept. 3/3 The Sirdar's force to-day marched to within six miles of Omdurman.

2. *Sirdar-bearer*, an Indian valet or body-servant. (See Bearer 1 d.)

1782 *India Gaz.* 2 Sept. (Yule), That a gentleman should pay a rascal of a Sirdar Bearer monthly wages for 8 or 10 men. 1859 Lang *Wand. India* 104 A sirdar-bearer (personal attendant, or Indian valet) took charge of my two boxes. 1863 Trevelyan *Compet. Wallah* (1866) 225 There is every reason to believe that he is honest, as Sirdar-bearers go.

b. *ellipt.* in the same sense.

c 1813 Mrs. Sherwood *Ayah & Lady* xii. 75 'I will also swear,' said the sirdar, 'by Gunga' [etc.]. 1828 *Asiatic Costumes* 27 The barburdar, or surdar,..keeps the keys, and in fact has charge of every thing in the house. 1845 Stocqueler *Handbk. Brit. India* (1854) 117 The sirdar-bearer, called sirdar in brevity, is, among other things, the valet-de-chambre.

Hence **Sirdarship**, the office of Sirdar.

1898 *Daily Chron.* 10 Oct. 6/3 The statements that Lord Kitchener intends to resign the Sirdarship.

Sirdena, obs. form of Sardine *sb.*[2]

Sire (səiəɹ), *sb.* Forms: *α.* 3– **sire**, 4–5 **sir**, 6 **sier**; 4 **scire**, 7 **shire**. *β.* 3–8 **syre**, 5 **cyre, cyyr, syr, syar**, 5–6 **syer**. [a. OF. *sire* (*cyre*), for earlier **sieire* :—pop. L. **seior*, for cl. L. *senior* Senior. The oblique case in OF. was *sieur* :—**seiōr-em* for *seniōr-em*.]

I. † **1.** Placed before personal names: **a.** Denoting knighthood. = Sir *sb.* 1. *Obs.*

c 1205 Lay. 22485 Wulcume sire Arður, wilcume lauerd. 1297 R. Glouc. (Rolls) 9066 Sire geffray, þat was erl of aungeo. c 1330 *Amis & Amil.* 44 He was callid Syre Amys ..at his crystenyng. 1387 Trevisa *Higden* (Rolls) V. 305 Þe firste ȝere of þe comynge of sire John, þe secounde kyng Henricus his sone, into Irlond. a 1400 *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* xxix. i. 37 Þus sone Sire Rollo., Bi-sette þat Citee. 1492 *Paston Lett.* III. 380 To my..frendes, Sire William Knevette, Sire John Paston, Sire Robert Clere, Knyghtes.

transf. 1362 Langl. *P. Pl.* A. x. 1 Sire Dowel dwelleþ.. not a day hennes, In a Castel. *Ibid.* 19 Sire seowel and seywel,..And sire Godfrei Gowel, grete lordes alle.

† **b.** Applied to persons of ancient history, or to ecclesiastics: cf. Sir *sb.* 2 and 4. *Obs.*

c 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 21 Þe Erchebischope of Caunterburi sire Ode. 1297 R. Glouc. (Rolls) 2009 To þis senatour..Sire maximian. c 1330 R. Brunne *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 785 Sire Eneas was þer-of fayn. c 1380 Wyclif *Wks.* (1880) 192 And þanne strumpatis & þeuys preisen sire iacke or hobbe & williem þe proude clerk. a 1400 *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* 407 A frenche romance that sire Robert, Bisschope a lycoln, made.

† **2.** With common nouns, = Sir *sb.* 6. *Obs.*

(*a*) c 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 15 'Sire Aumperour,' he seide. a 1300 *Havelok* 2861 Sire erl,..And þou wile mi consayl tro, Ful wel shal ich with þe do. c 1386 Chaucer *Prol.* 837 Sire knyght, quod he, my mayster and my lord. c 1400 *Brut* lvi. 50 Þerfore, sire kyng,..we bene comen into ȝoure lande. 1484 Caxton *Fables of Æsop* v. ix, Syre kynge god yeue good helthe. c 1500 *Melusine* 264 'By my feyth, sire knight,' said geffray.

(*b*) c 1386 Chaucer *Prol.* 840 And ye sire clerk lat be your shamefastnesse. — *Nun Priest's Prol.* 26 Wherfore sire Monk daun Piers by youre name I pray yow [etc.]. *Ibid.* 44 (Corpus), Come ner sire prest com hider sir Iohn.

† **b.** = Sir *sb.* 6 b. *Obs.*

c 1386 Chaucer *Wife's Prol.* 242 Sire [*v.r.* Sir] olde lecchour, lat thy Iapes be. c 1500 *Melusine* 28 By my feyth, sire vassal, hit commeth to you of grette pryde [etc.]. *Ibid.* 29 Sire musarde.

3. Without following sb. In early use = Sir *sb.* 7. Now only *arch.* (= 'your majesty') or as an echo of French usage.

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 52 Me leoue sire,..is hit nu so ouer vuel uor te toten utward? c 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 49 'A, sire,' quath þe luþere Quiene,..'Furst ichulle to þe drinke'. 13.. *K. Alis.* 2099 (W.), A knyght com sone rennyng, And saide, 'Sire, up on hast!' 1390 Gower *Conf.* III. 301 'Ha, lieve sire,' tho quod sche, 'Now tak the harpe'. 1470–85 Malory *Arthur* vii. xviii. 240 Sire said the reed knyght.. al this wil I do as ye commaunde. c 1500 *Melusine* 267 Sire, the kyng is departed from hens. [1672 Temple *Ess., Government* Wks. 1720 I. 100 The peculiar Compellation of the King in France, is by the Name of Sire.] 1768 Sterne *Sent. Journ.* (1778) I. 3 By heaven! Sire, it is not well done. 1820 Shelley *Œd. Tyr.* i. 71 Your sacred Majesty...They are in waiting, Sire. 1845 S. Austin *Ranke's Hist. Ref.* II. 357 'Sire,' said he, 'there has been a battle before Pavia'.

† **b.** = Sir *sb.* 7 b. *Obs.*

c 1350 *Will. Palerne* 2248 Herkenes nowe, hende sires, ȝe han herd ofte, wich a cri has be cried. a 1375 *Lay-Folks Mass-Bk.* App. iv. 257 Certes, sires; ful good hit is To stonde stille at þe Mes. c 1412 Hoccleve *Reg. Princ.* 2747 Considereth, sires, I am oon of þo [etc.]. 1426 Audelay *Poems* (Percy Soc.) 6 Gentyl sires, herkene to me. c 1500 *Melusine* 271 After, after, fayre sires.

† **c.** = Sir *sb.* 7 c. *Obs.*

1426 *Paston Lett.* I. 24. 1490 *Ibid.* III. 363.

II. 4. One who exercises dominion or rule; a lord, master, or sovereign. In ME. freq. in phrase *lord and sire*. Now *rare* or *Obs.*

1297 R. Glouc. (Rolls) 6556 He wende aboute as noble sire fram londe to londe. a 1300 *Cursor M.* 440 He..sette him heist in his hall, Als prince and sire ouer oþer all. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 1260 Þay..þat sumtyme sete in her sale syres & burdes. 1422 tr. *Secreta Secret., Priv. Priv.* 217 This yonglynge..aftyr be-came a grete Sire in the realme. 1456 Sir G. Haye *Law Arms* (S.T.S.) 42 And sa was Romulus all hale lord and syre. 1513 Douglas *Æneid* ix. iv. 58 Soupyt in wyne and sleip [are] baith man and syre. c 1586 Sidney *Ps.* xviii. iv, Then thundred heav'nly sire. 1608 Topsell *Serpents* (1658) 780 Podagra..quietly laid herself down at the feet of this corsie sire. 1812 Shelley *Devil's Walk* xxviii, With delight its Sire to see Hell's adamantine limits burn.

† **b.** A lord or ruler *of* a specified place. *Obs.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 22256 A king..þat of þe romain sal Impire Hali lauerd be and sire. 1338 R. Brunne *Chron.* (1810) 14 In Charlemayn courte, sire of Saynt Dinys. 1390 Gower *Conf.* I. 250 Of thilke Empire He was coroned Lord and Sire. 1415 Hoccleve *To Sir J. Oldcastle* 265 Almighty god thow lord of al, and Syre. c 1430 Lydg. *Min. Poems* (Percy Soc.) 25 Where is Pirrus, that was lord and sire Of Ynd? 1526 Skelton *Magnyf.* 1491 Syrus, that soleme syar of Babylon. 1535 Stewart *Cron. Scot.* II. 217 For his reward.., Of tha landis tha maid him lord and syre.

5. A person of some note or importance; an aged or elderly man. Also generally, man, fellow.

1362 Langl. *P. Pl.* A. xi. 62 Nou is vche boye bold broþel an oþer, To talken of þe Trinite to beon holden a syre. c 1440 *Ipomydon* 1643 He semyd a fole, that queynte syre, Bothe by hede and by atyre. a 1500 *Debate of the Carpenter's tools* 241 in Hazl. *E. P. P.* I. 88 The wymbulle spekes lyke a syre. 1508 Dunbar *Tua Mariit Wemen* 145 Fra sic a syre, God ȝow saif, my sueit sisteris deir! 1548 Udall, etc. *Erasm. Par. Matt.* iv. 32 That maliciouse and crafty olde syre. 1600 Hakluyt *Voy.* (1810) III. 388 Our men, regarding his age, began to make much of him;..whereat the old sier showed himselfe very glad. 1630 *Tincker of Turvey* 41 This smith was a quaint sire, As merry as bird on brier. 1667 Milton *P. L.* xi. 715 At length a Reverend Sire among them came. 1807 Crabbe *Par. Reg.* i. 688 To name an infant meet our village-sires. 1814 Scott *Ld. of Isles* v. xxiv, 'What says the monk?'—'The holy Sire Owns, that..She sought his skiff.'

6. A father; a male parent; also, a forefather. (Cf. Grandsire 1.) Now chiefly *poet.*

c 1250 *Lutel Soth Serm.* 81 in *O. E. Misc.* 190 Hire sire and hire dame þreteþ hire to bete. 1377 Langl. *P. Pl.* B. Prol. 189, I herde my sire seyn..Þere þe catte is a kitoun, þe courte is ful elyng. c 1385 Chaucer *L. G. W.* 2492 (*Phyllis*), Fals in loue was he rygh as his syre. c 1400 *Destr. Troy* 13198 Þat noble he stale Fro the souerain hir Syre, & soght with hir furth. 14.. *Sir Beues* 1283+244 He made a fyre And threwe þer yn dam & syre. 1566 Painter *Pal. Pleas.* I. 4 Whose sire was the old earl of Bedford. 1582 Stanyhurst *Æneis* ii. (Arb.) 64 Pyrrhus shortlye wyl hither, Thee soon fast bye the syre, thee syre that murthred at altars. 1674 Milton *P. R.* i. 86 His Mother then is mortal, but his Sire He who obtains the Monarchy of Heav'n. 1697 Dryden *Virg. Georg.* iii. 282 Nor be with harmful Parsimony won To follow what our homely Sires have done. 1742 Gray *Adversity* 9 When first thy Sire to send on earth Virtue, his darling Child, design'd. 1791 Cowper *Iliad* ii. 57 The sceptre of his sires he took. 1814 Scott *Ld. of Isles* ii. xxxii, In distant ages, sire to son Shall tell thy tale of freedom won. 1871 B. Taylor *Faust* (1875) II. iii. 177 My sire the daughter gave him and the government.

attrib. and *Comb.* a 1835 Motherwell *Poet. Wks.* (1847) 10 'Tis Harold—'tis the Sire-bereaved—Who goads the dread career. a 1849 Mangan *Poems* (1859) 442 Shame to me,..my sire-land, Not to know thy soil and skies!

b. *fig.* and *transf.*

1718 Prior *The Flies*, Sire of Insects, mighty Sol. 1784 Cowper *Task* ii. 674 Profusion is the sire. 1821 Shelley *Adonais* iv, He died, Who was the Sire of an immortal strain. 1871 Earle *Philol. Eng. Tongue* vi. 245 The venerable sire of Gothic philology, Jacob Grimm.

7. A male parent of a quadruped; *esp.* a stallion. Correlative to *dam*.

1523 Fitzherb. *Husb.* § 68 She shall haue moste comonly a sandy colte,..neyther lyke syre nor damme. 1594 T. B. *La Primaud. Fr. Acad.* ii. 54 Beastes haue no other care of their yong ones, but onely..vntill they bee able to feede.. themselues: afterward, both syre and damme and little ones forget one another. 1607 Topsell *Four-f. Beasts* (1658) 229 The Pharsalian Mares evermore bring Foals very like their Syre. 1697 Dryden *Virg. Past.* i. 32 So Kids and Whelps their Sires and Dams express. 1733 Pope *Ess. Man* iii. 126 Thus beast and bird their common charge attend; The mothers nurse it, and the sires defend. 1846 J. Baxter *Libr. Pract. Agric.* (ed. 4) I. 423 Although both sire and dam may possess some good points, yet in the offspring these will be lost. 1859 Jephson *Brittany* iii. 30 They must not feed their sires upon straw.

transf. 1780 Cowper *Progr. Err.* 568 The mind and conduct..: Each, sire and dam of an infernal race, Begetting and conceiving all that's base.

Sire (səiəɹ), *v.* Also 6 **syre**. [f. Sire *sb.*] *trans.* To beget or procreate; to become the sire of:

a. Of persons, or in general use.

1611 Shaks. *Cymb.* iv. ii. 26 Cowards father Cowards, & Base things Syre Bace. 1835 Longf. *Outre-mer* Prose Wks. 1886 I. 119 He was a gross, corpulent fellow,..sired by a comic actor. 1891 Zangwill *Bachelors Club* 82 His father had just that measure of talent which so often sires a genius.

transf. 1902 Owen Wister *Virginian* xiv, The blamed thing was sired by a whole doggone Dutch syndicate.

b. *spec.* Of animals, esp. horses. (The more frequent use.)

1828–32 in Webster. 1882 *Pall Mall G.* 1 July 6/2 These also are animals with rare pedigrees...Several are sired by Kisber. 1894 Astley *50 Years Life* II. 190 He sired some real good hunters.

Sire, obs. variant of Sc. Syre, drain.

Siredon (səirī·dən). [a. late L. *Sīrēdon*, ad. Gr. Σειρηδών, late form of Σειρήν Siren. Named by Wagler (1828–33).] The axolotl.

1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 56/1 *Siredon*, Wagler's name for the Axolotl. 1875 Cope *Check-list N. Amer. Batrachia* 63 The Siredons, or larval *Amblystomae*. 1879 E. P. Wright *Anim. Life* 402 Dumeril has also shown that the Siredons were capable of reproduction.

Sireless (səiə·ɹlės), *a.* [f. Sire *sb.* + -less.] Having no sire; fatherless.

1598 Sylvester *Du Bartas* ii. i. i. *Eden* 583 The Beast is lust-less, sex-less, sire-less, mute. a 1618 — *Triumph Faith* iii. xxiii, That Mother-Maid, Who Sire-lesse bore her Sire, yet ever-Maid. 1790 A. Wilson *To D. Brodie* Poet. Wks. (1846) 9 The sullen midnight tempest roars; Loud o'er my sireless dome it wildly howls. 1814 Byron *Address Caledonian Meeting* 20 The sireless offspring and the lonely spouse. 1850 Blackie *Æschylus* I. 124 Them sireless see in dire starvation's gripe.

Siren (səiə·rən), *sb.* Forms: *α.* 4 **sereyn, -ayn**, 5 **-ayne**, 6 *Sc.* **seryne, syraine**. *β.* 4–7 *pl.* **sirenes** (5 **syrenes**); 6–8 **syrene**, 7 **sirene** (**syriney**). *γ.* 5– **siren**. *δ.* 5– **syren**. [Ultimately ad. Gr. Σειρήν (pl. Σειρῆνες, first mentioned in *Odyss.* xii. 39 ff.), through L. *Sīrēn* and late L. *Sīrēna*; the latter is the source of It. and Sp. *sirena, serena*, Pg. *sereia, serea*, F. *sirène*, and OF. *sereine, seraine*, whence the earliest forms in English.]

I. † **1.** An imaginary species of serpent. *Obs.*

This sense is derived from glossarial explanations of L. *sirenes* in the Vulgate text of *Isaiah* xiii. 22, where the Wycliffite versions have 'wengid edderes' and 'fliynge serpentis'.

1340 *Ayenb.* 61 An eddre þet hatte serayn, þet yernþ more zuyþere þanne hors, and oþerhuyl vleþ [etc.]. [1398 Trevisa *Barth. De P. R.* xviii. ix. (Bodl. MS.), In Arabia beþ serpentes wiþ winges, þat beþ icleped Sirene,..and here venym is so stronge þat deþe comeþ tofore þe biting.] c 1520 Andrew *Noble Lyfe* iii. lxxxiii, Ther be also in some places of arabye, serpentis named sirenes, that ronne faster than an horse, & haue wynges to flye.

2. *Classical Mythol.* One of several fabulous monsters, part woman, part bird, who were supposed to lure sailors to destruction by their enchanting singing.

In early use frequently confused with the mermaid.

α. c 1366 Chaucer *Rom. Rose* 684 Though we mermaydens clepe hem here,..Men clepen hem sereyns in Fraunce. 1481 Caxton *Myrr.* ii. ix. 88 They be called seraynes or mermaydens. 1572 *Satir. Poems Reform.* xxxviii. 33 With sangis lyke the seryne our lyfis thow allurit.

β. 1387 Trevisa *Higden* II. 369 Þe þre Sirenes, þat were half maydens, half foules, and hadde wynges and clawes. 1390 Gower *Conf.* I. 58 Sirenes of a wonder kynde Ben Monstres,..And in the grete Se thei duellen. c 1407 Lydg. *Reason & Sens.* 1772 Hit passed of force and myght Sirenes song,..Which ar meremaydenes of the se. c 1430 — *Misericordias* 83 Syrenes, with warblys of swetnesse Blente ther resouns. c 1520 L. Andrew *Noble Lyfe* iii. lxxxiii, Syrene, the mermayde is a dedely beste that bringeth a man gladly to dethe. 1560 Daus tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 18 He must.. sayle besydes theyr songes as the enticementes or daungerous rockes of the Sirenes. 1605 Daniel *Queen's Arcadia* i. i, The Foggs and the Syrene offends us more. 1648 Hexham ii, *Een Meer-minne*, a Mer-maide, or a Syriney. 1661 Lovell *Hist. Anim. & Min.* Isagoge a vj b, The fabulous [birds] are, the..harpie, stymphalides, sirenes,..phœnix. 1726 De Foe *Hist. Devil* (1822) 265 She talked like an angel, sung like a Syrene.

γ. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 13286 When the Sirens this sene,.. þai wyn to the wale ship, & walton all vnder. 1598 J. DICKENSON *Greene in Conc.* (1878) 148 They hauing Sirens tongues and Crocodiles teares, thereby entic'd him to intangle him. 1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* I. ii. II. vi, Voluntary solitariness..brings on like a Siren..some Sphinx to this irrevocable gulf. 1682 SIR T. BROWNE *Chr. Mor.* (1716) 24 There is no Damocles like unto self opinion, nor any siren to our own fawning conceptions. 1753 HOGARTH *Anal. Beauty* vi. 32 The sphinx and siren have been admired, and accounted elegant in all ages. 1776 BURNEY *Hist. Music* (1789) I. II. ii. 310 All ancient authors agree in telling us that Sirens inhabited the coast of Sicily. 1831 KEIGHTLEY *Myth. Anc. Gr. & It.* 246 Hesiod describes the mead of the Sirens as blooming with flowers. 1876 A. S. MURRAY *Mythol.* iii. (1877) 38 The Sirens are strictly personifications, not of the sea, but of the dangers of the sea-coast to sailors.

δ. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 13271, I..sailet þurgh a sea þere Syrens were in. 1657 H. PINNELL *Philos. Ref.* 26 Nimphs, Undens, Melosyns, whose Monsters or bastards are the Syrens that swim upon the water. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* II. 364/1 This is one of the kinds of Mermaids.., and is the right Syren; two of them, about..1670, was brought dead, to our City of Chester,..where I..drew them. 1768–74 TUCKER *Lt. Nat.* (1834) I. 315 When Ulysses stopped the ears of his crew with wax, on sailing by the Syrens. 1820 T. S. HUGHES *Trav. Sicily* I. v. 163 It is of the purest gold, and represents a Syren. 1877 *Times* 17 Feb. 4/4 Projecting from the extreme edges..are, first, 15 birds with human faces—syrens.

3. *fig.* One who, or that which, sings sweetly, charms, allures, or deceives, like the Sirens.

γ. 1590 SHAKS. *Com. Err.* III. ii. 47 Oh traine me not sweet Mermaide with thy note, To drowne me in..teares: Sing Siren for thy selfe. *c* 1630 MILTON *At a Solemn Music* 1 Blest pair of Sirens,..Sphear-born harmonious Sisters, Voice and Vers. 1653 BINNING *Serm.* (1845) 595 These are Blessed Sirens that..Pipe..some sad and woful ditties of men's sin. 1756 C. SMART *Horace, Sat.* II. iii. (1826) II. 109 That guilty Siren, sloth, must be avoided. 1768–74 TUCKER *Lt. Nat.* (1834) II. 552 Pleasure is..a very siren, attracting only to devour. 1813 SCOTT *Trierm.* III. xxxii, As round the band of sirens trip, He kiss'd one damsel's laughing lip. 1857 HUGHES *Tom Brown* I. i, To accept the oft-proffered invitation of these sirens. 1884 *Christian World* 19 June 453/2 The influence of the sirens of the political boudoir.

δ. 1588 SHAKS. *Titus A.* II. i. 23 This Queene, This Syren, that will charme Romes Saturnine, And see his shipwracke. 1592 GREENE *Groat's W. Wit* (1617) 7 Deceyuing Syrens, whose eyes are Adamants, whose wordes are Witchcrafts. 1627 E. F. *Hist. Edw. II* (1680) 4 This Syren (as some write) came out of Gascoign. 1665 BOYLE *Occas. Refl.* I. iv, Fortune has seldome yet vouchsaf'd to turn Syren to pervert me. 1756 tr. *Keysler's Trav.* (1760) IV. 13 There are too many instances of intrigues..with these wanton syrens, having been revenged with death. 1789 MRS. PIOZZI *Journ. France* I. 176 These pretty syrens were delighted to seize upon us. 1803 H. K. WHITE *Clifton Grove* 108 Why clasp the syren pleasure to his arms. 1848 GALLENGA *Italy* I. p. xxv, A rosy syren before—Hope,..always receding from its embrace.

† **4.** A drone bee. *Obs. rare.*

1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* I. 318 The Drones at the beginning be termed Sirenes or Cephenes. 1658 ROWLAND tr. *Mouffet's Theat. Ins.* 930 Of the Sirens there are two sorts, the one lesse all of a duskie colour; the other bigger, black mixt with other colours.

5. One or other of the eel-like gradient and tailed amphibians belonging to the family *Sirenidæ*, native to N. America; esp. the mud-iguana, *Siren lacertina*.

So named by Linnæus on account of the statement made to him by Dr. Garden, that it had a sort of singing voice.

[1766 tr. *Linnæus* in *Phil. Trans.* LVI. 192 It must be a new and very distinct genus, and should most properly have the name of *Siren*.] 1791 SHAW *Nat. Misc.* Pl. 61 The genus with which the Siren has evidently the greatest possible affinity is that of Lacerta or Lizard. 1831 GRIFFITH tr. *Cuvier* IX. 414 The Lacertine Siren (*Siren Lacertina*). 1855 OWEN *Skel. & Teeth* 28 In the siren the pelvic arch and limbs are not developed. 1883 *Science* II. 160/2 This siren will eat crayfish.

6. *Anat.* (See first quot. and cf. sense 9.)

1839 *Penny Cycl.* XV. 347/2 In another family of [human] monsters, denominated *Symeles*, or Sirens, the two thoracic or abdominal limbs are fused together into a single member. 1902 *Brit. Med. Jrnl.* 15 Mar. 671 His identification of the Siren with the sympodial fetus..seems exceedingly probable.

7. An acoustical instrument (invented by Cagniard de la Tour in 1819) for producing musical tones and used in numbering the vibrations in any note. Cf. SIRENE.

1820 *Ann. Reg.* II. 1364 The Syren, a new Acoustical Instrument...In consequence of this property of being sonorous in the water the instrument has been called the Syren. 1870 TYNDALL *Heat* viii. App. 256, I placed a syren within a few feet of the singing flame. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2191/1 It has been ascertained by means of the siren that the wings of the mosquito move at the rate of 15,000 times a second. 1884 *Encycl. Brit.* XVII. 104/1 The 'siren'.. consists essentially of a circular plate, revolving on an axis through its centre at right angles to its plane.

b. An instrument, made on a similar principle but of a larger size, used on steamships for giving fog-signals, warnings, etc.

1879 TYNDALL *Fragm. Sci.* (ed. 6) I. x. 332 He..found that when the syren was sounded no echo was returned. 1880 *Daily News* 27 Dec. 2/2 The Siren can be sounded with either steam or compressed air, made to pass through a fixed flat disc fitted into the throat of a long trumpet. 1897 KIPLING *Capt. Courageous* 11 Harvey heard the muffled shriek of a liner's siren.

II. *attrib.* and *Comb.*

8. Attrib., in sense 'characteristic of, resembling that of, a Siren', as *siren air, beauty, note,* etc.

α 1568 ASCHAM *Scholem.* I. (Arb.) 75 Noble personages,.. whom all the Siren songes of Italie, could neuer vntwyne from the maste of Gods word. 1588 *Marprel. Epist.* (Arb.) 43 Be not led away by the Syren sounds and intisements of yong Iohn. 1598 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. i. III. *Furies* 787 Whose Syren-notes Inchaunt chaste Susans. 1600 SHAKS. *Sonn.* cxix, What potions haue I drunke of Syren teares? 1665 J. SPENCER *Vulg. Proph.* 2 Soft and siren words and periods which..make a pretty sound in the ear. 1728–46 THOMSON *Seasons, Spring* 991 Her syren-voice, inchanting, draws him on To guileful shores. α 1743 SAVAGE *Valentine's Day* 19 Far from that shore, where syren-beauty dwells. 1788 BURNS *Written in Friars-Carse Hermitage* iii, Pleasure with her siren air May delude the thoughtless pair. 1827 KEBLE *Chr. Y., Wednesday before Easter*, Be silent, Praise, Blind guide with siren voice. 1879 FARRAR *St. Paul* (1883) 712 The gentle breathing of the south wind..was but a siren song which had lured them to their destruction.

b. Appositive, as *siren daughter, enemy, hag,* etc.

1641 MILTON *Ch. Govt.* II. Wks. 1851 III. 149 The invocation of Dame Memory and her Siren Daughters. α 1680 BUTLER *Rem.* (1759) II. 76 How silly were their Sages heretofore To fright their Heroes with a Syren-whore? 1742 POPE *Dunc.* IV. 541 Others the Syren Sisters warble round, And empty heads console with empty sound. 1768–74 TUCKER *Lt. Nat.* (1834) II. 561 Then the siren enemies are busiest about us. 1794 COLERIDGE *Lines on a Friend who died of a frenzy Fever*, Vice, siren-hag! in native ugliness. 1836 NEWMAN *Siren Isles* in *Lyra Apost.*, The craft of Siren choirs. 1871 FARRAR *Witn. Hist.* ii. 76 When..the music of Memory and her syren daughters has been brought low.

c. Forming adjs. or advs., as *siren-haunted, -voiced*; *siren-like.*

α 1617 BAYNE *Lect.* (1634) 235 Siren-like songs. α 1704 T. BROWN *Liberline* i. Wks. 1711 IV. 144 No more shall your Voice, Syren-like, charm my Heart. 1819 MRS. HEMANS *Tales & Hist. Scenes, Death of Conradin* 244 Bid him guide Thy steps Those syren-haunted seas beside. 1879 GEO. ELIOT *Theo. Such* ii. 44 The siren-haunted sea.

9. In sense 6, as *siren form, formation, -like.*

1831 SOUTH *Otto's Path. Anat.* i. 32 The most perfect degree of coalescence in the human subject, the syren formation, in which even the whole of the lower extremities are united into one common limb. 1849–52 *Todd's Cycl. Anat.* IV. II. 964/1 *Sympodia* or Siren-like form. 1883 *Encycl. Brit.* XVI. 764/2 Another curious result of defective separation of symmetrical parts is the siren form of fœtus.

10. In sense 7 b, as *siren signal, -trumpet.*

1879 TYNDALL *Fragm. Sci.* (ed. 6) I. x. 332 The aërial echoes heard when standing behind the syren-trumpet at the South Foreland. 1899 F. T. BULLEN *Way Navy* 70 Making our presence known to one another by siren signals.

Si·ren, *v. rare.* Also syren. [f. prec.]

1. *trans.* To allure, entice, persuade.

1690 *Secr. Hist. Chas. II & Jas. II*, 50 The advantageous league which she had pleasantly syren'd her brother to make with the French Monarch.

2. *intr.* To make signals with the siren.

1895 *Westm. Gaz.* 2 Feb. 5/1 The statement that 'it is the custom of the North German Lloyds to run "syrening and flaring" down the North Sea'..was absurd.

† **Sirenaic.** *Obs. rare.* [irreg. f. SIREN *sb.*] A member of the celebrated Club which met at the Mermaid Tavern.

Due to confusion of the siren with the mermaid: see SIREN *sb.* 2.

1616 CORYAT *Trav. Eng. Wits* 37 Right Generous, Iouiall, and Mercuriall Sirenaicks. *Ibid.* 42 Farewell noble Sirenaicks!

Si·rename. *rare.* [Alteration of *surname* SURNAME, after SIRE *sb.*] A patronymic; a family name.

1542 UDALL *Erasm. Apoph.* 305 b, It should bee called our sire name, that is to say ye name of our fathers bloudde. 1552 *Ord. St. Barthol. Hosp.* D iij, Ye shall manifestly declare..the names and sirenames of so many as that yeare haue died in the house. 1588 GREENE *Perimedes* Wks. (Grosart) VII. 17 Pharao the last king of Memphis of that sirename. 1871 M. COLLINS *Marq. & Merch.* I. iii. 100 Old Reuben Mowbray had an excellent surname or sirename.

‖ **Sirene.** Also sirène. Now *rare* or *Obs.* [F. *sirène.*] = SIREN *sb.* 7.

1830 *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) IV. 777 This is precisely the principle of the Sirene of Baron Cagniard de la Tour...The Sound produced is clear and sweet, like the human voice. 1850 *Pract. Mech. Jrnl.* III. 149 (*title*), On the Sirene, a new sound producer. 1866 *Chambers's Encycl.* VIII. 745/1 More complex forms, such as Helmholtz's double sirène.

† **Sireneal,** *a. Obs. rare*⁻¹. In 6 syreneall. [irreg. f. SIREN *sb.*] Of or given by sirens.

1592 R. D. *Hypnerotomachia* 53 b, [Nymphs] which..did alter their Musicke and Instruments, and during the banquetting, others with an Angelike and Syreneall consent, did tune the same to their handes.

† **Sireniacal,** *a. Obs. rare.* [Cf. SIRENAIC.] Belonging to the Mermaid Club.

1616 CORYAT *Trav. Eng. Wits* 32 Pray commend me to M. Protoplast, and all the Sireniacall gentlemen. *Ibid.* 37.

Sirenian (səiri·niăn), *sb.* and *a.*[1] *Zool.* [f. mod.L. *Sirenia*, f. L. *Sīrēn* SIREN *sb.*]

A. *sb.* Any member of the order *Sirenia* of fish-like aquatic mammals.

1883 *Science* I. 346/1 The discovery of a new fossil sirenian in South Carolina. 1884 GOODE *Nat. Hist. Aquat. Anim.* 114 The Sirenians or Sea-Cows. 1894 LYDEKKER *Roy. Nat. Hist.* II. 567 The existing Sirenians resemble the Cetaceans in having their fore-limbs converted into flippers.

B. *adj.* Pertaining to or having the characteristics of the order *Sirenia.* 1891 in *Cent. Dict.*

† **Sirenian,** *a.*[2] *Obs.* Also syrenian. [f. SIREN *sb.* + -IAN.]

1. Of or characteristic of a siren; alluring, seductive, deceitful.

1600 TOURNEUR *Trans. Metamorph.* li, To her Syrenian Song the Knight gave eare. 1633 PRYNNE *1st Pt. Histriom.* Ep. Ded., So desperately infatuated with their Syrenian enchantments. 1648 J. BEAUMONT *Psyche* VIII. CXXXIV, No wanton Dress, no Tongue's Sirenian Grace.

2. Inhabited or frequented by alluring women.

1659 HOWELL *Lexicon, Ital. Prov.*, In that Syrenian Citty [Naples] 'tis found that one hair of a woman can draw more then a hundred yoaks of Oxen.

Sirenic (səire·nik), *a. rare.* Also 8–9 syrenic (8 -ick). [f. SIREN *sb.* + -IC.]

1. Melodious; charming, fascinating, alluring.

α 1704 T. BROWN *Ep. to Ch. Dives* Wks. 1711 IV. 180 Spell-caught by their Syrenick Voice. 1822 T. G. WAINEWRIGHT *Ess. & Crit.* (1880) 292, I can truly describe her intense power over me as that of the moon on the restless tides;—a Syrenic song [etc.]. 1877 RUSKIN *Fors Clav.* lxxxiii. 360 Which satyric dance and sirenic song accomplished.

2. Of persons: Sweet-singing.

1797 ANNA SEWARD *Lett.* (1811) IV. 393 Nor less was he charmed with the vocal duetts and trios of our syrenic friends.

Sire·nical, *a.* Also 6–7 syrenicall, 7 -ical, sirenicall. [f. as prec. + -ICAL.]

1. = SIRENIC *a.* 1. Now *rare.*

1599 *Broughton's Lett.* ii. 11 This is the Syrenicall allurement of your attendant φιλοδοξία. 1609 SIR E. HOBY *Let. to Mr. T. H.* 4 Freeing..my deare countrimen from your Syrenicall deceit. *Ibid.* 92 Bobbing your credulous Ladies with these Syrenicall insinuations. 1662 in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* Ser. III. IV 283 They play on loud virginals joyntly to their singing, which..make up a syrenical and spherical harmony. 1900 UPWARD *Eben. Lobb* 254 There was not much that was sirenical about this instrument.

† **2.** = SIRENIC *a.* 2. *Obs.*

1604 MARSTON *Malcontents* III. iv, But here's a couple of sirenical rascals shall enchant ye: what shall they sing, my good lord?

Hence **Sire·nically** *adv.*

1888 *Punch* 4 August 53 We loathe deserted wives and sirenically influenced (if we may coin an epithet) husbands.

Sire·niform, *a. rare.* [f. SIREN *sb.* 6 + -(I)FORM.] Of human monsters: Having the lower extremities abnormally united in a single limb.

1849–52 *Todd's Cycl. Anat.* IV. II. 965/1 A surgeon..supposed that the Sireniform monster had been formed during a very difficult delivery.

Si·renize, *v.* Now *rare.* Also 6 syranyze. [f. SIREN *sb.* + -IZE.] *trans.* To delight or charm; to allure or enchant. Also *intr.* (quot. 1656).

1584 H. CONSTABLE *Diana* VII. viii, Thy transparent eyes.. Whose dumbe conceits diuinely syranyze. 1592 G. HARVEY *Four Lett.* iv. Wks. (Grosart) I. 212 That same gentle kindnes,..that abandoned odious Hatred; That Sirenized Furies. 1623 COCKERAM I, *Syrenize*, to enchaunt, to bewitch. 1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.*, *Sirenize*, to play the Siren, to attract or allure, as Sirens do with singing.

b. To charm *out of* a certain state.

1593 NASHE *Christ's T.* (1613) 123 What soule is so metaphusicall subtile, that can humorously sirenize heauens soule, Iehovah, out of the concealments of his Godhead?

Sirenoid (səi·rĕnoid), *a.* (*sb.*). *Ichth.* [See def. and -OID.] Of or belonging to the group *Sirenoidei* of dipnoid fishes. Also *sb.*, a lung-fish of this group (*Cent. Dict.*).

1875 tr. *Schmidt's Desc. & Darwinism* 238 The notably small division of sirenoid fish which breathe air during the dry season of the year.

† **Si·reny,** *Obs. rare.* In 6 syrenie. [f. SIREN *sb.* + -Y.] Allurement, fascination.

1600 TOURNEUR *Trans. Metamorph.* xvi, Disquiet Eriphila; hel's Syrenie. *Ibid.* XXX, Rowze up the watch, lull'd with world's Syrenie.

Sireship (səi·ɹʃip). [f. SIRE *sb.* + -SHIP.] The state or condition of being a sire; paternity, fatherhood; also *fig.*, authorship.

1837 C. LOFFT *Self-formation* II. 94 The Two Gentlemen must be left at large, to walk abroad and plume themselves in the false bravery of their sireship. 1882 *Standard* 4 Sept. 6/1 His credentials bid fair for the success of his sireship.

Si·ress. *nonce-word.* [f. SIRE *sb.* + -ESS.] A mother; a matron.

1804 EUGENIA DE ACTON *Tale without Words* II. 176 But softly, ye venerable sires and siresses!

Sirfoot, obs. Sc. form of SURFEIT *a.*

Sirgirie, obs. form of SURGERY.

Sirha, obs. form of SIRRAH.

Sirian (si·riăn), *a.* and *sb. Astr.* Also 6–7 Syrian. [f. SIRI-US + -AN.]

1. Of or belonging to Sirius.

1591 SPENSER *M. Hubberd* 5 And the hot Syrian Dog on him [*sc.* the sun] awayting,..Corrupted had th'ayre. 1611 BEAUM. & FL. *Philaster* v. iii, The worthier beasts have made their layers, and slept Free from the Syrian Star. 1685 CARYLL in *Dryden's Misc. Poems* (1727) I. 306 Thrice happy Swains, guarded from Sirian Beams By sacred Springs. 1874 PROCTOR *Expanse of Heaven* 246 We must set all the Sirian planets circling much more rapidly than the corresponding members of the solar family. 1885 CLERKE *Pop. Hist. Astron.* 417 A spectrum of the Sirian pattern.

2. Having a spectrum like that of Sirius.

1892 *Photogr. Ann.* II. 138 The former star..is more nearly allied to the Sirian stars in the distribution of energy in its spectrum. 1903 A. R. WALLACE *Man's Place in Universe* vi. 130 Other astronomers call the first group 'Sirian stars', because Sirius though not the hottest is a characteristic type.

3. *absol.* as *sb.* A star having a spectrum like that of Sirius.

1900 *Edin. Rev.* Apr. 461 Helium or Orion stars merge imperceptibly into Sirians, Sirian into Solar.

‖ **Siriasis** (sirəi·ăsis). *Path.* [a. L. *sīriāsis*, a. Gr. σειρίασις, f. σειριᾶν to be hot and scorching.] A disease affecting children, characterized by inflammation of the brain and membranes, and burning fever. Cf. SIDERATION 3.

1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* II. 397 Yong infants many times be tormented with an vnnaturall heat and burning of their head, called Siriasis. 1693 tr. *Blancard's Phys. Dict.* (ed. 2), *Sirricasis* [sic], an Inflammation, or rather great Heat of the Brain and its Membranes, occasion'd by the heat of the Sun. 1879 LEWIS & SHORT *Lat. Dict.* 1710/3. 1898 P. MANSON *Trop. Dis.* xii. 203 The very definite and probably specific disease described under the name siriasis.

Siriema, variant of SERIEMA.

Sirien, obs. variant of SYRIAN *sb.*

‖ **Sirih** (sī·ri). *Bot.* Also **siri.** [Malay سيرى *sīrih.*] A tropical shrub, *Chavica Siriboa,* of the N. O. *Piperaceæ,* the leaves of which are valued in south-east Asia for chewing with the areca-nut; also, the leaf of this shrub, = BETEL.

1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1064/1. 1869 A. R. WALLACE *Malay Archip.* I. 126 In a small Bamboo case..the Dyak carries his sirih and lime for betel chewing. 1882 DE WINDT *Equator* 72 Mats were spread out, and siri and betel-nut produced.

b. *attrib.*, as *sirih-box, leaf.*

1869 A. R. WALLACE *Malay Archip.* I. 271 A married woman may not accept..a sirih leaf from a stranger. 1881 *Bock's Head-Hunters Borneo* ii. 19 Other princes..squatted on the floor, each with his large silver-gilt sirih-box, and a huge brass spittoon in their midst.

Siringe, obs. form of SYRINGE.

‖ **Siris.** *Bot.* Also **siriss, sirris.** [Hindī *siris.*] **a.** One or other of several leguminous trees of the genus *Albizzia,* native to tropical Asia and Africa. **b.** A similar tree belonging to the genus *Acacia,* esp. *A. sirissa.*

1874 STEWART & BRANDIS *Flora N. West India* 176 *A[lbizzia] Lebbek,*..Siris. *Ibid.* 177 *A[lbizzia] Julibrissin,* ..Pink Siris. 1883 *Cassell's Fam. Mag.* Oct. 685/1 The *Coccus lacca*..is also found on..the Siriss (*Acacia sirissa*). 1896 *Academy* 28 Nov. 458/1 The broad Mall [of Lahore], embowered in siris and peepul trees.

attrib. 1886 KIPLING *Departm. Ditties* 114 Ah! *kŏil,* little *kŏil,* singing on the *siris* bough.

‖ **Sirius** (si·riŭs). *Astr.* Also 6 **Ser-, Syrius.** [L. *Sīrius,* ad. Gr. Σείριος.] A fixed star of the first magnitude, the chief of the constellation Canis Major or Great Dog, and the brightest in the heavens; the dog-star.

c 1374 CHAUCER *Boeth.* I. met. v. (1868) 22 Þe sedes þat.. arcturus saw ben waxen heye cornes whan þe sterre sirius eschaufeþ hym. 1555 EDEN *Decades* (Arb.) 294 *marg.,* Serius is otherwyse cauled Canicula, this is the dogge of whom the Canicular dayes haue theyr name. 1582 STANYHURST *Æneis* III. (Arb.) 75 Thee fields cleene fruictlesse thee dogstar Sirius heated. 1697 DRYDEN *Æneid* x. 382 So Sirius, flashing forth sinister lights, Pale human kind with ..famine frights. 1715 tr. *Gregory's Astron.* (1726) I. 512 An Image of the Sun, as bright as Sirius to an Eye given in Position. 1727 W. BROOME *Poems* 38 When sultry Sirius.. Flames in the Air, and cleaves the glowing Plains. 1756 MASON *Ode Memory* ii. Poems (1774) 20 If Sirius flame with fainting heat. 1847 TENNYSON *Princ.* v. 252 As the fiery Sirius alters hue, And bickers into red and emerald. 1883 JEFFERIES *Story My Heart* i, I prayed..now with the Pleiades, now with the Swan or burning Sirius.

transf. 1891 HARDY *Tess* (1900) 83/2 Each gem turned into an Aldebaran or a Sirius—a constellation of white, red, and green flashes, that interchanged their hues with her every pulsation.

‖ **Sirkar** (sə̄·ɹkāɹ). *Anglo-Ind.* Forms: α, 7 **sercar(e, -carr, -cor;** 7 **sarkar,** 9 **surcar;** 8 **sircār,** 8–9 **sircar,** 9 **sirkar.** β. 7 **cercarr, circare,** 8–9 **circar.** [Urdū (Pers.) سرکار *sarkār,* f. Pers. *sar* head + *kār* agent, doer.]

†**1.** The court or palace of a native king or prince. *Obs.*

1619 in Foster *Eng. Factories India* (1906) I. 160 We weare sent for to the Governors to cut price of our clothes for the Princes sercarr. 1623 *Ibid.* (1908) II. 303 [Three pictures] delivered into the Prince his sercare. 1626 *Ibid.* (1909) III. 141 [A commodity] which belongeth to our masters cercare.

2. A province; a revenue division. Cf. CIRCAR.

1627 in Foster *Eng. Factories India* (1909) III. 176 The Decies of Surrat Cercare..will not obey the Kings firmaen, though the Divan..seemeth to urge them. 1796 MORSE *Amer. Geog.* II. 532 Large provinces called Soubahs, which were subdivided into sircars and Purgunnahs. 1800 *Asiatic Ann. Reg.* II. 15/2 The great failure has occurred in the northern sircars; where..the collections are still attended with difficulty. 1806 T. MAURICE *Ind. Antiq.* I. 285 Multan contains 3 sircars, divided into 8 pergunnahs.

3. The State or Government.

1798 EDMONSTONE in Owen *Wellesley's Desp.* (1877) 61 The allied Sircars look to no other object than the security and tranquillity of their own dominions. 1800 WELLINGTON in Gurw. *Desp.* (1844) I. 54 To make the people pay the circar according to the exchange fixed at Seringapatam. 1883 MATEER *Travancore* (1891) 179 The principal temples..are under the immediate control of the Sirkar or native Government. 1896 B. M. CROKER *Village Tales* 118, I fled to the plains, where I have taken road contracts for the Sirkar, and prospered.

4. A house-steward (usu. native).

1772 VERELST *View Eng. Govt. Bengal* Gloss. p. v, In common usage in Bengal, the under Banyans of European gentlemen are called *Sircars.* 1776 *Trial of Nundocomar* 47/2 The cloth which common sircars tie round their loins. 1796 ELIZA HAMILTON *Lett. Hindoo Rajah* (1811) II. 187 My English Sircar, who has the uncontrolled disbursement of my money. *c* 1803 MRS. SHERWOOD in *Life* (1847) xv. 269 These persons were..stewards, or head servants,--persons in Calcutta called Circars.

5. A native writer or accountant; a clerk employed in a merchant's office for making purchases, etc.

1828 *Asiatic Costumes* 41 The surcars are brokers, agents, and clerks, in all the public offices in Calcutta. 1905 *Statesman* 23 Aug. 3/4 The accused..was a bill collecting sircar in the employ of the complainant.

‖ **Si·rki.** *Anglo-Ind.* Also 9 **sirky, seerky.** [Hindī *sirkī.*] **a.** The upper part of the culm of a species of tall reed-grass, *Saccharum Munjia* or *Sara,* native to India. **b.** Matting made of this.

1810 T. WILLIAMSON *Vade Mecum* I. 489 This *seerky* is composed of the stems of the *surput,* or tassel grass. *Ibid.* 490 In India those itinerants [*sc.* gipsies]..invariably shelter themselves under *seerky.* 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1064/1 Sirki. 1886 YULE & BURNELL *Anglo-Ind. Gloss.* 666/1 It is from the upper part of the flower-bearing stalk of surkunda that sirky is derived.

Sirloin (sə̄·ɹloin). Forms: α. 5–8 **surloyn,** 6–7 **-loyne,** 7 **-loi(g)ne, -line,** 8– **surloin** (8 **sur-loin**). β. 6 **serlyn,** 7 **sir-loyne,** 8 **sir-loyn, sirloyn;** 7 **s'loin,** 8 **sir loin,** 8–9 **sir-loin,** 8– **sirloin.** [ad. OF. **surloigne,* var. of *surlonge,* f. *sur* over, above + *longe* LOIN *sb.* The spelling *sirloin* shows the same tendency as *sirname* for *surname, sirples* (obs.) for *surplice*; its final prevalence may have been largely due to the fictitious etymology variously stated in the following quotations.

1655 FULLER *Ch. Hist.* VI. ii. 299 A Sir-loyne of beef was set before Him (so knighted, saith tradition, by this King Henry [the Eighth]). 1732–8 SWIFT *Polite Conv.* ii. 121 *Miss.* But, pray, why is it call'd a Sir-loyn? *Lord Sparkish.* Why,..our King James First,..being invited to Dinner by one of his Nobles, and seeing a large Loyn of Beef at his Table, he drew out his Sword, and..knighted it. 1822 *Cook's Oracle* 163 Sir-Loin of Beef. This joint is said to owe its name to King Charles the Second, who dining upon a Loin of Beef,..said for its merit it should be knighted, and henceforth called Sir-Loin.]

1. The upper and choicer part of a loin of beef, used for roasting. Also const. *of.*

α. 1554 *Church-w. Acc., St. Marg. Westminster* (Nichols, 1797) 14 A surloyn of beef, 6*s.* 8*d.* 1559–60 *Old City Acc. Bk.* in *Archæol. Jrnl.* XLIII. 175 Paide for a surloyne of beffe, *vs* iiij *d.* 1630 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Gt. Eater Kent* 9 A calfe, a surloyne of roast biefe, a pigge. 1661 PEPYS *Diary* 21 Nov., We had a good surloyne of rost beefe. 1718 *Free-thinker* No. 9. 57 Many..prefer..a Surloin of Beef, or a Haunch of Venison. 1740 SOMERVILLE *Hobbinol* II. 132 A Spit he seiz'd, Just reeking from the fat Surloyn. 1827 J. F. COOPER *Prairie* II. ii. 23 When he has gotten his surloin or his steak. 1885 *Times* 9 Apr. 9 The production of a perfect shorthorn surloin.

fig. 1596 NASHE *Saffron Walden* 48 Let's haue a dozen spare ribs of his rethorique,..and a whole surloyne of his substantiallest sentences and similes.

attrib. 1601 in *Househ. Ord.* (1790) 296 The surloine peece of the beefe. 1885 *Times* 9 Apr. 9 A riband-patterned surloin steak.

β. 1525 *Old City Acc. Bk.* in *Archæol. Jrnl.* XLIII. 172 Payd to the Bochsar for a greyt serlyn, xvid. 1623 *Allhorp MS.* in Simpkinson *Washingtons* (1860) App. 46 A s'loin, a rumpe,..and a rond of beef. 1630 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Wks.* I. 219/1 When..fish is gone,..then these venerable fathers..can take a Sir-loyne of Beefe [etc.]. 1712 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 517 ¶ 2 He had lost his Roast-Beef Stomach, not being able to touch a Sirloin. 1760 SARAH FIELDING *Ophelia* (1785) II. iv, The first cut of a sirloin of beef was better. 1819 S. ROGERS *Human Life* 13 Then the huge ox shall yield the broad sir-loin. 1836 T. HOOK *G. Gurney* III. 67, I hold it an article of faith to have a sirloin of beef upon my table on Sunday. 1865 MISS BRADDON *Doctor's Wife* XV, A side-table was laid for him, and a great sirloin was brought in.

b. *transf.* Of persons.

1648 MAYNE *Amorous War* I. i, I doe feele, One of my Surloynes going. 1757 E. PERRONET *Mitre* II. lxxxvii, The news makes all their Sur-loins crack: Down drops each stounded head. 1823 BYRON *Age of Bronze* xviii, To see proud Albyn's tartans as a belt Gird the gross sirloin of a city Celt.

2. With punning allusion to SIR *sb.* 1. (Cf. the etym. note above.)

1630 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Great Eater of Kent* 10 That he should presently enter combate with a worthy knight, called Sir Loyne of Beefe, and ouerthrow him.

†**Sirly,** *a. Obs. rare.* Also 4 **serreli,** 6 **serly, syrlye.** [f. SIR *sb.* + -LY 1. Cf. SURLY *a.*] Lordly, haughty, imperious.

c 1350 *Will. Palerne* 3316 Now William..stifli forþ rides, so serreli þurþ þe cite al him-self one, þat eche weiȝh was a-wondred. 1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 100 Serly, *imperiosus.* 1579 SPENSER *Sheph. Cal.* July 203 Sike syrlye shepheards han we none, They keepen all the path. 1600 HOLLAND *Livy* XXXV. XXXVIII. 911 Syrly lords (say they) were the Macedonians, and rigorous. 1648 J. BEAUMONT *Psyche* XIX. i, Thine own erected head To far more solid Wretchedness doth bow Than ever made the vilest Reptile be The foot-stool of Contempt to sirly Thee.

Sirmark (sə̄·ɹmaɹk), *sb.* Also 9 **surmark.** [f. MARK *sb.*1] The first element is prob. *sur-* over, above, although *sir-* is the earlier and more usual form.] One or other of several marks made upon a mould to indicate where the respective bevellings are to be applied to the frame-timbers of a vessel.

α. 1664 E. BUSHNELL *Compl. Shipwright* 15 Make Sir-marks to them. 1711 W. SUTHERLAND *Shipbuild. Assist.* 26 Then hang up a Ribbon at the Floor Sirmark. *Ibid.* 52 In the Length, 3, 4, or 5 Sirmarks are made, according to the Length of the Piece. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XVII. 401/1 The lowermost diagonal..which is named the lower sirmark, at which place the bevellings are taken for the hollow of the floors. 1833 RICHARDSON *Merc. Mar. Arch.* 4 Length of midship floor 10 feet 3 inches from sirmark to sirmark. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* IV. 190/1 A line or batten is stretched from some point in the middle-line of the keel to the corresponding heads or sirmarks on opposite sides.

β. 1846 A. YOUNG *Naut. Dict.* 250 The points, called sur-marks, where the respective bevellings are to be applied to the timbers. 1894 *Outing* XXIV. 21/2 A cross..on the staff line and also on the stem..called the surmark.

Hence **Si·rmark** *v.* ? *Obs.*

1664 E. BUSHNELL *Compl. Shipwright* 16 The Moulds being made and Sirmarked to the body of the Vessell.

Sirmyse, obs. form of SURMISE *v.*

Sirname, obs. form of SURNAME.

Siroc (səi·rɒk, sirɒ·k). Forms: α. 8– **siroc** (9 **siroco**). β. 8–9 **sciroc.** γ. 8–9 **siroch.** [a. earlier F. *siroc, siroch* (now *siroco*), or ad. It. *sirocco.*] = SIROCCO 1.

Freq. written with a capital letter.

α. 1775 in ASH. 1786 *European Mag.* IX. 286 The fierce Siroc prevails! 1800 SOUTHEY in C. C. Southey *Life* (1849) II. 93 A detestable burning blast, a bastard sort of siroc. 1827 MONTGOMERY *Pelican Isl.* III. 25 Every wind From the hot Siroc to the wet Monsoon. 1867 EMERSON *May-Day,* etc. Wks. (Bohn) III. 438 These the siroc could not melt.

β. 1789 [see b]. 1819 W. S. ROSE *Lett.* I. 289, I attribute ..this strange influence of perfumes to the Sciroc. 1879 M. D. CONWAY *Demonol.* I. II. vii. 184 Here sciroc, there hurricane, and often tornado.

γ. 1800 HELENA WELLS *Constantia Neville* (ed. 2) I. 261 The grass looked as if it had endured the baleful effects of the blighting Siroch. 1825–9 MRS. SHERWOOD *Lady of Manor* V. xxix. 122 That woody vale,..where no burning siroch blows.

b. *attrib.* and *Comb.*

1789 MRS. PIOZZI *Journ. France* I. 190 A sciroc wind, or a rainy day, or a hard frost. *c* 1808 R. K. PORTER *Russ. & Swed.* (1813) II. xlii. 193 The Siroc sultriness and oppression..increases at every step. 1809 BRYDONE *Tour thro' Sicily* xx. 207 Lest we should be caught by the Sirocco winds. 1829 POE *Tamerlane* Poems (1859) 215 Like rain Upon the Siroc-withered plain.

Sirocco (sirɒ·ko). Also 7 **syrocco,** 8 **syrocca, serocco;** 7, 9 **scirocco,** 9 **scirrocco.** [a. It. *sirocco, scirocco* (also *sciloco*), = Sp. *siroco* (also *xaloque*), Pg. *xarouco,* Prov. *siroc,* older F. *siroc, siroch* (also *siloc, sciloque,* etc.), ad. Arab. شرق *sharq* east, f. *sharaqa* (the sun) rose. Cf. prec.]

1. An oppressively hot and blighting wind, blowing from the north coast of Africa over the Mediterranean and affecting parts of Southern Europe (where it is also moist and depressing). Usually with *the.*

α. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* I. 211 The South-East winde (which the Italians call Syrocco) did blow very contrary to us. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* x. 706 Forth rush..Eurus and Zephir with thir lateral noise, Sirocco, and Libecchio. 1756–7 tr. *Keysler's Trav.* (1760) II. 96 The woods south of Rome are kept up as a fence against the *Sirocco,* or south-west wind. *a* 1791 WESLEY *Serm.* lxix. Wks. 1811 IX. 251 There will be no Sirocco in Italy. 1818 MRS. ILIFF *Poems sev. Occas.* (ed. 2) 120 When dire Sirocco..From Afric's burning sands mephitic vapours brings. 1839 HAWTHORNE *Marble Faun* xl, Where the sirocco steals away their strength. 1884 F. M. CRAWFORD *Rom. Singer* I. 21 The sirocco was blowing up and down the streets.

transf. 1878 E. BRADDON *Life India* ii. 14 From the west blows a scorching wind, the *sirocco* of..the Daodpore desert.

β. 1819 SHELLEY *Lett.* Prose Wks. 1880 IV. 134 My health is better so long as the scirocco blows. 1861 MISS BEAUFORT *Egypt. Sepulch. & Syrian Shrines* II. 223 Under the balmy skies of the early spring, before the horrible scirocco begins to blow. 1866 HOWELLS *Venet. Life* iii. 33 The insidious heat of the scirocco.

b. With *a* and pl.

α. 1820 BYRON *Mar. Fal.* I. ii. 572 The atmosphere is thick and dusky; 'Tis a sirocco. 1884 *St. James's Gaz.* 11 Dec. 10/2 The storm..was followed by a sirocco, which lasted until noon.

β. 1841 FITZGERALD *Lett.* (1889) I. 71 We have incessant rain, which is as bad as your sciroccos. 1860 MRS. HARVEY *Cruise Claymore* vii. 134 A khamseen was blowing;..this wind, which is an exaggerated scirocco, brings clouds of hot sand from the desert.

c. *fig.* A blighting influence; a fiery storm.

1864 G. A. SALA *Quite Alone* I. ii. 40 Now Scandal's sirocco seized a spiteful anecdote, and twirled and twisted and sent it spinning. 1865 J. H. INGRAHAM *Pillar of Fire* (1872) 401, I..have passed through a sirocco of the soul.

2. *elliptic.* A sirocco drying-machine (see 3).

1890 *Daily News* 2 Sept. 2/5 When the hops have been sufficiently rolled..they are..placed in the drying machine or sirocco. 1892 WALSH *Tea* 105 In the process of 'firing' the leaves are..placed in layers in a hot-air machine, known as a 'Sirocco'.

3. *attrib.,* as *sirocco blast, -dust, fog, gale, weather, wind*; also **sirocco fan,** a fan for forcing a strong current of air into a mine, etc.; **sirocco**

drying-closet, drying-machine, oven, a closet, machine, or oven for drying hops or tea-leaves, by means of a hot, moist current of air (cf. 2).

1894 GLADSTONE *Horace* III. xxiii. 5 Your vines shall mock *scirocco blasts. 1885 C. G. W. LOCK *Worksh. Rec.* Ser. IV. 115/2 About a third of the tea..is cured in Davidson's so-called '*sirocco' drying-closets. 1890 *Pall Mall G.* 1 Oct. 2/3 The first '*Sirocco' drying machine (in which hops are being made into tea). 1879 *Encycl. Brit.* X. 266/1 The dust or sand of dried lakes..borne away into the upper regions of the atmosphere,..may descend again..in the form of 'red-fog', 'sea-dust', or '*sirocco-dust'. 1861 MISS BEAUFORT *Egypt. Sepulch. & Syrian Shrines* II. xxiii. 295 The mountains..were veiled in a dreamy, sad-looking *scirocco fog. 1895 F. M. CRAWFORD *Casa Braccio* xxxvi, Then came November with its pestilent *sirocco gales and its dampness. 1890 *Daily News* 2 Sept. 2/5 The machinery consists of a *Sirocco oven and a patent tea roller. 1897 HUGHES *Mediterranean Fever* v. 193 It [*sc.* ice] will also be needed in warm and *sirocco weather. 1777 A. ADAMS in *Fam. Lett.* (1876) 253 The same effect..which..the *sirocco winds have upon the inhabitants of Sicily. 1794 SULLIVAN *View Nat.* I. 19 An enfeebling and unhinging power, like that of the Sirocco wind.

Siro·ccoish, *a. nonce-word.* In 9 **scir-.** [f. prec. + -ISH.] Somewhat resembling that produced by the sirocco; oppressively hot and moist.

1837 J. F. COOPER *England* (ed. 2) III. 195 We are more elastic..in a clear bracing air, than in one that is close and sciroccoish.

Siron, variant of CIRON *Obs.*

The Latin pl. *sirones, syrones* occurs in works of the 17th cent., as the transl. of Mouffet's *Theat. Insects* (1658) 1094.

1744 tr. *Boerhaave's Inst.* III. 294 The Sirons, as they are called, dwell in these Cells when they cause the Itch.

Sirope, obs. f. SYRUP. **Sirp(e)cloth,** varr. of SURPCLOTH *Obs.* **Sirples, -us,** obs. ff. SURPLICE.

Sirrah (si·ra). Now *arch.* Forms: *α.* 6 **syra, syrra (syrria ?),** 6–7 **sirra.** *β.* 6 **syrha, syrrha,** 6–7 **sirha, sirrha.** *γ.* 6 **sirah,** 7 **syrrah,** 7– **sirrah.** *δ.* 6 **serea, serray, serrha,** 9 *dial.* **serrah.** See also STIRRAH. [f. SIR *sb.* The additional syllable had probably no definite origin, though explained by Minsheu as the interj. *ah* or *ha.*]

1. A term of address used to men or boys, expressing contempt, reprimand, or assumption of authority on the part of the speaker; sometimes employed less seriously in addressing children.

α. 1526 *100 Merry Tales* (Rastell) xlii, Sirra I vnderstand that thou dost ly euery night with my wyfe when I am from home. 1548 CROWLEY *Confut. N. Shaxton* G j b, A, syra, there said you wel! 1605 SHAKS. *Macb.* IV. ii. 30 Sirra, your Fathers dead, And what will you do now? 1641 W. MOUNTAGU in *Buccleuch MSS.* (Hist. MSS. Comm.) I. 289 The Bishop saying 'Sir', was mistaken to have said Sirra, and called to the bar.

β. 1553 T. WILSON *Rhet.* 2 Sirha, when our..graundsires were alive thei spake plainly *in* their mothers tongue. 1579 G. HARVEY *Two Lett.* ii. 64 Ah Syrrha, and Iesu Lord, thought I, haue we at last gotten one, of whom his olde ..Companions may iustly glory. 1592 KYD *Sp. Trag.* II. v. 61 Syrha, sirha, Ile know the trueth of all. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* XXXV. x. II. 538 Sirrha, (quoth he) remember you are but a shoemaker.

γ. 1598 B. JONSON *Ev. Man in Hum.* I. i, But, heare you, sirah. 1631 *High Commission Cases* (Camden) 194 Nay, sirrah,..I knowe not what will become of you. 1656 S. HOLLAND *Don Zara* 171 Syrrah, Though I cannot prove how, or where thou attainedst those glorious Arms,..yet [etc.]. 1709 STEELE *Tatler* No. 105 ¶ 3, I assure you Sirrah, I wont go to the Devil for you. 1796 MME. D'ARBLAY *Camilla* IV. 169 Sirrah, I'll break your bones! 1821–2 SHELLEY *Chas. I*, ii. 106 Go, sirrah, and repent of your offence Ten minutes in the rain. 1855 KINGSLEY *Westw. Ho!* vii, 'You mean Captain Drake, your worship?' 'I do, sirrah'.

δ. 1547 HOOPER *Answ. Bp. Winchester* T j, See thy God, knele downe serea and hold upp thy handes. 1566 DRANT *Horace Sat.* I. iii. B iij b, What serray what I say? (Quod he) doste thou not know thy selfe? 1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 1 Serrha, *heus, io.* 1833 CLOSE *Satirist* 164 I'll fetch the, thau idle serrah!

b. Used attributively with appellations or proper names.

1588 SHAKS. *L. L. L.* III. 121 Sirra Costard, I will infranchise thee. 1591 GREENE *Conny Catch.* I. Wks. (Grosart) X. 59 Sirrha collier, know that we are here all assembled as a grand Iurie. 1603 DEKKER & CHETTLE *Grissil* II. i, But, Sirha Rice, when's the day? 1663 COWLEY *Cutter of Coleman Str.* I. ii, I, Sirra Jack-an-apes, if you start when your father speaks to you. 1860 AINSWORTH *Ovingdean Grange* IX. ii. 341 Give me a glass of brandy, sirrah host.

†**2.** Applied to women (seriously or in jest). *Obs.*

1604 DEKKER *Honest Wh.* II. i, Sirrah Bellafront,..thou shalt sit at the upper end, punk. 1617 FLETCHER *Valentinian* II. iv, Ah Sirrah; And have we got you here? faith Noble Lady, We'l keep you one month Courtier. 1676 ETHEREDGE *Man of Mode* III. i, Adod, sirrah, I like thy wit well. 1710 SWIFT *Jrnl. Stella* vii, You lose all your money at cards, sirrah Stella. 1711 *Ibid.* 11 July, Stella, hussy, don't you remember, sirrah [etc.].

Sirree. *dial.* and *U.S.* Also **sirre-e, sir-ee,** *dial.* **sur-, sor-, sarree.** [f. SIR *sb.* (cf. prec.); prob. a modification of the common dialect *sirry, surry,* etc.] Sir, sirrah.

1823 *Knight's Quarterly Mag.* I. 300 Oi say, sirree, where be'st thee gwain? 1848 RUXTON *Far West* i, No sirre-e; I went out when Spiers lost his animals. 1861 G. F. BERKELEY *Eng. Sportsman* ix. 146 To say No sirree-e-e-e-e is to convey the sentence of No you infernal rogue [etc.]. 1900 R. H. SAVAGE *Brought to Bay* I. ii, 'So, the title is secure!' cried the overjoyed Hawtrey. 'Yes, Sir-ee!' frankly answered Texas Dave.

Sirreng, obs. form of SYRINGE.

Sir-re·verence, *sb. Obs.* exc. *dial.* Also 6 **se-, save,** 7 **sa-reverence.** [Alteration of *save* (abbreviated to *sa'*) *reverence*: see SAVE *prep.* 4 and REVERENCE *sb.* 5.]

†**1.** *Sir-reverence of,* with all respect for, with apologies to. (Cf. REVERENCE *sb.* 5.) *Obs.*

1575 *Gamm. Gurton* v. ii, Sir reuerence of your masterdome, and you were out a-doore [etc.]. 1594 LODGE & GREENE *Looking Gl.* 326 And sir, sir-reuerence of your manhood and genterie, I haue brought home such mony as you lent me. 1614 RICH *Honestie of Age* (1844) 14 His manners, that hauing to tell a sober tale to a Justice of peace, would still begin his speeches with 'Sir reuerence of your worships honesty'. 1634 MASSINGER *Very Woman* II. iii, The beastliest man—..(Sir-reverence of the company)—a rank whoremaster.

†**b.** Without const. *Obs.*

α. 1590 SHAKS. *Com. Err.* III. ii. 91 A very reuerent body: I such a one, as a man may not speake of, without he say sir reuerence. 1592 G. HARVEY *Four Lett.* Wks. (Grosart) I. 171 And, sir reuerence, how lowsy he and the mother of Infortunatus were. 1614 B. JONSON *Bart. Fair* Induct., Hee has (sirreuerence) kick'd me three, or foure times about the Tyring-house. 1654 GAYTON *Pleas. Notes* Pref. Verses, And makes the Country Neighbourhood about Swallow, Sir reverence, what he voideth out. 1687 MRS. BEHN *Lucky Chance* IV. i, Plain Fulbank,—methinks you might have had a Sir-reverence under your girdle, Sir.

β. 1596 HARINGTON *Metam. Ajax* Let. A ij b, A thing that I cannot name wel without saue-reuerence. 1598 DELONEY *Jacke Newb.* x. 115, I was a woman when she was, se-reverence, a paltrie girle. 1658 BURTON *Comm. Antoninus Itin.* 223 So great was his despite against him, meerly because he was *Sacerdos Maritatus*, which forsooth he cannot name without a Sa-Reverence. 1681 BLOUNT *Glossogr.* (ed. 5), Sa-reverence, *salva reverentia*, saving regard or respect; an usual word.

†**c.** With punning allusion to SIR *sb.* 1. *Obs.*

1593 G. HARVEY *Pierce's Super.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 270 They neither feare Goodman Sathan,..nor Sir Reuerence, nor milord Gouernement himselfe.

2. Human excrement.

1592 GREENE *Ned Browne* Wks. (Grosart) XI. 33 His face,..and his Necke, were all besmeared with the soft sirreuerence, so as he stunk. 1694 MOTTEUX *Rabelais* IV. lii, For four..Days I hardly scumber'd one poor Butt of Sir-reverence. 1738 BRACKEN *Farriery* (1749) 218 It was a Bolus made of Sirreverence or Human Dung, begging the Reader's Pardon. 1771 SMOLLETT *Humph. Cl.* 30 Apr., As a plate of marmalade would improve a pan of sir-reverence. 1828– in dial. glossaries (Yorksh., Durham).

b. With *a.* A piece or lump of this.

1592 GREENE *Upstart Courtier* Wks. (Grosart) XI. 235 As far as a hungry sow can smell a sir reuerence. 1683 DRYDEN *Vind. 'Duke of Guise'* Wks. 1725 V. 333 If I cry a Sir-Reverence, and you take it for Honey, make the best of your Bargain. 1704 N. N. tr. *Boccalini's Advts. fr. Parnass.* III. 174 To try an Important Experiment, whether it was possible for 'em to preserve a Sir Reverence. 1720–1 *Lett. fr. Mist's Jrnl.* (1722) II. 315 To pass by the Sir-reverence, and the good Dousing the Dragon met with. 1836–48 B. D. WALSH *Aristoph. Acharn.* IV. vii, May Providence Send to the hand of this fine shark A newly-born sir-reverence. *a* 1840 FRERE *Aristoph. Acharn.* 1170 Let him grasp for his defence A ponderous sir reverence.

Hence † **Sir-re·verence** *v. Obs. rare.*

1665 HEAD *Eng. Rogue* I. iii. 27 Another time sirreverencing in a paper, and running to the window with it. 1697 CIBBER *Woman's Wit* IV. 52 O Lord Sir! I do Sir-reverence your Person.

Sirrha, obs. form of SIRRAH.

† **Si·rright.** *Obs.*[–1] [f. SIR *sb.*] A right pertaining to the male line.

1623 tr. *Favine's Theat. Honour* VII. ii. 204 Rodolphe alleaged that the Dukedome..was..a Male Fief of the Empire, from which..Daughters were excluded, and so the sirright ceassing, he was the very neerest heire.

Sirring, obs. f. SYRINGE. **Sirris,** variant of SIRIS. **Sirrup,** obs. f. SYRUP. **Sirse** (Sc.): see SIR *sb.* 7 b.

Sirship (sə·ɹʃip). [f. SIR *sb.* + -SHIP.] The position of a Sir; baronetcy.

1873 *Gentl. Mag.* July 101 A baronet..whose grandfather ..had left his descendants nothing to support the dignity of the hereditary Sirship.

Sirt, var. SYRT *Obs.* **Sirtes, -is:** see SYRTIS *Obs.* **Sirup,** obs. and U.S. var. SYRUP. **Sirurgien:** see CHIRURGEON and SURGEON.

‖ **Sirvente** (sirvaⁿtə). Also **syrvente, sirvent.** [a. F. *sirvente* or ad. Prov. *sirventes, serventes* (cf. OF. *serventeis, -ois,* It. *serventese,* Sp. *serventesio*), app. f. *servir* to serve, but the connexion is not quite clear. The French and English form has arisen by taking *sirventes* as a pl.] A form of poem or lay, usu. satirical, employed by the troubadours of the Middle Ages.

1819 SCOTT *Ivanhoe* xvii, The knight..asked his host whether he would choose a *sirvente* in the language of *oc*, or a *lai* in the language of *oui*. 1840 BROWNING *Sordello* II. 516 To get A notion of the Troubadour's intent In rondel, tenzon, virlai or sirvent. 1878 STUBBS *Study Med. & Mod. Hist.* vi. (1900) 141 Some few sirventes or satiric lays that entitle Richard [I] to the name of a trouvere.

Sis, obs. variant of SICE, SISS *sb.*[1]

Sisal (si·săl, sisā·l). Also **sissal.** [See def.]

1. The name of a port in Yucatan, used attrib. with *fibre, grass, hemp,* to designate the prepared fibre of several species of *Agave* and *Fourcroya,* which is largely exported from that place for use in rope-making. Also *Sisal plant,* the aloe or other plant from which the fibre is obtained.

1843 *Penny Cycl.* XXVII. 724/1 None of its agricultural products yield articles of export, except the Sisal hemp. 1859 *All Year Round* No. 32. 126 The sisal hemp, which is the product of the Agave Americana, is also very enticing to the speculator. 1887 *Boston* (Mass.) *Jrnl.* 6 May 4/8 A cargo of sisal grass for the Plymouth Cordage Company. 1889 *Times* 9 Mar. 4/3 The issue was an Act..to give substantial encouragement..to the cultivation of the sisal fibre. 1889 D. MORRIS *Kew Bulletin* No. 27. 60 The true Sisal plant is Agave rigida.

attrib. 1878 *Encycl. Brit.* XVI. 36/2 The prosperity which Yucatan in recent years owes to the development of the Sisal hemp trade. 1882 CHRISTY *New Commercial Pl.* No. 6. 43 The Giant Lily or Sisal Hemp Plant of South America (*Fourcroya gigantea*). 1893 *Westm. Gaz.* 27 May 6/2 Some thousands of acres of sisal hemp plantations.

2. *ellipt.* = prec. Chiefly *attrib.*

1883 *Fisheries Exhib. Catal.* 24 White Sisal Rope. White Sisal Lines. 1895 *Daily News* 7 Sept. 2/3 Hemp has shown renewed activity...Sisal also is firmer. 1896 *Pall Mall Mag.* May 65 Almost all the settlers of this island [*sc.* Andros] are engaged in Sisal cultivation.

Siscoe, variant of CISCO. *U.S.*

1880 *Libr. Univ. Knowl.* VI. 11 Herring are found all along the coast; and in the lakes there is a similar fish known as the siscoe.

Siscowet (si·skoˌiet). Also **siskawitz, -iwit, -owet,** etc. [Odjibwa, meaning literally 'cooks itself' (Goode).] A variety of the great lake trout of N. America, found in Lake Superior.

1849 H. W. HERBERT *Fish & Fishing* 145 The Siskawitz is rather shorter and stouter than the Mackinaw fish. 1884 GOODE *Nat. Hist. Aquat. Anim.* 496 The Siscowet, *Salvelinus Namaycush.* 1888 — *Amer. Fishes* 468 The amateur is likely to confound the Namaycush with the Siscowet.

attrib. 1882 JORDAN & GILBERT *Syn. Fishes N. Amer.* 318 Siscowet Salmon..is probably a local variety rather than a distinct species.

Sise, obs. variant of SICE, SIZE.

† **Siseangle.** *Obs. rare.* [f. *sise* SICE + ANGLE.] A hexagon. So † **Siseangled** *a.*

1551 RECORDE *Pathw. Knowl.* I. Def., Likewyse shall you iudge of siseangles, which haue sixe corners. 1567 — *Whetst.* C iij, Quadrate, Cinkeangeled, Siseangeled.

Sisel (si·sĕl), *sb. Zool.* [ad. G. *ziesel*: cf. ZIZEL.] A kind of ground-squirrel (see quots.).

1880 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* III. 93 Of the Old World species the best known is the Sisel, or Suslik (*Spermophilus citillus*), which is abundant in Central and Eastern Europe, and in Siberia. 1894–5 LYDEKKER *Roy. Nat. Hist.* III. 79 The suslik or sisel of North-Eastern Europe and Northern Asia.

† **Sisel,** *a. Obs.*[–1] [a. ON. *sýsl*, related to *sýsla* sb. work, business, *sýsla* vb. to be busy, etc.] Occupied, engaged.

c 1325 *Metr. Hom.* 112 Quen hali kirc bigan newli, Sain Jon was sisel, and bisi, In ordaining of priestes and clerkes, And in casting kirc werkes.

‖ **Siser.** *Bot. rare.* [L. *siser,* perhaps the same as Gr. *σίσαρον* (whence mod.L. *sisarum*).] The water-parsnip or skirret (*Sium sisarum*).

1548 TURNER *Names Herbes* 74 Fuchsius rekoneth that our skyrwort, or skyrwit is a kinde of siser. 1562 — *Herbal* II. (1568) 139 The roote of Siser sodden is pleasant to the mouth. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl., *Siser,* in botany, a name given to the skirret. 1858 MAYNE *Expos. Lex., Sium Sisarum,* systematic name of the siser or skirret, formerly considered aromatic.

Siser, obs. form of SIZAR.

Siserary (siserē·ri). Now *dial.* Forms: 5 **sessarary,** 7 **sesarara,** 8 **ceserera;** 7 **sas-,** 8–9 **sassarara** (9 **sassaray**); 7 **sursurrara;** 8 **siserari,** 8–9 **-ary,** 9 **-ara;** 7 **sissara,** 8–9 **sisserara,** 9 **-ary.** [Popular corruption of CERTIORARI.]

† **1.** A writ of Certiorari. *Obs.*

1481–90 *Howard Househ. Bks.* (Roxb.) 196 My Lord payd to the Clerk of the Pece for a sesserary for the Vekery of Wyrmyngforde ij. s. vj. d. 1607 MIDDLETON *Phœnix* C j, Heere a writ of *Demur,* there a *Procedendo,* heere a *Sursurrara,* there a *Capiendo.* 1607 TOURNEUR *Rev. Trag.* G iij, They cannot so much as pray, but in law, that their sinnes may be remou'd, with a writ of Error, and their soules fetcht vp to heauen, with a sasarara. 1620 MELTON *Astrolog.* 67 Sissaras, Writs, Latitats and Procidendos. 1760–1 SMOLLETT *Launcelot Greaves* ii, O! that there was a lawyer here to serve him with a *siserari.*

2. *With a siserary,* with a vengeance; suddenly, promptly.

1607 W[ENTWORTH] S[MITH] *Puritan Widow* H[1]. iii, If it be lost or stole..a Cunning Kinsman of mine..would fetcht againe with a Sesarara. 1769 STERNE *Tr. Shandy* VIII. xxi, It was on Sunday in the afternoon, when I fell in love all at once with a *sisserara.* 1766 GOLDSM. *Vic. W.* xxi, 'As for the matter of that,' returned the hostess, '..out she shall pack with a sassarara'. 1829 BENTHAM *Justice & Cod. Petit., Abr. Petit. Justice* 71 I'll fetch you up with a sisserary. 1857 G. W. THORNBURY *Songs of Cœvaliers & Roundheads* 55 Tossing off Canary cups, With a Sassarara.

3. A severe rebuke or scolding; a sharp blow; a torrent *of* (language).

1771 SMOLLETT *Humph. Cl.* 15 May, I have gi'en the dirty slut a siserary. 1826 SCOTT *Woodst.* x, Master Holdenough ..attacked it with such a siserary of Latin as might have scared the devil himself. 1850 G. W. REYNOLDS *Myst. of Court* I. 16 He was just inflicting a Sassarara upon the waiter for not keeping up a cheerful fire. 1893 COZENS HARDY *Broad Norfolk* 5 One boy will give another a clip o' the head.., and once I heard a fellow say he had given another a sisserara.

4. A loud clanging noise.

a 1770 '*Lady Ouncebell*' v. in Child *Ballads* II. 207 He heard the bells of the high chapel ring, They rang with a ceserera. *a* 1850 *Ibid.* 209 They made a loud sassaray.

Sisers, obs. f. SCISSORS. **Sisimbrium,** obs. var. of SISYMBRIUM. **Siskawitz,** var. of SISCOWET.

Siskin (si'skin). Also 6 **sysken-,** 7 **siskin.** [ad. G. dial. *sisschen* or *zeischen,* = older Flem. *sijsken, cijsken* (Kilian; Du. and Flem. *sijsje*), Da. *sisgen,* a dim. form based on MHG. *zîsec* (also *zîse*; G. *zeisig*), MLG. *ziseke, sisek* (Norw. *sisik, sisk,* Sw. *siska*), which are app. of Slavonic origin; cf. Pol. *czyżik, czyż,* Russ. *chizhek', chizh'*.]

1. A small song-bird, in some respects closely allied to the goldfinch; also called ABERDEVINE.

By older writers sometimes identified with the greenfinch.

1562 TURNER *Herbal* II. (1568) 134 It [sesamum] groweth in Germany..and men fede byrdes with the sede of it there, namelye Syskennes. 1567 MAPLET *Gr. Forest* 80 She most commonlye hatcheth hir yong in the Larkes Nest or Siskins, which Siskin is not much vnlike to the Goldfinch. 1626 SURFL. & MARKHAM *Country Farme* VII. lxx. 731 The Siskins liue, some fiue, others eight yeares. 1661 LOVELL *Hist. Anim. & Min.* Isagoge d j b, All sorts of little birds, as sparrows,..wrens, witwalls, siskens. 1768 PENNANT *Brit. Zool.* II. 512 The Siskin, which is an irregular visitant, said to come from Russia. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) III. 169 The Siskin and Linnet only forsake us in severe winters. 1813 MONTAGU *Ornith.* Suppl. s.v. *Siskin,* The Aberdevine or Siskin, is in size between that of the Greater and Lesser Red-poles. 1841 *Proc. Berw. Nat. Club* I. 252 The siskin (*Cardnelis spinus*)..is sometimes very abundant. 1894–5 LYDEKKER *Roy. Nat. Hist.* III. 385 From Japan to the British Isles the common siskin (*Chrysomitris spinus*) is found in suitable localities.

2. Applied with defining words to various small birds related to or resembling the siskin.

1783 LATHAM *Gen. Synop. Birds* II. i. 292 Mexican Siskin ..inhabits Mexico. *Ibid.* 293 Chinese Siskin..inhabits China. 1839 AUDUBON *Ornith. Biog.* V. 46 Black-headed Siskin, *Fringilla Magellanica. Ibid.* 85 Arkansaw Siskin, *Fringilla psaltria.* 1874 COUES *Birds N. W.* 116 Arkansas Goldfinch; Mexican Siskin. 1884 — *N. Amer. Birds* 354 *Chrysomitris pinus,*..American Siskin.

3. *attrib.,* as *siskin finch, group*; **siskin-green,** a light green inclining to yellow; **siskin-parrot,** a small parrot of the genus *Nasiterna* (*Cent. Dict.*).

1805–17 R. JAMESON *Char. Min.* (ed. 3) 59 Siskin-green forming the connecting link with yellow. 1815 STEPHENS in *Shaw's Gen. Zool.* IX. II. 467 Siskin Finch. *Ibid.* 471 Mexican Siskin Finch. 1879 E. P. WRIGHT *Anim. Life* 260 A peculiar sort of green approaching to sage-green, but so peculiar as to give rise to the name of 'siskin-green'. 1894–5 LYDEKKER *Roy. Nat. Hist.* III. 385 A less well-known member of the siskin group is the citril finch (*Chrysomitris citrinella*).

Siskowet, variant of SISCOWET. **Sisme,** obs. f. SCHISM. **Sismograph, -meter,** variants of SEISMOGRAPH, -METER. **Sisour(e,** obs. ff. SIZER. **Sissours,** obs. f. SCISSORS.

† **Sispar** (also sy-), ? obs. f. *side-spar.*

1532–3 *Durh. Househd. Bk.* (Surtees) 173 Pro sarracione ½ rod in sparres et sisparres. *Ibid.,* Walplaytts et sysparres.

Siss, *sb.*[1] *U.S.* Also **sis.** (See quot.)

1859 BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.* (ed. 2), *Siss* and *Sissy,* contractions for sister, often used in addressing girls, even by their parents.

Siss, *sb.*[2] [Cf. next.] A hissing sound.

1870 TALMAGE *Crumbs Swept Up* 307 The chuck and siss and smoke of the bar, as it plunged into the water.

Siss (sis), *v.* Also 4 **ciss-, sciss-, syss-.** [ME. *cissen, sissen,* = MDu. *cissen,* Du. and LG. *sissen,* of imitative origin: cf. G. *zischen* and SIZZ *v.*] *intr.* To hiss. Now *dial.* and *U.S.*

In dial. use also *trans.,* to hiss (a person), to incite (a dog) by hissing: see *Eng. Dial. Dict.*

13.. W. DE BIBBESWORTH in Wright *Voc.* (1857) 152 *Serpent ciphele,* scisset [*v.r.* cisses]. *c* 1400 *MS. Bibl. Reg. 12 B. i.* f. 12 (Halliw.), *Sibilus est genus serpentis,*..a syssing. 1590 SIR J. SMYTH *Disc. Weapons* 21 Their peeces..sometimes lieth sissing in the touchhole or peece. 1828– in dialect glossaries (Yks., Lanc., Chesh., Linc.). 1828–32 WEBSTER, *Siss,* to hiss; a legitimate word in universal popular use in New England. 1859 in BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.* (ed. 2). 1886 *S. W. Linc. Gloss.* s.v., I've always a sissing noise in my head. *Ibid.,* If a sup o' rain were to fall, it would siss.

Siss (obs. Sc.): see SITHE, time.

Sissars, -ers, obs. forms of SCISSORS.

‖ **Sissonne.** *rare.* [F. *sissonne, -sisson*e: see Littré and Hatzfeld.] A certain step in dancing.

1706 J. WEAVER *Orchesography* Table 35 A Table of Sissonnes or Cross leaps.

‖ **Sissoo** (si'sū). Also **seesoo, seesu, sissu.** [Urdū (Hindī) *sīsū.*]

1. A valuable Indian timber-tree, *Dalbergia Sissoo.*

1810 T. WILLIAMSON *E. India Vade M.* II. 71 This [wood], which is called the *sissoo,* grows in most of the great forests, intermixed with the *saul.* 1854 HOOKER *Himalayan Jrnls.* II. 340 *note,* The Cuttack forests are composed of teak, Sal, Sissoo, ebony,..and other trees of a dry soil. 1876 *Cornhill Mag.* Sept. 318 Studded here and there with tall clumps of *sál* and *sissu.*

attrib. 1810 T. WILLIAMSON *E. India Vade M.* II. 72 Some *sissoo-trees* grow to a great height. 1859 J. LANG *Wanderings in India* 358 The Governor-General..wore his head as high as a seesu-tree. 1874 STEWART & BRANDIS *Flora N. W. India* 149 The Sissoo tree is indigenous in the sub-Himalayan tract.

2. The timber obtained from this tree.

1810 T. WILLIAMSON *E. India Vade M.* II. 71 *Sissoo* is, of late, more employed than formerly for the frame, ribs, knees, &c. of ships. 1834 MEDWIN *Angler in Wales* I. 162 The beams too of the houses, if not of bamboo, sissoo, or teak, are not safe from their devastating fangs. 1874 STEWART & BRANDIS *Flora N. W. India* 150 Sissoo is very elastic, it seasons well, does not warp or split, and takes a fine polish.

attrib. 1873 BALFOUR *Cycl. India* (ed. 2) IV. 184/1 Sissoo-wood oil,..an empyreumatic medicinal product. 1874 STEWART & BRANDIS *Flora N. W. India* 150 Sissoo wood is esteemed highly for all purposes where strength and elasticity are required. *Ibid.,* Supplies of large Sissoo logs.

Sissors, -oures, obs. forms of SCISSORS.

Sissy: see SISS *sb.*[1]

Sist, *sb. Sc. Law.* [f. the vb.] A stay or suspension of some proceeding; *spec.* an 'order or injunction of the Lord Ordinary prohibiting diligenee to proceed' (Bell).

1693 STAIR *Instit.* (ed. 2) IV. lii. 755 Therefore (by Act of Sederunt Nov. 9. 1680) Fourteen Days are only allowed for Sists of Execution, from the Date the Bill was signed. *Ibid.,* That it may be known what Sists are granted, the Clerks of the Bills are ordained to make an Alphabetick Inventar of Bills Refused or Sisted. 1721 WODROW *Corr.* (1843) II. 562 A sist in case of heats and debates in a session, until superior judicatories took up the differences. 1753 *Stewart's Trial* App. 121 He gave notice to the tenants of Ardshiel, that he had procured a sist for them against the decreet of removing. 1765–8 ERSKINE *Inst. Law Scot.* IV. iii. § 18 A sist granted on a bill without passing it, expires also in fourteen days. 1800 A. CARLYLE *Autobiogr.* 287 The solicitor..immediately granted the alarmed brethren a sist. 1838 W. BELL *Dict. Law Scot.* 961 Where intimation of the application or sist in the Bill-Chamber has been made to the charger.

transf. 1831 SIR W. HAMILTON *Discuss.* (1853) 216 In contempt of a sist on the proceedings by the Elector of Mentz.

Sist, *v. Sc.* [ad. L. *sistĕre* to cause to stand, etc., a reduplicated form corresponding to *stāre* to stand.]

1. a. *trans.* To stop, stay, or suspend (some proceeding, etc.), *esp.* by judicial decree.

1652 *Reg. Commiss. Gen., Assembly* (S.H.S.) III. 553 Their desire and overture for sisting the present differences had been mett by the Commission. 1679 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1406/2 We have thought fit hereby to sist and supersede all Execution upon any Letters of Caption. 1716 WODROW *Corr.* (1843) II. 192 The Assembly might now declare, that they did not..design to..rescind a sentence passed in the Commission; but only..had sisted its execution. 1831 *Church Patronage Reporter* Jan. 9 If it [patronage] enjoys the high sanction of the pages of inspiration, we may here sist our procedure. 1881 J. H. STIRLING *Text-bk. Kant* 6 The whole business of metaphysic..is summarily sisted. 1885 *Law Rep.* 10 App. Cases 174 His Lordship sisted the appellant's action until the decision of the action of declarator.

absol. 1678 SIR G. MACKENZIE *Crim. Laws Scot.* II. x. § iii, If a pursuit were intented before them, upon a Bond, they behoved to sist, if the Bond was alledged to be false.

† **b.** *intr.* To cease, desist, stop. *Obs.*

a 1676 BP. GUTHRIE *Mem.* (1748) 60 An accident which ..fell out upon the second of July, and imported, that the covenanters meant not to sist there. 1676 ROW *Contin. Blair's Autobiog.* xii. (1848) 456 Neither did the persecuting Prelatis rage then sist. *a* 1707 SIR D. HUME *Domestic Details* (1843) 55 My cause being in the roll, I had no mind it shall sist on any account.

2. *trans.* † **a.** To present (oneself) *before* a court. Also without const. *Obs. rare.*

1643 *Sc. Acts, Chas. I* (1870) VI. I. 5 The Convention..haveing given warrant to Charge the erle..to compeir with all diligence and sist his persone befor thame. *a* 1722 LAUDER *Decisions* (1759) I. 680 Where a prisoner..grants a bond..to sist himself such a day, or else pay the debt.

b. To cause or order (one) to appear *before* a court; to summon or cite.

1721 WODROW *Hist. Suff. Ch. Scot.* III. i. (1830) III. 7 He was sisted before the committee for public affairs. 1752 LOUTHIAN *Form of Process* (ed. 2) p. vi, The Manner of apprehending and sisting Delinquents before the Court. 1801 A. RANKEN *Hist. France* I. 283 On being sisted before the court, security or bail was taken. 1857 GILFILLAN *Life Waller* 16 He..was sisted before the Court of War, and condemned to die. 1868 *Act* 31 & 32 *Vict.* c. 100 § 98 Nothing herein contained shall prevent..the Court from sisting any person upon his own application..as a party to the cause.

3. To place or posit. *rare*[–1].

1836 SIR W. HAMILTON *Discuss.* (1853) 313 Some..have preposterously sisted nature as the first or generative principle.

† **Sistence**[1]. *Obs. rare*[–1]. [aphetic form of ASSISTANCE.] Aid, help.

a 1513 FABYAN *Chron.* VI. cxlviii. (1811) 134 With the sistence of the cytezyns of the same, the sayd Cytie was defendyd.

† **Sistence**[2]. *Obs. rare*[–1]. [f. L. *sist-ĕre* SIST *v.* + -ENCE.] Stopping.

1640 HOWELL *Dodona's Gr.* 187 Extraordinary must be the wisdome of him who floateth upon the streame of Soveraigne favour, wherein there is seldome any sistence, twixt sinking and swimming.

Sister (si'stəɹ), *sb.* Forms: *α.* 1 **sweostor, sweoster** (**swester, swæster, sw-, su-, soester**); **swostor, -tur; swustor, -tur, -ter; swystor, -tar, -ter, swistor, -ter.** *β.* 1–7 **suster** (4 **-tir, -tyr**). *γ.* 3–4 **soster** (4 **zoster**). *δ.* 2– **sister** (4 **-terre, -tre, -tur**), 5, *Sc.* 5–6 **sistir** (5 **-tire,** 6 **seister**); 4 **scyster, syister,** 4–6 **syster** (4 **-tre,** 6 **-tur**), 4–5 **systyr,** 5–6 *Sc.* **-tir**; 4 **cistir,** 5 **-ter, cyster, -tire, -tyr.** [Common Teut.: OE. *sweoster, swuster,* etc. (see above), = OFris. *swester,* OS. *swestar* (LG. *swester*), OHG. *swester, swister* (G. *schwester*), Goth. *swistar*; forms without *w* appear in OFris. *suster, sister* (WFris. *sister, soster,* EFris. *siister,* NFris. *söster, sester,* etc.), MDu. and MLG. *suster* (Du. *zuster,* LG. *suster, süster*), ON. and Icel. *systir* (Norw. and Sw. *syster,* Da. *søster*). Of the three ME. types, *suster* and *soster* represent OE. forms with the *w* absorbed, while *sister* appears to be from Scandinavian. The Teut. stem **swestr-* stands for an original *swesr-,* and has cognates in OSlav. and Russ. *sestra,* Lith. *sesů,* Skr. *svasā* (*svasr-*), L. *soror* (:—**swesor*), OIr. *siur,* Welsh *chwair.*]

I. 1. A female in relationship to another person or persons having the same parents. (Also applicable to female animals.)

Sometimes loosely used in the sense of HALF-SISTER, and in that of SISTER-IN-LAW.

α. a 900 *O. E. Chron.* (Parker MS.) an. 658, Hæfde hine Penda adrifenne..forþon he his swostor[*Laud MS.* swustor] anforlet. *Ibid.* an. 888, Sio wæs Ælfredes sweostor cyninges. *c* 925 *Ibid.* an. 922, Þa ȝefor Æþelflæd his swystar æt Tameworþize. *c* 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Luke x. 40 Ne is ðe ȝemnise þætte soester min forleort mec [etc.]. *c* 1000 ÆLFRIC *Gen.* xii. 13 Sege nu, ic þe bidde, þæt þu min swuster sig. *c* 1100 *O. E. Chron.* (MS. D) an. 1067, Þa begann se cyngc..ȝyrnan his sweostor him to wife. *a* 1122 *Ibid.* (Laud MS.) an. 1048, Þa..betæhte hy his swyster to Hwerwillon. *Ibid.* an. 1091, Eadgar..for to þam cynge..& to his swustor.

β. a 1122 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 604, Sæberht Ricolan sunu Æðelberhtes suster. 1154 *Ibid.* an. 1140, Eustace ..nam þe kinges suster of France to wife. *c* 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 147 þo two sustres wepen for here broðres deað. *c* 1200 ORMIN 6382 Þa susstress..Werenn Labaness dohhtress. *c* 1350 *Will. Palerne* 2643 þat worþi mayden þat was Williams suster. *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (1839) xxviii. 288 Thei taken hire Doughtres and hire Sustres to here Wyfes. 1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* III. ii. 101 By reson ye ar myn neuew, my susters sone. 1542 BOORDE *Dyetary* xxxvii. (1870) 298 He dyd kylle his wyfe, and his wyfes suster. ? 1562 *Child-Marriages* 65, I have gevin her xx[s]; and I wilbe as good vnto my suster Katherine. 1620 B. JONSON *Alch.* III. iv, Gods will, my suster shall see him.

γ. 1275 LAY. 25534 Þe fader weap a þane sone, soster o þan broþer. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 880 Morgan..of þe eldor soster was. *c* 1320 *Sir Tristr.* 720 Sour owhen soster him bare. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* II. 308 Fedra hire yonger Soster eke, A lusti Maide. *Ibid.,* To sen hire Soster mad a queene.

δ. c 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 3855 Dor was moyses sister dead. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 2410 Þon art my sister and i þi broþer. *c* 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 2328 Þerfore y schal myn heritage Gyue þy sistres in mariage. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* I. 51 He wes cummyn off the offspryng Off hyr that eldest systir was. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 78/2 Cystyr, by þe faderys syde oonly, *soror. c* 1449 PECOCK *Repr.* III. iv. 298 That ech man ouȝte forbere ouer myche ioue to..britheren and sistris. 1535 STARKEY *Let.* in *England* (1878) p. xx, The weyght of such maryage betwyx brother & systur. 1596 SHAKS. *Tam. Shrew* I. ii. 263 Her father..will not promise her to any man, Vntill the elder sister first be wed. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* (1637) 579 The inheritance became divided among the sisters of the said John Tiptoft. 1665 MANLEY *Grotius' Low C. Wars* 423 Prince Maurice, and his Sister, who was marryed to Count Hohenlo. 1741–2 GRAY *Agrip.* 118 Daughter, sister, wife, And mother of their Cæsars. 1794 COLERIDGE *To a Friend* (*Charles Lamb*), I, 100, a sister had, an only sister. 1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* xxix, I trust your honour will allow me to speak with my sister? 1877 TENNYSON *Harold* V. ii, There was more than sister in my kiss, And so the saints were wroth.

b. In older forms of the plural.

In OE. the plural had either the same forms as the singular, or appears as *sweostra, -ru,* etc. These subsequently assumed the pl. *-n* of weak nouns, and gave the common ME. forms *sustren, sostren, sistren,* etc. (cf. *brethren*). In general literary use these were finally discarded about 1550 in favour of the pl. in *-s,* which is found as early as *c* 1200.

a. a 900 *O. E. Chron.* (Parker MS.) an. 718, Hiera swostur wærun Cuenburȝ & Cuþburh. *c* 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Matt. xiii. 56 Suoester [*Rushw.* swæster] his alle. *c* 975 *Rushw. Gosp.* Mark vi. 3 Ah ne swester her usih miþ sindun? *c* 1000 *Saxon Leechd.* III. 62 Neoȝone wæran Noðþæs sweoster. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 8710 Miche bale hade his brether, and his blithe sister. *Ibid.* 10759 Myche pite was of Priam.., With sobbyng of syster, þat semly were euer. ? 1562 *Child-Marriages* 65 One of my suster is maried alreadie.

β. c 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Mark vi. 3 Ahne suoestro [*c* 1000 swustra, *c* 1160 swustre] his her miþ usic sint? *c* 1200 *O. E. Chron.* (MS. D) an. 1067, Mid his modor & his twam sweostran. [*c* 1160 *Hatton Gosp.* Mark iii. 35 Se is min moder & min broðer & mine swustren.] *c* 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 435 þat þou sum-ȝware þine sostrene do in-to ane nonnerie. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 7560 His moder & his sostren tuo mid him sone he nom. 1340 [see sense 5]. 1387–8 T. USK *Test. Love* III. i. (Skeat) I. 93 As sustern in unitie they accorden. *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (1839) ix. 102 Sarra..and Melcha..weren Sustren to the seyd Lothe. *c* 1420 *Chron. Vilod.* 2077 Hurre sustron weptone. *c* 1440 *Jacob's Well* 49 Bretheryn or systerynes chylderyn arn in þe secunde degre. *c* 1507 *Plumpton Corr.* (Camden) 202, I recommend me to you,.. and to all my brethren and sistren. 1553 T. WILSON *Rhet.* 30 b, You have other parentes, other brethren, sisterne, and nephewes. 1580 *Wills & Inv. N. C.* (Surtees, 1835) 432, I will that all the goodes be devyded equallye amongeste my Brethren and systeringe childringe.

1843–8 [see 5]. *a* 1849– [see 3 b]. 1859 BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.* (ed. 2), *Sistern,* for sisters. A vulgar pronunciation sometimes heard from uneducated preachers at the West.

† **c.** Used to designate the mother-in-law of one's daughter. *Obs.*

1701 EVELYN *Diary* 28 Mar., I went to the funeral of my sister Draper.

2. *fig.* One who is reckoned as, or fills the place of, a sister.

c 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Matt. xii. 50 Min broðer & suoester [*Rushw.* swuster] & moder is he. *c* 1200 ORMIN 15709 Weppmenn & wifmenn baþe Sinndenn till ure Laferrd

Crist Full dere brebre & susstress. 1340 *Ayenb.* 89 He is my broþer and my zoster and my moder. 1382 WYCLIF *Prov.* vii. 4 Sey to wisdam, My sister thou art. *c* 1400 *26 Pol. Poems* 137 Thus sayde I..vnto wormes sekurly,..'My systren all ye bene'. *Ibid.*, I shall call hem sustres. 1604 E. G[RIMSTONE] *D'Acosta's Hist. Indies* v. xxiv. 394 The maidens.. that day were called the Sisters of their god Vitzliputzli. 1831 SCOTT *Ct. Robt.* Introd. Addr. P 19 What do they whisper, thou sworn sister of the Eummenides?

b. A female holding a similar position to another; a fellow-queen, etc.

1599 SHAKS. *Hen. V*, v. ii. 2 Vnto our brother France, and to our Sister, Health and faire time of day. 1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* xvii, If..it was needful to continue some restraint on the person of her unhappy sister of Scotland.

3. a. A female member of a religious order, society, or gild; *spec.* a nun.

Also with special designations as *Sister(s) of Charity, of Mercy*, etc.

(*a*) *c* 900 tr. *Baeda's Hist.* IV. xxiii. (1890) 340 Sumu haligu nunne..wæs..restende in sweostra slæperne. *Ibid.*, þa geseah heo oðere sweostor ymb heo restende. 1362 LANGL. *P. Pl.* A. III. 54 þat vche mon schulde seye, Ich were suster of [3our] house. *c* 1380 *Antecrist* in Todd *Three Treat. Wyclif* (1851) 125 But take we heede to..nunnes and sustris & see hou þei folowen Crist for þe more partie. 1389 in *Eng. Gilds* (1870) 3 To noriche more loue bytwene þe bretheren and sustren of þe bretherhede. *c* 1440 *Alph. Tales* 174 A sister of þe fraternitie of Oegniez. 1482 in *Eng. Hist. Rev.* XXV. 122 Yº kepar of oure yº sistrenes librarie. 1530 *Test. Ebor.* (Surtees) VI. 16, I bequeith..to the priorisse of Thikhid and hir systers iijs. 1567 *Gude & Godlie B.* (S. T. S.) 205 The Sisteris gray, befoir this day, Did crune within thair cloister. 1603 SHAKS. *Meas. for M.* II. iv. 18 One Isabell, a Sister. *c* 1660 in J. Morris *Troubles Our Cath. Forefathers* (1872) vi. 257 For Subprioress she appointed Sister Anne Tremaine, one of our old Sisters that came from St. Ursula's. 1796 MRS. M. ROBINSON *Angelina* III. 24 The grey sisters were endowed with five hundred marks an hour, to say masses. 1816 SOUTHEY *Poet's Pilgr.* Proem xvi, Behold the black Beguine, the Sister grey. 1844 *Mem. Babylonian Princess* II. 16 Mass being concluded, each sister departs to pursue her particular employment. 1861 M. ARNOLD *Pop. Educ. France* 112 They regard them.. with far less indulgence than the schools of the Sisters.

(*b*) 1841 *Penny Cycl.* XXI. 181/2 There are a Roman Catholic church..and an establishment of the Sisters of Charity. 1871 CARLYLE in Mrs. Carlyle *Lett.* III. 180 We had sick-nurses..Catholic 'Sisters of Mercy'. 1898 C. BELL tr. *Huysmans' Cathedral* viii. 145 Sisters of the Visitation, Sisters of Providence, Sisters of Good Comfort,..all lived in hives close round Chartres.

b. A female fellow-member of the Christian Church as a whole, or of some body or association within this.

In quot. 1607 used allusively in bad sense. For the vocative use, which appears earlier, see 5.

c 1449 PECOCK *Repr.* I. xiii. 63 Therbi [thou] enhauncidist thi silf aboue thi Cristen britheren and sistren. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 70 Wyllynge in his herte euery persone as his brother or syster in god, to haue the same graces and glory. 1533 MORE *Apol.* iv. Wks. 849/2 Now was this word taken vp, & walked about abrode among the brethren & sistern. 1577 FULKE *Answ. True Christian* 23 Our deare brethren and sistern begotten in Iesu Christ by the gospell. 1607 DEKKER & WEBSTER *Westw. Hoe* II. ii. Wks. 1873 II. 307 The Seruing-man [has] his Punke, the student his Nun in white Fryers, the Puritan his Sister. 1738 WESLEY *Wks.* (1872) I. 107 The rest of the day we spent with all the brethren and sisters. 1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* xxix, This is one of the precious sisters, and we'll take her word. *a* 1849 H. COLERIDGE *Ess.* (1851) I. 375 We united brethren and sisteren of the three kingdoms. 1861 N. A. WOODS *Tour Pr. Wales in Canada* 261 The cortège had to be eked out with the Temperance Brethren and Sistren.

†**c.** *Sisters of the bank*, prostitutes. *Obs.*

1550 CROWLEY *Inform. & Petit.* 472 Immodeste and wanton gyrles haue hereby ben made sisters of the Banck (the stumbling stock of all frayle youth).

d. A member of a body of nurses; also *spec.* a head-nurse having charge of a ward in an infirmary or hospital.

1873 MRS. BROOKFIELD *Not a Heroine* II. 158 Two 'Nursing Sisters', from an excellent institution,..took turns day and night to attend upon [him]. 1896 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* I. 424 The Matron..who is guided by the reports of the 'sisters' or 'charge-nurses'.

4. a. Used to designate qualities, conditions, etc., in relation to each other or to some kindred thing.

a 1200 *Vices & Virtues* 29 All ðat hire suster, ðe rihte ȝeleaue, hire seiȝeð, all hie [*sc.* hope] hit fastliche hopeð. *c* 1230 *Hali Meid.* 17 Ah wel is him þat folheð wit godes dohter for ha halt wið meidenhad þat is hire suster. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 9547 þe first o þam was cald merci,..Pees þe feirth sister hight. 1399 LANGL. *P. Pl. C.* XII. 98 Ich shal þe kenne to clergie,..hue is sybbe to þe seuen ars and also my soster. 1443 LYDG. in *Pol. Poems* (Rolls) II. 212 In thes seven sustryn was no diuisioun; Cheef of ther consayl was Humilitas. 1474 CAXTON *Chesse* III. vi. (1883) 133 Virginite whiche is suster of angellis. 1599 SHAKS., etc. *Pass. Pilgr.* 104 If music and sweet poetry agree,..the sister and the brother. 1604 N. D. *3rd Pt. Three Conversions Eng.* 179 Vayne glory..with her other sisters, inobedience, boasting, &c. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* VII. 10 Thou with Eternal wisdom didst converse, Wisdom thy Sister. 1817 SHELLEY *Rev. Islam* V. v, Science, and her sister Poesy, Shall clothe in light the..cities of the free! 1873 HAMERTON *Intell. Life* II. ii. (1876) 58 Inspiration decidedly the sister of daily labor.

b. Applied to mythological or imaginary beings; esp. *the* (*fatal* or *three*) *sisters*, the Fates or Parcæ.

c 1374 CHAUCER *Troylus* III. 733 O fatale sustrin! which, or eny clothe Me shapyn was, my destyne me sponne. *c* 1384 — *H. Fame* III. 1401 The myghty Muse..Caliope, And hir eighte sustren eke. 1402 LYDG. *Compl. Bl. Knt.* 189 Or I was born, my desteny was sponne By Parcas sustren, to slee me, if they conne. *c* 1449 PECOCK *Repr.* II. iv. 155 This opinioun, that iij. sistris (whiche ben spiritis) comen to the cradilis of infantis, forto sette to the babe what schal bifalle to him. *c* 1475 HENRYSON *Orpheus & Eurydice* 388 Scho send hym doun vnto the sisteris thre. 1559 *Mirr. Mag.* (1563) B ij, Whose fatall threde false fortune nedes would reele, Ere it were twisted by the susters thre. 1592 LODGE *Euphues Shadow* (Hunterian Club) 79, I should be confirmed..euen to ouercome the insupportable trauailes of the sisters. 1605 SHAKS. *Macb.* I. v. 8 These weyward Sisters saluted me, and referr'd me to the comming on of time. 1637 MILTON *Lycidas* 15 Begin then, Sisters of the sacred well. 1744 AKENSIDE *Pleas. Imag.* II. 59 The harmonious Muse And her persuasive sisters. 1859 *Habits of Gd. Society* v. 194 Should the weird sisters, in a fit of bad temper [etc.]. 1871 R. ELLIS *Catullus* lxiv. 325 Hark on a joyous day what prophet-story the sisters Open surely to thee.

5. In the vocative, as a mode of address, chiefly in transferred senses.

c 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 5 Leoue broðre and sustre ȝe hi-hered hu [etc.]. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 68 Þis nis nout uor ou, leoue sustren, iseid ne uor oðer swuche. 1340 *Ayenb.* 265 Sleȝþe zayþ..'Now broþren and zostren y-hyreþ my red and yueþ youre'. 1451 CAPGRAVE *Life St. Aug.* 31 Þan schuld þei pley, as Wiclif disciples played, 'Sistir me nedith'. *c* 1545 COVERDALE *Church in Denmark* Wks. (Parker Soc.) I. 469 My right dear and entirely beloved brethren and sistern in Jesu Christ. 1584 R. SCOT *Discov. Witchcr.* XII. vii. (1886) 181 Thou shalt See sister underneath The grounde with roring gape. 1600 SHAKS. *A. V. L.* III. v. 75 Will you goe Sister? Shepheard ply her hard. 1603 DEKKER *Batcheler's Banq.* Wks. (Grosart) I. 202 Sister, good morrow, what newes I pray? 1761 GRAY *Fatal Sisters* 51 Sisters, weave the web of death. 1764 — *J. T.* 5 'Lord! sister,' says Physic to Law. 1780 *Mirror* No. 98, And who taught you drinking songs, sister Juddy? 1843 R. CARLTON *New Purchase* I. 203 Brethurn and sisturn, it's a powerful great work, this here preaching of the gospul. 1848 in *Century Mag.* (1882) Apr. 886 Pray for me, brethren! pray for me, sisteren.

6. *pl.* The seven chief stars in the constellation of the Great Bear. See also SEVEN SISTERS.

c 1450 METHAM *Wks.* (E. E. T. S.) 10/266 Hys bryght plowgh of sterrys, and eke the systyrrys at ther stent, The quyche he namyd the sterrys seuyn.

7. A thing having close kinship or relationship to another.

1613 DEKKER *Strange Horse Race* Wks. (Grosart) III. 327 There should you behold a Mine of Tynne, (sister to Siluer). 1622 BONOEIL *Art of Making Silke* Title-p., The two renowned and most hopefull Sisters, Virginia, and the Summer-Ilands. 1736 GRAY *Statius* i. 54 The sun's pale sister, drawn by magic strain. 1752 YOUNG *Brothers* I. i, The days of life are sisters. 1789 J. WILLIAMS *Min. Kingd.* I. 176, I am really concerned for the metropolis and her younger sisters. 1812 BYRON *Ch. Har.* I. xxxii, Where Lusitania and her Sister meet, Deem ye what bounds the rival realms divide? 1867 J. L. PORTER *Giant Cities of Bashan* 155 Olivet overtopping its sister [Mt. Moriah] three hundred feet. 1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) V. 49 Sparta..in laws and institutions is the sister of Crete.

†**b.** *pl.* The strings of a staircase. *Obs.*—1

1518 *Lett. & P. Hen. VIII*, II. II. 1371 A block to set the systers of the stairs upon, 3 ft. long, 18 inches broad, 10 inches thick.

c. One of the cheeks of a cider-press.

1813 RUDGE *Agric. Surv. Glouc.* 225 The cheeks, or 'sisters', are two strong upright pieces of oak, kept to their places by being let into the ground. 1825 J. NICHOLSON *Operat. Mechanic* 291 An improved cider-press..; B B the cheeks or sisters.

d. (See quot.)

1892 *Pall Mall G.* 18 Feb. 1/3 The term 'sister' used for the stool on which the lace-makers place their pillows.

8. *ellipt.* for *sister-line* (see 10b), *-block.*

1653 R. SANDERS *Physiogn.* 2 The same Signs, with the Sisters relating to the Lines. 1834 MARRYAT *P. Simple* (1863) 29 'What blocks have we below—not on charge?' 'Let me see, sir, I've one sister, t'other we split in half the other day.'

II. *attrib.* and *Comb.*

†**9.** The old uninflected genitive remained in common use down to the 16th cent. (latterly only in Sc.) in terms of relationship, esp. *sister son*; rarely in other uses, as *sister bed, part.*

(*a*) 835 *Charter* in *O. E. Texts* 448 Ðonne ann ic his minra swæstar suna. *c* 900 tr. *Baeda's Hist.* IV. xvi. [xviii.] (1890) 308 Se wæs his sweostor sunu. *c* 1100 *O. E. Chron.* (MS. D) an. 1054, His sunu Osbarn & his sweostor sunu Sihward. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 3525 King arthures soster sone þe king howel was. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 21130 Iacob.. was our lauerd sistur sun. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* I. 557 Modreyt his systir son him slew. 14.. *Lat.-Eng. Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 575 *Consobrini*, systersones. 1480 WARKWORTH *Chron.* (Camden) 3 One fayre ladye, suster-doughtere to the Kynge of Fraunce. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 341/1 A Syster husbande, *sororius*. 1529 RASTELL *Pastyme* (1811) 35 Albert..was slayne by his syster sonne. *a* 1578 LINDESAY (Pitscottie) *Chron. Scot.* (S. T. S.) I. 354 The empreouris sister douchtaris. 1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* II. 10 Dauid of Abirnethie, his sistir sone. 1680 in *Cloud of Witnesses* (1871) 85 The Earl of Mar's mother and I being sister-bairns.

(*b*) *c* 1440 *Alph. Tales* 174 Sho purseyvid & saw a multitude of fendis rumyand abowte hur sister bed. 1793 *Statist. Acc. Scotl.* VII. 584 The son got two merks, and the daughter one; hence the sister part, a common proverb in Shetland to this day.

10. Appositively, in the sense of 'fellow': **a.** With designations of persons (or animals).

1687 T. BROWN *Saints in Uproar* Wks. 1730 I. 77 The kingdom..is ten times as populous as when the legend supposes you and your sister-trollops to have lived there. 1702 ADDISON *Dial. Medals* Wks. 1766 III. 29 The Sister-Graces hand in hand Conjoin'd by love's eternal band. 1708 WYCHERLEY *Let. to Pope* 13 May, Her artful innocence..will..make her sister rivals of this age blush for spite, if not for shame. 1775 ABIGAIL ADAMS in *Fam. Lett.* (1876) 89 Spending the day with my namesake and sister delegate. 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* XV, With my sister-nymphs I sport. 1820 SHELLEY *Prometh. Unb.* III. iii, To me Shall they become like sister-antelopes. 1839–54 BAILEY *Festus* 226 While six sister goddesses mazily tread The bright fields of air. 1862 Q. VICTORIA in Ld. R. Gower *Rec. & Rem.* (1903) 69 Pray express to all these kind *sister widows* the deep and heartfelt gratitude of their widowed Queen.

b. With names of things.

1641 MILTON *Reform.* II, We must..come from Schism to Unity with our neighbour reform'd Sister-Churches. 1653 R. SANDERS *Physiogn.* 57 When the sister line of the line of Life is short. 1680 C. NESS *Church Hist.* 92 Those two sister-sins, adultery and idolatry. 1725 POPE *Odyss.* V. 619 Alike their leaves, but not alike they smil'd With sister-fruits. 1727–46 THOMSON *Summer* 1410 The Sister-Hills that skirt her plain. 1787 G. WHITE *Selborne* ix, Wolmer, with her sister forest Ayles Holt. 1808 SCOTT *Marmion* I. Introd. 22 Russet bare Are now the sister-heights of Yair. 1842 TENNYSON *Day Dream* 4 Dreaming on your damask cheek, The dewy sister-eyelids lay. 1870 W. THORNBURY *Tour rd. Eng.* II. xx. 58 Nor did he forget the sister-seat of learning,..Oxford. 1888 BRYCE *Amer. Commw.* II. xlii. 114 Each State recognises the judgments of the courts of a sister State.

c. In collocations tending towards specialized uses, as *sister art, dialect, island, kingdom, language, ship, tongue, university*, or the plurals of these.

1695 DRYDEN *Parallel Poetry & Painting* Ess. (ed. Ker) II. 135 At this time..Poetry is better practised than her *sister-art. 1768 W. GILPIN *Ess. Prints* (1781) 54 The art of scraping mezzotintos is greatly more improved than either of its sister-arts. 1894 PARRY *Stud. Gt. Composers, Mendelssohn* 266 He entered fully into the enjoyment of the numberless masterpieces of the sister art. *c* 1645 HOWELL *Lett.* II. lix. (1892) 475 The *sister-dialects of the Italian, Spanish, and French. 1844 *Proc. Philol. Soc.* I. 217 Similar forms may be found in the sister-dialects. 1816 COLERIDGE *Lay Serm.* (Bohn) 324 The prospective measures in agitation respecting our *sister island. 1838 ARNOLD *Hist. Rome* I. 427 The three sister islands of Sicily, Sardinia and Corsica. 1779 *Mirror* No. 30, Our frequent communication with the metropolis of our *sister kingdom [*sc.* England]. 1826 W. COBBETT *Rur. Rides* (1885) II. 246 The Irish Bible-man,.. whose family are so very well known in the most unfortunate sister-kingdom. 1846 PRESCOTT *Ferd. & Isab.* I. Introd. 29 The sister kingdom of Aragon. 1748 HARTLEY *Observ. Man* I. iii. § 1. 303 The Greek and Latin Tongues I consider as *Sister-Languages. 1842 PRICHARD *Nat. Hist. Man* 246 Other great nations in India whose idioms are sister languages of the people of Tamul. 1840 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* III. 325/2 The 'Vernon', a *sister ship.., made the voyage from Calcutta to Spithead..in 86 days. 1886 *Engineering* 12 Mar., The Edinburgh, a sister ship to the Colossus. 1843 *Proc. Philol. Soc.* I. 143 A *sister-tongue to those of which the Hebrew is the oldest literary type. 1679 FELL in Gutch *Coll. Cur.* I. 270 If we are justified, the advantage will extend to our *Sister University. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* iii. I. 378 The emulation of the sister University was moved.

d. In scientific or technical terms, as **sister-block, -cell, -hook, -keelson** (see quots.).

1794 *Rigging & Seamanship* 156 **Sister-blocks* are made of ash, similar to two single blocks, and are turned out of a solid piece,..one above the other. *c* 1860 H. STUART *Seaman's Catech.* 23 Take it..through the upper sheave of the sister block. 1863 A. YOUNG *Naut. Dict.* (ed. 2) 352 *Sister blocks*, blocks or bull's-eyes seized between the topmast shrouds, for the topsail lifts and reef tackles to lead through. 1882 VINES *Sachs' Bot.* 920 A fertile sexual union of *sister-cells takes place regularly. 1887 BENTLEY *Man. Bot.* (ed. 5) 788 By the division of an epidermal cell (the mother-cell) by a partition which extends across and divides the two daughter- or sister-cells. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2191/2 **Sister hook*, a double hook in which the shanks of the respective portions form mousings for the fellow portions. 1886 R. C. LESLIE *Sea-painter's Log* iv. 74 Unknotted jibsheets fly out, sister-hooks rattle loose. 1846 A. YOUNG *Naut. Dict.* 176 **Sister keelsons* are additional keelsons laid on the floors, one on each side of the main keelson, to afford additional strength and stability, especially to prevent the ship sagging by the weight of the masts. 1869 SIR E. REED *Ship-build.* ii. 45 The forms of keelsons and sister-keelsons used in iron shipbuilding have been almost as various as the forms of keels.

11. Attrib., in *sister-band, -love, -train, -triad, -twin*; **sister-fold**, a sisterly embrace (*poet.*); †**sister-right**, a right of sisterhood; **sister-wife**, a wife who is also the sister of her husband.

1786 BURNS *O Thou dread Pow'r*, The beauteous, seraph *Sister-band. 1846 PROWETT *Prometh. Bound* 26 From out our sister-band thou'dst won thy bride. 1813 SCOTT *Trierm.* III. XXX, These maids enlink'd in *sister-fold. 1801 SOUTHEY *Thalaba* III. XXV, Was it *sister-love For which the silver rings Round her smooth ankles and her tawny arms, Shone daily brighten'd? 1467 in *Ripon Ch. Acts* (Surtees) 233 De et super unum *suster right in Collegio S. Trinitatis Pontefract. 1743 FRANCIS tr. *Hor., Odes* IV. vii. 5 The elder Grace, with her fair *Sister-Train, In naked Beauty dances o'er the Plain. 1871 B. TAYLOR *Faust* II. iii. (1875) II. 144 In our new *sister-triad what a beauty! 1611 COTGR., *Iumelle*, a female twin, or *sister twin. 1818 SHELLEY *Rev. Islam* VII. XXII. 3 We, on the earth, like sister twins lay down. 1743 FRANCIS tr. *Hor., Odes* III. iii. 64 My Grecians shall victorious prove, By me led on to War, the *Sister-Wife of Jove. *a* 1843 SOUTHEY *Comm.-pl. Bk.* (1851) IV. 4 Mango Capac and Mama Oella his sister-wife. 1853 HUMPHREY *Coin-coll. Man.* x. 118 Ptolemy VII married Cleopatra the sister-wife of his predecessor.

Si'ster, *v.* [f. prec.]

1. *trans.* To stand to (a person or thing) in the relationship of a sister or sisters. Chiefly *fig.*

1608 SHAKS. *Per.* v. Prol. 7 Her art sisters the natural roses. 1748 RICHARDSON *Clarissa* (1811) VI. 407 Whose misfortune [is] to be brother'd and sister'd by a couple of creatures, who are not able to comprehend her excellencies. 1854 S. DOBELL *Balder* xxiv. 158 Seven snowdrops Sister the pleiads.

2. To call (one) sister; to address as a sister.

1663 KILLIGREW *Parson's Wedding* II. iii, You have got one of the best hiders of such a business in the Town; Lord, how he would Sister you at a Play! 1753-4 RICHARDSON *Grandison* (1812) III. 251 How artfully..he reminds her of the brotherly character which he passes under to her. How officiously he sisters her! 1834 MAR. EDGEWORTH *Helen* xxxv, Think what it must be..to be 'dear sistered' by such bodies as these in public.

3. To treat in a sisterly manner.

1871 MRS. WHITNEY *Real Folks* xiv, She could be mothered and sistered, as girls ought to be.

Hence **Si'stering** *vbl. sb.* (in sense 2).

1818 SOUTHEY *Lett.* (1856) III. 97 By..such brothering and sistering he kept up his influence among his people.

Sister-german. [f. SISTER *sb.* + GERMAN *a.*[1]] A sister through both parents; a full sister.

1382 WYCLIF 1 *Kings* xi. 19 The sister germayn of his wiif Taphnes. *c* 1489 CAXTON *Sonnes of Aymon* vii. 159, I have gyven my suster germayne to Reynawde for his wyff. 1490 — *Eneydos* xxi. 75 She dyde doo calle anne her suster germayne. 1523 LD. BERNERS tr. *Froiss.* I. xxi. 31 Isabell of Englande..was suster germayne to king Charles last deed. 1570 J. DEE *Math. Pref.* d ij b, Picture and Sculpture, are Sisters germaine.

†**Si'sterhead.** *Obs. rare.* [-HEAD.] =next.

1390 GOWER *Conf.* III. 278 Thei token thanne litel hiede, The brother of the Sosterhiede To wedde wyves. *c* 1400 *Pilgr. Sowle* (Caxton) I. xxxvi. (1859) 40, I doo yow to vnderstande that this lady Misericord, sauynge hyr systerhede, hath caused in this Courte grete annoye. 14.. *Lat.-Eng. Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 612 *Sororitas*, a systerhede.

Sisterhood (si'stəɹhud). Also 4 sosterhode. [f. SISTER *sb.* + -HOOD.]

1. The state or condition of being a sister; sisterly status or relationship.

1390 GOWER *Conf.* II. 268 That was unto Creusa sent.., For Sosterhode hem was betuene. *Ibid.* III. 278 Thanne ..Sosterhode of mariage Was torned into cousinage. 1609 DANIEL *Civ. Wars* IV. lxxii, She..left to doo the part Of sisterhood, to doo that of a wife. 1611 COTGR., *Demi-lict*,.. brotherhood, or sisterhood, on th' one side only. *a* 1656 BP. HALL *Rem.* (1660) 407 There is a kinde of natural equality in Sisterhood. 1780 S. J. PRATT *Emma Corbett* (ed. 4) III. 10 Her last leave of love and sisterhood. 1820 SCOTT *Monast.* v, I will but salute you with the kiss of sisterhood. *a* 1855 C. BRONTE *Professor* xviii, They acknowledged in her a sisterhood of youth and health.

transf. 1846 GROTE *Greece* I. xxii. (1862) II. 541 Connected by colonial sisterhood with the Chalkidic settlements.

2. A society of sisters; *esp.* a society of women who have taken certain vows and live together under conventual rule, or who are otherwise devoted to religious life, or to charitable work as a vocation. Also *attrib.*

c 1592 MARLOWE *Jew of Malta* III, Let me be one, Although unworthy, of that Sister-hood. 1592 SHAKS. *Rom. & Jul.* v. iii. 157 Ile dispose of thee, Among a Sisterhood of holy Nunnes. 1606 WARNER *Alb. Eng.* XIV. lxxxix. 362 Amongst your Sisterhood I know are amorous Wenches some. 1687 T. BROWN *Saints in Uproar* Wks. 1730 I. 80 Own yourself and the rest of your sister-hood to be cheats. 1711 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 164 ₱ 3 To look out a Sisterhood of Nuns among whom to place his Daughter. 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* xlvii, When she took the vows, ..few of the present sisterhood, I believe, were witnesses of the ceremony. 1866 *Church Times* 1 Sept. 277/2 The various works of charity which are chiefly conducted by Sisterhoods. 1889 RUSKIN *Præterita* III. 10 The first impression from life at the secluded Sisterhoods was given me at the Convent of St. Michael.

b. Used loosely to denote a number of females having some common aim, characteristic, or calling. Often in a bad sense.

1609 MARKHAM *Famous Whore* (1868) 47 You faire creatures of my sister-hoode I wish this my discourse may do you good. 1637 MASSINGER *Guardian* IV. iii, I will build An hospital only for noseless bawds,..and be myself The governess of the sisterhood. 1718 *Free-thinker* No. 71. 103 Have the whole Sisterhood of Canting Females banished to some Desart Island. 1748 SMOLLETT *R. Random* xxiii, One of the sisterhood, a little stale, advised me to take lodgings in a part of the town where I was unknown. 1791 WOLCOTT (P. Pindar) *Ode i to Mrs. Paine* Wks. 1812 II. 440 The Sisterhood of Billingsgate shall throng. 1828 SCOTT *F. M. Perth* xi, She lacked..the decided boldness and effrontery of her sisterhood. 1873 G. C. DAVIES *Mount. & Mere* i. 3 Those members of the female sex..who agitate questions they know nothing about. The *Saturday Review* calls the latter the 'Shrieking Sisterhood'. 1886 'OUIDA' *Moths* I. 82 Lady Dolly and her sisterhood were audacious but cowardly.

c. *fig.* A group, array, association, or number of things imagined as sisters.

1827 R. POLLOK *Course of T.* II, A little orb [the earth], ..With her fair sisterhood of planets seven. 1839 DONALDSON *New Cratylus* I. iv. 80 The Celtic nations, the claim of whose speech to a place in the Indo-Germanic sisterhood has lately been established. 1883 in Schaff *Encycl. Relig. Knowl.* III. 2038 A sisterhood of churches covering a large section of country.

Sistering (si'stəriŋ), *ppl. a.* [f. SISTER *v.*] Having a relationship comparable in some way to that of a sister or sisters.

1597 SHAKS. *Lover's Compl.* 2 From off a hill whose concaue wombe reworded A plaintfull story from a sistring vale. *c* 1625 DRUMM. OF HAWTH. *Fam. Epist.* Wks. (1711) 140 The Roman was almost naked from the Waste upwards, discovering the sistering Apples of her Breast. 1835 *Blackw. Mag.* XXXVII. 856 The soft sistering music of a stream That pilgrimed by. 1880 SWINBURNE *Studies in Song* 13 At his birth the sistering stars were one.

Sister-in-law. Also 5 sistir elawe, 7, 9 *dial.* sister-law, etc. [See LAW *sb.*[1] 3 c.] **a.** The sister of one's husband or wife. **b.** The wife of one's brother. **c.** The wife of one's husband's or wife's brother.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 457/1 Syster yn lawe, as hows[bondes] syster, or wyfys syster, *glos. Ibid.*, Syster yn lawe, broders wyyf, *fratrissa*. *a* 1450 *Knt. de la Tour* (1868) 35 The ladies husbondes brother was there, and sawe his suster-in-lawe a litelle asyde with a knight in a corner. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 341/1 A Sistir elawe, *socrus, nurus*. 1535 COVERDALE *Ruth* i. 15 Beholde, thy syster in lawe is turned backe vnto hir people. 1552 *Bury Wills* (Camden) 142 Item I geve..to mother Harvy, my syster in lawe, the thurde [gowne] wch I last made. 1676 HOBBES *Iliad* XXII. 467 Her Sister-laws that stood about her nigh. *a* 1721 J. SHEFFIELD (Dk. Buckhm.) *Wks.* (1753) II. 183 He *mentions* his Sister-in-law's being with child, as no little proof of his brother's kindness. 1779 *Mirror* No. 65, It was my wish to live with my sister-in-law in terms of the strictest friendship. 1820 SHELLEY *Let. to Mary Gisborne* 218 Some dozens of female friends, sisters-in-law, and cousins. 1838 DICKENS *Nickleby* iii, Now for my sister-in-law.

Si'sterize, *v. rare*[−1]. [f. SISTER *sb.* + -IZE.] In *pass.*: To be provided with a sister or sisters.

1752 MRS. DELANY *Life & Corr.* (1861) I. 82 It is happy for D., since she is so brotherised and sisterised, that she can make their strange and unnatural behaviour easy to her.

Sisterless (si'stəɹlĕs), *a.* [f. SISTER *sb.* + -LESS.] Having no sister.

1856 MRS. CRAIK *Y. Halifax* ii, Brotherless, sisterless, and friendless as I was. 1875 W. CORY *Lett. & Jrnls.* (1897) 389 I'd like to end my life that way, motherless, wifeless, and sisterless.

Si'ster-like, *adv.* [f. SISTER *sb.* + -LIKE.] After the manner of a sister. Also **Si'sterlike** *a.*, appropriate to sisters; sisterly.

1576 GASCOIGNE *Philomene* (Arb.) 104 And sister like did louingly Faire Phylomene embrace. 1814 SCOTT *Ld. of Isles* VI. iii, Sister-like in love they dwell. 1839-52 BAILEY *Festus* 205 How sweetly shine the steadfast stars, Each eyeing, sister-like, the earth. 1864 SKEAT *Uhland's Poems* 134 They sat..In sisterlike embrace together wound.

Si'sterliness. [f. next + -NESS.] The quality of being sisterly; sisterly affection or sympathy.

1879 G. MEREDITH *Egoist* II. xi. 232 An elegant sisterliness, one might almost say. 1882-3 *Advance* (Chicago) 9 Aug., If you could experience once the brotherliness and sisterliness that warms our Annual [mission] Meetings.

Sisterly (si'stəɹli), *a.* [f. SISTER *sb.* + -LY [1].]

1. Of or pertaining to a sister; also, characteristic of, befitting, becoming, or like a sister.

1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 100 Sisterly, *sororius*. 1603 SHAKS. *Meas. for M.* v. i. 100 After much debatement, My sisterly remorse confutes mine honour. 1756 WARBURTON *Bolingbroke's Philos.* iii. 158 We shall hear no more of this sisterly resemblance [of Christianity] to Platonism. 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* xlv, A renewal of all the maternal kindness of the abbess, and of the sisterly attentions of the nuns. 1821 SCOTT *Pirate* xix, They..exchanged a sisterly kiss, and a sisterly good-night. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* xliii, She..read him lectures with sisterly frankness. 1887 RUSKIN *Præterita* II. 10 Exhibiting in their own lives every joy of sisterly love.

2. Of or pertaining to a sisterhood.

1883 *Women's Suffrage Jrnl.* Nov. 201 The self-devotion of women to the sisterly life arose out of Christ's teaching.

Sisterly (si'stəɹli), *adv.* [f. as prec. + -LY 2.] In the manner or spirit of a sister.

1616 J. LANE *Contin. Sqr.'s T.* VIII. 68 Yet if thow die the deathe, I live that liefe Which dieth sisterlie with Algarsife. *a* 1821 KEATS *Hyperion* I. 296 Those silver wings expanded sisterly. 1864 F. W. ROBINSON *Mattie, a Stray* III. 205 She spoke coolly and sisterly now.

Siste'rnity. *rare.* [f. SISTER *sb.*, on the analogy of FRATERNITY.] Sisterhood.

1603 HARSNET *Pop. Impost.* xxiii. 166 A Sisternity of mimpes, mops, and idle holy women. 1654 GAYTON *Pleas. Notes* IV. ix. 235 Others of their sisternity (very weak headed women, frail vessels) carried not matters so well.

Si'stership. [f. SISTER *sb.* + -SHIP.] Institutional or conventual sisterhood.

1840 AGNES STRICKLAND *Queens Eng.* I. 294 *note*, Those favoured ladies who..are fortunate enough to obtain sisterships. 1843 LD. J. MANNERS in *Mrs. Brookfield & her Circle* (1905) 133 They are not to be bound by vows, but during their Sistership to obey all the rules of the House.

Sisters thread. [perh. from SISTER *sb.* 3 a.] (See quot. 1812.)

1572 in Feuillerat *Revels Q. Eliz.* (1908) 156 Sisters threade j. oz. 1586 *Rates of Custome* E viij b, Thred called Sisters thred the li., v *s.* 1590 *Acct. Bk. W. Wray* in *Antiquary* XXXII. 371, iiii ounce systers thred, v *s.* 1616 SURFL. & MARKHAM *Countrie Farme* V. xviii. 568 It will make you yarne..for the finest sisters thred that can bee sowed with. 1662 *Act* 12 *Chas. II*, c. 4 (Rates, inwards), Sisters thred, the pound xv *s.* 1812 J. SMYTH *Pract. Customs* (1821) 257 All bleached Thread is called Sisters Thread.

Si'stle, *v. rare*[−1]. [Imitative.] *intr.* To emit a kind of hissing sound.

1849 H. A. WISE *Los Gringos* II, I forgive the entire African races for whistling the latest polkas, or rather *sistling* through their closed teeth.

†**Si'stre.** *Obs.*[−1] [a. F. *sistre*, or ad. L. *sistrum*: see next.] A sistrum.

c 1590 A. HUME *Epist. Montcreif* 30 A loftie troup of Ladies in array, Sum on a luth, sum on a sistre play.

‖ **Sistrum** (si'strŏm). Pl. **sistra** (**sistrums**). Also 8 systrum. [L., ad. Gr. σείστρον, f. σείειν to shake.] A musical instrument consisting of a thin oval metal frame furnished with transverse metal rods loosely fixed in it and a handle by which it was shaken. Also *attrib.*

Originally peculiar to Egypt and the worship of Isis, but subsequently used in other Oriental countries.

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XIX. cxliii. (1495) 946 It is prouyd that Isis quene of Egypte was the fyrste fynder of Sistrum. 1603 HOLLAND *Plutarch's Mor.* 1312 That brasen Timbrel which they sounded and rung at the sacrifices of Isis, named Sistrum. *Ibid.*, Upon the Absis or rundle of the Sistrum toward the toppe, they engrave the forme of a cat. *a* 1682 SIR T. BROWNE *Tracts* xiii. (1683) 201 A Draught of all sorts of Sistrums, Crotaloes, Cymbals, Tympans, &c. in use among the Ancients. 1698 M. LISTER *Journ. Paris* (1699) 111 A Sistrum or Ægyptian Rattle with three loose and running Wires cross it. 1702 ADDISON *Dial. Medals* ii. Wks. 1766 III. 119 The instrument in her hand is the Sistrum of the Ægyptians. 1792 A. YOUNG *Trav. France* 132 Mademoiselle Le Blanc singing to her systrum. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 63/2 Some writers have confounded the sistrum with the cymbals. 1883 V. STUART *Egypt* 206 She held stretched out towards them a sistrum in either hand.

‖ **Sisymbrium** (sisi'mbriŏm). *Bot.* Also 6 sisimbrium. [L., ad. Gr. σισύμβριον some sweet-smelling plant.] A genus of herbaceous cruciferous plants (under which water-cress was formerly included); hedge-mustard, garlic-mustard.

1562 TURNER *Herbal* II. (1568) 140 The seconde kynde of Sisymbrium is called cardamine also, in Englishe water cresses. 1580-3 GREENE *Mamillia* I. Wks. (Grosart) II. 23 The hearbe Sisimbrium growes not to a great braunch in a moment. 1664 EVELYN *Kal. Hort.* (1729) 205 Sisymbrium double and simple. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s.v., The smooth rocket-leaved sisymbrium with yellow flowers. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 64/1 In Sisymbrium the cotyledons are folded with their back upon the radicle.

Sisyphean (sisifi'ăn), *a.* Also 7 Sysiphæan, 9 Sisyphæan, Sysyphean. [f. L. *Sīsyphēius*, ad. Gr. Σισύφειος, f. Σίσυφος, Sisyphus, the name of a king of Corinth, whose punishment in Hades was to roll a heavy stone up a hill; as he reached the top, the stone rolled down again.] Of or pertaining to Sisyphus; like (that of) Sisyphus; resembling the fruitless toil of Sisyphus; endless and ineffective.

1635 QUARLES *Embl.* III. xv, I barter sighs for tears, and tears for grones, Still vainly rolling Sisyphean stones. 1646 G. DANIEL *Poems* Wks. (Grosart) I. 11 Thus I roll Sisyphean Stones, and play (Which he can never) all my time away. 1858 GANNON *O'Donoghue*, etc. 53 Without this magic bond no power on earth Can raise the ponderous Sysyphean stone. 1871 LOWELL *Study Wind.* (1886) 41 The Sisyphean toil of rolling the clammy balls. 1895 KIDD *Soc. Evol.* ix. 245 Do we only see therein humanity condemned to an aimless Sisyphean labour?

Sisyphian (sisi'fiăn), *a.* [f. L. *Sīsyphius*, ad. Gr. Σισύφιος, f. Σίσυφος: see prec.] Sisyphean.

1599 T. M[OUFET] *Silkewormes* 45 Sisyphian soules, betwitched multipliers, Surcease to pitch this neuer pitched stone. 1725 POPE *Odyss.* XI. 734, I..survey'd A mournful vision! the Sisyphian shade. 1863 I. WILLIAMS *Baptistery* II. xxi. (1874) 49 What but this was the Sisyphian stone? 1864 R. A. ARNOLD *Hist. Cotton Famine* 447 A mere labour test—a Sisyphian employment.

Sisyphism (si'sifiz'm). [f. *Sīsyph-us* + -ISM.] Unceasing and fruitless labour like that of Sisyphus, *spec.* as a characteristic of modern industrial conditions; also, the view that industrial labour is of this nature.

In quot. 1856 the reference is to the use of the crank and similar punishments in prisons.

1846 G. R. PORTER tr. *Bastiat's Pop. Fall. Gen. Interests* 24 *note*, We beg the reader to excuse us if we designate this system hereafter under the name of Sisyphism. *Ibid.* 26 Industry in practice never admits of Sisyphism. 1856 READE *Never too Late* I. 231 The ancients imagined tortures particularly trying to nature, that of Sisyphus to wit...We have made Sisyphism vulgar. 1884 RAE *Contemp. Socialism* 406 These gloomy views have in France received the name of Sisyphism.

So **Si'syphist.**

1846 G. R. PORTER tr. *Bastiat's Pop. Fall. Gen. Interests* 25 It may be thought, perhaps, that I exaggerate, and that there are no true Sisyphists.

Siszers, obs. form of SCISSORS.

Sit (sit), *sb.*[1] [f. the vb. Cf. Fris. *sit*, Du, *zit*, MLG. *sit*, MHG. and G. *sitz* seat, sitting.]

1. a. The manner in which an article of dress, or some part of one, is disposed or fits the person.

1776 MRS. THRALE *Let. Johnson* 16 May, Long lectures about the sit of a cap, which you will not give me a minute to put on as it should be. 1785 MACKENZIE *Lounger* No. 22 ₱ 9 She looked very narrowly at the Poupée's head-dress, and the particular sit of her tucker. 1837 *Q. Rev.* LIX. 414 Accounting for the sit of a plume by saying that he had fixed it in a moment of enthusiasm. 1861 *Sat. Rev.* 20 July 61 A child..taught to care for nothing but the sit of its frock. 1892 *Gd. Words* Sept. 634/2 Rather concerned about the sit of a couple of folds in her dress.

b. Inherent character or tendency.

1866 DORA GREENWELL *Ess.* 107 Natures the whole bent and sit of which is powerfully attracted to good.

c. Manner of sitting. Cf. SEAT *sb.* 2.

1894 MRS. DYAN *Man's Keeping* (1899) 259 The dignified step of the..black chargers, the rigid sit of the soldiers.

2. A spell of sitting.

1832 TENNYSON in *Mem.* (1897) I. vi. 147 After this long

sit however I ought certainly to have some interesting passages to tongue. 1852 GLADSTONE in Morley *Life* (1905) I. III. viii. 437, I have had a long sit with Lord Aberdeen to-day.

b. *Cant.* (See quot.)

1907 G. R. SIMS in *Referee* 17 Feb., To be 'at the sit' is to travel by buses and trams for the purpose of picking pockets.

3. A sinking or settling down (of a wall, the roof of a mine, etc.).

1808 JAMIESON, *Sit*, the state of sinking, as applied to a wall. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* II. 98/1 If the roof were tender, it would be apt to break away and fill up the passage, which would be a *sit*. 1885 BEVERIDGE *Culross & Tullialan* II. 234 Many sits or depressions have taken place in the surface.

4. The seat of the body.

1903 HARKER *Rom. of the Nursery* 273, I climbed out of my cot and went downstairs, sit-first, bumpetty-bump on every step.

Sit., *sb.*2 *Printers' slang.* Abbrev. of SITUATION.

1888 JACOBI *Printers' Vocab.* 125 *Sit.*, an abbreviation for the word 'situation', an engagement for work. 1896 *Daily News* 15 Feb. 10/6 Compositor .. seeks change... Not out of sit.

Sit (sit), *v.* Forms: (see below). Pa. t. and pa. pple. **sat** (sæt). [Common Teut.: OE. *sittan* (*sæt*, *sǽton*, *geseten*), = OFris. *sitta* (WFris. *sitte*), MDu. *sitten*, *zitten* (Du. *zitten*), OS. *sittian*, *sittean* (MLG. and LG. *sitten*), OHG. *sizzan*, *sizzen* (G. *sitzen*), ON. and Icel. *sitja* (Norw. *sitja*, *sitta*, *sita*; MSw. *sitia*, *sittia*, Sw. *sitta*; Da. *sidde*):—Teut. type **sitjan*, for which Goth. had *sitan*. The stem **set-*, pre-Teut. **sed-*, is widely represented in the cognate languages, as in Lith. *sedéti*, Lat. *sedēre*, Gr. ἕζεσθαι (cf. ἕδος seat), etc.

In some senses there has been confusion between *sit* and the corresponding causal verb *set*, analogous to that which has existed between *lie* and *lay*, but in modern use the two verbs are clearly distinguished. Some ME. examples of this confusion, in senses where it does not otherwise occur, are probably no more than scribal errors.]

A. Illustration of forms.

1. *Infin. a.* 1 **sittan (syttan, sitton)**, 2–4 (7) **sitten** (3 *Orm.* **sittenn**), 4–5 **sytten**, 5 **syttyn, cyttyn** (6 *erron.* **sitting**).

c 888 K. ÆLFRED *Boeth.* vii. § 3 Hu meahtest þu sittan..? 971 *Blickl. Hom.* 237 He ȝeseah..Matheus ænne sitton. 1154 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1137, He ne myhte..sitten ne lien. *c* 1200 ORMIN 14086 He wollde sittenn þær. 1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. XIV. 218 None..sitten ne mowe bere longe. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 78/2 Cyttyn, *sedeo. Ibid.* 457/1 Syttyn, on a sete. [1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* VIII. vi. 127 He..mayd him sitting doun. 1642 H. MORE *Song of Soul* III. 26 A lamp, that men do sitten by.]

β. 1 **sitta**, 3–6 **sitte** (4 **zitte**), **sytte.**

c 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Matt. XX. 23 Sitta..to suiðra minra. *a* 1250 *Prov. Ælfred* 217 in *O. E. Misc.* 116 Syker he may sitte. *c* 1275 *Passion our Lord* 311 *ibid.* 46 Ich ine heuene schal sytte. 1340 *Ayenb.* 264 Riȝtnesse..ssel zitte amydde. 1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. X. 95 Þere þe lorde..liketh nouȝte to sytte. 1463 *Bury Wills* (Camden) 39 The peleer there I was wont to sitte. 1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* III. iv. 103 There shall no man sytte therin.

γ. 3 **siten**, 3–4 (6 *Sc.*) **site**, 4 **sijt, siet**; 4 **sete**, 4, 6 *Sc.* **seit**, 9 *dial.* **seet.**

a 1300 *Havelok* 366 His knictes dede he alle site. *c* 1325 *Prose Psalter* CXXXI. 13 Her childer shul siten. 13.. *Cursor M.* 8291 þan can he seit On þat tre. *Ibid.* 14734 þair setles þat þai in can sete. *Ibid.* 27335 Hu þe man.. Sal siet. *Ibid.* 27337 To sijt þe preist fot be-side. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* IV. vi. 6 To site so hie ane charge. *a* 1578 LINDESAY (Pitscottie) *Chron. Scot.* I. 28 To seit with so mony wrangis. 1820 WILBRAHAM *Cheshire Gloss.* 86 *Seet*, to sit.

δ. 4–6 **syt** (5 **sytt**), **sitt**, 5– **sit** (9 *dial.* **zit**).

a 1400–50 *Alexander* 235 Made him to sytt On a sege. *Ibid.* 592 þat folke..May sitt & carpe. 1427 *Acts Privy Council* III. 232 þat..þei wolde sit upright. 1523 FITZHERB. *Husb.* § 18 They wyll folowe those stakes,..and syt by them. *c* 1595 CAPT. WYATT *Dudley's Voy.* (Hakl. Soc.) 47 Beinge suffred to sitt..at libertie. 1886 ELWORTHY *W. Somerset Word-bk.* 852 Plase to zit down.

2. *Pres. Indic.* a. 1*st pers. sing.* 1 *north.* **sitto**, 1–3, 6 **sitte**, 4 **sitt**, 6 **syt**, 6– **sit.**

c 825 *Vesp. Psalter* XXV. 5 And mid arleasum ic ne sitto. *a* 1000 *Riddles* XXV. 7 Þær ic glado sitte. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 358 Hwon ich sitte uorto demen. 13.. *Cursor M.* 20840 Queþer i sitt, or stand. 1530 PALSGR. 719, I syt..amongest other folkes.

b. *2nd pers. sing.* a. 1 **sites**, 4 **sittes**, 4–6 **sittis.**

c 825 *Vesp. Psalter* ix. 5 Ðu sites ofer ðrymseld. *a* 1352 MINOT *Poems* i. 1 Trew king, þat sittes in trone. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 1872 Þou..sittis.. in sege. *a* 1568 A. SCOTT *Poems* (S. T. S.) i. 169 Sen so thow sittis in saitt.

β. 1 **sitest**, 1– **sittest**, 4–5 **sittist**, 6 **syttest**; 1, 6–7 **sitst**, 7 **sit'st, sitt'st**; 4 **sist.**

971 *Blickl. Hom.* 141 Þu þe sitest ofer cherubine. *c* 1000 *Ags. Ps.* (Thorpe) ix. 4 Ðu sitst on ðam hean setle. *Ibid.* lxxix. 2 Ðu ðe..sittest ofer cherubin. *c* 1250 *Owl & Night.* 89 Þu sittest a day and flyhst a niht. 1388 WYCLIF *Acts* xxiii. 3 Thou sittist. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* V. 5742 O thou.. That hihe sist. 1535 COVERDALE *Ps.* xlix. 20 Thou sittest. 1592 KYD *Sp. Trag.* II. iv. 24 The more thou sitst. 1648 MILTON *Ps.* lxxx. 5 Thou Shepherd..That sitt'st between the Cherubs.

c. 3*rd pers. sing. a.* 1 **sitet**, **sitteð**, 1, 4 **sitteþ** (5 **-iþ**), 4– **sitteth** (5 **-ethe, -yth**); 4 **sytteþ**, 6 **syttethe, -ith, -yth.**

c 825 *Vesp. Psalter* ix. 29 [He] siteð in searwum. *c* 975 *Rushw. Gosp.* Matt. xix. 28 Þonne sitteþ sunu monnes in sedle. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* IV. 2724 Hou he sitteth be the fyr. *c* 1400 *Lanfranc's Cirurg.* 300 Þis veine sittiþ ful ny3 þe gret arterie. 1504 *Bury Wills* (Camden) 102 The which tenement sytyth and lyyth [etc.]. *a* 1530 LUPSET *Treat. Charite* (1539) 8 It..syttethe faste and sure. 1654 WHITLOCK *Zootomia* 160 Where the winde sitteth.

β. 1–5 **sit** (4 **zit**), 1, 4 **sitt**, 4 **sitte**, 7 **sith**; 1, 4 **syt, sytt**, 4 **sytte.**

c 888 K. ÆLFRED *Boeth.* xxxix. § 13 Sit se hehsta sceoppend on his heahsetle. *c* 1000 *Ags. Gosp.* Matt. xix. 28 Þonne mannes sunu sitt [*v.r.* sytt, syt]. *c* 1220 *Bestiary* 701 Bi hire make ȝe [=she] sit o niȝt. 1340 *Ayenb.* 263 He..zit aþe riȝt half of god. *c* 1385 CHAUCER *L. G. W.* 1832 *Lucrece*, She sytte in halle. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* VIII. 2428 So sitte it wel that [etc.]. 1430–40 LYDG. *Bochas* VIII. XXV. (1558) 17 b, Wher he sit crowned. 1609 J. DAVIES (Heref.) *Hum. Heaven on Earth* clxviii, Heere, in a Chimney,..Sith Grimnesse.

γ. 1, 4 **sites**, 4 **sitis**; 1 **sittes**, 1, 4 **sittes** (5 **-es**), 4–5 **sittus**, 5–6 **sittis**, 6– **sits** (7 **sitts**); 4 **syttes**, 5–6 **syttis.**

c 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Matt. xix. 28 Mið ðy sittes sunu monnes in seðel. 13.. *Cursor M.* 2086 He sittes wit drightin. *Ibid.* 26557 He..Sites [*v.r.* sitis] on his..right hand. *c* 1350 *Will. Palerne* 446 þat he sittus in mi siȝt. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 47 As he on dese syttis. *c* 1420 *Wars Alexander* 73 It sittez till hym. 1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* I. 37 In fife..sittis the Primat. 1693 LUTTRELL *Brief Rel.* (1857) III. 100 If the wind sits fair.

d. *Plur. a.* 1 **sittaþ**, 2 **sitteð**, 3 **sittet, sytteþ**; 1 *north.* **sittas, -es**, 6 *Sc.* **sittis.**

c 825 *Vesp. Psalter* CXXXI. 12 Bearn heara..sittaþ ofer seld min. *c* 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Luke i. 79 Ðaðe in ðiostrum ..sittas [*c* 1000 sittaþ, *c* 1160 sitteð]. *c* 1130 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1130, Hæge sitteð þa aceres dæleth. *c* 1250 in *O. E. Misc.* 168 ȝe þat sittet [*v.r.* sytteþ] i-schrud wiþ skarlet. 1508 DUNBAR *Tua mariit Wemen* 440 Thai all, that sittis about [etc.].

β. 3–6 (7) **sitten**; 4 **sytten.**

c 1250 in *O. E. Misc.* 190 [They] sitten þer to-gederes. 1393 LANGL. *P. Pl.* C. XX. 206 Men..þat in merke sytten. 1542 UDALL *Erasm. Apoph.* 34 b, [To] iest vpon the geastes, as they sitten at the table. 1579 SPENSER *Sheph. Cal.* March 1 Why sytten we soe? [1642 H. MORE *Song of Soul* II. I. iv. 9 They sitten soft.]

γ. 4 **site**, **sete**, 6 **sitte**, 6– **sit.**

13.. *Cursor M.* 25587 Þar we gang and þar we sete [*v.r.* site]. *c* 1586 SIDNEY *Ps.* XXXIV. viii, Gods own eyes on good men sit. 1600 W. WATSON *Decacordon* (1602) 346 They sitte nerer his knee. 1749 GRAY *Installat. Ode* 15 There sit the sainted sage, the bard divine.

3. *Pres. Subj. a. Sing.* 1–7 **sitte**, 4–6 **sytte**; 4–5 **sitt**, 7– **sit.** *β. Plur.* 1–2, 4 **sitten** (1 **sitton**, *north.* **sitta**).

c 825 *Vesp. Psalter* c. 6 Dæt hie sitten. *Ibid., Hymn* iv. 15 Dæt he sitte. *c* 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Mark x. 37 Þætte..we sitta [*c* 1000 sitton, *c* 1160 sitten]. *a* 1067 in Kemble *Cod. Dipl.* IV. 226 Sitte his mann ðer ðar he sitte. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 10 Þet weneð þet order sitte iðe kurtel. 13.. *Cursor M.* 17583 Þof he sitt in heuen hall. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 862 Þof it vnsemely me sitte. 1502 ARNOLDE *Chron.* Cvj, Yᵗ the styward..sytte not from hensforward [etc.]. 1609 BIBLE (Douay) *Deut.* xxix. 20 Al the curses sitte upon him. 1615 G. SANDYS *Trav.* (1637) 57 If the wind sit southward.

4. *Imper. a. Sing.* (later also *Plur.*) 1–4 **site**, 3–4 **sete**; 1, 4 **sitt**, 5 **sitte**, 4– **sit**; 4–5 **sytte**, 5 **sytt**, 5–6 **syt.**

c 825 *Vesp. Psalter* cix. 1 Site to ðe swiðran minre. *c* 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Matt. xxii. 44 Sitt to suiðra min. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 290 Ne lie þu nout..ne site nouðer. *a* 1275 *Prov. Ælfred* 635 in *O. E. Misc.*, Sete þanne..besiden him seluen. 13.. *Cursor M.* 3683 Sitt [*v.r.* sit, sete] vp and ete. 1382 WYCLIF *Isaiah* xlvii. 5 Syt, be stille [1388 sitte thou]. — *Matt.* xxvi. 36 Sitte ȝee heer. *c* 1460 *Towneley Myst.* xviii. 68 Com sytt I soyn shall we se. 1535 COVERDALE *Ruth* iv. 2 Syt you downe here.

β. Plur. 1 **sitte, sittaþ**, **-aþ**, 2–3 **sitteð**, **-eþ**, 4 **sitteth**; 3 **sytteþ**, 4 **syttyþ**; 1 *north.* **sittas**, 4 **sittes, sites.**

c 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Matt. xxvi. 36 Sittas [*Rushw.* sittaþ] her. *c* 1000 *Ags. Gosp.* Luke xxiv. 49 Sitte ȝe on ceastre. *c* 1205 LAY. 22827 Sitteð, sitteð swiðe. *c* 1275 *Passion our Lord* 150 in *O. E. Misc.* 41 Sytteþ her þe hwile. 13.. *Cursor M.* 4975 Godmen, sittes [*v.r.* sites] a littel tom. 1303 R. BRUNNE *Handl. Synne* 952 Syttyþ dowun vpp-on ȝoure knees. 1382 WYCLIF *Jer.* xiii. 18 Beth mekid, sitteth.

5. *Past Indic.* a. *Sing.* (1*st and 3rd pers.*)

α. 1, 3–5 **set**, 4 **zet, sett**, 4–5 **sette.**

Instances of *set* in the sense of 'sat' later than the 15th cent. probably belong to SET *v.*

c 825 *Vesp. Psalter* XXV. 5 Ic ne set in ȝeðæhte idelnisse. *c* 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Matt., Int. 21/2 [He] set ofer assales fola. *c* 1275 *Passion our Lord* 562 in *O. E. Misc.* 53 Þe on set at þe heuede. 13.. *Cursor M.* 16025 He sett vte-ouer þam. 1340 *Ayenb.* 96 Þer he zet, ase zayþ þet godspel. *c* 1400 *Gamelyn* 790 (Lansd., etc.), Whan þe Iustice sette. 14.. *Sc. Leg. Saints* xxix. (*Placidas*) 876 ȝistyrday in myn In as I set.

β. 1, 3 **sæt** (1 **sætt**), 3 **seat**; 2– **sat**, 3–8 **satt**, 4–6 **satte.** Also *2nd pers.* 6 **sattest**, 7 **satst, sat'st.**

c 888 K. ÆLFRED *Boeth.* xxxv. § 7 Se hearpere..sæt on ðæm muntum. *c* 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 101 He sat ofte and tahte wisdom. *c* 1205 LAY. 2960 Þer he on æðelen seat. *Ibid.* 3530 Þe swain sæt at hire fæit. *a* 1352 MINOT *Poems* ix. 35 When sir Dauid..satt on his stede. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* VII. 2282 He satte him thanne doun. *c* 1450 *Merlin* xiv. 226 The kynge..satte stille. 1535 COVERDALE *Ezek.* xxiii. 41 Thou sattest vpon a goodly bed. 1579 *Reg. Privy Counc. Scot.* III. 241 [He] satt doun upoun the ground. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* I. 21 Thou..Dove-like satst brooding. 1676 HOBBES *Iliad* I. 101 This said, he sat.

γ. (*2nd pers.* 1 **sæte**, 3 **sete**, 4 **seete**,) 4–5 **sete**, 4 **seete**, 4, 9 *dial.* **seet.**

c 1000 *Ags. Ps.* (Thorpe) xlix. 21 Þu sæte ongean þinne broþor. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 238 Ich slepte, & tu sete biuoren me. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 1171 He sete on Salamones solie. 1382 WYCLIF *Ecclus.* xxxi. 21 If in the myddel of manye thou seete. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 11109 Yet sadly ho sete. 1446 LYDG. *Nightingale Poems* i. 97 She..seet in myddes of the tre. 1886 *Cheshire Gloss.* 306 *Seet*, perf. tense of sit.

δ. 4–5 **saat** (5 **saate**); 4 (5 *Sc.*) **sait, saitt**; 4– **sate.** Also *2nd pers.* 7, 9 **satest.**

13.. *Cursor M.* 2768 [He] ras fra þen [*v.r.* þar] he sate. *Ibid.* 8296 þar he sait an. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) III. 339 A ravoun sat [*v.r.* saat] uppon þe riȝt schulder of Valerius. *c* 1400 *Pol. Poems* XXVI. 9 Oon byrde..sate on a brere. 1422 tr. *Secreta Secret., Priv. Priv.* 168 He..saate in Iugement. 1611 BIBLE *Gen.* xix. 1 Lot sate in the gate of Sodome. — *Ezek.* xxiii. 41 Thou..satest vpon a stately bedde. 1761 GRAY *Odin* 18 By the moss-grown pile he sate. 1876 BLACK *Madcap Violet* XXXIX, She sate in a corner of the..waiting room. 1885–94 R. BRIDGES *Eros & Psyche* Oct. xiii, Thou..Satest athirst.

ε. 5 **sote**, 8–9 *dial.* **sot** (9 **zot**).

c 1400 *Destr. Troy* 8266 Wayueronde he sote. *a* 1800 PEGGE *Anecd. Eng. Lang.* (1814) 73 London...*Sot*, for *sat.* 1843– *Sot* in common dialect use (see *Eng. Dial. Dict.*); also *zot* (Som., Dev.). 1861 DICKENS *Gt. Expect.* ii, She sot down, said Joe.

b. *Plur. a.* 1 **sæton, -un**, 2–3 **sæten** (3 **-enn**); 1 **setun**, 1, 5 **seton**, 3–5 **seten**, 4–5 **setyn**, 4 **seeten, sieten.**

c 888 K. ÆLFRED *Boeth.* xxvii. § 1 Þær nane oðre an ne sæton. *c* 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* John XX. 12 Tuoeȝe engles.. seton [etc.]. *c* 975 *Rushw. Gosp.* Mark iii. 34 Ðaðe vtan ymb heop his setun. *c* 1000 *Ags. Ps.* (Thorpe) lxviii. 12 Ealle þa him sæton sundor. *c* 1200 ORMIN 15560 Menn att bordess sætenn þær. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 258 Unneaðe his moder & Joseph seten þeron. *c* 1320 R. BRUNNE *Medit.* 1139 Þy peple..Whych setyn yn derkenes. 1362 LANGL. *P. Pl.* A. v. 190 [They] seeten so til Euensong. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* III. 1809 Thei sieten alle stille. *c* 1420 *Chron. Vilod.* 3115 Hurre sustren..setone by-sydus herre þo. 1426 LYDG. *De Guil. Pilgr.* 4612 Wher as they setyn on by on. *c* 1450 *Merlin* xiv. 225 The knyghtes..seten..at table.

β. 3–4 **sete**, 4 **seete**, **siete**, 8 *dial.* **seet**; also 7 **sitt.**

c 1205 LAY. 22767 Seoððen sete þa eorles. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 2777 Þe maistres sete stille ynou. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* V. 3339 Ther they siete and spieke. *Ibid.* VI. 1174 Tofore his oghne bord thei seete. *c* 1400 *Gamelyn* 681 (Harl.), As thei sete and eeten. 1688 in *11th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. VII. 109 The..Jury..sitt upp all night about it. 1790 MRS. WHEELER *Westmld. Dial.* (1821) 35 In com thor sougers an seet dawn.

γ. 4–5 **saten, satyn**, 5 **soten**; 4– **sate**, 4 **saite**, 5 *Sc.* **sait.**

These forms possibly represent ON. *sátu.*

13.. *Cursor M.* 17845 Sundri þai þam fra oþer saite [*v. r.* sate]. *c* 1400 *Gamelyn* 476 Þe grete lordes þat saten in hall. 14.. *Sc. Leg. Saints* xxvii. (*Machor*) 1102 Till [=while] þat þai sait at þe burd. 1432–50 tr. *Higden* (Rolls) III. 343 Bees come and sate on the lippes of Plato. *c* 1450 *Gesta Roman.* xcii. 420 (Add. MS.), Such ij...satyn, and dronkyn. 1451 CAPGRAVE *St. Gilbert* 70 On-to hem whech soten aboute him. 1551 ROBINSON tr. *More's Utopia* I. (1895) 114 We came..and sate vs downe.

δ. 5 **satten, satte.**

c 1430 *Syr Gener.* (Roxb.) 5435 No man list To speke a word, but satten stil. 1474 CAXTON *Chesse* II. v. (1883) 66 Many flyes satte vpon the goores.

6. *Past Subj.* 1 **sæte**, 3–4 **sete.**

971 *Blickl. Hom.* 17 Rihtlic þæt wæs þæt se blinda.. sæte wædliende. *c* 1220 *Bestiary* 504 Ðat it..sete one ðe se sond. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 4060 Þei ech of vs sete al day. *c* 1350 *Will. Palerne* 1622 Þeiȝh i sete euer.

7. *Past Part. a.* 1 **ȝeseten**, 3 **iseten**, 2, 5 **seten**, 4–5 **setun**, 5 **setyn**, 5–6 **setten**; 3–4 **isete**, 4–5 **sete.**

c 925 *O. E. Chron.* (Parker MS.) an. 922, Þæt folc..þe on Mercna lande ȝeseten wæs. *c* 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 103 Ariseð þanne ȝe hauen seten. *c* 1205 LAY. 18532 Þa heo weoren alle iseten [*c* 1275 isete]. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) V. 415 In a tyme he hadde i-sete þere. 1388 WYCLIF *Ecclus.* xxxi. 21 If thou hast sete in the myddis. *c* 1420 *Sir Amadace* (Camden) xvii, This xvi. weke I haue setyn here. *c* 1481 CAXTON *Dialogues* 45 Randolf..hath seten.. xxx. yere. 15.. *Adam Bel* 527 in Hazl. *E. P. P.* II. 161 They had not setten but a whyle. 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 21 b, He had muche rather have setten still.

β. 4 **siten, syten, sytyn**; 4– **sitten**, 5 **sitton**, 6 (9) *Sc.* **sittin** (9 *Sc.* **sutten**); 5–6 **sytten**, 5 **-yn.**

The type *sitten* was very commonly used by good writers down to the early part of the 19th cent., but has now in ordinary use been displaced by *sat.*

13.. *Cursor M.* 11665 Quen sco had sitten [*v.r.* siten, syten] þar a wei. *a* 1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* CXXVI. 3 Rysis eftire þat ȝe hafe sytyn. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 12222 The sure knightes Hade sitton here. 1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* III. ii. 101 The knyghtes names that had sytten therin. 1526 TINDALE *Rev.* iii. 21 Evyn as I..have sytten with my father. 1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* I. 189 Nocht weil sittin doune in the Impire. 1644 DIGBY *Nat. Bodies* XXVIII. § 7. 253 Strangers haue sitten by him. 1787 BURNS *Let. to W. Nicol* 1 June, I'm sitten down here. 1829 LANDOR *Imag. Conv., Diogenes & Plato* Wks. 1853 I. 467/2 If they had always sitten with their hands before them. 1860 GEN. P. THOMPSON *Audi Alt.* ciii. III. 8 One who might be comfortably sitten down with.

γ. 4 **satte**, 6–7 **satt**, 6– **sat.**

Sot is also common in dialects (see *E. D. D.*).

c 1375 *Cursor M.* 13491 (Fairf.), Doun I walde þe folk ware satte. 1576 GASCOIGNE *Poems* (1869) II. 269 Had she satt in feeld. 1665 *Hatton Corr.* (Camden) 48 The King has satt.. at a Councell of Warr. 1711 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 122 ¶ 6 The Court was sat before Sir Roger came. 1779 *Mirror* No. 60, After having sat a considerable time. 1855 KINGSLEY *Westw. Ho!* xxxiii, Where he had sat when he was a..boy.

δ. 6– **sate.**

1532 TINDALE *Expos. Matt.* (? 1550) 34 b, As thogh God had sate and eat..wyth them. 1611 BIBLE *Ps.* xxvi. 4, I haue not sate with vaine persons. 1647 COWLEY *Mistr., The Gazers* ii, We have both sate gazing. 1700 S. L. tr. *Fryke's Voy. E. Ind.* 3 Being all sate down, we fell a talking. 1803 *Edwin* II. i. 12 Where..Hermon and his friend were sate. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* vi, She had sate by him.

ε. 6 **sytt, sitt,** 6–7 **sitte,** 6–8 (9 *dial.*) **sit.**

1528 in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* Ser. I. I. 284 To have sit down. 1540–1 ELYOT *Image Gov.* (1556) 145 After he had sitte a good space. 1565 STAPLETON tr. *Bede's Hist. Ch. Eng.* 81 When..the kinge and the..bishop were sitt doune. 1600 W. WATSON *Decacordon* (1602) 327 Hauing sit enthronized three daies. 1662 HICKERINGILL *Apol. Distressed Innoc.* Wks. 1716 I. 288 The better for being sit upon. 1721 WODROW *Hist. Suff. Ch. Scot.* (1830) III. 109 He..had sit down in a fur. 1888 *Sheffield Gloss.* 216 That milk has sit.

B. Signification.

1. *intr.* **1.** Of persons: To be or remain in that posture in which the weight of the body rests upon the posteriors; to be seated.

Beowulf 500 Hunferð maþelode..þe æt fotum sæt frean Scyldinga. *c* 825 *Vesp. Psalter* xlix. 20 Sittende wiδ broeðer ðinum ðu teldes. 971 *Blickl. Hom.* 15 þa sæt þær sum blind þearfa be ðon wege. *c* 1200 ORMIN 8933 Þære he satt to fraȝnenn hemm Off þeȝre bokess lare. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 279 Ic wile..Min sete norð on heuene maken, And ðor ic wile sitten. 1340 *Ayenb.* 266 Ich yze3 oure lhord ieşu crist ine riȝt half zittinde. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) III. 297 þe senatoures arayed hem..and so þey seten in here hous. *c* 1400 *Pilgr. Sowle* (Caxton) I. xxi. (1859) 21 Sathanas satt for to wryte. 1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* I. xix. 65 As he satte so hym thoughte he herd a noyse of houndes. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* VI. ii. 42 Sibilla Cumane..Quhair as scho sat rummesing in hir caif. 1585 T. WASHINGTON tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* I. xxi. 26 b, Within it was Victory sitting with two wings. 1673 RAY *Journ. Low C.* 186 After that he hath sitten a while there..he is conducted..to his lodgings. 1757 GRAY *Bard* 45, I see them sit, they linger yet. 1779 *Mirror* No. 26, The rest of the company sat nearer or more remote from him according to their respective ranks. 1824 MISS MITFORD *Village* Ser. I. (1863) 30 It is a beautiful brook, and one that Walton himself might have sitten by and loved. 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xi. III. 94 The clause which permitted scrupulous persons to communicate sitting. 1874 BLACKIE *Self-Cult.* 41 A man may think as well standing as sitting, often not a little better.

fig. 1600 W. WATSON *Decacordon* (1602) 346 [I do not believe] that they sitte nerer his knee, or foote stoole, then other penitent sinners doe. 1632 MILTON *Penseroso* 40 Thy rapt soul sitting in thine eyes. 1747 GRAY *Ode Favourite Cat* 28 Malignant Fate sat by, and smil'd. 1818 BYRON *Ch. Har.* IV. i, Venice sate in state, throned on her hundred isles. 1856 AIRD *Poet. Whs.* 307 Beneath her branchless palm must Judah sit.

b. Const. *on* or *upon.* Also fig. *to sit on the* or *one's throne,* to reign.

Beowulf 286 Weard maþelode, ðær on wicge sæt. *c* 888 K. ÆLFRED *Boeth.* iv, Sittað manfulle on heahsetlum, & halige under heora fotum þrycað. *a* 1122 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1079, Se cyng..wearð þær gewundod, & his hors ofslazen þe he on sæt. *c* 1200 ORMIN 5807 Þær he satt onn hiss sæte. *c* 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 235 Þe ston þat ich op-on sitte. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* X. 608 Thair ane place thai fand so braid, That thai mycht syt on anerly. *a* 1450 HOCCLEVE *Min. Poems* 2/75 O thynke how..on my knee Thow sat. 1481 CAXTON *Reynard* (Arb.) 18 He satte vpon his hammes. 1542 UDALL *Erasm. Apoph.* 305 He cutte the benche yt Darius had sitten on. 1613 R. HARCOURT *Voy. Guiana* 41 This Idole is fashioned like a man sitting vpon his heeles, holding open his knees. *c* 1670 HOBBES *Dial. Com. Laws* (1681) 65 That in this court the Kings of the Realm have sitten on the high bench. 1734 tr. *Rollin's Anc. Hist.* (1827) VIII. xix. 276 After he had sitten 24 years on the throne. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XVI. 609 A stone, on which..Telamon sat to view the Salaminian ships. 1855 SMEDLEY *Occult Sciences* 226 Although the Christian sybils ..no longer sat upon a tripod.

c. Const. *in* (a seat, throne, saddle, etc.).

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 8540 Salamon Was king sittand in his fader tron. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* Prol. 131 Quhen at he suld sit in sege of maieste. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 482 As he sat in his sete softly by his qwene. *c* 1420 *Avow. Arth.* xiv, The king in his sadul sete. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 3 Whiche sawe..a persone syttyng in the trone of god. 1593 SHAKS. *Rich. II*, v. v. 46 Like silly Beggars ..sitting in the Stockes. *a* 1648 LD. HERBERT *Hen. VIII* (1683) 215 The said Heralds..presented themselves before Charles, who sate in an high Throne. 1672–5 COMBER *Comp. Temple* (1702) 529 They would not have sitten any longer in their Thrones than the Pope pleased. 1754 in Picton *L'pool Munic. Rec.* (1886) II. 166 Persons who rent seats.. after they quitt sitting in them. 1893 HODGES *Elem. Photogr.* 112 The chair in which he sits.

d. *spec.* Used of persons seated (usually at a table) for the purpose of, or while engaged in, eating, drinking, gaming, etc. (Cf. 2 a.)

a 1300 *Havelok* 2098 Betere is i go miself, and se, Hweþer he sitten nou, and wesseylen. 1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. VI. 265 Sitte nou3t to longe. Arise vp ar appetit haue eten his fulle. 1494 in *Ordin. Household* (1790) 116 And the Kinge sitt in the chamber, that the board must bee on the left hand;..and at that end must the Bishoppe sitt. 1553 BRENDE *Q. Curtius* X viij, Wyth whom when he had sitten eating awhile, he departed from them out of the feast. 1577 *F. de Lisle's Legendarie* I vj, The Kinge of Spaines embassador slacked his comming to ye Council, because he disdained to sit vnder ye French embassador. 1597 [see SALT *sb.*1 7 b]. 1605 *Hist. T. Stukeley* A 3b, Ber Lady we haue sitten well my host, 'tis one a clock. 1791 BURNS *Tam o'Shanter* 24 That..ilka melder, wi' the miller, Thou sat as lang as thou had siller. 1825 T. HOOK *Sayings* Ser. ii. *Man of Many Fr.* II. 2 Without..recollecting that he had described himself..as engaged to a party likely to sit late. 1845 W. H. G. KINGSTON *Lusitanian Sk.* xxiii. II. 145 We sat but a short time after the hostess and her daughters had retired.

e. *elliptical.* To sit up (see 25 b).

1852 THACKERAY *Esmond* I. i, Little Trix was promised to sit to supper that night.

2. With prepositional phrases denoting the occupation of the person while seated: **a.** With *at* (table, meat, a meal, etc.).

c 975 *Rushw. Gosp.* Matt. ix. 9 Ꝺesæh monnu sittende æt Ꝺæflaes monunge. *c* 1000 ÆLFRIC *Exodus* xi. 5 Oð þære wylne frumcennedan sunu, þæt sitt æt þære cweornan. *c* 1205 LAY. 13460 He uondede heom mid worde alse heo seten [*c* 1275 sete] at borde. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 1215 Þer after hii sete at hor mete, wiþ gret nobleie echon. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 1763 Vche haþel..Seten at her soper & songen þer-after. 1382 WYCLIF *Luke* vii. 37 Jhesu hadde sete at the mete in the hous of the Pharisee. *c* 1400 *Pilgr. Sowle* (Caxton, 1483) III. ix. 55 They hadde none other lust but al day syt at the table. 1495 *Act* 11 *Hen. VII*, *c.* 22 § 4 Laborers..longe sitting at ther brekfast at ther dyner and nonemete. 1535 COVERDALE *Tobit* ix, He founde Tobias syttinge at yᵉ table. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* I. 819 When we had sitten at supper untill it was two houres. 1710 *Tatler* No. 235 ¶ 3 It was an unspeakable Pleasure to visit or sit at Meal in that Family. 1742 RICHARDSON *Pamela* III. 88 One Day, as she and I sat together, at our Needles. 1806 WORDSW. *Horn Egremont Castle* 74 As good men do, he sate At his board by these surrounded. 1848 DICKENS *Dombey* xviii, They..sit long at meals, making much of their meat and drink. 1880 [see MEAT *sb.* 4 b].

b. With *to.*

1382 WYCLIF *Luke* ix. 14 Make hem to sitte to mete. 1625 in Ellis *Lett. Lit. Men* (Camden) 132 One that hath already been tryed in transcribing of manuscripts, and will sitt close to worke. 1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* II. (Globe) 338 They could hardly sit to their Oars. 1749 FIELDING *Tom Jones* XVIII. xiii, These two therefore sat stoutly to it [*i. e.* drinking] during the whole Evening. 1817 BELOE *Sexagenarian* II. 218 He sat sturdily to work, and produced.. an historical performance of several volumes.

3. a. With complement denoting the manner (or place) of sitting (on a seat, etc., or on horseback).

c 1205 LAY. 25121 Summe heo sæten stille mucle ane stunde. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 266 Nule he nout..wenden ouer, auh wule sitten ful ueste. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 10151 He wauerit þer-with, & weikly he sete. 1423 JAS. I *Kingis Q.* 196 The magnificence Of him that hiest In the hevin sitt. 1530 PALSGR. 719/1, I syt hyest, or uppermoste at a table. 1620 MIDDLETON *Chaste Maid* (1630) 34 Sit you all merry, Ladies. 1662 J. WILSON *Cheats* I. iii, A Woman need not be asham'd to sit Jig by Joule, with the best of the Parish. 1687 A. LOVELL tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* I. 72 They look very well, and sit as close as if they were nailed to the Horse. 1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* II. (Globe) 565 The poor Beast..was no more to be governed by his Rider, tho' the Fellow sat well enough too. 1754 SHEBBEARE *Matrimony* (1766) II. 158, I sha'n't dare to sit cross-legg'd for you without offence. 1791–3 *Spirit Public Jrnls.* (1799) I. 74 A fat Whitechapel butcher, seated on the centre of the front bench...The butcher sat very back. 1850 THACKERAY *Pendennis* xl, Old Colchicum ..sitting bodkin between Mademoiselle Coralie and her mother.

b. With adj. or advb. complement in figurative phrases (see quots. and the complementary words).

1427 *Acts Privy Council* III. 232 þat..þei [*sc.* lords of the Council] wolde sit upright and entende hooly to..þe goode of þe King and of his land. 1634 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* (1638) 315 The Mogull oft threatens to dethrone him; yet he sits close and keeps his owne. 1694 PENN *Rise & Progr. Quakers* vi. 116 To shew his Disciples it was Good to be Solitary, and sit loose to the World. 1833 G. S. FABER *Recapit. Apostasy* 127 Striving..to sit light to all sublunary matters. 1844 THACKERAY *Contrib. Punch* Wks. 1900 VI. 54, I wish to sit as soft as I can in this life. 1896 BADEN-POWELL *Matabele Campaign* i, They never reckoned that..they would sit tight and strike out hard.

c. In other figurative phrases (see quots. and the various sbs.).

1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 45 b, The Byshoppe, whiche as the master of a shyppe sitteth watching at the Healme. *c* 1580 J. HOOKER *Life Sir P. Carew* (ed. Maclean) 228 Oure enemyes, that have threatened to sitt on my skirts. 1625 MASSINGER *New Way* III. iii, She .. sits on thorns till she be private with him. 1632 — *City Madam* IV. i, He shall not Sit long on Penniless-Bench. 1633 D. ROGERS *Treat. of Sacr.* ii. 79 We have sitten at the feet of Christ attentively while we heard. 1652 in *Victoria Hist. Dorset* (1908) II. 252 [To] pay v *s.* or sitt vi houres by the heeles. 1717 PRIOR *Alma* I. 230 Poor Alma sits between two Stools. 1762–71 H. WALPOLE *Vertue's Anecd. Paint.* (1786) III. 23 Between..the dearth of good masters, and a fashionable reputation, Jervas sat at the top of his profession. 1885 H. HARLAND *As it was Written* 153, I had sat on pins during the inquisition. 1887 *Cornh. Mag.* June 626 Those who sit 'on the fence'—men with impartial minds, who wait to see..'how the cat will jump'.

4. To occupy a seat in the capacity of a judge or with some administrative function.

To sit in judgement: see JUDGEMENT 1 b.

c 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Matt. xxvii. 19 Miδ ðy sæt..he fore hehsedle. *c* 1000 ÆLFRIC *Exod.* xviii. 13 þiȝ oðre dæge sæt Moises, þæt he wolde deman þam folce. *c* 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 5636 Haly men and parfit, þat with hym in dome þan sal sitt, And wyth hym deme. 1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. Prol. 96 Some..in stede of stuwardes sytten and demen. *c* 1400 *Gamelyn* 790 [He] him be-hette þat he wolde be redy whan þe Iustice sette. 1507 in Leadam *Sel. Cases Star Chamber* (Selden) 257 He..syttith as stuard..and holdith theyre Courtes. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. V*, 75 A greate assemble..in the whiche the two kynges sat as judges. 1681 WOOD *Life* 17 Aug., The judges..went to the Guildhall yard where they sate from 8 to 12. 1835 *Penny Cycl.* III. 376 When the judges of each court sit together upon their several benches. 1896 *Law Times Rep.* LXXIII. 690/1 The summons was heard by the registrar, sitting as Deputy Chancellor.

b. To occupy an episcopal, or the papal, see.

1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) VII. 151 Gregorie þe sixte, first called Gracianus, after Benet, sat almost foure 3ere. *c* 1425 WYNTOUN *Orig. Cron.* V. 4535 Qwhen Anastace þe pope was dede, Symacus sat in till his stede Fifteyn 3here. *c* 1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 6531 Tumbertus..Was Eata successour; he sat in hexham 3eres thre. 1579 FULKE *Confut. Sanders* 540 Peter is sayd first to haue sit at Antioche. 1586 FERNE *Blas. Gentrie* 128 Clement 5 then sitting in his papacy. 1631 WEEVER *Anc. Funeral Mon.* 132 When he had sitten fourty yeares in his Bishopricke. 1690–1 WOOD *Life* I Feb., Pope Ottoboni..died (after he had sate 16 months). *a* 1701 MAUNDRELL *Journ. Jerus.* (1732) 13 It was dignify'd with a Bishop's See. In which sometimes sate Severian. 1862 C. WORDSW. *Misc.* (1879) I. 257 The Roman Bishop of that name, who sate in the episcopal see from A. D. 218 to 223.

c. To have a seat in, be a member of, a council or legislative assembly. Also const. *for* (a constituency).

1382 WYCLIF *Jer.* XV. 17, I sat not in counseil of pleieres. 1535 COVERDALE *Jer.* XXIII. 16 For who hath sytten in the councell of the Lorde? 1545 BRINKLOW *Compl.* 3 b, Them that sytte in the Parlament. 1645 WITHER *Vox Pacifica* 195 Since he hath sitten in this Parlament. 1675 HOBBES *Odyss.* IV. 268 Countries I have seen Many; and oft with Heroes in my life In Councels sitten. 1705–6 LUTTRELL *Brief Rel.* (1857) VI. 9 The clause..about officers sitting in parliament after the queens death. 1828 W. FIELD *Mem. Dr. Parr* II. 305 The third..had sitten in eleven successive parliaments. 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xii. III. 203 Francis Plowden, the Commissioner of Revenue, who sate for Bannow. 1880 TROLLOPE *Duke's Childr.* I. v. 55 You used to sit for Silverbridge.

5. Of a legislative or other assembly: To hold a session; to be engaged in the transaction of business.

1518 *Rec. St. Mary at Hill* (1905) 298 Paid for brede and drynke at the parsonage at syttyng vppon þe Avdyt for the newe byldyng. 1577–87 HOLINSHED *Chron.* III. 924/1 We the aforesaid rector and doctors haue..sitten to dispute these questions 1601 R. JOHNSON *Kingd. & Commw.* (1603) 57 When the counsell hath sitten seauen or eight houres, the Bassa visier maketh true relation to the Prince, of all that hath bene handled. 1639 *3rd Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* 78/1 If the King..go about to break their Parliament, I hear they are resolved to sit without his Majesty's leave. 1712 in Picton *L'pool Munic. Rec.* (1886) II. 6 That the..town's chest be now..inspected, sitting this Councill. 1761 HUME *Hist. Eng.* (1806) IV. lxiv. 725 A convocation.. had usually sitten at the same time with the parliament. 1841 *Penny Cycl.* XXI. 177/1 There is also a chief secretary for Ireland, resident in Dublin (except when parliament is sitting). 1863 H. Cox *Institt.* I. ix. 136 In the House of Lords the presence of three members is sufficient to enable the House to sit.

6. a. To place oneself in a position for having one's portrait painted or for being photographed. Also const. *for* (one's portrait), *to* (a painter, etc.).

1538 CROMWELL in Merriman *Life & Lett.* (1902) II. 122 It may please you..to sit so longe..that a seruaunt of the kinges highnes..may take your phisionomie. 1584 LYLY *Alex. & Camp.* IV. ii, The misfortune I had with your picture wil put you to some paines to sitte againe to be painted. 1666 PEPYS *Diary* 17 Mar., This day I began to sit; and he will make me, I think, a very fine picture. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 28 June 1641, I..sate to one Vanderborcht for my picture in oyle. 1742 YOUNG *Nt. Th.* VI. 53 Who can take Death's portrait true? The tyrant never sat. 1840 THACKERAY *Paris Sk. Bk.* I. 115 Simon..painted portraits to admiration, only nobody came to sit to him. 1894 LIDDON *Life Pusey* I. Pref. p. x, Dr. Pusey persistently refused to sit for his portrait.

b. To serve as a model *for* a painting or a character in a novel. Also *fig.*

1673 [R. LEIGH] *Transp. Reh.* 35 Imagining, as he well might, that he had sat for the Coffee-house Sign. 1762 *Ann. Reg.* II. 18 Mr. Young, a learned..friend of..Fielding's, sat for parson Adams. 1784 COWPER *Task* IV. 526 Airy dreams Sat for the picture; and the poet's hand..Impos'd a gay delirium for a truth.

c. To present oneself for examination; to be a candidate *for* a fellowship.

The latter is a special Cambridge use; at Oxford one is said to *stand* for a fellowship.

1830 S. BUTLER in *Life* I. 371 Tom will be at Cambridge to sit for a fellowship at St. John's. *Ibid.*, I had only two men to sit at the Classical Tripos.

7. To be, to continue or remain, *in* a certain state. Now *rare* or *Obs.*

In most cases with suggestion of the literal sense.

c 825 *Vesp. Psalter* cvi. 10 Sittende in ðeostrum & scuan deaðes. *a* 1000 *Genesis* 2700 Ic þæs færes a on wenum sæt. *a* 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 103 Ðus sit man on his sinne, swo ich seid haue. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 1239 Ðor sat his moder in sik and sor. *c* 1375 *Cursor M.* 15576 (Fairf.), Þou sal couer & confort ham þat sitis in sorou & sitte. 1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. XX. 198 As I seet in þis sorwe, I say how kynde passed. *c* 1450 HOLLAND *Howlat* 22 Thus sat I in solace, sekerly and sure. 1535 STEWART *Cron. Scot.* I. 30 Than we and tha sall sit in rest and peice. 1628 GAULE *Pract. The.* (1629) 401 Had not our Sunne thus wisely prolonged his course, we had sit still in Darknesse. 1671 MILTON *P. R.* II. 431 While Virtue, Valour, Wisdom sit in want.

b. With adjectival or other complement denoting the condition.

Deor's Compl. 24 Sæt secg monig sorȝum gebunden, wean on wenan. *a* 1025 *Laws Cnut* II. lxxiii. (Liebermann) 360 Sitte ælc wuduwe werleas twelf-monað. *a* 1250 *Prov. Ælfred* 378 in *O. E. Misc.* 124 Þanne myht þu sikerliche sely sytte. 1382 WYCLIF *Lam.* iii. 28 He shal sitte solitarie. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 2265 Ye wetyn..þat all Auffrike & Europe..Sittyn to hom subiecte. *c* 1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 1006 He was anker and sole satt,..And leued in lyf contemplatyue. 1530 PALSGR. 719/1 Go to the warre who wyll, I wyll sytte styll. *c* 1595 CAPT. WYATT *R. Dudley's Voy.* (Hakl. Soc.) 47 The Indians beinge suffred to sitt afterwarde at libertie. 1638 W. SCLATER *Serm. Experim.* 79 That people have now

long sitten without a King. *a* 1700 Evelyn *Diary* 23 Sept. 1683, That the French King might the more easily swallow Flanders..whilst we sat unconcern'd. 1760 *Ann. Reg.* I. 9 That haughty power was obliged to sit the impotent spectator of the ruin of her colonies. 1775 Johnson *Tax. no Tyr.* 31 That he can sit secure in the enjoyment of inheritance. 1875 Jowett *Plato* (ed. 2) V. 68 Plato has arrived at the time when men sit still and look on at life.

c. With appositive complement denoting the position or occupation of a person. Also *fig.*

c 825 *Vesp. Psalter* xxviii. 10 Siteð dryhten cyning in ecnisse. 1382 Wyclif *Isaiah* xlvii. 8, I shal not sitte a widewe. — *Rev.* xviii. 7 In hir herte she seith, I sitte a queen. 1614 Raleigh *Hist. World* iv. iii. § 3. 181 Having sitten Viceroy tenne yeeres. 1629 H. Burton *Babel no Bethel* 124 It is Babylons voyce, *Sedeo Regina*, I sit a Queene. 1634 Milton *Comus* 957 Night sits monarch yet in the mid sky. *a* 1661 Fuller *Worthies* (1840) III. 304 He sate bishop 19 years. 1715 Hearne *Collect.* (O. H. S.) V. 62 Dr. Charlett sate Vice-Chancellor, and ordered ye Sermon to be printed. 1784 Cowper *Task* v. 877 Gods..that sit Amus'd spectators of this bustling stage. 1833 Chalmers *Const. Man* (1835) I. i. 103 Conscience sat mistress over the whole earth. 1859 Reade *Love me Little* vii. (1868) 88 She was sitting sentinel till the carriage should arrive.

8. To have one's seat, quarters, or place; to abide, dwell, remain (in a place).

c 900 *O. E. Chron.* (Parker MS.) an. 855, Her hæþne men ærest on Sceapige ofer winter sætun. *c* 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Luke xxi. 35 On allum ðaðe sittað ofer onsione all eorðes. *a* 1122 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1036, Man ȝerædde þa þæt Ælfȝifu..sæte on Winceastre. 1154 *Ibid.* an. 1137, Sculdest þu neure finden man in tune sittende. 13.. *K. Alis.* (Laud MS.) 1927 Bitwene tygre & Eufraten, Seten alle þise heþen men. *c* 1380 Wyclif *Sel. Eng. Wks.* I. 149 Hem were beter to sitten at home. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 4024 [They have] Nouthire cites in to sytt, cellis, nor na tounes. 1584 *Leycesters Commw.* (1641) 23 If the good Lady had..used his helpe, shee should not have needed to have sitten so pensive at home. 1649 Sclater *Comm. Malachy* (1650) 176 It had better for them, to have sitten by the flesh-pots and garlicke, and onyons of Egypt. 1667 Milton *P. L.* II. 56 Shall the rest..sit lingring here Heav'ns fugitives? 1721 Kelly *Sc. Prov.* 194 It is hard to sit in Rome, and strive against the Pope.

fig. *c* 1350 *Will. Palerne* 446 He sittus in mi si3t me þinkes euer-more. *c* 1400 *Rom. Rose* 2846 Y-wis, he sit so nere myn herte. To speke of him, at eve or morwe, It cureth me of al my sorwe. 1749 Fielding *Tom Jones* xvii. v, The lady..who sits, indeed, very near my heart.

b. To be tenant of, to occupy, a house, farm, etc.; to remain during a lease; to continue a tenancy. Usually const. *at* (a certain rent), or with compl. Also, †to live *at* a certain rate of expense.

1598 Shaks. *Merry W.* I. iii. 8, I sit at ten pounds a weeke. 1609 W. M. *Man in Moone* (1849) 17 Marke how they will moane their own mischances, how they sit at an unmerciful rent. 1625 Bacon *Ess., Of Usury* (Arb.) 542 As a Farmer cannot husband his Ground so well, if he sit at a great Rent. 1713 in *N. & Q.* 9th Ser. X. 257/1 The Schoolmistress to sit Rent free. 1751 Smollett *Per. Pic.* xci, She found herself ..incapable..of keeping the farm, unless he would..allow her to sit free for a twelvemonth. 1811 Scott in *Lockhart* (1837) II. xi. 356, I now sit a tenant at will under a heavy rent. 1844 W. Cross *Disruption* xxxviii. (E. D. D.), Sit wha like, I'll flitt. 1883 *19th Cent.* Sept. 439 The ryots.. claim at times to sit at rates that have long been obsolete.

Prov. 1615 W. Lawson *Country Housew. Gard.* (1626) 9 Their Tenants..haue taken vp this Prouerbe, Botch and sit, Build and flit.

9. † **a.** To lie *in* wait or in ambush. *Obs.*

c 825 *Vesp. Psalter* ix. 29 [He] siteð in searwum mid ðæm weoliȝum. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 332 Tristre is þer me sit mid þe greahundes forte kepen þe hearde. *a* 1340 Hampole *Psalter* ix. 30 He sittis in waitis wiþ þe riche in hidels. 1382 Wyclif *Josh.* viii. 9 Thei wenten to the place of the busshement, and thei seten betwixe Bethel and Hay.

b. To remain at a siege. Cf. 21 c (*b*).

c 900 *O. E. Chron.* (Parker MS.) an. 878, He..him æfter rad oþ þæt geweorc, & þær sæt xiiii niht. *a* 1000 *Boeth. Metr.* xxvi. 16 Aulixes mid an hund scipa lædde ofer laxustream; sæt longe ðær tyn winter full. 1802 James *Milit. Dict.* s.v., To sit before a fortified place; to lie encamped for the purpose of besieging it.

10. Of birds: To perch or roost; also, to rest the body on the ground or other surface.

a 1000 *Phœnix* 208 Þær se wilda fuȝel..siteð siþes fus. *a* 1000 *Genesis* 2159 Ac nefuȝlas under beorhhleoþum blodiz sittað. *c* 1205 Lay. 2827 An muchel ærn spec a þon castle þer he set. *c* 1250 *Owl & Night.* 89 Þu sittest a day and flyhst a niht. 13.. *Coer de L.* 465 (W.), On hys crest sat a raven swart. 1446 Lydg. *Nightingale Poems* i. 97 She a-lyght Ande singynge seet in myddes of the tre. 1486 *Bk. St. Albans* d ij b, All maner of fowlys that syt in trees. 15.. in *Dunbar's Poems* (S. T. S.) App. ii. 12 That bird.. satt, & tald me hir intent. 1613 Purchas *Pilgrimage* (1614) 748 The birds sit as thicke, as stones lie in a Paued street. 1696 Tate & Brady *Ps.* cii. 6 Like an Owl that sits all day On barren Trees. 1784 Cowper *Task* vi. 308 The stock-dove..Sits cooing in the pine-tree. 1803 *Gaz. Scotl.* s.v. *Orkney Islands*, The cliffs on which the birds are sitting. 1821–2 Shelley *Chas. I*, v. 4 A widow bird sate mourning Upon a wintry bough. 1901 *Westm. Gaz.* 30 Aug. 1/3 The coveys have grown so wild..that they will not sit to setters.

b. To take up or continue in the posture necessary for the hatching of eggs. Also const. *on.*

In older use freq. *to sit abrood*: see Abrood *adv.*

1483 *Cath. Angl.* 341/2 To Sytt on eggis, *incubare.* 1523 Fitzherb. *Husb.* § 146 All hole-footed fowles wyll sytte a moneth. 1602 *2nd Pt. Return fr. Parnass.* I. ii. 173 An old goose that sits hatching vp those eggs. 1658 tr. *Porta's Nat. Magic* II. xvii. 50 Let them [eggs] be sitten upon, their due time [etc.]. 1759 R. Brown *Compl. Farm.* 71 A hen sits twenty days. 1828 Stark *Elem. Nat. Hist.* I. 303 Until the female begins to sit, the male is frequently heard to make a singular kind of noise. 1855 D. J. Browne *Amer. Poultry Yd.* 108 If a hen is really determined to sit, it is useless..to attempt to divert her from her object.

transf. 1608 Topsell *Serpents* (1658) 597 The Serpent having laid her Egge sitteth upon them to hatch them at several times.

fig. 1667 Milton *P. L.* I. 21 Thou..Dove-like satst brooding on the vast Abyss And mad'st it pregnant. 1818 Scott *Rob Roy* xxxv, Civil war is like a cockatrice;—we have sitten hatching the egg that held it for ten years.

11. Of animals: To rest the body in a manner analogous to that of a seated person.

c 1250 *Owl & Night.* 86 Þe were icundere to one frogge þat sit at Mulne vnder cogge. 13.. *Pains of Hell* (Vernon MS.) 217 Wormes and serpentes on hem seeten. 1340 Hampole *Pr. Consc.* 4178 'Þe Dan' he says 'sal þe nedder be Sitand in þe way als men sal se'. *c* 1420 *Anturs of Arth.* x. (Thornton MS.), Cerkelytt withe serpentes, þat satt by hir sydes. 1486 *Bk. St. Albans* F vij b, A Cony sittyng. 1523 Fitzherb. *Husb.* § 18 The sheepe..wyll folowe those stakes, as he flytteth them, and syt by them. 1667 Milton *P. L.* IV. 352 Others on the grass Coucht, and now fild with pasture gazing sat. *Ibid.* v. 25 How the Bee Sits on the Bloom. 1711 Addison *Spect.* No. 115 ₱ 6 A Hare is not yet safe that Sits within ten Miles of his House. 1856 'Stonehenge' *Brit. Rural Sports* I. II. vi. 139 It is very desirable to find the hare sitting, because she may otherwise sit so close as to be 'chopped'.

fig. 1749 Fielding *Tom Jones* v. x, This alone must have abundantly satisfied Jones that he was (to use the language of sportsmen) found sitting.

12. To rest the body *on* the knees; to be in a kneeling posture. Cf. 19. *Obs.*, exc. *dial.*

c 893 K. Ælfred *Oros.* III. ix. 134 Þeh þe hie hiene með. iȝne on cneowum sittende metten. *a* 1000 *Daniel* 180 Þa hie for þam cumble on cneowum sæton. *c* 1275 *Passion our Lord* 106 in *O. E. Misc.* 40 He hit bitauhte iudas, þat alle hit myhte iseo, Þer he wes bivoren him and set on his kneo. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xiii. (*Mark*) 173 He..prayt for þam..& sad, sittand one his kne [etc.]. 1390 Gower *Conf.* I. 155 This Maiden, which sat on hire knes Tofore the king. *c* 1440 *Alph. Tales* 15 As he satt in his prayers, hym þoght [etc.]. 1518 in *Yorks. Arch. Trans.* II. 381, iij pure women to sit at ye herse & pray. 1593 in J. Morris *Troubles Cath. Forefathers* (1877) 155 All the time he was before them, the President forced him to sit upon his knees. *c* 1610 Sir J. Melvil *Mem.* (Bann. Club) 120 He sitting vpon his knees before hir, keping a gret grauite. 1652 Boate *Nat. Hist. Ireland* (1860) 125 On that dry place where the mud is poured forth sit certain women upon their knees. 1821 Scott *Kenilw.* xxxii, While he sat on his knees before me, mopping and mowing. 1868 in *Myrc's Instr. Par. Priests* 74 In Durham *sitting on the knees* is an expression still used for kneeling.

13. Of things: To have place or location; to be situated.

c 888 K. Ælfred *Boeth.* xxxix. § 13 Þæt leohte fyr..up ȝewit, & sio heſiȝe eorðe sit þær niðere. *c* 900 Wærferth tr. *Gregory's Dial.* 245 Þæt ȝetacnað, þæt seo rihtȝewittuȝe sawl siteð on þam lichaman. 1362 Langl. *P. Pl.* A. VIII. 129, I..sauh þe sonne sitte souþ euene þat tyme. *c* 1391 Chaucer *Astrol.* II. § 33 The same wyse maistou sen..wheither the sterre sitte est or west or north. *c* 1400 Maundev. (1839) i. 7 The evylle Town, that sytt toward the ende of Hungarye. *c* 1425 *Crafte Nombrynge* (E. E. T. S.) 23 Loke quere sittes 2 in þe lyft side in þe first rewe. *c* 1440 *Astron. Cal.* (MS. Ashm. 391), A table..which will shewe you in what signe þe moone sitteþ euery day. 1504 *Bury Wills* (Camden) 102 The which tenement sytteth and lyyth by ye tenement of John Clerk. 1570 *Satir. Poems Reform.* xxii. 54 The forkit Clauer besyde the Croce that sittis. 1812 *New Bot. Garden* I. 29 The involucre..sits close to the flower. 1867 Augusta Wilson *Vashti* xx, In the room where the coffin sat wreathed with flowers. 1879 Stevenson *Trav. Donkey* (1886) 179 The village of Cocurès, sitting among vineyards and meadows.

fig. 1632 Milton *Penseroso* 40 Thy rapt soul sitting in thine eyes. 1760–72 H. Brooke *Fool of Qual.* (1809) IV. 93 That regardlessness for trifles which then sat at my heart. 1793 Burns *Young Jessie* 13 Love sits in her smile, like a wizard ensnaring. 1821–2 Shelley *Chas. I*, II. 34 Mark you what spirit sits in St. John's eyes?

b. To be situated, to rest or lie, to be supported, *on* or *upon* something. Freq. *fig.*

971 *Blickl. Hom.* 75 Swa seo heſiȝe byrþen [of the tomb] siteþ on þæm deadan lichoman. *a* 1023 Wulfstan *Hom.* xxxiii. (1883) 162 Us godes yrre hetelice on sit. *a* 1300 *Havelok* 735 Þer sat is ship up-on þe sond. 1362 Langl. *P. Pl.* A. VI. 11 An hundred of ampolles on his hat seeten. 1390 Gower *Conf.* II. 23 Which Ring..where it on a finger sat [etc.]. 1494 *Act* 11 *Hen. VII*, c. 23 The little Bone that sitteth upon the great Fin. 1619 Beaum. & Fl. *Knt. Malta* IV. ii, Art thou a Knight? did ever on that sword The Christian cause sit nobly? 1676 Hobbes *Iliad* II. 20 That sleep all night upon his eyes should sit. 1766 Goldsm. *Vic. W.* xxviii, A fatal paleness sat upon her cheek. 1796 Withering *Brit. Plants* (ed. 3) IV. 114 Scarlet semi-globules sitting on the sides of the branches. 1820 Scott *Monast.* xxxvii, Your Father and Abbot will not disgrace the mitre which sits upon his brow. 1853 M. Arnold *Sohrab & Rustum* 666 Truth sits upon the lips of dying men. 1885 *Century Mag.* XXIX. 880/2 A little three-legged trivet on which a tankard..might sit with live coals beneath.

c. With compl. denoting manner or position.

c 1400 *Lanfranc's Cirurg.* 188 It wole make hise heeris longe & make hem sitte faste. 1654 Z. Coke *Logick* To Rdr., The numerous Tomes of the Times, which serve but ..to make the world sit straight about you. 1719 De Foe *Crusoe* I. (Globe) 55 The Ship sat upright. 1739 Labelye *Piers Westm. Bridge* 30 We sunk the Caisson a second time, and found it to bed itself, or sit perfectly level upon the hard Gravel.

d. Of the wind: To blow from, be in, a particular quarter. Now only in fig. phrase.

1593 Shaks. *Rich. II*, II. ii. 123 The winde sits faire for newes to go to Ireland, But none returnes. 1596 Danett tr. *Comines* II. xiv. 78, I wot not whether it were bicause the winde sat that way, or bicause we lodged vpon the riuer. 1610 Holland *Camden's Brit.* 587 When the wind sitteth West, it is alwaies rain. *a* 1654 Selden *Table-T.* (Arb.) 32 A good Miller that knows how to grind which way soever the Wind sits. 1711 Addison *Spect.* No. 10 ₱ 5 By that Time they are pretty good Judges of the Weather, know which Way the Wind sits [etc.]. 1762 *Gentl. Mag.* 137 The wind sat North.

fig. 1599 Shaks. *Much Ado* II. iii. 102 That she should so dote on Signior Benedicke...*Bene.* Is't possible? sits the winde in that corner? 1605 Chapman *All Fools* I. i, Sits the winde there? blowes there so calme a gale From a contemned and deserued anger? 1706 Mrs. Centlivre *Basset-Table* IV, Ha, Captain, how sits the wind between you and your mistress? 1818 Scott *Br. Lamm.* xv, So soon as the Marquis's political agent found how the wind sat, he began [etc.]. 1834 Whately in *Life* (1866) I. 243 The following straw may serve to show how the winds sits. 1893 Stevenson *Catriona* vi, Is it so the wind sits?

† **e.** Of the tide: To set. *Obs.*[1]

1751 R. Paltock *P. Wilkins* (1884) I. 239 Shooting from shelf to shelf, as the tide sat.

14. In fig. phrases: **a.** With *nigh, near, close to, at*, etc.: To affect one deeply.

c 1402 Lydg. *Compl. Bl. Knt.* 18 My sekenes sat ay so nigh my herte. 1584 B. R. tr. *Herodotus* 106 There befell unto him another mischiefe, that sate as neere hys skirtes as the death of his dilling. 1603 Shaks. *Meas. for M.* v. 394 Your Brothers death I know sits at your heart. 1611 Speed *Hist. of Gt. Brit.* IX. iii. § 19. 443 Whose sinnes beganne to sit so neere his heart.. that hee sore repented him of the same. 1622 Mabbe tr. *Aleman's Guzman d'Alf.* II. 39 Of all my misfortunes, the greatest that ever befell mee, and which sits closest to my heart. 1713 Addison *Cato* I. iv, When discontent sits heavy at my heart. 1821 Scott *Kenilw.* xxx, The anguish and uncertainty which sat heavy at his heart.

b. To press or weigh (heavily, lightly, etc.) *on* or *upon* one. Also without const.

1593 Shaks. *Rich. II*, I. iii. 280 (Q.), Woe doth the heauier sit, Where it perceiues it is but faintly borne. 1643 Milton *Divorce* Wks. 1851 IV. 9 For no effect of tyranny can sit more heavy on the Common-wealth. 1697 Collier *Ess. Mor. Subj.* (1703) II. 182 These questions well-answered.. will make a man's years sit easy upon him. 1729 Butler *Serm., Balaam* 451 There must therefore be some method of making it sit a little easy upon their minds. 1759 Sterne *Tr. Shandy* II. xiv, To make reparation..for the insult he had given him, which sat still upon my father's mind. 1861 Hughes *Tom Brown at Oxf.* x, The restless haggard expression sat more heavily than ever on his face. 1875 Jowett *Plato* (ed. 2) III. 196 Old age sits lightly upon you.

c. To lie (easily, etc.) *on* the stomach. Also without const., to be easily digested.

(*a*) 1708 W. King *Cookery* 19 You cannot imagine..how much easier they will sit upon your Stomach. 1773 Goldsm. *Stoops to Conq.* IV. i, Good liquor will sit upon a good supper, but a good supper will not sit upon..my conscience. 1822–7 Good *Study Med.* (1829) V. 572 Such preparations of iron as may sit easy on the stomach.

(*b*) 1737 Byrom *Rem.* (1856) II. I. 123 Had a cheesecake ..by the way, which..did not sit so easy, being buttery. 1822–7 Good *Study Med.* (1829) I. 187 A little toast and water alone..will often sit easy when nothing else will remain.

† **15.** With dative of person: To affect (one) in a specified way; to distress, vex, grieve. *Obs.*

c 1230 *Hali Meid.* 7 To don al & drehen þat him liked, ne sitte hit hire se uuele. *c* 1375 *Cursor M.* 24342 (Fairf.), Our sorowing..satte vs baþ in flesshe & bane. 1393 Langl. *P. Pl.* C. III. 154 Yf he fynde 3ow in defaute..Hit shal sitte 3oure soules ful soure at þe laste. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 2284 Sothely your suster sittes vs not so harde. *c* 1470 Henry *Wallace* VI. 24 3eit he desyrd the thing that sat him sar. *a* 1500 *Assembly Ladies* 663 She felt gret displesaunce,..And no wonder; it sat her passing nere. 1535 Stewart *Cron. Scot.* III. 269 In his aige that sat him full soir. *a* 1542 Wyatt *Poet. Wks.* (1861) 24 But pray restore it mannerly, ..For to lese it, it sitteth me near.

† **b.** To cost (one) so much. *Obs. rare.*

1377 Langl. *P. Pl.* B. III. 48 We han a wyndowe a wirchyng wil sitten vs ful heigh. *c* 1421 *26 Pol. Poems* 85 Mannys loue sat me so sore, Nas neuere bargayn derrere bouȝt.

16. Of clothes: **a.** With dative: To fit or suit (a person, etc.). *rare.*

This sense and 17 are due to the influence of AF. *seeir* (mod.F. *seoir*).

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 15286 Wit a tuell he belted him His side sitand ful mete. *a* 1764 Lloyd *Poet. Wks.* (1774) II. 38 Suppose For once you wear the begger's clothes;..Bless me, they sit you to a hair. 1827 Carlyle *Germ. Rom.* III. 129 Her morning-promenade dress of white muslin,..but, adds she, it will not sit her.

b. To fit (well, tightly, etc.). Freq. with preps. as *about, on, to.* Also *fig.*

?1370 *Robt. Cicyle* 287 Alle men wondurd fro whens he came, So welle hys rayment sate hym on. *c* 1400 *Rom. Rose* 2263 Poyntis and sleves be wel sittand, Right and streight upon the hand. 1470–85 Malory *Arthur* IX. i. 338 His ouer garment sat ouerthwartly. 1561 Hoby tr. *Castiglione's Courtyer* I. (1577) H ij, Her hose sittynge cleane to her legge. 1594 Hooker *Eccl. Pol.* Pref. iii. § 14 Which cloak sitteth no less fit on the back of their cause, than of the Anabaptists. 1602 *How Chuse Good Wife* III. iii, He is such a sloven, That nothing will sit handsome about him. 1607 Dekker *Northward Hoe* II. i, How sit our blew-coates on our backes. 1687 Miége *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II. s.v., A Coat that sits close to the Body. 1819 Scott *Ivanhoe* iii, A close dress of scarlet which sate tight to his body. 1851 *Eliza Cook's Jrnl.* 19 July 177 Throwing also an occasional look down..his new Californian trowsers, seeing that they 'sit' well. 1884 G. Allen *Philistia* I. 52 Now just turn round and show me how it sits behind.

c. *fig.* Of airs, opinions, practices, etc.

1614 D. Dyke *Myst. Self-deceiving* 369 Let his gifts and graces be neuer so excellent, yet they sit but loose about him. 1728 Vanbr. & Cibber *Prov. Husb.* II. i, *Lady Ara.* Do you ever play at hazard, Clarinda? *Clar.* Never; I don't think

it sits well upon women. 1786 *Francis the Philanthropist* III. 79 He whose opinions..sat loose upon him, was always deemed a bad, and generally a weak, man. 1821 Scott *Kenilw.* vii, Her little air of precision sits so well upon her. 1858 Carlyle *Fredk. Gt.* xi. i. (1872) IV. 25 A light stoicism sits gracefully on him. 1885 *Spectator* 25 July 970/2 The feudal Conservatism which sat so well upon him.

† **17.** Usually *impers.* To suit; to be suitable, fitting, proper, or seemly. *Obs.*

c 1330 R. Brunne *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 15558 Þei miette.. To conseille þem, & to wyte How þat þyng best mighte site. *c* 1386 Chaucer *Clerk's T.* 404 But..I seye that yuele it sit To assaye a wyf whan þat it is no nede. 1390 Gower *Conf.* I. 335 Yit sit it wel that thou eschuie That thou the Court noght overhaste. *c* 1449 Pecock *Repr.* III. ix. 333 It bisemeth and it is sitting, and therfore it is to be doon. 1579 Spenser *Sheph. Cal.* Nov. 26 The Nightingale is soureigne of song, Before him sits the Titmose silent bee.

† b. Const. *for, to,* or with dative. *Obs.*

c 1386 Chaucer *Merch. T.* 1071, I am a kyng, it sit me noght to lye. 1390 Gower *Conf.* I. 51 It sit a prest to be wel thewed. 14.. in *Hist. Coll. Cit. Lond.* (Camden) 129 As hyt syttythe and semyþe so worthy a prynce and a pryncesse. *c* 1420 *Wars Alexander* 73 It sittez noȝte till an emperour..to lose his men þus. *c* 1460 J. Russell *Bk. Nurture* 392 With pesyn & baken whan sesoun þer-to dothe sitt. 1530 Palsgr. 719/2 It sytteth nat for your estate to weare so fyne furres.

c. With *well* as complement. Now *dial.*

? *a* 1366 Chaucer *Rom. Rose* 750 It sat hir wondir wel to synge. 1375 Barbour *Bruce* I. 394 In spek wlispyt he sum deill; Bot that sat him rycht wondre weill. 1399 Gower *In Praise Peace* 52 It sit hem wel to do pite and grace. 1426 *Acts Privy Council* III. 183 My..lorde of Gloucestre wol as hit sitteth him wel..kepe & restreyne his meyne. 1846 Brockett *N. C. Gloss.* (ed. 3) s.v., 'It sits him well,' of a pretentious person.

III. 18. To seat oneself; to take a seat; to sit down. Cf. 21 a. Also const. *to.*

Beowulf 489 Site nu to symle..swa þin sefa hwette. *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 105 þet mon..er timan to his borde ne sitte. 1382 Wyclif *Jer.* xiii. 18 Sei to the king,..Beth mekid, sitteth. 1592 Kyd *Sp. Trag.* I. v. 12 [They] sit to the Banquet. *c* 1611 Chapman *Iliad* I. 98 Thus, he sate, and up..Heroic Agamemnon rose. 1662 J. Davies tr. *Olearius' Voy. Amb.* 19 This done, they sate to the Table, and some Gobelets .. were drunk about. 1676 Hobbes *Iliad* I. 101 This said, he sat. 1831 Scott *Ct. Robt.* xii, Sit then, Brenhilda, since the good man will have it so. 1873 Holmes *Addr. Opening Fifth Avenue Theatre* 100 The hurrying crowd..smooths its caudal plumage as it sits.

b. In pa. pple. with *is, was,* etc. Cf. 21 a (*b*). Now *dial.*

c 925 *O. E. Chron.* (Parker MS.) an. 922, Him cierde eall þæt folc to þe on Mercna lande ȝeseten wæs. *c* 1290 *St. Brendan* 281 þo heo weren alle i-sete þare cam on and seruede. *c* 1300 *Childhood Jesu* 1720 (Horstm.), To þe bord huy beoþ isete. *c* 1380 *Sir Ferumb.* 48 Al on murȝþe was he y-sete wiþ a fair baronye. 1597 Shaks. *Lover's Compl.* 66 Hee againe desires her, being satte [etc.]. 1655 tr. *Sorel's Com. Hist. Francion* VII. 12 We being sate, and she likewise, Clerantes said [etc.]. 1711 [see A. 7 γ]. 1864 Ramsbotham *Lanc. Rhymes* 12 At th' eend o' th' day..aw'm sat at whoam.

c. *transf.* To set; to stick; to settle down.

1621 Bp. Mountagu *Diatribæ* 358 He heard the Sunne hisse, sitting in the West Ocean. 1888 Addy *Sheffield Gloss.* 216 *Sit,* to adhere firmly, to be burnt. 'That milk has sit.' 1901 *Daily Chron.* 28 Dec. 9/2 Henriette (French barque), supposed sat upon her anchor in Astoria Harbour.

† **19.** To go down *on* one's knees. Cf. 21 b. *Obs.*

c 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 63 ȝwane it sai; þe freres sitten a-kneo, kneuli it wolde al-so. *a* 1300 *Havelok* 2709 þou wost ful wel..þat Apelwold þe dide site On knes. 1483 Caxton *Gold. Leg.* 195 b/2 Assone as the preestys were gone and departed she satte on hir knees. *a* 1533 Ld. Berners *Huon* xvi. 43 Huon..by force was fayne to syt on one of his knees to the erthe.

20. To rise *upright, on end,* move or lean *back,* in a sitting posture. Cf. 25.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 19790 Quen sco o petre had a sight, Bi hir self sco satt vp-right. 1822 Scott *Nigel* xxv, The female..sat by the expiring fire with her limbs outstretched. ..'Do not leave me,'..she said, sitting upright. 1884 T. Speedy *Sport Highl.* xiii. 212 It being a habit of the mountain-hare..to run one or two hundred yards, and then, kangaroo-like, sit on end and look back. 1885 *Manch. Exam.* 6 Aug. 5/5 Lord Redesdale beamed benevolently upon his contemporary as he sat back upon his bench.

IV. **With adverbs.*

21. Sit down. a. To seat oneself; to take a seat. Cf. 18.

c 1205 Lay. 22958 þe swike set adun alse he wolde holden run. *a* 1300 *Havelok* 2809 Nu wile ich þat ye doun site. 1390 Gower *Conf.* II. 240 Doun thei seten bothe same. *c* 1470 *Rauf Coilzear* 177 Doun he sat the King neir, And maid him glaid and gude cheir. *a* 1562 G. Cavendish *Wolsey* (1893) 217 He was at the last constrayned for werynes to sitt down in a chayer. 1582 Lichefield tr. *Castanheda's Cong. E. Ind.* 155 A place appointed for yᵉ captain generall to sit down on. 1674 tr. *Martiniere's Voy. N. Countries* 22 We sat down, fed as heartily as we could, and then taking leave [etc.]. 1766 Goldsm. *Vic. W.* xv, He entered, drew a chair, and sate down. 1782 Miss Burney *Cecilia* VIII. v, Mrs. Delville..made her sit down. 1817 Scott in *Lockhart* (1837) IV. iii. 97, I..am often six hours on foot without stopping or sitting down. 1841 Lane *Arab. Nts.* I. 104 He then sat down between the doors. 1890 Doyle *White Company* iv, He sat down by the roadside to partake of his bread and cheese.

(*b*) In pa. pple. with *is, was,* etc. Cf. 18 b.

1632 J. Hayward tr. *Biondi's Eromena* 185 As soon as they were sitten down. 1641 Brome *Joviall Crew* III. Wks. 1873 III. 402 Yonder they are at peep. And now sitten downe as waiting for my purpose. 1763 *Museum Rust.* I. 23, I am now sat down to give you a few scattered observations. *a* 1774 Goldsm. tr. *Scarron's Com. Rom.* (1775) I. 273 They were scarcely sat down, before one of the housemaids came [etc.]. 1787 [see A. 7 β].

(*c*) Const. *to* (a game, meal, etc.).

1588 Shaks. *L. L. L.* II. i. 239 The sixt houre, when..men sit downe to that nourishment which is called supper. 1706 E. Ward *Wooden World Diss.* (1708) 101 He..sits down to the Cards or Hazard. 1710 Steele *Tatler* No. 148 ᴾ 1 The first who ever sat down to a whole roasted Ox. 1795 *Jemima* I. 206 Quietly submit to sit down to the table at which my late fellow servants are to wait. 1826 Lamb *Pop. Fallacies* xiii, Cannot we like Sempronia, without sitting down to chess with her eternal brother? 1856 C. J. Anderssson *Lake Ngami* 98 We arrived..just as the family was sitting down to dinner. 1884 *Times* (weekly ed.) 19 Sept. 5/1, I sit down to ham and eggs.

ellipt. 1863 *Illustr. Lond. News* 8 Aug. 150/3 The inspection dinner..took place yesterday week...Between forty and fifty gentlemen sat down.

(*d*) To come accidentally to the ground in a sitting posture.

1859 *Habits Gd. Society* v. 212 To see a man *sit down* in a waltz.

† b. To go down *on* one's knees. Cf. 19. *Obs.*

c 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 137 Bi-fore ech ymage he op aros, and eft he sat a-doun a-kne. 1297 R. Glouc. (Rolls) 1335 Þe erl wende to þe emperour & sat adoun a kne. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xxxii. (*Justin*) 604 With þat befor þe bischape rath he set done one his kneis bath. 1544 *Extr. Aberd. Reg.* (1844) I. 198 To cum..and syt down on hir knees and ask the said Jonat forgifnis. *a* 1578 Lindesay (Pitscottie) *Chron. Scot.* (S. T. S.) II. 187 [They] passit to the quenis grace and sat doune vpone thair kneis and askit pardone. 1626 *N. Riding Rec.* III. 260 Until such time as she shall sit down upon her knees and submit herself to her mother and crave her blessinge.

c. To establish oneself in some position or place; to settle, take up one's abode. In later use chiefly *U.S.*

1535 Stewart *Cron. Scot.* II. 693 Donald Bane..efter his Deid sat doun and rang into his Steid. 1579 *Reg. Privy Counc. Scot.* III. 241 [He] satt doun upoun the ground of the saidis landis,..and upliftit the dewiteis of the samin. 1632 Winthrop *New Eng.* (1825) I. 87 The Braintree company, (which had begun to sit down at Mount Wollaston). 1637 in *Century Mag.* (1883) Sept. 644 These ten men.. shall have liberty to view a place to sit down, and have land sufficient for three-score families. 1764 T. Hutchinson *Hist. Mass.* (1765) I. 89 Salt meadows..were an inducement to people to sit down there. 1799 in *Farmer's Mag.* Aug. (1801) 311 On the turn of middle age..the author sat down on a farm in Maryland. 1817 J. Bradbury *Trav. Amer.* 332 A comparison of their present state with their situation when they first sat down.

(*b*) To encamp *before* a town, etc., in order to besiege it; to begin *to* a siege.

1607 Shaks. *Cor.* IV. vii. 28 All places yeelds to him ere he sits downe, And the Nobility of Rome are his. 1632 Massinger *Maid of Hon.* I. i, The great Gonzaga,..before we could get time To victual or to man the conquered city, Sat down before it. 1670 Cotton *Espernon* I. 1. 6 His Father..resolv'd to send him..to the Siege of Rochelle, that was then sitting down. 1724 De Foe *Mem. Cavalier* (1840) 120 They sat down to the siege of Coburgh Castle. 1762 Hume *Hist. Eng.* II. xxix. 155 Had he not..sitten down in the winter season before that city. 1829 Scott *Anne of G.* xxxv, The army of Burgundy sat down before Nancy, in a strong position. 1854 Milman *Lat. Chr.* IV. ix. (1864) II. 419 With a large force he sat down before Ravenna.

(*c*) *fig.* Of persons or things: To settle down in some way.

1599 Alex. Hume *Day Estivall* 182 Great is the calme, for euerie quhair The wind is sitten downe. *a* 1675 Lightfoot *Rem.* (1700) 203 There hath been many a good soul that hath sitten down in much sadness. 1730 T. Boston *Mem.* x. 298 In this time it began to sit down on my spirit very much that I was unfit for them. 1780 J. Berington *St. Eng. Cath.* p. viii, Shall I sit down satisfied because the good humour of a magistrate chooses to indulge me. 1818 Scott *Hrt. Mdl.* iv, We little thought to hae sittin doun wi' the like o' my auld Davie Howden, or you either. 1888 *Times* 26 June 4/6 He [a jockey] did not sit down to ride the horse—*i. e.,* to ride him with his hands and legs. 1897 Mary Kingsley *W. Africa* 583 A terrific tornado, which has been lurking growling about, then sits down in the forest and bursts.

d. To put up, rest content, *with* († also in early use *by*), † to acquiesce *in,* something. Cf. 29 a.

(*a*) 1608 Dod & Cleaver *Expos. Prov.* xi-xii. 117 But men will laugh at our simplicity, if we sit downe by such indignities. 1663 P. Henry *Diaries & Lett.* (1882) 141, I..chose rather to sit down by ye loss then displease him.

(*b*) 1614 Jackson *Creed* III. 126 All were bound vpon paine of death to sit down with their priuate loss. 1674 Boyle *Corpusc. Phil.* 17 A sober physician..will never sit down with so short an account. 1709 Steele *Tatler* No. 49 ᴾ 1 We are apt to sit down with our Errors, well enough satisfied with the Methods we are fallen into. 1764 J. Randall *Semi-Virgil. Husb.* App. 10, I was obliged to sit down with that loss, great as it was. 1818 Scott *Hrt. Mdl.* xlvi, He was compelled to sit down with the affront. 1881 Mallock *Rom. 19th Cent.* I. 152 He was not a man tamely to sit down with dejection.

(*c*) 1646 Sir T. Browne *Pseud. Ep.* I. viii, The major part sit down in his authority.

22. Sit in. a. To have a place as a player *at* a game.

1599 B. Jonson *Cynthia's Rev.* IV. i, We cannot all sit in at them [the proposed games]; we shall make a confusion.

b. To begin in earnest *to* something.

1736 [Chetwood] *Voy. Vaughan* vi. (1760) 91 When our Business was over, we sat in to Drinking. 1749 Fielding *Tom Jones* XVIII. xiii, The Squire sat in to his Cups.

c. *dial.* (See quot.)

1828 Carr *Craven Gloss.* s.v., 'Sit in,' to adhere, as any extraneous matter does in a recent wound.

23. Sit on. a. Also with to. (See quots.) Now *dial.*

c 1450 *Two Cookery-bks.* 107 Sette al on the fire,..but stérre it well..for sitting to. 1808 Jamieson s.v., Any food, prepared in a pot, is said to *sit to,* when, from not being stirred, it is allowed to burn. 1825 — *Suppl.* s.v., Broth or soup, which has been boiled too long, especially when burnt in the pot, is said to be *sitten on.* 1828 Carr *Craven Gloss.* s.v., 'To sit on,' to burn to the pan, chiefly applied to milk.

b. To continue to sit, to remain, stay on.

1882 *Jamieson's Sc. Dict.* IV. 228/1 *To sit on,* to remain, to continue to abide in the same house. 1893 Keith *'Lisbeth* II. ii, Isabella was fidgeting..for fear I should be sitting on till the bell rang.

24. Sit out. a. To sit apart from others, or to remain seated, so as take no part in a game, dance, etc. Cf. 37 a.

1626 Middleton *Mayor of Queenb.* I. ii, If I see any kneel, and I sit out, That hour is not well spent. 1629 H. Burton *Babel no Bethel* 54 A nimble humour, apt..to play at small play rather than sit out. 1659 *Shuffling, Cutting & Deal.* 7 I'le play at small game, rather then sit out. 1775 Sheridan *Rivals* v. iii, You won't be so cantankerous as to spoil the party by sitting out. 1827 Scott *Chron. Canongate* i, Some stuck to cards, and though no longer deep gamblers, rather played small game than sat out. 1886 'Edna Lyall' *Won by Waiting* xxix, [She] only refused him once when she wanted to sit out with Cornelia.

fig. 1664 J. Wilson *A. Commenius* II. ii, Who was the prouder pray; Diogenes, that spurn'd at every thing, Or Alexander, that sate out at nothing?

b. To sit in the open air.

1908 [Miss Fowler] *Betw. Trent & Ancholme* 109, I am now sitting out, for the first time.

25. Sit up. a. To raise the body from a recumbent to a sitting posture.

a 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 1597 Þa ha weren iseten up, [ha] sehen as þe engles..smireden hire wunden. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 3683 'Fader,' he said, 'sitt vp and ete'. 1377 Langl. *P. Pl.* B. v. 456 Panne sat sleuthe vp and seyned hym swithe. 1526 Tindale *Luke* vii. 15, I saye vnto the aryse. And the deed sate vp. 1687 Miége *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II. s.v., To sit up in his Bed, *s'asseoir dans son Lit.* 1847 Tennyson *Princ.* v. 69 She heard, she moved,..and up she sat. 1908 R. Bagot *A. Cuthbert* xxvii, Sonia sat up excitedly. 'I will not have a doctor,' she exclaimed.

b. To defer the hour for retiring to bed until late; to wait up *for*; to watch through the night (or some part of it) *with* one.

1550 Crowley *Epigr.* 624 Our drunkards, that sytte vp so late. 1592 Shaks. *Rom. & Jul.* IV. iii. 10 Let the Nurse this night sit vp with you. 1611 Bible *Ps.* cxxvii. 2 It is vaine for you to rise vp early, to sit vp late. 1672 Villiers (Dk. Buckhm.) *Rehearsal* II. v. (Arb.) 63, I sate up two whole nights in composing this Air. 1710–1 Swift *Jrnl. to Stella* 9 Mar., The surgeon sat up with him: he is asleep again. 1774 Goldsm. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) VII. 78 He..even sat up two nights together to examine their operations. 1837 Lockhart *Scott* II. v. 189 'To sit up to supper' was the great reward when they had been 'very good bairns'. 1891 E. Peacock *N. Brendon* II. 86 They sat up talking till far into the night.

c. To be in a sitting posture, in contrast to lying in bed.

1727 Bover *Dict. Royal* II. s.v., To sit up in one's Bed, *se tenir assis dans son Lit.* 1789 W. Buchan *Dom. Med.* (1790) 165 He may sometimes sit up in bed for a short space. 1843 R. J. Graves *Syst. Clin. Med.* ix. 98 When they attempt to sit up during convalescence. 1858 Geo. Eliot *Scenes Cler. Life, Janet's Repentance* xxvii, The pale wasted form in the easy-chair (for he sat up to the last).

† d. *Anglo-Ind.* (See quot. 1780.) *Obs.*

1777 in Busteed *Echoes Old Calcutta* (1888) 136 Lady Impey sits up with Mrs. Hastings; *vulgo* toad-eating. 1780 Capt. I. Munro *Narr.* (1789) 56 When a young lady arrives at Madras she must, in a few days afterwards, sit up to receive company, attended by some beau as master of the ceremonies, which perhaps continues for a week. 1795 Sir T. Munro in Gleig *Life* (1830) I. 169, I am not to be forced to sit up, and receive male or female visitors. 1810 (see Sitting *vbl. sb.* 6 (*b*)).

e. (See quot.)

1856 S. Warner *Hills of Shatemuc* xvi. 162 'Will you sit up, cousin?'..: the meaning of the request being that he should move his chair up to the table.

f. *To make* (one) *sit up,* to astonish, startle, have a powerful effect on, one.

1889 *Daily News* 23 July 5 When her [George Sand's] novels first made the world 'sit up', if we may venture to use such a phrase. 1893 'Q.' (Quiller Couch) *Delect. Duchy* 323, I am going to tell you a story that..will make you sit up. 1896 Mrs. Hungerford *Lonely Girl* xv, If you had accepted my pink gown..you would have made..[him] sit up.

** *With prepositions, in special senses.*

26. Sit on or upon. a. To sit in judgement or council, to deliberate, on (a person or matter).

c 1440 *Gesta Rom.* viii. 21 (Harl. MS.), þe domys-man come to þe Cite, for to sitte vp on brekers of þe lawe. 1462 *Paston Lett.* II. 82 It is seyd her that..serteyn jwgys..schold come downe and syt on syche pepyll as be moysyd ryotous. 1535 Coverdale 2 *Macc.* xiv. 21 They appoynted a daye to syt vpon these matters quyetly amonge them selues. 1574 Travers *Decl. Eccl. Discipl.* Table, Deacons which he appointed..to sit vppon the offences that arise in the churches. 1608 Chapman *Byron's Trag.* v. ii, Must I be sat on now, by petty Judges. *a* 1693 Ashmole *Antiq. Berksh.* (1719) I. 153 Her Father..caused her Corps to be taken up, the Coroner to sit upon her, and further Enquiry to be made. 1712 Addison *Spect.* No. 550 ᴾ 3 At which time I intend to sit upon Business. 1798 *Hull Advert.* 13 Oct. 3/2 A coroner's jury has sat on the body, and returned a verdict of lunacy. 1852 Hawker *Diary* (1893) II.

337 The select committee at Ordnance, who..sat on my new military carbine. **1885** *Harper's Mag.* Mar. 547/1 A committee of..friends..'sat' upon our affairs while we were furnishing.

b. To have a seat on (a jury, commission, etc.).

1538 CROMWELL in Merriman *Life & Lett.* (1902) II. 134 The kinges maiestye hathe appointed you..to sit vpon the tryall of knell being accused of Treason. **1594** WEST *2nd Pt. Symbol., Chancerie* § 84 When the time came that the same commission was to be sitten on. **1609** HOLLAND *Amm. Marcell.* 282 We find not that there was any..commission sitten upon about their death. **1676** I. MATHER *Hist. K. Philip's War* (1862) 48 Indians as well as English sate upon the Jury. **1836** in Barrow *Mirror of Parlt.* 2041/2 Those who sit on courts-martial have a most important office to perform. **1840** MRS. CARLYLE *Lett.* I. 120 My poor man of genius had to sit on a jury. **1895** *Times* 10 Jan. 9/6 He sat on the Royal Commission on Hospitals.

† **c.** To press *sore* or *hard* on (one). Cf. 14 b.

c **1470** HENRY *Wallace* x. 690 In to fleyng the Sotheroun suttaill ar, Se thai the tym thai wyll syt on ws sar. **1737** L. CLARKE *Hist. Bible* (1740) I. IX. 583 He..would never..give that party any favour.., but on the contrary sat hard upon them on all occasions.

d. *slang.* To squash, check, snub.

1865 *Slang Dict.* 231 *Sit-upon*, to overcome or rebuke, to express contempt for a man in a marked manner. **1872** BLACK *Adv. Phaeton* xviii, 'Bell, what is good for you, when you're sat upon?' 'Patience,' says Bell. **1886** MRS. LYNN LINTON *Paston Carew* xxxiv, My lady felt rebuked, and, as she afterward expressed it, sat upon.

27. Sit over, to be occupied with (a matter, etc.) while sitting; to pore over (a book).

1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* xlviii, Her daughters sighed, and sate over the Peerage all night. **1861** M. PATTISON *Ess.* (1889) I. 45 The garden..where..the elder merchants sat over their pipe and beaker of Rhine wine.

28. Sit under. To listen to, be a hearer of, attend the church of (a minister or preacher).

1644 MILTON *Educ.* 6 There would then also appear in Pulpits other visages, other gestures,..then what we now sit under. [**1688** BUNYAN *Jerus. Sinner* (1700) 130 Those that sit under the Glorious sound of the Gospel.] **1754** *Connoisseur* No. 27 ¶ 5 The..audience that sits under our preachers. **1797** R. STORRY *J. Foster's Poems* To Rdr., The privilege which he enjoyed in sitting under the ministry of the late..Mr. Adam. **1840** THACKERAY *Gt. Hoggarty Diamond* x, She, after a time,..*sat under him*, as the phrase is, regularly thrice a week. **1878** J. A. SYMONDS in Brown *Life* (1903) 338 Your sermon on Faith..makes me wish that I had the privilege of 'sitting under' you.

29. Sit with. † **a.** *Sc.* To put up with or tolerate, to stand (a wrong, etc.). *Obs.* Cf. 21 d.

c **1470** *Gol. & Gaw.* 90 That sege wald sit with none wrang Of berne that wes borne. *a* **1578** LINDESAY (Pitscottie) *Chron. Scot.* (S.T.S.) I. 28 Ane man..nocht willing to seit with so mony wrangis as he had gottin onrewengit. **1635** RUTHERFORD *Lett.* (1862) I. lii. 149 They haue been false to Christ and He will not sit with the wrong. **1678** SIR G. MACKENZIE *Crim. Laws Scot.* I. xxi. § iii. 112 Nor is it probable that the person offended would have sitten long with such a wrong. **1714** in *Cloud of Witnesses* (1778) 5 God will not sit with all the wrongs done to him.

b. To be consonant or in harmony with, to agree with, to befit (one). Now only *arch.*

1555 W. WATREMAN *Fardle Facions* App. 330 It sitteth not with equitie, that the elder should be putte beside the enheritaunce of his father. **1579** SPENSER *Let. to Harvey* Wks. (Globe) 706/1 It sitteth with you now, to call your wits and senses togither. **1590** — *F. Q.* I. i. 30 With holy father sits not with such thinges to mell. [**1893** STEVENSON *Catriona* i. 2 As for the rapier, nae doubt it sits wi' your degree.]

V. *refl.* and *trans.*

30. *refl.* To seat (oneself).

c **888** K. ÆLFRED *Boeth.* xxxvi. § 2 Sitte [ðin mod] him on minum hrædwæne;..ic bio his ladðeow. *a* **1300** *Cursor M.* 17845 Sundri þai þam fra oþer saite, And aiþer be himseluen wrate. *c* **1500** *Melusine* 243 Thenne he satte hym at dyner nygh to Eglantyne. **1593** SHAKS. 3 *Hen. VI*, III. iii. 16 Sit thee by our side. **1686** J. S[ERGEANT] *Hist. Monast. Conv.* 183 The Prayer of the Mass..being sung, he sat him self again in his seat. **1830** H. ANGELO *Remin.* I. 185 Bach..would sit himself in his place. **1898** RIDER HAGGARD *Dr. Therne* 202 He sat himself upon the marble edge of the basin.

b. With *down*. (The more frequent use.) Also, to settle (quot. 1823).

c **1450** *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 3671 He satt him doune besyde him. *a* **1533** LD. BERNERS *Huon* l. 166 He sat hym down vnder a fayre oke. *a* **1562** G. CAVENDISH *Wolsey* (1893) 104 [He] called for a chayer, & satt hyme self down in the mydds of the table. **1659** PELL *Impr. Sea* 59 In every corner they walk into, or sit themselves down in. **1682** N. O. *Boileau's Lutrin* I. 156 He yields, and sits him down to tast the Creature. **1764** GOLDSM. *Trav.* 32, I sit me down a pensive hour to spend. **1775** FLETCHER *Checks* Wks. 1795 VI. 230 The multitude of professors, who sit themselves down in self imputed righteousness. **1823** COLEBROOKE in *St. Cape Good Hope* 374 The early colonists of South Africa sat themselves down on fertile spots. **1868** F. E. PAGET *Lucretia* 199, I..sat myself down on the ridge. **1888** 'J. S. WINTER' *Bootle's Childr.* xiii, Come and sit you down by the fire.

31. *trans.* To sit upon, to ride (a horse).

1542 UDALL *Erasm. Apoph.* 276 He would not suffre any bodye to sitte hym, or gette up on his backe. **1561** T. HOBY tr. *Castiglione's Courtyer* IV. (1577) S iv b, Hee that sitteth not well a horse. **1613** SHAKS. *Hen. VIII*, IV. ii. 16 He..grew so ill He could not sit his Mule. **1662** J. DAVIES tr. *Olearius' Voy. Amb.* 285 The King return'd..so Drunk, as were also most of his Lords, that they could hardly sit their Horses. **1700** PRIOR *Carm. Sec.* xvi, Hardly the Muse can sit the headstrong Horse. **1762** WESLEY *Jrnl.* 30 Mar., It was difficult to sit our horses. **1836** MRS. SHERWOOD *H. Milner* III. v, Edgar sits a horse as well as any young man in England. **1891** N. GOULD *Double Event* 230 Wells could not sit the horse better himself.

b. Of a hen or hen-bird: To sit upon, to hatch (eggs). Also *transf.* (quot. 1828).

1600 SURFLET *Countrie Farme* I. xvi. 107 Geese loue not almost to sit any but their owne egs. **1651** BAXTER *Inf. Bapt.* 51 The Hen gathereth the youngest most tenderly: Yea, how long will she sit the very eggs? **1828** CARR *Craven Gloss.* s.v., 'He wad sit eggs,' said of a person, who sits long in a neighbour's house, when his company might be well dispensed with. **1867** *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* III. II. 525 The hen will sit seventeen of her own eggs.

c. To sit in (a boat) in an expert manner.

1866 *Routledge's Ev. Boy's Ann.* 66 They sit their boat, and keep time as if they were two clock-work figures. **1886** *Illustr. Lond. News* 1 May 448/2 There is a great deal in knowing how to 'sit' and 'trim' a boat.

32. To cause (a person) to sit; to seat in a certain place or position. Also with *down, up.*

1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* VII. ix. 225 The grene knyghte took hym and sat hym at a syde table. **1557** NORTH *Gueuara's Diall. Pr.* 379 In the bankets the kings of Persia made, they sate him whom they loved..on the left hand of the prince. *a* **1562** G. CAVENDISH *Wolsey* (1893) 253, I went and sat the wayters to dynner. **1848** DICKENS *Dombey* xi, Taking Paul up in his arms, and sitting him on another little table. **1890** *Chamb. Jrnl.* 21 June 387/1 He promptly sat us down to such entertainment as his vessel furnishes. **1895** *Daily News* 9 Oct. 7/5 The man is so bad that we can't sit him up.

b. To place in position for photographing.

1890 *Anthony's Photogr. Bull.* III. 92 We sit a stranger immediately he comes in, knowing absolutely nothing what manner of man he is of.

c. To make or cause (a hen-bird) to sit.

1891 T. HARDY *Tess* (1900) 62/1 Ought she not..to..know how to sit hens and turkeys?

† **33.** To set or place. *Obs. rare.*

1530 PALSGR. 719/1 Syt these glasses of rose water a sonnynge. **1798** CHARLOTTE SMITH *Yng. Philos.* IV. 224 If he would sit me down where he found me. **1824** W. TAYLOR in *Monthly Mag.* LVII. 511 When he took his lady from the horse Into his arms, he gently sat her down.

† **34.** *Sc.* (and *north.*). To disregard, neglect, pay no heed or attention to (a command, call, etc.). *Obs.* [So MIcel. *sitja.*]

a **1300** *Havelok* 2567 Was non þat euere his bode sat, For he him dredde swiþe sore. *c* **1470** *Rauf Coilȝear* 99 Durst scho neuer sit summoundis that scho hard him say. **1513** DOUGLAS *Æneid* IV. vi. 6 Astonist he was to site so hie ane charge. *a* **1585** MONTGOMERIE *Flyting* 67 Sit thou this charge,..The second sall bee something sairer. *c* **1620** Z. BOYD *Zion's Flowers* (1855) 43 Let Cities learne of Ninive the great, For to repent, and not God's summons sit. **1699** T. BOSTON *Art of Man-Fishing* (1900) 61, I did a long time sit the call of the church. **1742** E. ERSKINE *Serm.* Wks. 1871 III. 58 His bowels are shut against me: I have sitten his call so often. **1856** G. HENDERSON *Pop. Rhymes Berwick* 43, I sat that bidding, but I've rued it ay sin syne.

35. To sit against, resist; to endure, bear; to put up with, go on with. Now *rare.*

c **1400** *Sir Degrev.* 15 (Lincoln MS.), Was never knyghte ..Mighte sitt a strake of his hande One his styff stede. **1604** DEKKER *Honest Wh.* Wks. 1873 II. 114, I must sit all stormes. **1625** DONNE *Serm.* cl. Wks. 1839 VI. 56 First God turns their Rivers into blood, Pharaoh Sits that process and more. **1640** tr. *Verdere's Rom. of Rom.* I. 50 Being unable to sit the shock of fowr lances,..he was unhorsed. **1848** NEWMAN *Loss & Gain* xviii. 273 And he's so positive ..; it is quite unpleasant, I don't know how to sit it sometimes. **1859** READE *Love me Little* vii. (1868) 88 Ladies, whose hearts are in dress, have no taste for books however frivolous; can't sit them above a second or two.

36. † **a.** To hold (a meeting). *Obs.*[—1]

1635 in *Buccleuch MSS.* (Hist. MSS. Comm.) I. 274 For the meeting..it stood not well with some other occasion to have it sitten at this time.

b. = *Sit out* (37 b); to stay till the end of.

1784 *Laura & Augustus* III. 16 We soon after this returned home, not chusing to sit the entertainment. **1845** STILL *Cottar's Sunday* 36 Neebours roun', whan Robin teuk it, Swore he wadna sit his lease.

c. To bear (one) company in sitting.

1828 CARR *Craven Gloss.* s. v., 'To sit a woman,' to keep company with her, to court. **1879** MEREDITH *Egoist* xix, I will undertake to sit you through it up to morning.

37. Sit out. a. To remain seated and take no part in (a game or dance). Cf. 24 a.

1659 *Shuffling, Cutting & Deal.* 3, I was somewhat scrupulous, whether Play was lawful, or not; and so sate out the last Game. **1885** 'F. ANSTEY' *Tinted Venus* 15 I've never had to sit out a waltz before.

b. To remain sitting, so as to be present during the course of (something). Also with *it* (quot. 1809), implying endurance of something disagreeable.

1711 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 101 ¶ 7 An Audience would sit out an Evening to hear a Dramatical Performance. **1727** SWIFT *Art Polit. Lying* Wks. 1755 III. I. 118 [To] sit out publick prayers with decency. **1809** MALKIN *Gil Blas* VIII. ix. ¶ 11, I cannot conceive how a clever fellow like you can sit it out with such loutish guests. **1837** TICKNOR *Life, Lett. & Jrnls.* II. vi. 107, I..sat out a part of their family breakfast. **1888** J. JOHNSTON *Cent. Conf. Missions* I. 450 This is the only meeting, except the first, which it has been my privilege to sit out.

c. To remain longer than (another) when paying a visit.

1845 MRS. CARLYLE *Lett.* I. 344 He stayed till eleven, Craik sitting him out. **1883** W. E. NORRIS *Thirlby Hall* xii, I thought I would sit the other visitors out.

Sit-, the verbal stem in combs., as † **sit-horse**, a riding-horse; † **sit-house**, *Sc.* a residence.

c **1652** *Verney Mem.* (1894) III. 193 He was not only for my coach, but he paced as easy as any sitt-horse. **1743** *Maxwell's Sel. Trans.* (Jam.), The form of a sit-house, barn, bire, stable, with corn and kitchen yards. **1754** *Forfeited Estates Papers* (S.H.S.) 333 For expenses in building the Sitt house as agreed on.

Sital, obs. form of CITOLE.

Sitar (si·tāɹ). *Anglo-Ind.* Also **sitarre.** [Urdū ستار *sitār.*] A form of guitar, properly having three strings, used in India.

1845 STOCQUELER *Hdbk. Brit. India* (1854) 26 A trio of sitars, or rude violins. **1859** J. LANG *Wand. India* 152 Two or three of the company..played alternately on the sitarre (native guitar or violin). **1879** E. ARNOLD *Lt. Asia* VI. 144 One that twitched A three-string sitar. **1898** SIR G. ROBERTSON *Chitral* i. 7 A sitar-player will sing of love.

Si·tarch. *rare*—[0]. [ad. Gr. σιτάρχης or σίταρχος, f. σῖτος corn, food.] (See quots.)

1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.*, *Sitark*, he that hath the Office to provide Corn, and Victuals sufficient. **1676** COLES, *Sitarch*, a Pourveyor.

Sitaris (si·tăris). *Ent.* [mod.L. (Latreille, 1802), f. Gr. σιτάριον, dim. of σῖτος corn, food.] A genus of beetles belonging to the family *Meloidæ*, the larvæ of which are parasitic in the nests of certain bees; a member of this genus, esp. *S. muralis.*

1835 *Partington's Brit. Cycl., Nat. Hist.* I. 689 M. Bretonneau of Tours..having found that Sitaris is not vesicant. **1866** DARWIN *Orig. Species* xiv. (ed. 4) 530 The first larval form of a certain beetle, the Sitaris,..is a minute active insect. **1881** *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* V. 337 The female Sitaris..lays her eggs in a mass glued together.

Sitch (sitʃ). Now *dial.* Forms: 1 **sic**, 4, 6 **syche**, 5–7 **siche**, 6 **succhc**, 7 **sich**, 9 **sech, seech**; 6 **sytche**, 7 **sytch**; 6–7 **sitche**, 9 **sitch**. [OE. *sic*, giving normally ME. *sīch(e*, *siche* in southern and midland dialects, corresponding to the northern SIKE *sb.*[1]; cf. DITCH and DIKE.]

1. = SIKE *sb.*[1] 1.

Chiefly recorded in descriptions of boundaries.

969 in Birch *Cartul. Sax.* III. 535 Of þam mere west.. þonne innan anne sice þonne andlangc sices þæt cymð to þæm hor pytte. [? *c* **1160** in Dugdale *Mon. Angl.* (1825) V. 584 In viis, et aquis, in sichis et moris.] *c* **1315** SHOREHAM v. 177 Ine flom iordanes syche He was ycrystned. **1410** *Coventry Leet Bk.* 12 Et abhinc vsque Merdonsiche. Et sic per illam siche diuertendo vsque [etc.]. **1523** FITZHERB. *Surv.* 10 b, Some rynning waters be commen, as lytell brokes, and sytches. *Ibid.* 50 Smale ryuers, brokes, sucches,..and pyttes. **1581** *Coventry Leet Bk.* (E. E. T. S.) 826 A litle waye into the sitche there, called Sisley-hole,..& vnder the bridge vp the sitche to Hyndwell. **1601** in *Ch. Stretton* (1904) II. 195 Thence following the fylde..and then up a sytch called Newe sytch. **1637** in Miss Jackson *Shropsh. Word-bk.* s.v., Half a land in the Barley field near Stafford's siche. **1684** MANLEY, *Sichetum*.., a Sich or small Current of Water that uses to be dry in the Summer. **1826–** in dialect glossaries (Chesh., Northampt., Shropsh., Sheff.).

attrib. **1601** in *Ch. Stretton* (1904) II. 196 Over Wittingslow Heath to Dunocke sytch heade.

b. = SIKE *sb.*[1] 1 b.

1888 ABDY *Sheffield Gloss.* 214 It is a gate at the bottom of a *sitch* or ravine.

2. = SIKE *sb.*[1] 2.

1842 W. WOOD *Hist. & Antiq. Eyam* (1848) 114 A gravestone..found in a field which is now called Philip's sitch.

Sitch, dial. or illiterate f. SUCH *a.*

Sit-down, *a.* and *sb.* [The phrase *sit down* (see SIT *v.* 21) used attrib. and as sb.]

A. *adj.* **1.** Of a meal: At which persons sit down; somewhat substantial or formal.

1836–7 DICKENS *Sk. Boz, Tales* xi, Jemima thought we'd better have a regular sit-down supper, in the front parlour. **1897** *Westm. Gaz.* 4 June 3/1 It seems that the Kitchen Committee..will have nothing to do with an organised sit-down banquet.

2. Of a fight: Determined, hard.

1853 JERDAN *Autobiogr.* III. 18 It was a fair sit-down fight and keen encounter.

B. *sb.* **1.** An act of sitting down, esp. as an occasion of friendly or social intercourse. Also *spec.*, a place where travellers habitually rest (see quot. 1898).

1878 MRS. STOWE *Poganuc P.* xiii. 111 After tea there came the genial hour of the social sit-down in front of the andirons. **1898** *Jrnl. Sch. Geogr.* (U.S.) Oct. 315 At intervals of two miles [in Burma]..are 'sit-downs', generally a favorite tree selected because of its dense and wide spreading shade, beneath which all native travellers have their sit-down and smoke.

2. *Sit-down-upons*, trousers, breeches. *colloq.* (Cf. SIT-UPON.)

1840 J. T. HEWLETT *P. Priggins* viii, Some little damage from the splinters and tenterhooks to my sit-down-upons. **1844** — *Parsons & Widows* iv, [He] threatened to lower his sit-down-upons and apply the rod.

† **Site,** *sb.*[1] *Obs.* Forms: 3–5 **sit**, 4 **site, sijt, syt, siht**, 4–6 **syte**, 5 **sitt, syte, cytte.** [a. ON. **sýt* (cf. Norw. *syt*), variant (properly the original nom. sing.) of *sút* (Norw. *sut*) sorrow, distress. Cf. SITE *v.*[1]]

1. Care or sorrow; grief, trouble of any kind.

Common in northern ME. poetry during the 14th cent.; in the 16th cent. in Scottish use only.

c **1200** ORMIN 4852 All flæshliȝ care & serrȝhe & sit. *Ibid.*

7967 Wiþþ serr3he & sit, wiþþ bitter wop. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 1410 Adam..liued..al his liue in site and care. *a* 1352 MINOT *Poems* (ed. Hall) vii. 65 Inglis men with site þam soght, And hastily quit tham thaire hire. *a* 1400-50 *Alexander* 182 Seses, seris, of 3our syte & soru3es na mare. *c* 1470 *Gol. & Gaw.* 1202 He has me sauit fra syte throw his gentrice. 1501 DOUGLAS *Pal. Hon.* II. xviii, Tuiching the proces of my panefull site. 1535 STEWART *Cron. Scot.* II. 519 Se 3e be blyth and glaid, And slaik also of all 3our syte and sorrow. 1567 *Satir. Poems Reform.* iii. 157 Sa mot hir hart be fillit full of syte.

b. With *a* and pl.

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 566 He schulde neuer for no syt smyte al at onez. 1357 *Lay Folks Catech.* 88 The secund dedeli syn is hatten enuy, That is a sorowe and a site of the welefare..of our euen-cristen. *c* 1400 *Anturs of Arth.* xvii. (Thornton MS.), Telle me now sothely what may safe thi sytis. *c* 1475 HENRYSON *Poems* (S. T. S.) III. 107 False is this warld,..Besoucht with syn and other sytis mo.

2. *To make site*, to lament, mourn. *rare.*

1338 R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (1810) 5 Sorow & site he made.. For his sonne & heyre þat so sone was dede. *c* 1350 *Leg. Rood* (1871) 63, I sall mak site and sorows sere.

Site (sait), *sb.*[2] Forms: α. 4- site, 6-7 syte; 5 sit3t, 6 sight. β. 6-7 scyte, 6-9 scite (9 cite). [a. AF. *site* (1302–3 in Godef.), or ad. L. *situs* place, position, etc. The mod.F. *site* (for which Cotgr. has *sit*) appears to be ad. It. *sito*).]

† **1.** The place or position occupied by some specified thing. Freq. implying original or fixed position. *Obs.* (common in the 17th cent.).

α. *c* 1391 CHAUCER *Astrol.* ii. § 17 Fro the Equinoxial may the declinacion..of any body celestial be rikned, after the site north or south. 1412-20 LYDG. *Chron. Troy* II. 3322 Þe clere sterris of Iades so red Whiche han her sit3t in þe Crabbis hed. 1581 G. PETTIE tr. *Guazzo's Civ. Conv.* (1586) I. 22 b, Mariners..learne to knowe..the syte and place of rockes and shelues. 1605 TIMME *Quersit*, III. 184 The fourth difference [in distillation] is by the site and placing of the vessell. 1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* 273 Of the providence and wisdome of God in the site and motion of the Sun. 1691 RAY *Creation* I. (1704) 167 The Chamælion imitates the Woodspite..in the site of his Toes.

β. 1627 DRAYTON *Agincourt*, etc. 154 The Rocks Tumbling downe from their scytes. 1675 ALSOP *Anti-sozzo* 353 A Body is..the result of all the Integral parts put together in their due Scite and proper Order.

† b. With *a* and pl. A place or position. *Obs.*

a 1400 in Halliwell *Rara Mathem.* (1841) 63 Þan drawe a lyne..in anoþer site, þat es to say, place of þe table. *Ibid.* 69 Calle G þe mark in þe place of þe seconde site, þat es to say, stondynge. 1596 LODGE *Divel Coniured* D iij, Peculiar and determinate obseruances, (as certaine houres, a certaine scite of stars). 1662 MORE *Antid. Ath.* I. xi. § 6 There appearing to us but one Animadversion as but one site of things. 1678 CUDWORTH *Intell. Syst.* 165 Supposing all things to arise from the different Compositions of Magnitudes, Figures, Sites, and Motions. 1716 SWIFT *Progr. Beauty* Wks. 1757 III. II. 163 Three Colours,..So graceful in their proper Place Remove them to a diff'rent scite, They form a frightful hideous Face.

† c. Without article or other qualification: Place, position, situation. *Obs.*

(*a*) *a* 1400-50 *Bk. Curtasye* 469 in *Babees Bk.*, In syte [*text* syce] ichon from oþer shalle be þe lengthe of oþer, þat men may se. 1613 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* (1614) 874 Contrariwise in the Plaines, iust by in site, they haue their summer from October to Aprill. 1657 J. SMITH *Myst. Rhet.* 199 When words..are in site or placing disjoyned.

(*b*) 1620 T. GRANGER *Div. Logike* 67 Site, or situation, as it is the passion of a thing placed, belongeth hither. 1642 H. MORE *Song of Soul* II. II. ii. 6 Site doth confine This point; take site away, it's straight a spark divine. 1697 tr. *Burgersdicius' Logic* I. ix. 29 Site is the order of the parts of the body amongst themselves.

† d. Attitude, position, or posture (of the body, etc.). *Obs.*

1609 ANDREWES *Serm.* (1841) II. 239 Christ's site, that He stood, when He wished it. 1660 SHARROCK *Vegetables* 148 That uprightness and straitness, which is the most useful site of most plants. 1691 RAY *Creation* II. (1692) 4 The conveniency of this Site of our Bodies. 1728-46 THOMSON *Spring* 1022 The semblance of a lover, fix'd In melancholy site, with head declin'd.

2. The situation or position of a place, town, building, etc., esp. with reference to the surrounding district or locality. Occas. without article.

α. 1579 SPENSER *Sheph. Cal.* June 1 Lo Collin, here the place, whose pleasaunt syte From other shades hath weand my wandring mynde. 1600 HOLLAND *Livy* XXVI. 582 Anniball..rode to the gate Capena, for to view the site of the cittie. 1664 BUTLER *Hud.* II. i. 24 Some force whole Regions, in despight O' Geography, to change their site. 1711 POPE *Temple Fame* 421 A Structure fair, Its Site uncertain, if in Earth or Air. 1781 J. MOORE *View Soc. It.* (1790) I. i 5 The sublime site of the Castle. 1838 *Murray's Hdbk. N. Germ.* 286 Its Castle,..imposing from its size, its strength, its site. 1869 MARTINEAU *Ess.* II. 70 The loss of health caused by the pestilential site of a dwelling.

β. 1567 FENTON *Trag. Disc.* I. (1898) I. 18 The magnificall scites and scituations of greate men's houses. 1570-6 LAMBARDE *Peramb. Kent* (1826) 374 A man (but meanly exercised in their language) may..readily understand the Scite, or soile, of their townes, by the onely sounde of the name. 1622 DRAYTON *Poly-olb.* XXX. 236 Both in their pleasant Scites, most happily installd. 1665 MANLEY *Grotius' Low C. Wars* 625 His Cannon shot were aimed with that skill from a little rising, whose scite they had tryed, that [etc.]. 1714 *Steele's Poet. Misc.* 292 A House by Scite and Structure warm. 1771 SMOLLETT *Humphry Cl.* (1815) 281 The castle is an instance of the sublime in scite and architecture. 1807 CUMBERLAND *Mem.* II. 150 In this valley, on the banks of the fertilizing Douro, would be the proper scite for the capital of Spain. 1809 PINKNEY *Trav. France* 255 The town has nothing but its scite to recommend it.

3. The ground or area upon which a building, town, etc., has been built, or which is set apart for some purpose. Also, in mod. use, a plot, or number of plots, of land intended or suitable for building purposes.

Plane of site in *Fortif.*: see PLANE *sb.*[3] 1 h.

α. 1461 *Rolls of Parlt.* V. 490/2 Londes..such as been and make the Syte or Sites of any such Abbey, Priory [etc.]. 1547 in *Vicary's Anat.* (1888) App. III. i. 131 The Sightes ..wheruppon the same ij churches Are nowe .. buyldyd. 1649 MILTON *Observ. Peace* Wks. 1851 IV. 542 The Sites and Precincts hereby intended, are declared to be the Body of the Abby, one Garden and Orchard [etc.]. 1789 G. WHITE *Selborne* i. 2 The gardens..and small enclosures behind..may perhaps have been the original site of the town. 1796 H. HUNTER tr. *St.-Pierre's Stud. Nat.* (1799) I. 228, I have seen only countries frequented by Europeans,..but I shall ever recollect with pleasure two of those sites. 1838 J. L. STEPHENS *Trav. Greece* I. 57 Every ruined village on the road stands on the site of an ancient city. 1863 LYELL *Antiq. Man* 18 In rude and unsettled times, these insular sites afforded safe retreats. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* I. 38 The costly nature of the work in making good the site, when the soil is not naturally suitable.

attrib. 1893 *Westm. Gaz.* 20 Dec. 7/3 Defining the term 'site value' as 'the annual rent which at the time of valuation might reasonably be obtained for the land..as a cleared site, if let for building'.

β. 1535 *Act 27 Hen. VIII*, c. 27 Al the scites & circuites of all such religious houses. 1558 in Feuillerat *Revels Q. Eliz.* (1908) 48 Scyte, precinkte, and Compasse of the late dissolved Hospitall. *a* 1647 HABINGTON *Surv. Worcs.* (Worcs. Hist. Surv.) I. III. 499 Lower Wyke with the scyte of the mannor. *a* 1661 FULLER *Worthies, Cornwall* (1662) 202 He conferred on him and his heirs the rich demesne and scite of Middleton. 1718 OZELL tr. *Tournefort's Voy.* I. 167 The Descendants..are still in possession of the Scite of the Castle. 1793 SMEATON *Edystone L.* § 130 *note*, Upon this scite the Baths and Long Room have since been erected. 1808 PARSONS *Trav. Asia* iii. 72 A steep road leads to the cite of the celebrated village, formerly called Daphne. 1835 PALGRAVE *Hist. Anglo-Saxons* iv. 89 The entrenchments.. just enable us to trace the scite of the royal residence.

b. *transf.* The seat *of* (an industry); the scene *of* (some condition, etc.).

1637 G. DANIEL *Genius of this Isle* 572 Looke now vpon my Sister Germanie; The Seat of Warre, the Scite of Miserie. 1809 BAWDWEN *Domesday Bk.* 98 There is the site..of a fishery there. 1872 YEATS *Growth Comm.* 151 In the ninth century Lake Mälar was the site of so prosperous a trade.

4. *techn.* A framework of timber forming the foundation or basis of a piece of scaffolding.

1901 BLACK *Scaffolding* 27 At a suitable distance from the intended wall a 'site' is first planted...This consists of a baulk of squared timbers, frequently about 4in. square.

† **Site,** *v.*[1] *Obs.*[−1] [a. ON. *sýta* (Icel. *sýta*, Norw. *syta*), f. *súr* sorrow: see SITE *sb.*[1]] *intr.* To grieve.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 11675 Bot i site for an oþer thing, þat we o water has nu wanting.

Site (sait), *v.*[2] [f. SITE *sb.*[2], or back-formation from SITED *ppl. a.*]

1. *trans.* To locate, to place.

Lately reintroduced in military use: cf. SITING *vbl. sb.*

1598 GRENEWEY *Tacitus, Ann.* XII. xii. (1622) 174 For the Greeks sited Byzance in the vtmost part of Europe, in a very narrow streight, which diuideth Europe from Asia. 1611 SPEED *Hist. Gt. Brit.* VII. ii. § 3. 197 And Amianus Marcellinus siteth the Sacæ..to inhabit ouer-grown places ..at the foote of the mountaines Ascanimia and Comedus.

2. *intr.* To be situated or placed; to lie.

1630 *R. Johnson's Kingd. & Commw.* 460 The lower Æthiope, siteth most Southerly of any part of Africke.

Site, obs. form of CITE *v.*

† **Sited** (sai·téd), *ppl. a. Obs.* Also 7 scited. [f. SITE *sb.*[2] or L. *sit-us* placed, situated.]

1. Of buildings, countries, etc.: Having a (certain) site or situation; situated. Usually const. with preps. or advs. (Common *c* 1600–1650.)

α. 1455 *Rolls of Parlt.* V. 305/2 A mansion for the Dean there, sited betwene the Toure called the Clokhous, and the wall of our seid Palice. 1585 W. WHITAKER *Answ. Rainolds* 283 The garden wherein Adam for a time remained, was sited in the east. 1598 GRENEWEY *Tacitus, Ann.* XIII. xii. (1622) 198 A Riuer..sited in the confines of both their Countries. 1619 in Foster *Eng. Factories India* (1906) I. 72 A little howse..sited in midst of a small wood. 1633 P. FLETCHER *Purple Isl.* I. XXXVIII, This fair Isle, sited so nearely neare.

β. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* 122 Ireland, an Isle most fruitful, and fitly scited to endamage Spain. 1655 FULLER *Ch. Hist.* IV. 179 Aix.., scited in the furthermost parts of Provence. *a* 1661 — *Worthies* II. *London* (1662) 218 The City of Leyden is scited in the very bottom of the Low-Countries.

b. Turned, or facing, in respect of site. *rare.*

1665 J. WEBB *Stone-Heng* (1725) 102 Their Temples were ..sited indifferently towards all Parts of the World.

2. Of things, persons, etc.: Having a particular place or position; placed, seated.

1609 HOLLAND *Amm. Marcell.* XX. iii. 145 When she [the moon] is sited just against and directly by line opposite, she will shine out at the full. 1624 GATAKER *Wife in Deed* 10 A wart, or a wen,..sited and seated in some conspicuous part. 1624 — *Transubst.* 98 What should he speake to him as sited elsewhere, when hee hath him corporally there present? 1660 R. COKE *Justice Vind.* 9 Aristotle..makes virtue and vice to be sited in the power of man.

† **Si·teful,** *a. Obs. rare.* Also 5 sitfull. [f. SITE *sb.*[1] + -FUL.] Sorrowful, mournful, doleful.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 21513 And spak he wit a siteful care,

c 1470 HENRY *Wallace* II. 219 Compleyne for him in to that sitfull sell is. 1501 DOUGLAS *Pal. Hon.* II. XXX, Rander louingis..Till Venus, and vnder her guerdoun..Rest at all eis, but sair or sitefull schouris.

Hence † **Si·tefully** *adv. Obs.*[−1]

c 1470 HENRY *Wallace* VII. 1243 To Dunbar the twa chyftanys couth pass, Full sitfully, for thar gret contrar cas.

Sitellyng, f. of *citoling* CITOLE *v. Obs.* **Siter,** obs. f. SITTER. **Sitesyn,** obs. f. CITIZEN.

Si·t-fast, sitfast, *sb.* and *a.* Also 7 sitt-. [f. SIT *v.* + FAST *adv.*]

A. *sb.* **1.** *Farriery.* A hard excrescence, induration, or tumour, tending to ulceration, produced on the back of a horse by the uneven pressure or chafing of the saddle.

1611 COTGR., *Mal de corne*, the sitt-fast; a hornie swelling on the backe of a horse. 1639 T. DE GREY *Expert Farrier* 317 An hard knob..formerly a saddle-gald..is converted into a sit-fast. 1708 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4493/3 A white Gelding full aged,..a Sit-fast lately taken out about the middle of the Saddle-place. 1753 BARTLET *Gentl. Farriery* (1754) 285 A sit-fast proceeds generally from a warble. 1831 YOUATT *Horse* 169 Warbles..will frequently disappear without medical treatment, but they will, at other times, degenerate into sitfasts. 1887 *Sat. Rev.* 19 Nov. 707/2 Whether a warbly back or even a sitfast would be such unsoundness as to constitute breach of warranty.

fig. 1661 HICKERINGILL *Jamaica* II Arguments..sufficiently confirm'd by every Marriner, to take of [=off] the greatest sit-fast of incredulity. *a* 1732 BOSTON *Crook in Lot* (1805) 53 He can raise the oldest sit-fast, concerning which there remains no hope with us.

b. *dial.* (See quots.)

1828 CARR *Craven Gloss.*, *Sit-fast*, a false healing of a wound, whereby is made a hard scab or excrescence. 1888 ABDY *Sheffield Gloss.* s.v., He's got a sit-fast in his arm. 1893 HESLOP *Northumbld. Gloss.*, *Sitfast*, a hard substance which sometimes forms in a wound and prevents it from healing.

2. *Sc.* a. The plants restharrow and creeping crowfoot.

1765 A. DICKSON *Treat. Agric.* (ed. 2) 114 Of this sort are some species of the thistle, and what the ploughmen call sit-fasts. 1808 JAMIESON, *Sitfasts*, restharrow. 1825 — *Suppl.*, *Sitfast*, Creeping Crowfoot, *Ranunculus Repens.*

b. An earth-fast stone. (Cf. B. 1 a.)

1813 R. KERR *Agric. Berwick* i. 35 Some [stones] are even of many hundred weights, and are called sit-fasts. *Ibid.* 380.

3. *dial.* (See quot.)

1828 CARR *Craven Gloss.*, *Sit-fast*, a sottish person, one who sits long or is fast bound to his cups.

B. *attrib.* or as *adj.* **1.** a. *Sc.* Of stones: Firmly fixed or embedded in the ground (cf. A. 2 b).

1801 *Farmer's Mag.* Nov. 377 Land that is incumbered with sitfast stones, or with the roots of trees and bushes. 1880 W. MARSHALL *Hist. Scenes Perthshire* (1881) 312 The land contains numbers of sitfast stones.

b. Remaining stationary; unmoving.

1857 EMERSON *Poems* 70 To find the sitfast acres where you left them.

2. Marked or characterized by sitting firmly; fixed, firm.

1807 G. CHALMERS *Caledonia* I. I. iv. 165 Which the cultivators of the soil have not yet been able to dig up from its sitfast hold. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. II. vi, For now no man..but will trot *à l'Anglaise*, rising in the stirrups; scornful of the old sitfast method.

Sith, *adv., prep.,* and *conj.* Now *dial.* or *arch.* Forms: α. 1 siþþa, 2–3 siþþe, 3–5 sippe, 4 sitthe, 5 sythþe; 4–5 sipe, 4–7 sithe, 4 syþe, 5–6 sythe; 4 sip, 4– sith (6 sigh), 5 sygthth (syght), 5–6 syth. β. 1 soþþa, soþa, 3 soppe; 2 seoþþe, 3 seoþþe, seoppe; 2–5 seþþe (4 zeþþe), 4 setthe, 4–6 sethe (9 *dial.* zeeth), 5 sep, 5–7 seth. γ. 2 syþþe, syþþe, 3–5 suþþe, 5 suthþe, 4 sutþe, sutthe, 5 sutth, sup. [Reduced form of OE. *siþþan*, etc., SITHEN.]

A. *adv.*

† **1.** Then, thereupon; afterwards, subsequently.

α. *a* 1000 *Lindisf. Gosp.* John, Poststcr., [John] in foresaza siþþa..3isprunt word miþþy god 3isalde. *c* 1150 *Ags. Gosp.* (Royal MS.) John xix. 12 And siþþe sohte pilatus hwu he hine for-lete. *c* 1275 LAY. 3060 Þus seide þat maide Gordoille, and siþþe sat stille. *a* 1300 *Havelok* 1814 Þe rith eye ..made he fleye, And siþe clapte him on þe crune. *c* 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* IV. 215 The pith Pike out,..ek do in sith Donge & cucumber seed. *c* 1489 CAXTON *Blanchardyn* v. 22 He stode styl,..and syth demaunded hym of the causes of his..sorowe. *c* 1500 *Robin Hood* IV. 118 To bydde a man to dyner And syth hym bete & bynde. 1512 *Helyas* in Thoms *Prose Rom.* (1828) III. 18 Matrabrune murmured alway..bi wicked detraccion, which she put sith in effect.

β. *c* 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* John xi. 7 Soþa *vel* þona æfter þas [he] cuoeð to his ðegnum. *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 49 Þet ..he hine icnawe and seoðe hine for-hosle. *c* 1205 LAY. 29537 Þa iwende seint Austin..suð and norð, and seoðþe þurh ut Englelond. *c* 1275 *Passion our Lord* 149 in *O. E. Misc.* 41 Vre louerd myd heom iwende...Seþþe he to heom seyde [etc.]. *c* 1350 *Will. Palerne* 2997 Whan þei samen hade souped & seþþe whasche after. *a* 1450 *Knt. de la Tour* (1868) 13 So she shroue her and was sethe of holy lyff.

γ. *c* 1275 LAY. 28736 Suþþe he nam þane way. *c* 1380 *Sir Ferumb.* 1855 Þow scholdest hem 3elde a3eyn; And suþþe to him amendes make. 1393 LANGL. *P. Pl. C.* XII. 271 In a myrour..hue made me to loke, And sutthe seide to me [etc.]. *c* 1430 *Two Cookery-bks.* 113 Boille hem in water, & suththe roste hem on a gridel.

† b. Next in succession, order, or place. *Obs.*

c 1275 *Passion our Lord* 47 in *O. E. Misc.* 38 Alle men he tauhte to holde treowe liue, Erest to god almyhti,..Seþþe to lunye his euenyng. *c* 1380 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* III. 63

Saturnus is þe hiȝeste planete, siþ Jubiter, and siþ Mars. *c* 1385 CHAUCER *L. G. W.* Prol. 228 (Fairf.), First sat the god of love, and syth his quene.

† 2. Continuously or ever from or since that time (cf. SINCE *adv.* 2, and SITHEN *adv.* 2). Freq. with *ever* or *alway*. *Obs.*

c 1205 LAY. 25511 Þat heo..[were] æuer seoððe laðen in auer ælche londe. *c* 1350 *Will. Palerne* 902 For so hard hacches haue hold me seþþe, þat i not in þe world what is me to rede. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 31 For alway siththe more and more The world empeireth every day. *a* 1547 SURREY *Æneid* II. 120 Ulysses ever sithe With new found crimes began me to affray. 1621 *N. Riding Rec.* (1894) 183 And ever seth the woddes hath beyne kept as they ought to be.

† 3. At some or any time(s) since; = SINCE *adv.* 3.

c 1300 *Harrowing Hell* 49 Ich haue seþþe þoled..hot, cold, honger ant þurst. 1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. v. 441 The kyndenesse þat myne euene-cristene kidde me fernyere, Sixty sythes I sleuthe haue forȝete it sith. *c* 1400 *Beryn* 3287, I also Have enquerid sith..to knowen of his ende. *a* 1533 LD. BERNERS *Golden Bk. M. Aurel.* (1546) B ij, Bycause they erred, wee haue founde sithe the waie. 1549 LATIMER *7 Serm. bef. Edw. VI* (Arb.) 120 *marg.*, The byshoppes be stirred theym so then, that some of theim were neuer so diligent sythe.

† 4. Ago; before now; = SINCE *adv.* 4. *Sith ago*, long ago; long since. *Obs.*

c 1350 *Will. Palerne* 1647 Elles had i deide for duel many dai seþþe. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 104 And [it] fell bot siththe awhile,..That my Stepmoder..Forschop me. 1430–40 LYDG. *Bochas* III. xxvi. (Bodl. MS.), The deth contagiousli conspired Of Artaxerses sithe go ful yore. *a* 1450 *Knt. de la Tour* 62 As y herde an holy man preche, and not longe sythe. 1545 RAYNOLD *Byrth Mankynde* Prol. C viij, It hath ben long sith tought to speke dutche,..spanish, and dyuers other langages.

B. *prep.*

† 1. Continuously or ever from (a specified time, etc.) till now; = SINCE *prep.* 1. *Obs.*

β. γ. *a* 1325 tr. *Stat. Westm. 1* c. 38 (MS. Rawl. B. 520) lf. 7 b, That the writ[s]..habben the terme suþþe þe furste passage of þe King Henri in to Gascoine. 1362 LANGL. *P. Pl.* A. Prol. 81 Parisch prestes playneþ..þat heore Parisch haþ ben pore seþþe þe Pestilence tyme. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) VI. 161 To þat tyme þe archebisshoppis were of Rome, and seþþe þat tyme þe archebisshoppes were of Engelond. 1442 *Rolls of Parlt.* V. 56/1 Seth which tyme ..the seide Statute hath nat at all tymes be putte in due execution. 1462 *Paston Lett.* II. 90, I have ben so sekelew sethe Crystmasse.

α. 1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. xx. 186 Sith whanne was þe way ouer mennes hedes? *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (1839) vi. 68 Thei seye that it hathe ben there sithe the beginnynge of the World. 1460 *Paston Lett.* I. 536 In dayly experiens sithe bifore the Parlement of Bury. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Edw. IV*, 59 His Feuer tercian, of the whiche he had languished sore, sithe his voyage royall into Fraunce.

† 2. During the period, at some or any time(s), since (a specified time); = SINCE *prep.* 2. *Obs.*

c 1275 LAY. 4154 Soch nas neuere..suþþe þe ilke time þat Brutus com her liþe. *c* 1394 *P. Pl. Crede* 158 Swich a bild bold..Say i nouȝt in certeine siþþe a longe tyme. 1426 LYDG. *De Guil. Pilgr.* 21803 A place Wych, syth tyme that I was born, I hadde neuere seyn toforn. 1495 *Act* 11 *Hen. VII*, c. 57 § 2 Your lettres patentes made sith the same iiij^th daie. 1535 STARKEY *Let. in England* p. xiii, Syth our fyrst acquyntance..many letturys ther hath byn at sundry tymys betwyx vs wryten. 1593 SHAKS. 3 *Hen. VI*, II. i. 106, I come to tell you things sith then befalne.

† b. *Sith late*, recently. *Obs.*

1483 CAXTON *G. de la Tour* d vj b, How syth late a hooly man dyd preche therof. 1484 — *Fables of Æsop* v. v, Of thy thowsand wyles that syth late thow coudest doo, lete me now see..one of them.

C. *conj.*

† 1. From, subsequent to, or since the time that. Also rarely with *that*. *Obs.*

α. *c* 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Luke vii. 45 Ðios uutedlice of ðon *vel* soðða in ic foerde ne blann cossetunges foeta mine. 12.. *Prayer our Lady* 30 in *O. E. Misc.* 193 Ich habbe isuneȝet..mid alle mine lime siððe ich sunehi cuðe. 1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. Prol. 64 For sith charite haþ be chapman ..Many ferlis han fallen. *c* 1400 *Pilgr. Sowle* (Caxton) I. ii. (1859) 3 So hast thou done alwey syth thou began. 1483 CAXTON *Gold. Leg.* 110 b/2 It is longe sith that I knewe that thou dwelledest in this region. *c* 1530 LD. BERNERS *Arth. Lyt. Bryt.* 360, I sawe not you syth I was in your bedde. 1581 RICH *Farew. Milit. Prof.* Cc iv, It is long agoe sithe I haue bothe forgiuen and forgotten these causes.

β. *c* 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Luke xiii. 7 ȝero ðrio sint of ðon *vel* soðða ic cuom. *c* 1160 *Hatton Gosp.* Luke vii. 45 Seððe ich inn eode. *c* 1275 *Serving Christ* 52 in *O. E. Misc.* 92 Seynt iohan is þe beste þat euer wes iwrouht Seoþþe god makede Middelerd. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) II. 117 Seþþe þat þe see was first i-ordeyned..hit chaungeþ neuere his place. 1490 *Plumpton Corr.* (Camden) 100, I had no word seth I parted from Plompton.

γ. *c* 1160 *Hatton Gosp.* Mark i. 14 Syððe [*v.r.* syððe] iohannes ȝeseald wæs com se hælend on galileam. *c* 1250 *Moral Ode* 59 in *E. E. P.* (1862) 26 Eal þat eure ilc man haued i-do suþe he com to manne. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 4778 Among þe brutons..was euere cristendom Suþþe it verst..hider com.

† b. During which; that. *Obs.*[—1]

a 1533 LD. BERNERS *Gold. Bk. M. Aurel.* (1546) T viij, It is nowe three score and two yeres sith the earth hath susteigned and fedde the earth of my bodie.

2. Seeing that; = SINCE *conj.* 4. Now *arch.* or *poet.*

Very common from *c* 1520 to *c* 1670, being freq. used to express cause, while *since* was restricted to time. After 1700 app. obsolete, but revived by early 19th cent. writers.

α. *c* 1380 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* III. 339 Siþ þei alle been deed in bodi, Cristis wordis may be taken of hem. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Knt.'s T.* 874 For sith the day is come þat I shal dye, I make pleynly my confession. *c* 1400 *Beryn* 159 Sith yee be in company of honest men & good, Worchith somwhat aftir. ? *a* 1450 *Le Morte Arth.* 1744 But sythe it is so,..What were now thy beste consayle? 1523 FITZHERB. *Husb.* § 157 Nowe sythe helle is derer than heuen, I aduyse the specyally to bye heuen. 1592 TIMME *Ten Eng. Lepers* C iv b, It was a shame the sonne shoulde haue a beard, sith the father had none. 1640 FULLER *Joseph's Coat* (1867) 237 And yet why so? sith since I call to mind, Than the Clementes none were more unkind, Than Innocents more nocent none I find. 1680 H. MORE *Apocal. Apoc.* 185 The usual Traffick in the Church of Rome..now ceaseth, sith she herself ceaseth. [1751 LLOYD *Progr. Envy* Poems (1762) 206 Ah me! unhappy state of mortal wight, Sith Envy's sure attendant upon fame.] 1814 CARY *Dante, Inf.* II. 22 It seems..well deserv'd: Sith he of Rome..In heaven's empyreal height was chosen sire. *a* 1850 ROSSETTI *Dante & Circle* I. (1874) 38 Weep, Lovers, sith Love's very self doth weep, And sith the cause for weeping is so great. 1872 BLACKIE *Lays of Highl.* 43 Sith I am the man I am.

β. γ. 1340 *Ayenb.* 47 Hue is hit uoul dede zeþþe hit is kendelich? *a* 1375 *Minor Poems Vernon MS.* 500/274 Seþþe hit is vnknowe to vs, We schul preye for alle Fidelibus. 1393 LANGL. *P. Pl.* C. xx. 33 What neodeþ hit þanne a newe lawe to brynge, Sutthe þe furste suffisede. *c* 1450 *Merlin* x. 143 Seth it is so, we shall delyuer yow the rynge. 1502 ATKYNSON tr. *De Imitatione* III. xxxi. (1893) 222 Seth..worldlye thynges..doth nat helpe mannes soule.

† b. So *sith that*. *Obs.*

1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) III. 223 þat is no body, seþþe þat þe liknesse..is no body. *Ibid.* VI. 101 Siþþe þat ȝe telleþ [etc.]. *c* 1430 *Syr Gener.* (Roxb.) 8452 Sith that ye haue him forlore, Ye shal haue a richer husbond. *c* 1489 CAXTON *Sonnes of Aymon* vi. 140 Sith that he is not deed, it oughte to suffyse you. 1559 *Mirr. Mag.* (1563) X ij, And in her wealth, sith that such chaunge is wrought, Hope not to much. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* I. v. 43 Sith that heauens king From hope of heauen hath thee excluded quight, Why fearest thou? 1651 H. MORE *Second Lash* in *Enthus. Tri.*, etc. (1656) 228 Sith that the Extent of heaven is not acknowledged any higher then the clouds. 1678 GALE *Crt. Gent.* IV. *iii.* 2 And indeed *no* wonder, sithat corrupt Nature..has..been ever aspiring after an Equality to the Deitie.

Sith, obs. form of SCYTHE *sb.*, SIGHT *sb.*[1]

† Sithe, *sb.*[1] *Obs.* Forms: 1–3 sið, 2 syð, 4 sid; 1 siþ, syþ, 4 sihþ; 4–6 sith (4 sitht, siht), 4–6 syth, 6 *Sc.* syith; (1) 2–3 siðe, (1) 2–4 siþe (4 ziþe), 3–4 sype, 4–6 sithe, sythe (4 syde); also *pl.* 5–6 *Sc.* sis(e), sys(e), syis. [Common Teut.: OE. *siþ, síð* str. masc., = OFris. **sîth* (in dat. pl. *sethen*), OS. *sîð*, *sîth*; these represent original **sinþ*, the *n* of which is preserved in Goth. *sinþs*, OHG. *sind* (MHG. *sinde*, *sint*), ON. and Icel. *sinn* and *sinni* (neut.), related to the vb. **sinþan* (ON. *sinna*) to go, the causative of which is represented in English by SEND *v.*]

I. 1. A going, journey, path, way.

This sense is very common in OE. poetry.

Beowulf 1278 His modor.. ȝegan wolde sorhfulne sið. 971 *Blickl. Hom.* 173 Hu myccle scipbrocu he ȝebad on þæm siþe. *c* 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* I. 360 Butan fyrhtu þu ðone sið ȝefremest, ac se wulf sorȝað ymbe his sið. *a* 1122 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 959, His sawle to ȝescyldnesse on langsuman syðe. *c* 1460 *Towneley Myst.* xxviii. 85 The holy gost before vs glad Full softly on his sithe.

2. Fortune on a journey; also generally, fortune, hap, luck.

Beowulf 1986 Hiȝelac ongan..fricgean hwylce Sæȝeata siðas wæron. *c* 1000 ÆLFRIC *Hom.* II. 64 Hu lange wilt ðu bewepan Saules sið, þonne ic hine awearp, þæt he leng ofer Israhela ðeode ne rixiȝe? *c* 1100 *O. E. Chron.* (MS. D) an. 1057, Þæt wæs hreowlic sið & hearmlic eallre þissere þeode, þæt he swa hraðe his lif ȝe-endade. *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 79 He hefde þurst and hunger and chele and alle wreche siþe. *a* 1225 *St. Juliana* 47 Nat i hwet vnseli sið makede me her to sechen. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 2546 Egipte folc adden nið For ebris adden seli sið.

b. Mishap, misfortune, trouble.

c 1205 LAY. 25846–7 [Heo] weop for hire wei-sið, wanede hire siðes þæt heo wæs on liues. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 274 Wid ðat pride him wex a nyð, Ðat iwel weldeð al his sið. 13.. *St. Gregory* (Vernon MS.) 425 Schom : hit is..longe to liuen in serwe and sihþ. 13.. *Cursor M.* 9456 (Gött.), In soru and sithe to him and his. *Ibid.* 10411 Speke we nou ..Of hir sythe and of hir care.

3. One's pilgrimage on earth; life-time; the course *of* one's life.

c 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 55 He haueð to us muchel nið alle þa deies of ure sið, *c* 1290 in Horstm. *Altengl. Leg.* (1881) 217 Hy tolden tales Of hoere auentures fales And of here liwes siþe. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 1400 Adam was for þis tiþand blith, Sua glad was he neuer his sith. *Ibid.* 27021 Þou has soght in all þe sith Werldes welth to lijf in pese.

II. Time, occasion.

This is the only sense in which the word is recorded in Goth. and OFris.; it is also found in OS., and is prominent in ON. (also MSw. and MDa.). For the sense-development cf. GANG *sb.*[1] 6, Go *sb.* 4, and the similar use of LG. and Du. *reis*, Sw. *resa*.

4. With cardinal numbers (or equivalent term), denoting frequency of occurrence, etc.

In OE. the case is either the instrumental, or the accusative governed by a prep. The instr. pl. *siðum* became ME. *siðen*, and finally assumed the same form as the sing. In place of a numeral, an adj. or adv. might be used, as in *eft-sith(es)* EFT *adv.* 4, *fele-sithe(s)* FELE *a.*[1] 4, and OFT-SITHE(S). With the Sc. forms (ð) cf. mod. NFris. *-sis*, as in *twasis* twice, *manningsis* many times.

α. *Beowulf* 1579 Oftor micle ðonne on ænne sið. *c* 825 *Vesp. Psalter* lxi. 12 Æne siða spreocende wes God. *c* 1200 ORMIN 1025 þe bisscopp sellf..Þær shollde cumenn o þe ȝer Ann siþe. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 3093 Bi-sek ȝet god, ðis one siðe, Ðat he vs of ðis pine friðe. *a* 1400 *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* xxxvi. 273, I..swouhnede mony a siþe. 1595 SPENSER *Col. Clout* 23 The woods were heard to waile full many a sythe.

β. *c* 825 *Vesp. Psalter* cxviii. 164 Seofen siðum in deȝe lof ic seȝde ðe. *c* 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Luke xvii. 4 ȝif seofo siða ȝesynngiȝa in ðec & seofa siða [*Rushw.* siðum] on dæȝe ȝecerred bið. *c* 1000 ÆLFRIC *Josh.* vi. 15 Hiȝ ferdon seofon siðon embe þa buruh. *c* 1205 LAY. 1188 Niȝen siðen he bi-eode þat weofed. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 38 Aues also er fif siðen. *a* 1300 *Havelok* 2189 Þo was haulok swiþe bliþe, And þankede God ful fele siþe. *c* 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 1377 Nyne syþe he ȝede aboute, & kiste þe auter. 1412–20 LYDG. *Chron. Troy* II. 3239 Sche seyde 'allas' more þan an hundrid sythe. *c* 1450 *Mirour Saluacion* (Roxb.) 48 He weshe hym..in fiymme Jordan seven sithe. 1501 DOUGLAS *Pal. Hon.* I. xxvii, ȝeildand Venus thankis ane thousand syith. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* III. x. 33 The foolish man..humbly thanked him a thousand sith.

γ. *c* 1000 *Ags. Gosp.* Matt. xviii. 21 Mot ic him forgyfan oð seofon siþas? *c* 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* I. 352 þat ylcan gate meolc..on þry siþas drince. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 1731 Ten siðes ðus binnen .vi. ȝer, Shiftede iacob hirdenesse her. *a* 1300 *Havelok* 2162 Hise fet he kisten an hundred syþes. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) I. 123 þat welle chaungeþ hewe and colors foure siþes a ȝere. 1447 BOKENHAM *Seyntys* (Roxb.) 178 Every day..Sevene sythys into the eyr..she up lyfted was. *c* 1456 PECOCK *Bk. of Faith* (1909) 232 Verrili thus it fallith in unnoumbrable sithis in Ynglond. *a* 1513 FABYAN *Chron.* v. (1811) 120 He went .v. sythes to Rome and came agayne. 1598 HALL *Sat.* IV. vi. 79 He..Wishes for home a thousand sithes a day.

δ. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* XV. 393 That gert him victor haue feill sis. *c* 1425 WYNTOUN *Cron.* IX. ii. 103 He þat day was stad straytly..And fyve syis [*v.r.* syse] was at gret mysscheyf. 1508 DUNBAR *Gold. Targe* 101 Dame Flora..thay thank a thousand syse. 1567 *Gude & Godlie Ball.* (S. T. S.) 132 Ane thousand syse than sall I pryse Thy halynes.

b. *On* (or *in*) *one sithe*, at one and the same time.

c 888 K. ÆLFRED *Boeth.* xvi. § 4 Neron..het æt sumum cyrre forbærnan æalle Romeburg on anne sið. *c* 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* II. 208 Ne forlæt þu þæs blodes to fela on ænne siþ. *c* 1470 *Gol. & Gaw.* 382 Syne thay..salust the souerane sone, in ane sith.

c. Used to express the multiplication of numbers, *esp.* (so many) times *ten* or *twenty*.

Cf. Da. *tred-sinds-tyve* sixty, *fir-sinds-tyve* eighty.

c 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Matt. xviii. 22 Ne cuoeðo ic ðe wið seofo siða ah wið hundseofuntiȝ siða seofo siða. 971 *Blickl. Hom.* 79 Ehtatyne syþum hund teontiȝ þusenda hi..wið feo sealdon. *c* 1055 *Byrhtferth's Handboc* in *Anglia* VIII. 302 Feower siðon seofon ȝear þæt beoð eahta & twentiȝ. *a* 1122 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1070, Ða com Turold abbot & æhte siþe twenti Frencisce men mid him. *c* 1205 LAY. 1103 Sixtene siðe tuenti scipen tuhten from hauene. *a* 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 1287 Alle italde bi tale, fif siðe tene. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 11345 Anna,..þat liued had four-sith tuenti yeier In viduid. 13.. *Coer de L.* 2096, I will have three sythe double of his [treasure]. 1340 *Ayenb.* 234 þe tale of zixti,..þet is of zixziþe ten. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) I. 45 þe roundenesse of þe worlde aboute is þre hundred siþes and fiftene siþes an hondred þowsand paas.

d. Used to express comparison.

971 *Blickl. Hom.* 147 Heo hæfde seofon siþum beorhtran saule þonne snaw. *a* 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 1665 Seouen siðes brihtre þen beo þe sunne. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 702 þe sun was þat time..Seuen sith brighter þen þe dai. 1362 LANGL. *P. Pl.* A. Prol. 109 Al þis I sauȝ slepynge & seue siþes more. *c* 1430 LYDG. *Minor Poems* (Percy Soc.) 62 An hundred sithes better than they deserue. 1480 CAXTON *Myrr.* II. xxxi. 126 His cercle is grettere..than the cercle of the mone.., xii sithes so moche. 1515 BARCLAY *Egloges* I. (1570) A iij, His Church is twenty sith more gay Then all the Churches betwene the same and Kent.

5. With ordinal numbers, and indefinite or demonstrative pronouns.

In some cases denoting a space of time (cf. 3); a trace of this appears to survive in Shetland dial. in such expressions as *the night side*, *the season side*.

a 850 *Lorica Prayer* 5 in *O. E. Texts* 174 Do ðonne fiorðan siðe ðin hleor ðriȝa to iorðan. 971 *Blickl. Hom.* 27 Þæt deofol hine þa ȝenam þriddan siþe. *a* 1122 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1110, He..to Pentecosten forman siþe his hired on..Windlesoran heold. *a* 1225 *Juliana* 64 Us reoweð þat sið þat we so longe habbeð ileuet þine reades. *c* 1250 *Owl & Night.* 325 Ich singe..þe þridde syþe a middelnyhte. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 6421 If he þam slaked ani sith, Sir amalech wan als suith. *Ibid.* 13094 Hu lang siþe Sal he him hide? 1382 WYCLIF *Exod.* x. 17 Also this sithe prey ye the Lord [etc.]. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 4204 Þan was he sary in þat sithe & sadly he pleyned. 1421 in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* Ser. II. I. 85 For in this sith in the bailliage of Caux..ther ys no sterynge of none evyl doers. 1590 GREENE *Mourn. Garm.* (1616) 14 He spends the yeare as blyth, As doth the King at euery tyde or syth. 1630 *Tincker of Turvey* 41 This smith was..Jocund and gleesome at every sith.

6. *By sithes*, at various times. *rare.*

13.. *Gaw. & Gr. Knt.* 17 Where werre, & wrake, & wonder, Bi syþez has wont þer-inne. *a* 1400 HYLTON *Scala Perf.* I. xxxvi. (W. de W. 1494), Vnto some men and wymmen he yeuyth it all theyr lyfe tyme by sythes whan he vysyteth hem.

Sithe, *sb.*[2] Now only *dial.* Also 7 **sith,** 9 **sigth.** [var. of SIGH *sb.*, after SITHE *v.*[2]] A sigh.

1609 ARMIN *Maids of More-Clacke* E iv, Be smilefull, and expresse no griefe in sithes. 1633 COWLEY *Pyramus & Thisbe* 71 With many a Sith, many a speaking Teare. 1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss.* 1890 *Glouc. Gloss.* 139 *Sigth*, a sigh.

Hence **† Si·theful** *a.*, sighful, sad. *Obs.*

1610 R. NICCOLS *Robt. Dk. Normandy* lxxxix. in *Mirr. Mag.* 650 As bird in cage..sadly sits and sings,..Till breath be spent in many a sithfull song.

Sithe, *sb.*[3] *Sc.* and *dial.* Also 6, 9 syth, 9 **sythe.** [prob. a var. of SIEVE *sb.* Cf. next and SITHE *v.*[3]] A sieve; a milk-strainer.

15.. *Wowing Jok & Jynny* 28 in *Bannatyne MS.* (Hunter. Cl.) 388 Ane milk syth. 1881 *Leicester Gloss.* 240. 1887 *Jamieson's Sc. Dict.* Suppl. 233/2 *Syth, Sythe*, a 'sey', sieve, or strainer for milk.

Sithe, *sb.*[4] *rare.* Also 6 siethe. [Alteration of *sive, cive* CHIVE[1]; cf. prec.] *pl.* Chives.

1573 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 94 Seedes and herbes for the Kitchen...Spinage,..Suckerie,..Siethes. 1712 W. ROGERS *Voy.* (1718) 13 There's abundance of good herbs, as parsly, purslain, Sithes in great plenty. 1853 PULMAN *Rustic Sketches* Gloss., *Sithes,* chives.

†**Sithe,** *v.*[1] *Obs.* In 1 siþ-, siðian, 3 siðen. [OE. *siðian,* = OS. *sîthôn,* OHG. *sindôn* :—OTeut. **sinþōjan*: see SITHE *sb.*[1]] *intr.* To go, travel.

Beowulf 808 Scolde..se ellorgast on feonda geweald feor siðian. *c* 1000 ÆLFRIC *Lives Saints* I. xvi. 154 Ða se hælend siðode,..sum man him cwæð to, 'Ic wille siþian mid ðe'. *c* 1205 LAY. 21279 Cheldric..þohte forð siðen & ouer sæ liðen. *c* 1220 *Bestiary* 698 Ȝef ȝe ones make haueð, fro him ne wile ȝe siðen.

Sithe (səið), *v.*[2] Now *dial.* Forms: 3 (*pa. t.*) siþte, 5–6 sythe, 6–7, 9 sithe (6 *pa. t.* sitht), 7 sith; 5 syghth-, 6 sygth-, sigth-, sighth-. [A variant of SIGH *v.*, prob. originating in the pa. t. *siþte* for *sihte*: see SICHE *v.*] *intr.* To sigh. Also *trans.,* to say with a sigh.

c 1275 LAY. 3108 Ȝeo eode in to bure and ofte siþte sore. *a* 1400 *Sir Cleges* 98 As he walkyd vpp and dovn Sore syghthyng. *a* 1400 *Cov. Myst.* (Shaks. Soc.) 361 Why dost thou sythe so sore, & qwake? 1528 in Burnet *Hist. Ref., Rec.* (Pococke) I. 133 The said holiness..sithed and wiped his eyes. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VIII,* 180 b, Some sighthed and sayd nothyng. 1588 GREENE *Perimedes* Wks. (Grosart) VII. 92 He lookt, he sitht, he courted with a kisse. 1607 MARSTON *What You Will* III. i, So I say sithing and sithing say my end is to paste vp a Si quis. 1685–90 COAD *Wonderful Prov.* (1849) 72 A new born child (that is living) doth sith and sob. *a* 1825 FORBY *Voc. E. Anglia* 303 *Sithe,* to sigh. 1875 *My Opin. & Betsey Bobbets* 91 As the young woman totters along to prison, is it any wonder that she sithes to herself. *Ibid.* 89 'Alas!' sithes the woman to herself.

Hence **Si·thing** *vbl. sb., ppl. a.*; **Si·thingly** *adv.*

c 1530 WOLSEY in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* Ser. II. II. 27 Thys nygth my brethe and wynde by sythyng was so short that I was..as one that shuld have dyd. 1570 J. DEE *Math. Pref.* a j, What manly vertues, in other noble men.., he Sythingly aspired after. 1609 ARMIN *Ital. Taylor* (1880) 171 The sithing King sayes, Courage man. 1838 HOLLOWAY *Prov. Dict.* s.v., I knew a clergyman who always read 'Sithing', for 'sighing of a contrite heart'.

Sithe, *v.*[3] Now *dial.* Forms: 5 cythyn, 6 syth, 9 sythe; 8 sieth, 9 sithe. [prob. a var. of ME. *cyve, syve* SIEVE *v.* Cf. SITHE *sb.*[3] and *sb.*[4]] *trans.* To strain; to pass through a sieve.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 79/1 Cyyd, or cythyd and clensyd, as mylke, or oþer lyke, *colatus. Ibid.,* Cythynge or clensynge, *colatura.* 1595 DUNCAN *App. Etym.* (E. D. S.), *Colo,* to syth or passe through a claith. 1756 MRS. CALDERWOOD *Jrnl.* (1884) 84 They sieth it into a brass veshell tinned within. 1825 JAMIESON *Suppl., To Sythe,* to strain any liquid; *Lanarks.* 1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss., Sithe,* to strain and purify milk.

Sithe, obs. form of SCYTHE, SIDE, SIGHT.

Sithement, variant of SYTHMENT *Sc. Obs.*

†**Si·then,** *adv., conj.,* and *prep. Obs.* Forms: α. 1 siooðan, 1–3 siðan, 2 -on, 3 -en; 1 siðþan, siþþan, -on, 4–5 siþþen (3 *Orm.* -enn), 4–5 sithen, 5 sythethyn, sitthen; 3 siðen (4 siden, syden), 3–4 siþen (4 -an), 4 syþen, 4–5 siþin; 2–7, 9 sithen (5 -enne, -in, -yn, -un, 7 -ene); 4–6 sythen (5 -ene, -in, -inne, -yn, -on, -un). β. 1–2 seoððan, 3 seoð-, seoðþen (soððen); 1 seoþðan, 2 seod-, 3 seoðþan; 1 seoþþan, 3 -þen (2 soþþen); 2 seððan, 2–3 seðden (3 sed-), 4–5 seþþen; 1 seoðan, 3 seoðen, seoþen; 2–3 seðen, 3 seiþin, 4 seþen, -in; 3–6 sethen (5 -enne), 4–5 sethyn, 5–6 sethin (5 -inne, -un). γ. 1 syð-, 2 sydþan, 1–2 syþðan, syððan (2 -on), 2–3 suðden (3 -den), 3 swo-, swu-, souðden; 1 syþþan (syþan), 3–4 suþþen, sut(t)hen. [OE. *siþþon, siþþan,* etc. (see above), for earlier **sið þon* (*þan*) 'subsequent to that' (cf. *æfter þon,* and G. *seitdem*), with shortening of the first vowel. The ME. *siþen, sithen,* however, may also represent ON. *síðan* (Da. *siden*), of the same meaning.]

A. *adv.*

1. = SITH *adv.* 1.

α. 831 *Charter* in *O. E. Texts* 445 Wes hit becueden Osbearte..& siðdan nenigzra meihanda ma ðes cynnes. 971 *Blickl. Hom.* 59 He þonne siþþon mid sare geswenced bið. 1154 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1140, Sithen þerefter sahtleden þe king & Randolf eorl, *c* 1200 ORMIN Ded. 235 He..sennde siþþenn Haliȝ Gast Till hise Lerninngcnihhtess, *c* 1300 *Havelok* 399 Godard stirt up..and siþen sat Bi þe knictes. *c* 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* Prol. 25 þe sam God sythyn was..þe first maker of alle thyng. 1428 *Eng. Misc.* (Surtees, 1890) 6 And sythen was funden half a duzan fals tyn. 1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* v. ix. 175 Kynge Arthur.. entryd in to Lorayne..and sythen retorned in to hault Almayn. 1559 *Mirr. Mag.* (1563) D iij, And sythen In Wygmore land..I caught the ryght heyre of the crowned howse.

β. *Beowulf* 1937 Hraþe seoþðan wæs æfter mundgripe mece ȝeþinged. 971 *Blickl. Hom.* 79 Swa swa hit seoþþan ȝelamp. *a* 1175 *Cott. Hom.* 225 Ga inn seðen mid þine hiwun. *c* 1205 LAY. 26580 Ælc his Rumain of-sloh; & seoðden heore hors wenden. *c* 1320 *Cast. Love* 46 Hou sone he hit for-les, And seþþen hou hit for-bouht wes. 1362 LANGL. *P. Pl.* A. VII. 59, I wol souwen hit my-self and seþþen with ou wende. *c* 1450 LOVELICH *Grail* lv. 451 But Sethen Cam there gret persecucioun To bothe Rewmes.

γ. *c* 1000 *Ags. Gosp.* Matt. iv. 2 þa ongan hyne syðdan hingrian. 1154 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1137, Þe Iudeus of Noruuic..him on rode hengen..& sythen byrieden him. *c* 1205 LAY. 3915 His lond he huld half ȝer, and suðden he adun halde. *c* 1300 *Harrow. Hell* (Digby MS.) 17 Ihesu..suþþen was don ful muchel some. 1393 LANGL. *P. Pl.* C. XXII. 143 Iuwes..culled hym on croys-wyse.., And sutthen buriede hus body.

2. = SITH *adv.* 2. (In later use = SINCE *adv.* 2.)

(*a*) *a* 900 CYNEWULF *Elene* 507 (Gr.), Him nænig wæs.. oðer betera under swegles hleo syðþan æfre. 971 *Blickl. Hom.* 219 þa æfter þisse dæde his noma wæs a seoþþan.. mære geworden. *a* 1122 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 963, Se Ælfsi wæs þa abbot syððon fiftig wintre. *c* 1205 LAY. 4257 He makede..monien laȝen gode þe long swuðden stode. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 2897 And o sithen it was said..That Parys was Pryam son.

(*b*) *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 262 Ihesus..Ros fro ded on ðe sunenday, ðat is forð siden worðed ay. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 1256 þat gresse gren, þat euer has siþen ben gren. 1338 R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (1810) 2 A grete Daneis felde..þat euer siþen hiderward Kampedene men kalle. *c* 1450 *Mirk's Festial* 22 Euer sethen angeles haue ben frendys..to all good men. 1487 *Act* 3 *Hen. VII,* c. 11 § 1 The seid Clothes ever sythen into this day have been..conveyed out of this realme. 1550 J. COKE *Eng. & Fr. Heralds* § 29 Which armes the frenche kynges have ever sythen borne, and yet bere unto this present tyme. 1601 R. JOHNSON *Kingd. & Commw.* (1603) 116 Euer sithene this citty hath declined.

3. = SITH *adv.* 3.

a 900 CYNEWULF *Crist* 39 Nænig efenlic þam, ær ne siþþan, in worlde gewearð wifes geeacnung. *c* 1000 ÆLFRIC *Deut.* XXXIV. 10 Ne aras siðdan nan witeȝa..swilce Moises wæs. *c* 1300 *Harrow. Hell* (Digby MS.) 33 Suþþen haui þoled.. hounger and þurst. ? *a* 1366 CHAUCER *Rom. Rose* 1641 In sory houre Stood I to loken,..For sithen have I sore syked. 1422 tr. *Secreta Secret., Priv. Priv.* 146 The cursid Emperoure Nero, and many otheres Sethyn and in oure dayes. 1495 *Act* 11 *Hen. VII,* c. 35 The Kyngis Grace..deputed to hym than and sithen offices of charge. *c* 1570 *Pride & Lowl.* (1841) 25 Before thy time men were not half so wyse As sythen in thy schoole they have been taught. 1669 STURMY *Mariner's Mag.* V. xii. 46 Sithen our Country-man Dr. Dee..saith, that an English-man was first Inventor.

4. = SITH *adv.* 4.

c 1386 CHAUCER *Sqr.'s T.* 536, I..took his herte in chaunge for myn for ay, But sooth is seyd, goon sithen many a day [etc.]. 1471 CAXTON *Recuyell* (Sommer) I. 118 Hit is not longe sythen whan I was in my royame [etc.].

B. *conj.*

1. = SITH *conj.* 1.

α. *c* 888 K. ÆLFRED *Boeth.* viii, Ealra ðara arwyrðnessa þe ðu..hæfdest siðdan ðu ærest geboren wære oð ðisne dæg. 971 *Blickl. Hom.* 23 We..swa wæron siþþon se æresta ealdor..Godes bebodu abræc. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 84 Siden ðat newe werld was boren, Til ihesus crist fro helle nam His quemed. 13.. *Cursor M.* 7993 (Gött.), Siþen god þe ches king of kith, His herte has euer ben þe wid. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Knt.'s T.* 1244 (Corpus MS.), Neuer siþþen þat þe world bigan..Nas of so fewe so noble a companye. *c* 1450 *Mankind* 265 in *Macro Plays* 10, I was neuer worth a pottfull a wortis, sythyn I was borne. 1477 *Paston Lett.* III. 201 The greet good that ȝe have had in yowyr rewle sythyn yowyr fadyr deyyd. 1555 BRADFORD in *Coverdale's Lett. Martyrs* (1564) 252 My manyfolde synnes, euen sythen I came into prison. 1572 ABP. PARKER *Corr.* (Parker) 405 He was with me sithen Justice Manwood was placed. [1889 F. COWPER *Capt. of the Wight* 3 The price has risen mightily sithen the tolls have been laid on all hawks.]

β. 971 *Blickl. Hom.* 187 Manige ȝear syndon agan nu seoþþan þe ðu..hæfdest siðdan ðu ærest ȝeboren wære oð ðisne dæȝ. 971 *Blickl. Hom.* 23 We..swa wæron siþþon se æresta ealdor..Godes bebodu abræc. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 84 Siden ðat newe werld was boren, Til ihesus crist fro helle nam His quemed. 13.. *Cursor M.* 7993 (Gött.), Siþen god þe ches king of kith, His herte has euer ben þe wid. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Knt.'s T.* 1244 (Corpus MS.), Neuer siþþen þat þe world bigan..Nas of so fewe so noble a companye. *c* 1450 *Mankind* 265 in *Macro Plays* 10, I was neuer worth a pottfull a wortis, sythyn I was borne. 1477 *Paston Lett.* III. 201 The greet good that ȝe have had in yowyr rewle sythyn yowyr fadyr deyyd. 1555 BRADFORD in *Coverdale's Lett. Martyrs* (1564) 252 My manyfolde synnes, euen sythen I came into prison. 1572 ABP. PARKER *Corr.* (Parker) 405 He was with me sithen Justice Manwood was placed. [1889 F. COWPER *Capt. of the Wight* 3 The price has risen mightily sithen the tolls have been laid on all hawks.]

γ. *Beowulf* 2474 þa wæs synn and sacu..syðdan Hreðel swealt. *c* 1000 *Ags. Gosp.* Mark ix. 21 Hu lang tid is syðdan him þis ȝebyrede. *c* 1205 LAY. 4154 Swulc nes næuere ær on erde swoðden..þe Bruttes come hær liðen. *c* 1300 *Harrowing Hell* (Digby MS.) 32 Almest so muchel hit is agon Suþþen þat i bicom furst mon. 1393 LANGL. *P. Pl.* C. XXII. 138 Sutthen þis barn was yboere, beoþ britty wynter passed.

2. = SITH *conj.* 2.

α. *c* 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 21 Whu shal þat wurðe, siðden [L. *quoniam*] wapman me ne atrineð? *c* 1220 *Bestiary* 160 Dis neddre, siðen he nede sal, makeð seld of his bodi. 13.. *Cursor M.* 3167 (Gött.), Quar sal we take þe best,..Siþen we wid vs broght hiþer nan? *c* 1375 *Lay Folks Catech.* (Lamb. MS.) 273 Þis ys Iesus oure lord..sythen he made vs of noȝt. *c* 1400 LOVE *Bonavent. Mirr.* (1908) 49 And sithen crist..chas that.., sothely that is best. 1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* I. xxii. 69 Sythen I haue made yow knyghte thow must yene me a gyfte. 1509 HAWES *Past. Plens.* XXXI. (Percy Soc.) 153 Thus, sithen Nature hath you well indued With so much beaute,..Exyle Disdayne.

β. *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 77 Hu scal þat bon, soþþen na Mon mine likame irineð. *a* 1200 *Vices & Virtues* 65 Hu scolde godd..hauen rewðe..of ðe, seoðden ðu..ne hafst nu hier none of ðe seluen? *c* 1330 *Arth. & Merl.* 239 (Kölbing), Seþþen þe king yslawe was.., A king þai mosten haue swiþe. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Knt.'s T.* 545 (Corpus), Siþen his face was so disfigured..He mighte wel..Lyue in Athenes eueremore vnknowe. *c* 1450 LOVELICH *Merlin* 9966 Sethen hit is so as that ȝe seyn. *c* 1500 *Melusine* 163, I beseche you.., sethen I moste departe your presens, to call me ofte in your remembraunce.

γ. *a* 1200 *Moral Ode* 205 Suðden God nom swa muchele wrake..we muȝen eðe us adrede. 1393 LANGL. *P. Pl.* C. XX. 272 Suthen charite..chargeþ this so sore.

b. So *sithen that.* = SITH *conj.* 2 b.

1387–8 T. USK *Test. Love* III. iv. (Skeat) I. 241 Sithen that god al thing thus beforn wot. *c* 1449 PECOCK *Repr.* I. xiv. 73 Holi Scripture is a reuerend thing.., sythen that bi it.. the Cristen Chirche of God takith her feith. 1485 CAXTON *Chas. Gt.* 50 For noo thynge I shal suffre the to do that fayte sythen that thou arte not presently in helthe.

C. *prep.*

1. = SITH *prep.* 1.

c 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 5 Eche lif..þat is ȝiarked siðen þe biginninge of þes woreld. 13.. *Cursor M.* 5670 (Gött.), Siþen quen was þu vr domesman? 1414 *Rolls of Parlt.* IV. 57/2 Myne adversaries hav..holden me in prison, sithen Seynt Katerynes day twelve Monthes last passed into this tyme. 1500 *Rec. St. Mary at Hill* (1905) 236 Olde dett that was dew sethen the tyme off Iohn Mylton. 1581 NOWELL & DAY in *Conf.* I. (1584) D iij b, The space of a xi. hundred yeeres..sithen the Tridentine Councill.

2. = SITH *prep.* 2.

a 1122 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 963, Ðis wæs ȝedon syððon ure Drihtnes acennednesse dccclxxii[o]. 1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. IX. 164 Many a peire sithen þe pestilence han pliȝt hem to-gideres. 1415 SIR T. GREY in *43rd Rep. Dep. Keeper Rec.* 583, I spake never withe hem sethen yat tyme. 1469 *Paston Lett.* II. 368 Whych appoyntements sythen yourr departyng hath be largely remembryd. 1535–6 *Act* 27 *Hen. VIII,* c. 42 By an Acte made sithen the begynnyng of this parliament. *a* 1604 HANMER *Chron. Irel.* (1633) 70 And sithen that time, hath sprung not all to the pleasure of God.

Si·thence, *adv., conj.,* and *prep. Obs.* exc. *arch.* Forms: α. 4 sitth-, sytthenes, 4–5 siþ-, sithenes, 5 sythnes; 5–8 (9 *arch.*) sithens (6 -ins, sythens, -yns, -ence), 6– sithence. β. 5–6 sethens, 6 sethence (7 seeth-). [f. prec. + *-es* -8: cf. SINCE *adv.*, etc.]

A. *adv.*

†**1.** = SITH *adv.* 1. *Obs.*

In later use with tendency to pass into sense 3.

1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. VI. 65, I wil sowe it my-self and sitthenes wil I wende To pylgrymage. *c* 1400 *Brut* lxix, Merlyn saw þat sterre,..and siþenes he quok and wepte tenderly. ? 1479 in *Eng. Gilds* 414 [He] ordeigned by the same fro that tyme sethens, every mayre on Mighelmas daie to be chargid [etc.]. 1632 J. HAYWARD tr. *Biondi's Eromena* 31 The slaves were not sithence seene, by whom they beleived the Prince to bee betraied. 1655 FULLER *Ch. Hist.* II. 94 Certain principall Persons, conceived signall for Sanctity in that age, and deputed put into the Calender of their Saints. 1757 DYER *Fleece* II. 311 Sithence the Fleeces of Arcadian plains..bore esteem.

†**2.** = SITH *adv.* 2. Freq. with *ever. Obs.*

1560 in Marsden *Cases Crt. Admiralty* (Selden) II. 119 Our said subjectes have feared ever sethence to trime..any shippes of warr. 1599 BUTTES *Dyets Drie Dinner* F ij, Ever sithence, it hath bene a by-word: an Almond for the Parrat. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* I. 684 Ever sithence the British nation hath continued..dutifully in their loyal allegiance. 1671 F. PHILLIPS *Reg. Necess.* 103 The Defendant was in his service before the day given by the Essoin,.. and every time sithence.

†**3.** = SITH *adv.* 3. *Obs.*

1529 MORE *Dyalogue* III. Wks. 223 Sythe that time Tyndal hath put out..another booke...And yet hath he sithens put forth a worse. 1570–6 LAMBARDE *Peramb. Kent* (1826) 11 Long since there was an istmus.., although the sea hath sithence fretted the same in sunder. 1607 J. CARPENTER *Pl. Man's Plough* Ep. Ded. p. vi, That..which I have sithence conceived and thus brought forth. 1660 *Trial Regic.* 35 What Goods, and Chattels, he had at the time of committing the said Treason, or at any time sithence.

†**4.** = SITH *adv.* 4. *Obs.*

Very common from *c* 1550 to *c* 1650.

1548 UDALL *Erasm. Par. Mark* i. 9 The Prophetes so many hundred yeares sythens prophecied. 1591 SPENSER *Ruins Rome* ix, Why haue your hands long sithence traueiled To frame this world? 1619 J. KING *Serm.* 11 Apr. 10 Well-nigh fifteene yeeres sithence. 1655 FULLER *Ch. Hist.* II. 135 Seeing Devotion..long sithence hath desisted to expresse itself in such pompous Buildings.

B. *conj.*

†**1.** = SITH *conj.* 1. *Obs.*

1557 in 10*th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. v. 387 Sethienc [*sic*] the said Colladge was furste..unitid together. 1566 ADLINGTON *Apuleius* (1596) 11 It is a great while paste sithens we two sawe eche other. 1606 *Proc. agst. Late Traitors* 55 Such as were made Priests sithence her Majesty came to the Crowne.

2. Seeing that; = SITH *conj.* 2. Now *arch.*

Very common from *c* 1550 to *c* 1650.

1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. XIX. 15 Why calle ȝe hym cryst,.. sithenes iuwes calle hym ihesus? *c* 1400 *Beryn* 559 Sithens þow hast hym bete,..it were no reson þat I shuld bere þe gilt. 1477 NORTON *Ord. Alch.* v. in Ashm. (1652) 60 Sithens our Tincture must be most pure and faire. 1509 HAWES *Past. Pleas.* XLI. (Percy Soc.) 203 What you avayleth such treasure to take, Sithens by force ye must it now forsake? 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* I. IX. 8 Sithens silence lesseneth not my fire,..I will reuele, what ye so much desire. 1626 J. YATES *Ibis ad Cæsarem* II. 1 Well might he say so, sithence none that is sound and Orthodox, professeth any other societie. 1644 J. BERKENHEAD *Serm.* 3 We must be subject, sithence there is no power but of God. *c* 1709 PRIOR *1st Hymn Callim.* 16 Holy Retreat! Sithence no Female hither..Must dare approach. 1798 SOTHEBY tr. *Wieland's Oberon* IV. xlviii, Sithence our Drusi prince is loathsome grown,..she sees him not without disdain. 1808 LD. E. HAMILTON *Mawkin* xiii, It's our plain duty to bide by it, sithens we was sent by Buccleuch to be guided by the hound.

†**b.** So *sithence that,* = SITH *conj.* 2 b. *Obs.*

c 1400 *Brut* cxcvi, How might Robert Holonde fynde in his hert me to bitraye, sibens þat y haue Louede him so miche? 1535 FISHER *Wks.* (1876) 385 Studiousliе to keepe it, sithens that you haue it once. 1580 LYLY *Euphues* (Arb.) 394 But sithens that sicke men are not to prescribe diets but to keepe them, I am redie to take potions. 1630 LENNARD tr. *Charron's Wisd.* I. X. (1670) 37 For sithence that by their means..we attain to all knowledge [etc.].

C. *prep.*

†**1.** = SITH *prep.* 1. *Obs.*

1483 in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* Ser. III. I. 102 The revenues of the same.., sethens Michilmesse last past. 1556 in *Rep.*

Hist. MSS. Comm. Var. Coll. IV. 221 Ever sithens the begynnyng of Kyng Edwarde the VIth untill this tyme. *c* 1585 HOOKER *Serm.* v. P 8 This hath been the state of the Church sithence the beginning. 1603 OWEN *Pembrokeshire* (1892) 8 For soe much doe I finde to be called Dyuett seethence the conquest. 1628 ABP. WILLIAMS *Serm.* 17 What life you see in me, sithence that happy houre I first applyed to my soule the passion of my Sauiour.

† 2. = SITH *prep.* 2. *Obs.*

1536 in Fuller *Ch. Hist.* (1655) v. 209 It was never merry in England, sithence the Letany was ordained. 1581 NOWELL & DAY in *Conf.* I. (1584) D b, Sithence the Tridentine Councill, some Popish printers haue left out the.. Prologue. 1601 R. JOHNSON *Kingd. & Commw.* (1603) 29 Sithence the remembrance of later times, a larger Emperie hath not befallen any christian potentate.

Siper, sither(e, ob. ff. CIDER. **Sitherope,** obs. f. SIDE-ROPE. **Sithir,** obs. f. CIDER. **Sithment,** var. SYTHMENT *Sc. Obs.*

† Si·thre, *adv. Obs.* [f. OE. *sīþor*, comp. of *sīþ* late.] With *of*: At a later time; subsequently.

c 1200 ORMIN 322 þatt Davib kingess kinness menn.. Wibb Aaroness kinness menn Off sibre wærenn sammnedd. *Ibid.* 7293 Alle þa þatt herrdenn itt & wisstenn itt off sibre.

Sith(t)ware (obs. Sc.) : see SQUARE.

† Sithy-coat. *Obs.*—[1] (Meaning obscure.)

1657 REEVE *God's Plea* 125 They must be rents, rags, slashes, Sithy-coats, and sack-cloth people, that must undertake this work.

† Si·tiate, *v. Obs.*—[1] [irreg. f. L. *sitī-re* to thirst + -ATE [3].] *intr.* To thirst.

1599 A. M. tr. *Gabelhouer's Bk. Physicke* 136/2 Let him drincke of this water when he Sitiateth.

† Siti·culous, *a. Obs.*—[1] [ad. L. *sitīculōs-us*, f. *sitis* thirst.] Very dry.

1620 VENNER *Via Recta* vii. 116 They engender cholericke and siticulous humors.

Sitient (si·tiĕnt), *a. rare.* [ad. L. *sitient-em*, pres. pple. of *sitīre* to thirst]. (See quot. 1656.)

1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.*, *Sitient*,..thirsting, coveting, desiring much. 1821 *Blackw. Mag.* VIII. 358 Rheumatism doth not seem to have made thee less esurient or sitient.

Sitiles, obs. form of CITYLESS.

Siting (sə·itiŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. SITE *v.*[2]] The action of placing or laying out (trenches).

1902 *Encycl. Brit.* XXVIII. 449/2 Trace or Siting of Trenches.—The system on which trenches are laid out [etc.]. *Ibid.*, The siting of the trenches will depend on the ground.

Sitio- (sitio), combining form of Gr. *σῖτο-ν* food made from grain, bread, as **Sitio·logy** [cf. F. *sitiologie*], (see quots.). **Sitioma·nia, Sitipho·bia** [cf. F. *sitiophobie*], morbid repugnance or aversion to food. Cf. SITO-.

1849 CRAIG, *Sitiology*, a treatise upon aliments. 1858 MAYNE *Expos. Lex.*, *Sitiology*,..the doctrine or consideration of aliments..; dietetics. 1887 *Cassell's Encycl. Dict.*, Sitiomania. *Ibid.*, Sitiophobia. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 379 Acute cases with great nutritional disorder, when great insomnia, sitiaphobia [*sic*], or suicidal impulse is present.

† Sitisot. *Obs. rare.* Forms: sit(t)isott, -sotte, setisot, sitisote. [Of obscure formation; the final element may be SOT *sb.*] Some kind of game (see quots.).

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 16623 Wit him þai plaid sitisott, and badd þat [he] suld rede Quilk o þaim him gaf þe dint. *Ibid.* 24027 O clai þai kest at him þe clote, And laiked wit him sitisote. 13.. *St. Alexius* 366 in Horstm. *Altengl. Leg.* (1881) 182 Som keste atte him stone & clotte, Som plaied wiþ him sitti-sotte.

Sitizen, obs. Sc. form of CITIZEN.

Sito- (səito), combining form of Gr. *σῖτο-ς* food made from grain, bread, as **Sito·logy,** = SITIOLOGY; **Sitoma·nia, Sitopho·bia,** = SITIOPHOBIA; hence **Sitopho·bic** *a.* (*Cent. Dict.* 1891).

1864 WEBSTER, Sitology. [Hence in recent Dicts.] 1882 *Ogilvie's Imperial Dict.* IV. 93/2 *Sitomania*, morbid repugnance to or refusal of food. *Ibid.*, Sitophobia may consist in repugnance to all food, or merely to particular viands. It is a frequent accompaniment of insanity. 1902 *Brit. Med. Jrnl.* 4 Jan. 1 The gastric condition of twenty insane patients who manifested sitophobia.

Sitol(e, variants of CITOLE *Obs.*

‖ Sitringee (sitri·ndʒē). *Anglo-Ind.* Also 7 cittringe, sittron-, sitterne-, situngee, 8 sittringee, 9 sitringe. [ad. Urdū شطرنجی *shaṭranjī*, f. Persian *shaṭranj* chess, with reference to the original chequered pattern.] A carpet or floor-rug made of coloured cotton, now usually with a striped pattern.

1621 in Foster *Eng. Factories Ind.* (1906) I. 354 [With the help of skins], cittringes, [etc., they saved most of them from harm]. 1698 FRYER *Acc. E. India & P.* 93 They..seat themselves in Choultries,..commonly spread with Carpets or Situngees. 1785 in Seton-Karr *Sel. Calcutta Gaz.* (1864) I. 111 To be sold by Public Auction..The valuable effects of Warren Hastings, Esquire, .. Carpets and Sittringees. 1825 HEBER *Jrnl.* 4 Jan., Sitringees were laid, by way of carpet, on the floor. 1825-9 MRS. SHERWOOD *Lady of Manor* III. xxi. 240 The pavement was spread with a sitringe, or carpet of striped cotton, the manufacture of the country. *Ibid.* V. xxix. 80.

Sitryn(e, obs. forms of CITRINE.

Sittell, Sittelness, obs. Sc. ff. SUBTLE(NESS.

‖ Sittella (site·lă). *Austr.* [mod.L. (Swainson, 1837), dim. of *sitta*, ad. Gr. *σίττη* nuthatch.] A species of small tree-creeping bird, somewhat resembling the nuthatch, native to Australasia; a tree-runner.

1848 GOULD *Birds Australia* IV. pl. 102 *Sittella Leucocephala*, White-headed Sitella. *Ibid.*, My collection contains three specimens of this new species of *Sittella*. 1890 in Morris *Austral Eng.* (1898) 419 Sittellas. [Close season.] From the first day of August to the 20th day of December.

Sitten (si·t'n), *ppl. a. Sc.* and *north. dial.* [pa. pple. of SIT *v.*]

For various mod. dial. uses, see the *Eng. Dial. Dict.*

† 1. *Well sitten*, having a good seat (on horseback). *Obs. rare.*

1500-20 DUNBAR *Poems* xxvii. 70 The tailȝeour that wes nocht weill sittin, He left his sadill. *c* 1560 A. SCOTT *Poems* (S. T. S.) ii. 38 He micht counter Will on horss, For Sym wes bettir sittin Nor Will.

† 2. *Sitten-up*, settled in habit, not easily stirred or moved. *Obs.*—[1]

1671 J. LIVINGSTONE *Let. to Parishoners Ancram* 15 Their fire edge might help to kindle-up old sitten-up professours.

Sitter (si·tər). Also 4 **siter, sittere,** 5 **syttarre,** 6 **sittare.** [f. SIT *v.* + -ER. Cf. WFris. *sitter*, MDu. *sitter*, *sitter* (Du. *zitter*), G. *sitzer*.]

1. One who sits or occupies a seat:

a. In general use.

a 1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* xlix. 5 He..sall call..all perfite men to be siters wib him and deme. 1388 WYCLIF *Rev.* v. 1 Y say in the riȝthond of the sittere on the trone, a book. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 9140 Hit semyt by sight of sitters aboute, As the moron mylde meltid aboue. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 457 Syttare, at mete, *conviva*. 1565 COOPER *Thes.*, *Sessor*, one that sitteth: a sitter. 1608 *Dispute Quest. Kneeling* 73 Not kneelers at any distance from the table,..but sitters at the table. 1626 BACON *Sylva* § 740 The Turks are great Sitters and seldom walk. 1650 *Bounds Publ. Obed.* (ed. 2) 47 Few or many sitters in the House, is not a thing of our examination, if they be above forty. 1806 W. TAYLOR in *Ann. Rev.* IV. 561 Oft from the sitter tales fall about; and from the recumbent, lies. 1837 W. B. ADAMS *Carriages* Introd. 18 The seat, for a single sitter, was placed in the centre of the poles. 1897 MISS BROUGHTON *Dear Faustina* xiv, In a quarrel the sitter has always an advantage over the stander.

fig. 1862 LOWELL *Biglow P.* Ser. II. Poet. Wks. (1879) 277/1 A large majority..who hold with Dædalus, the primal sitter-on-the-fence, that [etc.].

b. A person who sits to an artist, photographer, or sculptor, for a portrait, etc., or as a model.

1649 LOVELACE *Poems* 62 As if thou..didst draw With those brave eyes your Royall Sitters saw. 1816 GALT *Life B. West* 69 [The artist's] youth and the peculiar incidents of his history attracted many sitters. 1841 CATLIN *N. Amer. Ind.* xxxvii. (1844) II. 37, I am going further to get sitters than any of my fellow artists ever did. 1883 *Hardwich's Photogr. Chem.* 297 The roof over the sitter..must also be opaque.

c. A passenger in a rowing-boat, as distinct from the rowers or steersman; *spec.* at Eton (see quot. 1827).

1653 APPLETON *Fight Legorn-Road* 5 Captain Cox in the Elizabeth's Shallop with nine Oars and four Sitters. 1676 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1086/3 A single Boat, with but two Sitters, besides the ordinary crew of Rowers. 1725 DE FOE *Voy. round World* (1840) 66 A boat put off..with four oars and one sitter only. 1827 *Ann. Reg.* 480/2 Mr. Canning was the sitter in the 'ten-oar' at the Eton regatta, a post of honour which is always reserved by the boys for some favoured visitor. 1865 DICKENS *Mut. Fr.* I. i, His boat had no cushion for a sitter, no paint, no inscription.

† d. *Cards*, etc. One who actually takes part in a game, as distinct from one who stands by and bets on it. *Obs. rare.*

1748 SMOLLETT *R. Random* lii, He then explained the difference between the sitters and the betters; characterized the first as old rooks, and the last as bubbles.

e. *Sc.* One who has a seat in a church.

1838 CHALMERS *Wks.* XII. 212 A sitter in the Church of St. John.

f. (See quot.)

1851 in Mayhew *Lond. Lab.* II. 35/1 Five men worked [at 'translating' shoes] and slept there, and three were *sitters*—that is, men who paid 1*s.* a week to sit there and work, lodging elsewhere.

† 2. One who sits on a horse or other animal; a rider. Also *transf. Obs.*

a 1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* xxxii. 17 þe sittere on þat hors sall noght be safe in habundaunce of his vertu. 1382 WYCLIF *Num.* xxii. 25 Whom seynge, the asse ioynede hym silf to the wal, and briside the foot of the sitter. — 2 *Macc.* iii. 25 Forsothe sum hors apeeride to hem, hauynge a dreedful sitter. 1515 BARCLAY *Egloges* iv. (1570) C iij b/1, But if this same colte be broken at the last, His sitter ruleth and him refrayneth fast. 1608 TOPSELL *Serpents* (1658) 659 Hornets ..getting upon the poor Bees backs, they use them in stead of a Waggon or carriage: for when the silly Bee laboureth to be discharged of his cruel Sitter: the Hornet..spareth not to kill..his..chief maintainer.

† 3. A name for the hare. *Obs.*—[1]

13.. *MS. Digby 86* fol. 168 b, þe sittere, þe gras hoppere, þe Fitelfot, þe fold sittere.

4. A female bird, *esp.* a domestic hen, which sits on eggs for the purpose of hatching them.

1614 MARKHAM *Cheap Husb.* (1623) 137 A Henne will be a good sitter from the second yeare of her laying to the fift. 1707 MORTIMER *Husb.* (1721) I. 256 The oldest [hens] being always reckoned the best Sitters, and the youngest the best Layers. 1836 *Penny Cycl.* VI. 229/1 The plan of giving the eggs to another sitter. 1884 L. F. ALLEN *Amer. Farm Bk.* 493 The hen [turkey]..is an inveterate sitter, and carefully hatches most of her eggs.

5. With advs., as *sitter-by, -out, -up.*

(*a*) 1561 T. NORTON *Calvin's Inst.* II. 167 Princes that haue theyr sitters by, to whom they commit theyr office to rule and gouerne in their stede. 1804 CHARLOTTE SMITH *Conversations*, etc. II. 79 It is very dull tho', Mamma, to the sitters-by. 1850 CLOUGH *Dipsychus* II. iv. 89 Life..still delights to turn The tide of sport upon the sitters-by. 1860 GEN. P. THOMPSON *Audi Alt.* clx. III. 173 He must be excused by the honourable members who complained of something in his pocket injurious to the sitters-by.

(*b*) 1611 BEAUM. & FL. *Philaster* II, Not a bed Ladies? y'are good sitters up. 1822 LAMB *Ess. Elia*, *Confess. Drunkard*, They were men of boisterous spirits, sitters up a-nights, disputants, drunken.. 1872 GEO. ELIOT *Middlem.* lxxi, There's them can pay for hospitals..choose to be sitters-up night and day.

(*c*) 1829 CAROLINE B. SOUTHEY *Ch. on Churchyards* II. 292 An unwearied sitter out of..Dr. Hartop's long stories.

† Sitterine, obs. form of CITRINE B. 2.

1571 in Feuillerat *Revels Q. Eliz.* (1908) 139 Stones called Sitterines and Topiasses with enamellings.

Sittim, obs. form of SHITTIM.

Sittine (si·təin), *sb.* and *a. Ornith.* [f. mod. L. *Sittinæ*.] **a.** *sb.* A member of the *Sittinæ*, a sub-family of the Linnæan genus *Sitta*. **b.** *adj.* Of or pertaining to this family (*Imp. Dict.* 1882).

1829 GRIFFITH tr. *Cuvier* VII. 345 The Sittines..differ only in having the bill a little more compressed.

Sitting (si·tiŋ), *vbl. sb.* Also 3 **sittunge,** 4–5 **sittyng** (4 **cyttynge**), **sytting,** 5–6 **-yng(e,** etc. [f. SIT *v.* + -ING [1].]

1. The action of the vb. SIT, in various senses; the fact of being seated; an instance of this.

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 156 Hwat oðer god cumeð of þisse onliche sittunge, þet Ieremie spekeð of. *c* 1325 *Prose Psalter* cxxxviii. 1 Lord,..þou knewe..my sittyng and my risynge. 1382 WYCLIF *Lam.* iii. 63 The sitting..and the aȝeen rising of hem see; Y am the salm of hem. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 440 Hit is wonder of the wit of this wise kyng, Wold assent to þat sytting. *c* 1450 in Aungier *Syon* (1840) 325 The lay brethren..keping the same stondynges and syttynges that the quer doth. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 233 b, This syttynge signyfyeth none other but the peace of the soule. 1581 MULCASTER *Positions* xxxix. (1887) 197 Is the skill in sitting of an horse no honour at home? 1671 MILTON *P. R.* IV. 107 Without the highest attain'd Will be for thee no sitting, or not long On David's Throne. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 30 Nov. 1680, The place of sitting was now exalted some considerable height from the paved floore. 1730 BAILEY (fol.), *A Siege* is the Sitting or Encampment of an Army round a Place. 1874 BLACKIE *Self-Cult.* 41 Why should a student indulge so much in the lazy and unhealthy habit of sitting?

† b. Order or place of sitting (at table, etc.).

c 1380 *Antecrist* in Todd *Three Treat. Wyclif* (1851) 127 þei woien sitt ful hiȝe in furst sittyngis at þe sopers. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Clerk's T.* 902 And eek that euery wight in his degree Haue his estaat in sittyng and seruyse. ? *a* 1400 *Arthur* 51 For no pryde scholde aryse For any degree of syttynge. 1494 in *Ordin. Household* (1790) 112 The sitting of all Dukes, Earles, and Barons sonnes.

† c. The fact of being sat in or occupied. *Obs.*—[1]

c 1440 LOVELICH *Merlin* 4490 They..axeden..why that place was voyde of syttyng, and why that som good man mihte not sytten there.

d. Carriage or posture *of* something. *rare*—[1].

1709 STEELE *Tatler* No. 9 P 3 Miss..immediately at her Glass, alters the Sitting of her Head.

2. The action on the part of hen-birds of sitting on and hatching eggs; incubation.

1399 LANGL. *Rich. Redeles* III. 39 In þe somer seson whane sittinge nyeth, þat ich foule with his fere folwith his kynde. *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (Roxb.) vii. 25 þe egges bringes furth briddes withouten sittyng of hen. 1611 COTGR., *Couvement*, a brooding, sitting on. 1711 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 128 P 3 The Male [Bird]..amuses and diverts her [the Hen] with his Songs during the whole Time of her Sitting. 1787 GOUV. MORRIS in Sparks *Life & Writ.* (1832) I. 292 [They] are really the foolishest geese I ever beheld, for they choose all times for sitting but the spring. 1830 SOUTHEY *Young Dragon* I. v. 10 With amianth he [the dragon] lined the nest,..To bear the fiery sitting. 1854 MEALL *Moubray's Poultry* 425 For sitting, the newest [eggs] are to be preferred.

b. A number of eggs placed under a sitting bird for incubation; a clutch.

1854 MEALL *Moubray's Poultry* 426 The differences of the seasons..must have a considerable effect upon the chances of hatching a sitting of eggs. 1895 ELWORTHY *Evil Eye* 406 A sitting of eggs is a number just as well known as a baker's dozen—thirteen.

3. a. The fact of being engaged in the exercise of judicial, legislative, or deliberative functions; an instance or occasion of this; a meeting of a legislative or other body; the period of time occupied by this.

c 1400 *Yvaine & Gaw.* 3446 It es the assyse, Whils sityng es of the justise 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 240 The eight daye of Aprill was the thirde sytting of the fathers in the Counsell at Trent. 1598 *Child-Marriages* 173 It is fuly Concluded..at this, her Maiesties generall Sessions, by the said Justices in their open Sessions and full sittinge. 1660 MILTON *Free Commw.* Wks. 1851 V. 452 If all this avail not to remove the Fear or Envy of a perpetual Sitting, it may be easily provided [etc.]. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 1 Oct. 1678, The Parliament, growing now corrupt and interested with long sitting and court practices. 1764 *Ann. Reg.* I. 50 The speaker was twenty hours in the chair, which was the longest sitting, by three hours, that is remembered to have happened. 1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* xvii, The brief interval..betwixt the dismissal of the audience and the sitting of the privy council. 1855 PRESCOTT *Philip II*, II. xi. (1857) I. 269 These discussions occupied many and long protracted sittings of the council. 1896 *Law Times* C. 356/2 The first sitting of the new court was held on the 10th inst.

b. *Yorks.* A statute or hiring fair. Now *pl.*

1641 BEST *Farm. Bks.* (Surtees) 135 Masters that wante servants, and servants that wante masters, have the benefitte of the next sittinge to provide for themselves. *Ibid.* 136 When servants goe to the sittinge, they putte on theire best apparrell. 1788 W. H. MARSHALL *Yorksh.* II. 352 *Sittings*, statutes for servants. 1851 *N. & Q.* 1st Ser. III. 328/2 It is customary once a year for men and women servants out of place to assemble in the market places of Hedon and Patrington..and there await being hired. This very ancient custom is called Hedon Sittings or Statutes. 1892 M. C. F. MORRIS *Yorks. Folk-Talk* 369 We're off for Pockli'ton sittins.

c. Among the Society of Friends, a gathering or meeting for family worship.

1841 GURNEY *Jrnl.* in Braithwaite *Mem.* II. 261 We were favoured with a very good family sitting after breakfast... I had to minister to them all.

4. A thing or place upon or in which one sits; a seat, *esp.* in later use, sitting accommodation for one person in a church or other place of worship. Also *fig.*

c 1400 MAUNDEV. *Trav.* (1839) ix. 106 In that Cytee [Samaria] was the syttinges of the [ten] Tribes of Israel. 1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* (1658) 119 The nature of these is.. to cast about for the sitting of the Beast, and so having found it, with continual cry to follow after it till it be wearyed. 1828 CARR *Craven Gloss., Sitting*, a single seat or sitting in a pew. 1835 I. TAYLOR *Spir. Despot.* 168 The number of sittings between one wall of a chapel and its opposite. 1874 MICKLETHWAITE *Mod. Par. Churches* 339 From £10 to £12 per sitting is, I think, a fair estimating price.

5. A spell of remaining seated:

a. In phr. *at a* or *one sitting*, during a single period of sitting; at one time or spell of continuous action, work, or study.

1596 SHAKS. *Merch. V.* III. i. 117 Your daughter spent in Genowa..one night fourescore ducats. *Shy*...Fourescore ducats at a sitting! fourescore ducats! 1691 T. H[ALE] *Acc. New Invent.* 47 To finish this Piece up at one sitting. 1711 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 72 P 8 Others who have smoaked an Hundred Pipes at a Sitting. 1731–8 SWIFT *Polite Conv.* 198, I was assur'd..that she lost at one Sitting to the Tune of a hundred Guineas. 1840 DICKENS *Old C. Shop* xlvi, You should question me for half-a-dozen hours at a sitting, and welcome. 1843 *Penny Cycl.* XXV. 76/1 They [turtles].. lay at one sitting to the number of a hundred eggs. 1887 JESSOPP *Arcady* iv. 120 The incredible bulk of food that they will make away with at a sitting.

b. In other uses.

1621 BP. HALL *Heauen upon Earth* § 4 [Gorges] who.. can freely carue to themselues large morsels at the next sitting. 1833 T. HOOK *Parson's Dau.* I. ii, The man is a monster, without one redeeming quality that I could discover in a seven hours' sitting. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* xlv, Every time that he got a headache from too long an after-dinner sitting. 1896 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* I. 370 The symptom often departs suddenly during the course of the first sitting [for treatment by electricity].

c. A spell of sitting to an artist, sculptor, or photographer for a portrait, etc.

1706 *Art of Painting* (1744) 333 He drew his picture for him at several sittings. 1762–71 H. WALPOLE *Vertue's Anecd. Paint.* (1786) II. 243 He..generally obtained one or two sittings for the completion [of the portrait]. 1829 LYTTON *Devereux* II. viii, I am going to give Kneller my last sitting. *c* 1865 *Wylde's Circ. Sciences* I. 147/2 The muscles of the neck are apt to become fatigued if a long 'sitting' be necessary. 1884 *Harper's Mag.* Sept. 522/2 His ordinary mode of proceeding in the case of a portrait was to make a realistic study during the sitting.

fig. 1818 HAZLITT *Eng. Poets* iv. (1870) 106 Dryden recurs to the object often, takes fresh sittings of nature [etc.].

d. A séance.

1880 HARE in W. H. Harrison *Psychic Facts* 14 The medium..gave me another sitting at her own dwelling.

6. With advs., as *down, out, up*.

For northern dial. uses, see the *Eng. Dial. Dict.*

(*a*) 1535 COVERDALE *Lam.* iii. 63 Thou seist also their sittinge downe and their rysinge vp. *a* 1572 KNOX *Hist. Ref.* Wks. 1846 I. 220 The sitting doun of the schip called the Cardinall..betuix Sanct Colmes Inch and Crawmond, without any occasioun, except negligence. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* II. 141 Some few shot of the Spaniards offered to disturbe our sitting downe [=encamping], but were soone beaten home. 1667 MARVELL *Corr.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 218 It being now but seven days till the sitting down of the Parliament. 1707 FREIND *Peterborow's Cond. Sp.* 43 The only contrivance by which the sitting down of such a handful of men..could have had the effect of a regular envestment. 1881 MISS YONGE *Lads & Lasses Langley* ii. 67 When there was a sitting down, Frank had been used to.. put his head on his arms and be comfortable.

(*b*) 1547 *Bk. of Marchaundes* e ij, If any woman lye in childbed, they to go to say gospels and to be at the syttyng vp and chirching. 1607 CHAPMAN *Bussy d'Ambois* III. ii, I, watching my lady's sitting up, stole up at midnight from my pallet. 1810 T. WILLIAMSON *E. India Vade-M.* II. 112 This 'sitting up'..generally took place at the house of some lady of rank,..who for three successive nights, threw open her mansion.

(*c*) 1902 MRS. ALEXANDER *Stronger than Love* xi, Nothing short of two valses and one 'sitting-out' can atone for it.

b. *attrib.* (See quots.)

1893 KEITH *'Lisbeth* II. ii, I hope you'll excuse it's not being a sitting-down tea. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VII. 460 A change from the lying-down to the sitting-up position. 1900 *Westm. Gaz.* 11 Apr. 3/2 Thousands of shirts, sitting-up jackets, socks, pyjamas. 1902 E. GLYN *Refl. Ambrosine* 53, I went to no more sitting-out places [at a ball].

7. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *sitting apartment, bath, box, -chamber, height, muscle, parlour, part*, etc.

1849 D. J. BROWNE *Amer. Poultry Yard* (1855) 89 The partition between the laying and *sitting apartments. 1843 ABDY *Water Cure* 67 Copious water drinking, short *sitting baths, and wet bandages on the body. 1849 D. J. BROWNE *Amer. Poultry Yard* (1855) 87 Laying and *sitting boxes may be placed at either side of the building. 1833 T. HOOK *Parson's Dau.* III. xi, Here was the governor's sleeping-cabin [on board]—his lady's *sitting-cabin [etc.]. 1886 R. F. BURTON *Arab. Nts.* (1887) III. 6 A mansion, wherein were furnished *sitting-chambers. 1665 J. WEBB *Stone-Heng* (1725) 176 These were Stones but of a *sitting height at utmost. 1822–7 GOOD *Study Med.* (1829) IV. 348 A high narrow chair with a straight back that hardly allows of any flexion to the *sitting muscles. 1854 MEALL *Mowbray's Poultry* 424 The construction of *sitting-nests on one side of the..night-house. 1789 G. WHITE *Selborne* lxxxvi, Within sight of some window in the common *sitting parlour. 1730 FIELDING *Tom Thumb* II. x, While the two stools her *sitting-part confound, Between 'em both fall squat upon the ground. 1775 ADAIR *Amer. Ind.* 396 After sleeping two hours in a *sitting posture. 1573 in W. H. Turner *Select. Rec. Oxford* (1880) 350 For chargys aboute the swanes..at the *syttynge tyme and uppynge tyme.

b. Special combs.: **sitting-breeches** (see quot.); **sitting-day**, a day on which a legislative or deliberative body sits; **sitting-shot**, a shot taken in a sitting position.

1785 GROSE *Dict. Vulgar T.*, **Sitting breeches*, one who stays late in company, is said to have his sitting breeches on, or that he will sit longer than a hen. 1664 PEPYS *Diary* 14 July, I went, and found him busy in trials of law in his great room; and it being *Sitting-day, durst not stay. 1894 *Daily News* 6 March 2/1 He was not absent from the House one sitting day. 1874 J. W. LONG *Amer. Wild-fowl.* ix. 151 If it was later in the day, it might be to our advantage to try a *sitting-shot.

Si·tting, *ppl. a.* [f. SIT *v.* + -ING 2. In senses 1 and 2 after OF. (*bien*) *seant.*]

†**1.** Of garments or articles of apparel: Fitting *well* or closely to the body. *Obs. rare.*

12.. *Prayer* 42 in *O. E. Misc.* 193 Inne mete & inne drinke ic habbe ibeo ouerdede, & inne wel sittende schon. *a* 1400 *Rom. Rose* 2263 Poyntis and sleves be welle sittande, Right and streght on the hande. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 457/1 Syttynge clothe, or streythe, *strigium. *a* 1500 *Flower & Leaf* xxi, In surcotes whyte, of veluet wel sitting.

†**b.** (Well) placed or formed. *Obs.*—1

c 1450 *Merlin* xiv. 227 She was sklender a-boute the flankes and the haunche lowe and comly well sittynge.

†**2.** Becoming, befitting; proper, suitable; appropriate. Freq. preceded by *well*. Const. *to, unto*, rarely *for*, or *that*. *Obs.*

? *a* 1366 CHAUCER *Rom. Rose* 986 To hem [the arrows] was wel sitting and able The foule croked bowe hidous. *c* 1400 *Beryn* 1041 Fawntus for Agea, as it was wele sitting, Made ful grete ordenaunce for hir burying. 1412–20 LYDG. *Chron. Troy* I. 1262 A wel beseyn meyne, Lyche as was sytting vnto his degre. *c* 1449 PECOCK *Repr.* III. ix. 333 It biseemeth and it is sitting..that the 3euer 3eue his 3ifte..mediatli. *a* 1513 FABYAN *Chron.* VII. ccxxxii. (1811) 265 It is not vnworthy to the..for to the it is sittynge for noblesse of bloode. 1564 HAWARD *Eutrop.* X. 114 Not all together so hedefull aboute hys affayres as it was sittinge & fitte for soo myghtye a prince. *c* 1575 T. HACKET *Treas. Amadis de Gaule* 284 This..shall be a thing very well syttyng and convenient to your accustomed graciousnesse.

†**b.** In attributive use. *Obs. rare.*

? *a* 1400 *Morte Arth.* 953 He saluede þat sorowfulle with sittande wordez. 1483 CAXTON *G. de la Tour* b iiij b, [The] nose..is the most syttyng membre that a man..may haue.

3. That sits in, possesses the right to, or holds, a position, office, or tenancy.

Sitting member, a Member of Parliament actually holding a seat in the House of Commons at the time referred to.

(*a*) 1706 LUTTRELL *Brief Rel.* (1857) VI. 19 Petitioners against sir Thomas Bellot and Mr. Cotton, the sitting members. 1813 *Exam.* 1 March 139/1 Three of the Sitting Members..were not duly elected. 1890 M. S. WILLIAMS *Leaves of Life* II. v. 44 A property which he had bought when sitting Member for Preston.

(*b*) 1768 *Ann. Reg.* 57 The sitting Magistrates..at the Rotation-office in Whitechapel. 1843 *Chambers's Edin. Jrnl.* 45/2 The case being brought before one of the metropolitan police courts, the sitting magistrate committed the soldier for trial.

(*c*) 1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* I. 614 The new conditions will be made as if the sitting tenant were a stranger. 1884 ROGERS *Six Cent. Work & Wages* I. 54 Raising rent on the sitting tenant, to use a modern phrase.

4. That sits: **a.** Of animals or birds, *esp.* of hen-birds whilst hatching.

1611 COTGR., *Couveresse*, a sitting henne. *c* 1709 PRIOR *Dove* xiii, Have You observ'd a sitting Hare, List'ning [etc.]? 1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* II. 708 Places should be chosen for placing the sitting hens in. 1883 *Century Mag.* 682 A deep,..elaborate structure, in which the sitting bird sank.

†**b.** *Bot.* Sessile. *Obs.*

1796 WITHERING *Brit. Plants* (ed. 3) I. 82 Sitting Flowers, are those which have no Fruit-stalk. *Ibid.* 328 In *Leontodon Taraxacum* the down is supported on a long pedicle, in all the other English species it is sitting. 1837 P. KEITH *Bot. Lex.* 17 It is..placed immediately on the ovary or pistil, and is said to be sitting. 1851 RICHARDSON *Geol.* vii. 203 Leaves are..either sessile or petiolate, that is, either sitting or having footstalks.

c. Of persons, figures, etc.: Seated.

1839 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* II. 426 Monument of Maximilian-Joseph I...Colossal sitting figure. 1842 TENNYSON *Vision of Sin* i. 12 Sitting, lying, languid shapes. 1887 MAHAFFY *Gk. Life & Thought* vi. 112 The proposal..to carve Mount Athos into a sitting figure.

5. *dial.* To which one sits down.

1889 WESTALL *Birch Dene* I. 251 A 'standing gill' cost a penny, a 'sitting gill' three-halfpence. 1898 COBBAN *Angel* 180 To take a sitting drink..with the Gordon gentlemen.

†**Si·ttingly**, *adv. Obs.* [f. SITTING *ppl. a.* + -LY 2.] In a befitting or becoming manner; fittingly; suitably.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 3289 Hir semed all hir werkes wel, Sittandlik hir watur [she] toke. ? *a* 1400 *Morte Arth.* 159 Take kepe..That they bee herberde in haste in thoos heghe chambres, Sythine sittandly in sale seruyde ther-aftyr. *c* 1430 *Pilgr. Lyf Manhode* II. vi. (1869) 78 For she wole no thing sey but sittingeliche and wel ordeyned. *c* 1450 *Mirour Saluacioun* (Roxb.) 114 In gods temple has this angulere two wallis iognt sittingly. 1530 PALSGR. 841/2 Syttyngly, *conuenablement.*

Si·tting-place. [SITTING *vbl. sb.*]

1. A place to sit in; a seat. *rare.*

1382 WYCLIF *Matt.* xxiii. 6 Sothely thei louen the first sittyng placis .[L. *primos recubitus*] in sopers. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 457/1 Syttynge place, *sedile.* 1587 GOLDING *De Mornay* xxx. (1592) 472 Being required a sitting-place at his right hand or at his left. 1611 BIBLE 2 *Chron.* IX. 18 There were sixe steps to the throne.., and stayes on each side of the sitting place. 1841 LANE *Arab. Nts.* I. 59 There is not one among you whose sitting-place is not written by God, whether in the fire or in paradise.

†**2.** The posteriors, the rump. *Obs.*

1545 RAYNOLD *Byrth Mankynde* 117 A suppositar..conueyed into the syttynge place of the chylde. 1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* (1658) 198 Take the hairs that grow behind on the goats sitting place. 1704 *Lond. Gaz.* 4035/4 A..Mare, ..with two..white Spots in the middle of the Sitting Place.

Si·tting-room. [SITTING *vbl. sb.*]

1. A room or apartment used for sitting in, esp. in contrast to a bed-room or kitchen.

1806 J. BERESFORD *Miseries Hum. Life* VI. (ed. 3) I. 96 A travelling trap for a sitting room! 1862 MRS. H. WOOD *Mrs. Hallib. Troub.* I. i. 4 The usual sitting-room of his house presented a cheerful appearance. 1894 E. BANKS *Camp. Curiosity* 34 With each sleeping-room was connected a sitting-room, where fires were kept.

attrib. 1852 *Buck's Florist* 172 The bouquet with which they are in the habit of daily furnishing their sitting-room table. 1895 CROCKETT *Love Idylls* (1901) 125 Behind the sitting-room door.

b. A portion of a poultry-house in which hens sit or hatch eggs.

1849 D. J. BROWNE *Amer. Poultry Yard* (1855) 89 The ends of the nest box may be shifted, so that she will be in the sitting room, where she may remain..till she hatches her brood.

2. Room or space in which to sit or available for sitting.

1882 *Imperial Dict.* s.v., Sitting-room could not be got in the hall.

Sitti-sotte, variant of SITISOT *Obs.*

Sittringee, variant of SITRINGEE.

Situ, in L. phr. *in situ*: see ¶ IN 15.

Situal (si·tiuăl), *a. rare*—1. [ad. med.L. *situālis*, f. *situs* site.] Positional.

1856 A. BUTLER *Hist. Anc. Philos.* I. 351 Campanella.. establishes five separate worlds—situal, material, mathematical, mental, and archetypal.

Situate (si·tiu,ĕt), *ppl. a.* Also 6 **situat, sytuate**, 6–8 **scituate**. [ad. late L. *situāt-us*, pa. pple. of **situāre* (used in med.L.), f. L. *situs* site.] = SITUATED *ppl. a.*

1523 LD. BERNERS *Froiss.* I. Pref. p. i, Mortall folke are marueylously separated, both by lande and water, and right wonderously sytuate. 1553 EDEN *Treat. New Ind.* (Arb.) 8 The Ilandes of Molucca situate in the mayne Easte Indian Sea. 1648 WILKINS *Math. Magic* I. v. 34 Now the body being situate in this rectangular forme, the weight A B must needs be augmented. 1705 tr. *Bosman's Guinea* 336 Popo being an Island Situate in the midst of the River. 1781 GIBBON *Decl. & F.* xviii. II. 107 This large and populous city was situate about two days journey from the Tigris. 1845 HERSCHEL *Ess.* (1857) 666 A planet situate on its surface and forming a part of it. 1885 MISS BRADDON *Wyllard's Weird* III. 145 The château..was situate on low ground.

Situate (si·tiu,ĕt), *v.* Now *rare*. Also 6 **situat, cytuat**(e, 7 **scituate**. [f. ppl. stem of med.L. *situāre*: see prec.]

1. *trans.* To give a site to; to place, locate.

c 1532 DU WES *Introd. Fr.* in *Palsgr.* 940 To situat, *colloquer.* 1542 BOORDE *Dyetary* i. (1870) 232 Where a man shulde cytuate or sette his mancyon place. 1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* v. 189 Tripoly .. hath three times beene situated, and remoued in three sundry places. 1697 POTTER *Antiq. Greece* II. x. (1715) 292 The rapidness of the Torrent carry'd back those Islands.., not situating them in the same place as at first. 1726 LEONI *Alberti's Archit.* I. 86/1 The Ancients dedicated their Buildings.., and situated them in the best air they cou'd find out.

b. With personal object.

1597 A. M. tr. *Guillemeau's Fr. Chirurg.* 23/2 We must first of all situate the patient towardes the light. 1658 *Persuasive* 4 They meant to situate them in a higher condition then they were themselves. 1790 *Bystander* 178 It was thought proper to situate them between the audience and the stage. 1824 LANDOR *Imag. Conv.* Wks. 1853 I. 1 *note*, As a painter would situate a beggar under a triumphal arch.

refl. 1792 PAINE *Rights of Man* (ed. 4) 107 They situated themselves in three separate chambers.

c. To subject to circumstances; to place in a certain situation.

1896 *Harper's Mag.* Apr. 656/2 He would violate his promises, and that would so situate her that she would not be able to keep hers.

†**2.** *intr.* To have, or take up, a certain situation or position. *Obs.*

1583 STOCKER *Civ. Warres Lowe C.* IV. 46 b, The Countries nere aboute Friselande scituatyng betweene Eems, and Lauwers. 1627 HAKEWILL *Apol.* (1630) 286 As many steeles as touch that vertuous stone..Together move themselves, and situate together.

Hence **Si·tuating** *vbl. sb.*

1726 LEONI *Alberti's Archit.* I. 84/1 The Ancients in the

situating of their smaller Temples..turned their fronts so as they might be seen from the Sea.

Situated (si·tiu͜eⁱtėd), *ppl. a.* [f. as SITUATE *ppl. a.* + -ED [1].]

1. Of places or things: Placed, located.

1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 116 Asperge situated on a verey hyghe mountayne standyng alone. *a* 1586 SIDNEY *Arcadia* III. (Sommer) 299 While he cast his eye about,.. cursing all Ilands in being euill scituated. 1650 T. B[AYLEY] *Worcester's Apoph.* 13 A place so proudly scituated, that you might as well command all the Countrey. 1699 MAUNDRELL *Journ. Jerus.* (1749) 153 It is scituated in the Wilderness. 1780 *Mirror* No. 95, His estate..is situated in an agreeable neighbourhood. 1808 CRUTTWELL *Univ. Gazetteer* (ed. 2) III, *Oxford*, a city..situated on a gentle eminence. 1868 LOCKYER *Elem. Astron.* § 83 The great nebula of Orion is situated in the part of the constellation occupied by the sword-handle.

b. Used attributively, chiefly with advs.

1601 CHESTER *Love's Mart.* (1878) 77 What famous towne and situated Seate Is that huge Building that is made by Art? 1854 GREENWOOD *Haps & Mishaps* 120 Belfast is a handsomely-situated and well-built town. 1875 W. McILWRAITH *Guide Wigtownshire* 94 The..finely-situated ..Endcliffe House.

2. Of persons: Placed in relation to, or in respect of, circumstances.

1702 C. MATHER *Magn. Chr.* VII. 110 There have been some rich Men, that were finely Scituated, and had all things richly to Enjoy. 1806 A. KNOX *Rem.* (1844) I. 74 In one way or other, he will still, as he is situated, cultivate the Communion of Saints. 1857 C. BRONTE *Professor* vi, It was impossible for me to be thus situated, and not feel the angel or the demon of my race at work within me.

Situation (sitiu͜ē¹·ʃən). Also 5 **setuacyon**, 6 **syt-**, **situacion**, **sytuation**, 6–8 **scituation** (7 **citt-**). [a. F. *situation* († *sit-*, *scituacion*, etc., = Sp. *situacion*, It. *situazione*), or ad. med.L. *situātio*, n. of action f. *situāre*, f. L. *situs* site.]

I. 1. The place, position, or location *of* a city, country, etc., in relation to its surroundings.

1490 CAXTON *Eneydos* xii. 44 Haue in mynde..the setuacyon of thy cyte newely fowunded. 1530 PALSGR. 270/2 Sytuacion of a towne, *assiete*. 1553 EDEN *Treat. New Ind.* (Arb.) 8 The situation of the cytie of Saba in Ethiopia vnder Egipt. 1596 WARNER *Alb. Eng.* x. lviii. (1602) 253 France, ..whose Scituation so Spaynes scattred Realmes disioynes. 1636 DAVENANT *Platonick Lovers* I. i, The scituation of this house hath but a while employed his eyes without. *a* 1687 PETTY *Pol. Arith.* (1690) 3 The same must be attributed to the Scituation of the Land. 1719 W. WOOD *Surv. Trade* 5 Our Native Riches and apt Scituation for Commerce. 1796 C. MARSHALL *Gardening* iii. (1813) 26 The situation of a garden should be..rather low than high. 1842 CUNNINGHAM *Revels at Crt.* 223 In one [plan] the situation of the music room is clear enough; viz. at the side of the stage.

b. Used without *of* (but implying this).

1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 210 b, The Castell was kept agaynst them which for the situation was unprennable. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* 677 The high situation upon an hill. 1665–6 *Phil. Trans.* I. 262 As for the Scituation—he chooses that side or declivity of a Hill. 1781 GIBBON *Decl. & F.* xix. II. 129 Their prison was an ancient palace, ..the situation was pleasant, the buildings stately. 1886 *Encycl. Brit.* XXI. 243/2 The situation as a whole is far more beautiful than that of Jerusalem.

c. Without article.

1553 EDEN *Treat. New Ind.* (Arb.) 14 The chiefe cytie..is in situacion..much lyke vnto the cytie of Milayne. 1611 BIBLE *Ps.* xlviii. 2 Beautifull for situation..is mount Sion. 1635 A. STAFFORD *Fem. Glory* (1869) 76 Places as eminent in scituation as she in sweetnesse of disposition. 1820 MISS MITFORD in L'Estrange *Life* (1870) II. v. 119 Edinburgh is the finest town for situation in Europe.

d. With *a* (usually followed by an adj.).

1565 COOPER *Thesaurus*, *Positio campestris*, a situation in a playne champion countrey. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* I. 429 Westminster..had a pleasant situation amongst fruitfull fields and greene grounds [etc.]. 1663 COWLEY *Verses & Ess.* (1669) 133 We ought in the choice of a Scituation to regard above all things the Healthfulness of the place. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* II. x. 236 Manila itself is in a very healthy situation. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) II. 246/1 Such a situation as might be agreeable..to the architect. 1808 J. WEBSTER *Nat. Philos.* 162 A fire burning in an open situation.

2. † **a.** The place occupied by something; the site *of* a building, etc. *Obs.*

1542–3 *Act* 34 & 35 *Hen. VIII*, c. 25 Having sixtene fote of..the same grounde for the scituacion of the same conduicte heade. 1604 E. G[RIMSTONE] *D'Acosta's Hist. Indies* III. xvi. 172 The Citie of Mexico is seated in the same Lake, although the Spaniards have filled vp the place of the scituation with earth. *a* 1615 *Brieue Cron. Erlis of Ross* (1850) 3 The said Erll founded an abbey at Farne, quhair the situation thereof yit does appeare. 1730 A. GORDON *Maffei's Amphith.* 323 Pilasters of Stone, and Arches, would have taken up a great part of the Situation there.

b. A place, locality.

1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* 260 The pleasant scituation called Beaulieu. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* I. 60 He views The dismal Situation waste and wilde, A Dungeon horrible. 1716–8 LADY M. W. MONTAGU *Lett.* I. xvi. 53 After passing these dreadful rocks, Dresden appeared to me a wonderfully agreeable situation. 1762–71 H. WALPOLE *Vertue's Anecd. Paint.* (1786) III. 105 Sir William Soames being sent embassador to Constantinople.., Vosterman accompanied him, intending to paint the delights of that situation. 1823 J. F. COOPER *Pioneers* xv, Two chairs were placed by the side of this comfortable situation.

3. a. Place or position of things in relation to surroundings or to each other.

c 1600 SHAKS. *Sonn.* cxxviii, To be so tikled they would change their state And situation with those dancing chips. 1615 CROOKE *Body of Man* 31 From the scituation some are Anterior, some Posteriour. 1675 *Phil. Trans.* X. 543 The scituation of these two conduits. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Resistence*, The Resistence of a Body is always equal to the greatest Weight which it will sustain in a vertical Situation, without breaking. 1792 *Baron Munchausen* i. 4, I fell..to the ground with fear; after waiting in this prostrate situation a few seconds, I heard a noise. 1813 SOUTHEY *Nelson* II. 257 Her mizen-top,..in the then situation of the two vessels, was not more than fifteen yards from that part of the deck. 1841 *Penny Cycl.* XXI. 177/1 In the three first situations the separation is sometimes called exhalation.

b. A place or locality in which a person resides, or happens to be for the time.

1615 CHAPMAN *Odyss.* XXIV. 21 Those soules Idols, that the weary dead Gaue vp in earth: which in a flowry Mead Had habitable situation. 1745 P. THOMAS *Jrnl. Anson's Voy.* 18 Boisterous weather..caused us to make all manner of Dispatch to get out of that Situation. 1788 V. KNOX *Winter Even.* I. II. vii. 157 Apply in sickness to the best physician or apothecary within reach of your situation. 1817 MALTHUS *Popul.* Pref. p. iii, It was written..from the few materials which were then within my reach in a country situation. 1825 SCOTT *Betrothed* xi, Educated in a remote situation.

† **4. a.** Direction, course. *Obs.*

1509 HAWES *Past. Pleas.* I. (Percy Soc.) 7 This is the waye and the sytuacion Unto the toure of famous doctrine.

† **b.** Surface. *Obs.* Cf. GROUND *sb.* 6 b.

1558 WARDE tr. *Alexis' Secr.* (1568) 9 Whan you wil gylte the parchemente, you shal geve it a grounde or sytuatyon wyth the white of an Egge or Gomme.

† **5. a.** The action of situating. *Obs.*

1589 PUTTENHAM *Eng. Poesie* II. x. (Arb.) 98 By diuersitie of placing and scituation of your measures and concords.

† **b.** Settlement, occupation. *Obs.*

c 1650 BRADFORD *Plymouth Plant.* I. x. (Mass. Hist. Soc.) 88 They..found diverse cornfeilds, & litle runing brooks, a place (as they supposed) fitt for situation.

II. 6. The position in life, or in relation to others, held or occupied by a person.

1710 STEELE *Tatler* No. 169 ⁋ 4 That the very situation in a country-life does not incline men [etc.]. 1782 PRIESTLEY *Inst. Relig.* I. Pref. p. xliii, In my present situation at Birmingham. 1802 MAR. EDGEWORTH *Moral T.* (1806) I. xiv, His situation, at this printer's, was far better suited to him, than that..at the brewer's. 1831 SCOTT *Cast. Dang.* viii, I am happy that my situation, as a soldier under command, altogether dispenses with my thinking of it at all.

b. A post of employment; a position in which one works for wages.

1813 *Examiner* 26 Apr. 265/1 He obtained the situation of army-agent. 1847 DE QUINCEY *Sp. Mil. Nun* vii, A gallant young cavalier..offered to Catalina a situation amongst his retinue. 1885 G. ALLEN *Babylon* xvii, I took a situation.

7. Condition or state (*of* anything). ? *Obs.*

1710 SHAFTESB. *Charac.* (1737) II. 230 That which we esteem a Happiness in one Situation of Mind, is otherwise thought of in another. 1765 A. DICKSON *Treat. Agric.* (ed. 2) 405 The land, at the end of the nine years, must be in a much better situation than before it was limed. 1793 SMEATON *Edystone L.* § 148, I found the work now in the following situation.

b. Physical condition; state of health. In later use only *spec.* of women (see quots.).

1749 SMOLLETT *Gil Blas* (1797) I. 117 Examine the situation of my son, and prescribe what you shall judge proper for his cure. 1780 *Mirror* No. 80, The change of situation from pimples and scales to a blooming complexion. 1792 M. RIDDELL *Voy. Madeira* 95 People in a weak debilitated situation. 1829 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* xv. *note*, That the woman should have concealed her situation during the whole period of pregnancy. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* xxvii, Mrs. Bunny's in an interesting situation..and has given the Lieutenant seven already.

8. Position of a person with regard to circumstances.

1728 T. SHERIDAN tr. *Persius* (1739) Ded. p. iv, You are now in a Situation of taking two the most delightful Prospects that a generous Mind can have. 1768 BLACKSTONE *Comm.* III. 162 Where undue advantage is taken of the plaintiff's situation. 1791 BURKE *Corr.* (1844) III. 353 Your situation is a situation of difficulty, and nothing but great patience can carry you through it. 1830 D'ISRAELI *Chas. I*, III. xvi. 342 How true is it that men in parallel situations necessarily move on similar principles. 1860 MOTLEY *Netherl.* I. i. 1 The difficulties of his situation increased.

9. Position of affairs; combination of circumstances.

1750 CHESTERF. *Lett.* ccxix. (1792) II. 343 Suppose that business and situations should..call Mr. Harte away from you. 1777 PITT in Almon *Anecd.* (1812) II. 302 This ruinous and ignominious situation..calls upon us to remonstrate in the strongest..language. 1828 SCOTT *F. M. Perth* ix, He honoured his religion..by the morality which guided his conduct in all ordinary situations. 1845 M. PATTISON *Ess.* (1889) I. 15 In a situation of the utmost difficulty and peril. 1884 *Manch. Exam.* 20 May 5/2 The financial situation is perceptibly clearer.

Phr. 1856 MERIVALE *Rom. Emp.* lxiii. (1865) VIII. 3 The senate at last was master of the situation. 1870 MISS BRIDGMAN *R. Lynne* II. v. 111 He was..master of the situation.

b. A particular conjunction of circumstances (*esp.* one of a striking or exciting nature) under which the characters are presented in the course of a novel or play.

1779 *Mirror* No. 31, The novellist who delineates characters by feigned circumstances and situations. 1790 CATH. GRAHAM *Lett. Educ.* 147 The conduct of her story is well conceived, her situations are in general natural. 1830 W. IRVING in *Life & Lett.* (1864) II. 446 It has some striking scenes, but I think the 'situations' are produced by rather extravagant means. 1847 *Illustr. Lond. News* 24 July 59/1 At the head of every scene is a description of the action, as a key to the musical situation. 1864 G. A. LAWRENCE *M. Dering* i, It [a book] is wildly melodramatic, and full of 'situations' from end to end.

c. Without article (see quots.).

1779 SHERIDAN *Critic* III. i, This scene goes entirely for what we call situation and stage effect. *Ibid.*, There's situation for you! there's an heroic group!

10. *Horse-racing.* One of the first three places in order of arrival at the winning-post; a place.

1871 'M. LEGRAND' *Cambr. Freshm.* 34 Saying that he could lay against Blue Bell,..and that he had a little more to lay out against Whistler for a 'situation'. *c* 1887 'THORMANBY' *Men of the Turf* 105 The three worst horses, probably, that ever monopolized the Derby 'situations'.

Sit-up, *sb.* and *a.* [See SIT *v.* 25.]

A. *sb.* A surprise. *rare*[−1].

1483 BP. LANGTON in *Christ Ch. Lett.* (Camden) 46, I trow ..thai shal have a sit up or ever the Kyng departe fro York.

B. *adj.* Used for sitting up in.

1902 BARNES-GRUNDY *Thames Camp* 178 The lounge chairs are canvas, the sit-up chairs are rush seated.

Si·t-upon. *colloq.* [f. SIT *v.*] In *pl.*: Trousers, breeches. (Cf. SIT-DOWN *sb.* 2.)

1841 J. T. HEWLETT *Parish Clerk* I. 126 With a pair of the master's sit-upons that wanted reparation. 1857 'C. BEDE' *Verdant Green* III. x, They weren't dressed in tall hats..and velvet sit-upons.

‖ **Situs** (səi·tŏs). *rare.* [L.] Situation, position.

1701 RAY *Creation* (ed. 3) II. 229 It was convenient that man should have such a figure or Situs of the parts of his body that he might conveniently look upwards. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v., Things depending on the Situs of Lines and Figures. 1890 *Pop. Sci. Monthly* XXXVI. 289 The future situs of the cotton manufacture of the United States. 1891 *Tablet* 28 Feb. 334 It enables a Catholic to see as he never otherwise could the precise situs and shape of ultra-Protestant convictions.

Sity, obs. form of SIGHTY *a.*

Sitz bath (si·tsˌbɑþ). Also **sitz-bath**. [ad. G. *sitzbad*, f. *sitzen* to sit.]

1. A bath in which one sits; a hip-bath.

1849 CLARIDGE *Cold Water-Cure* 54 The Sitz or Sitting Bath. By this is to be understood a hip bath: that used at Gräfenberg is a small flat tub. 1884 *Health Exhib. Catal.* 94/1 Combined Spray and Sitz Bath...Copper Sitz Bath in Cabinet Work.

2. A bath taken by means of this.

1852 BRISTED *Five Years Eng. Univ.* (ed. 2) 165 The daily purgatory of wet sheets, sitz baths, and the like. 1861 GEO. ELIOT in Cross *Life* II. 318 We were..looking slightly blue after our sitz baths. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VII. 750 A hot sitz-bath may be used.

Siue, Siuier, obs. forms of SIEVE, SIEVIER.

Sivaism (sī·văˌizm). [f. Skr. *Śiva* 'the auspicious one' (see def.) + -ISM.] The special worship of Siva, the third deity of the Hindu triad, to whom are attributed the powers of reproduction and dissolution.

1901 *Edin. Rev.* 7 Jan. 32 The lotus of Sivaism and of Isis. 1905 *Q. Rev.* July 200 The temper of Sivaism is not that of Buddhism.

Sivaistic (sīvăˌi·stik), *a.* [f. as prec. + -ISTIC.] Of or pertaining to the worship of Siva.

1891 in *Cent. Dict.*

Sivaite (sī·văˌəit). [f. as prec. + -ITE.] One who specially worships Siva; an adherent of Sivaism. Also *attrib.* (Cf. SIVITE.)

1880 *Encycl. Brit.* XIII. 815/2 Sankara Acharya, the great Sivaite reformer of the 8th century. 1883 *Ibid.* XV. 185/1 The Sivaites are most numerous in the extreme south and on the west coast.

Hence **Sivai·tic** *a.* (*Funk's Stand. Dict.*).

Sivathere (si·văþīᵊɹ). [Anglicized form of next.] = SIVATHERIUM.

1847 ANSTED *Anc. World* xiv. 334 The Sivathere..had another pair [of horns] placed more towards the back of the head. 1894 LYDEKKER *Roy. Nat. Hist.* II. 337 By far the largest of all Ruminants was the gigantic Indian sivathere.

‖ **Sivatherium** (sivăþīᵊ·riŏm). *Palæont.* [mod. L., f. *Siva* the Hindu god + Gr. θηρίον wild beast.] A fossil ruminant of great size, with four horns, discovered in the Siwalik or Sub-Himalayan hills in Northern India.

1835 FALCONER & CAUTLEY in *Asiatic Res.* XIX. I. 2 We have named the fossil, *Sivatherium* [etc.]. *Ibid.* 22 The food of the Sivatherium was less herbaceous than that of existing horned ruminants. 1851 MANTELL *Petrifactions* 457 The living Sivatherium must have resembled an immense Gnu or Antelope. 1886 GEIKIE *Class-bk. Geol.* xxvi. (1903) 393 The *Sivatherium* and *Bramatherium*—colossal, four-horned creatures, allied to our living antelopes and prong-bucks.

Sive (also 5–6, 9 **syve**, 6 **syue**, **siue**), variant spelling of *cive* CHIVE [1].

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 457/2 Syvys, herbe. 1562 TURNER *Herbal* II. (1568) 101 The moste parte of the writers of herballes in Germany, teach that our Sive..is porrum sativum. 1580 HOLLYBAND *Treas. Fr. Tong*, *Civot*, *cive*, or *Civette*, a chiboll, siues, scalions. 1707 MORTIMER *Husb.* (1721) II. 171 Sives are a diminutive kind of Leek. 1874 MRS. WHITCOMBE *Bygone Days in Devon & Cornw.* 47 The fairies had even their musicians, whose hautboys were of syves.

Sive, obs. form of SIEVE.

† **Si·ved.** *Obs.* [OE. *sifeþa*, etc., f. the same stem as *sife* sieve.] *pl.* Siftings, bran.

c 725 *Corpus Gloss.* F 386 *Furfures*, sifiðan. *c* 888 K. ÆLFRED *Boeth.* xxxiv. § 11 Ðæt meolo ðurȝcrypð ælc ðyrel, & þa syfeða [*v.r.* siofoða] weorðað asyndred. *c* 1000 *Sax.*

Leechd. II. 250 Oferwylle on þam selfan ecede sifeþan. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 78/2 Cyuedys, of mele, or brynne, *furfur, cantabrum. Ibid.* 457/1 Syvedys, or brynne, or palyys, *furfur.*

Hence † **Si·vedy** *a.*, full of bran. *Obs.*

13.. *Metr. Hom.* (Vernon MS.) in *Herrig's Archiv* LVII. 290 Atte laste on Bord was brouht A Lof þat payed him riht nouht; Blac hit was and siuedi.

Siver, variant of Sc. SYVER, drain.

† **Si·ver,** *v. Obs. rare.* [Origin obscure.] *intr.* To simmer. Hence **Si·vering** *vbl. sb.*

1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* xx. ix, Colestocke ashes set over the fire untill it siver only, or have one walme at the most, is good for spasmes. *Ibid.* XXIII. ix, If they haue a little siuering or waulm ouer the fire.

† **Sivet, sivil.** *Obs.* (See quots.)

1607 MARKHAM *Caval.* VI. ix. 54 He shall not suffer any holes to be cut through the tree for to passe the stirrop leathers thorowe, but to haue stronge Siuills of yron wel reuited thorow the tree wherein to put your stirrop leathers. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. iii. 93/2 The *Sivets*, which are square rings in Plates, three on each side the tree to put the straps too. *Ibid.* ix. 397/1 The Sivett, is a square barr of Iron or square-Buckle, without a tonge, set to the sides of the Sadle-tree,..to hang the Straps at for the Girth, and the Leathers for the Stirrops.

Si·vite, variant of SIVAITE.

1882 *Missionary Herald* (Boston) 8 Feb. 68 Considerable opposition displayed by the Sivites. 1892 *Ibid.* Sept. 369 They answered that they were Sivite boys, and could not say Christian prayers.

Si·vvens, *Obs.* exc. *Hist.* Also 8 **oevenns,** 9 **sivens.** See also SIBBENS. [ad. local Gael. *suibhean* (commonly *suibheag* or *subhag*) raspberry: see quot. 1776.] An infectious skin disease formerly prevalent in Scotland.

1762 *Forfeited Estates Papers* (S.H.S.) 235 A Distemper commonly called the Cevenns, which is believed to have been brought originally..by Oliver Cromwell's army. 1776 PENNANT *Tour in Scot.* II. App. 447 A loathsome and very infectious disease of the venereal kind, called the *Sivvens*. ..Sometimes a fungus appears in various parts of the body, resembling a rasberry, in the Erse language called *Sivven.* 1810 J. ADAMS *Hunter's Treat. Ven. Dis.* VII. 566 Of this kind [non-syphilitic] is the sivvens of Scotland. 1822-7 GOOD *Study Med.* (1829) III. 167 Yaws have been supposed by some writers to be a species of lues, and especially of that which in Scotland is denominated sibbens or sivens.

Siw(e, obs. forms of SUE *v.*

Six (siks), *a.* and *sb.* Forms: *a.* 1 **siox-, siex,** 1–5 **syx,** (1) 5–6 **syxe;** 1– **six** (4 **zix**), 3–7 **sixe.** *β.* 1–2 **seox,** 1–6 (*Sc.* 7–8) **sex,** 2–4 **sexe,** 5 **cex(e.** *γ. Sc.* 5– **sax.** [Common Teut.: OE. *sex, six, siex, syx,* etc., = OFris. *sex* (WFris. *sêchs,* NFris. *soks,* etc.), MDu. *ses*(*se, zes*(*se, zees* (Du. *zes*), OS. *sehs, ses* (MLG. *sês, ses, sos,* LG. *ses, sös, sos*), OHG. and MHG. *sehs* (G. *sechs*), ON. (Icel., Norw., Sw., Da.) *sex* (MSw. *säx, siäx, siax,* etc., MDa. *sæx, siæx*), Goth. *saihs.* Cognate forms occur in all the Indo-European languages (as L. *sex,* Gr. ἕξ, etc.) and indicate an original **sueks.*

In OE. used either without change of form (esp. when attributive) or with plural declension *syxe, syxa, syxum.*]

The cardinal number next after five, represented by the symbols 6, VI, or vi.

A. *adj.* **1.** In concord with a sb. expressed.

a. *c* 893 K. ÆLFRED *Oros.* II. iv. 70 Siex mila from ðære byriz. *c* 901 *O. E. Chron.* an. 901, Her ȝefor Ælfred..syx nihtum ær ealra halizra mæssan. *c* 1000 *Ags. Gosp.* Matt. xvii. 1 Æfter six dagum. *c* 1124 *O. E. Chron.* an. 1124, Twezen sed-læpas to six scillingas. *c* 1205 LAY. 25979 Þa six swin he to-droh. *c* 1300 *Havelok* 2788 Sixe erles weren sone yare. 1340 *Ayenb.* 21 Þis zenne him sseaweþ..ine zix maneres. *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (Roxb.) ix. 37 He had syx wyfes. *c* 1500 *Melusine* 117 The maister had..vytaylled & laden.. six galeys. 1596 SHAKS. 1 *Hen. IV*, II. iv. 199 Some sixe or seuen fresh men set vpon vs. 1662 STILLINGFL. *Orig. Sacræ* III. iv. § 2 The Creation of the world in the six daies work. 1762 *Ann. Reg.* II. 21 Henry Fielding was in stature rather rising above six feet. 1822 SCOTT *Nigel* xiii, She..had probably completed her six lustres. 1847 W. C. L. MARTIN *The Ox* 152/1 Six drachms of Barbadoes aloes, six ounces of Epsom salts.

β. 835 *Charter* in *O. E. Texts* 449 An swin oððe sex weðras. *c* 975 *Rushw. Gosp.* Mark ix. 2 Æfter dazum sexum. *Ibid.* John ii. 6 Stænene fato sexo. *a* 1122 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 852, He scolde ȝife ilca ȝear..sex fodur ȝeards. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 739 Sex ȝer and fiftene mo, Adde Abram on is elde ðo. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 7387 His suns sex þat war at hame. *c* 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 2708 Of þir sex poyntes I wil spek and rede. *c* 1400 *Apol. Loll.* 90 As þe hepun men had sex kyndis of similacris,..so han lordis now sex kyndis of prelatis. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 67 Cexe, *sex.* 1559 W. CUNNINGHAM *Cosmogr. Glasse* 65 By my computation your table sheweth sexe zones. 1572 *Wills & Inv. N.C.* (Surtees 1835) 348 Sex stone of talow...Sex payre of lyne shets. 1627 *Rep. Parishes Scotl.* (Bann. Club) 3 We walow it to be worth sex bollis ane husband land off rining wictuall. 1722 in *Scottish Jrnl. Topogr.* (1848) II. 62/1 To sex bottles sack.

γ. 1489 *Barbour's Bruce* I. 39 The land sax yer, and moyr perfay, Ley desolat after hys day. 1549 *Compl. Scotl.* 107 Sax mulis chargit vithe gold. *c* 1615 SIR W. MURE (*title*), Sax Lynes wpon the Fall of Somersait. 1795 MACNEILL *Scotland's Skaith* xli, Wi' firm intention To drink sax nights out o' seven. 1816 SCOTT *Old Mort.* xlii, Ae night, sax weeks or thereby afore Bothwell Brig.

b. Followed by *hundred* or *thousand*, or the ordinals of these. Also *six-sevenths,* six (parts, etc.) out of seven.

c 893 K. ÆLFRED *Oros.* I. vii. 38 Pharon hæfde syx hund wiz-wæzna..; þæt wæs syx hund þusenda manna. *a* 1122 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 657, Æfter ure Drihtnes acennednesse seox hundred wintra. *c* 1205 LAY. 613 In þon castle he dude hende six hundred of his cnihten. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 2002 He had sex hundret yeir and an. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 67 Cex hundryd, *sexcenti.* 1549 *Compl. Scotl.* 6 He beand bot sex thousand men. 1647 HEXHAM I. (Numbers), The sixe hundreth, *de ses hondertste.* 1785 BURNS *Death & Dr. Hornbook* xiii, Sax thousand years are near hand fled. 1855 TENNYSON *Lt. Brigade,* Into the valley of Death Rode the six hundred. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* V. 13 Six-sevenths of the cases occurred between the ages of 40 and 70.

c. Coupled with a higher cardinal or ordinal numeral following, so as to form a compound (cardinal or ordinal) numeral.

a 900 *O. E. Martyrol.* 26 Mar. 50 On þone syx & twentegðan dæȝ þæs monðes. *c* 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* John ii. 20 Feortiȝ & sex uintro ȝetimbred uæs ðis tempel. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 233 Þre þousend & sixe & twenti þer [*v.r.* ȝer] was fram þe worldes bigynninge. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* Prol. 96 Til I had mad þaim redy, ȝa novmer sex & sexty. *c* 1425 *Craft Nombrynge* (E.E.T.S.) 6 As þou seyst by þe comyne speche, Sex & twenty & nouȝt twenty & sex. 1579 FULKE *Heskins' Parl.* 223 The sixe and thirtieth Chapter treateth of the next text. 1605 SHAKS. *Lear* III. vii. 16 Some fiue or six and thirty of his Knights. 1725 DE FOE *Voy. round World* (1840) 164 We sailed again the six-and-twentieth day after we came in. 1779 *Mirror* No. 47 P 4 Tom is a young man of six-and-twenty. 1855 KINGSLEY *Westw. Ho!* x, Six-and-twenty years of travel.

d. In special applications.

Six Acts, Articles (see quots.). *Six Clerks* (see SIX CLERK). *Six Nations* (see quots.). *Six Preachers* (in Canterbury Cathedral; hence the sing. *Six Preacher*).

1859 ROSSE *Index of Dates,* "*Six Acts,* severely repressive measures, passed, 1819. 1862 TOUNSEND *Man. of Dates, Six Acts,*..six measures for the prevention of seditious meetings and the regulation of political publications. 1655 FULLER *Ch. Hist.* V. 231 Death being the penalty of such who were made guilty by the "six Articles. 1862 TOUNSEND *Man. of Dates, Six Articles, or Bloody Statute,*..an act (31 Hen. VIII, c. 14) passed June 28, 1539...The six articles enforced were transubstantiation, communion of one kind, celibacy of the clergy, vows of chastity, private masses, and auricular confession. 1647 CLARENDON *Hist. Reb.* I. § 112 Sir Julius Cæsar was then Master of the Rolls, and had.. the indubitable right and disposition of the "Six-Clerks' places. 1692 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 2771/4 Lost..between St. Paul's Church-yard, and the Six Clerks-Office. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl., Six Clerks,* Officers in Chancery of great Account, next in Degree below the Twelve Masters. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 70/1 The office of Six Clerks is an office of great antiquity connected with the Court of Chancery, probably as ancient as the Court itself. 1895 *Westm. Gaz.* 13 Apr. 6/2 'Which..are the "Six Nations?' 'The Mohawks, the Oneidas, the Onondegas, the Cayugas, the Senecas, and the Tuscaroras.' 1900 *Ibid.* 15 Jan. 10/1 The Six Nations Indian Reserve, Ontario...The Six Nation Indians number 3,500 to 4,000 souls. 1841 *Clergy List, Benefices* (219), "Six Preachers. James Reeve M.A. 1816 [etc.]. 1879 CROCKFORD *Cler. Directory* 469/1 Six Preacher of Cant. Cathl. 1874.

2. With ellipsis of sb., which may usually be supplied from the context.

a 900 *O. E. Martyrol.* 1 Aug. 134 Þa hyra syxe wæron acwealde beforan þære meder. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 298 Nullich of alle [mihtes] siggen, buten sixe. *c* 1330 *Arth. & Merl.* 6842 (Kölbing) Þo was þer of .xv. þousand Yleued bot sex bihinde. *c* 1400 *Laud Troy Bk.* 6859 He sles oure men by fyue and six. 1500-20 DUNBAR *Poems* liii. 43 Quhen thair was cum in fywe or sax, The Quenis Dog begowthe to rax. 1567 *Gude & Godlie Ball.* (S.T.S.) 210 Gif God was maid of bittis of breid, Eit ȝe not ouiklie sax or seuin. 1601 SHAKS. *Jul. C.* II. i. 277 Heere haue beene Some sixe or seuen, who did hide their faces. 1673 *Humours Town* 95 A Declamation against the Act for Six in the Hundred. 1724 SWIFT *Drapier's Lett.* Wks. 1755 V. II. 60 Wood's half-pence will come to be offered for six a penny. 1780 COWPER *Progr. Error* 161 Let that day be blest,..Nobly distinguish'd above all the six. 1831 *Wilson's Amer. Ornith.* II. 180 Four inches long, and six in extent. 1895 ZANGWILL *Master* III. vii. 401 Broken lines of foam, which sometimes rolled in six-deep.

b. More specifically with ellipsis of *pieces, years* (of age), *syllables* or *feet* (in verse), *points* (on a stag's horn), *inches,* or *pence* (as in 'ten and six').

c 1420 *Avow. Arth.* lxv, Alle in sundur hit brast, In six or in seuyn. *c* 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* XII. 420 Ek oon yeer oolde Is good, & so til sixe on wol he holde. 1590 SHAKS. *Mids. N.* III. i. 25 Well, we will haue such a Prologue, and it shall be written in eight and sixe. 1622 FLETCHER *Span. Cur.* II. iii, Let him bear six, and six, that all may blaze him. 1781 COWPER *Table-T.* 507 At Westminster, where little poets strive To set a distich upon six and five. 1818 BYRON *Juan* I. l, At six..he was a charming child. 1897 MARY KINGSLEY *Trade W. Africa* 329 The average height..is five feet six to five feet eight.

c. With omission of *hours,* as *six o'clock.*

[1482 *Monk of Eveshame* (Arb.) 20 Fro mydnyght tyl sex of the belle yn the mornyng.] 1596 SHAKS. *Merch. V.* II. v. 25 At six a clocke ith morning. *a* 1604 HANMER *Chron. Irel.* (1809) 273 Hee..tooke shipping..by sixe a clocke in the morning. 1629 WADSWORTH *Pilgr.* iii. 14 At six they go all to study in a large Hall. 1726 SWIFT *Gulliver* IV. viii, I set sail on the 24th day of September, 1701, at six in the morning. 1834 K. H. DIGBY *Mores Cath.* V. vi. 183 The rule in Du Guesclin's time was to rise and sup at six. 1888 LOWELL *Heartsease & Rue* 127 'Tis striking six! Sure never day Was short as this is!

attrib. 1867 AUGUSTA WILSON *Vashti* XXV, I shall go on the six o'clock train. 1899 *Daily News* 7 Dec. 3/4 De Aar has been placed under martial law and a six-to-six curfew established.

d. With omission of *horses.*

1684 [see COACH *sb.* 4]. 1693 TATE in *Dryden's Juvenal* II. (1697) 30 You Nymphs that would to Coach and Six arrive. 1764 GRAY *Y. T.* 18 Not I—for a coronet, chariot and six. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* iii. I. 377 A coach and six is..never seen, except as part of some pageant. 1877 [see COACH *sb.* 4].

e. With omission of *shillings*; spec. in *six-and-eightpence* as a lawyer's fee; also *transf.*

a 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew, Six and eight-pence,* the usual Fee given, to carry back the Body of the Executed Malefactor, to give it Christian Burial. 1748 RICHARDSON *Clarissa* VI. 393 Flinging down a Portugal Six-and-thirty [=a Joanese]. 1756 FOOTE *Eng. fr. Paris* I, *Lat.* The Law..is the Bulwark...*Crab.* Mercy, good Six and Eightpence. 1785 GROSE *Dict. Vulgar T., Six and eight-pence,* an attorney, whose fee on several occasions is fixed at that sum. 1825 T. HOOK *Sayings* Ser. II. *Man of Many Fr.* (Colburn) 100 The six-and-eightpenny feeling..was too strong to be resisted. *Ibid.* 151 Cynics tell us, that..we shall find six-and-eightpence at the bottom of every thought and every action of mankind. 1879 MISS BRADDON *Cloven Foot* x, I have..the interest of a friend rather than a lawyer. You don't suppose it's for the sake of the six-and-eightpence.

f. In phr. *six . . and half-a-dozen . .*, denoting that there is little or no difference or choice between two (sets of) persons or things.

1836 MARRYAT *Pirate* iv, I never knows the children. It's just six of one and half-a-dozen of the other. 1865 H. KINGSLEY *Hillyars & Burtons* XXXVIII, 'What do they say about his chance?'..'Six and half-a-dozen, sir.' 1870 MISS BRIDGMAN *R. Lynne* II. xii. 256 My verdict is, six of one and half a dozen of the other.

3. = SIXTH *a.*

c 1385 in *Wyclif's Sel. Wks.* III. 506 Oure pope Urban þo sex. *c* 1430 *Brut* CCXLIII, And þe vj day come a nother Henauder. 1523 LD. BERNERS *Froiss.* I. CCCXLVI. 547 Bartylmewe des Angles..receyued the papalyte, and was called Vrbayne the sixe. 1586 W. WEBBE *Eng. Poetrie* (Arb.) 62 Make short either the two, foure, sixe, eight, tenne, twelue sillable, and it will..fall out very absurdly. 1603 PARSONS in *Cath. Rec. Soc. Publ.* (1906) II. 218 This 6 of July.

B. *sb.* **1.** The abstract number six, or the symbol denoting this.

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P.R.* XIX. CXIX. (1495) 922 The nombre of syxe..is the fyrste perfyghte nombre of the euen partyes therof taken alle togyder. *c* 1425 *Craft Nombrynge* (E.E.T.S.) 6 Write þe digit of þe nombur in þe first place þat is sex. 1565 COOPER *Thesaurus, Senarius,* that is of the number of sixe. 1622 COTGR., *Sixiesme,*..a proportion of six. 1696 PHILLIPS (ed. 5), *Six,* a Primitive Number, compos'd of Four and Two, or Twice Three. 1815 G. BEATTIE *John o' Arnha'* (1826) 33 Scarcely could ye counted sax, Before [etc.]. 1861 F. W. ROBINSON *No Church* II. i, Little boys who wore their hair in 'number sixes' at the temples, when law had left them hair sufficient for such ornamentation.

2. Chiefly *pl.* **a.** A set of six spots or pips on a die, domino, or card; also, a card, etc., having six pips or spots. (Cf. SICE.)

1599 MINSHEU *Percivall's Sp. Dict.* Dial. 26 R. I did lift an ace.—L. I a fower.—M. I a sixe. 1663 COWLEY *Ess., Danger of Procrastination,* 'Tis a hundred to one, if a man fling two Sixes. 1863 WHYTE MELVILLE *Gladiators* I. 410 One more throw for the Sixes and the great game is fairly won. 1878 T. HARDY *Ret. Native* III. viii, Venn lifted the box, and behold a triplet of sixes was disclosed. 1885 *Harper's Mag.* Apr. 734/2 You have thrown double-sixes.

b. A set of six persons.

1796 *Instr. & Reg. Cavalry* (1813) 36 The standard and its coverer each in the middle of the two center ranks of sixes. 1842 BORROW *Bible in Spain* XXIII, On every road of Spain..may be seen gangs of fives and sixes of these people. 1874 HARDY *Far fr. Mad. Crowd* ix, He's been courted by Sixes and Sevens—all the girls..have tried him.

3. *pl.* In various elliptic uses.

a. Lines of six syllables. †**b.** Sixpenny nails. †**c.** ? Spirits. †**d.** *Mus.* Intervals of a sixth. **e.** Gloves, shoes, etc., of the sixth size. **f.** Six-pounder guns. **g.** Some form of cake. **h.** Candles weighing six to the pound. **i.** Six-inch flowerpots. **j.** Bonds bearing interest at 6 per cent.

a. 1586 W. WEBBE *Eng. Poetrie* (Arb.) 59 The first [line] hauing eyght sillables, the second sixe, wherof the two sixes shall alwayes ryme. 1891 J. C. PARSONS *English Versification* 36 Sixes and four. Iambic trimeter and dimeter. *Ibid.,* Sevens and sixes. **b.** 1629 *MS. Acc. St. John's Hosp., Canterb.,* For one hundred of fiues and one hundred of sixes xjd. **c.** *a* 1658 CLEVELAND *Xmas Day* 14 Were ere such dregs mix'd with Geneva sixes? **d.** 1752 tr. *Rameau's Treat. Musick* 44 Observe those two Parts that proceed always by Sixes. *Ibid.* 45 Before we had a Knowledge of these small and great Sixes, it was almost impossible to add two Parts with these Sixes. **e.** 1796 PEGGE *Anonym.* (1809) 97 When..a shoemaker..came to take measure of him, he told him, 'O..long sixes or short sevens will do'. **f.** 1804 *Naval Chron.* XI. 409 A Ship Privateer, carrying sixteen twelves and sixes. 1812 in *Examiner* (1813) 4 Jan. 6/2 Carronades of different calibres, with two long sixes. **g.** 1825 HONE *Every-day Bk.* I. 51 The..ginger-bread bakers coaxingly insinuate them among their new made sixes. **h.** 1825 T. HOOK *Sayings* Ser. II. *Passion & Princ.* V, A serious injunction 'not to take out sixes for tens'. 1826 LAMB *Pop. Fallacies* XV, Man found out long sixes.—Hail candle-light! 1843 DICKENS *Mart. Chuz.* ii, An imaginary general illumination of very bright short-sixes. **i.** 1851 *B'ham. & Midl. Gardeners' Mag.* Apr. 31, I ordered..200 pots, (size full sixes). **j.** 1867 *Nation* 10 Oct. 295 The bonds became known as the 'Sixes of 1861'. 1893 *Daily News* 29 June 2/5 Mexican Sixes have dropped further 3¼ per cent.

4. † **a.** Six-shilling beer. In later use *pl.*

1631 BRATHWAIT *Whimzies* xii. 97 How this threede-bare Philosopher shruggs, shifts, and shuffles for a cuppe of six. 1655 R. YOUNGE *Agst. Drunkards* 3 Nor hath the richest Sherrie, or old Canarie any more operation with them, than a cup of six hath with me. 1785 GROSE *Dict. Vulgar T., Six and Tips,* whisky and small beer (Irish). 1796 *Ibid.* (ed. 3), *Sixes,* small beer, formerly sold at six shillings the barrel. 1810 in *Anc. Brit. Drama* II. 461, I suppose he means small beer, which, among the vulgar, still goes by the cant name of sixes.

b. Sixpennyworth.

1871 'M. LEGRAND' *Cambr. Freshm.* 107 Nothin'..but six of pale brandy neat got her round again.

5. In phrases with *six and seven, sixes and sevens*, etc., originally denoting the hazard of one's whole fortune, or carelessness as to the consequences of one's actions, and in later use the creation or existence of, or neglect to remove, confusion, disorder, or disagreement.

The original form of the phrase, *to set on six and seven*, is based on the language of dicing, and is probably a fanciful alteration of *to set on cinque and sice*, these being the two highest numbers. Subsequent variations arise from the use of *at* for *on*, of *or* for *and*, of other verbs in place of *set*, and of the plurals *sixes* and *sevens*; the latter became the standard form in the 18th cent. To illustrate the development more clearly, the chief types are here grouped in separate paragraphs.

(*a*) *c* 1374 CHAUCER *Troylus* IV. 622 Lat nat this wrechched wo thyn herte gnawe, But manly set the world on sexe and seuene. *c* 1460 *Towneley Myst.* xvi. 128, I shall, and that in hy, set all on sex and seuen. 1535 STEWART *Cron. Scotl.* I. 654 Quha..settis all his thrift on sax and sevin. 1542 UDALL *Apoph.* 267 b, There is a prouerbe, *omnem jacere aleam*, to cast all dyce, by which is signified, to sette all on sixe & seuen. 1601 WEEVER *Mirr. Mart.* B iv, I'm in a wood, ..Yet o're my head a threatning Rocke still hingeth..; Twixt wood and rocke, I stand on six and seauen. 1611 COTGR. s.v. *Desesperade, Iouër à la desesperade*, to set his whole rest, or set all on sixes, and seuens.

(*b*) 1535 JOYE *Apol. Tindale* (Arb.) 43 Yet had he leuer marre and destroy al, and (as they saye) set all at six and seuen, then [etc.]. 1596 NASHE *Saffron Walden* Wks. (Grosart) III. 38 Old Laertes..caring for all other things else, sets his owne estate at sixe and seauen. 1607 WALKINGTON *Opt. Glass* To Rdr., I haue set all at six and seuen, and I intend by the Muses favour happilie to go on. 1622 JACKSON *Judah* 56 To become cold, carelesse, and negligent, set all at six and seven.

(*c*) 1583 GOLDING *Calvin on Deut.* cxxxvi. 833 Not to runne and scratch for other mens goods, as if they were left at sixe and seuen. 1592 *Repentance R. Greene* G.'s Wks. (Grosart) XII. 179 Then left I her [my wife] at six or seuen, who went into Lincolneshire, and I to London. 1648 T. HILL *Dying Saints* 19 Do not let things lie at six and sevens..any longer. 1670 G. H. tr. *Hist. Cardinals* II. I. 127 They leave things at sixes and sevens. 1713 SWIFT *Cadenus & Vanessa* 888 The goddess..Left all below at Six and Sev'n. 1785 GROSE *Dict. Vulgar T., Left at sixes and sevens*, in confusion, commonly said of a room where the furniture, etc. is scattered about, or of a business left unsettled. 1829 SCOTT *Jrnl.* (1890) II. 317, I was sick of the labour by two o'clock and left several of my books and all of my papers at sixes and sevens. 1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss.* s.v., He's gone away in such a hurry, he has left everything at sixes and sevens.

(*d*) 1597 BEARD *Theatre God's Judgem.* (1612) 528 He let the affaires of his kingdome runne at six and at sevens. *a* 1610 HEALEY *Cebes* (1636) 151 She doth nothing with discretion, but hurleth all about at six and seven. 1679 ALSOP *Melius Inq.* II. viii. 369 The worship of God lying at sixes and sevens, the Government of the Church meer Anarchy. 1713 ARBUTHNOT *John Bull* IV. i, His Affairs went on at sixes and sevens. 1784 R. BAGE *Barham Downs* I. 345 It was owing to the Six-and-seven way of going on of things in the heathen world. 1809 MALKIN *Gil Blas* XII. vii. P 3 The affairs of the treasurer..are all at sixes and sevens. 1862 HAWTHORNE *Our Old Home* (1883) I. 171 The line of a railway..puts all precedent things at sixes-and-sevens. 1887 *Times* (weekly ed.) 2 Sept. 15/3 [These] differences.. have for a long time kept society in Sofia at sixes and sevens.

(*e*) *a* 1704 T. BROWN *Alsop's State of Conform.* Wks. 1711 IV. 118 His zeal swallowing his concern for his Family, things were run to sixes and sevens. 1782 ELIZ. BLOWER *Geo. Bateman* II. 126 If I was to go from home..every thing would soon go to sixes and sevens. 1846 MRS. CARLYLE in *New Lett.* (1903) I. 219 With her departure everything went to sixes and sevens.

C. *Comb.* **1.** Combining (usually hyphened) with a sb. and forming an attrib. compound, as *six-bar* (gate), *six-bottle* (man), etc.

Common during the 19th cent., and very freq. in recent use.

1711 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 57 P 3 She..makes nothing of leaping over a *Six-bar Gate. 1868 *U. S. Rep. Munit. War* 286 Two of the *six barrel, and one of the ten barrel improved guns. 1807 E. S. BARRETT *Rising Sun* I. 102 A *six-bottle-man, that is to say, one who can make such a tun of his corporation, as to carry off six bottles of wine at one sitting. 1812 SIR J. SINCLAIR *Syst. Husb. Scot.* I. 303 On land that will carry beans, he thinks a *six-course shift the best. 1822–7 GOOD *Study Med.* (1829) II. 131 Five-day ague... *Six-day ague. 1684 T. BURNET *Theory Earth* III. 45 It does not agree with the scheme of the *six-days creation. 1890 *Pall Mall G.* 6 Feb. 1/2 An eight hours day and a six days week stand in the forefront of the workman's programme. 1812 SIR J. SINCLAIR *Syst. Husb. Scot.* II. 132 A *six-ell ridge about 19½ feet broad. 1801 BUSBY *Dict. Mus.*, *Trimeters*, ancient lyrical verses of a *six-feet measure. 1709 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4515/3 A *six gun Privateer taken by the Crown. 1794 T. DAVIS *Agric. Wilts.* 112 The lowest size of a Wiltshire down farm, that can be managed to advantage, is a good *six horse business. 1892 E. REEVES *Homew. Bound* 114 Cobb & Co.'s line of six-horse coaches. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* XXXII, The entire repulse of the French under Ney after a *six hours' battle. 1761 in Sir J. Picton *L'pool Munic. Rec.* (1886) II. 276 Carts to have *six-inch Wheels. 1890 W. J. GORDON *Foundry* 23 This six-inch gun is stopped dead in eighteen inches. 1863 TREVELYAN *Compet. Wallah* (1866) 30 The sun was low enough to allow me to venture on a *six-mile walk. 1884 BRITTEN *Watch & Clockm.* 268 *Six month Clocks have two extra wheels and pinions between the great and centre wheels. 1887 I. R. *Ranche Life Montana* 46 From a *six-months' calf to very old cows. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 580 A ground plan..of a *six-pot furnace. 1856 MORTON *Cycl. Agric.* II. 725/3 *Six-quarter-cattle*, (Fife), from eighteen months to two years old. 1852 SURTEES *Sponge's Sp. Tour* (1893) 203 He is a *six-season hunter. 1614 B. JONSON *Bart. Fair* I. i, Give me the man can start up a justice of wit, out of *six shillings beer. 1679 EVELYN *Pomona* (ed. 3) Pref., When.. our Citizens..shall come to drink it [cider] moderately diluted, (as now they do six-shilling Beer, in London and other places). 1898 *Westm. Gaz.* 17 Nov. 5/1 The length requisite for a six-shilling novel. 1832 J. RENNIE *Butterfl. & Moths* 23 *Six Spot Burnet. 1813 T. DAVIS *Agric. Wilts.* Gloss. s.v. *Sheep*, [Sheep are called] *six-teeth [wethers or ewes] from the shear-time after three years old. 1872 *Routledge's Every Boy's Ann.* 134/2 The difference between a four and a six tooth wether. 1669 STURMY *Mariner's Mag.* v. i. 3 A *six Thred-line or small Belch. 1833 MARRYAT *P. Simple* (1863) 267 You'll make a wry face upon *six-water grog. 1874 *Slang Dict.* 292 *Six-water Grog*,..the weakest grog possible—six portions of water to one of rum. 1851 *Westm. Rev.* July 368 A *six wheel tank engine. 1898 *Hutchinson's Arch. Surg.* IX. 293, I find that practical dentists are in the habit of speaking of the first permanent molar tooth as 'the *six year molar'.

b. In phr. *six-year(s)-old* used attrib. or absol. 1630 M. GODWYN tr. *Bp. Hereford's Ann. Eng.* 220 The six yeare old Queene. 1707 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4342/3 A Plate.. shall..be run for..by Six Years old Mares. 1850 THACKERAY *Pendennis* lviii, My wife..wears shoes for a six-years-old child. 1897 *Daily News* 15 Feb. 2/3 This six-year-old has a very light weight to carry.

c. In various attributive combs.

1858 HOGG *Life Shelley* II. 158 Thrice in the week did the six-inside coach plough its reluctant course to town. 1889 *Daily News* 22 Jan. 2/5 The minister never came down out of his six-by-four pulpit to be cross-examined. 1895 *Times* 10 Sept. 4/2 The Football Association..[is] prohibiting all six-a-side competitions.

2. Parasynthetic, as *six-angled, -arched, -barred*, etc.; sometimes in specific names of animals, birds, etc., as *six-banded, -lined, -plumed* (see quots.).

Many examples of this type occur in recent use.

1509 HAWES *Past. Pleas.* XXI. (Percy Soc.) 99 With knottes *sixeangled, gay and glorious, The rose did hange. 1681 GREW *Musæum* I. ii. i. 18 Not of triangular, but six-angl'd and square pieces. 1893 'MARK RUTHERFORD' *C. Furze* i, A *six-arched stone bridge. 1800 SHAW *Gen. Zool.* I. I. 189 *Six-banded Armadillo. 1879 E. P. WRIGHT *Anim. Life* 213 The Six-banded Armadillo..is a native of Brazil. 1760–72 H. BROOKE *Fool of Qual.* (1809) IV. 58 They met with a *six-barred gate. 1881 *Times* 15 Jan. 5/6 The *six-barrelled Gatling..fired 267. 1877 W. BLACK *Green Past.* xi. 89 He..took out a *six-chambered revolver. 1552 HULOET, *Sixe cornered. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* 239 Pointed with sixe cornerd or foure cornerd smooth sides. 1800 *Asiatic Ann. Reg.* 271/1 Peduncles very short, solitary, *six-flowered. 1846 *Ecclesiologist* V. 164 The window..consists of two trefoiled lights, with a *sixfoiled circle in the lead. 1602 *2nd Pt. Return fr. Parnass.* v. iv, And art thou there *six footed Mercury? 1820 T. MITCHELL *Aristoph.* I. 231 Words of six-footed dimension. 1606 SHAKS. *Tr. & Cr.* Prol. 15 Priams *six-gated City. 1862 COUCH *Brit. Fishes* I. 21 *Six-Gilled Shark..Grey Shark. 1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* i, During the emptying of a *six-hooped pot. 1651 OGILBY *Æsop* (1665) 12 The Vulgar shout to see their *six-inch'd King. 1828 STARK *Elem. Nat. Hist.* II. 181 Body *six-jointed, the last segment largest. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s.v. *Convolvulus*, The smaller five or *six-leav'd hairy bindweed of Ceylon. *a* 1711 KEN *Hymnotheo* Poet. Wks. 1721 III. 11 The *Six-legg'd Nation [*sc.* ants] in the Fields appears. 1874 LUBBOCK *Metam. Ins.* i. 16 The larva is minute, six-legged, and very active. 1802 SHAW *Gen. Zool.* III. I. 240 *Six-lined Lizard. 1685 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 2023/4 A *six Oared Barge never used above four or five times. 1809 BRYDONE *Tour Sicily* xiii. 155 This is a small six-oared boat, made entirely for speed. 1880 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* IV. 25 The *Six-plumed Bird of Paradise. 1864 BOUTELL *Her. Hist. & Pop.* xxiv. (ed. 3) 405 Its *six-pointed mullets charged upon a field of Warrenne. 1888 RUTLEY *Rock-forming Min.* 193 A small *six-rayed star has been developed. 1721 BRADLEY *Philos. Acc. Wks. Nat.* 24 The other has its Stems *six-rib'd. 1890 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Col. Reformer* (1891) 423 A neat *six-roomed cottage. 1762 MILLS *Syst. Pract. Husb.* I. 419 Both the four rowed and the *six rowed barley. 1856 MORTON *Cycl. Agric.* I. 183 The six-rowed barley is said to be hardy and prolific. 1805 R. W. DICKSON *Pract. Agric.* I. Pl. ix, A *six-shared horse-hoe. 1596 HARINGTON *Metam. Ajax* D ij, The king..saued him from the ierke of the *six string'd whip. 1897 WATTS-DUNTON *Aylwin* III. ix, This obsolete six-stringed instrument. 1696 PATRICK *Comm. Exod.* xxvii. (1697) 524 These Hangings..were made of simple fine *sixthreded Linen. 1812 W. STEVENSON *Agric. Dorset* 411 They..are called by the name of two-toothed, four-toothed, and *six-toothed ewes. 1856 *Farmer's Mag.* Jan. 29 The old plan of keeping flocks until six-toothed is become quite obsolete. 1841 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* IV. 90/2 The question of four and *six-wheeled engines. *a* 1711 KEN *Hymnotheo* Poet. Wks. 1721 III. 204 Some cast on *Six-wing'd Seraphs envious eye.

3. In comb. with sbs. ending in *-er*, as *six-footer, -roomer, -wheeler*.

Other examples, as *six-incher*, etc., occur in recent use.

1844 HEWLETT *Pars. & W.* xxxiii, I..inquired of a second *six-footer. 1887 BLACK *S. Zembra* 192 Scarcely a man of the family less than a six-footer! 1897 *Outing* XXX. 144 Some of the big six-footers (commonly called 'old sojers' or 'old man kangaroos'). 1894 A. MORRISON *Mean Streets* 115 A remnant of land too small for another *six-roomer. 1890 W. J. GORDON *Foundry* 158 The longest *six-wheeler is fifty-four feet [long].

4. In advb. sense, = 'in six parts', as *six-cleft, -parted, -partite*.

1785 MARTYN *Rousseau's Lett. Bot.* xxviii. 439 The corol is six-parted; and the stamens are usually eighteen. 1832 RENNIE *Butterfl. & Moths* 231 The Six-cleft Plume..appears early in spring. 1861 HULME *Wild Fl.* Introd. p. viii, Perianth campanulate, six-partite. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 167/2 A very short six-cleft somewhat spreading limb.

5. Miscellaneous, as **six-ale** (see quot. 1898); **six-bar**, a six-barred gate; **six-branchial** *a.*, six-gilled; **six-chamber**, a six-chambered revolver; † **six-double** *a.*, sixfold; **six-four** (see quot.); **six-oar**, a six-oared boat; **six-shot, six-stroke**, a stroke in billiards counting six points; **six-tooth** (cf. *six-tooth* C. 1 and *six-toothed* C. 2).

1898 *N. & Q.* 9th Ser. I. 132 '*Six ale' is a mixture of one at fourpence a pot with one at eightpence a pot in equal proportions. 1841 LYTTON *Night & M.* I. iv, We will..take the gate yonder—the old *six-bar. 1862 COUCH *Brit. Fishes* I. 21 *Six-Branchial Shark. 1898 *Tit-Bits* 9 July 289/1, I slipped..a neat..*six-chamber into my hip-pocket. 1552 HULOET, *Sixe dowble, *sexcuplus*. 1873 H. C. BANISTER *Music* 70 The second inversion, consisting of a note with its 4th and 6th, is termed the Chord of the *Six-four. 1856 LEVER *Martins of Cro' M.* vii. 57 Where [were] the fellows who could tool a team or steer a *six-oar? 1861 *Chambers's Encycl.* II. 98/2 A *six-stroke is made by playing at the red, and pocketing it and your own. 1878 *Wilts. Arch. Mag.* XVII. 303 We have wether hogs.., and four-tooths, and *six-tooths.

Sixain (si·ksēn, ‖ sizeñ). Also 6 **syx-**, **sixaine, sizeine.** [a. F. *sixain* (OF. *sisain, sizain*), f. *six* six.]

1. A stanza of six lines. (Cf. SEXTAIN.)

1575 GASCOIGNE *Notes of Instruction* Wks. 1907 I. 472 There are Dyzaynes, & Syxaines,..commonly used by the French. *Ibid.* 473 Dizaynes and Sixaines [serve] for shorte Fantazies. 1589 PUTTENHAM *Eng. Poesie* (Arb.) 79 The first proportion..of a staffe is by *quadrien* or foure verses... The third by *sixeine* or sixe verses. *Ibid.* 101 The *Sixaine* or staffe of sixe hath ten proportions. 1656 in BLOUNT *Glossogr.* 1841 BORROW *Zincali* III. i. 6 Occasionally, sixains or stanzas of six lines, are to be found. 1881 SAINTSBURY in *Academy* 15 Jan. 40 The tendency of a sonnet to split into a huitain and a sixain.

† **2.** *Mil.* (See quot.) *Obs.*—°

Merely copied from some French work, such as Furetière's Dict., and never actually used in English. Hence in later Dicts., as Harris, Kersey, James, etc.

1702 *Milit. Dict.* (1708), *Sixain*, an ancient Order of Battle for six Batalions...Twelve Batalions will make two Sixains, eighteen will make three, and so on.

Sixareen : see SIXERN.

Six Clerk. Now only *Hist.* Also **Six-Clerk.** [See SIX *a.* 1 d.] One of the six official clerks formerly connected with the Court of Chancery.

The office was abolished in 1843; for a full account of its history see the *Penny Cycl.* (1842) XXII. 70–72.

1625 WOTTON *Lett.* (1907) II. 316 A Moiety of a Six Clerk's place in Chancery. 1659 *England's Conf.* 11 Mr. Smith a Six Clerk. *a* 1734 NORTH *Lives* (1826) II. 189 A good natured six-clerk took a fancy to the young man. 1813 *Act* 53 *Geo. III*, c. 129 Any Office or Offices of a Six Clerk or Six Clerks of the Court of Chancery in Ireland. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 70/2 In 1630 the office of Six-Clerk was, if not a sinecure, at least an appointment of great value.

Sixer (si·ksəɹ). *colloq.* [f. SIX *a.* + -ER 1. Cf. G. *sechser*.]

1. Anything that counts as six (as a hit for six runs at cricket).

1870 *Routledge's Every Boy's Ann.* 452 It is not difficult to hit sixers to leg. 1905 VACHELL *Hill* xii, Never before in an Eton and Harrow match have two 'sixers' been hit in succession.

2. *slang.* **a.** Six months' hard labour.

1869 *Temple Bar* Apr. 75 The next bit I did was a 'sixer'. 1900 *Daily News* 6 Nov. 9/1 The prisoner..said, 'It don't matter whether I get a sixer or a stretch'.

b. A sixth term of imprisonment.

1872 [see FIVER 3].

c. A six-ounce loaf.

1877 *Five Yrs. Penal Servitude* iii, He keeps a sharp eye on that man to see he does not 'filch' a 'sixer', as the six ounce loaf served with dinner, is called. 1899 *Westm. Gaz.* 29 Nov. 3/1 The 'sixers' of old..had become eight-ounce loaves for men.

Sixern (si·ksəɹn). *Shetland.* Also **sixareen,** sixereen, etc. [repr. ON. *sexæringr* (Norw. *seksæring, seksring*), f. *sex* six + *árr* oar.] A six-oared boat.

1866 EDMONSTON *Gloss. Shetl.* 103 *Sixareen*, a six-oared Norway skiff. 1881 *Standard* 9 Aug. 6/3 The 'Sixern'.. will not on the average exceed 19 ft. in length by about 5 ft. or 6 ft. in breadth and 4 ft. in depth. 1883 *Fisheries Exhib. Catal.* 46 Model of a 'Sixern', 'Sixareen', or six-oared yawl.

Si·xfoil. *Arch.* and *Her.* [f. SIX, after *quatre-, cinquefoil.*] An ornamental design (or opening) having the form of six leaflets or petals radiating from a common centre.

1849 RUSKIN *Seven Lamps* ii. § 21. 53 The double sub-arch decorated..with quatrefoils, sixfoils, and septfoils, in the transept towers of Rouen. 1864 [see CINQUEFOIL *sb.* 2 b]. 1864 BOUTELL *Her. Hist. & Pop.* xv. 194 In early blazoning but little difference appears to have been recognized between sixfoils and roses.

Sixfold (si·ksfōuld), *a.* Also 1 **sixfeald,** 5 **sex(e)fold,** 6–7 **sixefolde,** 7 **-fold, sixfould.** [f. SIX *a.* + -FOLD. Cf. ON. *sexfaldr*, MSw. *siäxfald*, Da. *sexfold*, MHG. *sehsvalt.*] Consisting of six together; comprising six things, kinds, etc.; also, six times as great or as numerous; sextuple.

a 1000 in Wr.-Wülcker 230 *Exagonum*, sixfeald. *Exametro heroico*, sixfealdum leoþcræfte. 1447 BOKENHAM *Seyntys* (Roxb.) 10 This sexefold propyrte Of the margaryte. 1497 *Naval Acc. Hen. VII* (1896) 91 Sex fold takle with a robenett. 1552 in HULOET. 1557 RECORDE *Whetst.* B ij, Sextupla. 6 to 1: 12 to 2..Sixefolde. 1609 [J. MELTON] (*title*), A Sixe-folde Politician; together with a Sixe-folde Precept of Policy. 1641 'SMECTYMNUUS' *Vind. Answ.* xiv. 182 Wee shewed a sixfold difference. 1733 E. ERSKINE *Serm.* Wks. 1871 II. 206, I have given you a sixfold View of that Christian fortitude. 1776 PENNANT *Brit. Zool.* III.

94 The mouth of this fish is furnished with (sometimes) a sixfold row of teeth. 1823 H. J. Brooke *Introd. Crystallogr.* 59 The primary planes of those forms which possess fourfold or sixfold cleavages. 1882 Farrar *Early Chr.* II. 29 The sixfold woe of Isaiah (Is. *v.* 1–30) on greed, and luxury, and unbelief, and pride, and injustice, and the reversal of moral truths.

Si·x-foot, *a.* [See Six C. 1.]

1. Measuring six feet in length, breadth, or height.

a 1683 Oldham *Par. Horace* II. xiv. 4 To have but the small pittance of a six-foot Grave. 1733 Tull *Horse-Hoeing Husb.* xi. 113 To make a Six-Foot Ridge very high, will sometimes require more Furrows. 1808 Scott *Marm.* I. viii, Each one a six-foot bow could bend. 1823 Byron *Juan* IX. xlvi, But they were mostly nervous six-foot fellows. 1872 Raymond *Statist. Mines & Mining* 301 The pump..worked on a six-foot stroke.

b. *Six-foot way*, the space between two parallel railway lines; also with ellipse of *way*.

1861 *Star & Dials* 21 Oct., The third [truck] was simply knocked into the six-foot. 1878 F. S. Williams *Midl. Railw.* 559 The distance between the two pairs of rails (popularly called the six-foot) is here wider than usual.

2. Containing six (metrical) feet.

1891 J. C. Parsons *English Versification* 98 The existence [in Shakspere] of occasional six-foot lines is generally admitted. [Cf. *six-feet* s.v. Six C. 1.]

Six-footer: see Six C. 3.

‖ **Sixieme.** *Obs. rare.* Also **sixiesm.** [F. *sixième* († *sixiesme*, etc.), f. *six* six.] A sequence of six cards at piquet. *Sixieme major*, one consisting of ace, king, queen, knave, ten, and nine.

1663 Dryden *Wild Gallant* IV. i, 'Twas won fairly: a Sixieme, and Fourteen by Aces. *Ibid.*, 14 by Aces, and a Sixieme Major. 1674 Cotton *Compl. Gamester* (1680) 60 You must reckon..for a Sixiesm sixteen.

Sixpence (si·kspĕns). Also *Sc.* 8– **saxpence.** [f. Six *a.* + Pence.]

1. A sum of money equal in value to six pennies.

c 1380 Wyclif *Wks.* (1880) 36 Whether þis be charite to curse a man for sexe pans. *c* 1440 *Alph. Tales* 273, I sall pray my moder to gif me vjd & þat I sall giff you. 1485 *Rec. St. Mary at Hill* (1905) 6 For the vnder Clerk vj d for euer. 1590 Shaks. *Mids. N.* IV. ii. 20 Thus hath he lost sixepence a day, during his life; he could not haue scaped sixpence a day. 1641 Hakewill *Libertie of Subject* 70 There shoulde be paid..six pence of the pound upon all other Merchandizes. 1705 Hickeringill *Priest-cr.* I. (1721) 44 In hopes of Sixpence and their Dinners. 1752 Hume *Ess. & Treat.* (1777) I. 444 Every person in England is computed by some to spend six-pence a day. 1807 Crabbe *Par. Reg.* I. 83 That Bible, bought by sixpence weekly saved. 1846 Dickens *Cricket on Hearth* ii. 65 As near the real thing as sixpenn'orth of halfpence is to sixpence.

Comb. 1828 Scott *Jrnl.* 22 April, An extra sixpence worth of snuff. 1875 A. R. Hope *My Schoolboy Fr.* 76 We bought sixpenceworth of chocolate.

2. A British silver coin worth six pennies.

1598 [see Mill *sb.*[1] 10]. 1659 [see Milled *ppl. a.* 2]. *c* 1675 R. Cromwell in *Eng. Hist. Rev.* XIII. 93 As much as will lye upon a sixpence. 1707 Sibbald *Scotland* (1739) I. 24 The Size of the late Coin'd English Sixpence. 1758 *Phil. Trans.* L. 551, I found the peritonæum..to be of the thickness of a six-pence. 1800 Mrs. Hervey *Mourtray Fam.* I. 294 Lady Bell protested she had not a six-pence in her pocket. 1833 T. Hook *Parson's Dau.* I. xi, I have no assurance..that Emma Lovell cares one single sixpence about me. 1886 Pascoe *London of To-day* iv. (ed. 3) 65 The 'Zoo' on Monday,..when a sixpence opens the gate to the neediest.

b. Applied to Spanish coins. In later use *U.S.*

1563 *Child Marriages* 58 Well she remembres he send her a Spanish vj[d]. 1859 Bartlett *Dict. Amer.* (ed. 2), *Sixpence*, the New York name for the Spanish half-real.

c. *transf.* Used familiarly as a nickname or designation.

1600 Nashe *Summers Last Will & Test.* 857 Young sixpence, the best page his master hath, playes a little, and retires. 1899 Westcott *David Harum* vii, Ann and Jeff are just the same old sixpences as ever.

d. *colloq.* (See first quots.)

1772 R. Graves *Spir. Quixote* (1783) I. 225 Beginning to spit six-pences (as his saying was), he gave hints to Mr. Wildgoose to stop at the first public-house. 1799 Beddoes *Contrib. Phys. & Med. Knowl.* 419 Expectoration of a little frothy mucus, such as are vulgarly called sixpences. 1889 A. G. Murdoch *Sc. Readings* Ser. III. 60 See if ye can bring us in half-a-mutchkin, for I'm spittin' white sixpences.

Sixpenny (si·kspĕni), *a.* and *sb.* [Six *a.*]

1. *Sixpenny nail*, a nail originally costing sixpence per hundred. (See Penny 10.) Also *fig.*

1426–7 [see Penny 10]. 1486 *Naval Acc. Hen. VII* (1896) 16, cc vj peny nailes xij[d]. 1494–5 *Sarum Churchw. Acc.* (ed. Swayne) 43 Pro clauis voc' sixpeny nayle iijd. 1607 Walkington *Opt. Glass* 128 Rap at the wicket with the sixpenny nayle of modesty. 1703 Moxon *Mech. Exerc.* 244 Four Penny, and Six Penny Nails, used for Pantile Lathing. 1730 *Phil. Trans.* XXXVI. 309 A prepared Six-penny (or..a Ten-penny) Nail. 1833 *Penny Cycl.* I. 119/1 A sixpenny-nail, 73 to the lb., 2¼ inches long. 1869 Rankine *Machine & Hand-tools* App. 46 The force required to draw a 'sixpenny nail' of 73 to the lb.

2. Of persons: That may be hired for sixpence; earning no more than sixpence; worth only sixpence; paltry, petty.

Common as a depreciatory term *c* 1590–1630.

1561 Preston *K. Cambyses* B iij, *Ruff.* I will giue thee sixpence to lie one night with thee. *Mer.* Gogs hart, slaue, doost thinke I am a sixpeny Jug? 1589 Nashe *Anat. Absurd.* Epist., The birthright of euerie six pennie slaue. 1596 Shaks. *1 Hen. IV*, II. i. 82, I am ioyned with no Footland-Rakers, no Long-staffe six-penny strikers. 1632 Massinger *City Madam* III. i, Swaggering, suburbian roarers, Sixpenny truckers. 1633 Ford *Love's Sacr.* II. iii, The poorest peasant that ever was yok'd to a sixpenny strumpet. 1788 Burns *Let. to Mrs. Dunlop* 21 Jan., Lately I was a sixpenny private, and, God knows, a miserable soldier enough.

3. Costing, or priced at, sixpence.

1591 Nashe *Pref. Sidney's Astr. & Stella*, An Asse is no great statesman..though he..look as demurely as a sixpenny browne loafe. 1614 B. Jonson *Barth. Fair* II. ii, Bring him a sixpenny bottle of ale. 1678 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1348/4 Eight pieces of Six-peny broad black taffaty Ribon. 1711 Swift *Jrnl. to Stella* 27 Apr., I went to town in the sixpenny stage to-day. 1760–72 Brooke *Fool of Qual.* (1809) III. 110 A shilling, to buy two six-penny loaves. 1904 *Daily Chron.* 11 Mar. 3/5 It is generally accepted..that the six-penny reprint has come to stay.

b. Bringing in sixpence; having a subscription of sixpence; selling articles at sixpence.

1673 *Humours Town* 29 To make the Voyage of the Strand..in search of some Six-penny Adventure. 1807 Syd. Smith *P. Plymley's Lett.* iv, I hear from some persons in Parliament, and from others in the sixpenny societies for debate [etc.]. 1888 *Daily News* 23 Nov. 7/2 A 'sixpenny bazaar', an emporium where any article on sale was to be had for a sixpence.

c. As *sb.* A book (*esp.* a novel) or magazine published at sixpence.

1894 *Literary World* 30 Nov. 432/1 Has the knell of the solid Sixpennies been sounded?

4. Amounting to, having the value of, sixpence. *Sixpenny bit* or *piece*, = Sixpence 2.

1592 Greene *Groat's W. Wit* (1617) 3 A sixpenny reward in signe of my superficiall liberality. 1605 *London Prodigal* V. i. 72 Ile not let a sixpennie-purse escape me. 1712 H. Prideaux *Direct. Ch.-Wardens* (ed. 4) 99 This is done for the base Lucre of a Six-penny or Twelve-penny Fee. 1842 Bischoff *Wool Manuf.* II. 157 A sixpenny duty on the import. 1852 Bristed *Five Yrs. Eng. Univ.* (ed. 2) 335 Non-reading men play..for the lowest possible (sixpenny) points. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 837 It is round or oval, the size of a threepenny or sixpenny piece.

Sixpennyworth (sikspe·niwɒɪþ). Also **sixpenn'orth** (sikspe·nəɹþ). [f. Six *a.* + Penny + Worth *sb.*] As much as is worth sixpence; an amount which is or may be bought for sixpence.

c 1450 *Godstow Reg.* 502 Sixe peny worthe of yerely rente. 1711 Swift *Jrnl. to Stella* 5 Apr., This rain ruins me in coach-hire; I walked away sixpennyworth. 1836–7 Dickens *Sk. Boz, Characters* viii, Ninety-seven sixpenn'orths of gin-and-water. 1884 *Graphic* 13 Sept. 278/1 A marvellous Six-pennyworth.

Six-pounder (si·kspaundəɹ). [f. Six *a.* + Pounder *sb.*[4]]

1. A cannon throwing shot six pounds in weight.

1684 J. Peter *Relat. Siege of Vienna* 108 Six pounders, 2. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* II. iv. 169 Four six pounders, four four pounders, and two swivels. 1790 Beatson *Naval & Milit. Mem.* II. 166 A light brass six-pounder to be fixed in the bow of their long-boat. 1838 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* I. 347/1 The report was smart like that of a six-pounder. 1876 Bancroft *Hist. U. S.* V. xx. 568 Cornwallis planted ..some six-pounders on his own left.

fig. 1797 in Lockhart *Scott* (1837) I. viii. 263 Clerk and I are continually obliged to open a six-pounder upon him in self-defence.

attrib. 1810 Wellington in Gurw. *Desp.* (1838) VI. 220 The Portuguese six pounder brigade.

b. A shot weighing six pounds.

1855 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* xvi. III. 628 He was himself hit by a second ball, a sixpounder.

† 2. (See quot.) *Obs.*—[0]

1785 Grose *Dict. Vulgar T., Six pounder*, a servant maid, from the wages formerly given to maid servants, which was commonly six pounds.

Si·xscore, *a.* Now *arch.* [f. Six *a.* + Score *sb.* 16.] Six times twenty, one hundred and twenty.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 5353, I am sex scor and ten yeir ald. 1393 Langl. *P. Pl. C.* IV. 183 Hue may ney as moche do in a mounthe one As 3oure secret seel in sexscore dayes. 1489 *Mater. Reign Hen. VII* (Rolls) II. 445 Diverse summes of money amounting to the sum of sex score poundes sterlinges. 1535 Coverdale 1 *Kings* ix. 14 And Hiram sent vnto the kynge sixe score hundreth weight of Golde. 1604 E. G[rimstone] *D'Acosta's Hist. Indies* v. xiii. 363 There was a staire of stone of sixscore steppes. *a* 1704 T. Brown *Two Oxford Scholars* Wks. 1730 I. 9 His living was commonly reputed worth sixscore pounds a year. 1814 Southey *Carmina Aulica* ii. 2 Sixscore full years have pass'd. 1870 Bryant *Iliad* I. II. 59 Fifty were their barks and each Held sixscore youths of the Bœotian race.

Si·x-shooter. [See Six C. 3.] A revolver capable of firing six shots without reloading; a six-chambered revolver. Also *fig.*

1856 Kane *Arct. Expl.* II. xxv. 256 The imaginary powers of the angekok-soak and the marvellous six-shooter which attested them. 1865 Lowell *Wks.* (1890) V. 267 Every senator seems to carry..a sort of legislative six-shooter. 1883 *Harper's Mag.* Jan. 207/2 A valiant wielder of the brush brought up the rear with a six-shooter.

attrib. a 1894 C. H. Pearson in Stebbing *Life* (1900) 134 There were only two laws..in Julesburg—lynch law and six-shooter law.

Hence **Si·x-shooting** *vbl. sb.* and *ppl. a.*

1887 *Illustr. Lond. News* 2 Apr. 370 The Home Secretary sees no reason for legally interfering with the unrestricted enjoyment of six-shooting. 1896 *Daily News* 24 Jan. 3/4 By his side was a six-shooting revolver.

Six-sided, *a.* [f. Six *a.* + Side *sb.*[1]] Having six sides; hexagonal.

1693 *Phil. Trans.* XVII. 756 Some were pyramidal, constituted on a six-sided Basis. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) IX. 739/2 Prisms, terminated by six-sided pyramids. 1821 Jameson *Man. Min.* 194 Its most frequent crystallization is the acute six-sided pyramid. 1859 Huxley *Oceanic Hydrozoa* 65 Hydrophyllium six-sided. 1877 — *Physiogr.* 58 These shapes usually look like little six-sided towers.. terminated at one end..by a short six-sided spire.

Hence **Six-sidedness.**

1883 Drummond *Nat. Law Spir. W.* 371 There is a six-sidedness, as it were, in the very nature of this substance.

Sixsome (si·ksˌsŏm). Chiefly *Sc.* Also 5 **sex sum,** 5–9 *Sc.* **saxsum.** [f. Six *a.* + -some. Cf. OFris. *sexasum* (WFris. *sechstesum, seizesum*).]

1. a. As one of six; with five others. *Obs.*

b. Six in all; six together. Now *rare* or *Obs.*

c 897 K. Ælfred *Oros.* I. i. 18 Þara he sæde þæt he syxa sum ofsloge syxtig on twam dagum. 1375 Barbour *Bruce* VI. 231 And syne his suerd he swappit out,..And slew sex sum weill soyn and ma. ?*a* 1400 *Morte Arth.* 471, I am sengilly here, with sex sum of knyghtes. 1470 Henry *Wallace* IX. 703 Saxsum thar com, and brocht bot cartis thre. 1825 Jamieson *Suppl.* s.v. *Sum.*

2. As *adj.* Performed by six persons together.

1888 Saxby *Lads of Lunda* 216 The set began a sixsome reel.

† **Six-square,** *a.* and *sb. Obs.* [f. Six, after *three-, four-, five-square.*]

A. *adj.* 1. Having six (linear) sides; hexagonal.

c 1530 in Gutch *Coll. Cur.* II. 305 A Challes withe a patten gilte, the foote of vj square. 1577 Googe *Heresb. Husb.* IV. (1586) 175 Their Celles, or lodgings, made every one sixe square. 1688 Holme *Armoury* III. 456 He beareth Gules, a six Square Tower. 1699 Maundrell *Journ. Jerus.* 7 Below the Castle Hill..stands a noble old Monument. It is six square. 1713 Warder *True Amazons* 59 Cells.. which are Mathematically Six Square.

2. Having six superficial sides; of the form of a cube; cubical.

1594 Blundevil *Exerc.* III. i. (1636) 273 Made like a six-square Dy. 1598 Bp. Hall *Sat.* IV. iii, Upon a six-square piece of ivory.

B. *sb.* A hexagon.

1680 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1499/4 The hours engraven in a six-square.

Sixt(e, obs. forms of Sixth.

‖ **Sixte** (sikst). [F. *sixte* sixth.] A particular position in fencing.

1885 E. Castle *Schools & Masters of Fence* 138 It is.. probable that seven out of the eight modern parries, 'prime, seconde, tierce, quarte, sixte..' were practised..in the early days of Louis XIV.'s reign. 1889 Pollock *Fencing* (Badm.) p. xi, Time Thrust in Sixte.

Sixteen (sikstī·n, sikstī·n), *a.* and *sb.* Forms: *a.* 1 syx-, sixtyne, 3–4 **sixtene,** 5–6 **syxtene,** 6–7 **sixteene,** 7– **sixteen** (7 -tein). *β.* 1–6 **sextene** (5 cex-), 4–6 **sexten,** 4 **sextiene,** 5 **sex-, cexteyn(e**; *Sc.* 5 **saxten,** 6 **-tine,** 7 **sextine.** [OE. *syx-, six-, sextyne* (see Six *a.* and -teen), = OFris. *sextine, -tene* (WFris. *sechstjin*, NFris. *sokstain*, etc.), MDu. *sestien* (Du. *zestien*), OS. *se(h)stein* (MLG. *sestein*, LG. *sès-, söös-, sostein*), OHG. *seh(s)zên* (G. *sechzehn*, † *sechszehn*), ON. and Icel. *sextán* (Sw. *sexton*, Da. *sexten*).] The cardinal number composed of ten and six, represented by the symbols 16, XVI, or xvi.

A. *adj.* 1. In concord with a sb. expressed.

a. *a* 900 *O. E. Martyrol.* 4 Mar., Sixtyne monaþ hi wæron somod. *c* 1205 Lay. 26658 Arður þider hafde isend sixtene þusund baldere Brutten. *c* 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 115 Sixtene bischopus al-so þis dede to ende bringue. 1382 Wyclif 2 *Kings* xv. 33 Sixtene 3eer he regned in Jerusalem. 1495 *Trevisa's Barth. De P. R.* IX. ix. 354 Ianuarius hath longe nyghtes of syxtene houres. 1535 Coverdale *Gen.* xlvi. 18 She bare vnto Iacob these sixtene soules. 1591 Shaks. *Two Gentl.* IV. i. 21 Some sixteene moneths. 1653 H. Cogan tr. *Pinto's Trav.* xxix. 113 Two Mayes, which amounts to about sixteen pence of our Money. 1700 Dryden *Ovid's Metam., Acis, Pol. & Galatea* 7 Now sixteen Summers the sweet Youth had seen. 1784 Cowper *Tiroc.* 210 There shall he learn, ere sixteen winters old [etc.]. 1847 W. C. L. Martin *Ox* 178/2 A full dose averages twelve, fourteen, or sixteen ounces. 1889 Gretton *Memory's Harkback* 123 The man had the sixteen miles to Gloucester to cover.

β. *a* 900 *O. E. Martyrol.* 30 July, Þonne biþ seo niht eahta tida lang, & se dæg sextene tida. *c* 1200 Ormin 572 Forr þatt Eleazar Sextene suness haffde. 1390 Gower *Conf.* III. 120 Cancer .. hath unto his retienance Sextiene sterres. *c* 1470 Henry *Wallace* IX. 63 Sowthest he saw..Saxten salis arayit all on raw. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 332/1 Sexten sythe, *sedecies*. 1549 *Compl. Scotl.* 93 To the nummer of sexten scoir of the maist nobillis of the cuntre. 1596 Dalrymple tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* I. 82 A thousand a hundir and saxtine 3eiris.

2. With ellipsis of sb., which may usually be supplied from the context.

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 298 Þe uorme o six stucchenes, þe oðer o sixtene. 1338 R. Brunne *Chron.* (1810) 37 Þe date was nien hundreth sexti & sextene. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xxxvi. (*Baptist*) 31 Of þis nowmir sexten were of þe kyne of Eleazare. *c* 1470 Henry *Wallace* v. 799 Sexteyn with him that worthi was in wer.

b. With ellipse of *years* (of age).

1607 Shaks. *Timon* IV. i. 13 Sonne of sixteen, Plucke the lyn'd Crutch from thy old limping Sire. 1794 Mrs. Radcliffe *Myst. Udolpho* xxxviii, Several of sixty tripped it with almost as much glee and airy lightness as those of sixteen. 1891 Hardy *Tess* (1900) 73/2 Why didn't you stay and love me when I—was sixteen?

† 3. = Sixteenth *a.* 1. *Obs.*

c 1400 *Destr. Troy* 10639 The sextene day sothely..The bold men to bent bounet full þicke. 1412–20 Lydg. *Chron. Troy* II. 3338 When Tytan..hadde take his se, Of þe Bole in the sixtene degre. 1536 Bellenden *Cron. Scot.* Headline, The sextene buke. 1653 *Apol. for Goodwin* 3 Take a

taste..of his sixteen Querie. 1680 in *Proc. Berw. Nat. Club* II. 179 Twesday the sixtein of the said moneth.

B. *sb.* **1.** The abstract number sixteen.

c 1055 *Byrhtferth's Handboc* in *Anglia* VIII. 318 To-dæl þa syxtyne, þonne byð se an dæl eahta. *c* 1425 *Crafte Nombrynge* (E. E. T. S.) 6 Compositys ben nomburs þat bene componyt of a digyt & of an articulle as..fyftene, sextene, & such oþer.

2. A sheet of sixteen pages; a book in sixteenmo.

? 1606 Bodley in *Reliq. B.* (1703) 62 If Mr. Principal shall want Strings for the lesser sort of Books in Octavo, and Sixteens. 1688 Holme *Armoury* III. xv. (Roxb.) 23/2 Whether they be large or small octavo's, sixteens, or twenty foures. 1715 M. Davies *Athen. Brit.* I. 11 Bound in Twelves, Sixteens, or Twentyfours. 1888 Jacobi *Printers' Vocab.* 125.

†**3.** *pl.* A kind of ale. *Obs. rare* —1.

1584 Cogan *Haven Health* (1636) 251 That kinde of ale which at Oxford is called sixteenes.

4. A girl of sixteen.

c 1840 O. W. Holmes *The Dilemma* 2 Now, by the bless'd Paphian queen, Who heaves the breast of sweet sixteen.

C. *Comb.* **1.** With sbs., forming attributive compounds, as *sixteen-ounce*, *-page*, etc.

1774 *Ann. Reg., Chron.* 165/1 [On Nov. 30 there was] executed at Tyburn,..John Rann, alias Sixteen-String Jack. 1780 *New Newgate Cal.* V. 139 [He obtained] the appellation of Sixteen-strings Jack, by wearing breeches with eight strings at each knee. 1849 Noad *Electricity* (ed. 3) 50 Common sixteen-ounce phials of white glass. 1865 'Cuthbert Bede' *Rook's Gard.* etc. 269 Their Sixteen-shilling Reversible Trousers. 1888 *Encycl. Brit.* XXIV. 464/2 In weaving, say a sixteen-leaf satin. 1890 W. J. Gordon *Foundry* 204 To print a sixteen-page paper in duplicate.

2. Parasynthetic, as *sixteen-sided*, etc. Also *sixteen-square* adj. and vb.

1611 Cotgr. s.v. *Rang*, A sixteene-stringd Lute. 1794 *Rigging & Seamanship* 29 It is trimmed sixteen-square. *Ibid.* 33 The yard is then sixteen-squared. 1895 Swettenham *Malay Sketches* 157 A sixteen-sided stand.

3. With sbs. in *-er*, as *sixteen-pounder*.

1695 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 3112/3 We found in the Castle..69 Pieces of Cannon, viz...3 sixteen Pounders [etc.].

Sixteener (sikstī·nəɹ). [f. prec. + -er 1.]

1. One of a body of persons sixteen in number.

1801 W. Taylor in *Monthly Mag.* XII. 574 On the decease of one sixteener or alderman, the remainder filled up the vacancy.

2. A youth of sixteen.

1824 Miss Mitford *Village* Ser. I. (1863) 41 For Joe is a less boy than many of his companions, some of whom are fifteeners and sixteeners.

Sixteenmo. [English reading of the symbol 16mo; cf. *twelvemo*, *eighteenmo*.] = Sexto-decimo.

1847 *Chambers's Jrnl.* 6 Feb. 87/2 Duodecimo, post-octavo, eighteenmo, sixteenmo, and a hundred other vos and mos. 1903 *Publishers' Circular* 28 Mar. 353/2 In folio, octavo, and duodecimo the water-lines are vertical; in quarto and sixteenmo horizontal.

Sixteenth (sikstī·nþ, si·kstīnþ), *a.* and *sb.* Forms: α. 1 **sextegðа, sex-, syxteoða**, 3 **sixteoþe**, 3–4 **sixteþe** (4 **syx-**). β. 2 **sixtenðe**, 4–5 **-tenthe**, 6 **-tenth**, 6– **sixteenth**; 5 **syxtenethe**, 6 **-tenth, -teenth**; 4 **sextenþe, -tenthe**, 4, 6 **-tenth**; *Sc.* 5 **sextend**, 6 **-teint** (9 **saxteent**). [f. Sixteen + -th, replacing OE. *syxtéoða*, etc. Cf. OFris. *sextinda*, *-tenda*, *-tiensta* (WFris. *sechstjinde*), MDu. *sestiende* (Du. *zestiende*), MLG. *sesteende* (LG. *sesteinste*), MHG. *seh(s)zehende* (G. *sechzehnte*, † *sechszehnte*), ON. and Icel. *sextándi* (Sw. *sextonde*, Da. *sekstende*).] The ordinal numeral belonging to the cardinal sixteen.

A. *adj.* **1.** In concord with a sb. expressed or implied.

α. *a* 900 *O. E. Martyrol.* 16 Jan. 18 On þone sexteoðan dæg þæs monðes. *c* 1000 Ælfric *Gram.* (Z.) 283 *Sextus decimus*, se syxteoða. 1297 R. Glouc. (Rolls) 5244 In þe sixteþe [*c* 1430 sixtene] ȝere of þe kinges kinedom. *c* 1300 *St. Swithin* 81 in *E. E. P.* (1862) 45 Eiste hondred ȝer and in þe sixteoþe ȝere. 1387 Trevisa *Higden* (Rolls) V. 145 In þe sixteþe ȝere he was i-made knyȝt.

β. *a* 1220 *Juliana* 79, I þe Sixtenðe dei of feouerreres moneð. *c* 1380 Wyclif *Wks.* (1880) 221 þe sextenþe [article is] þat þei ben verrey..myrrours of mekenesse. 1390 Gower *Conf.* I. 3 The yer sextenthe of kyng Richard. 14.. *Lat.-Eng. Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 610 *Sedenus*, the syxtenethe. 1473 *Rental Bk. Cupar-Angus* (1879) I. 180 Wil Smith and John eldar a ilkane of thir a sextend pairt. 1579 Fulke *Heskins' Parl.* 188 The sixteenth Chapter endeth the exposition. 1589 in *Exch. Rolls Scotl.* XXII. 27 The fewferm of the sexteint pairt of the landis. 1611 Cotgr., *Seziesme*, the sixteenth in ranke, number, &c. *a* 1700 Evelyn *Diary* 15 July 1669, I went towards home the sixteenth. 1728 Chambers *Cycl.* s.v. *Bible*, The New Latin Translations, done..in the 16th Century. 1850 J. H. Newman *Difficulties Anglicans* I. xii. (1891) 388 The shadow of the fifth century was on the sixteenth. 1866 Miss Yonge *Dove in Eagle's Nest* xi, Within a week of their sixteenth birthday.

2. *Sixteenth note*, the sixteenth part of a semibreve; a semiquaver.

1861 J. S. Adams *5000 Mus. Terms* 92.

B. *sb.* **1.** A sixteenth part.

1611 Cotgr., *Seziesme*, a sixteenth; a sixteenth part. 1769 *St. James's Chron.* 14–16 Sept. 3/3 The Tickets..are..divided into Halves, Quarters, Eighths and Sixteenths. 1832 J. Rennie *Butterfl. & M.* 31 Wings of the male one inch to one inch one-sixteenth. 1867 Denison *Astron. without Math.* 176 The fourth a quarter as wide, or one sixteenth as large. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* III. 742 One thirty-second to one sixteenth of a grain of periodide.

2. *Mus.* **a.** The interval of two octaves and a second. **b.** A sixteenth note.

1876 Hardy *Ethelberta* xlii, He'll keep me there while he tweedles upon the Twelfth and Sixteenth.

Hence **Sixteenthly** *adv.*, in the sixteenth place.

a 1642 Sir W. Monson *Naval Tracts* III. (1704) 322/1 Sixteenthly, They ought to appoint a Surveyor. 1691–8 Norris *Pract. Disc.* (1711) III. 170 And Sixteenthly, the Glory that Virtue casts about the Head of those who suffer this little Martyrdom. 1819 Scott *Leg. Montrose* xiv, Never..was a sermon listened to with more impatience...The Captain heard 'sixteenthly'—'seventeenthly'—'eighteenthly', and 'to conclude'.

†**Sixter.** *Obs.*—1 In 5 **syxter.** [ad. OF. *sex-, sestiere* :—L. *sextārī-us*.] A certain measure.

1491 Caxton *Vitas Patr.* (W. de W. 1495) I. xxxvii. 44/1 He lyued sobrely: And in thre yere he ete not but onely a syxter of wortes medled in a lytyll colde water.

Sixth (siksþ), *a.* and *sb.* Forms: *a.* 1 **sexta (sesta, seista)**, 2–5 **sexte** (2–4 **seste**), 3 **sæxte**, 3–6 **sext**, 5– *Sc.* **saxt** (6 **saxte**). β. 1 **siexta, sihsta, sixta**, 2–6 **sixte** (2–3 **siste**, 4 **zixte**), 3–7 **sixt** (4 **sixst**); 1 **syxta**, 3–6 **syxte**, 5 **syxst**, 6 **syxt**. γ. 6 **syxthe**, 7– **sixth**. [OE. *sexta, sixta, syxta*, etc. (see Six *a.*), = OFris. *sexta* (WFris. *sechste*, NFris. *sokst*), MDu. *seste* (Du. *zesde*), OS. *se(h)sto* (MLG. *seste, soste*, LG. *seste, söste, soste*), OHG. *sehsto* (MHG. *sehste*, G. *sechste*), Goth. *saihsta*; also OHG. *sehto* (MHG. *sehte*), ON. *sétti* (Icel. *sjötti*, Norw. *sette*, Sw. and Da. *sjette*).] The ordinal numeral belonging to the cardinal six.

A. *adj.* **1.** In concord with a sb. expressed or implied (freq. occurring earlier in the context).

α. *a* 900 *O. E. Martyrol.* 6 Jan. 14 On þone sextan dæg þæs monðes. *c* 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Mark xv. 33 Miððy awarð tid ðio seista. *c* 1205 Lay. 13909 Þæ sæxte [god] hæhte Appollin. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* Pref. p. xxiii, The seste dale is of penitence. 13.. *K. Alis.* 2736 (Laud MS.), þe sexte he slouȝ of Nauere he was. *c* 1320 *Deb. Body & Soul* in *Map's Poems* (Camden) 348 The seste day ayen the dom shule foure aungles stonde. 1390 Gower *Conf.* III. 121 After Leo Virgo the nexte Of Signes cleped is the sexte. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 2047 Here begynnes the Sext Boke. 1549 *Compl. Scotl.* 35 Virgil..in the sext beuk of his eneados. *c* 1570 *Satir. Poems Reform.* xliv. 302 That saxt chapter of Iohne. 1609 Skene *Reg. Maj.* 43 The saxt day of November.

β. *c* 893 K. Ælfred *Oros.* I. vii. 38 Þæt syxte [wonder] wæs þæt eall þæt folc wæs on blædran. *c* 900 *O. E. Chron.* (Parker MS.) an. 827, Siexta [cyning] wæs Oswald se æfter him ricsode. *c* 1000 *Sax. Leechdoms* II. 298 Syxte mægen is þæt drycræft þam men ne dereþ. *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 43 Þe forme [wave] wes snaw,..þe siste smoðer. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 14 Þe sixte dole is of penitence. 1297 R. Glouc. (Rolls) 5018 He deide after martin masse riȝt þe sixte day. 1340 *Ayenb.* 17 Þe uerste boȝ of prede is ontreuþe,..þe zixte, ypocrisie. 1387 Trevisa *Higden* (Rolls) IV. 59 Þe sixte tyme þe consuls of Rome..were sent aȝenst Hanibal. 1523 Fitzherb. *Husb.* § 75 The syxte [property] is, to haue great nosethrylles. 1579 Fulke *Heskins' Parl.* 336 The sixt Chapter declareth, that Manna was a figure. 1611 Bible *Transl. Pref.* ¶ 6 Yea, there was a fift and a sixt edition. 1667 Milton *P. L.* VII. 449 The Sixt [day], and of Creation last arose.

γ. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 14 b, Saynt Brigitte ..in the syxthe boke of her reuelacyons. 1611 Bible *Gen.* i. 31 And the euening and the morning were the sixth day. 1662 Playford *Skill Mus.* II. (1674) 92 The first [string].. is called the Treble;..the Sixth, the Bass. 1726 Swift *Gulliver* II. vi, His Majesty, in a sixth audience,..proposed many doubts. *a* 1771 Gray *Dante* 74 E'er the sixth Morn Had dawn'd. 1837 P. Keith *Bot. Lex.* 404 Among anatomists we sometimes hear of a sixth sense. 1884 *Jrnl. Education* 1 Sept. 351/1 A classical Sixth Form.

b. Following on the names of kings, popes, etc. Very commonly, and now usually, expressed by the symbol VI, *e.g.* James VI.

1387 Trevisa *Higden* VII. 151 Gregorie þe sixte,..after Benet. 1423 in *Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* Var. Coll. IV. 83 The ȝere of Kyng Harry the ȝyxst the furste. 1456 Sir G. Haye *Law Arms* (S. T. S.) 2 Charles the Sext of that name. 1549 *Compl. Scotl.* 86 Ther eftir henry the saxt lossit his liyf. 1588 Lambarde *Eirenarcha* II. iv. 160 The late K. Henry the sixt. 1641 'Smectymnuus' *Vind.* xiv. 174 All the Bishops in King Edwards the sixt time. 1674 Brevint *Saul at Endor* 227 Nothing to Pope Sixtus the 4th, nor to Alexander the sixt. 1788 Gibbon *Decl. & F.* xlviii. V. 57 To nominate for her successor Michael the sixth. 1857 *Willis's Current Notes* Jan. 4/2 King James the Sixth.

2. *ellipt.* With omission of *day, house, form*, etc.

1573 *Cath. Tractates* (S. T. S.) 14 Writtin at Paris the sext of December. 1592 tr. *Junius on Rev.* xi. 7 In the Sixt of the Decretals. 1631 Weever *Funeral Mon.* To Rdr., The sixt of May. 1647 Lilly *Chr. Astrol.* xliv. 258 Any malevolent in the sixt,..shews great danger. 1857 Hughes *Tom Brown* Pref., By getting not only the Sixth to put it down but the lower fellows to scorn it.

B. *sb.* **1.** A sixth part.

1557 Recorde *Whetst.* B ij b, A sixte more. 1611 Cotgr., *Sixain*, a sixt, a sixt part. 1728 Chambers *Cycl.* s.v. *Measure*, The Viertel, or Verge, consists of five Mingles, and one Sixth of a Mingle. 1828 Sir J. E. Smith *Eng. Flora* II. 345 Some flowers are deficient in a sixth of all their parts. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXIII. 418/2 One-sixth of its width. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 588/2 In some Indian species the pores are one-sixth of an inch across.

2. *Mus.* A tone on the sixth diatonic degree above or below another; the harmonic combination of two such tones; an interval comprising six diatonic degrees of the scale.

Different varieties are distinguished by the epithets *added, augmented, French, greater, Italian, minor, Neapolitan, sharp, small.*

1597 T. Morley *Introd. Mus.* 70 A third, a Fift, a Sixt, and an eight. 1609 J. Dowland *Ornith. Microl.* 29 Those which sound thirds, sixts, or other imperfect Concords. 1706 A. Bedford *Temple Mus.* ix. 178 In this Tune they might ascend gradually unto a Sixth. 1752 tr. *Rameau's Treat. Mus.* I. 3 The Third becomes a Sixth,..and..the Seventh becomes a Second. 1801 Busby *Dict. Mus.* s.v., There are four kinds of sixths, two consonant and two dissonant. 1873 H. C. Banister *Music* 70 The first inversion of the Triad, consisting of a note with its 3rd and 6th, is termed the Chord of the Sixth.

3. *Fencing.* = Sixte.

1885 E. Castle *Schools & Masters of Fence* Introd. 10 There can be as many guards as there are parries, although in modern days, carte, tierce, and sixth are almost exclusively used.

4. *Anat.* A nerve of the sixth cranial pair.

1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VII. 117 Double ptosis has been frequently noted, and paralysis of both sixths sometimes.

C. *Comb.* With sbs., forming an attributive compound, as *sixth-floor, -form, -rate* (also *absol.* of a former class of warships).

1820 T. Mitchell *Aristoph.* I. 232 A tub-and-cask tenant, —vulture-lodg'd—'sixth-floor man. 1807 Syd. Smith *P. Plymley's Lett.* vi, The 'sixth-form effusions of Mr. Canning. 1879 L. Stephen *Hours Library* III. 273 Landor is precisely a glorified..edition of the model sixth-form lad. 1694 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 3014/4 A 'Sixth Rate Frigat of 26 Guns called the *Drake*. 1747 Lind *Lett. rel. Navy* (1757) I. 22 Captains of sloops [have] the same [pay] with captains of a sixth rate. 1858 Simmonds *Dict. Trade, Sixth-rate*, a British vessel of war bearing a captain.

Sixthly, *adv.* [f. prec.] In the sixth place.

a. *c* 1532 Du Wes *Introd. French* in *Palsgr.* 929 Sixtely, *sixtement.* 1579 Fulke *Ref. Rastel* 770 Sixtly, that..[he] had not..ben iudged for an heretike. 1608 Dod & Cleaver *Expos. Prov.* ix–x. 15 Sixtly, we are simple men and want vnderstanding. 1657 Austen *Fruit Trees* II. To Rdr., Sixtly in boasting of their Parts.

β. 1556 Olde *Antichrist* 42 Sixthely, how farre [etc.]. 1648 D. Jenkins *Wks.* 37 Sixthly, we maintained the counterfeiting of the great Seale to be high Treason. 1681 H. More *Expos. Dan.* App. III. 297 Sixthly, If one require a Reason why Christ is described [etc.]. 1725 *Fam. Dict.* s. v. *Rules*, Sixthly, Racking. 1832 W. Palmer *Orig. Liturg.* I. 25 Sixthly, one of the MSS...contains a prayer taken from Basil's liturgy. 1876 *Clinical Soc. Trans.* IX. 93 Sixthly and lastly, as to the use of phosphorus.

Sixtieth (si·kstiẹþ), *a.* and *sb.* Forms: 1 **syx-, sixtizeþa, sixteozoða**, 4 **zixtiaȝte, sixtithe, sextid**, 6 **syxteth, sixteth**, *Sc.* **saxtieth**, 6– **sixtieth**. [OE. *sixteogoða*, etc., f. *sixtig* Sixty.]

A. *adj.* The ordinal numeral belonging to the cardinal sixty.

c 960 *Rule of St. Benet* (Schröer) 37 Ðy feorþan dæge se þreo and syxtigeða and se feower and syxtigeþa [sealm]. *c* 1000 Ælfric *Gram.* (Z.) 283 *Sexagesimus*, se sixteozoða. 1340 *Ayenb.* 234 Þo þet byeþ in wodewe-hod habbeþ þet zixtiaȝte frut. 1382 Wyclif 1 *Macc.* x. 1 In the hundrid and sixtithe ȝeer Alisaundre..stiedé vp. 1530 Palsgr. 372 *Soixantiesme*, syxteth. 1579 Fulke *Heskins' Parl.* 527 The Sixtieth Chapter treateth vpon this text. *a* 1700 Evelyn *Diary* 30 Oct. 1680, Now I ariv'd at my sixtieth year. 1755 Johnson, *Second*,..the sixtieth part of a minute. 1879 *St. George's Hosp. Rep.* IX. 77 The temperature became normal by the sixtieth [day]. 1892 Gladstone in *Pall Mall G.* 24 June 7/2 In this, the sixtieth year of my public life.

B. *sb.* A sixtieth part.

1800 *Phil. Trans.* XCI. 61 It would be expected that the image should be diminished about one-sixtieth. 1823 J. Badcock *Dom. Amusem.* 145 The addition of..potash..in the proportion of one-sixtieth is always necessary. 1841 *Penny Cycl.* XXI. 320/1, 48-sixtieths of a minute.

Sixtine (si·kstin), *a.* [ad. mod.L. *Sixtin-us*, f. the papal name *Sixtus*.] Of or pertaining to the pope Sixtus V (1585–1590), or to the edition of the Vulgate published by him in 1590.

More rarely used as a variant of *Sistine*, the special epithet of the chapel and bridge built by Sixtus IV (1471–1484).

1843 *Penny Cycl.* XXVI. 465/2 The true Sixtine Vulgate is now of excessive rarity. 1845 in Kitto *Cycl. Bibl. Lit.* (1849) II. 924/1 The Sixtine and Clementine Bibles. 1863 Westcott in Smith *Dict. Bible* III. 1707/2 The critical value of the Sixtine readings.

Six-tooth(ed: see Six C. 1, 2, and 5.

Sixty (si·ksti), *a.* and *sb.* Forms: *a.* 1 **siextez**, 2–4 **sixti** (4 **zixti**), 4– **sixty**, 5 **-sty**, 6 **sixtye**, 6–7 **sixtie**; 1–2 **syxtiz**, 3–6 **syxty** (5 **syxti**). β. 1 **sexteiz, -tih, -deih, -diz**, 1–2 **sextiz**, 4–6 **sexti**, 4–6 **sexty** (5 **cexty**, *Sc.* **sextie, sexte**); *Sc.* 5 **saxte**, 6 **-tie**, 9 **-ty**. [OE. *siex-, syx-, sextig*, = OFris. *sextich, -tech* (WFris. *sechstich*), MDu. *sestich* (Du. *zestig*), OS. *sehstic* (MLG. *sestich*, LG. *sestig, söstig*), OHG. *sehszug*, etc. (MHG. *sehzic, -zec*, G. *sechzig*), ON. *sextigir* (MSw. *säxtighi*, MDa. *sexti*; Icel. *sextíu*, Sw. *sextio*).] The cardinal number equal to six times ten, represented by the symbols 60, LX, or lx.

A. *adj.* **1.** In concord with a sb. expressed or implied.

α, *c* 893 K. Ælfred *Oros.* IV. vi. 172 Æfter siextegum daga ðæs þe ðæt timber acorfen wæs. 971 *Blickl. Hom.* 35 On þæm ȝeare bið þreo hund daga & fif & syxtiȝ daga. *a* 1122 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 852, He scolde ȝife ilca ȝear into þe minstre sixtiȝe foðra wuda. *c* 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 51 On þralshipe hie wuneden two and sixti wintre. 1297 R. Glouc. (Rolls) 7260 In a þousend ȝer of grace & sixe & sixti riȝt. 1377 Langl. *P. Pl.* B. v. 441 Sixty sythes I..haue forȝete it sith. 1495 *Trevisa's Barth. De P. R.* VIII. ix. 306 Syxty secondes make one mynute, syxty mynutes one gree.

1560 BIBLE (Genevan) *Gen.* v. 20 So all the days of Ierɘd were nine hundreth sixty and two yeres. 1606 SHAKS. *Ant. & Cl.* III. vii. 50, I haue sixty Sailes, Cæsar none better. 1611 BIBLE *Numb.* vii. 88 The rammes sixtie, the hee goates sixtie. 1816 SCOTT *Let.* in *Lockhart* (1837) IV. i. 33 Longman's people had then only sixty copies. *a* 1860 ALB. SMITH *Med. Student* (1861) 39 Some sixty of these small pieces of paper.

β. c 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Matt. p. 19 Bisin [he] cueð wæstm[es] ðrittiȝes, sexteiȝes, & hundrades. *Ibid.* Mark iv. 20 [Hia] wæstmiað an ðrittiȝ & an sextiȝ. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 663 Twelwe and sexti men woren ðor-to. *c* 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 10197 In þat louh ar sexti iles. 1393 LANGL. *P. Pl.* C. IV. 234 Ich saued my-self and sexty þousand lyues. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* VI. 827 Sexty thai slew. *Ibid.* X. 878 Off his best men saxte was brocht to ded. 1589 MONTGOMERY *Misc. Poems* lviii. 6 Tuyse sax and saxtie ȝeirs he livd. 1816 SCOTT *Antiq.* xxiii, I hae kend this auld kirk, man and bairn, for saxty lang years.

† b. Sixtieth. *Obs.*—°

1483 *Cath. Angl.* 332/1 Sexty,..*sexagesimus.*

2. Followed immediately by a lesser numeral, as *sixty-one*, etc.

1597 SKENE *De Verb. Sign.* s.v. *Serplath*, Ane thousand, three hundreth, sextie aucht zeires. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Star*, Reducing the..Number of Knights [of the Star] to Sixty-two. 1777 ROBERTSON *Hist. Amer.* (1783) III. 177 The most valuable of these was published by Purchas in sixty-six plates. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* xi, The actress, who was sixty-five years of age. 1868 *Rep. U. S. Commiss. Agric.* (1869) 191 The new building..is one hundred and seventy feet long by sixty-one feet deep.

b. *Sixty-six*, a card-game in which a point is gained by scoring sixty-six.

1897 *Daily News* 22 Feb. 9/2 The game was called '66'.

3. Forming part of an ordinal number.

1647 *Form for Ch. Govt.* Prop. 12 The sixtie one Canon of the sixth generall Synode. 1777 ROBERTSON *Hist. Amer.* (1783) II. 395 The sixty-second year of his age. 1821 BYRON *Cain* II. ii. 72 As The sixty-thousandth generation shall be. 1879 *St. George's Hosp. Rep.* IX. 77 The patient was out of bed on the sixty-second [day].

b. With *part*, or used absol. in this sense, esp. *sixty-fourth*; hence *sixty-fourther*, one who owns a sixty-fourth part of a vessel.

1768 DR. CHAUNCY *Lett.* 74 It was but the sixty-thousandth part. 1811 MISS L. M. HAWKINS *C'tess & Gertr.* I. 269 A favor in the form of sixty-fourths of lottery-tickets. 1889 *Whitby Gaz.* 14 June 3/3 A shipowning port, in which the disease of the sixty fourther exists in an aggravated form. 1899 WERNER *Capt. Locusts* 76 The minutest fraction of European blood,..one thirty-second, perhaps, or one sixty-fourth.

B. *sb.* **1.** The abstract number sixty.

1340 *Ayenb.* 234 Þe tale of zixti þet is wel gratter, þet is of zixtiþe ten. *a* 1400 *Pistill of Susan* 91 Turtils troned on trene By sixti I say3. *c* 1425 *Crafte Nombrynge* (E.E.T.S.) 4 Þere he [the figure 6] schuld tokyne but sexty. 1594 BLUNDEVIL *Exerc.* I. (1636) 84 Which [numbers] maketh two sixties to bee kept in mind. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Character*, The same Characters are sometimes us'd, where the Progression is by Tens; as 'tis here by Sixties. 1755 JOHNSON, *Second*,..the second division of an hour by sixty. 1886 PENDLEBURY *Arithm.* (1897) 5 The number in six groups of ten is called sixty.

b. *Like sixty*, with great force or vigour; at a great rate. *colloq.* or *slang*. (Cf. FORTY A. b.)

1848 LOWELL *Biglow Papers* Poems (1890) II. 135 Though like sixty all along I fumed an' fussed. 1860 *Slang Dict.* 215 'To go like sixty,' i. e. at a good rate, briskly.

c. *Sixty per cent*, a usurer. *colloq.*

1853 READE *Gold* I. 1 What you do on the sly, I do on the sly, old sixty per cent. 1897 MARSH *Crime & Criminal* xii, Was he going to develop into a sixty per cent, and offer me a loan?

2. Sixty years of age. Also *sixty-one*, *-two*, etc.

1717 PRIOR *Alma* III, 503 We find our selves at Sixty wise. 1780 *Mirror* No. 103, He seemed to be about sixty, but retained a..florid complexion. 1842 BORROW *Bible in Spain* xxvi, He appeared to be about sixty-five. 1872 CALVERLEY *Fly Leaves* (1903) 30 Although I am but sixty-three Or four. 1890 *Spectator* 22 Oct. 473/2 An old lady over sixty.

3. *pl.* The years from 60 to 69 in a century or in a person's life; the period 1860–1869.

1886 BESANT *Childr. Gibeon* II. xxi, The old patter, that spoken by himself in the early sixties, was unknown. 1889 R. B. ANDERSON tr. *Rydberg's Teut. Mythol.* 9 A series of works published in the fifties and sixties.

4. a. *pl.* A particular quality of wool. **b.** A certain size of sewing-cotton.

1894 *Daily News* 23 Jan. 2/6 Medium sixties are a shade weaker. *Ibid.* 2 Feb. 2/6 Super 60's and the finer cross-breds..are steady. 1907 H. WALES *The Yoke* xix, Three reels of white cotton—one eighty and two sixty.

C. *Comb.* With sbs., forming attributive compounds, as *sixty-gun*, or with nouns in *-er*; also *sixty-sized* adj.

1747 DR. LIND *Lett. rel. Navy* (1757) I. 35 *note*, None who had not commanded..60 gun ships, would have a right [etc.]. 1756–7 tr. *Keysler's Trav.* (1760) I. 317 The French had erected a battery of twenty-four sixty pounders [etc.]. 1828 CUNNINGHAM *N. S. Wales* II. 257 Why could not the fellow..have had his sixty-guinea hoard taken from him? 1851 GLENNY *Handbk. Flower Garden* 155 When they have taken good root, pot them into sixty-sized pots. 1882 *U. S. Rep. Prec. Met.* 123 A new 60-stamp mill has been under course of construction.

b. Similarly when followed by a lesser number.

1860 *All Year Round* No. 73. 547 The gun was designed for a sixty-eight pound shot. *Ibid.*, No sixty-eight pounder in the service. 1896 *Godey's Mag.* Apr. 407/1, I..returned.. holding the sixty-one day record. 1899 *Westm. Gaz.* 2 Aug. 7 The sailing yacht *Vendetta*, a well-known sixty-five rater.

c. *Sixty-fourmo* (see quot.).

1888 JACOBI *Printers' Vocab.* 126 *Sixty-fourmo*, a sheet folded into sixty-four leaves—written shortly, 64mo.

Sixtyfold (si·kstifōuld), *a.* (and *sb.*). [f. SIXTY + -FOLD.] Sixty times as great or as much.

c 1000 ÆLFRIC in Assmann *Ags. Hom.* ii. 175 Sum berð þrittiȝfealdne wæstm, sum syxtiȝfealdne. *Ibid.* 182 Þa habbað eft æt him syxtiȝfealde mede. *c* 1230 *Hali Meid.* 23 Wedlac haueð hire frut þritti-fald in heuene; widewehad, sixti fald. 1382 WYCLIF *Matt.* xiii. 8 But other seedis..3auen fruyt; sume an hundred fold, another sexti fold. [So in later versions.] 1865 RUSKIN *Sesame* ii. § 82 It gave you income sixtyfold instead of fourfold.

† **Size.** *Obs.* Also 3 syȝe, sy, si. [OE. *sige*, = OFris. *si*, OS. *sigi* (MLG. and MDu. *sege*, Du. *zege*), OHG. *sigi*, *sigo*, *sigu* (MHG. *sige*, G. *sieg*), Goth. *sigis*. OE. had also *sigor*, = ON. *sigr* (Sw. *seger*, Da. *sejr*).]

1. Victory in battle or conflict.

c 893 K. ÆLFRED *Oros.* I. ix. 42 Þa Cretense hæfdon þone grimlecan siȝe. *a* 1122 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1066, Se Norrena cyng ahte siȝes ȝeweald. *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 13 Ah ic eou ȝife siȝe and streinþe þet ȝe maȝen ower feond ouer cumen. *c* 1200 ORMIN 11421 To winnenn siȝe & oferrhannd Off himm þurrh Cristess hellpe. *c* 1205 LAY. 16199 Þa heo iseȝen þat heo siȝen næfden. *Ibid.* 17409 Heo swunken ful swiðe ah næfden heo syȝe.

2. A position of victory or triumph.

a 1200 *St. Marher.* 123 Ther ha schineth seoueuald schenre then the sunne i si ant i selhthe. *a* 1225 *Juliana* 11 (Bodl. MS.), Sei me hwi þu forsakest þy sy & ti selhðe.

3. *Comb.*, as *siȝe-craft*; *siȝe-fast* adj.

See also SIGALDER and SIGALDRY. A large number of combs. occur in OE. texts.

c 900 tr. *Baeda's Hist.* II. ix. 124 He siȝefæst swa eft ham ferde. 971 *Blickl. Hom.* 167 Eallum Godes halȝum he is siȝefæstra & ȝecorenra. *c* 1200 ORMIN 16958 þatt lede þatt iss siȝȝefasst. *c* 1205 LAY. 15501 Þe king..bad heom..fondien þat soðe mid heore siȝe-craften, whær on hit weore ilong [etc.].

Sizable, variant of SIZEABLE.

Sizar (səi·zăɹ). Also 6–9 sizer (7 cizer). [f. SIZE *sb.*[1] 7 + -ER [2], -AR [3].] In the University of Cambridge, and at Trinity College, Dublin, an undergraduate member admitted under this designation and receiving an allowance from the college to enable him to study.

The name probably indicates that the person so admitted received his 'sizes' free. Formerly the sizar performed certain duties now discharged by college servants.

α. 1588 BURGHLEY in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* Ser. 1, III. 27 Under the pain of six shillings and eight pence for everye tyme that any..Fellow, Scholer, Pensioner, or Sizer shall offende in any of the foresaid Orders. 1638 MEDE *Wks.* (1672) 835 My Sizer being not yet come with a candle, I will transcribe a passage of Eusebius. 1674 BLOUNT *Glossogr.* (ed. 4) *Sizer*, is a Servitor or Attendant in our Universities. 1745 MRS. DELANY *Life & Corr.* (1861) II. 377 The dean said, if his parents would consent to his entering the college of Dublin as a sizer..he would take care he was treated with a particular regard. 1809 BYRON *Bards & Rev.* (ed. 2) Postscr. There is a youth.., a sizer of Emanuel College. 1856 LEVER *Martins of Cro' M.* vii, As he sauntered along the silent alleys of the College Park..some solitary sizer might be met with.

β. 1670 EACHARD *Cont. Clergy* 16 They took..heretofore a very good method to prevent sizars over heating their brains: bed-making, chamber-sweeping, and water-fetching. 1694 MOTTEUX *Rabelais* IV. lxvii, Which..I had snatched up..as thievishly as any sizar of Montague college could have done. *c* 1780 in Willis & Clark *Cambridge* (1886) I. Introd. p. xcvi, My Father..entered me a Sizar. 1804 H. K. WHITE *Lett.* I. 117 Somebody, perhaps, has been hinting that there are servile offices to be performed by sizars. It is a common opinion, but perfectly erroneous...The sizars at Cambridge only differ from the rest in name. 1868 HELPS *Realmah* V. (1876) 83, I was a poor man, a sizar, and had to make my way in the world. 1902 *Student's Hdbk. Cambridge* v. 92 The emoluments of a Sizar take the form of various allowances, the annual value of which may be estimated at about £40.

attrib. 1859 FARRAR *J. Home* ix, I'll pay you and your sizar friend there for this, depend upon it.

Sizars, obs. form of SCISSORS.

Sizarship (səi·zăɹʃip). Also 8 sizership. [f. SIZAR.] The position or status of being a sizar.

1782 BURKE *Penal Laws agst. Irish Cath.* Wks. VI. 282 Your lordship mentions a proposal..of erecting a few sizerships in the college. 1803 H. K. WHITE *Lett.* I. 96, I have not heard from Cambridge yet, and it is very doubtful whether there be a vacant sizarship in Trinity. 1850 KINGSLEY *A. Locke* xiii, These sizarships, now, were meant for—just such cases as yours. 1902 *Student's Hdbk. Cambridge* v. 77 Exhibitions, Sizarships and Subsizarships limited to candidates who can show that they are in need of pecuniary assistance.

transf. 1877 J. MORLEY *Robespierre* in *Crit. Misc.* Ser. II. 31 He proceeded with a sizarship to the college of Louis-le-Grand in Paris.

Size (səiz), *sb.*[1] Forms: 3–7 syse (*Sc.* 5 siys, 6–7 syis, 7 sys), 3–7 sise; 5 (8) syze, 6– size; 5 cyse, 5–7 cise, 7–8 cize; 5 syce, 7 sice. [a. OF. *sise*, *cise*, aphetic forms of *assise* ASSIZE, probably due to *l'assise* being apprehended as *la sise*. Cf. med.L. *sisa*, *cisa*, MDu. *sise*, *sijs*, MLG. *sise*, MDa. *sise*, *sisæ*. The currency of the form in Eng. may have been subsequently increased by *assize* being taken as *a size*.]

I. 1. An assize for the administration of justice. = ASSIZE *sb.* 11, 12, 13. Now *dial.*

In later use commonly in the pl. form *sizes*.

(*a*) *a* 1300 *Body & Soul* in *Map's Poems* (Camden) 337 Wan ȝe hadden set your sise, ye þre traytours, sore I wep.

1393 LANGL. *P. Pl.* C. III. 178 Gyle..shope þat a shereyue sholde bere mede Softliche in saumbury fram syse to syse. *c* 1440 CAPGR. *Life St. Kath.* I. 894 They sette the shire, þe cessyons and the Cyse Ryght as hem lest. *c* 1486 *Plumpton Corr.* (Camden) 68 As touching the matters he hard at the syse, I caused some to be thyn at this time. 1509 BARCLAY *Shyp of Folys* (1570) 4 There shall be no bayle nor treating of mainprise,..There shall be no delayes vntill another Sise. 1581 T. HOWELL *Deuises* (1879) 187 Like as the captiue Wight..hopes at Sise to be releast, is then condemde to dye. *a* 1631 DONNE *Sat.* II. Poems (1654) 123 You said if I return'd next size in Lent, I should be in remitter of your grace. 1749 FIELDING *Tom Jones* XVIII. vi, He sent for a writ against me and had me to size.

attrib. 1630 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Wks.* II. 14 'Twas Size time there, and hanging was a brewing.

(*b*) *a* 1513 FABYAN *Chron.* VII. (1811) 344 Iudgys [were] ordeyned to kepe a cyrcuyte, as nowe they kepe the syzys in the tyme of vacacyon. 1538 STARKEY *England* II. ii. 190 In the sessyonys and sysys at scyre townys appointyd. *a* 1616 BEAUM. & FL. *Wit without M.* III, The Sattin..will serve you at a Sises yet. *Ibid.* IV. [iii], Some Dunce that..admires nothing but a long charge at Sizes. 1673 TEMPLE *Ess. Ireland* Wks. 1720 I. 114 Sometimes one Share of that Money is paid to a single Pretender at the Sizes or Sessions. 1703 DE FOE *Reform. Manners* Misc. 81 A Brace of Female-Clients meet him there, To help debauch the Sizes and the Fair. 1760–72 H. BROOKE *Fool of Qual.* (1809) III. 145, I will never..bring you to the sizes or sessions. 1847– in dial. glossaries (see *Eng. Dial. Dict.*). 1861 GEO. ELIOT *Silas M.* viii, There had been one tried at the 'sizes, not so long ago.

† **b.** *Sc.* A jury. *Obs.* = ASSIZE *sb.* 13 b.

c 1470 HENRY *Wallace* IV. 124 The siys of this couth say to him rycht nocht. 1535 STEWART *Cron. Scot.* III. 489 This governour..Corruptit judgis thair with him he brocht, And syis also that knew richt weill his thocht. *a* 1586 MONTGOMERIE *Misc. Poems* xliv. 29 In dout vhat wyse that feirfull syse Pronunce thair sentence wald.

† **2.** An ordinance or regulation. *Obs.*

a 1425 *Cursor M.* 9427 (Trin.), Lawes two were set on sise To Adam in paradise. 1474 *Coventry Leet Bk.* 401 The sise of a Corriour is þat he corry no maner of lether but yf it be thorowe tanned. *Ibid.*, The sise is that no mercer, Grocer, Draper, Smyth nor no other crafty man by nor sell no maner thyng .. but yf ther weyghtes and mesures be sised & sealed.

† **3.** The established order of things. *Obs.*

c 1400 *Sc. Trojan War* (Horstm.) I. 370 Thyr war þe wordys of Denyse Quhene þat he saw againe þe syse The sonne Eclyps.

† **4.** An ordinance fixing the amount of a payment or tax. Also *attrib.*, as *size-boll*, *-money*. *Obs.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 28438 Toll and tak, and rent o syse, Wit-halden i haue wit couettise. 1543 *Extr. Aberd. Reg.* (1844) I. 199 Robert Ratray..resignit..in the prouestis handis.. the haly dais fische of Dee, and syise boll. 1633 *Sc. Acts, Chas. I* (1817) V. 94 For bruiking of the said burgh lands.., tolles, customes, sys bolles. 1641 *Ibid.* 627 To apply to þe vse of þe said brucht with the syis boll and syistrie. 1733 P. LINDSAY *Interest Scot.* 206 The Payment of their Size-money, which they reckon so great a Hardship.

† **5.** A fixed standard of quality or quantity for articles of food or drink, or other commodities. *Obs.* = ASSIZE *sb.* 5.

? 1479 in *Eng. Gilds* 424 The Maire..to do calle byfore hym..all the Bakers of Bristowe, there to vnderstand whate stuff they haue of whete, And after, whate sise they shall bake. 1485 *Rolls of Parlt.* VI. 364/2 The Office of Cise of Ale in the same Towne, in the Countie of Glamorgan. 1529 RASTELL *Pastyme* (1811) 194 The mayre toke brybes of the bakers & suffred them to sell brede under the syse. 1559 *Fabyan's Chron.* VII. (1811) 705 An acte of parliament for wood and coal to kepe the fulle sise,..that no man shall bargaine, sell, bryng, or conueigh of any other sise. 1641 BAKER *Chron.* (1653) 15 He made a Law, ordaining a size, by certain pins in the pot, with penalty to any that should presume to drink deeper then the mark. *c* 1680 SHAFTESBURY in Christie *Life* (1871) I. App. I. p. xii, The senior fellows.. articled with us never to alter the size of our beer. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 308/1 The Bakers cannot without [scales] make and perform that just Size put upon them.

† **6.** A proper manner or method; a standard of action or conduct; a limit. *Obs.*

c 1420 *26 Pol. Poems* 66 He may not stonde, þat haþ no toon {= toes}, Lepe ne renne, ne ryde in syse. 1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* X. lii. 500 Of syre Tristram came..alle the syses and mesures of blowynge of an horne. 1526 SKELTON *Magnyf.* 854 My persone prest Beyonde all syse. 1550 CROWLEY *Last Trumpet* 400 Though..he were wicked past al sise. 1574 HELLOWES *Gueuara's Fam. Ep.* (1584) 63 In our talke or in any other thing no syse is suffered, but in sermons which muste not passe above an howre.

† **7.** A quantity or portion *of* bread, ale, etc.; *spec.* in Cambridge use (see quot. 1617); an allowance.

1555 W. WATREMAN *Fardle Facions* II. xii. 285 That in so smalle a syse of breade and wine, the infinite..Christe.. shoulde be comprehended. 1592 NASHE *P. Penilesse* 20 The Maister Butler of Pembrooke Hall,..one that sheweth more discretion in setting vp a sise of Bread, than thou in all thy whole booke. 1605 SHAKS. *Lear* II. iv. 178 Tis not in thee.. to cut off my Traine,..to scant my sizes. 1617 MINSHEU *Ductor* s.v., A size is a portion of bread and drinke: it is a farthing which schollers in Cambridge have at the buttery: it is noted with the letter *S* as in Oxford with the letter *Q* for halfe a farthing. 1691 RAY *S. & E. Co. Words* 113 A *Size* of Bread, and a Cue of Bread, Cambridge. The one signifies half, the other one fourth part of a Half-penny Loaf. 1785 GROSE *Dict. Vulgar T.* s.v., Size of Ale, half a pint; Size of bread and cheese, a certain quantity.

transf. 1606 SHAKS. *Ant. & Cl.* IV. xv. 4 Our size of sorrow Proportion'd to our cause, must be as great As that which makes it.

† **b.** *Size-q(ue)*, the half of an ordinary allowance. Cf. CUE *sb.*[1] 2 b. *Obs.*

1602 *2nd Pt. Return fr. Parnassus* IV. iii. 1838 You are at Cambridge still with sice kue. 1670 EACHARD *Cont. Clergy* 31 He never drunk above size-q: of Helicon.

†**8.** *To pay size*, to pay heavily. *Obs.*—[1]

1668 PEPYS *Diary* 4 Sept., My Lady Batten and her crew, at least half a score, came into the room, and I believe we shall pay size for it.

9. †**a.** A device for measuring pearls.

1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. [Hence in later Dicts.]

b. A gauge used in wire-drawing.

1763 W. LEWIS *Phil. Comm. Arts* 55 A brass plate called a size, on which is measured by means of notches..the increase which a certain length of wire should gain in passing through a fresh hole.

II. 10. The magnitude, bulk, bigness, or dimensions *of* anything.

a 1400–50 *Alexander* 26 For þai þe mesure & þe mett of all þe mulde couthe, þe sise of all þe grete see. 1530 PALSGR. 270/2 Syse of a mannes body, *corpulence*. *Ibid.*, Syse of any thyng, *moyson*. 1621 DONNE *Anat. World* I. 12 When, as the age was long, the sise was great; Mans grouth..recompenc'd the meat. *a* 1676 HALE *Prim. Orig. Man.* (1677) 65 The humane Brain is..much..larger than the Brains of Brutes, having regard to the size and proportion of their Bodies. 1707 NORRIS *Treat. Humility* x. 376 The cloathing of humility does as it were conform itself to the size of the wearer. 1796 C. MARSHALL *Gardening* xiii. (1813) 181 The size of a hot bed, as to length and breadth. 1846 J. BAXTER *Libr. Pract. Agric.* (ed. 4) I. 111 The size of some stems is truly astonishing. 1880 BESSEY *Botany* 146 The absolute size of leaves varies greatly also.

b. Preceded by *of*, or in later use with ellipse of this. *Of a* (or *one*) *size*, of the same magnitude or dimensions.

c 1400 *Destr. Troy* 3815 Protheselus the pert kyng was of pure shap, Semely for sothe, & of Syse faire. 1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* v. viii. 173 Now arte thow better of a syse to dele with than thou were. 1560 BIBLE (Genevan) *Exod.* xxxvi. 9 The curtaines were all of one cise. [Also 1 *Kings* vi. 25.] 1598 BARRET *Theor. Warres* v. i. 124 Of the Size royal, is that peece which shooteth a bullet from seuenteene pound waight vpward. 1657 AUSTEN *Fruit Trees* I. 63 Young trees of a smaler sise. 1677 PLOT *Oxfordshire* 108 Of different colours, figures, cizes. 1767 *Phil. Trans.* LVII. 490 The crystals of this salt were in general..more of a size, than those of the gooseberry. 1781 COWPER *Ep. Lady Austin* 95 A seed of tiny size. 1840 DICKENS *Old C. Shop* v, 'Why don't you hit one of your own size,' said the boy. 1884 PAE *Enstace* 13 The two men were about a size. 1893 HODGES *Elem. Photogr.* 115 A frame the exact size of the window.

c. In abstract use: Magnitude.

1667 MILTON *P. L.* VI. 352 They Limb themselves, and colour, shape or size Assume. 1701 GREW *Cosmol. Sacra* I. i, The mixture of cize and figure, can beget nothing but cize and figure. 1781 COWPER *Retirem.* 67 Whose shape would make them, had they bulk and size, More hideous foes [etc.]. 1845 PATTISON *Ess.* (1889) I. 12 The church of St. Julian, equal in size to most cathedrals. 1848 DICKENS *Dombey* v, The books precisely matched as to size. 1886 RUSKIN *Præterita* I. vi. 199, I had always a quite true perception of size, whether in mountains or buildings.

d. Suitable or normal dimensions. *rare.*

1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 65/1 The plants..should be thinned, and..may be used as they attain size till August.

e. Thickness or thinness (of a liquid mixture); consistency (cf. SIZE *v.*[1] 4 c).

1863 WISE *New Forest* Gloss., 'The size of the gruel' means its consistency. 1889 C. T. DAVIS *Bricks & Tiles* (ed. 2) 147 The temperer having secured the proper plasticity, or 'size' for the clay.

11. A particular magnitude or set of dimensions; *esp.* one of a series in the case of various manufactured articles, as boots, gloves, etc.

1591 PERCIVALL *Span. Dict.*, *Punto*,..the sise of a shoo. *c* 1610 DONNE *Lett.* xxxii. Wks. 1839 VI. 338 There is not a size of paper in the palace, large enough to tell you how much I esteem myself honoured in your remembrances. 1706 E. WARD *Wooden World Diss.* (1708) 104 He is certainly a Size above ordinary in his own Conceit. 1711 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4899/4 Another silver Mazarene, a size larger. 1828 CARR *Craven Gloss.*, *Size*, a term of measure amongst shoemakers, equal to one third part of an inch. 1836–7 DICKENS *Sk. Boz*, *Scenes* xx, Her white satin shoes being a few sizes too large. 1846 GREENER *Sci. Gunnery* 329 It appears also that there is a size which meets with less resistance from atmospheric influence than others. 1872 CALVERLEY *Fly Leaves* (1903) 9 To haste..to..the glover, Having managed to discover what is dear Neæra's 'size'.

fig. 1879 HUTTON in *Bagehot's Lit. Studies* I. p. lxii, He was 'between sizes in politics'.

b. Used *elliptically* with a sb. following.

1769 MRS. RAFFALD *Eng. Housekpr.* (1778) 41 Cut your sturgeon into what size pieces you please. 1771 LUCKOMBE *Hist. Print.* 215 The Writings of that Father [St. Augustine] were the first Works done on that size Letter. 1846 BRITTAN tr. *Malgaigne's Man. Oper. Surg.* 308 After this first trial you can judge what size eye will do next. 1886 CAULFEILD *Seamanship Notes* 3 Different size cables. 1889 *Anthony's Photogr. Bulletin* II. 159 A large size plate.

12. Magnitude, extent, rate, amount, etc., as a standard of immaterial things. Also in phrases (see later quots.).

a 1530 HEYWOOD *Love* 1509 (Brandl), As the horse feleth pleasure in syse..aboue the tre, So feleth he..aboue ye. 1579 SPENSER *Two other Lett.* i. 56, I hope you will vouchsafe mee an answeare of the largest size. 1597 SHAKS. *Lover's Compl.* 21 Shriking vndistinguisht wo, In clamours of all size both high and low. 1613 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* III. xii. 257 Although those dayes shall be of a larger size then these. 1701 SWIFT *Contests Nobles & Commons* Wks. 1755 II. i. 25 The power of these princes..was much of a size with that of the kings in Sparta. *a* 1715 BURNET *Own Time* (1766) I. 133 He understood well the size of their understandings. 1780 COWPER *Progr. Error* 283 ERRORS, of whatever size. 1828 CARR *Craven Gloss.* s.v., 'He talks at a fearful size;' i. e. he talks big. 1836–8 HALIBURTON *Clockm.* (1862) 299 One day I was adrivin' out at a'most a deuce of a size, and he stopped me. 1860 WHYTE MELVILLE *Mkt. Harb.* 30 Nothing to do, and lots of time to do it in! that seems to be about the size of it. 1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal Mining* 224 *Size*, in reference to a *fault*; this word means the extent of the displacement or the *throw*.

b. Of persons in respect of mental or moral qualities, rank or position, etc.; †hence, class, kind, degree, order.

1679 PENN *Addr. Prot.* II. v. (1692) 151 Which showeth..that Christians of all sizes, great and small, are but Brethren. 1699 BENTLEY *Phalaris* 497 Our Mock Phalaris is a Sophist of that size, that no kind of Blunder is below his Character. 1719 SWIFT *To a Young Clergym.* Wks. 1755 II. II. 5 A plain sermon intended for the middle or lower size of people. 1722 WOLLASTON *Relig. Nat.* ix. 207 Can we impute to God that, which is below the common size of men? 1746 FRANCIS tr. *Horace, Art Poet.* 506 But God, and Man, and letter'd Post denies, That Poets ever are of midling Size. 1844 EMERSON *Ess.* Ser. II. vi, The cause is reduced..to suit the size of the partisans. 1872 MORLEY *Voltaire* (1886) 8 There are things enough to be said of Voltaire's moral size.

c. *pl.* As adv. Many times, far.

1861 EMILY DICKINSON *Lett.* (1897) II. 241 All our Lord demands, who sizes better knows than we.

13. Special combs., as **size-bone**, whalebone of the length of six feet or above; **size-fish**, a whale yielding size-bone; †**size-land**, a narrow strip of ploughed land; **size-roll**, (*a*) a military roll showing the size of each man; (*b*) 'a piece of parchment added to a roll' (Simmonds, 1858); **size-slate**, a slate having certain definite dimensions or measurements; **size-stick** (see quot.).

1820 SCORESBY *Arct. Regions* II. 419 The *size-bone or such pieces as measure six feet or upward in length is kept separate from the under-size. 1888 *Encycl. Brit.* XXIV. 527/2 The figures given are the values of 'size-bones',..which is twice the value of whalebone under that length. 1820 SCORESBY *Arct. Regions* II. 419 The captain and some of the officers..having a premium on every *size fish. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.* 628 The harpooner gets a bonus for striking a 'size-fish'. 1750 W. ELLIS *Mod. Husb.* I. i. 75 [In Middlesex] they plow two, three, or four of these *size-lands into one broad-land. 1757 WASHINGTON *Lett.* Writ. 1889 I. 473 Nor shall I delay to send the companies' *size-rolls, when they come to my hands. 1832 *Regul. & Instr. Cavalry* II. 16 Each Troop forms on its own parade, in rank entire according to the size-roll. 1844 *Regul. & Ord. Army* 155 The form of Size Roll..is so arranged as to sub-divide the three divisions for each height,—'small,' 'middling,' and 'large,'—each into three classes. 1865 BOWER *Slate Quarries* 31 The average price of *size slates, tons, and slabs. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2192/1 **Size-stick*, the shoemaker's measuring-stick to determine the length of feet.

Size (səiz), *sb.*[2] Forms: 5 cyse, 5–7 syse, 6 syes, 6–7 sise, syze, 7– size. [Possibly the same word as prec., but the history is not clear.

Cf. Sp. *sisa*, given by Minsheu (1599) as 'solder for golde', but explained in later Sp. dicts. in accordance with sense 1. Florio (followed as usual by Torriano) gives both It. *sisa* and *assisa* in the sense of size 'that painters use', but later It. dicts. do not confirm this.]

†**1.** A glutinous or viscid wash applied to paper, parchment, etc., to provide a suitable ground for gilding, painting, or other work. *Obs.*

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 456/2 Syse, for bokys lymynynge. *c* 1485 *E. Eng. Misc.* (Warton Club) 73 To make a cyse to gyld unburned gold on bokys. 1573 *Art of Limming* Title-p., The maner how to make sundry sises or grounds to laye silver or gold upon. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* II. 595 Whatsoeuer is to be pargetted with this Maltha..ought first to be rubbed throughly with a size of oile. 1669 STURMY *Mariner's Mag.* VII. xxxiv. 49 Take Red Lead..or Yellow Oker, well ground with Oyle of Spike or Turpentine; this is the Sise: Then draw with that the Figure you would have in Gold. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Limning*, There are always applied two Lays of hot Size e'er the Colours..are laid on. 1763 W. LEWIS *Phil. Comm. Arts* 62 For gilding on wood, &c. with what is called water-size, the parchment or leather size above-mentioned is mixed with whiting, and several layers of the mixture spread upon the piece.

b. *Printing.* (See quot.)

1888 JACOBI *Printers' Vocab.* 126 *Size*, the preparation used for printing with bronze.

2. A semi-solid glutinous substance, prepared from materials similar to those which furnish glue, and used to mix with colours, to dress cloth or paper, and for various other purposes.

1530 PALSGR. 270/2 Syse for colours, *colle de cvir.* 1565 COOPER *Thesaurus* s.v. *Color*, *Liquidus*...Moyste, tempered with size as peynters vse. 1582 in Feuillerat *Revels Q. Eliz.* (1908) 359 Paste bord, paper, and paste, white, sise, verte, syneper. 1658 W. SANDERSON *Graphice* 78 Old rotten size, to bind the Colours together. 1714 MANDEVILLE *Fab. Bees* (1733) I. 234 What size is to white walls, which hinders them from coming off, and makes them lasting. 1747 FRANKLIN *Conjecture* Wks. 1887 II. 107 Paper wet with size and water will not dry so soon as if wet with water only. 1800 *Phil. Trans.* XC. 367 The various degrees of viscidity and tenacity which characterize mucilage, size, and glue. 1843 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* I. 63 The outer face of the veneer and the surface of the table are wetted with very thin glue, or with a stiff size. 1883 HALDANE *Workshop Rec.* Ser. II. 302/1 Size of very different qualities is made at glue-works.

3. The buffy coat on the surface of coagulated blood in certain conditions. Cf. SIZY *a.*

1770 *Phil. Trans.* LX. 387, I shall next..enquire into the formation of the inflammatory crust, or size, as it is called.

4. *attrib.*, as *size-colour*, *-gelatin*, *-manufactory*, *-manufacturer*, *-water*.

1603–4 *Act* 1 *Jas. I*, c. 20 § 1 As well with Oyle Colours as Size Colours. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Limning*, That the Size-Colours hold the best. 1738 *Ibid.* s.v. *Book-binding*, The leaves being wetted with the size-water. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade*, *Size-manufacturer*, a boiler down of skins, etc., and maker of size. 1869 E. A. PARKES *Pract. Hygiene* (ed. 3) 20 Substances..from size, horn, and isinglass manufactories. 1873 T. H. GREEN *Introd. Pathol.* 123 Others are softer, more resembling size-gelatin.

†**Size,** *sb.*[3] *Obs.* Forms: 5 sise, 6 sys(s)e, syce, 5–7 size, 6–7 syze. [perh. ad. OF. *sis*, *sise* six: cf. *size* SICE and SIX B.] A certain kind or size of candle, used esp. at court and in churches.

a 1483 *Liber Niger* in *Househ. Ord.* (1790) 22, x candells wax, for the sizes of the chamber. *Ibid.* 41 He setteth up the sises in the King's chambre. 1518 *Lett. & Papers Hen. VIII*, II. II. 1515 Pure wax for morters, quariers, priketts and sysys. 1560 *Acc. Fratern. Holy Ghost*, *Basingstoke* (1882) 13 Item paid for tapers & Syces at whitsontyde, ij *s.* 1570 GOOGE *Pop. Kingd.* III. 37 To whome [Christ] if that they light a syse, his mother hath six againe. 1611 COTGR., *Bougie*,..a size or small round candle vsed in churches. 1659 HEYLIN *Examen Hist.* I. 288 Upon the Communion Table they..never set more then two fair Candles with a few small Sizes neer to them.

attrib. 1552 HULOET, Size candle. 1559 *Ludlow Churchw. Acc.* (Camden) 91 Payd upon Easter day in the mornynge for a sysse candle, j[d].

Size, variant of SICE (six in dice).

Size (səiz), *v.*[1] Forms: 5 syse, 5–8 sise, 8 cise, 6– size. [f. SIZE *sb.*[1], or, in early use, aphetic for ASSIZE *v.*]

†**1.** *trans.* To regulate or control, *esp.* in relation to a fixed standard. *Obs.*

a 1400–50 *Alexander* 4654 Many seerties we seet [*read* he set] þat sysed all þe werde. 1467 *Coventry Leet Bk.* 335 þat þe Mair ordeyn iiij assisours to sise þe watir at all Milles within þis Cete. 1579 in W. H. Turner *Select. Rec. Oxford* (1880) 402 All other measures..to be vewed, tryed, sised, allowed, and sealed. 1580 LYLY *Euphues* (Arb.) 247 Ye coyn they vse is either of brasse or els rings of Iron, sised at a certein weight in steede of money. 1613 in W. M. Williams *Founders' Co.* (1867) 23 The said Weights ..shall..be sized by the Standard at Founders' Hall. 1656 W. WEBB in D. King *Vale Royall* II. 213 This Maior..sized the Wines,—Muscadine at 7d. the quart, Sack at 10d. and other Wines at six pence. 1698–9 *Act* 11 *Will. III*, c. xv. § 1 A Vessel..made, sized, and equalled unto the said Standard. 1766 ENTICK *London* IV. 79 All makers of brass weights..are obliged to have their..weights sized by the Company's standard. 1771 *Phil. Trans.* LXI. 467 My weights were most accurately sized.

2. In University use (at Cambridge, Harvard, and Yale): To enter as a 'size' upon the buttery or kitchen books; to score (an amount) against oneself in this manner. Also *transf.*

1598 E. GUILPIN *Skial.* (1878) 47, I knew thee when thou war'dst a thred-bare gowne: Siz'd eighteene pence a weeke. 1602 *2nd Pt. Return fr. Parnassus* v. ii. 2048, I vse to size my musicke, or go on the score for it, Ile pay it at the quarters end. 1630 RANDOLPH *Aristippus* Wks. 1875 I. 14 Drinking college tap-lash..will let them have no more learning than they size, nor a drop of wit more than the butler sets on their heads. 1790 *Laws of Harvard Coll.* 38 They may be allowed to size a meal at the kitchen. 1811 *Laws of Yale Coll.* 31 The Butler shall make up his bill against each student, in which every article sized or taken up by him at the Buttery shall be particularly charged.

b. *intr.* To order 'sizes', or have them entered against one.

1598 E. GUILPIN *Skial.* (1878) 11, I have sized in Cambridge, and my friends a season, Some exhibition for me there disburst. 1602 *2nd Pt. Return fr. Parnassus* IV. ii. 1691 You that are one of the Diuels fellow commoners, one that sizeth in the Deuils butteries. 1617 MINSHEU *Ductor* s.v., To size is to set downe their *quantum*, i. e. how much they take in their name in the Buttery-booke. 1706 PHILLIPS (ed. 6), *To Size*,.. to Score as Students doe in the Buttery-Book of a College at Cambridge. 1852 BRISTED *Five Yrs. Eng. Univ.* (ed. 3) 19 Soup, pastry, and cheese can be 'sized for', that is, brought in portions to individuals at an extra charge. 1899 *Slang Dict.* 93 If a man asks you to supper, he treats you; if to size, you pay for what you eat.

†**c.** *trans.* To allowance (oneself); to eke *out* with something extra. *Obs.*

1607 TOPSELL *Serpents* (1658) 727 It is said, they eat earth by measure, for they eat so much every day as they can gripe in their fore-foot, as it were sizing themselves. *c* 1614 FLETCHER *Wit at Sev. Weap.* II. i, To be so strict A Nigard to your Commons, that you are fain To size your belly out with Shoulder Fees.

†**3.** To state the size of (something). *Obs.*—[1]

a 1661 HOLYDAY *Juvenal* (1673) 250 The pygmies..being but one foot high (as some size them).

4. To make of a certain size; to give size to; to adjust in respect of size. Also with *out*.

1609 C. BUTLER *Fem. Mon.* iii. (1623) 4 They serue to size out the Summer-doore to his due space of foure square inches. 1691 T. H[ALE] *Acc. New Invent.* 21 Pieces of Lead sized to, and nailed over the said Bolts. 1701 GREW *Cosmol. Sacra* I. i, That the parts of the organ be fitly cized, shaped and set together. 1793 SMEATON *Edystone L.* § 290 The smaller end of it being sized as near as possible to the manholes of the floors.

fig. 1733 *Revolution Politicks* VII. 44 Sizing his Words at such a rate as one yet willing to be understood that he had not stray'd from his Brethern in Point of Loyalty. 1742 RICHARDSON *Pamela* IV. 284 He is so exactly siz'd and cut out for a Town Fop, Coxcomb, or pretty Fellow.

b. *Agric.* (See quots.)

1707 MORTIMER *Husb.* (1721) I. 53 You must not let it lie long before you strick, sise, or plow it up into small Ridges.

1808 *Young's Ann. Agric.* XLV. 342 [He] sizes the field, as it is styled, that is, draws out new ridges or stitches nearly in the direction of the old original ones. 1844 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* V. I. 5 These..are what is termed sized; that is,..the ploughman sizes them by going one bout, or by once going and returning up the field.

c. To reduce (clay) to the proper consistency for moulding.

1889 C. T. Davis *Bricks & Tiles* (ed. 2) 147 It is necessary to grind the same clay..several times..before it comes to the proper degree of plasticity for moulding; this operation is called 'sizing the clay'.

5. To classify or arrange according to size. Also *transf.* to class or rank (*with* others).

a 1635 Randolph *Townsmen's Petition* Wks. 1875 II. 658 With proctors and with testers grave Our bailiffs you may size. 1649 Blithe *Eng. Improv. Impr.* (1653) 197 Size your Horses or Oxen equal. 1677 Yarranton *Eng. Improv.* 46 They sort and size all the Threads so, that they can apply them to make equal Cloaths. 1735 Somerville *Chase* I. 82 The Multitude Dispers'd, to size, to sort their various Tribes. 1805 *Edin. Rev.* VI. 463 Instead of being scientifically classified, and (if we may so speak) accurately sized, we may expect to find them [i. e. facts] tossed together with little judgment. 1886 *Law Times' Rep.* LIII. 696/2 The said broken products were then sized and separated.

b. *Mil.* To arrange or draw up (men) in ranks according to stature.

1802 James *Milit. Dict.* s.v., The flank troops of a squadron must be sized in the following manner. 1847 *Infantry Man.* (1854) 46 In this formation companies are to assemble..., being sized from flanks to centre. 1868 *Regul. & Ord. Army* § 857 All guards are..to be inspected and sized by the adjutant.

c. To single (plants). *rare.*

1660 [see Sizing *vbl. sb.*[1] 3]. 1764 *Museum Rusticum* III. lvii. 241 It would be adviseable, at the time of first sizing the plants, to leave more than are necessary.

6. *U.S.* (See quot.) *rare*—[1].

1836–9 Haliburton *Clockm.* (1862) 442 Come, I'll size your pile...Plank down a pile of dollars..of any size you like, and I'll put down another of the same size.

7. a. *colloq.* Usually with *up*: To take the size or measure of; to regard so as to form an opinion of; to make an estimate of.

Originally, and still chiefly, *U. S.* (common from *c* 1885).

1884 *Cent. Mag.* Nov. 54 Such a stranger..would have 'sized them up'..simply as a pair of poverty-stricken Mexicans. 1891 Marriott-Watson *Web of Spider* xi, It was dark when I seized her, and I hadn't time to 'size' her. 1896 Newnham Davis *Three Men & a God* 148 The grey-haired..man who met us..mentally sized me up at once.

b. With *down*: (*a*) To arrange in sizes downwards; (*b*) to size up; to comprehend.

1896 W. Morris in Mackail *Life* (1899) I. 229 The stone slates are 'sized down', the smaller ones to the top, the bigger towards the eaves. 1896 *Chambers' Jrnl.* 25 Jan. 57 There's just one thing I don't size down. I know why I am here:..but why are you?

8. *intr.* a. To be on an equality *with*; to match *with*; also with *up*.

1639 Mayne *City Match* IV. viii, Her birth Not being so high she will more size with you. 1902 O. Wister *Virginian* v, It was a letter which..'sized up' very well with the letters written in my part of the United States.

b. To assume size; to increase in size.

1818 Keats *Endymion* III. 206 The gulphing whale was like a dot..., Yet look upon it, and 'twould size and swell To its huge self.

Size (səiz), *v.*[2] Also 7 **sise**. [f. Size *sb.*[2] Cf. Sp. *sisar* (1739), It. *sisare* (Florio).] *trans.* To cover, smear, prepare, treat, or stiffen with size.

Cf. the earlier Oversize *v.*[2], and *blood-sized* in Beaum. & Fl. *Two Noble K.* I. i. 105.

1667 Primatt *City & C. Builder* 103 For Lathing, Plaistering, Rendring and sizing the Partition. 1703 *Art's Improv.* I. 65 Cold-clear it, i. e. Size it over. 1721 C. King *Brit. Merch.* II. 268 A Liquor is there prepared for sizing or gumming every Sheet. 1857 Miller *Elem. Chem., Org.* ii. § 4. 93 In order to fit it [paper] for the ink, it is *sized*, or coated with a mixture of weak fine glue and alum. 1885 *Encycl. Brit.* XVIII. 225/1 The paper..is then sized by passing the spurs through a strong solution of gelatin.

fig. 1633 J. Adams *Exp. 2 Peter* ii. 10 Uncleanness is a deep stain, sized into the soul by her dwelling in the body.

Sizeable (səi·zəb'l), *a.* Also **sizable**. [f. Size *v.*[1] + -able.] Of a fair († proper or convenient) size; fairly large.

In very common use from *c* 1680; *sizeable* has always been by far the more frequent spelling.

a. 1613 J. May *Decl. Clothing* iii. 16 His charge not to set that seale but vpon perfect and sizable cloth. 1681 R. Knox *Hist. Ceylon* 16 The trees are not very great but sizable. 1703 Dampier *Voy.* III. I. 115 A Fish about 8 inches long, broad and sizable. 1783 Cowper *Let. to Newton* 30 Nov., I swallow..a dozen good sizable cakes. 1855 Haliburton *N. & H. Nature* II. 193 Halifax is a sizable place and covers a good deal of ground. 1893 *Times* 12 June 13/5 Prices continue to show increasing firmness, especially for sizable and hard wood.

β. 1677 Yarranton *Eng. Improv.* 185 The Wyer must be ..drawn and made sizeable and fit to make all sorts of Pins. 1686 Plot *Staffordsh.* 293 Having taken up at a time 3 sizeable men. 1710 Addison *Tatler* No. 220 P 3 A more modern Virtuoso..invented that sizeable Instrument which is now in Use. 1789 *Trans. Soc. Arts* II. 238 The people are fond of purchasing sizeable trees for building. 1818 *Blackw. Mag.* III. 147 We find the cerebellum sizeable, but not remarkable. 1882 *Good Words* Sept. 606 Presently we come upon quite a sizeable stream.

Hence **Si·zeableness** (Bailey, 1727, vol. II).

Size-boll (obs. Sc.): see Size *sb.*[1] 4.

Sized (səizd), *ppl. a.*[1] [f. Size *sb.*[1] or *v.*[1]]

1. Having a specified or indicated magnitude or size: a. In predicative use.

1582 Stanyhurst *Æneis* III. (Arb.) 82 A strange sow mightelye sized. 1602 Shaks. *Ham.* III. ii. 180 As my Loue is siz'd, my Feare is so. 1693 Norris *Pract. Disc.* (1711) III. 17 Certain Particles of Matter so and so sized, so and so figured. 1759 B. Martin *Nat. Hist. Eng.* I. 121 Differently sized, from the Bigness of a Pheasant. 1766 Canning *Anti-Lucretius* II. 89 If in it's motion one should chance to strike Against another, shap'd and siz'd alike.

b. Attributively, with qualifying words denoting relative size, as *fair-, full-, great-, large-, middle-sized.*

In later use also with advs., as *fairly-, moderately-sized.*

1606 Shaks. *Tr. & Cr.* v. x. 26 Thou great siz'd coward. 1611 Cotgr. s.v. *Poincte*, The middle-sized wax-candle vsed in Churches. *a* 1678– Large-sized [see Large A. 15]. 1725 *Fam. Dict.* s.v. *Cock*, A Dunghil Cock..should be..of a large and well-siz'd Body. 1796 C. Marshall *Gardening* xiv. (1813) 204 One plant or at most two will be now under one full-sized light. 1801 *Med. Jrnl.* V. 225 A moderate sized garden pea. 1883 F. Day *Indian Fish* 46 Large drag-nets,..having fairly-sized meshes. 1888 *Encycl. Brit.* XXIV. 528/2 The average-sized bottlenose whale yields 22 cwts. of oil.

c. With qualifying words of the types *same, such, this*; *different, several*, etc.

1626 Sir E. Cecil in *J. Glanville's Voy. Cadiz* (Camden) p. xliii, The Commissioners are much to be commended for such sized shippes as they have made. 1656 Duchess of Newcastle *Nature's Picture* XI, Like several sized candles, are longer or shorter ere they come to a snuff. 1680 Moxon *Mech. Exerc.* xiii. 224 They have different sized Grooves in the Slate for that purpose. 1806 A. Hunter *Culina* 189 This sized pie will require three hours baking. 1857 T. Moore *Handbk. Brit. Ferns* (ed. 3) 28 Re-pot in the same sized pot. 1879 Noad & Preece *Electricity* 221 A series of experiments made..with different-sized platinum electrodes.

d. With *the*, = the size of.

1824 J. Johnson *Typographia* II. 139 Having..decided upon the sized type most suitable for the principal one. 1875 Bedford *Sailor's Pocket Bk.* x. (ed. 2) 362 Table showing the Sized Chain or Wire Rope which is used as a Substitute for Hempen Rope. 1897 Mary Kingsley *Trav. W. Africa* 547, I should say this is about the sized one you find..in your chicken-house.

2. Matched in size. *rare*—[1].

1700 Dryden *Pal. & Arc.* III. 569 Such Bodies built for Strength, of equal Age, In Stature siz'd;..The nicest Eye cou'd no Distinction make.

3. Of a fair, proper, or standard size. *Sized fish*, a size-fish (see Size *sb.*[1] 13).

1737 Bracken *Farriery Impr.* (1757) II. 33 [He] writ to me to buy him a sized Gelding for Hunting. 1771 Berenger *Horsem.* I. 170 As the riders were cloathed in..armour ..Great and sized horses were..required. 1778 Pryce *Min. Cornub.* 217 Taking off the sized Tin from time to time on another shovel. 1845 J. Coulter *Adv. Pacific* ii. 12 A sized fish that any Waltonian might well stare at! 1865 Bower *Slate Quarries* 30 Sized tons, various breadths, and irregular lengths.

Sized (səizd), *ppl. a.*[2] [f. Size *v.*[2]] Treated or prepared in some way with size.

1771 *Encycl. Brit.* II. 713/1 This sized paint must be laid on with a stiff brush. 1815 *Hist. John Decastro* II. 199 As worthy a gentleman as ever walked between sized felt and neats leather. 1825 J. Nicholson *Operat. Mechanic* 747 If the varnish be applied to a sized colour. 1878 Abney *Photogr.* XXV. (1881) 172 Sized paper is floated in potassium dichromate.

b. With qualifying term.

1864 R. A. Arnold *Hist. Cotton Famine* 513 The wearers of this heavily sized cloth. 1888 Jacobi *Printers' Vocab.* 126 A certain proportion of size.., according to instructions for a 'hard' or 'soft' sized article.

Sizel, variant of Scissel.

Sizeless (səi·zlės), *a.* [f. Size *sb.*[1] + -less.] Devoid of magnitude.

1874 *Edin. Rev.* No. 285. 76 An immeasurably small speck or size-less point.

† **Sizely,** *adv. Obs. rare.* Also **syzely**. [? f. Size *sb.*[1]] Nicely, daintily.

Cf. Ray's northern word '*Sizely*, nice, proud, coy'.

1575 Laneham *Let.* (1871) 23 Three prety puzels..before the Bryde, Syzely, with set countenauns, and lips so demurely simpring, az it had been a Mare cropping of a thistl. *Ibid.* 33 The coorsez wear not so orderly serued, & sizely set dooun, but wear by and by az disorderly wasted & coorsly consumed.

† **Sizer**[1]. *Obs.* Forms: 4 **sisour**(e, 4–5 **sysour**(e, 5 **cysour**, 7 **sizer**. [aphetic form of *assisour* Assizer.] An assizer.

1303 R. Brunne *Handl. Synne* 1336 What shul we sey of þys dytours, þys fals men, þat beyn sysours. *c* 1380 Wyclif *Wks.* (1880) 234 Lordis wolen not mekely here a pore mannus cause.., but suffre sisouris of contre to distroie hem. *c* 1440 *Jacob's Well* 131 þe ferthe inche is, whan false cysourys gon vp-on qwestys, & puttyn a man fro his ryȝt thrugh a fals verdyȝte. *a* 1450 Myrc 1665 Alle fals sysourus and okererus. 1614 in W. M. Williams *Founders' Co.* (1867) 30 Persons..that shall be Auditors, Clerk, Bedell, Sizer, Searcher, or Searchers, shall take the severall Oathes.

Sizer[2] (səi·zəɹ). [f. Size *v.*[1]] A device for testing the size of articles, or for separating them according to size.

1677 Moxon *Mech. Exerc.* iii. 52 Making a true round hole in a thin peece of Brass,..you may try if the cast bullet will just..fill that hole...This thin peece of Brass, with a round hole in it, is call'd a Sizer. 1858 Simmonds *Dict. Trade, Sizers*, machines used in Ceylon made of perforated sheet zinc or wire gauze, for separating the coffee into three sizes.

Sizer[3] (səi·zəɹ). [f. Size *v.*[2]] One who applies size to any article.

1863 *Chambers's Encycl.* III. 276/1 Average weekly wages:..Sizers,..25*s.* *c* 1890 W. H. Casmey *Ventilation* 8 The reason why so many old sizers are found with joints twisted out of all natural shape by rheumatism.

Sizer, variant of Sizar.

Sizers, obs. form of Scissors.

Siziness (səi·zinės). Also 8 **sizyness**. [f. Sizy *a.*] The quality or state of being sizy or glutinous; viscosity.

Common in the 18th cent. with reference to the blood.

1701 Flover *Cold Baths* I. 25 Windiness or Sliziness of the Humours. 1756 P. Browne *Jamaica* 226 Disorders arising from the sizyness of the juices. 1797 J. Downing *Disord. Horned Cattle* 3 This medicine..thins the blood, and dilutes its siziness.

Sizing (səi·ziŋ), *vbl. sb.*[1] [f. Size *v.*[1]]

1. In University use: The action or practice of procuring 'sizes' from the buttery or kitchen; a portion or quantity so obtained; a size.

1596 Nashe *Saffron Walden* Wks. (Grosart) III. 104 The Butler or Mancple of Trinitie Hall..trusted him for his commons and sizing. 1628 Shirley *Witty Fair One* IV. ii, I have had a head in most of the butteries of Cambridge, and it has been sconced to purpose. I know what belongs to sizing. 1661 Blount *Glossogr.* s.v. *Size*, In Cambridge they call it Sizing. 1736 in *Athenæum* (1906) 20 Jan. 76/2 Commons, 10 weeks, £1 3*s.* 4*d.* Sizings, £1 11*s.* 6*d.* 1785 Grose *Dict. Vulgar Tongue, Sizings*, Cambridge term for the college allowance from the buttery, called at Oxford battles. 1833 Pierce *Hist. Harvard Univ.* 219 We were allowed at dinner a cue of beer, which was a half-pint, and a sizing of bread. 1834 in Cottle *Rem. Coleridge & Southey* (1847) 304 What little suppers, or sizings, as they were called, have I enjoyed. 1852 Bristed *Five Yrs. Eng. Univ.* (ed. 3) 20 Two tables..which..go through a regular second course instead of the 'sizings'

b. *transf.* A share or allowance.

1822 Byron *Werner* IV. i, As for merriment And sport,.. our sizings were Even of the narrowest. 1885 *Sat. Rev.* 3 Jan. 1/1 There appears to have also been a..tendency.. to stint the metropolitan counties of their sizings.

† 2. = Assizing *vbl. sb. Obs.*—[1]

c 1640 in *Roxb. Ballads* II. 181 A health unto the Baker that never was misled Nor yet put into the pillorie for sizing of his bread.

3. The action of separating and arranging according to size; also, singling of plants.

1660 Sharrock *Vegetables* 119 It may be proper here to speak of weeding and sising. The latter operation is the plucking up roots or plants that are..offensive to others in the same beds, by reason of their nearness. 1710 J. Harris *Lex. Techn.* II, *Sizing*, is a curious way of Dressing the Tin Ore, after it comes from the Launder of the Stamping-mill; which is by sifting it thro' an Hair-Sieve. 1802 James *Milit. Dict.* s.v. *Size*, In all regiments the sizing begins from flanks to centre [etc.]. 1877 Raymond *Statist. Mines & Mining* 425 A previous accurate sizing of the stuff to be treated is necessary. 1894 *Daily News* 30 Jan. 3/4 It is most especially in the inferior sizing or assorting of fruit that reform is needed.

attrib. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2192/1 Sizing-apparatus, -cistern. 1882 *U. S. Rep. Prec. Met.* 650 The ore is..carried..through the sizing-screens into a series of eighteen settling-tanks. 1884 *Bath Herald* 27 Dec. 6/5 The middlings ..are carried now to the sizing machines.

Sizing (səi·ziŋ), *vbl. sb.*[2] [f. Size *v.*[2]]

1. The action of applying size, or of preparing in some way with size.

1635 *Church-w. Acc. Pittington*, etc. (Surtees) 98 Item siseing and oyling of the new window, 8 d. *a* 1667 Petty in Sprat *Hist. Royal Soc.* (1667) 294 When we treat of Sising and Stiffening. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XIII. 715/1 The sizing of this paper must also be moderate. 1839 Ure *Dict. Arts* 927 For printing paper, the sizing is given in the beating engine. 1883 *Hardwich's Photogr. Chem.* (ed. 9) 229 The Photographic properties of the paper are much affected by the mode of sizing adopted.

2. Size prepared for use; also, the materials from which size is prepared.

1825 J. Nicholson *Operat. Mechanic* 470 A strong lie of soft soap, called *sizing*. 1828 Carr *Craven Gloss., Sizing*, glutinous matter used by weavers to stiffen the warp, or to make it more smooth. 1878 Abney *Photogr.* (1882) 177 The sizing should be removed by immersion in boiling water.

fig. 1855 Bagehot *Lit. Studies* (1879) I. 289 No great painter of English life can be without a rough sizing of strong sense.

3. *attrib.*, as *sizing-box, -house, -machine*, etc.

1799 *Hull Advertiser* 1 June 1/1 Paper-mill..comprises.. four vatts,..and sizing-house adjoining. 1835 Ure *Philos. Manuf.* 370, I have since seen the sizing machine in action, dressing warp. 1880 J. Dunbar *Pract. Papermaker* 55 Strain through a fine wire into the sizing box. 1887 Moloney *Forestry W. Africa* 405 It has..been recommended as a sizing material for photographic prints.

Sizing, yeast: see Sizzing.

Sizors, obs. form of Scissors.

Sizy (səi·zi), *a.* Also 8 **sizie, sizey**. [f. Size *sb.*[2]] Resembling size; having the consistency of size; thick and viscous; glutinous.

Very common in the 18th cent., esp. of blood.

1687 *Phil. Trans.* XVI. 552 The Interstices of the Muscles ..where the Blood is very sizy. 1707 Mortimer *Husb.* (1721) II. 321 The most flowery parts of it [boiling malt] run whitish, glewy and sizie, like Sadler's Paste. 1763 Goldsm. *Misc. Wks.* (1837) II. 539 Those which lay them in the waters, place them..generally in a sizy substance. 1797 J. Downing *Disord. Horned Cattle* 17 This medicine.. disperses pituitous skins, and the sizy blood. 1827 *Lancet* 8 Dec. 390/2 The blood drawn yesterday is slightly buffed and sizy.

Sizz (siz), *v.* Also 8 **siz.** Chiefly *dial.* or *U.S.* [Imitative: cf. Siss *v.*, and WFris. *size, sizje.*]

†**1.** *trans.* To burn, brand. *Obs.*—[1]

a 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew* s. v. *Neck-verse*, The Women are of course sizz'd in the Fist, without running the risque of a Halter.

2. *intr.* To give out a hissing sound; to hiss, sizzle. Also *fig.*

1788 W. H. Marshall *Yorksh.* II. 352 *To Siz*, to hiss. 1861 Mrs. Chesnut *Diary fr. Dixie* 27 June, If, when water is thrown on them, they do not sizz, they won't do. 1887 *The Voice* (N. Y.) 1 Sept., Touch any one of the 900 delegates..and he (or she) will sizz.

Hence **Si·zzing** *vbl. sb.* Also *attrib.*

1890 *Nature* 16 Oct. 595 Mention has been made..of a peculiar 'singing' or rather 'sizzing' noise on the wire. 1907 *Scribner's Mag.* Feb. 145 The monotonous sizzing of cicadas.

Sizzars, -ers, obs. forms of Scissors.

Si·zzing. *dial.* Also 6 **sizing,** 8 **siesin,** 9 **sizzen,** etc. [See quot. 1674.] Yeast, barm.

Given in recent glossaries as current in Kent, Surrey, Sussex, and Hampshire.

1594 Lyly *Mother Bombie* II. i, My wits worke like barme, alias yest, alias sizing, alias rising, alias Gods good. 1674 Ray *S. & E. Co. Words, Sizzing*, yeast or barm, *Suss.*; from the sound Beer or Ale make in working. [Hence in Grose, etc.] 1736 Lewis *Hist. Thanet* (ed. 2) 38 *Siesin.*

Sizzle (si·z'l), *sb.* [from the vb.] A hissing sound, *esp.* one produced by the action of frying or roasting; also, broiling heat.

1823 E. Moor *Suffolk Words* 351 *Sizzle*, the half hiss, half sigh of an animal; of an owl for instance. 1880 *Scribner's Mag.* June 222 The sizzle and delectable flavor of the deer's juicy ribs roasting in those ashes. 1901 *Munsey's Mag.* XXIV. 510/2 The match..ended a wasted life in a sizzle of despair.

Sizzle (si·z'l), *v.* Also 7 **sizle,** 8 **sizel.** [Imitative: cf. Sizz *v.* and Fizzle *v.*]

1. *trans.* To burn or scorch so as to produce a hissing sound; to burn *up* with intense heat.

1603 Harsnet *Pop. Impost.* xxiii. 165 Having his taile wel sizled with brimstone or scalded soundly with Holy water. 1624 J. Gee *Foot out of Snare* 47 Hath none read of..the holy potion, to scald, broil, and to sizle the Diuell? 1715 *Cotton's Scarron.* IV. (ed. 10) 92 To sizel thy Tail instead of Paper. 1823 E. Moor *Suffolk Words* 351 If we heen't rain in another week we shall be all sizzled up.

2. *intr.* To make a kind of hissing sound, esp. in the process of frying, roasting, or burning.

a 1825 Forby *Voc. E. Anglia* 303 *Sizzle*, to dry and shrivel up with hissing, by the action of fire on some greasy or juicy substance. 1861 O. W. Holmes *Elsie V.* v. 66 In it the hot iron being then allowed to sizzle, there results a peculiar singed aroma. 1883 E. H. Rollins *New Eng. Bygones* 67 From its ends sizzled and dropped its sap.

fig. 1859 Beecher *Life Thoughts* Ser. II. 91 This question is sizzling everywhere. 1880 'Mark Twain' *Tramp Abroad* I. 245, I simply sat still..and sizzled,—for I was being slowly fried to death in my own blushes.

Hence **Si·zzling** *vbl. sb.* and *ppl. a.*

1845 S. Judd *Margaret* 159 (Bartlett), From the ends of the wood the sap fries and drips on the sizzling coals below. 1877 E. G. Squier *Peru* (1878) 234 There is a gentle and constant sizzling of frying meats. 1884 *Harper's Mag.* Sept. 526/2 We could..hear the sizzling of our cutlets. 1890 Hall Caine *Boudman* xxvi, Instantly a sizzling and bubbling sound came up from below.

Sizzors, obs. form of Scissors.

‖ **Sjambok** (ʃæ·mbɒk), *sb.* Also 9 **sambock, shambok, sjambock, jambok.** [a. Cape Du. *sam-, tjam-, sjambok*, a. Malay سمبق *samboq*, چمبق *chamboq*, ad. Urdū *chābuk*: see Chabouk and Chawbuck.] A strong and heavy whip made of rhinoceros or hippopotamus hide, used in South Africa for driving cattle and sometimes for administering chastisement.

α. 1830 S. Bannister *Hum. Policy* 126 Sambocks of rhinoceros and sea-cow skins. 1842 Miss Moffat *Tour S. Africa* vi. 86 On their punishing him with a sambock, he seized a gun.

β. 1834 Pringle *Afr. Sk.* iv. 175 Large whips of rhinoceros and hippopotamus hide (termed sjamboks). 1856 Andersson *Lake Ngami* 61 We also carried away a goodly supply of the beast's hide, for the purpose of converting it into 'shamboks'. 1893 Selous *Trav. S. E. Africa* 99 To ..take some of his hide for sjamboks.

γ. 1850 R. G. Cumming *Hunter's Life S. Africa* (1902) 144/2 Every ox had been most unmercifully flogged with both waggon-whips and jamboks. 1867 Mayne Reid *Giraffe Hunters* II. xix. 225 The Makalolo were constantly wielding their huge 'jamboks' to induce them to go quicker.

Hence **Sja·mbok** *v. trans.*, to strike or flog with a sjambok. Also **Sja·mboking** *vbl. sb.*

1899 G. H. Russell *Under the Sjambok* ix. 92 Then I will sjambok them first, and hang them after. *Ibid.* xxxiv. 247, I have given him many a sjamboking. 1900 *Daily Graphic* 8 Feb. 3/1 To be sjambokked within an inch of his life.

Sk-, in ME. and older Sc. a frequent variant of Sc-, as in *skab* scab, *skabard* scabbard, *skable* scabble, etc.

For variant forms not entered under Sk- see Sc-.

Skaal: see Skoal. **Skabe, Skab(e)d,** obs. ff. Scab *sb.*, Scabbed *a.* **Skaberge, -berk(e, -bord, -brek,** obs. ff. Scabbard *sb.*[1] **Skable,** obs. f. Scabble *v.* **Skace,** obs. f. Scarce *adv.*

†**Skaddle,** app. a var. of (or error for) Staddle.

1635 L. Fox *North-West Fox* 210 The Salv[age] inhabitants had lately bin there, & left the skaddles of their fire.

Skaddon, variant of Schadon *Obs.* **Skade,** Sc. var. of Scald *a.*[1]; dial. form of Scathe *sb.* **Skadle, Skadylie,** obs. ff. Scaddle *a.* **Skaerd,** obs. pa. pple. of Scare *v.* **Skafe-master:** see Scaffmaster. **Skaffel(l,** varr. of Scavel, spade. **Skaffell,** obs. f. Scaffold *sb.* **Skafrie, Skaif(f)ry,** varr. Scaffery *Sc. Obs.* **Skaid,** var. Sc. f. Scald *a.*[1]

Skail (skēl), *sb. north. dial.* and *Sc.* Also 4 **skaile,** 8 **skyle**; 4, 7 **scaill,** 9 **scail, scale.** [f. the vb.]

1. A dispersal or separation; a scattering.

13.. *Cursor M.* 15541 (Göttt.), þis ilke night sal be a skaile bi-tuix ȝu and me. 1625 in Lang *Hist. Scot.* (1904) III. i. 8 There would be a scaill among our Counsellors and the Sessioners. 1808 Jamieson s.v., The skail of the kirk. 1837 *Voluntary Church Mag.* Jan. 12 The skail of the kirk and the dismissal of the court happening at the same time. 1871 J. Richardson *Cummerland Talk* Ser. I. 47 They wad mak a bonnie scail o' thur scrafflen things 'at git silver cups.

2. A dispersed company; a scattered party.

1375 Barbour *Bruce* xv. 337 He Saw bot the fleand scaill, perfay, And thame that sesyt in the pray. 1819 W. Tennant *Papistry Storm'd* (1827) 160 Within the yetts, that stood unlockit To catch the skails, that..Cam' rushin' in.

3. *Mining.* (See quots.)

1860 *Eng. & For. Mining Gloss.* (ed. 2) 62 *Scale of air*—a small portion of air abstracted from the main current. 1883 Gresley *Gloss. Coal-m., Scale*, a small portion of the ventilative current in a mine passing through a certain-sized aperture.

Skail (skēl), *v. north. dial.* and *Sc.* Forms: 4–6, 9 **scail** (6 **scaile**), 5–6 **scaill** (6 **schaill**), **scayl**; 4– **skail,** 4–6 **skaill** (6 **skeill**), 4–7 **skaile,** 4–6, 9 **skayl,** 9 *Sc.* **skell**; 4– **scale, skale,** 9 **scaale**; 9 **skyle** (**scyle**), **skile,** etc. [Of obscure origin; the correspondence in form and meaning with OIr. *scáilim* (later Ir. *sgaoilim*) to scatter, is prob. accidental, as the early adoption and extensive use of a Gaelic word of this type would be very remarkable.

A more likely source would be an OScand. **skeila*, related by ablaut to ON. *skilja* to separate, divide; but there appears to be no trace of such a form.]

I. 1. *trans.* To scatter or disperse (a thing or collection of things).

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 26021 þis reuth es like a castand gin, Scailand a hepe es samen o sin. *Ibid.* 27899 For all þat euer festis wiit, Drunkennes þan skailes it. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* ii. (*Paulus*) 378 Here slane has bene mony men, Of quham þe hedis in placis sere ar scalyt. *c* 1425 Wyntoun *Cron.* VIII. 2443 Qwha skalis his thought in syndrynes, In althynge it is þe les. 1456 Sir G. Haye *Law Arms* (S. T. S.) 123 Gif the vassallis be nocht with thair lord, thai ar agaynis him, and scailis his gudis. *c* 1500 Kennedy *Passion of Christ* 14 Haill, beyme to skaill of ded þe dirk vmbrakill! 1596 Dalrymple tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* II. 453 Lyk a certane sone, new risen to skail and skattir the Cloudis of al tumulte. 1826 Galt *Lairds* i, It has skail't the daunert wits o' the master. 1839 Ure *Dict. Arts* 990 This is termed skailing the air; for otherwise the gas would kindle at the furnace. 1853 G. Johnston *Nat. Hist. E. Bord.* I. 125 The pains that Nature takes to 'scale' her species.

absol. 1456 Sir G. Haye *Law Arms* (S.T.S.) 123 He that gaderis nocht with him scaylis.

†**b.** To spread (a rumour, tale, etc.). *Obs.*

1375 Barbour *Bruce* v. 447 Bot the tithandis var scalit sone, Of the deid Douglas had done. *c* 1470 Henry *Wallace* XI. 1300 Throuch braid Bretane the woice tharoff was scalyt. 1513 Douglas *Æneid* IV. v. 32 This ilk wenche.. Glaidlie this rumour gan throw the peple skaill.

c. To scatter or spread (hay, manure, mole-hills, etc.) over the ground. Also, to clear (land) of mole-hills by scattering them.

(*a*) 1641 Best *Farm. Bks.* (Surtees) 78 Then att night.. hee..scaled the hey aboute in little heapes. 1764 *Museum Rust.* II. 247 They lead out their fold-garth manure, and *scale*, or spread it immediately from the waggon. 1781 J. Hutton *Tour to Caves* (ed. 2) Gloss. 95 *Skale*, or *Skail*, to scatter or throw abroad, as molehills are when levelled. 1789 D. Davidson *Seasons* 143 Some..skail, Wi' eager nebs, the dusky frozen turf. 1893 Heslop *Northumbld. Gloss.* s.v. *Scale*, Manure is dropped on land from a cart in isolated little heaps which are subsequently *scaled*, that is, scattered evenly over the surface.

(*b*) 1822 Bewick *Mem.* 14 To 'scale' the pastures and meadows, that is to spread the mole hills over the surface of the ground. 1827 E. Mackenzie *Hist. Newc.* II. 713 They are also required to scale, mole, and dress the Cow Hill.

d. *dial.* To rake out; to clear with a poker.

1790 Grose *Prov. Gloss.* Suppl. s.v. *Scale*, Scale the Oven. 1867 Brierley *Marlocks* I. i, The youth with the poker commenced 'scaling' the fire.

2. To pour out; to shed; to spill.

1513 Douglas *Æneid* IV. iii. 59, I sall vpon thaim a mirk schour doun schaill Of weit and wynd. 1549 *Compl. Scotl.* iii. 27 Them that settis ther felicite to skattir & to skail blude. 1578 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* II. 695 [They] skaillit and sparpallit the meill..in the said burne. 1728 Ramsay *Robt., Richy, & Sandy* 80 Red-yards, ye ken.., Had skail'd of ours, but mair of his ain blood. 1828 Moir *Mansie Wauch* xix, Scores of folks driving about with pitcherfulls of water, and scaling half of it on one another and the causeway. 1894 A. Laing *Poems* 17 (E.D.D.), Then glaiket things may scale their tea Upon oor Sunday braws.

fig. 1637 Rutherford *Lett.* (1862) I. cxx. 299 Alas! I have skailed more of Christ's grace,..than I have brought with me.

absol. 1641 Fergusson *Scot. Prov.* No. 51, An old seck is ay skailing. 1896 Barrie *Tommy* xxxvii. 442 It's a small offence to skail on a clarty floor.

b. To rend, spoil. *rare*—[1].

1768 Ross *Helenore* 28 Her gartens tint, her shoon a' skelt and torn.

†**3.** To spread out, distend. *Obs.*—[1]

1513 Douglas *Æneid* VIII. xii. 83 Scaland schetis, and haldand rowme at large.

4. To separate, remove. *rare*—[1].

a 1833 *Queen's Marie* vi. in Child *Ballads* III. 393/1 The king is to the Abbey gane, To pu the Abbey-tree, To scale the babe frae Marie's heart.

II. 5. To break up (an assembly, school, etc.) by dismissal; †to disband (an army).

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 13850 Wit þis þai scaild þair semble, Bot iesus went fra þat cite. *c* 1425 Wyntoun *Cron.* IX. 1440 Ay þai qwhit ȝow lil for lal, Or þat þai skail þar marcat all. 1487 *Sc. Acts, Jas. III* (1814) II. 177/2 The Shereff sal..charge þaim to cess, & skale þair gadering. 1528 *St. Papers Hen. VIII*, IV. 510 *note*, Unto suche tyme as the Kyng retorne homewardes, and scail his host. 1541 *Ibid.* V. 199 We ar contentit þat baith ye armyis in all partis be skalit. 1598 *Extr. Aberd. Reg.* (1848) II. 174 Gif the said schooll be dissolvit and skaillit, it will tend to the preiudice of the youth of this town. 1791 Learmont *Poems* 43 Stick baith the sermon an' the tune, An' skale the kirk. 1886 'H. Haliburton' *Horace* II Then Patie's waukened wi' a kick, An' skells the meetin'.

refl. 1375 Barbour *Bruce* XII. 465 ȝe sall se als soyne at thai..sall brek aray, And scale thame, our harness to ta.

†**b.** To break up (one's home). *Obs.*

c 1550 Rolland *Crt. Venus* I. 551 Men & wemen hes skalit thair hale houshald. 1567 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* I. 516 Diverse..landis are laid waist, and mony honest houshaldis constrenit to skaill thair houssis. 1637 Rutherford *Lett.* I. clxxxii. (1664) 352 Were it not that want paineth me, I should have skailed house & gone a begging long since.

†**c.** To annul (a proclamation). *Obs.*—[1]

a 1583 Sir J. Balfour *Practicks* (1754) 345 To proceid aganis ony persoun that aucht to keip proclamatioun, the samin standand vndischargit or skaillit.

†**6.** To compel (an army, etc.) to scatter or disperse; to put to flight, to rout.

1375 Barbour *Bruce* VI. 428 And Douglas..full egirly Assalit, and scalit thame hastely. *Ibid.* VII. 299 Fortoun has trauailit vs this day, That scalit vs so suddandly. *c* 1425 Wyntoun *Cron.* IX. 1492 Befor þe laif þai knychtis þen.. Pressit þaim fast to skayl þat rowt. 1482 Caxton *Trevisa's Higden* III. xiv, And there his men were beten..and skayled euery from other. 1533 Bellenden *Livy* I. x. (S. T. S.) I. 57 To skail þame in sindry partis he began to fle. 1581 *Satir. Poems Reform.* xliv. 328 Iudas sall Iuge ȝou, and God sall scale ȝour nest. *a* 1600 *Floddan F.* viii. (1664) 73 The gray gooswing did work such greif, And did the Scots so skoure and skaile. 1732 Eben. Erskine *Serm.* Wks. 1871 I. 485 By the fall of Adam the family was skailt. 1843 *Coquetdale Fishing Songs* (1852) 109 Deil scale the byke frae Redlees Syke.

†**b.** To raise (a siege). *Obs.*

c 1425 Wyntoun *Cron.* IX. 2970 Sa sall we pruff þat sege to skail, or gar remuff. 1533 Bellenden *Livy* II. vi. (S. T. S.) I. 147 How Caius mucius..causit porsena to scale his sege. 1573 *Satir. Poems Reform.* xxxix. 60 To Glasgow [they] past with mony trapit steid, Thair skalit the sege.

III. 7. In passive: To be in a scattered or dispersed condition.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 22304 Cummen I am to gedir yow þat has ben scaild ai to nu. 1375 Barbour *Bruce* XII. 466 Quhen we se thame scalit swa, Prik we than on thame hardely. *c* 1470 Henry *Wallace* v. 282 The chas was gret, scalyt our breid and lenth. 1513 Douglas *Æneid* VI. xi. 58 The byssy beis..On diuers colorit flouris scalit wyde. *a* 1578 Lindesay (Pitscottie) *Chron. Scot.* (S. T. S.) I. 45 Money of the earleis freindis being skailed of the toune.

8. *intr.* Of persons, assemblies, etc.: To separate, disperse, break up, scatter.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 2524 þair folk scaild ai-quare a-boute. 1375 Barbour *Bruce* v. 93 Thai scalit throu the toune in hy. 1498 *Extr. Rec. Burgh Edin.* (1869) 75 That all scuillis scail and nane to be haldin. 1542 *St. Papers Hen. VIII*, V. 215 *note*, He mette..thayme of Lowdean scayllande and goinge homewarde. *a* 1578 Lindesay (Pitscottie) *Chron. Scot.* (S. T. S.) II. 120 This airmie skailled and passit na forder at that tyme. 1637 Rutherford *Lett.* (1675) I. cxlvii. 287 How soon will this House skail! 1724 *Ramsay's Tea-t. Misc.* (1733) II. 211 Ay Jeany, Jeany, ye gade to the kirk; But when it skail'd where could thou be? 1822 Galt *Provost* xxxii, The grammar school was at the time skailing. 1858–61 Ramsay *Remin.* (1870) p. x, I was just stan'ing till the kirk had scaled. 1897 Crockett *Lad's Love* xvii. 179 A miscellaneous pour of lads and lasses almost like a kirk skailing.

Prov. 1641 Fergusson *Scot. Prov.*, Bread's house skaild never. 1721 Kelly *Scot. Prov.* 20 'A Bread House skail'd never'...Spoken when we have Bread, and perhaps want something finer. 1862 Hislop *Prov. Scot.* 40 Bread's house skail'd never. A full or hospitable house never wants visitors.

9. Of things: To spread or disperse; to pour down or be spilled.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 18836 His hare..Apon his sculdres ligand wele, Bi his eres skailand sumdele. *Ibid.* 26995 Quat es mans lijf bot fam, And a rek þat..skailles wit a windes blast. *c* 1470 Henry *Wallace* VII. 467 The stynk scalyt off ded bodyis sa wyde. 1513 Douglas *Æneid* XIII. Prol. 22 The recent dew begynnis doun to scaill. 1599 Alex. Hume *Day Estivall* 62 The clouds of raine From tops of mountaines skails. 1895 N. Roy *Horseman's Word* xxxiv, It wantit little till it would be skailin' ower the tap on's [=top of us].

Hence **Skailed** *ppl. a.*, scattered, spilled.

c 1470 Henry *Wallace* X. 691 Feill scalyt folk to thaim will son ranew. 1500–20 Dunbar *Poems* xiii. 30 Sum standis besyd and skaild law keppis.

Skail-, the verbal stem in combination, as **skail-door, -water** (see quots.); †**skail-wind,** a scattering wind.

1709 M. Bruce *Serm.* 13 (Jam.), You shall all be scattered... You are sure enough now, but beware of the next blast that is

to blow, it will make a skealwind among you. 1825 JAMIESON *Suppl., Skail-Water*, the water that is let off by a sluice before it reaches the mill. 1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-m., Scale Door*, ..a door in the mine, the opening or closing of which regulates the supply of ventilation to a district.

Skail(e, Skaille, obs. forms of SCALE.

Skailes, variant of SKAYLES *Obs.*

Skailing (skē'·liŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. SKAIL *v.*]

1. The action of the verb in various senses; dismissal, dispersion.

?*c* 1450 in *Ratis Raving* 16 Tyme of scalynge, tyme of gaderinge. 1497 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* I. 354 To Johnstoune,..that brocht tithingis of the skaling of the Inglismen, iij *s.* 1523 *St. Papers Hen. VIII*, VI. 206 He [Burbon] myght..percace have ben redy, leng before the tyme of ther skaling. 1569–70 *Extr. Burgh Rec. Edin.* (1875) 269 To enter euerye day at the skaling of the nycht wasche. 1651 in Z. Boyd *Zion's Flowers* (1855) Introd. 53 Mr...Boyd to be spoken to about the soon scaling of the Barony Kirk on Sunday afternoon. *a* 1670 SPALDING *Troub. Chas. I* (1850) I. 190 The Erll Marschall haveing sure intelligens of the skailling of the barronis army. 1805 J. NICOL *Poems* II. 158 (Jam.), It sall soon get a scailin! 1881 *Blackw. Mag.* Apr. 527/1 They were discussed and pulled to pieces at the 'scaling of the kirk', as the parishioners trudged homewards.

2. *Mining.* An opening through which the ventilating current passes.

1850 ANSTED *Geol.*, etc. IV. xix. 490 The current of air once obtained, is conducted through the passages of the mine by various contrivances, consisting of..partitions, and partial orifices or *scalings*.

Skaillie (skē'·li). *Sc.* Forms: 5 **scailȝee,** 6 **skal-, skelȝe, skail-,** 6–7 **scailyie, 7-yee, scailzie,** 8 **scaillie, skailly,** 7– **skaillie;** 8 **skell(e)y,** 9 **skeelie, skyl(l)ie.** [a. MDu. *schaelie* (mod.Du. *schalie*), or ad. OF. *escaille* (mod.F. *écaille*): see SCALE *sb.*2]

†**1.** Blue roofing-slate. *Obs.*

Frequently mentioned along with *slate*; on the distinction see quot. 1808.

1496 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* I. 275 To the man that brocht vp the scailȝee. 1516 *Ibid.* V. 115 To Johne Kelsaucht, sklatter of Striveling, to by skalȝe for the castel in Edinburgh. 1584 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* III. 678 To carie the sklaittis, skailyie, lyme, sand, and tymmer. 1621 *Sc. Acts, Jas. VI* (1816) IV. 626 To thaick þe same agane with Sklait or skailyee. 1681 *Ibid., Chas. II* (1820) VIII. 357 To be theiked with lead, sclait, scailyie or tyle. 1707 MIEGE *St. Gt. Brit.* ii. 7 Slates..of a blue colour, which they call *Skelley*, and are made use of for covering the Houses of People of Quality. 1715 PENNECUIK *Tweeddale* 5 Here is to be found Marle,..Slait and Skailly. 1808 JAMIESON s.v., The name *skaillie* [in the north of Scotland] being confined to blue slates, while the flat stones, commonly used instead of them, are called *brown sklates*.

2. Slate-pencil. Also *skaillie pen*.

1808 JAMIESON, *Skaillie Pen*, a sort of pencil of soft slate, used for taking memorandums, or writing accounts on a slate. 1871 ALEXANDER *Y. Gibb* ix. 69 A bit sclattie an' skaillie. 1885 STRATHESK *More Bits* iii. 42 To sharpen their slate-pencil or 'skeelie', as they call it.

Skailly, obs. Sc. form of SCALY *a.*

Skain(e, obs. forms of SKEIN, SKENE.

†**Skains mate.** *Obs.*–1 (Origin and exact meaning uncertain.)

1592 SHAKS. *Rom. & Jul.* II. iv. 162 Scuruie knaue, I am none of his flurt-gils, I am none of his skaines mates.

Skair (skēə1), *sb. Sc.* and *north. dial.* Also 6 **scair,** 8–9 **skare.** [var. of SHARE *sb.*, but the *sk-* is difficult to account for.] A share, portion.

c 1573 *Satir. Poems Reform.* xlii. 556 That ressoun is bot vane, To say a man may do na mair, But serue a kirk vntil his skair. 1585 JAS. I *Ess. Poesie* (Arb.) 43 Six hundreth yeares and fourtie was her scair, Which Nature ordained her for to fulfill. *c* 1650 R. SEMPILL *Piper of Kilbarchan* xiv, For of his springs I gat a skair, At every play, race, feast and fair. 1721 RAMSAY *Poet's Wish* iii, May he then but gie then Those blessings for my skair. 1819 W. TENNANT *Papistry Storm'd* (1827) 115 And chang'd her camstane for a skair O' belly-timber sweet. 1858 M. PORTEOUS *Real Souter Johnny* 31 In a tuilzie..to tak your skair.

Skair (skēə1), *v.*1 *Sc.* and *north. dial.* [Cf. prec.] *trans.* and *intr.* To share.

1720 RAMSAY *Wealth* 114 Thrice lucky pimps,..That can in a' his wealth and pleasure skair. 1725 — *Gentle Sheph.* III. iii, Had I fifty times as mickle mair, Nane but my Jenny shou'd the samen skair. 1773 FERGUSSON *Caller Water* xiii. (1789) II. 41 Caller burn..That gars them a' sic graces skair, And blink sae bonny. 1858 M. PORTEOUS *Real Souter Johnny* 31 To seek wi' fremmit folk, to skair A safer beild.

†**Skair,** *v.*2 *Obs.* Also 3 **skeȝȝrenn,** 4 **skayre.** [Of obscure origin.] *trans.* To scatter, disperse; to send *out* in various directions.

c 1200 ORMIN 16451 Forr þatt all Adamess stren Todrifenn wass & skeȝȝredd Inntill þiss wide middellærd. ? *a* 1400 *Morte Arth.* 2467 Thane the price men..skyrmys a lytill; Skayres thaire skottefers, and theire skowtte-waches. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 1089 [They] Skairen out skoute-wacche for skeltyng of harme.

Skair, Sc. variant of SCAR *sb.*1

Skait, obs. form of SCAT *sb.*3, SKATE.

†**Skaitbird.** *Sc. Obs.*–1 (Meaning uncertain.)

Guessed by Jamieson on insufficient grounds to be 'the Arctic Gull'. The first element might be Norw. and Sw. *skata* (Da. *skade*) magpie.

1508 KENNEDIE *Flyting w. Dunbar* 37 Skaldit skaitbird, and commoun skamelar.

Skaitgyld: see SCAT *sb.*3 c.

Skaith, Skaithless, Sc. varr. of SCATHE *sb.* and *v.*, SCATHELESS.

†**Skalbert,** obs. Sc. form of SCABBARD *sb.*1

1534 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* VI. 194 Veluet to be ane skalbert to the Kingis suerd.

Skald, scald (skōld, skæld). Also 8 **scalld.** [a. ON. and Icel. *skáld* neut., occurring as early as the 9th cent.; no satisfactory etymology has yet been proposed. Hence also mod. Norw. and Sw. *skald*, Da. (incorrectly) *skjald*, †*sk(i)alder, sk(i)aldre.*] An ancient Scandinavian poet. Also sometimes in general use, a poet.

Usually applied to Norwegian and Icelandic poets of the Viking period and down to *c* 1250, but often without any clear idea as to their function and the character of their work.

a. 1763 PERCY *5 Pieces Runic Poetry* Pref. A 5 b, It was the constant study of the northern Scalds to lift their poetic style as much as possible above that of their prose. *Ibid.* 49 The Ransome of Egill the Scald. 1775 WARTON *Hist. Eng. Poetry* I. 60 It is supposed, that Rollo carried with him many scalds from the north. 1830 SCOTT *Ivanhoe* xxxii. *note*, It will readily occur to the antiquary, that these verses are intended to imitate the antique poetry of the Scalds. 1869 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* (1875) III. 267 The inspiration of the scald comes upon him.

β. 1780 VON TROIL *Iceland* 198 In ancient times there was no king, or any other man of note, who had not his own skald or poet. 1818 E. HENDERSON *Iceland* II. 356 Before taking the field of battle, it was the office of the Skald to compose a poem suited to the occasion. 1886 *Athenæum* 24 Apr. 551/2 The skill with which the author has reproduced..the alliterative verse of the Skalds.

Hence **Ska·ldship,** the office of skald.

1879 E. W. GOSSE *North. Studies* 117 There was no young man so fit to be considered heir-apparent of the skaldship as Runeberg.

Skald(e, obs. forms of SCALD *v.*, SCOLD *sb.*

Skaldic (skō·ldik, skæ·ldik), *a.* Also scaldic. [f. SKALD + -IC.] Of or pertaining to the skalds or their poetry.

1775 WARTON *Hist. Eng. Poetry* I. Diss. i. e 3, The old scaldic fables and heroes. 1784 JERNINGHAM *Scand. Poetry* Advt., The system of the Scaldic mythology. 1808 FINLAY *Scot. Hist. & Rom. Ball.* I. p. xxx, The Skaldic remains preserved in the Edda. 1861 MAX MÜLLER *Sci. Lang.* v. 180 One of the chief features of this artificial or skaldic poetry. 1894 *Nation* 21 June 471/3 Here and in the other Sagas the scaldic verses are such a component part of the text that they cannot..be eliminated without serious loss.

Skales, variant of SKAYLES *Obs.*

Skalesse, obs. form of SCALELESS.

Skalfatting, obs. Sc. form of SCAFFOLDING.

†**Ska·lfering,** *vbl. sb.* and *ppl. a.* Also 6 scalf-, scelf-, skelf-. [f. LG. *schalfer* or Du. *schelfer*, var. of *schilfer*: see SKILFER.] **a.** *vbl. sb.* Scurfiness. **b.** *ppl. a.* Scurfy.

1561 HOLLYBUSH *Hom. Apoth.* 2 He yᵗ hath a scalfering head let the same take yᵉ course branne..& put a litle vinegre thereto..: yᵗ doth driue the scelfering away. 1579 LANGHAM *Gard. Health* (1633) 674 Head skalfering, cast seething hot water into Wheat branne [etc.].

†**Skalk,** obs. variant of SCALP *sb.*1

a 1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* lxvii. 23 God sall breke þe.. skalke of hare of gangand in þaire trespas. *Ibid.* cxxviii. 4 Lord riȝtwys shal hew downe þe skalkys of synful.

Skallade, -ader, -ado, var. ff. SCALADE, SCALADO. **Skallewag,** var. form of SCALLYWAG. **Skalling,** obs. f. SCALING *vbl. sb.*2 **Skaloun,** obs. f. SCALLION. **Skaltre,** var. SHALTREE *Obs.* **Skam(e)lar,** obs. ff. SCAMBLER. **Skammel, Skamyll:** see SCAMBLE *sb.*1 and *v.*

Skance (skæns), *a.* [aphetic f. ASKANCE *adv.*] Of a look, glance, etc.: Oblique, sidelong.

1866 BLACKMORE *Cradock Nowell* xliii, The cunning skance gleam from the black, deep-ambushed squinters. 1872 LE FANU *In a Glass Darkly* I. 56 With a skance look, all the time, watching the movements of the beast.

†**Ska·nder,** *sb. Obs. rare.* Also 4 **schaundre.** [ad. OF. *escandre*, var. of *esclandre*: see SLANDER *sb.*] Slander, scandal.

1338 R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (1810) 336 Of..Tomlyn,..and of Sir Alisandere,..þat boþe com in skandere for dedes þei did þore. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) III. 421 He putte of þe schaundre of his moder.

†**Ska·nder,** *v. Obs. rare.* Also 5 **skaunder.** [ad. OF. *escandrer*, var. of *esclandrer*: see SLANDER *v.*] *trans.* To bring into discredit; to slander.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 26221 For bath gain man, man seis him wirk, And þof skander hali kyrk. 1424 *Paston Lett.* I. 17 Walter..hath noysed and skaundered the seyd William.

Skane, obs. f. SKENE. **Skap(e,** obs. Sc. ff. SCALP. **Skarale,** obs. Sc. f. SQUIRREL. **Skard, Skarrit,** obs. pa. t. of SCARE *v.* **Skarschliche,** obs. f. SCARCELY *adv.* **Skarsinarie,** obs. f. SCORZONERA. **Skarste,** obs. form of SCARCITY. **Skarth:** see SCART *sb.*1, SCARTH *sb.*1 and *sb.*2

‖**Skat** (skät). Also **scat.** [G. *skat* (recorded from at least 1838), ad. It. *scarto* (F. *écart*) cards laid aside.] A three-handed card-game much played in Germany.

1864 *Athenæum* 27 Aug. 269/3 Even to the present day, the game [Ombre] is to be met with, although it has powerful rivals to contend against in Whist and Scat. 1889 E. LEMCKE (*title*), Skat: an Illustrated Grammar of the German Game of Cards. A Complete Treatise How to Play Skat.

Skatable, variant of SKATEABLE.

Skate (skēt), *sb.*1 Forms: *α.* 4–5 **schat(e,** 4–9 **scate,** 7 **scaite.** *β.* 6 **skete,** 6–8 **skeat(e,** 7 **skeite;** 6, 8 **skait(e,** 7– **skate** (7 **skatt**). [a. ON. *skata* (still in Norw. and Icel. use; Færöese *sköta*).]

1. A fish of the genus *Raia*; esp. the common species *Raia batis*, a very large, flat, cartilaginous fish much used for food.

α. c 1340 *Durh. Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 36, j Schat. *Ibid.*, x schat. *c* 1375 *Ibid.* 46 In vij scates. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 443/1 Scate, fysche, *ragadies*. *c* 1475 *Pict. Voc.* in WR.-Wülcker 764/39 *Hic garus*, a schate. 1530 PALSGR. 266/1 Scate fysshe, *raye*. 1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 39/11 A Scate, fishe, *batis, raia*. 1601 CHESTER *Love's Mart.* lxxxii, The Scate, the Roch, the Tench, the pretie Wincle. 1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* 119 Yet is it commonly contrived out of the skins of Thornebacks, Scaites or Maids. 1737 *Ochtertyre House Bk.* (S. H. S.) 27 For scate and flounders [£]0. 0. 7. 1800 COLQUHOUN *Comm. Thames* xv. 440 Haddock, Scate, fresh Ling.

β. 1538 ELYOT *Dict., Raia*, a see fysshe called Raye or skete. 1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* I. 13 Mony kyndes of fische, cheiflie in thrie, Killine, Skait, and Makrell. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* II. 439 The fresh gall of a Ray or Skeat..is an excellent medicine for the eares. 1634 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* 213 One fish like to a Skate we caught. 1701 WOLLEY *Jrnl. New York* (1860) 61 In shape like a Skate or Flare as we call them in Cambridge. 1752 HILL *Hist. Anim.* 308 The variegated Raia, with the middle of the back smooth.., The Skaite. 1836 YARRELL *Brit. Fishes* II. 422 There is reason to believe that the true Skate produces its young later in the season than either the Thornback or the Homelyn. 1884 GOODE *Nat. Hist. Aquat. Anim.* 667 Of the Skates, *Raiidæ*, there are five species on our Atlantic coast.

b. With distinguishing adjs.

1611 COTGR., *Raye estelée*, the starrie Skate. 1668 CHARLETON *Onomast.* 130 *Raia Fullonica*,..the Fuller-Scate. *Ibid.*, *Spinosa*,..the Card-scate. 1836 YARRELL *Brit. Fishes* II. 421 The Skate. Blue Skate, and Grey Skate, *Scotland.* 1882 JORDAN & GILBERT *Syn. Fishes N. Amer.* 40 *Raia ërinacea*, Common Skate; Little Skate. *Raia ocellata*, ..Big Skate. 1883 *Fisheries Exhib. Catal.* (ed. 4) 104 Crab-eating Skate, Rhina Skate.

†**2.** The angel-fish. *Obs.*

1668 WILKINS *Real Char.* 133 Scate, *Angel-fish*. 1681 GREW *Musæum* I. v. i. 96 The Scate, or Angel-Fish.

3. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *skate-fish, -liver oil, soup, -tailed, -toothed*; **skate-barrow,** the egg-case of a skate; **skate-bread** (see quot.); **skate-leech,** a leech which infests the skate; **skate maid** (see MAID *sb.*1 7); **skate-rumple,** the hinder quarters of a skate; **skate-shears** (see quot.); **skate-sucker,** = *skate-leech.*

1884 *Evang. Mag.* Aug. 344 The so-called 'Mermaid's-Purses'..the fishermen call..'*Skate-barrers'. 1681 in Macfarlane *Geogr. Coll.* (S. H. S.) III. 191 *Skatebread, which is a small fish, an inch and a half long. 1596 NASHE *Saffron Walden* O iv b, Like restie bacon, or a dride *scate-fish. *a* 1801 R. GALL *Poems & Songs* (1819) 69 Our wames e'en to our rigging-bane Like skate-fish clapping. 1882 *Encycl. Brit.* XIV. 404 The best-known example is the *skate-leech (*Pontobdella muricata*, L.), which is olive-coloured and dusted with whitish grains. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade*, **Skate-liver oil*, a fish oil often sold for the same purposes as cod-liver oil. 1836 YARRELL *Brit. Fishes* II. 422 Fishermen distinguish the females..by the names of *Skate Maid, Thornback Maid, and Homelyn Maid. 1824 SCOTT *St. Ronan's* iii, [An] auld fule.., that may hae some judgment in cock-bree or in *scate-rumples. 1810 NIELL *List Fishes* 27 (Jam.), The male..possesses long sharp-edged appendages on the lower part of his body..; and fishers call these appendages *skate-sheers. 1710 P. LAMB *Royal Cookery* 25 *Scate or Thornback-Soupe. 1829 *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) XX. 289/1 The type of the genus is *Hirudo muricata*, Lin., well known to fishermen under the name of *Skate-sucker. 1882 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* VI. 242 The Skate-sucker belongs to the genus Pontobdella. 1713 *Phil. Trans.* XXVIII. 181 *Scate-tail'd Sicilian Amaranth. 1836 YARRELL *Brit. Fishes* II. 393 The..*Skate-toothed shark. 1883 DAY *Fishes Gt. Brit.* II. 296 Smooth-hound,..skate-toothed dog, in allusion to its dentition.

Skate (skēt), *sb.*2 Also *α.* 7 **scats, schate,** 7–8 **scate,** 7–9 **skait.** *β.* 7 **skeate, skeete, skite, scheet,** 8 **skeet.** [Orig. in pl. *schates, scates*, etc., ad. Du. *schaats* (pl. *schaatsen*), MDu. *schaetse*, ad. ONF. *escache* (mod. *écache*) stilt: see SCATCH 1.

The alteration of sense from 'stilt' to 'skate' in Du. has not been clearly traced. In English the *s* was from the first apprehended as a plural ending, there being only one example of the pl. *scatses*: cf. however the Sc. verb *sketch, sheetch*. The spelling *skait* was not uncommon in the earlier part of the 19th cent.]

1. A device consisting of a steel blade mounted in a wooden sole, and fixed to the boot by means of a screw and straps, used for the purpose of gliding over ice; in later use a similar device made entirely of steel and clamped or strapped to the boot. Also = ROLLER-SKATE. Chiefly used in *pl.*

The blades are of varying length and curved or rounded at the toe.

α. [1648 HEXHAM II, *Rijdt-schoenen*, Riding shoes upon yce, called in Holland Schates.] 1684 *Ballads Gt. Frost* (Percy Soc.) 11 The Rotterdam Dutchman with fleet-cutting scates. 1688 W. CARR *Rem. Govt. United Prov.* 113 The nimble Duchmen on their Scatses. 1701 WOLLEY *Jrnl. New York* (1860) 60 Upon the Ice its admirable to see Men and Women as it were flying upon their Skates from place to place. 1710 SWIFT *Jrnl. to Stella* 31 Jan., Rosamond's Pond full of the rabble sliding, and with Skates, if you know what those are. 1777 WATSON *Philip II* (1793) II. xii. 72 The Hollanders transport themselves..over the ice, with scates. 1806 J. BERESFORD *Miseries Hum. Life* III. i, Learning to cut the outside edge, on skaits that have no edge to cut with. 1856 'STONEHENGE' *Brit. Rural Sports* 522/2

After seeing that the strap is properly crossed,..buckle it sufficiently tight to fasten the skate on securely. 1892 'F. ANSTEY' *Voces Pop.* Ser. II. 121 Several persons are having their skates put on.

β. 1662 PEPYS *Diary* 1 Dec., Over the Parke, (where I first in my life..did see people sliding with their skeates, which is a very pretty art). 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. xx. (Roxb.) 239/2 A Dutch Skite, this is a kind of wooden paten. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 24 Jan. 1684, Sleds, sliding with skeetes, a bull-baiting.

fig. 1719 BAYNARD *Health* (1740) 20 Life on smooth skeets slides swiftly by.

b. *pl.* = SKI *sb.* 1.

1698 A. BRAND *Embassy China* 57 They make use of Scates, by the help of which they pass over the Snow with great Agility. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) II. 215 They make use of skates, which are made of fir, of near three feet long, and half a foot broad. 1820 SCORESBY *Acc. Arctic Reg.* I. 242 There is no difficulty in travelling over them, even without either snow skaits or sledges. 1849 [see 3].

2. [from the vb.] An act or spell of skating; one of a series of turns in figure-skating.

1853 KANE *Grinnell Exped.* xxvi. (1856) 214 Took a skate this morning, over some lakelets recently frozen over. 1860 *All Year Round* No. 38. 277 He ceases to complete his skates, he passes from one to the other too rapidly. 1889 *Advance* (Chicago) 11 Apr. 294 Bound for the smooth sheet of ice..for a skate.

3. a. *Comb.*, as *skate-grinder, -lender*, etc.

1849 LONGF. *Kavanagh* xxviii, In his imagination arose images of the Norwegian Skate-Runners. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade, Skate-maker*, a manufacturer of iron sliding shoes. 1860 C. A. COLLINS *Eye-witness* vi. 84 What becomes of icemen and skate-lenders in summer? 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2192/2 *Skate-grinder*, a machine for grinding skates.

b. *attrib.*, as *skate-blade, -iron*; **skate-sail**, a sail rigged up on a skater's back so that the wind may carry him along.

1868 LOSSING *Hudson* 277 Three sled-runners, having skate-irons on their bottoms. 1882 *Standard* 1 Dec. 5/4 Skimming over the frozen lakes by the aid of the Danish skate-sail. 1895 *Outing* XXVII. 202/1 The skate-blades are fixed to plates which are screwed fast to heel and sole of the skating-boots.

Skate (skēt), *v.* Also 7–8 **scate**, 9 **skait**; 8 **skeit, skete.** [f. SKATE *sb.*²]

1. *intr.* To glide over ice upon skates; to use skates as a means of exercise or pastime. Also with *over* (cf. ROW *v.*¹ 1 f).

1696 S. SEWALL *Diary* 30 Nov., Many Scholars go in the Afternoon to Scate on Fresh-pond. 1730 THOMSON *Winter* 632 With him who slides; Or sketing sweeps, swift as the winds, along. 1768 WILKES *Corr.* (1805) III. 223, I scate almost every day; and amuse myself much with so noble an exercise. 1833 HT. MARTINEAU *Vanderput & S.* ii. 38 Because I cannot shoot and skait and swim? 1842 HAWTHORNE in *Longfellow's Life* (1891) I. 450, I get up at sunrise to skate. 1890 *Field* 11 Jan. 65/3 One Mile Race. G. C. Tebbutt..skated over.., Verspijk being absent.

fig. 1841–4 EMERSON *Ess., Experience* Wks. (Bohn) I. 179 We live amid surfaces, and the true art of life is to skate well on them. 1897 *Church Times* 17 Sept. 283 Cardinal Vaughan is an adept at skating over thin ice. In his address..there were many points which every one knows were weak, but he glided over them with surprising deftness.

b. *transf.* To slide or glide along; to move lightly and rapidly.

1775 C. & F. DAVY tr. *Bourrit's Journ. Glaciers* (1776) 221 Driving his heels more or less into the snow, he skaited, if I may so call it, to the bottom. 1782 MRS. COWLEY *Bold Stroke for Husband* v. ii, Those new shoes! they have made me skate all day, like a Dutchman on a canal. 1847 EMERSON *Poems* Wks. (Bohn) I. 425 The train along the railroad skates. 1891 *Nature* 10 Sept. 457/1 Other insects merely dive into the water..or skate upon the surface.

2. *trans.* **a.** To knock (one) *down* in skating; to contest (a match), to compete with (some one), by skating.

1788 MME. D'ARBLAY *Diary* April, To skate a man down is a very favourite diversion among a certain race of wags. 1847 MRS. GORE *Castles in Air* xxxiii, A match was skated upon the lake. 1890 *Field* 1 Feb. 143/2 Whether a race is skated or not.

b. To cause (something) to slide or glide over a smooth surface.

1883 *Daily News* 29 Sept. 3/3 They..turn up on deck early in the morning to 'skate the chairs'.

Skateable (skē·ˈtăb'l), *a.* [f. SKATE *v.* + -ABLE.]

1. Fit for skating upon.

1890 *Daily News* 23 Dec. 3/2 The River Cam is covered with thick ice, and is skateable from the university town to some distance below Ely. 1893 *Star* 7 Jan. 3/5 Above Hampton Court..there is absolutely no skateable ice.

2. Capable of being skated.

1891 *Field* 7 Mar. 334/3, I have a design for a cross-cut in which the lines are crossed five times; it is quite 'skateable'.

Ska·teless, *a. rare*⁻¹. [f. SKATE *sb.*²] Having no skates. In quot. *absol.*

1826 HONE *Every-day Bk.* II. 98 The skateless hire the '*best* skates' for a shilling.

Skater (skē·ˈtəɪ). Also 8 **scater**, 8–9 **skaiter.** [f. SKATE *v.* + -ER.] One who skates.

1700 S. PARKER *Six Philos. Ess.* 57 The next Generation, believe me, shall all be Scaters. 1768 WILKES *Corr.* (1805) III. 228 Ice-boats sailing up and down, the scaters, the booths, &c. All Holland is now alive. 1796 MORSE *Amer. Geogr.* II. 334 They are the best skaters upon the ice in the world. 1841 L. HUNT *Seer* II. (1864) 19 Now skaiters are on the alert. 1892 'F. ANSTEY' *Voces Pop.* Ser. II. 121 Practised Skaters being irritable and impatient.

Skating (skē·ˈtiŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. SKATE *v.* + -ING¹.] The action of the verb.

1723 *Present St. Russia* I. 30 Their chief Delight was in scating. 1753 HANWAY *Trav.* (1762) II. I. vi. 29 When the water is frozen,..it also furnishes them the amusement of skeiting. 1842 E. MIALL in *Nonconf.* II. 27 The exercise and recreation of scating. 1886 MABEL COLLINS *Prettiest Woman* x, Are you coming to the skating?

transf. 1849 LONGF. *Kavanagh* v, Another long silence, broken only by the skating of the swift pen over the sheet.

b. *attrib.*, as *skating-book, -boot, -match, -rink.*

1763 *Brit. Mag.* IV. 104 A skaiting match from hence to Whittlesea. 1867 *N. & Q.* 3rd Ser. XII. 171/1 'A skating rink' is a meadow, on to which water is let in winter to a slight depth, for the purpose of skating. 1875 BURNIE *Mem. Thomas* 54 The idle world is frantic on skating-rinks; they are springing up everywhere. 1895 *Outing* XXVII. 206/2 A little intelligent study of the diagrams in your skating-book. 1895 Skating-boot [see SKATE *sb.*² 3 b].

Skatist (skē·ˈtist). [f. SKATE *v.*] One who is fond of skating.

1876 *All Year Round* XVI. 18 Even in Chicago,..persistent and fanatical 'skatists'..have shown a decided preference for rollers. 1885 *Kendal Mercury* 30 Jan. 5/2 The skatists rubbed their hands gleefully.

Skatol (skæ·tpl). *Chem.* Also **scatol, skatole.** [f. Gr. σκατ-ός, gen. of σκῶρ dung + -OL.] An aromatic substance produced by the decomposition of albumen in the intestinal canal.

1879 *Academy* 11 Jan. 34 Bruger has found a new substance skatol. 1881 WATTS *Dict. Chem.* 3rd Suppl. 1803 Skatole forms the chief constituent of the volatile aromatic portion of human fæces. 1887 A. M. BROWN *Anim. Alkaloids* 13 The products become simpler,..as phenol or phenic acid, indol and skatol.

Skato·xyl. *Chem.* [f. as prec. + OX(Y)- 2 + -YL.] A product of the oxidation of skatol. Also *attrib.* and *Comb.*

1890 J. CAGNEY tr. *Jaksch's Clin. Diagnosis* vii. 244 It is assumed that skatol..is oxidised to skatoxyl within the body, appearing in the urine as skatoxyl-sulphuric acid. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* IV. 287 The indoxyl and skatoxyl sulphates of copper.

†Skaunce. *Obs.* Also 5 **skawnce.** [Formed by a false analysis of ASKANCE(S) *conj.*] A jest. It is doubtful whether quot. 1483 belongs here.

c 1440 *York Myst.* xxx. 291 But þis is but a skaunce. *c* 1460 *Towneley Myst.* ii. 401 Peasse, man, for godis payn! I saide it for a skaunce. *Ibid.* xxi. 353 Sir, we do it for a skawnce. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 341/2 A Skaunce, *vbi* a wylte.

Skaunt, aphetic form of *askaunt* ASKANT.

1791 W. TAYLOR tr. *Lessing's Nathan* (1887) 35 This fellow does not follow me for pastime. How skaunt he eyes his hands!

Skawburn(e, obs. forms of SCABBARD *sb.*¹

Skawde, obs. north. form of SCOLD *v.*

†Skawte. *Obs.*⁻¹ (Meaning uncertain.)

c 1460 *Towneley Myst.* xxx. 559 Sir, I Wold cut thaym a skawte and make theym be knawne.

Skayle, Skaylle, obs. ff. SCALE *sb.* and *v.*

†Skayles. *Obs.* In 6 **skailes**, 6–7 **skayles, scailes, skales**, 7 **scales.** [app. a variant of KAYLES, but the origin of the *s-* is not clear; cf. *kittle-pins* and *skittles.*] A form of the game of skittles or ninepins; also, one of the pins with which this game is played.

a. a 1566 W. WAGER *Longer thou livest* 781 You taught me first to play at blow pointe,..At skayles, and the playing with a sheepes ioynte. 1579–80 NORTH *Plutarch* (1895) II. 91 He played at skayles in the middest of the streete. 1598 FLORIO, *Sbrigli*, a play called ninepins or keeles or skailes. 1628 *Maldon Docs.* (Bdle. 199 No. 4), Playinge at..skayles, bowles, or anie other unlawfull games. 1647 PEACHAM *Worth of a Penny* 31 The most ordinary recreations of the Countrey are foot-ball, skales, or nine pins.

β. 1579 RICE *Invective agst. Vices* D ij b, Tennis balles or bowles, horse bones for scailes, nor knives for muggle pricke. 1600 NASHE *Summers Last Will* Wks. (Grosart) VI. 105 It is against my profession to vse any scales, but such as we play at with a boule. 1613 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* (1614) 257 To them that doubt of Wine, of chesse, scailes, and of Tables, thou shalt say that such sports and such drinkes are a great sinne.

Hence **†Skay·ler; Skay·ling; Skayle-pins.**

1579 RICE *Invective agst. Vices* C iv, Giuen to Bowlyng,.. Tennis plaiyng, scailyng, and such like. *Ibid.* F j, Dicers, Bowlers, Carders, Scailers, Crossers and Pillers. 1656 *New Almanack* 8 That antient Olympick game called scale pins, in memorie of nine of those gallant lads.

Skaymlis, obs. pl. f. SCAMBLE *sb.*¹

Skayne, obs. form of SKEIN, SKENE.

Skayre, obs. form of SCARE *v.*

Skayth, obs. Sc. form of SCATHE.

†Skayved, *a. Obs.*⁻¹ (Meaning uncertain.)

1.. *Gaw. & Gr. Knt.* 2167 Þe skwez of þe scowtes skayued hym þo3t.

Skeal(l: see SCALE *sb.*² and *sb.*⁴, SKAIL-.

†Skealt. *Obs.*⁻¹ In 6 **skealte, skelte.** [prob. ad. Irish *scéalta*, pl. of *scéal* tale, story.] Story, talk, rumour.

c 1580 J. HOOKER *Life Sir P. Carew* in *Archaeol.* XXVIII. 130 This was not onely her talke; but it was also the comon skealte and speache throught the whole lande.

Skean: see SKENE, Irish dagger. **Skean(e,** var. SKEIN *sb.* **Skear,** dial. f. SCARE *v.* **Skeary(e,** obs. or dial. ff. SCARY *a.* **Skeat,** var. of SCEAT. **Skeat(e,** obs. ff. SKATE *sb.*¹ **Skeath,** obs. f. SCATHE *sb.* **Skeating,** *vbl. sb.*: see SKEET *sb.*

†Skeck, *sb. Obs. rare.* In 3–4 **skec, skek(ke, scek.** [ad. OF. *eskec*, var. of *eschec* spoil, booty.] An attack made for the sake of plunder; a petty raid. Cf. SKEG *sb.*³

1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 5131 Bote hii þus mid scolkinge vpe þe englisse wende, & doþ eni skek feble ynou & abbeþ þe worse ende. *c* 1330 *Arth. & Merl.* 4324 (Kölbing), Kepe we þe strait wais Ouer alle in þe cuntrays & robben hem her sustenaunce Wiþ skec. *Ibid.* 4501 Þat..Binomen mani painems her liif & wiþ skekes & wiþ fi3t þe wayes loked wele a pli3t.

†Skeck, *v. Obs. rare.* In 4 **skecken, skekke.** [f. prec. Cf. SKICK *v.*]

1. *intr.* To make a raid *on*; to spoil, plunder.

c 1330 *Arth. & Merl.* 7409 (Kölbing), Þai hem hidden a litel þer bi, For to aspien, sikerli, þe route of þe Sarrazins.., For to skecken on hem on hest, When þai seije time best. *a* 1400 *Relig. Pieces fr. Thornton MS.* 82 Thyne executurs Of þe ne will rekke, but skikk ande skekke Full baldely in thi boures.

2. *trans.* To seize as spoil.

c 1325 *Body & Soul* 244 in *Map's Poems* (Camden) 243/1 Uche to þyke that he con skekke, Scheep or swyn..or net.

Hence **†Ske·cking** *vbl. sb. Obs.*

13.. *K. Alis.* 3563 (Laud MS.), Many proude gome.. Willeþ wenden in þe morowenyng And vpon vs maken a skekkyng. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) III. 257 Half þe peple stood i-armed wiþoute þe citee forto defende þe cite, and þe workmen for resynge and stekkynge [*v.r.* skekkynge] of straunge naciouns.

Skecon, obs. form of SCUTCHEON.

Skedaddle (skĭdæ·d'l), *sb. colloq.* [f. the vb.] A hasty or precipitate retreat or flight; a scurry.

1870 M. COLLINS *Vivian* I. xvii. 267 There was a rapid skedaddle of small legs all in one direction. 1884 GORDON *Jrnls.* (1885) 128 One feels such a mean brute to go egging on men to fight, and then to let it end with a skedaddle.

b. Without article.

1871 *Daily News* 27 Jan., Although the movement was directed by the noble sentiment of wisdom, it must be described by the undignified name of skedaddle. 1885 *Pall Mall G.* 14 Feb. 2/2 In advocating a policy of skedaddle he only represents himself.

Skedaddle (skĭdæ·d'l), *v. colloq.* Also **skee-dadle.** [prob. a fanciful formation.

'Said to be of Swedish and Danish origin, and to have been in common use for several years throughout the North-west, in the vicinity of immigrants from those nations' (Webster, 1864); but there are no forms in Sw. or Da. sufficiently near to be seriously taken into account. There is some slight evidence of the currency of the word in English and Scottish dialect use before it became prominent in America, but it is doubtful how far this is of importance for its origin.]

1. *intr.* Of soldiers, troops, etc.: To retreat or retire hastily or precipitately; to flee.

Orig. U.S. military slang, introduced during the Civil War of 1861–5.

1862 in Post *Soldiers' Lett.* II. xxxii. 90 As soon as the rebs saw our red breeches (the Zouaves) coming through the woods they skedaddled. 1863 J. RUSSELL *Diary North & S.* II. 421 For their men skedaddled, and the Secession cavalry slipping after them, had a very pretty chase. 1875 BUCKLAND *Log-Book* 246 The enemy skedaddled without coming to the scratch. 1894 H. NISBET *Bush Girl's Rom.* xxvii. 260 So that those honest fellows..might have the less temptation thrown in their way to skedaddle.

2. In general use: To go away, leave, or depart hurriedly; to run away, 'clear out'.

1862 *Illustr. Lond. News* 24 May 540/3, I 'skeedadled' from the capital of the dis-United States. 1867 TROLLOPE *Chron. Barset* I. xxxi. 260 Mama, Major Grantly has—skedaddled. 1878 BESANT & RICE *Celia's Arb.* xxxix, The middies swiftly creep over the seats and skedaddle.

b. Of animals: To run off, stampede.

1879 F. POLLOK *Sport Brit. Burmah* I. 166 There were several hundred elephants about, and they all skedaddled, making for the hills. 1888 J. INGLIS *Tent Life in Tigerland* 66 An untried elephant will not unnaturally turn tail and incontinently 'skedaddle' as hard as it can lay legs to the ground.

3. *trans.* To spill (milk, etc.). *dial.*

1862 LD. HILL in *Times* 13 Oct. 10/3 You blind buzzard, don't you see you are skedaddling all that milk?

Hence **Skeda·ddler.**

1864 *Index* 9 June 359/3 If the emigration of skedaddlers from the field of battle continues to increase. 1869 *Routledge's Ev. Boy's Ann.* 507 Consolation to skedaddlers in general.

Skee, var. SKI *sb.* and *v.* **Skeed,** obs. f. SKID *sb.*

Skeel (skīl). Now *dial.* Forms: 4–6 **skele, 6 skelle,** 6–9 **skeil, 6 skeill, skeyll, 7 skeele,** 7–**skeel**; 7 **skile,** 8–9 **skiel,** etc. [a. ON. (now Icel.) *skjóla* pail.]

1. A wooden bucket, pail, tub, or similar vessel used for some domestic purpose, chiefly for holding milk or water, and usually having a handle or handles formed by staves rising above the rim.

In early use freq. in inventories and similar documents; now only dial., chiefly Northern and West Midland.

The precise purpose for which a skeel is used varies in different localities, and this is occas. denoted by a defining word prefixed, as *bread, butter, dough, washing skeel.*

c 1330 *Durh. Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 518 In Erthening, Cheseclathe, Meles, et Skeles,..iij*s.* ij*d.* 1387–8 *Ibid.* 314 In iij skelys empt. pro lacte, ix*d.* 1459 *Ibid.* 89, j caldrun, ij skelez, j kyrn. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 341/2 Skele, *emicadium.* 1508 DUNBAR *Flyting* 231 Fische wyvis cryis, Fy! and castis doun skillis and skeilis. 1570 *Durham Deposit.* (Surtees) 186 This examinate brought water in a skeill to be maid in holly water. 1629 *Mem. Fountains* (Surtees) 365 The greater milkinge skeele, one stone trough. 1641 BEST *Farm. Bks.* (Surtees) 145 A little two gallon skeele to fetch water in. 1766 *Museum Rust.* VI. 269 She must either quit her place,

or break the *skeel*; the vessel in which water is brought from the well. 1789 W. H. Marshall *Glouc.* I. 269 Skeels..are broad shallow vessels; principally for the purpose of setting milk in. 1790 Grose *Prov. Gloss.*, *Skiel*, a beer-cooler, used in brewing. 1805 R. W. Dickson *Pract. Agric.* II. 1008 Part of the butter is spread on the bottom of another bason or *skeel*. 1825- in dial. glossaries (Cumb., Durh., Glouc., Heref., Northampt., Warw., Worc., Yorks.). 1864 A. Leighton *Myst. Leg. Edin.* (1886) 3 Mrs. Hyslop's head was over the skeil, wherein lay one of the linen shirts of Mr. Dallas.

2. *Coalmining.* (See quot.)

1883 Gresley *Gloss. Coal-m.* 224 *Skeel*, a kind of cage in which coals are lowered down the cuts or staples.

Hence **Skee·lful**, a bucketful, pailful.

1575-6 *Durham Deposit.* (Surtees) 296 This examinate had bein at St. Oswald's well for a skeil full of wayter. 1863 in Robson *Bards of Tyne* 237 But wi' skeelfuls o' wetter he brightened his jaw.

Skeel, variant of Scale *sb.*[2]

Skeel-duck, -goose: see next (quot. 1806).

Skee·ling. *Orkney dial.* Also 6 **skilling.** [prob. of Scandinavian origin.] *Skeeling-goose*, the sheldrake.

1578 [see Rout *sb.*[1]]. 1684 Sir R. Sibbald *Scotia* III. 21 *Skeeling-goose*, de quo fama est, in ejus Ventriculo Grana Piperis reperiri, de quo tamen non constat. 1806 Neill *Tour Ork. & Shetl.* 195 *Skeel-goose*, Shieldrake, *Anas Tadorna*. In Orkney it is sometimes also called skeeling-goose or skeel-duck. 1866 Edmonston *Gloss. Shetl. & Orkney* 104.

Skeely, variant of Skilly *a. Sc.* and *north.*

Skee·man. *Naut.* [ad. Du. *schieman* (hence G. *schiemann*, F. *esquiman*) 'boatswain's mate', formerly also *schimman* (so in LG. of 1557), possibly for *schipman* Shipman.] (See quot.)

1820 Scoresby *Acc. Arctic Reg.* II. 306 The line-managers, together with the 'skeeman' [*note*, the officer who has the direction of operations conducted in the hold], the cooper, and..a few others, are employed in breaking out the hold.

Skeemish, obs. or dial. form of Squeamish.

Skeen (skīn). Also **skin, skyn.** *β.* **sakeen, sakin.** [ad. Tibetan *skyin.*] The Himalayan ibex (*Capra himalayana*).

α. 1825 J. D. Herbert in *Asiatic Researches* XV. 397 A curious animal, which had been killed in hunting and which these people called Skin. 1842 Vigne *Trav. Kashmir* II. 385 Several Skyn or Ibex had been seen. 1867 A. L. Adams *Wand. Naturalist India* 233 The ibex (*Capra himalayana*)..is known to the natives by the names 'skeen' and 'kail'.

β. 1836 *Jrnl. Asiatic Soc. Bengal* V. 242 Capra Ibex? called Sakeen in Kanáwar. 1852 Gray *Catal. Specim. Mammalia Brit. Mus.* III. 151 Capra Himalayana. The Sakeen or Skyn.

Skeen: see Scheme *sb.*[2], Skene.

Skeer, dial. f. Scare *v.*; var. of Skere *a. Obs.*

Skeer, *v.*[1] Now *dial.* Also 7 **skeere.** [Cf. Skirr *v.*] *trans.* = Skirr *v.* 4.

For intransitive uses, current in Somerset and Wiltshire, see the *Eng. Dial. Dict.*

1636 R. James *Minucius Felix* 8 Children sportfully contending who should skeere shells farthest upon the top of the sea. 1880 *Cornwall Gloss.* 51/1 *Skeer*, to skim a stone on the surface of the water.

Skeer, *v.*[2] *dial.* Also **skare.** [a. ON. *skara* (still in Icel., Norw., and Sw. dial.), in the same sense. For the form *skeer* cf. Scare *v.*] *trans.* To poke out (ashes), clear out (a fire) by poking.

1674 Ray *N. C. Words* 17 *Skeer the Esse*: Cheshire. Separate the dead ashes from the Embers. 1791-6 Pegge *Derbicisms* Ser. II, *Skare*, 'to skare the fire,' to stir it at the bottom and potter the dust out. 1865- in dial. glossaries (Derby, Cheshire, Sheffield).

Skeer-devil, variant of Scare-devil 2.

Skeery, variant of Scary *a.*

Skeet (skīt), *sb.* Also 5 **skete**, 9 **skeat.** [Of obscure origin.] A long-handled scoop or shovel; in later use *Naut.* (see quots. 1769, 1846). Also *fig.*

c 1440 *Jacob's Well* 168 A skete is opyn a-forn, redy to deluyn in-to þe nesch wose, & redy to delyuere it out. A skete also sumdel, in þe heuyd, is raysed & reryd on bothe sydes...Also a skete hath a long handle. *Ibid.* 178 Lo, how þis skeet of perfyȝt sorwe sauyd þe chanoun fro wordly schame. 1662 *Ir. Stat. at Large* (1765) II. 465 Skeets for whitsters, the skeet 1*s*. 1719 De Foe *Crusoe* II. (Globe) 476 That the Men in the Boats might be ready with Skeets and Buckets to put out any Fire these Savages might endeavour to fix to the Outside of the Ship. 1750 Blanckley *Naval Expos.* 152 Skeets are for weting Yachts Sails, or the Ship's Sides. 1769 Falconer *Dict. Marine* (1780), *Skeet*, a..long scoop..used to wet the decks and sides of a ship in hot weather...This instrument.. is also employed in small vessels to wet the sails, to render them more..efficacious in light breezes. 1846 A. Young *Naut. Dict.* 284 *Skeet*, a piece of wood or iron with a groove in it, used for throwing water over the planks of a ship's sides. 1885 Lady Brassey *The Trades* 13 A man stood on the gunwale throwing water into the sail with a long-handled metal 'skeet'.

Hence **Skeet** *v. trans.*, to throw (water) over sails, etc., with a skeet; to wet (sails) in this way; **Skee·ting** *vbl. sb.*

1885 Lady Brassey *The Trades* 17 The men on board still 'skeeting' the water on to the sails. 1890 *Outing* XXIV. 470/2 Our British-made sails were..kept decently flat only by drenching the luffs with water, a process called 'skeating'.

† Skeet, *adv.* and *a. Obs.* Forms: 3-5 **sket** (4 **schet, skette**, 4-5 **skit**), 4-5 **skete** (4 **schete, sckete**), **skeet** (5 **skeete**). [a. ON. *skjótt* (Icel. *skjótt*, Norw. *skjott*; MSw. *skōt, skyt, skit*) quickly, neut. of *skjótr* (Icel. *skjótur*, Norw. *skjot*; MSw. *skioter, skiuter*) swift, quick, related to ON. *skjóta*, = OE. *scéotan* to shoot. The corresponding OE. adj. *scéot* occurs once, with the variant *gescéot.*]

A. *adv.* **1.** Quickly, hastily, immediately.

Very common in metrical texts *c* 1300–1400.

c 1200 Ormin 1266 3iff þu..ȝeornesst tatt tu mote sket Uppcumenn inntill heoffne. *a* 1300 *Havelok* 1960 Mi dore he broken up ful sket, And wolde me binden hond and fet. 13.. *Coer de L.* 5488 (W.), The ryche Sawdon, al so sket, A noble clerk he sente for thenne. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* C. 195 þenne ascryed þay hym sckete, & asked ful loude [etc.]. *c* 1400 *St. Alexius* (Laud 622) 493 þe sergeauntz stirten out sket, þai founden hym, & kisten his feet. *c* 1460 *Towneley Myst.* vii. 221 Thay were dampned, sone and sket, Vnto the pyne of hell.

2. Readily, easily. *rare.*

c 1200 Ormin 2900 Forr mann maȝȝ sket to soffte ben ȝæn þa þatt Drihhtin wrabbenn. *Ibid.* 4716.

B. *adj.* Swift, active.

c 1400 *Destr. Troy* 13434 This Askathes, the skathill, had sket sones thre. *Ibid.* 13672 Ascatus þe skete, for skath of his sones, Miche water he weppit.

Hence **† Skee·tly** *adv. Obs.*—[1]

a 1400–50 *Alexander* 5040 þen bownes agayn þe bald kyng, baldly he wepis, þat he so skitly suld skifte.

Skee·ter, colloq. form (chiefly U.S. and Austr.) of Mosquito.

1852 Mrs. Stowe *Uncle Tom's C.* xx, Miss Feely whip!—wouldn't kill a skeeter, her whippins. 1882 Lees & Clutterbuck *Three in Norway* xvii. 131 In this happy spot the 'skeeter' is unknown. 1893 J. A. Barry *Steve Brown's Bunyip* 14 Making up the fire, and throwing some green bushes on it to drive the skeeters away.

† Skeeth, obs. or erron. f. Sheath (of a plough).

1614 Markham *Eng. Husb.* I. i, The head thicke and large, the skeeth broad, strong, and well sloping. *Ibid.*, A slender skeeth.

Skeffington's daughter: see Scavenger's daughter. **Skefold,** obs. form of Scaffold.

Skeg, *sb.*[1] Also 6 **skeygg, 7 skegge, scegg, 7, 9 skegg.** [a. ON. *skegg* (Icel. *skegg*, Norw. *skjegg*, Sw. *skägg*, Da. *skjæg*) beard (of men, also transf. of a ship, of grain, etc.). Sense 2, however, may be directly from Du. *scheg, schegge* (hence G. *schegg, schech*), which represents the same Scand. word.]

1. *local.* A species of bearded oat, of inferior quality (see quots.). Also *attrib.* in *skeg-oat.*

1598 I. R. *Fitzherbert's Husb.* § 14 These [rough oats] are for the most barranest Heath or forrest ground that may be, as in Darbishiere, where they call them Skeyggs, and not Oates. 1607 Markham *Caval.* III. (1617) 18 The Oates being good, sound and full, and not like your Southerne Oates light and empty, which in the North we call skegs. 1794 R. Lowe *Agric. Notts.* 9 It was usual to get five crops running; oats or pease, barley, rye, oats, and lastly skegs. 1804 A. Hunter *Georgical Ess.* (ed. 4) VI. 259 Upon such land he may profitably obtain a crop of skegs. 1832 White *Notts.* 44 *Skegs*, a species of oats, are the '*Avena stipiformis*' of Linnæus. They grow where nothing else will, and..yield a sweet nourishing food.

attrib. 1607 Markham *Caval.* v. (1617) 9 Now there is a fourth kinde of Oate, which is a Skeg-oate, which is a small light naughtie Oate. 1613— *Eng. Husb.* I. xvii, The skegge Oate..with a beard at the small end like a wilde Oate.

2. *Shipbuilding.* (See quots.) Also *attrib.*

a 1625 *Nomencl. Navalis* (Harl. MS. 2301), *Skegg*, is that little parte of the Keele which is cutt slaunting, and is lefte a little without the Sternepost. [Hence in Boteler, Phillips (1658), and later Dicts.] 1664 E. Bushnell *Shipwright* 21 The little round piece of an Arch, in the Scegg of the Vessell. 1711 *Milit. & Sea Dict.* (ed. 4) s.v., These Skegs are very useless and inconvenient, for they are apt to snap off, and so endanger the Stern-Post. 1846 A. Young *Naut. Dict.* 284 *Skeg-shores*, pieces of plank put up endways under the skeg of a heavy ship, to steady her after part a little at the moment of launching. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2193/2 *Skeg*,..a knee which unites and braces the stern-post and keel of a boat.

Skeg, *sb.*[2] Now *dial.* Also 7 **skegg(e.** [Of obscure origin: cf. Soad [2].] A species of wild plum, esp. the bullace (*Prunus insititia*) or the sloe (*P. spinosa*).

1601 Holland *Pliny* II. 278 *marg.*, Some take them for Damascen plums, or rather for Bullois, Skegs, or such like wilde Plums. 1611 Florio, *Bulloi*, bulloes, slowne, or skegs. 1657 W. Coles *Adam in Eden* CCIX, The Sloes and Skegges grow in Hedges and Copses. 1838 Holloway *Prov. Dict.*, *Skeg*, a wild plum of a reddish colour, growing in hedges. 1851 Sternberg *Northampt. Dial., Skeg*, the wild damson. *c* 1895 in *Eng. Dial. Dict.* s.v., He laughed at me for calling berries skegs.

attrib. 1601 Holland *Pliny* I. 521 That kind of Peaches or Abricots..love better to bee grafted either upon a skeg or wild Plum-stocke, or Quince. *Ibid.* 554 Skeg trees, Brambles, the little wild Bulbous Crow-toes.

† Skeg, *sb.*[3] *Obs.* In 6 **skegg(e.** = Skeck *sb.*

1542 *St. Papers Hen. VIII*, V. 211 His Majeste meaneth not that suche revenge shall procede uppon every skegge or theffe, but uppon a notable rode or hurte. 1545 *Ibid.* 434 Upon the courrage wherof the Scottes shall perchaunce attempt somme skegg upon the frontiers.

Skeg, *sb.*[4] Now *dial.* Also 7 **sceg.** [Of obscure origin: the form *skag* is also current in south-western dialects.] (See quot. 1839.)

1625 J. Taylor (Water P.) *Arrant Thiefe* B 4, A nayle, or sceg, by chance his breech did teare. 1839 Sir G. C. Lewis *Gloss. Heref., Skeg*, the stump of a branch; also a rent in a piece of cloth such as would be made by a stump of a branch.

Hence **Skeg** *v. trans.*, to tear (cloth) jaggedly or as with a snag.

1890- in dial. glossaries (Glouc., Wilts.).

Skegger (ske·gəɹ). Also 7 **skeggar,** 8 **scegger,** 9 **scagger.** [Of obscure origin.] A young salmon, a samlet; salmon fry.

1653 Walton *Angler* vi. 141 There is more then one sort of them [salmon], as namely, a Tecon, and another called in some places a Samlet, or by some, a Skegger. 1658 Franck *North. Mem.* (1694) 255 In the South they call him Samlet; but if you step to the West he is better known there by the name of Skeggar. 1661 Walton *Angler* (ed. 3) vii. 135 Those little Salmons called Skeggers, which abound in many Rivers relating to the sea. 1740 R. Brookes *Art of Angling* I. iv. 19 The Salmon-Fry, or Scegger, call'd in some Countries a Salmon-Smelt. 1818 J. Hassell *Rides & Walks round Metrop.* II. 58 There is excellent fly-fishing for a small fish called a scagger. 1836 Yarrell *Brit. Fishes* II. 48 A Salmon or a Skegger in the Thames is now but rarely seen. 1882 Day *Fishes Gt. Brit.* II. 68 [Salmon] from one to two years old; before it has gone to the sea, it is known as a shed, skegger [etc.].

attrib. 1653 Walton *Angler* iii. 85 A little Trout called a Samlet or Skegger Trout;..these [are] by some taken to be young Salmons.

Skeigh (skīχ), *a.* and *adv. Sc.* Forms: 6–7 **skeich,** 9 **skiech, skeech**; 8 **skiegh,** 8– **skeigh.** [Related to OE. *scéoh* shy (= MHG. *schiuhe, schiech-*, G. *scheuch*), but the origin of the *sk-* is not clear: cf. Skey *a.*]

A. *adj.* **1.** Of horses: Inclined to shy; skittish, mettlesome, spirited.

1508 Dunbar *Tua Mariit Wemen* 357 He is nought skeich, na ȝit sker, na scippis nought on syd. 1513 Douglas *Æneid* XII. vi. 134 Thymetes..Castyn from hys staffage, skeich and hedstrang hors. *c* 1610 Sir J. Melvil *Memoirs* (Bann. Cl.) 34 My skeich horse ran throw them.., against my will. 1786 Burns *To Auld Mare* viii, When thou an' I were young an' skiegh,..How thou wad prance, an' snore, an' scriegh, An' tak the road! 1822 Scott *Nigel* iv, The loupin here and there of the skeigh brute of a horse. 1891 N. Dickson *Kirk Beadle* 62 The minister remarked as he saw the mare a little friskier than usual, 'She's a little skiech the day'.

2. *transf.* Of persons, esp. women. Hence, shy, coy, disdainful, proud.

c 1560 A. Scott *Poems* (S. T. S.) XXVII. 34 Quhen scho growis skeich, I byd on beich, To lat hir in the brydill bend. 1568 Chartɛris *Pref. to Lyndesay's Wks.* A ij b, Now Courteouris cum hidder! Thocht ȝe be skeich, and skip abone the skyis. 1735 Ramsay *Christ's Kirk Gr.* II. vi, And vow gin she was skeigh And mim that day. 1789 D. Davidson *Seasons* 90 The lasses turned skeigh, man, They hid themsels amang the corn. 1822 *Blackw. Mag.* Jan. 33/2 There's nae need for being sae skeigh on a night like this. 1861 J. Barr *Poems* 235 (E. D. D.), There should be something done anent her, She'll turn ower skeigh.

B. *adv.* Proudly, disdainfully.

1792 Burns *Duncan Gray* 6 Maggie coost her head fu' high, Looked asklent and unco skeigh. 1813 Picken *Poems* I. 153 Wi' guid plain fare we'll leuk fu' skeigh, Haud up our nose fu' bauld, ay.

Hence **Skeigh** *v. intr.*, to shy, startle; **Skei·gh-ish** *a.*, somewhat skittish.

1513 Douglas *Æneid* VII. xiii. 152 Harlyt wyth hors that caucht affray And skeichit at ane meirswyne by the way. 1827 W. Taylor *Poems* 12 (E. D. D.), The capering skeighish jade Made him owre the rumple fly, In dirt that day.

Skeil(l, obs. forms of Skeel.

Skein (skēin), *sb.*[1] Forms: *α.* 5–7 **skeyne,** 7– **skein.** *β.* 5 **skayn(e,** 6–7 **skaine,** 6–8 **skain**; 6 **scayne,** 7 **sc(h)aine,** 8 **scain.** *γ.* 6 **scan** (*Sc.* **sc-, skanze**), **skane,** 7 **scane.** *δ.* 6 **sken(e,** *Sc.* **skenye, -ȝe,** 7 **skiene, skeane,** 9 **skean.** [ad. OF. *escaigne* (1354 in Godefroy; mod. Picard dial. *écaigne, écagne*), of obscure origin. Cf. med. L. *scagna* (1294 in Du Cange).]

1. A quantity of thread or yarn, wound to a certain length upon a reel, and usually put up in a kind of loose knot.

A skein of cotton consists of eighty turns of the thread upon a reel fifty-four inches in circumference.

α. c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 457/2 Skeyne, of threde, *filipulum, versofilum*. *a* 1529 Skelton *E. Rummyng* 310 Some for very nede Layde downe a skeyne of threde, And some a skeyne of yarne. 1619 in Foster *Eng. Factories India* (1906) I. 116 [We] send you two skeynes [of silk] hearewith. 1681 Flavel *Right Man's Ref.* 249 Like a ravelled skeyn of silk, so entangled and perplexed. 1704 De Foe *Giving Alms no Charity*, For every skein of worsted these poor children spin, there must be a skein the less spun by some poor family. 1772 M. Cutler in *Life*, etc. (1888) I. 39 They spun forty-two and a half skeins of line, worsted, and tow-yarn. 1825 J. Nicholson *Operat. Mechanic* 392 The silk is imported into this country thus wound off into skeins. 1884 W. S. B. McLaren *Spinning* (ed. 2) 179 Woollen yarn is reckoned in skeins, the scale being based on the number of yards per dram.

β. 1442 in Willis & Clark *Cambridge* (1886) I. 387, xvj Skaynys of grete packethrede. 1486 *Naval Acc. Hen. VII* (1896) 13, vj skaynes of Saile Twyne. 1579 in *Rel. Ant.* I. 255 For 4 scaynes yelow sylke, 6*d*. 1628–9 *Sarum Churchw. Acc.* (ed. Swayne) 313, 2 skaines of silke to sewe ye cushin, 2*d*. 1688 Holme *Armoury* III. xxi. (Roxb.) 253/1 This is an other kind of engine..by which silk skaines or hanks..are vnwound. 1765 *Phil. Trans.* LV. 205 The manufacturers usually distinguish and denominate the fineness, by the number of skains which go to the pound.

γ. 1523 Skelton *Garl. Laurel* 798 Reche me that skane of tewly sylk. 1527 *Dunmow Churchw. MS.* lf. 6 b, For ii scanys of whyte threde for the copys, ii*d*. 1675 in Wise-

man *Surg. Treat.* 300, I kept the Ulcer..open with a Scane of Silk..

δ. 1541 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* VIII. 23 Foure skenȝe pakin threid, price xij *d.* 1546 *Yatton Churchw. Acc.* (Som. Rec. Soc.) 159 Payd for a skene of sylke to mend the second cope, ij^{d}. 1591 in *Antiquary* XXXII. 79 A sken of black stychinge silke, i *d.* 1622 Mabbe tr. *Aleman's Guzman d'Alf.* 54 The Skeane there breaketh soonest, where the Threed is finest. 1649 Davenant *Love & Hon.* II. iii, A skeane of brown thread. 1816 Scott *Antiq.* i, She sold tape, thread, needles, skeans of worsted.

b. *fig.* (esp. with *ravelled, tangled*, etc.).

1606 Shaks. *Tr. & Cr.* v. i. 35 Thou idle, immaterial skiene of Sleyd silke. 1625 B. Jonson *Staple of N.* v. ii, My parts depend Vpon the vnwinding this so knotted skeane. 1636 T. Cole in *Ann. Dubrensia* (1877) 39 Detraction will be ready to undoe, And ravell out my skaines, ere they can well Bee stretch't upon the Loome. 1784 Cowper *Task* III. 145 They disentangle from the puzzled skein..The threads of politic and shrewd design. 1797 *Enquirer* I. xi. 95 In the tangled skein of human affairs. 1831 Scott *Ct. Rob.* xxxi, The unwinding of the perilous skein of state politics. 1884 *Spectator* 2 Aug. 999/2 The appointment..might introduce order into the confused skein of our policy there.

† **c.** A certain length or quantity *of* girth-web made up like a skein. *Obs.*—[1]

1566 in Hay Fleming *Mary Q. of Scots* (1897) 499 Tuay skenyeis of girdis to bind up the bedde.

2. *transf.* **a.** A small cluster or arrangement resembling a skein.

1687 *Death's Vision* x. (1713) 51 *note* 13 The Glands are found to be nothing but a Clew or Skain of most fine and slender Pipes. 1818 Keats *Endym.* III. 757 Ah, gentle! 'tis as weak as spider's skein. 1874 T. Hardy *Far fr. Mad. Crowd* I. xxiii. 256 Her red cheeks and lips contrasting lustrously with the mazy skeins of her shadowy hair. 1878 J. Miller *Songs of Italy* 117 Far And near red lightning in ribbon and skein Did write upon heaven Jehovah's name.

b. A flight of wild fowl.

1851 G. H. Kingsley *Sp. & Trav.* (1900) 119 Skeins of wild geese fly clanking over our heads. 1860 Whyte Melville *Holmby House* I. 53 A skein of wild fowl..were winging their arrowy flight. 1889 H. M. Doughty *Friesland Meres* 182 Only one skein of geese passed over us.

3. *attrib.*, as *skein-silk, wool*, etc.

1764 *Jackson's Oxf. Jrnl.* 17 Mar., Scain and Barrel Pig-Tail, and Shagg Tobaccoes. 1858 Simmonds *Dict. Trade, Skein-silk Dyer*, a dyer of raw silk. 1868 *Rep. U.S. Commiss. Agric.* (1869) 289 Skein sewing-silk is made of three to ten threads twisted together, and two of these latter doubled. 1875 W. Morris in Mackail *Life* (1899) I. 318 A great heap of skein-wool has come for me.

Skein (skēin), *sb.*[2] Also **skain.** [ad. Du. *scheen* (MDu. *scheene*), = G. *schiene* in the same senses (see Grimm, s.v.), cognate with Shin *sb.*]

1. A split of osier after being dressed for use in fine basket-work.

1837 Hebert *Eng. & Mech. Encycl.* I. 154 The osiers are divided into four parts, lengthways, which are called splits, and these are afterwards reduced to various degrees of fineness, when they are called skeins. 1851–4 *Tomlinson's Cycl. Useful Arts* (1867) I. 109/1 By passing the splits between the two edges, they are reduced to skains. 1875 *Encycl. Brit.* III. 423/1 The skains are frequently smoked and dyed either of dull or brilliant colours.

2. *U.S.* A metal head or thimble protecting the spindle of a wooden axle.

1862 T. Hughes in Ludlow *Hist. U.S.* 345 One of the free-state settlers went to the blacksmith's shop unarmed, carrying a waggon skein to be repaired. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2193/2 The ordinary skein consists of three straps, let into slots in the arm.

Skein (skēin), *v.* Also 8 **skain.** [f. Skein *sb.*[1]] *trans.* To make into skeins.

1775 Ash, *Skain*, to wind and make up threads in knots or small parcels. 1864 *Intellect. Obs.* No. 34. 303 The men skeining the cotton. 1899 *Academy* 11 Feb. 184/1 Flax was ..spun into thread, skeined, and bleached in butter milk.

Skein(e, var. forms of Skene.

Skeith (skēiþ), local var. of *skeef* Scaife.

1851 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* XII. II. 369 The Yorkshire two-horse swing-plough, furnished with a 'skeith' instead of a straight coulter. 1884 *Impl. & Mach. Rev.* 1 Dec. 6727/1 The skeith or wheel-coulter..divides the slice into two parts.

Skelder, *v.* *Obs.* exc. *arch.* [A cant term of obscure origin.]

1. *intr.* To beg; to live by begging, esp. by passing oneself off as a wounded or disbanded soldier.

1601 B. Jonson *Poetaster* I. ii, An honest decayed commander, cannot skelder, cheat, nor be seene in a bawdie house, but he shall be straight in one of their wormewood comœdies. 1611 L. Barry *Ram Alley* I. i, You see how I must skelder for your good. 1633 Marmion *Fine Companion* III. iv, Wandering abroad to skelder for a shilling. 1822 Scott *Peveril* xxxviii, Such a wife would save thee from skeldering on the public.

2. *trans.* To swindle, cheat, defraud (a person); also, to obtain (money) by cheating.

1601 B. Jonson *Poetaster* III. iv, A man may skelder yee, now and then, of halfe a dozen shillings, or so. 1609 Dekker *Gull's Hornbk.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 246 He shall now and then light vpon some gull..whom he may skelder..of mony. 1822 Scott *Nigel* xxxiv, I could not skelder one piece out of them, without risk of hue and cry.

Hence **Skeldering** *vbl. sb.*

1599 B. Jonson *Ev. Man out of Hum.* Introd., His profession is skeldring and odling. 1602 Dekker *Satirom.* Wks. 1873 I. 203 If Skeldring fall not to decay, thou shalt flourish. 1606 — *Seven Deadly Sins* Ded., That art of Skeldring I studie not; I stand vpon stronger Bases.

Skeldering, *ppl. a.* *Obs.* exc. *arch.* [f. prec. + -ing[2].] Begging, sponging, swindling.

1601 B. Jonson *Poetaster* I. i, There was the madde skeldring captaine, with the velues armes. 1606 Dekker *Seven Deadly Sins* vi. (Arb.) 41 The Meanie are..skeldring soldiers, and begging schollers. 1611 Middleton & Dekker *Roaring Girl* v. i, You skeldering varlet! hold, stand. 1822 Scott *Nigel* xvii, Such base, skeldering, coistril propositions. 1826 — *Woodst.* xx, I have lived in a skeldering sort of way myself.

† **Skeldock.** *Obs. rare.* Also 7 **skaldock,** 8 **scaldrick.** [Obscurely related to Kedlock; see also Skelloch *sb.*[1]] (See quots.)

1673 Wedderburn *Vocab.* 18 (Jam.), *Rapistrum arvorum*, skaldocks. 1747 R. Maxwell *Bee-Master* (1750) 71 There are two Sorts of wild Mustard, the one commonly called Skeldocks, the other Runches...Skeldocks yield Yellow, Runches very white Honey. 1791 *Statist. Acc. Scott., Cramond* I. 217 The long continued use of the town dung has filled the soil full of every kind of annual weeds, particularly..wild mustard, called here scaldricks.

Skeldraik, -drake: see Scaledrake.

† **Skele.** *Obs. rare.* [?ad. OF. *escuele*: see Esquele.] A dish or platter.

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 1405 When alle segges were þer set, þen seruyse bygynnes,..Burnes berande þe bredes vpon brode skeles.

Skele, obs. form of Skeel *sb.*

Skelet. *Obs.* exc. *dial.* Also 6 **skelette,** 7 **scelet.** [ad. older F. (16th cent.) *sc-, sk-, squelete* (also *sch-, squelet*, etc.; mod.F. *squelette*), or Gr. σκελετ-ός, -όν: see Skeleton *sb.*]

1. A skeleton. Also *fig.*

1565 Cooper *Thesaurus, Forma ossea,..*a skelette. 1603 Holland *Plutarch's Mor.* Explan. Words, *Scelet..*is taken also for a dead carcasse of man or woman, represented with the bones onely, and ligaments. 1621 S. Ward *Life of Faith* 24 For what should I cast away speech vpon scelets and skulles, carnall men I meane. 1707 Sir J. Lauder *Decis.* Suppl. (1826) IV. 673 The Lords thought this decreet had not so much as the visage and scelet of a decreet. 1720 Pennecuik *Helicon* (ed. 2) 146 The Skelet now hath got his Breast-Plate on. *a* 1904 in *Eng. Dial. Dict.* (Cornwall), She's nothing but a walking skelet.

† **2.** A mummy. *Obs. rare.*

1603 Holland *Plutarch's Mor.* 328 To bring in place.. at their feasts a Scelet, that is to say, a drie and withered anatomie of a dead man.

Skelet, obs. form of Skillet[1].

Skeletal (skelĭtăl), *a.* [f. Skelet-on *sb.* + -al.] Of or belonging to, forming or formed by, forming part of, or resembling, a skeleton.

Skeletal muscle, a muscle attached to and controlling a part of a skeleton.

1854 Owen in *Orr's Circ. Sci., Org. Nat.* I. 168 The skeletal framework..does not go beyond the fibrous stage. 1872 Humphry *Myology* 8 The skeletal formations in the sternal region of the visceral wall. 1877 M. Foster *Physiol.* I. ii. (1879) 37 All the ordinary striated skeletal muscles are connected with nerves.

Skeleto-, combining form of Gr. σκελετός, -όν, used in a few scientific terms, as **skeletogenous** *a.*, producing, or helping to form, a skeleton; **skeletography, skeletology, skeletotrophic** *a.* (see quots.).

1851 Dunglison *Med. Dict., Skeletology,..*a treatise on the solid parts of the body. 1876 *Ibid., Skeletography*, a description of the skeleton. 1878 Bell *Gegenbaur's Comp. Anat.* 427 The tissue..which has been called the 'skeletogenous layer' or skeletogenous tissue', on account of its relations to the future skeleton. 1883 *Encycl. Brit.* XVI. 634/1 The skeletal and blood-containing and -producing tissues in fact form one..continuous whole, which may be called the skeleto-trophic system of tissues.

Skeleton (skelĭtŏn), *sb.* Forms: *α.* 6–8 **sceleton** (7 **scell-, scal-**). *β.* 7 **skelliton** (**-itan**), **skellə-, skel(i)ton, skeleten,** 7– **skeleton.** [a. mod.L. *sceleton, skeleton*, ad. Gr. σκελετόν (sc. σῶμα), neut. of σκελετός dried up, f. σκέλλειν to dry up. The Gr. masc. form σκελετός also occurs in this sense, whence late L. *sceletus* (Appuleius). Cf. F. *squelette* (see Skelet), Sp. and Pg. *esqueleto*, It. *scheletro.*]

1. The bones or bony framework of an animal body considered as a whole; also, more generally, the harder (supporting or covering) constituent part of an animal organism.

α. 1578 Banister *Hist. Man* B iiij, I haue found some of Galens Sceletons in sundry pointes. *a* 1616 B. Jonson *Masques* Wks. (1616) 966 Whose very sceleton boasts so much worth. 1665 Hubert *Catal. Rarities* 4 A Scelleton of a little Marmoset. 1688 Holme *Armoury* II. 408/1 The Scaleton of a Man..is the emblem of Mortality. 1768 Cheselden *Anat.* 50 The sceleton of a child twenty months old. *Ibid.* 59 A sceleton of an adult.

β. 1611 Cotgr., *Scelete,..*a carkasse whereof nothing is left but the bones, which we call a Skelton, or Skeliton. 1643 Sir T. Browne *Relig. Med.* I. § 38 By continuall sight of Anatomies, Skeletons, or Cadaverous reliques. 1719 De Foe *Crusoe* II. (Globe) 338 These poor Wretches look'd like Skeletons. 1756–7 tr. *Keysler's Trav.* (1760) I. 498 At the entrance hang the skeleton and some other parts of a whale. 1836 Macgillivray *Trav. Humboldt* xix. 279 All the skeletons are bent, and so entire that not a rib or a bone of the fingers or toes is wanting. 1845 Gosse *Ocean* ii. (1849) 84 Even the muscles [of the crab] becoming detached from the skeleton. 1884 Day *Fishes Gt. Brit.* I. p. xiv, The skeleton or endoskeleton of fishes differs widely in the various orders. *fig.* 1874 Sayce *Compar. Philol.* ix. 347 Grammar is not only the skeleton of a language but the very life-blood of it as well.

b. *A skeleton in the closet, cupboard*, etc.: A secret source of shame or pain to a family or person. Brought into literary use by Thackeray, but known to have been current at an earlier date.

1845 Thackeray *Punch in the East* Wks. 1886 XXVI. 112 There is a skeleton in every house. 1855 — *Newcomes* lv, Some particulars regarding the Newcome family, which will show us that they have a skeleton or two in *their* closets, as well as their neighbours. 1859 W. Collins *Q. of Hearts* (1875) 62 Our family had a skeleton in the cupboard. 1881 E. J. Worboise *Sissie* ix, She regretted having ever unveiled for her benefit the family skeleton. 1883 *Harper's Mag.* Dec. 51/1 A household that..possessed no closeted skeleton.

c. *A skeleton at the feast* (or *banquet*), a reminder of serious or saddening things in the midst of enjoyment; a source of gloom or depression.

An allusion to the practice of the ancient Egyptians, as recorded by Plutarch in his *Moralia.*

1857 G. A. Lawrence *Guy Livingstone* iii. 18 The skeleton of ennui sat at these dreary feasts; and it was not even crowned with roses. 1893 Vizetelly *Glances Back* I. iv. 86 He was..the general skeleton at all banquets. 1896 Mrs. Hungerford *Lonely Girl* xiv, To give him leisure to act the skeleton at the feast.

2. *transf.* A very thin, lean, or emaciated person or animal.

1629 Massinger *Picture* III. i, Who haue we heere? What skelliton's this?..A Ghost! or the image of famine! 1649 J. Taylor (Water P.) *Wand. West* 2, I gave 2s. 6d. for the hire of the Skelliton or Anatomy of a Beast to carry me ten miles. 1699 Bentley *Phal.* iii. 65 He came out half starved, a mere Sceleton. 1715 J. Chappelow *Right way Rich* (1717) 55 We are become an army of mere skellitons. 1797–1805 S. & Ht. Lee *Canterb. T.* II. 213 The sad sense of impending evil..wore him down to a skeleton. 1819 Byron *Juan* II. cii, A mother had not known her son Amidst the skeletons of that gaunt crew. 1847 W. E. Forster in Reid *Life* (1888) I. vi. 193 Men gaunt skeletons; women in cabins too weak to stand.

b. *fig.* A mere outline; a thing having a bare, meagre, unattractive character.

1607 Brewer *Lingua* III. ii, Such a Rawbond Skelton as Memory. 1642 Ld. Brooke *Disc. Episc.* Ep. Ded. 3 How much lesse then, when presented only in a bare and naked Sceleton? *c* 1685 Burnet *Own Time* Suppl. (1902) I. 3 He laid all the Scriptures relating to any point together, but it was but a skeleton of bones. 1857 Ruskin *Arrows of Chace* (1880) I. 49 The systems [men] learn are nothing but skeletons to them. 1878 Stubbs *Const. Hist.* III. xx. 376 Scarcely a skeleton of the proceedings of the earlier sessions.

3. The supporting framework of anything, as of buildings, etc.

a 1658 Cleveland *Whs.* (1687) 32 So by an Abbey's Skeleton of late I heard an Eccho supererogate. 1688 Holme *Armoury* III. 109/2 *Carcase*, is (as it were) the Skelleton or Frame of an House new raised. 1759 Mills tr. *Duhamel's Husb.* I. iii. (1762) 5 The plant would indeed die..: without earth, not even a skeleton of it would remain. 1792 in Picton *L'pool Munic. Rec.* II. 266 The Skeleton or Carpentry of the Dome. 1817 J. Bradbury *Trav. Amer.* 48 We noticed this day the skeleton or frame of a skin canoe. 1857 Miller *Elem. Chem., Org.* xiii. 727 The obvious use of the saline matters is to furnish a skeleton or support for the plant. 1880 Haughton *Phys. Geogr.* iv. 168 The mountain chains which form the skeleton of Europasia.

4. The bare outlines or main features, the most necessary elements, *of* something.

1647 *Case of Kingdom* 2 The bare bones, the very Skeleton of a Monarchie. *a* 1661 Fuller *Worthies* I. (1662) 2 This bare Sceleton of Time, Place, and Person, must be fleshed with some pleasant passages. 1721 Amherst *Terræ Fil.* No. 42. 222 They have the skeletons of all the arts or sciences, in which they are to be examined. 1765 Blackstone *Comm.* I. 175 Being indeed only the sceleton of the bill. 1796 Mme. D'Arblay *Lett.* 10 July, What did you write of it here?..Did you finish any part? or only form the skeleton? 1836 H. Rogers *J. Howe* ii. 27 It may be useful..to look even on the skeleton of the Scriptures. 1858 Hawthorne *Fr. & It. Note-bks.* I. 164 The sterner features remain, the skeleton of thought.

b. The outlines, plan, or scheme of a sermon.

1724 R. Wodrow *Life of J. Wodrow* (1828) 125 He took in the performances he termed skeletons. *c* 1799 J. Bunting in *Life* (1859) I. vii. 102 My stock of skeletons is yet so small, that I should find it difficult..to avoid sameness and repetition. 1808 Simeon (*title*), Helps to Composition: or, Six hundred skeletons of sermons.

5. *Mil.* The small number of men (and officers) representing a regiment which is far short of its full strength. (Cf. 7 c.)

1802 James *Milit. Dict., Skeleton,..*frequently applied to regiments..extremely reduced in their number of men. 1812 *Ann. Reg., Chron.* 77 Having on board part of the skeleton of the 10th regiment of foot, ..consisting of 10 officers, and 62 rank and file. 1837 Col. Thompson in Barrow *Mirr. Parl.* III. 1805/2 A fat soldier..said, 'I am the skeleton of the 101st regiment'. 1867 Smyth *Sailor's Word-bk.* 628 *Skeleton of a Regiment*, its principal officers and staff. 1876 Voyle & Stevenson *Milit. Dict.* 387/2.

6. *ellipt.* **a.** *pl.* A skeleton suit.

1879 Mrs. Ewing *Jackanapes* iii, It was when he had just been put into Skeletons (frocks never suited him).

b. A skeleton key.

1884 *Times* (weekly ed.) 24 Oct. 8/1, 300 implements for house-breaking,..skeletons and other keys.

c. A skeleton toboggan.

1904 *Field* 6 Feb. 204/1 There were sixteen entries on skeletons..Eight skeletons (four gentlemen and four ladies) ran in the second heat.

7. *attrib.* That is, or has the character of, a skeleton:

a. In sense 1, as *skeleton-chief, -hand*, etc.

1811 Shelley *St. Irvyne* III. xvi, Her skeleton form the

dead Nun reared Which dripped with the chill dew of hell. 1831 HOWITT *Seasons* (1837) 288 The plants which waved their broad, white umbels.., like skeleton-trophies of death. 1850 DICKENS *Dav. Copp.* xv, He was high-shouldered and bony;..and had a long lank, skeleton hand. 1894 Mrs. DYAN *Man's Keeping* (1899) 82 It was an army of skeletons—a skeleton chief at their head and skeleton horses to bear them onward!

b. In sense 4, as *skeleton map, note, plan, sermon* (cf. 4 b), etc.

1802 JAMES *Milit. Dict.*, Skeleton plan. 1829 I. TAYLOR *Enthus.* viii. 202 The skeleton-machinery of his individual existence. 1830 HERSCHEL *Study Nat. Phil.* 134 The circulation of printed skeleton forms, on various subjects. 1856 DOVE *Logic Chr. Faith* III. § 2. 138 Skeleton maps of knowledge. 1864 D. G. MITCHELL *Sev. Stor.* 35, I have but filled in the little skeleton notes in the musty memoranda of travel. 1867 FREEMAN *Norm. Cong.* (1877) I. v. 260 A sort of skeleton biographies of the leading men. 1868 HELPS *Realmah* xvii. (1876) 475 A series of skeleton sermons.

c. In sense 5, as *skeleton battalion, company, crew, regiment*, etc.

1778 A. HAMILTON *Wks.* (1886) VII. 546 Owing to the skeleton state of our regiments. 1809 A. HENRY *Trav.* 183 With my skeleton-battalion, therefore, I proceeded to the fort. 1829 BESTE *Mem.* 177 A skeleton regiment, such is the phrase, arrived from the West Indies. 1836 MARRYAT *King's Own* xxxv, To fill up the skeleton ranks of the different Companies. 1833 *Regul. & Instr. Cavalry* II. 38 The Skeleton Squadron will be composed of non-commissioned officers, or privates, with their coverers. 1881 *Daily News* 21 Jan. 5/6 The brigade depot at Chester, consisting of four skeleton companies of the 22nd Regiment.

d. In miscellaneous uses, as *skeleton ball, beam, clock, dial, key*, etc.; also **skeleton larva, shrimp, suit** (see quots.).

1860 *Merc. Mar. Mag.* VII. 125 A new Beacon has been erected.., having a *Skeleton Ball at the top. 1869 RANKINE *Machine & Hand-tools* App. 23 The first case explained will be that of a *skeleton beam, composed of a framework of slender bars of the simplest possible construction. 1842 FRANCIS *Dict. Arts* s.v., A *skeleton clock is one which is without the usual case, and so fitted up, that the interior wheel-work is visible. 1870 Miss BRIDGMAN *R. Lynne* II. ii. 23 On the mantelpiece was a skeleton-clock. 1874 MICKLETHWAITE *Mod. Par. Churches* 176 A *skeleton dial of cast iron gilt. 1888 JACOBI *Printers' Vocab.* 126 **Skeleton face*, thin-faced letter used for jobbing purposes. *Ibid.*, **Skeleton forme*, a special forme—usually of a broken and open nature. 1810 *Ann. Reg.* 296 The locks might have been picked with *skeleton-keys. 1842 FRANCIS *Dict. Arts* s.v., Skeleton keys are thin light keys, with almost the whole substance of the bits filed away. 1854 *Pereira's Polarized Light* (ed. 2) 156 The aquatic larvæ of a gnat, commonly called *skeleton larvæ, form a very amusing exhibition. 1839–52 BAILEY *Festus* 194 Distinct .. as is the *skeleton leaf Whose green bath fretted off its fibrous frame. 1861 BENTLEY *Man. Bot.* 147 This double layer.. is readily seen in what are called skeleton leaves, namely, those in which the parenchyma between the veins has been destroyed. 1884 F. J. BRITTEN *Watch & Clockm.* 29 A bar movement is sometimes called a '*skeleton' movement. 1803 *Sporting Mag.* XXI. 327 *Skeleton packs are made by taking three or four cards out of the pack. 1897 MARY KINGSLEY *W. Africa* 493 A *skeleton platform which is filled in with withies and made flat. 1833 LOUDON *Encycl. Archit.* § 766 A *skeleton roof..is formed of long poles [etc.]. 1882 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* VI. 212 The popular name of Spectre, or *Skeleton Shrimp, seems very appropriate to *Caprella*. 1836–7 DICKENS *Sk. Boz* (1850) 46 A patched and much-soiled *skeleton suit; one of those straight blue cloth cases in which small boys used to be confined. 1852 *Househ. Wds.* V. 190/1 Those premier pantaloons were snuff-coloured, buttoning over the jacket, and forming, with an extensive shirt frill, what was then called a 'skeleton suit'.

8. *Comb.*, as *skeleton-producing, -strewn* adjs.; *skeleton-wise* adv.

1888 ROLLESTON & JACKSON *Anim. Life* 726 The skeleton-producing cells appear to be derived from the ectoderm. 1888 *Amer. Jrnl. Psychol.* I. 382 To have pencil and paper at hand and jot down the dream, at least skeletonwise. 1895 SHAND *Life Gen. Hamley* I. iv. 94 On the skeleton-strewn plateau.

Ske·leton, *v.* [f. prec.]

1. *trans.* To outline or mark after the manner of a skeleton.

1861 *Athenæum* 23 Feb. 262/1 The swarthy wood-marge, skeleton'd with snow. 1897 *Daily News* 23 June 15/4 The ..thirty miles of shipping will be skeletoned in lights.

2. To construct in outline.

1880 'MARK TWAIN' *Tramp Abroad* I. 202 The true Black-Forest novel, if it is ever written, will be skeletoned somewhat in this way. 1883 *Pall Mall G.* 26 Nov. 6/2 He skeletons his act, then clothes it with language.

3. To convert into a skeleton.

1888 *Scientific American* LVIII. 203 A recipe for skeletoning and bleaching leaves.

Ske·letoned, *ppl. a.* [f. SKELETON *sb.* or *v.*] Reduced to a skeleton; skeletonized.

1850 S. G. OSBORNE *Gleanings* 53 This little blanched piece of skeletoned humanity. 1891 F. ADAMS *J. Webb's End* 233 The empty, skeletoned hide of a bullock.

Ske·letoness. *nonce-word.* A female skeleton.

1840 *P. Parley's Ann.* I. 9 A marvellously lean lady, called the 'living skeletoness'.

Skeleto·nian, *a. rare.* [f. SKELETON *sb.*] Pertaining to or resembling a skeleton; skeletal.

1801 R. WARDLAW *Let.* in *Life* (1856) iii. 51 The skeletonian method of sermonising. 1879 *Temple Bar* Oct. 258 His skeletonian hands outstretched, his parched lips suing for mercy.

Skeletonic (skelĭto·nik), *a.* [f. SKELETON *sb.* + -IC.] = SKELETON *sb.* 7; also, skeleton-like.

1880 W. S. GILBERT *Pirates of Penzance* II, Take your file and your skeletonic keys. 1883 *Scotsman* 6 Sept. 5/3 In its later days the meetings of the Club became more and more skeletonic. 1897 *Westm. Gaz.* 5 Feb. 5/2 The huge beast will subsequently be preserved in stuffed, skeletonic form.

Skeletonize (ske·lĭtŏnəiz), *v.* Also 7 **skellitonize**, 8 **sceletonise.** [f. SKELETON *sb.* + -IZE.]

1. *trans.* To reduce to a skeleton. Also *fig.*

1644 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *No Merc. Aulicus* 7 Thus..I have anatomized and skellitonized your railing Pamphlet. 1720 W. STUKELEY in *Mem.* (1882) I. 32, I likewise sceletonisd several different sorts of birds. 1747 *Gentl. Mag.* XVII. 488/1, I would propose that the bodies..should be made skeletons, and plac'd in..his own proper chaise, which shall be first skeletoniz'd by a coachmaker. 1807 P. GASS *Jrnl.* 246 Captain Lewis had four of those animals skeletonized. 1865 PARRISH (*title*), The Phantom Bouquet: a popular treatise on the art of skeletonizing leaves and seed vessels. 1885 HORNADAY *2 Yrs. Jungle* v. 51 We skinned and skeletonized many a gavial and large bird.

2. To draw up in outline; to sketch out.

1865 MASSON *Rec. Brit. Philos.* 128 We but skeletonize an unknown and unknowable cause in the form of some of its effects. 1882 MOZLEY *Remin.* (ed. 2) I. 75 Long before Simeon was skeletonising our sermons.

absol. 1869 SHEDD *Homiletics* iv. 94 This homiletic habit will appear in a disposition to skeletonize.

3. *intr.* To become a skeleton.

1831 *Lincoln Herald* 23 Dec. 3/6 Are our shipwrights skeletonising on air? 1879 *Scribner's Monthly* XIX. 182 His brethren gathered to bear him down, And lay him away to skeletonize.

Hence **Ske·letoniza·tion,** reduction to a skeleton; **Ske·letonized** *ppl. a.*, reduced to a skeleton; drawn up in outline; **Ske·letonizer,** an insect which reduces leaves to a skeleton; **Ske·letonizing** *vbl. sb.* (also *attrib.*).

1795 SOUTHEY *Let.* in C. C. Southey *Life* (1849) I. 252 Perhaps the climate may agree with me, and counteract a certain habit of *skeletonisation. 1834 *Gentl. Mag.* CIV. I. 185 The *skeletonized Death, with all the animation of a living person. 1857 TAYLOR *Hist. Antiq. Cupar* 17 The Revolution consigned the skeletonised remains to their present resting place. 1885 SIR P. PERRING *Hard Knots* 215 Yet have we here..a skeletonized sentence, or rather a succession of skeletonized sentences. 1891 *Cent. Dict.* s.v., The apple-leaf *skeletonizer, *Pempelia hammondi*. 1869 SHEDD *Homiletics* viii. 186 *note*, *Skeletonizing is to sermonizing what drawing is to painting. 1884 COUES *N. Amer. Birds* 48 Complete skeletonizing of a bird is a special art of some difficulty. 1885 *Athenæum* 14 Nov. 640/2 Observations as to definite layers [in leaves] and the relation of these to the skeletonizing process.

Ske·letonless, *a.* [f. SKELETON *sb.* + -LESS.] Having no skeleton.

1883 W. S. KENT in *Fisheries Bahamas* 38 The skeletonless Slime-sponge (*Halisarca Dujardinii*). 1888 *Amer. Nat.* Oct. 894 Its soft and skeletonless body.

Ske·letonly, *adv. rare*⁻¹. [f. SKELETON *sb.* + -LY ².] Like a skeleton.

1847 MEDWIN *Life Shelley* II. 242 Byron.., at Genoa, had become skeletonly thin.

† Skeletontal, *a. Obs. rare*⁻¹. In 7 sceletantall. [irreg. f. SKELETON *sb.* + -AL.] Skeleton-like.

1651 BIGGS *New Disp.* P 192 His sceletantall fabrick appear'd as a pale statue of exanguinality.

Skeletony (ske·lĭtŏni), *a.* [f. SKELETON *sb.* + -Y ¹.] Skeleton-like. Also *Comb.*

1852 M. CAMPBELL in *Mem.* (1877) I. vii. 242 For the first half-hour it [the address] was dry and skeletony. 1860 *All Year Round* No. 38. 280, I was still examining the atrophied arm,..feeling..its dark nails and bent skeletony fingers. 1884 A. PUTNAM *Ten Yrs. Police Judge* xii. 104 The cattle ..were a skeletony-looking herd.

Skeleto-trophic: see SKELETO-.

Skelett(e, obs. forms of SKILLET ¹, SKELET.

Skelf. *Sc.* (and *north. dial.*). Also 4–5 **skelfe.** [prob. ad. Du. or LG. *schelf*, related to SHELF *sb.*] A shelf (see also quot. 1802).

1396–7 *Durh. Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 214, j skelfe pro caseo. 1408 *Ibid.* 223, ij skelfes. *c* 1480 HENRYSON *Fables, Town & C. Mouse* xv, Baith cheis and butter vpoun thair skelfis hie. 1725 RAMSAY *Gentle Sheph.* III. ii, On skelfs foregainst the door. 1768 ROSS *Helenore* II. 71 On skelfs a' round the wa's the cogs were set. 1802 FINDLATER *Agric. Peebles* 41 Above it, lying against the slaunt of the roof, is the *skelf*, or frame, containing shelves. 1837 R. P. GILLIES *Recoll. Sir W. Scott* III. ix. 200 The whole of the *skelves* cam to an accident and fell down. 1891 W. ALEXANDER *Johnny Gibb* (1873) 169 He has a hantle o' rael gweed claith upo' yon back skelfs.

Skell. *north. dial. rare.* [a. ON. *skel*, = OE. *scell* SHELL *sb.*] A shell.

c 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 14683 Luytel notes þey toke, &..dide y[n] þe schelles [*v.r.* skellis] fyr & tunder. *c* 1440 *York Myst.* II. 65 þe see now will I set within..Othir fysch to flet with fyne, sum with skale and sum with skell. 1878 DICKINSON *Cumbld. Gloss.* s.v., Borrowdale nuts hes thin skells.

Skell, variant of SCALE *sb.*⁴

Skellach (ske·lăx). *Sc.* Also 7 **skelloche.** [Alteration of next.] A small bell. Also *attrib.*

1653 in R. S. Fittis *Eccl. Annals Perth* (1885) 43 On the Skelloche littill Bell, anno dom. 1400. 1851 D. WILSON *Preh. Ann.* II. IV. ix. (1863) 474 The recovery of another iron skellach .. which lay buried .. alongside a group of stone cists.

Ske·llat. *Sc.* and †*north.* Now *rare.* Forms: 4 **skellet**, 6– **skellat**, 9 **skellit, skillet, -at.** [ad. OF. **eskelette* (*escalete, esqualette*), var. of *eschelette*, etc., dim. of *esquelle, eschelle* (cf. med.Lat. *scella, scilla*, It. *squilla*, Sp. *esquila*, Prov. *esquella*), ad. OHG. *scella, scilla* (MHG. and G. *schelle*), related to the verb *scellan* (G. *schellen*) to sound, resound, ring.]

1. A small bell, a hand-bell, used for ecclesiastical purposes, or by a bellman. Also *transf.*, a scolding, railing woman.

Also, 'a sort of iron rattle, used for the same purpose as a hand-bell, for making proclamations on the street' (Jamieson).

1398–9 *Durh. Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 268 In j corda de canabo emp. pro skellet, ij *d.* 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* xxxiii. 50 Vnto no mess pressit this prelat, For sound of sacring bell nor skellat. *a* 1810 R. TANNAHILL '*Come hame to your lingels*' 5 Guidwife, ye're a skillet, your tongue's just a bell. 1856 J. STRANG *Glasgow & its Clubs* 214 The triple tinkle of his skellat was heard. 1883 R. M. FERGUSSON *Rambling Sk.* 11 The Small bell, called the skellat or shrill-toned bell, also called the fire bell, is not hung.

2. *attrib.*, as *skellat-bell, -bellman, -tongue.*

1578 in R. S. Fittis *Eccl. Annals Perth* (1885) 43 The Assembly ordains..to buy an Tow to the Little Skellet Bell. 1806 J. GRAHAME *Birds of Scot.* 37 Skillet tongue, Shrilly reviling. 1827 W. TAYLOR *Poems* 112 (E. D. D.), Here lies Maggie, a skillat bell,..Rail'd on her neibours air and late. 1864 A. MCKAY *Hist. Kilmarnock* 114 A hand-bell, called the skellat-bell and by some the passing-bell, was rung through the streets.

Skeller (ske·lə), *v. north. dial.* [Of obscure origin.] *trans.* To cause to warp, twist, shrivel, or blister, esp. with heat. (Cf. SKELLOW *v.*)

1691 RAY *N. C. Words* (ed. 2) 63 *Skellerd*, warpt, cast, become crooked; *Darbish.* 1818 WILBRAHAM *Chesh. Gloss.*, *Skellerd*, crooked, out of the perpendicular. 1828 CARR *Craven Gloss.*, *Skeller*, to warp, to cast. 1876 F. K. ROBINSON *Whitby Gloss.* s.v., It's all skeller'd to one side. 1883 *Almondb. & Huddersf. Gloss.* s.v., Paint blistered with heat is also said to be skellered.

Skellet, -it, variants of SKILLET ¹.

† Skellett. *Obs.*⁻⁰ (See quot.)

1688 HOLME *Armoury* III, xxi. (Roxb.) 251/2 He beareth Gules a weavers skellett, Or: wyered Argent.. This is part of the Loome and is a long square of wood, made after the maner of an Embrautherers tent to slip up and down.

Ske·llied, *a. Sc.* [Cf. SKELLY *v.*] Squint-eyed; squinting.

1821 HOGG *Jacobite Relics* Ser. II. 40 There's gentle John, and Jock the slorp, And skellied Jock, and bellied Jock. 1870 J. K. HUNTER *Studies Char.* 257 Willie had a real earnest servant-lass, who was skellied in one eye.

Skelloch (ske·lŏx), *sb.*¹ *Sc.* Also 9 **skellach, skellook, skillook.** [Obscurely related to *kellock* KEDLOCK: cf. also the earlier SKELDOCK. The Gael. *sgeallag* is prob. from Sc.] Wild mustard, *Sinapis arvensis.* Also, wild radish (Jamieson).

1743 MAXWELL *Sel. Transact.* 80 This Ground, if it is much dunged, runs excessively to Runches, Skellochs, etc. *c* 1800 H. MACNEILL *Poems* (1844) 55 The skelloch bright 'mang corn sae green. 1817 *Blackw. Mag.* II. 235 He sows his barley early, and it is choked by runches and skelloch. 1871 W. ALEXANDER *Johnny Gibb* (1873) 202 His patches of corn bloomed a bright yellow with the ancient 'skellach'.

Skelloch (ske·lŏx), *sb.*² *Sc.* Also **skellook.** [Cf. SKELLOCH *v.*] A shrill cry; a scream, shriek.

1808 JAMIESON, *Skelloch*, a shrill cry, a squawl. 1824 SCOTT *Redgauntlet* let. xi, Bang gaed the knight's pistol, and Hutcheon, that held the ladder, and my gudesire.., hears a loud skelloch. 1894 CROCKETT *Raiders* (ed. 3) 166 Did ye think the bit stot was the Foul Thief himsel' that ye gied that skelloch!

Skelloch (ske·lŏx), *v. Sc.* [prob. imitative.] *intr.* To shriek, yell; to resound shrilly.

1808 JAMIESON, *To Skelloch*, to cry with a shrill voice. 1819 W. TENNANT *Papistry Storm'd* (1827) 180 [He] skelloch'd at ane awfu' rate, As onie man in sic a state Would do. 1901 G. DOUGLAS *House w. Green Shutters* 124 Her laugh went skelloching up the street.

Skelloche, obs. variant of SKELLACH.

Skellow, to warp: variant of SKELLER *v.*

1888 *Pall Mall G.* 31 Jan., Not without fear and trembling lest the wood should prove perverse and 'skellow'.

Ske·llowed, *ppl. a.* (See quots. and prec.)

1607 MARKHAM *Caval.* VI. (1617) 56 If it be not iust and euen, but longer or wider one way then another, which of Sadlers is called a skellow'd tree, then it.. will hurt a horse. *a* 1796 PEGGE *Derbicisms* Ser. II, *Skellowed*, warped.

Skellum (ske·lŭm). Also 7 **skel-, scellum, skell-, schellam, 7–9 schellum, skelm.** [ad. Du. *schelm* (sxe·ləm), a. G. *schelm* rascal, devil, pestilence, carcase, etc. (MHG. *schelme*, OHG. *scelmo*): cf. SCHELM. ON. *skelmir*, Da. *skelm*, Sw. *skälm* are from LG.]

1. A rascal, scamp, scoundrel, villain. Now *arch.* (except in S. Africa).

1611 B. JONSON *Coryat's Crudities* Introd. Verses, Going to steal 'em He findeth soure grapes and gripes from a Dutch Skelum. 1663 PEPYS *Diary* 3 Apr., He ripped up Hugh Peters (calling him the execrable skellum). *a* 1693 *Urquhart's Rabelais* III. xlviii. 386 Pander, Knave, Rogue, Skelm, Robber or Thief. 1723 *Trickology* 22 A Piece of Villainy peculiar to a finisht Skellum, or consummated Scoundrel. 1790 BURNS *Tam o' Shanter* 19 She tauld thee weel thou was a skellum, A blethering, blustering, drunken blellum. 1814 SCOTT *Wav.* lxxi, That schellum Malcolm. 1888 BEVIS CANE *Haunted Tower* 194 What then ye skellum? What then?

attrib. 1673 DRYDEN *Amboyna* I. i, A certain Plot, which I have long been brewing, against these Skellum English.

2. In S. African use applied to animals.

1850 R. G. CUMMING *Hunter's Life S. Afr.* (1902) 8/2 Move yourselves forward, there, you skellums! 1887 RIDER

HAGGARD *Jess* i. 6 But I am glad that you have killed the *skellum* (vicious beast).

Ske·lly, *sb.*[1] *Sc. rare.* [Of doubtful origin: cf. Irish *sceilg* reef, rock.] A rock, a skerry.

1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* v. iv. 89 On the scherp skelleis, to hir wanhap, [she] Smat with sic fard the airis in flenderis lap. 1819 W. TENNANT *Papistry Storm'd* (1827) 102 The storm that dang him frae the deep, Upon our tangly skellies steep. 1839 T. CHALMERS in Hanna *Mem.* (1852) IV. v. 81 The rocks not high; but having more the character of skellies projecting into the sea.

Skelly (ske·li), *sb.*[2] *north.* Also 8 **schell(e)y**, 9 **skilly**. [? f. SKELL *sb.* + -Y.]

1. The gwyniad, the fresh-water herring, *Coregonus clupeoides.*

1740 R. BROOKES *Art of Angling* I. xiii. 40 The Schelley is bred in..Ulles-Water...In shape it is more like a Herring than a Trout. 1787 J. CLARKE *Surv. Lakes Cumbld.* 38 The skelly is remarkable for this, no bait has ever been found which they will take. 1805 DOROTHY WORDSWORTH *Jrnls.* (1897) II. 156 Hundreds of fish were leaping in their prison. They were all of one kind, what are called Skellies. 1899 J. WATSON *Lake District Fisheries* vii. 91 The gwyniad (locally skelly) occurs in Ullswater.

2. The chub, *Cyprinus cephalus.*

1769 PENNANT *Brit. Zool.* III. 268 *note.* 1794 HUTCHINSON *Hist. Cumbld.* I. 33/1 Chub or Skelly...The skelly is plentiful in almost all our rivers. 1836 YARRELL *Brit. Fishes* I. 358 It [the Chub] is the Skelly of Cumberland, so called on account of the large size of its scales. 1894 in *Eng. Dial. Dict.* s.v., That they no longer employ a man to kill skellies, but that the members devote one week to a competition in skelly catching.

3. The roach, *Leuciscus rutilus.* [Cf. Da. *skalle.*]

1846 BROCKETT *N. C. Gloss.* (ed. 3) s.v.

4. The dace or dare, *Leuciscus vulgaris.*

1846 BROCKETT *N. C. Gloss.* (ed. 3) s.v. 1904 in *Eng. Dial. Dict.* s.v., The Petteril skellies were hated of the single-hair trout-fisher.

Skelly (ske·li), *v. Sc.* and *north. dial.* Also 8 **scalie.** [ad. ON. **skjelga* (cf. Norw. *skjegla*), refl. *skjelgask*, f. *skjalgr* (MSw. *skälgh, skielgh*, Norw. *skjegl*), adj., = OHG. *scelah, sceleh* (MHG. *schelch*), OE. *sceolh*, squint, skew.] *intr.* To squint.

Cf. SKELLIED *a.*; the noun and adj. *skelly*, and the comb. *skelly-eyed*, are also in dialect use.

1776 HERD *Scottish Songs* (ed. 2) II. 171 Sae proud was he o' his Maggie, Tho' she did baith scalie and squint. 1816 SCOTT *Old Mort.* iv, 'It is the very man!' said Bothwell;—'skellies fearfully with one eye?' 1829– in dial. glossaries (Northumb., Durh., Cumb., Yks.).

Skelp, *sb.*[1] Chiefly *north.* and *Sc.* Also 6 **scelpe.** [Related to SKELP *v.*[1]] A blow, *esp.* one given with the flat of the hand, or with something having a flat surface; a slap or smack; also, the noise made by a blow of this kind.

Also, in East Anglia, a strong kick (cf. the vb.). For other variations of meaning see the *Eng. Dial. Dict.*

c 1440 *York Myst.* xxxiii. 35 [He shall be] with schath of skelpys yll scarred. *Ibid.* 370 Fra oure skelpes not scatheles he skyppes. *c* 1460 *Towneley Myst.* iii. 323 Yit for drede of a skelp help well thi dam. *Ibid.* xii. 425 Now, in payn of a skelp This sang thou not lose. *c* 1550 BALE *K. Johan* (Camden) 26 He regardyth no more the pope than he dothe a whelpe. Well lett hym alone, for that wyll I geve hym a scelpe. ? 1555 LYNDESAY *Satyre* 127 (Bann. MS.), I sowld haif revin thame all in raggis, And laid on skelp for skelp. *a* 1600 *Burel's Pilgr.* in Watson *Coll. Sc. Poems* (1709) II. 48 Quhyls luking comfort to resaue, Quhyls luking for a skelp. 1794 BURNS *Contented wi' Little* 3, I gie them a skelp as they're creepin' alang. 1808 JAMIESON s.v., The water is said to come with a *skelp* on a boat, when its shock is sudden and violent. 1823 E. MOOR *Suffolk Words* 352 *Skelp*, a blow. 1833 M. SCOTT *Tom Cringle* xvii, They came crack down on their bottoms with a loud skelp on the seats. 1887 *Schoolmaster* 15 Jan. 104/1 He got two skelps on the side of the head.

fig. a 1774 R. FERGUSSON *Drink Eclogue* Poems 1789 II. 75 Wi' skelps like this fock sit but seenil down To wether-gammon.

Skelp, *sb.*[2] Also scelp. [? f. SKELP *v.*[1] 1.]

1. A thin narrow plate or flat strip of iron or steel, which by twisting and welding is converted into the barrel of a gun.

1811 *Patent* (Bradley) No. 3437, The manufacturing of iron skelps (for the making of barrels for fire-arms)..by rollers instead of by forge hammers. 1833 J. HOLLAND *Manuf. Metal* II. 96 When a common musket barrel is made, the maker inserts the thicker end of a skelp in the fire. 1881 GREENER *Gun* 219 He made the barrels by twisting a scelp with bevelled edges round a mandril.

2. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *skelp-bender, -bending* adj., *-forger, -iron, -twist, -welding.*

1845 *Penny Cycl.* Suppl. I. 672/1 A strike among the skelp-forgers. 1846 GREENER *Sci. Gunnery* 147 A barrel made from threepenny skelp iron. 1853 URE *Dict. Arts* (ed. 4) I. 724 This method has entirely superseded the skelp-welding by hand. 1892 GREENER *Breech-Loader* 4 The cheapest kind of twist barrels is that called scelp twist.

† **Skelp,** *a. Obs.*[-1] [f. next.] Good for galloping on (cf. SKELPING *vbl. sb.*).

1607 MARKHAM *Caval.* III. (1617) 30 But if he haue not sweat at all, then you shall vpon some faire skelpe earth gallop him till you make him sweat.

Skelp, *v.*[1] Chiefly *north.* and *Sc.* Also 5–6 **skelpe,** 9 **scelp.** [prob. imitative.]

1. *trans.* To strike, beat, slap, smack, in later use *spec.* on the breech.

a 1400–50 *Alexander* 1924 Ledis me him hedire, þat I may him skelp with a skorge. *c* 1440 *York Myst.* xxxiii. 338 Skelpe hym with scourges and with skathes hym scorne. 1526 SKELTON *Magnyf.* 2207, I shall skelpe the on the skalpe; lo, seest thou that? 1725 RAMSAY *Gentle Sheph.* v. iii, I'm friends wi' Mause,..Altho' they skelpit me. 1797 BRYDGES *Hom. Trav.* II. 348 Euripylus, who saw them skelp him, Resolved at any rate to help him. 1861 READE *Cloister & H.* iii, Why not take 'em by twos across thy knee, and skelp em till they cry Meculpee? 1888 F. HUME *Madame Midas* I. iii, They should hae been skelped for their idleness.

absol. 1837 R. NICOLL *Poems* (1843) 133 She scolds at the lasses, she skelps at the bairns.

b. To drive with blows.

1824 in Mactaggart *Gallovid. Encycl.* 126 Mons Meg we'll drag out, and we'll thunner him down, We'll skelp him to hell. 1861 R. QUINN *Heather Lintie* (1863) 131 My fair opponents skelp me aff. 1876 SMILES *Sc. Natur.* i. 17 A byke was regarded as a glorious capture,..because of the fun the boys had in skelpin' out the bees.

2. *E. Anglia.* To kick violently.

a 1825 FORBY *Voc. E. Anglia* 303 *Skelp*, to kick with violence. 1895 RYE *E. Angl. Gloss.*

3. *intr.* To skip, trip, walk, or run rapidly; to hurry. Also with *it.*

1721 RAMSAY *Rise & Fall of Stocks* 68 Instead of coach, on foot they skelp it. 1786 BURNS *Holy Fair* ii, Three hizzies, early at the road, Cam skelpan up the way. 1790 — *Tam o' Shanter* 81 Tam skelpit on thro' dub and mire. 1816 SCOTT *Bl. Dwarf* vi, If he will not take warning,..and no keep skelping about here. 1828 CARR *Craven Gloss., Skelp*, to move quickly, to skelp away. 1902 BELLOC in *Academy* 3 May 453/1 Two hundred leagues and a half Marched I, skelped I, slipped I.

Skelp, *v.*[2] [? f. SKELP *sb.*[2], or a special use of prec.] *trans.* To beat out into a skelp.

1831 J. HOLLAND *Manuf. Metal* I. 139 The sheet, when drawn from the furnace, is skelped upon the floor, or on an iron plate.

Ske·lper [1]. *dial.* [f. SKELP *v.*[1]] One who slaps or smacks; also, a specially large thing or tall person.

1790 BURNS *To a Gentleman*, etc. 7 That vile doup-skelper, Emperor Joseph. 1790 GROSE *Prov. Gloss., Skelper*, a large thing of any kind. 1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss., Skelper*, a tall, lanky youth.

Ske·lper [2]. [f. SKELP *v.*[2]] A hammer used in forging skelps.

1831 J. HOLLAND *Manuf. Metal* I. 139 Which was formerly done almost exclusively by the forge-hammer or skelper.

Skelpie-limmer. *Sc.* [f. SKELP *v.*[1]] A jade, hussy.

1785 BURNS *Halloween* xiv, Ye little Skelpie-limmer's-face! I daur you try sic sportin. 1819 W. TENNANT *Papistry Storm'd* (1827) 13 And brewsters tongues, wi' dads and dabs, Rome's skelpie-limmer thumpet.

Ske·lping, *vbl. sb. dial.* [f. SKELP *v.*[1]] The action of the verb in various senses. Also *skelping earth* (see quot. 1607 and cf. SKELP *a.*).

1607 MARKHAM *Caval.* III. (1617) 29 More, Medow, Heath, greenswarth, or grasse leyes, all of which my countrymen of the North call skelping earths, because a horse may.. gallop smoothly thereupon. 1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* xvii, He must have been a great villain, indeed,..and I wish I had the skelping o' him. 1820 — *Monast.* iv, I reckon their skelping back and forward..has been a main cause of a' the breach between us and England. 1895 CROCKETT *Men of Moss-Hags* xxxiii, We were but silly boys that needed skelping.

Ske·lping, *ppl. a. dial.* [f. as prec.] That skelps, in various senses; also, big, large, lusty.

1607 MARKHAM *Caval.* VI. (1617) 3 If the fierce Horse haue in his skelping course either upwithes, inwithes, or downe-withes. 1785 BURNS *Jolly Beggars* 22 And aye he gies the tozie drab The tither skelpin' kiss. 1787 GROSE *Prov. Gloss., Skelping*, full, bursting, very large. 1828 CARR *Craven Gloss., Skelping*, stout, lusty. 'That's a skelping lass'. 1866 BROGDEN *Prov. Lincs., Skelping*, large or fine.

† **Skelt,** *v. Obs.* [Of obscure origin.]

1. *intr.* To hasten; to be diligent.

13.. *St. Erkenwolde* 278 in Horstm. *Altengl. Leg.* (1881) 272 For as he [God] says in his sothe,..þe skilfulle & þe vnskathely skeltone ay to me. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 1554 Scoleres skelten þeratte þe skyl forto fynde, Bot þer was neuer on so wyse coube on worde rede.

2. *trans.* ? To spread or scatter hurriedly.

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 1186 Penne was þe sege sette þe Cete aboute, Skete skarmoch skelt, much skabe lached. *Ibid.* 1206 Hiȝe skelt was þe askry þe skewes an-vnder.

Hence † **Ske·lting** *vbl. sb. Obs.*

c 1400 *Destr. Troy* 1089 The Grekys..Skairen out skoute-wacche for skeltyng of harme. *Ibid.* 6042 With skowte wacche for skathe & skeltyng of harme.

Skelter (ske·ltəɹ), *v.* [f. the second element in HELTER-SKELTER.] *intr.* To dash along, hurry, rush, scurry.

1852 R. F. BURTON *Falconry Valley Indus* i. 8 Those that were on the wing began skeltering in headlong flight. 1868 WALLACE *Malay Archip.* 65 Numbers of women skeltered away as I walked through the village. 1899 *Daily News* 24 Nov. 4 They will come skeltering back fast enough.

Hence **Ske·ltering** *ppl. a.*

1869 BLACKMORE *Lorna D.* xxii, After the long dry skeltering wind of March..,there had been a fortnight of soft wet.

Skelton, obs. form of SKELETON.

Skelto·nian, *a.* [-IAN.] = SKELTONICAL.

1867 HALES in H. & Furnivall *Bp. Percy's MS.* I. 211 Some Skeltonian doggrel about the famous fight. 1889 LOWELL *Latest Lit. Ess.* (1891) 139 Did not Skelton borrow his so-called Skeltonian measure from France?

Skelto·nic, *a.* and *sb.* [-IC.] **a.** *adj.* = next. **b.** *sb. pl.* Skeltonical lines.

1843 DYCE in *Skelton's Wks.* I. p. cxxix, A poem called *Philargyrie*..has been frequently mentioned as a 'Skeltonic' composition. 1908 G. SAINTSBURY in *Camb. Hist. English Lit.* II. 212 Irregular octosyllables, sometimes approaching 'Skeltonics'.

Skeltonical (skeltɒ·nikăl), *a.* [f. the name *Skelton* (see def.) + -ICAL.] Of verse: Pertaining to, or characteristic of, John Skelton (*c* 1460–1529); consisting of short irregular lines with frequent running on of the same rime.

1589 in Warton *Hist. Eng. Poetry* xxxiii, A Skeltonicall salutation..Of the Spanish nation. 1601 MUNDAY *Downf. Earl of Hunt.* III. iii. I ij, You fall into your vaine, Of ribble rabble rimes, Skeltonicall. 1630 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Wks.* II. 245 A Skeltonicall salutation to those that know how to reade. 1843 DYCE in *Skelton's Wks.* I. p. cvii, Examples of the metre called Skeltonical. *Ibid.* p. cxxix, Which has some Skeltonical lines. *Ibid.*, Various Skeltonical passages. 1873 MORLEY *Eng. Lit.* (1886) 217 This form of verse, which has been called Skeltonical, appeared in the delicately playful *Boke of Phyllyp Sparowe.*

Ske·ltonize, *v. rare* [-1]. [f. as prec. + -IZE.] *intr.* To compose Skeltonical verse.

1822 SCOTT *Nigel* v. *motto*, Skelton Skeltonizeth.

Skelum, obs. form of SKELLUM.

Skeluolliche, obs. form of SKILFULLY.

Ske·lvy, *a. Sc.* [f. SKELF: cf. *shelvy.*] Full of shelves or ledges.

1787 BURNS *Brnar Water* iv, Here, foaming down the skelvy rocks, In twisting strength I rin.

Skelyng, obs. f. SKILLING, hut. **Skelȝe,** obs. f. SKAILLIE *Sc.* **Skemble,** var. of SCAMBLE *v.* **Skem(e,** obs. ff. SCHEME, SKIM. **Skemere,** obs. f. SKIMMER *sb.*

† **Skemler,** variant of SCAMBLER *Sc.*

1595 DUNCAN *App. Etym.* (E. D. S.), *Assecla*, a skemler, a page, a lackay.

Skemmel, -il, Skemmle, var. ff. SCAMBLE.

Skemp, Sc. variant of SCAMP.

Skemting, variant of SKENTING *Obs.*

Sken, *v. dial.* [Of obscure origin: perh. related to the stem of ASKANCE.] *intr.* To squint; to give a side-look; to glance.

1611 COTGR., *Bigle*, skenning, squinting, looking askew, or nine waies at once. *Ibid.*, *Vuarlouque*, squinteyed, skenning, askew-looking. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* II. 427/1 *Squint Eyed*, to sken or look awry. 1694 CROWNE *Married Beau* Epil., Then on her cullies she begins to sken; She pats their cheeks, and calls 'em—pretty men. 1781 J. HUTTON *Tour to Caves* (ed. 2) Gloss. 95 *Sken*, to squint. 1818– in northern and north-midland dialect glossaries, etc. 1861 WAUGH *Birtle Carter's T.* 14 Skens a bit, lass!..He skens ill enough to crack a lookin'-glass.

Skene (skēn). Now *Hist.* or *arch.* Forms: *α.* 6–7 **skayne** (6 **scayne**), **skaine,** 8 **skane.** *β.* 6–7 (9) **skeyne,** 6 **skeyn,** 6–7 **skeine,** 7– **skein.** *γ.* 6–7, 9 **skene** (7 **skine**), 7–8 **skeen** (7 **-e**), 9 **skien.** *δ.* 6–7 **skeane,** 7– **skean.** *ε.* 8–9 **skian.** [a. Irish (and Sc.) Gaelic *scian, sgian* (genitive *sceine, scine*) knife (cf. W. *ysgien*). The *α* and *β* forms prob. represent the Gaelic ones with *ei*, and the others those with *ia* or *i.*]

1. A form of knife or dagger, in former times one of the chief weapons of the Irish kerns, and also in use among the Scottish Highlanders.

The word was also loosely applied by writers of the 16th and 17th centuries to a dagger or small sword of any kind.

α. 1527 *Will of Bolde* (Somerset Ho.), My blak sattyn doblet, my skayne, & a paire of blak hoses. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. V*, 60, xvi. hundreth Ireshmen armed in mayle with dartes and skaynes after the maner of their countrey. 1567 GOLDING *Ovid's Met.* v. 220 Persey thrust him through the hart with Hermes hooked skaine. 1600 HOLLAND *Livy* XXII. xlviii. 461 Short daggers or skaines hidden under their cuirasse and harnesse. 1622 DRAYTON *Poly-olb.* xxii. 1579 For their weapons [they] had but Irish Skaines and Darts. 1735 *Phil. Trans.* XL. 426, I was called to Thomas Conway, who had received a Wound with a Skane or great Knife.

β. 1530 PALSGR. 271/1 Skeyne a knyfe. 1534 WHITINTON *Tullyes Offices* III. (1540) 128 Therof rose bearyng of skeynes and murdrers. 1586 J. HOOKER *Hist. Irel.* in *Holinshed* II. 42/2 The bill against the spar, and the sword against the skeine. 1609 HOLLAND *Amm. Marcell.* 431 A certaine shag-haired fellow..drawing out his skeine or short curtle-axe. *a* 1661 FULLER *Worthies, Kent* II. 74 To him all the Irish Nobility made their solemn submission..,laying aside their Girdles, Skeines, and Caps. 1750 CARTE *Hist. Eng.* II. 828 The Irish were armed only with darts and skeins. 1852 MISS YONGE *Cameos* I. xxii. (1877) 160 Melachlin sent with her..sixteen young men armed with skeynes, or long knives. 1872 ELLACOMBE *Bells of Ch.* in *Ch. Bells Devon* vii. 181 They were found in a bog..along with a variety of skeynes, celts,..and other relics of antiquity.

γ. 1592 KYD *Sol. & Pers.* I. iii. 22 Against the light foote Irish haue I serued, And in my skinne bare tokens of their skenes. 1606 HOLLAND *Sueton.* Annot. 15 Caivs..was stabbed treacherously with a knife or short skeene. 1633 T. STAFFORD *Pac. Hib.* II. xiii. (1821) 143 Whereupon with their skenes they instantly murdered him in the place. *c* 1680 in Somers *Tracts* (1748) II. 254 They kill'd poor Infants,.. tossing some upon their Swords, Skeens, and other Instruments of Cruelty. 1694 MOTTEUX *Rabelais* v. ix. (1737) 34 Poinadoes, Skenes, Penknives, Puncheons. 1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* xvii, A stout soldier before he was so mangled by the skenes of the Irish clan MacDonough. 1865 KINGSLEY *Herew.* iv, Their black skenes and light darts were no match for the Danish swords and battle-axes. 1895 SIR H. MAXWELL *Duke of Britain* viii. 196 A short skene in his belt.

δ. 1596 SPENSER *State Irel.* Wks. (Globe) 631/2 He may under his mantell goe privilye armed,..carrying his head-

peece, his skeane, or pistoll yf he please. 1600 HOLLAND *Livy* VII. Arg. 249 The young man..drew his skeane and forced him to sweare unto him. 1646 VICARS *Parl. Chron.* IV. 163 Inhumane whores, with Skeans or long Irish knives about them. 1690 J. MACKENZIE *Siege London-Derry* 2/2 Not only the Men, but the Women and Boys too began to furnish themselves with skeanes, and half-pikes. 1720 SWIFT *Irish Feast* in Misc. (1735) V. 16 They rise from their Feast, And hot are their Brains, A Cubit at least The Length of their Skeans. 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xii. III. 156 The very women were exhorted by their spiritual directors to carry skeans. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* IV. 275/1 The good claymores, the dirks, skeans, and pistols.

c. 1774 D. GRAHAM *Hist. Reb. Writ.* 1883 I. 135 With durks and skians they fell a sticking. 1878 A. HUME *Antrim Dial.* 23 (E. D. D.), There is no appearance of a skian or any other weapon. 1897 A. LANG *Pickle the Spy* 6 Well knowing that the skian was sharpened for his throat if he were detected.

2. a. *Skene-dhu* [Gael. *sgian dubh* black knife], a small dagger carried by Highlanders (now only as an ornament), frequently thrust into the stocking.

1819 SCOTT *Let.* in *Lockhart* (1839) III. 353 A very formidable knife which when opened becomes a sort of skene-dhu or dagger. 1874 R. TYRWHITT *Our Sketching Club* 37, I.. struck him [a deer] just right with the skean-dhu at the root of the neck. 1897 A. L. HUMPHREYS *Private Libr.* (ed. 2) 16 Some employ mediaeval daggers, or skene dhus, but the edges spoil a book.

b. *Skene-ochles, -ochil, -occle* [Gael. *achlais* armpit]: (see quot. 1754).

1754 BURT *Lett. N. Scotl.* (1818) II. 119 Some of them carry a sort of knife which they call a skeen-ochles from its being concealed in the sleeve near the arm-pit. 1814 SCOTT *Wav.* xxix, Her ain sell..could..kittle his quarters wi' her *skene-occle.* 1828 — *F. M. Perth* ii, The skene-occle is an ugly weapon. 1829 HOGG *Sheph. Cal.* xiii, So saying, the beldam plunged a skeinochil into my breast.

Skene, variant of SCHEME *sb.*[2], SKEIN.

Skenis, var. of ME. *(s)kinnes*: see KIN *sb.*[1] 6 b.

Ske·nningly, *adv. rare*[−0]. [f. SKEN *v.*] With a squint.

1611 COTGR., *Biglement*, squintingly, skenningly, askew.

Skeno-: see SCENO-.

† Skent, *v. Obs.* Also 3 **skemt-**. [ad. ON. *skemta*, f. *skamm-r* short. For the change of *mt* to *nt* cf. SCANT *a.*] *trans.* To entertain, amuse.

a 1250 *Owl & Night.* 449 Þe more ich singe þe more ich may & skente hi myd myne songe. *Ibid.* 1085 Ic..sori was for hire sore And skente hi mid myne songe.

Hence **† Skenting (skemting)** *vbl. sb.*

a. c 1200 ORMIN 2165 þatt doþ uss tunnderrstanndenn wel þatt nass þho nohht tær ute I skemmtinng & inn idelleȝc. *c* 1220 *Bestiary* 434 He bit us..eten & drinken wiþ unskil, & in ure skemting he doð raðe a foxing.

β. c 1205 LAY. 19167 Þis iherde þe king þer he læi an skentting. *a* 1250 *Owl & Night.* 446 Þe rose..Bit me þat ich schulle singe For hire luue one skentynge. *Ibid.* 532.

Skenus, var. of ME. *(s)kinnes*: see KIN *sb.*[1] 6 b.

Skenye, obs. Sc. form of SKEIN *sb.*[1]

Skeo (skyō). *Ork.* and *Shetl. dial.* Also 9 **skio, skoe.** [a. Norw. *skjaa* a shed.] (See quot. *a* 1688.)

1602 in J. MILL *Diary* (S. H. S.) 181 Sawndie Smyth awner of the skeo. *a* 1688 WALLACE *Orkney* (1693) 93 *Skeos*, little houses built of dry stones without any Morter, that the wind may have free passage through them, in which they dry their fishes and fleshes. 1795 J. MILL *Diary* (S. H. S.) 101 [She] murdered the child and concealed the body in a skeo. 1821 SCOTT *Pirate* xi, He would substitute better houses for the skeoes. *Ibid.* xxix, A deserted *Skio*, or fisherman's hut. 1897 *Shetl. News* 3 July (E.D.D.), The old skoes for preserving meat or vivda in, existed to my time. *Comb.* 1822 HIBBERT *Descr. Shetl. Isl.* (1891) 259 The tables labouring..under the weight of skeo-dried vivda.

Skep, *sb.* Forms: *a.* 1 **sceppe,** 4 **scep,** 4, 7 **scepp,** 5 **scappe,** 8 *Sc.* **scape**; 4–6 **skeppe,** 5–7 **skepp,** 4– **skep** (9 **skape, skeb**). *β.* 4–7 **skepe,** 6 **skeipp,** 8 **scepe.** *γ.* 4, 7 **skippe,** 5 **skyppe, skype,** 7– **skip** (9 **skib**). [a. ON. *skeppa* (Norw. *skjeppa*, Sw. *skäppa*, Da. *skæppe*) basket, bushel, obscurely related to OS. *scepil*, MLG. and MDu. *schepel* (Du. *schepel*), OHG. *sceffil* (G. *scheffel*), of the same meaning.

In early documents the Eng. word also appears in the Latinized forms *sceppa, (e)scheppa, eskeppa*, etc.]

1. A specific quantity *of* grain, malt, charcoal, etc., being the amount contained in a basket or other vessel of a certain size; a skepful.

a 1100 in Napier *Contrib. O. E. Lex.* 55 Þæt is iii sceppe mealtes & healf sceppe hwæte. *Ibid.*, An sceppe malt & iii hund hlafe. [1216 *Acc. Exch. K. R.* (Bd. 505 No. 5), Item Brasium pro dominicis. De Penred xviij. schepp[e]. 1225 *Whitby Cartul.* (Surtees) I. 220 Solvere annuatim..sex sceppas pacabilis farinae de avena. 1234 *Pipe Rolls Cumberland & Westm.* (1905) 55 Reddit compotum..de xxxiiij. eschappis et viij. strakes avene. 1353 in *Test. Karleol.* 2 Item..duas eskeppas farinæ, duas eskeppas ordei. 1371 in *York Minster Fabric Rolls* (Surtees) 9 In vj scheppis de charcole emptis.] *c* 1380 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* I. 22 He seide he ouȝte an hundrid skippis of corn. Þis mesure of corn is more þan a quarter. [1470–1 *Mem. Ripon* (Surtees) III. 216 Et in ij skeppis carbonum vocatorum charcole.] 1496 *Nottingham Rec.* III. 295 For a skep of light brede. 1523 FITZHERB. *Husb.* § 166 Fyue barley loues, wherof was lefte .xii. coffyns or skyppes of fragmentes. 1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 70 *A Skeppe*, a measure of corne. 1669 GURNALL *Chr. in Arm.* lxi. 437/1 And for every skep of sand did he not come upon Gods ground? 1824 *Examiner* 9/1, 3 skeps of vegetables besides potatoes. 1846 J. BAXTER *Libr. Pract. Agric.* (ed. 4) II. 119 A hogshead is then placed by the copper, and one or two skeps of chaff thrown in.

attrib. 1859 A. JEFFREY *Roxburghshire* III. vii. 125 The skep measure is said to have been borrowed from the English practice. It contained twelve bushels.

2. A basket or hamper, varying in form and use in different localities.

Also, in local use, a coal-scuttle.

a. a 1300 *Cursor M.* 4741 Len vssumquat o þi sede,..Len vs sumquat wit þi scep. *c* 1340 *Nominale* (Skeat) 533 *Bolenge et corbelchon*, Bultyngcloth and skeppe. 1419 *Durh. Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 228, j skepp de virgis. *c* 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* III. 209 A better craft is for this besinesse: Let make a skeppe of twygge a foote in brede. 1519 *Maldon* (Essex) B. 160 Oon quarte pott, ii° pynt potts, ii° skepps to bere malte in. 1573 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 35 A pitchfork, a doongfork, seeue, skep and a bin. 1600 HOLLAND *Livy* 46 A great number of people sent thither at once to carrie it away in baskets and skeps. *c* 1680 W. LINNETT in Willis & Clark *Cambridge* (1886) II. 493 Wheelbarrows, skepps, ladders, sieves, and other necessaries. 1787 W. H. MARSHALL *E. Norfolk* (1795) II. 388 *Skep*, a coarse round farm-basket. 1823– in many dialect glossaries. 1863 MRS. GASKELL *Sylvia's Lovers* (ed. 2) I. 34 The skeps and baskets and three-legged stools were all cleared away 1893 COZENS-HARDY *Broad Norf.* 37 Bullock-tenders always call their baskets skeps.

Comb. c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 457/2 Skeppe makere, *corbio. β. c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xviii. (*Egipciane*) 1257 He let hyre se sic met as with hyme had he In a skepe. 1397 in *Finchale Priory Charters* (Surtees) p. cxviii, Item j skepe pro elemosyna. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 341 A Skepe, *canistrum, cofinus.* 1563 *Wills & Inv. N. C.* (Surtees, 1835) 207 One mavnde, j straw skeipp & j hopper. 1669 WORLIDGE *Syst. Agric.* Gloss., *A Skepe*, or *Scuttel*, a flat and broad Basket, made to carry Corn withal.

γ. 1435 *Tintinhull Church-w. Acc.* (Som. Rec. Soc.) 176 Item pro uno skyppe, iiij[d]. *c* 1460 *Promp. Parv.* (Winch.), Mawnd, skype, *sportula*. 1604 E. G[RIMSTONE] *D'Acosta's Hist. Indies* IV. viii. 231 Mettall..tied together in a cloth in manner of a skippe. 1691 RAY *S. & E. C. Words* 114 A *Skip*.., a Basket, but not to carry in the Hand. 1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss., Skip*,..a wicker basket, wider at top than bottom, almost uniformly a bushel measure. 1887 BYRNE *Heir without Heritage* I. vii. 122 Silky bundles of finished work lay in skips by the side. 1894 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* June 237 Increased demand for crates, skips, and baskets.

b. *Mining.* (See quots. and cf. SKIP *sb.*[2])

1860 *Mining Gloss.* (ed. 2) 44 *Skep*, or *Skip*, a square box (usually wrought iron) in which the coals are sent up to the pit's mouth. 1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-m.* 224 *Skep*, a bucket or tub a pit-horse drinks out of.

3. A beehive. Also *fig.*

1494 *Deed* (P. R. O., A 6660), The same Kateryne shall have fre yssve to goo and come to hyr hyve skeppys beyng w'in the Meese and Yards. 1585 JAS. I *Ess. Poesie* (Arb.) 45 Euen as they do swarme about their king The hunnie Bees,..When he delyts furth of the skeppis to spring. 1622 MALYNES *Anc. Law-Merch.* 231 The making of conuenient Skepes or Bee-hyues. *a* 1640 J. DAY *Parlt. Bees* (1881) 21 Honey and waxe I will bequeath to build A skep. 1716 *Hist. MSS. Comm., Moray P.* 150 Being informed that your Lady wanted some huny I have caused smoak a scepe. *a* 1774 FERGUSSON *Ode to Bee* Poems (1789) II. 31 Yet thir, alas! are antrin fock That lade their scape wi' winter stock. 1818 SCOTT *Rob Roy* xvii, Andrew..often cast a parting glance upon the *skeps*, as he called the beehives. 1842 BORROW *Bible in Spain* 119 He conducted us to a place where there were several skeps of bees. 1884 *Pall Mall G.* 21 Aug. 2/2 A rustic who keeps his bees in a flat-topped straw skep.

Skep, *v.* [f. prec.]

1. *trans.* To cause (bees) to enter a skep; to hive. Also *fig.*

1825 in JAMIESON *Suppl.* 1866 G. EASTON *Autobiogr.* (1867) x. 135 Whist! we are skepping the bees. 1891 *Scott. Leader* 21 Oct. 7 If they put a hive over them they would.. have 'skepped' nine-tenths of 50-called Liberal Unionists of Scotland.

2. *intr.* Of bees: To enter a skep. *rare*[−1].

1842 *Dumfries Herald* Oct., Flowers as thick as swarms of bees a-skepping.

Hence **Ske·pping** *vbl. sb.*

1883 J. MARTIN *Remin. Old Haddington* 322 The keeping and skeping of bees.

Skepe, obs. pa. t. SCAPE *v.*

Skepen, -on, obs. forms of SCHEPEN.

Ske·pful. Also **-full.** [f. SKEP *sb.* + -FUL [2].] The fill of a skep; as much as a skep will contain. Also *fig.*

c 1570 *Durh. Deposit.* (Surtees) 195 She borre one skepfull of sande to the buyldynge of the aulter. *Ibid.*, 2 skepfull of clay. 1832 J. WILSON *Noct. Ambr.* lxii. in *Blackw. Mag.* Sept. 402 Why, the ballads swarm out every morning by the skep-full. 1855 [ROBINSON] *Whitby Gloss.* s. v. *Skep*, The tithes of certain grain were paid to Whitby Monastery in 'Skepfuls', but the specific amount of a skepful does not appear. 1906 *N. & Q.* Ser. x. V. 45/1 A log of wood, a bushel of corn, or a skepful of some farm produce.

† Ske·pper. *Obs.* Also 6 **scepper.** [f. SKEP *sb.*] A maker of skeps.

1499 *Nottingham Rec.* III. 300 Edmund Bartlet, skepper. 1527 in *Non-Cycle Myst. Plays* p. xxx, Bagmakers, Sceppers, Wyerdrawers & Cardmakers.

Skepping, variant of SKIPPING *vbl. sb.*[2]

1824 *Mech. Mag.* No. 60. 58 Whether the new boiler can improve the grain of inferior West Indian sugars. Two charges, or skeppings, as they are technically termed, were run off in 13½ minutes.

Skeptic, Skeptical, etc.: see SCEPTIC, etc.

Skepyn, obs. form of SCHEPEN.

† Sker. *Obs.*[−1] [prob. of Scand. origin: cf. Norw. *skjera*, MSw. and Sw. *skära*.] ? A sickle.

? 1340 *Durh. Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 203, iij bemes pro aratris .., j par de bustyngs. It[em] ij skers, j hacke.

† Sker, in phr. *o sker*, ? aslant. *Obs.*

c 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 4421 Bot Nemmy bar þe scheld o sker, & Iulius smot his swerd ouer fer.

Sker, obs. or dial. var. SCAR *a.*, SKIRR *v.*

† Skerche, obs. Sc. form of SCARCE *a.*

1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* xli. 5 Be nocht a wreche, nor skerche in ȝour spending.

† Skere, *a.* and *adv. Obs.* Forms: 3–4 **sker** (4 **scker**), 3–5 **skere,** 4 **skeer,** 5 *Sc.* **skeyr.** [a. ON. *skærr* (Norw. *skjær*, Da. *skær*, Sw. *skär*) bright, clean, pure: cf. ME. *scēre, schēre* SHEER *a.*]

A. *adj.* **1.** Pure, purified; cleansed or free from sin or guilt.

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 350 Whoa is þeonne skerre, & more ut of þe worlde þen beoð pilegrimes? *c* 1275 *Sinners beware* 28 in *O. E. Misc.* 73 Makie we us clene and skere þat we englene ivere Mawe beon o buten ende. *c* 1330 *Amis & Amil.* 843 Darstow into bataile go, Al quite and skere you make? *c* 1395 *Plowman's Tale* 987 Of the bishop he hath powere To soyle men..; His absolucion may make hem skere.

b. Const. *of* sin, etc.

c 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 424/140 Ich am her In mi purgatorie, forte ich beo of mine sunnes scker. 13.. *Ibid.* (MS. Bodl. 779) in Herrig's *Archiv* LXXXII. 311/238 [Christ] was bore of þe mayde þat was of sinne skere. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) VI. 203 He schulde be skeer of his synnes.

2. Free from injury, harm, or molestation; unhurt, unmolested; also const. *of.* Freq. in *quit and skere.*

a 1225 *Juliana* 50 We schulen sechen efter wrake..þat ne schulen ha beon sker of ure weorre. *c* 1275 *Passion of Our Lord* 372 At eure Muchele feste euervyche yere Schal ich þere gywene kyng lete gon al skere. *c* 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 7936 Þe kyng þankede God þo, þat so quit & sker had lat hym go. *a* 1400 *Lybeaus Disc.* 297 For love of swete Jhesus, Now let us passe skere.

3. Destitute, devoid, *of* something.

c 1250 *Doomsday* 78 in *O. E. Misc.* 166 Goð awariede gostes, feondes ifere, In-to beninde fur; of blisse ȝe beoþ skere.

4. *Skere Thursday*, = SKIRE THURSDAY. *Sc.*

Cf. Norw. *skjær-*, Da. *skær-*, Sw. *skärtorsdag.*

1498 *Acc. Lord High Treas. Scot.* I. 384 To serue the pur men of thair siluir on Skeyr Thurisday at the seruice. 1498 in *Rec. Old Aberdeen* (1899) 15 Nundinas..in Cena Domini ante Pascha vulgariter nuncupata Skeyrthurisday.

B. *adv.* Quite; entirely; altogether.

a 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 867 Al ich forsake her, & cweðe ham al sker up. *c* 1275 *Moral Ode* 159 in *O. E. Misc.* 63 He myhte helle fur..schonye, And lete sker al þes worldes weole. *a* 1400 *Lybeaus Disc.* 1914 Maboun..To-karf that sworde ..A twynne quyt and skere.

† Skere, *v. Obs.* Also 3 **skeren,** 4 **skeri, -y, sckere, skiere.** [Related to prec.: cf. MSw. and Sw. *skära*, MDa. *skiære*, to cleanse, purify, clear (a person), etc.]

1. *trans.* To free (a person) from blame or accusation; to acquit (one) *of* a penalty or charge; to clear, exculpate.

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 308 ȝif þu wreiest þe wel her, God wule unwreien þe þer, and skeren mid alle. *c* 1275 *Fragm. Song* 7 in *O. E. Misc.* 101 He vs skere of þe typing, þat sunfule schulle an-vnderfon. *c* 1400 *Launfal* 795 They seyden.. Hyt was long on the quene, and not on Launfal, Therof they gonne hym skere.

2. *refl.* To clear (oneself) *of* a charge, etc.

a 1250 *Owl & Night.* 1302 Bute hit of wicchecrafte were þar of þu wrecche most þe skere. 13.. *K. Alis.* 3995 (Laud MS.), Of traisoun me wil I skere. *c* 1320 *Pol. Songs* (Camden) 156 Of scathe y wol me skere. *c* 1425 *Seven Sages* (P.) 3398 Bot thou may the fayrer skere Of that thyn sone haves tolde here.

b. Without construction, or with clause.

c 1275 *Lutel soth Sermun* 85 (Jesus Coll. MS.), Euer heo wule hire skere ne com hire no mon neyh. *c* 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 99 He tormentede þare-fore manie Men þat ne mi3ten heom nou3t skere. 13.. *K. Alis.* 3998 (Laud MS.), Antiochus seide, 'þou ne mi3th þe skere'.

c. To defend or save (oneself).

1300 GOWER *Conf.* I. 58 In this wise himself he skiereth, So that he hath the wordes weyved And thurgh his Ere is noght deceived. *Ibid.* 175 Sche lieveth noght al that sche hiereth, And thus fulofte hirself sche skiereth.

Hence **† Ske·ring** *vbl. sb. Obs.*

1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 6885 Ac ȝif..heo hire skeringe do after mi lokinge. *a* 1400 *R. Gloucester's Chron.* (Rolls) 6958 To do my penaunce [MS. *a.* sckeringe].

Skere, obs. f. SCARE. **Skerel(e,** varr. of SCARLE *Obs.* **Skerf**: see SCARF *sb.*[2] **Skerl,** var. SCARLE *Obs.*; obs. f. SKIRL *v.* **Skerling,** var. SKIRLING *sb.* **Skerlyt,** obs. form of SCARLET *sb.* and *a.* **Skermish(e,** etc., obs. ff. SKIRMISH. **Skerre,** obs. f. SCAR *sb.*[1], SCARE *v.* **Skerret, -it,** obs. ff. SKIRRET [1].

† Skerry, *sb.*[1] *Obs.* Also 6 **skerrey.** [Of obscure origin.] (See later quots.)

1540–1 *Will W. Coney* (Somerset Ho.), A little boote otherwyse callyd a Skerrey. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* I. 531 Little punts or boats that will carry but two apeece (which they call Skerries). 1851 STERNBERG *Northampt. Dial., Skerry*, a small boat, formerly much used in the fenny districts. 1861 SMILES *Engineers* I. 25 Islands..to which the Croyland men went in their boats or skerries to milk the cows—the boats being so small that they could carry only two men and their milk-pails.

Skerry (ske·ri), *sb.*[2] [Orkney dial., f. ON. *sker* (Norw. *skjer*, Sw. *skär*, Da. *skær*), whence also Gael. *sgeir.*] A rugged insulated sea-rock

or stretch of rocks, covered by the sea at high water or in stormy weather; a reef.

1. a. With reference to Scotland, esp. those parts of it formerly under Scandinavian influence.

1612 *Sc. Acts, Jas. VI* (1816) IV. 481/1 Ony landis, annuelrentis, Iles, skerreis, holmes..within the erldome of Orknay. 1654 Blaeu *Atlas Scotia* 135 Minimæ partes vocantur Scopuli (vulgari apud Incolas Orcadum nomine Skerries). *a* 1688 T. Wallace *Descr. Orkney* (1693) 93. 1795 *Statist. Acc. Scot.* XV. 300 Near this Pentland Skerry, there are two or three other skerries or rocks, on which there is not nourishment for any tame living creature. 1805 Barry *Orkney Islands* 18 There are several [islands] which are overflowed at high water, and have scarcely any soil...These ..are called *Skerries*. 1823 Scoresby *Jrnl. Whale Fish.* 373 The islands, or skerries, which..skirt the forbidding coast on the western side of the Hebrides. 1875 W. McIlwraith *Guide Wigtownshire* 62 The rocks stretch seaward in rugged ledges and skerries.

b. In general use.

1853 Kane *Grinnell Exp.* v. (1856) 40 Rocky islets known to the Danes as 'skerries'. 1870 Morris *Earthly Par.* II. III. 512, I see his black bows strike The hidden skerry. 1885 S. Tromholt *Aurora Borealis* II. 251 Between islands and tiny skerries, the steamer speeds on.

2. Without article.

1847 H. Miller *Test. Rocks* i. (1857) 19 Rock and skerry are brown with sea-weed. *a* 1856 — *Rambles Geologist in Cruise of 'Betsey'* (1858) 273 The tempest weltered round reef and skerry. 1896 Kipling *Seven Seas, Coastwise L.* i, From reef and rock and skerry—over headland, ness, and voe.

Skerry (ske·ri), *a.* and *sb.*[3] [Of uncertain origin.]

1. *adj.* Of the nature of shale; shaly, slaty.

a 1800 Pegge *Suppl. Grose, Skerry*, shaley...*Derb.* Spoken of coals. 1829 *Glover's Hist. Derby* I. 59 Brown skerry stone. 1876 Page *Adv. Text-bk. Geol.* xvi. 296 Grey shale and thin skerry laminae.

2. *sb.* Earth or stone of a shaly nature.

1844 H. Hutchinson *Pract. Drainage Land* 140 From this depth..was nine feet to the water, then one foot of yellow skerry and sand. 1881 *Leicester Gloss.* 240 *Skerry*, the thin, grey, partially laminated bands occurring in the red brick earth near Bosworth. 1883 Gresley *Gloss. Coal-m.* 224 *Skerries*, greenish-white micaceous sandstone.

Skerry, Sc. variant of Scarry *a.*[1]

a 1830 *Thomas Rymer* x. in Child *Ballads* I. 325/1 It's dont ye see yon broad broad way, That leadeth down by yon skerry fell?

Skers, Skersytye, obs. ff. Scarce, Scarcity.

Skerth. *dial.* [? a. ON. *skarð*: see Scarth *sb.*[1]] A small watercourse.

1851 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* XII. II. 291 [Lincolnshire], The river..is augmented by numerous highland streams, 'delphs and skerths', on each side. *Ibid.* 302 A network of drains, dykes, eaus, and skerths.

Sketch (sketʃ), *sb.* Also 7 scetch, schetch (schetse, schytz). [ad. Du. *schets* or G. *skizze* († *skitze, skize*), neither of which is recorded before the 17th cent., ad. It. *schizzo*, whence also Sp. *esquicio*, F. *esquisse* († *esquiche*): the source of the It. word is supposed to be L. **schedius* (cf. *schedia* raft, *schedium* extemporaneous poem), Gr. σχέδιος done or made off-hand, extempore.

In the following examples the foreign origin of the word is still indicated by the spelling: 1691 T. H[ale] *Acc. New Invent.* p. xlvii, A Schytz or hasty Piece of Painting done by a great Hand is of great Value. 1693 P. Pett *Barlow's Rem.* Pref. A viij b, Intending only what the Dutch Painters call a Schytz, and not a perfect Delineation or Draught. 1697 W. Pope *Life Bp. Ward* 149 The first *Schetse* of a Comedy calld the *Paradox*.]

1. A rough drawing or delineation of something, giving the outlines or prominent features without the detail, esp. one intended to serve as the basis of a more finished picture, or to be used in its composition; a rough draught or design. Also, in later use, a drawing or painting of a slight or unpretentious nature.

α. 1668 [see 2]. 1682 Wheler *Journ. Greece* Pref., Both he that designed it from my Scetch, and the Engraver after him. 1694 *Phil. Trans.* XVIII. 179 This..moulding..would be far better exprest by a Scetch that should..represent the bottom and top of two of them.

β. 1687 A. Lovell tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* II. 145, I have made a little Sketch of this which will serve to give an Idea of those of Tschehel-minar. 1709 Pope *Ess. Crit.* 23 As the slightest sketch, if justly trac'd, Is by ill-colouring but the more disgrac'd. 1751 Hollis in *Lett. Lit. Men* (Camden) 380 The Designs that have been taken of them hitherto, have been rather Sketches..than accurate and exact Plans. 1794 Mrs. Radcliffe *Myst. Udolpho* xxxii, In these little sketches she generally placed interesting groups characteristic of the scenery they animated. 1819 Scott *Let.* in *Lockhart* (1837) IV. viii. 246 Constable has offered Allan three hundred pounds to make sketches for an edition of the Tales of My Landlord. 1863 Geo. Eliot *Romola* xviii, All about the walls hung pen and oil sketches of fantastic sea-monsters.

transf. 1713 *Guardian* No. 149, We have a kind of sketch of dress, if I may so call it, among us, which..is called a Dishabille. 1831 Scott *Ct. Robt.* iii, But in this respect his fancy probably filled up the sketch which his conjectures bodied out. 1864 Lowell *Fireside Trav.* 242 His [*sc.* the donkey's] bray is..an experimental sketch for the neigh of her finished animal.

† b. (See quot.) *Obs.*—o

1688 Holme *Armoury* III. 149/1 *Schetches*, are touches on a Paper with the point of a Charcoal in drawing out of any Figure, and so by little and little running over the whole Work.

2. A brief account, description, or narrative giving the main or important facts, incidents, etc., and not going into the details; a short or superficial essay or study, freq. in *pl.* as a title.

1668 Charleton *Ephesian & Cinnm. Matrons* II. 76 Whereof I have here drawn no perfect Picture, but only a rude Scetch. 1715 Bentley *Serm.* x. 366 After this short but true sketch of Popery. 1744 Harris *Three Treat.* Wks. (1841) 5 Thus ..have you had exhibited to you a sketch of art. You must remember, however, it is but a sketch. 1780 *Mirror* No. 96, I offer you a small sketch of an incident, supposed to have happened in the times of our forefathers. 1831 D. E. Williams *Sir T. Lawrence* II. 301 [This] renders necessary some sketch of the establishment of the Academy of painting in Ireland. 1867 Freeman *Norm. Conq.* (1877) I. 7 Here our narrative, even as the merest sketch, comes to its natural close.

(*b*) 1758 L. Temple *Sketches* Preface, The Author of the following Papers chuses to call them *Sketches*. 1835–6 Dickens (*title*), Sketches by Boz. 1876 D. Donovan (*title*), Sketches in Carbery, Co. Cork; its Antiquities [etc.].

b. The general plan or outline, the main features, of anything. *rare.*

1697 Dryden *Virgil, Ess. Georgics* (1721) I. 207 We are beholden to him [Theocritus] for the first rough Sketch of a Georgic. 1796–7 Jane Austen *Pride & Prej.* xxvii, Everything..was finally settled according to Charlotte's first sketch. 1803 G. Ellis *Let.* in Lockhart *Scott* (1837) I. xi. 394 If the sketch of that story was previously known.

3. *Mus.* a. A short piece, usu. for the pianoforte, either slight in construction or vividly descriptive.

c 1840 Sir W. S. Bennett (*title*), Three Musical Sketches.

b. A preliminary study made during the progress of, or in preparation for, a finished work or composition.

1883 *Grove's Dict. Mus.* III. 528 The Movement..affords us examples both of preliminary sketches and an amended whole. *Ibid.* 529 The volume presents some intensely interesting sketches for an Andante.

4. A short play or performance of slight dramatic construction and usually of a light or comic nature (see quot. 1892); also, a musical performance by one person, in which playing, singing, and talking are combined.

1861 Mayhew *Lond. Lab.* (ed. 3) III. 132/2 We always did a laughable sketch entitled Billy Button's Ride to Brentford. 1881 *Daily Telegr.* 27 Dec., Mr. Corney Grain..now gives a supplementary musical sketch, entitled 'Master Tommy's Theatricals'. 1892 *Daily News* 3 June 2/2 'Sketches'—the new name for small or condensed, and in some cases, mutilated stage plays, the acting time of which shall not be more than 40 minutes, and the performers in which shall not be more than six.

5. *slang.* A small quantity; a drop.

1894 Astley *Fifty Years Life* II. 258, I have had..just a sketch of whisky with water from the burn.

6. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *sketch-block, -map, -plan.* Common in recent newspaper use.

1782 R. Cumberland *Anecd. Painters* (1787) I. 194 His figures..are slight and sketch-like. 1872 W. W. Smyth *Mining Stat.* 38 The geological sketch-map, which accompanies this paper. 1886 *Guide Exhib. Galleries Brit. Mus.* 235 A sketch-plan of the Battle of Aboukir. 1892 *Daily News* 19 May 2/4 The practice of sketch artists, sketch authors, and sketch managers has been..to pay copyright fees. 1893 *Photogr. Ann.* 281 You must..practise with a pencil and sketch-block the..foreshortening of objects.

Sketch (sketʃ), *v.* Also 7 scetch. [f. prec. or ad. Du. *schetsen*, G. *skizziren*.]

1. *trans.* To describe briefly, generally, or in outline; to give the essential facts or points of, without going into details; to outline.

1695 Dryden *Dufresnoy's Art Paint.* Pref. p. xii, To contemplate those Idea's, which I have onely sketch'd, and which every man must finish for himself. 1751 J. Harris *Hermes* I. ii. (1786) 19 Now a Sentence may be sketch'd in the following description. 1814 Scott *Let.* in *Lockhart* (1837) III. x. 312 The language most animated and poetical; and the characters sketched with a masterly enthusiasm. 1841–4 Emerson *Ess.* xix. Wks. (Bohn) I. 237 The history of the State sketches in coarse outline the progress of thought. 1868 Freeman *Norm. Conq.* (1877) II. 285 The history of the city will be more fittingly sketched at another stage.

b. With *out* (cf. 2 a).

1694 Salmon *Bate's Dispens.* Ded., Could I but scetch out a faint Idea of Your Glorious Actions. *a* 1779 Warburton *Wks.* (1811) X. 201, I have at present nothing to do with its various abominations, here sketched out. 1847 L. Hunt *Men, Women, & B.* II. xii. 302 To sketch out..what we conceive to be a better mode of supplying some account of Madame de Sévigné. 1867 Ruskin *Time & Tide* xxiii. § 154, I have sketched out this scheme for you somewhat prematurely.

2. To draw the outline or prominent features of (a picture, figure, etc.), esp. as preliminary or preparatory to further development; to make a sketch or rough draught of (something); to draw or paint in this manner.

a. With advs., as *in, out, over.*

1725 Watts *Logic* (J.), Some admirable design sketched out only with a black pencil, though by the hand of Raphael. 1801 *Farmer's Mag.* Jan. 66 For this purpose, a map of the soil is sketched out—we presume, from imagination. 1831 D. E. Williams *Sir T. Lawrence* I. 331 The pupil confined himself to pen and ink drawings, sketched over with Indian ink and bistre. 1886 G. Allen *Maimie's Sake* i, He sketched in lightly the face and figure.

transf. 1818 Hazlitt *Charac. Shaks. Plays* (1838) 244 This is little more than the first outlines of a comedy loosely sketched in.

b. Without qualifying term.

1786 Reynolds *Notes Mason's tr. Dufresnoy* xi, The method of Rubens was to sketch his compositions in colours. 1807 Hutton *Course Math.* (ed. 3) II. 73 Sketching on the sides the shape or resemblance of the fences or boundaries. 1855 Tennyson *The Brook* 102 Sketching with her slender pointed foot Some figure..On garden gravel. 1860 Tyndall *Glac.* I. xxvii. 213, I sketched some of the crystals.

transf. 1847 De Quincey *Sp. Mil. Nun* vi, She had soon sketched and finished a dashing pair of Wellington trousers.

c. *intr.* To admit of sketching.

1883 Holme Lee *Loving & Serving* I. ii. 27 Those poke bonnets..sketched well.

3. *intr.* or *absol.* To practise sketching; to draw or paint sketches.

1874 R. Tyrwhitt *Our Sketching Club* 29 If you will only practise measuring heights and distances with thumb and pencil, whenever you sketch.

b. To proceed in a sketchy manner. (Cf. prec. 4.)

1888 Howells *Annie Kilburn* xv, We have to cut some of the business between Romeo and Juliet, because it's too long, you know...But we sketch along through the play.

Sketch, Sc. f. Skate *sb.*[2] and *v.* (see *Eng. Dial. Dict.*); dial. f. Scatch *sb.*[1] (a stilt).

Sketchabi·lity. [f. as next + -ity.] The quality of being sketchable; suitability as a subject for a sketch.

1840 T. A. Trollope *Summer in Brittany* I. 253 To..try the sketchability of a water-mill. 1883 H. James *Portraits of Places* 48 In the wonderful..Genoese alleys the traveller is really up to his neck in the old Italian sketchability.

Sketchable (ske·tʃăb'l), *a.* [f. Sketch *v.*] Suitable for being sketched; effective as the subject of a sketch.

1862 H. Marryat *Year in Sweden* II. 182 Wyk, a place most sketchable, situated on a branch of the fiord. 1877 A. B. Edwards *Up Nile* 533 Thinking to find a sketchable point of view inland, we struck down towards the plain.

Ske·tch-book. [f. Sketch *sb.*]

1. A book having leaves of drawing-paper specially reserved or adapted for making sketches in.

1837 Lockhart *Scott* IV. vi. 197 Encountering some odd figure, armed with a sketch-book, evidently bent on a peep at the Great Unknown. 1848 Thackeray *Van. Fair* lxii, Dobbin used to carry about for her her stool and sketch-book. 1884 *Harper's Mag.* Feb. 338/2 My friends take their sketch-books.

b. As the title of a book containing essays or studies of a more or less descriptive nature.

1820 Irving (*title*), The Sketch Book of Geoffrey Crayon. 1843 Thackeray (*title*), The Irish Sketch-Book.

2. A note-book containing a composer's preliminary sketches or studies.

1883 *Grove's Dict. Music* III. 528 Beethoven..left behind him a whole library of Sketch-books. *Ibid.* 529 Some of the Sketch-books in the Royal Library at Berlin.

Sketcher[1] (ske·tʃəɹ). [f. Sketch *v.* + -er[1].]

1. One who sketches a picture, portrait, etc.

1812 Combe *Syntax, Picturesque* II. 128 I'll do as other sketchers do—Put any thing into the view. 1831 D. E. Williams *Sir T. Lawrence* I. 234 As a sketcher of likenesses, he disclosed the future power of the President. 1840 T. A. Trollope *Summer in Brittany* I. 70 As perfect a little domestic landscape as a sketcher could desire. 1888 W. P. Frith *Autobiog.* III. v. 137 Creswick, though by nature a lazy fellow, was a pretty constant sketcher.

b. One who writes an outline sketch, or who jots down preliminary memoranda.

1851 J. H. Newman *Posit. Cath. Eng.* 311 Those who write books about a people or a school are hardly more than extempore sketchers; or they paint from memory. 1883 *Grove's Dict. Mus.* III. 526 Others, again—the Sketchers, *par excellence*—began even their greatest works by noting down a few scraps of Subject, which they afterwards modified, enlarged, and improved.

2. An implement for sketching.

1894 Baring-Gould *Des. S. France* I. 159 With a sketcher of flint,..a primeval man amused himself in delineating..such animals as he pursued in the chase.

Sketcher[2]. *Sc.* Also 8 skytcher, 9 skatcher. [f. *sketch*, Sc. form of Skate *v.*] A skate.

For the Sc. *sketcher*, etc., a skater, see *Eng. Dial. Dict.*

1790 A. Wilson *Rabby's Mistake* Poet. Wks. (1846) 101 Owre the loch's clear frozen face, On skytchers thrang, in airy chase, Flew mony a cheery chiel. 1824 Scott *St. Ronan's* iii, I thought sketchers were aye made of airn. 1865 G. Macdonald *A. Forbes* xxvi, A new strap for my skatcher.

Sketchily (ske·tʃili), *adv.* [f. Sketchy *a.* + -ly[2].] In a sketchy manner; without elaboration or detail.

1825 T. Hook *Sayings* Ser. II. *Passion & Princ.* iii, The character of the lieutenant was sketchily given. 1870 *Daily News* 5 Dec., Her account of the country is lightly and sketchily written. 1886 G. Allen *Maimie's Sake* i, A few stray lines made to do duty sketchily for a rough idea of the imaginary picture.

Sketchiness (ske·tʃinés). [f. as prec. + -ness.] The state or condition of being sketchy.

1843 Ruskin *Mod. Paint.* I. II. viii. 119 His modes of treatment are alike removed from sketchiness or incompletion, and from exaggeration. 1885 *Athenæum* 6 June 719 The tendency to sketchiness is not great where the materials ..lie..ready to the hand.

b. *techn.* (See quot.)

1890 W. J. Gordon *Foundry* 173 Sketchiness is the technical term for the tendency of patterns to show lines of spacing across the cloth in a way that is objectionable.

Sketching (ske·tʃiŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. Sketch *v.*]

1. The action of the verb Sketch; something sketched, a sketch. Also with *down.*

1824 W. Irving *Life & Lett.* (1864) II. 226, I enjoy the first conception and first sketchings down of my ideas. 1840 Hood *Up Rhine* 215 You remember poor George's fondness for picturesque views and sketching. 1884 *Athenæum* 5 Jan. 20/1 It was a crazy oddity with much scribbling and even schoolboy-like sketching by some one in the last century.

2. *attrib.*, as *sketching-block*, *-book*, *-case*, *-club*, *-pencil*, *-ramble*, *-stool*, etc.

1806–7 J. Beresford *Miseries Hum. Life* VI. xxxv, In a sketching ramble—a charming morsel of the picturesque breaking out upon you. 1812 Combe *Syntax*, *Picturesque* III. 212 His well-stuff'd bags, with all their hoard Of sketching-tools. *Ibid.* XVIII. 70 He..from his pocket took His pencil and his sketching-book. 1848 Dickens *Dombey* xiv, A set of sketching materials. 1861 G. Musgrave *By-Roads France* 45 Folding up my sketching stool and strapping it on to the havresac. 1874 R. Tyrwhitt *Our Sketching Club* 67 Get..a good sketching-block.

Ske·tching, *ppl. a.* [f. Sketch *v.* + -ing 2.] That sketches; occupied with sketching. Hence **Ske·tchingly** *adv.*

1824 Scott *St. Ronan's* iv, A sketching gentleman that lives..at the Cleikum of Aultoun yonder. 1869 *Pall Mall G.* 16 Aug. 10 Telling..how he himself had been guide to Horace Vernet as he rode sketchingly along to his namesake's dwelling-place.

Ske·tchist. *rare.* [f. Sketch *sb.* 2 + -ist 1, after *novelist*, etc.] A writer of literary sketches.

1837 *Tait's Mag.* IV. 576 The phrase might have been restricted to essayists, or, were the term admissible, sketchists. 1893 *Star* 22 June 1/8 The popular legal sketchist.

Sketch-map: see Sketch *sb.* 3.

Sketchy (ske·tʃi), *a.* [f. Sketch *sb.* + -y.]

1. Giving only a slight or rough outline of the main features, facts, or circumstances without going into details: **a.** Of writings or authors.

1805 *Edin. Rev.* VII. 136 These two extremes, of meagre copying, and of imitation so free and sketchy as to leave no likeness, are to be found in our two translations of Homer. 1828 J. Sterling *Ess.* (1848) II. 50 Sketches of society,—very sketchy indeed,—..make up the miscellany. 1854 S. Lover *Handy Andy* (ed. 4) Pref., A story thus originated could not be other than sketchy and desultory. 1884 *Law Times* LXXVI. 358/1 On particulars of breaches and of objections he is very sketchy.

b. Of style, etc. (in writing or painting).

1811 *Self Instructor* 527 This style of painting is intended to be light and sketchy. 1852 Motley *Corr.* (1889) I. v. 137 The thin, sketchy, and slight manner in which the whole was executed. 1871 *Athenæum* 3 June 686 In the second volume..The style is not so sketchy, but we have rather a fragment of a picture than the picture itself.

2. Of pictures, etc.: Of the nature of, or resembling, a sketch; consisting or composed of outline without much detail.

1859 Gullick & Timbs *Painting* 288 A sketchy generalized resemblance of an object. 1864 I. Taylor in *Good Words* 231 These sketchy portraits, inserted..in the very midst of the reported speeches. 1884 *19th Cent.* Jan. 31 The well-known column..around which Landseer's very sketchy lions watch.

fig. 1817 Keats *Lett.* Wks. 1889 III. 96 It [Wordsworth's 'Gipsy'] is a kind of sketchy intellectual landscape. 1826 Disraeli *Viv. Grey* v. xv, A party of this kind should be more sketchy in its style; the outline more free, and less detail.

3. *colloq.* Of a light, flimsy, unsubstantial or imperfect nature.

1878 H. S. Wilson *Alpine Ascents* i. 16 A scrappy sort of sketchy fragmentary breakfast. 1897 Mary Kingsley *W. Africa* 563 A house with no doors, and only very sketchy wooden window-shutters.

‖ **Skete** (skēt). [ad. mod. Gr. *σκῆτος*, f. Gr. *ἀσκητής* monk, hermit.] An association of hermits belonging to the Greek Church.

1869 Tozer *Highl. Turkey* I. 68 When a number of these retreats are assembled round a central church, a skete (*ἀσκητήριον*) is formed, which in some cases differs from a monastery only in not possessing an independent constitution. 1887 Riley *Athos* 79 The sketes, or priories, have no voice in the government of the community.

Skete, var. Skeet *sb.* and *a.* **Skethill,** var. Scathel *a.* **Skeut,** obs. f. Scout *sb.*3

†Skevin. *Obs.* In 4 **skeuayne,** **skeuyn,** **skyueyn,** 5 **skyveyne**; 4 **skyuen,** 5 **skywen.** [ad. ONF. *eskevein*, var. of OF. *eschevin* (mod.F. *échevin*): see Echevin and Scabine.] A steward of a gild.

1389 in *Eng. Gilds* (1870) 46 To chesen an Aldirman..and foure skeuaynes, trost men and trewe, for to kepyn and reseyuen þe goodes..of þe gilde. *Ibid.* 64 To chesyn alderman and skyueynys that ben profitable for the Gylde. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 458 Skyveyne, of a gylde (*S.* skywen).

†Skevinage. *Obs.* Also **skun-, scunage.** [ad. ONF. *eskevinage*, var. of OF. *eschevinage* mod.F. *échevinage*): see prec.] A district under the jurisdiction of a local magistrate.

In English use only with ref. to the precincts of Calais.

1449 *Rolls of Parlt.* V. 149/2 Withoute the Towne, in the Procincte longing to the same, called the Skevinage. 1487 *Ibid.* VI. 404/2 Th' Office of Baillyve of the Scunage of Calais. 1529 *Lett. & Pap. Hen. VIII* (1876) IV. III. 2392 A house place..within the scunage of Calais.

Skevington's daughter, gyves, irons: see Scavenger's daughter.

†Skew, *sb.*1 *Obs.* Also 4 **skewe, skwe, skiu, scue.** [prob. of Scand. origin and related to Sky *sb.*1]

1. The sky or heaven.

a 1300 *E. E. Psalter* xvii. 13 Mirke watres þat ware ofe newe in þe kloudes of þe skewe. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 483 Ho [*sc.* the dove] skyrmez vnder skwe & skowtez aboute. *c* 1375 *Cursor M.* 1341 (Fairf.), Þis tree was of sa mykil in sizt, þat to þe skew raȝt þe top. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 10182 The skew [*MS.* skrew], for þe skrykyng & skremyng of folke, Redoundet with dyn.

2. *pl.* The skies, heavens, or clouds.

c 1320 *Cast. Love* 1494 Þe wey he made vs to lede Þorw þe skewes [F. *nuwes*], þer he eode. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 1206 Hiȝe skelt was þe askry þe skewes an-vnder. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 9637 That day was full derke..With a Ropand Rayne rut fro the skewes.

Skew (skiū), *sb.*2 Forms: 3 sc(u)we, 5 scue; 3 scyue, skyue, 4 skewe, 7– **skew** (9 *Sc.* skeu). [ad. OF. *escu* (mod.F. *écu*):—L. *scūtum* shield.

Both the OF. *escu* and L. *scutum* occur in this sense in early accounts (1253) of Westminster Abbey: see G. Scott *Westm. Abbey* (1863) 239. The OF. word may also be the source of *scu*, a screen or partition, given in *Promp. Parv.* 450/2 and 468/2.]

1. †a. A stone specially intended or adapted for being placed with other similar ones to form the sloping head or coping of a gable, rising slightly above the level of the roof. *Obs.*

1278 *Bursar's Rolls*, *Merton Coll.* in *Archæol. Jrnl.* II. 143 Item eidem iij.*s.* iij.*d.* per xx pedibus in longitudine de quibusdam lapidibus qui vocantur scuwes et ponuntur in opere in tecto parve domus retro coquinam. 1288 *Ibid.*, Item in xviij ped' de skyues empt' xviij.*d.*, precium pedis j.*d.* 1359–60 *Ely Sacr. Rolls* II. 193 In iiij^{xx} iiij ped. de skewes empt., prec. pedis j.*d.* [1445–6 in Willis & Clark *Cambridge* (1886) I. 392, 45½ feet of 'Scuez'..are bought for the construction of the walls.] 1635 in Paterson *Hist. Musselburgh* (1857) 146, vij^{c} double and single treis, and about j^{m}. skewis. *collect.* 1428 in Heath *Grocers' Comp.* (1869) 6 Ashler, coyne, skew, ragge, chalke, flint, tyles and estriche boarde. 1533 in Bayley *Tower of London* (1821) I. App. p. xxix, In skew and crests to the same spacys on the west side. *Ibid.*, At the Juell Hows doore, iij. spacys covered w^{t} skew and crest.

b. The line of coping on a gable. Chiefly *Sc.*

1789 D. Davidson *Seasons* 43 High on the sklentin skew, or thatched eave, The sparrow..Seeks out a dwelling-place. 1823 Galt *Entail* xlix, I paid..the Glasgow mason..for the count o' his sklater that pointed the skews o' the house. 1861 Stephens & Burn *Farm-Buildings* § 279 There are no skews [in this gable], the slating projecting over the walls.

c. A skew-corbel (see 2).

The genuineness of this sense is somewhat doubtful.

1845 Parker *Gloss. Archit.* (ed. 4) I. 340 The term skew is still used in the north for a stone built into the bottom of a gable or other similar situation to support the coping above.

2. *attrib.*, as *skew-corbel*, *-put*, *-stone*, *-table.*

Parker appears to have formed *skew-table* out of *scutable*, which is given by J. T. Smith *Antiq. Westm.* (1807) 207 in a translated document of 1330; on the same page occurs *sencrestes*, which may be a misreading of *scu-crestes*.

1833 Loudon *Encycl. Archit.* § 947 The gables are to be slated over, and the skew-stones (the coping-stones of the gables, called barge-stones in England) are to be laid over the slates, but to project 3 inches over..the walls. 1845 Parker *Gloss. Archit.* (ed. 4) 349 Skew-table was probably the course of stone weathered, or sloped, on the top, placed over a continuous set-off in a wall. 1850 Ogilvie, *Skew-corbel*, *Skew-put*, a stone built into the bottom of a gable to support the coping above. 1851 Turner *Dom. Archit.* II. ii. 31 The spring stones or skew-tables of the gables.

3. A slate used in forming the gutter of a roof.

1899 *Evesham Jrnl.* 1 Apr. (E. D. D.), The centre one is the 'bottomer', on either side are two 'tie-lyes', and above and below in the next course two 'skews'.

Skew (skiū), *sb.*3 Also 7 **scew.** [f. Skew *a.* or *v.*2]

†1. A side-glance. *Obs.*—1

1622 S. Ward *Christ All in All* (1627) 29 Whateuer good workes we doe with an eye from his, and a skew vnto our owne names,..the more penaltie of pride belongs vnto vs.

2. A slant; a deviation from the straight line; an angle, esp. that at which a bridge spans a road or river; a sideward movement.

1688 Holme *Armoury* III. 261/2 Scew or Campher, is the cutting off of a corner of a Wall. 1840 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* III. 232/2 The projections of all the lines of pressure are equal to..each other,..whatever may be the angle of the skew. 1885 *Scientific American* 1 Aug. 64 In the completed structure there are..no two skews alike. 1903 *Daily Chron.* 18 Feb. 3/3 The skew in the chancel he attributes..to an alteration having been carried out by rule of thumb.

b. *transf.* A slip, an error.

1869 Furnivall in *Bk. Precedence* Pref. p. xvii, Thus one of the many skews in the Harleian Catalogue was set straight.

c. *On the* (or *a*) *skew*, on the slant, slantwise.

1881 Young *Every Man his own Mechanic* § 399. 175 All these bits are secured in the main stock on a skew. 1891 C. James *Rom. Rigmarole* 174 Birds that flew dead straight, birds that seemed to work on the skew. 1894 *Times* 22 Sept. 13/4 Over the Lune, which is crossed on the skew, the span is 350 ft.

3. *Mining.* (See quots.)

1789 T. Williams *Min. Kingd.* I. 27 Skews and backs are only local joints of an irregular curved figure, which often resemble hitches. *Ibid.* 330 A skew is an irregular discontinuous mineral fissure,..which generally lies in a very slanting irregular position. 1883 Gresley *Gloss. Coal-m.* 224 *Skews*,..irregularities in the roof indicating danger from falls.

†Skew, *sb.*4 *Cant. Obs.* [Of obscure origin.] A cup; a wooden dish.

1561 Awdelay *Frat. Vacab.* (1869) 83 A skew, a cuppe. 1641 Brome *Joviall Crew* II. F iv b, This is Bien Bowse, this is Bien Bowse, Too little is my Skew. *a* 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew*, *Skew*, a Begger's Wooden Dish. 1754 *Song* in Farmer & Henley *Slang* s.v., To thy Bugher[=dog] and thy Skew, Filch and Jybes, I bid adieu.

Skew (skiū), *sb.*5 *Cornish dial.* [? Cornish.] A drizzling rain; a driving mist. Also *fig.*

1839 W. E. Forster in Reid *Life* (1888) I. v. 128, I am in a regular Cornish skew as to the future,..can't see an inch before me. 1880– in Cornish glossaries.

Skew (skiū), *sb.*6 *Harrow slang.* [Cf. Skew *v.*5] **a.** A difficult passage for translation or explanation. **b.** An entrance examination held at the end of a term. Also *attrib.*

1866 *Routledge's Ev. Boy's Ann.* 757 One examination paper..was popularly known as 'Skew-paper'. 1890 *Daily News* 14 Aug. 4/8 To explain hard passages, or 'skews', as they are technically styled.

†Skew, *sb.*7 *Sc. Obs.*—1 (Meaning doubtful.)

Perhaps a back-formation from *reskew*, but cf. Skew *v.*2

c 1470 Henry *Wallace* v. 835 Hardy and hat contenyt the fell melle, Skew and reskew off Scottis and Inglis als.

†Skew, *sb.*8 *Obs.*—1 [Cf. Scow *sb.*2 2.] A coracle.

1577 Harrison *Descr. Brit.* iv. in *Holinshed* I. 5/2 These Scots..vsed..to steale ouer into Britaine in leather skewes.

Skew (skiū), *a.* and *adv.* Also 7 **skue, scue.** [Cf. Skew *v.*2 and Askew *adv.*]

A. *adj.* **1.** Having an oblique direction or position; turned to one side, slanting, squint.

1609 Holland *Amm. Marcell.* XXX. xi. 397 He had with his gray eyes a skew cast at all times, and looked sterne. 1639 *Crabtree Lect.* 106 Thy skew shew legges are so distant one from another, that it is unpossible that thou shouldest ever gall thine Ankles. 1651 H. More *Enthus. Tri.* (1712) 44 It is far easier for her to..fetch in some odd skue conceit from a remote obscure corner, than to think of what is nearer. 1684 Burnet *Theory Earth* I. 195 Its right and parallel situation..was chang'd into an oblique; in which skew posture it hath stood ever since. 1850 Parker *Gloss. Archit.* I. 429 The common coping of a wall, which consists of a sloped or skew surface surmounted by a roll moulding. 1860 Wraxall *Life in Sea* v. 130 The skew mouth running vertically, make[s] their appearance something frightfully odious. 1881 E. B. Tylor *Anthropology* 63 The Tatar and Japanese faces show the skew eyelids of the Mongolian race.

†b. Distorted, perverted; macaronic. *Obs.*

1607 Brewer *Lingua* III. v, I remember about the yeare 1602. many vsed this skew kind of language.

2. In special collocations, denoting that the thing in question deviates from a straight line, or has some part not at right angles with the rest, as *skew arch*, *bridge*, *girder*, etc., or *skew bevel*, *chisel*, *facet*, *former*, *iron*, etc.

1845 Ford *Hdbk. Spain* I. 257 First observe a singular Moorish *skew arch. 1857 Whewell *Hist. Induct. Sci.* (ed. 3) II. 447, I speak of what are called Skew Arches, in which the courses of stone or brick of which the bridge is built run obliquely to the walls of the bridge. 1846 Holtzapffel *Turning* II. 668 They fulfil the office of bevil wheels, or rather of *skew-bevil wheels. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* I. 349/2 The teeth have then a peculiar form, and the wheels are called *skew-bevels*. 1838 Southey *Lett.* (1856) IV. 546, I have found a good story of a *skew bridge at Caen. 1872 Yeats *Techn. Hist. Comm.* 245 The art of building oblique or skew bridges appears to have been known on the Continent as early as 1530. 1872 *Routledge's Ev. Boy's Ann.* 354/1 One *skew, or corner chisel. 1881 Young *Every Man his own Mechanic* § 644. 296 The tools used in carving are the chisel, the gouge, the skew-chisel, the parting tool. 1751 Jefferies *Treat. Diamonds & Pearls* (ed. 2) Gloss., In Brilliants, there are two sorts, **skew* or *skill* facets and *star* facets. 1678 Moxon *Mech. Exerc.* iv. 74 The *Skew-Former..is seldom used by Joiners, but for cleansing accute angles. 1838 Simms *Publ. Wks. Gt. Brit.* 8 In the *skew girders the proper wind must be preserved. 1875 *Carpentry & Join.* 27 The iron is sometimes set at right angles to the sole of the plane and sometimes at an acute angle, when it is called a *skew iron. 1846 Holtzapffel *Turning* II. 485 The obliquity is then given to the iron, which is inserted at an angle, as in the *skew-rebate and fillister. 1823–7 Good *Study Med.* (1829) IV. 214 In *skew-sight or lateral vision, the axis of the eye affected usually coincides with that of the sound eye. 1850 *Engineer & Mach. Assist.* 74 That variety of toothed-geer known as *skew-wheels.

b. *Math.* (See quots.)

1848 Cayley *Math. Papers* I. 378 Passing to the general case where the lines and points in question are not identical, which I should propose to term the theory of 'Skew Polars'. 1867 Brande & Cox *Dict. Sci.*, etc. III. 467 *Skew Surface*, a ruled surface of which two successive generators do not in general intersect. 1873 Cayley *Math. Papers* IX. 65–6 Before going further it will be convenient to establish the definition of 'skew anti-points'. 1873 Maxwell *Electr. & Magn.* (1881) I. 384 When they are not satisfied it is called a Skew system.

3. *Comb.*, as *skew-eyed*, *-fisted* adjs.; *skew-nail* vb.; *skew-wise* adv.

1658 Rowland tr. *Moufet's Theat. Ins.* 1074 They are not one-ey'd, nor horrid skew-ey'd. *a* 1700 *Dict. Cant. Crew*, *Skew-fisted*, awkward, ungainly. 1875 Morris *Æneid* v. 445 He..his body swift writhed skew-wise from the fall. 1881 Young *Every Man his own Mechanic* § 743. 340 The edge of the shelf may be skew-nailed to the support behind.

B. *adv.* Obliquely, askew. *rare.*

1706 Phillips (ed. Kersey) s.v., To *look skew*, or *a-skew*, to squint or leer, to look shy, or with an evil Eye upon one. 1815 *Zeluca* I. 305, I hope you don't think, Ma'am, that I have looked skew at not being paid my last week.

†Skew, *v.*1 *Obs.*—1 [f. Skew *sb.*1] *intr.* To become overcast.

c 1400 *Siege Jerusalem* (E. E. T. S.) 53 Þe welcon wanned anon & þe water skewed, Cloudes clatered gon, as þey cleue wolde.

Skew (skiū), *v.*2 Also 5–6 **skewe,** 7 **scew, scue,** 7–8 **skue,** 9 **'skew.** [ad. ONF. *eskiu(w)er*,

eskuer, *escuer*, var. of OF. *eschuer*, *eschever*, etc.: see ESCHEW *v.*[1] The later development of sense is curious, as well as the apparent use of the verb-stem in the adv. ASKEW and the adj. SKEW.]

†**1.** *intr.* To escape, to slip away. *Obs.*

? a 1400 *Morte Arth.* 1562 Skilfulle skomfyture he skiftez as hym lykez, Is none so skathlye may skape, ne skewe fro his handez.

2. To take an oblique course or direction; to turn *aside*, move sideways.

c 1470 HENRY *Wallace* IX. 148 Crawfurd drew saill, skewyt by, and off thaim past. 1567 DRANT *Horace, Ep.* I. i. C ij, He, that..chearelye wills the to be bould not once to skew a syde. 1637 N. WHITING *Albino & Bellama* Author's Apol., And should they see us on our knees for blessing, They'd scue aside, as frighted at our dressing. 1703 BRAND *Descr. Orkney & Zetland* 9 We judged it safest, to keep as near it [the land] as we could, and scued away by the coast. 1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), To *Skue* or *walk skuing*, to waddle, to go sideling along. 1811 WILLAN in *Archaeologia* XVII. 158 *Skew*, to go aside, or obliquely. 1813 D. ANDERSON *Poems* 112 (Jam.), Contemplating ilk foppish brat,..To see them skew and skip about. 1845 S. JUDD *Margaret* I. xvii, They skewed, bustled, and bumped along.

b. To shy (as a horse), to swerve. Also *fig.*

1679 ALSOP *Melius Inq.* II. viii. 370 When the Magistrate is settling the Civil peace of his Dominions, he needs not concern himself whether the people will skew or no. *a* 1825 FORBY *Voc. E. Anglia* 304 *Skew*, to start aside, as a horse, at some object which scares him. 1851– in dialect glossaries (Northampt., Linc., etc.).

3. To squint *at*, to look *at* (or *upon*) sideways, esp. in a suspicious or slighting manner; hence, to make side-hits *at*, reflect *upon*, something.

1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 94 To Skewe, *limis oculis spectare*. 1618 FLETCHER *Loyal Subj.* II. i, Our service Neglected, and look'd lamely on, and skew'd at. 1638 SANDERSON *Serm.* (1681) II. 111 We find our selves ready..to skew at the infirmities of others. 1692 R. L'ESTRANGE *Fables* 460 'Tis dangerous skewing upon the errors of the age a man lives in. 1827 CLARE *Sheph. Cal.* 173 The cows stood round her in a wondering way, skewing at her. 1862 BORROW *Wild Wales* III. 74 Now looking to the left, now to the right,.. now skewing at an object, now leering at an individual.

†**4.** *trans.* To turn (the eyes) sidewards. *Obs.*

1577 STANYHURST *Descr. Ireland* in Holinshed *Chron.* (1587) II. 17/1 Pleaseth you to skew your eie towards the margent. 1582 — *Æneid* II. (Arb.) 67 Nor backward skewd I myn eyesight..tyl that my burden I lighted.

5. To cut *off*, set *back*, insert, etc., in an oblique manner.

1611 COTGR., *Embraser*, to skue, or chamfret off the laumbes of a doore, or window. 1703 R. NEVE *City & C. Purchaser* 11 The springing of the Arch is skew'd back from the upright of the Jambs. 1777 GOSTLING *Walk Canterb.* (ed. 2) 181 The way was skewed off with an angle. 1886 MRS. CADDY *Footsteps of Jeanne D'Arc* 109 The lower room has a narrow window..skewed into the thickness of the wall.

6. To depict or represent unfairly.

1872 C. KING *Sierra Nevada* x, What has he done but twist and skew and distort and discolor..this whole dog-gonned country?

7. *dial.* To throw, hurl, cast, fling.

1824– in dialect glossaries, etc. (Northumbld., Yks.).

Hence **Skew·ing** *vbl. sb.* and *ppl. a.*

1611 COTGR., *Biseau*, a bezle, bezeling, or scuing; such a slopenesse, or slope forme, as is in the point of an yron leauer, chizle, &c. 1692 L'ESTRANGE *Josephus, Life* (1733) 807 He prepar'd the people for his Purpose by a skewing discourse upon the Matter then in Question. 1821 CLARE *Vill. Minstr.* II. 8 Jane's 'skewing cow was struck with fear.

Skew, *v.*[3] *techn.* [Of obscure origin.] (See quots.) Also **Skew·ing** *vbl. sb.*

1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 149/1 *Skew*, a term in Herald. Painting, which is with a Wing or Hares Foot [to] brush away all the loose edges of Silver and Gold that remains of the working of them. 1851–4 *Tomlinson's Cycl. Useful Arts* (1866) I. 758 A brush, with which every part is carefully gone over, superfluous gold being removed from some parts, and worked into others. The process is called *skewing*, and the particles of gold collected from it, are sold under the name of *skewings*. 1870 *Eng. Mech.* Jan. 487/1 Go over the frame with a *skewing* brush to remove all loose particles of gold. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2194/2.

Skew, *v.*[4] [f. SKEW *sb.*[5]] In *pass.* with *up*: To have the vision obstructed by mist.

1842 W. E. FORSTER in Reid *Life* (1888) I. v. 149 Walking I know not where—all mist before my vision, 'skewed up', nothing certain.

Skew, *v.*[5] [? a special use of SKEW *v.*[2] Cf. SKEW *sb.*[6]] **a.** *To be skewed*, to fail in repetition. **b.** To fail in doing (a repetition).

1859 FARRAR *Eric* 53 He would laugh when any one told him how he had escaped 'skewing' (i. e. being turned) by reading it off. 1899 'MARTELLO TOWER' *At School & at Sea* 36 *Skew*..signified failure in a lesson, as: 'I skewed my rep (repetition) this morning'. 1905 H. A. VACHELL *The Hill* iii, It doesn't pay to be 'skewed'.

†**Skewage,** obs. variant of SCAVAGE.

1444 *Rolls of Parlt.* V. 68/1 Thei pay Skewage for the same merchaundises atte Suthampton. 1503 *Ibid.* VI. 550/2 An Act concerning Skavage or Skewage.

Skew-back. [f. SKEW *sb.*[3] or *v.*[2] + BACK *adv.*]

1. *Arch.* The springing-line of an arch; the sloping surface on which either extremity of an arch rests; a course of stone or brickwork, an iron plate, etc., immediately supporting the foot of an arch.

1703 MOXON *Mech. Exerc.* 279 According to the breadth of the Piers between the Windows, so ought the Skew-back or Sommering of the Arch to be. *Ibid.* 280 The line A C, which is vulgarly called the Skew-back for the Arch. 1725 W. HALFPENNY *Sound Building* 36 Set off the Skew-Back from *f* to *E*, and..*I* will be the Centre to which the Skew-Backs..are directed. 1837 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* I. 34/1 The arching for the support of the stairs is to be..springing from cut skew backs, and properly keyed in. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 87/1 A plate of cast-iron is usually laid upon the stone skew-backs, extending the whole width of the bridge. *a* 1878 SIR G. SCOTT *Lect. Archit.* II. 40 The arches are turned in Roman bricks,..a steep skewback being formed for their springings.

b. A ring on the inside wall of a blast-furnace, by which the area is diminished.

1884 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* Suppl. 820/1.

2. *Mech.* A cap or other casting made to receive the end of a diagonal rod or brace.

1884 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* Suppl. 820/1.

Hence **Skew-backed** *a.* (see quot.).

1905 BOND *Goth. Archit.* 259 The upper surface of the top springer..against which the first voussoir of the real arch.. starts, is said to be skewbacked.

Skewbald (skiū·bold), *a.* and *sb.* Also 7 **skew-bal'd**, 8–9 **-ball.** [Cf. SKEWED *a.*[1] and PIEBALD.]

A. *adj.* Of animals, esp. horses: Irregularly marked with white and brown or red, or some similar colour.

Properly distinct from PIEBALD (see quot. 1866), which is sometimes inexactly used for it.

1654 J. CLEVELAND *Poems* 38 Th' Apparatour upon his skew-bal'd horse. 1692 *London Gaz.* No. 2777/4 A skew-bald Gelding about 14 hands. 1702 *Ibid.* No. 3870/4 A Strawberry Gelding.., with a skew bald Face (the white coming over his off Eye). 1789 MRS. PIOZZI *Journ. France* II. 20 Yesterday however shewed me what I knew not had existed—a skew-ball or pyeballed ass. 1825 HONE *Every-day Bk.* I. 992 Captain, a fallow and white dog, with skewbald face. 1866 W. WATSON *Youatt's Horse* XV. 346 When the white is mixed with black it is called 'pie-bald', with bay the name of 'skew-bald' is given to it. 1876 *World* V. 19 A middle-aged gentleman of hermit habits on a skewbald cob.

B. *sb.* A skewbald horse.

1863 G. A. SALA *Capt. Dangerous* I. iii. 47 She was to have her pony, with John coachman on the skewball, sent to fetch her every Saturday. 1883 *Times* 30 May 5/1 Mr. Frisby's skewbald was at some disadvantage in this class.

Skewed (skiūd), *a.*[1] *? Obs.* Also 5 **scued, skevyd, 5–7 skued, 7 skude, skewd.** [Of doubtful origin: perh. f. OF. *escu* shield (cf. L. *scutulātus* as a colour of a horse, f. *scutula* platter), but there is also close resemblance in form and sense to Icel. *skjóttr*, the history of which is equally obscure.] Skewbald.

In quot. 1495 the reading of the Bodleian MS. is *scawed*, translating *maculosum* of the original.

c 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* I. 703 (E.E.T.S.), The skewed goos, the brune goose as the white Is not fecounde. *Ibid.* IV. 810 The gray [horse], the goldenhered and the skued [*v.r.* scued]. 1481–90 *Howard Househ. Bks.* (Roxb.) 507 Item, payd to Richard Wayfer..for a skevyd nagg iiij*s.* 1495 *Trevisa's Barth. De P. R.* XVIII. lxxvi. 830 Some Catte is whyte, some red, some blacke, some skewed and specklyd. *a* 1529 SKELTON *E. Rummyng* 142 Some be flybytten, Some skewed as a kytten. 1577 B. GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* III. (1586) 116 b, The yelowish and the skued or pied horses are discommended almost of all men. 1611 COTGR., *Pecile*, a pide, or skude colour of a horse. 1616 J. LANE *Cont'n. Sqr.'s T.* XI. 323 Skewd was his horse, of manie colors chaunginge. *a* 1800 PEGGE *Suppl. Grose* s.v., A skew'd horse, one of two colours.

Skewed (skiūd), *a.*[2] [f. SKEW *sb.*[3] or *v.*[2]] Set obliquely or aslant; skew. Also *Comb.*

1611 BIBLE 1 *Kings* vi. 4 *marg.*, Windowes broad within and narrow without; or skewed and closed. 1619 FLETCHER *Wild Goose Chase* IV. i, As I live I am asham'd, this wench has reach'd me,..This skew'd ey'd Carrion. 1840 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* III. 109/1 It is in the construction of railroads that the skewed arch meets with its most important application. 1895 C. R. B. BARRETT *Surrey* iii. 95 The eastern half of the chancel is skewed internally.

†**Skewel.** *Obs.*—[1] [prob. a. OF. *escuele* (mod. F. *écuelle*).] ? A dish, platter.

1567 *Wills & Inv. N. C.* (Surtees, 1835) 278, iiij litle wood skewells, xij*d*; v laten bassings.

Skewer (skiū·əɹ), *sb.* Also 7 **scure, scuer,** 8 **scewer.** [A variant of SKIVER *sb.*[1], which is prob. the more original form: cf. *kever*, *kiver*, and *cure* as variants of COVER *v.*, and *newt* from earlier *evet*. In the *Nottingham Recs.* II. 86 (an entry of 1411) it is probable that *skuer* should be read as *skumer*, scummer.]

1. A long wooden or metal pin, used especially to fasten meat or the like together, to keep it in form while being cooked.

1679 EVELYN *Sylva* (ed. 3) xxi. 100 The Wild Cornel or Dog-wood good to make Mill-Cogs, Pestles,.. Butchers Skewers, &c. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 292/2 A Butchers Cambril, Or, between two Scuers. *Ibid.* 315/1 He beareth Azure, two Skewers or Flesh pricks. 1704 SWIFT *Batt. Bks.* Misc. (1711) 266 He with Iron Skewer, pierces the tender Sides of both, their Legs and Wings close pinion'd to their Ribs. 1729 — *Direct. Serv.* ii, Send up your Meat well stuck with Scewers, to make it look round and plump. 1809 *Asiat. Researches* IX. 60 These leaves are..used all over India to make baskets, and made fast together, with skewers, from the fibres of the *bambu*. 1837 WHITTOCK *Bk. Trades* (1842) 33 [Bleacher], To these pieces of canvass, the ends of the web of calico..may be fastened by wooden 'skewers'. 1881 YOUNG *Every Man his own Mechanic* § 79. 33 It is the wood used by butchers for making wooden skewers.

fig. 1872 BLACK *Adv. Phaeton* xii, Transfixed by the red-hot skewers of jealousy.

b. A metal pin used to fasten an article of dress or to secure the hair.

1771 SMOLLETT *Humph. Cl.* (1815) 234 A fringed blanket, fastened about her shoulders with a copper skewer. 1825 BENTHAM *Ration. Reward* 303 The buckles of the Romans, and the skewers employed by Queen Elizabeth. 1840 HOOD *Up Rhine* 222 Two plaited bands of hair..fastened up with a flat silver or gilt skewer.

c. A pin on which a bobbin is placed.

1835 URE *Philos. Manuf.* 158 But single bobbins are set on skewers in the reel in correspondence with the single spindles on the copping rail. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 315/1 The bobbins..are mounted..on a creel which has skewers for their reception.

d. Applied contemptuously to a weapon.

1838 JAMES *Robber* vii, Let us look at your skewer in a handle, my Lord.

2. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *skewer-full*, *-machine*, *-maker*; **skewer-piece** (see quot. 1867); **skewer tree, wood,** the spindle-tree, from the wood of which skewers are made.

(*a*) 1782 J. SCOTT *Poet. Wks.* 95 The green skewerwood seeds of scarlet shows. 1863 PRIOR *Brit. Pl.*, *Skewer-wood*, from skewers being made of it, a shrub called in the Western counties Skiver-wood, *Evonymus Europæus*. 1894 *Cornh. Mag.* Feb. 164 The square berries of the skewer tree little known except to the birds and the gipsies.

(*b*) 1832 MARRYAT *N. Forster* xl, Strung together like what we call 'skewer pieces' on board of a man-of-war. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.* 629 The meat being then divided into messes, the remnants are cut into small pieces termed skewer-pieces. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2194/2 Skewer-machine. 1880 *Times* 10 Dec. 3/4 Tempting the hungry passers-by to purchase a skewer-full of the dainty roast. 1885 *Instr. Census Clerks 1881* 46 Skewer Maker.

Skewer (skiū·əɹ), *v.* Also 8 **skuer.** [f. the sb.]

1. *trans.* To fasten (meat, etc.) with a skewer; to pierce with a skewer or skewers. Also const. *together*, *up*, *upon*.

1701 WOLLEY *Jrnl. New York* (1860) 29 Some be of Bears Skins and Rackoon Skins sewed or skuered together. 1741 *Compl. Fam.-Piece* I. ii. 147 Skewer them and roast them or stove or bake them, just as you please. 1769 MRS. RAFFALD *Eng. Housekpr.* (1778) 69 Skewer your hare with the head upon one shoulder. 1806 A. HUNTER *Culina* (ed. 3) 69 Skewer the fillet as close as possible. 1834 MARRYAT *P. Simple* v, A piece of stick..upon which were skewered..pieces of beef and pork.

refl. 1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* xxxiii, If thou takest all that trouble of skewering thyself together, like a trussed fowl.

fig. 1850 DICKENS *Dav. Copp.* xliv, Britannia, that unfortunate female.., skewered through and through with office pens and bound..with red tape. 1871 *Member for Paris* II. 10 He..served him up every day to the readers of the *Pavois*, skewered through and through with an epigram.

b. To run through, transfix, with a sword or other weapon.

1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. III. iii, Perhaps *not* to part, but to fall mutually skewered through with iron. 1861 C. READE *Cloister & H.* xliii, He felt his arm hot, then cold, and there was an English arrow skewering it. 1870 MISS BRIDGMAN *R. Lynne* I. xiii. 214, *I* thought I was being skewered by a horrid savage.

refl. 1865 TYLOR *Early Hist. Man.* xi. 311 The bird alighted there, and skewered itself upon the lance.

c. To place upon skewers. Cf. SKEWER *sb.* 1 c.

1835 URE *Philos. Manuf.* 379 There are 1656 under 18 years of age, of whom..108 [are employed] in..skewering cops.

2. To fix, fasten, or secure to or into something else with, or as with, a skewer or skewers; to truss. Const. *in*, *into*, *to*, also *down*, *up*.

1777 SHERIDAN *Trip to Scarborough* v. ii, Why should you..suffer the rascals thus to skewer down my arms like a rabbit! 1799 W. TAYLOR in *Monthly Mag.* VII. 139 We'll see what fare the butler's foresight Has skewer'd into my knapsack. 1815 *Hist. J. Decastro* III. 331 He saw a great long thing lying on the ground skewered up *in* a white cloth. 1840 *P. Parley's Ann.* 364 The grenadier turned down his bayonet, and skewered him to the ground. 1890 *Nature* 30 Oct. 641 The mats are skewered on to two long bamboos.

fig. 1838 COLERIDGE in *Lit. Rem.* III. 174 When so strict a Calvinist..could skewer such frippery patches..on the sober gown and cassock of a Reformed and Scriptural Church!

3. To fix or thrust (*into* or *through* something) like a skewer or skewers.

1869 BLACKMORE *Lorna D.* xxvi, He skewered his great eyes into mine. 1876 A. J. EVANS *Through Bosnia* iv. 135 They took a sharp stake..and..skewered it right through the carcase.

Hence **Skew·ered** *ppl. a.*; **Skew·ering** *vbl. sb.*

1794 T. WEDGE *Agric. Chester* 58 The more perfectly the whey is got out of the cheese, by skewering, thrusting, and pressing, the less air will be left in it. 1806 A. HUNTER *Culina* (ed. 3) 237 Take the steaks,..then roll them up, and secure their form by skewering. 1839 *Mag. Dom. Econ.* IV. 243 The cheese..is turned and the pressure and skewering continued. 1868 *Daily Tel.* 29 May, The Chinese belles, with their crimped..and skewered hair.

†**Skewing.** *Obs.*—[1] = SKEWAGE.

1312 in Sharpe *Cal. Lett. Bk. D.* (1902) 280 [Citizens of York to pass free from payment of murage, pavage,] skewynge [or] skewenge, [and other customs].

Skewing (in Gilding): see SKEW *v.*[3]

Skew·ly, *adv. rare.* [f. SKEW *a.* 2 b + -LY[2].] In a skew manner.

1896 W. W. R. BALL *Math. Recreations* (ed. 3) 137 Two cells in complementary rows and columns are said to be skewly related.

Skew·ness. [f. SKEW *a.* + -NESS.] The quality of being skew.

1894 *Phil. Trans.* CLXXXVI. 357 While their frequent skewness sufficiently indicates that the neglect of $X'r + \frac{1}{2}$ as compared with *a* is unjustifiable. 1901 *Nature* 3 Oct. 569/1 The polygon with the lower mode has a skewness of +0.48.

Skewse, obs. f. Scuse *v.* **Skewt**, var. Scoot *v.*

† **Skey**, *sb.*¹ *Obs. rare.* A kind of boat.

1507 *Will of German* (Somerset Ho.), A boote otherwise called a Skeye. 1542 *Admir. Ct. Warrant Bks.* 1 Sept., Navicula vocata a skey.

‖ **Skey** (skēi), *sb.*² *S. African.* Also **skea.** [Du. *schei* tie-piece.] One of a pair of wooden bars passing through each end of an ox-yoke, to which the neckstraps are fixed.

1850 R. G. Cumming *Hunter's Life S. Afr.* (1902) 7/1 In inspanning, the yoke is placed on the back of the neck of the ox, with one of these skeys on either side. *Ibid.* 10/2 The oxen..spring about in the yoke,..invariably snapping the straps and yoke-skeas. 1863 W. C. Baldwin *Afr. Hunting* iv. 103 From the beams hung Kaffir ropes,..old saddles, yokes, skeys, neckstraps, and all apparatus for wagoning.

† **Skey**, *a. Obs.*⁻⁰ [var. of Skeigh *a.*] Skittish. Cf. the vb. *skey* (of a horse) in Brockett (1829).

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 444/2 Schey, or skey, as hors, or sty3tyl. *Ibid.* 457/2 Skey, as hors, *umbraticus.*

† **Skey**, *v. Sc. Obs. rare.* [Of obscure origin; perh. two different words.]

1. *intr.* To get clear, to sheer *off.*

c 1470 Henry *Wallace* x. 873 Bot fra the Scottis thai mycht nocht than off skey, The clyp so sar on athir burd thai wey.

2. *trans.* ? To startle, come upon suddenly.

1539 in Pitcairn *Crim. Trials* I. 220* 3e slew his serwandis doggis þat skeyit 3ou quhare 3e lay.

Skey, obs. f. Sky. **Skeymishe, -mows(e,** obs. ff. Squeamish. **Skeyn(e,** obs. ff. Skein, Skene. **Skeyr,** obs. Sc. f. Skere. **Ske33ren,** var. Skair *v. Obs.*

‖ **Ski** (ʃī, skī), *sb.* Pl. **ski** (also **skis**). Also **she, skee.** [a. Norw. *ski* (*skji, sjii,* also written *skid*) neut.:—ON. *skíð* snow-shoe, billet of cleft wood, = OE. *scíd* Shide *sb.* In some Norw. dialects also *skida* (*skjia, skjie*) fem., = Sw. *skida* (pl. *skidor*):—ON. *skíða.* In mod. Norw. and Sw. *sk* before palatal vowels has the value of (ʃ).

The form *skid,* and the Sw. pl. *skidor,* have occasionally been used in English context, but have not obtained general currency.]

1. One of a pair of long slender pieces of wood fastened to the foot and used as a snow-shoe, enabling the wearer to slide down hill with great speed.

The length and breadth of ski vary, but the average dimensions are eight feet long and four inches broad; they are usually pointed and curved at the toe, sometimes curved at the heel. Within recent years the use of ski as a means of exercise or sport has spread from Norway and Sweden to Switzerland and other places.

α. 1885 Tromholt *Aurora Borealis* I. 136 The Ski are pointed and slightly curved at one end, and the edges rounded. 1893 *Daily Graphic* 28 June 13 Fourteen pairs of ash and sycamore ski of special pattern, some being 10 feet in length.

β. 1889 *Montreal Daily Star* Carnival No. 4/3 Snowshoes, skees, and tugues were hung about the arch in stars. 1900 *Westm. Gaz.* 28 Aug. 2/1 Tobogganing, sleighing, and skee-ing (on long, narrow, snow-shoes called 'skees').

2. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *ski-climber, -runner; ski-excursion, -jumping, -running; ski staff,* etc.

Examples of this type are common in recent usage: only a few are given here. The Norw. or Sw. forms of some (as *skilöbning*) are occasionally employed.

1854 Latham *Native Races Russ. Emp.* 84 The most characteristic..of their habits..is what we may call by a name coined for the occasion—she-running. 1888 *Times* 16 Nov. 10/1 At a concourse in Christiania he became champion ski-runner. 1896 *Idler* Mar. 307/2 He thrust out his ski staff and tripped up his companion.

Hence **Ski** *v. intr.*, to travel on ski. **Ski·er,** one who uses or travels on ski; a ski-runner. **Ski·-ing** *vbl. sb.*, the action of travelling or running on ski, esp. as a sport. Also *attrib.*

1893 *Daily News* 31 Jan. 5/3 If we had winter worth speaking of here, ski-ing would soon take a prominent place among our field sports. 1895 *Advance* (Chicago) 4 Apr. 967/2, I have seen an expert skeer go down a long steep hill with the swiftness scarcely equaled by a bird. *Ibid.*, It must be a very funny sight, that of the skeeing down hill. 1904 *Times* 4 Mar. 9/2 They skied down to Chamonix.

Skiagram (skəi·ăgræm). Also **skiogram.** [f. Gr. σκιά shadow + -gram.]

1. An outline of the shadow of an object filled in with black (see quot. 1801); a picture painted or produced in this style.

1801 Fuseli *Lect. Paint.* i. 9 The first essays of the art were Skiagrams, simple outlines of a shade, similar to.. Silhouettes; without any other addition of character or feature but what the profile of the object thus delineated, could afford. 1843 *Blackw. Mag.* LIV. 694 To trace back the more perfect art through its stages—the 'Polychrom', the 'Monochrom', the 'Monogram', and 'Skiagram'. 1848 Wornum *Lect. Paint.* 351 *note,* Vases, or those with the black figures (skiagrams) on the stained reddish-yellow terra cotta, are the most ancient.

2. A skiagraph, radiograph.

1896 *Brit. Med. Jrnl.* 29 Feb. 557 In another case of suspected tuberculous disease of the foot I obtained a very good skiogram. 1899 *Athenæum* 2 Sept. 324 The first series of skiagrams..published with the design of showing the development of the bones of the hand and wrist.

Hence **Ski:agramma·tic** *a.*, skiagraphic (*Cassell's Suppl.*). Also **Ski:agramma·tically** *adv.*, skiagraphically.

1901 *Lancet* 26 Jan. 251/1 It often happened that a limb though not skiagrammatically perfect, was yet functionally so.

Skiagraph (skəi·ăgrɑf), *sb.* Also **skio-.** [See Sciagraph.] A photograph obtained by means of the Röntgen rays; a radiograph. = Sciagraph 3.

1896 *Daily News* 11 Apr. 6/4 On a skiagraph being taken.. an obscure..form of partial dislocation was easily discovered. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* III. 362 Skiagraphs taken by means of the X Röntgen rays.

Hence **Ski·agraph** *v. trans.*, to photograph by means of the Röntgen rays. **Skia·grapher,** a radiographer (Gould *Dict. Med.* Suppl.). **Ski:agra·phic** *a.*, of or pertaining to skiagraphy; radiographic. **Ski:agra·phically** *adv.*, after the manner of a skiagraph; by means of, with respect to, skiagraphy.

1896 *Brit. Med. Jrnl.* 29 Feb. 587 Photograph of a patient being *skiographed. *Ibid.* 18 Apr. 997 It is now possible.. to skiagraph the foreign body. *Ibid.* 22 Feb. 491 All this was ascertained by means of..the *skiographic method. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VI. 135 Skiagraphic investigation..in the diagnosis of intra-thoracic growths. 1892 *Speaker* 5 Mar. 285/2 Through the blinds of the saloon below various pairs of lovers are seen—*skiagraphically embracing. 1896 *Brit. Med. Jrnl.* 22 Feb. 490 A case of osseous ankylosis skiographically diagnosed.

Skiagraphy (skəiæ·grăfi). [See Sciagraphy.]

1. (See quot.)

1859 Gullick & Timbs *Paint.* 37 Painting is said to have passed through several stages in Greece, commencing with simple skiagraphy or shadow-painting: by which is meant giving the exterior outline, or shape of the shadow of an object, without any intermediate lines.

2. (See first quot.)

1858 Gladstone *Homer* I. 235 The fundamental distinction between his [i. e. Homer's] Inner and Outer, his practical and poetical geography. In order to mark that distinction more forcibly, I would..even call..the latter his territorial skiagraphy. *Ibid.* III. 343 There is a great mass of fabulous and imaginative skiagraphy.

3. Radiography.

1896 (*title*), Archives of Clinical Skiagraphy [continued as, Archives of the Roentgen Ray]. 1898 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* V. 768 Skiagraphy has been employed for the diagnosis of pericardial effusion.

Skian, var. Skene. **Skiatic,** obs. var. Sciatic *a.*²

Ski·bbet. Now *dial.* Forms: 4–5 **skybet, skibet,** 5 **skebett,** 9 **skibbet, skivet.** [Of obscure origin: cf. Skippet¹.] A small box; a small compartment in a chest, etc. Also *transf.*

1398 Trevisa *Barth. De P. R.* v. xxxix. (Bodl. MS.), And what is hoote and drye..is resceyued proprelich in þe skybet of þe galle. *Ibid.*, Þe skibet of the splene, þe melt. *c* 1500 in *Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* Var. Coll. IV. 25 De diuersis pixidibus, hampers, skebettis, et aliis locis, ut hoc patet sequenter. 1880 *W. Cornwall Gloss.* 51/2 *Skibbet,* a small covered compartment in a large chest, always near the top. 1895 Quiller Couch *Wandering Heath* 81 My grandfather kept his fishing lines in a little skivet under the stern-sheets.

Skice, *v.*¹ Now *dial.* Also 6–7 **skise,** 9 **skeyse.** [Of obscure origin.] *intr.* To move quickly; to skip or frisk about; to run, etc.

1591 Fletcher *Russe Commw.* (Hakl.) 14 They skise a large space, and seeme for to flie withall, and therefore they call them..flying squirrels. 1641 Brome *Joviall Crew* iv. i, He is..up at five a Clock in the morning..; Skise out this away, and skise out that away; (He's no Snayle, I assure you). 1790 Grose *Prov. Gloss.*, *To skice,* to play and frolick about. 1846 W. Sandys *Spec. Corn. Dial.* 19 Then a passel of maidens..beginn'd for to skeyce and to fade so friskis. 1867 Harland & Wilkinson *Folk-lore Lanc.* 181 To Lapland, Finland, we do skice. 1875– in dial. glossaries (Sussex, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, etc.).

† **Skice,** *v.*² *Obs. rare.* [? Alteration of *sclice* Slice *v.*] *trans.* To slice, cut.

1600 Holland *Livy* ii. lv. 829 The more fiercely he cryed on still, the more cruellie fell the Lictor to cut and skice his apparrell. 1601 — *Pliny* I. 544 To skice and scrape their bark round about, in maner of scarification.

† **Skick,** *v. Obs. rare.* Also 4 **skyke,** 5 **skikke.** [var. of Skeck *v.*] = Skeck *v.* Hence † **Ski·cking.**

13.. *K. Alis.* 6077 (W.), And into theo mores they heom drowe,..For to skyke, and for to slene, Of kyng Alisaundris men. *Ibid.* 6142 The kyng was sory..That he no myghte geve heom bataile, Bote here and there, with skykyng. *Ibid.* 6276 By robbery they liveth, and skickyng. *a* 1400 [see Skeck *v.* 1].

Skid (skid), *sb.* Also 7 **skidde,** 8–9 **skeed,** 9 **skidd.** [Of doubtful origin: both form and sense suggest some connexion with ON. *skíð* (see Ski) and OE. *scíd* Shide, but *skid* does not phonetically represent either of these.]

1. A beam, plank, or piece of timber, *esp.* one of a number upon which something rests or is supported, or by which a thing is held in position.

1609–10 *Cranbrook Churchw. Acc.* in Stahlschmidt *Bells of Kent* (1887) 239 It. pd for two Skiddes for the frame of the bells, vs iiijd. 1759 *Phil. Trans.* LI. 292 This tub was fixed upon skids (pieces of timber) about six inches thick. 1809 W. Irving *Knickerb.* (1861) 76 He had not a little the appearance of a beer barrel on skids. 1850 Holtzapffel *Turning* III. 93 The block..is then mounted upon square pieces of wood called skids. 1859 F. A. Griffiths *Artil. Man.* (1862) 63 There is..a skid, or transom, placed across the last step of the carriage.

b. One of a number of beams, or pieces of stone, on which a vessel is built, or placed during repair.

1856 *Illustr. Lond. News* 2 Feb. 110/1 This [dry] dock.. was 191 feet long on the stone skids at bottom. 1867 Smyth *Sailor's Word-bk.* 629 *Skids,*..beams resting on blocks, on which small craft are built. 1888 *Daily Telegr.* 27 June 5/2 Boats which will float from their skids when waterborne.

2. † **a.** A kind of sledge. *Obs.*

1712 J. James tr. *Le Blond's Gardening* 182 You must have..a Kind of Skid or Sledge, upon which the tree is set a little leaning.

b. *Naut.* (See quot. 1750.)

α. 1743 Bulkeley & Cummins *Voy. S. Seas* 8 There broke a Sea in the Ship, which..bilg'd the Cutter, and canted her off the Skeets [*sic*]..athwart the Barge. 1769 Falconer *Dict. Marine* (1780) D 2, The main skeeds, for hoisting in the boats clear of the ship's side. 1823 W. Scoresby *Jrnl.* 303 It cleared all our boats, and occasioned only a trifling injury to some of the skeeds in its progress.

β. 1750 Blanckley *Naval Expos.* 152 Skids are wooden Fenders fay'd on the Outside of the Ship, for the Conveniency of hoisting in Boats, Provisions, etc. 1769 Falconer *Dict. Marine* (1780), *Skids,* or *Skeeds,* are long compassing pieces of timber, formed so as to answer the vertical curve of a ship's side. 1846 A. Young *Naut. Dict.* 284. 1893 J. A. Barry *Steve Brown's Bunyip* 92 The boats on the davits and the long-boat on the skids.

c. A plank or roller on which a heavy thing may be slid or pushed along.

1846 Young *Naut. Dict.* 284 The name of Skids is also given to pieces of plank put under a vessel's bottom, for the purpose of launching her off when she has been driven ashore. 1848 Bartlett *Dict. Amer.*, *Skid,* a piece of light timber from ten to twenty feet in length, upon which heavier timber is rolled or slid from place to place. 1868 *Regul. Army* ¶ 1167 As it may become necessary to disembark without the aid of a platform, some strong skids not less than 15 feet long, should always be carried.

d. *Lumbering.* One of a set of peeled logs or timbers, partially sunk into the ground, and forming a roadway along or down which logs are drawn or slid; also, one of the logs forming a skidway (see 5). *U.S.*

1851 *Harper's Mag.* III. 518 New skids are nicely peeled ..and plentifully as well as calculatingly laid along the road. 1880 *Lumberman's Gaz.* 14 Jan., Some of the lumbermen have from 8,000,000 to 10,000,000 [logs] on the skids. 1893 *Atlantic Monthly* Feb. 194/2 Then the load itself, three logs tandem,..slid over the greased skids with a gliding, majestic motion.

e. *Coalmining.* (See quot.)

1883 Gresley *Gloss. Coal-m.*, *Skids,* slides or slippers upon which certain coal-cutting machines travel along the faces whilst at work.

3. A device for locking the wheel of a vehicle or for retarding its motion in descending a hill or slope; *esp.* an iron shoe chained to the vehicle and placed in front of the wheel so as to be caught between it and the ground.

1766 *Compl. Farmer, Skid,* the chain by which the wheel of a waggon is fastened, so as to prevent its turning round, upon descending a steep hill. 1824 Burchell *Trav.* I. 151 The *remschoen* (lock-shoe or skid) is a log of wood..having a groove in it to receive the felly of the wheel. 1836 Sir G. Head *Home Tour* 87 As the laden carriages are thus raised, an iron skid is attached to the last, to prevent accident. 1874 M. Collins *Transmigr.* I. vi. 95 We began to descend a hill so steep that the skid was necessary.

transf. 1866 E. C. Rye *Brit. Beetles* 114 This development ..acts as a 'skid' or 'break' upon the base of the elytra.

b. *fig.* or in fig. context. A retarding influence or agency.

1841 Hood *Tale of a Trumpet* 591 Backsliding in spite of all moral skid. 1865 *Daily Telegr.* 12 Apr. 6 It is for ever the function of Tories to be the skid, and not the wheel. 1874 *Slang Dict.* 292 It is often said that a talkative person might put the skid on, with advantage to his listeners. 1884 *Contemp. Rev.* Aug. 193 Legislation does not require to have a skid on the wheels continuously.

4. [From the vb.] An act of skidding; also, a side-slip. (Frequent in recent use.)

5. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as **skid-beam, -pan** (see quots.); **skid-road,** a way or track formed of skids (2 d) along which logs are hauled; **skid-way** (see quot. 1893); also, an inclined way formed of skids (2 d).

1846 Young *Naut. Dict.* 290 Spar-deck properly signifies a temporary deck laid in any part of a vessel; and the beams whereon it rests get the name of *skid-beams. 1895 *Daily News* 31 Jan. 6/2 Lifting the heavy boats into their positions on the skid-beams over the upper deck. 1838 Holloway *Prov. Dict.*, *Skid-pan,* the iron, used to Skid with. 1884 *C. T. C. Monthly Gaz.* Nov. 347/1 These roads being composed of soft stone, and all waggons coming down with skidpans on. 1880 *7th Rep. Topogr. Surv. Adirondack Reg.* 176 Advised that lumbermen had cut '*skid-roads' on which logs were drawn [etc.]. 1879 *Lumberman's Gaz.* 24 Dec. 9 The *skidways through the woods are piled full of logs. 1893 *Scribner's Mag.* June 707/1 The skidway consists of two logs or timbers about ten feet apart, laid perpendicular to the log-road.., upon which a tier of logs is placed ready to be loaded on the sleighs.

Skid (snow-shoe): see Ski.

Skid (skid), *v.*¹ [f. Skid *sb.*]

1. *trans.* To apply or fasten a skid or brake to (a wheel) in order to retard its motion; to lock (a wheel) in this way.

1674 Ray *S. & E. C. Words* 77 To *Skid* a wheel: *Rotam sufflaminare,* with an iron hook fastned to the Axis to keep it from turning round upon the descent of a steep hill, *Kent.* [Hence in later Dicts.]. 1859 Dickens *Two Cities* i. ii, The guard got down to skid the wheel for the descent. 1860 *Proc. Inst. Civ. Engineers* XIX. 495 If it is required to put on the breaks harder, and to skid the wheels. 1879 *Man. Artill. Exerc.* 133 In order that the wheels may be skidded when necessary to check the recoil.

b. To push or drag (a person) *along*.

1881 *Times* 2 Feb. 4/5 He was skidded along in front of the wheel of the cab.

2. *Lumbering.* To haul (logs) on or along skids; to pile or place on a skid-way. Also *absol.*

1878 *Lumberman's Gaz.* 6 Apr., Not one-fifth of the logs cut and skidded..have been banked. *Ibid.* 18 Dec. 426 Operators have been cutting and skidding for the past thirty or forty days. 1888 *Scribner's Mag.* Dec. 655/2 The logs are then 'skidded' by horses or oxen into skidways.

3. *intr.* Of a wheel: To slip or be dragged along without revolving, esp. as the effect of having a skid or brake applied to it.

1838 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* I. 160/2 An engine always gets through its work better upon a wet day than a dry one...It is true, the wheels skid more. 1854 *Trans. Philol. Soc.* 84 A roller *skids*, when in a sharp turn it cuts up the turf. 1894 A. ROBERTSON *Nuggets*, etc. 200 We..would suddenly skid, with the break on, down a steep hill.

transf. 1862 JACOMB in *Peaks, Passes, & Glac.* Ser. II. I. 244 We left at noon, and glissaded down the slopes to the Maison Blanche again. Mr. Mathews..skidded down with all his wonted agility.

b. To slip obliquely or sideways, esp. owing to the muddy, wet, or dusty state of the road; to side-slip. Usually said of cycle or motor-car wheels, but also of horse-vehicles or persons.

1884 *Pall Mall G.* 12 May 10/2 While the steam-engine ..was on its way to the fire the wheels 'skidded' against the kerb. 1886 *C. T. C. Gaz.* IV. 137 Enough weight on the steering-wheel to prevent it skidding at all. 1892 *Liverpool Daily Post* 4 July, The back wheel of their machine skidded, throwing the lady under the vehicle.

Hence **Ski·dder**, a lumberman who hauls logs along the skids to the skidway; **Ski·dding** *ppl. a.*

1883 in *Cent. Dict.*, The skidders haul the logs to the pile. 1897 *Daily News* 31 Dec. 3/1 Skidding 'buses, and the fog silence.

Skid (skid), *v.*[2] *rare.* [variant of SCUD *v.*[1]] *intr.* To run or go quickly, to scud.

1815 MME. D'ARBLAY *Diary* (1876) IV. lxiv. 311 They ran skidding down the aisle of the chapel..like frightened hares. 1891 KIPLING *Barrack-Room Ball., Screw Guns* i, You can skid up the trees, but you don't get away from the guns!

Skidding (ski·diŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. SKID *sb.* or *v.*[1]]

1. *concr.* Timber or planks used as a support for a gun, etc., or to facilitate its removal.

1859 GRIFFITHS *Artill. Man.* (1862) 123 One piece of short skidding, 4½ feet long, five..inches square. *Ibid.* 124, 4.. assists 2 at the lever and skidding. 1879 *Man. Artill. Exerc.* 513 The frame..[is] supported..by two upright oak skids,..and by coins, scotches, or skidding, inserted between it and the fore carriage.

2. *Lumbering.* (See quot. 1878.) Also *attrib.* in *skidding-team, -tongs.*

1877 *Lumberman's Gaz.* 22 Dec., Pevys Skidding Tongs always on hand. 1878 *Scribner's Mag.* XV. 147 Skidding is hauling logs together and placing them on skids convenient for loading. 1893 *Ibid.* June 707/1 The skidding-team is brought in and the log is..hauled away. *Ibid.*, In the case of small logs, it is grappled with 'skidding-tongs', which seize the log like a pair of pinchers.

3. The action of the verb SKID (esp. sense 3).

1889 *Hull & E. Yorks. Times* 27 Apr., Bump on the roadway, through the skidding of the wheels over the wet stones. 1889 *Daily News* 21 June 6/3 There was no skidding of the wheels, and there was no appearance of the brake having been applied.

Ski·ddy, Ski·ddy-cock. *dial.* (See quots.)

1787 GROSE *Prov. Gloss., Skiddey*, or *Skiddey-cock*, a water-rail. 1886 NEWTON in *Encycl. Brit.* XX. 223/1 The Water-Rail, locally known as the Skiddy or Billcock, is the *Rallus aquaticus* of Ornithology.

Skie, obs. form of SKY *sb.*[1]

Skied (skəid), *ppl. a.* [f. SKY *sb.*[1] or *v.*[1]]

1. Seeming to touch or reach the sky; lofty. *rare*[−1].

1730–46 THOMSON *Autumn* 1097 Wide the pale deluge floats, and streaming mild O'er the sky'd mountain to the shadowy vale.

2. As second element in combs.: Having a sky of a specified kind.

1839–52 BAILEY *Festus* 270 In the bright, hot, blue-skied East. 1903 L. C. SMITHERS *Burton's Arab. Nts.* 7 The ..sensuousness of the hot-skied East glows from every tale.

3. *Cricket.* Of a ball: Hit or sent up high in the air. Also *transf.* of a stroke.

1868 *Morning Star* 19 June, Judging the bound of the ball when it lands after a high throw or skied hit.

Skief, variant of SCAIFE.

Skier, variant of SKYER.

1893 *Times* 12 July 11/5 The fieldsman soon had the satisfaction of seeing the batsman..taken at mid-on from a skier.

Skier, var. SKYER; see also SKI *v.* **Skieve,** var. SKIVE *sb.* **Skiey,** variant of SKYEY *a.*

Skiff (skif), *sb.*[1] Forms: *α.* 6–7 **skiph, skiffe,** 6 **skyfe, skyffe,** 6– **skiff.** *β.* **sciffe,** 7 **sciph.** *γ.* 7 **schiff(e, schiph.** [ad. F. *esquif* (1549), Sp. and Pg. *esquife*, or It. *schifo*: the source of the Romanic word is prob. OHG. *scif* ship, boat.]

1. A small sea-going boat, adapted for rowing and sailing; esp. one attached to a ship and used for purposes of communication, transport, towing, etc. Hence, a small light boat of any kind.

α. 1575 LANEHAM *Lett.* (1871) 13 The hoounds harroing after [deer], az they had bin a number of skiphs too the spoyle of a karuell. 1578 T. N. tr. *Conq. W. India* 8 The Currant..was so fierce, that he could not get in with his Skiffe, because he had no helpe to row. 1587 GREENE *Euphues* Wks. (Grosart) VI. 243 Hee sent secretly one of his sonnes in a little skyfe to Pisandros. 1627 CAPT. SMITH *Seaman's Gram.* vi. 26 Great ships haue also other small boats called Shallops and Skiffes, which are with more ease ..rowed to an[d] againe. 1652 NEEDHAM tr. *Selden's Mare Cl.* 228 Those scouting Skiphs which were joined with the bigger sort of Pinnaces or light Vessels. 1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* II. (Globe) 328 Their Long-Boat, and a great Shallop, besides a small Skiff. 1791 W. GILPIN *Forest Scenery* II. 96 The port of Lymington..is chiefly frequented by light skiffs, rigged in the cutter-form, with a jib and boom. 1840 R. H. DANA *Bef. Mast* xx. 61 We took a little skiff that lay on the beach, and paddled off. 1875 W. MCILWRAITH *Guide Wigtownshire* 95 In later times Lochryan was frequented by the skiffs of the Gaelic tribes.

transf. 1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Epid.* 66 If in two skiphs of cork, a Loadstone and steele be placed.

attrib. 1798 COLERIDGE *Anc. Mar.* VII. iii, The skiff-boat neared: I heard them talk.

β. 1589 T. B. *La Primaud. Fr. Acad.* I. 259 Themistocles sent Sicinnus his childrens schoolemaster secretly in a Sciffe towards the Persians. 1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.*, *Skiff* or *Sciph*, a Ship-boat, properly all of one peece.

γ. 1594 R. ASHLEY tr. *Loys le Roy* 46 To see him hidden in a little Schiffe, whom but a little before the whole Sea could not suffice. 1653 HOLCROFT *Procopius, Goth. Wars* II. 51 Where leaving their ships they took their journey, putting their schiffs upon waynes to passe the Poe with. 1670 *Relat. Siege of Candia* II We found 3 Schiffs, or wherrys, drawn up upon rowlers.

2. *spec.* **a.** A kind of clinker-built sculling- or pleasure-boat (see quot. 1886). Also, a long narrow racing-boat for one oarsman, outrigged, usually fitted with a sliding-seat, and covered in fore and aft with canvas.

1793 in Quiller-Couch *Rem. Oxford* (O.H.S.) 200 Various vessels, moored in view, Skiff, gig, and cutter, or canoe. 1845 in Sherwood *Oxford Rowing* (1900) 26 All skiffs or boats constructed for less than four oars..are to be fitted.. with a sufficient deck or covering made of wood or waterproof canvass. 1883 *Boats of the World* 26 Edward Hanlan's paper' skiff, which..has been sent along faster than any one-man boat of either hemisphere. 1886 BOURNE in *Encycl. Brit.* XXI. 31/2 The skiff is wider and longer than the gig and of greater depth, and, rising higher fore and aft, with rowlock placed on a curved and elevated gunwale,..rows lighter than the gig.

attrib. 1886 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 46 Aug. 4/1 With rowlocks rising high from the gunwales, on the well-known skiff system still preferred on the Thames. 1895 *Daily News* 6 July 10/1 The Skiff Club inaugurated its first season with a successful series of races in Teddington Reach.

b. A light kind of sailing-boat in use on the St. Lawrence. Also *attrib.*

1891 *Harper's Weekly* 19 Sept. 713/4 High winds and heavy seas have no terrors for the skiff sailors. *Ibid.*, The manner of sailing these skiffs is unique.

Hence **Ski·ffless** *a.*, without a skiff or skiffs; **Ski·ffman,** one who mans a skiff.

1829 H. MILLER *Scenes & Leg. N. Scotl.* (1834) 50 Behind spreads wide a skiffless shore. 1868 GORRIE *Summers & Winters Orkneys* vii. 231 The skiffmen make good bargains.

Skiff, *sb.*[2] *Sc.* [f. SKIFF *v.*[2]]

1. A slight gust *of* wind or shower *of* rain, etc.

1819 W. TENNANT *Papistry Storm'd* (1827) 56 Whan skiffs o' wind blaw aff the brae. 1870 in *Public Opinion* 23 July 110 An occasional skiff with the syringe, to keep the foliage free from dust. 1895 *N. B. Daily Mail* 20 June 4 Notwithstanding a slight skiff of rain.

2. A slight sketch, trace, touch, etc., *of* something.

1839 MOIR *Mansie Wauch* xxvii. (ed. 2) 363 Wait a moment, till I give a skiff of description of our neighbour Reuben. 1884 STEVENSON *Lett.* (1901) I. vi. 320 I have had a skiff of cold and was finally obliged to take to bed.

Skiff (skif), *v.*[1] [f. SKIFF *sb.*[1]]

1. †**a.** *trans.* To cross, row or sail over, (a river) in a skiff. *Obs.*[−1]

a 1625 BEAUM. & FL. *Two Noble Kinsmen* I. iii, Perill and want contending, they have skift Torrents, whose roring tyranny and power I'th least of these was dreadfull.

b. *refl.* To row or scull (oneself) in a skiff. In quot. *fig.*

1865 DICKENS *Mut. Fr.* IV. xvii, I hope she steered herself, skiffed herself, paddled herself to the ceremony.

2. *intr.* To row or scull in a skiff; to go on the river in a pleasure-skiff. Hence **Ski·ffing** *vbl. sb.*

1869 BP. MCDOUGALL in Morgan *Univ. Oars* (1873) 314 They..should..confine themselves to mild four-oars and skiffing. 1885 M. PATTISON *Mem.* I. 151 We were together every day, skiffing, walking, teaing. 1898 T. ARNOLD in *19th Cent.* Jan. 106 We used often to go skiffing up the Cherwell.

Skiff, *v.*[2] *Sc.* [Perhaps an alteration of SKIFT *v.*[2], but cf. SCUFF *v.*]

1. *intr.* To move lightly and quickly, esp. so as barely to touch a surface; to glide, run, etc., in this manner. Hence **Ski·ffing** *vbl. sb.*

1725 RAMSAY *Gentl. Sheph.* I. i, Neat she was..As she came skiffing o'er the dewy green. *a* 1758 — *Guardians of the Fair*, Watchful guardians of the fair, Who skiff on wings of ambient air. 1791 A. WILSON in *Poems & Lit. Prose* (1876) II. 19 See Sweet Peggy skiffin' ow'r the lee. 1819 W. TENNANT *Papistry Storm'd* (1827) 66 He saw the Vicar ..Fast scamperin' and skiffin'. 1866 R. CHAMBERS *Ess.* Ser. II. 31 A hurrying across upper floors, and a skiffing up and down stairs.

2. *trans.* To touch lightly in passing over; to skim.

1807–10 TANNAHILL *Poems* (1846) 83 Rude storms assail the mountain's brow That lightly skiff the vale below. 1843 NICHOLSON *Hist. & Tradit. Tales* 234 [They] skiff the water on the wing.

Ski·ffy. *Sc. rare*[−1]. (See quot.)

1795 *Statist. Acc. Scotl., Campsie* XV. 331 There were employed at least two men at the windlass, putting up the coals in skiffies, termed hutches.

†**Skift,** *sb.*[1] *Obs.* Also **skiffte, skyft**(e. [a. ON. *skipti* (MSw. *skipte*; Norw., Sw., Da. *skifte*) distribution, shift, etc.: cf. SKIFT *v.*[1]] A shift, in various senses; a change; a division or share; an artifice, device, or trick.

c 1400 *Sc. Trojan War* (Horstm.) II. 1719 Now as hillis hie it schawis, Now set laich with ane nobir skift, That þai may se nocht bot þe lift. *c* 1440 *York Myst.* XXVI. 130 At oure soper as we satte,..My skiffte come to scathe. *c* 1450 *Bk. Curtasye* 198 in *Babees Bk.*, Yf any man haue part with þe in gyft, With hym þou make an euen skyft. *c* 1460 *Towneley Myst.* xxiv. 392 Is ther none other skyfte Bot syfte, lady, syfte? 1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* VI. xvii. 211 Make ye as good skyfte as ye can; ye shal bere this lady with you on horsbak vnto the pope of Rome. 1532 MORE *Confut. Tindale* Wks. 481/2 He will haue a clappe on the tone cheke or the tother, make what skyfte he can.

†**Skift,** *sb.*[2] *Obs.*[−1] (See quot.)

1783 W. GORDON *Livy* I. iv. (1823) 20 The water had subsided and left the trough or skift [L. *alveus*], in which the infants had been exposed, on dry ground.

Skift, *sb.*[3], variant of SKIFF *sb.*[2]

1877 MAY LAFFAN *Hon. Miss Ferrard* I. vii. 191 The autumn leaves rustling under foot and flying off in sudden skifts across the dry ruddy grass.

Skift, *v.*[1] *Obs.* exc. *dial.* Forms: 4–6 **skyft,** 4–5 **-e** (5 **scyfft**), 4–5, 9 **skift** (8 *Sc.* **skifft**), 5 **-e.** [a. ON. *skipta* (MSw. *skipta*; Norw. and Sw. *skifta*, Da. *skifte*) to divide, change, etc., = OE. *sciftan*, SHIFT *v.*]

1. *trans.* To shift, change, or move (something).

13.. *Cursor M.* 23678 (Edinb.), Sun and mon, and stern on lift, þat ai wit stiring er nu skift,..Fra þat tim stil sal þai stand. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 709 Now haf þay skyfted my skyl & scorned natwre. *c* 1440 *Alph. Tales* 389 He wolde nevur skyfte his clothis bod ons in a yere. 1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* IX. xl. 405 Lete see now yf ye can skyfte it with your handes. 1826– in many north. dial. glossaries, etc. (see *Eng. Dial. Dict.*).

†2. To arrange, devise, manage, or order (something). *Obs.*

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* A. 569 'Þus schal I,' quoth kryste, 'hit skyfte, þe laste schal be þe fyrst þat strykez.' ? *a* 1400 *Morte Arth.* 32 Scathylle Scottlande by skylle he skyftys as hym lykys. *Ibid.* 1643 Loke 3e skyfte it so þat vs no skathe lympe.

†3. To divide, distribute, or make division. *Obs.*

c 1420 *Sir Amadas* 644 (W.), Bot skyfte me evon,..Gyffe me my parte, Y wyll awey. *Ibid.* 656 Oderwyse skyft wyll not wee, Bot at yor wyll schall hit bee. *c* 1425 *Cast. Persev.* 108 in *Macro Plays* 80 His good..he wolde þat it were scyfftyd a-mongis his ny kynne.

†4. *intr.* To ordain; to act, devise. *Obs.*

c 1325 *Metr. Hom.* 61 Bot Godd that skilfulli kan skift, Mad them alle serely spekand. *c* 1500 MEDWALL *Nature* I. (Brandl) 574 Well enured men, suche as..can best for you in tyme of nede skyft.

5. To undergo shifting, change, or removal; to change one's place, etc. *Obs.* exc. *dial.*

13.. *Gaw. & Gr. Kn.* 19 Oft boþe blysse & blunder Ful skete has skyfted synne. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 467 To skyre skarlet hewe skyftis hire face. *Ibid.* 5040 Baldly he wepis, þat he so skitly suld skifte. 1791 J. LEARMONT *Poems* 67 The sun now frae the twal hour point Had nearly skiftit twa hours yont. 1847 E. & A. BRONTE *Wuthering Heights* xxiv, He mad ye skift properly. 1848 *Tales of Kirkbeck* 155 A huge carved oak rocking chair 'fearfu' lubbardly for skifting'.

†b. To escape, get away *from. Obs.*

c 1440 *York Myst.* xxvi. 41 Why, sir, to skyfte [*fr.* skyste] fro his skath We seke for youre socoure þis sesoune.

Hence †**Ski·fting** *vbl. sb.*, division, distribution.

c 1440 *Alph. Tales* 249 So þer fell a grete debate..for skiftyyng of þis money betwix þaim.

Skift, *v.*[2] *Sc.* [Perhaps only a special use of prec.; see also SKIFF *v.*[2]] *intr.* To move lightly and quickly; to skip, run, glide, etc.

a 1586 SIR R. MAITLAND *Poems* (Maitl. Club) 30 Use not to skift athort the gait. 1640 *Canterburians Self-Conviction* Postscr. 13 But ye skift out here much further to an extravagance. 1790 A. WILSON *To W. Mitchell* Poet. Wks. (1846) 112 High ower my head the sheep in packs, I see them mice-like skift. 1819 W. TENNANT *Papistry Storm'd* (1827) 182 And Arnold's nakit ghaist was seen Loupin'.. And skiftin' owr the roofs like fire.

Ski·fter, *v.* (See quot. and cf. prec.)

1887 MRS. C. READE *Maid o' the Mill* xxii, He murmurs spasmodically and skifters off down the stairs.

Ski·fting, Sc. variant of SKIRTING *vbl. sb.* 4.

1842 AITON *Domest. Econ.* (1857) 223 Then take stone, hewn and well jointed, and set it as a skifthing round the whole wall. 1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* I. 119 The floor ..is..finished with a neat skifting board..round the walls of the barn.

†**Skig,** *a. Obs.*[−1] In 4 **skyg.** [Of Scand. origin: cf. Norw. and Sw. dial. *skygg.*] Fastidious.

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 21 He is so clene in his courte,.. Nif he nere scoymus & skyg & non scaþe loued, Hit were a meruayl to muche.

Ski·ing, *vbl. sb.*: see SKI.

†**Skikart.** *Obs.* [? f. SKICK *v.*] An old name for the hare.

a 1325 in *MS. Digby 86* fol. 168 b, Þe scotewine, þe skikart.

†**Ski·lfer.** *Obs. rare.* [a. Du. *schilfer* (†*schelfer*) fragment, scale; cf. SKALFERING.]

1. A small piece; a splinter.

1597 A. M. tr. *Guillemeau's Fr. Chirurg.* 10/2 If you perceave anye skilfers or splinters by the which that membrane might be pricked. 1599 — tr. *Gabelhouer's Bk. Physicke* 342/2 If..there weare one little skilfer, or smale bone.

2. *pl.* Scurf; dandruff.

1599 A. M. tr. *Gabelhouer's Bk. Physicke* 3/1 It expelleth alsoe the skilfers of youre heade. *Ibid.* 47/1 This doth not onlye expelle all skilfers of the heade.

Skilful (ski·lfŭl), *a.* and *adv.* Forms: 4 sceluol, **skileful**; 4–6 **skylful**, 5–6 **-full**(e, 6 **skyllfull**; 4–5 **skilfulle**, 4–7 **-full**, 4– **skilful** (6 **skillful**, 9 *Sc.* **skeelfu'**). [f. SKILL *sb.* + -FUL.]

†1. Endowed with reason; rational; also, following reason, doing right. *Obs.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 21334 Mai na skilful man þis wern. 13.. *St. Erkenwolde* 278 in Horstm. *Altengl. Leg.* (1881) 272 For as he says in his sothe psalmyde writtes: þe skilfulle & þe vnskathely skeltone ay to me. *c* 1380 *Lay Folks Catech.* 19 (Lamb. MS.), He made skylful creaturis as angelys and man. *c* 1440 *York Myst.* iii. 22 A skylfull beeste þan will y make, Aftir my shappe and my liknesse.

†b. Intellectual, mental. *Obs.*—1

1387–8 T. USK *Test. Love* III. vii. (Skeat) I. 43 Dul ben thy skilful understandinges; thy wil hath thy wit so amaistred.

†2. Reasonable, just, proper. *Obs.*

1340 *Ayenb.* 169 Mochel is riȝtuol þing and sceluol þet ich yeue mi lif..uor him þet his lif..yaf uor ous. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) IV. 215 He was nevere so wroþ wiþ man þat he ne wolde forȝeve ȝif he seigh skilful occasioun. *c* 1400 HYLTON *Scala Perf.* I. lxx. (W. de W. 1494), Neuerthelesse it was worthy and skylfull that our lorde sholde shew as he is. *c* 1460 ASHBY *Dicta Philos.* 831 It is nat leful..to be serued, but serue skylful Thinges.

†b. Of stature or distance. *Obs.*

1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) VII. 315 Kyng William was of skilful stature, to greet and fat of body. *c* 1410 *Master of Game* (MS. Digby 182) xxv, þei ought tary till þei are were þat he be entered two skylfull boweshotes. *a* 1513 FABYAN *Chron.* VII. ccxxii. (1811) 247 A man of skylfull stature, but somedele fat in yᵉ bely.

†3. Sufficient, ample. *Obs.*

a 1350 *St. Nicholas* 190 in Horstm. *Altengl. Leg.* (1881) 13 In þat ȝere þai had none nede, Bot skilfull both to mete and sede.

4. Having practical ability; possessing skill; expert, dexterous, clever. Also const. *to*.

1338 R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (1810) 311 At conseil & at nede he was a skilfulle kyng. *c* 1375 *Cursor M.* 27156 (Fairf.), Prest agh be..skilful to knaw þe pliȝt, quilc is heui & quilk is liȝt. 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 82 b, A Captaine of the Sea, moste skylfull. 1587 GOLDING *De Mornay* v. (1592) 49 Of men themselues, the skilfullest make Lawes, & take vpon them to rule others. 1606 SHAKS. *Tr. & Cr.* I. i. 7 The Greeks are strong, & skilful to their strength. 1660 W. SECKER *Nonsuch Prof.* Pref. 15 Where there are any faults men are more skilful to find them, then careful to mend them. 1750 tr. *Leonardus' Mirr. Stones* 44 Many other deceptions may be effected..which are all known to the skilful. 1796 MORSE *Amer. Geogr.* I. 21 Having always his descriptions from the most skilful persons in every country. 1813 SHELLEY *Q. Mab* vii. 25 Human pride Is skilful to invent most serious names To hide its ignorance. 1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) I. 85 One who had been trained and exercised under a skilful master.

absol. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. I. iii, In these delicate circumstances..the skilfullest may falter.

b. Const. *in* a matter.

1555 EDEN *Decades* (Arb.) 72 If he had byn skilfull in Astronomye. 1594 HOOKER *Eccl. Pol.* Pref. ii. § 8 The perfectest divines were judged they, which were skilfullest in Calvin's writings. 1662 STILLINGFL. *Orig. Sacræ* I. vi. § 1 Among the Ægyptians who are supposed most skilfull in the account of the year. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* I. 174/2 The Chinese are very skilful in this kind of work.

†c. Having a good knowledge *of* a subject. *Obs.*

1596 SPENSER *F. Q.* VI. v. 16 [He] vpon him set, of perill nought adrad, Ne skilfull of the vncouth ieopardy. 1609 BIBLE (Douay) *Daniel* comm., Daniel skilful of times, a studious historiographer. 1631 WEEVER *Anc. Funeral Mon.* 251 Very skilfull of the Greeke and Latine tongues.

5. Displaying or requiring skill.

c 1586 C'TESS PEMBROKE *Ps.* XLVII. iii, With skilfull tunes his praises sing. 1598 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. i. I. *Eden* 322 For..he made only sweet Essayes in that, Of skilfull industry. 1757 W. WILKIE *Epigoniad* Pref. p. xvi, He should magnify them likewise by a skilful management of outward circumstances. 1794 BURNS *'My Chloris! mark'* 9 Let minstrels sweep the skilfu' string In lordly lighted ha'. 1805 *Med. Jrnl.* XIV. 416 The skilful manner in which they treated their patient. 1856 KANE *Arct. Expl.* I. xxiii. 309 It was made of the bone of a whale, and worked out with skilful labor. 1895 *Gentl. Mag.* July 581/2 Irony ..is one of those edged tools which require skilful handling.

†6. As *adv.* = SKILFULLY. *Obs.*

a 1400–50 *Alexander* 645 Þus skilfull lange he scolaid & þe scole vsed. *a* 1425 *Cursor M.* 3742 (Trin.), Skilful is iacob his nome, þat is to say in riȝt langage Putter out of heritage.

Skilfully (ski·lfŭli), *adv.* Also 4 **skeluolliche, skilfullıche, skil-, schilfuli, skilefully**, 4–5 **skylfully**, etc. [f. prec. + -LY 2.]

†1. Reasonably; with good reason; naturally.

c 1325 *Metr. Hom.* 46 Ful schilfuli and wit resoun Mai men ask this questioun. 1340 *Ayenb.* 6 Me may zuerie wyþ-oute zenne,..in oþre guode skele and clenliche and skeluolliche. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Second Nun's T.* 320 Men myghten dreden wel and skilfully This lyf to lese. *c* 1400 LOVE *Bonavent. Mirr.* (1908) 176 Who so wole..byholde how oure lorde Jesu wepeth,..skilfully he may be stired to compassioun and wepynge. 1412–20 LYDG. *Chron. Troy* IV. 3198 As deth for deth is skilfully guerdoun. *c* 1460 ASHBY *Dicta Philos.* 403 To..ly not for his profett in suche guise That it shuld harme any man skilfully.

†b. To a reasonable extent; in a moderate degree. *Obs.*

13.. *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* xxxvii. 553 Þerfore I rede..þat vche Mon skilfuli of his god [=good] mak him glad. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) III. 35 He techeþ alle men to be skilfulliche scars. *c* 1430 *Chev. Assigne* 47 She sente aftur a man..That hadde serued her-seluen skylfully longe. *c* 1450 *Two Cookery-bks.* 101 Drawe it thorgh a streynour skilfully thik.

2. In a skilful manner; with skill; cleverly, adroitly, dexterously.

1565 COOPER *Thesaurus, Scienter*, cunnyngly: skilfully. 1588 SHAKS. *L. L. L.* II. i. 253 Thou art an old Louemonger, and speakest skilfully. 1631 GOUGE *God's Arrows* v. § 6. 414 Choice personsare instructed..wisely to encampe, and skilfully to embattaile. 1695 LD. PRESTON *Boethius* I. 16 Thou didst skilfully read upon all Divine and Humane Learning. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1824) I. xv. 100 The one being laid against the other so skilfully, that there is a just equipoise of the whole globe. 1839 JAMES *Louis XIV*, I. 105 He skilfully availed himself of those threats to pretend that his life was in danger. 1861 BUCKLE *Civilis.* (1873) II. viii. 547 The scheme, secretly prepared, was skilfully accomplished.

b. With pa. pples. used attributively.

1821 CRAIG *Lect. Drawing*, etc. iv. 245 In a skilfully executed picture. 1848 BUCKLEY *Iliad* 164, I rushed forth, having burst the skilfully-joined doors. 1863 LYELL *Antiq. Man* 11 The more skilfully worked weapons of a later stage of the same period.

Skilfulness (ski·lfŭlnĕs). Also 5–6 **skylful-**, 7 **skilfulnesse**, 8 **skill-**. [f. as prec. + -NESS.]

†1. The quality of being reasonable. *Obs.*—0

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 457/2 Skylfulnesse, *racionabilitas.*

2. The quality of being skilful; dexterity.

1561 EDEN tr. *Cortes' Arte de Navigar* Pref., The experte skylfulnesse of so excellent a Pilot. 1611 BIBLE *Ps.* lxxviii. 72 He..guided them by the skilfulnesse of his hands. 1660 R. COKE *Power & Subj.* 262 So little avails the skilfulness of the Pilot. 1709 *Brit. Apollo* II. Supernum. No. 1. 2/2 He outstrip'd the Starter in the skillfulness of War. 1768 TUCKER *Lt. Nat.* I. II. xxxv. 336 For want of skilfulness in the pilots. 1885 *Manch. Exam.* 7 Aug. 5/2 A panegyric upon the skilfulness of their administration.

†3. Knowledge *of* a thing. *Obs.*

a 1656 USSHER *Ann.* (1658) 853 The Iberians had the better of it, through their skilfulnesse of the places.

Skill (skil), *sb.*[1] Forms: *a.* 2 **skele**, 4 **sckele**, 9 *Sc.* **skeel**; 2–5 **skile**, 3–5 **skyle**; 2–7 **skil**, 3–4 **sckil**, 4–6 **skyl** (**skylle**), 5–6 **skyll**, 3– **skill** (4–6 **skille**). *β.* 3 **scule**, 4 **scele**, 5 **schele, schyle**; 3–4 **schil**, 4 **schyl**, 4–5 **scill**(e, **scylle**. [a. ON. *skil*, neut. (Icel. and Norw. *skil*, Sw. *skäl*, Da. *skjel*, *skel*) distinction, difference, etc., related to MLG. and MDu. *schele* (LG. *schele, schel*), MDu. and Du. *geschil, verschil*, LG, *schill*: cf. SKILL *v.*[1]]

The great variety of usage in ME. often renders it difficult to assign particular examples to a definite sense.

†1. Reason as a faculty of the mind; the power of discrimination. *Obs.*

c 1200 ORMIN 1210 ȝiff þu follhesst skill & shæd & witt i gode þæwess. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 204 Mid skilles ȝettunge, þet is, hwonne þe schil & te heorte ne wiðsigged nout. 1303 R. BRUNNE *Handl. Synne* 645 Þyn inwyt, þyn owne skyle, Azen þe seyþ and euermore wylle. *c* 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 273 Swylk men er noght led with skylle, Bot þai folow, ay, þair awen wille. 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* XXXII. (*Justin*) 709 Þane þu ma se be kyndly skil þat na man suld gyf treuthe þaim til. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 457/2 Skyl, *racio.* *a* 1500 *Ratis Raving* I. 1763 He disspendyt his resone In wycis agan kindly skill.

†b. Discrimination or discretion in relation to special circumstances. *Obs.*

a 1200 *Vices & Virtues* 139 Ða þinges ðe ne sculen ben iȝiuen, þa beoð to wiðhealden mid michele skele. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 193 Hadde he wel loked him wið skil, Ilc beste sulde don his wil. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* XII. 260 Me think it suld accorde till skill To set stoutness agane felony. *c* 1375 *Cursor M.* 12807 (Fairf.), John ansquared þes men vntille wiþ milde wordes & wiþ skille. *?a* 1400 *Morte Arth.* 32 Skathylle Scottlande by skylle he skyftys as hym lykys. *c* 1470 *Gol. & Gaw.* 1325 Sa that the cause may be kend, and knawin throw skill.

†c. A sense of what is right or fitting. *Obs.*

1338 R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (1810) 245 He praied to hold him stille,..& he suld do his wille, in alle þat skille mot se. 1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. XIX. 279 Ne sholde no scorner ne scolde oute of skyl hym [*sc.* Temperance] brynge. *?c* 1470 ASHBY *Active Policy* 649 Do theim to be lettred right famously Wherby thei shall reule bi Reason and skele. *a* 1536 *Songs, Carols*, etc. (E.E.T.S.) 26 Grant thow me myn askyng, As reason wold, & skyll.

†2. That which is reasonable, proper, right, or just. *Obs.*

a. c 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 61 God..ȝife us to him god iwil, and to alle men rilt and skil. *c* 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 971 Sire kyng, we aske þe bot skyle. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* I. 214 Thai dempt thaim eftir thar will, Takand na kep to rycht na skill. *c* 1460 *Towneley Myst.* ii. 260, I did hym neuer yit bot skill.

β. a 1300 *Cursor M.* 13938 O yur vn-witt qui ne wald yee blin,..And herken scil and bald resun? 1340 *Ayenb.* 53 Þe ilke ne hyealdeþ scele ne mesure. *c* 1400 *Ywaine & Gaw.* 968 It es oft wemens will Tham forto blame that sais tham scill.

†b. In predicative use (=reasonable, right); also with adjs. as *good, great*. *Obs.*

c 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 1425 Siðen men hauen holden [it] skil, first to freinen ðe wimmanes wil. *a* 1300 *Assump. Virg.* 312 Now when it is my sones wille to hym y come, and that is skyle. *c* 1320 *Sir Tristr.* 2635 As lord he þer abade, As gode skil wald be. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* IX. 751 It is gret skill at men chasty Thi prowd vourdis. *c* 1400 *Pilgr. Sowle* (Caxton) I. viii. (1859) 6 In euery ryghtwys court skyle is that the actour be admytted to maken his compleynt. *c* 1470 *Gol. & Gaw.* 147 To mak you lord of your avne, me think it grete skill. *c* 1520 SKELTON *Magnyf.* 106 It is reason and skyll, We your pleasure fulfyll. *c* 1550 ROLLAND *Crt. Venus* I. 784 Madame, that is bot skill, To thair counsall hartlie applie I will.

†c. In prepositional phrases, denoting that something is in accordance with, or contrary to, what is reasonable or right. *Obs.*

(*a*) *c* 1250 *Owl & Night.* 186 May vr eyþer hwat he wile Mid rihte segge & myd skile. 13.. *Seuyn Sages* 3750 (W.), When thou haues said to tham thi will, And gifen the dome, by right and scill. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* VIII. 436 Me think men suld him luf of skill. *c* 1400 *20 Pol. Poems* 24 Let eche man serue his charge in skylle. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* VI. 893 This is a lord..; To salus him ye may be propyr skill.

(*b*) *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 18274 Qui gaf þou rede þis ilk iesu to crucifi, Wit-vten skil, vn-rightwisli? 1303 R. BRUNNE *Handl. Synne* 5825 He meked hym self ouer skyle, Pottes and dysshes for to swele. *Ibid.* 7293 Dyners are oute of skyl and resun On þe Sunday, or hye messe be doun. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* vii. (*Jacobus Minor*) 358 For til escuse hym of þe Ill, þat he had don agannis skill. *c* 1420 *Chron. Vilod.* 4010 Bot þou toke hurr lond from hurre without ony reson or skyll.

†3. Cause, reason, or ground. Also with *a* and pl.

a. a 1300 *Cursor M.* 14833 He has vs wonnen wit maistri, And we sal sceu yow sckil for-qui. *c* 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 1767 Bodily dede here dredes ful many, For twa skilles principaly. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 358 To make werres and to pile For lucre and for non other skyle. *c* 1400 *Pilgr. Sowle* (Caxton) I. xiii. (1859) 9 And that I preue by this skile. *c* 1440 *Gesta Rom.* I. 2 (Harl. MS.), Goode Sir, tell me why and what skile, þat þou so beholdest me? 1537 *State P. Hen. VIII*, I. 551 We haue, for sundry skylles, thought it more convenyent to..differre our journey. 1563 *Homilies* II. *Rogation Week* II. 3 P iv b, For many other skils it is wisedom to knowe..that all goodes..be of God. 1611 SHAKS. *Wint. T.* IV. iv. 152, I thinke you haue As little skill to feare, as I haue purpose To put you to't. 1642 ROGERS *Naaman* 280 Thinking the Lion to be couchant for a skill, that he might be rampant after.

β. c 1300 *Cursor M.* 9389 Yon was a rightwis dom, Als yee sal se wit rightwis scill. 1340 *Ayenb.* 11 This heste uorbyet wyl to habbe oþre manne þing by wyckede scele. *c* 1400 *Ywaine & Gaw.* 293, I sayd, How so? tel me thi scill. *c* 1430 LYDG. *Min. Poems* (Percy Soc.) 229 The secounde schyle ys that thou shalle dye.

†b. A statement made by way of argument or reasoning. *Obs.*

1303 R. BRUNNE *Handl. Synne* 4263 Þan ys þys Terlyncels skylle, 'Slepe þou long, and y shal hele'. *Ibid.* 11581 Seynt Austyn seyþ þys skyl, Do þys-aftyr who so wyl. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 104 For ye have told me such a skile Of this ensample. *c* 1400 *Ywaine & Gaw.* 3451 When the king had tald this scill. *c* 1425 *Cast. Persev.* 2532 in *Macro Plays*, Coueytyse, þou seyst a good skyl..; al þi byddynge don I wyl.

†4. a. One's case or cause. *Obs. rare.*

a 1300 *E. E. Psalter* xlii. 1 Deme me,..and schede mi skil [L. *causa*] Fra men þat noght be hali wil. *Ibid.* lxxiii. 23.

†b. An arrangement, ordinance. *Obs.*—1

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 709 Now haf þay skyfted my skyl & scorned natwre.

†c. A wise or sensible act. *Obs.*—1

15.. *Doun by ane rever* 63 in *Dunbar's Poems* (S.T.S.) II. 307 Wyismen said, he did nane skill.

†5. In the phr. *can* (or *could*) *skill*, to have discrimination or knowledge, esp. in a specified matter. Usually const. *of*, *in*, or *to* with inf. *Obs.*

The phr. is an adoption of the ON. *kunna skil.* In later use, when not accompanied by an adj., *skill* was probably in most cases apprehended as a vb. (cf. SKILL *v.*[1] 4 b). The construction with *of* is extremely common *c* 1525–1640.

(*a*) *c* 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* Prol. 198 Ilk cristen man and weman þat has witte and mynd, and skille can,..Suld be bughsom ay [etc.]. 1489 CAXTON *Fayttes of A.* II. xxiv. 137 By the aduys of them that best can skyle theos palebordes shal be sette. 1526 SKELTON *Magnyf.* 1377 But some man wolde conuey, and can not skyll. 1581 LAMBARDE *Eiren.* I. i. (1588) 5 Let them iudge that can skill.

(*b*) 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) II. 345 [Saturnus] koupe skile of vynes and in repynge and in telyenge of feeldes. *a* 1450 *Knt. de la Tour* (1868) 34 It is a gret perille to beginne to haue langage with suche men that canne skille of the worlde. 1526 TINDALE *Luke* xii. 56 Ye can skyll of the fassion of the erth, and of the skye. 1561 T. HOBY tr. *Castiglione's Courtyer* III. (1577) O j b, Many..that coulde as well skill in ruling Cities and armies, as men can. 1577 *Test. 12 Patriarchs* (1604) 153 A holy man..passeth not how men dishonour him; neither can he skill in any fraud or guile. 1647 TRAPP *Comm. 2 Cor.* xii. 19 But Saint Paul could not skill of those arts.

(*c*) 1542 UDALL *Erasm. Apoph.* 269 Thei have not a capitain that can skill how to use victorie, when he hath it. 1590 GREENE *Never too late* Wks. (Grosart) VIII. 72 Seigneur Francesco..coulde well skill to court all kinde of degrees. 1601 DENT *Pathw. Heaven* 75 Many such men as you are, can skill to giue good words. 1675 EVELYN *Terra* (1729) 11 We could skill to modify also the Air about them. 1869 JEAN INGELOW *Lily & Lute* I. 82 Could he skill to make it seen As he saw?

†b. With adjs., as *good, no, some*, etc.

c 1350 *Leg. Rood* (1871) 71 Þai trowed to turn life him vntill, For þai kowth þan none oþer skill. *c* 1400 *Beryn* 1628 Ascaunce þat þey were lewde, And coude no skill of marchandise. *c* 1450 *Merlin* II. 27 Thei can knowe many thinges be force of clergie that we ne can no skyle on. 1479 *Paston Lett.* III. 244 He can good skylle to helpe in this mater of the benefice of Oxned. 1523 FITZHERB. *Husb.* § 52 Let the wol be..wounden with a woll-wynder, that can good skyll therof. 1540 HEYWOOD *Four P. P.* in Hazl. *Dodsley* I. 359 Yet in lying I can some skill, And if I shall be judge I will. 1587 GOLDING *De Mornay* (1592) 105 Their greatest Philosophers could lesse skill of the nature..of the Tydes.

6. Capability of accomplishing something with precision and certainty; practical knowledge in combination with ability; cleverness, expertness. Freq. const. *to* with inf.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 26181 Ga Til a wijser to sceu þi wond,

þat skill has for to mak it sond. 1553 *Respublica* 1109 Will ye beleve People that hath no manier of skill to iudge or to descerne what thing is good or yll? 1596 Drayton *Legends* ii. 34 Though..pleasing be his Rime, Yet all his skill cannot excuse her Crime. 1628 Coke *On Litt.* 3 b, If these..bee granted to a man that is unexpert, and hath no skill and science to exercise..the same. 1671 Milton *P. R.* iv. 552 To stand upright Will ask thee skill. 1738 Wesley *Psalms* cxxxix. 4 Heav'n, Earth, and Sea,..Shew me thy wond'rous Skill. 1784 Cowper *Task* iii. 407 No works..but such as may amuse.., demanding rather skill than force. *Ibid.* vi. 619 That oft we owe our safety to a skill We could not teach. 1849 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* v. I. 543 Utterly destitute of the skill necessary to the conduct of great affairs. 1874 Green *Short Hist.* viii. § i. 452 The boy inherited his father's skill on lute and organ.

b. Const. *in* (also arch. *of*) a subject, practice, etc.

1553 Eden *Treat. New Ind.* (Arb.) 9 Whiche viage is sufficiently knowen to suche as haue any skyll in Geographie. 1590 *Plain Perc.* 9 Euery cut-purse vseth them.. that hath had any skill in his miniken Handsaw. 1662 Stillingfl. *Orig. Sacræ* ii. ii. § 6 Their great skill in Astronomy is attested by Diodorus. 1676 Ray *Corr.* (1848) 122 This author..hath good skill in the feeding and ordering of singing-birds. 1709 Steele *Tatler* No. 78 ¶ 9 Who shows as much Liberality in his Practice as he does..Skill in his Profession. 1828 Scott *F. M. Perth* v, His professional jealousy, personal strength, and skill in the use of arms, brought him into many quarrels. 1887 Swinburne *Locrine* i. i. 29 No skill of speech have I. 1889 Barrie *Window in Thrums* xx. 195 He had little skill in talk.

† **c.** An art or science. *Obs.*

1570 Dee *Math. Pref.* a iiij, Of the former knowledge Geometricall, are growen the Skills of Geographie, Chorographie, and Stratarithmetrie. 1613 Heywood *Brazen Age* ii. ii, Those hidden skils, Ascrib'd vnto the infernall Proserpine. 1647 Fuller *Holy War* iii. vi. (1840) 118 Richard.. quickly got money, the sinews of warre, by a thousand princely skills. 1667 *Decay Chr. Piety* v. § 27. 241 And certainly, the skill of Christian suffering is not the easiest of all trades or sciences.

† **d.** A skilled person. *Obs.*—1

a 1657 R. Loveday *Lett.* (1663) 77 You will much oblige me to propound it to as many skills as you shall converse with, and to send me their several judgements.

7. Knowledge or understanding *of* something. Now *arch.*

1587 Golding *De Mornay* xxvii. (1592) 425 If thou eate of the tree of the skill of good and euill. 1638 Featly *Strict. Lyndom.* i. 157 Surely that Priest..could not have skill of brachygraphy, nor well spell Latine. 1685 Burnet tr. *More's Utopia* Pref. 3 If he..has a competent skill of the one tongue, and is a master of the other. 1818 Scott *Hrt. Midl.* v, Since ye say ye hae skeel o' the law. 1887 Morris *Odyssey* xi. 463 Thereof I have no skill, Whether he liveth or dieth.

† **8.** *No skill*, it matters not. *Obs.*—1

1575 R. B. *Appius & Virg.* in Hazl. *Dodsley* IV. 128 Though shame or defame do happen, no skill.

9. *attrib.* and *Comb.* (in sense 6), as *skill-pride, -thirst*; *skill-contending, -wrought* adjs.; **skill facet** (see quot. 1850).

1591 Sylvester *Du Bartas* i. i. 664 With curious Skill-pride, and vaine dreames. 1593 Shaks. *Lucr.* 1018 Busy yourselues in skill-contending schools. 1598 Sylvester *Du Bartas* ii. i. ii. *Imposture* 539 Too-curious-Skill-thirst, Envie, Felony. 1615 H. Crooke *Body of Man* 197 To reueyle the veyle of Nature, to prophane her mysteries for a little curious skil-pride. 1751 Jeffries *Treat. Diamonds & Pearls* (ed. 2) Gloss., In Brilliants, there are two sorts, *skew* or *skill* facets and *star* facets. 1850 Holtzapffel *Turning* III. 1330 These triangular facets are called skill facets, from the difficulty of placing them correctly. *Ibid.* 1336 A row of double skill facets are then arranged around the girdle. 1887 R. Brown *Trilogy* 72 For ever dart-struck was his casque Skill-wrought.

† **Skill**, *sb.*[2] *Obs. rare.* ? A skillet.

1600 *Shuttleworth's Acc.* (Chetham Soc.) 128 One skille xj[d]; one brazen ladle viij[d]. 1603 *Ibid.* 150, ij skilles xix[d].

Skill, obs. variant of Skull[2], basket.

Skill (skil), *v.*[1] Now *arch.* Forms: 3 **skelien, skilen**, 4 **skile**; 4–5 **scil**, 5–7 **skil**, 6 **skyl**; 5–6 **skyll**, 6 **skille**, 6– **skill**. [a. ON. *skilja* to divide, distinguish, etc., or *skíla* to decide, expound, related to MDu. and MLG. *schillen* and *schelen* to differ, make a difference, etc. Cf. Skill *sb.*[1]]

† **1. a.** *intr.* To separate, part *from*. *Obs.*—1

a 1200 *Vices & Virtues* 17 Ðu..noldest þenchen of ðine forðeiðe, þat tu fram ðine lichame scoldest skelien, and tefore me cumen.

† **b.** *trans.* To separate, divide, take *out*. *Obs.*

c 1200 Ormin 16860 Unnlic all oþerr lede, & skiledd ut all fra þe follc þurrh haliȝ lif & lare. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 9291 Wel sal he cun knau quilk es quilk, Fra the wick þe god to scil.

† **c.** To make free or quit *of*. *Obs.*

1481 Caxton *Reynard* xvii. (Arb.) 44 The kynge hath skylled hym quyte of alle his brokes and forgyuen hym all his trespaces and mysdedes.

2. † **a.** *intr.* To cause a distinction or difference.

c 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 119 Swo þe holie gost hem fulde of him seluen, and sette þe word on hem þe þere speken, and skilede on hem þat hie herden.

b. *impers.* In negative or interrogative clauses: To make a difference, to be of importance, to matter. † Also with dat. of person. Now *arch.*

Extremely common from *c* 1525 to *c* 1670.

1460 Capgrave *Chron.* (Rolls) 306 If thei mad question to what entent thei schuld rise, this answere had thei:—'It skil you not, so ye have good wagis, and treuly payed'. 1509 Hawes *Past. Pleas.* xxxiv. (Percy Soc.) 173 What skilleth you though that he dye this nyght? *a* 1530 Heywood *Weather* (Brandl) 443 What y[e] deuyll shold skyl though all y[e] world were dum. 1580 Lyly *Euphues* (Arb.) 245 Whether he be now lyuing, I know not, but whether he be or no, it skilleth not. 1614 Jackson *Creed* iii. 16 It skils not how infallible the truth in it selfe or the proposer be. *c* 1680 Hickeringill *Hist. Whiggism* ii. Wks. 1716 I. 118 From the Court or Queen, what skills it? I commend him. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* ii. i. ii, Blow the brains or thinking-faculty quite out of him for the time: it skills not; he.. revives on the morrow. 1861 Lytton & Fane *Tannhäuser* 94 Hence! Whate'er I am it skills not.

c. *impers.* To avail, help. Now *arch.*

1528 in Strype *Eccl. Mem.* (1822) V. 368 If you have any wast mony, give yt to poore pepull and tarye at home, for it shall not skyll to go on pilgremages to Ipiswiche. 1814 Byron *Lara* i. ii, It skills not, boots not step by step to trace His youth through all the mazes of its race. 1848 K. H. Digby *Broadstone of Honour* III. *Morus* 220 It may not skill repeating the names of holy men forgotten by the moderns. 1880 McCarthy *Own Times* liii. IV. 103 But what skills talking?

d. To care, reck. *rare*—1.

1821 Scott *Kenilw.* xi, Whether he was the devil's crony or no I skill not.

† **3.** To allege in argument. *Obs.*—1

1390 Gower *Conf.* III. 343 For al that evere I skile may, I am concluded with a nay.

4. To understand, comprehend. Now *dial.*

a 1500 *How the wise man taught his son* in Hazl. *E. P. P.* I. 170 Skyll fully what thou pray. 1555 Phaer *Æneid* i. 16 Encompast with the cloud he goes (a wondrous thyng to skyll). 1573 G. Harvey *Letter-bk.* 18 Truly I cannot scil what is procurare malum socio. 1632 J. Featly *Hon. Chast.* 9 Who skils not the cunning of those delicate imposters, in their wretched devices? 1657 J. Watts *Vind. Ch. Eng.* 115 Seeing you are unlettred, and skill not the Original languages. *a* 1677 Barrow *Serm.* (1686) I. xiii. 191 The speaker little skilleth the use of speech, or the rule of conversation. 1828 Carr *Craven Gloss., Skill*, to know, to understand...'I nivver could skill him.'

† **b.** *intr.* To have knowledge *of*, or skill *in*, something. *Obs.* (Cf. Skill *sb.* 5.)

1540 Hyrde tr. *Vives' Instr. Chr. Wom.* (1592) K vij, Or what woman now adaies, that is sad & wise, wil be known to skill of daunsing. 1561 in Strype *Ann. Ref.* (1709) I. xxii. 230 Lest the unlearned should say, they did not skill of such books. 1628 J. Doughty *Serm. Ch. Schismes* 16 More shifts besides they skill of to obscure their malitious drifts. 1662 Evelyn *Chalcogr.* 132 That they might the better skill in the works of Embrodery. 1691 Ray *Creation* i. (1704) 198 To vilifie those Studies which themselves skill not of.

c. With inf.: To know how *to* do something. Also with *how*. Now *arch.*

a 1586 Sidney *Arcadia* lxx. Wks. (Grosart) II. 157 They now skild not how from him to wend. 1671 Evelyn *Let. to Father Patrick* 27 Sept., He would be thought a thick-skinn'd doctor..who skill'd not to discern how a thing might be real, and yet spiritual. *a* 1677 Barrow *Wks.* (1830) I. 462 Not skilling to get his suit quietly, he would extort it by force. 1859 S. R. Hole *Tour Irel.* 13 He who skilleth not to brew it.., may thank me, perhaps, for thus instructing him. 1865 Neale *Hymns Paradise* 46 If there be that skills to reckon All the number of the Blest.

† **d.** *trans.* To order, dispose. *Obs.*

c 1610 Sir J. Melvil *Mem.* (1683) Pref., A man may many times, if he skill it aright, give his Prince good counsel, contrary to his inclinations.

† **5.** *intr.* To get along, to subsist. *Obs.*—1

1537 *State P. Hen. VIII*, II. 449 The pore Englishe erth tillers in the English pale cannot skyll upon penury nor wredchidnes, as the Irishe tenantes doo sustayne.

6. *trans.* To teach, instruct. *rare*—1.

a 1813 A. Wilson *Foresters* Poet. Wks. (1846) 218 Not he who guides the legs, or skills the clown To square his fist, and knock his fellow down.

† **Skill**, *v.*[2] *Obs.*—1 [Of obscure origin.] *intr.* To mount, ascend.

a 1400 *Lybeaus Disc.* 1844 Lybeauus wyth goodwyll Into hys sadell gan skyll, And a launce yn hond he hent.

Skilled (skild), *ppl. a.* Also 6 **skild.** [f. Skill *sb.*[1] + -ed[2].]

1. Of persons: Possessed of skill or knowledge; properly trained or experienced.

1552 Elyot s.v. *Calleo*, To be well skilled in the law. 1591 Shaks. *Two Gentl.* iii. ii. 92 Gentlemen, well skil'd in Musicke. 1662 Stillingfl. *Orig. Sacræ* ii. ii. 227 The parts of the Egyptian learning, in which the Scripture tells us Moses was skill'd. 1698 Fryer *Acc. E. India & P.* 291 The Persians are skill'd..to shoot flying. 1743 Francis tr. *Horace, Odes* i. xv. 31 And Sthenelus, in Battle skill'd; Or skill'd to guide with steady Rein..his Chariot. 1770 Goldsm. *Des. Vill.* 148 More skilled to raise the wretched than to rise. 1806 Beresford *Miseries Hum. Life* ii. Concl., We are..skilled both in active and sedentary recreations. 1855 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* xvii. IV. 76 Sarsfield.. was little skilled in the administration of war, and was still less skilled in civil business. 1870 Bryant *Iliad* iv. I. 114 Some hand Skilled to bend the bow.

b. In attrib. use. (Now common.)

1843 *Penny Cycl.* XXVI. 484/2 An unusual influx of skilled labourers into any employment. 1856 Bond *Russia at Close of 16th c.* (Hakl. Soc.) Introd. 18 Furnishing him with warlike ammunition and with skilled engineers. 1857 J. W. Donaldson *Christian Orthod.* 436 A general designation of professional or skilled workmen. 1875 Jowett *Plato* (ed. 2) V. 475 Every physician and every skilled artist does all things for the sake of the whole.

2. Of work: Requiring or showing skill.

1776 Adam Smith *W. N.* i. x. (1904) I. 113 The policy of Europe considers the labour of all mechanics, artificers, and manufacturers, as skilled labour. 1860 Mill *Repr. Govt.* 91 Every branch of public administration is a skilled business. 1876 A. S. Murray *Mythol.* iii. (1877) 43 He..seems more the patient god of skilled metal-working.

Skilless (skī·lless), *a.* Also 3 **skilllæs**, 9 **skill-less**; 6 **skilles**, 6–7 **skillesse**, 6 **skyllesse**. [f. Skill *sb.*[1] + -less.]

1. Devoid of († reason or) knowledge; ignorant.

c 1200 Ormin 3715 Wiþþ mannkinn þatt wass stunnt, & dill, & skilllæs swa summ asse. 1561 Norton & Sack. *Gordobuc* ii. ii, Lest skilles rage throwe doune with headlong fal Their lands. 1577 Holinshed *Chron.* IV. 661 Writing the dooings of other persons in a toong wherein I am skillesse. 1601 Shaks. *Twel. N.* iii. iii. 9 [Through] iealousie, what might befall your trauell, Being skillesse in these parts. 1627 May *Lucan* x. (1631) 595 The skillesse people run Through the vast pallace scatter'd vp, and downe. 1814 Cary *Dante, Purg.* ix. 100 A heavenly dame, not skilless of these things. 1818 Keats *Endym.* iii. 909 A little patience, youth! 'twill not be long, Or I am skilless quite.

2. Lacking skill; unskilled, unskilful.

1573 Tusser *Husb.* (1878) 204 From cities ioy, to countrie care, To skillesse folke is homelie change. 1592 Shaks. *Rom. & Jul.* iii. iii. 132 Like powder in a skillesse Souldiers flaske Is set a fire. *a* 1649 Drumm. of Hawth. *Poems* Wks. (1711) 55/1 Some young Phaeton; Whose skilless and unstaved Hand May prove the Ruin of the Land. *a* 1661 Fuller *Worthies, Yorks.* (1662) 203 But Swords and Guns have not made more mortal wounds, than Probes in the hands of carelesse and skillesse Chirurgeons. 1821 Byron *Sardanap.* v. i. 101 Let me see the wound; I am not quite skilless. 1862 Lytton *Str. Story* II. 379 A mind, not ignoble, not skillless, not abjectly craven. 1890 *Spectator* 18 Oct., [To] organise a brigade of poor gentlemen to replace these arrogant and skilless dockers.

b. Of things: Showing a lack of skill; badly made, crude, inartistic.

1830 Godwin *Cloudesley* I. x. 156 The crude and skill-less impositions of the Turk. 1846 Trench *Mirac.* i. (1862) 119 In their skill-less delineations the artists could not manage to find room for more. 1860 Ld. Lytton *Lucile* ii. iv. 5 What matter though skilless the lay be, and rude?

Hence **ski·llessness**, want of skill.

1823 *Blackw. Mag.* XIV. 183 He had messed the mouth of a loose-fish by his awkward and impotent skillessness.

Skillet[1] (ski·lĕt). Forms: *a.* 5 **skelet(t**, 6–7, 9 **skellet** (7, 9 **-it**), 8 **scellet**. *β.* 6 **skyllet**, 7 **skillett**, 6– **skillet**. [Of obscure origin.

The sense is against connexion with OF. *eschelette*, etc., a little bell (see Skellat), and both form and sense differ from OF. *escuelete, esculette*, a small plate. The ending *-et*, however, and the culinary associations of the thing itself, make it probable that the source was AF. or OF.]

1. A cooking utensil of brass, copper, or other metal, usually having three or four feet and a long handle, used for boiling liquids, stewing meat, etc.; a saucepan, stew-pan. (See also quot. 1866.)

a. 1403 *Nottingham Rec.* II. 20 Unius skelett aeneae, iij d. *c* 1450 *M. E. Med. Bk.* (Heinrich) 131 Take crownes of whitsour bred, smal myed on a gratour, & do hit in a skelet. 1530 Palsgr. 271/1 Skellet with a handell, *poillon*. 1596 Baker *Jewell of Health* 144 b, These after putting into a possenet or skellet, set..over the fyre. 1616 Surfl. & Markh. *Country Farme* ii. xix. 174 Then put it into a verie cleane sweet pipkin or skellet. 1669 Sturmy *Mariner's Mag.* v. xii. 67 Take an Iron Pot or Skellet,..set it on the Fire. 1719 *Will of J. Hirst* (Yorks.), A dozen of trenchers, a skellet, a spit and racks. 1838 Holloway *Prov. Dict., Skellit*, a small pot with a handle. 1866 Brogden *Prov. Lincs., Skellet*,..a funnel shaped vessel, used principally for heating beer and milk.

β. 1519 *Maldon* (Essex) *Liber B.* fol. 160 b, iii[s] ketills, a skillet, ix[s] platers. 1540 Palsgr. *Acolastus* M ij b, He shall gyue a lydde or couer worthy for the skyllet or lyttell panne. 1578 Lyte *Dodoens* ii. xlii. 201 The juyce of the leaves boyled..in a brasen pipkin or skillet is very good to heale..old ulcers. 1600 Surflet *Countrie Farme* iii. l. 541 Boile them in fresh water in some skillet. 1658 R. White tr. *Digby's Powd. Symp.* (1660) 118 In boyling the milk it swells so high that it sheds over the brim of the skillet. 1707 Sloane *Jamaica* I. p. lxii, I have seen some try to boil Cane-juice to sugar in an ordinary Skillet. 1757 *Phil. Trans.* L. 108 The lightning..melted an old copper skillet. 1801 Wolcot (P. Pindar) *Epist. Ct. Rumford* Wks. 1812 V. 136 Whose tinkers form..Skillets and saucepans. 1859 Jephson *Brittany* v. 55 The dressers were resplendent with immense brass skillets. 1881 *Cornh. Mag.* Mar. 364 Armed with a skillet she happened..to have been scouring.

2. *dial.* (See quot.)

1823 E. Moor *Suffolk Words* 353 *Skillet*, the thin brass perforated implement used for skimming or fletting the cream off milk.

3. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *skillet-maker, pan, soot*; also *skilletful*.

1552 in *Bury Wills* (Surtees) 142 Too brasse pannys, to kattylls, one skyllet panne. 1611 Cotgr., *Poislier*,..a Skellet-maker, or Frying-panne maker. 1641 Milton *Animadv.* 67 Your confutation hath..left nothing upon it, but a foul taste of your skillet soot. 1888 *Cent. Mag.* Jan. 373/2 Mrs. Pearson..had baked a skilletful of hot biscuits.

Ski·llet[2]. [Of obscure origin; there is no obvious connexion with prec.]

1. (See quot.)

1888 *Pall Mall G.* 31 July 3/1 Here a block is being cut into the right length and shape for 'skillets', the wooden strips of which matchboxes are made.

2. A thick flat piece of silver or other precious metal (*Cent. Dict.*).

Skillet, variant of Skellat, bell.

Ski·llick. *rare*—1. =Skilligalee 2.

Cf. Devonshire *skiddick* in similar uses.

1835 Marryat *Olla Podr.* (Rtldg.) 322, I havn't a skillick till quarter-day.

Skilligalee (ski·ligălī'). *slang.* Also **skilla-, skillo-, skilly-**, and **-golee, -glee.** [prob. a purely fanciful formation.]

1. = SKILLY *sb.*

1819 J. H. VAUX *Mem.* I. xviii. 202 Tolerable flour, of which the cook composed a certain food for breakfast, known among sailors by the name of skilligolee, being in plain English, paste. 1859 SALA *Gaslight & D.* xxx. 353 In some [Unions] they gives you bread and cheese, and in some broth, and in some skillygolee. 1872 M. COLLINS *Pr. Clarice* II. ii. 22 Aren't you afeard of being..committed for seven days on a diet of skilligalee?

2. With negative: A single coin of the smallest value.

1833 MARRYAT *P. Simple* xii, But this is all nothing, except to prove satisfactorily that I am not worth a skillagalee.

3. *attrib.* Worthless, trifling.

1883 *Christian World* 13 Dec. 870/1 The parsons were a poor skillygalee lot.

Skilling (ski·liŋ), *sb.*[1] Forms: 4–5 **skelyng**, 7–9 **skeling**, 9 **skeling**; 8– **skillin, skilling**, etc. See also SKILLION. [Of obscure origin.]

1. A shed or outhouse, *esp.* a lean-to, a penthouse. Current in the south of England, from Surrey to Dorset.

1389 *New Coll. Accs.* in Wood's MS. D. 2, fol. 272 In laborem facient. unius Skelyng pro sept. 2*s.* 6*d.* 1448–9 *Abingdon Abbey Accs.* (1892) 124 In j skelyng siue coquina facta in tenemento dicti Henrici Baret. *a* 1722 E. LISLE *Husb.* (1757) II. 93 If I put cows or oxen under skillins, or penthouses. 1831 *Devizes Gaz.* 8 Aug. (E. D. D.), A barn and extensive skilling was burnt down. 1862 *Morning Advertiser* 8 Sept., Mr. Fowle was in his yard..when the storm first burst, and ran for shelter under a skilling. 1874 JEFFERIES in *Toilers of the Field* (1893) 167 A portion of the Court is roofed in and is called the skilling.

b. In Australasian use. (Cf. SKILLION.)

1837 GOODRIDGE *Voy. S. Seas* (1832) 172 Many houses have been built..consisting of two rooms in front, and two sheds or skillings as they are called. 1849 M. RUSSELL *Polynesia* ix. 353 Three substantial weather-board dwelling-houses..with skilling at the back. 1890 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Col. Reformer* (1891) 351 At the back a skilling, a lower roofed portion of the building.

attrib. 1900 H. LAWSON *On Track* 79 There were two unfinished skilling rooms built on to the back of the hut.

2. (See quots.)

1674 RAY *S. & E. C. Words* 77 *Skeeling*, an Isle or bay of a barn, *Suss*[*ex*]. 1838 HOLLOWAY *Prov. Dict., Skeeling* or *Skilling*,..the side of a garret or upper room, where the slope of the roof interferes with the upright.

‖ **Ski·lling**, *sb.*[2] [In sense 1 ad. Du. *schelling*; in sense 2 a. Da., Sw., or Norw. *skilling*.]

†**1.** = SCHELLING. *Obs.*[—1]

1700 S. L. tr. *Fryke's Voy. E. Indies* i. 6 The Cash-keeper paid us..three Dutch Skillings every day while we stayed on Shoar.

2. A small copper coin and money of account formerly in use in Scandinavia.

1793 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XII. 232/2 [In] Denmark..and Norway..16 Skillings = a Marc[=*pd.*]. 1802 ACERBI *Trav.* I. 220 The poor mendicant finished by asking..some.. skillings in charity. 1839 *Penny Cycl.* XV. 326/1 *Ryksort*, a Danish silver coin at 24 skillings. 1875 JEVONS *Money* xi. 126 The skilling [of Norway] being nearly equal in value to an English halfpenny.

Skilling (wild goose), obs. var. SKEELING *Sc.*

Ski·lling, *vbl. sb. rare*[—1]. [f. SKILL *v.*[1]] † The operation of reasoning.

c 1374 CHAUCER *Boeth.* IV. pr. vi. (1868) 137 Swiche comparisoun as it is of skilynge [L. *ratiocinatio*] to vndirstondyng and of þing þat is engendred to þing þat is.

Skillion (ski·lyən). *Austr.* [Alteration of *skillin* SKILLING *sb.*[1]] A lean-to, serving as a shed or as a small room.

1864 ELIZ. MURRAY *Ella Norman* I. 163 This led into a 'skillion', or shed built against the house. 1870 HONEY *Glaucus* I. i. 5 The farm..together with the three Skillions at the end of the Retreat are..his property. 1889 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Robbery under Arms* 12 The harness-cask, which stood in a little back skillion.

attrib. 1885 MRS. C. PRAED *Australian Life* 73 A veranda, and a skillion room opening off it.

†**Skillwise**, *a. Obs.* Forms: 3 **scel-, scilwis**; 3–4 **skilwis**(e, 4 **skillwise, -wyse, skyllwyse**. [a. ON. *skilvíss* (MSw. *skäl-*, MDa. *skælvis*) reliable, trustworthy, etc., f. *skíl* SKILL *sb.*[1]]

1. a. Intelligent, discerning, clever.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 4677 Depe selers..thoru es aun scel-wis [*v. r.* witti] red, He fild wit wines. *Ibid.* 6528 If þai war þat tim sa vn-wise, Yeit er þai noght all skilwise. *a* 1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* lvii. 11 A man þat is skilwise sall thynke þat it falles þaim not of chawnce.

absol. a 1300 *Cursor M.* 33 Bot be the fruit may scilwis se, O quat vertu is ilka tre.

b. Endowed with reason; rational.

1357 *Lay Folks Catech.* (T.) 12 He made skillwise creatures, angel and man, *Ibid.* 330 To tham that he wate er of skillwise elde.

2. a. Just, equitable, fair.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 28781 Godd of heuen..es rightwise, & til alle men ilik skilwis.

b. Reasonable; not excessive.

a 1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* xxxvii. 11 When thai..entice him fra scilwis penaunce. 1357 *Lay Folks Catech.* (T.) 324 Bot if thai forbere it be skilwise cause. *c* 1400 *Rule St. Benet* 1435 And who so askes hir skilwis thyng, Sche sal not greue þam with grochinge.

†**Skillwisely**, *adv. Obs.* [a. ON. *skilvísliga*: see prec. and -LY[2].] Reasonably; rationally; with understanding.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 4747 He salde ilkman his porcion, Sua þat þai moght scilwisli..liue þar-bi. *Ibid.* 8347 Scilwisli and scort He tald þat him lai apon hert. *a* 1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* xi. 9 Sonnes of men þat lifis skilwisly and in rightwisnes. 1357 *Lay Folks Catech.* (T.) 446 If we lyff skillwisely als the lawe techis.

†**Skillwiseness.** *Obs.* Also 3 **sckele-**, 4 **schil-**. [Cf. prec. and -NESS.] Discretion, intelligence, reason.

a 1200 *Vices & Virtues* 149 Þe is god þat þu beseke at gode one mihte ðe hatte discrecio, þat is, sckelewisnesse. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 567 It has als schilwisnes o will þe god to tak and leue þe ill. *c* 1325 *Metr. Hom.* 1 Thou made manne, And gaf him gast of schilwisnes.

Skilly (ski·li), *sb.* Also 9 **skilley**. [Abbreviation of SKILLIGALEE.] A kind of thin, watery porridge, gruel, or soup, commonly made from oatmeal, and used especially in prisons and workhouses.

1839 *Slang Dict.* 33 *Skilley*, nickname for a broth given on board the hulks. 1846 *Camp & Barrack-Room* ii. 16 Jack Skilly, a title given in consequence of his being the dispenser of skilly to patients. 1865 *Daily Telegr.* 27 Oct. 4/5 That 'skilly' formed the traditional staple of workhouse dietary under the New Poor Law, we are well aware. 1894 D. C. MURRAY *Making of a Novelist* 97 Gentlemen who have tasted workhouse skilly and soup.

Skilly (ski·li), *a. Sc.* and *north. dial.* Also 9 **skeely, skeily**. [f. SKILL *sb.*[1] + -Y.] Skilled, skilful; having considerable skill in some respect.

α. 1768 ROSS *Helenore* II. 90 Upo' your milk your skilly hand ye'll try, An' gees a feast o't as we're coming by. 1790 SHIRREFS *Poems* 51 Her apron shortens to the skilly ee. 1837 R. NICOLL *Poems* (1843) 91 A gash skilly body, weel kent near and far. 1903 *Daily Record & Mail* 10 July 5 For the past few weeks Greenock has been the happy hunting ground of the skilly cracksman.

β. a 1803 *Sir P. Spens* i. in Scott *Minstrelsy*, O whare will I get a skeely skipper, To sail this new ship of mine? 1829 BROCKETT *N. C. Gloss.* (ed. 2) s.v., The doctress of a country village is skeely. 1863 J. L. W. *Bygone Days* 42 Tibbie..confessed he was a 'skeely' man, John; for he cured her cow.

Skilly-pot, Skilpot. *U.S.* [ad. Du. *schildpad* turtle.] The slider or red-bellied terrapin.

1807 W. IRVING *Salmagundi* (1824) 58 Famous place for *skilly-pots*—Philadelphians call 'em tarapins.

Skilts. *U.S.* (See quot.)

1845 S. JUDD *Margaret* I. ii, A sort of brown tow trousers, known at the time..as skilts; they were short, reaching just below the knee, and very large, being a full half yard broad at the bottom.

Skim, *sb.* Also 6 **skymme**, 6–7 **skimme**. [f. SKIM *v.* In earlier use taking the place of SCUM *sb.*]

1. †**a.** = SCUM *sb.* 2 b. *Obs.*

1539 ELYOT *Cast. Helthe* 33 That [water]..wherof cometh leest skymme or frothe, whan it doth boyle. *a* 1591 H. SMITH *Serm.* (1622) 444 Like a skimme which seetheth into the broth. 1594 PLAT *Jewell-ho.* III. 70 Continue..your skimming so long as any skim doth arise. 1703 *Art & Myst. Vintners* 57 Boyl it in a Pan of Iron, take off the skim. 1764 ELIZA MOXON *Eng. Housew.* (ed. 9) 171 Boil it over a slow fire, and skim it whilst any skim rises.

†**b.** = SCUM *sb.* 3 b. *Obs.*

1606 BRYSKETT *Civ. Life* 108 Although Philip took delight in this skim of men [flatterers], yet could they neuer draw him..to incurre those vices.

c. *Amer.* A thin layer *of* ice.

1897 *Daily News* 10 Sept. 8/3 A frost that produced a skim of ice beyond Winnipeg.

2. a. A form of horse-hoe; a shim. *rare*[—1].

1795 VANCOUVER *Agric. Essex* 99 Horse-hoes or skims.. answer particularly well for cleaning the fallows.

b. An addition to the coulter of a plough by which the surface of the ground is pared off.

1799 A. YOUNG *Agric. Linc.* 141 The turnips were ploughed for once, with Ducket's skim coulter plough, without the skim. 1812 SIR J. SINCLAIR *Syst. Husb. Scot.* I. 416 If you attach the skim to bury the surface. 1837 *Brit. Husb.* II. 18 (L. U. K.), A double skim, which can be either added to the plough or removed at pleasure. 1904 *Eng. Dial. Dict.* s.v., There is sometimes a skim in front of the coulter which serves to turn in the weeds.

3. *ellipt.* = SKIM-MILK I. Also *fig.*

1885 *Daily News* 1 Dec. 2/1 The milk is manufactured into butter and cheese,..and the 'skim'..is not exactly the most nourishing stuff in the world. 1886 *All Year Round* 14 Aug. 34 But there is skim and skim, just as there is butter-milk and butter-milk. 1895 *Westm. Gaz.* 30 Dec. 3/1 The owners of pictures are in the habit of proffering a certain proportion of skim with their cream.

4. The act of skimming or moving lightly.

a 1851 MOIR *Castle of Time* xxiii, For clouds on the blue air, with shadowy skim, Were rolling their faint billows. 1891 HARDY *Tess* (1900) 73/2 The buoyancy of her tread, like the skim of a bird which has not quite alighted.

b. A hasty sketch or survey.

1889 *Pall Mall G.* 19 Oct. 3/3 As a careful political study, it [the book] is of little value. Delightful skims are apt to be full of fables.

5. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as **skim-plough**, a plough having a skim attached, a skim-coulter plough; hence *skim-plough* vb.; **skim-net**, a net used with a kind of skimming action.

1813 A. YOUNG *Agric. Essex* I. 137 The skim-plough of the late Mr. Ducket,..and other skim coulters. 1837 *Brit. Husb.* II. 17 (L. U. K.), Trench and skim ploughs. 1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* III. 765 The land has been recently skim-ploughed. 1884 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* Suppl. 820/2 *Skim Net* (Fishing), a large dipping net. 1887 GOODE *Fisheries U. S.* 802 Prior to 1872, shrimp were taken in this locality only with skim-nets. 1891 C. L. MORGAN *Anim. Sketches* 135 An efficient skim-net, wherewith to capture insects on the wing.

Skim, *a. rare.* [By inference from *skim-milk.*] Skimmed; made of skim-milk.

1794 DARKE in Marshall *Rev.* (1810) II. 373 Where they make the skim cheese, the land is deemed too rich for one meal. 1866 *Intellect. Observer* No. 56. 126 Milk scant and skim. 1893 *Daily News* 25 Dec. 5/5 Then the problem of branding skim cheese will be solved.

Skim, *v.* Also 5 **skem(e, skym(e**, 7 **skeam-**, 6–7 **skimme**. [prob. ad. OF. *escumer*: see SCUM *v.* The vowel may be partly due to SKIMMER, in which the narrowing would be assisted by the original stress on the final syllable.]

I. 1. *trans.* To clear (a liquid or a liquid mass) from matter floating upon the surface, usually by means of a special utensil; to deprive (milk) of cream by this method; to deal with (a pot, etc.) in this way. Also *absol.* (Cf. SCUM *v.* 1.)

c 1420 *Liber Cocorum* (1862) 50 Þou shalt hit frye, In buttur wele skymmet wyturly. *c* 1430 *Two Cookery-bks.* 22 Caste alle on a potte, & skym yt. *c* 1450 *M. E. Med. Bk.* (Heinrich) 71 Þe pridde part of hony, boiled and skemed. 1548 ELYOT, *Despumo*, to skimme or clarifie any licour. 1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 131 To Skimme, *despumare*. 1590 SHAKS. *Mids. N.* II. i. 36 Are you not hee That..Skim milke, and sometimes labour in the querne? 1611 COTGR., *Escumer*,.. to skimme, or clarifie, liquor. 1744 BERKELEY *Siris* § 1 The clear water, having been first carefully skimmed. 1771 MRS. HAYWOOD *New Present for Maid* 32 When it boils, skim it clean. 1826 *Art Brewing* (ed. 2) 114 Boil the first mash one hour...Then skim and cleanse. *c* 1850 *Arab. Nts.* (Rtldg.) 643 Morgiana..put the pot on the fire to make the broth, but while she was skimming it the lamp went out. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* IV. 49/1 When the lead is all melted it is skimmed, and then drawn off into the mould.

fig. 1618 BOLTON *Florus* II. vi. (1636) 105 He might not seeme to have once sipt or skimd the honour of their chastity so much as with beholding them. 1673 *S'too him Bayes* 115 He had rak'd hell and skim'd the devil for it. 1704 in *Pennsylv. Hist. Soc. Mem.* IX. 350, I wish we may ever be skimmed so as to leave anything pure behind.

b. *Agric.* To plough (land) very lightly.

1799 A. YOUNG *Agric. Linc.* 163 Skim it with plough very thin to make it fine. 1805 R. W. DICKSON *Pract. Agric.* I. 468 A few surface weeds appearing, he skimmed the land, without turning a furrow.

2. To remove or collect by skimming. Also in *fig.* context.

1652 HOBBES *Leviath.* IV. xlvii. 387 Fairies..Feast upon the Cream, which they skim from the Milk. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* I. 393 She..Boils in Kettles Must of Wine, and skims, With Leaves, the Dregs that overflow the Brims. 1778 HAN. MORE *Florio* I. Dramas, etc. 176 He lik'd those literary cooks Who skim the cream of others' books. 1887 RUSKIN *Præterita* II. 141 We bought three cows, and skimmed our own cream. 1894 W. J. DAWSON *Making of Manhood* 30 We forget that the newspaper skims the scum of life.

b. To take *off* or *away* by skimming. Also *fig.*

1670 W. SIMPSON *Hydrol. Ess.* 86 Upon these waters..is found a kind of white cremor..; this being skim'd off [etc.]. 1744 BERKELEY *Let. on Tar Water* § 8 The oil that floated on the top and was skimmed off. 1799 G. SMITH *Laboratory* I. 379 Skim off the skin which will appear on the surface. 1820 SCORESBY *Acc. Arctic Reg.* II. 493 The most pure part is skimmed off, and becomes fine oil. 1857 MILLER *Elem. Chem., Org.* II. § 3. 81 The lighter and decayed seeds float, and are skimmed off.

fig. 1676 HOBBES *Iliad* XX. 456 And with his Sword he skim'd his head away Helmet and all. 1780 COWPER *Progress of Error* 343 To purge and skim away the filth of vice.

†**c.** To scoop *up* as if by skimming. *Obs.*[—1]

1665 FOX in Bickley *Life* (1884) xviii. 264 The water..ran about the room so that I was fain to skim it up with a platter.

3. To cover with a thin layer, as with scum.

1666 DRYDEN *Annus Mirab.* cxiii, Where the false tides skim o'er the cover'd Land, And Sea-men with dissembled Depths betray. 1859 HAWTHORNE *Marble Faun* xli, The Fountain of Trevi skimmed almost across with a glassy surface.

b. *intr.* To put on a thin layer.

c 1865 MRS. SPOFFORD *Pilot's Wife* in *Casquet of Lit.* IV. 25/2 The chocolate skimmed all over with a coat of cold oil at last. 1896 KIPLING in *Sat. Rev.* Christmas Suppl. 1/1 The beach-pools take and skim.

4. To throw lightly *over* or *upon* the surface of something.

1774 FOOTE *Cozeners* III. Wks. 1799 II. 187 Some saffron, or snuff, just skimmed over his face. 1831 HOLLAND *Manuf. Metal* I. 141 Water, during the operation, being frequently skimmed upon the surface to displace the scales.

II. †**5.** To scour (the sea, etc.); = SCUM *v.* 2. *c* 1440 *Brut* ccxlv. 383 Þe erle toke his meyne, and went to schyppe, and skimmed the see,..þat no maner enymys durste rowte vpon þe see. *a* 1513 FABYAN *Chron.* VII. (1811) 573 The whiche scowryd and skymmyd yᵉ see ryght well and manfully.

6. To deal with, treat, or study, in a slight and superficial manner. Also with *over* (cf. 9 c).

a 1586 SIDNEY *Arcadia* II. (1605) 179 Who, (but skimming any thing that came before him) was disciplined to leaue the through-handling of all to his gentle wife. 1665 GLANVILL *Def. Van. Dogm.* 51 Such as love only to skim things, and have not the patience to keep their minds to a deep and close attention. 1727 BOYER *Dict. Royal* II, To skim a thing over, (to pass it over slightly) *effleurer une matière* [etc.]. 1809 MALKIN *Gil Blas* I. i. P2 He had never skimmed the first principles of it [Latin]. 1850 ROBERTSON *Serm.* Ser. II. vi. (1864) 88 They skim the surface of the thought. 1876 GLADSTONE in *Contemp. Rev.* June 3 Parliament dived into the question, which the Bench had only skimmed.

b. *esp.* To read rapidly or carelessly; to glance over without close attention.

1799 HAN. MORE *Fem. Educat.* (ed. 4) I. 187 The kind of books here recommended, if thoroughly studied, and not superficially skimmed. 1820 BYRON *Blues* i. 22 Where I just had been skimming a charming critique. 1833 T. HOOK *Parson's Daus.* I. xii, The London paper.., which Harvey

undertook to skim for the benefit of his friend. 1884 G. ALLEN *Philistia* II. 75 He..was skimming the telegrams in an unconcerned manner.

7. To move, glide, fly or float, lightly and rapidly over or along (the ground, etc.).

1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* IV. 76 Then stooping on the Meads and leafy Bow'rs, They skim the Floods. 1716 GAY *Trivia* II. 232 The Ball now skims the Street. 1735 SOMERVILLE *Chase* III. 101 Smooth as Swallows skim The new-shorn Mead. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) VI. 143 One of the most rapacious little animals that skims the deep. 1809 CAMPBELL *Gert. Wyom.* I. ii, The happy shepherd swains..skim, perchance, thy lake with light canoe. 1849 M. ARNOLD *Resignation* 71 The red-grouse..Skims, now and then, the shining ground. 1878 J. BULLER *New Zealand* I. ii. 27 Wild fowl skim the surface of the water.

fig. 1884 *Pall Mall G.* 4 Apr. 5/1 Lady Duffus-Hardy.. has skimmed a large expanse of country in order to cull these blossoms for our delectation.

b. To pass over (a surface) with close approach or very slight contact.

1796 MORSE *Amer. Geogr.* I. 42 On that day the sun, when lowest, skims the horizon without setting. 1822 IMISON *Sci. & Art* I. 414 If you now turn to the north you will find that some just skim the horizon. 1826 F. REYNOLDS *Life & Times* II. 111 The oar, instead of deeply entering the water, only slightly skimming the surface.

8. To cause to fly lightly; to throw (a thing, esp. one having a flat surface) so that it maintains an evenness of balance or poise in its flight.

1611 COTGR., *Ricochet*, the sport of skimming a thinne stone on the water. 1748 RICHARDSON *Clarissa* (1811) IV. 138, I skimmed my hat after him to make him afraid for something. 1768 *Woman of Honor* III. 245, I took the guinea, and..the window being open, I skimmed it out. 1816 SCOTT *Antiq.* xliii, He skimmed his cocked-hat in the air. 1818 — *Hrt. Midl.* i, Hearing the..voice of the guard as he skimmed forth for my grasp the expected packet. 1887 MARY COWDEN CLARKE *Girlhood Shaks. Heroines* vii. 174 To skim both bread and trencher to the other end of the hall.

9. *intr.* To sail, glide, float, fly, run, etc., with a light and easy motion, on or close to some surface, or through the air.

In very frequent use from *c* 1700.

1591 T. ELIOT *Disc. Warre* 18 The little Pyrate, that did but skimme vp and downe the sea in a litle Brigandine. 1630 *R. Johnson's Kingd. & Commw.* 7 The winds skimming over the face of them, fannes the coole vapour all over those quarters. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* I. 497 Sportful Coots run skimming o'er the Strand. 1705 BERKELEY *Cave of Dunmore* Wks. 1871 IV. 507 A rivulet..skims along the side of the cave. 1740 SOMERVILLE *Hobbinol* III. 287 As the slick Lev'ret skims before the Pack. 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* XV, The barges were seen skimming along the moon-light sea. 1848 DICKENS *Dombey* xxiii, The hard glazed hat in question skimmed into the room like a bird. 1865 W. G. PALGRAVE *Arabia* II. 302 An English-built yacht skimmed by. 1886 *Manch. Exam.* 8 Jan. 6/1 The sleighs skim along very smoothly and lightly as long as the ponies keep their feet.

fig. 1704 NORRIS *Ideal World* II. iii. 151 Others who are for skimming over the surfaces of a great many things, without going to the bottom of anything. 1768 TUCKER *Lt. Nat.* I. I. x. 271 They skim lightly over the surface and never touch the greater part lying at the bottom. 1820 SCOTT *Monast.* xxxi, I hate the judgment that, like the flesh-fly, skims over whatever is sound, to detect and settle upon some spot which is tainted. 1874 H. R. REYNOLDS *John Bapt.* iii. § 2. 187 The science of comparative religion skims round the outside of the region.

b. To glance *over*, without reading closely.

1738 MRS. PENDARVES in Mrs. Delany *Lett. & Corr.* (1861) I. 30 Your last letter, which..I skimmed over to satisfy myself of your health. 1741 WATTS *Improv. Mind* I. iv, Plumeo skimmed over the pages, like a swallow over the flowery meads. 1800 MRS. HERVEY *Mourtray Family* I. 89 Why in such a hurry? Let me first just skim over the paper. 1843 LE FEVRE *Life Trav. Phys.* I. I. i. 14 He was skimming over my introductory epistle.

c. To pass *over* lightly, without dwelling upon or treating fully.

1741 WATTS *Improv. Mind* II. viii. Wks. (1801) 234 They skim lightly over the arguments. 1765 TUCKER *Lt. Nat.* (1834) II. 430 Our blemishes and foibles.., which the eye does not willingly fix upon, but is apt to skim lightly over. 1824 J. H. NEWMAN *Hist. Sk.* (1873) II. II. v. 263 He skims over rather than dives into the subjects of which he treats. 1884 *Spectator* 4 Oct. 1319/2 He is skimming over a real difficulty, which is not to be evaded by eloquent talk.

d. To go *over* lightly with the scythe.

c 1830 *Glouc. Farm Rep.* 26 in *Husb.* III. (L. U. K.), The rank grass..is 'skimmed over' or mown, and made into hay for young stock in the winter.

10. To glance *round* the horizon.

1817 KEATS *I stood tip-toe* 17 There was wide wandering for the greediest eye,..Far round the horizon's crystal air to skim.

Ski·mback. *U.S. local.* [? f. SKIM *v.*] A North American river-fish (see quots.).

1882 JORDAN & GILBERT *Syn. Fishes N. Amer.* 119 *Carpiodes cyprinus*, Quillback; Spear-fish; Sail-fish; Skimback. 1888 GOODE *Amer. Fishes* 437 *Carpiodes velifer*, the ..'Skim-back' of the Ohio River, is a fish often seen in the markets.

Ski·mble-ska·mble, *a.*, *sb.*, and *adv.* Also 7 scimble, and 6–7, 9 scamble, 7 scemble. [f. SCAMBLE *v.*, with usual variation of vowel in the first element: cf. *clitter-clatter*, *tittle-tattle*, etc.]

A. *adj.* **1.** Confused, incoherent, nonsensical, rubbishy.

In modern use only after the Shakspere passage.

1596 SHAKS. *1 Hen. IV*, III. i. 154 Such a deale of skimble-scamble Stuff, As puts me from my Faith. 1630 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Wks.* II. 111/2 Here's a sweet deale of scimble scamble stuffe. 1822 BYRON *Vis. Judg.* Pref., Hence all this 'skimble-scamble stuff' about 'Satanic'. 1864 DASENT *Jest & Earnest* (1873) II. 69 He talks a deal of 'skimble skamble' stuff about 'askance'. 1880 RUSKIN *Arrows of Chace* II. 281 My belief is they scarcely sang a piece of pure Rossini all night, but had fitted in modern skimble-skamble tunes.

2. Accompanied by confusion or disorder.

1826 HONE *Every-day Bk.* II. 995 They skurry, In a skimble skamble hurry.

B. *sb.* Confused or worthless discourse.

1619 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Kicksey Winsey* B 7, He.. askes..where's the wind..With such fine scimble scemble, spitter spatter. 1855 MOTLEY *Dutch Rep.* II. ii. (1866) 159 After a good deal of skimble-skamble of this nature.

C. *adv.* Confusedly; in confusion.

1775 in ASH. 1845 S. JUDD *Margaret* I. xvii. (1871) 140 The flakes shaded and mottled the sky, and fell twirling, pitching, skimble-scamble.

Ski·m-coulter. *Agric.* [f. SKIM *v.*] A coulter fitted with a plate of iron or steel which shaves off the top-layer of the ground and turns it into the furrow.

1797 *Monthly Mag.* Dec. 447/1 Mr. Ducket was the original inventor of the skim-coulter...It consists of a thin plate of iron, with a sharp edge, fixed horizontally to a common coulter. 1803 A. YOUNG in Hunter *Georg. Ess.* III. 163 This is entirely prevented by the skim-coulter, which is applicable to every sort of soil. 1825 COBBET *Rural Rides* 26 There was a skim coulter that turned the sward in under the furrow. 1881 ELEANOR ORMEROD *Manual of Injurious Insects* 81 A skim-coulter attached to the plough.

b. *attrib.* in *skim-coulter plough*; also used as *vb.*

1799 A. YOUNG *Agric. Linc.* 74 Two skim-coulter ploughs, two drill markers. 1832 *Planting* iii. 23 (L. U. K.), To have the surface scarified, horse-hoed, or skim coulter ploughed. 1834 *Brit. Husb.* I. 264 (L. U. K.), Skim-coulter ploughs have been used to obviate this inconvenience.

Hence **Ski·m-coulтered** *a.*

1805 R. W. DICKSON *Pract. Agric.* I. 542 It may be better to follow the practice adopted in some districts of using a skim-coultered plough. 1812 SIR J. SINCLAIR *Syst. Husb. Scot.* I. 416 No plough ever yet invented will effect this object so well as a skim coultered plough.

Skime, *v. north. dial.* Also 8–9 **skyme.** [perh. a. ON. *skima* to peer, look about one, = OE. *scimian* (of the eyes) to be dim or dazzled. Cf. also Norw. dial. *skimla* to squint.] *intr.* To squint, look askance.

1691 RAY *N. C. Words* 63 To *Skime*, to look a squint, to glea. 1788 in dialect glossaries (Yks., Linc., Notts.).

Skimiter, obs. form of SCIMITAR.

Skimmed (skimd), *ppl. a.* [f. SKIM *v.*]

1. a. Cleared of impurities by skimming.

1558 WARDE tr. *Alexis' Secr.* 44 Adde to it twoo vnces of skimmed Honnye.

b. *Skimmed milk*, = SKIM-MILK 1.

1623 [see SKIM-MILK]. *a* 1722 LISLE *Husb.* (1752) 275 We in Leicestershire give them skimmed-milk and whey. 1743 R. MAXWELL *Sel. Trans. Agric.* 347 Sour Milk, as it is commonly called, skimmed Milk, Whey, and the like. 1815 SMITH *Panorama Science & Art* II. 813 Another mode of varnishing plaster,..is to brush it over with skimmed milk. 1862 MRS. H. WOOD *Mrs. Hallib. Troub.* I. xxiv, They had a quart of skimmed milk, and were glad to get it. 1868 *Rep. U.S. Commiss. Agric.* (1869) 438 In every instance, except one, the milk sold as pure milk was skimmed milk.

Comb. 1837 *Flemish Husb.* 62 in *Husb.* III. (L. U. K.), Some skimmed-milk cheese for family use. 1842 J. AITON *Domestic Econ.* (1857) 215 Milk is also manufactured into butter, and what is called skimmed-milk cheese.

c. Of cheese: Made from skimmed milk.

1881 *Chicago Times* 16 Apr., This compound can be used only in the manufacture of skimmed cheese. 1893 *Daily News* 25 Dec. 5/5 A cheese with no brand on it will be classed as skimmed cheese.

2. Removed or collected by skimming.

1599 B. JONSON *Cynthia's Rev.* II. iii, He speakes all creame, skimd, and more affected then a dozen of waiting women.

Skimmer (ski·məɹ), *sb.* Forms: *α.* 4 skemour, 5 skemere. *β.* 4–5 skymour(e, 5 skymere, 5–6 skymer, 7 skimer. *γ.* 4 skymmoure, 6 skymber, 7 skymmer; 5– skimmer (8 schimmer). [In older senses ad. OF. *escumoir* and *escumeur* (*esquemeur*): see SCUMMER *sb.* In later use also f. SKIM *v.* + -ER¹.]

1. A shallow utensil, usually perforated, employed in skimming liquids; also, any utensil or implement by means of which skimming or some analogous process is performed.

α. 1392 *Earl Derby's Exp.* (Camden) 153, j skemour, j ladell. *Ibid.* 154, ij skemours de laton emptis, iij *s.* 14.. *Lat.-Eng. Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 613 *Spumatorium*, a skemere. *c* 1440 *Douce MS. 55*, fol. 24 b, Bete on the clothe with a skemere or a ladell to make it sadde and flatte.

β. *c* 1430 *Two Cookery-bks.* 17 Gader it to-gederys with a ladelle or a Skymoure. 1459 *Paston Lett.* I. 490, ij. ladels and ij. skymers of brasse. 1542 in Harrison *Ann. Old Manor House* (1893) 211, ij brase ladyls and ij skymers of laten. 1607 *Althorp MS.* in Simpkinson *Washingtons* (1860) App. 6 Brasen skimers v. 1686 in *Essex Rev.* (1906) XV. 172 Two pestls, one brass skimer.

γ. 1481–90 *Howard Housek. Bks.* (Roxb.) 66 Item, a skimmer, iiij *d.* *a* 1553 UDALL *Royster D.* IV. iv, I with our skimmer will fling him one flappe. 1589 [? LYLY] *Pappe w. Hatchet* C iiij, Giue me my skimmer, Martins mouth hath sod vnskimde these twelue months. 1600 HOLLAND *Livy* XXIII. xix. 487 Great store of nuts..which floated downe the channell unto Casilinum, and with grated skimmers of wicker were taken up. 1658 ROWLAND tr. *Mouffet's Theat. Ins.* 913 Take away the froth that riseth, twice a day, with a wooden skimmer that hath holes in it. 1707 *Curios. in Husb. & Gard.* 124 You may take off with a Skimmer, the Corn that Swims on the Water. 1750 BLANCKLEY *Naval Expos.* 153 Skimmers, made with a round Hoop of Iron,.. are used by the Scavengers for clearing Chips, etc. which float on the Surface of the Water. 1820 SCORESBY *Acc. Arctic Reg.* II. 403 Shallow tinned iron or copper ladles, called skimmers. 1843 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* I. 345 Some persons judge of the heat proper for pouring, by applying the skimmer to the surface of the metal. 1883 'ANNIE THOMAS' *Mod. Housewife* 76 As soon as this is melted, take out the oysters with a skimmer.

b. (See quot.)

1887 GOODE *Fisheries & Fish. Industr. U.S.* 559 As soon as the oysters are opened they are placed in a flat pan with a perforated bottom, called a skimmer, where they are drained of their accompanying liquor.

c. *U.S.* A clam or scallop, the shell of which may be used for skimming milk, etc.

1891 in *Cent. Dict.*

† 2. = SCUMMER *sb.* 2. *Obs. rare.*

1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) I. 261 Men of Saxonia.. beep bope liȝter and strenger þan oþer skymours of þe see.

3. One who skims a liquid. *rare.*

1611 COTGR., *Escumeur*,..a scummer, or skimmer of liquor.

4. One who skims in reading.

1751 SKELTON *Deism Rev.* viii. (ed. 2) II. 302 There are.. different degrees of Skimmers: first, he who goes no farther than the Title-page. 1864 *Realm* 15 June 6 Nor is it quite fair to newspaper readers or skimmers to expect them [etc.] 1907 *Outlook* 9 Nov. 605/1 For the judicious skimmer there is in these handsomely illustrated volumes a rich store of entertainment.

5. *Ornith.* A bird of the North American genus *Rhyncops*, esp. the black skimmer (*R. nigra*).

The name has reference to the manner in which these birds obtain their food, by skimming small fish, etc., from the surface of the water with the lower mandible.

1785 LATHAM *Gen. Synop. Birds* III. II. 347 Black Skimmer, *Rynchops nigra*. 1826 STEPHENS in Shaw *Gen. Zool.* XIII. 135 The Skimmers are distinguished from all other birds by the very extraordinary form of their beak. 1838 AUDUBON *Ornith.* IV. 204 The hoarse cries of the Skimmers never ceased more than an hour. 1883 *Cent. Mag.* Sept. 651 The number of birds on Cape Cod is very great, and among them are many rare ones for the North, such as the black skimmer, or shear-water.

6. a. A form of horse-hoe; a shim.

1801 *Farmer's Mag.* Nov. 375 The hand-hoes' destroy those that are too near the beans for this skimmer or horse-hoe.

b. *U.S.* A form of skim-coulter (*Cent. Dict.* Suppl.).

7. One who scours, or passes lightly and quickly over, the sea, land, etc.

1831 *Fraser's Mag.* III. 436 The poor skimmers over sea and land whom our friend so justly denounces. 1863 JANET HAMILTON *Poems & Ess.* 75 The cooing dove, the cawing rook, The skimmers of the lake and brook. 1893 MCCARTHY *Red Diamonds* II. 47 Skipper Borringer.., a persistent skimmer of the seas.

b. Applied to vessels, *spec.* to a particular type of yacht.

1844 MRS. HOUSTON *Yacht Voy. Texas* II. 235 Thou 'Skimmer' of the untamed sea. 1862 *London Rev.* 16 Aug. 139 Only at the yachting stations will the tapering spars and the snowy wings of the skimmers of the seas be found. 1896 *Westm. Gaz.* 11 Sept. 7/2 The skimmer..is the only type which can be driven at abnormal speeds with a small sail area.

8. *Golf.* A particular kind of low stroke.

1903 *Westm. Gaz.* 11 Sept. 4/2 The shot was a sliced skimmer off a wooden club.

9. *attrib.*, as **skimmer-cake** (see quot. 1863).

1863 WISE *New Forest* Gloss., *Skimmer-cake*, a small pudding made up from the remnants of another, and cooked upon a 'skimmer', the dish with which the milk is skimmed. 1889 HARDY *Wessex Tales* 25 Helping himself to a cut piece of skimmer-cake.

Skimmer (ski·məɹ), *v.* [Northern var. of SHIMMER *v.* The *sk-* suggests a Scand. origin, but there is no trace of the form in ON., and mod.Sw. *skimra* may be from German.]

1. *intr.* To shimmer, glitter, gleam.

c 1440 (implied in the *vbl. sb.*). 1788 W. H. MARSHALL *Yorksh.* II. 353 *To Skimmer*, to shine, to glitter. 1835 *New Monthly Mag.* XLIII. 68 Weeds..which, now black, now tipped with light, skimmered and danced in the night air. 1845 *Proc. Berw. Nat. Club* II. 234 It skimmers from the play of light upon those numerous..crystals. 1863 MISS YONGE *Hist. Christian Names* I. 255 The pale pure electric light that skimmers on the topmast.

2. To flutter, move rapidly.

For other dialect variations of sense, see *Eng. Dial. Dict.*

1824 HOGG *Wks.* 1865 I. 464 He was bounding over the heads of the maidens, and making his feet skimmer against the ceiling. *a* 1825 FORBY *Voc. E. Anglia* 304 *Skimmer*, to flutter or frisk about lightly. 1845 S. JUDD *Margaret* I. xvii, Some were..skimmering away through the bright air. 1891 in *Pall Mall G.* 28 Sept. 7/3 The hawk darted down, skimmered along the ground a distance, and was then lost in a wood.

Hence **Ski·mmering** *vbl. sb.* and *ppl. a.*

c 1440 *York Myst.* xvii. 123 Be ony skymeryng [*v.r.* skemeryng] of the skye When ȝe shulde knawe owthir kyng or knaue? *a* 1800 PEGGE *Suppl. Grose, Skimmer*, a skimmering light, i. e. glimmering. 1825 JAMIESON *Suppl., Skimmerin*, the flickering of the rays of light. 1855 [ROBINSON] *Whitby Gloss.* s.v., 'A fine skimmering morning,' a splendid dawn betokening a fine day.

† Skimmer, obs. Sc. form of SCUMMER *v.*

a 1585 POLWART *Flyting w. Montgomerie* 780 Leane limmer, steale gimmer! I sall skimmer in thy mouth.

Ski·mmia. *Bot.* [mod.L. (Thunberg, 1784), f. Jap. (*mijama-*) *skimmi*, the name of the plant.] A genus of Eastern shrubs belonging to the order *Rutaceæ*; a shrub of this genus, esp. *S. japonica*.

1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1064/2 *Skimmia*, the name of a genus of evergreen shrubs, with oblong entire stalked leathery dotted leaves, and flowers in terminal panicles. 1882 *Garden* 1 Apr. 210/1 These Skimmias are excellent evergreens.

Ski·m-milk. [f. SKIM *v.* + MILK *sb.*]

1. Milk with the cream skimmed off or otherwise removed. Also in fig. context.

1596 SHAKS. 1 *Hen. IV*, II. iii. 36 (Qq.), I could deuide my selfe, and go to buffets, for mouing such a dish of skim milke [1623 *folio* skim'd Milk] with so honorable an action. *a* 1712 W. KING *Misc. Poems, The Old Cheese*, This is Skim-milk, and therefore it shall go. 1799 A. YOUNG *Agric. Linc.* 297 He..gives first new, then skim milk. 1808 CURWEN *Econ. Feeding Stock* 63 The skim-milk was included in the butter account. 1851 MAYHEW *Lond. Lab.* I. 382/1 He lived principally upon 'parritch' and skim milk. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* III. 132 If fat be removed from the milk as in 'skim' milk, rickets follows.

fig. 1778 *The Love Feast* 11 Craft's blue skim-Milk is best for Tools to lap. 1872 *Punch* 4 May 180/2 The genuine outpouring of the milk and cream, and none of the skim-milk of human kindness. 1898 *Westm. Gaz.* 14 Nov. 7/1 The idea prevailed that the cream had been extracted from the.. revelations, leaving little but skim milk behind.

2. *attrib.*, as *skim-milk cheese*, etc.

1805 R. W. DICKSON *Pract. Agric.* II. 1012 In making skim-milk-cheeses the milk is set in the leads or pans as usual. 1836 HALIBURTON *Clockm.* (1862) 220 It's no skim-milk story, I do assure you. 1837 *Penny Cycl.* VII. 15/2 On the whole it is a better cheese than our Suffolk skim-milk cheese. 1876 *Clinical Soc. Trans.* IX. 38 On the adoption of the skim-milk treatment.

Ski·mminess. *rare*$^{-1}$. [f. SKIMMY *a.* + -NESS.] Resemblance to skim-milk.

1887 F. W. ROBINSON *In Bad Hands* III. 90 The general skimminess of the fluid [*sc.* milk].

Ski·mming, *vbl. sb.* [f. SKIM *v.*]

1. That which is removed or obtained by skimming. Usually *pl.*

c 1450 *M. E. Med. Bk.* (Heinrich) 198 Put hyt in a panne ouer þe fuyr, & skem hyt wel as long as eny skemmyng wol aryse. 1603 OWEN *Pembrokeshire* (1891) 250 The smoake that the people reported to see and the skyminges of potts. 1658 ROWLAND tr. *Mouffet's Theat. Ins.* 1096 Apply that skimming of the air, that is, those cobwebs that are scattered in Autumn. 1750 ELLIS *Mod. Husb.* V. III. 57 (E.D.D.), The skimmings [of soaked wheat] he sowed by themselves. 1777 *Cook's Voy.* (1784) I. 1. vii. 130 They relished the very skimmings of the kettle. 1846 J. BAXTER *Libr. Pract. Agric.* (ed. 4) I. 211 The last skimmings are termed fleetings, and are generally reserved for the use of the servants. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade, Skimmings*, ..thick syrup or scum in sugar-boiling.

fig. 1553 *Respublica* 98 The skimmynges, the gubbins of booties and praies. 1838 THACKERAY in *Fraser's Mag.* Mar. 353 Skimmings from 'The Diary of George IV'. 1845 HUXLEY in *Life* (1900) I. i. 14 These are but the top skimmings of these five years' living. 1883 PENNELL-ELMHIRST (*title*), The Cream of Leicestershire: Eleven seasons' skimmings; notable runs and incidents of the chase.

2. The action of removing floating matter from the surface of a liquid, etc. Also *fig.*

1611 COTGR., *Escumement*, ..a scumming, or skimming. 1642 ROGERS *Naaman* 252 After a short skeaming off a little of the sweet of their will. 1774 PENNANT *Tour Scotl. in 1772* II. 299 The great scallop-shell is made use of in the dairies of this country for the skimming of milk. 1826 *Art Brewing* (ed. 2) 115 Repeat the skimming until no yeast rises. 1828 SCOTT *F. M. Perth* xxxii, I..will return in the skimming of a bowie. 1857 MILLER *Elem. Chem., Org.* ii. § 1. 65 The impurities, which are afterwards removed by skimming.

3. a. The action of reading (*over*) hastily.

1711 GAY *Pres. St. Wit* in Arber *Garner* VI. 506 A lively instance of those Wits who..'will endure but one skimming'. 1751 SKELTON *Deism Revealed* viii. (ed. 2) II. 302 They run over a book with all imaginable haste [etc.]: this they call skimming. 1862 HELPS *Organiz. Daily Life* 85 The skimming over [of the pamphlet] was effected in half an hour.

b. The action of causing to skim through the air.

c 1745 in Lees *Hist. Inverness-shire* (1897) xl. 169 Such loud huzzas and schimming of bonnets up into the air..was not heard of for a long time.

4. *attrib.*, as *skimming-gate, -iron, -ladle*, etc.

1639 *12th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. IX. 8 One Skiminge spoone with holes in it. 1801 *Farmer's Mag.* Nov. 375 They use a kind of skimming plough..having a flat share, somewhat like a mason's trowel, with two long wings projecting backwards. 1813 ELLIS *Brand's Pop. Antiq.* II. 111 Mr. Douce derives it from the Skimming-Ladle. 1837 *Penny Cycl.* VII. 14/2 When the curd is properly formed, it is cut horizontally in thin slices by the same skimming-ladle. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 578 A scum on the surface, which is removed with skimming irons. 1843 HOLTZAPFEL *Turning* I. 344 The pot is now lifted out..and carried to the skimming-place. 1862 ANSTED *Channel Isl.* II. viii. 194 *note*, Taken with the skimming net. 1884 W. H. GREENWOOD *Steel & Iron* 201 The recess..for the skimming of the metal is known as the *skimming gate*.

Ski·mming, *ppl. a.* [f. SKIM *v.*]

1. Moving lightly along or close to a surface; flying in an easy gliding manner, etc.

a 1685 OTWAY *Epist. to Mr. Duke* 33 Where skimming swallows o'er the surface fly. 1783 BURNS *'Now Westlin Winds'* iv, Thick flies the skimming Swallow. 1821 CLARE *Vill. Minstr.* I. 7 Like skimming bees That fly and flirt about. 1859 MAURY *Phys. Geog.* § 432 We know that it is not such a skimming current as the geologist would make, which runs from one lake to another. 1894 *Outing* XXIV. 223/1 The dead leaves lift and whirl as though from an earth-skimming cannon shot.

2. *fig.* Touching merely the surface of a subject; not deep or thorough.

1728 MORGAN *Algiers* II. v. 307 A bare superficial, skimming knowledge in the French. 1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* II. 181 There are more ways than one of grooming a horse, as may be witnessed by the skimming and careless way in which some ploughmen do it. 1899 *Westm. Gaz.* 20 June 1/3 With all this light and skimming talk.

3. Serving to skim a thing over.

1843 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* VI. 211/1 The first, or 'skimming' coat of the covering being laid on of a thickness of 3/16 inch.

Ski·mming-dish. [SKIMMING *vbl. sb.* 4.]

1. A dish suitable for skimming with; *esp.* one used in skimming milk or in cheese-making.

1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 333/1 A little broad flat Dish made of Wood, called by Dairy Women a Scimming Dish. 1713 ADDISON *Guardian* No. 124, Who on her skimming-dish carves her name. 1785 W. W. PEPYS in Roberts *Mem. Han. More* (1835) I. 384 To send you a skimming-dish,..towards setting-up housekeeping. 1805 R. W. DICKSON *Pract. Agric.* II. 1017 The operator stirs up the unbroken curd from the bottom with the skimming-dish. 1859 GEO. ELIOT *A. Bede* ix, Have you become an amateur of damp quarries and skimming-dishes?

b. *fig.* Something comparable to a skimming-dish in respect of shallowness.

1861 GEO. ELIOT *Silas M.* x, The adherents of the inexplicable more than hinted that their antagonists were..mere skimming-dishes in point of depth. 1885 *Sat. Rev.* 3 Jan. 11/1 The Englishman not inaptly calls the American's boat a 'skimming dish'.

c. *U.S.* A shallow yacht-built type of boat used on the coast of Florida.

1884 J. A. HENSHALL *Camping in Florida* ii. 15 The boats are..of light draught and center-boarders. There are the 'skimming-dish', the 'pumpkin-seed' and the 'flat-iron' models.

2. *attrib.* in † *skimming-dish hat.*

1766 SMOLLETT *Trav.* I. vi. 99 That unshaken patriot still appears in the same..skimming-dish hat, and slit sleeve. 1773 J. BERRIDGE *Wks.* (1864) 193 A dozen skimming dish hats, such as gentry wear. 1855 *Willis's Current Notes* V. 58/2 The Skimming-Dish Hat.

Ski·mmingly, *adv.* [f. SKIMMING *ppl. a.*] In a skimming manner; *esp.* lightly, carelessly, superficially.

1847 WEBSTER, *Skimmingly*, by gliding along the surface. 1863 COWDEN CLARKE *Shaks. Charac.* xiv. 361 How skimmingly he relates that, 'having flown over many knavish professions, he settled down in rogue.' 1900 *Pilot* 16 June 494/2 Of all these..men he gossips in an easy, skimming style; too skimmingly, indeed, for the most part.

Skimmington (ski·mintən). Also **skyming-, skimmen-, skimmerton; skimmiting, -ity,** etc. [Possibly from *skimming* (see quot. 1639 in sense 1) + *-ton* as in *simpleton*, with the object of simulating a personal name.]

†1. The man or woman personating the ill-used husband or the offending wife in the procession (see 2) intended to ridicule the one or the other. Also *transf.*, a husband whose wife is unfaithful to him; a shrewish woman. *Obs.*

1609 BUTLER *Fem. Mon.* iv. (1623) Ij, Yet when they haue it [*sc.* their desire], let them use poore Skimmington as best they may, especially in publike, to hide his shame. 1634 HEYWOOD & BROME *Lanc. Witches* H.'s Wks. 1874 IV. 234 Enter..a Skimington, and his wife on a horse. 1639 *Divers Crabtree Lectures* Frontispiece [representing a woman beating her husband with a skimming-ladle], Skimmington, and her Husband. 1813 ELLIS *Brand's Pop. Antiq.* II. 110 If they stopped at any other door and swept there too, it was a pretty broad hint that there were more Skimmingtons, *i.e.* Shrews in the town than one.

2. A ludicrous procession, formerly common in villages and country districts, usually intended to bring ridicule or odium upon a woman or her husband in cases where the one was unfaithful to, or ill-treated, the other. Also *attrib.* (cf. b).

For varying accounts of the reasons for, and the character of, the procession, see the *Eng. Dial. Dict.*

1634 HEYWOOD & BROME *Lanc. Witches* H.'s Wks. 1874 IV. 230 Hearke ye, do you heare it? There's a Skimington towards, gentlemen. *c* 1679 OLDHAM *Wks.* (1854) 125 Like pageants of Lord Mayor, or Skimmington. 1714-5 BAGFORD in *Leland's Collect.* I. p. lxxvi, I might here mention the old Custom of Skimington, when a Woman beats her Husband. 1753 MISS COLLIER *Art Torment.* Concl. (1811) 221 Where the strength of arm is with the wife, she generally uses it in a manner to excite her neighbours to lampoon her by a Skimmington. 1865 *St. James' Mag.* July 511 The 'skymington' is still in use for henpecked husbands and shrewish wives. 1886 HARDY *Mayor of Casterbr.* xxxix, The rude music of the skimmington ceased. *Ibid.* xl, He knew nothing of the skimmington-ride.

b. In phrase *to ride* (*the*) *skimmington*, to hold a procession of this kind.

1697 *View Penal Laws* App., A Table of..Misdemeanors, Offences and Nusances...Riot and Riding Skinnington [*sic*]. *a* 1712 W. KING *Monarch* 1 When the young people ride the Skimmington, There is a general trembling in a town. 1796 *Grose's Dict. Vulgar T.*, Riding Skimmington. 1822 SCOTT *Nigel* xxi, You would do well not to forget whose threshold was swept when they last rode the Skimmington upon such another scolding jade as yourself. 1832 *Examiner* 396/2 One of those scenes called 'riding skimmerton,', or rustic country justice, took place on Monday evening last at Bitterne.

3. A row, quarrel. *rare* $^{-1}$.

1753 H. WALPOLE *Lett.* (1846) II. 479 The Speaker..was so misrepresented by the Attorney-general, that there was danger of a skimmington between the great wig and the coif.

Ski·mmy, *a. rare*$^{-1}$. [f. SKIM *v.*] Of the nature of skimming; superficial.

1893 *Critic* 7 Jan. 6/2 A sketchy and 'skimmy' study of the romance as distinguished from the novel in the United States.

Ski·mmy-dish. *rare*$^{-1}$. = SKIMMING-DISH.

1823 W. COBBETT *Rural Rides* (1830) I. 347 What! young gentlemen go to plough! They become clerks or some skimmy dish thing or other.

Skimp, *a.* [Of obscure origin: not in general use until very recently.] Scanty; = SCRIMP *a.*

1775 *Songs & Poems Costume* (Percy Soc.) 255 Then the fops are so fine, With lank waisted chine, And a skimp bit of a hat. 1890 *Athenæum* 9 Aug. 189/3 Breaking up other measures, especially those of the ode, into skimp lengths of like sort.

Skimp, *v.* [Cf. prec.] = SCRIMP *v.*

1879 in WEBSTER *Suppl.* 1880 R. G. WHITE *Every-Day English* 13 The *a* in *catch* is moderately broad;..and consequently it is 'skimped' by all who are inclined to be slovenly. 1888 RIDER HAGGARD *Col. Quaritch* i, In those ages men did not skimp their flint, and oak, and mortar.

absol. 1888 EGGLESTON *Graysons* xix, The woman who has..schemed and skimped to achieve her attire.

Skimped (skimpt), *ppl. a.* Also 9 scimpit. [Cf. prec.] = SCRIMPED *ppl. a.*

1839 CARLETON *Fardorougha* v. (1848) 55 Only your cothamore's too scimpit for me. 1860 MAYNE REID *Hunters' Feast* i, Bradley's garments, on the contrary, were tight-fitting and 'skimped'. 1884 LANG in *Cent. Mag.* Jan. 323/1 Stone walls can never seem so squalid and skimped as the London houses of dirty, yellowish brick.

Skimper-scamper, *adv.* [f. SCAMPER *v.*, with usual variation of vowel.] In hurry and confusion.

1778 MISS BURNEY *Evelina* xlvi, And there all the lamps are broke,—and the women run skimper scamper.

Skimpily (ski·mpili), *adv.* [f. SKIMPY *a.* + -LY 2.] In a skimpy manner or style.

1859 W. H. GREGORY *Egypt* I. 314 She would..have dressed herself more becomingly, and less skimpily. 1866 *Contemp. Rev.* II. 487 They are carelessly and 'skimpily' got up goods. 1887 FENN *Master Cerem.* iii, She recrossed the skimpily furnished drawing-room.

Ski·mpiness. [f. SKIMPY *a.* + -NESS.] The quality of being skimpy.

1879 MISS BRADDON *Vixen* xxxi, The faded and unknown hue of the substantial brocade, the skimpiness of the satin. 1884 *Punch* 2 Feb. 53 [A female] who had tried to make up for the skimpiness of her figure by the breadth of her hat-brim.

Ski·mping, *ppl. a.* [f. SKIMP *a.* and *v.*] Skimpy; marked by skimpiness.

1775 S. J. PRATT *Liberal Opin.* XCV. (1783) III. 193 Sir, what a *skimping* waistcoat is here! neither cut, nor turn, nor slope, nor figure. 1803 MARY CHARLTON *Wife & Mistress* III. 213 He was downright tired of the Skimping out-of-the-way doings as is here. 1862 SALA *Seven Sons* I. vi. 125 A little milliner's girl in a skimping plaid shawl. 1889 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Robbery under Arms* xxii, The miserable, scrambling, skimping life we had lately been used to.

Hence **Ski·mpingly** *adv.*

1853 LYTTON *My Novel* III. xv, The Squire and his son Frank were large-hearted, generous creatures in the article of apology, as in all things less skimpingly dealt out.

Ski·mpings. *Mining.* [? alteration of *skimmings.*] (See quots.)

1778 PRYCE *Min. Cornub.* 222 The water is poured off from the surface of the Tin, and the light waste upon it is skimmed off and laid by itself, to be buddled over again by the name of the Skimpings. *Ibid.* 238 The Ore swims uppermost, and is skimmed off in the manner of Tin skimpings. 1839 DE LA BECHE *Rep. Geol. Cornwall*, etc. xv. 577 If divided into three, the two upper portions were termed top and bottom skimpings. 1860 *Eng. & Foreign Gloss.* (ed. 2) 23 (Cornwall terms), *Skimpings*, skimmings of the light ores, &c., in the dressing process.

Ski·mpling. *rare*$^{-1}$. [f. SKIMP *a.*] A stunted, not properly developed, person.

1890 G. ALLEN in *Universal Rev.* May 53 Let her parents marry her to no matter what rich fool, what undersized skimpling, what hereditary *crétin*.

Skimpy (ski·mpi), *a.* [f. SKIMP *a.* + -Y.] Of a scrimp, scanty, meagre, or spare character; stinted or stunted in some respect; lacking the proper fulness or size.

1847 *Mary, Star of the Sea* xxii. (1878) 325 Her grandmother..pulled a *skimpy* curtain one way across the window, in order to exclude the light. 1859 *Blackw. Mag.* LXXXV. Apr. 450/1 Contrasting advantageously with the pitiful skimpy garments of the English foot-soldier. 1883 MRS. LYNN LINTON *Ione* I. viii. 197 You must give me a whole hour to-morrow to make up for this skimpy call to-day.

Skimshander. = SCRIMSHAW.

1850 SCORESBY *Cheever's Whaleman's Adv.* xiii. 182 *Mux* and *skimshander* are the general names by which they express the ways in which whalemen busy themselves ..in working up sperm whales' jaws and teeth and right whale bone into boxes [etc.].

Skin, *sb.* Forms: 3- skin (3, 7 skinn), 4-6 skyn (4 skiyn, 5 sckyn), skynn, 3-6 skynne, 4-7 skinne; 4-6 skine, skyne; 4 schin(ne, scinne, scyn, 4-5 scin. [a. ON. *skinn* (Icel., Norw., and Sw. *skinn*, Da. *skind*) neut., for earlier **skinþ*, related to OHG. *scindan* (MHG. *schinden, schinten*, G. *schinden*), MLG. *schinden, schinnen*, Du. *schinden* to flay, peel, etc. Cf. also G. dial. *schind, schinde* skin of fruit, obs. Flem. *schinde* bark, rind (Kilian).]

I. 1. The integument of an animal stripped from the body, and usually dressed or tanned (with or without the hair), or intended for this purpose; a hide, pelt, or fur; also occas., an article made of this.

In technical use the *skins* of the smaller animals (as sheep, calves, etc.) are distinguished from the *hides* of the larger (as oxen).

c 1200 ORMIN 3210 Hiss girrdell wass off shepess skinn. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 3677 Wit a rugh skin sco hidd his hals. *a* 1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* cl. 4 Taburn is made of a dryid scyn. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* II. 359 His gulion, Which of the Skyn of a Leoun Was mad. 1474 CAXTON *Chesse* III. iii. (1883) 93 The Notayres skynners coryours and cardewaners werke by skynnes and hydes. 1536 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 276 These be wolues in lambes skynnes. 1592 TIMME *Ten Eng. Lepers* K ij, They have the skinne of the Hyena, which..will drawe the haire from the skinne of other beastes to it. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* I. 173 Guilded leather.., three skins whereof were commonly sold for a Crowne. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* III. 588 Skins of Beasts, the rude Barbarians wear. 1750 tr. *Leonardus' Mirr. Stones* 82 Some say, it should be wrapt in the skin of a calf. 1837 W. IRVING *Capt. Bonneville* II. 72 In a little while the skins began to make their appearance, a few at a time; they were laid down in the lodge. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* IV. 349/1 Beneath is stretched a leather apron, or 'skin', to catch the filings.

b. In phrases, esp. those (*a*) denoting premature action or too confident anticipation.

(*a*) 1567 *Cal. Scott. Papers* (1900) II. 392 Theye coulde not marchaundyze for the beares skynne before they had hym. 1577 *F. de Lisle's Legendarie* E viij, Selling the beares skinne which yet they had not taken. 1599 SHAKS. *Hen. V*, IV. iii. 93 The man that once did sell the Lyons skin While the beast liu'd, was kill'd with hunting him. 1641 in Rushw. *Hist. Coll.* (1721) IV. III. 436 We must not dispose of the Bears Skin till the Bear be Dead. 1835 LYTTON *Rienzi* v. iii, Are ye dividing the skin while the lion lives? 1858 COSTELLO *Millionaire Mincing Lane* xvii. 146 That reckoning which sells the skin of the bear before the beast is captured. 1899 *Westm. Gaz.* 30 Nov. 5/2, I do not like to divide the skin before we have caught the bear.

(*b*) 1570 *Cecil Papers* (Hist. MSS. Comm.) I. 489 You can have no more of the cat but the skin. 1582 T. WATSON *Poems* (Arb.) 96 Besides his Skinne, the Fox hath nought to pay. 1647 TRAPP *Comm. Rom.* iv. 6 Every Fox must pay his own skin to the flaier.

c. *slang.* (See quots.)

1785 GROSE *Dict. Vulgar T., Skins*, a tanner. 1812 J. H. VAUX *Flash Dict., Skin*, a purse, a money bag. [Hence in later slang Dicts.] 1821 HAGGART *Life* 15 Young McGuire had taken some skins with a few shillings in each. 1856 MAYHEW *Gt. World London* iii. (Farmer), Abstracting skins from gentlemen's pockets.

2. A complete hide of a sheep, calf, etc., or a part of one, specially prepared as parchment or vellum and used for writing or painting upon.

Cf. Icel. *skinn* parchment, and *-skinna* used in the names of manuscripts.

1340 *Ayenb.* 44 Betere may ech man rede þe ilke zenne and þe opre ine þe boc of his inwyt þanne ine ane ssepes scinne. *a* 1375 *Minor Poems Vernon MS.* xlvii. 308 He wrot so faste til þat he want, For his parchemyn-skin was so scant. *c* 1489 CAXTON *Sonnes of Aymon* xi. 280 This Pygwade hnd well herde all that the kyng yon had sayd, & wrote it in a skynne of parchemente. 1583 STUBBES *Anat. Abus.* II. (1882) 32 A whole skin of parchment, and sometimes 2. or 3. skins will hardly serue. 1649 BP. HALL *Cases Consc.* III. x. (1654) 274 It is not a small skin that would containe that Tome. 1679–88 *Secr. Servo. Money Chas. & Jas.* (Camden) 65 Writing, flourishing, and embellishing one large skinn of vellom with his said Majesties armes. 1738 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Parchment*, The Persians of old ..wrote all their records on skins. 1861 READE *Cloister & H.* lx, The very skin of vellum Gerard had longed for. 1870 E. PEACOCK *Ralf Skirl.* I. 1 The ponderous deed of eight skins of parchment.

3. A vessel made of the hide of a small animal, such as a sheep or goat, and used for holding or carrying liquids, etc.

1547 BOORDE *Introd. Knowl.* xxx. (1870) 199 You shall draw your wyne out of one of the legges of the skyne. 1683 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1867/6 His Coach [was] visited, and a little Skin of Wine..taken out of it. 1745 P. THOMAS *Jrnl. Anson's Voy.* 54 We brought..Tar one Skin. 1835 SIR J. ROSS *Narr. 2nd Voy.* xl. 530 A native drawing two skins of oil. 1846 *Edin. Rev.* LXXXIV. 175 The best Xeres that ever smacked of the skin. 1879 FROUDE *Cæsar* iv. 40 [The army] carried its water supplies with it in skins.

fig. 1874 G. C. HUTTON in Oliver *Life* (1910) viii. 82 You cannot keep Christianity in the old bottles of Constantine. It is continually bursting the legislative skins.

II. 4. The continuous flexible integument forming the usual external covering of an animal body; also, one or other of the separate layers of which this is composed, the derma or epidermis.

1340 *Ayenb.* 81 Ac oure ezen byeþ fyeble, þet ne zyeþ bote þet skin wyþ-oute. *c* 1384 CHAUCER *H. Fame* III. 1229 Marcia that lost her skyn Bothe in face, body, and chyn. *c* 1430 *Two Cookery-bks.* 11 Pyke a-way clene þe bonys an þe Skyn, an bray hym in a morter. 1486 *Bk. St. Albans* e iij b, All [animals] that bere skyne and talow and Rounge. 1508 DUNBAR *Twa Mariit Wemen* 93 To see him scart his awin skyn grit scunner I think. 1542 BOORDE *Dyetary* xvii. (1870) 276 Refrayne from etynge of the skynnes of fysshe and flesshe, & bornet meate. 1600 J. PORY tr. *Leo's Africa* v. 237 Their women are white, hauing blacke haires and a most delicate skinne. 1661 LOVELL *Hist. Anim. & Min.* Isagoge b, The skinne in the seahorse is so thick, that speares may be made thereof. 1704 F. FULLER *Med. Gymn.* (1711) 201 The true Skin, and all its innumerable Glands. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) II. 56 The skin of children newly brought forth, is always red. 1845 BUDD *Dis. Liver* 92 By circumscribed œdema, or a slight blush on the skin. 1880 DAY *Fishes Gt. Brit.* I. p. xx, The skin or tegumentary system may be entirely or partially scaleless.

Prov. 1419 *26 Pol. Poems* 70 It is worthy he smerte and be wo, þat of his owen skyn wole kerue a thong.

b. *fig.* (See quots.)

Quot. 1579 echoes Persius *Sat.* v. 116 'veterem pelliculam retines', which Cooper (1565) renders 'thou art the olde man still; thou hast still thine olde skinne'.

1579 TOMSON *Calvin's Serm. Tim.* 133/1 We shall be alwayes in part lead away with our old skin, and there will be great remnants of the old man in vs. 1632 MASSINGER & FIELD *Fatal Dowry* II. ii, They skip into my lord's cast skins some twice a year. 1848 LYTTON *Pelham* xxxiv, That great epoch, when vanity casts off its first skin. 1856 MAYHEW *Gt. World London* 39 The wealth in which the merchants of Rag Fair deal..is merely the offal of the well-to-do—the skins sloughed by gentility. 1896 *Daily News* 1 June 3/2 Mr. Tree may be said..to have got into 'the skin of the part', as the French have it.

c. Without article, as a material.

1813 SIR H. DAVY *Agric. Chem.* (1814) 88 When skin is exposed to solutions containing tannin, it slowly combines with that principle.

5. In allusive phrases: **a.** Denoting oppressive or severe treatment, or summary punishment

c 1380 WYCLIF *Wks.* (1880) 73 Þus, as god seiþ of tyrauntis, þei taken here skyn fro þe bak. 1399 LANGL. *Rich. Redeles* II. 32 Þey plucked the plomayle from þe pore skynnes. *Ibid.* 126 Ȝe..plucked and pulled hem anon to þe skynnes. 1549 LATIMER *3rd Serm. bef. Edw. VI* (Arb.) 96 She can bringe the Iudges skynne ouer hys eares. *Ibid.* 97 He wyll for wyddowes sakes..plucke ye Iudges skinnes ouer theyr heades. 1621 T. WILLIAMSON tr. *Goulart's Wise Vieillard* 55 Many..who in regard of their age,..being esteemed as dead men, haue made young men to tremble and quake, who earst purposed to plucke their skin ouer their eares.

b. *Skin and bone(s)*, denoting extreme emaciation or leanness. Also, a very lean person.

c 1430 *Hymns Virgin* (1867) 73 Ful of fleissche Y was to fele, Now..Me is lefte But skyn & boon. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Edw. V*, 16 b, In..whose reigne she dyed, when she had nothyng but a reueled skynne and bone. 1562 J. HEYWOOD *Prov. & Epigr.* (1867) 134 Yet art thou skyn and bone. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* I. 251 My self being nothing but skin and bone, as one that languished in a Consumption. *c* 1643 LD. HERBERT *Autobiog.* (1824) 22 She languished and pined away to skin and bones. 1748 RICHARDSON *Clarissa* VII. 201 Her features are so regular..that were she only skin and bone, she must be a beauty. 1827 *Perils & Captivity* (Constable's Misc.) 224 We arrived, extenuated and reduced to skin and bone. 1888 W. D. LIGHTHALL *Young Seigneur* 73 'Heh, heh, heh!' cried an old skin-and-bones.

c. *To sleep in a whole skin*, etc., to escape being wounded, to remain uninjured.

1555 J. PROCTOR *Hist. Wyat's Rebellion* 45 The common saiynge, Good to slepe in a whole skinne. 1596 NASHE *Saffron Walden* Wks. (Grosart) III. 114 The foole is crafty inough to sleepe in a whole skin. 1600 HOLLAND *Livy* XXXII. xxi. 823 b, To enter into no armes at all, to sit still and sleepe in a hole skin. 1694 ECHARD *Plautus* 110 Be gon in a moment, as you hope to sleep in a whole skin. 1704 J. PITTS *Acc. Moham.* ii. 16 The Algerines are a very timorous sort of People, willing to sleep in a whole Skin. 1813 SOUTHEY *March to Moscow* x, He was besides in a very great fright, For a whole skin he liked to be in. 1897 W. E. NORRIS *Marietta's Marriage* xliii, We'll assume ..that your anxiety to keep a whole skin justified you in taking to your heels.

† **d.** *As the skin between one's brows*, etc., used to emphasize the force of an adjective. *Obs.*

1575 *Gamm. Gurton* v. ii. 121, I am as true, I wold thou knew, as skin betwene thy browes! 1599 B. JONSON *Ev. Man out of Hum.* II. i, *Punt.* Is he magnanimous? *Gent.* As the skin between your brows, sir. 1614 — *Barth. Fair* IV. iii, Tou shalt be as honesht as the skin between his hornsh. *a* 1643 CARTWRIGHT *Ordinary* v. iv, I am as honest as the skin that is Between thy Brows.

e. *To the skin*, through all one's garments; hence, thoroughly, completely. Also, leaving no clothing on the body.

(*a*) 1582 ALLEN *Martyrdom Campion* (1908) 84 After these iiij had been searched unto their skinnes, and nothing found upon them. 1605 SHAKS. *Lear* III. iv. 7 This contentious storme Inuades vs to the skin. 1611 COTGR., *Trauersé*,..wet through, or (as we say) to the skinne. 1764 FOOTE *Mayor of G.* I. (1783) 14, I don't believe..that they were ever wet to the skin in their lives.

(*b*) 1613 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* (1614) 749 The Sauages.. giuing all to their naked skinne..for the trifles he gaue them. 1634 MASSINGER *Very Woman* v. v, We were boarded, pillaged to the skin, and after Twice sold for slaves. *a* 1639 W. WHATELEY *Prototypes* II. xxxiv. (1640) 181 The Egyptians would rather sell themselves to the skinne, yea sell themselves and all, then they would..take corne by force.

f. *Out of one's skin*, denoting excessive exertion, or more usually (with *jump*, etc.) extreme delight, excitement, high spirits, or surprise.

(*a*) 1584 B. R. tr. *Herodotus* I. 38 Hymselfe as one ready to leape out of hys skynne for joy,..declared [etc.]. 1616 R. C. *Times' Whistle* (1871) 94 The marchant, if his gaines doe safe come in, Is with joy ready to leape out on's skinne. 1668 H. MORE *Div. Dial.* III. xxxvi. (1713) 283 How transported are my Spirits,..that I am ready even to skip out of my skin for Joy! 1732 FIELDING *Miser* v. i, I am ready to leap out of my skin for joy. 1798 COLMAN *Blue Devils* I. i, 'Twould make me jump out of my skin with joy. 1809 MALKIN *Gil Blas* X. vii, Scipio..was ready to jump out of his skin for joy at the sight of me. 1860 TROLLOPE *Castle Richmond* III. xiii. 246 So is we all ould frinds, an we're all glad—out of our skins wid gladness. 1892 N. GOULD *Double Event* xv. 101 The horse..looked in splendid condition, 'fit to jump out of his skin', to use a racing term.

(*b*) 1592 NASHE *P. Penilesse* Wks. (Grosart) II. 40 The souldiour may fight himselfe out of his skinne. 1865 TROLLOPE *Belton Est.* vii, Why should he be made..to drive the poor beast out of its skin?

g. *By* (or *with*) *the skin of one's teeth*, with difficulty, narrowly, barely.

In the original form *with*, etc., the phrase is a literal translation from the Hebrew text of *Job* xix. 20; the Vulgate and Septuagint render the passage differently.

1560 BIBLE (Geneva) *Job* xix. 20, I haue escaped with the skinne of my tethe. 1647 CLARENDON *Contempl. Ps.* Tracts (1727) 510 He reckoned himself only escaped with the skin of his teeth, that he had nothing left. 1825 J. NEAL *Bro. Jonathan* I. 109 Skin o' my teeth, I guess, if it hadn't been for Watty boy. 1893 *Nation* 9 Feb. 99/2 His eldest son was implicated in the robbery.., and came off by the skin of his teeth. 1894 SALA *Lond. Up to Date* 66, I got in by the skin of my teeth.

h. *To save one's skin*, to save oneself from loss or injury.

1642 ROGERS *Naaman* Index, Æquivocating with our conscience..for the saving of our owne skin, is abominable. 1692 R. L'ESTRANGE *Fables* liv. 54 Dangerous Civilities.., wherein 'tis a Hard Matter for a Man to Save, both his Skin, and his Credit. 1890 W. STEBBING *Peterborough* viii. 155 A poltroon who was ever considering how to save his skin. 1898 DOYLE *Tragedy Korosko* v, He was taken prisoner.. and had to turn Dervish to save his skin.

i. Miscellaneous phrases (see quots.).

For the Sc. *skin and birn*, see BURN *sb.*[3] 2 b.

a 1592 GREENE *Jas. IV*, III. i, Thou shalt both have thy skin full of wine and the rest of thy money. 1630 LENNARD tr. *Charron's Wisd.* II. ii. (1670) 236 We must discern the skin from the shirt. *c* 1680 SOUTH *Serm.* (1715) I. 36 If Mens Religion lies no deeper than their Skin. 1731–8 SWIFT *Pol. Conv.* 46 Why where should she be? You must needs know; she's in her Skin. 1770 *Gentl. Mag.* XL. 560 To express the Condition of an Honest Fellow..under the Effects of good Fellowship, it is said that he [has]..Got his Skin full. 1790 MME. D'ARBLAY *Diary* Feb., I shall pity those men when the book comes out!—I would not be in their skins! 1796 *Grose's Dict. Vulg. T., In a bad skin*, out of temper, in an ill humour. 1828 CARR *Craven Gloss.* s.v., 'To be in another's skin,' to be in his place or situation. *a* 1850 ROSSETTI *Dante & Circle* I. (1874) 221 Him who sticks so in his skin. *Ibid.* 224 Messer Angiolieri's slipped his skin. 1858 CARLYLE *Fredk. Gt.* XVI. ii. (1872) VI. 142 It is certain Voltaire was a fool..not to have a thicker skin. 1869 WHYTE MELVILLE *Holmby House* I. xi. 151 Lady Carlisle laughed under the skin.

6. A membrane covering any internal part of an animal body.

Gold-beater's skin: see GOLD-BEATER 1 b.

c 1400 *Lanfranc's Cirurg.* 169 þe stomak & þe guttis is ordeyned a skyn, þat is clepid þe siphac. *a* 1425 tr. *Arderne's Treat. Fistula*, etc. 69 Swynez grese wele y-clensed of þe litel skynnez and smal y-kutted. *c* 1475 *Pict. Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 749 *Hoc fren*, the sckyn of the brayne. 1590 BARROUGH *Meth. Physick* II. ix. (1639) 84 If the skins [pleuræ] which be joyned all the length of the breast within be inflammate. 1668 CULPEPPER & COLE *Barthol. Anat.* Introd., The internal Skin of the inner Cavities. 1702 J. PURCELL *Cholick* (1714) 7 The two Skins of the Mesentery. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* II. 1138 Skins may be expectorated abundantly.

7. Anything which resembles skin in nature or use; an outer coat or covering of anything.

a. The outer covering of certain fruits and vegetables; the peel or rind; also, the bark or rind of a tree or plant.

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XVII. clv. (Bodl. MS.), Plinius..seiþ þat frute of siliqua is swete:..and þe skynne þerof is yȝete. 1558 WARDE tr. *Alexis' Secr.* 22 b, You shal take the rootes of..wilde Mallow, and scrape from them cleane their skinne or barke. 1599 SHAKS. *Hen. V*, v. i. 56 The skinne [of the leek] is good for your broken Coxcombe. 1657 R. LIGON *Barbadoes* (1673) 81 The body of this plant is soft,..and between the skins, water issues forth as you cut it. 1687 A. LOVELL tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* II. 34 The Cucumbers are so good in Aleppo, that..the Francks also eat them green, skin and all. 1733 W. ELLIS *Chiltern & Vale Farm.* 116, I have often seen the very Skin, or Rind of the young Roots left behind in drawing. 1826 *Art of Brewing* (ed. 2) 190 The moment the skin [of the apple] is first cut. 1862 MILLER *Elem. Chem., Org.* iii. § 1 (ed. 2) 160 Red grapes may be made to yield a 'white' wine..; but if the skins be left in the fermenting mass [etc.]. 1874 RAYMOND *Statist. Mines & Mining* 511 Yellow pine timber ..placed at first skin to skin, and afterward 2 feet apart.

b. A pellicle, a film. Also *fig.*

1576 FLEMING *Panopl. Epist.* 64 Those remedies whiche ought..to drawe a skinne ouer my wound. 1671 GREW *Anat. Pl.* I. ii. (1684) 15 The Cuticle becomes a Skin; as we see in the growing of the Coats of Cheeses, of the Skin over divers Liquors, and the like. 1678 HOBBES *Decam.* viii. 98 For the skin of the Bubble is Water. 1758 REID tr. *Macquer's Chem.* I. 385 In the same manner take off a second skin that will form on the surface of the Lead. 1793 T. BEDDOES *Calculus*, etc. 279 The heat of boiling water would not..produce a skin upon milk without the presence of air. 1831 BREWSTER *Optics* xiii. 110 Covered with gauze or muslin, or with a skin of dried skimmed milk. 1878 HUXLEY *Physiogr.* 81 It is this white solid substance which forms the thin skin on the surface of the water.

c. In miscellaneous uses (see quots.).

1611 SHAKS. *All's Well* II. ii. 29 As fit..as the pudding to his skin. 1677 *Descript. Diamond Mines* in *Misc. Curiosa* (1708) III. 243 The Diamonds..are very well spread, large Stones.., they have generally a bright Skin. 1763 *Museum Rust.* I. 94 It enables the land..to come speedily to a good skin (as we term it), or coat of grass. 1875 DAWSON *Dawn of Life* ii. 12 If they [Laurentian hills] could be flattened out they would serve as a skin much too large for mother earth in her present state. 1894 *Nature* 26 July 289 Observations hitherto made in the earth's outer skin.

d. The surface of a piece of cast or rolled metal.

1840 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* III. 425/1 The removal of the exterior *skin* of a casting greatly increases the corrosive

action of salt water and its combined air. 1869 RANKINE *Machine & Hand-tools* App. 54 It is used to form a hard and impenetrable *skin* to a piece of grey cast iron by the process called *chilling*.

e. *Arch.* The facing of a wall, in contrast to the material in the heart of it.

1884 *Mil. Engin.* I. II. 84 To have only a thin skin on the outside which could readily be knocked out by a crowbar. 1897 *Daily News* 23 Nov. 6/5 The disintegrated condition of the inner masonry..rendered impossible the project..of replacing the inside masonry without disturbing the 'skin'.

8. *Naut.* a. The planking, or iron plating, covering the ribs or frame of a vessel.

(*a*) 1769 FALCONER *Dict. Marine* (1780), *Planking* is sometimes called 'laying on the skin', by the artificers. 1814 *Phil. Trans.* CIV. II. 287 The ribs are covered by a skin of greater or less substance from the extreme ends of them to the keel or back bone. 1856 KANE *Arct. Expl.* I. xxxii. 444 The entire bulkhead was in a blaze, as well as the dry timbers and skin of the brig. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.* 629 *Skin*, this term is frequently used for the inside planking of a vessel, the outside being the *case*. 1886 *Pall Mall G.* 26 Aug. 4/1 The boat is most substantially constructed;..the skin being of mahogany three-eighths of an inch thick.

(*b*) 1862 *Times* 7 Mar., The 18 inches of wood between the armour and iron skin. 1883 NARES *Constr. Ironclad* 5 The plates forming the outer and inner bottoms or *skins* are rivetted on.

b. (See first quot.)

1841 TOTTEN *Naval Text Bk.* 394 *Skin*, that part of a sail, when furled, which remains outside and covers the whole. *c* 1860 H. STUART *Seaman's Catech.* 49 What cloth will you take for furling the spanker in a skin? The third from the leech. 1882 NARES *Seamanship* (ed. 6) 134 Gather up the skin, shaking the slack sail well down into it.

9. Used as a term of contempt.

1825 JAMIESON *Suppl., Skin*, a term applied to a person, as expressive of the greatest contempt; as 'Ye're naething but a nasty skin'. 1889 *Century Mag.* Dec. 227 Occasionally he would refer to the president of the Off-shore Wrecking Company, his former employer, as 'that skin'.

III. *attrib.* and *Comb.*

10. Attrib. a. In sense 'of, in, connected with, the skin', as *skin-disease, -furrow, -tint*, etc.

This type is very common in recent medical works.

1615 H. CROOKE *Body of Man* 349 Betwixt the fleshy membrane and the skinne runne certaine vessels called *Skinveines*. 1676 MARVELL *Mr. Smirke* Wks. (Grosart) IV. 16 'Tis a pitiful giddy..insect, ingendered..in every marish, can but run a pore thorow and give but a skinne-wound. 1769 MRS. RAFFALD *Eng. Housekpr.* (1778) 57 Lay the feet over them the skin side up. 1864 W. T. FOX *Skin Dis.* 15 The unchangeable elements, in the teaching of skin pathology. 1865 *Chambers's Encycl.* VII. 363/1 Pellagra, at one time, the name of a loathsome skin-disease. 1880 *Nature* 28 Oct. 605 On the Skin-furrows of the Hand. 1896 *Peterson's Mag.* VI. 231/2 The skin-tints are less clear and warm than the same painter's 'Bubbles'.

b. In sense 'made, or consisting, of skin', as *skin-boat, -bottle, -canoe, -case*, etc.

1593 NASHE *Christ's T.* Wks. (Grosart) IV. 214 Our costly skinne-cases could keepe vs from consuming to dust. 1647 J. TRAPP *Comm. Luke* i. 59 A skin-bottle hanging in the smoke of filthy desires. 1761 *Ann. Reg.* 128 This plate is to be moved round,..rubbing it with a small skin cushion. 1808 PIKE *Sources Mississ.* (1810) II. 155 We..nearly completed the frame of a skin Canoe. 1847 J. HOLMES *Hist. United Brethren* i. (ed. 2) 7 The skin-boat is..from forty to fifty feet long, and proportionally broad and deep. 1871 W. MORRIS in Mackail *Life* (1899) I. 246 Skin shoes tied about the ankle with neat thongs. 1895 SCULLY *Kafir Stories* 123 He carried a small skin wallet slung to his waist.

11. Objective. a. With pres. pples., as *skin-breaking, -clipping, -piercing, -plastering*, etc.

1593 NASHE *Christ's T.* Wks. (Grosart) IV. 226 Those skin-playstring Painters. 1599 — *Lenten Stuff* ibid. V. 229 The curtaild skinclipping pagan$. 1611 COTGR., *Ratoire*,.. a skinne-breaking oyntment. 1784 COWPER *Task* V. 141 Arrowy sleet, Skin-piercing volley, blossom-bruising hail. 1889 J. J. THOMAS *Froudacity* 40 The skin-discriminating policy induced..since the abolition of slavery. 1891 MISS DOWIE *Girl Karp.* 244, I listened open-eyed to the herd's bear statistics, literally skin-clamming as these were.

b. With verbal sbs., as *skin-cutting, -grafting, -healing*, etc.

1829 SCOTT *Anne of G.* XXVII, The other three are picked men, who will not fear their skin-cutting. 1860 TOMLINSON *Arts & Manuf.* Ser. II. *Leather* 25 When they are in the state of pelt, they are split...This is effected by means of a..machine called the 'skin-splitting machine'. 1876 *Clinical Soc. Trans.* IX. 30 During this period skin grafting was practised continuously. 1896 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* I. 380 Manipulations cannot be begun upon wounded surfaces until skin-healing is complete.

c. With agent-nouns, as *skin-dealer, -dresser, -hunter, -preserver*.

1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade, Skin-dealer. Ibid., Skin-dresser*, a currier, or furrier. 1890 *Daily News* 9 Sept. 7/1 A brother..who carried on business as a furrier and skin-dresser. 1893 *Scribner's Mag.* June 794/1 Wholesale slaughter by skin-hunters has nearly destroyed the Platypus in some districts. 1893 *Daily News* 16 Feb. 5/5 No fewer than three taxidermists or skin preservers.

12. a. With past pples., as *skin-built, -clad, -peeled, -spread*.

a 1661 HOLYDAY *Persius* (1673) 294 Who without heed.. praise thee so, That (skin-peel'd asse!) thy self dost first cry, Hoe! 1823 JOANNA BAILLIE *Poems* 260 Whilst travellers from their skin-spread couches rise. 1846 H. G. ROBINSON *Odes of Horace* II. vi, Galesus' tide, Sweet to the skin-clad flocks. 1883 *Boats of World* 27 Two examples of skin-built canoes. 1886 *Encycl. Brit.* XXI. 113/2 Stilicho..planted the cruel Goths, his 'skin-clad' minions, in the very sanctuary of the empire.

b. Misc., as *skin-like* adj., (*to the*) *skinward* adv.

1699 R. L'ESTRANGE *Erasm. Collog.* (1711) 302 That wears Linen above, and woollen to the Skinward. 1796 WITHERING *Brit. Plants* (ed. 3) I. 82 *Skinny*, or *Skin-like*..,tough, thin, and semi-transparent, like gold beater's skin. 1847–9 *Todd's Cycl. Anat.* IV. I. 9 Gelatinous skin-like integument of the compound body.

13. Special combs.: **skin-bone**, an ossification in or of the skin; **skin-book**, a book made of parchment or vellum; **skin-bound** *a.*, having the skin tensely drawn; hide-bound; **skin-eater**, a moth or beetle which infests and destroys prepared skins or furs; **skin-faro**, *U.S.* (see quot. and *skin game*); **skin-finish**, a particular style of chasing in bronze; **skin-food**, a preparation for improving the skin; **skin friction**, the friction developed between a solid and a fluid or gaseous body; **skin game** (see quots.); **skin-graft** *v.*, to subject to the process of skin-grafting; **skinman**, a skin-dresser or skin-dealer; **skin-mark**, a merchant's mark; **skin-merchant**, a skin-dealer (see also quot.); **skin-plating**, metal plating forming the skin of a vessel; †**skin-prints**, tattoo-marks; **skin-scraper**, a strigil; **skin-sensory** *a.*, of or pertaining to the skin together with the sensory apparatus; **skin-vision**, the power of perceiving distinctions of light by means of the skin; **skin-wool**, wool taken from the skin of a dead sheep; **skin-worm**, the Guinea worm; **skin-yard**, a yard used for the working of skins.

1862 COCKAYNE *St. Marherete* Title-p., Now First Edited from the *Skin Books. 1883 G. STEPHENS *Bugge's Stud. North. Myth. Examined* 33 The oldest known Swedish skin-book dates after 1250. 1799 UNDERWOOD *Dis. Childhood* (ed. 4) I. 130 Of which [tightness of the skin] further notice will be taken under the article of *Skin-bound. 1803 BEDDOES *Hygëia* IX. 136 Except in a very close room, I feel as if skin-bound for days together. 1882 *McCABE *New York* XXXIX. 545 *Skin-faro..offers no chance whatever to the player. 1884 C. G. W. LOCK *Workshop Rec.* Ser. III. 19/2 This mode of chasing, called..in English '*skin-finish', is..only found on work of the best class. 1881 *Encycl. Brit.* XII. 518/2 The two principal causes of the resistance to the motion of a ship are the *skin friction and the production of waves. 1882 *McCABE *New York* XXXIX. 545 The '*skin game' is used, with the majority of the visitors, for the proprietor is determined from the outset to fleece them without mercy. 1897 R. F. FOSTER *Compl. Hoyle* 623 *Skin Games*, those in which a player cannot possibly win. 1900 *Brit. Med. Jrnl.* 12 May, Epit. Med. Lit. 74 The wound should be allowed to granulate and subsequently be *skin grafted. 1788 BIDDLE *Autobiogr.* (1883) 227 *Skinmen, breechesmakers and glovers. 1736 H. BOURNE *Hist. Newcastle* 89 There are higher up this Isle..other Three Characters, which are the Merchants *Skin-mark. 1789 BRAND *Hist. Newcastle* I. 278 *note*, Skin marks were not used instead of arms, but rather as distinct insignia appropriated to the profession of merchandise. *a* 1792 BURGOYNE *Lord of Manor* III. ii. (D.), I am..vulgarly called a recruiting dealer, or more vulgarly still, a *skin-merchant. 1869 SIR E. REED *Shipbuild.* ix. 174 The fastenings of the stringer angle-irons connecting it with the *skin-plating. 1650 BULWER *Anthropomet.* 237 The chief men and women have *skin-prints, as a brave kind of Gallantry. 1875 *Encycl. Brit.* II. 555/1 Blunted strigils or *skin-scrapers. 1879 tr. *Hæckel's Evol. of Man* I. ix. 270 The first of the secondary germ-layers, the *skin-sensory-layer. 1883 *Nature* XXVII. 399 Experiments with regard to the '*skin-vision' of animals. 1895 LUCCOCK *Nature of Wool* 340 The *skin-wool is not usually found most plentiful where the stock of sheep is most heavy. 1884 W. S. B. MCLAREN *Spinning* (ed. 2) 71 With short wool, especially if it be skin wool, the rollers should be closed up. 1857 tr. *Küchenmeister's Anim. & Veg. Parasites* I. 398 Amongst the Germans it is known as ..the *skin worm,..leg-worm,..and Pharaoh's-worm. 1879 E. R. LANKESTER *Advancem. Sci.* (1890) 40 The skin-worm (*Demodex folliculorum*). 1885 *Manch. Exam.* 7 Apr. 4/7 A fire occurred..in Mr. Pryce Parry's *skinyard and wool warehouse.

Skin, variant of SKEEN.

Skin, *v.* Also 6–7 **skyn, skinne** (6 **scinne**). [f. SKIN *sb.* Cf. Norw. *skinna* to cover with skin.]

I. 1. *trans.* To furnish or cover with skin; to cause skin to form or grow on; to heal by the formation of skin. Also with *over*.

1547 BOORDE *Brev. Health* cix. 41 b, After that incarnat the place and so skyn it. 1597 A. M. tr. *Guillemeau's Fr. Chirurg.* 39/2 We must..with an exsiccating plaster cure them, and soe skinne them. 1614 W. B. *Philosopher's Banquet* (ed. 2) 55 Fresh-Butter skinnes the rawnesse of the throate. 1697 DRYDEN *Ded. Æneid* Ess. (Ker) II. 210 The wound was skinned; but the strength of his thigh was not restored. 1872 GEO. ELIOT *Middlem.* I. x, He looks like a death's head skinned over for the occasion.

absol. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* II. 272 It [aloe] is..a great healer, and that which vniteth & skinneth quickly.

b. In fig. contexts. † Also with *up*.

1602 SHAKS. *Ham.* III. iv. 147 It will but skin and filme the Vlcerous place. *a* 1659 BP. BROWNRIG *Serm.* (1674) II. xx. 253 They had skin'd up the sore, and yet, it breaks out in their Soul again. *c* 1750 WARBURTON *Serm.* ii. Wks. 1811 IX. 47 The wounds, our own earth hath formerly received, ..which though skinned over by time and human culture, are seen. 1796 COLERIDGE *The Destiny of Nations* 410 Short Peace shall skin the wounds of causeless War. 1880 MCCARTHY *Own Times* IX. IV. 337 He does not seem to have considered the difference between skinning over a wound and healing it.

c. *fig.* To cover (*over*) in some slight or superficial manner.

1603 SHAKS. *Meas. for M.* II. ii. 136 Authoritie..Hath yet a kinde of medicine in it selfe That skins the vice o' th top.

1650 *Nicholas Papers* (Camden) 191 It is to be feared your Amsterdam affaires are rather skinned than cured. 1658–9 SIR A. HASLERIGGE in *Burton's Diary* (1828) III. 104 It may be skinned over for a time, but will break out. The people are not pleased. 1796 BURKE *Regic. Peace* Wks. 1842 II. 289 It is only their assured and confident expectation..that skins over their mischievous dispositions with a momentary quiet. 1833 T. HOOK *Parson's Dau.* I. x, The objects of which (so thinly were they skinned over) were just as evident to Emma as to Lady Frances. 1850 MERIVALE *Rom. Emp.* ix. (1865) I. 372 This open rupture was with difficulty skinned over at the last moment.

2. a. *fig.* To clothe, attire. *rare.*

1599 B. JONSON *Cynthia's Rev.* II. iv, You never skin'd a new[? =anew] beautie more prosperously in your life. 1610 BEAUM. & FL. *Scornf. Lady* II. ii, Off with your husks; I'le skin you all in Sattin.

b. To cover with a skin or skins. *rare* —1.

1618 in Foster *Eng. Factories India* (1906) I. 10 The jarres are all fild, stoped close, skyned, and marked with the distinction of the fruits.

c. *absol.* To put a good skin on cattle. *rare* —1.

1765 *Museum Rust.* IV. 190 The largest pasture..will neither *skin* nor *tallow*, or, in other words, is fit for nothing but young stock.

d. *Naut.* (See quots.)

1815 BURNEY *Falconer's Dict. Marine* s.v., *To Skin up a Sail in the Bunt*, is to make that part of the canvas which covers the sail when furled, smooth and neat, by turning the sail well up on the yard. 1841 TOTTEN *Naval Text Bk.* 394 To skin the sail up smooth is to turn it well up, and so as to cover the sail neatly and smoothly.

e. *Shipbuilding.* (See quot.)

c 1850 *Rudim. Navy.* (Weale) 141, Planking is often termed *skinning* the ship.

3. *intr.* To form skin; to become covered with skin; to grow a new skin; to heal *over* in this way. Also *fig.*

1579 LYLY *Euphues* (Arb.) 181 The sooner it skinneth, the sorer it festereth. 1654 H. L'ESTRANGE *Chas. I* (1655) 124 Her excoriated carkasse began to skin again. 1763 MILLS *Pract. Husb.* IV. 345 All suckers must be cut away from the root, and the place..smoothed with a knife; for then it will soon skin over. 1829 SOUTHEY *Lett.* (1856) IV. 129 If the ulcer skins over in that way, the quacks will exult in having wrought a cure. 1843 R. J. GRAVES *Syst. Clin. Med.* xxix. 392 The centre [of the ulcer] granulated and skinned naturally. 1891 RIDER HAGGARD *Nada* XXXV, The hole in his skull skinned over.

II. 4. *trans.* To strip or deprive of the skin; to flay; to peel.

1591 PERCIVALL *Span. Dict., Desollar..*, to skin, to pul off the skin. 1687 A. LOVELL tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* I. 246 The Crocodile is very strong, and one day as I caused one of them..to be skinned [etc.]. 1728 *Fam. Dict.* s.v. *Pears*, When they are off the Fire, stir, skin them, and squeeze about half a Lemon upon them. 1791 BOSWELL *Johnson* 3 Apr. 1779, A fishmonger who was skinning an eel alive. 1853 SOYER *Pantropheon* 167 It was necessary to skin the bird very carefully. 1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) I. 210 They may skin me alive, if they please.

b. To rub or scrape the skin off; to bark. Also *transf.*

1855 JARVES *Art Hints* 383 Almost every one of his pictures have been more or less skinned, to use an expressive term, by the carelessness of cleaners. 1856 KANE *Arct. Expl.* I. xiii. 167 It is the same hummock you skinned your shins upon. 1891 C. ROBERTS *Adrift Amer.* 97 My feet were already skinned in several places.

c. In phrases denoting excessive meanness or desire for gain; esp. *to skin a flint.*

1694 MOTTEUX *Rabelais* v. vii, May I be broil'd like a Red-herring, if I don't think they are wise enough to skin a Flint. 1834 MARRYAT *P. Simple* (1863) 195 Report says, that she would skin a flint if she could. 1851 MAYHEW *Lond. Labour* I. 134 They'd skin a flea for his hide and tallow. 1859 LEVER *D. Dunn* iv, I was..brought up amongst fellows would skin a cat. 1884 [see FLINT *sb.* 4].

5. To strip or pull *off* (a skin, etc.); to remove by drawing off inside out.

1658–9 in *Burton's Diary* (1828) IV. 228 They skin off your skin. 1683 MOXON *Mech. Exerc., Printing* xxiv. P 11 Having carefully skinned off the Film with the edge of the Slice. 1759 MARTIN *Nat. Hist.* I. 28 Turf of the Ground, skinned off, and burnt to Ashes. 1861 DICKENS *Gt. Expect.* xxxi, Skin the stockings off,..or you'll bust 'em.

transf. 1896 LILLARD *Poker Stories* ii. 59 Many a time I've seen a game player just skin off his watch and ring.. and play them in.

6. *intr.* To shed or cast the skin; to lose the skin by rubbing.

1772 *Ann. Reg.* 96/2 It skins every year; and its skin is said to be a remedy against the cramp. 1908 GILBERT MURRAY tr. *Aristoph., Frogs* I. ii, When all my shoulder's skinning, simply skinning.

7. *slang.* a. *trans.* To clean out (a person) at play.

1812 J. H. VAUX *Flash Dict.* s.v., To strip a man of all his money at play, is termed *skinning* him. 1864 *Daily Telegr.* 19 Oct., The gamblers did their best to give us fits; but in less than half an hour, sir, the little squaw she skinned the crowd. 1889 H. O'REILLY *Fifty Yrs. on Trail* 343 In less than two or three hours [to] be skinned out of every cent.

b. To strip (*of* clothing or money); to fleece by exactions or swindling.

1851 MAYHEW *Lond. Labour* II. 71 Perhaps he gets 'skinned' (stripped of his clothes and money from being hocussed, or tempted to helpless drunkenness). 1892 *Spectator* 12 Mar. 364/2 Suppose the Emigration Trusts skin the emigrants until they stop emigration. 1898 *Eclectic Mag.* LXVII. 607 Some new device is invented for enmeshing and skinning the investor.

c. *Skin the lamb* (see quots.).

1864 *Slang Dict.* 232 *Skin the Lamb*, a game at cards, a

very expressive corruption of the term lansquenet...When a non favourite wins a race 'bookmakers' are said to skin the lamb. 1883 *Graphic* 21 Apr. 410/2 The Ring are enormous winners on the race, the majority having 'skinned the lamb'.

8. To exhaust or impoverish by excessive fishing, cropping, etc.

1867 F. Francis *Angling* vii. (1880) 274 He does not want to skin the stream. 1895 *Forum* (N.Y.) Sept. 8 To renovate the soil which had been 'skinned' in the days of slavery.

9. *U.S. slang.* **a.** *trans.* and *intr.* To copy or crib.

1849 *Yale Lit. Mag.* XV. 81 Never skin a lesson which it requires any ability to learn. 1851 Bristed *Five Yrs. Eng. Univ.* (1852) 381 Classical men were continually tempted to 'skin' (copy) the solutions of these examples. 1851 B. H. Hall *College Words & Customs* 430 'At Yale College,.. in our examinations,' says a correspondent, 'many of the fellows cover the palms of their hands with dates, and when called upon for a given date, they read it off directly from their hands. Such persons *skin*'.

b. *trans.* To abscond, make off, slip away. Also with *out*, to depart hastily.

1876 Besant & Rice *Gold. Butterfly* (1877) 254 You jest gether up your traps and skin out of this. 1894 *Outing* XXIV. 442/1 The hero..would never have been one could he have skinned for cover in time.

c. With *out*: To produce, display.

c 1895 *Thompson St. Poker Cl.* 42 Mr. Williams proudly skinned out three jacks and a pair of kings.

d. To glance over, examine.

1895 *Cornh. Mag.* Aug. 174 Each man skinned his cards and tried his hardest to look disappointed.

10. In phrases used as adjs.

1869 W. Morris in Mackail *Life* (1899) I. 203 If you had passed a week at this skin-'em-alive place. 1891 Miss MacEwen *Three Women in One Boat* 87 A good old skin-your-nose encounter.

Skin-coat. Also 6 skyn coit, skincote, -coate. [f. Skin *sb.* + Coat *sb.*]

1. A coat made of skin.

1533 *Acc. Lord High Treas. Scotl.* VI. 181 To begary the samyne doublet, and to begary ane skyn coit, v ½ quarteris veluot. 1589 Greene *Menaphon* (Arb.) 76 Am not I a Gentleman, though tirde in a shepheardes skincote.

† **2.** *transf.* A person's skin. *Obs.*

1589 *Hay any Work* (1844) 9, I will lay on load on your skincoat for this geare anon. *a* 1592 Greene *Jas. IV*, I. Proh., Ay engraued the memory of Boughon on the skin-coate of some of them. 1611 Cotgr., *Escailler*,..to beat, bethwacke, belabor the skin-coat of. 1653 Urquhart *Rabelais* II. xvii, I will have their skin-coat shaken once yet before they die.

† **Skind,** *v.* *Obs.*[−1] [a. ON. *skynda* (so mod. Icel., Norw., and Sw.; Da. *skynde*), = OE. *scyndan*, OS. *skundian*, etc.] *trans.* To hasten.

c 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 1989 Đe chapmen skinden here fare, In to egipte ledden ðat ware.

Skin-deep, *a.* and *adv.* [f. Skin *sb.* 4 + Deep *a.* and *adv.*]

A. *adj.* Penetrating no deeper than the skin; superficial, shallow, slight: **a.** As a proverbial limitation of beauty, or in similar connexions.

a 1613 Overbury *A Wife*, etc. Wks. (1856) 37 All the carnall beauty of my wife, Is but skin-deep. 1687 Boyle *Martyrd. Theodora* iv. (1703) 49 Nor any of our sex ought to think skin-deep beauty as great a blessing, as 'tis an applauded one. 1725 Ramsay *Gentle Sheph.* iv. ii, Beauty that's only skin deep Must fade like the gowans of May. 1740-1 Richardson *Pamela* (1824) I. xcix. 484 Beauty is but a specious..recommendation, a mere skin-deep perfection. 1854 Spencer *Personal Beauty* Ess. (1891) II. 394 The saying that beauty is but skin-deep, is but a skin-deep saying. 1869 McLaren *Serm.* Ser. II. v. 79 Moses' face shone, but the lustre was but skin deep.

b. Of wounds, incisions, etc. Also *transf.*

a 1613 Overbury *Charac., Ordinary Fencer* Wks. (1856) 112 His wounds are seldome above skin-deep. 1805 Jefferson *Writ.* (1830) IV. 30 The skin-deep scratches, which we can make or find on the surface of the earth. 1841 Emerson *Method of Nat.* Wks. (Bohn) II. 222 But the thunder is a surface phenomenon, makes a skin-deep cut. 1877 A. B. Edwards *Up Nile* xix. 566 As for his wounds, they were literally skin-deep.

c. *fig.* in various contexts.

1657 Trapp *Comm., Ps.* xvi. 9 Their joy is but skin-deep. 1677 Horneck *Gt. Law Consid.* vii. (1704) 399 A few slight and skin-deep reflexions. 1730 T. Boston *Mem.* xii. 434 Denoting the skin-deep joy of ungodly men. 1766 Fordyce *Serm. Yng. Women* (1767) II. x. 130 Skin-deep and short-lived allurements. 1825 Lady Granville *Lett.* (1894) I. 362 The little faults are all skin-deep, and she is excellent. 1889 Gretton *Memory's Harkback* 251 The effect upon the hearers was, after all, but skin-deep.

B. *adv.* To the depth of the skin; in a superficial manner; superficially, slightly.

1633 P. Fletcher *Purple Isl.* VII. xiv, Caro, cursed damme of sinne,..Yet seems (skin-deep) most fair. 1660 F. Brooke tr. *Le Blanc's Trav.* 218 They have little horns which grow but skin-deep, mooving them as their ears. 1702 Steele *Funeral* II, When I know her further than Skin-deep, I'll tell you more of my mind. 1796 Burke *Regic. Peace* Wks. 1842 II. 288 Stings that have penetrated more than skin-deep into my mind. 1864 Kingsley *Rom. & Teut.* iv. (1875) 100 He was but a wild man of the woods..polished over skin-deep with Roman civilization.

Ski·nflint. Also 7–9 **skin-flint.** [f. Skin *v.* 4 c + Flint *sb.*] One who would skin a flint to save or gain something; an avaricious, penurious, mean or niggardly person; a miser.

a 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew, Skin-flint*, a griping,.. close-fisted Fellow. 1761 A. Murphy *Citizen* II. i. An old miserly good for nothing skin-flint. 1791 A. Wilson *Laurel Disputed* Poet. Wks. (1846) 125 How skin-flint graned his pocks o' goud to loss. 1816 Scott *Antiquary* xi, It would have been long..ere my womankind could have made such a reasonable bargain with that old skinflint. 1840 Thackeray *Catherine* x, It is a pity that old skinflint should be in the way of both your fortunes. 1891 C. Roberts *Adrift Amer.* 226 Which sum the captain, who was a regular skinflint, said was far too much.

b. *attrib.* or as *adj.* Miserly, mean.

1789 Parker *Life's Painter* xiv. 114 The miser, that skin-flint old elf. 1854 H. Miller *Sch. & Schm.* v. (1857) 86 The skin-flint wife of a 'paper minister'. 1895 Zangwill *Master* II. vii, By persuading some small skinflint dealer to cheat him.

Hence **Ski·nflinty** *a.*, niggardly; **Ski·nflintily** *adv.*, in a niggardly manner; **Ski·nflintiness, Ski·nflintism,** niggardliness, parsimony.

1861 *Lond. Rev.* 16 Feb. 170 Love of approbation,..for the time, conquers her native skinflintiness. 1893 *Columbus* (Ohio) *Disp.* 10 July, The rewards of 'skinflintism' are not great in the long run. 1899 *Daily News* 19 Sept. 6/1 He behaved skin-flintily to Max Müller. 1901 *Munsey's Mag.* XXV. 431/2 The man with the skinflinty heart.

Ski·nful. Also 9 -full. [f. Skin *sb.* + -ful.]

1. The quantity contained within the skin.

1650 Howell *Lett.* III. 4, I could willingly..return this small skinfull of Bones to my common Mother.

2. A quantity that fills a skin vessel.

1802 Southey *King Ramiro* xii, So he gave him .. a skinful of wine to quench his thirst. 1863 Kinglake *Crimea* II. 195 That simple skinful of water which..is the life of men passing a desert. 1885 *Century Mag.* XXIX. 652/1 Well do I remember how at each well the first skinful [of water] was tasted all around.

3. As much as the skin can hold: **a.** As much as any one can drink.

1824 W. Irving *T. Trav.* II. 234 When he has no liquor at all, or when he has a skinfull. 1839 Thackeray *Fatal Boots* (1869) 348 On this night I had my little skinful,—for there was no stinting. 1886 W. Graham *Social Problem* 203 Why should I work, when I..can get my skinful?

b. *transf.* A full allowance; as much as one wants or cares for.

a 1779 D. Graham *Leper the Taylor* I. Writ. 1883 II. 116 Poor Sandy went home with a skinful of terror. 1869 W. S. Gilbert *Bab Ball., Sir Macklin* v, He wept to think each thoughtless youth Contained of wickedness a skinful. 1897 *Pall Mall Mag.* Dec. 501 His men had had a skinful of fighting and short commons just before.

Skink (skiŋk), *sb.*[1] *Zool.* Forms: *α.* 6, 9 **scinc,** 7, 9 **scinck,** 7–9 **scink.** *β.* 7 **skinke,** 8 **skinc(k,** 6– **skink.** [a. older F. *scinc* (now *scinque*), or ad. L. *scincus*, ad. Gr. *σκίγκος.*] A small lizard (*Scincus officinalis*) common in northern Africa and Arabia, formerly regarded as of great value in medicine for its stimulative qualities; also, any lizard belonging to the same family (the *Scincidæ*).

α. 1590 Barrough *Meth. Physick* 182 Also the parts of scinces which embrace the reines. 1608 Topsell *Serpents* (1658) 693 There have been some that have reckoned Scinks and Lizards among worms. 1681 Grew *Museum* I. iii. 48 The Scink..hath..short Legs, a flat and broad Foot like a Hand, with very short Toes. 1775 *Phil. Trans.* LXV. 246 Gulls, the scink, the leech,..&c. are all said to feel.. approaching changes of weather. 1802 Shaw *Gen. Zool.* III. i. 281 The Scink is one of the middle-sized or smaller lizards. 1854 *Orr's Circ. Sci., Org. Nat.* I. 275 Herbivorous..scinks, called, on account of the shape of the teeth, *cyclodus*. 1872 Humphry *Myology* 37 In the Scinc this portion..is quite separate in its whole length.

β. 1591 Sylvester *Du Bartas* I. vi. 200 Th' horned Cerastes, th' Alexandrian Skink. 1601 Holland *Pliny* II. 316 Much like to this kind is the Skink (whom some haue named the land Crocodile). 1718 Quincy *Compl. Disp.* 171 Skincks.—Some Authors have ascribed much to these as Alexipharmicks. 1831 Griffith tr. *Cuvier* IX. 237 The skink of pharmacopolists..does not exceed the length of six or eight inches. 1880 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* IV. 296 The Skink inhabits the western and northern parts of Africa.

attrib. and *Comb.* 1790 J. White *Jrnl. Voy. N. S. Wales* 242 The Scincoid, or Skinc-formed Lizard. 1896 Lydekker *Roy. Nat. Hist.* V. 166 The skink tribe..are a very numerous family.

Skink, *sb.*[2] Now *rare.* Also 7 **skinck, skinke.** [In sense 1 ad. early mod. Du. or LG. *schenke*, repr. MDu., MLG., and MHG. *schenke* (rarely *schinke*), OS. *skenkio*, OHG. *scenko, scencho*, etc. In sense 2 from Skink *v.*]

1. A skinker; a tapster or waiter. In later use only *spec.* (see quot. 1847).

1603 J. Davies (Heref.) *Microcosmos* Wks. (Grosart) I. 21/1 O Skinck, how blessed wert thou in his loue That drue thee on. 1786 *Francis the Philanthropist* I. 172 Mr. Francis and his companion had friends of every rank, from the humble skink to the dignified..doctor. 1847 Halliw. s. v., In a family the person latest at breakfast is called the *skink*, or the *skinker*, and some domestic office is imposed or threatened for the day, such as ringing the bell, putting coal on the fire, or, in other cases, drawing the beer for the family.

2. a. *Sc.* Drink, liquor. (In contemptuous use.)

1824 Scott *St. Ronan's* xxxii, The wine!..puir, thin, fushionless skink it was. 1844 Ballantine *Miller Deanhaugh* xvi. 247 Jail beer was poor, thin skink for gentlemen who had drank claret after dinner every day for twenty years.

b. *pl.* (See quot.)

1888 Jacobi *Printers' Vocab.* 126 *Skinks*, an old term applied to drink—or drinking around the imposing stone in order to celebrate some auspicious occasion.

Skink, *sb.*[3] *Sc.* Now *Obs.* exc. *Hist.* Also 7 **skinck.** [prob. ad. MLG. *schinke* (see next), either with ellipse of some word for 'broth', or with simple transference from the meat to the liquid.] A kind of soup made from shin of beef. Also *attrib.*

c 1575 Balfour *Practicks* (1754) 235 The air sall haue..ane butter-plait, ane skink-plait, ane beif plait, ane luggit disch. 1602 in Henderson *Old World Scotl.* (1893) 14 Ane dische of bruise, and ane uther of skink or kaill. 1626 Bacon *Sylva* § 45 Wee finde also that Scotch Skinck (which is a Pottage of strong Nourishment,) is made with the Knees, and Sinewes of Beefe, but long boiled. *a* 1682 Sempill *Blythsome Wedding* 72 There will be meal-kail and castocks, And skink to sup till you rive. 1790 Shirrefs *Poems* 210 Guid barley broth and *skink* came next. 1844 H. Stephens *Bk. Farm* II. 169 It was of this piece that the old favourite soup of Scotland, called *skink*, was made. 1893 Henderson *Old World Scotl.* 57 Its quality was very similar to that of the strong Lowland soup called skink.

† **Skink,** *sb.*[4] *Obs.*[−1] [ad. LG. *schinke* (G. *schinken*), OHG. *scinca, scinco.*] Ham.

1630 J. Taylor (Water P.) *Gt. Eater Kent* 12 He cares not for..the sawsedge of Bolognia, the skink of Westphalia.

† **Skink,** *sb.*[5], obs. variant of Skunk *sb.*

1774 Goldsm. *Nat. Hist.* III. ix. 381 The skink..resembles a polecat in shape and size. 1809 *Spirit Public Jrnls.* XIII. 2 Where'er the skink-ey'd Gallic pest Flings taint and uproar o'er the ball. 1824 Coleridge *Aids Refl.* (1848) I. 90 As..the skink and squash are treated by American woodmen, who turn their backs upon the fetid intruder.

Skink, *v.* Now *dial.* or *arch.* Forms: 4 **skynke,** 6–7 **skinke** (6 **skincke,** 7 **scinke**); 6 (9) **skynk, skinck,** 6– **skink.** [ad. MDu. or MLG. *schenken* (cf. OFris. *skenka*; ON. *skenkja*, Sw. *skänka*, Da. *skænke*), corresp. to OE. *scencan* Shench *v.*]

1. *trans.* To pour out or draw (liquor); to offer, present, serve (drink, etc.).

c 1386 Chaucer *Merch. T.* 478 Bacus the wyn hem skynketh al aboute. 1513 Douglas *Æneid* VII. iii. 90 In flacon and in skull Thai skynk the wyne. 1607 W. Barksted *Mirrha* (1876) 45 The Queen of loue..forc'd her to skinke so much, the iuice ran ore. 1635 Shirley *Lady of Pleas.* IV. ii, A drawer is my Ganymede: he shall skink Brisk nectar to us. 1667 Davenant & Dryden *Tempest* IV. iii, Hem! skink about his grace's health again. 1728 Ramsay *Last Sp. Miser* xxvii, And like dub-water skink the wine. 1806 R. Jamieson *Pop. Ballads* I. 221 They skinked the mead, and they skinked the wine. 1899 Lumsden *Edin. Poems & Sangs* 130 Stout Scots drink to me skynk.

† **2.** To fill with liquor; to pour liquor into. *Obs.*

1513 Douglas *Æneid* VII. iii. 62 Now skynk, and offer Jupiter, coupis full. 1558 Phaer *Æneid* VII. S iv b, Now skinke your cups to Ioue, and great Anchises cheerely cal. 1594 Greene & Lodge *Looking Gl.* H, Ile haue them skincke my standing bowles with wine.

3. *absol.* To draw, pour out, or serve drink; to wait on a company (see quot. 1785).

1591 Fletcher *Russe Commonw.* (Hakl. Soc.) 17 For that cause [they] called this newe citie by the name of Naloi, that is skinck or poure in. 1594 Greene & Lodge *Looking Gl.* Wks. (Grosart) XIV. 93 Villaines, why skinck you not vnto this fellow? 1630 J. Taylor (Water P.) *Penniless Pilgr.* Wks. I. 123/2 And No-body did drinke, and winke, and scinke. 1676 Hobbes *Iliad* I. 562 And then the Gods laught..outright, To see the lame and sooty Vulcan skink. 1755 Smollett *Don Quixote* IV. xiv. II. 425 Truce with your compliments and skink away, honest Tosilos. 1785 Grose *Dict. Vulgar T.*, To *skink*, is to wait on the company, ring the bell, stir the fire, and snuff the candles; the duty of the youngest officer in a military mess. *a* 1825 Forby *Voc. E. Anglia* 304 *Skink*, to serve at table; particularly to serve the guests with drink. 1845 S. Judd *Margaret* II. vi. (1871) 260 Come crush a glass with..all this nice company. You have skinked quite long enough.

† **4.** *Sc.* To make a present of; to make *over* to another. *Obs. rare.*

1508 *Burgh Rec. Edin.* (1882) I. 117 Vpoun his gude warkmaneschip and gyding thai skynk him the tymmer of the auld ruf. 1637 Rutherford *Lett.* (1848) lxxxv. 156 If this had not been, I would have skinked over and foregone my part of paradise and salvation, for a breakfast of dead, moth-eaten earth. *Ibid.* lxxxviii. 163 Do we not sit far in our own light, to make it a matter of bairn's play, to skink and drink over paradise.

Hence **Ski·nked** *ppl. a.*

1598 Florio, *Mesciuto*, skinkt, powred or filde wine.

† **Ski·nkard.** *Obs. rare.* Also 7 **skinkird.** [f. Skink *v.* + -ard.] A tapster.

1615 Brathwait *Strappado* (1878) 11 To be a drudge.. Vnto the base-borne Skinkird bred in Hell. 1632 Marmion *Holland's Leaguer* II. iii, Thou hast a noble wit and spirit, wench, That never was ordained for any skinkard T'engender with.

Skinker (ski·nkəɹ). Now *arch.* or *dial.* Also 6 **scincker, skincker, skynker.** [ad. MDu. or MLG. *schencker* (*schincker*), or f. Skink *v.* + -er [1].]

1. One who draws, pours out, or serves liquor; a tapster; (see also quot. 1847 s.v. Skink *sb.*[2] 1).

1586 *Praise of Musicke* 51 That banquet of the gods where Vulcan plaid the skincker. 1603 Holland *Plutarch's Mor.* 444 The butler or skinker asked him how much he should poure out for everie one. 1647 C. Harvey *Schola Cordis* vi. 3 See how the hellish skinker plies his bowle. 1681 T. Flatman *Heraclitus Ridens* No. 15 (1713) I. 98 From rebellious Taps, and Tapsters and Skinkers, *Libera nos.* 1702 S. Parker tr. *Cicero's De Finibus* II. 63 My Skinker perceives himself..agreably affected in filling me out a Glass when he has no Inclination to drink. 1813 J. Hogg *Queen's Wake* 24 Thrice did they drain th' allotted store And wondering skinkers dun for more. 1830 Lamb *Let. to W. Wordsworth* Wks. 1900 XII. 128 [Vulcan] the two-handed skinker. 1852 Hawthorne *Blithedale Rom.* II. xi. 206 Some old-fashioned skinkers and drawers..were

spreading a banquet. 1887 BROWNING *Parleyings* Wks. 1896 II. 733/2 The skinker fast brimmed Their glass with rare tipple's enticement.

†b. The constellation Aquarius. *Obs.*

1591 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* I. iv. 278 Mean-while the Skinker, from his starry spout, After the Goat, a silver stream pours out. *Ibid.* II. ii. IV. *Columnes* 418 On th' Azure steep Our Parents plac't a Skinker: and by him, Two silver Fishes in his flouds to swim.

†2. A jug or similar vessel used for skinking with. Also *attrib. Obs.*

1594 *Wills & Invent. N. C.* (Surtees, 1860) 245 The butterye..ij hodgsheads,..j quarte potte, j skinker. 1600 *Will of Sir R. Bedingfeild* (Somerset Ho.), Silver wine pot called a Skynker. 1639 *12th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. IX. 7 Four great flagons...10 Skinker potts. 7 Tankards. 1646 *Will of Estcourt* (Somerset Ho.), A deepe silver bason with a silver skinker.

Ski·nking, *vbl. sb.* [f. SKINK *v.*] The action of pouring out or serving liquor. Also *attrib.*

1592 R. D. *Hypnerotomachia* 57 The skinking pottes.. were all of pure fine Gold. 1598 FLORIO, *Versatione*,..a skinking. 1611 *Ibid.*, A powring or skinking forth. 1631 MABBE *Celestina* ix. 105, I know no better office at boord, then to fall a skinking. 1819 W. TENNANT *Papistry Storm'd* (1827) 102 Had Bacchus sell been there,..for skinkin', He couldna weil hae blam'd the drinkin'.

Ski·nking, *ppl. a.* [f. SKINK *v.*]

1. That skinks; wine-giving.

1582 STANYHURST *Æneis* III. (Arb.) 74 With nauye we passed By mounts of Nazon too skincking Bacchus alotted.

2. *Sc.* Thin, watery. (Cf. SKINK *sb.*2 2.)

1786 BURNS *To a Haggis* viii, Auld Scotland wants nae skinking ware That jaups in luggies. *a* 1894 STEVENSON *St. Ives* xxvii, A pint of skinking claret.

Skinkle (ski·nk'l), *v. Sc.* [perh. a frequentative f. ON. *skina* to shine.] *intr.* To glitter, glisten, sparkle; to have a showy appearance.

17.. *Lord Thomas* xix. in Percy *Reliques*, It skinkled in their een. 1791 A. WILSON *Laurel Disputed* Poet. Wks. (1846) 127 Ae night the lift was skinkling a' wi' starns. 1888 *Glasgow Evening Times* 15 Oct. 2/6 A handful of flame which..merely skinkles on the window-panes.

Hence **Ski·nkling** *ppl. a.*

1790 A. WILSON *Poems* 205 Row't in a skinklan plaid. *c* 1795 ? BURNS *Poem on Pastoral Poetry* iv, Squire Pope but busks his skinklin patches, O' heathen tatters! 1819 W. TENNANT *Papistry Storm'd* (1827) 30 Or flee about on skinklin' wing, Like butterflies. 1849 SYMINGTON *Harebell Chimes* 104 Death lurks in its skinkling fire.

Skinless (ski·nlĕs), *a.* Forms: 5 **skin-**, **skynles**, 6 **skinne-**, 6–7 **skinlesse**, 8– **skinless.** [f. SKIN *sb.* + -LESS.] Destitute or deprived of skin; having only a very thin skin.

c 1340 HAMPOLE *Med. Pass.* in Horstman (1895) I. 98 Þe fleisch þere þe cros sittith is skinles & ouer-runne wiþ blood-rowis. 1484 CAXTON *Fables of Æsop* V. ix, The wulf ranne aweye skynles. 1594 T. B. *La Primaud. Fr. Acad.* II. 59 The head woulde bee very deformed if it were skinneleese, where it is couered with haire. 1600 *Hosp. Incurable Fooles* A iv, Those skinlesse Snailes that lift vp their hornes for nothing. 1611 COTGR., *Fricandeaux*, short, skinlesse, and daintie puddings. 1706 LONDON & WISE *Retir'd Gard.* I. vii. 28 The..skinless Pear is a kind of Russelet in Shape and Taste. 1738 *Gentl. Mag.* VIII. 310/1 What is it that's born Skinless, flies Wingless, and goes roaring to Death? 1850 KINGSLEY *A. Locke* xxi, He was looking..at the skinless cast on the chimney-piece. *Ibid.*, He looked round again at the skinless man. 1891 ATKINSON *Last of Giant-killers* 78 He [the raven] pranced about on his [the wolf's] scraggy skinless carcase.

fig. 1859 *Sat. Rev.* 19 Mar. 331/2 There was nothing in it to make the most skinless man in existence wince.

Hence **Ski·nlessly** *adv.*

1859 BOYD *Recreat. Country Parson* (1862) 86 Not only are they themselves skinlessly sensitive [etc.].

Ski·nlet. *rare.* [f. SKIN *sb.* + -LET.] A thin skin; a membrane.

1598 FLORIO, *Cuticula*, a filme, a skin or skinlet, a thin rinde or pill. *Ibid.*, *Milza*,..a filme or skinlet.

Skinned (skind), *ppl. a.* [f. SKIN *sb.* and *v.*]

I. 1. Having a skin, *esp.* of a specified kind.

c 1400 MAUNDEV. (1839) xix. 206 In another Yle ben folk, that gon upon hire Hendes and hire Feet, as Bestes: and thei ben alle skynned and fedred. 1611 COTGR., *Marmote*, ..a little muddie fish, headed, skinned, and finned, like an Eele. 1641 BROME *Joviall Crew* III, Oh here they come. They are delicately skin'd and limb'd. 1655 MOUFET & BENNET *Health's Improv.* (1746) 260 Skate is skin'd like a File. 1727 *Philip Quarll* (1754) 3 These Fish are..skinned like a Mackerel.

b. With defining term prefixed, as *clean-*, *dark-*, *fox-*, *hard-*, *loose-*, etc.

See also THICK- and THIN-SKINNED.

1450-80 tr. *Secreta Secret.* 32 Kepe the fro fische þat is hard skynned. 1523 FITZHERB. *Husb.* § 56 Se that he [an ox] haue a brode ryb, and a thycke hyde, and to be loose-skinned. 1598–[see ROUGH-SKINNED *a.*]. 1611 COTGR., *Poire d'amiot*, a yellow, and hard-skind Peare. 1665 BRATHWAIT *Comment. Two Tales* (1900) 45 What Sir Raynard, ye fox-skin'd Chuffe. 1827 [see FAIR *a.* 18]. 1893 F. ADAMS *New Egypt* 58 An English official,..having a lean, clean-skinned body. 1897 WATTS-DUNTON *Aylwin* III. vi, A bright-eyed, dark-skinned little girl.

2. Of wounds, etc.: Covered with skin. Also with *over*.

1640 BP. REYNOLDS *Passions* xxvii. 288 Which like a skinn'd wound doth wrankle inwardly. 1739 S. SHARP *Surg.* p. xxx, The Edges of it in process of time, tuck in, and growing skinn'd and hard, give it the Name of a callous Ulcer. 1760–72 H. BROOKE *Fool of Qual.* (1809) IV. 90 My wounds, though not skinned, were healing apace. 1809 MALKIN *Gil Blas* XI. ix. P6 A wound imperfectly skinned over.

3. Covered with a layer (of something).

1684 T. BURNET *Theory Earth* I. 145 When the earth grows discolour'd and skin'd over. 1837 WORDSW. *Musings near Aquapendente* 193 From pavement skinned with moss.

II. 4. Stripped of the skin.

1673 RAY *Journ. Low C.* 404 Their [frogs'] flesh shows white and lovely as they lie in the markets skin'd and ready prepared. 1826 SCOTT *Woodstock* xxxii, The boy, whose appearance [was] not much dissimilar to that of a skinned rabbit in a livery. 1861 *Macm. Mag.* June 131 Birds and their eggs, skinned animals, and insects.

b. *colloq.* In phr. *to keep one's eye skinned*, etc., to keep a sharp look-out.

a 1859 *Traits Amer. Humor* (Bartlett), Keep your eye skinned for sign. 1887 FARRELL *How He Died* 22 The reverend josser..kept his eye skinned. 1898 KIPLING *Fleet in Being* iii, We kept a skinned eye on her.

Skinner (ski·nəɹ). Forms: 5 **scynner**(e, **schynnere**, **skynnar**(e, 6 **skynar**, 5–7 **skynner**, 6– **skinner.** [f. SKIN *sb.* or *v.* + -ER[1]. Cf. ON. *skinnari*, MSw. *skinnare*, Norw. *skinnar.*]

1. One whose work or business is concerned with the preparation of skins for commercial purposes.

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XVIII. lxxv. (Bodl. MS.), [The cat] is ofte for his faire skynne itake of þe skynner and islayne & ihuylded. 1418 *Nottingham Rec.* II. 116 Johanne Crophyll, skynner. 1484 CAXTON *Fables of Æsop* V. xvii, Theyr skynnes were good for to make mantels with, yf skynners myght haue them. 1542 BOORDE *Dyetary* (1870) 249 Let your skynner cut both the sortes of the skynnes in smale peces tryangle wyse. 1592 GREENE *Upst. Courtier* Wks. (Grosart) XI. 268 He began to tell me that by his art he was a Skinner. 1600 SURFLET *Countrie Farme* 873 The skinners are woont to make stomachers to lay ouer the stomacke. 1675 OGILBY *Britannia* Introd., The Principal Companies..are the Mercers,..Skinners. 1859 C. BARKER *Assoc. Principle* ii. 45 One Hinde, a citizen and skinner of London, lent to Henry IV. the sum of £2000. 1882 *Encycl. Brit.* XIV. 852/2 Seven of the livery companies of London .., the Mercers',..the Salters',..and the Skinners'.

attrib. 1794 R. GRAY in Scott *Stat. Acc. Perth* (1796) 38 This corporation has a very convenient skinner-work.

2. One who removes the skin; a flayer.

1699 DAMPIER *Voy.* II. II. iii. 98 Then the Hockser immediately Mounts, and Rides after more Game, leaving the other to the Skinners, who are at hand, and ready to take off his Hide. 1884 *Good Words* June 391/1 In districts where the game is abundant more skinners were enlisted.

3. *U.S.* One of a number of marauders who committed depredations on the neutral ground between the British and American lines during the War of Independence.

1775–83 [see COW-BOY 2]. 1821 J. F. COOPER *Spy* i, This poor opinion of the Skinners was not confined to Mr. Cæsar Thompson. 1825 J. NEAL *Bro. Jonathan* III. 290 Who knows but you are one o' the tories yourself..or one o' the skinners? 1857 [see COW-BOY 2]. 1882 LECKY *Engl. in 18th Cent.* IV. 129 The loyalist banditti called the Skinners.

4. a. (See quot.)

1856 MAYHEW *Gt. World London* 46 'Skinners,' or women and boys who strip children of their clothes.

b. A fleecer; also in racing slang (see quot. 1874 and cf. SKIN *v.* 7 c).

1856 DORAN *Knights & their Days* ix. 142 They are constituted the legal skinners of all sojourners among them. 1874 *Slang Dict.* 293 *Skinner*, a term among bookmakers. 'May we have a skinner,' i. e., may we skin the lamb. 1893 *Westm. Gaz.* 13 Apr. 5/2 Yesterday's race..resulted in what the sporting public, high and low, graphically describe as a 'skinner'. The bookmakers..do the skinning.

5. One who makes skin to grow. In quot. *fig.*

1660 GAUDEN *Slight Healers Publick Hurts* 43 Pretenders to heal, superficial skinners.

6. (See quots.)

1881 DAY *Fishes Gt. Brit.* I. 278 Poullach..In the Channel those the size of a whiting are termed codlings and skinners. 1881 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* V. 59 When Cod are of the size of Whiting they are termed Codlings and 'Skinners'.

Skinnery (ski·nəɹi). Also 5 **skynnery.** [f. SKIN *sb.* + -ERY.]

†1. Skins or furs collectively. *Obs.*

c 1460 J. RUSSELL *Bk. Nurture* 946 To drapery & skynnery euer haue ye a sight.

2. A place where skins are dealt with for commercial or other purposes; the working premises of a skinner.

1480 *Wardr. Acc. Edw. IV* (1830) 131 Canvas in the Skynnery j. *Ibid.* 146 A lb' of threde delivered into the Skynnery for skynners to wirk with. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 342/1 A Skynnery, *pelliparium*. 1827 MACKENZIE *Hist. Newcastle* II. 716 There are some extensive tan-yards and skinneries in Newcastle. 1883 J. MARTIN *Reminis. Old Haddington* 84 There was long ago a tannery and skinnery at its termination.

Ski·nniness. [f. SKINNY *a.*] The quality of being skinny; leanness, emaciation.

1727 BAILEY, vol. II. [Hence in later Dicts.]

Skinning (ski·niŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. SKIN *v.*]

1. a. The action or process of covering with skin, or of forming a new skin; cicatrization, healing. Also with *over*, and *fig.*

1547 BOORDE *Brev. Health* 49 For skynnynge of a place there is nothing shal skyn so sone as it wyl. 1633 WOTTON *Lett.* (1907) II. 341 But whether these be perfect cures or but skinnings over..will appear hereafter. 1638 A. READ *Chirurg.* ix. 66 We are not to goe about the skinning of the wound before the flesh bee somewhat higher than the naturall skin. 1739 S. SHARP *Surg.* Introd. 2 The first Stage of Healing..is by Surgeons call'd Digestion;..and the last, or skinning-over, Cicatrization. 1793 J. HUNTER *Treat. Blood*, etc. Wks. 1837 III. 496 Therefore contracting and skinning are probably effects of one cause. 1813 J. THOMSON *Lect. Inflam.* 455 The parts towards the centre may be so long kept from skinning, that the granulations may become weak.

b. *Naut.* (See quots.)

1846 A. YOUNG *Naut. Dict.* 284 *Skinning*, a term used for planking a vessel. *c* 1850 *Rudim. Nav.* (Weale) 138 *Planking*, covering the outside of the timbers with plank; sometimes..called 'skinning'.

2. The removal, or stripping off, of skin; the fact of having the skin removed or rubbed off. Also *fig.*

1775 in ASH. 1837 W. IRVING *Capt. Bonneville* I. 141 These..are bound to exert themselves..in taking beavers, which, without skinning, they render in at the trader's lodge. 1878 SPURGEON *Serm.* XXIV. 699 The skinning of flints and the driving of screws are practised by many people as if they were positively meritorious. 1891 C. ROBERTS *Adrift Amer.* 105 My feet were not yet quite well, after the skinning they had got coming over the trail from Wallace.

†b. Fleecing, plundering. *Obs. rare*—[1].

1686 tr. *Chardin's Trav. Persia* 347 Places for the skinning of strangers, who are reputed to be rich.

c. Impoverishing, exhausting.

1888 *Harper's Mag.* Mar. 559 The skinning of the land by sending away its substance in hard wheat is an improvidence of natural resources.

3. *attrib.*, as *skinning-apparatus*, *knife*, *process*, *table.*

1835-6 *Todd's Cycl. Anat.* I. 602/2 The skinning process takes place in this stage. 1864 WHEELWRIGHT *Spring Lapl.* 296 Hoping soon to see it lying on his skinning table! 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2196/1 *Skinning-apparatus*, a mechanical appliance for removing the hides from animals. 1884 *Good Words* June 391/1 The skinning knives did duty as table knives.

Skinnis, var. of ME. *kinnes*: see KIN *sb.*[1] 6 b.

Ski·nnum. [See quot. 1854.] A variety of domestic pigeon.

1854 MEALL *Moubray's Poultry* 277 It is perhaps owing to the loose *skinny* eyes and bill..that they are vulgarly called 'Skinnums'. 1867 TEGETMEIER *Pigeons* ix. 100 My skinnum was in his hand. Hurrah! the prize was mine.

Skinny (ski·ni), *a.* [f. SKIN *sb.* + -Y[1].]

1. Consisting or formed of skin; resembling skin or film; cutaneous, membranous.

1573 BARET *Alv.* s.v. *Flie*, To flie with skinny winges. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* XXIII. Proem, The bones charged with purulent and skinnie matter. 1615 CROOKE *Body of Man* 236 Heere is also to be obserued a skinny Ligament. 1657 S. PURCHAS *Pol. Flying-Ins.* 6 The Bee hath four dry pellucid skinny wings. 1753 N. TORRIANO *Gangr. Sore Throat* 94 Those loosened Pieces of skinny Membranes. 1796 WITHERING *Brit. Plants* (ed. 3) III. 734 The middle row of scales the largest, all more or less membranaceous and skinny. 1805 *Med. Jrnl.* XIV. 71 Whirls..surrounded by a skinny sheath. 1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) III. 660 So the hair sprang up in the skin, being of a skinny and stringy nature. *fig.* 1641 MILTON *Ch. Govt.* I. Wks. 1851 III. 11 Settling in a skinny congealment of ease and sloth at the top.

Comb. 1822 *Hortus Anglicus* II. 351 *L. Scariosa*, Skinny cupped Liatris.

2. Of, pertaining to, or affecting, the skin. *rare.*

1611 COTGR., *Peaucier*, skinnie; of, in, or belonging to, the skinne. 1737 BRACKEN *Farriery Impr.* (1756) I. 186 In cutaneous or skinny Distempers. *Ibid.* 246 An excellent Medicine in Skinny Disorders.

b. Lying next the skin.

1675 HAN. WOOLLEY *Gentlew. Comp.* 114 Take the rump-end of the Back-bone, and lay it with the skinny side upward.

3. Having the skin prominently shown; lacking flesh; thin, lean, emaciated.

1605 SHAKS. *Macb.* I. iii. 45 Each at once her choppie finger laying Vpon her skinnie Lips. 1724 RAMSAY *Health* 118 With skinny cheek, pale lips, and blood-run eyes. 1781 SIR J. REYNOLDS *Journ. Flanders* Wks. 1797 II. 29 The daughter of Herod..is rather beautiful, but too skinny and lean. 1812 SIR J. SINCLAIR *Syst. Husb. Scot.* II. 127 Skinny shrivelled grain produces food weak and unsubstantial. 1857 HUGHES *Tom Brown* II. iii, His long skinny arms all covered with anchors and arrows and letters. 1879 *Sat. Rev.* 4 Oct. 415 A chicken..sometimes skinny and often ill-kept.

4. Mean, miserly, niggardly, stingy.

1833 HOOD *Public Dinner* 152 The subscription still skinny. 1838 HOLLOWAY *Prov. Dict.*, *Skinny*, mean; inhospitable. 1890 *Lancet* 2 Aug. 246/2 As a rule, the whole of the men in a factory would contribute, and 'skimpy' ones were not let off easily.

†Ski·nster. *Obs.* In 3 **skinnestere.** [f. SKIN *v.* + -STER.] A female skinner.

1270 *Close Roll* 2 *Edw. I*, memb. 7 d, [Agnes] the skinnestere.

Skin-tight (ski·nˌtəit), *a.* and *sb.* [SKIN *sb.*]

A. *adj.* Fitting tightly to the skin; close-fitting.

1885 *Pall Mall G.* 14 Apr. 4/2 The skin-tight bodice which forbids all graceful, easy movements. *a* 1892 T. C. CRAWFORD *English Life* 91 (Cent.), Pink skin-tight breeches met his high patent-leather boots at the knee. 1895 *Outing* Dec. 202/1 When these boots are on they are skin-tight everywhere.

B. *sb. pl.* Close-fitting nether garments.

1899 *Daily News* 6 Apr. 7/4, I should have to admit some who go along the Portsmouth road in skin tights.

Skintle (ski·nt'l), *a.* and *sb.* [? f. SKINTLE *v.*] (See quots.)

1889 C. T. DAVIS *Bricks, Tiles*, etc. (ed. 2) 135 The straight courses, pillar, hangers, and skintle bricks. *Ibid.* 136 The 'skintles' are the bricks set diagonally in order to tie the over-hangers together.

Skintle (ski·nt'l), *v.* Also **scintle.** [perh. for *squintle*, f. SQUINT *a.*] *trans.* To separate and

reset (half-dried bricks) at angles to each other, so as to complete the drying.

1876 *Encycl. Brit.* IV. 280/2 When half dry the bricks are separated somewhat (*scintled*), to allow free access of the air. 1904 A. GRIFFITHS *Fifty Yrs. Public Serv.* 236 They dried slowly, and were regularly 'skintled', or rearranged so that the air might get all round them.

So **Ski'ntling** *vbl. sb.*; also as *adv.*

1836 *Penny Cycl.* V. 408/2 After the bricks are partially dried, another operation takes place, called 'skintling'. 1841 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* IV. 341/1 *note*, When the bricks have stood a few days, they are reset with a greater space between them, which operation is called *scintling*. 1889 *Science* XIII. 335/2 When dry, they [the bricks]..are carried in wheel-barrows and set, 'skintling', or at angles across each other.

Skio: see SKEO. **Skiogram, -graph**, etc.: see SKIAGRAM, -GRAPH, etc.

Skip (skip), *sb.*[1] Also 5 **skyp(pe**, 5–7 **skippe** (6 **szkippe**). [f. SKIP *v.*[1]]

1. An act of skipping; a slight bound or spring. *Hop, skip, and jump* (see HOP *sb.*[2] 3).

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 290/2 Lawnche, or skyppe, *saltus*. *c* 1450 *Mir. Saluac.* (Roxb.) 165 The ydicus [*sic*] made a skippe fro heven to the anone. 1508 DUNBAR *Gold. Targe* 19 For mirth of May, wyth skippis and wyth hoppis, The birdis sang vpon the tender croppis. 1647 TRAPP *Marrow Gd. Authors* in *Comm. Ep.* 655 Father Latimer..suddenly gave a skip in the floor for joy. 1768 STERNE *Sent. Journ., The Address*, Nor did I mount them [the steps] with a skip and a couple of strides. 1807–8 IRVING *Salmag.* (1824) 80 She was a young lady of most voluminous proportions, that quivered at every skip. 1886 STEVENSON *Kidnapped* ii, The woman..turned with a skip, and was gone.

fig. 1650 BULWER *Anthropomet.* Pref., Whether by Art's rude force, or Natures skip I know not. 1667 PEPYS *Diary* 26 Apr., And hath come into his place..with a great skip over the heads of a great many. 1817 SCOTT in *Lockhart* (1837) IV. iii. 84, I..had hoped..to have indulged myself with a skip over the Border.

b. = LEAP *sb.*[1] 3.

1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* II. 478 Two or three thorough skips are quite sufficient for the purposes of conception.

2. An act of passing from one thing or point to another with omission or disregard of what intervenes.

1656 EARL MONM. tr. *Boccalini's Advts. fr. Parnass.* I. v. (1674) 8 Not conferring places upon her Nobility by skips and leaps, but by degrees and gradation. 1665 HOOKE *Microgr.* 127 Nor do I imagine that the skips from the one to another will be found very great. 1853 KANE *Grinnell Exped.* v. (1856) 36 To avert the disastrous consequences of a twelve hours' skip in their polar reckonings. 1883 S. C. HALL *Retrospect* I. 197 It is a long skip between 1789 and 1807.

b. *Mus.* A passing from one note to another at a greater interval than one degree.

1730 *Treat. Harmony* 29 It is only in the foresaid Skips that we can make use of Discords upon the accented Part of the Bar. 1869 OUSELEY *Counterp. Canon & Fugue* vii, In three-part counterpoint skips are always to be avoided. 1873 H. C. BANISTER *Music* 53 Two successive wide skips in the same direction being generally undesirable.

c. Matter in a book which may be skipped in reading.

1833 MACAULAY *Ess., Walpole* (1897) 275 In his books there are scarcely any of those passages which, in our school days, we used to call *skip*. 1889 HANNAY *Capt. Marryat* viii. 122 The scenes in which his heroines are on the stage are skip. Amine's appearances, however, are not skip.

3. [prob. short for SKIP-KENNEL.] A footman, lackey, or manservant. In later use *spec.* at Trinity College, Dublin, a college-servant, a scout.

1698–1700 WARD *London Spy* VII. Wks. 1706 I. 157 As a Courtiers Footman when he meets his Brother Skip. 1716–20 *Lett. fr. Mist's Jrnl.* (1722) I. 142, I was surprized to see a Skip transformed so speedily into a Trumpeter. 1732 DODSLEY *The Footman* 91 Then to the hall I guide my steps, Amongst a crowd of brother skips. 1839 LEVER *H. Lorrequer* xiii, Call your own skip.., damn me if I'll be your skip any longer. 1884 *Punch* 22 Mar. 141/2 A good man once, now, so his skip informs me,..smokes six or seven pipes of strong tobacco..every night.

Skip, *sb.*[2] Also **skipp**. [var. of SKEP *sb.* (q.v. for *skip* in other senses).] In mining or quarrying, a bucket, box, basket, cage, or wagon, in which materials or men are drawn up or let down.

1815 *Ann. Reg., Chron.* 86 Some colliers were descending into a coal pit,..five in one skip and four in the other. 1841 in HARTSHORNE *Salop. Ant.* Gloss. 1884 *Building News* 15 Aug. 283/3 The mortar and other rubbish was also lowered in skips.

attrib. 1875 J. H. COLLINS *Met. Mining* 75 A plan of a shaft with double skip-road adapted for wheels. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2196/2 *Skip-shaft* (Mining), one boxed off by itself for the skip to ascend and descend in.

Skip, *sb.*[3] *Sc.* [abbrev. of SKIPPER *sb.*[2]] The director or captain of a curling or bowling team or side.

1830 *Memorab. Curl. Maben.* 29 The other skips having arranged among themselves, the boards were selected [etc.]. 1862 *Chambers's Encycl.* III. 368/1 Sides are made up, usually consisting of four against four, with a director styled *skip* for each. 1881 *Sat. Rev.* No. 1318. 138 A great moorland farmer having to figure as skip on the one side.

Skip, *sb.*[4] [f. SKIP *v.*[2]] (See quots.)

1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade, Skip*, in sugar-making in the West Indies, a charge or strike of syrup from the coppers. 1885 C. G. W. LOCK *Workshop Rec.* Ser. IV. 163/2 The difficulty is determining the exact moment when the boiling of the 'sling' in the striking-teach must cease, *i. e.* when to make a 'skip'.

† Skip, *sb.*[5] *Obs.*—[0] (See quot.)

1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 260/2 Goat skins are reckoned by the skip, which is 50 Skins.

Skip, *sb.*[6] Abbrev. of SCHIPPERKE.

1895 *Our Dogs* I. 128/2 The best class of Skips ever seen in England.

Skip, *v.*[1] Forms: 4–6 **skippe** (4 **schippe**), 4–7 **skyppe** (5 **sckyppe**), 6 **skype**; 4– **skip** (4 **schip**, ? **scep**, 4–6 **scip**), 5 **skyp(p**, 6–7 **skipp**. [app. related to MSw. *skuppa, skoppa* in the same sense (cf. also SCOPE *v.*[1]), but the history of the vowel is not clear.]

I. *intr.* **1.** To raise oneself off the ground by a light and graceful movement; to spring or leap lightly and easily, *spec.* in the exercise of skipping with a rope.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 23569 For to skip and for to rin, Quen it war better for to blin. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* II. 95 With such gladnesse I daunce and skippe, Me thenkth I touche noght the flor. 1406 HOCCLEVE *La Male Regle* 120 Seeknesse.. paieth me my wage, So þat me neithir daunce list, ne skippe. *c* 1460 *Wisdom* in *Macro Plays* 54 For ioy, I sprynge, I sckyppe. 1530 PALSGR. 719 Are you nat ashamed to skyppe thus in your daunsynge, lyke a gyrle of the countray? 1576 FLEMING *Panopl. Epist.* 227 The grassehopper.. skipped, leapt and chirpte, in her kinde. 1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* I. 27 [These nymphs] would oft run races, skipping like wanton Lambes. 1706 E. WARD *Wooden World Diss.* (1708) 54 Up he skips upon his legs, as manfully as a Taylor upon a Shop-Board. 1792 MME. D'ARBLAY *Diary* 24 Sept., Sophia skipped with joy, and Cecilia was all smiles. 1844 HOOD *Skipping* i, Little Children skip, The rope so gaily gripping. 1877 A. B. EDWARDS *Up Nile* x. 259 He skips, and screams, and grins like an ubiquitous goblin.

fig. 1647 N. BACON *Disc. Govt. Eng.* I. Concl. (1739) 201 If at any time he skipped higher, he afterwards fell lower.

b. With cognate accusative. *rare.*

1602 MARSTON *Antonio's Rev.* v. iv, Force the plump lipt god, Skip light lavoltaes in your full sapt vaines.

2. To spring or leap lightly in a certain direction or to a certain point; to move or advance by a skip or skips. Const. with advs. and preps.

a 1300 *K. Horn* 1361 (Ritson), The knyht to Horn gan skippe, And in his armes clippe. 13.. *K. Alis.* (Laud MS.) 1108 Hym to awreke, kyng Philipp Ouer þe table gan to skipp. 1382 WYCLIF *Acts* xiv. 13 Barnabas and Poul.. scipten out into the cumpanyes. *c* 1450 *Merlin* xxvii. 552 Gaheries toke the horse..to Gueheret his brother, and made hym skippe in to the sadell. 1548 UDALL, etc. *Erasm. Par. Mark* Pref. 4 Hou uncomely a thing it were if a Philosophier would..scip about the stage. 1582 STANYHURST *Æneis* I. (Arb.) 23 On sands from vessels dooth skippe thee coompanye cheereful. 1634 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* 158 Thus burthened, [he] shal trauell till hee come where he can skip into Paradice. 1676 HOBBES *Iliad* (1677) 266 Let none from hence again retire..Nor any man before the rest skip out. 1726 CAVALLIER *Mem.* I. 58 He was very much surprised to see Eighteen young Men skipping one after another into his House. 1786 tr. *Beckford's Vathek* (1883) 110 She skipped along with the alertness of an antelope. 1841 B. HALL *Patchwork* III. 146 Our walker skipped from rock to rock at a great rate. 1898 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* V. 955 They skip up stairs two at a time.

fig. 1388 WYCLIF *Ecclus.* XXXVIII. 37 And thei schulen not skippe ouer in to the chirche. 1583 GREENE *Mamillia* II. Wks. (Grosart) II. 282 Insomuch that they say when the gods made beautie, they skipt beyond their skill. 1692 S. PATRICK *Answ. Touchstone* 58 The Faith of the Gospel (unto which he now skips).

b. To hasten, hurry, move lightly and rapidly; to make off, abscond. Now *U.S. colloq.*

1338 R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (1810) 255 To Paris gan he skip, & held his parlement. *c* 1400 *Laud Troy Bk.* 2920 Eche man.. with his god schippes And alle here good thedur skippes. 1479 *Paston Lett.* III. 257 Ye had ned to be ware that th' Exchetor skyppe not from you, when he comyth to London. 1586 J. HOOKER *Hist. Irel.* in *Holinshed* II. 142/2 The foresaid rebels, who skipped to and fro in such sort, that in no case could he find them at any aduantage. 1590 GREENE *Orl. Fur.* (1599) 8 What is Orlando, but a stragling mate,.. Skipt from his countrey. 1830 MARRYAT *King's Own* xix, By Jove, you'd better skip for it, or you'll have what Captain M— says. 1890 L. C. D'OYLE *Notches* 107 So, to throw her father off the scent, on the appointed night we 'skipped' and went by way of Fort James.

3. To pass from one point, matter, etc., to another with omission of what intervenes; in mod. use *spec.* to do this in reading.

c 1385 CHAUCER *L. G. W.* 622 *Cleopatra*, The weddynge & the feste to deuyse..It were to longe,..And for thy to thefeect thanne wele I skyppe. 1559 in Strype *Ann. Ref.* (1824) I. App. XI. 35 He that woulde challenge kyndred of Constantyne the Great, and woulde from his father skippe upp streight to Constantyne. 1611 SHAKS. *Cymb.* IV. ii. 199, I had rather Haue skipt from sixteene yeares of Age to sixty. 1864 BURTON *Scot Abroad* II. ii. 150, I must really spare the reader two thirds of this portentous list, and skip for him to the conclusion. 1873 HAMERTON *Intell. Life* IV. iv. 163 The art of reading is to skip judiciously.

b. Similarly with *over*. Also sometimes, to pass *over* with very slight or superficial treatment.

1412–20 LYDG. *Chron. Troy* III. 4417 Late him be with sorwe, And skippeth ouer wher ȝe list nat rede. 1548 ELYOT, *Praetereo*,..to make no mencion of, to skippe ouer, to leaue out a thyng, that shulde be spoken of. 1654 WHITLOCK *Zootomia* 454 The nimble Perfunctorinesse of some Commentators (that skip over hard Places). 1725 WATTS *Logic* 344 They skip over, and but lightly touch the drier part of their theme. 1843 MAITLAND *Dark Ages* XV. (1890) 274 As I am not writing history,..let us skip over rather more than a century. 1871 L. STEPHEN *Playgr. Eur.* (1894) X. 248, I might have skipped over these difficulties like the proverbial chamois.

4. Of things, in literal or fig. senses.

c 1386 CHAUCER *Pars. T.* ¶ 361 In this wise skippeth venial in-to deedly synne. 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* liv. 8 Quhou hir schort catt noiss vp skippis. 1568 *Like Will to Like* in Hazl. *Dodsley* III. 331 The barrel was turned to a ship, Which me-thought the wind made nicely to skip. 1610 G. FLETCHER *Christ's Vict.* I. lxxxv, Bright Palestine, Whose woods drop honie, and her rivers skip with wine. 1663 S. PATRICK *Parab. Pilgr.* (1667) 330 Just as the Loadstone draws Iron to it, and makes it skip into its Bosome. 1728 POPE *Dunc.* II. 212 Quick sensations skip from vein to vein. 1840 DICKENS *Old C. Shop* xviii, The landlord stirred the fire, sending the flame skipping and leaping up.

b. *Mus.* To pass from one note to another at an interval of more than one degree.

1868 OUSELEY *Harmony* iii. (1875) 52 The seventh may skip sometimes to the fifth on the same bass.

II. *trans.* **5.** To pass over in reading, or in going through a book, etc. Also with *over*, and in fig. context.

1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 158 Not sparing your voyces, not clipping the syllables, nor skyppyng ony worde. 1597 MIDDLETON *Wisd. Solomon* i. 7 Christ skips thy faults, only thy virtue reads. 1604 — *Father Hubbard's T.* Wks. 1885 VIII. 54 To skip it over and say that line were naught. 1660 BOYLE *New Exp. Phys. Mech.* Preface ¶ iv, Those that are well versed in the New Philosophy .. may skip what was design'd. 1753 RICHARDSON *Grandison* (1781) IV. ii. 21 The Doctor looked so earnestly at me, when he skipped two sides of it. 1823 LAMB *Let. to Barton* 17 Feb., I do not think that I skipped a word of it [*sc.* a book]. 1875 R. F. BURTON *Ultima Thule* I. xii, Let the reader 'skip' such photos if he likes.

b. To pass over without mentioning, dealing with, taking into account, etc.; to omit.

1531 ELYOT *Governor* II. xiv. (1557) 141 Oftentimes a.. loker on espieth a default, that the doer forgetteth or skippeth ouer. 1593 BILSON *Govt. Christ's Ch.* 232 How childish an ouersight was it for Paul to skip the whole bench of them. 1669 BP. HOPKINS *Serm. 1 Peter* ii. (1685) 66 A day it was, that..we might well wish that the Year would skip it over. 1684 T. BURNET *Theory Earth* II. 180 In reckoning up the chief patrons of it, he always skips Justin Martyr. 1787 MME. D'ARBLAY *Diary* Apr., I shall skip useless recollections upon unpleasant subjects. 1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) III. 52 Two virtues remain; shall we skip one and go to the other? 1893 W. FORBES-MITCHELL *Rem. Mutiny* 2, I intend to skip much that has already been recorded in the pages of history.

c. To pass over, pass by, without touching or affecting in any way. Also with *over*.

1599 B. JONSON *Ev. Man out of Hum.* IV. v, He, making a reverse blow,..enters the linings [of a doublet] and skips the flesh. 1607 SHAKS. *Timon* IV. iii. 110 Let not thy sword skip one: Pitty not honour'd Age for his white Beard. 1626 MIDDLETON *Women Beware W.* II. ii, All means to come by riches or advancement Miss me, and skip me over! 1778 BP. LOWTH *Transl. Isaiah* Notes XXXI. 162 He passed over, or skipped, those houses, and forbore to smite them. 1886 G. ALLEN *Darwin* ii. 25 It is fashionable to say..that the mental energy skips a generation. 1898 MANSON *Trop. Dis.* VIII. 155 Sometimes it [the plague] skips a house, a village, or a district.

d. To miss, escape from. *rare.*

1630 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Wks.* III. 132/2 Ther's nothing of him that doth hanging skip Except his eares.

6. a. To jump or leap lightly over (something); to go off, leave (rails).

a 1732 SWIFT *Tom Mullinex & Dick* VII, Tom could move with lordly grace, Dick nimbly skip the gutter. 1821 CLARE *Vill. Minstr.* I. 121 Nelly lightly skipt the stile. 1903 *Daily Chron.* 18 May 6/5 A little later another car skipped the rails.

b. To absent oneself from, stay away from.

1824 SOUTHEY in *Life & Corr.* (1849) I. 141 Having one day skipped school to attend a concert.

c. *U.S. colloq.* To flee (the country).

1884 *Milnor* (Dakota) *Teller* 12 Sept., The granger school master..skipped the country this week.

7. To cause to skip, bound, or jump.

1683 MOXON *Mech. Exerc., Printing* XXIV. ¶ 13 He skips his Balls both at once from the first and third Row to the second and fourth Row. 1841 CATLIN *N. Amer. Ind.* (1844) II. lv. 194 The usual friendly invitation however was given ..by skipping several rifle bullets across the river. 1894 H. GARDENER *Unoff. Pat.* 26 He had skipped pebbles on it and waded across it at low tide.

fig. 1867 F. H. LUDLOW *Little Briggs & I* 217 Retired merchants, who had a passion for skipping away their hard dollars on the bottomless pond of fancy cattle-breeding.

III. 8. The verbal stem in comb., as **skip-bone**, = SKIPJACK 3; **skip-brain** *a.*, flighty, hare-brained; † **skip-frog**, the game of leap-frog; **skip-louse**, a tailor; **skip mackerel** *U.S.*, the blue-fish or skipjack; **skip-rope**, a skipping-rope (*Cent. Dict.*); **skip-tail**, a spring-tail; **skip-tooth** (see quot. 1875).

1603 J. DAVIES (Heref.) *Microcosmos* Wks. (Grosart) I. 30/1 This skipp-braine Fancy moves these easie Movers To loue what ere hath but a glimpse of good. 1727 BOYER *Fr. Dict.* II, Skip-Frog, (a sort of Play, amongst Boys), *La Poste*. 1807 J. BERESFORD *Miseries Hum. Life* XX. (ed. 3) 271 We laugh that win, Since we pay but for one, tho' nine Skip-lice get in. 1839 *Penny Cycl.* XV. 188/1 The small insect called *Podura Plumbea*, the common Skiptail. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2196/2 *Skip-tooth Saw*, a saw in which alternate teeth are cut out. 1884 GOODE *Nat. Hist. Aquat. Anim.* 433 About New York they are called 'Skip Mackerel'. 1901 E. L. ARNOLD *Lepidus* 33 As he finished a drum-stick, or pitched a clean-picked skip-bone into the ferns.

Skip, *v.*[2] [ad. Du. *scheppen* (G. *schöpfen*) to ladle, bale, dip, draw (water), etc.] *trans.* To transfer (sugar) from one vessel to another in the process of manufacture.

a 1818 M. G. Lewis *Jrnl. W. Ind.* (1834) 87 Till it becomes sufficiently free from impurities to be skipped off, that is, to be again ladled out of the coppers and spread into the coolers. 1843 G. R. Porter *Sugar Cane* (ed. 2) 211 When the sugar is perfectly clarified it is skipped off, or passed into another vessel.

Skip, *v.*3 [f. Skip *sb.*3] *trans.* To command or direct (a team in curling or bowling) as skip.

1900 *Ardrossan & Saltcoats Herald* 2 June 5/2 President and Vice-President skipped rinks pitted against each other.

Skiph, obs. form of Skiff *sb.*

Skipjack (ski·pˌdʒæk), *sb.* and *a.* Also 6 **scip-jacke, -jake,** 6–7 **skipiack(e,** 7 **-jacke.** [f. Skip *v.*1 + Jack *sb.*1]

A. *sb.* **1.** A pert shallow-brained fellow; a puppy, a whipper-snapper; a conceited fop or dandy. Now *arch.*

1554 T. Martin *Marr. Priests* Ll ij b, A way was opened to euery skipiack that lusted to make hymselfe a priest. 1586 J. Hooker *Hist. Ireland* in *Holinshed* II. 106/1, I trust to see the daie, when .. your children .. shall disdaine the companie of anie such skipiacke. 1604 Rowlands *Looke to it* (Hunterian Cl.) 38 You nimble skipiacke, turning on the toe, As though you had Gun-pouder in your tayle. 1653 W. Ramesey *Astrol. Restored* To Rdr. 18 Our shoes and fantastical stockins speak us rather Skip-jacks, Whifflers or Antics, then sober and solid men. 1806 Surr *Winter in Lond.* III. 230 How few of our fashionable skip-jacks..possess a spark of that spirit. 1869 *Daily News* 12 June, Noble bronze faces, which contrast rather strongly with the countenance of the simpering skipjack who has preceded them.

†**2.** A horse-dealer's boy; a jockey. *Obs.*

1608 Dekker *Lanth. & Candle Lt.* x, The boyes, striplings, &c., that haue the Riding of the Iades vp and downe are called Skip-Iacks. 1674 Staveley *Romish Horseleech* (1769) 215 If friars should wear short habits they would look more like Jockeys and Millers than Friars...And then, .. will it not be a rare sight for us to go like skipjacks and Millers? *a* 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew, Skip-jacks,* youngsters that Ride the Horses for Sale. [Hence in later Dicts.]

3. A toy made of the merrythought of a fowl, and so contrived that it can be made to skip automatically; also, the merrythought itself.

1797 Mar. Edgeworth *Early Lessons* I. 253 This is as tight and as strong as the stick and string in my skip-jack. 1805 *Poet. Reg.* 179 Thy bony breast Shall featly frisk it o'er the cottage floor, A strange automaton, by village hinds A Skip-Jack nam'd. 1825–1895 in dialect glossaries (Northumbld., Yks., Northampt., E. Anglia, etc.).

4. The name of various fishes which have a habit of leaping out of the water, *esp.* the blue-fish (*Temnodon* or *Pomatomus saltator*) of tropical and subtropical seas.

In American use the name is also given to the horse-mackerel, Ohio shad, and brook silverside (1882 Jordan & Gilbert *Fishes N. Amer.*), the bonito, jurel, runner, leather-jacket, butter-fish, cutlass-fish, etc. (1884 Goode *Nat. Hist. Aquat. Anim.*).

1703 Dampier *Voy.* III. i. 115, I saw also some Boneta's and some Skipjacks, a Fish about 8 Inches long, broad and sizable, not much unlike a Roach. 1734 *Phil. Trans.* XXXVIII. 317 *Saltatrix.* The *Skip-Jack.* It hath obtained its Name from its frequent Skipping out of the Water. 1775 *Ibid.* LXVIII. 393 [The] sea was covered with Portuguese men of war, of which [we] took up several; also some pilot-fish and skip-jacks. 1815 *Sporting Mag.* XLVI. 225 That species of whale, called by sailors skip jacks. 1871 Kingsley *At Last* vi, Pelicans..fell into the water with wide-spread wings, and after a splash, rose with another skipjack in their pouch. 1888 Goode *Amer. Fishes* 76 Snapper-fishing is usually carried on with a bottom bait of skip-jack, bluefish, or young shark.

5. a. A beetle belonging to the family *Elateridæ*; a click-beetle (see Click *sb.*1 4) or spring-beetle. Also *attrib.*

1817 Kirby & Sp. *Entomol.* xxiii. (1818) II. 317 The numerous species of the elastic beetles (*Elater,* L.), skip-jacks as some call them, perform this motion by means of a pectoral process or mucro. 1868 *Rep. U.S. Commiss. Agric.* (1869) 93 From this habit of suddenly springing into the air, these insects are known in Europe by the common name of 'skip-jacks'. 1871 Kingsley *At Last* i, The Elaters—fire-fly, or skip-jack beetles.

b. A kind of trout-fly.

1867 F. Francis *Angling* vi. (1880) 233 There is a smaller fly..called the Skipjack.

B. *adj.* **1.** Having the trifling, petty, or flighty qualities of a skipjack; puppyish, foppish.

1598 E. Guilpin *Skial.* (1878) 19 The world finds fault with Gellia, for she loues A skip-jack fidler. 1645 *Arraignment Persecution* Ep. Ded. 2 Such a Quagmire of croaking skip-jacke Presbyters. 1696 Vanbrugh *Relapse* v. iii, I verily believed miss had got some pitiful skip-jack varlet or other to her husband.

b. *transf.* Of things.

1597 *Return fr. Parnass.* I. i. 464 Why, I cannot abide these scipjake blanke verses. 1650 H. More *Enthus. Trl.* etc. (1656) 75 Meer vagrant imaginations seated in your own subsultorious and skip-jack phansie onely. 1686 Goad *Celest. Bodies* II. xiv. 360 These petty Skip-Jack Aspects which have to do..where ever the Sun hath to do.

2. Hopping, jumping, skipping.

1605 P. Woodhouse *Flea* (1877) 18 For I shall make it very plaine appeare, This little skip-iack beast, his worth is small. *c* 1626 *Dick of Devon* IV. i. in Bullen *Old Pl.* II. 60 What with your skip Jacke fleas, the nap of my sleepe was worne off.

Hence **ski·pjackly** *a. rare*−1.

1674 N. Fairfax *Bulk & Selv.* 135 Now 'tis but odde to think how such a flicketing skipjackly thing as that is.. should be bound to the behaviour of such a grave stayd thing as time is.

†**Skip-kennel.** *Obs.* [f. Skip *v.*1 + Kennel *sb.*2] One who has to jump or skip over the kennels or gutters; a lackey, a foot-boy, a foot-man. (Cf. Skip *sb.*1 3.)

1668 R. L'Estrange *Vis. Quev.* (1708) 155 Yet every Draggle-Tail'd Wench, and Skip-kennel, shall be better us'd than We. *c* 1680 *Roxb. Ball.* VII. 18 A Mountebank without his fools, and a Skip-kennel turn'd out of place. 1721 Amherst *Terræ Fil.* No. 13. 63 It is peculiar to these learned head-pieces to shew more respect..to their skip-kennels, than to their students or fellows. 1729 Swift *Direct Serv., Footman,* You have no professed enemy but the rabble and my lady's waiting-woman, who are sometimes apt to call you skip-kennel. 1828 *Blackw. Mag.* XXIV. 39 The grid-iron whizzing, The skip-kennels quizzing.

Skippable (ski·păb'l), *a.* Also **skipable.** [f. Skip *v.*1 + -able.] That may be skipped, omitted, or passed over in reading.

1820 Miss Mitford in L'Estrange *Life* (1870) II. 94 Sir Philip's English sapphics or dactylics—which are, to be sure, the most unreadable and skippable things ever written. 1858 Carlyle *Fredk. Gt.* XI. viii. (1872) IV. 98 A fifth part of it consists of 'Documents' proper, which are skippable.

Skipper (ski·pəɪ), *sb.*1 Also 5 **skyppare,** 6 **skyppar.** [f. Skip *v.*1 + -er1.]

1. One who or that which skips or jumps.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 458/1 Skyppare, *saltator, saltatrix,* 1530 Palsgr. 271/1 Skyppar, *saultevr.* 1601 Holland *Pliny* I. 264 Many a time the fishers twitch vp their hookes, and see a number of these skippers [fleas] and creepers [lice] setled thicke about their baits which they laied for fishes.

b. Applied contemptuously to a youth. *rare*−1.

1596 Shaks. *Tam. Shrew* II. i. 341 *Tra.* Greybeard, thy loue doth freeze. *Gre.* But thine doth frie. Skipper stand backe, 'tis age that nourisheth.

2. *spec.* As a name for various insects:

†**a.** A locust. *Obs. rare.*

c 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 3087 Þis wind hem broȝte ðe skipperes, He deden on gres and coren deres. 1599 T. Mouffet *Silk-wormes* 25 Springs not from egges that..bloudy Crocodile, Fish, Lyzards, Snakes, and Skippers African?

b. A skipjack or spring-beetle.

1796 Morse *Amer. Geogr.* I. 225 Skipper, *Elater oculatus.* 1813 Bingley *Anim. Biogr.* (ed. 4) III. 143 The Night-Shining Skipper. In the savannas of most of the warmer parts of America, these insects are to be seen in great abundance.

c. A butterfly of the family *Hesperiidæ.*

Also used with various distinguishing epithets, as *chequered, clouded, dingy, Lulworth, pearl skipper,* etc.

1817 Kirby & Sp. *Entomol.* xxiii. (1818) II. 305 A butterfly, called by Aurelians 'The large skipper' (*Hesperia Sylvanus,* F.), when it alights..always turns half-way round. 1868 *Rep. U.S. Commiss. Agric.* (1869) 314 The family of skippers, *Hesperians,* are rather small, thick-bodied butterflies, having the antennæ hooked at the end like a shepherd's crook. 1896 Lydekker *Roy. Nat. Hist.* VI. 92 To *Pamphila* and the following genera belong all the small, quick-flying butterflies, known as the skippers, properly so called.

attrib. 1903 A. C. P. Haggard *Sporting Yarns* 126 A butterfly of the skipper tribe.

d. *dial.* and *U.S.* A cheese-maggot, or other small maggot, etc., of similar habits.

1828–32 in Webster. 1882 in dial. glossaries (Cornwall, Cumberland).

3. *spec.* As a fish-name: **a.** The saury pike.

1674 Ray *Coll. Words, Fishes* 104 Skipper, *Acus minor. a* 1705 — *Synop. Pisc.* (1713) 109 In Mari Britannico duæ Acus species inveniuntur, ut nobis retulerunt piscatores Cornubienses, quarum alteri *Girrocks,* alteri *Skippers* nomen indiderunt. 1836 Yarrell *Brit. Fishes* I. 394 The Saury Pike, Skipper, *Scomberesox saurus.* 1865 Couch *Brit. Fishes* IV. 141 Skipper..is a migratory fish, which comes to our coasts at the beginning of summer.

b. The hopping-fish of Australia.

1898 Morris *Austral Eng.* 419.

4. One who omits passages in reading.

Cf. the earlier *overskipper* (1377) and *forskipper.*

1824 Miss Ferrier *Inher.* lxvi, He never had skipped in his life, and had such a thorough contempt for skippers. 1856 *Titan Mag.* Nov. 415/1 Our service is spoil'd by.. The trippers—the clippers—the impudent skippers. 1888 *Athenæum* 11 Feb. 178/1 He has..compiled a useful and interesting monograph, especially for the judicious skipper.

Skipper (ski·pəɪ), *sb.*2 Also 4, 7 **skypper,** 6 **skyppar,** 5–7 **skippar** (6 **-are**), 7 **scokpper, skiper,** 7–8 **scipper,** 8 **schipper.** [ad. MDu. or MLG. *schipper* (cf. Fris. and Da. *skipper,* Sw. *skeppare,* ON. *skipari*; also OF. *eskipre, eschipre*), f. *schip* Ship *sb.*]

1. The captain or master of a ship, esp. of a small trading, merchant, or fishing vessel; †a ship-man, seaman.

In the 15th and 16th cent. chiefly in Sc. use.

1390 *Earl Derby's Exped.* (Camd.) 37 Item Herman, skypper de Dansk. 1496 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* I. 310 The skippar of the schip callit the Ros. 1506 in *Charters,* etc. *Edinb.* (1871) 190 That na skipperis nor maisters of schippis saill furth of our realme [etc.]. 1594 Nashe *Unfort. Trav.* 16 My rapier pendant like a round sticke fastned in the tacklings for skippers the better to climbe by. 1624 in Foster *Eng. Factories Ind.* (1909) III. 19 The murder of one of our people ther by a scipper of theirs. 1656 Blount *Glossogr.* s.v. *Scipper,* But we usually take *Skippers* for common Seamen or Mariners. 1677 W. Hubbard *Narrative* II. 65 Eight of them went a shore, leaving two Indians aboord with the English Skipper. 1721 Ramsay *Prospect of Plenty* 154 The north-sea skippers are leal-hearted men. 1767 T. Hutchinson *Hist. Mass.* II. i. 110 A French man of war..met one of our fishing vessels..[and] sent for the skipper to come on board. 1822 Scott *Nigel* iii, A rank, as well as manners, highly superior to the skippers (or Captains, as they called themselves) of merchant vessels. 1878 Jevons *Polit. Econ.* 29 The skipper starts when wind and tide are in his favour.

fig. 1673 S. Parker *Reproof Reh. Transp.* 481 As if you were the Skippar of the State.

Comb. 1848 Dickens *Dombey* iv, Here he lived too, in skipper-like state, with his nephew Walter.

b. *Skipper's daughters,* high white-crested waves.

1888 Stevenson *Across the Plains* vi. (1905) 130 Out in the open there were 'skipper's daughters'.

2. The captain or director of a sporting team or side.

In curling and bowling the Sc. term is now Skip *sb.*3

1830 *Memorab. Curl. Alaben.* 100 The sweeping department to be under the exclusive control of the skipper. 1838 in *Chambers's Inform. People* (1849) II. 651/1 The skippers shall have the exclusive regulation and direction of the game [in curling]. 1893 *Star* 30 May 1/7 He..afterwards acted as skipper of the Cambridgeshire Eleven.

3. *Gun-making.* (See quot.)

1851–4 *Tomlinson's Cycl. Arts* (1867) I. 821/1 From [the screwer-together the gun] passes to the *skipper* and *finisher,* who takes the whole to pieces, and corrects any trifling errors of the preceding workmen.

Hence **Ski·ppership,** the office of skipper; the management or handling of a ship.

1828 *Examiner* 1/1 If skippership went to the highest bidder,..we should have a still greater proportion of bad pilots. 1894 *Daily Chron.* 4 Aug. 3/5 In recognition of his skippership of the Trafalgar.

†**Ski·pper,** *sb.*3 *Cant. Obs.* Also 6 **skypper.** [A canting term, possibly ad. Cornish *sciber* or W. *ysgubor* a barn.] A barn, outhouse; or shed, used as a sleeping-place by vagrants.

1567 Harman *Caveat* (1869) 83 A skypper, a barne. *Ibid.* 85, I couched a hogshead in a Skypper this darkemans. 1641 Brome *Joviall Crew* II. Wks. 1873 III. 392 Now let each Tripper Make a retreat into the Skipper. *a* 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew, Skipper,* a Barn. [Hence in later Dicts.]

†**Ski·pper,** *sb.*4 *Obs. rare*−1. [ad. Du. *schepper* scoop, ladle: cf. Skip *v.*2] (See quot.)

1688 Holme *Armoury* III. xxii. (Roxb.) 280/1 A Skipper or Sugar ladle.

Ski·pper, *v.*1 [f. Skipper *sb.*2] *trans.* To act as skipper or captain of (a vessel, team, etc.).

1893 *Westm. Gaz.* 25 July 5/2 The former is to skipper his yacht *Meteor.*

absol. 1883 *Harper's Mag.* Aug. 445/2 The owner skippers for himself.

Ski·pper, *v.*2 *Cant.* [f. Skipper *sb.*3] *intr.* To sleep in a barn or outhouse, or in the open. Also with *it,*

1851 Mayhew *Lond. Lab.* I. 478 They..frequently 'skipper it' in the open air, when the weather is fine and warm. 1894 D. C. Murray *Making of a Novelist* 107 In the language of the road, tosleep in the open is to 'skipper'.

Comb. 1851 Mayhew *Lond. Lab.* I. 310 Here is the best places in England for 'skipper-birds'; (parties that never go to lodging-houses, but to barns or outhouses, sometimes without a blanket).

Ski·pper, *v.*3 *rare*−1. [freq. of Skip *v.*1] *intr.* To skip or hop.

1845 S. Judd *Margaret* I. xiv, A grass-finch skippered to the top of a stump.

Ski·ppery, *a. dial.* and *U.S.* [f. Skipper *sb.*1 2 d.] Of cheese, etc.: Full of maggots.

18.. Dow *Serm.* II. 258 (Bartlett), The earth [will] appear as animated as a plate of skippery cheese. 1899 *Cumbld. Gloss.* 170/2 *Skippery,*..said of bacon and cheese when full of 'jumpers'.

†**Skippeson.** *Obs. rare.* In 5 **skyppeson.** [ad. OFr. *eskip(p)eson,* f. *eskipper, esquiper* to Equip.] Equipment, provision of necessaries.

1444 *Coll. Hist. Staff.* (1891) XII. 318 With skyppeson and reskyppeson reasonable for him, is seid men and horses. *Ibid.* 320 The seid Sir Phelip shall have skyppeson and reskyppeson resonable for him.

Ski·ppet1. [Cf. Skibbet.] A small round wooden box, used for the preservation of documents or seals. Also *transf.* (quot. 1398).

1398 Trevisa *Barth. De P. R.* IV. x. (Tollemache MS.), The toþer party of colera, þat is drawen to þe skipet of galle [L. *ad cistam fellis*]. *c* 1400 *Pilgr. Sowle* (Caxton) I. xxxiv. (1859) 37 In her hond she brought a skypet,..and she took forth the Charter. 1864 E. Edwards *Libr. & Founders Libr.* ix. 223 Skippets (or boxes turned on a lathe). 1871 *Athenæum* 11 Feb. 179 A 'skippet' turned on a the parvise of Bodmin Church, and a leather-covered case. 1886 *Ibid.* 11 Dec. 783/2 The seals of the different parties being preserved in silver skippets attached to the volumes by silken cords.

Ski·ppet2. *rare.* Also 5 **skeppette.** [dim. of *skip* Skep *sb.*]

1. A basket. Now *dial.*

c 1450 *Mirour Saluacioun* (Roxb.) 44 Hym closid in a skeppette sho laide be the Ryvere syde. 1890 *Gloucester Gloss.* 141 *Skippet,* the same as Kipe [=a bushel basket].

†**2.** A small boat or skiff. *Obs.*−1

Prob. due to association with *ship* or *skiff.*

1590 Spenser *F. Q.* II. xii. 14 Vpon the banck they sitting did espy A daintie damzell,..By whom a litle skippet floting did appeare. [Cf. stanza 15.]

Ski·ppet3. Now *dial.* Also 8 **skippit.** [var. of Scuppet.] (See quots.)

1764 *Museum Rust.* II. 194 Help the water out of the ruts with scoops or skippits. 1866 Brogden *Prov. Lincs., Skippet,* a wooden shovel used for lifting water. 1879 Miss Jackson *Shropshire Word-Bk.* 386 *Skippet,* a long-handled, spoon-shaped implement used by drainers. 1893 *Wiltshire Gloss., Skippet,* the long-handled ladle used for filling a water-cart, emptying a hog-tub, &c.

Ski·pping, *vbl. sb.*[1] [f. SKIP *v.*[1]]

1. The action of the verb skip, in literal senses.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 246/1 Hoppynge, or skyppynge, *saltacio.* 1590 BARROUGH *Physick* I. xxxviii. (1639) 60 The diseases which come by skipping in of stones or chips..into the Eyes. 1611 COTGR., *Resiliment*, a leaping, skipping, rebounding, backe. 1844 HOOD *Skipping* i, Little Children skip,..All are fond of skipping!

attrib. 1736 AINSWORTH s.v., In a skipping posture, *saltabundus.* 1894 *Daily News* 14 June 6/4 Among the 'sports' for girls being a skipping contest and various races. 1898 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* V. 827 Her first attack cut short prolonged and severe skipping effort.

2. The action of skipping, in transferred senses.

1560 *1st Bk. Discipline* xi. (1836) 69 This skipping and divagation from place to place of Scripture. 1597 T. MORLEY *Introd. Mus.* 7, I know not how to tune them [*sc.* notes] by reason of their skipping. 1674 N. FAIRFAX *Bulk & Selv.* Contents, Stirring of Ghost is like skipping of thought. 1863 *Reader* 5 Dec. 660 We remember, of course, that skipping is fair play in novel-reading. 1885 *Manch. Exam.* 22 July 3/2 The reader..can always have recourse to judicious skipping.

Ski·pping, *vbl. sb.*[2] [f. SKIP *v.*[2]] In sugar-making: (see quots.). Also *attrib.*

1826 HENRY *Elem. Chem.* II. 196 Of this solution about fifty gallons, called a skipping, are put into a copper pan. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 1202 Each finished charge is called a skipping, because it is skipped or laded out. 1860 TOMLINSON *Arts & Manuf.* Ser. II. *Sugar* 16 Sometimes the last and largest copper contains a skipping-teach, a smaller vessel of the same shape with a valve at the bottom worked by a handle.

Ski·pping, *ppl. a.* [f. SKIP *v.*[1]]

1. That skips. Also *spec.* in *skipping stickleback* (see quot. 1803).

1560 BIBLE (Genevan) *Wisdom* xvii. 19 The running of skipping beastes, that colde not be sene. 1596 SHAKS. *1 Hen. IV*, III. ii. 60 The skipping King hee ambled vp and downe. 1601 B. JONSON *Poetaster* III. iv, Hee's a good skipping swaggerer. 1661 K. W. *Conf. Charac.* (1860) 81 A designe to make your skipping suiters hop away and leave you. 1733 FIELDING *Intriguing Chambermaid* I. v, Indeed, with your little, pert, skipping beaux, I don't know what may happen. 1791 COWPER *Yardley Oak* 25 A skipping deer, With pointed hoof dibbling the glebe. 1803 SHAW *Gen. Zool.* IV. 609 Skipping Stickleback, *Gasterosteus Saltatrix*. ..Stickleback with eight dorsal spines connected by a membrane. 1893 F. ADAMS *New Egypt* 95 A she-goat..with her two little black fantastically-skipping kids.

transf. 1596 SHAKS. *Merch. V.* II. ii. 196 Allay with some cold drops of modestie Thy skipping spirit. 1602 MARSTON *Ant. & Mell.* I. Wks. 1856 I. 13 A short finger, and a naked chinne, A skipping eye. 1801 BUSBY *Dict. Mus., Skipping-Notes*, notes which do not proceed by conjoint degrees, nor in any regular course, but which lay at awkward and unexpected distances from each other.

2. Characterized by skips.

1596 *Edw. III*, I. ii, In their vild, vnseuill, skipping giggs. 1615 G. SANDYS *Trav.* 172 An Æthiopian..who..doth dance in their processions with a skipping motion.

Ski·ppingly, *adv.* [f. prec. + -LY[2].] In a skipping manner; by skips.

1572 HULOET *Alv.*, Skippingly, or by skippes and leapes. 1642 HOWELL *For. Trav.* (Arb.) 23 If one read skippingly and by snatches, and not take the threed of the story along. 1656 W. DU GARD tr. *Commenius' Gate Lat. Unl.* § 639 The third [the rash man] rambling over businesses skippingly. 1842 *Tait's Mag.* IX. 605 Hart on the hill never bounded more skippingly. 1889 *Times* 13 Aug. 4/3 Readers who get through a book skippingly.

Ski·pping-rope. [f. SKIPPING *vbl. sb.*[1]] A piece of rope, sometimes with a wooden handle at each end, used in the pastime of skipping.

1836 T. HOOK *G. Gurney* III. 318 Stretching to catch two things like skipping-ropes. 1853 R. S. SURTEES *Sponge's Sp. Tour* ix. 45 Just as a girl throws her skipping-rope, 1887 R. N. CAREY *Uncle Max* x, I showed her a new skipping-rope that I had bought on my way.

attrib. 1888 ROLLESTON & JACKSON *Anim. Life* 798 The peculiar 'skipping rope' fibres, i. e. filaments with a knob at each end, which occur..in the mesoglaea of certain Ceratine sponges.

† Ski·ppish, *a. Obs.*[−1] [f. SKIP *v.*[1] + -ISH[1].] Inclined to skip; given to skipping.

1576 A. FLEMING tr. *Caius' Eng. Dogs* (1880) 16 A Hare (being a wilde and skippishe beast).

Skipple (ski·p'l). *U.S.* Also 7 skiple. [ad. Du. *schepel* (also MDu. and MLG.; OS. *scepel*), = G. *scheffel* (OHG. *sceffil*) bushel.] A measure of three pecks. Also *attrib.*

1685 *Pennsylv. Arch.* I. 95 One Skiple Salt. 1701 WOLLEY *Jrnl. N. York* (1860) 34 Long Island Wheat three shillings a Skipple (a Skipple being three parts of a Bushel). 1769 *Cont. Narr. Ind. Charity School Lebanon* 18 Corn [maize] and wheat at the German Flats are from six shillings to a dollar a skipple. 1901 *N. & Q.* Ser. IX. VIII. 283/2 The Skipple-measure or Short Bushel of New England.

† Skippound. *Obs. rare.* [ad. Du. *schippond*, or LG. *schippund* (cf. ON., MSw., etc., *skippund.*)] = SHIPPOUND.

1622 MALYNES *Anc. Law-Merch.* 30 The Skippound is vsed in many places..: the Skippound is taken for the lading of corne in a ship, *Quasi Shippond*, as a diuident of a Last of corne. 1674 S. JEAKE *Arith. Surv.* (1696) 126 At Antwerp..A Stone is 8 lb. The Skippound 300 lb.

Skippy (ski·pi), *a.* [f. SKIP *v.*[1] + -Y[1].] Characterized by skipping.

1883 JANE G. AUSTIN *Nantucket Scraps* 178 The beach-grass long and tangled, swarmed with all things of a crawly, skippy, venomous nature.

† Skire, *a. Obs.* Forms: 3, 5 **skir,** 5, 8–9 **skire**; 4–6, 9 **skyre,** 5 **skyr.** [a. ON. *skirr* (Norw. and MSw. *skir*) clear, pure, = OE. *scīr* SHIRE *a.* In later use only *Sc.*]

1. Clear *of*, free *from*, something morally bad.

c 1200 ORMIN 8015 Þatt genge Þatt wass milde & meoc,.. & off galnesse skir & fre. *Ibid.* 12194 All Þatt ahhte off eorþliȝ þing Þatt Godess Þeowwess haffdenn..i Þiss middell ærd 1ss all skir fra Þe deofell.

2. a. Of water: Pure, clear.

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 1776 Þay..Asscaped ouer Þe skyre watteres & scaped Þe walles. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 2119 Scamandra Þe slire [*read* skire: *Dubl.* skyr] flode Þe scriptour it callis.

b. Of colours, flames, etc.: Clear; bright.

a 1400–50 *Alexander* 467 To skyre skarlet hewe skyftis hire face. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 12500 [The lightning] skirmyt in the skewes with a skyre low. *a* 1585 POLWART *Flyting w. Montgomerie* 533 With flying fyreflaughts burning bright and skyre [*v. r.* schyre].

3. Conspicuous or notable, esp. in respect of harmful qualities.

This sense, which appears only in the *Destr. Troy* (cf. also ll. 12700 and 13616) is prob. due to the requirements of alliteration.

c 1400 *Destr. Troy* 8897 In anythyng..Þat hase skapet vs to skathe, ne to skyre harme. *Ibid.* 13397 Ascatus the skir, Þat skathill was in elde.

4. (See quot. and cf. SKIRE *adv.*)

1825 JAMIESON *Suppl.*, *Skire*, *Skyre*, pure, mere; as 'a skire fool'.

† Skire, *v. Obs.*[−1] In 4 **skir.** [a. ON. *skīra* (Norw. and MSw. *skira*), f. *skirr* adj.: see prec.] *refl.* To cleanse, clear, or purify (oneself).

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 28058 Þat Þai ripe wele Þair aun boke, And skir Þam sua wit Þair in-sight Þair conscience..clene and bright.

Skire, *adv. Sc.* Also 6 **skyr,** 8 **skier,** 9 **skyre, scyre.** [See SKIRE *a.*] Sheer; quite; altogether. Also *ellipt.* quite mad.

1581 J. HAMILTON in *Cath. Tract.* (S.T.S.) 85 Sum in Angus exponing the same ran skyr daft. 1766 A. NICOL *Poems* 95 (E.D.D.), Our land is now quite skier naked made. 1822 HOWDEN in Edwards *Mod. Sc. Poets* Ser. II. (1881) 35 'The man's gane skire', muttered Matt. 1825 JAMIESON *Suppl.* s.v. *Skeir*, In Fife..the phrase is *skyremad*, i. e., quite insane.

Skiret, obs. form of SKIRRET[1].

Skire Thursday. *Sc.* and *north. dial.* ? *Obs.* Forms: *α.* 5 **Skire,** 5–6 **Skyre,** 6 **Skir,** 7 **Sky(i)r, Skier, Sky.** *β.* 5 **Skyrys,** 6 **Skyris, Skiris,** 9 **Skiers, Scarce**; 7 **Skis, Skies.** See also THURSDAY. [ad. ON. *Skíri-þórsdagr* (Norw. *Skirtorsdag*), f. *skír* SKIRE *a.* Cf. also SKERE *a.* 4.] The day next before Good Friday; Maundy Thursday; = SHEER THURSDAY.

α. *c* 1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 2277 So..walde he passe To Skyre thuresday, Þan walde he his fete waschyn and clensyd be. 1474 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* I. 72 Almous on Skire Thurisday. 1562 *Invent. R. Wardrobe* (1815) 156 Item, fourty drying claithis of all sortes—Deliverit xii..on skir-furisday at the wesching of the pure folkis fete. 1621 *Sc. Acts, Jas. VI* (1816) IV. 642 Thrie ȝeirlie faires, Viz. the first..vpoun skyirthurisdaye, the secund..at Lambes. 1670 *Churchw. Acc. Pittington*, etc. (Surtees) 228 For wine att the Communion upon..Sky Thursday.

β. 1489 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* I. 108 On Skyrys Thursday, giffin for the Kingis almus clathis, xvij merkis. 1630 in Brand *Hist. Newcastle* (1789) II. 343 *note*, Skis-Thursday being our Lady-Day in Lent. 1677 *Churchw. Acc. Pittington*, etc. (Surtees) 241 For bread and wine att the Communions of Palme Sunday, Skies Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Day, and the Sunday after.

b. *Sc.* Used as the name of local fairs or markets held on this day.

In quot. 1864 the date is correct by Old Style.

1825 JAMIESON *Suppl.* s.v. *Skeir, Scarce-Thursday*, the name of a fair held at Melrose on the Thursday before Easter. 1864 *Glasgow Her.* 15 Apr., 'Skiers' Thursday.—This important concluding market was held yesterday.

Skirlwort, obs. form of SKIRRET[1].

Skirl (skɔ̄rl), *sb. Sc.* and *north. dial.* Also 6 **skyrl,** 8 **skirle.** [f. the vb.]

1. A shrill cry, a shriek; shrill talk.

1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* II. xi. 1 With skirlis and with skrekis thus sche beris. 1549 *Compl. Scotl.* vi. 40 The botis man..cryit vitht ane skyrl, quod he, i see ane grit schip. 1718 RAMSAY *Christ's Kirk Gr.* III. xix, Mony an unco skirl and shout. 1791 A. WILSON *Laurel Disp.* Wks. 1876 II. 18 Her skirle Sets my twa lugs a ringing like a gir'le. 1816 SCOTT *Antiq.* xxxv, That silly fliskmahoy..has..done naething but laugh and greet, the skirl at the tail o' the guffa, for twa days successfully. 1853 MRS. GASKELL *Ruth* xxiv, The skirl of the grey sea-birds.

2. A shrill sound, *esp.* that characteristic of the bagpipe.

1860 RUSSELL *Diary India* I. xv. 238, I hear the skirl of the bagpipes which announces that we are not far from the Highlanders. 1892 JANE BARLOW *Irish Idylls* iv. 78 A skirl of vocal music rose up suddenly close by.

b. *Skirl-in-the-pan*, something prepared for eating by frying in a pan.

1816 SCOTT *Old Mort.* v, I trow ye dinna get 'sic a skirl-in-the-pan as that at Niel Blane's. 1825 in JAMIESON *Suppl.*

Skirl (skɔ̄rl), *v.*[1] *Sc.* and *north. dial.* Also 5 **scrille, skrille,** 6, 8 **skirle,** 6 **skyrl,** 8 **skerl.** [prob. of Scand. origin: the early form *skrille* corresponds to a Norw. dial. *skrylla*, with variants *skrella* and *skrolla* in the same sense.]

1. *intr.* To scream, shriek, cry out shrilly.

c 1400 *Anturs Arth.* 536 Thenne his lemmon on lofte scrilles [*v.r.* skirles] and scrykes. *Ibid.* 619 Ho scrilles [*v.r.* skrilles] and scrikes. 1508 KENNEDIE *Flyting w. Dunbar* 39 Baith Iohne the Ross and thow,' sall squeill and skirle. *a* 1513 FABYAN *Chron.* VII. (1811) 593 Whan he was borne towarde his moders chare, he skyrlyd and cryed so feruently. 1645 SIR T. HOPE in *Misc. Sc. Hist. Soc.* I. 131 Quhen I preis to tak any of the barnes in my armes, he skirlis for impatiencie. 1785 BURNS *Halloween* vi, He grippet Nelly hard an' fast; Loud skirl'd a' the lasses. 1818 SCOTT *Br. Lamm.* xi, Stay where ye are, and skirl as loud as ye can. 1889 BARRIE *Window in Thrums* xi. 100 The women-folk fair skirled wi' fear.

b. Of the bagpipe (or its music): To produce the shrill sounds by which it is characterized; to sound shrilly.

a 1665 R. SEMPILL *Piper of Kilbarchan* 44 He gart his pipe, when he did play, Baith skirl and skreed. 1791 BURNS *Tam o' Shanter* 123 He screw'd the pipes and gart them skirl, Till roof and rafters a' did dirl. 1873 BLACK *Pr. of Thule* iv, The wild and ominous air that was skirling upon the hill-side.

c. Of other inanimate things.

1827 SCOTT *Chron. Canongate* iv, On the painted board that is skirling and groaning at the door. 1891 BARRIE *Little Minister* iii, Blasts from the north..skirled through the manse. 1894 CROCKETT *Raiders* 388 It was comfortable too at meal-times to hear the bacon skirling in the pan.

2. To play the bagpipe.

1828 MOIR *Mansie Wauch* ii, Three fiddlers..and a piper ..all skirling, scraping and bumming away throughither. 1879 C. KEENE *Let.* in *Life* x. (1892) 296 [He] had a sort of piper skirling away in his garden.

3. *trans.* To sing, utter, play, etc., in loud and shrill tones.

1786 BURNS *Ordination* iii, O' double verse come gie us four, An' skirl up the Bangor. 1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* xvii, If he suld hear her skirling her auld ends o' sangs. 1844 W. H. MAXWELL *Sports & Adv. Scotl.* I. (1855) 23 His piper 'skirling a gathering'.

b. To cause (the bagpipe) to sound shrilly.

1885 G. FRASER *Poems* 219 Pate Clauchan o' this toon, Wha skirled his pipes.

Skirl (skɔ̄rl), *v.*[2] [Of obscure origin; also current in northern dial. as *scurl.*] *intr.* To fly with a sweeping or whirling motion.

1859 H. KINGSLEY *G. Hamlyn* xxxi, A pretty white curlew skirled over the housetop to settle on the sheepwash dam. 1869 *Daily News* 18 Aug., Butterflies white, butterflies blue, are on all sides trooping and skirling in the shine.

Ski·rling, *sb. local.* Also **scar-, scur-, skerling.** [Of obscure origin.] A young salmon; a samlet, sparling.

1776 PENNANT *Brit. Zool.* (ed. 2) III. 266 [Samlets] are also common in the Wye, where they are known by the name of Skirlings, or Lasprings. 1801 W. COXE *Tour Monmouth.* i. 2 The only fish not common in the English rivers, are the skerling and the sewin. 1844 *Zoologist* II. 527 *note*, Scarling or scurling,..smolt, &c. all denote the same fish. 1891 *Fishing Gaz.* 14 Feb. 88/3 The Severn Board of Conservators have successfully prosecuted those found with these skirling in their possession.

Ski·rling, *vbl. sb.* [f. SKIRL *v.*[1]] Shrill crying, shrieking, etc.

1820 SCOTT *Monast.* xxx, She could find voice enough to tell the women and children without, to 'leave their skirling, and look after the cows'. 1855 [ROBINSON] *Whitby Gloss.* s. v. *Skerl*, The skirling of the sea-gulls is said to be the forerunner of a gale. 1893 STEVENSON *Catriona* v. 53 It heartens me..like the skirling of the Highland pipes.

Ski·rling, *ppl. a.* [f. SKIRL *v.*[1]] Crying or sounding shrilly, screaming, etc.

1785 BURNS *Scotch Drink* xii, When skirlin weanies see the light. 1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* xvi, Haud your tongue, ye skirling limmer! 1819 — *Leg. Montrose* iii, Their damnable skirlin' pipes. 1894 *Field* 1 Dec. 828/1 The skirling cry of the snipe.

† Skirm, *sb. Obs. rare.* [f. the vb. Cf. F. *escrime*, OF. *escremie, eskermie*, etc.] Movement as in fencing or fighting; skirmish.

c 1400 *Destr. Troy* 13541 Thus I skope fro Þe skathe with skyrme of my hondes. 1534 *Primer in Englisk* F v, Syr, lo: here are two swerdes, thynk ye not these two be sufficient for this scyrme.

† Skirm, *v. Obs.* Forms: 3 **scurmen,** 3–4 **skirmen,** 4 **skyrmen**; 3 **scerem-, schirme,** 4–5 **skirme,** 4 **sckyrme,** 5 **skyrme.** [ad. OF. *eskirmir, eskermir, eschermir*, etc. (also *escremir*: see SKRIM *v.*), f. OHG. *skirman, scirman* (G. *schirmen*) to defend, f. *scirm, scerm* shield, defence. Cf. SKIRMISH *v.*]

1. *intr.* To fence, to skirmish.

c 1205 LAY. 8144 Þeos tweien cnihtes bi-gunnen mid sceldes to scurmen. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 212 Þe wreðfule biuoren Þe useonde skirmeð mid kniues. *c* 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 4745 Oþer bachelers skirmede faste, Wrastlede, lepen, stones caste. *c* 1380 *Sir Ferumb.* 2227 Somme for to sckyrme asay with swerd & bokelere. *c* 1430 *Pilgr. Lyf Manhode* II. cxxi. (1869) 120 Now I wole telle of the staf;.. I skirme therwith and defende me. ?*c* 1450 HOLLAND *Houlat* 67 (Bann. MS.), Sum bird will bay at my beke,..sum skyrme at myn e.

b. *trans.* To engage with (one) in fight. *rare*[−1].

c 1400 *Destr. Troy* 13601 Þow has britnet my brether..; And now Aschatus with skath wold skirme to Þe deth.

2. *intr.* To dart about, move rapidly.

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 483 Ho skyrmez vnder skwe & skowtez aboute, Tyl hit was nyȝe at Þe nazt. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 12500 Hit skirmyt in the skewes with a skyre low.

Hence **Ski·rming** *vbl. sb.*

In *Wars Alex.* 5157 the form *skirmand* prob. stands for *skremand* screaming.

c 1275 LAY. 8144 Þeos twei cnihtes bi-gonnen to sceremigge [*read* -inge]. *a* 1300 *Havelok* 2323 Buttinge with sharpe speres, Skirming with taleuaces þat men beres. 13.. *K. Alis.* 672 (Laud MS.), Now can Alisaundre of skirmyng, As of stedes derayeyng.

†**Ski·rmery.** *Obs. rare.* [ad. OF. **eskirmerie* (var. of *escrimerie*), f. *eskirmir*; see prec.] Skirmishing, fencing.

c 1450 *Merlin* xxi. 368 The kynge Bohors, that moche cowde of skirmerie, resceyved the stroke on his shelde. *Ibid.* xxviii. 571 Dodinell caste a stroke of skirmerye to monevall.

Ski·rmish (skɜ̄·rmiʃ), *sb.* Forms: α. 4 **skarmuch**, 4, 6 **-moch**, 5 **-moche**, **-masche**, 6 **-musch(e**, **-mouch**; 4 **scharmoch**, **-mus**; 5 **scarmuche**, **-musche**, **-musshe**, 6 **-muss**, **-mouch(e**, **-moge**; 6 **skaramouche**, **scaramoche**, **-moshe**. β. 4–5 **skarmich**, 4 **-myssh**, 6 **-mische**; 4 **scarmich**, **-mych(e**, 5 **-mysshe**. γ. 4–6 **skyrmysshe**, 5–6 **-mysh**, 6 **-myshe**, **-mish**; 4–6 **skirmysshe** (5 **scir-**, 6 **schyr-**), 6 **-mysche**, **-mishe**, 6– **skirmish**; 5 **skermyshe**, 6 **-mysche**, 7 **-mish**. δ. 6 **skyrmosh**, **skyr-**, **skirmush**. ε. 5–6 **skermyche**; 6 **scir-**, 6–7 **skirmige**, 8–9 *dial.* **-idge**; 6 **scir-**, 6–7 **skirmage**. [The earlier forms are ad. OF. *escar(a)moche*, *-muche*, *-musche*, etc., ad. It. *scaramuccia* (cf. Sp. *escaramuza*, Pg. *-muça*), of doubtful origin. The later forms *scar-*, *sker-*, *skirmish* (cf. SCRIMISH *sb.*) have been influenced by those forms of the vb. which are derived from OF. *eskirmiss-*; with the obsolete variants of these in *-iche*, *-ige*, *-age*, cf. SCRIMMAGE *sb.* and the forms of RUBBISH.]

1. An irregular engagement between two small bodies of troops, esp. detached or outlying portions of opposing armies; a petty fight or encounter. Also occas. without article, as a mode of fighting.

α. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 1186 Þenne was þe sege sette þe Cete aboute, Skete skarmoch skelt. *c* 1374 CHAUCER *Troylus* II. 934 (Campsall MS.), Now late..we oure tales holde Of Troylus þat is to palays ryden Fro þe skarmuch. *c* 1475 *Hart. Contin. Higden* (Rolls) VIII. 533 They..made there many skarmuches. 1481 CAXTON *Godfrey* cliv. 228 And there was the skarmoche grete & fiers. 1562 J. SHUTE tr. *Cambini's Turk. Wars* 33 They helde them contynually occupied..with scaramoshes, alarmes, and false assaultes. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* II. vi. 34 Not this rude kind of battell, nor these armes Are meet,..Such cruell game my scarmoges disarmes. 1601 J. CHAMBERLAIN *Lett.* (Camden) 115 Slaine there with a shot in an obscure scarmouch.

β. *c* 1374 CHAUCER *Troylus* II. 611 Ascry aros at skarmyssh [*v.r.* scarmich] al with oute. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* xx. Title, Of.. Skarmiches Lastyng xxx dayes Betwene the Towne & the tenttes. 1489 CAXTON *Faytes of A.* I. xxiv. 75 To haue them fyrst at a scarmysshe ayenst the aduersaryes.

γ. *c* 1400 *Brut* ccxxxiv. 324 Pryns Edward,..with sore skyrmisshes & fightyng and grete assautes, fought with hem. *c* 1440 *Partonope* 911 To profer Skyrmyssh to this Castell. *a* 1513 FABYAN *Chron.* v. cxviii. (1811) 94 By dayly skyrmysshes & assautes he loste moche of his people. 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 267 b, The Prince..had offered them the skermysche with the light horsemen. 1592 KYD *Sp. Trag.* I. ii, While they maintaine hot skirmish too and fro, Both battailes ioyne. 1688 J. S. *Art of War* 2 Distances for intire Doublings or Skermishes between rank and file is 3 foot. 1761 HUME *Hist. Eng.* (1806) IV. lv. 276 In many counties, where the people were divided, mobbish combats and skirmishes ensued. 1810 WELLINGTON in Gurw. *Desp.* (1837) VI. 496 Our cavalry had a skirmish with the enemy..in which they had the advantage. 1874 GREEN *Short Hist.* iii. § 5. 141 At this critical moment..the Earl fell in an Irish skirmish.

δ. 1514 in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* Ser. II. I. 313 Who hathe had manye skyrmoshys withe hyme. 1560 WHITEHORNE *Ord. Souldiours* (1588) 352 Yᵉ assaultes..which be called skirmushes be eastlie withstood.

ε. 1556 *Chron. Grey Friars* (Camden) 45 Thys yere..was a grete skermyche in the north abowte Carlelle. 1567 DRANT *Hor. Ep.* I. i. B viij, The valiant man of warre May ..liue at lengthe a parte from scirmage farre. 1581 RICHE *Farew.* (1846) 8 The orders of sondrie battailes, and the maner of skirmiges. 1623 in Foster *Eng. Factories Ind.* (1908) II. 240 In the heate of scermadge. 1680 C. NESS *Ch. Hist.* 96 Save onely two poor spirts, or small skirmages. *c* 1746 J. COLLIER (Tim Bobbin) *View Lanc. Dial.* Wks. (1775) 46 While the Skirmidge lastut. *a* 1825 FORBY *Voc. E. Anglia* 305 *Skirmidge*, a skirmish. 1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss.*

†**2.** A body of skirmishers. *Obs.*

1562 J. SHUTE tr. *Cambini's Turk. Wars* 23 b, Minutius forthwith sent forthe his lighte armed men and attacked the scaramoche.

3. *transf.* a. Any contest or encounter.

1576 FLEMING *Panopl. Epist.* 43 Bitter bruntes and shrewde skyrmishes of aduersitie. 1599 SHAKS. *Much Ado* I. i. 64 They neuer meet, but there's a skirmish of wit between them. 1615 G. SANDYS *Trav.* 58 Incountring still in loues sweete skirmiges. 1690 C. NESS *Hist. O. & N. Test.* I. 300 His violent wrestling was not..a short skirmish of a few day-hours. 1724 DE FOE *Mem. Cavalier* (1840) 74, I had a new skirmish with him whose the money should be. 1823 LAMB *Elia* II. *Poor Relations*, Many and hot were the skirmishes on this topic. 1853 KANE *Grinnell Exp.* I. (1856) 472 In two days more, after a closing skirmish with the ice-pack, we headed homeward.

b. An action or proceeding of a slight character; a slight display *of* something.

1651 N. BACON *Disc. Govt. Eng.* II. xxvi. (1739) 114 By light skirmishes of borrowing smaller sums of money,..and paying them again, thereby to gain credit for greater sums. 1681 FLAVEL *Right. Man's Ref.* 166 The fury of his anger, not some light skirmish of his judgment.

c. A scamper, scramble.

1835 T. ARNOLD in *Life & Corr.* (1844) I. vii. 428, I never have regarded a regular walk along a road..as exercise... A skirmish over the country is a very different thing.

4. *attrib.*, as *skirmish-drill*, *-line*.

1868 UPTON *Inf. Tactics* § 638 In the skirmish-drill the officers..will constantly aim to impress each man with the idea of his individuality. 1876 *N. Amer. Rev.* CXXIII. 241 The wonderful exploits on the skirmish-line and at the outposts.

Skirmish (skɜ̄·rmiʃ), *v.* Forms: α. 5 **scarmuche**, **-mushe**, 5–6 **-musshe**, 6 **-musch**, **-mush**, **-muss**, **-mosh**; **skarmuss**. β. 5–6 **scarmysshe**, 5 **-myshe**, **-mish**, 6 **-missh**, **-mesh**; 5 **scarmiss**, **-mys**; 5 **skarmysshe**, 6 **-misch**, **-mis**. γ. 5 **scermish**, 5–6 **skyrmysshe**, 6 **-myshe**, **-mish**, **skirmishe**, **-misch**, 6– **skirmish** (7 **scir-**). δ. 6 **skyrmyche**, 9 *dial.* **-mage**. [The α-forms are ad. OF. *escar(a)mucher*, *-mucier*, ad. It. *scaramucciare* (cf. Sp. *escaramuzar*, Pg. *-muçar*), f. *scaramuccia*: see prec. The forms in *-ish* are influenced by, or directly based on, OF. *eskirmiss-*, *eskermiss-*, the lengthened stem of *eskermir*, etc.: see SKIRM *v.*]

1. *intr.* To engage in a skirmish or irregular encounter; to fight in small parties. Freq. const. *with*.

α. *c* 1470 *Contin. Brut* cclix. 528 Þe Duke..gat peple to him, which come out & scarmusshed [1482 *Caxton* scarmuched] with þame of Caleys. 1562 J. SHUTE tr. *Cambini's Turk. Wars* 33 They salied forth daiely and scaramoshed with them. 1598 BARRET *Theor. Wars* III. ii. 46 Any part of shot or pikes..set to defend any straight, or to scarmush.

β. *c* 1420 *Chron. Vilod.* 282 Þus men bygonne & scarmyeshute fast, þe twey hostes bothe y-fere. *c* 1475 *Partenay* 2079 On a day he went, to scarmish with thaim.

γ. *a* 1513 FABYAN *Chron.* VII. (1811) 512 He..issuyd boldly agayne yᵉ foresayd persones and skyrmysshed with them. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. IV*, 21 Thei with light horses began to skirmishe with his hoste. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* II. 141 Sir John Barkeley..skirmishing with them, killed some dead in the place. 1683 *Brit. Spec.* 88 Next Morning the Britains..skirmished with the Roman Horse. 1796 MORSE *Amer. Geogr.* I. 123 Thence to Acomac, where he skirmished with some Indians. 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xv. III. 607 Some of his ships should skirmish with the enemy: but the great body of his fleet should not be risked.

δ. 1530 PALSGR. 720/1 They dyd skyrmyche togyther syxe dayes or ever the batayles joyned. 1841 HARTSHORNE *Salop. Ant.* Gloss., *Skirmage*, to skirmish.

b. In fig. uses or contexts.

1587 TURBERV. *Trag. Tales* 17 Bebrusht with bryers her broosed body bled, The brambles skirmishte had with every vayne. 1602 WERVER *Mirr. Mart.* A viij b, But inward Senses skirmish in the night. 1648 CRASHAW *Delights of Muses* 20 Awakes his Lute,..and ere the warre begin, He lightly skirmishes on every string. 1752 JOHNSON *Rambler* No. 96 P 11 [Falsehood] sometimes waited the attack; but always endeavoured to skirmish at a distance. 1886 GLADSTONE in *Times* 9 Apr. 5/5 We should no longer fence or skirmish with this question...We should come to close quarters with it.

†**2.** To fence; to make flourishes with a weapon.

1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) IV. 399 Þan Nero made oon skirmysshe above Seneca his heed with a brygbt sword. *c* 1450 *Merlin* xxxii. 648 He myght not se where to smyte, and be-gan to scarmyshe and to grope a-boute hym with his staffe. 1582 N. LICHEFIELD tr. *Castanheda's Conq. E. Ind.* I. vii. 18 b, Then were in sight the number of twentie Moores skirmishing with their dartes. 1763 J. BROWN *Poet. & Music* xxxvi. 97 After skirmishing for some time with their Swords, one of them (as wounded) fell down.

†**3.** *trans.* To engage or attack (an enemy) in or with a skirmish. Also *fig.* *Obs.*

c 1500 *Melusine* 273 Yonder is the kyng vryan.., that scarmyssheth theire nauye. *a* 1578 LINDESAY (Pitscottie) *Chron. Scot.* (S.T.S.) II. 109 They..fell to the Inglischemen, and skirmischit thame so haitlie that they caussit thame reteir. 1599 HAKLUYT *Voy.* II. I. 83 The great quantity of artillery ..skirmished them so well [etc.]. 1679 ALSOP *Melius Inq.* II. iii. 245 To war with God or skirmish the Scripture is no approved method to secure Peace.

†**b.** *fig.* To win by skirmish. *Obs.*—1

a 1797 WALPOLE *Geo. II* (1847) II. viii. 271 Fox even skirmished his borough from Dr. Hay.

Skirmisher (skɜ̄·rmiʃəɹ). [f. prec. + -ER.] One of a number of soldiers taking part in a skirmish or acting in loose order apart from the main body of an army or battalion.

1565 COOPER *Thesaurus*, *Excursor*, a skirmishar. 1579 DIGGES *Stratiot.* 156 That his Skirmishers and light armed be beaten in. 1622 PEACHAM *Compl. Gentl.* xx. (1634) 246 If this be exactly done the Skirmishers will never be above the length of one File behind the body of your Pikes. 1642 FULLER *Holy & Prof. St.* IV. xvii. 329 Skirmishers are scouts for the discovery of the strength of an army, before battel be given. 1799 *Cavalry Instr.* (1813) 269 Skirmishers are to be very attentive..in instantly obeying the signals made for their direction. 1844 H. H. WILSON *Brit. India* III. 199 A detachment of whom..were employed as skirmishers and marksmen. 1875 KINGLAKE *Crimea* V. ii. 382 Our skirmishers gained the edge of the bank.

b. *transf.* and *fig.* Something sent out in advance.

1820 SCOTT *Monast.* Introd. Ep., As you usually throw out a few lines of verse (by way of skirmishers, I suppose) at the head of each division of prose. 1890 *Pall Mall G.* 18 Jan. 1/3 We have four advertising cars, which go one, two, three and four weeks ahead. These we call 'skirmishers'.

Skirmishing (skɜ̄·rmiʃiŋ), *vbl. sb.* Forms: (see the vb.). [f. SKIRMISH *v.*] The action of engaging, or taking part, in a skirmish or skirmishes.

α. β. *c* 1385 CHAUCER *L. G. W.* 1910 *Ariadne*, So hyt happed, that at a skarmysshynge [*v.r.* scarmuchyng, etc.], She caste hir hert vpon Mynos the kynge. 1489 CAXTON *Faytes of A.* I. xviii. 54 Whan prisouners be taken in scarmyshyng or otherwyse. *c* 1500 *Melusine* 131 Thenne bygan the scarmusshing strong & grete and moche mortal. 1533 BELLENDEN *Livy* I. xx. (S. T. S.) I. 116 The fulich gabynis ..straik sindri small skarmischingis and batallis aganis þe romanis. *a* 1600 *Hist. Jas. VI* (Bann. Cl.) 128 He fell in the hands of the said capten efter a light scarmeshing.

γ. 1592 *Soliman & Pers.* IV. i, The self same musick that in auncient daies Brought Alexander..from skirmishing to kissing. 1603 KNOLLES *Hist. Turks* (1638) 180 Wearied with the heat of the day and long skirmishing. 1724 DE FOE *Mem. Cavalier* (1840) 259 An infinite number of party skirmishings..happened. 1839 JAMES *Louis XIV*, I. 307 Merely the skirmishing of light troops before the commencement of a general battle. 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xiii. III. 333 Mackay, meanwhile, wasted some weeks..in indecisive skirmishing.

attrib. 1858 BROCK *Havelock* xiii. 210 Advance was made in skirmishing order on the entrenched quadrangles.

fig. 1656 *Artif. Handsom.* 42 Which are but light skirmishings, and not serious contendings in matters of Religion. 1687 in *Magd. Coll. Collect.* (O. H. S.) 166 All this was but skirmishing in respect of what was done on Saturday. 1864 BOWEN *Logic* x. 338 Little is to be hoped for from the skirmishings..and desultory movements of the intellect.

Skirmishing (skɜ̄·rmiʃiŋ), *ppl. a.* [f. as prec.] Engaging in a skirmish or skirmishes; designed for skirmishing.

1781 in Simes *Milit. Guide* (ed. 3) 8 [The Adjutant-general] gives and signs all the orders for skirmishing parties. 1799 *Cavalry Instr.* (1813) 269 Skirmishing detachments are usually made of a flank division or subdivision. 1873 TRISTRAM *Moab* i. 9 The wild fellows were thrown out on all sides, and formed a skirmishing front all the way.

Hence **Ski·rmishingly** *adv.*, in a skirmishing manner.

1848 DICKENS *Dombey* xxxv, The upholsterer's foreman.. skirmishingly measuring expensive objects. 1889 *Chamb. Jrnl.* 5 Oct. 638/1 What loading-up he did was very skirmishingly effected from the rear.

Skirp, *v. rare.* Now *Sc.* [a. ON. *skirpa* (also Icel. and MSw.), to spit.]

†**1. a.** *intr.* To behave with contempt. **b.** *trans.* To mock, deride. (Cf. SCRIP *v.*²) *Obs. rare.*

c 1200 ORMIN 7393 3iff þe33 herenn ohht off Godd, & skirrpenn þær onnȝæness. *Ibid.* 7389. ?*c* 1450 HOLLAND *Howlat* 67 (Bann. MS.), Sum bird will..skirp me with scorne.

2. *trans.* To splash up on; to bespatter.

1871 W. ALEXANDER *Johnny Gibb* (1873) 18 The boat rising up and down on its very ends, and leaning over till the spray actually 'skirpit' her face.

Skirr (skɜ̄ɹ), *sb.* Also **scurr**, **skurr**. [f. the vb.] A sound of a grating, rasping, or whirring character.

c 1870 M. CLARKE in *Mem. Vol.* (1884) 127 How many nights in that humble shelter have I listened to the skirr of the wild cats. 1874 T. HARDY *Far fr. Mad. Crowd* I. xx. 219 The scurr of whetting [*sc.* shears] spread into the sky. 1887 — *Woodlanders* III. ii. 44 The occasional skirr of a halter in Melbury's stables.

Skirr (skɜ̄ɹ), *v.* Forms: *a.* 6 **skyr**, 6–7, 9– **skir**, 7 **skirre**, 7, 9– **skirr**; 6, 9 *dial.* **sker**. β. 7, 9 **scur** (9 *dial.* **skur**), 9 **scurr**. [Of doubtful origin; the form *scur* could represent OF. *escorre*, *escourre*:—L. *excurrĕre*, but the existing evidence indicates the priority of *skir*.]

1. *intr.* To run hastily (*away*); to flee, make off; = SCOUR *v.*¹ 1 c.

α. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Rich. III*, 54 b, Your..bragging adversaries..wil flee, ronne, & skyr out of the felde. 1599 SHAKS. *Hen. V*, IV. vii. 64 We will come to them, And make them sker away. 1602 *Life Ld. Cromwell* III. ii, So many battles have I overpass'd And made the French skir when they heard my name.

β. 1887 CAINE *Deemster* xxxvii, From their confusion in scurring away, I knew that the sheep had indeed been there.

2. To move, run, fly, sail, etc., rapidly or with great impetus. Sometimes implying a whirring sound accompanying the movement. Usu. const. with advs. or preps.

α. 1567 TURBERV. *Epit.*, etc. 7 Let Zeuxis Grapes not make him proude at all, Though Fowles for them did skyr against a wall. *a* 1656 USSHER *Ann.* (1658) 315 Seleucus with an hundred ships,..in a scornful manner, skirred along under the noses of them. 1674 tr. *Scheffer's Lapland* 5 From their skirring along, or gliding upon the snow. 1827 J. F. COOPER *Prairie* II. xii. 198 Suddenly one of the.. most ferocious of them all broke out of the ring, and skirred away in the direction of her victims. 1872 BLACKIE *Lays Highl.* 113 The black-maned clouds, like Furies on the wing, Skir past.

β. *a* 1626 BEAUM. & FL. *Bonduca* I. i, The light shadows, That in a thought scur o'r the fields of Corn. 1842 BORROW *Bible in Spain* xxii, The animal, who was scurring over the field,..instantly returned. 1866 *Reader* 17 Feb. 173/1 A picture..of the wind and the rain, as the first scurs at its fiercest speed.

b. *dial.* To slide or skate swiftly.

1811 WILLAN in *Archæologia* XVII. 158 *Sker*, to slide swiftly, to skait. 1825– in dial. glossaries (Northumb., Lancs., Devon, Cornwall).

3. *trans.* To pass or go rapidly over (a stretch of land or water), esp. in search of something or some one. (Cf. SCOUR *v.*¹ 2.) †Also, to ride rapidly *through*.

1605 SHAKS. *Mach.* V. iii. 35 Send out moe Horses, skirre the Country round. *a* 1625 FLETCHER *Love's Cure* II. ii, Whil'st I with that, and this well mounted, scurr'd A Horse-troope through, and through. 1816 BYRON *Siege Corinth* xxii, Mount ye, spur ye, skirr the plain, That the fugitive may flee in vain. 1826 SCOTT *Kelly's Reminisc.* Misc. Wks.

1870 XX. 234 An adventurous little schooner of this kind skirring the coast in search of its own peculiar objects. 1877 BLACKMORE *Cripps* ii, The broader puddles, though skirred by the breeze, found the network of ice veiling over them.
fig. 1821 BYRON *Cain* III. i. 64, I had..skirr'd extinguish'd worlds; And, gazing on eternity, methought [etc.].

4. To throw with a rapid skimming motion. Cf. SKEER *v.*[1]

a 1652 BROME *Mad Couple* I. i, None dare venture so neare you as a Man hurles a Die or Skirrs a Card. 18.. in *Eng. Dial. Dict.* s.v., 'See me skirr this stone.' A word used only..in connection with this boyish test of skill. 1894 BLACKMORE *Perlycross* xxxv. 358 Polwarth..skirred his flat hat into the middle of the sawdust.

Hence **Ski·rring** *ppl. a.*

1573 TWYNE *Æneid* XII. Mm ij b, As the swallow..With tendre houeringe winges her skirringe flight swift forward takes. 1827 J. WILSON *Noct. Ambr.* Wks. 1855 I. 277 *North.* Have you had any snow yet James, in the forest? *Shepherd.* Only some skirrin sleets.

Skirret[1] (ski·rit). Forms: α. 4 **skyrwate**, 5–6 **skyrwyt** (5 **-wytte**, **skerwyth**, **scyrwyȝth**, **schirewyt**), 6 **skyrwit**; 4 **skirwhite**, 4–5 **-whit**, 5–7 **-wit**, 6 **-wike**, 7 **-wicke**. β. 6 **skyrwort**, **-wurt**, 6–8 **skirwort**, 6 **-wurt**, 7 **-wirt**; 7 **skir(r)iwort**. γ. 6 **skyrrit**, 6– **skirret** (6 **skiret**), 7 **skirrot**; 7 **skerret**, 8 **-ett**, **-it**. [ME. *skirwhit(e*, app. an alteration by popular etymology (? simulating *skire white* pure white) of OF. *eschervis* (mod.F. *chervis*), which is closely related to Sp. *chirivia*, Pg. *cherivia*, and appears to be a variant of OF. *carvi* CARRAWAY. The later Eng. *skirret* is a natural development from *skirwhit*, while *skirwort* represents a further attempt to make the word intelligible.]

1. A perennial umbelliferous plant, *Sium sisarum*, a species of water parsnip, formerly much cultivated in Europe for its esculent tubers; the root of this plant.

In one or two 15th cent. glossaries *skyrwyt* renders L. *eruca*, prob. in error.

α. 1338 in Dugdale *Monasticon* (1846) II. 585/1 In flore, *jd.* In skirwhittes, *jd.* *a* 1387 *Sinon. Barthol.* (Anecd. Oxon.) 12 *Baucea*, skirwhit. *Ibid.* 33 *Pastinaca*, skirwhite. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 458/1 Skyrwyt, herbe or rote. 1530 PALSGR. 271/1 Skyrwyt, an herbe. 1579 LANGHAM *Gard. Health* (1633) 600 Skirwits: The roots boiled are good for the stomacke. 1639 HORN & ROB. *Gate Lang. Unl.* xii. § 126 The rape.., the navew, parsnip, carret, skirwit.

β. 1548 TURNER *Names Herbes* (E.D.S.) 74 Fuchsius rekoneth that our skyrwort or skyrwit is a kynde of siser. Persnepes and skirwortes are commune in Englande. 1578 LYTE *Dodoens* 605 Skirwurtes are hoate and drie in the seconde degree. 1611 SPEED *Theat. Gt. Brit.* xxxix. (1614) 78 Pomfret..brings forth liquorice and great plenty of skiriworts. 1725 *Fam. Dict.*, *Skirret* or *Skirwort.*

γ. 1573 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 94 Herbes and rootes for sallets and sauce...Skirrets. 1608 MACHIN *Dumbe Knight* I, Roasted potatoes, or boil'd skerrets, are your only lofty dishes. 1699 EVELYN *Acetaria* 64 Skirrets..exceedingly nourishing, wholsome and delicate. 1732 ARBUTHNOT *Rules of Diet* in *Aliments*, etc. I. 250 Skirrets, useful in bloody Urine, and Spitting of Blood. 1803 A. HUNTER *Georg. Ess.* I. 416 Half a pound of skirrets, an ounce and a half of pure sugar. 1855 DELAMER *Kitchen Gard.* (1861) 33 The Skirret. ..A native of China, with the root composed of fleshy tubers ..growing together something like a dahlia root.
attrib. 1840 AINSWORTH *Tower of London* (1864) 85 A skirret pasty; an apple tansy; and a prodigious marrow pudding.

b. With distinguishing terms, as *garden*, *wild*; also applied to other species of *Sium* (quot. 1796).

c 1450 *Alphita* (Anecd. Oxon.) 30 *Carui agreste*, wyldeschirewyt. 1580 HOLLYBAND *Treas. Fr. Tong*, *Chervis sauvages*, wild Skirwike. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* II. 41 To come more particularly to the garden Skirwort. 1713 *Phil. Trans.* XXVIII. 42 Garden Skirrets. 1796 WITHERING *Brit. Pl.* (ed. 3) II. 299 *Sium latifolium*.., Broad-leaved Skerrett. Great Water Parsnep. *Ibid.*, *S. angustifolium*.., Upright Water Parsnep. Narrow-leaved Skerret.

† **c.** *Skirret of Peru*, the potato. *Obs.*

1597 GERARDE *Herbal* II. cccxxxiv. 780 This plant which is called of some *Sisarum Peruuianum*, or Skyrrits of Peru, is generally of vs called Potatus or Potatoes.

2. *Skirret-root*, the edible root of the plant *Sium sisarum*, or, more frequently, the plant itself.

1565 COOPER *Thesaurus* s.v. *Siser*, One kinde of it is the roote that is called Skirwike rootes. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* XIX. v. II. 18 The Skirwirt root or white Parsnip, (which indeed would be written among other Physicke plants). 1655 MOUFET & BENNET *Health's Improv.* (1746) 326 Skirret-roots were so sweet and delicate in ancient times, that [etc.]. 1736 AINSWORTH II, *Siser*,..the skirret root.

Ski·rret[2]. *Freemasonry.* (See quots.)

1853 G. OLIVER *Dict. Symb. Masonry* 339 The skirret acting on a centre pin is used to mark out the ground of a new building. As the skirret has a chalked line attached to it [etc.]. 1877 K. R. H. MACKENZIE *Roy. Masonic Cycl.* 677 *Skirret.*—One of the working tools of a Master Mason. It is an instrument usually made of wood, shaped like the letter T, acting on a centre-pin.

Skirrh, var. SCIRRHE *Obs.* **Skirr(h)ous**, obs. ff. SCIRRHOUS *a.* **Skirring**, *ppl. a.*: see SKIRR *v.* **Skirry**, var. SCURRY *v.* (Cf. SKIRR *v.*)

1869 'OUIDA' *Tricotrin* I. 260 She is no more dead than that mouse that skirries over the floor.

Skirt (skɜːɹt), *sb.* Forms: 4–7 **skirte** (6 **-the**, 7 **scirte**), 4– **skirt** (6 **schirt**, 7 **skeart**); 4–6 **skyrte** (5 **-tte**, **scyrtte**), 5–6 **skyrt**; 5–6 **skurte**, 8 **scurt**; 6 **skort**. [a. ON. *skyrta* (Icel. *skyrta*, Norw. *skjørte*, *sjorte*, *sjurte*; MSw. *skiurta*, *skiorta*, Sw. *skjorta*, Da. *skjorte*) shirt, = OE. *scyrte*: see SHIRT *sb.* The development of the Eng. sense is obscure, but the corresponding LG. *schört* has in some districts the sense of 'woman's gown'.]

I. 1. The lower part of a woman's dress or gown, covering the person from the waist downwards; also, esp. in modern use, a separate outer garment serving this purpose. † In ME. occas. = LAP *sb.* 4 b.

Divided skirt, a form of skirt divided in the middle and presenting the appearance of full knickerbockers; also, a skirt made in two widths and open back and front, used in riding or cycling.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 8963 Sco lift hir skirt wit-vten scurn, And bar-fote wode sco þat burn. *c* 1440 *Gesta Rom.* xlvi. 188 (Add. MS.), The woman..toke his hede into her skirthe, and he began strongely for to slepe. *c* 1440 *Alph. Tales* 398 When þe childe was born it was broght & layd in hur skurte. 1535 COVERDALE *Lam.* i. 9 Ierusalem synned euer more & more... Hir skyrtes are defyled, she remembred not what wolde folowe. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* II. ix. 37 In a long purple pall, whose skirt with gold Was fretted all about, she was arayd. *a* 1625 BEAUM. & FL. *Two Noble Kinsmen* II. ii, This is a pretty colour, wi'lt not do Rarely upon a skirt, wench? 1670 in *12th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. V. 21 Upon the Queene's Birthday most wore embraudered bodys with plaine black skirts of Morella Mohair and Prunella. 1845 S. JUDD *Margaret* I. xiv, She put on her white muslin tunic and pink skirt. 1890 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 2 Sept. 7/1 A divided skirt..is the clumsiest..article that a woman can put on. 1899 CONAN DOYLE *Duet* (1909) 105/2 With a swift rustle of skirts, she was between the door and his chair.
fig. 1857 W. T. MATSON *Resurgam* Poems (1858) 142 When Darkness gathers up the skirts of gloom.

b. A woman; *the skirt*, women collectively. Now *slang.*

1560 ROLLAND *Seven Sages* 52 Now thow thy tale hes tauld,..Bot not gottin thow wald, licht skirt for all thy skippis. 1899 HYNE *Further Adv. Capt. Kettle* xii. 298 If any of you rats of men shove your way down here.. before all the skirt is ferried across [etc.].

2. The lower part of a man's gown or robe. Now chiefly *Hist.* or with reference to Eastern countries.

c 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 7884 Þe kyng.. anon vp stirt, Bot Hengist laughtym by þe skirt, & held hym as stille as ston. 13.. *Gaw. & Gr. Knt.* 865 [A robe] þat sete on hym semly, wyth saylande skyrtez. ? *a* 1400 *Morte Arth.* 3473 Many schredys and schragges at his skyrttes hynnges. *c* 1440 *Alph. Tales* 65 He grapid in his bosom & fand xij d of gold, & he keste þaim in þis wude preste skyrte. 1535 COVERDALE *Ps.* cxxxii[i]. 2 It..ranne downe vnto the beerd,..& wente downe to the skyrtes of his clothinge. 1598 BP. HALL *Sat.* IV. i, Or wilie Cyppus, that can winke and snort Whiles his wife dallyes on Mæcenas skort. 1784 COWPER *Task* II. 822 In the skirts Of the rob'd pedagogue. 1797 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Italian* vii, I saw the skirts of his garments ascending up those steps in the rock. 1841 LANE *Arab. Nts.* I. 105 He stretched forth his hand, and lifted up the skirts of his clothing.
fig. 1884 *Fortn. Rev.* June 754 He proudly lifts his skirts lest they should trail in the mire of antiquated Conservatism.

b. The bottom, lower portion, or tail of a coat or similar garment. Chiefly *pl.*

1598 SHAKS. *Merry W.* I. i. 29 If he ha's a quarter of your coat, there is but three Skirts for your selfe. 1632 J. HAYWARD tr. *Biondi's Eromena* 92 Because he could not come to kisse his hand, he reverently kissed the skirt of his armour. 1659-60 PEPYS *Diary* 1 Jan., I rose, put on my suit with great skirts, having not lately worn any other clothes but them. 1711 STEELE *Spectator* No. 145 ¶ 7 The Skirt of your [men's] fashionable Coats forms as large a Circumference as our Petticoats. 1802 JAMES *Milit. Dict.* s.v., The whole of the British army formerly wore skirts to their coats. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* xxiv, 'For God's sake, what is it?' Mr. Chopper said, catching the Captain by the skirt.

3. In various phrases, denoting close approach or adherence to some person or thing; in earlier use esp. *to sit on* (*upon* or *in*) *one's skirts*, to press hard upon one, to deal heavily with, to punish severely.

(*a*) 1546 HEYWOOD *Prov.* (1867) 10, I shall to reveng former hurtis..syt on theyr skurtis That erst sate on mine. 1577 STANYHURST *Descr. Irel.* in *Holinshed* (1808) VI. 32 They would not..forget nor forgive so horrible a murther, but were fullie resolved..to sit in their skirts. *c* 1630 BP. SANDERSON *Serm.* II. 271 Adversaries; who..might sit closer upon their skirts than formerly, and do them a shrewder turn for it another day. 1654 H. L'ESTRANGE *Chas. I* (1655) 184 Many began..to sit upon the Bishops skirts, that is, to controvert the motes and bounds of their authority. 1706 E. WARD *Wooden World Diss.* (1708) 12 He'll be sure to sit like Pitch on his Skirts. 1755 SMOLLETT *Quix.* II. III. xv. (1803) IV. 75 If my government holds,..I will sit upon the skirts of more than one of these men of business.
(*b*) 1579 G. HARVEY *Letter-bk.* (Camden) 67 To have everyon in continuall ielouzye lest he sitt over neere there schirtes. 1584 [see SIT *v.* 14 a]. 1809 MALKIN *Gil Blas* v. i. ¶ 65 A Sicilian gentleman..determined to stick in my skirts, and either ruin or marry me. 1813 *Examiner* 24 May 335/2 He..need not come skulking in under the skirt of a borough-monger. 1840 DICKENS *Old C. Shop* xxxvi, That amiable virgin, having clung to the skirts of the Law from her earliest youth. 1867 LONGF. *Dante, Inf.* xv. 40 Therefore go on; I at thy skirts will come.

II. 4. a. One of the flaps or lower portions of a saddle. Also *saddle skirt*, SADDLE *sb.* 10.

13.. *Gaw. & Gr. Knt.* 601 Þe apparayl of þe payttrure, & of þe proude skyrtez, Þe cropore, & þe couertor, acorded wyth þe arsounez. *c* 1450 *Merlin* xxxiii. 683 [He] smote the horse with the spores on bothe sides faste by the skirtes of his sadell, for his legges were so shorte. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 94/1 The Skirts, the covers of the side of the [saddle] tree, which are Fringed and wrought, and some-time plain. 1723 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 6136/3 A brown quilted Saddle marked J. H. on the near Side Skirts. 1736 CARTE *Life Ormonde* II. 13 This letter was sowen up in the skirt of a saddle. 1866 *Chambers's Encycl.* VIII. 415/1 A saddle consists of the wooden frame or saddle-tree, the skirts or padded under-flaps [etc.].

b. The rim or base of a bell or bee-hive.

1555 *Inv. Ch. Goods* (Surtees) 147 One lytle bell..being.. xxx[ti] ynces about the skyrtes. 1609 C. BUTLER *Fem. Mon.* iv. (1623) K ij, The Bees..otherwise might be prest to death betweene the two skirts. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 462/1 The Skirt, the bottom of the Bell. 1707 MORTIMER *Husb.* (1721) I. 275 Some reckon it better to place the Hive..into another, in a place that the skirts may be uppermost. 1736 BAILEY *Househ. Dict.* s.v. *Bees*, When you buy a new hive, try it..whether there be not a hollowness some where or other in the skirt.

c. The border, rim, outer portion, extremity, or tail-end of anything. Also *techn.* (see later quots.) and *fig.*

1566 in *Sidneiana* (Roxb.) 4 A Post-script by my Lady Sidney, in the skirts of my L. Presidents Letter. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* III. 174 Shasses, that is, striped linnen.. wound about the skirts of a little cap. 1642 FULLER *Holy & Prof. St.* v. xix. 436 Onely the skirts of their lungs were tainted. 1679 MOXON *Mech. Exerc.* ix. 169 *Skirts*, Projecting of the Eaves. 1725 E. W. *Amorous Bugbears* 18, I began to noch down my Observations upon the Skirts of my Memory. 1805 WORDSWORTH *Waggoner* III. 58 And to the waggon's skirts was tied The Creature. 1829 P. NICHOLSON in *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) VI. 237/2 In the seven diagrams [of roofs] here referred to, the side BC is supposed to be the skirt next to the wall. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2196/2 The skirt or external periphery of a mill-stone; *e.g.* from the eye to the skirt the leader-furrows run.

d. *Naut.* A side or leech of a sail.

1627 CAPT. SMITH *Seaman's Gram.* v. 23 The Leech of a saile is the outward side of a skirt of a saile. 1711 *Milit. & Sea Dict.* (ed. 4) s.v. *Brayls*, Brayls..are fasten'd to the Creengleys at the Skirt of the Sail. 1743 BULKELEY & CUMMINS *Voy. S. Seas* 119 We hoisted a skirt of the Main-sail, and edged further off. 1851 KIPPING *Sailmaking* (ed. 2) 4 In all quadrilateral sails..the sides, or skirts, are called the leeches.

5. A rim or border; an edging. *rare.*

1576 BAKER *Jewell of Health* 30 One of the vessels hath a skirte or edge, wythin which the other is receyved. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 325/2 By these Pincers two edges or Skirts of Lead are turned one over the other. 1713 ADDISON *Guard.* No. 118 ¶ 3 This consists of a narrow lace, or a small skirt of fine ruffled linnen, which runs along the upper part of the stays before.

6. The diaphragm or midriff of an animal, *esp.* as used for food.

[In the following quotation the sense is not clear:—1486 *Bk. St. Albans, Hunting* f iij b, Than shall ye kyt the skyrtis the teeth euen fro.]

1725 *Family Dict.* s.v. *Hog's Tongues*, Drain them a little, and having cut some Hog's Skirts, according to the Length of the Tongues, let every one be put into its Case, made of those Skirts. 1771 MRS. HAYWOOD *New Present for Maid* 18 Then the skirt and tripe. 1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* II. 241 The diaphragm or skirt is also cut off. 1868 *Daily News* 19 June, A considerable portion of the livers and skirts are purchased wholesale by retail dealers in low neighbourhoods. 1888 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Robbery under Arms* (1890) 121 We had a hearty breakfast off the 'skirt'.

b. (See quot. 1886.)

1881 *Dr. Gheist, An Autobiogr. fr. Midlands* 66 His menu is varied enough, and ranges from 'skirts of casalty mutton' up to the primest joints. 1886 ELWORTHY *W. Somerset Word-bk.* 674 *Skirts* or *Skirting.* Used by butchers. The trimmings or loose pieces taken off from the carcass after being 'dressed'. Also the loose pieces of wool mixed with dung on a fleece.

III. 7. The border, boundary, or outlying part *of* a territory, country, kingdom, etc. Chiefly in *pl.*

sing. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* v. 905 Rycht at the skyrt off Quenysbery befell,..Schir Jhone the Grayme [etc.]. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* 627 In the very utmost skirt of this Shire. 1847 TENNYSON *Princess* v. 210 Upon the skirt and fringe of our fair land.
pl. 1570-6 LAMBARDE *Peramb. Kent* (1826) 216 He and his sonnes abroade ransacked, herried, and spoiled, the skirts, and outsides of the whole shyre. 1592 *Soliman & Perseda* I. v, From the other skirts of Christendome Call home my Bassowes. 1615 G. SANDYS *Trav.* 139 They hang about the skirts of the habitable countries. 1708 J. CHAMBERLAYNE *St. Gt. Brit.* I. I. iii. (1710) 19 The Soil [is] not very fertile towards the middle, but rich in the Skirts. 1821 BYRON *Sardanap.* I. ii. 165 The far shores And skirts of these our realms. 1870 ROSSETTI *Poems* 31 Lilith stood on the skirts of Eden.

b. *pl.* The outskirts or outlying parts *of* a town or city; the suburbs. Also rarely *sing.*

1598 B. JONSON *Ev. Man in Hum.* IV. vii, As I haue walkt alone, in diuers skirts i' the towne, as Turne-bull, White-chappell, Shore-ditch. 1621 in Foster *Eng. Factories Ind.* (1906) I. 247 It proseeded estward unto the verye scirtes of the towne. 1673 RAY *Journ. Low C.* 72 Collen,..a free city...The middle part of it is well built of Stone.., the Skirts meaner and of Wood. 1728 BERKELEY *Wks.* (1871) IV. 149 Inquire in some other skirt or remote suburb. 1774 PENNANT *Tour Scotl. in 1772* 51 The Derwent washes the skirts of the town.

c. *pl.* The parts *of* an army furthest distant from the centre or main body; the edge, border, or fringe *of* a crowd, etc.

1533 BELLENDEN *Livy* II. xxv. (S.T.S.) I. 232 Þai saw..þe vtir skirtis of þare armye discomfist with grete slauchter. 1577-87 HOLINSHED *Chron.* I. 26/2 They would ride about the sides and skirts of the enemies host. 1600 HOLLAND *Livy* XL. xxxix. 1085 The charge was alreadie given in the utmost skirts of the armie. 1764 WESLEY *Jrnl.* 22 Apr., The skirts of the congregation could not hear. 1838 PRES-

cott *Ferd. & Is.* (1846) I. v. 237 Squadrons of light cavalry, hovering on the skirts of the Portuguese camp. 1894 Hall Caine *Manxman* VI. xix, An old fisherman on the skirts of the crowd.

8. The edge, margin, verge *of* a wood, lake, cloud, etc.; the foot or lower slopes *of* a mountain or hill.

sing. 1621 Cotgr. s.v. *Rive*, The skirt, edge, or side of a wood. 1632 Lithgow *Trav.* III. 86, I passed along the skirt of Mount Ida. 1719 De Foe *Crusoe* I. (Globe) 237, I came to the Skirt of the Wood. 1796 H. Hunter tr. *St.-Pierre's Stud. Nat.* (1799) II. 197 Seated under their shade on the skirt of a meadow. 1817 J. Bradbury *Trav. Amer.* 20 *note*, Colter..succeeded in gaining the skirt of the cotton wood trees. 1847 Grote *Greece* II. liii. (1862) IV. 438 Landing at the skirt of the island.

pl. 1598 Manwood *Lawes Forest* i. (1615) 19 Meeres and boundaries to know the Ring and uttermost Skirtes of the Forest by. 1608 Willet *Hexapla Exod.* 294 The people are forbidden to goe vp to the mountaine or to come neere the skirts of it. 1667 Milton *P. L.* XI. 878 To binde The fluid skirts of that same watrie Cloud. 1750 G. Hughes *Barbados* 69 Those which feed in the miry skirts of muddy ponds or rivers. 1789 J. Williams *Min. Kingd.* I. 142 The coals and coal metals trend away in a south-east direction to the skirts of the Moorfoot hills. 1839 De la Beche *Rep. Geol. Cornw.*, etc. iii. 93 Gray or brown argillaceous slates that range from the skirts of the granite. 1873 Hamerton *Intell. Life* I. iv. 26 After the first ten minutes on the skirts of the wood.

b. *Mining.* (See quot.)

1747 Hooson *Miner's Dict.* Pj, However, that which bounds and limits its [*i.e.* the vein's] breadth, we never call Sides but the Skirts, or Scurts.

9. In figurative use, after senses 7 and 8.

1629 Whitlock in Rushw. *Hist. Coll.* (1659) I. 688 Now we are but upon the brink and skirts of the Cause. 1648–9 *Eikon Bas.* 135 The differences are but the skirts and suburbs of Religion. 1820 Keats *Isabella* xxxix, I am a shadow now, alas! alas! Upon the skirts of human-nature dwelling. 1839 J. H. Newman *Par. Serm.* IV. xxiii. 383 It sees the skirts of powers and providences beyond this world.

b. The beginning or end *of* a period of time. Chiefly *pl.*

1624 B. Jonson *Neptune's Triumph* Wks. (Rtldg.) 642/2 To draw down a cup of nectar, in the skirts of a night. 1686 Goad *Celest. Bodies* II. ix. 285 Snow..may fall..on the Day, or upon the Skirts of the Day, upon the precise Aspect. 1823 Galt *R. Gilhaize* III. xxiv. 222 It was then the skirt of the afternoon. 1857 Heavysege *Saul* (1869) 55 Seven days I waited,—ay, till the skirts o' the term Had disappeared.

10. A tract or piece of land forming a border, edge, or side of a river, country, etc. ? *Obs.*

1599 Nashe *Lenten Stuff* Wks. (Grosart) V. 227 The skirt or lappet of earth whereon it stands. 1669 Gale *Crt. Gentiles* I. iv. 25 The Canaanites..were crouded up in that narrow skirt of Phenicia. 1677 W. Hubbard *Narrative* (1865) II. 70 Spots and Skirts of more desireable Land upon the Banks of some Rivers.

b. A number of trees, etc., surrounding or bordering a place.

1617 Moryson *Itin.* III. 74 They call it a Towne, when they have compassed a skirt of wood with trees cut down. 1835 W. Irving *Tour Prairies* xxiv, A skirt of thickets hid the approach of the supposed enemy from our rear. 1885 G. Allen *Babylon* xxix, A broad skirt of unoccupied hillocks.

11. *attrib.* and *Comb.* (in sense 1 or 2), as *skirt-braid, -clasp, -fold, -lining, -pocket*, etc.; **skirt-board**, = Skirting-board; **skirt-dancing**, a form of ballet dancing in which the steps are accompanied by the manipulation of long flowing skirts or drapery; so *skirt-dancer, skirt-dance* sb. and vb.; † **skirt-foist**, a female cheat.

a 1652 A. Wilson *Inconstant Ladie* IV. ii, I do not like that skirtfoist. Leave your bouncing! 1690 Leybourne *Curs. Math.* 901 Other Works about a Building..: As, Contaliver Cornice,.. Skirt board,..&c. 1838 Dickens *Nickleby* xxi, The knife—..an inconvenient and dangerous article for a skirt-pocket. 1851 Mayne Reid *Scalp Hunt.* xxi, A row of entire skins of that animal hung from the skirt border. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2106 [Skirt-clasp, -elevator, -protector, etc.] 1882 Caulfeild & Saward *Dict. Needlwk.* 451/1 Skirt braids..are made of Alpaca and Mohair. *Ibid.* 451/2 As a rule, alpaca and silecia are the principal materials in use for Skirt Linings. 1892 *Pall Mall G.* 24 Mar. 1/2 It should be the very thing for skirt-dancing. 1894 *Cornh. Mag.* Feb. 206 The girls who could not skirt-dance yawned behind their fans.

Skirt (skɔ̄ːɹt), *v.* [f. the sb.]

I. *trans.* **1.** Chiefly of, or with reference to, natural features, scenery, or surroundings: **a.** To form the skirt or edge of; to lie alongside of; to bound or border.

1602 Carew *Cornwall* II. 127 b, The little parish called Temple, skirteth this Hundred, on the waste side thereof. 1734 tr. *Rollin's Anc. Hist.* (1827) II. 2 [They] dragged them headlong with them, down the precipices which skirted the road. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* I. vi. 69 The western coast is of less extent..by reason of the Andes which skirt it. 1820 W. Irving *Sketch Bk.* II. 254 Those vast and trackless forests that skirted the settlements. 1843 Portlock *Geol.* 520 The granite appears to skirt the great mass of altered schists and hornblendic rocks. 1879 Dixon *Windsor* II. vii. 73 The gardens skirted the river-side.

fig. 1817 Chalmers *Astron. Disc.* iv. (1852) 92 That boundary which skirts and which terminates the material field of his contemplations.

b. In pa. pple., const. *with* or *by*.

1717 Addison tr. *Ovid's Met.* III. *Death Pentheus*, A spacious circuit..Level and wide, and skirted round with wood. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* II. i. 121 A very narrow path skirted on each side by precipices. 1818 Scott *Hrt. Midl.* viii, A fair and fertile champaign country..skirted by the picturesque ridge of the Pentland Mountains. 1872 Coues *N. Amer. Birds* 107 In the fall, the black feathers of the crown of the adult are skirted with ash.

fig. 1847 Emerson *Poems, Dæmonic Love*, So is man's narrow path By strength and terror skirted.

2. To surround, edge, or border, *with* something.

1667 Milton *P. L.* v. 282 The middle pair Girt like a Starrie Zone his waste, and round Skirted his loines and thighes with downie Gold.. 1746 J. Hervey *Medit.* (1818) 209 See how the declining sun has beautified the western clouds..and skirted them with gold. 1769 Falconer *Dict. Marine* (1780) s.v. *Sail*, The edges of the cloths,..of which a sail is composed, are generally sewed together with a double seam: and the whole is skirted round at the edges with a cord. 1828 Campbell *Lines on Departure Emigrants N. S. Wales* 27 To skirt our home with harvests widely sown.

b. To provide with an edging or border.

1787 *Builder's Price-bk.* 39 Dado..level, skirted, and caped.

c. To turn *up* at the skirts.

1848 Clough *Bothie* ii. 96 With blue cotton gown skirted up over striped linsey-woolsey.

3. Of persons, ships, etc.: To go or pass along the border, edge, or side of (a country, district, etc.); to go round, in place of crossing.

1735 Somerville *Chase* II. 204 The Covert's utmost Bound Slily she skirts. 1808 Scott *Marm.* II. viii, And now the vessel skirts the strand. 1865 W. G. Palgrave *Arabia* II. 182 Near sunset we skirted a large reedy swamp. 1877 A. B. Edwards *Up Nile* xxii. 684 Skirting some palm-groves and crossing the dry bed of a canal.

fig. 1817 Coleridge *Biogr. Lit.* (Bohn) 70 They..enabled me to skirt, without crossing, the sandy deserts of utter unbelief.

b. To scour or search the outskirts of (a wood, etc.). *rare.*

1724 De Foe *Mem. Cavalier* (1840) 231 They past..by us, without skirting or searching the wood. 1828 Scott *F. M. Perth* xxxii, All who have gone out to skirt the forest..bring back the same news.

4. *dial.* **a.** To plough in a certain manner (see Skirting *vbl. sb.* 2).

c 1795 Wolcot (P. Pindar) *Rights of Kings* VII. Wks. 1816 II. 193 Time.., Who, with that ease a farmer skirts his land, Furrows so cruelly o'er the fairest face. 1796– [see Skirting *vbl. sb.* 2]. 1848 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* IX. II. 462 In the South Hams the land is skirted (ploughed so as to miss a portion).

b. To trim (a hedgerow); to dress (a fleece) by removing the ragged edges.

1879 *Norfolk Archæol.* VIII. 173 The sides of the highways are skirted in autumn. 1883 *Leisure Hour* 244/1 This is called 'skirting' the fleece...The fleece, when skirted, is rolled up, and we now follow it to the classer's table.

II. *intr.* **5. a.** Of persons: To travel, move, hang about, etc., on the outskirts or confines of something, or in a casual manner.

1623 tr. *Favine's Theat. Hon.* v. i. 37 [He] made himselfe Master of Denmarke and Norway, whence he went and skirted on [F. *aborder*] the Gaules. 1768 G. White *Selborne* xiii, [He] passed through that kingdom on such an errand; but he seems to have skirted along in a superficial manner. 1827 J. F. Cooper *Prairie* I. xvii. 245 Lest the sons of the squatter should be out skirting on our trail. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* III. I. vii, Brunswick is skirting and rounding, laboriously, by the extremity of the South. 1869 Blackmore *Lorna Doone* xliv, Then I set off up the valley, skirting along one side of it.

fig. 1900 *Westm. Gaz.* 31 Jan. 2/1 It may have been due to the fact that he had to skirt round under the bluff of Mr. Henry Chaplin.

b. Of hunting-dogs: To leave the pack when following the scent or in a chase.

1781 Beckford *Thoughts Hunting* (1802) 61 Should a favourite dog skirt a little, put him to a thorough line-hunting bitch. 1842 Apperley *Life Sportsman* xvii, The two most acknowledged faults [of a hound] are running mute and skirting. 1856 'Stonehenge' *Brit. Rural Sports* I. II. iv. 119 The defects which should especially be avoided are..mute running,..skirting, or a tendency to leave the rest of the pack.

6. a. Of roads, rivers, etc.: To lie or run *along* or *round* the edge or border of a place, etc.

1776 Gibbon *Decl. & F.* i. (1782) I. 30 A sandy desert..skirts along the doubtful confine of Syria. 1859 Sir E. Tennent *Ceylon* II. VII. ii. 138 As the path ascends it skirts round scarped acclivities. 1863 Hawthorne *Our Old Home* (1879) 56 The Leam..skirts along the margin of the Garden.

b. Of strata: To crop *out*.

1806 Forsyth *Beauties Scott.* III. 84 Many of the strata below it..have skirted out at the surface, and are no longer found.

Skirted, *ppl. a.* [f. Skirt *sb.* or *v.* + -ed 1.]

1. Wearing a skirt or skirts. Freq. in recent use in *skirted rider*.

1598 Shaks. *Merry W.* I. iii. 93 French-thrift, you Rogues, my selfe, and skirted Page. 1895 K. Grahame *Golden Age* 113 The public voice was against the admission of the skirted animal. 1898 *Girl's Own Paper* 19 Nov. 120 There are five distinct methods of mounting for skirted riders.

b. Of garments: Having a skirt.

1842 Lover *Handy Andy* v, Heavy-caped and skirted frieze coats streamed behind the full-grown. 1893 *Westm. Gaz.* 15 Dec. 6/3 That the present skirted dress of women is unfit for cycling and other outdoor pursuits.

2. Having a skirt, edge, or border of a specified kind, as *dewy-, long-, sky-, wide-, willow-skirted.*

1605 Shaks. *Lear* I. i. 66 With plenteous Riuers, and wide-skirted Meades. 1730–46 Thomson *Autumn* 959 The dewy-skirted clouds imbibe the sun. 1807 Wordsw. *The Mother's Return* 35 Far as the willow-skirted pool. 1812 Crabbe *Tales* vi. 430 Does that long-skirted drab, that over-nice And formal clothing prove a scorn of vice? 1856 Emerson *Eng. Traits, Stonehenge*, In the sea-wide, sky-skirted prairie.

Skirter (skɔ̄ːɹtəɹ). [f. Skirt *v.* + -er 1.]

1. *Hunting.* **a.** A hound which leaves the pack while following scent.

1781 Beckford *Thoughts Hunting* (1802) 86 They should not be skirters, but, on the contrary, should be fair-hunting hounds. 1842 Apperley *Life Sportsman* xvii, What are called left-handed hounds, not exactly skirters, but apt to run wide of the pack. 1856 'Stonehenge' *Brit. Rural Sports* I. II. v. 131 Inveterate skirters, also, and conceited babblers, by all means hang.

b. A hunter who skirts or goes round an obstacle instead of over or through it.

1827 *Sporting Mag.* XX. 37 One more proof how often riders and skirters bring on mischief. 1856 Kingsley *Poems, The Find* ii, Leave cravens and skirters to dangle behind.

2. *Austr.* A horseman who rides on the flank or side of a body of riders, party of travellers, etc.

1890 'R. Boldrewood' *Col. Ref.* (1891) 209 The couple on the trail ensured its being neither lost nor overlooked; the skirters, by riding straight on either side, picked up the tracks when any deviation was made.

3. *Austr.* One who trims fleeces.

1883 *Leisure Hour* 243/1 Near the skirters' table there is a very much shorter table.

Skirting (skɔ̄ːɹtiŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. Skirt *v.*]

† **1.** The action or fact of treating lightly or superficially. *Obs.*—1

1687 R. L'Estrange *Brief Hist. Times* I. 164 A little Skirting now and then, upon the Narratives; and Bantering, betwixt Jest and Earnest, upon the Credit of the Witnesses.

2. *Devon dial.* (See quot. 1796.)

1796 W. H. Marshall *W. Eng.* I. 144 For Skirting, the common share is used; but made, perhaps, somewhat wider than when it is used in the ordinary operation of plowing. In this mode of using the plow, little more than half the sward is pared off; turning the part raised, upon a line of unmoved turf [etc.]. 1813 Vancouver *Agric. Devon* 115 When skirting is required, the wing of the share is considerably enlarged. 1856 Morton *Cycl. Agric.* II. 725/3.

3. A border, edge, edging, or margin.

1764 *Museum Rust.* III. 88 The ploughman..leaving the skirtings near the hedges to be last finished. 1825 Hone *Every-day Bk.* I. 1530 This latter boundary and skirting of Assam. 1872 Coues *N. Amer. Birds* 171 Very young birds have rufous skirting of many feathers.

b. The lower part or skirt of a garment. Also *pl.*

1821 Clare *Vill. Minstr.* II. 68 With slop-frock suiting to a ploughman's taste, Its greasy skirtings twisted round his waist. 1829 Tennyson *Timbuctoo* 177 Wherefrom The snowy skirting of a garment hung.

c. Material used for the skirts of saddles; saddle-skirts collectively.

1852 C. Morfit *Tanning & Currying* (1853) 156 The smaller and lighter ones [*sc.* hides] are used for 'skirting' and for enamelling.

d. Cloth or material suitable for women's skirts or underskirts (see quot.).

1882 Caulfeild & Saward *Dict. Needlwk.* 451/1 *Skirting*, strong thick woollen, worsted, cotton, or mixed fabrics, woven of certain dimensions, so as to be suitable in length and width for women's underskirts, and to preclude the necessity of making gores and seams.

4. *Carp.* The narrow boarding, edging of slate or cement, etc., placed vertically along the base of the wall of a room, or other place in a building, next to the floor. Also *collect.*, material suitable for this. Cf. Skirting-board.

1825 J. Nicholson *Operat. Mechanic* 603 Skirting, when wide, is also measured by the foot superficial. *Ibid.* 626 It [*sc.* slate] makes excellent skirtings of all descriptions. 1863 Whyte Melville *Gladiators* II. 242 The walls were of polished citron-wood, heavily gilded round the skirting and edges. 1881 Young *Ev. Man his own Mechanic* § 886. 414 There is a skirting round the room which must not be cut away.

5. *Austr.* The trimmings or inferior portions of a fleece. Also *skirting table*, the table at which these are removed.

1881 Grant *Bush Life Queensland* I. vii. 85 The roller-up, with a rapidity which is the result of long practice, separates the skirtings. 1890 *Melbourne Argus* 20 Sept. 13/7 At the 'skirting table' we will stand for a little while, and watch while the fleece..is opened out by the 'roller' and the inferior portions removed.

Skirting, *ppl. a.* [f. Skirt *v.*] That skirts, in senses of the vb.

c 1735 Harte *Eulogius* Poems (1810) 383/1 On skirting heights thick stood the clust'ring vine. 1817 J. Scott *Paris Revisit.* (ed. 4) 77 Beyond the city..a black skirting outline ran along a ridge of high ground. 1829 P. Nicholson in *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) VI. 237/2 Every supporting bar ought to be fixed at each extremity to opposite parts of the skirting frame. 1858 Froude *Hist. Eng.* III. 131 Skirting parties meantime scoured the country far and near.

Hence **Skirtingly** *adv.*

1882 Proctor in *Longman's Mag.* Dec. 184 The earth can pass through, centrally or skirtingly, but a very minute proportion of the meteor systems.

Skirting-board. [Cf. Skirting *vbl. sb.* 4.] The narrow board placed round the wall of a room, etc., close to the floor.

1759 *Phil. Trans.* LI. 291 The floor, joints and projections of the skirting-board. 1771 Mrs. Haywood *New Present for Maid* 256 Rubbing the skirting-boards with a piece of oily flannel. 1814 Southey in *Q. Rev.* XII. 185 The skirt-

ing board of the room was painted of that colour. 1861 WYNTER *Soc. Bees* 25 A cracked window or a shrunken skirting board.

fig. 1859 SALA *Gaslight & D.* xxiii. 268 A woful skirting-board of crouching Irish paupers.

Skirtless (skə·ɹtlĕs), *a.* [f. SKIRT *sb.* + -LESS.] **a.** Of garments: Having no skirt. **b.** Of persons: Wearing no skirt.

1809 BYRON *Bards & Rev.* 599 For skirtless coats and skeletons of plays Renown'd alike. 1896 *Daily News* 14 Jan. 6/5 Baggy trousers, such as skirtless feminine bicyclists adopt. 1899 *Blackw. Mag.* Sept. 372 The traveller was in livery—skirtless fawn and silver coat.

Ski·rty, *a. Linc.* [f. SKIRT *sb.*] (See quots.)

1851 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* XII. I. 282 These fens..being 'skirty', *i.e.* a mixture of peat and alluvial silt or clay, forming a deep black loam. 1851 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* (ed. 2) I. 490 The fen land adjoining the hard lands partaking of the characters of both, is called *skirty land.*

Skirvie, -vye, obs. ff. SCURVY *sb.* and *a.*

Skirwhit(e, -wike, etc., obs. ff. SKIRRET[1].

† **Skirwingle.** *Obs.*[-1] [Of obscure origin.] Some kind of bird.

1610 W. FOLKINGHAM *Art of Survey* IV. iii. 83 Churre, Peeper, Grindle, Skirwingle, Sea and Land Larkes.

Skirwit, -wort, -wurt, obs. ff. SKIRRET[1].

Skise, obs. or dial. form of SKICE *v.*[1]

Skister (ʃĭ·stəɹ, skĭ·-). [f. SKI + -STER.] One who uses ski; a ski-runner.

1898 CONWAY *With Ski & Sledge* xi. 194 The..expertness attained by the best Norwegian and Swedish skisters (to coin a needed word).

Skis Thursday, obs. var. of SKIRE THURSDAY.

Skit, *sb.*[1] Now *dial.* Also 4 **skitte, skyt,** 5 **skytt(e.** [Of Scand. origin: cf. Norw. *skit* dirt, filth, Norw. and Icel. *skíta* diarrhœa. The corresponding native form is SHIT *sb.*]

1. *fig.* Dirt, trash. *rare*[-1].

c 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 16714 But for to schewe his mykel wyt, On my spekynge þat ys but skyt [*v.r.* skitte].

2. Diarrhœa in animals, esp. sheep; scouring.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 458/1 Skytte, or flyx..*fluxus*,..*dissenteria.* 1741 *Compl. Fam.-Piece* III. 491 To cure the Skit or Looseness in Sheep. 1799 A. YOUNG *Agric. Lincoln.* 376 They die of the *skit*, or scouring. 1805 R. W. DICKSON *Pract. Agric.* II. 986 A sort of indigestion..which, when it proceeds to any great length, is termed the *skit.* 1865 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* I. II. 289 Something more than common 'skit', or diarrhœa.

3. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *skit-brains, -brained,* in opprobrious use.

1553 *Respublica* 1812 Stande styll, skitbraind theaff, or thy bonds shall be coilled. *Ibid.* 1818 The skitbraines nold not bee roilled ner sens ye wente.

Skit, *sb.*[2] [Related to SKIT *v.*[2], but the earlier history is not clear.]

1. a. A female of a vain, frivolous, or wanton disposition. Chiefly *Sc.*

1572 *Buchanan's Detect. Mary Q. Scots* M ij, That haynous offence,..that at the banquet of her domesticall parasite, sche had nat played the dauncing skit. 1583 EARL NORTHAMPTON *Defensative* S ij, At the request of a dauncing skitte [Herod] stroke of the head of Saint Iohn the Baptist. 1808 JAMIESON s.v., *Skit* is still used for a vain, empty creature; sometimes, *proud skit.*

b. *Sc.* 'A young capering or restive horse.'

1882 *Jamieson's Sc. Dict.* IV. 254/2.

2. A quizzing or satirical reflection *upon*, or hit *at*, a person or thing; a remark of this nature.

1727 BAILEY (vol. II), *Skit*, a Caprice, Whimsey. 1779 MRS. H. COWLEY *Who's the Dupe?* II. ii, Come, come, none of your tricks upon travellers. I know you mean all that as a skit upon my edication. 1820-2 PYNE *Wine & Walnuts* (1824) II. xi. 174 No more of your skits at my right noble country. 1861 *Times* 22 Mar. 8/6 Mr. Cobden could afford to reply to the compliments of a Mayor without a skit at the press. 1878 E. FITZGERALD *Lett.* (1889) I. 421 He did not deserve your skit about his 'Finsbury Circus gentility'.

b. A literary or artistic production intended as a piece of light satire, parody, or caricature.

1820 COMBE *Syntax, Consol.* VII. (Chandos) 243 A Manuscript with learning fraught, Or some nice, pretty little skit Upon the times. 1884 *Athenæum* 19 Jan. 91/1 The German skit on the Shapira forgeries..is about to be translated in English verse. 1884 SHARMAN *Hist. Swearing* iv. 60 The British bull-dog has figured again and again in pictorial skits.

c. A trick; a hoax; a practical joke; = SKITE *sb.* 2. Chiefly *dial.*

1815 SCOTT *Guy M.* xxxii, If he really shot young Hazlewood—But I canna think it, Mr. Glossin; this will be some o' your skits now. 1865– in dialect glossaries.

3. A slight shower (*of* rain or snow).

1847 in HALLIW. 1865 MRS. CARLYLE *New Lett.* (1903) II. 336 It is blowing hard to-day, with a dull grey sky, and skits of rain. 1880 BLACKMORE *Mary Anerley* III. ii. 18 Soon the first snow of the winter came, the first abiding earnest snow, for several skits had come before.

transf. 1877 BLACKIE *Wise Men* 334 Plagues, frosts and mildews, and the lashing hail,..Are all but skits of crudely mingled air.

b. A squirt or small jet of water.

1877 BLACKIE *Nat. Hist. Atheism* ii. 31 No more..than a skit of a boy's squirt can put out the sun.

4. A slight stroke.

1860 EMERSON *Cond. Life, Wealth* Wks. (Bohn) II. 351 In the city, where money follows the skit of a pen,..it comes to be looked on as light.

Skit, *sb.*[3] (See quot.)

1885 C. G. W. LOCK *Workshop Rec.* Ser. IV. 277/1 The rods, or willows, as they are termed in the trade, comprise several varieties, as the skit willow, the gold-stone.

Skit, obs. var. SKATE *sb.*[2]

1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 484 What to term them I know not, (except Dutch skits, to Slide withal).

† **Skit,** *a. Obs.*[-1] In 6 **skyt.** [? Back-formation from SKITTISH *a.*] Precipitate, over-hasty.

a 1529 SKELTON *Agst. Scottes* 101 Syr Skyrgalyard, ye were so skyt, Your wyll than ran before your wyt.

Skit, *v.*[1] *rare*[-1]. [Related to SKIT *sb.*[1]] *intr.* To void thin excrement; = SKITTER *v.*[1]

1805 R. W. DICKSON *Pract. Agric.* II. 985 If the milk be given over cold, it is apt to cause the calf to *skit* or purge.

Skit (skit), *v.*[2] [Of doubtful origin: perh. only a back-formation from SKITTISH *a.* It might, however, represent an ON. **skytja* (cf. *flytja* flit), f. **skut-*, the weak grade of *skjóta* to shoot. In sense 2 perh. from SKIT *sb.*[2] 2.]

1. *intr.* To shy or be skittish; to move lightly and rapidly; to caper, leap, or spring.

1611 CHAPMAN *May Day* II. ii, I hope my friend will not loue a wench against her will;..if shee skit and recoile,.. away he goes. 1621 MOLLE *Camerarius' Liv. Lib.* IV. xiii. 278 The daughters of Prætus..persuaded themselues that they were changed into cowes, and thereupon began to low, and skit vp and downe the fields. 1807–10 TANNAHILL *Poems* (1846) 11 She skits and flings like ony towmont filly. 1860 PIESSE *Lab. Chem. Wonders* 3 Innumerable insects may be seen at sunset skitting and dancing in the air. 1894 BLACKMORE *Perlycross* viii. 64 The man..skitted back into a bush, very nimble and clever.

2. a. *trans.* To cast indirect reflections or light satire upon (a person, etc.); to ridicule or caricature by means of a skit.

1781 J. HUTTON *Tour to Caves* (ed. 2) Gloss., *Skit*, to reflect on. [Similarly in later northern dial. glossaries.] 1892 *Star* 24 Mar. 2/4 These meetings were skitted by Elkanah Settle in 'The New Athenian Comedy'. 1904 *Daily Chron.* 20 Feb. 3/4 The first occasion on which Mr. Roberts has 'skitted' Mr. Beerbohm Tree.

b. *intr.* To make satirical hits *at* a person or thing.

1821 *Lonsdale Mag.* II. 247 Then nobody dare skit at me for being a tailyer. *c* 1840 H. COLERIDGE *Ess.* (1851) II. 84 Warburton..had too much learning to skit at Bentley as Pope has done. 1885 MOZLEY *Rem.* I. 130 When people have condoled with me..or have skitted at commercial gentility.

Skite (skəit, *Sc.* skeit), *sb. Sc.* and *north. dial.* Also **skyte.** [Related to SKITE *v.*[2]]

1. A sudden, vigorous stroke or blow, esp. one given in an oblique direction; an oblique impact, or one which causes a rebound.

1785 BURNS *Jolly Beggars* i, When hailstanes drive wi' bitter skyte, And infant frosts begin to bite. 1825 JAMIESON *Suppl., Skite*,..a smart and sudden blow, so as to make what strikes rebound in a slanting direction. 1895– in *Eng. Dial. Dict.* (Sc., N. Irel., Northumb.).

2. A trick; a skit. Cf. SKIT *sb.*[2] 2.

1804 W. TARRAS *Poems* 60 He's play'd my dochter Meg a skyte, Which weel has coft the gibbet. 1825 JAMIESON *Suppl.* s.v., He's played me an ill skite. 1899 LUMSDEN *Edin. Poems* 89 This Club..Enjoy'd thy witty 'Tory' skites Wi' hearty glee.

3. A person who on some account or other is regarded with contempt. (Cf. *blatherskite.*)

1808 JAMIESON s.v. *Skyte.* 1818 SCOTT *Rob Roy* xxvii, But I maun speak to this gabbling skyte too, for bairns and fules speak at the Cross what they hear at the ingle side. 1850 MRS. CARLYLE *Lett.* II. 136 Oh, such a withered up skite poor Mac is become.

Skite (skəit), *v.*[1] *Sc.* and *dial.* Also 5 (9 *Sc.*) **skyte.** [a. ON. *skíta* (Icel. *skíta*, Norw. and Sw. *skita*, Da. *skide*), or MLG. *schíten*, MDu. *schijten*, = OE. *scítan* SHITE *v.*] *intr.* To void excrement. Hence **Ski·ting** *ppl. a.*

1449 *Paston Lett.* I. 85, I cam abord the Admirall, and bade them stryke in the Kyngys name.., and they bade me skyte in the Kyngs name. 1508 DUNBAR *Flyting* 194, I warne the it is wittin, How, skyttand skarth, thow hes the hurle behind. 1596 HARINGTON *Metam. Ajax* Prol. B, In further contempt of his name, vsed a phrase that he had lerned at his being in the lowe countries, and bad Skite vpon Aiax. 1808 in JAMIESON. 1823 E. MOOR *Suffolk Words* 353.

Skite (skəit), *v.*[2] *Sc.* and *dial.* Also 8 **skyt,** 9 **skyte.** [perh. f. ON. *skýt-*, umlauted stem of *skjóta* to shoot.]

This verb, and the corresponding sb., have much currency in dial. use; fuller illustration of the various senses may be found in the *Eng. Dial. Dict.*

1. *intr.* To shoot or dart swiftly, esp. in an oblique direction; to run lightly and rapidly; to make *off* hastily.

1721 RAMSAY *Rise & Fall of Stocks* 112 Like a shot starn, that thro the air Skyts east or west with unko glare. 1859 BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.* (ed. 2) s.v., To skite about is to go running about. 1895 JANE BARLOW *Strangers at Lisconnel* 325 It's a..young villain her son must be..to skyte off and lave her that-a-way.

2. To slip suddenly.

1871 W. ALEXANDER *Johnny Gibb* (1873) 225 The 'blower' skytit oot o' Samie's mou'. 1881 J. BALLANTINE in Edwards *Mod. Sc. Poets* Ser. I. 29 Our feet skyted back on the road freezing hard.

† **Skitegate.** *Obs. rare.* Also **skyt-.** [ad. Du. *schiet-gat*, f. *schieten* to shoot + *gat* hole.] An opening or loop-hole in a wall for a cannon or other piece of artillery.

1677 EARL ORRERY *Treat. Art War* 118 Great Cannon Gabions well fill'd with Earth, or Skite Gates thorow the Flanks and Faces of the said Works. 1685 COTTON tr. *Montaigne* (1877) I. 93 Captain Julius..being so astonish'd with fear as to throw himself and his fellows out at a skyt-gate [Fr. *une canonniere*], was immediately cut to pieces by the enemy.

Skitly: see SKEETLY *adv.*

Ski·tter, *sb.*[1] *Sc.* and *dial.* Also 9 *dial.* **skitta.** [f. the vb.]

1. Diarrhœa; looseness or laxity of the bowels.

a 1585 POLWART *Flyting w. Montgomerie* 244 To heale thee of thy skitter. 1823– in dialect glossaries (Sc., Yks., Lanc., Linc., Suff.).

2. Thin excrement. Also *Comb.*

1692 *Sc. Presbyt. Eloq.* (1738) 118 A Cake unturn'd, that is, it's stone-hard on one Side, and skitter raw on the other. 1721 KELLY *Sc. Prov.* 16 A Spoonful of Skitter will spill [= spoil] a Potful of Skink..

Ski·tter, *sb.*[2] *U.S.* [f. SKITTER *v.*[2]] A light skipping movement or the sound caused by this.

1905 *Scribner's Mag.* July 1 The slim shell trailed with dying headway to the skitter of the resting oars.

Ski·tter, *v.*[1] *Sc.* and *dial.* Also 4 **skiter-,** 5 **skyter-.** [A frequentative of SKITE *v.*[1]] *intr.* To void thin excrement. Hence **Ski·ttering** *vbl. sb.*[1] and *ppl. a.*[1]

13.. *Langtoft's Chron.* (Rolls) II. 252 Skiterende Scottes, Telle i for sottes, And wrecches unwar. *a* 1585 MONTGOMERIE *Flyting* 499 It skittered and skarted; they skirled ilk ane. *c* 1610 SIR J. MELVIL *Mem.* (1683) 14 Seeing there was but a Skittering Lass between him and the Crown. 1683 *Yorkshire Dial.* 5 Thur Yowes are Clow-clagg'd, they skitter sayr. 1721 KELLY *Prov.* 20 A skittering Cow in the Loan would ay have many Marrows. 1825– in dialect glossaries (Northumb., Cumb., Yks., Som., Dev.).

transf. 1682 MARTINDALE in Houghton *Coll. Lett. Impr. Husb.* No. 11, Some, when the strength of Marle is worn out by long Tillage, strengthen it with a new Supply, but then they ordinarily set it thin (which they call *skittering*).

Ski·tter, *v.*[2] [app. a frequentative f. SKITE *v.*[2]]

1. *intr.* To move or run rapidly; to hurry about; to scamper off.

1845 S. JUDD *Margaret* (1871) 149 On they flew, skittering, bowling, sluice-like, mad-like. 1875 *Toxie, a Tale* I. vi. 100 Neither did he and I skitter at sixty miles an hour. 1882 BLACKMORE *Christowell* lii, Up on the first horse we could lay hold of, and skittered on the heels of the rest of them.

b. *U.S.* To skip or skim *along* a surface, with occasional rapid contact.

1885 T. ROOSEVELT *Hunting Trips* 56 Some kinds of ducks in lighting strike the water with their tails first, and skitter along the surface for a few feet before settling down.

2. *trans. U.S.* In angling, to draw (a spoon-bait or hook) with a jerking or skipping motion over the surface of the water. Also *absol.*

1883 *Cent. Mag.* July 383/2 The angler, standing in the bow, 'skitters' or skips the spoon or bait over the surface just at the edge of the weeds. 1897 *Outing* XXX. 221 In skittering with a spoon, some of the fly-fisher's skill..comes into play.

Hence **Ski·ttered** *ppl. a.*; **Ski·ttering** *vbl. sb.*[2] and *ppl. a.*[2]

1883 *Cent. Mag.* July 383/2 Skittering..is practised with a strong line..to which is affixed a small trolling-spoon. *a* 1888 in Goode *Amer. Fishes* 37 When taken with a skittered minnow or bright fly on a light rod. 1893 M. GRAY *Last Sentence* II. viii, The skittering feet and minute shriek of mice.

† **Skitterbrook.** *Obs. rare.* [ad. Du. *schijtebroek*, with the first element assimilated to SKITTER *v.*[1]] One who befouls his breeches; a coward.

1632 BROME *Crt. Beggar* IV. ii, The Devill fright him next for a spurging skitterbrooke. *a* 1652 — *Novella* IV. ii, Like to make a skitter brooke Of you in your Dutch slops.

Ski·ttery, *a.* [f. SKITTER *v.*[2]] Trifling.

1905 M. DEANE *Little Neighbour* 124 'She is just a little fool,' said Roger—'a skittery little fool, with no sense, and not much to look at'.

Skittish (ski·tiʃ), *a.* Also 6 **skyttys(s)he, skytysshe, scittish.** [Of obscure origin: perh. f. a Scand. base **skyt-* (see SKIT *v.*[2]) + -ISH.]

1. Of disposition, etc.: Characterized by levity, frivolity, or excessive liveliness.

c 1412 HOCCLEVE *De Reg. Princ.* 590 Whan þat þou hast assayde bobe two, Sad age, I seye, after þi skittish yoube. 14.. *Six Ballads* (Percy Soc.) 10 My dere is off a skyttyshe brayne. *a* 1513 FABYAN *Chron.* VII. (1811) 339 Lewelyn.. rebellyd agayne the kyng; for so moche as syr Edwarde his sone..wolde haue chaungyd some of theyr skyttyshe condycyons. 1594 T. B. *La Primaud.* II. 230 Fancie, being very turbulent and skittish,..is the cause that wee liue in the middest of marueilous troubles in respect of our affections. 1611 COTGR., *Perversité*, a skittish, giddy, or vntoward humor to doe an vnlawfull, or ill, thing. 1678 BUTLER *Hud.* III. ii. 479 He still resolv'd..T' adhere and cleave the obstinater; And still the skittisher and looser Her Freaks appear'd, to sit the closer. 1748 RICHARDSON *Clarissa* II. 135 If you think you can part with her for her skittish tricks. 1784 COWPER *Task* II. 470 T' address The skittish fancy with facetious tales. 1882 TENNYSON in *Life* (1897) I. 95, I considered it [a critique] at the time as somewhat too skittish and petulant. 1894 J. KNIGHT *Garrick* iv. 68 Macklin claims to have supplied a curiously unconventional and skittish rhymed apology.

Comb. 1605 BRETON *Soules Immortal Crowne* I. xlii, How Fancie like a Flea, Can skip about a skittish humour'd hart.

2. Of horses, etc.: Disposed or apt to start or

be unruly without sufficient cause; given to shying or restiveness through high spirits or playfulness; unduly lively or spirited.

c 1510 More *Picus* Wks. 14/2 These great fortunes lift vp a man hie,..but oftentymes, as a fierce and a skittish horse, thei cast of their maister. 1519 Horman *Vulg.* 37, I had a sore falle of a skytysshe horse. 1635 Jackson *Creed* VIII. xviii. 202 The old asse..became resty and skittish, ready to kick. 1642 Fuller *Holy & Prof. St.* III. ii. 178 Great is the difference betwixt a swift horse, and a skittish, that will stand on no ground. 1707 tr. *Whs. C'tess D'Anois* (1715) 638 The skittish Beast being affrighted..gave two Starts and threw the Prince to the Ground. 1758 Johnson *Idler* No. 33 ¶ 24 Horse skittish and wants exercise. 1801 Mar. Edgeworth *Fr. Governess* Wks. 1832 II. 138 The ass is sometimes skittish and playful. 1882 B. D. W. Ramsay *Rough Recoll.* I. i. 8 A very skittish, and at times vicious, thoroughbred colt.

fig. and *transf.* 1655 Fuller *Ch. Hist.* VI. 370 These skittish Lands will dismount all that bestride them. 1841 Catlin *N. Amer. Ind.* (1844) II. lvi. 208 Balancing our skittish bark upon the green waters.

b. Similarly of other animals.

1600 *Maids Metam.* I, i, A heard of skittish Deere. 1639 Fuller *Holy War* 198 A trick to stroke the skittish cow to get down her milk. 1837 Hood *Ode to R. Wilson* 241 Exactly as a skittish Scottish bull Hunts an old woman in a scarlet cloak.

3. Fickle, inconstant, changeable; tricky, difficult to deal with or manage.

1601 Shaks. *Twel. N.* II. iv. 18 Such as I am, all true Louers are, Vnstaid and skittish in all motions else. 1606 — *Tr. & Cr.* III. iii. 134 How some men creepe in skittish fortunes hall. 1639 Hammond *Serm.* Wks. 1683 IV. 547 What skittish things popular benevolence and popular applause have been always found to be. 1844 N. P. Willis *The Lady Jane* II. 411 A 'scribbler's' is a skittish reputation. 1872 Geo. Eliot *Middlem.* XV, The management and training of the most skittish or vicious diseases.

4. Spirited, active, lively; frolicsome.

a 1592 Greene *Jas. IV*, IV. iii, She is like a frog in a parsley-bed, As skittish as an eel. 1619 Fletcher *Wildgoose Chase* II. iii, He slights us As skittish things...May be my free behaviour turns his stomach. 1665 Pepys *Diary* 26 July, [He] is the most skittish leaping gallant that ever I saw, always in action. 1709 Prior *Let. to Sir T. Hanmer* 4 Aug., If you hear of a Welch widow..that has her goings and is not very skittish. 1823 H. & J. Smith *Home in London* 131 One night at the British, We grew rather skittish, And sallied out fighting the rabble. 1887 Jessopp *Arcady* v. 166 Sobriety of dress must be enforced, and skittish widows protected from their own volatile tastes.

5. Inclined to show coyness or reserve.

1648 *Merc. Publicus* No. 2 ¶ 9 The Irish wench hee thought to hold By force, but she was skittish. 1700 Dryden *Ovid's Art Love* I. 822 Name not yourself her Lover, but her Friend. How many skittish Girls have thus been caught? 1774 J. Adams *Fam. Lett.* (1876) 42 They are, therefore, jealous of each other—fearful, timid, skittish. 1840 Mrs. Trollope *Widow Married* ii, So skittish that she would never let one speak to her. 1865 Carlyle *Fredk. Gt.* XXI. iv. (1872) X. 31 Kaunitz and his Empress are extremely skittish in the matter, and as if quite refuse it at first.

Skittishly, *adv.* [f. prec. + -LY 2.] In a skittish or lively manner.

1598 Florio, *Ritrosamente*, waywardly, frowardly, skittishly. 1611 Cotgr., *Sauvagement*,..skittishly. 1683 [Ld. Coleraine] *Situat. Paradise* 93 The Beasts were very plump, and skittishly played as they passed by. 1873 Mrs. Whitney *Other Girls* XXXIV, The animal made a half parenthesis of himself, curving skittishly..as he went by the frightsome pile. 1882 A. Edwardes *Ballroom Repentance* I. 19 Skittishly tapping the young man's arm with her fan.

Skittishness. [f. as prec. + -NESS.] The quality of being skittish, in various senses.

1607 Markham *Caval.* II. (1617) 12 Skittishness or fearefulness proceedeth..either from nature, youth, custome, or imperfectness of sight. 1692 *D'Urfey's Marriage-Hater Match'd* A iij, The Skittishness of Miss Margery, and the freakishness of Berenice. 1721 Steele *Const. Lover* III. i, Then, Phillis, consider how I must be reveng'd..of all your skittishness, shy looks, and at best but coy compliances. 1778 Mme. D'Arblay *Lett.* 5 July, He would fain have discovered the reason of my skittishness. 1863 N. Hawthorne *Our Old Home* 134 Something akin to feminine skittishness. 1874 M. Collins *Transmigr.* I. vi. 110 The old roan plodded along, his skittishness quite lost.

transf. 1871 Earle *Philol. Eng. Tongue* iv. 183 Young sprigs of language have a levity and skittishness which render them unworthy of literature.

Skittle (skit'l), *sb.* Also 7 *pl.* **skittolles, sketells (skyttals).** [Of uncertain origin: forms without initial *s-* (see Kittle-pins) appear a little later in the 17th cent., whereas in the case of Kayles and Skayles the *s-* form is the later of the two.

Phonetically *skittle* answers exactly to the Scand. word represented by Da. and Sw. *skyttel*, occurring in the senses of 'shuttle, child's marble, movable bar in a gateway', but there is no evidence to connect this in any way with the game of skittles.]

1. *pl.* A game played with nine pins set in a square upon a wooden frame, an angle of which is directed towards the player, who endeavours to bowl down the pins in as few throws as possible; = Nine-pins 1.

1634 in Footman *Hist. Parish Ch. Chipping Lambourn* (1894) 120 William Gyde..for playing at skittolles on Sunday. 1666 Wood *Life* (O. H. S.) II. 96 Dice, cards, sketells, shuffleboords, billiard tables. 1748 Wesley *Whs.* (1872) II. 120, I was one day playing at skittles with some of these. 1773 A. Jones (*title*), The Art of Playing at Skittles; or the Laws of Nine-Pins displayed. 1807 Crabbe *Par. Reg.* I. 64 All the joys that ale and skittles give. 1865 Lubbock *Preh. Times* xiii. (1869) 443 The Feegeeans..have also a game resembling skittles.

b. In the phrase (*not*) *all beer and skittles*, or variants of this, used to denote that something is (not) unmixed enjoyment.

1837 Dickens *Pickw.* xli, It's a reg'lar holiday to them—all porter and skittles. 1870 Mansfield *School-life Winch. Coll.* 138 But Football wasn't all beer and skittles to the Fags. 1897 'Ouida' *Massarenes* v, Life isn't all skittles and swipes...You always seem to think it.

c. *colloq.* Nonsense; rubbish. Also used interjectionally.

1904 F. T. Bullen *Creatures of Sea* xxiv. 354 [He told me] That they never ate and never rested because they had no feet, and other skittles of the kind. 1905 *Author* 1 Feb. 149 *Mag.* A man has..more self-restraint. *Char.* Skittles! That's the last thing he's got.

2. One of the wooden pins with which this game is played. Cf. Nine-pins 2.

1680 *Merry Milkmaid Islington* 1. B, To cleave you from the scull to the Twist, and make nine Skittles of thy bones. 1866 *Chambers's Encycl.* VIII. 758/1 The player..tries to knock down the whole of the skittles in a given number of throws. 1884 Knight *Dict. Mech.* Suppl. 820/2 A crucible taking the shape of a skittle.

3. *attrib.* and *Comb.* a. Attrib., in sense 'used in, or for playing at, the game of skittles', as *skittle-alley, -ball, -bowl, -frame, -ground, -pin.*

1755 *Connoisseur* No. 68 ¶ 2 Every *skittle-alley half a mile out of town is embellished with green arbours and shady retreats. 1822–7 Good *Study Med.* (1829) V. 319 The bronchocele had increased to the size of a *skittle-ball. 1733 Tull *Horse-Hoeing Husb.* xxiii. (Dubl.) 378 A piece of Wood of the shape of a *Skittle-Bowl. 1801 Strutt *Sports & Past.* Introd. § 38 All the *skittle-frames in or about the city of London. 1771 Miss Burney *Early Diary* (1889) I. 131 Pray get the *skittle ground marked out. 1801 Strutt *Sports & Past.* III. vii. 203 The kayle-pins were afterwards called..kittle-pins, and hence..*skittle-pins. 1664 Cotton *Scarron.* IV. Wks. (1725) 109 Nor did I e'er make *skittle Pin-bones, Or Bobbins, of Anchises shin-bones.

b. Miscellaneous, as *skittle-maker, -player, pool, -sharp, swindle*; *skittle-playing, -sharping*; *skittle-shaped*; **skittle-pot,** a jeweller's crucible fashioned like a skittle (Knight, 1875).

1858 Simmonds *Dict. Trade*, **Skittle-maker*, a turner who shapes wooden skittles. 1822 Hazlitt *Table-t.* Ser. II. vii. 158 As the *skittle-player bends his body to give a bias to the bowl. 1767 A. Campbell *Lexiph.* (1774) 63 During a season of *skittle-playing. 1884 *Sat. Rev.* 7 June 758/1 *Skittle pool and other minor games. 1869 A. R. Wallace *Malay Archip.* I. 374 They are all *skittled-shaped, larger in the middle than at the base. 1851 Mayhew *Lond. Lab.* I. 345/2, I was not..a *skittle sharp, for I never entered into a plot to victimise any person. 1881 *Daily News* 23 Dec. 5/6 The..victim of the skittle-sharp is..told that a man..who is very silly, is coming to play..and that if the dupe will 'make one' in the pitiful robbery he shall share in the proceeds. 1862 Mayhew *Lond. Lab.* IV. 309 Others betake themselves to card-sharping and *skittle-sharping. 1851 *Ibid.* I. 345/2 Getting into a hobble relative to a *skittle swindle.

Skittle (skit'l), *v.* [f. prec.]

1. *intr.* To play at the game of skittles.

1865 *Good Words* 125/2 On 'Saint Monday' they go 'pigeoning', 'skittling', or after some other amusement.

2. *trans.* With *down*: To spend or lose (money) prodigally; to squander.

1883 *Contemp. Rev.* XLIV. 609 There are many ways in which the Australian..can skittle down his money...He can lose £10,000 in a night at cards [etc.].

Hence **Skittling** *vbl. sb.* Also *attrib.*

1890 F. W. Robinson *Very strange Family* 71 Throwing one piece of furniture at another in a skittling fashion.

Skittle-dog. *local.* (See quot.)

1862 Couch *Brit. Fishes* I. 49 Spur Dog;..in Cornwall the male is called Skittle Dog.

Skittler. *rare.* [f. Skittle *v.*] One who plays at the game of skittles. Also *fig.*

1836 *Fraser's Mag.* XIII. 200 He suffered himself to be bowled down in such a cause by such a beggarly skittler as Willis, as if he had been a penny ninepin.

Skitty. *dial.* [Cf. Skiddy.] The moorhen.

1813 Montagu *Ornith.* Suppl. s.v. *Gallinule*, Skitty, Spotted Rail, or Lesser spotted Water-Rail. 1888 in Elworthy *W. Somerset Word-bk.* 675.

Skitty-bats, -boots. *dial.* (See quot. 1886.)

Halliwell (1847) gives *skitty-* and *shitter-boots* in this sense.

1882 T. Hardy *Two on Tower* XXXVIII, His corduroys and skitty-boots in which he had been gardening. 1886 Elworthy *W. Somerset Word-bk.* 675 *Skitty-bats*, boots laced in front, but not so high in the leg as *half-bats.*

Skiu, variant of Skew *sb.*[1] *Obs.*

Skiv. *slang.* A sovereign.

1858 Thomson *Almæ Matres* I. 4 A slight peculiarity of habit, contracted..from constantly losing 'skivs' at cards. 1871 *Punch* 14 Oct. 160/2 They tip you half a skiv now, instead of half a cartwheel.

Skive (skəiv), *sb.*[1] Also **skieve.** [ad. Du. *schijf* (sxeif), MDu. *schîve*: see Shive *sb.*] A revolving iron disk or wheel used with diamond powder in grinding, polishing, or finishing diamonds or other gems; a lap, a diamond-wheel. Cf. Scaife 2.

1843 Holtzapffel *Turning* I. 176 The diamonds are lastly polished upon an iron lap or skive, charged with diamond powder. 1862 *Catal. Intern. Exhib., Brit.* II. xxxiii. 53 Large diamonds are not exposed to the risk of cutting, but are polished from the rough on the skieve. 1884 F. J. Britten *Watch & Clockm.* 241 Gently pouring a little powder between the edge of the skive and the stone.

Skive (skəiv), *sb.*[2] [f. the vb.] The surface part of a sheet of leather cut off by a skiving-machine; a skiver.

1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* s.v. *Leather-skiving Machine*, The knife *C*, whose position..determines the thickness of the leather which passes between the knife and roller, the skive passing above the knife.

Skive (skəiv), *v.*[1] Also **skyve.** [a. ON. *skífa* (Norw. *skiva*), related to ME. *schîve* Shive *sb.*] *trans.* To split or cut (leather, rubber, etc.) into slices or strips; to shave or pare (hides).

a 1825 Forby *Voc. E. Anglia* 305 *Skive*, to pare off the thicker parts of hides, to make them of uniform substance, in order to their being tanned. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 1280/2 Leather is also skived for making lap-joints in round work and belting. 1884 *Health Exhib. Catal.* 115/1 One Machine for skyving or paring the edges of leather.

b. To pare or cut *off.*

1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 1277/2 [A] Machine..for skiving off the edge of a piece or strip of leather.

Hence **Skived** *ppl. a.*

1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 1280/2 The lap-seam..is sometimes formed with skived edges to avoid a ridge. 1893 *Westm. Gaz.* 30 Nov. 7/2 Pneumatic tyres, which are made from 'skived' rubber.

Skive (skəiv), *v.*[2] *dial.* [Of obscure origin.] *intr.* To move lightly and quickly; to dart.

1854 Miss Baker *Northampt. Gloss.* s.v. *Skave*, Thus we say, 'skiving like a lapwing', in allusion to the manner in which that bird skims over the surface of a sheet of water. 1857 J. G. Holland *Bay Path* XXVI. 334 Don't you want a little tot, Hugh, to be skiving round the cabin here? 1893 Cozens-Hardy *Broad Norf.* 49 Can't they skive under water when they want tu?

Skivel (ski·v'l). *dial.* = Skiver *sb.*[1]

1790 E. Nairne *Kentish Tales* (1824) 76 No pains or cost's required to paint a devil Down in a trice, with black ink and a skivel. 1868– in dial. glossaries (Sussex, Kent).

Skiver (ski·vəɹ), *sb.*[1] Chiefly *dial.* Also 9 **sciver, skivver, skivor.** [See note to Skewer *sb.*] A skewer. Also *fig.*

1664 J. Wilson *Projectors* IV, The frugal Spaniard!..that shall..carry a pound of Mutton in triumph on a Skiver! 1685 Boyle *Effects Motion* ix. 121 A little Bodkin or skiver of wood. 1699 Dampier *Voy.* II. i. 31 Little bits of Pork, spitted 5 or 6 of them at once, on a small skiver, and roasted. 1746 *Gentl. Mag.* XVI. 491/1 With a skiver From love's quiver I am spitted. 1838– in dialect glossaries, etc. (Yks., Som., Cornw., Irel.).

attrib. 1847 Halliw., *Skiver-wood*, dogwood, of which skewers are made. 1886 Elworthy *W. Somerset Word-bk.* 675 *Skiver-timber*, the spindle-wood;..*Euonymus europæus.*

Skiver (skəi·vəɹ), *sb.*[2] Also **skyver.** [f. Skive *v.*[1] + -er.]

1. A thin kind of dressed leather split from the grain side of a sheep-skin and tanned in sumach, used for bookbinding, lining hats, and other commercial purposes.

1800 *Hull Advertiser* 12 Apr. 2/2 Various kinds of leather,..red and brown skivers. 1851 Mayhew *Lond. Lab.* I. 443/2 The skin is 'split'...That known as the 'grain'.. is very thin, and is dressed into a 'skiver'. 1880 Leland *Minor Arts* i. 32 Now make a dragon..out of papier mâché .., cover it with skiver.

attrib. 1845 G. Dodd *Brit. Manuf.* V. ix. 205 The other half being alumed or tawed for 'skiver' leather.

2. One who or that which skives; *esp.* a workman who pares or splits leather.

1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2197/1 *Skiver*, a paring tool for leather. 1894 J. Macintosh *Ayrshire Nts. Entert.* xxi. 397 The shapes are then handed to the skivers, the fitters, and the sewers.

Skiver (ski·vəɹ), *v.*[1] [f. Skiver *sb.*[1]] *trans.* To pierce or stab with or as with a skewer; to fasten with a skewer.

1832 *Blackw. Mag.* Mar. 432/2 Nor was that abject delusion destroyed even by the bayonets that skivered the Invincibles. 1874 Mahaffy *Soc. Life Greece* ix. 280 *note*, The head doctors would skiver him, if they caught him taking a fee. 1886 Elworthy *W. Somerset Word-bk.* 675 Mind you skiver up the bag.

Skiver (skəi·vəɹ), *v.*[2] [f. Skiver *sb.*[2]] *trans.* To cut or pare (leather).

1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2197/1 *Skiver*,..a machine.. adjustable to skiver counters to any desired width of scarf.

Skiver, *v.*[3] *U.S.* [Cf. Skive *v.*[2]] (See quot.)

a 1891 *Shore Birds* 33 (Cent. Dict.), At the report of a gun the frightened flock will dart about in terror, *skiver*, as it is technically called.

Skivet, variant of Skibbet.

Skivie (skəi·vi), *a. Sc.* Also **skaivie.** [Of obscure origin: cf. Du. *scheef*, ON. *skeifr* askew, asquint.] Harebrained; mentally deranged.

1808 Jamieson, *Skaivie*, harebrained; applied to one who acts as if in a delirium, or on the borders of insanity. 1824 Scott *Redgauntlet* ch. vii, 'He means *mad*,' said the party appealed to...'Ye have it—ye have it', said Peter, 'that is, not clean skivie, but—'.

Ski·ving, *vbl. sb.* [f. Skive *v.*[1]]

1. (See quots.)

a 1825 Forby *Voc. E. Anglia* 305 *Skivings*, the parings of hides, to be boiled into glue. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 1281/2 By splitting so as to preserve the grain side, one sheet of very fair leather may be obtained, while the other (*skiving*) is fit for trunk-covers, etc.

2. The action of splitting leather, etc.

1884 Knight *Dict. Mech.* Suppl. 820/2 *Skiving*, the act of removing the rough fleshy portion from the inner surface of a skin. 1893 *Westm. Gaz.* 30 Nov. 7/2 'Skiving' has

hitherto been thought impracticable, but specimens of this process applied to the Surrey pneumatic tyres were shown by the patentee.

3. *attrib.*, as *skiving-knife, machine, process, -tool.*

1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 1277/1 It is a skiving process, and is usually performed on a skiving or shaving machine. *Ibid.* 2197/1 Skiving-knife; skiving-tool.

Skladdyt, obs. pa. pple. of SCALD *v.*

Sklait(t, Sklate, obs. Sc. forms of SLATE *sb.*[1]

Sklander, etc.: see SLANDER, etc.

Skla(u)nt, Sklave, Sklavin: see SLANT, etc.

† Skleir, *sb. Obs.* Also 4 scleire, scleyre, sklayre, skleire, sleyre, slaire. [a. MLG. *sleier, sleiger,* = MHG. *sleier,* mod. G. *schleier,* Du. *sluier,* of obscure origin.] A veil.

13.. *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* xxxvii. 280 Þis wymmen..Wiþ hornes on heore hed Pinned on vch a syde..Wiþ selk scleyres I-set aboue. 1362 LANGL. *P. Pl.* A. VII. 7 'Þat weore a long lettynge' quaþ a ladi in a skleir [*v.rr.* scleire, sklayre, slaire, etc.].

Hence **† Skleir** *v. trans.*, to veil. *Obs.*

1387–8 T. USK *Test. Love* II. xiv. (Skeat) 25 And with fayre honyed wordes heretykes and mis-meninge people skleren and wimplen their errours.

Sklent, *sb. Sc.* Also sclent. [Sc. var. of SLENT *sb.* Cf. the earlier ASKLENT *adv.*] A slant or slope; a slanting or sideward movement; a side-look, etc.

1768 Ross *Helenore* 16 With easy sklent, on every side the braes..wi' scatter'd busses raise. 1786 BURNS *To J. Smith* vii, This while my notion's taen a sklent, To try my fate in guid, black prent. 1818 HOGG *Brownie of Bodsbeck* xiv, I gae a sklent wi' my ee. 1891 *Blackw. Mag.* CL. 712/1 Not descended indeed in direct line from..Wordsworth.., but striking off from him in a sort of sklent, if we may use such a word.

Sklent, *v. Sc.* and *north. dial.* Also sclent. [var. of SLENT *v.*]

1. *intr.* To move, dart, or fall, obliquely; to lie aslant; to give a side-look, etc.

1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* VII. vii. 87 As sum tyme sclentis the round top of tre, Hit with the twynit quhyp. *Ibid.* x. xiii. 51 The casting dart..That fleand sclentis on Eneas scheyld. 1629 SIR W. MURE *True Crucifixe* 1668 The honour.., streight sent back, is vpwards driven, And by Reflexe doth sklent hye way to Heauen. 1808–1901 in *Eng. Dial. Dict.* (Sc. and Northumb.).

b. *fig.* To deviate from a straightforward course, or from the truth.

1581 N. BURNE in *Cath. Tract.* (S. T. S.) 155 Bot becaus ye se your self conuict,..ye ar constranit to sklent and mak the act of Parliament ane buclar for your defence aganis al argumentis. 1785 BURNS *2nd Epist. J. Lapraik* xi, Do ye envy the city-gent, Behint a kist to lie an' sklent. 1864 in *Eng. Dial. Dict.*

2. *trans.* To direct obliquely.

1785 BURNS *To W. Simpson* ii, Ironic satire, sidelins sklented, On my poor Musie. 1785 — *Addr. Deil* xvii, Ye ..sklented on the man of Uzz, Your spitefu' joke.

Hence **Skle·nting** *vbl. sb.* and *ppl. a.*

1568 *Satir. Poems Reform.* xlvii. 83 Tha peure winschis ȝe wranguslie suspect For sklenting bowttis. *a* 1572 KNOX *Hist. Ref.* Wks. 1846 II. 321 He was a large quarter of myle from the schote and sklenting of boltis. 1785 BURNS *Addr. Deil* vii, The stars shot down wi' sklentan light.

Skleroclase, variant of SCLEROCLASE.

Sklice, obs. or Sc. form of SLICE.

Sklither, obs. variant of SLITHER *a.*

† Skluce. *Obs.*[−1] [Cf. MDu. *sluus* pulp (of an apple).] A pulpy mass.

c 1430 *Two Cookery Bks.* 25 Boyle it, & plante þin skluce with Rosys, & serue forth.

Skn-, occas. ME. variant of SN-.

‖ Skoal (skōul), *sb.* Also 7 scol, scoll, skole, scoill, scoall. [ad. Da. and Norw. *skaal,* Sw. *skål,* repr. ON. *skál* bowl.] A health in drinking; a toast. Also *Comb.*

In early use only Sc., perhaps introduced through the visit of James VI to Denmark in 1589. In recent use the Norw. and Da. spelling *skaal* is sometimes retained.

1600 *Scot. Acts, Jas. VI* (1816) IV. 204 He wes directit frome his ma^tie To drink his scoll to my lord diuk and the rest of the companie. *Ibid.*, Immediatlie after the scoill had passit about. 1649 *Ibid., Chas. II* (1814) VI. II. 174 All those who under whatsoever name..Drink healthes and scoalles. 1678 CALDERWOOD *Hist. Ch. Scotl.* 787 Sir William Beyer..stayed the taking away of the centries..till the Kings skole were drunk at that part of the bridge.

1840 LONGF. *Skel. in Armour* XX, There from the flowing bowl Deep drinks the warrior's soul, *Skoal!* to the Northland! *Skoal!* 1857 LD. DUFFERIN *Lett. High Lat.* (ed. 3) 62 With the peculiar manners used in Scandinavian skoal-drinking I was already well acquainted.

† Skoal, *v. Sc. Obs.* In 6–7 scoll, 7 scole, scoall. [f. prec.] *intr.* To drink healths; to drink deeply. Hence **Skoa·ling** *vbl. sb.*

a 1598 ROLLOCK *Serm.* Wks. 1849 I. 395 He is harling them to harlatrie..to scolling and drinking. 1624 *Extr. Aberdeen Register* (1848) II. 391 That nane presume..to vrge thair nichtbouris to waught or scole farder nor thair plesour. 1649 *Sc. Acts, Chas. II* (1814) VI. II. 174 Healthing and scoalling is the occasion of much drunkennesse.

Skoche, Skoch(e, obs. ff. SCOTCH *sb.*[1] and *v.*[1]

Skodaic (skodē·ik), *a. Path.* [f. the name of the Austrian physician Joseph *Skoda* (1805–81).] The specific epithet of the resonant percussion note heard in cases of pleuritic effusion.

1882 *Quain's Dict. Med.* II. 1187 This resonance, called Skodaic resonance, is a very characteristic sign. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* II. 1137 If a layer of lung intervene.. a Skodaic note may be elicited. 1898 *Ibid.* V. 338 The resonance becoming..of that character which is generally known under the name of 'skodaic resonance'.

Skoe, Skogy: see SKEO, SCUGGY *a.*

† Skoke. *Obs.* [ad. MDu. or MLG. *schok*: see SHOCK *sb.*] A certain quantity (see quot.).

1545 *Rates of Customs* b j, Double Iron plates called doubles the skoke xx.*s.* Doubles the bondel, iij.*s.* iiij.*d.* and vj. bondels to the skoke.

Skolder, obs. Sc. f. SCOWDER *v.* **Skole,** obs. f. SCALE *sb.*[1], SCHOOL, SKOAL. **Skolecite,** obs. f. SCOLECITE. **Skolion,** var. SCOLION. **Skolkerye,** obs. var. SKULKERY. **Skons(e,** obs. ff. SCONCE. **Skonschon,** obs. f. SCUNCHEON. **Skooter,** obs. var. SCOUTER. **Skop(e, -ppe,** obs. ff. SCOOP.

Skopster. *local.* The saury pike.

a 1705 RAY *Syn. Pisc.* (1713) 165 *Skipper* Cornubiensium (corruptione vocis) *skopster.* 1865 COUCH *Brit. Fishes* IV. 141 Skipper. Saury. Skopster.

Skoray, var. SCAURIE. **Skord(e,** obs. pa. pple. SCORE *v.* **Skorodite,** var. SCORODITE. **Skorrie, Skory,** varr. SCAURIE. **Skorza,** var. SCORZA. **Skose,** obs. f. SCORSE *v.*[1] **Skouchin,** obs. f. SCUTCHEON *sb.*[1] **Skough, Skowg,** obs. ff. SCUG *sb.*[1] **Skoukinge,** obs. f. SKULKING *vbl. sb.* **Skoulk-, Skoute-wacche,** obs. varr. SCOUT-WATCH. **Skoverour,** obs. f. SCOURER[1]. **Skowe,** var. SCOGH, wood. *Obs.* **Skowke,** obs. form of SCULK *v.* **Skowlt,** obs. f. SCOUT *sb.*[4] **Skowre,** obs. f. SCORE *sb.*, SCOUR *v.* **Skoymus, -mys,** obs. ff. SQUEAMOUS, -MISH.

† Skoyse, ? obs. variant of SKICE *v.*

1616 J. LANE *Contn. Sgr.'s T.* VII. 411 Instantlie kinge Cambuscan skoysd to campe in th' aier.

Skrae-fish. *local.* (See quots. and SCRAE *sb.*[2])

1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.* 630 *Skrae-fish,* fish dried in the sun without being salted. 1881 DAY *Fishes Gt. Brit.* I 295 Coal-fish,..also locally..skrae-fish.

† Skrange, ? misprint for *skragge* SCRAG *sb.*[2]

1607 *Barley-Breake* Div b, Amongst the rest, a blacke and filthie bird Sate on a skrange, and cries, A rope, a rope.

Skrap(p)le, obs. forms of SCRAPPLE *sb.*[1] and *v.*

Skraule, obs. form of SCRAWL *v.*

Skreigh (skrīχ), *sb.*[1] *Sc.* Forms: 6 skrech, 8 skriech, 9 skreich; 7– skreigh, 9 skriegh, skreegh, screigh, etc. [Alteration of *screik* SCREAK *sb.*, in order to imitate a more prolonged or harsher sound.] A shriek or screech; a loud shrill cry or scream. Also *fig.*

1549 *Compl. Scot.* vi. 39 The herrons gaif ane vyild skrech as the kyl hed bene in fyir. *c* 1614 SIR W. MURE *Dido & Æneas* III. 395 The skreigh is rais'd, with many rewfull cries. 1715 RAMSAY *Christ's Kirk Gr.* II. vi, He gripped Kate, And gar'd her gi'e a skreigh. 1790 BURNS *Tam o' Shanter* 200 The witches follow Wi' mony an eldritch skriech and hollo. 1816 SCOTT *Antiq.* vii, 'The skriegh of a Tammie Norie,' answered Ochiltree, 'I ken the skirl weel'. 1818 — *Rob Roy* xxiii, The skreigh of duty, which no man should hear and be inobedient.

Skreigh (skrīχ), *sb.*[2] *Sc.* Also skrieh, skregh, screigh, etc. [Alteration (after prec.) of *skreek, skriek,* etc. (see SCREAK *sb.* 3), for earlier CREEK *sb.*[2]] The break *of* day.

1802 LEYDEN *Lord Soulis* viii, The page he look'd at the skrieh of day. 1816 SCOTT *Bl. Dwarf* x, I wad..be on and awa' to Mucklestane wi' the first skreigh o' morning. 1879 *Yachtsman's Holidays* 53 The watchful Lachlan called all hands by 'skreigh o' day'.

Skreigh (skrīχ), *v. Sc.* Also 8 skriegh, 9 skreegh, skriech, skreich; 8 scriegh, 8–9 screigh, 9 scriech, etc. [Alteration of *screik* SCREAK *v.*: cf. SKREIGH *sb.*[1]]

1. *intr.* To screech or shriek; to utter a loud shrill cry; to make a screeching noise.

1715 RAMSAY *Christ's Kirk Gr.* II. vii, And fouk wad threep, that she did green For what wad gar her skirle And skreigh some day. 1786 BURNS *To Auld Mare* viii, How thou wad prance, an' snore, an' scriegh. 1816 SCOTT *Antiq.* xi, I would hae skreigh'd out at once, and raised the house. 1894 LATTO *Tam. Bodkin* ii, The tempest..whistlin' and skreeghin' amang the..trees.

2. *trans.* To utter in a screeching tone.

1786 BURNS *Earnest Cry* ii, Scriechan out prosaic verse, An' like to brust! *c* 1800 MACNEILL *Poems* (1844) 60 Rebellion loud..Skreighed wild her cry.

Hence **Skrei·ghing** *vbl. sb.*

1816 SCOTT *Antiq.* xi, I doubted Mary wad waken you wi' her skreighing.

Skrene, obs. form of SCREEN *sb.*[1] **Skreyme,** obs. f. SCREAM *sb.* **Skrich(e,** obs. ff. SCRITCH.

Skrim, *v. Sc.* In 5–6 scrym, skrym. [ad. OF. *scrimir,* var. of *escremir, eskermir,* etc.: see SKIRMISH *v.*] *intr.* To skirmish; to dart. Hence **Skri·mming** *vbl. sb.*

For possible traces of the vb. in modern Sc. see Jamieson's Dict., s.v. *Scrim* and *Skrim.*

1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* XIX. 521 Thar wes ilk day Iustyng of wer, And scrymmyng maid full apertly. *c* 1450 HOLLAND *Howlat* 67 Sum skripe me with scorne, sum skrym at myn E. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* XII. v. 68 Ane gret flycht or ost Of fowlis..Quhilk on thar wyngis..Skrymmys heir and thar. 1535 STEWART *Cron. Scot.* II. 610 Ane lang quhile thair he lá, With greit scrymmyng and carmusche euerie da.

Skrine, obs. form of SCREEN *sb.*[1]

Skua (skiū·ă). *Ornith.* [Adopted by Hoier (*c* 1604) from the Færöese *skúgvur* (earlier **skúvur*), = ON. *skúfr* (in mod.Icel. *skúmur*), of uncertain origin.] A predatory gull belonging to the genus *Stercorarius,* esp. the largest European species, *S. catarrhactes,* which breeds in Shetland, the Færöes, and Iceland.

1678 RAY *Willughby's Ornith.* 349 Hapning to read over the description of Hoier's Skua..I find it exactly agrees with ours, so that I do not at all doubt but this Bird is the Skua of Hoier. 1768 PENNANT *Brit. Zool.* II. 417 They hold a knife erect over their heads, on which the Skua will transfix itself. 1777 FORSTER *Voy. round World* I. 109 We saw a bird..which proved to be the skua or great northern gull. 1826 STEPHENS in Shaw *Gen. Zool.* XIII. I. 214 The Skuas are more partial to fish..than the Jagers. *Ibid.* 216 Pomarine Skua. 1896 J. SKELTON *Summers & W. Balmawhapple* I. 216 The tarrock skims lightly along, and screams as the skua comes prowling round the cape.

b. *attrib.* in *skua-gull.*

1768 PENNANT *Brit. Zool.* (1776) II. 447 *headline,* Skua Gull. 1820 SCORESBY *Acc. Arctic Reg.* II. 370 Solan geese, skua-gulls and land birds on the wing. 1872 COUES *N. Amer. Birds* 26 A sort of false cere occurs in some water birds, as the jaegers, or skua-gulls.

Skuddiller, variant of SCUDLER, scullion.

Skue, obs. form of SKEW *a.*

† Skue, *v. Obs.*[−o] (See quot.)

1611 COTGR., *Raser les eaux,* to skimme ouer, to skue [? *read* skud] or sayle vpon, the water.

† Skuett. *Obs.*[−1] [app. related to SKEWER *sb.* Cf. SCUET.] (See quot.)

1728 E. SMITH *Compleat Housewife* (ed. 2) 35 To make Skuetts. Take fine, long, and slender Skewers; then cut Veal Sweet-breads into pieces, like Dice, and some fine Bacon into thin square bits;..and then spit them on the Skewers [etc.].

Skugry, obs. Sc. form of SCUGGERY.

Skul, obs. form of SCULL, SKULL[1].

Skulk (skʊlk), *sb.* Also 4–5 sculke, 6 scoulke, sculck; 5 skulke. [f. the vb.]

1. One who skulks or hides himself; a shirker.

c 1320 LANGTOFT *Chron.* (Rolls) II. 248 The roghe raggy sculke Rug ham in helle!

1847 H. MELVILLE *Omoo* iv, 'Where's that skulk, Chips?' shouted Jermin down the forecastle scuttle. 1894 BLACKMORE *Perlycross* 107 You are an honest fellow, Jemmy, whatever skulks and sneaks may say.

† 2. A number, company, or gathering (of persons or animals given to skulking). *Obs.*

Chiefly in echoes of a list of 'proper terms', and having at no time much real currency.

c 1450 in *Trans. Philol. Soc.* (1909) 25 A Skolke of freris. A Skolke of thewys. A Skolke of foxys. 1486 *Bk. St. Albans* f vj b, A Skulke of Theuys [etc.]. 1502 ARNOLDE *Chron.* (1811) 90 Ony persone or persones..that make ony sculke or be a receyuer or a gederar of euyl company. 1532 MORE *Confut. Tindale* Wks. 502/1 He shall doe [miracles] in hys catholike church, and suffereth none to be done among all the scoulkes of heretykes. 1582 STANYHURST *Æneis,* etc. (Arb.) 138 An armoure..wheare scaals be ful horriblye clincked Of scrawling serpents, with sculcks of poysoned adders. 1594 O. B. *Quest. Profit. Concern.* 10 Notwithstanding all this, there remained a sculke of such, as neither care nor castigation could amend. [1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), *Sculk,* (among Hunters) a Company, as A Skulk of Foxes. 1801 STRUTT *Sports & P.* I. i. 17. 1830 W. IRVING *Sketch Bk.* (1821) II. 50 We say a flight of doves .., a skulk of foxes. 1883 E. PENNELL-ELMHIRST *Cream Leicestersh.* 380 A cloud of foxes..(the term, an old book told me years ago, should be a sculk of foxes).]

3. An act of skulking.

1858 WRAXALL *Wild Oats* XXV, [He] preferred being locked in till twelve, 'doing a skulk', as he elegantly termed it.

Skulk (skʊlk), *v.* Forms: *α.* 3 sculkin, 4 sculke, 4– sculk, 7 sculck. *β.* 4 skulc, 4–skulk, 4, 7 skulke. *γ.* 3 scolk–, 5 *Sc.* scowk–, 6 scowlke, scoulk, 7 scouke, skowke. [app. of Scand. origin: cf. Norw. *skulka* to lurk, lie watching, Da. *skulke,* Sw. *skolka* to shirk, play truant.]

There is app. a remarkable lack of evidence for the currency of the word in the 15th and 16th centuries, compared with its frequency in earlier and later use.

1. *intr.* To move in a stealthy or sneaking fashion, so as to escape notice. Usually with advs. and preps., as *about, away, into,* etc. † Also *refl.*

a. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 400 Nis non þet muwe etlutien [*v.r.* auuey sculkin] þet heo ne mot him luuien. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 13741 Ne wist þai neuer quat to sai; Bot ilkan sculked þaim awai. *c* 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 1788 Alle thyng it brestes in sonder, Als it sculkes by diverse ways. 1642–4 J. VICARS *God in Mount* (1844) 149 Lord Paulet..took his way toward Myneard, and so to sculk over into Wales. 1691 WOOD *Ath. Oxon.* II. 24 He was..forced to..creep and sculk into every place for fear of being taken and hanged. 1773 JOHNSON in *Boswell* (1831) II. 484 It is a poor thing for a fellow to get drunk at night, and sculk to bed. *c* 1825 MRS. SHERWOOD *Houlston Tracts* II. No. 32. 6 The three servants sculked by her to get out of the room. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* v. I. 525 Plotters and libellers by profession,..who were forced to sculk in disguise through back streets.

β. *a* 1300 *E. E. Psalter* CXVIII. 158, I sagh wemmand and skulked awai. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* II. 93 Awey he skulketh as an hare. *c* 1400 *Sowdone Bab.* 2651 Take withe the .iij. hundred knightes..Leste þat lurdeynes come skulkynge oute. 1419 *26 Pol. Poems* 69 Þe glosers skulked away, for shame of here sooles. 1677 W. HUBBARD *Narrative* (1865) I. 209 The Enemy..killing a Man at Weymouth, another at Hingham, as they lay skulking up and down in Swamps and Holes. *c* 1720 PRIOR *True's Epitaph* 19 He..Ne'er

skulk'd from whence his sovereign led him. 1804 *Naval Chron.* XII. 338 The enemy..skulking out of Toulon for a mile or two, and then..skulking into port again. 1850 D. G. Mitchell *Reveries Bachelor* 245, I went up at night, and skulked around the buildings. 1883 S. C. Hall *Retrospect* II. 382 The peasant, when drunk, skulks to his home from the public-house through by-ways.

b. *transf.* and *fig.*

1665 Hooke *Microgr.* liv. 211 Some mischief that makes it [a louse] oftentime sculk into some meaner and lower place, and run behind a mans back. *a* 1694 Tillotson *Serm.* cliii. (1748) VIII. 369 As if things..did break forth into being and sculk again into nothing..'at the beck of his will'. 1800 Coleridge *Piccolom.* I. iii, Beware you do not think That I by lying arts..have skulk'd into his graces. 1865 Ruskin *Sesame* i. § 16 There are masked words droning and skulking about us in Europe just now.

2. To hide or conceal oneself, to keep out of sight, to avoid observation, esp. with some sinister motive or in fear of being discovered; to lurk.

a. a 1300 *E. E. Psalter* cxi. 9 Sinful sal se,..And sal sculke to be awai. *c* 1330 R. Brunne *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 15887 Al þat ilke day he sculked; Among þe pouere men he hulked. 1484 in *Litt. Cantuar.* (Rolls) III. 311 Sculkynge in wodys be day and lyinge a wayte to robbe the Kynges lyege people. 1615 G. Sandys *Trav.* 217 A Leopard that sculkt in the aforesaid thicket. 1641 J. Jackson *True Evang. T.* I. 15 Man is a yong Lyon,..lurking and sculking to doe mischiefe. 1736 Fielding *Pasquin* v, The fox, Wise beast, who knows the treachery of men, Flies their society, and sculks in woods. 1806 H. Siddons *Maid, Wife, & W.* I. 108, I..must sculk, a dishonourable, an abandoned fugitive. 1894 Gladstone *Horace* III. xii. 22 Sculking where the woods are thick.

β. a 1300 *E. E. Psalter* xxxviii. 15 To skulke als irain þou made saule his. *c* 1330 R. Brunne *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 8287 Hengist byforn had don hem skulke In wodes, in hilles, to crepe in hulke. 1615 G. Sandys *Trav.* 129 Our Ianizaries discharged their harquebuses, lest some should haue skulkt within. 1709 Dampier *Voy.* III. II. 165 She [a boat] seeing us coming that way,..skulked behind a point a while. 1834 Marryat *P. Simple* (1863) 42 They told me that they had seen two sailors skulking behind the piles of timber. 1884 Gilmour *Mongols* 265 Most Mongols would prefer to endure two or three years' imprisonment, to being compelled to skulk for life.

transf. 1664 H. Power *Exp. Philos.* II. 117 The spontaneous Dilatation..of that little remnant of Ayr skulking in the rugosities thereof. *c* 1750 Shenstone *Ruin'd Abbey* 293 The bigot pow'r Amidst her native darkness skulk'd secure. 1838 Dickens *Nickleby* xix, A smile, which seemed to skulk under his face.

γ. 1530 Palsgr. 699/2 A daye tale he scoulketh in corners and a nyghtes he goithe a thevyng. 1533 More *Debell. Salem* Wks. 994/2 Heretikes..wont but to crepe together in corners, and secretly scoulk together in lurkes lanes. 1611 Cotgr., *Blotir*, to squat, skowke, or ly close to the ground. 1659 Torriano *Eng.-Ital. Dict.*, To scouke, *nascondersi*.

b. To hide, to withdraw or shelter oneself, in a cowardly manner. Freq. with *behind*.

1621 G. Sandys *Ovid's Met.* XIII. 256 Reuoke the foe, thy wounds, and vsuall feare; Behind my target sculk. 1681 Dryden *Span. Friar* IV. ii, Should a common Soldier sculk behind, And thrust his General in the Front of War. 1781 Cowper *Conversation* 375 But counterfeit is blind, and skulks through fear, Where 'tis a shame to be asham'd t'appear. 1840 Dickens *Barn. Rudge* li, They shall not find us skulking and hiding, as if we feared to take our portion of the light of day. 1877 W. Black *Green Past.* xi, I'll fight any one of you—ah! skulk behind the women, do!

transf. 1681 Dryden *Abs. & Achit.* 207 He stood at bold Defiance with his Prince;..and sculk'd behind the Laws. 1771 Smollett *Humph. Cl.* (1815) 122 Every rancorous knave ..may skulk behind the press of a newsmonger..without running the least hazard of detection or punishment. 1866 G. Macdonald *Ann. Q. Neighb.* xxvii, But my love did not long remain skulking thus behind the hedge of honour.

c. To shirk duty; *spec.* to malinger.

1781 Cowper *Table-T.* 312 Let magistrates alert perform their parts, Not skulk or put on a prudential mask. 1826 Hutchison *Pract. Obs. Surg.* 191 The sick list having been ..delivered in to the captain, with a particular mark against the name of every man either sculking or suspected of sculking. 1843 H. Gavin *Feigned Diseases* 23 Marines.., much more than sailors, are found frequently skulking, owing to the severity of their exercise. 1887 Besant *The World Went* iv, [He] is not one who will skulk, or suffer his crew to skulk.

3. *trans.* a. To shun, keep away from, avoid, in a skulking manner.

c 1620 *Z.* Boyd *Zion's Flowers* (1855) 8 I'le skulk the place where God hath sent me to. 1835 *Tait's Mag.* II. 377 What school-boy would dare to skulk a fight? 1847 *Fraser's Mag.* XXXVI. 561 Southey, in his wonted mode, skulks the affair of the Bay of Naples.

b. 'To produce or bring forward clandestinely or improperly.'

1846 Worcester, citing *Eclectic Rev.*

Skulker (skʌ·lkəɹ). Also 4, 6 **sculker**(e, 4 **scolker**, 5 **sculcare**, *Sc.* **scoukar**. [f. prec. + -er¹. Cf. MSw. *skulkare*, Norw. *skulkar*.]

1. One who skulks, in various senses. † Also as a name for the hare.

13.. *Names of Hare* in *MS. Digby* 168 b, þe wint-swiffi, þe sculkere, þe hare-serd, þe heg roukere. 1387 Trevisa *Higden* (Rolls) VII. 491 He haþ wiþ hym flemed men and scolkers aboute. *? a* 1400 *Morte Arth.* 3119 Than skyftes þes skouerours,.. Diskoueres for skulkers that they no skathe lymppene. *c* 1470 Henry *Wallace* IX. 180 Skour weyll about for scoukaris in the se. *c* 1530 *Pore Helpe* 384 in Hazl. *E. P. P.* III. 266 A man that wyl not vary, And one that is no sculker. 1728 *Wodrow Corr.* (1843) III. 401 The numbers that are for laying him aside.., too often hedgers and skulkers. 1800 Coleridge *Wallenstein* I. vii, Did we confine thee not to let that skulker..pass the gates of Pilsen! 1841 C. Mackay *Pop. Delusions* II. 30 He..was now a solitary skulker in the forests. 1870 Dickens *E. Drood* xv, It's good advice, whichever of you skulkers gave it.

b. *spec.* (See quot. 1785.)

1785 Grose *Dict. Vulgar T., Skulker*, a soldier who by feigned sickness or other pretences evades his duty, a sailor who keeps below in time of danger [etc.]. 1826 Hutchison *Pract. Obs. Surg.* 191 The plan I adopted, when serving afloat, to lessen the sick list of sculkers, as they are technically termed in the navy. 1887 *Spectator* 9 July 932/1 Serjeant Lawrence..was particularly hard on skulkers.

2. A moth, *Graphiphora latens*.

1832 Rennie *Butterfl. & Moths* 54 The Sculker..appears in summer. Rare. South of Scotland.

3. *Ornith.* (See quots.)

1867 H. Spencer *Princ. Biol.* VI. viii. § 349 'Skulkers' is the descriptive title applied to the Water-Rail, the Corn-Crake, and their allies, which evade enemies by concealment. 1872 Coues *N. Amer. Birds* 241 Their shy retiring habit of skulking among the rushes has caused them to be sometimes called *Latitores* (skulkers).

† **Skuˑlkery.** *Obs.* Also 5 **scoulkery, scolcurye, skolkerye, skoulkery.** [f. Skulk *v.* + -ery.] The practice of skulking.

c 1400 *Laud Troy Bk.* 7602, I may not longe it suffry Off that Achilles with his scoulkery. *Ibid.* 8360. *? a* 1400 *Morte Arth.* 1644 For na skomfitoure in skoulkery is skomfite euer.

Skulking (skʌ·lkiŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. Skulk *v.* + -ing¹.] The action of the verb, in various senses.

1297 R. Glouc. (Rolls) 5130 Bote hii þus mid scolkinge vpe þe englisse wende. 1338 R. Brunne *Chron.* (1810) 3 Þei went tille Snawdone..To purueie þam a skulkyng, on þe Englis eft to ride. 1375 Barbour *Bruce* VII. 130 Thai var fayis to the kyng, And thoucht to cum in-to scowkyng [*v.r.* sculking], And duell with hym. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 451/1 Sculkynge, *cleptura*. 1611 Cotgr., *Tapissement*,.. a crooching, skowking, or ducking downe. 1659 Hammond *On Ps.* lxxxviii. 18 The lying hid, and sculking of friends. 1751 J. Brown *Shaftesb. Charac.* 9 These hussars.. by sudden evolutions and timely skulking, can do great mischiefs. 1805 *Med. Jrnl.* XIV. 415 Intemperance and skulking were never so little practised in any fleet as in this. 1867 F. Francis *Angling* ix. (1880) 333 The artifices of salmon are multifarious..'Skulking' is a common one.

b. *attrib.*, as *skulking hole, place*.

1535 Coverdale 1 *Macc.* i. 40 Then Ionathas and they that were with him, rose out of their skoukinge places agaynst them. 1655 Gurnall *Chr. in Arm.* xiv. (1669) 301/1 The Quakers..have their skulking hole to which they run from the Scripture. 1831 Scott *Ct. Robt.* ii, The light-footed Grecian..dodged his pursuer from one skulking place to another.

Skuˑlking, *ppl. a.* [f. as prec. + -ing².]

1. That skulks or hides; sneaking, lurking.

1619 Fletcher *False One* I. i, I bought it Of a skulking Scribler for two Ptolomies. 1639 *Lismore Papers* Ser. II. (1888) IV. 37 The malignitie of some Skulkinge enviers of my preferment. 1728 Morgan *Hist. Algiers* II. v. 320 What have we to do with the History of a Crew of starving, beggarly, skulking Pyrates? 1755 *Gentl. Mag.* XXV. 571 The Moravians..are apprehensive of a visit from some of their skulking parties. 1803 *Naval Chron.* X. 82 The skulking French row-boats..make sure work of taking prizes. 1828 L. M. Hawkins *Annaline* I. 171 You gave that skulking rascal..money when you spoke to him. 1878 Bosw. Smith *Carthage* 208 A few skulking marauders.

fig. 1654 H. L'Estrange *Chas. I* (1655) 110 An old skulking statute long since out of use.

2. Characterized by skulking.

1658 W. Burton *Itin. Antoninus* 39 Such as by stealth, and in a skulking way, did what they did. 1674 Marvell *Reh. Transp.* II. 38 That anonymous and sculking method both of Writing and Licensing. 1742 Young *Nt. Th.* VIII. 487 But thy Great Soul this skulking glory scorns. 1826 Scott *Woodst.* xx, That skulking and rambling mode of life.

Hence **Skuˑlkingly** *adv.*

1847 in Webster. 1878 C. J. Vaughan *Earnest Words for E. Men* 118 The good thing [presented itself] timidly, skulkingly.

Skull¹ (skʌl). Forms: *α.* 3–5 **scolle**, 4–5 **scol, scoll**, 5 **scole**; 5 **skolle**, 5–6 **skoll**, 6 **skol**. *β.* 3, 5 **schulle**, 4–7 **sculle** (6 **scoulle**, 7 **scoule**), 6–7 **scul**, 6–9 **scull**. *γ.* 4–6 **skulle**, 6–7 **skul**, 5– **skull**. [Of obscure origin: first prominent in south-western texts of the 13–14th centuries, usually in the form *scolle*.

A foreign origin is indicated by the initial *sc-*, *sk-*, but the locality of the early examples is against connexion with ON. *skoltr* (Norw. *skolt, skult*, Sw. *skult*, dial. *skulle*) skull, poll, or with Norw. dial. *skul, skol* shell (of nuts or eggs). There is correspondence of form with Du. *schol*, MLG. *schulle*, MHG. (and G.) *scholle* (OHG. *scolla, scollo*) earthy crust, turf, piece of ice (cf. also Sw. *skolla* metal plate), but there is no evidence that these were ever used in the sense of 'skull'. The same difficulty applies to OF. *escuelle, escule* dish, nor would this readily have assumed the early form *scolle*.]

1. The bony case or frame containing or enclosing the brain of man or other vertebrate animals; the cranium; also, the whole bony framework or skeleton of the head.

α. c 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 168 Robert de brok..þoru3 þe scolle smot is swerd. *c* 1330 *King of Tars* 521 Summe pleyed of the heved, And summe heore scolles icleved. 1387 Trevisa *Higden* (Rolls) I. 115 Golgotha is to menynge a baar scolle. For whan..mysdoeres were þere byheded, þe hedes were i-left þere. *c* 1400 *Lanfranc's Cirurg.* 216 Watir þat is gaderid in children hedis, ouþer it is wiþinne þe scolle or wiþoute þe scolle. *c* 1450 *Two Cookery-bks.* 79 Take a plouer, and breke his skoll, and pull him dry. 1506 *Kal. Sheph.* (Sommer) 102 In the skol ben two bones which ben called parietalles that holdeth the brayne close and stedfast.

β. a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 296 Ne 3if him neuer in3ong auh tep him oðe schulle, uor he is eruh ase beore þeron.. *c* 1340 *Nominale* (Skeat) 8 *Greue, fountayne, et haterel*, Sched, molde, and sculle. 1382 Wyclif 2 *Kings* ix. 35 Thei founden not, no bot the scul, and the feet, and gobitis of the hond. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 450/2 Sculle, of the heede, *craneum*. *c* 1450 *Two Cookery-bks.* 80 Lete the sculle be hole. 1555 Eden *Decades* (Arb.) 238 They haue the bones of the sculles of theyr heades foure tymes thycker..then owres. 1578 Lyte *Dodoens* II. xxvii. 180 Small rounde heades..with little hooles in them, like to a dead scull. 1615 Crooke *Body of Man* 548 All these muscles are seated on the backeside of the Eye within the cauity of the Scull. 1725 N. Robinson *Th. Physick* 34 The Carotid Arteries..after they have enter'd the Scull. 1781 Cowper *Convers.* 780 That truth itself is in her head as dull, And useless, as a candle in a scull. 1824 W. Irving *T. Trav.* II. 236 Ghosts being seen about..at night, with bare sculls and blue lights in their sockets.

γ. 1387 Trevisa *Higden* (Rolls) V. 371 þis Albuinus had ..overcome þe kyng of Gispides, and i-made hym a cuppe of his skulle forto drinke of. 1390 Gower *Conf.* I. 128 The kyng in audience aboute Hath told it was hire fader Skulle. 1579 G. Baker *Guydo's Quest.* 12 b, Other [bones] be..sawwise, as ye skul of the head. 1615 Crooke *Body of Man* 440 The skull or cranium is all that bone which compasseth the braine and after-brain like a helmet. 1653 H. Cogan tr. *Pinto's Trav.* xxxi. 124 There were also other vessels laden with dead mens skuls. 1756–7 tr. *Keysler's Trav.* (1760) IV. 428 A piece of a skull, which had belonged to..Oliver Cromwell. 1830 R. Knox *Béclard's Anat.* 209 The great veins of the skull or the sinuses. 1877 J. A. Allen *Amer. Bison* 454 Variations in the form of the skull are often strikingly apparent.

b. The head as the proper seat of thought or intelligence. Commonly with allusion to dullness of intellect.

1523 Skelton *Garl. Laurel* 82 Better a dum mouthe than a brainles scull. 1601 Shaks. *Twel. N.* I. v. 121 Thou hast spoke..as if thy eldest sonne should be a foole: whose scull, Ioue cramme with braines. 1632 Lithgow *Trav.* x. 488 Your Sexe, Whose empty Sculles..your selues peruersely vexe. *a* 1795 Cowper *Pairing Time* 8 Ev'n the child who knows no better..Must have a most uncommon skull. 1823 in Cobbett *Rur. Rides* (1885) I. 338 It has at last been hammered into their skulls, that the interest cannot be paid in full, if wheat sells low. 1857 Reade *Course True Love* 99 We..have not an idea of our own in our sculls.

† c. *slang.* The head of an Oxford College or Hall. *Obs.* Cf. Golgotha 2.

1721 Amherst *Terræ Fil.* No. 11 (1726) 55 The Sculls.. clapp'd a Degree upon his back. *Ibid.* No. 30. 167 Another gentleman..who has lately given a certain learned Scull great offence. 1864 *Slang Dict.* 223 *Scull* or *Skull*, the head or Master of a College,..but nearly obsolete.

d. A representation of a human skull, as an emblem or reminder of death or mortality.

1826 Miss Mitford *Village* Ser. II. (1863) 898 She was a perpetual *memento mori*; a skull and cross-bones would hardly have been more efficacious. 1875 W. McIlwraith *Guide Wigtownshire* 40 Here are the typical marrow-bones, skull, and sand glass.

† 2. a. The crown or top of the head; the sconce, the (bare) scalp. *Obs.*

c 1380 *Sir Ferumb.* 353 Loke þat þou be armed sad, & hele þy bare scolle. *c* 1386 Chaucer *Reeve's T.* 15 As piled as an Ape was his skulle. 14.. *Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 586 *Glabella*, the schulle. 1611 Cotgr., *Calvaire*, the (bare) skull, or skalpe of the head. 1634 Sir T. Herbert *Trav.* (1638) 16 A third..shaves here and there, the bald scull appearing in many places.

† b. Used to render L. *cervix*, the back of the neck. *Obs.*

1382 Wyclif *Deut.* xxviii. 48 He shal put on an yren 3ok vpon thi scol. — 1 *Sam.* iv. 18 He felle fro the litil seet.., and the scullis brokun, he is deed.

† 3. A skull-cap of metal or other hard material; a close-fitting head-piece. *Obs.*

α. 1522 *Galway Arch.* in *10th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. V. 400 No kynde of armor, as shorte of maylle, ne skoll. 1536 in W. H. Turner *Select. Rec. Oxford* (1880) 136 [He] had a paire of brexen journeys on his backe,..and a skoll on his head.

β. 1530 Palsgr. 268/1 Scull harnesse for the heed, *segretle*. 1557 *Act* 4 & 5 *Phil. & Mary* c. 2 § 2 One Murrien or Sallet, ..and one Steele Cappe or Sculle. 1611 Cotgr., *Secrete*, a thinne steele cap, or a close scull worne vnder a hat, &c. *a* 1674 Milton *Hist. Mosc.* Wks. 1851 VIII. 478 Thir Armour is a Coat of Plate, and a Scull on thir Heads.

γ. a 1548 Hall *Chron., Hen. VIII*, 235 Suche as should beare Morysh Pyckes..had no harnesse but skulles. 1600 Dymmok *Ireland* (1843) 7 Armed with a shert of maile, a skull, and a skeine. *a* 1674 Milton *Hist. Mosc.* Wks. 1851 VIII. 517 They saw the Emperor and his Son..each with a Skull of Pearl on thir bare Heads.

4. A crust of solidified steel or other metal formed on a ladle, etc., by the partial cooling of the molten material. Also without article.

1773 *Wright's Pat.* in *6th Rep. Dep. Kpr. Rec.* App. II. 161 Making Malleable Iron..from Scull and Cinder Iron or other Cast Metal. 1880 *Encycl. Brit.* XIII. 326/2 To keep the blown metal in fusion and prevent 'skulls' forming when it is run out into a casting ladle. 1894 *Daily News* 12 Feb. 6/6 The process does not produce 'skull', and small quantities can therefore be dealt with without in any way chilling the metal.

5. *attrib.* In sense 'of or pertaining to, belonging to or connected with, the skull', as *skull-bone, -form, -pan, -piece, -skin, -wall*, etc.

1615 Crooke *Body of Man* 575 The muscle of the eare springing from the *pericranium* or skull [s]kin. 1746 W. Thompson *R. Navy Adv.* (1757) 39 The Scull Pieces of Oxen and Hogs. 1866 *Chambers's Encycl.* VIII. 759/2 The skull-bones are freely supplied with blood. 1891 *Archæol.* LIII. 212 A heavy stroke through the crown into the side

of the skull-pan. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VII. 239 The pressure of the cranial contents against the skull-wall. *Ibid.* 644 A tympanitic note on skull-percussion.

b. In sense 'in which skulls are reposited', as *skull-box, -house.*

1628-9 *Sarum Churchw. Acc.* (Swayne, 1896) 312 Henge for the skulle howse dore. 1654-5 *Ibid.* 330 Locke for ye skull house dore. 1859 JEPHSON *Brittany* vi. 67 In the apertures between the uprights which supported the roof [of the charnel-house] were heaped up skull-boxes.

c. In sense 'formed or made of a skull', as *skull-cup, -goblet, wine-cup.*

1825 HOGG *Q. Hynde* 280 Their skull-cups fill'd unto the brim. 1854 G. GREENWOOD *Haps & Mishaps* 27 The housekeeper took from a costly cabinet the famous and fearful skull wine-cup. 1856 HAWTHORNE *Eng. Note-bks.* (1870) II. 221 Where..the skull goblet has often gone its rounds.

6. *Comb.* **a.** With pa. or pres. ppples., as *skull-built, -covered, -crowned, -dividing, -hunting*; also *skull-like* adj.

1594 NASHE *Unfort. Trav.* Wks. (Grosart) V. 145 A scull croun'd hat of the fashion of an olde deepe porringer. 1641 W. HOOKE *New England's Tears* 10 Their instruments are ..skul-dividing Halberds. 1805 SOUTHEY *Madoc* II. xxii, The skull-built towers, the files of human heads. 1809-10 SHELLEY *Bigotry's Victim* 2 Dares the lama..The lion to rouse from his skull-covered lair? 1839-52 BAILEY *Festus* 523 The charnel-house of Time—where skull-like orbs.. Defiled the purview. 1898 C. S. HORNE *Story L. M. S.* 407 The teachers had themselves been skull-hunting cannibals.

b. With agent-nouns, as *skull-cracker, -hunter, -slinger, -thacker, -thatcher.*

1706 BAYNARD *Cold Baths* II. 394 Rats-bane [a physician] .., who was but a young Skull-slinger then. 1719 RAMSAY *2nd Answ. Hamilton* ii, But me ye ne'er sae crouse had craw'd Ye poor scull-thacker! 1852 MUNDY *Antipodes* (1857) 181 A splendid green-stone Meri, heirloom of her deceased lord, and the skull-cracker no doubt of a hundred foes. 1859 *Slang Dict.* 94 *Skull thatchers*, straw bonnet makers,—sometimes called 'bonnet-builders'. 1863 MISS BRADDON *A. Floyd* xxiv, 'I'll find my skull-thatcher if I can,' said Captain Prodder, groping for his hat amongst the brambles. 1902 J. CHALMERS in *Life* (1905) xx. 98/2 That they are skull-hunters I do not doubt.

7. Special combs.: †**skull butterfly** (see quot.); **skull-eel**, the sharp-nosed eel, *Anguilla vulgaris*; **skull-fish**, † (*a*) some fish supposed to resemble a skull; (*b*) a whalebone whale above two years of age; †**skull-man** (see quot.); †**skull-moss**, a greenish kind of moss growing on skulls long exposed to the air; †**skull-seam**, a suture on the skull; **skull-vein** (see quot.).

1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XIII. 721/2 The *skull butterfly is another singular species, so called from its head resembling in some degree a death's head or human skull. 1883 DAY *Fishes Gt. Brit.* II. 243 Eel, *skull-eel, or brown-eel. 1668 CHARLETON *Onomast.* 154 *Orbis*,..the Globe, or *Scull-fish. 1725 *Phil. Trans.* XXXIII. 257 After this, they [whales yielding whalebone] are term'd *Scull-fish, their Age not being known, but only guess'd at by the Length of the Bone in their Mouths. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade, Skull-fish*, the technical name among whalers for.. a whale which is more than two years old. 1659 TORRIANO, *Capellétti*, certain soldiers serving on horse-back with steele-caps, called with us *skull-men, or black-skulls. 1631 W. FOSTER *Hoplocrisma-Spongus* 40 **Scull-mosse* or bones, ..Mummy and the Fat of Man..comprehend the corporeall perfection of Man. 1681 GREW *Museum* II. iii. iv. 237 Of the same Species with the Skull-Mosse. 1598 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* I. vi. 576 The Nose..serveth as a Gutter To void the Excrements of grossest matter; As by the *Scull-seams and the Pory Skin Evaporate those that are light and thin. 1838 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* I. 98/2 The peculiar character of the veins commonly called *scull veins, from their strong resemblance to the sutures of the scull, which traverse the blocks of white limestone.

Skull [2], **Scull** (skʌl). *Sc.* and †*north.* Forms: *α.* 6 **skill, skyll.** *β.* 6- **skull.** *γ.* 8- **scull.** [Of obscure origin.] A strong, shallow basket (now sometimes made of iron wire) of a circular or oval form and considerable size, used esp. for farm produce, fish, and fishing-lines.

α. 1508 DUNBAR *Flyting* 231 Fische wyvis cryis, Fy! and castis doun skillis and skeilis. 1516-7 *Durh. Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 106 Pro le Skyll' pro bobus pascent ij d.

β. 1513 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* IV. 496 Item, for skullis, vj d. 1634-46 ROW *Hist. Kirk* (1842) 288 To the Judas, whose skill..was knowen to be far greater in making of skulls nor either in praying or preaching. 1724 *Dunbar's Flyting* xxiii. in Ramsay *Evergreen*, Fish Wyves..cast down Skulls and skeils. 1821 *Blackw. Mag.* X. 395 She seized her empty skull, and beat it unmercifully about.. poor John. 1840-1 *Q. Jrnl. Agric.* XI. 112 The large ozier or willow basket..in some parts of the country known by the name of 'skulls'. 1882 *Jamieson's Sc. Dict.* s.v., The fisherman's skull is..deep at one end for the line, and shallow at the other for the baited hooks.

γ. 1752 *Rec. Elgin* (New Spald. Cl.) I. 465 All riddles, sculls, creels, mauns, beescaps. 1794 *Statist. Acc. Scotl.* XIII. 401 She recollected that she was..rocked in a fisher's scull instead of a cradle. 1816 SCOTT *Antiq.* xxvi, She maun get the scull on her back, and awa wi' the fish to the next burrows-town. 1851 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* (ed. 2) I. 261 The most common practice of carrying the turnips is by the stalls in baskets, called *sculls.*

Hence **Sku·llful, Scu·llful**, the fill of a skull.

1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* II. 122 Each skulful [ed. 2 scullful] will contain rather more than 32 lb. [of turnips].

†**Skull** [3]. *Obs. rare.* Also **scull.** [Of obscure origin.] A drinking-bowl or -vessel.

1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* III. i. 125 We keist of warme mylk mony a scull [*L. cymbium*]. *Ibid.* VII. iii. 89 In flacon and in skull [*L. cratera*] Thai skynk the wyne.

Skull, variant or obs. form of SCULL *sb.* and *v.*

Skullbanker, var. SCOWBANKER *slang.*

Skull-cap (skʌ·lkæp). Also 7-9 **scull-cap.** [f. SKULL [1] + CAP *sb.*[1]]

1. A light, close-fitting cap, usu. of silk, velvet, or other soft material, for covering the head.

α. 1682 LUTTRELL *Brief Rel.* (1857) I. 182 About 30 persons,..clad in Indian stuffs, with sculp [*sic*] caps on their heads. 1687 MIÉGE *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II. s.v., A Scull-cap, that some wear under the Perwig. 1753 HANWAY *Trav.* (1762) I. III. xlii. 194 They also use scull-caps of paper, or a cabbage-leaf under their hats. 1819 SCOTT *Leg. Montrose* xi, A Presbyterian clergyman,..wearing a black silk scull-cap. 1869 TOZER *Highl. Turkey* II. 206 Their black and greasy scull-caps..might once have been red.

β. 1704 STEELE *Lying Lovers* II. i, I suppose I was used like other Children. They clap'd me on a Skul-cap. *a* 1734 NORTH *Lives* (1826) I. 59 He wore commonly a little leather cap, which sort was then called skull caps. 1848 LAYARD *Nineveh* vii. (1850) 141 The women wore small embroidered skull-caps. 1888 BURGON *Lives 12 Gd. Men* I. iii. 355 He commonly wore a black silk skull-cap.

2. *Hist.* A steel or iron cap, a form of casque or helmet fitting closely to the head; = SKULL [1] 3.

1820 SCOTT *Monast.* ix, An iron skull-cap, none of the brightest, bore for distinction a sprig of the holly. 1824 W. IRVING *T. Trav.* (1849) 174 There was a ferocious tyrant in a skullcap like an inverted porringer, and a dress of red baize. 1834 PLANCHÉ *Brit. Costume* 98 Skull-caps.., with or without nasals, are common amongst esquires, archers and men at arms.

3. *Bot.* One or other of various species of plants belonging to the genus *Scutellaria*, in which the calyx finally assumes the appearance of a helmet.

α. 1760 J. LEE *Introd. Bot.* App. 326 *Scull-cap*, see Skull-cap. 1777 LIGHTFOOT *Flora Scot.* I. 320 *Scutellaria*,.. Little red Scull-cap or Willow-herb. 1821 BARTON *Flora N. Amer.* I. 5 *Scutellaria hyssopifolia.* Hyssop-leaved Scull-cap. *Ibid.* 78 *Scutellaria laterifolia.* Side-flowering Scull-cap...Blue Scull-cap. 1845-50 MRS. LINCOLN *Lect. Bot.* 172 The scull-cap, (*Scutellaria*,)..has been said to be a remedy for the hydrophobia.

β. 1760 J. LEE *Introd. Bot.* App. 327 Skull-cap, *Scutellaria.* 1786 ABERCROMBIE *Arr.* 67 in *Gard. Assist.*, Skull-cap, or helmet flower. 1855 MISS PRATT *Flowering Pl.* IV. 205 Common Skull-cap..received its name from the singular impalement of its calyx, which, when inverted, resembles a helmet with its visor raised.

b. *Amer.* (See quot.)

1846-50 A. WOOD *Class-bk. Bot.* 406 *Veronica scutellata*, Skull-cap or Marsh Speedwell,..[grows] in swamps and marshes, N. Eng. and Western States, and Brit. America].

4. *Geol.* (See quots.)

1839 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* II. 375/2 The skull cap [in certain quarries in the island of Portland] is irregular in texture; it is a well-compacted limestone, containing cherty nodules. 1860 DAMON *Geol. Weymouth* 88 The term 'skull cap', applied to the solid layers constituting the lowest bed of the Purbeck formation, is intended to denote its position in relation to other beds below. 1883 R. ETHERIDGE *Stratigr. Geol. & Palæontol.* 478 *note*, The lower Purbeck beds are known as the '*cap*' and the '*skull cap*'. They are botryoidal limestones or indurated calcareous tuffs, possibly derived from the denudation of the Portland rocks.

5. *Anat.* The bony structure covering the brain; the top or roof of the head.

1855 L. HOLDEN *Human Osteology* 94 The skull-cap is composed of the expanded arches of three of the cranial vertebræ, and forms a beautiful oval dome for the protection of the brain. 1866 *Chambers's Encycl.* VIII. 760/1 These fossæ are marked, as is the whole skull-cap, by the cerebral convolutions.

Skulle, obs. f. SCULL *sb.*, oar.

Skulled (skʌld), *a.* [f. SKULL [1] + -ED [2]. Cf. *thick-skulled*, etc.] Of certain vertebrates: Possessing or furnished with a skull.

1879 tr. *Haeckel's Evol. Man* II. xvii. 97 The whole Vertebrate tribe may primarily be divided into the two main sections of the Skull-less and the Skulled Vertebrates.

Skullen, obs. form of SCULLION.

Skullery (skʌ·ləri). [f. SKULL [1] + -ERY 2.] A collection of skulls; a place for skulls.

1818 *Blackw. Mag.* IV. 327 The effect of the water dropping from the jaw-bones and eyeholes...It is not to be thought that an Irishman could contemplate such a skullery with unmoved imagination. 1908 *Westm. Gaz.* 31 July 1/3 On his excavating expeditions an annexe, usually known as the 'skullery', is almost invariably brought into use.

Skullian, -ion, obs. forms of SCULLION.

Sku·ll-less, *a.* [f. SKULL [1].] Having no skull; not furnished with a skull.

1879 tr. *Haeckel's Evol. Man* II. xvii. 97 Of the earlier and lower section, that of the Skull-less, the Amphioxus is alone extant.

Sku·lly, *a. rare.* [f. SKULL [1].] Containing skulls; having skulls about.

1896 E. A. KING *It. Highways* 218 A damp and skully place..is the crypt.

Skulp, obs. form of SCALP *v.*[2]

Skumer, -our(e, obs. forms of SCUMMER.

Skumfite, Skunfit, obs. forms of SCOMFIT.

Skunage, variant of SKEVINAGE *Obs.*

Skundrell, obs. form of SCOUNDREL.

Skunk (skʌŋk), *sb.* Also 7 **squnck, squuncke,** 8 **skunck.** See also SKINK *sb.*[5] [ad. Amer. Indian (Abenaki) *seganku* or *segongw*; variant forms occur in many other dialects.]

1. A North American animal of the weasel kind, *Mephitis mephitica*, noted for emitting a very offensive odour when attacked or killed.

1634 W. WOOD *New Eng. Prosp.* (1865) 25 The beasts of offence be Squunckes, Ferrets, Foxes. 1674 JOSSELYN *Two Voy.* 85 The Squnck is almost as big as the Racoon. 1701 C. WOLLEY *Jrnl. New York* (1860) 31 Musquashes, Skunks, Deer and Wolves, they bring upon their backs to New-York. 1775 A. BURNABY *Trav.* 11 *note*, There is a species of polecat in this part of America, which is commonly called a skunk. 1800 SHAW *Gen. Zool.* I. II. 395 A smell as insufferable as that of some of the American Weesels or Skunks. 1835 W. IRVING *Tour Prairies* xi, He was advised to wear the scalp of the skunk as the only trophy of his prowess. 1877 COUES *Fur-Bearing Anim.* vii. 196 The Skunk is a stoutly built animal, with a small head, low ears, and short limbs..; the tail long and very bushy.

b. *ellipt.* The fur of the skunk.

1862 B. TAYLOR in *Life & Lett.* (1884) I. xvi. 404 Sables are so expensive as to be vulgar and Skunk..is infinitely handsomer. 1884 *Daily News* 23 Sept. 6/1 Skunk is to be very much worn this winter. It can be deodorised to a very great extent.

2. *colloq.* A thoroughly mean or contemptible person. Also in playful use.

1841 [W. G. SIMMS] *Kinsmen* I. 171 He's a skunk—a bad chap about the heart. *a* 1859 in Bartlett *Dict. Amer.* (ed. 2) s.v., Now, Tom, you skunk, this is the third time you've forgot to set on that switch. 1891 N. GOULD *Double Event* 42 That miserable old skunk you've engaged to take my place.

3. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *skunk-fur, -robe, -skin*; *skunk-like* adj.; **skunk-bird, -blackbird** *U.S.* (see quots.); **skunk currant** *U.S.*, the fetid or mountain currant, *Ribes prostratum*; **skunk-head** *U.S.* (see quot.); **skunk porpoise** *U.S.* (see quot. and PORPOISE); **skunk weasel,** = SKUNK *sb.* 1; **skunk-weed** *U.S.*, = SKUNK-CABBAGE.

1836 *Penny Cycl.* V. 30/1 [The male bobolink's] variegated dress, which, from a resemblance in its colours to that of the quadruped, obtained for it the name of '*skunk-bird' among the Cree Indians. 1855 H. W. BEECHER *Star Papers* (1873) 192 We followed that old Polyglott, the *skunk blackbird, and heard [etc.]. 1859 BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.* (ed. 2), *Skunk blackbird*, the common marsh blackbird, so called in the rural districts of New England, New York, and Canada West. 1893 *Scribner's Mag.* June 771/1 The bobolink's chief name was suggested by..his song; but another, skunk-blackbird, alludes to the skunk-like color and pattern of his dress. *a* 1817 T. DWIGHT *Trav. New Eng.* (1821) II. 312 Three sorts of currants are found in the forest: the red, the black, and a peculiar kind, called *Skunk currants. 1846-50 A. WOOD *Class-bk. Bot.* 273 A small shrub,.. ill-scented, and with ill-flavored berries—sometimes called Skunk Currant. 1882 CAULFEILD & SAWARD *Dict. Needlwk.* 451/2 *Skunk Fur..is of a dark brown colour, rather long in the hair, and rough. 1848 BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.* 305 **Skunkhead*, the popular name, on the sea-coast, of the Pied Duck of ornithologists. 1847 DARLINGTON *Amer. Weeds*, etc. (1860) 346 This plant—so readily known by its *skunk-like odor. 1884 GOODE *Nat. Hist. Aquat. Anim.* 16 The best known species on the Atlantic coast are the '*Skunk Porpoise', or 'Bay Porpoise'. 1851 G. H. KINGSLEY *Sp. & Trav.* (1900) v. 144 A good *skunk robe is a very pretty bit of peltry. 1862 B. TAYLOR in *Life & Lett.* (1884) I. xvi. 404 With my pelisse of racoon and my cap of *skunk-skin. 1771 PENNANT *Synop. Quad.* 233 *Skunk Weasel. 1738 *Phil. Trans.* XL. 348 *Arum Americanum, Betæ folio.* The *Scunk-weed. 1855 *New Cycl. Bot.* II. 708 *Dracontium fœtidum*...It is a native of North America, where it is called Scunk Cabbage or Scunk Weed.

Hence **Sku·nkdom,** (*a*) skunks collectively; **Sku·nkish** *a.*, resembling a skunk; contemptible; **Sku·nklet,** a young skunk; **Sku·nky** *a.*, befitting a skunk; nasty.

1839 J. BROWN *Lett.* (1907) 49 My skunkdom requires only to be known to be felt. *Ibid.*, I wish you would write poor Isabella. In this you are more skunkish than I. 1851 G. H. KINGSLEY *Sp. & Trav.* (1900) v. 144, I was meditating on skunkdom and keeping a look-out for willow grouse. 1894 *Westm. Gaz.* 2 Feb. 3/1 The five or six little skunklets remain *en famille* with their parents until the following spring. 1897 BLACKMORE *Dariel* xl, You try to shove him into any skunky corner.., and he lets you know.

Skunk (skʌŋk), *v. U.S. slang.* [f. prec.] *trans.* (See quots.)

1848 DURIVAGE *Stray Subj.* 135, I made high, low, game, and skunked him, outright again. 1848 BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.* 409 In games of chance, if one of the players fails to make a point, he is said to be *skunked.* A presidential candidate who fails to secure one electoral vote is also skunked. 1859 *Ibid.* (ed. 2) s.v., A student who leaves college without settling up, is said to skunk his bills.

Skunk-cabbage. *N. Amer.* [f. SKUNK *sb.*] A perennial stemless plant of the arum family, *Symplocarpus fœtidus*, giving out an offensive odour, especially when bruised.

1762 ELIOT in Mills *Syst. Pract. Husb.* I. 156 The roots of swamp hellebore (known in different places by the several names of skunk cabbage, tickle weed, bear root). 1792 BELKNAP *Hist. New-Hampsh.* III. 127 The *arum*, or skunk cabbage, has been found very efficacious in asthmatic complaints. 1830 LINDLEY *Nat. Syst. Bot.* 287 The root and seeds of the Skunk Cabbage, *Symplocarpus fœtida*, are powerful antispasmodics. 1878 MRS. STOWE *Pogunuc P.* xvii. 147 The honest, great green leaves of the old skunk cabbage, most refreshing to the eye in its hardy, succulent greenness, though an abomination to the nose.

Skunte: see SCUM *v.* 5 b.

Skuppat, obs. form of SCUPPET *sb.*

Skur(r: see SCOUR *v.*[2]; SKIRR *sb.* and *v.*

†**Skure**, *v. Obs.* (Meaning doubtful.) Not likely to be either *secure* or *skewer.*

1587 M. GROVE *Pelops & Hipp.* (1878) 129 As the Puttoke

doth surpasse eche winged foule perdy, By egernesse to skure her pray, once seene with greedy eye.

Skurn(e, obs. ff. SCORN *v.* **Skurt,** var. SQUIRT *sb.* **Skuruie, -uy,** obs. ff. SCURVY *sb.* and *a.* **Skut,** obs. f. SCOUT *sb.*[3], SCUT *sb.*[1] **Skute,** var. SCOOT *v.*; obs. f. SCUTE. **Skuyer,** obs. f. SQUIRE. **Skuys,** obs. f. SCUSE *sb.* **Skwar,** obs. f. SQUARE. **Skwe,** var. SKEW *sb. Obs.* **Skwff,** obs. Sc. f. SCOFF *sb.*[1] **Skwsacion,** obs. f. SCUSATION.

Sky (skəi), *sb.*[1] Forms: 3–4 (6) **ski** (4 **scki, schi**); 3 **skei,** 4 **skey**; 3 **skiȝe,** 4–7 **skie, skye** (5 **schye**), 4– **sky** (7 *pl.* **skyne**). [a. ON. *ský* (Icel. *ský*, Norw., Sw., Da. *sky*) neut., cloud (:—original **skiuja*), directly related to OS. *skio* masc., OE. *scéo* (doubtful), and more remotely to OE. *scuwa*, ON. *skugge* shade, shadow, whence SCUG *sb.*[1] See also SKEW *sb.*[1]]

†**1.** A cloud. *Obs.*

c 1220 *Bestiary* 66 Up he teð, til ðat he ðe heuene seð, ðurȝ skies sexe and seuene til he cumeð to heuene. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 3255 Bi-foren hem fleȝ an skiȝe briȝt ðat niȝt hem made ðe weiȝe liȝt. *c* 1384 CHAUCER *H. Fame* III. 1600 A certeyn wynde..blewe so hydously and hye That hyt ne left not a skye In alle the welkene. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* II. 50 Al sodeinly Sche passeth, as it were a Sky, Al clene out of this ladi sihte. *c* 1407 LYDG. *Reson & Sens.* 1007 As sterris in the frosty nyght, Whanne walkne is most bryght, With-oute cloude or any skye. *c* 1430 — *Min. Poems* (Percy Soc.) 161 The somerys day is..seelden seyn, With so cleer hayr, but that ther is som skye. 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* lxix. 3 Quhone sabill all the hewin arrayis, With mystie vapouris, cluddis and skyis. †*a* 1550 *Sterne of Redempt.* 31 in *Dunbar's Poems* (1893) 329 To the superne eternall regioun, Quhair noxiall skyis may mak no sogeorn.

fig. 14.. *Epiph.* in *Tundale's Vis.* (1843) 121 Thus..trw menyng darketh with a skye That we in Englysch callon flaturye. *a* 1529 SKELTON *Replyc.* 165 Ye soored ouer hye .., Your names to magnifye, Among the scabbed skyes Of Wycliffes flesshe flyes.

2. *The skies,* the clouds (*obs.*); the upper region of the air; the heavens. Chiefly *poet.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 1341 Him thoght..þat to þe sky it raght þe toppe. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 312 The Sky wax derk, the wynd gan blowe, The firy welkne gan to thondre. *c* 1470 *Gol. & Gaw.* 610 Quhen the day can daw,..And the sone in the sky wes schynyng so schir. 1508 DUNBAR *Golden Targe* 50, I saw approch agayn the orient sky, A saill. 1546 J. HEYWOOD *Prov.* (1867) 9 When the sky faillth we shall have larks. 1594 SHAKS. *Rich. III*, V. iii. 283 The sky doth frowne, and lowre vpon our Army. 1635 R. N. tr. *Camden's Hist. Eliz.* II. 221 The skye being extreame cold with snow and frost. 1672 R. WILD *Poet. Licent.* 34 If the Skie fall, down-comes the price of Larks. 1728 POPE *Dunc.* I. 178 As ..lead itself can fly, And pond'rous slugs cut swiftly thro' the sky. 1774 M. MACKENZIE *Maritime Surv.* 5 A dark Flag on that [pole] which appears between you and the Sky. 1843 RUSKIN *Mod. Paint.* I. II. i. § 5. 204 The sky is to be considered as a transparent blue liquid, in which..clouds are suspended. 1876 MOZLEY *Univ. Serm.* vi. 135 No people have ever existed to whom the sky has not suggested one set of ideas.

b. With descriptive or limiting term.

1613 CHAPMAN *Maske Inns Court,* Ouer this..in an Euening sky, the ruddy Sunne was seen ready to be set. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 1 Nov. 1660, The Sunn represented by a face and raies of gold, upon an azure skie. 1798 COLERIDGE *Anc. Mar.* II. vii, All in a hot and copper sky, The bloody Sun..did stand. 1814 WORDSW. *Yarrow Visited* 17 A blue sky bends o'er Yarrow vale. 1855 TENNYSON *Maud* V. ii, With her..wild voice pealing up to the sunny sky. 1869 E. DUNKIN (*title*), The Midnight Sky: Familiar Notes on the Stars and Planets.

c. Without article.

1596 SPENSER *F. Q.* IV. iii. 13 Into a starre in sky. 1611 SHAKS. *Cymb.* V. v. 146 A Noblet Sir ne're liu'd 'Twixt sky and ground. 1649 JER. TAYLOR *Gt. Exemp.* II. 93 But the greatest part of this paisage and Landtskip is sky. 1725 POPE *Odyssey* III. 411 A length of Ocean and unbounded sky. 1805 WORDSW. *Prelude* III. 107, I..perused The common countenance of earth and sky. 1855 TENNYSON *Maud* I. XVIII. v, The countercharm of space and hollow sky. 1884 *Jrnl. R. Meteorol. Soc.* (1885) XI. 231 There was a portion of blue sky between the Helm cloud and the Bar.

d. *fig.* or in fig. phrases.

To the sky or *skies,* to the highest possible degree, enthusiastically, extravagantly. *In the skies,* in an ecstasy, in the realms of fancy.

(*a*) *c* 1586 C'TESS PEMBROKE *Ps.* LXXX. i, O God,..Display thy faces skie on us thine owne. 1597 SHAKS. *2 Hen. IV*, IV. iii. 56, I, in the cleare Skie of Fame, o're-shine you. 1793 COWPER *To Mary* i, The twentieth year is well-nigh past, Since first our sky was overcast. 1878 BROWNING *La Saisiaz* 61, I bid him—at suspicion of first cloud athwart his sky..die! 1897 W. E. NORRIS *Marietta's Mar.* XXXI. 224 He dropped upon me suddenly out of a clear sky and began asking questions which I had to answer.

(*b*) 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* I. 104 Italians..alwaies extoll their owne things to the skie. 1670 G. H. *Hist. Cardinals* II. III. 191 Those of any Piety or Religion, commended it to the Skyes. 1731–8 SWIFT *Polite Conv.* 71 You were extoll'd to the Skies I assure you. 1815 W. H. IRELAND *Scribblcomania* 25 Rhymsters who praise 'em to the skies, And meanest actions eulogize.

(*c*) 1869 MRS. H. WOOD *R. Yorke* XX, Roland was in the skies at once.

4. *poet.* or *rhet.* **a.** The celestial regions; heaven; the heavenly power, the deity.

1590 SHAKS. *Mids. N.* V. i. 308 Now am I dead, now am I fled, my soule is in the sky. 1634 MILTON *Comus* 242 So maist thou be translated to the skies. 1697 DRYDEN *Alex. Feast* 179 He rais'd a Mortal to the Skies; She drew an Angel down. 1731 SWIFT *Judas* Wks. 1755 IV. I. 165 The just vengeance of incensed skies. 1782 COWPER *Charity* 70 Thou that hast..dared despise Alike the wrath and mercy of the skies. 1810 SHELLEY *Despair* 8 In the eternal mansions of the sky. 1868 LYNCH *Rivulet* CLI. ii, Time loses his scythe When he enters the skies.

b. The sky (sense 3) of a particular region; hence, climate, clime.

1701 ADDISON *Let. to Ld. Halifax* 136 We envy not the warmer Clime that lies In ten Degrees of more indulgent Skies. 1842 TENNYSON *You ask me why* vii, I seek a warmer sky. 1856 KANE *Arctic Explor.* II. xxi. 207 Strange that these famine-pinched wanderers of the ice should rejoice in sports..like the children of our own smiling sky.

5. a. The colour of the sky; sky-blue.

1667 DRYDEN *Maiden Queen* II. i, Those knots of sky do not So well with the dead colour of her face. 1668 ETHEREDGE *She wou'd if she cou'd* III. ii, A whole bevy of damsels in sky, and pink, and flame-coloured taffetas.

b. The representation of a sky in a painting, etc.

1747 FRANCIS tr. *Horace, Art P.* 34 *note,* It is chiefly in this View, that Ruisdale's Waters, and Claude Lorrain's Skies are so admirable. 1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 746 For a pure mid-day sky,..vermilion and white as the sky approaches the horizon. 1878 RUSKIN *Notes* 43 The sky is unusually careless.

6. 'The upper rows of pictures in a gallery; also, the space near the ceiling' (*Cent. Dict.* 1891).

7. The small opening in the roof of a cab, used as a means of communication.

1907 *Daily Chron.* 18 Oct. 4/4, I did..steal the..box from his hansom-cab, and the driver was looking through the sky.

8. *attrib.* and *Comb.* **a.** Attrib., in sense '**1** of or in the sky', as *sky-children, -glare, -pebble,* etc.

1582 STANYHURST *Æneis* I. (Arb.) 18 Shee pouts, that Ganymed by Ioue too skitop is hoysed. 1634 MILTON *Comus* 83, I must put off These my skie robes spun out of Iris Wooff. 1653 H. MORE *Conject. Cabbal.* (1713) 53 The Sun and the Moon (according to this Hypothesis) will prove the two great Lights, and the Stars but scatter'd sky-pebbles. *a* 1821 KEATS *Hyperion* I. 133 Beautiful things made new, for the surprise Of the sky-children. 1865 DICKENS *Mut. Fr.* III. viii, In the sky-glare of the lights of the little town. 1882 JEFFERIES *Bevis* I. 251 It was a sky-storm, and the lightning was at least a mile high.

b. With agent nouns, as *sky-flyer, -holder,* etc.

1812 COLMAN *Br. Grins, Fire* xlviii, The monarch of Olympus spake; It made his petty tenants quake, And the large sky-holders obedient bowed. 1838 'T. TREDDLEHOYLE' *Ben Bunt* 19 Bein a bit an a ski-peepar ma sen. 1891 *Times* 5 Oct. 3/5 Splendid buildings..—veritable 'sky-piercers', as most modern American aspiring business houses are. 1897 *Daily News* 3 June 5/6 There would be hardly a point..where at least the pyrotechnic sky-flyers could not be seen.

c. With pa. ppples., as *sky-blasted, -born, -bred, -capped, -cast, -dyed,* etc.

Similar combs. are common in the 19th cent.

1595 SPENSER *Friend's Passion* 31 The skiebred Egle roiall bird. 1599 J. DAVIES *Immort. Soul, Introd.* xi, What is this Knowledge, but the Sky stoll'n Fire? *c* 1611 CHAPMAN *Iliad* VII. 346 He held his scepter vp, to all the skie thron'd powres. 1611 SHAKS. *Cymb.* V. iv. 96 The Thunderer, whose Bolt..Sky-planted, batters all rebelling Coasts. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* V. 285 The third his feet Shaddowd from either heele with featherd maile Skie-tinctur'd grain. 1725 POPE *Odyss.* XI. 727 There figs sky-dy'd, a purple hue disclose. 1742 YOUNG *Nt. Th.* VI. 418 Sky-born, sky-guided, sky-returning race! 1747 COLLINS *Ode Pity* ii, Let the nations view Thy skywoin robes. *a* 1821 KEATS *Hyperion* I. 310 Earth-born And sky-engender'd, Son of Mysteries! 1878 B. TAYLOR *Deukalion* III. ii. 108 The sky-cast shadow of a Hebrew chief. 1887 BOWEN *Æneid* III. 291 Soon thy sky-capped towers, Phæacia, vanish from view.

d. With pres. ppples., as *sky-aspiring, -cleaving, -falling, -measuring, -pointing, -reaching,* etc.

This type is also common in the 19th cent.

1593 SHAKS. *Rich. II*, I. iii. 130 Sky-aspiring and ambitious thoughts. 1596 SPENSER *F. Q.* VI. x. 22 They are the daughters of sky-ruling Ioue. 1600 NASHE *Summer's Last Will* 1492 Skie-measuring Mathematicians. 1612 DRAYTON *Poly-olb.* IX. 66 Mighty Raran shooke his proud sky-kissing top. 1633 DRUMM. OF HAWTH. *Speeches to Pr. Chas.* Wks. (1711) 39/1 Nero's Sky-resembling Gold-ceil'd Halls. 1743 FRANCIS tr. *Horace, Odes* III. x. 21 Thy Threshold hard-hearted, and sky-falling Rain. 1796 ELIZA HAMILTON *Lett. Hindoo Rajah* (1811) II. 117 Whose trees have their sky-touching heads overshadowed by..mountains. 1820 SHELLEY *Prometh. Unb.* II. iii. 28 The keen sky-cleaving mountains. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. IV. iv, Amid skyrending *vivats,* and blessings from every heart. 1887 *Times* 29 Aug. 4/4 Endless sky-reaching spires.

9. Special combs.: **sky-blink,** = ICE-BLINK 1; **sky-blotch,** the dark outline of a building against the evening sky; **sky-clear** *a.,* clear as the sky; †**sky-fire** (see quot.); **sky-flyer,** an ambitious person; **sky-gazer** (see quots.); **sky-mark,** a thing standing out against the sky (*nonce-use*); **sky-organ,** the wind (*nonce-use*); **sky-pilot** (see quot. 1893); **sky-pipit** *U.S.,* = SKYLARK *sb.* 2; †**sky-puppy** (see PUPPY *sb.* 3 c); †**sky-setting** *Sc.,* sunset; **sky-stone,** a meteorite.

1837 MACDOUGALL tr. *Graah's E. Coast Greenl.* 134 This *sky-blink, or ice-blink, as it is usually termed by English navigators, is a whitish luminous appearance seen above ice. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* I. 311/2 The aspect of the '*sky-blotch' of an architectural edifice is very important. 1868 GLADSTONE *Juv. Mundi* x. (1869) 386 His soul and actions are 'sky-clear. 1710 P. S. *Wks.* II. 262 *Sky-Fire is that in the Body of the Sun, and other Heavenly Lights. 1887 *Daily News* 30 Nov. 3/4 Such a work, by a young *sky-flyer of eighteen. 1854 BADHAM *Halieut.* 127 The name of this fish, *uranoscopus,* or '*sky-gazer', is derived from the position of the eyes, which are singularly planted on the crown of the head. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.* 630 *Sky-gazer,..a sail of very light duck, over which un-nameable sails have been set, which defy classification. 1856 MISS MULOCK *J. Halifax* (1857) 101 The four tall poplars..were our landmarks, and *skymarks too. 1837 HT. MARTINEAU *Soc. Amer.* II. 20 The next moment, the *sky-organ began to blow in our rigging. 1888 CHURCHWARD *Blackbirding* 22 A dock missionary (we called him *sky-pilot). 1893 *Spectator* 30 Dec. 952/2 A 'Sky-pilot', in sailor's parlance, is a clergyman generally, and specially a clergyman who has a spiritual charge among seamen. 1884 COUES *N. Amer. Birds* 286 *Neocorys,* *Sky Pipits. 1731 *Gentl. Mag.* I. 31 On the last Monday of Nov. 1730, about *sky setting. 1797 SOUTHEY *Lett. fr. Spain* (1808) II. 78 Let the heavier *sky-stones come whence they may, these must have been formed in the atmosphere.

Sky, *sb.*[2] *Orkn.* and *Shetl.* ? *Obs.* [repr. ON. *skeið*: cf. mod. Norw. *skeid* foot of a plough (Aasen).] A small board in the place of a mould-board in a plough.

1793 *Statist. Acc. Scot.* VII. 585 A square hole is cut through the lower end of the beam, and the *mercal,* a piece of oak about 22 inches long, introduced, which..holds the sock and sky.

Sky (skəi), *sb.*[3] *slang.* (See quots.)

1860 *Slang Dict.* 216 *Sky,* a disagreeable person, an enemy. 1869 STANLEY *Westm. Abb.* (ed. 3) 471 The..conflicts between the Westminster scholars and the 'skys' of London, as the outside world was called.

Sky (skəi), *v.*[1] Also **skie.** [f. SKY *sb.*[1]]

1. *trans.* **a.** *slang.* To throw or toss up (a coin).

1802 MAR. EDGEWORTH *Irish Bulls* 129 Billy (says I) will you sky a copper? 1860 *Slang Dict.* 216 *Skie,* to throw upwards, to toss 'coppers'. 1872 *Punch* 3 Feb. 53/2 Sufficient for that indeed would have been 'skying a copper'.

b. *Cricket.* To strike (a ball) into the air.

1873 *Routledge's Young Gentlem. Mag.* 378/1 The ball did not 'travel' on the sand, and when 'skied' was at once secured. 1880 *Times* 28 Sept. 11/5 He skied the ball to cover-point, where it was easily held.

absol. 1882 *Daily Telegr.* 27 May, His eleventh proved disastrous to Abel, who skyed up to Spofforth at point.

2. To hang (a picture, etc.) high up on the wall or near the ceiling, *esp.* at an exhibition.

1865 *Slang Dict.* 233 Artists say that a picture is skyed when it is hung on the upper line at the Exhibition of the Royal Academy. 1882 *Harper's Mag.* Dec. 70/2 Skied up over a door of the hall is the portrait of a..maiden dressed as a shepherdess. 1885 *Truth* 28 May 848/2 A good sea-piece, and one which is undeservedly skied.

transf. 1884 *Pall Mall G.* 3 Oct. 3/1 The members of the press are regarded as unwelcome intruders and are shamefully 'skied'.

3. To cover like the sky; to overshadow.

1844 MRS. BROWNING *Crowned & Buried* 3 Napoleon!—years ago, and that great word..skied us overhead—An atmosphere whose lightning was the sword.

4. To catch sight of (an outline) against the sky.

1900 H. LAWSON *Over Sliprails* 95 He stooped,..with his hands on his knees, to 'sky' the loom of his big shed and so get his bearings.

5. *intr.* To paint a sky in a picture. *nonce-use.*

1862 THORNBURY *Turner* I. 139 If any one calls, I can't be seen—I'm skying.

6. *Boating.* To lift the blade of an oar too high.

1883 *Cambridge Staircase* vi. 94 He knows..when men are cocking or skying, or swinging out of or into the boat.

Hence **Sky·ing** *vbl. sb.* (in sense 2).

1869 *Echo* 23 Jan., In the new rooms a much larger number of pictures will find places..The 'skying' and 'grounding' so much complained of will be avoided.

Sky, *v.*[2] [Of doubtful origin; connexion with prec. is not apparent in either sense.]

1. *intr.* To run swiftly.

1837 J. E. MURRAY *Summer in Pyrenees* II. 153 They sky along, breast high, causing the woods to ring again.

2. *trans.* At Harrow: To charge and overthrow in a game of football.

1905 VACHELL *The Hill* iv. 83 Jolly well played, Cæsar!—Sky him!—Well skied, sir!

Sky-, common ME. var. of SKI-.

Sky·bald. *Sc.* and *north. dial.* Forms: 6, 8–9 skybald, 6 schy-, 9 skybauld, -belt; 6 skay-, skybell, 9 skybal, -bel, -ble, skebal, -bel, scybel, -ble, etc. [Of obscure origin.] A low, rascally, or contemptible fellow; a lean or worn-out person or animal; a worthless article, etc.

a 1572 KNOX *Hist. Reform.* Wks. 1848 II. 11 Fy, lett us never leive efter this day, that we sall recule for Frenche schybaldis. 1580 *Extr. Burgh Rec. Glasgow* (1876) I. 77 Geveand to him money iniurius wordis, sick as knayf, skaybell, matteyne, and lowne. *c* 1587 MONTGOMERIE *Sonnets* xxiv, A skurvie skybell for to be eshued. 1728 RAMSAY *General Mistake* 154 Poor skybalds! curs'd with more of wealth than wit. 1804 R. ANDERSON *Cumbld. Ball.* (*c* 1850) 115 Oft did he wish aw sec skeybels were hang'd. 1825- in *Eng. Dial. Dict.* (Sc. and N. Irel.).

attrib. *a* 1585 POLWART *Flyting w. Montgomerie* 126 Learne, skybalde knaue, to knaw thy sell.

Sky-blue, *sb.* and *a.* [SKY *sb.*1]

A. *sb.* 1. A pure blue colour like that of the sky; a fabric of this colour.

1738 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Dying of silks*, Sky blues are begun with orchal, and finished with indigo. 1778 MME. D'ARBLAY *Evelina* (1791) II. 245 He may lay that your nose is a sky-blue, if he pleases. 1840 THACKERAY *Shabby-genteel Story* ii, A guitar, with a riband of dirty skyblue. 1899 W. T. GREENE *Cage-Birds* 63 Followed by a narrow line of sky-blue.

2. Thin or watery milk, having a bluish tint.

1798 BLOOMFIELD *Farmer's Boy* 254 Its name derision and reproach pursue, And strangers tell of 'three times skimm'd sky-blue'. 1827 HOOD *Retrospective Review* 68 Oh! for that small, small beer anew! And..that mild sky-blue That wash'd my sweet meals down. 1886 *All Year Round* 14 Aug. 34 'Sky-blue' is not always the result of over-creaming and dilution.

†3. *slang.* Gin. *Obs.*

1755 *Connoisseur* No. 53 P 4 Madam Gin has been christened by as many names as a German princess; every petty chandler's shop will sell you Sky-blue. 1796 in *Grose's Dict. Vulgar T.*

B. *adj.* Of the blue colour of the sky; azure.

1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Silver*, The Spirit of Wine assumes a beautiful Sky-blue Colour. 1773 M. BROWNE *Pisc. Eclog.* viii. 117 'Twas there gay Phylla..Glanc'd the soft passion from her sky-blue eye. 1821 R. TURNER *Arts* 235 The lapis lazuli is of a beautiful sky-blue colour. 1888 *Truth* XXIV. 99/2 The carriage..is in sky-blue plush and silver.

Sky-colour. [SKY *sb.*1] A (blue) colour like that of the sky. Also as *adj.*, = next.

1552 ELYOT, *Cærulus & Cæruleus*, blewe of colour lyke the skye in a clere wether, skie colour. *a* 1586 SYDNEY *Arcadia* I. xii. (1891) 50 b, Vpon her bodie she ware a doublet of skie colour sattin. 1594 T. B. *La Primaud. Fr. Acad.* II. 71 For this cause some are red, others yellow, these greene, those skie-color, others gray, or blew. 1631 WIDDOWES *Nat. Philos.* 24 It is of a greene, yellow, and a skye colour. *a* 1691 BOYLE *Hist. Air* (1692) 149 Within an hour..the sky-colour reached to the lower part of the liquor. 1771 *Encycl. Brit.* II. 962/1 Dying of Leather...A pure sky colour. 1865 SWINBURNE *Chastelard* I. ii. 39 They say men dying remember..Some garment or sky-colour. 1889 JEFFERIES *Field & Hedgerow* 21 The innumerable other flowers and wings and sky-colours.

Sky-coloured, *a.* [SKY *sb.*1] Of the (blue) colour of the sky.

1585 T. WASHINGTON tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* IV. xxxvi. 160 b, The tulbant of the merchant must be skie coloured. 1614 SYLVESTER *Bethulia's Rescue* IV. 59 Her Robe, Sky-colour'd Silk, with curious Caul Of golden Twist. 1668 H. MORE *Div. Dial.* III. xxviii. (1713) 251 The Figure thereof was..drawn with Lines of a Sky-coloured blew. 1769 *De Foe's Tour Gt. Brit.* (ed. 7) II. 189 They wore a Sky-coloured Habit after the Manner of the Hermits. 1827 GRIFFITH tr. *Cuvier* V. 214 The Sky-coloured Rat of Pennant.

Skye (skəi). [Gaelic *Sgith* (skī), recorded in OIcel. as *Skíð*.] The name of the largest island of the Inner Hebrides used attributively, esp. in *Skye terrier*, a small breed of dog, long-haired, long-bodied, and short-legged.

1856 'STONEHENGE' *Brit. Rural Sports* IV. II. i. 571/1 In shape he is more like the English than the Skye variety. *Ibid.* 571/2 The Skye dog. 1871 M. COLLINS *Marq. & Merch.* II. x. 290 A blue Skye-terrier lay on his back.

b. *ellipt.* A Skye terrier.

1851 MAYHEW *Lond. Lab.* II. 53/1 A small Isle of Skye terrier—but few, I was informed, know a 'real Skye'. 1863 OUIDA *Held in Bondage* (1870) 40 A setter, a retriever, and a couple of Skyes, were on the hearthrug.

Skyer (skəi·əɪ). [f. SKY *v.*1 + -ER. Cf. SKIER.] A lofty hit at cricket.

1882 *Daily Telegr.* 12 June, Being grandly caught from a skyer behind the wickets. 1883 F. M. PEARD *Contrad.* xxi, You should have seen Henderson caught at slip from a 'skyer'.

Skyer, obs. form of SQUIRE *sb.*

Skyey (skəi·i), *a.* Also 7 skyie, 8–9 skiey. [f. SKY *sb.*1 + -(E)Y.]

1. Of or pertaining to the sky; emanating from the sky: a. In the phr. *skyey influence(s)*, due to Shakspere.

a. 1603 SHAKS. *Meas. for M.* III. i. 9 A breath thou art, Seruile to all the skyie-influences. 1799 *Spirit Public Jrnls.* III. 129 Subject to the 'skiey influences'. 1832 LYTTON *Eugene Aram* III. ii, The skiey influences seem to tincture the animal life with their own..spirit of change. 1851 *Illustr. Lond. News* 18 Oct. 491/3 The skiey influences were decidedly sympathetic.

β. 1820 SCOTT *Monast.* xix, Upon whose complexion the 'skyey influences'..had blended the red and white into the purely nut-brown hue. 1847 MILLER *First Impr. Eng.* viii. (1857) 123, I was eager to ascertain whether it had not stood its testing century better under the skyey influences. 1882 C. F. KEARY *Prim. Belief* 128 Almost all the Vedic hymns are concerned with the skyey influences.

b. In other contexts. Also, lofty.

a. ?1793 COLERIDGE *Lines on Autumn. Evening* 74 The skiey deluge, and white lightnings glare. 1814 CARY *Dante, Purg.* III. 28 In the skiey element One ray obstructs not other. 1885–94 R. BRIDGES *Eros & Psyche* Aug. xxviii, From their skiey haunt Fell to their feast the great birds bald and gaunt.

β. 1818 KEATS *Endym.* IV. 558 No charm Could lift Endymion's head, or he had view'd A skyey mask. 1826 H. N. COLERIDGE *Six Months in W. Ind.* (1832) 167 The mountains..are of skyey height. 1887 T. HARDY *Woodlanders* I. xiii. 234 Beside him sat Marty, also straining her eyes towards the skyey field of his operations.

2. Resembling the sky in colour; azure.

1816 SOUTHEY *Lay of Laureate* lxx, A virgin clad in skiey blue. *a* 1852 MOIR *Poems* (1852) II. 305 Skiey robes, The tincture of the young Year's finest blue. 1884 *Harper's Mag.* Aug. 392/1 The soft skyey tone of the turquoise.

Comb. 1797 WALDRON *Virg. Queen* IV. i, Apt to soil our skiey-tinctur'd wings.

Sky-farmer. [SKY *sb.*1]

†1. *Cant.* (See quots.) *Obs.*

1753 *Disc. J. Poulter* (ed. 2) 36 Sky Farmers, are People that go about the Country with a false Pass,..under Pretence of sustaining Loss by Fire, or the Distemper amongst the horned Cattle. 1756 *Gentl. Mag.* XXVI. 566 A set of cheats who..impose on the benevolence and compassion of the charitable; these are called sky-farmers. 1785 GROSE *Dict. Vulgar T., Sky-farmers*, cheats who pretend they were farmers in the isle of sky, or some other remote place, ..or else called sky farmers, from their farms being in..the clouds.

2. In Ireland, a contemptuous name for a class of tenant-farmers.

1763 *Museum Rust.* I. 8 The sky-farmers (those who hold at rack-rents) are mostly so greedy for gain, that [etc.]. *Ibid.* 371 Of late years the hard-hearted sky-farmers, that is, the inferior sort,..drive the poor into the mountains. 1780 YOUNG *Tour Irel.* I. 73 The sky farmers,..that is the petty ones, let potatoe ground. 1910 P. W. JOYCE *English in Ireland* 326 *Sky farmer*, a term much used in the South..., is a farmer without land, or with only very little.

Sky-ful. Also -full. [SKY *sb.*1] As much, or as many, as the sky can hold.

1649 BP. REYNOLDS *Hosea* vi. 99 Contented to part with a skie-full of Starrs for one Sunne. 1874 T. HARDY *Far fr. Mad. Crowd* I. xxviii. 309 A firmament of light,..resembling a sky-full of meteors close at hand.

Sky-gazer: see SKY *sb.*1 9.

Sky-high, *adv.* and *a.* [SKY *sb.*1]

A. *adv.* As high as the sky; very high. Freq. *fig.*

1818 LADY MORGAN *Autobiog.* (1859) 208 Opinions which would make the bench of bishops jump sky-high! 1840 R. H. DANA *Bef. Mast* xviii, We..should probably have been knocked to pieces and blown sky-high. 1887 SIMS *Mary Jane's Mem.* 62 Always up sky-high or down in the dumps.

B. *adj.* Reaching to the sky.

1840 CARLYLE *Heroes* I. (1904) 39 Utgard with its skyhigh gates..had gone to air.

Skyish (skəi·iʃ), *a.* [f. SKY *sb.*1 + -ISH.]

1. Lofty; approaching the sky.

1602 SHAKS. *Ham.* v. i. 276 To o're top old Pelion, or the skyish head Of blew Olympus. [1816 BYRON *Let. to Moore* 5 Jan., The skyish top of blue Olympus.] 1844 *Blackw. Mag.* LVI. 78 The distant spires Of skyish hills.

2. Resembling that of the sky.

1818 LD. JEFFREY *Let. to C. Wilkes* 5 Aug., The whole landscape took a strange silvery skyish tint.

Skyke, variant of SKICK *v. Obs.*

Skylark (skəi·lāɹk), *sb.* [SKY *sb.*1]

1. The common lark of Europe, *Alauda arvensis*, so called from its habit of soaring towards the sky while singing.

1686 R. BLOME *Gentlem. Recreat.* II. *Fowling* xxxi. 168 The Sky-Lark is more hardy than the Wood-Lark, and less troublesom to keep. 1754 GRAY *Pleasure* 13 The Sky-lark warbles high His trembling thrilling ecstacy. 1802 MONTAGU *Ornith.* s.v., It has been asserted that the Sky Lark never perches. 1833 TENNYSON *Miller's Dau.* 40 Some wild skylark's matin song. 1876 SMILES *Sc. Natur.* vii. (ed. 4) 128 After the Skylark and Blackbird have heralded the coming day.

2. *U.S.* The Missouri pipit, *Anthus* or *Neocorys spraguei*; the prairie lark or sky pipit.

1872 COUES *Birds N. W.* 42 The Missouri Skylark..is one of the most abundant and characteristic birds of all the region along the forty-ninth parallel of latitude.

Skylark (skəi·lāɹk), *v.* [f. prec.: see the vbl. sb., quots. 1815–19.]

1. *intr.* a. To frolic or play; to play tricks; to indulge in rough sport or horse-play. In early use chiefly *Naut.*

1809 *Naval Chron.* XXI. 84 By kicking R. Nelson.., when 'skylarking'. 1835 MARRYAT *J. Faithful* xxxviii, Every evening the hands were turned up to skylark, that is, to play and amuse themselves. 1857 S. OSBORN *Quedah* iv. 51 My Malays skylarked, joked, and played about. 1872 W. BLACK *Adv. Phaeton* xxii, The chief administrator of justice..was up here skylarking in a phaeton.

b. With *it*: (See quot.)

1822 W. IRVING *Braceb. Hall* v. 46 Listening to a lady amateur skylark it up and down through the finest bravura of Rossini or Mozart.

2. *trans.* a. To trick, cheat.

1824 SCOTT *St. Ronan's* v, 'I'll fly a cheque on Meiklewham.' 'See it be better than your last,' said Sir Bingo, 'for I won't be skylarked again'.

b. To leap in a frolicsome manner.

1825 HONE *Every-day Bk.* I. 292, I begin skylarking the gates and setting into wind to follow the foxhounds.

Hence **Sky·larking** *vbl. sb.* and *ppl. a.*; also **Sky·larker,** one who skylarks.

1809 *Naval Chron.* XXI. 84 An admonition against 'skylarking'. 1815 BURNEY *Falconer's Dict. Marine* 484 *Skylarking*, a term used by seamen, to denote wanton play about the rigging, and tops, or in any part of the ship, particularly by the youngsters. 1819 *Metropolis* II. 204, I heard [him] say to a friend, 'I say Baronet, let us have a *lark*'. I asked our Scapegrace..what this meant? He told me that it was a term in low life, for kicking up a *row*,..at break of day; it being the short term for *sky-larking*. 1849 MARRYAT *F. Mildmay* iv, Fond of displaying my newly-acquired gymnastics, called by the sailors 'sky-larking'. 1889 GRETTON *Memory's Harkback* 76 Sundry fast sky-larkers amused themselves with horse-racing. *Ibid.* 221 To the wonderment of the citizens, the skylarking barrister drops down upon them as the Simeonite Vicar of St. Peter's.

Skyle, obs. form of SKILL *sb.*

Sky·less, *a.* [f. SKY *sb.*1] Without visible sky; dark, cloudy.

1848 KINGSLEY *Yeast* i, A soulless, skyless, catarrhal day. 1871 *Athenæum* 9 Sept. 337 A large boundless sea, skyless and sunless. 1888 GISSING *Life's Morning* III. xxii. 208 In what black, skyless, leafless *town* was she pursuing her lonely life?

Skylight (skəi·ləit), *sb.* Also **sky-light.**

1. Light from the sky; light coming into a room, etc., from above.

1679 MOXON *Mech. Exerc.* ix. 152 It being intended that a Skie-light shall fall through the Hollow Newel upon the Stairs. 1683 — *Mech. Exerc., Printing* ii. P 1 Not..so low that the Sky-light will not reach into every part of the Room. 1780 JOHNSON *Lett. to Mrs. Thrale* 1 May, The pictures, for the sake of a sky-light, are at the top of the house. 1781 *Phil. Trans.* LXXII. 96 *note*, I found, that I could..perceive a bright object, such as white paper, against the sky-light. 1879 TYNDALL *Fragm. Sci.* (ed. 6) I. iv. 110, I now..direct attention to..the polarisation of skylight.

†b. *Sc.* The light of the night-sky. *Obs.*

1730 in Marshall *Hist. Scenes Perthshire* (1880) 199 It [a ghost] appeared to me again, just after daylight, betwixt day and skylight.

c. = DAYLIGHT 3 b. ? *Obs.*

1816 T. L. PEACOCK *Headlong Hall* v, Push about the bottle:..No heel-taps. As to sky-light, liberty-hall. 1824 SCOTT *St. Ronan's* x, Come, Mick, no skylights—here is Clara's health.

2. A small opening in a roof, or in the ceiling of a room, filled in with glass, for admitting daylight; the framework and glass fitted to an opening of this kind.

1690 C. NESSE *Hist. & Myst. O. & N. Test.* I. 111 For the finishing of its roof and sky-light. 1707 J. STEVENS tr. *Quevedo's Com. Wks.* (1709) 257 A Sky-light that was over a Kitchen. 1774 *Phil. Trans.* LXV. 113 The second and third rooms were square, and both furnished with a sky-light. 1834 MARRYAT *P. Simple* (1863) 239, I smelt a very strong smell, blowing in at the weather port, and coming down the skylight which was open. 1886 *Manch. Exam.* 9 Jan. 5/5 The *débris* fell with a crash through a skylight into the offices below.

transf. and *fig.* 1833 M. SCOTT *Tom Cringle* iii, His other skylight had been shut up ever since Aboukir. 1871 R. H. HUTTON *Theol. Ess.* I. 13 Skylights opened to let in upon human nature an infinite dawn from above.

3. A light in the sky; a rocket.

1898 T. HARDY *Wessex Poems* 70 Three sky-lights then from the girdling trine Told 'Ready!'

Hence **Sky·light** *v. trans.*, to furnish with a skylight or skylights; **Sky·lighted** *ppl. a.*, furnished with a skylight or skylights; *lighted from above*; **Sky·lighty** *a.*, having the characteristics of being lighted from above.

1837 DICKENS *Pickw.* xiii, If the Buffs proposed to new sky-light the market-place, the Blues..denounced the proceeding. 1848 *Man in Moon* III. 248 Perhaps you may know the room—large, square, skylighty. 1880 L. WALLACE *Ben Hur* 136 As these were now raised, the compartment had the appearance of a skylighted hall. 1884 *Athenæum* 29 Mar. 410/2 The mezzanine floor and skylighted gallery ..will be devoted to the Department of Prints and Drawings.

Sky-like, *a.* [SKY *sb.*1] Resembling the sky in colour or shape.

1591 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* I. iii. 912 The sky-like Turquez, purple Amethists. 1649 LOVELACE *Ode to Lucasta, The Rose* i, Sweet serene skye-like Flower. 1652 BP. HALL *Invis. World* II. § 5 Some glister with a sky like, others with a star-like, clearness. 1822 MILMAN *Martyr of Antioch* 136 Down through the round and sky-like dome.

Sky-line. [SKY *sb.*1] The line where earth and sky meet; the horizon.

1860 G. H. K. *Vac. Tour* 126 The blue hare..running up hill, and seating himself on the sky-line. 1871 WHYTE MELVILLE *Sarchedon* 23 The sun was sinking..behind the level sky-line of the desert. 1897 MARY KINGSLEY *W. Africa* 384, I see two lumps of land on the sky-line.

Skyll, obs. f. SKILL; obs. var. SKULL, basket.

Skymer(e, Skymour, obs. ff. SKIMMER *sb.*

Skyn, variant of SKEEN.

Skynd, variant of SCHYND *Obs.*

Skynes, skynnes = *kinnes*: see KIN *sb.*1 6 b.

Sky-parlour. [SKY *sb.*1]

1. An attic, a garret.

1785 GROSE *Dict. Vulgar T., Sky parlour*, the garret, or upper story. 1805 *Naval Chron.* XIII. 7, I remained six weeks in this Sky parlour. 1859 W. COLLINS *Q. of Hearts* (1875) 14 The necessary order was also despatched to the

carpenter and glazier to set them at work on Morgan's sky-parlour in the seventh story.

2. The gallery in a theatre.

1807–8 W. Irving *Salmag.* (1824) 27 The advice so often given by the illustrious tenants of the theatrical sky-parlour.

Sky-pilot: see Sky *sb.*[1] 9.

‖ **Skyr** (skīəɹ). [Icel.] A dish prepared from curdled milk; a kind of curd.

1857 Dufferin *Lett. High Lat.* (ed. 3) 122 Not to mention reindeer tongues, skier,—a kind of sour curds, excellent when well made. 1868 Whittier *Dole of Jarl Thorkell* 77 Make dole of skyr and black bread That old and young may live. 1890 Hall Caine *Bondman* II. vii, He supped on the porridge and skyr they set before him.

Skyr(e, varr. Skire *a.* and *adv.*, Skirr *v.*

Skyrby, obs. form of Scurvy *sb.*

† **Skyre**, *sb. Sc. Obs.* (Meaning uncertain.)

1508 Dunbar *Flyting* 122 Ffy! skolderit skyn, thow art bot skyre and skrumple.

Skyre (*Sc.* skəir), *v. Sc.* [Of obscure origin.] *intr.* To be bright or glaring; to flaunt. Hence **Sky·ring** *ppl. a.*, bright or loud in colour; glaring; conspicuous.

1677 Nicolson in *Trans. Roy. Soc. Lit.* (1870) IX. 318 *Skire*, to shine. 1724 Ramsay *Tea-Table Misc.* (1733) I. 25 Nae skyring gowk, my dear, can see Or love, or grace, or heaven in thee. 1760 J. Barclay *Battle of Sheriffmuir* in *Jacobite Songs* (1871) 35 Had ye seen the philabegs And skyrin tartan trews. 1831 *Blackw. Mag.* XXX. 107 They do not wonder even at meteors, for the air is full of them, and they go skyring through the stars. 1871 W. Alexander *Johnny Gibb* (1873) 169 That braw French merino 't she's been skyrin in.

† **Skyred**, *a. Sc. Obs.*—[1] [Cf. Skire *adv.*] ? Slightly crazy.

1581 *Satir. Poems Reform.* xliv. 207 As he vas vyse, the vther planelie skyrit, Gar paint thair baigis: to Geneue haist vith speid.

† **Skyrgaliard.** *Obs.* Also 6 **skyre-**. [f. Galliard *sb.*[1], with obscure first element.] A wild or dissipated fellow.

a 1529 Skelton *Agst. Scottes* 101 Syr skyrgalyard, ye were so skyt, Your wyll than ran before your wyt. — *Dk. Albany* 168 Suche a proude palyarde, Suche a skyrgaliarde. [1826 Hor. Smith *Tor Hill* (1838) I. 26 The quarrel of these wild rufflers and skyr-galliards.]

Sky-rocket. [Sky *sb.*[1]] A rocket which ascends high into the sky before exploding. Also *fig.*

1688 Luttrell *Brief Rel.* (1857) I. 454 There are various reports how the late fire..began: some say by carelessnesse; others, by a sky rocket falling amongst hay. 1690 Dryden *Prol. to 'Mistakes'* 15 He's no high Flyer—he makes no sky Rockets, His Squibbs are only levell'd at your Pockets. 1702 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 3805/8 The Ships..made a very Glorious Show at Night,..some firing several Sky-Rockets. 1765 R. Jones *Fireworks* iv. 136 Six sky rockets, fixed on one stick, and fired together, make a grand and beautiful appearance. 1834 Marryat *P. Simple* (1863) 79 At last I obtained a grumbling assent to my going on shore, and off I went like a sky-rocket. 1846 Greener *Sci. Gunnery* 230 The composition in a sky-rocket, which is required to burn on a graduated scale. 1862 Mrs. Carlyle *Lett.* III. 108, I should be back like a returned sky-rocket.

attrib. 1893 *Advance* (Chicago) 3 Aug., Such successors seldom report in such sky-rocket style after about six months. 1894 R. H. Davis *Eng. Cousins* 120 An American misses the rah-rahs, and the skyrocket cries.

Hence **Sky-rockety** *a.*

1890 *Voice* (N. York) 23 Jan., I began to ask myself questions about this sky-rockety assemblage of words. 1896 *Godey's Mag.* April 348/2 That the sudden and sky-rockety increase last year was unnatural is generally admitted.

Skyrre, obs. form of Scar *sb.*[1]

Skyrrhus, obs. form of Scirrhus.

† **Skyrsay.** *Sc. Obs.*—[1] (Meaning uncertain.)

c 1425 Wyntoun *Cron.* II. xii. 1104 (Cott. MS.), Withe aulde hoyis [=hose] and rewyn schoyn, And mowlyt breid in skyrsays [*v.rr.* cartis, baggis] don.

Skyruie, obs. form of Scurvy *sb.*

Skyrwate, -wyt(te, obs. ff. Skirret *sb.*[1]

Sky-sail. *Naut.* Also **skysail.** [Sky *sb.*[1]] In square-rigged vessels, a light sail set above the royal.

1829 Marryat *F. Mildmay* xv, I set and took in every sail, from a sky-sail to a try-sail. 1840 R. H. Dana *Bef. Mast* x, The sun came out bright, and we set royals, sky-sails, and studding-sails. 1891 C. Roberts *Adrift Amer.* 230 She was a full-rigged ship, carrying three skysails.

b. *attrib.* with *mast, pole, yard.*

1829 Marryat *F. Mildmay* iii, White hammock-cloths, skysail masts. 1846 A. Young *Naut. Dict.* 284 Either of these poles gets the name of the skysail pole. 1885 *Daily Telegr.* 26 Nov. (Cassell), A length of mast continued above the royal mast, upon which a skysail-yard may be crossed.

Sky·scape. [f. Sky *sb.*[1], after *landscape, seascape.*] A view of the sky; also in painting, etc., a representation of part of the sky.

1837 Southey *Let.* in *Life* (1850) IV. 283 It was the unbroken horizon which impressed me,..and the skyscapes which it afforded. 1861 C. J. Anderson *Okavango* x. 137 The beautiful and striking skyscapes and atmospheric coruscations attendant on these storms. 1878 Grosart *More's Poems* Introd. p. xli, The great ancient Painters, whose backgrounds of portraits..rather than land-scape, or sea-scape, or sky-scape proper, assure us [etc.].

Sky-scraper. [Sky *sb.*[1]]

1. *Naut.* A triangular sky-sail.

1794 *Rigging & Seamanship* 135 *Sky-scrapers.* These sails are triangular...The foot spreads half of the royal yards. 1797 S. James *Narr. Voy.* 52 Four vessels hove in sight..with..royals and skyscrapers set. 1860 *Slang Dict.* 217 The light sails which some adventurous skippers set above the royals in calm latitudes are termed sky-scrapers and moon-rakers. 1883 A. Knox *New Playground* 113 Studding-sails and sky-scrapers did not produce the smallest effect.

2. *colloq.* a. A high-standing horse.

1826 Hone *Every-day Bk.* II. 461 The huntsmen were all abroad.., trotting..down the road, on great nine-hand sky-scrapers. 1827 *Sporting Mag.* (N.S.) XX. 48, I should like to see him upon one of the crack Sky-scrapers of the day.

b. A very tall man.

1857 *Slang Dict.* 79, I say, old sky-scraper, is it cold up there?

c. A rider on one of the high cycles formerly in use.

1892 *Daily News* 7 Mar. 6/6 Riders of the ordinary [cycle]..are few and far between, and are often derisively styled 'sky-scrapers'.

3. An exaggerated or 'tall' story. *nonce-use.*

1841 Lever *C. O'Malley* xxxiii, My yarn won't come so well after your sky-scrapers of love.

4. A high building of many stories, *esp.* one of those characteristic of American cities.

1891 *Boston* (Mass.) *Jrnl.* Nov., How the sky-scrapers are built. 1893 *Daily News* 15 May 5/5 It does not look like a typical skyscraper, though I suppose a thirteen-story house is one.

Sky-scraping, *a.* [Sky *sb.*[1]] High enough to appear to touch the sky; hence, remarkably high or lofty.

1840 Marryat *Poor Jack* i, He..saw my mother with her sky-scraping cap at the back of her head. 1891 *Boston* (Mass.) *Jrnl.* Nov., When entire streets are built with sky-scraping buildings. 1897 Mary Kingsley *W. Africa* 550 It [the mountain] revealed itself..from its surf-washed plinth to its sky-scraping summit.

Sky-sign. [Sky *sb.*[1]]

1. *poet.* A celestial sign or portent.

1880 Browning *Idyls, Pietro* 8 Where [there] was..Star to name or sky-sign [to] read.

2. A sign of the nature of an advertisement, so constructed and placed that the letters, etc., stand out against the sky.

1890 *Spectator* 30 Aug., We entirely agree with him as to the hideous horror of these 'sky-signs', as he terms them. 1893 *Daily Telegr.* 27 Mar. 5/4 A large board on the roof of a house is a great deal more to be dreaded than any sky-sign yet invented.

† **Skyvald.** *Obs.*—[1] (Meaning obscure.)

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 529 Þerwyth he blessez vch a best, & bytazt hem þis erþe. Þen was a skylly skyualde, quen scaped alle þe wylde.

Skyward (skəi·wŏɹd), *adv.* and *adj.* Also 6 **skies ward.** [Sky *sb.*[1]]

A. *adv.* Towards, in the direction of, the sky. In early use *to (the) skyward.*

1582 Stanyhurst *Æneis* I. (Arb.) 20 To skyward his claspt hands heauelye lifting. *Ibid.* II. 65 Mounting his sight to the skyward. 1586 W. Webbe *Eng. Poetrie* (Arb.) 76 Swift buckes shall flie for foode to the skies ward.

1821 Clare *Vill. Minstr.* I. 80 One glances sky-ward with affright. 1840 Hood *Kilmansegg, Courtship* ii, The grieving Angel had skyward flown. 1871 Palgrave *Lyr. Poems* 17 A blaze shot skyward from the crystal mere.

fig. 1884 'H. Collingwood' *Under Meteor Flag* 33 Our hopes..began once more to soar skyward.

B. *adj.* Leading to the sky; going towards the sky; heavenward.

1838 Moir *Casa Wappy* Poems (1852) I. 21 Thy little feet have trode The skyward path. 1839–48 Bailey *Festus* Proem p. v, Ere..granite wrought Its skyward impulse from earth's hearth of fire.

Hence **Sky·wardly** *adv.*

1893 *Nat. Observer* 11 Mar. 413/1 The corks have broken forth and shot skywardly.

Sky·wards, *adv.* [Cf. prec.] Towards the sky.

1811 W. R. Spencer *Poems* 54 Skywards were spread his wings of feathery snow. 1853 Miss E. S. Sheppard *Ch. Auchester* I. 275 The smoke looked beautiful..as it swelled skywards. 1888 'J. S. Winter' *Bootle's Childr.* ix, Mrs. Landover's nose went sky-wards, and her short upper lip curled itself in the same direction.

Sla(a, obs. ff. Slay, Sloe, Slow. **Slaap**, obs. f. Slape. **Slaar(e**, obs. north. ff. Slayer. **Slaathorn**, obs. f. Sloe-thorn. **Slaavic**, var. of Slavic. **Slaa-worm**, obs. f. Slow-worm.

Slab (slæb), *sb.*[1] Also 3 **sclabbe**, 4, 6 **slabbe**, 7 **slabb.** [Of obscure origin: the form does not accord with OF. *esclape* splinter, shiver (of wood).]

1. A flat, broad, and comparatively thick piece or mass of anything solid.

In early use of metal, later also of stone and wood, and finally of any substance capable of having this form. For some technical uses see quots. 1674, 1825, and 1863.

c 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 315 Ase 3if a man nome ane sclabbe [*Harl. MS.* slab] of Ire, þat glowynde were a-fuyre. 1354–5 *Ely Sacr. Rolls* (Surtees) II. 164 In M de grossis spykinge, 7ª 6ª. In viij slabbes empt. 1ª 8ª. *c* 1380 *Sir Ferumb.* 3313 Grete slabbes of styl & yre to þe walles þo wern y-slente. 1556 Recorde *Castle Knowl.* a viij, The Grounde of Artes who hathe well tredd, And noted well the slyppery slabbes. 1665 J. Webb *Stone-Heng* (1725) 198 One only simple Circle of about twelve Slabbs of Stone. 1674 Ray *Coll. Words; Preparing of Tin* 124 When they have a sufficient quantity of the melted metal, they cast it into oblong, square pieces in a mould made of moore-stone. The lesser pieces they call *slabs*, the greater *blocks.* 1771 Cumberland *West Indian* III. iv, A large cargo of..sugars, rum-puncheons, mahogany slabs. 1796 H. Hunter tr. *St.-Pierre's Stud. Nat.* (1799) II. 452 An arch enclosed on every side with large slabs of stone. 1825 J. Nicholson *Operat. Mechanic* 637 The large piece [of glass] with the knot, still retains the name of *table*; the smaller piece is technically called a *slab.* 1840 Dickens *Old C. Shop* l, A little slab of plum cake. 1856 Kane *Arct. Expl.* II. xiv. 141 The walrus..was cut into flat slabs half an inch thick. 1863 *Chambers's Encycl.* V. s.v. *Iron*, Puddled balls which have undergone shingling are called *slabs* or *blooms.* 1871 Tyndall *Fragm. Sci.* (1879) I. x. 316 Our slabs of gun-cotton also emit waves of different densities in different parts.

transf. 1896 Mrs. Caffyn *Quaker Grandmother* 171 He was a pampered slab of propriety from his youth up.

2. a. A rough outside plank of timber cut from a log or a tree-trunk preparatory to squaring the main portion, or sawing it into planks.

1573 Tusser *Husb.* (1878) 33 Sawne slab let lie, for stable and stie. *Ibid.* 42. 1663 Gerbier *Counsel* 25 [He must watch] the Sawyers at their Pit, that they waste no more than needs in Slabs. 1669 Worlidge *Syst. Agric.* (1681) 332 *Slab*, the outside sappy Planck or Board sawn off from the sides of Timber. 1833 Loudon *Encycl. Archit.* § 549 A marine character may be given by shells;..that of a Russian log-house by the outside slabs of trees. 1886 *Encycl. Brit.* XXI. 345/1 The waste of the log, consisting of the 'slabs' and edgings.

b. *Austr.* A coarse, axe-hewn plank, two or three inches in thickness.

1845 [see 5 a]. 1861 Mrs. Meredith *Over the Straits* iv. 130 A bare, rough, barn-like edifice, built of slabs. 1886 Heney *Fortunate Days* 71 Built was the house of slabs, long and thick and rudely planed by the hatchet.

3. a. A flat piece of wood or stone used as a table, counter, etc.; a small table hinged to the wall in the passage or hall of a house.

1739 R. Bull tr. *Dedekindus' Grobianus* 16 Throw Chairs about; the Slab in pieces beat. 1836–7 Dickens *Sk. Boz, Tales* xi, Four..wine-glasses..were on the slab in the passage. 1883 *Fisheries Exhib. Catal.* p. xxxiii, The most luxurious slab of a fishmonger's shop.

b. A flat piece of stone, etc., on which colours are ground, or printing-ink distributed.

1859 Gullick & Timbs *Paint.* 199 The Slab and Muller, for grinding pigments, figures in a painter's paraphernalia far less frequently now than formerly. 1882 Southward *Pract. Printing* 383 *Ink Slabs*...Metal being injurious to many kinds of coloured inks, slabs of various kinds are used.

c. A porcelain palette divided into compartments, usually with sloping surfaces, for mixing and holding water-colours.

1888 Field & Davidson *Gram. Colouring* (ed. 4) 158 Mix the colour in three degrees of depth, in as many different compartments of the slab.

4. *attrib.* a. In sense 'constructed of slabs', as *slab-cottage, -fence*, etc.

1826 Longf. in *Life* (1891) I. vii. 86 No slab-fences; no well-poles. 1846 Stokes *Disc. in Australia* I. ix. 266 The house..was what is called a Slab Hut, formed of rough boards and thatched with grass. 1869 Townend *Rem. Australia* 155 We passed through Studley Park, with here and there a slab house or tent. 1890 'R. Boldrewood' *Col. Reformer* (1891) 97 A very small slab cottage.

b. In sense 'having the form of a slab or slabs', as *slab-board, -deal, -slate*, etc.

1844 H. Stephens *Bk. Farm* II. 133 The slab-slices..may of course vary, but all are free of the smallest portion of waste. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2197/2 The waney portions of the slab-boards are removed by the Edger. 1877 Raymond *Statist. Mines & Mining* 412 Slab-wood answering all purposes. 1881 Young *Every Man his own Mechanic* § 157. 54 When the slab deals or outsides have been cut away. 1889 Seddon *Builder's Work* (ed. 2) 231 The work upon slab slates, or slate-mason's work.

c. Misc., as *slab-car, -pit, -saw.*

1879 *Lumberman's Gaz.* 19 Dec., Getting the slabs and clippings into the slab-pit. *Ibid.*, The refuse will be run to the slab-saw and cut up, and from there it will fall into the slab-car.

5. *Comb.* a. With pa. pples., as *slab-bridged* (fig.), *-built, -roofed.*

1845 *Voy. of Port Philip* 52 His slab-built hut, with roof of bark. 1860 G. H. K. *Vac. Tour* 119, I suspect that he confounded those mysterious slab-built *wags* with the real hour-glass tower. 1866 Lowell *Biglow P.* Ser. II. *Introd.* Poet. Wks. (1884) 280 The picturesque force of the epithet *slab-bridged* applied to a fellow of shaky character. 1896 Mrs. Croker *Village Tales* 99 The little slab-roofed dwelling.

b. With agent-nouns, as *slab-burner, -grinder.*

1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2197/2 *Slab-grinder*, a machine used for grinding up the refuse slabs in a..saw mill. 1886 *Encycl. Brit.* XXI. 345/2 The 'slab-burner' or 'hell', a large circular brick furnace..erected conveniently near the saw-mill.

Slab (slæb), *sb.*[2] Also 7 **slabb(e.** [app. of Scand. origin: cf. older Da. *slab* mud, mire, Icel., Norw., and Sw. *slabb* wet filth, slops, etc. Ir. and Sc. Gael. *slab, slaib* mire, mud, dirt, are prob. from English.]

1. A muddy place; a puddle. Now *dial.*

1610 Holland *Camden's Brit.* I. 532 A fairer towne, than a man would looke to finde in this tract among such slabbes and water-plashes. 1756 *Phil. Trans.* XLIX. 392 The bottom of the harbour, which is all a slab, was much altered, the mud being washed from some places, and deposited in others. 1847 Halliw., *Slab*, a puddle, a wet place. *North.* 1895 Rye *E. Anglian Gloss.*, *Slab*, a puddle or collection of surface drainage.

2. Wet and slimy matter; ooze, sludge.

1622–3 *Sarum Churchw. Accs.* (Swayne, 1896) 175 A Barrowe full of Lyme Slabb, 8d. 1671 *St. Foine Improved* 4 The Slabb and Mud which remains after the Water is drawn off the Ground. 1867 Emerson *May-Day* Wks. (Bohn) III. 408 And upward pries and perforates Through the cold slab a thousand gates.

fig. 1868 Browning *Ring & Bk.* IV. 733 Throw in abuse..: shake all slab At Rome, Arezzo for the world to nose.

Slab (slæb), *sb.*[3] *Naut.* [Cf. SLAB-LINE.] (See quots.)

1882 NARES *Seamanship* (ed. 6) 12 *Slab*, any slack part of a sail hanging down. 1886 *Encycl. Brit.* XXI. 604/2 *Slab of a sail*, the slack part which hangs down after the leech-lines are hauled up.

Slab (slæb), *a.*[1] [Related to SLAB *sb.*[2] Cf. older Da. *slab* slippery.] Semi-solid; viscid.

In modern use entirely as an echo of Shakspere, frequently *fig.*, and usually accompanied by *thick*.

(*a*) 1605 SHAKS. *Macb.* IV. i. 32 Make the Grewell thicke, and slab. 1844 DICKENS *Mart. Chuz.* xvi, Whatever the chance contributions that fell into the slow caldron of their talk, they made the gruel thick and slab with dollars. 1870 FRISWELL *Mod. Men of Lett.* vii. 126 Various adventures and thoughts, poured out thick and slab. 1894 RALEIGH *Eng. Novel* viii. (1903) 234 His ['Monk' Lewis's] taste was rather for horrors, thick and slab.

(*b*) 1841 SEALY *Porcelain Tower* 154 Where the air is slab and hath got no sky. 1849 AINSWORTH *Lanc. Witches* I. vi, The slab, salt waves of the Dead Sea. 1868 E. EDWARDS *Ralegh* I. xvii. 351 The embroilment would seem to be now slab enough.

Hence **Sla·bly** *adv.*; **Sla·bness.**

1881 *Academy* 7 May 334 All these materials are mixed thickly and slably by the aid of a very clumsy style. 1892 *Sat. Rev.* 13 Aug. 206/2 If these ingredients are not thick and slab enough for readers, they must, indeed, be fanatics of thickness and slabness.

† **Slab,** *a.*[2] (or *adv.*). *Obs.*[—1] (See quot.)

c 1682 J. COLLINS *Salt & Fishery* 13 With Scotch Salt, he cured the whole Lading of Cod, having none that were weak or slab salted.

† **Slab,** *v.*[1] *Obs.*[—1] [Of doubtful origin: connexion with SLAB *sb.*[2] is perhaps possible.] *intr.* ? To wallow.

c 1315 SHOREHAM VII. 442 Hou yst þet hy ine helle slabbeþ, And þare-tou none grace nabbeþ To repente?

Slab, *v.*[2] Now *dial.* or *Obs.* [prob. of Du. or LG. origin: cf. MDu., Du., and LG. *slabben* (G. *schlabben, schlappen*), Fris. *slabje*, Norw. and Sw. *slabba*, in the same sense.] To eat or drink in a hasty or untidy manner: **a.** *trans.* with *up*. **b.** *intr.* with *at*.

1553 *Respublica* 853 Suche hongrye doggs will slabbe vp sluttishe puddinges. 1729 in Macfarlane *Genealog. Collect.* (S.H.S.) I. 111 The Laird of Grant..was for Diversion's Sake brought to see the Orphans slabbing at their Trough. 1787 W. TAYLOR *Scots Poems* 173 Lang may ye blow the reamin ale,..While I slab up my barefit kail

Slab (slæb), *v.*[3] [f. SLAB *sb.*[1]]

1. *trans.* To dress (timber) by removing the outside slabs; to clear of bark-wood.

1703 [R. NEVE] *City & C. Purchaser* 237 They will cut none smaller, neither will they Slab any, unless they are paid for it by Measure. 1811 *Self Instructor* 137 For cutting a piece of timber..and slabbing it, i.e. cutting off the outside pieces. 1812 J. SMYTH *Pract. Customs* 234 A paling Board..being slabbed or feather-edged and dubbed on the sappy side. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2028 *Sapping-machine*, a circular saw for slabbing balks.

b. *U.S.* With *off*: 'To throw aside as useless, like the outside piece of a log' (Bartlett, 1859).

1835 COL. CROCKETT *Tour* 212 You must take notice that I am slabb'd off from the election.

2. To convert into a slab or slab

1868 LOSSING *The Hudson* 70 There are also several mills for slabbing the fine black marble of that locality. 1893 *Advance* (Chicago) 11 May, A section of one thirty feet in diameter is to be slabbed, and the slabs..are to be set up to form a house.

3. **a.** To lay or pave with slabs.

1832 *Lincoln Herald* 7 Feb. 4/4 The expense of slabbing the sides of the Market-place. 1874 SYMONDS *Sk. Italy & Greece* (1898) I. ii. 46 The parapet is broad, and slabbed with red Verona marble. 1891 BARING-GOULD *In Troubadour Land* xvi. 230 The roof is slabbed with stone, so as to form a terrace.

b. To support (the sides of a shaft) with slabs. In quot. *absol.*

1871 J. J. SIMPSON *Recit.* 24 So dig away, drive away, slab and bail.

4. To stick or plaster in slabs.

1886 TUPPER *My Life* 21 They had slabbed on the underside of the tables masses of bread and butter supposed to have been eaten-out.

† **Slabbard.** *Obs.*[—0] (See quot.)

The sense does not correspond to that of MDu. *slabbaerd., slabbaert*, glutton, foul-mouthed person.

c 1440 *Prompt. Parv.* 458/1 Slabbarde,..*morosus, tardus*.

Slabbed (slæbd), *ppl. a.* [f. SLAB *sb.*[1] or *v.*[3] + -ED.] Formed, or made, of or into slabs; protected by, paved with, slabs.

1818 KEATS *Endym.* I. 870 The slabbed margin of a well. 1820 — *Lamia* I. 381 A silver lamp, whose phosphor glow Reflected in the slabbed steps below. 1883 SYMONDS *Ital. Byways* v. 99 A fine inner court, with sumptuous staircases of slabbed stone.

Slabber (slæ·bəɹ), *sb.*[1] [Related to SLABBER *v.* Cf. G. *schlabber* slaver, slush, street-mud; older Da. *slabber* muddy ground.]

1. Slaver; excessive saliva. Also *slabber-like*.

1718 OZELL tr. *Tournefort's Voy.* I. 193 This Surface is supple, cover'd with a gluey slabber-like Liquor. 1737 BRACKEN *Farriery Impr.* (1757) II. 140 The Slabber which may distil out of his Mouth.

2. Slobbering talk.

1840 R. H. DANA *Bef. Mast* xvi. 44 The language of these people..is the most brutish and inhuman language..that could well be conceived of. It is a complete *slabber*.

3. *Sc.* Soft mud; slop, slush.

1887 *Jamieson's Dict.* Suppl. 221/2.

Slabber (slæ·bəɹ), *sb.*[2] [f. SLAB *v.*[3] + -ER[1].] **a.** A saw or machine for removing the outside slabs from timber, or dressing the outer portion of logs. **b.** A machine for dressing nuts or bolts.

1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2197/2.

Slabber (slæ·bəɹ), *v.* Now chiefly *dial.* Also 6 **slabour, 7 slabbor.** [prob. of Du. or LG. origin: cf. Du. *slabberen*, LG. *slabbern* (G. *schlabbern, schlappern*), Fris. *slabberje*, older Da. *slabre*, a frequentative of *slabben*, etc.: see SLAB *v.*[2], and cf. SLOBBER, SLUBBER. The compound *bislaberen* occurs in ME.]

1. *trans.* To wet or befoul with saliva; to beslaver or beslobber.

1579 W. FULKE *Conf. Sanders* 637 This was no great honouring of that holy yron, to put it to bee champed and slaboured in an horse mouth. 1619 HARRIS *Drunkard's Cup* 28 A Spaniell..will leape vpon him, slabber his cloathes. 1650 WELDON *Crt. Jas. I*, I. 102 The K[ing] hung about his neck, slabboring his cheeks. 1712 ARBUTHNOT *J. Bull* III. vi, He..slabber'd me all over from Cheek to Cheek, with his great Tongue. 1753 SMOLLETT *Ct. Fathom* (1784) 64 He ..began to slabber his companions, with a most bear-like affection. 1818 HAZLITT *Eng. Poets* vi. (1870) 151 How Gargantua mewls, and pules, and slabbers his nurse. 1865 ATKINSON *Prov. Dauby* (MS.), *Slabber*, to wet the thread with saliva in the process of spinning.

refl. 1668 PEPYS *Diary* 26 Mar., Eating of sack posset, and slabbering themselves.

fig. 1637 J. WILLIAMS *Holy Table* 86 So as you eat cleanly, & do not slubber & slabber your quotations of those books.

2. To wet in a dirty or disagreeable manner.

1573 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 106 Her milke pan and creame pot, so slabbered and sost. 1630 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Wks.* II. 22/1 We were enclosed with most dangerous sands. There were we sowsed & slabberd, wash'd & dash'd. 1675 HOBBES *Odyss.* VI. 49 A pure and undecaying firmament, Which..Nor wet nor slabber'd is with showr of rain. 1822 SCOTT *Nigel* xvii, A huge book..whose leaves, stained with wine, and slabbered with tobacco juice [etc.]. 1901 *Stafford Chron.* 25 Oct. (E.D.D.), Cyclists on a wet day get slabbered.

3. To gobble *up*, swallow *down*, in a hurried or unrefined manner. Cf. SLAB *v.*[2]

1573 BARET *Adv.* s. v., To Slabber vp potage halfe hoate & halfe colde. 1682 T. FLATMAN *Heraclitus Ridens* No. 53 (1713) II. 85 Their Leading-men..void Pamphlets..so thick, that their hungry Spectators cannot slabber them up fast enough. 1689 G. HARVEY *Curing Dis. by Expect.* vii. 48 A course of Waters slabber'd down..do undoubtedly very much prolong the interval of fits.

4. *intr.* To let saliva flow or fall from the mouth; to slaver, dribble; to disgorge water.

1648 HEXHAM II, *Zeeveren*, to Slabber like young children. 1678 *Lond. Gas.* No. 1272/4 He is..given to slabber in his speech. 1712 J. JAMES tr. *Le Blond's Gardening* 217 Two young Tritons, and three Dolphins, that slabber into the same Bason. 1748 RICHARDSON *Clarissa* (1811) I. xlii. 322 How did he use to hang, till he slabbered again, poor doting old man! 1793 WOLCOT (P. Pindar) *Odes to Pope* Wks. 1812 III. 220 Slabbering, whining, crying.

5. To flow in a viscid or sloppy manner.

1650 BULWER *Anthropomet.* ix. (1653) 164 Their spittle slabbering forth. 1683 MOXON *Mech. Exerc., Printing* xix. P 1 The Mettal may spill or slabber over the Mouth of..the Mold.

6. *Sc.* To work in a sloppy manner.

1832 SCOTT *Jrnl.* (1890) II. 369 This morning, when I came down-stairs, I found Mr. Macdonald [a sculptor] slabbering away at the model. 1894 [see the *vbl. sb.* 2].

Hence **Sla·bbered** *ppl. a.*

1609 J. DAVIES (Heref.) *Hum. Heaven on Earth* vi. Wks. (Grosart) I. 6 Ouer all, he ware a slabberd Gowne. 1638 RANDOLPH *Hey for Honesty* IV. iii, The rugged wrincles of her slabber'd face. 1742 YOUNG *Nt. Th.* III. 337 For what live ever here?..To see what we have seen? Hear, till unheard, the same old slabber'd tale? 1818 SCOTT *Rob Roy* XXVII, A hadden tongue..makes a slabbered mouth. 1857 THOREAU *Maine W.* i. (1864) 46 A few..slabbered slices of pork.

Slabber-chops. *rare*[—0]. [f. prec.] (See quot.)

1727 BOYER *Dict. Royal* I, *Baveur*, one that slabbers, a slabber Chops.

† **Slabberdegullion.** *Obs. rare.* [Cf. SLABBER *v.*] = SLUBBERDEGULLION. Also *attrib.*

1653 URQUHART *Rabelais* I. XXV, Slapsauce fellows, slabberdegullion druggels, lubbardly lowts. 1694 MOTTEUX *Rabelais* V. XV. (1737) 60 The Scabby Slabberdegulions still waited for us.

† **Sla·bberer.** *Obs.* [f. SLABBER *v.* + -ER[1]. Cf. G. *schlabberer*.] One who slabbers; a driveller; a slobberer.

1611 COTGR., *Patouillard*, a padler, dabler, slabberer; one that tramples with his feet in plashes of durtie water. 1660 WOOD *Life* (O. H. S.) I. 370 *note*, You may know him by his red beard, a slabberer of Boyes. 1744 OZELL tr. *Brantome's Sp. Rhodom.* 99, I have observed a great many of your gigantic People..to be mere Dolts, Slabberers and Oafs.

Slabbering (slæ·bərin), *vbl. sb.* [f. SLABBER *v.*]

1. The action of the verb, in various senses.

1611 COTGR., *Patouil*, a padling, dabling, slabbering. 1630 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Wks.* II. 169/2 Call not your Laundresse slut or slabb'ring queane, It is her slabb'ring that doth keepe thee cleane. 1698 FRYER *Acc. E. India & P.* 223 Glasses of Rose-Water poured on our Garments to excessive slabbering. 1766 *Compl. Farmer* s.v. *Staggers*, It is a good sign if he..drinks freely without slabbering. 1894 CROCKETT *Raiders* v. 55 All his work was only slabbering with paint.

2. **a.** *Slabbering-bib*, a bib, esp. for a child, to protect the clothes from falling saliva.

1648 HEXHAM II, *Een Zeever-doeck*, a Slabbering-bibb. 1673 *Humours Town* 27 They are but petty Striplings, scarce out of their Slabbering-bibs. 1714 MANDEVILLE *Fable Bees* (1733) II. 176 We say, that a man wants a slabbering-bibb, when he behaves very sillily. 1782 MISS BURNEY *Cecilia* VI. viii, Lady Honoria..seized one of the napkins, and protested she would send it to Mortimer for a slabbering-bib.

transf. 1796 *Grose's Dict. Vulgar T.* (ed. 3), *Slabbering bib*, a parson or lawyer's band.

b. *Slabbering-bit*: (see quot.).

1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl., *Mastigadour*, or *Slabbering-Bit*, in the manege, is a snaffle of iron, all smooth, and of a piece [etc.].

Sla·bbering, *ppl. a.* [f. SLABBER *v.*]

1. Characterized by slabbering.

1583 STUBBES *Anat. Abus.* I. (1879) 78 They get many a slabbering kisse. 1747 *Gentl. Mag.* 191 I've now and then a slabb'ring kiss. 1808 JAMIESON, *To Slaik*,..to kiss in a slabbering manner. 1840 R. H. DANA *Bef. Mast* xvi. 44 A continual *slabbering* sound is made in the cheeks.

2. That slabbers, in various senses.

1630 [see the *vbl. sb.* 1]. 1681 W. ROBERTSON *Phraseol. Gen.* (1693) 1045 He all to bespattered him with his railing and slabbering tongue. 1764 *Museum Rust.* I. 451 Awkward slabbering sky-farmers. *a* 1774 GOLDSM. tr. *Scarron's Com. Romance* (1775) I. 42 Set down that slabbering milksop..and let her shift for herself.

Sla·bberish, *a. rare*[—0]. [f. SLABBER *sb.*[1]] Of the nature of slabber.

1648 HEXHAM II, *Zeeverachtigh*, Slabberish, or Slabbie.

† **Sla·bberment.** *Obs.*[—1] [f. SLABBER *v.* + -MENT.] A slabbery application.

a 1620 J. DYKE *Sel. Serm.* (1640) 160 All these slabberments will never ease the paine.

† **Slabber-sauce.** *Obs.* [f. SLABBER *v.* Cf. the earlier SLIBBER-SAUCE.] A sauce, or similar preparation, composed of various ingredients mixed in a sloppy mass. Also *fig.*

1577 FULKE *Confut. Purg.* 27 Which will not be filled vp with the slabbersawce of mens merits and satisfactions. 1581 *Test. 12 Patriarches* 10 b, The Egiptian woman did much to him..by offering him slabersawces. 1621 SANDERSON *Serm.* I. 202 As absurd..as it would be for a man to accustome himself to no other diet but slabber-sauces, and druggs. 1788 FALCONBRIDGE *African Slave Trade* 21 A sauce, composed of palm-oil, mixed with flour, water, and pepper, which the sailors call slabber-sauce.

† **Sla·bbery,** *sb. Obs.*[—1] [f. SLABBER *sb.*[1] or *v.*] *fig.* An outpouring of abuse.

1596 NASHE *Saffron Walden* 134 She..calls mee rampant beast in formidable hide, with I wot not what other Getulian slabberies.

Slabbery (slæ·bəri), *a.* Now chiefly *dial.* [f. SLABBER *sb.*[1] or *v.* Cf. LG. *slabbrig*, G. *schlabb(e)rig*.] Sloppy, slabby, slushy.

1600 HOLLAND *Livy* XXI. XXXVI. 413 They were faine to go upon the bare yce underneath, and in the slabberie snow-broth. 1654 FLECKNOE *Ten Years Trav.* 95 The sudden rain having rendred the ways so slabbery, and me so dirty. 1711 SWIFT *Jrnl. Stella* 31 Dec., Our frost is broken,..and it is very slabbery. 1874 T. TAYLOR *Leic. Sq.* viii. 177 Hard frost was passing into 'slabbery' thaw.

Slabbiness (slæ·binės). [f. SLABBY *a.* + -NESS.] The quality, condition, or state of being slabby; wetness; sloppiness.

1555 EDEN *Decades* (Arb.) 310 All iorneys incumbered with continuall waters and myrie slabbynesse. *a* 1656 USSHER *Ann.* VI. (1658) 251 Alexander got on land, where he could hardly stand, for the slabbinesse of the ground. 1684 BUNYAN *Pilgr. Prog.* II. 183 The Way also was here very wearysom thorow Dirt and Slabbiness.

Sla·bbing, *sb.* [f. SLAB *sb.*[1]] Slabs collectively; slab-work.

1893 J. A. BARRY *Steve Brown's Bunyip* 76 The slabbing.. had rotted away and fallen down.

Slabbing (slæ·biŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. SLAB *v.*[3] + -ING[1].] The action of the vb., in various senses.

1703 [R. NEVE] *City & C. Purchaser* 237 If the Carpenter will have any pieces clear'd by Slabbing..they will..be paid by Measure for it. *Ibid.* 239 Slabbing..is cutting off the out-side pieces. 1896 *Daily News* 21 Nov. 7/4 Much interest was taken in the 'slabbing' of an ingot for H.M.S. Glory.

b. *attrib.*, as *slabbing-gang, -mill, -roll, -saw.*

1863 P. BARRY *Dockyard Econ.* 258 Engine-houses with engines driving slabbing rolls. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2197/2 Slabbing-gang. *Ibid.*, Slabbing-saw. 1886 *Encycl. Brit.* XXI. 344/2 In the 'slabbing' gang [of saws], the outsides or slabs were cut from one log. 1903 J. H. BRIDGE *Hist. Carnegie Steel Co.* 33 The slabbing-mill now turns out thirty thousand tons of steel slabs a month.

Sla·bbish, *a. rare*[—0]. Somewhat slabby.

1647 HEXHAM I, Slabbish way, *slijckachtige wegh*.

Slabby (slæ·bi), *a.*[1] [f. SLAB *sb.*[2] + -Y.]

1. Wet, miry, muddy, slushy, sloppy. Now *dial.*

a. Of roads, etc. (Common in 17th cent.)

1542 *Lamentable & Piteous Treat.* in *Harl. Misc.* (1745) IV. 512 The poore Souldyers..fynding the Way, by which they shuld go, so slabby and slyppery. 1555 EDEN *Decades* (Arb.) 321 The citie is very large and wyde and also very slabby and myrie. 1600 HOLLAND *Livy* XXI. XXXVI. 413 To tumble..upon the slipperie and glassie yce, and the molten slabbie snow. 1690 C. NESS *Hist. & Myst. O. & N. Test.* I. 418 They oft pass through a strait, long, slabby lane. 1716 GAY *Trivia* II. 92 When waggish boys the stunted beesom ply To rid the slabby pavement. 1737 BRACKEN *Farriery Impr.* (1757) II. 78 Deep or slabby roads. 1806 J. BERESFORD *Miseries Hum. Life* IV. XXXVII, By stamping close at your side on the slabby pavement. 1825– in dial. glossaries (N. Cy., Northampt., Suff.).

fig. 1610 COOKE *Pope Joane* 106 You..make that the

ground of your conclusion. Now that is a slabbie ground. 1650 H. More *Observ.* in *Enthus. Tri.*, etc. (1656) 79 This latter is more clean and sober, the other more slabby and fantasticall.

b. Of weather.

1653 W. Ramesey *Astrol. Restored* 291 [It] denotes,..in winter, grievous cold, and snowy slabby weather. 1675 Evelyn *Terra* (1729) 14, I am only to caution our labourer, ..that he do not stir the Ground in over-wet and slabby weather. 1713 Swift *Jrnl. to Stella* 7 Jan., Very warm slabby weather, but I made a shift to get a walk.

2. Of liquids, etc.: Thick, ropy, viscous.

a 1654 Selden *Table-t.* (Arb.) 86 They present you with a Cup, and you must drink of a slabby stuff. 1676 Wiseman *Surg. Treat.* II. iii. 173 In the Cure of an Ulcer with a moist Intemperies slabby and greasy Medicaments are to be forborn. 1725 *Family Dict.* s.v. *Tart*, You must drain off the Milk, or else the mass will be too slabby. 1810 W. Taylor in *Monthly Mag.* XXIX. 148 In order to render palatable the bitter herbs.., it was usual..to sprinkle over them a thick slabby sauce. 1865 *Pall Mall G.* 17 June 10 Pawing at the corners of the mouth to free it from thick slabby saliva.

Slabby (slæ·bi), *a.*[2] [f. Slab *sb.*[1]] Of the nature of a slab; covered with slabs.

1853 *Chamb. Jrnl.* XX. 308 It is remarkable for clean, broad, and handsome streets; for slabby terraces and a broad-sweeping beach. 1879 Rutley *Study Rocks* xii. 224 Some of the quartz-trachytes show a fissile, slaty, or slabby structure.

Slabline (slæ·b,ləin). *Naut.* [prob. ad. Du. *slaplijn* (G. *schlappleine*), f. *slap* slack.] (See quots. 1769 and 1846.) Also *attrib.*

1647 N. Ward *Simple Cobler* 46 When Kings are haleing up their top-gallant, Subjects lay hold on their slablines. 1769 Falconer *Dict. Marine* (1780), *Slab-line*, a small cord passing up behind a ship's main-sail or fore-sail... It is used to truss up the sail. 1846 A. Young *Naut. Dict.* 285 *Slab-line*, a rope used to haul up the slack of a course, in order to prevent it from shaking, or being split in the act of hauling up the sail. *c* 1860 H. Stuart *Seaman's Catech.* 25 The quarter slabline block on the jackstay. *Ibid.* 47 The inner slabline is..brought abaft the sail.

Slably, Slabness: see Slab *a.*[1]

Slab reef. *Naut.* (See quot. and Slab-line.)

1882 Nares *Seamanship* (ed. 6) 125 There are the same number of slab reef lines.., and they are used for hauling up the slab reef or slack part of sail which hangs down abaft all when a reef is taken in.

Slab-sided (slæ·b,səided), *a. U.S.* [f. Slab *sb.*[1]] Having sides like slabs; flat-sided; long and lank.

1825 J. Neal *Bro. Jonathan* II. 145 Great, long, slab-sided, simple gawkeys. 1840 R. H. Dana *Bef. Mast* xxv. 79 Her captain was a slab-sided, shamble-legged Quaker. 1874 J. W. Long *Amer. Wild-fowl* v. 94 The silky, thin-haired, narrow-chested, and slab-sided animal so fashionable nowadays.

Sla·b-stone. Also **slabstone.** [Slab *sb.*[1]] A stone having the form of a slab.

1851 Sternberg *Northampt. Dial.*, *Slab-stones*, broad and thin stones. 1891 *N. & Q.* 3 Jan. 8 A slabstone was discovered in the Court aisle. 1897 Chetwynd-Stapylton *Stapeltons of Yorks.* 191 Torre also saw four monumental slabstones.

Slachtir, obs. Sc. form of Slaughter.

Slack (slæk), *sb.*[1] *north.* and *Sc.* Forms: 5 **slac, slakke, slake,** 5–6 **slak,** 6– **slack.** [a. ON. *slakki* (Icel. *slakki*, Norw. *slakke*) in sense 1.]

1. A small shallow dell or valley; a hollow or dip in the ground; a depression in a hill-side or between two stretches of rising ground.

1375 Barbour *Bruce* xiv. 536 Till the hill thai tuk the way. In a slak thame enbuschit thai. *c* 1400 *Rowland & O.* 1418 Doun þay dange þaire Baners brade Bothe in slakkes & in slade. *c* 1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 7418 Slike paynes suffird all þe pak þat wer broght in to þat slak [=a vale of depnes 7407]. 1470–85 Malory *Arthur* VI. v. 189 Ther by a lytyl slake syr launcelot wounded hym..nyghe vnto the deth. 1513 Douglas *Æneid* VIII. x. 91 Sitand into ane holl valle or slak. *a* 1560 Rolland *Crt. Venus* III. 146 Quhite as the snaw that euer lay in slak. 1615 *Extr. Aberd. Reg.* (1848) II. 326 The samen is mercheit be stanes..quhill it come to the end of the Gallow slackis. 1682 O. Heywood *Diaries* (1885) IV. 85 My danger upon Clifton common..; in a slack full of snow my horse got fast. 1718 *Records of Elgin* (New Spald. Cl.) I. 402 Ane stripe that rins in ane slack. 1788 W. H. Marshall *Yorksh.* II. 353 *Slack*, a valley, or small shallow dale; a dip. 1813 Hogg *Queen's Wake* (1871) 60 O'er slope and slack She sought her native stall. 1825– in northern glossaries. 1891 J. C. Atkinson *Moorland Par.* 186 A series of short banklets, hillocks, mounds, and peaks, with intertwining gullies, slacks, and hollows.

† b. A pit, a hole. *Obs.*—[1]

a 1500 in *Ratis Raving* (1870) 23 Mony man makis a slak in an vthir manis vay, and fall fyrst thar in.

2. A hollow in the sand- or mud-banks on a shore.

? *a* 1400 *Morte Arth.* 3720 Thane was þe flode passede; Thane was it slyke a slowde in slakkes fulle hugge, That let þe kyng for to lande. 1570 *Satir. Poems Reform.* xxiv. 39 Had not bene ane slack was in the sands, Weill had he payit 30w tratouris for 30ur tressoun. 1901 *Pall Mall Mag.* Sept. 138 The 'slacks' I have mentioned are fresh-water pools which extend just inside the outer sandhills [of the estuary of the Mersey].

3. A soft or boggy hollow; a morass.

1719 in Cramond *Annals Cullen* (1888) 79 The magistrates appoint..that none cast above two spades casting in the common moss or Chamar Slack without liberty. 1815 Scott *Guy M.* xxv, A deep morass, termed in that country a slack. *c* 1880 J. Lucas *Stud. Nidderdale* 278 *Slack*, a hollow boggy place. 1897 Ld. E. Hamilton *Outlaws* xxviii. 319 The yellow slack that feeds the Blackburn, and in which horse and rider might readily disappear for ever.

Slack (slæk), *sb.*[2] Also (now *dial.*) **sleck.** [Of doubtful origin: cf. older Flem. *slecke*, Du. *slak*, LG. *slak(ke*, G. *schlacke* dross of metals.] Small or refuse coal. Also *attrib.*

a. c 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* II. 152 Vndonged sleck wole make hem lene, as preue is. 1665 Dudley *Metallum Martis* (1854) 8 These Colliers must cast these coles and sleck or drosse out of their wayes. 1677 *Phil. Trans.* XII. 898 The Men..hid themselves as well as they could in the loose sleck or small Cole. 1800 *Hull Advertiser* 29 Nov. 2/1 For every chaldron of coals, sleck, cinders, culm, coke. 1857 Waugh *Lanc. Life* 197 Nearly every cottage had its stock of coals piled up under the front window,..the 'cobs' neatly built up into a square wall, and the centre filled up with the 'sleck an' naplins'.

β. 1729 Swift *Let. on Irish Coal* Wks. 1841 II. 110 In every half barrel of coals you have the one-half of it slack, and that slack of little use. 1795 J. Phillips *Hist. Inland Navig.* Add. 173 For all slack or small and inferior coal for the purpose of burning lime-stone or bricks,..six-pence per ton. 1825 J. Nicholson *Operat. Mechanic* 358 The fire is now slackened, and a quantity of slack, or refuse pit-coal, thrown into the furnace. 1881 Young *Every Man his own Mechanic* § 1420. 649 The fuel used is fine coal generally called 'Smith's coal' or 'slack'. 1881 *Census Instr.* (1885) 84/3 Slack-picker, -washer.

Slack (slæk), *sb.*[3] Also 6 **-e.** [f. Slack *a.* or *v.*]

† 1. The passing or spending *of* time. *Obs.*

a 1533 Ld. Berners *Gold. Bk. M. Aurel.* (1559) R iij b, All onely for slacke of time, and driuyng of one houre to a nother.

2. A cessation in the strong flow of a current or of the tide. (Cf. Slack-water.)

1756 *Phil. Trans.* XLIX. 531 During the time of the water flowing, the strength of the current going down was greatly abated, almost to a slack. *Ibid.*, He met an unexpected slack in Greenwich-reach. 1892 *Law Times Rep.* LXVII. 251/1 The tide was low water slack, and the weather was fine and clear. 1902 Ld. Avebury *Scenery of England* 456 They are the debris of the Yorkshire and Lincolnshire coast, and are deposited at the slack of high-water.

b. A stretch or reach of comparatively still water in a river.

1825 Brockett *N. C. Gloss., Slack*, a long pool in a streamy river. 1889 in *N. W. Linc. Gloss.* 1902 *Daily Chron.* 28 Jan. 8/3 Some perch and pike have also been taken out of the eddies and slacks.

3. An interval of comparative inactivity; a lull in business or in action of any kind.

1851 Mayhew *Lond. Lab.* II. 83/1 An ingenious..costermonger, during a 'slack' in his own business [etc.]. 1861 Hughes *Tom Brown at Oxf.* xliv, Though there's a slack, we haven't done with sharp work yet, I can see.

b. A slackening of speed.

1899 *Daily News* 14 Sept. 7/6 The 23¼ miles..are covered in 21¼ minutes; and this though there is a relaying slack at Farnborough.

4. That part *of* a rope, sail, etc., which is not fully strained, or which hangs loose; a loose part or end.

To hold on the slack, to skulk; to be lazy (1864 *Slang Dict.*).

1794 *Rigging & Seamanship* 95 Topsails are allowed 3 inches slack in every cloth in the foot. 1825 J. Nicholson *Operat. Mechanic* 437 When the sledge is in motion, ..it pulls up the slack of the rope from the bottom of the rope-walk. 1867 F. Francis *Angling* viii. (1880) 281 Gathering the line up..so that no slack hangs about. 1899 F. T. Bullen *Log of Sea-waif* 89, I sat on the poop beside the tiller, hauling back the slack of the wheel-ropes.

b. *colloq.* The seat *of* a pair of trousers.

1848 Lowell *Biglow P.* Ser. I. ii, To take a feller up jest by the slack o' 's trowsis. 1879 Waugh *Chimney Corner* 229, I took it bi th' slack o'th' breeches, an' chuck't it into th' poand.

5. *pl.* Trousers.

1824 in *Spirit Publ. Jrnls.* (1825) 346 His inexpressibles (drab slacks) were napless. 1853 R. S. Surtees *Sponge's Sp. Tour* (1893) 232 Formidable in 'slacks', as he called his trousers. 1889 *Pall Mall G.* 28 Sept. 7/2 Eight nice little British sailors, in eight nice little pairs of white pants, called slacks.

6. *dial.* and *U.S. colloq.* Impertinence, cheek.

1842 H. J. Daniel *Bride of Scio*, etc. 177 Howld tha slack! Yer tongue young chap's too saucy. 1876 T. Hardy *Ethelberta* (1890) 357 Let's have none of your slack. 1901 *Munsey's Mag.* XXIV. 481/2 I've taken a lot of your slack for a month or two, and I'm..gettin' somewhat peevish.

Slack (slæk), *a.* and *adv.* Forms: 1 **sleac, slæc,** 3–5 **slac,** 4–6 **slak** (5 **sclak**), **slakke,** 4–7 **slacke,** 5– **slack.** [Common Teut.: OE. *sleac, slæc,* = MDu. *slac, slack-* (Du. and Flem. dial. *slak*), MLG. *slak* (LG. *slakk, slack*), OHG. and MHG. *slach* (G. dial. *schlach*, also *schlack*), ON. *slakr* (Icel. *slakur*, Norw. and Sw. *slak*, Da. † *slag*). The stem is related to that of L. *laxus.*] A. *adj.*

I. 1. Of persons: Lacking in energy or diligence; inclined to be lazy or idle; remiss, careless; negligent or lax in regard to one's duties.

Beowulf 2187 Þeata bearn..wendon, þæt he sleac wære, æðeling unfrom. *c* 897 K. Ælfred *Gregory's Past. C.* xvii. 125 Dæt he..ne sie to stræc on ðære lare, ne to slæc on ðære mildheortnesse. *c* 1055 *Byrhtferth's Handboc* in *Anglia* VIII. 317 Þæt þam sleacan preoste ne þince to mycel ȝeswinc þæt he undo his eaȝan herto. 1340 *Ayenb.* 32 Huanne he is sleuuol,..uoryetinde, slak, and fallinde. *c* 1386 Chaucer *Shipm. T.* 413 Ye han mo slakkere dettours than am I. *c* 1400 *Gamelyn* 711 Allas! seide Gamelyn, þat euer I was so slak That I ne hadde broke his nekke. 1492 *Bury Wills* (Camden) 78 Yf he se othyr be slakke or necligent. 1535 Coverdale *Hab.* ii. 3 For in very dede he wil come, and not be slacke. 1577 Harrison *England* II. i. (1877) I. 18 If they haue been found to be slacke, their negligence is openlie reprooued. 1621 Burton *Anat. Mel.* III. ii. VI. v. (1651) 576 Many slack and careless Parents..measure their childrens affections by their own. 1665 Dryden *Ind. Emp.* III. i, The Truce will make the Guards more slack. 1741 Wesley *Wks.* (1872) I. 304, I put those of the women who were grown slack, into distinct Bands. 1793 Mann in *Lett. Lit. Men* (Camden) 438 A Government unhinged, an exhausted Treasury, and slack Allies. 1826 Disraeli *V. Grey* VI. ii, When you complained that you and meat had been but slack friends of late. 1888 Bryce *Amer. Commw.* II. xlix. 255 In such parts of the West.., if the sheriff is distant or slack, lynch law may usefully be invoked.

b. With various constructions, esp. *in* with gerund or sb., and *to* with inf. Also † *slack of*, short of (quot. 1605).

c 1000 Ælfric *Hom.* II. 100 Se ðe on oðrum dagum sleac wære to godnysse. *c* 1000 in *Anglia* XI. 117 Handa mine ..synd..sleace to æniȝ wyrcenne god. 1535 Starkey *Let.* in *England* (1878) p. xxiv, I perceyue you haue byn slakker in wrytyng bycause you mor lokyd for ferther instructyon. 1535 Coverdale *Eccl.* v. 4 Yf thou make a vowe vnto God, be not slacke to perfourme it. 1605 Shaks. *Lear* I. iii. 9 If you come slacke of former seruices, You shall do well; the fault of it Ile answer. 1681 H. More *Exp. Dan.* II. (1782) 97 Thy purged eye will see God is not slack..to fulfil his word. 1703 *Clarendon's Hist. Reb.* VI. § 235 II. 96 Neither the King, nor the Parliament, being slack in pursuing the business by the Sword. 1753 Washington *Jrnl.* Writ. 1889 I. 33 The French were not slack in their Inventions to keep the Indians this Day also. 1828 Scott *F. M. Perth* iv, The sturdy armourer was not..slack in keeping the appointment. 1867 S. Smiles *Huguenots Eng.* ix. (1880) 145 Louis was not slack to obey the injunction. 1867 Freeman *Norm. Conq.* (1877) I. App. 711 Florence was not slack at attributing crimes to Eadric.

c. Slow in coming; tardy, late. *rare* —[1].

1694 Echard *Plautus* 53 An empty Belly and a slack Guest, makes one as mad as the Devil.

2. Not busy; having little work, etc. (Cf. 6.)

1834 *Tait's Mag.* I. 421/2 There are plenty of empty or slack hotels in Edinburgh that would answer your purpose. 1861 Dickens *Gt. Expect.* xv, As we are rather slack just now, if you would give me a half-holiday. 1870 Bartley *Sq. Mile E. London* 54 He would not mind when in work, but when slack he thought they should go free.

II. 3. Of conduct, actions, etc.: Characterized by remissness or lack of energy.

c 900 tr. *Bæda's Hist.* v. xv. 442 Diode he swiðe druncennisse & mongum oðrum unalefednessum ðæs slæcran lifes. *c* 960 *Rule St. Benet* (Schröer) xviii. 44 Hit is ealles to sleac munuca þeowdom..ȝif hie læsse singað on þære wucan. *c* 1000 Ælfric *Hom.* I. 602 We sceolon asceacan ðone sleacan slæp us fram. 1534 More *Treat. Passion* ii. Wks. 1312/2 Their fastynges were also verye paynefull and precyse: and ours neglygent, slacke, and remysse. 1579 Northbrooke *Agst. Dicing* (1843) 20 The cause of my slacke and seldome comming to the church. 1608 Topsell *Serpents* (1658) 689 If they will decipher..a slow and slack victory, they picture a Scorpion. 1611 Bible *Prov.* x. 4 He becommeth poor that dealeth with a slacke hand. 1809 W. Irving *Knickerb.* VII. i. (1849) 382 The slack though fitful reign of William the Testy. 1855 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* xxi. IV. 566 The correspondence gradually became more and more slack. 1857 Buckle *Civiliz.* I. xiv. 820 Some very great men have effected absolutely nothing, not because their labour was slack, but because their method was sterile.

4. Of pace: Slow; not smart or hurried.

c 1000 Ælfric *Hom.* II. 138 Sum oðer munuc..mid sleaccre stalcunge his fotswaðum filiȝde. *c* 1386 Chaucer *Knt.'s T.* 2043 The nobleste of the grekes..caryeden the beere With slak paas. 1682 Dryden *Medal* 44 Their pace was formal, grave, and slack. 1719 De Foe *Crusoe* I. (Globe) 243 As he came nearer, I found his Pace was slacker, because he had something in his Hand. 1844 Dickens *Mart. Chuz.* v, His companion slackened the slack pace of the horse.

5. Comparatively weak or slow in operation; deficient in strength or activity; dull.

c 1374 Chaucer *Boeth.* III. met. ii. (1868) 68 Wiþ slakke and delitable soun of strenges. 1398 Trevisa *Barth. De P. R.* v. xxxvi. (Bodl. MS.), Whanne þe vertu is feble and slake it may nought sprede þe woosen and veynes into euerich place and side of þe body. 1547 Boorde *Brev. Health* § 50 This infirmite doth come thorowe euyll, slacke, or slowe digestion. 1678 Butler *Hud.* III. ii. 32 Rebellion now began for lack Of Zeal and Plunder to grow slack. 1688 Prior *Seneca Dying* 3 The moral Spaniard's ebbing Veins, By Study worn, and slack with Age. 1786 Mme. D'Arblay *Diary* 7 Aug., I pretended not to understand him. I am forced to that method of slack comprehension continually. 1802–12 Bentham *Ration. Judic. Evid.* Wks. 1827 IV. 81 It may be imagined whether imitation is in danger of being slack. 1826 *Art of Brewing* (ed. 2) 15 Many brewers hesitate in applying what are called slack liquors, lest their worts should be foul. 1865 M. Arnold *Ess. Crit.* v. (1875) 201 The culture of Germany—so wide,..that it is apt to become slack and powerless.

b. Of heat, etc.: Not strong or excessive; gentle, moderate.

1495 *Trevisa's Barth. De P. R.* IX. xv. 356 Thys monthe [July] the heete is stronge in the begynnynge and slacker in the ende. 1662 J. Chandler *Van Helmont's Oriat.* 57 They give the greatest coldness to the water, with a slack or mean moystness. 1735 *Dict. Polygraph.* s.v. *Varnish*, Harden it..first with a slack heat, the next with a warmer, and the third with a very hot one. 1741 *Compl. Fam.-Piece* I. iii. 228 Set them in a slack Oven till they are tender. 1892 *Daily News* 11 Mar. 5/8 Three-fourths of the blast furnaces have been put on slack blast.

c. Of wind, or tide: Blowing, or running, with very little strength or speed.

1670 MILTON *Hist. Eng.* II. Wks. 1851 V. 38 Cæsar..about sun sett, hoysing saile with a slack South-West, at midnight was becalm'd. 1817 COLERIDGE *Biogr. Lit., Satyrane's Lett.* i, The wind continuing slack. 1853 SIR H. DOUGLAS *Milit. Bridges* (ed. 3) 218 Pontoons used as row-boats, when the tide was slack. 1892 W. C. RUSSELL *List Ye Landsmen* xi, The breeze has fallen slack.

6. Of work, etc.: Not brisk or active.

1813 *Sporting Mag.* XLII. 119 When betting became slack. 1821 CLARE *Vill. Minstr.* I. 17 Discourses..'Bout work being slack, and rise and fall of bread. 1873 C. ROBINSON *N. S. Wales* 50 The work..is not always continuous as the demand is sometimes slack.

b. Of times: Characterized by inactivity or dullness in work or business.

1828 CARR *Craven Gloss.* s.v., Slack times. 1833 HT. MARTINEAU *Manch. Strike* ix. 99 A slack season in which many workmen remain unemployed. 1894 *Field* 1 Dec. 838/2 There would be a slack three weeks between two of the fruit crops.

III. 7. Not drawn or held tightly or tensely; relaxed, loose.

13.. *K. Alis.* 1252 (W.), The stedes ronnon with slak bridel. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Merch. T.* 605 The slakke skyn aboute his nekke shaketh. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 317/2 Lusch, or slak, *laxus*. 1530 PALSGR. 324/1 Slacke, nat fast togyther, *lasche*. 1579 SPENSER *Sheph. Cal.* Mar. 83 His.. siluer bowe, which was but slacke. 1621 in Foster *Eng. Factories Ind.* (1906) I. 272 In the morning wee bore a slack saile. 1687 A. LOVELL tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* II. 4 The Stays were very slack, being loosened by the force of the Wind the day before. 1798 LANDOR *Gebir* VII. 52 The slack cordage rattles round the mast. 1826 S. COOPER *First Lines Surg.* (ed. 5) 136 It was an invariable rule with me to be sure that the bandage was slack. 1879 BEERBOHM *Patagonia* iii. 29 The slack canvas being no longer water-tight, little pools of water gathered round the furs and saddle-cloths.

b. In fig. contexts.

1590 R. HITCHCOCK *Quint. Wit* 13 Wicked men let slacke their raines with liberty to follow vice. 1648 *Nicholas Papers* (Camden) 104 To reward merrit and punish offenders..., not letting slacke the raignes. 1873 BROWNING *Red Cott. Nt.-cap* 1530 Somewhere must a screw be slack!

c. Free from confinement. *rare* $^{-1}$.

1565 GOLDING *Ovid's Met.* I. (1593) 9 Eche one of them unloosed his spring, and let the water slacke.

d. Not contracted; open, wide. *rare* $^{-1}$.

1577 B. GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* II. (1586) 74 b, You must take heed..that the cleft be not to slacke nor to strait.

8. Lacking cohesiveness or solidity; not compact or firm; crumbling, loose; soft.

c 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* IX. 72 Slak [*v. r.* sclak] sonde, lymous and lene, vnswete & depe. 1608 TOPSELL *Serpents* (1658) 785 Of these Cobwebs..some..are loose, weak, slack, and not well bound: other contrary-wise well compacted. 1830 M. DONOVAN *Domest. Econ.* I. 91 When malt which has been thus sprinkled remains some time in store, it grows soft, or *slack*, as it is called. 1897 *Daily News* 29 Dec. 4/7 The mud, which was a cake during the frost, became slack dough with the thaw.

9. Of the hand: Not holding or grasping firmly. Also in fig. context.

1667 MILTON *P. L.* IX. 892 From his slack hand the Garland wreath'd for Eve Down drop'd. 1722 DE FOE *Col. Jack* (1840) 158 A slack hand had..been held upon them. 1726 POPE *Odyss.* XIX. 548 Down dropp'd the leg, from her slack hand releas'd. 1856 BRYANT *Hymn to Death* 57 His slack hand Drops the drawn knife. 1871 PALGRAVE *Lyrical Poems* 120 Some finish'd thing, Ere the slack hands at eve Drop, should be his to leave.

b. Similarly of one's hold of anything.

1836 MRS. BROWNING *Poet's Vow* II. i, A somewhat slacker hold. 1876 SMILES *Sc. Natur.* ii. (ed. 4) 29 Her hold getting a little slacker, he made a sudden bolt.

10. Special collocations.

Slack barrel, cask, one made to hold dry goods. *Slack-course* (see quot. 1875). *Slack helm* (see quot. 1867). *Slack lip*, = SLACK-JAW. *Slack wire*, a wire not drawn tight, on which an acrobat performs.

1825 HONE *Every-day Bk.* I. 1185 Another female danced on the slack-wire. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.* 630 *Slack helm*, if the ship is too much by the stern, she will carry her helm too much *a-lee*. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2197/2 *Slack-course* (Knitting-machine), a range of loops or stitches more open than those which precede them. 1877 *Encycl. Brit.* VI. 338 Tight or wet and dry or slack cask manufacture. *Ibid.*, Slack barrels are..extensively employed. 1899 F. T. BULLEN *Log of Sea-waif* 104 No man durst give him 'slack lip' on pain of being instantly knocked endways.

IV. 11. *Comb.* **a.** Parasynthetic adjs., as *slack-backed, -fingered, -haired, -hammed, -handed*, etc.

1642 ROGERS *Naaman* 301 Debaucht and slacke hayred companions. *a* 1661 HOLYDAY *Juvenal* (1673) 20 O, there's a monstrous league between these soft And slack-ham'd pathicks! 1674 FLAVEL *Husb. Spiritualized* i. 22 What, now slack-handed, when so neer to my everlasting rest! 1796 *Grose's Dict. Vulgar T.*, *Slag*, a slack-mettled fellow, one not ready to resent an affront. 1822 MANBY *Voy. Greenland* 130 In what are called slack-backed fish. 1881 G. MEREDITH *Tragic Comed.* 92 This time if I let you slip, may I be stamped slack-fingered! 1897 RHOSCOMYL *White Rose Arno* 25 A slack-lipped specimen of the young blood of the period.

†**b. Slack-grace**, one who has little grace. *Obs.*

1623 R. CARPENTER *Consc. Christian* 29 Weaklings and slacke-graces, set not their hands to the worke.

B. *adv.* In a slack manner; loosely, slackly.

1641 MILTON *Reform.* I. Wks. 1851 III. 7 Persecuting the Protestants no slacker then the Pope would have done. 1658 A. FOX *Würtz' Surg.* v. 357 It is better they [the joints] be bound slack a whole week, than too hard one hour. 1712 J. JAMES tr. *Le Blond's Gardening* 81 Makes the Joint go stiffer, or slacker, at Pleasure. 1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss.* s.v., Tradesmen..say, 'Money comes in very slack'.

b. With pa. ppples., as *slack-done, -dried, -laid, -salted, -sized, -spun*.

1669 WORLIDGE *Syst. Agric.* (1681) 153 A handful of slack-dried Hops will mar and spoil many pounds. 1794 *Rigging & Seamanship* 56 Slack-laid means slack-twisted. *Ibid.* 59 If slack-spun, it will break. 1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss.* s.v., Anything dressed before a slack fire, or in a slow oven, as 'slack-done meat'. 1862 RAWLINSON *Ancient Mon., Chaldæa* I. v. 91 A third [brick], the coarsest of all, is slack-dried, and of a pale red.

Slack (slæk), *v.* Also 6–7 **slacke**, 6 *Sc.* **slak**. [f. SLACK *a.*, in some senses taking the place of the earlier SLAKE *v.* Cf. MDu. and older Flem. *slacken*, Flem. dial. *slakken*, Norw. *slakka*.]

I. *trans.* **1.** To be slack or remiss in respect of (some business, duty, etc.); to leave undone or not properly attended to.

1530 PALSGR. 720/2 Whye slacke you your busynesse thus? 1549 LATIMER *7th Serm. bef. Edw. VI* (Arb.) 201 What a remorse of conscience shall ye haue, when ye remembre howe ye haue slacked your dutye. 1573 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 88 Who slacketh his tillage, a carter to bee, for grote got abrode, at home lose shall three. 1605 SHAKS. *Lear* II. iv. 248 Why not my Lord? If then they chanc'd to slacke ye, We could comptroll them. 1621 QUARLES *Hadassa* § 9 Wks. (Grosart) II. 48/2 But in contempt, she slacks our dread behest, Neglects performance of our deare Request. *a* 1659 BP. BROWNRIG *Serm.* (1674) I. i. 16 Fear had made him..slack the performance of what he had promised. 1831 SCOTT *Cast. Dang.* viii, My duty has limits, and if I slack it for a day [etc.]. 1886 C. SCOTT *Sheep-Farming* 76 Breeding ewes that are kept too well..seldom acquit themselves so well..as those that have been slacked a little in winter.

†**b.** To neglect (an opportunity, etc.); to allow to slip or pass by. *Obs.*

a 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VII*, 27 b, The occasion of so glorious a victory..was..putte by and shamefully slacked. 1597 DANIEL *Civ. Wars* III. lxxiv, This good chaunce, that thus much favoureth, He slackes not. 1612 T. TAYLOR *Comm. Titus* iii. 1 Slacke not this thy tearme-time, but get ..knowledge of God. 1697 DRYDEN *Æneid* V. 834 Time calls you now,..Slack not the good Presage.

†**c.** To lose or waste (time). *Obs.*

a 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VI*, 161 Like a spedy purvior, whiche slacketh not time. 1591 SIR H. SAVILE *Tacitus, Hist.* II. xlviii. 82 Lest by slacking the time they prouoked his further displeasure. 1633 A. STAFFORD *Pac. Hib.* I. v. (1821) 72 Slack not time..to prosecute him freshly in the Reare-ward.

2. To cease to go on with, or prosecute, in a vigorous and energetic manner; to allow to fall off or decline. Also *to slack one's hand(s)*, to diminish one's exertions or activity.

1520 *State Papers, Hen. VIII*, VI. 63 Though the preparacions here bene slacked, because moche money nedith. 1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* II. 143 The king of clemencie tha besocht, to slak the seige a lytle. 1638 JUNIUS *Paint. Ancients* 15 Neither is there any reason why we should slacke our endeavours. 1687 MIÈGE *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II, To slack his hand, in point of Liberality, to give less liberally, *être moins liberal*. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* I. 292 If they slack their Hands, or cease to strive, Then down the Flood with headlong haste they drive. 1790 WESLEY *Jrnl.* 1 Jan., I do not slack my labour. I can preach and write still. 1835 WILLIS *Melanie* 57, I did not slack my love of life and hope of pleasure.

b. To allow to mitigate or abate. *rare.*

1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 161 Consideryng how the Turke slacketh nothyng of his fiersenes. 1596 SPENSER *F. Q.* IV. ix. 25 Yet neither would their fiendlike fury slacke, But euermore their malice did augment. 1609 TOURNEUR *Funeral Poem Sir F. Vere* 231 With their obedience he did slacke the bent of his severitie in punishment.

3. To reduce the force or strength of; to make less active, vigorous, or violent.

1589 NASHE *Anat. Absurd.* 36 There be three things which are wont to slack young Students endeuor. 1610 *Histrio-mastix* vi. 149 To waile our want, let speaking slacke the paine. 1639 S. DU VERGER tr. *Camus' Admir. Events* 155 The boiling heate of your love will be..at least something slackt. 1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* I. (Globe) 122, I slack'd my Fire gradually. 1791 COWPER *Iliad* XXI. 399 Nor slack thy furious fires 'till with a shout I give command, then bid them cease to blaze. 1812 W. TAYLOR in *Monthly Mag.* XXXIV. 234 You ringers, slack the knell.

b. To slake (one's thirst).

1631 GOUGE *God's Arrows* V. x. 420 So much as might somewhat slacke their thirst. 1663 *Aron-bimn.* 29 Here is a Julip will slack his thirst. 1750 BEAWES *Lex Mercat.* (1752) I A neighbouring spring slacked their thirst. 1864 NEALE *Seatonian Poems* 52 One drop to find, his maddening thirst to slack. *a* 1904 A. ADAMS *Log Cowboy* V. 65 It was a novelty to see them reach the water and slack their thirst.

4. To make lax, neglectful, or remiss.

1597 MARLOWE *Ovid's Elegies* I. i, Love slack'd my Muse, and made my numbers soft. *a* 1631 DONNE *Lett.* (1651) 30 Not to slack you towards those friends which are religious in other clothes then we. 1659 W. BROUGH *Sacr. Princ.* 441 Hold thy foot when he hath thus slackt thy heart.

refl. 1881 RUSKIN *Love's Meinie* Pref. p. viii, Languages called living, but which live only to slack themselves into slang, or bloat themselves into bombast.

5. To delay or retard; to render slower in respect of motion or progress. Also with *up*. Now *rare*.

1577 *F. de Lisle's Legendarie* I vj, When..the Kinge of Spaines ambassador slacked his comming to ye Council. 1592 SHAKS. *Rom. & Jul.* IV. i. 3, I am nothing slow to slack his hast. 1625 N. CARPENTER *Geogr. Del.* I. iv. (1635) 80 All other bodies are slacked by the medium or Aire by which they are to moue. 1638 RAWLEY tr. *Bacon's Life & Death* (1650) 6 This..conserveth the greenness and slacketh the Dessication of it. 1891 *Cent. Dict.*, *To slack up*, to retard the speed of, as a railway-train.

b. To allow (one's pace, course, etc.) to become less rapid.

1633 HART *Diet of Diseased* Ep. Ded. 1 It did not become one that was running a race, to intermit or slacke his pace. 1675 OTWAY *Alcibiades* III. i, But you, Sir,..Missing your Game, can easily slack the Flight. 1704 SWIFT *Battle Bks.* Misc. (1711) 264 But Wotton..began to slack his Course. 1760–72 H. BROOKE *Fool of Qual.* (1809) I. 152 Here, slacking our pace, we found ourselves growing extremely sick. 1826 HOOD *Fall of the Deer* 23 Slacking Pace at last From runninge slow he standeth faste.

6. To make slack or loose; to render less tense or taut; to loosen, relax.

1530 PALSGR. 720/2, I slacke a knotte,..I lowse a thynge that was to strayte tyed, *je lasche. Ibid.*, Slacke his gyrdell. 1596 SPENSER *F. Q.* V. ii. 14 Ne euer Artegall his gripe strong For any thing wold slacke, but still vppon him hong. 1608 SHAKS. *Pericles* III. i. 43 Slack the bolins there! 1633 P. FLETCHER *Purple Isl.* VIII. i, The Sunne began to slack his bended bow. 1695 *New Light Chirurg. put out* 53 As often slacking the Turneke. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl., *Slack the hand*, is to slack the bridle, or give a horse head. 1816 SCOTT *Old Mort.* xli, Tak the gentleman's horse to the stable, and slack his girths. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.* 630 Slack the laniard of our main-stay.

b. With advs., as *back, down, off*, etc.

1806 *Port of London Bye-Laws* XXVII. (1807) 34 If the person..shall not..slack off the breastfasts of such ship. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.* 631 Slack up the hawser. 1869 RANKINE *Machine & Hand-tools* Pl. Q 7, The saw can be instantly stopped by slacking back one of the slides. 1883 *Cent. Mag.* Sept. 654 With..the peak of the foresail slacked down. 1893 F. M. CRAWFORD *Children of King* i. 8 A hand forward to slack out the cable.

fig. 1876 BESANT & RICE *Gold. Butterfly* (1877) 280 Jack Dunquerque was to 'Slack off' his visits to Twickenham.

c. *absol.*

1828 SCOTT *F. M. Perth* v, Give her line enough; but do not slack too fast. *c* 1860 H. STUART *Seaman's Catech.* 27 Slack back two or three turns. 1884 *Law Reports* 9 App. Cases 426 They slacked astern about 25 feet.

7. To cause (lime) to disintegrate by the action of water or moisture; to slake.

1703 MOXON *Mech. Exerc.* 258 When you slack the Lime, take care to wet it every where a little. 1758 REID tr. *Macquer's Chym.* I. 40 It..takes the form of a fine powder, and the title of 'Lime slacked in the air'. 1812 SIR J. SINCLAIR *Syst. Husb. Scot.* I. 177 Lime, if exposed to rain,..and slacked like mortar, loses half its effect. 1905 *Daily Mail* 2 Jan. 5/6 Where 150 sacks of lime, slacked by the inrushing water, burst into flame and were destroyed.

II. *intr.* †**8.** To delay, tarry. *Obs. rare.*

1530 PALSGR. 720/2 You have slacked to longe, you shulde have come afore. *a* 1553 UDALL *Royster D.* II. i, I woulde not haue slacked for ten thousand poundes. 1611 COTGR., *Tardiver*, to linger, foreslow, slacke, delay.

9. To be inactive or idle; to fail to exert oneself in a due manner. In mod. use *colloq.*

1543 *Necess. Erudit. Chr. Man* B iii, Those men..slacking in suche care and desyre, as they shulde haue to please god. 1582 BENTLEY *Mon. Matrones* II. 6 Thou..also didst put hir [the soul] within this bodie, not for to slacke with sloth. *c* 1586 C'TESS PEMBROKE *Ps.* XLIV. xi, Up, O Lord,..Sleepe not ever, slack not ever.

1904 *Daily Chron.* 27 June 8/2 It is far better for any eleven to possess a duffer,—..provided he is a thorough 'goer'—than a good player, however great, if he slacks.

b. To neglect, to be backward or dilatory, *to* do something. Now *rare*.

c 1560 E. G. in Farr *S. P. Eliz.* (1845) II. 505 Thy word to offer thou doest not slacke. 1582 STANYHURST *Æneis* II. (Arb.) 66 Slack not my woords to remember. 1609 BIBLE (Douay) *Ecclus.* V. 8 Slacke not to be converted to our Lord. 1611 BIBLE *Deut.* XXIII. 21 When thou shalt vow a vow vnto the Lord.., thou shalt not slacke to pay it. 1886 CHRISTINA ROSSETTI *Poems* (1904) 146 The kind Physician will not slack to treat His patient.

10. Of persons (or animals): To become less energetic, active, or diligent.

1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 323 b, After they..found in manner nothing, they begin somewhat to slack. 1607 MARKHAM *Caval.* III. (1617) 83 If..after a traine or two more they slacke againe the second time. 1623 BINGHAM *Xenophon* 30 In case any man appointed to worke seemed to slacke,..he chastised and put him off. 1779 T. FORREST *Voy. N. Guinea* 13 We rowed with fourteen oars, and continued so most part of the day, slacking at times when it was very hot. 1875 MORRIS in Mackail *Life* (1899) I. 319, I have somewhat slacked from the Virgil translation.

b. Similarly with *off*.

1864 MISS YONGE *Trial* xvi. (1882) 243 If he slacks off in his respect or affection for you. 1884 *Bazaar* 17 Dec. 647/2 This young artist..has not slacked off, as so many do when a certain..standard is reached.

11. To diminish in strength or speed; to become weaker or slower; to moderate in some respect.

c 1580 in Hakluyt *Voy.* (1598) I. 453 The storme began to slacke, otherwise we had bene in ill case. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* II. xvi. I. 11 For that naturall motions doe either hasten or slacke. *a* 1635 NAUNTON *Fragm. Reg.* (Arb.) 37 If the fire chance to slack which I have kindled. 1726 SHELVOCKE *Voy. round World* 69 Just as we had gained somewhat more than mid passage, the tide slack'd. 1788 M. CUTLER in *Life*, etc. (1888) I. 394 Rain slacked about six, and we set out. 1865 W. G. PALGRAVE *Arabia* II. 313 The breeze slacked, and we slowly worked up to the north. 1880 'MARK TWAIN' *Tramp Abr.* 274 One expected to see the locomotive pause, or slack up a little.

b. Of affairs, business, etc.: To fall off; to go more slowly; to be less brisk.

1606 SHAKS. *Tr. & Cr.* III. iii. 24 Their negotiations all

must slacke, Wanting his mannage. 1831 R. SHENNAN *Tales* 37 When business had begun to slack.

12. To become less tense, rigid, or firm.

1577 HARRISON *England* II. v. (1877) I. 217 Hir garter, which slacked by chance and so fell from her leg. 1592 J. DAVIES *Immort. Soul* III. vii. (1714) 33 When the Body's strongest Sinews slack, Then is the Soul most active. 1773 FERGUSSON *Poems* (1789) II. 87 How maun their weyms wi' sairest hunger slack! 1820 SCORESBY *Acc. Arctic Reg.* I. 215 The ice slacked, and the ship was towed..to the eastward. 1825 JAMIESON *Suppl., To Slack*,..to become flaccid. *Ibid.*, A tumour is said to *slack*.

13. Of lime, etc.: To become disintegrated under the action of moisture.

1703 MOXON *Mech. Exerc.* 242 Lime..appears to be cold, but Water excites it again, whereby it Slacks and crumbles into fine Powder. 1760 R. BROWN *Compl. Farmer* II. 46 Good marle in hot weather will slack with the heat of the sun like lime. 1874 RAYMOND *Statist. Mines & Mining* 15 It..often crumbles to powder, even the pebbles of a certain sort 'slacking' to a sandy consistency.

Slack-baked, *a.* [SLACK *adv.*] Of bread: Imperfectly or insufficiently baked.

1823 J. BADCOCK *Dom. Amusem.* 32 Those loaves are invariably slack-baked. 1844 DICKENS *Mart. Chuz.* viii, That particular style of loaf which is known to housekeepers as a slack-baked, crummy quartern. 1884 SALA *Journ. South* I. xxiv. (1887) 318 A board covered with squat round loaves of bread, somewhat slack-baked in appearance.

fig. 1840 DICKENS *Barn. Rudge* xli, One beaming smile, from his nut-brown face down to the slack-baked buckles in his shoes. 1882 *Daily Telegr.* 8 Apr., Such a slack-baked slop-made little atomy as he is.

Hence **Slack-bake** *v.*

1836 DICKENS *Sk. Boz* iv. (1850) 14 Men..who had mismanaged the workhouse, ground the paupers, diluted the beer, slack-baked the bread.

Slacked (slækt), *ppl. a.* [f. SLACK *v.*]

1. Retarded; rendered slower.

1628 FELTHAM *Resolves* II. lxxi. 201 A graue Poem..wings the Soule vp higher, then the slacked Pace of Prose.

2. Of lime: Slaked.

1700 MAUNDRELL *Journ. Jerus.* (1749) 152 The Body instantly dissolv'd and fell into Dust like slack'd Lime. 1733 W. ELLIS *Chiltern & Vale Farm.* 367 Slack'd powdered Stone Lime must be by degrees sifted on. 1813 SIR H. DAVY *Agric. Chem.* (1814) 318 Slacked lime is merely a combination of lime, with about one third of its weight of water. 1875 *Encycl. Brit.* I. 645/2 It falls to powder, like slacked quicklime.

‖ **Sla·cken,** *sb.* Also 8 slaken, 9 -in. [ad. G. *schlacken*, var. *schlacke* dross of metal, etc.] Slag.

There is no evidence that the word has ever had any real currency in English.

1670 *Phil. Trans.* V. 2197 They ordinarily melt it..by the help of Iron-stone..and Slacken (a scum or cake taken off from the top of the pan, into which the melted Minerals run). 1693 SIR T. P. BLOUNT *Nat. Hist.* 233 To this..they add Limestone and Slacken, and Melt them together. *a* 1744 LUCAS in *Trans. Cumb. & Westm. Archaeol. Soc.* VIII. 36 Slaken as the Germans call them, or old Cinders, which they here call Forest Cinders. [1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl., *Slacken*, in metallurgy, a term used by the miners to express a spungy and semivitrified substance (etc. Hence in later Dicts.). 1837 HEBERT *Engin. Encycl.* II, *Slakin*, a term used by smelters to express a spongy, semi-vitrified substance, which they mix with the ores of metal, to prevent their fusion. (Hence in Francis, Knight, etc.)]

Slacken (slæ·k'n), *v.* [f. SLACK *a.* Cf. the rarer SLAKEN *v.*, and Icel., Norw., and Sw. *slakna* (older Da. *slagne*).]

I. *trans.* **1.** To cause to become slower; to delay or retard.

1580 HOLLYBAND *Treas. Fr. Tong*, *Tarder*, to hinder, to slacken. 1632 SIR T. HAWKINS tr. *Mathieu's Unhappy Prosp.* 283 That the Sunne denyeth her his beames, that her presence slackneth his rising. 1656 tr. *Hobbes' Elem. Philos.* (1839) 406 Some alteration..of vital motion, by quickening or slackening..the same. 1726 LEONI *Alberti's Archit.* II. 113/2 You may slacken the current of the Water, by making it run winding. 1794 T. DAVIS *Agric. Wilts.* 91 The 'clinginess'..may tend to slacken the step of the Wiltshire ploughman. 1833 HT. MARTINEAU *Briery Creek* ii. 42 The production of the one will be slackened, and that of the other quickened, till they are made equal. 1878 HUXLEY *Physiogr.* 130 As the river approaches its mouth, the flow becomes slackened.

b. To allow (one's pace, etc.) to become slower; to diminish or lessen (speed).

1749 FIELDING *Tom Jones* XII. v, Partridge being unable any longer to keep up with Jones,..begged him a little to slacken his pace. 1796 MME. D'ARBLAY *Camilla* IV. 103 Neither quickening nor slackening his pace as he approached. 1853 MRS. CARLYLE *Lett.* II. 213, I..slackened my steps, till they were clear off. 1863 W. C. BALDWIN *Afr. Hunting* vi. 186, I gave him a bullet.., which soon caused him to slacken his pace. 1896 *Law Times Rep.* LXXIII. 615/1 [The engine-driver] did not slacken speed.

fig. 1837 T. JONES *Christian Warrior* IV. ii. 84 Do not slacken your pace in religion because of reproaches.

2. To render less vigorous or eager; to cause to fall off or decline.

a 1631 DONNE *Select.* (1840) 35 Such a rest .. as shall slacken our endeavour to make sure our salvation. *a* 1677 BARROW *Serm.* Wks. 1716 I. 10 Religion seemeth to smother or to slacken the..alacrity of men in following Profit. 1718 *Free-thinker* No. 87. 222 Riches had no Allurements to slacken their Enquiries. 1807 JOEL BARLOW *Columb.* IV. 422 Thy freeborn sons..Nor sloth can slacken, nor a tyrant bind. 1839 FR. A. KEMBLE *Resid. Georgia* (1863) 26 The sight of which..is enough to slacken the appetite. 1896 TOUT *Edw. I*, iii. 47 The best and the worst of motives combined to slacken crusading enthusiasm.

b. To allow to become less vigorous, etc.

a 1631 DONNE *Select.* (1840) 197 If we slacken our holy industry in making sure our salvation, we..may be cast out. 1665 TEMPLE *Let. to Ld. Arlington* Wks. 1720 II. 6, I know him to be a Man too firm to be diverted from his Point, or slacken it without some such Maim. 1841 ELPHINSTONE *Hist. Ind.* I. 541 The Hindús..first slackened their efforts, and at last gave way and dispersed. 1857 BUCKLE *Civiliz.* I. xiv. 784 In the heat of their new warfare they slackened their opposition to the church.

3. To relax in point of strictness or severity.

1605 BACON *Adv. Learn.* I. vii. § 9 The temperate use of the Prerogative, not slackened, nor much strayned. 1643 MILTON *Divorce* II. i, In matters not very bad or impure, a human law giver may slacken something of that which is exactly good. 1697 BURGHOPE *Disc. Relig. Assemb.* 180 The laws for coming to church have been slackned in favour to the scrupulous dissenters.

b. To render (a person) less severe or stern.

1685 F. SPENCE tr. *Varilla's Ho. Medicis* 168 There was some glimmering of hope, that..it would not be impossible to slacken and mollifie him if he gave him audience.

4. To give relaxation to (one's thoughts, etc.).

1643 DENHAM *Cooper's Hill* 242 When great Affairs Gave leave to slacken, and unbend his cares. 1805 WORDSW. *Prelude* I. 63 Where down I sate Beneath a tree, slackening my thoughts by choice, And settling into gentler happiness.

5. To moderate, make less intense.

1685 LADY R. RUSSELL *Lett.* I. xxii. 58 That consideration should in reason slacken the fierce rages of grief. 1747–96 MRS. GLASSE *Art of Cookery* xxv. 377 Make a pretty brisk fire,..then slacken it so as just to have enough to keep the still at work.

6. To render, to allow to become, less tense, taut, or firm; to reduce the tension of.

1611 COTGR., *Lascher*, to slacken, wyden, loose, vnbend, let out. 1668 MARVELL *Corr.* xcviii. Wks. (Grosart) II. 251 Yesterday Harman was brought to the House to give account of slackning saile in the first victory. 1760–72 H. BROOKE *Fool of Qual.* (1809) III. 86 Slackening our sail, and heaving out a small boat. 1797–1805 S. & HT. LEE *Canterb. T.* II. 246 She slackened the reins. 1823 GALT *R. Gilhaize* xxii, Being then somewhat slackened in the joints of the right side by a paralytic. 1900 *Jrnl. Soc. Dyers* XVI. 12 The yarn is alternately stretched and slackened.

b. In fig. contexts.

c 1645 HOWELL *Lett.* I. vi. liii, Nor shall this storm slacken a whit that firm ligue of love, wherin I am eternally tied unto you. 1647 CLARENDON *Hist. Reb.* I. § 191 A Superior ..who having the Reins in his hand, could Slacken them according to his own humour. 1861 BUCKLE *Civilis.* II. viii. 467 In Spain, directly government slackened its hold, the nation fell to pieces. 1865 DICKENS *Mut. Fr.* III. xvi, Most of its money mills were slackening sail, or had left off grinding for the day.

c. To cause to relax; to weaken.

1663 COWLEY *Complaint* vii, Thou slacknest all my Nerves of Industry. 1697 J. COLLIER *Ess. Moral Subj.* I. (1703) 63 Such a Partiality will slacken the Nerves of Industry. 1778 LOWTH *Transl. Isaiah* xiii. 7 Therefore shall all hands be slackened.

7. To make loose, to loosen. Also *refl.*

1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* I. 54 By slackening the screws..the puppets are at liberty to slide horizontally. 1869 RANKINE *Machine & Hand-tools* Pl. P 11, The rotation of the mandril is continued until the tyre is slackened by the continued action of the rollers. *Ibid.* P 13, The vice gradually slackens itself from the severe shake and strain it is receiving.

II. *intr.* **8.** Of persons: To become lax, remiss, or negligent; to grow less energetic or eager.

1641 MILTON *Reform.* II. Wks. 1851 III. 47 When the people slacken, and fall to loosenes and riot. 1800 WORDSW. *Michael* 443 Meantime Luke began To slacken in his duty. 1854 FREEMAN in *Ecclesiologist* XV. 320 At this point I feel that I must begin to slacken. 1860 MOTLEY *Netherl.* iii. (1868) I. 81 Preventing them..from slackening in their determined hostility to Spain.

9. To diminish in respect of strength, vigour, intensity, etc.

1651 HOBBES *Leviath.* II. xxx. 178 Their Obedience (in which the safety of the Common-wealth consisteth) slackened. 1671 MILTON *Samson* 738 My penance hath not slack'n'd, though my pardon No way assur'd. *a* 1738 SWIFT *Will. II*, Wks. 1768 IV. 265 In a few years the piety of these adventurers began to slacken. 1794 NELSON 20 July in Nicolas *Disp.* (1845) I. 451 Our exertions must not slacken. 1823 LAMB *Elia* II. *Old Margate Hoy*, In a poor week, imagination slackens. 1876 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* IV. xviii. 116 The assault must have begun to slacken; for he feared a sally of the besieged.

b. Of fire, wind, tides, or other natural forces or processes.

1666 PEPYS *Diary* 9 Nov., By and by comes news that the fire is slackened. 1687 A. LOVELL tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* II. 155 The Wind slackened so at this place, that we scarcely made any way at all. 1794 G. ADAMS *Nat. & Exper. Phil.* III. xxxi. 287 When the impulse slackens, the fly communicates part of its motion. 1820 tr. *Legrange's Chem.* II. 309 When the distillation begins to slacken, unlute the apparatus. 1832 DE LA BECHE *Geol. Man.* (ed. 2) 99 The currents run with the wind..and slacken in September. 1885 *Manch. Exam.* 12 Jan. 6/1 The intensest heat is white, if it slackens it becomes faintly coloured.

c. Of business, etc.: To become less active or brisk. (See also quot. 1828.)

1745 *De Foe's Eng. Tradesm.* ii. (1841) I. 14 Markets slacken much on this side. 1828 CARR *Craven Gloss.*, *Slacken*, to fall in price. 'Corn begins to slacken.' 1832 HT. MARTINEAU *Hill & Valley* iv. 63 When the demand for iron slackens. 1874 RUSKIN *Fors Clav.* xlviii. 267 Faster and faster slackens the demand for tea.

10. To diminish in speed; to become slower.

a 1721 KEILL *Maupertius' Diss.* (1734) 65 In those distant parts, the velocity of the Comet slackens. 1784 COWPER *Task* I. 155 How oft upon yon eminence our pace Has slacken'd to a pause. 1822 SCOTT *Nigel* xvi, As he approached the entrance to that den of infamy, .. his pace slackened. 1893 TRAILL *Social Eng.* Introd. p. xxxiv, Through the first half of the ensuing century the rate of progress in the sciences a little slackens.

b. To begin to go more slowly.

1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. I. iv, At a high trot, they start; and keep up that pace. For the jibes,..do not tempt one to slacken. 1850 S. DOBELL *Roman* vi. Poet. Wks. (1875) 84 The tired ox slackens in the furrow. 1865 DICKENS *Mut. Fr.* III. xv, 'That was well done!' panted Bella, slackening in the next street, and subsiding into a walk.

11. Of lime: To become slaked.

1703 [R. NEVE] *City & C. Purchaser* 206 Bricklayers.. let the Lime slacken and cool before they make up their Mortar.

12. To become less tense or firm.

1850 SCORESBY *Cheever's Whaleman's Adv.* ix. (1858) 120 The line for an instant slackened. 1892 LOW *Machine Draw.* 20 When in this condition the nut has no tendency to slacken back. 1894 HALL CAINE *Manxman* III. vii, Her clenched hands slackened away from his neck.

Slackened (slæ·k'nd), *ppl. a.* [f. prec.]

1. Rendered less tense or firm.

?*c* 1640 WALLER *Chloris* Poems (1711) 146 Wind up the slacken'd Strings of thy Lute. 1725 POPE *Odyss.* v. 522 Fear seiz'd his slacken'd limbs and beating heart. 1762 FOOTE *Orator* I. Wks. 1799 I. 204 He reanimates their slackened nerves with the mystic picture of an apple-tree. 1801 SOUTHEY *Thalaba* III. xxiii, The slacken'd bow, the quiver, the long lance. 1869 RANKINE *Machine & Hand-tools* Pl. P 16, In the slackened state of the key.

2. Abated, mitigated; relaxed.

1736 GRAY *Statius* I. 51 The circle sped; It towers to cut the clouds ;.. Anon, with slacken'd rage comes quiv'ring down. 1791 MME. D'ARBLAY *Diary* 20 Aug., 'Tis best, therefore, to think of these matters till they occur with slackened emotion. 1833 ARNOTT *Physics* II. 83 During the moment of slackened combustion. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* IX, He began to reform the slackened discipline of the hall.

Sla·ckener. [f. as prec.] One who, or that which, slackens or slakes.

1861 LYNCH *Lett. to Scattered* (1872) 516 The common slackener of our thirst.

Sla·ckening, *vbl. sb.* [f. as prec.] The action of making or becoming slack, in various senses.

1611 COTGR., *Relaschement*,..a relenting, or slackening. 1648 SANDERSON *Serm.* II. 225 By the slackning, loosening, or disjoynting whereof, the body..cometh to be as much weakned. 1706 STANHOPE *Paraphr.* III. 266 There may too in the Soul be great Slacknings of Zeal. 1765 A. DICKSON *Agric.* II. 248 Tho' it may be known when the foremost neglects his work by the slackening of his traces. 1860 GEN. P. THOMPSON *Audi Alt.* cxiv. III. 45 But there are great slackenings in the tide. 1869 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* (1875) III. 335 Nothing is described as taking place..to cause any slackening in the levies.

Sla·ckening, *ppl. a.* [f. as prec.] Making or becoming slack.

1593 Q. ELIZ. *Boeth.* v. metr. i. 104 What so seame by slakning ranes [=reins] to slip. 1887 RUSKIN *Præterita* II. 42 One really began sometimes to think of the slackening wheels of Pharaoh. 1892 *Daily News* 24 May 7/1 Some still more general cause of slackening traffic.

Sla·cker. [f. SLACK *v.*]

1. (See quot. 1877, and cf. SLAKER 2.)

1797 *Trans. Soc. Arts* XV. 155 An oak head and slacke[r] is placed on the end [of the drain] next the land. 1877 *N. W. Linc. Gloss.*, *Slacker*, a shuttle or stopgate to hinder the passage of water.

2. *colloq.* A person who shirks work, or avoids exertion, exercise, etc. (Common in recent use.)

1898 *Westm. Gaz.* 7 Apr. 4/1, I said it was a silly thing to do, and they retorted that I was a 'slacker'.

Sla·cking, *vbl. sb.* [f. SLACK *v.*] The action of the vb., in various senses.

1542 UDALL *Erasm. Apoph.* 287 Our countree..to be desolated through our slouthfulnesse or slackyng. 1577–87 HOLINSHED *Chron.* I. 26/1 They wanted their horssemen which were yet behind, & through slacking of time could not come to land. 1607 HIERON *Wks.* I. 135 Sith there is no slacking of Gods kindnes, why should there be any intermission of our duty? 1665 MANLEY *Grotius' Low C. Wars* 488 The other Ship..was hindred by the slacking of the wind. 1707 MORTIMER *Husb.* (1721) I. 292 With Quicklime, which slacking will make it as hard as a Stone. 1812 SIR J. SINCLAIR *Syst. Husb. Scot.* I. 175 The slacking of lime completely is a most important operation. 1905 H. A. VACHELL *The Hill* IX. 189 How about work, eh? Lot o' slacking last term.

attrib. 1855 J. R. LEIFCHILD *Cornwall* 222 The water of the slacking pits and buddles.

Sla·cking, *ppl. a.* [f. as prec.] That slacks, in senses of the vb.

a 1625 *Nomenclator Navalis* 126 When it is slacking water. 1811 A. T. THOMSON *Lond. Disp.* (1818) 459 A white brittle substance, having the peculiar odour of slacking quick-lime. 1855 SINGLETON *Virgil* II. 366 Many watch The ebbing motions of the slacking sea. 1882 *U. S. Rep. Prec. Met.* 642 It resists the solvent and slacking action of water.

Sla·ckingly, *adv.* [Cf. prec.] Slackly.

1578 BANISTER *Hist. Man* II. 39 [The eyelids] by their meanes are stifly supported, and not slackyngly or losely borne.

Sla·ck-jaw. [f. SLACK *a.* Cf. JAW *sb.*1 6.] Tiresome or impertinent talk.

1797 MRS. M. ROBINSON *Walsingham* IV. 14 *Ayes* and *noes* settle the affairs of the nation,..as well as all the slack-jaw of modern orators. 1822 SCOTT *Pirate* xxxv, A sort of nautical eloquence, which his enemies termed slack-

jaw. 1833 *Fraser's Mag.* VII. 10 All manner of blarney, slack-jaw, fudge, and gossip. 1864 *Realm* 6 July 7 The platitudinous sham-antique slackjaw, all words and no thought, of..worthless pedants.

Slack-lime. [? f. SLACK *v.*] Lime in the state of being slacked.

1840 POE *Balloon Hoax* Wks. 1865 I. 92 A coffee-warmer, contrived for warming coffee by means of slack-lime.

Slackly (slæ·kli), *adv.* Forms: 1 sleaclice, 4 slacli, 5–6 slakly, 6 slacklie, -lye, 6– slackly; 5 slackelich, 5–7 -ly. [f. SLACK *a.* + -LY 2.]

1. In a remiss or negligent manner; without due diligence or energy.

c 960 *Rule St. Benet* (Schröer) xliii. 68 Wen is, þæt sume.. sleaclice laȝon and slepon. 1388 WYCLIF 2 *Macc.* xii. 14 These that weren with ynne, tristiden to the stablenesse of wallis,..and diden slacliere. 1422 *Secreta Secret., Priv. Priv.* 160 For-als-moche that he his Sonnes..slackely reprowid and not chastid. 1531 TINDALE *Exp.* 1 *John* (1537) 99 Therfor is that office so slackly executed. 1596 SPENSER *State Irel.* Wks. (Globe) 622/2 The same Statutes are soe slacklye penned..that they are often..wrested to the fraud of the subject. 1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* II. v. II. iii. (1651) 387 They use them rashly, unprofitably, slackly, and to no purpose. 1665 MANLEY *Grotius' Low C. Wars* 627 Descending suddenly to assault Voorne Island, if it were slackly guarded. 1727 POPE, etc. *Art of Sinking* 72 Their laws.. have ever been slackly executed. 1816 SCOTT *Old Mort.* xxvi, The summons was very slackly obeyed. 1876 GEO. ELIOT *Dan. Der.* xxiii, You would find—after your education in doing things slackly for one-and-twenty years—great difficulties in study.

2. Without due vigour or force; slowly.

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* v. xxxix. (Bodl. MS.), By openyng þereof þe vertu passith and þe lyuour worcheþ þe more slackelich. 1511 *Guylforde's Pilgr.* (Camden) 58 We sayled forth slakly and easely ayenst the wynde. 1586 J. HOOKER *Hist. Irel.* in *Holinshed* II. 32 When he dooth set foorth on his iournie verie slacklie and slowlie. 1648 HEXHAM II. s.v. *Slappelick*, To go Slackly, Faintly, or Slowly to worke. 1850 TENNYSON *In Mem.* lxxxvii. 7 When one would aim an arrow fair, But send it slackly from the string.

b. Not busily or briskly.

1884 *American* IX. 148 Times are dull and labor slackly employed. 1892 GISSING *New Grub Street* I. 5 When one kind of goods begins to go slackly, he is ready with something new.

3. Not tightly or firmly; loosely.

1486 *Bk. St. Albans* B vj, Tho saame lewnes [=lunes for hawks] þou shalt fastyn slackely as a bowstryng vnocupyede. 1532 MORE *Confut. Tindale* IV. Wks. 591/2 So god agaynewarde vseth hymselfe towarde hym, in holdynge hym the more slackely. 1597 SHAKS. *Lover's Compl.* 35 Some in her threeden fillet still did bide,..Though slackly braided in loose negligence. 1730 *Phil. Trans.* XXXVI. 454 A Piece of Muslin..tied slackly about the Neck. 1805 *Naval Chron.* XIII. 243 This accident happened from her being.. slackly rigged. 1879 DIXON *Royal Windsor* II. i. 6 The gown was caught in slackly by a belt.

Slackness (slæ·knės). Forms: 1 sleacnes, -nys, slecnys, 4 slacnesse, slaknes (5 -nesse), 5 slakenes, 6 slacke-, 6–7 slacknesse, 6– slackness. [f. SLACK *a.* + -NESS.]

1. Lack of diligence or energy; tendency to idleness or sluggishness; remissness.

c 897 K. ÆLFRED tr. *Gregory's Past. C.* xl. 289 Oft eac sio godnes ðære monnðwærnesse bið diegellice ȝemenged wið sleacnesse. 1340 *Ayenb.* 33 Efterward comþ slacnesse..þet bint zuo þane man þet onneaþe he him yefþ to done wel. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Pars. T.* ¶ 680 He dooth alle thyng with.. slaknesse and excusacion, and with ydelnesse, and vnlust. 1555 EDEN *Decades* (Arb.) 55 Who maye herein woorthely accuse vs for the slackenesse of owre dewtie towarde hym. 1592 W. WEST *1st Pt. Symbol.* § 38 B iiij, Deley..which happeneth by the slacknesse either of the creditor, or debtor. 1642 in Clarendon *Hist. Reb.* IV. § 346 He said, 'he should wash his hands..from the least imputation of slackness in that..pious work'. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* XI. 630 From Mans effeminate slackness it begins. 1713 YOUNG *Last Day* I. 107 Not folded arms, and slackness of the mind, Can promise for the safety of mankind. 1803 MALTHUS *Popul.* (1817) II. 408 The slackness of its neighbours in manufacturing, or any other cause. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* viii. II. 313 His slackness drew on him a sharp reprimand from the royal lips. 1869 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* III. 327 Their interest and their duty were too nearly the same to allow of any slackness.

b. Laxity; want of strictness.

1674 *Essex Papers* (Camden) I. 213 Y^e slackness of discipline used in England towards Soldiers. 1699 BURNET *39 Art.* xxv. (1700) 280 A slackness in Doctrine..will always bring with it a much greater corruption in practice.

2. Slowness; tardiness.

c 1000 *Saxon Leechd.* III. 264 Swa swa þære sunnan sleacnys acenð ænne dæȝ..swa eac þæs monan swiftnes awyrpð ut ænne dæȝ. *c* 1000 ÆLFRIC *Hom.* II. 282 Ðam ȝemettum wæs beboden þæt hi sceoldon caflice etan, forðan ðe God onscunað þa sleacnysse on his ðeȝnum. *c* 1055 *Byrhtferth's Handboc* in *Anglia* VIII. 301 Nu wolde ic þæt þa æðela clericas asceocon fram heora andȝites orðance ælce sleacnysse. 1611 BIBLE *Transl. Pref.* ¶ 14 In a businesse of moment a man feareth not the blame of conuenient slacknesse. 1635 SWAN *Spec. M.* i. § 3 (1643) 14 These who mocked at the slacknesse of Christs coming to judgement. 1739 S. SHARP *Surg.* (J.), There is a slackness to heal, and a cure is very difficultly effected.

3. Lack of vigour or strength; absence of tension or tightness.

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* IX. xxiv. (Bodl. MS.), Poores of bodies..close þ for slakenes of heete in the euetide. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 458/1 Slaknesse, *laxatura.* 1743 BLAIR *Grave* 284 Man..knowing well the Slackness of his Arm, Trusts only in the well-invented Knife. 1755 JOHNSON, *Laxity*, .. slackness; contrariety to tension. 1877 W. H. WHITE *Nav. Archit.* 484 The contrary condition..is termed 'slackness', and can only be counteracted by keeping the helm a-lee.

b. *concr.* The slack part *of* anything.

1898 CROCKETT *Red Axe* (1903) 157 Lifting him unceremoniously up by the slackness of his back covertures, I turned him over.

4. Absence of briskness; dullness (of trade, etc.).

1851 HELPS *Comp. Solit.* iv. (1874) 51 Whenever he speaks of the slackness of trade. 1884 *Manch. Exam.* 9 June 4/1 In the Stock Exchange the tone was mostly flat, in consequence of the slackness of business.

Sla·ck-rope. [SLACK *a.* 7.]

1. A rope, loosely stretched, on which an acrobat performs. (Contrasted with TIGHT-ROPE.)

1749 CHESTERF. *Lett.* (1774) I. 388 There are fewer people who walk well upon that line, than upon the slack rope. 1808 PIKE *Sources Mississ.* (1810) III. 263 In the evening we went to see some performers on the slack rope. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* vi, The signal which announced that Madame Saqui was about to mount skyward on a slack-rope ascending to the stars. 1892 KIPLING & BALESTIER *Naulahka* 199, I have danced on the slack-rope before the messtents of the officers.

2. *Naut.* (See quot.)

1820 SCORESBY *Acc. Arctic Reg.* II. 456 These anchors being likewise connected with the ice, by means of a slack-rope.

Sla·ckster. [f. SLACK *v.*] = SLACKER 2.

1901 *Daily Chron.* 6 Nov. 4/5 There are 'slacksters', as the slang of the schools and universities has it, in all professions.

† **Slackstone.** *Obs. rare.* [ad. G. *schlackstein* (see quot. in Grimm).] A form of slag.

1683 PETTUS *Fleta Minor* I. xiv. 41 How a Slackstone or Copper-stone is to be made. *Ibid.*, Slackstones (as the Philosophers do judg) are Sulphur and Arsnick mingled with a subtil Earth.

Slack-trough. [f. SLACK *v.*] A water-trough in which a blacksmith cools heated metal. (Cf. SLAKE- and SLECK-TROUGH.)

1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss., Slack-trough*, the trough which is used for quenching the iron in a blacksmith's shop. 1884 C. G. W. LOCK *Workshop Rec.* Ser. III. 285/2 Lay rod on edge of slack trough.

Slack-twisted, *a.* [f. SLACK *adv.*] Of a rope: Not tightly twisted. Hence *fig.*, of a loose, unsatisfactory character; lazy, inactive.

1794 *Rigging & Seamanship* 56 Slack-laid means slack-twisted. 1802 *Sporting Mag.* XX. 292 The slack-twisted operations of a certain pack of hounds. 1887 *Proc. Soc. Antiquaries* XII. 16 One Dr. Barlow, a notable trimmer even in those slack-twisted times. 1891 T. HARDY *Tess* (1900) 17/2 Durbeyfield was what was locally called a slack-twisted fellow.

Slack-water. Also slack water, slackwater. [f. SLACK *a.*]

1. The time at high or low water when the tide is not flowing visibly in either direction.

Occurs earlier as *slake water*: see SLAKE *a.* 3.

1769 FALCONER *Dict. Marine* (1780), *Slack-water*, the interval between the flux and reflux of the tide;..during which..the water apparently remains in a state of rest. 1832 MARRYAT *N. Forster* xviii, The ebb-tide was..over; a short pause of 'slack water' ensued. 1875 BEDFORD *Sailor's Pocket Bk.* v. (ed. 2) 170 This long period of nearly slack water is very valuable to the traffic of the port.

fig. 1883 *19th Cent.* May 896 We are in a period of 'slack water' so far as politics are concerned.

2. A stretch of comparatively still water in the sea, due to the absence of currents.

1853 KANE *Grinnell Exp.* x. (1856) 76 A portion of the interval between the eastern and western coasts is the seat of a partial slackwater, or even rotating eddy. 1862 ANSTED *Channel Isl.* I. iv. 65 The north of Herm is the point of land where there would be slack water.

3. A part of a river lying outside of the current, or one in which the flow is lessened by a lock or dam. Also *fig.*

1867–77 CHAMBERS *Astron.* 258 There is no 'slack-water', as is ordinarily the case in other rivers. 1886 *Pall Mall G.* 14 July 1 [To] swim..into the current, get swept down by it a quarter of a mile, and paddle slowly back again in the slackwater. 1901 *Scotsman* 25 Mar. 7/3 The House again fell into the slack water of small talk.

4. *attrib.*, as *slack-water deposit, period, stream*; **slack-water navigation,** navigation carried on by the use of locks or dams on a river.

1842 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* V. 75/2 It was concluded that the time had arrived for changing the navigation of the Lehigh into a slackwater navigation. 1860 HOLMES *Elsie V.* ii, This slack-water period of a race, which comes before the rapid ebb of its prosperity. 1877 BURROUGHS *Taxation* 28 It is difficult to see how the advantages of slackwater navigation..can be brought within the range of local objects. 1889 F. G. WRIGHT *Ice Age North Amer.* 358 The Ohio above Cincinnati was a slack-water stream. 1894 *Pop. Sci. Monthly* June 196 The ice-dam accounts most naturally for the slack-water deposits.

Sla·cky. *Sc. rare.* Also slackie. [Of obscure origin.] A form of sling.

1653 URQUHART *Rabelais* I. xxv, The other shepherds and shepherdesses came with their slings and slackies following them. *Ibid.* xxxii, He..found..that Marquet's head was broken with a slackie or short cudgel. 1825 JAMIESON *Suppl.* s.v., The *slackie*, it is believed, is that kind of sling, which is made of an elastic rod, or piece of wood, split at one end, for receiving the stone.

Slade (slēd), *sb.*1 Forms: 1 slead, sled, 1–3 slæd, 9 *dial.* slad (sled); (1–3 *dat.*) 4– slade (3–4 solade), 5–6 *Sc.* slaid, 6 slaide. [OE. *slæd* (*slead, sled*) neut., = Norw. dial. *slad* neut. (also *slade* masc.), a slope, hollow; cf. also Da. dial. *slade* a piece of level ground (16th cent. in Kalkar), G. dial. (Westph.) *slade* dell, ravine.

The OE. nom. and acc. *slæd* is represented by the mod. dial. form *slad*, current chiefly in western counties. The usual *slade* is from inflected forms, esp. the dat. sing.]

A valley, dell, or dingle; an open space between banks or woods; a forest glade; a strip of greensward or of boggy land.

The precise application of the word varies in different localities: see the *Eng. Dial. Dict.*

c 893 K. ÆLFRED *Oros.* II. iv. 76 Hio..beforan þæm cyninge farende wæs,..oð hio hiene ȝelædde on an micel slæd. 944 in Earle *Land Charters* 179 Andlang dic oð ðone weȝ þe scyt to fealuwes lea on þam slade. 986 *Ibid.* 192 þonne on þæt slæd, þonne of ðan slæde [etc.]. *c* 1205 LAY. 8585 He ferde..in to ane muchele slæde, & slahliche his folc hudde. *Ibid.* 28365 þe niht heom to-delde, ȝeond slades & ȝeon dunen. 13.. *Guy Warw.* 3475 Wiþ strengþe þai vnder-nome, Wiþ strengþe þai wene þe slade ouer-go. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* II. 93 Hou he clymbeth up the banckes And falleth into Slades depe. *c* 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* IX. 176 In conditis descende into the slade Hit may, and on that other side arise. 1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* VI. xiii. 203 Ther by in a slade he sawe four knyghtes houyng vnder an oke. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* XII. xi. 84 In dern sladis and mony scroggy slonk. 1555 W. WATREMAN *Fardle Facions* I. vi. 97 The Ethiopians..gather together into a long slade betwixte two hilles, a great deale of rubbeshe. 1606 J. REYNOLDS *Dolarnys Primerose* (1880) 62 Thus as the medowes, forests and the feelds, In sumptuous tires, had deckt their daynty slades. 1649 BLITHE *Eng. Improv. Impr.* (1653) 81 If you consider that all your Common Fields were never under Tillage neither, As great part Slades and Hade wayes, and a great part Meadow. 1700–1 GOUGH *Hist. Myddle* (1875) 37 You will finde it more unlevell with banks and deep slades, than any other low grounds in the Lordship. 1811 WILLAN in *Archaeologia* XVII. 158 *Slade*, a breadth of green-sward in plough'd land, or in plantations. 1855 BAILEY *Mystic*, etc. 137 Lovers there she saw, arm-twining, in the wild wood's shadowy slade. 1899 A. MORRISON *To London Town* 5 Over the slade they took their way, where the purple carpet was patterned with round hollows.

transf. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 1258 Quen we war put o paradis vn-to þis wreched warld slade. 1598 DRAYTON *Heroical Ep.* I. 115 When as the Sunne hales tow'rds the Westerne slade.

Slade (slēd), *sb.*2 Now *dial.* Also 6–7 *Sc.* slaid. [var. of SLEAD or SLED *sb.*1] A sledge.

a 1585 MONTGOMERIE *Flyting* (Tull.) 86 Thow cwmelie conductit thy termes on ane slaid. 1661 *Reg. Privy Counc. Scotl.* Ser. III. I. 44 [Indwellers in Restalrig..thrust the complainer's servants off his said land, .. and with carts and] slaids [carried away the whole crop]. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 339/1 A Slade..and a Tumbrell..are things used by Carters and Husbandmen, for the carriage of Commodities from place to place. 1787 W. H. MARSHALL *E. Norfolk* (1795) II. 388. 1799 YOUNG *Agric. Linc.* 157 They load it on slades, and carry it for grassing to an eaten eddish. *a* 1825 FORBY *Voc. E. Anglia* 306. 1879 MISS JACKSON *Shropsh. Word-bk.* 387.

Slade (slēd), *sb.*3 [Of obscure origin: perh. related to SLIDE *v.*] The sole of a plough.

1807 J. & F. HOWARD *Catal. Steam Cultivators*, etc. 38 The wear of plough slades or soles, by sliding on the roads, is obviated [by the use of a wheeled sledge]. *Ibid.* 39 When a new breast is put on, a new slade should be put on also, or the plough will not stand level.

Slade (slēd), *v.*1 *dial. rare.* [app. related to SLIDE *v.*] a. *intr.* To slide. b. With *down*: (see quot. 1787).

1787 W. H. MARSHALL *E. Norfolk* (1795) II. 388 To *Slade down*, to draw back part of the mould into the interfurrow, with the plow dragging, or slading upon its side. 1895 P. H. EMERSON *Birds*, etc. *Norf. Broadlands* 186 They don't move their wings much—kind of slade along.

Slade (slēd), *v.*2 *dial. rare.* [f. SLADE *sb.*2] *trans.* To carry on a sledge.

a 1825 FORBY *Voc. E. Anglia* 306 Heavy weights are easily sladed on level ground.

Slade, obs. or Sc. pa. t. of SLIDE *v.* **Slae,** north. and Sc. var. SLOE. **Slaer,** obs. f. SLAYER.

† **Slaffart.** *Sc. Obs.* (Meaning doubtful.)

See *Sclaffert* in Jamieson and the *Eng. Dial. Dict.*

1609 in R. M. Fergusson *A. Hume* (1899) 195 Vilipending of Johne Scherare, baillie,..in saying he wald nocht gif ane slaffart for his kyndnes.

Slag (slæg), *sb.* Also 6 slagge, 6–9 slagg. [a. MLG. *slagge* (whence also Sw. *slagg*), = G. *schlacke* (also *schlack*), of obscure origin.]

1. A piece of refuse matter (see 2) separated from a metal in the process of smelting.

1552 in P. H. Hore *Wexford* II. (1901) 236 At the furst melting of the after Gripple..was mad therof 288 lbs. of lead besids the slaggs and stones. 1582 in *Trans. Jewish Hist. Soc.* (1903) IV. 98 When it cometh to the smeltinge the copper cometh forth so easelie, without such quantitie of slagges or drosse. 1668 *Phil. Trans.* III. 771 They sometimes find Slaggs 3, 4, or 5 feet under ground, but such as they judge cast aside heretofore. 1691 RAY *Coll. Words* 177 The slags or cinders of the first smelting they beat small with great stamps. 1787 WESLEY *Wks.* (1872) IV. 398 It [a chapel] is composed wholly of brazen slags. 1832 BABBAGE *Econ. Manuf.* xxiii. (ed. 3) 236 Others remain in the form of melted slags, floating on the surface of the iron. 1869 *Daily News* 30 Mar., Two hundred,..with bludgeons and iron slags, attacked the lecturer and the audience.

2. A vitreous substance, composed of earthy or refuse matter, which is separated from metals in the process of smelting; any similar product resulting from the fusion or distillation of other substances. (Cf. SCORIA 1.)

1620 *Patent Office Rec.* (1858) 71 Which Slag, Scorious or Sinder is by our Founders at Furnaces wrought again and found to contain much Yron. 1678 *Phil. Trans.* XII. 1051 If the Stuff be hard to flux, they throw in some slag (which is the Recrement of Iron) to give it fusion. 1763 W. LEWIS *Phil. Comm. Arts* 22 The metal and slag, melting and dropping down through the coals, are collected in the bottom. 1778 PRYCE *Min. Cornub.* 274 The slag is skimmed or drawn off through the hole of the furnace. 1803 *Phil. Trans.* XCIII. 82 The emery was reduced to a dark gray or blackish slag, which occupied the upper part of the crucible. 1862 MILLER *Elem. Chem., Org.* ix. (ed. 2) 644 The ashes of the peat melt and form a slag. 1884 C. G. W. LOCK *Workshop Rec.* Ser. III. 4/1 A small amount of calcined borax is added, which makes the slag more liquid.

fig. 1870 LOWELL *Among my Books* Ser. I. 295 All through his life..he never quite smelted his knowledge clear from some slag of learning. 1878 E. JENKINS *Haverholme* 2 The hard slag of a cold, sagacious cynicism.

b. With specific epithets, as *basic, grey, sharp.*

1811 FAREY *Derbyshire* I. 389 This tapped or white [lead] Slag..received the name of Macaroni Slag. *a* 1876 W. H. GREENWOOD *Man. Metall.* II. 37 From the sharp edges of the fractured fragments it [metal slag] is sometimes called sharp slag. 1881 RAYMOND *Mining Gloss., Gray slag,* the slag from the Flintshire lead furnace. It is rich in lead. 1889 A. B. GRIFFITHS *Manures & Uses* 101 Finely ground basic slag must be considered an important fertilizer for wheat crops.

3. *Geol.* A rough clinker-like lump of lava (see quot. 1879); lava in this form. (Cf. SCORIA 2.)

1777 FORSTER *Voy. round World* II. 307 Easter Island.. produces..vegetables and useful roots, without any other soil than slags, cinders, and pumice-stones. 1789 E. DARWIN *Bot. Gard.* I. 103 Break into clays the soft volcanic slaggs. 1857 LD. DUFFERIN *Lett. High Lat.* (ed. 3) 106 Bare cinder-like hills, that rose round..in a hundred uncouth peaks of ash and slag. 1879 *Encycl. Brit.* X. 243 When the ejected fragment of lava has a rough irregular form, and a porous structure like the clinker of an iron-furnace, it is known as a *slag.*

4. *local.* (See quots.)

1828 CARR *Craven Gloss., Slag,* the cinder of a bad, spurious, kind of coal. 1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-m.* 225 *Slag,*..a thin bed or band of coal mixed with lime and iron pyrites. 1891 *Labour Commission Gloss., Small coal,*..the duff, slag, or waste, which arises from the sorting of the large coal into nuts.

5. *attrib.* **a.** In sense 'consisting or composed of slag', as *slag-bed, -brick, -cement,* etc.

1877 RAYMOND *Statist. Mines & Mining* 385 The workmen clean up the *slag-bed and tend to the fire. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2198/1 *Slag-brick. 1879 H. REID *Nat. & Art. Concrete* (new ed.) 123 An hospital..was built..of these slag bricks. 1884 C. G. W. LOCK *Workshop Rec.* Ser. III. 436/2 The *slag-cement undergoes a similar change to that..in Portland or Roman cements. 1880 SIR E. BECKETT *Book on Building* (ed. 2) 220 That new *slag-felt which I mentioned. 1884 C. G. W. LOCK *Workshop Rec.* Ser. III. 431/2 *Slag-glass, owing to its toughness, is specially suitable for manufacturing into tiles,..slates, &c. 1841 HARTSHORNE *Salop. Antiq.* Gloss., **Slagg pigs,* flat pigs of lead of a smaller size and inferior quality to the common ones. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XII. 142/2 *Slag-sand or ashes...This is thrown out from volcanoes in form of.. grains. 1884 C. G. W. LOCK *Workshop Rec.* Ser. II. 433/1 The united action..scatters, as it were, the molten slag in the water into the material called slag-sand. *Ibid.* 432/2 When perfectly cold, it is tipped from the waggons, and falls into small-sized pieces, called '*slag-shingle'. 1862 KINGSLEY in *Macm. Mag.* Aug. 275 Plodding along the dusty road, between black *slag walls. 1884 *Health Exhib. Catal.* 83/2 'Silicate Cotton', or '*Slag Wool', a pure mineral fibre manufactured from blast furnace slag.

b. In other uses, as *slag-car, -furnace,* etc.

1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2198/1 *Slag-car,* a wrought-iron car..used to contain and carry off the slag of a furnace. *Ibid.,* Slag furnace. *Ibid.,* The slag-pots are of cast-iron. 1877 RAYMOND *Statist. Mines & Min.* 269, 14 inches from tuyeres to slag-tap. 1890 W. J. GORDON *Foundry* 99 The slag being drawn off..by a channel-way into the slag-waggons.

6. *Comb.,* as *slag-burner,* etc.; *slag-molten* adj.

1582 STANYHURST *Æneis* III. (Arb.) 89 Stoans hudge slag molten he rowseth. 1782 *Phil. Trans.* LXXII. 320 A Hessian crucible..melted into a slag-like substance. 1881 *Census Instr.* (1883) 164/2 Slag-burner, -felter, -tipper [etc.].

Slag, *a. rare.* [Of obscure origin: cf. MLG. *schlagge* rainy or dirty weather, Sw. *slagg* sleet, Norw. *slagg* slaver, and see the *Eng. Dial. Dict.* s.v. *Slag(g* adj.] Slippery with mud; muddy.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 458/1 Slag, or fowle wey,..*lubricus, lutosus, limosus.*

Slag (slæg), *v.* [f. SLAG *sb.*]

1. *trans.* To free (ore) from slag; to convert into slag; to scorify.

1882 *U.S. Rep. Prec. Met.* 580 The ore must first be slagged. *Ibid.,* A cord of wood will slag several tons of ore.

2. *intr.* To form into a slag; to become a slag-like mass. 1891 in *Cent. Dict.*

Hence (or from the sb.) **Slagged** *ppl. a.*; **Sla·gging** *vbl. sb.* Also **Sla·gger** *sb.*

1824 MCCULLOCH *Highlands Scot.* I. 285 The walls are more or less perfectly slagged or scorified. 1877 RAYMOND *Statist. Mines & Mining* 317 A hearth for slagging purposes. 1892 *Labour Commission Gloss., Slagger,* those in the blast furnace industry who attend to the slag as it is run down the trough...Their work is called slagging.

Sla·gger, *v.* Now *dial.* [Of obscure origin.] *intr.* To loiter, lag, walk slowly or lamely. Also *fig.* Hence **Sla·ggering** *vbl. sb.*

1622 R. PRESTON *Godly Man's Inquisit.* ii. 47 It is not leaden heeles, but faint and dead hearts that makes vs slagger. *Ibid.* 62 Fie on this slaggering and staggering of Christians. 1809 BATCHELOR *Anal. Eng. Lang.* 144. *c* 1821 MASTERS *Dick & Sal* xxxii. (Kent. Gl.), An so we slagger'd den, ya know, An gaapt an stared about. 1887 in *Kentish Gloss.*

Slaggy (slæ·gi), *a.* Also 8 **slaggey.** [f. SLAG *sb.* + -Y 1.] Of the nature of slag; pertaining to or resembling slag.

1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 266/1 Slateing, is a covering of Houses with a kind of Blew Slaggy Marble. 1757 tr. *Henckel's Pyritologia* 170 A slaggey and stoney body. *Ibid.* 176 It also often appears slaggy, and run. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XII. 133/2 This is..of a slaggy texture. 1805 R. JAMESON *Min.* II. 49 Slaggy Mineral Pitch. 1833 LYELL *Princ. Geol.* III. 219 Some of the bones were found adhering to the slaggy lava. 1881 JUDD *Volcanoes* ii. 12 Stromboli is a great mass of cinders and slaggy materials. *Comb.* 1863 RAMSAY *Physical Geogr.* 13 An arrangement in slaggy-like layers.

Sla·g-hearth. [SLAG *sb.*] A furnace for treating the slag-products of lead-smelting.

1778 PENNANT *Tour Wales* (1883) I. 79 These artless slag-hearths are very frequent in the dingles of our country. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 756 The whole may then be..introduced without any preparation into the slag-hearth. 1868 JOYNSON *Metals* 101 By the aid either of the reverbatory furnace, the slag hearth, or the cauldron furnaces.

Slaght, variant of SLAUGHT *Obs.*

Slaght-boome: see SLAUGHT-BOOM *Obs.*

Slaghter, obs. form of SLAUGHTER *sb.*

Sla·g-lead. [SLAG *sb.*] Lead obtained by re-smelting grey slag.

1668 CHARLETON *Onomast.* 294 *Plumbum Nigrum,..* Common Lead, & Slagg Lead. 1729 *Phil. Trans.* XXXVI. 32 This Slag is afterwards smelted again,..and the Lead obtained from it is called Slag-lead. 1811 FAREY *Derbyshire* I. 391 For Red-Lead making..the Hard or Slag-Lead is preferred. 1858 GREENER *Gunnery* 436 Slag-lead is lighter than other lead, but it is much harder.

Slaht, var. of SLAUGHT *Obs.* **Slaid,** Sc. pa. t. SLIDE *v.* **Slaie,** var. of SLAY *sb.*[1]; obs. f. SLAY *v.*[1] **Slaigh,** dial. var. of SLOE. **Slaight,** obs. f. SLEIGHT.

Slain (slēⁱn), *sb. north. dial.* Also **slane, sleean.** [f. SLAIN *ppl. a.* 3.] Smut in grain; also *concr.,* smutty grains.

1703 THORESBY *Lett. Ray* (E.D.S.) 103/1 *Leyse,* to pick the slain and trucks out of wheat. 1788 W. H. MARSHALL *Yorksh.* II. 358 *Sleean* (that is, *slain*), the smut of corn. 1829– in northern glossaries.

Slain (slēⁱn), *ppl. a.* [See SLAY *v.*[1]]

1. That has been slain; killed, slaughtered.

a 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 199 As te keiser stod bimong þat sunful slaht of þat islein ahte deouele to lake [etc.]. *c* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 118 So schulen eft acwikien hire isleiene briddes. 1382 WYCLIF *Lev.* vii. 8 The preest that offreth the slawn offryng of brent sacrifice. 1388 — *Ps.* ci. 21 For to vnbynde the sones of slayn men. 1535 COVERDALE 1 *Chron.* xxii. 26 Dauid..offred burntofferynges & slaynofferynges. 1579 LODGE *Def. Poetry* 22 In all the Romaine conquest, hardest thou euer of a slayne Poete? 1628 in Foster *Eng. Factories India* (1909) III. 292 Our people, who wanted not will to have revenged the slaine mans cause. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* IV. 784 From the slain Victims pour the streaming Blood. 1776 MICKLE tr. *Camoens' Lusiad* Introd. 151 *note,* Homer and Virgil's lists of slain warriors. 1831 SCOTT *Cast. Dang.* vii, The slain game affording a plentiful supply for roasting or broiling. 1872 RUSKIN *Eagle's Nest* § 223 The wearing of the skins of slain animals.

b. *absol.* Usually *pl.*

c 1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* 522 Of the blode of slayne. 1382 WYCLIF *Numb.* xxxv. 19 The nyȝ kynne of the slayn. 1535 COVERDALE *Ezek.* xxxii. 30 All the prynces of the north, with all the Sidonians, which are gone downe to the slayne. 1671 MILTON *Samson* 439 Their God who hath deliver'd Thee Samson..into thir hands..who slew'st them many a slain. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 8 July 1685, The slaine were most of them Mendip-miners. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. v. vii, In hot frenzy of triumph, of grief and vengeance for its slain. 1870 BRYANT *Iliad* I. vii. 231 For the slain, I give consent to burn them.

2. *Letter(s) of slains,* in older Scots Law, 'letters subscribed by the relations of a person who had been slain, declaring that they had received an assythment, and concurring in an application to the Crown for a pardon to the offender' (Bell). Now only *Hist.*

1473-4 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* I. 4 Componit wyth Will Scot for a remissione for the slachter of Johnne Crossate, for the quhilk he schew a lettre of slanys of the partj. 1546 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* I. 34 To gif ane plane letter of slains to the said Capitane for the slauchteris committit upoun him and his freindis. 1662 *Ibid.* Ser. III. I. 10 The said Barbra Turner, her only dochter, who hes granted the foresaid letter of slayans and discharge. 1678 SIR G. MACKENZIE *Crim. Laws Scot.* II. xxviii. § iv, If the party doth willingly grant a discharge of all grudge, or revenge in the Crime of Murder, this discharge is called a letter of Slanes. 1765-8 ERSKINE *Inst. Laws Scot.* IV. iv. § 105 In the case of slaughter, it behoved the wife or executors of the deceased..to subscribe letters of slains, acknowledging that they had received satisfaction. 1769 ROBERTSON *Chas. V*, I. 301 By the letters of Slanes, the heirs and relations of a person who had been murdered, bound themselves..to forgive, pass over, and forever forget, and in oblivion interr all rancour, malice [etc.]. 1814 SCOTT *Wav.* xlviii, You are aware the blood-wit was made up..by assythment, and that I have since expedited letters of slains.

3. *dial.* Of grain; Affected by smut or blight.

1641 H. BEST *Farm. Bks.* (Surtees) 53 When your barley is infeckted with slaine corne yow must endeavour by all meanes possible to leade it dry. 1788 W. H. MARSHALL *Yorksh.* II. 353 An ear which is smutty is called a 'slain ear'. 1800 TUKE *Agric. N. Riding* 111 In order to prevent wheat from being smutty or slain, brine..has been generally used. 1825– in northern glossaries.

Slaire, variant of SKLEIR, a veil. *Obs.*

Slaister (slē·stəɹ), *sb. Sc.* and *north. dial.* [Cf. the vb.] A dirty or disgusting mess or compound; the act of working at or making this.

a 1774 FERGUSSON *Election* Poems (1845) 43 Ye louns! that troke in doctor's stuff, You'll now hae unco slaisters. 1824 SCOTT *St. Ronan's* ii, 'Ay, and are you at the painting trade yet?' said Meg; 'an unco slaister ye used to make with it lang syne'. 1832 CARLYLE in Froude *Life* (1882) II. 268 They are painting the dining-room, lobby, and staircase; and, to avoid such a *slaister* for the future, doing it in oil. 1857– in *Eng. Dial. Dict.*

Slaister (slē·stəɹ), *v. Sc.* and *north. dial.* Also **slester,** etc. [Of obscure origin.] **a.** *intr.* To eat, work, etc., in a slobbering, wet, or dirty manner. **b.** *trans.* To plaster in this fashion.

For fuller illustration of forms and senses see the *Eng. Dial. Dict.*

1756 MRS. CALDERWOOD *Jrnl.* (1884) 64 The maids..have nothing to do but slester and wash. 1773 FERGUSSON *Auld Reekie* 124 Look at that head, and think if there The pomet slaister'd up his hair! 1816 SCOTT *Antiq.* x, Ye'll be for your breakfast?..hae, there's a soup parritch for ye—it will set ye better to be slaistering at them and the lappermilk than meddling wi' Mr. Lovel's head. 1819 TENNANT *Papistry Storm'd* (1827) 89 Loud gaups o' lauchter shook the bank, As Johnnie slaister'd throu' the stank.

Slait, obs. Sc. var. SLATE *sb.* and *v.*; var. of SLEIGHT *sb.*[3]; pa. t. SLITE *v.*

Slake (slēk), *sb.*[1] Also 4 **slak.** [f. SLAKE *v.*[1]]

1. The act of slacking or slackening in some respect; an instance of this.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 23618 Sua sal þe wreches..for þair sak, Be stad in pine wit-vten slak. 16.. *Robin of Portingale* in *Percy's Folio MS., Ball. & Rom.* I. 238 At the wakening of your first sleepe your sorrowes will have a slake. 1787 W. H. MARSHALL *E. Norfolk* (1795) II. 388 'To be at slake,' to be at leisure. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. III. iii, Such side-questions..as, in the heat of the main-battle, he ..could not get answered; these also he takes up, at the first slake. 1865 — *Fredk. Gt.* XIV. iii. V. 184 Some slake occurring..in that interminable Honsbruck Lawsuit.

2. A source or cause of slaking. *rare* —[1].

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 24592 His lijk ful lath was þe to þarn, þat slak was o þi site.

Slake (slēk), *sb.*[2] *Sc.* and *north. dial.* Also *Sc.* 5 **slak,** 7, 9 **slaik.** [Obscurely related to the synonymous SLAWK and SLOKE.] A name given to several species of Algæ, including marine and edible kinds as *Ulva* and *Porphyra,* and also the freshwater sorts, as *Enteromorpha* and *Conferva.*

c 1475 HENRYSON *Poems* (S.T.S.) III. 152 Ane sleiffull of slak, þat growis in the sluss. 1623 *Orkney Witch Trial* in Dalyell *Darker Superst. Scotl.* (1834) 389 And giving him a 'cogfull of slaik' to be eat raw on a cake, he recovered daily. 1710 RUDDIMAN *Gloss. Douglas' Æneis* s.v. *Slike,* Scot. Bor. call a kind of Sea-weed, very soft and slippery, Slake, which they also eat. 1793 *Statist. Acc. Scotl.* VII. 201 The green slake which grows in the river. 1853 G. JOHNSTON *Terra Lindisfarnensis* I. *Bot. E. Borders* 287 The Enteromorphæ fill the bed of the lower part of the Tweed during the summer, and are well known to our fishermen under the name of Slake. 1901 *Trans. Stirling Nat. Hist. Soc.* 68 The Bannock at this point was filled with slake, and so deep that none could ride over it.

Slake (slēk), *sb.*[3] Chiefly *north. dial.* [? Related to SLIKE *sb.*]

1. Mud, slime.

c 1800 *Rep. Agric. Surv., Cumb.* 30 (Britten), Slake or mud left by the tide. 1883 *Pall Mall G.* 10 Nov. 4/1 At low tide a large area of river slake is left exposed on each side to the influences of the weather.

2. A stretch of muddy ground left exposed by the tide; a mud-flat.

1828 G. YOUNG *Geol. Surv. Yorks. Coast* 39 The morass at Hartlepool is evidently a continuation of the slake. 1868 MAIDMENT *Sc. Pasquils* 4 *note,* The slakes are waste lands bordering on the sea shore, which are covered with water when the tide comes in. 1889 *Athenæum* 16 Mar. 348/3 Adventures..in a gunning punt along the 'slakes' off Holy Island.

†Slake, *sb.*[4] *Obs.* [Of obscure origin.] A flake.

a 1608 DEE *Relat. Spirits* I. (1659) 357 They knock their wedges..and so break off great Slakes of Stone, like Slate. 1610 FOLKINGHAM *Art of Survey* I. x. 32 Columbine or Pidgeon Marle lies in lumpes and cloddes, but with Sunne and Frost, it resolues and cleaues into thinne slakes or flakes. 1721 *Post-master* 9 June 264 The Slakes of Fire were wafted by a strong Wind upon the Roofs of the Houses.

Slake (slēk), *sb.*[5] *Sc.* and *north. dial.* [f. SLAKE *v.*[2]] A splashy daub; a smear; a lick, wipe, soft stroke, etc.

1721 KELLY *Sc. Prov.* 396 I'll give you a Gob Slake. 1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* xvii, Maybe a touch o' a blackit cork, or a slake o' paint. 1829 *Blackw. Mag.* XXVI. 144 Wafered to the pane with three wafers of divers colours, and a slake of starch. 1855 ATKINSON *Whitby Gloss.,* A *Slake,* a mere wipe, not a thorough cleansing. 'A lick and a slake',..as a slut gets over certain of her household duties.

Slake, obs. variant of SLACK *sb.*[1]

†Slake, *a. Obs.* [var. of SLACK *a.,* representing OE. disyllabic forms.]

1. Loose, relaxed; not tight. = SLACK *a.* 7.

13.. *K. Alis.* 1251 (Laud MS.), Þe stedes rennen wiþ slake bridlen. *c* 1374 CHAUCER *Boeth.* I. met. i. (1868) 4 Þe slake skyn trembleþ vpon myn emty body. 1422 tr. *Secreta*

Secret., Priv. Priv. 221 Flesshe in tempure neshe, noght slake, tokenyth good vndyrstondynge. *a* 1586 SIDNEY *Astr. & Stella* xxviii, The raines of Loue I loue, though neuer slake. 1643 STEER tr. *Exp. Chyrurg.* xv. 60 It sheweth holes, by whose benefit the ring is made straight, or slake, according as need requireth.

2. Slack, remiss. *rare*—1.

1538 STARKEY *England* II. iii. 214 For my parte, I wyl neuer be slake in thys behalfe.

3. *Slake water*, = SLACK-WATER.

1580 BURROUGH in Hakluyt *Voy.* (1598) I. 436 Diligently note the time of..the slake or still water of full sea. 1635 in Foxe *North-west Fox* 124 It was then slake-water. 1793 R. MYLNE *Rep. Thames* 34 From the strong current on the Bucks side, to the slake water on the Berks side.

Slake (slēk), *v.*[1] Forms: 1 **sleac-, slacian,** 3 **slakien,** 5 **slakeen** (?); 2–3 **slakie** (3 **scl-**), 3–**slake** (5 **scl-**), 4 **slak**; *Sc.* 5–7 **slaik** (5 **slaik,** 6 **sclaik**), 6 **slaike.** [OE. *sleac-, slacian*, f. *slæc* SLACK *a.* Cf. MDu. and Du. *slaken* to make slack, relax, diminish, etc., mod.Icel. *slaka* to give way, Norw. *slaka* to slacken. OE. had also the compound *aslacian*: see ASLAKE *v.*]

I. *intr.* †**1.** Of persons: To diminish the intensity of one's efforts; to become less energetic or eager; also, to undergo or manifest a weakening or decrease in some specified respect. *Obs.*

In some cases the sense approaches that of 'cease'.

c 1000 ÆLFRIC *Exod.* xvii. 11 ȝif he þonne lithwon slacode, þonne hæfde Amalech sige. *a* 1310 in Wright *Lyric P.* xvi. 54 For hire love in slep y slake, For hire love al nyht ich wake. *c* 1400 tr. *Secreta Secret., Gov. Lordsh.* 110 If þou fynde hem yn hem slakand or failland, comforte here hertes. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 3050 Als sone as þe son vp soȝt þe slaȝtere begynnes, And so to þe son-sett slakid þai neuire. 1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* II. 214 Quhen the peple, throuch the dinn and cry tha maid, slaiket nocht lytle.

†**b.** Const. *to* with inf. *Obs.*

a 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 2136 Swa þat ich slakie to ofseruin heouenriche. *c* 1250 *Moral Ode* 38 in *O. E. Misc.* 59 Ne scholde nomon don a virst ne slakien wel to donne. 13.. *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* xxi. 112 ȝif me grace from synne to fle, And him to loue let me neuer slake. *c* 1440 *Pol. Poems* (Rolls) II. 206 Alas! for to sorow how shuld I slake.

†**c.** Const. *of* something. *Obs.*

c 1375 *Cursor M.* 13054 (Fairf.), Bot þou of suche dedis slake, þou wil noȝt dey wiþ-outen wrak. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Clerk's T.* 649 They kan nat stynte of hire entencion,.. They wol nat of that firste purpos slake. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* v. 656 Prefand giff he mycht off that languour slaik [=slaik]. *a* 1578 LINDESAY (Pitscottie) *Chron. Scot.* (S.T.S.) I. 398 The Inglischemen..slaikit of thair curage. 1621 in *Gude & Godlie Ball.* App. I. 232, I will ȝow exhort..To slaik of ȝour sleuth.

†**d.** To fall *away* from one; to depart. *Obs.*—1

c 1400 *Sir Cleges* 80 (W.), His men..Gan slake awaye on euery syde; With hym there wold dwell non. *c* 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* XI. 248 Wyne dreggis wole make hem [ants] thennes slake.

2. †**a.** To become relaxed, slack, or loose. *Obs.*

c 1000 ÆLFRIC *Exod.* xvii. 12 Aaron and Ur underwriðedon Moises handa..and hiȝ ne slacedon nan þing syððan. *c* 1220 *Bestiary* 126 [The serpent] fasteð til his fel him slakeð. *c* 1420 LYDG. *Assembly of Gods* 1244 The bende of your bowe Begynneth to slake. 1599 SIR J. DAVIES *Immort. of Soul* III. vii, When the Body's strongest Sinews slake.

b. Of lime: To become hydrated or slacked.

1766 *Compl. Farmer* s. v. *Lucern*, The chalk slakes, when thaws and rains come on. 1857 MILLER *Elem. Chem., Org.* iii. § 1. 122 The lime gradually slakes and falls to powder. 1895 *Bloxam's Chem.* 332 Air-slaked lime has slaked by simple exposure to air.

3. To decrease in force or intensity; to become less violent, oppressive, or painful; to abate, moderate. Now *rare.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 3772 Sco send him son in-til aran,..þar to suiorn..Til þat his broþer wreth suld slake. *a* 1352 MINOT *Poems* v. 4 Wald he salue vs sone, mi sorow suld slake. *a* 1400 *Rom. Rose* 3108 In me fyve woundes dide he make, The soore of whiche shalle nevere slake. *c* 1440 *Generydes* 4190 Atte last the wynde beganne to slake. 1553 in Hakluyt *Voy.* I. 248 The winter..doth still..increase by a perpetuitie of cold: neither doth that colde slake, until [etc.]. 1581 W. STAFFORD *Exam. Compl.* iii. (1876) 93 That the indignation against them shortly will slake of it selfe. *c* 1605 ?ROWLEY *Birth of Merlin* I. ii, No man leaves physic when his sickness slakes. 1648 J. BEAUMONT *Psyche* VI. xvii, Custom .. can make The dint and edge of any strangeness slake. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* IV. vi, It tolled One when the firing began; and is now pointing towards Five, and still the firing slakes not.

b. Of fire: To burn less strongly; to die down, die away, go out. Also *fig.*

c 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 6224 þe synful..sal wende Until helle fire, þat never sal slake. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) II. 23 Þere þe fuyre slakeþ, it chaungeth into stony clottes. *a* 1400 *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* xxxiii. 14 Poul sayh bi-foren helle ȝates Brennynge tres þat neuer slakes. 1603 DRAYTON *Odes* i. 93 'Tis possible to clyme, To kindle, or to slake, Although in Skelton's Ryme. 1613 BROWNE *Brit. Past.* I. i, She perceiving that his flame did slake [etc.]. 1648 HERRICK *Hesper.*, 'Tis not ev'ry day' 10 Look how next the holy fier, Either slakes or doth retire.

†**4.** To become weaker or fainter; to lessen, fall off. *Obs.*

c 1315 SHOREHAM I. 806 ȝef mannes deuocioun slakeþ..Bypenche hym Of þe uertue þat þer hys. *a* 1400 *Hymns to Virgin* 71 Þi siȝte and heeryng bigynneþ to slake. 1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* XVIII. i. 726, I see and fele dayly that thy loue begynneth to slake. 1573 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 6 When ioie gan slake, then made I change. 1579 TOMSON *Calvin's Serm. Tim.* 114/2 When we see the honour of God slake, or bee in daunger to be darkened. 1614 DYKE *Myst. Selfe-Deceiving*, His forwardnesse slaked.

†**b.** To come to an end; to cease. *Obs.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 12886 þe ald testament hir-wit nu slakes, And sua þe neu bigining takes. *Ibid.* 23794 Als wreches [we] wid vr will forsakis þat selines þat neuer slakis. 13.. *Gaw. & Gr. Kn't.* 244 Al stouned at his steuen, & stonstil seten,..As al were slypped vpon slepe, so slaked hor lotez in hyȝe.

†**5.** To become or grow less in number, quantity, or volume; to fall or subside. *Obs.*

c 1380 *Sir Ferumb.* 2595 Now is þe þridde day a-gon þat our vitaile gunne to slake. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) I. 411 They leueþ in more pees, By cause of hir riches. For hir catel schulde slake, And þey vseþ ofte wrake. 1577 HANMER *Anc. Eccl. Hist.* 421 This misery..fell and slaked by a litle and litle, vntill at length all was ended. 1593 SHAKS. *Lucr.* 1677 No floud by raining slaketh. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* I. 42 The tides swell, and anon again..they slake. 1613 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* (1614) 580 Nilus slaking, the Windes then blowing,..the Winter approaching.

II. *trans.* †**6.** To make slack or loose; to lessen the tension of; to allow to become slack or relaxed. *Obs.*

c 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 51 Mon sunfulle þet lið in heuie sunne and þurh soðe scrift his sunbendes nule slakien. *c* 1275 LAY. 21922 Louerd Arthur þe king slake oure bendes. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 6421 Quils moyses heild vp his hend.. Had godds folk þe hale maistri; Bot if he þam slaked ani sith, Sir amalech wan als suith. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* III. 341 The See was plein, Hem nedeth noght a Riff to slake. *c* 1430 *Pilgr. Lyf Manhode* IV. xxviii. (1869) 190 But summe of þe hoopes weren slaked for defaute of oseres. 1489 CAXTON *Faytes of A.* I. xxiv. 77 Syn cam a rayne that slaked the cordes of theyre bowes. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* X. v. 34 Takyll thy schippis, and thy schetis sclaik. 1581 PETTIE tr. *Guazzo's Civ. Conv.* (1586) III. 157 b, The father must somewhat slake the bridle hand, and giue her more libertie.

†**b.** To let or set loose; to set free, release. *Obs.*

13.. *Evang. Nicod.* 518 in Herrig *Archiv* LIII. 401 At pasch of Iewes þe custom was Ane of preson to slake. *c* 1374 CHAUCER *Boeth.* III. metr. ii. (1868) 68 Þei [lions].. slaken hir nekkes from hir cheins vnbounden.

†**c.** To pour (*on* something). *Obs. rare.*

c 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* XII. 540 Of aysel oon emyne on hit they slake. *Ibid.* 582 Aysel theron and hony wol they slake. [L. *superfundere.*]

d. To disintegrate or slack (lime).

1662 GERBIER *Principles* 20 Did not make use of their Lime at the same time it was slakt. 1823 P. NICHOLSON *Pract. Builder* 331 Let the lime be slaked, by plunging it into a butt filled with soft-water. 1837 J. T. SMITH tr. *Vicat's Mortars* 198 The Lyonese builders..slake the lime by aspersion.

†**7.** To make smaller or less in amount or size; to reduce, diminish, lessen. *Obs.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 26269 Ai quen nede es for to slak [*v. r.* slake] þe sett penance. *c* 1400 *Rule St. Benet* (Verse) 2343 ȝit sall þai not þam-self it [*sc.* their task] slake, Bot suffer it for godes sake. *a* 1425 tr. *Arderne's Treat. Fistula*, etc. 49 þe 3 day, forsoþ, remeuyng þe emplastre, þe bolnyng in party was slaked. 1530 H. RHODES *Bk. Nurture* 618 in *Babees Bk.*, If that thou spent past thy degree, thy stock thou soone shalt slake. 1578 LYTE *Dodoens* 749 Taken in the same maner they slake the bellyes of suche as have the dropsie. 1612 WOODALL *Surgeon's Mate* Wks. (1653) 80 Wheat bran..doth slake and swage the hard swellings.

8. To render less acute or painful; to abate, mitigate, or assuage. Now *rare.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 9641 þat sua þou wald his sorus slak, þat he moght dom be-for þe tak. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) III. 11 He fonde up also halsynge coniuresouns for to slake wiþ siknesse. *a* 1400 *Stockholm Med. MS.* i. 84 in *Anglia* XVIII. 297 þis drinke xal..slakyn þe terys euerychon. *c* 1440 *Alph. Tales* 212 His brethir þoght þai wuld somwhat slake his truble. 1509 HAWES *Past. Pleas.* XXVII. (Percy) 120 Dame Venus..all thy payne may sone redresse and slake. 1578 LYTE *Dodoens* 317 The roote.. slaketh the gryping paynes of the belly. 1682 N. O. *Boileau's Lutrin* II. 57 Hope of Lawful gain might slake my Anguish. 1821 SHELLEY *Adonais* 192 Wake thou,..and slake..A wound more fierce than his, with tears and sighs.

†**b.** To relieve (one) *from* or *of* sorrow, etc.; to comfort. *Obs.*

a 1300 *E. E. Psalter* xciii. 13 þat þou slake him fra daies ille. *c* 1330 *King of Tars* 733 That ilke lord ful of miht, Of serwe he may me slake. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xxxix. (*Cosme & D.*) 254 Prayand þame for goddis sake hyme of his sorou for to slake. 14.. *Sir Beues* 711 So him solaste [*v.r.* slaked] þat mai, þat al is care wente awai. 1570 *Satir. Poems Reform.* xxiii. 28 Thow knawis thy self gif he was diligent To get thy peax, and slaik the of that weir. *a* 1585 POLWART *Flyting w. Montgomerie* 230, I want wares And salues, to slake thee of thy saires.

†**9.** To make less vehement, violent, or intense; to diminish the force or fury of. *Obs.*

a 1300 *E. E. Psalter* lxxxviii. 10 Stiringe of his stremes slakes þou. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Clerk's T.* 746 And eek the pope, rancour for to slake, Consenteth it. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* VII. 672 He thocht to slaik Makfadzanys hie curage. 15.. in *Q. Eliz. Acad.*, etc. 45 þat schall sclake hym of hys mode. 1600 HAKLUYT *Voy.* (1810) III. 501 Who of his great goodnesse .. vouchsafed a little to slake the tempest. 1628 WITHER *Brit. Rememb.* I. 453 She often makes Our peace with God, and his displeasure slakes. 1664 H. MORE *Myst. Iniq.* VII. 126 The just chastisements of their offended Consciences being slaked.

b. To allow to diminish in vehemence or vigour; to moderate (one's anger, etc.). Now *rare.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 18357 þou þat þi wreth sua suetli slakes, And fra þi folk þair sinnes takes. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* II. 96 Hire oghte of mercy forto slake Hire daunger. *a* 1400 *Pilgr. Sowle* (Caxton) I. xxxviii. (1859) 42 To this she hath goodly agreed hyr selue, slakyng hyr ryghtwys rygour. 1591 LYLY *Endym.* I. ii, He shall slake that loue which he now voweth to Cynthia. 1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* II. 356 The Quene for her humanitie and gentlenes, slaiket her seueritie. 1664 H. MORE *Myst. Iniq.* Apol. 558 If there be any that would slake their zeal in this point. 1887 MORRIS *Odyss.* I. 73 But Poseidon Girdler of Earth his anger will not slake.

10. To appease, allay, or satisfy (desire, thirst, †hunger).

Said either of the person or of the means.

(*a*) *c* 1325 *Metr. Hom.* 80 He umthoght him..How he might this ilk nonne fange To slake his lust that was so strange. 1538 BALE *God's Promises* I, Plages of coreccyon Most grevouse and sharpe, hys wanton lustes to slake. 1594 SHAKS. *Lucrece* 425 His rage of lust by gazing qualified; Slakt, not suppresst. 1608 HIERON *Wks.* I. 722 Crucifie my lustes,..slake and quench in me this vnlawfull heate. 1817 SHELLEY *Rev. Islam* IV. iv, In life and truth, Might not my heart its cravings ever slake? 1839–52 BAILEY *Festus* 188 Each, apart, too soon will tire; Altogether slake desire. 1894 S. WEYMAN *Lady Rotha* iv, All who could not get into the house to slake their curiosity or anger.

(*b*) *c* 1374 CHAUCER *Boeth.* III. pr. ii. (1868) 71 Ryche men han y-nouȝ wher wiþ þei may staunchen her hunger, and slaken her þrest. 1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. XVIII. 366 May no drynke me moiste ne my thruste slake. 1615 CHAPMAN *Odyss.* XI. 796 Tormented Tantalus..could not slake His burning thirst. 1713 ADDISON *Cato* I. iv, Amidst the running stream he slakes his thirst. 1784 COWPER *Task* II. 509 A crystal draught Pure from the lees, which often more enhanc'd The thirst than slak'd it. 1869 PHILLIPS *Vesuv.* viii. 213 Here wild boars and deer slake their thirst in small lakes. 1876 GLADSTONE *Homeric Synchr.* 28 Fine springs..slaked the thirst of the Explorer's workmen during the excavations.

(*c*) *c* 1385 CHAUCER *L. G. W.* 2006 *Ariadne*, In to the bestis throte he shal hem [i. e. balls] caste To slake his hungir. *c* 1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 1820 þar with þair hungyr forto slake. 1568 *Jacob & Esau* II. ii, Give me somewhat, wherwith to slake mine honger. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* III. i. 52 They slaked had the feruent heat Of appetite with meates of euery sort. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* 492 Men may..eat to slake hunger and content nature.

11. To quench or extinguish (fire); to cause to burn less strongly. Also in fig. contexts.

c 1566 *Merie Tales of Skelton* in S.'s Wks. (1843) I. p. lxvii, The fire being quickly slaked, Skelton cam in with his frendes. 1611 BIBLE 2 *Esdr.* v. 8 The fire shalbe oft.. [*marg.* slaked] againe. 1657 J. WATTS *Vind. Ch. Eng.* 125, I hope I have slaked your flame, and stopt your mouth with a..better ordinance. *a* 1800 PEGGE *Suppl. Grose* s.v., To slake a fire is to put on small coals, that it may not burn too fast. 1842 LOVER *Handy Andy* xxvi, 'Only for two days,' said Charlotte, trying to slake the flame she had raised. 1868 MILMAN *St. Paul's* vii. 144 By mitigating..the pains of inevitable Purgatory, slaking the penal fires [etc.].

12. To cool or refresh by means of water or other fluid. Also *fig.*

1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) VII. 311 He boorded soo for kyng William hadde i-slaked his greet wombe wiþ a drynke þat he hadde i-dronke. 1527 ANDREW *Brunswyke's Distyll. Waters* A ij, Sorell water..slaketh all hote thynges bothe within the body and without. 1592 KYD *Sp. Trag.* I. i, Ere Sol had..slakte his smoaking charriot in her floud. 1749 SMOLLETT *Regicide* II. vii, In the blood that warms Thine heart, perfidious, I will slake mine ire! 1822 LAMB *Elia* II. *Conf. Drunkard*, When a draught from the next clear spring could slake any heats which summer suns..had power to stir up in the blood. 1850 WHITTIER *All's Well*, The clouds, which rise with thunder, slake Our thirsty souls with rain. 1871 L. STEPHEN *Playgr. Eur.* (1894) x. 235, I reached a little patch of snow, and managed to slake my parched lips. *refl.* 1873 DIXON *Two Queens* XXI. v. IV. 152 The great passion of the age began to slake itself with blood.

b. To moisten, wet, soak. (Cf. 6 d.)

1820 SCOTT *Lady of L.* II. xiv, A mass of ashes slaked with blood. 1820 — *Monast.* XXXV, Oatmeal slaked with cold water. 1824 L. M. HAWKINS *Annaline* III. 35 The rebels retraced their steps, leaving this fertile province slaked in blood and ashes.

†**13.** To render less active or vigorous. *Obs.*

1549 UDALL, etc. *Erasm. Par. Phil.* II. 9 Howbeit your good wil was not slaked,..yet you wanted oportunitie to sende the thinges. *a* 1578 LINDESAY (Pitscottie) *Chron. Scot.* (S.T.S.) I. 121 James Earle of Douglas..past fordwart with displayit banner to slaike the kingis airmie lyand at the seige of Abercorne. 1608 SHAKS. *Per.* III. Prol. 1 Now sleep yslaked hath the rout.

†**b.** To remit or slacken (exertion, etc.). *Obs.*

1586 DRAKE in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* Ser. I. II. 304 We then slaked no possyble travel or dyllygence. 1594 R. CAREW *Tasso* (1881) 22 Vnto some Frigate light get thee aboord, And towards Greekish soyle no sayling slake.

†**14. a.** To put off, delay. *Obs.*—1

1544 *St. Papers Hen. VIII*, X. 48 It seamith that the Bushop slakith the sending of the Cardinals to thEmperour.

†**b.** To neglect, allow to pass. *Obs.*

1560 FRAMPTON *Narr.* in Strype *Ann. Ref.* (1709) I. 230 They asked me, Why I did so slake the time, and not declare the truth.

Slake (slēk), *v.*[2] *dial.* Also 6, 9 **slaik,** etc. [a. ON. (Icel. and Norw.) *sleikja* (MSw. *slekia*) to lick.] *intr.* and *trans.* To lick with the tongue; to smear, daub, wet slightly, etc.

Common in Sc. and north. dial. use; for variations of sense see the *Eng. Dial. Dict.*

1535 LYNDESAY *Satire* 2173 Set thou not by, howbeit scho kisse and slaik it. 1808 JAMIESON, *To Slatk*,..to bedaub. 1811 WILLAN in *Archaeologia* XVII. 158 *Slake*, to smear, to wet, or bedaub. 1824 MACTAGGART *Gallovid. Encycl.* 5 Adders rough, and gruesome horrid,..gluey tongues did slake and feed. 1871 C. GIBBON *Lack of Gold* XXX, The mischievous ones were busy..'slaking' neighbour's doors with sowens.

transf. 1807–10 TANNAHILL *Poems* (1846) 68, I never had

an itchin' To slake about a great man's kitchen, And like a spaniel lick his dishes.

Slaked (slēkt), *ppl. a.* [f. SLAKE *v.*[1] + -ED [1].]

†**1.** Loosened; slackened. *Obs.*—[1]

c 1374 CHAUCER *Boeth.* v. met. i. (1868) 152 Fortune, þat semeþ as þat it fletiþ wiþ slaked or vngouernede bridles.

2. Of lime: Hydrated; slacked.

1611 COTGR. s.v. *Fusé, Chaux fusée*, slaked, or sleckt lime. 1813 SIR H. DAVY *Agric. Chem.* i. (1814) 20 Slaked lime was used by the Romans for manuring the soil. 1837 J. T. SMITH *Vicat's Mortars* 79 The heat given out by a large quantity of slaked lime. 1871 TYNDALL *Fragm. Sci.* (1879) I. v. 173 Adjacent to these reservoirs are others containing pure slaked lime.

Slakeless (slēˑklĕs), *a.* [f. SLAKE *v.*[1] + -LESS.] Incapable of being slaked, quenched, or mitigated; insatiable.

1596 R. LINCHE *Diella* (1877) 36 My slakelesse payne hells horror doth exceede. 1819 BYRON *Proph. Dante* i. 115 The..slakeless thirst of change. 1832 *Fraser's Mag.* V. 361 To glut her slakeless thirst for blood. 1842 *Genil. Mag.* Jan. 26 *note*, This wholesale spiller and slakeless thirster of blood.

†**Sla·ken,** *v. Obs.* Also 4 **slakyn.** [f. SLAKE *a.* + -EN [5]: cf. the later SLACKEN *v.*]

1. *intr.* To grow slack; to abate.

1303 R. BRUNNE *Handl. Synne* 5993 Here synne shal noþer be forȝyuen ne slakyn Vn-to þey ȝelde þat þey haue takyn. *c* 1330 — *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 9473 When he was ded, his side gan slaken; Lightly was þen þe castel taken. *a* 1352 MINOT *Poems* ix. 49 Þe pride of sir Dauid bigon fast to slaken. 1633 T. JAMES *Voy.* 103 The Storme began to slaken. 1675 *Essex Papers* (Camden) I. 308 Least any may pretend ignorance or thinke we should slaken therein.

2. *trans.* To assuage, mitigate.

1629 SIR W. MURE *True Crucifix* Wks. I. 275 Till God thy Dolours slaken, in some sort.

Slaker (slēˑkəɹ). *rare.* [f. SLAKE *v.*[1] + -ER [1].]

1. One who slakes, assuages, or quenches.

1514 BARCLAY *Cyt. & Uplondyshm.* (Percy Soc.) 34 Where be subduers and slakers of all vyce! 1554-9 *Songs & Ball. Phil. & Mary* (Roxb.) 3 He ys owr swete savyor and slaker of sadnes. 1611 COTGR., *Estancheur*, a..slaker, quencher (of hunger, thirst, &c.).

2. A sluice or stop-gate; = SLACKER 1.

1664-5 *Act* 16-17 *Chas. II*, c. 11 § 11 The Slakers to take off the Surplusage of Waters. 1767 *Hull Navigation Act* 1072 Leave open any of the gates, doors, or slakers.

Slake-trough. [f. SLAKE *sb.*[1] 12.] = SLACK-TROUGH.

1843 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* I. 228 He then dips the hammer in the slake trough, and lets fall upon the anvil a few drops of the water it picks up. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2198.

Slakin: see SLACKEN *sb.*

Slaking (slēˑkiŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. SLAKE *v.*[1] + -ING [1].] The action of the verb in various senses.

c 1400 in J. R. Boyle *Hedon* (1875) App. 120 In slakyng dicte calcis xj. d. *a* 1425 tr. *Arderne's Treat. Fistula*, etc. 11 Þe slakyng or esyng of the akyng and brennyng. 1580 HOLLYBAND *Treas. Fr. Tong, Estanchement de soif*, slaking of thirst. 1587 A. FLEMING *Contin. Holinshed's Chron.* III. 1548/2 With the slaking of the one followed the forgetfullness of the other. 1620 *Church-w. Acc. Pittington*, etc. (Surtees) 78 Item payed for a foother of lyme, iij s. iiij d... Item for bearing it in and slaking, iiij d. 1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* I. 200 That sort of lime..which heats the most in slaking.

Slaky (slēˑki), *a.* [f. SLAKE *sb.*[3] + -Y.] Muddy.

1841 *Proc. Berw. Nat. Club* I. 250 The low and slaky shore that extends from Berwick Bay to Fenham Flats. 1901 *Trans. Stirling Nat. Hist. Soc.* 70 The swampy ground had assumed a different aspect. Its slaky condition had disappeared.

Slam (slæm), *sb.*[1] Also 7 **slamm.** [Related to SLAM *v.*[1]]

1. A severe blow; a violent impact.

1672 J. BLAKESTON *Lazarillo* II. ix, He gave me half a dozen..punches with his knee, and as many slamms with his girdle. 1829 A. W. FONBLANQUE *Under 7 Administr.* (1837) I. 306 Their whole career is a series of tumbles, backslidings, and cogent slams of the head against the wall.

2. A violent closing of a door, etc., producing a loud resounding noise; the noise so made, or a noise of this nature.

1837 DICKENS *Pickw.* xxxiv, Both the slam and the scowl were lost upon Sam. 1861 J. PYCROFT *Agony Point* (1862) 334 A slam was heard at the hall door. 1871 BP. FRASER in Hughes *Life* (1887) 204 Closing his prayer-book with an angry slam. 1898 MUNRO *J. Splendid* xi. 109 The crack of the musket..falling away in a dismal slam that carried but a short distance.

b. *dial.* (See quot.)

1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss., Slam*, a peculiar mode of ringing the bells.

Slam (slæm), *sb.*[2] Also **slamm.** [Of obscure origin.]

†**1.** The card-game ruff and honours. *Obs.*

1621 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Motto* D 4 Ruffe, slam, Trump, nody. 1648 HERRICK *Hesp., Upon Tuck* 281 At Post and Paire, or Slam, Tom Tuck would play. 1674 COTTON *Compl. Gamester* (1680) 82 At Ruff and Honours, by some called Slamm, you have in the Pack all the Deuces.

2. The fact of losing or winning all the tricks in a game of cards, esp. in whist.

1660 in Wilkins *Polit. Ball.* (1860) I. 148 Thus all the while a Club was trump,..Until a noble General came, And gave the cheaters a clear slam. 1674 HICKMAN *Quinquart. Hist.* (ed. 2) 229 The Doctor hath one Card more left to play, which if it hit not, he will have a perfect Slam. *a* 1700 *Dict. Cant. Crew, Slam*, a Trick; also a Game entirely lost without getting one on that side. 1755 J. SHEBBEARE *Lydia* (1769) II. 435 Notes upon Hoyle, who is vastly erroneous in many places, particularly in calculating the slam. 1850 *Bohn's Hdbk. Games* 85 When a player calls, and his partner refuses to answer, although he has the power, they cannot gain a slam. 1864 *Reader* 827/1 He lost a slam—that is to say, he did not win a single trick.

b. With the qualifying terms *grand* and *little* or *minor*, chiefly in bridge.

1892 *Pall Mall G.* 14 May 3/1 In two of the 'hands' to be played the 'grand slam' is won. 1897 R. F. FOSTER *Compl. Hoyle* 623 (Bridge), Little Slam, winning 12 out of 13 possible. 1899 A. MAINWARING *Cut Cavendish* 48 'Grand slam', *i.e.* taking every trick [at bridge], or 'minor slam', every trick but one.

†**Slam,** *sb.*[3] *Obs.* [a. LG. *slam* (whence Sw. *slam*), = G. *schlamm* mud, slime.] Refuse matter separated from alum in the preparation of this.

There appears to be no evidence for the currency of the word later than the 17th cent.; the entries in various technical dictionaries of the 19th cent. are app. derived from Bailey (1728).

1650-1 *North Riding Rec.* V. 65 Throwing the slam of allome into the water-course. 1678 *Phil. Trans.* XII. 1054 That which they call Slam, is first perceived by the redness of the Liquor when it comes from the Pit. 1681 GREW *Musæum* III. III. i. 343 Certain Nitrous and other parts call'd Slam.

Slam, *sb.*[4] *rare.* [Cf. next, and mod. Yks. *slam* a slovenly person.] ? An ill-shaped person.

1697 VANBRUGH *Relapse* v. v, *Hoyden.* I don't like my lord's shapes, nurse. *Nurse.* Why, in good truly, as a body may say, he is but a slam.

†**Slam,** *a. Obs.*—[1] (See quot.)

1691 RAY *N. C. Words* 137 A *slam* or *slim* Fellow is a skragged, tall, rawboned Fellow.

Slam (slæm), *v.*[1] [Possibly of Scand. origin: cf. Sw., Norw., and Icel. *slamra* (also MSw. and Icel. *slambra*), Sw. dial. *slämma*, Norw. *slemma* (*slemba*), to slam.]

1. *trans.* To beat or slap vigorously. *dial.*

1691 RAY *N. C. Words* 137 To *Slam* one, to beat or cuffe one strenuously. 1825-56 in *Eng. Dial. Dict.*

2. To shut (a door, window, etc.) with violence and noise; to bang; to close with unnecessary force. Also with advs., as *down, to, up.*

1775 ASH, *Slam* (*v.t.* a colloquial word), to shut with a noise. 1809 W. IRVING *Knickerb.* VII. viii. (1820) 504 He.. slammed down the window. 1816 SCOTT *Antiq.* vi, The clang of several doors which he..slammed with force behind him. 1873 BLACK *Pr. of Thule* ix. 142 He would slam the door to again. 1892 GREENER *Breech-Loader* 186 The practice of slamming the gun up is dangerous.

b. Freq. with *in one's face*; often *fig.*

1786 in Mrs. Delany *Life & Corr.* (1861) Ser. II. III. 421, I hear..that you squander away your money..and then slam the doors in the King's face! 1826 SCOTT in *Lockhart* (1839) VIII. 238, I propose to slam the door in the face of all and sundry for these three years to come. 1852 MAYHEW *Lond. Lab.* I. 348 They always wait where they think there's the slightest chance of effecting a sale, until the door is slammed in their face.

c. To dash, throw, push, etc., with some degree of violence or force. Also *fig.*

1899 GARDINER *Cromwell* 192 One of them slammed an overturned cream-tub on the head of another. 1899 *Westm. Gaz.* 24 Oct. 5/3 Slamming every available man into the firing line. 1902 CORNISH *Naturalist Thames* 150 When the winter storms slam the roaring billows against the cliff faces.

3. *intr.* Of doors, etc.: To shut, or strike against anything, with violence and resounding noise. Also with advs., as *down, to*, etc.

In recent use freq. employed to denote any violent action or loud noise.

1823 E. MOOR *Suffolk Words* 359 To shut a door violently, or to let it slam to of itself. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. v. vi, The huge Drawbridge slams down. 1858 DICKENS *Lett.* (1880) II. 52 Big doors slam and resound when anybody comes in. 1893 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* Mar. 58 The gates are so hung that, if carelessly left open, they will always slam to and fasten.

4. Used with adverbial force: With a slam or heavy blow; suddenly and violently.

1726 G. ROBERTS *Four Yrs. Voy*, 320, I no sooner rais'd my Head in Sight, but slam came three or four Stones at me. 1755 SMOLLETT *Quix.* (1803) II. 129 Slam went his head to the ground. 1796 WOLCOT (P. Pindar) *Middlesex Election* Wks. 1816 IV. 178 Slam off a [=he] went, without more ado; Nort could his bacon save.

Hence **Sla·mming** *vbl. sb.* and *ppl. a.*

1796 WOLCOT (P. Pindar) *Wks.* (1816) IV. 186 One scoundrel..with a slammin stick, Com'd souse upon my sconce. 1868 J. R. GREEN *Lett.* (1901) II. 204 There was a great slamming of pew doors. 1892 *Daily News* 29 Apr. 5/4 The wing of a slamming door shut i front of him. 1893 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* Mar. 58 Formerly the posts, both banging and slamming posts, were made of oak.

Slam (slæm), *v.*[2] [f. SLAM *sb.*[2]]

1. *trans.* To beat by winning a slam; also *dial.*, to trump. Hence *transf.*, to beat completely.

1746 HOYLE *Whist* 80, D having seven Spades in his Hand wins them, and consequently Slams A and B. 1907 *Daily Mail* 5 Sept. 6/1 He [a race-horse] absolutely slammed his field.

2. *intr.* To win a slam.

1833 W. H. MAXWELL *Field Bk.* 489.

†**Slam,** *v.*[3] *Obs. rare.* A substitution for DAMN *v.* 5, perh. suggested by SLAM *sb.*[2]

a 1657 N. WALLINGTON *Notices Chas. I* (1869) II. 94 They returned only burning and slamming themselves in rage and malice. 1760 FOOTE *Minor* I. Wks. 1799 I. 243 Slam me, but the man's mad! 1797 BRYDGES *Hom. Trav.* I. 321 But ev'ry syllable is true, Or slam me if I'd tell it you!

Slam-bang, *adv., a.*, and *v.* Also **slam bang.** [f. SLAM *v.*[1] 4 + BANG *v.* 8.]

A. *adv.* With a slam and a bang; with noisy violence.

1847 in HALLIW. 1853 HAWTHORNE *Tanglewood T.* (Chandos) 201 He would fetch his club down, slam bang, and smash the vessel into a thousand pieces. 1887 F. R. STOCKTON *A Borrowed Month* 159, I sent an arrow slam-bang into the lantern.

B. *adj.* Noisy, violent.

1889 *Advance* (Chicago) 14 Mar., The friends of the Sabbath are not what some .. slam-bang reformer would have the world believe.

C. *vb.* **1.** *intr.* To slam and bang.

1837 MISS SEDGWICK *Live & Let Live* (1876) 110 She slam-bangs about the house. 1896 KIPLING *Seven Seas* 51 My engines Through all the seas, slam-bangin' home again, Slam-bang too much.

2. *trans.* To assail violently.

1888 *The Voice* (N. Y.) 12 July, You might as well denounce the legal profession because of the shysters..as to slam-bang newspapers because there are recreant editors.

Hence **Sla·m-ba·nging** *vbl. sb.*

1889 *The Voice* (N. Y.) 1 Aug., When you take up a Prohibition organ, you will find it full of political slang and slambanging.

Sla·mmakin, Sla·mmerkin, *sb.* and *a.* Chiefly *dial.* Also 9 **slammockin, slomm-, slummackin,** etc. [Of obscure origin; the shorter forms *slammack(s, slommack(s* occur widely in dialect, but are not recorded before the 19th century.

Mrs. Slammekin, who is described as affecting a careless undress, is a character in Gay's *Beggars' Opera* (1727). It is more probable that the colloquial word suggested the name than that it was subsequently derived from it.]

A. *sb.* †**1.** A loose gown or dress. *Obs.*—[1]

1756 *Connoisseur* No. 134 P 7 A burgess's daughter..who appeared in a Trolloppee or Slammerkin, with treble ruffles to the cuffs.

2. A slovenly female, a sloven, a slattern.

α. 1785 GROSE *Dict. Vulgar T., Slammakin*, a female sloven, one whose clothes seem hung on with a pitch fork, a careless trapes. 1808 JAMIESON, *Slammikin*, a drab, a slovenly woman; Loth[ian]. 1839 SIR G. C. LEWIS *Gloss. Heref., Slammockin*, a slattern.

β. 1822 W. IRVING *Braceb. Hall* (1823) I. 103 A brisk, coquettish woman; a little of a shrew, and something of a slammerkin.

B. *adj.* Untidy, slovenly.

Ash *Suppl.* (1775) gives '*Slammerkin* (a droll word), irregular in motion, making a sudden transition'; the existence of this sense is very doubtful.

α. 1794 WOLCOT (P. Pindar) *Soldier of Tilbury* Wks. 1812 III. 241 So slammakin, untidy, ragged, mean, Her garments all so shabby and unpinn'd. 1864 LE FANU *Uncle Silas* III. 157 Holding out with finger and thumb..her slammakin old skirt. *Ibid.* 261 The vainest and most slammakin of women.

β. 1837 THACKERAY *Professor* Wks. 1900 XIII. 499 That saucy, slammerkin, sentimental Miss Grampus. 1863 *Examiner* 14 Nov., His Minerva is a tawdry slammerkin slattern. 1887 MISS BRADDON *Like & Unlike* XXXVII, The slammerkin Irish housekeeper.

Slammer (slæˑməɹ). [f. SLAM *v.*[1]]

1. A violent gust (of wind).

1891 *Field* 7 Mar. 344/4 A strong westerly wind..came off the Barn Elm grounds in regular slammers at times.

2. One who slams (doors, etc.).

1892 *Chamb. Jrnl.* 11 June 372/1 He is a quiet neighbour—no slammer or tramper.

†**Slamp.** *Obs.*—[0] (See quots.)

1611 COTGR., *Chinfreneau*, a slampe, iert, wipe; thumpe. *Ibid., Truellée*,..a clap, slat, or slamp with a Trowell.

Slampaine, -pan: see SLAMPANT.

†**Slampamb.** *Obs.*—[1] (Meaning obscure.) Halliwell's explanation appears very unlikely.

a 1573 *New Custom* II. iii, I will never staye, Tyll I finde meanes to ridde the beaste out of the waye. I wyll cut him of the slampambes,..Where so ever I meete him.

†**Slampamp.** *Obs. rare.* [Of obscure formation: cf. Du. *slampampen* to revel.] (See quots.)

1593 G. HARVEY *New Lett.* Wks. (Grosart) I. 282 A homely gallimaufry of little Art, to requite her dainty slaumpaump of little wit. 1593 — *Pierce's Super.* ibid. II. 277, I haue seldome..tasted a more vnsauory slaumpaump of wordes. 1596 NASHE *Saffron Walden* Wks. (Grosart) III. 79 Let them look to it..for the course they take in commending this course Himpenhempen Slampamp, this stale Apple-squire.

†**Slampant.** *Obs. rare.* Also 6 **slampaine, -pam.** [Of obscure origin and doubtful form.] A trick. *To give one the* (or *a*) *slampant*, to play a trick on, to circumvent or hoodwink, one.

Cotgrave prob. copied North's rendering of Fr. *trousse.*

1577 STANYHURST *Descr. Irel.* in *Holinshed* (1808) VI. 30 The townesmen being pinched at the heart, that one rascal in such scornefull wise should give them the slampaine. 1579-80 NORTH *Plutarch* (1595) 805 Polyperchon,..meaning to giue Cassander a slampant and blurt,..sent letters Pattents vnto the people at Athens. 1582 STANYHURST *Æneis* IV. (Arb.) 116 Shal a stranger geue me the slampam? With such departure my regal segnorye frumping? 1611 COTGR., *Trousse*,..a cousening tricke, blurt, slampant.

Slan, dial. variant of SLOE.

Slander (slaˑndəɹ), *sb.* Forms: *α.* 3-6 **sclaundre,** 4-6 **-der** (4 **-dire,** 5 **-dir**); 4 **sclawndire,** 5 **-dre, -dyr, -der**; 4-6 **sclander,** 4 **-dre** (6 **-dir**), 4 **sclondre.** *β.* 4-6 **sklaunder** (4 **-dere, -dir,** 4-5 **-dre,** 5 **-dur, -dyre**); 5 **sklawnder** (5-6

-dyr); 5 (*Sc.* 6–7) **sklander** (-dyr, 6 *Sc.* -dir, -dre). γ. 4–7 **slaunder** (4–5 -dre, 5 -dere), 4 **slawndire**; 5 **slandyre**, 6– **slander**. [ad. AF. *esclaundre*, OF. *esclandre*, an alteration of *escandle*, ad. L. *scandalum*: see SCANDAL *sb.*]

1. The utterance or dissemination of false statements or reports concerning a person, or malicious misrepresentation of his actions, in order to defame or injure him; calumny, defamation.

a. c 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 165 Þov mis-seist mi louerd Þe king;..ho miȝte soffri swuch sclaundre bote he nome Þar-of wreche? *a* 1325 *Prose Psalter* xlix. 21 Þou..spak oȝain Þy broÞer, and Þou settedest sclaundre oȝains Þe sones of Þy moder. 1340 *Ayenb.* 6 Þe ilke Þet zuereÞ zoÞ.., naȝt kueadliche, ake liȝtliche and wyÞ-oute sclondre. *c* 1450 *Mirk's Festial* 27 Þay boghten forto take hym wyth som wordes of sclawndyr yn God. 1486 *Bk. St. Albans* fv, Ther be iiii. thyngs principall to be drad of euery wise man. ..The iiii. is sclaunder & the mutacion of a comynalte. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 138 b, The spiryte of falsnes, the spiryte of sclaunder.

β. *c* 1375 *Lay Folks Catech.* (T.) 489 Sklaundir for to fordo a mannes gode fame. *c* 1384 CHAUCER *Ho. Fame* III. 1580 His other clarioun That hight sklaundre in euery toun With whiche he wonte is to diffame hem that me liste. *c* 1400 *Cursor M.* 27683 (Cott. Galba), Of enuy cummes oft grete grocheing, Missaw, sklander, and bacbiteing. 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* xlii. 100 That nobill king..Chest Sklander to the west se cost. 1609 SKENE *Reg. Maj., Acts Jas. VI*, 137 Any purpose of reproch, or sklander of his Majesties person, estate, or governement.

γ. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 458/2 Slaunder,..*calumpnia.* *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VI*, 84 b, Whose mother susteyned not a litle slaunder and obloquye of the common people. 1589 PUTTENHAM *Eng. Poesie* I. xvi. (Arb.) 50 The Poets being in deede the trumpetters of all praise and also of slaunder (not slaunder, but well deserued reproch). 1629 CARLELL *Deserving Favourite* 833 Though heretofore the company of a Father Were a sufficient buckler to beare off slanders darts. 1649 JER. TAYLOR *Grt. Exemp.* II. Disc. ix. 124 He that kills a mans reputation by calumnies or slander, or open reviling. 1727 GAY *Fables* I. xxv, Who deals in slander, lives in strife. 1794 COLERIDGE *Lines on a Friend* 19 Shall Slander squatting near Spit her cold venom in a dead man's ear? 1817 W. SELWYN *Law Nisi Prius* (ed. 4) II. 1161 Falsehood and malice, either express or implied, are of the essence of the action for slander. 1872 GEO. ELIOT *Middlem.* lxxiv, How much is only slander and false suspicion?

†**b.** Fame, report, rumour. *Obs.*—[1]

Here used for the sake of the rime; but in some other ME. examples the idea of rumour is perhaps more prominent than that of falsity.

13.. *K. Alis.* 4797 (Laud MS.), The lijf of Alisaunder, Of whom fleiȝ so riche sklaunder. *Ibid.* 6066 Þe folk of Þe londe herden Þe sclaunder Þat to hem com kyng Alisaunder.

2. A false or malicious statement or utterance intended to injure, defame, or cast detraction on the person about whom it is made.

a. β. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 6851 Þer was vpe Þe quene emme..ydo A luÞer sclandre. *c* 1320 *Sir Tristr.* 2145 Vngiltles er ȝe In swiche a sclaundr brouȝt. 1393 LANGL. *P. Pl.* C. III. 86 To scornie and to scolde, sclaundres to make. *a* 1450 *Knt. de la Tour* 2 Of the whiche there come to diuerse gret defames and sclaundres withoute cause and reson. 1508 FISHER 7 *Penit. Ps.* cii. Wks. (1876) 155 There was neuer creature borne..that myght escape the sclaundres and backbytynges of them whiche are backbyters. 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 73 b, If he beynge tyckled wyth false complaintes and sklaunders [L. *criminationibus*], should come into Germany. 1562 J. HEYWOOD *Prov. & Epigr.* (1867) 69 It maie be a sclaunder, but it is no lie.

γ. *c* 1375 *Lay Folks Catech.* (L.) 1338 Slaundrys for to for-do a mannys good fame. *c* 1380 *Sir Ferumb.* 132 Þe Emperour..askeÞ Þan What ys riȝte name was Þat made such a slaundre. 'Sire,' said he, 'sir Fyrumbras, Þe kyng of Alysaundre'. 1590 SHAKS. *Much Ado* II. i. 144 His gift is, in deuising impossible slanders. 1611 B. JONSON *Catiline* III. i, Where it concernes himselfe Who's angrie at a Slander, makes it true. *a* 1656 BP. HALL *Rem. Wks.* (1660) 122 Your tongues..run ryot in..spightful slanders. 1727 GAY *Fables* I. xxv, One slander must ten thousand get. 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* lvi, Count de Villefort has detected the slanders that have robbed me of all I hold dear on earth. 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xviii. IV. 172 His slanders were monstrous: but they were well timed. 1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) V. 302 The envious..reduces his rivals to despair by his unjust slanders of them.

†**3.** Discredit, disgrace, or shame, incurred by or falling upon a person or persons, *esp.* on account of some transgression of the moral law, unworthy action, or misdemeanour; evil name, ill repute, opprobrium. *Obs.* Cf. SCANDAL *sb.* **2.**

In some cases not clearly separable from sense 1.

a. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 7287 Haraldes broÞer, Þat he drof in to flaundre,..him sulf to grete sclaundre. *c* 1375 *Lay Folks Mass Bk.* (MS. B.) 377 To hom Þat are in ille lyue, In sclaunder, myscounforth, or in stryue. *c* 1400 *Rom. Rose* 5074 And she of hirs may hym, certeyne, Without sclaundre, yeven ageyn. *a* 1450 *Knt. de la Tour* 35, I will telle you of a lady that caught a gret blame and sclaundre atte iusting withoute cause. 1565 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* I. 340 Quhilk taill and bruit, besydis the sclandir that it importis to thame.., is to hir Hienes self verie prejudiciall.

β. 1362 LANGL. *P. Pl.* A. XII. 17 Hit were boÞe skaÞe and sklaundre to holy cherche. 1377 *Ibid.* B. XII. 47 Felyce hir fayrnesse fel hir al to sklaundre. *c* 1425 AUDELAY *XI Pains of Hell* 139 in *O.E. Misc.* 215 Þese..neuer wold shryue hem of Þat trespase, Fore dred of sklawnder and penans doyng. 1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* XVIII. i. 726 He withdrewe hym from the companye and felaushyp of Quene Gueneuer for to eschewe the sklaunder and noyse. 1508 DUNBAR *Flyting* 21 It is..tinsale baith of honour and of fame, Incres of sorrow, sklander, and evill name.

γ. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xxi. (*Clement*) 618 With Þat al schot sone one hyme,..& huntyt hym owt of Þare towne with slandyre & confusione. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Edw. V*, 15 b, Muche matter was deuised in the same proclamacion to the slaunder of the Lord Hastynges. 1583 STUBBES *Anat. Abus.* II. (1882) 75 Some [ministers] fall to one mischiefe, some to another, to the great slander of the Gospell of Iesus Christ. 1678 SIR G. MACKENZIE *Crim. Laws Scot.* I. xvii. § iii, When they are suspected of Adultery, and thereby gives slander to the Kirk,..they are excommunicat.

†**b.** Const. *of* the person, etc. *Obs.*

c 1385 CHAUCER *L. G. W.* 2231 *Philomene*, Why madist thow on to the Slaundere of man, Or..Whi sufferist thow that tereus was bore. *c* 1400 *Rom. Rose* 3972 To me it is gret hevynesse, That the noyse so ferre is go, And the sclaundre of us twoo. 1428 in *Surtees Misc.* (1890) 3 In..ryght gret sklaundre of ye cite of York, and agayne ye course of trewe marchandise. 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* lxxxii. 21 Think ȝe nocht schame, Sa litill polesie to wirk In hurt and sklander of ȝour name.

†**c.** A source of shame or dishonour; a discreditable act; a disgrace; a wrong. *Obs.*

1390 GOWER *Conf.* III. 189 If the lawe be forbore..It makth a lond torne up so doun, Which is unto the king a sclandre. 1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* XVIII. iv. 731 That shalle be a grete sklaunder for yow in thys Courte. 1480 CAXTON *Myrr.* III. xiii, 162 A grete lady whiche to fore had don to hym a grete sklaundre and dysplaysir. 1529 MORE *Dyalogue* III. Wks. 218/1 And that wer a sore sclaunder to the word of god, that men should se him whom thei heare preache well, so proude an ypocryte. 1540 *Act* 32 *Hen. VIII*, c. 30 The whiche is thought as well a greate sclaunder to the said common lawe of this Realme.

†**d.** A person who is a discredit, disgrace, or scandal to some body or set of persons. *Obs.*

1529 MORE *Suppl. Souls* Wks. 306/2 They should be of the worst sort, & such as now be sklaunder of their order. 1547 J. HARRISON *Exhort. Scottes* a v, These .. reputed heddes of the Churche, bee the onely shame and slaunder of the Churche. 1596 SPENSER *F. Q.* IV. viii. 35 That shamefull Hag, the slaunder of her sexe.

†**4.** A cause of moral lapse or fall; a stumbling-block. = SCANDAL *sb.* 1 b, OFFENCE *sb.* **2.** *Obs.*

c 1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* xlviii. 13 Þis way, Þat is, Þis life of Þa, for it ledis Þaim til hell, is slawndire til Þaim. 1382 WYCLIF *Matt.* xiii. 41 Mannes sone shal sende his aungels, and thei shulden gedre of his rewme alle sclaundris, and hem that don wickidnesse. *a* 1400 *Apol. Loll.* 57 Go o bak after me Sathanas, and Þu art sclaundir to me. *c* 1449 PECOCK *Repr.* III. xi. 348 He was not so perfit that he couthe bere beggerie at ful withoute sclaundre. 1533 GAU *Richt Way* 30 Ve prech Iesu Christ crucifeit, sclander to the Iowis and folie to the gentils. 1586 A. DAY *Eng. Secretary* II. (1625) 126 He that desirith to be good indeed ought not so much as to become an occasion or slander of evill.

5. *attrib.* and *Comb.* (in sense 1), as *slander action, -bearer, currency, law; slander-beaten, -mouthed* adjs.

1600 LANE *Tom Tel-troth* 114 Whole volumes gainst their slander-bearers. 1622 BP. HALL *Serm.* (1627) 492 A slander-beaten crosse, a crucified Sauiour. 1700 CONGREVE *Way of World* III. v, A Slander-mouth'd Railer. 1777 SHERIDAN *Sch. Scandal* II. ii, In all cases of slander currency, whenever the drawer of the lie was not to be found. 1897 *Westm. Gaz.* 29 Nov. 5/3 Our slander law is still uncivilised. 1900 *Daily News* 1 June 7/4 Rumours had been spread about the village, on which the slander action was begun by him.

Slander (slɑ·ndəɹ), *v.* Forms: *α.* 4–6 **sclaundre**, -der (4 -dir, 5 -dyr), 4 **schlaundre**, 5 **sclawndre**, 4–6 **sclandre**, -der (5 -dir). *β.* 4–6 **sklaundre**, -der (5 -dir, -dur), 5 **sklawnnder**, 4–7 **sklander** (6 -dir). *γ.* 4–7 **slaundre**, -der, 5 -dir, **slawnder**, 5– **slander**. [ad. OF. *esclandrer* (and *esclandrir*), f. *esclandre*: see prec.]

†**1.** *trans.* In or after Biblical use: To be a stumbling-block to; to offend; to cause to lapse spiritually or morally. *Obs.*

a. In passive; also *refl.* (see first quot.).

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 13109 Þat man sal for-blisced be Þe quilk him sclanders noght for me. *c* 1325 *Metr. Hom.* 35 Ful bliced..es he That es noht sclaundred in me. 1382 WYCLIF *Mark* iv. 17 Afterward tribulacioun sprongen vp, ..anoon thei ben sclaundrid. *c* 1400 N. LOVE *Bonaventi. Mirr.* xxviii. (1908) 146 Wherfore they were gretely sclaundred and stired aȝenst hym. *c* 1449 PECOCK *Repr.* V. vi. 513 The persoon sclaundrid (that is to seie, prouokid and putt into synne). 1563 WINȜET *Wks.* (S. T. S.) I. 67 That the waik and infirm be nocht sclanderit be our vngodly silence in tyme of persequtioun.

b. Used actively. (Cf. SCANDALIZE *v.*[1] 2.)

1382 WYCLIF *Malachi* ii. 8 Forsothe ȝe wenten awey fro the weye, and sclaundren ful many men in the lawe. *c* 1400 *Apol. Loll.* 40 He Þat puttiÞ forÞ Þis Þing noiÞer dredi Þ ne schamiÞ to lette ne sclaundre oÞer men. 1483 CAXTON *Cato* C vj, If thyn eye sclaunder or shame thy self put hit fro the. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (1531) 61 Yf thyne eye sclaunder the, or be to the occasyon of synne.

†**2.** To bring into discredit, disgrace, or disrepute. *Obs.*

c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xxxii. (*Justin*) 430 Þe feynde.. thocht to fyle hyre gud name, & sclandir hyr, & gere thol scham. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) IV. 23 Þe prisoners Þat were i-sent aȝe were i-sclaundred for evermore. *c* 1440 *Alph. Tales* 125 Þies synnes er grevus, and Þerfor I enione Þe to penance at Þou schryfe Þe noght of Þaim vnto no noder man, for Þai may gretlie sklander Þe. *c* 1477 CAXTON *Jason* 128 b, I entende not that by me ye sholde be sclawndrid. 1538 STARKEY *England* II. iii. 209 Now a dayes the precharys sklaundre the word of God, rather then teche hyt, by theyr contrary lyfe. 1592 KYD *Sp. Trag.* II. i, Yet might she loue me for my valiancie: I, but thats slaundred by captiuitie. 1603 DRAYTON *Bar. Wars* V. lviii, Least in that place the sad displeased earth, Doe loathe it selfe as slandered with my birth.

3. To defame or calumniate; to assail with slander; to spread slanderous reports about, speak evil of, traduce (a person, etc.).

a. c 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 4252 Thurgh pride he sal ogayn God ryse And hym sclaunder and his law dispise. 1397 *Rolls of Parlt.* III. 379/1 In that that I sclaundred my Loord, I knowleche that I dede evyll. *a* 1450 *Knt. de la Tour* 21 After these wordes, she wepte and saide he had sclaundred her, and that it shuld not abide unponisshed. 1468 *Paston Lett.* II. 314 W. Barker sclaundred me yn certeyn maters of gode...Wold Jesu Barker had seyd true. *a* 1569 KINGESMYLL *Godly Advise* (1580) 10 The finest clothe maie be soonest stained, the honestest maie bee soonest sclaundered. 1599 SANDYS *Europæ Spec.* (1632) 74 Their art of sclaundering their opposites,..misreporting their actions [etc.].

β. 13.. *Evang. Nicod.* 421 in Herrig *Archiv* LIII. 398 Wha sklaunders god, yhe wate he mon Be stoned to ded for syn. *c* 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 7415 Þus in helle salle Þai far ay, And Þar-with sklaundre God. *c* 1425 AUDELAY *XI Pains of Hell* 77 in *O. E. Misc.* 213 Þo..Bakbidit here neȝtbore fore enuy, And sklaundird hem in erÞ ful falseley. 1483 CAXTON *Gold. Leg.* 84 b/1, I..haue leuer to deye than to dyffame & sklaundre my moder so fowly. 1581 J. HAMILTON in *Cath. Tract.* (S.T.S.) 83 Gif they.. sklander and blasphame lauful magistrats. 1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* I. 187 Throuch the inuie of sum persounis he had bene sklandiret to the Emperour.

γ. *c* 1425 *Hampole's Psalter* Metr. Pref. 55 Thus Þei seyd ..And slaundird foule Þis holy man. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 458/2 Slawnderon, *scandalizo, calumpnior.* 1530 PALSGR. 720/2 Have alwayes a good tonge in your heed, for it is both synne and shame to slaunder any bodye. 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 16 To slaunder any man, before he be convicte of Heresye. 1621 BP. SANDERSON *Serm.* (1637) 51 It is deepliest slandered and hotliest opposed. 1653 W. RAMESEY *Astrol. Restored* 307 One shall abuse and slander the other. 1735 POPE *Prol. Sat.* 374 Full ten years slander'd, did he once reply? 1735 POOLE *Dialogue* 82 You slander us in this Point. 1864 TENNYSON *Aylmer's F.* 350 Some one, he thought, had slander'd Leolin to him. 1888 G. MASSON *Med. France* (1897) 42 Bertram de Born..spent his life in warring against his neighbours..and..slandering them in his *sirventes*.

†**b.** To accuse (unjustly or otherwise) *of*, charge or reproach *with*, something discreditable. Also with *that* and clause. *Obs.*

c 1400 *Destr. Troy* 834, I am ferd..Þat hit lede..me harme for to haue of thy hegh wille, To be sclaundret of Þi skathe. *c* 1430 *Chev. Assigne* 234 She was sklawnndered on-hyȝe Þat she hadde taken howndes. 1526 TINDALE *Titus* i. 6 Havynge faythfull children which are not sclandred off royote. 1591 SHAKS. *Two Gentl.* III. ii. 38 The best way is, to slander Valentine With falsehood, cowardize, and poore discent. 1603 OWEN *Pembrokeshire* (1892) 128 That are (truelie) slaundred with eating fyve meales a day. 1607 B. JONSON *Volpone* IV. i, O, Sir, proceed: I'll slander you no more of wit, good Sir.

†**c.** *Sc.* To charge *with*, accuse *of*, a crime or offence. *Obs.*

1504 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* II. 436 Men that wes sclanderit with finding of ane hurd. 1579 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* III. 158 Personis sclanderit or suspect of treasoun salbe tane and remane in firmance. 1609 SKENE *Reg. Maj., Act Jas. II*, 132 Gif any person is sklandered, or suspect of treason, he sal remaine in firmance.

†**4.** To speak or write evil of, to misrepresent or vilify (a thing). *Obs.*

1401 *Pol. Poems* (Rolls) II. 94 Thou wenest thou saist soth whan thou liest most lewde, and slaunderist the truthe. 1549 *Compl. Scotl.* xx. 183 Thir freuole sophistaris that marthirs and sklandirs the text of aristotel, deseruis punitione. 1569 ROGERS *Glasse of Godly Love* 178 Make such ashamed as would sclaunder the holy Gospell. 1623 LISLE *Ælfric on O. & N. Test.* Pref. 11 It hath beene slandered for heresie and new doctrine to have the Scripture in vulgar.

5. *intr.* or *absol.* To speak or utter slanders.

1426 AUDELAY *Poems* 6 Ne say no word to hym sklaunderyng. 1428 in *Surtees Misc.* (1890) 6 He was counseld and biddyn noght to sclandyr in na maner bot say fully ye treuthe. 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* xli. 22 Be ȝe so wyiss that vderis at ȝow leir, Be nevir he to sklander nor defame. 1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* II. iii. vii, Let them rail, then, scoff, and slander. 1855 TENNYSON *Maud* I. iv. iv, I keep but a man and a maid, ever ready to slander and steal.

†**6.** *trans.* To publish or spread abroad. *rare.*

c 1375 *Cursor M.* 27425 (Fairf.), Atte wiser squa his rede aske he, Þat na man shrift sklanderet be. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* VII. 919 Tharfor I will bot lychtly ryn that cace, Bot it be thing that playnly sclanderit is.

Hence **Sla·ndered** *ppl. a.* Also *absol.*

1602 COLLETON (*title*), A Ivst Defence of the Slandered Priestes. 1819 SHELLEY *Cenci* III. i. 285 We Are now..man to man;..The slanderer to the slandered; foe to foe. 1881 MISS BRADDON *Asphodel* II. 230 They all preferred the slandered to the slanderer; but they listened all the same.

Slanderer (slɑ·ndərəɹ). Also 4–6 **sclaund-** (6 **sclaunderour**, *Sc.* **sclanderar**); 4 **sklaund-**, 6–7 *Sc.* **skland-** (6 **-erar**); 5–7 **slaunderer**. [f. SLANDER *v.* + -ER[1].]

1. One who slanders, one who devises or utters false or malicious statements about a person, etc.; a defamer or calumniator.

a. c 1380 WYCLIF *Wks.* (1880) 14 It semeÞ Þat Þei ben.. sclaunder[er]is of crist, puttyng on hym siche worldly pompe and ypocrisie. 1388 — *Titus* ii. 3 Olde wymmen in hooli abite, not sclaundereris. *c* 1515 *Cocke Lorell's B.* 11 Spyes, lyers, and grete sclaunderers. 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 468, I saye they be sclaunderers, and ennemies of the common countrie. 1647 HEXHAM I, A sclaunderer, *een lasterder.*

β. *c* 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 7042 Þe domes salle Þan be redy Tille Þe sklaunderers of God alle myghty. 1585 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* IV. 40 The sklanderaris of his Hienes.

1609 SKENE *Reg. Maj., Burrow Laws* 155 Gif there be any sklanderers, rebelles, or nicht walkers within the burgh.

y. 1535 COVERDALE *Ps.* xliii. 15 The voyce of the slaunderer & blasphemer. 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 467 b, The slanderer afterwarde, loste his head, as he deserved. 1603 SHAKS. *Meas. for M.* v. i. 260 Stir not you till you haue Well determin'd vpon these Slanderers. 1660 MILTON *Free Commw.* Wks. 1851 V. 425 To be ourselves the slanderers of our own just and religious Deeds. 1749 FIELDING *Tom Jones* XI. i, Much of it will probably seem too severe, when applied to the slanderer of books. 1777 SHERIDAN *Sch. Scand.* I. i, The male slanderer must have the cowardice of a woman before he can traduce one. 1829 LYTTON *Devereux* I. iii, Ye are both my foes and slanderers. 1869 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* (1875) III. 50 The slanderers were ready with long tales of rapine and sacrilege.

†2. A source of discredit or disrepute. *Obs.*—1

1558 KENNEDY *Compend. Treat.* (Wodrow Soc.) 151 Are thay not oppin sclanderaris of the Congregatioun, quhilkis sulde be myrouris of gude lyfe?

†Sla·nderful, *a. Obs. rare.* Also 5 **sclandirful,** 6 **sklaunder-.** [f. SLANDER *sb.* + -FUL.] = SLANDEROUS *a.*

1453 *Epist. Acad. Oxon.* (1898) I. 320 The first publisheris of the seide sclandirful noysyng. 1663 DRYDEN *Wild Gallant* III. ii, Come, come, you're a slanderful huswife.

Hence **† Sla·nderfully** *adv. Obs. rare.*

1550–1 *Acts Privy Council* (1891) III. 213 He had at all tymes..used him self unreverentlie to the Kinges Majestie, and very sklaunderfullie towardes the Counsaill.

Slandering (sla·ndəriŋ), *vbl. sb.* Now *rare.* [f. SLANDER *v.* + -ING 1.] The utterance of slander(s).

c 1380 WYCLIF *Wks.* (1880) 18 In..muche sclaundrynge and cursynge and obere peynes ynowe. *Ibid.* 264 For as þei seyn þis is bacbitynge or detraction & sclaundrynge. 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 48 To teache the treuth, and to abstaine from sklaundering of others. 1586 W. WEBBE *Eng. Poetrie* (Arb.) 89 The olde manner of Commedies decayde, by reason of slaundering which therein they vsed against many. 1647 HEXHAM I, A sclaundering, *een lasteringe.*

So **Sla·ndering** *ppl. a.*, **Sla·nderingly** *adv.*

1402 HOCCLEVE *Letter of Cupid* 140 A sclaundryng [*v. r.* sclaundrous] tong is his grete aduersarye. 1599 H. PORTER *Angry Women Abingdon* (Percy Soc.) 56 A iealious slandering spitefull queane she is. 1648 HEXHAM II, *Lasterlicken*, Calumniously, Sclanderingly. 1716 *Loyal Mourner* 50 No sland'ring Tongue.

Slanderous (sla·ndərəs), *a.* Forms: *α.* 5–7 **sclaunderous** (5 **-drous**(e), 6 **sclandero**(u)**s.** *β.* 6 **skla**(u)**nderous**(e), *Sc.* **sklanderus.** *γ.* 5–7 **slaunderous** (6 **-erus**), 7 **slandrous,** 6– **slanderous.** [ad. AF. **esclandrus*, = OF. *esclandreux* (1455), f. *esclandre* SLANDER *sb.*: see -OUS.]

†1. a. Of bad repute; discreditable, disgraceful, shameful. *Obs.* (Freq. in 16th cent.)

1402 HOCCLEVE *Letter of Cupid* 67 Now ys it good, confesse him a traytoure, and bringe a woman to a sclaundrouse name. 1535 COVERDALE *Prov.* ii. 15 Whose wayes are croked, and their pathes slaunderous. 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 35 That filthy and sklaunderous life of pristes. 1589 WARNER *Alb. Eng.* Prose Addit. (1602) 335 Our effeminate abode here is vaine and slanderous.

†b. Forming a source of shame or disgrace *to* some one. *Obs. rare.*

1592 *Arden of Feversham* III. v, Tis thou hast..made me slanderous to all my kin. 1595 SHAKS. *John* III. i. 44 If thou..wert grim, Vgly, and slandrous to thy Mothers wombe, Full of vnpleasing blots [etc.].

†c. Giving cause or occasion for slander. *Obs.*—1

1601 SHAKS. *Jul. C.* IV. i. 20 Though we lay these Honours on this man, To ease our selues of diuers sland'rous loads.

2. Of words, reports, language, etc.: Of the nature of, characterized by, or containing slander or calumny; calumnious, defamatory.

α. β. 1424 in *Cal. Pat. Rolls, Hen. VI*, II. (1907) 31 Non of the xxiiij aldermen xal..supporten..no maner of persone ..in spekyng of sclaundrous wordes. *c* 1500 in Leadam *Star Chamber Cases* (Selden Soc.) 101 It is allegid by the seid Complaynaunt in his seduc yous and sclaunderous bill [etc.]. 1535 STARKEY *Lett.* in *England* (1870) p. xx, Where as sklanderouse fame & mysreport may perauentur put you in suspycyon of the contrary. 1566 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* I. 481 Quhat sclanderous brute and rumour is spred.

γ. 1485 *Rolls of Parlt.* VI. 288/2 An inordinate, seditious and slaunderous Acte..made ayenst..King Herrie the VIth. 1529 in *Vicary's Anat.* (1888) App. xiv. 256 Yt ys ordeyned that no man of the sayde Felyshippe shall..speke any Slaunderus wordes yn disablyng hym of hys science. 1573 L. LLOYD *Marrow of Hist.* (1653) 44 He was openly beheaded by decree of all the Senate, and a slanderous Epitaph set upon his grave. 1600 E. BLOUNT tr. *Conestaggio* 229 Some had giuen out most slaunderous speeches against him. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* XII. 536 Truth shall retire Bestuck with slandrous darts. 1801 *Med. Jrnl.* V. 267 This part of Mr. W's reply, I call slanderous personal abuse. 1858 FROUDE *Hist. Eng.* IV. xix. 114 His supposed offences were slanderous expressions used against the king. 1883 *Law Rep.* 11 Q. B. D. 597 The highest judge in the land is answerable in damages for slanderous language.

3. Of persons, etc.: Given to the use of slander or calumny; employing slander as a means of defaming or injuring others. Also *absol.*

α. β. 1521 FISHER *Serm. agst. Luther* ii. Wks. (1876) 327 The sklaunderous mouthe & cruel tethe that Martyn luther hath set vpon them [*sc.* Sacraments]. 1567 *Satir. Poems Reform.* viii. 2 Skorner of poitis and sklanderus knaif! 1647 HEXHAM I, Sclanderous lippes, *lasterliche lippen.*

γ. 1569 in Strype *Ann. Ref.* (1709) I. viii. 116 To stop the mouths of evil and slaunderous reporters. 1564 *Brief Exam.* *ij, He wyll not be slaunderous to any man. 1622 in Foster *Eng. Factories Ind.* (1908) II. 88 Lyinge, slanderouse rogues. 1653 LD. VAUX tr. *Godeau's St. Paul* 210 Nor covetous persons, nor envious, nor slanderous,..shall enter into the kingdom of heaven. 1769 *Junius Lett.* ii. (1780) 40 They find no notice taken of, or reply given to, these slanderous tongues and pens. 1838 ARNOLD in *Life & Corr.* (1844) II. viii. 114 Zealous,..and pious, but narrow-minded in the last degree, fierce and slanderous.

transf. *a* 1616 BEAUMONT *Bridal Song* iv, The crow, the slanderous cuckoo, nor The boding raven.

†4. Of the nature of a scandal or offence, = SCANDALOUS 1. *Obs.*

1553 HOOPER *Let.* in Foxe *A. & M.* (1583) 1513/2 These men..may be kept by one sclaunderous stumbling blocke or other, that they neuer come vnto Christ.

Sla·nderously, *adv.* [f. prec. + -LY 2.]

1. In a slanderous manner; with slander; calumniously; also, unjustly, falsely.

1429 in *Cal. Pat. Rolls, Hen. VI* (1907) II. 31 That same persone of the xxiiij aldermen so spoken of sclaundrously. ? 1500 in Leadam *Sel. Cases Star Chamber* (Selden Soc.) 104 That the seid John shuld sedicyously and sclanderously put yn his bill of complaynt. 1545 BRINKLOW *Lament.* (1874) 118, I knowe the papystes and their flocke shall sclanderously report me. 1611 BIBLE *Rom.* iii. 8 As wee be slanderously reported. 1647 HEXHAM I, Sclaunderously, *lasterlicken.* 1675 SHARP *Serm.* (1754) I. 47 So far it is from abridging us of any of our earthly delights, (as its enemies slanderously represent it) that it abundantly heightens them. 1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) I. 462 Men..slanderously affirm of the swans that they sing a lament at the last.

†2. Scandalously; shamefully. *Obs.*

1563 ABP. PARKER *Articles* § 24 Any couples maried that liue not together, but slaunderously liue apart. 1631 *Conf. Faith* in Sternhold & H. *Ps.* Rr vij b, He was guiltles condemned vnder Pontious Pilate,..and most slandrously hanged on the Crosse.

Sla·nderousness. [f. as prec. + -NESS.] Inclination to slander.

1577 *Test. 12 Patriarchs* (1706) 119 Teaching slanderousness, war, wrong, and abundance of all mischief. 1727 BAILEY (vol. II), *Slanderousness*, reproachfulness. 1810 BENTHAM *Packing* (1821) 101 Impropriety...Slanderousness. ..Ill-nature. 1882 FARRAR *Early Chr.* II. 247 Breathing the atmosphere of faction, slanderousness and hate.

Slane (slēn). *Anglo-Irish.* [ad. Ir. *sleaghán.*] A long-handled spade, having a wing at one or both sides of the blade, used in Ireland for cutting turf.

1750 W. ELLIS *Mod. Husb.* IV. iv. 40 Dig your trench with slanes. 1778 *Phil. Surv. S. Irel.* 96 They are cut by an instrument called a slane, which is..a spade of about four inches broad, with a steel blade of the same breadth, standing at right angles to the edge of the spade. 1847 *Paddiana* I. 307 Two or three slanes..being propped up against it [the door]. 1902 *Blackw. Mag.* Aug. 265/1 They brought me a spade and a slane for turf-cutting.

Comb. 1892 JANE BARLOW *Irish Idylls* 172 There isn't a spade-load of good slane turf.

Slane, var. of SLAIN *sb.*; obs. pl. SLOE.

† Slang, *sb.*1 Chiefly *Sc. Obs.* Also 6 **slaing.** [a. MDu. or MLG. *slange* (Du. *slang*, G. *schlange*) serpent, cannon, etc.] A species of cannon; a serpentine or culverin. (Cf. SLING *sb.*2)

1521 LD. DACRE in *Archaeologia* XVII. 205 A Saker, two Faucons,..viij. small Serpentyns.., a grete Slaing of Irn. 1539 in *Archaeologia* XI. 439 Four score shotte of leade for a slang, 16 shotte of leade for a saker. 1549 *Compl. Scot.* vi. 41 Mak reddy 30ur..slangis, & half slangis, quartar slangis. *c* 1600 R. BANNATYNE *Memor.* (1836) 133 Small brasen peices, slanges of irone, and vtheris mae peices that was tane fra the toun.

Slang (slæŋ), *sb.*2 *dial.* [Of obscure origin. Some dialects have the form *sling*; further variations are *slanget* (*slanket*) and *slinget* (*slinket*).] A long narrow strip of land.

The precise sense varies a little in different localities.

1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* I. 715 There runneth forth into the sea a certaine shelfe or slang, like unto an outthrust tongue. 1764 in *Rep. Comm. Inq. Charities* XXVIII. 145 Two slangs of ground. 1804 J. EVANS *Tour S. Wales* 300 Formerly the lands of this district [near Fishguard] were divided into very narrow slangs, which were unenclosed. 1839– in dialect glossaries (Northampt., Shropsh., Heref.). 1885 *Field* 4 Apr. 426/2 He struggled across a couple of grass fields into the slang adjoining Brown's Wood.

Slang (slæŋ), *sb.*3 [A word of cant origin, the ultimate source of which is not apparent. It is possible that some of the senses may represent independent words. In all senses except 1 only in slang or canting use.

The date and early associations of the word make it unlikely that there is any connexion with certain Norw. forms in *sleng-* which exhibit some approximation in sense.]

1. The special vocabulary used by any set of persons of a low or disreputable character; language of a low and vulgar type. (Now merged in c.)

In the first quot. the reference may be to customs or habits rather than language: cf. the use of SLANG *a.* 2 b.

1756 TOLDERVY *Hist. 2 Orphans* I. 68 Thomas Throw had been upon the town, knew the slang well. 1774 KELLY *School for Wives* III. ix, There is a language we [bailiffs] sometimes talk in, called slang. 1809 E. S. BARRETT *Setting Sun* I. 106 Such grossness of speech, and horrid oaths, as shewed them not to be unskilled in the slang or vulgar tongue of the lowest blackguards in the nation. 1824 SCOTT *Redgauntlet* ch. xiii, What did actually reach his ears was disguised..completely by the use of cant words, and the thieves-Latin called slang. *a* 1839 PRAED *Poems* (1864) II. 117 And broaches at his mother's table The slang of kennel and of stable.

b. The special vocabulary or phraseology of a particular calling or profession; the cant or jargon of a certain class or period.

1802–12 BENTHAM *Ration. Judic. Evid.* (1827) IV. 306 Giving, in return for those fees, scraps of written lawyer's slang. 1834 H. J. ROSE *Apol. Study of Divinity* (ed. 2) 15 However tempting the scientific *slang*, if I may so term it, of the day may be. 1857 KINGSLEY *Lett.* (1878) II. 43, I have drawn, modelled in clay and picture fancied, so much in past years, that I have got unconsciously into the slang. 1872 GEO. ELIOT *Middlem.* xi, Correct English is the slang of prigs who write history and essays. And the strongest slang of all is the slang of poets.

c. Language of a highly colloquial type, considered as below the level of standard educated speech, and consisting either of new words or of current words employed in some special sense.

1818 KEBLE in Sir J. T. Coleridge *Mem.* (1869) 75 Two of the best [students] come to me as a peculiar grinder (I must have a little slang). 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* xliii, He was too old to listen to the banter of the assistant-surgeon and the slang of the youngsters. 1868 DORAN *Saints & Sinners* I. 107 He [Latimer] occasionally employed some of the slang of the day to give force to his words. 1887 R. N. CAREY *Uncle Max* xv, If I had ever talked slang, I might have said that we chummed together famously.

attrib. and *Comb.* 1846 MRS. GORE *Engl. Char.* (1852) 139 Like a door from which some slang-loving roué has wrenched the knocker. 1850 *N. & Q.* Ser. I. 369/2 That great slang-manufactory for the army, the Royal Military College, Sandhurst.

d. Abuse, impertinence. (Cf. SLANG *v.* 3, 4.)

1825 LOCKHART in *Scott's Fam. Lett.* (1894) II. 297 This Mr. H. gave grand slang to the Porters, etc., who crowded the vessel on our anchoring: 'Your fingers are all thumbs, I see', etc.

† 2. Humbug, nonsense. *Obs.*—1

1762 FOOTE *Orator* I. Wks. 1799 I. 192 Have you seen the bills?..What, about the lectures? ay, but that's all slang, I suppose; no, no. No tricks upon travellers.

† 3. A line of work; a 'lay'. *Obs.*—1

c 1789 G. PARKER *Life's Painter* 120 How do you work now?..O, upon the old slang, and sometimes a little lully-prigging.

4. A licence, *esp.* that of a hawker.

1812 J. H. VAUX *Flash Dict.*, *Slang*,..a warrant, license to travel, or other official instrument. 1865 *Slang Dict.* 234 'Out on the slang,' i.e. to travel with a hawker's licence. 1896 *Westm. Gaz.* 9 Dec. 2/1 You don't want for much to start with;..½ sovereign..for a (slang) licence is plenty.

5. A travelling show.

1859 *Slang Dict.* 94 *Slang*, a travelling show. 1873 LELAND *Egypt. Sketch Bk.* 63 There is a great deal of the Rommany or Gipsy element..wherever the 'slangs' or exhibition affairs show themselves.

b. A performance.

1861 MAYHEW *Lond. Lab.* III. 101, I am talking of a big pitch, when we go through all our 'slang', as we say.

c. *attrib.*, as **slang cove, cull,** a showman.

c 1789 G. PARKER *Life's Painter* 130 To exhibit any thing in a fair or market,..that's called slanging, and the exhibiter is called the slang cull. 1851 MAYHEW *Lond. Lab.* I. 353 We did intend petitioning..; but I don't suppose it would be any go, seeing as how the slang coves (the showmen) have done so, and been refused.

6. A short weight or measure. (Cf. SLANG *a.* 3.)

1851 MAYHEW *Lond. Lab.* I. 32/2 There's plenty of costers wouldn't use slangs at all, if people would give a fair price. *Ibid.* II. 90/1 Some of the street weights, a good many of them, are slangs.

Slang (slæŋ), *sb.*4 *Cant.* [app. a. Du. *slang* snake, etc.: see SLANG *sb.*1]

1. A watch-chain; a chain of any kind.

G. *schlange* is similarly used in canting language.

1812 in J. H. VAUX *Flash Dict.* *c* 1866 VANCE *Chickaleary Cove* (Farmer), How to do a cross-fan for a super or slang. 1884 *Pall Mall G.* 29 Dec. 4/2 The slang (chain) should be taken with the watch, if possible, by snipping..the button-hole that it is fixed in.

2. *pl.* Fetters, leg-irons.

1812 J. H. VAUX *Flash Dict.*, *Slangs*, fetters, or chains of any kind used about prisoners. 1823 'J. BEE' *Dict. Turf, Slangs* are the greaves with which the legs of convicts are fettered. 1883 *York & York Castle* 276 Each set of these slangs or leg irons, weighing perhaps from twelve to fifty pounds.

So **Slanged** *ppl. a.*, fettered.

1812 in J. H. VAUX *Flash Dict.*

Slang (slæŋ), *a.* (and *adv.*). [Related to SLANG *sb.*3]

1. Of language, etc.: Having the character of, belonging to, expressed in, slang.

1758 *Y. Wild's Adv. to Successor* (Hotten), The master who teaches them should be a man well versed in the cant language, commonly called the slang patter. 1798 *Anti-Jacobin* 5 Mar., The following stanzas..in the Slang or Brentford dialect. 1810 *Ann. Reg.* 296 The police-officers are of opinion that the robbery..is what is called, in slang language, *a put-up robbery.* 1817 *Edin. Rev.* XXVIII. 512 Now this style is the reverse of one made up of slang phrases. 1861 *Q. Rev.* No. 220. 468 The translation..is studded with the colloquialisms, and sometimes even slang expressions, of Charles II.'s time. 1892 STEVENSON *Across the Plains* 24 Set phrases, each with a special and almost a slang signification.

2. Given to the use of slang; of a fast or rakish character; impertinent.

1818 MOORE *Diary* 1 Dec., The conversation to-day of rather a commoner turn than usual on account of these slang bucks. 1858 TROLLOPE *Dr. Thorne* xxiv, The set with whom he lived at Cambridge were the worst of the place. They were fast, slang men, who were fast and slang, and nothing else. 1862 WHYTE MELVILLE *Ins. Bar* xi, Forgetting in his indignation to be either slang or cool. 1864 *The Realm* 30 Mar. 7 Daring, saucy girls, slang and fast.

Comb. 1856 WHYTE MELVILLE *K. Coventry* xii, A slang-looking man with red whiskers.

b. Of dress: Loud, extravagant; more showy or obtrusive than accords with good taste. ? *Obs.*

1828 *Sporting Mag.* XXII. 444 Without the slightest appearance of slang or flash toggery about him. 1849 ALB. SMITH *Pottleton Legacy* (1854) 11 A smart scarf, a very new hat, a slang coat, and a massive watch-chain. 1858 WHYTE MELVILLE *Interpreter* x, His dress was peculiarly neat and gentlemanlike, not the least what is now termed 'slang'.

c. Of tone, etc.: Slangy, rakish.

a 1834 COLERIDGE *Notes & Lect.* (1849) I. 47 Let some wit call out in a slang tone,—'the gallows!' and a peal of laughter would damn the play. 1840 HOOD *Up Rhine* 62 A slang air..and the use of certain significant phrases.. current in London. 1847 ALB. SMITH *Chr. Tadpole* xxix. (1879) 263 The slang tone in which these words were uttered produced another burst of laughter.

3. *Costers' slang.* Of weights and measures: Short, defective.

1812 J. H. VAUX *Flash Dict., Slang weights* or *measures*, unjust, or defective ones. 1851 MAYHEW *Lond. Lab.* I. 32/2 The slang quart is a pint and a half. *Ibid.*, The slang pint holds in some cases three-fourths of the just quantity.

b. *adv.* So as to give short measure.

1851 MAYHEW *Lond. Lab.* I. 32/2 He could always 'work slang' with a true measure.

Slang (slæŋ), *v. colloq.* or *slang.* [f. SLANG *sb.*3 or *a.*, in various senses.]

1. ? *intr.* To exhibit at a fair or market.

c 1789 [see SLANG *sb.*3 5 c].

2. a. *trans.* To defraud, cheat. b. *intr.* (also with *it*). To employ cheating; to give short measure.

1812 J. H. VAUX *Flash Dict., Slang*, to defraud a person of any part of his due, is called *slanging* him; also to cheat by false weights or measures, or other unfair means. 1812 *Sporting Mag.* XXXIX. 284 He *slanged* the *dragsman*,.. which means that he sneaked away from the coach. 1851 MAYHEW *Lond. Lab.* I. 32/2 So the men slangs it, and cries '*2d.* a pound', and gives half-pound. *Ibid.* 474/2 What he's made by slanging, and what he's been fined.

3. *intr.* To utter, make use of, slang; to rail in abusive or vulgar language.

1828 LYTTON *Pelham* xlviii, We rowed, swore, slanged with a Christian meekness and forbearance. 1842 LD. HOUGHTON in Wemyss Reid *Life* I. 285 Having so furiously slanged against the wickedness of war. 1868 W. R. GREG *Lit. & Soc. Judgm.* 141 Mr. Carlyle slangs like a blaspheming pagan; Mr. Kingsley like a denouncing prophet.

4. *trans.* To abuse or scold violently.

1844 ALB. SMITH *Adv. Mr. Ledbury* i, He could..slang coal-heavers..better than anybody else in London. 1853 R. S. SURTEES *Sponge's Sp. Tour* v, His off-hand way of blowing up and slanging people. 1888 BURGON *Lives 12 Good Men* II. xi. 314 He sent for the offender..and in the most slashing style 'slanged', even threatened him.

Hence **Sla·nging** *vbl. sb.*

1856 LEVER *Martins of Cro' M.* 250, I feel certain that I could stand any..quantity of what is genteelly called 'slanging'. 1864 MISS YONGE *Trial* xvii, I never had such a slanging in my life! 1895 *Athenæum* 7 Sept. 316/3 The slanging all round which they give one another.

Slang, obs. or Sc. pa. t. of SLING *v.*

† **Sla·ngam.** *Obs. rare.* [Cf. SLANG *sb.*2 and SLANGREL.] ? A lanky person.

1611 COTGR., *Longis*,..a tall and dull slangam, that hath no making to his height, nor wit to his making. 1653 URQUHART *Rabelais* I. xxv, Codshead loobies, woodcock slangams,..and other such like defamatory epithetes. *Ibid.* II. i, The little Grammar school-boyes..called those leg-grown slangams Jambus.

Slangily (slæ·ŋili), *adv.* [f. SLANGY *a.* + -LY 2.] In a slangy († or flashy) manner; in language of the nature of slang.

1858 R. S. SURTEES *Ask Mamma* lxvii, It is not every baggy-corded fellow that rolls slangily along in top-boots.. that is a groom. 1864 *Daily Telegr.* 7 Nov., There would be an opening for clever workmen,..but none for what are slangily but very expressively known as 'duffers'. 1895 *Strand Mag.* 724 'Thanks awfully,' I said, slangily but firmly.

Slanginess (slæ·ŋinės), *sb.* [f. as prec. + -NESS.] Slangy character or quality.

1865 *Lond. Rev.* 7 Oct. 392/1 An exaggerated and caricatured account of the slanginess..of the American nature. 1877 MRS. FORRESTER *Mignon* I. 15 Courteous, well-bred, and utterly devoid of slanginess. 1891 *Spectator* 23 Mar., The predominant slanginess and flippancy of her style.

Slangish (slæ·ŋiʃ), *a.* [f. SLANG *sb.*3 1 + -ISH.] Somewhat slangy.

1828 *Blackw. Mag.* XXIII. 380 'A great school-boy'..is a sort of slangish expression. 1851 H. NEWLAND *The Erne, its Legends*, etc. 102 The slangish looks..and knowing demeanour of the men. 1894 BLACKMORE *Perlycross* 278 That extremely low slangish way.

Hence **Sla·ngishly** *adv.*

1820 *Blackw. Mag.* VIII. 261 Living on the town, as it is slangishly called. 1822 *Ibid.* XI. 723 The 'Northamptonshire peasant,' as he is somewhat slangishly called.

Sla·ngism. [f. SLANG *sb.*3 1.] A slang expression. Also **Sla·ngist, Sla·ngster,** one who uses slang. **Sla·nguage,** slangy speech; a form of slang (*jocular*). **Sla·ngular** *a.*, pertaining to slang (*jocular*).

[The following passage is the source of the adj. *slangous* given in some Dicts.:—1823 J. BEE *Dict. Turf* p. vi, The irons were *the slangs*, and the *slang*-wearers' language was of course *slangous*, or partaking much, if not wholly, of the *slangs*.]

1853 *Household Wds.* Sept. 76/2 Frivolous little foreign *slangisms hovering about fashionable cookery and fashionable furniture. 1866 E. YATES *Kissing Rod* I. i. 6 A 'cool card', a 'long-headed chap',..and..other complimentary slangisms. 1885 *Harper's Mag.* Dec. 83/1 She did not exactly say with the modern *slangist, 'That's rather an extensive order'. *c* 1830 in *N. & Q.* 1st Ser. I. 369 Gentlemen cadets wishing to achieve a notoriety as wits and *slangsters. 1892 LELAND in *Chambers's Encycl.* IX. 496 A congress 'at which a language, or rather *slanguage, was deliberately constructed and adopted'. 1899 *Sport. Life* 4 Sept. 5/3 In 'slanguage' current on the Turf and amongst the young bloods of the Stock Exchange. 1853 DICKENS *Bleak Ho.* xi, Being asked what he thinks of the proceedings, [he] characterises them (his strength lying in a *slangular direction) as 'a rummy start'.

† **Sla·ngrel,** *sb.* and *a. Obs. rare.* [Cf. SLANG *sb.*2 and SLANGAM. Mod. Warwick dial. has *slang* adj. in the same sense.] a. *sb.* A lanky person (? or thing). b. *adj.* Long and narrow.

1592 GREENE *Upst. Courtier* Wks. (Grosart) XI. 250 The third was a long leane old slauering slangrell. 1598 FLORIO, *Bislongo*, twice long, a slangrell. 1643 tr. *Diodati's Annot. Bible* Gen. vi. 14 A great Vessell, on the inside like a great chest, of a slangrell forme.

Slangwhang (slæ·ŋ,hwæŋ), *v.* Chiefly *U.S.* [f. SLANG *sb.*3 1 + WHANG *v.*] *trans.* and *intr.* To assail with, to make use of, violent language, abuse, or vituperation. Also **Sla·ngwha·nging** *vbl. sb.* and *ppl. a.*

1829 H. MURRAY *N. Amer.* II. III. iii. 366 The expression 'slangwhanging', which signifies making violent political harangues to the multitude. 1841 in *J. Q. Adams' Conn. w. Monroe Doctrine*, etc. (1902), This french proverb applies to all such slang whanging rascals like yourself. 1890 *Melbourne Punch* 14 Aug. 107/4 That Eminent Personage immediately began to slangwhang the umpire.

Sla·ngwha·nger. Chiefly *U.S.* [Cf. prec.] A noisy or abusive talker or writer.

1807 W. IRVING *Salmag.* (1824) 109 These knights, denominated editors, or *slang-whangers*,..may be said to keep up a constant firing 'in words'. 1836 HALIBURTON *Clockm.* (1862) 203 Candidate, Slangwhanger, and Member. 1891 T. & ANNA FITCH *Better Days* 304 The Tucson Star which used to be the chief of slangwhangers.

Slangy (slæ·ŋi), *a.* [f. SLANG *sb.*3 1.]

1. Of persons: a. Of a flashy or pretentious type. b. Given to the use of slang.

1850 KINGSLEY *A. Locke* vi, He appeared to me merely a tall, handsome, conceited, slangy boy. 1860 *Slang Dict.* 217 *Slangy*, flashy, vulgar; loud in dress, manner, and conversation. 1870 FRISWELL *Mod. Men Lett.* ix. 149 A 'Varsity man, as the slangy people of to-day call those educated at Oxford or Cambridge.

2. a. Of dress: Somewhat loud or vulgar.

1861 *Times* 30 May 9/3 A queer-looking man, whose attire, though good, is 'slangy', and suggestive somehow of the stable. 1884 *Ibid.* (weekly ed.) 3 Oct. 13/3 Fellows in smart, though slangy attire.

b. Of language, etc.: Pertaining to, of the nature of, slang.

1864 *Daily Telegr.* 3 Sept., A slangy vulgarity which savours even more of the bar-room than of the camp. 1876 *World* V. 4 The conversation of Society is as slangy..as its ethics are dubious. 1883 *Fortn. Rev.* Sept. 381 Their style is always smart,..sometimes slangy.

Slank (slæŋk), *a.* Now *Sc.* and *north. dial.* [prob. a. Du. or LG. *slank* (MDu. and MHG. *slanc*, G. *schlank*) thin, slender.] Of persons, parts of the body, the hair: Lank, thin.

The quotation dated 1656 in Davies reads *flank* in the original edition, but this may be a misprint for *slank*.

1668 WILKINS *Real Char.* 33 Slim, lank, slank, slight. 1715 CHAPPELOW *Right Way Rich* (1717) 119 They wound religion through his slank sides. 1825 in JAMIESON *Suppl.* 1865 MELLOR *Uncle Owdem* 4 (E.D.D.), It ratched him eawt an' made him lunger an' slanker. 1882 in *Lanc. Gloss.*

[**Slank,** error for *slauk* SLAWK.

The mistake appears to have originated in ed. 1552 of Elyot's Latin Dict. (s.v. *Bryon*), and is continued by Cooper, Cotgrave, etc.]

Slant (slant), *sb.*1 Also 7, *Sc.* 9 **slaunt.** [Connected with SLANT *adv.*, *a.*, and *vb.* See also SLENT *sb.*1]

1. The slope *of* a hill, piece of ground, etc.; a sloping stretch of ground; an inclined plane or surface.

1655 MOUFET & BENNET *Health's Improv.* (1746) 87 The best Situation of a House or City, is upon the Slaunt of a South-west Hill. 1728 PEMBERTON *Newton's Philos.* 84 If this globe be drawn along the slant DF, less force will be required to raise it, than if it were lifted directly up. 1757 J. H. GROSE *Voy. E. Indies* 92 Returning then to the foot of the hill, you ascend an easy slant. 1802 [see SKELF]. 1838 PRESCOTT *Ferd. & Is.* (1846) II. xiv. 41 Ferdinand..kept along the southern slant of the coast as far as Almeria. 1860 WARTER *Sea-board* II. 33 His dog..brought back some stray sheep to the sunny side of the slant.

b. A small surface, a short line, having an oblique position or direction.

c 1711 PETIVER *Gazophyl.* x. § 98 Luzone Olive Whelk, with white Slants and Spots. 1787 BEST *Angling* (ed. 2) 10 First cut the pieces with a slope, or slant,..and then spread a thin layer of shoemaker's wax over the slants. 1873 BROWNING *Red Cott. Nt.-cap* 122 Each pullet-egg Of diamond, slipping flame from fifty slants.

c. A sloping beam or ray *of* light.

1855 DICKENS *Dorrit* iv, Pale slants of light from the yard above. 1862 THORNBURY *Life Turner* I. 20 Crimson fog-suns and misty slants of sunshine. 1865 DICKENS *Mut. Fr.* I. i, A slant of light from the setting sun.

d. *Mining.* (See quot. 1881.)

1881 RAYMOND *Mining Gloss., Slant*, a heading driven diagonally between the dip and the strike of a coal-seam; also called a *run*. 1892 *Pall Mall G.* 27 Aug. 5/1 He succeeded in penetrating the mine a hundred yards into the main slant.

2. A course or movement in an oblique direction.

1712 E. COOKE *Voy. S. Sea* 313 Kept plying to Windward not far from the Land, sometimes making good Slants. 1889 T. E. BROWN *Manx Witch* 2 Lek didn want The Pazon to know her, and made a slant.

3. Slope, inclination, obliquity. *On the slant*, aslant, obliquely.

1817 H. T. COLEBROOKE *Algebra*, etc. 97 Where the length of the cavity, owing to the slant of the sides, is measured [etc.]. 1880 'MARK TWAIN' *Tramp Abr.* 258 The slant of a ladder that leans against a house. 1884 Q. VICTORIA *More Leaves* 97 Not a bad road, but on the steeper side of the hill, and quite on the slant.

4. *techn.* a. A receptacle having a sloping bottom in which paint-brushes are placed in order to keep them moist.

1875 FIELD & DAVIDSON *Grammar of Colouring* 168 The brushes..may be dipped in nut-oil and laid in a tin slant until wanted again. *c* 1896 *Rowney's Price List* 20 Oil Slant and Smutch Pan.

b. A slab having shallow sloping compartments or depressions for water-colours.

1897 *Army & Navy Stores List* 817 Round China Slants and Basins.

5. *dial.* and *U.S.* A sly hit or sarcasm. Occurs much earlier in the form SLENT.

1825 BROCKETT *N. C. Gloss., Slant*, sly jokes, or petty lies. 1828–32 WEBSTER, *Slant*, an oblique reflection or gibe; a sarcastic remark. (In vulgar use.) 1856 MRS. STOWE *Dred* I. xxi. 274 Had the slant fallen upon himself, personally, Old Tiff would probably have given a jolly crow. 1897 HOWELLS *Landlord at Lion's Head* 94 Whitwell felt an ironical slant in the words.

6. *slang.* An occasion, chance, opportunity; also, an opportunity of going somewhere.

1837 *Fraser's Mag.* XVI. 49, I boldly entered myself on board a privateer, with the determination of playing them a slippery trick the very first slant I had. 1859 CORNWALLIS *New World* I. 140 It was n't any wonder, when we did get a slant into town, if we took a drop too much.

7. *Austr. slang.* (See quot.)

1897 P. WARUNG *Tales Old Regime* 217 Pedder had got tired of things in general, and had organized that movement which was popularly known in Norfolk Island and Port Arthur as a 'slant', that is, he had planned a murder or a mutiny on purpose to obtain a trial in Hobart or Sydney.

Slant (slant), *sb.*2 *Naut.* [Later form of SLENT *sb.*2] A slight breeze or spell *of* wind, etc.

1823 SCORESBY *Jrnl.* 381 Having a slant of wind from the eastward, we fetched the coast of Ireland. 1867 TROLLOPE *Chron. Barset* II. lxii. 195 Trimming his sails, so as to catch any slant of a breeze. 1871 *Daily News* 16 Mar., We got a slant of bad weather, which, however, did not prevent other balloons from starting. 1892 CLARK RUSSELL *List, Ye Landsmen* i, Should there come a slant of wind, I'm off.

b. Used without the genitive phrase.

1833 M. SCOTT *Tom Cringle* xii, Having had a slant from the land wind in the night previous. 1865 DICKENS *Mut. Fr.* I. xii, The wind coming against them in slants and flaws. 1876 R. F. BURTON *Gorilla Land* II. 15 There was no wind except a slant at sunset.

Slant (slant), *adv.* and *a.* Also 5 **slonte,** 7 **slaunt.** [Aphetic for ME. *a-slonte, o-slante*, etc.: see ASLANT *adv.* It is not clear in what way these forms are related to the early sb. and vb. SLENT.]

A. *adv.* In a slanting, sloping, or oblique manner or direction; slantingly, aslant.

1495 *Trevisa's Barth. De P. R.* VIII. ix. 306 Zodiacus is a cercle that passith slonte [*Bodl. MS.* aslonte]. 1618 BRINSLEY *Lud. Lit.* 29 Cut the nebbe first slant downewards to make it thinne, and after strait ouerthwart. *c* 1700 CELIA FIENNES *Diary* (1888) 294 Encompassing ye maze, in which are some slaunt cut wayes. 1795 SOUTHEY *Joan of Arc* VII. 625 The mighty Talbot came, And smote his helmet: slant the weapon fell. 1804 *Wolcot's* (P. Pindar) *Beauties Eng. Poetry* II. 11 A bridge, that cuts From Richmond Ferry slant to Brentford Butts. 1878 BAYNE *Purit. Rev.* v. 185 The sunbeams fell slant through the church windows.

B. *adj.* 1. Of wind, etc.: Blowing or coming from the side; moving obliquely.

c 1618 MORYSON *Itin.* IV. viii. (Roxb.) 136 Beholding an English Shipp woorke into the harbor with a very slant and boysterous gayle of wynde. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* x. 1075 The slant Lightning, whose thwart flame driv'n down Kindles the gummie bark of Firr or Pine. 1790 *Naval Chron.* XXIV. 49 A slant wind..brought me..in with the island. 1819 SHELLEY *Prometh. Unb.* I. 318 Trampling the slant winds on high.

2. Having an oblique or sloping position or direction; inclined from the perpendicular or horizontal; falling, lying, placed, etc. slantwise.

1776 MICKLE tr. *Camoens' Lusiad* VI. 260 On the wide mountain-wave's slant ridge. 1784 COWPER *Task* VI. 59 The southern side of the slant hills. 1793 SMEATON *Edystone L.* 194 Hatched with slant lines. 1863 B. TAYLOR *H. Thurston* xviii, The sun threw softer and slanter lights over the beautiful picture of the valley. 1883 PROCTOR *Great Pyramid* ii. 56 The slant tunnel would give the direction of the true north.

b. Of direction: Oblique.

1793 W. ROBERTS *Looker-on* No. 47 (1794) II. 188 Those fine obliquities of his genius began to expand, and, taking a thousand slant and cross directions [etc.]. 1807 SOUTHEY *Espriella's Lett.* II. 173 Across which we had about three leagues to sail in a slant direction. 1871 *Daily News* 25 Jan., The French began to retreat, and in a slant direction right in front of us.

3. In special collocations, as *slant fire, height, side, tack, vein* (see quots.).

1851 J. S. Macaulay *Field Fortif.* 43 *Slant fire [is] when the shot strikes the interior slope of the parapet, forming with it a horizontal angle not greater than 30°. 1798 Hutton *Course Math.* II. 42 To find the Surface of a Pyramid or Cone. Multiply the perimeter of the base by the *slant height, or length of the side [etc.]. 1873 J. Pryde *Pract. Math.* 156 The slant height of a cone. *a* 1823 Hutton *Course Math.* (1828) II. 138 Suppose the same cone to be cut by a plane parallel to one of the *slant sides, entering the other slant side at 4 inches from the vertex. 1873 J. Pryde *Pract. Math.* 156 A line from the vertex of a right cone to any point in the circumference of its base, is called its slant side. 1867 Smyth *Sailor's Word-bk.* 631 **Slant tack*, that which is most favourable to the course when working to windward. 1747 Hooson *Miner's Dict.* Q j, Having duly weighed its randome and Inclination either Way, whether any Cross or *Slant Vein appears. 1828 Carr *Craven Gloss., Slant-vein*, one vein crossing another at an acute angle.

4. *Comb.*, as *slant-eyed, -shouldered.*

1865 *Daily Telegr.* 17 Nov. 5/2 A slant-eyed, saffron-coloured race. 1870 Whittier *Miriam* 126 The slant-eyed sages of Cathay. 1897 Flandrau *Harvard Episodes* 103 That hatchet-faced, slant-shouldered,..comic valentine.

Slant (slant), *v.* Also 6 **skla(u)nt**. [Later variant of Slent *v.*[1], the vowel having probably been influenced by Aslant *adv.*]

1. *intr.* To strike obliquely *on, upon*, or *against* something.

1521 Fisher *Serm. agst. Luther* Wks. (1876) 323 For the sonne shooreth so lowe by the grounde that his bemes thanne sklaunteth vpon the grounde. 1711 in *10th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. V. 132 The ball..slanted upon the right shoulder of the Prince..and struck off the skin. 1777 *Ann. Reg.* 161 Mr. Bates's sword bent and slanted against the Captain's breast-bone. 1873 Smiles *Huguen. France* II. ii. (1881) 342 The shot..slanted on the King's right shoulder, [and] took a piece out of his coat.

2. To be in, to have or take, an oblique direction or position; to deviate from a straight line or course; to slope.

1698 Fryer *Acc. E. India & P.* 37 The Governor's House in the middle overlooks all, slanting diagonally with the Court. 1766 J. Cunningham *Poems, Inscription Imit.* iii, Where the green hill so gradual slants, Or flowery glade extends. 1797 Coleridge *Kubla Khan* 12 That deep romantic chasm which slanted Down the green hill 1810 Scott *Lady of L.* I. xvii, An aged oak, That slanted from the islet rock. 1853 J. H. Newman *Hist. Sk.* (1873) II. i. i. 24 The Tartar eyes are not only far apart, but slant inwards. 1860 Tyndall *Glac.* I. xxvii. 218 A range of minor peaks ran slanting downwards.

b. Of light or shadow: To fall obliquely.

1795 Cowper *Moralizer Corrected* 15 And from the trees ..Shades slanting at the close of day Chill'd [etc.]. 1804 Grahame *Sabbath* 371 The sunbeam slanting through the cedar grove. 1837–42 Tennyson *St. Agnes' Eve* 6 The shadows of the convent-towers Slant down the snowy sward. 1863 Geo. Eliot *Romola* xvii, A sickening sense of the sunlight that slanted before him.

3. Of persons: To travel, move, sail, etc. in an oblique direction; to diverge from a direct course. Also *U.S.*, to move off.

1692 L'Estrange *Josephus, Antiq.* xvi. xii. (1733) 443 And so by a side-Wind he slaunted all the way upon Pheroras. 1719 De Foe *Crusoe* I. (Globe) 143, I stretch'd a-cross this Eddy slanting North-west. 1776 Carroll *Jrnl.* (1845) 74 From *La Prairie* you go slanting down the river to Montreal. 1861 Dickens *Gt. Expect.* xlviii, We went along Cheapside, and slanted off to Little Britain. 1897 Howells *Landlord at Lion's Head* 12 The father and the elder brother came out, and..slanted away to the barn together.

b. Of things: To take an oblique course.

a 1849 H. Coleridge *Poems* (1850) II. 11 The thunder roar'd, the sharp rain slanted. 1874 Lisle Carr *J. Gwynne* I. iii. 69 From this her mind would slant off into a sideway. 1885 C. E. Cradock *Prophet of G. S. M.* vii, Her rebuking glance slanted beyond him from under her half-lifted lashes.

c. *fig.* To be inclined, have a bent, *towards* something.

1850 Lowell *Unhappy Lot of Mr. Knott* I. xi, I've always heard Our poor friend somewhat slanted Tow'rd taking liquor overmuch.

4. *trans.* To cut with a slant.

1771 Luckombe *Hist. Print.* 439 We venture to disapprove the custom of slanting Quoins on both sides, and planing their edges and corners off. *Ibid.*, It would deserve the name of an improvement, were Quoins slanted on one side only.

5. To give an oblique or sloping direction to (something); to cause to slope.

1805 Southey *Madoc* II. xviii. 63 The evening glories which the sun Slants o'er the moving many-colour'd sea. 1812 Mme. D'Arblay *Diary* (1876) IV. lx. 206, I turned suddenly from my walk..to slant my steps close to where he sat. 1871 B. Taylor *Faust* IV. ii. (1875) II. 254 Their inky sails are hither slanted. 1891 *Sportsman* 8 July 8/1 The rain came down in torrents, slanted by the wind.

6. Of a path: To ascend in a sloping direction.

1850 Tennyson *In Mem.* xxii, Where the path we walk'd began To slant the fifth autumnal slope.

Sla·nted, *ppl. a.* [f. Slant *v.* + -ed[1].] Having an oblique or sloping direction; cut, placed, or driven aslant.

1771 Luckombe *Hist. Print.* 439 The slanted side of a Quoin. 1818 Keats *Endym.* IV. 333 In less time Than shoots the slanted hail-storm. 1851 Trench *Poems* 24 The slanted columns of the noon-day light. 1891 *Pall Mall G.* 12 Jan. 7/1 The flames rise from the furnace and pass..in between the slanted tubes.

Slantindicular (slăntĭndi·kĭzlăr), *a.* (*sb.*) and *adv.* Also **slanting-, slantendicular.** [f. Slanting, after *perpendicular.* Orig. *U.S.* and chiefly colloq. or humorous.]

A. *adj.* Slanting, sloping, oblique; neither perpendicular nor horizontal.

a. 1840 J. T. Hewlett *P. Priggins* ii, I took particular care to slew the buttons at the knees well forward in a slanting-dicular direction. 1868 *Hurst Johnian Mag.* Feb. 341 Put your arm quite straight at an angle of about 45° with your body, (that is in a 'slantingdicular' direction).

β. 1855 Smedley *H. Coverdale* liv, Jumping off the ground all four feet at once in a slantindicular direction.

fig. c 1863 *U. S. Newspaper* in Bright *Sp.* (1868) II. 239 He walked uprightly *before the world*, but when he was *not* before the world his walk was slantindicular. 1872 De Morgan *Budget of Paradoxes* 289 And he must not put himself [in the calendar] under the first saint with a slantendicular reference to the other.

b. As *sb.*, with *the.*

1843 Mrs. Romer *Rhone, Darro*, etc. II. 305 What the Doctor termed 'the slantingdicular' of our position obliged me to be secured in my place by a rope.

B. *adv.* = next.

1866 Buckland *Curios. Nat. Hist.* Ser. III. I. 73 They [ducks] open their web feet, come down, as the Yankees say, 'slantindicular'.

Slantindi·cularly, *adv.* [See prec.] In a slanting or sloping direction or position; obliquely. Also *fig.*, indirectly.

a. 1839 Marryat *Diary Amer.* Ser. I. I. 110 Others mounting slantingdicularly and Paul-Prying into the bedroom windows. 1869 *Eng. Mech.* 19 Nov. 230/1 He sits *slantingdicularly*, as he does on the..bicycle. 1880 'Wildfowler' *Mod. Wildfowling* 66 The shoulder guns were resting 'slantingdicularly'.

β. 1834 De Quincey in *Tait's Mag.* I. 86 For..a sunrise and a sunset, ought to be seen from the valley or horizontally,—not, as the man of Kentuck expressed it, slantindicularly. 1844 Dickens *Mart. Chuz.* xxi, Glancing—however slantindicularly—at the subject in hand, I would say [etc.]. 1884 *Punch* 22 Nov. 245/2 Some 'gees'..Who go slantindicularly down the street.

Sla·nting, *vbl. sb.* [f. Slant *v.* + -ing[1].] The action of the verb; in quot. = Perspective *sb.* 3.

a 1618 Raleigh *Rem.* (1644) 136 Painted Tables (in which the art of Slanting is used) appear to the Eye, as if the parts of them were some higher, and some lower than the other.

Sla·nting, *adv.* and *ppl. a.* [f. Slant *v.* + -ing[2].]

A. *adv.* In a sloping direction; slantingly.

a 1625 *Nomencl. Navalis* (Harl. MS. 2301), *Skegg*, is that parte of the keele, which is cut slaunting [etc.]. 1664 Evelyn *Kal. Hort.* (1729) 190 Cut off slanting above the Bud, with a very sharp knife. 1893 Hodges *Elem. Photogr.* 33 A thin nail driven slanting through the support..will make the framework quite firm.

B. *ppl. a.* That slants or slopes; lying, situated, or directed, obliquely.

1688 Miège *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II, To give a slanting blow. 1760–72 H. Brooke *Fool of Qual.* (1809) III. 63 Hills, some of which were slanting, some headlong and impending. 1797–1805 S. & Ht. Lee *Canterb. T.* I. 353 The returning sun now shot a bright and slanting ray. 1807 G. Chalmers *Caledonia* I. II. ii. 240 It continues a south-east course, in a slaunting form, across Allan-water. 1859 Reeve *Brittany* 75 The slanting dilapidated roof of the chancel. 1876 M. Foster *Physiol.* II. ii. (1879) 302 All the ribs have a downward slanting direction.

b. *Needlework.* (See quots.)

1882 Caulfeild & Saward *Dict. Needlwk.* 32/1 *Slanting Gobelin Stitch*, a name sometimes given to long or satin stitch. *Ibid.* 125/1 *Slanting Stitch*, a variety of Double Crochet.

Slantingdicular(ly: see Slantindicular(ly.

Sla·ntingly, *adv.* [f. Slanting *ppl. a.* + -ly.] In a slanting direction or position; with a slope or inclination; aslant, obliquely.

1570 Billingsley *Euclid* XII. prop. xvii. 380 Which it will the more aptly doo, if ye do abate slauntingly the contrary arasses of the slitt of it. 1683 Snape *Anat. Horse* II. viii. (1686) 85 The septum of a Hog's Heart slantingly pervious in several places with great..pores. 1708 Berkeley *Commonpl. Bk.* Wks. 1871 IV. 489 The extension of a plain, look'd at straight and slantingly. 1786 Abercrombie *Gard. Assist.* 184 Cut it slantingly, half way through up towards the next joint. 1817 Keats *'Lo! I must tell a tale of chivalry'* 12 The lance points slantingly Athwart the morning air. 1866 G. Macdonald *Ann. Q. Neighb.* xiii. (1878) 247 The afternoon sun as it shone slantingly through the stained window.

b. *fig.* Indirectly.

a 1677 Barrow *Pope's Supremacy* Wks. 1859 VIII. 9 It little mattereth, if he may strike princes, whether it be by a downright blow, or slantingly. 1694 Strype *Cranmer* I. xxvi. 111 Slantingly through their Sides, striking at the Arch-bishop himself.

Sla·ntingness. *rare* —[0]. (See quot.)

1727 Bailey (vol. II), *Slopingness*, Slantingness, going diagonally.

† **Sla·ntling,** *adv. Obs.*[—1] In 6 **sklantlynge.** [f. Slant *a.* + -ling[2].] Slantingly, obliquely.

1521 Fisher *Serm. agst. Luther* Wks. (1876) 323 Whan a bowle is thrown sklantlynge vpon a wall it slydeth forwarde.

Sla·ntly, *adv.* [f. Slant *a.* + -ly[2].] Slantingly, obliquely.

1727 Boyer *Dict. Royal* II, Slantingly, or slantly, *obliquement.* 1851 R. H. Stoddard *Serenade* Wks. (1880) 49 The yellow Moon looks slantly down, Through seaward mists, upon the town. 1876 Lanier *Poems, Clover* 105 Champs and chews, With slantly-churning jaws.

Slantways (sla·ntwēz), *adv.* [f. Slant *a.* + -ways.] = next.

1826 Miss Mitford *Village* Ser. III. (1863) 497 A new street standing slant-ways to one of the entrances of the town. 1854 H. Miller *Sch. & Schm.* (1858) 128 The two clouds..went rolling slantways on the wind towards the west. 1895 Tristram *Japan* 19 The four main islands of Japan stretch slantways through sixteen degrees of latitude.

Slantwise (sla·ntwəiz), *adv.* and *a.* [f. Slant *a.* + -wise.]

A. *adv.* In a slanting or sloping direction or position; slantingly, obliquely.

1573 Tusser *Husb.* (1878) 98 Some maketh a hollownes, halfe a foot deepe, with fower sets in it, set slant wise a steepe. 1751 J. Bartram *Observ. Trav. Pennsylv.*, etc. 38 In the mean time we were setting poles slantwise in the ground. 1760–72 tr. *Juan & Ulloa's Voy.* (ed. 3) II. 333 Three streets, which run slantwise up the eminence. 1843 F. W. Faber *Lett.* (1869) 194, I think of..how the sun is coming slantwise out of Langdale. 1882 J. Hawthorne *Fort. Fool* I. xvi, The waggon lying slantwise across the road.

fig. 1869 *Fortn. Rev.* June 637 When..they have an opportunity of looking slantwise at their own merits, and of praising themselves by implication.

B. *adj.* Slanting, oblique.

1856 Hawthorne *Eng. Note-bks.* (1870) II. 129 From our windows we have a slantwise glimpse of the walls of St. John's College. 1858 Whittier *Telling the Bees* viii, The slantwise rain Of light through the leaves. 1891 Miss Dowie *Girl in Karp.* 101 Its slantwise band across the chest.

Slap (slæp), *sb.*[1] [a. LG. *slapp* (also *slappe*; G. *schlapp* and *schlappe*), of imitative origin: cf. Slap *adv.* Older Da. *slap* is also from LG.]

The apparent instances in *Arthur & Merlin* (1838) 8084, *Pallad. on Husb.* (1873) IV. 763, Palsgr. 563, and Milton *Colasterion*, are errors for *flap*: see Flap *sb.*[1] and 1 b.

1. A smart blow, esp. one given with the open hand, or with something having a flat surface; a smack; an impact of this nature.

1648 Hexham II, *Flabbe*, a Slash, or a Slap with a sword on the face. 1709 Steele *Tatler* No. 45 ¶ 7 One..got behind me in the Interim, and hit me a sound Slap on the Back. 1726–46 Thomson *Winter* 627 The leap, the slap, the haul. 1767 Bickerstaffe *Love in the City* I. ii, If we had not been in church, I would have hit her a slap in the face. 1821 Scott *Cast. Dang.* xviii, Not believing, that the knowledge..can be at once conferred by the slap of the flat of a sword. *c* 1850 *Arab. Nts.* (Rtldg.) 294 She seized her nurse's head, and gave her repeated slaps and blows. 1882 B. D. W. Ramsay *Rough Recoll.* I. ix. 216, I felt a slap on my back which nearly sent me down the companion-ladder.

b. A cut or stroke *of* something. *rare*—[1].

1688 Holme *Armoury* III. xxi. (Roxb.) 267/1 They can cutt through many wyers together at one slap of the sheares.

c. *At a slap*, all at once.

1753 *Gray's Inn Jrnl.* No. 59, Loosing Ten Thousand Pounds at a Slap. 1820 *Blackw. Mag.* VII. 676 But we are losing our time in describing, Here at a slap we throw the whole tribe in.

d. A gust *of* wind.

1890 Clark Russell *Marriage at Sea* v, A slap of wind carried pretty nigh half the mast over the side.

2. *transf.* a. A reprimand, reproof; a spoken or written attack or censure; a side-hit.

1736 Duchess of Marlborough *Opin.* in *Corresp.* (1838) II. 207, I could easily forgive him [Swift] all the slaps he has given me and the Duke of Marlborough. 1791 Burke *Corr.* (1844) III. 30 You see on what topics they chose to magnify him [Foxe] at York. It is a slap at me. 1853 Darwin in *Life & Lett.* (1887) II. 41, I much enjoyed the slaps you have given to the provincial species-monger. 1861 T. A. Trollope *La Beata* II. 135 [He] could not help feeling severely the very vigorous slap on the face which had been administered to him.

b. An attempt, venture, go, *at* something.

1855 Smedley *H. Coverdale* I. 5 We mean to have a slap at the rabbits. 1884 'H. Collingwood' *Under Meteor Flag* 270 Come, lads!..take another slap at them; we must get on deck somehow. 1890 'R. Boldrewood' *Col. Reformer* (1892) 417 He dashed off to Adelaide for a slap at copper.

c. A quick trip or dash.

1901 P. Fountain *Deserts N. Amer.* ix. 163, I..collected the wherewithal for another slap across country.

Slap, *sb.*[2] *Sc.* Also 5–7 slop, 5–6 slope. [a. MDu. or MLG. *slop*: cf. Du. and LG. *slop*, LG. *slup(p*, MG. *slupf*, G. *schlupf* (dial. *schluff, schloff*), opening, gap, narrow passage, hiding-place, etc. The change of *o* into *a* before *p* is normal in Sc.; cf. *drap* drop, *tap* top, etc.]

It is possible that *slope* and *sloppes* in the alliterative *Morte Arthure* 2977 and 3923 belong to this word, but in neither passage is the sense quite clear.

1. A breach, opening, or gap in a wall, fence, hedge, etc.

a. 1375 Barbour *Bruce* VIII. 179 Bot sloppis in the vay left he, So large, and of sic quantite, That fyffe hundir mycht sammyn ryde In at the sloppis, syde for syde. *c* 1425 Wyntoun *Cron.* v. xi. 3256 Þan þar fais..Sloppis in syndry placis made. 1513 Douglas *Æneid* II. viii. 77 He..throw the set ane large wyndo mackis; By the quhilk slop the place within apperis. 1549 *Compl. Scot.* xvi. 140 Lyik.. scheip that vil nocht pas throucht the slop of ane dyik.

β. a 1575 *Diurn. Occurr.* (Bann. Cl.) 264 [They] discbargit the said cannone oft tymes thairat and maid greit slappis in the wall. 1629 *Orkney Witch Trial* in *County Folk-Lore* III. (1903) 110 Quhen he was cuming to Birssay with him out of the slap. 1686 *Records of Elgin* (New Spald. Cl.) I. 339 Throwing down ane slap in the Trinity Churchyard dyke lately builded up be the magistrats. 1762 Br. Forbes *Jrnl.* (1886) 241 Here you see a Slap, then a Stone hanging over, as portending its Speedy Fall. 1783 Burns *Poor Mailie* 37 To slink thro' slaps, an' reave an' steal, At stacks o' pease. 1815 Scott *Guy M.* i, His guide..then broke down a *slap*, as he called it, in a dry-stone fence. 1875 W. McIlwraith *Guide Wigtownshire* 140 Slaps in the dykes admit easy ingress and egress.

b. An opening or passage left in a salmon-cruive from Saturday evening to Monday morning, in order to allow the fish to pass; the period during which this is left open; the weekly close time for salmon. Freq. in *Saturday('s) slap*.

1424 *Scott. Acts* (1814) II. 5 þai þat has crufis in fresche watteris þat þai ger keip þe lawis anentis þe setterday slop, and suffer þaim nocht to stande in forbodyne tyme. 1597 Skene *De Verb. Sign.* S ij, The Setter-dayis slop, is ane space of time, within the quhilk it is nocht leasum to take Salmonde fish. 1622 Malynes *Anc. Law-Merch.* 246 And albeit some are permitted to lays nets, and to make weares, yet must he keep the Saturdaies slop, that is, to lift the same from Saturday in the afternoone vntill Monday. 1851 G. H. Kingsley *Sp. & Trav.* (1900) 275 On Sunday afternoon, when the 'Slaps' are open. 1876 Maxwell in Francis *Angling* x. (ed. 4) 349 The Luce is terribly netted; the fish slaps are sometimes built up. 1900 *Westm. Gaz.* 7 Aug. 2/1, 'I should like to have your opinion on the weekly close time.' 'The "Saturday slap", I suppose you mean.'

c. ? A break in the clouds; a patch of sky.

1508 Dunbar *Golden Targe* 26 The purpur hevyn our scailit in silvir sloppis Ourgilt the treis.

d. A narrow pass between hills or mountains.

1715 Pennecuik *Tweeddale* 10 The Water of Line hath its first Spring near the Coldstaine Slap. 1721 Ramsay *Ode to the Ph—* i, O'er ilka cleugh, ilk scar and slap. 1897 Crockett *Lads' Love* xiv, They passed through the 'buchts' and 'slaps' of the Galloway hills.

2. *transf.* A breach in, or way *through*, a body of troops; a gap *in* the ranks.

c 1470 Henry *Wallace* IX. 949 Sloppys thai maid throu all that chewalry, The worthy Scottis thai wrocht so worthely. *Ibid.* X. 310 A slop thai maid, quhar thai set on a syd. 1533 Bellenden *Livy* II. xxi. (S. T. S.) I. 218 Be force of al þare bodyis and wapynnys..þai made ane slop throw þare inemyis. 1867 A. Dawson *Rambling Recoll.* (1868) 38 These triumphs made many slaps in the ranks of the regiment.

† **3.** A gash or wound. *Obs. rare.*

c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* Prol. 72 Longius..mad 3et þare in cristis syd a slope, þat ves bath lang & vyd. *Ibid.* xlv. (*Christine*) 300 With ane arrow in hire syd he mad a slope.

† **Slap,** *sb.*[3] *Obs.*[—1] [f. Slap *v.*[3]] A single act of lapping or licking up; a lap.

1589 R. Harvey *Pl. Perc.* 3 As for my spoons, those I brought, that I..might haue one slap at the Spoone meat.

† **Slap,** *sb.*[4] *Obs.* App. a var. of Slop *sb.*

1600 Breton *Pasquil's Fooles Cap* lxxxiv. D iij b, Hee that puts fifteene elles into a Ruffe And seauenteene yards into a swagg'ring slappe. 1605 — *Olde Man's Lesson* C iv, A thousand times more contentiue, then to buye it in a Shoppe, and to weare it in Slappe.

† **Slap,** *sb.*[5] (Origin and meaning uncertain.)

1648 Gage *West Ind.* xv. 99 Under which [market] the poore Indian wives meet at five a clock at evening to sell what slap and drugges they can prepare most cheape for the empty Criolian stomackes.

Slap, *sb.*[6] *Sc.* [Of obscure origin. Jamieson also gives *slap* as a vb. 'to separate grain', etc.] 'A riddle for separating grain from the broken straw, &c.' (Jam. 1808). Also *slap-riddle.*

1844 H. Stephens *Bk. Farm* II. 271 The rougher part that is left in the slap-riddle is..passed again through the mill. *Ibid.* 333 The slap-riddles are ⅔ inch, and 1 inch in the meshes.

Slap, *sb.*[7] *Coalmining.* Slack. Also *attrib.*

1865 *Morning Star* 27 Feb., While one [coal-waggon] was being lowered by the machinery so that it might be brought near the slap-heap. 1883 in Gresley *Gloss. Coal-m.* 225.

Slap, dial. form of Slop *sb.* and *v.*

Slap (slæp), *v.*[1] [f. Slap *adv.* or *sb.*[1]]

1. *trans.* To strike or smack (a person or thing) smartly, esp. with the open hand or with something having a flat surface; to hit (one) *on*, *upon*, or *over* (a certain part) in this way.

1632 Sherwood, To slappe, *frapper. Voyez* to flap. 1676 Wycherley *Pl. Dealer* III. i, I should hate, man, to have my father's wife kissed and slapped..by another man. 1690 Crowne *Eng. Friar* III, Must I be slap'd over the lips by every fellow? 1747 Ralph *Poems* Gloss., *To slap*, to beat. 1766 Goldsm. *Vic. W.* xxvi, He slapped his forehead as if he had hit upon something material. 1829 Lytton *Devereux* I. ii, Sir William slapped the calf of the leg he was caressing. 1852 Mrs. Stowe *Uncle Tom's C.* xxix. 271, I was trying on Miss Marie's dress, and she slapped my face. 1887 Sir R. H. Roberts *In the Shires* viii. 135 He slapped the palm of her hand very vigorously.

refl. 1836 W. Irving *Astoria* III. 45 The gigantic chief..slapping himself upon the breast, gave Mr. Crooks to understand [etc.].

b. To drive *back*, beat *down*, knock *to* the ground, etc., with a slap.

1819 Tennant *Papistry Stormed* (1827) 17 Fun at the door-stane stands, And slaps him [Care] back wi' baith his hands. 1842 Lover *Handy Andy* li, Oonah slapped down the hand that barred her progress. 1889 Gunter *That Frenchman!* ix, Louise is coming to-night to see me slap the masked fellow to the dust.

c. *techn.* To work (clay) in a certain manner: (see Slapping *vbl. sb.* b).

1786 Wedgwood in *Phil. Trans.* LXXVI. 397 What we call handing or slapping the clay, an operation by which its different parts are intermixed, and the mass rendered of an uniform temper throughout. 1839 Ure *Dict. Arts* 577 The clay is made into lumps, is equalized, and slapped much in the same way as for making Pottery.

† **2.** To write or jot *down* quickly or smartly. *Obs.*

1672 Villiers (Dk. Buckhm.) *Rehearsal* I. i, But as soon as any one speaks, pop I slap it down, and make that, too, my own. 1673 [R. Leigh] *Transp. Reh.* 37 Pop, he slaps them down.

3. To strike, bring down (one's hand, etc.) *on* or *upon* something with a slap; to clap (the hands) *together*.

1717 Prior *Alma* I. 346 Dick..Then slapp'd his Hand upon the Board. 1791 Mme. D'Arblay *Diary* 4 June, The Duke slapped his hand violently on the table, and called out [etc.]. 1860 Holland *Miss Gilbert's Career* xviii. 332 He suddenly slapped his hand upon his forehead. 1885 *Manch. Exam.* 10 July 5/5 The Chancellor of the Exchequer slapped his palms together.

b. To put or place *on* or *into*, to fling or throw *down*, etc., with a slap or clap.

1836 Marryat *Midship. Easy* xiii, The grating was slapped on again by Jack. 1847 Alb. Smith *Chr. Tadpole* vii. (1879) 65 Long planks were drawn from waggons and slapped down on one another. 1898 G. B. Shaw *Plays* II. *Man of Destiny* 161 He slaps the cloth on the table and deftly rolls it up.

fig. 1839-40 W. Irving *Wolfert's R., Mountjoy* (1855) 63 The moment I make my appearance in the world, a little girl slaps Italian in my face.

c. To place, put, or set (one's hat) *over* the face, etc. so that it lops down or overhangs; to jam *down* firmly. ? *Obs.*

1782 Miss Burney *Cecilia* IX. ii, [He] slapped his hat over his face. 1796 — *Camilla* II. 168 Lionel slapped his hat over his eyes. 1801 Charlotte Smith *Lett. Solit. Wand.* I. 162 His hat was slapped quite down, as if to keep it from being carried away by the wind.

4. To shut (a door, gate, etc.) sharply or with a slap. Also with *to*.

1708 Mrs. Centlivre *Busie Body* IV. ii, *Sir Jeal.* There, go, and come no more within sight of my Habitation...(Slaps the Door after her.) 1762 *Ann. Reg., Chron.* 133/1 The daughter..slapped to the door. 1818 Scott *Rob Roy* xxiv, I..contented myself with slapping the door of my bedroom in his face. 1847 C. Bronte *J. Eyre* v, The door was slapped to,..and on we drove.

5. *intr.* Of a door, etc.: To slam. *rare.*

1796 *Black Giles* (Cheap Reposit. Tracts) 4 They are very apt to let the gate slap full against you, before you are half way through. *a* 1882 Rossetti *Ballad of J. Van Hunks* i, You might hear the hall-door slap.

6. Of waves, water, etc.: To beat or strike *on* or *against* something with a slapping sound.

1840 Marryat *Poor Jack* xxii, We could..hear the water slapping against the bends. 1883 Symonds *Ital. Byways* v. 86 The sea slapped and broke..on our windward quarter. 1897 Flandrau *Harvard Episodes* 169 The fellows could hear the rain slapping in gusts against the window-panes.

7. To move or walk quickly; to go *along* in this manner. *dial.* or *colloq.*

1827 *Mirror* II. 36/2 Always slap along at a desperate rate through the streets. 1828– in *Eng. Dial. Dict.* (Yorks., Lancs., Northants.).

8. To strike or fire *at* a person.

1842 Lover *Handy Andy* ii, I'll keep no terms with him;—I'll slap at him directly, what can you do that's wickedest? *Ibid.* iii, Slap at him, Morty, my boy, the minute you get the word, and if you don't hit him itself, it will prevent him dwelling on his aim.

Slap, *v.*[2] *Sc.* Also 6 slop. [f. Slap *sb.*[2]]

1. *trans.* To make gaps or breaches in (a wall, etc.).

1513 Douglas *Æneid* IX. viii. 110 The Volscenaris assemblit in a sop, To fyll the fowseis and the wallis to slop. *a* 1575 *Diurn. Occurr.* (Bann. Cl.) 211 The men of weare..slappit all the pendis of the kirk, for keiping thairof aganis my lord regent. 1767 in Cramond *Ann. Cullen* (1888) 106 The wall is slapt to make a slit to give air to the criminal prison. 1805 *State Fraser of Fraserfield* 216 (Jam.), The remains of an old dyke or bulwark, much slapped and broken.

† **2.** *transf.* To make breaks or breaches in (a body of troops). *Obs.*

1513 Douglas *Æneid* X. viii. 6 The quhilk Turnus..The myd routis went sloppand heir and thair. 1533 Bellenden *Livy* I. xv. (S. T. S.) I. 86 þai nocht alanerlie dang and sloppit þe Sabynis legiouns, bot als put þame to flicht.

Slap, *v.*[3] Now *dial.* [ad. LG. *slappen* (G. *schlappen*) in the same sense.]

1. *intr.* To lap.

1603 Holland *Plutarch's Mor.* i. 4 The other [dog] ranne straight to slap in the platter.

2. *trans.* To lap or gobble *up.*

1608 H. Clapham *Errour Right Hand* 19 They haue slapt vp his Vomite. 1637 Heywood *Pleas. Dial.* iv. Wks, 1874 VI. 191 With his long finger having scrap'd the dish, And slapt up all the sauce of flesh or fish. 1828 Carr *Craven Gloss.* s.v., 'To slap up,' to swallow greedily, to dispatch a meal. *Ibid.*, He slapt up his porridge in a trice.

Slap (slæp), *adv. colloq.* [ad. LG. *slapp* (G. *schlapp*), of imitative origin.]

1. With, or as with, a slap or smart quick blow; quickly, suddenly, without warning or notice: **a.** In general use (frequently parenthetic); also with *off, down.*

1672 Villiers (Dk. Buckhm.) *Rehearsal* III. i, First one speaks, then presently t'others upon him slap, with a Repartee. 1706 Vanbrugh *Mistake* III, You han't been married eight-and-forty hours, and you are slap—at your husband's beard already. 1733 Fielding *Quix. in Eng.* II. iv, There is no laying down anything eatable, but if you turn your back, slap, he has it up. 1736 — *Pasquin* I. I defy you to guess my couple till the thing is done, slap, all at once. 1852 Reade *Peg Woff.* (1889) 123 Let us be serious and finish this comedy slap off. 1865 Dickens *Mut. Fr.* III. xiii, 'The money must be paid.' 'In full and slap down, do you mean?' asked Fledgeby.

b. With *come, go, run*, etc.

In later use freq. implying sense 2.

1676 Etheredge *Man of Mode* IV. ii, Slap down goes the glass, and thus we are at it. 1713 Arbuthnot *John Bull* II. v, If they offered to come into the warehouse, then strait went the yard slap over their noddle. *a* 1766 Mrs. F. Sheridan *Sidney Bidulph* IV. 10 You were but twelve hours in my house,..when slap comes down an express to hurry you away. 1831 Trelawny *Adv. Younger Son* II. 280, I was determined to run slap ashore. 1890 'R. Boldrewood' *Col. Reformer* (1891) 259, I'm blessed if I didn't ride slap into that drain. 1894 Astley *Fifty Yrs. Life* I. 226 A ball had passed slap through his body.

c. With verbs denoting violent impact.

1825 Westmacott *Eng. Spy* I. 291 Let fly..slap at my smeller. 1851 Hawthorne *Twice-told T.* I. vii. 140 A ball, of the consistence of hasty pudding, hit him slap in the mouth. 1861 G. Meredith *Evan Harrington* xli, Andrew pushed through the doorway, and..delivered a punch slap into Old Tom's belt.

2. Directly; straight.

1829 Marryat *F. Mildmay* iv, I, and my Noah's Ark, lay slap in the way. *a* 1845 Barham *Ingol. Leg.* Ser. III. *The House-Warming* ii, The shaft..ne'er glanced from a limb Of a tree.., but was aimed slap at him. 1852 Dickens *Bleak Ho.* x, A turnstile leading slap away into the meadows. 1889 'R. Boldrewood' *Robbery under Arms* xxv, We walked slap down to the hotel.

Slap, *a. slang.* Ellipt. for Slap-up.

1851 Mayhew *Lond. Lab.* II. 107/1 People's got proud now,..and must have everything slap.

Slap-bang, *adv., a.,* and *sb.* Also **slap bang.** [f. Slap *adv.* + Bang *v.* 8.]

A. *adv.* With, or as with, a slap and a bang; without delay, immediately; without due consideration or regard to the consequences.

1785 [see B. 1 a]. 1829 Brockett *N. C. Gloss.* (ed. 2), *Slap-bang*, violently, headlong—slap-dash. 1833 T. Hook *Parson's Dau.* I. vii, After fooling a man like a child in leading-strings for half a year, to let him go slap-bang, as I call it, in a minute, is an infernal shame. 1885 Rider Haggard *K. Solomon's Mines* (1889) 34 Over they went slap bang; whether they were China or woollen goods they met with the same treatment.

B. *adj.* † **1. a.** *Slap-bang shop*, an eating-house or cook-shop (see quot. 1785). *Obs.*

1785 Grose *Dict. Vulgar T., Slap-bang shop*, a petty cook's shop where there is no credit given, but what is had must be paid down with the ready slap-bang, i. e. immediately. This is a common appellation for a night cellar frequented by thieves, and sometimes for a stage coach or caravan. 1823 *Spirit Publ. Jrnls.* 83 So I *vauks* myself to a slap-bang shop, for half a pound o' beef. 1838 *New Monthly Mag.* LIV. 214 Cow-heel or hot alamode from the slap-bang shop.

† **b.** *Slap-bang coach* (cf. prec., quot. 1785). *Obs.*

1797 Mrs. M. Robinson *Walsingham* IV. 9, I invented the slap-bang coaches, and sported the tandem.

2. Marked or characterized by carelessness, heedlessness, or haste.

1815 W. H. Ireland *Scribbleomania* 53 Still I dare this slap bang assertion dispute. 1873 *Routledge's Yng. Gentl. Mag.* Apr. 283/1 A bold 'slap-bang' method. 1878 Fr. A. Kemble *Rec. Girlhood* I. 98 The careless, slap-bang style in which overtures were performed.

3. = Slap-up *a.* I.

1866 *Routledge's Every Boy's Ann.* 209 We don't intend to send you out in the tip-top, slap-bang, gentleman's-son style at first.

C. *sb.* **1.** A slap-bang shop.

1836–7 Dickens *Sk. Boz* (1837) III. 36 They..dined at the same slap-bang every day, and revelled in each other's company every night. 1860 Mayhew *Upper Rhine* iii. 106 Refreshments served with no more style than at what we term a 'slap-bang'. 1865 *Athenæum* No. 1950. 341/1 Cook-shops, or 'slap-bangs', as street-boys call such odorous places.

2. Some kind of liquor.

1845 Disraeli *Sybil* (1863) 77 What shall I call for? glass of the Mowbray slap-bang? No better; the receipt has been in our family these fifty years.

Slap-dash, *adv., a.,* and *sb.* Also **slap dash, slapdash.** [f. Slap *adv.* + Dash *adv.*]

A. *adv.* With, or as with, a slap and a dash; in a hasty, sudden, or precipitate manner; *esp.* without much consideration, thought, ceremony, or care; hurriedly and carelessly.

1679 Dryden *Limberham* III. i, Down I put the notes slap-dash. 1693 Congreve *Old Bach.* IV. iv, Now am I slap dash down in the mouth, and have not one word to say! 1729 Byrom *Rem.* (1855) I. II. 331 A way of printing letters or anything slap-dash. 1748 Richardson *Clarissa* (1811) III. xxvii. 167 These denunciations come so slap-dash upon one, so unceremoniously,..that they overturn one! 1787 'G. Gambado' *Acad. Horsem.* 42 He..rode slap-dash at Gimcrack, hoping to effect it by a broadside. 1838 Macaulay in Trevelyan *Life & Lett.* (1883) II. 37, I cannot plunge, slap dash, into the middle of events and characters. 1872 Carlyle in *Mrs. Carlyle's Lett.* II. 40 Record of the tour, written slapdash after my return.

B. *adj.* **1.** Marked or characterized by haste, carelessness, or want of due preparation or consideration; done, performed, etc. in a dashing and haphazard manner or style.

c 1792 Milner in Sidney *Rowland Hill* (1834) 96 'Tis this slap-dash preaching..that does all the good. 1833 T. Hook *Parson's Dau.* I. xi, The Yahoos, who invariably couple noise with smartness, had, in their slap-dash manner, arranged the table and placed the chairs for the guests. 1862 Grattan *Beaten Paths* II. 70 The slapdash mass of censure, sarcasm, philosophy, and fiction contained in those remarkable pages. 1883 F. M. Peard *Contrad.* xiii, I thought it rather a mad proceeding..to come off in this slap-dash fashion.

2. Of persons: Given to acting in this way.

1833 M. Scott *Tom Cringle* xii, You right hearted but thoughtless slapdash vagabond. 1893 Jessopp *Stud. Recluse* v. 181 To study history..is always..abhorrent to men who belong to the slapdash classes.

C. *sb.* † **1.** Slapping, cuffing, or beating. *Obs.*[—1]

1712 Mrs. Centlivre *Perplexed Lovers* iii, Hark ye, Monsieur, if you don't march off I shall play you such an English Courant, of slap-dash, presently, that shan't out of your Ears this Twelvemonth.

2. Roughcast.

1796 W. H. Marshall *W. Eng.* I. 330 *Slapdash*, rough-cast, or liquid coating of buildings. 1853 *Exeter Dioc. Archit. Soc.* IV. 166 Masons actually laying slapdash thickly on the exterior. 1886 *Cent. Mag.* July 423 The gray slap-dash is filled with red granite pebbles.

b. *north. dial.* (See quot.)

1825 Brockett *N. C. Gloss.*, *Slab*, or *Slap-dash*, a cheap mode of colouring rooms [1829 by dashing them with a brush], in imitation of paper.

3. Carelessness, roughness, or want of finish in style or workmanship; writing or work done in this style.

1826 *Examiner* 73/1 We are to be flabbergasted for some time to come with slap-dash in support of the commercial wisdom of our ancestors. 1876 W. White *Holid. in Tyrol* ix. 74 English folk are too fond of slap-dash in their writing. 1889 *Athenæum* 2 Feb. 146/3 As a specimen of newspaper 'slapdash' we may point to the description of General Ignatieff.

b. With reference to painting: (cf. 2).

1884 *Athenæum* 6 Dec. 739/2 The energetic slap-dash of the landscape and sky. 1886 *Ibid.* 14 Aug. 215/3 Curing our water-colourists of the too prevalent tendency to mere slap-dash as the only way of expressing strength.

4. *north. dial.* (See quot.)

1828 Carr *Craven Gloss.*, *Slapdash*, a thoughtless, impetuous fellow.

Hence **Sla'p-dash** *v. intr.*, to write, work, etc. in a slap-dash or offhand manner or style; *trans.* (see quot. 1828). Also (in *nonce use*) **Slap-da'shery, Slap-da'shically** *adv.*

1820 T. G. Wainewright *Ess. & Crit.* (1880) 99 'Come,' said he,..with that, slap-dashing into the thickest of any question that started itself. 1828 Carr *Craven Gloss.*, *Slap-dash*, to rough-cast. 2. To colour rooms by dashing them with a brush. 1836 E. Howard *R. Reefer* iii, These latter friends of mine were, as our Transatlantic brethren say, pretty considerably, slap-dashically right. *a* 1871 De Morgan *Newton*, etc. (1885) 105 One of the most stinging warnings which a biographer had ever received against what I must call the slapdashery of assertion. 1872 *Dublin Rev.* April 380 Many novelists have taken the Crimean war for their theme;..but they do not 'slapdash'.

Slape (slēp), *a. north. dial.* [a. ON. *sleip-r* (Icel. *sleipur*, Norw. *sleip*) slippery.]

1. Slippery; smooth. Also *fig.*, crafty, cunning, deceitful.

c 1460 *Towneley Myst.* ii. 414 Who so will do after me Full slape of thrift then shal he be. 1671 Skinner *Etymol. Angl.*, *Slape*, quod agro nostro Linc. lubricum & mollem signat. 1691 Ray *N. C. Words* (ed. 2), *Slape*, slippery. 1788 W. H. Marshall *Yorksh.* II. 353 *Slape*, slippery; as ice, or a dirty path. 1811– in dial. glossaries (N. Cy., Linc., Notts.). 1835 *Blackw. Mag.* XXXVIII. 562 Doff it, and lo! the slape sconce of the Doctor. 1901 Marq. Lorne *V. R. I.* 48 The gardener warned her to be careful, as the ground was 'slape'.

2. Of ale: (see quots.).

1671 in Skinner *Etymol. Angl.* [with Latin explanation, translated by Ray]. 1674 Ray *N. C. Words*, *Slape-ale*: Lincoln. Plain ale as opposed to Ale medicated with Wormwood or Scurvy-grass, or mixed with any other liquor. 1742 Gale in *Mem. W. Stukeley* (Surtees) I. 338 His old companions say they will in a little time bring him back again to slape-ale. 1787 Grose *Prov. Gloss.*, *Slape-yale*, rich, soft or smooth ale. 1866 Brogden *Prov. Lincs.*, *Slape*, strong, soft and sweet (applied to ale).

3. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *slape-faced*, *-fingered*, *-haired*, etc.; **slape-face** (see quot. 1847); also, a smooth-faced man.

For other combs. of this type, see the *Eng. Dial. Dict.*

1803 R. Anderson *Cumbld. Ball.* (*c* 1850) 75 Left-handed Sim, slape-finger'd Sam. 1839 Rayson *Poems* (1858) 63 For slape-finger'd art he is equall'd by neane. 1847 Halliw., *Slape-face*, a soft-spoken, mealy-mouthed hypocrite. 1884 W. Black *J. Shakespeare* i, If he..have a red beard, I will not have him... If he be a slape-face, I will have none of him. 1890 *Cornhill Mag.* Oct. 392 There were..two distinct breeds [of dogs]: the slape-haired and the rough-haired.

Slape, obs. form of Sleep.

Slapjack (slæ·pˌdʒæk). Also **slap-jack, slap jack.** [f. Slap *v.* + Jack *sb.*[1]]

1. *U.S.* A griddle-cake. Cf. Flapjack 1.

1820 W. Irving *Sketch Bk.* (1865) 438 Dainty slapjacks, well buttered, and garnished with honey or treacle. 1836 Haliburton *Clockm.* (1862) 97 A dish of real Connecticut Slap Jacks, or Hominy. 1872 C. King *Sierra Nevada* vii. 148 Such dainties as thrice-turned slap-jacks.

2. A card-game in which a player gains by being the first to slap a jack when played.

1887 Miss Braddon *Like & Unlike* v, He would labour with sublime patience at the perplexity of 'Muggins' or 'Slap-Jack', two games of cards, to enliven the dulness of a purely literary evening.

† Slappaty-pouch. *Obs.*[–1] [f. Slap *v.*[1]] ?Slapping of the hands against the sides in order to warm oneself.

c 1700 T. Brown *Lett. fr. Dead* Wks. 1720 II. 151 We have even tired our Palms and our Ribs at Slappaty-pouch, and..I [*sc.* Charon] had almost forgot to handle my Sculls.

Sla'ppel. *dial.* (See quot.)

1674 Ray *S. & E. Co. Words*, A *Slappel*, a piece, part, or portion, *Suss*[*ex*]. [Hence in Grose, etc.]

Slapper[1] (slæ·pəɹ). [f. Slap *v.*[1] + -er.]

1. *dial.* A large thing or object; a big, strapping, or overgrown person.

1781– in northern dial. glossaries. 1825 Jamieson *Suppl.*, *Slapper*, any large object; as a big salmon, *Roxb.* 1854 Miss Baker *Northampt. Gloss.*, *Slapper*,..applied to persons and things, but most frequently to over-grown females. *Ibid.*, 'She's a slapper.'

2. One who slaps; *spec.* in *Pottery.*

1860 Tomlinson *Arts & Manuf.* Ser. II. *Pottery* 32 The workman called the slapper takes a mass of the paste, weighing from sixty to seventy pounds, and dashes it down on a bench before him. 1880 C. Mason *Forty Shires* 159 When the clay is to be used, the slapper does his work.

3. An implement used for slapping with.

a 1886 H. S. Brown *Autobiog.* (1887) iv. 18 Mr. Stowell had on his desk a broad wooden slapper, to be smitten with which we were commanded to hold out our hands.

Sla'pper[2]. *rare*[–0]. [f. Slap *v.*[3]] (See quot.)

1611 Cotgr., *Licheur*, a licker, lapper, or slapper vp of.

Sla'ppet, *sb. Derby mining.* Also **slap(p)it.** [? dim. of OF. *esclape* shiver, splinter.] A splinter or shiver of ore, etc.

1768 Mettam in Whitehurst *Form. Earth* (1778) 188 They fly out in such slappits, smooth on one side. 1811 Farey *Derbyshire* I. 250 Large Slapits, Spels or fragments fly off, sometimes with loud explosions.

Hence **Sla'ppet** *v.*

1811 Farey *Derbyshire* I. 367 On his return, [he] finds all the Vein-stuff so furrowed, spelled, or slappeted off.

† Sla'ppiness. *Obs.*[–1] [Cf. Du. *slap* soft.] Softness, flabbiness.

1668 Culpepper & Cole *Barthol. Anat.* III. vi. 142 For this cause Infants do not presently speak nor reason, because the slappiness of their brain gives not passage to the Idea's.

Sla'pping, *vbl. sb.*[1] [f. Slap *v.*[1]] The action of the vb., in various senses; an instance of this.

1632 in Sherwood. 1682 T. Flatman *Heraclitus Ridens* No. 67 (1713) II. 166 Our Author's next Charge..is the slapping of the Pew-doors in Prayer-time. 1682 Bunyan *Holy War* (1905) 378 The Town made answer with the slapping of their slings. 1865 Tylor *Early Hist. Man.* iii. 51 The pattings and slappings of the Fuegians. 1897 Kipling *Capt. Courageous* 70 There was an incessant slapping and chatter at the bows now, varied by a solid thud.

attrib. 1851 Hawthorne *Twice-told T.* I. viii. 154 That smart, slapping sound, produced by an open hand upon tender flesh. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* III. 44 The loud, vibrating, prolonged, presystolic bruit and slapping first sound [of the heart].

b. *spec.* in *Pottery.* (See quots.)

1825 J. Nicholson *Operat. Mechanic* 460 When the clay is required for the thrower the process of *slapping* follows next. This is performed by a strong man, who places a large mass..upon a..bench. He then..cuts the mass through, and taking up the piece thus cut off, he..casts it down again on the mass below. 1880 Janvier *Pract. Keramics* iv. 44 Just before using, the paste for this often undergoes the process of 'slapping'.

Sla'pping, *vbl. sb.*[2] [f. Slap *v.*[3]] (See quot.)

1611 Cotgr., *Lichement*, a licking; lapping, or slapping vp.

Sla'pping, *ppl. a.* [f. as prec. + -ing[2].]

1. Of pace, etc.: Extremely fast; rapid, rattling.

1812 *Sporting Mag.* XXXIX. 124 The first run was at a slapping pace. 1842 Lover *Handy Andy* xxii, Billy gave the little black mare her head, and away she went at a slapping pace. 1863 W. C. Baldwin *Afr. Hunting* ix. 428 One giraffe-cow, going at a slapping gallop a long way ahead over a villainous country.

2. Of horses: Big, powerfully built (sometimes implying ability to travel quickly).

1828 *Sporting Mag.* XXI. 277 One by Comus, and the other by Jonathan, both slapping colts. 1852 R. S. Surtees *Sponge's Sp. Tour* ix. 38 Nor did the great slapping brown horse ., turn out less imposingly than his master. 1856 H. H. Dixon *Post & Paddock* i, The Yorkshiremen..try to breed great slapping carriage-horses.

b. Of persons or things: Unusually large or fine; excellent, very good; strapping.

1825 Jamieson *Suppl.* s.v., *A slappin chiel*, a tall fellow. 1829– in dial. glossaries (N. Cy., Berks., Somerset, Cornw., etc.). 1849 Cupples *Green Hand* ij. (1856) 23, I really couldn't help laughing to see the slapping, big-bearded fellows..showing off in this manner.

3. That slaps, in senses of the vb.

1898 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* V. 750 The large and slapping pulse which he has frequently observed in pericardial effusions. 1899 *Triad* vii. 12/1 We swam on in the face of the slapping seas.

Sla'ppy. [f. Slap *v.*[1]] Some indoor game.

1868 Holme Lee *B. Godfrey* xxxvi, Everybody was willing..to engage in 'Post' or 'Slappy'.

Slap riddle: see Slap *sb.*[6]

† Slapsauce. *Obs.* [f. Slap *v.*[3] + Sauce *sb.*]

1. One who is fond of good eating; a greedy or gluttonous person. Also *attrib.*

1573 Tusser *Husb.* (1878) 188 At dinner and supper the table doth craue good fellowly neighbour good manner to haue. Aduise thee well therefore, ere tongue be too free, or slapsauce be noted too saucie to bee. 1611 Cotgr., *Leschard*, a lickorous, or sweet-mouthed slapsawce. 1653 Urquhart *Rabelais* I. xxv, Slapsauce fellows, slabberdegullion druggels, lubbardly lowts.

2. A slabber-sauce. *rare*[–1].

1709 O. Dykes *Eng. Prov. & Refl.* (ed. 2) 12 Her Chocolate, her Gellies, and her Sweet-meats; or such like liquorish Slap-sawces, which pall the Appetite and disrelish the Palate for the whole Day.

† Slap-shoe. *Obs.*[–0] (See quot.)

1688 Holme *Armoury* III. 14 Slap shooes, or Ladies shooes, are shooes with a loose Sole.

Slap-up, *a. slang* and *colloq.* [Slap *adv.*] Very or unmistakably good or fine; of superior quality, style, etc.; first-rate, first-class, grand. (Common in 19th cent.) **a.** Of things.

1827 *Sporting Mag.* XX. 147 Send them to that slap-up work, the Sporting Magazine. 1858 Dickens *Lett.* (1880) II. 66 A trim, sparkling, slap-up Irish jaunting-car. 1889 J. K. Jerome *Three Men in Boat* iv. 53 We'll have a good round, square, slap-up meal at seven.

b. Of persons.

1829 *Caricature Title*, The Slap-up Swell wot drives when hever he likes. 1840 Thackeray *Paris Sk.-bk.* (1869) 17 He had made some slap-up acquaintances among the genteelest people at Paris. 1876 J. Saunders *Lion in Path* xx, I'm a little sweet on her maid, slap-up creature, I can tell you.

Slare (slēəɹ), *v. dial.* [prob. of Scand. origin: cf. Norw. *slara* to stagger; also NFris. *slare* to drag the feet. *Slare* or *slair* in other senses (see *Eng. Dial. Dict.*) is current in all northern and eastern dialects.] *intr.* (See quot. 1877.)

1726 S. Wesley in Southey *Life J. Wesley* (1820) I. 445 My man, who lay in the garret, heard some one come slaring through the garret to his chamber. 1726 Hoole *Ibid.* 457 We..heard, at the broad stairs head, some one slaring with their feet. 1877 *N. W. Linc. Gloss.* 227/1 *Slare*, to make a noise by rubbing the boot-soles on an uncarpeted floor.

Slash (slæʃ), *sb.*[1] [f. Slash *v.*]

1. A cutting stroke delivered with an edged weapon or instrument, or with a whip.

1576 Fleming *Panopl. Epist.* 297 *marg.*, Because euery one was ready to cutte his throte as to haue a slash at his fleshe. 1597 A. M. tr. *Guillemeau's Fr. Chirurg.* 23 b/2 A great hewe or slashe, by which the eare hangeth by the heade. 1617 Moryson *Itin.* III. 26 Sometimes they fight after their fashion, which is a slash or two with the edge of the sword. 1652 Cotterell tr. *Calprenède's Cassandra* III. (1676) 43 Cut the straps of his Cask, with a slash of his sword. 1726 Swift *Gulliver* II. i, I observed it had yet some life, but, with a strong slash across the neck, I thoroughly despatched it. 1818 Scott *Rob Roy* xxxix, He ..had only taken this recumbent posture to avoid the slashes, stabs, and pistol-balls, which..were flying in various directions. 1868 Freeman *Norm. Conq.* (1877) II. 431 There seemed a prospect of the English crown passing, without slash or blow, to the brow of the Norman.

transf. 1858 Carlyle *Fredk. Gt.* v. vii. (1872) II. 119 Capable of rough slashes of sarcasm when he opens his old beard for speech. 1867 Latham *Black & White* 3 Listening to the angry slash with which each wave's crest swished like a scourge across the ship.

2. A long and deep or severe cut; a gash; a wound of this character.

1580 Hollyband *Treas. Fr. Tong* s.v. *Taillade*, He gaue him a slashe or cutte on the legge. 1603 Knolles *Hist. Turks* (1621) 986 Three great slashes [were] made on his backe, where they began to flea him. 1634 Sir T. Herbert *Trav.* 10 In adding to their beauties, they have two or three slashes in the face. 1717 Prior *Alma* II. 445 Scarr'd with ten thousand comely Blisters,..Distinguish'd Slashes deck the Great. 1829 Scott *Rob Roy* Introd., A slash or two, or a broken head, was easily accommodated. 1890 Doyle *White Company* xxx, The Bohemian knight.. bleeding from a slash across the forehead.

b. *Bot.* (See quot.)

1866 *Treas. Bot.* 654/1 *Lacinia*,..a slash. A deep taper-pointed incision.

3. A vertical slit made in a garment in order to expose to view a lining or under garment of a different or contrasting colour.

1615 Markham *Country Contentm.* I. xi. (1633) 75 Let your apparel be plain..without any new fashioned slashes, or hanging sleeves, waving loose, like sails about you. 1627 in Birch *Crt. & Times Chas. I* (1848) I. 261 A swain.. was suspected..and..searched, and a poisoned knife found in one of his slashes. 1711 Steele *Spect.* No. 109 ¶ 5 Observe the small Buttons,..the Slashes about his Clothes. 1831 Scott *Cast. Dang.* i, The colour of the traveller's doublet was blue, and that of his hose violet, with slashes which showed a lining of the same colour with the jerkin. 1882 Caulfeild & Saward *Dict. Needlwk.* 451/2 *Slashes* or *Panes*, a term used by tailors and dressmakers, to signify a vertical cutting in any article of dress [etc.].

b. *attrib.* with *cuff, pocket.* Also *absol.* (see quot. 1859).

1799 Washington *Lett.* Writ. 1893 XIV. 149 To you I submit..whether the coat shall have slash Cuffs (with blue flaps passing through them), and slash pockets. 1859 *Slang Dict.* 33 *Slash*, outside coat pocket.

† Slash, *sb.*[2] *Obs. rare.* [Of obscure origin: cf. Sc. *slash* a large splash of liquid, etc., perh. ad. OF. *esclache* (Godef.).] A drink, draught.

1614 W. Hornby *Sco. Drunkennesse* (1859) 18 But if to pledge a slash hee doth refuse They'l take the pot, and throw the drinke in's face. *c* 1783 *Roxb. Ball.* (1890) VII. 94 Flounders, the younger,..So prim on his stallion and fond of his slash.

Slash (slæʃ), *sb.*[3] *U.S.* [Of obscure origin: cf. Flash *sb.*[1] and Plash *sb.*[1], also Eng. dial. *slashy* wet and dirty, miry.] A piece of wet or swampy ground overgrown with bushes.

1799 Washington *Writ.* (1893) XIV. 232 Excepting the ground now in and designed for lucerne, south of the slash by the Barn. 1837 P. H. Gosse in *Life* (1890) 106 The first quarter of a mile lay through a very rough slash. *a* 1859 in Bartlett *Dict. Amer.* s.v., Between this and Edenton there are many whortleberry slashes. 1890 *Cent. Mag.* June 221/2 The camp was in a cypress slash. You could cut the miasma with a knife.

b. *Comb.* **slash-pine** (see quots.).

1882 Hough *Elem. Forestry* 328 Varieties [of *Pinus taeda*] are known in North Carolina as 'Swamp Pine', 'Slash Pine'. 1884 C. S. Sargent *Rep. Forests N. Amer.* 516 The slash pine (*Pinus Cubensis*) of the Florida coast.

Slash (slæʃ), *sb.*[4] *local.* [Later form of Slatch 1.] (See quots.)

1839 MURCHISON *Silur. Syst.* 376 Besides 'sloughs' there occur in Broadhaven and elsewhere, small but very deep troughs of finely fractured culm, which are called 'slashes'. These (as far as my knowledge goes) are peculiar to Pembrokeshire. 1849 — *Siluria* (1854) 275 The stone-coal .. has been for the most part shivered into small fragments, and is frequently accumulated in small troughs or hollows, the 'slashes' of the miners.

Slash (slæʃ), *v.* Also 4 **slasch**, 6–7 **slassh**. [perh. ad. OF. *esclachier* to break; used once in the Wycliffite Bible, but otherwise recorded only from the middle of the 16th cent.]

1. *trans.* To cut or wound with a sweep or stroke of a sharp weapon or instrument; to gash, † hew.

1382 BIBLE 1 *Kings* v. 18 (MS. Bodl. 959), The grete stones .. whiche þe masownys of Salamon .. han slascht [*altered to* ouerscorchyd]. 1587 TURBERV. *Trag. Tales* (1837) 42 Slashing the Lady with his fauchion fell. 1596 NASHE *Saffron Walden* Wks. (Grosart) III. 114 Hewd and slasht he had beene as small as chippings, if he had not played ducke Fryer. 1605 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. iii. III. *Law* 664 Alas! some of us shall with Scythes be slasht. 1685 COTTON tr. *Montaigne* (1877) I. 14 Where all their confederates and neighbours..cut and slashed their fore heads in token of sorrow. 1716–8 LADY M. W. MONTAGU *Lett.* I. xxxviii. 152 Some slashed their arms with sharp knives, making the blood spring out. 1791 COWPER *Iliad* II. 518 The thighs with fire consumed, they..slash'd the remnant, pierced it with spits [etc.]. 1850 SCORESBY *Cheever's Whaleman's Advent.* v. (1858) 67 The mincer with a two-handed knife slashes it nearly through into thin slices. 1881 BESANT & RICE *Chapl. of Fleet* II. xviii, There are few things a woman..would not do to save two friends from hacking and slashing each other.

refl. 1652–62 HEYLYN *Cosmogr.* IV. (1682) 64 Most hideously to slash themselves in all parts of their bodies.

b. To cut *off* or *out* with a sweeping or sharp stroke.

1599 GREENE *Alphonsus* 597 Therefore Fabius, stand not lingring, But presently slash off his trayterous head. 1625 PURCHAS *Pilgrimes* II. 1724 Their owne flesh..they slash off in morsels. 1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* xix, I will slash the eyes out of his head with my poniard! 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. v. vii, Already one poor Invalide has his right hand slashed off him.

2. *intr.* To deliver or aim cutting blows (also const. *at*); to make gashes or deep wounds.

1548 PATTEN *Exped. Scotl.* H iv, Euen so..was Syr Arthur Darcy slasht at with swoordes, and..hurt vppon the weddyng fynger of hys righte hande. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* II. ix. 15 The knights..Broke their rude troupes,..Hewing and slashing at their idle shades. 1616 J. LANE *Contn. Sqr.'s T.* VIII. 261 Swoordes flew out, most feircelie hissinge, percinge, cuttinge, slasshinge. 1678 BUTLER *Hud.* III. I. 349 Knights..when they slash, and cut to pieces, Doe all with civillest addresses. 1709 HEARNE *Collect.* (O.H.S.) II. 317 Y^e^ Spatæ were us'd both to push and slash. 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* xxxi, The enemy..will fall to, cutting and slashing, till he makes them all rise up dead men. 1846 LANDOR *Exam. Shaks.* Wks. II. 291 Then did he slit them with his thumbnail, and then did he pare and slash away at them again. 1880 'MARK TWAIN' *Tramp Abr.* 44 In the fights..these lads hacked and slashed with the same tremendous spirit.

fig. 1596 NASHE *Saffron Walden* Wks. (Grosart) III. 114 He would needs..hewe and slash with his Hexameters. 1865 CARLYLE *Fredk. Gt.* XIX. vii. (1872) VIII. 225 The Austrians..will not go, till well slashed into, and torn out by sheer beating.

b. To strike violently or at random; to lay about one with heavy blows; to move rapidly and violently, etc. Also with *down, out.*

a 1654 SELDEN *Table T.* (Arb.) 88 They that do drudgery-work, slash, and puff, and swear. 1819 *Sporting Mag.* IV. 236 Boshell came up rather distressed,..and endeavoured to slash out. 1880 'MARK TWAIN' *Tramp Abr.* 159 We..came slashing down with the mad current into the narrow passage between the dykes. 1901 *Scotsman* 10 Sept. 7/3 Williamson..slashed to the enclosure.

3. *trans.* To cut slits in (a garment) and so expose to view an under-garment or a lining of a contrasting colour; to vary *with* another material or colour in this way.

1598 FRYER *Acc. E. India & P.* 9 A Coat slasht to hang back to shew their Sleeves. 1820 SCOTT *Monast.* xviii, A carnation-velvet doublet, slashed and puffed out with cloth of silver. 1831 CARLYLE *Sart. Res.* I. vii, Those enormous habiliments, that were..slashed and galooned. 1898 *Stratford-on-Avon Herald* 11 Feb., A morning dress was made with..cuff sleeves to match, slashed with bright colour.

transf. 1889 DOYLE *Micah Clarke* 26 The sun sinking slowly behind a fog-bank had slashed the whole western sky with scarlet streaks.

4. To cut with a scourge or whip; to lash, whip, thrash severely.

1614 B. JONSON *Bart. Fair* IV. iv, You know where you were taw'd lately, both lash'd, and slash'd you were in Bridewell. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 266/1 Here I stand, with whip in hand To slash all those that do oppose Good Husbandry. 1710 *Medley* No. 12, These the Emperor order'd to be daily beaten and slash'd in the Market-place with cudgels, whips, and scourges. 1823 SCOTT *Quentin D.* xxxiii, Drag him to the market-place!—slash him with bridle-reins and dog-whips! 1896 A. J. C. HARE *Story Life* I. iii. 173 He was very hot-tempered, and slashed our hands with a ruler.

5. To rebuke or assail cuttingly; to criticize severely or mercilessly. Also *absol.*

1653 A. WILSON *Jas. I*, Pref. 4 History must not cauterise, and slash with Malice, those Noble Parts. 1659 PELL *Impr. Sea* Ded. a 5 b, Because you have Authority..to cut the comb of that, which this Book so sharply slashes, and reproves in the Sea. *a* 1734 NORTH *Examen* II. iv. § 55 If we would see him in his Altitudes, we must go back to the House of Commons...There he cuts and slashes at another Rate. 1771 GRAY in *Corr. w. Nicholls* (1843) 121, I do not think myself bound to defend the character of even the best of kings. Pray slash them, and spare not. 1830 LYTTON *P. Clifford* v, Criticism is a great science and may be divided into three branches: viz. 'to tickle, to slash, and to plaster'.

6. To crack (a whip); to bring down in a slashing manner.

1660 H. MORE *Myst. Godl.* VI. ii. 220 She slash'd a whip which she had in her hand; the cracks thereof were..loud and dreadful. 1695 BLACKMORE *Pr. Arth.* IX. 305 He slashed his breaded whip. 1852 MRS. STOWE *Uncle Tom's C.* iii. 13 Slashing his whip so near the horse that the creature was frightened. 1899 WERNER *Capt. Locusts* 113 She brought her switch down on the old grey's flank; and then..slashed it sharply across her own shoulders.

7. To beat, tread *down.*

1841 CATLIN *N. Amer. Ind.* (1844) II. xxxiii. 18 Where the herds have slashed down the high grass.

8. Used adverbially to denote action or sound.

a 1654 SELDEN *Table T.* (Arb.) 71 A Whip that cry'd Slash. 1839 *John Bull* 11 Aug., Here, said he, and slash went the knife.

Slashed (slæʃt), *ppl. a.* [f. prec. + -ED[1].]

1. Of garments: Having vertical slits to show a contrasting lining; in mod. use, having a piece of material of a different colour inserted.

1633 SHIRLEY *Triumph of Peace* Plays (1888) 441 Confidence in a slashed doublet parti-coloured. 1649 QUARLES *Virgin Widow* III. i, Like a Cavalier, in a slasht suit. 1762–71 H. WALPOLE *Vertue's Anecd. Paint.* (1786) V. 79 Charles I. with ruff, ribband, and slashed habit. 1802 JAMES *Milit. Dict.* s.v., Slashed sleeves and pockets, which are peculiar to the British cavalry, when the officers or men wear long coats. 1887 *The Lady* 20 Jan. 37 Another [costume] of black velvet and white silk, with slashed sleeves.

2. Gashed, cut; deeply wounded. Also *absol.*

1825 SCOTT *Betrothed* iii, A sound skin is better than a slashed one. *c* 1850 KINGSLEY *Misc.* (1860) II. 143 Chopping into small pieces the already slashed and slain.

3. *Bot.* Deeply cut; laciniate.

1839 LINDLEY *Introd. Bot.* 138 Where leaves are extremely divided,..we say..that the leaf is multifid, laciniated, decomposed, or slashed. 1856 HENSLOW *Bot. Terms* 174 *Slashed*, where a surface is divided by deep and very acute incisions.

Slasher (slæ·ʃəɹ). [f. SLASH *v.* + -ER[1].]

1. One who slashes; a fighter, a bully; a slashing fellow.

1559 *Mirr. Mag., The Blacksmith* xxxii, With slashers, slaues and snuffers so falshod is in price, The simple faith is deadly sinne, and vertue counted vice. 1593 G. HARVEY *Pierce's Super.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 57, I..behold the glorious picture of that most-threatning Slassher. 1611 COTGR., *Chamailleur*, a slasher,..swash-buckler. 1785 GROSE *Dict. Vulgar T.*, *Slasher*, a bullying riotous fellow. 1830 LYTTON *P. Clifford* vi, The worn-out acerbity of an old slasher [= reviewer]. 1836 in C. K Sharpe *Corr.* (1888) II. 495 Mrs. Villiers, in galloping to cover.., was pitched off, and frighten'd even the hard-hearted Melton Slashers. 1859 *Slang Dict.* 95 *Slasher*, a powerful roisterer, or pugilist. 1885 RUNCIMAN *Skippers & Shellbacks* 291 We'll make a slasher of him in a little bit.

b. *pl.* (See quot. 1802.)

1802 JAMES *Milit. Dict.*, *Slashers*, a nickname which was given during the American war to the 28th regiment of foot. 1848 THACKERAY *Let.* 28 July, The other regiment in garrison at Canterbury, the Slashers if you please. 1898 *Times* 10 Jan. 11/6 When my original regiment, the 28th Gloucestershire, the gallant 'Slashers', arrived home from India in 1865.

2. A sword; a weapon for slashing.

1815 SCOTT *Guy M.* xxxiii, 'Had he no arms?' asked the Justice. 'Ay, ay, they are never without barkers and slashers.' 1901 *Munsey's Mag.* XXIV. 445/2 The creese..makes a frightful wound, whether used as a slasher or a sticker.

b. A billhook.

1882 HAY *Brighter Brit.* I. 186 A billhook, or slasher,..for the purpose of clearing all the undergrowth. 1883 *Pall Mall G.* 25 Oct. 10/3 One..was armed with a 'slasher', used for cutting hedges.

c. An implement used in brick-making to detect stones in the clay.

1889 C. T. DAVIS *Bricks & Tiles* v. 129 The hand-temperer then cuts through the small pile of clay with a tool termed a 'slasher'.

3. A severe criticism or review.

1849 *Ainsworth's Mag.* Dec. 535 Writing squibs or slashers for electioneering purposes. 1858 THACKERAY *Let.* 27 Dec., A request for a notice might bring a slasher down upon you.

4. A form of sizing-machine for yarn, so called on account of its rapid working.

1862 *Catal. Brit. Exhib., Brit. Div.* I. § 1515 Sizing Machine, commonly called Slasher, for sizing or dressing, and afterwards drying the warp preparatory to being woven. *Ibid.*, Slasher-sizing machine. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2199/1 In the slasher..the yarn runs through boiling size.

Sla·shing, *vbl. sb.* [f. SLASH *v.* + -ING[1].]

1. The action of the verb; cutting; gashing.

1596 NASHE *Saffron Walden* Ep. Ded., Discoursing of his fraies and deep acting of his slashing and hewing. 1649 MILTON *Eikon.* IV, Onely to turne his slashing at the Court Gate, to slaughtering in the Field. 1653 W. RAMESEY *Astrol. Restored* 13 We were at slashing and pelting with the Hollanders, and they with us. 1782 CREVECŒUR *Lett.* 81 How do you go on with your new cutting and slashing? 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xxi. IV. 655 Special orders were given..that the swords should be made rather for stabbing than for slashing.

attrib. 1670 AUBREY *Miscell.* (1890) App. 214 Their servants .. (in that slashing age) did commonly bang one another's bucklers.

2. The action of making a slit in a garment in order to show the lining or an under-garment of a contrasting colour; the opening thus made.

1834 PLANCHÉ *Brit. Costume* 221 The elegant fashion of slashing makes its appearance about this time. 1882 CAULFEILD & SAWARD *Dict. Needlwk.* 451/2 Pieces of stuff of a different material being sewn under the Slashings.

b. A piece of material inserted in a garment of a different colour to form a contrast.

1887 *Sporting Life* 2 July 3/1 A dress of creamy white material with a pale pink slashing. 1888 *Athenæum* 27 Oct. 551/3 Brocaded trains gleaming fitfully with slashings of exquisite pink.

3. A heavy downpour of rain.

1828 MRS. S. C. HALL *Sketches Irish Char.* (1842) 74 The rain fell in slashings, like hail.

4. *U.S.* A place where the trees have been blown down; a clearing made by a storm.

1894 *Outing* XXIV. 186/2 When we got into a spruce thicket or an old 'slashing'—the track of a hurricane.

Sla·shing, *ppl. a.* [-ING[2].]

1. Severely critical; cuttingly sarcastic.

1735 POPE *Prol. Sat.* 164 From slashing Bentley down to pidling Tibalds. 1841 DE QUINCEY *Homer* i. Wks. 1857 VI. 312 The Alexandrian critics, with all their slashing insolence, showed themselves sons of the feeble. 1868 M. PATTISON *Academ. Organ.* § 5. 306 Slashing style, and daring assertion,..are falling into discredit. 1895 *Tablet* 23 Mar. 457 A deliberate and slashing attack upon the Catholic Church.

2. That slashes or cuts severely.

1827 ROBERTS *Voy. Centr. Amer.* 70 Being 'called out' by one of these slashing gentlemen. 1863 *Reader* 31 Oct. 502 The way in which he cramps up his calves and toes as the next slashing blow is about to come down. 1890 W. J. GORDON *Foundry* 121, In every mill there are other saws.., such as 'slashing' saws for cutting slabs.

3. Spirited; dashing; full of vigour.

1828 SCOTT *F. M. Perth* viii, There goes the pride of Perth—there go the slashing craftsmen. 1852 BRISTED *Five Yrs. Eng. Univ.* (ed. 2) 276 They were mostly what would be called slashing men, who could do a great deal and do it well. 1862 *Illustr. Lond. News* 10 May 492/3 The Stockwell colt..was a slashing horse.

Comb. 1857 HUGHES *Tom Brown* II. viii, A long-armed, bare-headed, slashing-looking player coming to the wicket.

b. Of actions; *esp.* of pace, rapid.

1824 W. IRVING *Tales Trav.* I. 54 My grandfather rode jollily along, in his easy slashing way. 1837 T. HOOK *Jack Brag* iii, They all went off at a slashing pace. 1882 *Daily Tel.* 19 May, Making a slashing drive to the off for 4.

4. Very large or fine; splendid.

1854 DICKENS *Hard T.* II. vii, Some fair creature with a slashing fortune at her disposal.

Hence **Sla·shingly** *adv.*, in a slashing manner; vigorously; severely.

1659 TORRIANO, *A-slàscio*, slashingly, riotously. 1843 *Tait's Mag.* X. 743 He goes slashingly to work. 1893 *Review of Rev.* Dec. 626 Told so vividly and slashingly.

Slashy (slæ·ʃi), *a. rare.* [f. SLASH *v.*] Of a slashing nature.

1862 CARLYLE *Fredk. Gt.* XI. iii. (1872) IV. 54 Its wit is very copious, but slashy, bantery.

Slat (slæt), *sb.*[1] Forms: *α.* 4–7 **sclat**, 5 **sklat**, 6 **sklatt(e**, 6–7 **sclatt**. *β.* 4–7, 9 **slatt**, 6–7 **slatte**, 5– **slat**. [ad. OF. *esclat* (mod.F. *éclat*) splinter, shiver, piece broken or split off anything, related to OF. *esclater* to burst, of doubtful origin (cf. ÉCLAT *sb.*).]

With the following example, in which the sense is *not* clear, cf. *slate-incense* s.v. SLATE *sb.*[1] 7.—1345–6 *Ely Sacr. Rolls* II. 133 In xxxiiij libris de slatt' pro incens' empt. 5^s^. 8^d^.

1. A roofing-slate; a thin slab of stone used for roofing. Now *dial.*

1382 WYCLIF *Luke* v. 19 By the sclattis thei senten him doun with the bed in to the myddil. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) I. 399 There lyme is copious, And sclattes also for hous. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 449 Sklat, or slat stone, *latericia*, *ymbrex*. 1521 in 10*th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. V. 399 No man shall build..anny straue or tache housse..unlesse they be covered with sklattes. 1565 *Wills & Inv. N. C.* (Surtees, 1835) 234 For ij. foder of sclatts caring frome plawsworth. 1627 DRAYTON *Nymphidia* vi, The Roofe, instead of Slats, Is couer'd with the skinns of Batts. 1662 J. DAVIES tr. *Olearius' Voy. Amb.* 291 All the houses of the Village were cover'd with slats or tiles. 1823– in many dialect glossaries (chiefly Midland and Southern). 1842 FRANCIS *Dict. Arts, Slatt*, a thin slab of stone used to cover buildings, distinct from what are called slates.

transf. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) VI. 55 He unheled chirches roves and coppes þat were i-heled wiþ slattes of bras, and took awey þe slattes.

b. Used to denote a certain shape.

1634 *Lowe's Chirurg.* 354 Part of the bone is superficially separated like unto a little speich or sclat. 1665 HOOKE *Microgr.* 81 The Figure of them is for the most part flat, in the manner of Slats. 1676 J. COOKE *Marrow Chirurg.* (1685) 377 Sediment like Meal, is ill. If like Slats, worst.

c. A large slab of stone. *rare.*

1894 CROCKETT *Mad Sir Uchtred* v. 61 The burn comes down over broad slats of granite.

2. A writing-slate. Now *dial.*

c 1390 ? CHAUCER *Merciles Beaute* 34 Love hath my name y-strike out of his sclat. 1669 STURMY *Mariner's Mag.* v. xii. 63 Draw a Circle on a Slat or Paper. 1823 [see 3].

3. Slate used for roofing buildings. Now *dial.*

c 1400 *Laud Troy Bk.* 18362 Thei caste al doun thes worthi wones, Led & tyle, sclat & stones. 1412–3 *Abingdon Rolls* (Camden) 76 Et in ij M^l^ sclat emptis. 1581 in W. H. Turner *Select. Rec. Oxford* (1880) 413 He shall.. cover the same..wit^h^ slatt. 1598 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. iv. *Columnes* 43 Built but of Brick, of rusty Tiles, and Slat. 1823 E. MOOR *Suffolk Words* 360 *Slat*, slate, either

that used at school, or to roof houses, or what is found among coals.

†b. Slate, or some slaty substance, used in the form of powder, esp. as a medicine; *Irish slat*, alum-slate. (Cf. SLATE *sb.*[1] 4 b.) *Obs.*

1639 T. DE GRAY *Expert Farrier* 265 Take of black or blew slat, and make it into fine powder. 1643 SIR B. GRENVILE *MS. Letter*, I am something sore, and did spitt bloud two daies..I had no slatt, neither do I now need it. 1665 SIR R. HOWARD *Committee* III, Go in and take some Irish slat by way of Prevention, and keep your self warm. 1684 in *Phil. Trans.* XX. 271 Irish Slat Pulveriz'd, and infus'd in Water.., would impart its Vitriolick Quality.

†c. Slate as a variety of stone or rock. *Obs.*

1591 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* I. iii. 896 Slat, Jet, and Marble shall escape my pen, I over-pass the Salt-mount Oromene. 1681 GREW *Museum* III. ii. 329 A Metalline Slat from the Tin-Mines. 1697 in *Phil. Trans.* XXVII. 467 The Slat above this Coal afforded only Stalks of Plants.

4. A long narrow strip of wood or metal, used for various purposes.

1764 *Museum Rust.* II. 189 Nailing of slats, old hoops, or laths, on the two sides and fore end of the cart. 1828-32 WEBSTER s.v., The slats of a cart or a chair. 1866 *Harvard Mem. Biogr., R. Ware* I. 242 The bulk of those now in bed must have lain on the slats of the bedstead. 1885 C. F. HOLDER *Marvels Anim. Life* 28 Arranged in transverse rows, like slats on a blind. 1890 HALLETT *1000 Miles* 277 When the floors are of split bamboo..the interstices between the slats are many and often large.

b. In vehicles: (see quots.).

1794 W. FELTON *Carriages* (1801) I. 31 The side pieces are called Slats, which are..hung on a centre pin or bolt to the elbow-rails. 1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss.*, *Slats*, the sleepers or rails to support the bed of a cart. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2199/1 *Slat*,..a bent strip which bows over the seat and forms one of the ribs of the canopy.

5. a. *Basket-making.* (See quots.)

1837 HEBERT *Engin. & Mech. Encycl.* I. 153 The larger ones [*sc.* osiers] forming the slat and skeleton of the basket. 1851-4 *Tomlinson's Cycl. Useful Arts* (1867) I. 109/1 In this way the foundation of the basket, called the *slat* or *slate*, is formed. 1875 *Encycl. Brit.* III. 423/1 The whole now forms what is technically called the slath [*sic*], which is the foundation of the basket.

b. *dial.* A hurdle.

1883 C. R. SMITH *Retrosp.* I. 4 Some open hurdles, or slats as they are called in Kent.

6. *attrib.* and *Comb.* a. In senses 1–3, as *slat-coal*, *-pen*, *-pin*, *-stone*.

1412–3 *Abingdon Rolls* (Camden) 76 In sclatpynnes emptis xx d. 1436–7 *Ibid.* 114 Et in sclatpynnes et tyslpynnes emptis iiij s. *c* 1440 [see 1]. 1669 STURMY *Mariner's Mag.* IV. xii. 195 If you make it upon a Slat Stone,..you may wipe the Arch, that is lightly drawn by a Slat Pen.., off at pleasure. 1713 *Phil. Trans.* XXVIII. 222 This resembles a Slat-Coal of a Lead colour.

b. In sense 4, as *slat-awning*, *-bar*, *-bottom*, *-matting*.

Various other combs. are given by Knight *Dict. Mech.*

1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2199/1 A corrugated iron slat-awning. *Ibid.* 2202/1 *Slat-matting*, a floor covering of wooden slats or veneers on a flexible fabric, which may be rolled like a carpet. 1876 VOYLE & STEVENSON *Milit. Dict.* 388/2 *Slat Bar*, the bar of a siege howitzer limber between the splinter bar and bolster. 1883 *Cent. Mag.* Oct. 819/2 The olives are first dried in trays with slat bottoms.

Slat (slæt), *sb.*[2] [f. SLAT *v.*[2]]

1. A slap; a slapping blow. Now *dial.*

1611 COTGR., *Truellée*, a trowell-full; or, a clap, slat, or slamp with a Trowell. 1746 *Exmoor Scolding* (E. D. S.) 101 Ad I chell gi' tha..a zlat in the chups. 1837– in Devon and Somerset use (see *Eng. Dial. Dict.*). 1898 T. HARDY *Wessex Poems* 47 Such snocks and slats since war began Never saw recruit or veteran.

2. A sudden gust or blast *of* wind.

1840 R. H. DANA *Bef. Mast* XXV, The sail..by a slat of the wind blew in under the yard with a fearful jerk.

Slat, *sb.*[3] *rare* —[1]. In 8 slatt. [a. Irish *slat* rod, measuring stick.] (See quot.)

1780 YOUNG *Tour Irel.* I. 348 Frize..at a slatt or measure, four feet two inches long, and 20 to 23 inches wide.

Slat (slæt), *sb.*[4] [? Irish.] A salmon out of season; a spent salmon.

1870 *Daily News* 16 Feb., An unclean and unseasonable salmon of the species called 'kelts' in Scotland and 'slats' in Ireland. 1882 DAY *Fishes Gt. Brit.* II. 69 After spawning this fish [salmon] is a kelt or slat. 1886 *Field* 27 Feb. 261/1 These 'slats' would then escape, and the cause of a great injury to the fishing be prevented.

Slat (*Cant*): see SLATE *sb.*[2]

Slat (slæt), *v.*[1] Also 7 slatt. [f. SLAT *sb.*[1]]

1. *trans.* To cover with slates. Now *dial.*

c 1475 *Crabhouse Reg.* (1889) 61 Sche made the cloystir.. and slattyd it. 1615 SIR R. BOYLE in *Lismore Papers* Ser. I. (1886) I. 79, I compounded with Iohn Lambert to slatt my new stable in yoghall. 1667 in Earwaker *E. Cheshire* (1877) I. 114 Paid for slatting the Lych porch. 1881 in EVANS *Leic. Gloss.*

2. To furnish, or make, with slats.

1886 C. SCOTT *Sheep-Farming* 66 The hay-rack is slatted so closely that the sheep cannot put their heads through the bars.

Slat (slæt), *v.*[2] Also 3 sclatte, 9 *dial.* sclat. [Of doubtful origin. Some of the senses resemble those of ON. *sletta* to slap, splash, etc., but this would not readily account for the currency of the word in south-western dialects. In sense 4 perh. partly imitative: cf. SLATTER *v.*[2]]

1. *trans.* To flap, cast, dash, impel quickly and with some force. Const. *down*, *against*, *on*, etc.

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 212 Hwon heo iherеð þet god, heo sleateð [*v.r.* sclattes] adun boa two hore earen. 1611 COTGR. s.v. *Flacquer*, He squasht, slat, or squat her downe there. 1787 GROSE *Prov. Gloss.*, *To slat on*, to dash against, or cast on any thing. 1850 SCORESBY *Cheever's Whaleman's Adv.* xiii. (1858) 186 The danger from a whale's flukes and fins, as the monster slues and slats them round. *c* 1866 STATON *Rays fr. Loominary* 37 If he comes this way ogen ..aw'll slat some watter on him. 1897 HOWELLS *Landlord at Lion's Head* 95 She'll slat the letters down every which way, and you've got to hunt 'em out for yourself.

b. To knock *off* by impact or pulling.

1871 DE VERE *Americanisms* 545 Fishermen on the Eastern coast, who disengaged mackerel and other delicate-gilled fish by slatting them off the hook.

2. To strike, beat; to knock *out*.

1577–87 HOLINSHED *Chron.* III. 1034/2 A butcherlie knaue named Fulks..slat him in the head with a club. 1604 MARSTON *Malcontent* IV. iii, *Men.* How did you kill him? *Mal.* Slatted his braines out. 1837– in south-western dialect (see *Eng. Dial. Dict.*).

3. *intr.* (See quots.) *dial.*

1838 HOLLOWAY *Prov. Dict.*, *To slat* or *sclat*, to beat with violence against any thing, as rain against a window. 1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss.* s.v., Why the water's slatting off your hat on to your coat.

4. *Naut.* Of sails: To flap violently.

1840 R. H. DANA *Bef. Mast* V, The great jib flying off to leeward and *slatting* so as almost to throw us off the boom. 1865 MRS. WHITNEY *Gayworthys* XXVI, The canvas slatting out and in, in great bights. 1881 CLARK RUSSELL *A Sailor's Sweetheart* III. vi. 256 The sail slatted so violently that it was as much as we could do..to get the canvas up to leeward.

b. In other contexts: To flap or slap.

1889 'MARK TWAIN' *Yankee at Court of K. Arthur* I. 120, I couldn't seem to stand that shield slatting and banging..about my breast. 1897 — *Man that corrupted Hadleyb.*, etc. (1900) 333 The removable desk-boards had been taken away, and nothing left for disorderly members to slat with.

Hence **Sla·tting** *vbl. sb.* and *ppl. a.*

1883 *Cent. Mag.* Oct. 942/1 All hands..jumping aloft like monkeys to roll up the slatting canvas. 1888 CLARK RUSSELL *Death Ship* I. 46 Every moment this terrible slatting threatened her other spars.

Slat (slæt), *v.*[3] Now *dial.* [prob. ad. OF. *esclater* to break in pieces: cf. SLAT *sb.*[1]] *intr.* and *trans.* To split.

1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* 415 It [the nail] slatteth and shiuereth in the driuing into two parts. 1609 HOLLAND *Amm. Marcell.* 424 Both head-peeces and habergeons were slat and dashed a peeces. 1702 *Burlesque of R. L'Estrange's Vis. Quevedo* 72 If his Horns had not been Flatted Perhaps my Head he might ha' Slatted. 1825– in dialect glossaries (chiefly south-western).

†**Slat,** *ppl. a. Obs.*—[1] [f. SLEAT *v.*[1]] Baited.

c 1300 *Pol. Songs* (Camden) 154 He sitteth ase a slat swyn that hongeth is eren.

Slatch (slætʃ). ?*Obs.* [A derivative of OE. *slæc* SLACK *a.*, with normal palatalization.]

1. = SLASH *sb.*[4] *rare.*

1603 OWEN *Pembrokeshire* (1892) 91 A slatch they call a peece of coal by itselfe found in the erthe and is quicklie digged about and no more to be found of that peece.

2. *Naut.* † a. The slack of a rope. *Obs.*

a 1625 *Nomencl. Navalis* (Harl. MS. 2301) 126 When.. parte of a Cabell or Roape doth hang slack,..then they said hale the Slatch of the Roape or Cabell. [Hence in Boteler, Holme, Harris, etc.] 1627 CAPT. SMITH *Seaman's Gram.* ix. 39 Hale vp the slatch of the Lee-boling. By Slatch is meant the middle part of any rope hangs ouer boord.

b. A brief respite or interval; a short period or spell (*of* some kind of weather, etc.).

a 1625 *Nomencl. Navalis* (Harl. MS. 2301), Whan it hath beene a sett of foule weather and that there comes an Interim..of faire weather,.. they call it a little Slatch of faire weather. [Hence in Boteler, Holme, Harris, etc.] 1633 T. JAMES *Voy.* 79 Wee could neuer haue a cleere slatch from Ice, to haue it vp. 1703 SIR H. SHERE *Medit. Sea* in *Ld. Halifax's Misc.* 9 At certain times in the Winter Season, they take their Slatches of Flood and Ebb according to their Occasions. 1730 WRIGLESWORTH *Jrnl. of the Lyell* 7 Apr., This morning it blowing Hard,..so [we] must wait for a slatch of fair Weather. 1769 FALCONER *Dict. Marine* (1780), *Slatch*, is generally applied to the period of a transitory breeze of wind, or the length of it's duration. [Hence in later Dicts.]

Slate (slēit), *sb.*[1] Also (chiefly *north.* and *Sc.*) 4– sclate (5 sclathe), sklate (9 sklet); 5–9 sclait (6 sclayt), 5 sklaytt, 6 sklaitt, 6–9 sklait. [ad. OF. *esclate* fem., in the same sense as *esclat* masc., whence SLAT *sb.*[1] After *c* 1630 the forms with *scl-*, *skl-* are exclusively northern and Scottish.

The earliest example of the form occurs in sense 3, but the development of the senses must have been the same as in SLAT *sb.*[1]]

1. A thin, usually rectangular, piece of certain varieties of stone which split readily into laminæ (see 4), used especially for the purpose of covering the roofs of buildings.

Also freq. called a *roofing-slate*, and with distinguishing terms as *blue*, *green*, *grey*, *white slate(s)*. For the older Sc. use of the word see SKAILLIE.

a. 1455 *Anc. Cal. Rec. Dublin* (1889) 284 Sclatys, bordes, gottorys, schall ly upon the key be the spase of xx. dayes. 1456 SIR G. HAYE *Law Arms* (S.T.S.) 228 As a sclate fell of a hous and slewe a man. *c* 1540 BOORDE *The Boke for to Lerne* B ij, Many tyles or sklates. 1584 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* III. 678 Becaus thair is sklaittis, lyme, sand and tymmer to be transportit..to his said palice. 1832 CARRICK in *Whistle-Binkie* (1890) I. 213 Some o' them gaed ower the sklates As weel's your dainty dow.

β. 1530 PALSGR. 706/1, I sclate a house with stone slates. 1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 39/12 A Slate, tyle, *tegula*, *later.* 1600 J. PORY tr. *Leo's Africa* III. 200 The roofe is couered with certaine blacke stones or slates. 1662 GERBIER *Principles* 36 The Roof..should be covered either with Lead or blew Slates. 1745 *Season. Advice Protestants* 17 The Houses, that were formerly in good Repair, and cover'd with Slates, decay. 1758 J. S. *Le Dran's Obs. Surg.* (1771) 65 A Slate fell upon her Head from the Top of an House. 1811 FAREY *Derbyshire* I. 428 At Sheffield these white and grey Slates are exclusively used. 1841 JAMES *Brigand* XIX, The house was built of cold grey stone, with a roof of slates. 1889 H. C. SEDDON *Builder's Work* (ed. 2) 231 Ordinary roofing slates are sold by the number..Some of the largest sized slates are..sold by the ton, and hence are called ton slates or weight slates.

b. A slab of slate, † or other stony substance; a laminated rock.

1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* XVII. viii. I. 506 It [the Columbine marl] will resolve and cleave into most thin slates or flakes. 1601 R. JOHNSON *Kingd. & Commw.* 27 The Irish Ocean, a sea so shallow, and so full of rocks and slates [etc.]. 1876 *Encycl. Brit.* IV. 500 He [the slater] supplies sawn slates for shelving in larders and dairies.

c. In phr. *To have a slate loose* or *off*, to be weak in intellect. (Cf. TILE *sb.*)

[1857 W. COLLINS *Dead Secret* III. i, The college tutor.. facetiously likened his head to a roof, and said there was a slate loosened in it.] 1860 *Slang Dict.* 218 He has a slate loose. 1862 *Athenæum* 27 Sept. 397 On too good terms with himself to think that..there is a 'loose slate', in his intellectual covering. 1867 MISS BROUGHTON *Cometh up as a Flower* XXXV, You must have a slate off this morning, Nell!

d. A flat piece or plate of some other material used for the same purpose as a roofing-slate.

1887 *Archit. Soc. Dict.* VII. 87 'Glass slates' in roofing to lofts are sometimes used to admit light. *Ibid.* 89 Slating with very strong zinc slates. 1893 SPON *Mechanic's Own Book* (ed. 4) 617 Shingles, or wooden slates, are made from hard wood.

2. A tablet of slate, usually framed in wood, used for writing on.

c 1391 CHAUCER *Astrol.* II. § 44 Consider thy rote furst,.. & entere hit in-to thy slate. *Ibid.* § 45 Take alle the signes, ..& wryte hem in by slate. 1591 DIGGES *Pantom.* I. XXVIII, Ye must search Angles of position agayne, and marke them in the table or slate. 1635–56 COWLEY *Davideis* I. Wks. 1710 I. 315 Letters..painfully engrav'd in thin wrought Plates, Some cut in Wood, some lightlier trac'd on Slates. 1698 FRYER *Acc. E. India & P.* 112 A Board plastered over, which with Cotton they wipe out, when full, as we do from Slates or Table-Books. 1752 FOOTE *Taste* I, I can't remember her name, but 'tis upon the slate. 1768 TUCKER *Lt. Nat.* II. I. iii. 39 We proceed in the same manner a person would who should undertake to draw any plan assigned him upon a slate. 1826 *Art Brewing* (ed. 2) 53 We will now work a brewing according to the example in the instructions, on a slate. 1874 JEVONS *Princ. Sci.* (1900) 96, I have used a slate of this kind, which I call a Logical Slate, for more than twelve years.

transf. 1897 *Army & Navy Stores List* 750 Opal Slates in Leather Frame. *Ibid.* 757 Porcelain Menu Slate.

b. *fig.* A record of any kind concerning or against a person; esp. in phr. *a clean slate.*

1868 E. YATES *Rocks Ahead* II. ii, He had passed the wet sponge over the slate containing any records of his early life. 1888 *Pall Mall G.* 27 Sept. 9/1, I can conceive nothing more desirable in the interests of these embarrassed tenants than that they should have a clean slate.

c. *U.S.* (See quot. 1888.)

1877 *N. York Tribune* 1 Mar. (Farmer), The facts about the latest Cabinet slate..are interesting as showing..the course of President Hayes in choosing his advisers. 1884 *American* VIII. 232 In dictated nominations, in the making of 'slates' for obedient party acceptance. 1888 BRYCE *Amer. Commw.* III. lxiii. II. 457 Some leading man.. sketches out an allotment of places; and when this allotment has been worked out fully, it results in a Slate, *i.e.* a complete draft list of candidates to be proposed for the various offices.

3. Roofing-slates collectively, or the material from which these are made.

a. a 1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* civ. 23 Þai..did treson [to the Israelites] forto less þaim in werke of morterе and sclate. 1392 *Mem. Ripon* (Surtees) III. 216 In sal. Simonis Sklater cooperantis et ponentis lapides de sklate. *a* 1513 FABYAN *Chron.* V. (1811) 113 He buylded a royall mynstre of lyme and stoone, and couered it with platis of sylуer in stede of sclate or leade. 1571 *Mem. Ripon* (Surtees) I. 309 Ten lode of sclait.

β. 1530 PALSGR. 720/2, I slate a house, I cover it with slate. 1555 EDEN *Decades* (Arb.) 294 Many also [are covered] with slate or other stone. 1582 N. LICHEFIELD tr. *Castanheda's Conq. Ind.* I. xl. 94 A greate citie, consisting of houses made of Earth, and couered ouer with broade stone or slate. *c* 1630 RISDON *Surv. Devon* (1810) 8 Of late days quarries of slate are found out, wherewith they cover houses. 1667 PRIMATT *City & C. Builder* 72 A Penthouse..covered with Tyles, Lead or Slate. 1725 *Fam. Dict.* s.v. *Slating*, Roofs cover'd with Slate, must be first Boarded over. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXI. 281/2 Houses of respectable appearance, roofed with slate.

4. An argillaceous rock of sedimentary origin, the different varieties of which have the common property of splitting readily into thin plates.

Many varieties are distinguished, esp. in *Geol.*, by special terms, as *clay*, *hornblende*, *mica*, *talc slate*.

1653 COGAN tr. *Pinto's Trav.* (1663) 254 The extream trouble his people were at in planting their ladders against the walls by reason of their bad scituation which was all of Slate. 1676 *Phil. Trans.* XI. 764 There is also a sort of Mineral we call a Slate, which is partly Coal, partly Alum-stone, partly Marcasite, which being laid up in heaps and burnt, are used for hardening the Coal-ways. 1738 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v., The same impressions are also frequently found on other substances, as on the black slate that lies over veins of coals. 1796 KIRWAN *Elem. Min.* (ed. 2) II. 19 This [slaty

alum] is the stone called Black Slate, celebrated among the vulgar for its medicinal properties. 1811 A. T. THOMSON *Lond. Disp.* (1818) 24 The ore is first calcined with a low heat, so as to destroy the bituminous matter of the slate. 1852 LYELL *Elem. Geol.* (ed. 4) 266 The slate of Stonesfield ..is a slightly oolitic shelly limestone. 1872 RAYMOND *Statist. Mines & Mining* 254 The quartz is divided by a horse of slate into two parts.

†**b.** *Irish slate*, alum-slate, formerly used medicinally in the form of powder. *Obs.*

a 1704 T. BROWN *Wks.* (1720) III. 99 You must give him Irish Slate *quantum sufficit*. 1741 *Compl. Family-Piece* I. i. 22 Take of Irish Slate, *Sperma Ceti*, of each half a Dram.

c. With *a* and pl. A kind or variety of slaty rock.

1704 *Dict. Rust.* (1726) s.v., Some Directions..whereby the ..lasting Goodness of any Slate may be Experimented. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v., Besides the Blue Slate, we have in England a Greyish Slate, call'd also Horsham Stone. 1841 *Penny Cycl.* XXI. 171/2 Undulations on slates and sandstones of every geological age. 1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* II. App. 430 The cleavage of slates is therefore not a question of stratification. 1903 MARR *Agric. Geol.* 234 Mudstones which, owing to the subsequent impress of cleavage, usually occur as slates.

5. A bluish-grey colour like that of slate.

1882 SIR W. CROOKES *Dyeing & Tissue-Printing* 144 Light Slate. *Ibid.* 145 Slate on Cotton Wool. 1897 *Westm. Gaz.* 12 Nov. 1/3 Far to the south, where the slate of the sea and the grey of the sky wove together.

6. *attrib.* and *Comb.* **a.** Attrib. in the senses 'made or consisting of slate', 'having the character of slate', as *slate-band*, *-bed*, *-belt*, *-book*, etc., *slate-clay*, *-coal*, *-marl*, *-spar* (see quots.).

1810 S. SMITH *Agricultural Survey of Galloway* 20 *note*, The proper schistus,..called by English miners shiver, and in Galloway *slate-band. *Ibid.* 21 Strata of a soft shivering argillaceous stone, which..is called in the country slate-band. 1839 DE LA BECHE *Rep. Geol. Cornw.* vi. 184 The *slate-beds in the valley between Milton and Maristow. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade* s.v., A billiard-table with a slate-bed. 1882 *U.S. Rep. Prec. Met.* 458 On the eastern or *slate belt great activity is manifested. Most of the mines are situated near the contact of the slate and the granite. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade*, **Slate-book*, two or more slabs of framed slate bound together for writing on. 1804 R. JAMESON *Min.* I. 312 *Slate clay, shale. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 962 The strata of this section contain numerous varieties of..slate-clay. 1805 R. JAMESON *Min.* II. 72 *Slate-Coal...Colour intermediate between velvet-black and dark greyish-black. 1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-m.* 225 *Slate Coal*, a hard, dull variety of coal, not unlike Cannel. 1803 A. HUNTER *Georgical Ess.* I. 233 A drachm of a friable *slate-marl afforded a residuum of eighteen grains of yellow sand. 1805 R. W. DICKSON *Pract. Agric.* I. 238 Where this sort of marle has a thin laminated structure.., it is frequently denominated *slate marle*. 1796 KIRWAN *Elem. Min.* (ed. 2) I. 344 The aggregate of quartz and mica..is, when it is slaty, called *slate mica, or shistose mica, or slaty mica. 1793 W. H. MARSHALL *W. Eng.* (1796) II. 344 The *slate-rock waters of this District are superior to those of any others. 1813 COLERIDGE *Remorse* II. i, There where the smooth high wall of slate-rock glitters. 1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* II. App. 432 Fossil shells are found in these slate-rocks. 1578–9 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* III. 99 [They] enterit in the said hous,..and thaireftir tuke doun the *sklait ruife. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2200/1 The pitch of a slate roof should not be less than 1 in h[e]ight to 4 of length. 1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* xx, A devil's ally, that can change *slate-shivers into Spanish dollars. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade*, **Slate slab*, a sheet or plate of slate. 1804 R. JAMESON *Min.* I. 508 *Slate Spar...Its colour is milk, greenish and reddish white. 1858 J. NICOL *Elem. Mineral.* 203 *Slate spar*, thin, lamellar,..with a shining white pearly lustre and greasy feel. 1877 RAYMOND *Statist. Mines & Mining* 65 The character and features of this *slate-stratum. 1855 J. R. LEIFCHILD *Cornwall* 81 The *slate-system [of rocks] has obtained its full share of such attention. 1531 *Lett. & Papers Hen. VIII* (1880) V. 183 Payment to John Cornelis of Handwarp, for..making of *slate tyle. 1778 *England's Gaz.* (ed. 2) s.v. *Padstow*, The trade in slate-tiles. 1867 MUSGRAVE *Nooks & Corners Old France* II. 6 A lofty domicile..exhibiting laths, timbering and *slatework.

b. Instrumental, as *slate-formed*, *-spired*, *-strewn*; *slate-thatcher*.

1648 HEXHAM II, *Een Schalie-decker*, a Slate-thatcher, or Coverer. 1789 J. WILLIAMS *Min. Kingd.* I. 235 The thin slate-formed argillaceous strata of the coal metals. 1862 H. MARRYAT *Year in Sweden* I. 238 Leckö Slott with her grand slate-spired towers. 1890 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Miner's Right* xxv. (1899) 116, I had crossed more than one crest of the slate-strewn ranges.

c. Objective, as *slate-cutter*, *-maker*, *-picker*, etc.; *slate-cutting*, *-dressing*, etc.

(*a*) 1780 *Westm. Mag.* Suppl. 730/1 Slate-mak[er]. 1833–4 J. PHILLIPS *Geol.* in *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) VI. 703/1 The slate-workers of Stonesfield. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2200/2 *Slate-cutter*, a machine for cutting the edges of roofing or other slates.

(*b*) 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 329 The stone slag, or copper cinder, resulting from the slate-smelting. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2200/2 Slate-beveling, -cutting, -making, -trimming, Machine. 1894 *Daily News* 13 June 5/2 Collecting data as to the methods of slate-dressing.

d. With names of colours, as *slate-blue*, *-brown*, *-grey*. Also *attrib.*, of a slate colour.

(*a*) 1796 KIRWAN *Elem. Min.* (ed. 2) I. 152 Leek green, or slate blue. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 619 For several other shades as..slate-gray. 1871 KINGSLEY *At Last* vii, A slate-blue heron rose lazily off a dead bough. 1883 *Cent. Mag.* Sept. 729 Latticed porticoes, and slate-brown paint.

(*b*) 1872 COUES *N. Amer. Birds* 233 Tail..entirely black, or with only a slight slate tipping. 1889 SAUNDERS *Brit. Birds* 646 The adult in summer has a slate or greyish-black hood.

7. Misc. and special combs., as *slate-like* adj., *slate-merchant*, *-mine*, *-pit*, *-quarry*, etc.; **slate-axe** (see quots.); **slate-board**, **-boarding** (see quot. 1833); **slate club**, a sharing-out club, whose accounts are nominally kept on a slate; **slate-frame** (see quot.); **slate-galiot**, a vessel carrying slates; **slate house** *Sc.*, a house with a slated roof; †**slate-incense**, ?(cf. note to SLAT *sb.*[1]); **slate-knife**, a knife used for splitting slates; **slate-land** (see quot.); **slate-nail**, **-peg**, **-pin**, a nail, peg, or pin used to fix a slate on a roof; **slate-saw** (see quot.).

1828–32 WEBSTER, **Slate-ax*, a mattock..used in slating. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade*, *Slate-axe*, a mattock for shaping slates for roofing, and making holes in them to fasten them to the roof. 1842 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* V. 242/2 The *slate-boards are supported by five purlins 4 ft. apart. 1833 LOUDON *Encycl. Archit.* Gloss., **Slate-boarding*, boards placed on the roof, on which to nail the slates. 1888 *Daily News* 27 Dec. 7/5 He would pay her in the evening, as he was in a *slate club. 1891 J. F. WILKINSON *Mutual Thrift* 60 Taking London, we have a large number of old dividing clubs located in the East End, and known as 'Birmingham societies' or 'Slate clubs'. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade*, **Slate-frame*, the narrow wood border for a writing-slate or slate-book. 1887 DOWDEN *Shelley* I. v. 235 When at length they set sail in a *slate-galiot, a storm whirled them quite up to the north of Ireland. 1554 *Reg. Mag. Sig. Scot.* 198 De domo tegulata, vulgo ane *sklait hous. 1815 in *Pennecuik's Wks.* 243 *note*, A wild and solitary site for a slate house, yet proper for a hunting seat. 1470–1 *Mem. Ripon* (Surtees) III. 217 In incenso vocato *Sclate-incense empto ad deserviendum in choro festis duplicibus principalibus, nil hoc anno. 1484–5 *Ibid.* 222. 1825 J. NICHOLSON *Operat. Mechanic* 622 The instruments used in splitting and cleaning slates are, *slate-knives, axes, bars, and wedges. 1733 TULL *Horse-Hoeing Husb.* xiv. 196 (Dublin ed.), Poor **Slate* Land [*note*, lying upon Slate or Stone]. 1898 *Pop. Sci. Monthly* 523 Impressions..have been left upon *slate-like rocks. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade*, **Slate-merchant*, an importer or wholesale dealer in slates. 1648 HEXHAM II, *Een Schalie-myne*,..a *Slate-mine. 1880 A. MCKAY *Hist. Kilmarnock* (ed. 4) 300 He now, with the forefinger of his left hand, got hold of a *slate-nail. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2201/1 **Slate-peg*, a kind of nail used in securing slates on a roof. 1579 in Willis & Clark *Cambridge* (1886) I. 312 Lathe,..*slatepyne, and nayles. 1736 DRAKE *Eboracum* i. ii. 64 At the end of each tile is a hole that would receive a common slate pin. 1611 COTGR., *Ardoisiere*, a *slate-pit, *slate quarrey. 1829 SCOTT *Bl. Dwarf* Introd., He was the son of a labourer in the slate-quarries of Stobo.. 1846 TENNYSON *Golden Year* 75, I heard them blast The steep slate-quarry. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2201/2 **Slate-saw*, a machine for trimming the edges of slate-slabs to shape. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade*, **Slate-works*, a yard, etc. where slate is sawn or shaped. 1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* I. i. 6, I.. visited *slate-yards and quarries.

†**Slate,** *sb.*[2] *Cant. Obs.* (See quots.)

a. 1567 HARMAN *Caveat* (1869) 61 Some of these goe with slates at their backes, which is a sheete to lye in a nightes. *Ibid.* 76 Their mothers carries them at their backes in their slates, whiche is their shetes. [Hence in later works; in the *Dict. Cant. Crew* (*a* 1700) given as *slat.*] 1622 FLETCHER *Beggar's Bush* III. iii, To Mill from the Ruffmans, commision and slates.

b. *a* 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew*, *Slate*, a half Crown.

Slate (slēt), *sb.*[3] [f. SLATE *v.*[3]] A severe criticism; a slating.

1887 LANG *Books & Bookmen* 19 'Slate' is a professional term for a severe criticism. 1889 HANNAY *Marryat* 157 Carlyle's savage 'slate' of him [Marryat] is unjust.

Slate, *sb.*[4] *Sc. rare.* [Of obscure origin.] A slovenly, dirty person.

1715 RAMSAY *Christ's Kirk Gr.* II. vi, Had aff [= hold off], quoth she, ye filthy slate. 1806 JOHN HOGG *Poems* 74 (Jam.), The blether-lipped drunken slate!

Slate (slēt), *v.*[1] Also 6 **sclate**, **slaytt**, 7 *Sc.* **skleat.** [f. SLATE *sb.*[1]]

1. *trans.* To cover or roof with slates.

1530 PALSGR. 706/1 It is better to sclate a house with stone than to tyle it. 1554 in Willis & Clark *Cambridge* (1886) II. 470 Covenauntted wyth Odam to slaytt the new Buylding. 1605 *Ibid.* 491 Thomas Yates to slate y[e] Hall. 1624 CAPT. SMITH *Virginia* IV. 108 Houses..built..warme and defensiue..as if they were tiled and slated. 1637–50 ROW *Hist. Kirk* (Wodrow Soc.) 471 Walls were not repaired nor the roofe skleated till three yeares after. 1708 S. SEWALL *Diary* 23 Aug., I pleaded that Mr. Dudley had been at great Charge to Slate his House. 1833 LOUDON *Encycl. Archit.* § 947 The gables are to be slated over. 1883 *Law Times Rep.* XLIX. 138/2 The defendant..had on several occasions employed S. to slate houses for him.

absol. 1727 SWIFT *Vanbrugh's House* Wks. 1755 III. II. 64 A lyrick ode wou'd slate; a catch Wou'd tile; an epigram wou'd thatch.

2. To put down (a name, etc.) on a writing-slate; to set down, book, *for* something.

1883 *Daily News* 18 Sept. 6/2 He had been 'slated' for a month—that is, his name was entered upon a slate in the porter's lodge, which indicated that he was dangerously ill. 1896 *Harper's Mag.* XCIII. 25/1 So the Professor was unconsciously slated for the office of hero.

Slate (slēt), *v.*[2] *slang* and *colloq.* [app. f. SLATE *sb.*[1] Sense 2 appears to have originated in Ireland.]

1. *trans.* (See quot. 1865.) ? *Obs.*

1825 C. WESTMACOTT *English Spy* II. 158 Another point of amusement is *flying a tile* or *slating* a man as the phrases of the Stock Exchange describe it. 1865 *Slang Dict.* 234 *Slate*, to knock the hat over one's eyes, to bonnet.

2. To beat or thrash severely.

1825 KNAPP & BALDW. *Newgate Cal.* IV. 149/1 Slate him, the Dublin word for an unmerciful beating. 1857 KINGSLEY *Two Y. Ago* III. 159 Putting his head in cautiously for fear of drunken Irishmen, who might be seized with the national impulse to 'slate' him.

b. *Mil.* To punish (an enemy) severely.

1854 CHAMPION in Kinglake *Crimea* (1877) V. 375 'Slate 'em, slate 'em, my boys!' was his exulting..adjuration. 1885 WILSON *From Korti to Khartum* (1886) 163 Now we shall get 'slated', I thought..; a few good shots might have picked off every one on deck. 1902 'LINESMAN' *Words Eye-witness* 107 Their smaller guns..kept it up far into the night, slating the reverse slopes of the Krantz with wonderful accuracy.

transf. 1883 *Harper's Mag.* Apr. 688/1 A billiard table in an overcrowded hotel, even with a railway rug around one, is apt to 'slate' the sleeper before morning.

3. To assail with reproof or abuse; to rate or reprimand; to scold severely.

1840 *Blackw. Mag.* XLVIII. 210, I weep over the realm's decay, and have some notion of *slating*—excuse me for borrowing a word from the vocabulary of the new ministerial and courtly party of Ribandism—Lord Palmerston. 1860 *Slang Dict.* 218 *Slate*, to pelt with abuse. 1866 BROGDEN *Prov. Lincs.*, *Slate*, to scold. 1881 MRS. LYNN LINTON *My Love* II. 306 Val slated me hard enough. So we may cry quits over that.

b. To criticize (a book or author) severely; to castigate, cut up.

1848 A. WATTS in *Life* (1884) II. 258 And, when they'd been by critics slated, Had always the review to show 'em. 1870 'OUIDA' *Puck* xvi, That wretched Mouse, when he wants to slate a very good novel. 1890 SAINTSBURY *Ess. Eng. Lit.* p. xxv, You slated this [book], and it has gone through twenty editions.

Slate (slēt), *v.*[3] *north.* and *Sc.* Also 4–5 **slayt**, 6–7 *Sc.* **slait.** [ad. ON. **sleita*, corresponding to OE. *slǽtan*: see SLEAT *v.*[1]]

1. *trans.* To incite or set *on* (a dog). Also const. *on*, *at*, *against* (a person, etc.).

13.. *Metrical Hom.* (Vernon MS.) in Herrig *Archiv* LVII. 266 þei sayh beestes..and þei hem bayted Wiþ houndes þat þei on hem slayted. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xxx. (*Theodora*) 657 þat feynd..slaytyt þaim full fellonly, & bad þai suld þat hure wery. 1501 DOUGLAS *Pal. Hon.* I. xxii, Diane..him in forme hes of ane hart translatit. I saw (allace) his houndis at him slatit. *a* 1568 BALNEVIS in *Bannatyne MS.* 393 Thairfoir had bound thocht scho be found, Or dreid thy doggis be slaittit. 1787 GROSE *Prov. Gloss.* s.v., To slate the dog at any one. 1796 in Pegge *Derbicisms* (E.D.S.) 62. 1828 CARR *Craven Gloss.*, *Slate*, to set on, to incite. 1876 *Mid-Yorksh. Gloss.* 126 I'll slate my dog against thine.

2. To bait, assail, or drive, with dogs. Also *fig.* Hence **Sla·ting** *vbl. sb.*

13.. *K. Alis.* 200 (Laud MS.), þer was..Of lyons chace, of bere baityng, A-bay of bore, of bole slatyng. 1684 *Yorkshire Dial.* (ed. 2) 43, I did Slate him back than with our Dog. *Ibid.* 106 *To slate a Beast*, is to hound a Dog at him. 1755 *Guthrie's Trial* 143 (Jam.), It is much to be lamented, that people professing his name, should be so slaited and enslaved by transgression as many are.

Sla·te-colour. [SLATE *sb.*[1]] The bluish-grey colour of slate.

1826 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* III. xxxii. 303 The abdomen of the male is usually slate-colour. 1835 *Ladies' Cabinet* Nov. 338 Fashionable colours,.. slate-colour and myrtle green. 1889 SAUNDERS *Brit. Birds* 642 The mantle is slate-colour.

Sla·te-coloured, *a.* [SLATE *sb.*[1] Cf. prec.] Of the colour of slate, usually bluish-grey.

1801 SHAW *Gen. Zool.* II. II. 319 Slate-coloured Antelope. 1811 *Ibid.* VIII. I. 261 Slate-coloured Creeper. 1812 A. WILSON *Amer. Ornith.* VI. 13 Slate-colored Hawk, *Falco Pennsylvanicus*. 1836–7 DICKENS *Sk. Boz* (1850) 135/2 Grandmamma in a high cap, and slate-coloured silk gown. 1871 DARWIN *Desc. Man* II. xvi. (1890) 481 Young swans are slate-coloured. 1874 COUES *Birds N. W.* 162 *Passerella Townsendii*,..Slate-colored Sparrow.

Slated (slē·tĕd), *ppl. a.*[1] Also *Sc.* **sclated**, **sklaitit.** [f. SLATE *v.*[1] + -ED[1].] Covered with slate or slates. Used *pred.* and *attrib.*

pred. 1611 COTGR., *Ardoisé*, slated, couered with slates. 1634 BRERETON *Trav.* (Chetham Soc.) 50 Here..a brave fish-market, the stalls curiously slated. 1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* II. (Globe) 411 His House was as dry as if it had been til'd or slated. 1806 *Gas. Scotl.* 600 There were 72 houses, of which 35 were slated. 1834 *Brit. Husb.* (L.U.K.) I. 104 The house and buildings are brick, and slated.

attrib. 1798 HUTTON *Course Math.* II. 90 The content of a slated roof. 1843 THACKERAY *Irish Sk.-bk.* xi, A dismal, rickety building, with a slated face. 1886 RUSKIN *Præterita* I. v. 168 The houses..with high and steep slated roof.

Slated (slē·tĕd), *ppl. a.*[2] [f. SLATE *v.*[2]] Reproved, scolded; severely criticized or attacked.

1872 E. PEACOCK *Mabel Heron* I. 80 Think how he went away like a slated dog—rated I should have said. 1897 *Daily News* 13 Jan. 6/4 One of the consolations of the 'slated' author. 1899 *Westm. Gaz.* 18 Apr. 2/3 The athletic friends of the 'slated' authoress.

Sla·teful. [f. SLATE *sb.*[1] 2.] As much or as many as can be written on a slate.

1836 E. HOWARD *R. Reefer* xxvi, A slatefull of..*x*, *y*, *z*'s. 1866 E. B. ELLIOTT *Mem. Ld. Haddo* xviii. (1868) 350 A slateful of names had been gone through.

Sla·te-pencil. [SLATE *sb.*[1]]

1. A pencil, made of soft slate or other material, used for writing on a slate.

1759 *Phil. Trans.* LI. 483 Some wear, at their nostrils, slate pencils, about four inches long. 1810 *Risdon's Surv. Devon* p. xv, A manufactory of slate pencils has of late been established. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2201/1 The common irregularly shaped black slate-pencils..are made in Germany.

2. The material of which slate-pencils are made.

1801 *Phil. Trans.* XCI. 436 Children..often introduce.. pieces of slate-pencil, and even pins into their ears. 1838 DICKENS *Nickleby* i, Putting out at good interest a small capital of slate-pencil and marbles.

attrib. and *Comb.* 1882 BRET HARTE *Flip* ii, A greyish slate-pencil pallor. 1894 *Proc. Geol. Assoc.* XIII. 364 Slate-pencil-coloured strings of clay.

Slater[1] (slē·tər). Also 5, *Sc.* 7–9 **sclater**, 5 *Sc.* **sclatar(e**; 6, *Sc.* 9 **sklater**, 6 *Sc.* **sklaittar**, **skleattar**; 6 **slaiter**. [f. SLATE *sb.*[1] or *v.*[1]]

1. One whose work consists in laying slates.

a. 1408 *Mem. Ripon* (Surtees) III. 137 In sal. Will. Fyscher sclater operantis et emendantis. 1488 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* I. 89 To a sclatar for the poyntin of al the place off Stirling. 1561 *Dunfermline Reg.* (Bann. Cl.) 454 To ye sklaittar and his servandis. *c* 1600 *Chester Pl., Banes* 92 You wrightes and sklaters, with good players in showe. 1808 JAMIESON Addit., *Sclater.* 1823 GALT *Entail* xlix, His sklater that pointed the skews o' the house.

β. 1562–3 *Act* 5 *Eliz.* c. 4. § xxiii, Tharte or Occupation of a .. Tyler, Slater, Healyer, Tilemaker. 1591 *Wills & Inv. N. C.* (Surtees, 1860) 200 Thre slaiters and a boye. 1663 GERBIER *Counsel* 50 When some of the slates are broke, the Slater mends them with little charge. 1723 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 6222/9 Thomas Hookam,..Slater and Plasterer. 1823 P. NICHOLSON *Pract. Builder* 399 All quarry slates require this preparation from the slater. 1893 EARL DUNMORE *Pamirs* I. 46 Silvery roofs..deftly fitted by some cunning slater.

attrib. 1813 J. THOMSON *Lect. Inflam.* 241 A slater boy, dwelling in the village of Hamegecourt. 1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* I. 196 The slater-work is then executed.

2. A wood-louse. Chiefly *Sc.* and *north. dial.*

α. 1684 SIBBALD *Scot. Illustr.* II. iii. vii. 33 *Millepes Asellus, nostratibus* the Sclater. 1824 MACTAGGART *Gallovid. Encycl.* 361 He is also fond of eating *sclaters*. *c* 1873 G. JOHNSTON in *Hist. Berwick. Nat. Club* (1876) VII. 32 'Sclaters' were crawling on the paved floor.

β. 1802 *Eng. Encycl.* V. 627/2 *Millepeda*,..Wood-lice, hog-lice, or slaters. 1873 DAWSON *Earth & Man* iii. 44 Modern slaters or wood-lice, which are not very distant relatives of these old crustaceans. 1876 SMILES *Sc. Nat.* vi. 97 Hosts of night-wandering insects,..slaters, centipedes and snails.

†**Sla·ter**[2]. *Obs.*[–1] [f. SLATE *v.*[3]] (See quot.)

1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* IV. ii. (1862) I. 394 There are two varieties of this kind [the land-spaniel]; namely the slater, used in hawking to spring the game; and the setter, that crouches down when it scents the birds, till the net be drawn over them.

Sla·te-stone. Also 4, *Sc.* 8–9 **sklate**, 5 **sklaytt**, **sclathe**, 6–7 (9 *Sc.*) **sclate**. [SLATE *sb.*[1]]

1. A single piece of slate, or of thin stone serving the same purpose.

c 1440 *Alph. Tales* 307 He tuke þe knyght be þe nekk & drew hym oute þurgh þe thakk of þe howse..& his bowels cleuyd on þe sclathe stonys. 1493 *Mem. Ripon* (Surtees) III. 164 Pro xxiiij sklaytt stonys pro prædictis cameris. 1530 PALSGR. 271/1 Slate stone, *ardoyse*. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* 514 The neighbour inhabitants use to digge great plenty of sclate stones for their buildings. *a* 1618 RALEIGH *Invent. Shipping* 7 All that have Corne beate it in Morters, and make Cakes, baking them upon Slatestones. 1720 RAMSAY *Rise & Fall of Stocks* 156 'Tis a' sklate-stanes instead of money. 1778 W. PRYCE *Min. Cornub.* 74 The famous Delabole Slate-stones. 1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* xviii, Then folk might see men deliver up their silver to the state's use, as if it had been as muckle sclate stanes. 1842 BORROW *Bible in Spain* xxiv, The huts were built of slate stones.

2. Stone of the nature of slate.

1392 *Mem. Ripon* (Surtees) III. 116 Pro coopertura cujusdam domus .. cum sklatestane. 1748 J. HILL *Hist. Fossils* 446 Blueish glittering slate Stone. 1764 *Phil. Trans.* LIV. 51 In the slate-stone, they are generally crushed. 1796 W. H. MARSHALL *Econ. W. Eng.* II. 320 The material of building being a coarse schistus, or slate stone. 1871 TYNDALL *Fragm. Sci.* (1879) I. xii. 360 These flags are employed for roofing purposes..and receive the name of 'slatestone'.

attrib. 1796 W. H. MARSHALL *Econ. W. Eng.* II. 65 The materials of these hills appear to be chiefly rotten slate, or rusty slate-stone rubble.

Slather (slæ·ðəɹ), *v.* Chiefly *dial.* [Of obscure origin.] *intr.* To slip or slide; to move in a sliding or trailing manner.

1818 WILBRAHAM *Chesh. Gloss.*, *Slather*,..to slip or slide. 1890 *Glouc. Gloss.* s.v., The plank slathered away. 1909 KIPLING *Actions & Reactions* 115, I hate slathering through fluff.

Slath sword: see SLAUGH-SWORD.

Sla·tiness. *rare*[–0]. [f. SLATY *a.*] 'The quality of being slaty; slaty character.'

1882 in *Imperial Dict.* (Annandale).

Slating (slē·tiŋ), *vbl. sb.*[1] [f. SLATE *v.*[1]]

1. The fixing of slates (on a roof or elsewhere); the business of fixing slates.

1579 in Willis & Clark *Cambridge* (1886) I. 312 They..shall perfectlye and workmanlye finishe the slateinge off the sayd rouffe. 1583 *Shuttleworths' Acc.* (Chetham Soc.) 18 Wylliam Broune for slatynge seven dayes ij^{s} iiij^{d}. 1663 GERBIER *Counsel* 63 Slating with blew Slates the workmen finding all, will cost seven pence per foot. 1825 J. NICHOLSON *Operat. Mechanic* 626 Slating is performed in several other ways. 1889 H. C. SEDDON *Builder's Work* (ed. 2) 231 The slating of roofs is paid for by the square of 100 feet super.

attrib. 1572–3 in Willis & Clark *Cambridge* (1886) II. 120 A hundreth sclaiting latthes. 1863 SMILES *Indust. Biogr.* 237 As the slating trade did not keep him in regular employment.

2. *collect.* The slates covering a roof.

1816 J. SCOTT *Vis. Paris* (ed. 5) 24 The ancient slating reposes in venerable grey amongst moss and grass. 1838 in Col. Hawker *Diary* (1893) II. 142 The shot rattled on the slating of my house. 1867 MUSGRAVE *Nooks & Corners Old France* II. 6 The slating here and there imitating scales.

3. The action of covering with a composition imitating slate; a kind of wash for blackboards.

1884 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* Suppl. 822/1 Black-board Slating may be accomplished with the following mixture. 1885 SPON *Mechanic's Own Book* 435 Black-board wash, or 'liquid slating'. *Ibid.*, To apply the slating, have the surface smooth.

Slating (slē·tiŋ), *vbl. sb.*[2] [f. SLATE *v.*[2]]

1. A severe punishment; a beating.

1872 *Echo* 4 Sept., The Kilkenny Militia..really did..get a fearful slating to-day.

2. A severe reprimand or scolding.

1881 MRS. LYNN LINTON *My Love* II. 307 After that first 'slating', as the vulgar little creature called it, Valentine said no more. 1894 *Tablet* 24 Aug. 304, I hear the good nuns got a bit of a 'slating' from the Chaplain as a reward for their anxiety.

3. A severe criticism or literary castigation.

1870 'OUIDA' *Puck* xix, Extinguished by means of journalistic slating. 1890 *Literary World* 22 Aug. 145 It must be admitted that the slating was well deserved.

†**Slating,** *vbl. sb.*[3] *Obs.*[–0] [f. OF. *esclater*: see F. *éclater* (sense 7) in Littré.] (See quot.)

1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 91/1 Slat-ing of Inamell, is taking Inamell off a Ring, and Inamelling it with another colour.

Slating (slē·tiŋ), *ppl. a.* [f. SLATE *v.*[2]] Severely critical or condemnatory.

1885 *Longm. Mag.* V. 499 A 'slating' article was in type for publication. 1900 *Daily News* 7 Dec. 7/1 A question whether 'booing' was more damaging than a 'slating' notice.

Slatish (slē·tiʃ), *a.* [f. SLATE *sb.*[1] + -ISH.] Somewhat resembling the colour of slate.

1860 WRAXALL *Life in Sea* I. 11 The colour of the back is slatish grey with white spots. 1884 *Chambers's Jrnl.* Nov. 703/2 The musk-rat is..of a slatish-blue colour. 1887 CLARK RUSSELL *Frozen Pirate* I. ix. 134 The clouds..had taken a slatish tinge.

†**Sla·t-stone.** *Obs.* Also 4 **skalt-**, 6 **slatte-**. [f. SLAT *sb.*[1]] = SLATE-STONE.

1391 *Mem. Ripon* (Surtees) III. 108 In cc skaltstanes [*sic*] emp. pro emendacione j cameræ. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 458/1 Slat stone,..*ymbrex*. 1516 in *Wilts. N. & Q.* July (1905) 90 Too lodes of slattestone fro the Quarre of Cotteswolde. 1648 B. PLANTAGENET *Descr. New Albion* 6 Building and Slatstone. 1669 STURMY *Mariner's Mag.* v. xii. 46 In a Morter covered with a Slat-stone.

Sla·tter, *sb.* Also 4–5 **sclatter**, 5–6 **sklatter**, 6 **sklattar**. [f. SLAT *sb.*[1] or *v.*[1]]

1. = SLATER[1] 1. Now *dial.*

1379 in *Yorks. Archæol. Jrnl.* V. 43 Henricus Sclatter & vxor, Sclatter, vj^{d}. *c* 1400 *Laud Troy Bk.* 1793 Sklatteres, Masons, and Carpenter, And other Men of alle mister. 1444 *Act* 23 *Hen. VI*, c. 12, Les gages ascun..maistre Tiler ou Sclatter. 1539 in W. H. Turner *Select. Rec. Oxford* (1880) 160 William Bybe, sklatter. Waltar Cuddesdon, sklattar. 1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* III. ii. VI. v. (1652) 575 As slatters sort their slattes, do they degrees and families. 1669 *Phil. Trans.* IV. 1009 The Sects (the hewing instrument of the Slatters). 1881 *Leic. Gloss.*, *Slatter*, one who 'slats' generally, but more particularly a slater.

†**2.** A wood-louse. = SLATER[1] 2.

1739 DR. CLARKE in Graham *Soc. Life Scotl. in 18th c.* (1899) I. i. 50 Give him twice a day the juice of twenty slatters squeezed through a muslin bag.

†**Sla·tter,** *v.*[1] In 5 **slat(e)re**. [Cf. SLAT *v.*[3]]

1. *trans.* To slash or slit (clothes).

a 1400 *Hymns Virgin* (1867) 62 Slatre þi clothis boþe schorte & side. 1480 CAXTON *Cron. Eng.* CCXXVI. 233 Short clothes and streyte..on euery syde slatered [*Brut* 297 desslatered] and botened with sleues and tapytes of surcotes.

2. To split, to shiver.

c 1400 *Turnament Tottenham* 159 Ther were flayles al to slatred [*v.r.* flatred],..Bollys and dysches al to schatred.

Slatter (slæ·təɹ), *v.*[2] [Imitative: cf. SLAT *v.*[2] 4.] *intr.* To clatter. Also **Sla·ttering** *vbl. sb.*

1662 K. W. *Conf. Charac.* (1860) 20 The slattering of a cadent brickbat. 1830 *Blackw. Mag.* XXVII. 588 At first a low muttering is heard,..then a sort of sliding slattering noise, and finally a reverberating thundering crash. 1870 *Daily News* 1 Oct., The Prince might ride by with his escort slattering over the paved street.

Sla·ttering, *ppl. a. rare.* [f. the dialect verb *slatter* to spill or splash awkwardly, to slop, to waste, etc., of obscure origin.] Careless, slovenly.

1674 RAY *N. C. Words*, A *Dawgos* or *Dawkin*, a dirty, slattering woman. *a* 1677 BARROW *Serm.* I. vii. 79 All persons who would not lead a loose and slattering life, but design..to prosecute an orderly course of action. 1889 in *N. W. Linc. Gloss.* (ed. 2).

Slattern (slæ·təɹn), *sb.* and *a.* Also 7 **slaterne**, 7–8 **slatern**. [Related to prec.]

A. *sb.* A woman or girl untidy and slovenly in person, habits, or surroundings; a slut. (See also quot. 1639.)

1639 J. SMYTH in *Glouc. Gloss.* (1890) 199 A slaterne, i. e. a rude ill bred woman. *a* 1668 DAVENANT *Play-Ho. to be Let* Wks. (1673) 118 Good Housewife in House, not sauntering young slatern. 1669 DRYDEN *Royal Martyr* Epil. Here Nelly lies, who, though she liv'd a Slattern, Yet dy'd a Princess, acting in St. Cathar'n. 1710 ADDISON *Tatler* No. 243 P. 3 That Species of Women which we call a Slattern. 1766 FORDYCE *Serm. Yng. Women* (1767) I. ii. 76 Butterflies one day, and slatterns the next. 1845 MRS. NORTON *Child of Islands* (1846) 110 His wife a shrew and slattern. 1883 S. C. HALL *Retrospect* II. 314 The young girls were tawdry slatterns.

b. Applied to a man. *rare*[–1].

1849 THACKERAY *Pendennis* v, He was now..as great a dandy as he before had been a slattern.

B. *adj.* Slovenly, untidy, slatternly. Said of appearance, etc., or of persons.

(*a*) 1716 GAY *Trivia* III. 270 Beneath the Lamp her tawdry Ribbons glare, The new-scower'd Manteau, and the slattern Air. 1784 J. BARRY *Lect. Art* vi. (1848) 208 Works formed out of trite, vulgar, slattern matter. 1822 W. IRVING *Braceb. Hall* xvii. 146, I could not but admire a certain degree of slattern elegance about the baggage. 1861 D. COOK *Paul Foster's Daughter* ii, At the best his room has a slattern air.

(*b*) 1824 W. IRVING *T. Trav.* I. 340, I recognised..in his slattern spouse, the once trim and dimpling columbine. 1846 J. BAXTER *Libr. Pract. Agric.* (ed. 4) II. p. xlix, He plods his way to a fireless hut, where a slattern wife and ragged children receive him.

transf. 1896 *Westm. Gaz.* 16 Dec. 4/3 The slipshod writer and the slattern thinker.

Slattern (slæ·təɹn), *v.* [f. prec.]

1. *trans.* To fritter or throw *away* (time, opportunity, etc.) by carelessness or slovenliness.

1747 CHESTERF. *Lett.* (1774) I. ci. 242 Every fool, who slatterns away his whole time in nothings. 1755 — in *World* No. 148, I have known many a passion..(if I may use the expression) wholly slatterned away, by an unguarded and illiberal familiarity. 1785 *Town & Co. Mag.* Nov. 594 This class..frequently slattern away a reputation for the sake of idolatry. 1878 *N. Amer. Rev.* CXXVII. 103 The mournful folly with which they slatterned away the noblest opportunity.

2. To work *over* in a slovenly manner.

1807 E. S. BARRETT *Rising Sun* II. 4 Many of our great men in office..generally slattern over what they are obliged to do, by proxy.

3. *intr.* To play the slattern.

1856 MASSON *Ess.* vi. 246 [They] and the niece are slattering about the house.

Sla·tternish, *a.* [f. SLATTERN *a.* + -ISH.] Somewhat slatternly.

1833 LYTTON *Godolphin* 10 Then, came a gentleman's wife, a pretty, slatternish woman, much painted.

Sla·tternliness. [f. next + -NESS.] The quality or fact of being slatternly.

1821 MISS L. M. HAWKINS *C'tess & Gertrude* II. 172 She ..was shocked to see the effect of domestic slatternliness. 1847 L. HUNT *Men, Women, & B.* I. vii. 126 Evidences that the esteem of a life is preferred to the slatternliness of the moment. 1869 TROLLOPE *He Knew* xlviii, [She] put down the deficiency to the charge of domestic slatternliness.

Slatternly (slæ·təɹnli), *a.* [f. SLATTERN *sb.*]

1. Of persons: Having the condition or habits of a slattern; slovenly; untidy.

c 1680 COTTON *Ep. to Sir C. Clifton* 49 One that had since bin her Maid; ..a slatternly ill-favour'd toad. 1753–4 RICHARDSON *Sir C. Grandison* (1781) VI. vi. 21 She..looked so shy! so silly! so slatternly! 1847 C. BRONTË *J. Eyre* vi, I am..slatternly; I seldom put, and never keep things in order; I am careless. 1865 E. C. CLAYTON *Cruel Fortune* I. 143 The tatterdemalion, slatternly, slipshod women who lounge..against the door-posts.

Comb. 1847 H. MELVILLE *Omoo* i, She turned out to be a small, slatternly-looking craft.

b. *transf.* Of artists or authors in respect of their work.

1762–71 H. WALPOLE *Vertue's Anecd. Paint.* (1786) IV. 70 The time he wasted on his works, in which at least he was the reverse of his slatternly cotemporaries. 1812 SCOTT *Let.* in *Lockhart* (1837) III. i. 21 When you have twenty things to tell, it is better to be slatternly than tedious.

2. Of appearance, etc.: Appropriate to, characteristic of, a slattern.

1776 MME. D'ARBLAY *Early Diary* 5 Apr., We saw the young and handsome Duchess..walking in such an undressed and slatternly manner. 1801 MAR. EDGEWORTH *Angelina* iv, The slatternly, dirty appearance of Araminta's dress. *a* 1853 ROBERTSON *Lect.* i. (1858) 33 A home made wretched by a wife's slatternly conduct. 1877 A. B. EDWARDS *Up Nile* xxii. 702 The rooms were untidy; the general aspect of the place was slatternly and neglected.

Slatternly (slæ·təɹnli), *adv.* [f. SLATTERN *a.* + -LY[2].] In a slovenly way.

1750 CHESTERF. *Lett.* (1792) III. CCXXXIV. 68 A fine suit, ill-made and slatternly or stifly worn,..only exposes the aukwardness of the wearer. 1841 TUPPER *Twins* iii, [She] lay slatternly abed, to nurse a head-ache till noon.

Slatternness (slæ·təɹnˌnés). Also **slatterness**. [f. SLATTERN *a.* + -NESS.] Slatternliness.

1745 ELIZA HEYWOOD *Female Spect.* No. 16 (1748) III. 166 To give the artful stepmother an opportunity of accusing her of ill housewifry and slatterness. 1886 *New York Herald* IX. 196 You cannot expect neatness and order in any house where the daughters see nothing but slatterness.

†**Slatter-pouch.** Also **slatter de pouch.** *Obs. rare.* Some kind of dance or game.

c 1600 *Grobiana's Nuptialls* I. iii. (MS. Bodl. 30), Noe daunceinge unlesse it be the old slatter de pouch or ye beares masque. 1654 GAYTON *Fest. Notes* III. iv. 86 Much did they suffer, but what did they? much When they were boyes at Trap, or slatter-pouch; They'd sweat untill they stank.

Sla·ttery, *a. rare*[–1]. [Cf. SLATTER *v.*[1]] Of a brittle or shivery character.

1829 GLOVER *Hist. Derby* I. 58 This last mentioned coal is slattery and often sulphureous.

Sla·tting, *vbl. sb. rare.* Also 6 **slattynge**. [f. SLAT *v.*[1]] = SLATING *vbl. sb.*[1]

1532 in W. H. Turner *Select. Rec. Oxford* (1880) 109 Excepte sclattynge and tymber owerhedde. 1583 in Hutton *St. John's Coll.* (1898) 62 Item for slatting of y^{e} lofer. 1757 *Phil. Trans.* L. 504 The slatting of the house cracked.

† Sla·tty, *a. Obs.* [f. SLAT *sb.*[1] + -Y.] Slaty.

1661 J. CHILDREY *Brit. Baconica* 74 In a Clayie and slatty Countrey. 1686 PLOT *Staffordsh.* 120 They have harder, stony, slatty sorts of Marles. 1758 BORLASE *Nat. Hist. Cornw.* 59 The black and gritty, the shelfy slatty Soil, and the stiff reddish Soil.

Slaty (slēˑti), *a.* Also 7 **slatie,** 8 **slatey.** [f. SLATE *sb.*[1] + -Y.]

1. Composed of slate; resembling slate; having the nature or properties of slate. Also of land: Lying upon slate (quot. 1733).

In the earliest quots. the sense is perhaps 'stony, rocky'.

a 1529 SKELTON *E. Rummyng* 258 Some go streyght thyder, Be it slaty or slyder; They holde the hye waye [etc.]. 1538 LELAND *Itin.* (1768) I. 62 An exceding..strong Castelle on a stepe Rok, having but one way by the stepe slaty crag to cum to it. 1611 COTGR., *Ardoisin,*..slatie, or, of slate. 1670 W. SIMPSON *Hydrol. Ess.* 65 Blew slate.. and other slaty stone mixed therewith. 1708 J. C. *Compl. Collier* (1845) 19 [The stone-coal] is subject to be a little Slaty. 1733 TULL *Horse-Hoeing Husb.* xiv. 199 These Estates consisted of Thin Slatey Land. 1796 KIRWAN *Elem. Min.* (ed. 2) II. 153 Slaty Copper ore, or Cupriferous Marlite. 1820 KEATS *Hyperion* II. 16 Hard flint they sat upon, Couches of rugged stone, and slaty ridge. 1865 J. T. F. TURNER *Slate Quarries* 5 From Newquay to above Boscastle the rocks..are of a slaty character.

2. Characteristic or typical of slate.

1796 KIRWAN *Elem. Min.* (ed. 2) I. 83 Of a slaty fracture. 1837 WHEWELL *Hist. Induct. Sci.* (1857) III. 445 The slaty cleavage never coincides with the direction of the strata. 1854 RONALDS & RICHARDSON *Chem. Techn.* (ed. 2) I. 45 The principal fracture is straight, slaty.

3. Slate-coloured.

1822–7 GOOD *Study Med.* (1829) II. 176 The slaty or purplish and granular saburra thrown up from the stomach. 1868 G. MACDONALD *Seaboard Parish* II. v. 77 The sun had disappeared under a cloud, and the sea had turned a little slaty. 1893 LYDEKKER *Horns & Hoofs* 202 A slaty patch extending from the shoulder and hip to the legs.

b. *Slaty Gum:* (see quots.).

1889 MAIDEN *Useful Pl.* 470 *Eucalyptus largiflorens*... Also called 'Slaty Gum', from the grey and white patches on the bark. *Ibid.* 524 *Eucalyptus tereticornis*... Called.. 'Slaty Gum' in New South Wales and Queensland.

4. Smacking of slate.

1824 HENDERSON *Anc. & Mod. Wines* 226 The better sorts [of Moselle wines]..sometimes contract a slaty taste from the strata on which they grow.

5. *Comb.* **a.** With names of colours, as *slaty-black, -blue, -green, -grey.*

1818 SCOTT *Rob Roy* xxx, A broken track along the precipitous face of a slaty grey rock. 1826 STEPHENS in Shaw *Gen. Zool.* XIII. II. 164 Slaty-black Graucalus with the head and neck..black. 1859 DARWIN *Orig. Species* i. (1860) 25 The rock-pigeon is of a slaty-blue, with white loins. 1874 T. HARDY *Far fr. Mad. Crowd* v, A coat.. approximating in colour to white and slaty grey.

b. Misc., as *slaty-headed, -like, -looking,* etc.

a 1866 R. DICK in Smiles *Life* (1878) 91 The cliffs—now yellowish, then reddish—now thin and slaty-like. 1876 *Nature* XIV. 580/1 A Slaty-headed Parrakeet. 1882 *Cent. Mag.* XXV. 241 Gray, slaty-looking little towns.

Slauchter, -ir, obs. Sc. forms of SLAUGHTER.

Slaue, obs. form of SLAVE *sb.* and *v.*

Slauen, -eyn, variants of SLAVIN *Obs.*

† Slaugh, obs. variant of SLAWK.

1743 BULKELEY & CUMMINS *Voy. S. Seas* 44 Most Part of our People eat a Weed that grows on the Rocks; it is a thin Weed of a dark green Colour, and called by the Seamen, *Slaugh. Ibid.* 62 Eat Slaugh and Sea-weed fry'd with Tallow-Candles.

† Slaughmess. *Obs.*[-1] [ad. older Flem. *slachmes,* f. *slach* (*slag*) blow, stroke + *mes* knife: cf. next.] A large knife used as a weapon; a dagger.

a 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. V,* 47 b, The fierce Brabanders and strong Almaines with long pykes and cuttyng slaughmesses.

† Slaugh-sword. *Obs.* Also 6 **slawght-, slath-,** 7 **slaug-.** [ad. older Flem. *slachsweerd* (Du. *slagzwaard*; Da. *slagsværd,* Sw. *-svärd*), or G. *schlachtschwert.*] A large two-handed sword.

a 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VIII,* 235 b, Euery man hauing a iauelyn or slaughsword to keepe the people in aray. *a* 1575 tr. *Pol. Verg. Eng. Hist.* (Camden, No. 36) 11 A brode slawght swerde, and a dager sharpe onelie on the one side. 1590 SIR J. SMYTH *Disc. Weapons* 6 b, A fewe slath swords for the gard of their Ensignes. 1614 GORGES *Lucan* VI. 226 Those rough Tewtons..That vse long slaug-swords [*printed* slang-] in their mart.

† Slaught, *sb. Obs.* Forms: 3 **slaht,** 3–4 **slaȝt** (4 **slaȝte, slaȝþe, sclaȝt**), 4–5 **slaght** (5 **-te, slagh**); 4 **slawȝt, slawhte,** 5 **slawþe,** 6 **slawght**; 4 **slauht,** 5 **slauȝt,** 4–5 **slauȝte** (4 **-tte**), 4–7 **slaughte.** [Early ME. *slaht, slaȝt,* app. repr. OE. **sleaht* (cf. gen. pl. *wælsleahta*), var. of *slæht, sleht, sliht,* etc.: see SLEIGHT *sb.*[2] The unmutated vowel corresponds to that of OFris. *slachte* (Fris. *slacht*), MDu. and Du. *slacht,* OS. *-slahta,* OHG. *slaht* (G. *schlacht*) and *slahta* (MHG. *slahte*), ON. and Icel. *sláttr* masc. and *sláttа* fem.]

1. Slaying; slaughter.

c 1205 LAY. 4263 Alken farinde mon, ȝef slaht oþer hæfde þeofðe idon [etc.]. *a* 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 198 Þe keiser stod bimong þat sunful slaht. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* A. 801 As a schep to þe slaȝt þer lad was he. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 362 Be wel avised..Of slawhte er that thou be coupable. 1422 tr. *Secreta Secret., Priv. Priv.* 142 Yf the slaght be vnryghtfull, god shal answere, 'Who-So sleyth, he shal be slayne'. 1469 in *10th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. V. 307 All suche slaghts and kyllyng done in defennce. *a* 1586 SIDNEY *Arcadia* (1622) 298 Where shee had made a scaffold,..and there caused them to be kept, as ready for the slaughte. 1610 HEALEY *St. Aug. Citie of God* II. xi, Bad [spirits] are delighted with slaughtes and tragicall invocations.

2. *fig.* A stroke (of sorrow), spell (of sleep). *rare.*

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* A. 59, I slode vpon a slepyng slaȝte. *Ibid.* C. 192 [They] Arayned hym..what raysoun he hade In such slaȝtes of sorȝe to slepe so faste.

3. A flash (of lightning). Cf. FIRE-SLAUGHT.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 17372 His cher lik was slaght o fire. *Ibid.* 22080 All þe stanes..Sal smitt togedir wit sli maght Als thoner dos wit firen slaght.

† Slaught, *v. Obs. rare.* [f. prec., or ad. Du. (and LG.) *slachten* or G. *schlachten.*] *trans.* To kill, slaughter. Hence **† Slaughting** *vbl. sb.*

1535 COVERDALE *Prov.* ix. 2 Wysdome..hath slaughted, ..and prepared hir table. — *Jer.* xii. 3 Take them awaye, ..and apoynte them for the daye off slaughtinge. 1647 HEXHAM I. s.v., The time of slaughting beasts, *den slagh-tijdt.*

‖ Slaught-boom. *Obs.* In 7 **slaught bome, slaght-boome.** [ad. Du. or LG. *slagboom* (hence Da. and Sw. *slagbom*), = G. *schlagbaum,* f. *slagen* to strike, fall, and *boom* beam, tree.] A beam used as a barrier.

1637 MONRO *Exped.* 7 The Castell..with Moates, Drawbridges, and slaught bomes without all. 1642 *Relat. Action before Cirencester* 4 Each end of the high street.. was secured against Horse with strong slaght-boomes which our men call Turne-pikes.

Slaughter (slɔ̄ˑtəɹ), *sb.* Forms: *α.* 4 **slahter, -tir,** 4–5 **slaȝter** (4 **-tter**), **slaghter** (5 **-tre, -tur**); 4 **slauh-, slauȝter,** 5– **slaughter** (5 **slawghtir,** 6 **-ter**); 4 **sclawtur, sclauter,** 6 **sklaut(t)er**; 5 **slawter, -tyr, slauther,** 6 **slauter.** *β. Sc.* 5–6 **slachtir** (5 **-tyr, -ter**), **slawchtir** (5 **-tyr,** 6 **-ter**), **slauchtir** (5 **-tyr**), 5–7 **slauchter** (6 **-tre**). [a. early ON. **slahtr* neut. (ON. and Icel. *sláttr* butcher-meat, Norw. dial. *slaater* cattle for killing), f. the stem **slah-*: see SLAY *v.*[1]]

1. The killing of cattle, sheep, or other animals for food. (See also 4.)

α 1300 *E. E. Psalter* xliii. 24 Als schepe of slaghter wend er we. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XVIII. i. (1495) 741 Fysshe fleeth..the place of wasshyng and of slaughter of other fysshe. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 458/2 Slawtyr, of beestys, *mactacio.* 1487 *Act 4 Hen. VII,* c. 3 The Slaughter of Beasts..had and done in the Butchery. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* IV. 794 From his Herd he culls, For Slaughter, four the fairest of his Bulls. *a* 1704 T. BROWN *Dial. Dead* Wks. 1711 IV. 77 A Son of Slaughter at White-Chapel converted to the observation of Fish-days. 1868 *Standard* 15 Dec. 6 The laws..that have traditionally been handed down with respect to the slaughter of cattle.

b. The skins of killed beasts. *rare*—[1].

1789 BRAND *Hist. Newcastle* II. 317 The ordinary of the tanners..enjoined..That each brother should have but one butcher to buy slaughter of.

2. The killing or slaying of a person; murder, homicide, esp. of a brutal kind.

α. a 1300 *Cursor M.* 6752 If þe son be risen þan, It sal be slaghter telld o man. *c* 1325 *Metr. Hom.* 38, I wille you telle Hou it of his slahter felle. *c* 1422 HOCCLEVE *Jereslaus's Wife* 882 No wight but shee Mighte of this slaghtre and murdre gilty be. *c* 1450 *Mirour Saluacioun* (Roxb.) 4 Dauid after the slaghter of Golie. 1587 *Mirr. Mag., Porrex* vii, I procur'd hir wrath by slaughter of hir sonne. 1592 *Arden of Feversham* II. ii, The villaine hath sworne the slaughter of his maister. 1652 BURROUGHES *Exp. Hosea* vii. 142 It is a fruit, I say, of the slaughter of Christ and of his blood. *a* 1722 SIR J. LAUDER *Decis.* (1759) I. 13 Our law concludes all it finds with cold steel..guilty of the slaughter. 1820 SCOTT *Monast.* xxvii, He felt..indignant at the supposed slaughter of young Glendinning. 1825 — *Betrothed* xxxi, So singular were the tidings of the Constable's slaughter.

β. c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* ii. (*Paulus*) 457 And þai..throw browthir slawchtir cun þe file. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* VI. 215 The saklace slauchter off hir. 1570 BUCHANAN *Admonit.* Wks. (S. T. S.) 23 Sum of þame ar counsalouris of þe kingis slauchter. 1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* I. 288 Throw counsell of his wyf he inuented the kings slauchtre.

3. The killing of large numbers of persons in war, battle, etc.; massacre, carnage.

α. 1338 R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (1810) 91 Sen þis greuance hard, þe slauhter & þe drede,..sone afterward þe kyng to ȝork ȝede. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) V. 307 þat ȝere was þe grete slauȝter of Saxons. 1420–22 LYDG. *Thebes* III. (MS. Laud 557), He made of hem..So grete slaughter and occisioun, That as þe deth fro his sword þey fled. *c* 1489 CAXTON *Blanchardyn* xxiv. 92 The grete damage and grete slawghtir that he had don of his folke. *a* 1533 LD. BERNERS *Huon* cxliii. 637 There was on both partyes such slauter that it was marueyle to behold it. 1597 J. KING *On Jonas* (1618) 199 What slaughter and hauocke it caused, what profusion of blood between the nobles and the commons. 1665 DRYDEN *Ind. Emp.* v. ii, Slaughter grows murder when it goes too far, And makes a Massacre what was a War. 1713 ADDISON *Cato* I. i, The field Strow'd with Rome's citizens, and drench'd in slaughter. 1750 GRAY *Elegy* 67 To wade through slaughter to a throne. 1835 W. IRVING *Tour Prairies* 122 The chief.. cut his way through the enemy with great slaughter. 1849 GROTE *Greece* II. lxix. (1862) VI. 224 These Greeks repelled the Persian assailants with considerable slaughter.

fig. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 37 b, In oppression & slaughter of all true soules that resisteth hym. 1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* III. iv. I. iii, They make a slaughter of Scriptures.

transf. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* II. iv. 160 The slaughter [by scurvy] would have been..terrible.

β. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* XIX. 567 A felloun slauchtir maid thai thair. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* V. 930 On Sotheron men full gret slauchter thai maid. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* V. xiii. 98 Sic multitude Of slauchter he maid. 1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* I. 193 This, in the secunde ȝeir of his regne, maid gret slachter amang the Pechtes.

b. Personified.

1595 SHAKS. *John* III. i. 237 They were besmear'd and ouerstaind With slaughters pencill. 1735 SOMERVILLE *Chase* II. 496 Grim Slaughter strides along, Glutting her greedy Jaws. 1840 WHITTIER *'Maiden, with the fair brown tresses'* 129 When the red right-hand of slaughter Moulders with the steel it swung.

c. Persons slain in battle, etc. *rare.*

1757 W. WILKIE *Epigoniad* V. 122 Some, 'midst the heaps of slaughter, sought their dead. 1764 GOLDSM. *Hist. Eng. in Lett.* (1772) I. 210 His body being found amidst a heap of slaughter.

4. In the phrases *to* or *for the slaughter.*

a 1400 N. T. (Paues) *Acts* viii. 32 As a schepe vnto þo slawghter was he ledde. 1535 COVERDALE *Ezek.* ix. 2 Euery man [had] a weapen in his honde to the slaughter. 1611 BIBLE *Ps.* xliv. 22 Wee are counted as sheepe for the slaughter. 1650 TRAPP *Comm. Num.* XXXV. 21 Wilful murtherers..should..be taken from the altar to the slaughter. 1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* I. 238 Two miserable Wretches..were now brought out for the Slaughter. 1784 COWPER *Task* VI. 421 Witness the patient ox,..Driv'n to the slaughter.

5. A particular instance or occurrence of slaying or massacre.

1483 *Cath. Angl.* 342/2 A Slaghter, *cedes.* 1535 COVERDALE *Numb.* XXXV. 6 Ye shall geue them sixe fre cities, that he which committeth a slaughter, maie flye thither. 1630 *R. Johnson's Kingd. & Commw.* 33 The slaughters made by the gunne. 1665 MANLEY *Grotius' Low C. Wars* 131 There was a horrible slaughter, for..those that fled could not escape their pursuers. 1722 DE FOE *Col. Jack* (1840) 229 We made a..terrible slaughter. 1836 THIRLWALL *Greece* III. xxii. 275 Of those who escaped this slaughter most met with death in some other form. 1885 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xxi. IV. 575 They next resolved..that the slaughter was a murder.

† 6. *Mil.* (See quots.) *Obs. rare.*

1581 STYWARD *Mart. Discipl.* I. 45 These..be placed in the heart of the battaile, vsuallie called the slaughter of the field, or execution of the same, who commonlie doe not fight but in verie great extremitie. 1598 BARRET *Theor. Wars* III. ii. 47 Halberdes or billes..we call..the gard of the ensignes, and slaughter of the field.

† 7. A cut or slash; a wound. *Obs. rare.*

1592 GREENE *Upst. Courtier* Wks. (Grosart) XI. 274, I pray you bow many slaughters do you make in a poore Calues skin? 1606 G. W[OODCOCK] *Hist. Iustine* II. 12 This man, after innumerable slaughters receiued in the Battayle, as also hauing pursued the Enemy [etc.].

8. *fig.* **a.** An excessive cutting down *of* trees.

1657 W. COLES *Adam in Eden* CXV. 167 There hath been of late dayes, Such a Slaughter of Oaks, and other Trees, all over this Land.

b. A sweeping reduction in the price of goods in order to effect a clearance.

1891 in *Cent. Dict.*

9. *attrib.* and *Comb.* **a.** Attrib., in sense of 'intended or set aside to be killed for food', as *slaughter cattle, cow, lamb, ox, sheep, stock.*

1535 COVERDALE *Zech.* xi. 7, I myself fedde ye slaughter shepe. 1607 TOPSELL *Fourf. Beasts* (1658) 496 Such as are killed they call the skins of slaughter-lambs. 1612 *Extr. Burgh Rec. Stirling* I. 132 Ilk slauchter kow passing langis the brig,..tua pennies. 1645 RUTHERFORD *Tryal & Tri. Faith* (1845) 43 It should be but the logic of a beast, if the slaughter ox should say [etc.]. 1863 W. C. BALDWIN *Afr. Hunting* vii. 301 Slaughter oxen or cows, and milch cows, are not to be had for money.

b. Attrib., with words denoting a place used for slaughtering, as *slaughter-pit, -place, -room, -shop, -yard.*

1688 BUNYAN *Jerusalem Sinner Saved* (1886) 13 Jerusalem was now become the shambles, the very slaughter-shop for saints. 1819 SCOTT *Leg. Montrose* vi, Ere we reach yon fatal slaughter-place. 1833 *Penny Cycl.* I. 8/2 Slaughter-rooms, built of stone. 1890 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Col. Reformer* (1891) 218 All that's a turn too good for making slaughter-yard bacon, does for the Chinamen. 1897 *Daily News* 24 Feb. 5/2 The troops who have just entered the city found many of these slaughter pits.

c. Objective, as *slaughter-breathing, -dealing, -threatening* adjs.

1777 POTTER *Æschylus, Supplicants* 131 Pursuit's alarms, And slaughter-threat'ning arms. 1824 *Sporting Mag.* XLIII. 259 The slaughter-breathing lad in the blue coat. 1870 BRYANT *Iliad* II. XVIII. 214 His slaughter-dealing hands.

10. Misc. and special combs., as *slaughter-feast, -market, -stack, -weapon, -work*; **slaughter-master,** = SLAUGHTERER 3; **slaughter price** (see quot. and cf. 8 b); **slaughter shop,** = SLAUGHTER-HOUSE 4 b; **slaughter-skin** (see quot.) ? *Obs.*; **† slaughter-slave,** a vile executioner; **† slaughter sword** (see SLAUGH-SWORD); **slaughter-year** (see quot.).

1606 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. iv. I. *Tropheis* 201 This savage Beast, Which in his Fold would make a *Slaughter-feast. 1847 W. C. L. MARTIN *The Ox* 59/1 The cottier or small farmer, who could not pretend to rear beasts for the *slaughter market. 1841 GREENER *Sci. Gunnery* 181 The *slaughter-master..is a cormorant, who swallows the food of the weak. 1893 *Daily News* 27 Jan. 7/4 The bank premises had been written down to what was called in the north '*slaughter prices'—that was to say, not what they would fetch in the market, but as mere bricks and mortar. 1841 GREENER *Sci. Gunnery* 180 Tradesmen.. whose establishment bears the euphonious titles of the '*slaughter shop' and 'blood house'. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl., **Slaughter-skins,* a term used by our curriers ..for the skins of oxen, or other beasts, when fresh, and

covered with the hair. 1555 in Foxe *A. & M.* (1684) III. 512/1 The common Cut-throat and general *Slaughter-slave to all the Bishops of England. 1593 NASHE *Christ's T.* Wks. (Grosart) IV, 72 The clowde-climing *slaughter-stack of thy dead carkases. 1569 *Irish Act* 11 *Eliz.* Stat. III. c. 1 Preamble, The Scotts..with their *slaughter swords hewed him to pieces. 1611 BIBLE *Ezek.* ix. 2 Euery man a *slaughter weapon in his hand. 1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* x, The hand-waled murderers, whose hands are hard as horn wi' haudin the slaughter-weapons. 1598 BARRET *Theor. Wars* I. i. 4 Our nation hath performed round *slaughter-worke therewith. 1728 P. WALKER *Life Peden* Pref. (1827) 32 The two bloody *Slaughter-years.., 1684, 1685, wherein 82 of the Lord's suffering People were..cruelly murdered.

Slaughter (slɔ̄·tɑɪ), *v.* [f. prec. Cf. ON. and Icel. *slátra*, Norw. dial. *slaatra*, in sense 1.]

1. *trans.* To kill (cattle, sheep, or other animals), *spec.* for food.

1535 COVERDALE *Isaiah* xxii. 13 But they..slaughter oxen, they kyll shepe. 1727 BAILEY s.v. *Diipolia*, A number of Oxen.., of which if any eat of the Cakes he was slaughtered. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) III. 165 During the winter, the rein-deer are slaughtered as sheep with us. 1833 *Act* 3 & 4 *Will. IV*, c. 46 § 112 It shall not be lawful for any flesher..to slaughter cattle..elsewhere than in the shambles. 1856 KANE *Arctic Expl.* I. xxvii. 362 The fire was lit up, and one of our birds slaughtered forthwith. 1890 L. C. D'OYLE *Notches* Introd. p. viii, English and Eastern hunters, who came out and slaughtered game by thousands.

absol. 1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* II. 167 He should learn to slaughter gently, dress the carcass neatly [etc.].

2. To kill, slay, murder (a person), esp. in a bloody or brutal manner.

1582 STANYHURST *Æneis* I. (Arb.) 21 Wheare lyes strong Hector slaughtred by manful Achilles. 1592 *Soliman & Pers.* v. iv, In slaughtering him thy vertues are defamed. 1630 *R. Johnson's Kingd. & Commw.* 357 The Prince himselfe hath hardly escaped from being taken or slaughtered. 1746 FRANCIS tr. *Horace, Art Poet.* 268 Let not Medea.. Slaughter her mangled Infants on the Stage. 1825 J. NEAL *Bro. Jonathan* III. 427 She slaughtered our child on the spot. 1865 LECKY *Ration.* (1870) II. 154 They said it was not lawful for a single unauthorised individual to condemn and slaughter the consecrated ruler of the nation.

fig. 1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* IX. 389 The circumstances.. were very plausible, if time did not slaughter my goodwill. 1845 BROWNING *Time's Revenges* 5 He slaughters you with savage looks Because you don't admire my books.

3. To kill or slay (persons) in large numbers; to massacre.

1589 WARNER *Alb. Eng.* Prose Addit. (1602) 341 Troy is sacked, and her people for the most part slaughtered. 1671 MILTON *P. R.* III. 75 What do these Worthies, But rob.., slaughter, and enslave Peaceable Nations. 1692 DRYDEN *St. Euremont's Ess.* 69 To know simply how to slaughter Men..is to excel in a very fatal Science. 1792 A. YOUNG *Trav. France* 405 Frederic, who attained the title of Great, on account of his superior skill in the arts of slaughtering men. 1819 SCOTT *Ivanhoe* XXXVI, He shall..slaughter the infidels, even heaps upon heaps. 1853 J. H. NEWMAN *Hist. Sk.* (1873) II. I. iii. 138 The Latins were slaughtered in their own homes and in the streets.

fig. 1611 SHAKS. *Wint. T.* I. ii. 93 One good deed, dying tongueless, Slaughters a thousand wayting vpon that. 1842 LOVER *Handy Andy* x, Fanny went on slaughtering the S's as fast as Furlong ruined R's.

absol. 1718 POPE *Iliad* XI. 199 Still slaughtering on, the king of men proceeds.

†**4.** To gash or slash (a hide). *Obs. rare.*

1603-4 *Act* 1 *Jas. I*, c. 22 § 1 No Butcher..shall gash, slaughter, or cut any Hide..in flayinge thereof.

5. *fig.* To sell at low prices or at a sacrifice.

1896 *Daily News* 9 June 9/6 In that case,..we should have to slaughter our stock and lose our money.

Slau·ghterage. [f. SLAUGHTER *sb.*] All that is connected with the slaughtering of animals for food.

1854 *Bentley's Misc.* Oct. 323 It is astonishing with what art..we have succeeded in hiding..the slaughterage, the sutlerage, and the sewerage.

Slau·ghterdom. *rare.* [f. as prec.] Slaughter, massacre; slaughtered condition.

1592 G. HARVEY *Four Lett.* ii, What cruell bloudshed, what horrible slaughterdome haue bene committed, for the point of Honour. 1593 NASHE *Christ's T.* (1623) 11 How much more shall the King of all kings reuenge the death and slaughterdom of his Embassadors. 1860 *All Year Round* No. 74. 575 On either hand, lie the carcases and bones of horses in different stages of slaughterdom.

Slaughtered (slɔ̄·tɑɪd), *ppl. a.* [f. SLAUGHTER *v.*]

1. Of animals (or flesh): Killed for food, etc.

1588 SHAKS. *Tit. A.* II. iii. 223 Lord Bassianus lies embrewed heere, All on a heape like to the slaughtred Lambe. 1597 A. M. tr. *Guillemeau's Fr. Chirurg.* 48/1 Water wherinne slaughtered fleshe hath binn washed. *a* 1639 CAREW *A Cruel Mistress* 5 A slaughter'd bull will appease angry Jove. 1814 SCOTT *Ld. of Isles* III. xvii, Underneath yon jutting crag Are hunters and a slaughter'd stag. 1837 P. KEITH *Bot. Lex.* 390 The muscle of slaughtered animals ..forms also an agreeable..food for man.

transf. 1746 FRANCIS tr. *Horace, Epist.* I. xii. 29 Whether slaughter'd Onions crown your Board, Or murder'd Fish an impious Feast afford.

2. Of persons: Killed, slain; massacred.

1593 SHAKS. *Lucr.* 1376 A weeping tear, Shed for the slaughter'd husband by the wife. 1669 HOPKINS *Serm.* 1 *Pet.* ii. 13 (1685) 4 Our most unfeigned mourning for a slaughtered Monarch. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* IV. 117 Heaps of slaughter'd Soldiers bite the Ground. 1743 FRANCIS tr. *Horace, Odes* III. iii. 68 Thrice shall her Matrons..Deplore their slaughter'd Sons. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* viii. II. 316 Another had marched.., over heaps of slaughtered Moslem, to the sepulchre of Christ.

absol. 1826 SCOTT *Woodst.* xiv, I have heard..that the spirits of the slaughtered have strange power over the slayer.

3. *slang.* (See quot.)

1892 *Star* 19 Dec. 2/5 Furniture made by 'slaughtered' (i.e., extra sweated) cabinet makers.

Slaughterer (slɔ̄·tərəɹ). [f. SLAUGHTER *v.*]

1. One who slaughters or kills.

1591 SHAKS. 1 *Hen. VI*, II. v. 109 Thou do'st then wrong me, as y^t^ slaughterer doth, Which giueth many Wounds, when one will kill. *c* 1611 CHAPMAN *Iliad* XIII. 593 At his slaughterers Incensed Paris spent a lance. 1679 C. NESS *Antichrist* 191 Nations all that time warring against those slaughterers. 1864 BURTON *Scot Abroad* II. i. 98 The slaughterers of St. Bartholomew.

b. A powerful fighter or boxer.

1896 C. DOYLE *R. Stone* xvii, I've seen Jack Harrison fight five times, and I never yet saw him have the worse of it. He's a slaughterer, and so I tell you.

2. A killer of animals; a butcher.

1648 HEXHAM II, *Een slager der beesten*, a Slaughterer. 1668 R. STEELE *Husbandman's Calling* vi. (1672) 161 The Lamb looks cheerfully on the slaughterer. 1795 SOUTHEY *Joan of Arc* IV. 352, I saw the cattle start..And with a piteous moaning vainly seek To fly the coming slaughterers. 1828 MAITLAND *Let. to Simeon* 28 One perhaps has been a singer in the synagogue;..a third, a slaughterer. 1868 *Standard* 15 Dec. 6 The [Jewish] slaughterer is not a butcher in the accepted sense of the term. 1881 *Nation* (N. Y.) XXXII. 428 A tremendous slaughterer of the brute creation.

3. *slang.* A dealer who buys from small makers at extremely low prices.

1851 MAYHEW *Lond. Lab.* I. 333 The 'slaughterers'..buy at 'starvation prices'.., the artificer being often kept waiting for hours. *Ibid.* II. 303 The slaughterer cared only to have them viewly and cheap.

Slau·ghter-house. [SLAUGHTER *sb.*]

1. A house or place where animals are killed for food.

c 1374 in *Scriptores Tres* (Surtees) App. p. cxli, Primo Lardariam, quæ vocatur Sclauterhus. 1441-2 *Durh. Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 79 Pro cust. boum gros. apud le Slauterhouse. 1471-2 *Ibid.* (Surtees) 93 Pro una magna corda pro le Slaughterhous. 1535 in W. H. Turner *Select. Rec. Oxford* (1880) 133 The bochers..shall have the voyde grounde..to make a sklautter housse. 1593 SHAKS. 2 *Hen. VI*, IV. iii. 6 They fell before thee like Sheepe and Oxen, & thou behaued'st thy selfe, as if thou hadst beene in thine owne Slaughter-house. 1675 BROOKS *Golden Key* Wks. 1867 V. 340 A lamb..goeth as quietly to the shambles or the slaughter-house as if it were going to the fold. 1709 STEELE *Tatler* No. 21 ₱ 13 The Second is a Butcher's Daughter and sometimes brings a Quarter of Mutton from the Slaughter-house. 1811 *Sporting Mag.* XXXVII. 86 The butchers men who work in the slaughter-houses. 1860 EMERSON *Conduct of Life* Wks. (Bohn) II. 310 You have just dined, and, however scrupulously the slaughter-house is concealed.., there is complicity.

fig. 1819 SCOTT *Ivanhoe* XXVI, Permit him to go freely about his task of preparing these Saxon hogs for the slaughter-house. 1894 DRUMMOND *Ascent of Man* 25 The world has been held up to us as one great..slaughter-house resounding with the cries of a ceaseless agony.

b. *attrib.*, as *slaughter-house style, talk.*

1850 HT. MARTINEAU *Hist. Peace* II. VI. viii. 576 The rise of Young Ireland, with its political ignorance, its slaughter-house talk, and its bullying boasts. 1854 EMERSON *Lett. & Soc. Aims, Immortality* Wks. (Bohn) III. 279 Where there is depravity there is a slaughter-house style of thinking.

2. *transf.* A place or scene in which persons are killed or slaughtered.

1578 T. N. tr. *Conq. W. India* 103 [They] beganne openly to say Cortes meant to carrie them to the slaughter house. 1597 MIDDLETON *Wisdom of Solomon* viii. 15 A reign, not blood, An empire, not a slaughter-house of lives. 1646 TRAPP *Expos. John* x. 40 Jerusalem was then as Rome is now, the saints' slaughter house. 1673 STILLINGFL. *Serm.* v. 86 Those whose malice goes beyond their power, and want only enough of that to make the whole World a Slaughter-house. 1790 MERRY *Laurel of Liberty* (ed. 2) 24 Yet, haughty France, my verse could never claim, For deeds that suit the slaughter-house of fame. 1814 SCOTT *Ld. of Isles* II. xv, This ancient fortress of my race Shall be..No slaughter-house for shipwreck'd guest. 1868 TENNYSON *Lucretius* 84 The lust of blood That makes a steaming slaughter-house of Rome.

fig. 1797 GODWIN *Enquirer* I. iii. 17 It is the great slaughter-house of genius and of mind.

b. A house injurious to health.

1899 *Atlantic Monthly* LXXXIII. 769/1 Rear tenements, to the number of nearly 100, have been condemned as 'slaughter houses', with good reason.

†**3.** A part of a fortification. *Obs.*

1552 EDW. VI *Jrnl.* (ROXB.) 439 It was agreed the wall shuld stond, and tow slaughter houses to be made upon to skowre the utter cutiners. *Ibid.*, Another walle within that, with tow other slaughter houses, and a rampere within that again.

4. *slang.* a. (See quot.)

1809 *Sporting Mag.* XXXIII. 73 The houses called by sharpers Slaughter-Houses, are those where persons are uniformly employed by the proprietors to affect to play at hazard for large sums of money.

b. A shop where goods are bought from small makers at very low prices. Also *attrib.*

1851 MAYHEW *Lond. Lab.* I. 333 This was owing to..the unwillingness of the small master to carry it to another slaughter-house in the rain. 1861 *Ibid.* III. 233 A special race of employers, known by the significant name of 'slaughter-house men'.

Slaughtering (slɔ̄·tərin), *vbl. sb.* [f. SLAUGHTER *v.*] The action of the verb in various senses.

1597 J. KING *On Jonas* (1618) 646 By trecheries, poisonings, slaughtering, and such like Scythian kindnesses. 1649 MILTON *Eikon.* iv. Wks. 1851 III. 367 To turne his slashing at the Court Gate, to slaughtering in the Field. 1721 in *10th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. V. 165 The slaughtering of a great number. 1819 SHELLEY *Cyclops* 387 Axes for Aetnean slaughterings. 1875 *Encycl. Brit.* I. 7 Since the opening of the public abattoir, all private slaughtering..is strictly prohibited.

b. *attrib.*, as *slaughtering-house, stock*, etc.

1845 DARWIN *Voy. Nat.* iii. (1873) 56 The estancias and slaughtering-houses. 1870 MORRIS *Earthly Par.* II. III. 280 His slaughtering stock before the knife would pine. 1891 *Month* LXXII. 18 Ice-houses, slaughtering-yards.

Slau·ghtering, *ppl. a.* [f. as prec.]

1. That slaughters; killing, slaying.

1588 SHAKS. *Tit. A.* v. iii. 144 Hither hale that misbelieuing Moore, To be adiudg'd some direfull slaughtering death. 1592 *Soliman & Pers.* III. i, Inforce me sheath my slaughtering blade In the deare bowels of my countrimen. 1625 MILTON *On Death Fair Infant* 68 To..drive away the slaughtering pestilence. 1679 C. NESS *Antichrist* 211 Ministers have..ever been the sacrifices for slaughtering tyrants.

b. *transf.* or *fig.* (Cf. KILLING *ppl. a.*)

1811 *Sporting Mag.* XXXVIII. 184 Having thus far described the slaughtering rounds of this fight. 1851 MAYHEW *Lond. Lab.* II. 303 A little master, working, as he called it, 'at a slaughtering pace,' for a warehouse. 1867 F. FRANCIS *Angling* (1880) 298 The most slaughtering way of fishing for grayling is with the grasshopper.

2. Of prices: Of the nature of a sacrifice; lower than is profitable.

1898 *Daily News* 29 Mar. 9/4 In the export yarn trade there is a turn for the worse in values, owing to sales at slaughtering prices from stock.

Hence **Slau·ghteringly** *adv.*

1836 E. HOWARD *R. Reefer* XXXVII, They waxed..cuttingly polite, then slaughteringly sarcastic.

Slau·ghterman. Also 4 **slaghter-**, 4–5 **slawter-**, 6 **slauter-**. [f. SLAUGHTER *sb.*]

1. One who kills or slays; an executioner.

a 1350 *St. Matthew* 307 in Horstm. *Altengl. Leg.* (1881) 135 He þat was þaire slaghter man Vnto þe appostell playnly ran And bare him thurgh with-owten let. *c* 1550 BALE *K. Johan* (Camden) 92 To slea that beaste & slauterman of the devyll. 1577 BULLINGER *Decades* (1592) 64 He suffered..the torments of the slaughtermen, and death it selfe. 1611 B. JONSON *Catiline* v. iv, All his aides Of ruffians, slaues, and other slaughter-men. 1680 C. NESS *Church Hist.* 39 Some savage slaughter-men..to drown those males. 1869 SPURGEON *Treas. David* Ps. ix. 12 Before the slaughtermen are permitted to smite the Lord's enemies. 1899 *Contemp. Rev.* Sept. 439 Adventurers who had been hired on both sides as slaughter-men.

fig. *a* 1658 CLEVELAND *Poems* (1677) 118 O he's a terrible Slaughter-man at a Thanksgiving Dinner! 1711 SHAFTESBURY *Charac.* (1737) I. 270, I know not whether it be from this killing disposition..that our satirists prove such very slaughter-men. 1764 BERRIDGE *Wks.* (1864) 412 Mr. Newton has fallen into the hands of a slaughter-man..Dr. Mayhew, who will certainly cleave him down the chine.

2. One whose work or occupation it is to kill cattle, etc., for food.

1389 *Durh. Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 49 Stipendia famulorum ..: Slawterman, iis vjd. 1416-7 *Ibid.* 613 Item in feodo del Slawterman. 1548 ELYOT, *Bonicida*, a slaughter man. 1624 J. DAVIES *Ps.* xliv, Like sheep which Slaughter-men cull out to kill. 1677 YARRANTON *Eng. Improv.* 153 Houses for the Slaughter-men, Sea-men, and Fishers. 1722 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 6048/4 Richard Gilbert,..Butcher and Slaughterman. 1810 *Sporting Mag.* XXXVI. 324 No bullock ever fell so clean from the hands of an experienced slaughterman. 1851-3 *Tomlinson's Cycl. Useful Arts* (1866) I. 3/1 To give space for one slaughterman to dress a bullock.

Slaughterous (slɔ̄·tərəs), *a.* [f. SLAUGHTER *sb.* + -OUS.] Murderous, destructive.

1582 STANYHURST *Æneis* I. (Arb.) 20 What fortun vnhappye Mee fenst from falling wyth thy fierce slaughterus handstroke. 1605 SHAKS. *Mach.* v. v. 14 Direnesse familiar to my slaughterous thoughts Cannot once start me. 1634 CANNE *Necess. Separation* 20 Many will rather submit to those slaughterous and inhuman courses than seek to redeem their precious liberty. 1798 *Progress of Man* 96 in *Anti Jacobin* (1852) 74 The slaught'rous arms that wrought thy woe. 1817 J. SCOTT *Paris Revisit.* (ed. 4) 97 The place where the slaughterous but immortal struggle was waged. 1839 JAMES *Louis XIV*, II. 367 After various slaughterous conflicts,..the Spanish troops were obliged to withdraw. 1853 MRS. GASKELL *Cranford* x, Some accident might occur from such slaughterous and indiscriminate directions.

Hence **Slau·ghterously** *adv.*, 'destructively; murderously' (1847 Webster).

†**Slau·ghtery.** *Obs.* [f. SLAUGHTER *sb.*, after *butchery.*]

1. Slaughter.

1604 DRAYTON *Moses Map Miracles* 62 Death is discern'd triumphantlie in Armes, On the rough Seas his slaughterie to keepe. 1610 MARCELLINE *Triumphs Jas. I*, 9 That slaughtery, butchery, and all their massacres..are to him most horrid and hateful. 1648 [see sense 2].

2. A slaughter-house.

1648 SYMMONS *Vindic.* 191 Masters of a Slaughtery will they be called, because they delight so much in the slaughtery of mankind. 1665 J. WEBB *Stone-Heng* (1725) 181 A Slaughtery for killing of Beasts.

Slauk(e, variants of SLAWK.

Slaunder, -ir, -re, obs. ff. SLANDER *sb.* and *v.*

‖**Slauntiagh.** *Obs.* Also **slanteghe.** [In form app. a. Ir. Gael. *sláinteacha*, pl. of *sláinte* health, but the sense is that of *slán, slánadh*, or *slánaidheacht* surety, guarantee.] A pledge or surety.

1535 *State Papers Hen. VIII*, II. 266 Chaier Ochonor.. is sworne and bounde by suirties and slauntiaghs of Omore and others, to take the Kingis parte against his broder. 1538 *Ibid.* III. 44 The said ODonyll and ONeile were bounde and sworne togethers.., and have fond suerties, otherwise callid slanteghe.

Slauth(e, obs. forms of SLOTH *sb.*

Slav (slāv, slæv), *sb.* and *a.* Forms: α. 4 **Sclaue**, 4, 9 **Sclave**. β. 8–9 **Slave**. γ. 9 **Slav**. [In early use ad. med.L. *Sclavus* (recorded from *c* 800), corresponding to late Gr. Σκλάβος (*c* 580): cf. older G. *Sklave*, *Sclav(e*, *Schlav(e*, MHG. *Schlaff*. The later forms in *Sl-* correspond to mod.G. and F. *Slave*, med.L. *Slavus* (951), and are closer to the OSlav. and Russian forms: see SLOVENE.]

A. *sb.* A person belonging by race to a large group of peoples inhabiting eastern Europe and comprising the Russians, Bulgarians, Servo-Croats, Poles, Czechs, Moravians, and Wends or Slovenes.

α. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) IV. 417 Cirillus, apostel of þe Sclaves. *Ibid.* VI. 249 He chastede þe Saxons and þe Sclaves. 1398 — *Barth. De P. R.* VIII. xxii. (Tollem. MS.), Þe contre and londe of sclaues. *c* 1835 *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) XXIII. 631/1 Pomerania was originally peopled by the Sclaves. 1876 A. J. EVANS *Through Bosnia* i. 15 The Croatian dress resembles that of all the Southern Sclaves.

β. 1788 GIBBON *Decl. & F.* lv. V. 544 The national appellation of the Slaves has been degraded by chance or malice from the signification of glory to that of servitude. 1861 J. G. SHEPPARD *Fall of Rome* vii. 349 The particular inroad in which the Slaves participated was signalized by the last triumph of the veteran Belisarius. 1889 I. TAYLOR *Orig. Aryans* 21 Linguistically the Slaves are closely related to the Letts.

γ. 1866 *Chambers's Encycl.* VIII. 383/2 The Eastern Slavs, the ancestors of the Russians. 1880–1 MORFILL in *Trans. Phil. Soc.* 74 A very full account of the North-Western Slavs. 1883 — *Slavonic Lit.* ii. 31 We find Slavs settled between the Danube and the Balkan.

B. *adj.* Belonging to, characteristic of, or originating with the Slavs; Slavic; Slavonian.

1876 A. J. EVANS *Through Bosnia* i. 10 The twin pigtails of maidenhood are far more characteristically Sclave than German. 1878 *N. Amer. Rev.* CXXVII. 403 The Slav trap prepared for her in Bosnia. 1903 G. F. ABBOTT *Tour Macedonia* 110 Through great part of Central Macedonia one finds the Slav language predominating in the open country.

Hence **Sla·vdom**, the Slavonic race generally; Slavs collectively.

1881 *Times* 19 Jan. 9/5 A general casting off of the Turkish yoke from all Slavdom. 1889 *Ibid.* 15 Aug. 3/4 Outside Slavdom Russia has no politics whatever.

Slave (slēv), *sb.* (and *a.*). Forms: α. 4–6 **sclaue**, 5 **sclave**, 6 **sklaw**, **sklaue**, **sklave**, *Sc.* **sclayff**. β. 6 *Sc.* **slawe**, **slaif**, 6–7 **slaue**, 6– **slave**. [ad. OF. *esclave* (also mod.F.), sometimes fem. corresponding to the masc. *esclaf*, *esclas* (pl. *esclaz*, *esclauz*, *esclos*, etc.), = Prov. *esclau* masc., *esclava* fem., Sp. *esclavo*, *-va*, Pg. *escravo*, *-va*, It. *schiavo*, *-va*, med.L. *sclavus*, *sclava*, identical with the racial name *Sclavus* (see SLAV), the Slavonic population in parts of central Europe having been reduced to a servile condition by conquest; the transferred sense is clearly evidenced in documents of the 9th century.

The form with initial *scl-* is also represented by older G. *schlav(e*, *sclav(e*, G. *sklave*. In English the reduction of *scl-* to *sl-* is normal, and the other Teut. languages show corresponding forms, as WFris. *slaef*, NFris. *slaaw*, M Du. *slave*, *slaef* (Du. *slaaf*), MLG. and LG. *slave* (hence Da. and Norw. *slave*), older G. *slaf(e*, Sw. *slaf*).

The history of the words representing *slave* and *Slav* in late Gr., med.L., and G., is very fully traced in Grimm's *Deutsches Wörterbuch* s.v. *Sklave*.]

I. 1. One who is the property of, and entirely subject to, another person, whether by capture, purchase, or birth; a servant completely divested of freedom and personal rights.

α. *c* 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 106 He was sone i-nome, Ase a sclaue forth i-lad and i-don in prisone. *c* 1374 CHAUCER *Troylus* III. 391, I wol þe serue Right as þi sclaue. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* IX. v. 114 My fader..Twelf chosin matronis sall 3ou geif all fre, To be 3our sclavis in captiuite. *a* 1533 LD. BERNERS *Huon* xlviii. 161 It is a sclaue, a crysten woman, whom we bought at Damiet. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* II. vii. 33, I..rather choose..to be Lord of those that riches haue, Then them to haue my selfe, and be their seruile sclaue.

β. 1538 ELYOT *Dict.*, *Seruiliter*, lyke a bondman or slaue. 1562 WINJET *Wks.* (S.T.S.) I. 50 As thai war slawes, presoneris, and captiues in a raip. 1568 GRAFTON *Chron.* II. 2 Before the commyng of the sayde William there were no slaues or bondmen. 1610 SHAKS. *Temp.* I. ii. 308 Wee'll visit Caliban, my slaue, who neuer Yeelds vs kinde answere. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* XII. 167 Of guests he makes them slaves Inhospitably. 1717 LADY M. W. MONTAGU *Lett.* II. xlvi. 35 You will expect I should say something..of the slaves. 1764 GOLDSM. *Trav.* 388 The wealth..Pillag'd from slaves to purchase slaves at home. 1809–10 COLERIDGE *Friend* (1865) 73 They were preparing us to give up..the children of free ancestors to become slaves, and the fathers of slaves! 1878 H. M. STANLEY *Dark Cont.* (1889) 204 The Arabs bring cloth, beads, and wire, to buy ivory and slaves.

b. Used as a term of contempt. Now *arch.*

1537 *St. Papers Hen. VIII* (1834) II. 448 Emonges 200 of them [galloglasses] shalbe skaunt 8th that are gentilmen ..., and all the residue sklawes. *c* 1560 *Durham Deposit.* (Surtees) 64 Thou art a slave and a knave to fynd fault with me. 1607 SHAKS. *Cor.* I. vi. 39 Where is that Slaue Which told me they had beate you to your Trenches? 1780 COWPER *Progr. Error* 615 Though the deist rave, And atheist, if earth bear so base a slave. 1819 SCOTT *Ivanhoe* xxii, 'And what is to be my surety?' said the Jew...'The word of a Norman noble, thou pawnbroking slave', answered Front-de-Bœuf.

transf. 1607 SHAKS. *Timon* IV. iii. 33 This yellow Slaue [*sc.* gold] Will knit and breake Religions.

†**c.** In less serious use: Rascal; fellow. *Obs.*

1592 R. D. *Hypnerotomachia* 87 Dyvers persons wondering at the force of such a little slave [Cupid]. 1602 SIR W. CORNWALLIS *Ess.* xv, I come now from discoursing with an Husbandman—an excellent stiffe slave. 1607 SHAKS. *Cor.* IV. v. 181 Oh Slaues, I can tell you Newes, Newes you Rascals.

2. *transf.* One who submits in a servile manner to the authority or dictation of another or others; a submissive or devoted servant.

1521 *Bradshaw's St. Werburge* (1887) 203 Be nowe beniuolent, whan I shall on the call, Vnto thy slaue. 1596 SHAKS. *Tam. Shrew* I. i. 224 Let me be a slaue, t' atchieue that maide. 1647 COWLEY *Mistr.*, *The Thraldom* iv, I am thy slave then; let me know, Hard Master, the great task I have to do. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 31 Oct. 1685, He..is of nature cruel and a slave of the Court. 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* i, I'd be her slave no longer. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* ii. I. 163 Oliver, the head of a party, and consequently, to a great extent, the slave of a party. 1880 'OUIDA' *Moths* I. 2 She had her adorers and slaves grouped about her.

b. *fig.* One who is completely under the domination *of*, or subject *to*, a specified influence.

1559 *Mirr. Mag.*, *Jack Cade* xxiv, Therefore Baldwin warne men folow reason, Subdue theyr wylles, and be not Fortunes slaues. 1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scott.* I. 240 Sergius, a mounk and sclaue of the Nestorian and Heretical Impietie. 1602 SHAKS. *Ham.* III. ii. 77 Giue me that man That is not Passions Slaue. 1620 T. GRANGER *Div. Logike* 102 He is the slaue of muddy Mammon. 1684 *Scanderbeg Rediv.* iii. 37 Well knowing that the Tartars are a People that use not to be very much slaves to their words. 1746 FRANCIS tr. *Horace*, *Epist.* I. i. 53 The Slave to Envy, Anger, Wine or Love. 1780 *Mirror* No. 87, The slaves of a weak, a childish; or a gloomy superstition. 1848 DICKENS *Dombey* xxvi, I am the slave of remorse. 1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) III. 174 [He] is the slave of his inveterate party prejudices.

transf. 1596 SHAKS. I *Hen. IV*, v. iv. 81 But thought's the slaue of Life, and Life, Times foole. 1602 — *Ham.* III. ii. 198 Purpose is but the slaue to Memorie. 1817 SHELLEY *Rev. Islam* VI. xvii, O War! of hate and pain Thou loathed slave.

3. One whose condition in respect of toil is comparable to that of a slave.

1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) II. 121 The women, therefore, of these countries, are the greatest slaves upon earth. 1801 MRS. SHERWOOD in *Life* (1847) xii. 214 We called the slave-of-all-work to inquire the cause of all this tintamara. 1889 G. B. SHAW in *Fabian Ess.* 192 The white slaves of the sweater.

4. *Ent.* An ant captured by, and made to serve, ants of another species.

1817 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* (1818) II. 75 Certain ants are affirmed to sally forth..for the singular purpose of procuring slaves to employ in their domestic business. 1859 DARWIN *Orig. Species* vii. (1860) 220, I opened fourteen nests of F. sanguinea, and found a few slaves in all. 1879 LUBBOCK *Sci. Lect.* iii. 77 If the colony changes the situation of its nest, the masters are all carried by the slaves to the new one.

II. *attrib.* and *Comb.*

5. Appositive, as *slave-girl*, *-martyr*, *-pander*, *-soldier*, *-subject*, *-wife*, etc.

1607 TOURNEUR *Rev. Trag.* II. iv, Where's this slave-pander now? 1711 SHAFTESB. *Charac.* (1737) I. 105 'Twas difficult to apprehend..what publick [subsisted] between an absolute prince and his slave-subjects. 1813 SHELLEY *Q. Mab* v. 206 The slave-soldier lends His arm to murderous deeds. 1837 HT. MARTINEAU *Soc. Amer.* III. 110 Slave wives and mothers. 1839 MISS MAITLAND *Lett. Madras* (1843) 278 Four wives and seven slave-girls were burnt with him. 1900 *Dublin Rev.* July 205 The honour that was paid to the slave-martyrs.

b. Used predicatively as *adj.*

a 1576 PILKINGTON *Wks.* (Parker Soc.) 225, I will..make thee more vile and slave..than any people round about thee. 1850 CARLYLE *Latter-d. Pamph.* i. (*c* 1900) 35 Algiers, Brazil or Dahomey hold nothing in them so authentically slave as you are.

6. Attrib. in various senses, as *slave-bargain*, *-bill*, *-blood*, *-hunt*, *-labour*, etc.

1808 ELEANOR SLEATH *Bristol Heiress* III. 283 You have ..found a respectable purchaser for your plantations, and have disposed of your *slave-bargain on your own terms? 1791 COWPER *Let. to Lady Hesketh* 27 May, As for politics, I reck not, having no room in my head for any thing but the *Slave-bill. 1612 CHAPMAN *Rev. Bussy d'Ambois* IV. iii, He had bought his bands out With their *slave bloods! 1864 WEBSTER, **Slave-hunt*, I. A search after persons to make slaves of. *Barth.* 2. A search after fugitive slaves. 1890 *Spectator* 3 May, The leaders of the slave-hunts, the Arab desperadoes. *a* 1859 *Voice from South* 19 (Bartlett), I hear you avowing that *slave labor shall not come in competition with free labor. 1871 KINGSLEY *At Last* xvi, Exclusive sugar cultivation had put a premium on unskilled slave-labour. 1894 H. GARDENER *Unofficial Patriot* 2 The direct results of having been born to *slave-ownership. 1860 PUSEY *Min. Proph.* 135 The inducement to *slave-piracy among the Cilicians. 1884 *Pall Mall G.* 25 Apr. 2/1 On the western side of Africa there are no *slave raids. 1852 J. M. LUDLOW *Hist. U. S.* 195 The tendency of the *slave-system being to divide the white population. 1796 H. HUNTER tr. *St.-Pierre's Stud. Nat.* (1799) III. 651 The violent remonstrances of our traders in favour of the inhuman *slave-traffic. 1838 WHITTIER *Farew. of Virginia Slave Mother* 3 Where the *slave-whip ceaseless swings.

b. With words denoting places, buildings, etc., in some way connected with slaves or slavery, as *slave-barge*, *-cabin*, *-country*, etc.

1865 J. H. INGRAHAM *Pillar of Fire* (1872) 218 A *slave-barge passed down the Nile. 1878 MORLEY *Diderot* II. 228 Black Toussaint Louverture in his *slave-cabin at Hayti. 1845 DARWIN *Voy. round World* (ed. 2) xxi. 499, I thank God, I shall never again visit a *slave-country. 1890 HENTY *With Lee in Virginia* 76 A warrant to search your *slave-huts..for a runaway negro. 1855 BAILEY *The Mystic*, etc. 70 The desert heart of *slave-land. 1838 STEPHENS *Trav. Turkey* 52/1 In the *slave-market..it required no great effort of the imagination to make her decidedly beautiful. 1871 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* (1876) IV. 92 Since Gregory had beheld the angelic children of Deira in the Roman slave-market. 1860 PUSEY *Min. Proph.* 135 The great *slave-mart at Delos. 1845 COULTER *Adv. in Pacific* ii. 15 One large kind of storehouse attracted my attention; ..it was a *slave-pen. 1796 H. M. WILLIAMS *Lett. on France* IV. 177 (Jod.), The faithful historian of a *slave-ship. 1842 LONGF. *Witnesses* iii, There the black Slave-ship swims. 1897 MARY KINGSLEY *W. Africa* 219 The *slave villages..are away down the north face of the island.

c. Consisting of slaves, as *slave-caravan*, *-caste*, *-coffle*, *-drove*.

1840 MACAULAY *Ess.*, *Ranke's Hist.* (1897) 558 The marts of the African slave-caravans. 1865 *Atlantic Monthly* June 752 The last slave-coffle that shall ever tread the streets of Richmond. 1872 YEATS *Growth Comm.* 348 The slave-droves of an African prince. 1895 C. S. HORNE *Story L. M. S.* 95 Members of the poor slave-castes must not approach nearer than ninety paces to a Brahmin.

7. Objective. **a.** With agent-nouns, as *slave-auctioneer*, *-broker*, *-catcher*, *-dealer*, etc.

1861 GEN. P. THOMPSON *Audi Alt.* III. clxxviii. 216 Give up your sons to slaughter, that *slave-auctioneers may still handle female flesh. 1893 *Dublin Rev.* April 295 The son of a *slave-broker in Cairo. 1852 MRS. STOWE *Uncle Tom's C.* ix. 77 Are you the man that will shelter a poor woman and child from *slave-catchers? 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* II. 110 The root is..well known to these *slaue-coursers. 1776 G. SHARP *Law Liberty* Title-p., Slave-holders and *slave-dealers. 1874 GREEN *Short Hist.* i. 17 'They are English, Angles!' the slave-dealers answered. 1830 R. WALSH *Notices of Brazil* II. 480 A ferocious looking fellow with a scourge.. who was the *slave-driver of the ship. 1889 G. B. SHAW in *Fabian Ess.* 193 The sweater himself, a mere slave driver paid 'by the piece'. 1856 OLMSTED *Slave States* 196 The *slave employer..has no remedy but to solicit..a deduction from the price. 1776 G. SHARP *Law Retrib.* Title-p., Tyrants, *Slave-holders, and Oppressors. 1861 *Sat. Rev.* 23 Nov. 525 An intention of alarming the slaveholders of the coast. 1889 *Academy* 24 Aug. 112/2 Our hero's capture by a band of ruthless *slavehunters. 1859 DARWIN *Orig. Species* vii. (1860) 223 Ants which are not *slave-makers. 1861 J. G. SHEPPARD *Fall Rome* xiii. 628 Fortune-tellers, *slave-mongers, gladiators. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* xx, Her father was a German Jew—a *slave-owner they say. 1884 *Pall Mall G.* 20 Feb. 1 The *slave raider has extended his operations far and wide. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* I. 162 A merchant *slaue-seller. 1854 MILMAN *Lat. Chr.* III. v. (1864) II. 16 Barbarian or Jewish *slave-venders.

b. With pres. ppples., as *slave-carrying*, *-collecting*, *-dealing*, etc.

1799 *Hull Advertiser* 13 July 4/2 The *slave carrying ships were pestilential jails. 1817 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* xvii. (1818) II. 88 Both species of the *slave-collecting ants. *Ibid.* 75 None of the *slave-dealing ants appear to be natives of Britain. 1864 *Q. Jrnl. Sci.* Jan. 10 The slave-dealing king of Dahomey. 1837 HT. MARTINEAU *Society in Amer.* II. 77 This brought in an accession of *slave-holding settlers. 1735 THOMSON *Liberty* I. 32 Extended in her hand the Cap, and Rod, Whose *Slave-inlarging touch gave double life. *a* 1628 F. GREVIL *Life Sidney* xv. (1652) 205 These *slave-making conjunctions betweene the Spaniard, and his Chaplaine. 1817 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* xvii. (1818) II. 81 Another of the slave-making ants. 1852 J. M. LUDLOW *Hist. U. S.* 195 A *slave-owning oligarchy.

c. With vbl. sbs., as *slave-catching*, *-dealing*, *driving*, *-hunting*, etc.

1864 WEBSTER, **Slave-catching*, the business of searching out and arresting fugitive slaves. 1873 P. H. COLOMB (*title*), Slave-catching in the Indian Ocean. 1845 MARG. FULLER *Wom. 19th Cent.* (1862) 25 Room for a monstrous display of *slave-dealing and slave-keeping. 1889 G. B. SHAW in *Fabian Ess.* 23 Its ferocious sweating and *slave-driving. 1863 SPEKE *Discov. Nile* p. xxvi, The whole system of *slave-holding..is exceedingly strange. 1863 W. PHILLIPS *Sp.* v. 75 The pulpit preached *slave-hunting. 1845 *Slave-keeping [see *slave-dealing*]. 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xvi. III. 715 The law which made *slavetrading felony.

8. a. With pa. ppples., as *slave-cultured*, *-deserted*, *-got*, *-grown*, *-peopled*.

1763 CHURCHILL *Duellist* I. Poems 1767 II. 11 Some slave-got Villain. 1788 COWPER *Morning Dream* 26 To a slave-cultur'd island we came. 1809–10 SHELLEY *'Oh! take the pure gem,'* etc., ii, Where patriotism..Plants Liberty's flag on the slave-peopled shore. 1817 — *Rev. Islam* IX. x, Their many tyrants sitting desolately In slave-deserted halls. 1848 MILL *Pol. Econ.* III. vi. § 3 I. 591 Slave-grown will exchange for non-slave-grown commodities in a less ratio [etc.]. 1860 GEN. P. THOMPSON *Audi Alt.* III. cxli. 120 The supply of slave-grown cotton.

b. Similative, as *slave-like*.

1607 SHAKS. *Timon* IV. iii. 205 This Slaue-like Habit. 1845 LD. CAMPBELL *Chancellors* lii. (1857) III. 19 He would have addressed her in the most fulsome and slave-like strain. 1896 *Daily News* 13 Apr. 3/1 A slave-like obedience.

9. Special combs.: **slave-captain**, the captain of a slave-vessel; **Slave Coast**, a part of the west coast of Africa (see quot. 1875) from which slaves were exported; **slave-fork**, a forked branch of a tree secured to the neck of a slave to prevent escape; **slave-power**, a power based upon, or recognizing, slavery as an institution; **slave state**, one or other of the southern United States of America, in which slave-holding was legal; **slave-stick**, = *slave-fork*.

Slave-wood, given in various Dicts., etc., as a name for the Simaruba tree, is an error for *stave-wood*.

1808 CLARKSON *African Slave-Trade* I. 378 Norris had been formerly a *slave-captain, but had quitted the trade. 1778 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 2) II. 1110/2 Benin,..in Africa, has ..the *Slave Coast on the west. 1837 *Penny Cycl.* VII. 299/1 The most eastern districts [of the Gold Coast] are often distinguished by the name of the Slave Coast. 1875 *Encycl. Brit.* I. 269 The Slave Coast extends from the river Volta to the Calabar river. 1883 ANNANDALE *Imperial Dict.*, *Slave-fork. 1898 *Daily Telegr.* 11 Apr. 4/7 Many poor wretches fighting in fetters or in slave-forks. 1859 BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.* 413 **Slave power*, the political power of slaveholders; the body of slaveholders. 1861 GEN. P. THOMPSON *Audi Alt*, III. clxxvii. 214 The martyrdoms a victorious Slave-power may in its tenderness impose. 1812 BRACKENRIDGE *Views Louisiana* (1814) 94 Buffaloe robes..will be found of much use in the *slave states, as a cheap and comfortable bedding for negroes. 1888 BRYCE *American Commw.* III. liii. II. 334 New States had been admitted substantially in pairs, a slave State balancing a free State. 1899 WERNER *Capt. Locusts* 244 Once before I saw him there with people tied in *slave-sticks.

Slave (slēiv), *v.*[1] Also 6–7 **slaue.** [f. SLAVE *sb.* Cf. ENSLAVE *v.*; also (M)Du. and (M)LG. *slaven*, G. *sklaven*, chiefly in sense 4.]

1. *trans.* To reduce to the condition of a slave; to enslave; to bring into subjection.

1602 MARSTON *Antonio's Rev.* II. ii, Thou canst not slave Or banish me. 1644 BERKENHEAD *Serm.* 21 Princes protect us from evill doers, who would..mercilesly slave our children. 1691 J. WILSON *Belphegor* II. i, I lend a Hand to Slave my Country!—No. 1881 MRS. A. R. ELLIS *Sylvestra* II. 60 Why did he go on board a Bristol ship, if not for slaving men?

fig. 1605 SHAKS. *Lear* IV. i. 71 Let the..Lust-dieted man, That slaues your ordinance,..feele your powre quickly. 1639 G. DANIEL *Ecclus.* xlviii. 30 Who could never stoope To slave his vertue, for a servile Hope.

b. Const. *to* (a person, etc.).

1559 AYLMER *Harborowe* L iij b, Subiected and slaued to the proudest..nacion. 1608 MACHIN *Dumb Kt.* I. i, My recreant soule, Slaued to her beauty, would renounce all warre. 1652 C. B. STAPYLTON *Herodian* 76 It slav'd them unto Macedon and Rome. 1850 BLACKIE *Æschylus* II. 39, I first slaved to the yoke Both ox and ass.

refl. *c* 1613 ROWLANDS *Paire of Spy-Knaves* (Hunterian Cl.) 3 A Sicophant, that slaues himselfe to all. 1620 E. BLOUNT *Horæ Subs.* 439 If they hope to obtaine any thing by their fauour..they must..slaue them-selues to Flatterie.

c. *Croquet.* (See quot.)

1868 WHITMORE *Croquet Tactics* 21 To 'slave'..a ball is to take it on with you in the game.

2. To treat as a slave; to employ in hard or servile labour.

1699 M. LISTER *Journ. Paris* 218 The Ægyptian Kings built them Monuments, wherein they slaved their whole Nation. 1737 BRACKEN *Farriery Impr.* (1756) I. 179 Brought on..by hard Riding and Slaving the Horse afterwards. 1820 SCOTT *Monast.* xxxvi, A man were better dead than thus slaved and harassed.

b. To abuse by the name of slave.

1719 LONDON & WISE *Compl. Gard.* p. iii, The Nursery man is presently slaved and condemned for a cheating Knave.

3. *intr.* (with *it*). **a.** To practise slavish imitation. **b.** = next.

1589 NASHE *Anat. Absurd.* E ij, Some proude spirited princocks..gets him a liuerie Coate of their cloth, and slaues it in their seruile sutes. 1852 THACKERAY *Esmond* II. vii, He found himself presently..slaving it like the rest of the family.

4. To toil or work hard like a slave.

1719 D'URFEY *Pills* (1872) V. 77 There's many more who slave and toil, Their living to get. 1766 ANSTEY *New Bath Guide* viii. 80 She slav'd all the Day like a Spitalfields Weaver. 1806 BERESFORD *Miseries Hum. Life* II. x, Slaving to drag up each separately out of its deep bed. 1848 DICKENS *Dombey* xi, Poor Berry drudged and slaved away as usual. 1870 LOWELL *Among my Bks.* Ser. I. (1873) 55 While he was still slaving at these bricks without straw.

b. To plod *through* something in reading.

1806 BERESFORD *Miseries Hum. Life* VIII. xvi, Reading newspaper poetry;—which..you occasionally slave through.

c. *trans.* To wear *out*, etc., by severe toil.

1864 MISS BRADDON *Doctor's Wife* II, I may slave my life out, and there isn't one of you will..help me. 1880 — *Just as I am* xlix, You will slave yourself to death. 1891 *Harper's Mag.* July 184/1 What a hideous place was Pentonville to slave away one's life in.

5. *intr.* To traffic in slaves. *rare*—[1].

1726 G. ROBERTS *Four Yrs. Voy.* I, I made a contract.. to buy a Cargo to slave with on the Coast of Guinea.

† Slave, *v.*[2] *Obs. rare.* [Related to SLEAVE *v.* or SLIVE *v.*] *intr.* To tear away or split.

1523 FITZHERB. *Husb.* § 127 Cutte the settes..a lyttel from the erth, the more halfe a-sonder, and to lette it slaue downewarde, and not vpwarde. *Ibid.* § 133 That causeth the bowes to slaue downe the nether parte.

Slaveage (slēˑvēdʒ). *nonce-word.* [f. SLAVE *sb.*, after *peerage*.] Slaves collectively.

1831 *Blackw. Mag.* XXIX. 428 His ignorance of the British Peerage is equal to his ignorance of the American slaveage.

Sla·ve-born, *a.* [SLAVE *sb.* 8 a.] Born of a slave parent or parents; born in the condition of a slave.

a 1586 SIDNEY *Arcadia* III, The obstinate cowards, the slave-born tyrants. 1594 *Selimus* (Temple ed.) 551 The mighty Emperor of Russia Sends in his troops of slave-born Muscovites. 1616 DRUMM. OF HAWTH. *Poems* D iv b, A sable Stage Where slaue-borne Man playes to the scoffing Starres. 1765 FRANCIS tr. *Horace, Odes* I. xxvii. 19 Thy breast no slave-born [*earlier edd.* slavish] Venus fires.

Slaved (slēivd), *ppl. a.* [f. SLAVE *v.*[1] + -ED [1].]

1. Enslaved.

1639 G. DANIEL *Vervic* 515 As coldly Dull As the slaved Russian.

2. Of a vessel: Loaded with slaves. *rare*—[1].

1796 Z. MACAULAY in Visc'tess Knutsford *Life & Lett.* (1900) vi. 141 Some of which he had already sent off fully slaved.

Slavedom (slēˑvdəm). [f. SLAVE *sb.* + -DOM.] **a.** Slavery. **b.** The position of a slave.

1562 PHAER *Æneid* x. Dd ij b, Than may your grace condempne al Italy to great Carthage, In slauedome vnder Moores. 1605 T. BELL *Motives Romish Faith* 8 [He] shal becom a Papist, and yeilde himselfe to the slauedome of popish religion. 1839–48 BAILEY *Festus* xxvii. 324 A throne, at which earth's puny potentates May sue for slavedoms. 1863 DICEY *Federal St.* I. 165 The tyrants of slavedom have borne the sway here for forty years.

Slave-driver, -holder, etc.: see SLAVE *sb.* 7.

Slaveless (slēˑvlės), *a.* [f. SLAVE *sb.* + -LESS.] Not possessing slaves.

1852 J. M. LUDLOW *Hist. U. S.* 195 An ignorant and helpless mass of slaveless freemen.

Slave-like *a.*: see SLAVE *sb.* 8 b.

Slaveling (slāˑvliŋ). [f. SLAVE *sb.* + -LING [1].] A submissive or servile person.

1884 *Contemp. Rev.* May 688 The most independent of these slavelings..degenerated into a place-hunter.

† Sla·vely, *adv. Obs.*—[1] [f. SLAVE *sb.* + -LY [2].] After the manner of slaves; oppressively.

1553 W. TURNER in Strype *Eccl. Mem.* III. I. iv. 49 If ye saw..how slavely and bondly they handle the rest of the Clergy.

Slave-merchant. [SLAVE *sb.* 6.] One who traffics or deals in slaves; a slave-dealer.

1747 DUNKIN in *Francis's Horace, Ep.* II. ii. 7 *note*, This was probably the usual Language of Slave-Merchants. 1792 *Gentl. Mag.* LXII. I. 2 The slave-merchants..brought forward several persons as witnesses. 1808 CLARKSON *African Slave-Trade* I. 385 Slave-merchants..came in. 1876 BANCROFT *Hist. U.S.* III. vi. 85 The slave-merchant supplied laborers on credit.

† Slaven, *ppl. a. Obs. rare.* [irreg. f. SLEAVE *v.* or SLIVE *v.* Cf. SLAVE *v.*[2]]. Split.

1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. xvii. (Roxb.) 116/2 In the bent of this Bow..is placed an arrow slaven; halfe an arrow it cannot properly be termed, but the side of an arrow.

Slaveocracy, -crat: see SLAVOCRACY.

Slaver (slæˑvəɪ), *sb.*[1] Forms: 4 **slavere,** 5 **slavyr,** 6–7 **slauer,** 6– **slaver.** [Related to SLAVER *v.* Cf. Icel. *slafur* in the same sense.]

1. Saliva issuing or falling from the mouth.

c 1325 *Gloss. W. de Bibbesw.* in Wright *Voc.* 143 *Pur sauver ses dras de baavure*, from slavere. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 458/2 Slavyr, *orexis*. 1562 TURNER *Herbal* II. (1568) 79 The leafe is hote: and holden vnder ones tethe, bryngeth furth slauer. 1575 LANEHAM *Let.* (1871) 17 To shake hiz earz twyse or thryse wyth the blud & the slauer aboout his figuamy. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* II. 329 The froth or slauer of an horse mouth. 1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* 136 That a Toad communicates its venom..by the humiditie and slaver of its mouth. 1738 POPE *Prol. Sat.* 106 Of all mad creatures..It is the slaver kills, and not the bite. 1774 GOLDSMITH *Nat. Hist.* (1862) II. 400 A venomous slaver, which, they suppose, issues from the Salamander's mouth. 1820 BYRON *Blues* I. 47 I'd inoculate sooner my wife with the slaver Of a dog when gone rabid. 1834 DISRAELI *Rev. Epick* I. xlix, It spat, and washed With burning slaver from my front the cross. 1904 M. HEWLETT *Queen's Quair* II. iv, Ruthven, with the slaver of his rage upon his mouth.

b. *fig.* Drivel, nonsense; also, gross flattery.

1825 COLERIDGE *A Character* 68 The coward whine and Frenchified Slaver and slang of the other side. 1862 *Times* 2 Apr., A modest man, one to whom such slaver must be loathsome. 1893 COZENS HARDY *Broad Norf.* 55 Some people may look upon this correspondence as a lot of squit and slaver (nonsense).

2. Mucus-slime of fish or worms. *rare.*

1650 EARL MONM. tr. *Senault's Man bec. Guilty* 293 She got nothing but the slaver of worms, or scum of fishes. 1657 S. PURCHAS *Pol. Flying-Ins.* 46 In the Eele..is no Sex visible, yet by their slaver..do they produce their young.

Slaver (slāˑvəɪ), *sb.*[2] [f. SLAVE *sb.* + -ER [1].]

1. A vessel engaged in slave-traffic.

1830 R. WALSH *Notices of Brazil, 1828–9* II. 482 This was opposed by the mate of the slaver. 1863 H. COX *Instit.* III. viii. 722 The proceeds of ships..condemned as slavers. 1886 *Athenæum* 13 Nov. 627/3 They were in the boats creeping up to a slaver.

attrib. and *Comb.* 1886 *Athenæum* 13 Nov. 627/3 The story of his slaver hunting carries one back to boyish recollections. 1897 *Daily News* 30 Dec. 5 As stout a slaver-skipper as ever kept niggers under hatches.

2. One who deals or traffics in, or owns, slaves.

1842 LONGF. *Quadroon Girl* IV, The Slaver's thumb was on the latch. 1862 *Industrial Mag.* Feb. 52 In America the slavers themselves make it an open boast. 1889 *John Bull* 2 Mar. 145/2 That there was no worse slaver than the present Sultan of Turkey.

Slaver, variant of SLIVER *sb.*

Slaver (slæˑvəɪ), *v.* Forms: 4– **slaver,** 5 **slawer, slavyr,** 6–7 **slauer.** [app. of Scand. origin: cf. Icel. *slafra* in the same sense, related to LG. *slabbern*, etc., SLABBER *v.*]

1. *intr.* To let the saliva run from the mouth; to slabber. Also *fig.*

c 1325 *Gloss. W. de Bibbesw.* in Wright *Voc.* 143 *L'enfaunt bave de nature*, slaveryt of kynde. *c* 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 784 His mouthe slavers, his tethe rotes. *c* 1425 *Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 668 *Salmare*, to slawer. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 458/2 Slaveron, *orexe*. 1530 PALSGR. 720/2 Fye on the knave, arte thou nat a shamed to slaver lyke a yonge chylde. 1576 TURBERV. *Venerie* 224 He driueleth and slauereth at the mouth commonly, 1607 MARKHAM *Caval.* I. (1617) 83 You shall euer haue a Horse that is so cut,.. continually slauering, because the moysture which commeth into his mouth, cannot bee held in. 1667 H. MORE *Div. Dial.* III. vi, It may be also, when they take Tobacco, they slaver on the shorn side of their Chin. 1751 *Phil. Trans.* XLVII. 194 All of them slaver'd and frequently chang'd colour. 1797 T. WRIGHT *Autobiog.* (1864) 87 He chewed tobacco, and sitting next my companion, slavered and spat upon his coat. 1841 THACKERAY *Men & Coats* Wks. 1886 XXIII. 366 The man was bleeding at the nose, and slavering at the mouth. 1874 HOLLAND *Mistr. Manse* XXVI. 228 With lips that slavered with their hate.

b. *fig.* To drivel; to fawn. Also with *it.*

1730 SWIFT *Wks.* (1755) IV. I. 122 Why must he sputter, spawl, and slaver it In vain against the people's fav'rite? 1753 SMOLLETT *Ct. Fathom* (1784) 13/1 Where humour turns changeling, and slavers in an insipid grin. 1862 WRAXALL tr. *Hugo's Les Miserables* IV. xxvii, It is a.. frog-like language which crawls, slavers. 1894 HALL CAINE *Manxman* 135 He thought..of his uncle and how he had snubbed and then slavered over him.

2. To issue as or like slaver.

1582 STANYHURST *Æneis* III. (Arb.) 90, I saw flesh bluddye toe slauer, When the cob had maunged the gobets. 1614 B. JONSON *Barth. Fair* II. vi, Still the bottle-ale slauereth, and the tabacco stinketh! 1650 BULWER *Anthropomet.* ix. 103 Their gums are seen..with spittle slavering forth.

3. *trans.* To wet with saliva; to slobber.

1591 HARINGTON *Orl. Fur.* XXX. xcix, That [meat] they left they did so file and slaver As few could brook the sight. *a* 1601 ? MARSTON *Pasquil & Kath.* II. 209 Thou wast not made to slauer her faire lips With thy dead rewmy chops. 1693 DRYDEN, etc., tr. *Juvenal's Sat.* VII. 144 With white Froth his Gown is slaver'd o'er. 1819 SOUTHEY *Lett.* (1856) III. 135 Provided it be slavered over with a froth of philosophy. 1865 MISS BRADDON *Only a Clod* I, To..slaver his hand with its flapping tongue.

b. *fig.* To fondle, to flatter, in a disgusting or sycophantic manner.

1794 MRS. A. M. BENNETT *Ellen* III. 183 She wondered Mr. Runnington was not ashamed to be slavering such a great girl. 1832 A. W. FONBLANQUE *Eng. under 7 Administr.* (1837) II. 238 This eagerness to slaver the archfoe of the cause. 1856 MRS. BROWNING *Aur. Leigh* VI. Wks. (1904) 484/2 Is it that the Devil slavers them So excellently, that we come to doubt Who's stronger?

4. To utter in a slavering fashion. Also with *out.*

1599 BROUGHTON *Lett.* I, 7 You will needes..slauer out your follies in view of the world. 1847 DISRAELI *Tancred* II. xii, Slavering portentous stories about malcontent country gentlemen.

Hence **Sla·verer,** one who slavers; also *fig.*, a servile flatterer.

1618 HOLYDAY *Technogamia* III. v, My Slauerer was at his Tobacco. 1843 *Blackw. Mag.* LIII. 71 Fashionable life has been exalted above its just and proper level, and depressed below it, by the slaverers and the vituperators.

Slavering (slæˑvəriŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. SLAVER *v.*]

1. The action of allowing saliva to run from the mouth.

c 1325 *Gloss. W. de Bibbesw.* in Wright *Voc.* 143 *De baavure*, fro slavering. *c* 1425 *Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 668 *Hec salmacio*, slaveryng. *c* 1480 HENRYSON *Fables, Wolf & Lamb* iii, How durst thow be sa bald to fyle this bruik ..with thy foull slauering? 1611 COTGR., *Baverie*, a..slauering, or driuelling at the mouth. *a* 1827 GOOD *Study Med.* (1829) I. 107 In vulgar language it is denominated Drivelling or Slavering. 1878 MEREDITH *Teeth* 61 Slavering; imperfect speech; inflamed gums.

b. *pl.* That which is emitted as slaver; also *fig.*, drivellings.

1535 COVERDALE 1 *Sam.* xxi. 13 His slauerynges ranne downe his beerd. 1616 J. LANE *Contn. Sgr.'s T.* (Chaucer Soc.) 237 *note*, [They]doe pronounce such waer, slaveringes, not poems rare. 1684 *Contempl. State of Man* I. iii. (1699) 28 Silk [was nothing] but the slaverings of Worms.

c. *fig.* Extreme longing or desire. *rare.*

1642 H. MORE *Song of Soul* I. iii. 15 Strutting-in knowledge, Egre slavering-After hid-skill, with every inward uncouth thing. 1678 BUTLER *Hud.* III. II. 1201 Your greedy slav'ring to devour, Before 'twas in your Clutches, Pow'r.

2. *fig.* Kissing. *rare*—[1].

1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* (1658) 183 An old lecherous fellow which could not keep his lips from slavering of women.

3. *attrib.*, as *slavering-bib, -bit, -cloth, -clout.*

c 1325 *Gloss. W. de Bibbesw.* in Wright *Voc.* 143 *Une bavere*, a slavering-clout. *c* 1425 *Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 668 *Hoc salmarium*, slaveryngclout. 1530 PALSGR. 271/1 Slaveryng clothe for chyldren, *bauette*. 1648 HEXHAM II, *Een Slabbe*,..a childs Bib, or Slavering clout. 1704 *Dict. Rust.* (1726) s.v. *Bits*, The Masticadour or Slavering-Bit. 1823 E. MOOR *Suffolk Words* 358 *Slaaverin bib*, a bit of cloth under a child's chin. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII, 244 The provision of slavering-bibs in some cases.

Slavering (slæˑvəriŋ), *ppl. a.* [f. as prec.]

1. Characterized or accompanied by the emission of slaver. Also *fig.*

1576 TURBERV. *Venerie* 224 The fifth..kynde of madnesse is called the Rewmatike or slauering madnesse. *a* 1586 SIDNEY *Arcadia* II. (1622) 118 Miso., came with skowling eyes to deliuer a slauering good morrow to the two Ladies. 1603 H. CROSSE *Vertues Commw.* (1878) 109 In one slauering discourse or other, (to] hang out the badge of his follie. 1664 COTTON *Scarron.* (1675) 56 A kind of slav'ring Letchery. *c* 1830 COLERIDGE in *Lit. Rem.* (1838) III. 48 In the slavering times of our Scotch Solomon. 1871 E. PEACOCK *R. Skirlaugh* I. 192 Let's have no slaverin talk like that.

2. That slavers; allowing saliva to fall.

1592 GREENE *Upst. Courtier* Wks. (Grosart) XI. 250 The third was a long leane old slauering slangrell. 1602 *How to Choose a Good Wife* II. iii, Money can make a slavering tongue speak plain. 1630 *R. Johnson's Kingd. & Commw.* 56 An old sheep-biter..with a slavering lip. 1700 DRYDEN *Cymon & Iphigenia* 179 The slavering Cudden, prop'd upon his Staff,. 1703 ROWE *Ulyss.* I. i, What Crowds Of Slav'ring,

..shameful Ideots. 1857 TROLLOPE *Barchester T.* (1861) 240 She is proud of having this slavering, greedy man at her feet. 1883 *Fortn. Rev.* 1 Aug. 188 The lowing and slavering droves that one sees on the roads.

Hence **Sla·veringly** *adv.*

1736 AINSWORTH, Slaveringly (foolishly), *ineptè, insulsè.* 1834 *Fraser's Mag.* X. 113 The muscles of the lips [have been] slaveringly relaxed.

Slavery (slēi·vəri), *sb.* Forms: 6–7 slauerie, 6–8 slaverie, 7 slauery, 7– slavery. [f. SLAVE *sb.* + -ERY. Cf. MDu. *slaverie* (Du. *slavernij*), LG. *slaverei* (Da. *slaveri*, Sw. *slafveri*), G. *scl-, sklaverei* († *skl-, schlaverey*).]

1. Severe toil like that of a slave; heavy labour, hard work, drudgery.

1551 ROBINSON *More's Utopia* II. v. (1895) 161 In this hal, all vyle seruice, all slauerie,..is done by bondemen. 1603 OWEN *Pembrokeshire* (1891) 43 Digginge of Coles, and other slaueryes and extreame toyles. 1698 FRYER *Acc. E. India & P.* 34 Asses which they use..to carry Packs,..and any other Slavery. 1712 J. JAMES tr. *Le Blond's Gardening* 65 To give them continual Waterings..is a very great Slavery and Expence. 1897 *Daily News* 13 Sept. 6/7 Such people..ought never to keep servants, but do their own slavery.

† **2.** Conduct befitting a slave; ignoble, base, or unbecoming behaviour. *Obs. rare.*

1553 WILSON *Rhet.* 73 But if an officer..should vse any slauerie, we are much more greeued. 1581 PETTIE *Guazzo's Civ. Conv.* (1586) A vj, If there bee anie..which seeketh to ..benefit himselfe by flatterie, by briberie, by slauerie.

3. The condition of a slave; the fact of being a slave; servitude; bondage.

1604 SHAKS. *Oth.* I. iii. 138 Being taken .. And sold to slauery. 1665 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* (1677) 9 Seeing the gain by their slavery is more aim'd at than the conversion of their souls to Christ. 1717 LADY M. W. MONTAGU *Lett.* II. xlvi. 36 Their slavery is, in my opinion, no worse than servitude all over the world. 1841 SPALDING *Italy & It. Isl.* I. 211 A barbarian killing his wife and himself to escape slavery. 1863 MILL in *Sat. Rev.* 302 Foremost among all things which injure and dishonour a country stands the personal slavery of human beings.

b. *fig.* The condition or fact of being entirely subject to, or under the domination of, some power or influence.

1577 tr. *Bullinger's Decades* (1592) 114 The redemption of all ye world..from the slauerie of sinne. 1644 MILTON *Education* 3 Instilling their barren hearts with a conscientious slavery. 1724 WATTS *Logic* (1736) 223 This is.. as shameful a Slavery of the Soul. 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* xix, If you will not release yourself from the slavery of these fears. 1855 H. REED *Lect. Eng. Lit.* ii. (1878) 68 The slavery to chance is a worse evil than slavery to authority. 1873 HAMERTON *Intell. Life* x. x. 393 A kind of slavery—a minute obedience to the clock.

c. A state of subjection or subordination comparable to that of a slave; also with *pl.*, an instance of this.

1586 MARLOWE *1st Pt. Tamburl.* v. ii, No hope of end To our infamous monstrous slaueries. 1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* III. iv. 1. ii, 'Tis a wonder..what slavery King Henry II. endured for the death of Thomas à Beckett. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 17 June 1683, The extream slavery and subjection that courtiers live in. 1724 SWIFT *Drapier's Lett.* iv. Wks. 1761 III. 74 All government without the consent of the governed, is the very definition of slavery. 1844 H. H. WILSON *Brit. India* II. 208 The feeling which pervaded the native states, their anxiety to be rescued..from the miserable slavery to which they had been reduced.

4. The fact of slaves existing as a class in a community; the keeping of slaves as a practice or institution.

1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Slave*, As Slavery was not abolished by the Gospel, the Custom..lasted a long Time. 1764 BURN *Poor Laws* 122 The notion of slavery was not unknown to our laws, so early as the reign of king Edward the sixth. 1832 HT. MARTINEAU *Demerara* ii. 22 Why, then, has there been slavery in all ages of the world? 1852 MRS. STOWE *Uncle Tom's C.* xix. 188 On this abstract question of slavery there can, as I think, be but one opinion. 1873 SPENCER *Stud. Sociol.* vi. 143 Slavery, under which.. certain men held complete possession of others.

personif. 1794 COLERIDGE *To La Fayette*, Slavery's spectres shriek and vanish from the ray! 1880 E. KIRKE *Life Garfield* 53 There lies Slavery, a black marble column at the head of its grave.

5. *attrib.*, as *slavery-fetters, question*, etc.

1824 *Batavian Anthol.* 103 While on our friends No slavery-fetters hang. 1851 CARLYLE *Sterling* I. xii, There are Blacks, and the Slavery Question to be investigated. 1860 LOWELL *Election in Nov.* Prose Wks. 1890 V. 40 The demand of the slavery-extensionists.

Slavery (slæ·vəri), *a.* [f. SLAVER *sb.*[1] + -Y[1].] Like slaver; befouled with slaver; characterized by slaver; given to slavering.

c 1430 *Pilgr. Lyf Manhode* III. xlvii. (1869) 160, I am foule, old, and slavery. 1646 in *Jubilee of W. Orr* (1880) 11 For calling one of ye elders a mansworne slaverie loun. 1730 *Phil. Trans.* XXXVI. 453 A constant weeping of a thin slavery Liquor. 1845 S. JUDD *Margaret* I. vi, Thrusting his slavery lips close to her ear. 1895 KIPLING *2nd Jungle Bk.* 234 He drove the dholes..from yells to hoarse slavery ravings.

Sla·ve-trade, *sb.* [SLAVE *sb.* 6.] Traffic in slaves; *spec.* the former transportation of African negroes to America. Also *attrib.*

1734 SNELGRAVE (*title*), A New Account of some Parts of Guinea, and the Slave Trade. 1772 WESLEY *Jrnl.* 12 Feb., A very different book..on that execrable sum of all villanies, commonly called the Slave-trade. 1834 DE QUINCEY in *Tait's Mag.* I. 18/2 Of the kidnapping, murdering slave-trade, there cannot be two opinions. 1849 LYELL *2nd Visit U.S.* II. 322 The efforts made by the English and United States' fleets to put down the slave-trade. 1876 BANCROFT *Hist. U.S.* II. xxvii. 186 That America should benefit the African, was always the excuse for the slave-trade.

Hence **Sla·ve-trade** *v. intr.*, to traffic in slaves.

1818 R. THORPE *View Slave Trade* 68 By enabling the great body of factors to discover, that..they might slave-trade with impunity.

Sla·ve-trader. [Cf. prec. and SLAVE *sb.* 7 a.]

1. One who trades in slaves; a slaver.

1823 *Examiner* 22 Mar. 184/2 The..conviction of three slave-traders at Sierra Leone. 1876 BANCROFT *Hist. U.S.* II. xxxv. 390 For the English colonies, her Britannic majesty..was the exclusive slave-trader.

2. A ship engaged in the slave-trade.

1875 BEDFORD *Sailor's Pocket Bk.* vi. 232 The most ordinary slave-trader of all..flies no flag.

Slavey (slā·vi). *colloq.* [f. SLAVE *sb.* + -Y.]

† **1.** A male servant or attendant. *Obs.*

1812 J. H. VAUX *Flash Dict.*, *Slavey*, a servant of either sex. 1852 SMEDLEY *L. Arundel* xii. 91 The slaveys [= waiters] will swallow that or anything else for Persian. 1855 THACKERAY *Newcomes* xi, The slavey has Mr. Frederick's hot water, and a bottle of soda water on the same tray. He has been instructed [etc.].

2. A female domestic servant, *esp.* one who is hard-worked; a maid of all work.

1821 EGAN *Life in London* 174 'He is only fond of the Slaveys!' (*Note.* A slang term for servant maids.) 1837 T. HOOK *Y. Brag* i, Four guineas per annum, and a tip to the slavey. 1893 VIZETELLY *Glances back* I. xiii. 249 A young lodging-house slavey..bade me follow her upstairs.

Slavian (slā·viăn, slæ·viăn), *a. rare.* [f. SLAV *sb.* + -IAN.] Slavonian, Slavic.

1836 *Partington's Brit. Cycl. Lit.*, etc. III. 520/1 Its principal ingredient is the Sclavian language. 1854 MILMAN *Lat. Chr.* v. viii. II. 426 Among the Slavian tribes the Greek missionaries had penetrated into regions of unmingled Barbarism. 1865 *Reader* No. 119. 391/1 Greek, Romain, and Slavian newspapers.

Slavic (slā·vik, slæ·vik), *a.* and *sb.* Also **Sclavic, Slaavic.** [f. SLAV *sb.* + -IC.]

A. *adj.* Of or pertaining to the Slavs; Slavonian; Slavonic.

a. 1813 *Q. Rev.* Oct. 256 Classes and families of languages. ..Indoeuropean...Sclavic. *Ibid.* 281 The connexion of the Sclavonian, and Lithuanian, which we have comprehended in the title of Sclavic family. 1864 *Athenæum* 2 Apr. 467/3 The 'Sclavic Athens' [as] she [Ragusa] was named in the seventeenth century.

β. 1842 PRICHARD *Nat. Hist. Man* 184 The Slavic, or Sclavonic race, is a 4th Indo-European family. 1849 PATON *Highl. & Isl. Adriatic* I. xii. 157 The most advanced of all the Slaavic nations of central Europe. 1866 *Chambers's Encycl.* VIII. 389/2 The author of a Slavic Grammar. 1882 W. B. WEEDEN *Soc. Law Labor* 11 The Slavic development differs from other Aryan experience.

B. *sb.* A Slavonic form of speech.

1866 *Chambers's Encycl.* VIII. 389/2 The lines of distinction..between old Slavic and Russian. 1876 WHITNEY *Language and its Study* vi. 214 Old Slavonic, or the Church Slavic, having been adopted by a large part of the Slavonian races as their sacred language.

Hence **Sla·vicize** *v. trans.*, to render Slav-like, to convert into Slavs.

1887 *Pall Mall G.* 22 Dec. 8/1 The Servian individuality cannot be Germanized, but it might be Slavicized. 1898 *Contemp. Rev.* Feb. 172 Any attempt to Slavicise the Germans of Bohemia.

Slavifica·tion. [f. SLAV *a.* + -(I)FICATION.] The action or process of Slavicizing.

The verb *Slavify* also occurs in recent use.

1883 C. ABEL *Slavic & Latin* Contents, The Slavification of the Finnish area.

† **Slavin.** *Obs.* Forms: *a.* 3–4 **sclaueyn** (5 **sklaueyne**), 5 **-ayne**; 4 **sclaveyn**, 5 **-ayn, -ene.** *β.* 3 **scl-**, 4 **sklauin**; 3, 5 **sclauyne**, 5 **scl-, sklauyn**; 3 **sclavyne**, 3–4 **sclavyn** (4 **skl-**). *γ.* 4–5 **slaueyn**, 5 **-aine**; 4–5 **slaveyne**, 5 **-eyn.** *δ.* 5 **slaw-, slavyne** (**-yn**), **slauyn**(**e**. [ad. OF. *esclavine*, = Sp. *esclavina*, It. *schiavina*, med.L. *sclavina, -inia*, app. f. *sclavus* slave or *Sclavus* Slav. Cf. also MDu. *slavine, -ijn*, MHG. *slavente*.] A pilgrim's mantle.

a. *c* 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 419 Cam þare a Man in o sclaueyn. *c* 1325 *Orfeo* 222 To him a sclaveyn anon he toke. 13.. *Octouian* 394 Ther com a palmer old In a sklaueyne. *c* 1430 *Life St. Kath.* (1884) 25 An oold fader..wyth an oold sclauyn uppon hym. *c* 1475 *Pict. Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 773 *Hec sarabarda*, a sclavene.

β. *a* 1300 *K. Horn* (Camb. MS.) 1054 Haue her clobes myne, And tak me þi sclauyne. *c* 1320 *Sir Beues* 2066 [He] 3af him is hors, þat he rod in, For is bordon and is sklauin. 1483 CAXTON *Gold. Leg.* 185/1 The crosse that he bare and sklauyn that he ware. 1491 — *Vitas Patr.* (W. de W. 1495) I. xxxvi. 42 b/1 A mantel, in maner of a sclauyne.

γ. 1399 LANGL. *Rich. Redeles* III. 236 His slaueyn was of þe olde schappe. 1430–40 LYDG. *Bochas* IX. xxxiv. (1554) 214 One Bulgare, clad in slaueyn olde. *c* 1440 *Jacob's Well* 157 A pylgrym 3af his slaveyn for to drynke myȝty wyne.

δ. ?*a* 1400 *Morte Arth.* 3474 With scrippe, ande with slawyne, and skalopis i-newe. *c* 1440 *Alph. Tales* 198 How þer was a pylgram at .. seld his slavyn. 1481 CAXTON *Reynard* (Arb.) 10 He shewd me his slauyne and pylche and an heren sherte ther vnder.

Slaving (slē·viŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. SLAVE *v.*[1]] The practice of capturing or trading in slaves.

1862 J. STEWART in *Stewart of Lovedale* ix. 88 From the Zambesi to Lake Nyassa there is nothing but slaving. 1865 LIVINGSTONE *Zambesi* 593 The members of the same tribes who..have never engaged in slaving. 1887 *Pall Mall G.* 28 June 2/1 Though slaving was never our business, it did occasionally happen that we bought a few slaves.

† **Sla·ying,** *sb. Obs.*[−1] [f. SLAVE *v.*[2]] A slip of a tree; = SLEAVING.

1523 FITZHERB. *Husb.* § 130 Dyuerse apple-trees, that haue knottes in the bowes,..and suche other, that wyll growe on slauynges.

Slavish (slēi·viʃ), *a.*[1] Also 6 **slau(e)ishe**, 6–7 **slauish.** [f. SLAVE *sb.* + -ISH[1]. Cf. Du. *slaafsch*, G. *scl-, sklavisch* († *schl-, slavisch*).]

1. Of, belonging to, or characteristic of, a slave; befitting a slave; servile, abject.

1565 COOPER *Thesaurus, Vernilitas*,..slauishe behauour. 1568 GRAFTON *Chron.* II. 3 To submit themselues vnto slauish seruitude. 1576 FLEMING *Panopl. Epist.* 83 The victorie..which..had brought you in slaueishe subiection. 1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* II. 66 There was..twelue thousand Christians deliuered from their slauish bondage. 1671 MILTON *Samson* 122 See how he lies..In slavish habit, ill-fitted weeds. 1763 J. BROWN *Poetry & Music* xi. 188 The Player.. was generally of slavish Birth at Rome. 1770 *Lett. Junius* xxxix. (1788) 214 The house of lords have imposed a slavish silence upon themselves. 1812 BYRON *Ch. Har.* II. lxxxiii, The bondsman's peace, who..with smooth smile his tyrant can accost, And wield the slavish sickle. 1874 GREEN *Short Hist.* viii. § 2. 468 The spirit of slavish submission which pervaded the Houses.

b. Toiling, toilsome, laborious.

1828 A. CLARKE in *Life* (1840) xiii. 472 Winter is a dangerous and slavish time for the Shetland preachers. 1850 MARSDEN *Early Purit.* (1853) 100 A slavish life, busied with a succession of fretful observances, has no attractions.

2. Having the character († or status) of slaves; of a submissive, unmanly disposition.

1565 COOPER *Thesaurus, Vernaculi*, slauysh and naughtie condicioned men, eyther in flatteryng or in ill speach. 1598 BP. HALL *Sat.* IV. ii. 126 They racke their rents vnto a treble rate;..And clogge their slauish tenant with commaunds. 1612 T. TAYLOR *Titus* ii. 3 We may not become slauish vnto them. 1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* IV. 152 [They] cause the poore slauish subiected Christians, surrender all they haue. 1662 J. DAVIES tr. *Olearius' Voy. Amb.* 114 The Muscovites how submissive and slavish soever they may be, will endeavour the recovery of their freedom. 1715 POPE *Iliad* I. 306 Scourge of thy people,..Sent in Jove's anger on a slavish race. 1782 COWPER *Truth* 228 Th' omniscient Judge Scorns the base hireling, and the slavish drudge. 1850 MAURICE *Mor. & Theol. Philos.* (ed. 2) I 31 The thoughtless, slavish victim of inclination.

3. Vile, mean, base, ignoble.

1593 SHAKS. *Rich. II*, I. i. 193 The slauish motiue of recanting feare. 1607 CHAPMAN *Bussy d'Ambois* IV. i, The princely author of the slavish sin. *a* 1680 BUTLER *Rem.* (1759) I. 202 To free itself from slavish Prepossession. 1700 ASTRY tr. *Saavedra-Faxardo* I. 89 To lye is a slavish Vice. 1737 SWIFT in Scoones *Four Cent. Eng. Lett.* 169 The slavish, hellish principles of an execrable prevailing faction. 1839 THIRLWALL *Greece* VI. 35 The slavish counsels of those who only calculated the expense of a war. 1845 MAURICE *Mor. Philos.* in *Encycl. Metrop.* II. 547/1 A slavish dread of the powers of nature.

4. Implying or involving slavery.

1593 SHAKS. *Rich. II*, II. i. 291 If then we shall shake off our slauish yoake,..Away with me. 1648 GAGE *West Ind.* 17 Hee had run away from his master by reason of hard and slavish usage. 1709 WATTS *Hymn*, '*How sad our state by nature is!*' i, Satan binds our captive souls Fast in his slavish chains. 1781 COWPER *Anti-Thelyphth.* 112 For British nymphs..Feel all the meanness of your slavish lot. 1831 SCOTT *Ct. Robt.* i, The slavish and despotic constitution introduced into the empire.

5. Servilely imitative; lacking originality or independence.

1753 TORRIANO *Gangr. Sore Throat* 87 In the Translation ..I have not confined myself to a slavish and literal one. 1861 BROUGHAM *Brit. Const.* xix. i. 307 In preparing this great work there was no slavish adherence to the old law.

b. Of persons.

1756 C. LUCAS *Ess. Waters* III. 294 We have not a few of these slavish followers. 1863 BARRY *Dockyard Econ.* 73 Slavish copyists of the English dockyard system.

Slavish (slā·viʃ, slæ·viʃ), *a.*[2] and *sb.* [f. SLAV *sb.* + -ISH[1]. Cf. G. *Slavisch*, † *Sclavisch*.] **a.** *adj.* Pertaining to or characteristic of the Slavs. **b.** *sb.* The Slavonic language.

1834 *Penny Cycl.* II. 473/2 Some nations of Slavish origin inhabiting Asia. 1843 in *Proc. Philol. Soc.* I. 101 As they relate to the Slavish languages. 1844 *Ibid.* 273 In the old Slavish, or language of the church. 1899 R. MUNRO *Prehist. Scot.* x. 380 Slavish pottery is always well burnt.

Slavishly (slēi·viʃli), *adv.* Also 6–7 **slauishly, 7 slaueishly, slauishlie.** [f. SLAVISH *a.*[1] + -LY[2].]

1. In a servile or slavish manner.

1565 COOPER *Thesaurus, Verniliter*, lewdly:..slauishly. 1593 NASHE *Christ's T.* (1613) 23 Most slauishly thou kissest and embracest them. 1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* I. ii. III. xi, It is a wonder to see, how slavishly these kind of men subject themselves. 1698 FRYER *Acc. E. India & P.* 362 Some..content themselves to live slavishly..for a Morsel of Bread. 1727 GAY *Fables* xii. 21 She never slavishly submits, She'll have her will, or have her fits. 1796 KIRWAN *Elem. Min.* (ed. 2) I. Pref. p. xvi, Not slavishly addicted to any new system. 1840 THACKERAY *Catherine* xi, He was slavishly gentle to Catherine. 1884 *Contemp. Rev.* Oct. 502 A nation..slavishly devoted to foreign models.

Comb. 1821 *Examiner* 659/1 A very slavishly-inclined talker of Kings.

† **2.** Oppressively, tyrannically. *Obs.*

1621 in Foster *Eng. Factories Ind.* (1906) I. 349 To this missery hath tirannie inthrald us all and slaveishly caused us to stoope to the demaund of even base infidells. 1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* I. 26 The women of the better sort are slauishly infringed from honest and lawfull liberty.

Slavishness (slē·vĭshnĕs). Also 7 **slauishnes, slavishnesse**, *Sc.* **slawischnes.** [f. SLAVISH *a.*1]

1. Slavish quality or characteristics; servility.

1622 FOTHERBY *Atheom.* I. 120 His willingnesse to serue such base things, is the great brand of his slauishnes. *a* 1683 OLDHAM *Wks.* (1686) 10 To scare The senseless rout to slavishness and fear. *a* 1768 T. SECKER *Wks.* (1771) V. 140 Making a Language absurd, and imprinting a Character of Slavishness upon it. 1830 Sir J. MACKINTOSH *Progr. Eth. Philos.* Wks. 1846 I. 185 Blackstone,..whose writings are not exempt from the charge of slavishness. 1878 BAYNE *Purit. Rev.* ii. 45 This will now strike our readers as a doctrine of utter slavishness.

†2. A state of slavery; bondage. *Obs.*

1622 FOTHERBY *Atheom.* I. 113 Thus detaining them in more than Egyptian slauishnes. 1655 FULLER *Ch. Hist.* IV. xiv. 111 These bemoaned the slavishnesse of these poore servants.

†3. Oppression, tyranny. *Obs.*

1684 E. CHAMBERLAYNE *Pres. St. Eng.* I. 48 For putting any to the rack..it is by the English believed to savour too much of slavishness.

Slavism (slā·viz'm, slæ·viz'm). [f. SLAV *sb.* + -ISM.] The collective qualities or racial character of the Slav peoples.

1880 *Daily News* Nov., Its recent effusive article on Slavism. 1897 *Westm. Gaz.* 12 Mar. 5/1 Fearful lest Hellenism should be effaced, more especially by Slavism.

Slavist[1] (slā·vist). [f. SLAVE *sb.* + -IST. Cf. *anti-slavist* (1832).] One who favours or upholds slavery; *spec.* a member of the former pro-slavery party in the United States.

1889 H. O'REILLY *50 Yrs. on Trail* 15 The border warfare between the slavists and free-soilers.

Slavist[2] (slā·vist, slæ·vist). [f. SLAV *sb.* + -IST.] One skilled in the Slav languages and literature; a Slavonic scholar.

1863 *Reader* 17 Oct. 444/3 The celebrated Slavist, Paul Safarik. 1883 MORFILL *Slavonic Lit.* v. 115 Professor Jagić, of St. Petersburg, one of the most eminent of modern Slavists.

Slavistic (slāv-, slævi·stik). [f. SLAV *sb.* + -ISTIC.] Slavonic research.

1883 MORFILL *Slavonic Lit.* ii. 31 The orthodox and well-grounded decisions of Slavistic.

Slavite (slā·vəit). *U.S. rare.* [f. SLAVE *sb.* + -ITE[1] 1.] = SLAVIST 1.

1831 GARRISON *Liberator* I. 115/1 Undoubtedly the most abominable and surprising spectacle which the wickedness of war presents in the sight of Heaven is a reverend slavite.

Slavize (slā·vəiz, slæ·vəiz), *v.* [f. SLAV *sb.* + -IZE.] *trans.* To Slavicize.

1887 *Eng. Hist. Rev.* II. 676 Bigleniza may have been slavised from Vigilantia or Biglantia. 1909 *Edin. Rev.* July 142 The Bulgarians..have become wholly Slavised both in language and in sentiment.

Slavo- (slā·vo, slæ·vo), combining form (on Greek analogies) of SLAV: **a.** Used parasynthetically with terms denoting other peoples or countries, as *Slavo-Germanic, -Hungarian, -Lettic, -Lithuanian, -Phœnician*, etc.

1839 DONALDSON *New Cratyl.* § 97 (1850) 141 The old Pelasgian or Slavo-Phœnician language of the South. 1875 WHITNEY *Life Lang.* x. 182 This branch is often called the Slavo-Lettic. 1888 STRONG tr. *Paul's Princ. Lang.* ii. 29 We assume..a Slavo-Germanic, a Slavo-Lettic, an original Germanic..language. 1889 I. TAYLOR *Orig. Aryans* 35 Roots peculiar to Slavo-Lithuanian and Teutonic.

b. Objective, in adjs. or sbs. denoting tendency to admire or favour the Slavs, Slavonic ideals, etc., as **Sla·vophil(e, Slavo·philism**; or morbid dread of these, as **Sla·vophobe, Slavo·phobist.**

1877 WALLACE *Russia* ix. 139 They agreed..with the *Slavophils. 1881 *Athenæum* 8 Jan. 54/1 He poses as an incurable Slavophile. *Ibid.* 55/1 The history of the Slavophile movement. 1892 H. D. TRAILL *Marq. Salisbury* xiii. 183 Their Slavophil opponents were jubilant. 1877 WALLACE *Russia* xxvi. 418 The characteristic traits of genuine *Slavophilism. 1883 *Times* 3 May 4 The second part of the volume is a manifesto of 'Slavophilism'. 1887 *Pall Mall G.* 8 July 1/1 Hungarians are, as a rule, *Slavophobes.

Slavocracy (slē·vǫ·krăsi). Also **slaveocracy.** [f. SLAVE *sb.* + -OCRACY, but with erroneous application.] The domination of slave-holders; slave-holders collectively as a dominant or powerful class.

1848 *N. Y. Express* 4 Sept. (Bartlett), An exhortation to curb the slaveocracy. 1863 W. PHILLIPS *Sp.* xxiv. 526 Union means a submission to the old slavocracy. 1896 E. B. GORDON *Biogr. A. Y. Gordon* 68 The devouring indignation against the slavocracy which possessed the soul of Theodore Parker.

So **Sla·vocrat**, a member of the slavocracy.

1859 BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.* 413. 1882 H. VON HOLST *Calhoun* ix. 308 The slavocrats..were not such doctrinaires as to risk their bones in charging windmills.

Sla·von, *sb.* and *a.* Now *rare* or *Obs.* Also 6–7 **Scl-, Slauon.** [ad. older F. *Esclavon* (whence also older Flem. pl. *Sclavoenen*, mod.Flem. *Slavonen*), = It. *Schiavone*, med.L. *Sclavonius*: cf. next.]

A. *sb.* **1.** A Slavonian.

1555 EDEN *Decades* (Arb.) 290 The Sclauon dooth pleynly vnderstande the Moscouite. *Ibid.* 306 Vnder the dominion of the Slauons and vsyng the same tonge. 1606 G. W[OODCOCKE] *Lives Emperors* in *Hist. Ivstine* Ii vj, He ouercame the Hungars, and Subiected the Sclauons. 1802 PINKERTON *Mod. Geogr.* I. 341 In the seventh century the Slavons..were ruled by chiefs, or dukes, seemingly hereditary. 1836 *Partington's Brit. Cycl. Lit.*, etc. III. 501/1 [They] were followed by the Sclavons, a Sarmatian people.

2. The Slavonic language. *rare*—[1].

1635 PAGITT *Christianogr.* I. iii. (1636) 128 The Slavon is their vulgar tongue.

B. *adj.* Slavonic. Also *Comb.*

1555 EDEN *Decades* (Arb.) 318 The Slauon tounge whiche at this day is sumwhat corruptly cauled Sclauon. 1563 FOXE *A. & M.* 344/1 In oure Slauon language, it hath bene vsed of old. 1565 JEWEL *Repl. Harding* Wks. III. 266 [The Bible] in the Sclavon tongue. 1850 *New Monthly Mag.* April 449 The proposed union of the Slavon tribes—Slavon-Poles, Slavon-Bohemians, and Slavon-Servians.

Slavonian (slăvō·niăn), *sb.* and *a.* Also 6–7 **Sclauonian,** 7–9 **Sclavonian.** [f. med.L. *S(c)lavonia* the country of the Slavs, f. *S(c)lavus* SLAV.]

A. *sb.* **1.** The language of the Slavs; Slavic; Slavonic.

a. 1577 DEE *Memor. Navig.* 62 Far-Forreyn-Languages: As..the Sclauonian, or Moschouite, the Arabik Vulgar, the Turkish [etc.]. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 17 Nov. 1644, In the Church are confession-seates for all languages, Hebrew, Greek,..Welsh, Sclavonian, Dutch, &c. 1716 LADY M. W. MONTAGU *Lett.* xlv[i]. II. 28 In Pera they speak Turkish, Greek, Hebrew,..Russian, Sclavonian. 1839 DONALDSON *New Cratylus* § 88 (1850) 130 The resemblance of Sclavonian to Latin and the oldest element of Greek.

β. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 107/1 The works of St. Ambrosius..were translated into Slavonian. 1906 PRINCE KROPOTKIN *Mem. Revolutionist* (1908) II. viii. 125 A useless mixture of Russian and old Slavonian obscured the sense.

2. A person of Slavonic origin; a Slav.

α. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* I. 181 One Dando a Sclauonian, who liued 500 yeres. 1648 HEXHAM II, *De Sclavoenen*, the Sclavonians. 1756 MACLAINE tr. *Mosheim's Eccl. Hist.* XII. I. i. § 5 The Sclavonians, a rough and barbarous people. 1845 KITTO *Cycl. Bibl. Lit.* s.v. *Gog*, Beyond the Tartars and Sclavonians. 1876 A. J. EVANS *Through Bosnia* ii. 77 The Sclavonians of the Austrian side.

β. 1614 BREREWOOD *Lang. & Relig.* 58 Among which the principall in Europe, are the Slauonians themselues. 1782 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 2) IX. 6896/2 The Slavi, or Slavonians, corruptly called the *Sclavonians*. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 101/1 Jornandes, the first writer who mentions the Slavonians. 1883 MORFILL *Slavonic Lit.* i. 20 The Slavonians were glad that they heard the great things of God in their language.

B. *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to the Slavs; Slavonic; Slavic.

α. 1605 CAMDEN *Rem.* 40 *Alan* is thought by Iulius Scaliger..to signifie an hownd in the Sclavonian tongue. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* III. 75 The Hermonduri and Sorabi of the Sclavonian Nation. 1662 J. DAVIES tr. *Olearius' Voy. Amb.* 4 The Highdutch, the Sclavonian, and Curland Language. 1724 WATERLAND *Athan. Creed* vi. 94 Cyrill and Methodius, who are said to have invented the Sclavonian letters, and to have translated the Scriptures into the Sclavonian tongue. 1788 GIBBON *Decl. & F.* lv. V. 550 The Hungarian language stands alone..among the Sclavonian dialects. 1830 H. G. KNIGHT *Eastern Sketches* Pref. p. xxix, Of Sclavonian or Illyrian extraction. 1847 Mrs. A. KERR tr. *Ranke's Hist. Servia* i. 5 In reviewing the history of the various Sclavonian tribes.

β. 1613 M. RIDLEY *Magn. Bodies* 66 To have three teeth, like a Slavonian T. 1614 BREREWOOD *Lang. & Relig.* 59 Of the Turks dominion onely Epirus..speake vulgarly the Slauonian tongue. 1788 GIBBON *Decl. & F.* lv. V. 543 The original stock of the Sclavonian, or more properly Slavonian, race. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 101/1 The Slavonian or Slavic race..comprehends about 70,000,000 inhabitants. 1876 A. J. EVANS *Through Bosnia* ii. 80 Here a Slavonian gentleman intervened.

2. Of or pertaining to Slavonic countries. In the bird-names *Slavonian falcon, grebe.*

1809 SHAW *Gen. Zool.* VII. i. 171 Sclavonian Falcon. *Falco Sclavonicus.* 1843 YARRELL *Brit. Birds* III. 308 The Sclavonian Grebe..is rather a rare bird here in summer. 1889 H. SAUNDERS *Brit. Birds* 705 The Slavonian Grebe is a northern species.

3. Coming from Slavonic regions.

1812 CARY *Dante, Purg.* XXX. 88 As snow..closely piled by rough Sclavonian blasts.

Hence **Slavo·nianize** *v. trans.*, to Slavicize.

1885 *Science* VI. 303 They [the Bulgarians] are not of pure Slavic descent, but are a Slavonianized race.

Slavonic (slăvǫ·nik), *a.* and *sb.* Also 7 **Slauonique,** 7–9 **Sclavonic.** [ad. med.L. *S(c)lavonicus*, f. *Slavonia*: see SLAVONIAN.]

A. *adj.* Of, belonging or pertaining to, the Slavs or their language; Slavic; Slavonian.

a. *c* 1645 HOWELL *Lett.* (1650) I. 382 The Sclavonic tongue hath abolished her [the Greek tongue] in Epire and Macedon. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v., A Greek, Latin and Sclavonic Dictionary. 1788 GIBBON *Decl. & F.* lv. V. 564 The Sclavonic city of Julin. 1831 SCOTT *Ct. Robt.* ix. *note*, Teutonic Germany, or Celtic Gaul, or Sclavonic Illyria. 1876 A. J. EVANS *Through Bosnia* i. 2 A Sclavonic tongue begins to be heard around. *Ibid.* 4 The headings over the shops are almost entirely Sclavonic.

β. 1614 BREREWOOD *Lang. & Relig.* 59 Yet is not the Slauonique tongue..the vulgar language of the Turkish Empire. 1656 EARL MONM. tr. *Boccalini's Advts. fr. Parnass.* I. lxxiii. (1674) 91 Terms, which..seemed rather to be Slavonick words. 1802 PINKERTON *Mod. Geogr.* I. 299 The Slavonic tribe of Rossi. 1845 S. AUSTIN tr. *Ranke's Hist. Ref.* I. 309 In those districts where the Germanic and Slavonic elements are intermingled. 1883 MORFILL *Slavonic Lit.* i. 21 The introduction of the Roman ritual into the Southern Slavonic countries.

B. *sb.* The language of the Slavs.

1668 WILKINS *Real Char.* 3 The Slavonic is extended, though with some variation, through many large Territories, 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v., Each..have their particular Dialect; only the Sclavonic is the common Mother of their several Languages. 1791 BOSWELL *Johnson* 23 Mar. 1772, He [Johnson] observed, that the Bohemian language was true Sclavonick. 1848 SOAMES *Latin Church* i. 4 Their converts worshipped in Sclavonic, the language which those people spoke. 1883 MORFILL *Slavonic Lit.* i. 7 The modern Bulgarian language shows Slavonic in a very corrupted form.

Hence **Slavo·nicize** *v. trans.*, to Slavicize.

1883 *Encycl. Brit.* XVI. 194/1 The Slavonic or Slavonicized population.

†**Slavonish,** *a. Obs. rare.* Also **Sclavonish.** [f. SLAVON + -ISH[1]. Cf. Du. and G. *Slavonisch.*] Slavonian.

1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 254 b, Two Frenche, fyue Spanishe, and one Slavonishe. 1614 BREREWOOD *Lang. & Relig.* 58 Many are the nations that haue for their vulgar language the Slauonish tongue. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 20 Nov. 1644, An altar of the Madona..and divers Sclavonish Saints.

Sla·vonism, *rare.* Also 9 **Scl-.** [f. SLAVON(IC) + -ISM.] Slavism.

1839 DONALDSON *New Cratylus* § 78 (1850) 113 The Scandinavian tribes..were much less tainted with Sclavonism than the Lithuanians. 1854 R. G. LATHAM *Native Races Russian Emp.* 332 The two separate nationalities being merged under the great generality of Slavonism.

Slavoniza·tion. [f. next.] The process of Slavonizing or of becoming Slavonicized.

1897 *Pop. Sci. Monthly* Nov. 68 This Slavonization of Germany is indicated upon..our large..map.

Sla·vonize, *v.* Also 9 **Scl-.** [f. SLAVON(IC) + -IZE.] *trans.* To render Slavonic in language, character, political feeling, etc.

1839 DONALDSON *New Cratylus* § 78 (1850) 113 The Low Germans who were thus Sclavonized. 1861 J. G. SHEPPARD *Fall of Rome* iii. 121 The Slavonized portion of the second. 1876 A. J. EVANS *Through Bosnia* i. 30 They have been Sclavonised by the multitude of their subjects.

Slaw (slǭ). *U.S.* Also **slaugh.** [ad. Du. *sla*, shortened form of *salade* SALAD.] A salad made of sliced cabbage, etc.

1864 *Daily Telegr.* 9 Feb., Salted cucumber, beetroot and cold slaugh. 1890 *Daily News* 23 Dec. 5/2 Salsify, cold slaw (sliced cabbage) with rich mayonnaise dressing.

Slaw, obs. or dial. f. SLOW. **Slawe(n,** obs. ff. pa. pple. SLAY *v.*[1] **Slawethe,** obs. f. SLOTH.

Slawk (slǫk). *north. dial.* and *Sc.* Also 5, 8 **slauk,** 6–7, 9 **slauke, 6 slawke, 9 slaak.** [Probably ad. Ir. *slabhac, sleabhac* (also dim. *sleabhacán*, Sc. Gael. *slabhgan*) in sense 1: cf. the Gaelic origin of DULSE. For variant forms see SLAKE *sb.*[2], SLAUGH, and SLOKE.

In older Dicts. frequently misprinted *slank(e.*]

1. An edible sea-weed (see quot. 1892).

c 1450 *MS. Ee. 4. 20* (Camb. Univ. Lib.) fol. 283, Hec herba vocatur a vulgo slauk. 1548 TURNER *Names Herbes* 21 The other kynde is described..to haue leaues lyke letties, and thys kynde is called in englishe slauke. 1562 — *Herbal* II. (1568) 76 The bryon thalassion of Theophrastus and Pliny is called in Northumberland slauke: whych in lent the poore people sethe..and eat it. 1577 HARRISON *Descr. Brit.* x. in *Holinshed* 41 Having well doonged it in the meane time with slawke of the sea, they sowe barleie. 1758 BORLASE *Nat. Hist. Cornw.* 236 *Lichen marinus*, the laver, slauk, and by the Irish called Slukane. 1892 HESLOP *Northumb. Gloss.*, *Slauke*, the seaweed green laver, *Ulva lactuca* and *U. latissima.*

2. A kind of brook- or river-weed.

1824 MACTAGGART *Gallovid. Encycl.* 135 His haurns wi' slawk and sludge war muddy. 1861 H. MACMILLAN *Footnotes fr. Nature* 127 That green slimy matter..to which in Scotland the expressive name of *slaak* has been applied. 1884 STREATFEILD *Linc. & Danes* 360 *Slawk*, slimy weeds found in drains.

Slawly, obs. form of SLOWLY.

†**Slawm.** *Obs. Mining.* (See quot.)

1747 HOOSON *Miner's Dict.* Tj, A remarkable Joynt in the Stone, Ore, &c. and filled with Clay, and this Clay..is very soft and Greasy,..and these are called by the name of Slawms.

Slawn, obs. pa. pple. SLAY *v.*[1]

Slawnes(se, obs. forms of SLOWNESS.

Slaworm, obs. or dial. form of SLOW-WORM.

†**Slaw·sy.** *Sc. Obs.* A ludicrous term of endearment. Also **slawsy-gawsy.**

1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* lxxv. 39 My hwnygukkis, my slawsy gawsy. *Ibid.* 41 Tak gud confort, my grit-heidit slawsy.

Slawth(e, obs. forms of SLOTH.

Slay, sley (slē), *sb.*[1] Forms: *α.* 1 **sleȝe,** 5 **sleye,** 7 **sleie,** 6– **sley,** 8–9 **sleigh** (**slea**). *β.* 4– **slay,** 5–7 **slaye,** 6 **slai-,** 8–9 **slaie.** [OE. *slege* stroke, striking, slaying, etc., = OS. *slegi*, f. the stem of the vb. SLAY. The related forms in the other Teut. languages retain the vowel *a*, as MDu. and MLG. *slach* (Du. and LG. *slag*), OHG. *slag* (G. *schlag*), ON. *slagr* masc., *slag* neut., Goth. *slahs*; cf. also OS. *slaga* (MLG. *slage*, LG. *slâge, slâe*), OHG. *slaga* (G. *schlage*) fem., stroke, striking implement.

A variant OE. form appears in the Corpus Gloss. P 376 '*Pectica*, slahae', in a later vocab. (WR.-Wülcker 262) written 'slae'.]

1. An instrument used in weaving to beat up the weft; = REED *sb.*[1] 10.

α. *c* 1050 *Suppl. Ælfric's Gloss.* in WR.-Wülcker 188 *Insubula*, webbeamas. *Percussorium*, sleȝe. 14.. *Lat.-Eng. Voc.* Ibid. 601 *Pecten*,.. a sleye. 1530 PALSGR. 13 A sley. 1599 MINSHEU, *Liços para tezér*, the owfe or threed..which the sleie doth weaue vp and downe. 1615

Markham *Eng. Housew.* II. v. (1668) 128 Warp is spun close..because it runs through the sleies. 1656 W. Du Gard tr. *Comenius' Gate Lat. Unl.* 109 [He] weaveth the woof into the warp, and with the sley drawn-to thickeneth the linen cloath. 1701 *Minute Bk. New Mills Cloth Manuf.* (S.H.S.) 238, 800 Spanish Reids long lithed for broad lomb sleas. 1796 *Trans. Soc. Arts* XIV. 278 The sleigh is made in the same manner as stocking-frame sleighs are made. 1890 R. Beaumont *Woollen & Worsted Cloth Manuf.* (ed. 2) 139 The sley is fixed vertically in the going-part of the loom. 1894 Hall Caine *Manxman* 368 Rocking the child ..to and fro like the sleigh of a loom.

β. 1316 in Rock *Text. Fabr.* (1870) 96 Item in j slay pro textoribus viij d. *c* 1340 *Nominale* (Skeat) 340 A webbe.. Wouyn thorue slay Made of yrede (*sic*) and of birche. ¶ 1404 *26 Polit. Poems* 15 At þe last it goþ,..As ende of web out of slay. 1442 *Rolls of Parlt.* V. 60/2 The Slayes and Yern therto belangyng. 1523 Skelton *Garl. Laurel* 791 To weue in the stoule sume were full preste, With slaiis, with tauellis, with hedellis well drest. 1591–2 *Proclamation* 20 Jan., Some by using of false slaies, and false weauing of their clothes, making the muster ende thereof..closely wouen. 1602 *Knaresborough Wills* (Surtees) I. 241 My new lynnen loame with all the slayes. 1677 Yarranton *Eng. Improv.* 53 Thou mayest have the Looms, Wheels, and Slayes at first out of Germany and from Haerlem. 1717 Croxall *Ovid's Met.* VI. 178 The woof and warp..press'd by the tooth slay. 1806 W. Taylor in *Ann. Rev.* IV. 773 The slay, or file of reeds, with which the weaver approximates the threads of shoot. 1879 Ashenhurst *Weaving Des. Text. Fabr.* (1893) 305 There are numerous rules and formulae..for determining the setting of warps in the slay.

2. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *slay-hook*, *-maker*; also **slay-bar**, the reed of a stocking-frame, etc.; † **slay-bred**: (see quot. and Bred *sb.*).

14.. *Lat.-Eng. Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 591 *Lama*, sley-brede. 1583 in Wadley *Bristol Wills* (1886) 236 John Wallys, slaymaker and weaver. 1723 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 6196/8 John Rew, late of Exon, Slea-maker. 1834–6 *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) VIII. 734/1 The warp..is drawn through the reed by an instrument called a sley or reed hook. 1843 *Mechanic's Mag.* XXXIX. 428 The sley bar has a new and peculiar motion given to it for bringing the work over the needle heads.

† **Slay**, *sb.*[2] *Obs.*[–1] Some kind of fabric.

1745 P. Thomas *Voy. S. Seas* 58 The plunder..consisted in ..fine Linens and Woollens, Britannia's, Slays, and the like.

Slay, obs. form of Sleigh *sb.*

Slay (slē[1]), *v.*[1] Pa. t. **slew** (slū). Pa. pple. **slain** (slēn). Forms: (see below). [Common Teut.: OE. *sléan*, north. *slán*, *slá* (pa. t. *slóg*, *slóh*, pl. *slógon*, pa. pple. *slægen*, *slegen*, *slazen*), = OFris. *slân*, *slâ* (WFris. *slaen*, EFris. *slô*, NFris. *slaa*, *slô*, *slâ*), MDu. *slaen* (*sclaen*, Du. *slaan*), OS. *slahan* (MLG. *slân*, LG. *slân*, *slagen*), OHG. *slahan*, *sclahan* (MHG. *slahen*, *slachen*, etc., G. *schlagen*), ON. *slá* (Icel. *slá*, Norw. and Da. *slaa*, Sw. *slå*), Goth. *slahan*. The relations of the pre-Teut. stem *slak-* are somewhat uncertain.

All parts of the verb exhibit a great variety of OE. and ME. forms, partly through natural phonetic development, and partly by assimilation to each other. The normal ME. infinitives are *slē*(*n* from OE. *sléan*, and *slā*(*n*, *slō*(*n* from northern OE. *slán* or from ON. *slá*; the later forms *sley*, *slay* are due to the influence of the pa. pple.]

A. Illustration of forms.

1. *Infin.* α. 1–3 **slean** (3 **sclean**, **sclein**), 4–5 **sleen**; 3 **slæn**, 3–5 **slen**, 5 **slene**.

c 888 [see B. 3]. *a* 1122 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1086, Nan man ne dorste slean oðerne man. *c* 1200 Ormin 8040 Herode..Let slæn þa little bairnness. *a* 1225 *Juliana* 49 Þe an to sclein þen oþer. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 3729 Ðor ðrette god hem alle to slen. *c* 1275 Lay. 3943 Rapir ich wolle þe slean. *c* 1374 Chaucer *Boeth.* II. pr. VI. (1868) 53 Busirides þat was wont to sleen hys gestes. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 459/1 Slen, or kyllyn beestys. *a* 1470 Harding *Chron.* CVIII. x, The Christen folke [they] did brenne, wast and slene.

β. 1, 3 **slæ**, 3–6 **sle** (5 **scle**), 4–6 **slee** (5 **sclee**), 3–6 **slea**.

c 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Matt. xxiv. 49 [He] ongann slae heafudlinges his. *c* 1205 Lay. 17952 Þu scalt beien slæ þer. *c* 1275 *Ibid.* 16052 Þou lettest slea Constance. 1340 *Ayenb.* 223 Ham uor to slea. *c* 1375 *Cursor M.* 4392 (Fairf.), þat wife..þo3t him to slee. *c* 1400 *Beryn* 816 þou3e men wold sclee hym. *c* 1400 *Laud Troy Bk.* 15576 We schal scle hem In fight. *c* 1450 *Merlin* ii. 25 It were beste for vs to sle hym. 1485 Caxton *Paris & V.* (1868) 28, I shal slee myself. *a* 1553 Udall *Royster D.* IV. viii, She shall not slee mee. 1575 R. B. *Appius & Virginia* in Hazl. *Dodsley* IV. 153 He..did sle himself outright. 1587 Grove *Pelops & Hipp.* (1878) 28 He thinks to slea..his daughter.

γ. (*north.* and *Sc.*) 1, 3–4 **slan**, 4 **slane**; 1, 5 **slaa**, 1, 3–7 **sla** (5 **scla**), 6–7 **slae**, **slea**.

c 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Luke xii. 45 [He] onginneð..slaa ða cnæhtas. *c* 975 *Rushw. Gosp.* Matt. xxiv. 49 [He] onginnaþ slan efnþeu his. *c* 1200 Ormin 19921 To slan þatt mann. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 832 þe strang þe weker for to sla. *Ibid.* 13952 þan soght þai iesu for to slan. *c* 1400 tr. *Secreta Secret., Gov. Lordsh.* 48 We purpos to slaa þam alle. 1456 Sir G. Haye *Law Arms* (S.T.S.) 157 He may sla him at his awin will. 15.. in *Dunbar's Wks.* (S.T.S) II. 318 Thair is nocht thair bot tak and slae. 1583 *Leg. Bp. St. Androis* Pref. 56 To slea the sanctis of God. 1603 *Philotus* civ, Themselues to sla. 1609 Skene *Reg. Maj.* 40 That the husband did slea hir. *Ibid.*, That he did not slae hir.

δ. 3–5 **slon**, 4–5 **slone**; 3–6 **slo** (5 **sclo**), 4–6 **sloo**, 5–7 **sloe**.

c 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 1328 Abraham..was redi to slon him. *a* 1300 *Havelok* 512 He may me waiten for to slo. *c* 1330 R. Brunne *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 844 Fader & moder scholde he sloo. *a* 1400 *Launfal* 837 To..danipny hym to sclo. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 274/2 Kyllyn, or slone. 1489 Skelton *Death Earl Northumbld.* 35 To slo their owne lord,

1526 — *Magnyf.* 2354 Thyselfe that thou wolde sloo. *a* 1585 Montgomerie *Misc. Poems* XXXIV. 13 To slo me, but offence.

ε. 4 **slaȝe**, 5 **slayn**, 5–6 **slaye**, 6 **slaie**; 4–7 **sley** (6 **sleye**), 5– **slay** (6 **sleay**).

1340 *Ayenb.* 8 Þou ne sselt slaȝe nenne man. *c* 1380 Wyclif *Sel. Wks.* I. 139 Some wole..sley sheep of Holy Chirche. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 1766 (Dubl. MS.), I sall.. slaye þe with my handez. *c* 1460 *Promp. Parv.* (Winch.), Kyllyn, or slayn. 1479 *Barbour's Bruce* II. 205 [He] bad him..byrn, and slay. *a* 1535 Fisher *Wks.* (1876) 405 So death doth sleay their soules. 1535 Coverdale *Gen.* iv. 14 Who so fyndeth me, shal slaye me. 1560 Daus tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 219 b, To go & slaie them.

2. *Pres. Indic.* α. 1*st pers. sing.* (also *Subj.*) 1 **slea**, 1, 3 **slæ**, 4 **sle**, 6 **slee**; 6 **sley**(e, **slaye**, 7– **slay**.

c 825 *Vesp. Hymns* vii. 77 Ic..slea & ic gehaelu. *c* 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Matt. xxvi. 31 Ic slæ hiorde. *c* 1205 Lay. 3943 Ær ich þe slæ mid mine spere. 13.. *Cursor M.* 7632 (Gött.), þat i him sle it es noght gode. 1508 Dunbar *Flyting* 235 Cry grace,..or I the chece and sley. *a* 1533 Ld. Berners *Huon* xvi. 43 Better it were..or I slee thee.

b. *2nd pers. sing.* α. 1 **sles**, **slaes**, 5 **slees**; 4 **slaas**, **slos**.

c 825 *Vesp. Psalter* cxxxviii. 19 Hweðer sles ðu..synfulle. *c* 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* John xviii. 23 Forhuon mec slaes ðu? *a* 1300 *E. E. Psalter* cxxxviii. 18 If þou slaas.. sinful. *a* 1300 *Havelok* 2706 þat þou..mine gode knihtes, slos.

β. 1 **slehst**, **slæxst**, 3 **sleast**, 3–4 **sleest**; 3–4 **slast**, 6– **slayest** (*poet.* slay'st).

a 900 *Kentish Glosses* in Wr.-Wülcker 79 ðif ðu slehst. *c* 975 *Rushw. Gosp.* Matt. xxiii. 37 þu þe slæxst witga. *c* 1200 Ormin 6752 þa slast tu..þin aȝhenn flæsh. *c* 1275 Lay. 5017 ȝif þou sleast þine broþer. 1382 Wyclif *Matt.* xxiii. 37 Jerusalem, that sleest prophetis. *c* 1440 *Jacob's Well* 46 Þou sleest him in þat [etc.]. 1535 Coverdale *Matt.* xxiii. 37 Thou that slayest the prophetes.

c. *3rd pers. sing.* α. 1 **sliehð**, **slihð**, **slyhð**, **slæhð**, 2 **slehð**, 4 **slekþ**.

c 897 K. Ælfred *Gregory's Past. C.* xlvi. 347 Ðonne hit mon sliehð [*v.r.* slihð]. *c* 900 tr. *Bæda's Hist.* I. xvi. (1890) 78 Seo halige æ mid deaðe slæhð [*v.r.* slyhð]. *c* 1160 *Hatton Gosp.* Luke vi. 29 þam þe þe slehð on þam wange. 1303 R. Brunne *Handl. Synne* 1527 He slekþ hym þat trowyþ hys lesyng.

β. 1 **slaeð**, 3 **sleað**, **slað**; 1 **sleð**, 4–5 **sleþ**, 4–6 **sleth**, 5 **slethe**; 4–5 **sleeþ**, 5–6 **sleeth**; 1 **slaes**, 4 **sles**(e, 4–5 **slees**, 7 **sleas**.

c 825 *Vesp. Psalter* lxxvii. 34 Ðonne he sleð hie. *c* 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Matt. v. 39 ðif hua ðec slaes in suiðra ceica. *Ibid.* Luke vi. 29 Seðe ðec slaeð on cece. *c* 1230 *Hali Meid.* 29 Cwalm slað [*Bodl.* sleað] þat ahte. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 29386 [He] þat sles his fo. *c* 1330 R. Brunne *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 13890 As þe lyon..sleþ þe best. 1377 Langl. *P. Pl.* B. XIV. 90 Shrifte of mouth sleeth synne. 1450–80 tr. *Secreta Secret.* 18 He that slethe the creature. *Ibid.*, Who so sleth any man. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 238 The lawe sleeth the gylty man. 1539 Elyot *Image Gov.* (1541) 46 He that sleath his prince.

γ. (*north.* and *Sc.*) *3rd pers. sing.* 3 **slaþ**; 4–5 **slas**, 5 **slase**, 5–6 **slaes**, **slais**. Also 3 **sloð**, 5 **sloys**.

c 1200 Ormin 2092 He slaþ hiss aȝhenn sawle. *c* 1220 *Bestiary* 431 Þer he us sloð. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 29348 He slas him-seluen. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 3883 He..Slaes of þa serpentis many..hundreth. *c* 1400 *Cursor M.* 29386 (Cott. Galba), Him þat slase Preste or clerk. *c* 1400 tr. *Secreta Secret., Gov. Lordsh.* 88 It slas þe souerayn vertu. *c* 1460 *Towneley Myst.* ii. 372 He that sloys yong or old. 1500–20 Dunbar *Poems* xlix. 44 Evir quhill he be slane he slais. 1596 Dalrymple tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* II. 2 *marg.*, He slaes the Inglismen.

δ. 4 **slaȝþ**, 5 **sleith**, 5–6 **sleyth**, 6 **sleythe**, **sleayeth**, 6– (now *poet.*) **slayeth**; 6–7 **slayes** (*Sc.* **slayis**), 7– **slays**.

1340 *Ayenb.* 34 He.. himzelue slaȝþ. 1422 tr. *Secreta Secret., Priv. Priv.* 143 Who-So sleyth, he shal be slayne. *c* 1450 *Cursor M.* 6673 (Laud MS.), Who sleith eny man with wille. 1535 Coverdale *Gen.* iv. 15 Who so euer slayeth Cain. 1578 Lyte *Dodoens* 348 In fine it sleayeth the partie. 1607 Shaks. *Timon* IV. iii. 435 He slayes Moe then you Rob.

d. *Plur.* α. 1–2 **sleað**; 4–5 **slen**, **sleen** (5 **scleen**); 4–6 **slea**, **sle**, 5–6 **slee** (5 **sclee**); also *north.* 5 **slees**.

c 888 [see B. 3]. *a* 1200 *Vices & Virtues* 61 [They] sleað here auȝene saule. 1303 R. Brunne *Handl. Synne* 1349 Þey sle hem alle. 1388 Wyclif 2 *Kings* xvii. 26 Lo! liouns sleen hem. *c* 1400 Maundev. (1839) xxviii. 288 Theise Serpentes slen men. 1559 Morwyng *Evonymus* 236 Poysones which slee.

β. 2 **slaȝe**(ð, 6 **sleye**, **slaye**, 7– **slay**.

c 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 51 Þenne slaȝe we ure sunne. *Ibid.* 53 Heo slaȝeð heore aȝene saule. 1535 Coverdale 1 *Esdras* iv. 5 They..slaye (other men) them selues. 1611 Bible 1 *Esdras* iv. 5 They slay and are slaine.

γ. (Also *Subj.*) 4–5 **sla**, **slaa**, 5 **slo**(e.

a 1300 *E. E. Psalter* lxi. 3 Vnto yhe sla. 1375 Barbour *Bruce* I. 487 Thai sla our folk. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 3198 Slaa ȝe me þus sudanly? *a* 1425 *Cursor M.* 16328 (Trin.), Til þat þei þe slo.

3. *Pres. Subj.* (*2nd* and *3rd pers. sing.*). α. 1 **slae**, 1, 3 **slea**, 4–6 **sle**, 5 **slee**.

a 901 *Laws Alfred* Pref. § 16 (Liebermann), ȝif hwa slea his ðone nehstan mid stane. *c* 975 *Rushw. Gosp.* Matt. v. 39 ȝif hwa ðec slae. *c* 1000 Ælfric *Exod.* xxi. 15 Se þe slea his fæder. *c* 1325 *Prose Ps.* cxxxviii. 18 ȝif þou sle þe syngers. 1382 Wyclif *Job* xiii. 15 If he sle me.

β. *north.* 3–5 **sla**, 4–5 **slo**.

a 1300 in *O. E. Misc.* 200/5 Loke þat tu ne sla na man. *c* 1310 in Wright *Spec. Lyric P.* vii. 29 Er thou me slo,

c 1400 tr. *Secreta Secret., Gov. Lordsh.* 61 Suffre þat he sla. *c* 1460 *Towneley Myst.* ii. 371, I will that no man other slo.

γ. 6 **slaye**, 6– **slay**.

1500–20 Dunbar *Poems* xxxvi. 15 That..No wicht ane vder slay. 1535 Coverdale *Deut.* xix. 6 Lest the auenger ..slaye him. 1607 Shaks. *Cor.* IV. iv. 24 If he slay me He does faire Iustice.

4. *Imper.* α. 1 **sleh**, 2 **sleih**, 4–5 **sle**, 4–6 **slee**, 6 **sley**; 1 **sleah**, **sleaȝe**, 4–5 **slea**; 1 **slyh**, 2 **slyȝh**. Also *plur.* 1 **slæð** (**slæh**), **sleað** (**slea**), 3 **s**(c)**leaþ**, **sleoþ**, 4 **sleth**, 5 **sleeth**, **sleeþ**; 4 *north.* **sles**.

sing. c 825 *Vesp. Psalter* lviii. 12 Ne sleh ðu hie. *c* 1000 *Ags. Gosp.* Mark x. 19 Ne slyh þu. *a* 1200 *Vices & Virtues* 67 Ne sleih, ne ne stell. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 206 Slea hit mid dedbote. *c* 1325 *Prose Ps.* lviii. 11 Lord, ne sle hem nouȝt. 1377 Langl. *P. Pl.* B. III. 264 What þow fyndest þere, slee it. 1422 tr. *Secreta Secret., Priv. Priv.* 162 Go thou and Sle the Synners. 1480 *Robt. Devyll* 24 Slea me, she sayde. 1539 Cranmer *Luke* xix. 27 Slee them before me.

plur. c 1000 *Andreas* 1300 Sleað synniȝne ofer seolfes muð. *c* 1205 Lay. 28726 Slæð..al þat ȝe findeð. *c* 1275 *Ibid.* 4222 Sleoþ ham mid swerde. 1297 R. Glouc. (Rolls) 4855 Sleþ hom hastiliche anon. *c* 1330 R. Brunne *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 1163 Spares non, bot sles on fast. 13.. *Cursor M.* 6634 (Gött.), Sles vp ȝone caytifes. 1382 Wyclif *Exod.* i. 16 If it be a maal, sleeth hym.

β. *Sing.* 2–4, 6 **sla**; 3–4 **slo**, 7 *Sc.* **sloe**. *Plur.* 4 **slas**, **slays**; **slo**, **slos**.

c 1160 *Hatton Gosp.* Luke iii. 14 Ne sla ȝe nanne man. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 3505 Ne slo ðu noȝt. *a* 1300 *Hævelok* 2596 Slos up-on þe dogges. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 6634 Slas vþ yon caitefs. *a* 1400 *R. Brunne's Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 1163 (Petyt MS.), Spares non bot slo all faste. 1611 Sir W. Mure *Wks.* (S.T.S.) I. 10 Save then or sloe ane captiue.

γ. 6 **slaye**, 7– **slay**.

1535 Coverdale *Judges* viii. 20 Stonde vp, & slaye them. 1611 Bible 1 *Kings* iii. 27 In *no* wise slay it.

5. *Past Indic.* α. 1*st* and *3rd pers. sing.* 1, 3–4 **sloh**, 4 **slohw**; 1 **sloz**, **slozh**, 4 **sloȝ**, **slooȝ** (3 **sloþ**), 4–5 **sloȝe**; 3–4 **slog**, 4–5 **slogh** (5 **sloght**), **sloghe**, **sloch**; 4–5 **slo**. *2nd pers.* 1 **sloȝe**, 3 **sloȝe**. *Plur.* 1–2 **slozon** (1 **-un**), **slozan**, 1 **slozen**, 2 **sloȝhen**, 3–4 **sloȝen**, 5 **sloghen**; 4 **sloghe**, 5 **sloȝe**; 4 **slogh**.

sing. Beowulf 421 Pær ic..sloz niceras nihtes. *Ibid.* 1565 He..yrringa sloh. *c* 825 *Vesp. Psalter* iii. 8 Ðu sloze alle wiðerbrocan. *c* 1200 Ormin 3590 Daviþþ king sloh Goliat. *c* 1205 Lay. 10999 Þa þu sloze Asclepidiot. *c* 1275 *Ibid.* 1290 Manie he sloþ. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 6120 þat he ne slo an. *a* 1300 *E. E. Psalter* c. 9, I slogh with hand Alle þe sinful. *c* 1325 *Prose Ps.* c. 9 Ich sloȝe..alle þe synȝers. 13.. *Cursor M.* 1046 (Gött.), His aune broþer abel he slohw. 1382 Wyclif *Isaiah* xxvii. 7 As he sloo3 the slayne men. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 9728 Deffibus..oure folk sloght. *c* 1450 *Mirk's Festial* 193 He yn þat maner sloch hymself. *c* 1460 *Towneley Myst.* ii. 395, I slogh my brother. *Ibid.* 433 He that slo his brother.

plur. c 893 K. Ælfred *Oros.* I. x. 46 þa wif..slozon þa hysecild. 971 *Blickl. Hom.* 23 Hie hine..mid bradre hand slozan. 1154 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1138, [They] sloghen suithe micel of his genge. *a* 1300 *K. Horn* 195 Hi slozen..Cristenemen inoȝe. *a* 1340 Hampole *Psalter* xxvii. 5 Þe iowes sloghe crist. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 3213 (Dubl. MS.), Þees warryd wightez..þat Sloghen [*v.r.* sloȝe] so þair souerent.

β. *Sing.* 3–5 **slowe** (5 **sclowe**), 4–5 **sloue**; 4–5 **slow** (5 **sclow**), 4 **sloow**, **slou** (**sclou**). *Plur.* 3–5 **slowen**, 5 **slowyn**, 4 **slouen**; 4–5 **slowe**, **slow** (5 **sclow**).

sing. c 1205 Lay. 4355 Seoðden þu hine slowe. 1297 R. Glouc. (Rolls) 458 Corineus..slou hom to gronde. *a* 1300 in *E. E. P.* (1862) 116 Slowe þu þe holi prophete? 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 1221 þe kynges sunnes..he slow euer vchone. 13.. *Cursor M.* 14431 (Gött.), Dauid..sclou golias. 1382 Wyclif *Isaiah* xiv. 20 Thou the puple sloow. ? *a* 1400 *Arthur* 528 Engystis Men þat..sclow þeyre kyn. 1422 tr. *Secreta Secret., Priv. Priv.* 174 The pepill..he slow. *c* 1450 *Knt. de La Tour* (1868) 102 Husbondes, whiche the deuelle slow.

plur. c 1205 Lay. 1608 Alle heo slowen þat heo neih comen. *a* 1300 *Havelok* 2432 Euerilk fot of hem [they] slowe. 13.. *Cursor M.* 2502 (Gött.), þair fas foluand þaim slow. 1382 Wyclif *Matt.* xxiii. 35 Zacharie,..whom ȝe slowen. *c* 1400 *Laud Troy Bk.* 16666 Thei sclow ten thousand. *c* 1425 Audelay *XI Pains of Hell* 135 in *O. E. Misc.* 215 [They] slowyn here childer. 1483 Caxton *Gold. Leg.* 228 b/2 Where they slowe..many men.

γ. *Sing.* 3–4 **slouh**, 4–5 **slowh**, **slouȝ**, 5 **slowȝ**(e; 4–5 **slough**, 5 **sloughe**, **slowgh**(e. *Plur.* 5 **sloughen**; 4 **slowȝe**, 4–5 **slowhe**, 5 **sloughe**; 4 **slouȝ**, **slough**.

c 1225 *Ancr. R.* 136 Iudit, þet slouh Oloferne. 1310 *St. Brendan* (Bälz) 441 þis luþer best sone he slouȝ. *c* 1330 R. Brunne *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 7280 Of þe Peytes þat he slough. *c* 1386 Chaucer *Knt.'s T.* 1608 (Lansd. MS.), I slowhe Sampson schakinge þe piler. ? *a* 1400 *Morte Arth.* 4046 He..þat hym slowghe. *a* 1425 *Cursor M.* 162 (Trin.), Heroude..slow3e childer 3onge. *c* 1450 *Merlin* xx. 352 Many thei sloughen. 1474 Caxton *Chesse* III. i. (1883) 76 For this cause he slough abel.

δ. *Sing.* 3 **sluȝ**, 5 **sluȝe**, 6–7 **slue**; 5 **slewȝ**, *Sc.* **sleuch** (**sleucht**), 6 **scleuȝe**; 4– **slew**, 5–6 **slewe**. Also *2nd pers.* 6–7 **slew'st**. *Plur.* 3 **sluȝen**, 5–7 **slue** (5 *Sc.* **sleuch**); 4 **slewen**, 5– **slew** (5 **sclew**), 6 **slewe**.

sing. c 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 2685 He..sluȝ ðor manie. 1375 Barbour *Bruce* I. 557 Modreyt..him slew. 1382 Wyclif 1 *Kings* ii. 25 The which slewȝ hym. *c* 1420 *Avow. Arth.* lxv, There hit sluȝe him als. 14.. *Sc. Leg. Saints* xxv. (*Julian*) 231 þat fadyr & modir bath sleucht. 1470–85 Malory *Arthur* x. xxxiv. 468 Kynge Marke slewe hym. *a* 1500 *Pol., Rel., & Love Poems* 124, I scleuȝe my selue.

1559 *Mirr. Mag., Clifford* iii, That slue duke Richardes childe. 1592 KYD *Sp. Trag.* III. vii, I slew him for your sake. 1592 SHAKS. *Rom. & Jul.* III. iii. 138 But thou slew'st Tybalt. *a* 1641 BP. MOUNTAGU *Acts & Mon.* (1642) 323 Saxa..slue himselfe. 1671 MILTON *Samson* 439 Who slew'st them many a slain.

plur. c 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 3916 Oc he slu3en king of basaan. 1382 WYCLIF *Matt.* xxi. 39 Thei kesten [him] out..and slewen. *a* 1400-50 *Alexander* 2043 (Dubl.), Þai..Slew downe ..seges. *c* 1489 CAXTON *Blanchardyn* xlviii. 187 They kylled and slue..many one. 1490 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* I. 131 Men..that sclew a man. 1585 T. WASHINGTON tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* I. xix. 22 They slue foure of the best runners. 1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* III. 104 They scaled the walles, [and] slue the watches.

6. *Past Subj.* I slo3e, *pl.* slo3en, 2, 5 slo3e, 3 slu3e, 4 slowe.

c 897 K. ÆLFRED *Gregory's Past. C.* xxviii. 196 Dæt hie slo3en..kyning. *a* 1122 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1086, Swa hwa swa slo3e heort. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 3976 Had ic an swerd, ic slu3e õe. *c* 1380 *Sir Ferumb.* 467 Þo3 y slowe Þe her in fi3t. *a* 1400-50 *Alexander* 5351 If we Þis lede slo3e.

7. *Past Part.* a. I ze-slæ3en, ze-sle3en, 3 i-slæ3en, i-sleien, i-slein, 4 i-, y-slayn, 5 y-sclayn, y-slayne, 6 y-slaine; I slæ3en, sle3en, 4–5 sleyn, 6 sleyne; 2–3, 6–7 slaine, 4–7 slayne, 5 slayen, 4–6 slayn (4–5 sclayn, 4 sclain), 4, 7– slain.

(*a*) *a* 900 *O. E. Chron.* (Parker MS.) an. 823, Þær wæs micel wæl ze-slæ3en. *c* 900 tr. *Baeda's Hist.* III. xi. (1890) 190 Þa wæs ze-sle3en..sum leornungmon. *c* 1205 LAY. 5584 Summe heore men [had] i-slæ3ene. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 156 Gostliche isleien. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) VII. 103 If alle fi3te and alle [be] i-slayn. 1422 tr. *Secreta Secret., Priv. Priv.* 162 Al the grecans..yslayne thay moght. ? *a* 1400 *Arthur* 566 Arthoures nevew..was Þere y-sclayn. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* III. v. 9 Of a forreine foe He is yslaine.

(*b*) *c* 725 *Corpus Gloss.* P 287 *Percellitur*, bið slaezen. *c* 825 *Vesp. Psalter* ci. 5 Slezen ic eam. *c* 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 103 Leirede and slaine. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 23964 Hu Þai haf Þat saccles sclain. *a* 1320 *Sir Tristr.* 830 Þif tristrem be now sleyn. *c* 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 4612 Þar sal he be slayn. 1399 LANGL. *P. Pl.* C. I. 113 Hus sones [being] slayen. *a* 1425 *Cursor M.* 4168 (Trin.), Þat we haue sleyn him. 1470-85 MALORY *Arthur* XVIII. xvi. 754 There ..I was nere slayne. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VIII*, 159 b, Al they that folowed hym..were sleyne. 1584 POWEL *Lloyd's Cambria* 2 Who was slaine by his owne men. 1655-60 STANLEY *Hist. Philos.* (1687) 48/2 Men slain By cruel Men.

β. 3 i-, hii-sle3e, i-sleh3e; 4 sleie, sleye, slaye, 5 slay, scley.

c 1275 LAY. 20932 He badde islehȝe moche of hire cunne. *Ibid.* 13602 Hii-sleȝe we habbeþ þane king. *c* 1350 *Will. Palerne* 379 Sche wold haue sleie hire-self. 1393 LANGL. *P. Pl.* C. XVIII. 275 Seynt thomas..in holychurche was sleye. ? *a* 1400 *Arthur* 223 Þu hast scley frolle in fraunce.

γ. I ze-sla3en, 3 i-sla3en, i-sclawen, i-slawen, 4 y-slawen; 3 sla3en, 4 slawen, slaun, 5 slawn.

c 1000 ÆLFRIC *Hom.* II. 124 Se ze-sla3ena bið mid deaðe zegripen. *c* 1205 LAY. 965 Heora kun we habbet isla3en. *Ibid.* 1047 Mine men ȝe habbeð isclawen. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 591 Þo was ilc fleis on werlde sla3en. *a* 1300 *Havelok* 2681 Þer were a þousind knihtes slawen. 13.. *Guy Warw.* (A.) 4715 Þo he hadde hem slaun ichon. 1382 WYCLIF *Lev.* vii. 8 The slawn offryng of brent sacrifice.

δ. 3 i-, 4 y-sla3e, 3–4 i-slawe, 4–6 y-slawe; 6 y-slaw; 4–5 slawe (5 sclawe).

c 1250 *Owl & Night*, 1142 Hwenne þu hongest islawe. *c* 1275 LAY. 322 He his fader adde isla3e. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 889 Þe stude þat he was on slawe. 1340 *Ayenb.* 223 Alle were y-sla3e of þe dyeule. *c* 1374 CHAUCER *Troylus* IV. 884 Both it hadde vs slawe. *c* 1420 *Chron. Vilod.* 4308 Harald..was y-slawe at Hastyngus. *c* 1440 *Gesta Rom.* xvii. 61 How that he had slawe this brid.

ε. 3 i-slæn, 5 sleen, 6 slene.

c 1205 LAY. 8326 Þine men we habbeð islæn. 1486 *Bk. St. Albans* d j/2 She hath sleen the fowle. *a* 1563 MACHYN *Diary* (Camden) 92 Ther wher dyvers of boyth partes slene.

ζ. *north.* and *Sc.* 4 slan, 4–6 slane, 6 y-slane.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 905 Þou sal be slan wit duble dedd. 13.. *Ibid.* 4141 (Göttl.), Wit his fader Þat he be slane. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* I. 190 Thai had slane mony ane. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* XIII. ii. 3 Sepulturis Of his folkis yslane. 1567 *Satir. Poems Reform.* v. 31 Nouther..hurt nor slane.

η. 4–5 slon, 5–6 slone, 5 sloon.

c 1375 *Lay-Folks Mass-Bk.* App. IV. 587 God Þat on Þe Rode was slon. *a* 1425 *Cursor M.* 1075 (Trin.), Whenne Caym had his broþer sloon. *c* 1440 *Alph. Tales* 516 What þer fadur was slone. *c* 1485 *Digby Myst.* I. 361 He hath our children sloon!

B. Signification.

I. †1. *trans.* To smite, strike, or beat. *Obs.*

c 825 *Vesp. Psalter* lxxvii. 20 Forðon [he] slog stan & fleowun weter. *c* 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Mark xiv. 65 Ða embeht-menn miþ fystum hine slogon. *c* 1000 ÆLFRIC *Exod.* vii. 17 Nu ic slea mid þisse zirde..þises flodes wæter. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 3964 [Balaam] wurð oo for anger wroð, And ðis [ass] prikeð and negt [? *read* next] sloð. *a* 1300 *Havelok* 2633 Þe þredde so sore he slow, Þat he made up-on the feld His lift arm fleye.

†b. *absol.* To deal a blow or blows (freq. with *on*); to knock; to strike. *Obs.*

Beowulf 1565 He zefeng þa fetelhilt,..yrringa sloh. 971 *Blickl. Hom.* 141 Michael..slog on þæs huses duru. *c* 1205 LAY. 797 Obtliche heom slæð on. *Ibid.* 16488 Aldolf his gode sweord adroh, & uppen Hengest sloh. *a* 1300 *Havelok* 2596 Helpes me..And slos up-on þe dogges swiþe. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 311 And as the fisshere on his bait Sleth, whan he seth the fisshes faste.

†c. To strike or cut *off* (a limb). *Obs.*

a 1000 *Laws of Ine* § 18 Slea mon hond of oðde fot. *c* 1205 LAY. 3856 Þer he of-toc Morgan..; & sloh he him of Þat hæued.

†2. To strike (a spark, fire) from flint or other hard substance. *Obs.*

c 1000 *Saxon Leechd.* II. 290 ðif mon on his weze biþ zedwolod slea him anne spearcan beforan. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* XIII. 36 Men herd nocht ellis bot granys & dyntis, That slew fire, as men dois on flyntis. *c* 1400 *Ywaine & Gaw.* 2039 Flynt and fir-yren bath he hade, And fir ful sone thar he slogh. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* IV. 285 A gret hart has he slayne; Slew fyr on flynt, and graithit thaim at rycht. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* I. iv. 33 First Achates slew fire of the flynt.

†3. To throw or cast; to bring *down* heavily. *Obs.*

c 888 K. ÆLFRED *Boeth.* XXXV. § 5 ðif wit ziet uncru word tosomne sleað. *Ibid.* xxxviii. § 1 Þæt hio sceolde..þa men ..slean on þa racentan. *c* 1000 *Daniel* 344 He on andan sloh fyr on feondas for fyrendædum. *c* 1205 LAY. 2312 Corineus up ahof, & his eax adun sloh. *c* 1430 *Syr Gener.* (Roxb.) 90 The bodie among hem was hent; At the steres thei slough it doun.

†4. To pitch (a tent). *Obs.*

c 1000 ÆLFRIC *Gen.* xxxi. 25 Iacob sloh his zeteld on þære dune. *c* 1205 LAY. 7865 Heo slo3en heoren teldes, wide 3eond þa feldes.

II. 5. To strike or smite so as to kill; to put to death by means of a weapon; also generally, to deprive of life by violence.

In this sense (which is copiously represented in the illustration of forms above), and in other surviving uses, *slay* is now mainly confined to literary and rhetorical language, the common word being *kill*.

Beowulf 421 Ic..on ydum slog niceras nihtes. *c* 893 K. ÆLFRED *Oros.* I. x. 46 Hi..on ðæt folc winnende wæron, & þa wæpnedmen sleande. 971 *Blickl. Hom.* 151 On þa ilcan tid þa englas..ongunnan slean þa Iudeas. 1154 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an 1138, [They] flemden þe king æt te Standard, & slozhen suithe micel of his genge. *c* 1200 ORMIN 8089 He..badd tatt mann hemm shollde slæn, Son summ he shollde dezenn. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 3630 Þo þe king arþure ysey þat me is men so uaste slou. *c* 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 13890 As þe lyon for hunger snacches & sleþ þe best þat he first lacches. *c* 1380 WYCLIF *Wks.* (1880) 55 Men þat turmenten & slen þe bodi. *c* 1450 *Merlin* ii. 25 And so xij made hem redy,..and ran on hym with swerdes and knyves, and slowe hym. 1470-85 MALORY *Arthur* v. iv. 165 The bore that the dragon slough. 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 280 The nombre of them that were slaine..was accompted a thousand. 1635 PAGITT *Christianogr.* 215 Two fel at discord between themselves, and the one slue the other. 1781 COWPER *Charity* 619 Slaying man would cease to be an art. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* v. I. 633 Two persons..were found murdered; and it was universally believed that they had been slain by Kirke's order. 1888 MASSON *Med. France* 180 The order given by King Philip to slay the Genoese mercenaries.

fig. a 1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* vii. 14 Goed wordis, þe whilk slas men fra synne, and makis þaim lifand til god. 1593 SHAKS. *Lucr.* 1110 Sad souls are slain in merry company. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* xxii, Shooting death-glances at all the servant-girls who were worthy to be slain.

refl. c 1340 *Ayenb.* 34 He..bimzelue slaþ ase despayred. *c* 1374 CHAUCER *Troylus* II. 462 If this man her[e] sle hem-self..In my presence. 1430-40 LYDG. *Bochas* VIII. xvii. (1558) 11 b, Arbogast slough him selfe for drede. 1565 GOLDING *Ovid's Met.* IV. (1593) 83 Thy Iove (she said) hath made the slea thy selfe. 1628 in Foster *Eng. Factories India* (1909) III. 240 Their mother..slew hirselfe, dying with them.

†b. *To slay up* or *down*, to kill completely or outright; to annihilate. *Obs.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 6634 Slas vp you caitefs al bidene! *a* 1400-50 *Alexander* 2043 (Dubl.), Manly þai feghtyn, Slew downe on ather syde seges owt of nowmbre. 1545 ASCHAM *Toxoph.* (Arb.) 82 The Spanyardes..were quyte slayne vp of the Turkes arrowes. 1549 *Compl. Scot.* 145 Gunnis ande cannons to sla doune the pepil. 1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* I. 161 That same tyme..he slawe doune monye of the Nobilitie.

†c. To kill the inhabitants of (a country). *Obs.*

c 1330 *Arth. & Merl.* 4734 (Kölbing), Þis four heþen kinges..þe cuntre aboute Lounde Slowen & brent to þe grounde.

6. *absol.* To commit slaughter or murder.

c 893 K. ÆLFRED *Oros.* II. viii. 92 Hie wæron þa burz herzende & sleande buton ælcre ware. *a* 901 *Laws K. Ælfred* Introd. § 5 Ne sleah ðu. *c* 1000 *Ags. Gosp.* Mark x. 19 Ne slyh [*v.r.* sleh] þu. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 2668 Folc ethiopienes on egipte cam, And brende, & slu3, & wreche nam. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 5215 Hii ne kepte hit holde noȝt bote..destrue & berne & sle. *a* 1352 MINOT *Poems* (ed. Hall) iii. 61 Ful fast þai slogh and brend. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* III. 207 His moste gloire Was forto sle and noght to save. *c* 1440 in *Housek. Ord.* (1790) 450 A castel that the Kyng and the Qwhene comen in for to see how Seint Jorge slogh. 1535 COVERDALE *Ezek.* ix. 5 Go ye..thorow the cite, slaye, ouersee none, spare none. 1589 PUTTENHAM *Eng. Poesie* III. xvi. (Arb.) 188 The Nubiens..sleaing a farre with venim and with dartes. *c* 1700 PRIOR *To a Lady* viii, The Parthian turn'd his Steed,.. and as He fled, He slew. 1781 COWPER *Charity* 49 The hand that slew, till it could slay no more. 1817 SHELLEY *Rev. Islam* x. x, We were slaying still without remorse. 1849 AYTOUN *Poems, Heart of Bruce* xxiii, The Moors have come from Africa To spoil and waste and slay.

7. a. *Of the Deity*: To deprive (man, etc.) of life; to bring death upon, to destroy.

c 825 *Vesp. Psalter* lxxvii. 51 [He] slog ylc frum-bearn on eorðan [of Egypt]. *c* 897 K. ÆLFRED tr. *Gregory's Past. C.* xxxvi. 251 Ðonne God hie slo3, ðonne sohton hie hine. *c* 1055 *Byrhtferth's Handboc* in *Anglia* VIII. 322 God ælmihtiz ferde on egiptena lande, hi sleande & alysende Israela bearn. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 6122 At þe king-self he be-gan, þe forbirth slou o beist and man. *a* 1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* ix. 33 Sloand þaim in body noght in saule; [the] riche he sall sla in saule. 1552 *Bk. Com. Prayer, Litany*, O Almightie God, whiche..didst slea with the plague of pestilence, lx and ten thousand. 1611 BIBLE *Hosea* ii. 3 Lest I..set her like a drie land, and slay her with thirst.

absol. c 1000 ÆLFRIC *Deut.* xxxii. 39 Ic slea and ic hæle. *a* 1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* 521, I sall sla and I sall make to lif. 1535 COVERDALE 1 *Sam.* ii. 6 The Lorde slayeth, and geueth life.

b. Of natural forces, accidents, etc.

Still in current use in Lincolnshire dialect.

c 1000 ÆLFRIC *Exod.* ix. 25 Se haȝol sloh..ealle þa þing, þe ute wæron, æzðer ze men ze nytenu. 1382 WYCLIF *Dan.* iii. 22 Flawme of the fijre slewȝ tho men. *c* 1420 *Sir Amadace* xli, Thay were..With wild waturs slone. 1486 *Bk. St. Albans* c viij b, The leest mysdyetyng and mys-entendyng sleth her. 1611 *Stranton Par. Reg.* 26 June, Agnes..was buried, being slayne with a coupe wayne in the field. 1686 *Merrington Par. Reg.*, She was suddenly slaine with a sled in hay time. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* III. 724 Th' Infection grew, Tame Cattle, and the Beasts of Nature slew. 1708 J. C. *Compl. Collier* (1845) 45 There was above thirty Persons..slain by a Blast. 1865 *N. & Q.* 3rd Ser. VII. 31 His poor father was sla'ain [by a stay falling]. 1877 in *N. W. Linc. Gloss.*

absol. 1559 MORWYNG *Evonymus* 236 There be certaine poysones which slee with the only touching. 1611 BIBLE *Job* ix. 23 If the scourge slay suddenly. 1904 MISS CORELLI *God's Good Man* xxxii, She was undergoing the operation, which was to save or slay.

†8. To put to death as a criminal; to execute.

c 1200 ORMIN 13782 [The Jews] slozhenn himm..All gillte-læs o rode. *a* 1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* xvi. 12 When þai sloghe crist. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* vii. (*James Minor*) 430 Þat al þai þat sclew dere Ihesu, I sal sla. *c* 1420 *Chron. Vilod.* 4756 Ihesu suffrede þe Iuys hym to slen. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 238 So the lawe sleeth the gylty man, and not the iudge. 1611 BIBLE *Acts* x. 39 Iesus .., whom they slew and hanged on a tree. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* XII. 414 Naild to the Cross By his own Nation, slaine for bringing Life.

9. To kill (a domestic animal or beast of game), *esp.* for food or as a sacrifice; to slaughter. †Also, to take (fish).

c 1000 ÆLFRIC *Deut.* xxviii. 31 Mann slihð þinne oxan beforan þe and þu his ne abitst. *a* 1122 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1086, Swa hwa swa sloge heort oðde hinde. *c* 1205 LAY. 8105 Isla3ene weoren to þon mele, twælf þusend ruðeren sele. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 3019 Quen he was spaned fra þe pap, His fader slou bath scepe and nete. *c* 1400 *Apol. Loll.* 48 Wan prestis slow þe offringis, and bests blod was remissioun of synnis. *c* 1460 FORTESCUE *Abs. & Lim. Mon.* ii. (1885) 111 As the Hunter takyth the wilde beste for to sle and ete hym. 1535 COVERDALE *Exod.* xxix. 20 As for the other ramme,..thou shalt slaye him. 1597 SKENE *De Verb. Sign.* s.v. *Assisa*, Everie Boat that passis to the draue, and slayis herring. 1611 BIBLE *Lev.* iv. 29 And he shall..slay the sin offering in the place of the burnt offering. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Sacrifice*, When the Victim was slain, they flead him. 1837 W. IRVING *Capt. Bonneville* III. 257 While a hunter is..cutting up the deer or buffalo he has slain. 1863 W. C. BALDWIN *Afr. Hunting* ix. 419, I have..slain this morning..the last rabbit within a circle of eight miles.

absol. a 1300 *Cursor M.* 19869 Petre,..þou sla and ete. 1535 COVERDALE *Acts* x. 13 And there came a voyce vnto him: Ryse Peter, slaye, & eate.

transf. 1483 *Presentmts. Juries* in *Surtees Misc.* (1890) 29 Flech..þat was sclayn of Setterday afor.

†b. To destroy (vermin, etc.) by some means. Also in fig. context. *Obs.*

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 206 Þe scorpiunes cundel þet heo bret in hire boseme,..slea hit mid dedbote. *a* 1400-50 *Stockh. Med. MS.* 101 To slen lees [=lice]. *c* 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* I. 912 Elebur blak with fatte..commyxt and offrid hem [mice and rats] wol sleen. 1495 *Trevisa's Barth. De P. R.* VII. XXV. (W. de W.) 241 Wormes of the teeth ben slayne [*Bodl. MS.* kilde] wyth Myrre and Opium. 1578 LYTE *Dodoens* 415 The same is good agaynst wormes,..for it slayeth them.

III. †10. To bring to spiritual death; to destroy with sin. *Obs.*

c 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 53 Heo sla3eð heore a3ene saule, and bringeð heom in to þare eche pine of helle. *c* 1200 ORMIN 2092 Whase nile trowwenn þiss He slaþ hiss a3henn sawle. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 156 Mest al þe world, þet is gostliche isleien mid deadliche sunnen. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 25697 Wit his ded he boght again, Vr sauls þat wit sin war slain. 1382 WYCLIF *Wisdom* i. 11 The mouth forsothe that lieth, sleth the soule. *a* 1529 SKELTON *Bk. Three Foles* Wks. 1843 I. 202 O Enuy,..thou brennest the desyres, and sleeth the soule in the ende. 1573 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 199 What daily watch is made, the soule of man to slea. 1611 BIBLE *Rom.* vii. 11 For sinne taking occasion by the commandement,.. by it slew me.

refl. 1303 R. BRUNNE *Handl. Synne* 1526 Þe bakbyter fyrst hym self sles.

absol. 1382 WYCLIF 2 *Cor.* iii. 6 The lettre sleith, forsoth the spirit quykeneth. 1387-8 T. USK *Test. Love* III. ix. (Skeat) I. 107 The letter sleeth; the spirit yeveth lyfelich understanding.

†11. To overcome with affliction or distress. *Obs.*

c 1386 CHAUCER *Squire's T.* 454 (Hengwrt MS.), Ye sleen me with youre sorwe verraily. — *Franklt. T.* 165 Thise Rokkes sleen myn herte for the feere. *c* 1400 *Rom. Rose* 2593 It makith me fulle of joyfulle thought, It sleth me that it lastith noght. *c* 1425 AUDELAY *XI Pains of Hell* 90 in *O. E. Misc.* 213 3if þai ferd wel her hertis hit slow, And of here losse were glad and fayne. 1526 SKELTON *Magnyf.* 2311, I am wery of the worlde, for vnkyndnesse me sleeth. *a* 1568 A. SCOTT *Poems* (S. T. S.) xxiii. 6, I am with sorrow slane, And dyis nicht & day.

12. To destroy, extinguish, put an end to, suppress completely (*esp.* something bad). Cf. KILL *v.* 4.

(*a*) *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 51 Þe we beoð sari in ure heorte Þet we isuneȝed habbeð, þenne sla3e we ure sunne. *c* 1200 ORMIN 6752 Þa slast tu swa þin a3henn flæsh & hire fule wille. 1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. XIV. 90 For shrifte of mouth sleeth synne, be it neuere so dedly. *c* 1391 CHAUCER *Astrol.* Prol. (1872) 2 With this swerd shal I slen envie. *a* 1450 MYRC 36 But sle by lust for any thynge. 1538 BP. BALE *God's Promises* I, Her sede shall..Slee hys suggestyons, &

hys whole power confounde. 1560 BECON *Comm.-pl. Holy Script.* Wks. II. III. 68 To reconcile both vnto God in one body thorow the Crosse, and slewe hatred therby. 1763 J. GREGG in *Bk. Praise* (1866) 349 Thoughts must be slain that disobey. 1868 LYNCH *Rivulet* CXLIX. v, O heavenly Lord, whose mercy can.. Both slay the sins and save the man.

(*b*) *c* 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 103 Þe rihte bileue and þe soðe luue..ben leirede and slaine on his heorte. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 24692 Þo þou haf oþer vertus slain, In þe þou mai þam couer again. 1539 ELYOT *Image Gov.* (1549) 99 As pride sleeth loue [etc.]. 1592 SHAKS. *Rom. & Jul.* II. iii. 26 For this.. Being tasted slayes all sences with the heart. 1819 SHELLEY *Cenci* V. ii. 144 To slay The reverence living in the minds of men Towards our ancient house. 1884 *Pall Mall G.* 9 July 4/1 In the very act of slaying the Bill.

†**b.** In phr. *to slay care. Obs.*

13.. *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* 695 But make we murie & sle care. *a* 1400 *Siege of Troy* 185 in *Archiv neu. Spr.* LXXII. 16 To Grece þey comen hom And maden murþe and slowe care. *c* 1420 *Avow. Arth.* xlix, The king with a blythe chere Bade hom sle care! *a* 1529 SKELTON *E. Rummyng* 111 Let vs sley care.

†**13.** To blight or destroy (vegetation). *Obs.*

c 1325 *Prose Ps.* lxxvii. 52 He sloȝe [L. *occidit*] her uines, wyþ hail. *c* 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* III. 453 Tholiues hit forsake; The rootes wol their oyl or slen [L. *necat*] or slake. *Ibid.* 1078 The rootes ek of reed and rish thei ete. When wynter sleth their fedyng, yef hem meete. 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* xiv. 63 Quhilk slayis the corne and fruct that growis grene. 1574 HYLL *On Weather* i, Extreme cold doth slea the trees.

b. *intr.* Of grain: To become affected by smut, blight, or the like. (Cf. SLAIN *ppl. a.* 3.)

1641 BEST *Farm. Bks.* (Surtees) 55 But it is observed in wheate, that if the seed bee not chainged once in fower or five croppes it will slay extreamely. 1875 *Encycl. Brit.* I. 360/2 On muiry soils this [oat] crop is also not unfrequently lost by what is called '*slaying*'. This seems to result from the occurrence of frosty nights late in spring. *Ibid.*, This tendency to *slaying* in the oat crop.

†**14.** *Med.* **a.** To resolve (an impostume, etc.). *Obs.*

a 1400 *Stockh. Medical MS.* ii. 650 in *Anglia* XVIII. 323 Þe powdir on ded flesch who so leye, Anon it sleth it. *a* 1425 tr. *Arderne's Treat. Fistula*, etc. 98 Þis medicyne..wonderfully sleeþ þe antrax and vtterly cureþ it.

†**b.** To destroy the vitality of (a part of the body). *Obs.*—1

1578 LYTE *Dodoens* 348 It choketh and troubleth all the inwarde partes,..and in fine it sleayeth the partie.

Slay, *v.*2 Also **sley.** [Back-formation from SLAYING *vbl. sb.*2] *trans.* To set (a warp).

1828–32 WEBSTER, *Sleid*, to sley or prepare for use in the weaver's sley. 1888 R. BEAUMONT *Woollen & Worsted Cloth Manuf.* 139 The proper method of sleying any particular warp or specific make of cloth.

Slay·able, *a. rare.* [f. SLAY *v.*1] That may be (justly) slain.

1887 *Edin. Rev.* July 39 Alexander was a tyrant and therefore in all justice slayable.

Slayd, obs. Sc. pa. t. SLIDE *v.*

Slayer1 (slēˑəɹ). Forms: *α.* 4–5 sleer, 4–6 sleere, 5–6 slear, 6 *Sc.* sleyar. *β.* 4 -slaer, -sloer, 5–6 slaar(e, slaer (5 sclaer). *γ.* 6– slayer (6 *Sc.* slayar). [f. SLAY *v.*1 + -ER1; the compound MANSLAYER is found a little earlier. Cf. MDu. and Du. *slager*, MLG. *slegere* (LG. *släger*), OHG. *slagari* and *slahari* (G. *schläger*).] One who slays or kills. Also in fig. context.

α. c 1380 WYCLIF *Wks.* (1880) 151 Þei schullen be dampnyd ..for sleeris of crist wiþ þe wickid iewis. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) V. 373 Whan þe kyng was i-slawe, þe sleere fliȝ. *c* 1400 *Apol. Loll.* 54 Opun slears and traytors of þe schep. 1432–50 tr. *Higden* (Rolls) III. 227 Then Hispias ..commaundede the sleer of his brother to be taken. 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* ix. 50 God for till honour,..no sleyar to be. 1581 LAMBARDE *Eirenarcha* II. vii. 239 Any other, betweene whom and the slear there is no speciall ligeance.

β. a 1400–50 *Alexander* 967 It gladis me..to ga þus to deth, To se my slaare..be sa sone 3olden. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* XI. 1278 The fyrst has bene a gret slaar off men. 1533 BELLENDEN *Livy* II. xviii. (S. T. S.) I. 200 Sum allegis his fader was þe slaar of him. 1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* II. 210 The slaers of Drumm sulde be banist to France.

γ. 1547–64 BALDWIN *Mor. Philos.* (Palfr.) 185 Men ought not to weepe for him that guiltles is slain, But for the slayer. *c* 1575 *Diurn. Occurr.* (Bann.) 121 Ane of the alledgit slayaris of the king. 1632 GOUGE *God's Arrows* III. § 14. 211 When he slayeth a malefactour he is not to be counted a slayer of men, but a destroyer of evill men. 1737 WHISTON *Josephus, Hist.* VI. viii, The slayers left off at the evening. 1791 COWPER *Iliad* IV. 536 The slayer o'er the maim'd Exulting. 1815 W. H. IRELAND *Scribbleomania* 217 Each pestle's displayer, Who, living by drugs, proves humanity's slayer. 1884 *Manch. Exam.* 10 May 5/5 The mutilators and slayers of pigeons.

Slayer2 (slēˑəɹ). [f. SLAY *v.*2 + -ER1.] One who sets warps.

1881 *Census Instr.* (1885) 64. 1899 *Daily News* 12 Jan. 2/1 Father,..Blacksmith. Boy,..Slayer.

†**Slay·eress.** *Obs.*—1 In 4 sleeresse. [f. SLAYER1.] A female slayer.

1382 WYCLIF *Tobit* iii. 9 See wee no more of thee sone or doȝter vp on erthe, thou sleeresse [*v.r.* sleestere] of thi men.

Slaying (slēˑiŋ), *vbl. sb.*1 Forms: *α.* 4 sleing, 5 sle(i)yng, 5–6 sleynge; 4–5 sleaynge, 6 sleaing. *β.* 4 slaing. *γ.* 6– slaying. [f. SLAY *v.*1 + -ING1.]

1. The action of the vb. SLAY; killing, slaughter.

α, β. c 1375 *Cursor M.* 6784 (Fairf.), Qua þat honoures goddis new, of his slaing [*Gött.* sleing] sal na mon rew. *c* 1400 *Apol. Loll.* 65 Sampson slow himsilf in sleyng of þe Philisteis. 1450 in *Catal. Publ. Rec. Office* IV. 327 That he wase never gelty of sleyng of the do [= doe]. *a* 1533 LD. BERNERS *Huon* CXXXIV. 495 Then he commaundyd to sece the sleynge.

fig. c 1450 *Godstow Reg.* 9 The balance of vertues I haue mysweyed, With sleyng of tonge, or with wilfulnesse.

γ. 1528 TINDALE *Obed. Chr. Man* Wks. 129 The slaying & murtheryng of Christen men. 1601 SHAKS. *Jul. C.* v. v. 4 *Clitus.* He is or tane, or slaine. *Brutus.* Slaying is the word, It is a deed in fashion. 1647 HEXHAM I. s.v., A slaying of parents. 1819 SCOTT *Ivanhoe* XXXV, As a man zealous to slaying for every point of the Nazarene law. 1865 A. SMITH *Summer in Skye* I. 219 Their forefathers had a grand slaying of their enemies.

†**2.** *Path.* Mortification. *Obs.*

a 1425 tr. *Arderne's Treat. Fistula*, etc. 37 After þe sleyng of fiessh putred. *Ibid.* 91 It is best remedi to þam þat haþe..þe fistule or oþer sleiyng.

Slaying (slēˑiŋ), *vbl. sb.*2 Also **sleying.** [f. SLAY *sb.*2 + -ING1.] (See quot. 1879.)

1613 J. MAY *Decl. Est. Clothing* v. 25 In slaying of their warps they will cast the yarne to proue fine about a foot broad by the listes. 1759 BARBOUR *Constr. Sleying Tables*, The disposing of the warp threads in the loom is termed sleying. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts*, etc. 1056 The names of *examining*, *setting*, or *sleying*,..are used indiscriminately, and mean exactly the same thing. 1879 ASHENHURST *Weaving & Designing Text. Fabr.* (1893) 304 The slaying or setting of warps are terms used to denote the proportioning of the counts of warp to the different sets of slay, so as to preserve a uniformity of fabric in similar species of cloth.

attrib. 1759 R. BARBOUR (*title*), Essay on the Constfuction of Sleying Tables. 1793 *Trans. Soc. Arts* V. 235 Mathematical Sleaing Tables, or the..Mystery of weaving Linen Cloth, explained.

Slay·ing, *ppl. a.* Also 5 sleeng(e, sleing(e, 6 sleayng, slayeng. [f. SLAY *v.*1 + -ING 2.] That slays or kills. Also *transf.* and in fig. context.

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* v. xxi. (Bodl. MS.), Some beestes haue tunges medicinable,..and some haue sleing tunges and venemous. *Ibid.* XVIII. x, Þis sleinge addre [Aspis]. 1561 T. NORTON *Calvin's Inst.* I. 19 Certain giddy brained men, which..do scorn their simplicitie which still follow the dead and slayeng letter. 1581 DERRICKE *Image Irel.* C ivb, When as by Ioue eche sleayng beast abstracted thence shalbe. 1858 GLADSTONE *Studies Homer* III. 11 Achilles seems to refer with stinging, nay rather with slaying irony to this claim.

†**Slay·ster.** *Obs.*—1 In 5 sleestere. [f. SLAY *v.*1 + -STER.] A female slayer.

14.. [see SLAYERESS].

Slayt(t, obs. forms of SLATE *v.*

Sle, obs. form of SLAY *v.*1, SLY *a.*

Slead (slēd), *sb.* Now *dial.* Forms: 4–6 slede, 7 sleede (9 sleed), 6–7 sleid(e, 6 sleydd, sleade, 6– slead (9 sleead). [a. MDu. or MLG. *slede* (Du. *slede*, *slee*, LG. *slede*, *släde*, *slee*), = ON. and Icel. *sleði* (Norw. *slede*, Sw. *släde*, Da. *slæde*), OHG. *slito*, *slita* (MHG. *slite*): the stem *slid-* is the weak grade of the vb. SLIDE.] = SLED *sb.*1

c 1374 CHAUCER *Boeth.* IV. met. i. 110 Þou..by my sledes shalt mowen retourne hool and sounde in to þi contre. 1382 WYCLIF 1 *Chron.* xx. 3 The puple..he ladde out, and maad vpon hem pestelis, and sledis, and prowd yren charis, to gon ouer. 1406–7 *Durh. Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 606, 1 slede empt. pro cariac. decimarum. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 458/2 Slede to draw wythe,..*traha*. 1555 EDEN *Decades* (Arb.) 292 They trauayl in wynter on sleades. 1591 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* I. iv. 808 Those that in Ivory Sleads on Ireland Seas (Congeal'd to Crystall) slide about at ease. 1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* (1658) 459 They are not drawn upon wheels, but like drays and sleads upon the earth. 1644 PRYNNE & WALKER *Fiennes' Trial* App. 64 The streets blocked up with caskes, carts, sleids, stooles. 1745 tr. *Columella's Husb.* II. xxi, You may make use of the cart or dray made of rough boards, or of a slead. 1877–89 in Linc. and Chesh. glossaries.

b. *Rope-making.* (Cf. SLEDGE 2 3.) Also *attrib.*

1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 272/1 A Ropers Slead, a thing by which they Twist their Ropes. *Ibid.*, By the first is the Rope Yarn Spun, or turned in the Slead, when it is Laid for the making of a Cable; and is generally termed a Slead Hook.

Hence † **Slead** *v. intr.* (with *it*), to travel in a sledge. *Obs.*—1

1689 C. COTTON *Winter* xxxiii, Look where Mantled up in White, He sleads it like the Muscovite.

Sleahþe, obs. form of SLEIGHT *sb.*1

Sleak (slīk), *v.*1 Now *dial.* and *rare.* Also 4–5 sleke. [var. of SLECK *v.*: cf. *reke*, *reak* RECK *v.*]

1. *trans.* To quench, extinguish, assuage.

13.. *Cursor M.* 18020 (Gött.), Aisel haue i blend wid gall, For to sleke his threist wid-all. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 708 Luf lowe hem bytwene lasched so hote, þat alle þe meschefez on mold moȝt hit not sleke. *a* 1400 in *Polit., Relig., & L. Poems* (1903) 135 Þou may þaim sleke, als is a sparke when it is put in myddes þe see; & þar may no man sleke my myse bot þou. *c* 1440 *Gesta Rom.* XXXVII. 120 (Add. MS.), As watir sleketh fire, so almesdede sleketh synne. 1781 J. HUTTON *Tour to Caves* (ed. 2) Gloss. 96 *Sleak*, to quench. 1884 *Lays & Leg. N. Irel.* 76 Feelin' his drouth stud in need av a sleakin'.

2. To slake (lime). Hence **Sleaked** *ppl. a.*

c 1450 *M. E. Med. Bk.* (Heinrich) 217 Tak arpment, & slekyd lyme, & argoyle. 1676 *Phil. Trans.* XI. 714 They mix it with Chalk well sleaked.

3. *intr.* To give over or stop raining. *dial.*

1781 J. HUTTON *Tour to Caves* (ed. 2) Gloss. 96.

Sleak (slīk), *v.*2 *dial.* [var. of SLAKE *v.*2]

1. *trans.* (See quot.)

1674 RAY *N. C. Words* 41 To *Sleak* out the tongue, to put it out by way of scorn, *Chesh.* [Hence in Bailey, Grose, etc.] 1886–7 in Cheshire glossaries.

2. To lick.

1846 *Ballads & Songs of Ayrshire* I. 112 (E. D. D.), He louped up an' sleak'd her cheek.

Sleak(e, obs. forms of SLEEK *a.* and *v.*

Slealie, obs. Sc. form of SLYLY *adv.*

Slear, obs. variant of SLAYER *sb.*1

[**Slear,** error for *sleay* SLAY *sb.*1

1597 GERARDE *Herbal* I. xxiv. § 6 The great reede or cane ..is esteemed to make slearres for weauers. 1694 WESTMACOTT *Script. Herb.* 164 Of Cane-Reed are our..Angling-Rods or Canes made, also Slears for Weavers.]

Sleasie, Sleasy, obs. ff. SLEAZY *sb.* and *a.*

Slea-silk, variant of SLEAVE-SILK *Obs.*

Sleat (slēt), *v.*1 *Obs.* exc. *dial.* Forms: 1 slætan, 3 slæten, slat-, 3, 7 slete, 8–9 sleet, 9 sleeat. Also *pa. t.* 1 slætte, 3 sle(a)tte, 9 slett; *pa. pple.* 4 slat. [OE. *slǽtan*, f. *slát-* pret. stem of *slítan* SLITE *v.*, corresponding to ON. **sleita*, whence SLATE *v.*3]

†**1.** *trans.* To bait (an animal) with dogs. *Obs.*

c 1000 ÆLFRIC *Lives Saints* xii. 72 Man slætte þa ænne fearr feringa pær-ute, and se fear arn him toȝeanes. *a* 1225 *Juliana* 52 (Royal MS.), Heo..sletten him wiþ hundes ant leiden to wiþ honden. *a* 1300 *Vox & Wolf* 289 in Hazl. *E. P. P.* I. 67 Tho hede the wreche fomen i-nowe, That weren egre him to slete Mid grete houndes.

†**2,** *intr.* To hunt *after* something. *Obs.*—1

c 1200 ORMIN 13485 þatt time þatt teȝȝ [the apostles] tokenn swa To slætenn affterr sawless.

3. *trans.* To incite, set on (a dog, etc.).

a 1225 *Juliana* 53 (Bodl. MS.), Heo..sleatten on him hundes. 14.. *26 Polit. Poems* ix. 22 Synne to bay many à folde On soules helle houndes slete. 1674 RAY *N. C. Words* 43 To *Slete* a dog, is to set him at anything as swine, sheep, &c. 1703 THORESBY *Let. to Ray*, To Sleat a Dog. 1878 *Yorkshireman* Nov. 394 (E. D. D.), I tuke a delight i' sleatin' 'em at one another. 1886 *Rochdale Gloss.* 80 *Sleat*, to send or urge, as a dog at cattle, particularly sheep.

Hence **Slea·ting** *vbl. sb.*, hunting; also *fig.*, baiting, instigation.

a 1122 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud) an. 1087, Ælc unriht ȝeold he forbead, & ȝeatte mannan heora wudas and slætinge. *c* 1205 LAY. 12326 Þus Gratien þe king for ut an slæting. *Ibid.* 29170 Hit was in ane dæie, þat Gurmund mid his duȝeðe.. riden a slatinge. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 196 Pelleus..printed in hert Iff he might sleghly be sleght & sletyng of wordes, Gar Iason..the iorney vndertake.

†**Sleat,** *v.*2 *Obs.*—1 ? var. of SLAT *v.*2

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 212 Hwon heo ihereð þet god, heo sleateð adun boa two hore earen.

Slea·thy, *a. rare.* Also 9 sleethy. [? f. ON. *sláða* to drag, trail (so Norw. *slöda*; also, to work carelessly); cf. ON. *slóði* (Norw. *slode*) sloven, sluggard, whence perh. north-eastern Sc. *sleeth.*] Slovenly, careless.

1649 BLITHE *Eng. Improv. Impr.* 52 The combination of labourers and poor people may very much prejudice, besides their slothfull and sleathy slubbering of it. *a* 1904 in *Eng. Dial. Dict.* s.v. *Sleath* (Kentish dial.), He is a bit sleethy.

Sleave (slīv), *sb.* [See next and SLEAVE-SILK.]

†**1.** A slender filament of silk obtained by separating a thicker thread; silk in the form of such filaments; floss-silk. *Obs.*

1591 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* I. v. 955 Those slender sleaves (On ovall clews) of soft, smooth, Silken flakes. 1611 COTGR., *Cadarce pour faire capiton*, the tow, or coursest part of silke, whereof sleaue is made. 1622 DRAYTON *Poly-olb.* XXIII. 318 Fair Benefield.., Which bears a grass as soft as is the dainty sleave. 1635 [GLAPTHORNE] *Lady Mother* I. i, Her faire haire; no silken sleave Can be so soft the gentle worm does weave.

2. *transf.* and *fig.* (In modern use only as an echo of the Shaksperean passage.)

1605 SHAKS. *Mach.* II. ii. 37 Sleepe that knits vp the rauel'd Sleeue of Care. 1868 G. MACDONALD *Seaboard Parish* III. ix. 190 He..began to smooth out the wonderful sleave of dusky gold. 1876 MISS BRADDON *Dead Men's Shoes* I, She has not seen the fair and shining fabric in life's loom, but the ragged sleave thereof. 1904 J. C. COLLINS *Stud. Shaks.* 317 To smoothe the tangled sleave of Shakespearean expression.

Sleave (slīv), *v.* Now *dial.* Forms: 6 sleyve, sleue, 7 sleeue, 9 sleeve; 7– sleave. [OE. *slǽfan* (recorded in the comb. *tosláefan*, Napier *Holy Rood-tree* 32/2), f. *sláf-*, pret. stem of *slífan* SLIVE *v.*]

It is possible that the pa. t. *slefte* (cf. SLEFT *ppl. a.*) should be read in the *Gest of Robyn Hode* III. st. 146, where the early editions have *sleste*, *slet*, and *cleft*.

1. *trans.* To divide (silk) by separation into filaments. Also *transf.* and *absol.*

a 1628 F. GREVIL *Cælica* I. (1633) 24 When light doth beginne These to retaile, and subdiuide, or sleeues Into more minutes. 1654 WHITLOCK *Zootomia* 362 The more subtle, (and more hard to Sleave a two) Silken thred, of self-seeking. 1654 FLECKNOE *Ten Years Trav.* 71 They use to sleave and spin to what finesse they please. 1890 LOWELL *Biglow P.* Ser. II. *Introd.* Poet. Wks. 1890 II. 165 To sleeve silk means to divide or ravel out a thread of silk with the point of a needle till it becomes floss.

2. *dial.* To cleave, split, rend, tear apart.

1828– in dialect glossaries (Yks., Chesh., Heref.).

Hence **Sleaved** *ppl. a.* (also 7 sleyd), in *sleaved silk* (see sense 1).

1577–86 HOLINSHED *Chron.* III. 835 Eight wildmen all apparelled in greene mosse, made with sleued silke. 1598 in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* Ser. III. IV. 103 Sleyved Silk, the lb. 1623 *Shakspere's Tr. & Cr.* V. i. 35 (fol.), Thou idle, im-

materiall skiene of Sleyd silke. 1706 PHILLIPS (ed Kersey), *Sleaved*, as Sleaved Silk, *i. e.* such as is wrought fit for Use.

†Sleave-silk. *Obs.* Also 6 **slaye-**, 7 **slea-**, 8 **sleeve-**. [f. SLEAVE *v.* 1.] Silk thread capable of being separated into smaller filaments for use in embroidery, etc.

a. 1588 in *Antiquary* XXXII. 373, ii ounce of slaye sylke, xvid. 1676 RAINBOW *Funeral Serm. C'tess Pembroke* (1677) 38 A Prime..Wit [*marg.* Dr. Donne]..is reported to have said of this Lady..That she knew well how to discourse of all things, from Predestination, to Slea-silk.

β. 1598 FLORIO, *Capitone*, a kinde of course silke called sleaue-silke. 1600–2 in Whitaker *Hist. Craven* 315 Paid for sleave silk, xxxiiis. 1672–3 GREW *Anat. Pl., Roots* (1682) 66 The Threds..stand collateral together; as the several Single Threds of the Silkworm do in Sleave-Silk. 1703 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 3924/3 Sleeve and Twisted Silk.

Comb. a 1631 DONNE *Poems* (1633) 190 Let..curious traitors, sleave silke [*pr.* sicke] flies Bewitch poore fishes wandring eyes.

transf. and *fig.* 1649 LOVELACE *Poems* (1864) 36 In the sleave-silke of her haire 'Twas hard bound up and wrapped. 1649 G. DANIEL *Trinarch., Hen. IV*, lxxxv, When..all faculties In yᵗ sleave-silke of Sleep soft-fettered Lay.

Slea'ziness. *rare.* [f. SLEAZY *a.*] The fact or quality of being sleazy.

1727 in BAILEY (Vol. II.). 1891 LANG in *Illustr. Lond. N.* 7 Mar., Mr. Lanier with his sleaziness condoning the immortal speeches of Achilles and Odysseus.

†Slea'zy, *sb. Obs. rare.* In 7 **Sleasie**, 8 **Slesey**. [Abbreviated f. SILESIA.] = SILESIA 1.

1670 BLOUNT *Glossogr.* (ed. 3) s.v. *Sleasie Holland*, That only is properly Sleasie or Silesia Linen cloth, which is made in [and] Comes from the Country Silesia in Germany. 1696 J. F. *Merch. Wareho. laid open* 36, I shall now begin according to my promise to treat of Sleasie Lawns, it being a very useful Linnen here with us, it takes its name from a town called Slesia in Hamborough, and not for its wearing Sleasie, as a great many do imagine. 1706 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4226/4, 8 Pieces of Norwich Druggit,..4 Pieces of Hambrough Cloth, 1 Piece of Slesey.

Sleazy, sleezy (slī'zi), *a.* Forms: *α.* 7 **sleasie, sleazie**, 7–8 **sleasy** (9 *dial.* **-ey**), 8– **sleazy** (9 *dial.* **slazy**). *β.* 7 **sleizie**, 8 **slesy**, 9 **sleezy**. [Of uncertain origin; the evidence seems to be against any original connexion with prec.

The mod. dial. verb *sleaze, sleeze*, etc., to wear badly, may be merely a back-formation from the adj.]

1. (See quots.)

1644 DIGBY *Nat. Bodies* xxxiv. § 1. 288 Some drye partes of such liquors, are of themselues as it were hairy or sleasy, that is, haue litle downy partes, such as you see vpon the legges of flies. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2192/1 It smooths down the sleezy and fuzzy fibers of the twisted rope. *Ibid.* 2207/1 *Sleezy*,..rough from projecting fibers, as yarn or twine made of inferior material.

2. Of textile fabrics or materials: Thin or flimsy in texture; having little substance or body.

α. 1670 BLOUNT *Glossogr.* (ed. 3) s.v., *Sleasie Holland*, common people take to be all Holland, which is slight or ill-wrought. 1696 J. F. *Merch. Wareho. laid open* 21 It..will not wear near so well.., by reason it is made of more sleasie thread than the former is. 1718 OZELL tr. *Tournefort's Voy.* I. 258 'Tis a sleasy sort of stuff, but thickens and contracts by being well pressed on the sea-sand. 1757 WASHINGTON *Let.* Writ. 1889 I. 424 They were presented each with a suit made of thin, sleazy cloth without lining. *a* 1825 FORBY *Voc. E. Anglia* 306 *Slazy*, of loose and open texture, easily torn, and soon worn out. 1866 SALA *Trip to Barbary* 365 You know that Sleazy calico was made in a mill and by steam power. 1876 C. D. WARNER *Winter on Nile* i. 20 Their one sleazy skirt giving little protection against the keen air.

β. 1670 in *12th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. V. 15 The silke sleizie and not Naples, which will soone grow rough, gather dust and sullie. 1706 DR. BAYNARD *Cold Baths* II. 376 A thin slesy Coat of Sarsenet. 1856 *Househ. Wds.* XIII. 99 A sleezy, cobwebby, hairy genus of coverlets. 1893 MRS. T. COKE *Gentlewoman at Home* vii. 102 'Sleezy' silks, wispy surahs, or cottony velvets.

b. *transf.* and *fig.* Slight, flimsy, unsubstantial.

c 1685 HOWELL *Fam. Lett.* (1650) II. 2, I cannot well away with such sleazie stuff, with such cobweb compositions. 1648 *Petit. Eastern Ass.* 26 Their vain, and sleasy opinions about Religion. 1860 EMERSON *Cond. Life* ii. (1861) 51 You shall not conceal the sleezy, fraudulent, rotten hours you have slipped into the piece. 1880 BLACKMORE *Erema* xvi. 96, I have only to deal with very little things, sometimes too slim to handle well, and too sleezy to be woven.

Sle-band, obs. f. SLEE-BAND *Sc.* **Slech**: see SLETCH *v.* **Sleck** (small coal): var. SLACK *sb.*2

Sleck, *sb. dial.* [Cf. MLG. and LG. *slick*, G. *schlick, schlich.*] Soft mud; ooze.

It is very doubtful whether *slec* (v.r. *slech*) in *Leg. Kath.* 1662 can be regarded as an early example of this.

1840 HODGSON *Hist. Northumb.* III. II. 319/2 The main sewer or drain..was about one-third filled up with that sort of ammoniacal sleck or sludge which comes from kitchens. 1894 HESLOP *Northumb. Gloss.* 654 A slake is a large expanse of *sleck*. 'Sludge' is wet, muddy deposit, but not necessarily fine and smooth as *sleck*.

Sleck (slek), *v.*1 Now *dial.* Forms: 3 **slecken(n, 5 sleckyn, 6 slecke, 5– sleck**; 4 **slekk-, 5 slekkyn, sclekke, 5–6 slek.** [The northern form repr. OE. *sleccan* (see SLETCH *v.*), f. *slæc* SLACK *a.* See also SLEAK *v.*1]

1. *trans.* To extinguish or quench (a fire); to allay, assuage (thirst, etc.).

c 1200 ORMIN 5689 All hiss hunngerr & hiss þrisst Shall ben þurrh Dribhtin sleckedd. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 1230 Þe water sleckede ðe childes list. *a* 1400 HYLTON *Scala Perf.* III. xiii. (W. de W. 1494), The preest..shall put vnder styckes, so that it be not sleckyd. *c* 1400 *Laud Troy Bk.* 12667 Troyle bad faste the fir be bet, But Thelamon bad his men hit slek With water of broke or of bek. 1523 FITZHERB. *Husb.* § 169 As water slecketh fyer, soo dothe almesdede slake synne. 1530 PALSGR. 720/2 Whan you slecke a hoote fyre with water, it maketh a noyse lyke thunder. 1674 RAY *N. C. Words* 43 *To Sleck*,..to quench or put out the fire, v.g., or one's thirst. 1781– in northern dialect glossaries. *fig. c* 1200 ORMIN 10124 Forr allmess dedess hafenn mahht To sleckenn þine sinness. *a* 1400 HYLTON *Scala Perf.* I. lxix. (W. de W. 1494), That the grounde of synne myghte..somwhat be slecket in the. 1435 MISYN *Fire of Love* 118 All temptacion þou sall ouercum, & all malesse slek.

†2. To alleviate, moderate. *Obs. rare.*

13.. *St. Erkenwolde* 331 in Horstm. *Altengl. Leg.* (1881) 273 Þe fyrst slent þat on me slode slekkyd al my tene. *c* 1400 *Laud Troy Bk.* 5489 Ector sorow myght no man sclekke.

3. To cool by means of water, etc.

c 1420 *Liber Cocorum* (1862) 6 Tak a gad of stele..; And in goode wyne sleek hit I say. 1825 BROCKETT *N. C. Gloss., Sleck*, to cool in water. *a* 1900 in *Eng. Dial. Dict.* s.v., The blacksmith is slecking a piece of iron.

4. To slack or slake (lime).

1530 PALSGR. 720/2, I slecke lyme, I put water to it, *je destayne*. 1548 in E. Green *Somerset Chantries* (1888) 75 The churche yarde..wherin lyme is slecked. 1617 *Shuttleworth's Acc.* (Chetham Soc.) 219 Sleckinge and spreadinge six score lode of lyme, ij^{s} vj^{d}. 1849– in *Eng. Dial. Dict.*

Hence **Slecked** *ppl. a.*, **Sle'cking** *vbl. sb.*

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 459/1 Slekkynge, or qwenchynge, *extinctio. a* 1533 LD. BERNERS *Golden Bk. M. Aurel.* (1546) H vj b, The morter..ought not to be medled with sande and slecked lyme. 1572 MASCALL *Plant. & Graff.* 41 Ye must meddle it well also with..slekt Sope ashes about the roote. 1611 COTGR. s.v. *Fusé, Chaux fusée*, slaked, or sleckt lime. 1675 *Phil. Trans.* X. 447 The consistence of slecked lime.

†Sleck, *v.*2 *Obs. rare.* [var. of SLEEK *v.*] *trans.* To make smooth.

1530 PALSGR. 720/2, I slecke, I make paper smothe with a sleke stone, *je fais glissant*. You muste slecke your paper if you wyll write Greke well.

Sle'cken, *v.* Now *dial.* Forms: 4–6 **sleken**, 4–5 **slekyn, sleckun**, 9 **slecken**. [f. SLECK *v.*1 + -EN 5. In some examples perh. *sleken* is intended, f. *sleke* SLEAK *v.*1] = SLECK *v.*1

c 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 3101 Alle þe waters, þat men may rekken, A spark þar-of may noght sleken. *a* 1340 — *Psalter* xii. 4 Þe lyght of godis luf es grauen and slekynd in vs. *c* 1400 *Apol. Lollt.* 98 Taking þe scheld of þe feiþ, in þe wilk we may sleckun all þe firun dartis of the enemy. 1422 tr. *Secreta Secret., Priv. Priv.* lvii. 79 Cold water dronkyn yn wynter slekyns þe naturell hete. 1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 61/35 To Sleken, *extinguere*. 1876 *Whitby Gloss.* s.v., 'I ha'n't slecken'd mysel yet,' my thirst is not yet abated.

Sleck-trough. Now *dial.* [SLECK *v.*1] = SLACK-TROUGH.

1716 T. WARD *Eng. Reform.* 38 One who Anointed Had never been, unless his Dad Had in the Sleck-trough wash'd the Lad. 1825 BROCKETT *N. C. Gloss., Sleck-trough*, the trough containing the water in which smiths cool their iron and temper steel. 1863 in Robson *Bards of Tyne* 413 A' wesh thersels clean i' the sleck troughs.

Sled (sled), *sb.*1 Now chiefly *dial.* and *U.S.* Also 4–7 **sledde**, 5–7 **sledd**. [a. MFlem. or MLG. *sledde* (= MHG. *slitte*, G. *schlitten*), related to *slede* SLEAD *sb.*]

1. A drag used for the transport of heavy goods, etc., = SLEDGE *sb.*2 2.

1388 WYCLIF 1 *Chron.* xx. 3 He..made breris,..and sleddis, and irone charis, to passe on hem. *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. F viij, They cary theyr vytayles vpon the yce on sleddes. *c* 1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 6001 On a sledd it sulde be layde. 1535 COVERDALE 2 *Sam.* xxiv. 22 There is an oxe for a burnt offerynge, and sleddes. 1573 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 37 A sled for a plough, and another for blocks. 1602 HOLLAND *Pliny* II. 573 Some write, that Satyrus..conueied it to Alexandria by means of flat bottoms or sleds. 1677 YARRANTON *Eng. Improv.* 68 Fetching the Water being ready filled in Copper Tubs upon Sleds. 1726 LEONI *Alberti's Archit.* I. 42/1 Of Stones..some are big and unweildy, so that a Man..cannot manage them..without the assistance of Sleds. 1808 PIKE *Sources Mississ.* I. 62 Those sleds are made of a single plank turned up at one end.., and the baggage is lashed on in bags and sacks. 1887 COX *Cycl. Common Things* (ed. 6) 542 In Canada the Indians make a kind of sled which they call a 'tobogan'.

†b. Used for dragging condemned persons to execution. *Obs.*

1576 FOXE *A. & M.* (ed. 3) 1901/2 He was layde vpon a Sled with an Hurdle on it, and drawen to the place of execution. 1655 GURNALL *Chr. in Arm.* ix. § 1 (1669) 268/1 If.. he should meet some of his fellow-Traytors on sleds, as they are dragging..to execution. 1667 L. STUCLEY *Gospel-Glass* xii. (1670) 107 How many have you seen drawn on Sleds, led to shameful and violent Deaths?

2. A sledge or sleigh used as a vehicle in travelling or for recreation.

1586 MARLOWE *1st Pt. Tamburl.* I. ii, With milke-white Hartes vpon an Iuorie sled Thou shalt be drawen. 1613 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* IV. xvii. 431 He departed with Russes and Permacks for Slebotca in a sledde drawne with two deare. 1667 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 124/2 On Monday last their Imperial Majesties had their divertisements upon the Ice, attended by 76 Sleds. 1726–46 THOMSON *Winter* 773 Eager, on rapid sleds, Their vigorous youth, in bold contention, wheel The long resounding course. 1756 NUGENT *Gr. Tour, Netherl.* I. 89 There is a greater number of sleds, which are a heavy unpleasant carriage, and fit for none but old women. 1857 B. TAYLOR *North. Trav.* viii. 75 The postilions fastened our sleds behind their own large sledges, with flat runners, which got through the snow more easily than ours. 1873 'SUSAN COOLIDGE' *What Katy did at Sch.* x. 168 To help him to get down his sled, because he thinks it is going to snow.

3. *Rope-making.* (See SLEDGE *sb.*2 3.)

1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 364/1 As the yarns are twisted into a strand they become shorter and draw the sled towards the head of the walk.

4. *U.S.* A kind of river-boat used on the Ohio.

1884 *Harper's Mag.* June 124/2 Of smaller vessels there were 'covered sleds', 'ferry flats', and 'Alleghany skiffs'.

5. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *sled-car, -load, -man, -mark, -runner*, etc.; also **sledful**, as much as a sled can hold.

c 1440 *York Myst.* xl, The Sledmen. *a* 1674 MILTON *Hist. Mosc.* ii. Wks. 1851 VIII. 484 In whatever place they find enough of white Moss to feed thir Sled-Stags. *Ibid.* v. 506 Chancelor had now gon more than half his journey, when the Sled-man sent to Court meets him on the way. 1701 in *Select Biog. Wodrow Society* (1846) II. 489 Two sledfuls of Sand. 1729 SWIFT *Answ. to Sev. Lett.* Wks. 1841 II. 93 The turf, which is now drawn upon sled-cars with great expense. 1805 PIKE *Sources Mississ.* (1810) I. 53 Broke one sled runner, and were detained by other circumstances. *Ibid.* II. 179 Obliged to halt and send back for the sled loads. 1857 THOREAU *Maine W.* (1894) 42 The solitary sled-track running far up into the..wilderness. 1868 *Harper's Mag.* XXXVI. 422 The sled-tender is ready to raise the huge bodies of the fallen upon his sled. 1869 BLACKMORE *Lorna D.* xiii, I followed the track on the side of the hill..where the sledd-marks are.

†Sled, *sb.*2 *Obs.*–1 [Alteration of SLEDGE *sb.*1] A sledge-hammer.

1616 W. BROWNE *Brit. Past.* II. iii, They haue beheld the frolicke marriners..Pitch bars of silver, and cast golden sleds.

Sled, *v.* Chiefly *U.S.* [f. SLED *sb.*1 Cf. MFlem. *sledden* in sense 2.]

1. *intr.* To travel in a sledge.

1780 A. ADAMS in *Fam. Lett.* (1876) 377 The Bay has been frozen so hard that people have walked, rode, and sledded over it to Boston. 1784 P. OLIVER in *T. Hutchinson's Diary* II. 406 In March they sledded across the Delaware. 1910 *Blackw. Mag.* Nov. 586/1 We had sledded down the cobble road and got on board.

2. *trans.* To convey on a sled or sleds.

1718 in *Hist. Northfield* (Mass.) (1875) 148 Each man with his team shall cart or sled wood one day yearly for Mr. Doolittle. 1852 HAWTHORNE *Blithedale Rom.* xxiv. (1885) 243 Logs..piled up square, in order to be carted or sledded away. 1857 THOREAU *Maine W.* (1894) 207 Some widow's thirds, from which her ancestors have sledded fuel for generations.

3. *absol.* To admit of being sledded.

1869 MRS. H. B. STOWE *Oldtown* xxxvii, P'raps, ef you'd jest tighten up the ropes.., the hull load would sled easier.

Sle'dded, *a. rare.* [f. SLED *sb.*1] **a.** Mounted on sleds. **b.** Made like a sled.

1602 SHAKS. *Haml.* I. i. 63 So frown'd he once, when in an angry parle He smot the sledded Pollax on the Ice. 1821 JOANNA BAILLIE *Metr. Leg., Wallace* lvi, Huge waggon, sledded car, and wain.

Sle'dder. [f. SLED *sb.*1 or *v.*]

1. One who conveys heavy articles by means of a sled.

1649 *Sc. Acts, Chas. II* (1819) VI. 482 Haveing agriet with maissons, quarriouris, and sledderis. 1708 J. C. *Compl. Collier* (1845) 39 Fourteen Pence a Day for the other Banck's-Man, or Sledder.

2. A horse that draws a sled.

1869 BLACKMORE *Lorna D.* ii, Smiler (our youngest sledder) had been well in over his withers.

†Sle'ddier. *Obs.*–1 [f. SLED *sb.*1 or *v.*] One who drives a sledge.

1654 WHITELOCKE *Sweed. Ambassy* (1772) I. 289 The ladyes and their sleddiers are very gallant.

Sle'dding, *vbl. sb. U.S.* [f. SLED *v.*] The action of using a sled; conditions favourable for this.

1758 T. SMITH *Jrnl.* (1849) 272 Several falls of snow, and some sledding. *Ibid.* 284 Fine sledding; true winter since the 17th. 1828–32 WEBSTER s.v., Sometimes in New England, there is little or no good sledding during the winter. 1873 *Wisconsin Rep.* XXXI. 422 Scott is to..continue them as long as good sledding continues.

b. *fig.* Work or progress in any sphere of action.

1839 H. GREELEY in *Corr. Griswold* (1898) 26 Payments are slack still, and we have rather hard sledding. 1898 *N. York Evening Post* 21 Oct. 1 Professional labor agitators do not always have smooth sledding in the field of politics.

Slede, obs. form of SLEAD.

Sledge (sledʒ), *sb.*1 Forms: *α.* 1 **slecg, slegc**, 4–6 **slegge**, 5–6 **slege**, 7 **sleage**. *β.* 6–7 **sleadge**, 7 **sledg**, 6– **sledge**. [OE. *slecg* fem., = MDu. and Du. *slegge*, closely related to ON. (also Norw. and Icel.) *sleggja* (MSw. *sleggia, släggia*, Sw. *slägga*; older Da. *slegge, slægge*). The stem **slagj-* is derived from that of the vb. SLAY.] A large heavy hammer usually wielded with both hands, especially the large hammer used by a blacksmith; a sledge-hammer. (See also quot. 1548.)

α. a 1000 in Cockayne *Narrat.* (1861) 21 We hit uneaþe mid isernum hamerum and slecgum gefyldon. *a* 1000 *Colloq. Ælfric* in Wr.-Wülcker 100 Hwæt sylst us on smiþþan þinre, buton..swezincga beatendra slecgea. *c* 1380 *Sir Ferumb.* 1308 To brynge with him anon anuylt, tange & slegge. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) VI. 199 Slegges and hameres, wiþ þe whiche smythes smyteþ..gaddes of iren. *c* 1475 *Partenay* 3000 In hys bosom [the giant] put thre gret slegges wrought. 1485 *Naval Acc. Hen. VII*

(1896) 40 Slegges of Iren, ij. 1549 *Prvy Council Acts* (1890) II. 350 Sleges, xxx; shovelles and spades, xv^c. 1573 in J. C. Jeaffreson *M'sex County Rec.* (1886) I. 79 Duo mallua ferri vocata slegges.

β. 1548 Elyot *Fistuca*, an instrument, wherwith piles of wood be dryuen into the ground, called a water pile sledge. 1598 Barret *Theor. Wars* v. iii. 135 Eight great iron sledges to breake rockes. 1603 Owen *Pembrokeshire* viii. (1892) 62 They make holes and with a woaden sleadge they sett these hurdels fast in the groumde. 1686 Plot *Staffordsh.* 390, I saw a Smith make a Horse-shooe..almost as quick as if another had struck the Sledg to him. 1778 Pryce *Min. Cornub.* 236 The solid Ore should be further disunited from the stony part, by spaling with sledges, or cobbing with hammers to a proper size. 1847 Longf. *Ev.* I. ii. 106 Nothing is left but the blacksmith's sledge. 1882 *Worc. Exhib. Catal.* iii. 8 Some of the samples..stood 300 blows from a 39 lb. sledge before bending.

b. Used for throwing, as an athletic exercise.

1578 Lyte *Dodoens* 217 A yong wenche called Crocus, went forth into the fieldes with Mercurie to throw the sledge. 1600 *Maids Metam.* III. i, Among the games, myselfe put in a pledge, To trie my strength in throwing of the sledge. 1636 W. Denny in *Ann. Dubrensia* (1877) 16 Some throw the Sledge, and others spurne the Barre. 1795 H. MacNeill *Will & Jean* ii, Wha wi' Will cou'd..Throw the sledge, or toss the bar?

Sledge (sledʒ), *sb.*[2] Also 7 sledg. [a. MDu. *sleedse* (mod.Du. dial. *sleeds*), related to *slede* Sled. The Du. forms are peculiar to Friesland and North Holland, and may be of Frisian origin.]

1. A carriage mounted upon runners instead of wheels, and generally used for travelling over snow or ice; a sleigh. Cf. Sled *sb.*[1] 2.

1617 Moryson *Itin.* I. 42 We hired a sledge for eight stivers, and were drawne thither over the yce and snow. 1662 J. Davies tr. *Olearius' Voy. Amb.* 63 For Winter Travelling, the Muscovites make use of Sledges, made very low. 1709 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4507/2 The Diversions of the Carnaval began by a Course of Sledges. 1756 Nugent *Gr. Tour, Germany* II. 208 The ladies take their recreation in sledges of different shapes. 1810 Clarke *Trav. Russia* (1839) 6/1 They were liable to be..thrown into a sledge, and hurried off to the frontier, or to Siberia. 1886 Mabel Collins *Prettiest Woman* xi, Arthur accepted a seat in a sledge for the drive to the lake.

2. A simple form of conveyance, having runners instead of wheels, employed in the transport of goods over ice or snow or in heavy traffic unsuited to wheeled vehicles; = Sled *sb.*[1] 1. Rarely, a similar vehicle with low wheels; a trolley.

1684 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1904/1 The same Letters add, that 40 Sledges laden with Provisions, had in the night got into Newheusel. 1733 W. Ellis *Chiltern & Vale Farm.* 89 Take up the Tree..and carry it on a Sledge, or other Carriage, to the Place designed. 1760 R. Brown *Compl. Farmer* II. 45 In Lancashire they use a sort of sledge that is made with thick wheels to bring their marle out with. 1867 W. W. Smyth *Coal & Coal-mining* 146 The sledges have to be still commonly used in *putting* the coal along the face of the workings to the better roads. 1884 *Cent. Mag.* Jan. 446/2 Two skids fastened together make a 'drag', or 'sledge'.

b. Formerly used for conveying condemned persons to execution. Cf. Sled *sb.*[1] 1 b.

1651 G. W. tr. *Cowel's Inst.* 258 Being laid upon a Sledg in straw, he is drawn by a Horse to the place of Execution. *a* 1700 Evelyn *Diary* 22 May 1685, Oates..was this day plac'd on a sledge,..and dragg'd from prison to Tyburn. 1780 *New Newgate Cal.* V. 81 They were drawn to the gallows on a sledge, as is usual in the case of coiners. 1828 Scott *F. M. Perth* xxiii, The sledge is even now preparing to drag thee to the place of execution.

c. A form of drag or skid. *Obs.*[—1]

1839 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* II. 122/2 The sledge or retarder..is formed like a wedge.

3. *Rope-making.* A travelling structure of considerable weight to which the rope-yarns are attached at one end.

1794 *Rigging & Seamanship* 56 *Sledges* are frames made of strong oak, clamped with iron... These sledges are loaded to such a degree as the rope in making requires. 1825 J. Nicholson *Operat. Mechanic* 437 In some cases the rope is made to haul the sledge backwards, by fastening one end of it to the sledge. 1851–4 *Tomlinson's Cycl. Usef. Arts* (1867) II. 465/1 The sledge is pulled backwards to stretch the yarns tight.

4. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *sledge-boat, -crank, -dog, -driver*, etc.

1808 *Sporting Mag.* XXXI. 22 Sailing on the ice in a *sledge-boat. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XVI. 486/1 (Rope-making), By the motion of the *sledge crank the top is forced away from the knot. 1856 Kane *Arctic Expl.* I. xxix. 377 The instinct of a *sledge-dog makes him perfectly aware of unsafe ice. 1896 *Idler* 306/2 Becoming a proficient 'kayaker' and *sledge-driver. 1708 J. C. *Compl. Collier* (1845) 37 One of these two Men that guides the *Sledge-Horses. 1845 [C. H. J. Anderson] *Swedish Brothers* 14 The Norwegian looked in vain for a purchaser for his sledge-horses. 1856 Kane *Arctic Expl.* I. viii. 84 A position which might expedite our *sledge journeys in the future. *Ibid.* xxiii. 288 Their *sledge-load of provisions. 1601 in *The Phœnix* II. 227 *Sledgmen, Carmen, Boatmen. 1856 Kane *Arctic Expl.* I. xv. 179 Too cold still..for our sledgemen to set out. *Ibid.* xx. 251 All the *sledge-parties were now once more aboard ship. 1762 Lloyd *Epist. Churchill* Poems 191 So have I seen, amidst the grinning throng, The *sledge procession slowly dragg'd along. 1678–82 in R. M. Fergusson *Logie* (1905) II. 65 Thence northward by a *sledge road up the brae. 1856 Kane *Arctic Expl.* I. xv. 176 A secure and level sledge-road. 1852 *Zoologist* X. 3379 From its tusks are made..*sledge-runners. 1856 Kane *Arctic Expl.* I. 380 The breach was large enough to admit a *sledge-team. 1796 Morse *Amer. Geogr.* II. 81 The *sledge-way..becomes so well beaten.

Sledge (sledʒ), *v.*[1] [f. Sledge *sb.*[1]] **a.** *intr.* To use a sledge-hammer. **b.** *trans.* To break or drive in (something) with a sledge-hammer.

1654 *Queen's Coll. Oxford Acc.* (MS.), Given to D.L. upon a barg for sledgeing. 1815 *Ann. Reg., Chron.* 4 By their continued firing and sledging the door, they at last entered. 1863 B. Taylor *H. Thurston* iv. 51 Miss Dilworth little suspected how many rocks she had sledged into pieces.. through Bute Wilson's arm.

Sledge (sledʒ), *v.*[2] [f. Sledge *sb.*[2]]

1. *intr.* (See quot.)

1708 J. C. *Compl. Collier* (1845) 34 We must haue two more Horses of a less Value, bought to sledge out with, or draw the Corves as they come out of the Pit on a Sledge.

2. To travel in a sledge. Also with *it*.

1853 Kane *Grinnell Exp.* vi. (1856) 45 They boat or sledge it from post to post. 1882 H. Seebohm *Siberia in Asia* 17 We sledged up one hill and down another.

3. *trans.* To carry or convey on a sledge.

1864 Wheelwright *Spring Lapl.* 204 We left him, intending to sledge him home the next day. 1900 *Jrnl. R. Archæol. Inst.* LVII. 73 The stone having been sledged down the hill.

Hence **Sle·dging** *vbl. sb.*

1853 Kane *Grinnell Exp.* xxix. (1856) 256 The crew had an hour of sledging. 1876 *Daily News* 30 Oct. 5/2 The weariisome sledging of a mile a day.

Sle·dge-hammer, *sb.* [Sledge *sb.*[1]] A large heavy hammer used by blacksmiths.

1495 *Naval Acc. Hen. VII* (1896) 194 Slege hamers of yron. 1791 Bentham *Panopt.* I. Postsc. 163, I would arm another part with another gentleman's sledge-hammers. 1818 Scott *Hrt. Mid.* vi, The door was instantly assailed with sledge-hammers. 1844 H. Stephens *Bk. Farm* II. 398 Smiths will not care how long they detain horses, provided they can get the assistance of the ploughman at the sledge-hammer. 1894 Crockett *Raiders* 317 The strikers with the sledge hammer were swept away.

attrib. 1844 Hood *Forge* 238 Some cumbrous sort Of sledge-hammer retort At Red Beard. 1887 R. N. Carey *Uncle Max* iii, I was used to this sort of sledge-hammer form of argument.

fig. 1874 L. Stephen *Hours Libr.* (1892) II. i. 18 Johnson's sledge-hammer smashes his flimsy platitudes to pieces. 1890 *Spectator* 12 July, The author demolishes his opponents, sometimes, with almost too heavy a sledge-hammer.

Hence **Sle·dge-hammer** *v. trans.*, to strike, work at, as with a sledge-hammer. Also **Sle·dge-hammering** *vbl. sb.*

1834 Sir G. C. Lewis *Lett.* (1870) 32, I send you..an admirable letter written by Sedgwick, in order that you may see what is meant by *sledge-hammering* a man. 1840 Whately *Let.* in *Life* (1866) I. 473, I have been to-day sledge-hammering your idea about Simeon into a sermon. 1852 Dickens *Bleak Ho.* xv, I grant a sledge-hammering sort of merit in him. 1884 *Contemp. Rev.* Dec. 796 The concluding pages of one of his sledge-hammerings on the heads of his adversaries.

Sle·dgeless, *a.* [f. Sledge *sb.*[2] + -less.] Without a sledge.

1853 Kane *Grinnell Exp.* xxix. (1856) 250 All expected to betake ourselves sledgeless to the ice.

Sle·dger. [f. Sledge *sb.*[2] or *v.*[2]] One who drives or draws a sledge.

1661 *Justiciary Rec.* (S. H. S.) I. 13 Thomas Neilson, sledger in Leith, indyted for stealling of a Horse. 1876 *Daily News* 28 Oct. 5/4 Greenland was explored far to the eastward. The sledgers all suffered from scurvy.

Sle·dgy, *a. rare.* [f. Sledge *sb.*[2]] Sledge-like.

1798 Miss H. M. Williams *Tour Switz.* II. 293 Her sledgy-car, with sparkling frost-work bright.

†**Sledo.** *Obs.*[—1] Some article of dress.

1719 D'Urfey *Pills* I. (ed. 4) 354 Next then the slouching Sledo, and our huge Button, And how our Coats, flanck broad, like Shoulder Mutton.

Slee, obs. or dial. var. Slay *v.*[1], Sloe *sb.*, Sly *a.*

†**Slee·band.** *Sc. Obs. rare.* (See quot. 1825.)

1535 Stewart *Cron. Scot.* III. 274 Ane husband man .:Vpoun ane nycht his awin pleuch irnis staw, Baith sok and some, culter and sle-band. 1813 W. Leslie *Surv. Nairne & Moray* Gloss., *Sleeband*, the ancient muzzle of the plough. 1825 Jamieson *Suppl., Sleeband*, a band of iron which goes round the beam of a plough, for the purpose of strengthening it at the place where the coulter is inserted.

Sleech (slīʧ), *sb. dial.* Also 8–9 **sleetch**, *Sc.* **sleitch.** [app. a later form of Slitch.]

1. Mud deposited by the sea or a river; soil composed of this.

1587 Fleming *Contn. Holinshed* III. 1540/1 Wher the slub or sleech is fifteene foot deepe at the least, and the maine rocke immediatlie vnderneath it. 1623 *Tract Parlt.* in *Hartlib's Legacy* (1655) 288 Then would all..the barren lands [be] mended by Marle, Sleech, Lime, Chalk, Seasand, and other means. *c* 1682 J. Collins *Making of Salt* 19 The Ground..ought to be a Sea-Mud, Oase or Sleech. 1764 *Museum Rust.* II. 103 As the sea left the marshes by degrees, the tides brought up the mud with them..; which mud we call sleech. 1799 J. Robertson *Agric. Perth* 298 The soil is composed of a heavy, moist sleech. 1844 Ld. Cockburn *Circuit Journ.* 27 Sept. (1888) 254 But when the sea..shrinks back, what a change! It becomes a world of sleech. 1899 G. Neilson *Annals of Solway* 44 The salty particles glittering on the sleech like hoar frost.

2. A stretch of mud on a shore.

1902 *Scotsman* 11 Feb. (E.D.D.), There were near Bo'ness wide expanses of flat muddy foreshore, known as 'sleeches', or 'slob-lands',..covered at high tide.

Hence **Slee·chy** *a.*, slimy, muddy.

1792 *Statist. Acc. Scott.* IV. 138 A very flat, clay or sleetchy shore. 1844 Ld. Cockburn *Circuit Journ.* 27 Sept. (1888) 254 Dismal swamps of deep sleechy mud. 1877 G. Fraser *Wigtown* 192 The lands, fishings, sleechy grounds, and shores mentioned in the summons.

Sleech (slīʧ), *v. Cheshire dial.* [Of obscure origin.] (See quot.)

1674 Ray *N. C. Words* 43 *To Sleech*, to dip or take up water. [Hence in Grose, etc.]. 1886–7 in Cheshire glossaries.

Hence **Slee·ching-net** (see quot. 1886).

1665 *Chesh. Farm Accs.* in *Sheaf* (1882) II. 333 For the iron frame for the sleeching nett. 1886 Holland *Cheshire Gloss., Sleeching-net*, a net fixed at the end of a long pole, for catching fish.

Sleek (slīk), *sb.*[1] *Sc.* Also **slick, slieck.** [prob. short for *sleek measure*: cf. Sleek *v.* 1 c, and MFlem. *sleec, sleic* (mod.Flem. *sleek, sleik*) adj., even with the top of the vessel.] A measure for fruit, etc. (see later quots.).

1705 in W. Hector *Judic. Rec. Renfrewshire* (1876) 42 Ten slicks of keeping apples, such as his lady shall choyce. 1793 in Ure *Hist. Rutherglen* 45 Each Slieck of Fruit, ½d. 1808 Jamieson Addit., *Sleek*, a measure of fruits, or roots, &c., containing forty pounds. 1820 Cleland *Rise & Progr. Glasgow* 167 Fruit is sold by the sleek of 20 Scotch pints. 1856 Morton *Cycl. Agric.* II. 1126 *Sleek* (Clydesdale), of apples or pears, a peck = 2½ gallons.

Sleek (slīk), *sb.*[2] *Sc. rare.* Also 8 sleik. [? Related to Sleech *sb.* or Sleck *sb.*] Mud; a mud-bank.

1774 D. Graham *Hist. Rebell.* Wks. 1883 I. 206 The pilot run her into a creek, Got past the breakers, 'mong sand and sleik. 1875 A. Smith *New Hist. Aberdeenshire* I. 31 The sleeks of the estuary of the Ythan.

Sleek (slīk), *sb.*[3] *Naut.* [f. Sleek *a.*] (See quot. and cf. Slick *sb.*[1] 3 a.)

1840 F. D. Bennett *Narr. Whaling Voy.* II. v. 202 Broad oily tracks, or 'sleeks' on the surface of the water, (produced by the recent passage of a party of cetaceans).

Sleek (slīk), *a.* and *adv.* Forms: 6 sleke, slieke, sleake, 6–7 sleik, sleeke, 7– sleek. [Later variant form of ME. *slike* Slick *a.*]

1. Of animals, their limbs, etc.: Having, or covered with, hair or fur which lies close and smooth, usually a sign of good condition or careful attention.

1590 Shaks. *Mids. N.* IV. i. 3 While I..sticke muske roses in thy sleeke smoothe head. 1634 Heywood & Brome *Lanc. Witches* IV. H.'s Wks. 1874 IV. 223 You may see by his plump belly and sleeke legs he hath not bin sore travail'd. 1714 Gay *Sheph. Week* Monday 36 See this Tobacco Pouch that's lin'd with Hair, Made of the Skin of sleekest fallow Deer. 1774 Goldsm. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) IV. 91 No quadrupede is fatter, none has a more sleek or glossy skin (than the mole). 1822 W. Irving *Braceb. Hall* ii. (1877) 16 She rode a sleek white pony. 1859 Capern *Ball. & Songs* 148 The sleek and dappled kine.

b. Of hair, etc., in this condition.

1829 Lytton *Disowned* 7 Bright were the eyes and sleek the tresses of the damsel. 1841 — *Night & M.* I. vi, His hair short, dark, and sleek. 1859 Dickens *T. Two Cities* I. iv, He wore an odd little sleek crisp flaxen wig.

2. Of surfaces: Entirely free from roughness; perfectly smooth or polished.

1589 Puttenham *Eng. Poesie* III. (Arb.) 251 Her bosome sleake as Paris plaster. *a* 1601 ? Marston *Pasquil & Kath.* III. (1878) 136 With a soft sleeke hand I'le clap thy cheeke. 1665 Hooke *Microgr.* 100 A very smooth and sleek surface, almost like the surface of black sealing wax. *a* 1722 Lisle *Husb.* (1757) 218 In hot dry weather the oat-straw will be so sleek, that it will be troublesome loading and tying it together so as not to slide off from the cart. 1754 Gray *Lett.* (1900) I. 254 The rock is cut up till it is as smooth and as sleek as sattin. 1807 J. Beresford *Miseries Hum. Life* xx. xii, Using once more a discarded nutmeg-grater or a sleek file! 1842 Prichard *Nat. Hist. Man* 306 Their skin, though but an indifferent black, is always sleek and smooth.

b. Of the sea or sky: Unruffled, tranquil. *rare.*

1603 Drayton *Bar. Wars* III. xlvii, On the sleeke waters waft her sayles along. 1611 Middleton & Dekker *Roaring Girl* D.'s Wks. 1873 III. 281 After a storme the face of heauen looks sleeke. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* II. I. iii, What sulphurcloud is that that defaces the sleek sea?

3. Oily, fawning, plausible, specious.

1599 B. Jonson *Cynthia's Rev.* I. ii, Slieke flatterie and shee Are twin-borne sisters. 1605 Chapman, etc. *Eastw. Hoe* II. ii, They be the smoothest and sleekest knaves in a country. 1613 Shaks. *Hen. VIII*, III. ii. 241 How sleeke and wanton Ye appeare in euery thing may bring my ruine! *a* 1789 Mickle *Siege of Marseilles* II. iv, With sleek adulterous smiles. 1821 Shelley *Hellas* 541 After the war is fought, yield the sleek Russian That which thou canst not keep. 1850 Kingsley *A. Locke* iv, Being the sleek, subtle, religious sins they are.

b. Dexterous, skilful. = Slick *a.* 4.

1822 Hazlitt *Table-t.* Ser. II. i, The waiter who is a sleek hand.

4. Of persons: Having a smooth skin, esp. as the result of being in good condition; plump.

1637 Milton *Lycidas* 99 On the level brine, Sleek Panope with all her sisters play'd. 1699 Garth *Dispens.* I. 7 How sleik their looks, how goodly is their Mien, When big they strut behind a double Chin. 1714 N. Rowe *Hor. Ep.* I. iv, Me:..Batt'ning in Ease you'll find, sleek, fresh, and fair. 1746 Francis tr. *Hor. Ep.* I. iv. 28 Here, in sleek and joyous Case, You'll find..An Hog by Epicurus fed. 1820 Lamb *Elia* I. *Christ's Hospital*, Sleek well-fed blue-coat boys. 1877 L. Morris *Epic of Hades* 91 What were it to lie Sleek, crowned with roses.

fig. 1843 Carlyle *Past & Pres.* II. xi, Monachism itself.. lies sleek and buried. 1878 Gee. Eliot *Coll. Breakf. P.* 367 In a sleek and rural apathy.

5. *Coal-mining.* (See quot.)

1883 Gresley *Gloss. Coal-m.* 225 *Sleek*, soft and troublesome, as applied to the state of the floor in steep seams.

6. As *adv.* In a smooth or sleek manner.

1602 Marston *Antonio's Rev.* IV. i, The chub-fac't fop

Shines sleeke with full cramm'd fat of happinesse. 1735 SOMERVILLE *Chase* II. 494 Nor can his spotted Skin, Tho' sleek it shine,..Save the proud Pard from unrelenting Fate. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) V. 161 The feathers, which lie so sleek and in such beautiful order. 1859 DICKENS *T. Two Cities* I. iv, His brown stockings fitted sleek and close.

7. Comb., as sleek-browed, -faced, -haired, -headed, -looking, -skinned.

1601 SHAKS. *Jul. C.* I. ii. 193 Let me haue men about me, that are fat, Sleeke-headed men. 1602 MARSTON *Ant. & Mel.* I. Wks. 1856 I. 11 With most obsequious sleek-brow'd intertain. 1604 MIDDLETON *Father Hubburd's T.* Wks. (Bullen) VIII. 107 A fair sleek-faced courtier. 1661 BRATHWAIT *Comment. Two Tales* (1901) 49 You say a sleek-skinn'd Cat will ever go a Caterwawing. 1760–72 H. BROOKE *Fool of Qual.* (1809) III. 41 The advice of his sleek-headed ministry. 1823 COBBETT *Rural Rides* (1885) I. 290 This schoolmaster was a sleek-looking young fellow. 1840 DICKENS *Barn. Rudge* iv, An old-fashioned, thin-faced, sleek-haired, ..small-eyed little fellow. 1853 JAMES *Agnes Sorel* (1860) II. 221 Were I..a sleek-faced negotiator.

Sleek (slīk), *v.* Also 5 **slekyn**, 6 **sleke**, 6–7 **sleak**, 7 **sleeke**, **sleik**. [Later variant form of ME. *slīke(n* SLICK *v.*]

1. *trans.* To make sleek or smooth by rubbing or polishing.

*c*1440 *Promp. Parv.* 459/1 Slekyn, *licibricinnulo.* 1615 G. SANDYS *Trav.* 72 They curiously sleeke their paper, which is thick. 1683 PEPYS *Diary at Tangier* in *Life* (1841) I. 422 When dry, they sleek it [calico] with smooth shells, and roll it up. 1771 LUCKOMBE *Hist. Print.* 33 The paper..was sleeked with a tooth or shell. 1852 MORFIT *Arts of Tanning*, etc. 375 The skin is..sleeked with a round-knife. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* IV. 175 A hide of leather is..sleeked down till the surface is perfectly smooth.

b. To reduce to smoothness; to invest with a smooth unruffled appearance.

1513 [see SLEEKED *ppl. a.* 1]. 1619 DRAYTON *Bar. Wars* III. 47 Sleek eu'ry little Dimple of the Lake: Sweet Syrens, and be readie with your Song. 1813 HOGG *Queen's Wake, Kilmeny* xii, The moon that sleeks the sky. 1834 AIRD *Churchyard Eclog.* 119 Forth looks the sun,..and sleeks the slippery hills.

c. *Sc.* To fill to, make level with, the brim or top.

1863 R. QUINN *Heather Lintie* (ed. 2) 126 Although the tears I shed behin' her Wad sleek a sheuch. 1882 *Jamieson's Sc. Dict.* s.v., 'Noo, sleek the stimpart,' i.e. smooth or level the grain in the measure.

2. To make (the skin, hair, etc.) smooth and glossy.

1508 *Mayd Emlyn* 49 in Hazl. *E. P. P.* IV. 85 Ofte wolde she sleke To make smothe her cheke, With redde roses therin. 1609 DEKKER *Gull's Horn Bk.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 212 A round face sleekt and washt ouer with whites of egges. 1634 MILTON *Comus* 832 Fair Ligea's golden comb, Wherwith she sits..Sleeking her soft alluring locks. 1720 POPE *Iliad* XXIII. 350 That wont to deck Their flowing manes, and sleek their glossy neck. 1786 *Pogmologia* 133 Thick beards sleeked in the same manner as their hair is. 1830 TENNYSON *A Character* ii, He smooth'd his chin and sleek'd his hair. 1895 A. NUTT *Voy. Bran* I. 238 Two great eagles come and sleek the great bird with their bills.

refl. 1891 C. E. NORTON *Dante's Purgat.* viii. 51 Licking like a beast that sleeks itself.

b. *To sleek up*, to make presentable, or of attractive appearance.

1618 FLETCHER *Chances* III. i, Sleek up your self, leave crying, For I must have ye entertain this Lady With all civility. *a* 1639 W. WHATELEY *Prototypes* I. xix. (1640) 241 There is such a man's servant, she..is exceedingly sleeked up, see.. what a dress shee hath.

c. To lay *back*, to flatten.

1894 CROCKETT *Raiders* vi, The poor beast..stood most pitifully still, sleeking back its ears.

3. *transf.* or *fig.* To render sleek or smooth, in various senses: a. Denoting removal of agitation, disturbance, deep thought, etc.

1605 SHAKS. *Macb.* III. ii. 27 Gentle my Lord, sleeke o're your rugged Lookes, Be bright and Iouiall. 1640 YORKE *Union Hon., Commend. Verses*, So much fancy, as may sleeke My Lords brow, and dimple my Ladies cheeke. 1859 TENNYSON *Merlin & V.* 748 To sleek her ruffled peace of mind. 1864 CARLYLE *Fredk. Gt.* XVII. ii. (1865) VII. 19 So very possible to sleek them down into peace, thought Majesty's Ministry.

b. Denoting the assumption of friendly or flattering looks or speech. Cf. SLEEKED *ppl. a.* 2.

1607 DEKKER & MARSTON *Northw. Hoe* I. D's Wks. 1873 III. 17 Ile candy o're my words, and sleeke my brow. 1671 MILTON *P. R.* IV. 5 The perswasive Rhetoric That sleek't his tongue. 1876 MORRIS *Sigurd* II. 109 So I wrapped my heart in guile And sleeked my tongue with sweetness.

refl. 1877 TENNYSON *Harold* I. i. 80 He hath learnt..To sleek and supple himself to the king's hand.

c. To polish (a composition). Also with *over*.

1630 T. CAREW *To Ben Jonson*, Repine not at the taper's thrifty waste, That sleeks thy terser poems. 1635 PEMBLE *Grace & Faith* Pref. 1 Unto my apprehension, such Prologues, however sleeked over, doe yet feele rough and unieven.

d. To gloze *over*, put in a favourable light.

1871 TENNYSON *Last Tourn.* 391 Musing how to smoothe And sleek his marriage over to the Queen.

4. *intr.* To move, glide, sweep *on* smoothly.

1818 L. HUNT *Foliage, Nymphs* ii, For as the racks came sleeking on, one fell With rain into a dell.

Hence **Slee·king** *vbl. sb.* (also *attrib.*) and *ppl. a.*

1579 LYLY *Euphues* (Arb.) 116, I loath almost to thincke on..the sleeking of their faces. 1632 MARMION *Holland's Leaguer* III. iv, Wherefore are all your sleekings and your curlings..composed by art? 1827 HOOD *Hero & Leander* lix, His sleeking hair Creeps o'er her knees. 1873 O'CURRY *Lect. Ancient Irish* III. 116 The sleeking stick or bone which weavers still use. 1883 R. HALDANE *Workshop Rec.* Ser. II. 368/1 After washing the grain with the grass-brush, it is followed by the sleeking-iron.

Sleeked (slīkt), *ppl. a.* [f. prec. + -ED 1.]

1. Smoothed; having a glossy skin, etc.

1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* VI. xii. 15 All fischis..doith repair Ondir the slekit see of marbill hew. 1611 FLORIO, *Cartella*, a kind of sleeked pasteboord. 1616 B. JONSON *Forest* viii, Sleeked limmes, and finest blood. 1653 URQUHART *Rabelais* III. viii, By reason of their..curled, frisling, sleeked smoothness. 1785 BURNS *To a Mouse* i, Wee, sleeket, cowran, tim'rous beastie. 1818 KEATS *Endym.* I. 468 As a dove Trembling its closed eyes and sleeked wings About me. 1861 MISS YONGE *Stokesley Secret* (1880) 199 Captain Merrifield's fine sleeked cows were licking each other.

2. *Sc.* Specious, flattering; artful; plausible.

*c*1400 *Sc. Trojan War* (Horstm.) II. 1838 Oetus..Told a foule fenȝeit fortoune fals..With sleked wordis subtelly. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* I. x. 27 Now him withaldis the Phenitiane Dido, And cuilȝeis him with slekit wordis sle. *a* 1585 MONTGOMERIE *Cherrie & Slae* 547 With sleikit sophismis seiming sweit. 1776 C. KEITH *Farmer's Ha'* XXVII, His sleekit speeches pass for true With ane and a'. 1823 GALT *R. Gilhaize* I. xii. 131, I did nae think the sleekit sinner had art enough to play 't. 1895 'H. HALIBURTON' *Dunbar* 92 Sleekit he was, an' carefu' to conceal.

Hence **Slee·kedness.** *rare*—1.

a 1693 *Urquhart's Rabelais* III. xiii. 109 If that the polish'd sleekedness thereof be darken'd by gross Breathings.

Sleeken (slī·k'n), *v.* [f. SLEEK *a.* + -EN 5.] *trans.* To make smooth and glossy. Also *fig.*

1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* II. iv. 1. iv, The Eban stone which Goldsmiths use to sleeken their gold with. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* II. 41/2 The Sleek stone, a ball made of glass, which Landresses and Drawers of Cloath use to polish or sleeken their Linnen with. 1824 MACTAGGART *Gallovid. Encycl.* 159 Young gowbs which he did fin'..Whilk sleekened his skin. *c* 1844 MRS. BROWNING *Portrait* xviii, All voices that address her, Soften, sleeken every word. 1862 *Temple Bar* VI. 132 Society..sleekens the boy into a machine well-oiled, and superfinishes the girl.

Sleeker (slī·kəɹ), [f. SLEEK *v.* + -ER 1.] One who sleeks; an implement used for sleeking leather, cloth, etc.

1611 COTGR., *Estire*, the yron toole wherwith a Currier draynes the skins he receiues from the Tan-pit; some call it a Sleeker. *Ibid.*, *Polisseur*, a polisher; ..sleeker, smoother. 1883 R. HALDANE *Workshop Rec.* Ser. II. 368/1 The skin is.. worked with a 'sleeker' or stretching-iron.

Sleekish (slī·kiʃ), *a.* [f. SLEEK *a.* + -ISH 1.] Somewhat sleek.

1859 *New Monthly Mag.* Nov. 265 Drawn by a pair of sleekish horses.

Sleek-leaf. *U.S.* [SLEEK *a.*] The sand-myrtle, *Leiophyllum buxifolium.*

1845–50 MRS. LINCOLN *Lect. Bot.* App. 219/2. 1855 J. DARBY *Bot. S. States* 421.

Sleekly (slī·kli), *adv.* [f. SLEEK *a.* + -LY 2.] In a sleek manner. Also *fig.*, smoothly.

1730 RAMSAY *Fables, Ape & Leopard* 12 My fur sae delicate and fine, With various spots does sleekly shine. 1826 HOOD *Irish Schoolm.* XXVII, The verdant sod, With tender moss so sleekly overgrown. 1877 'SAXON' *Galloway Gossip* 245 Things didn't move so sleekly in that house after.

Sleekness (slī·knės). [f. SLEEK *a.*] The quality of being sleek.

1628 FELTHAM *Resolves* I. XXXII, I confesse, we may liue to..the sleekenesse of the declining crowne. 1751 JOHNSON *Rambler* No. 138 ₱ 10 They [*sc.* the horses] lost their sleekness and grace, and were soon purchased at half the value. 1771 H. MACKENZIE *Man of Feeling* XXI. 75 This coat.., spoke of the sleekness of folly, and the threadbareness of wisdom. 1811 *Self Instructor* 561 The glare and sleekness of the sattin. 1868 GEO. ELIOT *Felix Holt* 31 He..was especially addicted to black satin waistcoats, which carried out the general sleekness of his appearance. 1897 MARY KINGSLEY *W. Africa* 322 The beautiful little gazelles.., white underneath, and satin-like in sleekness all over.

Slee·kstone. *Obs.* exc. *dial.* Also 5 **slek(y)-**, 5–6 **sleke-**, 6–7 **sleeke-**. [f. SLEEK *a.* or *v.* Cf. SLICKSTONE.]

1. A smooth stone used for smoothing and polishing.

14.. *Nom.* in Wr.-Wülcker 696 *Hoc lacinatorium*, a slek stone. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 458/2 Slekyston,..*liniторium.* 1530 PALSGR. 720, I make paper smothe with a sleke stone. 1563 T. GALE *Antidot.* II. 64 Stripe them [clouts] wyth a sleeke stone and make them smouthe. 1580 LYLY *Euphues* (Arb.) 120 Shee that wanteth a sleeke-stone to smooth hir linnen, wil take a pebble. 1612 PEACHAM *Graphice* 94 Take of the fairest and smothest pastboord you can get, which with a sleeke stone rubbe as smooth, and as euen as you can. 1641 MILTON *Animadv.* Wks. 1851 III. 191 A toothlesse Satyr is as improper as a toothed sleekstone. 1688 [see SLEEKEN *v.*]. 1893–4 HESLOP *Northumbld. Gloss.* 656 *Sleek-stone*, a polishing stone.

2. *transf.* (See quot.)

a 1610 HEALEY *Theophrastus* (1636) 29 A Sleeke-stone or Smooth-boot (as we terme him) is hee, that saluteth a man as farre off as his eye can carry levell.

Sleeky (slī·ki), *a.* [f. SLEEK *a.* + -Y.]

1. Marked by sleek condition.

c 1725 THOMSON *Soporif. Doctor* 1 Sweet sleeky Doctor! dear pacific soul! 1757 DYER *Fleece* I. 669 All intent to.. wind the sleeky Fleece. *Ibid.* III. 323 The grazier's sleeky kine obstruct the roads. *a* 1814 *Love, Honor & Interest* I. i. in *New Brit. Theatre* III. 265 Like a sleeky snail That climbs into a hive. 1839 *Blackw. Mag.* XLVI. 654 We feel him rubbing his sleeky person against our dexter leg.

2. = SLEEKED *ppl. a.* 2.

a 1800 in Cromek *Nithsdale Song* (1810) 187 Gane he has wi' the sleeky auld carle. 1822 HOGG *Perils of Man* II. 314 Sleeky Tam possesses both his own and his neighbour's farm at this day. 1863 HOLME LEE *A. Warleigh* III. 3 The most sleeky evil countenance she had ever beheld.

Sleely: see SLYLY *adv.*

Sleeness, Sc. variant of SLYNESS.

Sleep (slīp), *sb.* Forms: *a.* 1 slæp, 1, 3–4 (6 *Sc.*) slep (3 sclep), 1, 4– sleep; 1, 3 *dat.* slæpe 3 *dat.*, 6 sleape, 1–3 *dat.*, 4–6 slepe (5 sclepe, sleppe), 5–7 sleepe; 6 *Sc.* sleip(e. *β.* 1, 3 slap, 2, 4 slape, 4 slope. [OE. *slæp* (*slāp*), *slēp*, = OFris. *slēp* (WFris. *sliep*, NFris. *slīp*), MDu. *slaep* (Du. *slaap*), OS. (MLG. and LG.) *slāp*, OHG. *slāf*, *sclāf*, *sclāph* (MHG. *slāf*, G. *schlaf*), Goth. *slēps* (wanting in Scandinavian), the sb. corresponding to SLEEP *v.*

On the relation of the rare OE. *slāp* to the usual *slæp* see the note to the verb. The form is also scantily represented in ME., the following being the more important examples of it (cf. also the rimes in *King & Hermit* 196, 286):—

a 1000 in *Englische Stud.* IX. 40 Slape, *somno.* *c* 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 77 [He] mine3eð us..bidden þat he.. weche us of ure heuie slape. *c* 1200 ORMIN 1903 Crist ras upp off dæþess slap. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 7201 Sampson wakkend of his slape. *c* 1350 *Will. Palerne* 1995 My lady lis ȝit a-slape. *a* 1400 *Bone Flor.* (R.) 1632 When he wyste they were on slope, To Betres throte can he grope.]

1. The unconscious state or condition regularly and naturally assumed by man and animals, during which the activity of the nervous system is almost or entirely suspended, and recuperation of its powers takes place; slumber, repose.

Also, a similar state artificially induced, as *hypnotic* (or *magnetic*) *sleep*. For *dead sleep* see DEAD *a.* 2 b. The word is further applied to the more inert condition of certain animals during hibernation.

c 825 *Vesp. Ps.* CXXVI. 2 Donne seleð scyldum his slep. *c* 897 K. ÆLFRED tr. *Gregory's Past. C.* XXXIX. 283 Sio slæwð ȝiett slæp on ðone monnan. *c* 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Luke v. 9 Slep..ymb-salde hine & Alle ðaðe mið him weron. *c* 1000 ÆLFRIC *Gen.* XV. 12 On æfnunge befeoll slæp on Abram. *c* 1205 LAY. 15707 Þenne ich wæs on bedde iswaued mid soft mine slepen. 12.. *Prayer our Lady* 9 in *O. E. Misc.* 192 Slep me had mi lif forstole richt haff oðer more. *c* 1369 CHAUCER *Dethe Blaunche* 137 Goo..to Morpheus, Thou knowist hym well, the god of slepe. 1430–40 LYDG. *Bochas* I. viii. (1544) 15 She gaue him milke, ye slepe fell in his hede. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* VIII. vii. 84 The plesand naturall slep..can he tak. 1596 SPENSER *F. Q.* VI. viii. 38 Sleepe they sayd would make her battill better. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* II. 46 My selfe being at all howers (but time of sleepe) admitted into his chamber. 1698 *Whole Duty of Man* ix. § i. 75 Sleep comes as a medicine to weariness, as a repairer of decay. 1742 GRAY *Propertius* ii. 17 If sinking into Sleep she seem to close Her languid Lids. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) II. 139 Sleep is,..to some, a very agreeable period of their existence. 1821 BYRON *Sardanap.* IV. i, If Sleep shows such things, what may not death disclose? 1884 DAY *Fishes Gt. Brit.* I. p. xix, Does sleep or a periodical season of repose for the organs of the senses, ever visit fish?

transf. 1818 SHELLEY *Rosalind & H.* 1207 Then a dead sleep fell on my mind. 1876 *Encycl. Brit.* IV. 716 Among other notions which they had imbibed, was that of a sleep of the soul after death.

b. Freq. in prepositional phrases, as *to*, *in* or †*on*, *out of* or †*of*, *sleep*. (Cf. also ASLEEP *adv.*)

In some of the phrases with *to* it is not always clear whether the noun or verb is intended.

(*a*) *Beowulf* 1251 Sigon þa to slæpe. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 20496 All þar fell to slepe. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 271 The nyht, whan he was leid to slepe. *c* 1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 3347 When þai etyn and to slepe ȝode. 1634 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* 5 The Sailers, who..commonly goe to sleepe ..in their wet clothes. 1764 REID *Inquiry* v. § 7 A child that has a good musical ear, may be put to sleep..by the modulation of musical sounds. 1837 DICKENS *Pickw.* iv, Damn that boy, he's gone to sleep again. 1885 MRS. LYNN LINTON *C. Kirkland* II. ii. 68 You..went happily to sleep.

transf. *c* 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* XIII. 42 His fruyt in picched pottis me may kepe, In drosse of grape or applis leid to slepe.

(*b*) *c* 897 K. ÆLFRED tr. *Gregory's Past. C.* XXVIII. 195 Donne hnappað he oð he wierð on fæstum slæpe. *c* 1200 ORMIN 8352 He comm till himm o nahht & fand himm panne o slæpe. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 2974 Bot godd on night com to þe king, In slepe. *c* 1450 *Merlin* I. 10 She fill on slepe on her bedde. 1566 *Pasquine in Traunce* 62 To wake the waspes of Germaine, that were on sleepe. 1640 *Plymouth Col. Rec.* (1855) I. 136 In the morneing he found them on sleep by the fyer. 1651 HOBBES *Leviath.* II. xxvii. 156 Dreams be naturally but the fancies remaining in sleep. 1780 *Mirror* No. 73, A particular train of thought impressed upon us in sleep. 1819 SCOTT *Ivanhoe* xxix, The bold and buoyant spirit which forsakes them not even in sleep!

(*c*) *a* 900 CYNEWULF *Elene* 75 He of slæpe onbræȝd. *c* 960 *Rule St. Benet* (Schröer) 2 Nu is tima, þæt we of slepe arisan. *c* 1200 ORMIN 3136 Josæp..ras himm upp off slæpe anan. 1310 *St. Brendan* (Bälz) 457 Þe fisches sturt up vor hor song, as hi awoke of slepe. 1388 WYCLIF *Gen.* XXVIII. 16 Whanne Jacob hadde wakyd of sleep. 1526 TINDALE *John* XI. 11, I goo to wake him out of slepe.

c. Personified (after L. *Somnus*, Gr. Ὕπνος).

1390 GOWER *Conf.* II. 101 Sche bad Yris..To Slepes hous that sche schal wende, And bidde him [etc.]. *c* 1460 SIR R. ROS *La Belle Dame* 2 Halfe in a dreme..The golden slepe me wrapt vndir his wyng. 1563 *Mirr. Mag.* Q iv, By him lay heavy slepe, the cosin of death. 1651 DAVENANT *Gondibert* I. vi. 80 Kind Sleep, Nights welcome Officer. 1718 POPE *Iliad* XIV. 265 The cave of Death's half-brother, Sleep. 1842 TENNYSON *Gardener's D.* 263 Night..in her bosom bore the baby, Sleep.

d. The effects or signs of sleep.

1864 LOWELL *Fireside Trav.* 103 A drowsy maid with the sleep scarce brushed out of her hair.

2. With possessive pronouns, freq. in adverbial phrases, as *in his sleep*, etc.

c 825 *Vesp. Ps.* lxxv. 5 Slypton slep heara & nowiht ȝemoettun. *c* 1100 *Canterb. Ps.* lxxv. 6 Hie slepon sleep *vel* swefne hiræ. 1297 R. Glouc. (Rolls) 328 Him þoȝte þe ymage in slep tolde him is chance. *c* 1386 Chaucer *Nun's Pr. T.* 188–9 This man out of his sleepe for feere abrayde; But whan that he was wakened of his sleepe [etc.]. *c* 1400 Love *Bonavent. Mirr.* (1908) 64 The aungel of god apered to Joseph in his slepe. *c* 1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 6259 When he of his slepe wakynd, 1573 G. Harvey *Letter-bk.* (Camden) 131 In my very sleepe, I was adrempt in this wise. 1651 Hobbes *Leviath.* I. iii. 9 To hinder and break our sleep. 1667 Milton *P. L.* v. 3 His sleep Was Aerie light, from pure digestion bred. 1712 M. Henry *Daily Comm. w. God* (1822) 372 That will break a worldly man's heart, which will not break a godly man's sleep. 1820 Keats *Eve St. Agnes* xxxiv, She still beheld, Now wide awake, the vision of her sleep. 1852 M. Arnold *Tristr. & Iseult* 59 Hark! he mutters in his sleep.

† b. In *pl.*, of more than one person. *Obs.*

1586 J. Hooker *Hist. Irel.* in *Holinshed* II. 160/1 Taking aduantage of the time, when men were wearie and in their sleepes. 1603 Dekker *Wonderfull Yeare* Wks. (Grosart) I. 105 All his family destroied in their sleepes by the mercilesse fire. 1653 Holcroft *Procopius, Gothic Wars* I. 25 The people of Rome..being put also to guard the walls, and want their sleepes.

† c. With allusion to sleeping together. *Obs.*—1

1612 Webster *White Devil* II. i, Fare you well, Our sleeps are sever'd.

3. A period or occasion of slumber.

c 1200 Ormin 3152 And tær he ras upp off batt slæp. *Ibid.* 7043 Cristess resste & Cristess ro & Cristess swete slæpess. 1340 *Ayenb.* 31 Hi hedden lenere ȝyese vour messen panne ..ane slep. *c* 1374 Chaucer *Boeth.* II. metr. 5, 50 Þei slepen holesom slepes vpon þe gras. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 375 Qwen..folke was on þaire firste slepe. 1535 Coverdale *Ps.* lxxxix. 5 They are euen as a slepe, and fade awaye sodenly like the grasse. 1579 W. Wilkinson *Confut. Fam. Love* 17 b, All your fantasies are but as..the sleepes of a sick man. *a* 1619 Daniel *Coll. Hist. Eng.* (1626) 56 His owne sleepes..are saide to haue beene very tumultuous, and full of affrightments. 1692 Prior *To Charles Montague* Wks. (Bell) I. 46 So, whilst in feverish sleeps we think We taste what waking we desire. 1706 E. Ward *Wooden World Dissc* (1708) 69 His Sleeps are moderate enough, just to suffice Nature. 1764 *London Mag.* 417/1 She fell into a sleep which held four days. 1863 W. C. Baldwin *Afr. Hunting* iii. 91 Towards morning I got a good sleep. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 412 Between the sleeps the general tendency is to quiet indifference.

b. As an indication or division of time.

1131 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud. MS.) an. 1131, On an Monenicht æt þe forme slæp. *c* 1500 *Melusine* 186 They departed about the first slepe. 1708 C. Mather *Magn. Christi* III. App. (1852) 559 Their [the Indians'] division of time is by sleeps, and moons, and winters. 1893 *Arena* Mar. 495 Time is divided by them into 'sleeps', and in the same way they [the Indians] estimate distances and journeys.

4. *fig.* a. The repose of death. (Usually with qualifying terms or phrases.)

a 900 Cynewulf *Crist* 890 Byman..hataþ hy upp-astandan sneome of slæpe þy fæstan. *c* 1200 Ormin 19254 He ras.. Off dæþess slæp to life. *a* 1400 *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* xxiii. 1130 Þe geaunt..þat wel a-wakeþ þe slepynge Of sleep of deþ so long. 1567 *Gude & Godlie Ball.* (S.T.S.) 89 Help me..That suddand sleip of deide do me na teine. 1579 Spenser *Sheph. Cal.* Aug. 179 Till my last sleepe Doe close mine eyes. 1810 Scott *Lady of Lake* I. xxxi, Sleep the sleep that knows not breaking! 1860 Pusey *Min. Proph.* 378 They slept the sleep from which they shall not awake until the Judgment Day.

b. A state of inactivity or of sluggishness (in persons or things).

Beowulf 1742 He þæt wyrse ne con..; bið se slæp to fæst. *c* 897 K. Ælfred tr. *Gregory's Past. C.* lvi. 431 Be ðæs modes slæpe wæs ær awriten on ðære ilcan Salomonnes bec. *c* 1200 Ormin 3148 þatt wass þurrh wanntrowwþess slæp. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 272 Þis nis buten ine slepe of ȝemeleaste & of slouhðe. 1710 Norris *Chr. Prud.* v. 250 The Agreement and Proportion that is between Sleep and Sin..so that Sin is a kind of Spiritual Sleep. 1728 *Freethinker* No. 83, Many ..begin to slumber in their Manhood; and drop into a sound Sleep in their Age. 1781 Cowper *Expostulation* 637 Ere nature rose from her eternal sleep. *a* 1822 Shelley *With a Guitar* 46 While on the steep The woods were in their winter sleep. 1874 H. R. Reynolds *John Bapt.* iv. § 5. 259 Men who had laid their ethical sense to sleep. 1889 A. Sergeant *Esther Denison* I. v. 51 He had put his doubts to sleep.

c. The condition of being quiet and peaceful; complete absence of noise or stir.

1807 Wordsw. *Song Brougham Castle* 164 The sleep that is among the lonely hills. 1821–2 Shelley *Chas. I*, II. 239 The innocent sleep Of templed cities. 1872 Black *Adv. Phaeton* xix. 274 The deep sleep of the landscape.

5. a. *Bot.* A condition assumed by many plants, esp. during the night, marked by the closing of petals or leaves.

After L. *Somnus Plantarum*, the title of a pamphlet published by P. Bremer in 1755.

1757 J. Hill *Sleep of Plants* 30 What is called the sleep of plants is the effect of the absence of light alone. 1796 Withering *Brit. Pl.* (ed. 3) II. 419 This species is a notable instance of what is called the *Sleep of Plants*—for every night the leaves approach in pairs. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 129/2 During sleep the leaves of the sensitive-plant lose their peculiar sensibility. 1877 Darwin *More Lett.* (1903) II. 414 The cotyledons of Cassia go to sleep, and are sensitive to a touch.

b. A state of numbness in a limb, produced by prolonged pressure upon it. (Cf. Asleep *adv.* 4.)

1882 *Quain's Dict. Med.* II. 1649 There is numbness in the hands and forearms, with a sensation of 'going to sleep' in the fingers. 1893 Eccles *Sciatica* 18 In the cases of external pressure..the patients noticed that the limb had 'gone to sleep'.

6. *attrib.* and *Comb.* a. Attrib., as *sleep-disturbance, -land, -movement*, etc. Also *sleep-like* adj.

1834 *Good's Study Med.* (ed. 4) III. 49 Fatuity, mania, melancholy and *sleep-disturbance. 1874 Lisle Carr *Judith Gwynne* I. v. 149 Then her wandering mind went off into *sleepland. 1826 Kirby & Sp. *Entomol.* IV. xliii. 193 At night they regularly muster in a state of *sleep-like silence. 1880 C. & F. Darwin *Movem. Pl.* 262 The periodical movements of leaves thus provided have generally been amplified into so-called *sleep-movements. 1887 Morris *Odyss.* XI. 331 And now anigh it doth draw To the *sleep-tide. 1889 Browning *Asolando*, At the midnight, in the silence of the *sleep-time.

b. With agent-nouns, vbl. sbs., and pres. ppples., as *sleep-bringer, -dispeller; sleep-bringing, -causing, -compelling, -desiring*, etc.

1591 Sylvester *Du Bartas* I. iv. 718 *Sleep-bringer; Pilgrim's guide, Peace-loving Queen. 1616 W. Browne *Brit. Past.* II. iii, *Sleepe-bringing poppy. 1611 Cotgr., *Somnifique*, *sleepe-causing. 1762 Foote *Orator* I. Wks. 1799 I. 205 Where the *sleep-compelling power will be experimentally demonstrated. 1874 L. Carr *J. Gwynne* I. i. 15 Surrounded..by drowsy, sleep-compelling influences. 1878 B. Taylor *Deukalion* I. iv. 34 Dull gleams from *sleep-desiring eyes. 1860 G. H. K. *Vac. Tour* 116 Tub, *sleep-dispeller, welcome! 1816 H. G. Knight *Ilderim* 407 Onward the *sleep-disturbing triumph roll'd. 1847 Helps *Friends in C.* I. vi. 88 The *sleep-inducing weavings and unweavings of political combination. 1748 Thomson *Castle Indol.* I. lviii, Where purls the brook with *sleep-inviting sound. 1611 Cotgr., *Soporifere*, soporiferous, *sleepe-procuring. 1625 K. Long tr. *Barclay's Argenis* IV. xviii. 306 *Sleepe-provoking poppy and soft paces. 1845 James *Smuggler* III. 37 Any *sleep-resisting powers of the human frame. 1748 Thomson *Castle Indol.* I. iii, *Sleep-soothing groves, and quiet lawns between.

c. With past ppples., as *sleep-bedeafened, -created, -dewed, -drowned*, etc.

1605 P. Woodhouse *The Flea* (1877) 11 The glut'nous Wolfe; and the sleep-fatted Beare. 1605 Sylvester *Du Bartas* II. iii. 1. *Vocation* 563 Blew Gladiol's juyce, Where, with her sleep-swoln heavy lids she glews. 1631 Quarles *Samson* Wks. (Grosart) II. 146/1 Whose softer language, by degrees, did wake His father's sleepe-bedeafned eares. 1648 J. Beaumont *Psyche* VI. ccxlii, To break her sleep-inthralled Spouse's chains. 1792 Cumberland *Calvary* (1803) II. 57 'Twas the voice As of a spirit..sleep-created in the troubled ear Of conscience. 1820 Shelley *Prometh. Unb.* I. 12 Three thousand years of *sleep-unsheltered hours 1839–48 Bailey *Festus* viii. 82 The recovering breath of earth, sleep-drowned. 1894 H. Nisbet *Bush Girl's Romance* 148 While his sleep-filled eyes looked on..the morning.

7. Special combs.: **sleep-awake** adj., in a state between sleeping and waking (*nonce-word*); **sleep disease**, the sleeping sickness of Africa; **sleep-drink** [cf. Du. *-slaapdrank*, G. *-schlaftrunk*], a portion of liquor taken just before bed-time; also *fig.*; **sleep-palsy, -paralysis**, paralysis caused by pressure on a nerve during sleep; †**sleeprife** *a.*, bringing sleep, soporiferous; †**-sleep-sick** *a.*, excessively given to sleep; **sleep-stour** *Sc.* (*lit.* sleep-dust), signs of sleep; **sleep-stuff**, an opiate; **sleep-talker**, one who speaks during sleep; **sleep-talking**, speaking during sleep; **sleep-thorn** [tr. ON. *svefnþorn*], in Scandinavian legend, a thorn imagined as inducing sleep; **sleep-trap**, a church-pew readily inducing sleep (*nonce-word*); **sleep-waker**, a mesmerized or hypnotized person; **sleep-waking**, a mesmeric or hypnotic state; †**sleepward** *adv.* (see quot.).

1614 Sylvester *Bethulia's Rescue* VI. 77 For (*sleep-awake, blinde-seeing) while hee plyes T'untrusse his Points, them (fumbling) faster tyes. 1897 Miss Kingsley *W. Africa* 401 Among these are the smallpox, and the *sleep disease. *a* 1700 Shields *Faithf. Contendings* (1780) 308 That *sleep-drink of this Antichristian intoxicating toleration was then brewed in hell. 1861 Thackeray *Four Georges* i, Every evening they shall have their beer, and at night their sleep-drink. 1896 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* I. 367 The commonest types of paralysis from injury to nerves are *sleep-palsy, crutch palsy [etc.]. 1899 *Ibid.* VI. 659 Hence it is a common form of *sleep paralysis. 1513 Douglas *Æneid* IV. ix. 28 Strynkland to hym the wak hony sweit, And *sleipryfe chesbow seid. 1591 Sylvester *Du Bartas* I. vii. 129 Thou rather sleep'st, thy self, When thou did'st forge thee such a *sleep-sick Elf. 1888 Buchanan *Heir of Linne* viii, I see the *sleep-stour in his eyes already. 1880 Browning *Dram. Idyls, Clive* 77 Let alone that filthy *sleep-stuff. 1794 *Sleep-talker [see Sleep-walker]. 1829 *Good's Study Med.* (ed. 3) IV. 173 *marg.*, Hence *sleep-talking, sleep-walking, or somnambulism. 1889 R. B. Anderson *Rydberg's Teut. Mythol.* 164 Castles, where goddesses pricked by *sleep-thorns are slumbering. 1895 *Daily Telegr.* 9 Aug. 3/3 These *sleep-traps were in time superseded by high-backed pews. 1884 *19th Cent.* May 807 The *sleep-waker will continue to listen and reply. 1840 C. H. Townshend *Facts Mesmerism* II. i. 47 Mesmeric Somnambulism, or, more properly, *Sleepwaking. 1886 Myers *Phantasms of Living* I. Introd. p. xlii, Induced somnambulism or the sleep-waking state. 1562 Bulleyn *Bulwarke, Sickmen & Med.* 55 b, Sometime medicen is giuen to *slepe-warde, or before slepe.

Sleep (slīp), *v.* Pa. t. and pa. pple. **slept.** Forms: (see below). [OE. *slǽpan; slǽpan, slépan* (pa. t. *slép, slépon*, pa. pple. *-slǽpen*; etc.), = OFris. *slêpa* (WFris. *sliepe*, EFris. *slepe*, NFris. *slêp, slîp*), MDu. and Du. *slapen*, OS. *slâpan* (MLG. and LG. *slapen*), OHG. *slâfan* (MHG. *slâfen*, G. *schlafen*), Goth. *slêpan* (pa. t. *saislêp, -slêp*, pa. pple. *slêpans*); wanting in Scandinavian. Besides the strong conjugation (with reduplicated pa. t.) OE. also had the weak forms *slǽpte, slépte*, and after the 14th cent. the strong conjugation disappears from the literary language. A similar change has taken place in WFris., where the pa. t. is now usually *slepte*, pa. pple. *slept*. The ME. *slēped* (mod.Sc. *sleepit*) may represent the northern OE. forms *slépade*, pl. *slépedon* (WS. inf. *slápian*).

It is possible that the weak forms *slǽpte, slépte*, properly belonged to a causative verb corresponding to MHG. (*ent-*)*slæfen*, older or dial. G. *schläfen*, although no trace of this usage appears in OE. texts. The infinitive of this would have had the form **slǽpan*, Merc. and Angl. **slépan*, and would consequently have been identical with the inf. of the strong verb, except where the latter had the special West Saxon form *slápan*. The strong pa. t. is frequent in ME., and the strong pa. pple. is occasionally found (cf. also Aslopen); traces of strong conjugation appear in some mod. dialects, but it is possible that these are new formations.]

A. Illustration of forms.

1. *Inf.* (and forms connected with this): α. 1 **slapan, 2 slapen, 4 slape.**

c 888 K. Ælfred *Boeth.* xxxiv. § 11 þonne we slapað. *c* 893 — *Oros.* IV. vi. 178 Þæt he..slapan ne mehte. *c* 1000 *Ags. Gosp.* Matt. xxvi, 45 Slapað..& restað eow. *Ibid.* Luke xxii. 46 Hwi slape ȝe? *c* 1100 *Canterb. Ps.* xl. 9 Se þe slapð. *c* 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 7 Werie men is lief to slapen. *a* 13.. *Sethyn Sages* 929 (W.), He..gan to slape. *c* 1350 in Horstm. *Altengl. Leg.* (1881) 145 Sum meh in kirk slomers and slapes.

β. 1 **slæpan, 3 slæpen, 3, 6, sleape.**

c 888 K. Ælfred *Boeth.* xlii, Ne slæpð he, næfre. 971 *Blickling Hom.* 235 Swa he slæpende wære. *c* 1000 *Ælfric's Gr.* (Z.) 211 (Harl.), Me lyste slæpan. *c* 1160 *Hatton Gosp.* Matt. xxvi. 45 Slæpeð., & resteð eow. *Ibid.* Luke xxii. 46 Hwi slæpe ȝe? *c* 1205 Lay. 733 Leteð slæpen þene king. *c* 1275 *Ibid.* 18409 Supþe hii solle sleape. 1565 Cooper *Thes.* s.v. *Somnus*, To sleape quietly.

γ. 1 **slepan (slepp-), 2–3 slepen** (3 **sclepen, sleop-**), 5 **slepyn**; 3–6 **slepe, 4 sclep(e, 5 scleppe**; 5–6, *Sc.* **sleip(e, 5–7 sleepe, 6– sleep.**

c 825 *Vesp. Ps.* lxvii. 14 Ȝif ȝe slepað. *Ibid.* cxx. 4 Ne slepeð se. *c* 897 K. Ælfred tr. *Gregory's Past. C.* lvi. 431 Swelce se stiora slepe. *c* 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Matt. ix. 24 Þæt maiden..slepes. *c* 1000 *Ags. Ps.* (Thorpe) lxxv. 5 [Hi] ongunnon..ȝeorne slepan. *c* 1100 *Canterb. Ps.* xliii. 23 Forwæn slepest þu? *c* 1160 *Hatton Gosp.* Mark v. 39 Þis mæden is sleþð. *c* 1205 Lay. 966 In eorðe heo sleopeð. *Ibid.* 25582 Agan ich forto slepe. *c* 1275 *Prov. Ælfred* 468 in *O. E. Misc.* 131 Litil sal he sclepen. *a* 1300 *E. E. Ps.* iv. 9 In pees..Sal i slepe. 1340–70 *Alex. & Dind.* 344 We holle sclepe in no sclowþe. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 459/1 Slepyn, *dormio*. *c* 1450 *Cov. Myst.* (Shaks. Soc.) 41 What man in syrne doth..scleppe. *c* 1470 Henry *Wallace* v. 347 Quhar he suld sleipe. 1570 Levins *Manip.* 70 To sleepe, *dormire*. 1596 Dalrymple tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* I. 314 Quhen he sleipis. 1617 Moryson *Itin.* II. 46 He used to sleepe in the afternoones.

2. *Past Tense.* a. *Strong.* 1–4 **slep** (1 **sclep**), 1, 3 **slæp, sleap, 2 sliep, 4 sleep, slepp, slepe** (9 *dial.* **slape**). *Plur.* 1 **slepon, -un, -an**, 1, 3–4 **slepen** (4 **slupen**), 4 **slepe.**

The common dial. form *slep* is prob. for *slept*.

c 888 K. Ælfred *Boeth.* xv, Hi slepon ute. 971 *Blickling Hom.* 235 Se halga Andreas þa slep. *c* 1000 *Ags. Gosp.* Matt. xxv. 5 Hnappudon hiz ealle & slepun [*c* 1160 slepen]. *c* 1100 *Canterb. Ps.* lvi. 5 Ic slæp ȝedrefed: *a* 1200 *Vices & Virt.* 51 He..reste and slep. *c* 1205 Lay. 26009 Þe eotende lai and slæp [*c* 1275 sleap]. *c* 1220 *Bestiary* 771 Ðre daies slep he. *a* 1300 *Havelok* 2128 He slepen faste alle fine. *a* 1300 *E. E. Psalter* iii. 5, I slepe [*v.r.* slep] And I ras. 1387 Trevisa *Higden* VIII. 227 He sleep in his studie. 1393 Langl. *P. Pl. C* xvi. 272 Seuene sleepen [*v.r.* slupen]. b. *Weak.* α. 1 **slypte**, 1, 3 **sleepte**, 1, 3–6 **slepte** (1 **slepde**), 3 **slapte, sleapte**, 6– **slept**, 7 **slep'd.**

c 825 *Vesp. Ps.* lxxv. 6 Hneapedun (*vel* slypton) slep heara. *c* 897 K. Ælfred *Gregory's Past. C.* xvi. 101 Ða he æt ðæm stane slæpte. *c* 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Luke viii. 23 Rowundum..ðæm [he] slepde. *c* 975 *Rushw. Gosp.* Matt. xiii. 25 þa hie..sleptun. *c* 1205 Lay. 25622 Þer ich lai and slapte [*c* 1275 sleapte]. *Ibid.* 26024 Lai and. slæpte. 1390 Gower *Conf.* I. 24 As Nabugodonosor slepte. 1535 Coverdale *Gen.* xli. 25 And he slepte agayne. 1617 Moryson *Itin.* I. 259 When we slept. 1648 Beaumont *Psyche* VII. ccvii, Our tender Flock, which slep'd.

β. 4, 6 **slepped, 4 sleppet, 5 sleppit.**

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 2551 Abram..Slepped. *c* 1375 *Ibid.* 3796 (Fairf.), Ful soft..he sleppet þat nigt. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 8225 He..sleppit euer after. 1513 Bradshaw *St. Werburge* II. 863 As she slepped.

γ. 4–5 **sleped, 7 sleep'd, 7–8 (9) sleeped**; *Sc.* 5–6 **slepit, 6 sleipet, 9 sleepit**; 9 *dial.* **sleept.**

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 6333 þar he sleped þat morntide. 1375 Barbour *Bruce* VII. 288 He slepit as foul on twist. 1596 Dalrymple tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* I. 93 Thay..sleipet sound. 1648 Beaumont *Psyche* VII. xlvi, When they wak'd and sleep'd. 1763 *Phil. Trans.* LIV. 18 He sleeped but indifferently. 1818 Scott *Hrt. Midl.* xlv, When I sleepit ayont the hallan. 1834 Southey *Doctor, T' Terrible Knitters e' Dent* (1848) 559 T' woman's doughter sleept we' us.

3. *Past Part.* α. 4 **y-slape, y-slepe, i-slepe, slepe**; 9 *dial.* **slepen, sleppen, slippen.**

c 1310 *St. Brendan* 130 (Harl.), þo hi hadde alle islepe ynou3. *c* 1330 *Arth. & Merl.* 2367 (Kölbing), He hadde litel yslape. 1390 Gower *Conf.* II. 99, I wolde have leie and slepe stille.

β. 4 **i-sleped, 4–6 sleped, 5 scleped, -yd**, *Sc.* **slepyt**; 5 **sleppit**, 4 **i-slept, 4– slept**, 9 *dial.* **slep.**

1362 Langl. *P. Pl.* A. v. 4 Þat I nedde sadloker I-slept [*v.r.* slept, sleped]. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 817 As he hade fast sleppit. *c* 1400 *Laud Troy Bk.* 12963 When thei hadde scleped. *c* 1470 Henry *Wallace* VI. 629 Quhen..the Scottis had slepyt. 1548 R. Hutten *Sum Divin.* R vij b, Them.. whych haue sleped.

A NEW ENGLISH DICTIONARY ON HISTORICAL PRINCIPLES

VOLUME IX. FIRST HALF. (SL—ST.)

SLEEP—SNIGGLE.

BY

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PREFATORY NOTE.

THIS double section contains 1678 Main words, 278 Combinations explained under these, and 222 Subordinate entries of obsolete or variant forms, in all 2178. The obvious Combinations, recorded and illustrated by quotations, but not requiring to be explained, number 1025 more, and bring up the total to 3203. Of the Main words, 311 are marked † as obsolete, and 8 are marked ‖ as alien or not fully naturalized.

The following figures exhibit the result of comparison with Johnson's and some recent Dictionaries:—

	Johnson.	Cassell's Encyclopædic.	Century Dict.	Funk's Standard.	Hers.
Words recorded	282	997	1404	1163	3203
Words illustrated by quotations	224	395	564	131	3066
Number of quotations	820	674	1488	189	17,387

The number of quotations in the corresponding portion of Richardson is 702.

The words contained in this portion of the Dictionary comprise about two-thirds of those beginning with SL-, the whole of SM-, and fully half of SN-. Among the words with initial SL- and SM-, which occupy about five-sixths of the space, those which are clearly or presumably of native origin are by far the most numerous and important, and include many in common use, such as *sleep, sleeve, slide, slime, slink, slow, small, smart, smear, smite, smith, smooth*, etc., together with many derivative forms. The relationship between variant forms of the same word, or different formations from the same root, is often interesting, as in the cases of *sleuth* and *sloth, slew* and *slough, smack* and *smatch, smeech* and *smeek, smoke* and *smook, smeeth* and *smooth*, etc. It is curious that *smell*, occurring very early in ME., is not recorded in OE., and not found in any of the cognate languages. The close connexion between English and Frisian is illustrated by their common use of *sleeve*, for which all the remaining Teutonic languages have other designations.

A considerable number of words in SL- and SM- are apparently of Flem., Du., or LG. origin, the proportion being larger than usual. Clear instances are *sleigh, slim* (recently re-adopted in a special sense), *sloop, slot* sb.[1], *slump* sb.[1]; those in SM- are more uncertain, but the probabilities are in favour of this source for *smack* sb.[2] and v.[2], *smelt* v., *smile, smuggle*, and *smut*.

Words of Scand. origin are chiefly prominent in SL-, where they include the related *sleight, sloyd*, and *sly, sleuth* (mainly surviving in *sleuth-hound*), *slight, sling* v.[1], and *slug*. In SM- the only important instance is *smithy*, a northern word rarely used by southern writers before the 19th century.

Most of the important words not clearly assignable to one or other of the above classes have some obscurity attaching to their origin. The majority are old, as *slender, slouch, slough* (skin, etc.), *sloven, slur* sb.[1], *slut, smatter, smoulder* (once almost extinct, but revived by Scott), *smudge*, and *smug*. A few are more recent, as the nautical *slew* or *slue*, and the (originally) slang or colloquial *slog, slum, smash*.

From other sources there are very few notable words. OF. has contributed *slee, slot* sb.[2] and sb.[3], *sluice*, and *smalt*. Greek is represented by *smaragd, smectic, smegma*, and some related forms. *Slogan* is from Sc. Gaelic, and one of its early forms has given rise to a poetic misunderstanding (see *slug-horn*).

In SN- the number of important native words is much smaller, the chief being *snail, snake*, and *sneeze* (an alteration of the earlier *fnese*). Of Scand. origin are *snag, snare, sneap*, and *snib* v.[1] The most interesting adoptions from Du., etc., are *snaphance*, and *snickersnee*; the origin of the latter is now made clear by the evidence of the early forms. The proportion of words not clearly represented in other languages (some of them obviously imitative) is fairly large, as *snaffle, snatch, sneak, sneck, sneer, sniff, snigger*, etc.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS, SIGNS, &c.

a. [in Etymol.] ... = adoption of, adopted from.
a (as *a* 1300) ..... = *ante*, before.
a., *adj.*, adj..... = adjective.
absol., absol. ..... = absolutely.
abst. ..... = abstract.
acc. ..... = accusative.
ad. [in Etymol.]... = adaptation of.
adv., adv. ..... = adverb.
advb. ..... = adverbial, -ly.
AF., AFr. ..... = Anglo-French.
Anat. ..... = in Anatomy.
Antiq. ..... = in Antiquities.
aphet. ..... = aphetic, aphetized.
app. ..... = apparently.
Arab. ..... = Arabic.
Arch. ..... = in Architecture.
arch. ..... = archaic.
Archæol. ..... = in Archæology.
assoc. ..... = association.
Astr. ..... = in Astronomy.
Astrol. ..... = in Astrology.
attrib. ..... = attributive, -ly.
bef. ..... = before.
Biol. ..... = in Biology.
Boh. ..... = Bohemian.
Bot. ..... = in Botany.
Build. ..... = in Building.
c (as *c* 1300) ..... = *circa*, about.
c. (as 13th c.)..... = century.
Cat. ..... = Catalan.
catachr. ..... = catachrestically.
Cf., cf. ..... = *confer*, compare
Chem. ..... = in Chemistry.
cl. L. ..... = classical Latin.
cogn. w. ..... = cognate with.
collect. ..... = collective, -ly.
colloq. ..... = colloquially.
comb. ..... = combined, -ing.
Comb. ..... = Combinations.
Comm. ..... = in commercial usage.
comp. ..... = compound, composition.
compl. ..... = complement.
Conch. ..... = in Conchology.
concr. ..... = concretely.
conj. ..... = conjunction.
cons. ..... = consonant.
Const., *Const.* ... = Construction, construed with.
Cryst. ..... = in Crystallography.
(D.) ..... = in Davies (Supp. Eng. Glossary).
Da. ..... = Danish.
dat. ..... = dative.
def. ..... = definite.
deriv. ..... = derivative, -ation.
dial., *dial.* ..... = dialect, -al.
Dict. ..... = Dictionary.
dim. ..... = diminutive.
Du. ..... = Dutch.
Eccl. ..... = in ecclesiastical usage.
ellipt. ..... = elliptical, -ly.
e. midl. ..... = east midland (dialect).
Eng. ..... = English.
Ent. ..... = in Entomology.
erron. ..... = erroneous, -ly.
esp., esp. ..... = especially.
etym. ..... = etymology.
euphem. ..... = euphemistically.
exc. ..... = except.
f. [in Etymol.] ... = formed on.
f. (in subordinate entries) ..... = form of.
fem. (*rarely* f.) ... = feminine.
fig. ..... = figurative, -ly.
F., Fr. ..... = French.
freq. ..... = frequently.
Fris. ..... = Frisian.
G., Ger. ..... = German.
Gael. ..... = Gaelic.
gen. ..... = genitive.
gen. ..... = general, -ly.
gen. sign. ..... = general signification.
Geol. ..... = in Geology.
Geom. ..... = in Geometry.
Goth. ..... = Gothic (= Mœso-Gothic).
Gr. ..... = Greek.
Gram. ..... = in Grammar.
Heb. ..... = Hebrew.
Her. ..... = in Heraldry.
Herb. ..... = with herbalists.
Hort. ..... = in Horticulture.
imp. ..... = Imperative.
impers. ..... = impersonal.
impf. ..... = imperfect.
ind. ..... = Indicative.
indef. ..... = indefinite.
inf. ..... = Infinitive.
infl. ..... = influenced.
int. ..... = interjection.
intr. ..... = intransitive.
It. ..... = Italian.
J., (J.) ..... = Johnson (quotation from).
(Jam.)..... = in Jamieson, Scottish Dict.
(Jod.)..... = Jodrell (quoted from).
L. ..... = Latin.
(L.)(in quotations) = Latham's edn. of Todd's lang. ..... = language. [Johnson.
LG. ..... = Low German.
lit. ..... = literal, -ly.
Lith. ..... = Lithuanian.
LXX. ..... = Septuagint.
Mal. ..... = Malay.
masc. (*rarely* m.) = masculine.
Math. ..... = in Mathematics.
ME. ..... = Middle English.
Med. ..... = in Medicine.
med.L. ..... = mediæval Latin.
Mech. ..... = in Mechanics.
Metaph. ..... = in Metaphysics.
MHG. ..... = Middle High German.
midl. ..... = midland (dialect).
Mil. ..... = in military usage.
Min. ..... = in Mineralogy.
mod. ..... = modern.
Mus. ..... = in Music.
(N.) ..... = Nares (quoted from).
n. of action..... = noun of action.
n. of agent ..... = noun of agent.
Nat. Hist. ..... = in Natural History.
Naut. ..... = in nautical language.
neut. (*rarely* n.) = neuter.
NF., NFr. ..... = Northern French.
N. O. ..... = Natural Order.
nom. ..... = nominative.
north. ..... = northern (dialect).
N. T. ..... = New Testament.
Numism. ..... = in Numismatics.
obj. ..... = object.
Obs., *obs.*, obs. ... = obsolete.
occas. ..... = occasional, -ly.
OE. ..... = Old English (= Anglo-Saxon).
OF., OFr. ..... = Old French.
OFris. ..... = Old Frisian.
OHG. ..... = Old High German.
OIr. ..... = Old Irish.
ON. ..... = Old Norse (Old Icelandic).
ONF. ..... = Old Northern French.
Opt. ..... = in Optics.
Ornith. ..... = in Ornithology.
OS. ..... = Old Saxon.
OSl. ..... = Old Slavonic.
O. T. ..... = Old Testament.
OTeut. ..... = Original Teutonic.
orig. ..... = original, -ly.
Palæont. ..... = in Palæontology.
pa. pple. ..... = passive or past participle.
pass. ..... = passive, -ly.
pa. t. ..... = past tense.
Path. ..... = in Pathology.
perh. ..... = perhaps.
Pers. ..... = Persian.
pers. ..... = person, -al.
pf. ..... = perfect.
Pg. ..... = Portuguese.
Philol. ..... = in Philology.
phonet. ..... = phonetic; -ally.
phr. ..... = phrase.
Phren. ..... = in Phrenology.
Phys. ..... = in Physiology.
pl., *pl.* ..... = plural.
poet. ..... = poetic.
pop. ..... = popular, -ly.
ppl. a., ppl. adj.... = participial adjective.
pple. ..... = participle.
Pr. ..... = Provençal.
prec. ..... = preceding (word or article).
pref. ..... = prefix.
prep. ..... = preposition.
pres. ..... = present.
Prim. sign. ..... = Primary signification.
priv. ..... = privative.
prob. ..... = probably.
pron. ..... = pronoun.
pronunc. ..... = pronunciation.
prop. ..... = properly.
Pros. ..... = in Prosody.
pr. pple. ..... = present participle.
Psych. ..... = in Psychology.
q.v. ..... = *quod vide*, which see.
(R.) ..... = in Richardson's Dict.
R. C. Ch. ..... = Roman Catholic Church.
refash. ..... = refashioned, -ing.
refl., refl. ..... = reflexive.
reg. ..... = regular.
repr. ..... = representative, representing.
Rhet. ..... = in Rhetoric.
Rom. ..... = Romanic, Romance.
sb., *sb.* ..... = substantive.
Sc. ..... = Scotch.
sc. ..... = *scilicet*, understand or supply.
sing. ..... = singular.
Skr. ..... = Sanskrit.
Slav. ..... = Slavonic.
Sp. ..... = Spanish.
sp. ..... = spelling.
spec. ..... = specifically.
subj. ..... = subject, subjunctive.
subord. cl. ..... = subordinate clause.
subseq. ..... = subsequently.
subst. ..... = substantively.
suff. ..... = suffix.
superl. ..... = superlative.
Surg. ..... = in Surgery.
Sw. ..... = Swedish.
s.w. ..... = south western (dialect).
T. (T.) ..... = in Todd's Johnson.
techn. ..... = technical, -ly.
Theol. ..... = in Theology.
tr. ..... = translation of.
trans. ..... = transitive.
transf. ..... = transferred sense.
Trig. ..... = in Trigonometry.
Typog. ..... = in Typography.
ult. ..... = ultimate, -ly.
unkn. ..... = unknown.
U.S. ..... = United States.
v., vb. ..... = verb.
v. str., or *w.* ..... = verb strong, or weak.
vbl. sb. ..... = verbal substantive.
var. ..... = variant of.
wd. ..... = word.
WGer. ..... = West Germanic.
w. midl. ..... = west midland (dialect).
WS. ..... = West Saxon.
(Y.)..... = in Col. Yule's Glossary.
Zool. ..... = in Zoology.

Before a word or sense.

† = obsolete.
‖ = not naturalized.

In the quotations.

* sometimes points out the word illustrated.

In the list of Forms.

1 = before 1100.
2 = 12th c. (1100 to 1200).
3 = 13th c. (1200 to 1300).
5-7 = 15th to 17th century. (See General Explanations, Vol. I, p. xx.)

In the Etymol.

* indicates a word or form not actually found, but of which the existence is inferred.
:— = extant representative, or regular phonetic descendant of.

The printing of a word in SMALL CAPITALS indicates that further information will be found under the word so referred to.

B. Signification.

I. *intr.* **1.** To take repose by the natural suspension of consciousness; to be in the state of sleep; to slumber. Also occas., to fall asleep.

c 825 *Vesp. Psalter* iii. 6 Ic hneappade & slepan ongón. *c* 888 K. ÆLFRED *Boeth.* xiii, Symle he bið lociende, ne slæpð he næfre. *c* 900 tr. *Baeda's Hist.* III. ix. (1890) 186 Þa geswigade he semninga & his heafod onhylde, swa swa he slapan wolde. 971 *Blickling Hom.* 149 Þa æfter þon þa arison ealle þa þe þær slepan. 1154 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1137, He ne myhte..sitten ne lien ne slepen. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 1605 He..slep and sa3 an soðe drem. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 14206 If he mai slepe, hele es at hand. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Clerk's T.* 168 She wolde noght been ydel til she slepte. *a* 1425 tr. *Arderne's Treat. Fistula*, etc. 32 Afiir refetyng of mete and drink, he went into his bedde and sleped wele all þe ni3t. 1483 CAXTON *Gold. Leg.* 126/1 How many ben there..that slepen in the market place. 1530 PALSGR. 721/1 He that drinketh well slepeth well, and he that slepeth well thynketh no harme. 1590 SHAKS. *Mids. N.* III. ii. 38, I tooke him sleeping..And the Athenian woman by his side. 1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* II. iii. v, We are never better or freer from cares than when we sleep. 1686 tr. *Chardin's Trav. Persia* 86 Nor do they ever sleep without their swords by their sides. 1746 FRANCIS tr. *Horace, Epist.* I. xviii. 66 Strange Hopes and Projects fill his Breast; He sleeps 'till Noon. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) VI. 124 The feathers of this bird..make the softest and the warmest beds to sleep on. 1841 THACKERAY *Gt. Hoggarty Diam.* xi, I wonder whether the man sleeps easily and eats with a good appetite? 1880 *Encycl. Brit.* XI. 788 The tenrec..sleeps for three months in its burrow during the hottest period of the year.

Prov. 1581 PETTIE *Guazzo's Civ. Conv.* I. (1586) 13 b, He which sleepeth with the dogges, must rise with the fleas.

fig. 1592 KYD *Sp. Trag.* I. 23 Ere Sol had slept three nights in Thetis lap. 1596 SHAKS. *Merch. V.* v. i. 109 Peace, how the Moone sleepes with Endimion.

b. Implying sexual intimacy or cohabitation.

a 900 *Laws Ælfred* Introd. § 29 (Liebermann), Ȝif hwa fæmnan beswice unbeweddode, and hire mid slæpe. *c* 1000 ÆLFRIC *Gen.* xxxix. 7 His hlæfdiȝe lufode hine and cwæð to him: Slap mid me! *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 967 Forð siðen ȝhe bi abram slep, Of hire leuedi nam ȝhe no kep. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Sir Thopas* 78 An elf queene shal my lemman be, And slepe vnder my goore. *a* 1400 *Trevisa's Higden* (Rolls) VII. 143 A clerk of þe court hadde i-sleped wiþ hire. 1819 SHELLEY *Cenci* I. iii. 63 Whilst she he loved was sleeping with his rival.

c. With *upon* or *on* (a matter), denoting the postponement of a decision till the following day. In mod. use also with *over* in the same sense.

1519 *State Papers Hen. VIII*, I. i. 3 His Grace .. sayd thatt he wold slepe and drem apon the matter, and geff me an answer apon the mornyng. 1600 HOLLAND *Livy* XLII. XXV. 1129, I will sleepe upon it and bee well advised what to doe for the best. 1668 H. MORE *Div. Dial.* III. xl, Wks. (1713) 289 It will not be amiss to consult with one's Pillow, as the Proverb is, and sleep upon 't. 1755 *Mem. Capt. P. Drake* I. xvi. 161 The Countess..assured him, that she would not let them sleep upon it. 1818 SCOTT *Bl. Lamm.* x, The deil of ony master's face he shall see till he has sleepit and waken'd on't. 1889 FROUDE *Chiefs Dunboy* xiii. 185 Colonel Goring slept upon his problem, and woke the next morning resolute.

d. In phrases denoting freedom from anxiety.

1637 MASSINGER *Guardian* II. ii, Sleep you Secure on either ear. 1677 W. HUGHES *Man of Sin* II. viii. 126 Doubt not a perfect cure:..I am securè that you may sleep on either side.

e. *To sleep like a top* (cf. 3 c).

1693 CONGREVE *Old Bachelor* I. 8 Should he seem to rouse, 'tis but well-lashing him, and he will sleep like a Top. 1793 *Gentl. Mag.* Oct. 893/2 He sleeps like a top. 1819 BYRON *Juan* II. cxxxiv, Juan slept like a top, or like the dead.

f. With *it*: To spend one's time in sleep. Also with *out*.

a 1652 BROOME *Queenes Exch.* iii, We'l..have him put in bed before he wakes.., and there, When he has slept it out, he will perhaps Be cur'd. 1760–72 H. BROOKE *Fool of Qual.* (1809) I. 58 These have nothing to do but to sleep it.

g. With *in*: To sleep in the house, or on the premises, where one is employed (contrasted with 'to sleep out'); also *Naut.*, to remain in one's berth all night; *Sc.* to oversleep.

1840 R. H. DANA *Bef. Mast* iii, The steward..and..the cook..are allowed to 'sleep in' at night, unless all hands are called. 1888 G. MACDONALD *Elect Lady* 138, I had to be up early, and I was feared I would sleep-in.

h. With *in*, in passive, of a bed.

1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* xvi, The bed ain't been slep in. 1861 FLOR. NIGHTINGALE *Notes Nursing* (ed. 2) 55, I assure you the bed has been well slept-in.

2. *fig.* To lie in death; to be at rest in the grave.

c 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Matt. xxvii. 52 And byrgenna..untyned weron &..lichoma halga wæra ða ðe slepdon arison. *c* 1000 ÆLFRIC *Hom.* II. 566 Hwi sind ða deadan slapende gecwedene?..Ealle hi moton slapan on ðam gemæneliicum deaðe. *a* 1300 *E. E. Psalter* xli. 4 Ne euer þat I slepe in dede. *c* 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 878 In pouder sal slepe ilk man, And wormes sal cover hym þan. 1382 WYCLIF *Isaiah* xiv. 18 Alle the kingus of Jentilis, eche slepten in glorie. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 8225 He slode doun sleghly, & sleppit euer after. 1548 R. HUTTEN *Sum Divin.* R vij b, Euen so wil god bring them wyth him whych haue sleped. 1567 *Gude & Godlie Ball.* (S.T.S.) 164 The bodie sleipis, quhill Domisday. 1634 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* 29 His owne people..buried him, where not a stones cast further, sleepes Tom Coriats bones. 1726 AYLIFFE *Parergon* 172 A Person is said to be dead to us,..though he only sleeps unto God. 1750 GRAY *Elegy* 16 Beneath those rugged elms..The rude Forefathers of the hamlet sleep. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. I. ii, Charlemagne sleeps at Salzburg, with truncheon grounded. 1888 BURGON *Twelve Good Men* I. Pref. p. xxviii, He sleeps..in Holywell cemetery.

3. *transf.* **a.** Of limbs: To be numb, to be devoid of sensation, esp. as the result of pressure.

c 1000 ÆLFRIC *Hom.* I. 490 Ȝif we to lange sittað, us slapað ða lima. *a* 1000 *Saxon Leechd.* II. 66 Ȝif þeoh slapan, adelf nioboweardne secg,..læt reocan on þæt lim þætte slape. *c* 1340 *Nominale* (Skeat) 595 For drede my fote slepith. *a* 1533 LD. BERNERS *Golden Bk. M. Aurelius* (1546) Gg vj, In moyste wethers one of my fyngers slepeth. 1562 TURNER *Baths* 3 b, It is good for..suche membres as are num or slepe. 1895 'SARAH TYTLER' *Macdonald Lass* xvii. 208 Oh, to be walking there, though our feet were frozen and our fingers sleeping.

b. Of plants: To be in a quiescent or drooping condition. (Cf. SLEEP *sb.* 5 a.)

[1613 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* IX. iv. (1614) 843 There are hearbes which seeme to sleepe all night.] 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XVII. 274/2 Plants are said to sleep when the flowers or leaves are..folded together. 1837 P. KEITH *Bot. Lex.* 325 These positions are not the same in the case of all leaves that sleep... Simple leaves that sleep are affected in their totality. 1880 C. & F. DARWIN *Movem. Pl.* III In all such cases the cotyledons may be said to sleep. 1899 G. MASSEE *Plant-Dis.* 328 When this stage is reached the plant droops, or 'sleeps'.

c. Of a top: (see quot. 1854).

1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss.* 245 A top sleeps when it moves with such velocity, and spins so smoothly, that its motion is imperceptible. 1879 THOMSON & TAIT *Nat. Phil.* I. I. § 106 It is the case of a common spinning-top,..not sleeping upright, nor nodding.

4. *fig.* To be dormant, inert, inactive, inoperative, or quiescent.

Very common during the 19th cent. in various contexts.

c 897 K. ÆLFRED tr. *Gregory's Past. C.* lvi. 431 Swa hit gebyreð ðæt ðæt mod slæpð ðæs ðe hit wacian sceolde, & wacað ðæs ðe hit slapan scolde. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 272 Hwon þe olde unwine isihð ure skile slepen. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 25855 Let þi sin noght wit þe slepe. 13.. *Polit. Songs, Song of Husbandman* (Camden) 152 Mi lond leye lith ant leorneth to slepe. *c* 1425 LYDG. *Assembly of Gods* 1258 For he demyd sewerly hys sorow shuld nat slepe. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 183 Not withstandynge yᵗ this errour hath sleped thus longe,..these presumptuous heretykes now of dayes wolde renewe yᵉ same. 1597 SKENE *De Verb. Sign.* s.v. *Annexation*, Induring the time of the quhilk dissolution, the annexation ceases & sleepis. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* 353 This title slept and lay as dead untill the time of King Edward the Second. 1650 E. W. *Virginia* (1844) 32 A man and a boy, if their hands be not sleeping in their pockets [etc.]. 1784 COWPER *Task* v. 204 Violence can never longer sleep Than human passions please. 1855 BAIN *Senses & Int.* III. iv. § 10 When any emotion not entirely wanting is yet allowed to sleep in the character. 1869 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* (1875) III. 113 The restless enmity of the Angevin never slept.

b. Of business, etc.: To cease to go forward; to remain in the same state.

1550 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* I. 98 The said mater had slepit of langtyme. 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 221 That tyme was the king occupyed with affaires of warre, & therfore the matter slept. 1649 *Nicholas Papers* (Camden) 165 There is a bussines hath slept some while in my hands, but I have not beene idle in itt, 1683 TEMPLE *Mem. 1672–9* Wks. 1720 I. 380 That Matter slept for the present. 1712 ADDISON *Spectator* No. 297 § 10 He should certainly never let his Narration sleep for the sake of any Reflections of his own. 1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* xvi, My suit should sleep there,..and with my suit my revenge. 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xiii. III. 256 The question, having slept during eighteen years, was suddenly revived by the Revolution.

c. To rest peacefully and quietly; to remain calm, still, or motionless.

1596 SHAKS. *Merch. V.* v. i. 54 How sweet the moone-light sleepes vpon this banke. 1700 DRYDEN *Cymon & Iph.* 342 The giddy ship..stops, and sleeps again. 1781 COWPER *Retirement* 536 Then, all the world of waters sleeps again. 1826 DISRAELI *V. Grey* v. viii, The blue..sea was sleeping beneath a cloudless sky. 1852 THACKERAY *Esmond* III. vii, Past the river, on which a mist still lay sleeping. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.* 631 A sail sleeps when, steadily filled with wind, it bellies to the breeze.

5. *fig.* To be careless, remiss, or idle; to live thoughtlessly or carelessly.

1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) V. 57 Ȝif eny..putteþ errour aȝenst us, he may take hede þat þe grete Homerus sleþeþ somtyme. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VI*, 86 The duke of Yorke and his adherentes..determined..no lenger to sleepe in so waightie a businesse. *c* 1600 MONTGOMERIE *Cherrie & Slae* 1560 Then let us remuve, And sleip naé mair in sleuth. 1624 MASSINGER *Renegado* I. i, So shall you find me Most ready to assist you; neither have I Slept in your great occasions. *a* 1732 ATTERBURY (J.), We sleep over our happiness, and want to be rouzed into a quick thankful sense of it.

II. *trans.* **6.** With cognate object: To take rest in, continue in (sleep).

To sleep a dog-sleep: see DOG-SLEEP 1.

c 825 *Vesp. Ps.* lxxv. 6 Hneapedun (*vel* slypton) slep heara. *a* 1300 *E. E. Psalter* lxxv. 5 Þai slepe þair napping. 1382 WYCLIF *Jer.* li. 39 Y shal drunkne hem, that thei..slepen an euere durende slep. *c* 1475 *Partenay* 5463 He ther slepte no slepe, manly waked ryght. 1552 ELYOT s.v. *Edormiscere*, Whyle he dooeth sleape one sleape. 1611 BIBLE *Ps.* xiii. 3 Lighten mine eyes, lest I sleep the sleepe of death. 1791 COWPER *Retired Cat* 48 She left the cares of life behind, And slept as she would sleep her last. 1810 SCOTT *Lady of L.* I. xxxi, Sleep the sleep that knows not breaking! 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* xliii, Sir Michael was sleeping the sleep of the just. 1897 WATTS-DUNTON *Aylwin* IX. vi, Turning into bed, [I] slept my first peaceful sleep since my trouble.

b. *To sleep a wink*, usually with negative.

1542 UDALL *Erasm. Apoph.* 316 A good vigilaunt Consul ..whiche never slept one wynke duryng..his Consulship. 1609 HOLLAND *Amm. Marcell.* 260 Not one of us durst either sit downe, or sleepe one winke for very feare. 1711 SWIFT *Jrnl. to Stella* 13 Nov., I slept not a wink last night for hawking and spitting. 1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* xlvi, I shall not sleep a wink the less sound. 1840 THACKERAY *Shabby-genteel Story* ix, He..did not sleep one single wink all night.

†**7.** To put off or delay; to disregard, pay no attention to. Also with *out*. *Obs.*

1470 *Paston Lett.* II. 398, I pray yow let not thys mater be slept. 1523 LD. BERNERS *Froiss.* I. cclxi. 385 So these companyons..slept nat their purpose, but rode in a day and a night. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VI*, 123 These valeaunt capitaines, not myndyng to slepe their busines, environed the toune with a strong siege. 1600 HOLLAND *Livy* XXIII. xiv. 482 They might not sleepe their affaires and go slowly about their businesse. 1624 HEYWOOD *Gunaik.* IV. 179 To persuade men to too much remisnes in wincking at and sleeping out the adulteries of their wives. 1792 T. PAINE *Writ.* (1895) III. 79 It appeared to me extraordinary that any body of men..should commit themselves so precipitately, or 'sleep obedience'.

†**8.** To digest by means of sleep. *Obs.*—[1]

1481 CAXTON *Reynard* (Arb.) 63 Is your bely ful?..haue ye slepte your dyner?

9. a. With *off* or †*out*: To get rid of, remove the effects of, by sleeping.

1552 ELYOT, *Edormire crapulam*, to sleape out a surfet. 1611 SHAKS. *Wint. T.* IV. iii. 31 For the life to come, I sleepe out the thought of it. 1760 C. JOHNSTON *Chrysal* (1822) II. 29 He had scarce slept off his debauch. 1780 *Mirror* No. 106, Thus were Clavius's nights spent in getting intoxicated, and his mornings in sleeping off that intoxication. 1852 THACKERAY *Esmond* III. viii, In the morning, after he had slept his wine off, he was very gay. 1871 G. MEREDITH *H. Richmond* xiii, This piece of nonsense helped us to sleep off our gloom.

b. With *away*: To remove, get rid of, lose, or waste by sleeping.

1565 COOPER *Thesaurus* s.v. *Crapula*, To vomitte or sleape away his dronkennesse. 1592 KYD *Sp. Trag.* III. xv, Thou art ill aduisde To sleepe away what thou art warnd to watch. 1687 MIÈGE *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II. s.v., To sleep away Sorrow. *Ibid.*, To sleep his Head-ake away. *a* 1716 SOUTH in Chambers *Cycl. Eng. Lit.* (1844) I. 444/1 He..may possibly go to bed with a wonderful stock of good-nature over-night, but then he will sleep it all away again before the morning. 1819 SCOTT *Bl. Dwarf* xiii, I am tired of a party that does nothing but form bold resolutions over night, and sleep them away with their wine before morning. 1828 H. BLUNT *Lect. Hist. Jacob* (1832) 160 He will no more permit his children..to *sleep* away their souls, than..to *sin* them away.

c. *refl.* To make (oneself) *sober* by sleeping. Also simply, to sleep.

1565 COOPER s.v. *Crapula*, To sleape him selfe sober. 1619 HARRIS *Drunkard's Cup* 19 Hee hath slept himselfe sober. 1720 DE FOE *Duncan Campbell* v. § 2 Whensoever he is drunk and has slept himself sober. 1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* xxxiii, He retreated down to his own den to conclude his lamentations, or to sleep himself sober. 1888 *Pall Mall G.* 25 Oct. 3/2 [The cats] philosophically slept themselves through the two exhibition days.

10. With *out* or *away*: To pass or spend (a certain time) in sleep.

1565 COOPER s.v. *Edormiscere*, To sleape out one sleape. 1601 SHAKS. *All's Well* v. iii. 66 Shamefull hate sleepes out the afternoone. 1649 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Wand. West* 20, There I sleeped out the later end of the whole Moneth of July. 1766 C. BEATTY *Tour* (1768) 37 Sleeped and waked the night away as well as we could. 1778 PRYCE *Min. Cornub.* 178 When a pair of men went under-ground formerly, they made it a rule, to sleep out a candle, before they set about their work.

b. Without adverb, *rare*.

1613 SHAKS. *Hen. VIII*, Epil., Some come to take their ease, And sleepe an Act or two. 1647 J. ELIOT *Day-Breaking Gosp.* 17 None of them slept Sermon or derided Gods messenger. 1721 BRADLEY *Philos. Acc. Wks. Nat.* 77 These Birds, which sleep the Winter.

c. In nonce-uses (see quots.).

1606 SHAKS. *Ant. & Cl.* II. ii. 181 We did sleepe day out of countenaunce. 1655 VAUGHAN *Silex Scint.* (1900) 57 Yet never sleep the Sun up.

11. To cause to sleep or to fall asleep.

1815 SOUTHEY *Common-Pl. Bk.* IV. 402 He was in such pain that the doctors *sleeped* him to death. 1850 LATHAM *Eng. Lang.* (ed. 3) xvii. 445 When we say, *the opiate slept the patient*, meaning thereby, *lulled to sleep*.

12. To provide with sleeping accommodation.

1884 *Local Govt. Chron.* 8 Mar. 181 The new Patent Sanitary Hammock is superseding every other mode of sleeping Vagrants. 1895 *Sun* 29 Dec. 3/3 The parents, owing to poverty, had to sleep their children in the same bed as themselves.

Sleep-at-noon. (See quots.)

1779 *Gentl. Mag.* XLIX. 127 The common yellow goat's-beard of our meadows, which by old authors was called Sleep at Noon, or, Go to bed at Noon. 1863 PRIOR *Brit. Pl., Sleep-at-noon*, from its flowers closing at midday, the goat's beard.

Sleeper (slī·pəɹ). Also 3–5 **slepar**(e, 4–5 **sleper**(e, 6 **sleaper**. [f. SLEEP *v.* + -ER[1]. Cf. Fris. *slieper*, (M)Du. *slaper*, (M)LG. *slaper*, *sleper*, MHG. *slâfære*, G. *schläfer*. With the transferred applications of the word in branch II cf. DORMANT *a.* 3 and *sb.* 1 and DORMER 3.]

I. 1. One who is inclined to sleep, or spends much time in sleep; one who sleeps (well or ill, etc.); also *fig.*, an indolent or inactive person.

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 258 A3ean slowe & slepares is swuðe open-lich his earlich ariste from deað to liue. *c* 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 319 Ho-so hath of þe watere mest, he schal beo..gret slepare and slovȝ þar-to. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Nun's Pr. T.* 71 Ye been a verray sleper, fy for shame! 1422 tr. *Secreta Secret., Priv. Priv.* 229 Heuy ey-liddys tokenyth good slepere.

c 1440 *Alph. Tales* cclxxxv. 197 Cesarius tellis of ane olde monk þat was a grete sleper. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Edw. I*, 13 b, The protectour came in emong theim about nyne of ye cloke,..saiyng merely that he had bene a sleper that daye. 1611 COTGR. s.v. *Regnard*, Morning sleepers seldome thriue. *a* 1711 GREW (J.), He must be no great eater, drinker, nor sleeper, that will discipline his senses, and exert his mind. 1838 DICKENS *Nickleby* xxii, The sound of ineffectual knocking at the doors of heavy sleepers. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* xxx, Being a great sleeper, and fond of his bed. 1897 WATTS-DUNTON *Aylwin* xv. i, I was always a sound sleeper.

† b. Used predicatively: Asleep. *Obs.*—[1]

1530 PALSGR. 441 Whan he thynketh leste, he may happe to be taken sleper.

2. One who is asleep. Also *fig.*, a dead person.

1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* I. i. 43 He bids thee to him send..A fit false dreame, that can delude the sleepers sent. 1606 SHAKS. *Ant. & Cl.* IV. ix. 31 Hearke the Drummes demurely wake the sleepers. 1610 — *Temp.* v. i. 49 Graues at my command Haue wak'd their sleepers. 1725 POPE *Odyss.* x. 667 Full endlong from the roof the sleeper fell. 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xvi. III. 639 Before the early dawn of midsummer, the sleepers were roused by the peal of trumpets. 1865 TROLLOPE *Belton Est.* viii. 90 To place themselves at such a distance from the sleeper, that their low words could hardly disturb her.

b. *spec.* in *pl.* (See SEVEN *a.*)

1827 JEFFREY *Let.* xcvii. in Ld. Cockburn *Life*, I shall come back to you like one of the sleepers awaked. 1868 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* (1877) II. x. 518 By his orders the tomb of the holy sleepers at Ephesos was opened.

3. *Zool.* a. A dormouse. Now chiefly *dial.*

1693 RAY *Syn. Quad.* 220 *Mus Avellanarum Minor*...The Dormouse or Sleeper. [Hence in Chambers, Pennant, etc.] 1804 CHARLOTTE SMITH *Conversat.*, etc. I. 74 To make you ample amends, and add a little sleeper, as the country people call it, to your collection of minor poetry. 1827 GRIFFITH tr. *Cuvier* V. 221 Dormouse or Sleeper. 1880 MRS. O'REILLY *Sussex Stories* I. 4 Ralph the woodman had brought home a nest of 'sleepers'.

b. As the name of various fishes (see quots.). Also *attrib.*

1668 CHARLETON *Onomast.* 135 *Excætus..Adonis*; the Sleeper. 1854 *Eng. Cycl., Nat. Hist.* I. 502 *E[leotris] dormatrix*, the Sleeper, is a large fish. It is found in the West Indian marshes. 1882 JORDAN & GILBERT *Syn. Fishes N. Amer.* 15 *Somniosus microcephalus*, Sleeper Shark; Nurse. *Ibid.* 631 *Eleotris gyrinus*,..Sleeper. *Ibid.* 632 *Dormitator maculatus*, Sleeper. 1884 GOODE *Nat. Hist. Aquat. Anim.* 675 The Nurse Shark or Sleeper.

4. A thing in a dormant or dead state.

1625 BACON *Ess.*, *Of Judicature*, Let Penall Lawes, if they haue beene Sleepers of long,..be by Wise Iudges confined in the Execution. 1823 E. MOOR *Suffolk Words* 360 *Sleeper*, the dead stub of a tree, in a bank, etc. 1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss., Sleepers*,..such grains of barley as do not vegetate whilst undergoing the process of malting. 1897 R. F. FOSTER *Compl. Hoyle* 623 *Sleeper*, a bet left or placed on a dead card at Faro.

5. A railway sleeping-car. Also *attrib.*

1882 G. A. SALA *Amer. Revisited* II. 2 The Cerberus of the 'sleeper' is always bringing you the wrong boots. 1892 HOWELLS *Mercy* 214 He recalled the long, all-night ride without a sleeper, which he had once made on that route.

II. 6. A strong horizontal beam or balk supporting a wall, joist, floor, or other main part of a building.

1607 MARKHAM *Caval.* v. 4 All along as your sleepers lye to which you pinne downe the boards, must a trench or sinke be digged. 1675 V. ALSOP *Anti-sozzo* 356 Had he used only Sycamores, they had never been turned into Cedars by being Sleepers in the wall. 1717 in *Trans. Cumb. & Westm. Archæol. Soc.* III. 199 For binding ye sleepers about ye eastermost pillar, o. 3. o. 1794 T. DAVIS *Agric. Wilts.* 97 The..material for barn-floors in this district is, two-inch oak plank, laid on oak sleepers. 1805 R. W. DICKSON *Pract. Agric.* I. 47 In this way floors are made more secure, and freer from damps, than where they are nailed down to sleepers. 1851 J. S. MACAULAY *Field Fortif.* 154 The sleepers and joists which bear on the walls should be shored up, so that..the partial fall of the walls may not of necessity be followed by that of the several floors. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* I. 79/2 The heads of the piles are cut off at one level; sleepers are laid across and fastened to them.

† b. A valley-rafter in a roof. (See also quot. 1688.) *Obs.*

1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 450/1 Sleepers [are] the two out pieces of the Dormant, which carrieth the Roof to overseil the Gable end, to secure it from Weather. 1703 R. NEVE *City & C. Purchaser* 166 Hips and Sleepers, are almost the same; only the Sleepers lie in the Vallies. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. App., *Sleeper*, in building, a name used for the oblique rafter that lies in a gutter. 1811 *Self Instructor* 137 In sawing bevil work, as hipps, sleepers, &c. [1842 GWILT *Encycl. Arch.* 1049 The old writers called the valley rafters *sleepers*.]

7. a. *Shipbuilding.* A strong internal timber in a ship (see quots.).

1626 CAPT. SMITH *Accid. Yng. Seamen* 9 For clamps, middle bands and sleepers, they be all of 6. inch planke for binding within. 1627 — *Seaman's Gram.* ii. 3 The sleepers run before and after on each side the keeleson, on the floore well bolted to the Foot-hookes. 1750 BLANCKLEY *Naval Expos.* 153 Sleepers are commonly three Strakes of Foot Waaling thicker than the rest, wrought over the Wrungheads. 1769 FALCONER *Dict. Mar.* (1780), *Sleepers*, a name formerly given by shipwrights to the thick-stuff placed longitudinally in a ship's hold, opposite to the several scarfs of the timbers. It is now properly applied to the knees, which connect the transoms to the after-timbers on the ship's quarter. 1846 A. YOUNG *Naut. Dict.* 285 *Sleepers*, or *Engine-bearers*,..pieces of timber placed between the keelson or keelson-riders in a steam ship, and the boilers of the steam-engine to form a proper seat for the boilers and machinery. *c* 1850 *Rudim. Navig.* (Weale) 148 *Sleepers*, pieces of compass timber fayed and bolted upon the transoms and timbers adjoining, withinside, to strengthen the buttock of the ship. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.* 631 Sleepers..are particularly used in Greenland ships, to strengthen the bows and stern-frame.

b. *Naut.* (See quot. 1882.)

c 1860 H. STUART *Seaman's Catech.* 76 The whole tops have the crosstrees, tops, and sleepers, bolted and secured before sending aloft. 1882 NARES *Seamanship* (ed. 6) 8 *Sleepers.*—Two cross-pieces over the top, to secure it down to the crosstrees and trestletrees.

8. a. *Mil.* A piece of timber forming one of the rests of a wooden platform for artillery.

1688 CAPT. J. S. *Fortification* 69 Platforms..where Timber and Wood is reasonable, are all made of Plank and Sleepers [and] Joyces to lay them upon. 1702 *Milit. Dict.* s.v. *Battery*, It is laid with Planks and Sleepers for them [*sc.* the cannon] to rest on. 1794 NELSON 9 July in Nicolas *Disp.* (1845) I. 431 If sleepers can be got, the platforms are undoubtedly much the better for them. 1802 JAMES *Milit. Dict.* s.v. *Platform*, Planks of oak or elm..nailed or pinned on..beams, from 4 to 7 inches square, called sleepers. 1879 *Man. Artill. Exerc.* 82 Where sleepers are used,..the five sleepers are laid at right angles to the hurter.

b. A piece of timber or other material used to form a support (usually transverse) for the rails of a tramway or railway.

In early railways *longitudinal* or *continuous sleepers* were frequently employed.

1789 BRAND *Newcastle* II. 687 *note*, After the road is formed, pieces of timber,..called sleepers, are laid across it...Upon these sleepers other pieces of timber, called rails,.. are laid. 1798 *Term Rep.* VII. 599 To the sleepers or dormant timbers they affixed railways or waggon ways. 1837 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* I. 1/1 (Railways), The rails are.. fixed in cast-iron chairs,..which are spiked down to the sleepers. *Ibid.* 2/1 Longitudinal timber sleepers. 1862 *Chambers's Jrnl.* Apr. 216 The pony roads..are laid with sleepers, on which rails are placed for the corves to travel over. 1889 G. FINDLAY *Hist. Eng. Rlwy.* 46 The permanent way consists of wooden sleepers, laid transversely.

c. A strong longitudinal beam in a wooden bridge, supporting the transverse planks or logs.

1823 COOPER *Pioneers* xxi, A little bridge, formed of round logs laid loosely on sleepers of pine. 1841 EMERSON *Ess., Spiritual Laws*, One piece of the tree is cut for a weather-cock, and one for the sleeper of a bridge.

d. In general use: A horizontal beam, plank, etc., used to support any weighty body.

1848 LAYARD *Nineveh* xii. (1850) 290 These were placed upon sleepers or half beams,..laid on the ground parallel to the sculpture. 1879 *Man. Artill. Exerc.* 407 Skids should be supported on soft ground by laying sleepers of planks or fascines for them to rest on.

9. In miscellaneous uses: (see quots.).

1662 MERRETT tr. *Neri's Art of Glass* 364 *Sleepers* are the great Iron bars crossing smaller ones which hinder the passing of the coals, but give passage to the descent of the ashes. 1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss., Slats*, the sleepers or rails to support the bed of a cart. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2206/2 *Sleeper* (Weaving), the upper part of the heddle of a draw-loom through which the threads pass. 1892 P. H. EMERSON *Son of Fens* xviii. 181 We got inter the lock all right, shut the doors, and hulled up the sleepers to let the water out again.

10. *attrib.*, as *sleeper-block, -wall, -wood.*

1836 PARKER *Gloss. Archit.* (1850) I. 429 The walls which support these timbers are called sleeper-walls. 1884 *Health Exhib. Catal.* 93/2 Air Bricks, Sleeper Blocks, &c. 1893 *Archæologia* LIII. 551 The corresponding sleeper wall of the eastern colonnade.

Hence **Slee·pered** *a.*, furnished with sleepers.

1894 *Times* 13 Sept. 8/8 He does not think the accident could possibly have happened if the newly-sleepered portion of the line had become firm. 1900 *Daily News* 12 Mar. 5/4 The blundering of the mules along the sleepered platform.

Slee·pery, *a. north.* and *Sc.* Now *rare.* Forms: 6 **slep(e)rie, -ry, sleipry,** 6–7 **slipp(e)rie,** 9 **sleep(e)ry, -'ry.** [prob. ad. MLG. *sleperich, slaperich*, or MDu. *slaperich* (Du. *slaperig*), = OHG. *slâfarag* (MHG. *slâf-, slæfric*, G. *schläfrig*).]

† 1. Inducing sleep; soporiferous; characterized by a tendency to sleep. *Obs.*

1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* v. xiv. 52 This god smat baith his tymplis twane With a full slepry..grane. 1561 HOLLYBUSH *Hom. Apoth.* 4 b, A slouggish or slepery disease.

2. Of persons: Inclined to sleep; sleepy.

1535 COVERDALE *Isaiah* v. 27 There is not one faynt nor feble amonge them, no not a slogish nor slepery parsone. 1556 LAUDER *Tractate* 287 3e sulde nocht chuse vnto that cure..No sleprie hird. *a* 1598 ROLLOCK 1 *Thess.* (1606) 127 Of all sorts of men in the world a slipprie pastor, a carelesse man in the ministrie, is the worst. *c* 1802 SURTEES in Scott *Minstrelsy* I. 186 Sleep'ry Sim of the Lamb-hill,..my wae wakens na you. 1815 SCOTT *Guy M.* iii, If you..are not very sleepry. 1894 in Heslop *Northumbld. Gloss.*

Slee·pful, *a.* [f. SLEEP *sb.* + -FUL.]

1. Of persons or animals: Sleepy. *rare.*

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* v. iii. (Bodl. MS.), Bestes þat haue to gret brayne been slepeful. 1635 W. SCOTT *Ess. Drapery* 138 Distrust will cure a Lethargie, of a sleepfull man it makes a wakefull one.

2. Marked by sleep; restful through sleep.

1827 MRS. OPIE in Brightwell *Life* (1854) 200 Had a sweet sleepful and favoured night. 1860 N. MCMICHAEL *Pilgr. Psalms* 101 Sleep is more sleepful for long tortures sore. 1884 MRS. S. C. VENN *Dailys of Sodden Fen* iii, Busy days and sleepful nights.

Hence **Slee·pfulness,** sleepiness.

1818 TODD, *Sleepfulness*, strong desire to sleep. 1853 MISS E. S. SHEPPARD *Ch. Auchester* I. 281 The feeling of a knife and fork you cannot manage for sleepfulness. 1890 *Illustr. Lond. News* 30 Aug. 266/1 Dissipating..the last mists of my sleepfulness.

Slee·pifying, *ppl. a.* [f. SLEEP *sb.*] Inducing or causing sleep.

1662 J. CHANDLER *Van Helmont's Oriat.* 338 Why are not hot things judged to be alike Stupefactive and Dormitive or Sleepifying? 1695 T. TRYON *Dreams* App. 288 Madness is nothing but an Erring Sleepifying Power, because every Madman dreameth waking. 1835 BECKFORD *Alcobaça & Batalha* 4 The old Marquis of Marialva's most sleepifying dormeuse, which had been lent to him expressly for this trying occasion.

Sleepily (slī·pĭli), *adv.* [f. SLEEPY *a.* + -LY [2].] In a sleepy manner, drowsily; also, calmly, quietly.

1607 S. HIERON *Wks.* I. 117 If it bee heard idlely, carelesly, scornefully, sleepily. 1688 *Answ. Talon's Plea* 9 He carries himself sleepily, and as if he were in a Lethargy, towards the Quietists. 1856 KANE *Arctic Expl.* I. xxix. 384 The renewed chorus..mingling itself sleepily in my dreams. 1873 BLACK *Pr. Thule* x. 161 That great extent of wooded plain, lying sleepily in its pale mists.

Sleepiness (slī·pinės). [f. as prec. + -NESS.]

1. The state of being sleepy; drowsiness; inclination to sleep; sluggishness, indolence.

1580 HOLLYBAND *Treas. Fr. Tong, Endormissement*, sleepinesse, sluggishnesse. *a* 1586 SIDNEY *Arcadia* III. Wks. 1724 II. 680 Presenting a heavy sleepiness in her countenance. 1662 R. MATHEW *Unl. Alch.* 91 There is a sleepiness or dulness the next day in many that takes it. 1671 SALMON *Syn. Med.* I. xliii. 97 Sleepiness shews Cold and Moisture of the Brain. 1773 WILKES *Corr.* (1805) IV. 147 The symptom of her sleepiness is very alarming. 1860 SENIOR *Conversat.* (1880) I. 112, I have pitied poor little things of four or five years old dying from sleepiness, but kept up till nine. 1874 L. STEPHEN *Hours Libr.* (1892) II. vii. 233 [He] is mentally contrasting the sleepiness of the bishops with the virtues of Newton or Whitefield.

2. Numbness; absence of sensation. *rare*—[0].

1647 HEXHAM 1, Sleepinesse or benummednesse of mem. bres, *slaperigheyt der leden.*

3. Of cream: (see SLEEPY *a.* 1 c, quot. 1885).

1885 J. LONG *Brit. Dairy-Farm.* 85 What other change of the cream is connected with the 'sleepiness' he has not found out.

Sleeping (slī·pĭŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. SLEEP *v.*]

1. The fact, state, or condition of being asleep; an instance or occasion of this.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 11583 þar ioseph on his sleping lai. 1362 LANGL. *P. Pl.* A. Prol. 10, I slumberde in a slepyng. *c* 1400 tr. *Secreta Secret., Gov. Lordsh.* 57 Wille þou noght folowe þy delyces yn etynge and drynkynge,..ne longe slepynge. *c* 1440 *Alph. Tales* 91 þis womman layde hur down..& slepyd, & in hur slepyng sho dyed. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 126 The visyons..& inspiracyons of the holy goost, eyther in slepynge or wakynge. 1576 FLEMING *Panopl. Epist.* 221 As I say of this, so I say of nightly sleepings taken abusiuely. *a* 1613 OVERBURY *A Wife*, etc. (1638) 285 Often sleepings are so many tryals to dye. 1651 R. CHILD in *Hartlib's Legacy* (1655) 66 That you may better understand their several sicknesses or sleepings. 1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* I. (Globe) 270 The Fellow..was between sleeping and waking. 1796 *Plain Sense* (ed. 2) III. 189 These frequent sleepings, exposed to the open air,..made more substantial cloathing necessary. 1886 GURNEY *Phantasms of Living* I. 389 These experiences, which occur on the borderland of sleeping and waking.

b. In *transf.* or *fig.* senses.

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* VII. lvii. (Bodl. MS.), þey [that] haue þe stone in þe reynes feleþ in that place tyngling and slepyng for stopping of þe senewe. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 344/2 Slepynge in ye lymmes, *artesis*. 1613 SHAKS. *Hen. VIII*, II. iv. 163 You euer Haue wish'd the sleeping of this busines. 1838 W. BELL *Dict. Law Scot.* 919 *Sleeping of Process.* In the..Court of Session, a process..is said to be asleep, when a year and day have elapsed [etc.].

2. *attrib.* a. With words denoting places used for sleeping in, as *sleeping apartment, -box, -cabin, -car, -chamber*, etc.

1825 SCOTT *Betrothed* Concl., Receiving Damian de Lacy into her *sleeping apartment. 1847 H. MELVILLE *Omoo* i, Into a wretched 'bunk' or *sleeping-box. 1833 T. HOOK *Parson's Dau.* III. xi, Here was the governor's *sleeping-cabin. 1839 *Mechanic's Mag.* 5 Jan. 240 The introduction of the newly-invented *sleeping cars on our railroads. 1814 SCOTT *Diary* 30 July in *Lockhart* (1837) III. iv. 137 Then the kitchen of the people,..then their *sleeping-chamber. 1852 THACKERAY *Esmond* I. iv, A small chamber where.. Harry Esmond [had] his *sleeping closet. 1889 *Pall Mall G.* 7 Feb. 7/1 The passengers say that an axle first broke under a *sleeping coach. 1656 PHILLIPS *Purch. Pattern* (1676) 11 *Sleeping holes to defend them from..the weather. 1688 STRADLING *Serm.* (1692) 185 What are Church-yards but κοιμητήρια, *Sleeping-houses. 1870 EMERSON *Soc. & Solitude* v. 98 An eating-house and sleeping-house for travellers. 1869 WALLACE *Malay Archip.* (ed. 10) 272 The skeleton of his little *sleeping-hut remained. 1565 COOPER *Thesaurus, Dormitorium*, a dortour: a *sleapynge place. 1688 MIÉGE, *Dortoir*,..the sleeping Place in a Monastery. 1840 *Cottager's Manual* 35 in *Husb.* III. (L.U.K.), To keep the pigs dry, a sufficient slope must be given..to the floor of the..sleeping-place. 1727 BOYER *Dict. Royal* 1, *Dortoir*,.. the *Sleeping Room in a Monastery. 1789 J. MAY *Jrnl. & Lett.* (1873) 125, I often find..the air of the sleeping-rooms thick and ropy. 1753 HANWAY *Trav.* II. xi. (1762) I. 52, I provided myself with a *sleeping waggon, and..took post for St. Petersburg.

b. With names of articles used for sleeping in, on, or with, as *sleeping-bag, -gear, -mat*, etc.

Hexham (1648), rendering Du. combs. in *slaep-*, has *sleeping-bank, -bed, -cap, -coif, -kerchief*, etc.

1856 KANE *Arctic Expl.* I. xvi. 196 We crawled into our reindeer *sleeping-bags. *Ibid.* viii. 89 We had buffalo-robes for our *sleeping-gear. 1836–7 DICKENS *Sk. Boz, Scenes* xxv, A row of large hooks,..on each of which was hung the *sleeping-mat of a prisoner. 1856 KANE *Arctic Expl.* II. xvi. 168

Two buffalo-robes..forming *sleeping-sacks for the occasion. 1622 T. Scott *Belg. Pismire* 12 Salomon the Preacher.. rowseth him vp from that *sleeping-stoole of his. 1897 Capt.-Surg. Hughes *Medit. Fever* v. 178 The *sleeping-suit (be it pyjamas or night-dress). 1897 *Outing* XXIX. 335/2 An elk-skin contrivance, miscalled a 'sleeping-suit'.

c. In the sense of 'inducing sleep', as *sleeping cordial, cup, -draught*, etc. Cf. Sleeping *ppl. a.* 2.

1398 Trevisa *Barth. De P. R.* xvii. civ. (Bodl. MS.), Mandragora is a slepinge herbe. 1568 Grafton *Chron.* II. 218 By the meane of a sleapyng poyson or drinke that he gaue to his kepers..he escaped. 1592 Shaks. *Rom. & Jul.* v. iii. 244 Then gaue I her..A sleeping Potion. 1709 E. W. *Donna Rosina* 120 Some sleeping Powders to be administered to Crispin. 1810 Crabbe *Borough* vii. 222 She gave her powerful sweet without remorse, The sleeping cordial. 1819 Scott *Ivanhoe* vi, Offer the sleeping cup to this holy man. 1829 — *Anne of G.* xix, To hand round to the company a sleeping-drink, or pillow-cup. 1838 Mrs. Carlyle *Lett.* I. 97 Any sort of sleeping-draught, which had no opium in it.

d. Denoting morbid states, as *sleeping disease, evil*; **sleeping sickness**, now *spec.* a fatal disease prevalent in some parts of Africa (cf. Sleepy 2 b).

(*a*) 1398 Trevisa *Barth. De P. R.* xvii. iii. (Bodl. MS.), Floures isode in oile awakeþ ham þat haue..þe sleeping yuel. 1580 Blundevil *Horsemanship* iv. xix, Of the Sleeping euill. 1639 T. de Gray *Compl. Horsem.* 69 The takings, sleeping-evil, madnesse, and the like.

(*b*) *a* 1586 Sidney *Arcadia* ii. (Sommer) 167 As I haue seene one that was sick of a sleeping disease, could not be made wake, but with pinching of him. 1899 Massee *Plant-Dis.* 328 The disease is indicated by the dull colour of the leaves [of the tomato], which commence to droop; this is quickly followed by a collapse of the stem, hence the name 'sleeping disease'.

(*c*) 1647 W. Jenkyn (*title*), A Sleeping Sicknes the distemper of the Times. 1875 Gore in *Brit. Med. Jrnl.* 2 Jan. 5/1 The Sleeping Sickness of Western Africa. 1897 Manson in *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* II. 485 Sleeping sickness is a disease of the central nervous system; beri-beri of the peripheral.

e. In misc. use, as *sleeping-hall, hour, posture, stage, -tide, time*.

1456 *Paston Lett.* I. 390 Writan in my slepyng tyme at after none, on Wytsonday. *c* 1560 Bp. Pilkington *Exp. Nehem.* xvi. 21 At noone he must haue his sleeping time. 1590 Shaks. *Mids. N.* iii. ii. 8 While she was in her dull and sleeping hower. 1656 Blount *Glossogr.* s. v. *Dormant*, A Lyon..lying in a sleeping posture. 1856 Kane *Arctic Expl.* II. xxix. 289 At one of our sleeping-halts upon the rocks. 1887 Morris *Odyss.* iv. 105 When memory maketh loathly my meat and my sleeping-tide. 1899 Massee *Plant-Dis.* 328 Shortly after the sleeping stage has been reached.

Sleeping (slī·piŋ), *ppl. a.* [f. Sleep *v.*]

1. That is asleep; slumbering. Also *absol.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 21075 And als a slepand aends oft, It bers þe pudre vp o-loft. *a* 1400 *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* xxiii. 1129 Þe geaunt..þat wel a-wakeþ þe slepynge Of sleep of deþ so long. 1562 Winjet *Wks.* (S.T.S.) I. 3 Sleuthfull marinaris and sleipand sterismen. 1590 Shaks. *Mids. N.* ii. i. 170 The iuyce of it, on sleeping eye-lids laid. 1605 — *Macb.* ii. ii. 53 The sleeping, and the dead, Are but as Pictures. 1629 Milton *Hymn Nativity* xxvii, Her sleeping Lord with Handmaid Lamp attending. 1775 Sheridan *Duenna* i. i, My sleeping love shall know Who sings. 1812 Crabbe *Tales* xvi. 467 A sleeping boy the Mother held the while. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VII. 260 Group respiration may frequently be seen in sleeping children.

Prov. c 1374 Chaucer *Troylus* iii. 764 It is nought good a slepyng hound to wake. 1562 [see Dog *sb.* 15 k]. 1597 Shaks. 2 *Hen. IV*, i. ii. 174 Since all is wel, keep it so: wake not a sleeping Wolfe. 1623 Wodroephe *Marrowe Fr. Tongue* 505/2 Do not awake the sleeping Cat. 1824 Scott *Redgauntlet* let. xi, Best to let sleeping dogs lie. 1864-86 [see Dog *sb.* 15 k].

b. Occupying a bed or beds in a certain place. *Sleeping attorney* (see quot. 1809).

1809 Kendall *Trav.* I. 184 It has been found that a sleeping attorney may be rendered very profitable...His business is to secure a lodging in one of the many-bed-rooms, which at the public inns, happen to be chiefly occupied by a large part of the jury sworn to try the cause. 1876 T. Hardy *Ethelberta* (1890) 32 We've a house full of sleeping company, you understand.

c. Of plants: (see Sleep *v.* 3 b).

1757 J. Hill *Sleep of Plants* 3 In what are called the sleeping plants. 1796 Stedman *Surinam* II. xxv. 230 The sleeping plant, so called from its leaves..clapping close together from sun-set to sun-rise.

d. In specific names of animals, etc.

1803 Shaw *Gen. Zool.* IV. 250 Sleeping Gobiomore..: supposed to take its name from the slowness of its movements. 1883 *Harper's Mag.* Jan. 189/1 The eyes of the sleeping monkey (*nyctipithecus*). 1897 G. C. Bateman *Vivarium* 119 The Stump-tailed Lizard (*Trachysaurus rugosus*), also known as the Two-headed Lizard and the Sleeping Lizard, comes from Australia.

e. Seen in sleep.

1781 Gibbon *Decl. & F.* xxx. (1787) III. 139 The mind of Alaric was ill prepared to receive, either in sleeping or waking visions, the impressions of Greek superstition.

†2. Inducing sleep; soporific. *Obs. rare.* Cf. Sleeping *vbl. sb.* 2 c.

c 1369 Chaucer *Dethe Blaunche* 162 A few wellys..That made a dedly slepynge soun. 1578 Lyte *Dodoens* 447 One is called Solanum somniferum, that is to say Sleeping Nightshade. 1597 Gerarde *Herbal* ii. li. 269 Dwale or sleeping Nightshade hath round blackish stalks.

3. Numb; devoid of sensation.

1562 Turner *Baths* 3 These baths are good for..the unfelinge and slepinge membres. 1818 Hogg *Brownie of Bodsbeck* xii, On pretence of a sleeping leg. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VI. 640 Pressure, not in itself severe, will in time produce the well-known sleeping foot.

4. Inactive, torpid, quiescent.

1538 Starkey *England* ii. iii. 208 Thys celestyal doctryne ..ys neuer gyuen to idul & slepyng myndys. 1598 J. Davies *Epigr.* ii, Whilst in his sheath his sleeping sword doth bide. 1702 Rowe *Tamerl.* i. i, The magic Numbers rouze our sleeping Passions. 1754 Gray *Pleasure fr. Vicissitude* 6 Till April starts, and calls around The sleeping fragrance from the ground. *a* 1822 Shelley *Fragm. Unf. Drama* 184 Those words in which Passion makes Echo taunt the sleeping strings. 1851 Brimley *Ess.* (1858) 119 As means, he may..use them to move and rouse the sleeping soul.

b. *Sleeping table*, an immovable apparatus on which ore is washed.

1839 Ure *Dict. Arts* 815 The *grilles anglaises* are similar to the sleeping tables used at Idria. 1855 J. R. Leifchild *Cornwall Mines* 207 Then follow the picking, stamping, and washing on a kind of sleeping table.

c. *Sleeping rent*, a dead rent (see Dead *a.* 30).

1870 *Law Rep.* 5 Comm. Pleas 584 There is no stipulation that the tenant shall pay any sleeping rent or minimum rent, or any rent in the event of no clay being raised during the term.

5. *Sleeping partner*, a partner in a business who takes no share in the actual working of it.

1785 in Grose *Dict. Vulg. T.* 1818 Scott *Rob Roy* i, Your father, though his fortune was vested in the house, was only a sleeping partner, as the commercial phrase goes. 1887 W. P. Frith *Autobiogr.* I. xvii. 203 A sleeping partner in a cloth firm at Leeds.

transf. 1848 Lowell *Biglow P.* Ser. i. Introd., Associated (though only as sleeping partner) in a book. 1884 Rider Haggard *Dawn* xxxvi, His sole motive in consenting to become, as it were, a sleeping partner in the shameful plot.

b. (See quot.)

1889 'R. Boldrewood' *Miner's Right* (1899) 66/2 A transfer of a 'sleeping quarter share', that is, a proportion of the property of the claim, involving a sixteenth of the entire profit, without the necessity of representing or paying for the services of an able-bodied miner.

6. Quiet, silent; motionless.

1784 Cowper *Task* i. 763 The moon-beam, sliding softly in between The sleeping leaves. 1794 Mrs. Radcliffe *Myst. Udolpho* xxviii, The lonely murmur of these woods, and the view of this sleeping landscape. 1855 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* xix. IV. 257 The long lines of painted villas reflected in the sleeping canals. 1872 Black *Adv. Phaeton* xix. 276 The chimneys and slates of the sleeping houses.

Hence † **Slee·pingness,** sleepiness. *Obs.*

1398 Trevisa *Barth. De P. R.* vii. v. (Bodl. MS.), ȝif..þe woodenes dureþ þre daies with slepingnes,..þere is no hope of rekoueryng.

Slee·pingly, *adv.* [f. prec.] Sleepily.

1638 Junius *Paint. Ancients* 237, I doe not use to view the statues and images made by Art sleepingly and slenderly. 1683 Kennett tr. *Erasm. on Folly* (1722) 25 To jog sleepingly through the World in a dumpish, Melancholly Posture cannot properly be said to Live. 1862 S. Wilberforce *Sp. Missions* (1874) 282 Allowing them to go on sleepingly, and comfortably. 1891 *Temple Bar* May 122 The *facchini*.., struggled sleepingly upstairs for my luggage.

† **Slee·pish,** *a. Obs.* Also 6 **slepy(s)she, -ish(e, sleapish.** [f. Sleep *sb.* + -ish.] Somewhat sleepy.

1530 Palsgr. 324/1 Slepysshe, heavy of slepe, *sommeilleux*. 1551 Turner *Herbal* ii. 46 They shal fall into a forgetfull and a slepishe drowsines. 1633 Ford *Love's Sacr.* iv. i, Your sleepish and more than sleepish security. 1675 Traherne *Chr. Ethics* 338 Temperance..puts activity and vigour into it, that it may not be a sleepish but heroick vertue.

Sleepless (slī·plés), *a.* Also 5 **sleples,** 6 **slepelesse,** 6–7 **sleeplesse.** [f. Sleep *sb.* + -less. Cf. (M)Du. *slapeloos* (Kilian *slaeploos*), OHG. *slâflôs* (G. *schlaflos*).]

1. Deprived of sleep; unable to sleep.

1412-20 Lydg. *Chron. Troy* i. 3546 To Medea he hath þe weye take, And sche abood sleples for his sake. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 344/2 Sleples, *exsompnis*. *a* 1542 Wyatt in *Tottel's Misc.* (Arb.) 89 The body still away slepelesse it weares. *c* 1586 C'tess Pembroke *Ps.* lxxvii. iii, Whole troupes of busy cares..Tooke up their restlesse rest In sleepie sleeplesse eies. 1700 Ken in *Bk. of Praise* 272 When in the night I sleepless lie. 1820 Shelley *Prometh. Unb.* i. 4 Which Thou and I alone .. Behold with sleepless eyes. 1848 Thackeray *Van. Fair* xliii, He lay all that night sleepless and yearning to go home. 1888 Allies *Holy See & Wand. of Nations* 83 The monks, called from their never intermitted worship, the Sleepless.

2. Yielding no sleep; marked by the absence or want of sleep.

1633 P. Fletcher *Purple Isl.* i. xxvi, That they may.. couch their head In soft, but sleeplesse down. 1662 J. Davies tr. *Olearius' Voy. Amb.* 12 We had a sleepless night of it. 1794 Mrs. Radcliffe *Udolpho* xxxv, She started from a sleepless pillow, to welcome the day. 1815 Byron '*My soul is dark*' ii, It hath been by sorrow nursed, And ach'd in sleepless silence long. 1858 Carlyle *Fredk. Gt.* xvii. vii. (1872) VII. 74 The Old Inn, hospitable though sleepless, stands pleasantly upon the River-brink. 1876 Miss Braddon *J. Haggard's Dau.* II. 38 A sleepless night shed the sober light of reason upon those clouds of sentiment.

3. Continually active or operative.

1792 S. Rogers *Pleas. Mem.* i. 194 Oh mark the sleepless energies of thought. 1820 Shelley *Prometh. Unb.* i. 280, [I] thus devote to sleepless agony This undeclining head. 1848 Gallenga *Italy* I. p. xxv, Thought remained anxious, sleepless, rebellious. 1866 Geo. Eliot *F. Holt* (1868) 8 The quivering nerves of a sleepless memory.

b. Unceasing in motion; ever-moving.

1795-1814 Wordsw. *Excurs.* ix. 212 The sleepless ocean murmurs for all ears. 1812 Byron *Ch. Har.* i. xiv, Winds are rude in Biscay's sleepless bay. *a* 1822 Shelley *To E. Williams* vi, The sleepless billows on the ocean's breast.

4. Used punningly: (see quot. and Sleepy 1 c).

1865 *Slang Dict.* 235 *Sleepless-hats*, those of a napless character, better known as wide-awakes.

Hence **Slee·plessly** *adv.*

1847 in Webster. 1896 *Daily News* 4 Jan. 5/3 He sleeplessly guards his maize during the whole night.

Slee·plessness. [f. prec.] The state of being sleepless; *esp.* inability to sleep, insomnia.

1646 Bp. Hall *Balm of Gilead* (1652) 221 In three years he [Mæcenas] slept not .. an hour; which .. Lipsius thinks good to mitigate with a favourable construction, as conceiving an impossibility of an absolute sleeplessenesse. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* ii. iii. vi, Convulsing with strange pangs the whole sick Body, as in such sleeplessness and sickness the ear will do! 1861 Flor. Nightingale *Notes Nursing* (ed. 2) 53 Sleeplessness in the early night is from excitement generally. 1886 *Manch. Exam.* 8 Feb. 5/4 A correspondent..provides a new remedy for sleeplessness.

Slee·p-walker. [Sleep *sb.* 7.] One who walks while asleep; a somnambulist.

1747 *Gentl. Mag.* XVII. Index, Sleep-walker, strange action of. 1794 *Sporting Mag.* IV. 106 A Sleep-walker and Sleep-talker perambulated and muttered. 1833 Ht. Martineau *Charmed Sea* iii. 38 Your life is like the adventure of a sleep-walker. 1871 Napheys *Prev. & Cure Dis.* i. vii. 198 The popular notion that sleep-walkers never hurt themselves is far from true.

So **Slee·p-walking** *vbl. sb.* and *ppl. a.*

(*a*) 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XVII. 534/2 A lad..subject to that singular affection or disease called *Somnambulism* or sleep-walking. 1855 Emerson *Misc.* 90 For they aspire to the highest, and this, in their sleep-walking, they dream is highest. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 157 Neuroses, such as headaches, night-terrors, sleep-walking or defect of self-control, should be noted.

(*b*) 1842 Lytton *Zanoni* vi. vi, Sleep-walking yet awake. 1890 *Spectator* 3 May, He seems to let the waking or sleep-walking Prince come in under protest.

Slee·pwort. *Obs.* or *dial.* (See quots.)

c 1265 *Voc. Plants* in Wr.-Wülcker 558 *Lactuca*,..slepwurt. 1597 Gerarde *Herbal* Gen. Table, Suppl., Sleepworte is Lettuce. [1863 Prior *Brit. Pl., Sleepwort*, from its narcotic properties, *Lactuca sativa*.] 1881 *Hardwicke's Science Gossip* XVII. 278 *Pinguicula vulgaris*, 'Sleepweed' or 'Sleepwort'; co. Antrim.

Sleepy (slī·pi), *a.* Forms: 3–4 **slepi,** 4–6 **slepy,** 5–6 **slepie,** 6 **sleapie,** 6–7 **sleepie,** 6– **sleepy.** [f. Sleep *sb.* + -y. Cf. OE. *unslǽpig* sleepless, and NFris. *slîpig*, MDu., MLG. *slapich* (Du. dial. *slapig, slepig*), OHG. *slâfag, -eg* (MHG. *slâfec, -ic*, obs. G. *schlafig, schläfig*).]

1. Inclined to sleep; having a difficulty in keeping awake; drowsy, somnolent.

c 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 871 He woren drunken and slepi. 1387 Trevisa *Higden* (Rolls) V. 385 þe kyng werþe wonderliche slepy. 1390 Gower *Conf.* II. 94, I was noght slow ne slepi there. *c* 1440 *Gesta Rom.* lxvi. 298 (Addit. MS.), The maiden wexe slepie, and sore vexed, and fille on slepe. 1470-85 Malory *Arthur* vi. i. 183 For this viij yere I was not so slepy as I am now. *a* 1548 Hall *Chron., Edw. IV*, 250 Oh, I am so slepie, that I must make an end. 1587 Turberv. *Trag. Tales* (1837) 152 She shifted thence with shame Her sleepie husbandes swords. 1662 J. Davies tr. *Olearius' Voy. Amb.* 321 There are some who take of it only once in two or three daies, which makes them sleepy. 1697 Dryden *Virg. Georg.* iv. 277 Hollow Murmurs of their Ev'ning Bells, Dismiss the sleepy Swains, and toll 'em to their Cells. 1782 Miss Burney *Cecilia* ii. v, She soon grew sleepy, and retired to her own room. 1859 Mrs. Carlyle *Lett.* II. 397 Fatigue, which makes an healthy human being sleepy. 1874 J. S. Blackie *Self-Culture* 49 Let a man sleep when he is sleepy.

b. Given to sleep; lethargic, heavy.

c 1384 Chaucer *H. Fame* 75 There slepeth ay this god vnmerie, With his slepy thousande sones. 1398 Trevisa *Barth. De P. R.* vi. xvi. (Bodl. MS.), He is slow, slepie and lusteles and forgendrith alle his lordis nedes. 1504 Lady Margaret tr. *De Imitatione* iv. vi. 269 So wakynge to fables, so slepy to holy vygyls. 1579 W. Wilkinson *Confut. Fam. Love* Ep. Ded.*iij, Those which are able..will not, because they are sleepy. 1654 tr. *Scudery's Curia Pol.* 184 Those quiet and sleepy Princes, who have no other thoughts, but for their own defence. 1697 Dryden *Virg. Georg.* iii. 399 The sleepy Leacher shuts his little Eyes. 1756-7 tr. *Keysler's Trav.* (1760) II. 298 By others, from its sleepy countenance, [it] is supposed to be designed for the emperor Commodus. 1869 Martineau *Ess.* II. 130 Men are too sleepy to look after it. 1875 Jowett *Plato* (ed. 2) V. 319 Arithmetic stirs up him who is by nature sleepy and dull.

c. *transf.* or *fig.*, in general or specific uses.

For the latter see the quotations in (*b*).

(*a*) 1597 Beard *Theatre God's Judgem.* (1612) 206 Then his sleepie conscience awaked, and he fell into most horrible despaire. 1685 Baxter *Paraphr. N. T.* Matt. xxvii. 4 O the stupidity of seared sleepy consciences! 1700 Dryden *Cymon & Iphigenia* 29 Love..oft to virtuous Acts inflames the Mind, Awakes the sleepy Vigour of the Soul. 1807 Wordsw. *White Doe* iii. 107 Not loth the sleepy lance to wield, And greet the old paternal shield. 1885 *Times* (weekly ed.) 16 Oct. 4/2 This district was not..sleepy on the question of political opinion and political action.

(*b*) 1579 Langham *Gard. Health* (1633) 444 The iuyce with Capons grease anointed on, helpeth raw heeles and sleepy galles. 1790 Grose *Prov. Gloss.* s.v., An apple or pear beginning to rot is said to be sleepy. 1796 *Ibid.* (ed. 3), *Sleepy*, much worn: the cloth of your coat must be extremely sleepy, for it has not had a nap this long time. 1833 Loudon *Encycl. Archit.* § 1975 Where the conduit pipes are of great length..the water..is found to lose much of its strength, and become what is technically called sleepy. 1834 Marryat *P. Simple* (1863) 372, I expect her to drop every minute, like an over-ripe sleepy pear. 1885 J. Long *Brit. Dairy-Farm.* 82 Almost every one connected with the dairy knows what 'sleepy' cream is..The whole of the cream assumes the appearance of froth.

d. *Sleepy Lizard*, an Australian and Tasmanian lizard (*Tiliqua nigroluteus*), of sluggish habits.

1887 F. McCoy *Zool. Victoria* xiv. 120 Not uncommon

about Melbourne, where it is generally called the 'Blue-tongued Lizard', or 'Sleepy Lizard'.

2. Characterized by, appropriate or belonging to, suggestive of, sleep or repose.

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 272 þene bimased gost þet in one slepie ȝemeleaste uor ȝemeð him suluen. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* II. 93 He routeth with a slepi noise. *Ibid.* III. 48 Of Daniel the slepi dremes. 1577 B. GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* IV. (1586) 175 When the sleepie time of the night coms in, they make lesse and lesse noise. 1610 SHAKS. *Temp.* II. i. 211 Surely It is a sleepy Language; and thou speak'st Out of thy sleepe. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* I. 247 We..did in this sort passe the sleepy houres in the morning. 1650 VENNER *Censure* 39 If in use of the Water you shall finde a..sleepy disposition. 1775 GOLDSM. tr. *Scarron's Com. Rom.* I. 287 Rancour began to sleep with more tranquility.., his sleepy faculty not being now disturbed. 1786 MME. D'ARBLAY *Diary* 4 Nov., I did not approach the Queen that night with much of a sleepy composure. 1820 SCOTT *Monast.* Introd. Ep., In the true sleepy tone of a Scottish matron when ten o'clock is going to strike. 1849 JAMES *Woodman* vii, With a sleepy but affectionate look. 1891 BARING-GOULD *In Troubadour Land* xvi. 226 It does a little sleepy trade in salt.

b. Of morbid states. *Sleepy sickness* (see SLEEPING *vbl. sb.* 2 d).

1643 COCKERAM II, A Sleepie disease, *lethargie.* 1656 W. DU GARD tr. *Conenius' Gate Latin Unl.* 85 Continual [sleep]..or the sleepie-evil. 1704 *Dict. Rust.* (1726), *Sleepy-evil*, a Distemper in Swine, that takes them in Summer-time. 1707 (*title*), An Exact Relation of the Strange and Uncommon Sleepy Distemper of Dirk Bakker. 1748 HARTLEY *Observ. Man* I. i. § 1. 46 During Sleep and sleepy Distempers the Brain is particularly compressed. 1803 WINTERBOTTOM *Africans Sierra Leone* II. 29 The Africans are very subject to a species of lethargy..; it is called by the Soosoos, Kee Kóllee Kondee, or sleepy sickness. 1903 *Westm. Gaz.* 16 Jan. 7/1 They ran the risk of introducing the 'sleepy sickness' into the Colony.

c. Of places. (Common in recent use.)

1851 MEREDITH *Love in the Valley* xix, Down the sleepy roadway Sometimes pipes a chaffinch. 1868 Miss BRADDON *Dead-Sea Fr.* i, The quiet streets and lonely squares of that sleepy Belgian city. 1897 F. T. BULLEN *Cruise 'Cachalot'* xxiv. (1901) 312 The whole place seemed a maritime sleepy hollow, the dwellers in which had lost all interest in life.

3. Inducing sleep; soporific. Now *rare.*

c 1386 CHAUCER *Knt.'s T.* 529 His slepy yerde in hond he bar. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XVII. CXXVIII. (Bodl. MS.), Popy hatte Papauere and is a slepye herbe. 1559 W. CUNNINGHAM *Cosmogr. Glasse* 53 Morpheus the God of dreames, with his slepie rodde. 1598 STOW *Surv.* vii. (1603) 52 Giuing to his keepers a sleepie drinke. 1651 WITTIE tr. *Primrose's Pop. Err.* 391 Those that are poysonous in their whole substance, as sleepy nightshade. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* I. 115 Sleepy Poppies harmful Harvests yield. 1760 *Impostors Detected* IV. vi. II. 209 At length we were forced to have recourse to some sleepy drugs. 1819 SHELLEY *Cenci* v. iii. 123 Come, I will sing you some low, sleepy tune. 1898 CROCKETT *Red Axe* 41 The old clothes..gave off such a faint, musty, sleepy smell I could scarcely keep awake.

4. *Comb.*, as *sleepy-eyed*, *-headed* (also *-headedness*, *-headiness*), *-looking*; **sleepy-head**, a sleepy or lethargic person; a drowsy-head.

1808 *Sporting Mag.* XXX. 77 The '*sleepy-eyed' beauties of Lely. 1876 GEO. ELIOT *Dan. Der.* XXXV, No sleepy-eyed animal. 1577 tr. *Bullinger's Decades* (1592) 769 These *sleepie-heades haue nothing to alleadge for this their.. imagination of the sleepe of the soul. 1840 DICKENS *Barn. Rudge* xxi, 'Here, sleepy-head,' said Joe, giving him the lantern. 'Carry this.' 1600 *Hosp. Incurable Fooles* 23 Negligent, sluggish, and altogither *sleepie-headed. 1828 SCOTT *F. M. Perth* V, Not to protect thee against this sleepy-headed Henry. 1841 CAPT. HALL *Patchwork* II. xiii. 252 The sleepy-headed manner of doing business in.. Sicily. 1884 G. MOORE *Mummer's Wife* (1887) 24 This charge of *sleepyheadedness seemed to discountenance her. 1841 CAPT. HALL *Patchwork* II. xi. 205 The *sleepyheadiness of the Maltese rowers. 1842 LOVER *Handy Andy* xxiv, A very *sleepy-looking gossoon entered.

Sleer, *v. rare.* [Of obscure origin.] *intr.* ? To look askance. Hence **Slee·ring** *ppl. a.*

The form may be genuine, as mod. dialects have *sleer* to sneer, and *slire*, *slier*, etc., to look askance. In some instances, however, where editions of 17th and 18th cent. works have *sleer*, the original reading is *fleer.*

1633 P. FLETCHER *Purple Isl.* VII. xlvi, Ecthros slie, Whose ..sleering eyes still watch and wait to spie When to return still-living injuries. 1680 T. OTWAY *Caius Marius* II. i, But then Marius's Eye agen! how 'twill sparkle, and twinckle, and rowl, and sleer?

Sleer(e, obs. variants of SLAYER[1].

Sleeresse, Sleestere: see SLAYERESS, -STER.

Sleet (slēt), *sb.*[1] Forms: 4 **slet(h,** 4–6 **slete** (4 **slethe, sclete**), 5–7 **sleete,** 4– **sleet** (6 *Sc.* **sleit**); 6 **slyte,** 8 **slite.** [Of doubtful origin, but prob. representing OE. (Anglian) **slēt* (:—*sleātj-*), related to MLG. *slōte* (LG. *slōte, slāte*), MHG. *slōze, slōz* (G. *schlosse*) hail. Norw. dial. *sletta*, Da. *slud*, and Icel. *slydda* have the sense of 'sleet', but it is difficult to associate any of these phonetically with the Eng. word.]

1. Snow which has been partially thawed by falling through an atmosphere of a temperature a little above freezing-point, usually accompanied by rain or snow.

c 1300 *Land of Cokayne* 39 in *E. E. P.* (1862) 157 Þer n'is dunnir, slete, no hawle. 13.. *Gaw. & Gr. Knt.* 729 Ner slayn wyth þe slete he sleped in his yrnes. *c* 1385 CHAUCER *L. G. W.* 1220 *Dido*, Doun cam the reyn with hayl & slet so faste. *c* 1460 *Towneley Plays* xiii. 61 Now in snaw, now in slete, When my shone freys to my fete. 1533 BELLENDEN *Livy* II. XXVI. (S.T.S.) I. 236 Incontinent fell sa hevy tempest with slete and snawis out of þe are, þat he was empeschet. 1553–4 *Lett., Doc.*, etc. *Cambridge* (1838) 228 On Sonday frost and som slyte. 1635 SWAN *Spec. M.* v. § 2 (1643) 156 We have sometimes sleet; which is snow and rain together. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* III. 564 Perpetual Sleet, and driving Snow, Obscure the Skies. 1704 *Phil. Trans.* XXV. 1695 Some slite in the night. 1784 COWPER *Task* V. 140 Arrowy sleet, Skin-piercing volley, blossom-bruising hail. 1856 STANLEY *Sinai & Pal.* IX. 331 A tremendous storm of sleet and hail gathered from the east. 1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) III. 83 The philosopher standing aside in the shower of sleet under a wall.

transf. 1666 DRYDEN *Ann. Mirab.* CLXXXVI, The midmost Battels,..Who view, far off, the storm of falling Sleet; And hear their Thunder ratling in the wind. 1671 MILTON *P. R.* III. 324 He saw..How quick they wheel'd, and..shot Sharp sleet of arrowie showers against the face Of thir pursuers.

b. A storm or shower of sleet. *rare.*

1728–46 THOMSON *Spring* 20 Winter..bids his driving sleets Deform the day delightless. 1880 W. NEWTON *Serm. for Boys & Girls* (1882) 225 A sleet had fallen the day before and the pavements were very slippery.

2. *attrib.*, as *sleet air*, *blast*, *-flake*, *-shower*, *storm*, etc.

1832 WILSON *Noctes Ambr.* Feb., The Wellington Arms is by no means an uncomfortable howf in a sleet-squash. 1866 WHIPPLE *Character & Char. Men* 34 The sharp sleet air is invigorating. 1877 *Daily News* 27 Dec. 6/1 The Russians are there, out in the sleet blasts. 1888 LEES & CLUTTERBUCK *B. C. 1887* xxiv. (1892) 266 The cold dark clouds..burst upon us in a furious sleet storm. *Ibid.* xxix. 327 In a blinding sleet-shower.

†**Sleet,** *sb.*[2] *Mil. Obs.*—[o] [? Error for *cleet* CLEAT *sb.*] (See quot.)

1802 JAMES *Milit. Dict.*, *Sleets*, are the parts of a mortar going from the chamber to the trunnions, to strengthen that part. [Hence in later Dicts.]

†**Sleet,** *adv. Obs.*—[o] [Cf. A-SLEET *adv.*] Aslant, slanting.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 459/1 Sleet, or a-sleet, *oblique.*

Sleet (slēt), *v.* Also 4 **slete, sleth-.** [f. SLEET *sb.*[1]]

1. *intr.* **a.** *It sleets*, sleet falls.

c 1325 *Gloss. W. de Bibbesw.* in Wright *Voc.* 160 *Ore negge, ore cemoie*, sletez. *c* 1340 *Nominale* (Skeat) 585 Hit is slethe for hit slethuth. 1647 HEXHAM I, To Sleete, *sneeuwen.* 1687 MIEGE *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II, To Sleet, *pleuvoir & neiger tout ensemble.* 1755 JOHNSON, *Sleet*, to snow in small particles, intermixed with rain. 1845 DICKENS *Chimes* iv. 142 So it's blowing, and sleeting, and threatening snow. 1902 *Speaker* 7 June 277/1 She's up to some deviltry or other When it storms, or sleets, or snows.

b. To fall as, or like, sleet.

1596 LODGE *Marg. Amer.* 15 Or like the snow at once that dries and sleeteth [*rime* fleeteth].

2. *trans.* **a.** To pour or cast like sleet.

1786 tr. *Beckford's Vathek* (1883) 127 By my formidable art the clouds shall sleet hailstones in the faces of the assailants.

b. To drive *away* with sleet.

1891 W. F. MOULTON *Let.* in *Mem.* (1899) 247 Every lingering fragment of inflection would be blown, snowed, sleeted, rained and sunned away.

Hence **Slee·ted** *ppl. a.*, beaten upon, or covered with, sleet.

1849 WHITTIER *To Fredrika Bremer* ii, Strong as Winter from his mountains Roaring through the sleeted pines. 1884 *Harper's Mag.* Jan. 173/1 With..sleeted spars and frozen sails.

Sleetch(y, variants of SLEECH(Y.

Slee·tiness. *rare*—[o]. [f. SLEETY *a.*] The fact or condition of being sleety.

1727 BAILEY (vol. II), *Sleetiness*, Raininess and Snowiness. 1847 in WEBSTER.

Slee·ting, *vbl. sb.* [f. SLEET *v.*] The action of the vb. Also *concr.*, a sleety shower.

1775 ASH *Suppl.*, *Sleeting*,.. the act of falling in sleet. 1841 LEVER *C. O'Malley* cix. 534 A thin sleeting of rain began to fall.

Slee·ting, *ppl. a.* [f. SLEET *v.*] Falling as sleet; containing sleet; sleety.

1566 PAINTER *Pal. Pleas.* I. 90 By litle and litle he consumed, as sleting snow against the warme sone. 1611 COTGR., *Vent verglas*, a sharpe freezing, or sleeting wind. 1686 GOAD *Celest. Bodies* II. x. 290 There is no Iris ever observed from a Snowy, yea or a Sleeting Cloud. 1778 *Love Feast* 33 Soft as the sleeting Snow. 1907 H. WYNDHAM *Flare of Footlights* XXVII, A sleeting drizzle beat against the panes.

Sleety (slē·ti), *a.* [f. SLEET *sb.*[1] + -Y[1].]

1. Of storms, wind, etc.: Laden with, accompanied by, sleet.

1725 RAMSAY *Gentl. Sheph.* III. iii, I've seen with shining fair the morning rise, And soon the sleety clouds mirk a' the skies. 1777 WARTON *Ode 1st of April* 7 The sleety storm returning still, The morning hoar, and evening chill. 1849 WHITTIER *Legend St. Mark* i, The day is closing dark and cold, With roaring blast and sleety showers. 1884 *Harper's Mag.* Apr. 741/2 A cold sleety wind.

b. Resembling sleet; sleet-like.

1804 in Sir H. Davy *Rem.* (1858) 93 The sleety rain was still falling. 1846 DICKENS *Cricket on Hearth* i, The water—being..in that slippy, slushy, sleety sort of state wherein it seems to penetrate through every kind of substance. 1892 H. HUTCHINSON *Fairway Island* 51 The flakes were at first small and sleety.

c. Suggestive of, produced by, sleet.

a 1821 KEATS *Stanzas* i, The north cannot undo them, With a sleety whistle through them. 1897 CROCKETT *Lads' Love* XXV. 253 The sprinkled sleety grey-green of the water-meadow.

2. Of weather or time: Characterized by the presence or prevalence of sleet.

1826 Miss MITFORD *Village* Ser. III. (1863) 466 It was mid-winter; snowy, foggy, sleety, wet. 1836 E. HOWARD *R. Reefer* ii, That dismal sleety morning. 1876 DAVIS *Polaris Exp.* XXII. 567 At first it snowed and was sleety.

Sleeve (slēv), *sb.* Forms: *a.* 1 **sliefe, slife, slyf**(e, 5–6 **slyue** (5 **sclyue, -ve**). *β.* 1, 4–5 **slefe,** 6 *Sc.* **sleffe** (5 **scl-**), **sleif.** *γ.* 3–6 **sleue,** 4 **slieue,** 4, 6–7 **sleeue,** 6 *Sc.* **sleiue**; 4–7 **sleve** (5 **slewe**), 6– **sleeve** (6, 8 **sleave,** 6 *Sc.* **sleive, sleyve,** 7 **sleev**). *δ.* 5 **sklevе,** 5–6 **scleve,** 6 *Sc.* **sclewe.** [OE. *slīefe*, etc. (Anglian *slēfe*) weak fem., and (*slīef*), *slȳf* str. fem., = EFris. *slēwe*, NFris. *slēv, slīv* sleeve, related to MDu. *slove*, *sloof* (Kilian *sloue*) covering, Flem. dial. *sloove* band of wood, leather, or metal, etc.]

1. That part of a coat, shirt, or other garment which covers the arm. In early use freq. a separate article of dress which could be worn at will with any body-garment.

See also FORESLEEVE, *hanging sleeve* (HANGING *ppl. a.*).

a. a 901 *Laws Ælfred* § 66 (Liebermann), Æȝhwelcere wunde beforan feaxe & beforan sliefan and beneoðan cneowe. *c* 960 *Rule St. Benet* lv. 92 Hosa, slyfa, gyrdel, seax. *c* 1000 ÆLFRIC *Hom.* I. 376 He bletsode ðone hlaf, and tobræc, and bewand on his twam slyfum. *c* 1400 *Beryn* 3292 In this thevis sclyve [*rime* a-lyve] The knyff..was ȝistir-day I-found! *c* 1449 PECOCK *Repr.* II. xiv. 231 A man is not sufficientli clothid..but if he haue on him his scho, his slyue, his coot. 1526 SKELTON *Magnyf.* 915 His gowne so wyde That he may hyde His dame and his syre Within his slyue.

β. 971 *Blickl. Hom.* 181 Petrus hæfde þonne þone hlaf ȝesegnod..& hine ȝedyde on his twa slefan. *c* 1325 *Metr. Hom.* 111 For qua sa nehe wit hend or slefes Hate molten pic, on thaim it cleuis. *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (Roxb.) xvii. 77 It has lang slefez and wyde. 1474 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* I. 22, ij elne of satyne to lyne the Kingis riding govne scleffis. 1505 *Ibid.* III. 36 For ij elne wellus to be sleffis to ane cote to the King. 1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* I. 93 Wyd sarkis, with mony bosumis, and wyde sleifes.

γ. a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 56 [He] seið þet heo mei iseon baldeliche holi men; ȝe nomeliche swuche ase he is, uor his wide sleuen. *c* 1300 *Havelok* 1957 Comen her mo þan sixti þeues, With lokene copes, and wide sleues. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Prol.* 93 Short was his gowne, with sleues longe and wyde. 1452 *Maldon Court Rolls* (Bundle 31, no. 2), A peyr of slevys of blanket, a peyr of furred glovys. *a* 1529 SKELTON *Bouge of Court* 433, I sawe a knyfe hyd in his one sleue. 1592 GREENE *Conny Catch.* III. 18 Which made them..feel where their pursses were, either in sleeue, hose, or at girdle. 1614 B. JONSON *Bart. Fair* III. i, See you not Goldylocks ..in her yellow gown and green sleeves? 1650 R. STAPYLTON *Strada's Low-C. Wars* I. 7 A Mill of iron..of such.. smalness, that a Monk could easily hide it in his sleeve. 1712–4 POPE *Rape Lock* i. 147 Some fold the sleeve, whilst others plait the gown. 1768 STERNE *Sent. Journ.* i, 'The coat I have on,' said I, looking at the sleeve, 'will do'. 1829 SCOTT *Anne of G.* iii. One sleeve of his vest was dark green. 1860 FAIRHOLT *Costume* (1885) I. 72 Widening their sleeves until they hung, not only over the entire hand, but several inches beyond it. 1873 C. ROBINSON *N. S. Wales* 104 If he is willing to..take off his coat, turn up his sleeves, and put his shoulder to the wheel of fortune.

Prov. 1546 HEYWOOD *Prov.* (1867) 17 A broken leeue holdth tharme backe. 1577 HARRISON *England* II. ix. (1877) I. 207 The broken sleeue doth hold the elbow backe. 1625 B. JONSON *Staple of N.* I. ii, A broken sleeue keepes the arme backe.

δ. 1463 *Mann. & Househ. Exp.* (Roxb.) 222 A peyre of breganderys and the sklevys,..xij. s. 1489 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* I. 144 For ane elne of sattin to lyne the sclevis. 1511 *Ibid.* IV. 192 Ane coit with sclewiz. 1544 *Knaresb. Wills* (Surtees) I. 42 My beste paire off scleves.

b. Worn as a favour or token, or borne as a heraldic charge (cf. MANCHE[1] 2).

c 1374 CHAUCER *Troylus* V. 1043 She made hym were a pencel of here sleue. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VIII*, 63 b, The kyng had on his hed a ladies sleve full of Diamondes. 1596 SPENSER *St. Irel.* Wks. (Globe) 635/2 Knightes in auncient times used to weare theyr mistress or loves sleeve, upon theyr armes. 1603 DRAYTON *Bar. Wars* II. xxiii, A lady's sleeve high-spirited Hastings wore. 1606 SHAKS. *Tr. & Cr.* V. ii. 169 That Sleeue is mine, that heele beare in his Helme. 1859 TENNYSON *Elaine* 602 He wore.. upon his helm A sleeve of scarlet, broidered with great pearls, Some gentle maiden's gift. 1880 *Encycl. Brit.* XI. 704 Bayard took a lady's sleeve and proclaimed it..as a prize to be contended for.

c. A piece of armour for covering and protecting the arm. *Obs.* exc. *Hist.*

1465 *Paston Lett.* II. 190 The harnys Wyks delyveryd.. to hym..: Inprimis..a payr slyvys of plate. 1590 SIR J. SMYTH *Disc. Weapons* 46 With sleeues of maile or chained with maile. 1603 *Inventory of Armour Tower Lond.* (Fairh.), Shirts of mail with sleeves. 1660 *Ibid.*, Sleeves of Male with a Velvet Coate to them. 1820 SCOTT *Monast.* XXXV, Armed with cuirass and back-plate, with sleeves of mail, gauntlets and poldroons.

d. In University use: A gown having sleeves, or one who wears such a gown.

In quot. 1752 the reference is to the proctorship, and in quot. 1858 to the taking of a degree.

1752 MULSO in *Life G. White* (1901) I. 67, I think you have paid the University a great compliment in accepting of the Sleeves. 1851 THACKERAY *Last Irish Grievance*, And uphold,..to the world's daytistation, The sleeves that appointed Professor MacCosh. 1858 [*J.* C. THOMSON] *Almæ Matres* 9 Wait, sweet verdant, till you have put the sleeves on.

e. *Hippocrates' sleeve*: see HIPPOCRATES.

2. In figurative or allusive phrases:

a. *To hold, pull, shake, take*, etc., *by the sleeve*, in order to detain, attract attention, etc.

1390 GOWER *Conf.* II. 391 For thanne is poverte ate gate And takth hiin evene be the slieve. 1576 GASCOIGNE *Steele Gl.* (Arb.) 67 Let not the Mercer pul thee by the sleeue For sutes of silke, when cloth may serue thy turne. 1592 GREENE *Philomela* Wks. (Grosart) XI. 173 Loue beganne to shake him by the sleeue. 1592 NASHE *Pierce Penilesse* Wks. (Grosart) II. 127 Who can abide a scuruie pedling Poet to pluck a man by the sleeue at euerie third step in Paules Churchyard. 1600 HOLLAND *Livy* x. xvii. 364 Albeit Appius had given him his farewell and pasport, the weale publick & the armie held him still by the sleeve. 1653 GATAKER *Vind. Annot. Jer.* 176 Here I was about to lay down my pen, had not one passage more pulled me by the sleev. 1746 FRANCIS tr. *Hor., Sat.* I. ix. 139, I then began..To..pull his Renegado Sleeve, That he would grant me a Reprieve. 1842 TENNYSON *St. Sim. Styl.* 168 Devils pluck'd my sleeve.

b. *To have in* or *up one's sleeve*, to have in reserve, at one's disposal, or ready for some need or emergency. Also *to put up one's sleeve.*

1500-20 DUNBAR *Poems* xxii. 68 Jok..Can now draw him ane cleik of kirkis, With ane fals cairt in to his sleif. 1577 *F. de Lisle's Legendarie* K vij, He answered that he had contrary Edicts from the King in his sleeue. 1589 PUTTENHAM *Eng. Poesie* III. xxv. (Arb.) 305 To haue a iourney or sicknesse in his sleeue, thereby to shake of other importunities of greater consequence. 1855 TROLLOPE *Warden* xx. 312 Then the bishop brought forward another [plan] which he had in his sleeve. 1890 *Daily News* 19 June 6/1 At the finish Barrett had considerably more up his sleeve than the three lengths with which he finished.

†**c.** *To hang on, upon, of* (another's) *sleeve*, to depend or rely upon for support or assistance. *Obs.*

a 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VIII*, 69 That he would none of his seruauntes should hang on another mannes sleue, and that he was aswel able to maintein him as the duke of Buckyngham. 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 238 b, I lyke it righte well that you saye howe Themperoure hangeth not of the Bisshop his sleve. 1597 HOOKER *Eccl. Pol.* v. viii. § 3 To them which ask why we thus hang our judgment on the Church's sleeve. 1607 HIERON *Wks.* I. 369 You shall see..a third hanging vpon some lawyers sleeue, to plot and deuise how to perpetuate his estate.

d. *To laugh* or *smile in one's sleeve*: see LAUGH *v.* 1 b. Hence in other phrases (see later quots.).

1560 [see LAUGH *v.* 1 b]. 1571 GOLDING *Calvin on Ps.* xxxv. 12 They lawgh in their sleeve, which content themselves with the secret feeling of their owne joy. 1581 J. BELL *Haddon's Answ. Osor.* 259 b, Will they smile in their sleaves at this your folly? or will they laugh openly at it? 1603 DEKKER *Batchelors Banquet* Wks. (Grosart) I. 163 She..doth not a litle reioyce and smile in her sleeue to see it. 1653 GATAKER *Vind. Annot. Jer.* 36 They laughed, as we use to say, in the sleev at least. 1768-74 TUCKER *Lt. Nat.* (1834) I. 616 A disinterested zeal, which those who recommend it laugh at in their sleeve as a weakness. 1806 BERESFORD *Miseries Hum. Life* VII. xviii, Forcing your lips close together in order to keep it a secret from a dull dog that you are yawning in your sleeve at his stupidity. 1857 TROLLOPE *Barchester T.* I, 'No, not that woman,' said Mr. Harding, enjoying his joke in his sleeve. 1871 L. STEPHEN *Playgr. Eur.* (1894) iv. 91 They had a dim impression that we might be smiling in our sleeves.

e. *To pin..on, upon*, or *to one's sleeve*: see PIN *v.* 4 b. Hence †*to pin one's sleeve upon* (obs.). Also, † to attach, assign, or attribute (something) to a person.

(*a*) 1575-85 ABP. SANDYS *Serm.* i. 10 How sharply are the Corinthians taken vp by the Apostle, for pinning themselues upon mens sleeues, saying, I am of Paul, and I of Apollos. 1599 [see PIN *v.* 4 b]. 1632 SANDERSON *Serm.* I. 295 We may not..build our faith upon them.., nor pin our belief upon their sleeves. 1684 N. S. *Crit. Enq. Edit. Bible* 171, Yet am I not such a one as to pin my sleeve so passionately upon St. Jerome as every where to approve his Errors. 1718 M. HENRY *Popery* Wks. 1853 II. 342/1 They require men..to pin their faith upon the pope's sleeve. 1831 *The Remembrancer* 198 Men who pin their faith on the sleeve of their neighbour. 1873 J. G. HOLLAND *A. Bonnicastle* i. 35, I pinned my faith to my father's sleeve, and believed as fully and as far as he did.

(*b*) 1616 R. C. *Times' Whistle* (1871) 28 Proud Meacock, make the world no more believe Gentility is pind vpon thy sleeve. 1642 MILTON *Apol. Smect.* Wks. 1851 III. 289 What of other mens faults I have pinn'd upon his sleeve, let him shew. 1668 H. MORE *Div. Dial.* II. xxi. (1713) 157 It seems a kind of disparagement, to pin Vertue and Divine Grace upon the sleeves of them that are unwilling to receive it.

f. Miscellaneous phrases (see quots.).

To wear one's heart upon one's sleeve, see HEART *sb.* 54 f.

1546 *St. Papers, Hen. VIII*, XI. 110 The other twoo be of so goodde and playne natures,..as the Kinges Highnes might be sure to carry them in his sleve. 1553 T. WILSON *Rhet.* (1580) 183 My maister your father, hath many a tyme and oft, wipte his nose vpon his sleeve: meanyng that his father was a Fishemonger. 1580-3 GREENE *Mamillia* Ep. Ded., Being blamed of Pausanias, for striuing further then his sleeue would stretch. 1589 R. HARVEY *Pl. Perc.* (1590) 22 See how they gird thee in their sleeues already. 1843 LOCKHART *R. Dalton* III. v, Few cut the sleeve by the arm the first trial they make of it. 1860 H. GOUGER *Two Yrs. Impr. Burmah* 212 Our..doctor had crept up the sleeve of the Chief of the prison so far as to draw from him the gift of a bamboo. 1861 GEO. ELIOT *S. Marner* 22 I'd advise you to creep up her sleeve again. 1894 G. DU MAURIER *Trilby* II. 158 But then there's Alice's papa—and that's another pair of sleeves, as we say in France.

3. [After F. *La Manche.*] The English Channel. *Obs.* exc. as *nonce-use.*

1574 W. BOURNE *Regiment for Sea* xxii. (1577) 59 b, It is a dangerous place to hit or fal with, to enter into the sleue, comming homewardes out of Spaine or Portugall. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* 79 At Boloigne..a narrow streit [*marg.* called the sleeve] ebbing and flowing. 1626-7 in Birch *Crt. & Times Chas. I* (1848) I. 232 Many others have been likewise taken within the sleeve since the return of Captain Pennington. *a* 1661 HOLYDAY *Juvenal* (1673) 265 To fetch a wind..to bring us home into the Sleeve, our English Channel. 1909 *Daily Chron.* 14 Aug. 4/4 When he learned that a Frenchman had aeroplaned the Sleeve.

†**b.** A channel or strait. *Obs.*

1614 RALEIGH *Hist. World* II. (1634) 220 If all that part of the Sleeve or Strait [in the Red Sea] had bin by the ebbe of a spring-tyde discovered. *c* 1645 HOWELL *Fam. Lett.* (1650) II. 113, I have already shot divers dangerous gulfs, ..while others sail in the sleeve of fortune. 1655 FANSHAWE tr. *Camoens' Lusiad* II. 45 If Antenor with his ship did thred Th' Illyrian-Sleeve.

†**4.** *Mil.* A body *of* troops placed on the flanks of an army, battalion, etc.; a wing or flank. *Obs.*

After F. *manche*, used in this sense in the 16th cent.

1574 H. S. *Most Briefe Tables* G iij b, It remayneth that wee do intreat howe to make the sleeves of the harkabuzers and winges of the horsemen. 1598 BARRET *Theor. Warres* III. i. 41, I would wish all great sleeues of shot to be deuided into many small troupes. 1604 EDMONDS *Observ. Cæsar's Comm.* 81 A sleeue of archers is auailable against an enemie, aswell in such arrowes as do not hit, as in such as do hit.

5. = SLEEVE-FISH. ? *Obs.*

1611 COTGR., *Casseron*, the Sleeue, or Calamarie. 1655 MOUFET & BENNET *Health's Improv.* (1746) 242 Cuttles, called also Sleeves for their Shape, and Scribes for their inky Humour. 1693 *Phil. Trans.* XVII. 855 The Sleave or Ink-fish *Lolligo*. 1722 J. JONES *Oppian's Halieut.* 231 Τευθίς, Lolligo, the Sleve, a flying Fish.

†**6.** (See quot.) *Obs.*—1

Cf. F. *manche*, a leather or canvas hose used with a ship's pump, etc.

1613 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* VIII. iii. 618 Neither can the.. Rockes breake these yeelding Vessels. They haue also (as it were) a Sleeue in the bottome thereof, by which, with a subtile deuise, they conuey the water forth.

7. *techn.* **a.** (See quot.)

1840 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* III. 27/1 This elastic material [in a pump] is surrounded by a sleeve of cloth, which admits sand to pass up and around it.

b. A tube, or hollow shaft, fitting over or enclosing a rod, spindle, etc., and designed to protect or strengthen it, or to connect one part with another.

Also attrib. as *sleeve-axle, -coupling, -nut* (Knight).

a 1864 GESNER *Coal, Petrol.*, etc. (1865) 32 The pump-rods, which are tough wooden rods fitted together by iron sleeves and screws. 1869 RANKINE *Machine & Hand-tools* Pl. I 5, The two worms are united by a hollow shaft or sleeve. 1884 F. J. BRITTEN *Watch & Clockm.* 133 A groove is formed around the sleeve in which is a spring pressing the sleeve upwards.

8. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as (in sense 1) *sleeve-band, -hole, knot, -link, -puff*; *sleeve-defended, -hidden, -like* adjs.

1775 ASH *Dict.*, **Sleeveband*, the band of the sleeve. 1830 HOWITT *Seasons* (1837) 216 The dame..with *sleeve-defended arms, scorns to do less than the best of them. 1886 *Daily News* 8 Apr. 5/3 *Sleeve-hidden aces! 1878 ABNEY *Photogr.* (1881) 223 Below the mask..are two *sleeve-holes with attached sleeves. 1775 ASH, **Sleeveknot*, a knot of ribband worn on the sleeve. 1611 COTGR., *Manche*, a *sleeue-like narrowing of the sea betweene two lands. 1886 PASCOE *Lond. of To-day* xli. (ed. 3) 355 In the way of rings, *sleeve-links, scarf-pins, and the like. 1894 *The Season* X. 38/1 With elegant vest and *sleeve-puffs. 1860 FAIRHOLT *Costume* (1885) II. 369 *Sleeve-weight..; they weighed about two ounces, and were covered with linen, and fastened to the bottom of the large sleeves to make them hang well.

b. Special combs., as **sleeve-board**, a shaped board on which sleeves are ironed or pressed; **sleeve-creeper**, one who curries favour by mean or indirect methods (cf. 2 f); **sleeve-dog** (see quot.); †**sleeve-hand**, the wristband or cuff of a sleeve; †**sleeve-net** (see quot.); **sleeve-waistcoat**, a waistcoat having sleeves.

1826 W. E. ANDREWS *Rev. Fox's Bk. Mart.* II. 148 It would have been better for him if he had minded his thimble and *sleeve-board than dabble in theology. 1809 E. S. BARRETT *Setting Sun* II. 6 Some of them..can discern between a soldier and a *sleeve-creeper. 1890 *Pall Mall G.* 26 Feb. 5/1 The quaint little Japanese terriers, called in their native island *sleeve dogs, because the ladies there carry them hidden in their sleeves. *c* 1550 in Leland *Collect.* (1774) IV. 323 A Surcoat of the same [crimson velvet] furred with Mynever pure, the Coller, Skirts, and *Sleeve-hands garnished with Ribbons of Gold. 1611 SHAKS. *Wint. T.* IV. iv. 211 You would thinke a Smocke were a shee-Angell, he so chauntes to the sleeue-hand, and the worke about the square on't. 1611 COTGR., *Manche*, a *sleeue-net, a narrow and long fish-net. 1824 *Ann. Reg., Chron.* 90 Pittaway had a *sleeve-waistcoat such as he wears now. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* III. II. viii, He..stands disclosed in a sleeve-waistcoat of white flannel.

Sleeve, obs. form of SLEAVE *sb.* and *v.*

Sleeve (slīv), *v.* Also 5 **slevyn**, 5-6 **sleve**, 6-7 **sleeue**. [f. SLEEVE *sb.*]

1. *trans.* **a.** To fit (a garment) with a sleeve or sleeves. Cf. SLEEVED *ppl. a.*

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 459/1 Sleve garmentys (*K.* slevyn or settyn on sleuys), *manico*. 1598 FLORIO, *Immanicare*, ..to sleeue a garment.

b. To clothe or cover (the arm, etc.) *with* a sleeve. In quot. *fig.*

1887 BLACKMORE *Springhaven* III. 61 Although M. Jalais' trees were leafless now, they had sleeved their bent arms with green velvetry of moss.

†**2.** To provide (a body of troops) with a wing or wings. *Obs.*

1598 BARRET *Theor. Warres* III. i. 41 So should I haue 10 ranks for to sleeue the one flanke of the battallion. 1613 HEYWOOD *Silver Age* II. i, Both our Armies Are cast in forme, well fronted, sleeu'd, & wing'd.

†**b.** *intr.* To draw or line *up* on the flanks or wings. *Obs.*

1598 BARRET *Theor. Warres* III. i. 40 Hauing passed the straight, to sleeue vp in file. 1623 BINGHAM *Xenophon* 73 He gaue the word, that the following companies should sleeue vp by the first. 1635 BARRIFFE *Mil. Discipl.* lxxx. (1643) 229 The Musquettiers sleeve up file-wise, to the front.

†**3.** In pa. pple.: Pent *up*, confined. *Obs.*—1

Used with allusion to SLEEVE *sb.* 3.

1645 J. BOND *Job in West* 60 It is a Country partly hugg'd in the armes of the Ocean, upon the North; partly sleeved up by the narrow sea, upon the South.

4. To fix or fasten *on*, to couple, by means of a sleeve or tube.

1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 1449 The chisels..have weighted pistons sleeved upon them. 1902 *Encycl. Brit.* XXVIII. 97 The motors are sleeved on the axles.

Sleeve-button. [SLEEVE *sb.*] A button for fastening the loose sides of a wristband or cuff, esp. the cuff of a shirt-sleeve; a sleeve-link.

1686 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 2203/4 Four Turky Stone Sleeve-Buttons, sett in Gold, and Enamell'd. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* III. ix. 393 His watch,..snuff-box, sleeve-buttons and hat. 1827 SCOTT *Surg. Dau.* vii, You are in a place where a man's life has been taken for the sake of his gold sleeve-buttons. 1848 MARRYAT *Little Savage* (Rtldg.) 167 Having felt great inconvenience for want of sleeve-buttons to hold the wristbands of my shirt together. 1880 'MARK TWAIN' *Tramp Abr.* 245 Cuffs fastened with large oxydised silver sleeve-buttons.

Sleeved (slīvd), *ppl. a.* Also 5 **slevid**, 6 **slieved, sleued**, *Sc.* **slewit**. [f. SLEEVE *v.* or *sb.* Cf. OE. *geslēfed.*] Fitted or provided with sleeves; having sleeves of a certain kind.

See also *long-, short-sleeved*, etc.

a 1500 *Chron. London* (1905) 202 Which said ladyes rode vpon..white palfrays in gownys of white Satyn slevid. 1555 WATREMAN *Fardle of Facions* I. iv. 48 Longe garmentes downe to the foote, slieved, and close rounde about. 1570 FOXE *A. & M.* (ed. 2) 1367/1 Then I put on him a sleued coate of mine. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 11 Jan. 1682, With leather socks.., a rich scymeter, and large calico sleeved shirts. 1823 SOUTHEY *Lett.* (1856) III. 386 A sleeved waistcoat of washing-leather. 1864 BOUTELL *Her. Hist. & Pop.* xiv. 163 The same composition is repeated upon the sleeved jupon of the Earl. 1880 [A. J. MUNBY] *Dorothy* III. 1895 In her russet-grey frock,..Sleeved to the wrists, of course.

Sleeve-fish. [Cf. SLEEVE *sb.* 5.] A fish of the family *Loligo*; esp. the common calamary or squid, *Loligo vulgaris*.

1611 COTGR., *Taute*, a Calamarie, or sleeue-fish. 1710 SIBBALD *History of Fife* 54, I have found these Crabs, we call Keavies, eating the Slieve-Fish greedily. 1820 T. MITCHELL *Aristoph.* I. 127 On a table or dish, There shall lie a sleeve-fish. 1840 tr. *Cuvier's Animal Kingdom* 340 The Sleeve-fish..have in the back, instead of a shell, a horny lamina in the shape of a sword or lancet.

Sleeveful. *rare*—1. In 5 *Sc.* **sleiffull**. [f. SLEEVE *sb.*] The fill of a sleeve.

c 1475 HENRYSON *Poems* (S. T. S.) III. 151 With ane sleiffull of slak, þat growis in the slus.

Sleeveless (slī·vlės), *a.* [f. SLEEVE *sb.* + -LESS.]

1. Of a coat, jacket, or other garment: Having no sleeves; made without sleeves.

c 950 *Rule St. Benet* (Schröer) lv. 89 Hæbban hy eac.. scapulare, þæt is gehwæde cuzelan and slyflease. *c* 1000 ÆLFRIC *Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 151 *Colobium*, sleſleas scrud. *c* 1430 HOCCLEVE *New Cant. T.* 56 Our lady clothid in a garnement Sleuelees, byfore him he sy appeere. 1532-3 *Act 24 Hen. VIII*, c. 13 To weare..in their dublettes and sleueelesse cotes, cloth of golde of tissue. 1562 *Richmond. Wills* (Surtees) 166 One sleveles coote of frees. *a* 1631 DONNE *Sat.* iv. (1633) 338 Sleevelesse his jerkin was, and it had beene Velvet. 1687 SHADWELL *Tenth Sat. Juvenal* 42 The Colour of the Mantle or Sleeveless Gown for the better sort was White. 1799 COWPER *The Salad* 23 Then baring both his arms—a sleeveless coat He girds. 1857 S. OSBORN *Quedah* xxiv. 344 A red sleeveless waistcoat..hung slack round his person. 1880 'OUIDA' *Moths* I. 65 One of those sleeveless, legless, circus-rider's tunics.

2. †**a.** Of words, tales, answers, etc.: Futile, feeble; giving no information or satisfaction; irrelevant, trifling. *Obs.*

Very common *c* 1570-1600, esp. in *sleeveless answer.*

1387-8 T. USK *Test. of Love* II. viii. (Skeat) I. 77 A wyse man..loketh and mesureth his goodnesse, not by slevelesse wordes of the people, but by sothfastnesse of conscience. *c* 1440 *Jacob's Well* 181 For summe, in schryfte, schal tarye þe preest wyth sleueles talys, þat no-thyng longyth to schryfte. 1524 in Strype *Eccl. Mem.* (1822) V. 342 His Majesties awnswer unto such a sleveless messeage was [etc.]. 1546 *St. Papers Hen. VIII*, XI. 61 For youe knowe ..how long youe laye there, and coulde have no answere butt a sleveles answere. 1579 W. FULKE *Comf. Sanders* 706 Fie vppon this horrible idolatrie which is defended with such a sleueles excuse. 1600 *Look About You* D ij b, You sent Iacke Daw your sonne..To tell a sleueles tale! 1650 MILTON *Eikon.* (ed. 2) vi. 54 With no more but No, a sleevless reason,..to be sent home frustrat and remediless. 1685 *Refl. Baxter* Pref. A 3 b, He moving a many sleeveless Questions, unseasonably, to ensnare him, and entangle him. *a* 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew, Sleeveless story*, a Tale of a Tub, or of a Cock and a Bull.

b. Of errands: Ending in, or leading to, nothing; having no adequate result or cause. Now *rare.*

Very common *c* 1580-1700; sometimes used of pretended errands on which a person is sent merely to be out of the way for a time.

1546 HEYWOOD *Prov.* (1867) 14 And one mornyng tymely he tooke in hande, To make to my house, a sleeueles errande. 1577-87 HOLINSHED *Chron.* III. 284 So as all men might thinke that his prince made small account of him, to send him on such a slevelesse errand. 1603 DEKKER

Batchelors Banquet Wks. (Grosart) I. 214 Shee .. had of purpose sent them forth on sleeuelesse arrands. 1663 J. SPENCER *Prodigies* (1665) 232 God never sent an Angel from Heaven upon a sleeveless errand. 1716 M. DAVIES *Athen. Brit.* II. 181 He was employ'd by Pope Alexander the third, upon a sleeveless Errand to convert the Sultan of Iconium. 1785 G. A. BELLAMY *Apol.* (ed. 3) II. 165 He might have conveyed it to me in a letter; and not have brought me to town upon such a sleeveless errand. 1790– in dial. glossaries (Westm., Yorks., Suffolk, etc.). 1860 WARTER *Sea-board* II. 306 His whole life is but a slieveless [*sic*], useless, errand!

c. In general use: Paltry, petty, frivolous; vain or unprofitable. *Obs.* exc. *arch.* or *dial.*

1550 BALE *Eng. Votaries* II. 106 Whan stryfes..were risen betwen monkes and their bishoppes for sleuelesse matters. 1657 HAWKE *Killing is M.* 18 If we examine his Characters, Marks, and Scutchion of a Tyrant, which he would fasten on his Highness sleeve, we shall find them sleeveless, and altogether impertinent. 1673 KIRKMAN *Unl. Citizen* 208, I was arrested upon sleeveless and idle occasions, undeserved and unlookt for. 1809 MALKIN *Gil Blas* VIII. xi. P 2 You may perceive, I have not entangled you in a sleeveless concern. 1821 SCOTT *Fam. Lett.* (1894) II. xvii. 111 He..had no honourable mode of avoiding the sleeveless quarrel fixed on him. 1867 WAUGH *Tattlin' Matty* ii, He thinks o' nought i' th' world but race-runnin' an' wrostlin',..an' sich like sleeveless wark as that.

† **d.** Of a suit: Made in vain; futile. *Obs.*—[1]

1600 S. NICHOLSON *Acolastus* II. lxv, My suite was sleeueles, thy regard so colde, As if that I anothers tale had tolde.

3. *dial.* Of persons: Devoid of ability or character; shiftless, idle, incompetent.

1854– in dial. glossaries (Lanc., Yorks., Northampton).

Hence **Slee·velessness.**

1882 *Sat. Rev.* 25 Nov. 687/1 The good-natured sleevelessness of Irish landlords. 1890 *Ibid.* 5 July 3/2 His easy-going sleevelessness might have led to the ruin of the whole expedition.

Sleevelet (slī·vlĕt). [f. SLEEVE *sb.* + -LET.] A small sleeve. Also, a detachable sleeve used to protect the ordinary one from dirt or wear, or to give additional warmth.

1889 *John Bull* 2 Mar. 150/1 Even the tiny sleevelets were edged with fur. 1900 *Westm. Gaz.* 28 Sept. 3/2 The narrow little open sleeve, with close-fitting sleevelets.

Sleeven, var. of SLIVEN *ppl. a.*

Slee·ver. *local.* (See quots.)

1896 *N. B. Daily Mail* 7 Apr. 2 'The sleever,' containing 13 fluid ounces, or 2 3-5ths gills, imperial measure, was another customary Welsh measure. 1899 *N. & Q.* Ser. IX. III. 8/1 A 'sleever' of beer..contains about three-quarters of a pint.

Sleeve-silk: see SLEAVE-SILK.

Sleeving (slī·vĭŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. SLEEVE *v.*]

1. The action of the vb.; the putting or fastening of sleeves to a garment.

1495-6 *Rec. St. Mary at Hill* (1905) 219 For new slevyng of vj awbis & for parelyng of iij. 1502 *Privy Purse Exp. Eliz. of York* (1630) 22 For upper bodyeng, sleving, and lynyng of a gowne of blake velvet. 1527 *Dunmow Churchw. MS.* 6 For sleuynge of an awbe.

2. *Agric.* A piece or ridge of ground on either side of a furrow. ? *Obs.*

1733 W. ELLIS *Chiltern & Vale Farm.* 56 The Horses..treading hard on the sleevings of the Stitch, causes the Ground to lie flat. 1759 — *Pract. Farmer* Gloss. s.v. *Combing*, Tho' a little sharp Ridge, or Sleeving be left, yet in a Manure [? *read* manner], this is neat clean Ploughing.

Sleezy, variant of SLEAZY *a.*

Sleft, *ppl. a. rare.* [f. SLEAVE *v.*]

† **1.** Slashed, cut. *Obs.*—[1]

1627 DRAYTON *Agincourt* cclxxix, Here a sleft shoulder, there a clouen scull.

2. *Sleft silk,* sleaved silk.

1752 tr. *Gemelli-Careri's Voy. round World* IV. I. viii. (Churchill), Some being of a cane colour,..others yellow, but soft as any sleft silk.

Slegh, obs. f. SLY *a.* **Sleȝly,** obs. f. SLYLY *adv.* **Sleght,** obs. f. SLEIGHT. **Sleghte** (pa. t.): see SLETCH *v.* **Slehliche,** obs. variant of SLYLY *adv.*

† **Sleided** (also **sleded**), irreg. var. SLEAVED.

1597 SHAKS. *Lover's Compl.* 48 She..Found yet mo letters sadly pend in blood, With sleided silke..enswath'd. 1608 — *Pericles* IV. Prol. 21 When they weaude the sleded silke With fingers long, small, white as milke.

Sleigh (slā), *sb.* Chiefly *U.S.* and *Canada.* Also 8 **slay, sley.** [Originally *U.S.*, ad. Du. *slee*, contracted form of *slede* SLEAD *sb.*]

1. A sledge constructed or used as a vehicle for passengers, usually drawn by one or more horses.

1703 S. SEWALL *Diary* II Dec., Corps is brought to town in the governours slay. 1705 *Ibid.* 11 Jan., The governour and his lady essaying to come from Charlestown to Boston in their slay,..his four horses fell in[to the water], and the two horses behind were drown'd. 1721 *New Engl. Courant* 25 Dec., They went to church in a sley. 1768 *Francis Lett.* (1901) I. 81 The Amusements among the Ladies..is riding upon the snow in Sleighs, a kind of open coach upon a sledge, drawn by a pair of horses. 1805 JEFFERSON *Writ.* (1830) IV. 31 The Canadian glows with delight in his sleigh and snow. 1838 STEPHENS *Trav. Russia* 70/1 An enormous sleigh, carved and profusely gilded, and containing a long table with cushioned seats on each side. 1878 LADY BRASSEY *Voy. Sunbeam* 18 At the summit we found basket-work sleighs, each constructed to hold two people, and attended by a couple of men, lashed together.

2. A sledge or sled employed for the transport of goods over ice or snow.

1748 in Temple & Sheldon *Hist. of Northfield, Mass.* (1875) 259 The snow coming so soon after the river was froze.., and the river not strong enough to drive up provisions, that I was forced to have it carried upon Indian sleys. 1796 MORSE *Amer. Geogr.* I. 493 Upwards of 1200 sleighs entered the city daily.., loaded with grain of various kinds, boards [etc.]. *a* 1817 T. DWIGHT *Trav. New Eng.*, etc. (1821) II. 208 The produce of these tracts is conveyed to market chiefly in sleighs. 1836 *Backwoods of Canada* 67 No better mode of transport than..through the worst possible roads with a waggon or sleigh.

b. *Mil.* (See later quots.)

1797 NELSON 17 July in Nicolas *Disp.* (1845) II. 414 The Theseus to make a slay for dragging cannon. 1875 *Encycl. Brit.* II. 663 Field artillery..has also been transported by sleighs, as in Canada. The sleigh is a platform placed on runners 16 inches high and 3 feet broad. 1876 VOYLE & STEVENSON *Milit. Dict.* 388/2 The term *sleigh* is also given to the carriage on which heavy guns are moved in store.

3. The bone of the upper jaw in a sperm-whale.

1874 C. M. SCAMMON *Marine Mammals N. Amer.* viii. 75 Next to and above the bone of the upper jaw (which is termed the 'coach' or 'sleigh').

4. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *sleigh-dog, -man, -ride* (also *vb.*), *-robe, -runner,* etc.; *sleigh-driving*; **sleigh-cutter** (see CUTTER *sb.*[2] 3).

1846 J. TAYLOR *Upper Canada* 33 *Sleigh-cutters are a simple but elegant carriage, without wheels. 1806 PIKE *Sources Mississ.* (1810) 72 My *sleigh dogs brought me ahead of all by one o'clock. 1884 S. E. DAWSON *Handbk. Canada* 121 *Sleigh-driving, tobogganing, and skating are the pastimes of winter. 1884 *Chambers's Jrnl.* 5 Jan. 11/1 The *sleighman seats himself on one side of the sledge. 1845 JUDD *Margaret* III. (1851) 377 In winter, we *sleigh-ride, coast, skate, snow-ball. 1849 LONGF. *Kavanagh* xii, Last week we had a sleigh-ride, with six white horses. 1807–8 W. IRVING *Salmag.* (1824) 7 He recollects perfectly the time when young ladies used to go a *sleigh-riding,, without their mammas. 1747 *Boston Gaz.* 22 Dec., A pair of handsome *slay runners. 1824 LONGF. in *Life* (1891) I. iii. 37 There was very little snow left beneath the sleigh-runners.

Sleigh (slē), *v.* Also 8 **slay.** [f. the sb.] *intr.* To travel or ride in a sleigh. Also with *it.*

1728–9 S. SEWALL *Letter-bk.* II. 264 They waited there for convenient snow to slay it to Salem. 1868 DICKENS *Lett.* (1880) II. 375, I have been sleighing about to that extent, that I am sick of the sound of a sleigh-bell.

Hence **Slei·gher,** one who rides in or drives a sleigh.

1830 SOUTHEY in *Q. Rev.* XLII. 81 As much to the delight of the sleighers as to the annoyance..of those who make their way on foot. 1874 *Daily News* 19 Jan. 5/5 The sleighers and the occupants of the carriages.

Sleigh-bell. [SLEIGH *sb.*] One of a number of small bells (see quot. 1859) attached to a sleigh or to the harness of a horse drawing it.

1849 LONGF. *Kavanagh* xxviii, The chiming sleigh-bells, beating as swift and merrily as the hearts of children. 1859 BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.* 414 *Sleigh-bell*, a small hollow ball, made of bell-metal, having a slit in it that passes half round its circumference, and containing a small, solid ball of a size not to escape. 1873 B. HARTE *Fiddletown* 50 It was the sound of sleigh-bells.

b. Used for orchestral purposes.

1895 *Army & Navy Stores List* 1672 Sleigh Bells...Set of 12 on handle for Band or Orchestral use. 1898 *Eng. Mechanic* 8 July 481 'Sleigh-bells' are generally strung on a wire in ring-form, and fitted with a handle.

c. *Sleigh-bell duck,* the American black scoter.

1888 G. TRUMBULL *Names of Birds* 107 In the vicinity of Rangely Lake, Me., this bird is the Sleigh-bell Duck.

Sleighing (slē·ĭŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. SLEIGH *sb.* or *v.*] Riding in or driving a sleigh, esp. as a pastime; also, the state of the ground when this is possible.

1780 HAMILTON *Wks.* (1886) VIII. 33 When the sleighing arrives, it will be an affair of two days up and two days down. *a* 1817 T. DWIGHT *Trav. New Eng.*, etc. (1821) II. 403 The inhabitants are rarely furnished with good sleighing. 1842 DICKENS *Amer. Notes* (1850) 15/2 The weather being unusually mild.., there was no sleighing. 1886 *Manch. Exam.* 8 Jan. 6/1 Some of the gentry in the West End have taken to sleighing.

attrib. 1775 A. BURNABY *Trav.* 50 In the winter..it is usual to make what they call sleighing parties, or to go upon it in sledges. 1870 *Daily News* 22 Apr., Five pounds for what in Canada are known as 'sleighing rights'.

Sleight (slăit), *sb.*[1] Forms: *a.* 3 **sleahþe,** 4 **sleiȝþe,** 4–5 **sleȝþe** (**sleghþe**); 4 **slyhþe, slyȝth, sliȝth**; also 3 **sleþþe,** 4 **sliþe, slythe, sleiþe, sleyþe,** 4–5 **sleithe, sleyth**(e. *β.* 4–5 **sleȝt, sleghte,** 4–7 **sleght**; 4 **sleyhte, sleihte,** 4–5 **sleyȝte, sleiȝt,** 4–6 **sleyghte, sleighte,** 4–7 **sleyght,** 4– **sleight** (5 **slieght,** 6 **slaight**); also 4–7 **sleyte,** 5 **sleyt,** 6 **sleite.** *γ.* 4 **slyȝt, sliȝt, slyghte,** 5–6 **slyght** (6 **slyht**), 4–8 **slight**; *Sc.* 5–6 **slycht, slicht** (6 **slichte**). [Early ME. *slēȝþ*, ad. ON. *slǽgð* (Icel. *slægð*, Norw. *slegd*; MSw. *slögdh*, Sw. *slöjd* SLOYD *sb.*), f. *slǽg-r* SLY *a.*

For the change of the final *-þ* or *-th* to *t* cf. HEIGHT. The three leading types of ME. and later forms are illustrated under some of the senses below, and the following are instances of the chief variations from each of these:—

a. c 1275 LAY. 23345 Mid sleþþe he mot slakie loþe his bendes. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) I. 177 Þey..fiteþ wiþ sleiþe and wiþ cauteles. *Ibid.* IV. 317 Naso..techeþ sliþe of love craft. *a* 1400 *Gloss.* in *Rel. Ant.* I. 6 *Callidi-tas*, a queyntyse or a slythe. *c* 1400 *Pilgr. Sowle* (Caxton) II. xlv. (1859) 51 By falshede, sleyth, and by extorcion. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 458/2 Sleythe, *astucia*.

β. c 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 7151 Knyghtes þat conne of sleytes. *c* 1385 CHAUCER *L. G. W.* 1650 *Hyp. sipyle & Medea*, Thour the sleyte of hire enchauntement. *c* 1400 *Apol. Loll.* 111 Þis þout is sterid to him bi sleyt of þe fend. 14.. *Promp. Parv.* 64/1 (K.), Cavtele, or sleyte,.. *cautela*. 1559 *Mirr. Mag., Warwick* viii, Tooke the towne by sleyte. 1577 G. HARVEY *Letter-bk.* (Camden) 56 To marke withall Ulisses Sleites. 1621 QUARLES *Esther* ii, Who playes a happy game with crafty sleyte.

γ. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* V. 488 He thoucht to virk with slicht. 1456 SIR G. HAYE *Law Arms* (S.T.S.) 177 With subtilitee or slycht. 1535 STEWART *Cron. Scot.* II. 160 Gif that he culd be slicht or ȝit ingyne. 1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* I. 295 Be sum slichte and quyet craft.]

1. Craft or cunning employed so as to deceive; deceitful, subtle, or wily dealing or policy; artifice, strategy, trickery. Now *rare* or *Obs.*

In very common use down to the 17th cent., and frequently contrasted with *strength, might,* or *force.*

a. c 1275 LAY. 17210 Hit was isaid wile, þat betere his sleahþe [*v.r.* liste] þane vuele strenghe. *c* 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 4610 Þe Bretons wist hit wel ynow, Bot of þer sleigþe lystneþ now. 1340–70 *Alex. & Dind.* 301 To faren in þe feld & fonde wiþ slyhþe For to refe þe brod of briddus of heuene. *a* 1400 *Sir Degrev.* 791 As wymmen conn mychel slyȝth.

β. c 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 8800 Strenghe ys god wyþ trauaille; þer strenghe ne may, sleyght wil availle; Sleyght & connyng doþ many a chare. *c* 1385 CHAUCER *L. G. W.* 931 *Dido*, Whan troye brought was to distruccioun By grekis sleyghte. *c* 1440 *York Myst.* XXII. 88 Sen thy fadir may þe fende be sotill sleghte. 1483 CAXTON *Gold. Leg.* 377/2 How they myght by sleyght and deceyte..falle on good crysten men. 1555 EDEN *Decades* (Arb.) 81 His kynsefolkes..shoulde haue taken eyther by sleyghte or force as many of owre men. 1582 STANYHURST *Æneis* II. (Arb.) 45 Thear sleight and stratagems had beene discoouered easlye. 1622 BACON *Hen. VII*, 103 By which Kind of Sleight rather then Strategeme the Towne of Dam was taken. 1650 CLARKE *Eccl. Hist.* (1654) I. 44 The Devil striving against him with all the might and sleight that could be invented. 1841 EMERSON *Lect., Conservative* Wks. (Bohn) II. 270 Every interest did by right, or might, or sleight, get represented.

γ. a 1400 *Rom. Rose* 3158 It preveth wonder welle, Thy slight and tresoun every deelle. *c* 1400 *Laud Troy Bk.* 13036 'Now,' seyde he, 'kythe ȝoure slyght! Let se now ȝoure qwayntyse'. 1578 TIMME *Calvin on Gen.* 297 Satan used his subtle slight to discredit the miracles wrought by God. 1596 DRAYTON *Legends* iv. 395 Much wrought they with their power, much with their slight. 1652 URQUHART *Jewel* Wks. (1834) 212 Who by hook and crook,..slight and might, having feathered their neste to some purpose. 1699 TEMPLE *Hist. Eng.* 565 He endeavoured to ward this Blow, by Slight rather than Force. 1712–4 POPE *Rape Lock* II. 103 Some dire disaster, or by force, or slight.

† **2.** Prudence; wisdom, knowledge. *Obs.*

a 1300 *E. E. Psalter* civ. 20 He lered his princes als himself reght, And his aldemen teched sleght. *c* 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 7697 Þat wate he best thurgh wytt and sleght, What space þat way contened of heght. *c* 1400 tr. *Secreta Secret., Gov. Lordsh.* 55 Of his [a king's] purueyance and his sleghte.

3. Skill, skilfulness, cleverness, or dexterity in doing or making something, in handling a tool or weapon, etc. Now *rare.*

β. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 127 With gret sleihte Of werkmanschipe it was begrave. *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (Roxb.) xxix. 131 Þe whilk was made thurgh sleight and wirking of men. 1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* XIX. ix. 788 He..put his ryght hand and his suerd to that stroke, and soo putte it on syde with grete sleyghte. 1567 DRANT *Horace, Ep.* F viij, Tryflinge things, and things in dede of very slender sleight. 1581 PETTIE tr. *Guazzo's Civ. Conv.* I. (1586) 4 b, And as it is not possible without great labour and sleight to take awaie the false imagination [etc.]. *a* 1668 LASSELS *Voy. Italy* (1670) I. 215 To it they go, with great nimbleness, sleight, and discretion. 1726 DE FOE *Hist. Devil* II. iv, He manages with a sleight particular to himself. 1753–4 RICHARDSON *Grandison* (1781) II. iv. 68 With what a sleight ..he pushed down my drawn sword. 1825 SCOTT *Betrothed* xix, I have already given you a proof of sleight which has alarmed even your experience. *c* 1855 MRS. MOODIE in Borthwick *Brit. Amer. Reader* (1860) 185 The squaw with a peculiar sleight threw her papoose over her shoulder.

γ. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 1289 Deuised he þe vesselment, þe vestures clene, Wyth slyȝt of his ciences, his souerayn to loue. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 10673 Mony wondit þat wegh.., And mony slogh..with slight of his bowe. *c* 1460 *Towneley Myst.* iii. 137 On the syde a doore with slyght be-neyth shal thou take. 1555 EDEN *Decades* (Arb.) 350 Suche as are doonne by the slight & arte of man. 1681 CHETHAM *Angler's Vade-m.* xi. § 1 (1689) 111 People stand and wonder at the slight, and strength, by which they see Salmons leap. 1786 BURNS *To a Haggis* iii, His knife see Rustic-labour dight, An' cut you up wi' ready slight. 1821 JOANNA BAILLIE *Metr. Leg., Wallace* XXX, As housewife's slight, so finely true, The lengthen'd thread from distaff drew.

b. Const. *in* or *at* (something).

1535 STEWART *Cron. Scot.* I. 250 The Romanis..in battell sic prattik had and slycht. *c* 1611 CHAPMAN *Iliad* II. 637 Thaumaciæ,..and Olison the cold, Duke Philoctetes gouerned, in darts of finest sleight. 1655 FULLER *Ch. Hist.* III. 102 As these Western men do bear away the Bell for might and sleight in wrastling. 1687 A. LOVELL tr. *Thevenot's Travels* I. 174 They have a wonderful slight in stealing. 1707 J. STEVENS tr. *Quevedo's Com. Wks.* (1709) 204 Not knowing the Slight he had at packing the Cards. 1803 *Ann. Rev.* I. 31 Docility to instruction, sleight in the mechanic arts. 1896 *Dial. Notes* (Amer.) I. 424 She had a good slight at hoein'.

4. The precise art or method, the special knack or trick, *of* (doing) something. Now *dial.* † Also with other constructions.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 6662 A tabernacle all for to dight, þarof he sceud þam þe slight.

1547 HEYWOOD *Four P's* (Copland) B iij b, Ye knowe it is

no whit my sleyghte To be a iudge in matters of wayghte. 1600 HOLLAND *Livy* XXVIII. XXXVII. 697 The Balears..do exceed and surpasse others in the cast and slight thereof. 1607 MIDDLETON *Michaelmas Term* II. ii, 'Tis the slight, To be remember'd when you're out of sight. 1642 ROGERS *Naaman* 368 Get once the slight of it (as we say) and then halfe the worke is at an end. *a* 1680 BUTLER *Rem.* (1759) I. 210 As Scriveners take more Pains to learn the slight Of making Knots, than all the Hands they write. 1862 BARR *Poems* 10 (E.D.D.), Weel doon, my lass!..My word! Ye hae the slight o't. 1888 *Jamieson's Sc. Dict.* s.v. *Slicht*, I hae the slicht o't noo.

b. *spec.* Skill in jugglery or conjuring; sleight of hand.

1664 BUTLER *Hud.* II. iii. 4 Lookers-on feel most delight, That least perceive a Juglers slight. 1850 S. DOBELL *Roman* ii. *Poet. Wks.* (1875) 22 The juggler's sleight, That with facility of motion cheats The eye. 1870 MORRIS *Earthly Par.* III. IV. 25 Soon he 'gan to use his magic sleight: Into a lithe leopard, and a hugging bear He turned him.

5. Adroitness, activity, smartness, nimbleness *of* mind, body, etc.

In later use after or influenced by SLEIGHT OF HAND.

c 1385 CHAUCER *L. G. W.* 2084 *Ariadne*, Sende you grace and sleyght of hert also Yow to defende. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) IV. 167 He chastede þe Schytes þat myȝte nouȝt be overcome toforehonde by sleyþe of witte. 1398 — *Barth. De P. R.* XIII. xxix. (Tollem. MS.), Also fische ben diuerse in scharpnesse of felynge and in slipe [1495 sleyghte] of wit. *a* 1680 BUTLER *Rem.* (1759) II. 206 He has a foolish Slight of Wit, that catches at Words only, and lets the Sense go. 1744 FIELDING *Tumble-down Dick* Wks. 1784 III. 402 Gin's genius all these things reveals, Thou shalt perform, by slight of heels. 1829 MACAULAY *Misc. Writ.* (1860) I. 353 A new sleight of tongue to make fools clap. 1865 *Reader* No. 123. 506/2 Hawking all his old wares, performing his sleight-of-mind.

Comb. 1809–10 COLERIDGE *Friend* (1818) III. 114 Mere empty disputants, sleight-of-word Jugglers.

6. A cunning trick; an artful device or design; a piece of subtle dealing or policy, intended to deceive or mislead; an artifice, ruse, stratagem, or wile. Now *rare*.

Common in the 16th and 17th cent.

β. *c* 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 1181 Pride and pompe and covatyse, And vayn sleghtes, and qwayntyse. *c* 1380 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* III. 293 þei bryngen up newe sleiȝtis of covetise. *c* 1400 LÒVE *Bonavent. Mirr.* (1908) 142 ȝif thou wilt knowe the sleiȝtes of the deuel and be not begiled with his false suggestiouns. *c* 1440 *Jacob's Well* 153 God takyth an othe after þe symple vnderstondyng, & nozt after wyles & sleyȝtes. 1545 ASCHAM *Toxoph.* (Arb.) 34 As Leo..in his boke of sleightes of warre telleth. 1594 PLAT *Jewell-ho.* II. 15 This is a prettie sleight to deceaue the Purueyor. 1606 DEKKER *Seven Sins* II. (Arb.) 19 He resolues therefore to make his entrance, not by the sword, but by some sleyght. 1652 NEEDHAM tr. *Selden's Mare Cl.* 230 The manner of guarding the Sea and the subtile sleights they made use of for that purpose. 1713 SWIFT *Upon Himself* Misc. (1735) V. 57 His watchful Friends preserve him by a Sleight. 1759 FRANKLIN *Ess.* Wks. 1840 III. 354 We are plain people, unpractised in the sleights and artifices of controversy. 1822 HAZLITT *Table-t.* Ser. II. i. (1869) 13 A rare fellow..of infinite sleights and evasions. 1875 E. WHITE *Life in Christ* V. XXVIII. (1878) 463 The feminine sleights of forgetting or overlaying the daily remembrance of the terrible fact.

γ. 1577 HARRISON *England* II. VI. (1877) I. 161 Such slights also have the alewives for the utterance of this drinke. 1594 NASHE *Unfort. Trav.* Wks. (Grosart) V. 53 We haue found out a slight to hammer it to anie heresie whatsoeuer. 1623 MIDDLETON *More Dissemblers* IV. i, Let your slights be fine, facetious. 1663 BUTLER *Hud.* I. ii. 747 All thy tricks and slights to cheat, And sell thy Carrion for good Meat. 1760–72 H. BROOKE *Fool of Qual.* (1809) III. 68 A variety of slights, deceits, impostures,..and depredations.

b. A feat of jugglery or legerdemain; a trick or action performed with great dexterity, esp. so quickly as to deceive the eye.

1596 SPENSER *F. Q.* V. IX. 13 For he in slights and iugling feates did flow, And of legierdemayne the mysteries did know. 1609 BIBLE (Douay) *Exod.* VII. *4comm.*, Other strange thinges done by enchanters..are not in deede true miracles, but..sleights, by quicknes and nimblenes of hand, called legier-demain. 1699 GARTH *Dispens.* III. 33 That Jugler which another's Slight will show, But teaches how the World his own may know. 1733 W. ELLIS *Chiltern & Vale Farm.* 145 Taking the largest Buds,..with a very quick Slight before the Sap is dry, put them into a little Incision..in the Bark. 1770 GOLDSM. *Des. Vill.* 22 Sleights of art and feats of strength went round. 1801 STRUTT *Sports & Past.* III. iii. 158 The sleight of casting up a certain number of sharp instruments into the air, and catching them alternately in their fall. 1857 H. REID *Lect. Brit. Poets* iii. 108 A curious and elaborate representation of the sleights of alchemy. 1872 *Routledge's Ev. Boy's Ann.* 532 The various sleights [in card-tricks] above described.

†c. A design or pattern. *Obs.*—1

1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* I. VII. 30 Thereby his mortall blade full comely hong In yuory sheath, ycaru'd with curious slights.

† **Sleight,** *sb.*2 *Obs.* Forms: 1 sliht, slyht, -slæht, 1, 3 sleht, 3 sleȝht, sleþt, 4 sleȝte, sleiȝt. [OE. *slyht*, etc. = *sliht* (:—**sleahtí*), from the stem of *sléan* (:—**sleahan*) SLAY *v.*1 Cf. SLAUGHT *sb.*] Slaughter.

c 893 K. ÆLFRED *Oros.* V. XI. 238 Ægþer ge on þeoda forherȝiunge, ge on cyninga slihtum, ge on hungre. *a* 1000 in Assmann *Ags. Hom.* XV. 177 Sume ic slæpende beswac, ..sume mid slehte & sume on some. *c* 1205 LAY. 2544 Bitweonen him aræs..sleȝht [*c* 1275 sleþt] & muchel seorwa. *Ibid.* 3995 Swiðe heo was sari for sorehfulle þan slehte. *c* 1315 SHOREHAM III. 245 Ofte þe mannes sleȝte aryst, Were man hyȝt weneþ wel lyte. 1330 *Arth. & Merl.* 6654 (Kölbing), Per was miche sleiȝt of man.

Sleight (slēt), *sb.*3 *dial.* Also 7 **slaight,** 9 **slait, slate.** [Of obscure origin.] A pasture, esp. one for sheep; chiefly in comb. *sheep-sleight.*

1670 AUBREY *Introd. Surv. N. Wilts* in *Misc.* (1714) 32 Anciently the Leghs (now corruptly call'd Slaights), i.e. pastures, were noble, large Grounds. 1813 DAVIS *Agric. Wilts.* Gloss. s.v. *Sleighting*, A sheep-down is frequently called a sheep-sleight. 1825– in south-western glossaries, etc. 1854 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* XV. II. 438 Much benefit is obtained by chalking those sheep sleights retained as permanent pastures.

† **Sleight,** *a.* *Obs.* Forms: 5 **sleyghte,** 6 **sleyght, slight,** 6–7 **sleight.** [f. SLEIGHT *sb.*1]

1. Marked or characterized by subtle craft, cunning, or strategy; artful, crafty, wily.

1495 *Trevisa's Barth. De P. R.* XIII. XXVI. 461 Some [fish] ben wonderly sleyghte [*Bodl. MS.* sly3e] and wyly to scape. *a* 1513 FABYAN *Chron.* VI. CXLIX. (1811) 136 Gryffon hauynge suspeccion to ye Saxons,..leste they wolde betraye hym,.. made for that tyme, a sleyght agrement. 1547 *The Bk. of Marchauntes* b v b, In their practyke they be sowple and sleight. 1583 STOCKER *Civ. Warres Lowe C.* III. 113 The Enemy..went on with all the cunning and slight meanes that possibly coulde bee deuised.

2. Skilful, skilled; expert, clever.

a 1513 FABYAN *Chron.* (1811) 3 To remytte to theym that ben sleyght And sharpe in lecture, and haue kept theyr studyes.

3. Of juggling, etc.: Dexterous, deceptive.

1533 MORE *Answ. Poysoned Bk.* Wks. 1098/2 Their false and abhominable blasphemous lyes vpon Chrystes woordes, ..their sleyght iuggelyng ouer the bread. *c* 1555 HARPSFIELD *Divorce Hen. VIII* (Camden) 81 Besides a crafty sleight legerdemaine, there concur two notable untruths. 1567 DRANT *Horace, Ep.* A vij, Who..at his hands coulde gayne A tallant by collusion and sleight ligerdemayne. 1634 MILTON *Comus* 155 (Cambr. MS.), Thus I herle My powder'd spells into the spungie air, Of power to cheat the eye with sleight illusion.

4. *Comb.*, as *sleight-eared, -handed.*

1567 DRANT *Horace, Ep.* To Rdr. *iiij, Or if oure reader were not rather sleight earde, then cleareeyed. 1648 J. BEAUMONT *Psyche* IX. CLXX, There lay..quick mutations, Sleight-handed Tricks, importunate Courtesies.

Sleight, *v.* Now *dial.* [f. SLEIGHT *sb.*1] † **a.** *intr.* To deal guilefully. *Obs.* **b.** *trans.* To deceive, beguile, cheat.

1530 PALSGR. 721/1, I sleyght with one, I deale craftelye or subtelly with hym. *Ibid.*, Truste hym nat, he sleyghteth with every bodye he dealeth with. 1876 ROBINSON *Whitby Gloss.* 176/2 *Slyted*, or *Sleighted*, cheated.

Sleight, obs. form of SLIGHT *sb.*, *a.*, and *v.*

† **Slei·ghter.** *Obs. rare.* In 4 **sleiȝster,** 6 **slayhter.** [f. SLEIGHT *sb.*2, after SLAUGHTER *sb.*] = SLAUGHTER *sb.* Also in comb. *sleighter-house.*

c 1330 *Arth. & Merlin* 1879 (Kölbing), þo Angys al þis sleiȝster seiȝe, Wiþ al his miȝt anon he fleiȝe. 1585 *Shutleworths' Acc.* (Chetham Soc.) 25 A grete roppe for the wyndlas in the slayhter housse.

† **Slei·ghtful,** *a.* *Obs. rare.* Also 4 **slyhtful,** 5–6 *Sc.* **slichtful,** etc. [f. SLEIGHT *sb.*1] Full of, characterized by, craft or artifice; crafty, cunning.

1380 *Lay Folks Catech.* (Lamb. MS.) 1220 þey be mysdoers, sotel, and slyhtful dysseyuers. 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* lxvi. 7 The sweit abayd, the slichtfull trane, For to considder is ane pane. 1613–6 W. BROWNE *Brit. Past.* II. iv, Wilde beasts forsooke their dens on woody hils, And sleightful otters left the purling rils.

Hence † **Slei·ghtfully** *adv.* *Obs. rare.*

c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xxix. (*Placidas*) 241 þe fals feynd..þat slichtfully begylyt þe. *Ibid.* xxxii. (*Justin*) 119 To dissawe men slichfully.

† **Slei·ghtily,** *adv.* *Obs. rare.* Also **slyghtyly.** [f. SLEIGHTY *a.*] Craftily, cunningly.

1549 COVERDALE, etc. *Erasm. Par. Eph.* Prol. Cij, Ye false doctours,..which slyghtyly bryng in pernicious sectes amonge the people. 1553 BALE *Gardiner's De Vera Obed.* Pref. A v, Which coulde so advisedly saye yea than,..and so sleightily recante and saye naye now.

† **Slei·ghtly,** *a.* *Obs. rare.* [f. SLEIGHT *sb.*1 + -LY 1.] Crafty, cunning, subtle.

c 1402 LYDG. *Compl. Bl. Kt.* 255 And tonges false, through hir sleightly wile, Han gon a werre that will not stinted be. 1533 FRITH *Baptism* Wks. (1572) 97 Perceyue you not yet that they would keepe you in darcknes because you shoulde not espye theyr priuy practice and sleightly conueyaunce.

† **Slei·ghtly,** *adv.* *Obs.* Also 5 **sleght-,** 5–6 **sleyght-,** 5 **slyght-,** 6 **slyth-,** *Sc.* **slicht-,** 6, 8 **slightly,** etc. [irreg. f. SLEIGHT *sb.*1 + -LY 2.]

1. With craft, cunning, or artifice; craftily, subtly.

c 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 7809 To come sleightly he scholde fonde, & litel folk wyþ hym brynge to londe. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 2870 (D.), þen slode he slyghtly away when he fra slepe rysys. 1549 COVERDALE, etc. *Erasm. Par. Coloss.* 6 Beware therfore, lest any man..falsly and sleyghtly deceyue you of that reward. 1570 FOXE *A. & M.* 946/1 So subtlely & sleightly these Catholicque prelates did vse their inquisitions. 1604 T. WRIGHT *Passions* III. iii. 91 If thy enemies would bee reuenged of thee, no fitter meanes they might sleightly use, than [etc.]. 1626 in Rushw. *Hist. Coll.* (1659) I. 281 Certainly the Earl hath not been sleightly deceived.

2. With ready skill, dexterity, or adroitness; by sleight of hand; adroitly, dexterously.

c 1511 *1st Eng. Bk. Amer.* (Arb.) Introd. 29/1 They doo all there thynges all sleyghtly. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VIII*, 50 This spere was massy tymber & yet for al that he ..slightely avoyded it to hys great honour. 1581 PETTIE tr. *Guazzo's Civ. Conv.* III. (1586) 126 Prouided it be done so slightly, and so discreetlie, that the artificial dealing be not seene. 1611 BIBLE *Transl. Pref.* P 13 The father of their Church, who gladly would heale the soare of the daughter of his people softly and sleightly.

† **Slei·ghtness.** *Obs. rare.* In 6 **sleyght-, slight-.** [f. SLEIGHT *sb.*1 + -NESS.] Craftiness, adroitness, or subtlety of dealing or policy.

1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 90 b, Fraude, disceyte or sleyghtnes, periury,..with suche other. 1561 T. HOBY tr. *Castiglione's Courtyer* IV. (1577) V vij, As occasion serueth wyth slightnesse to enter in fauour with hym. *Ibid.*, Aristotle so well knew the nature of Alexander, and with slightnesse framed himselfe so wel therafter.

Sleight of hand. Also **sleight-of-hand.**

1. Dexterity or skill in using the hand or hands for any purpose; expertness in manipulation or manual action.

[*c* 1400 *Destr. Troy.* 10306 Achilles..flange at the knight, [and] Slough hym full slawthly with sleght of his hond. *c* 1425 *Non-Cycle Myst. Plays* 24 Of hand to have such slight, To make ship less or mare.] *c* 1460 *Towneley Myst.* XXIII. 157 Let now se who dos the best with any slegthe of hande. 1700 T. BROWN tr. *Fresny's Amusem.* VIII. Wks. 1709 III. 70 There's nothing to be learn'd there [at gaming-houses], unless it be Slight of Hand,..sometimes at the Expence of all our Money. 1760 JOHNSON *Idler* No. 90 P 3 By slight of hand, or nimbleness of foot, all these wonders can be performed. 1825 MCCULLOCH *Pol. Econ.* II. ii. 87 A peculiar play of the muscles, or sleight of hand, is necessary to perform the simplest operation in the .. most expeditious manner. 1862 *Fraser's Mag.* July 75 A power not fitful or got forth by any sleight-of-hand, but resolutely worked for.

transf. and *fig.* 1700 T. BROWN tr. *Fresny's Amusem.* 50 Here Fools by Slight of Hand, are converted into Wits. 1829 CARLYLE *Misc.* (1840) II. 56 Were the public once to penetrate into this his [a playwright's] sleight of hand, it were all over with him.

b. In reference to jugglery, conjuring, or performances of a similar kind.

1622 FLETCHER *Beggar's Bush* III. i, Will ye see any feats of activity, Some Sleight of hand, Legerdemain? 1690 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 2539/4 William Bradshaw..pretending to slight of Hand and swallowing Knives. 1770 LANGHORNE *Plutarch* (1879) I. 395/2 Some of them were forced to get their bread by showing tricks of sleight of hand. 1853 C. BRONTE *Villette* XXII, You know my skill in sleight of hand: I might practise as a conjuror if I liked.

2. With *a* and pl. A dexterous trick or feat; a piece of nimble juggling or conjuring.

c 1605 ? ROWLEY *Birth Merlin* IV. i, I must keep some other company if you have these sleights of hand. 1699 R. L'ESTRANGE *Erasm. Colloq.* (1725) 22 While they pretend to lay one gift upon the altar, by a marvellous slight of hand they'll steal away another. 1717 tr. *Frezier's Voy.* 166 The Experiments that have been seen made..are fraudulent Sleights of Hand. 1851 LONGF. *Gold. Leg.* II. *Vill. Ch.*, To make a murderer out of a prince, A sleight of hand I learned long since! 1856 MRS. BROWNING *Aur. Leigh* I. 421 Fine sleights of hand And unimagined fingering.

3. *attrib.* and *Comb.* **a.** In sense 'using or employing sleight of hand', as *sleight-of-hand man, professor*, etc.

1760 GROSE *Voy. E. Indies* 185 The jugglers, or slight-of-hand-men greatly excel whatever I have seen or heard of them in Europe. 1801 *Sporting Mag.* XVII. 209 The exhibitions of a slight-of-hand professor. 1875 *Chambers's Jrnl.* XII. 66 A sleight-of-hand gentleman is selling purses with half-crowns in them for one shilling each.

b. In sense 'performed by sleight of hand, artifice, etc.', as *sleight-of-hand arrangement, juggling, trick*, etc.

1818 SCOTT *Rob Roy* XIX, One of those slight-of-hand arrangements which still sometimes took place in that once lawless district. 1826 DISRAELI *Viv. Grey* III. viii, You are a juggler; and the deceptions of your sleight-of-hand tricks depend upon instantaneous motions. 1828 MOIR *Mansie Wauch* VII, A punch and puppie-show business, and other slight-of-hand work. 1867 RUSKIN *Time & Tide* VI. § 26 Then there was some fairly good sleight-of-hand juggling of little interest.

Hence *ellipt.* **Sleight-hand.** Also *attrib.*

1792 WOLCOT (P. Pindar) *Odes* Wks. 1816 II. 390 Sweet are of slight-hand Barrington the tales. 1839 RAYSON *Poems* 62 'Tis whuspert by sleet-han' he's meade lots o' money.

Sleighty (slēi·ti), *a.* Now *rare.* Forms: 5 **sleȝty, sleihty, sleiȝty, -ti,** *Sc.* **slichty,** 5–6 **sleyghty** (6 **-ye, -ie**), 6 **sleighthy, slightie,** 5–7, 9 **sleighty** (6 **-tie**). [f. SLEIGHT *sb.*1 + -Y. Freq. in Lydgate and from *c* 1530 to *c* 1580.]

1. Possessed of, making use of, sleight or craft.

c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* II. (*Paul*) 257 Schow wes vode, þat lente to hym a cloth sa gud, þat wes sa slichty a creatour. 1412–20 LYDG. *Chron. Troy* II. 1869 Sche is so sleiȝty with hir gynny snare. *c* 1430 — *Min. Poems* (Percy Soc.) 158 The sleihty fox smal polayl doth oppresse. 1530 PALSGR. 629 Put your sonne to hym, he wyl make hym as sleyghty as an other. 1556 OLDE *Antichrist* 172 b, These toyes., haue the subtil sleighty Marchauntes beaten in to the eares ..of the common simple sorte. 1594 WEST *and Pt. Symbol.* § 171 Judglers and sleightie curers of diseases. 1615 W. LAWSON *Country Housew. Gard.* (1626) 56 You might sit in your Mount, and angle a peckled Trout, or sleighty Eele.

2. Characterized by, of the nature of, sleight or dexterity; crafty, subtle.

1412–20 LYDG. *Chron. Troy* I. 1947 þis Medea..From hir fader his tresour hath beraft þorus þe werchyng of hir sleiȝty gyle. *a* 1470 HARDING *Chron.* LXVII. viii, By subtelty and his sleyghty gyn. 1532–3 *Act* 24 *Hen. VIII*, c. 2 Dyers ..have used & exercised a false sleyghtie & deceyvable waye in dyeng. 1588 J. HARVEY *Disc. Probl.* 69 To..carry away the commons with od rumors, by flimflams, wily cranks, and sleightie knacks. 1600 W. WATSON *Decacordon* (1602) 82 It seemeth impossible for Antichrist to inuent a more sleighty, plausible and colourable deuice. 1631 WEEVER *Anc. Funeral Mon.* 534 Who did vse some sleightie trickes for his owne disports. 1676 CARLETON *Epist. Admon. & Adv.* 6 Learn not the sleighty words and cunning evasions of the deceitful

spirits of this world. 1888 Doughty *Arabia Deserta* I. 74 Property, all of his own strong and sleighty getting.

Sleih, obs. f. Sly *a.* **Sleihschupe**: see Slyship *Obs.* **Sleit,** obs. f. Slight *v.* **Sleizly, Slely,** obs. ff. Slyly *adv.*

Slem. *rare.* Now *dial.* [Cf. Sw. *slem* (MSw. *slemm-*, etc.), G. dial. *schlemm* (G. *schlamm*).] Slime.

c 1450 *Mirk's Festial* 294 Mankynde was makyd of slem of þe erth. *a* 1904 in *Eng. Dial. Dict.* s.v., They sow rice in t' slem o' t' Nile.

† **Sleme.** *Obs. rare* —1. Weariness.

a 1300 *E. E. Ps.* cxviii. 28 For sleme [L. *prae taedio*] sleped saule myne.

Slench (slentʃ), *v.* Now *dial.* Also 9 **slensh, slinch**; *pa. t.* 4 **sleynt,** 5 **slent.** [repr. OE. **slencan*, causative form from *slincan* Slink *v.*] *intr.* To slink, sneak.

c 1330 *Amis & Amil.* 2279 For sorwe he sleynt oway biside, And wepe with reweful chere. 1401 *Pol. Poems* (Rolls) II. 112 Moche mawgre mote thou have thus to frayn a frere, that slily wolde have slent aweye. 1781 J. Hutton *Tour to Caves* (ed. 2) Gloss. 96 *Slench*, to hunt privately for stealing food as dogs do. 1869– in northern dial. glossaries.

† **Slend,** *v. Obs. rare.* Also 5 **sclend.** [Of obscure origin.] *trans.* To slice or cut; to split.

13.. *Sir Beues* (A.) 348 Þre hondred heuedes of a slende Wiþ is brond. *c* 1400 *Lanfranc's Cirurg.* 128 If þat þe brayn panne be so myche I-slend [*v.r.* y-sclend] þat þe part þat is broke, entre vndir þe partie þat is hool. *c* 1580 Jefferies *Bugbears* III. iii, Fyrst slend thys square sticke length-wyse in to two.

Slender (sle·ndəɹ), *a.* (and *adv.*). Forms: *α.* 4–6 **slendre,** 5– **slender** (5 **-yr,** 6 **-ar, slindir**). *β.* 4, 6 **sclendre,** 5–7 **sclender**; 5 **sklendire,** 5–6 **-re,** 6 **-ir, -ur,** 5–6, 9 *dial.*, **sklender**; 6 **scl-, sklinder.** [Of obscure origin.

An AF. source appears the most probable, but Palsgrave (1530) seems to be the only evidence for a F. *esclendre*. Kilian's 'Slinder, *vet.* Tenuis, exilis' is not otherwise known, and his citation of 'Ang. *slender*' makes the entry of doubtful value.]

I. 1. Of persons (or animals), their bodies, etc.: Not stout or fleshy; slim, spare. (Freq. implying gracefulness of form, esp. in later use.)

α. 13.. *Coer de L.* 3530 He is fat, and thertoo tendre, And my men are lene and slendre. 1402 Hoccleve *Letter of Cupid* 171 Wheither his shap be outher thikke or slender. 1495 *Trevisa's Barth. De P. R.* IV. x. 95 Colerik men be generally in the body longe and slendre. *a* 1548 Hall *Chron., Edw. IV*, 34 Kyng Henry was of stature goodly, of body slender. 1601 Holland *Pliny* I. 350 Females vsually in euery kind haue lesse & slenderer feet than males. 1687 A. Lovell tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* I. 132 You rub and grate your Back against the aforesaid Stone, unless you be a very slender Man. 1774 Goldsm. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) III. 389 Having the body longer and more slender, the nose smaller. 1804 Abernethy *Surg. Obs.* 210 A German..of a sickly aspect and slender make. 1852 Mrs. Stowe *Uncle Tom's C.* xxxiii. 300 She's slender; but these yer slender gals will bear half killin' to get their own way! 1871 *Figure Training* 46 That most elegant female charm, a slender waist.

β. c 1386 Chaucer *Prol.* 587 The Reue was a sclendre colerik man. *c* 1400 Maundev. 291 Thei han a blak Hed.. and the Body is sclender. *c* 1450 *Merlin* xiv. 227 Her flessh whitter than snowe, and was not to fatte ne to sklender. 1509 Hawes *Past. Pleas.* xxx. (Percy Soc.) 146 Her armes sclender and of goodly body. 1538 Starkey *England* II. i. 152 Though thys body be weke, sklendur, and lakkyth natural strenghth. 1565 Cooper *Thesaurus* s.v. *Digitus, Exiles digiti*, sclender [fingers].

b. Denoting weakness or absence of robustness. † Also *transf.* of age, etc.: Tender, immature.

a 1500 *Abraham* 126 in *Brome Bk.* 54 To folow yow I am full fayn, All thow I be slendyr. 1549 Coverdale, etc. *Erasm. Par. John* 44 So much the more diligently you preache him to them that be of slenderer age. 1718 Hickes & Nelson *J. Kettlewell* I. xxvii. 50 Concerning his First Book..are these Two Things Remarkable,..First at what a Slender Age..it was written. 1798 M. Cutler in *Life*, etc. (1888) II. 7 His nerves are excitable, and constitution rather slender. 1848 Webster *Lett.* (1902) 604 Not that we suppose Julia is very sick, but she is slender.

2. Of things: Small in diameter or width in proportion to length; long and thin.; attenuated.

α. a 1513 Fabyan *Chron.* v. lxxxiii. (1811) 60 Hengyste.. caused the sayd beests skyn to be cut into a small and slender thonge. 1590 Greene *Orl. Fur.* Wks. (Rtldg.) 95/1 Seek not..To..slice the slender fillets of my life. 1615 G. Sandys *Trav.* 245 About the bottome of the bay, where the City is slender, and free from concourse of people. 1673 [R. Leigh] *Transp. Reh.* 126, J being the tallest slendrest letter of the alphabet. 1723 Chambers tr. *Le Clerc's Archit.* I. 69 Roundness makes it appear slenderer than it really is. 1788 Franklin *Autobiog.* Wks. 1840 I. 190 The slender line, nearly four miles long, which your army must make. 1810 Scott *Lady of L.* I. xxvi, The lighter pine-trees, over-head, Their slender length for rafters spread. 1876 Smiles *Sc. Natur.* iv. (ed. 4) 69 They squeaked like mice, and hung to..the slenderest twigs.

β. 1521 Fisher *Serm. agst. Luther* ii. Wks. (1876) 324 Faythe withouten hope is a sklender beme & of a lytle p.wer. 1563 Shute *Archit.* F j b, The higher they stand, the lesser or sklenderer they muste be.

3. a. Having little thickness or solidity in proportion to extent of surface; slight or slim in size or structure.

1444 *Pol. Poems* (Rolls) II. 219 Hows of this snayl, the wallys wer nat stronge, A slender shelle. *a* 1548 Hall *Chron., Hen. VI*, 27 b, One [cannon] beyng weake and slender, brake in peces, and..slewe the kyng. 1581 Mulcaster *Positions* xxxix. (1887) 194 Vnder a sclender veale of counterfeat liberalitie. 1655 M. Carter *Honor Rediv.* Ep. Ded., That I have preferred so slender a Volume to Your Honorable Patronage [etc.]. 1665 *Phil. Trans.* I. 44 Striking through the slender partition of the Coal-wall. 1715 tr. *Pancirollus' Rerum Mem.* I. II. vii. 83 They were wont to slice their Marble into slender Pieces. 1836 W. Irving *Astoria* III. 123 They launched forth in their canoes, but soon found that the river had not depth sufficient even for such slender barks. 1871 R. Ellis *Catullus* lxii. 43 If a slender nail hath nipt his bloom. 1875 Manning *Mission Holy Ghost* Pref. p. vii, Nearly ten years ago I dedicated to you a very slender book.

† **b.** Of a thin consistency. *Obs. rare.*

1528 Paynell *Salerne's Regim.* F iij b, Wattrishe wine.. whose liquor is as sklender as water. 1635 Swan *Spec. M.* v. § 2 (1643) 130 The aire and water are clean, thin, and slender.

c. Of vowels: Narrow, close.

1755 Johnson *Dict.*, Gram., *A* has three sounds, the slender, open, and broad. 1821 O'Reilly *Irish Dict.* 1/2 The rule of writing a slender with a slender, and a broad with a broad vowel. 1828 Walker *Pron. Dict.* 19/1 The slender *a*, or that heard in *lane*. 1889 *Cent. Dict.* s.v. *Broad.*

4. Of small extent, size, or capacity.

1610 Holland *Camden's Brit.* 463 Bretenham a very slender little towne. 1614 J. Norden *Labyrinth Man's Life* L iij b, Of slender sparke ariseth mighty flame. 1669 Boyle *Contn. New Exper.* I. (1682) 4 If the Reciever be fitly stopt, and slender enough..to let out the air at the first exuction. 1827 Hood *Wee Man* ii, A slender space will serve my case, For I am small and thin. 1871 R. Ellis *Catullus* lxiv. 81 When a plague..Spent that slender city.

II. † **5. a.** Moderate or deficient in power or strength. *Obs.*

a 1400 *Apol. Loll.* 45, I wot not þat I seid it, and mannis mynd is sclendre. 1559 Morwyng *Evonym.* 249 The fire must be made very light and sclender, and encresed by litle and litle. 1587 Turberv. *Trag. Tales* (1837) 174 And eke the winde so slender was To cause the ship to steare. 1657 Austen *Fruit Trees* II. 49 The inclinations..are then but very weake and slender.

† **b.** Deficient in energy or vigour; lax. *Obs.*

1577 Harrison *England* II. i. (1877) I. 19 The slender demeanours of such negligent ministers. 1598 Manwood *Lawes Forest* ii. (1615) 33 The slender and negligent execution of the Forest Lawes.

6. a. Of arguments, etc.: Lacking in cogency or conclusiveness; unconvincing.

a 1533 Frith *Disput. Purgat.* Prol. B j, Manye of his probacions are so slender, that they maye well be improued. 1538 Starkey *England* I. ii. 27 Where as my resonys schal appere to you sklender and weke. 1638 Junius *Paint. Ancients* 15 This is a poore and slender argument. 1639 Fuller *Holy War* III. xiii, The proofs were as slender as the crimes gross. 1759 B. Martin *Nat. Hist.* I. Wilts. 101 Though the Reasons alledged..be slender enough.

b. Having but slight foundation, ground, or justification.

1562 Winjet *Wks.* (S.T.S.) I. 52 Breuelie considering.. thair titill to this thair supreme auctorite, I fand it..sclinder and licht. 1599 Thynne *Animadv.* (1875) 15 This ys a slender coniecture; for, as honorable howses..haue borne as meane armes as Chaucer. 1762–71 H. Walpole *Vertue's Anecd. Paint.* (1786) IV. 73 England has very slender pretensions to this original and engaging painter. 1849 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* vi. II. 154 To the applause of the sincere friends of the Established Church Rochester had, indeed, very slender claims. 1886 Pascoe *Lond. of To-day* xxxv. (ed. 3) 311 Some claim (generally of the slenderest kind).

7. Slight, small, insignificant, trifling.

Used in a variety of contexts, some of which are here distinguished by separate groups of quotations. In some cases the sense approximates to that of 8.

(a) 1530 Palsgr. 697/1 My wytte is to sklender to talke of so wayghty a mater. 1574 A. L. tr. *Calvin, Four Sermons* D viij, We haue not yet comprehended all, for our capacitie is to sclendre. 1687 Miège *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II. s.v., He has but slender Parts. 1738 tr. *Guazzo's Art Convers.* 92, I shall have a special Regard to..those of a slender sense... I shall think I am speaking to Persons of weak Capacities. 1761 Hume *Hist. Eng.* II. xxxvi. 285 The duke..knew the slender capacity of Suffolk. 1849 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* ix. II. 496 A young man of slender abilities, loose principles, and violent temper. 1879 Geo. Eliot *Theo. Such* I. 8 Attainable by the slenderest talent.

(b) 1536 Cromwell in Merriman *Life & Lett.* (1902) II. 36 Their commencement of the same in such slendre and sleight sorte.. hathe brought them furthe almost as slendre an answer. 1565 Cooper *Thesaurus* s.v. *Tenuiter*, To reason ..in a sklender style. 1641 'Smectymnuus' *Vind. Answ.* § 6. 77 But what a slender answer is this. 1813 Scott *Rokeby* I. vi, Full slender answer deigned he To Oswald's anxious courtesy.

(c) 1542 Udall *Erasm. Apoph.* 230 To receive nothyng but as though it had been a large and high benefite, wer it in deede never so slendre. 1581 Pettie *Guazzo's Civ. Conv.* I. (1586) A 5 b, You will stand your Countrie but in slender stead..if you bee no schollers. 1634 W. Tirwhyt tr. *Balzac's Lett.* 15 Princes are too poor, and their power too slender to afford them their full merit. 1670 Cotton *Espernon* III. xi. 572 The Wound..was not to be clos'd by so slender a Remedy. 1779 J. Moore *View of France* (1789) I. ii. 11 They generally afford but a slender entertainment. 1809 Malkin *Gil Blas* I. xi. P 6 The anticipation of my slenderest wishes was his..study. 1837 Palgrave *Merch. & Friar* (1844) Ded. p. i, A production possessing such slender attractions. *a* 1866 Grote *Ethical Fragm.* iv. (1876) 96 A child feels that he has not the slenderest power of acting upon the fears of others.

(d) 1686 J. Scott *Christian Life* I. II. iii. 87 The Slenderest probability will Sway their Understanding to vote [etc.]. *a* 1704 T. Brown *Ess. Late Politicks* Wks. 1711 IV. 102 The slender Prospect we have of Success in the War against France. 1856 Kingsley *Misc.* (1860) I. 80 Proof of what slender grounds there are for calling Raleigh 'suspected'. 1875 Jowett *Plato* (ed. 2) V. 56 Their only hope, however slender, was in victory.

† **b.** Of persons in respect of station or capacity.

1548 Udall *Erasm. Par. Luke* ii. 32 Be thei neuer so slender or lowe of degree. 1571 Golding *Calvin on Ps.* lxxii. 4 Not without cause dooth God take more charge of the slenderer sorte, whiche are moste subjecte too wrong and violence. 1651 *Rec. Communion* § 7 The abler sort of people, for the good example of the slender ones.

8. Small or limited in amount, number, range, etc.

1564 Haward *Eutrop.* II. 12 Although their wealth and substaunce was as yet but very sclender. 1587 Turberv. *Trag. Tales* 83 b, A iewell of no slender price. 1633 T. Stafford *Pac. Hib.* (1821) 146 This Armie is but very slender. 1660 F. Brooke tr. *Le Blanc's Trav.* 373 In the plains then it never rains, all they ever have is a dew, which is so slender it never wets at all. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* II. iii. 150 Their stock of provisions..was extremely slender. 1752 Hume *Ess. & Treat.* (1777) I. 283 The land is rich, but coarse,..and produces slender crops. 1825 Lamb *Elia* II. *Barbara S—*, Her slender earnings were the sole support of the family. 1852 Thackeray *Esmond* II. iii, Taking the young gentleman's slender baggage.

b. Of sounds: Weak, lacking in fullness.

1784 Cowper *Task* VI. 78 The redbreast warbles still, but is content With slender notes, and more than half suppress'd. 1820 Hazlitt *Lect. Dram. Lit.* 48 A very callow brood, chirping their slender notes. 1858 Hawthorne *Fr. & It. Note-bks.* (1872) II. 170 It gave one little slender squeak. 1859 — *Marble Faun* iv, Hilda with her slender scream.

9. † **a.** Of poor quality; meagre; lacking 'body'. *Obs. rare.*

1577 B. Googe *Heresbach's Husb.* I. (1586) 22 A slendar and leuell ground, subiect to the water, would be fyrst plowed in the ende of August. *Ibid.* 45 The Pastures that lyes by the Lakes of Dumone..are but sclender.

b. Poorly supplied. *rare* —1.

c 1700 Philips (J.), The good Ostorius often deign'd To grace my slender table.

10. As *adv.* In a slender manner; slightly. *rare.*

1582 Mulcaster *Positions* iv. (1887) 20, I could wishe the wittier child, the lesse vpon the spurre,..or the sklenderer kept at it. 1743 *Lond. & C. Brewer* II. (ed. 2) 88 Pale Malt has certainly most of the Grain in it, as being slenderest dry'd, and is therefore most nourishing.

III. 11. In specific uses, chiefly in the names of animals, fishes, plants, etc. (see quots.).

Shaw (1802–4) also gives *Slender Cæcilia, Fistularia, Hydrus, Snake, Sparus.* Rennie (1832) has *Slender Gold Tongue* and *Treble Bar* as moth-names; also *Livid, Nebulous, Rufous* (etc.) *Slender.*

(a) 1829 Griffith tr. *Cuvier* VIII. 583 *Slender Bill Tern, *Sterna Tenuirostris.* 1859 Stainton *Brit. Butterfl. & M.* II. 1 Their ample wings, compared to the size of the bodies, have procured for them [*sc.* the *Geometrina*] the designation of *Slender-bodies, by contrast with the *Noctuina* and *Bombycina*, termed Stout-bodied moths. 1896 H. O. Forbes *Hand-bk. Primates* I. 208 The *Slender Capuchin. *Cebus flavus.* 1894–5 Lydekker *Roy. Nat. Hist.* III. 60 The *slender dolphin is a spotted species from the Atlantic and the Cape of Good Hope. 1836 Yarrell *Brit. Fishes* I. 260 The *Slender Goby, *gobius gracilis.* 1834 M'Murtrie *Cuvier's Anim. Kingd.* 50 The Lazy Monkeys..The second species is called the *Slender Loris, *Lemur gracilis.* 1880 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* I. 247 The Slender Loris is very common in the lower country of the south and east of Ceylon. 1893 Lydekker *Roy. Nat. Hist.* I. 231 The Slender Loris..is the sole species of the genus to which it belongs. *Ibid.* 469 In South Africa..we have also a much smaller species, the *slender mungoose. 1865 Couch *Brit. Fishes* IV. 216 *Slender Salmon, *Salmo gracilis.* 1893 Lydekker *Roy. Nat. Hist.* I. 153 The *Slender Sapajou (*Cebus pallidus*)..inhabiting Bolivia. 1896 *Ibid.* V. 491 The earliest allies of the herring tribe seem to be the extinct *slender-scales (*Leptolepididæ*).

(b) 1855 Miss Pratt *Flower. Pl.* V. 291 Thread Rush, or Slender Rush. *Ibid.* 297 Slender Spreading Rush. 1859 — *Brit. Grasses* 23 Slender Cotton-grass. *Ibid.* 56 Slender Fox-tail. 1889 Maiden *Useful Pl.* 71 *Agrostis scabra*, Slender Bent Grass. *Ibid.* 95 *Oplismenus setarius*, Slender Panic Grass.

12. *Comb.* **a.** Parasynthetic, as *slender-finned, -flowered, -footed*, etc., frequently in the specific names of animals, plants, etc.

1803 Shaw *Gen. Zool.* IV. II. 306 *Slender-finned Flounder. 1796 Withering *Brit. Pl.* (ed. 3) III. 699 *Slender-flowered Thistle. 1826 Kirby & Sp. *Entomol.* III. xxxii. 335 The *slender-footed *Cicindelidæ*. 1896 H. Woodward *Guide Fossil Reptiles Brit. Mus.* 6 The old type of long and *slender-jawed Teleosaurs. 1851 Mantell *Petrifactions* ii. § 2. 82 Numerous *slender-jointed simple tentacula. 1793 Martyn *Lang. Bot.* s.v., A *slender-leaved plant. 1889 'R. Boldrewood' *Miner's Right* (1899) 130/1 The foliage of the slender-leaved eucalypti showed a tinge of softer green. 1737 Bracken *Farriery Impr.* (1756) I. 320 Colts that are *slender legg'd. 1663 Cowley *Pindarique Odes, To Mr. Hobs* iv, The Caspian, And *slender-limb'd Mediterranean. 1894 *Pop. Sci. Monthly* XLIV. 500 These slender-limbed.. Caucasians are.. temperate. 1831 Griffith tr. *Cuvier* IX. 104 The *slender-muzzled Crocodile. 1882 *Contemp. Rev.* Aug. 310 The *slender-nosed rhinoceros. 1872 Tennyson *Gareth & Lynette* 3 A *slender-shafted Pine Lost footing, fell, and so was whirl'd away. 1822 *Hortus Anglicus* II. 115 *Slender-spiked Phryma. *Ibid.* 401 *Slender-stalked Star Wort. 1858 Hawthorne *Fr. & Ital. Note-bks.* (1872) I. 4 *Slender-stemmed trees. 1882 Vines tr. *Sachs' Bot.* 936 In the genus *Vicia*..all the slender-stemmed species have leaf-tendrils. 1832 Rennie *Butterfl. & M.* 278/1 *Slender-striped Rufous. 1827 Griffith tr. *Cuvier* V. 82 Pouched Bat and *Slender-tailed Bat. *Ibid.* 126 *note*, The *Slender-toed Weasel. 1711 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4891/4 A fair, clear skin'd Woman,..and *slender Waisted. 1848 Buckley *Iliad* 425 Slender-waisted women. 1647 J. Trapp *Comm. Acts* i. 18 Papias..was..a *slender-witted man.

b. Adverbial, as *slender-growing, -twined.*

1616 J. Hayward *Sanct. Troub. Soul* I. vii. (1620) 105 The slender-twined thred of this life. 1901 *Gard. Chron.* 16 Mar. 173/1 Cytisus filipes, a slender-growing species with tiny white flowers.

† **Sle·nder,** *v. Obs. rare*⁻¹. [f. prec.] *trans.* To attenuate.

1559 MORWYNG *Evonym.* 343 Thou maiest gather that whiche oyl strengtheneth, digesteth, and sclendereth.

Slender-beaked, *a.* [SLENDER *a.* 12 a.] Having a slender beak.

1824 STEPHENS in *Shaw's Gen. Zool.* XII. I. 158 Slender-beaked Sandpiper. 1827 GRIFFITH tr. *Cuvier* V. 382 *Delphinus Rostratus* (Slender-beaked Dolphin). 1859 MISS PRATT *Brit. Grasses* 41 Slender-beaked Bottle Sedge. 1882 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* VI. 197 The Slender-beaked Spider Crab (*Stenorhynchus tenuirostris*). 1896 LYDEKKER *Roy. Nat. Hist.* V. 513 The slender-beaked sturgeon (*Psephurus gladius*).

Slender-billed, *a.* [SLENDER *a.* 12 a.] Having a slender bill; tenuirostral.

1769 G. WHITE *Selborne* xxvi, It ought, no doubt, to have gone..among your slender-billed small birds. 1801 LATHAM *Gen. Synop. Birds* Suppl. II. 165 Slender-billed creeper... Bill..very slender and moderately curved. 1839 AUDUBON *Ornith. Biog.* V. 251 Slender-billed Guillemot, *Uria Townsendi*. *Ibid.* 333 Slender-billed Fulmar, *Procellaria Tenuirostris*. 1872 COUES *N. Amer. Birds* 83 Slender-billed Nuthatch. *Ibid.* 332 Slender-billed Shearwater. 1895 LYDEKKER *Roy. Nat. Hist.* IV. 109 The slender-billed cockatoos.

Slender-bodied, *a.* [SLENDER *a.* 12 a.] Having a slender body.

1611 COTGR., *Carpion*, a kind of long-headed, slender-bodied,..white-bellied Trout. 1687 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 2298/3 A tall Man..and slender Bodied. *c* 1706 GARDINER tr. *Rapin, Of Gardens* II. 80 The tall slender body'd Pine. 1835-6 *Todd's Cycl. Anat.* I. 531/1 Some of the small slender-bodied subulate species [of calamaries]. 1859 STAINTON *Brit. Butterfl. & M.* Title-p., Vol. II. (Comprising the slender-bodied and small moths.)

Slenderish (sle·ndəriʃ), *a.* [f. SLENDER *a.* + -ISH [1].] Rather slender.

1894 CROCKETT *Raiders* vi. 61 Silver Sand was a slenderish man, of middle height.

Slenderly (sle·ndəli), *adv.* Also 5-6 **sklenderly**, 6 **-lye, -lie, -urly, sclenderly**; 6 **slenderlye**, 6-7 **-lie.** [f. SLENDER *a.* + -LY [2].]

1. In a slight degree; to a slight or small extent; scantily, meagrely, poorly.

a. a 1513 FABYAN *Chron.* VII. (1811) 614 The whiche persone ..shewyd to hym that the castell of Coruyle was but sklenderly manned. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 274 We haue touched the vertues and the exercyse of y° same but diminutely, breuely and sclenderly. 1577 B. GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* I. (1586) 36 Couer it how sclenderly you wyll, it careth not.

β. 1558 WARDE tr. *Alexis' Secr.* 44 b, Take..sixe cloues lightly or slenderlye beaten. 1587 TURBERV. *Trag. Tales* (1837) 111 He to mercy movde, To see the poore diseasde soule so slenderly belovde. 1620 VENNER *Via Recta* vii. 108 That..which is but slenderly perceiued of the gustatiue sense. 1674 BOYLE *Excell. Theol.* II. iv. 174 How many others we are but slenderly acquainted with. 1707 MORTIMER *Husb.* (1721) II. 118 It is better to water a Plant seldom and thoroughly, than often and slenderly. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* III. viii. 382 The prisoners..observed how slenderly she was manned. 1821 LAMB *Elia* I. *Grace before Meat*, The slender, but not slenderly acknowledged, refection of the poor and humble man. 1855 THACKERAY *Newcomes* xlvii, My brothers and sisters will be but slenderly portioned. 1867 F. FRANCIS *Angling* x. (1880) 355 The flies are..slenderly dressed.

† **2. a.** Feebly, ineffectively. *Obs.*

a 1533 FRITH *Disput. Purg.* Biij b, I wyll declare vnto you what solucyons he maketh to these seauen weake reasons,..for he auoydeth them so slenderlye, that [etc.]. 1577 HANMER *Anc. Eccl. Hist., Socrat.* II. x. (1619) 257 He maintained their opinion very slenderly.

† **b.** Slackly, perfunctorily. *Obs.*

1545 BRINKLOW *Compl.* 5 b, This [praying] must be done ernestly,..not slenderly. 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 370 The request of Duke Moris was coldlye and slenderlye preferred unto them. 1603 KNOLLES *Hist. Turkes* (1621) 781 To see him deale so slenderly in a matter of so great importance.

† **c.** Ungraciously, coldly; slightingly. *Obs.*

1598 YONG *Diana* 66 If by chaunce he sent her anie thing by any of his other seruants, it was so slenderly accepted, that he thought it best to send none vnto her but my selfe. 1624 CAPT. SMITH *Virginia* Wks. (Arb.) II. 587 Seeing.. how slenderly heretofore both had beene regarded.

† **d.** Easily; for little return. *Obs.*⁻¹

1677 GILPIN *Demonol.* (1867) 375 We must learn this skill, not too easily to give up our hopes, or to be prodigal of our interest in Christ, so as to part with it slenderly.

3. In a slender or slim fashion; delicately.

1591 SPENSER *Virgil's Gnat* 3 We.., like a cobweb weauing slenderly, Haue onely playde. 1844 HOOD *Bridge of Sighs* ii, Fashion'd so slenderly, Young, and so fair! 1885 *Cent. Mag.* Nov. 60 He was a youngish, slenderly made man, with a distinctly good bearing. 1894 H. NISBET *Bush Girl's Rom.* 28 A slenderly-built, red-nosed and dyspeptic patrician he was.

Slenderness (sle·ndəɹnés). Also 6 **sklendurnes, sclendernesse**; 6-7 **slendernes(se.** [f. SLENDER *a.* + -NESS.]

1. The quality of being slender in form or physical condition; slimness, spareness. Also in fig. context.

1538 STARKEY *England* I. iii. 72 In thys polytyke body, ther ys a certayn sklendurnes, debylyte, and wekenes therof. *Ibid.* II. i. 152 A syngular remedy for the sklendurnes of our polytyke body. 1580 HOLLYBAND *Treas. Fr. Tong, Menuisté*, thinnesse, slendernesse. 1597 A. M. tr. *Guillemeau's Fr. Chirurg.* 46/2 The legges, hippes and armes are thinner belowe then above; we must therefore on such slendernes apply some compresses. 1626 BACON *Sylva* § 116 As for Small Whistles, or Shepheards Oaten Pipes, they give a Sound, because of their extreame Slendernesse. 1686 PLOT *Staffordsh.* 389 According to the bigness and slenderness of the neck. 1713 DERHAM *Phys.-Theol.* 191 Its extraordinary Length and Slenderness is very useful to some. 1851 RUSKIN *Stones Ven.* I. viii. § 11 *note*, When shafts are used in the upper stories of buildings,..no such relative limits exist either to slenderness or solidity.

2. Pettiness, smallness, slightness, etc.

1542 BRINKLOW *Compl.* ii. (1874) 26 The court of the Marshyalsee, I can neyther thynck, speake, nor write, the slendernesse..of that court. 1555 EDEN *Decades* (Arb.) 50 The sclendernesse of theyr capacitie. 1570-6 LAMBARDE *Peramb. Kent* (1826) 303 The yeerely value is but small, the slendernesse wherof [etc.]. 1607 TOPSELL *Serpents* (1658) 813 Mark well the slendernesse of this comparison. 1646 J. GREGORY *Notes on Script.* 133 The Coarsenesse of the Raiment,..the slendernesse of the dyet. 1743 *Phil. Trans.* XLII. 320, I..have presumed, on the Slenderness of our Acquaintance, to send thee an Account thereof. 1818 HALLAM *Mid. Ages* (1872) I. 112 Even if we should often doubt particular facts from slenderness of proof. 1870 *Pall Mall G.* 7 Nov. 3 A friend..knowing the slenderness of my purse.

† **b.** Limited knowledge or intellect. *Obs.*

1612 WOODALL *Surgeon's Mate* Ep. Salut., Better documents then my slendernesse can unfold. 1651 *Rec. Commun* § 2 Their slownesse and slendernesse..was very great.

† **Slenderwise,** *adv. Obs.*⁻¹ [f. SLENDER *a.* + -WISE.] In a slender or attenuated manner.

1541 COPLAND *Guydon's Quest. Chirurg.* F iij b, The thre fyrste be longe and byg,..and brede sklenderwyse as a tayle.

† **Sleng,** *v. Obs.* Also *pa. t.* and *pa. pple.* **sleynt.** [a. ON. **slengja* (Norw. and Icel. *slengja*, Sw. *slänga*, Da. *slænge*), = ONorw. and Icel. *slengja, slengva*, f. *slangw-* pret. stem of *slyngva* SLING *v.*[1]] *trans.* To sling, throw, cast.

a 1300 *Havelok* 1923 Summe leye in dikes slenget. *c* 1330 *Amis & Amil.* 2073 He..hent him in his honden tvain, And sleynt him in the lake. 14.. *Pol., Rel., & L. Poems* (1903) 276 Crist on croys was sleynt; To hys fader he made a pleynt. Hence † **Sle·nger,** a slinger. *Obs.*⁻¹

a 1400-50 *Alexander* 2219 (D.), Hym-self with slengers & slyke he somned a menge.

† **Slenk.** *Obs.*⁻¹ ? A side-blow.

The other MSS. have *slynge* and *slyuyng*.

c 1400 *Anturs of Arth.* xlviii. (Douce MS.), He atteled withe a slenke haf slayne him in sliȝte.

† **Sle·nker,** *v. Obs.*⁻¹ [ad. G. *schlenkern* (LG. *slenkern*).] *trans.* To dangle, swing.

1658 A. FOX *Würtz' Surg.* v. 363 Children..carryed onely in the arm, and slencker'd up and down by lazy Maids, are easily hurt in that manner.

Slent, *sb.*[1] Now *dial.* Also 4 **slente.** [a. ON. **slent* (Norw. *slent* a side-slip, *paa slent* aslant; Sw. *sländ* slope, slant, *på sländ* aslant), related to **slenta* SLENT *v.*[1] (whence sense 3). See also SKLENT *sb.* and SLANT *sb.*[1]]

1. A slope or declivity. = SLANT *sb.*[1] 1.

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* A. 141 By-ȝonde þe broke by slente oþer slade, I hoped þat mote merked wore. *a* 1825 FORBY *Voc. E. Anglia* 307 *Slent*, a gentle slope in the surface of the ground.

2. *On* (*the*) *slent*, aslant. Cf. SLANT *sb.*[1] 3.

13.. *Cursor M.* 6200 (Gött.), God þaim bad drau iner-mare Egain on slent þar þai ware. 1894 HESLOP *Northumbld. Gloss.* s.v., 'It's on the slent'—aslope.

† **3.** A sly hit or sarcasm. *Obs.* = SLANT *sb.*[1] 5.

c 1557 ABP. PARKER *Ps.* cxix. 42 Fynd thus I maye to answere right and dul blasphemers slents. 1579 NORTH *Plut., Antonius* 982 b, When Cleopatra found Antonius ieasts and slents to be but grosse and souldier like, in plaine manner she gaue it him finely. 1612 *Ibid., Epaminondas* 1110 He was as pleasant a man to giue a fine slent in discourse, as could be possible to be found.

† **Slent,** *sb.*[2] *Obs.* [a. ON. **slent* (Norw. *slett*), f. **slenta* (ON. *sletta*) to dash, throw, etc.]

1. A splash or sprinkling.

13.. *St. Erkenwolde* 331 in Horstm. *Altengl. Leg.* (1881), Þe fyrst slent [of water] þat one me slode slekkyd al my tene.

2. *Naut.* = SLANT *sb.*[2]

1596 RALEIGH *Discov. Guiana* 53 Towards the euening [we] had a slent of a northerly winde that blew very strong. 1622 R. HAWKINS *Voy. S. Sea* (1847) 81 Advising them that with the first calme or slent of wind, they should come off. 1628 SIR K. DIGBY *Voy. Medit.* (Camden) 43 This day the wind and sea were verie high,..but att the euening a slent of calme came.

Slent, *v.*[1] Now *dial.* Also 4 **slinte,** 5 **sclente.** [a. ON. **slenta* (Norw. *slenta*, older Da. *slente*; cf. MSw. and Sw. *slinta*) to slant, slope, slip. See also SKLENT *v.*]

1. *intr.* To slip, fall, or glide obliquely; to strike or lie aslant.

13.. *Sir Beues* 2539 Ascopard..Smot after Beues a dent gret, And wiþ is o fot a slintte And fel wiþ is owene dentte [14.. *Camb. MS. Ff. ii. 38* A fote yn to þe erthe hyt sclente]. 1470-85 MALORY *Arthur* XVII. i. 689 The stroke was soo grete that it slented doune to the erthe. 1655 GURNALL *Chr. in Arm.* II. 337 Though God takes his aim at man, and levels his arrows primarily at his very heart; yet as they go, they slent upon the creature. 1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss., Slent*, to slant, to slope.

† **2.** To make sly hits or gibes. *Obs.*

Cf. Brockett (1829), '*Slant*, to utter sly jokes'.

1567 FENTON *Trag. Disc.* 141 b, Slenting at their sortes of devises in woing. 1579 NORTH *Plutarch* 744 b, One Proteas, a pleasaunt conceited man, and that could slent finely.

3. *trans.* To cause to slant; to turn aside.

1639 FULLER *Holy War* IV. xxiv. (1647) 210 Nimblenesse was also very advantageous to break and slent the down-right rushings of a stronger vessel.

Hence **Sle·nting** *vbl. sb.*

13.. *Gaw. & Gr. Kn.* 1160 þer myȝt mon se, as þay slypte, slentyng of arwes.

† **Slent,** *v.*[2] In 4 **slente, slinte.** [Of obscure origin.] *trans.* To strike *out*; to aim or deliver (a blow); to cast, throw.

13.. *Sir Beues* 813 Wiþ is sword out a slinte Twei toskes at þe ferste dent. *c* 1380 *Sir Ferumb.* 1615 Roland ȝerne him gan defende wyþ durendale is brond, And sturne strokes til hymen he slente. *Ibid.* 3313 Grete slabbes of styl & yre to þe walles þo wern y-slente.

Slent, *v.*[3] Now *dial.* [Of obscure origin.]

1. *trans.* To split or cleave; to rend.

1605 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. iii. I. *Vocation* 857 With a steel Dart..[thou] Art 'twixt thy Cuirace and thy Saddle slent. *a* 1618—*Jth Triumphant* III. 295 On Cliffs of Adamant hee laies his hands;..Slents them wth sledges. *c* 1645 HOWELL *Lett.* IV. xix, If one do well observe the quality of the Cliffs on both shores, his eyes will judge..that they were slented and shiver'd asunder by some act of violence. 1851 *Dorset Gloss., Slent*, to tear; to rend. 1897 T. HARDY *Wessex Poems, Valenciennes* vii, A shell was slent to shards anighst my ears.

absol. 1591 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. i. 813 Whose two-hand Sword, at every veny, slent, Not through a single Souldier's feeble bones, But keenly slyces through whole Troops at once.

† **2.** *intr.* To burst or split. *Obs. rare*

1608 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. iv. III. *Schisme* 188 Th' unsacred Altar sudden slent in twain. *a* 1618—*Jth Triumphant* IV. 52 My brest is like a Wine-Butt..Ready to burst, or Bottles like to slent.

Sle·nting, *ppl. a.* Also 7 **slinting.** [f. SLENT *v.*[1]] Oblique, indirect.

1642 FULLER *Holy & Prof. St.* II. v. 66 Generally writing ingeniously, using sometimes slenting, seldome down-right railing. *a* 1661 — *Worthies, London* II. (1662) 217 This if literally true, deserved a down-right (and not only so slenting a) mention. 1662 GURNALL *Chr. in Arm.* XIX. xi. § 2 (1669) 510/1 So by a slinting blow they hit God himself in contemning his Ambassador.

† **Sle·ntwise,** *adv. Obs. rare*⁻¹. [f. SLENT *sb.*[1] or *v.*[1]] In a slanting manner.

1579 FENTON *Guicciard.* XV. (1599) 692 The hurt was light, being but a blow slentwise.

† **Slep,** *v. Obs. rare.* [a. ON. (also Icel., Norw., MSw.) *sleppa.*] *intr.* To slip.

? *a* 1400 *Morte Arth.* 3854 His hand sleppid and slode o-slante one þe mayles. *a* 1420 *Anturs of Arth.* xlviii. (Thornton MS.), The swerde sleppis on slante, and one the mayle slydys.

† **Slepe,** *v. Obs.*⁻¹ [a. MDu. *slepen*, = MLG. *slepen*, MHG. *sleifen.*] *trans.* To drag.

1481 CAXTON *Reynard* (Arb.) 27 They slepid hym and drewe hym ouer stones and ouer blockes wythout the village.

Slepe(r, obs. f. SLEEP(ER. **Slep(e)ry, Sleprie,** obs. ff. SLEEPERY. **Slepyr,** obs. f. SLIPPER.

Slerg, *v. Sc.* [More commonly written *slairg* (see the *Eng. Dial. Dict.*). Cf. G. dial. *schlargen, schlergen* to smear, mess.] *trans.* To slabber.

a 1758 RAMSAY *Daft Bargain* 22 Rab..slerg'd the rest o't in his gab.

Slester, variant of SLAISTER *Sc.*

† **Slet,** *v. Obs.* In 3 **sclette,** 4 **slette.** [app. a. ON. *sletta* to slap, etc.] **a.** *trans.* To flatten, lay flat. **b.** *intr.* To fall flat.

c 1225 *Ancr. R.* 212 Heo sleateð [*MS. C.* scletteð] adun boa two hore earen. 13.. *K. Alis.* 2262 (W.), Heore hors hedlyng mette, That heo to grounde y-swowe sletten.

† **Sletch,** obs. var. of SLEECH *sb.* or SLITCH.

1743 MAXWELL *Sel. Trans.* 44 Sea-sletch, Clay and Lime. *Ibid.* 125 Indeed they chuse to have Mud with the Sand, and this they call *Sletch*.

Sletch (sletʃ), *v. rare.* Now *dial.* Also 5 **slech**; *pa. t.* **sleghte.** [repr. OE. *slæccan* (also *á-, geslæccan*), f. *slæc* SLACK *a.* Cf. OS. *slekkian* to weaken, Norw. *slekkja* to slacken (a cord, etc.).]

† **1.** *trans.* To render slack or relaxed; to assuage, mitigate. *Obs. rare.*

? *a* 1400 *Morte Arth.* 2675 Lordes lenande lowe on lemand scheldes,..And some was sleghte one slepe with slaughte of þe pople. *a* 1500 *Tale of Basyn* 47 in Hazl. *E. P. P.* III. 46 [Go] To the parson thi broder, that is so rich a wrech, And pray hym of thi sorow sum del he wold slech.

2. *intr.* To abate, slacken, stop. *dial.*

1847 in HALLIWELL (I. Wight). 1881 *Isle of Wight Gloss.* s.v., It raained aal day without sletchun.

Sleuce, obs. form of SLUICE *sb.*

Sleugh, variant of SLEW *sb.*[1]

† **Sleuth,** *sb.*[1] *Obs.* Forms: 1 **slæwð, slæwþ,** 2 **slewðe,** 4 **sleawþe,** 4-5 **slewthe,** 4-6 **slewth**; 1 **sleuð,** 3-4 **sleuþe,** 4 **sleuȝþe, sleauþe,** 4-6 **sleuthe** (5 **scl-**), 4-6 **sleuth,** 7 **slouth.** [OE. *slǽwð*, f. *slǽw* SLOW *a.* + -TH. In later use chiefly northern and Sc.]

1. Sloth; laziness.

c 888 K. ÆLFRED *Boeth.* xviii. § 3 For heora slæwðe & for ȝimeleste & eac for recceleste. *c* 1000 ÆLFRIC in Assmann *Ags. Hom.* I. 224 We ne magon mid slæwðe .. þa ecan myrhðe mid Gode ȝeearnian. *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 103 *Desidia*, þet is slewðe on englisc. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 7508 Þet folc..turnde to sleuþe & to prute & to lecherie. 1340 *Ayenb.* 32 Efterward comþ sleuþe. *Ibid.*, Efter sleauþe is uoryetinge. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) I. 355 Þey.. ȝeueþ hem alle to idelnesse and to sleuþe. 1422 tr. *Secreta Secret., Priv. Priv.* 228 A grete vysage and broode tokenyth slewthe in manere, as Oxeen and Assis. *c* 1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 1749 Why er we þus in sleuth sett? 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* X. vi. 46 Than na delay of *sleuth*, nor feir, ne bost,

Wythheld Turnus. 1529 RASTELL *Pastyme* (1811) 77 Slewth, gloteny, and other pleasurs. 1557 PAYNELL *Jugurtha* 92 There was neuer man whiche obtayned..euerlastyng name by cowardise or sleuth. *c* 1600 MONTGOMERIE *Cherrie & Slae* 1560 Then let us remuve, And sleip nae mair in sleuth. 1629 SIR W. MURE *True Crucifix* 3113 Wks.(S.T.S.) I. 294 Not in the Bed of slouth Reposing.

b. As a 'proper term' (cf. SLOTH *sb.*1 3).

1486 *Bk. St. Albans* f vj, A Sleuth of Beeris.

2. Slowness, slow movement. *rare*—1.

1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) III. 207 By þe sleuþe of þe manere of tunes.

Sleuth (slūþ), *sb.*2 Forms: 3–4 **sloþ**, 4–5 **sloth**, 4 **slotht**, **slog(t)h**; 5 *Sc.* **sloith**, **slouth**, **sluth(e**, 5 *Sc.*, 9 **sleuth**. [In sense 1 a. ON. (and Icel.) *slóð* (Norw. *slod*, *slo*) track, trail. In sense 2 ellipt. for SLEUTH-HOUND.]

†**1.** The track or trail of a person or animal; a definite track or path. Also *fig.* *Obs.*

c 1200 ORMIN 1194 3iff þu..follȝhesst a33 clænnessess sloþ, & læresst me to follȝhenn. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 1254 In þat way sal þou find forsoth þi moders and mine our bather slogh [*v.r.* sloth]. *Ibid.* 1285, etc. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* VII. 44 Iohne of Lorn Persauit the hund the sleuth had lorn. 1429 in *Cal. Doc. rel. Scot.* (1888) IV. 404 Gif onny man..makking lauchful sluthe as the trewis wil, be slayne. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* V. 137 The sloith stoppyt, at Fawdoun still scho [*sc.* the dog] stude.

b. *attrib.*, as *sleuth-dog*, etc.

c 1470 HENRY *Wallace* V. 96 Bot this sloth brache [*v.r.* sluth ratche]..On Wallace fute folowit so felloune fast. 1802 SURTEES *Fray Suport* ix. in Scott *Minstrelsy*, Lang Aicky..Wi' his sleuth-dog sits in his watch right sure. 1822 SCOTT *Peveril* xli, The sleuth-dog, which, eager, fierce, and clamorous in pursuit of his prey, desists from it so soon as blood is sprinkled upon his path.

2. a. A bloodhound. Hence *sleuth-like* adj.

b. *U.S.* A detective.

1876 *N. Amer. Rev.* CXXIII. 371 The quiet, untiring sluth-like assiduity with which Mr. Silden was ferreting out their wrong-doings. 1907 *Black Cat* June 11 The sleuths whose protection he had invoked. 1908 *Westm. Gaz.* 28 Aug. 2/3 The 'sleuth' that tracks down the murderer.

†**Sleuth,** *a.*1 *Sc.* *Obs.* *rare.* Also 7 **slueth.** [irreg. f. SLEUTH *sb.*1] Slothful, slow.

1567 *Gude & Godlie B.* (S.T.S.) 180 Wald thay na mair Impugne the treuth, Syne in thair office be nocht sleuth [1621 slueth]. 1570 *Satir. Poems Reform.* x. 92 Quhen pleisit God to send ȝow Scottis þe treuth, The same to further at Leith he was not sleuth.

Sleuth, *a.*2 *rare*—1. [Inferred from SLEUTH-HOUND.] Persistent, dogged.

1864 BLACKMORE *Clara Vaughan* vii, A treacherous, blue, three-cornered blade,..sleuth as hate, and tenacious as death.

†**Sleuth,** *v.*1 Also 3 **sleuhþen**, 5 **slewthyn**; 5–6 **slewth**, 6 *Sc.* **sleucht**, **sluthe.** [f. SLEUTH *sb.*1 In later use only *Sc.*]

1. *intr.* To be slothful. *rare.*

c 1300 *Moral Ode* [37] in *Anglia* I. 9 Ne solde no man don a first, ne sleuhþen wel to donne. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 459/1 Slewthyn, or sluggon, *torpeo*, *torpesco.*

2. *trans.* To delay, put off, neglect.

c 1430 *Pilgr. Lyf Manhode* II. xc. (1869) 108, I slewthede it, and dide no more ther too;..and wel ofte bi me hath be many a good werk slewthed. 1450 *Paston Lett.* I. 175 That thys be not slewthed, for taryeng drawth perell. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* XI. ix. 62 Mony ways him self he accusit, That he sa lang had slewthit and refusit To ressaue glaidly the Troiane Enee. 1534 *St. Papers Hen. VIII*, V. 12 We do nocht sleucht nor contenow no manor thing yat concernis the King. *a* 1578 LINDESAY (Pitscottie) *Chron. Scot.* (S.T.S.) I. 135 Sieing all was sluthit, thair was no mischeif could befall our king bot was deliuerit wnto ws.

b. To waste in sloth.

1585 JAS. I *Ess. Poesie* (Arb.) 74 Men sould be warr, To sleuth the tyme that flees fra them so farr.

Hence **Sleu·thing** *vbl. sb.*

c 1450 *Godstow Reg.* 78 With-out tariinge or slewthynge, al so sone as hyt myht lawfully be done. *a* 1585 MONTGOMERIE *Cherrie & Slae* 542 Persauis thou not quhat pretious tyme thy slewthing dois oreschute?

Sleuth (slūþ), *v.*2 [f. SLEUTH *sb.*2 2.] *trans.* To track (a person).

1905 *Review of Rev.* Sept. 254 Berton..has been sleuthed by the detectives. 1909 GUNTER *Prince Karl* 269 You sleuth her to Buffalo and it will get you a raise in salary.

†**Sleu·thful,** *a.* *Obs.* Also *Sc.* 5 **slouth-**, 6 **slewth-**, 7 **slueth-.** [f. SLEUTH *sb.*1 In later use only *Sc.*] Slothful.

c 1400 tr. *Secreta Secret., Gov. Lordsh.* 104 Man ys..wayk and sleuthfull as Bere. *Ibid.* 115 Sleuthful, and vnobeys-sant. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* VII. 348 In thair brawnys sone slaid the sleuthfull sleip. 1533 BELLENDEN *Livy* I. Prol. (S.T.S.) I. 9 How sleuthfull war þe maneris of romanis, quhen morall disciplynis began to failȝe. 1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* I. 286 Mony of þair kinsmen and freindis, this law walde fettir, ydle, sueir, and sleuthfull. *c* 1614 SIR W. MURE *Dido & Æneas* Wks. (S.T.S.) I. 78 None sluethfull in the citty do remaine.

Hence †**Sleu·thfully** *adv.*, †**Sleuthfulness.**

c 1470 HENRY *Wallace* I. 3 Our antecessowris..We lat ourslide, throw werray sleuthfulnes. *Ibid.* III. 234 Our slouthfully our keparis leit him pass. 1520 *Peebles Burgh Rec.* (1872) 50 Gyf it happynis..that the saidis landis faill throuch neclegens, wantonnes, or slewthfulness of the chap-lane. 1565 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* I. 430 The samyn wes sleuthfullie left furth of the procuratonis.

Sleuth-hound (slūˑþˌhound). Forms: 5 **sloith-**, **slewth-**, **sleuth-**, 5–6 **sluth(e)-**, 7 **slwth-hund**; 5 **slwthound**, 6 **sleuthound**; 7 **slugh-**, 7 (9) **sluth-**, 8 **slothe**, **slooth**, 7, 9– **sleuth-hound** (9 **sleugh-**). [f. SLEUTH *sb.*2 Originally northern and Sc.]

1. A species of bloodhound, formerly employed in Scotland for pursuing game or tracking fugitives. Now *Hist.* or *arch.*

1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* VI. 484 A sleuthhund had he thar. *Ibid.* VII. 40 The sleuth-hund maid stynting thar. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* V. 135 Thair sloith hund the graith gait till him ȝeid. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 345/2 A Sluthe hunde, *sapifur*, *oderinsecus.* 1536 BELLENDEN *Cron. Scot.* (1821) I. p. xlii, He that denyis entres to the sleuthound..sal be haldin participant with the crime and thift committit. 1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* I. 7 Throuch thir woddis the gretter parte of the nobilitie hes thair maist recreatione in hunting with the sluthe-hundes. 1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* 149 The second kind is called in Scotland a Sluth-hound. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* II. 18 Tracing them ..by their footing..as quick senting Slugh-hounds doe lead them. 1674 N. COX *Gentl. Recreat.* I. (1677) 29 The Blood-hound differeth nothing in quality from the Scotish Sluth-hound. 1777 LIGHTFOOT *Flora Scot.* I. 7 Slough or slothe hounds. 1828 SCOTT *Tales Grandfather* Ser. I. I. viii, These bloodhounds, or sleuth-hounds,..were used for the purpose of pursuing great criminals. 1849 C. BRONTE *Shirley* II. xi. 259 These persons Moore hunted like any sleuth-hound. 1885 MISS BRADDON *Wyllard's Weird* iii, If I were a criminal, I would as soon have a sleuthhound on my track as Joseph Distin.

attrib. 1870 LOWELL *Study Wind.* 123 The remarkable feature of Mr. Carlyle's criticism..is the sleuth-hound instinct with which he presses on to the matter of his theme.

2. *transf.* A keen investigator or pursuer; a tracker; *U.S.* a detective.

1856 FROUDE *Hist. Eng.* II. 316 Cromwell..had his sleuth-hounds abroad, whose scent was not easily baffled. 1857 MRS. GASKELL *C. Bronte* (1860) 9 The West Riding men are sleuth-hounds in pursuit of money. 1890 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Col. Reformer* (1891) 209 The inspector and I followed..our sable sleuth-hounds.

†**Sleu·thy,** *a. Obs.*—1 [f. SLEUTH *sb.*1] Slothful.

a 1400 in *Sel. Wks. Wyclif* (1871) III. 34 For defaute of good teching, not of God, but of sleuþi prestis.

Sleuuol: see SLEWFUL *a.*

Sleve, obs. form of SLEEVE *sb.* and *v.*

†**Sleve,** *sb. Obs.*—1 (Meaning unknown.)

1523 FITZHERB. *Husb.* § 5 Or he shall lode his corne, he muste haue a wayne, a copyoke, a payre of sleues, a wayne-rope, and a pykforke.

†**Sleve,** *v. Obs.* *rare.* Also 5 **slefe**, *Sc.* **slewe.** [OE. *sléfan*, of uncertain relationship. Cf. SLIVE *v.*2]

1. *trans.* To cause to slip (*on*, *down*, *over*, or *into* something).

?*a* 950 *Guthlac* (1909) xvi. 153 Guðlac hine sylfne unȝyrede, and þæt reaf..he hit slefde on þone..man. 14.. *Master of Game* (MS. Douce 335) xxxiv. lf. 62 b, Thanne shold the hunter slefe doun the skyn as fer as he may. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* VII. 207 A rynnand cord thai slewyt our his hed. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* VI. iv. 25 Sum slevit knyffis in the beistis throtis.

2. *intr.* With *over.* To slip past.

a 1510 DOUGLAS *K. Hart* II. 187 Ȝe did greit miss..That sleuthfullie suld lat ȝour tyme our sleif, And come thus lait.

Slew (slū), *sb.*1 Also **slue**, **sleugh.** [Variant spellings of *sloo*, ME. *slō*: see SLOUGH *sb.*1]

1. *U.S.* and *Canada.* A marshy or reedy pool, pond, small lake, backwater, or inlet.

a. 1708 S. SEWALL *Diary* 18 Dec., Got home well in my slay, had much adoe to avoid Slews. 1867 F. N. LUDLOW *Fleeing to Tarshish* 112 It's in my heart to believe we could get the Lord's charriat out of this slew. 1888 *Home Missionary* (N.Y.) Dec. 280 We came to a 'slew' full of water...The horse..sank deeper and deeper, until he came to a stand-still in the middle of the 'slew'.

β. 1870 J. ORTON *Andes & Amazons* (1876) XVI. 239 Beside a slue of sluggish black water. 1902 *Blackwood's Mag.* April 504/1 In the first 'slue' we crossed.

γ. 1891 E. ROPER *By Track & Trail* vi. 80 At length we came to a very pretty sleugh, a pond of perhaps ten acres, surrounded by growing rushes and short willow bushes. 1894 C. L. JOHNSTONE *Canada* 47 The frog makes its voice heard in the ponds, or 'sleughs', as they are called out here.

2. *Coal-mining.* (See quot.)

1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-m.* 225 *Slew*,..a basin or natural swamp in a coal seam, often running several hundred yards in length.

Slew (slū), *sb.*2 Also **slue**, **slieu.** [f. SLEW *v.*] The act of turning, or causing to turn, without change of place; a turn, a twist; the position to which a thing has been turned.

c 1860 H. STUART *Seaman's Catech.* 49 The man in the crosstrees..keeps the yard on the right slue, that is with the jackstay up. 1879 STEVENSON *Trav. Cevennes* 22 The pack, the basket, and the pilot-coat would take an ugly slew to one side or the other. 1893 ALSTON & WALKER *Seamanship* (ed. 3) 241 The new sail has been swayed up, carefully kept on the right slue.

Slew (slū), *v.* Also **slue.** [Origin unknown; first recorded as a nautical word and with the spelling *slue*, which is still freq. employed.]

1. *trans.* To turn (a thing) round upon its own axis, or without shifting it from its place; also loosely, to swing round:

a. *Naut.* and *Mil.*

a. 1769 FALCONER *Dict. Marine* (1780), *To Slue*, is to turn any cylindrical or conical piece of timber about it's axis, without removing it. 1841 DANA *Seaman's Manual* 56 Slue the boom with the block up. *c* 1860 H. STUART *Seaman's Catech.* 21 To slue up the other reefs. 1882 NARES *Seamanship* (ed. 6) 183 Slue the mast round.

β. 1859 GRIFFITHS *Artill. Man.* (1862) 110 To slew a gun, or mortar,..is to turn it on its axis without moving it from the spot on which it rests. This is called slewing the trunnions. 1879 *Man. Artill. Exerc.* 451 The trunnions may be slewed, to bring them horizontal or vertical [etc.]. *Ibid.* 452 To slew a Gun end for end.

b. In general use.

a. c 1825 J. CHOYCE *Log of a Jack Tar* (1891) 79, I'll slue your toplights or you'll not see the road to heaven. 1833 MARRYAT *P. Simple* vi, Now, my lads,..we must slue (the part that breeches cover) more forward. 1884 E. F. KNIGHT *Cruise Falcon* (1887) 23 A roller caught us and slued the boat round.

β. 1849 DE QUINCEY in *Blackw. Mag.* LXVI. 749 He slewed him round on the pivot of his hind legs. 1893 'Q.' (Quiller Couch) *Delectable Duchy* 120 The old woman.. slewed her head painfully round and stared at him.

c. *refl.*

1834 M. SCOTT *Cruise Midge* xiii, I gradually slewed myself, so as to lie more on my side. 1852 READE *Peg. Woff.* (1853) 212 Mr. Vane..slewed himself round in his chair into a most awkward position. 1872 G. MACDONALD *W. Cumbermede* I. xiii. 219, I..caught hold of one of the small pillars which supported the roof, and slewed myself in.

d. *fig.* To intoxicate (cf. SLEWED *ppl. a.*); also in *pa. pple.*, beaten, 'done'.

1888 CHURCHWARD *Blackbirding* 209 An awful chap to drink, but it took a tremendous lot to slue him. 1890 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Col. Reformer* (1891) 106, I was as right as ninepence, and then to be slewed that way, and all for the want of a strap or two.

2. *intr.* To turn about; to swing *round.*

a. 1823 W. SCORESBY *Jrnl. Whale Fish.* 301 The floe.. began to 'slue' or revolve. 1840 R. H. DANA *Bef. the Mast* XXV. 83 The martingale had slued away off to leeward. 1883 *Cassell's Fam. Mag.* Dec. 59/2 The two front skates, or runners, are made to slue round at the will of the driver.

β. 1840 R. H. DANA *Bef. Mast* XXV, They slewed round and were hove up. 1863 W. C. BALDWIN *Afr. Hunting* vi. 171 The giraffe..slewed round like a vessel in full sail. 1873 G. C. DAVIES *Mountain & Mere* XVI. 136 He was just within shot when his boat slewed round broadside to the waves.

Hence **Slew·ing** *vbl. sb.*

1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2207 *Slewing*, in serving land artillery, turning the piece on the spot where it stands, equivalent to *training* on shipboard. 1892 *Pall Mall G.* 27 July 5/2 The railway disaster..was brought about by the slewing of the up line.

Slewce, obs. form of SLUICE.

Slewed (slūd), *ppl. a.* Also *dial.* **sluy'd.** [f. SLEW *v.*] Intoxicated.

1834 M. SCOTT *Cruise Midge* XVIII, Poor Hause,..who was by this time pretty well slewed. 1844 DICKENS *Mart. Chuz.* XXVIII, He came into our place one night..rather slued, but not much. 1849 G. CUPPLES *Green Hand* I. (1856) 2 We'll all save our grog, and get slewed as soon as may be. 1885 RUNCIMAN *Skippers & Shellbacks* 250 I'll get drunk too or anyway half slewed.

Slew-eyed, *a.* [f. SLEW *v.*] Squint-eyed.

1807–8 W. IRVING *Salmag.* (1811) I. 67 Another Caliban! —Vernon slew-eyed—people of Brunswick, of course, all squint.

†**Slew·ful,** *a. Obs.* Also 4 **sleu-**, **sleauuol**, **sleawol.** [app. f. SLEU(TH) + -FUL.] Slothful. Hence †**Slew·fully** *adv. Obs.*—1

1340 *Ayenb.* 32 Huanne he is sleuuol. *Ibid.*, Huo þet ys sleauuol, ofte uoryet. *Ibid.*, Hit nis no wonder þaȝ he hit do sleuuolliche. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* V. iii. (Tollem. MS.), Bestis þat haue to gret brayne ben ful slewful.

Slew-rope. *Naut.* Also **slue-.** [f. SLEW *v.*] A rope used in slewing an object.

1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.*, *Slue-Rope*, a rope peculiarly applied for turning a spar or other object in a required direction. 1882 NARES *Seamanship* (ed. 6) 64 Put two slue-ropes round the masts.

Slewth, var. SLEUTH. **Sley,** var. SLAY *sb.*1; obs. f. SLAY *v.*, SLEIGH *sb.*, SLY *a.* **Sleyar,** obs. Sc. var. SLAYER 1. **Sleyh,** obs. f. SLY *a.* **Sleyre,** var. SKLEIR *Obs.* **Sleythe,** obs. f. SLEIGHT *sb.*1 **Sli,** var. SLIKE *a.* (such), SLY *a.*

†**Slibber-sauce.** *Obs.* Also 7 **sliber-.** [? f. older Flem. *slibber* (Kilian), slime, ooze, = MDu. *slibbe*, Du. *slib*; LG. *slibb(e*: cf. SLIBBERY *a.* The relation to SIBBER-SAUCE and SLABBER-SAUCE is not clear.]

1. A compound or concoction of a messy, repulsive, or nauseous character, used esp. for medicinal purposes.

1527 TINDALE *Parab. Wicked Mammon* Wks. 65/1 His stomacke..longyng after slibbersause and swashe, at which a whole stomacke is readye to cast hys gorge. 1579 LYLY *Euphues* (Arb.) 116, I loath almost to thincke on..all their slibber sawces, whiche bring quesinesse to the stomacke. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* I. 423 Oftentimes also they make sliber-sauces of it selfe without any other mixture. *a* 1656 USSHER *Ann.* (1658) 288 [He] was but a weak spirited man, ..by such slibber-sauces, and drugs as Olympias had procured to be given him.

2. A preparation of this kind used as a cosmetic.

1581 G. PETTIE tr. *Guazzo's Civ. Conv.* III. (1586) 137 There are no sortes of ointments and slibber sauces, which they will not proue, to make their haire of the brauest coulour. 1583 STUBBES *Anat. Abus.* 55 To color their faces with such slibbersawces. 1627 HAKEWILL *Apol.* (1630) 413 For the face they used so much slibber-sauce, such dawbing and painting [etc.]. 1633 HART *Diet of Diseased* I. xxii. 98 Our gentlewomen..dirt-dawb their faces with their severall slibber-sauces and paints.

Hence †**Slibber-sauced** *a. Obs.*

1601 BP. W. BARLOW *Defence* 147 Without any slibber-sauced ceremonies.

†Slibber-slabber. *Obs.* Also 7 -slobber. [Cf. prec. and SLABBER *v.*]

1. = SLIBBER-SAUCE 1. Also *attrib.*

1566 STUDLEY *Medea* III. The bryde..with slibber slabber sosse of chauntments shalbe tryde. 1591 R. TURNBULL *St. James* 184 We haue no children, and..we seek by some slibber slabber, or other deuice, to obtain them. 1603 FLORIO *Montaigne* (1632) 437 There is no poore Woman so simple ..whose slibber-slabbers and drenches we doe not employ.

2. = SLIBBER-SAUCE 2.

1622 MABBE tr. *Aleman's Guzman d'Alf.* I. 12 The vsing of Complexions, and such like slibber-slabbers. 1632 — *Celestina* VI. 79 Only a little faire Fountaine-water..(without any other slibber-slabbers). 1668 R. L'ESTRANGE *Visions of Quevedo* 222 To see them..with their Menstruous Slibber slobbers, dawbing one another.

†Sli·bbery, *a. Obs. rare.* Also 3 slibbri. [ad. LG. (also Du. and Flem.) *slibberig.*] Smooth and slippery; lubric.

c 1225 *Ancr. R.* 74 Þe tunge is sliddri [*v.r.* slibbri], uor heo wadeð ine wete. 1658 A. FOX *Würtz' Surg.* III. v. 230 There is a moisture in joints, called by Surgeons a Gluten, because it maketh the joints slibberie.

Slicche, obs. form of SLITCH.

Slice (slēis), *sb.*[1] Forms: *α.* 4 sclyce, 5 sclice; 4, 7 sclise, 5 sclys(e, 6 *Sc.* sclyise; 5–6 sklyce, sklyse (6 -ss), 5, 7 sklice, 6–7 sklise. *β.* 5–7 slyce (6 slyese), 6 slise, 5– slice. [ad. OF. *esclice, esclisse* (mod.F. *éclisse*) splinter, shiver, small piece (of wood, etc.), vbl. sb. f. *esclicer*: see SLICE *v.*[1]]

I. †1. A fragment, a shiver, a splinter. *Obs.*

13.. *K. Alis.* 3833 (Laud MS.), Hij braken speres alto slice [*v.r.* sclyces]. *c* 1425 WYNTOUN *Cron.* VIII. xxxi. 5153 A sklysse of þe schaft, þat brak, In til his hande a wounde can mak. 1577–87 HOLINSHED *Chron., Hist. Scotl.* I. 278/1 This worthie prince James the second was slaine by the slice of a great peece of artillerie, which by ouercharging chanced to breake. 1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* II. 102 At last in Paris, standing besyd a singular combatt, [the duke] is slane with a sklyse of a speir.

2. A relatively thin, flat, broad piece cut from anything. Freq. const. *of* or *from.*

c 1420 *Liber Cocorum* (1862) 48 In hom þou cast With sklices of bacon. 15.. *Christ's Kirk* 133 in *Bann. MS.* 286 Fra his thowme thay dang a sklyss. 1613 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* (1614) 752 If it be a wound hee healeth it after the same manner, applying a round slice of Beauers stones. 1700 DRYDEN *Ovid's Met., Baucis & Phil.* 65 High o'er the hearth a chine of bacon hung; Good old Philemon seiz'd it.., Then cut a slice. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Veneering*, The Wood intended for Veneering, is first saw'd out into Slices, or Leaves about a Line thick. 1811 KNOX & JEBB *Corr.* II. 42 Having..taken a slice off my right thumb, whilst pruning a rose tree. 1859 W. S. COLEMAN *Woodland, Heaths & H.* (1866) 10 A transverse slice from the trunk of an immense tree. 1888 RUTLEY *Rock-Forming Min.* 37 A parallel-faced slice of a uniaxial crystal is cut.

ellipt. a 1764 LLOYD *Dial. betw. Author & Friend* Wks. (1810) 109/1 Whether the Grecians took a slice Four times a-day, or only twice. ? 1780 COWPER *Love World reproved* 36 Each thinks his neighbour makes too free, Yet likes a slice as well as he.

fig. 1796 *Grose's Dict. Vulgar T.* (ed. 3), *To take a slice*, to intrigue, particularly with a married woman. 1818 SCOTT *Rob Roy* vi, We hae nae slices o' the spare rib here..except auld Martha.

3. *transf.* A portion, share, piece, part, etc.

1550 CROWLEY *Information & Petit.* Wks. 171 None can be buried but they wyl haue a slyese. 1622 FLETCHER *Span. Cur.* III. ii, A short slice of a Reading serves us, Sir. 1689 BURNET *Trav.* II. (1730) 89 A Slice of the Alps came down upon it, and buried it quite. 1743 WALPOLE *Corr.* (1820) I. lxxx. 284 Your brother slipped a slice of paper into a letter which he sent me. 1857 HUGHES *Tom Brown* I. i, A fellow..who has spent a good slice of his life here. 1876 HOLLAND *Seven Oaks* xxiv. 332 A heavy slice of his ready money had been practically swept out of existence. 1893 PEEL *Spen Valley* 55 A considerable slice of that side of the township.

II. †4. A spatula used for stirring and mixing compounds. *Obs.*

c 1400 *Lanfranc's Cirurg.* 347 Meue hem wiþ a sclise longe, for þe more þat þei ben stirid togidere þe bettir it wole be. *a* 1425 tr. *Arderne's Treat. Fistula*, etc. 31 Moue þam all wayse wiþ a sklyse þat þai cleue not to þe panne. 1558 WARDE tr. *Alexis' Secr.* (1568) 62 b, Sturrynge them with a broade sklyse of woode. 1580 BLUNDEVIL *Horsemanship* IV. xxxiv. 16 b, Stirre them continuallie with a flat sticke, or slice, vntill they be throughlie mingled..togither. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* II. 520 Calcin it ouer the fire in a pan, stirring and mixing it together with little slices or potstickes. 1686 W. HARRIS tr. *Lemery's Course Chem.* (ed. 3) 220 Dry it by a small fire of Sand, stirring it with an Ivory or Wooden slice.

†b. (See quots.) *Obs.*

1611 COTGR., *Espatule*, a (Chirurgions, or Apothecaries) little slice. 1627 HAKEWILL *Apol.* I. i. § 5 The Pellican hath a beake broade and flat, much like the slice of Apothecaries and Surgions, with which they spread their plaisters.

5. One or other of several flattish utensils (sometimes perforated) used for various purposes in cookery, etc. (see quots., and cf. *egg-, fish-slice*).

a. 1459 *Paston Lett.* I. 490 Item, j. fryeyng panne, j. sclyse. 1548 ELYOT, *Spatha*,..also an instrument of the kytchen to turne meate that is fried, a sklise. 1611 COTGR., *Friquette*, a lingell, smalle sklice, little scummer.

β. a 1529 SKELTON *E. Rumming* 409 A fryinge pan, and a slyce. 1605 PLAT *Delightes for Ladies* liv, You must also haue a brasen slice to scrape away the sugar from the hanging bason. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 317/1 A Slice..to cut Dough into pieces, called a Beater, a Break. *Ibid.* 396/1 A long piece of Wood cut after the manner of a Slice which Deary-women use about their Butter. 1814 tr. *Klaproth's Trav. Cauc.* 131 An iron pot.., together with a large perforated iron slice. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade, Slice*,..a spatula for serving cooked fish. *a* 1887 *Cassell's Dict. Cookery* 201 Take the eggs out carefully with a small slice.

6. A form of fire-shovel; also, an instrument for clearing the bars of a furnace when choked with clinkers.

α. 1465 *Priory of Finchale* (Surtees) 299, j quarell mell, j bochyng axs, j sclys. 1555 *Ludlow Churchw. Acc.* (Camden) 60 Paid for a sklyce to cary fyer to the churche. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* XXXIII. viii, Lay a peece of silver ore upon a sclise, plate, or firepan of yron red hot.

β. 1612 in *Antiquary* Jan. (1906) 28 In the Kytchin..a fire slyce, two fire shovells [etc.]. 1677 MOXON *Mech. Exerc.* i. 8 You must with the Slice clap the Coals upon the outside close together. 1750 BLANCKLEY *Naval Expos.* 153 Slices are used by the Smiths to clear and keep their Fire together. 1835 HAWTHORNE *Tales & Sk., Old Wom. T.* (1879) 178 It was a sort of iron shovel (by housewifes termed a 'slice'), such as is used in clearing the oven. 1879 *Spons' Encycl. Manuf.* I. 291 The workman with his 'slice' then spreads the charge over the bed, so as to thoroughly expose every portion to the action of the flames.

7. A flattish instrument, implement, etc., of various kinds (see quots.).

1483 *Cath. Angl.* 322/2 A Sclice, *vertinella, est forceps medici, spatula.* 1541 *Extr. Aberdeen Reg.* (1844) I. 176 Ane stuffin sclyise, with ane yeirning sclyise. 1580 BLUNDEVIL *Horsemanship* IV. cx. 51 Then with a flat slice of iron, loosen the skin within from the flesh. 1611 BIBLE *Lev.* ii. 5 A meate offering baken in a panne [*marg.* on a flat plate *or* slice]. 1665 PEPYS *Diary* 16 Mar., Two large silver candlesticks and snuffers, with a slice to keep them upon. 1707 MORTIMER *Husb.* (1721) II. 126 Then with a slice, without digging, you may force off all the under Slips. 1712 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4960/3 A silver Slice to fold Paper. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2207/2 *Slice*..2. (*Nautical.*) *a.* A bar with a chisel or spear-shaped end, used for stripping off sheathing or planking. *b.* A spade-shaped tool used in flensing whales. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* IV. 112/1 One of the workmen detaches the adhering crystals [of lead] by means of a long iron bar shaped at the end like a chisel, called a slice.

8. *Printing.* **a.** An ink-knife (cf. *ink-slice*).

1683 MOXON *Mech. Exerc., Printing* x. P 11 The Slice is a little thin Iron Shovel about three or four Inches broad, and five Inches long; it hath a Handle to it. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. xxi. (Roxb.) 257/2 He beareth Argent, a Printers Slice, Sable. 1808 STOWER *Printer's Gramm.* 336 The Brayer and Slice. 1888 JACOBI *Printers' Vocab.* 126 *Slice*, a flat wide iron knife used for lifting ink out of the can.

b. The sliding bottom of a slice-galley.

1683 MOXON *Mech. Exerc., Printing* v, The three Sides of the Frame..stand about three fifth parts of the height of the Letter above the superficies of the Slice. *Ibid.* xxii. P 6 He..draws the Slice with the Page upon it, out of the Galley. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 936/1 The galley sometimes has a groove to admit a false bottom, called a *galley-slice.*

9. *Ship-building.* (See quot. 1846.)

1791 *1st Rep. Comm. Woods & Forests* (1792) App. XXIX. 143 The old Method..of launching Ships on a Curve Line, with short Bulgeways, and Slices under each end of them. 1846 A. YOUNG *Naut. Dict.* 285 *Slices*, in shipbuilding, tapered pieces of wood driven between the bilgeways, etc., preparatory to launching a vessel. 1884 *Y. Peake's Naval Archit.* (ed. 5) 233 Large wedges called slices..are placed inside and outside of the bilgeways.

10. *attrib.*, as **slice-bar, -galley** (see quots.).

1846 A. YOUNG *Naut. Dict.* 285 A slice or *slice bar also means a bar of iron with a sharp end, used to strip off sheathing, ceiling, etc. 1874 RAYMOND *Statist. Mines & Mining* 40 The straight grate-bars also clog with this coal, and the fireman has to use his slice-bar liberally. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.*, *Slice-bar*, a hooked poker for removing slag and cinders from grate-bars of furnaces. *Ibid.*, **Slice-galley*, a galley having a movable false bottom or slice. 1896 DE VINNE *Moxon's Mech. Exerc., Printing* 407 Each compositor to make up his matter on a slice-galley.

Slice (slēis), *sb.*[2] [f. SLICE *v.*[1]]

1. A sharp cut, a slash. *rare.*

1611 COTGR., *Taillure*,..a slice, cut, slit, slash, &c.

2. *Golf.* A slicing stroke.

1886 HUTCHINSON *Hints Golf* 27 The cut, or slice, is put on the ball by stretching the arms to their full length..as the club is raised [etc.]. 1890 — *Golf* (Badm.) 204 It is not this slice, but the slice from above downwards, which causes both the high loft and the back spin with its dead fall.

Slice (slēis), *v.*[1] Forms: *α.* 5 sklyce, 5, *Sc.* 9 sklice, 6 sclyce, 7 sklise. *β.* 6 slyse, slies-, 6–7 slyce, slise, 6–slice. [ad. OF. *esclicer, esclisser*, etc. (mod.F. *éclisser*), to reduce to splinters or pieces, ad. OHG. *slîtzan*: see SLITE *v.* In later use perh. partly from SLICE *sb.*[1]]

1. *trans.* To cut into slices; to cut into or through with a sharp instrument.

c 1420 *Liber Cocorum* (1862) 43 Take befe and sklice hit fayre and thynne. *Ibid.*, Penne take þy rost, and sklyce hit clene. 1551 TURNER *Herbal* I. (1568) 150 The roote is sliced and layd up as Scilla is. 1593 NASHE *Christ's T.* Wks. (Grosart) IV. 112 Loe there goes the woman shall they say, that hath slyced & eaten her owne sonne. 1634 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* 124 He would haue sliced his body into as many parts as there be dayes in a yeare. 1648 WINYARD *Midsummer-Moon* 1 Dido, with his hide, might have had ground enough for her Carthage without slicing it into leashes. 1747–96 MRS. GLASSE *Cookery* v. 76 Slice a French roll thin, peel and slice a very large onion, pare and slice three or four turnips. 1769 MRS. RAFFALD *Eng. Housekpr.* (1778) 259 Slice a penny loaf as thin as possible. 1836–9 *Todd's Cycl. Anat.* II. 503/1 The coagulum is first to be sliced in thin pieces with a sharp knife. 1867 J. HOGG *Microsc.* I. iii. 213 Cells..may be made of vulcanite by slicing tubing made of this material. 1897 G. ALLEN *Type-writer Girl* xix. 205 Shops where red water-melons, sliced open,..adorn the slabs.

b. *transf.* and *fig.*

c 1500 *Little Gest of Robin Hood* ccxcii, Thryes Robyn shot about, And alway slist the wand. 1594 NASHE *Dido* 1181 Abourd, abourd,..And slice the Sea with sable coloured ships. 1601 WEEVER *Mirr. Mart.* E iij, Ship slice the sea. 1605 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. iii. III. *Law* 343 Through their skin With scourges slyc't, must their bare bones be seen. 1690 T. BURNET *Theory Earth* IV. v. 162 Ambitious Princes and Tyrants, that slice the Earth amongst them. 1860 W. H. RUSSELL *Diary India* I. 55 Our sharp bow sliced the blue depths.

Comb. 1591 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* I. iii. 564 The winding Rivers bordered all their banks With slice-Sea [=sea-slicing] Aldars.

2. To cut *out* or *off* in the form of a slice or slices; to remove with a clean cut.

c 1550 H. RHODES *Bk. Nurture* in *Babees Bk.* 76 Of bread, slyce out fayre morsels to put into your pottage. 1582 STANYHURST *Æneis* I. (Arb.) 24 Soom doe slise owt collops on spits yeet quirilye trembling. 1607 HEYWOOD *Wom. Killed w. Kindn.* (1617) H ij, Heere's a knife, To saue mine honor, shal slice out my life. *c* 1645 HOWELL *Lett.* I. I. xix, They then slic'd off his Ears. 1755 SMOLLETT *Quix.* I. IV. iii. (1803) II. 39 That ferocious adversary of yours, whose proud head I hope to slice off. 1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* I. xvi. 111 One side of the pyramid had been sliced off. 1885 *Manch. Weekly Times* Suppl. 20 June 4/3 To lay the leather face downward..and slice away the back of it with a sharp.. knife. 1892 ZANGWILL *Bow Myst.* 44 A door panel sliced out and replaced was also put forward.

fig. 1608 ARMIN *Nest Ninn.* (1880) 51 Not sparing any price to please appetite, though the edge of it slice from the bosome of good old Abraham, very heauen it selfe. 1629 Z. BOYD *Last Battell* 1016 By years, dayes, and houres, our life is Continuallie cut and sklised away. 1874 SAYCE *Compar. Philol.* ii. 76 One would slice off a letter at the end of a word.

b. To remove by means of a slice.

1683 MOXON *Mech. Exerc., Printing* xxiv. P 11 He Slices the whole mass of Inck into the farthermost corner of the Inck-block. 1884 C. G. W. LOCK *Workshop Rec.* Ser. III. 354/2 A workman keeps stirring the lead, and 'slicing', or freeing from the sides, the portions setting on them.

3. *intr.* To cut cleanly or easily. Also *transf.*

1605 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. iii. III. *Law* 537 Boats do slide, where Ploughs did slice of late. 1634 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* (1638) 334 A Cuttan; an Indian sword which slices easily. 1853 DICKENS *Bleak Ho.* x, He stands..snipping and slicing at sheepskin. 1910 *Blackw. Mag.* Apr. 540/1 He watched the saw slice to the heart of a mighty spruce.

b. To use a slice or fire-shovel.

1893 *Westm. Gaz.* 22 Feb. 8/2 They throw coal on and slice and rake until the ship shakes beneath them.

4. *trans.* To make (a way) by slicing.

1872 TENNYSON *Gareth & Lynette* 409 Knights, who sliced a red life-bubbling way Thro' twenty folds of twisted dragon.

5. *Golf.* To hit (the ball) in such a manner that it flies or curves off to the right. Also *absol.*

1890 HUTCHINSON *Golf* (Badm.) 104 It is..advisable in such circumstances..to play to slice the ball. *Ibid.* 178 We slice when instead of sweeping along the line of fire, we draw the club towards ourselves across it. 1894 *Times* 28 Apr. 13/3 Approaching the fifth Mr. Laidlay sliced his drive.

†Slice, *v.*[2] *Hawking. Obs.* Also 5 sclise, sklyse, 6 slyse. [ad. OF. *esclicier, esclisser*, etc. (mod.F. *éclisser*), to squirt, splash.]

1. *intr.* Of birds: To mute, so that the fæces are ejected to some distance. Also *transf.*

c 1450 *Bk. Hawking* in *Reliq. Antiq.* I. 296 Ye schull say that your hawke mutith and not sclisith. 1486 *Bk. St. Albans, Hawking* a vj b, Ye shall say yowre hawke mutes-sith or mutith and not sklysith. 1575 [see MUTE *v.*[1]]. 1600 SURFLET *Countrie Farme* VII. xliii. 706 Porkes flesh giuen them warme with a little Aloes, maketh the bird loose and to slice out readily. 1652 FULLER *Abel Rediv., Cranmer* 226 As the Herneshaw when unable by maine strength to grapple with the Hawke, doth Slice upon her. 1710 *Acc. Last Distemper Tom Whigg* I. 5 The Criminal had sliced immoderately on the Sign of the Old Bishop's Head in Lambeth.

2. *trans.* To eject in muting.

1628 WITHER *Brit. Rememb.* 3 Our Herneshawes, slicing backward filth on those, Whose worths they dare not openly oppose.

Sliced (slēist), *ppl. a.* [f. SLICE *v.*[1]]

1. Cut into slices; cut cleanly.

1589 in Hall *Eliz. Age* (1886) 218/1 For slist bief, vj *d.* 1591 MARKHAM *Sir R. Grinuile* cxxxiii, Streaming diuine blood from his sliced side. 1599 B. JONSON *Cynthia's Rev.* III. i, A dish of slic'd caviare,.or so. 1675 HAN. WOOLLEY *Gentlew. Comp.* 137 Sliced Dates and good big pieces of Marrow..with sliced Lemon. 1771 SMOLLETT *Humph. Cl.* I. 29 May, Devouring sliced beef. 1806 *Culina* 71 Put the meat into an earthen pot with plenty of sliced turnips. 1842 J. AITON *Domest. Econ.* (1857) 111 Add half a pound of sliced soap. 1883 H. DRUMMOND *Nat. Law in Spir. W.* (1884) 372 The sliced specimen of some..stone.

fig. 1642 MILTON *Apol. Smect.* Wks. 1851 III. 313 The schisme of a slic't prayer.

2. Having a slice cut or taken off.

1874 HEATH *Croquet Player* 25 Cylindrical Heads,..Sliced Mallets. *Ibid.*, The majority of good players play with sliced mallets.

3. *Golf.* (See SLICE *v.*[1] 5.)

1890 HUTCHINSON *Golf* (Badm.) 104 All sliced balls start away high. 1901 *Scotsman* 9 Sept. 4/7 In bents off a sliced drive, Herd again dropped two holes behind.

Slicer (slēi·səɹ). Also 6 sclycer. [f. SLICE *v.*[1]]

1. An implement or instrument specially adapted or used for slicing.

Also in combs., as *bread-, turnip-, vegetable-slicer.*

1530 PALSGR. 267/2 Sclycer, *tournoyre.* 1575 TURBERV.

Falconrie 299 Take up the hawe handsomely and cut it with a little slicer. 1850 Holtzapffel *Turning* III. 1098 Slitting Mill or the Slicer, is a very thin sheet-iron disk, the edge of which is charged with diamond powder. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2208/1 The slicer is firmly clamped, like a circular saw, between two flanges on its spindle. 1891 T. Hardy *Tess* xlvi. (1900) 114/2 They were at some distance from the man who turned the slicer.

2. One who slices.

1598 Florio, *Tagliuzzatore*, a slicer, a cutter. 1709 *Tatler* No. 71 ¶8 When a Witling stands at a Coffee-house Door, and sneers at those who pass by,..he is no longer Surnamed a Slicer, but a Man of Fire is the Word. 1778 *Ann. Reg.*, *Projects* 124/2 This man, who is called the slicer,..pricks it with the slicing knife. 1864 Sala in *Daily Telegr.* 16 July, Young ladies..employed in the bureau as press feeders, stampers, slicers, trimmers. 1881 *Academy* 8 Jan. 30 A grand Zoologist and not a mere hardener and slicer of microscopic stuff.

‖ **Slich** (small ore): see Slick *sb.*[2]

Slicht, Sc. form of Sleight *sb.*[1], Slight *a.*

Slicing (sləi·siŋ), *vbl. sb.*[1] [f. Slice *v.*[1]] The action of the verb in various senses.

1580 Hollyband *Treas. Fr. Tong*, *Decoupure*, a cutting, or slycing. 1611 Cotgr., *Hachement*, a hacking, shredding, slicing. 1763 Mills *Pract. Husb.* IV. 214 Grafting in the Rind, or Shoulder-grafting, likewise called slicing and packing. 1848 Thackeray *Van. Fair* iv, Amelia went away, perhaps to superintend the slicing of the pine-apple. 1899 *Westm. Gaz.* 22 Dec. 2/1, I am convinced that this habit of following after is responsible for much of the slicing and pulling [in golf].

attrib. 1778 [see Slicer 2]. 1820 Scoresby *Acc. Arc. Regions* II. 175 A man..sliced it..and then pushed it into an adjoining receptacle, called a 'slicing cooler'. 1833 *Wauldby Farm Rep.* 102 in *Husb.* III. (L.U.K.), A roller with slicing-knives attached to it. 1844 H. Stephens *Bk. Farm* II. 78 The slicing-wheel..is a disc of cast-iron. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2208/1 Slicing-machine. (Pottery.)

† **Sli·cing**, *vbl. sb.*[2] *Obs.* [f. Slice *v.*[2]] Muting.

1596 Harington *Metam. Ajax* 31 Doe not you sometime ..talke both of putting a heron to the mount, and then of his slicing?

Slicing (sləi·siŋ), *ppl. a.* [f. Slice *v.*[1]] Cutting easily or cleanly.

1578 H. Wotton *Courtly Controv.* 10 What Slicing blade doth cut my gale. 1590 Marlowe *1st Pt. Tamburl.* v. ii, There sits imperious Death, Keeping his circuit by the slicing edge. 1634 Sir T. Herbert *Trav.* (1638) 190 Three Coosel-bashes..with their slicing Semiters whipt off their heads. 1641 Baker *Chron., Edw. VI* (1643) 72 The rest were..well furnished with..slicing swords broad and thin. 1896 Crockett *Grey Man* v. 35 A fragment of a leather rein..cut across with a clean, slicing cut.

Hence **Sli·cingly** *adv. rare.*

1598 Florio, *Sminutamente*, mincingly, slicingly.

Slick (slik), *sb.*[1] [f. Slick *a.* or *v.*]

1. † **a.** A cosmetic, an unguent. *Obs.*

1626 tr. *Boccalini's New-found Politick* 233 My face..is done ouer with Ladies licks, slicks, and other painting stuffe of the Levant.

b. *Carpentry.* (See quot.)

1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2208 *Slick*, a wide-bitted chisel, used by framers in paring the sides of mortises and tenons.

c. An implement used for slicking; a slicker.

1883 *Archæol. Cant.* XV. 103, I have..discovered..some elegant slicks or scrapers of peculiar form. *Ibid.*, When trimmed on one side only, such a flake [of flint] was used as a scraper or slick.

† **2.** *Card-playing.* (See quot. 1674.) *Obs.*

1674 Cotton *Compl. Gamester* (1680) 94 The Slick is when before-hand the Gamester takes a Pack of Cards, and with a slick-stone smooths all the Putt-Cards. 1711 Puckle *The Club* (1817) 23 The bent, the slick, the breef, the spur.

3. a. *U.S.* A smooth place or streak on the surface of water, usually caused by the presence of some oily or greasy substance. (Cf. Sleek *sb.*[3])

1849 D. Webster *Priv. Corr.* II. 333 You have seen on the surface of the sea, those smooth places, which fishermen and sailors call 'slicks'. 1857 Thoreau *Maine W.* (1894) 228, I emptied the melted pork..into the lake, making what sailors call a 'slick'. 1888 Goode *Amer. Fishes* 210 They ..leave in their track similar 'slicks' of oil and blood.

b. *Mining.* (See quot.)

1883 Gresley *Gloss. Coal-m.* 225 *Slicks*, smooth partings or mere planes of division in strata.

c. A place on the hair or fur of an animal which has been made sleek by licking or the like.

1891 in *Cent. Dict.*

4. A dash or stroke.

1881 E. Coxon *Basil Plant* II. 226 'Isn't it wonderful?' said one, 'painted with just two slicks of the brush'.

Slick, *sb.*[2] *rare.* [ad. G. *schlich*, related to *schleich* Slike *sb.*] Finely pounded ore. Also *attrib.*

The form *slich* occurs in E. Browne *Trav. Germ.* etc. (1677) 135, and hence appears in *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. (1753) and some later works of reference.

1683 Pettus *Fleta Min.* II. iii. 113 Of Gold Slicks. Further, know also that when the Gold Oars and Gold Slicks are cleansed for to quicken [etc.]. 1892 *Pall Mall G.* 8 Aug. 7/2 There were produced in Russia..in 1881, 2,382 poods (of 36 lb.) of slick-gold.

Slick (slik), *a.* Now chiefly *dial.* and *U.S.* Forms: *α.* **4–6 slyke (5 slyk), slike.** *β.* **6 slycke, 6–7 slicke, 6– slick.** [ME. *slīke* (developing into *slick* and Sleek *a.*), prob. representing an OE. **slice*, related to the vb. *slician* (see Slick *v.*) and perhaps cognate with MFlem. *sleec*, *sleic* (see Sleek *sb.*[1]).

An apparent OE. *slīc* given in Dictionaries is the result of a misreading: see Napier *Contrib. O.E. Lexicogr.* 57–58. *Slykker* in Palsgr. 324/1 is prob. a misprint for *slykke.*]

1. Of skin, hair, etc.: Smooth, glossy, sleek.

α. 13.. *Cursor M.* 28026 (Cott. Galba), When ȝe to sight haue made ȝow slike þan say ȝe men will ȝow biswike. ?*a* 1366 Chaucer *Rom. Rose* 542 Hir flesh tendre as is a chike, With bent browis, smothe and slyke. *c* 1386 — *Wife's Prol.* 351 If the Cattes skyn be slyk and gay, She wol nat dwelle in house half a day. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 459/1 Slyke, or smothe, *lenis.* *a* 1470 H. Parker *Dives & P.* x. vi. (W. de W. 1496) 379/2 The basynet..is clene furbusshed from ruste, and made slyke and smothe that shot may soone glyde of. 1582 Stanyhurst *Æneis* II. (Arb.) 59 Lyke the..adder..His tayle smoog thirling, slyke breast to Titan vpheauing. 1594 Nashe *Unfort. Trav.* Wks. (Grosart) V. 88 A skin as slike and soft as the backe of a swan.

β. 1549 Chaloner *Erasm. on Folly* B j, This other with the slicke skinne and fayre fedde bodie is called Delicacie. 1593 G. Harvey *Pierce's Super.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 59 A deft conceite, a slicke forhead, a smugg countenaunce. 1639 T. de Gray *Expert Farrier* 8 Her hayre more slicke and close to her skin. 1653 Gataker *Vind. Annot. Jer.* 137 A prone and plain path..not slick and smooth onely, but even steep and slipperie. 1707 J. Stevens tr. *Quevedo's Com. Wks.* (1709) 335 He is all slick with Grease without. 1725 *Fam. Dict.* s.v. *Peach-Tree*, Those Peaches which are not slick, ought to be but indifferently hairy. 1841 Hartshorne *Salop. Ant.* Gloss., *Slick*,..smooth, shining. 1880 'Mark Twain' *Tramp Abr.* xiii. 101 It struck that hard, slick, carpetless floor.

transf. 1679 *The Confinement* 49 More soft than a slick Gale, From Mountains top blown o're the flowry vale.

2. Of animals, etc.: Sleek in hair or skin; plump; well-conditioned. Now *rare.*

c 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* I. 689 In dayes thries x, let make hem [*sc.* chickens] slyke And faat ynough. 1599 T. M[oufet] *Silkwormes* 74 How a louer wise Delighteth more to touch Astarte slick Then Hecuba. *c* 1611 Chapman *Iliad* II. 680 The brauest mares..Both slicke and daintie. 1698 Fryer *Acc. E. India & P.* 99 Meal of Garavance, which fattens all their Beasts of War, and makes them slick and fine. 1740 Somerville *Hobbinol* III. 287 As the slick Lev'ret skims before the Pack. 1841 Catlin *N. Amer. Ind.* (1844) I. 27 All of them selected as the fattest and slickest of the herd.

3. Smooth; plausible; = Sleek *a.* 3.

For a doubtful example see *Havelok* 1157.

1599 Jonson *Cynthia's Rev.* I. i, Slick flattery and she Are twin-born sisters. *a* 1600 *Nobody & Someb.* in Simpson *Sch. Shaks.* (1878) 355 Smoth spaniel, soothing grome, Slicke, oyly knave, egregious parasite! 1640 Rawlins *Rebellion* IV. i, Whilst slick Favonius plays the fawning slave. 1848 Lowell *Biglow P.* Ser. I. iv. Wks. (1884) 226 To the people they're ollers ez slick ez molasses. 1876 Holland *Seven Oaks* xx. 282, I hate a slick man.

4. Adroit, deft, quick, smart; skilful in action or execution.

1818 H. B. Fearon *Sketches Amer.* 5, I have been *slick* in going to the stand right away. 1830 Galt *Lawrie T.* IV. ii. (1849) 148, I ain't..slick at the gruelling of sick folks. 1893 J. McCarthy *Red Diamonds* I. 43, I had been a pretty slick voyager in my time.

5. First-class, excellent.

1866 in Brogden *Prov. Lincs.* 1905 *McClure's Mag.* June 121/1 'They certainly gave us a slick time,' said the lad. 'Why our dinner cost nine dollars!

6. *Comb.*, as *slick-faced*, *-haired*, *-tongued.*

1598 Marlowe & Chapman *Hero & Leander* III. 343 Slick-tongde fame, patcht vp with voyces rude. *c* 1611 Chapman *Iliad* XI. 343 You slick-hair'd louer: you that hunt and fleere at wenches so. *c* 1680 Cotton *Morning Quatrains* xvii, The slick-faced school-boy satchel takes. 1879– in *Eng. Dial. Dict.* (Slick-faced, -tongued).

Slick (slik), *adv.* Orig. *U.S.* [f. Slick *a.*]

1. Smartly, cleverly; easily; quickly.

1825 Longf. in *Life* (1891) I. v. 59 They manage things there so slick that the college saves annually three thousand dollars! 1836 Haliburton *Clockm.* (1862) 11 A woman's tongue goes so slick of itself..that it's no easy matter to put a spring stop on it. 1882 Miss Braddon *Mt.-Royal* II. iv. 55 I'll just take a hurried look round and be back again slick.

2. As an intensive: Right, clean; completely.

1832 Macaulay in *Trevelyan* 6 July, A Yankee has written to me...I guess I must answer him slick right away. 1840 Thackeray *Shabby Genteel Story* iii, I was right slick up over head and ears in love with her at once. 1900 Pollok & Thom *Sports Burma* vi. 210, I..imagined they had bolted slick away.

Slick (slik), *v.* Forms: *α.* (**1 -slician,**) **3–4 sliken, 4 slyken; 4–6 slike, slyke.** *β.* **6 slycke, slicke, 6– slick.** [OE. *-slician* (in *niȝslicod*): cf. Sleek *v.* It is not clear how this is related to Icel. *slíkja*, Norw. *slikja*, to be, or to make, sleek.]

1. *trans.* To render smooth or glossy; to polish; to smooth with a slicker.

α. [*a* 900 *O. E. Martyrol.* 17 Nov. 206 Heo glytenode.. swa scynende sunne oððe niȝslicod hræȝel.] *a* 1225 *Leg. St. Kath.* 1660 Istenet [is] euch strete mid deorewurðe stanes,..isliket & ismaket as eni gles smeðest. *c* 1325 *Gloss. W. de Bibbesw.* in Wright *Voc.* 172 *Ke ele lusche*, [that she] slike. *c* 1340 *Nominale* (Skeat) 158 W[oman] oft with slikeston slikyth. 1591 Horsey *Trav.* (Hakl.) 234 Silkes, silver and gold, the threed sliked flat, to illustrat the bewty therof.

β. 1558 Warde tr. *Alexis' Secr.* (1568) 90 b, Take a cloute or linnen cloth wete in water, wherwith you shall slycke and make smoth the said tables. 1601 Holland *Pliny* XVII. xxvi, To slick, polish, and smooth them again with the pumy stone. 1657 R. Ligon *Barbadoes* 75 Parchment dyed green, and slickt with a slick-stone. 1674 Cotton *Compl. Gamester* (1680) 85 Some have a way to slick with a Slick-stone all the Honours very smooth. 1728 E. Smith *Compl. Housew.* (1750) 180 Make it up into a paste; slick white paper, roll your paste out [etc.]. 1839 Ure *Dict. Arts* 379 It is next slicked with a good grit-stone, to take out the wrinkles. 1852 C. Morfit *Tanning & Currying* (1853) 347 It [the leather] is then pared, slicked, and beaten out flat. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2208/1 Slickers..are used to slick down the curved surfaces of molds after withdrawal of the pattern.

b. *transf.* To polish up, make elegant or fine. Also with *off*, *up*.

1340 *Ayenb.* 99 He ne heþ none hede of longe ryote of tales y-slyked ne y-rymed. *Ibid.* 212 Wordes afaited and y-sliked ueleuold. 1582 Stanyhurst *Æneis* Ded. (Arb.) 4 With woordes so fitlye coucht, wyth verses so smoothlye slyckte. 1638 Quarles *Elegies* iii, No farr-fetch'd Metaphor shall smooth or slick My ruffled straine. 1836 Haliburton *Clockm.* (1862) 133 Now this grand house has only two rooms down stairs, that are altogether slicked up and finished off complete. 1848 Lowell *Biglow P.* Ser. I. i, The parson kind o' slicked off sum o' the last varses.

c. With *away* or *out*: To remove by smoothing or polishing.

1639 T. de Gray *Expert Farrier* 116 This clyster.. slicketh away all slimy substance. 1882 *Encycl. Brit.* XIV. 386/2 The superfluous moisture and the superficial bloom are now slicked out [with the slicker].

† **2. a.** To make specious or plausible. Also *absol.*, to use specious language. *Obs.*

c 1250 *Owl & Night.* 841 Alle þine wordes beoþ isliked, ..þat alle..weneþ þat þu segge soþ. 1390 Gower *Conf.* II. 351 For so wel can ther noman slyke. *Ibid.* 365 He can so wel hise wordes slyke To putte awey suspecioun.

† **b.** To flatter, treat pleasantly. *Obs.*

c 1250 *Long Life* 43 in *O. E. Misc.* 158 Ȝef þe world wið weole þe slikeð þat is for to do þe wo.

3. To make (the skin, hair, etc.) sleek or glossy, esp. by some special treatment.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 28026 Yee leuedis..Quen yee yow-self sua slight and slike, Yee sai þat men you wille besuike. 1377 Langl. *P. Pl.* B. II. 98 To sitten and soupen..Tyl sleuth and slepe slyken his sides. 1555 Watreman *Fardle of Facions* II. viii. 181 No face painted, no skinne slicked, no countrefeicte countenaunce. *c* 1570 [Jefferies] *Bugbears* I. iii, He is coombed and slicked and wasshed. 1593 Munday *Def. Contraries* 21 Oftentimes they..rub, slick, chafe and washe themselues, only to seeme faire. 1611 Beaum. & Fl. *Kt. Burning Pestle* II. iii, A gentle Squire..Who will our Palfries slick with wisps of straw. 1620–6 Quarles *Feast for Wormes* 1089 He..Stayes not to bathe his weather-beaten ioynts, Nor smooth'd his countenance, nor slick't his skinne. 1838 Holloway *Prov. Dict.*, *To slick*, to comb, or make sleek, the hair. 1841 Catlin *N. Amer. Ind.* (1844) I. xiii. 98 Slicks down his long hair, and rubs his oiled limbs to a polish.

absol. 1576 Gascoigne *Steele Gl.* Epil., They neuer stande content,..But paint and slicke til fayrest face be foule.

4. *colloq.* (See quot.)

1860 *Slang Dict.* 218 *Slick*,..as a verb,..has the force of 'to despatch rapidly', turn off, get done with a thing.

Hence **Slicked** (slikt) *ppl. a.*

1594 O. B. *Quest. Profit. Concern.* M j b, These Boare pigs and Beare whelpes,..for all their slickt coates and smooth tongues, vnderstand not what courteous behauiour and gentle deeds meane. 1629 Z. Boyd *Last Battell* 952 A slicked tongue and a slacke hand keepe other companie. 1674 Cotton *Compl. Gamester* (1680) 85 The rest..will slip off from the slickt Card. 1704 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4067/8 Lost ..., a yellow coloured slick'd Greyhound Bitch.

Sli·cken, *v. rare.* [f. Slick *a.* + -en [5].] *trans.* To make smooth or polished.

1621 Burton *Anat. Mel.* 442 The Eban stone which Goldsmiths vse to slicken their gold with. 1688 Holme *Armoury* III. 15 A Band..Starched, Slickened and Smoothed by the care of the Landress. *Ibid.* 292 A Shooemakers polishing stick..is that wherewith they polish and slicken their Leather. 1893–4 Heslop *Northumbld. Gloss.*, *Slickened*, polished. Used to describe the appearance found on the planes of bedding where a fault in the strata has occurred.

Slickens (sli·kėns). *U.S.* [? f. Slick *sb.*[2]] (See quots.)

1882 *Cent. Mag.* XXV. 337 It is the lighter soils of the hydraulic mines and the pulverized matter from the quartz-mills of the mining region which constitute 'slickens'. 1894 *New York Tribune* 1 Feb. 1/3 All of this [500 acres] will be covered with 'slickens', washings from the mines in the mountains, and thus be rendered valueless.

Slickenside (sli·k'nˌsəid). Also **-sides.** [f. dial. *slicken*, var. of Slick *a.* + Side *sb.*[1]]

1. *Min.* A specular variety of galena found in Derbyshire.

1768 Mettam in Whitehurst *Formation of Earth* (1778) 188, I send you, by the bearer, two specimens of our slickensides, containing all the variety of minerals where the explosions happen. 1789 J. Pilkington *Derbyshire* I. 195 Slickenside with a smooth surface on each side...The crackling and explosions caused by scraping these slickensides with a pick-ax are well known. 1810 Millar *J. Williams' Min. Kingdom* II. App. 448 Slickenside, which is a variety of galena, or sulphuret of lead, is also a product of these [Derbyshire] mines. 1850 Ansted *Elem. Geol., Min.* etc. Gloss., *Slickensides*,..one of the ores of lead found in Derbyshire.

2. *Geol.* A polished (and sometimes striated) surface on the wall of a mineral lode, or on a line of fracture in a rock-mass; a smooth glistening surface produced by pressure and friction.

1822 Conybeare & Phillips *Geol. Eng. & Wales* 401 These planes, when separated, are the slickensides of the mineralogist. 1859 R. Hunt *Guide Mus. Pract. Geol.* (ed. 2) 164 The *Slickensides* evidently point to some sliding or grinding motion in the mass constituting the lode. 1880 *Nature* XXI. 459 A kind of universal slickenside, consequent upon the crushing of a rock consisting of thin laminæ of different texture.

attrib. 1839 Murchison *Silur. Syst.* I. xxxiv. 462 The direction of these joints (many of which have slickenside surfaces). 1884 *Nature* 13 Nov. 35 Parallel with the slickenside-lines. 1888 Prestwich *Geol.* II. 134 Extreme lateral

pressure, the result of which is the formation of slickenside surfaces, often strongly striated.

Hence **Sli·ckensided** *ppl. a.* and *pa. pple.*; **Sli·ckensiding** *vbl. sb.*

1875 Dawson *Dawn of Life* ii. 32 This graphite is composed of contorted and slickensided laminæ. 1883 *Science* I. 191/2 A roof of slickensided 'soapstone'. 1884 *Geol. Mag.* 553 The dissolution being unequal, caused bosses to be left standing up, which were then 'slickensided' by the downward movement of the chalk. *Ibid.* 552 This movement would be..amply sufficient to account for the slickensiding observed.

Slicker (sli·kəɹ). [f. Slick *a.* or *v.*]

1. a. A tool used for scraping or smoothing leather. (Cf. Sleeker.)

1851–3 Tomlinson *Cycl. Arts & Manuf.* (1867) II. 34/1 The cylinder drags the hide under the governor, which acts similarly to a slicker. 1860 — *Arts & Manuf.* Ser. II. *Leather* 20 It is..well rubbed with a smooth lump of glass called a 'slicker'. 1885 *Harper's Mag.* Jan. 277 The hides are 'whitened' by scraping them with a whitening slicker.

b. A tool used for smoothing the surfaces of moulds in founding.

1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2208/1.

2. *U.S.* A waterproof overcoat.

1884 *Harper's Mag.* July 300/1 Carry..a rubber pillow, and a 'slicker'. 1888 *Home Missionary* (N. Y.) May 14, I put on my thick overcoat, then a duster, and over them my slicker.

Slicking (sli·kiŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. Slick *v.*]

1. The action of making sleek or smooth, etc.

1495 *Act* 11 *Hen. VII*, c. 27 By crafty sliking they make the same Fustions to appere to the comen people fyne, bole and sounde. 1600 Abbot *Jonah* 592 Are there not which take more care of their slicking and of their platting, then of the Kingdom of Heaven? 1636 *Lyly's Euphues* F iij, I loath almost to thinke on..the sliking of their faces. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2192/1 The size is flour-paste,..and the operation on the rope is called *snugging*, *slicking*, or *finishing*.

attrib. 1588 Churchyard in Nichols *Progr. Q. Eliz.* (1823) II. 595 As it were rubde and smoothde with slicking-stone. 1841 Hartshorne *Salop. Ant.* Gloss., A shoemaker talks about slicking the soles of his shoes with a slicking stick. 1896 *Archæol. Jrnl.* LIII. 46 Thumb-flints, or slicking-knives, also occur.

b. *spec.* In hat-making: (see quot.).

1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2208/2 *Slicking*,..the attaching of the fur nap to the felt body.

2. *Mining.* In *pl.* Narrow veins of ore.

1843 J. Y. Watson *Compend. Brit. Mining* 81.

Slickly (sli·kli), *adv.* Also 6 **slickely.** [f. Slick *a.* + -ly 2.]

1. Sleekly, smoothly. *rare.*

1596 Shaks. *Tam. Shr.* IV. i. 93 Let their heads bee slickely comb'd.

2. Cleverly, deftly.

1893 *Daily News* 14 Apr. 2/2 Look..how slickly they are painted, with what knowledge and skill.

Slickness (sli·knės). [f. Slick *a.* + -ness.]

1. Smoothness. *rare.*

1667 *Phil. Trans.* II. 482 Some of which [stones, *Calculi*] were so bestow'd as to slide upon others, and had thereby worn their flats to a wonderfull slikness.

2. Smartness.

1872 *Daily News* 5 Aug., I know not whether the uniform ..gives him a greater appearance of what in the North is called 'slickness'.

3. Dexterity, cleverness.

1895 *Daily News* 5 June 7/2 A mere sketch, it is true, but with all his slickness and deftness of execution. 1899 *Ibid.* 22 Apr. 9/4 The slickness of the painting..is quite admirable.

Sli·ckstone. Now *rare.* Also 4, 6 **slike-**, 5 **slyk-**, 6 **slycke-**. [f. Slick *v.* Cf. ON. *slíkisteinn* (Norw. *slikjestein*).] = Sleekstone.

c 1325 *Gloss. W. de Bibbesw.* in Wright *Voc.* 172 A slikestone. *c* 1340 *Nominale* (Skeat) 158 W[oman] oft with slikeston slikyth. 14.. *Lat.-Eng. Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 563 *Amethon*, a slykston. *Ibid.* 593 *Litatorium*, a slykston. 1530 Palsgr. 271 Slyckestone, *liste a papier.* 1594 Nashe *Unfort. Trav.* 15 Their shooes shined as bright as a slikestone. 1657 R. Ligon *Barbadoes* 75 Shining as parchment dyed green, and slickt with a slick-stone. 1674 Cotton *Compl. Gamester* (1680) 85 Some have a way to slick with a Slick-stone all the Honours very smooth. *c* 1711 Petiver *Gazophyl.* x. § 96 A large smooth shining Gowry, which is used for a Polish or Slick-stone. 1771 Mrs. Haywood *New Present for Maid* 267 Smooth them [ribands] with a glass slick-stone. 1812 J. Smyth *Pract. Customs* (1821) 242 Slick Stones, the 100—£0 8s. 0d. 1893–4 Heslop *Northumbld. Gloss.* s.v., Slickstones were sometimes made with a stalk or handle. 1895 *Stand. Dict.*, *Slickstone*,..Archeol., a prehistoric stone implement used in preparing skins.

Slick-worm. *Sc.* (See quot. and cf. Sleck *sb.*)

1796 *Statist. Acc. Scotland* XVII. 469 This brook has a rich muddy bottom, in which there is plenty of slick-worm (a species of food which the trout peculiarly delight in).

Slid, *sb.* Now *rare.* Also 6 **slidd, slydd-.** [Obscurely related to Sled *sb.* or Slide *v.*] A device by which something may be slid along the ground; a sled or sledge; a skid.

1513 *Life Henry V* (Kingsford) 111 A slidd laden with greate stakes and with other greate peeces of greene wood. 1519 Horman *Vulgaria* 244 b, This house may be remoued with trocles, & slyddis. 1657 R. Ligon *Barbadoes* 112 If they pave the waies, between the Canes, for the Slids and Assinigoes to passe. 1788 *Trans. Soc. Arts* VI. 203 The advantages of the high wheels, and troughs or slids, over common wheels. *Ibid.* 207 The troughs or slids which accompany the Carriage, are to be placed under the wheels. 1904 *Dundee Advertiser* 15 Aug. 6 The hay 'slipes' or 'slids' for shifting the coles or ricks to the shed.

b. ? A load sufficient for a sled.

1887 *Archit. Soc. Dict.* s.v., Thirty-four pollards produced a slid, and an average slid produced 13 faggots, or about 7½ slids to a hundred faggots.

Slid, *a. Sc.* Also 6 slide, slyd(e. [Related to Slide *v.*]

1. Slippery.

1501 Douglas *Pal. Hon.* III. ii, Ane passage..Hewin in the roche of slid hard marbell stone. 1513 — *Æneid* VII. vii. 29 Full slyde scho slyppis hir membris our allquhayr. 17.. Ramsay *Betty & Kate* iii, On a slid stane, or smoother slate. 1737 — *Sc. Prov.* (1750) 37 He has a slid grip that has an eel by the tail. 1808 Jamieson, *Slid ice*, ice that is glib. 1850 Struthers *Poet. Wks.* II. 239 The brawling burn We ploutered aft, slid eels to snare. 1899– in *Eng. Dial. Dict.*

2. *fig.* a. Mutable, changeable, uncertain.

1501 Douglas *Pal. Hon.* I. lv, The slide inconstant destenie or chance. *Ibid.* III. lxxviii, This warldis glorie, Maist inconstant, maist slid and transitorie.

b. Smooth, polished, sleek, sly.

1719 Ramsay *Ep. J. Arbuckle* 50 Something sae auld-farran, Sae slid, sae unconstrain'd and darin. 1721 — *Poems* Gloss. s.v., He's a slid lown. 1725 — *Gentle Sheph.* I. i, Ye have sae saft a voice, and slid a tongue. 1896 in *Eng. Dial. Dict.*

Slid, *ppl. a.* [f. Slide *v.*] Uttered with a kind of sliding tone.

1898 Kipling *Day's Work* 320 It was the unreproducible slid *r*, as he said this was his 'fy-ist' visit to England, that told me he was a New Yorker.

'Slid, *int. Obs.* exc. *arch.* Also 7 **slydd.** [abbrev. of *God's lid* (eyelid): see God *sb.* 14 a.] A form of oath, common in the 17th century.

1598 Shaks. *Merry W.* III. iv. 24 Ile make a shaft or a bolt on't, slid, tis but venturing. 1606 *Sir G. Goosecappe* I. ii, Slydd there's not one of them truely emphaticall. 1650 Cowley *Guardian* II. ii, Here's company; 'slid I'll fight then. 1689 *Dial. betw. Timothy & Titus* 6 Slid! this is insufferable. 1855 Kingsley *Westw. Ho!* iii, 'Slid, it seems half a life that I've been away.

Slidage (sləi·dėdʒ). *Canadian.* [f. Slide *v.*] The payment for the right of using a log slide.

1884 *Law Rep.* 9 App. Cases 411 A promise to pay slidage for the use and occupation of such works..could not be enforced.

Sli·dden, *ppl. a. rare.* [See Slide *v.* A. 3 b.] That has slipped or slid down.

1827 Hodgson *Northumberland* I. II. 165 *note*, The celebrated figure..cut in high relief upon a huge block of 'slidden' sandstone rock.

Sli·dder, *sb. dial.* [Cf. Slidder *a.* and *v.*] A trench or hollow running down a hill; a steep slope.

For other uses see the *Eng. Dial. Dict.*

a 1793 G. White *Selborne, Obs. on Veget.* (1853) 301 One of the slidders, or trenches, down the middle of the Hanger ..is still called strawberry-slidder. 1842 *Dumfries Herald* Oct., Tearing and wearing his corduroys, up trees and down *slidders*, to very reasonable tatters. 1876 *Whitby Gloss.*, *Slidder*,..a track down the hill side for the water.

† Sli·dder, *a.* and *adv. Obs.* Forms: *a.* 1–2 **slidor,** 2–6 **slider** (4 -ere, 5 -ur, -re), 4–5 **slidir,** 5–6 **slyder** (4 -ir, 5 -yr, -ere); 4 **sledyr,** 4–5 **sleder;** 1 **sliddor,** 5– **slidder** (6 -yr, **slydder,** -ir). *β.* 5 **sclidere, -yr, sclydyr, sklyder.** [OE. *slidor*, f. *slíd-* weak grade of *slídan* Slide *v.*]

A. *adj.* **1.** Slippery; on which one readily slips. Also as quasi-*sb.* (quot. 1501).

a 1000 *Runic Poem* 29 Is byþ oferceald, unġemetum slidor. *c* 1280 in Horstm. *Altengl. Leg.* (1875) 168 Þe oþer was þat heo [a bridge] was so slider, þat me ne scholde þer on noȝt gon. *c* 1303 R. Brunne *Handl. Synne* 5260 Þe plank þat on þe brygge was, was as sledyr as any glas. 1387 Trevisa *Higden* (Rolls) I. 63 Somme may nouȝt clymbe on þe hilles, þe wey is so slider. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 459/1 Slydyr (or swypyr as a wey), *lubricus*. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 322/2 Sclidere (*A.* Sclydyr), *labilis*. 1501 Douglas *Pal. Hon.* III. lv, Thay na grippis thair micht hald for slidder. 1526 Skelton *Magnyf.* 1840, I trowe it be a frost, for the way is slydder. 1570 *Satir. Poems Reform.* xxi. 31 Clyde banks..thay sall find slidder, Quhen kindlit is Gods ire.

b. *fig.* or in fig. context.

c 1000 *Ags. Ps.* (Thorpe) xxxiv. 7 Syn heora wegas þystre and slidore. *c* 1250 *Owl & Night.* 956 Þu schalt falle, þi wey is slider. *c* 1400 *26 Pol. Poems* 22 He wol the lede in wayes slidre. 1533 J. Heywood *Mery Play* 296 The way to heven is very slydder.

c. *fig.* From which one may easily slip or fall; uncertain, mutable.

c 1480 Henryson *Fables, Wolf & Wether* xxii, Bewar in welth, for hall benkis ar richt slidder. 1552 Lyndesay *Monarche* 4977 Sen ȝe..Hes causit me for to consydder Quhow warildye Pompe and glore bene slydder. *a* 1578 Lindesay (Pitscottie) *Chron. Scot.* (S.T.S.) I. 151 Oft tymes thay find that seit most slidder That they haue keipit in the kingis menoritie.

2. Inclined to slip or fall. *rare.*

1388 Wyclif *Lam.* iv. 18 Oure steppis weren slidir in the weie of oure stretis. *a* 1500 in *Ratis Raving* 103 Men suld considyr That womenis honore is tendyr & slydder.

3. Of a smooth or slippery nature.

1388 Wyclif *Prov.* xxvi. 28 A slidir mouth worchith fallyngis. 1398 Trevisa *Barth. De P. R.* v. xxxviii. (Bodl. MS.), ȝif he were slider and smoþe within by sliderne mete schuld passe oute. *Ibid.* xi. ii. (Tollem. MS.), Eyer [air] is of slider kynde, and þerfore he entreþ and comeþ in to dennes of þe erþe. 1686 G. Stuart *Joco-ser. Disc.* 20 My Tongue is grown sae slip and slidder.

B. *adv.* In a sliding or unstable manner.

a 1400 *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* lii. 149 Mony folk slod to helle slider. *c* 1400 *26 Pol. Poems* iv. 7 And hem-self stoden so slydere. *c* 1430 *Hymns Virgin* (1867) 49 In heuen blis ȝe stooden full slidir.

Slidder (sli·dəɹ), *v.* Now *dial.* Forms: 1 **slid(e)rian,** 5 **slideren, slyder(yn), slydre, slidre;** 3 **sliddren,** 7– **slidder,** 9 *Sc.* **scl-, sklidder.** [OE. *slid(e)rian*, = MDu. *slid(e)ren, slidderen*, LG. *sliddern*, G. *schlittern*, a frequentative from *slíd-*, the weak grade of *slídan* Slide *v.*]

1. *intr.* To slide, to slip.

For variations of sense see the *Eng. Dial. Dict.*

c 897 K. Ælfred *Gregory's Past. C.* xxxviii. 276 (Cotton MS.), Ðonne hie on monigfaldum wordum slidriað. *c* 1000 *Ags. Ps.* (Thorpe) xvii. 35 Mine fet ne slideredon. *Ibid.* xxxvii. 16 Ȝif hy ȝeseon þæt mine fet slidrien. 14.. *Langland's P. Pl.* A. v. 113 (Univ. Coll. MS.), I mai it not trowe þat he ne schulde slideren þeron, so was [it] þred bare. 1426 Lydg. *De Guil. Pilgr.* 7119 Yiff they slydre, or falle doun, Thys Emperesse..doth hem releue. *c* 1430 *Syr Gener.* (Roxb.) 4152 So hard thei smote than to-gedre, Out of here sadils thei gan to slidre. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 459 Slyderyn (*K.* slidyn). 1697 Dryden *Æneid* II. 751 With that he dragg'd the trembling Sire, Slidd'ring through clotter'd Blood, and holy Mire. 1720 Pope *Iliad* XXI. 267 His feet, upborn, scarce the strong flood divide, Slidd'ring, and stagg'ring. 1806 Beresford *Miseries Hum. Life* II. ix, Feeling your foot slidder over the back of a toad. 1851 G. H. Kingsley *Sport & Trav.* (1900) 508 Angular pieces of stone..'sliddering' down by the ton. 1879 *Trans. Dev. Assoc.* XI. 516 These tiny animals..creep and slidder under stones.

2. *trans.* To make slippery or smooth.

1398 Trevisa *Barth. De P. R.* XIX. lxxi. (1495) 903 Yf mylke is tomoche corrupte it slydereth the roughnesse of the stomak. 1891 in *Eng. Dial. Dict.*

Hence **Sli·ddering** *vbl. sb.* Also *attrib.*

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 252 Vondunge is sliddrunge. 1866 Mark Lemon *Wait for the End* v. 54 Those were the dancing days of Old England, putting to shame our shambling, hopping, sliddering times.

† Sli·dderness. *Obs.* [f. Slidder *a.*] Slipperiness, smoothness. Also *fig.*

971 *Blickl. Gl.* (Ps. xxxiv. 6), Slidornis, *lubricum*. *c* 1380 Wyclif *Sel. Wks.* II. 4 Many men felden doun for slidirnesse of þis weie. 1398 Trevisa *Barth. De P. R.* v. xxxviii. (Bodl. MS.), ȝif he were slider and smoþe within, by sliderne mete schuld passe oute. *c* 1400 *Comm. Luke* i. 15 (MS. Bodl. 43), He is seid a perfit man whiche..feelip not þe slidirnesse or leccherie of ȝong wexinge age. *c* 1475 Henryson *Orph. & Eur.* 305 For slyddrenes skant mycht he hald his feit. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 323/1 A Slidyrnes, *labilitas*.

Sli·ddery, *a.* Now *dial.* Forms: 3 **slid(d)ri,** 5 **slydrye,** 6 **slyddry, -rie,** 6–7 **slidrie,** 8 **slidd'ry,** 8–9 **sliddry;** 3–5 **slideri,** 4 **-ery, slydery, sledery** (6 *Sc.* **-erie**), 5, 7 (9) **slidderie,** 9 **sliddery.** [f. Slidder *v.* + -y. Cf. MDu. *sliderich.*]

1. Slippery; on which one may readily slip.

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 252 To wel we hit wuteð hu þe wei of þisse worlde is sliddri. *c* 1280 in Horstm. *Altengl. Leg.* (1875) 221 Bi a tuytel bosk he tok his hondlyng, And set his feet on a slidri bas. *c* 1325 *Gloss. W. de Bibbesw.* in Wright *Voc.* 160 [The way is] slidery. 1382 Wyclif *Jer.* xxxviii. 22 Thei han drenchid thee doun in the myre, and in the sledery thing thi feet. *c* 1480 Henryson *Fables, Preach. Swallow* xxxi, Slonkis and slaik maid slidderie with the sleit. 1489 Caxton *Faytes of A.* II. xxxix. 163 They can unuthe stande upon theyre fete so slydrye it is. 1513 Douglas *Æneid* x. vi. 42 Slyddry glar so from wallis went That oft thar feyt was smyttyn vp on loft. *a* 1724 in Ramsay *Tea-table Misc.* (1876) II. 219 Is not this warld a slidd'ry ball? And thinks men strange to catch a fall? 1827 J. Wilson *Noctes Ambr.* Wks. 1855 II. 9 Slimy and sliddery as the sea-weed. 1874 Hislop *Sc. Anecd.* 147 The floor was as sliddery as ice.

b. Uncertain, unstable, changeable, fleeting. (Cf. Slidder *a.* 1 c.)

a 1400 *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* xxiii. 980 Þe eȝen of vr inward þouht Lyft vp from sliderí þinge. 1567 *Gude & Godlie B.* (S.T.S.) 102 Full slyddrie is the sait that thay on sit. 1596 Dalrymple tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* I. 202 Quhair may be seine how vnconstant and slidrie was the end of that battell. *c* 1610 Sir W. Mure *Sonn.* x. Wks. (S.T.S.) I. 56 Quhose othe & promeis ar a slidrie ground To build vpon, to make a man assuird. 1640 *Canterburians Self-Convict.* 32 A full peace in tearmes so generall, so ambiguous, so slidderie. 1786 Burns *Farewell Brethren St. James's Lodge* i, Tho' I to foreign lands must hie, Pursuing Fortune's slidd'ry ba'. 1818 Scott *Br. Lamm.* xv, It will be present service..which, in these sliddery times, will be expected by a man like the Marquis.

2. Inclined or prone to slip. *rare* −1.

1382 Wyclif *Lam.* iv. 18 Thei maden slidery oure steppis in the weie of oure stretes.

3. Of a smooth or slippery nature. Also *fig.*, sly, deceitful.

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 74 Þe tunge is sliddri, uor heo wadeð ine wete. 1382 Wyclif *Prov.* xxvi. 28 The slideri mouth werchith fallingis. 1551 Abp. Hamilton *Catech.* 76 Thai ar lyk to ane slederie eil. 1791 Learmont *Poems* 45 Unless some slidd'ry means he us'd. 1816 G. Muir *Clydesdale Minstrelsy* 8 (E.D.D.), Lawyers fam'd for slidd'ry gabs. 1868 W. Shelley *Flowers* 181 Some gleg-gabbit slidderie lier.

† Sli·ddy, *a. Obs.* = Slidery *a.* 1.

1623 Wodroephe *Marrow Fr. Tongue* 107/2 It is sliddy (*glissant*) wether. *Il verglace.* It freeseth after a rayne, it is sliddy.

Slide (slәid), *sb.* Also 6 *Sc.* **slyde.** [f. Slide *v.*]

I. 1. The act or fact of sliding; an instance of this; also, the manner in which a thing slides.

1596 Fitz-Geffrey *Sir F. Drake* (1881) 81 As some travel-tired passenger..Sits downe to view the sight-reviving slide, The wanton bubling-waters gentle glide. 1609 Dekker *Gull's Horn Bk.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 231 You may publish your suit..with the slide of your cloake from the one shoulder. 1726 Shelvocke *Voy. round World* 58 My third Lieutenant broke his leg by a slide on the deck. 1860

TYNDALL *Glac.* I. xi. 78 The edge of the precipice, to which less than a quarter of a minute's slide would carry us. 1878 B. TAYLOR *Pr. Deukalion* III. i, The bubble and slide of the rill Is heard.

b. *fig.* in various applications.

1570 *Satir. Poems Reform.* xvi. 23 Sen he hes maid sa mony slydis Trow ze he can be trew? 1607–12 BACON *Ess., Nobility* (Arb.) 196 Kinges, that have able Men of theire Nobilitye, shall finde ease in ymployinge them, and a better slyde in theire busines. 1625 *Ibid., Fortune* 381 Like Homers Verses, that haue a Slide, and Easinesse, more then the Verses of other Poets. 1833 T. HOOK *Parson's Dau.* III. vii, Thence, by a graceful slide down the family-tree, her ladyship traced out the consanguinity. 1884 GLADSTONE in *Spectator* 16 Feb. 220/1 When I saw his mind shaken, and, so to speak, on the slide.

c. *Music.* A kind of grace (see quots.); also = PORTAMENTO.

1818 BUSBY *Gram. Mus.* 152 The *Slide*, a grace in very frequent use. It generally consists of two notes gradually ascending or descending to the note it is intended to ornament; and to which it is attached by a curve. 1881 *Grove's Dict. Music* III. 534 *Slide*,..an ornament frequently met with in both vocal and instrumental music, although its English name has fallen into disuse. It consists of a rapid diatonic progression of three notes, either ascending or descending, of which the principal note, or note to be ornamented, is the third, and the other two are grace-notes.

2. An earth-slip, a landslip, an avalanche; a place on a hill-side, etc., where this has happened.

1664 *Maldon Borough Deeds* (Bundle 151 fol. 1), [To] amend and restore all such slides, decayes, or breaches, of and in the calcway. 1829 SCOTT *Anne of G.* ii, He..was led., to believe that this rock marked the farthest extent of the slip or slide of earth. 1860 O. W. HOLMES *Elsie V.* xxxi, It proved to be not so much a slide as the breaking off and falling of a vast line of cliff. 1900 *Jrnl. Sch. Geog.* (U. S.) Apr. 157 Immediately following this tremendous slide came a crowd of people rushing in every direction.

b. A sliding mass or stretch *of* water.

1869 BLACKMORE *Lorna D.* vii, I stood at the foot of a long pale slide of water.

3. *Mining.* **a.** A fracture in a lode resulting in the dislocation or displacement of a portion of it; a vein of clay, etc., marking such dislocation.

1778 W. PRYCE *Min. Cornub.* 82 That fracture which we call a slide or heave. *Ibid.* 83 The slide or heave of the Lode manifests the greater subsidence of the Strata. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 316 Clay veins; of which there are two sets, the more ancient, called *Cross-Fluckans*; and the more modern, called *Slides*. 1865 J. T. F. TURNER *Slate Quarries* 23 Walls of hardah..are dreaded, because they are generally accompanied by slides, which dip precipitously from east to west. 1890 *Melbourne Argus* 16 June 6/1 Every main reef is cut by a slide dipping from west to east.

b. Matter dislodged by an earth-slip.

1841 WHITTIER *To a Friend* iv, Loose rock and frozen slide Hung on the mountain-side. 1874 RAYMOND *Statist. Mines & Mining* 296 The shaft passes 45 feet through 'slide', and then 155 feet on the vein.

4. a. A kind of sledge. (Cf. SLID *sb.*)

1685–90 COAD *Wonderful Provid.* (1849) 10 Reply was made that I was not able to go or ride; at which he ordered them to bring me on a slide. 1764 *Museum Rust.* II. 362 We frequently procure a slide, to be drawn by one horse, made of two poles about ten feet long. 1861 SMILES *Lives Engineers* I. 193 The slide or sledge is seen in the fields. 1896 *Pilgrim Missionary* (Boston) Sept. 10, I..borrowed a mule and a slide, and hauled to the house some planks and pickets.

b. A runner on which a gun is mounted.

1830 MARRYAT *King's Own* xxx, Their guns..were fixed on slides,..to enable them to be fired over the bows. 1833 — *P. Simple* (1863) 248 They all carried guns mounted upon slides, which ran fore and aft between the men.

II. 5. A sliding part of some mechanism; a device which slides or may be slid.

In various technical uses: cf. SLIDER *sb.*4. Ash (1775) gives the general definition, 'a part of an instrument or machine to be pulled in and out'. A few out of the many special applications are here illustrated.

a. *c* 1608 *Sarum Churchw. Acc.* (Swayne, 1896) 158 For the fiffth bell..a Rope Slide and other Implementes. **b.** *c* 1800 BUSBY *Dict. Mus.* s.v. *Trumpet*, By the aid of a newly invented *slide* many other notes which the common trumpet cannot sound are now produced. 1872 H. C. BANISTER *Text-bk. Music* (1899) 228 The Trombone is a brass instrument with slides shortening or lengthening its tube. **c.** 1805 R. W. DICKSON *Pract. Agric.* I. 46 Air should likewise be pretty freely admitted .. by means of slides or other contrivances. 1855 LARDNER *Mus. Sci. & Art* V. 25 The methods of opening and closing the passages by means of lids slipping over them called slides. 1857 DICKENS *Dorrit* I. xxii, These instructions Mr. Chivery .. called through a little slide in the outer door. **d.** 1852 SEIDEL *Organ* 57 The slides are ledges of good dry oak, about two or two and a half inches wide, and one third of an inch thick. **e.** 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade, Slide*,..part of a forcing-pump. **f.** 1869 RANKINE *Machine & Hand-tools* Pl. H 10, This lathe has..a self-acting slide..for boring out..short lengths. 1893 SPON *Mechanic's Own Book* (ed. 4) 536, *a* is a slide which fits the lathe-bed very accurately, but will yet slide freely upon it. **g.** 1877 *Encycl. Brit.* VI. 490 The 'slide', or lock, receding from the spindles during the twisting of the threads, and returning to the spindle again during the winding on of the yarn. **h.** 1879 THOMSON & TAIT *Nat. Phil.* I. i. 194 Attached to the framework let there be, close to the circumference of each cylinder, a slide or guide-rod to guide a moveable point, moved by the hand of an operator. **i.** 1884 BRITTEN *Watch & Clockm.* 92 In full plate lever watches the slide is jewelled and supports the bottom pivot of the balance staff.

6. A kind of tongueless buckle or ring used as a fastener, clasp, or brooch; a small perforated object sliding on a cord, etc.

1779 *Ann. Reg.* 203 A gold slide, set with diamonds. 1824 JANE TAYLOR *Contrib. of Q. Q.* (1828) II. 149 If a slide broke in her frock,..instead of re-placing..she would exclaim—'there's that tiresome slide gone'. 1897 *Army & Navy Stores List* 271 Tortoiseshell slides for the hair, 1/0.

7. a. A slip of glass or other material on which an object is mounted or placed to facilitate its examination by a microscope.

1837 GORING & PRITCHARD *Microgr.* 14 That part of the old compound microscopes which used to carry the slide of object-glasses. 1895 G. E. DAVIS *Pract. Micros.* (ed. 3) 375 Objects are generally mounted upon glass slides, or 'slips', as they are sometimes called.

b. A picture prepared for use in a magic lantern or stereoscope.

1846 DICKENS *Cricket on Hearth* i, He had even lost money..by getting up goblin-slides for magic lanterns. 1858 *Edinb. Rev.* July 207 His history..passes before us like a series of slides in a magic lantern. 1890 ATKINSON *Ganot's Physics* 598 A stereoscope..which will give us, with the ordinary stereoscopic slides, a reversed picture.

c. *Photogr.* A flat case or receptacle within which plates are placed for the purpose of being inserted in a camera. Freq. *dark slide*.

1856 *Orr's Circ. Sci., Pract. Chem.* 184 It is best to let the water dry off previously to the plate being placed in the slide. 1876 ABNEY *Instruct. Photogr.* 166 The sensitized plate in the dark slide. 1878 — *Treat. Photogr.* 216 The slide is divided into two parts, hinged so as to fold one against the other.

8. *Rowing.* A sliding seat.

1875 STONEHENGE *Brit. Rur. Sports* (ed. 12) 643/1 A well-known amateur who .. had never used the slide. 1894 LEHMANN in *Daily News* 6 Feb. 3/5 In 1871 a crew of professionals used a seat that slid on the thwarts, and beat a crew that was generally held to be superior, and from that moment slides, as we now know them, came into general use.

III. 9. A smooth surface, esp. of ice, for sliding on, or formed by being slid on; a slippery place.

1687 MIÉGE *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II, *Slide*, a frozen place slid upon. 1837 DICKENS *Pickw.* xxix, Mr. Pickwick..took another run and went slowly and gravely down the slide. 1856 THACKERAY *Lett.* Wks. 1901 X. p. xxvii, A poor old gentleman slipped down and broke his thigh on a slide. 1899 B. CAPES *Lady of Darkness* xi. 91 A perfect little slide of grease that had formed on the boards below.

10. a. An inclined plane for the transit of heavy goods, esp. timber. Chiefly *Amer.*

1832 BABBAGE *Econ. Manuf.* xxviii. (ed. 3) 282 The mines of Bolanos .. are supplied with timber from the adjacent mountains by a slide similar to that of Alpnach. 1878 *Lumberman's Gaz.* 16 Mar., The logs are then placed in the trough of the slide and very easily drawn by horses to their destination. 1886 B. HARTE *Snowbound* 127 A slide was a rude incline for the transit of heavy goods that could not be carried down a trail.

b. *Amer.* A sloping channel constructed to facilitate the passage of logs down stream; a chute.

1858 in SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade.* 1880 *Lumberman's Gaz.* 7 Jan. 28 The government constructs 'slides' for the passage of timber around shoals or rapids where there are no canals. 1884 S. E. DAWSON *Hdbk. Canada* 20 The streams for floating timber to market have been opened up by slides, booms, and dams.

c. The bottom of a gold-washing cradle.

1864 J. ROGERS *New Rush* II. 27 The heavier gold remaining on the slide.

11. A device of the nature of a bed, rail, groove, etc., on or in which a thing may slide.

1846 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* II. 897 The work to be continually moved to and fro upon the slide or railway, a distance equal to its own length. 1851 GREENWELL *Coal-trade Terms, Northumb. & Durh.* 48 *Slides*, upright rails, of wood or metal, fixed in a shaft, for the purpose of steadying the cages, which have corresponding grooves attached to them. 1869 RANKINE *Machine & Hand-tools* Pl. F 11, The hammer-head is of cast iron, and works in slides, which are firmly rivetted into the frames.

12. The track of an otter.

1894 LYDEKKER *Roy. Nat. Hist.* II. 95 These otters are usually caught in steel traps, which are set beneath the water where one of the 'slides' or tracks of the animals leads to the margin.

Slide, obs. variant of SLID *a.*

Slide (slәid), *v.* Pa. t. **slid.** Pa. pple. **slid (slided, slidden).** Forms: (see below). [OE. *slídan*, = NFris. *slîde* (*slire*), *skîld*, older LG. *sliden* (*slijden*), MHG. *slîten*: for related forms see SLIDDER *v.* and SLEAD *sb.*]

A. Inflexional forms.

In OE. the conjugation is more fully represented in the compound *áslídan* (*-slád, -slidon, -sliden*). In early ME. the short pret. stem appears in the subj. *slide* in the *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 212/427.

1. *Inf.* (and *Pres.*, etc.) **1 slídan, 3 sliden, 4 slyden, 5 slidyn; 3– slide (4 slid), 4–7 slyd(e, 5–6 sclyde.**

a 950 *Guthlac* v. (1909) 123 Of þære lyfte slidan. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 252 3if eni uoð on uorte sliden. *c* 1250 *Owl & Night.* 1390 Flesches lustes hi makeþ slide. *c* 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 8150 Þat makes þ werk slyden o slep. 13.. *Cursor M.* 804 Þou sal slid apon þi brest. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 789 He shulde slyde forth sleghly. 1435 MISYN *Fire of Love* 7 Sclyde doune & comforth me. 1538 BALE *Brefe Comedy* in *Harl. Misc.* (Malh.) I. 206 Slouthfulnesse shall slyde. 1559 W. CUNNINGHAM *Cosmogr. Glasse* 94 Let not this slide out of your memory. 1617 SIR W. MURE *Misc.* xxi. 99 Heir silver brooks doe slyd.

b. *3rd sing. Pres. Ind.* (1 -slít), 3–4 **slit, slyt, 5 slitte.**

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 252 He slit & falleð sone. *a* 1310 in Wright *Lyric P.* xxxix. 110 Hit is muche wonder that he nadoun slyt. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Can. Yeom. Prol.* 129 It slit awey so faste.

2. *Pa. t. a.* (1 -slád); *north.* and *Sc.* 4–5 **slad, 5, 8– slade;** 4–5 **slayd** (5 **slayde**), 4– **slaid, 9 slaed,** etc.

13.. *Cursor M.* 23222 (Edinb.), Þoh a firin fel..þar into slad. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* III. 701 The schippys our the wawys slayd. *c* 1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 5456 Þa waters sone away slade. 1533 BELLENDEN *Livy* (S.T.S.) I. 120 Ane serpent slaid..out of ane pillare. 1591 JAS. I *Poet. Exerc., Chorus Venetus*, Our enemies feet they slaid. 1721 RAMSAY *Lucky Spence* xiv, I slade away wi' little din. 1785 BURNS *Death & Dr. Hornbook* xxvi, The wife slade cannie to her bed.

β. 4–5 slood (slod), 4–7 slode; 9 *dial.* **slod.**

13.. *Gaw. & Gr. Knt.* 1182 In slomeryng he slode. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) VII. 237 He slood wiþ his oon foot. 1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* IX. xviii. 365 His swerd slode adoune. 1523 LD. BERNERS *Froiss.* I. cclxx. 403 He slode and fell downe. 1698 FRYER *Acc. E. India & P.* 257 We slode step by step.

γ. 5–6 slydde, 6–7 slidde, 6– slid.

c 1450 *Myrr. our Ladye* 198 All thynges that slydde vnto them. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* III. iv. 32 Whiles..they softly slid. 1598 JONSON *Ev. Man in Hum.* IV. iv, I slidde downe ..into the streete. 1676–7 MARVELL *Corr.* cclxxxiii. Wks. (Grosart) II. 515 This slid over.

δ. 6 slyded, 5– slided.

c 1489 CAXTON *Sonnes of Aymon* xiv. 345 The swerde slided vpon the helme. *c* 1580 J. HOOKER *Life Sir P. Carew* in *Archæol.* XXVIII. 121 His foote slyded or slipped. 1681 RYCAUT tr. *Gracian's Critick* 187 Others slided along with a good Air. *a* 1774 GOLDSM. *Surv. Exp. Philos.* (1776) I. 269 A number of parts..which slided. 1826 HOOD *Last Man* 20 Then down the rope..I slided.

3. *Pa. pple.* **a.** 3 **islide, 4 islyde,** 5 **(y)slide.**

c 1250 *Owl & Night.* 686 Hit nis of horte islide. 13.. in *E. E. P.* (1862) 132 Hou sone þat hit is forþ islyde. *a* 1420 BIBLE *Prov.* xxiv. 10 Thou that hast iside [*v.r.* yslide].

β. (1 -sliden), 4–5, 7 sliden (4 **-un,** 5 **-on**), **4–5 slyden** (5 **-yn**); 4 *Sc.* **sclyddyn,** 5 *Sc.* **slyddin, 6 slydden, 6– slidden** (9 *dial.* **sledden**).

1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* XVII. 126 Sum ar slyddin our the wall. 1382 WYCLIF *Lam.* iii. 53 Slyden is in to a grene my lyf. 1392 in Fraser *The Lennox* (1874) II. 48 Throw errour sclyddyn. *c* 1450 tr. *De Imitatione* III. lx, Sliden & viciat by þe first man. 1579 W. WILKINSON *Confut. Fam. Love* 9 The truth whence ye haue slydden. 1622 MALYNES *Anc. Law-Merch.* 14 Now changed and sliden backe. *a* 1697 AUBREY *Surrey* IV. 148 A great Part..is slidden down into the Grounds below. 1881 E. COXON *Basil Plant* I. 64 So easily had he slidden back into his old habits.

γ. 6 slyded, -yd, 7– slided.

1535 COVERDALE 2 *Sam.* xxii. 37 Myne ankles haue not slyded. 1644 DIGBY *Nat. Bodies* xxxv. § 7. 301 Other spirits which..would haue slided downe more leisurely. 1776 SEMPLE *Building in Water* 36 This Block must be slided over to *c.* 1824 LANDOR *Imag. Conv., Chesterf. & Chatham*, We have slided into Cicero's language.

δ. 7– slid.

a 1700 EVELYN *Diary* (Chandos Classics) 188 He had slid and fall'n. *a* 1751 BOLINGBROKE *Ess.* I. vii. Wks. 1754 III. 489 They have not only slid imperceptibly. 1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* I. xiv. 95 Before I had slid a dozen yards.

B. Signification.

I. *intr.* **1.** To pass from one place or point to another with a smooth and continuous movement, *esp.* through the air or water or along a surface.

a 950 *Guthlac* v. (1909) 123 Ða comon semninga twegen deoflu to him of þære lyfte slidan. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* III. 701 The schippys our the wawys slayd. 1382 WYCLIF 2 *Sam.* xxii. 11 He..slood vpon the pennys of the wynd. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 12690 [þai] Letyn sailes doune slide sleghli & faire. *a* 1547 SURREY *Æneid* II. 302 Thus slided through our toun The subtil tree. *a* 1599 SPENSER *F. Q.* VII. vii. 43 Two fishes..Which through the flood before did softly slyde And swim away. 1629 QUARLES *Arg. & Parthenia* III. 2 April's gentle showers are slidden downe, To close the wind-chapt earth. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* VIII. 302 He took me rais'd,..over Fields and Waters, as in Aire Smooth sliding without step. 1712 ADDISON *Spectator* No. 369 ¶ 9 The Gods..slide o'er the Surface of the Earth by an uniform Swimming of the whole Body. 1789 J. WILLIAMS *Min. Kingd.* I. 214 The vestige of the coal is sure to slide down the slope of the ground. 1824 LANDOR *Imag. Conv., Gen. Kleber & French Officers* Wks. 1853 I. 43/1 The officer slided with extended arms from his resting-place. 1843 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* I. 401 The metal could be made to slide upon itself without puckering. 1871 TYNDALL *Fragm. Sci.* (1879) I. xii. 364 Whitish-green spots..over which the pencil usually slid as if the spots were greasy.

b. To move in this manner while standing more or less erect upon a surface, *esp.* that of ice.

Formerly used of skating, now distinguished from it.

c 1340 *Nominale* (Skeat) 164 M[an] sliduth vp-on hyse. 1530 PALSGR. 721/1, I have sene one in Hollande slyde as faste upon the yse as a bote dothe in the water whan it is rowed. 1585 T. WASHINGTON tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* II. xxi. 58 b, [He] mounteth vpon your backe, and so with his feet slydeth vp and downe vpon you. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* III. 34 The Virgins in Holland,..hand in hand with young men, slide upon the yce farre from their Fathers house. 1681 DRYDEN *Span. Friar* III. ii, As Boys [fear] to venture on the unknown Ice, That crackles underneath 'em while they slide. 1715 DESAGULIERS *Fires Impr.* 38 Those that Slide, Scate, or use any other violent Exercise in frosty Weather. 1776 JOHNSON in *Boswell* (Oxf. ed.) I. 41, I answered I had been sliding in Christ-Church meadow. 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xvii. IV. 4 Many thousands came sliding or skating along the frozen canals. 1883 *Harper's Mag.* Dec. 93/1 'Do you slide?' 'I never have slidden much.'

c. To slip *off* something.

1623 BINGHAM *Xenophon* 68 The Souldiers..vpon whom the Snow fell, and slid not off, became miserably distressed.

1756 C. Lucas *Ess. Waters* III. 300 A..white precipitate subsides to the bottom, and slides off the glass.

2. Of streams, etc.: To glide, flow. Now *rare*.

1390 Gower *Conf.* II. 266 A wounde upon his side Sche made, that therout mai slyde The blod withinne. *a* 1425 *Cursor M.* 11984 (Trin.), Ihesu soone in þat tide lett þe watir rynne & slide. 1513 Douglas *Æneid* v. xiii. 71 The flude Tibir throw Lawrent feildis slidis. *c* 1586 C'tess Pembroke *Ps.* xlvi. ii, A river streaming joy, With purling murmur safelie slides. 1633 P. Fletcher *Pisc. Eclogs* i. v, Where Thames and Isis heire By lowly Æton slides. 1668 Culpepper & Cole *Barthol. Anat.* i. xiii. 32 To suck out the wheyish Blood which slides along that way. 1738 *Common Sense* II. 176 It has neither rushed down the Rock, nor slided thro' the Plain. 1746 W. Mason *On the Cam* Poems 1830 II. ii. 49 Without a rill the even tide Slided silently away. 1819 Wiffen *Aonian Hours* 90 Ever from his lid a tear would slide. 1833 Tennyson *Eleanore* 109 As waves that up a quiet cove Rolling slide.

3. Of reptiles, etc.: To glide, crawl. Now *rare*.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 894 þou worm,..þou sal slid apon þi brest. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xxxix. (*Cosmo & D.*) 261 As þe serpent had entre in at his mouth,..one þe sammyne wise it slad oute. *a* 1400 in Horstm. *Altengl. Leg.* (1878) 222 Neddre,..vppe þi breste þou schalt slyden. 1530 Palsgr. 721/1 It is a wondrouse thyng to se an adder or a snake slyde so faste as they do and have no fete. 1561 T. Norton *Calvin's Inst.* i. xiii. 44 These slippery snakes doe slide away. 1607 Topsell *Serpents* (1658) 601 He espyed the Snake to slide up into the bed-straw. 1687 A. Lovell tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* ii. 39 These thieves slide cunningly along upon their bellies like Snakes. 1856 [see Sliding *ppl. a.* 3].

4. To move, go, proceed unperceived, quietly, or stealthily; to steal, creep, slink, or slip *away, into* or *out of* a place, etc.

1382 Wyclif 1 *Kings* xx. 39 Keep this man; the which if were slyden aweye, thi lijf shal be for the lijf of hym. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 4456 Quen ȝe ere slide hyne. *c* 1470 Henry *Wallace* viii. 1333 Slely he slayd throuch strenthis off Scotland. 1530 Palsgr. 721/2 Who wolde ever have thought it, that he shulde have slydden out at this narow hole. 1590 Spenser *F. Q.* i. i. 54 So slyding softly forth, she turnd as to her ease. 1602 Marston *Ant. & Mel.* iii. Wks. 1856 I. 33 Then, noble spirit, slide, in strange disguise, Unto some gratious Prince. 1697 Dryden *Virg. Georg.* iv. 594 The slipp'ry God will..attempt to slide away. 1742 Richardson *Pamela* III. 365 You observe how he slid away..as soon as I open'd my Door. 1760–72 H. Brooke *Fool of Qual.* (1809) I. 126 Slouching my hat, I slid out of doors. 1829 Lytton *Devereux* ii. iii, Steele slid into a seat near my own. 1889 D. C. Murray *Dang. Catspaw* 7 An officer of the court slid to the door of the judge's apartments.

fig. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xxxviii. (*Adrian*) 212 Hou þu had grace criste for to kene,..and þu fra hym þis [=thus] slad! 1594 Kyd *Cornelia* iii. i, He slides More swiftly from mee then the Ocean glydes.

b. *colloq.* To make off. Orig. *U.S.*

1859 Bartlett *Dict. Amer.* 415 *To slide*, to go, be gone, be off. 1873 B. Harte *Fiddletown*, etc. 85 She led William where he was covered by seventeen Modocs, and—slid!

II. 5. To pass away, pass by, so as to disappear, be forgotten or neglected, etc. Now *rare*.

c 1250 *Owl & Night.* 686 For Alured seyde of olde quide & yet hit nis of horte islide. 13.. in *E. E. P.* (1862) 132 Knowe þis worldly honoure Hou sone þat hit is forþ islyde. *c* 1374 Chaucer *Troylus* v. 769 Bothe Troylus and Troye toun Shal knotteles thorugh out here herte slyde. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 4032 Frostes were faren,..The slippond slete slidon of the ground. 1503 S. Hawes *Examp. Virt.* xiv. ccxcviii, That his redolent buddes shall not slyde But euer encrease. 1577 Hanmer *Anc. Eccl. Hist.* (1663) 60 Thus this slander slided away with the time. 1607 Topsell *Four-f. Beasts* (1658) 391 Presently the black hairs will fall and slide away, and in some short time there will come white. 1824 Lamb *Elia* ii. *Capt. Jackson*, Alack, how good men, and the good turns they do us, slide out of memory.

b. With *let* (or *allow*). In later use freq., to let (something) take its own course.

c 1386 Chaucer *Clerk's T.* 26 In his lust present was al his thoght,..Wel ny alle othere cures leet he slyde. *a* 1400 *Minor Poems from Vernon MS.* i. 492 [Let him] put his wylle in gode þewes, And alle wikked let slyde. *c* 1440 Capgr. *Life St. Kath.* i. 935 ȝe wyl not lete þis mater slyde, parde. *a* 1586 Sidney *Arcadia* ii. (1590) 107 With a calm carelessness, letting each thing slide. 1596 Shaks. *Tam. Shr.* Ind. i. 6 Therefore..let the world slide. 1611 Cotgr. s.v. *Chargé*, To take no thought, passe the time merrily, let the world slide. *a* 1859 in Bartlett *Dict. Amer.* (ed. 2) 241 If California was going to cost the Union so much, it would be better to let California slide. 1885 *Manch. Exam.* 3 June 5/1 The question at issue was not allowed to slide. 1897 *Field* 6 Feb. 166/1 The supine way we English have of letting things slide.

c. Of time: To pass, slip *away*, go *by*, imperceptibly or without being profitably employed.

c 1374 Chaucer *Troylus* v. 351 So sholdestow endure, and laten slyde The tyme. 1390 Gower *Conf.* II. 3 Thus have I lete time slyde For Slowthe. 1592 J. Davies *Immort. Soul* xxx. x, Since our Life so fast away doth slide. *c* 1600 Montgomerie *Cherrie & Slae* 824 The season With slowthing slyds away. 1620 T. Granger *Div. Logike* 147 Time slides away like the running streame. 1716–8 Lady M. W. Montagu *Lett.* I. xii. 44, I need not..tell you how agreeably time slides away with me. 1734 Fielding *Old Man taught Wisdom* Wks. 1784 III. 119 How happily must my old age slide away. 1860 Hawthorne *Marble Faun* (1879) II. vii. 76 Let the warm day slide by. 1897 Watts-Dunton *Aylwin* i. iv, In this manner about six weeks slid away.

6. † a. To fall *asleep*, etc. *Obs.*

c 1330 R. Brunne *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 8150 By-nebe þe erþe..Is a water rennyng dep, þat makes þy werk slyden o slep. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* A. 59, I slode vpon a slepyng slaȝte. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* Prol. 6 Off aunters [that] ben olde..And slydyn vppon slepe by slomeryng of Age. *c* 1470 Henry *Wallace* vii. 68 Apon a sleip he slaid full sodandly. 1513 Douglas *Æneid* vii. Prol. 111 On slummyr I slaid full sad.

b. To pass easily or gradually *into* some condition, practice, etc. † Also in early use with *to*.

In some contexts there is connexion with sense 9.

1398 Trevisa *Barth. De P. R.* ii. iv. (1495) 31 Aungels neuer slyde to vice nother to synne. *c* 1450 tr. *De Imitatione* i. xxv. 38 He þat eschuiþ not smale defautes, litel & litel shal slide in to gretter. 1503 Hawes *Examp. Virt.* i. ix, That ye to ffaylte shall not slyde. 1579 W. Wilkinson *Confut. Fam. Love* 79 b, When they shall here any of the Familie slide into any of these affirmations. 1754 Young *Centaur* ii. Wks. 1757 IV. 137 Thus, looking out for some shadow of excuse, we naturally slide into groundless doubts. 1766 Fordyce *Serm. Yng. Wm.* (1767) I. vi. 230 She will.., when her province is enlarged, slide into the duties of it with readiness. 1802 Mrs. J. West *Infidel Father* II. 128 Even Lord Glanville, while he made his bow, so far slided into equivoque [etc.]. 1847 Helps *Friends in C.* I. iii. 36 When an honourable man..slides into some dishonourable action. 1871 Carlyle in *Mrs. Carlyle's Lett.* I. 144, I had slid into something of correspondence with Lockhart.

c. To pass by easy or gradual change or transformation into some other form or character.

a 1500 *Sir Cawline* xxii. in Child *Ball.* II. 59/1 The timber these two children bore Soe soone in sunder slode. 1731 Pope *Ep. Burlington* 66 Parts answ'ring parts shall slide into a whole. 1763 J. Brown *Poet. & Music* vii. 143 The Narrative..did easily slide into dramatic Representation. 1847 Helps *Friends in C.* I. vi. 96 The great danger..of representative government, is lest it should slide down from representative government to delegate government. 1862 Merivale *Rom. Emp.* (1865) VIII. lxiv. 99 Rhetorical amplifications slid swiftly into direct mis-statements. 1876 Freeman *Norm. Conq.* V. xxiv. 503 It was an easy step for the patron to slide into the beneficiary.

7. To move, pass, make way, etc., in an easy or unobtrusive manner.

c 1374 Chaucer *Boeth.* iii. pr. xii. (1868) 106 The deuyne substaunce..ne slydeþ nat in to outerest foreine þinges. *c* 1386 — *Can. Yeom. Prol.* 129 That science is so fer vs beforn, We mowen nat..It ouer-take, it slit awey so faste. *a* 1400 *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* lii. 149 Mony folk slod to helle slider. *c* 1450 *Myrr. Our Ladye* 198 Righte so the holy goste vouched safe to slyde in to the hartes of the prophetes. 1577 *F. de Lisle's Legend.* C ij b, Seeking ..to slyde in among the princes, and beare the like port as they. 1591 Sylvester *Du Bartas* i. vii. 255 The Fall Of Eden's old Prince; whose luxurious pride Made on his seed his sin for ever slide. 1622 Malynes *Anc. Law-Merch.* 14 The which places of the Sunne are now changed and sliden backe in the Iulian Kalender. 1697 Collier *Ess.* (1702) ii. 183 A good Conscience..makes him slide into the Grave by a more gentle and insensible Motion. 1748 Richardson *Clarissa* (1811) I. i. 2 So desirous..of sliding through life to the end of it unnoted. 1792 Mary Wollstonecr. *Vind. Rights Wom.* 8, I shall try to avoid that flowery diction which has slided from essays into novels. 1820 Hazlitt *Lect. Dram. Lit.* 136 The poet's verse slides into the current of our blood. 1858 Holmes *Aut. Breakf.-t.* iii. 25 All lecturers..have ruts and grooves in their minds, into which their conversation is perpetually sliding.

b. Of speech or music, or with reference to these; *spec.* (see quot. 1875).

1553 T. Wilson *Rhet.* (1580) 3 Euery Orator should earnestly labour to file his tongue, that his woordes maie slide with ease. 1864 Browning *Abt Vogler* xii, I feel for the common chord again Sliding by semitones. 1875 Stainer & Barrett *Dict. Mus. Terms* s.v., To slide is to pass from one note to another without any cessation of sound, or distinction between the intervals.

c. Of the eye or sight: To pass quickly from one object to another.

1756 Burke *Subl. & B.* iii. xv, The deceitful maze, through which the unsteady eye slides giddily. 1784 Cowper *Task* i. 511 The weary sight..slides off, Fastidious, seeking less familiar scenes.

III. 8. To slip; to lose one's foothold.

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 252 þer on geð him one in one sliddrie weie, he slit & falleð sone. *c* 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 212 Heo was so slider, þat man ne miȝte þare-oppe gon bote he slide and felle a-doun. 1375 Barbour *Bruce* x. 596 For hapnyt ony to slyde or fall, He suld be soyne to-fruschit all. 1485 Caxton *Paris & V.* 18 Hys hors slode and thenne geffroy overthrewe to the erthe. 1530 Palsgr. 721/2 He slydde and bothe his fete folded underneth him. *a* 1548 Hall *Chron., Hen. VIII*, 213 To the entent that the horses should not slide on the Pavement. *a* 1700 Evelyn *Diary* (Chandos Classics) 187 Capt. Wray's horse..slid downe a frightfull precipice. 1763–5 Churchill *The Times* Poems 1767 II. 19 So sure, they walk on ice, and never slide. 1819 Shelley *Cenci* iii. i, 12, I see a woman..motionless, whilst I Slide giddily as the world reels.

fig. 1388 Wyclif *Lam.* iii. 53 My lijf slood in to a lake. 1390 Gower *Conf.* III. 241 He makth a treigne, Into the which if that he slyde, Him were betre go besyde. 1624 Massinger *Renegado* v. vii, Tho' the descent Were steep as hell, I know I cannot slide. 1668 Bp. Hopkins *Serm.* (1685) 45 We are apt to slide off from the smoother part of our lives, as flies from glass. 1795 Burke *Regic. Peace* iv. Wks. 1907 VI. 399 It is not possible that the downhill should not be slid into.

b. Of the foot: To slip. Also *fig.*

1340 *Ayenb.* 149 Huanne þe on uot slyt, þe oþer him helpþ. 1382 Wyclif *Deut.* xxxii. 35, Y shal ȝeeld to hem in tyme, that the foot of hem slyde. 1483 Caxton *Gold. Leg.* 147 b/1 Hys foot slode so that he fyl in to the Ryuer. 1535 Coverdale 2 *Sam.* xxii. 37 Thou hast enlarged my goinge vnder me, and myne ankles haue not slyded. 1590 Spenser *F. Q.* I. xi. 45 His nigh forwearied feeble feet did slide, And downe he fell. 1832 Scott *Cast. Dang.* xx, His foot sliding in the blood of the young victim.

c. In general use: To slip. Also with advs. and preps.

1388 Wyclif *Deut.* xix. 5 The yrun slidith fro the helue, ..and sleeth his freend. *c* 1400 *Anturs Arth.* 617 The swerde sleppis on slante, and one the mayle slydys. 1470–85 Malory *Arthur* i. xvi. 58 The swerd slode doune by the hauberk behynde his back. 1610 Barrough *Physick* ii. xii. (1639) 90 Their temples be slidden downe, their eyes be hollow. 1680 Moxon *Mech. Exerc.* xiii. 228 Its point will not describe a Circle on the greatest Extuberances of the Globe, but will slide off it. ‡ 1748 Johnson *Vis. Theodore* Wks. 1796 II. 399 The declivities grew more precipitous, and the sand slided from beneath my feet. 1834 W. Godwin *Lives Necromancers* 340 Just as he thought he had caught him by the hand, the miserable wretch slided from between his fingers. 1859 Tennyson *Merlin & V.* 737 The snake of gold slid from her hair.

fig. 1820 Scott *Monast.* xxii, Muttering these last words, which slid from him, as it were unawares.

9. *fig.* To lapse morally; to commit some fault; to err or go wrong.

a 1000 *Salomon* 378 Ðonne he ȝeong færeð, hafað wilde mod,..slideð ȝeneahhe [etc.]. *c* 1250 *Owl & Night.* 1390 Nis wunder nou þah he abide, Vor fleysses lustes hi makeþ slide. 1382 Wyclif *Ecclus.* xix. 16 Ther is that slideth in his tunge, but not of inwit. 1436 *Pol. Poems* (Rolls) II. 182 When grace shynethe sone are wee slydynge. *c* 1540 Coverdale tr. *Calvin's Treat. Sacrament* C ij, The rule, whyche yf we folowe, we shall neyther slyde nor erre. *a* 1591 H. Smith *Wks.* (1867) II. 266 The strong and just God, that consumed Nineveh slidden back. 1606 Carpenter *Solomon's Solace* vi. 23 No man so wise but he may by an occasion slide. 1738 Wesley *Ps.* v. 5 Lead me in all thy righteous Ways, Nor suffer me to slide. 1779 Cowper *Olney Hymns* xli, I find myself a learner yet, Unskilful, weak, and apt to slide. 1868 Edmeston in *Sacred Poetry* 143 The Saviour suffers when his children slide.

10. *Sc.* (See quot.)

a 1814 Ramsay *Scott. & Scotsmen 18th c.* (1888) II. 68 It was imagined they would *slide—i.e.*, 'lose beef and tallow'—by the change of food.

IV. *trans.* **11.** To cause to move with a smooth, gliding motion; to push over a level surface.

c 1537 J. London in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* Ser. iii. III. 232 Then must they putt in to the trowgh a peckke of oots, and when they wer oons slydyd vndre the Awter [etc.]. 1669 Sturmy *Mariner's Mag.* ii. xvi. 93 Then slide your Sight-Vane a little higher towards V. 1683 Moxon *Printing* x. iv. 43 The Tennants of the Till being slid in through the Cutting-in aforesaid. *Ibid.* xv. i, They may be slid forwards so far. 1793 Smeaton *Edystone L.* § 225 *note*, We slid the stones to their respective places. 1815 J. Smith *Panorama Sci. & Art* I. 80 The cheeks must be of such a height, that the cutter-frames can be slidden along upon them. 1843 Holtzapffel *Turning* I. 211 The right hand being slided towards the head in the act of lifting the hammer. 1877 W. R. Cooper *Egypt. Obelisks* viii. (1878) 35 The obelisk was slid off from the deck of the galley, on to a low cart.

fig. 1779 Sheridan *Critic* i. i, Haven't we the signors and signoras calling here, sliding their smooth semibreves? 1815 Scott *Guy M.* xxxvii, Sliding his whisper from between his lips, which were as little unclosed as possible. 1844 Kinglake *Eothen* viii. (1878) 109 Madly sliding his splendid army, like a weaver's shuttle, from his right hand to his left.

12. With *in* or *into*: To introduce quietly or dexterously; to slip (something) *into* one's hand, etc.

1627 Donne *Serm.* v. (1640) 51 Slide wee in this note by the way. 1677 Miége i. s.v. *Glisser*, To slide his hand into ones pocket. 1713 Steele *Englishm.* No. 8. 50 He was..to slide the Letter into her Hand, but let no Body see. *a* 1748 Watts (J.), Little tricks of sophistry by sliding in, or leaving out, such words as entirely change the question, should be abandoned by all fair disputants. 1818 Scott *Br. Lamm.* xviii, Sliding into the butler's hand the remuneration, which..was always given by a departing guest. 1841 Dickens *Barn. Rudge* xlviii, Gashford slid his cold insidious palm into his master's grasp. 1871 R. H. Hutton *Ess.* (1877) I. 44 He slides in immediately a very favourite maxim of the religious know-nothing school.

13. To move over, traverse, descend, etc., in a sliding manner.

1621 Speght in Farr *Sel. Poet. Jas. I*, 200 Like a ship that ..slides the sea. 1635 Quarles *Embl.* iv. iii, The idle vessell slides the watry lay. 1770 Foote *Lame Lover* i, Frederick Foretop and I were carelessly sliding the Ranelagh round. 1773 — *Bankrupt* i, I flatter'd myself with [the prospect of] gently sliding the down-hill of life.

14. With *away*: To spend in sliding.

1827 Clare *Sheph. Cal.* 3 Or seeking bright glib ice to play And slide the wintry hours away.

Slide-, the verbal stem or the sb. in combs. (sometimes not hyphened): **a.** With names of apparatus, implements, parts of machines, etc., characterized by a sliding action, as *slide-bar*, *-block*, *-bolt*, *-car*, etc.

For technical descriptions of some of these, and of two or three others, see Knight *Dict. Mech.*

c 1886 Kipling *Railway Folk* 63 A *slide bar about red hot. 1869 Rankine *Machine & Hand-tools* Pl. F 9, An inclined groove is formed in the tup, in which a *slide block is fitted. 1841 Browning *Pippa Passes* 225 Push the lattice ..; of course The *slide-bolt catches. 1763 *Museum Rust.* I. 94 These loads are carried in baskets fixed on *slide-cars. 1861–2 *Ulster Jrnl. Archæol.* IX. 145 Some time after.. what were called slide-cars were used, that is, carts without wheels. 1844 H. Stephens *Bk. Farm* II. 291 The *slide-clutch, with a slide-rib, being now placed on the shaft. 1853 Ure *Dict. Arts* I. 228, *g* is the charcoal-meter, with a *slide door. 1879 Stevenson *Ess. Trav., Amateur Emigrant* (1905) 23 Through the open slide-door we had a glimpse of a grey night sea. 1875 Martin *Winding Mach.* 84 It is of very great importance not to multiply..such things as slide-valves and *slide-faces. 1844 H. Stephens *Bk. Farm* II. 293 A *slide-frame in which two leading pulleys, mounted in a case, are fitted to slide in the vertical direction. 1874 J. W. Long *Amer. Wild-fowl*, vi. 106 The draught is regulated commonly by *slide-gates, but various methods may be employed. 1884 F. J. Britten *Watch & Clockm.* 241 [The] *Slide Guage..[is] a measuring instrument consisting

of one fixed and one sliding jaw. 1869 RANKINE *Machinery & Millwork* 571 In this machine the tool-holder .. slides vertically in a guiding groove in the *slide-head. 1881 RAYMOND *Mining Gloss.*, **Slide-joint*, a connection acting in rod-boring, like the jars in rope-boring. 1885 C. G. W. LOCK *Workshop Rec.* Ser. IV. 239/2 There are two kinds of plough in use..termed respectively 'bolt knife' and '*slide knife'. 1833 HOLLAND *Manuf. Metal* II. 142 An ingenious contrivance, known as the *slide-lathe. 1846 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* II. 528 The slide-lathe, and..the planing-machine and many other most invaluable tools. 1791 *Selby Bridge Act* 34 The *slide leaf or leaves of the said bridge. 1846 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* II. 634 The back-stay is fixed to the *slide plate. 1844 *Slide-rib* [see *slide-clutch*]. 1825 J. NICHOLSON *Operat. Mechanic* 446, *h*, the *slide rod, on which the knife *f* is fixed. 1876 PREECE & SIVEWRIGHT *Telegraphy* 172 The slide rod being removed, the iron pole is fixed in its place. 1846 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* II. 633 The nut of the *slide screw..is made with two tails. 1825 J. NICHOLSON *Operat. Mechanic* 324 For turning faces of wheels, hollow work, &c. where great accuracy is wanted, Mr. Maudslay has contrived a curious apparatus, which he calls a *slide-tool. 1888 *Encycl. Brit.* XXIII. 594/1 The *slide trumpet is mentioned by T. E. Altenburg [1795], who compares it, and with reason, to the *alto trombone*. *Ibid.*, The slide trumpet*is still used in England in a somewhat modified form.

b. Denoting something along which objects may slide or be slid, as *slide-ladder, -way.*

1793 SMEATON *Edystone L.* § 226 The slide-ladder, which was very strongly lashed down to eye-bolts. 1825 J. NICHOLSON *Operat. Mechanic* 12 The slide-ladder used by brewers in loading and unloading their carts. 1856 OLMSTED *Slave States* 550 The boat came to the shore at the foot of a plank slide-way. 1883 *Scotsman* 11 July 5/2 The ways were new, and made of oak and pine, with guide-battens on the inner edges of the slideways.

c. Misc., as *slide-blowing* adj.; *slide-centerer, -coupler, -maker*; *slide-movement, -principle.*

In most of these *slide-* represents the sb. in senses 5 and 7.

1846 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* II. 471 The employment of the two, or the three slide movements, to which method Mr. Nasmyth has judiciously applied the term 'Slide Principle'. 1881 C. A. EDWARDS *Organs* 109 In this instrument is an arrangement called the 'Slide Coupler'. 1889 *Anthony's Photogr. Bulletin* II. 356, I would suggest to slide-makers a more extended use for their work. 1890 BAUERMAN *Metallurgy Iron* 178 The so-called slide-blowing engines, where the flap valves are replaced by a slide similar to that used in steam engines. 1895 G. E. DAVIS *Pract. Micros.* (ed. 3) 376 In mounting objects, a slide-centerer should be employed.

Sli·deable, *a. rare*⁻¹. [f. SLIDE *v.*] Liable to slide or alter.

1662 CHANDLER tr. *Van Helmont's Oriat.*, It desired a more stable and quiet Inn, than that which should be slideable every hour.

Sli·deableness. [Cf. prec.] Fitness for sliding.

1886 MISS BROUGHTON *Doctor Cupid* II. 159 The glassy slideableness of the turnpike road.

† Slide-groat. *Obs.* [f. SLIDE *v.* + GROAT.] Shove-groat, shovelboard.

1552 *Nottingham Rec.* IV. 102 Dyce, slyde grote,..or any other maner of game. 1586 HOOKER *Giraldus' Hist. Irel.* in *Holinshed* II. 86/2 On a night, when the lieutenant and he for their disport were plaieng at slidegrote, or shoofleboord. 1605 ARMIN *Foole upon F.* (1880) 21 All alone he playd at slide groate, as his manner was: peeces or counters he had none. 1635 *Maldon Borough Deeds* (Bundle 124 No. 9), [He] continued there about three quarters of an hour, and plaied two games at slidegroat.

Slider (slə·dəɹ). [f. SLIDE *v.* + -ER¹.]

1. One who slides; † a skater.

1530 PALSGR. 225/2 Glydar, a slyder. 1598 FLORIO, *Sbrisciatore*, ..a slider vpon the yse. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 1 Dec. 1662, The strange and wonderful dexterity of the sliders on the new Canal. *a* 1851 MOIR *Poet. Wks.* (1852) II. 386 The ring of the slider's heel. 1853 DICKENS *Bleak Ho.* iii, The skaters and sliders had brushed the snow away.

transf. 1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* II. xiii. 297 The rocks of Britain bear to this day the traces of these mighty sliders [*sc.* glaciers].

b. *Rowing.* One who uses a sliding seat.

1880 *Daily News* 22 Nov. 5/3 Hanlan, the Canadian,..is a great slider.

c. *U.S.* The red-bellied terrapin. Also *attrib.*

1883 *Science* I. 149/2 The heart of the 'slider' terrapin. 1884 GOODE *Nat. Hist. Aquat. Anim.* 155 The 'Red-bellied Terrapin', *Pseudemys rugosa*,..is also known under the names 'Potter', 'Red-fender', and 'Slider'.

2. A beam or plank on which something heavy may be slid; also *dial.*, a sledge.

1582 STANYHURST *Æneis* II. (Arb.) 51 Thee wheels wee prop with a number Of beams and sliders. 1886 ELWORTHY *W. Somerset Word-bk.* 680 In the Hill country..the hay is always carried in upon *slitters* or *sliders*. 1900 *Engineering Mag.* XIX. 679 Two lines of 'sliders', consisting of heavy oak plank,..are placed..on each side of the keel, and one line of sliders under the keel.

3. *Mining.* (See quot. 1828.)

1653 MANLOVE *Customs Lead-Mines* 257 (E. D. S.), Bunnings, Polings, Stemples, Forks, and Slyder. 1746 HOOSON *Miner's Dict.* s.v., Sliders are cut of such a Length as the Miner designs the Square of his Shaft to be. *Ibid.* s.v. *Squarewood*, This consisteth of two Sliders and two Forks. 1828 CARR *Craven Gloss., Sliders and forks*, timbers for the support of shafts and sumps in mines.

4. A thing or part which slides or may be slid; *esp.* a sliding part or device in some mechanical apparatus.

1681 GREW *Museum* IV. ii. 366 A Slider, with a thin Plate-Spring, which plays against the said Teeth. 1692 *Capt. Smith's Seaman's Gram.* II. xxiv. 130 A small Line must be drawn quite thro' the Slider. 1733 TULL *Horse-Hoeing Husb.* xxii. 339 (Dubl.), To fix in this Wreath from coming off, we make use of the Slider. 1763 *Museum Rust.* I. 78 The aperture in the floor of the third cell is shut by means of the slider. 1790 *Phil. Trans.* LXXXI. 27 The front of this vessel is a plate of glass, and the back a tin-plate slider. 1834-6 *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) VIII. 751/1 In a groove under the dovetail is a slider L, moved by a wire K. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 983 Betwixt these guides, friction-roller sliders are placed,..to which sliders the corves are suspended. 1884 *Law Times* LXXVIII. 8/1 An upright rod, up and down which worked a slider which contained the cartridge.

fig. 1825 HAZLITT *Spirit of Age* 64 He has only to draw the sliders of his imagination, and a thousand subjects expand before him.

b. *Organ-building.* (See quot. 1875.)

1781 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 2) VIII. 5747/2 R, R, are the rollers, to move the sliders, by help of the arms *cf*, *cf*. 1855 HOPKINS *Organ* 43 The pallets and sliders of the several sound-boards. 1875 STAINER & BARRETT *Dict. Mus. Terms* s.v. *Organ*, We now apply the word slide or slider only to that strip of wood which, passing under a row of pipes from right to left, admits the air to a particular row of pipes or stops. 1881 C. A. EDWARDS *Organs* 56 The sliders are long pieces of wood, usually made of mahogany.

c. *Locksmithing.* A tumbler that moves horizontally.

1796 *Repertory Arts* V. 227 In these notches are placed six sliders or small bars. 1833 HOLLAND *Manuf. Metal* II. 268 The form of these levers, sliders, or other movables.. may be varied without end. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* IV. 242/2 In these slits are inserted little pieces of steel, called sliders.

d. Part of a guillotine. Also *fig.*

1795 BURKE *Regic. Peace* Wks. VIII. 109 Fitting to their size the slider of his guillotine! 1798 *Loves of Triangles* in *Anti-Jacobin* (1799) 141 To the pois'd plank tie fast the monster's back, Close the nice slider, ope the expectant sack. [1903 MORLEY *Gladstone* x. ii. (1905) II. 618 The report next fell under what Burke calls the accursed slider.]

5. a. A device for holding, and inserting in a microscope, the glass or other plates with the objects to be studied. ? *Obs.*

1702 *Phil. Trans.* XXIII. 1357 The Sliders with the plain and concave Glass plates for Objects [are] very convenient. 1740 *Ibid.* XLI. 515 Making use of fine transparent Muscovy Talc or Isinglass, placed in Sliders, to inclose Objects in. 1822 IMISON *Sci. & Art* I. 280 You may change the objects in your sliders for what others you think proper. 1855 LARDNER *Mus. Sci. & Art* VI. 94 The wings..of this guat ..make very beautiful objects when mounted under thin glass in sliders.

b. A lantern-slide. ? *Obs.*

1793 W. & S. JONES *Catal. Optical* (etc.) *Instr.* 3 Small magic lamthorns, with twelve sliders complete. 1823 *New Monthly Mag.* VII. 246 A second face coming across us, like the sliders of a magic lantern. *c* 1865 *Wylde's Circ. Sci.* I. 64/1 One of these sliders will give a picture upon the white screen.

† 6. A sliding ring, loop, or similar device, used to fasten an article of dress, the hair, a long purse, etc. *Obs.*

The sense in quot. 1699 is uncertain.

1699 J. DICKENSON *Jrnl. Trav.* 64 The Governour..gave us a Shirt and Sliders, a Hat, and a pair of Silk-Stockins. 1742 A. MONRO in *Med. Ess. Edinb.* V. 455 Till the Slipring or Slider is thrust towards the End of the Handles. 1782 [T. VAUGHAN] *Fashionable Follies* II. CCXIV. 138 A purse, with brilliant sliders, and a pair of very fine shoe buckles. 1810 S. GREEN *Reformist* I. 81 Drawing the sliders of his weighty purse,..he threw down two guineas.

7. A stand or holder for a bottle or decanter, intended to be slid along the table; a coaster.

1770 tr. *Mme. du Bocage's Lett.* I. 67 Little round vessels called sliders, of the same [Indian] wood, serve to hold the bottles. 1895 'SARAH TYTLER' *Macdonald Lass* IX. 123 There are the sliders and the cruet, and father's tankard. 1905 *Daily Chron.* 1 Sept. 6/6 Two chased and pierced decanter sliders.

8. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *slider-crank, -holder, -pump, tube.*

1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XI. 713/2 The slider-holder should be removed when you are going to view opaque objects. 1823 J. BADCOCK *Dom. Amusem.* 51 A..lens fastened to the slider tube. 1837 GORING & PRITCHARD *Microg.* 13 The slider-holder..must be very small. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.*, *Slider-pump*, a form of Rotary Pump. 1884 COTTERILL *Appl. Mech.* 113 Mechanisms derived from the slider-crank chain.

Sli·de-rest. Also **slide rest.** [f. SLIDE *v.*] An appliance for holding tools in turning, enabling the tools to be variously held in relation to the material worked on.

1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 268 The pieces of wood..are placed upon the slide-rest of the .. machine. 1869 RANKINE *Machine & Hand-tools* Pl. H 4 The slide rest, which carries the cutting tools, is provided with as many holders as there are tools required. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* II. 62/1 The slide-rest is really an iron band which holds the tool and enables it to be turned towards the work, or from it.

attrib. 1843 *Penny Cycl.* XXV. 426/1 Slide-rest screw. 1859 *Handbk. Turning* 93 Diminish their size by moving the slide rest screw backwards half a turn.

Sli·de-rule. [f. SLIDE *v.*] A sliding rule.

1663 PEPYS *Diary* 14 Apr., I walked to Greenwich, studying the slide rule for measuring of timber. 1838 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* I. 122/1 To assist in facilitating the use of the slide rule among working mechanics. 1876 *Handbk. Scientif. Appar.* 30 The slide rule,—an apparatus for effecting multiplications and divisions by means of a logarithmic scale.

attrib. 1891 *Anthony's Photogr. Bulletin* IV. 209 The system of circular slide rule calculators.

† Sli·de-thrift. *Obs.* [f. SLIDE *v.*, after SLIDE-GROAT.]

1. Shovelboard, slide-groat.

1541 *Act* 33 *Hen. VIII*, c. 9 § 1 New and craftie games and plaies, as..slide thrift, otherwise called shoue groat. 1630 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Wks.* III. 79 Some of the Townesmen were..bowling: some at slide-thrift, or shouel-board.

2. A spendthrift.

a 1591 H. SMITH *Wks.* (1866) I. 327 So you depart from our sermons like a slide-thrift's purse, which will hold no money.

Hence **† Sli·dethrifter,** one who plays at shovelboard. *Obs.*

1579 RICE *Invective agst. Vices* D ij b, Neither..Slide-thrifters, Scailers, nor Darters.

Sli·de-valve. Also **slide valve.** [f. SLIDE *v.*] A valve having a sliding plate for opening and closing an orifice; *spec.* one which does this alternately and regularly.

1802 *Specif. M. Murray's Patent* No. 2632, My new invention..consists in application of one slide valve. 1846 A. YOUNG *Naut. Dict.* 298 On one side of the cylinder is this casing which..confines the slide-valves. 1892 LOW *Machine Draw.* 74 Slide valves are generally made of brass, bronze, or cast iron.

attrib. 1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* II. 311 The other eccentric moves the slide-valve-rod. 1846 A. YOUNG *Naut. Dict.* 298 Slide-valve Casing.

† 'Sli·dikins, *int. Obs.* [f. 'SLID *int.* Cf. 'SBODIKINS.] A form of minced oath.

1694 CONGREVE *Double-Dealer* II. i, Slidikins, can't I govern you? What did I marry you for? 1710 SWIFT *Lett.* (1767) III. 25 Slidikins, I have been the best boy in Christendom. *c* 1755 MURPHY *Apprentice* II. ii, Slidikins, this is a letter from the unfortunate young fellow.

Sliding (slə·diŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. SLIDE *v.*]

1. The action of the verb in various senses (chiefly intransitive).

(*a*) *c* 1325 *Prose Ps.* lv. 13 Þou deliuered..myn fete fram slydynge. 1382 WYCLIF *Ecclus.* XX. 20 The slidyng of the false tunge [is] as he that is falling in the pament. *c* 1460 *Contin. Brut* II. 460 The stretes were strawed thurghout for slidyng of theire horses. 1495 *Trevisa's Barth. De P. R.* VII. l. 263 The wombe is greuyd with slidynge and slippernesse. 1561 NORTON & SACKVILLE *Gorboduc* II. i, So slow a slidynge of his aged yeres. 1581 SIDNEY *Apol. Poet.* (Arb.) 70 The Dutch..[is so full of] Consonants, that they cannot yeeld the sweet slyding, fit for a Verse. 1605 MARSTON *Dutch Courtezan* II. i, Lying, malice, envie, are held but slidyngs. 1683 MOXON *Printing* x. ix, Extuberancies of Nail-heads would hinder the free sliding of the Quoins. 1801 STRUTT *Sports & Past.* II. ii. 78 Sliding is but little practised, except by children. 1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* II. xxviii. 395 A sliding of the particles of ice past each other. 1882 *Standard* 9 Dec. 2/8 The crew rapidly fell to pieces, the sliding being short, the time bad.

(*b*) 1651 N. BACON *Disc. Govt. Eng.* II. xv. (1739) 82 This way of the Parliament tended to a tacite sliding him out of the Government of the Kingdom.

2. *attrib.* **a.** In sense 'on which sliding is performed', as *sliding-place, -surface, -way.*

1611 COTGR., *Babouin*, ..a frozen place, whereon boyes vse to slide; a sliding place. 1648 HEXHAM II, *Een glijdbaen*, a Sliding path. 1792 BELKNAP *Hist. New-Hampshire* III. 157 On the top of the dam..[beavers] always leave a sluice or passage..; and when the stream is large, they leave two or three, which the hunters call sliding-places. 1839 R. S. ROBINSON *Naut. Steam Eng.* 48 The exterior of the valve slightly projects..in a line with the sliding surfaces. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2210/2 The sliding-ways are the inclined planes down which the vessel slides, and are made of planks 3 or 4 inches wide, laid on blocks of wood.

b. In sense 'of the nature of, connected with, sliding', as *sliding contact, motion, principle.*

1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 664 The lights.. should be of the usual sliding construction. 1843 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* I. 378 A very considerable amount of the sliding motion of the metal would be called into play. 1869 RANKINE *Mach. & Millwork* 114 The acting surfaces of a pair of pieces in sliding contact. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2210/2 The gages used by carpenters and artificers generally are on the sliding principle.

Sliding (slə·diŋ), *ppl. a.* [f. SLIDE *v.*]

I. 1. *fig.* **a.** That slides or slips away; transitory; unstable, inconstant; passing.

a 900 *O. E. Martyrol.* 22 Aug. 150 Ne do ic þæt, forðon þe þeos mennisce tyddernes bið swa slidende swa þæt glæs. *a* 1000 *Saxon Leechd.* I. p. lviii, Fleoz þu wesan ealdor slidendes plezan. *c* 1374 CHAUCER *Boeth.* I. met. v. (1868) 22 Whi suffrest þou þat slidyng fortune turneþ to grete vtter chaungynges of þinges. *c* 1386 — *Can. Yeom. Prol. & T.* 179 That slidynge science hath me maad so bare, That I haue no good. 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* lxvi. 5 The slydand joy, the glaidness schort. 1597 DANIEL *Civ. Wars* II. xxx, The slyding faith of those That cannot long their resolution hold. 1628 FELTHAM *Resolves* II. ix, We dye with doing that, for which only, our sliding life was granted. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Past.* III. 62 His Name who made the Sphere, And shew'd the Seasons of the sliding Year. 1765 [E. THOMPSON] *Meretriciad* II Erase thy vices with the sliding day.

† b. Of persons: Slippery, unreliable; apt to fall or transgress. *Obs.*

c 1435 *Chron. London* (Kingsford, 1905) 45 A man, the which is nat slyding in his tunge. *c* 1450 tr. *De Imitatione* I. iv. 6 Þei knowiþ mannys infirmite redy to euel & sliding ynow in wordes. *Ibid.* III. xxii. 90, I am so slidyng & so weike to wiþstonde passions.

2. Slippery; steeply sloping. *rare.*

c 1325 *Gloss. W. de Bibbesw.* in Wright *Voc.* 160 *Le chimyn trop lidaunt*, slidery (sclidinde). 1608 TOPSELL *Serpents* (1658) 704 By fertil vale of Pelethun his sliding road. 1616 W. BROWNE *Brit. Past.* II. iii, A hill, whose sliding sides A goodly flocke, like winter's cov'ring, hides.

3. That moves by sliding or slipping; flowing, gliding, etc.

c 1374 CHAUCER *Boeth.* v. metr. ii. (1868) 152 Þe flowynge ordre of þe slidyng water. ? *a* 1400 *Morte Arth.* 2976 The slydande spere of his hande sleppes! 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 323/1 Sclydynge, *labens*. 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* lxxvi. 3 Quhat is this lyfe bot..A slyding quheill ws lent to seik remeid. 1562 PILKINGTON *Exposit. Abdyas* Pref. 8 Sáfelye slips away the slyding shippe. 1604 B. JONSON *Entertainm.* Wks. (1616) 882 The many falls Of sweete, and seuerall sliding rills. 1634 MILTON *Comus* 892 By the rushy-fringed bank..My sliding Chariot stayes. 1784 COWPER *Task* IV. 126 Thy throne A sliding car, indebted to no wheels. 1825 J. NICHOLSON *Operat. Mech.* 664 The laws which regulate the friction of rolling and sliding bodies. 1856 BRYANT *Prairies* 107 Sliding reptiles of the ground, Startlingly beautiful.

b. Accompanied by a sliding movement.

1796 *Hist. Ned Evans* I. 108 Lord Rivers advancing to Edward with a sliding bow. 1818 SCOTT *Br. Lamm.* xxii, Craigengelt..made a sliding bow to the Marquis. 1838 LYTTON *Alice* v. vi, Mrs. Merton, with a sliding bow, had already quitted the room.

4. Of language or music: Flowing easily.

1627 DRAYTON *Agincourt* 207 Dainty Sands that hath to English done, Smooth sliding Ouid. 1678 L'ESTRANGE *Seneca's Mor.* (1702) 376 His Speech was rather Easie, and Sliding, than Quick. 1844 MRS. BROWNING *Drama of Exile* 560, I think that they With sliding voices lean from heavenly towers. 1875 STAINER & BARRETT *Dict. Mus. Terms, Sliding relish*, a grace in old harpsichord music. 1876 LOWELL *Among my Books* Ser. II. 156 His attempts to naturalize the sliding rhymes of Sannazzaro in English.

II. In special uses.

5. Of a knot: Made so as to slip along a cord; running.

1591 PERCIVALL *Sp. Dict., Corrediza*, a sliding knot. 1597 A. M. tr. *Guillemeau's Fr. Chirurg.* 34 b/2 We must tye the endes of the threde together, and with a slidinge knott binde the same together. 1622 MABBE tr. *Aleman's Guzman d'Alf.* I. 253, I..knit a sliding knot vpon the instep of one of his feete. 1818 *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) III. 26/1 If one or many of the fixed knots..be replaced by sliding knots, or moveable rings.

6. Designating parts of apparatus or machinery which slide, or are characterized by some sliding device, as *sliding-bar, -collar, -joint*, etc.

1778 [W. H. MARSHALL] *Minutes Agric., Digest* 54 *note*, The *Sliding-bar..ought to be set at such a depth, as.. to have a collection of mould before it. 1889 *Anthony's Photogr. Bulletin* II. 293 By means of the sliding-bar..this instrument can be adapted to reduce from negatives of almost any size. 1849 *Mech. Mag.* Apr. 314 The *sliding carriage in or upon which is to be placed any log..intended to be cut. 1680 MOXON *Mech. Exerc.* xiv. 239 The Neck of the *Sliding Collar. 1825 J. NICHOLSON *Operat. Mechanic* 125 The balls will fall towards each other, and let down the sliding collar. 1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-m.* 225 **Sliding Joint*, a boring rod made in two portions, one sliding within the other. 1869 RANKINE *Machine & Hand-tools* Pl. L 2 The spindle is keyed by a *sliding key. 1711 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4855/4 A Silver Jewel Watch,..the *sliding Piece on the Dyal-plate. 1839 *Penny Cycl.* XV. 175/1 Instead of fixing the wire to the telescope tube, it is stretched across a sliding-piece. 1825 J. NICHOLSON *Operat. Mechanic* 325 The nuts of the screws..are not screwed fast to the *sliding plates. 1832 BABBAGE *Econ. Manuf.* x. 49 The same process by the aid of the lathe and the *sliding-rest. 1833 HOLLAND *Manuf. Metal* II. 44 Some very handsome pruning instruments of the *sliding-shears description. 1846 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* II. 862 Small wires and other pieces are also held in a species of pliers,..called pin-tongs, or *sliding-tongs. 1838 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* I. 350/2 The method of reading the figures of the stave itself, instead of the *sliding vane.

b. Designating doors, lids, panels, etc., which are opened or shut by sliding.

1715 DESAGULIERS *Fires Impr.* 96 There must be *sliding Boards, or Doors. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 983 At the pit mouth, where shutters or sliding boards must be used. 1829 in Willis & Clark *Cambridge* (1886) III. 104 They must all admit of communication..by *sliding Double Doors. 1887 *Times* 14 Oct. 3/6 A short tramcar,..having a sliding door at each end. 1833 LOUDON *Encycl. Archit.* Gloss., **Sliding hatches*, covers or shutters fitted in grooves. 1894 DOYLE *Memoirs Sherlock Holmes* 100 A small wooden box, with a *sliding lid. 1832 BREWSTER *Nat. Magic* xi. 275 The chess-player may be introduced into the chest through the *sliding panel. 1862 *Chambers's Encycl.* III. 93/1 Later in the reign, the royal carriages had sliding panels. 1842 FRANCIS *Dict. Arts, Sluice*,..a description of *sliding shutter made in a lock or flood-gate. 1889 WELCH *Text Bk. Naval Archit.* xii. 131 The air can enter into the various compartments through sliding shutters or *louvres*.

7. *Naut.*, etc. a. *Sliding keel*, an extra deep keel which slides vertically through the bottom of a vessel. Also *attrib.*

1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XVII. 376/1 Captain Schank's vessel with three sliding keels beat the other vessel. 1802 *Naval Chron.* VII. 40 The idea of sliding keels is taken from the *balza* of South America. *c* 1850 *Rudim. Navig.* (Weale) 148 *Sliding keels*, an invention of ..Captain Schank, of the Royal Navy, to prevent vessels being driven to leeward by a side wind. 1876 T. HARDY *Ethelberta* (1890) 251 'That one you saw was a cutter..,' he replied. 'Built on the sliding-keel principle.'

b. In various uses (see quots.).

For *Sliding Gunter* see GUNTER 2.

1818 SCOTT *Br. Lamm.* xxxi, As bold a smuggler as ever ran out a sliding bowsprit. 1846 A. YOUNG *Naut. Dict.* 34 The planks fitted under the bottom of the ship to descend with her upon the bilge-ways, are termed sliding planks, sliding baulks, or bilge coads.

c. *Sliding seat*, a seat in an outrigger which moves backwards and forwards with the action of the rower; also, a seat which can be slid out beyond the gunwale of a yacht.

1874 *Ann. Reg., Chron.* 36 The sliding seats, which were used for the first time in this race, must be pronounced a complete success. 1884 *St. James' Gaz.* 29 Mar. 6/1 University crews have rowed the course on sliding seats. 1895 *Outing* XXVI. 463 'Sliding-seats' began to get longer and longer, until the champion sailed, not in his boat, but stretched entirely outside of it.

8. *Sliding rule*, a mathematical gauging or measuring instrument consisting of two graduated parts, one of which slides upon the other, and so arranged that when brought into proper juxtaposition the required result may be obtained by inspection.

1663 PEPYS *Diary* 15 Apr., Reading of my book of Timber measure, comparing it with my new Sliding Rule. 1684 T. EVERARD (*title*), Stereometry made easie, or the description and use of a new gauging rod or sliding-rule. 1701 MOXON *Math. Instr.* 19 Sliding Rules, for gauging and measuring; ingeniously contrived and applied. 1798 *Nicholson's Jrnl.* I. 450 On the Advantage of inverting the Slider in many operations on the Common Sliding Rule. 1832 BREWSTER *Nat. Magic* xi. 294 The figures..were not exhibited to the eye as in sliding rules and similar instruments. 1895 *Daily News* 20 Nov. 9/4 A small sliding rule gives the value of any required number of shares at the above fractions at any necessary numerator.

†b. So *Sliding gauge, Gunter* (see quots.). *Obs.*

1683 MOXON *Printing* XII. iv, The Sliding Gage is..a Tool commonly used by Mathematical Instrument-Makers. ..Its Use is to measure and set off Distances between the Sholder and the Tooth, and to mark it off from the end, or else from the edge of your Work. 1701 — *Math. Instr.* 18 Sliding Gunter, made of Box, with a middle piece that slides between 2 pieces, with Lines to answer Proportions by inspection: chiefly used by Mariners. 1727–41 [see GUNTER 1 b].

9. *Sliding scale*: a. A sliding rule.

1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), *Sliding-Rules* or *Scales*, are Mathematical Instruments [etc.]. 1788 *Phil. Trans.* LXXVIII. 126 A small thermometer with a sliding scale. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2210/2 *Sliding-scale*, a rule with a sliding member.

b. A scale or standard (of payments, wages, etc.) which rises or falls in proportion to, or conversely to, the rise or fall of some other standard.

1843 CARLYLE *Past & Pres.* II. iii, Neither do we ascertain what kind of Corn-bill he passed, or wisely-adjusted Sliding-scale. 1869 ROGERS *Hist. Gleam.* I. 183 The agricultural interest suffered...and we owed the latest sliding-scale to their importunities. 1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-m.* 226 *Sliding Scale*, a mode of regulating the amount of wages in mining districts by taking as a basis for calculation the market value of coal or iron.

attrib. 1868 ROGERS *Pol. Econ.* xiv. (1876) 192 During the existence of the sliding-scale system of duties. 1882 *Daily News* 3 June 6/4 The leaping prizes..are arranged on a sliding-scale principle.

Sli·dingly, *adv.* [f. SLIDING *ppl. a.*] In a sliding manner; with a smooth, gliding movement.

1644 DIGBY *Nat. Bodies* xiv. § 7. 120 They come slidingly one ouer an other. 1870 LOWELL *Among my Bks.* Ser. I. (1873) 23 What a slidingly musical use he makes of the sibilants.

Sli·dingness. *rare*⁻¹. [f. as prec.] Sliding quality; easy movement or flow.

a 1586 SIDNEY *Arcadia* II. (1622) 200 In Tragedies..he had learned, besides a slidingnes of language, acquaintance with many passions.

Sli·dness. *Sc. rare.* [f. SLID *a.*] Smoothness.

a 1758 RAMSAY *To Duncan Forbes* iii, Enjoy..and judge the wit And slidness of a sang.

Slie, obs. f. SLY *a.* **Slieghly**, obs. f. SLYLY.

'Slife (sləif), *int.* *Obs.* exc. *arch.* An abbreviation of *God's life* (see GOD *sb.* 14 a) used as a petty oath or exclamation.

a 1634 CHAPMAN *Rev. Hon.* III. ii, 'Slife, a prince, And such a hopeful one, to lose his eyes..is cruelty prodigious. 1693 CONGREVE *Old Bach.* I. i, Hold hold, 'slife that's the wrong. 1740–1 RICHARDSON *Pamela* III. 324 'Slife—I'll thresh my Jades..when I come home. 1777 SHERIDAN *Sch. Scand.* IV. iii, Behind the screen! 'Slife, let's unveil her! 1828 CARR *Craven Gloss.*, *Slife*, an exclamation. 1860 WHYTE MELVILLE *Holmby Ho.* vii, 'Slife, Frank,..you've the devil's luck and your own too.

†**Sliffe.** *Obs.*⁻¹ [Of obscure origin; perh. an error for SLUDE.] ? Mica.

1664 POWER *Exp. Philos.* I. 24 It was clear and diaphanous like a thin film of Sliffe or Muscovy-glass.

Slift¹. Now *dial.* or *Obs.* [Related to SLIVE *v.*¹; cf. *rift* and *rive*.] (See quot. 1823, and cf. SLEAVING.)

1627 REEVE *God's Plea* 252 These slifts, which have been taken from you, are grown up to a wonderful height. 1823 E. MOOR *Suffolk Wds.* 361 *Slift*, a slip off a growing plant or shrub, rent, not cut off.

Slift². *E. Angl.* [Of obscure origin.] The fleshy part of a leg of beef.

a 1825 FORBY *Voc. E. Anglia* 307 The grand round of beef is the upper and under slift together. 1869 *N. & Q.* 4th Ser. IV. 33 A sirloin of beef, roast ribs of beef, and a boiled slift of beef. 1897 RYE *Norfolk Songs*, etc. 70 Nor is slift of beef preferred by Norwichers to sirloin.

Slifter (sli·ftəɹ). Now *dial.* [Related to SLIFT¹ and SLIVE *v.*¹ Cf. also obs. or dial. G. *schlifter* gully, watercourse.]

1. A cleft or crack; a crevice.

1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* (1658) 21 The chapping, clefts, or slifters, in the body, which come by cold. *Ibid.* 536 There are also certain slifters or clifts in the hoofs of Horses, which are cured in one nights space. 1611 COTGR., *Fente*, a cleft, rift, slifter, chinke. *c* 1746 J. COLLIER (Tim Bobbin) *View Lanc. Dial.* (1775) 21 Oth Leawp-hoyles, on th' Slifters ith Leath Woughs. *a* 1800 in PEGGE *Suppl. Grose.* 1828 in CARR *Craven Gloss.* 1874 WAUGH *Chimney Corner* (1879) 170 There isn't a slifter, nor a ginnel, nor a gorse-bush.

†2. A splinter. *Obs.*

1606 G. W[OODCOCK] *Lives Emperors* in *Hist. Iustine* Ll 5, Henry the French king was slaine by the slifter of a speare broke vpon him.

Hence **Sli·ftered** *ppl. a.*, riven asunder, cloven.

1602 MARSTON *Ant. & Mel.* I, Straight chops a wave, and in his sliftred panch Downe fals our ship. 1866 WAUGH *Lanc. Songs* (1870) 50 He toots abeawt, i' th slifter't cleawd To find a bit o' sky.

Sligh, obs. f. SLY *a.* **Slight**, obs. f. SLEIGHT *sb.*¹ and *a.*

Slight (sləit), *sb.* Also 6–7 **sleight**. [f. SLIGHT *a.* and *v.*]

†1. A very small amount or weight; a small matter, a trifle. *Obs.*

1549–62 STERNHOLD & H. *Ps.* lxii. 9 The sonnes of men deceitfull are, on ballaunce but a sleight. 1601 SIR W. CORNWALLIS *Ess.* II. xxix. (1631) 35 No lawes being so excellent as those that..being slights produce the weightiest and best effects. 1647 H. MORE *Poems* 130 The same sleights By turns do urge them both in their descents and heights. 1678 MOXON *Mech. Exerc.* IV. 66 Yet it is but a sleight to those Practice hath inur'd the Hand to.

†b. In phr. *to make a* (etc.) *slight* (*of*). Cf. SLIGHT *a.* 5 d. *Obs.*

c 1619 R. JONES *Serm. Resurrection* (1659) 11 His Disciples were..such tall fellows with their weapons, that they made it but a sleight either to withstand or assault a whole multitude. 1704 J. PITTS *Acc. Moham.* ix. (1738) 190 He made a slight of that. 1730 BURDON *Pocket Farrier* 38 There is a Lameness..; Our Farriers make great Slight of it.

2. Display of contemptuous indifference or disregard; supercilious treatment or reception of a person, etc.; small respect *for* one.

1701 PENN in *Pennsylv. Hist. Soc. Mem.* IX. 48 Pray don't hurt him by an appearance of neglect, less of slight. 1740–1 RICHARDSON *Pamela* IV. 268, I don't care..that such a Proposal should be received with undue Slight. 1841 D'ISRAELI *Amen. Lit.* (1867) 359 The subjects he has written on..incurred the slight of the cavillers of his day. 1867 HOWELLS *Ital. Journ.* 250 Treating him with good-natured slight. 1897 — *Landlord at Lion's Head* 374 He knew too well his mother's slight for Whitwell to suppose that he could have influenced her.

3. An instance of slighting or being slighted.

1719 D'URFEY *Pills* (1872) V. 57 This Slight bred sad domestic Strife. 1780 *Mirror* No. 91, We see daily examples of men..who meet with slights where they demand respect. 1825 SCOTT *Jrnl.* 23 Dec., He was kindly treated, but..suspected slights..where no such thing was meant. 1856 FROUDE *Hist. Eng.* (1858) I. iii. 267 They revenged the studied slight which had been passed by Henry on themselves. 1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) IV. 123 He could hardly have passed upon them a more unmeaning slight.

Slight (sləit), *a.* and *adv.* Forms: *a.* 4 **sliȝt, slyȝt, 4– slight** (6 **slighte**), 7 **slite**; *Sc.* 6 **slycht, slichte, 6– sliht.** *β.* 4 **sleȝt, 5 sleiȝte**; 4–5 **sleght, 4–7 sleight.** [ME. (orig. northern) *slighi, sleght*, ad. OScand. **slehi-* (ON. *sléttr*, Icel. *slétturr*, Norw. *slett*; Sw. *slät*, Da. *slet*), = OE. **slíht* (only in *eorðslíhtes* adv.), OFris. *sliucht* (WFris. *sljucht*), OS. *sliht*, MDu. and MLG. *slecht, slicht* (Du. *slecht*, LG. *slicht, slecht*), OHG. and MHG. *sleht* (G. *schlecht, schlicht*), Goth. *slaihts*; the relations of the stem are uncertain.]

A. *adj.* 1. Smooth; glossy; sleek. *Obs.* exc. *dial.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 4562 Me thoght..þat i com in a medu slight. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 3063 The slote of hir slegh brest sleght for to showe, As any cristall clere. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 344/1 A Sleght stone, *lamina, licinitorium*. 1530 PALSGR. 324/1 Sleight or smothe, *alis*. 1535 COVERDALE 1 *Sam.* xvii. 40 He..chose fyue slighte stones out of the ryuer. 1596 HARINGTON *Metam. Ajax* 4 The contentments;..if we catch them they proue but like Eeles, sleight and slipperie. 1615 MARKHAM *Eng. Housew.* 33 Vpon the same place rubbe a sleight stone, and then with it sleight all the swelling. 1866 EDMONDSTON *Shetl. & Orkn. Gloss.* 108 *Slight*, smooth, unruffled, applied to the sea. 1868 ATKINSON *Cleveland Gloss.* 465. 1892 M. C. F. MORRIS *Yorksh. Folk-Talk* 372. *fig. a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 26582 Noght wit wordes fayr and slight Agh þou for to plane þi plight.

2. Slender, slim, thin; of a small and slender form or build.

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* A. 190 Þat gracios gay..So smoþe, so smal, so seme[ly] slyȝt. *c* 1400 *Rom. Rose* 7257 Beggers.. With sleight [*MS.* steight] and pale faces lene. 1578 LYTE *Dodoens* 28 The roote is sleight or single. 1683 *Brit. Spec.* 46 They had only little Skiffs, the Keels and Footstocks whereof were made of slight Timber. 1810 SCOTT *Lady of L.* I. xviii, E'en the slight hare-bell raised its head. 1849 C. BRONTE *Shirley* xxviii, Some fine slight fingers have a wondrous knack at pulverizing a man's brittle pride. 1877 MRS. FORRESTER *Mignon* I. 10 A slight dark girl is singing an old English Ballad.

b. *The slight falcon*, = FALCON-GENTLE.

1591 FLETCHER *Russe Commw.* (Hakl.) 14 They have.. great store of hawkes, the eagle, the gerfaulcon, the slight-faulcon, the goshawke. 1615 LATHAM *Falconry* (1633) 17 Although the Faulcons gentle, or slight Faulcons, are by nature all of one kind. 1725 *Fam. Dict.* s.v. *Hawk*, The Long-wing'd, which last Hawks are the Faulcon or Slight-Faulcon. 1828 SEBRIGHT *Obs. Hawking* 3 The slight falcon ..and the goshawk..are the two species generally used in falconry,

3. Of light, thin, or poor texture or material; not good, strong, or substantial; rather flimsy or weak.

1393–4 *Rolls of Parlt.* III. 322/2 [Dont les Leyns cressantz es ditz Countees sont unes maneres des Leyns appellez] sleght wolle. 1497 *Naval Acc. Hen. VII* (1896) 242, xxxv boltes of Sleght Canvas price of euery bolte x^{s}. 1505 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* III. 80 Ane cheseb of rede chamlot to the Gray Freris of Air, with cors of slicht gold. 1558 in Feuillerat *Revels Q. Eliz.* (1908) 17 Howe many maskes, and whether riche or slite. 1594 NASHE *Unfort. Trav.* 18 He that could make a garment slightest and thinnest carried it away. 1601 R. JOHNSON *Kingd. & Commw.* 145 The soile of the countrey for the most parte is of a sleight sandie moulde. 1663 GERBIER *Counsel* 91 For which price, but very slight work hath been furnished. 1790 BRUCE *Source Nile* I. 105 This slight structure of private buildings seems to be the reason so few ruins are found. 1807 G. CHALMERS *Caledonia* I. ii. I. 69 Their infantry were..armed..with slight shields, short spears, and handy daggers.

b. Lacking in solid or substantial qualities.

1585 T. WASHINGTON tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* III. xi. 90 b, The Turks do content themselues with slight meates and easily dressed. 1597 MORLEY *Introd. Mus.* 180 The slightest kind of musick..are the vinate or drincking songes. 1603 DRAYTON *Odes* i. 86 To those that with despight Shall terme these Numbers slight Tell them their Judgement's blind. 1653 H. MORE *Antid. Ath.* III. xi. § 3 Slight Rhetorications, no sound Arguments. *a* 1715 BURNET *Own Time* III. (1724) I. 414 He has published many books,..but all full of faults; for he was a slight and superficial man. 1736 BUTLER *Anal.* II. v. Wks. 1874 I. 211 This may be but a slight ground to raise a positive opinion upon. 1823 SCOTT *Quentin D.* Introd., Every species of author-craft, slighter than that which compounds a folio volume of law or of divinity. 1886 *Manch. Exam.* 3 Nov. 3/3 Fiction is represented by a good but rather slight story.

† **c.** Foolish, unwise. *Obs.*[-1]

1663 BUTLER *Hud.* I. i. 775 But no Beast ever was so slight, For Man, as for his God, to fight.

4. Of persons: † **a.** Of little worth or account; mean, low; humble in position. *Obs.*

c 1460 *Towneley Myst.* xvi. 235 Hard I neuer..that a knafe so sleght Shuld com..and refe me my right. 1586 LUPTON *Notable Things* (1675) 27*b* It would be a disparagement to him and to her to marry such a sleight fellow. 1588 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* IV. 268 Ane grite nowmer of slicht men and invyous personis. 1651 WELDON *Crt. K. Chas. I*, 206 Otherwise it had been impossible so many grave Judges should have been over-ruled by such a slight and triviall fellow. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 8 Apr. 1685, Very meane and slight persons (some of them gentlemen's servants, clearkes, and persons neither of reputation nor interest).

† **b.** Unworthy of confidence or trust. *Obs.*[-1]

1607 TOURNEUR *Rev. Trag.* IV. i, He that knows great men's secrets, and proves slight, That man ne'er lives to see his beard turn white.

† **c.** Loose in morals. *Obs.*[-1]

1685 *Caldwell Papers* (Maitl. Cl.) I. 159, I having..been suspicious of her being a slight person, would goe into no room with her.

5. Small in amount, quantity, degree, etc.

1530 PALSGR. Introd. p. xvi, For the same cause, they gyve somtyme unto theyr consonantes but a sleight and remisshe sounde. 1588 LAMBARDE *Eirenarcha* III. iv. 368 By a sleight view and rehearsall of the most part. 1601 BP. W. BARLOW *Serm. Paul's Cross* 48 That sleight feares make women shrike. 1663 S. PATRICK *Parab. Pilgrim* x. (1687) 58 If he knew that he conceived so much joy from such slight appearances and shadows of comfort. 1726 GAY in *Swift's Wks.* (1841) II. 591, I have been very much out of order with a slight fever. 1746 FRANCIS tr. *Horace, Epist.* II. i. 14 Their Toils could raise But slight Returns of Gratitude and Praise. 1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 111 The effect is very slight, and at thirty feet it would probably be altogether imperceptible. 1857 MILLER *Elem. Chem., Org.* ix. 581 It has also a slight, peculiar, but not unpleasant odour. 1871 C. DAVIES *Metric Syst.* III. 177 A slight attention will give thirds, sixths, and twelfths.

b. Unimportant, trifling.

a 1548 HALL *Chron., Edw. V*, 17, I doubt not some man wyl thynke this woman to be to slight to be written of emong graue and weyghtie matters. *Ibid., Hen. VIII*, 18 The lordes of Englande..made report to their capitain accordyng, whiche thought it verie sleight. *a* 1656 BP. HALL *Rem. Wks.* (1660) 146 Are we furious upon every sleight occasion? 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* IV. 8 Slight is the Subject, but the Praise not small. 1828 SCOTT *F. M. Perth* xiii, I do no injustice..when I say he is too slight to be weighed with the Douglas. 1847 TENNYSON *Princ.* IV. 109 O for such, my friend, We hold them slight. 1848 DICKENS *Dombey* xxxvi, Therefore I am glad to take this slight occasion—this trifling occasion,..to say that I attach no importance to them in the least.

c. Used emphatically in the superlative.

1599 SHAKS. *Much Ado* II. i. 272, I will goe on the slightest arrand now to the Antypodes that you can deuise to send me on. 1750 *Student* I. 57 The cautious father..was upon the watch..on every the slightest occasion. 1790 BURKE *Fr. Rev.* 244 Those loose theories to which none of them would chuse to trust the slightest of his private concerns. 1825 BENTHAM *Offic. Apt. Maximized, Indications* (1830) 43 Of the extortion..not any the slightest intimation. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* lxv, He never had had the slightest liking for her. 1879 R. K. DOUGLAS *Confucianism* iii. 72 The Sage..pursues the heavenly way without the slightest deflection.

d. *To make slight of*, to regard or treat as of little importance or consequence.

1606 G. W[OODCOCK] *Hist. Ivstine* IX. 39 But they..made slight of his defiance and hostile forces. *a* 1632 T. TAYLOR *God's Judgem.* II. iii. (1642) 40 Though men make slite of these..butcheries. 1740 tr. *De Mouhy's Fort. Country Maid* (1741) I. 53, I was startled, but my Governess and her Niece made slight of it. 1796 J. MOSER *Hermit of Caucasus* II. 58 He at first made slight of his indisposition.

e. Wanting in fullness or heartiness.

1660 F. BROOKE tr. *Le Blanc's Trav.* 237 The King..asking him what he was, received but a slight answer. 1706 HEARNE *Collect.* 27 Jan., Y^{e} Duke..receiv'd them after a slight manner. 1864 TENNYSON *Aylmer's F.* 238 Slight was his answer 'Well—I care not for it'.

f. Performed with little exertion.

1667 MILTON *P. L.* IV. 181 He..in contempt, At one slight bound high overleap'd all bound Of Hill or highest Wall.

† **6.** Slighting, contemptuous. *Obs., rare.*

1632 MASSINGER & FIELD *Fatal Dowry* II. ii, Recant your stern contempt and slight neglect Of the whole court and him. 1688 *Col. Rec. Pennsylv.* I. 245 Saying you may command the Judges,..and other slight and scornfull Expressions he vsed.

7. *Comb.*, as *slight-billed, -bottomed, -limbed*, etc.; also *slight-seeming*.

1660 BRETT *Threnodia* viii, Slight-bottom'd Passion's quickly spent. *a* 1697 AUBREY *Brief Lives* (1898) II. 241 Sir John [Suckling] was but a slight timberd man, and of midling stature. 1703 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 3942/4 A black slight Limb'd Mare,..narrow Ey'd. 1803 BEDDOES *Hygëia* IX. 196 How essential it is to check even slight-seeming nervous disorders in their commencement. 1847 TENNYSON *Princ.* VII. 249 If she be small, slight-natured, miserable, How shall men grow? 1895 LYDEKKER *Roy. Nat. Hist.* IV. 117 The slight-billed parraquet,..the sole representative of its genus.

B. *adv.* **1.** Poorly, slightly; contemptuously.

1606 SHAKS. *Ant. & Cl.* I. i. 56 Is Cæsar with Anthonius priz'd so slight? 1671 MILTON *P. R.* III. 109 Think not so slight of glory. *a* 1716 BLACKALL *Wks.* (1723) I. 313 In this corrupt Age..perhaps Oaths are thought much slighter of than ever they were in former Times.

2. Slimly, slenderly. Chiefly in *Comb.*

1667 PRIMATT *City & Co. Builder* 69 A plain Balconie,..made very slight, may not be worth above three pence half penny the pound. 1800 *Asiatic Ann. Reg.* IV. 19/1 The Hindûs of the lower provinces are a slight made people. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. IV. iv, That other, his slight-built comrade, and craft-brother.

3. Slightly; to a small extent.

1671 MILTON *Samson* 1229 Come nearer, part not hence so slight inform'd. 1727–46 THOMSON *Summer* 1590 The neck slight-shaded, and the swelling breast.

Slight (slәit), *v.* Forms: *α*. 4– **slight**, 7 **slyght**, 8– *Sc.* **slicht**; 4, 7 **slite**. *β*. 5 **sleght**, 7 **sleight, slaight**. [In sense 1 f. SLIGHT *a.* 1, or a. OScand. **slehta* (ON. and Icel. *sléttr*, Norw. *sletta*, Sw. *slätta*, Da. *slette*). In sense 2 ad. Du. *slechten*, LG. *slichten*, or G. *schlichten* to level. In senses 3–4 f. SLIGHT *a.* 5.]

† **1.** *trans.* To make smooth or level. *Obs.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 28026 Leuedis,..Quen yee yow-self sua slight and slike, Yee sai þat men you wille besuike. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 344/1 To Sleght, *lucibrucinare*. 1580 HOLLYBAND *Treas. Fr. Tong, Calendrer vne toile*, to slighte a webbe, or linnen. 1613 MARKHAM *Eng. Husb.* I. I. ix. (1635) 51 You must not at any time sleight or smooth your Corne, but after a shower of Raine. 1620 — *Farew. Husb.* (1625) 50 After your ground is sowne and harrowed, you shall then clotte it, sleight it, and smooth it.

† **2.** To level with the ground; to raze (a fortification, etc.). *Obs.* (common *c* 1640–80).

1640–4 in Rushw. *Hist. Coll.* III. (1692) I. 368 That the works may be slighted, and the places dismantled. 1667 TEMPLE *Let. to Ld. Holles* Wks. 1720 II. 37 When the Works were about half slighted,..came seven or eight hundred French Horse. 1698 T. FROGER *Voy.* 28 A Council was held to determine, whether the Fort should be kept or slighted.

fig. 1646 H. LAWRENCE *Comm. Angels* 187 Till you have overcome your enemie and sleighted his workes. 1676 CUDWORTH *Serm.* 1 *Cor. xv.* 71 Christ our Lord..slighted and dismantled that mighty Garrison.

3. To treat with indifference or disrespect; to pay little or no attention or heed to; to disregard, disdain, ignore.

α. 1597 SHAKS. 2 *Hen. IV*, v. ii. 94 Heare your owne dignity so much prophan'd, See your most dreadfull Lawes so loosely slighted. 1619 DRAYTON *Odes* xii. 22 The time I knew She slighted you, When I was in her fauour. 1655 FULLER *Ch. Hist.* II. 131 The Count slighted his Excommunication, conceiving his Head too high for Church-Censures to reach it. 1727 A. HAMILTON *New Acc. E. Indies* II. l. 225 He..told me, that he had taken much Pains to serve me, but that I slighted his Service. 1780 COWPER *Progr. Error* 419 We slight the precious kernel of the stone, And toil to polish its rough coat alone. 1847 EMERSON *Repr. Men, Napoleon*, He delighted in the conversation of men of science,..but the men of letters he slighted. 1865 DICKENS *Our Mut. Friend* III. iv, The confidences of lovely women are not to be slighted.

β. 1612 WOODALL *Surg. Mate* Wks. (1653) 84 Like him which in hast sleighted his good friends. 1652 NEEDHAM tr. *Selden's Mare Cl.* 120 Neither is that to bee sleighted here which wee find in the letters of David. 1673 CAVE *Prim. Chr.* III. iv. 333 Do my Souldiers think thus to Sleight my Royal Orders?

† **b.** To put *off* disdainfully. *Obs.*

1601 SHAKS. *Jul. C.* IV. iii. 5 Wherein my Letters, praying on his side,..was slighted off. 1627 S. WARD *Life of Faith* 66 Many gulls and gallants we may heare sometimes slight off death with a iest, when they thinke it out of hearing.

† **c.** To throw contemptuously. *Obs.*[-1]

1598 SHAKS. *Merry W.* III. v. 8 The rogues slighted me into the riuer with as little remorse, as they would haue drown'de a blinde bitches Puppies.

† **d.** *intr.* with *at*. To be indifferent. *Obs.*[-1]

1618 WITHER *Juvenilia* (1633) 538 When to bar me ought He sees it fit, He doth infuse a Mind to sleight at it.

4. To gloss or pass (a thing) *over* carelessly or with indifference. ? *Obs.*

1620 R. WALLER in *Lismore Papers* (1887) Ser. II. II. 248 Though I coniectured the busynes yet I sleighted it ouer with a kinde of pretended ignorance. 1652 NEEDHAM tr. *Selden's Mare Cl.* 470 This his Majestie takes for an high point of his Soveraigntie, and will not have it slighted over in any fashion whatsoever. 1656 PHILLIPS *Purch. Pattern* 144 But this must not alwayes be so slighted over, lest you run into great errour. 1824 SCOTT *Redgauntlet* ch. x, I lodge a complaint before you as a magistrate, and you will find it serious to slight it over.

5. *dial.* To do (work) carelessly or negligently.

1854 [see SLIPSTRING 2].

† **'Slight,** *int. Obs.* An abbreviation of *God's light* (see GOD *sb.* 14 a), used as a petty oath or exclamation.

1598 B. JONSON *Ev. Man out of Hum.* II. ii, 'Slight, an it had come but four days sooner. 1605 CHAPMAN *All Fools* Plays 1873 I. 119 Slight hence, the olde knight comes. 1668 SEDLEY *Mulb. Gard.* II. ii, 'Slight here's Sir John.

Slighted (slәi·tĕd), *ppl. a.* [f. SLIGHT *v.*]

1. Treated with indifference or disdain.

1619 A. NEWMAN *Pleas. Vis.* 33 The slighted outcast, he did lye. 1665 BOYLE *Occas. Refl.* III. vi. (1848) 44 By the meanest Creatures, and slighted'st object. 1719 YOUNG *Busiris* I. i, The slighted altars tremble. 1784 COWPER *Task* VI. 51 Not to understand a treasure's worth Till time has stol'n away the slighted good. 1848 DICKENS *Dombey* ix, His breast was full of interest for the slighted child. 1870 BRUCE *Life of Gideon* ii. 43 You will..fall into the.. hands of a slighted and therefore grievously insulted God.

† **2.** Levelled, razed. *Obs.*

1636 DENHAM *Poems, Virg. Æneis* II. 28 All through th' unguarded Gates with joy resort To see the slighted Camp, the vacant Port. 1716 POPE *Iliad* VIII. 218 High o'er their slighted trench our steeds shall bound.

† **Sli·ghten,** *v. Obs.* Also 7 **sleighten.** [f. SLIGHT *a.* or *v.*] *trans.* = SLIGHT *v.* 3.

1605 B. JONSON *Sejanus* V, It is an odious wisdome to blaspheme, Much more to slighten, or deny their powers. 1633 FORD *'Tis Pity* IV. ii, She, as 'tis said, Slightens his love, and he abandons hers. 1646 FEATLY *Dippers Dipt* 37 The custome of our Mother the Church..is no way to be slightned [1645 sleighted] or rejected.

Slighter (slәi·tәr). Also 7 **sleighter.** [f. SLIGHT *v.* + -ER [1].] One who slights or disdains.

1646 SALTMARSHE *Groans for Liberty* 29 Sermon sleighters, 1651 BAXTER *Saints' R.* (ed. 2) IV. 65 Unworthy sleighters of Christ and glory. *a* 1661 FULLER *Worthies* (1840) III. 151 Italians (the admirers only of themselves and the slighters-general of all other nations). 1747 DODDRIDGE *Mem. Col. Gardiner* (1808) 72 The miserable condition of those that are slighters of pardoning grace. 1846 TRENCH *Mirac.* 67 The breaker through and slighter of the apparitions of sense.

† **Sli·ghtfully,** *adv. Obs.*[-1] [f. SLIGHT *sb.*] Slightingly.

1627 W. SCLATER *Exp.* 2 *Thess.* (1629) 169 And why so slightfully regard we euidences or authorities brought to auouch doctrines as being *de fide*?

† **Sli·ghtly,** *adv. Obs., rare.* [f. SLIGHTY *a.*] **a.** Carelessly. **b.** Slightingly; disdainfully.

1679 PENN *Addr. Protestants* I. 6 Sin gives the deadliest of all Wounds to Mankind; I grieve to say it, but 'tis too true; there is no Wound so slightily healed. 1740 *Col. Rec. Pennsylv.* IV. 459 We make no Doubt, however slightily he may treat us [etc.].

† **Sli·ghtiness.** *Obs. rare.* [f. as prec.] Carelessness, indifference.

1662 NEWCOME *Diary* (Chetham Soc.) 111 A sudden crosse had God brought on mee..for my sleightyness and neglect of meditation. 1678 *Young Man's Calling* 19 Neglect and slightiness in the means of our salvation.

Sli·ghting, *vbl. sb.* [f. SLIGHT *v.* + -ING [1].]

† **1.** The action of levelling (ground). *Obs.*

1613 MARKHAM *Eng. Husb.* I. I. ix. (1635) 50 A Rouler.. is for this purpose of sleighting and smoothing of grounds of great use and profit. 1615 — *Eng. Housew.* II. v. (1668) 130 So fine a mould as you can possibly break with your harrows, clotting beetles, or sleighting.

† **2.** The action of razing or demolishing. *Obs.*

1640 *Kirkcudbright War-Committee's Minute Bk.* (1855) 66 In obedience of the warrand..for slighting of the hows of the Threive. *c* 1645 TULLIE *Siege of Carlisle* (1840) 14 Daily skirmishes..and now and then the sleighting of a work. 1707 in Picton *L'pool Munic. Rec.* (1886) II. 39 The immediate slighting the said castle and demolishing..the outworks thereof.

3. The action of treating with disdain, disregard, or indifference.

1622 FLETCHER *Beggar's Bush* III. iv, Yet will ye love me? Tell me but how I have deserv'd your slighting? 1659 C. NOBLE *Mod. Answ. Immod. Queries* 6 To charge him with neglects and slightings and disregardings to his friends. 1711 *Brit. Apollo* No. 15. 2/1 She has return'd to her former Reservedness and..slighting of me. 1859 HELPS *Friends in C.* Ser. II. II. v. 104 Prone to believe he is the subject of any intentional slighting.

4. The action of glossing *over*. ? *Obs.*

1617 HIERON *Wks.* II. 325 My silence, my conniuence, my slighting ouer of these things.

Sli·ghting, *ppl. a.* [f. as prec. + -ING [2].]

1. Conveying or implying a slight; of a contemptuous or disdainful character.

1632 B. JONSON *Magn. Lady* I. i, To hear yourself..glanced at In a few slighting terms. 1641 BAKER *Chron., John* 96 In this slighting humour he returnes into England. 1691 WOOD *Ath. Oxon.* II. 405 [It] was generally looked upon as a scornful slighting and very unfair way. 1825 SCOTT *Betrothed* xviii, The Constable felt the full effect of this slighting reception. 1892 *Athenæum* 21 May 658/2 A slighting allusion to one of his literary productions.

2. Acting contemptuously or disdainfully.

1684 *Roxb. Ball.* (1886) VI. 85 Never did a slighting Lover So much cruelty discover As this Tyrant doth to me. *a* 1697

Aubrey *Lives* (1898) I. 277 A squeamish, disobliging, slighting, insolent, proud fellow.

Slightingly (slәi·tiŋli), *adv.* [f. prec. + -LY 2.] *In a slighting manner; contemptuously, disdainfully; with little regard or respect.*

1636 Davenant Wits Wks. (1673) 208 You speak slightingly of it, As if 'twere a poor thing. *1654 Nicholas Papers* (Camden) II. 51 Ormond replied, 'perhaps his Lordship had a faculty to make any thing good', and slitingly neglected him. 1740–1 Richardson *Pamela* II. 291 Hush! said he: I will not bear to hear her spoken slightingly of! 1790 Beatson *Naval & Milit. Mem.* I. 42 By failing in this hazardous exploit, which he had treated so slightingly. 1831–3 E. Burton *Eccl. Hist.* xvi. (1845) 359 The passages ..might lead us to think slightingly of his candour. 1881 Saintsbury *Dryden* iii. 65 Dryden speaks slightingly of these University prologues.

So **Sli·ghtingness,** disdainfulness. *rare*$^{-1}$.

1683 Cave *Ecclesiastici, Greg. Naz.* 328 The Emperor quickly discern'd the slightingness of his carriage.

Slightish (slәi·tiʃ), *a.* [f. Slight *a.* + -ish 1.] Somewhat slight, slender, or small.

1761 *Ann. Reg., Useful Projects* 128/2 She..only complained of a slightish pain and heaviness in her head. 1866 Carlyle *Remin.* (1881) I. 269 Charles himself was a swart, slightish, insipid-looking man. 1881 Watson in *Jrnl. Linn. Soc., Zool.* XV. 265 *Operculum* testaceous, scored with slightish radiating lines.

Slightly (slәi·tli), *adv.* Also 6 **slyghtly, sleyghtly, sleightlie,** 6–7 **-ly.** [f. Slight *a.* + -ly 2. Cf. MDu. and MLG. *slechte-, slichtelik(e,* MHG. *slehtlîch(e,* G. *schlechtlich.*]

1. Slimly, slenderly; flimsily, unsubstantially.

1521 *Coventry Leet-bk.* 673 That they put sufficient stuf in them.., and that they make them not slyghtly. 1529 *Act* 21 *Hen. VIII*, c. 12 § 1 Traces, halters and other tacle ben by the said persons sleyghtly and deceyvably made. 1549–50 *Act* 3 & 4 *Edw. VI*, c. 2 § 1 The same Clothes soe sleightlie and subtillye made. 1602 Shaks. *Ham.* IV. vii. 22 So that my Arrowes Too slightly timbred for so loud a Winde, Would haue reuerted. 1635–56 Cowley *Davideis* II. 325 That fatal net, Which though but slightly wrought, was firmly set. 1724 Swift *Drapier's Lett.* Wks. 1755 V. II. 148 To raise the prices..and manufacture the said goods more slightly and fraudulently than before. 1745 Pococke *Descr. East* II. I. 197 A well of good water, from which the city is supplied by an aqueduct very slightly built. 1847 C. Bronte *Y. Eyre* xi, She was quite a child,..slightly built.

b. Loosely, slackly.

1599 Shaks. *Much Ado* I. i. 289 The guardes are but slightly basted on. 1667 Milton *P. L.* IV. 967 The facil gates of hell too slightly barrd. 1821 Scott *Kenilw.* v, The flower had been stuck so slightly into the cap.

2. Without much care or attention; carelessly; lightly.

a 1557 Mrs. Basset *Let.* in *More's Wks.* 1435/1 For the instruction of my conscience in the matter, I haue not sleightly looked, but by many yeres studied & aduisedly considred. 1594 Kyd *Cornelia* I, [Fortune] slightly sowes that sildom taketh roote. 1617 Moryson *Itin.* I. 197, I slightly passe over the places described in my former passage those waies. 1679 Moxon *Mech. Exerc.* VII. 120 He that knows how to work curiously, may when he lists work slightly. 1773 Goldsm. *Stoops to Conq.* III, I know they are too valuable to be so slightly kept. 1843 Bethune *Sc. Fireside Stor.* 36 Affection may try to..pass slightly over the darker evidence against him.

b. Without much interest, insistence, or heartiness; indifferently.

1599 Drayton *Idea* viii, I say I loue, you slightly aunswer I? 1709 Swift *Vind. Bickerstaff* Wks. 1757 II. I. 174 There is one objection..which I have sometimes met with, though indeed very slightly offered. 1779 Johnson *L. P., Mallet*, When Mallet entered one day, Pope asked him slightly what there was new. 1833 Ht. Martineau *Loom & Lugger* I. v. 78 Mrs. Draper slightly returned the farewell of her visitors.

c. With slight exertion or effort. *rare.*

1613 Shaks. *Hen. VIII*, II. iv. 112 You haue by Fortune.. Gone slightly o're lowe steppes. 1760–72 H. Brooke *Fool of Qual.* (1809) IV. 58 He catched at the upmost bar with his left hand, and, throwing himself slightly over, opened the gate.

3. Easily, readily; weakly.

1594 Kyd *Cornelia* II, He that retyres not at the threats of death, Is not, as are the vulgar, slightly fraied. 1596 Shaks. *Merch. V.* v. i. 167 You were too blame,..To part so slightly with your wiues first gift. *c* 1605 Rowley *Birth of Merlin* IV. i, Is it the weakest part I found in thee To doubt of me so slightly? 1646 J. Whitaker *Uzziah* 4, I should wrong goodnesse.., if I should sleightly give that title to unknown persons. 1825 Scott *Betrothed* xix, She has..advisers, who may not..recommend to her to sit down slightly with this injury.

4. With little respect or ceremony; disparagingly, slightingly. Now *rare.*

1599 B. Jonson *Cynthia's Rev.* III. ii, I'le censure it slightly, and ridiculously. 1623 in Foster *Eng. Factories Ind.* (1908) II. 244 The sending of the young Prince and ould gentlleman so slightly from the Kinge is by some conjectered to bee a ploott. 1654 *Nicholas Papers* (Camden) II. 136 Walter Montague doth proceed to specke very slitly of the Kings comands. *a* 1779 Warburton *Wks.* (1811) IX. 260 Learned *Men*, who have affected to think slightly of the Religion of their Country. 1825 Scott *Betrothed* xv, I am not to be treated as an ordinary person, who may be received with negligence, and treated slightly with impunity. 1892 Lumsden *Sheep-head* 289 The country lass they'll slightly pass, An she were dirt.

5. *In a slight or small degree;* to a slight extent.

1594 Kyd *Cornelia* v. 331 O radiant Sunne that slightly guildst our dayes. 1663 Cowley *Verses & Ess., Liberty*, I do but slightly touch upon all these particulars of the slavery of Greatness. 1794 Mrs. Radcliffe *Myst. Udolpho* XXXVIII, He bade her good morning, and, bowing slightly to the count, disappeared. 1818 Scott *Hrt. Midl.* XXXVI, As the Duke tapped slightly at it, a person..unlocked the door. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* III. II. VI, He had breakfasted but slightly. 1863 Lyell *Antiq. Man* 17 Sometimes worn down to the surface of the mud, sometimes projecting slightly above it.

b. Used to qualify a following pple. or adj.

1592 Kyd *Sp. Trag.* III. xiii. 70 My cause, but slightly knowne, May mooue the harts of warlike Myrmydons. *a* 1700 Evelyn *Diary* 3 June 1666, The Duke of Albemarle was slightly wounded. 1732 Berkeley *Alciphr.* II. § 8 Those who are even slightly read in our philosophy. 1747 Wesley *Prim. Physick* (1762) 108 A slice of Apple slightly boiled. 1791 *Gentl. Mag.* 22/1 A servant maid, who from her childhood had been slightly deaf. 1835 J. Duncan *Beetles* (Nat. Lib.) 126 The outer edge of the elytra is slightly sinuated at the apex. 1855 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* XIX. IV. 371 To William he was already slightly known. 1884 *Cent. Mag.* Jan. 419/2 After a heavy rain the stream was..slightly darker in hue.

c. Forming attributive collocations with ppples. or adjs., and frequently hyphened.

1800 Shaw *Gen. Zool.* I. I. 245 Slightly hairy Trichechus. 1804 *Ibid.* V. I. 48 Slightly gilded Salmon. 1829 W. Ellis *Polynesian Res.* I. ii. 55 Resembling..the white of a slightly boiled egg. 1833 Lyell *Princ. Geol.* III. 311 Slightly-worn and angular flints. 1837 J. T. Smith tr. *Vicat's Mortars* 26 A large disengagement of hot slightly-caustic vapour. 1892 Greener *Breech-Loader* 54 Slightly-used guns of their cheaper qualities.

Slightness (slәi·tnés). [f. as prec. + -ness.] The character or quality of being slight, in various senses of the word.

1. Lack of substance, strength, thoroughness, etc.

1607 Shaks. *Cor.* III. i. 148 It must omit Reall Necessities, and giue way the while To vnstable Slightnesse. 1692 T. H[ale] *Acc. New Invent.* 104 The service and firmness of the Cast-Lead, and the sleightness and the charge of the other. 1727 Bailey (vol. II), *Sleaziness* (of Cloth), Slightness of Workmanship. 1788 Sir J. Reynolds *Disc.* XIV. (1842) 254 The slightness which we see in his [Gainsborough's] best works cannot always be imputed to negligence. 1817 Jas. Mill *Brit. India* I. II. iv. 163 It is treated with a negligence and slightness due to a matter of subordinate importance. 1856 Ruskin *Mod. Paint.* II. III. I. X. § 3 It is..easy to know the slightness of earnest haste from the slightness of blunt feeling, indolence, or affectation.

2. Smallness in amount, degree, etc.

1747 tr. *Astruc's Fevers* 206 A mild fever, through the slightness of the inflammation. 1846 Hawthorne *Mosses fr. Manse* II. xii. (1864) 254 Glancing with imperceptible slightness at the artist's small and slender frame. 1884 *Manch. Exam.* 13 Dec. 5/2 The slightness of the change is duly appreciated elsewhere. 1889 *Law Rep.* 14 P. D. 109 The absence or slightness of the evidence.

3. Slimness, slenderness.

1797–1805 S. & Ht. Lee *Canterb. T.* V. 128 He had a fixed redness in his face, and had lost the slightness of his person.

Slighty (slәi·ti), *a. Obs.* exc. *dial.* Also 7 **sleighty.** [f. Slight *a.* + -y.]

† 1. Superficial; lacking in thoroughness. *Obs.*

1619 J. Dyke *Caveat* (1620) 19 If so slighty and easie a performance will discharge it. 1650 Baxter *Saint's R.* III. viii. (1654) 156 The neglect or slighty performance of that great duty. 1671 Eachard *Obs. Answ. Cont. Clergy* 129 Where any thing is advised or commanded after this slothful and slighty way.

† b. Of persons: Negligent, careless. *Obs.*

1655 Gurnall *Chr. Compl. Arm.* VII. 200/1 Till this be done, thou wilt be but sluggish and slighty in thy endeavours for faith. 1661 Newcome *Diary* (Chetham Soc.) 8, I was slighty in secret prayer this morninge.

† 2. Slighting, contemptuous; light. *Obs.*

1642 J. Ball *Answ. Canne* i. 118 In his other writings.. he is insolent, censorious, scornfull and slighty. 1674 N. Fairfax *Bulk & Selv.* To Rdr., Should I say I had slighty thoughts of it [etc.].

3. Slight, unimportant, trivial; also, unsubstantial, slender, weak.

1669 Gurnall *Chr. in Arm.* XXIV. § 4. 317/2 Thou mayst not think thou goest upon a slighty errand. 1679 Mansell *Narr. Popish Plot* Addr. c 2, Nor does it argue more of Wisdom, to rear such a Massive..Structure..upon so slender and sleighty a Foundation. 1713 M. Henry *Wks.* (1855) I. 132/1 To neglect them or make but a short and slighty business of them. *a* 1825 Forby *Voc. E. Anglia* 307 *Slighty*, slim, weak. 1841 Hartshorne *Salop. Ant.* Gloss., *Slighty*, slight, feeble, insufficient, unenduring. 1882 in *W. Worc. Gloss.*

† Sligo. *slang. Obs.*$^{-1}$ (See quot. and Tip *v.*)

1775 S. J. Pratt *Liberal Opin.* Ixxii. (1783) III. 34, I tips Slappim the sligo, and nudges the elbow of Trugge, as much as to say, Soho!..I have him in view.

Slike, *sb. Sc.* and *north.* Now *rare* or *Obs.* Forms: 5, 8 **slyk** (5 **slyik**), 5–6 **slyke**; 5–6, 9 **slike** (6 **slik**); 9 **sleyk.** [? OE. **slîc,* = Fris. *slyk,* MDu. *slijc, sliec* (Du. *slijk*), MLG. *slîk, slyk* (LG. *slîk*), OHG. *slîch* (G. dial. *schleich*): see Slitch and cf. Slick *sb.*2] Mud, slime, sludge.

1375 Barbour *Bruce* XIII. 352 Bannokburne, that sa cummyrsum was Of slyk, and depnes for till pas. *c* 1425 Wyntoun *Cron.* IV. iii. 263 Slyk and claye mycht þan be seyn Qwhar wattyr deip befor had beyn. *c* 1500 Kennedie *Passion of Christ* 230 In cauld and hunger rynand throw slik and clay. 1513 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* IV. 525 To bere the tymer furth of the slyke that came up fra the Margret. 1513 Douglas *Æneid* I. viii. 83 Drivin to land By force of storme, the slyke thai ws deny. 1704 in *Ess. Witchcraft* (1820) 143 William was desired to bring some slyk. 1812 W. Hall *Local Hist. Fens* II Seeing rudds run by shoals 'bout the side of Gill sike, Being dreadfully venom'd by rolling in slike. 1870 Robson *Evangeline* 356 An' in the sleyk poor Feely stuck.

† Slike, *a. Obs.* Chiefly *north.* Also 4–5 **slyk,** slyke, slic, 4 slik, sli. [a. ON. *slîk-r* (Norw. and Sw. *slik,* Da. *slig*), for earlier **swa-lîkr,* = Goth. *swa-leiks* 'so-like': see Such *a.*] Such. Also with numerals (cf. Sic *a.* 1 b).

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 6786 To cumlinges do yee right na suike, For quilum war yee seluen slike. *Ibid.* 7472 Ilk dai he come in place, And batail bede wit sli manace. 13.. *Gosp. Nicod.* 1092 (Harl. MS.), To spek of his pouste, yhe may meruaile slyke fyue. *c* 1386 Chaucer *Reeve's T.* 253 Wha herkned euere slyk a ferly thyng? 1446 in *Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* (1900) XLVI. 527 Slike distress was never seen within the said town. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 344/2 Slyke, *huius modi.*

Hence **† Slikins,** of such a kind. *Obs.*$^{-1}$

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 12010 Ioseph sun Slikins maistris do was won Bifor þe folk of israel.

Slike, obs. form of Slick *a.*

† Slike, *v. Obs.*$^{-1}$ [Cf. MLG. and LG. *slîken* (NFris. *slike*), OHG. *slîhhan* (MHG. *slîchen,* G. *schleichen*) to slide, glide, creep, etc.] *intr.* To slide, glance.

c 1400 *Anturs of Arth.* XLVIII, The squrd slippus on slonte, and on the mayle slikes.

Slily: see Slyly *adv.*

† Slim, *sb. Obs.* [f. Slim *a.*] A lanky, lazy, worthless, or despicable person.

1548 Elyot *Longurio, -onis*, a longe slymme. 1589 Warner *Alb. Eng.* VI. XXXI. (1602) 153 Lesse mannerd, and worse gated than this Saturns-Eue-made Slim God neuer made. 1611 Cotgr., *Couille*,..a heartlesse, faint-hearted, or white-liuered slimme. *Ibid., Longue eschine*, a luske, slimme, long-backe, or slowbacke.

Slim (slim), *a.* [a. Du. or LG. (also Fris.) *slim,* repr. MDu. *slim(p, slem(p,* MLG. *slim(m, slym(m, slem,* = MHG. *slîm, slimm-* (G. *schlimm*), OHG. **slîmb* crooked, perverse, bad, mean, etc.]

1. Slender, (gracefully) thin.

Said of persons (or animals), less freq. of things.

(*a*) 1657 G. Thornley *Daphnis & Chloe* 61 He's small and slim, and so will slip and steal away. 1692 R. L'Estrange *Fables* I. lv. 55 A Slim, Thin-Gutted Fox made a Hard Shift to wriggle his Body into a Hen-Roost. 1712 Steele *Spect.* No. 266, I was jogged on the Elbow..by a slim young Girl of..Seventeen. 1753 Hogarth *Anal. Beauty* xi. 83 Imagine the slim figure of a Mercury, every where neatly formed for the utmost light agility. 1843 James *Forest Days* II, A man somewhat above the middle size, of a slim and graceful figure. 1859 Darwin *Orig. Spec.* IV. (1860) 90 The swiftest and slimmest wolves would have the best chance of surviving.

(*b*) 1824 Dibdin *Library Comp.* 564 Who possess the interminable slim quartos. 1827 Hood *Tim Turpin* 38 With a cudgel in his hand—It was not light or slim. 1886 Mrs. Ewing *Mary's Meadow* 69, I put them into a slim glass on my table.

transf. 1876 Lowell *Among my Bks.* Ser. II. 241 An organ..capable equally of the trumpet's ardors or the slim delicacy of the flute.

b. Small, slight; of little substance; poor.

a 1677 Barrow *Serm.* Wks. 1716 I. 326 If this be all they are good for, it is..a very slim benefit they afford. 1717 Killingbeck *Serm.* 376 Now how vain and slim are all these, if compared with the Solid..Encouragement which our Religion offers. 1862 Maury in Corbin *Life* (1888) 214 The chances of your getting this [letter] are slim. 1877 G. Fraser *Wigtown* 370 They seemed to have rather slim faith in the stability of the structure.

c. *dial.* Of fabrics: Flimsy, thin.

1813 Picken *Poems* I. 123 To weer slim trash o' silk. 1880 Watt *Poet. Sk.* 39 (E.D.D.), His claes were the slimmest that ever ye saw.

d. Meagre, scanty, sparse.

1852 Bristed *Five Yrs. Eng. Univ.* (ed. 2) 130 We had a very slim audience, not more than a dozen. 1892 *Nation* 1 Sept. 156 Various reasons are given for the slim attendance.

e. Delicate; not robust.

1877 S. O. Jewett *Deephaven* (1893) 205 She's had slim health of late years.

† 2. Of jests: Sly, malicious. *Obs. rare.*

1668 H. More *Div. Dial.* I, XXX. (1713) 65 He does indeed say so, but by way of a slim jear to their ignorance. 1681 Glanvill *Sadducismus* I. (1682) 161 It cannot be said by any man in his wits, unless by way of sport or some slim jest.

3. Of persons, their actions, etc.: Sly, cunning, crafty, wily, artful.

In recent use adopted from S. African Dutch.

1674 Ray *N. C. Words* 43 *Slim*...It's a word generally used in the same sence with Sly. 1703 Thoresby *Lett. to Ray* s.v., A slim customer. 1768 Ross *Rock & Wee Pickle Tow* 67 She was never ca'd chancy, but canny an' slim. 1848 Lowell *Biglow P.* Ser. I. ix, I wish I may be cust, Ef Bellers wuzn't slim enough to say he wouldn't trust! 1899 *Times* 26 Oct. 5/2 The issue of the proclamation by the Boers..is regarded..as a 'slim' (crafty) move on the enemy's part.

4. *Comb.* **a.** Parasynthetic, etc., as *slim-ankled, -built, -leaved,* etc.

1824 Dibdin *Library Comp.* (1825) 729 Out of 333 slim-waisted quartos and octavos. 1834 Wrangham *Homerics* II Him..Pitying, slim-ancled Ino spied. 1868 Morris *Earthly Par.* (1870) I. I. 371 The slim-leaved trees against the evening sky. 1870 *Ibid.* III. IV. 16 Close by that a slim-trunked tree did grow. 1873 Howells *Chance Acquaintance* I. (1883) 22 Villages,..each clustering about its slim-spired church. 1885 Black *White Heather* I, A slim-built and yet muscular young man.

b. Slim-cake, a kind of plain cake used in Ireland.

1847 *Paddiana* (1848) I. 219 His share of the slim-cake

alone would have furnished him with indigestion for a month. 1894 *Blackw. Mag.* Sept. 318 Where we found tea and Irish slim-cakes provided for us.

Slim, *v.* Chiefly *dial.* [f. SLIM *a.*]

1. *trans.* With *away*: To waste (time) in idling. 1812 THOM *Amusem.* 35 (E.D.D.), Bids them mind their meat and wark, And not to slim their time away.

2. To scamp (work). Also with *over*.

1808 JAMIESON s.v., In the very same sense we say, *To slim o'er*, to do one's work in a careless and insufficient way. 1847 MRS. CARLYLE *Lett.* I. 393 Postie had also helped to beat the carpets, considering that Eaves was rather slimming them. 1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss.* s.v., A shoemaker, who brought his apprentice up before the magistrates, complained that 'he slimmed his work so, he could put up with it no longer'.

3. To make slim or slender.

1862 MRS. NORTON *Lady of La Garaye* I. 115 The rich purple of her velvet vest Slims the young waist, and rounds the graceful breast.

Slime (slǣim), *sb.* Forms: 1, 3 slim, 3–5 slym, 5 slyym, 3–7 slyme; 5– slime. [Common Teut.: OE. *slīm*, = Fris. *slym*, *slīm*, *slim*, MDu. *slijm*, *slym-* (Du. *slijm*), MLG. *slym*, *slim* (LG. *slīm*), MHG. *slīm* (G. *schleim*), ON. *slím* (MSw., Norw., Da. *slim*, †*sliim*). The stem is prob. related to that of L. *līmus*.]

1. Soft glutinous mud; alluvial ooze; viscous matter deposited or collected on stones, etc.

a 1000 in WR.-WÜLCKER 195 *Borbus, cena,* slim. *c* 1050 *Ibid.* 439 *Limus*, slim. *c* 1150 *Cant. Ps.* lxviii. 2 Afestnod ic æm on..slim dipæ. *c* 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 338 Anon-riȝt þe se wende aȝein, with watur and with slyme. *a* 1300 *E. E. Ps.* lxviii. 2, I am festened in slime [that] depe esse. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) I. 133 Nilus..bycause of slym þat renneþ þerwith..makeþ þe londe fatte. 1422 tr. *Secreta Secret., Prtv. Priv.* 191 God wold not fourm woman of the Slyme as he dud man. *c* 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* I. 762 See slyme..and slyme of flood, With other donge ymyngled, is right good. 1568 WITHALS *Dict.* 7 b/1 Slime or mudde in water, *dicitur limus.* 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* I. i. 21 As when old father Nilus gins to swell..His fattie waues do fertile slime outwell. 1602 MARSTON *Antonio's Rev.* IV. iii, Let him feed on slime That smeares the dungeon cheeke. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* IV. 414 The teeming Tide..Makes green the Soil with Slime, and black prolific Sands. 1756–7 tr. *Keysler's Trav.* (1760) IV. 432 The struggling of the fish, in order to extricate itself at first from the slime. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) VI. 24 An oily slime, found in the bottoms of ditches and of weedy pools. 1867 AUGUSTA WILSON *Vashti* xxxiii, A greenish slime overspread the lower portions of the wall, and coated the uneven pavement. 1894 S. WEYMAN *Lady Rotha* xxiii, The clinging slime and the reek of the marsh.

b. Applied to bitumen.

1530 TINDALE *Prol. to Five Bks. Moses* Wks. 6/2 That slyme was a fatnesse that issued out of the earth, like vnto tarre; and thou mayst call it cement, if thou wilte. 1535 COVERDALE *Gen.* xi. 3 They toke bryck for stone, & slyme for morter. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* VII. xv, The very clammie slime Bitumen. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* x. 298 The rest his look Bound with Gorgonian rigor..And with Asphaltic slime. 1764 HARMER *Observ.* iii. § vii. 97 Norden describes the Ægyptian..architecture as differing from the Roman, being of mud and slime. 1853 LAYARD *Nineveh & Babylon* 202 To bring fresh slime to the surface, the Arabs threw large stones into the springs.

2. A viscous substance or fluid of animal or vegetable origin; mucus, semen, etc.

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 276 Nert tu icumen of ful slim? *c* 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 191 Þare feol out of eiþer eiȝe Fuylþe ase þei it were slym. *a* 1400 *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* 334 Þei coruen hit of me & wosch awei mi slym. 1426 LYDG. *De Guil. Pilgr.* 9115 A lyknesse off ordure, And a statue off slyym vnclene. 1530 PALSGR. 271/1 Slyme of fysshe, *lymon.* 1578 LYTE *Dodoens* 291 The Decoction of Betonie..doth clense and scoure the breast and lunges from flegme and slyme. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* 434 Tenches..with their glutinous slime. 1617 HIERON *Wks.* II. 219 Like that slime which the snaile leaues when it creepes. 1693 EVELYN *De la Quint. Compl. Gard.* II. 195 Too frequent Rains infect them with Slime and Snivel. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) VIII. 167 The earth-worm ..takes hold by the slime of the fore part of its body. 1796 WITHERING *Brit. Pl.* (ed. 3) IV. 110 Branches shaped like a worm, filled with slime containing granulations. 1822–7 GOOD *Study Med.* (1829) I. 227 The discharge thrown up consists of acrid slime and porraceous bile. 1884 BOWER & SCOTT *De Bary's Phaner.* 180 The masses of starch containing slime..have not yet been discovered in the plants in question.

b. Applied to star-jelly (see JELLY *sb.* 2 b).

1471 RIPLEY *Comp. Alch.* in Ashm. *Theatr. Chem. Brit.* (1652) 191 The Slyme of Sterrs that falleth to the grownde. 1642 H. MORE *Song of Soul* II. i. i. 2 Like to a Meteor, whose materiall Is low unwieldy earth, base unctuous slime. 1656 COWLEY *Misc., Reason* ii, So Stars appear to drop to us from skie,..But when they fall..What but a sordid Slime is found?

3. *fig.* a. Applied disparagingly to the human body, to man in general, or to single persons.

c 1315 SHOREHAM IV. 112 Þat dop þat mannes body ybered Nys bote a lyte slym. *c* 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 565 Saynt Bernard says..Þat 'man here es nathyng elles Bot a foule slyme'. *c* 1450 *Mirk's Festial* 2 He ys not but a wryche and slyme of erth. 1504 ATKYNSON tr. *De Imitatione* III. xiv. 209 Lerne, thou erth & slyme, to humble the. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* II. x. 50 What time th' eternall Lord in fleshly slime Enwombed was. 1602 MARSTON *Antonio's Rev.* v. v, *Ant.* Scum of the mud of hell! *Alb.* Slime of all filth! 1652 BENLOWES *Theoph.* v. xv. 63 Dares mortal Slime..expresse What ev'n Celestials do confesse Is inexpressible?

b. Applied to what is morally filthy or otherwise disgusting.

1575–85 SANDYS *Serm.* 156 Now that Christ hath cleansed vs from our sinne, let vs not swinelike returne to wallowe in that slime againe. 1593 NASHE *Strange Newes* K j, Art, like yong grasse.., was glad to peepe vp through any slime of corruption. 1616 R. C. *Times' Whistle* (1871) 70 Drunkennesse, whose putrefactious slime Darkens the splendour of our common wealth. 1822 HAZLITT *Table-t.* Ser. II. iii. (1869) 66 It is varnished over with the slime of servility. 1898 G. MEREDITH *Odes Fr. Hist.* 15 What raised This wallower in old slime to noblest heights.

4. *Mining.* Finely crushed or powdered metallic ore in the form of mud.

1758 BORLASE *Nat. Hist. Cornw.* 180 Thus the slimes are finished, and brought to as great a degree of purity as the size of the tin..will permit. 1778 PRYCE *Min. Cornub.* 226 Leavings of Tin..consist of slime and tails. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 752 The metallic slime being first floated in the water of the trough, then flows out and is deposited in the tank. 1855 J. R. L[EIFCHILD] *Cornw. Mines* 205 The ore, on issuing forth, deposits its *rough* in the first basin, and its *slimes* in the following basins. 1874 RAYMOND *Statist. Mines & Mining* 415 By slimes or slums I do not mean to include any slimes whatever from the pan-tailings. *Ibid.*, The slimes here spoken of..have never been worked at all.

5. *techn.* (See quot.)

1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 1164 The thin stuff, called *slimes*, upon the surface of the starch, is removed by a tray of a peculiar form.

6. *attrib.* and *Comb.* a. In sense 1, as *slime-bank, -bath, lagoon*; *slime-browned*, etc.

1597 MARLOWE *Ovid's Elegies* III. v, Floud with reede-growne slime bankes. 1756 tr. *Keysler's Trav.* (1760) III. 421 Here is also..a muddy bath. [*marg.*] Slime bath. 1776 MICKLE tr. *Camoens' Lusiad* IX. 370 Each joyful sailor.. with firm tugs the rollers from the brine, Reluctant dragg'd, the slime-brown'd anchors raise. 1861 DICKENS *Gt. Expect.* XXVIII, I saw the boat .. waiting for them at the slime-washed stairs. 1877 RUSKIN *St. Mark's Rest* I. ii. 23 The crocodile,..slime-begotten of old. 1897 MARY KINGSLEY *W. Africa* 338 More specimens of those awful slime lagoons.

b. In sense 2, as *slime-gland, -pore, -track*; *slime-secreting* adj.

a 1656 BP. HALL *Rem. Wks.* (1660) 24 As the snail cannot but leave a slime-track behind it. 1883 *Science* I. 433/2 A terminal slime-gland accentuated by a short deep groove. 1896 LYDEKKER *Roy. Nat. Hist.* V. 570 A ciliated slime-secreting band. *Ibid.* VI. 344 The hinder end of the foot.. terminating in a conspicuous mucus or slime-pore.

c. In sense 4, as *slime-ore, -table, -tin, -yard*; *slime-coated* adj., *-separator*, etc.

1778 PRYCE *Min. Cornub.* 238 It still retains much dirt and mud, whence it is called Slime Ore. *Ibid.*, It may be trunked..the same as slime Tin. 1874 RAYMOND *Statist. Mines & Mining* 414 The shaking collects the floured and slime-coated quicksilver. *Ibid.* 415 In such cases it is necessary to build slime-yards outside the mill. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2210/2 Slime-separator.

7. Special combs.: **slime-eel** (see quots.); **slime-flux,** a slimy excretion on trees; **slime-fungi,** = MYXOMYCETES; **slime-head,** a fish of the sub-family *Berycoidea*; **slime-moulds,** = *slime-fungi*; **slime-sponge** (see quot.).

1860 WRAXALL *Life in Sea* v. 129 The *Slime Eel (*Myxine glutinosa*) bears a great likeness to the Lamprey. 1884 GOODE *Nat. Hist. Aquat. Anim.* 681 The 'Slime Eel'..is found on the Atlantic coast north of Cape Cod. 1897 W. G. SMITH tr. *Tubeuf's Dis. Plants* 141 According to Ludwig, species of Endomyces have much to do with the *slime-flux of trees. *Ibid.* 523 The vegetative body of the *Slime-fungi consists of naked protoplasm without a firm membrane. 1896 LYDEKKER *Roy. Nat. Hist.* V. 353 The Berycoids or *Slime-Heads. *Ibid.*, The slime-heads..are all marine fishes, with a practically cosmopolitan distribution. 1880 BESSEY *Botany* 170 Even in the lowest plants, the *Slime Moulds..will contract into rounded masses. 1899 *Nature* 21 Dec. 173/2 We do not think that the adoption of the name 'slime moulds' is a happy one. 1883 W. S. KENT in *Fisheries Bahamas* 38 The skeletonless *Slime-sponge (*Halisarca Dujardinii*) more usually resembles..dabs of red-currant jelly scattered upon the surface of the rocks or seaweeds.

Slime (slǣim), *v.*[1] [f. SLIME *sb.* Cf. Fris. *slymje*, LG. *slimen*, G. *schleimen* to give out slime, clean from slime, etc.]

1. *trans.* To smear or cover with slime.

1628 FELTHAM *Resolves* II. xxi, Like the Crocodile, he slimes thy way, to make thee fall. 1682 DRYDEN & LEE *Duke of Guise* III. i, Daubing the Inside of the Court like Snails, Sliming our Walls, and pricking out your Hornes. 1807 J. BARLOW *Columb.* VIII. 415 Your lawless Mississippi, now who slimes And drowns and desolates his waste of climes. 1859 LANG *Wand. India* 264 The snake..commenced, with his forked tongue,..to slime his victim all over. 1872 TENNYSON *Last Tourn.* 471 The knights..sank his head in mire, and slimed themselves.

fig. 1860 TENNYSON *Sea Dreams* 189 Gifts of grace he forged, And snake-like slimed his victim ere he gorged. 1897 BLACKMORE in *Blackw. Mag.* Sept. 369 The trivial wormcasts of rank and money which cannot even slime the scythe of death.

2. a. To make (one's way) in a slimy fashion. b. *intr.* To crawl slimily; to become slimy.

1842 *Tait's Mag.* IX. 374 Stealthily, serpently, he slimed his way Unto the pay-master. 1851 G. H. KINGSLEY *Sport & Trav.* (1900) 533 The happy *insouciance* of a snail 'sliming' up the side of the Parthenon.

3. *techn.* To clear (skins, fish, etc.) of slimy matter by scraping.

1845 G. DODD *Brit. Manuf.* V. 203 The skins are removed to a beam and there 'slimed', that is, scraped on the flesh side to remove a slimy substance which exudes from the pores.

Slime (slǣim), *v.*[2] *Harrow slang.* [Of obscure origin.] *intr.* To move in a gliding, stealthy, or sneaking manner.

1898 HOWSON & WARNER *Harrow School* 282 His 'house-beak' 'slimed' (went round quietly) and 'twug' him. 1905 VACHELL *The Hill* i, When he does come over on our side of the House, he slimes about in carpet slippers.

† **Slime,** *v.*[3] *Obs.*[−1] (Meaning uncertain.)

c 1400 *Destr. Troy* 8096 Hit pleaside hir priuely, playntyde ho noght, Let hit slip from hyr slyly, slymyt þerat.

Slimed, *ppl. a. rare.* [f. SLIME *sb.* or *v.*[1]] Full of, covered with, slime; slimy.

1393 LANGL. *P. Pl.* C. VIII. 1 Tho cam sleuthe al by-slobered with two slymed eyen. 1563 A. NEVELL in Googe *Eglogs*, etc. (Arb.) 83 For thou..Dost by thy Snares and slymed Hooks entrap the wounded Harts. 1608 TOPSELL *Serpents* (1658) 785 A certain glutinous kinde of Jelly, or slimed juice.

Sli·meless, *a. rare*[−1]. [f. SLIME *sb.* + -LESS.] Free from slime or filth.

1672 *Life & Death of Jas. Arminius & Simon Episc.* I. 22 Those pure and slimeless Fountains.

† **Sli·mely,** *a. Obs.*[−1] Slimy.

1528 PAYNELL *Salerne's Regim.* O j b, A tenche..is a freshe water fyshe, whose skynne is slyppery and slymely.

Sli·me-pit. Also **slime pit.**

1. In or after Biblical use: A pit or hole yielding asphalt or bitumen.

1530 TINDALE *Prol. 5 Bks. Moses* Wks. 6/2 Slyme was their morter, chap. 11. and slyme pittes, chap. 14. 1535 COVERDALE *Gen.* xiv. 10 Yᵗ brode valley had many slyme pyttes. 1611 BIBLE *Gen.* xiv. 10 And the vale of Siddim was full of slime-pits. 1737 WHISTON tr. *Josephus, Antiq.* I. ix, They pitched their camp at the vale called the Slime Pits. 1853 LAYARD *Nineveh & Babylon* 202 In an hour the bitumen was exhausted for the time,..and the..moon again shone over the black slime pits. 1895 SAYCE *Patriarchal Palestine* iv. 178 Here were the 'slime-pits' from which the naphtha was extracted.

2. *techn.* A pit or reservoir in which metallic slimes are collected.

1778 PRYCE *Min. Cornub.* 234 The slimy earthy parts are carried by the water into a slime pit just below. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 752 Slime pits or labyrinths, called buddle holes in Derbyshire, are employed to collect that matter. 1882 *U. S. Rep. Prec. Met.* 610 A copper miner..would tell you ..what a large proportion would go to enrich the slime pits.

† **Sli·mikin,** *a. Obs.*[−1] [f. SLIM *a.*] Small and slender.

1745 MRS. DELANY *Life & Corr.* (1861) II. 383 You know I am a little slimikin thing, not unlike a perch or an eel.

Slimily (slǣ·mili), *adv.* [f. SLIMY *a.* + -LY 2.] In a slimy manner; with accompaniment of slime.

1606 S. GARDINER *Bk. Angling* 117 They are slippery Eles indeede,..being so slimily and sordidly giuen, as they may not be handled. 1878 BLACK *Macleod of Dare* I. 180 The inside of this glass box was alive with snakes..slimily crawling over each other. 1883 *Cent. Mag.* July 422/2 At length, the long submerged streets..rose slimily out of the retreating waters.

Sliminess (slǣ·minės). Also 6 **slymy-, slymines.** [f. as prec. + -NESS.] The state or quality of being slimy; slimy character or consistency.

1528 PAYNELL *Salerne's Regiment* O j b, Greatte estates haue them [carps] sodde in wyne, and so the slymynes is done away. 1555 EDEN *Decades* (Arb.) 184 The slymines of the earth and water. 1615 H. CROOKE *Body of Man* 51 This is prooued by..the lentor or sliminesse of their substance. 1662 R. MATHEW *Unl. Alch.* § 9. 5 We find it so potent in cleansing all Windiness, Sliminess, Stone or Gravel. 1742 H. BAKER *Microsc.* II. x. 122 The Sliminess of the Eel will immediately foul the Glass. 1812 W. TAYLOR in *Monthly Mag.* XXXIII. 253 The sliminess [of the snail] is considered as the greatest delicacy. 1846 HAWTHORNE *Mosses fr. Manse* I. vii. 139 It impressed the beholder with an association of sliminess.

Sli·ming, *vbl. sb.* [f. SLIME *sb.* or *v.*[1]] (See quots.)

1615 LATHAM *Falconry* Gloss., *Sliming*, is when a Hawke muteth from her longwaies in one intire substance; and doth not drop any part thereof. 1895 ELWORTHY *Evil Eye* 41 [The cobra] then gave [the hawk]..another sliming and soon made a meal of him.

Sli·ming, *ppl. a. rare.* [f. SLIME *sb.*] Defiling with slime; slimy.

a 1400–50 *Alexander* 4456 Þus make ȝe vessels in vayne to ȝoure foule corses,..Þat ilk slymand slugh, quen ȝe ere slide hyne.

† **Sli·mish,** *a. Obs.*[−0] Somewhat slimy.

1648 HEXHAM II. s.v. *Slijmachtigh*, Slimish water.

† **Sli·mishness.** *Obs. rare.* Sliminess.

1574 T. N[EWTON] tr. *Gratarolus' Direct. Health* Lj, Suche fishes..neuer are embroyned with anye filth or diertie slimishnes. 1597 A. M. tr. *Guillemeau's Fr. Chirurg.* 32/1 Washinge the sayed horseleeches with your handes, from all ther viscositye and slimishnes.

Slimly (sli·mli), *adv.* [f. SLIM *a.* + -LY 2.]

1. Artfully; cunningly.

1681 GLANVILL *Sadducismus* I. 124 This man certainly is either delirant and crazed, or else plays tricks, and slimly and obliquely insinuates that [etc.].

2. Slenderly; delicately.

1831 TRELAWNY *Adv. Younger Son* cxiii, A little white-faced, slimly-formed sickly girl. 1865 J. CAMERON *Malayan India* 274 She is not a slimly built vessel,..but is of thorough man-of-war build.

3. Scantily; sparsely; thinly.

1801–67 in *Eng. Dial. Dict.* 1886 *Daily News* 13 Dec. (Cassell), The farewell all-night meetings which were held in a small church here were slimly attended.

Sli·mmish, *a. rare*[−1]. Somewhat slim.

1841 D. JERROLD *St. Giles* (1852) I. 314 He's a slimmish chap.

Slimness (sli·mnės). [f. SLIM *a.* + -NESS.]

1. Slenderness; (graceful) thinness.

1727 in BAILEY (vol. II). 1776 PENNANT *Brit. Zool.* I. 334

The slimness of their bodies, and great length of tail. 1816 KEATS *Ep. to C. Cowden Clarke* 87 To see..morning shadows streaking into slimness Across the lawny fields. 1859 GEO. ELIOT *Adam Bede* I. ii, An effect which was due to the slimness of her figure. 1893 F. F. MOORE *I Forbid Banns* xi, Young ladies, who, with all the insolence of slimness, called her stout.

2. Artfulness, wiliness, cunning.

1899 *Westm. Gaz.* 27 Dec. 1/2 Courage is no good unless it is backed up by what the Boers themselves call 'slimness'. 1900 *Daily Telegr.* 2 Oct. 6/1 A double dose of original slimness.

Sli·mskin. *U.S.* [f. SLIM *a.* + SKIN *sb.*] A sea-elephant in an emaciated state.

1884 in Goode *Nat. Hist. Aquat. Anim.* 73 The animal.. sometimes becomes very thin, and is then called a 'slimskin'.

†**Slimslack.** *Obs.*⁻¹ [f. SLIM *a.* + SLACK *a.*] A person mentally or physically defective.

Cf. Forby (1825), '*Slimslacket*, of very thin texture, loose and flaccid'.

1600 *Hosp. Inc. Fooles* 25 These poore slimslacks, who haue need of internal remedies for the restitution of their disturbed braine.

Slimsy (sli·msi), *a. U.S.* Also **slimpsy.** [app. f. SLIM *a.*] Flimsy, frail.

1845 S. JUDD *Margaret* II. viii, The building is old and slimsy. 1895 *Missionary Herald* (Boston) Dec. 493 These ladies have to stay in that slimpsy shed day and night. 1899 *Milwaukee Sentinel* 14 May 4/2 Of the same slimsy material the..claim is constructed.

Slimy (slәi·mi), *a.* Forms: 4–6, 8 **slymy** (6 **sleymy**), 6–7 **slymie**; 6 **slimye**, 6–7 **slimie**, 6– **slimy.** [f. SLIME *sb.* + -Y. Cf. MDu. *slimich* (Du. *slijmig*), MHG. *slîmich* (LG. and NFris. *slimig*, older Da. *slimig*), MHG. *slîmic* (G. *schleimig*).]

1. Of the nature or consistency of slime; viscous.

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* VI. xxi. (Bodl. MS.), Slymy water and glewye..stauncheþ rennyng of blood. 1477 NORTON *Ordin. Alch.* v. in Ashm. (1652) 65 A Calcedonie in Slymy substance. 1539 ELYOT *Cast. Helthe* (1541) 92 The poulse called *Lenticula*, and they that are slymy like malowes. 1562 BULLEIN *Bulwarke, Bk. Compounds* 9 b, This doen, presse forthe the slymie sappe of them. 1650 BULWER *Anthropomet.* 238 They annoint themselves with a certain slimie oyntment. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* III. 441 From their Groins they shed A slimy Juice. 1735 SOMERVILLE *Chase* IV. 370 Th' insinuating Eel, that hides his Head Beneath the slimy Mud. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) VII. 25 That slimy substance with which it is so copiously furnished. 1844 MRS. BROWNING *Vis. Poets* lviii, His foot slips in their slimy oil. 1871 T. R. JONES *Anim. Kingd.* (ed. 4) 460 It is concealed by a brownish slimy secretion.

b. *techn.* Of ore: In the form of slime.

1778 PRYCE *Min. Cornub.* 227 Moving the slimy Tin to and fro with a light hand.

2. Characterized by the presence of slime; covered with slime.

1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. v. 392 þanne come sleuthe al bi-slabered with two slymy eiȝen. 1551 TURNER *Herbal* (1568) 7 The hole herbe is very sleymy and full of a slepery iuice. 1604 E. G[RIMSTONE] *D'Acosta's Hist. Indies* VII. xxvii. 582 The fire..was of the wood of fat and slimy fire-trees. 1664 POWER *Exp. Philos.* I. 36 In this slimy Animal..are very many rare and excellent Observables. 1798 COLERIDGE *Anc. Mar.* II. x, Yea, slimy things did crawl with legs Upon the slimy sea. 1845 DARWIN *Voy. Nat.* xi. (1879) 239 The stem is round, slimy, and smooth. 1885 BUCHANAN *Annan Water* iii, Down the broken walls clung slimy weeds and mosses.

b. *esp.* Of rivers, shores, etc.

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XIII. v. (Bodl. MS.), [The Nile is] troublye, erþy, slymy, and wosie. *c* 1586 C'TESS PEMBROKE *Ps.* LXXVIII. xx, That rich land, where over Nilus trailes Of his wett robe the slymy seedy train. 1599 NASHE *Lenten Stuff* Wks. (Grosart) V. 211 The Saxons..that had giuen vp the ghost, in those slymie plashie fieldes of Gorlstone. 1613 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* (1614) 493 A pit of standing water..wherein euery morning they wash themselues, although it be greene, slimie, and stinking. 1650 VENNER *Via Recta* 98 In slimy and muddy rivers. 1818 SHELLEY *Prometh. Unb.* IV. 311 On the slimy shores, And weed-overgrown continents of earth. 1839 FR. A. KEMBLE *Resid. Georgia* (1863) 18 A slimy, poisonous-looking swamp. 1873 G. C. DAVIES *Mount. & Mere* XV. 123 The black slimy sides of the ditch.

3. *transf.* and *fig.* Morally defiled or objectionable; vile, disgusting.

1575 tr. *Luther's Galat.* iii. 1 The slimy Body and the Remnants of Sin remain still in us. 1597 MIDDLETON *Wisd. Solomon* xv. 7 If thou want'st slime, behold thy slimy faults. 1602 *2nd Pt. Ret. fr. Parnass.* II. vi. 482 What slimie bold presumtious groome is he? 1693 DRYDEN, etc. *Juvenal* xiv. (1697) 347 The rest are all by bad Example led, And in their Father's slimy Track they tread. 1796 COLERIDGE *Destiny of Nations* 432 The locust-fiends that crawled And glittered in Corruption's slimy track. 1898 G. B. SHAW *Plays* II. *Man of Destiny* 165 I'll spoil his beauty, the slimy little liar!

4. *Comb.*, as *slimy-born, -coated.*

1687 DRYDEN *Hind & P.* I. 311 A slimy-born and sun-begotten Tribe. 1833 *Ridgemont Farm Rep.* 139 in *Husb.* III. (L.U.K.), These slimy-coated insects are all abroad in the night.

Sline (slәin). *Coal-mining.* Also **slyne** [Of obscure origin.] (See quots.)

Gresley (1883) also gives 'potholes in the roof'.

1811 FAREY *Derbyshire* I. 181 The Slines, or lengthway joints which naturally divide the Coal-seams vertically, generally range about ESE and WNW. 1871 *Trans. Amer. Inst. Min. Eng.* I. 304 In some seams the slines, smooth planes of cleavage parallel with the face, are much closer together than in others. 1875 *Ure's Dict. Arts* (ed. 7) I. 815 The smooth clean surface of the coal coinciding with this well-defined set of joints is known as the cleat, face, or slyne.

Sliness, obs. form of SLYNESS.

Sling (slin), *sb.*¹ Forms: *α.* 4– **sling** (4 **scling**), 4, 6 **slinge**, 4–6 **slyng**(e, 5 **sclyng**(e; 4 **sleng**(e. *β. Sc.* 5 **slong**, 6 **sloung**, 5–6, 9 **slung.** [app. of Continental origin, but the precise source is not clear. The forms in the cognate languages which correspond most closely to the usual *sling* are MLG. *slinge*, OHG. *slinga* (*slinka*, MHG. *slinge*, G. dial. *schlinge*), older Da. *slinge*, *slynghe* (Da. *slynge*); cf. also OF. *eslingue* (*elingue*, mod.Norm. and Pic. *élingue*). The rare ME. *sleng* answers to MLG. *slenge*, OHG. *slenga* (MHG. *slenge*, older or dial. G. *schlenge*, *schlenke*). The Sc. *slung*, † *slong*, resembles the MSw. *slonga* (*slionga*, *sliunga*), Sw. *slunga*, but it is difficult to assume direct connexion.

ON. *slyngva* (Icel. *slanga*) would normally have given ME. **slang*, but the form might have been modified under the influence of the vb. There is no independent evidence of the Flem. *slinge* 'funda' given by Plantin and Kilian along with the usual *slinger*.]

1. An implement or weapon for hurling stones or similar missiles by hand with great force or to a distance, consisting of a strap attached to two cords or strings, or to a stick or staff (= STAFF-SLING); the impulse is given by rapid whirling of the sling before discharging it. Also locally, a boy's catapult.

Freq. in allusions to the slaying of Goliath by David (1 Sam. xvii. 40, 49–50).

a. a 1300 *Cursor M.* 7528 His arms fra him did he suing, And tok bot a staf and a sling [*Gött.* slenge]. 13.. *Ibid.* 14431 (Gött.), Dauid..þat sclou golias wid his scling. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) IV. 455 [He] was anon i-smyte wiþ a stoon of a slynge. *c* 1450 *Mirour Saluacioun* (Roxb.) 52 Dauid orthrewe hym sone with his stone and his slyng. 1484 CAXTON *Fables of Æsop* V. ix, Alle the men came to gyder, somme with slynges, and somme with bowes. 1530 PALSGR. 271/2 Slynge made in a shepherdes staffe, *fonde hollette*. 1600 J. PORY tr. *Leo's Africa* 47 In war their weapons are slings, and swordes made of base iron. 1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* VII. 333 Twenty Moores broke out vpon me, with shables and slings. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* I. 415 With Balearick Slings, or Gnossian Bow, To persecute from far the flying Doe. 1737 WHISTON tr. *Josephus, Antiq.* VI. ix. § 5 Taking one of the stones,..and fitting it to his sling, he slang it against the Philistine. 1846 GREENER *Sci. Gunnery* 3 Not allowing their children any food until they struck it from the top of a pole with a stone from a sling. 1878 BROWNING *Poets Croisic* 34 Pebble from sling Prostrates a giant.

β. 1456 Sir G. HAYE *Law Arms* (S.T.S.) 169 David..vencust that grete Goulyas, with..his slong and his slong stanis. 1533 BELLENDEN *Livy* I. xvii. (S.T.S.) I. 95, xxx centuries quhilkis war commandit to bere sloungis and casting stanis. 1535 STEWART *Chron. Scot.* II. 19 With bow and slung to cast arrow and stane. 1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* I. 145 Young men soulde vse for waepinis a slung with a bow. 1808 in JAMIESON (and still in common use).

b. *fig.* or in fig. contexts.

c 1315 SHOREHAM VI. 25 Þou ert þe slinge, þy sone þe ston þat dauy slange golye op-on. 1533 MORE *Answ. Poysoned Bk.* Wks. 1126/1 Yong foolishe Dauid, that hath..with the slyng of hys heresyes slonken [*sic*] hymselfe to the deuill. 1548 UDALL, etc. *Erasm. Par.* Pref. a iij b, Out of the slyng of his Regall autoritee [he] cast the corner stone. 1602 SHAKS. *Ham.* III. i. 58 The Slings and Arrowes of outragious Fortune. 1737 BRACKEN *Farriery Impr.* (1757) II. 123 If he [a horse] would not be a Sap-whistle, he might be a Sling at any time. [1874 S. COX *Pilgrim Ps.* ii. 42 The slings and arrows of adversity.]

c. A machine or implement for hurling large stones or missiles; a ballista.

1535 COVERDALE *Ezek.* XXVI. 9 His slynges & batelrammes shal he prepare for thy walles. 1609 BIBLE (Douay) 1 *Macc.* VI. 51 He placed there..instruments to cast fyre,..and scorpions to shoote arrowes, and slings [L. *fundibula*]. 1682 BUNYAN *Holy War* (1905) 232 The Kings Captains had brought with them several slings, and two or three Battering-Rams. 1736 AINSWORTH *Lat. Dict.* II, *Cestrosphendone*, a sling, an engine of war to throw darts.

2. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *sling-caster, -maker, -thrower*; *sling-bullet, -cord*; † **sling-bone** (see quot. 1730).

1535 COVERDALE *Judith* VI. 12 Whan they drew nye vnto the mountaynes, the slynge casters came out agaynst them. 1598 GRENEWEY *Tacitus, Ann.* II. v. (1622) 39 The Captaine ..commaunded the sling-casters and stone-casters to let freely at them. 1609 BIBLE (Douay) 2 *Kings* VIII. *comm.*, These were archers and sling-throwers of the guard. 1647 HEXHAM I, A Sling-maker, *een slinger-maker*. 1730 BAILEY (fol.), *Ballistæ Os*,..the Sling Bone, the same with *Astragalus*. 1764 J. FERGUSON *Lect.* ii. 13 A pebble moved round in a sling..will fly off the moment it is set at liberty, by slipping one end of the sling-cord. 1890 *Academy* 2 Aug. 94/1 A small haematite weight, resembling a barrel or sling-bullet in shape.

Sling (slin), *sb.*² Forms: 4 **sleng**(e, **slyngg**, 4–5 **slyng**, 4–6 **slynge**, 7– **sling.** [Perhaps ultimately the same word as prec. The senses correspond to some extent with those of LG. *sling*(e, G. *schlinge*, Sw. *slinga* noose, knot, snare, arm-sling, etc.; also OF. *eslingue* (1322), Sp. and Pg. *eslinga*; Romansch *slinga*. The immediate source of the word in English is not obvious.]

1. A device for securing or grasping bulky or heavy articles while being hoisted or lowered, usually a belt, rope, or chain formed into a loop and fitted with hooks and tackle (cf. quots. 1627, 1769); a loop of this kind by which heavy objects are lifted, carried, or suspended.

1323–4 *Ely Sacr. Rolls* (1907) II. 47 In slyngg emend-and. 2d. Item in uno corrio equino empt. pro le Slyngg, 1s. 4d. 1338 *Roll* in Nicolas *Hist. Royal Navy* (1847) II. 475 La nief appelle la carake,..un bowespret, ove ii. polyves, ..ii. slenges, un trusse. 1485 *Naval Acc. Hen. VII* (1896) 37 Bote and Cokke slyngs, vij. *c* 1515 *Cocke Lorell's B.* 12 Some wounde at yᵉ capstayne..; Some stode at yᵉ slynge. 1551–60 *Invent.* in H. Hall *Eliz. Age* (1886) 153 In the Brewe-house...A paier of slynges ij^{d}. 1627 CAPT. SMITH *Seaman's Gram.* V. 21 Slings are made of a rope spliced at either end into it selfe with one eye at either end, so long as to bee sufficient to receiue the caske;..another sort are made much longer for the hoising of ordnances. 1649 in *Archaeologia* X. 401 One outward wine celler..fitted with..one payre of slinges. 1743 *London & C. Brewer* III. (ed. 2) 186 The heavy Burden of a Barrel of Drink on the Slings. 1769 FALCONER *Dict. Marine* (1780), *Slings*,..a rope whose ends are fixed in such a manner to it's other part, as to encircle a cask, bale, or case, and suspend it whilst hoisting or lowering. 1800 *Asiatic Ann. Reg.* IV. 56/1 Slings were then prepared, and Mrs. Harris and the child were lowered into the boat. 1844 *Regul. & Ord. Army* 351 When the horse is deposited in the hold, and released from the slings. 1876 VOYLE & STEVENSON *Milit. Dict.* 389/1 A sling for lifting a gun off its carriage. *Ibid.* 389/2 *Shot Sling*, a sling for carrying heavy shot or shell.

2. *Naut.* **a.** (See quots.)

c 1625 *Nomenclator Navalis* (MS. Harl. 2301) s.v., There are first slings to sling casks in..; a third sorte is anie Roape or Chaine wherewith wee binde fast the yards [a]loft to the Cross Trees. 1627 CAPT. SMITH *Seaman's Gram.* V. 21. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.* 632 *Yard-slings*, the rope or chain used to support a yard which does not travel up or down a mast.

b. The middle part of a yard (see quot. 1846).

1670–1 NARBOROUGH *Jrnl.* in *Acc. Sev. Late Voy.* I. 159 Broke our Main Topsail-Yard being rotten in the Slings. 1689 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 2505/3 The *St. Albans*..breaking her Fore-yard in the Slings. 1769 FALCONER *Dict. Marine* (1780) s.v. *Yard*, The distance between the slings and the yard-arms..is..divided into quarters. 1797 JERVIS in Nicolas *Disp. Nelson* (1845) II. 335 The Colossus..had her fore and fore-top-sail yards wounded, and they unfortunately broke in the slings. 1830 MARRYAT *King's Own* xvi, The fore-yard of the Frenchman was divided in the slings. 1846 A. YOUNG *Naut. Dict.* 286 *Slings*, that part of a yard encircled by the sling-hoop, which suspends it from the mast, or by which it is hoisted and lowered. *c* 1860 H. STUART *Seaman's Catech.* 76 Topsail yards..are..strengthened by four battens in the slings and quarters.

c. (See quots.)

1769 FALCONER *Dict. Marine* (1780), *Slings of the Buoy*, the ropes which are fastened about it, and by which it is hung. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.* 632 *Buoy-slings* are special fittings adopted in order that a buoy may securely ride on the wave.

3. A leather strap attached to a rifle, etc., enabling it to be carried slung over the shoulder, or on the arm.

1721 *Milit. & Sea Dict.*, *Slings* are Leather Thongs, made fast to both Ends of the Musket, and serving for the Men to hang them by on their Shoulders. 1802 JAMES *Milit. Dict.* s.v., The sling consists of three straps of leather. 1833 M. SCOTT *Tom Cringle* VII, A short gun, with a sling to be used on a march. 1897 *Army & Navy Stores List* 1632 Brown Leather Golf Sling. 1902 *Encycl. Brit.* XXX. 124 The lance..is provided with a sling, through which the trooper passes his right arm when the lance is carried slung.

b. A strap, band, wire, etc., forming a kind of loop by which something is suspended or hung.

1771 SMOLLETT *Humph. Cl.* II. 10 July, The leather sling [in a coach]..cracked. 1843 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* I. 348 The flask..can be then turned round in the slings..to enable it to be repaired. 1852 SEIDEL *Organ* 49 On the lower end of the palate..there is a sling of iron or metallic wire. 1878 HUXLEY *Physiogr.* xvi. 262 This iron is furnished with a shoulder which carries the iron-wire sling.

c. A piece of cloth or other material, formed into a loop and suspended from the neck so as to support an injured arm (or foot).

1720 DE FOE *Capt. Singleton* vi. (1840) 97 The sling his arm hung in. 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* II, He wears his arm in a sling. 1826 S. COOPER *First Lines Surg.* (ed. 5) 114 The arm is to be kept perfectly quiet in a sling. 1860 MRS. CARLYLE *Lett.* III. 51 He came..with his arm in a sling. 1895 ARNOLD & SONS *Catal. Surg. Instr.* 681 Foot Sling, with strap for neck.

†**4.** A noose or snare. *Obs.*

This is a prominent sense of *G. schlinge.*

c 1425 *Cast. Persev.* 1208 in *Macro Plays* 113 *Luxuria.* I may soth synge: 'Mankynde is kawt in my slynge'.

†**5.** ? A quantity (of match) made up in the form of a loop or skein. *Obs.*

1644 PRYNNE & WALKER *Fiennes's Trial* App. 29 Two Barrells of Musket and Carabine shot, and two slings of Match for the use of the said Tower Harris.

6. *techn.* in *Pottery.* (See quot.)

1851–3 *Tomlinson's Cycl. Arts* (1867) II. 343/2 As the clay issues from the pug-mill it is cut into lengths of about 2 feet with a sling, or wire-knife, consisting of a piece of wire with two handles.

7. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *sling-bolt, -rope, -socket*; **sling-cart,** *Mil.* a two-wheeled cart to which a cannon is slung in order to be transported; **sling-dog, -hoop, -life-buoy** (see quots.); **sling-sleeve,** a form of sleeve for mantles, etc., sug-

gestive of a sling for the arm; **sling-wagon**, *Mil.* a wagon for the same purpose as a sling-cart.

In some cases the first element might be taken as the stem of SLING *v.*[2]

1875 BEDFORD *Sailor's Pocket Bk.* vi. (ed. 2) 223 Toggle it with a stretcher through the aftermost of the foremost *sling bolts. 1802 JAMES *Milit. Dict.* s.v. *Ropes*, Drags for the gin, for the *sling-cart and waggon: 1859 F. A. GRIFFITHS *Artill. Man.* (1862) 123 *Sling Cart.* This cart is used for moving heavy guns, not exceeding 65 cwt., on hard, level roads, and for 8-inch, and 10-inch mortars. 1879 *Man. Artill. Exerc.* 510 There are two descriptions of sling carts in the service, both of wood, the one..will carry 3½ tons; the other..56 cwt. 1863 A. YOUNG *Naut. Dict.* 130 Two of this latter kind fastened together through the eyes by a rope..are called *Sling-dogs. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.*, *Sling-dog*, an iron hook with a fang at one end and an eye at the other for a rope. Used in pairs for hoisting, hauling, rafting, etc. 1846 A. YOUNG *Naut. Dict.* 286 A lower yard is hung by chains, called slings, attached to the *sling-hoop and mast head. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.*, *Sling-Hoop*, that which suspends the yard from the mast, by which it is hoisted and lowered. 1882 *Encycl. Brit.* XIV. 572/2 The rescuers haul off the hawser, to which is hung the travelling or *sling lifebuoy. 1325-6 *Ely Sacr. Rolls* (1907) II. 59 In *slyngeropis empt. 1s. 1497 *Naval Acc. Hen. VII* (1896) 91 Slyng Ropes. 1888 *Bow Bells Weekly* 6 Jan. 11/1 Mantles are generally seen either in the mantelet or *sling-sleeve shape. 1896 *Daily News* 10 Oct. 6/3 Sling sleeves are to be seen,..with some fur capes and coats. 1609 HOLLAND *Amm. Marcell.* 222 Yron hookes, from which there hangeth a *sling-socket of tow or yron. 1802 JAMES *Mil. Dict.* s.v. *Rider*, A four-wheel carriage, such as the..block-carriage, and *sling-waggon. 1875 *Encycl. Brit.* II. 664 The sling waggon is composed of a body and limber, and fitted with windlass arrangement so that guns can be slung up underneath.

Sling (slin), *sb.*[3] Also 6 **slyng**. [f. SLING *v.*[1]]

1. The act of slinging, throwing, etc.; a cast, fling, or throw.

The first two examples are somewhat doubtful.

1530 PALSGR. 231/1 Slyng of an horse, *ruade.* 1558 PHAER *Æneid* v. N iij b, And now the right hand stroks, and now the left hand sends the slinges. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* x. 635 At one sling Of thy victorious Arm..Both Sin, and Death, ..Through Chaos [were] hurld. 1849 DE QUINCEY *Eng. Mail Coach* Wks. 1854 IV. 355 With one sling of his victorious arm, he might snatch thee back from ruin. 1850 BLACKIE *Æschylus* I. 58 If with wise sling the merchant fling Into the greedy sea A part to save the whole.

b. The swing *of* a gallop. Cf. SLING *v.*[1] 6.

1852 LEVER *Maurice Tiernay* ix, He took them [*sc.* fences] in the 'sling' of his stretching gallop.

2. *slang.* A drink or draught; a 'pull'. *rare.*

1788 J. MAY *Jrnl. & Lett.* (1873) 26 A case-bottle..filled with Hollands, of which each of us took a sling.

† Sling, *sb.*[4] *Obs.* Also 6 *Sc.* **slung.** [var. of SLANG *sb.*[1], perh. influenced by SLING *sb.*[1]] A serpentine or culverin.

Southey's use of the word in his *Joan of Arc* v. is merely an echo of Drayton (quot. 1627).

1566 in J. J. Cartwright *Chapters Hist. Yks.* (1872) 93 Munition or ordinaunce..abord his shipp,..one saker, 2 quarter slings. *a* 1578 LINDESAY (Pitscottie) *Chron. Scot.* (S.T.S.) I. 251 Quarter fallcouns, slingis, pestelent serpitantis and doubill doggis. 1594 *Extr. Aberd. Reg.* (1848) II. 93 Twa peice of artaill3eirie, callit twa half slungis. 1627 DRAYTON *Agincourt* xciv, Their brazen slings send in the wilde-fire balls. 1627 CAPT. SMITH *Seaman's Gram.* xiv. 66 Chambers is a charge made of brasse or iron which we use to put in at the britch of a sling or Murtherer. 1648 HEXHAM II, *Een Slange*, a Culvering, or a Sling.

attrib. 1547 in Meyrick *Ancient Armour* (1824) III. 9 Slinge shotte, 20, Demi-slinge shotte, 40. 1644 N. DRAKE *Siege of Pontefract* (Surtees) 7 During all this time there was 15 sling-peeses shott. 1736 DRAKE *Eboracum* I. v. 162 Two sling pieces, and one small drake.

Sling (slin), *sb.*[5] [Of doubtful origin: cf. SLING *sb.*[3] 2.]

1. An American drink composed of brandy, rum, or other spirit, and water, sweetened and flavoured. Cf. GIN-SLING.

1807 JANSON *Stranger in Amer.* 299 The first craving of an American in the morning is for ardent spirits mixed with sugar, mint, or some other hot herb, and which are called slings. 1836 MARRYAT *Midsh. Easy* (1863) 271 You won't take a glass of sling this fine night with a countryman? 1853 WOLFF *Pictures Sp. Life* 38 Beverages..unequalled even in Paris, or in the land flowing with sling and coblers. 1871 MRS. STOWE *My Wife & I* ix, When the public call for hot brandy sling.

attrib. 1807 J. HARRIOTT *Struggles thro. Life* II. 110 Mr. Miles..served his customers with sling-drams, grog, or cider, himself. 1848 BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.* s.v. *Liquor*, Slingflip.

2. The juice of the sugar-cane, as obtained in the manufacture of sugar.

1826 H. N. COLERIDGE *Six Months W. Indies* (1832) 65 There is so much trash, so much scum, and sling, and molasses, that my nerves have sometimes sunk under it. 1871 KINGSLEY *At Last* xvi, If..care were taken..not to spoil the preserves..by swamping them with sugar or sling. 1885 C. G. W. LOCK *Workshop Rec.* Ser. IV. 163/2 The difficulty is determining the exact moment when the boiling of the 'sling' in the striking-teach must cease.

Sling (slin), *v.*[1] Pa. t. and pple. **slung** (slʌŋ). Forms: *Inf.* 4-6 **slynge** (6 **sklynge**), 5-6 **slyng** (5 **solyng**), 5- **sling.** *Pa. t.* 3-6 **slong** (5 **sclong**), 3-5 **alonge**, 7- **slung**; 4-8 (9 *dial.*) **slang**, 4-6 **slange** (5 **slaunge**); 6-7 (9 *dial.*) **slinged.** *Pa. pple.* 5 **slongyn**, **-ene**, 6 **-en**; 5 **slungyn**, **-in**, **-en**, 7- **slung**, 9 *dial.* **slinged.** [prob. ad. ON. *slyngva* (pa. t. *slyng*, *slungu*, pa. pple. *slungenn*) in the same sense; cf. Norw. *slyngja*, Da. *slynge* (Sw. *slunga*).

A strong verb *slingan* (*slang*, *slung*-) is also found in OHG. (and OE.?), and is represented by MHG., (M)LG., and MDu. *slingen* (G. *schlingen*), but usually has the sense 'to creep, wind, twist', etc., although the sense 'to throw, sling' appears in MHG. and mod.G. dialects. (Kilian's '*slinghen*, funda jacere' is not otherwise certified as a Flemish use.) OF. *eslinguer*, *eslinder* (mod.Norm. and Pic. *élinguer*) is of Teutonic origin, but its immediate source is not clear.

A weak verb from the stem *slang*- is represented by ON. *slængva*, *-ja* (Icel. and Norw. *slengja*, Sw. *slänga*, Da. *slænge*), and by LG. *slengen*, G. *schlengen*. The ON. form would have given early ME. **sleng*, and this would subsequently have become *sling*.]

I. *trans.* **1. a.** To strike, to bring or knock *down*, by means of a sling. *rare.*

a 1225 *Juliana* 63 (Bodl. MS.), Þe lutle dauiđ..slong & of-sloh wiđ a stan to deaðe þe stronge Golie. 1699 POTTER *Antiq. Greece* III. iv. II. 52 We are told by some..that young Children were not allow'd any Food by their Mothers, 'till they could sling it down from the Beam, where it was plac'd aloft.

b. To throw or cast (stones, etc.) by means of a sling. Also *fig.*

c 1315 SHOREHAM VI. 26 Þou ert þe slinge, þy sone þe ston Þat dauy slange golye op-on. 1533 MORE *Answ. Poysoned Bk.* Wks. 1126/1 An heauy thing it is to here of hys yong foolishe Dauid, that hath thus..with the slyng of hys heresyes slonken [*sic*] hymselfe to the deuill. 1539 BIBLE 1 *Sam.* xvii. 49 Dauid put his hande in his bagge, and toke out a stone, and slange it. 1560 — (Geneva) *Judges* xx. 16 All these colde sling stones at an heere breadth, and not faile. 1648 *Hunting of Fox* 26 One of which [stones] being sling'd against the face of that uncircumciz'd Philistine, made him measure his length on the earth. 1737 [see SLING *sb.*[1] 1]. 1825 SCOTT *Betrothed* iv, A hail-storm of shafts, javelins, and stones, shot, darted, and slung by the Welsh. 1861 C. READE *Cloister & H.* xliii, The besiegers..kept constantly slinging smaller stones on to the platform.

c. *absol.* To cast or discharge missiles by means of a sling; to use a sling. Also *fig.*

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 459/2 Slyngyn, *fundo*, *fundibalo.* 1530 PALSGR. 721/2, I holde the a penye I slynge as farre as thou. 1577 HANMER *Anc. Eccl. Hist.* (1663) 30 They vexed one another, they slinged one at another, but there was none to bridle them. 1623 BINGHAM *Xenophon* 53 The Rhodians slinged further, than the Persians could sling. 1861 READE *Cloister & H.* xliii, The besieged slung at the tower, and struck it often.

2. To throw, cast, hurl, or fling (a person or thing) in some direction or to some point. Usually const. with preps. or advs.

Common in 14-15th cent. Now chiefly *dial.* or *colloq.*

c 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 355 Þat bodi..into ane diche man it drov3,..and þare-inne man it slong. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 8930 Þar was a stank bot littel fra,..þar-in þe king[es] tre þai slang. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Manc. T.* 202 To þe crowe he stert..and out at dore him slong. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 3217 Sum þat were slayne & slungen to ground. *c* 1440 *Gesta Rom.* lxx. (Harl. MS.), That we shulde..take him, and sling him in our ovyn. 1530 PALSGR. 721/2 And thou medell with me, I wyll slynge the in the fyre. *a* 1547 SURREY in *Tottel's Misc.* (Arb.) 4 The adder all her sloughe awaye she slinges. 1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* (S.T.S.) I. 196 He slingis the ansinzie out of his hand. 1684 T. BURNET *Theory Earth* I. xii. 166 How were these great bodies slung thorough the Air from their respective Seas. 1698 FRYER *Acc. E. India & P.* 36 The Platform of the City mounted with Brass Pieces that slung their Shot an incredible way. *c* 1715 RAMSAY *Vision* xix. in *Evergreen* (1761) I. 224 Pan foryets to tune his Reid, And slings it cairless bye. 1835 CROCKETT *Tour Down East* 37 When the captain told them I was [on board], they slung their hats, and gave three cheers. 1880 F. W. BURBIDGE *Gardens of Sun* xi. 209 The imp took up one of the chocolate cups..and then slung it out at the open door. 1901 *N. & Q.* 9th Ser. VIII. 215/1 A..spud, with which lumps of earth were dug up and slung at straying sheep.

fig. *a* 1834 LAMB *Three Graves*, Rivers of blood from dripping traitors spilt, By treachery slung from poverty to guilt.

† b. To cast away. *Obs.*

c 1440 *York Myst.* xxxii. 321 As touchyng þis money..þat Judas..has wauyd away,..Howe saie ȝe þerby? *Anna.* Sir, sen he it slang, we schall it saue. *c* 1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 4557 Gude men had grace, schrewes ware slongen, To drery dede doune war þai dongen.

c. Of sheep: To cast (a lamb). Cf. SLINK *v.* 3.

So LG. *slengen*, G. *schlingen* (see Grimm).

1750 [see SLUNG *ppl. a.*[1] 1]. 1794 *Young's Annals Agric.* XXII. 225 Ewes are apt to sling their lambs.

d. *absol.* To strike or launch *out* in boxing.

1812 *Sporting Mag.* XL. 174 He seems to have copied from Crib, as he slings out well with the left hand in retreating.

3. In various colloquial or slang uses.

a. To utter (words). **b.** To hand round, distribute, dispense. **c.** *To sling ink*, to write articles, etc. **d.** *To sling one's Daniel* or *hook*, to make off, clear out. **e.** To use or relate to a person. **f.** (See quots.) **g.** To give up, abandon.

a. *c* 1400 *Laud Troy Bk.* 6581 But Eneas be war, he abyes The bolde wordes that [he] dede sclyng. **b.** 1860 *Slang Dict.* 218 *Sling*, to pass from one person to another. 1889 H. O'REILLY *50 Yrs. on Trail* 7 As junior waiter..I could sling dishes around with the best of them. 1903 *Daily Chron.* 31 Aug. 3/4, I have a friend in Beira,..who 'slings drinks' in a saloon. I believe he slings them very efficiently. **c.** 1870 'ARTEMUS WARD' *Whs.* 305 You ask me, sir, to sling ink for your paper. **d.** 1873 J. GREENWOOD *In Strange Company* 338 [He] swore..that if we did not that instant 'sling our Daniels',..he would [etc.]. 1874 *Slang Dict.* 295 *Sling your hook*, a polite invitation to move-on. 1897 *Daily News* 1 Sept. 2/2 If you don't sling yer hook this minute, here goes a pewter pot at yer head. **e.** 1881 MRS. LYNN LINTON *My Love* I. xii. 220, I am awfully sorry if I slung you any slang. 1904 *Strand Mag.* Mar. 254/1 Maybe you think I am just slinging you a yarn. **f.** *c* 1890 *5 Years' Penal Servitude* ii. 56 'Slinging his hook' is the professional term for picking pockets. *Ibid.* 59 His 'mate' soon finds out who the 'blooming screw' is that 'slung the smash'—i.e. brought in the tobacco. **g.** 1902 H. LAWSON *Children of Bush* 240 Just you sling it [i. e. drink] for a year and then look back...Sling it for good, Joe.

† 4. To beat or whip (the white of an egg). *Obs.*

c 1450 *M. E. Med. Bk.* (Heinrich) 196 [Take] þe whyte of viij. eyren, & slyng hem wel.., & euer styre faste. *Ibid.* 197 [Take] ix. whytes of eyron, & slyngge hem, & mak hem in gleyr.

II. *intr.* **5.** To move with some force or speed; to fly as if thrown by a sling; to fling oneself.

13.. *K. Alis.* 5538 (Laud MS.), On þe destrer onon he slang, Als arewe of bowe forþ he sprang. *c* 1400 *Laud Troy Bk.* 14252 He let his stede to him flyng Als harde as he myght slyng. *c* 1430 *Hymns Virgin* (1867) 120 Thorowe the strength off þe wynd Into the Welken hitt schall slynge. 1582 STANYHURST *Æneis* (Arb.) 137 From whence, with flownce furye slinging, Stoans, and burlye bulets, lyke tamponds, maynelye be towring. 1790 BEATSON *Naval & Mil. Mem.* I. 214 The ship, for some time, was ungovernable, and slung up in the wind. 1821 CLARE *Vill. Minstr.* I. 65 Thou corner-chair, In which I've oft slung back in deep despair.

6. To advance, walk, etc., with long or swinging strides. Chiefly *Sc.* or *north.* and *Austral.*

1808 in JAMIESON. 1818 J. HOGG *Brownie of Bodsbeck* iii, I slings aye on wi' a gay lang step. 1828 CARR *Craven Gloss.* s. v., 'My horse slings away at a girt rate,' that is, he quits the ground with apparent ease. 1890 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Col. Reformer* vi. 48 All day they was very sulky and slinged along, and wouldn't feed. 1893 J. A. BARRY *Steve Brown's Bunyip* 17, I saw the man slinging off into the scrub.

7. Of a millstone: To swing from side to side.

1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 1020/1.

Sling (slin), *v.*[2] Also 6 **slyng.** [f. SLING *sb.*[2]]

1. *trans.* To place in, or secure with, a sling or slings in order to admit of or facilitate hoisting or lowering; to raise up or let down by means of a sling or slings.

1522 *MS. Acc. St. John's Hosp., Canterb.*, For the dyner of iij men that holp slyng and lyft the cow that broke her legg. *c* 1625 *Nomenclator Navalis* (MS. Harl. 2301), *Sling* is to make faste anie Caske, Ordnance, Yarde, or ye like in a paire of Slings. 1669 STURMY *Mariner's Mag.* v. xii. 81 [He may] have himself [let] down..to the bottom of the Sea..and sling the Ship, and Guns. 1771 LUCKOMBE *Hist. Print.* 327 He..slings the Stone in two strong pack-threds, placing one towards either end of the Stone. 1803 *Phil. Trans.* XCIII. 322 The ship being in the fore-mentioned state,..I next proceeded to sling her; which was done with two nineteen-inch cables. 1869 RANKINE *Machine & Hand-tools* Pl. O 3, It terminates with the usual hook and swivel for slinging the load.

b. With adverbial complement.

1627 CAPT. SMITH *Seaman's Gram.* xiii. 60 Let vs..sling a man ouer boord to stop the leakes. 1692 DRYDEN *Cleomenes* I. i, Amidst the shouts Of mariners, and busy care to sling His horses soon ashore, he saw not me. 1833 T. HOOK *Parson's Dau.* III. xi, The horses were slung down into the stalls. 1890 DOYLE *White Company* xv, Horse after horse was slung by main force up from the barges.

2. *Naut.* To pass chains or lashings round (a sail or yard) to secure it to the mast.

1626 CAPT. SMITH *Accid. Yng. Seamen* 6 Fore-mast men, to take in the Topsayles,..Furle, and Sling the maine Saile. 1669 STURMY *Mariner's Mag.* I. ii. 19 Sling our Main Yard, with the Chains in the Main-top. 1777 COOK *Voy. S. Pole* III. ii. II. 17 The yard is slung nearly in the middle, or upon an equipoise. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.* 632. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2211/2 To sling the yards for action is to secure them at the slings by iron chains fitted for the purpose.

3. To hang or suspend, to fix or fasten (something) about the person in a sling or in a loose manner so as to be carried easily.

Usually const. with preps., as *across*, *from*, or *over* (the shoulders or back); *at*, *by*, (*up*)*on*, *to*, etc. (the side, arm, etc.); *about* or *round* (the neck or person).

1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. xix. (Roxb.) 153/1 Granadeers haue a care. Sling your musketts. 1791 COWPER *Iliad* I. 55 The God,..with his radiant bow And his full quiver o'er his shoulder slung, Marched in his anger. 1814 S. ROGERS *Jacqueline* I. 41 He slung his old sword by his side. 1833 *Regul. & Instr. Cavalry* I. 169 The lance is slung on the left arm. 1859 JEPHSON *Brittany* vi. 82 A guitar slung round her neck by a blue ribbon. 1885 *Law Rep.* 14 Q.B.D. 725 A police constable saw the appellant..with some rabbits slung over his back.

4. To hang up or suspend, esp. from one point to another; to put up (a hammock).

1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Past.* III. 150 From Rivers drive the Kids, and sling your Hook. 1706 E. WARD *Wooden World Dissected* (1708) 97 Sling him up in a Hammock, and he shall lie a whole Night. 1730 A. GORDON *Maffei's Amphith.* 18 These Theatres were not founded in the Ground, but slung, and supported in the Air; that is, they both rested on Hinges and Pivots. 1779 *Mirror* No. 17 The poor little creatures sleep..in a hammock, slung up to the roof. 1824 MISS L. M. HAWKINS *Annaline* II. 213 Attendants [were] slinging their grass woven hammocks. 1853 SIR H. DOUGLAS *Milit. Bridges* (ed. 3) 354 The platform or road-way is slung, by vertical tackles, to points equidistant from each other. 1883 *Law Rep.* 11 Q.B.D. 506 The dock owner supplied..an ordinary stage to be slung..outside the ship for the purpose of painting her.

b. *To sling the monkey*, a kind of game played by sailors.

1838 *Bentley's Miscell.* III. 588 But I say,..did you ever

play *sling the monkey*? *Ibid.* 589 I'm bless'd, shipmates, if we didn't sling the monkey in fine style. 1893 SLOANE-STANLEY *Rem. Midshipm. Life* II. iii. 51 Whilst we Middies were playing sling the monkey the ship's company were diverting themselves in a variety of ways. [A full description of the game is given on page 50.]

5. *techn.* in *Pottery.* (See quot.)

1851–3 *Tomlinson's Cycl. Arts* (1867) II. 343/2 If the clay be very foul, or full of stones, it is slung; that is, as the clay issues from the pug-mill it is cut into lengths of about 2 feet with a sling, or wire-knife.

Sling, *v.*[3] *U.S.* [f. SLING *sb.*[5] 1.] *intr.* To drink or take sling.

1836–8 HALIBURTON *Clockm.* (1862) 444, I ordered a pint o' the best [toddy], and so we slinged. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.* 632 On the American coast..the custom of *slinging* prevails..extensively, even where intoxication is despised.

Sling-, the stem of SLING *v.*[1] used in combs., as †**sling-dart**, a military engine for throwing darts; **sling-fruit**, a fruit which forcibly ejects the seeds when ripe; †**sling-net**, a casting-net; **sling-shot**, *U.S.* a catapult; **sling-snake**, *Zool.* a name given to a genus of snakes belonging to the Colubrine group of the *Colubridæ*; **sling-spear**, a spear hurled with a throwing-stick; **sling-trot**, a loose swinging trot or pace.

1600 HOLLAND *Livy* XLII. LXV. 1154 Most hurt they had by certaine weapons called Cestrosphendonæ (*sling darts). A new kind of dart this was and lately devised. *a* 1899 OLIVER tr. *Kerner's N. H. Plants* II. 833 The fruits of *Dorycnium* and *Acanthus* may be taken as types of a large group designated by the name of *Sling-fruits. 1589 FLEMING *Virg. Georg.* I. 6 Now one with *slingnet beats vpon the riuer brode and large, Reaching vnto the very depth. 1895 *Outing* XXVII. 51/1 The natives, who now and then throw stones from a *sling-shot at the bolder birds. 1896 LYDEKKER *Roy. Nat. Hist.* V. 205 We mention as a second genus of this group the *sling-snakes, of which there are about twenty known species. 1888 ANDREWS *Temple Mystic* 79 None further the *sling-spear threw. 1860 W. H. RUSSELL *Diary in India* I. xvi. 247 Stewart and I at once started off at a *sling trot. 1866 MRS. GASKELL *Wives & Daughters* xxix, The long sling-trot, so well known to the country people as the doctor's pace.

Slinge (slindʒ), *v. dial.* Also **slindge, sleenge.** [Of obscure origin.] *intr.* To slink, skulk, lounge, loaf, etc.

1747 RELPH *Poems* Gloss., *To slinge*, to go creepingly away, as ashamed. 1828 CARR *Craven Gloss., Slinge*, to skulk, to sneak, to creep about. 1834 LOVER *Leg. Irel.* Ser. II. 232 What are you slindging there for, when it's minding your work you ought to be? 1842 — *Handy Andy* xiv, Idle blackguards who were slingeing about the place eternally.

Slinger (sli·ŋəɹ), *sb.*[1] Also 5–6 **slynger, -ar(e.** [f. SLING *v.*[1] + -ER. Cf. OHG. *slinga-, slengari, -eri*, etc. (MHG. *slingære, -er*, G. *schlinger*), MDu. *slinger*, MSw. *sliungare* (Sw. *slungare*); also OF. *eslingour, -ur*, etc.]

1. One who casts missiles by means of a sling, *esp.* a soldier armed with a sling. Now chiefly *arch.* or *Hist.*

1382 WYCLIF 2 *Kings* iii. 25 The cyte is enuyround of slyngers. *a* 1400 *Octouian* 1599 (W.), Spermen, slyngers, and arblasteres. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 459/2 Slyngare, *fundibularius*. *c* 1550 N. SMYTH tr. *Herodian* III. 33 All the Mauritanyan Slyngers that were in his seruyce. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* 211 The Inhabitants [of Dorset] of all English-men were the cunningest slingers. 1671 MILTON *Samson* 1619 Behind [him] Archers, and Slingers, Cataphracts and Spears. 1737 WHISTON *Josephus, Wars Jews* I. vii. § 3 The slingers of stones beat off those that stood above them. 1788 GIBBON *Decl. & F.* I. V. 241 The heights had been occupied by the archers and slingers of the confederates. 1825 SCOTT *Betrothed* iv, Their own archers..were supported by numerous bodies of darters and slingers. 1870 EMERSON *Soc. & Sol., Work & Days*, The sympathy of eye and hand by which..a practised slinger hits his mark with a stone.

2. One who flings or throws. (Cf. *Ink-slinger.*)

1902 *Sat. Rev.* 5 July 12/2 Last year he was a mere slinger, to-day he bowls a capital length.

Slinger (sli·ŋəɹ), *sb.*[2] [f. SLING *v.*[2]] A workman employed in slinging.

1881 *Daily News* 26 Nov. 7/1 A slinger in the employ of Messrs. Maudslay, the engineers,..who was killed by the fall of a boiler plate which he was..slinging.

Slinger (sli·ŋəɹ), *sb.*[3] [f. SLING *sb.*[5]] One who is given to drinking sling.

1807 JANSON *Stranger in Amer.* 299, I know of no custom more destructive than that which is practised by slingers and eleveners.

†**Sli·nger,** *v. Sc. Obs.*[-1] [ad. Du. *slingeren* (Fris. *slingerje*) or LG. *slingern* (Da. *slingre*, G. *schlingern*), frequent. of *slingen*: see SLING *v.*[1]] *intr.* To swing, roll.

1767 MESTON *Poems* 129 As ships, that bear more sail then ballast, Slinger before the very smallest Unequal blast.

Slinget (sli·nɛt). *dial.* [dim. of *sling* var. of SLANG *sb.*[2]] = SLANG *sb.*[2]

1790 GROSE *Prov. Gloss., Slinget*, a narrow slip of ground. 1826 *Rep. Comm. Inquiry Charities* (1827) XVII. 832 A slinget of ground. 1839– in dial. glossaries (Heref., Worc., Glouc., etc.).

Slinging (sli·ŋiŋ), *vbl. sb.*[1] [f. SLING *v.*[1] + -ING [1].] The action of the vb. in various senses.

13.. *K. Alis.* 1616 (Laud MS.), Wiþ gredyng, & wiþ þretyng, And wilde fire slyngyng. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 6006 Myche slaghte in the slade, & slyngyng of horse! *Ibid.* 7693 Gret slaght in þe slade, & slyngyng to ground. 1648 WILKINS *Math. Magic* I. xvii. 120 The mother would not give any meat to her child, till he could hit it with slinging. 1801 STRUTT *Sports & Past.* II. ii. 65 The art of Slinging or casting of stones with a sling, is of high antiquity.

b. *attrib.*, as *slinging-cast, -engine, -machine.*

1657 *North's Plutarch, Add. Lives* 5 Archimedes..caused a slinging Engine to be made of a wonderfull height and greatness. *a* 1693 *Urquhart's Rabelais* III. xii. 93 The..slinging Casts of the Vulcanian Thunderbolts. 1860 *Chambers's Encycl.* I. 640/1 The *mate-griffon* and *mate-funda*, both slinging-machines. 1861 READE *Cloister & H.* xliii, The besiegers turned two of their slinging engines on this monster.

Sli·nging, *vbl. sb.*[2] [f. SLING *v.*[2]] The act of securing, suspending, lifting, etc. by means of a sling.

c 1635 Capt. N. BOTELER *Dial. Sea Services* (1685) 165 The third sort of Slings, is that which is here mentioned in the slinging of the Yards. 1833 *Regul. & Instr. Cavalry* I. 169 The slinging of the lance on either side..requires much practice. 1844 *Regul. & Ord. Army* 351 Horses are much less liable to be injured by the operation of slinging after having undergone moderate exercise.

attrib. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2203/2 Hog-slaughtering apparatus consists of scalding-tubs and slinging devices.

Sli·nging, *ppl. a.* [f. SLING *v.*[1] + -ING [2].] Of a trot or pace: Characterized by long swinging strides; loose and swinging.

c 1843 M. J. HIGGINS *Ess.* (1875) 65 Off he goes at a slinging trot, clearing every obstacle which presents itself. 1883 *Harper's Mag.* 888/1 The priest walked onward at a long, slinging pace. 1897 W. H. THORNTON *Reminic. W.-Co. Clergyman* I. 1 We boys..started away at a slinging trot.

Sli·ng(s)man. [f. SLING *sb.*[1]] A slinger.

1579–80 NORTH *Plutarch* (1595) 627 Two thousand archers and slingmen. 1605 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. iii. 1. *Vocation* 825 A band of Sling-men he anon doth force. 1768 BARETTI *Manners & Customs Italy* II. 241 One of the slingsmen had the insolence to fling a stone where she was. 1895 SIR H. MAXWELL *Duke of Britain* ix. 133 The ordinary spearmen, slingsmen,..bowmen, or mounted troopers.

Sli·ng-stone. Also **slingstone, sling stone;** *Sc.* 5 **slong,** 8 **slung stane.** [SLING *sb.*[1] Cf. older G. *slingen-, schlingstein*, ON. *slongusteinn*, MSw. *slyngo-, slongasten* (Sw. *slungsten*), older Da. *slynge-, slingesten.*]

1. A stone or pebble used as a missile to be cast by a sling.

c 1374 CHAUCER *Troylus* II. 941 (Corpus MS.), Who hath ben wel Ibete To-day with swerdes and with slyng stones [*v.r.* slynke stones]. 14.. *Lat.-Eng. Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 608 *Risidus*, a slyngeston. 1456 SIR G. HAYE *Law Arms* (S.T.S.) 169 David..vencust that grete Goulyas, with..his slong and his slong stanis. 1535 COVERDALE *Zech.* ix. 15 They shall consume and deuoure, and subdue them with slynge stones. 1682 BUNYAN *Holy War* (1905) 373 The sling-stones were to him and his like Hornets. 1768 Ross *Helenore* 78 Tho' I'm amo' you cast like a slung stane, I was like ither fouk at hame ye ken. 1865 LUBBOCK *Prehist. Times* 76 That some have really served as slingstones seems to be indicated by their presence in the peatmosses. 1866 LAING *Prehist. Rem. Caithn.* 22 Several round pebbles or slingstones about the size of an apple.

2. A stone used as an anchor; a killick.

1865 J. C. WILCOCKS *Sea-Fisherman* 117 A stone for mooring is termed a sling stone or killick, and should be attached to a piece of half-worn rope.

Slink (sliŋk), *sb.* Also 7 **slinke, slincke,** 8 **solink.** [Related to SLINK *v.*]

I. 1. An abortive or premature calf or other animal. Chiefly *dial.*

1638 PEACHAM *Valley of Varietie* 32 The Germans loath to eate of a Slinke (or yong Calfe, cut out of the Cowes belly before it be calved). 1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), *Slink*, a cast Calf. *a* 1800 PEGGE *Suppl. Grose.* 1826– in dial. glossaries (Yorks., Lancs., Chesh., Derb., Nhp., Wilts., etc.). 1895 *Melbourne Argus* 26 Nov., As to 'slinks' a great scare seemed to have been created, but from a health point of view they were merely indigestible.

† b. *transf.* An illegitimate child; a bastard.

1702 COMBERBACH in Byron & Elms *Life* 391 (Cent.), What did you go to London for but to drop your slink?

c. The skin or flesh of a premature calf or other animal. Also *transf.* (quot. 1816).

(*a*) 1741 *Compl. Fam.-Piece* I. i. 57 Take liquid Styrax, spread it thin upon Sclink, or some very fine Kid's Leather. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade, Slinks*, the skins of prematurely born lambs, calves, etc.

(*b*) 1808 JAMIESON s.v., When this [flesh] is palmed on an ignorant purchaser for veal, it is called *slink.* 1816 SCOTT *Antig.* xv, He hasna settled his [butcher's] account wi' my gudeman..for this twalmonth—he's but slink, I doubt.

2. *attrib.* a. Designating the skins or meat obtained from premature or abortive animals.

Sometimes also applied to inferior, bad, or diseased meat.

(*a*) 1607 T. COCKS *Acc.* 23 May (MS.), For ij payre of slincke skynne gloves ij *s.* viij *d.* 1678 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1308/4 A Slink skin Purse. 1711 *Act* 10 *Anne* c. 26 § 1 All Slink Calve-skins..dressed..with the Hair on. 1794 in Scott *Statist. Acc. Perth* (1796) 38 A good many small and slink kid, and mort lamb-skins. 1812 J. SMYTH *Pract. Customs* (1821) 108 Slink Foal Skins are always entered, and the Duty charged thereon, as Horse Hides.

(*b*) 1770 P. SKELTON *Wks.* V. 599 Would they indulge in bear bread and slink veal, while their master lives on leeks and cold potatoes? 1820 C. R. MATURIN *Melmoth* I. i. 10 There was the slink-veal flanked with tripe. 1892 *Pall Mall G.* 28 Oct. 4/3 Preston was deluged with 'slink' meat, owing to the laxity of their sanitary system. 1895 *Melbourne Argus* 26 Nov., In some countries unborn calves were sold as 'slink' meat.

b. Designating animals of this kind.

1750 *Student* I. 340 This membrane does not properly appertain to dogs, etc. yet it may be found in slink calves, *a* 1825 FORBY *Voc. E. Anglia* 307 *Slink-calf*, the abortion of a cow. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade, Slink-lamb*, one that has been dropped or born prematurely.

c. In sense 'trading in or selling slink or diseased meat', as *slink-butcher.*

1832 *Examiner* 89/2 On Sunday morning last a number of slink butchers from Manchester fetched it away in a cart. 1886 *St. James' Gaz.* 14 May 4 (Cassell), The protection of our own slink-butchers from any dishonourable competition ..with their industry.

d. *Slink-weed*, rose-bay, willow-herb. *U.S.*

1889 *Chambers's Encycl.* IV. 401/1 This species [*Epilobium angustifolium*] with several others is common in North America, where it is sometimes called..slink-weed, from a belief that it causes cows to 'slink' or miscarry.

II. 3. *dial.* or *colloq.* A sneaking, shirking, cowardly fellow; a sneak or skulk.

1824 MACTAGGART *Gallovid. Encycl.* 398 Tho' ye were an unco slink, I'm sad without ye. 1830 *Examiner* 813/1 He had given Sack a turn because he was such a d—d slink. 1862 *Morning Star* 24 Jan. 6/5 He had been called a skulk, a slink, a moral coward.

Comb. 1842 LOVER *Handy Andy* xiv, He's blackguardin' and blastin' away about that quare slink-lookin' chap.

b. *dial.* and *U.S.* (See quots.)

1863 WISE *New Forest* Gloss. s.v., 'A slink of a thing'.. means either a poor, weak, starved creature, or anything which is small and not of good quality. 1891 *Cent. Dict., Slink*,..a thin or poor and bony fish, especially such a mackerel.

4. A slinking, sneaking, or stealthy pace or tread.

1853 G. J. CAYLEY *Las Alforjas* I. 151 He decamped, with a sort of half slink, half swagger. 1896 F. A. STEEL *Face Waters* II. i, Those who went forth with the dog's trot might return with the cat's slink.

b. A downcast or furtive glance or look. *rare.*

1863 MRS. WHITNEY *Faith Gartney* XXXVI, The boy showed a slink in his eyes, like one used to shoving and rebuff.

Slink (sliŋk), *a.*[1] *dial.* [? Related to SLINK *sb.* and *v.*] Lank, lean, poor, ill-conditioned.

1673 MRS. BEHN *Dutch Lover* III. ii, Do you remember.. when instead of a Periwig, you wore a slink, greasie hair of your own. 1818 SCOTT *Rob Roy* XXVII, It was a slink beast, and wad hae eaten its head aff, standing at Luckie Flyter's at livery. 1823 E. MOOR *Suffolk Words* 361 *Slink*, lank, slender; combined with awkwardness. 1889 *Cent. Dict.* s.v. *Mackerel, Slink mackerel*, a poor thin mackerel taken among schools of fat ones in the fall of the year. 1892 EWING *Poems* 16 (E. D. D.), Their coachman freen', leen, slink and lang.

Slink, *a.*[2] (or *adv.*). [f. SLINK *v.*] Slinking, furtive, submissive.

1792 WOLCOT (P. Pindar) *Ode to Ld. Lonsdale* Wks. 1812 III. 45 Juries before the Judges won't look slink. No, No; they fancy they've a right to think.

Slink (sliŋk), *v.* Pa. t. and pa. pple. **slunk** (slʌŋk). Forms: 1 **slincan,** 4 **slynke,** 6 **slynk, slinck-,** 7 **slinke,** 6– **slink**; 5 **sclynk,** 6 **sclink**; 5 **slenk.** *Pa. t.* 1 **sclunccon,** 6 **slo(o)nke,** 7 **slonk, slunke,** 7– **slunk,** 7, 9 **slank, slinked.** *Pa. pple.* 7– **slunk,** 9 *dial.* **slunken, slinked.** [OE. *slincan* to creep, crawl (of reptiles), = LG. *slinken* (MSw. and Sw. dial. *slinka*), G. *schlinken* (see Grimm). Cf. MDu. and MLG. *sliuken* to sink, subside. See also SLENCH *v.*]

1. *intr.* Of persons or animals: To move, go, walk, etc. in a quiet, stealthy, or sneaking manner. Usu. const. with preps. and advs.

For OE. examples, in the sense 'to creep or crawl', see Bosworth-Toller, s.v. *Slincan.*

a. c 1374 CHAUCER *Troylus* III. 1535 He softe into his bed gan for to slynke To slepe longe. *c* 1400 *Beryn* 3334 Som of 3ew shall be rizt feyn to sclynk a-wey & hyde. 1448 *Paston Lett.* IV. 19 He slenkyd behynd and toke his master on the hepe suyche a stroke that..brake his hepe. 1567 MAPLET *Gr. Forest* 105 She..commeth againe steeling and slinketh into his companie. 1582 STANYHURST *Æneis* I. (Arb.) 25 Antenor was habil, from Grekish coompanye slincking, Too passe through Greceland. 1624 J. GEE *Foot out of Snare* iii. 22 The poor husband is fain to slink away hungry to his rest. 1671 FLAVEL *Fount. of Life* xxiii. 69 The Wretch slinked away from him into the city. 1735 SOMERVILLE *Chase* III. 184 The wily Fox..slinks behind And slily creeps thro' the same beaten Track. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* xlix, A withered, old, lean man,..slinking about Gray's Inn of mornings chiefly, and dining alone at clubs. 1857 DICKENS *Lett.* (1880) II. 28, I think I should slink into a corner and cry. 1879 FARRAR *St. Paul* (1883) 373 He had to slink into Thessalonica incognito and by night.

β. 1534 MORE *Comf. agst. Trib.* I. Wks. 1162/2 Then left them their gameners and slily slonke awaye. 1587 GOLDING *De Mornay* XXXIII. (1592) 534 When a plague was begunne [Apollonius] gaue warning of it: and when it grew strong, he sloonke away. 1600 HOLLAND *Livy* XLIV. XIV. 1199 The Thracians durst not goe abourd.., but slunke every man away to his own home. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* IV. 602 For Beast and Bird, They to thir grassie Couch, these to thir Nests Were slunk. 1725 DE FOE *Voy. r. World* (1840) 40 Will Jones slunk in among the rest. 1786 HAN. MORE *Florio* II. 183 The din alarm'd the frighten'd deer Who in a corner slunk for fear. 1815 SCOTT *Guy M.* II, He slunk from college by the most secret paths he could discover. 1883 STEVENSON *Treas. Isl.* XXI, We'all slunk back to our places.

γ. 1656 S. HOLLAND *Zara* III. V. 198 The Champion therefore, having imbraced Soto,..slank down into his bed the second time. 1824 LANDOR *Imag. Conv., Southey & Porson* Wks. 1853 I. 17/2 There were some few who slank obliquely from them as they passed. 1896 'C. BEDE' *College Life* 155 Wall-time came, and I slank across the Quad. for my dinner. 1879 FARRAR *St. Paul* II. 145 The false brethren secretly introduced, who slank in to spy out our liberty.

b. *transf.* or *fig.* in various contexts.
An OE. example occurs in *Be Domes Dæge* 240.
1533 More *Debell. of Salem* Wks. 968/1 To hide the trouthe oute of syght, [and] slinke into lurkes lane. 1602 Marston *Antonio's Rev.* I. v, Whom fretful gaules of chance..Makes not his reason slinke. 1657 Austen *Fruit Trees* II. 104 Being by Christ told what to do, he slinks back from Christ. 1664 Butler *Hud.* II. iii. 112 When Brass and Pewter hap to stray And Linnen slinks out of the way. 1806 Beresford *Miseries Hum. Life* VI. XXXV, Seeing the sun quietly slink behind a mass of black clouds. 1822 Hazlitt *Table-t.* Ser. II. vi. (1869) 136, I should not be pleased to see him slink out of his acknowledged opinion. 1858 Holland *Titcomb's Lett.* viii. 241 Temptations that..slink from him without attack.

†**c.** To skulk, hide oneself. *Obs. rare.*
a 1575 *Pol. Verg. Eng. Hist.* (Camden, No. 36) 71 Catus Decianus..slinkinge in the middest of this feare, passed into Fraunce.

2. *trans.* **a.** To draw quietly; to slip. *rare*—1.
1626 in Foster *Eng. Factories India* (1909) III. 137 Perceiveing the President..more forward then himself, upon faire and equall tearmes which cutt off his advantagious devices, he slonk his head out of the coller, and so the project dying [etc.].

b. To avoid, shirk, evade. *rare*—1.
1657 G. Starkey *Nature's Explic.* Ep. Rdr. 30 If I slink the proof of experiment, let me be reputed what they please.

†**c.** To hang (the head). *Obs.*—1
1682 Dryden & Lee *Dk. Guise* III. i, Yet Spight of all this Factor of the Fiends Cou'd urge, they slunk their Heads like Hinds in Storms.

3. Of animals, esp. cows: To bear or bring forth (young) prematurely or abortively. Cf. Cast *v.* 21, and Sling *v.*[1] 2 c.
1640 Gower *Ovids Festivalls* IV. 91 Beasts slunk their young with most untimely throws. 1721 Mortimer *Husb.* II. 222 To prevent a Mare's slinking her Foal. 1794 Washington *Lett. & Writ.* (1892) XIII. 15, I was told.. that almost all the mares had slunk their foals. 1844 H. Stephens *Bk. Farm* II. 438 Over exertion in walking..may ..make her slip calf,—or to *slink the calf*, as it is usually termed. 1886 *Field* 13 Feb. 205/3 Sometimes all cows in a dairy slink their calves.
fig. *a* 1658 Cleveland *Char. Diurn. Maker* (1677) 104 He is the Embryo of a History slink'd before Maturity.
absol. *a* 1722 Lisle *Husb.* (1757) 282 To let a cow keep company with other cows, after she has slunk her calf, will be apt to make some of the others slink also. 1885 *Field* 16 Jan. 86/2 Swedes have not proved a cheap food when ewes in lamb have 'slinked' after living on them. 1889 [see Slink *sb.* 2 d].

†**b.** With *away*: To reduce by miscarriage.
1664 Pepys *Diary* 17 Aug., Lady Castlemayne, who he believes has lately slunk a great belly away.

Slinker (sli·ŋkəɹ). [f. Slink *v.* 3 + -er 1.] An animal which slinks or casts its young.
1810 in W. H. Marshall *Rev.* (1818) II. 62 The quantity [of cheese] may be stated at 300 lb. from each cow, 'slinkers' (such as cast their calves) and bad milkers included.

Sli·nkiness. [f. Slink *v.*, or the dial. and colloq. *slinky* sly, stealthy, etc.] Furtiveness or stealthiness of manner or bearing.
1894 A. T. Pask *Eyes Thames* 238 The hereditary paupers can be picked out at a glance. There is a lazy 'slinkiness' about them.

Slinking (sli·ŋkiŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. Slink *v.*]
1. The action of moving quietly or stealthily, etc.; also *attrib.*
1611 Cotgr., *Regnarderie*, ..a stealing, slipping, or slinking aside. 1687 Miège *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II. s.v., A Slinking (or stealing) away. 1806 A. Douglas *Poems* 78 I'm no sae foolish as aver,..That they alike disposed are, To flatt'rin' an' to slinkin'. 1865 Dickens *Mut. Fr.* I. xiii, As the time so passed, this slinking business became a more and more precarious one.
2. The action or fact of bearing prematurely.
1844 H. Stephens *Bk. Farm* II. 440 The actual diseases of gestation..occasion always a tendency to slinking, or the cow slipping her calf. 1886 *Field* 13 Feb. 205/3 Unwholesome water is..a common cause of slinking amongst animals on the farm.

Sli·nking, *ppl. a.* [f. Slink *v.* Cf. OE. *slincende* creeping (things).] That slinks; moving, walking, etc. in a furtive or stealthy manner; marked or characterized by stealth or secrecy.
1840 Dickens *Barn. Rudge* XXXV, His manner was smooth and humble, but very sly and slinking. 1859 W. H. Gregory *Egypt* I. 176 The mangy, growling, but slinking pariah, the denizen of the dirt-heaps about Fellah villages. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 148 Such traces of albumin ..I have often found in anæmic, slinking youths.
So **Sli·nkingly** *adv.*
1830 Galt *Lawrie T.* V. viii, He was slowly and slinkingly moving towards his own house. 1889 Gissing *Nether World* III. ix. 185 He went slinkingly, hurrying round corners, avoiding glances.

Slinte, -ing, variants of Slent(ing.

Slip (slip), *sb.*[1] Forms: 1 **slipa,** 1, 5 **slype,** 1, 5–6 **slyppe,** 5 **slyp(p, slep,** 7– **slip.** [OE. (see sense 1), of doubtful form and obscure origin. Cf. Norw. *slip*, *slipa* slime, as on fish; G. dial. *schlipper* curdled milk.]
†**1.** A soft semi-liquid mass. *Obs.*
Cf. the second element in Cowslip and Oxlip.
c 1000 *Saxon Leechd.* II. 18 Ȝenim sealh & ele, do ahsan, ȝewyrc þonne to slypan. *Ibid.*, Do þonne on þone slipan. *Ibid.* III. 38 Wyrc slypan of wætere & of axsan, ȝenim finol, wyl on þære slyppan.
2. Curdled milk. Now *U.S.*
c 1425 *26 Pol. Poems* 110 My hert shulde be stedefast, þou hast lopred as mylk, and slep in þoust, Rist as chese þou croddest me fast. 1859 Bartlett *Dict. Amer.* (ed. 2) 416 *Slip*, milk turned with rennet, etc., before the whey separates from the curd.
b. *Slip cheese, curd*: (see quots. 1784, 1854).
1784 Twamley *Dairying Exemp.* 31 When the whole is in a state of Slip Curd, or Slippery Curd, which is a state all Curd is in, before it becomes solid Curd. 1846 J. Baxter *Libr. Pract. Agric.* (ed. 4) I. 207 Some dairy-maids now add the slip curd. 1854 Miss Baker *Northampt. Gloss.*, *Slip-cheese*, soft cheese, plate-cheese: that which is made without crushing out the whey.
†**3.** Mud, slime. *Obs.*
c 1440 *Prompt. Parv.* 459/2 Slyp (*S.* slype, *P.* slypp), *idem quod* slyme. *a* 1500 *Adrian & Epolys* 167 in *Brome Bk.* 30 Slyppe of þe erthe wos on off thoo, Watyr of the see god toke ther-too.
4. *techn.* A semi-liquid material, made of finely-ground clay or flint, etc., mixed with water to about the consistency of cream, and used for making, cementing, coating, or decorating pottery, tiles, etc.; also, clay suitable for making this.
1640 in Entick *London* II. 178 Slip, the barrel,.. *id.* 1686 Plot *Staffordsh.* 122 This they call Slip, and is the substance wherewith they paint their wares. *Ibid.*, Red Slip, made of a dirty reddish clay, which gives wares a black colour. 1778 *England's Gaz.* (ed. 2) s.v. *Horsley*, A reddish earth, called slip, with which they paint the vessels made at Wednesbury. 1799 Kirwan *Geol. Ess.* 299 Under this [is] white slip, that is, potter's clay. 1825 J. Nicholson *Operat. Mechanic* 484 The inside is rendered white by a wash of slip, flint, and porcelain clay. 1853 Ure *Dict. Arts* II. 451 The clay, which is used in a semi-liquid state about the consistency of cream and called 'slip'. 1884 C. G. W. Lock *Workshop Receipts* III. 295/2 Some 'slip', or finely-ground flint used in glazing earthenware.
b. *attrib.*, as *slip-house, -kiln, -room*; *slip-inlay, -state*, etc.
1752 *Gentl. Mag.* XXII. 348 The slip and treading rooms. 1825 J. Nicholson *Operat. Mechanic* 457 The whole is passed through fine lawn into a reservoir, from whence it is pumped upon the slip-kiln. 1832 G. R. Porter *Porcelain & Gl.* 40 The place where this evaporation is performed is called the slip-house. 1867 Brande & Cox *Dict. Sci.*, etc. s.v. *Tiles*, The clays..are passed through lawn sieves in the liquid or *slip* state. 1878 *Encycl. Brit.* VIII. 188/2 When the 'slip' inlay has become nearly of the same consistency as the tile itself.
c. *Comb.*, as *slip-maker, -making, -strainer.*
1825 J. Nicholson *Operat. Mechanic* 459 The slip-maker carefully attends to the evaporation. 1834–6 *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) VIII. 450/1 *Slip making.*—In the preparation of the clay for best flint ware [etc.]. 1891 *Cent. Dict.*, *Slip-strainer*,..a strainer of any form through which the slip is passed.

Slip (slip), *sb.*[2] Forms: 5–7 **slippe,** 6–7 **slipp,** 6– **slip**; 5 **slyp,** 6 **slyppe, sleppe.** [app. a. MDu. or MLG. *slippe* (Du. and Flem. *slip*, LG. *slipp, slippe*, G. *schlippe, schlipfe*) cut, slit, strip, lappet, skirt, etc. The first sense of the Eng. word, however, is not recorded in any of these languages.]
I. 1. A twig, sprig, or small shoot taken from a plant, tree, etc., for the purpose of grafting or planting; a scion, cutting.
1495 *Trevisa's Barth. De P. R.* XVII. CXVIII. 682 Propago is a yonge braunche of a vyne that spryngith of a slippe. 1530 Palsgr. 271/2 Slyppe of an herbe, *branche.* 1553 T. Wilson *Rhet.* 80 b, Geve me some slippes of that tree that I might set them in some orcharde. 1577 B. Googe *Heresbach's Husb.* I. (1586) 38 To be set of the slippes. 1615 W. Lawson *Country Housew. Gard.* (1626) 39 My fairest Apple-tree was such a Slip. 1697 Dryden *Virg. Georg.* II. 38 The Lab'rer cuts Young Slips, and in the Soil securely puts. 1786 Abercrombie *Gard. Assist.* 224 Propagate them by cuttings, or slips of the young shoots. 1844 Dickens *Mart. Chuz.* XXXVI, Blighted stumps and flourishing young slips. 1872 H. Macmillan *True Vine* iii. 116 A slip taken from a tree dying of old age.
b. In fig. context. (Common *c* 1600.)
1513 More *Rich. III* (1883) 64 Bastard slippes shal neuer take depe roots. 1570–76 Lambarde *Peramb. Kent* (1826) 299 This suppressed house..was some slippe of that tree which one James did first plant in Spaine. 1580 Lyly *Euphues* (Arb.) 368 Beautie was no niggard of hir slippes in this gardein. 1613 Dekker *Devil's Last Will* Wks. (Grosart) III. 353 Because he is a slip of mine owne grafting, I likewise bequeath to him my best Slippers. 1643 *Myst. of Inig.* 17 These Southerne plants, being slips of an Italian Stocke, could not endure this Northerne Climate.
c. A scion or descendant.
1588 Shaks. *Titus A.* V. i. 9 Braue slip, sprung from the Great Andronicus. *a* 1639 Wotton in *Relig.* (1651) 340 Julia a little before dying,..together with an infant she bare, ..and she gone without any slip remaining [etc.]. 1764 Churchill *Gotham* II. Poems 1772 III. 114 Any Slip of Stuart's tyrant race. 1810 Crabbe *Borough* XX. 247 He talk'd of bastard slips, and cursed his bed. 1825 T. Hook *Sayings* Ser. II. *Man of Many Fr.* I. 292 No doubt..that slip [=daughter] of the country parson, keep's the whip-hand. 1855 Thackeray *Newcomes* I. 110 Even rosy little slips out of the nursery who cluster round his beloved feet.
d. *fig.* An offshoot, outgrowth.
1626 R. Bernard *Isle of Man* (1627) 214 Covetousness is.. indeed a slip of Thrift. 1831 Carlyle *Misc. Ess., German Poet.* (1888) III. 238 Some small slip of heathendom.
2. A young person of either sex, esp. one of small or slender build.
1582 Stanyhurst *Æneis* IV. (Arb.) 97 The slip Ascanius.. Shee cols for the father. 1589 Nashe *Martin Marprelate* Wks. (Grosart) I. 163 The good health and wellfare of these two yong Slipps his sonnes. 1821 Scott *Kenilw.* XV, We know how that matter fell out, and we have corrected for it the wild slip, young Raleigh. 1841 Lever *C. O'Malley* XCIV, Shusey Dogherty was a good-looking slip. 1879 Browning *Ivan Ivanovitch* 139 He was puny, an undersized slip,—a darling to me, all the same!
b. With *of* (introducing descriptive term), esp. in *a slip of a girl.* (Cf. 8.)
a 1660 *Contemp. Hist. Irel.* (Ir. Archæol. Soc.) III. 38 This slippe of a boye Sir Walter Dungan. 1821 Scott *Kenilw.* II, Tony hath but a slip of a daughter. 1856 Emerson *Eng. Traits* XV. Wks. (Bohn) II. 120 Every slip of an Oxonian or Cantabrigian who writes his first leader. 1861 Hughes *Tom Brown at Oxf.* VI, There was his wife, and the slip of a girl.
c. A thin or slender person.
1703 Steele *Tender Husband* IV. ii, My Lady Shapely has by that thin Slip eight Children. 1888 Miss Braddon *Fatal Three* I. i, She was a tall slip of a woman.
3. a. *dial.* A young store-pig.
1832 Ht. Martineau *Ireland* II. 31 His mother..had a cow, and a slip of a pig. 1886 Elworthy *W. Somerset Word-bk.* 679 A store pig of older growth would be described as a 'hard slip'.
b. A sole of intermediate size.
1881 *Daily News* 4 Mar. 4/6 Small soles,..under the name of 'slips', were introduced into the *menus* of Greenwich hotels. 1884 *British Alm. & Comp.* II. 31 Small soles, known in the trade as 'slips' and 'tongues'.
II. †4. The edge, skirt, or flap of a robe or garment. *Obs. rare.*
c 1440 *Prompt. Parv.* 459/2 Slyp, or skyrte, *lascinia.* 1648 Hexham II, *Heft u Slippen op*, take up the Edge or Slip of your Kirtle.
5. A spoon-handle having the top cut off obliquely; a spoon with a handle or stem of this form. (Cf. Slipped *ppl. a.*[2] 1.) Now *Hist.*
c 1530 in Gutch *Coll. Cur.* II. 312 Twoo doson of Sponnes with Slippis un gilte. 1552 *Will G. Hynde* (Somerset Ho.), Sixe silver sponnes callyd slyppes. 1583 in Cripps *Old Eng. Plate* (1901) 281, xij spones called slippes weying xxiiij ownces and a half.
Comb. 1580 in Cripps *Old Eng. Plate* (1901) 281 Dosen spones, theis spones being sleppe endyd. 1902 *Westm. Gaz.* 1 May 8/1 A set of James I. slip-top spoons. 1908 Macquoid *Plate Collector's Guide* 103 Spoons called 'slip-topped' originated in the second half of the sixteenth century.
6. A long and relatively thin and narrow piece or strip of some material. Freq. with *of.*
1555 Eden *Decades* (Arb.) 140 Such as were brused they tyed fast with theyr gyrdels with slippes of the barkes of trees. 1575 *Gammer Gurton* I. i, Out at doores I hyed mee, And caught a slyp of bacon, when I saw that none spyed mee. 1645 *Doc. S. Paul's* (Camden) 144, 218 carved narrowe slipps [of wood]. 1665 *Roxb. Ball.* (1887) VI. 437 The burly fat Dutchmen being cut out in slips. 1758 Reid tr. *Macquer's Chym.* I. 252 Let..the joint [be] covered with a slip of canvas smeared with lute. 1793 Smeaton *Edystone L.* § 97 It was steadied in that position, by..two slips of deal. 1823 J. Nicholson *Operat. Mechanic* 322 This joint is connected with the nut by means of two steel slips...The other ends of these slips turn..on pins. 1863 Huxley *Man's Place Nat.* ii. 93 One slip of the muscle is attached..to the tendons of the long flexors. 1888 Rutley *Rock-Forming Min.* 25 A glass slip is now placed on the hot plate.
b. In special uses (see quots.).
1771 Luckombe *Hist. Print.* 387 We always begin an Index upon an uneven page, and put a Slip or double rule at the Head thereof. 1820 Scoresby *Acc. Arc. Regions* II. 299 The harpooners..divide the fat [of the whale] into oblong pieces or 'slips'. 1833 Loudon *Encycl. Archit.* § 82 To put.. jambs, slips (sides of the jambs), and shelves to both the fireplaces. 1875 Sir T. Seaton *Fret Cutting* 8 Slips are pieces of Turkey or other stone about four inches long and one and a-quarter wide. 1895 G. E. Davis *Pract. Microscopy* (ed. 3) 375 Objects are generally mounted upon glass slides, or 'slips' as they are sometimes called.
c. An excised piece of this form.
1704–15 *Maryland Laws* vii. (1723) 22 With a Slip cut down the Face of the Tree near the Ground.
7. A strip, a narrow piece or stretch, *of* land, ground, etc.
1591 Fletcher *Russe Commw.* (Hakl.) 7 A little isthmus or narrow slippe of lande. 1682 Wheler *Journ. Greece* I. 6 The long slip of Rocks..is..stored with many curious Plants. *a* 1700 Evelyn *Diary* 14 Aug. 1668, A lease of a slip of ground out of Brick Close. 1745 P. Thomas *Jrnl. Anson's Voy.* 67 Acosta..divides the country into three long narrow Slips. 1775 Romans *Hist. Florida* App. 72 The island..is a narrow slip of sand-hills. 1815 Elphinstone *Acc. Caubul* (1842) II. 48 The slip of barren country between the Indus and the plain of Peshawer. 1846 McCulloch *Acc. Brit. Empire* (1854) I. 525 Cottiers, who pay for their small slips of land by working for the principal lessees.
8. An example or specimen *of* something having an elongated or slender form. (Cf. 2 b.)
1730 A. Gordon *Maffei's Amphith.* 303 There is also a small Loop-Hole besides the Slip of the Window. *Ibid.* 312 The Light..comes from certain Slips of Windows. 1762 *Ann. Reg., Chron.* 132/2 These children were kept to work in a small slip of a room. 1825 T. Hook *Sayings* Ser. II. *Passion & Princ.* VI, When he found himself ushered into a neat sanded slip of a coffee-room. 1833 Ht. Martineau *Briery Creek* III. 57, I have a slip of a garden,..and, though it is but a slip, it is of rare mellow mould. 1881 H. James *Portrait of a Lady* XXXVI, Her anxious eyes, her charming lips, her slip of a figure.
9. A window, apartment, passage, etc., of an elongated form.
1730 A. Gordon *Maffei's Amphith.* 302 A high and narrow Window, or a Slip, as we shall call it. 1886 Willis & Clark *Cambridge* I. 330 A narrow slip about five feet wide, separated from the rest of the room by a transverse partition.
b. *U.S.* A narrow, doorless church-pew.
1828–32 in Webster. 1858 *Rev. Statutes Wisconsin* 200 All houses of public worship,..and the pews or slips and

furniture therein. 1878 Mrs. Stowe *Poganuc P.* iii. 23 Why, ..if there ain't the minister's boys down in that front slip!

c. *pl.* (See quot. 1874.)

1805 Sir R. Wilson in *Life* (1862) I. 345 Those ladies who had not boxes sat in what would be termed in England one shilling slips. 1836–7 Dickens *Sk. Boz* (1850) 165/2 They thought they couldn't do better than go at half-price to the slips at the City Theatre. 1851 Mayhew *Lond. Lab.* I. 19/1 When the gallery is well packed,..on the partition boards, dividing off the slips, lads will pitch themselves, despite the spikes. 1874 *Slang Dict.* 296 *Slips*, the sides of the gallery in a theatre are generally so called.

10. A piece of paper or parchment, esp. one which is narrow in proportion to its length.. Freq. with *of*.

1687 Miége *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II. s.v., It is called Slip in English, from its Shape, it being printed in a long Slip of Paper. 1706 Phillips (ed. Kersey), *Scroll*, a slip or Roll of Parchment, &c. 1724 Wodrow *Corr.* (1843) III. 112 If that worthy person will let me know by post or a slip, wherein I can serve him here. 1771 Smollett *Humph. Cl.* (1815) 154 I'll find a slip of sheep-skin that will do his business. 1846 Sir F. Madden *Lazamon* I. Pref. p. xli, After writing near 50,000 slips, it was found impracticable to carry the design [of the glossary] into execution. 1886 *Weekly Notes* 188/2 The registrar made a note of this declaration on a slip of paper.

†**b.** A newspaper (or part of one) printed in the form of a long slip of paper. *Obs.*

1687 [see prec.]. 1692 Luttrell *Brief Rel.* (1857) II. 417 It is said in one of the French slips, that they design to land some 1000 men in Scotland in May. 1699 (*title*), The London Slip of News, both foreign and domestick. [Continued as, The London Post.] 1727 Boyer *Dict. Royal* I, *Lardon*, (*supplement de la Gazette de Hollande*) the Slip that comes from Holland with the Gazette.

c. *Insurance.* (See quots.)

1816 G. J. Bell *Comm. Laws Scotl.* (1826) I. 603 The policy is preceded by a Slip, which is merely a jotting or short memorandum of the terms, to which the underwriters subscribe their initials. 1880 *Encycl. Brit.* XIII. 184 It is customary for the underwriter to sign a 'slip', or short memorandum of the insurance, until the stamped policy can be completed.

d. *Typog.* A proof pulled on a long slip of paper, for revision before the type is made up into pages.

1818 *Blackw. Mag.* III. 250 Bate only the correcting in the slip Never was easier Conductorship. 1832 Babbage *Econ. Manuf.* xxi. (ed. 3) 208 The present work was set up in slips. 1878 Huxley in *Life* (1903) II. 253, I have received slips up to chap. ix. of Hume. 1880 Britten *Old Country & Farm. Wds.* Introd. p. vii, He has read the extracts in slip.

11. A certain quantity *of* yarn, etc. Now *dial.*

1647 Hexham I, A Slip of yarne, *een stuck garens*. 1791 *Statist. Acc. Scotl.* II. 308 A stone of the finest [wool]..will yield 32 slips of yarn, each containing 12 cuts. 1886 *Cheshire Gloss.* 322 *Slip*,..a hank of silk or yarn before it is wound on the quills or pirn. [Cf. Slipping *vbl. sb.*[2] 1.]

†**12.** A slit or cut. *Obs.*[–1]

1688 Holme *Armoury* III. xv. (Roxb.) 20/2 In the pen there is the nick or slip or slit called the neb.

III. 13. *attrib.* **a.** In senses 1–3, as *slip-graft*, *-plant*; *slip-pig*.

1657 R. Austen *Fruit-Trees* I. 136 They have an innate spirit from the seede.., which makes them grow better then slip-plants. 1725 *Fam. Dict.* s.v. *Gardiner*, The Master Shoot of a slip Graft. 1844 in Caroline Fox *Jrnls.* (1882) 187, I have three cows, three slip pigs. 1882 *West. Morn. News* 25 Nov. 1/5 Two large slip pigs.

b. In senses 6–10, as *slip-centre*, *-room*, *-window*; *slip-chase*, *-galley*, *-song*, *-ticket*.

1833 Loudon *Encycl. Archit.* § 249 Twenty-three *slip centres to the arches (a slip of deal cut to the intended line of the soffit of the arch). 1888 Jacobi *Printers' Vocab.* 126 **Slip chases*, long narrow chases made specially for 'heading' work. 1882 J. Southward *Pract. Print.* (1884) 1 Newspaper *slip-galleys are made with either zinc or brass bottoms. 1888 Jacobi *Printers' Vocab.* 126 *Slip galley*, a long galley the reverse of a quarto or square galley. 1837 Dickens *Pickw.* xliv, A baldheaded cobbler who rented a small *slip-room in one of the upper galleries [in the Fleet]. 1878 Ebsworth *Bagford Ball.* 918 Much less rare are the Garlands and *slip-songs which swell the volume to 918 leaves. 1888 Bryce *Amer. Commw.* III. lxvi. II. 493 A *slip ticket is a list, printed on a long strip of paper, of the persons..recommended by the same party or political group for the posts to be filled up at any election. 1882 H. C. Merivale *Faucit of Balliol* II. i. xxiv. 110 A narrow strip of a chamber opening into the drawing-room only, and like it facing the street through a *slip-window.

Slip (slip), *sb.*[3] Forms: 5 **slypp** (**slepe**), 5–6 **slyppe**, 5–7 **slipp**(e, 5– **slip**. [f. (or related to) Slip *v.*[1] Cf. OHG. and MHG. *slipf* (G. dial. *schlipf*, also *schlipfe*) a sliding, slip, error, etc.]

I. 1. An artificial slope of stone or other solid material, built or made beside a navigable water to serve as a landing-place.

1467 *Ordin. Worcester* in *Eng. Gilds* 374 That the slippe and the keye, and the pavyment ther, be ouerseyn and repared. *Ibid.* 397 That the keye Slippes, and the pavyment of the grete Slippe, be made in hast. 1475 *Waterf. Arch.* in *10th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. V. 312 That no..man..putte..fylth into the ryvere over no key nor slippe of the citie. 1644 Prynne & Walker *Fiennes' Trial* 64 On the Key side next the City, there is a wall of stone ..which no horse can enter,..unlesse at a slip or two. 1704 in *Pennsylv. Hist. Soc. Mem.* IX. 291, I designed to build a granary on part of that slip that comes down to the dock. 1776 G. Semple *Building under water* 3 They came to the Slip, where one of the Horses broke his Traces and swam out: 1855 Longf. *Birds of Passage* I. *My lost youth* iii, I remember the black wharves and the slips. 1885 Warren & Cleverly *Wanderings 'Beetle'* 71 We made for a ferry-slip, where the Commander and Doctor landed to forage.

b. *Shipbuilding.* An inclined plane, sloping gradually down to the water, on which ships or other vessels are built or repaired.

Hence Sw. *slip*, G. *slip*, *schlipp*, *schlippe*.

1769 Falconer *Dict. Marine* (1780), *Slip*, a place lying with a gradual descent on the banks of a river convenient for ship-building. 1800 Colquhoun *Comm. & Pol. Thames* xiii. 371 No Slips, dry Docks, &c. for building or repairing Vessels shall be made. 1850 Longf. *Building of Ship* 95 'Thus,' said he, 'will we build this ship! Lay square the blocks upon the slip'. 1894 *Times* 1 Mar. 7/5 At Chatham, where the largest of the available building slips is being prepared for the reception of the new vessel.

c. A contrivance (patented in 1818) for hauling vessels out of the water in order to repair them.

1830 *Edinburgh Encycl.* XVIII. 256 Slips have also been sent by Mr. Morton to France and Russia. 1880 *Encycl. Brit.* XI. 470 Slips are the contrivance of the late Mr. Thomas Morton of Leith, and consist of a carriage or cradle working on an inclined railway [etc.].

2. †**a.** A stairway. *Obs. rare.*

a 1490 Botoner *Itin.* (1778) 175 Item at the begynnyng of the bakk, there the fyrst gryse called a slypp, ben twey weyes, the fyrst wey ys the seyd slepe of.. yerdes long. *Ibid.* 218 Longitudo de 'le slip', anglice 'a steyre' de lapidibus..a summitate viæ desuper le bak usque ad ultimum gradum.

b. At Bath: A means of descending into one of the public baths (see quots.).

1778 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 2) II. 1053/2 The person intending to bathe..is carried in a close chair..to one of the slips which open into the bath. There he descends by steps into the water. 1791 Collinson *Hist. Somerset* I. 40 There are slips by which the bathers descend, and adjoining to them are dressing-rooms. 1806 *Guide to Watering Places* 27 Sufficient fires..to be made in the slips,..and to be continued the usual hours of bathing.

c. *local.* A narrow roadway or passage.

Cf. Slype, and G. *schlippe* (also *schlupf*, *schlupfe*).

1739 Labelye *Piers Westm. Bridge* 2 The Slip or Passage commonly call'd by the Name of Mathew's Causeway. 1788 M. Cutler in *Life*, etc. (1888) I. 427 Came through Dunning's Slip, where the river divides Dunning Mountains, and in a short distance passed through another Slip, which divides Turris Mountain. 1868 *Exeter & Plymouth Gaz.* 13 Mar., The slip or roadway..down to the Parlor had always been a parish road.

II. 3. A leash for a dog, etc., so contrived that the animal can readily be released; esp. one used for a couple of greyhounds in coursing, by which they can be let go simultaneously.

1578 Bullein *Dial. agst. Pest* (1888) 91 He hath a Lyon in a chaine on the one side, and a Fox in a slippe on the other side. 1592 Greene *Conny Catch.* II. Wks. (Grosart) X. 93, I looke for a grey-hound that hath broken my slip, and is run into this house. 1607 Topsell *Four-f. Beasts* (1658) 366 The lion was given unto him..who led him up and down the streets in a leam or slip. 1657 G. Thornley *Daphnis & Chloe* 69 Bind his hands behind him with a dog-slip. 1704 *Dict. Rust.* (1726) s.v. *Greyhound*, They must also be kept in a Slip, while abroad, till they can see their Course. *a* 1774 Goldsm. tr. *Scarron's Com. Romance* (1775) II. 60 His men walking all the way by his side, like a greyhound in a slip. 1816 *Sporting Mag.* XLVIII. 61 The dogs are now loosed from slips of a better construction than those formerly in use. 1839 *Laws of Coursing* in Youatt *Dog* (1845) App. 260 All courses shall be from slips, by a brace of greyhounds only. 1862 H. H. Dixon *Scott & Sebright* III. 254 Their talk is all of dogs..and fine young puppies coming forward or lost for ever to the slips.

transf. 1864 Carlyle *Fredk. Gt.* IV. 156 He has never yet sent the Old Dessauer in upon them; always only keeps him on the slip, at Magdeburg.

†**b.** A cord provided with a running knot; a noose. *Obs.*

1687 A. Lovell tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* III. 41 They use a certain Slip with a running-noose, which they can cast.. about a Mans Neck, when they are within reach of him. 1691 Wood *Ath. Oxon.* I. 535 The Students did not forbear to whisper among themselves, that..he sent up his soul to heaven thro a slip about his neck.

†**c.** A cord or string. *Obs.*[–0]

1687 Miége *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II, A hempen slip, *une corde*. 1727 Boyer *Dict. Royal* II, A Slip, (or Silk-string), *Corde de Soye*.

d. *Bookbinding.* (See quots.)

1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2211/2 *Slip*,..the end of the twine to which the sheets are sewed, serving to attach the book to the boards. 1894 *Amer. Dict. Print. & Bookmaking* 511 *Slip*, a cord used in fastening the back of a book.

e. *Naut.* (See quot.)

1886 *Encycl. Brit.* XXI. 604 *Slips*, ropes with toggles, shackles, and tongues, and various contrivances for letting go quickly.

4. †**a.** The neck-opening in a shirt. *Obs.*[–0]

1648 Hexham II, *Hoofi-gat*,..the Hole or the Slip of a Shirt through which one puts his head.

b. A child's pinafore or frock. Now *dial.*

1690 C. Ness *Hist. & Myst. O. & N. Test.* I. 417 Sport with them as children do with their slips, or as monkeys with their collars. 1775 S. J. Pratt *Liberal Opin.* lxxvii. (1783) III. 75 Her infants were habited in slips, or robes, evidently made by a maternal hand. 1825– in northern glossaries (Northumbld., Cumbld., Yks., etc.).

c. An article of women's attire, formerly an outer garment, now worn under a gown of lace or similar material. Also *transf.*, an infant's garment of this nature.

1761 *Ann. Reg., Chron.* 228/2 His..sister the princess,.. drest also in a slip with hanging sleeves. 1780 Mrs. Delany *Life & Corr.* Ser. II. II. 527 The coat maker advises girts to be fastened on ye top of the stays,..wch will not appear, being under her slip. 1816 *Med. Chirurg. Trans.* VII. 480 His daughter was one day dressed in a pink slip. 1824 Miss L. M. Hawkins *Annaline* I. 206 A damsel arrayed in a green bonnet and yellow slip. 1858 Simmonds *Dict. Trade, Slip*,..a woman's muslin or satin under-skirt or petticoat. 1897 *Army & Navy Stores List*, Baby Linen—Infant's Long Slip...American Satin Slip. 1904 *Queen* 30 Jan. 178/3 Entire lace gowns hung over chiffon slips made graceful toilettes.

d. A pillow-slip, pillow-case.

1800 *Naval Chron.* IV. 337 Pillows, and slips.

e. *Upholstery.* A slot-hem in which a wire or the like may be inserted. 1891 in *Cent. Dict.*

5. *pl.* The sidings of a theatrical stage, from which the scenery is slipped on, and where the actors stand before entering.

1812 J. & H. Smith *Rej. Addr.*, *Theatr. Alarm-bell* (1873) 152 Soldiers will be stationed in the slips. 1837 Thackeray *Ravenswing* iv, She nodded to all her friends on the stage, in the slips. 1855 — *Newcomes* xx, Raddled old women who shudder at the slips.

†**6. a.** A division in a pocket-book. *Obs.*[–1]

1804 Eugenia de Acton *Tale without Title* I. 69 An elegant pocket-book, the private slip in which was furnished with bank-notes.

†**b.** *slang.* (See quot.) *Obs.*[–0]

1812 J. H. Vaux *Flash Dict.*, *Slip*, the slash pocket in the skirt of a coat behind.

7. A cylindrical iron case, in which wood for making gunpowder is charred.

1876 Voyle & Stevenson *Milit. Dict.* 389/2 In each slip there are two holes, which correspond with similar holes in the retort. *Ibid.*, If of large size, the slip will hold 150 lbs.

III. 8. *To give* (*one*) *the slip*, or variants of this: To evade or escape from (a person); to elude, steal off or slip away from unperceived.

1567 in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* Ser. III. III. 326 This sayd Faithfull gave them all the slipp, and never appeared afterwards. 1590 Nashe *Pasquil's Apol.* Wks. (Grosart) I. 242 Not satisfied wyth the slippe he hath giuen the Vniuersities and Lawes of learning. 1600 Holland *Livy* xxvii. xliv. 661 Hee..gave him the faire slip, & escaped out of his hands. 1675 Hobbes *Odyssey* (1677) 193 There he found means to give them all the slip. 1728 Morgan *Algiers* II. iii. 237 Salem gave his imperious Guests the Slip, and retired among his Arabs in the Country. 1773 Mme. D'Arblay *Early Diary* July, He said he had rode the whole way,.. having given the Colbourns the slip. 1817 Jas. Mill *Brit. India* IV. iii. II. 98 One of the principal officers of finance ..had given the slip to his guards. 1852 Thackeray *Esmond* III. iv, [I] thought to put an end to myself, and so give my woes the slip. 1884 G. Moore *A Mummer's Wife* (1887) 78 [They] discussed how the slip should be given to Mrs. Ede.

transf. 1837 P. Keith *Bot. Lex.* 207 If it is to give us the slip, after a sowing or two more, there will be but little chance left of our ever falling in with it again.

†**b.** Without personal object. *Obs. rare.*

1596 H. Mountagu in *Buccleuch MSS.* (Hist. MSS. Comm.) I. 231, I perceived two of his charge gave the slip. 1600 Holland *Livy* xxxix. xli. 1050 Many of them..made not appearance, but gave the slip.

†**c.** With punning allusion to Slip *sb.*[4] *Obs.*

1592 Shaks. *Rom. & Jul.* II. iv. 50 What counterfeit did I giue you? *Mer.* The slip, sir, the slip, can you not conceiue? 1598 B. Jonson *Ev, Man in Humour* II. v, Let the world thinke me a bad counterfeit, if I cannot giue him the slip, at an instant. *c* 1613 Middleton *No Wit like Woman's* III. i, You have given me a ninepence here, and I'll give you the slip for't.

d. An act of evading or escaping; *spec.* in horsemanship (see quot. 1607). *rare.*

1607 Markham *Caval.* III. (1617) 59 By giuing him slippes in winding and turning seeke to ouertoile him. *Ibid.* 75 If hee come vpon your right hand,..hurle your horse roundly about vpon your left hand: this is cald a slippe. 1669 Pepys *Diary* 4 Feb., This morning I made a slip from the Office to White Hall.

9. An act of slipping, sliding, or falling down.

1596 Spenser *F. Q.* VI. vii. 48 At aduantage him at last he tooke, When his foote slipt (that slip he dearely rewd). 1611 Cotgr. s.v. *Pas*, *Vn faux pas*, a slip, or misse, in footing. *a* 1700 Evelyn *Diary* 7 Feb. 1645, Not without many untoward slipps which did much bruise us. 1719 De Foe *Crusoe* II. (Globe) 431 By..some Slip of my Foot ..I fell down. 1816 *Sporting Mag.* XLVIII. 61 A slip, is losing the foot. 1833 Nyren *Cricket. Tutor* 43 The long stop..is required to cover many slips from the bat, both to the leg and the off-side. 1876 L. Stephen *Eng. Thought 18th Cent.* II. 376 A fop who has spoilt his fine clothes by a slip in the kennel. 1892 A. Oldfield *Man. Typog.* iii, Sometimes a page may be inadvertently squabbled in correcting, by a mere slip of the hand.

fig. 1847 Tennyson *Princ.* v. 191 Bursts of great heart and slips in sensual mire.

b. *Prov.* (Cf. Cup *sb.* 12.)

1850 Thackeray *Pendennis* lxxii, There's many a slip between the cup and the lip! Who knows what may happen. 1861 Trollope *La Beata* II. xv. 131 There are fewer slips between cup and lip in such matters in continental life. 1870 Morris *Earthly Par.* II. iii. 39 But yet befell a grievous slip Betwixt that fair cup and the lip.

c. The difference between the pitch of a propelling screw, and the actual advance of the vessel which it drives.

1844 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* VII. 84/1 The amount of 'slip' of the screw in the water..was stated not to exceed 5 per cent. 1877 W. H. White *Man. Nav. Archit.* 525 From 15 to 20 per cent. appears to be a fair average for the slip of paddle-wheels. 1895 *Mod. Steam Eng.* 78 A certain part of the advancing power is lost, which loss is called the *slip* of the screw.

d. An act of slipping or stopping; an intermission.

1898 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* V. 941 Recurrent slips unmistakeably indicate dilapidation of the heart.

10. An error in conduct; *esp.* an instance of moral fault or transgression.

1601 DENT *Pathw. Heaven* 94 Peters fall, Abrahams slips, Salomons weaknesse, &c. 1659 HAMMOND *On Ps.* CXXX. iv. 650 His pardoning of the frailties and slips of our lives. 1684 BUNYAN *Pilgr.* II. 98 Let Christian's slips before he came hither..be a warning to those that come after. 1711 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 99 ¶ 2 A Slip in a Woman's Honour is irrecoverable. 1752 FIELDING *Amelia* IV. v, I hope, notwithstanding this fatal slip, I do not appear to you in the light of a profligate. 1833 MARRYAT *P. Simple* (1863) 306 O'Brien, who then called to mind what a slip of decorum he had been guilty of, immediately rose. 1858 FROUDE *Hist. Eng.* III. 364 Eyes watching for any slip which might betray their antagonists to the powers of the law.

b. A mistake or fault in procedure, argument, inference, etc.

1579 W. WILKINSON *Confut. Fám. Love* 42 Beyng not to ..get out of so manifest a slip, he returneth the fault vpon me. 1676 MARVELL *Mr. Smirke* 43 Only out of the affection I have for him, I would wish him to correct here one slip. 1700 *Pennsylv. Arch.* I. 136 Through that unhappy Slip of neglecting the Register, both Ship and Cargoe were condemned before my Arrival. 1790 PALEY *Horæ Paul.* i. Wks. 1825 III. 12 No advertency is sufficient to guard against slips and contradictions. 1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* v, Since the hour that my policy made so perilous a slip, I cannot look at her without fear. 1885 *Law Reports* 29 Chanc. Div. 527 There must be some error, some slip in the decision.

c. A mistake or fault, esp. one of a slight or trivial character, inadvertently made in writing, speaking, etc.; an unintentional error or blunder.

1620 BRINSLEY *Virg. Eccl.* Direct., Though the slips in this..be very many, the difficultie..may pleade for me. 1639 FULLER *Holy War* II. i, Such slips are incident to the pens of the best authors. 1680 BAXTER *Answ. Stillingfl.* XXXV. 59 It was an ill Slip, to put our *Condemning them*, for *Commending them*. 1712 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 285 ¶ 2 A good-natur'd Reader sometimes overlooks a little Slip even in the Grammar or Syntax. 1764 HARMER *Observ.* v. § xiv. 228, I will not however press this, since it seems to be merely a slip of the translators. 1839 HALLAM *Hist. Lit.* III. iv. § 159, I have commented upon very few, comparatively, of the slips which occur in his pages on this subject. 1885 *Law Reports* 29 Chanc. Div. 827 An error arising from an accidental slip or omission.

d. In the phrases *a slip of the pen, tongue*, etc.

1659 COWLEY *Let. to Ormonde* 7 Oct., Hopeing that his Majesty..will pardon the slip of that man's pen in one expression. 1677 R. CARY *Palæol. Chron.* II. I. XX. 153, I am apt to think that the Number..was originally the Transcriber's slip of the Pen. 1725 BAILEY *Erasm. Colloq.* (1733) 334 In Matters so sacred there is Danger in a Slip of the Tongue. 1732 BERKELEY *Alciphr.* vi. § 3 Things once committed to writing are secure from slips of memory. 1778 MISS BURNEY *Evelina* xliv, It was a slip of the tongue; I did not intend to say such a thing. 1840 *Penny Cycl.* XVII. 42/1 A casual mistake, a slip of the press. 1849 LD. MAHON in *Croker Papers* (1884) 31 Dec., This second letter ..is caused by the foolish slip of memory in my first. 1874 L. STEPHEN *Hours Libr.* (1892) I. vi. 203 A slip of the pen, such as happens to real historians.

†**11.** An abortion. *Obs.*[−1]

a 1657 HARVEY *Opera* (1766) 576 Nostrates *false conceptions* et *slips* nominant.

12. a. *Geol.* A slight fault or dislocation caused by the sinking of one section of the strata.

1789 J. WILLIAMS *Min. Kingd.* I. 9 The coal is thrown either up or down by one of those slips. *Ibid.* 11 In a slip the strata are all cut or broke asunder, frequently in a straight line. 1802–3 tr. *Pallas's Trav.* (1812) I. 13 The projecting heights display, in various slips, precipitated strata of reddish clay. 1855 J. PHILLIPS *Man. Geol.* 203 The district is greatly traversed by faults or 'slips'. 1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-m.* 226 *Slip*,..a smooth joint or crack in strata.

b. The slipping or subsiding of a mass of earth, etc., from a higher level; the quantity of earth which has thus fallen; = LANDSLIP.

1838 F. W. SIMMS *Publ. Wks. Gt. Brit.* II. 10 These slips measuring altogether 4383 cube yards. 1845 DARWIN *Voy. Nat.* xiv. (1879) 303 The inhabitants thought that when the rains commenced far greater slips would happen. 1883 *Specif. Alnwick & Cornhill Rlwy.* 22 Should any slips take place in the cutting during the excavation of the material.

13. *Coursing.* **a.** The act of letting a dog go in order to pursue a deer, hare, etc.; also, the length of the start given to the hare.

1602 *2nd Pt. Ret. fr. Parnass.* II. v. (1886) 108 The Buck broke gallantly; my great Swift being disaduantaged in his slip was at the first behinde. 1856 'STONEHENGE' *Brit. Rur. Sports* 211/1 Length of Slip.—In all cases..the hare ought to have from 70 to 100 yards' law. *Ibid.* 213/2 An awkward or wilfully-bad slip is also guarded against.

†**b.** A trip or jerk. *Obs.*[−1]

1615 MARKHAM *Country Contentm.* I. vii. (1668) 43 If after the turn be given, there shall be neither coat, slip, nor wrench extraordinary.

14. *Cricket.* One or other of the fielders who stand behind and on the off-side of the wicket to which the ball is bowled.

For the origin of this use cf. quot. 1833 in sense 9.

1833 NYREN *Yng. Cricketer's Tutor* 44 The situation for the [short] slip is between the wicket-keeper and point of the bat. *Ibid.* 45 The long slip is generally placed between the short slip and point, and near enough to save the run. 1891 W. G. GRACE *Cricket* 216 Box's favourite hit was a smart cut between the slips. 1894 *Times* 25 May 11/2 With the total at 70 Mr. Murdoch played the ball into slip's hands.

b. The ground or position occupied or guarded by these players.

sing. 1833 NYREN *Yng. Cricketer's Tutor* 79 Each usually played in the slip when the other was not present. 1851 LILLYWHITE *Guide Cricketers* 22 A third man in the slip at times is required. 1883 F. M. PEARD *Contrad.* xxi, You should have seen Henderson caught at slip from a 'skyer'. *plur.* 1850 'BAT' *Cricket. Man.* 101 His mode of cutting the ball into the slips..is..peculiar. 1882 *Daily Telegr.* 19 May, Being caught in the slips when he had put on 29.

IV. 15. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as (sense 1 b) *slip-dock*; (sense 2 b) *slip-apartment*; (sense 3) *slip-steward*; (sense 4 c) *slip-bodice*, *-body* (Sc.); (sense 12 a) *slip-cleavage*, *-dyke*, *-trouble*, *-vein*.

1791 COLLINSON *Hist. Somerset* I. 40 The hours of bathing are from six to nine.., during which time fires are kept in the *slip apartments. 1897 *Army & Navy Stores List* 1226 Long Cloth *Slip Bodices and Camisoles. 1889 BARRIE *Window in Thrums* viii, When he grew out o' it, she made a *slip-body o't for hersel. 1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-m.* 226 **Slip cleavage*, the cleat of the coal running in planes parallel with slips. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2212/1 **Slip-dock*,.. a dock whose floor slopes toward the water [etc.]. 1789 J. WILLIAMS *Min. Kingd.* I. 32 There are indeed some dykes which throw the coal, etc. a little off the former level, and these I will, for distinction's sake, call *slip dykes. 1856 'STONEHENGE' *Brit. Rur. Sports* 203/2 The *Slip-Steward, if there is one, regulates the proceedings of the dogs at the slips, and sees that the next brace is ready. 1887 MRS. DALY *Digging & Squatting* 133 There was a coursing club, of which my husband was slip-steward. 1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-m.* 227 *Slip-trouble. 1789 J. WILLIAMS *Min. Kingd.* I. 270 The *slip veins are seldom wider above than below, but are generally narrower.

†**Slip,** *sb.*[4] *Obs.* [Of obscure origin; perh. a special use of prec. or of *sb.*[2]] A counterfeit coin.

1592 GREENE *Disput.* Wks. (Grosart) X. 260 He went and got him a certaine slips, which are counterfeyt peeces of mony being brasse, and couered ouer with siluer, which the common people call slips. 1607 R. C[AREW] tr. *Estienne's World of Wonders* 115 A counterfet peece of gold and a false peece of siluer (which we call a slip). 1612 J. DAVIES (Heref.) *Muse's Sacr.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 5/2 So, their Folly flies abroad the World, like Slips, that shame their Mint. 1624 SANDERSON *Serm.* I. 111 To take a slip for a currant piece, or brass for silver.

attrib. 1618 T. ADAMS *Fool & his Sport* Wks. 1861 I. 247 This is the worldling's folly, rather to take a piece of slip-coin in hand than to trust God for the invaluable mass of glory.

transf. 1594 NASHE *Unfort. Trav.* 40 Aie me, she was but a counterfet slip. 1598 E. GUILPIN *Skial.* (1878) 43 She, which thee deceaues With copper guilt is but a slip. 1608 MACHIN *Dumb Knight* v. i, An't please your majesty, we have brought you here a slip, a piece of false coin.

b. In phr. *to nail up for a slip*, with reference to the exposure of spurious coin (cf. NAIL *v.* 1 d). Also *transf.*

1594 LYLY *Mother Bombie* II. i, I shall goe for siluer though, when you shall bee nailed vp for slips. 1602 MARSTON *Antonio's Rev.* I. iii, Your nose is a copper nose, and must be nail'd up for a slip. *a* 1634 AUSTIN *Medit.* (1635) 108 But (here) they Naile him up, for a Slippe (a Brasen Counterfeit;) one, that did but say hee was a King.

c. With punning allusion to SLIP *sb.*[3] 8.

1618 in Foster *Eng. Factories Ind.* (1906) I. 32 Hee was desirous to ride before to showe his horse, which indeed was only to pay them with a slippe, for from that daie to this wee never heard more of him.

†**Slip,** *sb.*[5] *Obs.* In 7 **slipp**, 8 **slippe**. [app. a. older Flem. *slip* (Kilian), = MLG. *slip*, G. *schliff*, †*sliff*, related to Flem. and Du. *slijpen* to sharpen, polish, SLIPE *v.*[1]] (See quots.)

1667 SIR W. PETTY, in Sprat *Hist. Roy. Soc.* 296 The Filings of Steel, and such small particles of Edge-tools as are worn away upon the Grindstone, commonly called Slipp, is used to the same purpose in dying of Silks. 1791 HAMILTON tr. *Berthollet's Dyeing* II. II. i. 13 Some dyers.. use..the powder found in the troughs of cutlers' grindstones. [*Note.*] This is known among our workmen by the name of slippe.

Slip (slip), *v.*[1] Also 4–7 **slyppe**, **slipp**, 5–7 **slippe**; 5 **slipe**, 5–6 **slype**. [prob. ad. MLG. *slippen* (LG., Du., Flem. *slippen*, G. *schlippen*), = OHG. *slipfan* (MHG. *slipfen*, G. dial. *schlipfen*) to slip, slide, glide, etc., related to the ON. strong verb *sleppa* (Norw. and Icel. *sleppa*; in Sw. *slippa* and Da. *slippe* the vowel has been influenced by LG.). The stem *slip-* appears in OE. in the adj. *slipor*: see SLIPPER *a.*]

**Intransitive senses.* (See also LET *v.*[1] 25.)

I. 1. To escape, get away, make off. *rare.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 4001 If þou wil, sal i slip And sal noght in his hand grip. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 1785 Segges slepande were slayne er þay slyppe myȝt. 1572 *Satir. P. Reform.* XXXVI. 64 Lyndsay..tuik þair geir, and luit thame selfis slip. 1621 ELSING *Lords' Deb.* (Camden) App. 131 A motion that Fowles should be closely keept in, otherwise it is thought hee will slipp. 1866 BROGDEN *Prov. Lincs.*, *Slip*, to run away.

2. To pass or go lightly or quietly; to move quickly and softly, without attracting notice; to glide or steal. Used with various advs. and preps.

In some cases the prominent idea is that of escape; more usually it is that of quick, easy motion.

a. With *away*, *off*, *out*; *from*, *out of*.

c 1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 5931 Gif þir theues away slipp, ȝe haue grete los parfay. 1530 PALSGR. 721/2 Who wolde ever have thought that a thefe coulde have slypped out here. 1582 STANYHURST *Æneis* II. (Arb.) 64 Hold you my duitye so sclender, Too slip from Troytowne. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* I. 44 There is no way to get out of the Church, except they slip out of the doores. 1671 MILTON *P. R.* IV. 226 When slipping from thy Mothers eye thou went'st Alone into the Temple. 1709 PRIOR *Hans Carvel* 24 So in a Morning..[she] Slipt sometimes out to Mrs. Thody's. 1773 *Life N. Frowde* 44, I took that opportunity to slip away. 1844 DICKENS *Mart. Chus.* xlix, Some say he's slipped off, to join his friend abroad. 1878 T. HARDY *Ret. Native* v. viii, So I came downstairs without any noise and slipped out. 1888 BURGON *Lives 12 Gd. Men* II. v. 31 At the end of two or three hours..most of those present had slipped away for luncheon.

transf. 1668 CULPEPPER & COLE *Barthol. Anat.* Man. III. ii 324 These Nerves slip out of the Marrow about the Saddle of Sphœnoides.

fig. 1872 W. D. HOWELLS *Wedding Journ.* 279 You must slip out of it some way.

b. With *by*, *past*, *through*, etc. Also in fig. contexts.

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 985 þay slypped bi & syȝe hir not þat wern hir samen feres. *a* 1592 H. SMITH *Wks.* (1867) II. 23 In the Spanish inquisition the protestants are examined, but the papists slip by. 1705 COLLIER *Ess. Mor. Subj.* III. *Pain* 16 That they should slip through Torture without Pain. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* II. v. 174 There might be less danger of any of the enemy's ships slipping by unobserved. 1831 SCOTT *Cast. Dang.* xix, Bertram slipped clear of his English friend. 1874 L. STEPHEN *Hours Libr.* (1892) II. x. 347 Some idiot..who has somehow managed to slip past us in the race of life.

transf. 1875 *Daily Tel.* 4 Aug. (Cassell), There is always a certain proportion of Bills which may be said to slip through both Houses.

c. With *in*, *into*. Also *fig.*, and in slang use *to slip into*, to give (one) a good blow or beating.

c 1400 *Destr. Troy* 4703 þai..Let sailes doune slide, slippit into botes. 1535 COVERDALE *Joel* ii. 9 They shal clymme vp vpon the houses, & slyppe in at the wyndowes like a thefe. 1592 MARLOWE *Jew of Malta* II. iii, Even now as I came home, he slipt me in. 1697 DRYDEN *Virgil, Life* (1721) I. 61 When People crouded to see him, he would slip into the next Shop..to avoid them. 1712 ARBUTHNOT *John Bull* (1727) 59 He would slip into the cellar, and gauge the casks. 1786 MME. D'ARBLAY *Diary* 25 July, I heard the King's voice. I slipped into my room, but he saw me. 1847 C. BRONTE *Jane Eyre* XXVI, The strangers had slipped in before us. 1867 TROLLOPE *Chron. Barset* I. viii. 65 I'll have a chair for you...You can slip into it and say nothing to nobody. 1888 BRYCE *Amer. Commw.* II. li. 292 If the voters are apathetic and let a bad man slip in.

transf. 1643 BROWNE *Relig. Med.* I. § 17 When unexpected accidents slip in, and unthought of occurrences intervene. 1824 LANDOR *Imag. Conv.* (1846) II. 93 Curiosity slips in among you before the passions are awake. 1874 H. R. REYNOLDS *John Bapt.* III. § 2. 185 Huge assumptions have been allowed to slip into the process of the argument, and to vitiate the proof.

slang. 1850 SMEDLEY *F. Fairlegh* (1894) 3 When you know how to use your fists,..slip into him. 1879 F. W. ROBINSON *Coward Conscience* II. xi, If you would oblige us all by slipping into Cabbage with a stick for half a minute.

d. With *back*, *home*, *over*, *to*, etc.

1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* IX. viii. 31 The weyngit messengeir..slippand come to thy moder. 1560 DAUS *Sleidane's Comm.* 270 They serued vnwyllyngly, and..forsakyng their enseignes, slyppe home euery man. 1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* (1658) 101 If the formost be weary, then slippeth he back to rest his head upon the hindmost. 1664 W. MOUNTAGU in *Buccleuch MSS.* (Hist. MSS. Comm.) I. 315 You will hear of Lord Chamberlain from Kimbolton, who slipped thither last week. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 3 June 1666, So having been much wearied with my journey, I slipp'd home. 1782 COWPER *Retirem.* 436 Then swift descending..[he] Slips to his hammock. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. IV. vi, [He] privily..slips over to the Townhall to whisper a word. 1863 B. TAYLOR *H. Thurston* i. 17 Mrs. Waldo slipped to the door and peeped in. 1865 J. HATTON *Bitter Sweets* iii, I'll slip up with some bread and milk for you.

fig. 1859 TENNYSON *Guinevere* 377 Her memory..Went slipping back upon the golden days.

3. †**a.** With *on* or *upon*: To fall or sink into (sleep). Cf. SLIDE *v.* 6 a. *Obs.*

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* C. 186 He..Slypped vpon a sloumbe slepe. 13.. *Gaw. & Gr. Knt.* 244 As al were slypped vpon slepe, so slaked hor lotez. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 2378 Sleghly on slepe I slypped be-lyue.

b. To enter gradually or inadvertently *into* a theme, digression, opinion, etc.

1641 J. JACKSON *True Evang. T.* iii. 206, I am not slipt into that Anabaptisticall conceit and tenet..that all warres were utterly unlawfull under the Gospel. 1685 BOYLE *Enq. Notion Nat.* IV. 119, I perceive I have slipped into a somewhat long digression.

c. To pass *into* a certain state. Also with *off*.

1864 TENNYSON *Aylmer's F.* 6 Which at a touch of light ..Slipt into ashes, and was found no more. 1888 'J. S. WINTER' *Bootle's Childr.* ii, She began to cry weakly, and at last slipped off into a dead faint.

4. To pass *out of*, escape *from*, the mind, memory, etc. Also without const.

a 1340 HAMPOLE *Ps.* CXVIII. 93 It may noght slip out of my mynde. *c* 1430 HOCCLEVE *Minor Poems* XVIII. 46 Let me nat slippe out of thy remembrance. 1567 MAPLET *Gr. Forest* 21 It will neuer let it sincke or slip out of minde. 1606 SHAKS. *Tr. & Cr.* II. iii. 28 If I could haue remembred a guilt counterfeit, thou would'st not haue slipt out of my contemplation. 1676 RAY *Corresp.* (1848) 125 The experiments ..were quite slipt out of my memory. 1724 WATTS *Logic* I. v. (1726) 73 The Mind is ready to let many of them slip, unless some Pains and Labour be taken to fix them upon the Memory. 1818 SCOTT *Br. Lamm.* xxix, The idea of her mother's presence seemed to have slipped from the unhappy girl's recollection. 1892 J. TAIT *Mind in Matter* 300 Important truths had slipped out of the consciousness of the Church.

5. To break or escape *from* a person, the tongue, lips, etc.

c 1400 *Destr. Troy* 3891 Ector..warpit neuer worde of wrang with his mowthe. Ne sagh þat was vnsemond, slip-

ped hym fro. 1500-20 DUNBAR *Poems* liii. 41 Ane blast of wind soun fra hir slippis. 1607 SHAKS. *Timon* I. i. 20 *Pain.* You are rapt sir, in some worke, some Dedication... *Poet.* A thing slipt idlely from me. 1654 tr. *Scudery's Curia Polit.* 39 Hasty rash words slip often from us inconsiderately. 1674 HICKMAN *Quinquart. Hist.* (ed. 2) 215 This last clause sure slipped from him unawares. 1773 *Life N. Frowde* 42 The reply..slipp'd as glibly from my Tongue, as if in reality I had known no other [name]. 1859 TENNYSON *Marriage Geraint* 446, I will not let his name Slip from my lips if I can help it. 1866 G. MACDONALD *Ann. Q. Neighb.* xv, Lest ..he should let anything slip that might give a clue to the place or people.

b. To leak *out*, become known.

1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* lxiii, When one side or the other had written any particularly spicy despatch, news of it was sure to slip out.

6. Of time: To go by quickly or imperceptibly; to pass unmarked; to run. Chiefly with advs., as *along*, *away*, *by*.

1564-78 BULLEIN *Dial. agst. Pest.* (1888) 19 By little and little tyme doth slip awaie. 1581 PETTIE *Guazzo's Civ. Conv.* I. (1586) 48, I neuer thought how some of that time is slipt away. 1662 J. DAVIES tr. *Olearius' Voy. Amb.* 190 Perceiving the day slipp'd away without any hope of relief. 1730 T. BOSTON *Mem.* x. 312 The season for publishing it is slipt. 1793 JEFFERSON *Writ.* (1859) IV. 93 Time slipped along. 1848 DICKENS *Dombey* xv, As time was slipping by, and he had none to lose, he felt that he must act. 1864 TENNYSON *En. Ard.* 468 Trying his truth..Till half-another year had slipt away.

7. a. To pass *over* (a subject or matter) without adequate attention or notice; to neglect, overlook.

1577 tr. *Bullinger's Decades* (1592) 439 Last of all I will not slip ouer this difference, although it bee of little weight. *a* 1591 H. SMITH *Wks.* (1867) II. 70 That no man's matters should slightly be slipped over. 1676 HALE *Contempl.* II. *Medit. Lord's Pr.* 138 Slipping over it in thy Prayer without a particular animadversion upon it. 1793 SMEATON *Edystone L.* § 300 The circumstance might not have been slipped over, without my knowledge.

b. To progress or travel *across*, *down*, *over*, a stretch of ground, etc., quickly.

1864 TENNYSON *En. Ard.* 527 Yet unvext She slipt across the summer of the world. 1874 L. STEPHEN *Hours Libr.* (1892) I. viii. 290 No man seems on the whole to have slipped down the stream of life more smoothly. 1890 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Col. Reformer* (1891) 188 A ten-mile stage..having been slipped over.

II. 8. Of the foot: = SLIDE *v.* 8 b.

a 1340 HAMPOLE *Ps., Comm. Canticles* 520, I sall 3eld þaim ..in tyme..þat þaire fote slipp. 1535 COVERDALE *Ps.* xvi. 5 Ordre thou my goynges in thy pathes, that my fote steppes slippe not. 1596 SPENSER *F. Q.* VI. vii. 48 His foote slipt (that slip he dearely rewd). 1611 COTGR. s.v. *Glisser*, Better the foot slip then the tongue trip. 1887 WILLIS *Saturday Aft.* 23 My feet slip up on the seedy floor. 1864 *Law Times Rep.* X. 719/2 His foot slipped and he fell into the street.

b. To slide or glide, esp. on a smooth or slippery surface; to lose one's foothold; = SLIDE *v.* 8. Also in fig. context.

1530 PALSGR. 721/2 Syt nat there, I rede you, leste you slyppe downe or you beware. ?*a* 1550 *Freiris Berwik* 582 in *Dunbar's Poems* (1893) 304, I saw him slip..Doun our the stair. *a* 1618 J. DAVIES *Wit's Pilgr.* I. ii, From it (being moist, and slippie) she doth slipp To thy faire Teeth. 1634 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* (1638) 59 Suddenly he slipt downe forty steps or degrees. 1779 E. CLARK *Poems* 193 Our wife yence slippit i' this sliddry gate. 1841 THACKERAY *Great Hoggarty Diamond* iii, 'Hadn't you better come into the carriage,..Mr. Preston?'..'Oh, I'm sure I'll slip out, ma'm,' says I. *c* 1850 *Arab. Nts.* (Rtldg.) 581 As this spot was rather steep, and the ground moist.., he slipped down.

fig. 1538 STARKEY *England* II. i. 167 He folowyth not the ordynance of God, but..blyndyd wyth ignorance, flythe from hyt and slyppyth from hys owne dygnyte. 1579 GOSSON *Sch. Abuse* (Arb.) 63 He slippeth down presently into a dirtie comparison of a dutch Mule and an english mare.

c. To fall into mistake, fault, or error; to err, † to sin. Also with *into* (error, etc.).

(*a*) *c* 1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* xxxviii. 1 Oure tonge..lightly ..slippis, as we doe when we ga in skliper way. 1435 MISYN *Fire of Love* 83 It wer meruayl if he to so grete wrongis suld slype. 1570 T. NORTON tr. *Nowel's Catech.* 64 b, There liueth no mortall man that doth not oft slippe in doing his dutie. 1603 SHAKS. *Meas. for M.* v. i. 477, I am sorry, one so learned, and so wise,..Should slip so grosselie. 1638 JUNIUS *Paint. Ancients* 34 Great Masters..slip sometimes unawares. 1658 CROMWELL *Sp.* 20 Jan. (Carlyle), Therefore it is that men yet slip, and engage themselves against God. *a* 1702 J. POMFRET *Love Triumphant* 145 The best may slip, and the most cautious fall. 1891 *Pall Mall G.* 17 Jan. 4/2 Either Mr. Goldwin Smith's memory has slipped, or he has been..misreported.

(*b*) 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* 504, I may seeme to slip into an errour. 1777 TYRWHITT in *Chatterton's Rowley Poems* App. 321 It might seem invidious to point out living writers..who have slipped into the same mistake.

d. *U.S.* With *up*: To fail; to make a mistake.

1856 B. HARTE *Dow's Flat* iii, He slipped up somehow On each thing thet he struck. 1888 *Cent. Mag.* June 279/1 Slip up in my vernacular! How could I? I talked it when I was a boy with the other boys.

9. To move out of place with an easy sliding motion; to fail to hold or stick; to slide. *To slip off the hooks*: see HOOK *sb.* 15 e.

1382 WYCLIF *Deut.* xix. 5 The yren, slipt of fro the haft, smytith his freend. 1530 PALSGR. 721/2, I slyppe, as a thyng dothe that is thought to be tyed and holdeth nat faste, *je me lasche*. *Ibid.*, I can take no holde upon hym, my handes slyppeth so. 1641 BAKER *Chron.* 173 A Garter ..slipping off in a Dance, King Edward stooped and tooke it up. 1669 STURMY *Mariner's Mag.* II. ii. 53 Fasten the Scale of Equal Parts, and the Scale to be made together, so as they may not slip. 1733 W. ELLIS *Chiltern & Vale Farm.* 172 The Bark will be prevented slipping up, as it is very apt to do.., when the Sticks or Cuttings are forced into the Ground of themselves. 1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 605 It should have grooves crossing each other..to prevent the bones from slipping aside. 1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* I. xxii. 157 My axe slipped out of my hand, and slid..away from me. *Ibid.* II. iv. 249 The snow upon steep mountain-sides frequently slips and rolls down in avalanches. 1867 AUGUSTA WILSON *Vashti* xxix, The sudden movement uncovered the letters, which slipped down and strewed the carpet.

b. To enter or fall *into* by slipping or losing hold.

1679 MOXON *Mech. Exerc.* ix. 157 Lest with the Grain the edge of the Adz should slip too deep into the Board. 1807 P. GASS *Jrnl.* 22 A place where the bank has slipped into the river.

10. To glide or pass easily *out of* (or *from*) *one's hand* or *grasp*, *through* (or *between*) *one's fingers*, etc., so as to escape or be lost. In later use chiefly *transf.*

1390 GOWER *Conf.* II. 72 In liknesse of an Eddre he slipte Out of his hond, and forth he skipte. 1555 EDEN *Decades* (Arb.) 100 They slypped owte of their handes. 1622 FLETCHER *Prophetess* III. ii, Hold her fast, She'll slip thorow your fingers like an Eel else. 1668 HOPKINS *Serm. Vanity* (1685) 85 All our treasures are like quicksilver, which strangely slips between our fingers, when we think we hold it fastest. 1746 *Rep. Conduct of Sir J. Cope* 110 How this Person.. slip'd out of his Hands. *a* 1770 JORTIN *Serm.* (1771) I. 132 Wealth by various means slips from the possessor's hands. 1807 W. IRVING *Salmagundi* (1824) 125 So, between them, the lady generally slipped through their fingers. 1853 JAMES *Agnes Sorel* (1860) I. 19 To exercise the authority in the land which slips from the grasp of the monarch. 1888 BRYCE *Amer. Commw.* III. xcviii. 379 Not only has the direction of politics slipped in great measure from their hands [etc.].

b. Similarly with *away*, or without const.

1611 COTGR. s.v. *Passer*, Good lucke vnheeded quickly slips away. 1759 ROBERTSON *Hist. Scot.* VII. Wks. 1813 I. 503 Elizabeth did not suffer such a favourable opportunity to slip. 1780 COWPER *Progr. Error* 22 The rhet'ric they display Shines as it runs, but, grasp'd at, slips away.

11. To allow oneself to drop or fall with an easy, gliding motion; to slide *down*.

1470-85 MALORY *Arthur* IX. xl. 404 So whanne syr Dynas wente oute on huntynge she slypped doune by a tuell. 1847 TENNYSON *Princ.* VII. 172 Now folds the lily all her sweetness up, And slips into the bosom of the lake. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.* 633 *To slip by the board*, to slip down by the ship's side.

12. Of rivers, etc.: To run smoothly or gently; to flow, glide; to pass *into* the sea.

1570-6 LAMBARDE *Peramb. Kent* (1826) 189 It..falleth.. to Rotherbridge,..from whence it soon after slippeth into the sea. 1598 MARLOWE *Ovid's Elegies* II. xiii, Swift Nile in his large channell slipping. 1784 COWPER *Task* I. 192 The softer voice..of rills that slip Through the cleft rock. 1864 TENNYSON *En. Ard.* 629 The silent water slipping from the hills. 1885 STEVENSON *Child's Garden, Foreign Lands* iv, To where the grown-up river slips Into the sea among the ships.

transf. 1748 THOMSON *Castle Indol.* I. xx, Yet they [*sc.* vibrations] slipt along In silent ease.

13. a. To get *out of* or *into* a garment, etc., in an easy or hurried manner.

1500-20 DUNBAR *Poems* xxxiii. 106 He schewre his feddreme that was schene, And slippit owt of it full clene. 1609 FIELD *Woman is a Weathercock* II. i, Then my lord (like a snake) casts a suit every quarter which I slip into. 1857 LD. DUFFERIN *Lett. High Lat.* (ed. 3) 206 Slipping into a pair of fur boots. 1893 KEITH *'Lisbeth* II. ii, He's slipping into a clean shirt as fast as he can.

b. To slide *in* or *into* a socket, etc.

1815 SCOTT *Let.* in *Lockhart* (1837) III. xii. 401 The thistle..is entirely detached, in working, from the figure, and slips into a socket. 1859 *Handbk. Turning* 75 A groove, in which one end of the tool slide..slips and is firmly fixed..by a nut underneath.

14. To move easily and smoothly.

1680 MOXON *Mech. Exerc.* x. 179 So oft as the Workman has occasion to oyl the Centers of his Work, to make his Work slip about the easier. 1869 RANKINE *Machine & Hand-tools* Pl. I 3, The cord wheel slipping within its encircling cord.

b. To admit of being taken *off*, or put *on*, by a slipping process.

1669 STURMY *Mariner's Mag.* v. xii. 63 Before you paste your Paper on the form, first Tallow him, so will the Canvas and Paper slip off without starting or tearing. 1747-96 MRS. GLASSE *Cookery* xiv. 227 You must boil your beans so that the skin will slip off. 1820 SCOTT *Monast.* x, I am grown somewhat fatter.., and my leathern coat slips not on so soon as it was wont.

c. Of bark: To peel off.

1788 DEANE in *M. Cutler's Life*, etc. (1888) I. 388, I have had chairs bottomed with the rind [of basswood], which will slip finely in June. 1878 JEFFERIES *Gamekeeper at Home* 61 When the sap is rising, the bark of the smaller shoots of the lime-tree 'slips' easily.

** *Transitive senses.*

III. 15. To cause to move with a sliding motion; to draw or pull in this manner.

In quot. 1850 prob. suggested by Du. *slepen*.

1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* VII. vii. 28 Full slyde scho slyppis hir membris our allquhayr. 1633 HERBERT *Temple, Praise* vi, After thou hadst slipt a drop From thy right eye. 1688 MIÉGE *Gt. Fr. Dict.* I. s.v. *Dérober*, To slip beans out of their skins. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 12 June 1652, It was long before I could slip the cord over my wrists to my thumb. 1733 W. ELLIS *Chiltern & Vale Farm.* 187 Their Bark must never be slip'd up at their putting into the Earth. 1833 HT. MARTINEAU *Manch. Strike* vii. 77 Make every one knock that wants to come in. If they won't obey,..slip the bolt. 1850 R. G. CUMMING *Hunter's Life S. Afr.* (ed. 2) I. 149, I..despatched men with a span or team of oxen to slip the wildebeest to camp. 1889 GRETTON *Memory's Harkback* 161 One of the men slipped a brand from a bundle of wood.

fig. 1795 BURKE *Regic. Peace* iv. (1892) 268 Having therefore slipped the persons, with whom we are to treat, out of view.

b. With *off* or *on*. (Cf. 2.) Also *refl.*

1662 BOYLE *Spring of Air* 114 Since..such Surfaces are as easily slipt of, and extended in the end of the depression as in the beginning. 1680 MOXON *Mech. Exerc.* x. 188 On this Crook is slipt the Noose of a Leather Thong. 1707 *Curios. in Husb. & Gard.* 197 A Cinnamon-Tree..bears none but its Bark, which Slips itself off every Year. 1778 MRS. RAFFALD *Eng. Housekeeper* 25 Take the cloth carefully off, and slip it on to your dish. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. I. vi, On the President's chair [can] be slipped this cover of velvet. 1885 *Law Reports* 15 Q. B. Div. 360 The belts..could be slipped off the drum of the shaft..at pleasure.

c. *Sc.* To go or take (one's way) in a quick and quiet manner. With advb. compl.

1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* xxxviii, If I were to..slip my ways hame again. — *Rob Roy* xxii, I..came slipping my ways here to see what can be dune anent your affairs.

16. a. To strip or take off (a garment, etc.); to cast (the skin, etc.). Occas. with advs., as *down*, *off*. Also in fig. context.

1535 LYNDESAY *Satire* 2172 Slip doun 3our hois. *a* 1592 H. SMITH *Serm.* (1637) 454 As a man slippeth off his clothes, ..so we must slip off all our sins. 1603 DEKKER *Whore Babylon* Wks. 1873 II. 244 The snake slips off his skinne. 1673 *Humours Town* 45 They ought now, like the Serpent, to slip their Skin. 1727 BOYER *Dict. Royal* II, To slip (or pull) off one's Shoes, *tirer ses Souliers*. 1842 TENNYSON *Talking Oak* 188 When that, which breathes within the leaf, Could slip its bark and walk. 1901 J. WATSON *Life Master* ix. 87 He slips his past and puts on a new shape.

b. To put *on* (an article of apparel) hastily or carelessly.

1590 LODGE *Rosalind* (1592) H iij, With that she slipt on her peticoat, and start vp. *c* 1660 *Roxb. Ball.* (1886) VI. 213 Come slip on your slippers, and trip down the stairs. 1687 MIÉGE *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II, To slip his Clothes on, *s'habiller*. 1773 *Life N. Frowde* 92, I jumped out of Bed, slipp'd my Coat on, and..called the Chamberlain. 1786 MME. D'ARBLAY *Diary* 17 July, I was obliged to slip on my morning gown, ..and run away as fast as possible. 1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* vii, Porteous might, however, have eluded the fury,..had he thought of slipping on some disguise. 1856 KANE *Arctic Expl.* II. ix. 95 The watch-officer slips on his bear-skin.

17. To withdraw (one's head or neck) *out of* or *from* a collar, etc. Also *fig.* (cf. COLLAR *sb.* 8).

1583 GOLDING *Calvin on Deut.* CXXV. 772 Albeit we.. would slippe our heades out of the coler seeking to shift off ye matter. 1594 SHAKS. *Rich. III*, IV. iv. 112 My burthen'd yoke, From which, euen heere I slip my wearied head. 1687 MIÉGE *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II, To slip his Neck out of the Collar.

18. To insert or introduce gently or surreptitiously. Const. *in*, *into*.

1688 MIÉGE *Gt. Fr. Dict.* I. s.v. *Couler*, To slip mony into his pocket. 1713 ARBUTHNOT *John Bull* (1727) 76 He had tried to slip a powder into her drink. 1748 H. ELLIS *Voy. Hudson's Bay* 136 When they want to lay their Child out of their Arms, they slip it into one of their Boots. 1852 MRS. H. B. STOWE *Uncle Tom's C.* XXI. 219 The choicest peach or orange was slipped into his pocket to give to her when he came back. 1888 'J. S. WINTER' *Bootle's Childr.* iii, He took the loose cushion..and slipped it under Lassie's head.

transf. 1837 [MISS MAITLAND] *Lett. fr. Madras* (1843) 155 A— quoted all the old divines, and I slipped in texts. 1900 H. LAWSON *On Track* 55 The time when he slipped three leaden pills into 'Blue Shirt' for winking at a new chum behind his..back.

b. *Cards.* To palm (a card); † *absol.*, to cheat in this manner in playing. *To slip the cut* (see quot. 1879).

1760 FOOTE *Minor* I. Wks. 1799 I. 239, I am..an adept in their science, can slip, shuffle, cog, or cut with the best of 'em. 1807 *Sporting Mag.* XXIX. 197 Few could more dextrously slip a card or cog a die. 1836 in Curtees *Rep. Cases Eccl. Courts* I. 414 *note*, He..detected him slipping the king, commonly called 'palming', for the purpose of cheating..him. 1879 *Sporting Exam.* 19 Aug. 262 The usual method of slipping the cut is to pick up with your right hand the cards removed from the top of the pack, and place them in the open palm of your left hand [etc.].

c. To give quietly or slyly.

1841 S. HAWKINS *Poems* V. 25 (E.D.D.), The cannie lass whiles..slips me down a bit o' bread. 1865 CARLYLE *Fredh. Gt.* x. v. III. 256 The Custom-house people..were pacified by slipping them a ducat.

19. To cause to slip or lose hold; *esp.* to undo (a knot) in this way. Also in fig. context.

1606 SHAKS. *Tr. & Cr.* v. ii. 156 The bonds of heauen are slipt, dissolu'd, and loos'd. 1674 FAIRFAX *Bulk & Selv.* 74 Should but any one pin of it be misdriven, or the running of its least wheel slipt or jostled. 1761 STERNE *Tr. Shandy* III. x, Tight, hard knots,..in which there is no quibbling provision made..to get them slipped and undone by. 1828 SCOTT *Rob Roy* iii, The manner in which my father slipt a knot, usually esteemed the strongest which binds society together. 1894 HALL CAINE *Manxman* v. v, 'Kate's knot,' thought Pete...He slipped it, and opened the lid.

b. To dislocate (a joint).

1727 GAY *Begg. Op.* I. xiii, May my pistols miss fire, and my mare slip her shoulder while I am pursu'd, if I ever forsake thee! 1760 C. JOHNSTON *Chrysal* (1822) II. 45 Who rode against him, and slipped his shoulder. 1842 LOVER *Handy Andy* xxxvii, My horse, I fear, has slipped his shoulder. 1868 *Daily News* 18 July, This boar..slipped its hip last Saturday while it was being washed.

c. To suffer an accidental slipping or sliding of (one's foot).

1769 *Middlsx. Jrnl.* 15-17 June 4/4 A carpenter..coming down stairs..slipped his foot and got..a desperate fall. 1813 *Examiner* 5 Apr. 215/2 A..man..unfortunately slipped his foot, and fell. 1874 Lady Herbert tr. *Hübner's Ramble World* II. vi. (1878) 365 He slipped his foot and fell.

IV. 20. †**a.** To allow to pass idly or unprofitably; to waste or lose (time). *Obs.*

1435 Misyn *Fire of Love* 88 Woo be to þame qwhos days ar slippyd & passyd in vanite. 1645 G. Daniel *Poems* Wks. (Grosart) II. 82 Poor crauling Emmetts! in what busie toyle Wee slip away our Time? 1687 *Hist. Sir John Hawkwood* iv. 7 To slip no time, lest he should be anticeeded, he sits him down.

b. To allow (an occasion, opportunity, etc.) to slip or pass by; to neglect or fail to take advantage of.

c 1592 Marlowe *Jew of Malta* v. ii, Slip not thine oportunity. 1597 Daniel *Civ. Wars* II. xlvii, Here, my sou'raigne, to make longer stay..May slippe th' occasion, and incense their will. 1647 N. Ward *Simp. Cobler* 35 If this market be slipt, things may grow..deare. 1699 Bentley *Phalaris* 187 The consciousness of his own guilt made him slip this fair occasion of traducing me. 1721 De Foe *Mem. Cavalier* (1840) 175 Advantages slipt in war are never recovered. 1781 C. Johnston *Hist. J. Juniper* I. 193 He could not slip the opportunity. 1831 Shennan *Tales* 164 (E.D.D.), Then slip not the chance when it is in your power.

†**c.** To fail in keeping (a prescribed time). *Obs.*

1605 Shaks. *Mach.* II. iii. 52 He did command me to call timely on him, I haue almost slipt the houre. 1707 J. Stevens tr. *Quevedo's Com. Wks.* (1709) 395, I slipt my Time.

21. To pass over, omit in speaking; to avoid mention or consideration of. Also with *over*.

1605 B. Jonson *Volpone* iv. i, I do slippe No action of my life, thus, but I quote it. 1612 Webster *White Devil* iv. i, Some divines you might find foulded there; But that I slip them o're for conscience sake. 1690 *Andrw Tracts* II. 63 We had almost slipt the Notice of a Bawl or two these Libellers make about Damnifying their Church. 1748 Washington *Jrnl.* 25 Mar., Writ. 1889 I, 3 Nothing remarkable on Thursday...So shall slip it. 1850 Tennyson *In Mem.* cxxii, Like an inconsiderate boy,..I slip the thoughts of life and death.

b. To neglect; to omit or fail to prosecute, perform, employ, etc.; to skip, to miss.

1592 *Arden of Feversham* III. ii, Wert not a serious thing we go about, It should be slipt til I had fought with thee. 1620 *Hist. Frier Rush* 22, I pray thee..briefely to make an end of thy enterprise, and slip it not. 1711 Swift *Lett.* (1767) III. 259 Our ministers are too negligent of such things: I have never slipt giving them warning. 1721 Amherst *Terræ-Fil.* No. 10 (1726) 51 Whether it was usual now and then to slip a lecture or so. 1728 Ramsay *General Mistake* 137 [He]changes, lends, extorses, cheats and grips, And no ae turn of gainfu' us'ry slips.

V. 22. To elude or evade, esp. in a stealthy manner; to escape from; to give the slip to.

1513 Douglas *Æneid* II. vi. 41 Bot lo! Panthus, slippit the Grekis speris,..Cummis like ane wod man to our 3et rynning. 1607 Tourneur *Rev. Trag.* III. vi, Why was't not my inuention, brother, To slip the Judges. 1669 Penn *No Cross* I. iii. § 6 No, not a Thought must slip the Watch. 1702 Vanbrugh *False Friend* v. i, He sees me; 'tis too late to slip him. 1746 H. Walpole *Lett.* (1846) II. 107 To prevent the rebels slipping the Duke. 1891 Roberts *Adrift Amer.* 198 That very night I slipped him while he was asleep, and got clear away.

b. To pass by, get in front of; to outdistance.

1856 H. H. Dixon *Post & Paddock* xiii. 324 He had slipped all the rest of the field. 1896 *Sportsman* 10 July 3/8 The metropolitan crew managed to slip their doughty antagonists at the start.

c. With *up*. To defraud or swindle; to disappoint. *Austr. slang.*

1890 *Melbourne Argus* 9 Aug. 4/2, I'd only be slipped up if I trusted to them. 1891 Nat. Gould *Double Event* 92 It's deuced hard lines..to be slipped up like this.

d. To escape from the grasp of (a person).

1898 G. Meredith *Odes Fr. Hist.* 62 She swung the sword for centuries: in a day It slipped her.

23. To disengage oneself or get loose from (a collar, halter, etc.). Freq. *fig.* (cf. Collar *sb.* 8).

1579 W. Wilkinson *Confut. Fam. of Love* 16 He can not slippe the coller with me as erst he did, in leauyng the former sentence. 1594 Lyly *Mother Bombie* II. i, I hope you shall neuer slip string, but hang steddie. 1607 Topsell *Four-f. Beasts* (1658) 5 Mammonets..are tied by the hips, that they slip not collar. 1662 J. Davies tr. *Olearius' Voy. Amb.* 309 They also fasten them..that, in case they should break or slip their Halters, they may not get away. 1821 Scott *Kenilw.* xiii, Hobgoblin..is like to play the devil in the world, if he can once slip the string. 1836 *Uncle Philip's Convers. Whale Fishery* 38 [The whale] must be struck in the proper way or he will slip the harpoon. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* I. VII. x, Rascality has slipped its muzzle. 1890 *Spectator* 28 June, An overworked man who has contrived for a week or two to slip the collar of professional responsibility.

24. To escape from (one's memory); to elude (one's notice, knowledge, etc.).

1652 Collinges *Caveat for Prophanen.* xxvii. (1653) 112 Reasons..which have slipt my memory. 1709 Baynard *Cold Baths* II. 188 Very few..remarkable Passages..of the Ancient..Writers slip your Observation. 1733 W. Ellis *Chiltern & Vale Farm.* 140 Several good Properties of this Tree having slip'd the Knowledge and Notice of Authors. 1768 Sterne *Sent. Journ., Le Dimanche*, Le Fleur..let as few occasions slip him as his master.

25. To pass or escape inadvertently from (the pen, tongue, etc.).

1751 Warburton in W. & Hurd *Lett.* (1809) 82 The word Hutcheson slipped my pen before I was aware. 1887 G. Meredith *Ball. & Poems* 148 Weak words he has, that slip the nerveless tongue.

VI. 26. To allow to slip (from one's hand, etc.); to loosen one's hold or grasp of; to let go.

c 1586 C'tess Pembroke *Ps.* lxxviii. xi, He slipt the raines to east and southerne wind. 1592 Greene *Def. Conny Catch.* Wks. (Grosart) XI. 67 Jacke all this while had an eye to the Bitch, and determined at last to slip her haulter. 1684 R. H. *School Recreat.* 59 Caveating or Disengaging. Here you must..slip your Adversaries Sword, when you perceive him about to bind or secure yours. 1764 J. Ferguson *Lect.* ii. 13 A pebble moved round in a sling..will fly off the moment it is set at liberty, by slipping one end of the sling-cord. 1878 Bosw. Smith *Carthage* 104 These..slipped the ropes and did battle with their assailants. 1883 *Law Times Rep.* XLIX. 332 The tow-rope of the tug was slipped.

fig. 1611 Shaks. *Cymb.* iv. iii. 22 Wee'l slip you for a season, but our iealousie Do's yet depend.

b. To allow to escape; to utter († or commit) inadvertently. Also with *out*.

a 1591 H. Smith *Wks.* (1867) II. 12 That they may forget themselves at such a time, and step too far, and slip a sin. 1687 Miège *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II, To slip out a Word, *lâcher une parole*. 1723 *Pres. State of Russia* II. 151 But I was drunk,..and I slipt those Words, trusting to my Servants. 1766 Goldsm. *Vicar W.* ix, They once or twice mortified us sensibly by slipping out an oath.

c. *To slip one's breath* or *wind*, to expire; to die. *colloq.*

a 1819 Wolcot (P. Pindar) *Wks.* (1830) 69 (Davies), And for their cats that happed to slip their breath, Old maids ..might mourn. 1833 Marryat *P. Simple* (1863) 282 He thinks I am slipping my wind now—but I know better. 1856 Reade *Never too late to mend* I. x. 180 You give him the right stuff, doctor,..and he won't slip his wind this time.

d. To emit, send out (light, etc.). *rare* —1.

1873 Browning *Red Cott. Nt.-cap* 122 Each pullet-egg Of diamond, slipping flame from fifty slants.

e. *Knitting.* (See quot.)

1880 *Plain Hints Needlew.* 14 To decide whether it should be done by knitting 2 loops together, or by slipping a loop (i.e. taking it off without knitting).

f. To detach (the end carriage or coach) from an express or non-stopping train while running, in order to allow passengers to get out at a certain station.

1866 *Bradshaw's Railw. Guide* Jan. 39 A carriage slipped at Slough at 10.45 aft. 1884 *G. W. R. Time Tables* July 48 Carriage slipped at Reading at 2.4. 1898 *Daily News* 11 Oct. 8/1 The Great Western..were slipping coaches in 1865.

27. To release (a greyhound or other dog, or a hawk) from a leash or slip. Also *fig.*

1596 Shaks. *Tam. Shr.* v. ii. 52 Oh sir, Lucentio slipt me like his Gray-hound. *a* 1625 Beaum. & Fl. *Women Pleas'd* II. ii, When they grow ripe for marriage They must be slipt like Hawkes. 1649 G. Daniel *Trinarch., Hen. IV*, ccxlix, The Age (it seemes)..broke in the Cell; Slipt her Rebellions, like rude Molaes forth. 1668 Etheredge *She wou'd if she cou'd* II. i, Indeed methinks they look as if they never had been slip'd before. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s.v. *Coursing*, The mungril greyhound, whose business it is to drive away the deer before the greyhounds are slip'd. 1841 Lane *Arab. Nts.* I. 126 The horsemen are instantly at full speed, having slipped the dogs.

absol. 1893 *Times* 28 Dec. 10/3 W. slipped well. 1904 *Field* 6 Feb. 220/2 Hare rarely seen slip better.

b. With *after*, *at*, or *upon* (game, etc.).

1673 Hickeringill *Greg. F. Greyb.* 8 He has stood three or four courses already; the first..that was slipt at him made more hast than good speed. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s.v. *Coursing*, If a proper deer come out, and it is suspected that the brace or leash of greyhounds slip'd after him, will not be able to kill him. 1816 Scott *Fam. Lett.* 21 Dec. (1894) I. 387 Maida is a little lame, but if he gets better I would like to slip him at a fox. 1827 D. Johnson *Ind. Field Sports* 177 Grey-hounds were slipped after such as were wounded. 1859 Tennyson *Elaine* 654 Our falcon yesterday, Who lost the hern we slipt her at. 1903 Sir M. G. Gerard *Leaves fr. Diaries* vii. 213 A friend of mine saw thirteen of these dogs slipped upon a wounded tiger.

fig. 1676 Etheredge *Man of Mode* II. i, I am going to slip the boy at a mistress. 1832–4 De Quincey *Cæsars* Wks. 1859 X. 218 The Roman army hungered..to be unmuzzled and slipped upon these false friends.

c. To unyoke, release.

1859 Capern *Ball. & Songs* 41 The ploughman slips his weary team.

28. *Naut.* To allow (an anchor-cable, etc.) to run out, freq. with a buoy attached, when quitting an anchorage in haste; to drop or disengage (an anchor) in this way.

1681 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1643/1 The Tripolines slipped their Anchors and made what haste they could into the Port. 1698 Fryer *Acc. E. India & P.* A 4 b, Found three anchors slipped in the Bay. 1722 De Foe *Col. Jack* xviii, She immediately slipped her cable, and put herself under sail. 1790 Beatson *Naval & Mil. Mem.* I. 173 Few of them lost any time in weighing their anchors, but either cut or slipped them. 1840 R. H. Dana *Bef. Mast* xiv. 35 We made sail, slipped our cable,..and beat about, for four days.

absol. 1667 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 203/4 One of them..was forced to come to an Anchor, but the night proving stormy obliged her to slip. 1683 *Ibid.* No. 1787/4 Several other Vessels in this bad Weather slipt, and went to Sea. 1793 Smeaton *Edystone L.* § 226 The Weston..was therefore ordered to slip and make her best port. 1840 R. H. Dana *Bef. Mast* xviii, Vessels are obliged to slip and run for their lives on the first sign of a gale.

b. *To slip one's cable*, to die.

1751 Smollett *Per. Pic.* lxxix, I told him [a doctor] as how I could slip my cable without his..assistance. 1868 Yates *Rocks Ahead* Prol. ii, Our poor friend, who has, as it were, slipped his cable before my arrival.

29. Of animals: To miscarry with; to drop, bring forth, or cast prematurely. Also *transf.* of persons.

1665 Pepys *Diary* 31 Mar., My Lady Castlemaine is sick again; people think slipping her filly. 1757 *Phil. Trans.* L. 536 As appears by the cows with calf not slipping their calves. 1759 R. Brown *Compl. Farmer* 52 These [dogs] have sometimes caused them [sows] to slip their pigs. 1827 *Sport. Mag.* XXI. 38 My grey mare had slipped a fine horse foal.. and my best cow her calf. 1859 Geo. Eliot *A. Bede* vi, The cheese may swell, or the cows may slip their calf.

Slip (slip), *v.*2 Also 6 **slyppe.** [a. MFlem. or MLG. *slippen* (LG. *slippen*, MSw. *slippa*; obs. G. *schlipfen*), to cut, incise, cleave, etc.]

†**1.** *trans.* To cut (a spoon-handle) obliquely at the end. *Obs.*

1498 *Test. Ebor.* (Surtees) IV. 142, xij coclearia argentea, Slipped in lez stalkes. 1538 *Ibid.* VI. 81, ij spones of sylver slipped at the endes. 1549 *Inv. Edw. VI* in Jackson *Hist. Eng. Plate* (1911) 497 Fourtene Spones well gilt slipped at thendes.

2. To part (a slip or cutting) from a stock, stalk, or branch, esp. for the purpose of propagation; to divide (a plant, root, etc.) *into* slips.

1530 Palsgr. 721/2, I slyppe an herbe a [? *read* or] stryke slyppes of it, or leaves from the stalke. 1597 *2nd Pt. Good Housew. Jewel* B viij, Put these..into an earthen pot with ..Time and rosemary slipped. 1615 W. Lawson *Country Housew. Garden* (1626) 39 If he be little, slip him, and set him, perhaps he will take. 1669 Worlidge *Syst. Agric.* (1681) 157 The Branches also may be slipped and planted. 1731 *Gentl. Mag.* I. 93 Sow scorzonera salsfy, and slip skerrits of the last year's growth. 1786 Abercrombie *Gard. Assist.* 273 Burnet—may be planted and slipped. 1808 *Ann. Reg., Chron.* 67 When the plant had tillered, I took it up, and slipped or divided it into four sets of slips.

absol. 1614 Breton *I would & I would not* xxxviii, I would I were a Gardiner, and had skill To digge and rake, and plant, and sowe, and slippe.

b. With *off* or *from*. Also to cut, gather (a flower, etc.).

1563 Hyll *Art Garden.* (1593) 107 Then do the Gardners slip them off from the greater stalkes. 1577 B. Googe *Heresbach's Husb.* II. (1586) 55 The branches being slipped off, and set in the spring. 1663 Bp. Griffith *Four Admirable Beasts* 20 We can slip a cluster of Grapes from a Vine. 1687 Miège *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II, To slip off a Flower, *cueillir une Fleur*. 1766 *Compl. Farmer* s.v. *Skirrets*, The side roots should be slipped off with an eye or bud to each. 1790 *Trans. Soc. Arts* VIII. 81, I slipped off several offsets from the heads of large plants. 1825 *Greenho. Comp.* II. 190 Leaves slipped off and planted in moist moss will root, and become plants.

c. In fig. contexts.

1580 Lyly *Euphues* (Arb.) 367 When ye flower of their youth (being slipped too young) shall fade before they be olde. 1785 Paley *Mor. Philos.* VI. i. (1818) II. 111 Every branch which was slipped off from the primitive stock.. would..take root, and grow into a separate clan.

†**3.** *Dicing.* (See quot.) *Obs.*

1711 Puckle *The Club* 31 The Doctors, the Fulloms, Loaded Dice.., High-Slipt, Low-Slipt. [*Note.*] Dice with their Edges polish'd off, so as to make them run high... Ditto, so as to make them run low.

Slip, *v.*3 *rare* —1. [f. Slip *sb.*1 4.] *trans.* To paint or ornament (pottery) with slip.

1686 Plot *Staffordsh.* 123 These also being dry, they then Slip or paint them with their several sorts of Slip.

Slip, *v.*4 [f. Slip *sb.*2]

1. *trans.* To face *with* a slip of some material.

1885 Spon *Mech. Own Book* 353 The shelves and divisions..are slipped with rosewood on the fore edges. *Ibid.* 373 The proper way is to 'slip' them with good mahogany, at least ¼ in. thick.

2. To note or enter upon a slip or slips.

1895 *Westm. Gaz.* 15 May 7/2 He is sure to be near winning the first event for which he is 'slipped'. 1902 *Athenæum* 23 Aug. 256/1 Miss Betham-Edwards's new story..is being 'slipped' by Dr. Wright..for his 'Dialect Dictionary'.

Slip-, the stem of Slip *v.*1 in combination, as **slip-bend** (see quot.); **slip-buoy**, a buoy attached to a cable when slipping an anchor; **slip-coat**, ? a coat which slips on readily; **slip-cord**, a cord with a slip-knot made on it; **slip-finger** *a.*, that has slippery fingers; in quot. *fig.*; **slip-gibbet**, a scape-gallows (now *dial.*); †**slip-groat**, = Slide-groat; †**slip-halter**, = *slip-gibbet*; **slip-hook** (see quots.); **slip-jig**, some kind of dance; **slip joint, -link** (see quots.); **slip-noose**, a noose which tightens and slackens by means of a slip-knot; **slip-rope, -screw, -shackle** (see quots.); **slip-shelled** *a.*, ? having the outer covering removed; †**slip-skin** *a.*, slippery, evasive; **slip sole** *Sc.*, **slip spear** (see quots.); †**slip-sprung** *a.*, illegitimately born; **slip-stitch** *sb.* (see quot.); hence *slip-stitch* vb., *slip-stitcher*; †**slip-stocking**, ? a short stocking, a sock; **slip-stopper** (see quots.); **slip thong**, a thong which operates by means of a slip-knot; †**slip-thrift**, shovel-board; a spendthrift; cf. Slide-thrift.

Various other accidental or trivial combs. of this and the following types appear in recent use.

1867 Smyth *Sailor's Word-bk.* 633 **Slip-Bend*, when a man makes a false step, and slips down a hatchway, or overboard. 1798 Capt. Miller in Nicolas *Disp. Nelson* (1846) VII. p. clviii, We hove up to our best bower..and got a *slip buoy on the end of our sheet cable. 1562 Phaer *Æneid* IX. Cc ij, You must haue..gay ioly Jerkins, saffron shirts,

Your *slipcoats must haue sleeues. 1847 W. C. L. Martin *The Ox* 166/1 Let the *slip-cords be applied to the fore-legs, and held by an assistant. 1848 *Fraser's Mag.* XXXVIII. 428 The empty, tattered Past,..the greased *slipfinger Present. 1785 Grose *Dict. Vulgar T.* s.v. *Scapegallows*, A *slip gibbet, one for whom the gallows is said to groan. 1521 in Inderwick *Cal. Inner Temple Rec.* (1896) 63 [None of the society shall play within the Inn at the game called] shoffe boorde [or] *slypgrote. 1659 *Lady Alimony* IV. vi, As I hope for mercy, I am half-persuaded that this *slip-halter has pawned my clothes. 1863 A. Young *Naut. Dict.* 356 **Slip hook*..is 'especially useful on shipboard in securing and slipping towing cables, etc.' 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2212/1 [The] Slip-hook..may be disengaged or *slipped* by the motion of a trigger, a sliding ring, or otherwise. 1895 *Cath. News* 13 July 2/3 He would not let her go until she had finished the *slip jig. 1876 Preece & Sivewright *Telegraphy* 234 If the pipes are iron, one of them has to be broken; where this is unavoidable a *slip joint is afterwards employed to protect it—that is to say, two half pipes..are placed one over and the other under the break; they are screwed together and the ends tightly packed. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2212/1 **Slip-link*, a connecting link which allows a certain freedom of motion. 1847 W. C. L. Martin *The Ox* 166/1 It may be necessary to put a *slip noose on each fore limb. 1897 G. C. Bateman *Vivarium* 225 A properly-contrived slip-noose. 1750 Blanckley *Naval Expos.* 136 *Slip Ropes for triseing up the Bites of the Cable to the Rails of the Head. 1846 A. Young *Naut. Dict.* 287 *Slip-rope*, a rope bent to any thing in such a manner that it may be slipped when required. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* IV. 117/1 A '*slip-screw', viz., one in which the threads do not bite, and the screw turns round in its receptacle. 1867 Smyth *Sailor's Word-bk.* 633 **Slip-Shackle*, a shackle with a lever-bolt, for letting go suddenly; yet, when ringed, is sufficient to secure the ship. 1826 Hone *Every-day Bk.* II. 1352 Walnuts *slip-shelled are heaped in a basket. 1641 Milton *Animadv.* Wks. 1851 III. 205 A pretty *slip-skin conveyance to sift Masse into no Masse, and Popish into not Popish. 1887 *Archit. Soc. Dict.* VII. 90 **Slip Sole*, the term in some parts of Scotland for a step. 1883 Gresley *Gloss. Coal-m.* 227 **Slip Spear*, a tool for extracting tubing from a borehole. 1665 Manley *Grotius' Low-C. Wars* 21 Altogether forgetful..that they preferred before him a Bastard, *slip-sprung from an unlawful coition. 1882 Caulfeild & Saward *Dict. Needlwk.* 125/1 **Slip Stitch*, a stitch much used in Raised Crochet, both in joining together detached sprays, and in passing from one part of a pattern to another at the back of the work. 1897 *Westm. Gaz.* 4 Feb. 3/3 The silk should be turned over on the right side and *slip-stitched. 1896 *Daily Chron.* 7 Aug. 10/7 Ties.—Good *slipstitchers for derbys, outdoors. 1673 Hickeringill *Greg. F. Greybeard* 242 Plung'd themselves into perplexities, or into Parson *slip-stockins extravagancies. *a* 1680 Butler in D'Urfey *Pills* (1719) III. 334 Slip-stocking Similitudes. 1698 Collier *Immor. Stage* ii. 60 This lady's fancy is just slip-stocking-high, and she seems to want sense more than her breakfast. 1831 *Ann. Reg.* LXXIII. 445 The apparatus [for releasing the life-buoy] is kept in place by what is called a *slip-stopper, a sort of catch-bolt, which can be unlocked at pleasure, by merely pulling a trigger. *c* 1860 H. Stuart *Seaman's Catech.* 54 The slip stopper..is used for stoppering the cable,..to prevent the cables running out of the hawse-hole. 1799 *Monthly Rev.* XXX. 367 All carry lances, which, when on horseback, by means of a *slip thong, they sling to a rest in the stirrup. 1579 Rice *Invective agst. Vices* B ij b, What to doo there? To Bowle, or to plaie at Dise, or Cardes, Penipricke, or *slipthrift? 1621 Granger *Eccles.* 273 Thus it is in the house of prodigals, drinking slipthrifts, and Belials.

b. Applied generally to devices that may be slipped or slid aside, back, in, out, etc., or to things provided with these, as *slip-bar* (*-gate*), *-board*, *-bottom*, *coffin*, *-coupling*, *-door*, *-feather*, *-feathering*, *gap*, *ladder*, *-panel*, *-ring*, *-shave*. Also Slip-bail.

1805 R. W. Dickson *Pract. Agric.* I. 143 The **slip-bargate* is a form of gate often used. 1726 Swift *Gulliver* II. viii, I..ventured to draw back the *slip-board on the roof. 1854 H. Miller *Sch. & Schm.* (1858) 285 In square wicker-work panniers with *slip-bottoms. 1900 J. J. Vernon *Parish of Hawick 1711–1725*, 167 Interring tramps..by means of 'a *slip coffin', *i. e.*, a coffin which upon being lowered..by ropes attached to it, could be recovered, the body being left in the grave. 1844 H. Stephens *Bk. Farm* III. 927 The spindle may be attached to another shaft..by means of a *slip-coupling. 1764 Lloyd *Actor* Poet. Wks. 1774 I. 19 But in stage customs what offends me most Is the *slip-door, and slowly-rising ghost. 1881 *Mechanic* § 444. 194 The *slip feather that is to be pressed into the grooves to hold the boards. *Ibid.* 193 The modes..adopted for this juncture of pieces of wood are..known respectively as rebating,..grooving and *slip feathering [etc.]. 1859 Bartlett *Dict. Amer.* 167 A **Slip gap* is a place provided in a fence, where the bars may be slipped aside and let down. 1795 Holcroft in Kegan Paul *W. Godwin* (1876) I. 149, I fell from a *slip ladder, and broke it fairly in two. 1864 Eliz. Murray *Ella Norman* I. 161 Jock..rode on, until he came to some *slip panels; these he let down. 1881 A. C. Grant *Bush Life Queensland* II. xxviii. 107 His step, as he bowled up to the slip-panel, was brisk and energetic. 1742 A. Monro in *Med. Ess. Edinb.* V. 455 A Spring which keeps the Handles [of a needle-holder] asunder..till the *Slip-ring or Slider is thrust towards the End of the Handles. 1884 Knight *Dict. Mech.* Suppl. 823/2 **Slip Shave*, a point or shave made to slip over the nose of the mold-board.

c. In the sense 'detached, or intended to be detached, from a railway train while running', as *slip-carriage*, *-coach*, *-compartment*, *-portion*.

Hence *slip-guard*, the guard of such a carriage, etc.

1869 *Echo* 23 Aug., A 'slip' carriage placed in the rear of the train, which is dropped at Hatfield. 1884 *G. W. R. Time Tables* July 33 Slip Coach detached at Bridgewater. 1898 *Daily News* 11 Oct. 8/1 Entering the slip compartment, one finds little to differentiate it from a small guard's van. *Ibid.*, Where the detached slip-portion has collided with the train it has just left..

2. In comb. with advs., as **slip-along** *a.*, slip-shod; **slip-down** *dial.* (see quot. 1828); **slip-in** *a.*, admitting of a person or thing slipping in, or being slipped in, easily or readily; **slip-on**, something that may be slipped or put on readily, *esp.* a great-coat or overall; also *attrib.*; **slip-out** *a.*, that one may slip out of in a convenient manner.

1815 [Mrs. Johnstone] *Clan-Albyn* xiii. (1853) 66 Hugh flung his slip-on around him. 1828 Carr *Craven Gloss., Slip-down*, old milk, a little curdled, which readily slips down the throat. 1849 Maitland *Reformation Eng.* xx. 559 It would be less worth while to read Fox's slip-along stories. 1859 Sala *Gaslight & D.* xxii. 252 He knows all the slip-in and slip-out public-houses in London. 1904 *Ladies Field* 14 May 426/1 The 'Slip-on' coat for all weathers. 1906 *Westm. Gaz.* 1 Dec. 18/2 Both slip-in and paste-on mounts, upon which the photographs can be mounted with the minimum of trouble.

Slip-cheese, -curd: see Slip *sb.*[1] 2 b.

Slip-cloth. Also **slip cloth.**

1. A coat used to protect a coursing-dog while in the slips.

1856 'Stonehenge' *Brit. Rur. Sports* I. III. vii. 200/2 These particular patterns are called 'slip cloths'. [Description follows.]

2. A narrow cloth used to protect a table-cloth, table, or side-board.

1889 'J. S. Winter' *Mrs. Bob* (1891) 209 They dine on the table with slip-cloths. 1899 *Daily News* 23 Dec. 6/2 Then on the white slip cloths the dishes can be laid.

Slip-coat. [Cf. Slip *sb.*[1] 2 b.] A kind of soft cream-cheese. Chiefly in *slip-coat cheese*.

a 1648 Digby *Closet Opened* (1669) 270 My Lady of Middlesex makes excellent slipp-coat cheese of good morning milk, putting cream to it. 1682 Hartman *Direct. Cookery* 53 To make slip-coat cheese, as Sir Kenelm's housekeeper made them for him. 1736 Bailey *Household Dict.* s.v. *Cheese*, To make slip Coat Cheese otherwise call'd Cream Cheese. 1784 Twamley *Dairying Exemp.* 58 The way to make soft Cheese, or slip-coat Cheese. 1858 Simmonds *Dict. Trade*, *Slip-coat*, new-made cheese; a small and very rich variety of Yorkshire cheese, not unlike butter but white.

Slipe (slaip), *sb.*[1] *Sc.* and *north.* Also 5 *Sc.* **slyp**, 6 **slype**. [app. a. LG. *slîpe* (cf. MSw. *slipa* to drag, draw), var. of the usual *slêpe*, = MHG. *sleife* (G. *schleife*) sledge, train, loop, knot, etc., related to LG. *slîpen* to whet, and *slêpen* to drag (see *Grimm's Wbch.* s.v. *schleifen*).]

For various dialect uses see the *Eng. Dial. Dict.*

1. A sledge or drag.

c 1470 Henry *Wallace* IX. 1625 He..Graithyt him a drawcht, on a braid slyp and law. *Ibid.* 1633 To ground the slyp can ga. 1489 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* I. 124 Item, to Will, wryth, that past to bryng the bott fra the Blaknes and makyng of hir slyp, iiij li. 1739 Sir J. Clerk in *Mem. W. Stukeley* (Surtees) II. 92 [At Whitehaven] the Coal when brought up to the level of the sea, is putt on slips [? *read* slipes], and conveyed into the cavity of a hill. 1756 Mrs. Calderwood *Jrnl.* (1884) 64 A great many things they carry on slipes, for instance barrells. They have slipes of a great length. 1807 *Ann. Reg.* 868 A sledge without poles, moved by drag-ropes, and termed a slipe. 1860 *Eng. & Foreign Mining Gloss.* (ed. 2) 79 *Slipes*, the sledges at the bottom of the skip, used to draw the coals upon. 1880– in *Eng. Dial. Dict.* (Sc., Irel.).

b. Part of a plough (see quots.).

1616 Surfl. & Markham *Country Farme* v. vi. 532 Then the slipe to keep the plow from wearing. 1831 J. Holland *Manuf. Metal* I. 157 The sole or under plate, and the curved side or slipe, formerly called the earth-board,..are of iron or cast metal. 1877 *N. W. Linc. Gloss.*, *Slipe*, the flat sheet of iron on the land or left side of a plough. 1891 in *Sheffield Gloss.* Suppl.

c. *Mining.* (See quots.)

1860 *Eng. & Foreign Mining Gloss.* (ed. 2) 44 *Slipes*, flat pieces of iron for the corves to slide on. 1881 Raymond *Mining Gloss.*, *Slipes*,..sledge-runners, upon which a skip is dragged from the working breast to the tramway.

†2. a. ? A flap or lappet. b. A noose or halter. *Obs.*

1540 *Test. Ebor.* (Surtees) VI. 113 My bonnet with slipes. 1587 *Shuttleworth Acc.* (Chetham Soc.) 41 A corde to make slypes for horsies to tye them in, v^d.

Slipe, *sb.*[2] Now *dial.* (and *U.S.*). Also 6 **slype.** [Of obscure origin: cf. Slip *sb.*[2] and Slype.] A slip or slice; a long narrow piece or strip. Also *fig.* (quot. 1597).

1538 Leland *Itin.* (1769) VII. 72 A Soyle Champayne on every Syde, in the whiche as in Slypes, were some prety Groves and Woods. 1597 Hooker *Eccl. Pol.* v. lxxviii. § 5 (1611) 420 Deuiding their charge into slipes, and ordaining of vnder-officers. 1624 *Maldon Borough Deeds* (Bundle 108 fol. 3), One kitchin or building (with a little Slipe of ground therunto in Al Sts. parish). 1854 in Miss Baker *Northampt. Gloss.* 1876– in *Eng. Dial. Dict.* (Cumb., Yks., Bedf., Som.). 1896 *Amer. Dial. Notes* I. 66 (E.D.D.), Cut me a slipe of bacon.

†**Slipe,** *sb.*[3] *Obs.*[–1] [? var. of Slip *sb.*[1]] (See quot.)

1716 *Phil. Trans.* XXIX. 472 The Cliffs consist of great ragged Sand-Stones till we come to near a Yard..of the Bottom; then we meet with what they call a Slipe, *i. e.* a slippery sort of Clay always wet.

Slipe (slaip), *sb.*[4] [f. Slipe *v.*[2]] A certain quality of skin-wool.

1886 *Farmer's Mag.* Nov. 448 Silesian slipes and skins in bundles. 1889 *Daily News* 12 Dec. 2/4 Bales marked with the names of the stations upon which the wool was grown, or the breed of sheep, such as 'Bridgwater Cheviot, Lincoln Slipes', &c.

†**Slipe,** *v.*[1] *Obs.* In 4–5 **slype.** [a. MDu. *slipen* (Du. *slijpen*) or MLG. *slipen* (LG. *slîpen*, Sw. *slipa*, Da. *slibe*), = OHG. *sltfan* (G. *schleifen*) to whet, etc.] *trans.* To make smooth, to polish; to whet or sharpen.

1390 Gower *Conf.* II. 347 His mouth upon the gras he wypeth, And so with feigned chiere him slypeth. 1390 *Earl Derby's Exped.* (Camden) 46 Pro slypyng gladiorum domini. 1471 Ripley *Comp. Alch.* VI. xxvii. in Ashm. (1652) 167 Whych lyke a sworde new slypyd then wyll shyne. 1490 Caxton *Eneydos* xxviii. 107 A swerde well sharpe slyped, myghte haue broughte the two susters to deth bothe atones.

Slipe, *v.*[2] Now *dial.* Also 4 **slype.** [Of obscure origin. For the various dialect uses see the *Eng. Dial. Dict.*]

1. *trans.* To strip, peel, skin; to take *off* by peeling or stripping, etc.

? *c* 1390 *Form of Cury* in Warner *Culin. Antiq.* (1791) 5 Take the whyte of lekes, slype hem, and shrede hem small. 1781 J. Hutton *Tour to Caves* (ed. 2) Gloss. 96 *Slipe*, to strip off the skin or bark of any thing. 1788 W. H. Marshall *Yorksh.* II. 353 To *Slipe off*, to draw off superficially; as skin from the body, bark from a tree, &c. 1824– in dial. glossaries, etc. (Sc. and northern).

2. *intr.* To fall *over* softly.

1786 Burns *To Auld Mare* xii, Till sprittie knowes wad rair't an' risket, An' slypet owre.

†**Slipe,** *v.*[3] *Obs.*[–1] In 5 **slype.** (Meaning not clear.)

a 1500 Medwall *Nature* (Brandl) I. 1072 Than shall hys hosen be stryped, Wyth corselettys of fyne velvet slyped Down to the hard kne.

Sliper, obs. f. Slipper *a.*; see also Sword-sliper. **Slip-in**: see Slip- 2.

Slip-knot (sli·pnɒt). Also **slip knot.** [f. Slip *v.*[1]] a. A knot which may readily be slipped or untied. b. A knot so constructed as to slip along the cord or line round which it is made; a running knot; also, a noose.

1659 Torriano, *Cáppio*, a slipknot that may be untied. 1679 Moxon *Mech. Exerc.* VII. 126 They..fasten the rest of the Line there, upon the Line Rowl with a Slip-knot, that no more Line turn off. 1710 *Managers' Pro & Con* 40 They labour to make the Crown hang upon Her Head, only by that Slipknot of Hereditary Right. 1760 Sterne *Tr. Shandy* III. x, Knots,—by which..I would not be understood to mean slip-knots. 1827 D. Johnson *Ind. Field Sports* 55 Elephants..are caught in Nepaul..by *phauns* (nooses made with slip knots). 1847 W. C. L. Martin *The Ox* 166/1 By dexterous manipulation, the slip-knot of a cord may be fastened round each leg. 1888 *Archæol. Rev.* Mar. 25 The youngest of these princesses is caught while bathing by means of a magical slip-knot.

transf. 1863 Cowden Clarke *Shaks. Charac.* v. 135 A free woman of the world,..retaining her virtue only by a slip-knot. 1888 *Harper's Mag.* July 320/2 Hasty marriages—slip-knots tied by one justice to be undone by another.

Slip-on: see Slip- 2.

Slippage (sli·pĕdʒ). [f. Slip *v.*[1] + -age.] a. The act of slipping or subsiding. b. Amount or extent of slip.

1850 Mallet in *Rep. Brit. Assoc.* I. 61 The sudden slippage under water of large masses of submarine banks of sand or mud. 1898 T. Thornley *Draw & Fly Frames* 71 This, of course, is the effect produced by slippage of cone belt alone.

Slipped (slipt), *ppl. a.*[1] [f. Slip *v.*[1]] That has been let go, cast off, etc.; that has slipped or slid down.

1649 G. Daniel *Trinarch., Hen. V*, CCXXXII, Singlie Slipt Greyhounds chase Whole-Burnish't Herds. 1820 Scott *Abbot* x, I will leave them the slipp'd collar in their hands on the first opportunity. 1829 J. Phillips *Geol. Yks.* 98 The bay beyond is overhung by a broken slipped cliff.

Slipped (slipt), *ppl. a.*[2] [f. Slip *v.*[2]]

†1. Cut obliquely. *Obs.*

1618 in Cripps *Old Eng. Plate* (1901) 281 Spoons with slipped ends.

2. *Her.* Of plants, etc., used as charges: Represented as torn off from the stem.

1610 Guillim *Heraldry* III. x, The field is Sable, three Lilies slipped. *Ibid.*, He beareth..three Gilliflowers Slipped. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) VIII. 448/1 Gules on a Bend Argent, three Trefoils slipped proper. 1864 Boutell *Her. Hist. & Pop.* xi. 70 [Trees are] slipped, when irregularly broken or torn off. 1868 Cussans *Heraldry* vi. (1893) 106 The Trefoil is usually blazoned as *Stalked* and *Slipped*... *Slipped*, applied to a plant, is the same as *Erased* to the limb of an animal.

Slipper (sli·pəɹ), *sb.* Also 5 **sclypper**, 5–6 **slyppar, -er**; 6 **slep(p)er.** [f. Slip *v.*[1] + -er[1].]

I. 1. A light and usually heelless covering for the foot, capable of being easily slipped on, and chiefly employed for indoor wear.

1478 *Paston Lett.* III. 237, ij. schyrtes, and a peyer of sclyppers. 1479 *Ibid.* 240 In the whyche letter was viij *d.* with the whyche I schuld bye a peyer of slyppers. *c* 1496 *Sermo pro Episcopo puerorum* (W. de W.) b iij, Euyll fassheneed garmentes & deuyllysshe shoon & slyppers of frensmen. 1509 Barclay *Shyp of Folys* (1570) 85 Some with their slippers to and fro doth praunce, Clapping with their heeles in Church and in queare. 1576 Fleming *Panopl. Epist.* 405 You should..come tripping to mee in your silcken sleppers. 1607 Dekker & Marston *Northw. Hoe* III. D.'s Wks. 1873 III. 41 What a filthy knaue was the shoo-maker, that made my slippers, what a creaking they keape. 1697 A. Lovell tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* I. 30 Their Shoes are of the same colour, and made almost like Slippers. 1716 Lady Montagu *Lett.* I. j. 8, I walked almost all over the town.. in my slippers, without receiving one spot of dirt.. 1756

tr. *Keysler's Trav.* (1760) I. 444 Within the altar is kept a slipper of his of red velvet, with a very low heel. **1819** BYRON *Juan* II. cxxi, Her small snow feet had slippers, but no stocking. **1859** DICKENS *Tale Two Cities* II. v, He had his slippers on, and a loose bed-gown.

b. In phrases, etc. See also *Hunt the slipper* s.v. HUNT *v.* 13 b, and LADY'S SLIPPER.

?*c* **1570** [JEFFERIES] *Bugbears* IV. v, I cannot [tell] what you cal being with child: She hath trode her slipper awrie. **1625** BP. MOUNTAGU *App. Cæsar* 42, I am loth to touch here, or to meddle beyond my slipper. [Cf. LAST *sb.*[1] 2 c.] **1767** Shuffle the slipper [see DRAW-GLOVE 1]. **1792** S. ROGERS *Pleas. Mem.* I. 35, 'Twas here we chased the slipper by the sound.

c. [After F. *pantoufflier*.] The hammerhead shark.

1796 H. HUNTER tr. *St.-Pierre's Stud. Nat.* (1799) I. 589 The seal, the sea-dog, the shark, the slipper, the thornback.

d. *transf.* The lip or labellum of an orchid.

1902 F. BOYLE *Greenhouse Orchids* 92 Dorsal sepal—that which stands upright above the slipper. **1905** R. HAGGARD *Gardener's Year* Sept. 328 What the bee or other insects do when they enter the slipper of a Cypripedium.

† 2. *Her.* (See quot. 1610 and cf. FUSIL [1].)

1610 GUILLIM *Heraldry* IV. vii, This is called a wharrow spindle, where the other are called Slippers that passe thorow the Yarne as this doth. **1680–4** DINGLEY *Hist. fr. Marble* (Camden) II. p. cclxxxvii, Hobye who beareth argent three Fusils upon slippers gules.

† 3. *Arch.* = PLINTH 1. *Obs. rare.*

1611 COTGR., *Plinthe*, a Plinth, or Slipper; a flat, and square peece of Masonrie, &c. **1703** [R. NEVE] *City & C. Purchaser* 244 *Slipper*, the same as Plinth. [Also in later Dicts.]

4. a. A form of skid used to retard the speed of a vehicle in descending a hill.

1827 *Sporting Mag.* XX. 267 The 'Nimrod' coach with a skid, or slipper. **1854** MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss., Slipper*, a skid-pan. **1876** *Encycl. Brit.* IV. 212 A slipper or 'skid' which can be placed under a wheel.

b. *Mining.* (See quots.)

1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-m., Skids*, slides or slippers upon which certain coal-cutting machines travel along the faces whilst at work. *Ibid., Slippers*, ..steel or iron guides fixed to the ends and sides of cages, to fit and run upon the conductors.

c. A device for conveying electricity from a conductor rail to a tram or train.

1900 *Engineering Mag.* XIX. 747/2 A slipper is placed on each carriage, so that one end of the train makes a contact before the other runs off.

5. 'A kind of apron for children, to be slipped over their other clothes to keep them clean' (Webster, 1828–32).

II. 6. One who slips; also with *away*.

1648 HEXHAM II, *Een glipper*, a Stealer away, or a Slipper away. **1860** WORCESTER, *Slipper*, one who, or that which, slips.

b. As a fish-name: (see quot.).

1866 BUCKLAND in *Life* (1885) 171 Curious eel-like fish, with an ugly, pert-looking head, and frill down the back, ..and a spotted and exceedingly slimy body; their local name is 'slippers' because they slip from the hand so easily.

7. *Coursing.* The person appointed to slip the hounds at the proper moment.

1825 *Sporting Mag.* XVI. 268 The slipper should be a horse's length in advance of the beaters. **1856** 'STONEHENGE' *Brit. Rural Sports* 209 If a judge or slipper be in any way connected with a dog..entered in a stake [etc.]. **1885** *Daily News* 19 Feb. 2/7 The first pair of animals handed over to..the slipper were R. Halliday and Mayflower.

8. *dial.* (See quot.)

1841 HARTSHORNE *Salop Ant.* Gloss., *Slipper*, a mare who casts her foal.

III. 9. *attrib.* and *Comb.* (in sense 1), as *slipper-like* adj., *maker, manufacturer, shape, -shaped,* † *-shoe.*

1568 *MS. Depositions* (Cant. Cath. Libr. 161), With a pair of slipper showes on her feete. **1796** C. MARSHALL *Gardening* XIX. (1813) 340 The flower..is esteemed only for the curiosity of its slipper shape. **1830** LINDLEY *Nat. Syst. Bot.* 275 The central fleshy slipper-like body from within which the stamens proceed. **1847** STEELE *Field Bot.* 164 Lip of cor[olla] slipper-shaped. **1858** SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade, Slipper manufacturer*, a maker of carpet shoes, or light thin indoor leather shoes. **1889** *Pall Mall G.* 5 Oct. 7/1 There are slipper makers..engaged in it.

10. Special combs.: **slipper animalcule**, a common infusorian of the genus *Paramecium*; † **slipper barnacle** (?); **slipper-bath**, a partially covered bath shaped somewhat like a slipper; **slipper-brake, -drag,** = sense 4 a; **slipper limpet** (see quot. 1890); **slipper-orchid, orchis**, an orchid of the genus *Cypripedium*; † **slipper-pear** (?); **slipper-plant, shell** (see quots.); **slipper spurs,** = *slipper-plant*; **slipperwort**, the calceolaria or campanula.

1882 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* VI. 355 They are about four times as long as broad, and their shape has given them the name of *Slipper animalcules. **1891** *Chambers's Encycl.* VII. 754/1 Paramecium, or Slipper Animalcule, an Infusorian very common in pond water or in vegetable infusions. **1767** *Phil. Trans.* LVII. 432 The shelly bases of the ..Worm-shell, the Tree Oyster, and the *Slipper Barnicle. **1829** COOPER *Good's Study Med.* I. 388 The occasional use of..the *slipper-bath and fomentations. **1898** *Daily News* 18 Apr. 10/7 Four large swimming-baths and a large number of private or slipper-baths. **1884** *Ibid.* 2 Sept. 2 He was under the impression..that the *slipper-brake was attached all right. **1883** *Good Words* 186 When we stop to adjust the *slipperdrag before rushing full speed down a break-neck precipice. **1861** *Chambers's Encycl.* II. 528/1 Bonnet Limpets, and *Slipper Limpets. **1890** *Ibid.* VI. 638 The family Acmæidæ..are often called 'slipper-limpets', from the presence of an internal flange on the incipiently spiral shell. **1885** LADY BRASSEY *The Trades* 158 The brown *slipper-orchid, fit *chaussure* for Cinderella or a fairy-queen. **1889** *Chambers's Encycl.* III. 642/2 Cypripedium, or *Slipper-orchis. **1664** EVELYN *Kal. Hort.* (1729) 213 Windsor, Sovereign, Orange, Bergamot, *Slipper-Pear. **1848** CRAIG, **Slipper-plant*, the common name given to plants of the genus Pedilanthus. **1858** BAIRD *Cycl. Nat. Sci.* I. 95/1 Of the genus *Crepidula*, or *slipper shell, forty recent species are known. **1887** G. NICHOLSON *Dict. Gardening* III. 58 *Pedilanthus*, ..*Slipper Spurs. **1819** *Pantologia* II, *Calceolaria*, *Slipperwort. **1885** G. NICHOLSON *Dict. Gardening* I. 253 *Campanula*, ..Bell-flower; Slipperwort.

Slipper (slɪ·pəɹ), *a. Obs.* exc. *dial.* Forms: 1 **slipor**, 3 **sluper**, 1, 4–6 **sliper** (5 **scliper, slipir**, 6 **-ar**), 4–6 **slipre, slyper**, 5–6 **sleper** (5 **slepyr**); 5– **slipper** (5 **slippyr**, 6 *Sc.* **-ar**), 5–6 **slypper**, 9 *dial.* **slepper, slipper.** [OE. *slipor*, = MLG. *slipper* (MSw. *slipper*), G. *schlipfer*, related to SLIP *v.*[1]]

1. Having a smooth slippery surface or exterior; readily slipping from one's grasp or out of place, etc. Also *fig.*

a **1050** *Liber Scintill.* lxxviii. (1889) 210 Deoful soðlice nædðre ys slipor. *c* **1380** WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* I. 393 Þei ben so slipre and so hard þat Goddis word takiþ not in hem. *c* **1430** *Two Cookery Bks.* 23 Wasshem..wyth Ale & Salt, an do so whele þey ben slepyr [*v.r.* sliper]. **1481** CAXTON *Reynard* (Arb.) 103 Thenne was his body also glat and slyper, that the wulf sholde haue none holde on hym. **1545** RAYNOLD *Byrth Mankynde* 71 The whiche do make the waye slypper, sople, & easy for it to procede, with ye oyles or oyntmentes spoken of before. **1594** CAREW *Huarte's Exam. Wits* (1616) 138 The melancholicke haue euer their mouth full of froath and spittle, through which disposition their tongue is moyst and slipper. **1847** H. BAIRD (N. Hogg) *Poet. Lett.* (1858) 26 Ma staff wis za slipper.

fig. **1591** LODGE *Catharos* vi. 52 Their wordes..are more slipper than oile, but in the ende they are steeled arrowes to destroy.

b. Of a hold: Liable to slip.

1460 in *Pol., Rel., & L. Poems* (1866) 60 He..of his hert also hathe sliper hold. **1523** SKELTON *Garl. Laurel* 501 A slipper holde the taile is of an ele. **1562** J. HEYWOOD *Prov. & Epigr.* (1867) 170 Slyper as an eeles tayle is the holde of it.

c. Readily passing through the body.

1539 ELYOT *Cast. Helthe* 46 Moreouer take hede, that slypper meates be not firste eaten.

2. Slippery; difficult to stand upon.

c **1290** *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 426 Him þoughte he saiȝ a sluper brugge swyþe fayr and heiȝ. *a* **1300** *E. E. Psalter* xxxiv. 7 Mirkenes and sliper be þare wai. *c* **1420** LYDG, *Assembly of Gods* 1074 Howe be hyt, the slepyr grasse made many of hem fall. **1490** CAXTON *Eneydos* vii. 32 Fortune..imposed vnder the feet of the righte chaste quene, thyng slypper & lubrick, for to make hir to ouerthrowe. *c* **1510** BARCLAY *Mirr. Gd. Manners* (1570) C j, As on a slipper grounde, oft man doth fall or slide. **1553** BRENDE *Q. Curtius* Aa v, Thei were easelie beaten downe, by reason the Rocke hadde so slippar and unstable standing. **1665** BOYLE *Occas. Refl.* I. iv. (1848) 84 Ice is at once the smoothest and slipperest of ways. **1718** S. SEWALL *Diary* 28 Jan., Twas Foggy and slipper and Rain, and the Slay fail'd. **1886** ELWORTHY *W. Somerset Word-bk.* 680 The road's so slipper's glass.

3. Of a shifty, unreliable character; deceitful, insincere: **a.** Of disposition, conduct, actions, etc.

c **1000** ÆLFRIC *Hom.* II. 92 Þwyrlice ðing ðe heora hlafordas doð geswencte fram carum, and slipere þurh unstæððiȝnysse. **1382** WYCLIF *Prov.* xxvi. 28 The slideri [*v.r.* slyper] mouth werchith fallingis. *c* **1407** LYDG. *Reson & Sens.* 3295, I..haue espyed eke ful wel, How of slyper conscience Thow yaf a doom. *c* **1450** in *3rd Rep. Roy. Comm. Hist. MSS.* 280 Therfore he hath by slypper eschaunge the lordship and castell of Glaxton. **1547** LATIMER in Foxe *A. & M.* (1563) 1349/2, I haue charitablye monished you in a secret letter of your slipper dealinge, and such like misbehauiour. **1587** GOLDING *De Mornay* xvi. (1592) 262 A thousand sortes of slipper deuices and idle words.

b. Of persons.

c **1400** *Beryn* 1641 Ther-in dwellid a Burgeyse, þe moste scliper man Of al the town þurh-out. *a* **1540** BARNES *Wks.* (1573) 283/1, I know they bee slipper that I haue to doe wyth, and there is no holde of them. **1575** CHURCHYARD *Chippes* (1817) 189 Thus waiters on, doe nought but friends beguile, And slipper lads, as false and fine as those, For no offence, become most mortall foes. **1604** SHAKS. *Oth.* II. i. 246 A slipper, and subtle knaue, a finder of occasion.

4. Of memory: Not retentive; forgetful.

1432–50 tr. *Higden* (Rolls) I. 5 For schort lyfe..and a slipper memory lete vs to knowe mony thynges. **1509** FISHER *7 Penit. Ps.* cxlii. Wks. (1876) 240 Many haue so slypper a mynde that can not kepe in memory a thynge shewed vnto them by the space of an houre. **1539** ELYOT *Cast. Helthe* 75 Wherof do happen unstablenesse of wytte and slipper remembraunce.

5. Of conditions: On which one cannot depend; having no stability or certainty.

c **1430** HOCCLEVE *New Cant. T.* (E.E.T.S.) 14 In thys slypre lyf and perylous, Staff of comfort & help to man ys she. **1483** CAXTON *Gold. Leg.* 96/1 Thys lyf..is so sleper and fleeyng that whan one weneth to holde it it fleeth away. *a* **1533** BERNERS *Gold. Bk. M. Aurel.* (1546) A a v b, Theyr vayne glorie and slypper prosperitee, endured but two daies. **1557** *Tottel's Misc.* (Arb.) 161 For slipper welth will not cuntinue, plesure will weare away. **1598** GRENEWEY *Tacitus, Ann.* I. xv. (1622) 29 The higher he should clime, the slipperer his estate should be.

6. Insignificant, trifling. *rare*—[1].

1567 HARDING in Jewel *Def. Apol.* (1611) 463 These be smal and slipper faults which if they were alone might be winked at.

7. a. Easily uttered or pronounced.

1589 PUTTENHAM *Eng. Poesie* I. iv. (Arb.) 24 The vtterance in prose..is also not so voluble and slipper vpon the tong. *Ibid.* II. xiii. 134 Such letters as be by nature slipper and voluble and smoothly passe from the mouth.

b. *dial.* Fluent, voluble; given to talk.

1842 H. J. DANIEL *Bride of Scio*, etc. 177 Yer tongue..'s too saucy, and too slepper. **1900** J. H. HARRIS *Our Cove* xi. 150 Wimmen's tongues es too slipper in what doan't consarn 'em.

8. Light, wanton. (Cf. SLIPPERY *a.* 5.)

1582 G. PETTIE tr. *Guazzo's Civ. Conv.* I. (1586) 29 She began to make relation of the slipper prankes of the Dutchesses Gentlewomen, and had neuer done with her reprochfull reportes.

9. *Comb.*, as *slipper-fast, -tongued, -witted.*

1550 BALE *Image both Ch.* II. xvi. 106 b, The folyshe, fantastycall, and slypper wytted sort. **1569** *Bl. Letter Ball. & Broadsides* (1867) 221 Ye knowe, whyles louers are vnbounde, The knotte is slyper faste a. **1586** HOOKER *Hist. Irel.* in *Holinshed* II. 89/1 The lord Thomas..answered, as one that was somewhat slipper toonged, in this wise.

† Sli·pper, *v.*[1] *Obs. rare.* [ad. MDu. *slipperen* (= obs. or dial. G. *schlippern, schlipfern*), f. *slippen* SLIP *v.*[1]] *intr.* To slip or slide.

1585 T. WASHINGTON tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* I. xix. 21 b, The shot which can but slippering passe ouer it. **1648** HEXHAM II, *Slibberende*, Slippring. *Ibid., Een slibberinge*, a Slippering, or a Sliding.

Slipper (slɪ·pəɹ), *v.*[2] [f. SLIPPER *sb.* 1.]

1. *trans.* To beat or strike with a slipper.

1682 HEDGES *Diary* 2 Nov. (1887) I. 45 Y^e^ same day [he] was brought forth and Slippered. **1683** *Ibid.* 17 Apr. I. 78 Y^e^ same person who slippered ye Merchant. **1857** HUGHES *Tom Brown* I. vii, Slipper him on the hands! **1893** KIPLING *Many Invent.* 78 That yellow desert-bred girl from Cutch, who..slippered the young prince across the mouth.

2. To provide or cover with slippers.

1856 MRS. OLIPHANT *Zaidee* I. 9 The small feet which Mrs. Vivian slippers so handsomely.

3. *intr.* To walk or shuffle along in slippers.

1888 MAYNE REID *Child Wife* xxix, The man slippered off towards the office, in the interior of the hotel.

Slipper coal. [? f. SLIPPER *a.*] A variety of coal (see quot. 1877).

1712 *Phil. Trans.* XXVII. 541 Coal, less black and shining than the former, called Slipper-Coal. **1877** *Encycl. Brit.* VI. 66 A smaller drift for ventilation..is carried above it in one of the upper beds called the slipper coal. *Ibid.*, The coal is first cut to the top of the slipper coal from below.

Slippered (slɪ·pəɹd), *ppl. a.* [f. SLIPPER *sb.*]

1. Wearing or shod with slippers.

1600 SHAKS. *A. Y. L.* II. vii. 158 The sixt age shifts Into the leane and slipper'd Pantaloone. **1837** DICKENS *Pickw.* xv, Tom sat with his slippered feet on the fender. **1879** SALA *Paris herself again* (1880) I. xv. 228 Her poor old slippered legs disappeared in the darkness.

2. Associated or connected with the wearing of slippers.

a **1817** R. L. EDGEWORTH in *Life* (1826) II. 419 By the assistance and solace afforded to him in his slippered decrepitude. **1856** R. A. VAUGHAN *Mystics* XIII. iii. (1860) II. 268 He leaned back in his arm-chair enjoying slippered ease. **1884** *Harper's Mag.* Feb. 431/1 They heard the colonel's slippered tread.

3. Retarded by means of a slipper-brake.

1905 J. B. FIRTH *Highw. & Byeways Derby.* 380 A road where the slippered wheels..have dug great trenches.

Slipperily (slɪ·pərɪlɪ), *adv.* [f. SLIPPERY *a.* + -LY [2].] In a slippery manner. Chiefly *fig.*

1603 *Adv. Don Sebastian* in *Harl. Misc.* (Malh.) II. 401 He missed certain papers..which were slipperily conveyed away. *a* **1635** SIBBES *Conf. Christ & Mary* (1656) 36 When we have..dealt slipperily with him. **1681** H. MORE *Expos. Dan.* vi. 196 Many shall joyn themselves to them slipperily, not firmly and sincerely. **1736** in AINSWORTH I. **1845** JANE ROBINSON *Whitehall* XIII. 295 Hoofs clattered slipperily.

Slipperiness (slɪ·pərɪnɛs). Also 6 **slippri-, 7 slypperi-, sliperi-, 8 slipperyness.** [f. SLIPPERY *a.* + -NESS.]

1. The quality or condition of being slippery, in literal senses: **a.** Of substances, or of objects in respect of their surface.

Formerly common of food liable to produce laxity of the bowels, or of the latter in a relaxed state.

1562 TURNER *Baths* 8 b, The slipperines of the stomack, whych maketh that it can not well holde any meat. **1620** VENNER *Via Recta* vii. 115 They must be taken, by reason of the moysture and slipperinesse of their substance, before meat. **1699** SALMON *Bate's Dispens.* (1713) 614/2 It is a slippery thing, and cleanses and smooths the Passages from the Reins by its slipperiness. **1733** CHEYNE *Eng. Malady* II. ii. (1734) 128 Few..can bear the Slipperiness, and violent Cholicks and Gripes, which it brings on. **1753** *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s.v. *Muræna*, The manner in which its slipperyness makes it roll about, and escape the catcher. **1856** EMERSON *Eng. Traits, Literature*, The Englishman..takes hold of things by the right end, and there is no slipperiness in his grasp. **1859** *Hdbk. Turning* 25 A little chalk..will give it a firmer hold, and prevent the slipperiness.

b. Of the ground or other footing. Also in fig. context.

1603 KNOLLES *Hist. Turks* (1621) 111 Scarce able to stand by reason of the slipperinesse of the bloud there shed vpon the pauement. **1674** tr. *Scheffer's Lapland* 86 That neither mice nor wild beasts could be able to climb up for slipperiness. **1743** *Lond. & C. Brewer* III. (ed. 2) 186 The great Danger that attends such a wooden Floor in its Slipperiness when wetted. **1754** WASHINGTON *Lett.* Writ. **1889** I. 127 A season in which horses cannot travel over the mountains on account of..slipperiness of the roads. **1836** LADY GRANVILLE *Lett.* (1894) 29 Dec., For years there has not been seen here such snow and slipperiness. **1860** W. WHITE *All round Wrekin* 369 With the steepness and slipperiness of the turf from dry weather. **1872** *Times* 23 Oct., The slip-

periness of the political ground upon which they have been trying to keep their footing.

2. a. Inclination to babble or talk. *rare.*

1589 NASHE *Martin Marprelate* Wks. (Grosart) I. 93 It is thought that one Pope or other, mistrusting the slipprines of my tounge, blest me into a stone to stoppe my mouth. 1674 *Govt. Tongue* 108 We do not only fall by the slipperiness of our tongues, but we deliberately discipline and train them to mischief.

b. The quality of being unreliable, shifty, insincere, or deceitful.

1636 J. TRAPP *Expos. Ephes.* iv. 25 Shall we not abhor sleights and slipperiness in contracts and covenants? 1667 FLAVEL *Saint Indeed* (1754) 145 It is the slipperiness of our hearts, in reference to the world, that causes so many slips in our lives. 1681 H. MORE *Expos. Dan.* Pref. p. xc, Our wantonness and slipperiness in matters of Doctrine. 1818 BENTHAM *Ch. Eng. Catech. Exam.* 260 So prudential an indeterminateness and slipperiness. 1863 *Sat. Rev.* 606/1 They are conscious of illusion and slipperiness, of a sort of imposture. 1897 MRS. OLIPHANT *W. Blackwood* II. xxi. 357 Politicians..coming to shake their heads over the slipperiness of Peel.

3. a. Instability, uncertainty.

a 1618 RALEIGH *Rem.* (1661) 119 The gliding slipperinesse, and running streams of our uncertain life. 1621 DONNE *Serm.* lxx. 710 To note the Slipperinesse of our times. 1656 W. DU GARD tr. *Comenius' Gate Lat. Unl.* 187 Although by reason of the slipperiness of things our circumspection somtimes disappointeth us. 1781 COWPER *Lett.* 21 Aug., I experience as you do, the slipperiness of the present hour and the rapidity with which time escapes me.

b. Aptness to slip or go wrong.

1612 T. TAYLOR *Comm. Titus* ii. 7 Young men for the slipperines of their age, need the benefit of good example.

c. Liability to be forgetful.

1665 HOOKE *Microgr.* Pref., The slipperiness or delusion of our Memory. *a* 1708 BEVERIDGE *Thes. Theol.* (1711) II. 231 Slipperiness in our memories; forgetting God's goodness to us.

Sli·pperish, *a. rare*−⁰. Somewhat slippery.

1648 HEXHAM II, *Slibberende*, Slipping, or Slipprish.

† Sli·pperishness. *Obs.*−¹ Slipperiness.

1597 A. M. tr. *Guillemeau's Fr. Chirurg.* 36/1 In the water streames we may see that the stones, through the slipperishenesse of the water, are carried away.

† Sli·pperly, *adv. Obs.*−¹ In 5 sliper-. [f. SLIPPER *a.* + -LY ².] Insecurely.

c 1412 HOCCLEVE *De Reg. Princ.* 1357 He sliperly stant who pat pow enhauncest.

† Sli·pperness. *Obs.* Also 1 slipor-, 5 sliper-, slipir-, 5–6 slypper-, 6 sleper-. [f. SLIPPER *a.*] Slipperiness, in lit. or fig. senses.

(*a*) *a* 1000 *Durham Hymn.* (Surtees) 36 Beon ut anydde ..slipornysse. 1401 *Pol. Poems* (Rolls) II. 99 Writyng was ordeyned for slipernes of mynde. *c* 1412 HOCCLEVE *De Reg. Princ.* 941, I fynde schal as frendly slipirnesse As tho men now doon, whos frendeschipe is rote. 1533 MORE *Apol.* xlviii. Wks. 925/1 Of a lightnesse of wit and slippernesse of tonge. 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 193 b, The disceiptefullnes, uncertentye, & slyppernes of woordly thynges. 1590 GREENE *Mourning Garment* Wks. (Grosart) IX. 206 All his affects are slippernesse, and the effects full of preiudiciall disparagement.

(*b*) 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* VII. l. (Bodl. MS.), Also þe wombe is igreued wiþ sliderne and slipernes. 1495 *Ibid.* XI. ii. (W. de W.) 385 Wynde..wypyth of slyppernesse and vnclennesse. 1519 HORMAN *Vulg.* 37, I felle with sleppernesse of the stayre. 1539 ELYOT *Cast. Helthe* (1541) 24 Gourdes, by reason of the slyppernes of their substance, lyghtly passe forth by the bealye. 1609 BIBLE (Douay) *Ps.* xxxiv. 6 Let their way be made darkenesse and slippernes.

† Sli·pperous, *a. Obs. rare.* [Cf. SLIPPER *a.* and next.] Smooth, slippery.

1585 T. WASHINGTON tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* III. x. 86 The slipperous glyding of the oyle dropping vpon the dead leather.

Slippery (sli·pəri), *a.* Also 6 slypery, slepery, 6–7 slyppery, slipperie; 7 sliperye. [Alteration of SLIPPER *a.*, possibly after LG. *slipperig* (G. dial. *schlipperig*), = MHG. *slipferic*, *slipfrig* (G. dial. *schlipferig*).]

1. Having a smooth, polished, or slimy surface which renders foothold insecure.

1535 COVERDALE *Ps.* xxxiv. 6 Let their waye be darcke and slippery. 1596 SPENSER *F. Q.* v. v. 43 But foolish Mayd.. Through slipperie footing fell into the brooke. 1623 BINGHAM *Xenophon* 65 The Riuer rough with many great and slipperie stones. 1687 A. LOVELL tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* I. 168 Many steep and slippery places to be climb'd up. 1718 LADY M. W. MONTAGU *Lett.* II. liii. 73 The descent is.. steep and slippery. 1779 FLETCHER *Lett.* Wks. 1795 VII. 226, I..ride out every day when the slippery roads will permit me. 1819 SCOTT *Ivanhoe* xxxi, Forming a slippery and precarious passage for two men abreast to cross the moat. 1871 L. STEPHEN *Playgr. Eur.* (1894) iii. 79 The rocks were steep and slippery.

b. In fig. contexts.

a 1586 SIDNEY *Arcadia* III. (1605) 235 The ground he stood vpon being..slippery through affection, he could not hold himselfe from falling into such an error. 1613 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* (1614) 631 Bloud is a slippery foundation, and pillage a pill'd wall. 1654 Z. COKE *Logick* Pref., Greatness without goodness is a slippery height. 1707 J. NORRIS *Treat. Humility* x. 396 The more slippery the ground is, the more circumspectly should we walk. 1789 BELSHAM *Ess.* I. vii. 132 [He] will find the ground upon which he stands very unstable and slippery. 1821 BYRON *Sardanap.* II. i. 135 Does it disappoint thee To find there is a slipperier step or two Than what was counted on? 1889 GRETTON *Memory's Harkback* 273 He speedily made his mark, and climbed higher and higher up the slippery tree.

2. Of a soft oily or greasy consistency; having a smooth surface, so as to slip or slide easily; slipping readily from any hold or grasp.

1551 TURNER *Herbal* I. Bi, The hole herbe is very sleymy and full of a slepery iuice [*pr.* -nuce]. 1567 MAPLET *Gr. Forest* 84 b, The chiefest that is marked in the Ele is that it is slipperie. 1612 WOODALL *Surg. Mate* Wks. (1653) 151 A good strong Lixivium made with fresh water and ashes till it be slipperie. 1669 STURMY *Mariner's Mag.* v. xiii. 88 The Line..being rubbed over with soft Sope to make it slippery. 1738 J. KEILL *Anim. Œcon.* Pref. (ed. 2) p. x, The different Junctures of the Bones,..which are slippery and exceedingly moveable. 1796 WITHERING *Brit. Pl.* (ed. 3) III. 869 Leaf oblong, indented, slippery. 1859 TENNYSON *Elaine* 215 The maiden dreamt That..this diamond..was too slippery to be held. 1871 R. ELLIS *Catullus* xc. 6 Melting lapt in flame fatly the slippery caul.

b. Of persons: Able to slip away or escape easily; difficult to catch or hold.

1573 G. HARVEY *Lett. Bk.* (Camden) 126 Mye very mistresse..Moughte yit be woon agayne, like a slippery elfe. 1663 COWLEY *Verses & Ess.* (1669) 13 Harvey was with her there, And held this slippery Proteus in a chain. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* IV. 586 The slipp'ry God will try to loose his hold. 1890 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Col. Reformer* (1891) 204 Before he could seize him, however, the slippery savage, eluding his grasp, was bounding through the trees.

† **c.** Of the bowels: Lax, loose, open. *Obs.*

1597 GERARDE *Herbal* 242 By moistning of the belly it maketh it the more slipperie. 1733 G. CHEYNE *Eng. Malady* II. ii. (1734) 129 Cinnabar of Antimony..seldom keeps the Bowels slippery.

d. *Slippery elm*, the North American red elm, *Ulmus fulva*, or the inner bark of this, used medicinally; also, a Californian shrub, *Fremontia Californica*, with similar bark.

1824 TORREY *Flora U.S.* I. 299 Slippery Elm, Red Elm. 1879 *Encycl. Brit.* VIII. 152 The bark of..the Slippery or Red Elm of the United States and Canada.

e. In names of fishes: (see quots.).

1876 GOODE *Fishes of Bermudas* 48 The 'Slippery Dick' and the 'Skip-jack' of the fishermen probably belong to this family. 1881 DAY *Fishes Gt. Brit.* I. 318 Whistler or whistle-fish,..slippery-Jemmy, Dalkey, Dublin Bay. 1884 GOODE *Nat. Hist. Aquat. Anim.* 188 The Slippery Sole—*Glyptocephalus pacificus.*

3. Of conditions, affairs, etc.: Unstable, uncertain, insecure; that cannot be relied upon as lasting or assured. (Cf. 1 b.)

1548 UDALL, etc. *Erasm. Par. 1 Peter* 2 Rewardes that are transitory and wage that is slyppery. 1573 G. HARVEY *Lett. Bk.* (Camden) 1 In so slipperi a case as I am, I am enforcid to do as I do. *c* 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* IV. (1903) 13 Were not this high estate of his very slipperye, and subject to sudden destruction. 1632 STRAFFORD in Browning & Forster *Life* (1892) 302 To hold him faste by the slipperye ties of feare and strained professions. 1704 TRAPP *Abra-Mulé* I. i, O slipp'ry State Of Human pleasures. 1790 BURKE *Fr. Rev.* (ed. 2) 341 That their future fidelity in a slippery concern might be established. 1855 BAIN *Senses & Intell.* III. ii. § 37 The logical Caution..is still more requisite in the slippery regions of Analogy. 1872 BAGEHOT *Physics & Politics* (1876) 24 An aggregate of families owning even a slippery allegiance to a single head.

† **b.** Of knowledge: Inexact, imperfect. *Obs.*−¹

1584 B. R. tr. *Herodotus* II. 81 b, Not contented with a slippery knowledge, but mooued with desire to learne the truth.

4. Of persons: Inclined to be fickle or faithless; not to be depended on; shifty, deceitful.

1555 EDEN *Decades* (Arb.) 100 *note*, Women are slippery cattayle. 1590 GREENE *Never too Late* Wks. (Grosart) VIII. 26 Some of them are as Sapho was, subtile to allure, and slippery to deceiue. 1618 BOLTON *Florus* III. i. 164 That most false and slippery man..was betrayed into the hands of Sulla. 1679 OATES *Narr. Popish Plot* 10 But the Deponent standing by, said, what if the Duke should prove slippery! 1753 FOOTE *Englishm. in Paris* I. Wks. 1799 I. 35 He's a slippery chap, you know. 1805 SCOTT in *Lockhart* 12 Apr., He is hard and slippery, so settle your bargain fast and firm. 1855 THACKERAY *Newcomes* I. 248 By degrees this slippery penitent was induced to make other confessions. 1879 FROUDE *Cæsar* xxii. 378 The slippery politicians in the capital were on the watch.

b. Of actions, etc.: Characterized by shiftiness, deceitfulness, or want of sincerity.

1579 SPENSER *Sheph. Cal.* Sept. 200 Long time he vsed this slippery pranck. 1598 E. GUILPIN *Skial.* (1878) 43 She Will one day shew thee a touch as slippery. 1664 COTTON *Scarron.* IV. (1715) 83 Th' slippery Trick he meant to play her. 1713 J. WARDER *True Amazons* 142 Not knowing what a slippery Trick you have play'd them. 1861 THACKERAY *Four Georges* iii. (1876) 84 He exercised a slippery perseverance, and a vindictive resolution. 1872 M. CREIGHTON *Hist. Ess.* ii. (1902) 84 Some..refer all his slippery actions to a sincere desire for the good of Christendom.

5. Licentious, wanton, unchaste; of doubtful morality.

1586 T. B. *La Primaud. Fr. Acad.* I. (1594) 478 He shall cause hir..to become slipperie & lascivious. 1592 GREENE *Disput.* 33, I giue thee..a counterfect coyne, which is good inough for such a slipperie wanton. 1611 SHAKS. *Wint. T.* I. ii. 273 Ha' not you seene Camillo?..or heard?..or thought? ..My Wife is slipperie? 1738 tr. *Guazzo's Art Convers.* 54 She began to tell the slippery Pranks of the Dutchess's Gentlewomen. 1871 R. ELLIS *Catullus* lxi. 135 A slippery Love calls lightly, but yet refrain. 1874 BLACKIE *Self-Cult.* 48 Unnecessary and slippery luxuries, such as drink and tobacco.

6. Liable or prone to slip; readily giving way. Also of the memory, forgetful.

1548 UDALL, etc. *Erasm. Par. 1st Ep. Timothy* 14 The vowe of continencie is not to be committed vnto fraile slyppery age. 1555 EDEN *Decades* (Arb.) 63 Leaste I shulde bestowe my slippery yeares in vnprofitable Idlenesse. 1606 SHAKS. *Tr. & Cr.* III. iii. 84 When they fall, as being slippery standers [etc.]. 1653 R. SANDERS *Physiogn.* 107 The party is a vain babler, perfidious, and of a slippery memory. 1664 EVELYN *Sylva* xviii. (1729) 86 This profound fixing of Aquatick-trees being to preserve them steddy..in their liquid and slippery Foundations.

7. Of the tongue: Talking too freely.

1727 BOYER *Dict. Royal* II, A slippery (or free) Tongue, *une Langue trop-libre, qui dit tout, qui ne cache rien.*

8. Quasi-*adv.* Smartly, closely.

1828 *Sporting Mag.* XXIII. 19, I found him in the yard, looking pretty slippery after the strappers.

9. *Comb.*, as *slippery-bellied, -breeched, -shod, -tongued*; also *slippery-looking, -sleek*; **slippery-back,** a West Indian skink (*Cent. Dict.*).

1611 L. BARRY *Ram Alley* IV. i, She is shewing Some slippery breech'd courtier rare faces In a bay-window. *a* 1618 SYLVESTER *Map of Man* Wks. (Grosart) II. 97 Though shee simper, though shee smile,..Shee is alwayes slippery-sleeke. 1682 O. HEYWOOD *Diaries* (1885) IV. 85 It was a frost and snow, my horse slippery shod. 1843 BETHUNE *Sc. Peasant's Stor.* 299 By and by evidence began to appear of Jock's being tarry-fingered as well as slippery-tongued. 1852 'NIGHTLARK' *Meanderings Mem.* I. 64 Thou silvery-backed, and slippery-bellied Eel. 1903 SIR M. G. GERARD *Leaves fr. Diaries* viii. 262 The only approach to these is by a slippery-looking pachyderm.

† **Sli·ppet** ¹. *Obs. rare.* [f. SLIP *sb.*² + -ET.] A slip or strip.

1657 W. COLES *Adam in Eden* cccxii, One long hollow Flower,..with a long piece or slippet, as it were, at one side. 1690 LEYBOURN *Curs. Math.* 180 These five slippets do now contain the whole Multiplication Table of Pythagoras.

Sli·ppet ². [f. SLIP *sb.*³] (See quot.)

1898 *N. & Q.* 9th Ser. I. 407/2 In mining operations..a slippet is a sand-slide in the bore-hole or excavation...A slippet is a source of danger to workmen, occurring without warning.

Sli·ppiness. *rare.* [f. SLIPPY *a.*¹] Slipperiness.

1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* xvii, She leaned on him somewhat more than the slippiness of the way necessarily demanded.

Sli·pping, *vbl. sb.*¹ [f. SLIP *v.*¹]

1. The action of the verb in intransitive senses. Also with advs. or preps., as *away, into, out, up.*

a 1340 HAMPOLE *Ps.* xlix. 21 It likes þe to speke ill, not for slipynge of þi tonge or in chawnce, bot wiþ study. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VII*, 55 b, Other also..durst not hasard themselues for feare of galtroppes or slippynge into yᵉ fyer. 1591 SAVILE *Tacitus, Hist.* I. vii. 23 Many accidentes stayed the purpose; fearefull messages, the slippings away of his friendes [etc.]. 1602 CAREW *Survey Cornwall* II. 127 b, The thankful acknowledgement of many corrected slippings in..my notes. 1676 WISEMAN *Surg. Treat.* VII. ii. 480 The Ancients called it a Slipping of the Head of a Bone out of its Cavity. 1840 [ETHERIDGE] *Life Adam Clarke* 255 He had met with a serious accident by the slipping of his study ladder. 1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* II. x. 278 The place was watched for some time, but the slipping was not repeated. 1865 KINGSLEY *Herew.* vii, There was the usual splintering of lances and slipping up of horses.

b. *spec.* (See quot.) *U.S.*

1896 HOWELLS *Impress. & Exp.* 9 The 'slippin',' as the sleighing was called,..lasted from December to April with hardly a break.

2. The action of the verb in transitive senses.

1571 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* II. 125 Nane of the saidis partiis salbe interessit throw slipping of the occasioun and tyme of warning. 1865 *Stang Dict.* 235 *Slipping*, a trick of card-sharpers, in performance of which, by dexterous manipulation, they place the cut card on the top, instead of at the bottom of the pack. 1885 *Daily News* 19 Feb. 2/7 The slipping and judging gave entire satisfaction. 1898 *Ibid.* 11 Oct. 8/1 The practice of 'slipping', that is, of mechanically detaching coaches from off express trains.

3. *attrib.*, as *slipping-apparatus, system.*

1856 'STONEHENGE' *Brit. Rur. Sports* I. III. vi. 194 Thus alternately using the slipping system and the horse-exercise. 1895 *Daily News* 7 Sept. 7/5 He was riding in the front van of a first-class coach, in which the slipping apparatus was fitted.

Sli·pping, *vbl. sb.*² [f. SLIP *v.*²]

1. A skein or hank of yarn. Cf. SLIP *sb.*² 11. ? *Obs.*

1541–2 *Inv.* in *Lanc. & Chesh. Wills* (1857) 81, xxv teir of hempe slippingis, xxij canvis slippingis, x flaxen slippingis. 1599 *Nottingham Rec.* IV. 251 Certen slippinges of hardne yarne. 1603 *Shuttleworth Acc.* (Chetham Soc.) 152 Delivered to her xxviij haspes or slippinges of line yearn,..and v haspes or slippinges of canves yearne. 1615 G. MARKHAM *Eng. Housew.* II. v. (1668) 137 Divide the slipping or skean into divers Leyes, allowing..twenty leyes to every slipping. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 107/1 A *Slipping*, is as much as is wond upon the Reel at a time, which is generally about a pound of Yarn. 1879 MISS JACKSON *Shropshire Word-bk.* 389.

2. The action of taking slips from a plant.

1548 ELYOT, *Frondatio*, a slyppyng of leaues or bowes, loppyng of trees. *c* 1624 CAMPION *2nd Bk. Ayres* Wks. (1909) 144 Thriue faire plants e'er the worse for the slipping? 1707 MORTIMER *Husb.* (1721) II. 133 Calamint is raised by Slipping, or parting of the Roots.

b. A cutting of a plant; a slip.

1638 PEACHAM *Valley of Variety* xii. 103 It was planted like unto our vines, by setting the slippings into the earth. 1908 [MISS FOWLER] *Betw. Trent & Ancholme* 15 Such slippings or cuttings as the receiver might chance 'to grow'.

Sli·pping, *ppl. a.* [f. SLIP *v.*¹] That slips, in senses of the intransitive verb; also *fig.*, transient, passing quickly.

c 1400 *Destr. Troy* 4032 The slippond slete [was] slidon of the ground. 1435 MISYN *Fire of Love* 64 Þat vaynglory of slippand praysynge þe sawle may not seyk. 1581 T. HOWELL, *Deuises* (1879) 258 The slipping ioyes that worldly wights possest. 1636 STRAFFORD *Lett.* (1739) II. 18 To cozen all Strangers by those slipping Conveyances. 1726 SWIFT

Gulliver II. viii, The slipping-board that I had lately opened. 1839 *Penny Cycl.* XV. 175/2 We should recommend fixing the position micrometer upon a slipping-piece.

† b. *Slipping knot*, = SLIP-KNOT. *Obs.*

a 1425 tr. *Arderne's Treat. Fistula*, etc. 29 þat þe þrede ..be so bonden..þat it may be loused without kuttyng, þat is with a lache knotte or slyppyng knotte. 1647 WARD *Simple Cobler* 67 Apron-string tenure is very weak, tyed but of a slipping knot.

Hence **Sli·ppingly** *adv.*

1830 GALT *Lawrie T.* IX. (1849) 233 Without retiring from the scene he had come slippingly behind us.

Slippy (sli·pi), *a.*[1] Also 6 **slyppie**, 6–7 **slippie**. [f. SLIP *v.*[1] + -Y[1]; cf. MHG. *slipfec, -ig*, obs. G. *schlipfig*. Not directly connected with OE. *slipig* viscid.]

1. = SLIPPERY *a.*, in various lit. and fig. senses.

(*a*) 1548 UDALL, etc. *Erasm. Par. Luke* xix. 154 It pleased him..to mocke the glory of this worlde, shewing howe vaine it is and howe slippie to trust to. *Ibid.* 1 *Tim.* iii. 11 Not bablers, or women of slyppie credence. 1828 CARR *Craven Gloss.* s.v., 'A slippy chap,' an unfair dealer, in whom is no confidence or security.

(*b*) *a* 1618 J. DAVIES (Heref.) *Wit's Pilgr.* ii. Wks. (Grosart) II. 6 From it (being moist, and slippie) she doth slipp, To thy faire Teeth. 1658 J. JONES *Ovid's Ibis* 79 Because the waters ebb and flow the sand Is slippy. 1772 J. R. FORSTER *Kalm's Trav.* II. 132 The side of the bark which has been upon the wood .. is smooth and slippy. 1836 DICKENS *Sk. Boz* (1837) III. 313 Those slippy, shiny-looking wooden chairs peculiar to places of this description. 1871 TYNDALL *Fragm. Sci.* (1879) I. xi. 352 Turning short, particularly in slippy weather. 1891 MISS DOWIE *Girl in Karp.* 166 The hill was steep, and whortle-berry bushes slippy to the feet.

2. *dial.* or *colloq.* Of persons: Nimble, spry; sharp, quick; *esp.* in phr. *to be* or *look slippy*.

1847 HALLIW., *Slippy*, very quick. *Var. dial.* 1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss.* s.v., Come, be slippy. 1885 RUNCIMAN *Skippers & Shellbacks* 212, I don't know what may happen, so you'll have to look slippy. 1889 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Robbery under Arms* (1890) 30 Get out the lot we've just branded,..and just slippy.

3. *Mining.* (See quot.)

1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-m.* 227 *Slippy Backs*, vertical planes of cleavage occurring every four or five inches in the seam of coal.

Slippy (sli·pi), *a.*[2] [f. SLIP *sb.*[2] + -Y[1].] Slim; slender.

1883 *Pall Mall G.* 12 May 4/1 Mdlle. Julie has a slight, slippy figure. 1892 *Daily News* 6 June 2/2 This tall, lithe, slippy figure has much in common with the graceful reeds which bend all round about her.

Sli·p-rail. *Austr.* [SLIP- 1 b.] A fence-rail, forming one of a set which can be slipped out so as to leave an opening. Chiefly *pl.* Also *attrib.*

1848 CUNNINGHAM *N. S. Wales* II. 171 These patches might..communicate with the fields by means of slip-rail entrances. 1852 MUNDY *Antipodes* (1857) 198 The greater part of our route lay through bush-roads.., through scores of slip-rails—the primitive gate of Australia, and along the bush-ranges. 1885 MRS. FRAED *Austral. Life* 79 Many men rode thro' the slip-rails and turned out their horses.

Slipshod (sli·pʃɒd), *a.* Also 6 **slippeshood**, 7 **slip-sho'd**, 7– **slip-shod**. [f. SLIP *v.*[1] + SHOD *ppl. a.*, after SLIP-SHOE.]

1. Wearing slippers or very loose shoes, in later use esp. such as are down at the heel. Also *fig.*

pred. 1580 LYLY *Euphues* (Arb.) 334 Thinking it .. if one suffer you to treade awry, no shame to goe slipshad [*sic*; 1581 slippeshood]. 1605 SHAKS. *Lear* I. v. 12 Thy wit shall not go slip-shod. 1682 N. O. *Boileau's Lutrin* IV. 220 Another durst not stay to tye his shooes, But slip-sho'd hobbl'd, lest he Breakfast loose. 1747 FRANCIS tr. *Horace, Ep.* II. i. 233 Dossennus slip-shod shambles o'er the Scene. 1781 COWPER *Hope* 75 To rise at noon, sit slipshod and undress'd. 1845 J. NEAL *Bro. Jonathan* II. 340 One of those..who shuffle thro' the serious duties of life—slip-shod. 1851 MELVILLE *Whale* xv. 74 With each foot in a cod's decapitated head and looking very slip-shod.

attrib. 1607 MIDDLETON *Your Five Gallants* III. v, Out a' th' house, you slipshod, sham-legged..rascal! 1653 URQUHART *Rabelais* I. liv. 236 Here enter not vile bigots, hypocrites,..Slipshod caffards. 1728 POPE *Dunc.* III. 15 A slipshod Sibyl led his steps along. 1781 COWPER *Truth* 144 The shiv'ring urchin, .. With slip-shod heels. 1838 DICKENS *Nickleby* xxii, At intervals were heard the tread of slipshod feet. 1840 — *Old C. Shop* xxxiv, Dick..descried a small slipshod girl in a dirty coarse apron and bib. 1887 SIR R. H. ROBERTS *In the Shires* i. 9 A slipshod stable-helper holds the hired horse by the head.

transf. 1861 SALA *Dutch Pictures* vi. 76 All you hear of her [is]..the slipshod scuffling of her shoes about the house.

b. Of shoes: Loose or untidy; in bad condition; down at the heel.

1687 A. LOVELL tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* III. 37 As they do who go with their shoes slipshod. 1824 SCOTT *St. Ronan's* xvii, His feet were thrust into old slip-shod shoes, which served him instead of slippers. 1848 DICKENS *Dombey* vi, The slipshod shoes.

c. In shabby condition.

1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* i, A sort of appendix to the half-bound and slip-shod volumes of the circulating library.

2. *fig.* Slovenly, careless: a. Of style or language.

1815 L. HUNT *Notes Feast Poets* 47 Between the lameness of Cowper and the slip-shod vigour of Churchill. 1831 CROKER *Boswell's Johnson* I. 417 The following slipshod but characteristic epitaph. *a* 1861 CLOUGH *Poems*, etc. (1869) I. 331 The fashionable jargon of the day..seems to have been a sort of slipshod English, continually helped out with the newest French phrases. 1891 *Spectator* 18 Apr., Her style is occasionally slipshod, so much so that in certain passages it *is* difficult to discover the nominative.

absol. 1842 J. STERLING *Ess.* (1848) I. 436 In the latter half of the poem,..the lax shapelessness of structure, the endless slipshod,..become very disagreeable.

b. Of statements, arguments, etc., or of writers in respect of these.

1837 HOWITT *Rur. Life* (1842) 479 You also find..even more slipshod writers just as much in vogue. 1859 KINGSLEY *Misc.* I. 63 This is the sort of slipshod dilemma by which Elizabeth is proved to be wrong. 1877 CONDER *Basis of Faith* iv. 183 The slipshod inaccuracy of those who really know better.

c. Of habits, methods, etc.

1845 DISRAELI *Sybil* (1863) 204 Men..who lead a sort of facile, slipshod existence, doing nothing, yet mightily interested in what others do. 1863 ANSTED *Ionian Isl.* 193 The case is singularly illustrative of the slipshod and unpractical habits of the people. 1880 MISS BRADDON *Just as I am* xi, She reigned supreme in a slip-shod household.

Hence **Sli·pshoddiness**; **Sli·pshoddy** *a.*; **Sli·p-shodism**; **Sli·pshodness**.

a 1849 POE *Marginalia* Wks. 1864 III. 583 The *slip-shodiness is so thoroughly in unison with the nonchalant air of the thoughts. 1887 *Jrnl. Education* Dec. 520 The chief fault..was the 'scrappiness' and 'slipshoddiness' of the answers. 1882 *Spectator* 22 Apr. 534 Such *slipshoddy statements may be of little account. 1897 *Naturalist* 269 *Slipshodisms in phrase abound. *a* 1877 BAGEHOT *Lit. Studies & Mem.* (1879) I. p. xlvi, A number of small inaccuracies, harshnesses and *slipshodnesses in style. 1883 *American* VI. 183 A continual confusion, largely due to bad writing, careless proof-reading, and other slip-shodness.

Sli·p-shoe. *Obs.* exc. *dial.* Also 6 **slippe**, 7 **slip(p)-shooe**. [f. SLIP *v.*[1] + SHOE *sb.* Cf. OE. *slypescó* 'soccus'.] A light or loose shoe; a slipper.

1555 WATREMAN *Fardle of Facions* II. xi. 250 They vse a maner of slippe shooes, that may lightly be putte of and on. 1592 *Arden of Feversham* v. i, For in his slipshoe did I find some rushes. 1615 G. SANDYS *Trav.* (1637) 63 The rest ..going in yellow or red slip-shooes, picked at the toe. *a* 1697 AUBREY *Lives* (1898) I. 122 He went not out of the College gates,..but was in slip-shoes. 1719 S. SEWALL *Diary* 15 Sept. (1882) III. 228 Going out to call the Fisherman in Slip-shoes, I fell flat upon the pavement. 1762 STERNE *Tr. Shandy* VI. xix, The open shoe. The close shoe. The slip shoe. 1859 BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.* (ed. 2) 416 A loose shoe or slipper is called a slip-shoe in Norfolk [England]. 1886 ELWORTHY *W. Somerset Word-bk.* 680 *Slip-shoes*, ..an old loose pair of shoes worn at night after taking off the half bats.

Hence † **Slip-shoed** *a.*, slipshod. *Obs.*

1702 BAYNARD *Cold Baths* II. (1709) 385 A Gentleman.. having strain'd his Ankle..went lame and slip-shoo'd for at least a Year and a half. 1726 G. ROBERTS *Four Yrs. Voy.* 30, I..was Slip-shoe'd, and without Stockings, being just as I turn'd out of my Cabin. 1748 RICHARDSON *Clarissa* (1811) VIII. 156 They were all slip-shoed.

† **Slipshot**, *a. Obs.*[−1] (Meaning uncertain.)

a 1635 CORBET *Poems* (1807) 218 Saturne crawls much like an iron catt, To see the naked moone in a slipshott hatt.

Slip-slap (slipˌslæp), *sb.* [f. SLAP *v.*[1], with usual variation of vowel.]

† 1. ? A slipper. *Obs.*[−1]

1669 PENN *No Cross* xvii. § 5 (1682) 336 Shoes and Slipslaps lac'd with Silk or Silver-Lace.

2. The repeated flapping sound caused by loosely-worn shoes.

1890 D. GERARD *Lady Baby* vi, The well-known slip-slap of the lodging-house servant's down-trodden shoes.

Slip-slap, *v. rare*[−1]. [See prec.] *intr.* To slap repeatedly in rapid succession.

1721 MRS. CENTLIVRE *Artifice* III, I ha' found her Fingers slip-slap, this a-way, and that a-way, like a Flail upon a Wheat-sheaf.

Slip-slop (sli·pˌslɒp), *sb.* Also 7 (8 *Sc.*) **-slap**, 9– **slipslop**. [f. SLOP *sb.*[2], with variation of vowel. In sense 2 with allusion to the mistakes in language made by Mrs. Slipslop in Fielding's *Joseph Andrews* (1742).]

1. A sloppy compound used as a food, beverage, or medicine.

1675 COTTON *Burlesque upon B.* 49 No, thou shalt feed, instead of these, Or your slip-slap of Curds and Whey, On Nectar and Ambrosia. 1683 TRYON *Way to Health* 241 Such Cordials, and other compounded Slip-slops as the Sick are forced continually to swallow down. 1737 BRACKEN *Farriery Impr.* (1757) II. 151 To run to Apothecaries Shops for this or that whimsical Slip-slop, which may be told him as a Nostrum. 1754 *Connoisseur* No. 19, When the jellies and slip-slops were coming in, the beef was carried off. 1796 MRS. M. ROBINSON *Angelina* I. 148, I hate slip-slops, I never taste tea. 1821 COMBE *Syntax, Search Wife* I. (Chandos) 260 At length the coffee was announc'd,..'And since the meagre slip-slop's made, I think the call should be obey'd'.

2. A blunder in the use of words, esp. the ludicrous misuse of one word for another; the habit of making mistakes of this nature.

1788 MME. D'ARBLAY *Diary* 8 Jan., Then he told us a great number of comic slip-slops of the first Lord Baltimore, who made a constant misuse of one word for another. 1826 F. REYNOLDS *Life & Times* II. 220 One of the party (amongst other slipslops) saying instead of *Pasticcios*, he liked *Pistachios*. 1837 J. MORIER *Abel Allnutt* xxxii. 187 Mrs. Goold Woodby would usually exert her talent in slip-slop, by calling the last [*sc.* Curius Dentatus] 'Curious 'tatoes'.

b. A person given to making such blunders.

a 1791 GROSE *Olio* xxii. 93 These slip-slops are frequently of the rank he has drawn his lady. 1857 LADY CANNING in Hare *Two Noble Lives* (1893) II. 202 What by some old official slip-slop is called Provincial (meaning Provisional) Commander-in-Chief.

3. Twaddle; loose or trifling talk or writing.

1811 J. CREEVEY in *C. Papers* (1904) I. vii. 149 No one observation the Regent has made yet out of the commonest slip-slop. 1861 THACKERAY *Four Georges* iv. (1862) 185 Some man..cleaned up the slovenly sentences, and gave the lax maudlin slipslop a sort of consistency. 1886 *Athenæum* 30 Oct. 559/3 In..his history this style is wanting, and is replaced by modern slipslop.

b. A tag or phrase.

1823 BYRON *Juan* XIII. xlvii, '*Cosi viaggino i Ricchi*' (Excuse a foreign slipslop now and then).

4. *U.S.* (See quot.)

1859 BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.* (ed. 2) 416 *Slip-slops*, old shoes turned down at the heel.

Hence **Sli·p-slo·ppery**, slipslop condition or methods; **Sli·p-slo·ppish** *a.*, of the nature of slip-slop; **Sli·p-slo·ppism**, = sense 2; **Sli·p-slo·ppy** *a.*, wet, sloppy.

1797 COLERIDGE *Lett.* (1895) 223 'Engages the eye,' applied to a gibbet, strikes me as slipsloppish. 1830 MISS MITFORD *Village* Ser. IV. (1863) 135 A body of excavators (navigators our villagers by an ingenious slip-slopism were pleased to call them). *a* 1845 BARHAM *Ingol. Leg.* Ser. III. *Blasphemer's Warning*, There was no taking refuge too then,..On a slip-sloppy day, in a cab or a *'bus*. 1848 *Illustr. Lond. News* 12 Feb. 88/3 The general slip-sloppery of its warehouses.

Sli·p-slop, *a.* [See prec.]

† 1. Characterized by, given to, blundering in the use or forms of words. *Obs.*

1757 MRS. GRIFFITH *Lett. Henry & Frances* (1767) III. 105 Memorandums..become, as Captain H— expressed it once, by a lucky slip-slop Phrase, Remorandums. 1776 G. COLMAN *Posth. Lett.* (1820) 335 Her dialect is particularly vulgar,..not by murdering words in the slip-slop way, but by a mean twang in the pronunciation. 1809 *Sporting Mag.* XXXIII. 252 A slip-slop Colonel having sent for an architect to construct a mausoleum. 1824 MISS L. M. HAWKINS *Mem.* I. 140 *note*, Is the reply of Quin to a slip-slop milliner at Bath very trite?

2. Having no substance or solidity; sloppy, feeble, trifling.

1814 *Sporting Mag.* XLIV. '84 We may again expect in the slip-slop prints the usual selection of important incidents. 1825 T. HOOK *Sayings* Ser. II. *Man of Many Fr.* II. 2, I..have abandoned her to the slip-slop attentions of the shame-faced George. 1879 *Chambers's Jrnl.* 6 Sept. 561 A system of swindling..arising out of the loose slip-slop legal procedure.

b. Of discourse, writings, style, etc.

1827 A. W. FONBLANQUE *Eng. under 7 Administr.* (1837) I. 27 Like the slip-slop, wishy-washy..speeches of Lords in the Upper House. 1841 *Blackw. Mag.* L. 635 The abstruse sciences are reduced to slip-slop literature for the young. 1874 S. WILBERFORCE *Ess.* (1874) II. 238 A loose slip-slop style of English composition.

Sli·p-slop, *v.* [Cf. SLIP-SLOP *sb.*]

1. *intr.* (See quots. and cf. SLIP-SLOP *sb.* 2.)

a 1791 GROSE *Olio* 93 There is a grosser misapplication of words, which, from a character..delineated by Fielding,.. has been called slip-slopping. 1796 *Grose's Dict. Vulgar T.* (ed. 3), *Slipslopping*, misnaming and misapplying any hard word.

2. To drink a sloppy beverage.

1834 BECKFORD *Italy* I. 297 The Capitol..was quite deserted, the world, thank Heaven, being all slip-slopping in coffee houses.

3. To slip or move about in a sloppy manner or with a flapping sound. Also used adverbially.

1870 FARJEON *Grif* I. viii. 167 The dirty broken bluchers in which Grif's feet slip-slopped constantly. 1887 JEFFERIES *Amaryllis* vi, So they paddled along to the fair, slip-slop, in the dust. 1891 HARDY *Tess* (1900) 47/1 At the farther end the great churn could be seen revolving, and its slip-slopping heard.

Sli·p-string. Now *dial.* Also 6 **slypstryng**, 7 **slipp-string(e**, 6–7, 9 **slipstring.** [f. SLIP *v.*[1] + STRING *sb.*]

1. One who deserves to be hanged; a rogue or rascal, a shifty person.

1546 J. HEYWOOD *Prov.* II. vii. (1562) I iiij, Euery good thyng, Thou lettest euen slyp, lyke a waghalter slypstryng. 1575 GASCOIGNE *Weedes, Supposes* Wks. (1587) 25 If he spie a slipstring by ye way, such another as himselfe, a page, a lakey or a dwarfe. 1594 NASHE *Unfort. Trav.* Wks. (Grosart) V. 85 She not only gaue me the slip, but had welnie made me a slipstring. 1611 COTGR., *Pendardeau*, a little crackrope, young slipstring. 1624 HEYWOOD *Captives* v. iii, Now if thou bee'st wyse drawe thy neck out of the collar, doo, Slipp-stringe, doo. 1828 CARR *Craven Gloss., Slip-string*, a knave, a mean rascal, one whom the gallows groans for.

2. *attrib.* Of persons or actions: a. Roguish, rascally. b. *dial.* (See quot. 1854.)

1629 DEKKER *Londons Tempe* Dram. Wks. 1873 IV. 123 We are making arrowes for my slip-string sonne. 16.. *MS. Bright* 170 fol. 1 (Halliw.), Such a slippstring trick As never till now befell us heeretofore, Nor shall, I hope, befall us any more. 1824 SCOTT *Redgauntlet* ch. vi, You are a sort of a slip-string gentleman. 1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss., Slip-string ways*, careless, slovenly ways; applied almost exclusively to servants who slight their work.

Slip-top(ped: see SLIP *sb.*[2] 5.

Slip-way (sli·pwe‹). Also **slipway**. [f. SLIP- + WAY *sb.*]

1. A sloping way leading down into the water; a slip.

1840 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* III. 431/1 Two flat-bottomed boats..were brought to the slipway, at the back of the mast-houses. 1862 ANSTED *Channel Isl.* I. iii. 42 Slip-ways and berthing for vessels. 1879 *Cassell's Techn.*

Educ. IV. 189/1 Ships are usually built on *slip-ways*, sloping down to the water.

2. An inclined roadway leading into a mine.

1863 *Cambrian Jrnl.* 151 The Austrian mines have circular slip-ways, viz., without steps, of an inclined plane, winding round a newel.

Slirt (slɜɪt), *sb. U.S.* [f. next.] A slight sweep or jerk.

1870 S. Green *Trout Culture* vii. 63 The female diving down at intervals against the gravel, and as she comes up giving it a slirt to one side with her tail.

Slirt (slɜɪt), *v. U. S.* [Of obscure origin: *slirt* 'to squirt water' is recorded as Yorkshire dialect.] *trans.* To sweep or jerk lightly.

Slirted, given by Richardson (s.v. *Slur*) in a quot. from Ben Jonson, is an error for *flirted*.

1870 S. Green *Trout Culture* vii. 63 She would slirt with her tail all the stones of proper size to be found near her nest. 1876 *Forest & Stream* 20 July 385/2 Slirting (Seth Green's word) her spawn over the same spot at every turn.

Slish. *rare* $^{-1}$. [Jingling alteration of Slash *sb.*!] A slit.

1596 Shaks. *Tam. Shr.* IV. iii. 90 Heers snip, and nip, and cut, and slish and slash, Like to a Censor in a barbers shoppe.

†**Sliss,** *v. Obs. rare.* [ad. Du. and Flem. *slissen.*] *trans.* To slake or slack (lime).

1599 A. M. tr. *Gabelhouer's Bk. Physicke* 330/2 Take vnslissed lime, slisse him 8 or 9 times with water. *Ibid.* 331/1 Then take of the slissede lime, a little oyle, and both the waters.

Slit (slit), *sb.* Forms: 3–6 **slytte**, **slitte**, 6 **slyt**, 6–7 **slitt**, 4, 6– **slit.** [f. Slit *v.* Cf. OE. *geslit* tearing, biting, = ON. (Icel., Norw., MSw.) *slit* (Da. *slid*), G. *schliss*; OE. *slite*, = MDu. and MLG. *slete* (Du. and LG. *sleet*); also MDu. *slitte*, *slette* (Du. *slet*), and OHG. *sliz* (G. *schlitz*).]

1. A straight and narrow cut or incision; an aperture resembling a cut of this description: **a.** In clothing; †sometimes in specific senses, as the opening in the front of a shirt, a pocket, etc.

a 1250 *Owl & Night.* 1118 If hi mowe i-seo þe sitte, Stones hi doþ in heore slytte. *a* 1300 *Floriz & Bl.* 348 Þu most habbe redi mitte Twenti Marc ine þi slitte. *c* 1330 *Arth. & Merl.* 1406 (Kölbing), Þe king was wondred out of witt & toke þe messanger bi þe slit. 1530 Palsgr. 271/2 Slytte of a womans gowne, *fente, dune robe a femme.* 1563 Foxe *A. & M.* 1076/2 A close hoode, with two holes for his eyes..& a slit for his mouthe to breath at. 1613 Purchas *Pilgrimage* (1614) 432 Hee put the sword into the fire,..and so thrust it into the slit of his shirt. 1796 W. Mason *Birth of Fashion* Poems (1830) II. 32 To show her legs (inglorious thought) By well-chose slits in petticoat. 1855 Bell *Wks. Chaucer* VII. 41 *note*, The fashion of.. cutting it [*sc.* the dress] in slits so as to show the undergarment or lining.

b. In general use.

1398 Trevisa *Barth. De P. R.* XVII. cii. (Bodl. MS.), Droppinge þat comeþ oute atte kenes & slittes þat beþ made þerein is acounted lasse worþe. *c* 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* I. 1120 With brymstoon resolute ypitte Aboute in euery chynyng, clift, or slitte. 1523 Fitzherb. *Husb.* § 3 The hynder ende of the ploughebeame is put in a longe slyt. 1571 Digges *Pantom.* I. xxii. G iij, A thinne plate halfe an ynche breade,..and in the middes a fine slytte. 1668 Culpepper & Cole *Barthol. Anat.* IV. ix. 166 A long slit is made in each of them. 1697 Dryden *Virg. Georg.* II. 106 Just in that space a narrow Slit we make. 1747–96 Mrs. Glasse *Cookery* v. 57 Take a large leg of lamb, cut a long slit on the back. 1769 *Lloyd's Even. Post* 20–2 Sept. 283/3 Quills thus..hardened, bear longer Slits, which Slit is always free. 1833 J. Holland *Manuf. Metal* II. 157 When the cutting had once commenced, it was easily continued until a deep slit was produced in the steel. 1856 G. Wilson *Gateways Knowl.* (1859) 12 When Pussy is basking in the sun..she shows..only a narrow slit for a pupil. 1871 B. Stewart *Heat* (ed. 2) § 19 The thermometer is inserted through a closely fitting slit in a thick piece of india-rubber.

c. A long narrow aperture in a wall; a window of this form. Also *transf.*

1607 *Fabric Rolls York Minster* (Surtees) 119 To a joyner for a great casement for one of the longe slitts, 3s. 4d. 17.. Ramsay *Up in the Air* ii, Nae starns keek throw the azure slit. 1859 Jephson *Brittany* vi. 70 An aisle pierced by twenty-four mere slits of round-headed windows. 1894 J. Macintosh *Ayrshire Nights Entert.* xvii. 304 On the right-hand side is an arrow-slit commanding the outer doorway.

2. *fig.* A schism, division, split. *rare* $^{-1}$.

1390 Gower *Conf.* I. 15 In holy cherche of such a slitte Is for to rewe unto ous alle.

3. *Agric.* A part of a field which has been 'split' in ploughing. *rare.*

1778 [W. H. Marshall] *Minutes Agric.* 25 Oct. 1775, A level field, plowed in gathers and slits with a fixed-wrist plow.

4. *Coal-mining.* (See quots.)

1860 *Eng. & For. Mining Gloss.* (ed. 2) 44 *Slit*, a communication between two adits. 1883 Gresley *Gloss. Coal-m.* 227 *Slit*, a short heading put through to connect two other headings.

5. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *slit-like*, *-shaped*, *-ways*, *-wise*; **slit-eyed** *a.*, having long and narrow eyes; †**slit-graft**, a graft inserted in a slit in the stock, or intended for this purpose; †**slit-grafting**, grafting performed by means of a slit in the stock; **slit-limpet** (see quots.); **slit-planting**, **-setting**, a mode of planting or setting in which mere slits are made in the ground with a spade or similar implement.

1894 *Daily News* 18 June 6/3 Bands of *slit-eyed Chinamen. 1899 F. T. Bullen *Log Sea-waif* 44 That slit-eyed pagan..found me out. 1706 London & Wise *Retir'd Gard.* I. II. xii. 164, I desire you would tell me how a *Slit-graft should be cut. *Ibid.* 159, I shall only mention Three different Sorts of Grafting, *viz.* Scutcheon-grafting, *Slit-grafting, and Crown-grafting. 1763 Mills *Pract. Husb.* IV. 213 Cleft-Grafting, called also Stock, or Slit-grafting. 1869 G. Lawson *Dis. Eye* (1874) 137 To draw the opaque lens out of the eye through a *slit-like opening. 1901 E. Step *Shell Life* 193 The *Slit-limpets (*Fissurellidae*)..have a slit which serves the purpose of an excretory orifice. *Ibid.* 195 Common Slit-limpet (*Emarginata fissura*). 1832 *Planting* 35 in *Husb.* (L. U. K.) III, *Slit planting is the most simple mode, and is practised on soils in their natural state. 1843 J. Smith *Forest Trees* 64 What is called slit-planting I consider best on shallow ground. 1868 *Rep. U. S. Commissioner Agric.* (1869) 253 The injury is less than that of the same kind incident to *slit-setting, by means of a spade. 1890 Doyle *White Company* xxix, The narrow *slit-shaped openings at either side of the ponderous gate. 1725 *Fam. Dict.* s.v. *Grafting*, The Azerole or small Medlar may particularly be grafted *Slitwise [1727 Slit-ways] upon the white Thorn.

Slit (slit), *v.* Pa. t. and pa. pple. **slit.** Forms: (see below). [ME. *slitte* weak vb., obscurely related to OE. *slītan*: see Slite *v.*

It is very doubtful whether there is any direct connexion with the ONorthumb. forms *-slitten* for the pa. pple. *-sliten*, and *-slittes*, *-slittеð*, *-slittað* for *-slītes*, etc., which belong to the verb (*to*)*slītan*. The ME. weak verb may rather correspond to OHG. *slizzan* (MHG. *slitzen*, G. *schlitzen*):—**slitjan*. The earliest example occurs in the pa. pple. *i-slit*; for slightly later instances see To-slit *v.*]

1. *trans.* To cut into, or cut open, by means of a sharp instrument or weapon; to divide or sever by making a long straight cut or fissure; also, to take *off* or *out* in this way.

a. Inf. (and *Pres.*) 4–6 **slytte**; 4–5 **slitte** (5 **sclitte**, **slitt**), 4, 6– **slit.**

c 1386 Chaucer *Frankl. T.* 532 To doon his diligence,.. Or with a sword þat he wolde slitte his herte. 1530 Palsgr. 721/2 Slytte this stycke in twayne. 1596 Shaks. *Tam. Shr.* v. i. 134 Ile slit the villaines nose that would haue sent me to the laile. 1637 W. Cartwright *Royal Slave* III. iii, Let's slit this graver weazen. 1687 A. Lovell tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* II. 114 They slit the Noses of all their Asses, to make them breath more freely. 1747–96 Mrs. Glasse *Cookery* v. 53 Slit them in two, and put the yolk of an egg over. 1867 Trollope *Chron. Barset* II. li. 85, I was going to slit the picture from the top to the bottom. 1869 Tozer *Highl. Turkey* II. 280 To slit the branch of a sapling tree.

β. Pa. t. 4 **slitte**, 5 **slytte**, **slyt**, 4–5, 7– **slit**; also 4–5 **slitted**, 5 **slytted.**

(*a*) 13.. *Sir Beues* 866 Sum vpon þe helm a hitte, In to þe sadel he hem slitte. 1387 Trevisa *Higden* (Rolls) V. 39 Þan sche kutte and slitte here clopes. *c* 1400 *Pilgr. Soule* (Caxton, 1483) III. ix. 55 Thenne sawe I yet another companye of whiche fowle Sathanas slytte the throtes. *c* 1450 *Merlin* vii. 118 He slyt a-sonder the sadell and the chyne of the horse. 1664 Power *Exp. Philos.* I. 55 We slit a black Horse's Hair with a Razor, and perceived it to be hollow. 1873 Dixon *Two Queens* I. iv. I. 27 The figure drew a sword and slit Arbues through the elbow.

(*b*) *a* 1300 *E. E. Psalter* xxix. 14 Þou slitted mi sek in twa. *c* 1440 *Jacob's Well* 298 Þe turmentourys .. slytted hym & his herte a-sunder. 1483 Caxton *Gold. Leg.* 421/1 As hys cook dressyd and slytted it [*sc.* the fish].

γ. Pa. pple. 3 **i-slit**, 4 **i-slitte**, 5–6 **slitte**, 5 **slyt(t, sclyt**, 6– **slit** (7 **slitt**); also 7, 9 **slitted.**

The mod. north. dial. *slitten* is perh. a new formation, but may be a survival of the pa. pple. of Slite *v.*

(*a*) *c* 1205 Lay. 14221 Þa al islit wes Þe þong, he wes wunder ane long. 1387 Trevisa *Higden* (Rolls) IV. 443 Þe bowels were i-slitte and y-turned to seche gold wiþ ynne. *c* 1400 *Beryn* 3204 With that cam þe vomman,—hir tunge was nat sclytt. 1451 Capgrave *Life St. Aug.* 34 This same Innocent ..had a greuous sor, whech sor myth not be hol..with-outen þat it wer slitte. 1555 Watreman *Fardle Facions* I. iv. 47 Ye skinne beyng pretely slit. 1589 *Pasquil's Ret.* B iij b, Your tongue will be slitte if you take not heede. *a* 1632 T. Taylor *God's Judgem.* I. I. ii. (1642) 29 Many..flying to the Enemy, were taken and slit in pieces. 1687 A. Lovell tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* I. 29 Their Shirt (which hath sleeves like our Womens Smocks, and is slit in the same manner) comes over their Drawers. 1710 Steele *Tatler* No. 164 P 4 Sirrah, you deserve to have your Nose slit. 1823 H. J. Brooke *Introd. Crystallogr.* 88 Crystals which might be conceived to have been slit in a particular direction. 1884 J. Gilmour *Mongols* xxiv. 296 The tongue they had slit and hung up to dry.

(*b*) 1602 Fulbecke *Pandects* 79 The nostrils of the adulteresse were slitted. 1900 *Daily Mail* 26 Apr. 4/4 The earth is all slitted with trenches.

b. *fig.* To divide, separate, sever.

a 1300 *E. E. Ps.* lxxxviii. 24 (Eg.), I sal slit [*Harl.* slitte] fra his face his ille-wiland. 1637 Milton *Lycidas* 76 Comes the blind Fury with th' abhorred shears, And slits the thin spun life. 1645 — *Colast.* Wks. 1851 IV. 358 Now hee comes to the Position,..and like an able text man slits it into fowr. 1798 *Poet. Anti-Jacobin* No. 24. 127 Till deadly Atropos with fatal sheers Slits the thin promise of the expected years.

2. *techn.* To cut (iron) into rods or (wood) into thin deals.

1522– [see Slitting *vbl. sb.* 1, and Slitting-mill 1]. 1796 Morse *Amer. Geogr.* I. 410 The slitting-mills in this district, it is said, annually slit 600 tons of iron. 1831 J. Holland *Manuf. Metal* I. 146 The practice of slitting, as it is termed, sheets of metal into light rods. 1873 Richards *Operator's Handbk.* 114 Carriage saws, such as are used for jointing floor boards or slitting very long stuff.

3. *Agric.* To 'split' in ploughing.

1766 *Compl. Farmer* s.v. *Lucern*, In March the same year ..he slit the ridges with the plough.

Slit, *ppl. a.* [f. prec.]

1. Of garments: Rent, torn; slashed.

1387 Trevisa *Higden* (Rolls) I. 297 Cloped in slitte clobis and foule. 1438 *E. E. Wills* (1882) 111 A gowne..with slyt slyues y-furred. *a* 1450 *Knt. de la Tour* (1868) 30 Thei were the furst that brought up this astate that ye use of gret purfiles and slitte cotes. 1706 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4257/4 A brown Coat, with slit Sleeves. 1711 Addison *Spect.* No. 129 P 10 A Coat with long Pockets, and slit Sleeves.

2. Naturally divided or cloven.

1607 Topsell *Four-f. Beasts* (1658) 99 The face of this beast is fleshy,..his ears..are slit. 1664 Power *Exp. Philos.* I. 2 His feet are slit into claws or talons. 1774 Goldsm. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) IV. 170 Its tongue..is forked or slit at the end like that of serpents.

3. Cut with a sharp instrument; divided by slitting.

1611 Cotgr., *Fendu*, the slit, or clouen side of a thing. 1648 Hexham II, *Gesliste ooren*, Slit or Cropped eares. 1670 Milton *Hist. Eng.* VI. Wks. 1851 V. 254 Canute..took the hostages.., and with slit Noses..setting them ashore, departed into Denmarke. 1725 *Fam. Dict.* s.v. *Grafting*, Loam and slit Osier. 1835–6 *Todd's Cycl. Anat.* I. 240/2 Looking along the slit-side of the vessel. 1865 Tylor *Early Hist. Man.* I. 1 The weights that pull the slit ears in long nooses to the shoulder. 1885 Meredith *Diana* I, Poniarded, slit-throat, rope-dependant figures.

b. *spec.* Of deals: (see quot. 1842).

1632 in E. B. Jupp *Carpenters' Co.* (1887) 297 The dividing of..Chambers and other roomes..with slitt or whole deales. 1683 Moxon *Mech. Exerc., Printing* iv, The Bearers are made of Slit-Deal. 1703 Stanton in De Foe *Storm* (1896) 329 We are obliged to make use of slit deals to supply the want of slats and tyles. 1772 T. Simpson *Vermin-Killer* 26 Lay a piece of slit deal over the trap. 1842 Gwilt *Archit.* Gloss. s.v. *Board*, Fir boards of this sort, one inch and a quarter thick, are called whole deal, and those a full half inch thick, slit deal. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2212/2 *Slit-deal Plane*, a tonguing or grooving plane.

c. In various special collocations (see quots.).

1890 'R. Boldrewood' *Col. Reformer* (1891) 107 Wether, hogget, ewe, weaner, *slit-ear. 1843 Holtzapffel *Turning* I. 188 These rods are also made of larger sizes, when they are called *slit iron. 1799 J. Robertson *Agric. Perth* 96 An oblong hole, into which a *slit-nail is put. 1846 Holtzapffel *Turning* II. 540 The nose-bit,..called also the *slit-nose-bit,..is slit up a small distance near the center. 1677 Yarranton *Eng. Improv.* 47 The third [school] is for Boys painting the Toys and *slit Pictures. 1825 J. Nicholson *Operat. Mechanic* 503 A circular rack..that holds the curb or *slit-piece. 1835 Ure *Philos. Manuf.* 270 This slit-piece [in a silk-winding engine] is called the cleaner. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* II. 319 '*Slit rods,' which are used for nail-making. 1882 *Worc. Exhib. Catal.* iii. 18 Slit rods for making into nails. 1881 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* V. 216 Genus *Pleurotomaria*, '*Slit-shell'. 1897 Woodward in *Concise Knowl. Nat. Hist.* 632 The Pleurotomidæ, or slit-shells, have conical, spiral shells with a notch in the outer lip at the periphery. 1662 Evelyn *Chalcogr.* 18 Such as were the *Slit-stones, or Slates which succeeded the stately marbles. 1799 S. Freeman *Town Officer* 124 All boards, plank, timber and *slitwork..shall be surveyed.

4. *Comb.*, as *slit-eared*, *-footed*, *-nosed.*

1607 Topsell *Four-f. Beasts* (1658) 176 Cloven- or slit-footed into many claws. 1850 W. Irving *Mahomet* XXXV, Al Adha or the slit-eared, the swiftest of his camels. 1880 Browning *Dram. Idyls, Mulèykeh* 32 You feed young beasts .. of famous breed, Slit-eared, unblemished. 1884 Coues *N. Amer. Birds* 733 *Gaviæ*, Slit-nosed Longwings.

Slitch (slitʃ). *Obs.* exc. *dial.* Forms: 5 **slicche**, **slycche**, 5–6 **sliche**, 6 **slich**, **slyche**, **slytche**, **slitche**, 7– **slitch.** [app. representing an OE. **slīc* (see Slike *sb.*); for the phonetic development cf. *ditch*, *sitch.*] = Sleech *sb.* (See also quot. 1794.)

c 1400 *Destr. Troy* 5763 The Troiens dong hom doun in the depe sliche. *Ibid.* 13547 Thurgh the slicche and the slyme in þis slogh feble. 1432–50 tr. *Higden* (Rolls) I. 133 Nilus.. makethe the londe plentuous thro slycche that hit drawethe with hit. *c* 1585 Pilkington *Expos. Nehemiah* ii. 27 b, For the wickednes of Sodom..that pleasant ground..is now barren, full of filthie mire, slitche, tarre, &c. 1688 *Phil. Trans.* XVII. 985 They may..get admirable Slitch, where with to Manure all their uplands. 1794 Hutchinson *Hist. Cumb.* I. 564 Lime is chiefly used as a manure, with clagg or slitch, as the farmers call it, being the wreck left by the tide on the shore. 1878 in *Cumberld. Gloss.*

Slite (slɜit), *sb.* Now *E. Angl. dial.* Also 9 **slight**, **sleight.** [f. Slite *v.*, or ad. Du. *slijt* (cf. G. *schleiss*), f. *slijten* (see next).] Impairment through use; wear and tear.

1614 Gentleman *Way to win Wealth* 36 But the yearely slite and weare of her tackell and war-ropes and nets will cost some eighty pounds. 1879 *Norfolk Archæol.* VIII. 173, I have a wonderful sleight for shoes with my children. 1895 *E. Angl. Gloss.* 200, *Slite*, wear and tear.

Slite, *v.* Now *rare* or *Obs.* Also 5 **slytyn**, 5, 9 **slyte.** *Pa. t.* 6, 8–9 *Sc.* **slate**, **slait.** *Pa. pple.* 5 **slytyn.** [Representing either OE. *slītan* (*slāt*, etc.) or ON. *slíta* (Icel. *slíta*, Norw. and Sw. *slita*, Da. *slide*), corresponding to OFris. *slītæ* (WFris. *slite*), MDu. *slīten* (Du. *slijten*), OS. *slītan* (MLG. and LG. *sliten*), OHG. *slīzan* (G. *schleissen*).

Common in OE., but rare in the later language; the mod. dial. pa. pple. *slitten* is now associated with Slit *v.*]

1. *trans.* To slit or split; to cut or rip up.

c 1440 *Jacob's Well* 226 Þe ỏ feend slyteth wyth a swerd my body, & begynneth at myn heued dounwarde. 1536 Bellenden *Chron. Scot.* Proh. (1541) A vij, Duke Hannibal..Brak doun the wallis, and the montanis slait. 1825 Jamieson *Suppl.*, *To Slite, Slyte*, to rip up any thing that

is sewed. 1841 in R. Chambers *Pop. Rhymes Scot.* (1870) 156, I sewed a pair o' sheets, and I slate them.

2. To impair by wear; to wear out. Hence **Sli·ting** *vbl. sb.* (Cf. SLITE *sb.*)

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 459/2 Slytyn, or weryn, *attero, vetero. Ibid.*, Slytynge, *veteracio, consumpcio.*

3. *Sc.* To whet or sharpen.

17.. *Gil Morrice* xviii. in Percy *Religues* III. i, Now he has drawn his trusty brand, And slaited [*read* slait it] on the strae. *a* 1800 in Child *Ballads* IV. 491 Johnny drew forth his good braid glaive, And slate it on the plain. 1825 JAMIESON *Suppl.* s.v. *Slait, Slite* is used in this sense [*sc.* to whet] in Lanarks[hire] and also in Loth[ian].

Slite, obs. form of SLEET *sb.*

† Slithe, *v. Obs.* Also 5 slythe; *pa. t.* **slathe.** [app. an alteration of SLIDE *v.*, on the analogy of SLITHER *v.* or under Scand. influence.] *intr.* To slip, slide. Hence † **Sli·thing** *vbl. sb.* and *ppl. a.*

a 1300 *E. E. Psalter* lv. 13 Mi saule dede toke þou fra, Mi fete fra slipinge als-swa. *Ibid.* cxiv. 8 He toke..Mi fete fra slithing þer i ga. *c* 1450 *Mirour Saluacioun* (Roxb.) 17 Than sithen be slithing gudes the werld wold vs betrayse. *Ibid.* 46 A stone with out mans hande was kytte And in the feet of the ymage or mawmet doun slathe itte. *c* 1460 *Towneley Myst.* xiii. 122 It is euer in drede and brekyll as glas, And slythys.

Slither (sli·ðəɹ), *sb.* Also *Sc.* **sclither.** [f. SLITHER *a.* or *v.*]

1. *pl.* 'Loose stones lying in great quantities on the side of a rock or hill' (Jamieson). *Sc.*

1805 J. NICOL *Poems* II. 203 (Jam.), Fir'd wi' hope, he onward dashes, Thro' heather, sclithers, bogs, an' rashes. 1884 SPEEDY *Sport Highl.* xiii. 220 They will often be seen running among the grey stones or 'sclithers'.

2. *local.* (See quots.)

1811 J. FAREY *Derbyshire* I. 145 The Slither, or indestructible rubble of Limestone. *Ibid.*, It slips from beneath the feet of an animal which attempts to cross it, whence the name Slither, or sliding gravel. 1829 *Glover's Hist. Derby* I. 49 Patches of slither are the most barren spots that can be imagined.

3. *techn.* (See quot.) Also *fig.*

1830 *Examiner* 419/2 Slither is, we believe, the technical term..[given] to the cuttings and rubbish put in between the outer and the inner soles of shoes. *Ibid.*, Even the slither of O'Doherty is inserted, while matter of real importance from O'Connell is omitted.

4. A slipping or sliding.

1861 TROLLOPE *Tales of All Countries* 67 Then there was a great slither, and an exclamation, and the noise of a fall. 1897 W. WESTALL *Red Eagle* xxvi, A slither down a slope that would have tried the nerve of a chamois-hunter.

Slither (sli·ðəɹ), *a.* Now *dial.* and *rare.* Also 4 **skliþer,** 5 **slyther.** [Later variant of SLIDDER *a.*] Slippery. Also as *adv.*, smoothly.

a 1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* xxxiv. 7 Þe way of þaim be made merknes and skliþer. *Ibid.* xxxviii. 1 Lightly it slippis, as we doe when we ga in skliþer way. *c* 1489 CAXTON *Blanchardyn* xxiv. 89 The grasse wher vpon he trad was sore weet & slyther. 1892 JANE BARLOW *Bogland* (1893) 54 Whinever there's little that ails ye, An' all goes slither as grase.

Slither (sli·ðəɹ), *v.* Forms: 2 **sleðren** (?), 4 **sliþer,** 5 **slyther,** 8– **slither**; 4 **sklythir,** 9 *Sc.* **sclither.** [Later variant of SLIDDER *v.*, with normal change of *d* to *th*: cf. *gather, hither*, etc.]

1. *intr.* To slip, slide, glide, esp. on a loose or broken slope or with a clattering noise; † to fall gently. Freq. with *down.*

c 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 99 Þis is þe holi manne þe ure drihten sende alse snow sleðrende. *a* 1340, *c* 1360 [see the *vbl. sb.*]. *a* 1450 *Mankind* (Brandl) 109 Yf 3e sey þat I lye, I xall make yow to slyther. 1788 W. H. MARSHALL *Yorksh.* II. 353 To *Slither*,...to slide; as down a rope, a ladder, or the side of a hill. 1825– in many dial. glossaries. 1861 DODSON in *Peaks, Passes, & Glac.* I. 199 He slithered down the polished surface of the gully, like a tree down a timber shoot. 1880 *19th Cent.* Sept. 455 The way they [Colorado horses] will climb up places, and slither down places.., is marvellous. 1896 BADEN-POWELL *Matabele Campaign* xiv, On these [smooth rocks] the men with their nailed boots slithered and clattered to an awful extent.

fig. 1878 HUXLEY in *Life* (1900) I. xxxiii. 502 You go slithering down avalanches of work.

b. *trans.* To make or cause to slide.

1892 *Daily News* 1 Oct. 2/1 It is many a long day since Meg and Margery took a hand each and slithered him down hill. 1897 *Pall Mall Mag.* Mar. 307 She slithered her feet along the ground.

c. To make (one's way) by slipping or sliding.

1888 F. COWPER *Caedvalla* 223 Quite safely the man slithered his way over the mud.

2. *intr.* To walk in a sliding manner; to slip along or away.

1848 A. H. CLOUGH *The Bothie* iv. 30 The streets of the dissolute city, Where dressy girls slithering by upon pavements give sign for accosting. 1857 KINGSLEY *Two Y. Ago* III. 183 Gay girls slithered past him, looked round at him, but in vain. 1894 HALL CAINE *Manxman* 36 Philip slithered softly through the dairy door.

3. Of reptiles: To creep, crawl, glide.

1839 FR. A. KEMBLE *Resid. in Georgia* (1863) 262 How horrid it [a snake] did look, slithering over the road. 1883 *Fortn. Rev.* Apr. 563 Feeling an unpleasantly cold something slithering down my right leg. 1888 J. INGLIS *Tent Life in Tigerland* 29 An odious, repulsive-looking *Säp go* (a species of iguana) slithered noiselessly through a gap.

4. Of things: To move in a slipping or sliding manner.

1869 *Routledge's Ev. Boy's Ann.* 600 The rope had 'slithered' through his hands. 1869 *Echo* 9 Mar., The blades slither on the water, which at times made the boat roll.

Hence **Sli·thering** *vbl. sb.* and *ppl. a.*

a 1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* cxiv. 8 In þe sensualite 3it we fele sklythiryngе[*v.r.* scliteryng] and lust. *c* 1360 *E. E. Ps.* lv. 13 (Eg.), þou toke mi saul dede fra, Mi fete fra sliþeringe als-swa. 1864 J. C. ATKINSON *Stanton Grange* 219 His [a viper's] quiet, slithering gait. 1885 LADY BRASSEY *The Trades* 241 We continued to descend with a rapidity of 'slithering' and sliding, which might have considerably alarmed a timid Amazon. 1897 *Outing* XXIX. 596/1 His wheel shot past me with a slithering, vertiginous pace.

Sli·therness. *rare* —1. [f. SLITHER *a.*] Slipperiness. In quot. *fig.*

1491 CAXTON *Vitas Patr.* (W. de W. 1495) I. i. 5 b/2 Wylte thou be now chaste and relygious, Thou whyche haste all thy lyfe lyued in slythernesse of the worlde?

Slithery (sli·ðəri), *a.* Chiefly *dial.* Also **slithry,** *Sc.* **sclithery, -ie.** [Alteration of SLIDDERY *a.*] Slippery, in various senses.

1825 in JAMIESON s.v. *Sclitherie.* 1851 J. F. HARDY in *Peaks, Passes, & Glac.* I. 390 The rock..in general..was well covered with snow. This in parts was very dry and slithery. 1884 SPEEDY *Sport Highl.* xix. 375 The 'sclithery' rock giving way, we slid down again into the bottom of the 'rut'. 1902 *Daily Chron.* 4 Sept. 3/2 The Jesuit..was mysterious, elusive, not to say slithery.

† **Sli·thy,** *a. Obs.*—1 ? var. of SLEATHY *a.*

1622 W. WHATELY *God's Husb.* II. 116 We make no great matter of the lower degrees of sinne, and so grow slithy, and fashionable, and dead in our confessions.

Sli·tless, *a.* [f. SLIT *sb.*] Of a spectroscope: Made without the usual slit for admitting the light.

1881 C. A. YOUNG *Sun* 235 By examining the eclipse with a so-called slitless spectroscope. 1885 CLERKE *Pop. Hist. Astron.* 223 Making separate trial of a 'slitless spectroscope' devised for the occasion.

Slit-mill. *rare.* [f. SLIT *v.* 2.] A slitting-mill.

1776 ADAM SMITH *W. N.* II. i. (1869) I. 277 The furnace, the forge, the slit-mill are instruments of trade.

Sli·tted, *ppl. a. rare.* = SLIT *ppl. a.* 3.

1797 MATON *West. Counties Eng.* I. 120 A candle stuck in a piece of slitted stick.

Slitter (sli·təɹ), *sb.* [f. SLIT *v.* + -ER 1.] One who, or that which, slits; *spec.* as the name of various implements.

1611 COTGR., *Tailleur*, a cutter, slitter, hewer. 1862 MRS. H. WOOD *Mrs. Hallib.* xxv, The slitters slit the four fingers, and shaped the thumbs and forgits. 1865 BAUERMAN *Catal. Mining Models* 21 *Pick* (*Slitter*), a double-armed pick,.. used for slitting out the vein. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech., Slitter*, a machine for shearing up sheet-iron into slips for nail-rods, etc. 1895 G. E. DAVIS *Pract. Microscopy* (ed. 3) 280 The slitter is a thin wrought-iron disc about 11 inches in diameter,..and when used its edge is charged with diamond dust.

† **Sli·tter,** *v.*1 *Obs. rare.* Also 4 **slyter.** [A frequentative from SLIT *v.*] *trans.* To cut (a garment) with ornamental slits. Hence **Sli·ttered** *ppl. a.*, wearing clothes so ornamented.

? *a* 1366 CHAUCER *Rom. Rose* 840 Wrought was his robe in straunge gise, And al to-slytered for queyntise. *c* 1380 WYCLIF *Wks.* (1880) 121 Þei wasten hem in..pelure & costelewe clopis & proude slitterede squyerys & haukis & hondis.

Sli·tter, *v.*2 Now *dial.* Also 4 **scliter.** [Obscurely related to SLIDDER *v.* and SLITHER *v.*] *intr.* To slide, slip, glide.

a 1400 [see SLITHERING *vbl. sb.*]. 1825– in dialect use (see *Eng. Dial. Dict.*).

† **Slitterkins.** *Obs.*—1 [Cf. 'SLIDIKINS.] A form of minced oath.

1786 *Microcosm* in Sydney *Engl. 18 C.* I. 54 Mincing blasphemy into odsbodikins, slitterkins, and such like.

Slitting (sli·tiŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. SLIT *v.* + -ING 1.]

1. The action of making a slit or slits, or of cutting in this manner. Also with *up.*

c 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 33 Hunger and þurst and chele and feonda bitinga and neddre slittinga. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XVI. vii. (Bodl. MS.), Auripigmentum..haþ kinde of slittinge and fretinge. 1522 *MS. Acc. St. John's Hosp., Canterb.*, For slyttyng of xliij fote of tymber. 1562 *Act* 5 *Eliz.* c. 14 § 14 Imprisonment, Loss of Ears, slitting and searing of Nose. 1611 COTGR., *Coupement*, a cutting,.. cleauing, slitting. *a* 1712 KING *Art of Love* 713 Zoe..sav'd the slitting of his nose, By timely changing of her cloaths. 1750 *Act* 23 *Geo. II*, c. 29 § 9 No mill or other engine for slitting or rolling of iron. 1879 *St. George's Hosp. Rep.* IX. 761 If phymosis coexists with warts..the slitting-up of the prepuce, or circumcision, is advisable.

2. *attrib.*, as *slitting-disk, -file*, etc.

In most of these *slitting* might also be taken as the *ppl. a.* For descriptions see Knight *Dict. Mech.*

1819 *Pantologia* X. s.v., By passing it [*sc.* iron] through the slitting rollers, it is..slit up. *Ibid.*, A slitting machine. 1846 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* II. 822 Round files, square, equalling, knife and slitting files. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2212/2 [Slitting-file, -gage, -machine, -plane, -roller, etc.]. 1884 F. J. BRITTEN *Watch & Clockm.* 241 A screw slitting file, used principally for cutting the slits in screw heads. 1888 RUTLEY *Rock-Forming Min.* 23 To draw the clamped stone against the edge of the slitting disc.

So **Sli·tting** *ppl. a.*

1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) II. 163 Al þe longage of þe Norþhumbres..is so scharp, slitting, and frotynge and vnschape [etc.].

Sli·tting-mill. [SLITTING *vbl. sb.*]

1. *Metall.* A mill or machine by which iron bars or plates are slit into nail-rods, etc.

1667 PRIMATT *City & C. Builder* 8 A Slitting-Mill, which is for the forming of Iron into some fashion, as into Iron-rods, Nails, and such like things. 1686 PLOT *Staffordsh.* 163 Those they intend to be cut into rodds, are carryed to the slitting Mills. 1711 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4862/7 Leases of two Forges, Furnace and Slitting Mill. 1792 *Descr. Kentucky* 49 The slitting and rolling mills of Pennsylvania. 1835 URE *Philos. Manuf.* 56 The operations of..the slitting-mill, the flatting-mill, &c.

2. *Gem-cutting.* A slicer, slitting-disk.

1850 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* III. 1098 Slitting Mill or the Slicer, is a very thin sheet-iron disk, the edge of which is charged with diamond powder, and lubricated with brick oil.

3. A saw-mill for slitting deals.

1884 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* Suppl.

Slive (sləiv), *sb.* Also 6 **sliue.** [f. SLIVE *v.*1]

1. A piece cut off; a slice. Now *dial.*

1577 FRAMPTON *Joyful News* III. (1596) 103 This fruit.. being so grated they put it into a sliue of palme. 1668 WILKINS *Real Char.* 37 Shread, snip, slive, slice, collop, cut. *a* 1800 PEGGE *Suppl. Grose* s.v., A slive off a cut loaf will not be missed. 1854– in dial. glossaries (Yks., Northampt., Leic., Warw.).

† **2.** A cut, a stroke. *Obs. rare.*

1589 NASHE *Martin Marprelate* Wks. (Grosart) I. 138 You brag you haue giuen M. D. Bancroft such a sliue ouer the shoulders, as the credite of hys Chaplenship shall not recouer. 1747 POCOCKE *Journ. Scot.* (1887) 1 He gave me such a slive as a dog that has done some mischief.

Slive (sləiv), *v.*1 Now *dial.* Forms: 5 **slyvyn, slyfe,** 5–6 **slyve, slyue,** 6 **sliue,** 6, 8– **slive.** *Pa. pple.* 4 **sleuyne,** 5 **sleuene,** 6–7 **sliuen,** 7 **sleeven,** 7, 9 *dial.* **sliven,** 8–9 *dial.* **sloven.** Also *pa. t.* and *pa. pple.* 6 **slyved, sliu'd,** sliude, 7 **sliued,** 6– **slived.** [OE. **slífan* (the pa. t. occurs in the compound *tó-slíf*), app. not represented in the cognate languages.]

1. *trans.* To cleave, split, divide.

13.. in Horstm. *Altengl. Leg.* (1881) 455 þaire cotis ware al to-reuyne And þaire lymmes in sondir sleuyne. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 459/2 Slyvyn a-sundyr, *findo, effisso.* 1558 PHAER *Æneid* v. 96 With their stemmes ye seas thei sliue. 1589 ? LYLY *Pappe w. Hatchet* E ij, Hee sliues one, has a fling at another. 1600 SURFLET *Countrie Farme* III. xlvii. 520 All trees which through force of winde..shall be clouen..or sliuen must be cured with mire. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* I. 135 They did cut downe a branch..and slived or cleft the same into slips. 1647 HEXHAM I, To Slit, cleave, or slive, *klieven ofte splijten.* 1703 THORESBY *Let. to Ray*, To *Slive*,..to rive. 1790 GROSE *Prov. Gloss.* s.v. *Sloven*, The honours are sloven; i. e. equally divided. Spoken at the game of whist. 1819– in dial. glossaries, etc. (see *Eng. Dial. Dict.*).

b. *absol.* To cut *through* something.

1558 PHAER *Æneid* v. M iij, The fomy waters through thei sliue.

2. To separate or remove by cutting or slicing; to take *off* in this manner.

a 1400 *Sir Cleges* 211 A lytyll bowe he gan of slyve, And thowght to schewe yt to his wife. 1530 PALSGR. 722/1, I slyve a gylowfloure or any other floure from his braunche or stalke. 1575 GASCOIGNE *Flowers* Wks. p. lxxi, He sliude the gentle slippe, which could both twist and twind. 1594 WILLOBIE *Avisa* (1880) 139 For hauing sliu'd the gentle slip, his loue was turnd to hate. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* XIII. xxxiv, The trees may be replanted of the very truncheons, ..slived and divided from the very brain (as it were) of the green tree. 1793 *Trans. Soc. Arts* XI. 76 When the knife has penetrated to about the half [of the potato], the other half should be slived or broken off. 1841 HARTSHORNE *Salop. Ant.* Gloss., *Slive*,..to cut away in slices, strip bark from a tree. 1854 Miss BAKER *Northampt. Gloss.*, *Slive*, to..slice off any thing.

Hence **Slived, Sliven** *ppl. adjs.*

† *Slived* or *sliven silk*: see SLEAVED *ppl. a.*

a 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VIII*, 55 b, Sodainly came oute ..viii wyldemen, all apparayled in grene mosse, made with slyved sylke. 1575 TURBERV. *Faulconrie* 214 They cannot flee or stirre their wings by mean of some broke or slived feathers. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* II. 86/1 A Sliven, Shivered, or Cloven Tree. *Ibid.* III. 99/1 *Gum Work*, is by Gumming of several colours of sleeven Silk together.

Slive (sləiv), *v.*2 Now *dial.* Forms: 5 **slyue,** 6, 9 **slyve,** 8– **slive.** *Pa. t.* 5 **slafe,** 9 **slove** (*dial.* **sluv, sliv**). *Pa. pple.* 5 **sliven,** 6 **sleaven,** 9 *dial.* **slivven.** Also *pa. t.* and *pa. pple.* 5, 9 **slived,** 6 **slyued,** 8 **sliv'd.** [app. a variant of SLEVE *v.* (OE. *slefan*), with conjugation assimilated to prec.]

1. *trans.* To cause to slip *down, over*, etc.; to slip *on* (a garment), put *on* hastily or carelessly.

c 1410 *Master of Game* (MS. Digby 182) xxxiii, þenne shulde þe hunter slyue [*v.r.* slefe] doune þe skynn as fer as he may. 1494 in *Househ. Ordin.* (1790) 121 With his furred hudd sliven over his head and rolled about his necke. *Ibid.* 130 Yf he weare not his robe, he must have his hoode slived about his necke. 15.. *Bk. of Precedence* in *Q. Eliz. Acad.* 25 Nether may any weare hoodes with a Rowle slyued ouer there heades, or other wayes being of that fashon. 1593 *Rites & Mon. Church of Durham* (Surtees) 79 All the pippes of it was of Sylver to be sleaven on a long speare staffe. 1820 CLARE *Poems* (ed. 3) 145 When, unknown to her parents, Nell slove on her hat. 1828 CARR *Craven Gloss.* s.v., I'll slive my gown on and gang wi the. 1868 in *Cleveland Gloss.*

b. To convey furtively or quietly.

1821 CLARE *Vill. Minstr.* I. 54 Where her long-hoarded groat oft brings the maid, And secret slives it in the sybil's fist. *Ibid.* II. 88 To slive her apron corner to her eyes.

2. *intr.* To slide; to slip. *rare.*

c 1440 *Alph. Tales* 323 When he was at mes and sulde lifte, as þe vse is, his lyn slevis slafe bakk. 1530 PALSGR. 722/1, I slyve downe, I fall downe sodaynly, *je coule.*

b. To slip *off* or away; to move quietly or slyly in some direction; to sneak or hang about; to loiter, idle.

1707 Mrs. Centlivre *Platonick Lady* iv, I know her Gown agen—I minded her when she sliv'd off. 1725 Bailey *Erasm. Colloq.* 33 What are you sliving about you Drone? 1787 Grose *Prov. Gloss., To slive*, to sneak. 1820 Clare *Poems* (ed. 3) 59 Sun bid 'good night', and slove to bed. 1821 — *Vill. Minstr.* I. 88 The cowboy oft slives down the brook. 1871 Peacock *Ralf Shirl.* II. 109 They'll believe he'd slive off into th' west country.

Sliver (sli·vəɹ, slәi·vəɹ), *sb.*[1] Forms: 4 **slivere, sleyvere, 6 sleuer, slyuer, 6–8 sliuer, 6– sliver** (9 *dial.* **slivver**). [f. Slive *v.*[1]]

1. A piece cut or split off; a long thin piece or slip; a splinter, shiver, slice. Also *fig.*

c 1374 Chaucer *Troylus* III. 1013 Allas, that he, al hool, or of him slivere, Shuld have his refut in so digne a place. *a* 1533 Ld. Berners *Huon* xvi. 42 Ther spers brake to ther handes, so that ye sleuers flew a bye in ye ayer. 1575 Turberv. *Faulconrie* 308 Which marreth their beakes, so as it is enforced to fall away in slivers and peeces. 1641 Milton *Reform.* II. Wks. 1851 III. 35 What they can bring us now..that can cut Tacitus into slivers and steaks, we shall presently hear. 1665 Hooke *Microgr.* 45 A small sliver of Iron. 1715 tr. *Pancirollus' Rerum Mem.* I. iv. vii. 168 They were wont to cut them [tortoise shells] into certain Slivers, and to cover their Tables or Beds with them. 1747–96 Mrs. Glasse *Cookery* xviii. 291 When it is cold, it will cut in slivers as Dutch beef. 1811 Scott in *Lockhart* (1839) III. 353 A sliver of the wood run a third of an inch between my nail and flesh. 1874 Mrs. Jay *Holden with Cords* 454 A delicate and difficult surgical operation, to remove pus, sliver of bone, or other foreign matter.

b. Applied to parts of trees or plants.

1602 Shaks. *Ham.* iv. vii. 174 An enuious sliuer broke, When downe the weedy Trophies, and her selfe, Fell in the weeping Brooke. 1656 W. Du Gard tr. *Comenius' Gate Lat. Unl.* 31 Onyon, Garlick, and Leek, and these bulbous herbs have slivers instead of leavs. 1861 Lytton & Fane *Tannhäuser* 81 A maze of shrubs, Whose emerald slivers fringed the rugged way.

c. *U.S.* The side of a small fish sliced off in one piece for use as bait.

1880 G. B. Goode *Hist. Menhaden* 201 (Cent.), The slivers (pronounced *slyvers*) are salted and packed in barrels.

2. A continuous ribbon or band of loose, untwisted, parallelized fibres of wool, cotton, flax, or other textile material, ready for drawing, roving, or slubbing.

1703 *Wakes Colne* (Essex) *Overseers Acc.* (MS.), Paid for woollen sliuers to wrap him in, £o. o. 8. 1738 L. Paul *Pat. Specif.* No. 562. 2 A strict regard must be had to make the slivers of an equal thickness from end to end. 1805 Luccock *Nature of Wool* 225 It produces..a sliver more compact than the old wools of either the Leicester or the Lincoln district. 1845 M^c^Culloch *Acc. Brit. Emp.* (1854) I. 675 After passing through the second pair of rollers, the reduced sliver is attached to a spindle and fly. 1894 *Times* 12 Mar. 13/5 The ordinary tow sliver..is fed into the machine.

attrib. 1864 *Riddel & Co. Catal. Mill Furnishings*, Sliver Cans. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2213/2 Sliver-box. 1891 R. Marsden *Cotton Spinning* (ed. 4) 129 The sliver cans being taken and placed at the back.

3. In various technical uses: (see quots.).

a. 1842 *Archæologia* XXIX. 271 *note*, The little wooden instruments called slivers used in yarn spinning in the West of England. **b.** 1846 A. Young *Naut. Dict.* 287 *Sliver*, in shipbuilding, any thin piece of wood used as a filling. 1886 *Encycl. Brit.* XXI. 820 Wedges..called slivers or slices, by which means the ship's weight is brought upon the 'launch' or cradle. **c.** 1851 Greenwell *Coal-trade Terms Northumb. & Durh.* 48 *Sliver*, a thin lath, placed within two grooves, cut lengthways for the purpose, in the edges of two planks intended to be joined together, for the purpose of making the joint airtight. 1883 Gresley *Gloss. Coal-m.* 227 *Slivers*, strips of wood or iron fitted in between the edges of boards in wooden bratticing, to make the joints air-tight.

4. A slashing cut or stroke.

1806 J. Beresford *Miseries Hum. Life* III. xxxv, Becoming so tired of your own timidity in paring the paper too little, as to spoil all by one rash sliver. 1897 Trotter *Life J. Nicholson* xx. 249 Nicholson..clove him..literally in two. 'Not a bad sliver that!' he remarked.

5. *attrib.* in **sliver-edge**, a very fine edge on a piece of timber.

1874 Thearle *Naval Archit.* 57 An efficient caulk not being obtainable when the deck plank snapes off to a 'sliver edge'.

Sliver (slәi·vəɹ), *sb.*[2] Now *dial.* [f. Slive *v.*2]

†**1.** *pl.* (Meaning doubtful.) *Obs.*[—1]

1572 *Wills & Inv. N.C.* (Surtees, 1835) 373 A pair of Buffins with the slyuers to the same, one doblat of white bombasyne.

2. *dial.* (See quots.)

1847 Halliw., *Sliver*,..a short slop worn by bankers or navigators. *Linc[oln].* 1866 Brogden *Prov. Lincs.*, *Sliver*, a workman's linen jacket, a short blowse. 1908 Miss Fowler *Betw. Trent & Ancholme* 54 A sliver was an over-all, an' they was made o Drabette an' Cantoon.

Sliver (sli·vəɹ, slәi·vəɹ), *v.* Also 7 **sliuer.** [f. Sliver *sb.*[1]]

1. *trans.* To separate or remove as a sliver; to cut, split, or tear into slivers.

1605 Shaks. *Lear* IV. ii. 34 She that her selfe will sliuer and disbranch From her materiall sap, perforce must wither. 1605 — *Macb.* IV. i. 27 Slippes of Yew, Sliuer'd in the Moones Ecclipse. 1654 Gayton *Pleas. Notes* IV. xxv. 282 They sang aloud, good Lord de-liver us, And suffer not this Don to sliver us. 1706 Phillips (ed. Kersey), *To Sliver*, to cut into Slivers, or thin Slices. 1825 Hone *Every-day Bk.* I. 882 People delight to sliver lettuces into bowls. 1845 S. Judd *Margaret* I. iii, The floor of the room was warped in every direction, slivered and gaping at the joints. 1885 Runciman *Skippers & Shellbacks* 213 Down with the other ten or I'll sliver you.

b. *intr.* To split, or split off.

1880 *Scribner's Mag.* May 79/1 The planks being cut across the grain to prevent slivering. 1896 Kipling *Seven Seas* 64 The splinter slivered free.

2. *trans.* To convert (textile fibres) into slivers (see Sliver *sb.*[1] 2).

1796 Morse *Amer. Geogr.* I. 543 Machinery to sliver, rove, and spin flax and hemp into thread. 1805 *Ann. Reg.* 848 Improvements in slivering and preparing hemp, flax [etc.].

Hence **Sli·vering** *vbl. sb.* Also *attrib.*, as *slivering-knife, -machine.*

1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2214 *Slivering-machine* (Woodworking), a machine for cutting splints, slivers, or shreds of wood for various purposes. 1880 G. B. Goode *Hist. Menhaden* 147 (Cent.), The operation of slivering is shown. *Ibid.* 201 The knife used is of peculiar shape, and is called a 'slivering knife'.

Sli·verly, *a. dial. rare.* Crafty, deceitful.

1674 Ray *N. C. Words* 43 (Lincoln), A sliverly fellow, *vir subdolus, vafer.* [Hence in Grose, etc.] 1877 *N. W. Linc. Gloss.* 228/2 He's a real down sliverly chap.

Slivery (sli·vəri), *a.* [f. Sliver *sb.*[1] 1.] (See quot.)

1832 *Planting* 91 in *Husb.* (L.U.K.) III, *Slivery.*—Small, straight shoots of large ash, &c., cleft into hoops for the purposes of the cooper.

Sli·ving, *vbl. sb.* Now *dial.* [f. Slive *v.*[1]]

1. A slash; the action of cutting.

c 1400 *Anturs of Arth.* xlviii. (Ireland MS.), He wend with a slyuyng, hade slayn him with slyȝt. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 459/2 Slyvynge, cuttynge a-wey, *avulsio, abscisio.*

2. A slip or cutting; a scion; a shoot or branch cut off. (Cf. Slaving *sb.* and Sleaving.)

c 1400 Maundev. (Roxb.) vii. 26 Men take plantes or slyfynges þeroff and sett þam in oþer placez. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 459/2 Slyvynge, of a tre or oþer lyke, *fissula.* 1577 B. Googe *Heresbach's Husb.* II. (1586) 76 Some are also set of the slips, or sliuinges. 1580 Frampton *Joyful News* (1596) 134 There dooeth come from them [*sc.* buds] many round coddes or slyuinges. 1879 Miss Jackson *Shropsh. Word-bk.* 390 The term *sliving* is more especially applied to a branch—usually of hedge-row trees—sliced off with the hatchet in 'pleaching' the hedge.

3. A slice.

1796 Pegge *Derbicisms* Ser. I. 64 (E.D.S.), A great sliving of bread. *a* 1825 Forby *Voc. E. Anglia* 307 *Sliving*, a slice of flesh.

Sliving (slәi·viŋ), *ppl. a.* [f. Slive *v.*[2] + -ing[2].] Slow-moving, dilatory; sneaking; stealing imperceptibly.

Also in dialect use as a *sb.*, explained by Thoresby (1703) as 'a lazy fellow' and by Hutton (1781) as 'a slovenly clown'.

1661 K. W. *Conf. Charac. Conceited Coxcombs* (1860) 67 He would prove an unmatchable piece of sliving policy. 1710 Mrs. Centlivre *Man's Bewitched* III. i, The sliving baggage will not come to a resolution yet. *a* 1800 Pegge *Suppl. Grose* s.v., A sliving fellow, one who loiters about with a bad intent. 1821 Clare *Vill. Minstr.* I. 22 Ere sliving night around his journey threw Her circling curtains.

†**Sli·vings.** *Obs.*[—1] [f. Slive *v.*[2]] Loose or wide breeches.

1601 T. Wright *Passions* (1604) VI. 332, I have seene Tarleton play the Clowne, and vse no other breeches, than such slops or slivings, as now many Gentlemen weare.

Slix(e, obs. forms of Sly *a.*

Slize (slәiz), *v.* Now *dial.* Also 5 **slyse.** [Of obscure origin.] *intr.* To look askance.

c 1400 *Laud Troy Bk.* 14043 Troylus eyen be-gan to slyse, The Gregeis sone he gan dispyse. 1825 Britton *Beauties Wiltsh.* 378 *Slise*, to look sly. 1883–93 in Hampsh. and Wiltsh. glossaries.

Slo, obs. form or var. of Slay *v.*, Sloe, Slough *sb.*[1]

Sloak, variant of Sloke[1].

Sloam, variant of Sloom.

Sloan (slōun). *Sc. rare.* [Of obscure origin: the form in northern English dialects is *slon.*] A severe snub or reproof; a 'taking-down'.

1824 Scott *St. Ronan's* I, None so likely as Meg to give them what in her country is called a *sloan.* 1828 — *Fort. Midl.* Note xix, To have an opportunity of reviling the Judges to their faces, or giving them, in the phrase of his country, 'a sloan'.

Sloap, Sloath, obs. ff. Slope, Sloth.

Sloat, variant of Slote.

Slob (slɒb), *sb.*[1] [Mainly a. Irish *slab* (slɒb) mud, Slab *sb.*[2]; but cf. also Slobber *sb.* and Du. *slobbe*, Fris. *slobbe, slob* clout, swab, slut.]

Chiefly in Irish use, or with reference to Ireland.

1. Mud, esp. soft mud on the sea-shore; ooze; muddy land.

1780 Young *Tour Irel.* II. 75 Under the slob or sea ooze he dug some very fine blue marle. 1828 Croker *Leg. S. Irel.* II. 188 Being very near plumping into the river..and being stuck up to the middle..in the slob. 1879 W. H. Dixon *Royal Windsor* II. xv. 163 Landing on the Essex shore, he hid himself in the slob. 1882 Payne-Gallwey *Fowler in Irel.* 26 When the birds gather on an island of slob..at about half-tide.

b. A stretch of mud or ooze.

1842 S. C. Hall *Ireland* II. 178 The same master Ned I tended duck-shooting over the slobs. 1860 *Athenæum* 28 Jan. 134 Those vast tracts..were then extensive slobs, covered with water at every tide. 1884 *Macm. Mag.* Sept. 357 Like some fair river which..ends its course amid dull flats and muddy slobs.

c. A sloppy mass; a mess.

1885 *Reports Provinc., Devon* 108 (E.D.D.), That gravel, when wet, will make a slob.

2. A large soft worm, used in angling.

1825 *Sporting Mag.* XLV. 96 A gentleman was angling with the maiden slob for trout. 1890 in D. A. Simmons *S. Donegal Gloss.*

3. A dull, slow, or untidy person; a careless or negligent workman.

1861 Clington *Frank O'Donnell* 101 A heavy-looking poor slob of a man. 1863 Le Fanu *House by Church-yard* I. v. 65 The Lord Mayor, a fat slob of a fellow. 1887 T. E. Brown *Doctor* 187 The dirty mob Of a cap that was at her—Aw a reglar slob. 1894 *Union Printer* (N.Y.) 21 Apr. 5/3 (Standard Dict.), It is easier for a good man to set 40,000 ems a night than it is for a slob to set 20,000.

4. *attrib.* (in sense 1), as *slob-weir.*

1851 Newland *The Erne* p. viii, The destruction of the intrusive slob-weirs.

Slob (slɒb), *sb.*[2] *rare.* [var. of Slab *sb.*[1]] A slab of timber.

1776 G. Semple *Building in Water* 32 You may Spike on the Slob or Plank. 1841 Hartshorne *Salop. Ant.* Gloss., *Slob*, an outside board, 'a shide'.

Slobber (slɒ·bəɹ), *sb.* Also 5 **slober(e, slobur.** [Related to Slobber *v.* Cf. Slabber *sb.*[1] and Slubber *sb.*[1]]

1. Mud or slime; slush, sleety rain; a sloppy mess or mixture.

c 1400 *Destr. Troy* 12529 In the Slober & the sluche slongyn to londe, There he lay. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 459/2 Slobur, or slobere, *fœces immunde. Ibid.*, Slobur, or blobur of fysshe and oþer lyke, *burbulium.* 1841 Carlyle *Let.* in *Atlantic Monthly* LXXXII. 450/2 For a week past there has been nothing but sleet, rime and slobber, the streets half an inch deep with slush. 1879 *Shropshire Gloss.*, *Slobber*, thin, cold rain, mixed with snow; a sloppy sleet. 1887 *S. Cheshire Gloss.* s.v., 'A slobber o' reen an' snow'..is a slight downfall of rain mixed with snow.

2. Slaver, slabber. Also *pl.*, a disease in rabbits marked by excessive salivation.

1755 in Johnson. 1775 Ash, *Slobber*, liquor spilled, slaver. 1889 K. W. Knight *Book of the Rabbit* (ed. 2) 274 That unpleasant and often fatal complaint, slobbers—*i.e.*, running at the mouth. 1902 C. G. Harper *Cambridge Road* 73 Lips running with the thin slobber of the drunkard.

3. A jelly-fish.

1863 J. G. Wood *Illust. Nat. Hist.* 743 We now come to a very large order of acalephs,..familiar under the title of Jelly-fishes, Slobbers, and similar euphonious names.

Slo·bber, *a.* [f. prec. or next.]

1. Clumsy, awkward.

1866 C. Spencer *Mod. Gymnast* 43 This [the short swing, or circle] is designated by the euphonious name of the 'Slobber Swing', as it is rather a clumsy way of doing it.

2. Wet and flabby.

1895 *Daily News* 12 July 6/3 The crushed nose, the slobber lips, all red and wet.

Slobber (slɒ·bəɹ), *v.* Also 5 **slober.** [Related to Slabber *v.* and Slubber *v.* The vowel corresponds with that of Du. *slobberen* (Fris. *slobberje*) to slap up, to eat or work in a slovenly manner.

There is little evidence for the simple word before the 18th cent., but the compound *by-slober* Beslobber occurs in ME. In the *E. E. Allit. P.* C. 186 the form *sloberande* is prob. an error for *slomberande* slumbering. Modern dialects exhibit some minor variations of sense not illustrated here: see the *Eng. Dial. Dict.*]

1. *intr.* **a.** To feed in a slabbering or slovenly manner. Now *dial.*

14.. in Wright *Songs & Carols* (Percy Soc.) 63 Nor bryng us in no dokes flesche, for thei slober in the mer. 1847 in Halliw. 1877–89 in Sheffield and Linc. glossaries.

b. To slaver. Cf. Slabber *v.* 4.

1733 Swift *Life & Charac. Dean S.* Wks. 1745 VIII. 125 But, why would he, except he slobbered, Offend our patriot, great Sir Robert. 1755 Walpole *Lett.* 29 Sept. (1857) II. 472 As at present there are as many royal hands to kiss as a Japanese idol has, it takes some time to slobber through the whole ceremony. 1825 Scott *Fam. Let.* 21 Feb. (1894) II. 239 Think how many antiquarian chops have slobbered over the fiery trial. 1826 — *Woodst.* xxii, Bevis slobbered and whined for the duck-wing. 1849 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* I. I. 74 It was no light thing that..royalty should be exhibited to the world stammering, slobbering, shedding unmanly tears. 1893 Earl Dunmore *Pamirs* II. 231 The old gentleman slobbered in a most infantine way.

c. *dial.* To blubber, to cry.

1878 *Cumbld. Gloss.* 89/1 He slobber't an' yool't like a barn. 1893 Cozens-Hardy *Broad Norf.* 35 The terms for crying, such as slobber and blare.

2. *trans.* To wet in a dirty or disagreeable manner; to beslaver, befoul. Cf. Slabber *v.* 1 and 2.

1709 W. King *Art of Cookery* 29 The Cook that slobbers his Beard with Sack Posset. 1732–8 Swift *Polite Convers.* 210 It is not handsome to see one hold one's Tongue; Besides I should slobber my Fingers. 1835 *Politeness & Good-breeding* 67 Never cram your mouth so full, that..the contents..slobber your own cheeks and chin. 1840 Thackeray *Paris Sk.-bk.* (1872) 241 They all wear pinafores; as if the British female were in the invariable habit of wearing this outer garment, or slobbering her gown without it. 1858 Carlyle *Fredk. Gt.* I. iii. (1872) I. 26 He..took to investigating one of his shoe-buckles; would..slobber it about in his mouth.

b. To make wet with kissing.

1724 Swift *Corinna* Wks. 1755 III. II. 154 She made a song, how little miss Was kiss'd and slobber'd by a lad. 1831 Trelawny *Adv. Younger Son* I. 51 She..slobbered my cheek, and parted from me. 1874 Green *Short Hist.* viii. 474 Whose cheek he slobbered with kisses.

3. To utter thickly and indistinctly.

1860 Forster *Gr. Remonstr.* 98 He not only slobbered his words when he talked, but drank as if he were eating his drink. 1890 *Tablet* 4 Jan. 10 Some person or other with

unctuous eloquence slobbering out the shibboleth of civil and religious freedom.

4. a. To execute carelessly or in a slovenly way. Usu. with *over*.

1694 Locke in Ld. King *Life* 204 Our Company of Stationers, having the monopoly here.., slobber them over as they can cheapest. 1838 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* I. 339/1 [Water-colours] exceedingly rough and sketchy, not to say slobbered. 1854 Miss Baker *Northampt. Gloss.* s.v., To do work in a slovenly, untidy manner, is to slobber it over.

b. To slur *over*. *rare*—[1].

a 1734 North *Examen* III. vii. § 99 (1740) 581 But see what false disingenuous Dealing here is to slobber over a base Business that will remain an eternal Shame to his Party.

c. To deal *out* in a clumsy manner. *rare*—[1].

1859 Trollope *Bertrams* xxii, She went on slobbering out the cards, and counting them over and over again.

d. To muddle *away* (a thing).

1889 *Daily Express* (Dublin) 4 Feb. 2/7, I frankly owned that they had slobbered away the money since in an unjustifiable manner.

Hence **Slo·bbered** *ppl. a.* (also with *on*).

1811 W. Taylor in *Monthly Rev.* LXV. 142 They did not, however, tolerate any slobbered work. 1862 Scrope *Volcanos* 429 Overflowing waves of slobbered drops of highly viscid lava. 1863 Whyte Melville *Gladiators* 329 Syllables that drop like slobbered wine from the close shaven lip. 1880 *Paper & Print. Trades Jrnl.* XXXI. 37 It was dulled and ruined by the slobbered-on paste.

Slo·bber-chops. [f. prec. Cf. Slabber-chops.] One who slobbers in eating, etc. Also *dial.*, a variety of pear.

1667 Davenant & Dryden *Tempest* III. i, I have Other affairs to dispatch of more importance betwixt Queen Slobber-Chops and my self. 1832 W. Stephenson *Gateshead Local Poems* 66 I'll tell you slobber-chops, You'll find that sooner said than done—perhaps. 1857 Holland *Bay Path* xvii. 192 What do you mean, you little Slobber-chops?

Slobberer (slǫ·bərəɹ). [f. Slobber *v.* + -er [1].]

1. One who slobbers.

1744 Ozell tr. *Brantome's Sp. Rhodom.* 99, I have observed a great many of your gigantic People..to be mere Dolts, Slobberers and Oafs, both by Nature and Art.

2. (See quots.)

1787 W. H. Marshall *E. Norfolk* (1795) II. 388 *Slobberers*, slovenly farmers. 1847 Halliw., *Slobberer*, a jobbing tailor.

Slobbering (slǫ·bəriŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. Slobber *v.* + -ing [1].]

1. The action of the verb, in various senses.

1784 J. Barry *Lect. Art* vi. (1848) 226 Amidst all his [Titian's] dashing and slobbering, there is still remaining [etc.]. 1839 Hood *Literary & Literal* 14 The slobbering of a hungry Ursine Sloth. 1883 Simcox *Latin Literature* IV. ii. II. 36 The expression of such feeling came easy as slobbering. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VII. 736 There is rarely any affection of swallowing, although slobbering is not uncommon.

attrib. 1839 Thackeray *Fatal Boots* Aug., The kissing and slobbering scene went on again.

2. *Slobbering bib*, a slabbering bib.

1760–72 H. Brooke *Fool of Qual.* (1809) III. 149 [He] advanced without a mask in petticoats, a slobbering bib, and apron. 1792 Young *Trav. France* 9 Giving a babe a blue slobbering bib instead of a white one! 1826 Scott *Woodst.* x, A band as broad as a slobbering bib under his chin.

Slobbering (slǫ·bəriŋ), *ppl. a.* [f. Slobber *v.* + -ing [2].] That slobbers, in senses of the verb; characterized by slavering.

1607 Tourneur *Rev. Trag.* III. iv, 'Twill teach you to kiss closer, Not like a slobbering Dutchman. 1782 Mason *Dean & Squire* Wks. (1810) 422/1 When, bless each little slobbering mouth, It had not cut a single tooth. 1787 Beckford in *Italy*, etc. (1834) II. 133 A good-natured, slobbering greybeard. 1830 [E. Hawkins] *Anglo-Fr. Coinage* 154 The prince is a slobbering idiot. 1855 Smedley *H. Coverdale* xxi, She found the baby in a great state of slobbering splendour. 1874 Green *Short Hist.* viii. 464 His big head, his slobbering tongue.

Slo·bberness. [f. Slobber *sb.* or *v.*] Slovenliness; slovenly writing.

1880 *Papers Manch. Lit. Club* vi. 193 The influence of this facility on lesser men has simply rendered all this kind of slobberness hateful.

Slobbery (slǫ·bəri), *a.* Also 4–6 **slobery**. [f. Slobber *sb.* or *v.* Cf. MDu. *slobberich*, Du. dial. *slobberig*.]

1. Characterized by slobber or slobbering; disagreeably wet, slimy, or dirty.

1398 Trevisa *Barth. De P. R.* XVIII. xxvii. (Bodl. MS.), An olde hounde is ofte slowe and slobery. 1541 Hyrde tr. *Vives' Instr. Chr. Wom.* 96 b, Lykewyse no more do I alowe fylthy and slobery rayment. 1599 Shaks. *Hen. V*, III. v. 13, I will sell my Dukedome To buy a slobbry and a durtie Farme. 1710–11 Swift *Jrnl. to Stella* 22 Jan., The weather had given a little, as you women call it, so it was something slobbery. 1712 *Ibid.* 18 Dec., We have terrible snowy slobbery weather. 1831 Carlyle *Sart. Res.* I. ix, A watery, pulpy, slobbery freshman and new-comer in this Planet. 1848 Walsh *Aristophanes, Clouds* I. i, Slobbery kisses, Profusion, gluttony and Venus'es. 1887 W. P. Frith *Autobiogr.* I. 27 Sucking an orange in a loud slobbery fashion.

2. Of a soft, yielding texture.

1826 J. Wilson *Noct. Ambr.* Wks. 1855 I. 178 You keep rugging at the lang slobbery worsted till it comes aff.

3. Slovenly, careless.

1858 Carlyle *Fredk. Gt.* IX. ii. (1872) II. 406 His continual haste, and slobbery manner of working up those Hundred and odd volumes of his. 1881 *Leic. Gloss.* s.v., A very slobbery job, John.

Slobby (slǫ·bi), *a.* [f. Slob *sb.*[1] + -y.] Muddy. 1854 Miss Baker *Northampt. Gloss.*, *Slabby* or *slobby*, muddy, sloppy. 1886 *Pall Mall G.* 18 Feb. 5/1 There now only remained the geese, far up on the slobby ooze. 1897 Butler *Brit. Birds* IV. 155 The grasses which grow on the slobby foreshores.

Slob-furrowing, *vbl. sb.* [Cf. Slob *sb.*2] Rib-furrowing; ribbing. Also **Slob-furrow** *v.*

1787 W. H. Marshall *E. Norfolk* (1795) I. 142 In slob-furrowing, the flag is turned toward the plowed ground, the coulter passing fifteen or sixteen inches from the last plow-furrow. 1805 R. W. Dickson *Pract. Agric.* I. 346 There the old grass-fields, when it is proposed to burn the sward, are *rib* or *slob furrowed* about the beginning of winter. *Ibid.* 579 This in some places is termed by farmers *rib-furrowing*, and in others *slob-furrowing*.

Slob-land. Also **slob land.** [f. Slob *sb.*[1] 1.]

1. Muddy ground; *esp.* alluvial land reclaimed from the water.

1861 *Times* 4 Oct. 7/4 A large acreage of slob land...Slob land varies in character, but here it is a rich marine alluvium. 1881 *Ibid.* 10 Feb. 4/3 He..enclosed from the tide a considerable area of useful slob-land.

2. A stretch of ground of this kind.

1862 *Limerick Chron.* 8 Feb., The people's thoughts.. became fixed on the slob lands of Corkanree. 1890 J. Healy *Insula Sanctorum* 139 The slob-lands of the harbour have been reclaimed.

Slooh, Sc. form of Slough *sb.*2

Slock (slǫk), *v.*[1] Chiefly *Sc.* Forms: 4–7, 9 **sloke**, 6 **sloik**, 9 **sloak**; 5 **slok**, 5, 9 **slokk-**, 8– **slock**. [f. ON. *slokinn*, pa. pple. of *slǫkkva* (Norw. *sløkka*, Sw. dial. *slökka*) to be extinguished, go out; the stem is related to that of Slack *a.* Cf. Slocken *v.* and *pa. pple.*]

†**1.** *intr.* a. To slacken, cease. *Obs.*—[1]

13.. *Gaw. & Gr. Kt.* 412 For þou may leng in þy londe, & layt no fyrre, bot slokes.

†**b.** Of fire: To go out. *Obs.*—[1]

1456 Sir G. Haye *Law Arms* (S.T.S.) 161 Quhen men takis the brandis fra the grete fyre, it slokis the sonar.

2. *trans.* To put out, extinguish, quench (fire, thirst, etc.). Also *fig.*

c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xxi. (*Clement*) 34 Fore be withdrawine of acces Is slokit oft sic wantones. *Ibid.* xlix. (*Tecla*) 85 Slete & snaw..slokit þat fir alsone as men a candel suld haf done. *a* 1500 in *Ratis Raving* (1870) 24 Þow sal finde the froyt thar-of mony zere efterwart, and sal slok mekle syne. 1513 Douglas *Æneid* II. xi. 13 Watter to sloik the haly fyr. 1755 in Johnson. 1819 Tennant *Papistry Storm'd* (1827) 100 Untill his hail-life's drowth were slockit. 1842 Vedder *Poems* 232 The rain in torrents poured, It slockit at ance the witch's fire.

†**b.** To suppress, bring to an end. *Obs.*—[1]

1456 Sir G. Haye *Law Arms* (S.T.S.) 126 The autoritee of the grete officer ryale slokis as than, and gerris cess, the autoritee of the smallare officer.

†**c.** To slake (lime). *Obs.*

1655 in A. Laing *Lindores Abbey & Burgh of Newburgh* (1876) 238 He was slokin ye lym and mixing it with sand.

Slock (slǫk), *v.*[2] Now only *south-western dial.* Also 5–7 **slocke**, 9 **sloke**. [? ad. AF. **esloker*, *esloquer*, OF. *eslochier*, etc. (see Godef.), to move, shake, stir.]

1. *trans.* To entice away; to draw or lead *away* by some allurement.

Also *dial.*, to convey clandestinely, to pilfer.

1483 in *Eng. Gilds* (1870) 336 That none of the said crafte slocke ony manis prentise. 1604 Babington *Notes Exod.* xxi. 5 To slocke away (as wee speake) a mans seruant..was a grieuous sinne with God. 1886 Elworthy *W. Somerset Word-bk.* s.v., The chillern..be all a-slocked away wi' prizes..and that to the meetin-house. 1897 Hocking in *Christian World* Xmas No. 3 They're trying to slock (entice) away others who do come.

2. To entice, allure, lead on, tempt.

1594 Carew *Tasso* (1881) 10 What so may slocke or pricke a courage stout. *Ibid.* 113 In vaine she sought to slocke, or with mortall Sweetnings t'enroll him in Cupidos pay. 1850 *Beck's Florist* 50 The bright sun of February..*slocks* (in Cornish vernacular) the young and eager buds to unfold their premature growth.

Slock-dolager: see Sock-dolager.

Slocken (slǫ·k'n), *v. north.* and *Sc.* Forms: 4–9 **sloken**, 4–6 **slokyn**, 5–6 (9) **slokin** (6 **-yne**); 4, 6 **slokkin**, 4 (9) **slokken**, 6 **slo(c)kne**, 6– **slocken** (9 **-an**, **-in**). [a. ON. *slokna* (Norw. *slokna*, *slokkna*, Sw. *slockna*, older Da. *slogne*, *slugne*), f. *slokinn*, pa. pple. of *slǫkkva*: see Slock *v.*[1]]

1. *trans.* To quench, extinguish, put *out* (fire, flame, etc.). Also in fig. context.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 28641 Als þe water it slokkens glede. *c* 1340 Hampole *Prose Treat.* (1866) 3 Sothely na thynge slokyns sa fell flawmes, dystroyes ill thoghtes [etc.]. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* vi. (*Thomas*) 593 Vndyr þam sprange vpe a well & sloknyt sone..þai brynnand platis. *c* 1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 287 Þan þai, wenand a fyre to slokyn, þai fand þe house no thyng bryn. 1536 Bellenden *Cron. Scot.* (1821) I. 20 To rais amang us ane flame that sall nevir be sloknit. ? *a* 1550 *Freiris Berwik* 219 in *Dunbar's Poems* (1893) 292 Be bissy als, and slokkin out the fyre. 1588 A. King tr. *Canisius' Catech.* 171 Watter slokins out burning fyr. 1781 J. Hutton *Tour to Caves* (ed. 2) Gloss. 96 *Slocken*, to quench. *c* 1817 Hogg *Tales & Sk.* V. 276 It is not customary to sloken one fire by kindling another. 1825 Brockett *N. C. Gloss.*, *Slocken*, ..to quench.

2. To suppress, put down, do away with, destroy, stamp *out*. Also with adjectival compl.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 18360 Lauerd.., sua þou slockens al vr sin. *a* 1340 Hampole *Psalter* lxxii. 14 When he..slokens þe temptacioun wiþ sorowe of pyne. *c* 1425 *St. Mary of Oignies* II. iii. in *Anglia* VIII. 158/6 Þe whiche good man..was casten downe and slokenyd nere for sorowe. 1508 Dunbar *Tua Mariit Wemen* 522 And kindill agane his curage thocht it wer cald sloknyt. 1560 Rolland *Seven Sages* 7 Ane meik answer slokins Melancolie. 1596 Dalrymple tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* II. 352 The Quene with litle labour slokned out this seditioune.

3. To quench or allay (thirst).

a 1340 Hampole *Psalter* cxliii. 7 Slokyn my threst. 1423 Jas. I *Kingis Q.* 69 My drye thrist with teris sall I slokin. 1535 Coverdale *Wisd.* xi. 4 Their thirst [was] slockened out of yᵉ harde stone. 1584 Hudson *Judith* III. (1613) 37 That bottell sweet..serued..not to slocken thirst. *a* 1585 Montgomerie *Cherrie & Slae* 444 Þone Slae..May satisfie to slokkin Thy drouth now. 1786 Burns *Dining w. Ld. Daer* ii, When mighty Squireships..Their hydra-drouth did sloken. 1824 Scott *Redgauntlet* ch. xiii, Get the blue bowl;..that will sloken all their drouth.

absol. 1684 *Yorks. Dial.* 161 (E.D.S.), Heve you ought that will slocken weel?

b. To slake the thirst of (a person, etc.).

1718 Ramsay *Christ's Kirk Gr.* III. xiv, Wasted was baith cash and tick, Sae ill were they to slocken. 1795 H. Macneill *Scotland's Skaith* I. xxvii, Slockned now, refresh'd and talking. 1858 E. B. Ramsay *Scot. Life & Char.* ii, It weets the sod, it slockens the yowes. 1871 C. Gibbon *Lack of Gold* xx, Here's a cappy full of water, see if that'll sloken you.

4. To sate or satisfy (desire). *rare.*

1508 Dunbar *Tua Mariit Wemen* 283, I had a lufsummar leid, my lust for to slokyn. 1596 Dalrymple tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* I. 151 Thay could nocht al..slokne his vnquencheable..appetite.

5. To soak, wet, or moisten; to slake (lime).

1487, 1609 [see the *vbl. sb.*]. 1621 Sanderson *Serm.* I. 173 The rain that falleth upon the earth, whether it moisten it kindly,..or whether it choak or slocken and drown it. 1821 Scott *Pirate* v, I could never away with raw oatmeal, slockened with water, in all my life.

6. *intr.* To go out, be extinguished.

1535 Stewart *Cron. Scot.* III. 407 Ony fyre that he culd bring thairtill, It sloknit ay ilk tyme of the awin will.

Hence **Slo·ckening** *vbl. sb.*

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 460/1 Sloknynge, or qwenchynge,.. *extinctio*. 1487–8 *Durh. Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 651 Et eidem pro le Sloknyng ejusdem [limekiln] et portacione dicti calcis, vj s. viij d. 1596 Dalrymple tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* I. 115 The slokning out of a certane commoune flame of burneng. 1609 *Churchw. Acc. Pittington*, etc. (Surtees) 61 Item payed for slokening of the lime, v s. 1829 Hogg *Shepherd's Cal.* vi, I hae muckle need o' a slockening.

†**Slo·cken,** *pa. pple. Obs.* Also 5 **slokyn**. [a. ON. *slokinn*: see Slock *v.*[1]] Extinguished; soaked, immersed.

c 1400 *York Manual* (Surtees Soc.) p. xvii, Be thare lantern slokyn fro yᵉ blys that euer schall last. 1643 A. Tuckney *Balm of Gilead* 21 That she which hath suckled you with her milk, may not be slocken in her own blood. 1647 H. More *Minor Poems, Cupid's Conflict* lvi. Wks. (Grosart) 173/1 Back she returns.., Drown'd, chok'd or slocken by her cruell nurse. 1653—*Conject. Cabbal.* (1713) 224 When it is ..slocken and drowned in sensuality and intemperance.

†**Slo·cker**: see Slockster (quot. 1706).

Slo·cking-stone. *Cornish dial.* [f. Slock *v.*[2]] (See quots.)

1778 Pryce *Min. Cornub.* Gloss. s.v., *Slocking-Stone*, a tempting, inducing, or rich stone of Ore. *Ibid.*, There have been .. instances of Miners who have deceived their employers by bringing them Slocking-Stones from other Mines. 1864 Mrs. Lloyd *Ladies of Polcarrow* 89 These deceptive specimens are called 'slocking-stones' by the mining community. 1880 *E. Cornw. Gloss.* s.v. *Slock*, Slocking stones are tempting, selected stones shown, to induce strangers to adventure in a mine.

Slo·ckster. Now *dial.* [f. Slock *v.*[2] + -ster.] †**a.** (See quots.) *Obs.* **b.** *dial.* A pilferer.

Cotgrave is prob. the only source of the later quots.

1611 Cotgr., *Plagiaire*,..a stealer, or suborner of mens children, or seruants,..(in which sence we tearme him a Slockster). 1647 Hexham I, A Slockster that by alluring causeth servants to forsake their maisters. 1677 in Miège. 1706 Phillips (ed. Kersey), *Slocker* or *Slockster*,..one that entices away other Mens Servants; a Kid-napper.

Slod(e, obs. or dial. pa. t. Slide *v.*

Slodge (slǫdʒ), *v. dial.* [? Imitative.] *intr.* To trail or drag the feet in walking; to walk slouchingly.

1829 Cooper *Good's Study Med.* I. 554 He slodged and reeled about as he walked. 1877 in *Holderness Gloss.* 1902 C. G. Harper *Cambridge Road* 295 The slodger slodges among the dykes.

Slodger (slǫ·dʒəɹ). *dial.* [? f. prec.] An inhabitant of the Fen district. Also *fen-slodger*.

1827 Hone *Table-bk.* 139 His ancestors..were all 'fen slodgers'. 1856 P. Thompson *Hist. Boston* 644 The Fenmen..were..known as Slodgers or Fen-Slodgers. 1893 Baring-Gould *Cheap Jack Zita* I. 74 The tract over which the ancestral slodger..had exercised more or less questionable rights.

Sloe (slōu). Forms: α. 1 **slah** (**slach-**), **slaz** (**slazh-**), 1, 5 **sla**, 3–7 **slo**, 4–6 **sloo**, 6 **sloa**, 6– **sloe** (9 *dial.* **sloo**, **slue**, **slew**). β. *pl.* 1 **slan**, 4 **slon**, 5 **sloon**, 5–6 **sloen**, 7 **slone**, **slane**. γ. 6–7 **slow(e**. δ. 6– *Sc.* and *north.* **slae**, 9 *north.* **sla(a**, **slaigh**, **slay**, **slea**, **slee**, etc. [OE. *slā(h)*, etc., = Fris. *slé*, MDu. *slee*, *slie* (Du. *slee*, Flem. *slei*, *sleie*), *sleeu* (Kilian *sleeuwe*), MLG. *slee* (LG. *slê*, *slî*), OHG. *slêha* (MHG. *slêhe*, G. *schlehe*, † *schlee*), perh. related to OSlav. and Russ. *sliva*, Lith. *slyvas* plum.

The original plural in *-n* (OE. *slān*, ME. *slōn*) is recorded down to the 17th cent., and is the source of the sing. forms

now current in southern dialects (see *Eng. Dial. Dict.* s.v. *Slone*). A similar transference appears in MDu. *sleen* (Flem. *sleen, slene*), MLG. *slên, slein* (LG. *slên, slein, slîn*; also *slôn*, whence probably Da. *slaaen*, Sw. *slån*).]

1. The fruit of the blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), a small ovate or globose drupe of a black or dark-purple colour and sharp sour taste.

α. *c* 725 *Corpus Gloss.* B 75, *Bellicum*, slaȝ. *a* 1000 *Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 196 *Brumela, bellicum, vel* sla. *c* 1000 *Saxon Leechd.* II. 32 Ȝenim onwære slah .. & wring þurh clað on þæt eaȝe. *c* 1340 *Nominale* (Skeat) 679 Appul, pere, and slo. ?*c* 1366 CHAUCER *Rom. Rose* 928 Blak as bery, or any slo. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 459/2 Slo, frute, *prunum, vel spinum.* 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 342/2 A Sla, *spinum, mespilum.* 1558 PHAER *Æneid* III. H iv, For hunger, sloes hath ben my food. 1582 STANYHURST *Æneis* III. (Arb.) 91 My self I dieted with sloas. 1620 VENNER *Via Recta* vii. 118 The iuyce of them, especially of Sloes, .. is of excellent efficacy. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* IV. 215 He knew to..tame to Plumbs, the Sourness of the Sloes. 1713 STEELE *Englishm.* No. 7. 47 He will swallow, with Transport, what was squeezed from the Sloe. 1774 PENNANT *Tours Scotl.* 214 Sloes are the only fruits of the island. 1842 *Dumfries Herald* Oct., Sloes..are almost always plentiful. 1885 TENNYSON *The Flight* iv, The blackthorn-blossom fades and falls and leaves the bitter sloe.

β. *a* 1000 *Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 269 *Moros*, slan. 13.. *K. Alis.* 4983 (Laud MS.), Oþer mete þai ne habben Bot hawen, hepen, slon, & crabben. 14.. *MS. Harl. 3388* in Cockayne *Saxon Leechd.* III. 345/1 *Succus prunellarum immaturarum*, grene slane wose. *c* 1450 *M. E. Med. Bk.* (Heinrich) 86 Take and gedre þe a good quantite of sloon, þat bene rype. 1573 BARET *Alv.* (1580) F iij, Hawbearies, sloen, gooseberries and such like. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* II. 169 Bulleis, Skegs, and Slone (which are the berries, as it were, or fruit of the wild Plum tree). 1633 HART *Diet of Diseased* I. xvi. 63 Plummes..are of two sorts, either wilde, called sloes or slane [etc.].

γ. 1589 GREENE *Menaphon* (Arb.) 86 Slowes blacke as ieat. 1604 DRAYTON *Owle* 702 The Hip, the Haw, the Slow, the Bramble-berrie. 1657 R. LIGON *Barbadoes* (1673) 11 As far ..as the best Abricot is beyond the worst Slow or Crab.

δ. *a* 1585 MONTGOMERIE *Cherrie & Slae* 322, I saw..A bush of bitter Slaes. [See also SLOCKEN *v.* 3.] 1786 BURNS *Holy Fair* iii, Their visage wither'd, lang an' thin, An' sour as ony slaes! *a* 1802 *Cospatrick* xx. in Scott *Minstrelsy*, To the grene-wood I maun gae, To pu' the red rose and the slae. 1828 CARR *Craven Gloss.*, *Slaa*, sloe. 1837 R. NICOLL *Poems* (1843) 75 To feast on the bramble-berries brown An' gather the glossy slaes. 1838 HOLLOWAY *Prov. Dict.*, *Slaigh*, the fruit of the black-thorn.

b. As the type of something having little or no value. (So OF. *parnele*, = F. *prunelle*.)

c 1250 *Orison our Lady* 28 in *O. E. Misc.* 160 Þis liues blisse nis wurð a slo. *a* 1300 *Havelok* 2051 Of hem ne yeue ich nouht a slo. 13.. *Guy Warw.* (A.) 141 Þer nas man in al þis londe..Þat bireft him worþ of a slo [*C.* sloo]. *c* 1412 HOCCLEVE *De Reg. Princ.* 1120 Þou schalt do so, And by desir of good, nat sette a slo. *c* 1450 LOVELICH *Merlin* 7152 Al availled hit hem not a slo.

c. *transf.* The apple *of* one's eye.

1884 *Graphic* Xmas No. 13/2, I loved him..like the sloe of my eye.

2. The blackthorn, *Prunus spinosa*.

1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s.v. *Sloe-worm*, That of the sloe is of a greyish hue, and its spines longer. 1791 BURNS *Lament Mary Queen of Scots* iii, The hawthorn's budding in the glen, And milk-white is the slae. 1796 WITHERING *Brit. Plants* (ed. 3) IV. 51 [This lichen is] whitest on the sloe. 1841 *Penny Cycl.* XIX. 68/2 Of the Plum genus, thus restricted, there is in common use the Garden Plum,..the Bullace,..and the Sloe. 1882 *Garden* 15 Apr. 247/1 We are grateful to the Sloe for the way which it adorns hedgerow, rock, or copse..in spring with its fearless bloom.

b. *U.S.* (See quots.)

1846–50 A. WOOD *Class-bk. Bot.* 303 *Viburnum prunifolium*, Black Haw, Sloe. 1882 F. B. HOUGH *Elem. Forestry* 269 Haw: Sloe: Arrow-Wood (Genus *Viburnum*). 1898 L. H. BAILEY *Evol. Native Fruits* 224 The black sloe of the southern states, *Prunus umbellata*, attains a height of twelve to twenty feet.

3. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *sloe-black, -blue, -bush, -eyed, -feeder, gin, -juice, -leaf, -stem, -worm.*

1735 SOMERVILLE *Chase* I. 241 His large *Sloe-black Eyes Melt in soft Blandishments. 1882 BLACK *Shandon Bells* i, Those soft, large, sloe-black eyes. 1799 M. UNDERWOOD *Dis. Childr.* (ed. 4) II. 183 A *sloe-blue or leaden colour of the lips. 1562 TURNER *Herbal* II. (1568) 104 Our *slobush or blak thorn is one kynde. 1894 E. CLODD *FitzGerald's Grave* 8 The hedges, in their tangle of sweetbriar and sloe-bush and bramble. 1867 AUGUSTA WILSON *Vashti* xii, This *sloe-eyed, peony-faced girl. 1894 D. C. MURRAY *Making of a Novelist* 133 Hook-nosed, sloe-eyed and greasy of complexion. 1855 *Zoologist* XIII. 4846 It is probable that many other *sloe-feeders will be found also to occur on the plum. 1895 *Outing* XXVII. 194 Sampling some of his famous *sloe gin. 1798 O'KEEFFE *Wild Oats* I. i, Poison yourself with *sloe-juice. 1846 MRS. GORE *Eng. Charact.* (1852) 140 His evening paper and sloe-juice negus. 1825 T. HOOK *Sayings* Ser. II. *Passion & Princ.* vi, A small amount of dried *sloe-leaves. 1708 PHILLIPS *Cyder* I. 19 The *Sloe-Stem bearing Sylvan Plums austere. 1753 *Chambers's Cycl.* Suppl., **Sloe-worm*,..the name of an insect found on the leaves of sloe, or black-thorn, and sometimes on those of the garden-plum.

Sloe, obs. variant of SLAY *v.*

Sloe·-thorn. Forms: (see quots.); also 9 *north.* **slaa-**, *Sc.* **slae-**. [f. SLOE *sb.* + THORN *sb.* Cf. MDu. and Du. *sleedorn*, MLG. and MHG. *slêdorn*, G. *schleh-*, † *schlee-*, † *schleh(e)ndorn*, Da. *slaaentorn.*] The blackthorn. Cf. SLOE 2.

c 725 *Corpus Gloss.* N 119 *Nigra spina*, slaȝhðorn. *Ibid.* S 474 *Spina nigra*, slahðorn. *c* 1000 *Saxon Leechd.* II. 86 Wice, ac, slahþorn, bircean, elebeam. *c* 1325 *Gloss. W. de Bibbesw.* in Wright *Voc.* 163 *Le fourder*, slo-thorne. *c* 1450 *MS. Sloane 4* fol. 80 The kanker y[t] bredyth yn the Slothorne. 1615 BRATHWAIT *Strappado*, etc. (1878) 290 Sad Philomela..sung with a pricking slothorne at her brest. 1825 SCOTT *Betrothed* xxiii, Small eminences..overgrown with hazel, sloethorn, and other dwarf shrubs. 1854 H. MILLER *Sch. & Schm.* (1858) 404 A dreary moor, bristling with furze and sloe-thorn.

attrib. *c* 1000 *Saxon Leechd.* II. 98 Nim þonne apuldor rinde,..slahþorn rinde, & wir rinde. 1804 GRAHAME *Sabbath* (1808) 62 He hid beneath the milk-white sloe-thorn spray. 1815 SCOTT *Guy M.* iii, She..had in her hand a goodly sloethorn cudgel.

Sloe·-tree. Forms: (see quots.); also 9 *Sc.* and *north.* **slae-**. [f. SLOE *sb.* + TREE *sb.*] = prec.

c 1340 *Nominale* (Skeat) 655 Slotre, birche, and ellertre. 1382 WYCLIF *Dan.* xiii. 54 Vndir a sloo tree. 14.. *Lat.-Eng. Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 613 *Spinus*, a Slotre. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 343/1 A Sla tre, *spinus, mespila.* 1548 TURNER *Names Herbes* (E. D. S.) 65 Prunus syluestris is called in english a slo tree, or a sle tree. 1589 FLEMING *Virg. Georg.* IV. 61 Slo trees bearing damsons now. 1598 FLORIO, *Prugno*, ..a plum tree, damzon tree or slow tree. 1647 HEXHAM I. (Trees), A Sloe tree, *een wilde Pruymen boom.* 1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), *Spinus*, the Sloe-tree, or Bullace-tree. 1777 JACOB *Catal. Plants* 90 *Prunus spinosa*, the Black Thorn, or Sloe Tree. 1842 TENNYSON *Amphion* 44 Pousetting with a sloe-tree. 1882 'OUIDA' *In Maremma* I. 117 Under their thickets of the prickly sloe-tree.

Sloe-worm(e, obs. forms of SLOW-WORM.

Sloff, *v.* Now *dial.* [Imitative.] *intr.* (See quot. 1841.) Hence **Slo·ffing** *vbl. sb.*

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 459 Sloffynge, or on-gentyll etynge, *voracio, devoracio, lurcacitas.* 1841 HARTSHORNE *Salop. Ant.* Gloss., *Sloff*, to eat greedily, dirtily, or slovenly.

Slog (slǫg), *sb. colloq.* [f. the vb.]

1. Hard, steady work; a spell of this.

1888 JACOBI *Printers' Vocab.* 127 When a person is working hurriedly he is said to have a 'slog on'. 1903 McNEILL *Egregious English* 172 That one way amounts to sheer mechanism and slog.

2. A vigorous blow; a hard hit at cricket.

1895 *Daily News* 5 Feb. 3/5 Ford sent a ball straight into point's hands. Peel tried a blind slog. 1897 H. W. BLEAKLEY *Short Innings* vi. 94 Sixey made a mighty slog, but failed to strike the ball.

Slog (slǫg), *v. colloq.* [Of obscure origin. Cf. SLUG *v.*[4]]

1. *trans.* To hit or strike hard; to drive with blows. Also *fig.*, to assail violently.

1853 'C. BEDE' *Verdant Green* xi. 106 His whole person [had been] put in chancery, stung, bruised, fibbed,..slogged, and otherwise ill-treated. 1884 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Melb. Memories* iv. 32 We slogged the tired cattle round the fence. 1891 *Spectator* 10 Oct. 487/1 They love snubbing their friends and 'slogging' their enemies.

b. *Cricket.* To obtain (runs) by hard hitting.

1897 H. W. BLEAKLEY *Short Innings* iii. 49 Mr. Dolly slogged sixes and fours until he had made about eighty.

2. *intr.* To walk heavily or doggedly.

Halliwell's '*Slog*, to lag behind' probably belongs to SLUG *v.*

1872 CALVERLEY *Fly Leaves* (1903) 119 Then *abiit*..off slogs boy. 1876 *Mid-Yorksh. Gloss.*, *Slog*, to walk with burdened feet, as through snow, or puddle. 1907 *Westm. Gaz.* 2 Oct. 2/1 Overtaking the guns, we 'slogged' on with them for a mile or more.

3. To deal heavy blows, to work hard (*at* something), to labour *away*, etc.

1888 *Daily News* 22 May 5/2, I slogged at it, day in and day out. 1894 HESLOP *Northumberland Gloss.* s.v., They slogged away at the anchor shank. 1903 *19th Cent.* Mar. 392 They have no incentives to slog and slave.

Slogan (slōu·găn). Forms: α. 6 **slogorne**, 6–7 **sloggorne, sluggorn(e**, 8 **slugorn, slogurn**; 6 **sloghorne**, 6, 8 **slughorne**, 7, 9 **slughorn**. β. 8 **slughon**, 7– **slogan**, 9 **slogen**. [ad. Gael. *sluagh-ghairm*, f. *sluagh* host + *gairm* cry, shout.]

1. A war-cry or battle-cry; *spec.* one of those formerly employed by Scottish Highlanders or Borderers, or by the native Irish, usually consisting of a personal surname or the name of a gathering-place.

α. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* VII. xi. 87 The slogorne, ensenȝe, or the wache cry. 1536 BELLENDEN *Cron. Scot.* (1821) I. 59 That nane of thaim name thair capitane with ony uthir sloggorne, bot with the auld name of that tribe. *a* 1572 KNOX *Hist. Ref.* Wks. 1846 I. 87 Great was the noyse..that was heard, whill that everie man calles his awin sloghorne. *a* 1578 LINDESAY (Pitscottie) *Chron. Scot.* (S.T.S.) II. 263 Thay hard ane slughorne cryand on the gait in this maner 'ane hammiltowne', 'ane hammiltowne'. 1680 MACKENZIE *Sci. Her.* 97 Not unlike these Motto's are our Slughorns, which are called *Cris de guerre* in France. 1683 MARTINE *Reliq. Divi S. Andreæ* (1797) 3 They..go about begging, and use still to recite the sluggornes of most of the true ancient surnames of Scotland, from old experience and observation. 1723 W. BUCHANAN *Acc. Fam. Buchanan* 165 The isle of Clareinch was the slogurn or call of war, proper to the family of Buchanan. 1851 M. A. DENHAM *Slogans N. Eng.* 1 Occasionally, as in Scotland, the name of the rendezvous was used as a Slughorn.

β. 1680 MACKENZIE *Sci. Her.* 97 The Name of Hume have for their Slughorn (or Slogan, as our Southern Shires terme it) a *Hume, a Hume.* 1805 SCOTT *Last Minstrel* IV. xxvii, To heaven the Border slogan rung,..The English war-cry answer'd wide. 1861 GOLDW. SMITH *Irish Hist.* 67 An Act..was passed to abolish the words Crom-a-boo and Butler-a-boo, the Slogans of these two clans. 1879 DIXON *Windsor* III. 3 Edward had struck the Genoese,..Monmouth the French to one great Slogan, that of St. George of England.

b. *transf.* The distinctive note, phrase, cry, etc. of any person or body of persons.

1704 in Maidment *Scott. Pasquils* (1868) 384 Your slughons are falsehood and plunder. *a* 1859 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xxv. V. 301 The popular slogans on both sides were indefatigably repeated. 1880 MRS. WHITNEY *Odd or Even?* xiv, 'Duty, God, immortality'—the very slogan of the pulpit. 1887 A. LANG *Bks. & Bookmen* 114 Printers and authors had their emblems and their private literary slogans.

2. *attrib.*, as *slogan-cry, song, yell.*

1808 SCOTT *Marmion* V. iv, Nor harp, nor pipe, his ear could please Like the loud slogan yell. 1849 AYTOUN *Lays Scottish Cavaliers* (ed. 2) 46 That day through high Dunedin's streets, Had pealed the slogan-cry. *c* 1860 J. R. RANDALL *Maryland* vi, Come..And ring thy dauntless slogan song, Maryland!

Slogardie, etc., obs. variants of SLUGGARDY.

Slog-dollager: see SOCK-DOLAGER.

Slogger (slǫ·gəɹ), *sb.* [f. SLOG *v.* + -ER[1].]

†**1.** *Cambridge slang.* (See quots.) *Obs.*

1852 J. F. BATEMAN *Aquatic Notes* 47 In this year [1844] so many boats appeared that it was determined that only twenty-eight should row on the regular race-days, and the rest on alternate days; the first boat in these trial or 'slogger' races being entitled to row last on the regular race-days. 1860 *Slang Dict.* 218 *Sloggers*, i. e., slow-goers, the second division of race-boats at Cambridge.

2. *colloq.* One who delivers heavy blows; a pugilist, prize-fighter. Also *fig.*

1857 HUGHES *Tom Brown* II. v, He was called Slogger Williams, from the force with which it was supposed he could hit. 1866 *Reader* 28 July, He is the patron and often the familiar friend of the pet 'Slogger' of the day. 1886 *Pall Mall G.* 4 Nov. 2/1 Sir William Harcourt was the slogger of the fight.

b. One who slogs at cricket.

1864 *Slang Dict.* 235 A hard hitter at cricket is termed a Slogger. 1884 *Lillywhite's Cricket Ann.* 11 A rough and ready slogger.

3. *Rogues' slang.* A heavy weight on a string; a slung-shot.

1892 *Daily News* 12 Apr. 7/1 The prisoner..said if he did not go away he would fetch his 'sloggers' to him. 1904 *Times* 8 Jan. 10/5 Striking him about the head with an instrument called a 'slogger'.

Slogger (slǫ·gəɹ), *v. dial.* [Of obscure origin: cf. LOGGER *v.*] *intr.* To hang loosely; to go about untidily, etc. Hence **Slo·ggering** *ppl. a.*

1825 BROCKETT *N. C. Gloss.*, *Sloggering*, loose, untidy. 1853 R. S. SURTEES *Sponge's Sp. Tour* iii. 8 Sloggering, baggy-breeched, slangey-gaitered fellows. 1898 LD. E. HAMILTON *Mawkin* xvii. 228 Perse with his great sloggering frame, and low beast-like face.

Slogging (slǫ·giŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. SLOG *v.* + -ING[1].] The action of the verb; vigorous striking; hard hitting.

1859 *Slang Dict.* 95 *Slogging*, a good beating. 1864 *Daily Telegr.* 16 May, For a long time to come..their hitting [at cricket] will be 'slogging'. 1871 *Daily News* 23 Jan., The *status quo* of steady slogging at the forts and batteries of junction is steadily maintained. 1895 *Month* Mar. 432 All sporting men remember the hard slogging of the 'Cleresly Chicken'.

Slogging (slǫ·giŋ), *ppl. a.* [f. SLOG *v.* + -ING[2].] Hitting or striking hard. Also *fig.*

1871 *Daily News* 12 Jan., To tempt our batteries forward, till..the time has come when slogging blows can be dealt. 1882 *Cornhill Mag.* May 535 His slogging style of controversy. 1895 *Forum* Apr. 235 As what may be called a 'slogging' debater, he has perhaps no fellow in Parliament.

Sloggy, obs. variant of SLUGGY.

Slogh(t)e, obs. forms of SLOUGH *sb.*[1]

Slo·gster. [f. SLOG *v.*] A slogger.

1881 CLARK RUSSELL *Ocean Free-Lance* I. vi. 269 With no more hesitation..than the slogster Mendoza exhibited when he stepped into the ring.

Slog-wood. (See quot.)

1864 GRISEBACH *Flora Brit. W. Ind.* 787/2 Slog-wood, *Hufelandia pendula.*

Sloh, obs. form of SLOUGH *sb.*[1]

Sloid, Slöjd: see SLOYD.

‖ **Sloka** (slōu·kă). Also 8 **sloca**. [Skr. *śloka* sound, noise, call, hymn, stanza, etc.] A couplet or distich of Sanskrit verse, each line containing sixteen syllables.

1800 *Asiatic Ann. Reg.* I. 80/1 Divine authority revealed to Menu the sacred principles in a hundred thousand slocas, or verses. 1842 W. C. TAYLOR *Anc. Hist.* xviii. (ed. 3) 571 The great Hindoo epic..which contains one hundred thousand slokas, or distichs. 1895 R. W. FRAZER *Silent Gods* (1896) 56 The wide Brāhman street..which once echoed with the sacred sound of the Sanskrit sloka.

Slokan. *Anglo-Irish.* Also 8 **slukane**, 9 **slocaun, sloukawn.** [ad. Ir. *sleabhacán*: see next and SLAWK.] = next.

1758 [see SLAWK 1]. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade*, *Slokan*, *Sloke*, names for the edible sea-weed..also called laver. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1065/1 *Sloak*, *Sloke*, or *Sloukawn.*

Sloke[1] (slōuk). Also 9 **sloak**. [var. of SLAWK.] = SLAWK 1 and 2.

1777 LIGHTFOOT *Flora Scotica* II. 967 *Ulva umbilicalis*.. Navel Laver, *Anglis.* Sloke or Slake, *Scotis.* Upon the sea rocks frequent. *Ibid.* 970 *Ulva Lactuca*,..Lettuce-Laver, or Oyster-Green, *Anglis.* Green Sloke, *Scotis.* 1845 GOSSE *Ocean* i. (1849) 41 Mr. Drummond informs us that *P[orphyra] laciniata*, called Sloke in Ireland, is gathered during the winter months only. 1851 *Art Jrnl. Illustr. Catal.*, *Veg. World* II. p. iv, The so-called Irish moss, which is the *Chondrus crispus*, and the *Ulva* or sloke, both British plants. 1876 *Mid-Yorkshire Gloss.* s.v., A farmyard pond will be alluded to as being 'all slime and sloak'.

Comb. 1907 D. S. SHORTER *Collected Poems* 6 He saw one

gleam of foam-white arms, Of sea-green eyes, of sloak brown hair.

Sloke [2], Anglicized form of SLOKA.

1841 R. N. CUST in *Haileybury Observer* III. 21 The history of the coward, of which this is the first sloke.

Slom(b)er, etc., obs. forms of SLUMBER.

Slommack, *dial.*: see SLAMMAKIN.

Slommacking, etc., varr. SLAMMAKIN *a.*

1841 HARTSHORNE *Salop. Ant.* Gloss., *Slommacking*,.. unwieldy, clumsy. ?*c* 1850 H. & A. MAYHEW *The Good Genius* xvi, A nasty slommicking bit of goods, with her things all hanging about her anyhow. 1873 *Daily News* 30 Aug. 5/6 His high cheek bones and slommocking gait.

Slon(e, obs. inf. and pa. pple. SLAY *v.*; obs. pl. or dial. ff. SLOE. **Slong:** see SLING *sb.*[1] and *v.*[1]

Slonk (slɒŋk), *sb. Sc.* and *north. dial.* [Of doubtful origin: cf. Da. dial. *slånk*, *slunk* a hollow or depression in the ground, and MLG. *-slunc*, LG. *slunk*, G. dial. *schlunk*, *schlank* gullet, gorge, abyss.] (See later quots. and cf. SLUNK *sb.*)

The *Eng. Dial. Dict.* also records the word from Kent.

c 1470 HENRY *Wallace* III. 4 Baith erbe and froyte, busk and bewis, braid Haboundandlye in euery slonk and slaid. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* XII. xi. 84 In dern sladis and mony scroggy slonk. 1563 WINJET tr. *Vincent. Lirin.* ii. Wks. (S.T.S.) II. 19 Sa grete dangerous slonkis of sindry errouris. ?16.. *Lindesay's* (Pitscottie) *Chron. Scot.* (1728) 90 She standing in a slonk [*v.r.* slake] bringing home water. 1728 RAMSAY *Poems* Gloss., *Slonk*, a Mire, Ditch, or Slough. 1880 *Antrim & Down Gloss.*, *Slonk*, ..a ditch; a deep, wet hollow in a road. 1894 HESLOP *Northumbld. Gloss.*, *Slonk*, a depression in the ground, like a 'swallow hole'.

Slonk, *v. rare.* [Of obscure origin; cf. Du. *slokken* to swallow, and the G. forms cited under prec.] *trans.* To swallow greedily.

Caxton may have read *slont ende at* in place of *stont ende at* in the Dutch original.

1481 CAXTON *Reynard* (Arb.) 55 The false keytyf ete and slonked her in so hungerly that he lefte neyther flessh ne bone. [1897 F. S. ELLIS *Reynard* 191 A cynic grin His face bore while he slonked her in.]

Sloo, obs. f. SLAY *v.*; obs. or dial. f. SLOUGH *sb.*[1]

†**'Slood,** variant of 'SLUD. *Obs.*

1599 B. JONSON *Cynthia's Rev.* IV. iii, S'lood what have you to doe? 1606 CHAPMAN *Gentl. Usher* II. i, Slood me thinks a man Should not of meere necessitie be an Asse.

Sloom (slūm), *sb.*[1] Now *north. dial.* and *Sc.* Forms: 1 **sluma,** 3 **slume,** 4 **sloumbe,** 8–9 **sloum,** 9 **slowm, sloom, slum**; 8–9 **slome,** 9 **sloam**; 8–9 **slaum,** 9 **slawm,** etc. [OE. *slúma*, related to SLOOM *v.*[1] Cf. Fris. *slûm*, *slom(me*, older Da. *slum* slumber, doze.] A gentle sleep or slumber; a light doze. Also *attrib.*

In the *Destr. Troy* 13281 *slym* is prob. an error for *slum*.

a 1000 *Guthlac* 314 (Gr.), Þæt hine æreste elne binoman slæpa sluman. *c* 1050 *Be Domes D.* 240 Se earma flyhð uncræftiza slæp, sleac mid sluman. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* C. 186 He..Slypped vpon a sloumbe slepe, & sloberande he routes. *Ibid.* 466 He slydez on a sloumbe slep, sloghe vnder leues. 1781 J. HUTTON *Tour to Caves* (ed. 2) Gloss. 96 *Sloum*, or *slaum*, a gentle sleep, or slumber. 1785 — *Bran New Wark* 150 A third [will be] nodding his head in an easy slome. 1829– in northern dial. glossaries. 1863 ROBSON *Bards of Tyne* 359 When weary wi' weepin I sink to a slum. 1868 W. SHELLEY *Flowers by Wayside* 256 Whyles when I'm in a quiet sloom my Willie's hame to me.

Sloom, *sb.*[2] *local.* Also **slum(b, sloam.** [Of obscure origin: the variant forms indicate an original *slūm-*.] (See quots.)

1803 PLYMLEY *Agric. Shropshire* 54 *Slumbs*, black-slaty earth, and a heaving measure. *Ibid.* 56 Top-coal and pound stone. Slums. Foot-coal. 1842 BRANDE *Dict. Sci.*, etc. 1123/1 *Sloam*, layers of clay between those of coal. 1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-m.* 227 *Sloom*, a softish earthy clay or shale often underlying a bed of coal. *Ibid.* 228 *Slum*, *Slums*, *Slumbs*. 1. A blackish, slippery, indurated clay. 2. A soft clayey or shaley bed of coal.

Sloom (slūm), *v.*[1] Now *north. dial.* and *Sc.* Forms: 3 **slume(n, slumme, slomme,** 5, 9 **slowm,** 8–9 **sloum,** 9 **sloom, slum, sloam,** etc. [ME. *slūmen*, *slummen*, = Fris. *slûmje*, *slomje*, MDu. *slūmen* (*sluymen*), MLG. *slûmen*, *slomen*, *slommen*, MHG. *slummen*, obs. G. *schlummen*, older Da. *slumme* (*slome*): cf. SLUMBER *v.*] *intr.* To slumber; to doze.

c 1205 LAY. 17995 Merlin gon to slume swulc he wolde slæpen. *Ibid.* 32058 Þa gon he to slepen, þa gon he to slumme. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 5174 Ser Telomew..Fand him slowmand on slepe & sleely him rayses. 1768 ROSS *Helenore* 58 Whiles slouming, whiles starting wi' her fright. 1819 TENNANT *Papistry Storn'd* (1827) 124 To tell th' unpillow'd crowds that lie Souffin' and sloomin' round. 1828– in northern dial. glossaries. 1860 ROBSON *Song Solomon* vii. 9 Garrin' the lips o' a' thae that slum to speak. 1868 W. SHELLEY *Flowers by Wayside* 54, I laid me down And sloomed aneth the Roden Tree.

Sloom (slūm), *v.*[2] *Sc.* [app. of Scand. origin: cf. Norw. *sluma* to run up into long weak straw, and see next.] Of grain, grass, etc.: To become laid or lodged through being soft and heavy in growth; to begin to decay on this account. Hence **Sloomed** *ppl. a.* (see quot. 1824).

1765 A. DICKSON *Treat. Agric.* (ed. 2) 440 A strong crop of pease, or any other kind of corn laid down, and what is commonly called *slooming*. 1824 *Farmer's Mag.* Aug. 329 Those places where the weight and softness of the grass has flattened it with the earth... No other spot.. offered as much verdure at this time as these seemingly *sloomed* places.

1875 *N. & Q.* Ser. v. III. 147 Ulster Words..'Sloam', applied to corn crops when the stalks are too luxuriant in growth.

Sloomy, *a. dial.* Also 7 **sloumie,** 9 **slowmy, sloamy, slaumy.** [f. SLOOM *v.*[2]]

1. a. Of grain: Not properly filled.

1641 BEST *Farm. Bks.* (Surtees) 54 The stemme will bee stronge and steare, and the barley itselfe sloumie and not pubble. 1808 JAMIESON, *Sloomy corn*, a phrase used with respect to grain, when it is not well filled.

b. Of corn, etc.: Laid or lodged through being soft and heavy; beginning to rot.

1825 in JAMIESON *Suppl.* 1877–86 in Cheshire and Cumberld. glossaries.

2. Sluggish, dull, spiritless. Also as *adv.*

1820 CLARE *Poems* (ed. 3) 127 O'er pathless plains, at early hours, The sleepy rustic sloomy goes. 1821 — *Vill. Minstr.* II. 103 They then, like school-boys that at truant play, In sloomy fear lounge on their homeward way. 1851 STERNBERG *Northampt. Dial.*, *Sloomy*, dull and gloomy. 1880 TENNYSON *Northern Cobbler* vii, An' Sally wur sloomy an' draggle tāäil'd.

Sloon, obs. pa. pple. SLAY *v.*; obs. pl. SLOE.

Sloop (slūp), *sb.*[1] Also 7 **slope, sloope.** [ad. Du. *sloep*, = Fris. and LG. *slûp*, Da., Sw., Norw. *slup*, G. *schlup*; also older Du. *sloepe* (Kilian), LG. *slupe*, Da. *sluppe*, G. *schlupe*. The history of the Du. and LG. word is obscure, but it appears more probable that it is an adoption of F. *chaloupe* or Sp. *chalupa* than that it is the source of these. (F. has also *sloop* or *sloupe* from Eng. or Du.) Cf. CHALOUPE, SHALLOOP, and SHALLOP.]

1. A small, one-masted, fore-and-aft rigged vessel, differing from a cutter in having a jib-stay and standing bowsprit.

1629 in Foster *Eng. Factories India* (1909) III. 315 They keepe allways some 5 or 6 sloopes and junks trading..from porte to porte. 1677 W. HUBBARD *Narrative* II. 45 Some persons that belonged to a Sloop and a Shallop..were over desirous to save some of their Provision. 1719 W. WOOD *Surv. Trade* 285 The Trade from that Island to New Spain, is carry'd on generally by Sloops. 1775 JOHNSON *West. Isl.* Wks. X. 486 Sloops are loaded with the concreted ashes. 1830 MARRYAT *King's Own* ix, The vessels..are generally small luggers or sloops, from forty to sixty tons burthen. 1885 RUNCIMAN *Skippers & Shellbacks* 98 The little old sloops were generally family concerns.

b. A relatively small ship-of-war, carrying guns on the upper deck only. Also in full *sloop-of-war*.

(*a*) 1676 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1130/4 St. Ann of Ostend, Burthen 16 Tuns,..a square stern'd open Sloop, with 2 Guns, and 20 Men. 1707 *Ibid.* No. 4379/3 Her Majesty's Ship Somerset, with..the Weesel Sloop, and Isabella Yacht, is sail'd for the River. 1761 *Ann. Reg.* 190 A short view of the whole royal navy..; 68 sloops, from 8 to 14 [guns] besides swivels. 1844 H. H. WILSON *Brit. India* III. 96 A flotilla of sloops and gun-brigs was attached to it. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2214 War-vessels of 2000 tons and upward,.. carrying 12 to 22 heavy guns, are now termed sloops.

(*b*) 1769 FALCONER *Dict. Marine* (1780) Hh 3, The sloops of war carry from 18 to 8 cannon. 1790 BEATSON *Nav. & Mil. Mem.* II. 255 A number of frigates and sloops of war. 1836 MARRYAT *Midship. Easy* vii, He had succeeded in obtaining his appointment to a sloop of war.

†**2.** A large open boat; a long-boat. *Obs.*

1631 J. TAYLOR *Turne of Fortune's Wheele* (Halliw.) 22 In Zealand where our forces all were broake, Sloops, punts, and lighters, seventy-eight confounded. 1699 *Laws Nevis* XXVII. (1740) 21 If any Person..steal..any fishing or other Boat, Canoe, Shallop, Sloop, Bark-log, or any other Vessel. 1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* II. (Globe) 518 Five Sloops or Boats,.. full of Men...We..could see the Boats at a Distance, being five large Long-Boats.

3. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *sloop-broker*, *load*, *-man*, *-model*, *-rig*, *-rigged*.

1722 DE FOE *Moll Flanders* (Bohn) 281 A sloop load of ..hogs and stores. 1769 Sloop-rigged [see RIGGED *ppl. a.*[1] 1 b]. 1840 *Evid. Hull Docks Comm.* 69 What is the nature of your business as a sloop-broker? 1849 G. CUPPLES *Green Hand* ii. (1856) 22 The saucy *Iris*—as perfect a sloop-model ..as ever was eased off the ways of Chatham. 1862 *Zoologist* XX. 8087, I saw three of them which a sloopman had towed behind his vessel. 1893 *Onting* XXII. 146/1 The sloop-rig—jib and mainsail—is better than a single sail. 1894 N. BROOKS *Tales of Maine Coast* 33 The 'Whisper' was a sloop-rigged craft.

Sloop (slūp), *sb.*[2] *Canada.* [Of obscure origin.] A simple form of drag used in lumbering. Hence **Sloop** *v. trans.*, to draw on a sloop.

1891– in American Dicts.

Sloor, obs. form of SLUB *sb.* **Sloot,** var. SLUIT.

Slop (slɒp), *sb.*[1] Also 4–7 **sloppe,** 4, 6 **slope,** 7 **slopp.** [Of obscure history. Sense 2 corresponds to MDu. *slop*, OIcel. *sloppr*, and appears earlier in the OE. compound *oferslop* (MDu. *overslop*, OIcel. *yfirsloppr*): see OVERSLOP. The relation of the other senses to this is not clear.]

†**1.** A charmed bag employed to steal milk from cows. *Obs. rare.*

1303 R. BRUNNE *Handl. Synne* 522 Þere was a wycche, and made a bagge...Þys wyccne here charme began to sey, Þe slop ros up, and 3ede þe weye. *Ibid.* 537 Þe sloppe lay stylle, as hyt ded wore.

2. An outer garment, as a loose jacket, tunic, cassock, mantle, gown, or smock-frock.

For modern examples cf. the *Eng. Dial. Dict.* s.v. *Slop* sb.[2] 1.

c 1386 CHAUCER *Pars. T.* P 422 The..scantnesse of clothyng as been thise kutted sloppes or haynselyns. *c* 1440 *York Myst.* xxxi. 77 Se þat my sloppe be wele sittande. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 460/1 Sloppe, garment, *mutatorium*. *c* 1489 CAXTON *Sonnes of Aymon* XXI. 466 Gyve me a newe sloppe and a large hode. 1523 LD. BERNERS *Froiss.* I. clxxvi. 213 He armed hymselfe with secrete armour, and dyd on a sloppe aboue, and a cloke aboue that. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VIII*, 55 b, The mantels had great capes like to the Portingal slopys. *a* 1618 SYLVESTER *Hymn of Alms* 195 Wks. (Grosart) II. 210 To see some painted face, Or Firenew Fashion in a Sleeve or slop. *a* 1668 DAVENANT *News fr. Plymouth* IV. i, I will embrace thy long loose slopp and kiss Thy drivell'd Beard. 1825 KNAPP & BALDWIN *Newgate Cal.* III. 448/2 A slop or shirt over it. 1841 BORROW *Zincali* I. i, He was dressed in a coarse waggoner's slop. 1881 YOUNG *Ev. Man his own Mechanic* 12 The clothes of the amateur..should be protected at least by a loose 'slop' or jacket of canvas.

†**b.** *spec.* (See quot.) *Obs.*—[1]

15.. *Bk. of Precedence* in *Q. Eliz. Acad.* 28 A slope is a morning Cassock for Ladyes and gentile wemen, not open before.

†**c.** (See quot.) *Obs.*—[0]

1688 HOLME *Armoury* II. 395/2 A Womans face proper, with a Slop on her head..; the attire..makes me judge it to be rather some kind of Slop or Maunch for the head... Some term this a French Hood pendant.

†**3.** *pl.* Some kind of foot-wear. *Obs. rare.*

1480 *Wardr. Acc. Edw. IV* (1830) 118 A paire of sloppes of blac leder, v d. 1483 in *Antiq. Rep.* (1807) I. 42, ij pair of shoon, ij pair of slops, and viij paire of botews of Spaynysh leder.

4. *pl.* Wide baggy breeches or hose, of the kind commonly worn in the 16th and early 17th cent.; loose trousers, esp. those worn by sailors. Now chiefly *dial.*

In the Geneva, Bishops', and Douay Bibles *sloppes* is employed in rendering Isa. iii. 20, where the AV. has 'the ornaments of the legges' and the RV. 'the ankle chains'. For some particulars relating to the history of the garment, see Fairholt *Costume* I. 237, 263, etc., and cf. the *Eng. Dial. Dict.* s.v. *Slop* sb.[2] 3.

1481–90 *Howard Househ. Bks.* (Roxb.) 518 For the same Magnus a whyt cote, a payre sloppes. 1530 PALSGR. 271/2 Sloppes, hosyn, *brayes a marinier*. 1558 in Feuillerat *Revels Q. Eliz.* (1908) 19, viii paire of Sloppes parted, the one legge of the said blewe clothe of golde and the other of greene clothe of Silver. *a* 1586 SIDNEY *Arcadia* (1622) 60 He had nothing vpon him but a paire of sloppes, and vpon his bodie a Goate-skinne. 1608 WILLET *Hexapla Exod.* 656 The two sloppes or breeches were tied and knit together about the middle. 1656 W. DU GARD tr. *Commenius' Gate Lat. Unl.* 109 Below the girdle are the breeches, that is, either slops,..or trusses somwhat strait. 1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), *Slops*, a wide sort of Breeches worn by Seamen. 1820 SCOTT *Monast.* xvi, Two pair black silk slops, with hanging garters of carnation silk. 1842 BARHAM *Ingol. Leg.* Ser. II. *Dead Drummer* (1905) 338 He would give an occasional hitch, Sailor-like to his 'slops'. *transf.* 1598 B. JONSON *Ev. Man in Hum.* IV. ii, Sirrha, you ballad-singer, and slops, your fellow there, get you out.

†**b.** *sing.* in the same sense, or denoting only one leg of the garment. *Obs.*

1562 J. HEYWOOD *Prov. & Epigr.* (1867) 193 The man..Werth on eche legge, one male, for his sloppes are, Eche one sloppe one male. 1565 in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* Ser. II. III. 306 A lyning of Cotton stytched to the Sloppe over & besydes the lynnen lynyng straytt to the legg. 1580–3 GREENE *Mamillia* I. Wks. (Grosart) II. 19 Their narrow shoulders must haue a quilted Dublet of a large sise:..their crooked legges, a side sloppe. 1602 MARSTON *Ant. & Mel.* v. Wks. 1856 I. 61 When I see ..another wallowe in a greate sloppe, I mistrust the proportion of his thigh. 1630 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Wks.* II. 175/1 His gay slop hath no sooner kist the Cushions, but.. he hath neuer left Roaring, row, row, row. 1652 *News Lowe-Co.* 2 The French Trunck sometimes doth him house, The Dutch Slopp, and the Irish Trouse.

†**c.** The loose or wide part of a pair of breeches of this kind. *Obs. rare.*

1592 R. GREENE *Conny Catch.* II. 5 So quaintly and artificially made, that it may bee put in ye slop of a mans hose. 1592 — *Upst. Courtier* (1871) 10 A plain pair of Cloth-Breeches.., straight to the thigh,..without a slop.

5. *pl.* Ready-made clothing and other furnishings supplied to seamen from the ship's stores; hence, ready-made, cheap, or inferior garments generally.

1663 PEPYS *Diary* 16 Mar., Advising upon the business of Slopps, wherein the seaman is so much abused by the pursers. 1764 COMM. BYRON *Voy.* in *Hawkesworth* I. 9 The men..who had contrived to sell not only all their warm clothes, but their bedding,..now applied in great distress for slops. 1799 NELSON 16 Feb. in Nicolas *Disp.* (1845) III. 267 Slops are not to be purchased here but at an enormous price. 1847 L. HUNT *Men, Women, & B.* I. ii. 22 A young sailor, with a face innocent of everything but a pride in his slops. 1878 BESANT & RICE *By Celia's Arbour* XXX, He used to sell his slops for brandy, and cobble his old garments with the brown canvas of the sandbags.

fig. 1791 WOLCOT (P. Pindar) *Rights of Kings* Proemium, That a Monarch's wife yclept a Queen May not..be a downright Slop, Form'd of the coarsest rags of Nature's shop? 1802–12 BENTHAM *Ration. Judic. Evid.* (1827) IV. 348 In the Roman law, the clergy had been used to see a sort of warehouse, in which slops of all sorts were to be had ready-made.

b. *sing.* in collective use, or denoting a single garment of this kind.

1798 WOLCOT (P. Pindar) *Tales of the Hoy* Wks. 1812 IV. 385 When the Men of Slop The Jew and Gentile turn towards their shop In alleys dark. 1887 BESANT *The World went* X. 84 He wore a common sailor's petticoat or slop.

6. Used as a term of contempt. *rare.*

1599 NASHE *Lenten Stuff* Wks. (Grosart) V. 240 Not a slop of a ropehaler *they* send forth to the Queenes ships, but hee is first broken to the Sea in the Herring mans Skiffe or Cock-boate.

7. *attrib.* and *Comb.* a. In senses 2 and 4, as *slop-frock*, †*-hose* [cf. MDu. *slophose*], *-pouch*.

1530 PALSGR. 251 Payre of sloppe hoses. 1565 R. ONSLOW in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* Ser. II. II. 306 A sloppe-hose not cutte in panes. 1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* iv, This purse has all that is left of as round a sum as a man would wish to carry in his slop-pouch. 1821 CLARE *Vill. Minstr.* II. 68 With slop-frock suiting to the ploughman's taste. 1837 *Lincoln Herald* 17 Jan. 2/2 John Cowley, indicted for stealing at Binbrook, one slop frock and one hat. 1851 STERNBERG *Northampt. Dial.*, *Slop-frock*, a smock-frock.

b. In combs. relating to seamen's slops, or to cheap ready-made garments, as *slop-boat*, *-book*, *-chest*, *-clothes*, etc.

1823 SYD. SMITH *Wks.* (1859) II. 21/2 A large stock of rum was immediately laid in from the circumambient *slop-boats. 1755 *Abstr. Act* in *M.P.'s Let. on R. N.* 14 Five ..Pay-books shall be..made out.., and a *Slop-book. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.* 633 *Slop-Book*, a register of the slop clothing, soap, and tobacco, issued to the men; also of the religious books supplied. 1840 R. H. DANA *Bef. Mast* xxix. 102 Having begun the voyage with very few clothes, he had taken up the greater part of his wages in the *slop-chest. 1874 *Law Times' Rep.* XXXI. 20/2 They had each received .. 6 dollars from the slop chest on the voyage. 1699 LUTTRELL *Brief Rel.* (1857) IV. 493 The deduction of 12*d.* in the pound by the paymaster for *slop cloaths..is without warrant. 1745 *Proj. Manning of Navy* 11 Sea-mens Wages are not Half consum'd in..Slop-Cloths. 1819 J. H. VAUX *Mem.* II. 109 After putting on each a suit of coarse *slop-clothing, we were ironed and sent below. 1834 *Tait's Mag.* I. 416/1 One pound sterling is paid..as the price of his bedding and slop-clothing. 1884 *Spectator* 737/2 Their cheapness is due to the fact that they are really '*slop goods'—goods, that is, produced at a price which cannot give the worker a decent maintenance. *c* 1645 in *Archaeologia* LII. 134 A *slopmaker for Seamen neare Billingsgate. 1897 G. ALLEN *Type-writer Girl* xvi. 170, I told him of my work among the East-End slop-makers! 1799 *Hull Advertiser* 12 Oct. 2/4, I, John Brown, of Kingston-upon-Hull, *Slopman. 1812 *Examiner* 4 May 280/2 F. Richmond,..taylor and slopman. 1819 SHELLEY *Peter Bell* II. iv, He did appear Like a *slop-merchant from Wapping. 1851 MAYHEW *Lond. Lab.* III. 231/1, I could not meet with one woman 'working a *slop-needle'. *c* 1850 *Rudim. Navig.* (Weale) 149 **Slop-room*, the place appointed for the purser to keep the ship's slops in. *c* 1860 H. STUART *Seaman's Catech.* 62 Slops and marine necessaries in the slop-room. 1802 *Naval Chron.* VII. 447 The *Resolve* *slop ship was laid up in ordinary. 1813 SOUTHEY *Nelson* I. 74 His vessel was kept at the Nore.., serving as a slop and receiving ship. 1851 MAYHEW *Lond. Lab.* III. 231/1 Working for *slop shirt-makers, &c., upon the coarser sorts of work. 1851 *Ibid.* II. 23/1 The garret-master buys lasts to do the *slop-snobbing cheap. 1861 DICKENS *Gt. Expect.* xl, He was at present dressed in a seafaring *slop suit. 1894 A. MORRISON *Mean Streets* 132 His mother had had no *slop-waistcoat finishing to do for three or four days. 1714 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 5272/9 Anne Lee, of Gosport.., *Slop-woman. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk* 633 A short *slop wrapper, formerly called a *sliving*.

c. **Slop-builder**, a jerry-builder; **slop-built**, jerry-built; **loosely-made**.

1835 *Edinb. Rev.* LX. 343 The temptation to construct what are called slop-built ships..is therefore quite irresistible. 1869 *Latest News* 5 Sept. 7 They were only contract built edifices by 'slop builders'. 1903 W. CRAIG *Adv. Austral. Goldfields* 39 He was slop-built.

Slop (slɒp), *sb.*[2] Also 8 (9 *dial.*) slap. [prob. representing an OE. **sloppe* (cf. *cúsloppe*, var. of *cúslyppe* COWSLIP), related to *slyppe* SLIP *sb.*[1], and to *slúpan* to slip.]

1. †a. A muddy place; a mud-hole. *Obs.*[—1]

? *a* 1400 *Morte Arth.* 3923 He..Slippes in in the sloppes o-slante to the girdylle.

b. ? A splash of mud or slush.

1731 *Gentl. Mag.* I. 332 To walk through Rag Fair in dirty weather,..a jostle in one place, a slip in another, a slop in a third.

c. Liquid mud; slush.

1796 MORSE *Amer. Geogr.* I. 605 The inhabitants have to walk in almost perpetual slop. 1851 MAYHEW *Lond. Lab.* II. 207/1 In wet weather the dirt swept or scraped to one side is so liquified that it is known as 'slop'. 1891 *Pall Mall G.* 13 Jan. 1/2 Every one..viewed the accumulating slop..with a pious faith in its restoration in a few days.

2. An act of spilling or splashing; a quantity of liquid spilled or splashed.

1727 BOYER *Dict. Royal* I, *Faire un Gâchis*, to make a slap, to wet a Room. 1782 MME. D'ARBLAY *Diary* 28 Dec., When she came there happened to be a great slop on the table. 1796 — *Camilla* IV. 116 Don't mind it, I beg,..a little slop's soon wiped up. 1836 [MISS MAITLAND] *Lett. fr. Madras* (1843) 15 On the other side of it there was an immense slop oozing out from something. 1874 MRS. WHITNEY *We Girls* vi. 121 There never was a slop on the stove, or a teaspoonful of anything spilled.

3. Liquid or semi-liquid food of a weak, unappetizing kind; applied contemptuously to invalids' spoon-food, tea, etc. Now usually *pl.*

sing. 1657 G. STARKEY *Helmont's Vind.* 174 It is not every ridiculous slop that is a Medicine. 1786 MME. D'ARBLAY *Diary* 14 Aug., [She] exclaimed, 'Oh dear, you've got no tea!' Then pouring out a dish of slop, added [etc.]. 1802 tr. *Gabrielli's Mysterious Husb.* III. 59 The old woman ..went down to prepare the slop. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* III. 498 Full of slop as he is, the patient burns with thirst.

pl. c 1672 WOOD *Life*, etc. (O.H.S.) I. 177 Much physick and slops being taken in the winter following. 1741 RICHARDSON *Pamela* III. 332 He physicked himself out of his Life—He would be always taking Slops. 1798 *Monthly Mag.* Mar. 183 Tea, and thin chocolate, and such like enervating slops. 1829 COBBETT *Adv. to Youth* xxxi, Experience has taught me that those slops [tea, coffee, etc.] are injurious to health. 1863 MRS. CARLYLE *Lett.* III. 158 The cold first came into my tongue, swelling it...I had to live on slops.

4. Refuse liquid of any kind; rinsings of tea, coffee, or other beverages; the dirty water, etc., of a household. Usu. *pl.*

1815 SCOTT *Guy M.* lii, He..threw the slops..into the sugar-dish instead of the slop-basin. 1848 CLOUGH *Bothie* ii, The removal of slops to be ornamentally treated. 1882 LADY BLOOMFIELD *Remin.* (1883) I. xi. 336 The slops had never been emptied, so the rooms were anything but odoriferous.

5. *Pottery.* = SLIP *sb.*[1] 4.

1844 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* VII. 154/1 The halves of the mould are then put together, and the slop intended for the ground poured in.

6. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as (senses 1 c and 4) *slop-barrel*, *-bucket*, *-dirt*, *-pail*, etc.; (sense 3) *slop-diet*, *-fed* adj.; (sense 5) *slop-clay*; also **slop-moulding**, **-wash** (see quots.).

1856 KANE *Arctic Expl.* II. vii. 84 Emptying .. some twelve to fifteen bucketfuls from the *slop-barrel. 1884 *Harper's Mag.* Jan. 233/2 Sugar-bowl,..and *slop-bowl. 1856 KANE *Arctic Expl.* II. vii. 83, I am thankful that I am here, able to empty a *slop-bucket. 1851 MAYHEW *Lond. Lab.* II. 268/2 The expense of *slop-cartage. 1825 J. NICHOLSON *Operatic Mechanic* 459 When the proper proportions of *slop clay and flint have been well blunged together, the liquid is pumped out of the reservoir on the top of the slip-kiln. 1829 COOPER *Good's Study Med.* II. 58 Pale thin men, relaxed by sedentary habits and a spare *slop diet. 1896 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* I. 399 In severer febrile attacks a slop-diet is advisable. 1851 MAYHEW *Lond. Lab.* (1864) II. 210/1 When in combination with a greater quantity of water, so that it is rendered almost liquid, it is known as '*slop-dirt'. 1871 NAPHEYS *Prev. & Cure Dis.* I. ii. 56 *Slop-fed unhealthy cows. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.*, **Slop-hopper*, the basin of a water-closet or sink. 1884 *Cent. Mag.* Dec. 261/2 The slop-hopper is generally a receptacle for rags and rubbish. 1855 MOTLEY *Corr.* (1889) I. vi. 178 Celestial *slop jars, heaps of clean towels, etc. 1843 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* VI. 348/1 '*Slop-moulding,' in which process the mould is dipped into water previous to its receiving the clay. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2215 Slop-molding.. requires several molds; pallet-molding only one. 1864 CARLYLE *Fredk. Gt.* XVI. v. (1872) VI. 172 Of Hanbury's News-Letters from Foreign Courts, four or five..are like the contents of a *slop-pail. 1884 *Health Exhib. Catal.* 60/2 Tip-up Lavatory, Urinal, or *Slop-sink combined. *a* 1825 FORBY *Voc. E. Anglia* 307 **Slop-wash*, an occasional and hasty washing of small linen.

Slop (slɒp), *sb.*[3] *E. Anglian dial.* [Of obscure origin.] Growing underwood.

1784 CULLUM *Hist. Hawsted* 173 *Slop*, the underwood in a wood. *a* 1800 PEGGE *Suppl. Grose*, *Slop*, under-wood when growing. Norf. and Suffolk. 1804 *Survey Gestingthorpe* (Essex) 6 (E. D. D.), The slop of the respective occupiers pay tithe per acre when cut in the said grounds. 1902 CORNISH *Naturalist Thames* 90 Four acres of low slop, brambles, shoots, and blackthorns.

Slop (slɒp), *sb.*[4] *slang.* [Modification of *ecilop*, back-slang for *police*.] A policeman.

1859 in *Slang Dict.* 95. 1868 *Morning Star* 4 June, I saw the b— slops by the public-house. 1879 F. W. ROBINSON *Coward Conscience* II. xxi, You'd better cut—the slops are after you.

Slop (slɒp), *v.*[1] [f. SLOP *sb.*[1]] *trans.* To provide with slops or cheap ready-made clothing.

1803 *Naval Chron.* X. 257 After being furnished and slopped with new cloaths, previous to their being sent on board.

Slop (slɒp), *v.*[2] Also 6, 8 (9 *dial.*) slap. [f. SLOP *sb.*[2]]

1. *trans.* To spill or splash (liquid); to dash or lay *on* carelessly. Also with *over*.

1557 TUSSER *100 Points Husb.* (1878) 229 Their milke slapt in corners, their creame al to sost. 1805 R. W. DICKSON *Pract. Agric.* I. 61 As hogs are apt to slop over and spill a part of their food. 1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss.* s.v., If you don't mind you'll slop half your beer out of the mug. 1859 H. KINGSLEY *G. Hamlyn* III. 21 Now and then she would slop tons of water on her deck. 1894 *Brit. Jrnl. Photog.* XLI. 8 It must only be just moistened, not slopped on.

b. To wash or tumble (one) out of some place.

1839 HOOD *Storm at Hastings* xxiii, Mrs. Snell Was slopp'd out of her seat. 1889 JEROME *Three Men in Boat* 18 You get fooling about with the boat, and slop me overboard.

2. To lap *up* greedily or noisily; to gobble *up*. Now *dial.*

1575 *Gammer Gurton* II. i, Thy mylk slopt up, thy bacon filtched. 1611 J. DAVIES (Heref.) *Scourge of Folly* cvi. Wks. (Grosart) II. 20/2 Some foule-mouth'd Readers then ..So slop them vp that it would make one spew. 1651 R. CHILD in *Hartlib's Legacy* (1655) 88 They make Meshes for their Cows,..which the Cows will slop up like Hogs. 1746 *Exmoor Scolding* 190 (E.D.S.), Nif et be Loblolly, tha wut slop et oll up. 1886 in ELWORTHY *W. Somerset Word-bk.* 682.

3. a. To slobber (one). *rare*[—1].

1696 T. SOUTHERNE *Oroonoko* II. i, Such fine folk are not used to be slopt and kiss'd.

b. To make wet with spilled liquid.

1721 BAILEY, *Slop*, ..to dash with Water. 1736 AINSWORTH, To slap, or slop a place with wet, *madefacio*. 1806 BERESFORD *Miseries Hum. Life* VI. xv, A large round deal table, well slopped with beer. 1841 HARTSHORNE *Salop. Ant.* Gloss., *Slop*,...to wet or dirty.

4. *intr.* To prepare or drink any weak liquid.

1742 FIELDING *J. Andrews* I. xiii, She had just done drinking it [*sc.* tea], and could not be slopping all day. 1771 [see SLOPPING *vbl. sb.*].

5. To walk or travel *through* a place in mud or slush. Also with *along* or *on*. Also *fig.*

1834 BECKFORD *Italy* I. 7 Anybody might slop through the Low Countries that pleased. 1851 NEWLAND *The Erne* 187, I really have no fancy to go slopping through the wet grass and muddy roads for nothing. 1880 'MARK TWAIN' *Tramp Abr.* ii. 51 Hour after hour we slopped along by the roaring torrent.

6. To run or flow *over*; to flow or dash *up*.

1853 N. HAWTHORNE *Tanglewood. T.* (Chandos) 193 The king's hand trembled so much that a great deal of the wine slopped over. 1883 *Harper's Mag.* Feb. 393/1 A fine wash..slopping up into the..summer-houses overhanging the river.

b. *fig.* With *over*. To run to excess. *U.S.*

1859 'ARTEMUS WARD' *Wks.* (1865) 124 Washington.. never slopt over! The prevailin weakness of most public men is to slop over. 1896 *Daily News* 17 Nov. 5/2 The 'Herald' has 'slopped over,' this time, but it will steady itself as soon as it gets the facts.

c. To pass *over* suddenly.

1900 G. SWIFT *Somerley* 30 Boys 'slop over' from the good into the bad..in such illogical ways, that there is no setting them down under definite heads.

Slop, obs. var. SLAP *sb.*[2] and *v.*[2] *Sc.*

Slop, obs. or dial. form of SLOPE *a.* and *v.*[1]

Slop-basin. [f. SLOP *sb.*[2] 4.] A basin for holding slops. Also in fig. phrase (cf. TEA-CUP c).

1778 *Phil. Trans.* LXVIII. 628 A couple of slop-basons full of the grounds of old quass. 1796 MME. D'ARBLAY *Camilla* II. 228 Is it tea? It looks prodigiously as if just imported out of the slop basin. 1829 LYTTON *Disowned* 16 Raising her hand to a shelf on which stood an Indian slop-basin. 1861 DICKENS *Gt. Expect.* xxvii, Splashing it into the slop-basin. 1878 FROUDE *Table-Talk* 159, I have got into Cæsar, and think no more of this storm in a slop-basin.

Hence **Slop-basinful**.

1858 A. MAYHEW *Paved with Gold* II. xvii, A slop-basinful of mustard.

Slop-dash. *rare*[—1]. = SLIP-SLOP I.

c 1810 MAR. EDGEWORTH *Rose, Thistle, & Shamrock* III. ii, Does he expect tea can be keeping hot for him to the end of time? He'll have nothing but slop-dash.

Slope (slōup), *sb.*[1] Also 7 sloop, 8 sloap. [Aphetically f. ASLOPE *adv.*

The adv. was freq. written and printed as two words, and occurs in contexts which would readily admit of taking *a* as the indefinite article, e.g. 1551 MORE *Utopia* H. (1895) 129 An other ryuere..runneth downe a slope.]

1. A stretch of rising or falling ground; a portion of the earth's surface marked by a gradual ascent or descent, whether natural or artificial.

1626 BACON *Sylva* § 537 The growing [of moss] upon Slopes. 1693 EVELYN *De la Quint. Compl. Gard.* I. 167 These Banks or Slopes are very useful..for producing Early and Hasting Peas. 1727–46 THOMSON *Summer* 603 Falling fast from gradual slope to slope. 1799 YOUNG *View Agric. Lincoln.* 19 A slope of country..very well wooded, 1809–10 COLERIDGE *Friend* (1865) 88 The very large garden that occupies the whole slope of the hill on which the house stands. 1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* I. ii. 11 My eyes were fixed upon a white slope some thousands of feet above me. 1891 E. PEACOCK *N. Brendon* I. 340 The village stood on a gentle slope.

transf. 1784 COWPER *Task* IV. 202 The self-complacent actor, when he views..The slope of faces, from the floor to th' roof.

fig. 1850 TENNYSON *In Mem.* lxiv, On Fortune's crowning slope. 1887 BESANT *The World went* II. 14 We are now nearing three score years, and on the downward slope of life.

b. An inclined surface of the nature of a bank, *esp.* one artificially constructed, as in fortification or engineering.

1702 *Milit. & Sea Dict.* (1711) s.v. *Counterscarp*, Counterscarp is properly the *Talus*, or Slope of the Ditch, on the farther side from the Place. 1707 MORTIMER *Husb.* (1721) I. 12 You may lower the Ground on each side with a slope two Foot deep. 1774 *Hull Dock Act* 8 At any time after that the said slope or batter is made. 1811 WELLINGTON in Gurw. *Disp.* (1837) VII. 638 Some time must elapse before a slope will be made in it by battering. 1838 SIMMS *Public Wks. Gt. Brit.* 19 The slopes of the excavation shall be finished as the cutting advances. 1876 VOYLE & STEVENSON *Milit. Dict.* 390/1.

c. *Mining.* An inclined roadway.

1874 RAYMOND *Statist. Mines & Mining* 41 To get down to these [seams] there are at present two slopes and one tunnel...Each of the slopes is furnished with hoisting-engines. 1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-m.* 227. 1890 *Daily News* 8 Feb. 5/8 A dozen men escaped..in the long slope some distance away from Cook's slope.

2. Upward or downward inclination; deviation from the horizontal or perpendicular.

1611 COTGR., *Talus*, a slope, sloping, slopenesse. 1664 EVELYN tr. *Freart's Archit.* iii. 16 Its extraordinary projecture, which is after a sort augmented by the sloops which the Architect has given to the drops which compose the ornament of the nether face. 1704 J. HARRIS *Lex. Techn.* I. s.v. *Talus*, The Talus of a Bastion or Rampart, is the Slope allowed to such a Work. 1759 MILLS tr. *Duhamel's Husb.* II. i. (1762) 125 Where the ground had not slope enough for the water to run off. 1815 ELPHINSTONE *Acc. Caubul* (1842) I. 117 The slope of the countries on each side of the mountains, is pointed out by the direction of the streams. 1863 BARRY *Dockyard Econ.* 139 The frame timbers are then cut by the sawyers to the slope required by the moulds. 1878 HUXLEY *Physiography* 15 The rapidity with which a river flows will depend upon the amount of slope in its bed.

b. *Mil.* A position between perpendicular and horizontal.

1868 *Regul. & Orders Army* § 615 e, The crowbar is carried at the Slope resting on the right Shoulder. 1887 *Times* (weekly ed.) 28 Oct. 18/4, I..brought the rifle from the 'slope' to the 'port'.

3. A slant; an inclined surface of any kind.

1707 MORTIMER *Husbandry* 397 [In] those Boughs that lean from the Head, cut the sloap on the lower side. 1828 STARK *Elem. Nat. Hist.* II. 98 Shell triangular,.. cartilage slope rather protruded. 1837 GORING *Microgr.* 91 Two pieces of wood carved out to fill the slope of the upper part of the face.

b. A desk, or substitute for this, having a sloping top.

1833 T. HOOK *Love & Pride, The Widow* xi, A small writing-desk, or as it is technically called by cabinet-makers, a slope. 1897 *Army & Navy Stores List* 742 Blotting Desk Slopes.., room under the pad for loose papers.

4. *Naut.* (See quot.)

1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk., Slope of Wind*, a breeze favouring a long tack near to the required course, and which may be expected to veer to fair.

Slope (slōup), *sb.*[2] *colloq.* [f. SLOPE *v.*[2]] An act of making off, running or slinking away, etc.

1859 BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.* (ed. 2) 416 *Slope*, a running away, elopement, escape. 1897– in *Eng. Dial. Dict.* ('to do a slope').

Slope, obs. var. SLAP *sb.*[2] *Sc.*, SLEEP *sb.*

Slope (slōup), *a.* Now *poet.* Also 6 **sloape**, 8 **slop**. [f. as SLOPE *sb.*[1]]

1. Sloping, slanting.

1502 ARNOLDE *Chron.* 64 Thou most..kitt it soo with a slope draught. 1555 W. WATREMAN *Fardle of Facions* App. 315 But se there be none ascence ther vnto by staiers, but onely..by a slope bancque of Turfes. 1594 BLUNDEVIL *Exerc.* III. I. ii. (1636) 295 What is the Zodiaque? It is a broad, oblique, or slope Circle. 1626 BACON *Sylva* § 880 There the Water Rowleth, and Moveth,..with a Sloper Rise, and Fall. 1677 MOXON *Mech. Exerc.* iii. 46 The slope Teeth of the Worm wheel will gather into the slope Grooves of the Spindle. 1724 SIR W. HOPE *Vind. Art. Self-défence* 131 Cross his sword..by a slop or squint motion of your sword-hand. 1735 SOMERVILLE *Chase* III. 440 To drain the stagnate Fen, to raise the slope Depending Road. 1812 *Self Instructor* 27 For the slope hands, turn your left side a little towards the desk. 1884 TENNYSON *Becket* II. ii, Holy Church..will not wreck, nor our Archbishop Stagger on the slope decks.

†2. Affording no certainty. *Obs. rare.*

1587 *Mirr. Mag., Forrex* xviii. 6 For hope is sloape, and hold is hard to snatche.

Slope (slōup), *v.*[1] Also 6–8 **sloap** (7 **sloape**), 7 **sloop-**, 8 **slop**. [f. SLOPE *a.*]

1. *intr.* To take, to move or proceed in, an oblique direction.

In some cases with suggestion of sense 2.

1591 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* I. v. 538 He..sloaping swiftly overthwart those Seas..Makes double haste to finde some happy strand. 1598 *ibid.* II. ii. IV. *Columnes* 319 Where Titan's..Chariot sloaps. 1633 *Cal. of State P., E. India & P.* VIII. 380 The houses being so near the waterside that a man coming ashore may presently slope into one and find chapmen. 1798 COLERIDGE *Ball. Dark Ladie* iv, The sun was sloping down the sky. 1825 W. COBBETT *Rur. Rides* (1885) II. 1 Crossing Lord Carnarvon's park,..and sloping away to our right over the downs. 1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* I. ii. 22 The sun was sloping to the west. 1890 CLARK RUSSELL *Marriage at Sea* iv, The [setting] sun that was now sloping into the Atlantic.

2. To assume, to have or be in, a sloping or slanting position or direction.

α. 1709 DAMPIER *Voy.* III. II. 88 The burning Island.. runs from the Sea a little sloaping towards the Top. 1765 A. DICKSON *Treat. Agric.* (ed. 2) 226 That the first coulter be set almost perpendicular..; that the second slope but a little. 1796 T. TWINING *Trav. India*, etc. (1893) 128 On the left of the fire-place was a sofa, which sloped across the room. 1825 J. NICHOLSON *Operat. Mechanic* 106 The canal ..should slope about four inches in the first 200 yards. 1877 A. B. EDWARDS *Up Nile* xviii. 478 The corner where the mountain slopes down to the river.

β. 1707 SIR W. HOPE *New Method Fencing* (1714) 11 His Sword's Point must slop towards the middle part of his Adversary's advanced Thigh.

3. *trans.* To bring into, to place or put in, a sloping or slanting position; to bend down; to direct downwards or obliquely.

1605 SHAKS. *Mach.* IV. i. 57 Though Pallaces and Pyramids do slope Their heads to their Foundations. 1638 MILTON *Lycidas* 31 Till the Star..Toward Heav'ns descent had slop'd his westering wheel. 1667 — *P. L.* I. 223 The flames..slope their pointing spires. 1748 THOMSON *Cast. Indol.* I. lviii, When Dan Sol to slope his wheels began. 1833 ELLIS *Elgin Marbles* I. 14 They come.., sloping their way. 1844 LD. HOUGHTON *Mem. Many Scenes* 104 His spirit of splendour has gone forth, Sloping wide violet rays.

b. *spec.* To bring (a weapon) into, or hold (it) in, a sloping position. Also *transf.*

1625 MARKHAM *Souldiers Accid.* 24 Sloape your Musquet. 1634 MASSINGER *Very Woman* III. i, Face to your left hand;—Feather your hat;—slope your hat;—now charge. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. xix. (Roxb.) 147/2 Slope your pike, is to draw the But end of the pike (being shouldred) almost to the ground and the point aloft. 1707 SIR W. HOPE *New Method Fencing* 13 He must, as the thrust is coming home, slop his point to make a cross. 1796 *Cavalry Instr.* (1813) 243 In general swords will be carried with the blade resting on the hollow of the shoulder, and by the word *Slope Swords*. 1807 J. BARLOW *Columb.* VII. 346 Till.. the meeting ranks Slope their strong bayonets. 1859 F. A. GRIFFITHS *Artill. Man.* (1862) 34 The leading division will.. slope arms.

4. To cut, form, or make, with a slope or slant.

1611 COTGR., *Taluër*, to slope, to set, cut, or make aslope. 1715 DESAGULIERS *Fires Impr.* 122 Let both be bezell'd or sloap'd. 1763 MILLS *Pract. Husb.* IV. 216 The first [way] is, to slope the cion off a full inch, or more. 1797 *Trans. Soc. Arts* XV. 188 The bank and ditch being properly laid out and sloped. 1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* I. 216 Each side..should be sloped off, to receive the bond of the adjoining work. *a* 1878 SIR G. SCOTT *Lect. Archit.* (1879) I. 249 Mouldings which received much rain.. were very much more sloped than in Classic work.

b. *absol.* To give a slope to the letters in writing.

1837 DICKENS *Pickw.* xiv, The lines they used to rule in the copybooks at school, to make the boys slope well.

Slope (slōup), *v.*[2] *colloq.* [Originally *U.S.*; perh. formed by wrong analysis of *let's lope* (see LOPE *v.*), but cf. some of the uses of SLOPE *v.*[1] 1.]

1. *intr.* To make off, depart, decamp.

1839 MARRYAT *Diary America* Ser. I. II. 232 Here are two real American words:—'Sloping'—for slinking away; 'Splunging', like a porpoise. 1857 *Slang Dict.* 19 *He sloped*, he went off. 1866 MISS BRADDON *The Lady's Mile* i, We may as well slope,..it's nearly 7 o'clock. 1890 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Col. Reformer* (1891) 80 You may go straight ..to the..police station as soon as I slope.

b. With advs., esp. *off*.

1851 MAYNE REID *Rifle Rangers* vi. 50 We can't go on to Washington—what can we do but slope home again? 1861 *Sat. Rev.* 22 June 629 If it is pretty lively, they stay; if it is dull, they slope off. 1898 G. W. E. RUSSELL *Collect. & Recoll.* xxxiv. 477 Whoever slopes homewards, the Government must stay.

2. *trans.* To leave (lodgings) without paying.

In the sense of 'cheat, trick', *slope* is recorded in dialect use from 1828 onwards.

1908 *Reminis. Stonemason* 100 They had 'sloped' their lodgings.

†**Slope**, *v.*[3] *Obs.*[–1] (Meaning obscure.)

13.. *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* xxxvii. 772 And 3if þe luste riȝt wel slope, Cum whon he doþ of his Masse-cope.

Slope (slōup), *adv.* [Aphetic for ASLOPE *adv.*] In a sloping or slanting manner or position. (In later use only *poet.*)

a 1470 TIPTOFT *Cæsar* V. (1530) 8 Theyr horsys ronne in placys slope steepyng. 1572 MASCALL *Plant. & Graff.* (1592) 73 Ye shall bore slope a hole with an Auger, in the biggest part of the bodie of the Tree. 1577 B. GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* III. (1586) 129 Both sortes must be laied slope, that the water may run away. 1653 H. COGAN tr. *Pinto's Trav.* lv. (1663) 217 The Temple..is built all slope fifteen fathom high. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* IV. 591 That bright beam, whose point now raisd Bore him slope downward to the Sun. 1807 J. BARLOW *Columb.* I. 188 Steep before them stood, Slope from the town, a heaven-illumined road. 1820 KEATS *Hyperion* I. 204 Hyperion..Came slope upon the threshold of the west.

Slope- in combs., representing either the sb. or adj., or the stem of the vb. a. With nouns, as *slope-block, -board, -desk*, etc. (see quots.).

1834–47 J. S. MACAULAY *Field Fortif.* (1860) 206 The *slope-block is a cube of wood, whose side is made equal to the intended difference of level. 1648 HEXHAM II. s.v. *Galm*, The *Slope-board-windowes in a Steeple of Bells, to give them the better sound. 1884 YATES *Recoll.* iii, On the edge of his green *slope-desk. 1805 R. W. DICKSON *Pract. Agric.* I. 389 Machines..for scooping out *slope drains, where necessary, in a field. 1828 STEUART *Planter's G.* (ed. 2) 199 No water can stagnate..where the entire bottom of the space.. is worked to a uniform level, that is, a *slope-level. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2214/2 The slope-level or clinometer is used for determining the angle of embankments, the grade of roads, pitch of roofs [etc.]. 1712 J. JAMES tr. *Le Blond's Gardening* 67 The Turf must be laid so that..the *Slope-line be kept without Elbows and Inequalities. 1859 CAYLEY *Math. Papers* IV. 108 A system of contour lines and steepest or slope lines. 1683 MOXON *Mech. Exerc., Printing* xiii. P 3 The *Slope-sholdering of the Counter-Punch. 1669 STURMY *Mariner's Mag.* II. xvi. 96 This Distance from B to H is the true Length of the *Sloap-side BE. 1870 MORRIS *Earthly Par.* II. III. 469 A gay-striped tent Just raised upon the slope-side. 1864 DASENT *Jest & Earnest* (1873) I. 38 These *slope-swards are often so large, that it takes more than a day to work them out.

b. Forming parasynthetic adjs., as *slope-browed, -eared, -roofed, -toothed*.

1647 R. STAPYLTON *Juvenal* 129 Thou satest up till midnight; which..None that cards woollwith sloap-tooth'd wyre would do. 1813 J. N. BREWER *Beauties Eng. & Wales* XII. II. 116 It has a very ancient church with a slope-roofed tower. 1827 GRIFFITH tr. *Cuvier* II. 153 The slope-eared bat (*vespertilio emarginatus*) is another of the bats of Europe. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* III. III. ii, A bald, rude, slope-browed, infuriated visage of the canine species.

Sloped (slōupt), *ppl. a.* Also 7 **sloapt**, 8 **sloap'd**. [f. SLOPE *v.*[1]] Formed with a slope; cut, raised, placed, etc., in a sloping position.

1683 MOXON *Mech. Exerc., Printing* xxiv. P 10 Turning the Ball about by its Handle, [he] presses it hard against the sloapt edge of the Ball-knife. 1693 EVELYN *De la Quint. Compl. Gard.* I. 167, I will make into Sloped Banks the 15 Toises or Fathoms of Augmentation to the South. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Engrafting*, Almost as long as the sloap'd Part of the Cyon. 1766 *Compl. Farmer* s.v. *Surveying*, An index, which is a large ruler of wood..having a sloped edge. 1842 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* V. 319/1 The sloped work had been destroyed. 1859 RUSKIN *Perspective* xviii. 132 Cut a piece of strong white pasteboard.., and dip it in a sloped position into water. 1893 EARL DUNMORE *Pamirs* I. 73 Two Kashmiri soldiers..marching along with sloped arms.

†**Slo·pely**, *adv. Obs.*[–1] In 6 **sloaply**. [f. SLOPE *a.*] Slopingly; aslope.

1598 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. ii. IV. *Columnes* 312 The next, which there beneath it sloaply slides.., is called the Zodiac, the Planet's path.

†**Slo·peness.** *Obs.* [f. SLOPE *a.*] The condition of having a slope; sloping form or position.

1551 RECORDE *Pathw. Knowl.* Pref., If he kepe not a.. iuste slopenesse in the sides.., the diche shall be faultie many waies. 1598 BARRET *Theor. Warres* Gloss. 251 Pendent, is the bending or slopenesse of the Parapet outward. 1611 COTGR., *Biseau*,..such a slopenesse, or slope forme, as is in the point of an yron leauer, chizle, &c. 1624 WOTTON *Archit.* in *Relig.* (1651) 269 The Italians are very precise in giving the Cover a gracefull pendence of sloapnesse.

Sloper (slōu·pəɹ). *U.S.* [f. SLOPE *sb.*[1]] An inhabitant of the Pacific slope of the United States.

1892 *Nation* (N.Y.) 14 Apr., All other 'slopers'..can avoid this evil and at the same time contribute to the prosperity of the slope.

Slopeways (slōu·pwēiz), *adv.* [f. SLOPE *sb.*[1] or *a.*] In a sloping manner or position.

1670 J. SMITH *Eng. Improv. Reviv'd* 25 Setting them upright, or slope ways, or flat. 1681 CHETHAM *Angler's Vade-m.* iii. § 4 (1689) 20 From the inside to the back of the hook slope-ways. 1765 *Museum Rust.* IV. cvi. 459 The beets should be put into the canals slope-ways. 1893 KIPLING *Many Invent.* 18 The rigging, which ran criss-cross and slopeways.

Slo·pewise, *adv.* Now *rare* or *Obs.* = prec. In common use *c* 1530 to 1770.

1530 PALSGR. 702/1, I shedde, as an hyll dothe slopewyse downwardes to the valley. 1577 B. GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* II. (1586) 84 But Plinie would haue them slope wise. 1657 AUSTEN *Fruit Trees* I. 61, I should rather cut off a convenient height from the ground, slope-wise. 1669 WORLIDGE *Syst. Agric.* (1681) 244 Prick the Rods sloap-wise against the Wind. 1743 *Phil. Trans.* XLII. 418 It had the Appearance which a Tube, or rather a Cone, would make cut slopewise. 1771 *Encycl. Brit.* II. 211/2 Large iron cards, placed slopewise.

†**Slopfall.** *Obs.*[–0] A cord or rope fastened to the front frame of a loom in order to support the weaver when bending to the shuttle.

1782 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 2) IX. 6711/2.

Slopiness. *rare*[–0]. = SLOPENESS.

1611 COTGR., *Talus*,..slopenesse, or slopinesse. 1650 *Cotgrave's Dict.* (ed. 3), *Glacis*,..a sloaping, sloapinesse, gentle bending downewards.

Sloping (slōu·piŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. SLOPE *v.*[1]] The fact of being or forming a slope; degree of slope; a sloping surface.

1611 COTGR., *Glacis*,..a sloaping, sloapenesse, gentle bending downewards. 1645 N. STONE *Enchiridion Fortif.* 3 On the inward side they gave them [*sc.* the walls] a *Talud* or slooping. 1656 H. PHILLIPS *Purch. Patt.* (1676) 204 If the sloaping of the Tun be not much. 1712 J. JAMES tr. *Le Blond's Gardening* 27 The great Walk in the middle..is supposed to be a gentle Sloping. 1794 SULLIVAN *View of Nature* II. 145 The different sloping of the ground. 1830 TENNYSON *Arab. Nts.* 30 Where all The sloping of the moon-lit sward Was damask-work. 1903 DAVIDSON *O. T. Prophecy* ix. 138 The stair-like sloping to heaven of the land.

Sloping (slōu·piŋ), *ppl. a.* [f. as prec.] That slopes, in senses of the vb.

1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* (1637) 727 Mountaines, whose sloping sides in some places beare good grass. 1642 H. MORE *Song Soul* III. I. vi, Many thousand sloping sunnes have set. 1687 A. LOVELL tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* III. 25 Where there are no Steps there is a sloaping descent to the Bason. 1765 A. DICKSON *Agric.* (ed. 2) 211 A curved mold-board with a sloping sheath. 1797 COLERIDGE *Anc. Mar.* I. xii, With sloping masts and dipping prow..The ship drove fast. 1822 J. PARKINSON *Outl. Oryctol.* 189 The ligament ..is inserted in the sloping depression in each valve. 1875 SIR T. SEATON *Fret-Cutting* 94 The extra wood..given by the sloping cut can be pared away afterwards.

b. In quasi-adverbial construction.

1658 tr. *Porta's Nat. Magick* III. xvii. 98 Bore a hole sloaping into the body of a Tree. 1665 *Phil. Trans.* I. 45 These Crucibles are laid sloaping. 1715 DESAGULIERS *Fires Impr.* 124 In such manner, that it may open sloping within the Funnel. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* II. viii. 218 The course of the water..ran sloping with a rapid but uniform motion. 1838 *Penny Cycl.* XI. 342/1 The stock is cut over, sloping, above a smooth and straight part.

Slopingly (slōu·piŋli), *adv.* [f. prec.] In a sloping manner or position; obliquely, slantingly.

1644 DIGBY *Nat. Bodies* xi. § 7. 92 These atomes do not descend alwayse perpendicularly, but sometimes sloapingly. 1675 HAN. WOOLLEY *Gentlew. Comp.* 115 Raise the Merry-thought from the breast, and lace it down sloppingly. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* II. x. 241 A great number of mats, which.. they place slopingly against the gunwale. 1809 *Ann. Reg.* 346 A regular descent will be made, by cutting away the earth slopingly. 1846 *Blackw. Mag.* LX. 770 The partridge glances slopingly through the trees. 1887 *Cent. Mag.* XXIII. 593 A long straight shaft, cut slopingly through the solid stone.

†**Slo·pingness.** *Obs. rare.* [f. as prec.] Sloping condition or position.

1644 DIGBY *Nat. Bodies* XXX. § 6. 266 The litlenesse of the angle and the sloapingnesse of the line. 1727 BAILEY (vol. II), *Slopingness*, Slantingness, going diagonally.

Sloppage (slo·pėdʒ). *rare*[–1]. [f. SLOP *sb.*[2] or *v.*[2]] Slops collectively; slopped matter.

1884 *Cent. Mag.* Dec. 264/1 Sloppage, leakage, and the tainted air..make this space untidy and in every way objectionable.

†**Slopped,** *ppl. a.*[1] *Obs.*[–1] In 7 **slopt**. [f. SLOP *sb.*[1] + -ED [2].] Dressed in slops; wearing wide breeches.

a 1601 *Pasquil & Kath.* (1878) I. 125 Nor doe I enuie Polyphemian puffes, Swizars slopt greatnesse.

Slopped (slǫpt), *ppl. a.*[2] [f. SLOP *v.*[2] + -ED [2].] Soiled or marked with slops; sloppy.

1806 J. BERESFORD *Miseries Hum. Life* IX. i, Coarse, grimed, slopped, scanty table cloth. 1864 M. EYRE *Walks S. France* IX. (1865) 104 The tables..were all dusty, and all slopped.

†**Slopper,** *sb.*[1] *Obs.*[–1] = SLOP *sb.*[1] 4.

1549 *Wills & Inv. N. C.* (Surtees, 1835) 131 It'm I gyue to Robert sawer a payre of frese sloppers.

†**Slopper,** *sb.*[2] *Obs.*[–1] A scupper.

1622 R. Hawkins *Obs. Voy. S. Sea* xvii. 40 The *Iesus of Lubecke*..had beene burnt without redemption, if that my Father..had not commaunded her Sloppers to be stopt, and the men to come to the Pumpes.

Slopper (slǫ·pəɹ), *sb.*[3] [f. Slop *sb.*[1] + -er [1].] A dealer in slop-clothing.

1854 *Illustr. Lond. News* 16 Dec. 624/2 The old system of making clothes by the wholesale sloppers.

†**Slopper** (also **-are**), obs. variant of Slipper *a.*

1423 Jas. I *Kingis Q.* clxiii, The sudayn weltering Of that Ilk quhele, that sloppare was to hold. *c* 1540 *Boke of fayre Gentylwoman* A iv, Cast up thyne eye and seke howe slopper chaunce Illudeth her men.

Sloppery (slǫ·pəɹi). [f. Slop *sb.*[2] + -ery.] Sloppy matter.

1858 Carlyle *Fredk. Gt.* viii. iii. (1872) III. 11 A ragout of old bones full of hairs and slopperies.

Sloppily (slǫ·pili), *adv.* [f. Sloppy *a.* + -ly [2].] In a sloppy or slovenly manner.

1898 *Daily News* 11 Oct. 6/4 His broadly but not sloppily touched landscapes.

Sloppiness (slǫ·pinės). [f. Sloppy *a.* + -ness.] The state of being sloppy.

1727 Bailey (vol. II), *Slabbiness*, Sloppiness, Fulness of Plashes. 1828–32 Webster, *Sloppiness*, wetness of the earth; muddiness. 1862 Miss Yonge *C'tess Kate* xii, The sloppiness of a grey November day. 1884 *St. James's Gaz.* 12 Jan. 6/2 The general sloppiness of the handling (in a painting).

Slopping (slǫ·piŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. Slop *v.*[2]] The action of the verb in various senses.

1771 Foote *Maid of B.* i. (1778), When I am got out of one fit, how the devil am I to gather strength to encounter the next? Do you think it is to be done by sipping and slopping? 1881 *Daily Telegr.* 28 Jan., The slopping of the water outside made a strange sound. 1888 *Scribner's Mag.* III. 427 It prevents slopping, but on the other hand makes it hard to pour.

So **Slo·pping** *ppl. a.*

1839 Hood *To St. Swithin* vii, Milkmaids, and other slopping benefactors!

Sloppy (slǫ·pi), *a.* Also 8 (9 *dial.*) **slappy.** [f. Slop *sb.*[2] + -y [1].]

1. Of ground, etc.: Very wet and splashy; covered with water or thin mud.

1727 Bailey (vol. II), *Sloppy*,..plashy. 1727 Boyer *Dict. Royal, Gacheux*,..slabby, slappy, plashy. 1768–74 Tucker *Lt. Nat.* (1834) I. 207 Notwithstanding some trifling inconveniences of sloppy roads. 1798 Jefferson *Writ.* (1859) IV. 215 It is snowing fast at this time, and the most sloppy walking I ever saw. 1806 Beresford *Miseries Hum. Life* III. ix, Cricket on very sloppy ground. 1837 Dickens *Pickw.* li, The streets were wet and sloppy. 1890 F. W. Robinson *Very Strange Family* 4 A wet, sloppy, windy, October day.

2. Of a semi-liquid consistency; watery and disagreeable: a. Of snow, etc.

1794 Gisborne *Walks in Forest* vi. (1796) 98 Sloppy pools In the surrounding pulp lay stagnant. 1830 *Q. Rev.* XLII. 81 You have the varieties of deep and fresh snow, soft and sloppy, or covered with a crackling coat of ice. 1846 *Peter Parley's Ann.* VII. 10 The rain began to fall, the ice to get sloppy. 1860 Tyndall *Glac.* i. iii. 27 A glacier, the ice of which was covered by sloppy snow.

b. Of articles of diet.

1825 J. Neal *Bro. Jonathan* I. 412 Pure indeed!..Nasty, sloppy stuff. 1828 *Sporting Mag.* XXII. 209 She has lived on sloppy mashes and green meat. 1866 Mrs. Gaskell *Wives & Daughters* xl, Having had to eat sloppy puddings with a fork instead of a spoon.

3. Splashed or soiled with liquid; wet from slopping; covered with slops; messy.

1838 Dickens *Nickleby* x, A silver coffee-pot, an egg-shell, and sloppy china for one. 1848 Thackeray *Van. Fair* lxvi, Idlers, playing cards or dominoes on the sloppy, beery tables. 1882 B. M. Croker *Proper Pride* I. viii. 155 Passing a very sloppy cup recklessly towards her.

4. Weak, feeble; lacking in firmness or precision; slovenly.

1825 J. Neal *Bro. Jonathan* I. 73 Each after a fashion of his own—more or less dignified or sloppy, as he is more or less afraid of being caught. 1881 *Academy* 15 Oct. 289 Too prone to indulge in sloppy English. 1897 *Bookman* Jan. 123/2 Seventeen sloppy and scandalously inaccurate pages.

5. Of dress: Loose, slack, ill-fitting.

1825 Brockett *N. C. Gloss., Sloppy*, loose, wide. 1852 Maitland *Eight Ess.* 236 Adorned with a sloppy dressing-gown. 1882 *Queen* 7 Oct. (Cassell), It must not be imagined that, to be easy, dress must necessarily be sloppy.

†**Slopsauce**, variant of Slapsauce I. *Obs.*

1595 *Locrine* III. iii, You..cockscomb, you slopsauce, lick-fingers, will you not heare?

Slo·p-seller. [f. Slop *sb.*[1]] A dealer in slop-clothing.

1665 Pepys *Diary* 21 Mar., A couple of state-cups..from Burrows the slopseller. 1691 Maydman *Naval Specul.* 129 The Slop-seller, is a Person crept into the Navy, I mean to Monopolize the vending of Cloathing solely. 1758 *M.P.'s Let. on R. N.* 12 The Surgeons, Pursers, and Slopsellers,.. are put to great Trouble. 1760 C. Johnston *Chrysal* I. xii, Encouraging Slop-Sellers to come on board, when the men are paying. 1804 *Naval Chron.* XII. 249 The slop-sellers, and other sharks, at this port. 1838 Dickens *Nickleby* xxx, Nicholas hurried into a slopseller's hard by, and bought Smike a great-coat. 1882 Sergt. Ballantine *Exper.* xxxiv. 331 A little Hebrew slopseller from the Minories.

So **Slo·p-selling** *vbl. sb.* and *ppl. a.*

1842 Barham *Ingol. Leg.* Ser. II. *Dead Drummer* Wks. (1905) 339 Addressing those slop-selling females afloat. 1848 Dickens *Dombey* xxxii, One of those convenient slopselling establishments..at the eastern end of London.

Slo·p-shop. [f. Slop *sb.*[1]] A shop where slop-clothing is sold.

1723 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 6194/11 John Lees,..Slopshop. 1796 *Modern Gulliver* 175 From the whole stock of a slop-shop, I procured linen sufficient for a pair of trowsers. 1851 Mayhew *Lond. Lab.* I. 369/1 The old coats and trowsers are wanted for the slop-shops; they are to be 'turned', and made up into new garments. 1879 Sala *Paris herself again* (1880) I. iii. 29 There yet remain slop-shops in the Palais Royal; but they are few in number.

fig. 1794 Mathias *Purs. Lit.* (1798) 375 When Philosopher Hume..set up a kind of slop-shop of morality in the suburbs of Atheism. 1853 Lowell *Moosehead Jrnl.* Prose Wks. 1890 I. 39 So we all go to the slop-shop and come out uniformed, ..with habits of thinking and doing cut on one pattern.

attrib. 1853 Kane *Grinnell Exped.* xl. (1856) 365 Legs in sailor pants of pilot cloth, slop-shop cut. 1884 *Cent. Mag.* XXVIII. 549 Brown and I will back you up in it, and so will the slop-shop man.

Slo·p-work. [f. Slop *sb.*[1]]

1. The making of slop-garments; the articles thus made.

1849 *Knife & Fork* 34 A charge of illegally pawning slop-work. 1855 Dickens *Dorrit* I. xviii, The waistcoat of sprigs—mere slop-work, if the truth must be known. 1890 *Spectator* 4 Oct., The girls do not retain the use of their needle...; and the slop-work is so cheap.

attrib. 1885 *Queen* 26 Sept. (Cassell), Worse done than if sent to the worst slop-work shop in the East-end.

2. Work cheaply and imperfectly done.

1861 Smiles *Lives Engineers* II. 216 He would not risk his reputation..on slop-work. 1870 J. B. Brown *Eccl. Truth* 267 The starvation wages on which it [capital] can get its slop-work done.

So **Slo·p-worker**, one who does slop-work.

1851 Mayhew *Lond. Lab.* (1864) II. 342/2 The slop-workers ..will make nine such sized mantles in a week. 1859 Geo. Eliot in Cross *Life* (1885) II. 133 The little sleeping slop-worker who had pricked her tiny finger so. 1890 *Spectator* 4 Oct. 438/2 That slop-workers should be trained to sew, does not enter into their programme.

Slopy (slō·pi), *a.* [f. Slope *sb.*[1] or *v.*[1] + -y [1].] Sloping.

1740 Richardson *Pamela* I. 229 When they see the dead Corpse of the unhappy Pamela dragg'd out to these slopy Banks. 1793 G. White *Selborne, Invitation to S.*, Here Nature hangs her slopy woods to sight. 1860 Trollope *Framley P.* xxxvi, A green slopy bank of land. 1866 *Amer. Newsp.* in *Sat. Rev.* 14 July 40/1 The tender meetings on the slopy swards of the park.

Slore, obs. or dial. form of Slur *sb.*[1]

Slorp (slōɹp), *v. dial.* and *Sc.* [Cf. Du. and MLG. *slorpen* in the same sense. See also Slurp *v.*] *intr.* and *trans.* To drink, sup, or eat greedily, noisily, or coarsely.

1802 in Sibbald *Chron. Sc. Poet.* IV. Gloss. 1808 in Jamieson. 1825– in northern and western dial. glossaries. [See *Eng. Dial. Dict.* for other senses.]

Slorry, slory, dial. and obs. ff. Slurry *v.*

Slosh (slǫʃ), *sb.* [Cf. next and Slush *sb.*[1]]

1. Slush, sludge.

1824 Southey *Lett.* (1856) II. 342 Now that it is converted into good wholesome *slosh*, I resume my morning walks. 1851 *Illustr. Lond. News* 27 Sept. 395/2 High fur-trimmed boots, the very things for American sloughs and slosh. 1887 Ashby Sterry *Lazy Minstr.* (1892) 50, I care not a feather for slime or for slosh!

2. Watery, weak, or unappetizing drink.

1819 'R. Rabelais the Younger' *Abeillard & Heloisa* 198 A pow'rful dose of slosh administer'd by way of emetic. 1861 F. W. Robinson *No Church* viii, 'Beer, brandy, rum, gin, anything but slosh,' he muttered, as Mary placed a cup of tea at his side. 1899 'A. Raine' *Berwen Banks* 156 Ay don't want her cup o' tea! Never could bear the slosh.

b. Weak and trifling work or writing.

1896 *Q. Rev.* July 194 Rossetti in confounding all previous schools under the term 'slosh' is as much out of court as Ruskin in ignoring Dutch painting.

3. A quantity of some liquid.

1888 *Cornh. Mag.* Oct. 375 Corn-cake washed down with a generous slosh of whisky.

Slosh (slǫʃ), *v.*[1] [f. prec. or imitative.]

1. *intr.* To splash about in mud or wet.

1844 Kinglake *Eothen* ii, Then on we went, dripping and sloshing. 1847 Lord Haddo *Mem.* (1866) I. 16 We ..slosh through the moor to a shepherd's house. 1894 Sir J. D. Astley *50 Yrs. Life* I. 286, I then slipped, slid, and sloshed down into Balaclava.

2. *U.S.* To move aimlessly; to hang or loaf about.

1854 in Bartlett (1859). 1864 *Daily Telegr.* 29 Aug., I am the rather loafing about Canada. I am 'sloshing around', as the Louisiana negroes..are said to 'slosh'. 1879 Tourgee *Fool's Errand* vi. 26, I was just sorter sloshin' around loose-like.

3. To make a splashing sound. Hence **Slo·shing** *vbl. sb.* and *ppl. a.*

1888 F. Cowper *Caedwalla* 54 They could just hear the sloshing sound made by his feet as he got into the mud. 1894 *Times* 12 Apr. 13/3 She next heard a 'sloshing' of water. *Ibid.*, All the time that she was listening she heard the 'sloshing' of water.

†**Slosh,** *v.*[2] *Obs. rare.* In 6 sloss(h)e. [Imitative: cf. prec. and Sloff *v.*] *trans.* To lap up or swallow greedily.

1548 Udall, etc. *Erasm. Par. 2 Ep. Peter* II. 19 The dogge slosseth vp agayn that he hath once caste vp. 1553 Bale *Gardiner's De Vera Obed.* B iiij, Y° bishop of Rome ..will easyly content himselfe, specially whan there is one morsell or other layde to him to slosshe.

Slosh-wheel. (See quot.)

1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2610/2 *Trammel-wheel.* Sometimes called a *slosh-wheel.*

Sloshy (slǫ·ʃi), *a.* [f. Slosh *sb.*] Slushy.

1828 Carr *Craven Gloss., Sloshy*, in a state of slosh. 1862 G. H. Kingsley *Sp. & Trav.* (1900) 379 London the foggy, with its dirty, sloshy, melting snow. 1879 Miss Braddon *Cloven Foot* xiii. 118 The sound of a footstep on the sloshy gravel walk.

Hence **Slo·shiness.**

1894 *Amateur Gardening* 4 Feb. 391 The drainage of such a path will be imperfect, hence 'sloshiness' in wet weather.

Slot (slǫt), *sb.*[1] Chiefly *north.* and *Sc.* Also (4) 5–6 slotte, 5–7 (9) slott, and Slote *sb.* [a. MDu. or MLG. *slot* (so Du. and LG.), = OHG. *sloz* (G. *schloss*) door-bolt, lock, from the weak grade of the stem **slūt-, sliut-* to close (MDu. *sluten*, Du. *sluiten*; OHG. *sliozan*, G. *schliessen*).]

1. A bar or bolt used to secure a door, window, etc., when closed. Now *dial.*

a 1300 *E. E. Ps.* cvi. 16 He forgnod yhates,..And slottes irened brake he pare. *c* 1340 *Nominale* (Skeat) 471 *Sere, veroil et cerrure*, Barre, slot and stapul. 1391 *Mem. Ripon* (Surtees) III. 108 In iij slottes ferri pro camp'is (?) figend. 3*d.* 1424–5 *Durh. Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 272, j fenestra in domo carbonum, cum j slott, j stapill. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 460/1 Slot, or schytyl of a dore, *verolium.* 1515 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* V. 13 Expensis..on lokkis, irne slottis, bandis of irne..for reparing and dichting of the palice. 1570 Levins *Manip.* 176 Y° Slot of a doore, *pessulus.* 1652 *Depos. York Castle* (Surtees) 49 Who assaulted his house, attempting to break in by opening two slotts or boults. 1663 in *Scottish N. & Q.* (1902) July 2 [They] did bring..ane number of yrons, bolts or slotts and caused put the samen vpon the doores. 1695 Kennett *Paroch. Antiq.* Gloss. s.v. *Slade*, In Northumberland the *slot* of a door is the bolt. 1825– in many northern dialect glossaries. 1855 Ainslie *Land Burns* (1892) 243 Our cadger..slippit in, Syne cannilie shot the muckle door slot. 1874 J. Crawford *Mem. Alloa* 76 He drew the slot, an'..In..the stranger passed.

b. A bolt forming part of the mechanism of a lock.

1890 W. A. Wallace *Only a Sister?* 325, I did my best to put back the slot of one of the locks.

2. A metal rod; a flat wooden bar, esp. one forming a cross-piece.

1399 *Mem. Ripon* (Surtees) III. 133 In slot de ferro empto pro prædicto baner, *4d.* *c* 1400 in Nicolas *Hist. Royal Navy* (1847) II. 444 Slot of iron [for the guns]. 1497 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* I. 334, iij serpentinis gunnis..; with ilkane tua chameris, thair mykkis and thair slottis. 1542 *Extr Aberd. Reg.* (1844) I. 185 Menzes and..Nicholsoune to be maisteris of the artillierie, and to provyd boolis, slottis, and all vder munitionis requirit thairto.

1788 W. H. Marshall *Yorksh.* II. 353 *Slot*, any broad, flat wooden bar. 1833 Loudon *Encycl. Archit.* § 1316 A bridge [in a cider-press]..is suspended at each end by two slots (cross bars) playing on a rim. 1853 Sir H. Douglas *Milit. Bridges* (ed. 3) 336 Bridges formed of four or six rough trees, secured at their crossings by the cross-pieces (slots in carpentry). 1892 *Daily Telegr.* 17 June 4/8 He noticed that the 'slot' worked from the next box was down.

b. *spec.* One of the cross-bars connecting the bulls of a harrow.

Occurs much earlier as *slote*: see Slote *sb.* 2.

1799 *Hull Advertiser* 15 June 2/2 Timber. For sale,.. harrow bulls and slots. 1808 in Jamieson. 1844 H. Stephens *Bk. Farm* II. 527 Four longitudinal bars,..with four lighter transverse bars, or *slots.* 1846 J. Baxter *Libr. Pract. Agric.* (ed. 4) II. 359 The 'slots' or cross-pieces of thin ash.

Slot (slǫt), *sb.*[2] Also 5–6 slote, 5, 8–9 slott. [ad. OF. *esclot* in sense 1 (see examples in Godefroy, wrongly explained), of obscure origin.]

1. The slight depression or hollow running down the middle of the breast. Now *Sc.* and *rare.*

13.. *Gaw. & Gr. Knt.* 1330 Syben þay slyt þe slot, sesed þe erber. *Ibid.* 1593 Þe mon..Set sadly þe scharp in þe slot euen, Hit hym vp to þe hult, þat þe hert schyndered. ? *a* 1400 *Morte Arth.* 2254 O-slante doune fro þe slote he slyttes at ones! *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 3063 The slote of hir sleȝh brest [was] sleght for to showe. 1721 *Compl. Fam. Piece* I. i. 43 If a Child..has Pain in the Back, or Slot of the Breast. 1808 Jamieson, *Slot of the breast*, the pit of the stomach; where the breast-bone slopes away on each side, leaving a hollow. *a* 1904 in *Eng. Dial. Dict.*

2. An elongated narrow depression or perforation made in the thickness of a piece of timber, etc., usually for the reception of some other part or piece, whether fixed or movable.

Slot hole occurs earlier (1485) in this sense: see 6.

1523 Fitzherb. *Husb.* § 4 At the ploughe-tayle, where be two wedges, that be called slote-wedges: the one is in the slote above the beame, the other in the saide slote, vnder the plough-beame. 1577 Harrison *England* II. xi. (1877) I. 227 A square blocke of wood.., which dooth ride vp and downe in a slot, rabet, or regall betweene two pieces of timber. 1747 Hooson *Miner's Dict.* S iv, Formerly the Fork[s] were used to be Tennerd, and the Sills made with Slotts to put them in. 1825 J. Nicholson *Operat. Mechanic* 435 The catch-box has a slot, fitting a feather on the spindle. 1850 Chubb *Locks & Keys* 33 A brass guard, in which there was a slot for a pin to slide in. 1881 Young *Every Man his own Mechanic* 76 Mortising machines and others for boring and making slots in timber.

b. The opening in a slot-machine for the reception of a coin. Also *fig.*

1888 *Pall Mall G.* 25 Sept. 5/1 'Drop a penny into the slot' and you can..obtain a cigarette. 1893 *Times* 28 Apr. 9/3 The Chancellor..has had recourse to the latest automatic invention, and has put a penny in the slot.

3. (See quots.)

1590 Cokaine *Treat. Hunting* D j, Diuers Buckes haue sundrie slots in their palmes: some haue slots on both sides: other some are plaine palmed. 1900 Pollok & Thom *Sports Burma* 373 The slots or divisions of the hoofs now showed very deep and distinctly in the soft earth.

4. *dial.* (See quots. 1796 and 1882.) Also *attrib.*, as *slot-hem.*

1796 F. LEIGHTON *MS. Letter*, To the Yorkshire words add *Slot*, meaning the open hem in which the strings run of a purse, work-bag, night cap, &c. 1828– in dialect glossaries (Yks., Lanc., Linc.). 1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* II. 508 A couple of tapes drawn tight in a slot-hem. 1882 CAULFEILD & SAWARD *Dict. Needlwk.* 452/2 *Slot*, an inelegant term, employed in the eastern counties of England to denote a casing formed either by a double Running, or by a Hem, for the reception of a ribbon or tape, to be used as a Running-string.

5. *Sc.* (See quot.)

This sense is also recorded for Norw. *slot* (Ross), and may represent a different word.

1808 JAMIESON, *The slot of a hill*, a hollow in a hill, or between two ridges.

6. *attrib.* (in sense 2), as *slot-arm, -bar, -bearing, hole*, etc.; *slot-wedge* (see 2, quot. 1523).

1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* IV. 392/2 As the *slot-arm [in a lathe] oscillates, it gives a reciprocating motion to the shaping slide. 1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* II. 331 The *slot-bar..is for the purpose of adjusting the length of the fourth foot of the machine to any inequalities of the barn-floor. 1869 RANKINE *Machine & Hand-tools* Pl. J 2, The bottom of the slot bar is arranged with a capped bearing. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 1109 The spindles with their bobbins revolve in two *slot-bearings. 1869 RANKINE *Machine & Hand-tools* Pl. J 2, These carriages and *slot heads are quite independent of each other in all their motions. 1485 *Nottingham Rec.* III. 244 For boryng of ij. *slott holes in a bote stake. 1869 RANKINE *Machine & Hand-tools* Pl. H 9, The tools are fixed..in square slot holes. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.*, **Slot-hoop*, the same as truss-hoops. 1869 RANKINE *Mach. & Millwork* 167 The axis..of the *slot-lever. 1888 *Lockwood's Dict. Mech. Eng. Terms* 285 The *slot link..of an engine, which, through the medium of the eccentrics, alters the valve for forward or backward motion. 1835 URE *Philos. Manuf.* 119 The *slot-piece *b* adjusts the roller *a*, and a similar slot-piece..adjusts the roller *b*. 1892 *Daily News* 28 Dec. 3/1 In the concrete..are embedded at intervals cast iron tube frames, to which the *slot rails are bolted. 1892 LOW *Machine Draw.* 108 What is the object of the *slotway in the upper part of the ram?

b. *Slot-machine, -meter*, a machine or meter which is operated by inserting a coin in a slot.

1892 *Pall Mall G.* 2 June 1/3 An ostrich's stomach is not filled with mechanism like a slot machine's. 1899 *Westm. Gaz.* 10 Aug. 2/2 A reduction of 2d. per thousand to those using the slot meter.

7. *Comb.*, as *slot-borer, -boring, -drilling, -headed.*

1869 RANKINE *Mach. & Millwork* 169 Crank and Slot-headed Sliding Rod. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2215 Slot-drilling Machine. 1884 *Ibid.* Suppl. 823/2 *Slot Borer*, a tool used for opening the cut in connection with slotting machines. *Ibid.*, Slot-boring Machine.

Slot (slɒt), *sb.*3 Also 6 slotte. [ad. AF. and OF. *esclot* (pl. *esclos, esclos*) hoof-print of a horse, etc., by Godefroy identified with *esclot, esclop* wooden shoe, but more prob. ad. ON. *slóð* track, SLEUTH *sb.*2]

1. The track or trail of an animal, esp. a deer, as shown by the marks of the foot; sometimes misapplied to the scent of an animal; hence generally, track, trace, or trail.

1575 TURBERV. *Venerie* 36 Take your Bloudhoundes and with them finde out the view or Slotte of the Harte or Bucke. 1579 GOSSON *Sch. Abuse* (Arb.) 35 To dogge them a little, ..and so discouer by slotte where the Deare taketh soyle. 1612 DRAYTON *Poly-olb.* xiii. 115 The Huntsman by his Slot, or breaking earth, perceaves..Where he hath gone to lodge. 1637 B. JONSON *Sad Shepherd* I. ii, By his slot, ..His frayings, fewmets, he doth promise sport. 1663 KILLIGREW *Parson's Wedding* V. iv, If he had had as much hoof as horn, you might have hunted the beast by his slot. 1735 SOMERVILLE *Chase* III. 472 See here his Slot; up yon green Hill he climbs. 1777 LIGHTFOOT *Flora Scotica* I. 7 They were called..slothe hounds, from their following the slot or track of men or cattle. 1801 SOUTHEY *Thalaba* II. xxiii, The Deer Hath left his slot beside the way. 1865 BONER *Transylv.* 154 The slot of the bear is quite like that of a human being. 1888 DOUGHTY *Arabia Deserta* I. 161 We found in the sand where an hyena had lately passed: Sâlih asked if I knew the slot.

fig. 1645 MILTON *Colast.* Wks. 1851 IV. 372 This odious fool..leavs the noysom stench of his rude slot behind him. 1820 SCOTT *Monast.* ix, We know Norman a true blood-hound, who will never quit the slot. 1864 *Daily Telegr.* 10 Oct., The Emperor, who rarely quits the slot of an idea. 1884 *19th Cent.* Oct. 558 The most viciously virtuous reviewer that ever gave tongue on the slot of an imaginary scandal.

2. A deer's foot.

1876 *World* I. No. 121. 15 As to what is the correct name of a deer's foot,..I never heard it called anything but 'slot'. 1901 *Westm. Gaz.* 3 Sept. 2/2 Another spoil of the chase of the wild red deer is the foot or 'slot', as it is called, and these slots may be found serving as bell-pulls, or even as door-knockers and ink-stands.

3. *Comb.*, as *slotwise* adv.

1865 SWINBURNE *Poems & Ball., Laus Veneris* 255 And tracking ever slot-wise the warm scent. 1890 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Colonial Reformer* (1891) 126 Following the track (slotwise) at dawn of day.

†**Slot,** *sb.*4 *Obs. rare.* In 5 sclot(t. [Of obscure origin.] A muddy place; mud.

Perh. a var. of SLOTH *sb.*2; the same vocab. has *paylt* for 'path'. Halliwell's '*Slot*, wet sticky clay. *Linc.*' (copied by Brogden) is of very doubtful genuineness.

c 1475 *Pict. Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 797 *Hic linus* [=*limus*], a sclott. *Ibid.* 798 *Hoc volutabrum*, a selot [*sic*].

†**Slot,** *sb.*5 *Obs.*—1 [a. Du. or LG. *slot* (G. *schloss*): see SLOT *sb.*1] A castle.

1578 RICHE *Allarme to England* To Rdr., Thou paydst for building of a slot, that wrought thine owne decay.

Slot (slɒt), *v.*1 Now *dial.* [f. SLOT *sb.*1 I.]

1. *trans.* To bolt (a door).

The entry in Johnson (1755) 'To *Slot*, v.a. (*slughen*, Dutch), to strike or clash hard' is prob. an echo (through Bailey) of Skinner, who connects the word with Du. *sluyten*.

1563 WINJET *Wks.* (S.T.S.) I. 139 Þour scoleris..hes in thare imaginatioun cloisit vp, slotit, and neidnalit the samin ȝettis of our hæretage. 1671 SKINNER *Etymol.* s.v., To Slot a door, *vox agro Linc. usitatissima, (i.e.) januam claudere.* [1674 RAY *N. C. Words* 43 To *Slot* a door, Lincoln, i. e. to shut it. 1787 GROSE *Prov. Gloss.*, *To slot a door*, to shut it hastily, or in a passion.] 1811 H. MACNEILL *Bygane Times* 18 Whan they see The door, tho' slotted, budge a wee. 1825– in dialect glossarie (Nhb., Yks., Linc., Shropsh.).

b. (See quot.)

1695 KENNETT *Par. Antiq.* Gloss. s.v. *Slade*, In the South to *slot* a lock is to thrust it back.

2. To secure (a lock) by shooting a bolt.

1904 A. GRIFFITHS *50 Yrs. Public Service* xxi. 318 He found that his skeleton-key would open the lock, even when 'on the double' or slotted.

Slot (slɒt), *v.*2 [f. SLOT *sb.*2]

†**1.** *trans.* To pierce through the 'slot'. *Obs.*—1

?*a* 1400 *Morte Arth.* 3853 He schokkes owtte a schorte knyfe.., And scholde haue slottede hyme in, bot no slytte happenede.

2. To cut a slot or slots in; to furnish with a slot. Also with *out*.

1747 HOOSON *Miner's Dict.* Qiij, The Sliders are Slotted at both Ends to receive the Forks. 1869 RANKINE *Mach. & Hand-tools* Pl. J 2, This machine is intended to slot the sides of connecting rods. *Ibid.* J 4, The tool holder, X, is provided with a circular motion..for slotting out curves. 1892 LOW *Machine Draw.* 54 After it is turned, planed, and bored it is slotted across.

b. *Coal-mining.* To hole.

1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-m.* 227.

3. To drop (a coin) through a slot in a slot-machine.

1888 *Pall Mall G.* 25 Sept. 5/1 All the would-be purchasers who have carelessly slotted their pence.

Slot (slɒt), *v.*3 [f. SLOT *sb.*3] *trans.* To trace by the slot; to follow the track of (a stag, etc.).

1582 STANYHURST *Æneis* I. (Arb.) 23 Three stags sturdye wer vnder Neere the seacost gating, theym slot thee clusterus heerdflock. 1725 *Fam. Dict.* s.v. *Hart*, If the Way is too hard to slot, be sure to try far enough back. 1838 *Sporting Mag.* Aug. 342 The hounds could own no such thing, neither could the knowing ones 'slot' the animal. 1884 *Longman's Mag.* IV. 489 The ground may be so wet ..that it is impossible to 'slot' a deer.

Slote (slōut), *sb.* Also 5 sloot, 7 sclote; 8– sloat. [var. of SLOT *sb.*1]

†**1.** A door-bolt. *Obs.* = SLOT *sb.*1 I.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 460/1 Sloot, or schytyl of sperynge, *pessulum*. 1515 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scotl.* V. 11 Ane grete slote to monsure Sanct Romanis chalmour. 1614 *Churchw. Acc. Pittington*, etc. (Surtees) 170 For makinge two holes in stones for the sclotes goinge in our church dore. 1633 RUTHERFORD *Lett.* (1862) I. 105, I have gotten now..the gate to open the slote and shut the bar of His door. 1721 RAMSAY *Poems* Gloss., *Slote*, a Bar or Bolt for a Door.

2. A bar; a cross-bar; also in special senses (see quots. and cf. SLOT *sb.*1 2).

a. 1485 *Fabric Rolls York Minster* (Surtees) 87 Les tyers et slotes pro eisdem altaribus, 4l. 17s. 4d. 1523 FITZHERB. *Husb.* § 15 [The] harowe-bulles..haue slotes of wode put through theym lyke lathes,..and the formest slote must be bygger than the other. 1674 RAY *N. C. Words* 43 The *Slote* of a ladder or gate, the flat step or bar. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 339/2 The Slotes are the vnder peeces which keepe the bottom of the Cart together. *Ibid.* 340/1 The several parts of a Wagon...The Slotes [are] the cross pieces which hold the Shafts together. 1841 HARTSHORNE *Salop. Ant.* Gloss., *Slote*, a kind of bolt for bottoms or sides of wagons, 'tumbrels', or harrows. 1879–87 in Shropshire and Cheshire glossaries.

β. 1704 *Dict. Rust.* s.v. *Cart*, The Sloats are the under pieces which keep the bottom of the Cart together. 1750 W. ELLIS *Mod. Husb.* III. v. 78 The Sloats of a Gate or Hurdle. 1853 WAYLAND *Mem. Judson* II. 340 The openings in the sloats above the windows. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade*, *Sloat*, a piece of wood used as a stretcher, as the bar of a chair, the sloats of a cart.

3. A trap-door in a theatre stage.

1853 *Punch* XXIV. 128/2 The working of various mysterious engines of machinery, called 'sloats' and 'scruto-pieces'. 1858 in SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade.*

Hence **Slo·ted** *ppl. a.*, furnished with slots or cross-bars; having (so many) slots.

1523 FITZHERB. *Husb.* § 15 The horse-harrowe is made of fyue bulles,..not soo moche as the other, but they be lyke sloted and tinded. 1750 W. ELLIS *Mod. Husb.* IV. iv. 65 (E.D.S.), The open five-sloted hurdle.

Sloth (slōuþ), *sb.*1 Forms: *α.* 2 slauðe, 3–5 slauþe, 5 slaw(e)th(e, slauth (6 slaughte). *β.* 3 slouhðe, 4 slouȝte, slougthe, 5 sloughe, slought. *γ.* 4–5 slouþe, 4–6 slouthe, 4–6 slouth; 4 s(c)lowþe, 4–5 slowthe, 5, 7 slowth. *δ.* 6–8 sloath. *ε.* 5 slothe, 6– sloth. [Early ME. *slāwð(e, slōwð(e*, directly formed on *slāw, slōw* SLOW *a.* in place of OE. *slǽwð* SLEUTH *sb.*1]

1. Physical or mental inactivity; disinclination to action, exertion, or labour; sluggishness, idleness, indolence, laziness.

a. *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 19 Þe licome luuað muchele slauðe and muchele etinge. *c* 1205 LAY. 27039 Stið imodede men & swifte, slauþe bidæled. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B 178 For fele fautez may a freke forfete his blysse,..þen for slauþe one. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 4293 Surfet, surquidry, & slawth.

β. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 144 Heo wule scheken of hire slep of vuel slouhðe. *c* 1380 WYCLIF *Wks.* (1880) 200 Oure owene necligence & slouȝte. 1437 *Libel Eng. Policy* in *Pol. Poems* (Rolls) II. 187 Nowe here be ware..That for sloughe and for rach[l]eshede [etc.]. *c* 1489 CAXTON *Sonnes of Aymon* iv. 117 Me semeth that..slougthe is amonge vs.

γ. 1340–70 *Alex. & Dind.* 344 We nolle sclepe in no sclowþe til we hem sclain haue. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 15 Ofte is sen that mochel slowthe, Whan men ben drunken of the cuppe, Doth mochel harm. *a* 1450 *Knt. de la Tour* (1868) 42 Another ensaumple..of hem that for slouthe lessethe her masse. *c* 1535 ELYOT *Educ. Children* B j, For Slouth destroyeth the power of nature. 1597 HOOKER *Eccl. Pol.* v. lxxii. § 17 Slouth and fulnesse in peaceable times at home.

δ. *a*1618 SYLVESTER *Paradox agst. Libertie* 225 Wks. (Grosart) II. 57 Not one of them will brook his Son in sloath to lurk. 1628 PRYNNE *Censure Cozens* 42 Their sloath and lasinesse is so great. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* I. 190 Himself did..Arts ordain; Nor suffer'd Sloath to rust his active Reign.

ε. 1575–85 SANDYS *Serm.* xvii. 298 To withdraw men.. from sloth. 1606 DEKKER *Seven Deadly Sins* Wks. (Grosart) II. 50 This nastie, and loathsome sin of Sloth. 1648 WILKINS *Math. Magick* I. ii. 8 These arts..admit not either of sloth or wearinesse. 1700 ROWE *Amb. Step-Moth.* I. i, Sloth and folly Shiver and shrink at sight of toil and hazard. 1790 BURKE *Fr. Rev.* 247 The same lazy but restless disposition, which loves sloth and hates quiet. 1847 YEOWELL *Anc. Brit. Church* vii. 64 Ease has a natural tendency to engender sloth. 1867 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* (1877) I. v. 366 Deposed by his subjects on account of his sloth and luxury.

b. Personified.

1362 LANGL. *P. Pl.* A. II. 69 In al þe seruyse of Slouþe I sese hem to-gedere. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* II. 9 Bot Slowthe mai no profit winne, Bot he mai singe [etc.]. *c* 1425 *Cast. Persev.* 898 in *Macro Plays*, Lechery, Slawth, & Glotonye, to mans flesch ȝe are fendis Fre. 1609 DEKKER *Warres* Wks. (Grosart) IV. 115 Sloth, by reason that he is troubled with the gout, busies himselfe little with State matters. 1769 GRAY *Ode Installat.* 4 Dreaming Sloth of pallid hue.

c. *Comb.*, as *sloth-jaundiced, -loved, -promoting, -shunning* adjs.

1591 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* I. vi. 868 What can be hard to a sloath-shunning Spirit? 1598 *Ibid.* II. ii. II. *Babylon* 530 Down in my sloath-lov'd bed again I shrink. 1754 'J. LOVE' *Cricket* I. 64 Of sloth-promoting sports, forewarn'd, beware! 1794 COLERIDGE *Lines on Friend* Poems (1907) 27 Energic reason and a shaping mind...Sloth-jaundiced all!

2. Slowness; tardiness.

c 1380 WYCLIF *Wks.* (1880) 313 Þus many men for sich slowþe of sharp reprouyng synnen meche. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *2nd Nun's T.* 258 If it so be thou wolt with-outen slouthe Bileue aright. 1451 CAPGRAVE *Life St. Aug.* 21 Augustin be-gan to accuse him-self sor..of þe slauth of his returne to God. 1628 FORD *Lover's Mel.* v. i, Wherefore drop thy words in such a sloth? 1729 SHELVOCKE *Artillery* v. 379 [To] fill all his..Fuzes or Trains of Communication with a Composition whose Sloth he has been assured of. 1815 JEFFERSON *Writ.* (1830) IV. 265 From sloth of proceedings, an embargo was permitted to run through the winter.

3. As a 'proper term', by later writers taken to mean: A company *of* bears (or erroneously, boars).

c 1452 in *Trans. Philol. Soc.* (1909) III. 52 A Slouthe of Beerys. *Ibid.* 53 A slothe of bayris. *c* 1470 *Hors, Shepe, & G.* (Roxb.) 31 A slouth of beres. [Cf. SLEUTH *sb.*1 I b.] 1616 BULLOKAR *Eng. Exp., Slowth*, a heard or company of wild Boares together. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* II. 132/1 The Proper terms given to Beasts when they are in Companyes. ..Beares, a Slowth. 1801 STRUTT *Sports & Past.* 17 A sloth of bears.

4. An edentate arboreal mammal of a sluggish nature, inhabiting tropical parts of Central and South America.

Two genera of sloths are recognized, viz. *Bradypus*, with three toes on the fore-feet, and *Cholœpus* with only two.

1613 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* 704 *note*, The Spaniards call it..the light dog. The Portugals Sloth. The Indians, Hay. 1681 GREW *Musæum* I. II. i. 11 The Sloath...An Animal of so slow a motion, that he will be three or four days, at least, in climbing up and coming down a Tree. 1699 WAFER *Voy.* (1729) 401 The Sloath. Is a very slow-paced Animal, taking a whole Day in going fifty Paces. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) IV. 343 Of the sloth there are two different kinds, distinguished from each other by their claws. 1834 MCMURTRIE *Cuvier's Anim. Kingd.* 93 The Sloths have cylindrical molars, and sharp canini longer than those molars. 1894–5 LYDEKKER *Roy. Nat. Hist.* III. 207 Sloths are mainly nocturnal; and in their usual attitude they hang suspended back downwards.

fig. 1826 HOOD *Last Man* 160, I..never was one of the sloths. 1852 H. ROGERS *Eclipse of Faith* (1864) 140 Man has been gradually crawling up, a very Sloth in 'progress', from the lowest Fetichism and Polytheism.

b. Applied, usually with distinguishing epithets, to other animals, as the sloth-bear, the koala or koolah, the slow lori or lemur, and the mylodon or megatherium.

See also *ground sloth* s.v. GROUND *sb.* 18 b.

(*a*) 1790 SHAW *Naturalist's Misc.* II. pl. 58 The Ursine Bradypus, or Ursiform Sloth. 1793 PENNANT *Synop. Quadr.* (ed. 3) II. 243 Ursiform Sloth with a long and strong nose, truncated at the end. 1800 SHAW *Gen. Zool.* I. I. 160 The Ursine Sloth is about the size of a Bear. 1827 GRIFFITH *Cuvier's Anim. Kingd.* II. 238 The *Ursus Labiatus*, placed erroneously by Pennant and others among the Sloths, under the name of the Ursine Sloth.

(*b*) 1813–27 [see KOOLAH]. *a* 1862 J. G. WOOD *Illustr. Nat. Hist.* I. 468 The name of Australian Sloth..has been applied to it [the Koala, *Phascolarctos cinereus*] because it is able to cling with its feet to the branches after the manner of the sloths.

(*c*) 1827 GRIFFITH *Cuvier's Anim. Kingd.* I. 229 The Slow Loris, or Sloth of Bengal (*Lemur tardigradus*, L.). 1903 LYDEKKER *Mostly Mammals* 314 The name 'sloth' is not infrequently misapplied by travellers to the slow-lemurs of India and the Malay countries, or to their cousins the galagos of Africa.

(*d*) 1842 Owen (*title*), Description of the Skeleton of an Extinct Gigantic Sloth, *Mylodon robustus*. *Ibid.* 147 The osseous frame-work of the gigantic extinct Sloths.

c. A species of Protozoa (see quot.).

1859 P. H. Gosse *Evenings Microscope* (1877) 392 Two more species of this extensive genus [*Euglena*]..have received the appellations of the Pear (*E. pyrum*) and the Sloth (*E. deses.*)

5. Special combs.: **sloth-animalcule** (see quots.); **sloth-bear**, an Indian species of bear (*Melursus labiatus* or *ursinus*); **sloth-monkey**, the slow lori or lemur; **sloth-tree**, the South American trumpet-tree (*Cecropia peltata*), whose leaves are eaten by the sloth.

1871 *Carpenter's Zool.* II. 230 A number of minute creatures, well known to microscopic observers as *Sloth or Bear-Animalcules. 1889 Geddes & Thomson *Evolution of Sex* vi. § 5. 72 The degenerate water-bears or sloth-animalcules (*Tardigrada*). 1835 *Penny Cycl.* IV. 90/2 Labiated Bear, or *Sloth Bear. *a*1862 J. G. Wood *Illustr. Nat. Hist.* I. 407 The Aswail, or Sloth Bear. 1894 Lydekker *Roy. Nat. Hist.* II. 26 The sloth-bear may be regarded as one of the most characteristic..mammals of India. 1891 *Cent. Dict.* s.v., *Sloth-monkey. 1905 A. R. Wallace *My Life* I. xx. 324 The two species of Sloth-monkeys (*pithecia*) are found. 1885 Lady Brassey *Trades* 29 Among them was the *sloth tree (*Cecropia*), all arms and legs.

†Sloth, *sb.*2 *Obs.* Also **slothe.** [app. an alteration of *slogh* Slough *sb.*1 The examples are E. Anglian.] A miry or muddy place; a slough.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 460/1 Slothe, where fowle water stondythe, *lacuna*. *Ibid.*, Slothe, where swyne or oþer bestys han dwellyd, *volutabrum*. 1447 Bokenham *Seyntys* (Roxb.) 125 But thi goddys..Or ben of bras..Or ellys of stonys wych in a sloth to laye Wer bettyr to skepyn from the foul weye.

†Sloth, *a. Obs. rare.* Also 5 **slouth(e, slought.** [f. Sloth *sb.*1 Cf. Sleuth *a.*1] Slothful, slow.

1412-20 Lydg. *Chron. Troy* I. 3646 Of þe future slouth and necligent. *c* 1450 *Cov. Myst.* (Shaks. Soc.) 367 A ! ȝe fonnys and slought of herte For to beleve in holy Scrypture. 1549 Latimer *2nd Serm. bef. Edw. VI* (Arb.) 48 God is a good God,..and very sloth to reuenge hys blasphemie. 1605 Sylvester *Du Bartas* II. iii. III. *Law* 138 What? are ye growne so sloth?

Sloth (slōuþ), *v.* Now *rare.* Forms: *α.* 5 **slawth.** *β.* 4–5 **slowth** (5 **slowȝth**), 4–6 **slouthe,** 7– **sloth.** [f. Sloth *sb.*1 Cf. Sleuth *v.*1]

†1. *trans.* To allow to slip through slothfulness or delay; to neglect. *Obs.*

1390 Gower *Conf.* II. 2 Som time he slowtheth in a day That he nevere after gete mai. 1455 *Rolls of Parlt.* V. 286/2 Diverses matiers..have be slowthed and throwen into grete..omission. 1477 Earl Rivers (Caxton) *Dictes* 22 Slouthe nor delay not that thou must nedely execute. 1500 *Will of Catelyn* (Somerset Ho.) My tithes necligently forgoten or slowthed. 1708 M. Bruce *Lect.* 13, I do not bid you cast away your Callings nor Sloth them neither.

† b. To waste, pass *away* (time) in idleness.

1523 *State P., Hen. VIII*, VI. 171 Whiche thinges must nedes geve the more occasion to thEmperour not to slouthe any time that may be taken for avauncement of this enterprise. 1676 Bunyan *Strait Gate* 69 The most of professors are for imbezzeling, mispending and slothing away their time.

2. *intr.* To be or become indolent or lazy.

1390 Gower *Conf.* II. 116 Yit ne wol he noght travaile.., Bot slowtheth under such a drede. *c* 1440 *Jacob's Well* 281 þat þou schalt noȝt dullyn and slawthyn in þi labour of þi prayers. 1888 Doughty *Arabia Deserta* I. 279 Strenuous solitary men, whose unquiet mettle moves them from slothing in the tent's shadow to prowl as the wolf in the wilderness.

Hence **Slo·thing** *vbl. sb.*

c 1690 Jas. Fraser in Wodrow *Sel. Biogr.* (1847) II. 239 Mispending of time, excess in lawful comforts, slothing of private duties.

Slothful (slōu·þfůl), *a.* (and *sb.*). Forms: *α.* 5 **slouthe-,** 5–7 **slouth-,** 6 **slought-**; 5 **slowt-,** 6 **slowth-.** *β.* 6 **slothe-,** 6– **sloth-,** 7–8 **sloath-.** Also 5–7 **-full.** [f. Sloth *sb.*1 Cf. Sleuthful *a.*]

1. Of persons, etc.: Full of sloth; indisposed to exertion; inactive, indolent, lazy, sluggish.

α. c 1400 *Pilgr. Sowle* (Caxton, 1483) III. viii. 55 Slouthful haue they ben aboute theyr owne hele. 1484 Caxton *Fables of Æsop* v. xiii, I am so slouthfull that I maye not ete. 1552 Latimer *Serm. Lord's Prayer* vii. 56 God tempteth us for exercyse sake, that we should not be slouthfull. 1582 N. T. (Rhem.) *Matt.* xxv. 26 Naughtie and sloughtful servant. 1590 Spenser *F. Q.* II. vi. 18 The slouthfull waue of that great grieslý lake.

β. 1530 Palsgr. 324/2 Slowe or slothfull, *lente, tardif.* 1555 Eden *Decades* (Arb.) 194 Least the residue shulde waxe slothefull with Idlenes. 1606 Dekker *Seven Sins* IV. (Arb.) 33 Hee is the true Slothfull man that does no good. 1656 Stanley *Hist. Philos.* III. II. 119 Admit not a sloathfull person unto your doctrines. 1717 Pope *Iliad* x. 74 Still, with your Voice, the sloathful Soldiers raise. 1752 Hume *Ess. & Treat.* (1777) I. 290 A nation..cannot maintain..its fleets and armies from the industry of such slothful members. 1828 Scott *F. M. Perth* viii, You shall not find Patrick Charteris slothful in a matter of this importance. 1876 B. Martin *Messiah's Kingd.* VI. ii. 301 The church has been slothful.

b. *absol.* (chiefly as *pl.*).

1630 B. Jonson *Disc.* Wks. (Rtldg.) 752/2 He is grown to active men an example, to the slothful a spur. 1678 Bunyan *Pilgr.* Introd., It will make the sloathful active be. 1781 *Scot. Paraphrases* XII. v, Ye indolent and slothful rise.

c. As *sb.* A lazy person, a sluggard.

1648 Herrick *Hesp., Dissw. fr. Idlenesse*, Toiles, or Manicles Set on purpose to enthrall Men, but Slothfulls most of all.

2. Of habits, etc.: Characterized by sloth or disinclination to exertion.

c 1400 *Pol., Rel., & L. P.* (1866) 5 Fy on slowtfull contenewaunce. 1539 *Act* 31 *Hen. VIII*, c. 9 The slouthfull and ungodly lief wch hathe bene used emonges all those sorte wch have borne the name of religious folke. 1587 *Mirr. Mag., Mempricius* vi. 1 Then wickedly I fell to slouthfull ease. *a* 1700 Evelyn *Diary* 29 Mar. 1689, The slothfull, sickly temper of the new King. 1808 Scott *Marm.* v. iv, His peaceful day was slothful ease. 1846 McCulloch *Acc. Brit. Emp.* (1854) I. 303 They have also been obliged to lay aside their slothful habits.

Slothfully (slōu·þfůli), *adv.* Also 6 **slought-,** 6–7 **slouth-,** 7 **sloath-.** [f. prec.] In a slothful manner; lazily, sluggishly.

1529 S. Fish *Supplic. Beggers* (1871) 3 Is it any merueille that the taxes..haue bin so sloughtfully, ye painfully leuied? 1560 Daus tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 44 He hath hitherto wrought slouthfullye. 1591 Percivall *Sp. Dict., Perezosamente*, slothfully. 1741 Bp. Berkeley in Fraser *Life* (1871) viii. 274 If I tamely and slothfully gave myself up to be ridden..by the Pope. 1871 R. Ellis *Catullus* lxi. 194 Not too slothfully tarrying, Thou art here.

Slothfulness (slōu·þfůlnės). Also 6 **slought-,** 6–7 **slouth-, sloath-.** [f. Slothful *a.* + -ness.] The state or character of being slothful; sluggishness, laziness.

1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 131 All slouthfulnes, all negligence. 1555 Eden *Decades* (Arb.) 55 Inexcusable slothfulnesse and negligence. 1638 Junius *Paint. Ancients* 24 Such occasions as may serve for an excuse of slouthfulnesse. 1689 tr. *Buchanan's De Jure Regni apud Scotos* 61 [They] prefer a quiet sloathfulness to honest hazards. 1736 Ainsworth I. s.v., The refusing of labour is a proof of slothfulness and laziness. 1878 Spurgeon *Treas. David* cviii. Introd., To use the same words continually..would show great slothfulness.

†Slo·th-head. *Obs.*–1 In 4 **sloghphede.** [f. Sloth *sb.*1] Slothfulness.

1303 R. Brunne *Handl. Synne* 5075 3yt ys þyr an vnkynde sloghphede, þat a man vnneþ..wyl wurschep God derwrþly.

†Slo·thly, *adv. Obs.*–1 In 5 **slowthlyche.** [f. Sloth *a.* + -ly 2.] Sluggishly, lazily.

c 1410 *Master of Game* (MS. Digby 182) xiii, Other manere of rennynge houndes þer bee þe whiche hunteth somdele more slowthlyche and heuylich.

Slo·t-hound. [f. Slot *sb.*3] A sleuth-hound.

1537 *St. Papers, Hen. VIII* (1836) V. 97 Diverse of his tenauntes pursewed the trade with a slott hownd. 1819 Scott *Ivanhoe* xxviii, The misfortunes which track my footsteps like slot-hounds. 1839 J. Snowe *Rhine* I. 352 The wrath of the archbishop, which still tracked them like a slot-hound. 1864 Carlyle *Fredk. Gt.* XVI. xiii. (1872) VI. 298 The slot-hounds [being] uncoupled and put on his trail, poor Cameron was unearthed.

†Slot-staff. *Sc. Obs.*–1 [? f. Slot *sb.*1 2.] Some form of staff used as a weapon.

1561 *Burgh Recs. Prestwick* (Maitl. Club) 66 Ane slot staf, or ane pow ax, suerd and buklar.

Slotted (slo·tėd), *ppl. a.* [f. Slot *sb.*2 2 or *v.*2] Having a slot or slots.

1849 *Mech. Mag.* Oct. 327 A pin..which takes into a slotted piece which slides up and down in a curved groove. 1869 Rankine *Mach. & Hand-tools* Pl. I 4, The reversing lever..is carried..through the slotted lever. 1881 A. G. Bell *Sound by Radiant Energy* 11 The beam of light is interrupted by its passage through the two slotted disks.

Slo·tter, *sb.* [f. Slot *v.*2] One who makes slots; also, a slotting-machine.

1881 *Instr. Census Clerks* (1885) 42 Engine and Machine Making:..Slotter. Screwer. 1891 *Pall Mall G.* 24 Nov. 7/2 Planers, slotters, turners, smiths, and men engaged in skilled work.

Slotter (slo·tər), *v.* Now *dial.* Also 4–5 **sloter(yn).** [Of obscure origin: cf. Du. *sloderen*, LG. *sluddern*, G. *schlottern*, some senses of which come near to those of the English word.]

1. *trans.* To make foul or dirty; also, to spill or splash about, to slop.

The sb. *slotter* spilled liquor, a filthy mess, etc., is also recorded in dialect use from 1787 (Grose) onwards.

c 1340 Hampole *Pr. Consc.* 2367 þan aght þe saul of synful with-in Be ful foule þat es alle slotered in syn. *c* 1430 *Syr Gener.* (Roxb.) 7066 'Abide,' she seid, 'so mot I thee, More slotered thei most be'. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 460/1 Sloteron, or defowlyn, *maculo, deturpo*. 1825– in dialect glossaries, etc. (Sc. and South-western).

2. *intr.* To be slothful or slovenly. *Sc.*

1553 *Douglas's Æneid* IV. Prol. 164 Thou auld hasard leichoure,..That slotteris [*Small's ed.* flotteris] furth euermare in sluggardry. 1808 Jamieson, *Slotterin, slutterin*, acting in a slovenly manner; Loth[ian].

Hence **† Slo·tterbug,** a dirty or filthy person.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 460 Sloturburgge [*other texts* slotyr-bugge], *cenulentus, maurus, obcenus*.

Slo·ttery, *a. Sc.* and *dial.* Also *Sc.* **slottry.** [f. Slotter *v.*]

Todd (1818) gives *slottery* from Urry's ed. of Chaucer (*Knt.'s T.* 2023), but the correct reading is *flotery*.

1. *Sc.* Sluggish, slothful.

1513 Douglas *Æneid* VI. iv. 87 The slottry Sleip, Deidis cusing of kynd. 1808 Jamieson, *Slottry*, slumbering, drowsy, inactive; Loth[ian].

2. *dial.* Of weather, etc.: Wet, dirty.

1790 Grose *Prov. Gloss.*, *Slottery weather*, foul, wet weather. 1866 G. W. Thornbury *Greatheart* II. 244 The roads [round Boscastle, Cornwall] are slottery.

Slo·tting, *sb. rare.* = Slot *sb.*3 1.

1909 B. Grohman *Master of Game* 262 All of which may lead his slotting to be mistaken for the tracks of a hind.

Slotting (slo·tiŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. Slot *v.*2]

† 1. *Sc.* The practice, on the part of butchers, of 'scoring' flesh. *Obs.*

1647 *Extr. Burgh Recs. Stirling* 193 The actis and ordinances..anent slotting and spuilyeing of flesche.

2. The action of making or cutting a slot or slots.

1844 H. Stephens *Bk. Farm* II. 689 There is no slotting, as in the common harrow, but the bulls and bars are simply crossed. 1879 *Organ Voicing* 20 When fairly voiced, the slotting may be commenced.

b. *attrib.*, as *slotting auger, bar, machine(ry.*

1841 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* IV. 234/1 Improvements in slotting machines. *Ibid.*, The fourth part is an improvement in the slotting bar. 1863 *Q. Rev.* CXIV. 298 The planing, slotting, or turning machinery of these factories. 1869 Rankine *Mach. & Hand-tools* Pl. P 17, The ordinary turning, planing, and slotting tools. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 185/1 The Slotting Auger cuts laterally.

3. *Coal-mining.* (See quot.)

1883 Gresley *Gloss. Coal-m.* 227 *Slottings*, coal cut away in the process of holing.

Slottysshe, obs. form of Sluttish *a.*

Slouch (slauʧ), *sb.* Forms: 6 **slouche, sloutche,** 7 **slowch(e,** 7– **slouch** (8 *dial.* **slouch**). [Of obscure origin: cf. Slouk, and dial. *slotch* in the same sense. Senses 3 and 4 are from the vb.]

1. An awkward, slovenly, or ungainly man; a lubber, lout, clown; also, a lazy, idle fellow.

Freq. in 16th and 17th c. as a term of disparagement without precise significance.

1515 Barclay *Cyt. & Uplondyshman* Prol., A lordes stomake and a beggers pouche Full yll accordeth, suche was this comely slouche. *c* 1566 *Merie Tales of Skelton* in S.'s Wks. (1843) I. p. lxv, A cobler..which was a tall man and a greate slouen, otherwyse named a slouche. 1608 Sylvester *Du Bartas* II. iv. IV. *Decay* 1077 The louzie Couch Of some base Ruffon, or some beastly Slouch. 1642 H. More *Song of Soul* I. iii. 8 A foul great stooping slouch with heavie eyes, And hanging lip. 1709 *Brit. Apollo* No. 61. 3/2 A Capacious Pouch, Which look'd like Tail at Rump of Slouch. 1714 Gay *Sheph. Week* I. 39 Begin thy Carrols then, thou vaunting Slouch. 1785 Grose *Dict. Vulgar T., Slouch*,..a negligent slovenly fellow. 1808 J. Stagg *Misc. Poems* 143 Ye'd luok but silly slouches. 1881– in dial. glossaries (I. of W., Berks., Lancs.). 1884 Stevenson *Lett.* (1901) I. 342, I recognise myself, compared with you, to be a lout and slouch of the first water.

b. *U.S. slang.* A poor, indifferent, or inefficient thing, place, person, etc. Chiefly in the negative phrase *no slouch of* (something); also const. *at.*

(*a*) 1869 'Mark Twain' *Innoc. Abr.* iv. 27 It..became a most lamentable 'slouch of a journal'. 1879 Tourgee *Fool's Errand* 308 The mare..was no slouch, either. 1888 Lees & Clutterbuck *B. C. 1887* xxxiii. (1892) 366 We came to Spokane Falls, which seemed to be 'no slouch of a city'.

(*b*) 1874 J. W. Long *Amer. Wild-fowl.* viii. 139, I guess you a'n't much of a 'slouch' at shooting. 1898 F. T. Bullen *Cruise 'Cachalot'* x. 107 He was no 'slouch' at the business either.

2. *ellipt.* A slouch hat or bonnet.

1714-28 in *N. & Q.* 5th Ser. XI. 247/1 Paid 20s. for a ribbon and slouch for Molly. *c* 1754 Garrick *Epil. Fielding's Fathers*, The high-cocked, half-cocked quaker, and the slouch, Have at ye all! 1867 F. H. Ludlow *Fleeing to Tarshish* 189 With his long grey hair streaming from under his slouch. 1891 E. Kinglake *Australian* 107 His hat is either small, round and hard, or a black slouch.

3. A stooping, or bending forward of the head and shoulders, in walking; a loose, ungainly carriage or bearing; a walk or gait characterized by this.

1725 Swift *Corr.* Wks. 1841 II. 579 He hath a sort of a slouch in his walk! 1771 Mackenzie *Man of Feeling* xi, He was known by the slouch in his gait, and the length of his stride. 1835 Marryat *J. Faithful* iii, The slouch in the back is taken out, their heavy walk is changed to a firm.. tread. 1865 Dickens *Mut. Fr.* I. xii, Making himself more round-shouldered..by the sullen and persistent slouch. 1885 J. Runciman *Skippers & Shellbacks* 258 The slight slouch that most of our men cultivated.

b. Const. *of* (the shoulders, etc.).

1825 Hone *Every-day Bk.* I. 881 The carter..plods with double slouch of shoulder. 1892 Stevenson *Across Plains* V. 176 The very slouch of the fellows' shoulders tells their story.

4. The fact or condition of slouching or hanging down loosely.

1851 Mayne Reid *Scalp Hunt.* ix, Fierce glances lower under the slouch of broad sombreros.

Slouch, obs. Sc. f. Slough *sb.*2

Slouch, *a. rare.* [f. the sb. or v., or back-formation from combs. like *slouch-eared.*]

† 1. Drooping or hanging loosely; slouching.

1688 Holme *Armoury* III. 207/1 Temptation or Sathan ..is drawn with a Dragons head and Wings, to the middle like a Man with slouch hanging Breasts. 1709 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4540/8 A..Bay Gelding,..hath large slouch Ears. 1829 Widowson *Pres. St. Van Diemen's Land* 142 A very large head, Roman nose, slouch ears.

2. *dial.* Clownish, loutish; slovenly. Also *Comb.*

1837 Thornber *Hist. Blackpool* 110. 1886 *Spectator* 1587 An educated loafer, the aimless, shiftless, slouch-souled dependant.

3. Slouched. (Cf. Slouch hat.)

1844 Louisa S. Costello *Béarn & Pyrenees* I. x. 179 All the bathers..were in cloaks and slouch bonnets.

Slouch (slauʧ), *v.* [app. f. the sb., or the ppl. a. (Slouching), which is found earlier. Cf. dial. *slotch* in sense 1.]

For dialect forms and senses, see the *Eng. Dial. Dict.*

1. *intr.* To move or walk with a slouch or in a loose and stooping attitude. Const. with advs. or preps.

1754 FIELDING *J. Wild* I. xiv, They with lank ears and tails slouch sullenly on. 1768–74 TUCKER *Lt. Nat.* (1834) I. 151 The circumstance of slouching through mire. *a* 1845 BARHAM *Ingold. Leg.* Ser. III. *Jarvis's Wig* (1905) 502 In a few minutes his tiny figure was seen 'slouching' up the ascent. 1862 SALA *Seven Sons* II. vii. 179 He slouched to and fro on his beat in the dockyard. 1886 JEROME *Idle Thoughts* 42 A genuine idler..is not a man who slouches about with his hands in his pockets.

fig. 1880 *Times* 30 Aug. 4/3 They slouched through their lives with a look of cheerful ignorance on their faces.

b. To carry oneself with a slouch or stoop; to droop the head and shoulders.

1755 JOHNSON, *Slouch*, to have a downcast clownish look. 1785 GROSE *Dict. Vulgar T., To slouch*, to hang down one's head. 1884 *Cambridge Rev.* 10 Dec. 131 He slouched over his oar very badly at the finish. 1900 ELINOR GLYN *Visits Elizabeth* (1906) 54, I am going to be like her, and not like the women at Nazeby (who all slouched).

c. Of a hat: To hang down, droop.

1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* xliii, Even the old hat looked smarter;..instead of slouching backward or forward on the Laird's head [etc.]. 1845 BROWNING *Flight of Duchess* x, What signified hats if they had no rims on, Each slouching before and behind like the scallop?

2. *trans.* To put on, or pull down, (one's hat) in such a way that it partly conceals the face.

1760–72 H. BROOKE *Fool of Qual.* (1809) I. 126 Slouching my hat, I slid out of doors. 1815 SCOTT *Guy M.* xxvi, The villains wore their hats much slouched. 1818 — *Br. Lamm.* ix, His hat was unlooped and slouched. [1828–32 in WEBSTER; hence in later Dicts.]

b. Const. *over* (the face, brow, etc.).

1806 SURR *Winter in London* I. 165 Slouching his hat over his face, he motioned Edward..to depart. 1858 LYTTON *What will He do?* II. xiv, He wore a large hat of foreign make, slouched deep over his brow. 1870 MORRIS *Earthly Paradise* III. iv. 41 [He] slouched down his hat Yet farther o'er his brows.

3. a. To go or make (one's way) in a slouching manner. **In quot.** *fig.*

1861 GEO. ELIOT *S. Marner* 58 Having slouched their way through life with a consciousness of being in the vicinity of their 'betters'.

b. To stoop or bend (the shoulders).

1865 KINGSLEY *Herew.* II. xi. 170 The Wake slouched his shoulders, and looked as mean a churl as ever.

c. To make (a bow) with a slouch or stoop.

1897 MEREDITH *Amazing Marriage* viii, Woodseer passed him, slouching a bow.

Slouch-eared, *a.* Now *rare* or *Obs.* [app. f. SLOUCH *sb.*] Having loose hanging ears.

1556 OLDE *Antichrist* 11 That men maye se what a slowche eared asse he is. 1580 HOLLYBAND *Treas. Fr. Tong, Qui a les Oreilles lasches & pendantes*, hanging eares, or slouch eared. 1607 BREWER *Lingua* III. vi, There was an old..slouch-eard slaue that looking himselfe by chance in a Glasse died for pure hate. 1793 PENNANT *Quadr.* (ed. 3) II. 313 Slouch-eared Bat with large pendulous ears, pointed at the ends.

Slouched (slaʊtʃt), *ppl. a.* [f. SLOUCH *v.*]

1. *Slouched hat*, a slouch hat. Also, one worn in such a manner that the brim hangs over the face.

1779 *Mirror* No. 47 P 4 Dressed in a short coat, and an old slouched hat with a tarnished gold binding. 1785 GROSE *Dict. Vulgar T., A slouched hat*, a hat whose brims are let down. 1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* vi, Others in large loose-bodied great-coats, and slouched hats. 1840 R. H. DANA *Bef. Mast* xiii, Every common ruffian-looking fellow, with a slouched hat. 1870 MORRIS *Earthly Par.* III. iv. 34 His hair falls down From 'neath a wide slouched hat of brown.

2. Slouching, slouchy.

1858 *Chambers's Jrnl.* IX. 106 Men..standing in groups, in slouched attitudes, and slouchingly attired.

Sloucher (slaʊ·tʃəɹ). [f. SLOUCH *v.*] One who slouches, or walks with a slouching gait; a slouch; *spec.* in *Horse-racing*, a jockey who intentionally rides slowly in the early stages of a race.

1881 JEFFERIES *Wood Magic* II. iv. 102 The sloucher took up his quart, and said that he saw 'no call' to hurry. 1897 *Daily News* 21 Dec. 8/3 Well-dressed gentlemen are seen alongside the sloucher, with neck hidden in a shawl.

Slouch hat. [Cf. SLOUCHED *ppl. a.*] A hat of soft or unstiffened felt or other material, esp. one having a broad brim which hangs or lops down over the face.

1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. IV. iii, A grand controversy which there was, as to 'slouch-hats or slouched-hats'. 1843 LE FEVRE *Life Trav. Phys.* I. I. i. 11 A celebrated doctor who wore a slouch hat. 1891 MRS. CLIFFORD *Love-Lett. Worldly Woman* vii. 92, I prefer..thick muddy shoes and a slouch hat to a slim umbrella and a frock-coat.

So **slouch-hatted** *a.*, wearing or having a slouch hat.

1826 SCOTT *Woodst.* V, A slouch-hatted, long-cloaked, sour-faced fanatic. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. V. i, Much may remain unfixed..in the Slouch-hatted heads, in the French Nation's head. 1897 *Westm. Gaz.* 1 Oct. 5/3 A group of slouch-hatted warriors.

Slou·chily, *adv.* [f. SLOUCHY *a.*] In a slouchy or slovenly manner.

1890 SARA J. DUNCAN *Social Departure* 79 Wearing their European jackets still a little slouchily. 1891 *Daily News* 14 Oct. 5/5 Two..slouchily dressed policemen.

Slou·chiness. [f. SLOUCHY *a.*] The state or condition of being slouchy or slovenly.

1891 in *Cent. Dict.* 1897 *Amer. Ann. Deaf* Sept. 334 Certain personal habits of our pupils,..slouchiness when sitting or standing.

Slouching (slaʊ·tʃiŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. SLOUCH *v.*] Ungainly walking, lounging or loafing, etc.

a 1764 LLOYD *Dial.* 285 As some take stiffness for a grace,.. And others, for familiar air Mistake the slouching of a bear. 1891 SCRIVENER *Our Fields & Cities* 80 The men you see standing in groups..are branded lazy fellows, who prefer slouching to any other condition.

Slouching (slaʊ·tʃiŋ), *ppl. a.* [f. as prec.]

1. Hanging down, drooping; heavy. *rare.*

1611 COTGR., *Oreilles lasches*, slowching, or hanging eares. 1655 tr. *Com. Hist. Francion* III. 76 A famisht Norman.. fell into such a passion against the Pastry-man,..that he flung all the Crust of the Pye at his slouching Chops. 1886 *Westm. Rev.* CXXV. 85 He had..rather rough-hewn slouching features.

2. Of persons: Having an awkward, stooping, slip-shod carriage or gait; walking or moving with a slouch.

1668 H. MORE *Div. Dial.* II. xxi. (1713) 157 The forcing of a rich, beautiful and vertuous Bride upon some poor slouching Clown. 1845 DICKENS *Chimes* iii. 126 A slouching, moody, drunken sloven. 1868 HELPS *Realmah* vii. (1876) 146 It did not..enable him to perceive a timid, slouching figure. 1874 BURNAND *My Time* xi. 95 A slouching young man..touched his hat to me.

3. Of a hat: Having a brim which hangs over the face. Also *transf.* of other garments, etc.: Hanging down in a loose untidy manner; slovenly.

1691 tr. *Emilianne's Frauds Rom. Monks* (ed. 3) 406, I go to the Lawyers..with my great Slouching-Hat. 1719 D'URFEY *Pills* I. 354 Next then the slouching Sledo, and our huge Button, And now our Coats, flanck broad, like Shoulder Mutton. 1840 DICKENS *Barn. Rudge* xxxiv, Enveloped from head to foot in an old, frowsy, slouching horse-cloth. 1842 BORROW *Bible in Spain* xxiii, They wear the sombrero, or broad slouching hat of Spain. 1878 BRET HARTE *Man on Beach* 115 His thought was not always clothed in the best language, and often appeared in the slouching, slangy undress of the place and period.

4. Marked or characterized by a slouch or clumsy stooping carriage or bearing.

a 1773 CHESTERFIELD (Todd), The awkward, negligent, clumsy, and slouching manner of a booby. 1774 in Burke *Corr.* (1844) I. 513 Formerly they had a slouching, slovenly air. Now every peasant..is erect and soldier-like. 1838 DICKENS *Nickleby* xliv, The man..lingered with slouching steps by the wayside. 1888 F. HUME *Mme. Midas* I. Prol. He was followed by the dumb man with bent head and slouching gait.

Hence **slou·chingly** *adv.*, in a slouching or slovenly manner.

1858 *Chambers's Jrnl.* IX. 106 Men lounging about..in slouched attitudes, and slouchingly attired. 1889 MARY E. CARTER *Mrs. Severn* II. II. ii. 141 Man and dog advanced slouchingly.

Slouchy (slaʊ·tʃi), *a.* [f. SLOUCH *sb.* and *v.* + -Y.] Slouching, in various senses; slovenly, untidy. Freq. in recent *U.S.* usage.

a 1693 *Urquhart's Rabelais* III. xvii. 141 What meaneth this..wagging of her slouchy Chaps? 1864 I. TAYLOR in *Good Words* 227 The ample auburn locks are in part huddled up within a broad-bordered slouchy cap. 1868 M. H. SMITH *Sunshine & Shadow N. York* 283 His dress slouchy and countrified, his oratory uninviting. 1882 *Cent. Mag.* XXV. 176 Looking like a slouchy country bumpkin.

Slough (slaʊ), *sb.*[1] Forms: *α.* 1, 3–4 **sloh,** 1 **sloȝ**(h, 5 **slogh,** 4–5 **sloghe** (5 **sloghte**); 4 **slowh, slowȝ** (5 **-e**); 4 **slouhe, slouȝ**(**e,** 4–**slough** (6 **-e**), 5 **sclough,** 9 *Sc.* **slouch.** *β.* 4, 6–7 **slowe,** 4–8 **slow.** *γ.* 1, 3, 5 **slo,** 4–5, 9 *dial.* **sloo.** (See also SLEW *sb.*[1]) [OE. *slōh* (*slōg, slō*), of doubtful origin; perhaps ultimately related to SLONK.]

1. A piece of soft, miry, or muddy ground; *esp.* a place or hole in a road or way filled with wet mud or mire and impassable by heavy vehicles, horses, etc.

α. *c* 900 tr. *Baeda's Hist.* V. vi. (1890) 400 Þæt hors..sume sloh on þæm wæge mid swiðþran ræse oferhleop. *a* 1023 WULFSTAN *Hom.* xlvi. (1883) 239 Ðeah se man nime ænne stan and lecȝe on ful sloh. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 142 Of the welles brinke Or of the pet or of the slowh. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 13547 Wan to the lond, Thurgh the slicche and the slyme in þis slogh feble. *a* 1425 *Cursor M.* 15826 (Trin.), Forþ þei ihesus drowȝe And lugged him..ouer hilles, dale, & slowȝe. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 345/1 A Sloghte, *tesquum, vel tesqua, volutabrum.* *c* 1500 *God Speed the Plough* 14 By downe and by dale and many a slough. 1577 HARRISON *Descr. Brit.* xix. in *Holinshed* I. 114 Manie a slough [would] proue hard ground that yet is deepe and hollow. 1670 MILTON *Hist. Eng.* II. Wks. 1851 V. 78 Many a time enclos'd in the midst of sloughs and quagmires. 1678 BUNYAN *Pilgr.* I. 9 They drew near to a very Miry Slough...The name of the Slow was Dispond. 1732 SWIFT *Corr.* Wks. 1841 II. 682 Every meadow a slough, and every hill a mixture of rock, heath, and marsh. 1784 COWPER *Task* III. 5 One who.., having long in miry ways been foil'd.., from slough to slough Plunging [etc.]. 1827 SCOTT *Chron. Canongate* iii, An old-fashioned road, which, preferring ascents to sloughs, was led in a straight line. 1869 BLACKMORE *Lorna D.* ii, The sloughs were exceedingly murky.

transf. 1856 KANE *Arctic Expl.* I. xvi. 187 And then piloted my dogs out of their slough. 1890 E. H. BARKER *Wayfaring in France* 27 Sand sloughs into which they may step unawares.

β. 13.. *K. Alis.* 6075 (W.), Into theo mores they heom drowe, To quede paththes, to quede slowe. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Manciple's Prol.* 64 (Hengwrt MS.), He hath also to do moore than ynow To kepen hym and his capil out of the Slow. 1537 *Bury Wills* (Camden) 132 Mendyng the fowle slowys betwene thys my howse and Reuyttes gate. 1642 ROGERS *Naaman* 558 To lie as a beast in a slow. 1678 [see above]. 1710 *Acc. Distemper Tom Whigg* II. 44 Breaking his Horse's Back as he plung'd into a Slow.

γ. *a* 1000 in Birch *Sax. Chartul.* I. 530 Of þan slo to þan lytlan beorhe. *Ibid.* II. 41 In readan sloe. *c* 1250 [see b]. *a* 1300 *Assump. Virg.* 507 Cast we it in a foule sloo. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Friar's T.* 267 Now is my cart out of the sloo parde! *c* 1425 *Castle Persev.* 2242 in *Macro Plays*, Lete slynge hem in a fowle slo. 1426 LYDG. *De Guil. Pilgr.* 13597 By brookys and by sloos fowle, A-mong the clay they hym dyffoule. [1891 *Hartland Gloss.* s.v. *Slough*, A bye-road at H. is called *Sloo Road*, and an adjoining field *Sloo Park.*]

b. *fig.* A state or condition (esp. of moral degradation) in which a person, etc., sinks or has sunk.

c 1250 *Owl & Night.* 1394 Vor mony wymmon hauep mysdo þat aryst vp of þe slo. *c* 1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* xxix. 3 Wha sa gifis þaim til lustis of fleysse.., þai light in þe sloghe, and þai ere enmys of Jesu crist. 1415 HOCCLEVE *Sir J. Oldcastle* 105 Ryse vp, a manly knyght, out of the slow Of heresie. *c* 1425 *Castle Persev.* 2757 in *Macro Plays*, þus hast þou gotyn, in synful slo, of þyne neygboris, be extorcyon. 1593 Q. ELIZ. *Boeth.* IV. pr. iii. 81 See you not in what a great slowe [L. *cæno*] wicked thinges be wrapt in. 1632 *Star Chamber Cases* (Camden) 105 For this man Carrier when he talks of religion he is in a slowe. 1742 YOUNG *Nt. Th.* VI. 222 Ambition, av'rice; the two daemons these, Which goad thro' ev'ry slough our human herd. 1768–74 TUCKER *Lt. Nat.* (1834) II. 149 To take the adventurous leaps of folly, or plunge into the sloughs of vice. 1823 ROSCOE tr. *Sismondi's Lit. Europe* (1846) I. viii. 257 A disgusting slough swallows up those, who abandon themselves to choleric passions. 1850 HT. MARTINEAU *Hist. Peace* IV. ix. (1877) III. 35 The clergy sank into a deeper slough of popular hatred. 1888 H. MORTEN *Hospital Life* 22 It had.. lifted her out of the miserable slough in which marriage had landed her.

c. *Slough of Despond*, after Bunyan's use (see 1 a and DESPOND *sb.*).

1776 TWINING in *Country Clergyman of the 18th C.* (1882) 31, I remember slumping all on a sudden into the slough of despond, and closing my letter in the dumps. 1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* i, The miry Slough of Despond, which yawns for insolvent debtors. 1839 FR. A. KEMBLE *Resid. Georgia* (1863) 12 If one individual..were to raise himself out of such a slough of despond. 1884 HAWEIS *My Musical Life* I. 137 Musical criticism has been in the same Slough of Despond.

2. The matter of which a slough is composed; soft mud or mire. ? *Obs.*

a 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 1662 Euch strete..bute sloh & slec, eauer illiche sumerlich. 1393 LANGL. *P. Pl. C.* XIII. 179 Bote yf þe sed þat sowen is in þe sloh sterue, Shal neuere spir springen vp. *a* 1425 *Cursor M.* 1964 (Trin.), Also 3e ete of no flesshe elles þat in slouȝe & erþe dwelles. 1732 SWIFT *Epist. Corr.* Wks. 1841 II. 682 You can't ride half a mile..without being in slough to your saddle-skirts. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* I. iv. (1862) II. 261 Covered over with weeds, slough, and all the filth of the sea. 1776 G. SEMPLE *Building in Water* 71 A Hole, which was immediately filled up with Slough.

3. A ditch, dike, or drain; also, a cart rut. ? *Obs.*

1532 HERVET *Xenophon's Treat. Househ.* (1768) 67 Thinke you than that we do not make the dyches and sloughes in the fieldes for a good cause? 1598 FLORIO, *Carreggista*, the rut or slough of a cart wheele. 1640 G. ABBOTT *Job Paraph.* 169 By his labour and skill he cuts out passages and sloughs in the hard stony rocks. 1685 *Phil. Trans.* XV. 956 In the Bog, observe which way the little Sloughs run; be sure to cut their drains across them.

4. *U.S.* (slū). = SLEW *sb.*[1]

a 1817 T. DWIGHT *Trav. New Eng.* etc. (1821) II. 142 The slough will be covered with a causey; and the marsh by draining be converted into a meadow. 1874 J. W. LONG *Amer. Wild-fowl.* viii. 128 Mallards breed in small numbers in the various swamps and sloughs of the Western country. 1888 GOODE *Amer. Fishes* 109 Oftentimes the current cuts out a deep 'slough', or sluice, within reach of high water mark...It forms a space of smooth water between the outer and inner breakers. 1891 C. ROBERTS *Adrift Amer.* 29, I went over head and ears into a slough, a long narrow stretch of water formed by a depression in the prairie.

5. *attrib.*, as *slough-cake, -water*, etc. **Also slough bass, grass** (see quots.).

1869 BLACKMORE *Lorna D.* ii, The great blunderbuss..was choked with a dollop of slough-cake. 1874 J. W. LONG *Amer. Wild-fowl.* ix. 150 Lager-beer..is much better to drink than slough-water. 1888 BESSEY *Botany* 455 *Muhlenbergia glomerata* and *M. Mexicana* constitute the 'Fine Slough Grass' of the Mississippi valley prairies. 1881 J. A. HENSHALL *Bk. Black Bass* 142 Slough Bass. 1888 GOODE *Amer. Fishes* 56 'Marsh Bass,'..'Slough Bass,'..are other names applied to one or both species [of black bass].

Slough (slʊf), *sb.*[2] Forms: 1 **slohu, slouh,** 5 **sloȝ, 4, 7 slow;** 4–5 **slughe,** 4 **slught,** 5, 7 **slugh;** 5 **slouȝe,** 6–7 **sloughe,** 6 **slougth,** 6–**slough,** 8 **sluf,** 9 *dial.* **sluff;** *Sc.* 6 **slouch**(**t, slowch, sluich,** 9 **slooh.** [ME. type *sloh, sloȝ*, of uncertain origin, perh. related to LG. *sluwe, slu* husk, peel, shell.]

1. The outer or scarf skin periodically cast or shed by a snake, adder, or similar reptile; also generally, the skin of a serpent, eel, etc.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 745 þis nedder forth þat he ne blan Bot in hijs slught [*v.rr.* slohu, slouȝe] was self satan. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 5085 Fellis of fischis..with lions on lyue & lamprays sloȝis. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 345/2 Slughes of eddyrs. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* II. viii. 60 Lyke to the eddir..[that has] Now slippit hir sloucht with schyning skyn new brerd. 1593 SHAKS. *2 Hen. VI*, III. i. 229 As the Snake, roll'd in a flowring Banke, With shining checker'd slough. 1608 TOPSELL *Serpents* (1653) 810 The slow of the viper cureth the ring-worm. 1681 GREW *Museum* I. III. 49 The Slough of an English Viper. 1713 DERHAM *Physico-Theol.* IX. i. 438 Although he missed seeing the Serpents Yet he saw great numbers of their *Exuviæ*, or Sluffs. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* IV. 99 If the old slough be then viewed, every scale will be distinctly seen. 1851 CARPENTER *Man. Phys.* (ed. 2) 138 The continuity is well seen in the cast skin or *slough* of the Snake. 1897 G. C. BATEMAN *Vivarium* 182 A slough when perfect is an exact copy of the exterior of the Snake from which it came.

b. The skin of a caterpillar, locust, etc. cast in the course of transformation, as from the nymphal to the imago stage.

1681 Grew *Museum* I. vii. iii. 176 A very large Aurelia and Slough of a Silk-Worme. 1818 Kirby & Sp. *Introd. Entom.* xvi. (ed. 2) II. 16 The moisture that remained upon them [i. e. locusts] after casting their sloughs.

c. *fig.* A feature, quality, etc. which is thrown off.

1583 Golding *Calvin on Deut.* cxxi. 744 Vnlesse she..haue put her old bringing vp quite out of her minde, yea and euen cast her slough as they say. 1602 Marston *Ant. & Mel.* I. Wks. 1856 I. 9 Can man by no meanes creepe out of himselfe, And leave the slough of viperous griefe behinde? 1774 Burke *Sp. Amer. Taxation* Wks. I. 175 Are we to give them..the slough of slavery, which we are not able to work off, to serve them for their freedom? 1797 Godwin *Enquirer* I. xiv. 121 He casts the slough of sedentary confinement. 1818 Hallam *Mid. Ages* (1872) I. 131 The barbarians..had early cast off the slough of their rude manners. 1868 Tennyson *Lucretius* 177 The mountain there has cast his cloudy slough.

d. Apparel, clothing.

1808 Scott *Marmion* VI. vii, For now that sable slough is shed,..I scarcely know me in the glass. 1820 — *Monast.* xviii, I did but wait to cast my riding slough. 1821 — *Kenilw.* xxx, While those..get rid of their slough, and doff their riding-suits.

2. A skin, caul, or membrane, enclosing or covering the body or some part of it.

13.. *Hampole's Pr. Consc.* 520 Bot a rym [*v.rr.* slow, slouh] þat es ful wlatsome,..þat es noght bot a blody skyn þat he [man] byfor was lapped in. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 4456 Þus make ȝe vessels in vayne to ȝoure foule corses,..þat ilk slymand slugh. *c* 1460 *Towneley Myst.* xiii. 385, I was flayd with a swevyn, My hart out of sloghe. 1486 *Bk. St. Albans, Hunting* f iij b, Than shall ye slyt the slough ther as the hert lith. 1599 Jas. I *Dæmonol.* 125 As to their [werwolves] having and hiding of their hard and schelly sluiches. 1599 Rollock *Serm.* Wks. 1849 I. 385 Na creature ..can tak aff the slouch of thy hart to let thee see.

b. An enclosing or covering layer, coat, or sheath of some kind.

1610 Holland *Camden's Brit.* 556 By reason that under the upper crust of the earth there is limestone which supplyeth a batling fruitfull slugh, or humour. 1610 Fletcher *Faithf. Sheph.* III. i, No slough of falling Star did ever hit Upon this bank. ? *c* 1730 Ramsay *Horace to Virgil* 12 With heart hool'd in three sloughs of brass.

c. *dial.* The outer skin of certain fruits; a husk.

c 1660 in *Select. Biogr.* (Wodrow Soc.) I. 265 Such a crosse is mine, and the sweet kirnell of the blessing under the sour slough that is without. 1691 Ray *N. C. Words* (ed. 2) 65 A *Slough*, a Husk; it is pronounced *sluffe*. 1855 [Robinson] *Whitby Gloss., Sluffs*, the skins of all such fruit as gooseberries and currants are called sluffs or sloughs. 1869– in dial. glossaries (Yks., Lancs., Linc.); also in Sc. use.

3. *Path.* A layer or mass of dead tissue or flesh formed on the surface of a wound, sore, or inflammation; a sphacelus.

1513 Douglas *Æneid* II. x. 83 The clud..That on ȝour mortale ene..Lyke to ane wattery slowch standis dyme about. 1612 Woodall *Surgeon's Mate* Wks. (1653) 409 The first eskers or Cadaverous sloughes being removed. 1676 Wiseman *Surg. Treat.* I. xxi. 98 The matter of the Humour ..may be arsenical, as appears by the Sloughs we sometimes find made in a night. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XVIII. 97/2 Gun shot wounds are commonly covered from the beginning with deep sloughs. 1835–6 *Todd's Cycl. Anat.* I. 61/2 The inflammation..producing..sloughs of the adipose tissue. 1877 F. T. Roberts *Handbk. Med.* (ed. 3) I. 49 A slough is formed, which becomes isolated from the living textures and undergoes a process of separation.

fig. 1842 Tennyson *St. Simeon Stylites* 2 From scalp to sole one slough and crust of sin.

Comb. 1857 Ld. Dufferin *Let. High Lat.* 116 Crumpled shreds and shards of slough-like incrustations. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* II. 488 The discharge appears so to cling to the sore surface as to form a thick slough-like yellow pellicle.

† **Slough,** *sb.*[3] *Obs.*[-1] (See quot.)

1647 J. Cleveland *Poems, King's Disguise* 33 The false scabberd of a Princes tough Metall, and three-pil'd darknesse, like the slough Of an imprisoned flame. [*Note.*] A damp, in Cole-pits usuall.

Slough (slʊf), *sb.*[4] Also **sluff.** [app. f. Slough *v.*[2]] (See quots.)

1838 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* I. 144/2 Preventing those sloughs, or slipping at the foot of the materials, which may be observed on most large embankments. 1839 Murchison *Silurian Syst.* I. xxix. 376 The cliff vein..terminates in what the miners here [Pembroke] call a 'slough', i. e., it is bent suddenly downwards, accompanied on each side by the usual measures. 1908 *Daily Chron.* 16 Dec. 1/2 Two seconds afterwards the sluff came down in hundreds of tons.

Slough (slau), *sb.*[5] Also 9 **sloo, sloe.** [Corresponds to Norw. *slo*, Icel. *slá* (whence the Shetland form *sloe*), but the currency of the word in south-western dialect is remarkable.] (See quots.)

1721 Bailey, *Slough*,..the spungy or porous Substance in the Inside of the Horns of Oxen or Cows. 1844 Barnes *Poems Rural Life* Gloss., *Sloo of a horn*, the inner bony prominence from the skull, or quick part of a cow's horn, which bleeds when broken. 1883 R. Haldane *Workshop Rec.* Ser. II. 300/2 Dry materials:..Horn 'sloughs' (the pith or core of horns). 1890 in *Gloucester Gloss.* 142.

Slough (slau), *v.*[1] [f. Slough *sb.*[1]] *trans.* In passive: To be swallowed *up* in a slough.

1904 Eleanor Ormerod *Econ. Entomologist* v. 38 Another time somebody..got nearly sloughed up in one of the great marsh ditches.

Slough (slʊf), *v.*[2] [f. Slough *sb.*[2]]

1. *intr.* Of diseased skin, tissue, etc.: To come *away* or *off*, to be shed, as a slough.

1720 Quincy tr. *Hodges' Loimologia* 138 Those which went no further than the skin, would oftentimes slough off. 1787 *Med. Comm.* II. 160 A large portion of the integuments ..sloughed away. 1813 J. Thomson *Lect. Inflamm.* 269 The injured part of the artery sloughed off with the ligature. 1847 W. C. L. Martin *Ox* 160/2 The diseased part..sloughs away, and new and healthy skin is reproduced.

transf. and *fig.* 1857 Gosse *Omphalos* vii. 131 Every one of these scars indicates where a leaf has grown..and whence, after death and decay, it at length sloughed away. 1886 *Boston Jrnl.* 7 Aug. 1/9 The situation improved up to the time the eight-hour agitation began, when trade sloughed off and became dull.

b. To become covered or encrusted with a slough; to form or develop necrosed tissue.

1787 *Med. Comm.* II. 160 It was evident that some part of the urethra had also sloughed. 1804 Abernethy *Surg. Obs.* 54 The exposed tumour inflamed and sloughed progressively, till it entirely came away. 1846 Brittan tr. *Malgaigne's Man. Oper. Surg.* 319 The columna..sloughed from the fourth day, and was removed with the scissors. 1880 MacCormac *Antiseptic Surg.* 14 In the other case of protracted recovery, a large portion of skin sloughed.

fig. 1861 Lytton & Fane *Tannhäuser* 49 [To] seek from gross hearts, slough'd in sin, Approval of pure Love to win.

2. *trans.* To eat *away*, to throw *off*, by the formation of a slough or sloughs.

1762 R. Guy *Pract. Obs. Cancers* 48 Four large Ulcers were sloughing the Breast away. 1844 H. Stephens *Bk. Farm* II. 612 The portion of the vertebra which has been cut through will have to be sloughed off before the wound can heal.

3. Of a serpent or similar reptile: To cast or shed (the skin) as a slough; to exuviate.

1845 [see b]. 1854 Mary Howitt *Pict. Cal. Seasons* 427 About the middle of the month [September] the common snake sloughs or casts its skin. 1870 Gillmore tr. *Figuier's Reptiles & Birds* i. 13 Reptiles..slough their old covering, or in other words cast their skin.

absol. 1875 Tennyson *Q. Mary* III. iii, The serpent that hath slough'd will slough again. 1897 G. C. Bateman *Vivarium* 231 Young Snakes slough more frequently than their older relatives do.

b. *fig.* To cast off, drop, discard, give up, get rid of (something). Also with *off*.

(*a*) 1845 De Quincey *Susp. de Prof.* I. in *Blackw. Mag.* LVII. 283, I saw a ewe suddenly put off and abjure her own nature, in a service of love—yes, slough it as completely, as ever serpent sloughed his skin. 1851 D. Jerrold *St. Giles* xxii. 226 With such change, he cannot but slough much of the bad reputation..fixed upon him. 1876 Meredith *Beauch. Career* II. xvi. 287 Nevil will slough his craze.

(*b*) 1848 Milnes *Life, Lett.*, etc. *Keats* I. 23 The wonder is rather that he sloughed off so fast, so many of his offending peculiarities. 1860 Maury *Phys. Geogr.* (ed. 8) ii. § 112 Why does the Gulf Stream slough off and cast upon its outer edge, sea-weed, drift-wood [etc.]? 1873 T. Hardy *Pair of Blue Eyes* II. 3 She could slough off a sadness and replace it by a hope.

4. To take *off* in grinding.

1844 H. Stephens *Bk. Farm* II. 353 The small bran..is only generated after the large bran has been sloughed off.

Hence **Sloughed** (slʊft), *ppl. a.*

1857 Gosse *Omphalos* ix. 248 *note*, 'The rattle is cast annually' with the sloughed skin.

Slough-dog, -hound. *Sc.* and *north.* [See Sleuth *sb.*[2]] = Sleuth-hound 1

1774 Pennant *Tour Scotl. in 1772* 68 The inhabitants of the marches were obliged to keep such a number of slough dogs, or what we call blood-hounds. *a* 1784 *Hobbie Noble* xv. in Child *Ballads* IV. 3 Aft has he beat your slough-hounds back. 1842 Jefferson *Allerdale Ward* 23 The dogs appointed to be kept for defence were called slough dogs. 1843 *M. A. Richardson's Historian's Table-bk., Leg. Div.* I. 159 The slough dogs of the Borderers.

Sloughful(nesse, varr. Slowful(ness *Obs.*

Slou·ghiness. *rare*[-1]. [f. Sloughy *a.*[2]] The condition of being sloughy.

1788 *Med. Comm.* II. 178 Its [*sc.* erysipelas] termination ..is never in suppuration, but in..sloughiness, or gangrene.

Slou·ghing (slʊ·fiŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. Slough *v.*[2]]

1. *Path.* The process of forming a slough.

1800 *Med. Jrnl.* IV. 548 On a subsidence of the swelling, there was a sloughing. 1826 S. Cooper *First Lines Surg.* (ed. 5) 52 When sloughing and ulceration have actually taken place, some surgeons apply lint. 1879 *St. George's Hosp. Rep.* IX. 289 After first week there was some sloughing about amputation wound.

b. *attrib.* in *sloughing process, state.*

1802 *Med. Jrnl.* VIII. 454 Their gangrenous sloughs once removed, and the sloughing process..corrected. 1813 J. Thomson *Lect. Inflam.* 473 The sloughing and gangrenous states.

2. The action or process of casting a slough; exuviation. Also *attrib.*

1835 Ure *Philos. Manuf.* 238 When the sloughing process begins for shifting their skins. 1857 Gosse *Omphalos* viii. 216 A great many periodical sloughings of the crust [of a crab] must have occurred. 1897 G. C. Bateman *Vivarium* 180 The sloughing of a Snake is a very interesting operation to watch.

fig. 1865 Pusey *Truth Eng. Ch.* 194 The sloughing-off of the imperfection ingrown as it were with the soul.

Slou·ghing, *ppl. a.* [f. as prec.] *Path.* Developing or forming a slough or sloughs.

1813 J. Thomson *Lect. Inflam.* 649 The too-long-continued use of stimulating remedies in sloughing burns. 1845 Budd *Dis. Liver* 71 The sloughing ulceration in acute dysentery. 1896 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* I. 434 Charcoal poultices..usually ordered for sloughing wounds.

Comb. 1869 Lawson *Dis. Eye* (1874) 30 In the majority of cases..a sloughing looking ulcer is left.

Sloughishnesse, obs. form of Sluggishness.

Sloughtful(ly, obs. forms of Slothful(ly.

Sloughy (slau·i), *a.*[1] [f. Slough *sb.*[1] + -y[1].] Of the nature of, resembling, slough or soft mud; abounding in or full of slough; miry, muddy.

1724 Swift *Drapier's Lett.* vii. Wks. 1755 V. II. 152 Low ground, with a thin green sward, and sloughy underneath. 1776 G. Semple *Building in Water* 71 That they may not lean either to the one Side or the other in that sloughy Ground. 1813 J. C. Hobhouse *Journey* (ed. 2) 102 The path very bad and sloughy. 1872 S. Mostyn *Perplexity* I. ii. 45 He will..kneel in sloughy banks. 1890 Stanley *Darkest Africa* II. xxii. 57 Belts of sloughy mud, disparted by small streams.

Sloughy (slʊfi), *a.*[2] Also 5 **slughy.** [f. Slough *sb.*[2] + -y[1].]

1. Consisting or formed of slough or cast skin. *rare.*

1483 *Cath. Angl.* 345/2 Slughy, *squamosus.* 1695 Blackmore *Pr. Arth.* X. 71 The sloughy Spoils from his sleek Back depos'd.

2. *Path.* Of the nature of, resembling, a slough; marked or characterized by the presence of a slough or sloughs.

c 1720 Gibson *Farrier's Guide* II. iv. (1738) 12 A disease proceeding..from some viscid sloughy matter. 1775 *Phil. Trans.* LXVI. 436 The wound..made but an indifferent appearance; the edges of it were very sloughy. 1804 Abernethy *Surg. Obs.* 232 The whole surface..was found in a sloughy and putrid state. 1879 *St. George's Hosp. Rep.* IX. 329 During the following three days, the stump assumed a sloughy condition.

Comb. 1839–47 *Todd's Cycl. Anat.* III. 55/1 A large sloughy-looking opening. 1879 *St. George's Hosp. Rep.* IX. 339 A ragged excavated sore, having a white sloughy-looking base.

Slougish, obs. form of Sluggish *a.*

Slouk. *dial.* and *rare.* [Cf. Norw. *slǒk*, Icel. *slókr*, in the same sense.] An idle, lazy fellow.

A verb, *slouk* to slouch, occurs in *S. W. Linc. Gloss.* (1886).

1570 Levins *Manip.* 217 A Slouke, *iners, ignarus.* 1867 J. Poole *Gloss. Wexford* 68 *Slouk*, an idle, heedless person.

Slounge, *v. Sc.* and *north. dial.* Also 7– **slunge,** 9 **sloonge.** [Cf. Lounge *v.*] *intr.* To move, or hang about, in a lazy or slouching manner.

The sb. *slounge* or *slunge*, a slouching fellow, idler, etc., is also current: see the *Eng. Dial. Dict.*

c 1680 F. Sempill *Banishm. Poverty* in *Poems Sempills* (1849) 54 The morn I ventur'd up the Wynd, And slung'd in at the Nether-bow. 1788 James Macaulay *Poems* 131 (E.D.D.), Thou lazy, slounging, donart sot. 1808 J. Stagg *Misc. Poems* 143 Ye'd luok but silly slouches,..heame wi' empty pouches, To slounge this day. 1808 in Jamieson. *c* 1860– in dialect glossaries, etc. (N. Irel., Yks.).

Slour, *v. Cant.* (See quots.)

1812 J. H. Vaux *Flash Dict.*, *Slour*, to lock, secure, or fasten; to *slour up* is also to button up; as one's coat, pocket, &c. 1834 Ainsworth *Rookwood* III. v, No slour'd hoxter my snipes could stay. 1859 *Slang Dict.* 95 *Slour'd hoxter*, an inside pocket buttoned up.

Slouse (slauz), *v. dial.* Also **slouze.** [perh. suggested by *sluice* and *souse.*] *trans.* To wash with a copious supply of water.

1726 in *Evesham Jrnl.* 8 Mar. 1902 (E.D.D), Slousing ye pavement. 1909 *Westm. Gaz.* 28 Aug. 2/3 After a big catch, especially of herrings, they [*sc.* the nets] are also given a slouzing.

Sloush (slauʃ), *v. dial.* [Cf. prec. and Slush *v.*] *trans.* To slush or sluice (something) in washing; to dash or throw (water) *over.*

1889 Jerome *Three Men in Boat* vii. 102 You..sloush the things about in the water. 1900 *Longman's Mag.* Nov. 63 You'ld put the clothes in a trough..and then sloush the water over them. *Ibid.*, Sloush them again.

Slouth, obs. form of Sloth.

Slovak (slo·vāk, slŏvā·k), *sb.* and *a.* Also **slovac(k.** [a. Slovak and Czech *Slovák* (pl. *Slováci*), Pol. *Słowak*, Russ. Словакъ, G. *Slowake* (pl. *Slowaken*), f. the stem *Slov-*: see Slovene].

A. *sb.* 1. A person belonging to a Slavonic race dwelling in the north-western part of Hungary.

1839 *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) XX. 397/1 The Walachians..multiply in Eastern as the Slovacs do in Western Hungary. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 125/2 This literary movement was shared by the Slovaks of Hungary. 1887 *Encycl. Brit.* XXII. 153/2 For a long time the Slovaks employed Chekh in all their published writings.

2. The language or dialect spoken by this people.

1862 Latham *Elem. Comp. Philol.* 628 The Slovak, with a minimum amount of literary culture. 1887 *Encycl. Brit.* XXII. 150/2 Slovenish exhibits an older form of Slavonic than Servian, just as Slovak is earlier than Bohemian.

B. *adj.* Of or belonging to the Slovaks, or their language; Slovakian.

1887 *Encycl. Brit.* XXII. 153/2 The first Slovak grammar was published..at Presburg in 1790. 1905 *Contemp. Rev.* Apr. 584 The Slovak nation in Hungary numbers more than 2,000,000.

Hence **Slovakian** (slŏvē·kiăn), *a.* and *sb.*; **Slovakish** (slŏvē·kiʃ), *a.* and *sb.*

1829 *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) XX. 397/1 The Russniacs..mix but little with their Slovachian neighbours. *Ibid.*, The dialect spoken by the Slovachians. 1881 *Encycl. Brit.* XII. 365 Hungarian was used in 7024 [schools]..Slovakian in 1901. 1883 *Nation* (N.Y.) XXXVI. 546 The annexation of the Slovakish territory of Hungary. 1883 Morfill *Slavonic Lit.* i. 9 The dialect, Ugro-Slovenish.., shows some connexion with Slovakish.

Slovan (slōu·văn). *Mining.* [? Cornish.] The end or termination of an adit, lode, etc.

1778 W. Pryce *Min. Cornub.* 133 An open trench, like the tail or low slovan of an adit. 1886 J. W. Anderson *Prospector's Handbk.* 124 *Slovan*, the 'cropping out' of a lode or strata.

Slove, obs. or dial. pa. t. of SLIVE *v.*

Sloven (slʊ·v'n), *sb.* and *a.* Forms: 5 **sloveyn, 6 slovayne, slouеyne, slovein**; 6 **slouyn, -in, slovyn, slooven, 6–7 slouen, 6– sloven.** [Of doubtful origin; perh. an AF. formation on Flem. *sloef* dirty, squalid, shabby (see Kilian), or Du. *slof* careless, negligent.]

A. *sb.* †**1.** A person of low character or manners; a knave, rascal. *Obs.*

c 1450 *Cov. Myst.* xxiii. (Shaks. Soc.) 218 Com forth, thou sloveyn! com forthe, thou scolde! 1515 BARCLAY *Ecloges* ii. (1570) B iij b, If thou one manchet dare handle or els touche,..Then shall some slouen thee dashe on the eare. 1530 PALSGR. 271/2 Slovyn, a knave, a rybaude, *ribaudeau.* 1548 UDALL, etc. *Erasm. Par. Mark* iii. 29 He wandered up and downe with a sort of rascal slouens, and vile felowes folowing him at the heles. *c* 1680 *Delect. Hist. of Poor Robin* v, How poor Robin served one of his Companions a slovens trick.

†**2.** A person of slothful or indolent habits or way of life; a lazy, idle fellow. *Obs.*

1523 SKELTON *Garl. Laurel* 191 Some sluggyssh slouyns, that slepe day and nyght. 1530 PALSGR. 271/2 Sloven or luske, *bovcanier.* 1576 FLEMING *Panopl. Epist.* 355 Let vs abhorre to resemble that slouthfull slouen, who..differed nothing from a dead carkasse.

attrib. 1532 MORE *Confut. Tindale* Wks. 574/2 Not a litle child, but a great slouen slouche.

3. One who is careless or negligent in respect of dress, personal appearance, or cleanliness; an untidy or dirty person.

1530 PALSGR. 424 Thou shalte be but a slovayne and thou were clothed in clothe of golde. 1553 T. WILSON *Rhet.* (1580) 164, I can call them by none other name but slovens, that maie have good geare, and neither can nor yet will once weare it clenly. 1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* I. ii. II. v. (1651) 83 Madrit,..a pleasant site; but the inhabitants are slovens, and the streets uncleanly kept. 1690 C. NESSE *Hist. & Myst. O. & N. Test.* I. 77 Good meat may be disowned for being dress'd up by some nasty sloven. 1700 T. BROWN tr. *Fresny's Amusem.* vii. Wks. 1709 III. I. 63 Marriage..often melts down a Beau into an errant Sloven. 1796 BURKE *Regicide Peace* Wks. II. 365 The committee for foreign affairs were such slovens, and stunk so abominably, that [etc.]. 1825 SIR J. BOWRING *Autobiog. Recoll.* (1877) 319 She came in—a dirty sloven, her hair tangled, a common cotton gown on. *c* 1850 MACAULAY *Biog.* (1860) 88 Being frequently under the necessity of wearing shabby coats,.. he [Johnson] became a confirmed sloven.

†**b.** Used allusively in *Sloven's Hall, Inn, press. Obs.*

c 1515 *Cocke Lorell's B.* 5 Patrycke peuysshe, a conynge dyrte dauber, Worshypfull wardayn of slouens In. 1594 NASHE *Terrors of Night* Wks. (Grosart) III. 258 They haue beene layd vp in slouens presse, and with miscarriage and misgouernment are so fretted and galled [etc.]. 1600 — *Summer's Last Will* 682 That pride is not my sinne, Slouens Hall where I was borne, be my record.

4. One who works, etc. in a careless, perfunctory, or slipshod manner; a writer who is careless in style or composition.

1771 GOLDSM. *Haunch of Venison* 113 The baker..that negligent sloven Had shut out the pasty on shutting his oven. 1799 A. YOUNG *View Agric. Linc.* 138 There are some slovens remaining, who either hoe but little, or.. execute it in a very insufficient manner. 1815 W. H. IRELAND *Scribbleomania* 24 He that in Blank-Verse a sloven can be, Must slur every flight of divine Poesy. 1846 LANDOR *Imag. Conv.* I. 224 It must be conceded that we moderns are but slovens in composition. 1884 J. PARKER *Apost. Life* II. 306 The painter who desires ..to reach perfection will excel the sloven who never knew the compulsion of a pure ambition.

B. *adj.* Slovenly. Also *U.S.*, uncultivated; untrained.

1815 *Sporting Mag.* XLVI. 54 This sloven way of touching the component parts of a landscape. 1821 CLARE *Vill. Minstr.* II. 73 In sloven garb appears each bawling boy. 1856 EMERSON *Eng. Traits, Stonehenge*, There, in that great sloven continent, in high Alleghany pastures, ..still sleeps and murmurs..the great mother [Nature]. 1882–3 SCHAFF *Encycl. Relig. Knowl.* I. 156 The sloven imagination of people who received no religious instruction.

Sloven (slʊ·v'n), *v. rare.* [f. SLOVEN *sb.*]

†**1.** *intr.* To be slothful or indolent. *Obs. rare.*

1560 PILKINGTON *Aggeus* E viij b, Is it tyme for you to lye slouenyng in your couches night and day, and Gods house vnbuylded? *Ibid.* F iiij b, The sluggarde..is a slouen styll and lyes slouenynge in hys bed, takyng no paynes to doo good.

†**2.** *refl.* To dress in a slovenly or untidy manner. *Obs.*—[1]

a 1591 H. SMITH *Serm.* (1622) 37 They care not how they slouen themselves, so their Wiues jet like Peacockes.

3. *trans.* To expend, to treat, in a slovenly or careless manner. *rare.*

1824 C. WELLS *Joseph & Brethren* I. i, I cannot bear To see thy dotage sloven'd on a child. 1863 COWDEN CLARKE *Shaks. Char.* xix. 487 No one, I should think, would be so hardy as to maintain..that Shakespeare slovened his insignificant characters in order to throw his principals into high relief.

So †**Slo·vening** *ppl. a.*, idle; indolent. *Obs.*

1549 COVERDALE, etc. *Erasm. Par. Jude* II. 23 Doe not they sinne after like sorte, which being deluded with slouening dreames of false pleasures [etc.]. *Ibid., James* II. 38 Your golde and your siluer is marred with rust in the custody of a nygarde & slouening heyre.

Slovene (slovī·n), *sb.* and *a.* [a. G. *Slovene* (*Slowene*), pl. *Slovenen*, ad. Styrian, etc. *Slovenec*, pl. *Slovenci*; the name is a survival of the old native designation of the Slavs, which appears in OSlav. as *Slovĕne*, and is supposed to be derived from the stem of *slovo* word, *sloviti* to speak.]

A. *sb.* A member of the Serbo-Croatian group of Slavonic peoples, dwelling in Styria, Carinthia, Carniola, and adjacent parts; a Wend.

1883 MORFILL *Slavonic Lit.* x. 248 The Slovenes belong to the eastern..branch of the great Slavonic family. 1887 *Encycl. Brit.* XXII. 147/2 The Slovenes have preserved an old form of the family name.

B. *adj.* Slovenian; Slovenish.

1902 *Q. Rev.* July 169 The equalisation, in all public offices, of the Czech and Slovene languages with the German.

Slovenian (slovī·niăn), *a.* and *sb.* [f. prec. + -IAN.] **a.** *adj.* Belonging or pertaining to the Slovenes. **b.** *sb.* The language of the Slovenes.

1844 *Proc. Philol. Soc.* I. 273 The corresponding tense of the Slovenian dialect. 1862 LATHAM *Elem. Comp. Philol.* 628 The Illyrian or Slovenian of Carinthia and Carniola, closely akin to the western dialects of the Servian group.

Slovenish (slovī·niʃ), *a.*[1] and *sb.* [f. SLOVENE *sb.* + -ISH.] = SLOVENIAN *a.* and *sb.*

1883 MORFILL *Slavonic Lit.* i. 8 The geographical extent of the territory over which..Slovenish and its dialects are spoken. *Ibid.* ii. 35 To this day..the name Windish is frequently given by the Germans to what would be more correctly called the Slovenish language.

Slo·venish, *a.*[2] *rare*—[1]. [f. SLOVEN *sb.* + -ISH.] Of or pertaining to slovens.

1648 J. BEAUMONT *Psyche* XII. clxxxvi, To be betray'd To slovenish Altars, and to clownish Rites, By fained Zeal's irreverent Deceits.

Slo·venlike, *a.* and *adv.* [f. SLOVEN *sb.*] = SLOVENLY *a.* and *adv.*

1800 in *Spirit Public Jrnls.* IV. 252 To give myself a slovenlike appearance. 1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* XXXVIII, I will have a look into this letter, however, which he hath sealed so slovenlike.

Slovenliness (slʊ·v'nlinės). [f. SLOVENLY *a.*] The quality or state of being slovenly or untidy; *esp.* habitual neglect or carelessness with regard to dress, personal appearance, or cleanliness.

1611 COTGR., *Grobianisme*, grobianisme, slouenlinesse. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* III. 46 Old Writers reproch..the Suevians with Slovenlinesse. 1651 HOBBES *Govt. & Soc.* x. § 1. 148 Out of it, there is a Dominion of Passions, war, fear, poverty, slovinlinesse... In it, the Dominion of reason, peace, security, riches, decency. 1796 MORSE *Amer. Geogr.* II. 612 In eating, their slovenliness is shocking. 1837 LOCKHART *Scott* I. v. 147 He rallied Walter..on the slovenliness of his dress. 1882 MISS BRADDON *Mt. Royal* I. ii. 68 No slovenliness claiming to be excused as artistic disorder.

b. Carelessness or negligence in work, style, etc.; an instance of this.

1641 BP. HALL *Def. Humble Remonstr.* § 16 Whether the multitudes of Sects, and professed slovenlynesse in Gods service,..have not bin guilty of the increase of profanenesse amongst us. 1693 EVELYN *De la Quint. Compl. Gard.* II. 178 Negligence, Slovinglyness, &c. which we are to look upon as the Monsters of Kitchen Gardens. 1767 YOUNG *Farmer's Lett. to People* 291 Bad management..through slovenliness, idleness, or other obstructions to any profitable husbandry. *a* 1834 COLERIDGE *Table T.* (1836) 247 When he gets..into a sentence of five or six lines long, nothing can exceed the slovenliness of the English. 1884 *Spectator* 4 Oct. 1324/2 Certain inconsistencies of matter and slovenlinesses of manner which are of little consequence.

Slovenly (slʊ·v'nli), *a.* Also 6 **slouin-, slouing-,** 7 **slovin-,** 7–8 **slovingly.** [f. SLOVEN *sb.* + -LY[1].]

†**1.** Low, base, rascally; lewd. *Obs. rare.*

a 1515 *Cocke Lorell's B.* 3 Cocke dyde set them there as knaues sholde be, Amonge the slouenly sorte. 1579 GOSSON *Sch. Abuse* (Arb.) 40 Neither with Amorous gesture wounding the eye: nor with slouenly talke hurting the eares of the chast hearers.

2. Of persons: **a.** Habitually or naturally careless in dress or personal appearance; untidy.

1583 STUBBES *Anat. Abus.* II. (1882) 65 He that is borne vnder Capricornus shall be a slouenly, ill sauoured, and vncleane fellowe. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* III. 44 The Germanes ..are..more slovenly in their apparrell, in their Stoves and all manner of linnen. 1682 S. PORDAGE *Medal Rev.* Ep. p. 3 The one being a much slovenlier Beast than the other. 1704 N. N. tr. *Boccalini's Advts. fr. Parnass.* II. 22 These Slovingly Fellows all over daub'd with Blood. 1822 W. IRVING *Bracebr. Hall* xxii, A thin, elderly man, rather threadbare and slovenly. 1831 SCOTT *Castle Dang.* i, Do you suffer your youthful pupils to be indeed so slovenly and so saucy?

b. Careless or negligent in work of any kind.

1781 COWPER *Table Talk* 682 Churchill.., Surly and slovenly, and bold and coarse, Too proud for art, and trusting in mere force. 1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* xxx, The ground was partly cultivated, and partly left in its natural state, according as the fancy of the slovenly agriculturists had decided. 1826 *Art of Brewing* (ed. 2) 29 Some slovenly and covetous brewers adopt the following dangerous and unfrugal practice.

3. Of dress, appearance, habits, etc.: Marked or characterized by untidiness or want of attention to neatness and cleanliness.

In older use occas., 'nasty, disgusting'.

a 1568 ASCHAM *Scholem.* (Arb.) 54 Yet som warlike signe must be vsed, either a slouinglie busking, or an ouerstaring frounced hed. 1602 MARSTON *Ant. & Mel.* Induct., As slovenly as the yeasty breast of an ale-knight. 1682 DRYDEN *Medal* 285 A heav'n, like Bedlam, slovenly and sad. 1784 COWPER *Task* II. 456 This..offends me more Than in a churchman slovenly neglect And rustic coarseness would. 1809 PINKNEY *Trav. France* 78 Railings..which are generally in a condition to give the country not only a naked but a slovenly appearance. 1834 *Brit. Husb.* I. 111 (L.U.K.), Although the common class of Irish farmers are generally accused of slovenly habits. 1861 GEO. ELIOT *Silas M.* 58 His person showed marks of habitual neglect; his dress was slovenly.

4. Marked or characterized by want of neatness, care, precision, or thoroughness. (Frequent with *manner* or *way.*)

1621–3 MIDDLETON & ROWLEY *Changeling* II. ii, Hunger and pleasure, they'll command sometimes Slovenly dishes. 1693 DRYDEN *Ded. Juvenal* Ess. (Ker) II. 93 There is still a vast difference betwixt the slovenly butchering of a man, and the fineness of a stroke that separates the head from the body. 1774 BRYANT *Mythol.* I. 416 Inventing the most slovenly legend that ever was devised. 1777 MME. D'ARBLAY *Early Diary* July, You must suppose it spoke in a very slow and slovenly voice. 1804 *Med. Jrnl.* XII. 58 Many such proofs..shew great carelessness and the slovenly want of attention that seems so generally to prevail. 1819 SCOTT *Bl. Dwarf* ii, This slovenly and imperfect mode of cultivation left much time upon his own hands. 1875 WHITNEY *Life Lang.* viii. 148 Careless or slovenly handling of language.

5. *Comb.*, as *slovenly-dressed, -minded* adjs.

1880 *Daily News* 26 Mar. 5/4 What Mr. Lowe would call a rather slovenly-minded person. 1886 W. J. TUCKER *E. Europe* 236 The 'cafetier'..was peremptorily addressing a sleek, slovenly-dressed waiter.

Slo·venly, *adv.* Also 7 **slovingly.** [f. SLOVEN *sb.* + -LY[2].] In a careless, negligent, or untidy manner.

1576 FLEMING *Panopl. Epist.* 311 Let not your gowne sitt vppon your backe too nicely, nor yet weare it too slouenly. 1598 MARSTON *Sco. Villanie* I. ii. 177 Lewd Precisians Who ..take the symbole vp, As slouenly, as carelesse Courtiers slup Their mutton gruell. 1659 GAUDEN *Slight Healers* (1660) 77 They will heal their hurts very slovingly, slowly, and ill-favouredly. 1713 SWIFT *Frenzy of J. Denny* Wks. 1755 III. I. 139, I..hang my clothes on somewhat slovenly. 1796 MORSE *Amer. Geogr.* II. 614 The churches are full of pictures slovenly painted on parchment. 1870 ROCK *Text. Fabr.* Introd. II. 100 Every part was done in the feather-stitch, slovenly put down.

†**Slo·venness.** *Obs.* [f. SLOVEN *sb.* + -NESS.] Slovenliness.

1630 *R. Johnson's Kingd. & Commw.* 88 The Gentlemen are proud of nothing but slovennesse, unbeseeming familiarity, and disorder. 1642 FULLER *Holy & Prof. St.* III. vi. 165 Yet 'tis more pardonable to be proud even of cleanly rags, then..of affected slovennesse. 1786 *New London Mag.* May 230 Sloth and slovenness are said to be often the cause of scurvy.

Slovenry (slʊ·v'nri). Also 6 **slooveny,** 6–7 **slovenrie.** [f. SLOVEN *sb.* + -RY.] The quality or condition of being slovenly; neglect of neatness or cleanliness; slovenliness, carelessness, negligence.

Common *c* 1600–1650; now *rare.*

1542 UDALL *Erasm. Apoph.* 74 Persones yᵗ dooe glorie & braggue of their niggyshe slooveny. 1586 HOOKER *Hist. Irel.* in *Holinshed* II. 86/2 The onelie meane..whereby hir husband his countrie was reclamed from sluttishnesse and slouenrie. 1648 J. BEAUMONT *Psyche* I. clxii, Never did Slovenry more misbecome Nor more confute its nasty self than here. 1682 RYCAUT tr. *Gracian's Critick* 198 It is a barbarous Slovenry after we have blown our Nose, to look on the Snot in our Handkerchief.

1847 *Blackw. Mag.* LXII. 662 It has a little dash of slovenry. 1895 *Sotheran's Catal.* Jan. 11 This first edition of the two novels is curiously mis-titled through the publisher's slovenry.

Slow (slō), *sb.* Also 1 **slawa,** 4–5 **slowe.** [f. SLOW *a.* or *v.*]

In the *Rom. Rose* 4751 it is very doubtful whether *a slowe* can be taken to mean 'a moth'; it is more probable that it is due to some misunderstanding or misreading. In *Leg. Holy Rood* (1871) 214 the sense of *with-oute slow* is not clear, perh. 'without delay'.

1. A slow or slow-going person; a sluggard.

c 897 K. ÆLFRED tr. *Gregory's Past. C.* XXVIII. 190 Ðu slawa, ga ðe to æmethylle. 1382 WYCLIF *Prov.* XX. 4 For cold the slowe wolde not eren. *Ibid.* XXIV. 33 Hou longe, slowe, thou slepist? *c* 1450 in *MS. Douce* 52 If. 21 Lothe to bedde and lothe fro bedde, men schall know þe slow. 1861 PYCROFT *Agony Point* (1862) 191 Only one year before, he would have numbered with 'the old fogies' and the slows.

2. A slow-paced horse.

1826 *Sporting Mag.* XVIII. 213 Our 'slows' are certainly quicker than most of that genus whom I have observed in other countries. 1832 SIR G. C. LEWIS *Lett.* 17 Lest Gilbert should think that the Hereford horses have a monopoly of the slows.

3. *Cricket.* **a.** A slowly-bowled ball. **b.** A slow bowler.

1862 *Sporting Life* 14 June, Some of the slows seemed to puzzle him sorely. 1881 *Standard* 14 June 3/8 This was due to the condition of the wicket, on which the fast bowling bumped and the slows popped about a great deal. 1895 *Strand Mag.* Aug. 141, I have met some capital bowlers in the past. I should class them in two sections, the slows.. and the fasts.

4. *pl.* (See quot.) *U.S.*

1855 DUNGLISON *Med. Lex.* (ed. 12) 564/1 *Milk Sickness*, Sick stomach, Swamp sickness, Tires, Slows..A disease occasionally observed in..Alabama, Indiana, and Kentucky, which affects both man and cattle, but chiefly the latter. *Ibid.* 792/2 *Slows*, Milk-sickness.

5. [f. the vb.] *Slow-down, slow-up,* an act or instance of slowing a train, etc.

1891 *Cent. Dict., Slow-up*, the act of slackening speed. 1897 *Pall Mall Mag.* Sept. 77 Each slow-down caused delay of one minute. 1899 *Westm. Gaz.* 25 Aug. 4/1 Including two slow-ups, an average speed of 30.9 sec. per mile was maintained.

Slow, obs. variant of SLOUGH *sb.*[1]

Slow (slōu), *a.* Forms: *α.* (Chiefly *north.* and *Sc.*) 1, 3– slaw, 1, 4–6 slawe, 3, 6 slau, 9 sla. *β.* 2– slow (5 sclow), 4–6 slowe, 3–4, 7 slou; 6 slo, sloo. *γ.* 3 slowȝ, 3–4 slouȝ, 4 slouȝe, 5 slowȝ, slough(e; 4 slouh, 4–5 slowh, 5 sclowh; 4 sloȝ, sloghe. [Common Teutonic: OE. *sláw* (:–OTeut. *slaiwaz*), = MDu. and Du. *sleeuw*, *slee*, OS. *sleu* (MLG. and LG. *slê*), OHG. *slêo* (MHG. *slê*, *slêw-*, G. dial. *schleh*, *schlehe*), ON. *sléer*, *sljár*, *sljór* (Norw. *sljo*, *sljø*, etc.; Sw. *slö*, Da. *sløv*), blunt, dull, etc. The stem is perh. the same as in L. *lævus*, Gr. λαιός left.]

I. 1. Not quick or clever in apprehending or understanding a thing; obtuse, dull: *a.* Of persons. Also with *in* or *of*.

c 888 K. Ælfred *Boeth.* xxxvii. § 4 Þone sænan þe bið swa slaw [L. *stupidus*] þu scealt hatan assa ma þonne man. 1387 Trevisa *Higden* (Rolls) V. 255 (MS. γ), Constatyn.. was slouȝ and dol of wyt. *c* 1475 *Prompt. Parv.* (K.), Slaw, dulle of wyt, *ebes*. 1611 Cotgr., *Pucelle nicette*, a slow, dull, simple, foolish, or nice girle. 1825 Scott *Betrothed* xiii, My nephew..hath a fancy like a minstrel. Myself am but slow in imagining such devices. 1858 Dickens *Lett.* (1880) II. 73, I thought them a dull and slow audience. 1875 Jowett *Plato* (ed. 2) III. 228, I am slow of understanding.

b. Of the mind, etc.

a 1100 *Ags. Hymns* (Surtees) 37 Mod..ðæt slawe, *Mens.. torpida*. 1398 Trevisa *Barth. De P. R.* v. xii. (Bodl. MS.), It is a token of dulnes and of slowe witte and vndirstonding. 1422 tr. *Secreta Secret., Priv. Priv.* 231 Tho that..haue moisti flesh and lytill hette, bene..of slow vndyrstondynge. 1651 Hobbes *Leviath.* I. viii. 32 A slow Imagination maketh that Defect..which is commonly called Dulnesse. 1727 Boyer *Dict. Royal* II, A slow (heavy or dull) Wit, *un Esprit lent ou pesant*. 1849 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* vi. II. 11 Such reasoning had no effect on the slow understanding and imperious temper of James.

2. Naturally disinclined to be active or to exert oneself; constitutionally inert or sluggish; lacking in promptness or energy.

α. *c* 897 [see sense 15]. *c* 1000 *Ags. Gosp.* Matt. xxv. 26 Þu yfela ðeow & slawa. *a* 1023 Wulfstan *Hom.* (1883) 72 Se ðe wære full slaw, weorðe se unslaw. *c* 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 183 To gode þu ware slau and let, and to euele spac and hwat. *c* 1425 *Castle Persev.* 1033 in *Macro Plays*, He is provd, wrathful, & Envyous; Glotons, slaw, & lecherous. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 343/1 To be Slawe, *..pigrare, pigrescere*. 1533 Bellenden *Livy* I. xii. (S.T.S.) I. 74 Þai held þe king of Romanis for ane slaw and effemynate prince. *c* 1600 Montgomerie *Cherrie & Slae* 943 Nothing he saw In age, but anger, slack and slaw.

β. *c* 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 7 Longe we habben lein on ure fule synnes..alse slou man doð on swete slape. *c* 1250 *Ten Abuses* 5 in *O. E. Misc.* 184 Proest þat is wilde, Bischop slou. *a* 1310 in Wright *Lyric P.* xxxix. 110 He is the sloweste mon that ever wes y-boren. 1388 Wyclif *Prov.* xx. 4 A slow man nolde ere for coold; therfor he schal begge in somer. *c* 1440 *Gesta Rom.* lvi. 239 (Harl. MS.), He that is the sloweste of yow, or most slewthe is in, shall have my kyngdom aftir my discese. 1538 Starkey *England* I. iii. 79 Lyke as in a dropcy the body ys vnweldy, vnlusty, and slo, no thyng quyke to moue. 1588 Shaks. *L. L. L.* III. i. 60 Is not Lead a mettall heauie, dull, and slow? 1824 [see Slowish *a.*]. 1831 *Society* I. 321 A clever hint to show slow personages what is expected from them.

γ. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 258 Hwo mei beon, uor scheome, slummi & sluggi & slouh, þet bihalt hwu swuðe bisi ure Louerd was on eorðe? *c* 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 319 Ho-so hath of þe watere mest, he schal beo..gret slepare and slowȝ þar-to. *c* 1386 Chaucer *Melib.* P 51 (Corpus MS.), And he þat is ydel & slowh, can neuer fynde couenable tyme fer to doon his profyte.

b. Characterized by, of the nature of, sloth or sluggishness.

c 1384 Chaucer *H. Fame* III. 1778 Ye maisty Swyne, ye ydel wrechhes, Ful of roten, slowe techches. 1390 Gower *Conf.* II. 92 Ther ben othre vices slowe, Whiche unto love don gret lette. *a* 1586 Sidney *Astr. & Stella* Sonn. xcvi, Slow heauinesse in both holds one degree.

c. Having a dull edge; blunt. Now *dial.*

This sense is prominent in the cognate languages.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 458/1 Slaw, or dul of egge, *ebes, obtusus*. *a* 1904 in *Eng. Dial. Dict.* s.v., T' knife is slow.

d. *Med.* Torpid; sluggish.

1896 *Daily News* 26 May 6/4 In the case of one's having a slow liver..the jerking might, perhaps, be of some service. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VII. 259 Producing a high blood-pressure..and a slow heart.

3. Not quick, ready, prompt, or willing *to* do something.

c 1200 Ormin 9885 Stunnt & stidiȝ, dill & slaw To sekenn sawless seollþe. 1297 R. Glouc. (Rolls) 9327 He is..Slou to fiȝte & quic to fle, & þat nis no manhede. *c* 1340 Hampole *Pr. Consc.* 188 To listen and lere þai er ful slaw. 1390 Gower *Conf.* III. 110 He schal be..slouh and lustles to travaile In thing which elles myhte availe. 1565 Cooper *Thesaurus* s.v. *Piger*, Slow to write: loth to take the paynes to write. 1592 Shaks. *Rom. & Jul.* IV. i. 3, I am nothing slow to slack his hast. 1697 Dryden *Virg. Past.* I. 37 Freedom..came at length, tho' slow to come. 1781 Cowper *To Protestant Lady* 20 How slow to learn the dictates of his love. 1815 Scott *Guy M.* xxi, As some have not been slow to tell their lords. 1885 *Manch. Exam.* 15 May 5/3 They will not be slow to return him like for like.

b. With *in*.

1382 Wyclif *Rom.* xii. 11 Not slow in bisynesse, feruent in spirit. 1432–50 tr. *Higden* (Rolls) III. 151 When the peple was slawe þer in [etc.]. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 158 Not slowe in commynge therto, nor sluggysshe therin. 1594 Kyd *Cornelia* I. 166 The wrath of heauen..is slow In punishing the euils we haue done. 1736 Ainsworth *Lat. Dict.* I. s.v., He is naturally slow in speech, and very dull. 1831 Scott *Ct. Rob.* iv, These men, quick in malice, though slow in perilous service. 1866 G. Macdonald *Ann. Q. Neighb.* xxx. (1878) 517 The people were very slow in dispersing.

c. With *of*.

1382 Wyclif *Luke* xxiv. 25 A! foolis, and slowe of herte for to bileue. 1555 Harpesfeld in Bonner *Hom.* 30 b, Fooles and sloo of belefe. 1590 Shaks. *Mids. N.* I. ii. 69 Pray you.., giue it me, for I am slow of studie. 1611 Bible *Exod.* iv. 10, I am slow of speach, and of a slow tongue. 1730 Bailey (fol.), *Tardiloquious*, slow of Speech.

4. Tardy or dilatory in action; displaying a lack of promptitude or energy under particular circumstances; spending a comparatively long time in the performance of some act; doing something in a slow or deliberate manner.

c 1340 Hampole *Pr. Consc.* 1464 Now er we smert, now er we slawe. 1387 Trevisa *Higden* (Rolls) III. 149 But þe peple was slow3, and þerfore Daniel prayed to God þat [etc.]. *a* 1400 *Arthur* 365 He was not sclowh, But to þe hulle hym drowh. 1482 *Cely Papers* (Camden) 128 Hyt wyllbe whel done for goude detturs ar sclow payars. 1533 Bellenden *Livy* IV. xii. (S.T.S.) II. 90 Ȝe ar full of mynassing in tyme of pece, and richt slaw in tyme of batall. 1596 Dalrymple tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* II. 451 Quhen he tariet lang in Paris, and in cuming furth was ouer slawe. 1648 Milton *Ps.* lxxxv. 55 Then will he come, and not be slow; His footsteps cannot err. 1697 Dryden *Virg. Georg.* III. 736 The Victim Ox..Sunk of himself,..Preventing the slow Sacrificer's Hand. *a* 1722 Sir J. Lauder *Decis.* (1759) I. 14 Ordinarily Mr. Gideon was in the rear of all their [witches'] dances, and beat up those that were slow. 1784 Cowper *Task* III. 505 Experience, slow preceptress, teaching oft The way to glory by miscarriage foul. 1822 Lamb *Elia* II. *Thoughts on Bks. & Reading*, Seldom-readers are slow readers. 1833 Nyren *Yng. Cricketer's Man.* (1902) 122 He was a slow bowler, and a pretty good one.

5. Not readily stirred or moved *to* something (esp. anger, revenge, etc.); not too ready, willing, or susceptible. Also with infin.

1382 Wyclif *James* i. 19 Slowe to wrathþe. 1422 tr. *Secreta Secret., Priv. Priv.* I. xxix. 189 Be ryghtfull to al men, Slow to be wroth, Redy to mercy. 1567 *Gude & Godlie Ball.* 115 Mercyfull is he, Slaw to reuenge, and to forgiue reddie. 1593 Nashe *Christ's T.* (1613) 166 There is a certaine kind of good sloth, as to be slowe to anger, slowe to iudgement, slowe to reuenge. *c* 1600 Shaks. *Sonn.* xciv, Vnmooued, could, and to temptation slow. 1648 Milton *Ps.* lxxxvi. 55 Thou Lord art..Slow to be angry. 1784 Cowper *Task* VI. 547 Heav'n, tho' slow to wrath, Is never with impunity defied. 1866 G. Macdonald *Ann. Q. Neighb.* xii. (1878) 234 A clergyman of all men should be slow to take offence.

b. Without const., or with *in*.

1639 S. Du Verger tr. *Camus' Admir. Events* 55 So is it with slow, heavy, and timorous humors, they must have time to increase their choller. 1818 Scott *Br. Lamm.* xxix, We know that maiden's ears must be slow in receiving a gentleman's language.

c. Inattentive *to* something.

1667 Milton *P. L.* III. 193 To prayer, repentance, and obedience due,..Mine eare shall not be slow. 1746 Francis tr. *Horace, Art Poet.* 236 Rough to Reproof, and slow to future Cares.

6. Of things, actions, etc.: Marked or characterized by slowness or tardiness.

c 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 319 Ho-so hath of þe eorþe mest, he is..Of slouȝ wreche and Aruȝ mouth. 1382 Wyclif *Exod.* iv. 10, Y am of more latsum and of more slow tonge. 1390 Gower *Conf.* II. 44 Al hire mod was overtorned, Which ferst sche hadde of slow manere. 1430–40 Lydg. *Bochas* I. xiii. (1554) 23 Slowe credence Hath in some be founde full noyous. 1535 Coverdale *Exod.* iv. 10 For I haue a slowe speach, & a slowe tunge. 1593 Shaks. 3 *Hen. VI*, IV. viii. 40, I haue not..posted off their suites with slow delayes. 1611 — *Cymb.* I. i. 64 That..the search [should be] so slow That could not trace them. 1681 Dryden *Abs. & Achit.* 697 Few words he said, but..those..More slow than Hybla drops, and far more sweet. 1754 Gray *Poesy* 36 Slow melting strains their Queen's approach declare. 1781 Cowper *Charity* 471 With slow deliberation he unties His glitt'ring purse. 1797 Godwin *Enquirer* II. xii. 462 The style..of *Tom Jones*..is feeble, costive, and slow. 1810 Crabbe *Borough* xix. 3 The like slow speech was his. 1814 Byron *Corsair* Ep. Ded., The stanza of Spenser is perhaps too slow and dignified for narrative. 1884 *Encycl. Brit.* XVII. 96 The first movement..is succeeded generally by one in a slow tempo.

b. *Med.* Of the pulse: Below the average rapidity.

1728 Chambers *Cycl.* s.v. *Pulse*, A slow Pulse denotes.. That the Contractions of the Heart are slow. 1818–20 E. Thompson tr. *Cullen's Nosologia* 214 First with lassitude, ..afterwards with slow pulse. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VII. 635 A slow pulse, slowness of cerebration.

c. Of trade, business, etc.: Slack; not brisk.

1887 *Daily News* 7 Feb. 2/5 Good sound samples not plentiful,..and the trade slow all round. 1903 *Times* 1 Dec. 35 Business in flannel was slow.

7. Of a fire: That burns gently or slowly; gentle. Also *transf.* of heat.

1604 E. G[rimstone] *D'Acosta's Hist. Indies* II. vii. 96 Gold and silver, which wee refine with quicke-silver, the fire being small and slow. 1662 J. Davies tr. *Olearius' Voy. Amb.* 64 Being rather a moderate slow heat than an excessive scorching. 1769 Mrs. Raffald *Eng. Housekpr.* (1778) 26 Let it stew on a slow fire. 1811 A. T. Thomson *Lond. Disp.* (1818) 670 Distilling the charge..by a slow and gradually increased heat. 1840 R. H. Dana *Bef. Mast* xxix. 98 We..made a slow fire of charcoal, birch bark, brimstone, and other matters.

fig. 1893 *Outing* XXII. 118/1 The slow-fire of restlessness, doubt and curiosity.

8. *colloq.* **a.** Slow-going; behind the times; out of fashion; not smart or up-to-date.

1827 *Sporting Mag.* XXI. 29 Long courtships are stupid things, and voted slow. 1842 C. J. Apperley *Life Sportsman* ii, John Hawkes and myself always ride in leathers, though people say 'it looks slow'. 1857 Hughes *Tom Brown* I. iv, Slow place, sir; slow place; off the main road.

b. Dull or tedious in character; tiresome; apt to bore one.

1841 Lever *C. O'Malley* xxix, How very slow, all this! thought I. 1848 *Punch* XV. 19 All books are slow,..all domestic, all quiet enjoyments are slow. 1887 Smiles *Life & Labour* 332 It must..be admitted that angling is a very 'slow' amusement to persons of active habits.

c. Of persons: Having no briskness or animation; dull, lifeless, insipid; humdrum.

1841 Lever *C. O'Malley* xxix, Slow fellows, like them, must find any place stupid. 1849 Alb. Smith *Pottleton Legacy* (1854) 281 He was a good creature, but too 'slow'.

II. 9. Taking or requiring a comparatively long time; tardy in progress, growth, etc.; very gradual.

c 1230 *Hali Meid.* 37 His waxunge se lat, & se slaw his þrifti. 1565 Cooper *Thesaurus*, *Exitus segnis*, slow death. 1574 W. Bourne *Regiment for Sea* xxii. (1577) 60 These markes be very yare..: and those markes very slowe and asketh some distance in sayling. 1604 Shaks. *Ham.* I. ii. 58 (Q2), Hath my Lord wroung from me my slowe leaue, 1667 Milton *P. L.* x. 692 These changes in the Heav'ns, though slow, produc'd Like change on Sea and Land. 1781 Gibbon *Decl. & F.* xix. (1787) II. 156 He had recourse to the slower but more certain operations of a regular siege. 1816 Scott *Old Mort.* xxxii, The bridge was long and narrow, which rendered the manœuvre slow as well as dangerous. 1859 Darwin *Orig. Spec.* iv. (1860) 108 Variation ..is apparently always a very slow process. 1876 J. Parker *Paraclete* I. x. 154 Intellectual illumination is sudden, but intellectual education is always slow.

b. With various complements implied, as (slow) in growing, coming in, rising, going off, etc.

1594 Shaks. *Rich. III*, II. iv. 15, I would not grow so fast, Because sweet Flowres are slow, and Weeds make hast. 1775 De Lolme *Eng. Const.* Advt. p. xiii, These profits I indeed thought to be but scanty and slow. 1798 Landor *Gebir* III. 251 Some Sowed the slow olive for a race unborn. 1857 Emerson *Poems* 67 Slow structures, stone by stone, Built in an age. 1861 Dickens *Uncomm. Trav.* iv, Held out at arm's length at frequent intervals and soundingly slapped, like a slow lot at a sale.

10. a. Of fevers, etc.: Not rapidly developing into a serious form; not acute.

c 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 76 A slouȝ feuere him cam on, þat ne nam him nouȝt ful strongue. 1596 Dalrymple tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* I. 5 That sair seiknes..cam nevir till ws, nochtthelesse, continual caldes, albeit slawe. 1725 N. Robinson *Th. Physick* 291 Of the Cure of slow Fevers, attended with Hectic Heats. 1776 Gibbon *Decl. & F.* xiii. (1782) I. 467 He soon contracted a slow illness. 1822–7 Good *Study Med.* (1829) II. 237 The first variety..has..been commonly distinguished by the name of low or slow nervous fever. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* III. 82 A dull slow swelling appears in the menaced joints.

b. Not rapid in operation or effect.

1611 Shaks. *Cymb.* I. v. 10 These most poysonous Compounds, Which are the moouers of a languishing death: But though slow, deadly. 1794 Mrs. Radcliffe *Myst. Udolpho* IV, A slow poison was administered. 1796 Burke *Corr.* (1844) IV. 401 The work will be new, and slow in its operation, but it is certain in its effect. 1867 Bloxam *Chem.* 418 Touch-paper or slow port-fire, which consists of paper soaked in a weak solution of saltpetre and dried.

c. *Photogr.* Of a plate, etc.: That takes or receives impressions with comparative slowness; not quickly affected by light, and therefore requiring a longer exposure.

1889 *Anthony's Photogr. Bulletin* II. 161 With a slow plate it is better..to leave the trees alone. 1890 Abney *Photogr.* (ed. 6) 125 Plates prepared with it are slow and give thin images.

11. Of time: Passing slowly or heavily. Also *transf.* of a dial.

1565 Cooper *Thesaurus*, *Anni segnes*, slow yeres passyng away in idlenesse. 1593 Shaks. *Rich. II*, I. iii. 150 The slye slow houres shall not determinate The datelesse limit of thy deere exile. 1611 Sir W. Mure *Misc. Poems* Wks. (S.T.S.) I. 17 The too slou day To steil away. 1792 S. Rogers *Pleas. Mem.* I. 102 When the slow dial gave a pause to care. 1818 Shelley *Julian* 489 As slow years pass, a funereal train. 1842 [see Hour 2].

b. *Slow time*, a rate of marching in which only 75 paces, of 30 inches each, are taken in a minute.

1802 in James *Milit. Dict.* 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* II. I. xii, There is wheeling and sweeping, to slow, to quick and double-quick time. 1876 Voyle & Stevenson *Milit. Dict.* 390/1 The instruction given in manual and firing exercises is performed in slow time.

12. Of clocks, etc.: Indicating a time in retard of the true or standard time; behind in time. Also of the sun: Behind mean time.

1696 W. Derham *Artificial Clockmaker* (1759) 158 By the Table, you see how many Minutes, and Seconds, the Dial is too fast, or too slow. 1742 R. Long *Astronomy* II. III. xii. 509 In the common equation tables it is sometimes said the clock is too fast or too slow. 1855 Lardner *Mus. Sci. & Art* V. 135 From the 25th December to the 15th April the sun is always slow. 1886 J. Merrifield *Naut. Astron.* 165 The chronometer..is..fast when it shows a later time, and slow when it shows an earlier time than the true Greenwich mean time.

b. Of local time: Less advanced than the standard to which it is referred.

1894 *Amer. Ann. Photogr.* 22 The local time of a place 3° 56′ West of the [Eastern Standard] meridian..would be 15 m. 44 sec. slow.

III. 13. Moving, flowing, etc., in a slow or sluggish manner; taking a long time to go a

comparatively short distance; having a relatively low speed or velocity.

c 1400 MAUNDEV. xv. (1839) 162 Saturne is sloughe and litille mevynge. 1423 JAS. I *Kingis Q.* clv, The slawe ase the druggare beste of pyne. 1565 COOPER *Thes.*, *Segnipes*, slow of foote: goyng slowly. 1590 SHAKS. *Com. Err.* I. i. 117 [They] would haue reft the Fishers of their prey, Had not their barke beene very slow of saile. 1605 — *Macb.* I. iv. 17 Swiftest Wing of Recompence is slow, To ouertake thee. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* IV. 173 Satan had journied on, pensive and slow. 1764 GOLDSM. *Trav.* 293 The slow canal, the yellow-blossom'd vale. 1774 — *Nat. Hist.* (1776) VII. 180 The viper, that is but a slow, feeble bodied animal, makes way in a heavy undulating manner. 1852 THACKERAY *Esmond* I. vi, In those days letters were slow of travelling. 1871 PRINCESS ALICE *Mem.* (1884) 274 The train .. is the slowest I was ever in in my life.

b. *Slow lemur, loris, monkey*: (see quots.).

1800 SHAW *Gen. Zool.* I. I. 81 Slow Lemur, *Lemur Tardigradus*. 1833 *Zool. Soc. Trans.* I. 69 Future observers of these *slow monkeys*, as M. F. Cuvier denominates them. 1882 *Encycl. Brit.* XIV. 443 *N[ycticebus] tardigradus*, the common slow lemur or loris.

14. a. Of pace, movement, etc.: Leisurely; not quick, fast, or hurried.

1422 tr. *Secreta Secret., Priv. Priv.* 235 Whoso hath the Paas large and slow, he is..wel spedynge in al his dedys. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* XII. vii. 7 With steppis slaw furth stalkand all in feyr. 1533 BELLENDEN *Livy* I. xi. (S.T.S.) I. 64 Mecius..fled with slaw passage to þe montanis. 1613 SHAKS. *Hen. VIII*, I. i. 132 To climbe steepe hilles Requires slow pace at first. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* XII. 648 With wandring steps and slow. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1824) III. 192 The motion of this serpent is slow. 1797–1805 S. & HT. LEE *Canterb. T.* I. 301 That journey itself became visibly slower and slower. 1827 SCOTT *Surg. Dau.* xiii, He understood it was the purpose..to proceed by slow marches and frequent halts. 1833 *Reg. & Instr. Cavalry* I. 16 This is the slowest step at which troops are to move. 1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* I. vii. 52 Hence the slow motion of these glaciers.

b. Characterized by slowness of motion, progress, etc. (In later quots. after Pope.)

1709 POPE *Ess. Crit.* 357 A needless Alexandrine..That, like a wounded snake, drags its slow length along. 1788 GIBBON *Decl. & F.* IV. 192 The slow length of a sickly and desponding host was heavily dragged along the Flaminian way. 1856 *N. Brit. Rev.* XXVI. 269 Three, four, and five years did cases drag their slow length along. 1868 J. S. MILL *Eng. & Irel.* 36 This great undertaking must not drag its slow length through generations.

c. Causing or tending to cause slowness of movement or speed; retarding, heavy.

1873 BENNETT & CAVENDISH *Billiards* 77 On a slow table a No. 2 is required. 1881 *Chicago Times* 4 June, With.. time allowance for 'slow' track. 1904 *Field* 6 Feb. 202/3 A system..lacking directness on a slow and heavy turf.

d. Of a railway track: Utilized for traffic of low speed.

1898 *Daily News* 1 Mar. 5/5 In passing from the slow to the main line the engine fouled the points.

IV. 15. *absol.* as *pl.* Those who are slow in any sense. (Cf. SLOW *sb.* 1.)

c 897 K. ÆLFRED *Gregory's Past. C.* xxxix. 280 Ða slawan sint to manianne ðæt hie ne forielden ðone timan for hiera slæwðe. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 258 Azean slowe & slepares is swuðe openlich his earlich ariste from deað to liue. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* II. 13, I am al beknowe That I have ben on of tho slowe. *Ibid.* 44 Thus sche was on of the slowe As of such hertes besinesse. 1605 SHAKS. *Macb.* III. i. 96 The valued file Distinguishes the swift, the slow, the subtle. 1860 HUGHES *Tom Brown at Oxf.* xiv, The fastest of the fast and the slowest of the slow.

V. 16. *Comb.* **a.** Parasynthetic, as *slow-blooded, -gaited, -hearted*, etc. Also *slow-heartedness*.

1884 W. C. SMITH *Kildrostan* 91 It is a quakerish thing.., Tame and *slow-blooded. 1608 H. CLAPHAM *Errour Left Hand* A 5 To helpe the *slowe conceited. 1744 AKENSIDE *Ode on Leaving Holland* 23 The *slow-eyed fathers of the land. 1588 SHAKS. *L. L. L.* III. i. 56 He is verie *slow gated. 1863 MRS. GASKELL *Sylvia's Lovers* I. ix. 187 She ..sauntered back behind the patient slow-gaited creatures. 1581 MULCASTER *Positions* xlii. (1887) 257 If the maister be verie sharp witted..and the boy *slowheaded. 1690 NORRIS *Beatitudes* (1692) 28 To convince the *slow-hearted and distrustful World. *a* 1680 CHARNOCK *Attrib. God* (1834) I. 743 The frequent rebukes of their *slow-heartedness. 1705 S. DALE *Pharmacologia Suppl.* 332 *De Blatta*,..the *slow leg'd Beetle. 1695 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 3136/4 A very strong bay Mare, 8 years old,..*slow mettled. 1530 TINDALE *Exod.* iv. 10, I am *slowe mouthed and slowe tongued. 1882 BLACKMORE *Christowell* xxi, Persons..slow-mouthed at making, or taking, a joke. 1682 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1731/4 A thin Melancholy Man,..*slow Speeched. 1592 NASHE *P. Penilesse* Wks. (Grosart) II. 60 Prooue it when you will, you *slowe spirited Saturnists. 1820 KEATS *Lamia* I. 365 One came near,..*Slow-stepp'd. 1530 *Slow-tongued [see *slow-mouthed*]. 1836 J. H. NEWMAN *Lyra Apost.* (1849) 123 And slow-tongued Moses rule by eloquence of deed! 1596 SHAKS. *Tam. Shr.* II. i. 208 Oh *slow wing'd Turtle, shal a buzard take thee? 1897 *Outing* XXX. 354/2, I watched the slow-winged clouds floating far above. 1571 GOLDING *Calvin on Ps.* viii. 8 There is no man so dull and *slowe-witted. 1909 *Expositor* Aug. 174 The more slow-witted and less versatile Romans.

b. With verbs, as *slow-foot, -march, -time*.

1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* I. iii. 10 At last she has A damzell spyde slow footing her before. 1760 *Lett. to Hon. Brigadier General* 9 Lord George slow-marched the Cavalry at the Battle of Minden. 1898 *Engineering Mag.* XVI. 105 A resolute attempt to slow-time the machinery.

c. With adjs., as *slow-sudden, -sure*.

1742 YOUNG *Nt. Th.* I. 384 Beware, Lorenzo! a slow-sudden death. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. v. viii, An epigrammatic slow-sure Manuel. 1863 GROSART *Small Sins* (ed. 2) 70 If man would but mark the slow-sure advance of the very least sin!

d. With sbs., as *slow-combustion, -contact*, etc.

1878 ABNEY *Photogr.* 305 To enable the operator to grasp the slow-motion focussing-screw. 1885 SPON *Mech. Own Bk.* (1893) 663 Improved Economic Slow Combustion Hot Air Stove. 1907 HODGES *Elem. Photogr.* (ed. 6) 101 Gaslight or Slow-contact Papers.

Slow (slōu), *adv.* Also 6 slaw(e, slau. [f. SLOW *a.*]

1. In a slow or tardy manner; slowly.

a 1500 *Adrian & Epotys* 22 in *Brome Bk.* 25 Than seyd þe Emprore, note slawe, 'Arte thow wysse wysdam to teche?' 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* VIII. vii. 105 The mychty God of fyr..als tyte, And no slawer,..Furth of his bed startis. 1590 SHAKS. *Mids. N.* I. i. 3 But oh, me thinkes, how slow This old Moon wanes. 1632 MILTON *Penseroso* 76, I hear the far-off Curfeu sound,..Swinging slow with sullen roar. 1680 MOXON *Mech. Exerc.* xii. 209 In large and heavy Work the Tread comes slow and heavily down. 1733 W. ELLIS *Chiltern & Vale Farm.* 109 It grew so slow, as provoked him to take it up. 1762 SIR W. JONES *Arcadia* Poems (1777) 103 Slow he approach'd; then wav'd his awful hand. 1812 BYRON *Ch. Har.* II. xli, As the stately vessel glided slow Beneath the shadow. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* viii, We drove very slow for the last two stages on the road. 1858 *Edin. Rev.* July 207 The narrative moves slow.

2. *Comb.* **a.** With pres. pples. and ppl. adjs., as *slow-burning, -circling, -creeping*, etc.

Combinations of this type are extremely common from *c* 1725; many examples from 18th century poetry are collected by Jodrell.

1591 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* I. ii. 186 Then Slow-growing Babes should instantly be Men. 1630 MILTON *Shaks.* 9 Whilst to th' shame of slow-endeavouring art, Thy easie numbers flow. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* III. 843 The slow creeping Evil eats his way. *Ibid.* IV. 689 Baleful Styx.. With Nine slow circling Streams. *a* 1716 BLACKALL *Wks.* (1723) I. 223 Being Burnt alive in a slowburning Fire. 1779 WARNER in Jesse *Selwyn & Contemp.* (1844) IV. 301, I shall..come in a steel-springed slow-driving hack on Friday. 1833 RENNIE *Alph. Angling* 59 The pike,..which likes to prowl about in slow-running, weedy waters. 1859 DARWIN *Orig. Spec.* iv. (1860) 103 The case of slow-breeding animals. 1891 ROBERTS *Adrift Amer.* 237 The big slow-sailing turkey buzzards.

b. With pa. pples., as *slow-breathed, -developed*, etc.; *slow-drawn, -run, -spoken*.

1727–46 THOMSON *Summer* 1646 Yonder slow-extinguish'd clouds. 1798 Miss H. M. WILLIAMS *Tour Switz.* I. 21 Responsive to the solemn, slow-breathed chant. 1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* xii, Some slow-spoken, long-breathed brother of the congregation? 1849 ROCK *Ch. Our Fathers* II. 495 The sullen splash of slow-drawn oars. 1891 *Daily News* 14 Feb. 3/4 In a slow-run race he was defeated by Sheridan.

Slow, obs. form of pa. t. of SLAY *v.*[1]

Slow (slōu), *v.* Also 6 slowe. [f. SLOW *a.* Cf. OE. *slǽwian* to be or become slow, and the compound *forslǽwian* FORSLOW *v.*]

I. *trans.* **†1.** To lose (time) by delay; to put off. *Obs.*[—1]

? 1522 in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* Ser. II. I. 223 Assoone as God shall sende weder any thing mete for men to goo to the see, I shall slowe no tyme.

†2. To be slack or tardy in performing (business). *Obs.*[—1]

1586 HOOKER *Hist. Irel.* in *Holinshed* II. 142/2 The lord deputie, not slacking, nor slowing his businesse, followed out of hand the foresaid rebels.

3. To delay, check, retard; to make slower in some respect.

1557 N. T. (Genevan) *Luke* xii. 45 My master sloweth his commyng. 1578 BANISTER *Hist. Man* V. 67 The meat is left destitute of concoction, and distribution therof in the body slowed. 1624 T. HEYWOOD *Gunaik.* II. 117 Their speed may bee slackned though not stay'd, and their pace slowed though not quite stopt. 1645 in Carte *Ormonde* (1735) III. 399, I doubt..that this will be neglected, or so far slowed that the season will be lost. 1867 DK. ARGYLL *Reign of Law* iii. 146 A bird can, of course, allow itself to fall backwards by merely slowing the action of its wings. 1875 H. C. WOOD *Therap.* (1879) 138 Digitalis is capable of slowing the beat of the isolated heart of the frog. 1896 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* I. 123 The arterial current becomes therefore relatively slowed.

b. To reduce the working rate or speed of (an engine); to ease. Also with *down*.

1839 R. S. ROBINSON *Naut. Steam Eng.* 138 The engine should always, except in case of absolute necessity, be *slowed* or eased, before it is stopped. 1859 *Merc. Mar. Mag.* (1860) VII. 46 By slowing her engines, she can stop and take soundings. 1890 CLARK RUSSELL *Marriage at Sea* xiv, The engines were 'slowed down',..and a minute later the revolutions of the propeller ceased.

c. To cause (a vessel, vehicle, or train) gradually to slacken in speed. Also with *down* or *up*.

1864 WEBSTER s.v., To slow a steamer. 1889 *Boy's Own Paper* 16 Nov. 103/1 The ship was now slowed, for we could not cross the bar that night. 1899 *Expositor* Jan. 55 We do not want men..to..slow the advancing chariot by hanging on listlessly behind.

II. *intr.* **4.** To slacken in speed; to move or go more slowly.

1594 R. CAREW *Tasso* (1881) 33 To the King she came, Nor for he angry seemes, one step she slowes. *a* 1653 G. DANIEL *Idyll* v. 118 The world Slow'th, Readie to take the Fillup of a Hand Must cure her Dropsie. 1870 *Daily News* 28 Dec., They came on very steadily for about a quarter of a mile, then they slowed, and finally halted. 1894 *Law Times' Rep.* LXXI. 102/2 The *Diana* also.. slowed, so as to permit the tug to pass her.

b. With advs., as *down, up*.

1881 *Cent. Mag.* XXIII. 184 Slowing up, the..Cunarder ..drew towards us. 1885 W. D. HOWELLS *Silas Lapham* (1891) I. 61 He brought the mare down to a walk, and then slowed up almost to a stop. 1891 *Cornhill Mag.* Jan. 15 He slowed down into a shambling walk.

c. Of a railway train: To move with slackening speed *into* a station, etc.

1877 BLACK *Green Past.* xxi, He caught sight of her just as the train was slowing into the station. 1881 *Times* 28 Feb. 11/4 A Watford up train..was slowing into Dalston, where it was to stop.

†5. To suffer delay; to be deferred. *Obs.*[—1]

1602 DOLMAN *La Primaud. Fr. Acad.* (1618) III. 750 The wicked..may thinke that their condemnation sloweth.

6. To become slower, less active or vigorous, etc. Also with *down*.

1879 *Lumberman's Gaz.* 23 Aug., The chances were that the boom company would be obliged to slow down for a few days. 1891 S. MOSTYN *Curatica* 161 The oscillation quickened—to slow again, however. 1904 *Field* 6 Feb. 202/3 The game slowed down a little after Hobbins had scored once more.

Hence **Slow'ing** *ppl. a.*

1890 HUMPHRY *Old Age* 5 A smaller supply of fuel.., not enough to choke the slowing fires.

†Slow'back. *Obs.* [f. SLOW *a.* + BACK *sb.*[1]]

1. A slothful or sluggish person; a sluggard.

1577 tr. *Bullinger's Decades* (1592) 266 For God doeth not assist slouthfull persons and idle slow backes. 1609 HOLLAND *Amm. Marcell.* XVII. ii. 93 Rayling at him as a slow-backe and coward. *a* 1639 W. WHATELEY *Prototypes* I. xix. (1640) 234 Slow-backs, whose hand is no sooner from under the Governours eye, but that it is also off from the work.

2. *transf.* A drone-bee.

1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* I. 314 They [*sc.* bees] mark and note the slow-backs, they chastise them anon.

3. *attrib.* or as *adj.* Laggard; sluggish.

1619 W. SCLATER *Exp.* I *Thess.* (1630) 256 How much adoe haue we..to hale on our slow-back Nature to perfection. *Ibid.* 572 God be mercifull to this declining Age, this slow-backe, or rather backsliding generation.

Slow-bellied, *a. rare.* [Cf. next.]

†1. Sluggish; indolent. *Obs.*

1570–6 LAMBARDE *Peramb. Kent* (1826) 281 Marke..the grosse iugling that these slowe bellyed Syres used to delude the world withall. 1602 F. HERING *Anat.* 4 Slowbellyed Monkes, who haue made escape from their Cloysters.

2. That moves or crawls slowly.

1662 STILLINGFL. *Orig. Sacræ* III. iv. § 4 The unknown kind of Serpents in Brasil, the slow-bellied creature of the Indies [etc.].

Slow-belly. [f. SLOW *a.*] A lazy, idle, or indolent person; a sluggard, laggard. Chiefly *pl.*

After Gr. γαστέρες ἀργαί, in the line attributed to Epimenides and quoted in the Epistle to Titus. Tindale's rendering is followed by Coverdale, etc.; but the Rheims version has 'slothful bellies', and the R. V. 'idle gluttons'.

[1526 TINDALE *Titus* i. 12 The Cretayns are..evyll beastes, and slowe belies.] 1607 HIERON *Wks.* I. 271 The maintenance of a sort of slow-bellies, whose seruice to Gods church was altogether vnprofitable. 1656 BAXTER *Reformed Pastor* 248 To be a Bishop or Pastor is not..as idle slow-bellies to live to our fleshly delight and ease. 1698 FRYER *Acc. E. India & P.* 170 He derides and tells him he is no slowbelly, to desire to expire lazily on a Bed. 1865 *Athenæum* 20 May 681/2 They are no longer slow-bellies, for in many places they had eaten up all that could be called food. 1899 KIPLING *Stalky* 27 Such boys,..evil-speakers, liars, slow-bellies—yea, incipient drunkards.

attrib. 1647 TRAPP *Marrow Gd. Authors* in *Comm. Ep.* 619 'Rebuke them sharply,'..saith S. Paul of those slow-belly Cretians.

Slowche, obs. form of SLOUCH *sb.*

Slow'-coach. Also **slowcoach, slow coach.** [f. SLOW *a.*] One who acts, works, or moves slowly; a slow, idle, or indolent person.

1837 DICKENS *Pickw.* xxxiv, What does this allusion to the slow coach mean?..It may be a reference to Pickwick himself, who has..been a criminally slow coach during the whole of this transaction. 1837 MARRYAT *P. Keene* xii, He's not very quick in temper, or anything else; he's what we call a slow coach. 1886 JEROME *Idle Thoughts* 42 There are plenty of lazy people and plenty of slow-coaches, but a genuine idler is a rarity.

Hence **Slow'-coaching, Slow'-coachish** *adjs.*

1844 THACKERAY *Crit. Rev.* Wks. 1886 XXIII. 209 A venerable bald-headed gentleman, with a most benignant tho' slow-coachish look. 1855 SMEDLEY *H. Coverdale* I. 3 None of your old slow-coaching days for me; life's not long enough for dreaming.

†Slowde. *Obs.*[—1] (Meaning uncertain.)

? *a* 1400 *Morte Arth.* 3719 Thane was it slyke a slowde in slakkes fulle hugge.

Slow'er, *sb. rare*[—1]. [f. SLOW *v.*] That which checks or impedes; a retarding influence.

a 1610 BABINGTON *Wks.* (1622) 82 Making Gods mercy a spurre to his..diligence, and not a slower of him as no doubt many would.

Slow'er, *v. rare.* [f. SLOW *a.*, perh. after LOWER *v.*] *trans.* = SLOW *v.* 3 c.

1882 M. REYNOLDS *Engine-Driving Life* 17 To take the bulk of the momentum out of the train with the brake, and then to slower the train under control to the platform.

Slow'-foot, *a.* [f. SLOW *a.*] Slow-footed; slow-paced. Also *transf.*

1642 H. MORE *Song of Soul* I. ii. 57 The slow-foot beasts on which we rode. 1870 MORRIS *Earthly Par.* II. III. 479 Telling the wondrous ways of slowfoot time. 1891 — *Poems by the Way* 114 The slow-foot hope of the poor.

Slow-footed, *a.* [f. SLOW *a.*] Slow of foot; that walks or goes slowly; slow-moving, slow-paced. Also *transf.*

1642 H. More *Song of Soul* I. ii. 148 Although full loth I were Slow-footed eld the journey should command. 1711 Shaftesb. *Charact.* (1737) II. 301 Ask not merely, why man is..slower-footed than the beasts. 1775 Adair *Hist. Amer. Ind.* 133 He who feeds on venison is..swifter..than the man who lives on..the slow-footed tame cattle. 1873 Morley *Rousseau* II. 135 A man who handles sets of complex facts is necessarily slow-footed. 1892 Rider Haggard *Nada* 271 The pace of a regiment is the pace of its slowest-footed soldier.

†Slow·ful, *a. Obs.* Also 5 **sloweful**(1, slouful, 5–6 **slowfull**, 6 **slowghfull, sloughful,** *Sc.* **sclawful.** [f. Slow *a.*, perh. after Slothful *a.* (cf. Slewful *a.*).]

1. Slack, slow, sluggish.

14.. in *Alexander* (1886) 279, I..pray you..be most obeyssiant to hym þat..shall not be slowefull to kepe & defende you. 1483 Caxton *Gold. Leg.* 427 b/1 He was neuer founde sloweful ne neglygente. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 53 The dull and slowfull asse. 1539 in Strype *Ann. Ref.* I. 561 The slowghfull and ungodly lyff which hath bene usid among all those sects.

2. Showing or marked by ingratitude; thankless, ungrateful. Also const. *of.*

1484 Caxton *Fables of Æsop* [VI.] xi, None ought to be slowful of the good whiche he receyueth of other. — *Fables of Poge* iv, The studye of the huntynge and hawkynge is a slouful cure.

†Slow·fulness. *Obs.* [f. prec. + -ness.]

1. Sloth; slowness.

1482 *Monk of Evesham* (Arb.) 78 By cause he fille fro the loue of god..vnto the coolde of worldly slowfulnes. 1525 Ld. Berners *Froiss.* II. lxxx. [lxxvi.] 239 They be lytel worth, for we haue sene suche slowfulnes in them that we haue no grete trust to them. 1552 Latimer *Serm. Linc.* ii. 71 What shall be their reward for their sloughfulnesse?

2. Ingratitude; thanklessness.

1484 Caxton *Fables of Æsop* [VI.] xi, None ought to forgete the benyfyce whiche he hath receyued of some other, for slowfulnesse is a grete synne.

Slow·-going, *a.* [f. Slow *adv.*]

1. Indisposed to be active or enterprising; inclined to take things easy.

1798 *Sporting Mag.* XI. 57 His Majesty, with a profusion of slow-going gentry. 1833 T. Hook *Parson's Dau.* I. ii, This love at first sight has often been a subject of ridicule amongst slow-going people. 1859 Helps *Friends in C.* Ser. II. I. v. 205 Was his one of those slow-going intellects we sometimes..read of? 1866 *Daily Telegr.* 16 Jan. 7/4 The Dutch are a slow-going people.

2. That moves or goes (comparatively) slowly.

1836 *Penny Cycl.* VI. 190/1 The load of a *heavy* or slow-going camel. 1894 *Outing* XXIV. 382/1 The wild and unusual gesticulations of that slow-going old pacer had broken the harness.

Slowh(e, etc., obs. ff. pa. t. of Slay *v.*[1]

Slow-hound (slōu·hound). [prob. a variant of Slough-hound, with first element assimilated to Slow *a.*] A sleuth-hound.

Slow hound is given by Skinner (1671) as an explanation of '*Slouth* or *Sleuthound*', but it is not clear whether he knew it to be really in use.

1796 Lauderdale *Poems* 97 (E.D.D.), Slow-hound, pointer, tarrier, colley. 1816 Scott *Antig.* iii, He had the scent of a slow-hound, sir, and the snap of a bull-dog. 1856 Miss Manning *Tasso & Leonora* 141 He had tracked it out like a slow-hound. 1865 Kingsley *Herew.* II. iv. 68 It was the contrast between the slow-hound and the grey-hound.

Slow·ing, *vbl. sb.* [f. Slow *v.*] The action of becoming or making slow(er); an instance of this. Also with advs.

1875 H. C. Wood *Therap.* (1879) 326 This slowing of the circulation. 1879 Proctor *Flowers Sky* iv. (1883) 15 The gradual slowing of the earth's rate of turning on her axis. 1884 *Nature* 26 June 212/1 The pulse showed slowings after the exhibition of ergotin. 1889 Skrine *Mem. Thring* 53 Slowing-down would not have improved its action.

Slowish (slōu·iʃ), *a.* [f. Slow *a.* + -ish 1.] Somewhat slow or dull.

1824 Miss Mitford *Village* Ser. I. (1863) 176 George Harris..Slowish—slow but sure. 1851 Carlyle *J. Sterling* III. i, The cabman, sensible that his pace was slowish, took to whipping. 1885 *Field* 3 Oct. 486/1 A slowish kind of sport, all things taken into consideration.

Slowly (slōu·li), *adv.* Forms: *a.* (latterly *north.* and *Sc.*) 1 **slawlice, slaulice, -lece,** 2 **slawliche**; 4–5, 9 **slawly,** 6 **slawlie, slaulie.** *β.* 4–5 **slowliche,** 5 **-lich**; 4–5 **slowli,** 5 **slouly,** 5–6 **slowely,** 7 **slowlye,** 6– **slowly.** [f. Slow *a.* + -ly 2. Cf. MDu. *sleulijch,* ON. *slǽ-, sljá-, sljóliga* (MSw. *sliolica*).]

†1. In a remiss or negligent manner; sluggishly; slackly. *Obs.*

c 897 K. Ælfred *Gregory's Past. C.* xxviii. 190 Dæt hie to slawlice ðara ne ziemen þe him befæste sien. *a* 950 in *Anglia* X. 143 Ne dyde he þat naht slaulice ac he hine eallum middan ȝeardas ehtum onȝerede. *c* 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 11 Đe þridde is þat man..slawliche arised and late to chireche god. *c* 1380 Wyclif *Wks.* (1880) 314 Hely þe heyȝ prest was dampned, for he reproued hise sones but to softliche & slowliche. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 155 b, Perfeccyon, whiche they slowly & weykly or fayntly desyre. 1563 Winȝet tr. *Vincent. Lirinensis* xxviii. Wks. (S.T.S.) II. 60 That afore wes precheit slawlie, the samin thing eftir to be precheit mair feruentlie.

2. Not quickly, rapidly, or hastily: **a.** Of processes, operations, etc.

c 1340 Hampole *Pr. Consc.* 3193 Þai brin mar slawly als hay brynnes. 1398 Trevisa *Barth. De P. R.* v. xxiii. (Bodl. MS.), Moche ayer is slowlich ymeued. 1435 Misyn *Fire of Love* 81 Now qwhykliar, now slawlyer, it warmes. 1528 Paynell *Salerne's Regiment* G iv, The grape that hath the thynnest huske descendeth sonest from y° stomake: and the thycker huske the slowelyer. 1595 Spenser *Epithalamion* 280 How slowly do the houres theyr numbers spend? How slowly does sad Time his feathers moue? 1650 R. Stapylton *Strada's Low C. Wars* VI. 12 The businesse with the Prince of Orange went slowlyer on. 1688 *Col. Rec. Pennsylv.* I. 237 Violent Courses..will Slowly and meanly Commend y° policy of their Authors. 1761 Gray *Odin* 26 From out the hollow ground Slowly breath'd a sullen sound. 1837 P. Keith *Bot. Lex.* 280 If it volatilizes..slowly, its evaporation is protracted. 1860 Tyndall *Glac.* II. xviii. 326 Crevasses, on their first formation, are..narrow rents, which widen very slowly.

b. Of movement, advance, etc.

1382 Wyclif *Acts* xxvii. 7 Whanne many dayes we seiliden slowli. 1587 A. Fleming *Contin. Holinshed* III. 982/1 The armie went on, but so much the slowlier, bicause the waie was somewhat narrow. 1628 Hobbes *Thucydides* (1822) 78 They marched the slowlier for the rain which had fallen the same night. 1667 Milton *P. L.* IV. 541 The setting Sun Slowly descended. 1712 *Spect.* No. 316 ¶ 4 Indolence is a Stream which flows slowly on. 1794 Mrs. Radcliffe *Myst. Udolpho* xlviii, Presently he sees him come slowly down the avenue. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* II. IV. v, They ride slowly Eastward. 1863 Kinglake *Crimea* (1877) II. xix. 306 The English war-fleet..moved slowly out of the bay.

c. Of personal actions.

c 1430 *Pilgr. Lyf Manhode* II. cli. 136, I..aroos ayen. Slowliche it was: for j was feeble. *c* 1440 *Jacob's Well* 126 þe more þat god smyteth hem.., þe slawlyere [they] gon to goddys seruyse. 1573 J. Tyrie *Refutation,* etc. (S.T.S.) 8 Quhou slaulie he ansueris thairto. 1595 Shaks. *John* IV. ii. 269, I coniure thee but slowly: run more fast. 1802 Wordsw. *Resolution & Indep.* 86 A gentle answer did the old Man make, In courteous speech which forth he slowly drew. 1818 Shelley *Rosalind* 1171 Slowly now he turned to me.

3. *Comb.* **a.** With ppl. adjs., as *slowly-acting, -churning, -dripping,* etc.

c 1742 Gray *Ignorance* 3 Rushy Camus' slowly-winding flood. 1744 Mason *Musæus* Poems (1764) 10 All these slowly dripping rills, That tinkling wander o'er the pebbled floor. 1829 *Chapters Phys. Sci.* 181 The meandering brook, or the slowly-flowing river. 1860 Tyndall *Glac.* I. viii. 59 We can prove the effects to be due to slowly-acting causes. 1876 Geo. Eliot *Dan. Der.* xv, The slowly-churning chances of his mind.

b. Misc., as *slowly-dittied, -painful, successive.*

1744 Mason *Musæus* Poems (1764) 3 Till with harmonious teen Ye sooth his shade, and slowly-dittied air. 1842 Tennyson *St. Simeon Stylites* 56 More slowly-painful to subdue this home Of sin. 1845 Parnell *Chem. Anal.* 278 So as to allow the gas to escape in slowly successive bubbles.

Slow match. Also **slow-match.** [f. Slow *a.*] A rope-match made so as to burn very slowly (see Match *sb.*[2] 2).

1808 James *Milit. Dict.* s.v. *Match,* Slow match is made of hemp or tow, spun on the wheel like cord, but very slack; and is composed of three twists. 1828 J. M. Spearman *Brit. Gunner* (ed. 2) 275 During the Siege of Gibraltar, slow-match was made there in the following manner. 1871 Kingsley *At it Last* i, [She] ignored the very existence of a mere Negro like Jamaica Joe, as she sat by her cigars, and slow-match.

attrib. 1887 G. Nicholson *Dict. Gardening* III. 442 Slow-match tree. A common name for *Careya arborea.* ['The bark..is said to be used in some parts of India as a slow match for firelocks'—*Treas. Bot.* s.v. *Careya.*]

Slow-moving, *a.* [Slow *adv.*] That moves or goes slowly; slow-going.

predic. 1720 Pope *Iliad* XXII. 494 Be this the song, slow-moving toward the shore. 1784 Cowper *Task* I. 160 Thence with what pleasure have we just discern'd The distant plough slow moving. 1856 Aytoun *Bothwell* II. xxvii. 75 Overhead a meteor came, Slow-moving, tinging..The murky clouds.

attrib. 1784 Cowper *Task* VI. 697 The statesman of the day, A pompous and slow-moving pageant, comes. 1836–9 *Todd's Cycl. Anat.* II. 54/2 The arteries of the limbs in several slow-moving animals. 1890 'R. Boldrewood' *Col. Reformer* (1891) 308 Large droves of patient, slow-moving cattle arrived.

b. *transf.* Making slow progress; advancing or acting slowly.

1644 Milton *Areopagitica* (Arb.) 76 The slow-moving Reformation we labour under. 1878 Morley *Carlyle* 160 Our slow-moving and unimaginative public. 1899 Mackail *W. Morris* II. 237 At last the slow-moving arm of authority came down upon it.

Slowness (slōu·nės). Forms: *a. Sc.* and *north.* 4 **slau-,** 4–6 **slawnes** (5 **slawe-**), 5 **slawnesse,** 9 **slawness.** *β.* 4 **slogh(e)-,** 5 **slouȝnes**; 5–7 **slownes, -nesse,** 7– **slowness.** [f. Slow *a.*]

†1. Sloth, indolence, sluggishness. *Obs.*

a. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 10110 Slaunes, and wreth, and pride. *a* 1340 Hampole *Psalter* iii. 5, I ristid me first in synful lyfe and in slawnes. 1435 Misyn *Fire of Love* 88 Qwher lufe kelys not, nor vnto slawnes may not bowe. *c* 1600 A. Hume *Chr. Precepts* Poems (S.T.S.) 81 Thou knawes what hurt and grief thy slawnes and slouthfulnes hes wrought thee.

β. 1303 R. Brunne *Handl. Synne* 4237 Now shul we speke of sloghnes; Among þe toþer ful wyk hyt ys. 1414 Brampton *Penit. Ps.* (Percy Soc.) 62 Slownes is a cursid thing: For it is evere weri of weel doyng. 1736 Ainsworth *Lat. Dict.* I. s.v., He reflected upon him by reason of his slowness and sluggishness.

2. Dullness of intellect or comprehension; lack of acuteness, promptitude, or readiness.

1495 *Trevisa's Barth. De P. R.* (W. de W.) v. x. 115 Yf the forehede be tomoche, it tokenyth slownes that draweth to foly. 1601 Shaks. *All's Well* I. iii. 10 The complaints I haue heard of you I do not all beleeue, 'tis my slownesse that I doe not. 1651 *Rec. Communion* § 2 Their slowness and slendernesse..was very great. 1755 Johnson, *Dulness,* stupidity; slowness of apprehension. 1822 Lamb *Elia* I. *Old Actors,* In expressing slowness of apprehension, this actor surpassed all others. 1897 Miss Kingsley *W. Africa* 527 The acknowledged slowness of men in putting two and two together.

†**b.** Bluntness of edge. *Obs.*—°

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 458/2 Slawnesse, or dulnesse of egge, *ebetudo, obtusitas.*

c. Lack of animation; dullness, tediousness.

1887 *Cassell's Encycl. Dict.* s.v., The slowness of an entertainment.

3. The quality of being slow in respect of action, progress, or accomplishment.

1398 Trevisa *Barth. De P. R.* v. xxiii. (Bodl. MS.), þe heuynes of voice folowith þe slownes þereof. *Ibid.* xxxvii, For slouȝnes of breþ tokeneþ defaute of þe vertu of out putting. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 246 b, A pronite or redynesse to all vyce, and a slownesse to all goodnes. 1566 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* I. 441 The greit delay and slawnes of justice within this realme. 1611 Bible *Transl. Pref.* ¶ 14 Fearing no reproch for slownesse, nor coueting praise for expedition. 1656 Earl Monm. tr. *Boccalini's Advts. fr. Parnass.* I. lii. (1674) 67 Slowness could not consist with swiftness. 1731 *Swift's Corr.* (1766) II. 149 The slowness of my answers does not come from the emptiness of my heart. 1788 Franklin *Autobiog.* Wks. 1840 I. 171 From the slowness I saw at first in the working I could scarcely believe that the work was done. 1857 Miller *Elem. Chem., Org.* I. 30 The oxidating influence of which can be applied with sufficient slowness and regularity. 1879 Bartlett *Egypt to Pal.* xxvii. 541 Another lamented the slowness of the work.

fig. *a* 1742 Bentley *Serm.* (J.), Because of the hardness and slowness of their hearts.

4. The quality of being slow in motion.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 458 Slawnesse, of mewynge, *morositas, tarditas.* 1611 Shaks. *Cymb.* III. v. 168 This Fooles speede Be crost with slownesse. 1653 W. Ramesey *Astrol. Restored* 56 All Planets give unto him their light..by reason of his slowness. 1728 Chambers *Cycl.* s.v. *Pulse,* A Slowness of the Influxes of the nervous Juice from the Brain into the *Villi* of the Heart. 1794 Mrs. Radcliffe *Myst. Udolpho* vi, The extreme slowness of his pace made St. Aubert look again from the window to hasten him. 1860 Tyndall *Glac.* I. xxii. 158, I had descended with extreme slowness and caution for some time. 1886 W. J. Tucker *E. Europe* 164 This beats any funeral procession for slowness.

b. A soft or heavy condition of ground or turf which does not permit of swift riding or running or of good play.

1881 *Chicago Times* 4 June, Three well known and distinguished horsemen..are to adjudge the 'slowness' of the track. 1899 *Oakham School Mag.* 29 The slowness of the ground quite precluded that possibility.

Slow-paced, *a.* [Slow *a.*]

1. Having a slow pace, gait, or motion; **a.** Of persons or animals. *Slow-paced lemur* or *loris,* the slow lemur.

1594 Kyd *Cornelia* III. i, The sleepie Waine-man softly droue His slow-pac'd Teeme. *c* 1605 Wallington *Optick Glasse* 40 Heare what the poet affirmes in an epigram vpon a slowpac'd lurdaine. 1664 H. Power *Exp. Philos.* I. 36 This Slimy Animal (the slow-paced Engine of Nature) The great Black Snail. 1732 Pope *Hor. Epist.* I. i. 16 *note,* Like the sober and slow-paced Animal generally employed to mount the Lord Mayor. 1784 Cowper *Task* V. 32 Patient of the slow-pac'd swain's delay. 1800 Shaw *Gen. Zool.* I. I. 81 *Lemur Tardigradus,* Slow-paced Lemur. 1870 Bryant *Iliad* VI. I. 203 Achilles the swift-footed slew them all Among their slow-paced bullocks.

fig. and *transf.* 1648 J. Beaumont *Psyche* XIV. xli, The Judge may know Whether his Sentence more by Passion's haste, Than slow-pac'd Reason's Rules he has not past. 1681–6 J. Scott *Chr. Life* (1747) III. 503 Our slow-pac'd Natures cannot travel from one to the other.

b. Of inanimate objects.

1617 Drumm. of Hawth. *Forth Feasting* Wks. (1711) 37/2 Some few Years And Revolutions of the slow-pac'd Spheres. 1713 Swift *Elegy on Partridge* Wks. 1755 III. II. 80 That slow-pac'd sign Bootes.

2. Of time, etc.: Slow in coming or passing; tardy, lingering.

1629 Massinger *Roman Actor* V. ii, How slow-paced are these minutes! 1667 Milton *P. L.* X. 963 This days Death denounc't,..Will prove no sudden, but a slow-pac't evill. *a* 1700 Ken *Edmund* Poet. Wks. 1721 II. 262 Each slow-pac'd Minute seems to be a Year. 1743 Francis tr. *Hor., Odes* IV. vii. 14 Yet Summer dies in Autumn's fruitful Reign, And slow-pac'd Winter soon returns again. 1878 B. Taylor *Pr. Deukalion* II. iii. 70 Slow-paced is Fate.

Slow-worm (slōu·wɒ̄m). Forms: *a.* 1 **sla-werm, -wyrm,** 5 **-worme,** 9 *north. dial.* **slaa-, slea(a)-worm,** *Sc.* **slayworm.** *β.* 2 **slowurm,** 5 **-wurme, -werme,** 6 **-worme,** 6, 9 **-worm**; 6 **slooworme**; 6 **sloewourme,** 7 **-worme,** 7, 9 **-worm.** *γ.* 6 **slowe worme,** 6–7 **slow-worme,** 7–9 **slow worm, slowworm,** 7– **slow-worm.** [OE. *slá-wyrm*; the obscure first element appears also in MSw. *slå* (Sw. *slå,* dial. *slo*; also in comb. *ormslå*), Norw. *slo* (and *ormslo*), *slea, sleva,* etc., a slow-worm. Association with the adj. *slow* is not apparent before the 16th cent.]

1. A small harmless scincoid lizard, *Anguis fragilis,* native to most parts of Europe; the blindworm.

In early glossaries, etc., the word is used to render various Latin names of serpents and lizards. Shaw (1802) used *slow-worm* as a generic name for the *Angues.*

α. *a* 900 *Kentish Glosses* in Wr.-Wülcker 80 *Regulus*, slawerm. *a* 1050 *Liber Scintill.* xxviii. (1889) 105 Snacas & ealswa slawyrm [L. *regulus*] attru bit tosend oþþe ongytt. *a* 1100 in Napier *O. E. Glosses* 50/1856 *Spalangii, musci venenosi*, þære scortan næddran, slawyrmes. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 343/2 A Slaworme, *secula*. 1821 *Ayr & Wigton Courier* 22 Mar. (Jam.), Tho' slayworms and adders be coiled by thy rills. 1828 CARR *Craven Gloss., Slaa-worm*, a blind worm. 1878 *Cumbld. Gloss.* 88/2 *Slea worm*,..the so-called blind worm, slo-worm.

β. 11.. *Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 544 *Stellio*, slowurm. 14.. *Ibid.* 571 *Cecula*, a Slowerme. *c* 1475 *Ibid.* 766 *Hic calus*, a slowurme. 1530 PALSGR. 271/2 Sloo worme. 1581 DERRICKE *Image Irel.* (1883) 35 Behold you not the Sloworme there, with Vipers generation? 1655 MOUFET & BENNET *Health's Improv.* (1746) 176 The Stork delighteth in Newts, Water-snakes, Adders, and Sloe-worms. 1823 E. MOOR *Suffolk Words* 365 *Slow worm*, or *Sloe-worm*,..the blind worm. 1878 [see α].

γ. 1558 W. WARDE tr. *Alexis' Secr.* 30 b, A certayne litle Serpent called a Slowe worme. 1589 GREENE *Menaphon* (Arb.) 86 Thine eyes are like the slowwormes in the night. 1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* 153 So are slow-Wormes accounted blinde,..although their eyes be evident. 1681 GREW *Musæum* I. III. 48 The greater Slow-worm,..Called also the Blind-worm. 1762 *Phil. Trans.* LII. 475 As to the slow-worm, I have had two fair trials, to conclude, that his bite is quite harmless. 1791 BURNS *Let.* in Wks. (Globe) 495 When I matriculate in the herald's office, I intend that my supporters shall be two sloths, my crest a slow-worm. 1864 TENNYSON *Aylmer's F.* 852 Where the two contrived their daughter's good,..The slow-worm creeps..and all is open field. 1897 G. C. BATEMAN *Vivarium* 114 The Slow-worm has made itself famous by being the first to reveal to science the mysterious pineal, or median, eye.

transf. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. IV*, 23 Avoidyng the slowe worme and deadely Dormouse called Idlenes. 1596 NASHE *Saffron Walden* Wks. (Grosart) III. 62 Was euer ..Ledgerdemaine a slow-worme, or Viuacitie a lasie-bones?

2. Used to render L. *scytale* in its original or modern application.

1611 COTGR., *Scytale*, the Scytall; a dangerous Sloe-worme. 1668 CHARLETON *Onomast.* 31 *Scytale*,..the slow Worm. 1802 SHAW *Gen. Zool.* III. II. 590 Seban Slow-worm, *Scytalæ Americanæ*,..a small species, figured and slightly described in the work of Seba.

3. (See quot.)

1897 G. C. BATEMAN *Vivarium* 129 The Spotted Slow-worm (*Acontias meleagris*).—The general shape of this Lizard is not unlike that of the Common Slow-worm (*Anguis fragilis*), hence its English name.

†Sloy. *Obs.*—1 An opprobrious epithet for a woman.

1596 WARNER *Alb. Eng.* XI. lxii. (1597) 288 How tedious were a Shroe, a Sloy, a Wanton, or a Foole.

Sloyd (sloid), *sb.* Also **slöjd, slojd, sloid,** [ad. Sw. *slöjd*, corresponding to ON. *slǽgð*, whence SLEIGHT *sb.*1] A system of manual instruction or training in elementary woodwork, etc., originally developed and taught in Sweden.

The verb *sloyd* (*slöjd*, etc.), and the sbs. *sloyder, sloydist*, have also been occasionally employed.

α. 1885 *Pract. Teacher* Oct. 357/2 Slöjd. A Short Description of a System of Handiwork taught in many Elementary Schools in Sweden. 1888 *Encycl. Brit.* XXIII. 107/2 In Sweden 'slojd', or elementary woodwork,..is taught with considerable success to children of both sexes.

β. 1886 *Pall Mall G.* 21 Sept. 14/1 'Sloyd'..aims at establishing handicraft as one of the subjects generally taught in schools. 1893 *Athenæum* 8 Apr. 437/3 Sloyd..is by no means the same as carpentry; tools, objects, methods, are different in the two pursuits.

attrib. 1885 *Pract. Teacher* Oct. 358/2 [We] spent a week in Stockholm, visiting nearly every Slöjd school there. 1886 *Pall Mall G.* 21 Sept. 14/1 The kindergarten system of Fröbel may be regarded as the precursor of the Sloyd movement.

Slub (slʉb), *sb.*1 Now chiefly *dial.* Also 7 **slubb(e.** [? ad. MDu. *slubbe* in the same sense.] Thick sludgy mud; mire, ooze. Also *attrib.*

1577–87 HOLINSHED *Chron.* IV. 853 His wall..consisting onlie of slub and beach shoveled together. 1593 NORDEN *Spec. Brit., Cornw.* (1728) 6 The lande..fortefies it selfe with heaped mountes of sande, slub, and pibble stones. 1610 W. FOLKINGHAM *Art of Survey* I. x. 24 Ouer-flowing them with Fords or Land-flouds, affording a fatte and slimie substance or slubbe. *a* 1676 HALE *De Jure Maris* I. iv. in *Hargrave's Law Tracts* (1787) I. 17 The exaggeration of sand and slubb, which in process of time grow firm land. 1823 [see SLUBBY *a.*]. 1892 MRS. OWEN & D. JORDAN *Within an Hour of London* (ed. 2) 162 To the stranger, the slub looks like a level flat. *Ibid.*, The 'gripes' and gullies of the slub ooze. *Ibid.* 163 If he is on the slub flats, ..his situation is not to be envied.

Slub (slʉb), *sb.*2 [Of obscure origin.] A lump on a thread.

1825 J. NICHOLSON *Operat. Mechanic* 395 Taking out the slubs..left in the silk by the negligence of the foreign reeler. 1897 *Leeds Merc. Suppl.* 23 Oct. (E.D.D.), Pike thi slubs off.

Slub (slʉb), *sb.*3 Also **slubb.** [f. SLUB *v.*2] A slubbing of cotton or wool; a roving.

1851 *Art Jrnl. Illustr. Catal.* p. v**1/2 By the revolution of the spindle and flyer the cotton slub receives its twist. 1868 *Chambers's Encycl.* X. 265/1 The spindles upon which these slubbs or slubbings are wound.

Slub (slʉb), *v.*1 *dial.* [f. SLUB *sb.*1] *trans.* To cover or plaster with mud.

1823 E. MOOR *Suffolk Words* 365 Walls raised from the ooze of rivers require to be slubb'd over. 1886 JEFFERIES *Field & Hedgerow* (1889) 187 Those who try to go through, get 'slubbed' up to their knees.

Slub (slʉb), *v.*2 Also **slubb.** [Of obscure origin; the vbl. sb. is found earlier.] *trans.* To draw out and twist (wool, cotton, etc.) after carding, so as to prepare it for spinning. Also *absol.* Hence **Slubbed** *ppl. a.*

1834 *New Monthly Mag.* XLI. 527 Machinery for roving and slubbing cotton and wool. 1844 G. DODD *Textile Manuf.* iii. 107 The 'slubbed' wool is taken from the mill to the house of the clothier, there to be spun. 1864 A. JEFFREY *Hist. Roxburghshire* IV. 116 The manufacturers were forced to get two women from Leeds to teach them to slubb and spin.

Slubber (slʉ·bəɹ), *sb.*1 *dial.* [Cf. SLUB *sb.*1 and SLOBBER *sb.*] Mire, mud; ooze, slime.

1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 76/42 Slubber, *limus*. 1823 E. MOOR *Suffolk Words* 365 *Slub, Slubber*, mire, mud, the thick puddle on roads. 1828 CARR *Craven Gloss., Slubber*, any gelatinous substance. 1890 HARTLEY *Clock Alm.* 29 (E.D.D.), He mud as weel ha' tried to climb up a hill side o' slubber.

Slubber (slʉ·bəɹ), *sb.*2 [f. SLUB *v.*2].

1. One who manipulates a slubbing-machine.

1835 URE *Philos. Manuf.* 8 Slubbing is a handicraft operation, depending on the skill of the slubber. 1843 *Penny Cycl.* XXVII. 552/1 The workman or 'slubber'..elongates the 'carding' into 'slubbing'. 1891 *Leeds Mercury* 14 Dec. 2/4 If he wanted to borrow, he would apply to his weavers and not his slubbers.

2. A slubbing-machine.

1897 *Traill's Social Eng.* VI. 73 In the preparing frames, known as slubbers or rovers, the bobbins were necessarily large and weighty.

Slubber (slʉ·bəɹ), *v.* Now chiefly *dial.* Also 6 **sloubber.** [Probably of Du. or LG. origin: cf. MDu. *overslubberen* to wade through mud, LG. *slubbern* (hence Da. *slubre*), G. *schlubbern, schluppern* to gobble, to scamp in working, etc.]

1. *trans.* To stain, smear, daub, soil.

1530 PALSGR. 324/2 Sloubberde with wepyng, *esplouré. Ibid.* 722/1 Fye, howe you have slubbred your geare for one dayes wearyng. 1577 HANMER *Anc. Eccl. Hist.* (1663) 182 They were..so slubbered and darkned with a black colour, that they became unprofitable for publick sight. 1603 H. CROSSE *Vertues Commw.* (1878) 75 That face that is slubbred & starched with so many ointments & drugs. 1639 HORN & ROB. *Gate Lang. Unl.* lxviii. § 739 Let him not slubber (soile) or slurry his books, but use them cleanlily. 1682 T. FLATMAN *Heraclitus Ridens* No. 55 (1713) II. 95 Thou couldst not think that Glass wanted new-foiling,.. and thou hast slubber'd it only to cover the foul *Plagium.* 1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss., Slubber*, to smear, or obscure with dirt.

b. *fig.* To sully (renown, etc.).

1600 HEYWOOD *2nd Pt. Edw. IV*, Wks. 1874 I. 185 Going about to slubber our renowne. *a* 1625 FLETCHER *Hum. Lieutenant* IV. i, If it be an honest end, That end's the full reward and thanks but slubbers it. 1641 MILTON *Reform. Eng.* II. Wks. 1851 III. 33 There is no art that hath bin.. more soyl'd and slubber'd with aphorisming pedantry then the art of policie.

c. To obscure, darken. *rare*—1.

1605 *1st Part Ieronimo* II. iv, The euening to[o] begins to slubber day.

d. *intr.* To become indistinct. *rare*—1.

1665 REA *Flora* 53 It is a little apt to run, that is, in one or two hot days the colours to slubber and run one into the other.

2. With advs. **a.** With *up*, = sense 1. *rare*—1.

a 1586 SIDNEY *Arcadia* (1622) 7 Each place handsome.., not so daintie as not to be trode on, nor yet slubbered vp with good fellowship.

b. To wear *out* by dirty handling. *rare*—1.

1621 S. WARD *Life Faith* 97 Wilt thou dye before thou hast liued, as Boyes slubber out bookes before they learne their Lesson?

c. To daub *over* so as to cover or conceal. Chiefly *fig.*, to gloss *over*.

1646 EARL MONM. tr. *Biondi's Civil Wars* VIII. 150 Richard had much adoe to colour over his Cruelties, which not being to be Denied, hee slubber'd them over, not naming them. 1653 A. WILSON *Jas. I*, 63 The Court-trick to daub and slubber over things that may be perspicuous. 1654 VILVAIN *Theorem. Theol.* i. 11 A lepry..which may be sullied or slubbered over with palliativ salvs. *a* 1797 WALPOLE *Mem. Geo. II* (1822) I. 238 The blemishes which these varnishers have slubbered over.

3. With *up*: To perform, make, concoct, deal with, etc., in a hurried and careless manner.

1550 LEVER *Serm.* (Arb.) 65 He minisheth Gods sacraments, he slubbers vp his seruice. 1589 NASHE *Anat. Absurd.* 20 That some stitcher, Weauer,..or Fidler, hath shuffled or slubberd vp a few ragged Rimes. 1602 CAREW *Surv. Cornw.* II. 127 b, Many a bad mariage bargaine is there yerely slubbred vp. 1610 J. DOVE *Advt. Seminaries* 2 It doth appear they slubber up many things negligently, and performe them loosely. *a* 1625 BEAUM. & FL. *Captain* v. v, If a marriage should be thus slubbered up in a play.

b. So without *up*.

1596 SHAKS. *Merch. V.* II. viii. 39 Slubber not businesse for my sake Bassanio. *a* 1659 BP. BROWNRIG *Serm.* (1674) II. xviii. 226 Matters of less moment..may be slubbered and slighted. 1664 JER. TAYLOR *Dissuas. Popery* I. i. § 3 The Council of Trent..slubber'd the whole matter both in the question of Indulgences and Purgatory. 1806 J. BERESFORD *Miseries Hum. Life* IX. i, Knife and fork slubbered through the general knife-cloth. 1827 HOOD *Legend of Navarre* xvi, Her servants stow'd him, (I am asham'd to think how he was slubber'd,) Stuck bolt upright within a corner cupboard!

4. To run or skim *over* hurriedly and in a careless or slovenly manner.

In very common use in the 17th century.

1592 *Consp. Pretended Reform.* Pref. p. iii, Matters..are so sleightly and ignorantly slubbered ouer by such Preachers. 1649 BLITHE *Eng. Improv. Impr.* 80, I dare say, one Acre of Corne thus throughly husbanded, may be worth two Acres, nay three, slubbered over. 1670 BAXTER *Heam. Medit.* 23 Which may be lost by hasty breaking off, and slubbering over so great a business. *a* 1716 BLACKALL *Wks.* (1723) I. 194, I am encumbred with much Business, so that sometimes I forget, and at other times am forc'd to slubber over my Prayers. 1767 S. PATERSON *Another Trav.* I. 166 Anxiety to have the business slubbered over as fast as possible.

5. To gobble *up* slobberingly.

1640 BRATHWAIT *Lanc. Lovers* iv, Slubber up a sillibub.

6. *intr.* To be lubberly; to slabber or slobber.

c 1820 HOGG *Tales, Basil Lee* (1866) 239/2 When I see a young chap lying slubberin' an' sleepin' a' the day in a heather bush. 1825 J. WILSON *Noct. Ambr.* Wks. 1855 I. 3 The bloated kings..Shall slubber and snore.

Slubberdegullion (slʉ·bəɹdĭgʉ·lyən). [f. SLUBBER *v.*, with fanciful addition; cf. SLABBERDEGULLION.] A slobbering or dirty fellow; a worthless sloven.

a 1616 BEAUM. & FL. *Custom of Country* I. ii, Yes they are knit; but must this slubberdegullion Have her maidenhead now? 1630 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Laugh & be fat* Wks. II. 78 Contaminous, pestiferous,..slubberdegullions. 1663 BUTLER *Hud.* I. iii. 886 Although thou hast deserv'd, Base Slubberdegullion, to be serv'd As thou did'st vow to deal with me. *a* 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew, Slubberdegullion*, a slovenly, dirty, nasty Fellow. [Hence in later Dicts.] 1866 G. W. THORNBURY *Greatheart* III. 92 Do you take us for green hands, you sluberdegullion? 1891 FORD *Thistledown* xvi, This slubberdegullion o' a maister. 1905 R. GARNETT *Shaks.* 55 Aroint thee,..vagabond, wretch, base Slubberdegullion!

Slubbered (slʉ·bəɹd), *ppl. a.* [f. SLUBBER *v.*]

1. Soiled, smeared; dirty; sullied.

1588 CHURCHYARD *Sparke of Frendship*, etc. D iiij, All slubbred things must needes be waist anue. 1606 DEKKER *Seven Deadly Sins* Wks. (Grosart) II. 33 Wyping their slubberd cheekes with wispes of cleane Strawe. 1642 HOWELL *Twelve Treat.* (1661) 83, I see Religion in torn ragged weeds, and with slubber'd eyes sitting upon weeping-Crosse.

fig. 1619 FLETCHER *False One* II. iii, Pompey I overthrew: what did that get me? The slubber'd Name of an authoriz'd Enemy.

2. Hastily put together; hurriedly gone through; done or performed carelessly, etc.

1602 *2nd Pt. Return fr. Parnass.* Prol. 22 What we present I must needes confesse is but slubbered inuention. 1669 FLAMSTEED in Rigaud *Corr. Sci. Men* (1841) II. 77 These ..induced me to apply myself, with these not slubbered supplications, to your Honour. 1690 C. NESSE *Hist. O. & N. Test.* I. 77 Neither will the King of Heaven accept of thy slight and slubberd services.

Slu·bberer. [f. SLUBBER *v.*] One who works hastily and carelessly. Also with *over*.

1580 HOLLYBAND *Treas. Fr. Tong, Brouilleur*,..a tumbler togither, a slubberer. *a* 1591 H. SMITH *Wks.* (1866) I. 444 The physician which doth but almost cure, is but a slubberer. 1611 COTGR., *Boiffeur*, a bungler vp, or slubberer ouer, of things in hast. 1638 A. READ *Chirurg.* ix. 62 By want of this [neatness] a slubberer and sloven is discerned from a cleanly workman. 1649 BLITHE *Eng. Improv. Impr.* (1653) 42 Idle Practitioners, and Slothfull impatient Slubberers.

Slu·bbering, *vbl. sb.* [f. SLUBBER *v.*] The action of the vb., in various senses.

1582 BATMAN *Barth. De P. R.* VI. xii. 74 A servant woman is..put to office and worke of travaile, toylyng, and slubbering. *a* 1591 H. SMITH *Serm.* (1637) 143 By their slubbering of the Word (for want of study and meditation). 1604 E. G[RIMSTONE] *D'Acosta's Hist. Indies* IV. xi. 238 To paint the face and bodies of themselves and their idolls.., which they call slubbering. 1638 *Penit. Conf.* iii. (1657) 21 A careless debasing and slubbering of the body.

Slu·bbering, *ppl. a.* [f. SLUBBER *v.*] That slubbers; working in a dirty or slovenly manner; showing haste and carelessness.

a 1591 H. SMITH *Serm.* (1886) I. 314 The Jews abhorred the sacrifice for the slubbering priests. 1594 *Zepheria* ii, My slubbring pencil casts too grosse a matter. 1642 MILTON *Apol. Smect.* Wks. 1851 III. 325 Who ingrosse many pluralities under a non-resident and slubbring dispatch of soules. 1681 H. MORE *Expos. Daniel* Pref. 17 His Expositions are..so dilute, shallow and slubbering. 1731 FIELDING *Grub St. Op.* III. x, Go, and like a slub'ring Bess howl, Whilst at your griefs I'm quaffing. 1818 *Sporting Mag.* II. 89 A sort of scumming, smearing, slubbering way of sketching. 1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss.* s.v., A [slovenly] servant is called 'a slubbering thing'.

Hence **Slu·bberingly** *adv.*

1622 DRAYTON *Poly-olb.* xxi. 168 Such as..slubberingly patch up some slight and shallow rhime. 1657 J. SERGEANT *Schism Dispach't* 284 The Verse..which he brings to testify his tenet expressely, but, by omitting it slubberingly, bids it say nothing.

†Slu·bberly, *a. Obs. rare.* [f. SLUBBER *v.*] Dirty, foul; muddled.

1540 HYRDE tr. *Vives' Instr. Chr. Wom.* (1592) P vij, For it were better for thee to eat brown bred..then cause thy husband to fall unto any slubberlie work, or stinking occupation. 1673 HICKERINGILL *Greg. F. Greybeard* 268 Brother Wild has now made his brains as foul and slubberly with his Guzling as are the fore-skirts of his doublet.

Slubbery (slʉ·bəri), *a.* [f. SLUBBER *v.*] Lacking in neatness; slovenly.

1880 *Daily News* 20 Mar. 5/5 Whether the *clumsy* 'slubbery' style of Cambridge is more telling than the regular ..form in which the Oxford men row.

Slu·bbing, *vbl. sb.* Also 8 **slobbing.** [Of obscure origin.]

1. A process of drawing and twisting by which cotton or wool slivers are prepared for spinning.

1779 R. PEELE *Pat. Specif.* No. 1212. 1 My Invention of a Method for the..Slobbing, Roving and Spinning of Cotton, Silk, Worsted and Woollen. 1825 J. NICHOLSON *Operat. Mech.* 386 A machine called the billy, or roving-billy, the

operation of which is called roving or slubbing. 1835 URE *Philos. Manuf.* 8 There is a process between carding and spinning the wool, called slubbing. 1876 I. WATTS in *Brit. Manuf. Industr.* V. 135 The operation which follows the drawing is that of slubbing, where the sliver has a certain amount of twist imparted to it.

2. One of the loosely-compacted threads obtained by this process.

1786 J. ROYDS *Pat. Specif.* No. 1564. 2 This machine being for the purpose of passing at once two or more slubbings betwixt the rollers. 1835 URE *Philos. Manuf.* 171 It..thus forms what is called a slubbing or roving—a soft thread to be thereafter spun, on the mule-jenny, into yarn fit for the loom. 1884 W. S. B. MCLAREN *Spinning* (ed. 2) 123 The slubbing should be strong enough to pull out easily when stretched by the hands.

3. *collect.* Cotton or wool which has been slubbed.

1836 *Bingham's New Cases* II. 451 Manufacturers..took their wool..to the mill for the purpose of being..made into slubbing. 1891 R. MARSDEN *Cotton Spinning* (ed. 4) 162 Two strands of slubbing are put up, and by a draught of two are united into one.

4. *attrib.*, chiefly with names of apparatus, as *slubbing-billy, -frame, -jenny, -machine*; also *slubbing-thread, -waste.*

1795 *Edinb. Advertiser* 6 Jan. 15/3 One slubbing jeanny, with one mule jeanny. 1835 URE *Philos. Manuf.* 9 The long wooden rod from his slubbing-frame. *Ibid.* 171 The Slubbing Machine, or Billy, performs the next operation. *Ibid.* 175 It might be supposed that the slubbing threads would be apt to coil round the spindles. 1891 R. MARSDEN *Cotton Spinning* (ed. 4) 221 The slubbing billy..in a modified and improved form..still exists in the woollen trade. 1894 *Times* 17 Aug. 9/5 Slubbing waste, roving waste,.. and all waste or rags composed wholly or in part of wool.

Slubby (slʌ·bi), *a. dial.* [f. SLUB *sb.*[1]] Muddy; sticky or slippery with mud.

1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 107/13 Slubbie, *lubricus.* 1823 E. MOOR *Suffolk Words* 365 Wet, poachy ground, recently trodden by cattle, is said to be slubby, or all of a slub. 1886 JEFFERIES *Field & Hedgerow* (1889) 187 The lanes and the gateways in the fields they say are slubby enough in November.

Sluce, obs. form of SLUICE *sb.* and *v.*

†Sluch. *Sc. Obs.* Also **slucht.** [Of obscure origin.] A suit (of clothes).

1582 *Records of Elgin* (1903) I. 165 Item thre schillingis four penneis for ane sluch of clais to Johne Innes. 1598 *Extr. Burgh Rec. Aberd.* (1848) II. 163 To Alex[r]. Checkum, ..fyve pundis to help to by him a slucht of blew.

Sluchched: see SLUTCH *v.*

Sluey, obs. form of SLUICY *a.*

†'Slud, *int. Obs.* App. a variant of 'SBLOOD. (Cf. 'SLOOD.)

1601 B. JONSON *Cynthia's Revels* IV. i, 'Slud, I never saw him till this morning. 1608 TOURNEUR *Rev. Trag.* v. iii, 'Slud, 'tis all false! 1749 FIELDING *Tom Jones* XVII. iii, Slud! then..I tell you I have power, and I will fulfil it.

†Slu·dden. *Obs.*—[o] A sleuth-hound.

1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 61 A Sludden, *pedisequus, sanguisecus, canis.*

Sludder (slʌ·dəɹ), *sb. dial.* [Cf. LG. *slueder* lather, G. dial. *schluder* slush, mud, etc.] (See quot. 1796.) Hence **Slu·dder** *v. intr.*, to wallow.

1796 W. H. MARSHALL *Yorksh.* (ed. 2) II. 345 *Sludder*, or *Sluther*, loose, broken, slippery, pappy matter; as curds and whey, loose fat, mud, &c. 1874 WOOD *Nat. Hist.* 144 Transfixing them as they lay 'sluddering' on the mud or sand.

†Slude. *Obs. rare.* [ad. Russ. слюда *slyúda* (locally *slúda, slud*; Czech *slída*) mica.] Russian mica in thin transparent plates.

1591 FLETCHER *Russe Commw.* (Hakl.) 13 In the province of Corelia..there groweth a soft rocke which they call *slude.* This they cut into pieces,..and so use it for glasse-lanthorns and such like. 1613 M. RIDLEY *Magn. Bodies* 45 This needle and semicircle would be covered with some glasse and slude, as dials use to be covered. 1662 *Irel., Statutes at Large* (1765) II. 407 Muscovy glass or slude the pound, 2[s].

Sludge (slʌ·dʒ), *sb.* Also 8 **sluge.** [var. of SLUTCH *sb.*]

1. Mud, mire, or ooze, covering the surface of the ground or forming a deposit at the bottom of rivers, etc.

1649 BLITHE *Eng. Improv. Impr.* (1653) 143 A Mud, or Sludg, that lyeth frequently in deep Rivers, which is very soft. 1707 MORTIMER *Husb.* (1721) II. 70 In that Water I put the Earth.., so as to make it a meer soft Sludge or Mud. 1745 *Beverley Beck Act* ii. 2 Choaked and warped up by the sludge and soil brought in by the tides. 1782 *Phil. Trans.* LXXII. 364 When we saw it, the moist filth, or sludge, at bottom..was two or three inches deep. 1822 SCOTT *Nigel* iii, The natural scent of the ooze and sludge left by the reflux of the tide. 1875 SMILES *Boy's Voy. r. World* xi. 113 A wide stretch of ground was covered by a thick deposit of sludge.

b. *Naut.* Ice imperfectly formed, or broken up into minute pieces (cf. quots.).

1817 SCORESBY in *Ann. Reg., Chron.* 534 The first appearance of ice whilst in the state of detached crystals, is called by the sailors sludge. 1820 — *Acc. Arctic Reg.* I. 227 Sludge consists of a stratum of detached ice-crystals, or of snow, or of the smaller fragments of brash-ice floating on the surface of the sea. 1885 *Encycl. Brit.* XIX. 328 The ice first forms in thin, irregular flakes called 'sludge', and when this is compact enough to hold snow it is known as 'brash'.

2. Any earthy or slimy matter or deposit; a mixture of some finely powdered substance and water.

1702 SAVERY *Miner's Friend* 60 Sluge or Fine Dirt..will do my Engine no Injury. 1839 R. S. ROBINSON *Naut. Steam Eng.* 123 To prevent any sludge, &c. from issuing out at the mouth of the pipe, and falling on the decks of the vessel. 1840 HODGSON *Hist. Northumb.* III. II. 319/2 That sort of ammoniacal sleck or sludge which comes from kitchens. 1883 HALDANE *Workshop Rec.* Ser. II. 53/2 They [sulphites] act well with salt water, giving a soft sludge, which should be readily removed by the blow-pipe.

b. *Metall.* Finely crushed ore mixed with water; metalliferous slime.

1757 tr. *Henckel's Pyritologia* 341 All these cobalds or pyrites must previously be parted from the barren minerals, by stamping and washing, and made into a pure sludge. 1778 PRYCE *Min. Cornub.* 226 Some have concluded, that Tin in the state of sludge or slime, by length of time, must grow and increase. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 752 It is impossible to prevent some of the finely attenuated portions of the galena called sludge, floating in the water. 1898 *Daily News* 5 July 9/5 Further tenders have just been accepted for a quantity of sludges valued at over 1,000*l.*

c. The precipitate in sewage tanks.

1877 J. B. DENTON *Sanit. Engineering* 266 The third gradation of the solid matter in sewage known as 'sludge'. 1887 *Times* 26 Aug. 9/4 The sediment or sludge left at the bottom of the precipitation tanks.

3. *local.* (See quot.)

1839 SIR G. C. LEWIS *Gloss. Heref., Sludge*,..a wet or muddy place.

4. *attrib.*, as *sludge-acid, -door, -hole, -ice*, etc. (see quots.).

1885 *American* IX. 222 Around New York *sludge acid ..is doing deadly work among the bivalves. 1891 *Cent. Dict., Sludge acid*, acid which has been used for the purification of petroleum. 1855 OGILVIE *Suppl.*, *Sludge-doors*, in boilers, closed openings by which the matter deposited at the bottom..can be taken out. 1846 A. YOUNG *Naut. Dict.* 313 There are also *sludge-holes at the ends of the water passages between the flues, by which the deposit can be raked out. 1853 KANE *Grinnell Exped.* xxxi. (1856) 268 Suddenly a seal rose close by him in the *sludge-ice. 1896 *Durh. Arch. Trans.* (1901) 26 A circular tank or cistern provided with an outflow or '*sludge'-pipe at the bottom. 1887 *Archit. Soc. Dict.* VII. s.v., **Sludge pit*, a cesspool. 1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-m.* 227 **Sludge pump*, a short iron pipe or tube..with which the boremeal is extracted from a borehole. 1889 *Pall Mall G.* 31 July 6/1 It will then..be pumped through pipes extending along a jetty into the *sludge ships, for conveyance and discharge into the German Ocean. 1869 BLACKMORE *Lorna D.* xliv, Here and there the ice was fibred with the trail of *sludge-weed, slanting from the side.

Sludge (slʌdʒ), *v.* [f. the sb.]

1. *trans.* To convert into sludge (2 b).

1757 tr. *Henckel's Pyritologia* 42 A native metal may lie ..in so light and tender a form..as that the noble metal cannot be sludged, but be carried away by the stream.

2. To stop up, fill the crevices of (an embankment), with liquid mud.

1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2217.

3. To clear from sludge or mud.

1890 *Eastern Morning News* (Hull) 26 Sept. 1/4 For mowing the sides and bottom of Newland Beck,..also to sludge same.

Sludger (slʌ·dʒəɹ). [f. SLUDGE *v.*] An appliance for removing the sludge from a bore-hole, or for boring in quicksand.

1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 966 The sludger, for bringing up the mud. 1851 GREENWELL *Coal-trade Terms Northumb. & Durham* 9 Sludgers..are used when a bore-hole is so wet that the borings would..be washed out of the cylinder. 1871 W. MORGANS *Mining Tools* 134 A sludger which is fitted with an inside piston..in order to suck the sludge into the cylinder.

Sludgy (slʌ·dʒi), *a.* [f. SLUDGE *sb.* + -Y.]

1. Muddy, miry, oozy.

1782 W. GILPIN *Obs. on Wye* (1789) 53 Sludgy shores too appeared on each side. 1805 FORSYTH *Beauties Scotl.* II. 220 A rich sludgy mixture of fine earth and clay. 1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* I. 560 The man should remove any wet sludgy matter from the bottom of the drain with a scoop. 1878 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* III. 326 The whole coming off in a sludgy mess, and leaving the paper quite bare.

2. Consisting of newly formed particles of ice; full of sludge-ice.

1853 KANE *Grinnell Exped.* xxxviii. (1856) 348 No sludgy streams of pancake. 1856 — *Arctic Expl.* I. xxxi. 423 The rise and fall of the sludgy water.

†Sluds. *Obs.*—[o] (See quot.)

1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl., *Sluds*, a term used by the miners in Cornwall for half-roasted ores. [Hence in some later Dicts.]

Slue, freq. variant of SLEW *v.* and *sb.*[2]

Slue, obs. pa. t. SLAY *v.*[1]

Sluff, obs. or dial. form of SLOUGH *sb.*[2]

†Slu·ffer, *v. Obs.*—[1] [Imitative. Cf. SLOFF *v.*] *trans.* To gobble *up* noisily.

a 1529 SKELTON *Agst. Garnesche* iii. 32 Ye slvfferd vp sowse In my lady Brewsys howse.

Slug (slʌg), *sb.*[1] Also 5–7 **slugg(e.** [Related to SLUG *v.*[1]: cf. Norw. dial. *slugg* a large heavy body, *sluggje* a heavy slow person.]

1. A slow, lazy fellow; a sluggard. †Also personified, slothfulness.

c 1425 *Castle Persev.* 2341 in *Macro Plays*, A, good men! be-war now all of Slugge & Slawthe, þe fowle þefe! *a* 1500 *Pol., Rel., & L. Poems* (1866) 32 The slugge lokyth to be holpe of god that commawndyth men to waake in the worlde. 1575 TURBERV. *Faulconrie* 159 Do this as often as she useth to fishe or to play the base slugge on that fashion. 1615 *Curry-Combe for a Coxe-Combe* i. 14 Hee that is lumpish at his meales, will proue but a slug in his more serious affaires. 1686 GOAD *Celest. Bodies* II. viii. 256 Nature is a Slugg, and doth nothing at the sight of a Whip. 1778 *Learning at a Loss* II. 149 My Uncle you know is a devilish Slugg in Conversation at best. 1812 TENNANT *Anster Fair* III. x, For who like arrant slugs can keep their heads In contact with their pillows now unstirr'd? 1888 DOUGHTY *Arabia Deserta* I. 90 A loiterer at his labour and a slug in the morning.

†2. A slow-sailing vessel. *Obs.*

a 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. IV*, 26 b, His shippe was but a slugge. 1624 *Cal. State P., Col.* 260 [The Rose,] being a slug, will never make a good man-of-war. 1666 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 59/4 All the rest of our ships, besides the heavy sluggs.., are come in to the Gunfleet. 1687 *Phil. Trans.* XVI. 456 They will certainly be Sluggs, not near so good Sailers as Ships made of Timber fell'd later in the Year. *a* 1734 NORTH *Lives* (1826) III. 92 The characters of the several vessels.., some windwardly, some not stay well, some slugs.

fig. 1622 C. FITZ-GEFFRY *Elisha* 37 Flie Boates for their owne profit, very Sluggs for the Republique. 1659 GAUDEN *Tears Church* 381 Presbytery..soon grew a slug, when once the North-Wind ceased to fill its sailes.

3. An animal, vehicle, etc., of a slow-moving or sluggish character; (see also quot. 1727).

1618 LATHAM *Falconry* (1633) 7 The slower flying Hawke or slugge doth winne what she gets most by her policie. 1650 FULLER *Pisgah* II. viii. 177 Massie iron [chariots] (such would have been slugs in fight). 1727 BOYER *Dict. Royal* s.v. *Garde-boutique*, A Commodity that grows a Slug, a Commodity that sticks by one. 1778 [W. H. MARSHALL] *Minutes Agric.* 4 Dec. 1775, He has not worked harder than the rest of the [ox-] team,..for he was always a slug, 1806 BERESFORD *Miseries Hum. Life* VI. *Stage Coaches* ii. Travelling..in a stage-coach—I beg pardon—in a '*Slug*'. 1863 W. C. BALDWIN *Afr. Hunting* vii. 276 Manelle, my other nag, is an incorrigible slug. 1894 MRS. DYAN *Man's Keeping* (1899) 171 When not excited, an Arab horse is a slug.

†b. A relaxed or weak bow. *Obs.* (Cf. SLUG *v.*[1] 4, quot. 1600.)

1614–25 BOYS *Wks.* (1629) 487 Cupid shoots in a slugge, and hits none but the sluggish.

4. A slow-moving slimy gasteropod or land-snail (of the type represented by the families *Limacidæ* and *Arionidæ*), in which the shell is rudimentary or entirely absent.

1704 PETIVER *Gazophyl.* ii. § xvii, This resembles our small Slug, and like it, is whitish below, but brownish above. 1725 *Fam. Dict.* s.v. *Mushroom*, Garden Snails, the large black Dew Snails, and others without Shells call'd Slugs. 1803 *Med. Jrnl.* IX. 358 Moles..are carnivorous animals, preying on the slug, the great enemy of horticulture. 1844 EMERSON *New Eng. Ref.* Wks. (Bohn) I. 259 A society for the protection of ground-worms, slugs, and mosquitos. 1873 MISS BROUGHTON *Nancy* II. 206, I feel as if a slug had crawled over me.

b. With distinguishing epithets.

1780 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 2) VI. 4235/2 The black slug, the white slug, the reddish slug, the ash-coloured slug, &c. 1807 A. YOUNG *Agric. Essex* (1813) II. 93 The depredations of the white slug or snail. 1839 *Penny Cycl.* XIII. 486/2 This section consists of the Grey Slugs. *Ibid.*, The supposed virtues of a decoction..of Red Slugs. 1858 BAIRD *Cycl. Nat. Sci.* s.v. *Limax*, The variegated slug. 1870 ROLLESTON *Anim. Life* 187 Cellar Slug (*Limax flavus*). 1887 *Encycl. Brit.* XXII. 187/2 The larger black slugs are species of Arion.

c. (See quot.)

1863 WOODWARD in *Intellect. Obs.* Nov. 229 Every collector of fossils has heard of the 'Fairy-loaves'..and 'Slugs' (palatal teeth of *Ptychodus*, etc.).

5. a. A slug-worm; a caterpillar or larva resembling a slug (see quots. 1868 and 1892).

1799 W. D. PECK *Nat. Hist. Slug Worm* 13 The viscous coat of the Slugs seems to be their sufficient defence in the larva state. 1862 T. W. HARRIS *Insects Inj. Veget.* 517 Others have a dark-colored slimy skin, which has caused them to be called slugs, or slug-worms. 1868 *Q. Rev.* CXXIV. 466 The caterpillars of two moths of the genus *Agrotis* are often called slugs. 1892 *Chambers's Encycl.* IX. 512/1 The name Slug is often applied by gardeners to the larvae of saw-flies (*Tenthredinidæ*).

b. A sea-slug.

1855 KINGSLEY *Glaucus* (1878) 114 A group of milk-white slugs (*Cucumaria hynumanni*), from two to six inches long. 1860 WRAXALL *Life in Sea* viii. 188 A protecting apparatus, into which the slugs can withdraw their soft bodies on the approach of danger. 1865 MRS. L. L. CLARKE *Common Seaweeds* i. 23 On the green *Ulva* creeps the lovely little slug..called *Acteon viridis.*

6. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *slug-eaten, -eater, -killer, -like*, etc.; **†slug-beetle** (?); **slug-caterpillar,** a caterpillar of the genus *Limacodes*; **slug-fly,** the fly of the slug-worm; **slug-snail,** = sense 4.

c 1711 PETIVER *Gazophyl.* x. § 92 Black Pounc'd Madras *Slug-beetle. 1862 T. W. HARRIS *Insects Inj. Veget.* 420 The most common of these *slug-caterpillars, in Massachusetts, live on walnut-trees. 1867 *Gard. Chron.* 7 Sept. 937 A large portion was *slug-eaten. 1890 *Science-Gossip* XXV. 149/2 Thrushes are..great *slug-eaters. 1799 W. D. PECK *Nat. Hist. Slug Worm* 11 The *Tenthredo Cerasi* or Saw-fly of the Cherry-tree has the greatest affinity to the *Slug-fly. 1862 T. W. HARRIS *Insects Inj. Veget.* 529 This slug-fly is of a glossy black color. 1883 *Sutton's Cult. Veget. & Fl.* 281 Lime, salt, soot, and nitrate of soda, are certain *Slug Killers. 1826 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* XXX. III. 140 The larvæ of Haworth's genus,..remarkable for their *slug-like shape and appearance. 1877 HUXLEY & MARTIN *Elem. Biol.* 23 Another common form progresses rapidly with a slug-like movement. 1867 *Gard. Chron.* 7 Sept. 937 The *slug-pest is this year in full vigour. 1687 MIEGE *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II, *Slug-snail, *un Limaçon.* 1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), *Slug* or *Slug-Snail*, a Dew-snail that has no Shell. • 1812 SIR J. SINCLAIR *Syst. Husb. Scot.* I. 211 The

frequent ploughings..effectually prevent the depredations of the slug-snail.

Slug (slʊg), *sb.*[2] Also 7–8 **slugg(e, 7 sluge.** [Perhaps the same word as prec.]

1. A piece of lead or other metal for firing from a gun; a roughly-formed bullet.

1622 *MS. Sessions Roll, Durham,* Unum tormentum anglice a gun oneratum cum quadam plumbea machina vocata *a Slugg*. 1645 in Rushw. *Hist. Collect.* IV. I. 58 They were pelted with Granadoes and Slugs of hot Iron. 1726 SHELVOCKE *Voy. r. World* 263 All our small shot was expended, which oblig'd us to fall astern to make some slugs. 1753 HANWAY *Trav.* (1762) I. III. XXXVI. 163 One of the pieces went off, and carried two sluggs through the top. 1803 WITTMAN *Trav. Turkey* 201 The wounded man was brought off; and the balls and slugs afterwards extracted. 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xiii. III. 375 Cutting lead from the roof of the Marquess's house and shaping it into slugs. 1879 STANLEY *Through Dark Cont.* xxiv. (1889) 440 We.. replied with shot, slugs, and bullets.

fig. *a* 1677 BARROW *Serm.* Wks. 1700 I. 356 Discharging sluggs against our neighbours reputation.

b. *slang.* Some kind of strong drink (*obs.*); a dram; a drink. Now *U.S.*

1756 W. TOLDERVY *Hist. Two Orphans* (1765) II. 112 Gunpowder, slug, wild-fire, knock-me-down. 1762 SMOLLETT *Sir L. Greaves* xvii, He ordered the waiter..to..bring along-side a short allowance of brandy or grog, that he might cant a slug into his bread-room. 1785 GROSE *Dict. Vulgar T.* s.v., *To fire a slug,* to drink a dram. 1895 in *Funk's Stand. Dict.*

† **2.** A heavy gun or cannon. *Obs.*—[0]

1677 in MIÈGE *Fr. Dict.* II. (Hence in some later Dicts.)

3. a. A heavy piece of crude metal, usually rounded in form; a nugget (of gold).

a 1891 *Elect. Rev.* (Amer.) XVI. viii. 2 (Cent.), 'That is platinum, and it is worth about $150.' It was an insignificant looking slug. 1894 *Westm. Gaz.* 5 May 7/1 Rumours were current..as to the finding of a 17lb. 'slug' of gold at Kurnalpi.

b. *Pottery.* (See quot.)

1880 JANVIER *Pract. Keramics* xii. 132 The coarser sorts [of stoneware] are..piled up, only separated by 'slugs'—rolls or pieces of sandy clay.

4. a. A hatter's or tailor's heating-iron.

1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade.*

b. *Printing.* A metal bar used as a division (see earlier quots.), or one produced by a Linotype machine for printing from. Orig. *U.S.*

Hence *slug-machine,* a Linotype machine.

1871 RINGWALT *Amer. Encycl. Printing* 416 *Slugs.*—Pieces of metal of various lengths and thicknesses, but always thicker than leads, which they resemble in other respects. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2217/2 Slugs are used to fill out a short page or between display lines. 1888 JACOBI *Printers' Vocab.* 127 *Slugs,* numbered divisions of metal between different takes of copy. 1896 *Linotype Co.'s Specimen Bk.,* The Linotype produces and assembles, side by side, metal bars or slugs.

c. *U.S.* A heavy gold piece privately coined in California in 1849, subsequently prohibited.

1890 *San Francisco Bulletin* 10 May (Cent.), An interesting reminder of early days in California, in the shape of a round fifty-dollar slug. 1892 *Blackw. Mag.* Apr. 554 A small hillock of gold in 10 and 50 dollar slugs.

d. A thick boot-rivet or sprig.

1892 [see SLUGGER[2]].

5. The core of an ox-horn (cf. SLOUGH *sb.*[5]); a stunted horn.

1842 S. C. HALL *Ireland* II. 395 The slug or core on which the horn is moulded. 1878 SIR B. T. B. GIBBS in *Rep. Paris Exhib.* II. 347 There shall be no horns, slugs, abortive horns. *Ibid.,* Occasionally some have small 'slugs' or stumps which are not affixed to the skull.

6. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *slug-bullet, -cartridge, -shot*; *slug-loaded* adj.

1665 PEPYS *Diary* 4 Feb., This message he sent in a slugg-bullett, being writ in cypher, and wrapped up in lead. 1873 *Routledge's Young Gentlem. Mag.* May 355 To make use of the slug-loaded pistols first. *Ibid.* 356 The slug-shot had entered his arm. 1901 H. SEEBOHM *Birds of Siberia* xxi. 222, I put a slug-cartridge into my gun.

Slug (slʊg), *sb.*[3] *north.* and *U.S.* [f. SLUG *v.*[3]] A heavy or hard blow; a beating.

1830 T. WILSON *Pitman's Pay* III. XXXVII, We'll spend wor hin'most plack, Te gi'e them iv'ry yen a slug. 1891 in *Cent. Dict.* 1894 HESLOP *Northumbld. Gloss.* 659 A *slug* or a *sluggin* is a dire beating.

† **Slug,** *a.* *Obs.* [Cf. SLUG *sb.*[1] and *v.*[1]]

1. Slow, sluggish, inactive.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 460/1 Slugge, *deses, segnis.* 1589 A. FLEMING *Virg. Georg.* I Thou Tityr slug in shade Dost teach the woods to sound so shrill. 1626 SHIRLEY *Brothers* V. iii, *Carlos.* Will none deliver me? *Lu.* They are somewhat slug. 1635 QUARLES *Embl.* I. xiii, Lord, when we leave the world and come to thee, How dull, how slug we are.

2. Of vessels: Slow-sailing.

c 1626 *Dick of Devon* v. i. in Bullen *Old Pl.* II. 86 Slug shipps can keepe no pace. 1666 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 59/1 The *St. Paul,* and two other Slug Ships, that seemed unserviceable.

Slug (slʊg), *v.*[1] Now somewhat *rare.* Also 4 **sluggyn,** 6 **slogge, sloug,** 6–7 **slugg(e.** [Perh. of Scand. origin: cf. Sw. dial. *slogga* to be slow or sluggish, and the Norw. forms cited under SLUG *sb.*[1] Earlier evidence for the occurrence of the stem in English appears in FORSLUG *v.* (*c* 1315) and SLUGGY *a.* (*a* 1225).]

1. *intr.* To be lazy, slow, or inert; to lie idly or lazily. Also with *it.*

c 1425 *St. Mary of Oignies* II. v. in *Anglia* VIII. 166/21 She..slugged neuer wiþ slouþe; she defayled in trauayle neuere or seldom. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 460/2 Sluggyn, *desidio, torpeo, pigritor.* 1530 PALSGR. 722/1 Whye slogge you nowe more than you have be wont to do? *c* 1560 INGELEND *Disobedient Child* (Percy Soc.) 50, I would most commonly slugge in my bed, Untyll it were verye farre forth daye. 1591 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* I. vii. 340 The Souldier, slugging long at home in Peace, His wonted courage quickly doth decrease. 1625 BP. SANDERSON *Serm.* I. 129 Men account him no wiser than he should be, that slaggeth in his own business, or goeth heartlesly about it. *a* 1677 BARROW *Serm.* (1686) III. xxii. 256 When he mispendeth an hour, or sluggeth on his bed. 1702 C. MATHER *Magn. Christi* III. II. iii. (1852) 374 He complained, 'I lie slugging a bed, when others are at work'. 1869 *Fortn. Rev.* Feb. 157 How often do I slug in bed on the long bright summer mornings.

b. *fig.* or in fig. context.

1549 COVERDALE, etc. *Erasm. Par. Jas.* 31 Of like sorte doubtles shall the profession of faith..bee vnauayleable, but lyeth slugging like as it were deade. 1567–9 JEWEL *Def. Apol.* (1611) 557 If they, whiles the Pope and his Prelats slug and sleep,..do bridle the Priests sensuality. 1607 J. CARPENTER *Pl. Mans Plough* 207 These ungodly..slug on the waves of this world, slumber as in the darke night. *a* 1646 J. BURROUGHS *Exp. Hosea* ix. (1652) 312 The Lord offereth deliverance and we lie slugging on our beds.

c. To withdraw through laziness. *rare*—[1].

1642 ROGERS *Naaman* 45 The Lord..suffered him not to slug out of the worke, till he had finished it.

2. To move slowly; to loiter or delay.

1565 T. STAPLETON *Fortr. Faith* 84 Their destruction slaggeth not. 1646 W. PRICE *Man's Delinquencie* 14 Like a Bowle, he began to slugge toward the end of the Alley. 1692 L'ESTRANGE *Fables* (1694) 362 There were two men together on a journey. One of them went slugging on...T'other jogg'd merrily away. 1812 TENNANT *Anster Fair* II. xlii, Others..ride, Slugging on their slow-gaited asses stout.

3. *trans.* To pass (time) in inactivity or idleness. Also with *out.*

a 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VI,* 177 Wherfore losyng no tyme nor sluggyng one houre he sayled from Deuelyne to Chester. 1621 R. BOLTON *Statutes Irel.* 313 Who losing no time, nor slugging one houre, hath so actually followed the warre that [etc.]. 1888 DOUGHTY *Arabia Deserta* I. 224 How may your lubbers slug out these long days till evening?

4. To relax or slacken; to make inert or sluggish.

1600 HOLLAND *Livy* XXXVII. xli. 968 Moreouer, the dropping weather slugged their bowes, softned their slings. 1641 MILTON *Reform. Eng.* 4 It is still episcopacy that.. worsens and slugs the most learned and seeming religious of our ministers. 1678 CUDWORTH *Intell. Syst.* I. iv. § 18. 321 Contending..that it..would weaken and enervate Mans natural Faculties, by slugging them.

5. To hinder, retard, delay.

1605 BACON *Adv. Learn.* II. vii. § 7 They are..but Remoraes and hindrances to stay and slugge the Shippe from furder sayling. 1650 TRAPP *Comm. Num.* xiv. 24 When a bowl runs down-hill, every rub quickens it; whereas if up-hill, it would slug it. 1665 HOOKE *Microgr.* 69 Several of these Rays..will be slugged or stopped by the tinging particles. 1876 ROBINSON *Whitby Gloss.* 176/2 *Slug,* to hinder; to retard progress.

Slug (slʊg), *v.*[2] [f. SLUG *sb.*[2]]

1. *trans.* To load (a gun) with slugs.

1831 *Examiner* 273/2 They would scarcely applaud..Tyburn Jack for slugging the blunderbuss up to its expansive muzzle. 1864 in WEBSTER.

2. *trans.* and *intr.* Of a bullet: (see quot.).

1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2217/2 The bullet, when forced to assume the sectional shape of the bore in the act of firing, is said to *slug* or to be *slugged.*

Slug (slʊg), *v.*[3] Chiefly *north.* and *U.S.* [Cf. SLOG *v.*] *trans.* To strike (also, to drive, throw, etc.) heavily or violently; to slog.

1862 in ROBINSON *Dial. Leeds* 413. 1869 *Echo* 8 Mar., He has several times been told by unionists on strike that he would be 'slugged' if he went on as he was going. 1883 *The Bread-Winners* (1884) 213 'Who's afraid of half-a-dozen cops?' said a burly ruffian, who carried a slung-shot...'We'll slug 'em this time!' 1890 GUNTER *Miss Nobody* I. (1891) 11 They mean..to slug him, crush the wind out of his body, and leave him battered and bruised.

Slug (slʊg), *v.*[4] [f. SLUG *sb.*[1] 4.] *intr.* To hunt for slugs.

1887 BARING-GOULD *Golden Feather* iv, She went with him to see the garden and help to 'slug'.

Slug-a-bed (slʊ·găbed). Also 7, 9 **sluggabed,** 9 **slugabed.** [f. SLUG *v.*[1] 1 + ABED *adv.*] One who lies long in bed through laziness.

1592 SHAKS. *Rom. & Jul.* IV. v. 2 Why Lambe, why Lady, fie you sluggabed. 1648 HERRICK *Hesp., Corinna's going a Maying,* Get up, sweet Slug-a-bed, and see The Dew-bespangling Herbe and Tree. 1692 L'ESTRANGE *Fables* cclii. (1694) 367 But these People are Hearing Causes too, with our Slug-a-bed in the Apologue. 1785 GROSE *Dict. Vulgar T., Slug-a-bed,* a drone, one that cannot rise in the morning. *a* 1849 H. COLERIDGE *Ess.* (1851) I. 90 Thomson, who was a notorious slug-a-bed, is peculiarly eloquent on the subject of early rising. 1897 W. HURTON *Doomed Ship* xxii, I found Oriana, as usual, up before me, for I always was a sad slug-a-bed.

attrib. 1683 TRYON *Way to Health* 289 Many ordinary Country People..have nothing the trouble at such times as our fine lazy sluggabed-Dames. 1897 F. THOMPSON *New Poems* 42 Even the slug-abed snail upon the thorn.

Slugard (slʊ·gărd), *sb.* and *a.* Forms: *a.* 5–6 **slogard(e,** 5–6 **sloggarde.** *β.* 5 **sluggarde,** 6 **slougarde, slugerd,** 6– **sluggard**; *Sc.* 5, 7 **sluggart,** 6 **slug(g)ird.** [f. SLUG *v.*[1] + -ARD.]

A. *sb.* One who is naturally or habitually slow, lazy, or idle; one who is disinclined for work or exertion of any kind; a slothful or indolent person.

a. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* IX. viii. (Bodl. MS.), Also scharpenes of winter makeþ men slogardes and slowe to worching. ?*a* 1500 *Chester Pl.* VIII. 297 Such dotards never shall, ne no sleeping slogard, make my right title cease! *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Edw. IV,* 249 b, If thei be slogardes and geuen to slothe.

β. 1423 JAS. I *Kingis Q.* lviii, Sluggart, for schame! lo here thy goldin houre. 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* xlvi. 86 Luve makis sluggirdis fresche and weill besene. 1549 COVERDALE *Erasm. Par. 1 Cor.* 27, I runne not lyke a slougarde, as they are wonte to doe which hasten to no certayn marke at al. 1576 FLEMING *Panopl. Epist.* 251 Least your delayes gett you the report of a sluggarde or idle lubber. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* III. 4 But it is the part of an industrious man, to act their affaires in the world, tho sluggards lie by the fire. 1663 S. PATRICK *Parab. Pilgr.* (1687) 358 This is the effect of the Sermon which that Excellent Man made to Drones and Sluggards. 1738 WESLEY *'Let us go forth, 'tis God commands'* ii, If any now to Work refuse, Let not the Sluggard eat. 1819 COBBETT *Eng. Gram.* viii. (1847) 72 Read it early, while your mind is clear, and while sluggards are snoring. 1877 LADY BARKER *Housek. S. Africa* IV, Our garden is precisely in the condition of the sluggard, gate and all..

transf. 1856 DOVE *Logic Chr. Faith* III. iii. 143 Even light..is but a sluggard when compared to thought.

Comb. 1706 A. PHILIPS *Past.* iv. (1710) 16 He that late lies down, as late will rise, And, Sluggard-like, till Noon-day snoring lyes.

† **b.** *spec.* A sloth. *Obs. rare.*

See also POTTO 1, quot. 1705.

1668 CHARLETON *Onomast.* 16 *Ai, sive Ignavus,* the Sluggard. 1796 H. HUNTER tr. *St.-Pierre's Stud. Nat.* (1799) I. 294 The sluggard, or sloth, likewise has hands.

B. *adj.* Sluggish, slothful, lazy.

1593 SHAKS. *Rich. II,* III. ii. 84 Awake thou sluggard Maiestie, thou sleepest. 1593 — *Lucr.* 1278 The more to blame my sluggard negligence. 1700 DRYDEN *Pal. & Arc.* I. 177 For sprightly May commands our Youth to keep The Vigils of her Night, and breaks their sluggard Sleep. 1867 R. PALMER *Life P. Howard* 25 The still more dreadful lukewarmness that hag-rode the sluggard orders. 1874 WILBERFORCE *Essays* II. 113 The old sluggard slumberers of the last generation.

Hence **Slu·ggarding** *vbl. sb.*, the practice of playing the sluggard.

1864 CARLYLE *Fredk. Gt.* XV. xiv. (1873) VI. 112 By slumbering and sluggarding over their money tills.

† **Sluggardise.** *Obs.* [f. SLUGGARD *sb.* + -ISE[2].] Slothfulness, laziness.

1532 HERVET *Xenophon Treat. Househ.* (1768) 5 Slouthfulnes, sluggardise, lacke of stomacke and quickenesse. 1555 [WATREMAN] *Fardle Facions* App. 345 Banishyng sluggardise, and kieping your mindes in continuall exercise. 1606 *Choice, Chance & Change* (1881) 51 Mistris, quoth I, shall the seruant be in bed after his Mis? that wer to much sluggardise.

Slu·ggardish, *a.* *rare*—[1]. [f. SLUGGARD *a.*] Somewhat slothful.

1649 SCLATER *Comm. Malachy* (1650) 166 If those sluggardish fooles amongst us..would consider this.

Sluggardize (slʊ·gărdəiz), *v.* [f. SLUGGARD *sb.* + -IZE.]

1. *trans.* To make idle or lazy.

1591 SHAKS. *Two Gentl.* I. i. 7 Liuing dully sluggardiz'd at home. 1798 *Monthly Mag.* Feb. 92 To continue..dully sluggardized in that dismal torpor.

2. *intr.* To play the sluggard.

1837 LOFFT *Self-formation* II. 230 An enervating lethargic spirit, that kept my soul abed, idly sluggardizing.

Sluggardly (slʊ·gădli), *a.* [f. SLUGGARD *sb.* + -LY[1].] Lazy, indolent, slothful.

1865 CARLYLE *Fredk. Gt.* XX. iii. (1872) IX. 53 Astonishment at unjust fortune, or at his own sluggardly cunctations. 1877 *Tinsley's Mag.* XXI. 609, I feel bitterly ashamed of selfish sluggardly humanity. 1884 *Manch. Exam.* 25 Feb. 5/2 The sluggardly and inefficient way in which the Irish railway companies..do their business.

Sluggardness (slʊ·gărdnĕs). [f. as prec. + -NESS.] Slothfulness, laziness.

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* VIII. xxix. (Bodl. MS.), [Light] wakeþ men of slepe of slogardnes and of slewthe. 1538 ELYOT, *Secordia,*..sluggardnesse, vnaptnesse. 1550 HOOPER *Serm. Jonas* vi. 162 b, To put awaye the slugerdnes of hys people. 1866 ROSE *Virgil* 59 He chaseth sluggardness forth from his reign. 1891 *Daily News* 26 Jan. 6/2 A duet in which jolly Friar Tuck..twits the Black Knight upon his sluggardness.

† **Slu·ggardry.** *Obs.*—[1] = next.

1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* IV. Prol. 164 Thow ald hasart lychour..That flotteris furth euermair in sluggardry.

† **Slu·ggardy.** *Obs.* Forms: *a.* 5 **sloggardye,** 5–6 **slogardy(e,** 5–7 **slogardie.** *β.* 5 **slugardie,** 4, 6–7 **sluggardie** (6 -dye), 6 **slouggardie,** 5– **sluggardy.** [f. SLUGGARD *sb.* + -Y.] Slothfulness, indolence, laziness.

a. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Kn.'s T.* 184 (Camb. MS.), For may wele haue no slogardye on ny3t. 1426 LYDG. *De Guil. Pilgr.* 10223 Slowh and ful off slogardye. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* V. 658 'Der schyr,' he said, 'ye leiff in slogardy'. 1509 HAWES *Past. Pleas.* 23 The bryttel fleshe, nourisher of vyces, Under the shadowe of evyll slogardy, Must need haunte the carnall delices. 1545 *Primer Hen. VIII,* 70 Thee to praise and magnifie Of night we leave the slogardie. 1616 J. LANE *Contin. Sqr.'s T.* x. 558 Truith without Justice is slogardie.

β. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* II. 92 [He] seith that for no Druerie He wol noght leve his sluggardie. 1495 *Trevisa's Barth. De P. R.* VIII. xxix. 342 [Light] wakyth men of slepe and sluggardy. 1539 ELYOT *Cast. Helthe* (1541) 92 In the preservation of helth, sluggardy is the greattest mischiefe,

1542 UDALL *Erasm. Apoph.* 87 b, The same much auailleth ..to quicken the slouggardie of others. 1601 CHESTER *Love's Mart.*, etc. (1878) 54 The foule staine of beastly sluggardie. 1606 HOLLAND *Suetonius* 155 The olde infamous note of sluggardie and foolishnesse.

Slugged (slʊgd), *a.* Now *rare*. Also 5 **slughed, sluggid, sluggyd.** [f. SLUG *sb.*[1] or *v.*[1]] Sluggish.

c 1430 *Pilgr. Lyf Manhode* II. liii. (1869) 96 Thou hast noon so gret lettinge..as of that he is so slugged. 1445 in *Anglia* XXVIII. 269 Where sluggid Idilnes myght not vprise. *c* 1450 [see SLUGGISH *a.* 2].

1847 *Tait's Mag.* XIV. 728 His intelligence, usually slugged and lazy,..acts with..rapidity.

Hence †**Sluggedly** *adv.*; †**Sluggedness.** *Obs.*

c 1425 *St. Mary of Oignies* II. ii. in *Anglia* VIII. 151/39 As a prikke, lest she shulde be slowe þurgh sluggednesse. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 460/2 Sluggydnesse, *torpor, segnicies, ignavia.* *c* 1450 Sluggedly [see SLUGGISHLY]. *a* 1500 *Polit., Relig., & L. Poems* (1866) 32 Sluggednes & myshappe be seldome dyssevyrde.

†**Slu·gger**[1]. *Obs.* [f. SLUG *v.*[1]] A sluggard.

1539 TAVERNER *Erasm. Prov.* (1552) 40 With sluggers or unhardye persons, it is alwayes holy daye. *c* 1560 BP. COX in *Abp. Parker's Corresp.* (Parker Soc.) 130 Satan is no slugger, nor Judas no sleeper.

Slugger[2] (slʊ·gəɹ). *U.S.* [f. SLUG *v.*[3]]

1. = SLOGGER *sb.* 2.

1884 *Harper's Mag.* Jan. 300/1 Let the young disciple beware of those teachers [of boxing] who are known as 'sluggers'. 1895 *Daily News* 6 Mar. 6/4 The champion slugger at football.

2. A flat-surfaced boss, knob, or projection on a roll for crushing ore. Also *attrib.*

1903 R. H. RICHARDS *Ore Dressing* I. 105 These sluggers and knobs are cast upon segments. *Ibid.*, The slugger roll has 16 knob segments and two slugger segments.

Slu·gger[3]. [f. SLUG *sb.*[2]] (See quot.)

1892 *Labour Commiss. Gloss., Slugger*, a machine which makes and drives into the bottoms of boots very thick rivets or sprigs called slugs, muds, or studs, to make the soles wear longer.

†**Slu·gginess.** *Obs. rare.* [f. SLUGGY *a.*] Sluggishness, slothfulness.

c 1440 *Jacob's Well* 111 He was wery for trauayle, &, for sluggynes & slewthe, thouȝte to haue esyd hym wyth schortere travayle. *Ibid.* 114 ȝif it be omytted for heuynes & sluggynesse. 1596 LODGE *Wits Miserie* P j b, Let this persuade you to cast off your slugginesse.

Slugging (slʊ·giŋ), *vbl. sb.*[1] [f. SLUG *v.*[1]] The fact or practice of playing the sluggard.

1532 MORE *Confut. Tindale* Wks. 686/1 If rebellion be no pride,..nor slugging a bed no slouth. 1542 UDALL *Erasm. Apoph.* 15 b, By vacaunt tyme of leasure he mened not slouggyng, loitering or slouthful idlenes. 1576 FLEMING *Panopl. Epist.* 343 Nowe, after their long sleepe and slugging, they are awaked. 1633 T. ADAMS *Exp. 2 Pet.* iii. 3 The sluggard quits himself from pragmatical meddling, the busy-body from lazy slugging.

Slugging (slʊ·giŋ), *vbl. sb.*[2] *north.* and *U.S.* [f. SLUG *v.*[3]] Slogging; hard hitting; a beating.

1862 C. C. ROBINSON *Dial. Leeds* 413 Gi'e him a good slugging lad! 1884 *Science* IV. 473 Even pugilism would have no charm if it were mere slugging. 1890 GUNTER *Miss Nobody* i. (1891) 13 The slugging and scrimmaging.. had been something awful.

Slugging (slʊ·giŋ), *ppl. a.* [f. SLUG *v.*[1]] Slothful, sluggish.

c 1430 *Pilgr. Lyf Manhode* II. lv. (1869) 97 Vit j seye thee that slough thou shalt fynde him and slugginge. 1597 DRAYTON *Heroical Ep.* 27 b, Nor durst his slugging Hulks approch the strand. 1611 COTGR. s.v. *Dormir*, The slugging or sleepie Cat at length awakes.

Hence **Slu·ggingly** *adv.*

1653 URQUHART *Rabelais* I. v. 27 After the procession, they went sluggingly into the fratry room.

Sluggish (slʊ·giʃ), *a.* Forms: 5 **slugis(sh, -ys(s)h, sluggyssh, -us(s(h, -isshe,** 6 **-ysshe, -ysh(e, -ysch, -ische** (5 **-esoh,** 6 **-essh),** 6– **sluggish**; 6 **slogish, slo(u)ggysshe, slouggish,** 7 **slougish.** [f. SLUG *sb.*[1] or *v.*[1] + -ISH.]

1. Of persons: Indisposed to action or exertion; inclined to be slow or slothful; not easily moved to activity.

c 1440 *Alph. Tales* 20 Fro thens furth, he was neuer slugissh to rise & go vnto Goddis serves. 1489 CAXTON *Faytes of A.* I. vii. 28 Ne be he not slouthful, sluggyssh, ne slepy. 1535 COVERDALE *Prov.* vi. 9 How longe wilt thou slepe, thou slogish man? 1581 MARBECK *Bk. Notes* 1146 They were sluggish and sought not that which was for the edification of the people. 1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* x. 429 The Turke, and the Irish-man, are the least industrious, and most sluggish liuers vnder the Sunne. 1678 WANLEY *Wonders Lit. World* v. i. § 90. 467/2 He was sluggish and careless. 1780 JOHNSON *Let. to Mrs. Porter* 8 Apr., I am indeed but a sluggish correspondent. 1807 CHALMERS *Caledonia* I. Pref. p. vii, The scholars of Scotland remained sluggish, and silent. 1872 BAGEHOT *Physics & Pol.* (1876) 37 A sluggish Englishman will often catch the American look in a few years.

absol. 1614–25 [see SLUG *sb.*[1] 3 b].

b. Of animals; also *spec.* (see quot. 1884).

[1827 D. JOHNSON *Ind. Field Sports* 214 There is one kind of snake in India of a sluggish nature.] 1842 COMBE *Digestion* 27 Compared with the torpid and sluggish reptile, the active..quadruped requires..a much larger quantity of nutriment. 1884 *Encycl. Brit.* XVII. 241/1 The sluggish puff-adder (*Clotho arietans*) is common and very dangerous.

2. Of the mind, disposition, etc.: Characterized by or exhibiting lack of vigour, alertness, or energy; slow in apprehension or decision; dull.

c 1450 tr. *De Imitatione* III. iii, Dedly mennes hertes waxe sluggussh [*v.r.* slugged]. 1538 STARKEY *England* II. iii. (1878) 214 For sluggysch myndys lyue in cornarys and content themselfys wyth pryuate lyfe. 1560 PILKINGTON *Expos. Aggeus* (1562) 88 That the mynde be not made sluggish by crommynge in meate. 1631 GOUGE *God's Arrows* v. § 10. 419 They..manifested thereby a luskish, sluggish disposition. 1663 S. PATRICK *Parab. Pilgr.* (1687) 31 This will prepare you ..to throw out the sluggish humour which is in all our natures. 1750 JOHNSON *Rambler* No. 56. P 5 Men, whose perceptions are languid and sluggish. 1825 SCOTT *Betrothed* iii, Ill policy it is to plant such sluggish natures in our borders. 1871 L. STEPHEN *Playgr. Eur.* ix. (1894) 207 Sluggish imaginations require strong stimulants.

3. Of conditions, etc.: Characterized by want of, or disinclination to, action or exertion.

1561 HOLLYBUSH *Hom. Apoth.* 4 b, A slouggish or slepery disease. 1570 *Satir. Poems Reform.* xi. 111 Remuif all sluggische slewth away. 1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* x. 446 This sluggish and idle husbandry. 1670 MILTON *Hist. Eng.* vi. Wks. 1851 V. 244 Ethelred, whom no adversity could awake from his soft and sluggish life. 1788 REYNOLDS *Disc.* 250 Either a vain confidence, or a sluggish despair. 1798 EDGEWORTH *Pract. Educ.* (1811) I. 116 It is of consequence to distinguish between slow and sluggish attention. 1838 PRESCOTT *Ferd. & Is.* (1846) III. 25 A life of sluggish inaction. 1873 HAMERTON *Intell. Life* I. iii. 21 Each of us has a little cleverness and a great deal of sluggish stupidity.

4. Of things: Not readily stirring or moving; slow to stir, act, or make progress in any way.

1640 WILKINS *New Planet* ix. (1707) 250 Matter is of it self a dull and sluggish thing. 1692 BENTLEY *Boyle Lect.* vi. 213 This poor Atom, sluggish and unactive as it is, doth involve Necessity of Existence. 1764 CHURCHILL *The Ghost* Poems I. 329 The sluggish Oars suspended hung. 1785 CANNING *Poet. Wks.* (1827) 4 Pale ivy throws its sluggish arms around. 1805 R. W. DICKSON *Pract. Agric.* I. 420 A very sluggish species of land is formed. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* iii. I. 406 Bacon had sown the good seed in a sluggish soil and an ungenial season. 1897 *Daily News* 1 Apr. 2/6 Yarns are sluggish, and..the tendency in some directions favours buyers.

b. *Med.* Of the pulse, liver, etc.

1843 R. J. GRAVES *Syst. Clin. Med.* ix. 100 Sluggish and dilated, or else extremely contracted pupils. 1845 BUDD *Dis. Liver* 172 Pulse..sluggish, exceedingly compressible. *Ibid.* 317 The bowels are sluggish. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* IV. 25 A symptom of 'sluggish liver'.

c. *Med.* Slow in responding to treatment.

1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 519 An effect similar to that of nitrate of silver in sluggish ulcers.

5. Moving, flowing, etc., very slowly or tardily; slow in movement.

1611 SHAKS. *Cymb.* IV. ii. 205 To shew what Coast thy sluggish c[r]are Might'st easiliest harbour in. 1665 HOOKE *Microgr.* 33 These Glass Drops..being exceeding hot, and thereby of a kind of sluggish fluid Consistence. 1791 GILPIN *Forest Scenery* II. 147 The river dwindles into a sluggish, little, bull-rush stream. 1812 BYRON *Ch. Har.* II. xx, To waste on sluggish hulks the sweetest breeze! 1842 BISCHOFF *Woollen Manuf.* II. 166 Germany being a flat country, and the rivers..sluggish. 1878 HUXLEY *Physiogr.* 192 A hot mud which rolls down the hill in a sluggish stream.

fig. 1891 *19th Cent.* Dec. 858 The currents of public life.. are sluggish and slow in Germany.

b. Of motion, etc.: Very slow or tardy.

1648 WILKINS *Math. Magic* I. xx. 141 That orb being the lowest of all, and consequently of a dull and sluggish motion. 1796 MME. D'ARBLAY *Camilla* v. ii, His wry looks and sluggish pace always proclaimed his ill will to the task. 1826 SAMOUELLE *Direct. Collect. Insects & Crust.* 38 The former have a sluggish flight. 1835 J. DUNCAN *Beetles* (Nat. Lib.) 252 Its motions are so sluggish, that it may be said to drag itself along rather than walk. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* iii. I. 379 Their velocity is..contrasted with the sluggish pace of the continental posts.

6. *Comb.*, as *sluggish-minded, -moving* adjs.

1851 HELPS *Comp. Solit.* iii. (1854) 34 The most sluggish-minded man craves amusement. 1899 CROCKETT *Black Douglas* 68 The broad sluggish-moving river.

Sluggishly (slʊ·giʃli), *adv.* [f. prec. + -LY[2].] In a sluggish or torpid manner; lazily, slowly.

c 1450 tr. *De Imitatione* III. xxi, Þe eselier þou shalt bere it, made redy þerto nat sluggusly [*v.r.* sluggedly] in herte & by use. 1565 COOPER *Thesaurus, Somniculose*, dreamingly: negligently: sluggishly. *c* 1650 Z. BOYD in *Zion's Flowers* (1855) Introd. 52 Who, sluggishlie gapeing and stretching himself, lyeth lusking on the downe. 1674 R. GODFREY *Inj. & Ab. Physic* 189 To do my Work sluggishly by halfs. 1784 REYNOLDS *Disc.* xii. (1842) 201 To go sluggishly about a prescribed task. 1832 R. & J. LANDER *Exped. Niger* III. xvii. 45 Our men at first paddled sluggishly. 1866 R. M. FERGUSON *Electr.* (1870) 33 Hence the compass-needle..oscillates more sluggishly.

Sluggishness (slʊ·giʃnĕs). [f. as prec. + -NESS.] The character or quality of being sluggish, torpid, or slow; **a.** Of persons (or animals).

c 1440 *Alph. Tales* 20 A monk..tempyd with sleuthe & slugisnes. *c* 1450 tr. *De Imitatione* I. xviii, O þe sluggussnes & þe negligence of oure tyme, þat we..are wery to lyue for sluggussnes and werynes! 1539 ELYOT *Cast. Helthe* 48 b, Sluggyshenes dulleth the body. 1577 B. GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* I. (1586) 2 b, We loose the healthfullest and sweetest time with sluggishnesse. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* III. 160 Hay, whereof they make little for sluggishnesse. 1657 R. LIGON *Barbadoes* (1673) 41 Nor can this be called slothfulness or sluggishness in them,..but a decay of their spirits. 1790 BURKE *Fr. Rev.* 127 Thanks to the cold sluggishness of our national character, we still bear the stamp of our forefathers. 1841 SPALDING *Italy & It. Isl.* II. 187 The time was one neither of sluggishness nor of performance, but of active and earnest preparation. 1875 H. G. WOOD *Therap.* (1879) 156 The first symptom manifested is sluggishness, as shown by a disposition to be quiet.

personif. a 1610 HEALEY *Cebes* (1636) 129 To defie desperation the daughter of sluggishnesse.

b. Of things, their motion, etc.

1715 tr. *Gregory's Astron.* (1726) I. 135 Lest this Motion should languish by degrees on account of the sluggishness of Matter. 1804 *Med. Jrnl.* XII. 525 The part has put on that degree of sluggishness and livid hue, as to require a very different mode of treatment. 1856 KANE *Arctic Explor.* I. xxiv. 322 The sluggishness of the compass..in the Arctic seas. 1879 HARLAN *Eyesight* ii. 24 A sluggishness in the flow of the blood.

†**Slu·ggy,** *a.*[1] *Obs.* Also 3 **sluggi,** 5 **sloggy.** [See SLUG *v.*[1], and cf. Norw. *sluggjen* slow, backward.] Sluggish, indolent.

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 258 Hwo mei beon, uor scheome, slummi & sluggi & slouh, þet bihalt hwu swuðe bisi ure Louerd was on eorðe? *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Pars. T.* P 706 Thanne cometh Sompnolence, that is sloggy slombrynge. 1408 tr. *Vegetius De re milit.* (MS. Digby 233) lf. 184 b/1 It most be vsed & asayed byfore in ȝouþe or þe body be made sleuthful & sloggy by age. *c* 1440 *Jacob's Well* 289 þat þou schalt noȝt be wery, heuy, ne sluggy, ne fayle þer-in. *a* 1533 LD. BERNERS *Golden Bk. M. Aurel.* (1546) Cc j b, The more I slept, the more sluggy I was. 1608 TOURNEUR *Rev. Trag.* IV. ii, As if sleep had caught him, Which claimes most interest in such sluggy men.

Sluggy (slʊ·gi), *a.*[2] [f. SLUG *sb.*[1] 4.] Abounding in slugs, or shell-less snails.

1882 *Gard. Chron.* XVII. 25 They let the slugs in that very sluggy year, 1879, abound around them. 1884 *Blackw. Mag.* Nov. 636, I not only gave them 'cawed' mutton, but also 'sluggy' cabbage.

Slug-horn[1]. [Erroneous use of *slughorn*, the earlier form of SLOGAN.] A trumpet.

a 1770 CHATTERTON *Battle of Hastings* II. 99 Some caught a slughorne, and an onsett wounde. 1855 BROWNING *Childe Roland* xxxiv, Dauntless the slug-horn to my lips I set, And blew.

Slug-horn[2]. [Cf. SLUG *sb.*[2] 5.] (See quots.)

a 1825 FORBY *Voc. E. Anglia* 308 *Slug-horn*, a short and ill-formed horn of an animal of the ox kind, turned downwards, and appearing to have been stunted in its growth. 1878 SIR B. T. B. GIBBS in *Rep. Paris Exhib.* II. 346 A 'slug' horn..gives an indication of the original blood.

Hence **Slu·g-horned** *a.*

1899 RIDER HAGGARD in *Longman's Mag.* June 136 Six of these..not polled, but 'slug-horned', that is, with horns about the size and shape of a large sausage.

†**Slu·gly,** *adv. Obs.*[-1] [f. SLUG *a.*] Sluggishly; lazily.

1436 *Libel Eng. Policy* in *Pol. Poems* (Rolls) II. 203 God yeve us grace..slugly not to slepe In shame of synne.

†**Slu·gness.** *Obs. rare.* [f. SLUG *a.*] Slothfulness; indolence.

c 1440 *Jacob's Well* 111 As þe feend wryteth & noumbryth þi slauthe, slugnes, & ydelnes. *Ibid.* 116, etc. *a* 1500 *Promp. Parv.* (K.) 460/2 Slugnes, *torpor, segnicies, ignavia.*

†**Slu·gplum.** *Obs.* [f. SLUG *a.*; *plum* is perh. = PLUMB *sb.*] A sluggard.

1593 G. HARVEY *Pierce's Superer.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 283 Was..Viuacitie a lasie-bones, or Entelechy a slugplum? *Ibid.* 323 Though my Pen be a slugplum.

†**Slu·gring,** *ppl. a. Obs.*[-1] [? f. **slugger* vb., f. SLUG *a.* or *v.*] Sluggish.

1566 STUDLEY *Medea* iv, Made Morpheus locke thy sleepy liddes and shut thy slugring eyne.

Slug-worm. [f. SLUG *a.* or *sb.*[1] 4.] One or other of the slug-like and slimy larvae of certain saw-flies (esp. those formerly classed in the genus *Selandria*).

1799 W. D. PECK (*title*), Natural History of the Slug Worm. 1815 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* vi. (1818) I. 198 In North America a second species nearly related to it, known there by the name of the *slug-worm*, has become prevalent. 1890 E. A. ORMEROD *Injurious Insects* (ed. 2) 324 The Slug-worms feed on the upper surface of the leaves of the Pear and Cherry.

attrib. 1862 T. W. HARRIS *Insects Inj. Veget.* 525 The slug-worm saw-fly.

Sluice (slūs), *sb.* Forms: *α.* 4–7 **scluse,** 5–7 **scluce,** 6 **sklus.** *β.* 6 **sleuss, sleuse, slewse, slowese.** *γ.* 6 *Sc.* **slus,** 6–7 **sluse,** 6–8 **sluce.** *δ.* 6 **sluyce,** 7– **sluice.** [ad. OF. *escluse* (*-clusse, -clouse*, etc.; mod.F. *écluse*), = Sp. and Pg. *esclusa*, late and med.L. *exclusa* (also *sclusa*, etc.), fem. sing. of L. *exclūsus*, pa. pple. of *exclūdere* to shut out, EXCLUDE *v.*

OF. is also the source of MDu. *sluse, sluyse, sluus* (Du. *sluis*, WFris. *slús*), MLG. *sluse, sluze* (LG. *slüse, slüs*, G. *schleuse*), Da. *sluse*, Sw. *slus*. For the English forms which represent the late L. *clūsa* see CLOW *sb.*[1]

The spelling with *ui* (cf. *juice*) did not come into general use until the 18th century.]

1. A structure of wood or masonry, a dam or embankment, for impounding the water of a river, canal, etc., provided with an adjustable gate or gates by which the volume of water is regulated or controlled. Also, rarely, the body of water so impounded or controlled.

Falling sluice: see FALLING *ppl. a.* 5 b.

α. 1340 *Ayenb.* 255 Zome uolk..byeþ ase þe melle wyþoute scluse þet alne-way went be þe yernynge of þe wetere. 1449 *Rolls of Parlt.* V. 149/1 Geteys, Keyes, Scluces, Bankes, and other reparations. *c* 1480 *Reg. Oseney Abbey* (1907) 76 To an scluse to be maade, or locke if þey will. 1598 *Galway Arch.* in *10th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. V. 388 The sklus or dame, besyde the said myll. 1583 STOCKER *Civ. Wars Lowe C.* III. 107 Some of these souldiers..chose rather to leape from the scluse into the water. 1690 HOLLAND *Amm. Marcell.* XXIV. i. 241 The scluces or floudgates made of stone worke, to let out or restraine the waters. 1665 MANLEY *Grotius' Low-C. Wars* 245 Being brought within a Lock of the River or Scluse, near the Castle.

β. 1533 *MS. Rawl. D.* 776 fol. 175 Makyng of Certayne

new slewssis vnder the kynges new whalke. 1541-2 *Act* 33 *Hen. VIII*, c. 33 The maintenance..of other Clowes, sloweses, gettiez, gutters, goottes. 1582 in *Archæologia* XXVIII. 20 A sufficiente sleuss shalbe made for the water-course. 1667 PRIMATT *City & C. Builder* 9 Whether the water be kept up by Art, in slewces.

γ. 1538 ELYOT, *Emissarium*, a sluse [1548 sluce]. 1568 *Bannatyne MS.* (Hunter. Club) 403 Ane sleiffull of slak that growis in the slus. 1577 B. GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* IV. (1586) 172 b, Some greate streame..which by Fludde or Sluse, may let in alwaies fresh water. 1611 CORYAT *Crudities* 157 The fresh and salt water would meete,..were it not kept asunder by a sluce. 1648 J. RAYMOND *It Merc. Ital.* 183 We went through nine..Machines not much unlike our Sluses, to keep up and let down the water. 1695 PRIOR *Ode after Queen's Death* xxiii, As Waters from her Sluces, flow'd Unbounded Sorrow from her Eyes.

δ. 1596 LAMBARDE *Peramb. Kent* (ed. 2) 148 A Pent and Sluyce hath been made, which both open the mouth, and scowre the bottome of the hauen. 1611 COTGR., *Esclusé*, a Sluice, Floud-gate, or Water-gate. 1699 GARTH *Dispens.* I. (1700) 3 While from each Sluice, a briny Torrent pours. 1745 P. THOMAS *Jrnl. Anson's Voy.* 189 It was necessary to set a great Number of Sluices to work. 1785 J. PHILLIPS *Treat. Inland Navi.* p. ix, When the water is..like to overflow.., they take care to open the sluices to convey it away. 1839 STONEHOUSE *Isle of Axholme* 78 A sluice was erected at Misterton to prevent the tides from flowing beyond that point. 1879 H. PHILLIPS *Addit. Notes Coins* 3 The citizens were prepared to open the sluices and dykes in order ..to flood the country.

transf. 1794 S. WILLIAMS *Vermont* 97 The beavers always leave sluices, or passages near the middle, for the redundant waters to pass off.

b. *fig.* or in fig. contexts. (Common in 17th cent.)

sing. 1340 *Ayenb.* 255 Ac þe wise zetteþ þe scluse of discrecion uor to ofhealde þet weter of fole wordes. 1586 T. B. *La Primaud. Fr. Acad.* I. (1594) 268 The number of them being verie small, who would not willinglie make (as we say) a sluce to their consciences. 1642 MILTON *Apol. Smect.* Wks. 1851 III. 288 His margent, which is the sluce most commonly, that feeds the drouth of his text. 1693 CONGREVE *Old Bach.* V. iv, She's the very sluce to her Lady's secrets. 1778 MISS BURNEY *Evelina* lxxiv, I have..drained every sluice of compassion. 1800 WEEMS *Washington* x. (1877) 120 On receiving the ball which opened in his breast the crimson sluice of life. *a* 1850 CALHOUN *Wks.* (1874) IV. 63 If the sluice of expenditures was stopped in one place, it was sure to burst through another.

pl. 1578 TIMME *Calvin on Gen.* 32 If so be the sluses or floodgates of heaven were not shut. 1654 WHITLOCK *Zootomia* 402 Heare him..reckoning up the many Sluces of his Treasury. 1672 CROWNE *Chas. VIII*, I, To my window streight I did repair, And setting wide those sluces of the air [etc.]. 1718 POPE *Odyss.* VIII. 581 So from the sluices of Ulysses' eyes Fast fell the tears. 1754 YOUNG *Centaur* I. Wks. 1757 IV. 111 Thus the sluices are set open for all sensuality..and studied arts of excess, to pour in uncontrouled. 1850 MERIVALE *Rom. Emp.* (1865) I. iii. 119 The execution of Lentulus and his associates would reopen the sluices of bloodshed.

c. A paddle or slide in a gate or barrier by which water is held back. Also *fig.*

1616 *Pasquil & Kath.* III. 287 Haue I drawne the sluce Of life vp? and..set my prisoned soule at large? 1791 W. JESSOP *1st Rep. Navig. Thames* 12 A Bar of Sand or Gravel, which is most easily to be removed by drawing the Sluices of the Lock. 1857 P. COLQUHOUN *Compl. Oarsman's Guide* 32 The sluices, otherwise called the paddles, are slides travelling in a slot or groove in the gate.

d. A device by which the flow of water, esp. into or out of some receptacle, is regulated; a valve, pipe, etc., by which water may be let in or run off.

1617 MORYSON *Itin.* III. 137 The medicinall Baths..are shut up certaine howers of the day, that no man should enter them till by their sluces they be purged of all filth. *c* 1710 CELIA FIENNES *Diary* (1888) 5 About 2 yards off the doore is severall pipes..that with a sluce spoutts water up. 1798 J. HUTTON *Course Math.* (1806) II. 344 To determine the Time of emptying a Vessel of Water by a Sluice in the Bottom of it. 1833 LOUDON *Encycl. Archit.* § 1243 The cast-iron trough for the water is marked *b*, and the sluice, also of iron, *c*. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* I. 79/2 Water was admitted by sluices into the caisson, which then sank.

2. A channel, drain, or small stream, *esp.* one carrying off overflow or surplus water.

1538 LELAND *Itin.* (1768) II. 66 Ther goith a sluse out of this Bath, and servid in Tymes past, with Water derivid out of it, 2 Places in Bath Priorie. 1594 R. ASHLEY tr. *Loys le Roy* 38 b, Towards the South it is enuironed with the scluses of Nilus. 1634 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* (1638) 8 A meare or fluxe of the Sea,..swelling in 100 armes or sluces. 1725 DE FOE *Voy. r. World* (1840) 289 The little streams and sluices of water. 1848 BOKER *Calaynos* I. i, Ere it flows Past the foul sluices that Seville outpours. 1888 [see SLOUGH *sb.*[1] 4].

transf. c 1645 HOWELL *Lett.* (1650) II. 3 While wee have sluces of warm bloud running through our veins. 1669 W. SIMPSON *Hydrol. Chym.* 172 By those secret sluces or chanels in the air.

†**3.** A gap, breach, opening, or hole; a gash or wound. *Obs.*

1548 GAGE *West Ind.* xi. 40 He made a sluce, or breach of halfe a league of length. 1651 BIGGS *New Disp.* 187 P 250 Unlesse it were repelled out at another sluice or *exit*. 1664 POWER *Exp. Philos.* I. 39 The Lamprey hath seven holes or cavities, and no gills at all—these holes or sluces do indeed supply the defect of gills. 1752 FIELDING *Amelia* I. ii, Certain open sluices on his own head, sufficiently showed whence all the scarlet stream had issued.

†**4.** A drawbridge. *Obs. rare.*

a 1634 CHAPMAN *Alphonsus* III. i, Some run unto the Walls, some draw up the Sluce, Some speedily let the Perculless down. 1642 *Lanc. Tracts Civil War* (Chetham Soc.) 22 The King swore he would..take the towne..; but Sir John Hotham drawing up the sluce, his Majesty retreated.

5. In gold-washing: An artificial channel or flume, usually consisting of a long sloping trough, or series of troughs, fitted with riffles or grooves, into which a current of water is directed in order to separate the particles of gold from the auriferous earth.

1862 B. TAYLOR *Home & Abroad* Ser. II. 144 The sand [is swept] into a long sluice. Here it is still further agitated by means of riffles [etc.]. 1872 RAYMOND *Statist. Mines & Min.* 70 The gold-saving method is the simplest—amalgamation in battery, copper-plate, riffle-boxes, and a tail sluice. 1882 *U. S. Rep. Prec. Metals* 629 The sluices are several hundred and sometimes several thousand feet in length.

6. *attrib.* and *Comb.* **a.** With names of things, as *sluice-block*, *-cock*, *-door*, *-house*, *-valve*, *-work*.

1819 *Pantologia* s.v., The level of the sluice-work. 1829 HOOD *Epping Hunt* iv, In a sluice-house box He took his pipe and pot. 1837 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* I. 27/1 Certain improvements in the construction of Sluice Cocks for Water-works. 1852 WIGGINS *Embanking* 87 Some difficulty may exist as to keeping open the sluice doors. 1882 *U.S. Rep. Prec. Metals* 101 They overhauled and refitted the flume, putting in new sluice-blocks. 1889 WELCH *Text Bk. Naval Archit.* xi. 127 The water being conducted..through vertical sluice valves.

b. With agent-nouns, etc., as *sluice-keeper*, *-maker*, *-master*; also *sluice-employing* adj.

a 1725 LD. WHITWORTH *Acc. Russia in 1710* in Dodsley *Fug. Pieces* (1761) II. 214 Contrary to the Opinion of all the Ship-Carpenters and Sluice-makers. 1779 *Phil. Trans.* LXIX. 622 Many sluice masters..are accustomed to shut their gates next the sea a little after half flood. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 142/1 Many self-acting sluices have been contrived..to save the expense of a sluice-keeper. 1890 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Miner's Right* (1899) 118/2 The dams and water-races of the sluice-employing miner.

Sluice (slūs), *v.* Forms: 6–7 sluce, 6–7 (9) sluse, 7 sluyce, 8– sluice. [f. the sb. Cf. OF. *escluser*, MDu. *slusen*, to shut in by, to provide with, a sluice.]

1. *trans.* To let *out*, to cause to flow *out*, by the opening of a sluice. Freq. *fig.*

1593 SHAKS. *Rich. II*, I. i. 103 [I say] that he did plot the Duke of Glousters death,..And..like a Traitor Coward, Sluc'd out his innocent soule through streames of blood. 1599 *Warning Faire Women* D ij b, Then stand close George, and with a luckie arme, Sluce out his life. *a* 1641 BP. MOUNTAGU *Acts & Mon.* (1642) 26 Every drop of it..sluced out from every part of his body. 1660 W. SECKER *Nonsuch Prof.* 6 You cannot..imagine that I should sluce out a bitter stream from so sweet a spring. 1838 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* I. 257/1 It is proposed that this quantity of water shall be sluiced out through the great embankment.

refl. 1850 CLOUGH *Dipsychus* II. iv. 105, I must sluice out myself into canals, And lose all force in ducts.

b. To let out or draw *from* some source or place in this manner. Usu. in pa. pple. Freq. *fig.*

1593 NASHE *Christ's T.* Wks. (Grosart) IV. 170 More relishsome..then the nectarized *Aqua cælestis* of water-mingled blood, sluced from Christs side. 1630 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Wks.* I. 2 The vnpolluted blood from him was sluc'de. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* I. 702 Veins of liquid fire Sluc'd from the Lake. 1805–6 CARY *Dante*, *Inf.* VII. 106 A well That boiling pours itself down to a foss Sluiced from its source. 1830 TENNYSON *Arab. Nts.* 26 A broad canal From the main river sluiced.

c. To lead or draw *off* by, or as by, a sluice.

1753–4 RICHARDSON *Grandison* (1781) I. xv. 89 When a stream is sluiced off into several channels, there is the less fear that it will overflow its banks. 1790 W. TAYLOR in Robberds *Mem.* (1843) I. 68 The National Assembly,..whose pure streams..will soon be sluiced off into the other realms of Europe. 1846 HAWTHORNE *Mosses* II. vii, He will not survive it above a month, unless his accumulations be sluiced off in some other way. 1869 *Contemp. Rev.* XI. 170 By what other means..could so many members of the human family have been sluiced off..into those stagnant pools?

2. To draw off or let out water from (a pond, lake, etc.) by means of a sluice or sluices. Freq. *fig.* and *transf.*

1594 NASHE *Unfort. Trav.* Wks. (Grosart) V. 119 If by rain..those ponds were so full they need to bee sluste or let out. 1697 CONGREVE *Mourning Bride* v. iii, I'll sluce this Heart, The Source of Woe, and let the Torrent loose. 1807 J. BARLOW *Columb.* I. 678 Led by this arm thy sons shall hither come,..Nor sluice their lakes, nor form their soils in vain. 1819 SCOTT *Fam. Lett.* (1894) II. 39 My veins have been sluiced so often that they give me pain in writing. 1892 *Harper's Mag.* Oct. 799/2 A project for sluicing the universities, called university extension.

b. Const. *into* (one or more streams, channels, etc.) or *in*. Also *fig.*

1596 WARNER *Alb. Eng.* XII. lxxv. (1602) 310 The once ship-bearing Ley by Alfred slu'ste in Three. 1642 HOWELL *For. Trav.* (Arb.) 45 Germany..is like a great River sluced into sundry Channels. 1681 DRYDEN *Span. Friar* I. i, Let Honour Call for my Bloud; and sluce it into streams. 1855 SINGLETON *Virgil* I. 119 Where..the Tuscan tide Into th' Avernian friths is sluiced. 1856 HAWTHORNE *Eng. Notebks.* (1879) II. 34 Avenues by which the commonplace world is sluiced in among the Highlands.

c. To drain of blood, to kill. *rare* —[1].

1749 SMOLLETT *Regicide* IV. ii, To sluice them in th' unguarded hour of rest! Infernal sacrifice!

3. To cast, fling, or pour (something) as if through a sluice.

1610–11 J. DAVIES (Heref.) *Paper's Compl.* 20 Wks. (Grosart) II. 75 What a dewce Meanst thou such filth in my white face to sluce? 1894 A. MORRISON *Mean Streets* 88 Profanity was sluiced down, as it were, by pailfuls.

b. *Lumbering.* To send or float (logs) down a sluice-way.

1877 *Lumberman's Gaz.* 17 Nov. 309 The Chippewa will sluice down on the river mills at least 400,000,000 feet of logs. 1879 *Ibid.* 15 Oct., The last of the logs..will probably be sluiced through the dam some time this week.

4. To throw or pour water over (a person or thing); to swill with water, esp. in order to clean or wash; to flush or scour with a rush of water. Also, to fill with water.

(*a*) 1755 H. WALPOLE *Lett.* 19 Oct. (1840) III. 161, I have told you what I think ought to sluice my public eye; and your private eye too will moisten, when I tell you [etc.] 1793 SOUTHEY *Lett.* (1856) I. 17 The ground spouts up water,..and..you get completely sluiced for curiosity and amusement. *a* 1803 C. L. LEWES *Mem.* (1805) I. 26 He was (at the moment I sluiced him) either dosing or fast asleep. 1846 THACKERAY *Cornhill to Cairo* xii. Wks. 1900 V. 686 Water so fresh..never sluiced parched throats before. 1861 HUGHES *Tom Brown at Oxf.* xiii, His neck and face, which he had been sluicing with cold water.

(*b*) 1798 CAPT. MILLER in Nicolas *Disp. Nelson* (1846) VII. p. clvii, I had the Ship completely sluiced, as one of our precautionary measures against fire. 1831 *Lincoln Herald* 28 Oct. 2/4 On slusing Grimsby dock..the body..was found in the mud. 1853 SURTEES *Sponge's Sp. Tour* (1893) 211 Jack Horsehide, who, as usual, was sluicing the flags with water. 1862 SALA *Seven Sons* II. vii. 195 To scrub the pannikins, and sluice out the tubs with water.

b. *slang.* (See quots.)

1796 *Grose's Dict. Vulgar T.* (ed. 3), *Sluice your Gob*, take a hearty drink. 1865 *Slang Dict.* 236 *Sluicing one's bolt*, drinking.

c. *U.S.* and *Austr.* To wash (auriferous ore) in a gold-miner's sluice. Also with *out*.

1859 [see SLUICING *vbl. sb.* b]. 1877 RAYMOND *Statist. Mines & Min.* 350 In sluicing out the ore now on hand. 1890 *Goldfields of Victoria* 7 The area of ground sluiced is much in excess of previous quarters.

5. *intr.* To flow or pour *out* or down as through a sluice. Also *fig.*

1593 NASHE *Christ's T.* (1613) 61 The siluer gates of the Temple..were..but slimy flood-gates for thicke iellied gore to sluce out by. 1834 LANDOR *Exam. Shaks.* Wks. 1853 II. 292/1, I fear me, for once, all his wisdom would sluice out in vain. 1855 A. W. COLE *Legends in Verse* 3 The rain on the windows kept..Sluicing and dashing.

Hence **Sluiced** (slūst), **Slui·cing** *ppl. adjs.*

1607 WALKINGTON *Optic Glass* 156 The other with a double-sluced eye Did sacrifice his teares. 1848 DICKENS *Dombey* xxxii, This here sluicing night is hard lines to a man as lives on his condition.

Sluice-box. [SLUICE *sb.* 5.] One of the long troughs of which a gold-washing sluice is composed; a riffle-box.

1874 RAYMOND *Statist. Mines & Min.* 17 The long tunnel becomes a sluice-way, through the whole length of which sluice-boxes are laid at once. 1879 ATCHERLEY *Trip to Boërland* 114 A long square trough, termed a 'sluice-box', about a foot in width and 20 feet long. 1882 *U.S. Rep. Prec. Metals* 642 Below this tank, and running down the bed of the ravine, are the sluice boxes.

Sluice-gate. [SLUICE *sb.*] The gate of a sluice, the part which can be opened or shut to let out or retain the water; also, the upper gate of a lock.

1781 *Chambers' Cycl.* s.v. *Lock*, Lock is..a kind of canal inclosed between two gates; the upper called by workmen the sluice-gate. 1802 BLOOMFIELD *Rural T.* 41 To raise the sluice-gates early every morn. 1865 DICKENS *Mut. Fr.* I. xiv, Not a sluice gate, or a painted scale upon a post or wall, showed the depth of water. 1893 *Archaeologia* LIII. 540 A singularly constructed sluice-gate in the city wall.

b. *fig.* or in figurative contexts.

1815 *Sporting Mag.* XLVI. 153 Those who opened the sluice-gates of their wrath against Mr. Wynne's Bill. 1846 MRS. GORE *Eng. Charact.* (1852) 137 The..sinews of the war of life lie at his disposal. At his nod, the sluice-gates close or open which control the fate of a country. 1897 MISS KINGSLEY *W. Africa* 4 Having opened upon myself the sluice gates of advice, I rapidly became distracted.

Sluicer (slū·sə). [f. SLUICE *v.*] **a.** One who attends to a sluice; a sluice-keeper. **b.** *U.S.* and *Austr.* A gold-miner who works at a sluice.

1873 *Daily News* 4 Oct., This money..was what I earned at Daylesford... I was a sluicer. 1890 *Goldfields of Victoria* 22 The puddlers and sluicers are gradually decreasing in number. 1893 *Scribner's Mag.* June 715 Sluicer's boot, with calks.

Sluice-way. [f. SLUICE *sb.*] A channel or waterway fed or controlled by means of a sluice or sluices. Also in *Lumbering* (see quot. 1851).

1851 *Harper's Mag.* III. 517 For taking logs down mountain sides..we construct what are called dry sluice-ways. 1856 EMERSON *Eng. Traits*, *Ability*, A mill is built, a banking-house is opened, and men come in, as water in a sluice-way. 1874 [see SLUICE-BOX]. 1879 *Lumberman's Gaz.* 16 July 5 The bark is thrust into sluice-ways to the chains and carried by them outside.

fig. 1858 E. D. PROCTOR *Beecher's Life Th.* (1860) 114 A drain or sluiceway by which the heavenly stream of God's favour escapes from them.

Sluich, obs. Sc. form of SLOUGH *sb.*[2]

Sluicing (slū·siŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. SLUICE *v.* + -ING [1].] The action of the verb, in various senses.

1840 THACKERAY *Catherine* viii, They wanted a sluicing. 1874 RAYMOND *Statist. Mines & Min.* 327 The all-important drawback is the lack of water for sluicing, or even for simple washing. 1889 *Anthony's Photogr. Bulletin* II. 373 A good sluicing of the eyes in cold water every morning will be found beneficial.

b. *attrib.*, as *sluicing claim*, *company*.

1859 CORNWALLIS *New World* I. 328 The St. Andrew's Mining and Sluicing Company. 1882 *U. S. Rep. Prec.*

Metals 105 The Fox Creek and Boulder Creek sluicing claims have uniformly done well. 1890 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Col. Reformer* (1891) 293 A great sluicing claim, where the water.. spouted clear and strong over heaps of auriferous earth.

Sluicy (slūˑsi), *a.* Chiefly *poet.* Also 7 **slucy.** [f. SLUICE *sb.* + -Y [1].]

1. Of rain, etc.: Falling or pouring copiously or in streams, as if from a sluice; streaming, drenching.

1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* I. 437 Oft whole sheets descend of slucy Rain. 1715 POPE *Iliad* v. 122 While Jove descends in sluicy sheets of rain. 1813 T. BUSBY *Lucretius* II. v. 443 Rapid rivers, swelled by sluicy showers. 1863 *Pilgr. over Prairies* I. 148 The deluges of rain that in compact, sluicy sheets now descended.

2. Resembling a sluice; acting like a sluice. *rare.*

a 1703 POMFRET *Last Epiphany* iii, Such were the boding Times, Ere Ruin blasted from the sluicy Sky. 1706–7 FARQUHAR *Beaux' Strat.* IV. i, That hospitable Seat of Life ..open'd all its sluicy gates to take the Stranger in.

3. Of sand: Wet, soaking.

1818 KEATS *Endym.* I. 946 'Tis the grot..where her tender hands She dabbles, on the cool and sluicy sands.

Sluit (slūt). *S. African.* Also **sloot, sloet.** [(Cape) Du. *sloot* ditch, = LG. *sloot*, OFris. *slût* (WFris. *sleat*).] A channel, ditch, or gully, usually one formed by heavy rain and dry during the greater part of the year.

a. 1863 W. C. BALDWIN *Afr. Hunting* 30 On coming into a mud sluit..the sudden check of the wagon threw me off. 1882 *Times of Natal* 8 June, About 3,900 yards of the sluits remain uncovered. 1896 BADEN-POWELL *Matabele Campaign* xvii, One evening I heard the old brute moving in the sluit, close to the camp.

β. 1889 FR. OATES *Matabele-Land* 198 In crossing a small 'sloot' one of the wheels gave way. 1897 ANNA HOWARTH *Jan* xxiv, Beds of wild yellow marigolds glorified every little hollow and sloet.

Slukane, variant of SLOKAN.

Slum (slʌm), *sb.*[1] [Of cant origin, and in all senses except 2–4 only in canting use.]

I. †1. A room. *Obs.*

1812 J. H. VAUX *Flash Dict., Slum,* a room. 1823 BEE *Dict. Turf* s.v., Thus we may have 'the little slum',..'the back slum', and a slum in front. 1824 *Hist. Gaming* 28 Regaling..in the back parlour (*vulgo* slum) of an extremely low-bred Irish widow.

2. A street, alley, court, etc., situated in a crowded district of a town or city and inhabited by people of a low class or by the very poor; a number of these streets or courts forming a thickly populated neighbourhood or district where the houses and the conditions of life are of a squalid and wretched character. Chiefly *pl.*, and freq. in the phrase *back slum(s).*

(*a*) 1825 WESTMACOTT *Eng. Spy* II. 32 The back slums lying in the rear of Broad St. 1851 DICKENS *Lett.* (1880) I. 251 When the back slums are going to be invaded. 1871 L. STEPHEN *Playgr. Eur.* (1894) ix. 203 The unspeakable ugliness of a back slum in London. 1880 R. S. WATSON *Visit Wazan* iv. 72 The back slums are not more inviting than those of many European towns.

(*b*) 1845 *Athenæum* 18 Jan. 75 In the thick of the once renowned 'slums' of St. Giles's. 1860 *All Year Round* No. 74. 570 An obscure cabaret—say pothouse—lying in a slum. 1889 JEROME *Idle Thoughts* 117 A little mite sitting on a doorstep in a Soho slum. 1894 SALA *London up to Date* vi. 79 Large tracts of indescribably dirty, profligate, and felonious slums.

fig. 1870 LOWELL *Among my Bks.* Ser. I. (1873) 84 The slums and stews of the debauched brain.

b. *Theatr.* (See quot.)

1886 *Stage Gossip* 69 Such lowly edifices of the drama as wooden buildings of humble erection and booths are frequently designated 'slums'.

3. Representation of slum life or conditions.

1885 *Pall Mall G.* 7 Apr. 10/1, I should like to know who would stand five acts of 'slum'.

4. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *slum-burrow, -literature, -people,* etc.; **slumland,** the slums; **slum-sister,** a woman devoted to charitable and educative work in the slums.

Many combs. of these types occur in recent newspaper usage.

1863 B. JERROLD *Signals of Distress* 7 It is a genuine bit of slum-literature. 1878 GORDON *Jrnl.* in Hill *G. in C. Africa* (1881) 326 These slum people liked their visitor. 1887 *Contemp. Rev.* Dec. 772 That class rarely stray..from their slum-burrows and dens. 1890 *Guardian* 31 Dec. 2096/1 This 'slum-sister' gathers children for instruction on Sunday afternoons. 1893 *Graphic* 25 Mar. 298/3 The appearance of respectability..deprives him of the glamour of slumland.

II. †5. Nonsensical talk or writing; gammon, blarney. Also, gipsy jargon or cant. *Obs.*

1820 in *Grose's Dict. Vulgar T.* (1823) s.v., And thus, without more slum, began..To settle..The rigs of this here tip-top nation. 1822 J. WILSON *Noctes Ambros.* iv, He may have written some pretty things, but he is taken now to slum, scissorsing, namby pamby, and is quite spoiled. 1823 BEE *Dict. Turf* s.v., The gipsey language, or cant, is slum. *Ibid.,* Loose, ridiculous talk, is 'all slum', 'None of your slum,' is said by a girl to a blarneying chap.

b. *Up to slum,* knowing, wideawake; not to be 'taken in' or 'done'.

1857–9 in *Slang Dict.*

c. 'An insinuation, a discreditable inuendo.'

1865 *Slang Dict.* 236.

6. A begging-letter.

1851 MAYHEW *Lond. Lab.* I. 224 A slum's a paper fake. *Ibid.* 311 Of these documents there are two sorts, 'slums' (letters) and 'fakements' (petitions).

7. 'A chest or package' (*Slang Dict.* 1859).

Slum (slʌm), *sb.*[2] *U.S.* [? ad. G. *schlamm* in the same sense.] = SLIME *sb.* 4.

1874 RAYMOND *Statist. Mines & Min.* 350 The discharge near the top carries off light particles and slums. 1877 *Ibid.* 97 This material..is like the slum or tailings from a mill.

Slum, variant of SLOOM *sb.*[1] and *sb.*[2]

Slum (slʌm), *v.* [Cf. SLUM *sb.*[1]]

1. *trans. Cant.* (See quots.)

1859 *Slang Dict.* 96 *Slum the gorger,* to cheat on the sly, to be an eye servant. 1874 *Ibid.* 297 *Slum,* to hide, to pass to a confederate.

2. To do (work) hurriedly and carelessly.

1865 *Daily Telegr.* 25 Aug., The builders were not men to 'slum' or 'scamp' their work.

3. *intr.* **a.** To go into, or frequent, slums for discreditable purposes; 'to saunter about, with a suspicion, perhaps, of immoral pursuits'.

a 1860 in Oxford use. 1865 *Slang Dict.* (as Cambridge Univ. slang).

b. 'To keep to back streets to avoid observation' (Barrère and Leland, 1897).

4. To visit slums for charitable or philanthropic purposes, or out of curiosity, esp. as a fashionable pursuit. Freq. in phr. *to go slumming* (see SLUMMING *vbl. sb.* 2).

1884 *Referee* 22 June (Cassell), A wealthy lady went slumming through the Dials the other day. 1884 *Boston* (Mass.) *Jrnl.* 1 Oct. 2/3 A party of young fashionable people of New York thought they would go a slumming. 1887 *Good Words* 238 He had taken tea hundreds of times in workmen's houses; he had 'slummed' so far back as 1846.

Slumber (slʌˑmbəɹ), *sb.* Forms: *a.* 5 **slomur, -owre,** 6 **slommer,** 5–6 *Sc.* **slummer** (9 *dial.*), **-ir.** *β.* 5–6 **slomber** (5 **-bre, -bir**), 6 **sloumber,** 6– **slumber.** [f. SLUMBER *v.* Cf. Fris. *slommer, slûmer,* Du. *sluimer,* LG. *slümer,* late MHG. *slummer* (G. *schlummer*), Da. and Sw. *slummer.*]

1. Sleep, repose. Chiefly *poet.*

? *a* 1400 *Morte Arth.* 3221 He..fore slewthe of slomowre one a slepe fallis. 1530 PALSGR. 271/2 Slommer, *somme, somneil.* 1582 STANYHURST *Æneis* III. (Arb.) 75 With slumber is holden Eche liuing creature. 1599 SHAKS. *Hen. V,* III. ii. 123 Ere theise eyes of mine take themselues to slomber. 1634 MILTON *Comus* 1001 Young Adonis..Waxing well of his deep wound In slumber soft. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* IV. 583 His Eyes with heavy Slumber overcast. 1754 GRAY *Poesy* 23 Quench'd in dark clouds of slumber. 1848 LYTTON *Harold* VII. iv, There was no further thought of slumber that night. 1871 R. ELLIS *Catullus* lxiv. 122 When her eyes lay bound in slumber's shadowy prison.

b. With possessive pronouns.

c 1386 CHAUCER *Miller's T.* 630 This carpenter out of hese slombir sterte. *c* 1402 LYDG. *Compl. Bl. Knt.* 16 With a sigh I gan for to abreyde Out of my slombre. 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* xiv. 1 Devysing in my slummer, How that this realme [etc.]. 1616 W. BROWNE *Brit. Past.* II. v, Let this her slumber..Make her beleeve our love was but a dreame! 1849 JAMES *Woodman* ix, The next instant, her slumber was broken.

2. A period or occasion of sleep or repose; freq., a light or short sleep.

a. c 1400 *Destr. Troy* 13285 Thai have no dainty of drynk, ..But derkon euon down on a depe slomur. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* VII. 71 In that slummir, cummand him thocht he saw Ane agit man. 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* XXXV. 9 For weirines on me ane slummer soft Come. *a* 1599 A. HUME *Poems* (S. T. S.) v. 91 He makes the physicke take effect, the slummers soft he geifis.

β. 1509 HAWES *Past. Pleas.* I. (Percy Soc.) 7 Thus as I satte in a deadly slomber, Of a great horne I harde a royal blast. 1550 CROWLEY *Epigr.* 1178 He fell in a sloumber. 1611 TOURNEUR *Ath. Trag.* V. i, No, my Lord. Nor sleepe nor wake. But in a slumber troublesome to both. 1661 DRYDEN *Panegyrick Coronation* 42 Officious slumbers haste your eyes to close. 1725 N. ROBINSON *Th. Physick* 319 If he takes none the first Night, his Slumbers may be more compos'd the following. 1791 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Rom. Forest* I, Madame La Motte found her sunk in a disturbed slumber. 1836 THIRLWALL *Greece* xi. II. 27 His youth..passed away in a preternatural slumber. 1841 SPALDING *Italy & It. Isl.* I. 304 The Mons Vultur, which sheltered Horace's infant slumbers.

3. *fig.* A state or condition of repose, rest, inactivity, or quiescence.

1552 LYNDESAY *Monarche* 6300 Dreid nocht to dee; for deith is bot ane slummer. 1579 W. WILKINSON *Confut. Fam. Love* 17 b, Your imagination is but the shadow of a slumber. 1605 G. POWEL *Refut. Ep. Puritan-Papist* 85 It was by reason of impunitie and slumber of Iustice. 1781 GIBBON *Decl. & F.* xxix. (1787) III. 132 The son of Theodosius passed the slumber of his life, a captive in his palace. 1797 GODWIN *Enquirer* I. vi. 37 The human mind awoke from a slumber. 1822 SHELLEY tr. *Calderon's Mag. Prodig.* I. 239 Thou canst not Restore it [a sword] to the slumber of the scabbard. 1845 MAURICE *Mor. Philos.* in *Encycl. Metrop.* (1847) II. 650/1 Those who teach that the powers of man woke at once from a deep slumber just at the beginning of the XVth Century.

4. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *slumber-bed, -land,* etc.; *slumber-bound, -closing, -wrapt* adjs.

c 1445 LYDG. *Nightingale* 57 Oute of thy *slombre-bed of slouth & sleep. 1820 SHELLEY *Two Spirits* 30 Look from thy dull earth, *slumber-bound. *c* 1840 MRS. BROWNING *Isobel's Child* ix, The little mouth so slumber-bound. 1798 SOTHEBY tr. *Wieland's Oberon* (1826) I. 162 Strive to unbolt their *slumber-closing eye. 1882 SWINBURNE *Tristr. of Lyonesse* vi. 109 The great good wizard..Takes his strange rest at heart of *slumberland. 1887 *Illustr. Lond. News* 20 Aug. 217 We are half way to Slumberland. 1838 ELIZA COOK *Sailing Song* i. 6 The *slumber-wrapt might of the waves.

Slumber (slʌˑmbəɹ), *v.* Forms: *a.* 3 **slumeren,** 4 **slomyr,** 5 **-yre, -eron,** 5–6 **slom(m)er,** 6 *Sc.* **slummer.** *β.* 4–6 **slombre,** 5 **sloumbre,** 6 **slomber;** 4– **slumber.** [ME. *slūmeren,* etc., f. *slūmen* SLOOM *v.*[1] or *slūme* SLOOM *sb.*[1], corresponding to Fris. *slûmerje,* MDu. *slum-, sloem-, sluymeren* (Du. *sluimeren*), MLG. *slômeren* (LG. *slommern, slümern*), late MHG. *slum(m)ern, slommern* (G. *schlummern*); Da. *slumre,* Sw. *slumra* are of G. origin. The development of the *b* between *m* and *r* is in accordance with English phonetic tendencies.]

1. *intr.* To sleep, *esp.* to sleep lightly; to doze or drowse.

a. c 1220 *Bestiary* 576 in *O. E. Misc.* 18 Sipmen..slumeren and slepen, and to late waken. *a* 1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* lxxv. 6 Þai slomyrd þat steghe horsis. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 8428 As þis burde was in bed.., slomeryng a while, Sho was affravet full foule. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 460/1 Slomeron, *dormito, nictitor.* 1561 WINJET *Tract.* Wks. (S. T. S.) I. 6 He nother slepis nor slummeris quha behaldis al 3our doingis.

β. 1362 LANGL. *P. Pl. A.* Prol. 10 As I lay..and lokede on þe watres, I slumberde in a slepyng. *c* 1400 *Rom. Rose* 4005 He slombred, and a nappe he toke. *c* 1485 *Digby Myst.* (1882) I. 302 To sle and morder yong children þat in þer cradell slumber. 1530 PALSGR. 722/1 He dothe nat slepe nowe, he dothe but slomber. 1599 THYNNE *Animadv.* (1875) 56 He neyther slombrethe nor slepethe, but alwayes watchethe. 1605 B. JONSON *Volpone* I. i, *Corb.* Does he sleep well? *Mos.* No wink, sir, all this night, Nor yesterday; but slumbers. 1681 DRYDEN *Abs. & Achit.* 447 Like a Lion, Slumb'ring in the way, Or Sleep dissembling, while he waits his Prey. 1746 FRANCIS tr. *Horace, Art Poet.* 488, I..hold it for a Fault..If honest Homer slumber o'er his Muse. 1818 SCOTT *Br. Lamm.* XXXV, He ate without refreshment, and slumbered without repose. 1878 BROWNING *La Saisiaz* Introd. ii, Soul that canst soar! Body may slumber.

transf. 1825 T. HOOK *Sayings* Ser. II. *Man of Many Fr.* I. 320 Her..tooth-brush and nail-brush slumbered together in one small tray.

b. *fig.* To lie at rest in death or the grave.

1588 SHAKS. *Titus A.* II. iv. 15 That I may slumber in eternall sleepe. ? 1809 SHELLEY *Death, a Dial.* 6 Say, victim of grief, wilt thou slumber with me? 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. I. ii, The Dead all slumbering round it. 1851 LONGF. *Gold. Leg.* (1856) 58 Underneath this mouldering tomb..Slumbers a great lord of the village.

2. *fig.* To live in a state of inactivity or negligence; to remain or be sunk *in* sin, sloth, etc.; to be dilatory or tardy *in* doing something.

c 1380 WYCLIF *Wks.* (1880) 395 For siche occupacions and chargis maken prestis slepynge & slumbrynge in synne. *c* 1400 *Rom. Rose* 2576 Whyl thou so slomrest in that thought, That is so swete and delitable. *a* 1400 *Relig. Pieces fr. Thornton MS.* 58 Tho sawles..slomers noghte no slepis noghte in þe slowthe of fleschly lustes. 1515 BARCLAY *Ecloges* iv. (1570) C iij b, In sloth thou slombrest as buried were thy song. 1601 SHAKS. *All's Well* III. vi. 78 *Ber.* But you must not now slumber in it. *Par.* I'le about it this euening. 1751 JOHNSON *Rambler* No. 161 P 3, I have always thought it unworthy of a wise man to slumber in total inactivity. 1788 GIBBON *Decl. & F.* li. V. 366 The successors of Alaric had slumbered in a long peace. 1848 GALLENGA *Italy* (1851) 459 That fatal security which had.. allowed the Lombards to slumber on the mere fame of their exploits.

3. Of things, faculties, etc.: To be dormant, inoperative, or quiescent.

1582 N. T. (Rhem.) *2 Peter* ii. 3 And their perdition [1611 their damnation] slumbereth not. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* IV. 24 Now conscience wakes despair That slumberd. 1727 DE FOE *Hist. Appar.* iii. (1840) 23 As the Scripture says in another case, his damnation slumbereth not. 1799 CAMPBELL *Pleas. Hope* I. 460 The might that slumbers in a peasant's arm. 1818 SCOTT *Rob Roy* v, As my kinsman's politeness seems to be still slumbering. 1845 S. AUSTIN *Ranke's Hist. Ref.* II. 383 We see the lowering tempest which slumbered behind this appearance of confidence.

b. To be calm, peaceful, or still.

1764 GOLDSM. *Trav.* 312 Dull as their lakes that slumber in the storm. 1818 SCOTT *Rob Roy* xxxiii, The clouds of mist which might otherwise have slumbered till morning on the valley. 1830 TENNYSON *Arab. Nts.* 79 The gardenbowers and grots Slumber'd.

c. To flow, move *along,* sleepily or peacefully.

1868 HAWTHORNE *Amer. Note-bks.* (1879) II. 69 The stream ..slumbers along.

†4. *trans.* To cause to sleep; to render inactive or inoperative; to dull or deaden. *Obs.*

c 1532 DU WES *Introd. Fr.* in *Palsgr.* 922 O fortune, sorowe increasyng, and slombrying all delyces. 1547 *Bk. of Marchantes* b vj, They haue so slombred, blinded, and abeasted the poore worlde. 1622 DONNE *Serm.* 24 Feb. (1626) 22 To smother sinne from the eye of the world, or to slumber the eye of our owne conscience from the sight of sinne. 1642 WOTTON *Dk. Buck'm.* in *Relig.* (1672) 232 To honest a deed after it was done, or to slumber his conscience in the doing.

† b. To render still, calm, or quiet; to muffle (a drum), silence (a noise). *Obs.*

1622 DONNE *Serm.* 15 Sept. 4 This Song of Deborah were enough..to slumber any storme, to becalme any tempest. 1647 FARINGDON *Serm.* i. 18 This is it, which alone is able to slumber this noise.

5. To pass, spend, or waste (time) in sleep or slumber. Const. *away, out, through*; rarely without adverb.

1749 FIELDING *Tom Jones* VIII. ix, She had slumbered

away the day in order to sit up all night. 1750 JOHNSON *Rambler* No. 33 ¶ 9 Rest..reposed herself in alcoves, and slumbered away the winter upon beds of down. 1820 SCOTT *Monast.* vi, He would in other times have slumbered out his term of preferment with as much credit as any other 'purple Abbot'. 1854 J. S. C. ABBOTT *Napoleon* (1855) II. i. 31 They slumbered away their remaining years in idleness.

b. To drive *away*, get rid of, by slumbering.

1829 H. BLUNT *Hist. S. Peter* (1832) 169 These reflections ..had been slumbered fruitlessly away.

Hence **Slu·mbered** *ppl. a.*, wrapt in slumber; unconscious. *rare.*

1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* I. vii. 15 Then vp he tooke the slombred sencelesse corse.

Slumberer (slʌ·mbərəɹ). Also 4 **slomerer, slomrer,** 5 **slummerare**; 4 **slombrer.** [f. SLUMBER *v.* + -ER[1]. Cf. Du. *sluimeraar*, G. *schlumm(e)rer*, Da. *slumrer*, Sw. *slumrare.*] One who sleeps or slumbers; one who is asleep; a slothful or indolent person.

c 1380 WYCLIF *Eng. Wks.* (1880) 395 Bischoppis, persones and vikers, þat ben slepers & slombreris in lustis of þe fleysch. *c* 1394 *P. Pl. Crede* 91 Swiche slomerers [*v.r.* slomrers] in slepe slauþe is her ende. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 460/2 Slummerare, *dormitator, dormitatrix.* *a* 1631 DONNE *Progr. Soul* xv, As a slumberer stretching on his bed. 1817 SHELLEY *Rev. Islam* I. xxiv. 3 Such mysterious dream As makes the slumberer's cheek with wonder pale. 1871 MEREDITH *H. Richmond* (1886) 2 A hard rider, deep drinker and heavy slumberer.

Slu·mberful, *a.* [f. SLUMBER *sb.* + -FUL 1.] Marked by slumber.

1844 MRS. BROWNING *Drama Exile* Wks. (1904) 134 Your bodies shall lie smooth in death, and straight and slumberful. *a* 1849 MANGAN *Poems* (1859) 203 In slumberful stupor.

Slumbering (slʌ·mbərin), *vbl. sb.* [f. SLUMBER *v.* Cf. MDu. *slumer-, sluymeringhe* (Du. *sluimering*), MHG. *slommeringe, slummerunge* (G. *schlummerung*), Sw. *slumring*).]

1. The state, condition, or fact of being in a slumber; sleeping; sleep.

13.. *Gaw. & Gr. Kt.* 1182 As in slomeryng he slode, sleȝly he herde A littel dyn at his dor. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Pars. T.* ¶ 705 Thanne cometh Sompnolence, that is, sloggy slombrynge, which maketh a man be heuy and dul, in body and in soule. *c* 1450 LOVELICH *Merlin* 12364 He ne slepte..tyl that lady was fallen in Slombring. *c* 1491 *Chast. Goddes Chyld.* 42 Whan nede drew hem to slombryng or slepe. 1523 SKELTON *Garl. Laurel* 30 Whylis I stode musynge.., In slumbrynge I fell and halfe in a slepe. 1592 KYD *Span. Trag.* III. xv, For in vnquiet quietnes is faind, And slumbring is a common worldly wile. 1651 HOBBES *Leviath.* III. xxxii. 196 A man..not having well observed his own slumbering. 1864 [see SLUGGARDING *vbl. sb.*].

b. An instance or occasion of this; a slumber or slumberous condition; a sleep.

c 1374 CHAUCER *Troylus* II. 67 Ever lay Pandare a bedde, half in a slomeringe. *Ibid.* v. 246 Whan he fil in any slomeringes. *c* 1440 *Gesta Rom.* lxx. 324 (Harl. MS.), Per com vpon him such a slombring, that .. he most nedis slepe. 1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* v. iv. 165 As the kyng laye in his caban in the shyp he fyll in a slomerynge. 1611 BIBLE *Job* xxxiii. 15 In slumbrings vpon the bed.

2. *attrib.*, as *slumbering bed, cup, posture*, etc.

1535 COVERDALE *Isaiah* li. 17 Thou that hast..sucked out the slombringe cuppe to the botome. 1581 DERRICKE *Image Irel.* II. E iv b, And other some to stiffle quight in slumbryng bedde that lyes. 1595 BARNFIELD *Cassandra* xxxii, Heerewith awaking from her slumbring sleepe. 1825 SCOTT *Talism.* xv, Rising from his slumbering posture.

Slu·mbering, *ppl. a.* [f. as prec.]

1. That slumbers or is asleep; dozing.

1390 GOWER *Conf.* II. 103 With mochel wo..His slombrende yhen he upcaste. *c* 1742 GRAY *Ignorance* 16 Dost thou..Still stretch..The massy sceptre o'er thy slumb'ring line? 1807 CRABBE *Par. Reg.* III. 830 Th' expecting people view'd their slumbering priest. 1817 BYRON *Manfred* II. iv, I have..Startled the slumbering birds from the hush'd boughs. 1895 SIR H. MAXWELL *Duke of Britain* i. 4 We stroll through the slumbering camp.

b. Marked or characterized by slumber; idle, indolent; drowsy.

1538 STARKEY *England* I. i. 5 For the mayntenaunce of theyr idul and slomeryng lyfe. 1737 *Gentl. Mag.* VII. 567/1 Sprightly I start, and free from slumb'ring yawn, Leave the soft bed. 1784 COWPER *Task* II. 774 Her, whose winking eye And slumb'ring oscitancy mars the brood.

2. Quiet, peaceful; calm, still, motionless.

1632 MILTON *L'Allegro* 54 Oft list'ning how the Hounds and horn Chearly rouse the slumbring morn. *c* 1635 — *Arcades* 57 Ere the odorous breath of morn Awakes the slumbring leaves. 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* xliii, When..slumbering ocean faint and fainter glows. 1849 RUSKIN *Seven Lamps* vi. § xx. 182 An influence from the silent sky and slumbering fields. 1890 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Col. Reformer* (1891) 161 At no great distance lay the slumbering sea-lake.

3. Dormant, inoperative, quiescent; torpid.

1703 ROWE *Ulysses* II. i, And thou Revenge! Shoot all thy Fires, and wake my slumb'ring Rage. 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* xxviii, When Montoni absolutely refused it, her slumbering mind was roused. 1818 BYRON *Corsair* I. xi, The slumbering venom of the folded snake. 1845 S. AUSTIN *Ranke's Hist. Ref.* II. 223 In Franconia the slumbering fires of discontent burst forth. 1878 HUXLEY *Physiogr.* 195 Its shape led hardly any one to suspect that the mountain was a slumbering volcano.

Hence **Slu·mberingly** *adv.*, in a slumbering manner; **Slu·mberingness.** *rare*[—0].

1647 HEXHAM I, Slumberingly, *sluymachtighlick.* 1648 *Ibid.* II, *Vaeckerigheydt*, Sleepienesse, Slumbringnesse. 1847 WEBSTER, *Slumberingly.* [Hence in later Dicts.]

Slu·mberless (slʌ·mbəɹlés), *a.* [f. SLUMBER *sb.* + -LESS.] Obtaining or yielding no slumber; sleepless.

1820 SHELLEY *Prometh. Unb.* I. i. 563 The present is spread Like a pillow of thorns for thy slumberless head. 1884 *Cent. Mag.* XXIX. 88 The overstraining and almost slumberless labor of the last days and nights.

†Slu·mberness. *Obs.* [f. SLUMBER *sb.*] Sleepiness, somnolence; sloth, indolence.

c 1440 in *Roy's Rede me* (Arb.) 164 Parsones, vicaries, þat ben slepers in lustes of ye flesshe and in slomebernes. 1495 *Trevisa's Barth. De P. R.* (W. de W.) VII. xxxii. 246 Of quakinge of the herte kynde heete faylyth and therof bredeth slombrenesse and slouthe.

Slumberous (slʌ·mbĕrəs), **slu·mbrous,** *a.* Also 5 **slombrous,** 8–9 **slumb'rous.** [f. SLUMBER *sb.* + -OUS. The older form is *slumbrous* (cf. *wondrous*), but that with the *e* is the one given by Johnson (1755) and has been the commoner spelling during the 19th cent.]

1. Inclined to slumber or sleep; unduly given to slumber; somnolent, lethargic.

1495 *Trevisa's Barth. De P. R.* XIX. xiii. 872 In theym whyche doon slepe tomoche, and in slombrous men, the body is pale and dyscoloured. 1733 P. WHITEHEAD *State Dunces* 82 At length a slumbrous Briton clos'd his Eyes. 1826 SCOTT *Jrnl.* 9 July, Rather slumbrous to-day from having sat up till twelve last night. 1861 DICKENS *Gt. Expect.* vi, My sister clutched me, as a slumberous offence to the company's eyesight, and assisted me up to bed. 1895 ZANGWILL *Master* III. xi, Behind a casement a slumbrous old crone snuffed herself.

b. Of the eyes, or eyelids: Heavy or drooping with slumber or sleep.

1828 LANDOR *Wks.* (1876) II. 121 Her eyes, slumberous with content. 1845 LONGF. *Belfry of Bruges, Carillon* v, He ..finds his slumbrous eyes Wet with..tears. 1887 HALL CAINE *Son of Hagar* I. viii, The man lifted his slumbrous eyelids.

2. Bringing or inducing sleep; soporific.

a. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* IV. 615 The timely dew of sleep Now falling with soft slumbrous weight inclines Our eye-lids. 1725 POPE *Odyss.* II. 444 Ev'ry eye with slumbrous chains she bound. 1751 CAMBRIDGE *Scribleriad* v. 30 The senseless chief the slumbrous potion quaft. 1810 SCOTT *Lady of L.* I. xxxii, While our slumbrous spells assail ye. 1842 TENNYSON *Day Dream, Sleeping Beauty* i, The slumbrous light is rich and warm. 1887 BOWEN *Æneid* IV. 486 Over them moist sweet honeys and slumbrous poppies to pour.

β. 1839 LONGF. *Voices of Night* Prel. iv, A slumberous sound, a sound that brings The feelings of a dream. 1850 B. TAYLOR *Eldorado* viii. 52 Scarcely a leaf stirred in the slumberous air; and giving way to the delicate languor [etc.]. 1877 BLACK *Green Past.* xxxvii, The continuous, monotonous murmur of sound was soothing, slumberous, dreamlike.

3. Moving very slightly or slowly; lying quiescent or at rest; calm, still, peaceful.

1765 BEATTIE *Judgm. Paris* CXV, Faint heaves the slumberous wave. 1794 W. BLAKE *Songs Experience* Introd. 15 Morn Rises from the slumbrous mass. 1833 TENNYSON *Lotos Eaters* 13 Some [streams] thro'..shadows broke, Rolling a slumbrous sheet of foam below. 1858 G. MACDONALD *Phantastes* xvii, Across a shining, slumberous landscape. 1898 G. F. R. HENDERSON *Stonewall Jackson* I. 390 The buzzards sailing lazily above the slumbrous woods.

4. Appropriate to, characterized by, suggestive of, slumber or sleep.

1818 WORDSW. *Pilgrim's Dream* 18 The murmur of a neighbouring stream Induced a soft and slumbrous dream. 1826 SCOTT *Jrnl.* 12 Mar., I was interrupted by a slumberous feeling which made me obliged to stop once or twice. 1853 KANE *Grinnell Exped.* viii. (1856) 59 There was something about them [icebergs] so slumberous and so pure. 1889 *Spectator* 9 Nov. 632/1 The slumberous condition in which the mental faculties grow torpid.

5. *transf.* Marked or characterized by inactivity, indolence, or sluggishness.

a. 1809 IRVING *Knickerb.* (1861) 100 The tempestuous times..which overhang the slumbrous administration of the renowned Wouter Van Twiller. 1885 *Contemp. Rev.* July 13 The slumbrous reign which gradually became intolerable to the commonalty.

β. 1876 Miss BRADDON *J. Haggard's Dau.* I. 7 The great Anglican revival has doubtless awakened that slumberous old parish-church into new life and vigour. 1889 *Times* 17 Jan. 9/4 The British plantations would have remained ..as slumberous as they have been in the past.

b. Of places, etc.: Quiet, sleepy, tranquil.

1863 HAWTHORNE *Old Home* (1879) 130 She liked the old slumberous town. 1869 *Daily News* 23 Jan., In slumbrous country towns or quiet country houses people go to bed early and get up early. 1883 *American* VI. 282 This quiet corner of a sleepy town in a slumberous land.

Slu·mberously, *adv.* [f. prec.] In a slumberous, drowsy, or sleepy manner; quietly, tranquilly, indolently, etc.

a. 1819 SHELLEY *Peter Bell 3rd* VII. xv. 2 A printer's boy ..Fell slumbrously upon one side. 1826 SCOTT *Jrnl.* 1 July, I wrote a page or two last night slumbrously.

β. 1816 L. HUNT *Rimini* III. 490 She was used to leave her cares Without, and slumberously enjoy the airs. 1827 N. P. WILLIS *Widow of Nain* 13 Upon his spear the soldier lean'd..And slumberously dozed on. 1898 BODLEY *France* III. i. II. 40 As a rule the rural municipalities slumberously perform their useful functions.

Slu·mberousness. [f. as prec.] Sleepiness, drowsiness.

1842 MRS. BROWNING *Grk. Chr. Poets* (1863) 95 A slumberousness without a dream. 1863 SALA in *Temple Bar* VIII. 72, I have carried my slumberousness about with me.

Slumbersome (slʌ·mbəɹsʌm), *a.* [f. SLUMBER *sb.* + -SOME.] Slumberous, sleepy.

1884 *Bath Jrnl.* 19 Apr. 8/1 Who could persuade it to be lulled into slumbersome silence. 1892 *Black & White* 27 Aug. 255/2 My inventive genius was slumbersome.

Slumbery (slʌ·mbĕri), *a.* Now *rare* or *Obs.* Also 4, 6 **slombry,** 6 **slombre,** 6, 7 **slumbry**; 5 **slomry.** [f. SLUMBER *sb.* + -Y. Cf. Fris. *slomm-, slûmerich*, MDu. *slumerich* (Du. *sluimerig*), G. *schlummerig*, Sw. *slumrig.*] Slumberous, sleepy; of the nature of slumber.

c 1386 CHAUCER *Pars. T.* ¶ 724 Thanne wexeth he slough and slombry. *c* 1450 in Aungier *Syon* (1840) 252 If any.. sluggeschly slepe, or be slomry, in any conuentual acte. 1530 PALSGR. 324/1 Slombrye, slepysshe, *pesant.* 1578 PHAER *Æneid* VI. Q iij b, On the ground himself he spred ..and groueling lay with slumbry head. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* III. vi. 26 That..shadie couert, whereas lay Faire Crysogone in slombry traunce. 1605 SHAKS. *Macb.* v. i. 12 In this slumbry agitation, besides her walking,..what..haue you heard her say? 1616 DRUMM. OF HAWTH. *Poems* B j b, Lampe of Heauens Christall Hall,..who makes the vglie Night At thine Approach flie to her slumbrie Bowrs. 1818 KEATS *Endym.* II. 406 Tenderly unclos'd, By tenderest pressure, a faint damask mouth To slumbery pout.

Slumbrous, variant of SLUMBEROUS *a.*

Slumdom (slʌ·mdəm). [f. SLUM *sb.* + -DOM.] Slums collectively; the inhabitants of the slums.

1882 *Church Rev.* XXII. 187 We have wandered through slumdom. 1890 *Pall Mall G.* 16 July 2/1 To reform our prison system, to plant out slumdom in the country. 1896 *Night & Day* Feb. 2/3 Lodging houses in the deeps of London slumdom.

Slumgu·llion. *slang.* [Probably a fanciful formation.]

1. (See quot.)

1874 *Slang Dict.* 297 *Slumgullion*, any cheap, nasty, washy beverage.

2. *U.S.* **a.** 'Offal or refuse of fish of any kind; also, the watery refuse, mixed with blood and oil, which drains from blubber' (*Cent. Dict.* 1891).

b. A muddy deposit in a mining sluice. In quot. *transf.*

1894 BRET HARTE in *My First Book* 264 A quantity of slumgullion which really belongs to the sluices of a placer mining camp.

c. A kind of watery hash or stew.

1904 E. ROBINS *Magnetic North* iv. 59 'Mix 'em with cold potaters in a salad.' 'No, make slumgullion,' commanded O'Flynn.

Slummer (slʌ·məɹ). [f. SLUM *sb.*[1] and *v.*[1]]

1. One who visits the slums, esp. from charitable or philanthropic motives.

1887 *Pall Mall G.* 29 Sept. 3/2 The risk of giving a violent shock to literary slummers. 1889 J. HATTON *J. L. Toole* i. 20 'Slumming' is a modern fashion, but both Irving and Toole were always slummers. 1894 SALA *London up to Date* 2 The writer who is ambitious to become an efficient 'slummer'.

2. An inhabitant of the slums.

1888 *Pall Mall G.* 18 Oct. 3 Gaffs, those penny places of amusement patronized by slummers. 1889 *The Voice* (N.Y.) 7 Mar., Had this wanton insult..come from some shirtless slummer it would have signified little.

Slu·mmery. *rare.* [f. SLUM *sb.*[1]] Slums collectively; slumdom.

1892 LD. ROSEBERY in *Daily News* 16 Dec. 2/4 Cleaning out the Augean stables of slummery.

Slu·mminess. [f. SLUMMY *a.* + -NESS.] The state of being slummy.

1888 BLACK *Adv. Houseboat* xxiv, We had encountered next to nothing of the slumminess that is supposed to be characteristic of canals.

Slumming (slʌ·miŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. SLUM *v.*[1]]

1. *slang.* (See quots.)

1839 *Slang Dict.* 34 *Slumming*, passing bad money. 1888 JACOBI *Printers' Vocab.* 127 *Slumming*, a slang term used to describe the secreting of type or sorts.

2. The visitation of slums, esp. for charitable or philanthropic purposes.

1884 *Chr. World* 22 May 391/3, I am not one of those who have taken to 'slumming' as an amusement. 1894 D. C. MURRAY *Making of Novelist* 87 Slumming had not become the fashion at that time of day.

b. *attrib.*, as *slumming expedition, party.*

1884 *Boston* (Mass.) *Jrnl.* 1 Oct. 2/3 The slumming party engaged in conversation audibly. 1888 *Cath. Press* 18 Aug. 272/3 The Isle of Dogs has recently been the scene of some new slumming expeditions for the ladies.

So **Slu·mming** *ppl. a.*

1884 *Pall Mall G.* 17 Mar. 6 One of my recently acquired slumming friends. 1892 *Tablet* 30 July 171 Sir Rufus.. is an admirable foil to a slumming Marquis.

Slu·mmock, *v.* Also **slummuck.** [var. of the common dial. *slommack, slammack*: see the *Eng. Dial. Dict.*]

1. *trans.* To eat up greedily.

1854 P. B. ST. JOHN *Amy Moss* 64 They must be in force. They've slummucked the pigs and the cow-beef, and left no mark.

2. *intr.* To move about awkwardly or clumsily. Also *transf.* of speech.

1883 A. E. T. WATSON *Racecourse & Covert Side* 291 Don't let his head go too loose, or else he'll slummock all over the place. 1893 KIPLING *Many Invent.* 234 His speech, which up to that time had been distinct,..began to slur, and slide, and slummock.

Slu·mmocky, *a.* Also **slummacky.** [Cf. prec., and see the *Eng. Dial. Dict.* s.v. *Slammocky.*] Slovenly, untidy.

1897 Miss Kingsley *W. Africa* 120 This tidy, carefully minute way, so entirely different from the slummacky African methods of doing things. 1899 — *W. African Stud.* i. 23 It had too its varying moods of tidiness, now neat and dandy coiled, now dishevelled and slummocky.

Slummy (slv·mi), *a.*[1] [f. Slum *sb.*[1] + -y.]

1. Given to frequenting the slums.

a 1860 in Oxford use. (Cf. Slum *v.* 3 a.)

2. Of the nature of a slum; abounding in or possessing slums. Also *absol.*

1873 C. M. Davies *Unorth. Lond.* I. 352 Out of Goldsmith's Row, which is slummy,..turns a court which is slummier still. 1885 M. Pattison *Mem.* I. 14 Oxford, not then overbuilt and slummy, looked .. charming. 1892 *Spectator* 5 Mar. 332/1 Where the street verges on the slummy.

b. Dealing with the slums or slum-life.

1906 *Pall Mall G.* 5 Mar. 4 The slummy novel, probably, is no longer fashionable.

3. Slovenly, careless.

1881 in *Pall Mall G.* 8 Sept. (1886) 13/2 It was to draw and to paint most carefully, and to avoid slummy, sloppy work,..that we banded ourselves together.

†**Slu·mmy,** *a.*[2] *Obs.*—[1] [f. ME. *slumme*, var. of *slume* Sloom *v.*[1]] Drowsy; inclined to slumber.

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 258 Hwo mei beon, uor scheome, slummi & sluggi & slouh.

Slump (slʊmp), *sb.*[1] *Sc.* [a. LG. *slump* heap, mass, quantity (*im slump köpen* to buy in the lump), = Du. *slomp*, Fris. *slompe*. The LG. word is also the source of Da., Sw., and Norw. *slump.*]

1. A large quantity or number; chiefly in phrases *by* or *in* (*the*) *slump*, rarely *in a slump*, as a whole, not separately or individually, collectively; in the lump.

(*a*) 1795 *Statist. Acc. Scotl.* XV. 344 The brae farms, and the pasture land, are let by slump; it is impossible to say what they rent per acre. 1808 Jamieson s.v., Coft by slump. 1851 H. Stephens *Bk. Farm* (ed. 2) II. 742 The grain is..paid in slump or advance at the middle of the year's engagement.

(*b*) 1814 Scott *Diary* 10 Aug., Marriages and baptisms are performed, as one of the Isles-men told me, *by the slump.* 1827 *Blackw. Mag.* XXI. 893 We would not give General Holt..for all the Greek chiefs in a slump. 1866 Blackie *Homer & Iliad* I. 29 There is a tendency to fling away honest old traditions in the slump.

2. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as †**slump number**, a large or round number; †**slump reckoning**, a reckoning in round numbers; **slump sum**, a lump sum; **slump work**, = *lump work* (Lump *sb.*[1] 8).

1718 Wodrow *Corr.* (1843) II. 397 At a slump reckoning of 900 ministers at 1000 merks per piece. 1721 — *Hist. Suff. Ch. Scot.* (1830) III. 341 The slump number he has taken..from the Scots Mist. 1808 Jamieson s.v., *Slump wark*, work taken in the lump. 1844 H. Stephens *Bk. Farm* III. 1052 In hiring,..it is not unusual to give a slump sum for the harvest. 1862 Beveridge *Hist. India* v. iv. II. 334 From this transaction alone a slump sum of fifty lacs..had been obtained. 1877 Dawson *Orig. of World* viii. 189 Creation was not a sort of slump-work to be perfected by the operation of a law of developement.

Slump (slʊmp), *sb.*[2] [f. Slump *v.*[2]]

1. *Stock Exchange.* A heavy fall or sudden decline in the price or value of commodities or securities.

1888 *Boston* (Mass.) *Jrnl.* 22 Dec. 4/2 There was another slump in oil on the Consolidated Exchange to-day...Opening at 89⅜,..the price dropped to 87⅝. 1895 *Tablet* 19 Oct. 623 In a single week there has been a slump to the extent of twenty-two million sterling. 1895 *Daily News* 20 Nov. 8/3 The Glasgow Commercial Exchanges to-day took a gloomy view, and prices fell with a slump.

2. *transf.* A sudden or heavy decline or falling off; a collapse.

1888 Howells *A. Kilburn* xxv, What a slump!—what a slump! That blessed short-legged little seraph has spoilt the best sport that ever was. 1896 *Westm. Budget* 3 Jan. 3/1 There is clearly no 'slump' in the matrimonial market. 1897 *Leeds Mercury* 10 July 11/4 It..became apparent that a slump in the demand for cycles had set in.

Slump (slʊmp), *v.*[1] Chiefly *Sc.* [f. Slump *sb.*[1]]

1. *trans.* To lump; to put, place, regard, deal with, etc., as one quantity, mass, or group. Freq. *to slump together.*

(*a*) 1822 W. J. Napier *Pract. Store-farming* 147 No farmer ever gives in an offer, first, for the value of the pasture, and then, for the landlord's improvements. He may say that he slumps them all together. 1856 Ferrier *Inst. Metaph.* 61 The inconceivable as here laid down, is thus slumped together..with the absolutely inconceivable. 1873 J. Geikie *Gt. Ice Age* i. 4 The deposits, which were at one time slumped together,..are really the records of a long series of changes.

(*b*) 1827 Scott *Jrnl.* 14 Jan., I have let my cash run ahead since I came from the Continent.—I must slump the matter as I can. 1828 Steuart *Planter's G.* (1848) I. 314 He slumps the whole under one head. 1890 Cochran-Patrick *Evid. Mining Royalties Commiss.* No. 4613, Copper, lead, tin,..are mentioned by name, and the others are slumped.

2. *intr.* To club *together* in paying.

1849 G. Cupples *Green Hand* ii. (1856) 25 Slump together for the other guinea, will ye?

Hence **Slu·mping** *vbl. sb.*

1822 W. J. Napier *Pract. Store-farming* 147 This 'slumping'..will never serve to pay to the landlord that identical interest [etc.]. 1850 *Chambers's Jrnl.* 23 Mar. 191/2 The *slumping* of the whole loss into the arbitrary..sum of five pounds. 1873 J. C. Maxwell in L. Campbell *Life* (1882) 439 The slumping together of multitudes of cases.

Slump (slʊmp), *v.*[2] Chiefly *dial.* and *U.S.* [Probably imitative: cf. Plump *v.*[1] Norw. has *slumpa* in sense 1, as well as in that of Sw. *slumpa*, Da. *slumpe*, from LG. *slumpen*, G. *schlumpen* to come about, happen by accident.]

1. *intr.* To fall or sink *in* or *into* a bog, swamp, muddy place, etc.; to fall *in* water with a dull splashing sound. Also in fig. context.

a 1677 Barrow *Serm.* (1686) III. 191 [The young men] walk upon a bottomless quag into which unawares they may slump. 1684 I. Mather *Remark. Provid.* (1846) 28 Being in this swamp that was miry, I slumpt in and fell down. 1776 T. Twining in *Country Clergyman of the 18th C.* (1882) 31, I remember slumping on a sudden into the slough of despond, and closing my letter in the dumps. *a* 1828 Bewick *Mem.* (1862) 116 Thinking the bog she had to pass through, might be frozen hard enough to bear her, she 'slumped' deep into it. 1835 *New Monthly Mag.* XLIII. 159 We dreaded to meet even a single sleigh, lest in turning out, the horses should 'slump' beyond their depth, in the untrodden drifts. 1872 Coues *N. Amer. Birds* 52 This enables the birds to run lightly over the floating leaves of aquatic plants, by so much increase of breadth of support that they do not slump in.

fig. 1835 Gilchrist *Bards Tyne* 416 (E.D.D.), Newcassel hes fairly slump't into disgrace.

b. Const. *through*, *beneath*, etc. Also *fig.*

1856 Lowell *Lett.* I. 296 No danger of her slumping through the clouds. 1871 — *Study Wind.* (1886) 44 The man may slump through,..where the boy would have skimmed the surface. 1884 *Harper's Mag.* Aug. 337/1 But one awful night Kampen..simply 'slumped', as they say in the far west, beneath the waters and mud that ingulphed it.

2. a. Of the wind: To fall, drop.

1855 *Trans. Philol. Soc.* 36 (Norfolk words), The wind slumped. 1894 *Outing* XXIV. 376/2 The breeze had been gradually dying for an hour, and now it bid fair..to slump entirely at midnight.

b. To slide *off* heavily; to plump down.

1884 Burroughs *Pepacton* 217 Its body slumps off, and rolls and spills down the hill. 1889 'Mark Twain' *Yankee at Crt. K. Arthur* v, Clarence had slumped to his knees before I had half finished.

c. Of stocks, values, etc.: To fall heavily or suddenly. (Cf. Slump *sb.*[2] 1.)

1896 *Daily News* 9 Dec. 10/7 The market again slumped down on further indications of a heavy crop movement. 1898 *Ibid.* 8 Mar. 3/6 Prices slumped from 2 to 5 points generally.

3. To move or walk in a clumsy, heavy, or laborious manner. Also *fig.*

1854 Lowell *Jrnl. Italy* Prose Wks. 1890 I. 115 He..paces the deck..much as one of those yellow hummocks goes slumping up and down his cage. 1887 — *Old Eng. Dramatists* (1892) 18 In such collections as Dodsley's 'Old Plays', where we slump along through the loose sand.

4. *trans.* To throw *down* heavily; to slam.

1836 Haliburton *Clockm.* (1862) 126 She slumped down her nittin, and clawed off her spectacles. 1853 G. J. Cayley *Las Alforjas* I. 233 Some shivering adorer, who stands in the night air till John has slumped the tight door into the panel.

b. *local.* (See quots.)

1874 C. J. Palmer *Perlust. Gt. Yarmouth* II. 260 *note*, The suitor who lost his cause was said to be 'slumped'. *Ibid.*, 'Slumped agin', was shouted derisively to one who had been a second time unsuccessful.

c. To cause to depreciate suddenly. Hence **Slu·mping** *ppl. a.*

1899 *Church Times* 13 Oct. 421/1 Suppose some 'bear' determines to 'slump' the market. *Ibid.*, The vicious operations of the slumping bear and the tossing bull.

Slumper (slv·mpəɹ), *v. rare.* [Probably imitative: cf. prec. 3, and G. *schlumpern* to go about in a slovenly or slipshod condition.] *intr.* To move or travel heavily or with difficulty on account of miry or muddy roads; to flounder *through* or *along.*

1829 G. Robertson *Rural Recoll.* 38 In wet weather they became mere *lairs*, (sloughs,) in which the carts or carriages had to slumper through in a half-swimming state. 1894 Smiles *J. Wedgwood* x. 92 The lanes were scarcely sufficient for the slumpering along of packhorses, let alone for carts.

Slu·mpy, *a.*[1] *Sc.* [f. Slump *sb.*[1]] Taking things in the lump; rough, general.

1864 R. Reid *Old Glasgow* 35 Here nothing is said about square yards..; but half-acres, or thereby, are set forth in a fine slumpy manner.

Slumpy (slv·mpi), *a.*[2] Also **slumpey.** [f. dial. *slump* a marshy or muddy place; cf. LG. *schlump* in the same sense.] Marshy, swampy, muddy, boggy.

1823 E. Moor *Suffolk Words* 366 Such a meadow is said to be slumpy. 1853 G. Johnston *Nat. Hist. E. Bord.* I. 250 A large extent of rushy ground, either dry and hard, or slumpy and wet. 1883 E. H. Rollins *New Eng. Bygones* 79 The slumpy drifts had to be cut down beforehand to make the roads passable.

Slu·mward(s, *adv.* [f. Slum *sb.*[1] 2.] In the direction of the slums.

1892 *Pall Mall G.* 12 Oct. 2/2 It was the Congregationalists..who set much of the current of assistance slumward in recent years. 1897 F. T. Bullen *Cruise 'Cachalot'* 318 Draggled branches borne slumwards by tramping urchins.

†**Slu·nchin,** obs. variant of Luncheon, I.

1622 Mabbe tr. *Aleman's Guzman d'Alf.* II. 274 For our last course..we had a thinne slice of cheese,..alleaging that those thicker slunchins would dull our wits.

Slung (slʌŋ), *ppl. a.*[1] [f. Sling *v.*[1]]

†1. Of an animal: Dropped or cast prematurely.

1750 tr. *Leonardus' Mirr. Stones* 82 It should be wrapt in the skin of a calf, or a slung hart, and bound to the left arm.

2. Thrown by means of a sling.

For Sc. *slung stane* see Sling-stone.

1893 Huxley *Evol. & Ethics* 3 It may be likened to the ascent and descent of a slung stone.

Slung (slʌŋ), *ppl. a.*[2] [f. Sling *v.*[2]] Placed in, hung or suspended by, a sling or slings.

1773 J. Jacob *Obs. Wheel-Carriages* 8 Of the method of hanging coaches, and other slung vehicles. 1868 *U.S. Rep. Munit. War* 242 To fire a slung rocket..from a ship against a ship would not be very difficult. 1891 *Daily News* 31 Oct. 5/7 Her great, open fireplace, with its slung kettle.

Slunge, variant of Slounge *v. dial.*

Slung-shot. *U.S.* [f. *slung*, pa. pple. of Sling *v.*[2]] A shot, piece of metal, stone, etc., fastened to a strap or thong, and used as a weapon (cf. quot. 1848).

1848 Bartlett *Dict. Amer.*, *Slung-shot*, an offensive weapon formed of two leaden or iron bullets fastened together by a piece of rope five or six inches long. 1858 O. W. Holmes *Aut. Breakf.-t.* (1883) 27 A slung-shot could not have brought her down better. 1883 A. K. Green (Mrs. Rohlfs) *Hand & Ring* i, The man..having evidently been hit on the head by a slung-shot.

Slunk (slʌŋk), *sb. Sc.* [var. of Slonk *sb.*] A muddy or marshy place; a miry hollow.

1665 J. Fraser *Polichron.* (S.H.S.) 346 Not adverting to a slunk or breach in the sea bank, his horse tumbled. 1727 P. Walker in *Biogr. Presbyt.* (1827) II. 18 Lying in the Dear-slunk, in Midst of a great flow Moss. 1819 W. Tennant *Papistry Storm'd* (1827) 88 Amang the harbour's sludge and mud; They row'd [= rolled] thegither in the slunk. 1892 in *Eng. Dial. Dict.* (Antrim).

Slunk, *v. Sc. rare.* [Cf. prec.] *intr.* To wade in mud or mire.

17.. Ramsay *To W. Starrat* 28 Feckfu' folk can..slunk thro' moors, and never fash their mind.

Slunk (slʌŋk), *ppl. a.* [f. Slink *v.* 3.] Of calves: Cast prematurely.

1837 Whittock *Bk. Trades* (1842) 371 Drum-heads are made..from abortives, or at least very young sucking calves called 'slunk' by the workmen.

Slu·nker. *U.S.* (See quot.)

1903 Goode & Gill *Amer. Fishes* 527 These spent females [*sc.* sturgeons] are called 'slunkers', and are of little value.

†**Slup,** *v. Obs.*—[1] [Cf. Slop *v.*[2] 2, and G. dial. *schluppen* to suck.] *trans.* To sup, swallow.

1598 Marston *Sco. Villanie* I. ii. C 3, Lewd Precisians.. take the simbole vp As slouenly, as carelesse Courtiers slup Their mutton gruell.

Slur (slɚ), *sb.*[1] Now *dial.* Also 5 **sloor,** 5, 9 **slore,** 7 **slurre.** [Of obscure origin. Cf. MDu. *slore* (Du. *sloor*, *sloerie*) a sluttish woman.] Thin or fluid mud. Cf. Slurry *sb.* Also *fig.*

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 460/1 Sloor [*v.r.* slore], or sowr.., *cenum*, *limus*. *a* 1614 D. Dyke *Myst. Selfe-Deceiving* (1614) 382 Yet it [work] may not be foule, being soyled, and slubbered with the slurre of a rotten heart. *a* 1825 Forby *Voc. E. Anglia* 308 *Slur*,..loose, thin, almost fluid mud. 1829 Brockett *N. C. Gloss.* (ed. 2), *Slore*, dirt, sump. 1878 Muller & Skertchly *Fenland* iv. 131 *Slur*—thin washy mud.

Slur (slɚ), *sb.*[2] Also 7 **slurr.** [f. Slur *v.*[2]]

1. †a. A gliding movement in dancing. *Obs.*

1598 Marston *Sco. Villanie* III. x. H 3, In discoursing of the gracefull slur; Who euer heard spruce skipping Curio Ere prate of ought, but of the whirle on toe. 1667 Dryden *Secret Love* v, I can..walk with a courant slurr, and at every step peck down my Head. 1673 Wycherley *Gent. Dancing-Master* iv. i, One, two, three, and a slur.

b. *dial.* A slide; a sliding course.

1854 in Lanc. and Northampt. dialect.

†2. A method of cheating at dice (see Slur *v.*[2] 1). *Obs.*

a 1643 W. Cartwright *Ordinary* II. iii, Your hollowed thumb join'd with your wriggled box, The slur, and such like are not to be talk'd of. 1662 J. Wilson *Cheats* IV. i, Did not I..teach you, your Top, your Palm, and your Slur?..And generally, instructed you from Prick-penny, to Long Lawrence? *a* 1680 Butler *Rem.* (1759) I. 143 Rooking Gamesters..venture all their Bets Upon the Slurs, and cunning Tricks of ablest Cheats.

3. A sliding piece of mechanism in a knitting-machine, serving to depress the sinkers. Also *attrib.*

1796 *Trans. Soc. Arts* XIV. 279 To move the catches from the end of the jacks, and let them fall, the slur..passes behind them. *Ibid.* 280 The slur is composed of two pieces screwed together. 1834-6 *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) VIII. 747/2 A straight iron bar,..called the slur bar, is extended beneath all the jacks, and upon this a piece of metal, called the slur, travels with rollers to reduce the friction. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 1237/2 The sinkers..are at the same time depressed, one after another, by the cam or slur above them.

Slur (slɚ), *sb.*[3] Also 7 **slurr(e.** [f. Slur *v.*[1]]

1. a. A deliberate slight; an expression or suggestion of disparagement or reproof.

1609 [Bp. W. Barlow] *Answ. Nameless Cath.* 287 The Count..would bee inraged at this Slur and mockage. 1660 H. More *Myst. Godl.* VII. xvi. 346 Which is a scurvy slur to these Astrologers. 1666 Pepys *Diary* 4 Nov., My Lord Generall is become mighty low in all people's opinion, and ..hath received several slurs from the King. 1862 Merivale *Rom. Emp.* lvi. (1865) VII. 105 Vitellius seems to have felt this officious zeal as a slur on his own torpidity.

1888 Bryce *Amer. Commw.* I. xix. 25 A district would think it a slur to be told that it ought to look beyond its own borders for a representative.

b. A mark, stain, or blot; a discredit (incurred by or cast upon a person, etc.). Const. *to* or *upon*.

1662 Glanvill *Lux Orient.* viii. 85 It would have been a slurre to the divine goodnesse not to have given being to such creatures. *a* 1716 South *Serm.* (J.), No one can rely upon such an one..without a slur to his reputation. 1722 De Foe *Moll Flanders* (1840) 101 Not to get the least slur upon my reputation. 1820 Byron *Mar. Fal.* I. ii, Who ..on the honour of..my wife..Left a base slur to pass from mouth to mouth. *a* 1862 Buckle *Civiliz.* (1869) III. iii. 148 Whose revolting predilections are not only a slur upon the age which tolerated them, but a disgrace.

c. In the phrases *to cast, put, throw* (etc.) *a slur on* or *upon* (a person or thing).

1654 *Nicholas Papers* (Camden) II. 151 Some say there was never such a slur put upon the Jesuits. 1655 Fuller *Ch. Hist.* VII. 404 It would cast a slurre on the credit of such Bishops. 1726 De Foe *Hist. Devil* (1840) I. xi. 155 Provoked at the slur that was put upon him. 1785 B. Harrison in Sparks *Corr. Amer. Rev.* (1853) IV. 90 They..would sensibly feel any slur cast on your reputation. 1855 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* xviii. IV. 239 Tourville would not consent to put such a slur on his profession. 1877 E. R. Conder *Basis Faith* iii. 96 To cast an intolerable slur and disgrace upon human intellect.

†**2.** A fault, mistake, blunder.. *Obs.*

1662 H. More *Antid. Ath.* II. xii. § 14 That Nature should implant in Man such a strong propension.., is such a Slur committed by her as there can be in no wise excogitated any Excuse. 1675 Traherne *Chr. Ethics* 167 That desire, which makes to the perfection of all goodness, must infinitely avoid every slur and miscarriage as unclean.

3. *Printing.* (See quots.)

1771 Luckombe *Hist. Print.* 501 *Slur*, when the impression of the sheets appear smeared. 1882 Southward *Pract. Print.* (1884) 427 The letters may print double—this is caused by a 'slur'. 1888 Jacobi *Printers' Vocab.* 127 *Slur*, when a printed sheet is blurred or smeared—also called a 'shake'.

4. *Mus.* A curved line placed over or under two or more notes of different degrees to show that they are to be played or sung smoothly and connectedly.

1801 Busby *Dict. Mus.*, *Slur*, a character..drawn over or under the heads of those notes which are meant..to be blended by a kind of smooth, gliding progression. 1848 Rimbault *Pianoforte* 63 The chief marks of expression are the Slur, the Tie, and the Dash or Point. 1875 Stainer & Barrett *Dict. Mus. Terms* s.v., In violin music a slur directs that the notes under it are to be played with one bow.

attrib. 1818 Busby *Gram. Mus.* 148 A manner commixed of that indicated by the Slur Curve, and that implied by the Staccato Dash.

5. A slurred utterance or sound.

1861 Reade *Cloister & H.* I. 60 There were none of.. those whining slurs, which are now sold so dear by Italian songsters. 1894 Sweet *Anglo-Sax. Reader* (ed. 7) p. lxxxvi, Two short syllables..constituting a slur,..which must be uttered very rapidly. 1898 G. Meredith *Poems* III He [the lark] drops the silver chain of sound..In chirrup, whistle, slur and shake All intervolved.

6. The act or habit of slurring, or doing hurriedly and imperfectly. Also *Comb.*

1882 Blackmore *Christowell* xxii, As every one who does good work, in this age of slur, gets overworked immediately. 1884 Jefferies *Life of the Fields* (1893) 234 Country people have not yet got into the habit which may be called slur-reading.

7. A blurred atmosphere.

1880 Blackmore *Mary Anerley* II. xv. 272 After the fog and the slur of the day, to see the sky at all was joyful.

Slur (slɜ̄r), *v.*[1] [f. Slur *sb.*[1]]

1. *trans.* To smear, stain, smirch, sully. Also *fig.* Now *dial.*

1602 Marston *Antonio's Rev.* III. ii, Her cheekes not yet slurd ouer with the paint Of borrowed crimsone. 1614 Latham *Falconry* (1633) 47 A piece of Flannell or Cotten, ..foule and slurred. 1658 Owen *On Temptat.* viii. Wks. 1852 IV. 145 Its beauty would be slurred, its good things reviled. 1716 Hearne *Collect.* (O. H. S.) V. 239 This Gent. hath many good Qualities, tho' they were all slurr'd by his complying with the Rebells in opposition to K. James. 1815 W. H. Ireland *Scribbleomania* 187 Pennant,..Whose pages, though slurr'd with the dear *egomet*, Demand from a public warm gratitude's debt. 1833 I. Taylor *Fanat.* ii. 46 The most pernicious and virulent heart has no power of ejecting its venom upon a fair surface;—it must slur whatever it means to poison. 1854– in dialect glossaries (Northampt., Derby, Yks.).

b. *Printing.* To smudge or blur.

1683 Moxon *Mech. Exerc., Printing* xiii. ¶ 4 The Broad Sholdering..receiving the Ink..slurs the Printed Paper. *Ibid.* xxiv. ¶ 15 The Plattin..shoves the Sheet upon the Face of the Letter, and sometimes Slurs, and sometimes Doubles it. 1870 *Eng. Mech.* 11 Feb. 534/3, I do not find the proof slurred.

c. *U.S.* To coat or cover (a wall) with plaster or rough-cast.

1885 *Harper's Mag.* Mar. 531/1 The rear wall is slurred, and from it three windows open into a garden.

2. To disparage, depreciate, calumniate, asperse.

1660 H. More *Myst. Godl.* IV. i, Coming into the World on purpose to slight and slur that which is of the greatest esteem..with the Natural Man. *a* 1677 Barrow *Serm.* Wks. 1716 I. 35 It is an aggravation of impiety..that it slurs (as it were) and defames God. 1707 Humfrey *De Justif. Baxteriana* 4 That you appear to slur, what I and Mr. B. have wrote, by terming it Arminianism. 1770 Burke *Corr.* (1844) I. 231 The idea of a triennial parliament, which the jury of London..thought proper to fasten upon him in order to slur us. 1805 Scott *Let.* 10 Feb. in *3rd Rep. Hist. MSS. Commiss.* 431/2 Hardly anything was so likely to be of advantage to the Lancastrians as to slur the descent of the house of York. 1867 J. B. Rose *Virgil's Æneid* 322 Think not I blame or slur your bravery.

3. To pass over lightly, without proper mention or consideration.

1660 H. More *Myst. Godl.* v. xvii. 203 By slurring the main Scope of the Apocalypse, and pretending [etc.]. 1678 Cudworth *Intellect. Syst.* 684 Triumphing to see the cause of theism thus betrayed by its professed friends.., and the grand argument for the same totally slurred by them. 1781 Cowper *Hope* 555 Beneath well-sounding Greek I slur a name a poet must not speak. *c* 1850 Kingsley *Misc.* (1859) I. 19 Biographers have slurred a few facts in their hurry to carry out their theory of favourites. 1871 Farrar *Witn. Hist.* i. 8 To silence a doubt, or slur a difference.

b. Freq. with *over*. Also with ref. to utterance.

1725 Swift *Let. to Stopford* 26 Nov., Your other correspondents tell me that Mr. G...lost 200*l.* in money, which to me you slur over. 1775 Sheridan *Art Reading* 212 The little word, as, which is always slurred over. 1815 W. H. Ireland *Scribbleomania* 216 The very laconic manner in which the great Sir Noodle slurs over the above topics of literature. 1889 Jessopp *Coming of Friars* vii. 330 Carlyle has gone far to spoil the story by slurring it over.

c. To disguise, conceal. *rare*[–1].

1826 Lamb *Elia* II, *Conf. Drunkard*, Those juggling compositions, which..slur a great deal of brandy or other poison under less and less water continually, until they come..to none at all.

†**4.** To put *off with* something trivial or unsatisfactory. *Obs.*

1749 *Power of Numbers in Poet. Comp.* 28 Whilst the longest Syllable or the most emphatical Word shall be slur'd off with a Crotchet or a Quaver. 1751 J. Brown *Shaftesb. Charac.* 157 Thus, we see how dextrously he puts the change upon the unwary reader; and..slurs him off with an accidental consequence.

5. *Mus.* To sing or play (notes) in a smooth and connected manner; to mark with a slur.

1746 [see Slurred *ppl. a.*]. 1782 [see sense 6]. 1873 H. C. Banister *Music* 256 Exception would be made to this ..in the case of a series of notes included in one phrase, especially if slurred. 1881 *Grove's Dict. Mus.* III. 536/2. The notes included within its limits are said to be slurred.

6. To render confused or indistinct; to blur.

1782 Sir J. Reynolds *Notes Mason's tr. Dufresnoy* lvi, The parts [of the human figure] never appearing uncertain or confused, or, as a Musician would say, slurred. 1889 J. M. Robertson *Ess. Crit. Method* 120 Lax imagination slurs and confuses the lineaments of living character.

b. *intr.* To become indistinct through imperfect articulation.

1893 Kipling *Many Invent.* 234 His speech, which up to that time had been distinct, began to slur.

7. To go through hurriedly and carelessly. Also *intr.* with *through*.

1857 Hughes *Tom Brown* I. ix, They only slurred through their fagging. 1894 Blackmore *Perlycross* 13 Having slurred his early dinner with his usual zest.

Slur (slɜ̄r), *v.*[2] Also 7–8 slurr, 9 *dial.* slir. [? Related to LG. *slurrn* (G. *schlurren, schlorren*) to drag the feet, to shuffle: cf. MLG. *slûren* (LG. *sluren*), MDu. *sloren* (Du. *sleuren*), to drag, trail.]

†**1.** *trans.* To slip or slide (a die) out of the box so that it does not turn. *Obs.*

1594 Nashe *Unfort. Trav.* 3 If he slur a die. 1660 Harrington *Pres. Pop. Govt.* I. xi. (1700) 292 A man that has read my Writings..cannot chuse but see how he slurs his Dice. 1674 Cotton *Compl. Gamester* (1680) 11 On a smooth table..it is usual for some to slur a Dye two yards or more without turning.. *c* 1700 Prior *Cupid & Ganymede* 32 The usual Trick: Seven, slur a Six; Eleven: A Nick.

†**b.** In fig. uses or contexts. *Obs.*

a 1680 Butler *Charact.* (1908) 90 He [the quibbler] commonly slurs every fourth or fifth Word, and seldom fails to throw Doublets. 1681 T. Flatman *Heraclitus Ridens* No. 19 (1713) I. 128 But then, Sir, by the by, does he slur in upon them his State Enthusiasms. 1685 F. Spence tr. *Varilla's Ho. Medici* 304 Piero de Medici thought Bentivoglio had talk't thus..to slurr upon him a Bravade.

†**2.** To cheat or cozen. *Obs.*

1664 Butler *Hud.* II. ii. 192 What was the Publick Faith found out for, But to slur men of what they fought for? 1679 *Hist. of Jetzer* 30 The Fathers design'd to put a trick upon him, but in the event they would be slurred themselves. 1731 Fielding *Lottery* Epil., This too may turn me off tomorrow morning. If that should happen, I were finely slur'd.

3. *intr.* To slide, slide about. Now *dial.*

1617 Assheton *Jrnl.* (Chetham Soc.) 62 To Portfield; ther paid up and made merrie. Tables slurring almost all night. 1675 Teonge *Diary* (1825) 78 Severall tumbles wee had, wee and our plates, and our knives slurrd oft together. 1796– in many dialect glossaries, etc.

4. To drag, move heavily.

1889 *Cent. Mag.* June 250 Her soft, heavy footsteps slurred on the stairway as though her strength were failing.

†**Slurbow.** *Obs.* Also 6–7 -bowe, 7 -bo. [The first element is obscure.] A species of cross-bow commonly used for discharging fire-arrows, perh. one having a barrel attached to the stock. Also *attrib.*

1588 *Cal. State Papers, 1581-90* (Dom. Ser.) 562 For slurr bows 20;..for 20 dozen of firework arrows for the said slurr bows. 1599 in *Archaeologia* (1800) XIII. 399 Crossbowe arrowes 500 decaied. Slurbowe arrowes with fierwoorkes 184, inde 19 without fierwoorks. 1615 R. Cocks *Diary* (Hakl. Soc.) I. 75 He desired to have the slurbo to take a sample by to make an other. 1622 R. Hawkins *Voy. S. Sea* iii., 127 The brasse Balles of Artificiall fire, to be shott with slur-bowes.

†**Slurf.** *Obs. rare.* ? Error for Scurf *sb.*[1]

1674–7 J. Molines *Anat. Obs.* (1896) 13 A little excoriation ..as though there was a slurfe. *Ibid.*, To pull off the slurfe.

†**Slurg,** *v. Obs. rare.* [Cf. G. dial. *schlurgen* to go about in a slovenly manner.] *intr.* To lie sleepily or sluggishly.

1557 Phaer *Æneid* VI. Q iij b, Æneas toke the place, while thus the porter slurging was. 1562 *Ibid.* IX. Aa iv b, They themselues in wynes and sleepe Resolued, slurg on grounde.

Slurp, *v. rare.* Also 9 *dial.* slurrup. [= Du. *slurpen* (Norw. *slurpa*), G. *schlurfen, schlürfen*: cf. Slorp *v.*] To drink greedily or noisily.

1648 Hexham II, *Zuypen, Slorpen, ofte gulsigh drincken*, to Sup, or Slurpe, or to Drinke too much. *a* 1825 Forby *Voc. E. Anglia* 308 *Slurrup*, to swallow any liquid greedily and with a noise of the lips or in the throat.

Slurred (slɜ̄rd), *ppl. a.* [f. Slur *v.*[1]] Run together, rendered indistinct, blurred, etc.

1746 Tansur *New Mus. Gram.* 99 Ty'd or slur'd Notes. 1827 Tate *Grk. Metres* in *Theatre of Greeks* (ed. 2) 446 It may justify our adoption of slurred Anapest and slurred Dactyl, as terms not inappropriate for that purpose. 1843 Ruskin *Mod. Paint.* I. II. iv. ii. § 16 It is quite a mistake to suppose that slurred or melting lines are characteristic of distant large objects. 1883 S. C. Hall *Retrospect* I. 5 They are faded and gone—pieces of slurred paper, nothing more.

Slurring (slɜ̄rɪŋ), *vbl. sb.*[1] [f. as prec.] The action of Slur *v.*[1] in various senses.

1661 R. Burney *Chas. II. Presented* 32 A King most properly commands Free Subjects, without the violation of their priviledges, or slurring of the Leaves of Magna Charta. 1683 Moxon *Mech. Exerc., Printing* xxiv. ¶ 19 This is rather slurring than Doubling.., but when it is real Doubling, it happens generally on the whole Sheet. 1811 Busby *Dict. Mus.* (ed. 3), *Slurring*, performing in a smooth gliding style. 1866 G. Stephens *Runic Mon.* I. 22 In Old-North English this slurring was still more prevalent. 1871 Lowell *Study Wind.* (1886) 243 Slurrings over and runnings together of syllables.

Slurring, *vbl. sb.*[2] [f. Slur *v.*[2]] The action of Slur *v.*[2] in various senses.

1668 Head & Kirkman *Eng. Rogue* IV. xvi. 226 Slurring, is when you throw your Dice so smoothly on the Table that they turn not. 1673 Head *Cant. Acad.* 17 Three parts of every nights dream is spent..in topping, slurring, palming. 1675 Teonge *Diary* (1825) 78 It could not stand on the table for the ship's tossing..; som securing themselves from slurring by setting their feete against the table.

attrib. 1674 Cotton *Compl. Gamester* (1680) 85 That is done by lying a fore-finger on the top indifferent hard, and giving a slurring jerk to the rest.

Slurring, *ppl. a.* [f. Slur *v.*[1]]

1. Of utterance: Indistinct.

1848 Keightley *Notes to Horace* Introd., Hence..their rapid slurring pronunciation, as is shown by the metre of their comic poets. 1865 Dickens *Mut. Fr.* II. i, 'Yes, said Headstone in a slurring way. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* II. 903 My speech was slurring, my gait ataxic.

2. Careless, hurried.

1880 'Mark Twain' *Tramp Abr.* 279, I never allow myself to do things..in a slurring, slipshod way.

3. Slighting; depreciatory.

1892 Gunter *Miss Dividends* (1893) 227 This decidedly slurring description of the belle of Newport's last season makes the girl think every one despises her.

Slurry (slʌ·rɪ), *sb.* Also 5 slory, 9 slorry. [Related to Slub *sb.*[1]]

1. Thin sloppy mud or cement.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 203/2 Gore, or slory, *limus, tessegua.* 1878 F. S. Williams *Midl. Railw.* 492 A nearly semi-fluid mass of 'slurry', which settles down like glue to the bottom of the wagon. 1886 *Cycl. Tour. Club Gaz.* IV. 187/2 The sand..should be watered until it..can be worked up into slurry with brooms. 1901 *Longm. Mag.* Sept. 396 Its sluggish streak of creeping slurry miscalled a creek.

2. In technical use: (see quots.).

a. 1825 J. Nicholson *Operat. Mechanic* 462 (Pottery), The thrower..forms the inside of the vessel.., and smoothes it by removing the *slurry*, or inequalities. 1832 G. R. Porter *Porcelain & Glass* 46 By the assistance of one of these [instruments] the inside is smoothed and any inequalities, technically called *slurry*, are removed.

b. 1841 Hartshorne *Salop. Ant.* Gloss., *Slorry, Slurry*, the levigated matter which forms under a grindstone.

Slurry (slʌ·rɪ), *v.* Now *dial.* Forms: 5 slory, 6 slorye, 7 slorie; 6, 9 *dial.* slorry, 7 slourry; 6–7 slurrie, 7, 9 slurry. [Cf. prec. and Slur *v.*[1]] *trans.* To dirty, soil, smear, daub, etc.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 460/1 Sloryyd, *cenosus, cenolentus, lutulentus.* 1552 Huloet, Slorye or make fowle, *sordido.* 1555 Bradford in Coverdale *Lett. Martyrs* (1564) 252 Though you lye in the darke, slorryed wyth the bishoppes blacke cole dust, yet [etc.]. 1591 R. Turnbull *S. James* 231 b, Malicious persons, who..soyle, slurrie, and file the garmentes of our neighbours. 1603 Holland *Plutarch's Mor.* 195 As they that soile and slourry writing tables when they be faire scoured and clensed. 1635 J. Swan *Spec. M.* vi. (1643) 293 Amiantus..being put into the fire, is not hurt nor slurried. 1647 Hexham I, To Slorie, or make foule. 1828 Carr *Craven Gloss., Slurry*, to daub, to dirty. 1841 Hartshorne *Salop. Ant.* Gloss., *Slorry*, to plaster, daub over.

fig. 1647 Trapp *Marrow Gd. Authors* in *Comm. Ep.* 717 Divinity..that had been shamefully obscured and slurried with needlesse and endlesse doubts. 1678 Cudworth *Intell. Syst.* I. iv. 191 All the Great..things of this world, are slurried and disgraced, comparatively with the Life of Christ. 1736 Ainsworth I. s. v. *Slur*, To slur, slurry, or cast a slur on one's reputation.

Hence **Slurrying** *vbl. sb.*

1600 Abbot *Jonah* 363 That slurrying which was used toward him,..hath made him shine the brighter. 1611 Cotgr., *Souillement*, a soyling, slurrying, durtying.

Slush (slʊʃ), *sb.*[1] Also 8–9 *dial.* **sluss.** [Of doubtful origin: cf. SLUDGE and SLUTCH (both from the 17th cent.) and the more recent SLOSH.

The late appearance of the word makes it doubtful whether there is any connexion with such forms as older Da. *slus* sleet, mud, or Norw. *slusk* slops, sloppy ground or weather.]

1. a. The watery substance resulting from the partial melting of snow or ice.

1641 BEST *Farm. Bks.* (Surtees) 76 This speedy thowe caused a wonderfull slush. 1806 BERESFORD *Miseries Hum. Life* II. v, The ice proving treacherous and bedding you in slush to the hip. 1862 *Macm. Mag.* Apr. 456 Whenever there was a temporary thaw, this mass of ice and snow became a pond of slush. 1876 DAVIS *Polaris Exp.* v. 118 A great deal of snow fell during the day, forming slush upon the surface of the water.

b. Liquid mud or mire.

1772 *Hartford Merc.* Suppl. 18 Sept. 2/2 The new inclosures, which formerly were almost covered with water and slush. 1791 *Gentl. Mag.* LXI. I. 126 There is another term also in use..in that county [Norfolk], namely, *sluss* or *slush*, to express the mire of the highway in its most liquid state. 1815 W. H. IRELAND *Scribbleomania* 13, I mean dirty puddle,..slush from the ditch that's in rear of the mountain. 1860 WYNTER *Curios. Civiliz.* III. 106 The wart hog,..which wallows up to its eyes in slush and mire. 1878 BROWNING *Poets Croisic* 12 They reared..,mid the slush and ooze Of yon low islet.., a temple.

fig. 1853 W. JERDAN *Autobiog.* III. xviii. 282 His literary career was..through the usual mud and slush of its miry obstacles. 1873 TENNYSON *Q. Mary* II. ii, Your rights and charters hobnail'd into slush.

2. *Naut.* The refuse fat or grease obtained from meat boiled on board ship.

1756 *Gentl. Mag.* XXVI, 419 He..used much slush (the rancid fat of pork) among his victuals. 1757 W. THOMPSON *R. N. Adv.* 21 Tars whose Stomachs are not very squeamish, and who can bear to paddle their Fingers in stinking Slush. 1812 J. HENRY *Camp. agst. Quebec* 143 A great quantity of liquid fat which the men called slush. 1856 KANE *Arctic Expl.* I. xxviii. 364 With a copper lamp, a cooking-basin, and a liberal supply of slush for fuel.

fig. 1833 CARLYLE *Cagliostro* in *Misc. Ess.* (1888) V. 78 Wheresoever..a slush of so-called vicious enjoyment [is] to be swallowed. 1898 *Chr. Herald* (N. Y.) 23 Feb. 144/4 That the people of this country demand moral slush instead of healthy and intellectual food.

3. a. (See quot. and cf. SLUTCH *sb.* 2.)

1843 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* I. 191 The top is covered.. with the waste or slush from the grindstone trough.

b. A mixture of grease and other materials used for lubricating. 1847 in WEBSTER.

c. A mixture of white lead and lime, used for painting parts of machinery to preserve them from oxidation. 1864 in WEBSTER.

4. Rubbishy discourse or literature.

1896 *Daily News* 23 Jan. 6/1 Two stout volumes of what the American editor would have called 'delirious slush'.

5. *dial.* **a.** A slovenly or dirty person; a slut.

1825 BROCKETT *N. C. Gloss.*, *Slush*, a reproachful term for a dirty person. 1836 *Wilson's Tales Borders* II. 163 Dinna speak o' the slush to me..; for he's a speeritless hash.

b. A drudge.

1825 in JAMIESON *Suppl.* c1861– in *Eng. Dial. Dict.* 1883 MISS BRADDON *Gold. Calf* xxi. 235 He told her she was cook, slush, and bottle-washer.

6. *attrib.*, as (sense 1) *slush-ice*; (sense 2) *slush-bucket* (also *transf.*), *-lamp*, *-tub*.

1785 GROSE *Dict. Vulgar T.*, **Slush bucket*, a foul feeder, one that eats much greasy food. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.* 634 *Slush-Bucket*, a bucket kept in the tops, to grease the masts, sheets, &c. *Ibid.*, **Slush-Ice*, the first layer which forms when the surface is freezing. 1883 KEIGHLEY *Who are You?* 45 The *slush-lamp shone with a smoky light. 1893 J. A. BARRY *Steve Brown's Bunyip* 41 A tin which he had just taken from over the big slush lamp. 1836 E. HOWARD *R. Reefer* xl, D—n you, and your *slush-tub too! 1858 SIMMONDS, *Slush-tub*, a vessel for holding grease.

Slush (slʊʃ), *sb.*[2] [Imitative, or f. SLUSH *v.*]

1. A heavy splashing sound. Also *slush-slush*.

[1848 *Life in Normandy* (1863) I. 111 Slush, slush, went the two wheels into two holes.] 1880 BLACKMORE *Mary Anerley* I. xviii. 311 The hollow of the rocks received the first billow with a thump and a slush. 1900 H. SUTCLIFFE *Shameless Wayne* xxvii, The faint *slush-slush* of horse-hoofs striking sodden earth.

2. A copious wash; a sluicing.

1902 ALICE TERTON *Lights & Shad, Hospital* viii. 118 A stable bucket I could give myself a good slush in.

Slush (slʊʃ), *v.* [Partly f. SLUSH *sb.*[1] and partly imitative; the senses belonging to the two sources are not clearly separable.

An early use of the word is given by Thoresby (1703), '*To slush through work*, to do much, but slimly, carelessly'.]

I. *trans.* **1.** To splash or soak with slush or mud.

1807 SIR R. WILSON *Priv. Diary* (1862) II. viii. 262 We were quite slushed in the mire. 1819 'R. RABELAIS THE YOUNGER' *Abeillard & H.* 122 Feeling his garments and himself slush'd. 1873 DIXON *Two Queens* I. vi. viii. 355 All slushed and soiled with the November rain.

2. a. *Naut.* To grease (a mast) with slush. Also with *down*.

1823 J. F. COOPER *Pioneers* xv, I larnt how a topmast should be slushed. 1840 R. H. DANA *Bef. Mast* ii, The officer..ordered me to slush the mainmast. 1910 *Blackw. Mag.* Aug. 170/1 He ordered him aloft with a bucket of grease to 'slush down' the mast.

b. To paint (machinery) with a mixture of white lead and lime. 1864 in WEBSTER.

c. To fill *up* or cover by dashing on mortar and cement.

1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2219 *Slushed-up*, the joints and intervals between the bricks and courses filled with mortar. 1902 R. STURGIS *Dict. Archit. & Building* s.v., Slushed work permits bricks to be laid dry..in the interior of a wall, and makes inferior work.

3. To wash with a copious supply, or with dashing on, of water; to sluice.

1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss.*, *Slush*, to wash with much water without rubbing. 'Slush it in the river.' 1865 DICKENS *Mut. Fr.* II. xvi, So he were there skilfully rubbed down and slushed and sluiced, and polished and clothed.

b. To dash (water) *over* one.

1889 'Q.' [QUILLER COUCH] *Splendid Spur* 213 Stand thee so, an' slush the water over me.

II. *intr.* **4.** Of pigs: To eat greedily and noisily.

1833 M. SCOTT *Tom Cringle* xii. (1859) 289 Like so many pigs slushing at the same trough.

5. To go or walk through mud, etc., with a dull splashing sound. Also with cognate object, and *fig.*

1855 [ROBINSON] *Whitby Gloss.*, *To Slush on*, to proceed or persevere in one's course of life, as the saying is, 'through thick and thin'. 1888 F. COWPER *Caedwalla* 214 The raft.. slushed its way through the water. 1904 *Field* 6 Feb. 223/2 As for horses, they slushed in and slushed out of the wet compound.

6. To descend or degenerate *into* something.

1882 *Good Words* 99 Conversation which..by and by *slushed* into unexpected and not very profitable discussion about legitimate and illegitimate children.

7. To rush (*down*) with a splashing sound.

1883 STEVENSON *Lett.* (1901) I. 272 The filthy gutter slushes. 1889 TENNYSON *Owd Roa* xxi, The snaw slushin' down fro' the bank to the beck.

8. To dash *at* something in heavy splashes.

1900 STRAIN *Elnslie's Drag-net* 227 Slushed at by the waves, buffeted by the wind, she battled her way across the road.

Hence (or f. the *sb.*) **Slu·shing** *vbl. sb.* and *ppl. a.*

1863 MRS. GASKELL *Sylvia's Lovers* x, Philip went.. through keen black east wind, or driving snow, or slushing thaw. 1864 CARLYLE *Fredh. Gt.* IV. 363 Moony workings, and slushings hither and thither..in the muddy tide-currents.

Slusher (slʊ·ʃəɹ). *Austr.* [f. prec.] The cook's assistant on a station during shearing time.

1890 *Melbourne Argus* 20 Sept. 13/6.

Slu·shiness. [f. SLUSHY *a.*] The quality of being slushy.

1904 *Westm. Gaz.* 11 Apr. 2/2 Water-colour drawings that cherish inordinate ambitions almost invariably fall into either dryness or slushiness.

Slushy (slʊ·ʃi), *sb.* [f. SLUSH *sb.*[1] or *v.*]

a. A ship's cook. **b.** = SLUSHER.

1859 in *Slang Dict.* 96. 1887 HALL CAINE *Deemster* x, The cook, better known as the slushy. 1900 H. LAWSON *On Track* 135 As the shearers' 'slushy' hates the shearers' cook.

Slushy (slʊ·ʃi), *a.* [f. SLUSH *sb.*[1]]

1. Covered with, consisting of, having the character of, slush (in senses 1 a and 1 b).

(*a*) 1791 W. BARTRAM *Carolina* 178 They bury themselves in the slushy bottoms of rivers and ponds. *a* 1825 FORBY *Voc. E. Anglia* 309 *Slushy*, miry. 1861 MISS BEAUFORT *Egypt. Sepul. & Syrian Shrines* I. 220 We..continued our road on the soft slushy sand along the edge of the wave. 1884 *Good Words* 156 Stepping through the sedges, regardless of the slushy footing.

(*b*) 1825 JAMIESON *Suppl.* s.v., *Slushie*, abounding with snow in a state of liquefaction; as, 'The streets are very slushie.' 1857 B. TAYLOR *North. Trav.* xvii. 174 Mud under foot, alternating with slushy snow. 1878 JEFFERIES *Gamekeeper at H.* 42 The snow slips and comes down in slushy, icy fragments.

b. Marked by the prevalence of slush.

1848 THACKERAY *Contrib. to 'Punch'* Wks. 1886 XXIV. 203 [He] came over ten miles to Squattleborough in the most slushy weather, and delivered four lectures. 1871 M. COLLINS *Marq. & Merch.* I. x. 304 There are slushy splashy raw comfortless mornings in..winter.

2. Weak, washy.

1839 MCDOWALL *Poems* 117 (E.D.D.), Can slushy tea ere be compared Wi' cogs o' brose? 1844 J. T. HEWLETT *Parsons & W.* xxv, Something stronger and better than water or slushy tea.

b. *fig.* Rubbishy, trivial.

1889 *Voice* (N. Y.) 15 Aug., That is a slushy sentiment. 1894 *Times* 3 Jan. 7/5 A large portion of the British public is steeped in a sloppy and slushy sentimentalism.

3. Thick, indistinct.

1861 DICKENS *Gt. Expect.* III. 250 He spoke in a slushy voice.

Sluss, dial. form of SLUSH *sb.*[1]

Slut (slʌt), *sb.* Also 5 **slotte,** *north.* **slute,** 5–6 **slutte,** 7 **slutt.** [Of doubtful origin: cf. G. (now dial.) *schlutt, schlutte, schlutz*, in sense 1. Forms having some resemblance in sound and sense also occur in the Scand. languages, as Da. *slatte* (? from LG.), Norw. *slott*, Sw. dial. *slåta*, but connexion is very doubtful.]

1. A woman of dirty, slovenly, or untidy habits or appearance; a foul slattern.

c 1402 HOCCLEVE *Letter of Cupid* 237 The foulest slutte of al a tovne. *c* 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* IV. 273 Ful ferd is hit for touching of vnclene Wymmen—and slottes y suppose hit mene. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 345/2 A Slute, *vbi* foule. 1530 PALSGR. 271/2 Slutte, *souillart, uilotiere.* 1581 PETTIE *Guazzo's Civ. Conv.* III. (1586) 137 b, I haue noted often those dames which are so curious in their attire, to be verie sluttes in their houses. 1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* To Rdr. 24 Women are all day a dressing, to pleasure other men abroad, and go like sluts at home. 1715 HEARNE *Collect.* (O. H. S.) V. 98 Nor was she a Woman of any Beauty, but was a nasty Slut. *a* 1763 SHENSTONE *Odes* Wks. (1765) 190 She's ugly, she's old,..And a slut, and a scold. 1848 KINGSLEY *Saint's Trag.* II. viii, Almshouses For sluts whose husbands died. 1883 S. C. HALL *Retrospect* II. 249 She looked the part of a ragged, slatternly, dirty slut.

fig. 1602 MARSTON *Ant. & Mel.* II. Wks. 1856 I. 26 Would'st thou have us sluts and never Shift the vestur of our thoughts? 1642 FULLER *Holy & Prof. St.* II. xii, Did Rome herein look upon the dust behind her own doores, she would have but little cause to call her neighbour slut.

b. A kitchen-maid; a drudge. *rare.*

c 1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 133 The quene her toke to make a slutte, And to vile services her putt. 1855 J. D. BURN *Autobiogr. Beggar Boy* (1859) 68, I lived with him.. for nearly six months, and acted the part of cook, slut, butler, page, footman, and *valet de chambre*.

† **c.** A troublesome or awkward creature. *Obs.*—[1]

c 1460 J. RUSSELL *Bk. Nurture* in *Babees Bk.* (1868) 158 Crabbe is a slutt to kerve & a wrawd wight.

2. A woman of a low or loose character; a bold or impudent girl; a hussy, jade.

c 1450 *Cov. Myst.* (Shaks. Soc.) 218 Com forth, thou sloveyn! com forthe, thou slutte! *c* 1515 *Cocke Lorell's B.* 11 Sluttes, drabbes, and counseyll whystelers. 1577–82 BRETON *Flourish upon Fancie* Wks. (Grosart) I. 6/2 To haunt the Tauernes late,..And swap ech slut vpon the lippes, that in the darke he meetes. 1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* I. ii. IV. i. (1651) 143 A peevish drunken flurt, a waspish cholerick slut. 1698 FRYER *Acc. E. India & P.* 375 Disputes of their Religion, in which he found the crafty Slut would involve him. 1742 FIELDING *Y. Andrews* II. iv, I never knew any of these forward sluts come to good. 1777 SHERIDAN *Trip to Scarborough* IV. i, These lords have a power of wealth indeed, yet, as I've heard say, they give it all to their sluts and their trulls. 1839 DICKENS *Nickleby* xviii, Never let anybody who is a friend of mine speak to her; a slut, a hussy. 1848 — *Dombey* xliv, Does that bold-faced slut intend to take her warning, or does she not? 1881 BESANT & RICE *Chapl. of Fl.* I. xii, My lord shall marry this extravagant slut.

fig. 1602 KYD *Sp. Trag.* III. xii *a*, Night is a murderous slut, That would not haue her treasons to be seene.

b. In playful use, or without serious imputation of bad qualities.

1664 PEPYS *Diary* 21 Feb., Our little girl Susan is a most admirable slut, and pleases us mightily. 1678 BUNYAN *Pilgr.* I. 112 As the Mother cries out against her Child in her lap, when she calleth it Slut and naughty Girl, and then falls to hugging and kissing it. 1710–1 SWIFT *Lett.* (1767) III. 79 Ah! you're a wheedling slut, you be so. 1740–2 RICHARDSON *Pamela* III. 207 Well did the dear Slut describe the Passion I struggled with. 1846 LANDOR *Imag. Conv.* I. 233 Nanny, thou art a sweet slut. 1884 GORDON *Jrnls.* (1885) 115 Why the black sluts would stone me if they thought I meditated such action.

transf. 1862 THACKERAY *Philip* xiii, You see I gave my cousin this dog,..and the little slut remembers me.

3. A female dog; a bitch. Also *attrib.*, as *slut-pup*. ? Orig. *U.S.*

1845 G. LAW in *Youatt's Dog* (ed. Lewis, 1858) iii. 88 The dog-pup..and the slut-pup. *Ibid.* 89 The dog was of a dingy red colour, and the slut black. 1853 W. IRVING in *Reader* No. 57. 131/3 My little terrier slut Ginger..having five little Gingers toddling at her heels. 1893 J. INGLIS *Oor Ain Folk* (1894) 10, Sluts were not so frequently used for shepherding purposes as dogs, being less tractable.

4. A piece of rag dipped in lard or fat and used as a light.

1609 C. BUTLER *Fem. Mon.* (1634) 151 Matches are made of linen rags and Brimstone, after the manner that maids make Slats. 1852 *Blackw. Mag.* Mar. 363 Writing by the light of what Irish Jenny called 'sluts'—twisted rags, dipped in lard, and stuck in a bottle. 1886 L. M'LOUTH in *Library Mag.* Aug. (1887) 64 Sometimes..there were for additional light, lard 'sluts', or tallow 'dips'.

b. The guttering of a candle.

a 1864 GESNER *Coal, Petrol.*, etc. (1865) 92 The melted material overflows, and bears with it the name of 'slut'.

5. Special collocations, as † **slut's corner,** a corner left uncleaned by a sluttish person; also *fig.*; **slut-, slut's-hole,** a place or receptacle for rubbish; also *fig.*; † **slut's-pennies,** hard pieces in a loaf due to imperfect kneading of the dough; **slut's-wool,** the fluff or dust left on the floor, etc., by a sluttish servant or person.

1573 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 167 Sluts corners auoided shall further thy health. 1583 GOLDING *Calvin on Deut.* CXXXIII. 814 Our house shalbe swept, & we will take good heed y^t^ no sluts corner be left. 1608 TOPSELL *Serpents* (1658) 779 Rubbing, brushing, spunging, making clean sluts-corners. 1710 SWIFT *On a Broomstick* Wks. 1755 II. I. 181 He sets up to be..a remover of grievances, rakes into every slut's corner of nature [etc.]. 1750 W. ELLIS *Country Housew. Comp.* 21 There is often what we call slutts-pennies among the bread, that will appear and eat like kernels. 1862 *Sat. Rev.* 15 Mar. 298 There are a good many slut-holes in London to rake out. 1893 *Westm. Rev.* Jan. 17 She would also,.. see that floors were scrubbed, and corners clear of 'slut's-wool', and spiders well kept down.

† **Slut,** *a. Obs. rare.* Also 6 *Sc.* **slute, slutt.** [f. prec.] Sluttish, untidy.

1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* XXVI. 71 Mony slute daw and slepy duddroun. 1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* I. 290 The foullest slutt husies and seruandis. 1638 BRATHWAIT *Barnabees Jrnl.* II. (1818) 53 An hostesse none more slutter.

Slut (slʌt), *v.* Also 7 *Sc.* **slute.** [f. SLUT *sb.*]

† **1.** *trans.* To render sluttish. *Obs.*

a 1618 SYLVESTER *Tobacco Battered* 585 Wks. (Grosart) II. 272 Don Tobacco's damnable Infection, Slutting the Body, slaving the Affection. 1645 Z. BOYD *Holy Songs* in *Zion's Flowers* (1855) App. 12/1 Words..Which slute the body, and als slave the affection.

2. *intr.* To act as a drudge.

1829 *Examiner* 18/1 The Professional morality..rendered

it a point of pride to stop short of 'slutting for all work' for the attorneys.

Slutch (slʊtʃ), *sb.* [Of uncertain origin: cf. SLUDGE *sb.* and SLUSH *sb.*[1]

It is doubtful whether *sluche* in the *Destr. Troy* 12529 is an early example of this, as the form in other passages of the poem is *slic(c)he* SLITCH; but cf. SLUTCH *v.* 1.]

1. Mud, mire, slush. Now *dial.*

Cf. also *sea-slutch* (SEA 18 e) and *star-slutch.*

1669 *Phil. Trans.* IV. 1062 A blackish Slutch mixt with the Sand, which infects the whole Spring. 1776 G. SEMPLE *Building in Water* 73 All that soft Slutch would be thrown out, and a firm Stone-work put in the Place of it. 1777 PENNANT *Brit. Zool.* (ed. 2) IV. 66 Discovered by an aperture in the slutch. 1800 W. CHAPMAN *Facts & Rem. rel. Witham & Welland* 49 A great portion of rich slimy mud or slutch. 1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss., Slutch*, mud. 1897 RHOSCOMYL *White Rose Arno* 92 Mucked up fro' heel to hat wi' slutch (mud) as thou art.

2. = SLUSH *sb.*[1] 3 a.

1889 W. MARCROFT *Ups & Downs* 58, I gave orders..that the grinding slutch must be wheeled out before breakfast time each morning.

Slutch (slʊtʃ), *v.* Now *dial.* Also 4 **sluchche.** [Cf. prec.]

1. *trans.* To cover or soil with mud; to bemire. Hence **Slutched** *ppl. a.*

13.. *E. E. Allit. P. C.* 341 þenne he swepe to þe sonde in sluchched clopes. 1868 WAUGH *Sneck Bant* i, He was 'welly (well-nigh) slutched up to th' neck' with peat mire.

2. To clean out by removing mud.

1690 in Picton *L'pool Munic. Rec.* (1883) I. 288 It is order'd in Councel yt no allowance be given him to slutch yᵉ frosse lake. 1735 *Cheshire Farm Acct.* in *Sheaf* (1879) I. 330 By lading and slutching. 1886 HOLLAND *Cheshire Gloss.* 324 To 'slutch a pit' is to clean out the mud from a pond.

3. *intr.* To wade about *in* mud, etc.

c 1861– in dialect use (Lanc., Yks.).

Slutchy (slʊ·tʃi), *a.* [f. SLUTCH *sb.* + -Y.] Muddy, slushy.

1701 in Picton *L'pool Munic. Rec.* (1883) I. 291 Pan-tiles ..requiring a blew slutchy clay. 1777 PENNANT *Brit. Zool.* (ed. 2) IV. 66 Lodged under slutchy ground, near low-water mark. *a* 1890 WAUGH *Heather* (1892) Ser. II. 95 The highway was full of slutchy ruts.

Sluth(e: see SLEUTH *sb.*[2] and *v.*[1]

Sluther (slʊ·ðəɹ), *v. dial.* [var. of SLITHER *v.*] *intr.* To slide, slip.

1796 PEGGE *Derbicisms* Ser. II. 122 *Slither*, or *Sluther*, to slide; to slip. 1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss.* s.v., Sluther down the hill. 1888 DALBY *Mayroyd* II. 165 He.. wriggled his body, and was about to 'sluther' down.

† Slu·tly, *adv. Obs.*—[o] [f. SLUT *sb.* or *a.*] Sluttishly, foully.

c 1460 *Promp. Parv.* (Winch.), Slutly, *cenulente.*

So † **Slu·tness**, sluttishness, foulness. *Obs.*—[o]

a 1500 *Promp. Parv.* (R.), Sluthnes, *cenositas.*

† Slu·ttered, *ppl. a. Obs.*—[1] [Cf. next.] Befouled, dirtied.

1589 NASHE *Anat. Absurd.* B ij b, That those that neuer tasted of any thing saue the excrements of Artes..shoulde preferre their sluttered suttes, before other mens glittering gorgious array.

Sluttery (slʊ·təri). Now *rare.* [f. SLUT *sb.*]

1. Sluttishness, filthiness, dirtiness, untidiness.

a 1586 SIDNEY *Arcadia* III. (1590) 389 Yet let not sluttery, The sinke of filth, be counted huswifery. 1594 *Mirr. Policy* (1599) 153 Cleannesse..is the thing that bringeth her into most estimation: as contrariwise slutterie and filthinesse breeds her most hatred. 1627 DRAYTON *Nimphidia* ix, These make our Girles their sluttery rue, By pinching them both blacke and blue. 1661 PEPYS *Diary* 22 Dec., I took occasion..to fall out with my wife and my mayde for their sluttery. 1698 FRYER *Acc. E. India & P.* 200 They are not to be taxed..with Sloth or Sluttery in respect of their Bodies. 1814 SCOTT *Diary* in *Lockhart* (1839) IV. 235 They are a long lived race, notwithstanding utter and inconceivable dirt and sluttery. 1818 MARY CARLYLE in Froude *Life C.* (1882) I. v. 58 It shall be my earnest desire never to imitate the abominable slutteries of Mrs. Maclarty.

† **b.** *concr.* Dirt, filth, impurity. *Obs.*

1607 J. DAVIES *Summa Totalis* F 4ᵛ, We can but immure Those Sp'rituall Guifts with Fleshes sluttery. 1644 HAMMOND *Serm.* ix. Wks. 1684 IV. 530 All the debaucheries in the world could no more vitiate them, than the..gold by the sluttery it may be mixt with. 1656 EARL MONM. tr. *Boccalini's Advts. fr. Parnass.* II. xiv. (1674) 158 How..any man should be so sullied with the sluttery of uncleanness, as that he dare publish those obscenities.

† **c.** A slut. *Obs.*—[1]

a 1652 BROME *City Wit* IV. ii, You hurden smock'd sweaty sluttery, that couldst love a fellow that wore worsted stockins footed, and fed in Cooks shops.

† **2.** Work appropriate to a slut; drudgery. *Obs.*—[1]

1615 J. STEPHENS *Satyr. Ess.* 266 She is a receiver to all professions, and acquainted by experience with cookery or sluttery.

† **3.** Vile or criminal conduct. *Obs.*—[1]

a 1656 USSHER *Ann.* (1658) 357 She..poisoned him,..and to cover this sluttery of hers, she caused one Artemon, who was very like him, to lie in his bed.

4. An untidy room; a work-room.

1841 *Tait's Mag.* VIII. 150 There is a little store-room.. —I may have that for my sluttery, I dare say.

Slu·ttikin. *rare*—[1]. [f. SLUT *sb.*] A little slut.

1711 SWIFT *Jrnl. Stella* 29 Aug., But what care you who is privy-seal, saucy sluttikins?

Sluttily, -ness: see SLUTTY *a.*

Sluttish (slʊ·tiʃ), *a.* Forms: 5 **slottisch, 6 -yssh(e, sloottish**; 5 **sluttissh, 6 sluttys(s)h(e, -ishe, 6– sluttish.** [f. SLUT *sb.* + -ISH.]

1. Of persons: Dirty and untidy in dress and habits, esp. to an extent which is repulsive or disgusting. Now *spec.* of women.

(*a*) *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Can. Yeom. Prol.* 83 Why is thy lord so sluttissh, I the preye, And is of power bettre clooth to beye? 1525 LD. BERNERS *Froiss.* II. xxxi. 92 Then he shewed them..the nature of the Spanyardes, howe they are sluttysshe and lousy. 1597 BEARD *Theatre God's Judgem.* (1612) 513 A woman gaily attired,..before whom marched an euill fauoured slouenly vsher. 1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* I. 26 They of the vulgar kind are both ignorant, sluttish and greedy. 1698 FRYER *Acc. E. India & P.* 269 Their Rusticks are truly..Sluttish and Slothful.

(*b*) 1592 *Arden of Feversham* IV. iv, If well attyred, thou thinks I will be gadding; If homely, I seeme sluttish in thine eye. 1600 J. PORY tr. *Leo's Africa* II. 107 Their women are most forlorne and sluttish. 1635 BRERETON *Trav.* (Chetham Soc.) 97 We observed the sluttish women, washing their clothes in a great tub with their feet. 1709 *Tatler* No. 75 ₱ 9 Jenny's only Imperfection is an Admiration of her Parts, which inclines her to be a little, but a very little, sluttish. 1758 JOHNSON *Idler* No. 15 ₱ 4 The..maid..is as lazy and sluttish as her mistress. 1822 W. IRVING *Bracebr. Hall* (1845) 276 Venting their direful wrath..upon the sluttish dairy-maid. 1850 KINGSLEY *A. Locke* i, The coarse men and sluttish women.

fig. *c* 1600 SHAKS. *Sonn.* lv, Vnswept stone, besmeer'd with sluttish time. 1673 [R. LEIGH] *Transp. Reh.* 140 This gallant..espouses the sluttish mother church of Geneva.

† **b.** Of a low or lewd character. *Obs.*

1575 *Gamm. Gurton* III. iii, Stand to it, thou dastard,..Ise teche the, a sluttish toye! 1606 SHAKS. *Tr. & Cr.* IV. v. 62 Set them downe, For sluttish spoyles of opportunitie; And daughters of the game.

2. Of things: Unclean, dirty; grimy; untidy.

1549 COVERDALE, etc. *Erasm. Par. 2 Tim.* 23 In sluttishe clothes, with a countrefaicte grauitie of countenaunce,..they conueye them selues in to other mens houses. 1553 *Respublica* III. vi. 853 Suche hongrye doggs will slabbe vp sluttishe puddinges. 1599 DAVIES *Immort. Soul* Introd. xxxiii. (1714) 9 The Man loves least at Home to be, That hath a sluttish House. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* III. 180 Their wives..are attired in a sluttish gowne. 1665 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* (1677) 311 Some boil the cream in a raw skin, so as it is commonly very sluttish, full of hairs and unsalted. 1678 CUDWORTH *Intell. Syst.* 798 This Foul and Gross Body of ours..remaining still Nasty, Sluttish and Ruinous within. 1824 SCOTT *St. Ronan's* xvii, Two or three miserable tubs with suds, or such like sluttish contents.

3. Appropriate to, characteristic of, a slut or sluts: † **a.** Low, despicable, immoral, lewd. *Obs.*

1561 T. HOBY tr. *Castiglione's Courtyer* 22 Not to vse sluttish and Ruffianlike prankes with anye man. 1587 TURBERV. *Trag. Tales* (1837) 123 Both God and man such sluttysh sutes detest, The lawfull love is ever counted best. 1694 CROWNE *Married Beau* IV. 44 Who play'd this sluttish trick with these gentlemen?

b. Partaking of, marked or characterized by, gross slovenliness or untidiness.

a 1601 *Pasquil & Kath.* (1878) I. 82 In hot pursuit Of cold abhorred sluttish niggardise. 1625 N. CARPENTER *Geogr. Del.* II. xiv. (1635) 245 The sluttish carelesnesse of the one, and the cleanly neatnesse of the other. 1664 PEPYS *Diary* 7 Aug., The ill, improvident, disquiett, and sluttish manner that my father and mother and Pall live in the country. 1718 PRIOR *Epitaph* 28 Sluttish plenty deck'd her table. 1727 *Fam. Dict.* s.v. *Clear-Starching*, Some stir the Starch about with a Candle,..but this is rejected as a sluttish way. 1824 W. IRVING *Tales Trav.* II. 21 The same air of departed gentility and sluttish housekeeping. 1843 CARLYLE *Misc.* (1857) IV. 269 A drowsy life, of ease and sluttish abundance.

Sluttishly (slʊ·tiʃli), *adv.* Also 5 **slut-tisshly, -ysshly, 6 -ishely, -yshely.** [f. prec.] In a sluttish manner; untidily, dirtily; carelessly.

c 1490 CAXTON *Rule St. Benet* (1902) 129 Who so euer neclygently or sluttisshly entretyth ony thyng of the place, anone he they rebukyd & punysshid. 1539 ELYOT *Cast. Helthe* (1541) 14 Moch people in smal roume living unclenly and sluttishely. 1542 UDALL *Erasm. Apoph.* (1877) 160 Mustie or sluttishely kept loues of bread. 1606 DEKKER *Seven Sins* IV. (Arb.) 34 It is all sluttishly ouergrowne with Mosse on the out-side. 1661 K. W. *Charac. Conceited Coxcombs* (1860) 78 So that she is finely sluttish and sluttishly fine. ? *a* 1729 in Chappell *Pop. Mus.* II. 649 Whether decently clothed or sluttishly dress'd. 1771 MRS. HAYWOOD *New Present for Maid* 254 Without leaving any [dust] sluttishly in corners.

Sluttishness (slʊ·tiʃnés). Also 5 **slwttis-nes, 6 scluttishnes.** [f. as prec. + -NESS.] The character or state of being sluttish; dirtiness; gross slovenliness or untidiness.

1483 *Cath. Angl.* 345/2 Slwttisnes; *vbi* fowlnes. *c* 1530 *Crt. of Love* lxviii, That thou eschewe With sluttishness thyself for to offend. 1549 COVERDALE, etc. *Erasm. Par. 1 Peter* 2 Which can neither be corrupted with death,..ne yet fade away by age or sluttishnes. 1600 BRETON *Pasquil's Fooles Cap* xxxviii, Shee that is giuen to Ease and Sluttishnesse, And trifles out the time in Trompery. *a* 1659 BP. BROWNRIG *Serm.* (1674) I. xxx. 382 Christ compares an Hypocrite to a piece of sluttishness. 1748 SMOLLETT *Rod. Rand.* xxxviii. (1804) 251 She neglects her person even to a degree of sluttishness. 1776 *Euphrosyne* I. 18 My study is, I must confess The sacred shrine of sluttishness.

fig. 1568 TURNER *Herbal* III. 80 The scluttishnes, filthines, and foulnes of the soule. 1637 PRESTON *Mount Ebal* (1638) 42 Suffer not any sluttishnesse..to rest in your hearts. 1893 *Daily News* 12 Dec. 6/7 That sluttishness of financial prosperity which has been denied to art in all ages.

Slu·tty, *a.* Now *dial.* [f. SLUT *sb.* + -Y.] Dirty, foul; slovenly.

a 1400 in Horstman *Hampole's Wks.* (1895) I. 303 If þou gafe a gret lorde drynke in a slutty coppe & foule. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 460/2 Slutty, *cenulentus.* 1897 G. FORD *Larrauys* 101 You'm a slutty, poor varmer,..sure 'nough. Hence † **Slu·ttily** *adv.*; **Slu·ttiness.**

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 460/2 Sluttyly,..*cenulente.* 1451 CAPGRAVE *Life St. Aug.* 46 In summe men we lakkyn þe grete cost of aray, and with summe ar we wroth with her sluttynesse.

Sly (slɔi), *a.*, *adv.*, and *sb.* Forms: *α.* 3 **sleh, 4 sle3, slee3, 4–5 sle3e, slegh(e, 5 scle3, sclegh**; 3–4 **sleyh, 4 sleih**; 3 **slei3h, 3–4 slei3e, 4 sleei3, 5 sley3**; 4 **sleigh(e, sleygh(e.** *β.* 3–5 **sley, 4–5 sleye, 5 scley**; 4, *Sc.* 5–6 **sle, 5, *Sc.* 7–9 slee.** *γ.* 4 **slyh(e, sli3, 4–5 sli3e, sly3(e, 4–5 slygh, 4–6 slyghe, 4–7 sligh.** *δ.* 4–5 **sli, 5 sclie, 5–8 slie**; 4–7 **slye, 4– sly.** [ME. *slēȝ*, ad. ON. *slǽg-r* (Icel. *slægur*, Norw. *slæg*; MSw. *slögh*, older Da. *sløff*) clever, cunning, originally 'able to strike', f. *slóg-* pret. stem of *slá* to strike. The later development into northern *slee*, midland and southern *sligh, sly*, is normal. The corresponding abstract noun is SLEIGHT *sb.*[1]]

A. *adj.* **1.** Of persons: Skilful, clever, dexterous, or expert in doing something; possessing practical skill or ability; skilled, knowing, wise. (Also occas. of animals.) *Obs.* exc. *north. dial.*

α. *c* 1200 ORMIN 13498 Her wass wiss Filippe sleh & ȝæp & haȝherr hunnte. *c* 1275 *Five Joys Virgin* 32 in *O. E. Misc.* 88 Þer þe schulen engles grete, for þu ert boþe hende and sleyh. *c* 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 378 A carpenter..ich am, quoynte and sleiȝh. *c* 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 7570 Als clerkes says, þat er wise and sleghe. *c* 1350 *Lybeaus Disc.* 351 As a noble knyght, As werrour queynte and sclegh. *c* 1420 *Liber Cocorum* (1862) 19 Be sleȝe and powre in water þenne.

β. *a* 1300 *Havelok* 1084 Hwere mithe i finden ani so hey So Haulelok is, or so sley? 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* XVI. 335 He gert get vrichtis that ves sle. 14.. in *Vicary's Anat.* (1888) App. IX. 228 Apone the nose..Schall thowe lete blode, if thowe be sle. 1807 STAGG *Misc. Poems* (1808) 93 When Seymie..was as slee as onny Damiel. *c* 1859 T. MOORE *Song Sol.* vii. 1 A slee warkman.

γ. 13.. *Sir Beues* 579 Þe king him louede also is broþer, And þe maide, þat was so sliȝ. *c* 1380 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* III. 10 He is makir of my kynde, as a sliȝ werkman. *a* 1425 tr. *Arderne's Treat. Fistula*, etc. 2 God..hath hid many thingis fro wise men and sliȝe whiche he vouchesaf afterward for to shewe to symple men. *c* 1430 *Syr Gener.* (Roxb.) 5333 Generides was hardie and sligh, And saw hem flee, and drogh him nigh.

δ. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 8695 Þe king, þat was sa sli a clerc. *c* 1320 *Cast. Love* (1849) 78 So slye and crafty they shull byn alle, That they shull do all thyng that in here hert doth falle. 1495 *Trevisa's Barth. De P. R.* XVIII. liii. 812 Amptes ben full lytyll and ben neuerthelesse more slye [*Bodl. MS.* sliȝe] and besy than many grete beestys. 1600 FAIRFAX *Tasso* X. xli. 187 You..(whom grauer age And long experience hath made wise and slie). 1865 *Danby Gloss.* s.v., He war a desput sly chap wha fost thow't o' thae sun-pict'rs.

† **b.** Const. *in* or *of* (also *at, on*) something. *Obs.*

(*a*) *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 27280 In spiring loke þe preist be sli, Noght ouerbald bot als on drei. *c* 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 2662 Þarfor þou man in þi werk be slyghe. *c* 1400 *Rowland & O.* 690 Þe gentill Grāuntere In Batayle þat was so sleghe. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* V. v. 76 Of Creit.. born was sche, And in the craft of Mynerve wondir sle.

(*b*) *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 7251 For he was sle on [*Gött.* sly of] harpingleu. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* XVII. 938 He send for masonis..That sleast wes of that misteir. 1393 LANGL. *P. Pl.* C. XXIII. 163 This sleuthe was sleyh of werre and a slynge made. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* I. 375 Off that labour as than he was nocht sle. 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* I. 30 Gy of Gysburne, na Allan Bell,..At schot war nevir so slie.

† **c.** With infinitive. *Obs.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 27290 þat þe preist be slei To gar þe man him-seluen wrei. *c* 1400 *Laud Troy Bk.* 11112 He.. asked hem..'Whether thei were alle so sly To saue Ector with-oute poudre'. *c* 1450 *Bk. Curtasye* 300 in *Babees Bk.*, With woso men..The falle to go, loke þou be slegh To aske his nome. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* VI. xv. 2 The peple..Bene ..moir sle To forge and carve lyflyk staturis of bras.

† **2.** Marked or characterized by skill or dexterity; showing skilfulness or ingenuity; cleverly or finely made. *Obs.*

1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 7187 Louerd he sede þat ech þing madest quointe & sley. *c* 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 2258 Atte laste he wolde fleye, Feþer-hames he made hym sleye. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XVIII. i. (Bodl. MS.), Here [i. e. ants, bees, etc.] workes beþ slize and sotel. *c* 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* V. 154 Wher the swarmes dwelle, is craft tespie..Se heer the craft, and truly hit is sligh. *c* 1470 *Gol. & Gaw.* 883 Thai hynt of his harnese, to helyn his wound; Lechis war noght to lait, with sawis sa sle. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* I. Prol. 108 Reid oftair than anis, Weill at ane blenk slee poetry nocht tane ys. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* II. ix. 46 Lids deuiz'd of substance sly, That readily they shut and open might. 1721 RAMSAY *Elegy on Patie Birnie* i, In sonnet slee the man I sing.

3. Of persons: Adept or skilful in artifice or craft; using cunning or insidious means or methods; deceitful, guileful, wily, underhand.

α, β, γ 1200 *St. Marher.* 12 Þu hauest grimliche ibroht mi broðer to grunde, þen slehest deouel of helle. *c* 1275 LAY. 14366 Þe worse was þare wel neh, þat to soche game his wel sleh. *c* 1375 *Cursor M.* 731 (Fairf.), þat wyly deuel was ful sley. *a* 1450 MYRC 1401 Wayte þat þow be slegh & fel. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* V. 740 He was full sle, and ek had mony cast. 1535 W. STEWART *Cron. Scot.* I. 281 Ane subtill man and of ingyne richt hie, In all his tyme he wes baith fals and slie. 1724 RAMSAY *Tea-Table Misc.* (1733) I. 85 Little did her auld minny ken What thir slee twa togither were say'n. 1825 BROCKETT *N. C. Gloss.*, *Slee*, sly, cunning.

γ, δ. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Friar's T.* 24 He hadde a Somonour

redy to his hond, A slyer boye was noon in Engelond. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* II. 235 Thei ben slyhe in such a wise That thei be sleihte..Of Fals witnesse bringen inne [etc.]. *c* 1420 *Chron. Vilod.* 381 þus Danes weren fulle fals and slyze. *c* 1450 *Pol. Poems* (Rolls) II. 230 The traytours wene they bene so sly, That no mane can hem aspy. 1530 PALSGR. 324/1 Slye, crafty, subtyll, *cautelleux*. *Ibid.*, Slye, wylye, *fyn*. 1579 W. WILKINSON *Confut. Fam. Love* Ep. Ded. ij b, The subtle assaultes of so slye and cruell enemyes. 1642 ROGERS *Naaman* 16 A master having a slie servant, oft drunken and carelesse. 1676 DRYDEN *Aurengz.* I. i, Some slie Court-Devil has seduc'd your Mind. 1775 SHERIDAN *Rivals* II. i, He was, indeed, a little inquisitive; but I was sly, sir; devilish sly! 1865 *Sat. Rev.* 11 Feb. 162/2 He is slyer, less easy to fix with the responsibility of his actions. 1874 MOTLEY *John of Barneveld* I. ii. 131 Smoothest and sliest of diplomatists.

b. Of animals, etc. *To run sly* (see quot. 1845). 1640 Sir W. MURE *Wks.* (S.T.S.) II. 6 This slie fox, hunted from hole to hole. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* IX. 613 So talk'd the spirited sly Snake. 1756 tr. *Keysler's Trav.* (1760) I. 119 Whatever might be his fidelity to the duke, he [a wolf] was very sly and malicious to others. 1776– [see SLY-GOOSE]. 1807 CRABBE *Par. Reg.* II. 29 A sly old fish, too cunning for the hook. 1845 YOUATT *Dog* ii. 38 The Scotch greyhound.., instead of depending on his speed alone,..has recourse to occasional artifices in order to intercept the hare, in sporting language, he runs sly.

c. Of looks: Expressive of slyness. 1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* xxxii, Varney has a sly countenance, and a smooth tongue. 1848 DICKENS *Dombey* xiv, The grim sly faces in the squares and diamonds of the floor-cloth..peeped out at him with less wicked eyes.

4. Of actions, things, etc.: Marked or characterized by, displaying or indicating, artifice, craft or cunning; of an insidious or wily nature. *c* 1380 WYCLIF *Wks.* (1880) 321 Freris bildyng..is comuneliche makid bi slyh robbyngis of þe fend. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Nun's Priest's T.* 395 A colfox, ful of sly Iniquitee. *c* 1440 CAPGRAVE *Life St. Kath.* IV. 808 Wherfore I thenke a slyere weye to renne, That hir purpos shal not thus encrees. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VI*, 153 By this pratye cautele and slyghe imposture, was the towne..taken. *a* 1586 SIDNEY *Ps.* XXXV. iii, Let their sly witts unwares destruction gett. 1603 KNOLLES *Hist. Turks* (1621) 98 Still disappointing all the slie designes of the Popes. 1671 MILTON *P. R.* II. 115 Satan with slye preface to return Had left him. *a* 1755 WATTS (J.), Envy..works in a sly and imperceptible manner. 1781 COWPER *Conversation* 744 A mere mask of sly grimace. 1833 HT. MARTINEAU *Berkeley* I. iv. 78 The buyers and sellers will make any kind of sly and circuitous bargain. 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xvii. IV. 69 The Celt found many opportunities of taking a sly revenge.

† **b.** Of words, etc.: Full of duplicity or wile; subtle; disingenuous. *Obs.* 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) VII. 371 Wily and sly silogismes. *c* 1400 *Cursor M.* 27998 (Cotton Galba), If þou euer ..wowid hir with wordes sleghe. *c* 1440 *Jacob's Well* 150 Thrus slye woordys & fayre to make a man wene þat he hath vertu..whan he hath non. 1567 *Gude & Godlie Ball.* 150 Tak gude keip To thame that cumis to the..With subtell Sermonis slie. 1675 BAXTER *Cath. Theol.* II. v. 88 A sly equivocation, turning the question from the *potentia operata* to the *potentia operans*. 1829 LYTTON *Devereux* II. v, He knows not what sly conclusions may be drawn from his premises.

5. Marked or characterized by secrecy or stealth; working, moving, etc., in a stealthy or underhand manner. Also of places: Quiet, secret. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 472/1 Stalkynge, or soft and sly goynge, *serptura*. 1593 SHAKS. *Rich. II*, I. iii. 150 The slye slow houres shall not determinate The datelesse limit of thy deere exile. 1608 TOPSELL *Serpents* (1658) 699 Slie poyson takes the marrow, and eating fire Burning the bowels warm till all consumed. 1641 MILTON *Ch. Govt.* II. iii, That severe assise of survaying and controuling the privatest and sliest manners of all men. *a* 1764 LLOYD *Poet. Professors* Poet. Wks. 1774 I. 35 At some sly corner in the Strand. 1766 GOLDSM. *Vicar W.* vi, I therefore approached my chair by sly degrees to the fire. 1807 J. BARLOW *Columb.* VII. 184 With..the sly watchword whisper'd from the tongue. 1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* xix, Thou canst give a friend a sly place at a mask or a revel now. 1895 A. FORBES *Mem. War & Peace* 102 One of a 'sly patrol' which I was accompanying one July morning.

b. *slang.* Illicit, illegal; esp. *Austr.* in *sly grog* (*seller*, etc.). 1844 *Port Phillip Patriot* 11 July 2/5 An information.. against a party for sly grog selling. 1851 MAYHEW *Lond. Lab.* I. 294/2 A sly trade's always the best for paying, and for selling too. 1858 MCCOMBIE *Hist. Victoria* x. 127 Convicts, who erected huts, and became 'sly grog' sellers. 1875 *Melbourne Spectator* 21 Aug. 190/1 Several vendors of sly-grog were fined.

6. Playfully mischievous or malicious; roguish; waggish. 1764 GRAY *Y. T.* 1 When sly Jemmy Twitcher had smugg'd up his face. 1785 BURNS *1st Ep. to J. Lapraik* xiv, A spunk o' Allan's glee, Or Ferguson's, the bauld an' slee. 1800 MRS. HERVEY *Mourtray Fam.* I. 156 Looking, with a sly wink, at Emma. 1805 N. NICHOLLS *Corr. w. Gray* (1843) 45 The sly, delicate, and exquisitely elegant pleasantry of La Fontaine. 1833 TENNYSON *Miller's Daughter* 133 And so it was—half-sly, half-shy, You would, and would not, little one.

7. In special collocations, as **sly bread, -bream, -cake, silurus** (see quots.); also † **sly-cap**, a sly or cunning person. 1681 OTWAY *Soldier's Fort.* IV. i, Ah, villain! Ah, sly-cap! have I caught you? 1836 YARRELL *Brit. Fishes* I. 403 The Sly Silurus, *Silurus glanis*. 1854 OWEN in *Orr's Circ. Sci., Org. Nat.* I. 181 The sly-bream (*Sparus insidiator* of Pallas). 1855 [ROBINSON] *Whitby Gloss., Sly-cakes*, tea-cakes plain and uninviting on the outside, but when eaten are found full of currants and richness within. They are also called *Cheats*. *a* 1887 *Cassell's Dict. Cookery* s.v., Sly Bread, or Bread Fritters (an economical sweet dish).

8. *Comb.*, as *sly-tongued*. *c* 1730 RAMSAY *Fables, Fox & Rat* 30 Dragon, lord chief treasurer, must pay To sly-tongu'd Fleechy.

† **B.** *adv.* In a sly, skilful, or cunning manner; slyly. Also *Comb.*, as *sly-couched*. *Obs.* *a* 1306 *Cursor M.* 8420 Þow de him for to foster slei, To be lered him-self to lede. 1370-80 *Visions St. Paul* 125 in *O. E. Misc.* 226 Þe Awngel seide to him ful sleih, 'Þei vsuden Ocur and vsuri'. *a* 1406 *Rom. Rose* 7449 For semblant was so slye wrought, That falsnesse he ne espyed nought. 1628 FELTHAM *Resolves* I. xxxv, Satan began first hesitations, and his sly-couch'd Oratory. *a* 1802 *Katharine Jaffray* viii. in Child *Ball.* IV. 220/2 Up then spak Lord Faughanwood, An he spak very slee.

C. *absol.* or as *sb.* **1.** *pl.* Skilful or crafty persons. † Also *sing.*, one who is skilled or cunning. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 7405 A monek he sende him in message, & dude as þe sley. *a* 1320 *Sir Tristr.* 271 And euer he dede as þe sleize. *Ibid.* 379 O lond þai sett þat sleize. *c* 1400 *Pride of Life* in *Non-Cycle Myst. Plays* 94 Þou spekis noȝt as þe sleye. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* x. 382 On the syllat full sternly straik that sle.

2. *On* (*upon, under*, or *by*) *the sly*, in a secret, clandestine, or covert manner; without publicity or openness; secretly, covertly, stealthily. (*a*) 1812 J. H. VAUX *Flash Dict.* s.v., Any business transacted, or intimation given, privately, or under the rose, is said to be done *upon the sly*. 1866 READE *G. Gaunt* (ed. 2) III. 102 A certain farmer's man, who wired hares upon the sly. (*b*) 1825 *Sporting Mag.* XVI. 330 We should find them ever on the 'sly', as it is called. 1851 MAYHEW *Lond. Lab.* I. 387/1 They sold it..to ladies that liked a drop on the sly. 1888 BRYCE *Amer. Commw.* III. xc. 234 Prominent politicians came to seek favours from him on the sly. (*c*) 1840 LONGF. *Span. Student* III. v, As soon as you see the planets are out, in with you, and be busy with the ten commandments, under the sly. (*d*) 1859 GEO. ELIOT *A. Bede* vii, Mrs. Poyser..continually gazed at Hetty's charms by the sly. 1861 *Rom. Dull Life* XXX. 218 It seems to me disgraceful to do things by the sly, that you dare not have known.

Sly (slai), *v. Sc.* and *U.S.* [f. SLY *a.*] *intr.* To move, go, etc., in a sly or stealthy manner; to slip unobserved; to slink. For other Scottish dial. senses, see *Jamieson's Dict.* s.v. *Slee* and *Sly*. 1825 JAMIESON *Suppl.*, To *Sly*, to go or approach silently and slily. 1845 S. JUDD *Margaret* I. xi. (1871) 64 She would creep from her room and sly into the street. 1888 *The Advance* (Chicago) 6 Dec., Nobody noticed Caddie slying along to the desk where the teacher had laid the switch.

† **Sly**, var. of *sli* SLIKE *a.*, such. *Obs.* *c* 1375 *Cursor M.* 12052 (Fairf.), Quy dos þou, sone, on sly manere.

Sly, obs. form of SLAY *v.*

† **Sly-band**, variant of SLEE-BAND *Obs.* 1762 MILLS *Pract. Husb.* I. 256 This [Rotherham] plough, of which AB is the beam,..NP the bridle, S the sly-band.

Sly-boot(s. Also **slyboot(s.** *colloq.* [f. SLY *a.* + BOOT *sb.*3] A sly, cunning, or crafty person; one who does things on the sly. Freq. in mild or jocular use, and usually in plural form. *pl.* *a* 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew, Sly-boots*, a seeming Silly, but subtil Fellow. 1701 CIBBER *Love Makes a Man* II. i, Look, look,—look, o' Sly-boots; what, she knows nothing of the Matter! 1774 GOLDSM. *Retaliation* 28 That sly-boots was cursedly cunning to hide 'em. 1833 T. HOOK *Parson's Daus.* III. ii, Had there been any body to watch the venerable sly-boots. 1897 RHOSCOMYL *White Rose Arno* 49 But, Ithel, you are a slyboots too; pretending to read for the law! *transf.* 1838 EMERSON *Address Literary Ethics* Wks. (Bohn) II. 212 Truth is such a flyaway, such a slyboots. 1894 HALL CAINE *Manxman* III. xxi, 'Oh, but the sun is an old sly-boots', she answered. *sing.* ?1730 SWIFT *Dan Jackson's Reply* Wks. 1755 IV. I. 256, I much suspect you mean the latter, Ah sly-boot! 1810 *Splendid Follies* I. 97 Yes you do,..you young slyboot, only you won't understand.

Sly-goose. *Orkney.* Also **slygoose.** [f. SLY *a.* + GOOSE *sb.*] The sheldrake, *Tadorna cornuta* or *T. vulpanser*. 1776 PENNANT *Brit. Zool.* (ed. 2) II. 500 From this instinctive cunning..the natives of the Orknies to this day call them [sheldrakes] the *sly goose*. 1793 *Statist. Acc. Scotl., Orkney* VII. 546 The dunter or eider duck, the sly goose, the awk. 1822 HIBBERT *Desc. Shetl. Isl.* 408 The shieldrake, or slygoose, builds in these rabbit burrows.

Sly-grog: see SLY *a.* 5 b.

Slyish (slai·iʃ), *a.* [f. SLY *a.* + -ISH.] Somewhat or rather sly; roguish. 1828 *Mirror* X. 348/2 This chap was a slyish young dog. 1886 STEVENSON *Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde* 31 A..smooth-faced man of fifty, with something of a slyish cast perhaps.

Slyly, slily (slai·li), *adv.* Forms: α, 3 **slah-**, 4 **slehliche, sleȝlych**; 4–5 **sleȝ-**(4 **sleeȝ-**, 5 **sleȝe-**), 5 **sleghly, -li**; 4 **sleiȝli**, 5 **-ly**; 5–6 **sleighely**. β. 4–5 **slely** (5 **scle-**), 6 **slelie**; 4 **sleyli, -ly**; **sleili**, 5 **-ly**, 6 **-lye**, *Sc.* **slealie, -lye**, 5–6, *Sc.* 8– **sleely**. γ. 4 **slyh-, slihly**, 4–5 **sliȝli** (4–5 **-lich**), 5 **slyȝly**, 6 **slygh(e)-, slighly**. δ. 4 **slilich**, 4– **slily** (6 **slilye**, 7 **sliely**). ε. 4 **slylich**, 4– **slyly** (5 **slyely**). [f. SLY *a.* + -LY 2. Cf. ON. *slœgliga*, MSw. *slögeliga*.]

1. † **a.** Cleverly, skilfully, dexterously; wisely. *Obs.* **b.** Cunningly, artfully; covertly, secretly, stealthily, quietly. α. *c* 1205 LAY. 8586 He ferde ut of Doure..in to ane muchele slæde & slahliche his folc hudde. ?*c* 1370 CHAUCER *Troylus* V. 83 He ful soft and sleighely gan hire seye, 'Now hold youre day'. *c* 1380 *Sir Ferumb.* 3509 þan þay be-speken how he myȝt Sleȝlych a-scape out of þe syȝt. 1393 LANGL. *P. Pl.* C. VII. 107 For to slee hym slehliche slehthes ich by-þenke. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 12690 [Þai] letyn sailes doune slide sleghli & faire. *a* 1425 tr. *Arderne's Treat. Fistula*, etc. 4 Answere he sleiȝly to thingis y-asked, that he be noȝt y-take in his wordes. β. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 9404 In paradis he did him rest, And sleili slepe apon him kest. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* XIX. 538 On the ferrer syd Toward thame slely can he ryd. *c* 1400 *Laud Troy Bk.* 913 The lady rauȝte A fair ymage and him by-tauȝte, And bad him sclely with him bere. *c* 1440 *Gesta Rom.* lxxi. 390 (Addit. MS.), Was neuer soule so slely wonne and sauyd. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* I. vi. 77 Sielie with ane knyfe, Or he was war, [he] reft Sicheus the lyfe. 1584 *Leg. Bp. St. Androis* 909 Maister Jhone Dowglass weill can tell, How slealie he deceavit him sell. 1722 RAMSAY *Three Bonnets* IV. 5 [She] sleely, when he did appear, About his sucess 'gan to speer. γ. *c* 1350 *Will. Palerne* (Roxb.) 29 He slod sliȝli a doun a slepe ful harde. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 130 So slihly cam it noght aboute That thei ne ben discoevered oute. 1412–20 LYDG. *Chron. Troy* IV. 4507 Lo, how he serpent of discord can glyde Ful slyȝly in. *c* 1449 PECOCK *Repr.* II. ix. 194 The feend hath deceyued sliȝli and wiȝlily men..whiche han worschipid ymagis. *a* 1470 H. PARKER *Dives & Pauper* (W. de W. 1496) I. lxiv. 108/2 How pryuely and how slyghely they may begyle her euen crysten. 1580 SIR H. COBHAM in *Cal. State Papers, For., Eliz.* 143 [There are ways and means used] slieghly. δ. 13.. *Cursor M.* 11231 (Gött.), Bot sliliker he come and ȝede. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) II. 41 Me may noust seile by þis swolwe but slily at þe ful see. 1393 LANGL. *P. Pl.* C. XII. 266 Dauid þe douhty þat deuynede how vrye Mighte slilokeste be slayn. 1594 SHAKS. *Rich. III*, IV. iv. 3 Heere in these Confines slily haue I lurkt. 1676 HUBBARD *Happiness of People* 58 Yet doth this sin slily insinuate it self into the heart of the forwardest Professors. 1728 MORGAN *Hist. Algiers* II. iv. 273 The Letter dropped under the Bank on which he sate rowing,..but a Spanish Renegado..took it up slily. 1760–72 H. BROOKE *Fool of Qual.* (1809) I. 78 They slily crouded behind the door,..ready to issue, in an instant. 1833 HT. MARTINEAU *Charmed Sea* vii. 111 But would they not be slily kept for money? 1869 SWINBURNE *Ess. & Stud.* (1875) 205 The Chorus, secretly reassured and slily hopeful. *transf.* 1651 DAVENANT *Gondibert* III. ii. 17 Beneath that shade Two Rivers slily steal. 1686 J. MOYLE *Abstract Sea Chyrurg.* X. 113 A Catarrh is a Rhume that has taken a habit of trickling slily down the *Aspera arteria*. ε. *c* 1385 CHAUCER *L. G. W.* 2045 *Ariadne*, So slyly & so wel I shal me gye. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) I. 91 þey feyneþ for to flee..þat þey mowe þe slyloker here enemyes wynne and slee. *a* 1450 MYRC 554 Thenne moste þou slyly Aske of hem [etc.]. 1474 CAXTON *Chesse* IV. ii, (1883) 168 Hit is necessarye that he goo temperatly and slyly. 1509 BARCLAY *Shyp of Folys* (1570) 190 Death dayly stealeth slyly on thee. 1593 SHAKS. 3 *Hen. VI*, I. i. 3 While we pursu'd the Horsmen of yᵉ North, He slyly stole away. 1624 GATAKER *Transubst.* 185 Which he slyly passeth by, and maketh not a word of. ~~1738~~ J. FISHER *Value of Divine Truth* (1803) 10 These set themselves in opposition to all Confessions, whether more openly or more slyly. 1812 CRABBE *Tales* xiii. 297 So we can slyly our amusements take. 1848 MRS. JAMESON *Sacr. & Leg. Art* (1850) 87 A boy is slyly appropriating the money which the apostle has thrown down. 1878 *Masque of Poets* 32 Fate follows faster And snares us slyly from behind.

2. In a playfully mischievous or malicious manner; with a touch of malice or ridicule; roguishly, waggishly. 1837 DICKENS *Pickw.* XXXI, The clerk winked slily at Mr. Pickwick. 1873 M. COLLINS *Sq. Silchester's Whim* I. iii, 42 'It might tempt some people', said Mrs. Silchester slyly.

† **3.** Used for SLIGHTLY *adv.* 4. (Perh. an error.) 1582 STANYHURST *Æneis* IV. (Arb.) 103 Why the Lauin regions, and stock, he so slilye reputteth? *Ibid.* 104 You buyld a cittye, youre owne state slilye regarding.

Slyne, variant of SLINE *sb.*

Slyness (slai·nés). Also 4 **slegh-**, 5 **sleey-**, 8–9 *Sc.* **slee-**, 7 **sliness**(e. [f. SLY *a.* + -NESS.] The quality or state of being sly († or wise). 1357 *Lay Folks Catech.* 424 The fift vertu..[is] slegh[t]e or sleghness (L. *prudencia*). 1382 WYCLIF *Ecclus.* xix. 22. Ther is certeyn sleeynesse, and it is wicke. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 459 Slynesse, *idem quod* sleythe. 1530 PALSGR. 271 Slynesse, *finesse*. 1603 KNOLLES *Hist. Turks* (1621) 1130 Most good men detesting the slightnes of the one, the ambition of the other, and the slinesse of the third.. 1718 SWIFT *Sheridan's Submission* iv, Then, with wonted wile and slyness, They left me in the lurch. 1791 A. WILSON *Poems & Lit. Prose* (1876) 18–23 In Allan's verse sage sleeness we admire. 1822 HAZLITT *Table-t.* I. iv. 86 The eye turned round to look at you without turning the head indicates generally slyness or suspicion. 1885 *Manch. Exam.* 22 Sept. 5/3 There is a certain slyness and caution about him.

b. A sly or covert allusion. *rare.* 1823 MOORE *Fables* ii. 106 And satires at the Court they, levelled, And small lampoons, so full of slynesses.

† **Slyp.** *Obs.*–1 (Meaning uncertain.) 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 1264 He..bresten vp þe ȝates, [they] Slouen alle at a slyp þat serued þer-inne.

Slype (slaip). *Arch.* [Perhaps a special sense of SLIPE *sb.*2, but cf. WFlem. *slipe, slijpe* a secret path.] A covered way or passage, esp. one leading from the transept of a cathedral or monastic church to the chapter-house. 1861 G. G. SCOTT *Westm. Abbey* 37 It occupies a space which is very frequent in abbeys, intervening between the transept and the entrance to the chapter-house, and often called by the expressive name of 'the slype'. 1865 *Ecclesiologist* XXV. 207 The Slype was the passage which led to the cemetery lying usually between the transept and chapter house. 1884 *19th Cent.* Jan. 104 Where the transept

ended there usually came a narrow passage called a slype. 1888 *Daily News* 6 Sept. 6/5 The stones form part of the vaulting of the slype or corridor leading to the old burial ground of the monks.
attrib. 1896 *Westm. Gaz.* 11 Sept. 3/1 Examples of twelfth-century work..may be seen on the slype door of the south transept of St. Alban's Abbey.

Slyper: see SWORD-SLIPER.

† Slyre. *Sc. Obs.* [ad. LG. *sleier, slijer*, G. *schleier* fine linen, veil.] A fine kind of linen or lawn. Also *slyre-lawn*.
1621 *Sc. Acts, Jas. VI* (1816) IV. 626/1 That no persoun..weare vpoun bair bodies tifneis, Cobwebe, Lanes, or Slyires. 1661 *Ibid., Chas II* (1820) VII. 254 Slyreland [=-lawn] ilk hundreth ells, three ounces.

† Sly·ship. *Obs.*—[1] In 4 **sleihschupe, -schipe.** [f. SLY *a.* + -SHIP.] Skill, cleverness.
c 1320 *Cast. Love* 801 Foure vertues cardinals þer beoþ: þat is, strengþe and sleihschupe [*v.r.* sleihschipe], Rihtfulnesse and worschupe.

Slyte, obs. form of SLEET *sb.*[1]; var. of SLITE *v.*

Slyther(nesse, obs. forms of SLITHER(NESS.

Smack (smæk), *sb.*[1] Forms: 1 smæc, 3–4 smac (*Orm.* smacc), 4–6 **smak** (6 **smake**), 5–6 **smakke**, 4–7 **smacke**, 6– **smack.** [OE. *smæc*, =OFris. *smek*, MDu. *smac*, MLG. *smak* (LG. *smakk*, *schmakk*; also Sw. *smak*, Da. *smag*), OHG. and MHG. *smac*, *smach* (G. dial. *schmack*; cf. G. *geschmack*). Slightly different in formation are OFris. *smaka* (WFris. *smaek*), MDu. *smake* (Kilian *smaeck*; Du. *smaak*), MLG. *smake* (LG. *smâk*, *schmaak*). See also SMATCH *sb.*[1]]

I. 1. A taste or flavour; the distinctive or peculiar taste of something, or a special flavour distinguishable from this.
a 1000 in Wr.-Wülcker 225 *Dulcis sapor, i. dulcis odor*, swete smæc. *c* 1050 *Ibid.* 455 *Nectar*,..þone swetan smæc. *c* 1200 ORMIN 1653 Forr witt and skill iss wel inoh þurrh sallitess smacc bitaenedd. *Ibid.* 14294 Swa summ þe33 waterr wærenn, Off wikke smacc. 1340 *Ayenb.* 112 Þet is kynges mete huerinne byeþ ech manyere lykinges and alle guode smackes. *a* 1400 *Stockh. Medical MS.* ii. 608 in *Anglia* XVIII. 322 Of hennebane arn spycys iij..Alle wyll sauour an hidhows smak. *c* 1475 HENRYSON *Poems* (S. T. S.) III. 152 It wilbe þe softar and sweittar of þe smak. *a* 1536 *Proverbs* in *Songs, Carols*, etc. (E. E. T. S.) 128 Thowgh peper be blak, it hath a good smak. 1578 LYTE *Dodoens* II. lxxxv. 263 The leaues..are of a very strong and pleasant sauour, and good smacke or taste. 1606 J. CARPENTER *Solomon's Solace* xxviii. 118 Those vessels will long retaine and yeeld the smack of that liquor which was in them first steeped. 1675 EVELYN *Terra* (1729) 29 Every plant has a smack of the Root. 1710 T. FULLER *Pharm. Extemp.* 1 Midling Ale..that hath no burnt, musty, or otherwise ill smack. 1761 CHURCHILL *Rosciad* Wks. 1763 I. 24 And Boniface, disgrac'd, betrays the smack..of Falstaff's sack. 1823 J. BADCOCK *Dom. Amusem.* 21 It possesses a dull, acidulous, offensive smack, and an empyreumatic smell. 1873 BROWNING *Red Cott. Nt.-cap* 245 And now, for perfume, pour Distilment rare,..Till beverage obtained the fancied smack.

b. *fig.* or in fig. context.
1340 *Ayenb.* 177 Efterward me ssel lete þane smak of zenne. 1593 in *Lyly's Wks.* (1902) III. 451 Experience bids me..champe the bridle of a bitter smacke. 1690 DRYDEN *Amphitryon* I. i, He's constant to a handsome family; he knows when they have a good smack with them. 1850 THACKERAY *Pendennis* xli, There are works of all tastes and smacks.

† c. Pleasant or agreeable taste or relish. *Obs.*
1573 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 132 Least Doue and the cadow, there finding a smack, with ill stormie weather doo perish thy stack. 1600 TOURNEUR *Trans. Metam.* xxix. 202 If this sweet sinne still feedes him with her smacke.

† 2. Scent, odour, smell. *Obs.*
a 1000 [see sense 1]. *c* 1250 *Owl & Night.* 823 Þenne is þes hundes smel fordo; he not þurh þe meynde smak hweþer he achal vorþ þe abak. 1549 E. ALLEN *Par. Rev.* 19 A cat of ye mountayne.., whiche with her smacke and savour, draweth many beastes unto her.

3. *transf.* A trace, tinge, or suggestion *of* something specified.
Common *c* 1570–1680, and in mod. use.
1539 CROMWELL in Merriman *Life & Lett.* (1902) II. 173 To powre in som smak of the pure lernying of Cristes doctrine amonges them. 1577 B. GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* III. (1586) 138 b, Whatsoeuer commeth of an olde stocke, hath lightly a smack of his olde parentes imperfection. 1602 *2nd Pt. Return fr. Parnass.* II. vi, Good faith, the boy begins to haue an elegant smack of my stile. 1639 FULLER *Holy War* IV. viii. (1840) 191 The others were suspected to have a smack of the imperial faction. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 233/1 The Orcadians..use the Gothish Language, which they derive from the Norwegians,..of whose qualities they still have a smack.
1845 S. AUSTIN *Ranke's Hist. Reform.* II. 75 Graceful poems—not the less attractive for a slight smack of the workshop. 1874 BURNAND *My Time* xxix. 280 A smack of real earnestness in his tone.

† b. A slight or superficial knowledge; a smattering. Chiefly in phr. *to have a smack of, at*, or *in* something. *Obs.*
(*a*) 1551 ROBINSON tr. *More's Utopia* (1895) 9 If it be one that hath a lytell smacke of learnynge. 1581 MULCASTER *Positions* xxxvii. (1887) 144 Bycause they haue some petie smake of their booke. *c* 1618 MORYSON *Itin.* IV. 229 Hauing gott a smacke of the growndes of our lawe. 1685–90 J. COOD *Wonderful Provid.* (1849) 104 A very young man..who had got a smack of the Latin tongue. 1791 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Rom. Forest* (1820) I. 66, I learned a smack of boxing of that Englishman.
(*b*) 1579 LYLY *Euphues* (Arb.) 151 Whereby he may..haue in al sciences a smacke, whereby he may readily dispute of any thing. 1602 *2nd Pt. Return fr. Parnass.* III. i, He hath also a smacke in poetry. 1679 M. MASON *Tickler Tickled* 2 For Padge hath a Smack at Latin, but let them English it that will.

c. A mere tasting, a small quantity, *of* liquor; a mouthful. Also *fig.*
1693 DRYDEN *Persius* iv. 69 He 'says the wimble, often draws it back, And deals to thirsty servants but a smack. 1759 GARRICK *High Life below Stairs* II, He has had a smack of every sort of wine. 1766 ANSTEY *New Bath Guide* (ed. 2) 135 May I venture to give Her a Smack of my Muse? 1824 W. IRVING *Tales Trav.* I. 18 A relish of the Marquis's well-known kitchen, and a smack of his superior Champagne and Burgundy. 1865 J. HATTON *Bitter Sweets* iii, We'll just have one smack of the liquor before you're off to Helswick.

d. A touch or suggestion *of* something having a characteristic odour or taste.
1848 DICKENS *Dombey* vii, There was a smack of stabling in the air of Princess's Place. 1886 STEVENSON *Silverado Sq.* 34 A rough smack of resin was in the air. 1889 DOYLE *Micah Clarke* 320 A gentle breeze, sweet with the smack of the country.

II. † 4. a. The sense or faculty of taste. *Obs.*
So OFris. *smek*, G. (*ge*)*schmack*, etc.
a 1200 *Vices & Virtues* 17 Ȝesihthe, Ȝeherhþe, smac, and smell, and tactþe.

† b. *fig.* Delight or enjoyment; inclination, relish. Chiefly in phrases. *Obs.*
1340 *Ayenb.* 33 He..to-ualþ ine þa slacnesse þet he ne heþ smak, ne deuocion, wel to done. 1551 ROBINSON tr. *More's Utopia* II. (1895) 254 So quyckelye they haue taken a smacke in couetesenes. 1580 LYLY *Euphues* (Arb.) 426 Philautus had taken such a smacke in the good entertainment. 1609 *Ev. Woman in Hum.* II. i, I haue no appetite at all to liue in the countrie.., now, as they say, I have got a smacke on the Cittie. 1620 SHELTON *Quix.* III. xi. I. 231 She hath a very great Smack of Courtship, and plays with every one.

Smack (smæk), *sb.*[2] Also 6 **smacke.** [Related to SMACK *v.*[2] Cf. MDu. *smack* (Kilian *smacke*; Du. and Fris. *smak*), LG. *smacke*, G. dial. *schmacke*; also Da. *smæk*, Sw. *smäck*.]

1. A sharp noise or sound made by separating the lips quickly, esp. in kissing, and in tasting or anticipating food or liquor.
1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 5 Y^e^ smacke of a kisse, *suauium*. 1596 SHAKS. *Tam. Shrew* III. ii. 180 Hee..kist her lips with such a clamorous smacke, that at the parting all the Church did eccho. 1679 DRYDEN *Limberham* I. i, She has a notable Smack with her! I believe Zeal first taught the Art of Kissing close. 1712 STEELE *Spect.* No. 508 ₱ 3 Tasting the Wine with a judicious Smack. 1739 R. BULL tr. *Dedekindus' Grobianus* 142 The Dogs may lick it with a sav'ry Smack. 1838 D. JERROLD *Men of Character* (1851) 10 She ..gave me such a salute, a team two fields away went gallop off at the smack. 1878 BROWNING *Poets Croisic* 116 With smack of lip, and long-drawn sigh through teeth Close clenched o'er satisfaction.

b. A loud or sounding kiss.
1604 T. M. *Black Bk.* in *Middleton's Wks.* (Bullen) VIII. 24 The slave..bussed the bawd for joy: when presently I left them in the midst of their wicked smack. 1651 J. CLEVELAND *Poems* 2 Love prints her Signets in her smacks, Those Ruddy drops of squeezing wax. 1729 GAY *Polly* II. ix, Come, noble captain, take one hearty smack upon her lips, and then steer off. 1786 MRS. A. M. BENNETT *Juvenile Indiscr.* I. 97 Giving the females first a warm smack round. 1815 SCOTT *Guy M.* xxiv, 'Whisht! whisht! gudewife,' said her husband, with a smack that had much more affection than ceremony in it.
transf. 1809 MALKIN *Gil Blas* II. viii. ₱ 3 Bestowing such hearty smacks upon the bottle, as to empty it very shortly.

2. The crack *of* a whip, lash, etc.
1781 COWPER *Expost.* 519 Thy soldiery..Were train'd beneath his lash, and knew the smack. 1803 tr. *P. Le Brun's Mons. Botte* II. 10 Five or six smacks of a whip roused their attention. 1825 *Sporting Mag.* XVII. 36 Old coachmen..like a smack of the whip. 1901 *Daily Express* 28 Feb. 6/7 At the first swishing smack of the lash.

3. A sounding blow delivered with the flat of the hand or something having a flat surface; a slap.
Also fig. *a smack in the face*, a sharp rebuff.
c 1746 J. COLLIER (Tim Bobbin) *View Lanc. Dial.* (1775) 58 Th' bigger rascot should ha' th' bigger smacks on moor on um. 1789 WOLCOT (P. Pindar) *Ep. to falling Minis.* Wks. 1812 II. 127 Just now and then a gentle smack To inform his Royal Colt what Being rode him. 1827 G. HIGGINS *Celtic Druids* 128 A naughty or saucy boy, at school, often gets a smack on the face. 1886 STEVENSON *Kidnapped* iii, He jumped up..and hit me a smack upon the shoulder.

b. A vigorous or powerful hit with a cricket-bat.
1875 *Lillywhite's Cricketers' Ann.* 26 Two tremendous 'smacks' over the chains sent the crowd into raptures.

c. *colloq.* A slap or go *at* something.
1889 *Pall Mall G.* 30 Dec. 2/2, I am longing to have a smack at these Matabeles.

† 4. (See quot.) *Obs.*—[1]
1798 JANE AUSTEN *Lett.* (1884) I. 169 The ball on Thursday was a very small one indeed, hardly so large as an Oxford Smack.

Smack (smæk), *sb.*[3] *Naut.* Also 7 **smacke.** [prob. a. Du. *smak*, earlier *smacke* (Kilian), = LG. *smakke*, *smak* (Da. *smakke*, Sw. *smacke*), G. *schmack*(*e*. The source, and the relation to F. *semaque*, Sp. *esmaque*, Pg. *sumaca*, are uncertain.]
1. A single-masted sailing-vessel, fore-and-aft rigged like a sloop or cutter, and usually of light burden, chiefly employed as a coaster or for fishing, and formerly as a tender to a ship of war.
1611 [see 2]. 1684 E. CHAMBERLAYNE *Pres. St. Eng.* II. (ed. 12) 245 The Gravesend Smack. 1689 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 2468/4 Yesterday came in here a Ketch and a small Smack from the Fleet. 1696 *Phil. Trans.* XIX. 350 Plenty of large Soals, taken in Troul-Nets, the Smacks being under Sail trailing them along. 1740 WOODROOFE in Hanway *Trav.* (1762) I. II. xvii. 74 They had..on the stocks..five smacks of one hundred and eighty tons. 1750 BLANCKLEY *Naval Expos.* 150 Smacks are necessary Transporting Vessels, with one Mast and half Spreet-sail. 1801 NELSON 4 Aug. in Nicolas *Disp.* (1845) IV. 440 Pray send one of the Smacks to Hosely Bay with my letter to Sir Edward Berry. 1827 O. W. ROBERTS *Voy. Centr. Amer.* 169 A small smack of about fifteen tons burden. 1877 BLACK *Green Past.* xxix, Not dangerously for ourselves, but for the anchored schooners and smacks.

b. *U.S.* A fishing-vessel having a well in which fish may be kept alive.
a 1891 *Fisherman's Memorial Bk.* 70 (Cent.), Many of them were made into smacks, so-called, which was done by building a water-tight compartment amidships, and boring holes in the bottom to admit salt-water, and thus the fish were kept alive.

2. *attrib.*, as *smack commander, -master, -owner*; *smack-load*; *smack-sail, vessel*, etc.; **smack-boat** *U.S.*, = sense 1 b (*Cent. Dict.*).
1611 COTGR., *Catepleure*,..a smacke, or mizzen sayle. 1683 HEDGES *Diary* 25 Aug. I. 105, 2 Sloops of about 25 Ton apiece, with Smack Sailes. 1688 SIR C. SHOVEL in *Naval Chron.* VI. 32, I may have..some other smack vessell. 1737 J. CHAMBERLAYNE *St. Gt. Brit.* (ed. 33) II. 67 A Smack Commander. 1750 BLANCKLEY *Naval Expos.* 149 Shoulder of Mutton, Square, Lugg, and Smack Sails. 1871 *Daily News* 22 Sept., The principal ship-owners and smack-owners of the port of Ipswich. 1885 *Manch. Exam.* 4 Feb. 4/7 Three Yarmouth smackmasters charged with piracy on the high seas. 1888 GOODE *Amer. Fishes* 94 In the year 1831.. a smack-load of Scuppaugs arrived in Boston.

Smack (smæk), *v.*[1] Also 4, 6–7 **smacke**, 4–5 **smakke.** [f. SMACK *sb.*[1] Cf. MHG. *smacken* (G. *schmacken*), NFris. *smak*, Icel. *smakka* (from G.). For variant forms see SMAKE *v.* and SMATCH *v.*]

1. *trans.* Of persons: To perceive by the sense of taste. **† Also** *fig.*, to experience; to suspect.
1340 *Ayenb.* 93 Huo þet hedde wel ytasted and ysmacked þe ilke zuetnesse þet god yeſþ to his urendes. *Ibid.* 106 Huanne þe man onderuangþ þise yeſþe he..smackeþ and ueliþ þe zuetnesse of god. *a* 1550 *Image Hypocr.* I. 48 in *Skelton's Wks.* (1843) II. 414/1 We..Must sey that white is blacke, Or elles they sey we smacke, And smell we wote not what. 1591 GREENE *Conny Catch.* I. Wks. (Grosart) X. 17 If he smack the setter, and smels a rat by his clawing,.. then away goes the setter. 1648 HEXHAM II, *Smaecken ende Proeven*, to Tast, or to Smack a proofe of wine, &c. 1827 CARLYLE *Germ. Rom.* I. 175 He soon smacked the taste of physic hidden in this sweetness.

2. *intr.* Of food, liquor, etc.: To taste (well or ill); to have a (specified) taste or flavour; to taste or savour *of* something.
1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* VII. lxix. (Bodl. MS.), Som bitter þinges..þat smakkeþ [1495 smackyth] of aloye. 1530 PALSGR. 722/1 This veneson smacketh to moche of the pepper. 1573 BARRET *Alv.* s.v., [It] Smacketh like pepper. 1648 HEXHAM II, *Smaeckelick*, that Smacks, Savours, or Tasts well. 1755 SMOLLETT *Quix.* (1803) IV. 271 Your fingers smack of vinegar! 1846 *Edin. Rev.* LXXXIV. 175 The best Xeres that ever smacked of the skin. 1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* I. xi. 73 Tea..had been left a whole night in contact with its leaves, and smacked strongly of tannin.
fig. 1596 SHAKS. *Merch. V.* II. ii. 18 Indeede my Father did something smack, something grow too; he had a kinde of taste. [1813 SCOTT *Let.* in *Lockhart* (1837) III. ii. 64 Our little friend..is, notwithstanding his many excellent qualities, a little on the score of old Gobbo—doth somewhat smack—somewhat grow to.]

b. *fig.* To partake or savour *of*, to be strongly suggestive or reminiscent *of*, something.
Very common in the 19th cent.
1595 SHAKS. *John* I. i. 208 He is but a bastard to the time That doth not smacke of observation, And so am I whether I smacke or no. 1603 — *Meas. for M.* II. ii. 5 All Sects, all Ages smack of this vice. 1657 W. MORICE *Coena quasi Κοινή* v. 60 An argument smacking more of the Beast than rational Creature. 1748 THOMSON *Castle Indol.* I. vi. 53 Whate'er smacked of noyance, or unrest, Was far far off expelled. 1778 HAN. MORE *Florio* I. 177 A mass of knowledge, Which smacks of toil, and smells of college. 1858 J. B. NORTON *Topics* 147 On the other hand, however, this scheme smacks of centralization. 1892 G. S. LAYARD *C. Keene* iii. 65 It was part of his nature to love everything that smacked of antiquity.

c. With adjectival complement.
1847 DISRAELI *Tancred* VI. v, He always calls her a moon or a star; that smacks nocturnal and somewhat sombre.

† 3. To have a trial *at* something. *Obs.*
a 1653 G. DANIEL *Idyll.* v. 69 He smacks at everie Science; and præscribes Rules as he had Quarter'd 'em, into Tribes.

Smack (smæk), *v.*[2] Also 6–7 **smacke.** [Corresponds to MDu. and MLG. *smacken* (Du. and LG. *smakken*, Fris. *smakke*), G. dial. *schmacken*, prob. of imitative origin.]
1. *trans.* To open or separate (the lips) in such a way as to produce a sharp sound; to do this in connexion with eating or drinking, esp. as a sign of keen relish or anticipation.
1557 SEAGER *Sch. Vertue* in *Babees Bk.* 344 Not smackynge thy lyppes As comonly do hogges. 1736 AINSWORTH I, To smack one's lips, *labiis strepitum edere*. 1826 DISRAELI *V. Grey* VI. i, As he smacked his lips after dashing off his glass. 1861 HUGHES *Tom Brown at Oxf.* xli, Tom.. smacked his lips over the long-necked glass. 1872 DARWIN *Emotions* viii. 214 The Australians smacked and clacked their mouths at the sight of his horses.

b. *intr.* or *absol.* Also with *at*.

1608 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. iv. III. *Schisme* 744 The King .. Dreams of the dainties he hath had yer-while, Smacks, swallows, grindes both with his teeth and jawes. 1675 HAN. WOOLLEY *Gentlew. Comp.* 71 Do not smack like a Pig, nor make any other noise which shall prove ungrateful to the company. 1760–2 GOLDSM. *Cit. W.* lxxi. She had praised detestable custard, and smacked at wretched wine. *a* 1764 LLOYD *Fam. Ep. to Friend* 280 Wks. (1790) 280 In vain I taste, and sip and smack, I find no favour of the Sack. 1840 THACKERAY *Shabby-genteel Story* iii, *Mr. Gann.* (Smacks.) 'A fine fruity wine as ever I tasted.' *fig.* *a* 1677 BARROW *Serm.* (1687) I. xvii. 248 He that pleasingly relisheth and smacketh at it, or expresseth a delightfull complacence therein, .. is a sharer in the guilt.

c. *trans.* To taste (wine or liquor) with keen relish or satisfaction.

Perh. influenced by or confused with SMACK *v.*[1]

1822 W. IRVING *Braceb. Hall* vii. (1877) 65 Said the general .. as he smacked a glass of rich burgundy. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* xxi, George, .. filling himself a glass of wine, smacked it. 1850 — *Pendennis* viii, 'But of course', added the Major, smacking the wine [etc.].

2. To kiss noisily or loudly. Now *Obs.* or *dial.*

1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 5/28 To smacke, kisse, *suauiare*. 1570–6 LAMBARDE *Peramb. Kent* (1826) 288 Abusing the lips .. in smacking and kissing the upper leather of an olde shoe, reserved for a Relique. 1586 WARNER *Alb. Eng.* I. II. x. 73 God blesse thee Mouse the Bridegroome sayd, and smakt her on the lips. *a* 1658 CLEVELAND *Old Man Courting* 49 Wks. (1687), Come smack me then my pretty Dear. 1746 FRANCIS tr. *Hor., Sat.* II. v. 134 Your prudent honourable Spouse, It seems, was faithful to her nuptial Vows. But had she .. smack'd Her Cully [etc.]. 1807–8 W. IRVING *Salmag.* (1824) 368 Smacking the lips of all fair ladies the which he did meet. 1825 BROCKETT *N. C. Gloss., Smack*, to kiss with a noise.

†**b.** *To smack calf-skin* (see quot. 1785). *slang.*

1785 GROSE *Dict. Vulgar T.* s.v., To smack calves skin, to kiss the book, i.e. to take an oath. *a* 1791 — *Olio* (1796) 231 But smacking calf-skin to an alibi, I .. brought her off. 1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* xx, Why, I have smacked calf-skin fifty times in England for a keg of brandy.

3. To crack (a whip, thong, etc.).

a 1700 (implied in *smacking-cove*: see SMACKING *ppl. a.* 1). 1728 YOUNG *Love of Fame* v. 126 As she guides it [a horse] thro' th' admiring throng, With what an air she smacks the silken thong. 1780 *Mirror* No. 84, The noise of somebody below, who hooted and hollow'd, smacked his whip. 1826 W. ROBINSON in J. A. Heraud *Voy. & Mem. Midshipm.* xi. (1837) 194 The whip is of very great length ..; it requires both hands to smack it. 1843 LEFEVRE *Life Trav. Phys.* I. ix. I. 197 The four postilions smacked their whips in concert. *absol.* 1812 COMBE *Syntax, Picturesque* xxii. 208 The coachman smack'd, and off they bounc'd.

4. To bring, put, or throw *down* with a smack or slap; to clap (the hands) *together*; to slam (a door) *to*. Also *fig.*

1801 tr. *Gabrielli's Mysterious Husb.* II. 200 The attending servant having smacked to the door, they drove off in a moment. 1834 DE QUINCEY *Autob. Sk.* Wks. 1853 I. 73, I smacked my little kingdom of Gombroon down into the tropics. 1857 HUGHES *Tom Brown* I. iv, Says the guard, smacking his hand down on his knee. 1871 MEREDITH *H. Richmond* v. (1889) 44 He smacked his hands together.

5. To strike (a person, part of the body, etc.) with the open hand or with something having a flat surface; to slap.

1840 THACKERAY *Shabby-genteel Story* ii, The unfeeling girl .. never offered to smack her mamma's hands, .. or to restore her with a glass of water. 1856 F. E. PAGET *Owlet of Owlst.* 167 Won't she smack you all over? 1881 BESANT & RICE *Chapl. of Fl.* I. iv, He smacked his leg with his hand, and burst out laughing.

b. To hit (a ball) vigorously with a cricket-bat. Also *absol.*

1882 *Daily Telegr.* 24 June, Steel supplemented this by smacking the same bowler to the on for a quartette. 1894 GALE *Cricket Songs* 59 The Champion smacked, and the Terror's reign Could not bring his wicket under.

6. *intr.* To make or give out a sharp smacking sound; to crack.

1890 *Fishing Gaz.* 13 Dec. 321/2 Eels are smacking all round in the star-lit water. 1892 LUMSDEN *Sheep-head* 38 The crowd gart muskets smack there.

7. Used with adverbial force. **a.** With, or as with, a smack; suddenly and violently; slap. Also with *down, through*, etc.

1782 COWPER *John Gilpin* 41 Smack went the whip, round went the wheels. 1799 GEO. [IV] in *Paget Papers* (1896) I. 150 He .. tumbled .. smack on his face. 1806 H. SIDDONS *Maid, Wife, & Widow* II. 101 Smack comes a ball from the enemy and carries away his head. 1836 T. HOOK *G. Gurney* I. 239 So away I went—smack bang into a quaker's shop to buy myself a pair of gloves. 1863 W. C. BALDWIN *Afr. Hunting* v. 141 As I ducked under on the lower side he came smack through.

b. Completely, entirely; directly.

1828 WHEWELL in Todhunter *Acc. Writ.* (1876) II. 90 We have got a decision which is smack against us. 1857 MRS. MATHEWS *Tea-Table T.* II. 128 The wind being smack in their teeth the greater part of the voyage. 1864 TYTLER *Hist. Scot.* III. 387 [Cardan] made the bishop smack whole in twenty-four hours.

Sma·cker, *sb.*[1] *rare*—°. [f. SMACK *v.*[1]] One who takes, or has, a smack or taste.

1648 HEXHAM II, *Een Smaecker*, a Taster, a Smacker, or a Savourer.

Sma·cker (smæ·kəɹ), *sb.*[2] [f. SMACK *v.*[2]]

1. One who, or that which, smacks or gives a smack; one who kisses loudly.

1611 COTGR., *Baiseur*, a kisser, smoutcher, smacker. 1860 WORCESTER, *Smacker*, one who, or that which, smacks.

2. A smack.

1775 ASH, *Smacker*, a loud kiss; a smart sounding blow. 1847– in *Eng. Dial. Dict.*

†**Sma·cker,** *sb.*[3] *Obs.*—[1] In 6 **smaker.** [Cf. next.] Smack, taste, savour. In quot. *fig.*

1549 LATIMER *5th Serm. bef. Edw. VI*, P vj, They felte y[e] smaker of thys worlde, a perillous thing.

†**Sma·cker,** *v.* *Obs.*—° [f. SMACK *v.*[2] Cf. G. dial. *schmackern.*] To kiss; to smack the lips.

1598 FLORIO, *Baciare*, to kisse, to smacker. *Ibid., Biasciare*, to smack or smacker in chawing.

†**Sma·ckering,** *vbl. sb.*[1] *Obs.* Also 6 **smak-.** [perh. an alteration of SMATTERING *vbl. sb.*, after SMACK *sb.*[1] or *v.*[1]; but cf. SMACKER *sb.*[3]]

1. A slight or superficial knowledge *in* or *of* something; a smattering.

1579 TOMSON *Calvin's Serm. Tim.* 286/1 When a man beginneth to haue some taste and smakering in any matter whatsoeuer, he thinketh himselfe a greate doctour. 1586 T. B. *La Primaud. Fr. Acad.* (1589) 3 After he had indifferently taught his schollers the Latine toong, and some smackering of the Greeke. 1622 MABBE tr. *Aleman's Guzman d'Alf.* II. 268, I haue some little smackering also in the Liberall Arts. 1644 BULWER *Chiron.* 112 As the Satyrist scoffes at those who had a smackering of the Greeke Tongue.

2. An inclination *towards*, a hankering or longing *after* or *for*, a person or thing.

a 1586 SIDNEY *Arcadia* II. (Sommer) 106 Mopsa (who already had had a certaine smackring towardes me). 1633 FORD *Love's Sacr.* II. i, The duke has a smackering towards you. 1662 COKAINE *Trag. Ovid* v. iii, I must confess I have some smackering that way. 1687 MIÉGE *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II, To have a smackering after a Thing. 1727 BAILEY (vol. II) s.v., To have a Smackering for a Thing, to long for it.

†**Sma·ckering,** *vbl. sb.*[2] *Obs.*—° [f. SMACKER *v.*] (See quots.)

1598 FLORIO, *Bacio*, a kisse, a smackering. *Ibid., Bichiacco*, a smack or smackring with the toong. *Bichiacchie*, iestes, toyes, .. flim-flam tales, smackrings.

Sma·ckful. [f. SMACK *sb.*[3]] As much or as many as a (fishing-) smack can hold or carry.

1890 *Pall Mall G.* 25 June 2/1 When he went to Bremen with a smackful of fish.

Sma·cking, *sb.* [f. SMACK *sb.*[3], after *shipping.*] *attrib.* Owning or employing smacks.

1887 *Standard* 16 Mar. 3/4 Members of large smacking firms.

Smacking (smæ·kiŋ), *vbl. sb.*[1] [f. SMACK *v.*[1]] The action of tasting; a taste, etc.

1648 HEXHAM II, *Een Proevinge*, a Proving, a Tasting, or a Smacking. 1847 TENNYSON *Princ.* Prol. 89 Strange was the sight and smacking of the time.

Smacking (smæ·kiŋ), *vbl. sb.*[2] [f. SMACK *v.*[2]] The action of the vb. in various senses; kissing, or the sound made by this.

1628 EARLE *Microcosm.* (Arb.) 41 His smacking of a Gentle-woman is somewhat too sauory. 1632 J. HAYWARD tr. *Biondi's Eromena* 22 He heard .. the smacking of their kisses. 1668 DRYDEN *Even. Love* Prol. 10 Like the faint smackings of an after-Kiss. 1841 HOOD *Tale of a Trumpet* 402 Smacking of vulgar lips. 1870 R. BROUGH *Marston Lynch* II. 10 A little hard smacking occasionally would be no bad discipline.

attrib. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* II. 689 From time to time it makes a peculiar smacking noise with its lips.

Sma·cking, *ppl. a.* [f. as prec.]

1. That smacks, in senses of the vb.

1592 R. D. *Hypnerotomachia* 94 b, My minde still fixed upon delightfull pleasures and their smacking kisses. 1598 FLORIO, *Bacidazo*, a smacking kisse. *a* 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew, Smacking-cove*, a Coachman. *a* 1704 T. BROWN *Lett. to Gentl. & Ladies* Wks. 1709 III. II. 91 Thou hast the daintiest of smacking Lips in the Universe. 1715 POPE *2nd Ep. to Miss Blount* 26 Some Squire .. Who .. presents you birds, Then gives a smacking buss, and cries,—'No words!' 1896 A. MORRISON *Child Jago* 131 Leary's great fists shot into his face with smacking reports.

2. Of a breeze: Blowing strongly or vigorously; spanking.

1820 W. IRVING *Sketch Bk.* (1859) 6 The wind was blowing a smacking breeze, and we were going at a great rate. 1840 R. H. DANA *Bef. Mast* xxvii, We had a smacking breeze for several hours.

3. *dial.* Exceptionally or unusually large or fine.

1888 *Berks. Gloss.* 150 Ther' be zome smackin' big apples on our tree. 1892 P. H. EMERSON *Son of Fens* 175 You've got some smacking load on there.

Hence **Sma·ckingly** *adv.*

1598 FLORIO, *Basciuccare*, to kisse smackingly. 1611 COTGR., *Succoter*, to sucke gently, and smackingly.

†**Sma·ckly,** *adv. Obs.*—[1] [irreg. f. SMACK *sb.*[2] + -LY [2].] With a smack or loud kiss.

1582 STANYHURST *Æneis* I. (Arb.) 40 Queene Dido shal col the, and smacklye bebasse thee.

Sma·cksman. [SMACK *sb.*[3]] One of the crew of a smack, esp. of a fishing-smack; the owner of a smack.

1883 *St. James's Gaz.* 21 Dec. 6/1 As the object of the smacksman is to clear his ship and start again. 1890 CLARK RUSSELL *Marriage at Sea* vi, A smacksman who has fished in the North Sea in winter.

Smack-smooth, *a.* and *adv.* Chiefly *dial.* or *colloq.* Also **smack smooth.** [f. SMACK *v.*[2] 7 + SMOOTH *a.*]

1. *adj.* Perfectly smooth, level, or even with the surface. Now *dial.*

1755 SMOLLETT *Quix.* IV. 29 Their faces smack-smooth as if they had been clean shaven 1798 *Spirit Public Jrnls.* (1799) II. 29 In fine, the bleeding trunk, smack smooth, with the head only remaining to the body, was immersed in the styptic. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.* 634 *Smack-smooth*, level with the surface; said of a mast which has gone by the board. 1877 *N. W. Line. Gloss.* 229/1 Why, it's as smack-smooth as a gress-plat.

b. *U.S.*[1] (See quot.)

1848 BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.* 409 *Smack smooth*, at the West, a term applied to land which is thoroughly cleared.

2. As complement or *adv.* So as to leave a smooth or level surface.

1788 DIBDIN *Poor Jack* i, Though the tempest top gallant mast smack smooth shall smite. 1833 T. HOOK *Parson's Dau.* I. i, My master .. hated trees; down he had them smack, smooth. 1837 MARRYAT *Dog-Fiend* xxix, A hurricane swept us smack smooth fore and aft.

b. *fig.* Smoothly; without any impediment or obstruction.

1802 H. MARTIN *Helen of Glenross* I. 188 A tour in former times was pleasant enough; went on smack smooth, except a rough road, now and then an Alps, or a Pyrenees.

c. *dial.* In a reckless or random manner; recklessly. 1847– in Lincolnshire dial.

Smad, *v.* *Sc.* *rare.* [Cf. LG. *smaddern* (G. dial. *schmaddern*) to befoul, f. *smadder* (*schmadder*) mud, filth.] *trans.* To cover with dirt or grime; to stain, discolour.

Jamieson (1808) also gives *Smad* 'a stain of any kind'.

c 1450 HOLLAND *Howlat* 825 The barde, smaddit lyke a smaik smorit in a smedy, Ran fast to the dure, and gaif a gret rair. 1808 in JAMIESON.

Smaik. *Sc.* New *arch.* Also 6 **smaike, smayk, smaick, smak(e.** [perh. ad. MDu. or MLG. *smēker, smeiker* (=OHG. *smeichâri*, G. †*schmeicher*), f. *smēken, smeiken* to flatter.] A low, mean, or contemptible fellow; a rascal, rogue.

c 1450 [see SMAD *v.*]. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* VIII. Prol. 133 Quod I, Smak, lat me sleip; sym skynnar the hing. 1546 *St. Papers Hen. VIII* (1836) V. 571 Quhen I wret to 3our Lordschip to do for Salmond, I 'knew nocht þat smaikis falset. 1584 J. CARMICHAEL *Lett.* in *Misc. Wodrow Soc.* (1844) 438 Triumphing over the ministers, and calling them lownes, smaicks, seditious knaves. 1815 SCOTT *Guy M.* xxvi, He was nane o' the smaiks that had been on their quarters on the moss. 1828 — *F. M. Perth* viii, I thought that smaik's name had been Robert. 1897 PRYDE *Queer Folk* 55 Low-born smaik, .. to scandaleese his betters.'

attrib. 1508 DUNBAR *Tua mariit wemen* 213 Quhen the smy on me smyrkis with his smake [*v.r.* smaik] smolet. 1525 *Aberdeen Reg.* XV. 613 (Jam.), Smaik earll, I sell lay vpoun thi lyppis.

†**Smaikry.** *Sc.* *Obs.* *rare.* [f. prec.] Mean or contemptible conduct; roguery, trickery.

1573 *Satir. Poems Reform.* xxxix. 189 Thair febill smaikrie I think ill to tell. With luik lyke Lyounes, and sa lytill done. 1583 *Leg. Bp. St. Androis* 199 When Holie-glass is deid and rotten, His smaikrie sall nocht be forgett.

Smake, obs. form of SMACK *sb.*[1]

†**Smake,** *v.* *Obs.* [ME. *smaken* (f. *smak* SMACK *sb.*[1]), = OFris. *smakia* (EFris. *smake*), MDu. and Du., MLG. and LG. *smaken* (hence Sw. *smaka*, Da. *smage*); later supplanted by SMACK *v.*[1]]

1. *trans.* To perceive by scent or smell.

c 1220 *Bestiary* 4 in *O. E. Misc.*, Þe leun stant on hille, and he man hunten here, Oðer ður3 hise nese smel Smake ðat he ne3e [etc.].

2. *intr.* To smell, give out a (sweet) smell or odour. Also *fig.*, to be redolent *of* something.

c 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 2443 Iosep dede hise lich .. riche-like smeren, And spice-like swete smaken. *c* 1325 SHOREHAM I. 1313 The bysschop .. seyþ, 'tak and by-come redere Of word þat of god smakeþ [L. *redolet*]. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 460/2 Smakyn, or smellyn, *odoro*.

3. *trans.* To taste, or taste of (something). In quots. *fig.*

c 1315 SHOREHAM I. 1600 He hedde y-brout forþe hys bearm-team Wyþ-oute senne i-smaked. *c* 1380 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* (1880) III. 411 Suche beggynge moste smake synne, ouþer in hym þat begges, or in hym þat first schulde helpe hym.

4. *intr.* To have a (certain) taste.

14.. LANGL. *P. Pl.* A. v. 207 (MS. U.), Þe hungriest hound .. Ne durst lape of þat laueyne so vnloveli it smakiþ.

Smaker: see SMACKER *sb.*[3] *Obs.*

Smalca·ldian, *a.* [-IAN.] =next.

1679 NESS *Antichrist* 185 The slaughter of the witnesses .. fulfilled in the Smalcaldian war. 1882–3 SCHAFF *Encycl. Relig. Knowl.* I. 323 During the Smalcaldian War the city sustained a long siege with great heroism.

Smalca·ldic, *a.* [ad. mod.L. *Smalcaldic-us*, f. *Smalcaldia*, ad. G. *Schmalkalden*, a town of Thuringia.] Of or pertaining to Schmalkalden in connexion with the early history of Protestantism.

1668 H. MORE *Div. Dial.* IV. xxxvii. (1713) 395 The condition .. of the Reformation in Germany before the Smalcaldick War. 1716 M. DAVIES *Athen. Brit.* II. 36 Cromwell .. joyning his Master's Interest with that of the Protestant Smalcaldick League in Germany. 1882–3 SCHAFF *Encycl. Relig. Knowl.* II. 1575 After the end of the Smalcaldic war. 1902 GAIRDNER *Hist. Eng. Ch. 16th C.* xii. 237 The princes and cities of the Smalcaldic League .. agreed to support each other .. in defence of the Augsburg Confession.

†**Small,** *sb.*[1] *Obs.* *rare.* [OE. *smæll* (=MIcel. *smell-r*, Norw. *smell*, Sw. *smäll*, Da. *smæld*, also †*smald*), related to **smellan* str. vb. (cf. Icel. *smella*, etc.) and *smyllan* wk. vb., of imitative origin.] A smack or blow; an onset, shock.

c 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* John xviii. 22 An astod ðara ðegna salde dynt *vel* smæll mið honde uutearde ðæm hælende. *c* 1205 Lay. 27052 At þan uorme smællen Romanisce veollen: fiftene hundred folden to grunden.

Small (smɔl), *a.* and *sb.*2 Forms: 1 smæl, 1, 3 smel, 1, 3–7 smal; 3–7 smale, 5 *Sc.* smaill; 5 smalle, 5– small; 6 smaul(e, 5–6 *Sc.* smaw, 8–9 *Sc.* sma', sma. [Common Teutonic: OE. *smæl*, = OFris. *smel* (WFris. *smel*, NFris. *smêl*), MDu. (Du.), OS. (MLG., LG.), OHG. (MHG.) *smal* (G. *schmal*), ON. *smal-r* (rare; Norw., Sw., and Da. *smal*, are perh. mainly from LG.), Goth. *smal-s*; connexion with ON. and Icel. *smá-r* (Norw. and Da. *smaa*, Sw. *små*) small, OHG. *smâhi* (MHG. *smæhe*) insignificant, is doubtful, and relationship to forms outside of Teut. (as OSlav. *malŭ*) somewhat uncertain. In the later Continental languages the prevailing sense is that of 'slender', 'narrow'.

The form *smale*, representing OE. disyllabic forms, is common in ME. and occurs as late as the 17th cent.]

A. *adj.*

I. 1. Of relatively little girth or circumference in comparison with length; not thick, stout, or fleshy; slender, thin. Now *dial.* exc. of the waist.

c 725 *Corpus Gloss.* G 155 *Graciilis*, smel. *c* 888 K. Ælfred *Boeth.* xxix. § 1 Him..ne hangað nacod sweord ofer ðæm heafde be smale þræde. *c* 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* (Rolls) II. 122 Wiþ þam smalan wyrme. *c* 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 207 Smiten of smale longe ȝerden. *c* 1250 *Owl & Night.* 73 Þi body is scort, þi swere is smal. *a* 1310 in Wright *Lyric P.* vi. 28 With middel smal ant wel y-make. *c* 1386 Chaucer *Miller's T.* 48 Fair was the yonge wyf, and therwithal As eny wesil hir body gent and smal. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 460/2 Smalle, as a wande, *gracilis*. 1490 Caxton *Eneydos* xxix. 113 Dydo..[had] handes soupple and thynne, with long fyngers and smalle. 1530 Palsgr. 324/2 Small, lyke a fyne threde or a heare, *delye*. Small as a woman in the waste or a wande, *gresle*. 1590 Sir J. Smyth *Disc. Weapons* 4 Rapier blades being so narrow, and of so small substance. 1621 Burton *Anat. Mel.* 1. i. ii. vi. (1651) 22 A like skin.. struck upon by certaine smal instruments like drum sticks. 1683 Moxon *Printing* xi. P 23 They..prick the Oynion fast upon the end of a small long Stick. 1712 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 5022/2 An Allowance shall be made..in consideration of wast in reducing the same ['big wire'] to small Wire. 1779 *Mirror* No. 25, Now that small waists have come into fashion again. 1818 Moore *Fudge Fam. Paris* i, Like an hour-glass, exceedingly small in the waist. 1870 J. Hartley *Budget* 119 (E.D.D.), He wor soa small he luk'd like a walkin' clooas prop.

b. *spec.* Applied to the more slender portions of the intestines; esp. *small gut(s)*.

c 1000 Ælfric *Gloss.* in Wr.-Wülcker 159 *Ilia*, smæle-þearmas. *c* 1275 *XI Pains of Hell* 152 in *O. E. Misc.*, Ne beo þe þarm ne so smel, Eft heo werpeþ al in al. 1486 [see Gut *sb.* 2]. 1548 Elyot s.v. *Lactes*, Some saye that they bee caules, wherein the small bowelles dooe lye. After other, the small guttes, by the whiche the meate passeth. 1621 Burton *Anat. Mel.* 1. i. ii. iv, The guts, or *intestina*,.. are divided into small and great, by reason of their site and substance, slender or thicker. *a* 1625 [*Comb.*; see Gut *sb.* 2 e]. 1668 Dryden *Even. Love* ii. i, I'll give them leave to make fiddle-strings of my small-guts. 1767 [see Intestine *sb.*]. 1836–48 B. D. Walsh *Aristoph., Knights* iv. i, Slices too Of the small-guts, the belly and the paunch. 1885 Huxley *Elem. Physiol.* vi. 161 The rest of the small intestines is no wider than the duodenum.

†**c.** Of persons, etc.: Slender, slim; graceful. Chiefly in *gent(le) and small. Obs.*

c 1250 *Owl & Night.* 204 þeyh..leof hym w[e]re Nihtingale, And oþer wyhte gent & smale. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 13138 His broþer doghter, gent and smal. *c* 1420 *Sir Amadace* (Camden) liv, The lordes and the lades small That comon wer of gentyll blode. 15.. *Batayle of Egyngecourte* 28 in Hazl. *E. P. P.* II. 94 Grete well, he sayd, your comely kynge, That is bothe gentyll and small. 1591 Shaks. *Two Gentl.* ii. iii. 23 My sister..is as white as a lilly, and as small as a wand.

2. Having little breadth or width in proportion to length; narrow. Now *rare.*

847 *Charter* in *O. E. Texts* 434 Fram smalan cumbes heafde to græwanstane. *c* 893 K. Ælfred *Oros.* 1. i. 18 He sæde ðæt Norðmanna land wære swyðe lang and swyðe smæl. *Ibid.*, Norðeweard he cwæð, þær hit smalost wære, þæt hit mihte beon þreora mila brad to þæm more. *a* 1000 in Birch *Cartul. Sax.* II. 600 Andlangan þes smalan paðes. *c* 1205 Lay. 5867 Scradieð eower sceldes al of þe smal enden. *c* 1386 Chaucer *Prol.* 329 Girt with a ceint of silk, with barres smale. 1387 Trevisa *Higden* (Rolls) I. 165 Dido..kutte þe hyde into a þong þat was ful long and ful smal. 1424 *Mem. Ripon* (Surtees) III. 152 Item pro ij payr smale bandis ad ostia in campanili, 6*d.* 1473 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* I. 16, viij elne of smale rybbanis for the King. 1610 Holland *Camden's Brit.* 183 Cornwall..waxeth smaller and smaller in manner of an horne. *c* 1710 Celia Fiennes *Diary* (1888) 252 Ye rest is filled with haire, Jewells and gold, and white small Ribon. 1803 Plymley *Agric. Shropshire* 339 The small cloth is about one-eighth of a yard narrower than the other.

II. 3. Of limited size; of comparatively restricted dimensions; not large in comparison with other things, esp. of the same kind.

Also used to qualify such words as *dimensions, size.*

a. c 888 K. Ælfred *Boeth.* xvi. § 2 Ða smalan wyrmas ðe ðone mon æȝðer ge innan ge utan wyrdað. *a* 1225 *Juliana* 154 An angel myd a naked swerd..hew it al to smale peces. *c* 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 63/329 Wilde foules, smale and grete. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 375 þe light wit sterns, gret and smale. *c* 1386 Chaucer *Sir Thopas* 49 Ther spryngen herbes grete and smale. *c* 1400 Maundev. (Roxb.) xxii. 100 Þai hafe twa smale holes in steed of eghen. 1488 *Cal. Anc. Rec. Dublin* (1889) 494 A dyche of smale thornes and breres. *c* 1510 Barclay *Mirr. Gd. Manners* (1570) F. iij, The rauen neuer shall sing..like other birdes smale. 1562 A. Scott *Poems* (S.T.S.) i. 220 Smaill sweit smaragde. 1578 *Nottingham Rec.* IV. 52 An ironmonger of smale made wares, videlicet, of nayles, horse shues [etc.].

β. c 1000 *Saxon Leechd.* II. 180 Flæsc..lytelra wuhta, smælra fuȝla. *c* 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 319 Ho-so hath of fuyre mest, he is smal and red. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xl. (*Ninian*) 1445 [It was] smallare sum part..þane þe todire leg had bene. *c* 1391 Chaucer *Astrolabe* 1. § 21 Euery smal deuysioun in a signe. *c* 1420 *Liber Cocorum* (1862) 14 Take peions and hew hom in morselle smalle. 1445 in *Anglia* XXVIII. 271 In noon smal boke thei may be writen. 1530 Palsgr. 324/2 Small as a massyfe thing is of quantite, *petit.* 1560 Rolland *Seven Sages* 26 Ane proper sterne he saw, That was richt cleir perfite and wonder smaw. 1600 J. Pory tr. *Leo's Africa* vii. 290 Abundance of cattell here are both great and small. 1657 Austen *Fruit Trees* 1. 63 Whereas young trees of a smaler sise may be removed with all their Roots. 1737 [S. Berington] *Mem. G. di Lucca* (1738) 174 Their Horses, as I observed before, are but small. 1751 D. Jefferies *Treat. Diamonds* (ed. 2) 20 Small Stones (which means Stones under the weight of a carat). 1825 J. Smith *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 140 The top of the small cylinder, should have a communication with the bottom of the larger cylinder. 1848 Thackeray *Van. Fair* xxxvi, A very small comfortable house in Curzon Street. 1868 Lockyer *Elem. Astron.* § 627 The smaller bodies attract the larger ones.

b. Of places, countries, etc.

a 1000 in Birch *Cartul. Sax.* III. 210 Þat lond at Silham.. and alle þe smale londe þat þere to bereth. 1382 Wyclif *Luke* xiv. 21 Go out soone in to grete stretis and smale streetis of the citee. *c* 1386 Chaucer *Clerk's T.* 427 To thee, that born art of a smal village. 1582 N. Lichefield tr. *Castanheda's Cong. E. Ind.* 1. v. 13 All of them [*sc.* islands] being but little or small. 1611 Bible *Numb.* xxxii. 41 Iair..tooke the small townes. 1630 *R. Johnson's Kingd. & Commw.* 373 This small City is neighbour to two others. 1846 McCulloch *Acc. Brit. Empire* (1854) I. 166 Rutland, the smallest of the English counties. 1869 A. R. Wallace *Malay Archip.* (1902) xix. 221 A small country like Holland..having possession of a very small island.

c. Of children, etc.: Not fully grown or developed; young.

Small boy has become fairly common in recent colloquial use, but is felt to differ in connotation from *little boy*, usually by suggesting greater activity and independence.

c 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 656 Of his kin bi his liue dai;..wel fowre and .xx. ðousent men,..wið-uten wif-kin and childre smale. 14.. W. Paris *Cristine* 141 (Horstm. 1878), What hathe Cristyne, my doughter smalle, Done with oure goddes? 1484 Caxton *Fables Æsop* v. x, He fond a sowe, and her smal pygges with her. 1796 H. McNeill *Waes o' War* iii. v, Monster! wha could leave neglected Three sma' infants and a wife. 1841 Thackeray *Gt. Hoggarty Diamond* ix, There was a garden that certain *small people* might play in when they came. 1896 *Westm. Gaz.* 12 Dec. 1/3 To the great delight of various small boys. 1903 *Daily Chron.* 5 Jan. 6/7 In some cases the parents may threaten to leave our employ unless we give work to their small children.

d. Of words: Short, simple. †Also of language: Simple, plain.

c 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 18 Ðan man hem telled soðe tale Wid londes speche and wordes smale. 1679 V. Alsop *Melius Inq.* 1. iii. 135 As if we were not as much obliged to tell the People their duty as God our wants in small English. 1821 Byron *Sardanap.* 1. ii. 511 Your first small words are taught you from her lips.

e. *local.* Of a river, water, etc.: Low, shallow.

1791 W. H. Marshall *W. England* (1796) II. 258 Some days ago..the water was unusually low—provincially and not improperly 'small'. 1886 in Elworthy *W. Somerset Word-bk.* s.v., I an't a zeed our water zo smaal, not's years.

4. Used with collective nouns, denoting the limited size of the individual things, pieces, etc.

1398 Trevisa *Barth. De P. R.* xviii. i. (Bodl. MS.), Bestes þat eteþ smal gras and herbes. 1479 in *Eng. Gilds* (1870) 425 All smalwodde to be dischargid at the Bak. 1535 Coverdale 2 *Sam.* xxiii. 11 A pece of londe full of small corne. *c* 1588 in J. Morris *Troubles Our Forefathers* Ser. II. (1875) 310 A very large narration.., which contained six-and-fifty sheets of paper written..in a very small letter. 1683 Tryon *Way to Health* iv. (1697) 83 No Baker can preserve the pure white Colour in his fine small Bread, if he be not quick about it. 1698 Fryer *Acc. E. India & P.* 50 A small Print might easily be read by it. 1778 *Eng. Gazetteer* (ed. 2) s.v. *Lenton*, Round ore, small ore, and smithum. 1879 *London Society* Christmas No. 64/1 A brilliant little flirt..who condescended to waste on me a good deal of small artillery. 1893 Spon *Mechanic's Own Book* (ed. 4) 330 Smaller wood is got from the branches of trees. 1902 Owen Wister *Virginians* xxiv, The quaking-asps..are in small leaf.

b. Of money: Of little size and low value; consisting of coins of low denomination. *Small change*: see Change *sb.* 7.

1561 Awdelay *Frat. Vacab.* (1869) 55 Thou hast shewed vs none but small money. 1624 Gataker *Good Wife* ii. 9 The Kings Almoner may cast small siluer about. 1727 A. Hamilton *New Acc. E. Indies* I. xxi. 249 Paid in small Money to discharge the Accounts of the Shoemaker, Taylor [etc.]. *a* 1894 Stevenson *St. Ives* (1902) ix. 65 Here are four pounds of it in..notes, and the balance in small silver. *fig.* 1879 Meredith *Egoist* xxxiii, If we are not to be beloved, spare us the small coin of compliment on character.

c. Of a family: Consisting of young children. *Small help* (see quot. 1903).

1829 Brockett *N. C. Gloss.* (ed. 2) s.v., In our Northern phraseology, a small family means a family of young children, however numerous. 1895 *Edin. Rev.* Apr. 422 For the sake of her unborn babe and her large small family. 1903 *Daily Chron.* 5 Jan. 6/7 One official of a mill-owning company..admits that 'small help'—*anglice* 'child labour'—is a great mistake.

5. Little in amount or quantity: **a.** Of material things, or properties naturally connected with these, as number, quantity, etc.

1297 R. Glouc. (Rolls) 5394 Ac is gode moder ofte smale ȝiftes him tok. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 972 Qui sal þi parte be sa smal? *c* 1386 Chaucer *Friar's T.* 128 My wages been ful streite and ful smale. *c* 1450 *Merlin* xv. 257 Thei ete soche vitaile as thei hadde, but it was full small. *c* 1470 Henry *Wallace* viii. 1340 His wynnyng was in Scotland bot full smaw. *a* 1530 J. Heywood *Play of the Wether* 1116 (Brandl), This nomber is smale, there lacketh twayne of ten. 1577 B. Googe *Heresb. Husb.* (1586) 146 Seeing that..the profit of the Milk is not smal. 1593 Shaks. 2 *Hen. VI*, iv. x. 20 This small inheritance my Father left me. 1626 in *Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm., Var. Coll.* (1907) IV. 171 The necessitie of useing some smale quantitie of bay salt therein. 1632 Lithgow *Trav.* vii. 323 [I did] in all my trauells prosecute the like course of a small diet,..often too small against my will. *a* 1700 Evelyn *Diary* 13 July 1684, Some small sprinkling of raine. 1779 *Mirror* No. 12, I am a plain country-gentleman, with a small fortune and a large family. 1809 *Med. Jrnl.* XXI. 25 This should certainly be the smallest dose I would use in this disease. 1849 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* iii. I. 287 The revenue of England, under Charles the Second, was small. 1890 Wormell & Walmsley *Electr. Serv. Man* 139 The comparatively small currents passing through a single incandescent lamp.

b. Of immaterial things, as actions, faculties, feelings, etc.

The exact sense varies to some extent with the sb., and in some cases the reference is rather to effect, force, or capacity than to amount.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 16946 Alle þe pines o þis werld to tell þai war ful small [*v.r.* to his ner but smalle]. 1390 Gower *Conf.* I. 6 My wittes ben to smale To tellen every man his tale. 1523 Ld. Berners tr. *Froissart* I. xcvi. 118 They.. fledde to the market place, but they kept but a small order. 1559 *Mirr. Mag., Dk. Suffolk* vi, My travayle was not smal. 1611 Bible 2 *Kings* xix. 26 [They] were of small power. 1697 J. Lewis *Mem. Dk. Glocester* (1789) 33 His appetite was but small, considering how active he was. 1726 Swift *Gulliver* II. viii, I had gotten a small cold. 1774 Goldsm. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) VII. 262 They consider the loss of them as but a small misfortune. 1810 Crabbe *Borough* xviii. 80 His spirits low, and his exertions small. 1855 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* xviii. IV. 170 As culpable as her small faculties enabled her to be.

c. Denoted by a number which is among the least of a series; of low numerical value or ordinal rank; low.

1391 Chaucer *Astrol.* II. § 21 For so gret a latitude or for so smal a latitude is the table compowned. 1669 Sturmy *Mariner's Mag.* vi. iii. 112 Small Latitudes, or Countreys betwixt the Tropicks. 1672 Wycherley *Love in a Wood* 1. ii, Like the small cards..; when the play begins, you should be put out as useless. 1748 Hoyle *Games* (1778) 94 Three small Clubs or Spades, Queen and two small Hearts, King and one small Diamond. Play a small Trump.

6. Only a little or slight amount or degree of (something); not much; hardly any.

c 1386 Chaucer *Prioress' T.* 84, I kan but smal grammeere. *c* 1449 Pecock *Repr.* iv. iv. 442 It schulde not bicome me or eny man, having ful smal witt and discrecioun [etc.]. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 2 Some may be excellently lerned, & yet haue but small felyng of these thynges. 1577 Googe *Heresbach's Husb.* 1. (1586) 35 b, It wil also grow wel yenough..in any ground with small labour. 1649 Drumm. of Hawth. *Hist. Jas. V*, Wks. (1711) 97 But small confidence could be long among reconciled enemies. *a* 1693 Ashmole *Antiq. Berksh.* (1719) I. 151 The small need the Lady had of Physick. 1719 De Foe *Crusoe* II. (Globe) 328 They had indeed small Hope of their Lives. 1786 Burns *Holy Fair* xxv, Sma' need has he to say a grace. 1819 Scott *Ivanhoe* v, You do but small credit to your fame, Sir Prior! 1857 Buckle *Civiliz.* I. x. 619 They had paid small attention to the etiquette of courts. 1874 Motley *John of Barneveld* I. i. 28 He had small love for the pleasures of the table.

b. *No small*, great, considerable, marked; much, a good deal of. Cf. No *a.* 2 b.

1548 Hall *Chron., Rich. III*, 50 b, He tooke there newes as a matter of no small momente. 1560 Daus tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 52 The plucking downe of Images, hath procured us no smale displeasure. 1639 S. Du Verger tr. *Camus' Admir. Events* a j b, This variety being no small attractive. 1697 J. Lewis *Mem. Dk. Glocester* (1789) 49 To the no small joy of the Prince and Princess. *a* 1770 Jortin *Serm.* (1771) II. xi. 217 It is no small impertinence to take hold of the attention of others. 1779 *Mirror* No. 62. 211 There, to my no small surprise, I found the Dean. 1843 Macaulay *Ess.* III. 552 There was..no small curiosity to know how he would acquit himself.

c. Used in the superlative for emphasis: The least; the slightest.

1596 Shaks. 1 *Hen. IV*, iii. ii. 159, I will dye a hundred thousand Deaths Ere breake the smallest parcell of this Vow. 1604 — *Oth.* iii. iii. 188 Not from mine owne weake merites will I draw The smallest feare, or doubt of her reuolt. 1716–8 Lady M. W. Montagu *Lett.* I. xxxi. 104, I never can forget the smallest of your..Commands. 1797–1805 S. & Ht. Lee *Canterb. T.* I. 382 He risked..life, if he betrayed the smallest suspicion. *a* 1828 Bentham *Wks.* (1843) I. 240 In the most direct terms, and without any the smallest doubt, disguise, or reserve. 1891 *Law Times* XCI. 2/2 The court, without the smallest hesitation, made absolute the rule for a *habeas corpus.*

d. *In the smallest*, in the least. *rare.*

1603 Shaks. *Meas. for M.* iv. ii. 179, I may make my case as Claudio's, to crosse this in the smallest. 1827 Carlyle *Germ. Rom.* III. 276 The best wives will complain of their husbands to a stranger, without in the smallest liking them the less on that account. 1864 — *Fredk. Gt.* IV. 35 Not molesting Prince Karl in the smallest.

7. Of no great length; short, brief: **a.** Of time.

1430–40 Lydg. *Bochas* viii. v. (1558), But a small season last his prosperite. *a* 1548 Hall *Chron., Edw. IV*, 32 The duke of Somersets battayl..wer wythin a smal season,

shamefully dyscomfited. 1585 T. WASHINGTON tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* I. xv. 16 b, Within this small time I indeuoured..to see..the things most notable. 1611 BIBLE *Isaiah* liv. 7 For a small moment haue I forsaken thee, but with great mercies will I gather thee. 1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* III. 91 Within a small time he found the Captaines promise and performance different. 1707 *Curios. in Husb. & Gard.* 25 Their Fragility and small Duration. 1745 P. THOMAS *Jrnl. Anson's Voy.* 27 The small Stay we made here..lost us at least 60 or 70..able Men. 1815 SCOTT *Guy M.* xiii, A letter to compose, about which he wasted no small time. 1874 W. S. JEVONS *Princ. Sci.* xiii. (1900) 299 The duration of the spark was immeasurably small.

b. Of journeys, distance, etc.

c 1450 LOVELICH *Merlin* 10137 (E.E.T.S.), Smale jornes they gonne to ryde The contre to serchen in that tyde. 1579 NORTH *Plutarch, Cæsar* (1612) 729 The souldiers ..by small iourneys came at length vnto the citie. 1615 W. LAWSON *Country Housew. Garden* (1626) 23, I suppose twenty yards distance is small enough betwixt tree and tree. 1766 GOLDSM. *Vicar W.* v, At a small distance from the house. 1885 W. K. CLIFFORD *Common Sense Exact Sci.* iii. (1892) 96 Instead of counting feet we count inches, which are smaller than feet.

transf. a 1859 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xxiv. V. 229 The flesh of wild animals and the green fat of the turtle..went but a small way.

8. Composed or consisting of, containing, few individuals or members; numerically little or weak. †Also of years: Few.

c 1470 HENRY *Wallace* v. 807 Our power is to smaw;..To few we ar agayne yon fellone staill. *a* 1569 KINGESMYLL *Man's Est.* xi. (1580) 69 Where thei found that sillie Shepherde with his smal flocke. 1594 PARSONS *Confer. Success.* I. 189 He being a child of so smale yeares. 1611 BIBLE 2 *Chron.* xxiv. 24 The armie of the Syrians came with a small companie of men. 1681 DRYDEN *Abs. & Achit.* 914 A small but faithful Band Of Worthies. 1724 DE FOE *Mem. Cavalier* vi. (1894) 80 A small party of the musketeers followed me. 1788 GIBBON *Decl. & F.* I. V. 185 The right of peace and war is now confined to a small, and the actual exercise to a much smaller, list of respectable potentates. 1802 JAMES *Milit. Dict.* s.v. *Guard*, Quarter Guard is a small guard commanded by a subaltern officer. 1874 *Treas. Bot.* Suppl. 1342/2 A small group of plants from New Grenada and Peru. 1889 A. R. WALLACE *Darwinism* 80 Species of large genera vary more than species of small genera.

9. a. Constituting a lower standard (of weight, size, etc.) than another having the same designation. **b.** Falling somewhat short of the proper or usual standard.

1554 HASSE in *Hakluyt's Voy.* (1886) III. 94 They divide the small pound into 48 parts. 1640 in Entick *London* (1776) II. 166 Catling, the great gross, qt. 12 small gross of knots. 1660 *Act 12 Chas. II*, c. 4 Schedule s.v. *Bosses*, Bosses for Bridles the small groce, cont. 12 dozen. 1698 FROGER *Voy.* 47 The island of St. Ann,..from which they are distant two small leagues. 1705 tr. *Bosman's Guinea* 11, I have travelled above three small days Voyage upon it. 1753 R. CLAYTON in Maundrell *Journ. Jerus.* 18 After an ascent of a small half hour we came to a most delicious fountain of cold water. 1834 *Lowndes' Bibliogr. Man.* I. 84 Austin's Urania...London, 1629. small 8vo. 1886 ELWORTHY *W. Somerset Word-bk.* s.v. *Long-hundred*, A hundred of five score is called a small-hundred. 1888 JACOBI *Printers' Vocab.* 127 *Small post*, a size of writing paper, 16½ × 13½ inches.

III. 10. Composed of fine or minute particles, drops, etc. In later use chiefly of rain.

c 897 K. ÆLFRED *Gregory's Past. C.* lvii. 437 Swiðe lytle beoð ða dropan ðæs smalan renes, ac hi wyrceað ðeah swiðe micel flod. *c* 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* (Rolls) I. 240 Ȝenim of ðysse wyrte..swyþe smæl dust. *Ibid.* II. 86 Ȝenimþonne smæl beren mela. *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 85 Þe ilke þe folesæð þes fleisces lust, Alse deð þet smalchet þe winde. 1382 WYCLIF *Exod.* xxx. 36 Whanne thow hast pownede alle..into moost smal powdre. *c* 1410 *Master of Game* (MS. Digby 182) xii, Boyle mastyke and sence in smale poudre. *Ibid.*, Take water and smale salte. 1574 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* II. 406 The exhorbitant derth of small salt within this realme. 1583- [see SALT *sb.* 1 b]. *a* 1586 SIDNEY *Ps.* xviii. xi, I bett these folkes as small as dust. *a* 1649 WINTHROP *New Eng.* (1853) I. 209 The Rebecka,..two days before, was frozen twenty miles up the river; but a small rain falling set her free. 1676 WOOD *Jrnl.* in *Acc. Sev. Late Voy.* I. (1694) 177 Thick Fogs with small Rain. 1727 A. HAMILTON *New Acc. E. Indies* I. xxii. 262 A small Rain happened to fall that damped my Powder. 1823 SCOTT *Quentin D.* i, Heaven, who works by the tempest as well as by the soft small rain.

b. Fine, as opposed to coarse, in various applications.

a 1000 in Thorpe *Dipl. Angl.* 158 Tu hund greates hlafes and þridde smales. *c* 1050 *Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 357 *Artocobus*, smæl hlaf. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 226 As smylt mele vnder smal siue smokes for-þikke. 1450–80 tr. *Secreta Secret.* liii. 32 Some metes are smale, and some metes are grete, and some are mene. 1742 *Lond. & Co. Brewer* I. (ed. 4) 72 If high dried, a gross Grinding is best, otherwise a smaller may be done. 1856 MORTON *Cycl. Agric.* I. 193 This is to be done by sieves just smaller in the mesh than the size of the grain. 1891 *Hartland Gloss., Small-sieve*, a fine-meshed wooden sieve used in Rewing.

†**c.** Of air: Thin, rarefied. *Obs.*–[1]

1495 *Trevisa's Barth. De P. R.* XIV. xlv. 483 The ayre is ..more smalle and clere than in valleyes.

11. Of cloth, yarn, garments, etc.: Fine in texture or structure. *Obs.* exc. *dial.*

In the case of cloth it is sometimes difficult to decide whether examples belong to this sense or to 2.

c 900 tr. *Bæda* IV. xxv. 354 Ða fæmnan..swa oft swa hio æmtan habbað, þæt hio smaelo hrægel weofað and wyrcað. *c* 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 163 His alter cloð [is] great and sole, and hire chemise smal and hwit. 1473 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* I. 13, xiij elne of smale Hollande cloth for iij sarkis and a curche. 1488 *Ibid.* 150 For viij elne of small braide clayth to be sarkis to the King. 1536 BELLENDEN *Cron. Scot.* (1821) I. p. xxxvi, In the vale of Esk is sa quhit and small wol, that it hes na compair in Albion. 1585 T. WASHINGTON tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* IV. xi. 123 b, They bring..smal clothes of diuers sorts and colours..from.. Cambaye and Ormmus. 1637 *Bury Wills* (Camden) 169 There is some sixe and thirtie grosse of small yarne. 1901 in *Eng. Dial. Dict., Small weft*, a very fine sort of yarn. Lanc[ashire].

12. Of low alcoholic strength; light, weak:

a. Of specific liquors, as ale, wine, etc., or diluted forms of these. See also SMALL BEER.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 460/2 Smal wyne, *villum.* 1467 in *Eng. Gilds* 382, iij. galons of smale ale for j.d. 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* xxv. 13 O! ȝe heremeitis..., That..drynkis no wyn confortatiue, Bot aill and that is thyn and small. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 53 b, Theyr vynes brynge forth but temperate and small wynes, as reed, claret, and whyte. 1605 *London Prodigal* I. ii, Let me haue sacke for vs old men: For these girles and knaues small wines are best. 1664 DRYDEN *Rival Ladies* Ep. Ded., It being at best, like small Wines, to be drunk out upon the Place. 1707 MORTIMER *Husb.* (1721) II. 336 If your Fruit be unripe, or your Cyder small. 1732 ARBUTHNOT *Rules of Diet* in *Aliments*, etc. 270 Small Ale without Hops. 1789 BUCHAN *Domest. Med.* (1790) 149 His drink may be small negus,.. and sometimes a little weak punch. 1827 GOOD *Study Med.* (1829) I. 170 The drink [should] be small brandy and water. 1864 *Daily Telegr.* 17 Mar., Customers, who had contrived to make themselves uncommonly merry with pots of the smallest ale. 1879 STEVENSON *Trav. Cevennes* 33 The wine is of the smallest.

b. Of drinks, beverages, or liquors in general, sometimes applied to such as are non-alcoholic.

In quot. 1471 said of water in contrast to spirit.

1471 RIPLEY *Comp. Alch.* I. xi. in Ashm. (1652) 131 The better therefore shall be Solucyon, Then yf thou dyd it wyth Water small. 1544 PHAER *Regim. Lyfe* (1560) I vj, To abstayne from all kyndes of wyne, & to use himselfe to small drinke. 1626 BACON *Nat. Hist.* § 394 By Making Drinks, Stronger, or Smaller with the same Quantity of Mault. 1675 E. WILSON *Spadacrene Dunelm.* 86 Stronger Stomachs must be content with smaller Beverages, and Wine diluted. 1705 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4108/3, 16 Tuns, and 2 Hogsheads of Small Beveridge and Anjue Wine. 1748 RICHARDSON *Clarissa* (1811) VI. 372 Cheated by a stronger liquor for a smaller. *a* 1800 in *Good's Study Med.* (1829) V. 573 Encouraging the eruption, by taking small warm liquors, as tea, coffee, wine-whey, broth, and nourishing meats.

c. In general use: Weak, thin. *rare.*

1676 WISEMAN *Surg. Treat.* 488 His drink was *decoct. sarsæ* [sarsaparilla], but so small, as it was little better than water. 1747 WESLEY *Prim. Physick* (1762) 68 The leaves of it boiled in small Broth.

13. Of sound or the voice: Gentle, low, soft; of little power or strength; not loud, harsh, or rough.

c 1250 *Gen. & Exod.* 4056 Luuelike and wið speche smale, To wenden hem fro godes aȝe. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Prol.* 688 A voys he hadde as smal as hath a goot. — *Miller's T.* 174 He syngeth in his voys gentil and smal. 1483 CAXTON *Gold. Leg.* 28/1 After the stroke of the fyre descended a swete sowne of ayer softe and smalle. 1565 COOPER *Thesaurus, Vox tenuata*, a small voyce. 1611 BIBLE 1 *Kings* xix. 12 After the fire, a still small voice. 1697 POTTER *Antig. Greece* II. xviii. (1715) 351 They proposed their Question in a small whispering Voice. 1750 GRAY *Elegy* 73 In still small accents whisp'ring from the Ground. 1753 MISS COLLIER *Art Torment.* II. ii. (1812) 129 Throw a languidness into your countenance; let your voice grow small. 1842 LOVER *Handy Andy* xxxviii, So still was it, that he could hear the small crumbling sound of the dying embers as they decomposed. 1880 MISS BROUGHTON *Sec. Thoughts* I. xii, 'Thank you,' she says, in a small voice.

b. Of vowels: Narrow, close; *spec.* in Gaelic phonology of the vowels *e* and *i*, and of certain consonants when in contact with these.

1599 MINSHEU *Sp. Gram.* 6, E..in Spanish..must neuer be so small as the English ee, as fee, wee. 1707 LHUYD *Archæol. Brit.* 299 That as the Vowels are divided into Broad and Small; so the Diphthongs and Triphthongs ending in *a*, *o*, or *u*, are Broad; and those in *e* or *i* Small. 1736 AINSWORTH *Lat. Dict.* II. s.v. *I*, The next small vowel *e*. 1801 A. STEWART *Elem. Galic Gram.* 20 They [*l*, *n*, *r*] have the small sound when..they are preceded or followed by a small vowel. 1830 MACLEOD & DEWAR *Gael. Dict.* s.v. *Leathan*, Upon the same principle, the rule 'Caol ri caol' regulates the small vowels.

14. Of wind: Light, slight, gentle.

1542 *Lament. & Piteous Treat.* in *Harl. Misc.* (Malh.) I. 235 A smal and softe wynde. 1673 tr. *Frejus' Voy. Mauritania* 9 We held on our course..with a small West-wind. 1698 FROGER *Voy.* 154 We had a small gale that was favourable enough. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* II. iv. 162 A small breeze springing up from the W.N.W. 1802 M. CUTLER in *Life*, etc. (1888) II. 108 Small wind, nearly ahead.

15. Of the pulse: Beating weakly.

1755 *Phil. Trans.* XLIX. 50 The pulse small, the mouth and tongue foul. 1797 *Monthly Mag.* III. 230 A quick and small pulse. 1834 *Good's Study Med.* (ed. 4) I. 544 If a pulse be exceeding hard, and at the same time small, then it has been called a wiry pulse. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* III. 849 The pulse is small, rapid, and thready.

IV. 16. Of persons: Low or inferior in rank or position; of little importance, authority, or influence; common, ordinary. Now *rare.*

In early use with ref. to military importance.

c 1205 LAY. 436 Al þat smale mon-kun he dude ȝeond þea muntes. *Ibid.* 21803 His smale uolc he setten alle bi weste siden. *c* 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* IX. 569 His small folk gert he ilk deill Vith-draw thame till a strate neir by. 1422 tr. *Secreta Secret., Priv. Priv.* I. ii. 128 To deme..etuynly betwene grete men and Smale, ryche and Power. *c* 1489 CAXTON *Sonnes of Aymon* viii. 187 All the small people had ben all dead for hungre. 1517 in *10th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. V. 397 That every tope man paye xl.*s.* and every small man xx.*s.* 1561 WINȝET *Wks.* (S.T.S.) I. 6 The smallaste ane that sall perise throw ȝour negligence. 1613 SHAKS. *Hen. VIII*, v. i. 129 Your Enemies are many, and not small. 1833 T. HOOK *Parson's Dau.* III. vii, At dinner, some of the smaller neighbours were invited. 1863 MISS MULOCK *Mistr. & Maid* xxii, She was altogether a very great lady, and Hilary..felt an exceedingly small person beside her.

b. Having but little land, capital, etc.; dealing, doing business, etc., on a small scale.

1746 FRANCIS tr. *Horace, Epist.* I. vii. 99 Philip next Morn our honest Pedlar found, Dealing his Iron Merchandise around To his small Chaps. 1837 LOCKHART *Scott* IV. i. 16 The property all about his original farm had been in the hands of various small holders (Scottice *cock-lairds*). 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* ix. II. 480 Two beasts, such as the small yeomen of that time were in the habit of riding. 1887 HINDLEY *Hist. Catnach Press* 257 From a small beginner in the world, Catnach was soon able to see his way clear to amass a fortune.

17. Of minor rank, note, or importance, in respect of some specified office, function, etc.

1338 R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (1810) 27 Þe smale kynges of þe lond all were þei comen. 1382 WYCLIF *Prol. Bible* i. 1 Alle these xij smale prophetis ben o book. 1456 SIR G. HAYE *Law Arms* (S.T.S.) 126 The autoritee of the grete officer..gerris cess the autoritee of the smallare officer. *a* 1578 LINDESAY (Pitscottie) *Chron. Scot.* (S.T.S.) II. 57 The haill bischopis, pryouris, and wther small preistis. 1588 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* IV. 311 The small barronis and freehaldaris of this realme. 1610 B. JONSON *Alch.* I. ii, A speciall gentle, That ..Consorts with the small poets of the time. 1763 CHURCHILL *Ghost* III. 860 Confine thy rage to weaker slaves, Laugh at small Fools, and lash small Knaves. 1765 GRAY *Shaks.* 6 Fumbling baronets and poets small. 1826 DISRAELI *V. Grey* II. xii, A small author, and smaller wit. 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xix. IV. 260 All their confederates, from Cæsar ..down to the smallest Margrave.

b. That is (such) to a small or limited extent, degree, etc.

Sometimes used to suggest the converse of the noun.

1523 LD. BERNERS tr. *Froissart* I, cccxxxii. 519 He was but a small gentylman,..for a very gentylman wyll neuer set his mynde on so euyll an entent. 1567 ALLEN *Def. Priesthood* 207 Where there is nowe putte no difference betwixte small offendours and moste grenouse sinners. 1634 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* 71 Zenall Chawn..(our small friend, at our being in his Citie). 1653 H. COGAN *Scarlet Gown* 125 They were but small friends to Pamphilio, and as such, they shewed themselves obstinate against his elections.

c. With negative, in emphatic use.

1551 T. WILSON *Logike* (1580) 83, I remember of an other, and that no small birde, whiche was better learned then wise. 1657–61 HEYLIN *Hist. Ref.* I. ii. § 4. 38 This Master Cook ..was apt enough to think himself no small fool at a joynt of Divinity. 1784 *Unfortunate Sensibility* II. 72 The master of the inn..was no small body, for he was the owner of the vessel we came in.

18. Of things, etc.: Of little or minor consequence, interest, or importance; trifling, trivial, unimportant.

With quot. 1483 cf. Cotgrave's '*Menues pensées*,..idle, priuate, or prettie thoughts'

c 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 5702 Noght anly of gret dedes of elde, Bot of smale dedes of þair yhouthe. *c* 1374 CHAUCER *Boeth.* II. pr. vii. (1868) 59 ȝe seken ȝoure gerdouns of þe smale wordes of strange folke. 1451 CAPGRAVE *Life St. Aug.* (1910) 8 Thus lerned he þe smale scienses, as spellyng, reding and constrewyng. 1483 CAXTON *G. de la Tour* m j b, She shalle euer be in melancholye and in smalle thoughtes. 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* lvi. 2 Think that small partis makis grit sertuce. 1568 GRAFTON *Chron.* II. 8 He..conferred the same vnto the Normanes and that for very small and light causes. 1624 DONNE *Devot.* Wks. 1839 III. 552 We have heard of Death upon small occasions and by scornful Instruments. 1651 HOBBES *Leviath.* (1839) 85 How a man should..pick his teeth before company, and such other points of the *small morals*. 1734 FIELDING *Intrig. Chambermaid* I. iv, She sent me, Sir, of [=on] a small message to you. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. I. iii, And then walk majestically out again, to embroidery, small-scandal, prayers, and vacancy. 1893 *Academy* 13 May 412/1 The fact..accounts, no doubt, for certain small recurrent defects in it.

19. Not prominent or notable; humble, modest; unpretentious. In later use chiefly in the phrase *in a small way.*

c 1386 CHAUCER *Merch. T.* 381 Al were it so she were of smal degree, Suffiseth hym hir yowthe and hir beautee. 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. V*, 65 Therfore I over passyng small names and muche doyng, wil returne [etc.]. 1611 BIBLE *Job* viii. 7 Though thy beginning was small, yet thy latter end should greatly increase. 1809 *European Mag.* LV. 19 An emporium no less respectable in a small way. 1815 JANE AUSTEN *Emma* iii, She lived with her single daughter in a very small way. 1872 T. HARDY *Under Greenw. Tree* Pref., A composer in a small way.

20. a. Base, low; mean, ungenerous.

1824 SYD. SMITH *Wks.* (1859) II. 52 The pitiful propensity ..to vent their small spite at their [the American] character. 1874 GREEN *Short Hist.* 755 The smaller passions, the meaner impulses of the world around him. 1890 *Spectator* Oct. 468/1 That is trickery, not statesmanship; and..it is small trickery too.

b. Incapable of large views or great actions; small-minded, mean-souled.

1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. IV. iv, A man unfit for Revolutions? Whose small soul..could by no chance ferment into virulent *alegar*? 1871 SMILES *Charact.* iii. (1876) 84 Small men may be envious of their fellows, but really great men ..love each other. 1881 J. F. CLARKE *Self-Culture* 258 Among the flippant and the frivolous, we also become small and empty.

c. As complement with *feel*: Humiliated, mortified, injured in self-respect.

1840 Mrs. Trollope *Widow Married* xix, I should feel a little small at being seen in such a place. 1894 A. Robertson *Nuggets* 190, I felt very small, for the scoundrel had been within my grasp, and I had let him slip.

V. 21. Special collocations.

Small-Back, Death, imagined as a skeleton. *Small balls*, a variety of ironstone. *Small body*, in Printing (see quot.). *Small capitals*, in Printing, capital letters differing little in size from the lower-case letters of the same fount. *Small cattle*, cattle below the size of oxen, as calves or sheep. *Small chisel* (see quot.). *Small circle*, in spherical trigonometry (see quot.). †*Small figures*, Arabic numerals. *Small folk*, = small people. *Small-hand* (see Hand *sb.* 16). *Small hand-paper* (see quot.). *Small helm*, Naut. (see quots.). *Small holding*, a holding smaller than an ordinary farm; also *spec.* (see quot.). †*Small meat*, ? meat sold in small quantities. *Small paper*, in Printing, paper of the ordinary size, as distinct from *large paper* (Large *a.* 8 b). *Small part*, a minor part or character in a play. *Small people*, in local use, the fairies. †*Small play*, play for low stakes. *Small round*, *sails*, Naut. (see quots.). *Small stuff* (see quots.). †*Small-world*, = Microcosm. See also Debt *sb.* 4 f, Hour 3 b, Pica[1] 2, Potato 5 a, Raisin 2 b, Tithe, Trunk, etc., and Small arm(s, beer, -clothes, etc.

1823 Scott *Quentin D.* xxxvii, Men have queer fancies when old *Small-Back is griping them; but Small-Back must lead down the dance with us all in our time. 1793 A. Young *Agric. Sussex* 13 A marl sets on, in the different depths of which the iron-stone comes on regularly in all the various sorts as follows: 1. **Small balls*, provincially *twelve foots*, because so many feet distant from the first to the last bed. 1683 Moxon *Mech. Exerc., Printing* 20 Long-Primer and downwards are accounted *small Bodies. 1770 Luckombe *Hist. Print.* 250 *Small Capitals are mostly used to denote, that a more particular stress and emphasis is intended by the Author. 1888 Jacobi *Printers' Vocab.* 127 *Small-capitals*, the smaller capitals laid in the upper case, distinct from the full capitals. 1593 *Benefits Observ. Fish-days*, The number of Beefes aforesaid,..and other *small Cattel, as Calues, Sheepe, and Lambes innumerable. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2219 **Small-chisel*, a burin or graver used by engravers. 1873 Pryde *Pract. Math.* 365 Circles, whose planes pass through the centre of the sphere, are called great circles; and all others, *small circles. 1711 Hearne *Collect.* (O.H.S.) III. 110 He makes *small Figures to be as old as A.D. 1050. 1865 R. Hunt *Pop. Rom. W. Eng.* (1896) 118 The gardens of the Small People, or, as they are called by the natives, *Small Folk. 1860 W. Collins *Woman in White* xi, The handwriting.. was..in the cramped, conventional, copybook character, technically termed '*small hand'. 1888 Jacobi *Printers' Vocab.* 127 *Small hand paper, a common machine-made paper, generally straw-coloured, used for post wrappers and such purposes. 1867 Smyth *Sailor's Word-bk.* 634 **Small-Helm.* One of the principal results of sound seamanship is the proper trim of the vessel and the sail carried; by which means the action of the rudder is reduced to a minimum. 1886 *Encycl. Brit.* XXI. 604 *Small helm*, when the sails are well balanced and the rudder but little used. 1892 *Act* 55-56 *Vict.* c. 31 § 1 The expression '*small holding'.. shall mean land acquired by a council..which exceeds one acre and either does not exceed fifty acres, or..is of an annual value..not exceeding fifty pounds. 1742 *De Foe's Tour Gt. Britain* (ed. 3) I. 24 [Ipswich] has five Market-days weekly; Tuesday and Thursday for *small Meat; Wednesday and Friday for Fish. 1708 *Small paper [see 22]. 1798 O'Keeffe *Wild Oats* iv. i, Drill the servants that I've given the *small parts to. 1865 R. Hunt *Pop. Rom. W. Eng.* Ser. I. 65 The *Small People are believed by some to be the spirits of people who inhabited Cornwall many thousands of years ago. 1629 H. Burton *Babel no Bethel* 7 [He] is willing rather to play *small play, then to giue out. 1863 A. Young *Naut. Dict.* 358 **Small round*, that end of the shank of an anchor which is next the stock. 1669 Sturmy *Mariner's Mag.* I. ii. 16 Take in your Main and Main-top-sail, Steering-sails [etc.]..Thus you have all the *small Sails in. 1867 Smyth *Sailor's Word-bk.* 634 **Small-Sails*, topgallant-studding-sails and the kites. 1886 *Encycl. Brit.* XXI. 604 *Small sail*, and *snug sail*, low and reduced, ready for bad weather. 1867 Smyth *Sailor's Word-bk.* 634 **Small Stuff*, the term for spun-yarn, marline, and the smallest kinds of rope, even for yarns. 1897 *Daily News* 18 June 5/2 The scarcity of spoons, forks, and knives,.. called '*small stuff' in the catering business. 1612 J. Davies (Heref.) *Muse's Sacr.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 64/1 Whose soule did animate thy *small-world too To be the soule of all that here I doe.

b. In the specific or popular names of plants, as *small basil*, *bugloss*, *chaffweed*, etc.

A large number of other examples occur in Lyte (1578) and Miss Pratt *Flowering Pl.* (1855).

1578 Lyte *Dodoens* 240 Busshe Basill, or *small Basill gentle. 1855 Miss Pratt *Flowering Pl.* IV. 245 *Small Chaffweed, or Bastard Pimpernel. 1796 Withering *Brit. Pl.* (ed. 3) II. 264 *Small Currants. 1548 Turner *Names Herbes* 15 The third kinde [of Aristolochia] is called Clematites & it may be called in english *small Hertworte. 1796 Withering *Brit. Pl.* (ed. 3) II. 287 *Tordylium officinale* .., Small Hartwort. *Ibid.*, Fine-leaved Bastard Parsley. *Small Hensfoot. 1597 Gerarde *Herbal* 478 The Pinke is called..in English Pinkes, and *Smal Honesties. 14.. *Lat.-Eng. Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 612 *Solatrum i. morella*, *smalmorell. 1573 Tusser *Husb.* (1878) 75 Set chestnut and walnut, set filbeard and *smalnut. 1842–59 *Small-reed [see Reed *sb.*[1] 5]. 1900 *G. Nicholson's Dict. Gard.* Suppl., *Calamagrostis*. Smallreed. This genus..was formerly included under *Arundo*. 1855 Miss Pratt *Flowering Pl.* III. 158 *Small Woodruff, or Squinancy-wort.

c. In names of fishes, birds, insects, etc.

Further examples may be found in special works, as Shaw *Gen. Zool.* (1801–12), Rennie *Butterfl. & Moths* (1832), etc.

1754 Catesby *Carolina* I. 80 The *small Bittern. 1846 *Proc. Berw. Nat. Club* II. 171 The *Small Copper [Butterfly] again made its appearance. 1840 F. D. Bennett *Whaling Voy.* II. 72 That curious fish, the *Leptocephalus*, or '*small-head'. 1884 Goode *Nat. Hist. Aquat. Anim.* 550 '*Small Herring', 'Anchovies,' 'Skarp Herring.' 1787 Best *Angling* (ed. 2) 104 The Palmers. 6. The *small Red Spinners. 6. 1734 Albin *Nat. Hist. Birds* II. 67 The *small Water-Hen.

22. a. With sbs. forming combs. used attributively, as *small-boat*, *-calibre*, *-college*, etc.

Combs. of this type are very numerous in recent newspaper usage.

1897 *Outing* XXX. 333/1 The annals of *small-boat sailing. 1896 *Spectator* 31 Oct. 589/1 If it be suitable, the *small-calibre bullet will do much more damage. 1840 Thackeray *Shabby-genteel Story* viii, Tufthunt was a *small-college man of no family. 1838 W. Bell *Dict. Law Scot.* 919 The statute 39 and 40 Geo. III. c. 46, commonly called the *Small Debt Act. *Ibid.* 923 A case..remitted ..to the small debt court. 1659 R. Wilde *Poems* (1870) 1 Our *small-drink times Must be contented, and take up with rhymes. 1897 Mary Kingsley *W. Africa* 544 Alarm, excitement, fear, fright, and all those *small-fry emotions. 1840 J. Buel *Farmer's Comp.* 197 The *small-grain crops are the greatest exhausters of the fertility of the soil. 1771 Luckombe *Hist. Print.* 261 Of these *Small-letter Sorts, some are lodged in the Upper-case. 1851 Mayhew *Lond. Labour* II. 331/2 The last mentioned of the several modes..is the '*small-master system'. 1823 W. Cobbett *Rural Rides* (1885) I. 387 The injury recently done to about forty thousand poor families..by the *Small-note Bill. 1708 Hearne *Collect.* 8 Apr., 3 *small-paper Livys. 1904 Mrs. Alec Tweedie *Behind Footlights* xi. 204 Those in the rank of 'principals', or '*small-part ladies'. 1836 Dubourg *Violin* ix. (1878) 270 Lorenzio Guadagnini..copied the *small-pattern fiddles of his master. 1852 C. W. H[oskins] *Talpa* 151 It is very fine..to connect one's own *small-scale improvements, after this fashion. 1877 Raymond *Statist. Mines & Mining* 44 *Small-size garnets are found ..in this claim. 1687 Miège *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II, A *small tooth Comb. 1732 *Acc. of Workhouses* 40 Their heads combed with small tooth combs every morning. 1858 Simmonds *Dict. Trade*, *Small-tooth comb*, a comb of ivory or bone with small teeth on each side.

b. In combs. of the type *small-boyhood*, *-boyish*, *-colleger*, etc.

1841 Roscoe *Swift's Gulliver* I. iv. *note*, Papists and protestants are the big-endians and small-endians. 1852 Bristed *Five Yrs. Eng. Univ.* (ed. 2) 127 The idea of a Small-Colleger beating all Trinity was deemed preposterous. 1864 J. C. Atkinson *Stanton Grange* 40 Tom subsided into small-boyhood again. 1895 K. Grahame *Golden Age* 96 This dreary pastime found way into his small-boyish being.

c. Forming verbs, as **small-hoe**, to clean with a small hoe; **small-gang**, *slang*, to mob.

1786 Abercrombie *Gard. Assist.* 139 Salsafy, scorzonera, skirrets—small-hoe, and thin six inches distance. 1851 Mayhew *Lond. Lab.* I. 420/2 They '*small-ganged' me; and afterwards I went seven days to prison. 1892 P. H. Emerson *Son of Fens* 162, I see 'em kind o' looking and talking low; so, think I, they're going to small-gang me.

23. In parasynthetic combs., as *small-bodied*, *-boned*, *-brained*, etc. Also *small-mindedness*.

Only a few of the earlier or more important examples of this type are here given.

1685 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 2019/8 A brown bay Nag,..full Haunched, and *small Bodied. 1812 Crabbe *Tales* iii. 50 He soon display'd his skill In *small-boned Lambs. 1835–6 *Todd's Cycl. Anat.* I. 566/1 The *small-brained and cold-blooded classes of Vertebrata. 1873 T. H. Green *Introd. Path.* (ed. 2) 170 The groups of epithelial elements are always surrounded by a *small-celled ('indifferent') tissue, the small-celled growth preceding the epithelial invasion. 1633 *Gerarde's Herbal* 1437 Flowers..which turn into *small cornered bladders of winter cherries. 1733 W. Ellis *Chiltern & Vale Farm.* 330 The Crop becomes hopper, *small ear'd, and will not yield like the large one. 1771 Luckombe *Hist. Print.* 226 The same Letter..being adjudged too *small-faced for..Small Pica. *c* 1550 Cheke *Matt.* vi, How much moor, ye *smalfaithed men, wil he cloth yow? *a* 1734 North *Lives* (1826) I. 71 The leading counsel in a *small-fee'd case. 1603 Breton *Mad World my Masters* Wks. (Grosart) II. 8/1 A..faire-handed, *small-footed, straight-bodied..gentlewoman. 1707 Mortimer *Husb.* (1721) I. 105 The *small-grained Sand is esteemed the best. 1851 Glenny *Hdbk. Fl. Gard.* 21 They grow exceedingly well, especially all the *smaller-habited kinds. 1884 W. C. Smith *Kildrostan* 50 Graceful tufts Of *small-leaved ferns. 1847 Helps *Friends in C.* I. v. 85 *Small-minded people carry their narrow notions and their acidity into their benevolence. 1886 Besant *Childr. Gibeon* II. xv, That kind of *smallmindedness was impossible. 1796 Kirwan *Elem. Min.* (ed. 2) I. 293 A fine *small-pored white enamel. 1670 Eachard *Cont. Clergy* 98 We must have a great care of comparing our *small-preferr'd clergy with those but of the like fortune in the church of Rome. 1542 Recorde *Gr. Artes* Pref., In those *small reasoned persons [is] a certaine kind of reverence toward wisdome and reason. 1780 *Phil. Trans.* LXX. App. p. xxxvii, I have never succeeded in killing any rabbit (even the *smallest-sized one) with it. 1830 M. Donovan *Domest. Econ.* II. 107 The flesh is inferior to that of the *small-tailed sheep. 1640 Gataker *Whitgift* in *Fuller's Abel Rediv.* (1867) II. 203 He was a man of middle stature,..*small-timbered. 1802 *Phil. Trans.* XCII. 350 Each row looks somewhat like a *small-toothed comb.

b. Freq. in the specific names of animals, birds, plants, etc.

1884 Coues *N. Amer. Birds* 290 *Mniotilta varia borealis*, *Small-billed Creeper. 1827 Griffith tr. *Cuvier* V. 178 *Phoca Leptonyx* (*Small-clawed Seal). 1752 Hill *Hist. Anim.* 168 The *small-eared, very thin Pecten. 1789 Pilkington *View Derbyshire* I. 439 *Malva parviflora*, *small-flowered, or dwarf Mallow. 1796 Withering *Brit. Pl.* (ed. 3) II. 507 Small-flowered Crowfoot. 1822 *Hortus Angl.* II. 86 *Leonurus Marrubiastrum*. Small-flowered Motherwort. 1894 Lydekker *Roy. Nat. Hist.* II. 293 The *small-horned gazelle (*Gazella leptoceros*) of the Sudan. 1827 Griffith tr. *Cuvier* V. 80 *Rhinopoma Microphylla* (*Small-leaved Rhinopome Bat). 1889 Maiden *Useful Pl.* 561 *Laportea photiniphylla*...Small-leaved Nettle. *Ibid.* 466 *Eucalyptus hæmastoma*...In the extreme south a variety sometimes goes by the name of 'Rough', or 'Small-leaved Stringybark'. *c* 1880 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* II. 241 The *Small-nailed Seal (*Phoca leptonyx*). 1803 Shaw *Gen. Zool.* IV. ii. 514 *Small-Scaled Labrus, *Labrus Microlepidotus*. 1831 Griffith tr. *Cuvier* IX. Syn. 63 Small scaled Zonurus, *Zonurus Microlepidotus*. 1836 Yarrell *Brit. Fishes* II. 367 The *Small-spotted Dog-fish. 1766 *Compl. Farm.* s.v. *Radish* 6 ‖ 1/1 The *small topped,..the scarlet, and the long topped striped radish.

B. *absol.* or as *sb.*[2]

1. Persons or animals of small size or stature; little ones, children. (Now only with *the*.)

c 1220 *Bestiary* 515 in *O. E. Misc.*, Þe smale he wile ðus biswiken, ðe grete mai3 he no3t bigripen. *a* 1300 *E. E. Psalter* xvi. 16 Þar leuinges to þair smale left þai. 1388 Wyclif *Matt.* xviii. 6 Who so sclaundrith oon of these smale, that bileuen in me. *c* 1430 *Syr Tryam.* 1556 'A lytulle lower, Syr,' seyde hee, 'And let us smalle go wyth thee'.

2. Persons of low or inferior rank or position, or of little ability or attainment. Chiefly in phr. *great and small*, or *small and great*.

13.. *E. E. Psalter* cxviii. 130 Schirenes of þi speche lightes wit, Vnderstanding to litel [*Egerton MS.* smale] giues it. 13.. *Cursor M.* 6014 (Gött.), Þair king þai banned, gret and smal. *a* 1400 *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* xxiii. 1152 Heil þou..Kyng of gret and smalle. *c* 1440 *Ipomydon* 96 All spake of hym, bothe grete and smalle. 1535 Coverdale *Ps.* cxiii. 12 Yee he blesseth all them that feare the Lorde, both small & greate. 1597 I. T. *Serm. Paules Crosse* 29 The cause of the smalle, as well as the greate. 1654 Whitlock *Zootomia* 97 Quacking Mountebanks are admitted in the Bed-chambers of great and small. 1781 Cowper *Truth* 375 Envy, ye great, the dull, unletter'd small.

3. †**a.** Little, not much. Also with *of*. *Obs.*

1390 Gower *Conf.* II. 279 Touchende Usure I have al herd, Hou thou of love hast wonne smale. *a* 1425 *Cursor M.* 18246 (Trin.), Now is oure kyngdome fordone al Of monkynde gete we ful smal. 1444 Lydg. in *Pol. Poems* (Rolls) II. 215 To thynke mochyl, and seyn but smal. 1588 Shaks. *L. L. L.* I. i. 86 Small haue continuall plodders euer wonne. 1596 Spenser *F. Q.* VI. ix. 20 Hauing small, yet doe I not complaine Of want. 1640 *King & Poor North. Man* 144 in Hazl. *E. P. P.* IV. 298 Let me in, Ise give thee a good single penny. I see thou wilt ha small, ere thou't doe for nought.

Comb. 1588 Shaks. *L. L. L.* I. i. 253 There did I see.. that vnletered small knowing soule.

† **b.** *By small and small*, by degrees; gradually, slowly. *Obs.*

1558 Phaer *Æneid* I. C ij b, He..by smal and smal doth make The Queene forget her husband dead. *Ibid.* VI. 128 By small and small to landward than I swamme. 1593 Shaks. *Rich. II*, III. ii. 198, I play the Torturer, by small and small To lengthen out the worst, that must be spoken.

4. †**a.** *In* or *to small*, in fragments. *Obs.*

a 1400–50 *Alexander* 1309 Quen it was smeten in small.. Ilka gobet his gate glidis fra othire. *a* 1450 Myrc *Par. Pr.* 256 Leste to smale þey done hyt breke.

b. *In small* (rarely *the small*), on a small scale; in little. In early use in reference to painting, etc.: In miniature.

(*a*) 1611 Tourneur *Ath. Trag.* I. ii, You have giuen me her picture in small. *a* 1700 Evelyn *Diary* 22 Oct. 1644, The Labours of Hercules in massy silver, and many incomparable pictures in small. *a* 1716 South *Serm.* (1823) III. 259 His soul; that noble copy and resemblance of its Maker, in small indeed, but [etc.]. 1762–71 H. Walpole *Vertue's Anecd. Paint.* (1786) II. 132 Vandyck actually made the design, but..it was executed only in small by Ph. Frutiers.

(*b*) 1765 *Museum Rust.* IV. lxii. 273 Let him beware of trying experiments from books, except in small. 1793 Smeaton *Edystone L.* § 219 *note*, I have made trial of this method, both in small and in large. 1847 H. Bushnell *Chr. Nurture* (1861) II. v. 316 We are infants too, men and women in the small. 1855 Browning *Old Pictures in Florence* xxi, Where the strong and the weak..Repeat in large what they practised in small.

† **5.** With *a* and pl. A small quantity or amount; a little piece, a morsel. *Obs.*

1373–4 Chaucer *Compl. to his Lady* 113 And ye lete me thus sterve, Yit have ye wonne ther-on but a smal. 1566 Drant *Horace, Sat., Wail. Jeremiah* v. L j b, That we might haue a smal of bred, our carcas to contente. 1567—*Horace, Ep.* I. x. E j, For that he will not knowe to vse and lyue vpon a small. 1624 Sanderson *Serm.* I. 243 Can there be greater vnthankfulness, than to grudge Him a small, who hath given us all?

b. In or after proverbial use. (Also without plural ending.) ? *Obs.*

1303 R. Brunne *Handl. Synne* 2366 Many smale make þ a grete. *c* 1386 Chaucer *Pars. T.* § 362 The prouerbe seith that manye smale maken a greet. 1542 Heywood *Prov.* (1867) 30. 1553 *Respublica* I. i. 109 Yet manye a smale makith a greate. 1602 Carew *Cornwall* 68 b, The stock, which by many smalls, groweth to a meetly greatnes. 1632 Lithgow *Trav.* VII. 305 All which are but as Suburbs to the new Caire, that of many smalles make vp a Countrey, rather then a City. 1737 Ramsay *Sc. Prov.* (1750) 73 Mony sma's make a great.

c. *In* (or *by*) *smalls*, in small amounts, portions, or sums. *Sc.*

1529 *Extr. Burgh Rec. Edinb.* (1871) 8 At na personis.. regrait nor by meill to sell the samyn agane in smallis. 1584 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* III. 649 His haill vicarage is bot tuelf pundis or thairby, pait to him in smalis, in iii *s* and iiii *s* in sum placis. 1637–50 Row *Hist. Kirk* (Wodrow Soc.) 287 Fifty merks (whilk he confessed..he had at sundrie tymes stollen out of the boxe in smalls). 1825 J. Wilson *Noct. Ambr.* Wks. 1855 I. 114 God's blessings are aye God's blessings, though they come in sma's and driblets. 1865 *Glasgow Her.* in *Pall Mall G.* 3 Aug. 10/1 Some speculating genius who saw a chance of turning a dishonest penny by retailing it in smalls.

6. The small, slender, or narrow part *of* something: **a.** Of the leg.

1489 in *Ann. Reg.* (1772) *Antiq.* 151 After that a Gounne had borne away his foote by the small of the legge. 1523

FITZHERB. *Husb.* § 15 They be two yardes longe, and as moche as the small of a mannes legge. *a* 1586 SIDNEY *Arcadia* (1622) 459 A long coate of white veluet, reaching to the small of his legge. 1623 MARKHAM *Cheap Husb.* (ed. 3) 47 The smals of his fore-legs, vnder his knees, and for the smals of his hinder legges somewhat below the spauin ioynts. 1697 DAMPIER *Voy.* I. 32 A piece of Cotton Cloath about the small of their Leg, from the Ankle to the Calf. 1726 SWIFT *Gulliver* I. i, His Excellency, having mounted on the small of my right leg.

ellipt. 1588 SHAKS. *L. L. L.* v. ii. 645 *Lon.* His legge is too big for Hector. *Boy.* More Calfe certaine. *Dum.* No, he is best indued in the small. 1630 DRAYTON *Muses Elizium* Nymphall i. 107 A swelling Calfe, a Small so fine, An Ankle, round and leane. 1715 *Loud. Gaz.* No. 5328/4 Large Legs, the Small pretty big.

b. Of the back († or belly).

? 1536 LATIMER in *Lett. Suppress. Monast.* (Camden) 148, I am in a fayntt werynesse over all my body, butt cheffly in the small of my backe. 1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* (1658) 51 The marrow of a Bul beaten and drunk, cureth the pain in the smal of the belly. 1710 STEELE *Tatler* No. 215 ¶ 7 Our best Customers show but little above the Small of their Backs. 1803 *Med. Jrnl.* X. 528 Severe pain in the head and small of the back. 1884 HUNTER & WHYTE *Ducats & Dau.* xviii, His eyes fixed on the small of the coachman's back.

c. Of a whale (= the part of the tail in front of the flukes).

1725 *Phil. Trans.* XXXIII. 256 With those Fins they clasp about her Small, and so hold themselves on. 1845 GOSSE *Ocean* v. (1849) 230 The head gradually sinks, the 'small' is projected from the water, and presently the 'flukes' of the tail are raised high in the air. 1903 *Strand Mag.* Nov. 536/1 His blubber..being..nine inches [thick] on the belly and six inches on the 'small'.

d. Of things (see quots.).

c 1475 *Pict. Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 779 *Hic stilus*, a smal of a pelyr. 1687 MIÉGE *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II, The Small of the Sword, *le foible de l'Epée*. 1847 *Infantry Man.* (1854) 22 The right hand grasps the small of the butt. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk., Small*,..that part of the anchor-shank which is immediately under the stock. 1893 F. C. SELOUS *Trav. S. E. Africa* 133 Holding the small of the stock in my right hand, and the barrel in my left.

7. *The small*, that which is trifling, petty, or unimportant.

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 314 Al so schal þe þet schriueð him, efter þe greate, schuuen ut þet smele. 1796 H. HUNTER tr. *St.-Pierre's Stud. Nat.* (1799) II. 54 These pretended plans of universality,..which make her descend into the infinitely small. 1836 EMERSON *Nature* 67 To magnify the small, to micrify the great.

8. Small coal; slack. In recent use also *pl.*, varieties of small coal. Also *Comb.*

1851 MAYHEW *Lond. Lab.* II. 83/2 Frequently they mix them up with 'the small' of north country coals of better quality. 1851 GREENWELL *Coal-trade Terms, Northumb. & Durham* 48 *Small Leader*, a lad employed to put away small, to a stow-board, from the hewer working by separation in a narrow place. 1898 *Daily News* 21 Mar. 3/6 Not for some years have best steam smalls been in such demand.

9. *pl.* a. Small clothes; breeches.

1837 DICKENS *Pickw.* xvi, A difficult process it is to bow in green velvet smalls. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* lvi, Her footman, in large plush smalls and waistcoat. 1886 JEROME *Idle Th.* 133 An eager, bright-eyed boy, with.. dandy shoes and tight-fitting smalls.

b. Parcels or consignments of comparatively little weight (see quots.). Also *attrib.*

1889 *Manch. Exam.* 4 May, The word 'smalls'..is used to represent the thousands of small parcels which are daily forwarded from the warehouses of Manchester and other large cities to shopkeepers throughout the kingdom. *Ibid.*, A firm whose 'smalls' traffic is very extensive. 1890 *Times* 4 Dec. 11/2 Then with regard to 'smalls', or quantities of less than 3 cwt.;..hitherto in Birmingham 'smalls' had been defined to be quantities less than 2 cwt.

c. Small kinds of bread; fancy bread, rolls, etc. Freq. in advertisements.

1892 *Glasgow Her.* 22 Apr. 2/1 Baker..; one well up in smalls and pastry.

d. In miscellaneous uses (see quots.).

1883 *Good Words* July 443/1 Small broken rice, known as 'smalls'. 1884 *Pall Mall G.* 13 Dec. 9/1 He saw him have several halves of whisky—'smalls' they were called there. *a* 1891 *Engineer* LXX. 126 (Cent.), The ore..is tipped from trucks on to a grating of iron bars about 2½ in. apart; the 'mine smalls' pass through. 1895 J. W. ANDERSON *Prospector's Handbk.* (ed. 6) 166 *Smalls*—Small-sized pieces of ore and gangue.

10. *pl.* At Oxford: The colloquial term for the examination officially called Responsions.

The evidence is not sufficient to show whether the name is due to the old expressions *in parvisiis* or *in parviso* (see PARVIS 2), through association with *parvis* abl. pl. of *parvus* small; cf. however the use of *parvis disputationibus* in the Laudian Statutes, App., III. § 9, p. 271.

1852 BRISTED *Five Yrs. Eng. Univ.* (ed. 2) 92 The Little Go (at Oxford the Smalls). 1861 HUGHES *Tom Brown at Oxf.* x, I ought to be going up for smalls myself next term. 1880 MRS. LYNN LINTON *Rebel of Family* ii, He had been 'ploughed' for 'smalls' and everything else.

11. *The smalls*, in theatrical use (see quot. 1891).

1891 *Ardrossan Her.* 11 Sept. 4 Having travelled much through the smalls (a theatrical term applied to towns not boasting a regularly built and properly appointed theatre). 1907 H. WYNDHAM *Flare of Footlights* xxx, Wanted..Smart Young Gent to tour the smalls.

12. *Small and early*, a small evening party not intended to continue to a late hour.

[1865 DICKENS *Mut. Fr.* xi, For the clearing off of these worthies, Mrs. Podsnap added a small and early evening to the dinner.] 1880 LD. BEACONSFIELD *Endymion* lxxvii, Well, there are not many dinners among them, to be sure...Small and earlies. How I hate a 'small and early!' 1888 H. JAMES *Partial Portr.* 360 To the afternoon tea, to the fashionable 'squash', to the late and suffocating 'small and early'.

Small (smɔl), *adv.* Forms: 1, 4-5 smale, 5 smalle, 4-7 smal, 5- small. [f. SMALL *a.*]

1. Into small pieces or morsels.

In some examples perh. the adj. used predicatively.

c 888 K. ÆLFRED *Boeth.* xiii, Þeah ðu hi smale todæle swa dust. 1381 in Knighton *Chron.* (Rolls) 138 Iakke Mylner..hath grounden smal smal. *c* 1430 *Two Cookery-bks.* 6 Þan choppe hem smale. *Ibid.* 10 Tese it smal an bray it in a morter. 1578 LYTE *Dodoens* 278 The floures are blewe,..with five little leaves underneath them, very small cut and jagged. 1650 TRAPP *Comm. Levit.* xvi. 12 This incens smal-beaten might figure Christ in his Agonie. 1653 WALTON *Angler* I. iii. (1896) 57 Bruise or cut very smal into your butter, a little Time. 1759 R. BROWN *Compl. Farm.* 81 Geese will..fatten well on carrots cut small. 1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 811 A quarter of an ounce avoirdupoise of the finest white soap, grated small.

† **2.** To a small extent or degree; little, not much; slightly. *Obs.*

c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* i. (*Peter*) 411, I dred rycht small þine angelis. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Wife's Prol.* 592, I wepte but smal. 1456 SIR G. HAYE *Law Arms* (S.T.S.) 11 He trompit nocht small, quhen he send his Apostlis our all the warld to ger schawe the cristyn faith. 1560 ROLLAND *Seven Sages* Prol. ii, I knew small quhat hir mater did mene. 1593 SHAKS. *Lucr.* 1273 If thou dost weep.., it small avails my mood. 1637 STRAFFORD *Lett.* (1739) II. 83 But in Truth, this moves me very small.

† b. Const. *to* one's gain or profit. *Obs.*

1582 A. MUNDAY *Eng. Rom. Life* 61 Promising..hee would informe the Pope of it, which should bee but small to their profite. 1587 HOLINSHED *Chron.* (1808) III. 94 The Frenchmen..sometimes made issues foorth, but small to their gaine.

3. Quietly, gently; in a small or low voice.

13.. *K. Alis.* 7239 (Laud MS.), Alisaunder gynneþ leighe smale. 1590 SHAKS. *Mids. N.* I. ii. 49 That's all one, you shall play it in a Maske, and you may speake as small as you will. 1598— *Merry W.* I. i. 49 She has browne haire, and speakes small like a woman. 1887 STEVENSON *Mem. & Portraits* viii, The reposing toiler, thoughtfully smoking, talking small, as if in honour of the stillness.

† b. Slyly; wantonly. *Obs.*—[1]

c 1450 *Knt. de la Tour* (1868) 16 She helde not her astate.., for she loked smal and wynked ofte.., and euer loked ouer the shuldre.

4. *To sing small*: † a. (See quot.) *Obs.*—[0]

1623 COCKERAM I, *Minurize*, to sing small, to faine in singing.

b. *colloq.* To adopt a humble tone or manner; to use less assertive language, or to qualify or withdraw a previous statement; to say nothing, to be silent or dumb.

See also the *Eng. Dial. Dict.* for dialect usage.

1753-4 RICHARDSON *Grandison* (1812) I. 120, I must myself sing small in her company; I will never meet at hard-edge with her. 1785 GROSE *Dict. Vulgar T., Sing small*, to be humbled, confounded, or abashed, to have little or nothing to say for one's self. 1840 BARHAM *Ingol. Leg.* Ser. II. *Row in Omnibus*, Fiddle-de-dee's at the top of the tree, And Dol-drum and Fal-de-ral-tit sing small! 1880 GLADSTONE in Morley *Life* VIII. vii. (1905) II. 354 Sir R. Peel endorsed the remonstrance and I had to sing small.

5. In a fine or small manner; on a small scale, etc. Also in *small-set* adj.

1637 RUTHERFORD *Lett.* (1862) I. 197 It would be no art.., to spin small, and make hypocrisy a goodly web, and to go through the market as a saint among men. 1703 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 3944/4 Also John Simonds, a small-set Fellow. 1820 KEATS *Lamia* II. 47 Her open eyes, Where he was mirror'd small in paradise.

Small (smɔl), *v. rare.* Also 5 smalyn, smale. [f. SMALL *a.* Cf. OE. *smaligan* (rare), MDu. *smalen* (*smallen*), MLG. *smalen, smelen*, MHG. *smaln* (G. dial. *schmalen*) and *smeln* (G. *schmälen*), older Da. *smale, smalle.*]

† **1.** *trans.* To make small; to lessen, reduce. *Obs.*

c 1400 *Lanfranc's Cirurg.* 85 Smale þe lippis of woundis þat ben greate. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 460/2 Smalyn, or make lesse, *minoro*. 1611 COTGR., *Apointi*,..sharpened, or smalled, at the point.

2. *intr.* To become small; to diminish, grow less. Hence **Sma·lling** *ppl. a.*

a 1618 SYLVESTER *Woodman's Bear* liv, I saw,..Smalling down by measure's law, Her straight comely shapen back. 1665 HOOKE *Microgr.* 36 By sucking at the smalling Pipe, more of the Air..may be suck'd out. 1899 T. HARDY *Departure* Poems (1902) 7 The broad bottoms rip the bearing brine—All smalling slowly to the gray sea line.

Smallage (smɔ·lĕdʒ). Forms: α. 3 smal, 4 smale ache, 5-6 smalache, 5-7 -ach, 6-7 small-ach(e. β. 5 smalege, -edge, 6-7 smalledge, 7 -adge, 6- smallage. [f. SMALL *a.* 21 b + ACHE *sb.*[2]] One or other of several varieties of celery or parsley; *esp.* wild celery or water parsley, *Apium graveolens*. Now *rare.*

α. *c* 1290 *St. Cuthbert* 52 in *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 360 'Nim,' he seide, 'þe milk of one kov.., Iuys of smal-Ache do þar-to'. *a* 1387 *Sinon. Barthol.* (Anecd. Oxon.) II *Apium simpliciter*,..smale ache. *c* 1400 *Lanfranc's Cirurg.* 94 Leie on þis confecciouu maad of flour of wheete & hony & ius of smalache. *c* 1450 *M. E. Med. Bk.* (Heinrich) 101 Take smalache, reed fenel, rewe, verueyne [etc.]. 1545 RAYNOLD *Byrth Mankynde* 134 The decoction of rosemarye,..alexander, smallach, &c. 1578 LYTE *Dodoens* 606 Smallache hath shyning leaues of a darke greene colour. 1603 HOLLAND *Plutarch* 719 Afterwards when these [Isthmian] Games were accounted, they translated thither..the chaplet of Smallach.

β. 14.. *Nom.* in Wr.-Wülcker 711 *Hoc apium*, smalege. 1530 PALSGR. 271/2 Smallage an herbe, *ache*. 1562 TURNER *Herbal* (1568) 40 Smallage hath suche a strong savor,..that no man can..eat it with hys meate. 1636 W. UENNY in *Ann. Dubrensia* (1877) 13 Each three yeeres Victor was with Smallage crown'd, Whose pendant leaves, his head enshadow'd round. 1685 TEMPLE *Ess. Gardens* Wks. 1720 I. 178 The Plants he mentions, are the *Apium*, which tho' commonly interpreted *Parsly*, yet comprehends all Sorts of Smallage, whereof Sellery is one. 1712 *Pomet's Hist. Drugs* I. 2 The large Smallage, which the Gardiners falsly call Macedonian-Parsley. 1785 MARTYN *Rousseau's Bot.* xvii. (1794) 236 Our wild Smallage,..which is common by ditches and brooks, cannot be rendered esculent by culture. 1822-7 GOOD *Study Med.* (1829) I. 248 The *cicuta virosa*, or water-hemlock, the leaves of which have been mistaken for smallage. 1876 *Encycl. Brit.* V. 290/2 Celery,..a biennial plant..which, in its native condition, is known in England as smallage.

attrib. *c* 1550 H. LLOYD *Treas. Health* g iv, Smalladge rote hanged aboute thy necke doth alay the tooth ache. *a* 1648 DIGBY *Closet Opened* (1677) 130 Smallage Gruel. 1658 ROWLAND tr. *Mouffet's Theat. Ins.* 1063 Give in Wine the decoction..of the Cyprus Nut, Smallage-seed. 1853 SOYER *Pantroph.* 141 When it is cooked, add pepper and smallage seed.

Sma·ll-arm. Also **small arm.** [Back-formation from SMALL-ARMS, at first in attrib. use.]

1. *attrib.* a. Using or provided with small-arms.

1805 E. P. *Let.* in Polwhele *Trad. & Recoll.* (1826) II 577, I acted both in the capacity of a commanding officer,.. small-arm-man, and powder-boy. 1833 M. SCOTT *Tom Cringle* xv, Fire, small arm men, and take good aim. 1892 BRIGHTON *Sir P. Wallis* 67 The Chesapeake had attached much importance to her small-arm force.

b. Intended or adapted for small-arms.

1807 *Ann. Reg., Hist. Europe* 219/2 Small-arm ammunition. 1876 VOYLE & STEVENSON *Milit. Dict.* 390/2 Small-arm Cartridge.

2. A fire-arm which may be carried in the hand.

1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2219/2 *Small-arm*, a term including muskets, rifles, carbines, and pistols. 1881 GREENER *Gun* 113 Owing to the introduction..of the Snider breech-loader, which prevented the general use of the Whitworth small-arm in military circles.

Hence **Sma·ll-armed** *a.*, provided with small-arms; **Sma·ll-armoury**, an armoury for small-arms.

1766 ENTICK *London* IV. 340 Two..rooms, one of which is a small-armoury for the sea-service. 1806 A. DUNCAN *Nelson* 50 Their force consisted of 80 marines, and 180 small-armed seamen. 1812 *Examiner* 31 Aug. 553/1 To disperse some small armed men collected on the shore.

Sma·ll-arms. [f. SMALL *a.* + ARM *sb.*[2] 2.] Fire-arms capable of being carried in the hand, as contrasted with ordnance.

1710 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 2702/2 Powder, small Ball, and small Arms. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* III. viii. 379 Her topmen..made prodigious havock with their small arms. 1817 *Parl. Deb.* 756 During the war no less than three millions of small arms had been manufactured there for the use of the Allies. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* III. 267/2 The fire of modern small-arms has become so infinitely more deadly.

attrib. 1858 BRIGHT *Sp., Reform* 10 Dec., The Government small-arms establishment at Enfield. 1905 H. NEWMAN in E. Candler *Unveiling of Lhasa* x. 192 Then followed several hours of cannonading and small-arms fire.

Small beer. [SMALL *a.* 12 a.]

1. Beer of a weak, poor, or inferior quality.

1568 GRAFTON *Chron.* II. 359 For drinke, they had none but small Ale or Beere. 1592 NASHE *Four Lett. Conf.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 242 His Poetry more spiritlesse than smal beere. 1636 MASSINGER *Gt. Dk. Florence* II. ii, Such as eat store of beef..may preserve their healths With that thin composition called small beer. 1690 J. MACKENZIE *Siege Londonderry* 56/2 That every Soldier..shall be allowed a quart of small Beer *per diem*. 1721 AMHERST *Terræ Fil.* (1726) App. 317, I think there ought to be something allow'd besides small-beer and apple-dumplings. 1770 MASSIE *Tax upon Malt* 6 The Quantity of small Beer annually brewed for Sale in England and Wales, is about Two Millions Three Hundred Thousand Barrels. 1822 IMISON *Sci. & Art* II. 168 The liquor in this state is pretty nearly of the colour of small beer. 1840 BARHAM *Ingol. Leg.* Ser. II. *Bl. Mousquetaire* 535 The Black Mousquetaire was as dead as Small beer!

2. *transf.* a. Trivial occupations, affairs, etc.; matters or persons of little or no consequence or importance; trifles.

[1604 SHAKS. *Oth.* II. i. 161 To suckle Fooles, and chronicle small Beere. 1710 ADDISON *Whig Examiner* No. 4 ¶ 5 As rational Writings have been represented by Wine; I shall represent those Kinds of Writings we are now speaking of, by Small Beer.] 1777 J. ADAMS *Wks.* (1854) IX. 464 The torment of hearing eternally reflections upon my constituents, that they are..smallbeer,.. is what I will not endure. 1844 THACKERAY *B. Lyndon* xiv, All the news of sport, assize, and quarter-sessions were detailed by this worthy chronicler of small-beer. 1883 *Fortn. Rev.* Sept. 379 A twice-told tale, or a chronicle of small beer.

† b. (See quot.) *Obs.*—[1]

1789 T. WRIGHT *Meth. Watering Meadows* (1790) 23 Our farmers..call even the second running [of the water] by the significant name of small-beer.

c. *To think small beer of*, or variants of this: To have a poor or low opinion of (oneself or others). Chiefly with negatives. *colloq.*

1825 C. WESTMACOTT *English Spy* I. 32 He was not thought small beer of. 1855 THACKERAY *Newcomes* xxxix, She thinks small beer of painters, J. J.—well, we don't think small beer of ourselves, my noble friend. 1873 *Punch* 18 Jan. 30/2 Is it consistent for..a teetotaller to think no small beer of himself?

3. *attrib.* a. In sense 1, as *small-beer allowance, firkin, wort, yeast.*

1743 *Lond. & Co. Brewer* II. (ed. 2) 157 The small-beer firkin being 9 Gallons. 1746 W. THOMPSON *R. N. Adv.* (1757) 47 The Fleet sailed without Small Beer Allowance. 1801 *Med. Jrnl.* V. 275, I recommended them to procure some small-beer yeast. 1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 741 Litmus blue is prepared by boiling litmus in small-beer wort.

b. In fig. uses (cf. sense 2), as *small-beer air, character, chronicle*, etc.

1648 G. DANIEL *Eclog* iii. 262 Eudæmon, still..in Small-beer ayre [you] Flutter with feeble wings. 1682 MRS. BEHN *City Heiress* 29 That..Puritanical, Phanatical, Small-beer face of thine. 1721 AMHERST *Terræ Fil.* (1726) App. 318 A lad may..chop logic as glibly in a college, where they eat and drink like christians, as in any small-beer hall whatsoever. 1789 GOUVR. MORRIS in Sparks *Life & Writ.* (1832) II. 92 If the reigning prince were not the small-beer character that he is. 1824 *Westm. Rev.* July 181 The second volume [of *Redgauntlet*] contains a diary, or small-beer journal. 1861 THACKERAY *Round. Papers, Small-beer Chronicle*, In the House of Commons what small-beer orators try to pass for strong?

4. *Comb.* (sense 1), as *small-beer brewer, drawer, -drinker*.

1638 T. WHITAKER *Blood of Grape* 31 When as water or small-beere-drinkers looke like Apes rather then men. 1721 AMHERST *Terræ Fil.* No. 25 (1726) 132 Under pain of having his said lucubrations burnt..by the hands of the small-beer drawer. 1743 *Lond. & Co. Brewer* II. (ed. 2) 159 Two considerable Small-Beer Brewers.

Small-clothes. Also **smallclothes.** [SMALL *a.* 3.]

1. Breeches; knee-breeches. (Cf. SMALL *sb.* 9 a.)

1796 J. HUNTER *Trav.* 297 The immensity of their breeches, (for, in spite of the fashionable phrase, it would certainly be a perversion of terms to call them small-clothes). 1812 W. COMBE *Syntax, Picturesque* XX, One who was in full fashion drest,..His small-clothes sat so close and tight. 1841 THACKERAY *Gt. Hoggarty Diamond* iii, Two great footmen, with red whiskers and yellow plush smallclothes. 1883 J. HAWTHORNE *Dust* I. 84 He leaned back in his chair, with one hand in the pocket of his small-clothes.

2. *transf.* One who wears breeches.

1825 COLERIDGE *Lett., Convers.*, etc. II. 210 An audience of respectable smallclothes and petticoats.

Small coal. Also **small-coal.** [SMALL *a.* 4.]

1. Charcoal. *Obs.* exc. *Hist.*

1638 FORD *Fancies* v. i, Your suds and pan of small-coal. 1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* 88 Smal-coale is commonly known unto all, and for this use is made of Sallow, Willow, Alder, Hasell, and the like. 1705 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4094/3 The Bran and Smallcoal made at their Office on Tower-hill. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Coal*, An Artificial Fuel made.. by half burning the Branches and Roots of Trees; properly call'd *Charcoal*, and *Smallcoal*.

2. Coal of small size; slack.

1665 DUDLEY *Mettall. Martis* (1854) 8 Knowing that if there could be any use made of the Smal-coale.., then would they be drawn out of the Pits. 1677 *Phil. Trans.* XII. 898 The Men..hid themselves as well as they could in the loose sleck or small Cole. 1755 JOHNSON, *Slack*, small coal; coal broken in small parts. 1843 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* I. 205 Small-coal is thrown..into the hollow fire to replace that which is burned. 1891 *Weekly Notes* 136/2 The small coal was mainly produced by the friction of the blocks while being brought to the surface.

3. *attrib.*, as *small-coal man, question, trade*, etc.

1673 R. HEAD *Canting Acad.* 129 He lookt like a Small-Coal-man. 1715 HEARNE *Collect.* (O. H. S.) V. 103 Thomas Britton..set up the Small-coal Trade. 1847 THACKERAY *Curate's Walk* Wks. 1900 VI. 552 The Curate was very deep in conversation with a small-coalman. 1898 *Daily News* 6 May 2/7 At the same time there was a vehement dispute on the small coal question.

Small-craft. [See CRAFT *sb.* 9 a.] In attrib. use, as *small-craft man, vessel*, etc. Also *transf.*

1693 DRYDEN, etc. *Juvenal* iii. (1697) 51 He..whom t'other Day A small-craft Vessel hither did convey. 1711 SHAFTESB. *Charac.* (1737) III. 97 We essay-writers are of the small-craft or galley-kind. 1832 CARLYLE *Remin.* (1881) I. 33 On board some small-craft man of war. 1856 OLMSTED *Slave States* 143 Captain Jerry had the habit, which small-craft men are apt to get, of consulting aloud with himself.

Small-eyed, *a.* [SMALL *a.* 23.] Having small eyes. Also *transf.* of spectacles.

1630 DRAYTON *Noah's Flood* 481 The small-ey'd slow-worm held of many blind. 1686 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 2176/4 A black Negro Man,..small in the Waste, small Ey'd. 1801 SHAW *Gen. Zool.* II. II. 502 Small Eyed Cachalot, *Physeter Microps.* 1836 YARRELL *Brit. Fishes* II. 433 The Small-eyed Ray, *raia microcellata*. 1840 DICKENS *B. Rudge* iv, Sim..was an old-fashioned,..sharp-nosed, small-eyed little fellow. 1898 *Westm. Gaz.* 5 Oct. 9/3 Small-eyed spectacles made at the suggestion of Sir Isaac Newton.

Small fry: see FRY *sb.*[1] 4.

Small-headed, *a.* [SMALL *a.* 23.] Having a small head.

1611 COTGR., *Saupe*, a small-headed,..vnwholesome sea-fish. 1752 HILL *Hist. Anim.* 113 The great, thick, small-headed Testudo. 1775 *Phil. Trans.* LXVII. 13 A tall small-headed tree. 1812 A. WILSON *Amer. Ornith.* VI. 62 Small-headed Flycatcher, *Muscicapa minuta*. 1836 YARRELL *Brit. Fishes* II. 221 *Pleuronectes microcephalus*, Small-headed Dab. 1854 H. MILLER *Sch. & Schm.* (1858) 320 A tall, large-bodied, small-headed man.

Smalling, *ppl. a.*: see SMALL *v.*

Smallish (smɔ̄·lish), *a.* [f. SMALL *a.*] Somewhat small; rather little.

? *a* 1366 CHAUCER *Rom. Rose* 826 His shuldres of a large brede, And smalish in the girdilstede. 1611 COTGR., *Menuël*, smallish. 1763 COLE in *Collect. Topogr. & Gen.* (1837) IV. 48 The 4th coffin has nothing on ye plate, and is a smallish one. 1764 H. WALPOLE *Let. to G. Montagu* 24 Dec., I send you a decent smallish muff, that you may put in your pocket.

1820 SCORESBY *Acc. Arctic Reg.* II. 440 The pieces of ice were fortunately of smallish dimensions. 1858 CARLYLE *Fredk. Gt.* I. v. (1872) I. 42 Small troubles, the antagonism to which is apt to become itself of smallish character. 1890 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Col. Reformer* (1891) 385 These cattle are smallish and weak.

Small-mouth, *a.* [SMALL *a.* 22.] Of bass: Small-mouthed.

1884 GOODE *Nat. Hist. Aquat. Anim.* 401 The Big-mouth Black Bass,..and the Small-mouth Black Bass, *micropterus dolomieï*. 1909 *Daily Chron.* 22 Sept. 1/6 Bass of the small mouth variety live better in fresh water.

b. *ellipt.* as *sb.*

1884 GOODE *Nat. Hist. Aquat. Anim.* 401 The Small-mouth shares with the Large-mouth in the Southern States the names 'Jumper', 'Perch', and 'Trout'. *Ibid.* 402 The Small-mouths found their way into the Hudson in 1825 or soon after.

Small-mouthed, *a.* [SMALL *a.* 23.] Having a small mouth; *spec.* of certain fishes (see later quots.).

1523 FITZHERB. *Husb.* § 78 The .ix. propertyes of an asse. The fyrste is to be small-mouthed. 1611 COTGR., *Derbro*, a kind of small-mouthed..Sea-fish. 1803 SHAW *Gen. Zool.* IV. II. 445 Small-mouthed Sparus, *Sparus Microstomus*. 1839 YARRELL *Suppl. Brit. Fishes* 36 The Small-mouthed Wrasse, *Crenilabrus exoletus*. 1882 JORDAN & GILBERT *Syn. Fishes N. Amer.* 485 *Micropterus dolomieï*, Small-mouthed Black Bass.

Smallness (smɔ̄·lnés). Also 4–7 **smal-**, 6–7 **smale-**, 7 **smalle-**; 4–7 **-nesse**, 5–7 **-nes** (5 **-nez**). [f. SMALL *a.*]

†1. Slimness; slenderness. *Obs.*

1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) II. 181 Whan þe lymes beeþ ..as they schulde be in schappe,..quantite, and gretnesse and smalnesse. *a* 1425 tr. *Arderne's Treat. Fistula*, etc. 60 If þe pacient of emoroidez be of malencolious complexion, þise bene toknez:—smalnez of body [etc.]. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 346 A Smalnes, *gracilitas*. 1565 COOPER *Thesaurus, Exilitas*, slendernesse: thinnesse. *Foliorum exilitas*,.. the smalnesse. 1623 COCKERAM II, Smalnes, *tenuitie*. 1733 TULL *Horse-Hoeing Husb.* i. (Dubl.) 7 The Roots, tho' very weak and slender, are easily supported.., notwithstanding their Length, Smallness and Flexibility. 1761 HUME *Hist. Eng.* I. xiii. 336 Notwithstanding the great length and smallness of his legs.

2. The fact or quality of being small, in various senses: **a.** In size or extent.

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XVII. i. (Bodl. MS.), Treen beþ diuers..in gretenes and in smalnes and in strengþe. 1512 *Act 4 Hen. VIII*, c. 19 § 14 Nott regardyng the.. greatnesse or smalnes of the same penyes. 1577 B. GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* I. (1586) 31 Not vnlyke the Beechemast both in colour and fourme, differing onely in the smalenesse. 1630 *R. Johnson's Kingd. & Commw.* 425 The Sea Oxe differeth nothing from the Land Oxe, save in smalnesse of stature. 1669 WORLIDGE *Syst. Agric.* (1681) 212 According to the height you raise the Water, may you proportion the greatness or smallness of your Engine. 1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* I. (Globe) 138 The Smallness of my Boat. 1792 A. YOUNG *Trav. France* 399 The great evil is the smallness of farms. 1802 DIBDIN *Edit. Classics* Advt., The smallness and closeness of the type. 1840 LARDNER *Geom.* 221 Proportional to the smallness of the pieces into which the sphere is divided. 1884 G. F. BRAITHWAITE *Salmonidæ Westm.* ii. 7 They are easily distinguished..by the smallness of their scales.

b. In capacity, ability, etc.

1435 MISYN *Fire of Love* 96 þe smalnes certan of my mynde can-not opyn itt. 1557 NORTH *Gueuara's Diall Pr.* Author's Prol., That..the smalnes of my eloquence..shold be lytle regarded. 1594 T. B. *La Primaud. Fr. Acad.* II. 291 God..abaseth himselfe to our smallnesse. 1662 J. BARGRAVE *Pope Alex. VII* (1867) 9 The embassadors..being the apter to bear with the smallness of his sufficiency.

c. In strength, quality, or vigour.

1565 COOPER *Thesaurus* s.v. *Exilitas*, The smalnesse of a womans voyce. 1620 VENNER *Via Recta* ii. 39 There is great difference to be found in Beere, according to the strength and smalnesse of it. 1661 R. LOVELL *Hist. Anim. & Min.* Isagōge e v b, Sadnesse doth by degrees dissolve the spirits,..and cause..palenesse, and smallenesse of pulse. 1755 in JOHNSON. 1828–32 WEBSTER s.v., The smallness of a female voice. 1847 W. C. L. MARTIN *The Ox* 133/1 Let not the smallness of the pulse deter from bleeding.

d. In amount, quantity, etc.

1649 E. REYNOLDS *Hosea* iii. 12 The greatnes of his work for us to the smalnes of ours unto him. 1677 YARRANTON *Eng. Improv.* 107 By reason of the..smallness of the Rains ..most Rivers are much wanting in Water. 1770 LANGHORNE *Plutarch* (1851) I. 241/1 They never considered the smallness of his supplies. 1794 S. WILLIAMS *Hist. Vermont* 299 Encouraged by the smallness of the taxes. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* x. II. 554 The smallness of the booty disappointed the plunderers. 1885 *Manch. Exam.* 6 Apr. 4/6 The smallness of the work achieved.

e. In respect of numbers.

1781 GIBBON *Decl. & F.* xxix. (1787) III. 127 Such was the smallness of their establishments, or the difficulty of recruiting. 1801 *Farmer's Mag.* Nov. 469 A large growth of grass, ..owing to the comparative smallness of stock kept, remains ..to be consumed. 1890 *Spectator* 3 May, The smallness of his party—on his biggest expedition he only had five men..—may partly account for this.

3. Littleness of mind; meanness, pettiness.

1813 *Examiner* 31 May 350/1 There is a stiff smallness about his mind. 1869 BLACKMORE *Lorna D.* xiii, That was honest enough, and no smallness of me there. 1883 *Good Words* 196 Not one of his children but tried to conquer self and smallness when he was by.

4. With pl. A small part, portion, etc. *rare.*

1832 L. HUNT *Poems* (1860) 269 Compound of lovely smallnesses.

Small-pock. Now *rare* or *Obs.* Also **small pock.** [SMALL *a.* 3.] One of the pustules which appear on the skin in the disease of small-pox; the disease itself. Also *attrib.*

14.., 1530 [see POCK *sb.* 2 β]. 1736 AINSWORTH *Lat. Dict.* II, *Pustula*,..a small pock. 1797 *Phil. Trans.* LXXXVII. 207 The upper part..was a little concave, like the head of a turned small-pock. 1800 *Med. Jrnl.* IV. 339 Master T—, the first subject mentioned with Small-pock, died on the 27th. 1825 *Q. Rev.* XXXIII. 238 Valli diluted the pestilential matter with small-pock matter.

Small-pox (smɔ̄·lˌpɒks), *sb.* Forms: α. 6–7 **small pockes** (6 **pokkes**, 7 **pocks**), 7–9 **small-pocks.** β. 7 **small poxe**, 7– **small pox, small-pox**, 8– **smallpox.** [f. SMALL *a.* + POX *sb.*, earlier *pocks* (POCK *sb.* 2 a). Long written as two words, the adj. being employed to distinguish the disease from the pox proper, or *great pox*.]

1. The pox or pustules on the skin which form the most characteristic feature of the acute contagious disease sometimes called variola; hence commonly, the disease itself. **a.** With *the*.

It is only in certain contexts that the two senses can be clearly distinguished. In later use, when denoting the disease, the word is construed as a singular.

α. 1518 PACE in *Lett. & Papers Hen. VIII* (1864) II. II. 1333 They do die in these parts [Wallingford]..of the small pokkes and mezils. 1547 BOORDE *Brev. Health* CCXVI. 74 There be many sodein sickenesses, as the pestilence,..the small pockes, the crampe. 1608 DOD & CLEAVER *Expos. Prov.* xi-xii. 81 They are as willing that the small pockes should deforme theyr faire faces. 1676 *Phil. Trans.* XI. 569 The third Epidemical Constitution..was that of the Small-pocks. 1788 *Med. Comm.* II. 183 The small-pocks are often confluent upon the face and head, whilst they are distinct every where else.

β. 1623 HART *Arraignm. Ur.* iii. 46 Small wheales like the small poxe. 1634 BRERETON *Trav.* (Chetham Soc.) 39 Prince Maurice..hath lately been much disfigured by the small-pox. *c* 1672 WOOD *Life* (O.H.S.) I. 45 This yeare he had the small pox so much that he was for a time blinded with them. 1764 REID *Let.* Wks. 1863 I. 40/2 The street we live in..was infested with the smallpox, which were very mortal. 1789 MRS. PIOZZI *Journ. France* II. 306 The small-pox was not to be named in his presence. 1843 ABDY *Water Cure* 180 Thirty or more of the boys..fell sick of the small-pox. 1891 C. ROBERTS *Adrift Amer.* 87 The small-pox was making fearful havoc with the country.

b. Without article.

α. 1565 COOPER *Thesaurus, Pustulæ*, Small pockes. 1804 *Med. Jrnl.* XII. 335 The disorder of small-pocks or measles.

β. 1676 J. COOKE *Marrow Chirurg* IV. ii. ix. (1685) 213 Custom tells us, that those large Pustles..are called Small-Pox. 1784 *New Spectator* No xvii. 3 A young man of some little education, pitted with small pox. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 143/1 Small-pox, according to its severity, is distinguished by authors into two varieties, the *distinct* and the *confluent*. 1877 F. T. ROBERTS *Handbk. Med* (ed. 3) I. 149 Small-Pox is very easily conveyed from one individual to another by inoculation, contact, and infection. 1889 G. GRESSWELL *Dis. Ox* 311 'Small pox in Sheep ..is known scientifically under the name of *Variola ovina*.

2. *attrib.*, as *small-pox case, epidemic*, etc.

1775 ASH s.v., Smallpox hospital. 1834 *Cycl. Pract. Med.* III. 736/1 The pestilential vapour of small-pox pustules. *Ibid.* 744/1 Medical men who visit small-pox patients. 1867 AUGUSTA WILSON *Vashti* xxxi, Are you aware that..this building is assigned to small-pox cases? 1898 RIDER HAGGARD *Dr. Therne* 2 The appalling smallpox epidemic.

b. *Small-pox cowry, shell* (see quots.).

1796 NEMNICH *Polyglot.-Lex.* V. 896 Small-pox shell, *Cypraea caurica*. 1837 *Penny Cycl.* VIII. 257/1 *Cypræa pustulata*, Lam., commonly called by collectors the Small-pox Cowry.

Hence **Sma·ll-pox** *v.*; **Sma·ll-poxed** *a.*, marked by or suffering from small-pox.

1774 *Westm. Mag.* II. 281 A man must have a daring front to attack these small-poxed Muses. 1862 *Sat. Rev.* 5 July 9 The present of 300 smallpoxed prisoners. 1897 GUNTER *S. Turnbull* xvi. 196 'What do you say to taking a tour of the hospitals?' 'Gad! Do you wish to smallpox me?' growls Philip, angrily.

Small shot: see SHOT *sb.*

Small-sword. [SMALL *a.* 2.] A kind of light sword, tapering gradually from the hilt to the point, and esp. used in fencing.

1687 [see below]. 1707 HOPE *New Method Fencing* p. ix, A sufficient Guard and Defence, against all the Thrusts of the Small-Sword. 1777 SHERIDAN *Sch. Scand.* V. ii, Isn't it a wound with a small-sword? 1836 MARRYAT *Midsh. Easy* xxii, He accepted the challenge, but having no knowledge of the small-sword, refused to fight unless with pistols. 1852 THACKERAY *Esmond* I. v, Father Holt was an expert practitioner with the small-sword.

b. *attrib.*, as *small-sword exercise, logic, man*, etc.

1687 HOPE (*title*), The Scots Fencing-Master, or Compleat Small-Sword-Man. 1779 SHERIDAN *Critic* II. ii, The *pro* and *con* goes as smart as hits in a fencing-match. It is, indeed, a sort of small-sword logic. 1803 *Ann. Reg., Chron.* 525/2 If he would take a foil and indulge him with a lesson in the small-sword exercise. *a* 1814 *Manœuvring* IV. iii. in *New Brit. Theatre* II. 117 All this sparring and small-sword play of wit.

Small-talk, *sb.* Also **small talk.** [SMALL *a.* 18.] Light talk or conversation; chit-chat, gossip.

1751 CHESTERF. *Let.* 20 June, A sort of chit-chat, or *small-talk*, which is the general run of conversation..in most mixed companies. 1762 LADY S. LENNOX in *Life & Lett.* (1901) I. 122, I have wrote a great deal of *small talk*, as Mercadie calls it. 1810 CRABBE *Borough* iii. 70 As your tea you sip, While the town small-talk flows from lip to lip. 1885 PAYN *Talk of Town* I. 18 The mere offer..may lead to volumes of small-talk.

Hence **Small-talk** *v. intr.*; to engage in small-talk; **Small-talkable** *a.*, **-talker, -talking.**

1782 G. K. (*title*), The Festival of Wit; or, [the] Small Talker. 1786 COLMAN in *European Mag.* IX. 370 Small wit, small plot—and last—not least, small-talking. 1848 CLOUGH *Bothie* v. 116 Thou in the palace, its author, art dining, small-talking and dancing. 1860 W. COLLINS *Wom. in White* i. vi, A flirtable, danceable, small-talkable creature of the male sex.

† Sma·llum, *adv. Obs.*—° [f. SMALL *a.* Cf. LITLUM *adv.*] In small pieces or quantities.

Smallums, 'small quantities', 'small sums', occurs in modern north. dial. use.

1483 *Cath. Angl.* 346/1 Smallum, ... *minutim.*

Small-ware(s. [SMALL *a.* 3.] (See quot. 1839.) Chiefly in pl.

1617 MINSHEU *Ductor,* An Habberdasher of small wares... In London also called a Millenier. 1630– [see HABERDASHER *b*]. *a* 1704 T. BROWN *Decl. Advs.* Wks. 1730 I. 40 Achilles..fell..into a great huff with Alexander Magnus, haberdasher of small-wares. 1719 D'URFEY *Pills* (1872) IV. 216 A spruce Haberdasher first spoke me fair, But I would have nothing to do with small-ware. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 1141 *Small Wares,* is the name given in this country to textile articles of the tape kind, narrow bindings of cotton, linen, silk, or woollen fabric; plaited sash cord, braid, &c. 1884 *B'ham Daily Post* 24 Jan. 3/4 Hosiery, Haberdashery, Smallwares, Wools, &c.

fig. 1720 SWIFT *Adv. to Young Poet* Wks. 1841 II. 299 Every one knows Grub-street is a market for small ware in wit.

b. *attrib.,* as *small-ware dealer, merchant, shop.*

1834 *Picture of Liverpool* 73 Smallware dealer. 1848 MRS. GASKELL *Mary Barton* xiv, I..set up a small-ware shop. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade, Smallware-dealer, Small-ware-merchant,* a shop-keeper who keeps small wares; a merchant who supplies them.

Smally (smɔ̄·li), *a.* [f. SMALL *a.* + -Y.]

† 1. Of liquor: Weak, small, thin. *Obs.*—1

1577 GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* II. 88 b, They make a drinke called Cyder, and a smaly drinke beside with water.

2. Of persons or animals: Puny, little; smallish. *Sc.* and *north dial.*

1808 in JAMIESON. 1820 *Glenfergus* II. 267 On the swaird before the mansion, two smally dry haired ponies were feeding. 1855 [ROBINSON] *Whitby Gloss.* s.v., A poor smally creature. 1866 *Cornh. Mag.* Mar. 359 But Jane was our only daughter,..a wee, smally bit thing.

† Sma·lly, *adv. Obs.* Forms: 4 **smalliche,** 5–7 **smally,** 6 **smallye, -ie, smaly.** [f. SMALL *a.* + -LY 2.] In very common use *c* 1525–1650.]

1. In or into small or minute pieces, fragments, etc.; finely, minutely.

1340 *Ayenb.* 111 þet me sseł recordi zueteliche and smaliche be little stechches alle þe guodnesses of oure lhorde. *c* 1475 *Cath. Angl.* 346/1 Smally, *minutim.* 1578 LYTE *Dodoens* 301 His leaves are not so smally cut. 1598 FLORIO, *Pioulecare,* to drizle, to mizle, or raine smallie. 1610 MARKHAM *Masterp.* II. lii. 299 Water wherein..the hearb of arsmanarck hath bin wel sod in, and smally chopt. 1662 CHANDLER *Van Helmont's Oriat.* To Rdr., Gold and Silver, how smally soever they may be divided.

2. By a small number; sparsely, scantily.

a 1513 FABYAN *Chron.* v. (1811) III This swerdman..fand yᵉ kyng smally accompanyed. 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VI* (1809) 196 Besieged the citie of Arques,..whiche was smally defended and sone gotten. 1604 E. G[RIMSTONE] *D'Acosta's Hist. Indies* I. ix. 32 Although it bee in a climate more commodious.., yet is it smally peopled and inhabited.

3. In only a slight or small degree; to a small or limited extent; not much, very little. Freq. preceded by *but.*

(*a*) 1523 LD. BERNERS *Froissart* I. ccxxxviii. 343 This courtesy..dyde the prince to the kynge, the whiche after was but smally rewarded. 1553 BRENDE *Q. Curtius* III. 39 The hurt of his shoulder, whereof the skin was but smally perished. 1622 FOTHERBY *Atheom.* I. ii. 11 Which you doe but smally credite. 1656 EARL MONM. tr. *Boccalini's Advts. fr. Parnass.* I. xxv. 42 Seneca quitted the Audience with this but smally satisfactory resolution.

(*b*) 1532 in J. H. Blunt *Ref. Ch. Eng.* (1868) I. 221 We think this answer..will smally please you. 1549 CHALONER *Erasm. on Folly* Q iij b, In case ye smally beleve myne, marke, I praie you, his owne woords. *a* 1603 T. CARTWRIGHT *Confut. Rhem. N. T.* (1618) 541 It is needlesse, or at least smally to the purpose. 1670 EACHARD *Cont. Clergy* 109, I cannot prove..that a man smally beneficed must of necessity be dissolute.

b. With verbs of considering, regarding, etc.

Very common from *c* 1550 to *c* 1630.

1532 in Strype *Eccl. Mem.* (1721) I. 213 All such acts made for reformation..be smally regarded. 1562 MOUNTGOMERY in *Archæologia* XLVII. 220 Ower natiue Inglishe sowldior,..whome wee smallie consider. 1609 R. BARNERD *Faithf. Sheph.* 16 They smally account of our translations. 1634 W. TIRWHYT tr. *Balzac's Lett.* (vol. I) 303 Smally valuing either Gold, or Pearles as I doe.

c. *Not smally,* greatly, very much.

1562 LEGH *Armory* (1597) A iv b, Rome eke was not smally inriched by her Orator. 1578 J. JONES *Preserv. Body & Soul* I. xxx. 60 Not a little auayleable to his.. immortall glory, not smally beneficial to yᵉ Romane Empire. 1610 R. TOFTE *Honour's Acad.* 2 Not smally fortunate did he thinke himselfe.

4. In small form or compass; slenderly.

1613 DEKKER *Strange Horse-Race* Wks. (Grosart) III. 336 As that nut-shell held all Homers Iliads smally written in a peece of Vellum. 1630 *Tom Thumbe* in Hazl. *E. P. P.* II. 179 His shirt..Both light and soft for those his limbes that were so smally bred.

Smalm (smām), *v. dial.* Also **sma(a)m, smawm, smarm.** [Of obscure origin.] *trans.* To smear, bedaub.

1847 HALLIW., *Smawm,* to smear. *Dorset.* 1890 JESSOP *Trials Country Parson* iv. 160 Mummies smalmed over with tawdry pigments.

Smalt (smɔ̄lt), *sb.* (and *a.*). Also 6, 8 **smalte,** 7 **smault**(e. [a. F. *smalt* (cf. Du. *smalt,* G. *schmalte*), ad. It. *smalto* SMALTO.]

1. A species of glass, usually coloured a deep blue by oxide of cobalt, etc., and after cooling finely pulverized for use as a pigment or colouring matter.

1558 W. WARDE tr. *Alexis' Secr.* I. vi. 118 b, Take white smalte well beaten in poulder. 1573 *Art of Limning* p. iiij, Smalte or florrey being tempered in a shell with gumme water maketh a blewe. 1612 PEACHAM *Gentl. Exerc.* 83 The principale blewes..are Blew bice, Smalt. 1618 *Patent Specif.* (1856) No. 7. 1 And shall also make the same Smaulte as good..as the Smault heretofore brought from beyond the Seas. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 149/2 *Smalt,* some call it blew Starch; because much used by Landresses in their Starch to make it blew. 1763 W. LEWIS *Phil. Comm. Arts* 325 Being strewed upon oil paintings for a sparkling black in the same way as smalt is strewed for blue. 1791 E. DARWIN *Bot. Gard.* I. Notes 52 The Saxon mines have till very lately almost exclusively supplied the rest of Europe with..zaffre and smalt. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 302 The.. nickel..must not be suffered to become oxidized, lest it should spoil the colour of the smalt. 1862 MILLER *Elem. Chem., Org.* ii. § 3 (ed. 2) 102 The starch is washed, mixed with a little smalt, to give it the blue tinge preferred in the market. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* IV. 225/2 The beauty of the blue colour, upon which the value of smalt depends.

b. *pl.* Various kinds of this. *rare.*

1598 R. HAYDOCKE tr. *Lomatius* III. 106 Azures and smaltes shaddow those skiecolours, which are made of them and white mixed together.

2. A deep blue colour like that of smalt.

1881 *Spectator* 2 July 860 Red and yellow, and emerald-green and smalt, all figure together on the same ribbon or dress piece. 1904 *19th Cent.* July 136 The cruder smalts and chromes and dead gold of old illuminators.

3. A piece of coloured glass. Cf. SMALTO.

1864 *Chambers's Encycl.* VI. 581/2 The pieces of glass of every shade of colour are technically called *smalts*; they are generally opaque. 1887 SIR G. W. COX *Cycl. Comm. Things* (ed. 6) 391 Roman Mosaics are pictures composed of little pieces of coloured glass called *smalti* or smalts. *Ibid.,* The smalts are made in long slender rods of many thousands of different colours and shades.

4. *attrib.* and *Comb.,* as *smalt-blue* adj., *furnace, -glass,* etc.; **smalt-blue,** powder blue.

1681 GREW *Museum* IV. III. 376 A piece of Smalt-Glass. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s.v., The necessity of having expert workmen for the smalt-making. *Ibid.,* Intelligent persons are necessary in the smalt-works. 1796 KIRWAN *Elem. Min.* (ed. 2) I. 27 Smalt blue,..paler than the preceding [azure blue]. 1834 MRS. SOMERVILLE *Connex. Phys. Sci.* xx. 174 A smalt-blue finger glass. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 302 A round smalt furnace. 1855 J. R. L[EIFCHILD] *Cornw. Mines* 216 An ore of cobalt,..from which the beautiful blue glass and smalt-blue are made.

b. As *adj.* Of the colour of smalt; deep blue.

1880 MRS. C. READE *Brown Hand & W.* I. 2 A courtyard roofed in by the smalt heaven of Italy.

Smaltine (smɔ̄·ltəin), *Min.* [f. SMALT *sb.* + -INE 5.] Tin-white cobalt.

1837 DANA *Min.* 402 Smaltine usually occurs in veins, accompanying other ores of cobalt and ores of silver and copper. 1877 *Encycl. Brit.* VI. 81 Smaltine or speiss cobalt, an arsenide of the isomorphous bases, cobalt, nickel, and iron.

Sma·ltite. *Min.* [f. SMALT + -ITE 1 2 b.] = prec.

1868 DANA *Min.* 71 *Cobaltite*..and smaltite afford the greater part of the smalt of commerce. 1875 *Encycl. Brit.* II. 635/1 The ores employed in the metallurgy of arsenic are..arsenical pyrites, smaltite, and cobaltite.

‖ **Sma·lto.** Also *pl.* **smalti** (8 **smalte**). [It. (cf. med.L. *smaltum,* from 9th cent.), of Teutonic origin and related to SMELT *v.* Cf. AMEL *sb.*] Coloured glass or enamel used for mosaic work, etc.; a small cube or piece of this.

1705 ADDISON *Italy* 377 Old Roman Mosaic, compos'd of little Pieces of Clay half vitrify'd, and prepar'd at the Glass-Houses, which the Italians call *Smalte,* 1859 GULLICK & TIMBS *Paint.* 80 These *smalti* are vitrified but opaque, partaking of the nature of stone and glass, or enamels. 1880 'OUIDA' *Moths* I. 14 Buttons of repoussé work, or ancient smalto. 1896 *Daily News* 27 Mar. 2/1 The work of producing the 'smalto', or choice opaque glass of various colours.

Smalts (smɔ̄lts). [app. the plural of SMALT taken as a sing.] = SMALT *sb.* 1.

1610 FOLKINGHAM *Art Surv.* II. vi. 57 Pasture would be put into a deeper Greene made of the mixture of Azure and Smalts with Pincke. 1669 STURMY *Mar. Mag.* VII. xxxiv. 49 With Blew Smalts strew very thick the Border while it is wet. 1800 HENRY *Epit. Chem.* (1808) 257 The substance termed smalts, used as a colouring substance. 1812 J. SMYTH *Pract. Customs* (1821) 64 The calx of Cobalt has the property, that it can be melted into a blue glass, called smalts. 1877 *Encycl. Brit.* VI. 82/2 The principal use of smalts is for bluing paper.

Smaragd (smæ·rægd). Now *rare.* Forms: *α.* 3–8 **smaragde,** 4– **smaragd** (6–7 **smarag**). *β.* 6 **smaradg,** 6–7 **smaradge.** [a. OF. *smaragde* (more commonly *esmaragde, esmeraude, -alde*: see EMERALD), or ad. L. *smaragdus* SMARAGDUS. Cf. MDu. and Du. *smaragd,* MHG. *smaragt* (G. *smaragd,* † *schmaragd*).] A precious stone of a bright green colour; an emerald.

α. a 1272 *Luue Ron* 174 in *O. E. Misc.,* Smaragde, Beril, and crisopace. 13.. *K. Alis.* 5683 (Bodl. MS.), Safyres, Smaragdes, & Margarites. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) I. 135 In þe whiche londe beeþ..smaragdes, and oþer precious stones. *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (Roxb.) vii. 25 Þare þai fynd ..þe fairest smaragdes þat er ower whare. 1445 in *Anglia* XXVIII. 265 Habergeownys also with smaragdis grene, & helmys with iacinte clere. 1555 EDEN *Decades* (Arb.) 158 The Smaragde is the trew emerode. 1580–3 GREENE *Mamillia* Wks. (Grosart) II. 43 What is more pleasaunt to the sight, then a Smaragde, yet what lesse profitable, if it be not vsed? 1638 JUNIUS *Paint. Ancients* 178 The famous sealing-ring of Polycrates was a Smaragde. 1686 PLOT *Staffordsh.* 55 Borax or green Earth..is the better, by how much the nearer it comes to the colour of a true Smaragd. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v., The Oriental Smaragds are..the hardest, and their Splendor the most vigorous. 1847 THACKERAY *Novels by Eminent Hands, Codlingsby* III. xxiv, Ruby, amethyst, and smaragd. 1885 R. F. BURTON *Arab. Nts.* (1887) III. 41 Its skirts were set with the greenest smaragds.

transf. 1562 A. SCOTT *Poems* (S.T.S.) i. 220 Cherie maist chaist,..Smaill sweit smaragde, smelling but smit of smot.

β. 1567 MAPLET *Gr. Forest* 20 The Smaradge hath his name of his excellent and fresh greene colour. 1608 TOPSELL *Serpents* 804 It is also said that, if a viper do behold a good smaradge, her eyes will melt. 1635 SWAN *Spec. M.* (1670) 259 The Emerald is a precious stone of a green colour, something like unto the Smaradge. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* II. 41/1 The Smaradge, is of an excellent fresh green, far passing any Leaf.

Smara·gdian, *a. rare.* [f. SMARAGD + -IAN.] (See quot. and SMARAGDINE *a.* 2.)

1673 *Two Strange & Wonderful Prophets,* etc. Title-p., A New Prophecy lately discovered, written on a Smaragdian Table, by a Learned Rosy Crusian.

Smaragdine (smăræ·gdin, -əin), *sb.* and *a.* Also 5 **smaragdin, -yn**(e, **-en, -an, -one,** 6 **smaradine.** [ad. L. *smaragdin-us* of emerald, a. Gr. *σμαράγδιν-ος,* f. *σμάραγδος*: see SMARAGDUS. Cf. OF. *smaragdine* sb., mod.F. *smaragdin, -ine* adj.]

A. *sb.* = SMARAGD.

This use is due to a misunderstanding of the Vulgate text of *Rev.* iv. 3 'similis visioni smaragdinæ', which in turn is an inaccurate rendering of the Gr. ὁμοιος ὁράσει σμαραγδίνῳ.

1382 WYCLIF *Rev.* iv. 3 The reynbowe was in the cumpas of the seete, lijk to the siȝt of smaragdyn. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* III. 112 Ther sitten fyve Stones mo: The smaragdine is on of tho. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 924 Þis stone full of strenght,.. smaragden hit hat. 1423 JAS. I. *Kingis Q.* clv, Off bestis sawe I mony diuerse kynd:..The pantere, like vnto the smaragdyne. 1584 R. W. *Three Ladies of Lond.* D iv, Besides I haue Diamondes, Rubyes, Emerodes,..Smaradines, ..and almost of all kinde of precious stones.

B. *adj.* **1.** Of or belonging to, consisting of, a smaragd; resembling that of a smaragd; of an emerald green.

1591 LODGE *Catharos* F j b, He putteth a Smaragdine stone in his nest, against venemous beastes of the mountaines. 1611 H. BROUGHTON *Req. Agreement* 56 Now what meaneth this; A Rainbow was about the throne, in sight Smaragdine. 1651 FRENCH *Distill.* v. 170 If gold and silver together, a Smaragdine colour. 1826 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* IV. xlvi. 283 Smaragdine (*Smaragdinus*), the green splendour of the emerald. 1839–48 BAILEY *Festus* 29/1 The spiritual sun, The Heavenly Earth smaragdine,..still exist. 1855 — *Mystic,* etc. 91 That smaragdine mirror (their chief toy Which all the angels wrought).

Comb. 1651 FRENCH *Distill.* v. 168 A smaragdine-greene. 1842 W. HOWITT *Life Germany* 349 Lakes and floods of the most lovely smaragdine-coloured waters.

2. *Smaragdine Table,* a mediæval Latin work on alchemy, *Tabula Smaragdina* (publ. 1541), attributed to the Egyptian Hermes Trismegistus.

1597 tr. *Hortulanus* (J. de Garlandia), A brief Commentarie upon the Smaragdine Table of Hermes of Alchemy. 1652 H. P. (*title*), Five Treatises of the Philosophers Stone. ..To which is added the Smaragdine Table. 1712 STEELE *Spect.* No. 426 ₱ 6, I shall never forget the venerable Air of his Countenance, when he let me into the profound Mysteries of the Smaragdine Table of Hermes.

Smaragdite (smăræ·gdəit). *Min.* [a. F. *smaragdite* (Saussure, 1796), f. Gr. *σμάραγδ-ος* SMARAGD + -ITE 1 2 b. Cf. Gr. *σμαραγδίτης* (*λίθος*).] A brilliant grass-green or emerald-green variety of amphibole or hornblende.

In early use occasionally identified with diallage, to which it bears some resemblance.

1804 *Edin. Rev.* III. 306 The triple identity of the smaragdite, or diallage, the schiller spath, and the labrador hornblende. 1823 W. PHILLIPS *Min.* (ed. 3) 71 Smaragdite is of a brilliant or emerald green colour, and of a silky or pearly lustre. 1873 *Proc. Amer. Phil. Soc.* XIII. 373 The grains of smaragdite are very indistinct in form.

‖ **Smaragdus** (smăræ·gdŭs). Now *rare.* [L., a. Gr. *σμάραγδος,* first recorded in Herodotus; the form *μάραγδος* also occurs in poets. The word is probably foreign to Greek, and connected with Skr. *marakata, marakta* emerald.] = SMARAGD.

1382 WYCLIF *Rev.* xxi. 19 The first foundement, iaspis;.. the fourthe, smaragdus. *c* 1400 *Three Kings Cologne* 45 In þis hille is founde a preciouse stone þat is cleped þere smaragdus; and þis stoon..is kitte out of þis hille. 1486 *Bk. St. Albans, Her.* a ij b, The secunde stone is cald Smaragdus, a grauely stone signifiyng vert in armys. 1553 EDEN *Treat. New Ind.* (Arb.) 23 The precyous stone called Smaragdus (which is ye true Emerode). 1592 LODGE *Euphues Shadow* B iij, Who so liueth in Passan, must beare the stone Smaragdus with the Griphon against the stinging of Serpents. 1681 GREW *Museum* III. I. iv. 287 The Smaragdus, growing together with a pale Amethyst in one Matrix. 1748 J. HILL *Hist. Fossils* 596 The Gem, call'd by the antients Smaragdus, or the Emerald, was evidently the same with that we now know by that name. 1875 EMERSON *Lett. & Soc. Aims* viii. 196 Color, taste, and smell, smaragdus, sugar, and musk.

† Smarald. *Obs.*—1 [var. of SMARAGD, after Fr. forms in *-alde.*] A smaragd; an emerald.

1599 R. LINCHE *Fount. Anc. Fiction* K iij, His shoes are made of the greene Smarald.

Smarm : see SMALM *v.*

Smart (smāɹt), *sb.*[1] Forms: 3 smi(e)rte, 3–6 **smerte** (4 -tte), 4–6, 9 *Sc.* **smert**, 7 *Sc.* **smairt**; 5–6 **smarte**, 5– **smart**. [ME. *smierte, smerte*, app. :–OE. **smiertu*, f. *smeart* SMART *a.* Cf. Fris. *smert*, MDu. and MLG. *smerte, smarte* (Du. and LG. *smart*, Da. *smerte*, Sw. *smärta*), OHG. *smerza* fem., also *smerzo* masc. (MHG. *smerze, smerz*, G. *schmerz* masc.).]

1. Sharp physical pain, esp. such as is caused by a stroke, sting, or wound. Also with *a* and pl.

a 1200 *Moral Ode* 114 Wa se seiδ þet he bo hal him solf wat best his smirte [*Trin.* smierte, *Eg.* smierte). *c* 1320 *Cast. Love* 1153 For vre woke þouȝtes he þolede smerte. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* v. xxx. (Bodl. MS.), þe touche of senewes haþ no feeling of soore and of smerte. *c* 1440 *Generydes* 6242 For eny wo or smerte..I wist hym neuer onkynde. *c* 1491 *Chastysing Goddes Chyldern* 15 It felt no smerte sharply tyll the rodde came. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 204 b, Yf he had pretended to suffre payne, and had feled no smarte. 1585 T. WASHINGTON tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* II. vi. 36 She procureth present death without any smart. 1641 J. JACKSON *True Evang. T.* I. 46 He ..inflicted both corporall smart and pecuniary mulcts upon them. 1681 BAXTER *Apol. Nonconf. Min.* 58 We knew it by our smarts, being sure to be whipt. 1718 POPE *Iliad* XI. 574 Raging with intolerable smart, He writhes his body. 1792 COWPER *Stanzas Bill Mortality* iv, Strange world, that costs it so much smart. 1870 BRYANT *Iliad* I. XI. 374 Patroclus..applied a root Of bitter flavor to assuage the smart.

b. Const. *of*. Also in fig. context.

1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 33/29 Y^e^ Smart of a wound, *æstus*. 1596 BP. W. BARLOW *Three Serm.* iii. 142 Euen the Prophets..haue felt the smart of hunger. *a* 1604 HANMER *Chron. Irel.* (1633) 32 Ireland..felt little smart of the Romane sword. 1726 SWIFT *Gulliver* I. i, When I felt the smart of their arrows upon my face. 1886 R. F. BURTON *Arab. Nts.* (abr. ed.) I. 262 For the smart of the stick I confessed, 'It was I who stole it'.

c. Degree of smarting or painfulness.

1888 BERNARD *Fr. World to Cloister* v. 114 The discipline, ..at its highest possible smart, never equalled..the sting of such a caning.

2. Mental pain or suffering; grief, sorrow, affliction; sometimes, suffering of the nature of punishment or retribution.

1303 R. BRUNNE *Handl. Synne* 3964 3yf þou..felyst weyl yn þy herte Of a lytyl sorow or smerte. 1412–20 LYDG. *Chron. Troy* IV. 2204 Alweye contunyng in his smerte For þe loue of feire Polycene. *c* 1430 *Syr Gener.* (Roxb.) 1632 To tel you hou I caght this smert, And al myn evel how it began. *c* 1532 DU WES *Introd. Fr.* in *Palsgr.* 921 A man doutfull..is sone converted and tourned in smerte. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* I. I. 54 Ne let vaine feares procure your needlesse smart, Where cause is none. 1647 COWLEY *Mistr., Loves Visibility* v, The very Eye betrays our inward smart. 1679 BUNYAN *Fear of God* Wks. 1855 I. 460 Sorrow is the effect of smart, and smart the effect of faith. 1766 GRAY in *Corr. G. & Nicholls* (1843) 63 Time..will cure the smart, and in some hearts soon blot out all the traces of sorrow. 1808 H. MORE *Cælebs* II. 333 Examine your own heart;..it will be a salutary smart. 1872 BLACKIE *Lays Highl.* 3, I love the oaks of Derry, And to leave them gives me smart.

b. Const. *of*.

c 1500 *Lancelot* 1051 So prikith hyme the smart Of hevynes, that stood vnto his hart. *a* 1591 H. SMITH *Wks.* (1867) II. 186 He came when man had sinned, and had felt the smart of sin. 1631 GOUGE *God's Arrowes* III. § 58. 298 No marvell then that they..be made sensibly to feele the smart of their folly. 1702 *Eng. Theophr.* 141 All parties blame persecution when they feel the smart on't. 1827 HALLAM *Const. Hist.* (1876) I. i. 21 Some were sent to prison for hasty words, to which the smart of injury excited them. 1849 ROBERTSON *Serm.* Ser. I. ix. (1855) 147 There is a diseased sensitiveness which shrinks from the smart of acknowledgment.

†**c.** *pl.* Loss, damage; adversity. *Obs.*

1552 in Strype *Ann. Ref.* (1824) VI. 486 Yf chance should fal..that a ship should be lost, the halls might easily bear the smarts therof. 1591 SAVILE *Tacitus, Hist.* II. lxiv. 90 Neither did shee..participate any thing els of hir sonnes estate, saue onely the smarts of hir house when it fell.

3. *ellipt.* = SMART MONEY.

1802 JAMES *Milit. Dict.*, *Smarts*, the different sums which are received by recruiting parties under the head of *Smart money*, are frequently so called. 1887 *Jamieson's Sc. Dict.* Suppl. 321/1 He listed.., but paid the smert and wan hame.

4. *attrib.* **a. Smart-ticket** (see quot. 1846).

1801 NELSON 11 Oct. in Nicolas *Disp.* (1845) IV. 504, I will send to the Gannet for Smart Tickets. 1816 A. C. HUTCHISON *Pract. Obs. Surg.* (1826) 184 Making a pretext of being ruptured in the service, and thereby obtaining smart-tickets, which will entitle them to pensions for life. 1846 A. YOUNG *Naut. Dict.* 288 *Smart-ticket*, a certificate granted by the surgeon..in favour of any person who has been wounded or hurt in the service, in order that he may receive a single gratuity, or a pension from Greenwich Hospital.

b. *U.S.* **Smart-grass**, = SMARTWEED.

1845 S. JUDD *Margaret* II. i, May-weed, smart-grass, and Indian tobacco.

Smart (smāɹt), *sb.*[2] [f. SMART *a.*]

1. One who affects smartness in dress, manners, or talk. (Common in 18th cent.; now *Hist.*)

1712 STEELE *Spect.* No. 442 P 3 All Beaux, Rakes, Smarts, ..and all Sorts of Wits. 1721 AMHERST *Terræ Fil.* No. 46 (1726) 254, I have given great offence to a large body of fine gentlemen there, call'd Smarts. 1753 *Scots Mag.* Oct. 491/2, I put on a sword,..supped every night at a tavern,.., and was universally confessed to be improved into a Smart. 1821 SCOTT *Pirate* xiv, The word passed through among the young Templars, and the wits, and the smarts. 1859 GREEN *Oxf. Stud.* ii. (O.H.S.) 47 The smart of the day [18th cent.] rises late in an age of early risers.

2. Smartness in talk or writing.

1845 TENNYSON in *Life* (1897) I. 228, I said something that offended him; and..he..told me that I was 'affecting the smart'. 1899 *Westm. Gaz.* 25 Oct. 3/2 This needless introduction of the presumably 'smart' would ruin the art of any novel.

Smart (smāɹt), *a.* Forms: 1–2 **smeart**, 3 **smært**, 3–5 **smerte** (5 **smyrte**), 4–5 **smert** (5 **-tt**); 3– **smart** (4 **-tt**), 4–6 **smarte**. [OE. *smeart*, related to *smeortan* SMART *v.* Not represented in the cognate languages.]

I. †**1.** Of a whip, rod, etc.: Inflicting or causing pain; sharp, biting, stinging. *Obs.*

a 1023 WULFSTAN *Hom.* (1883) 295 Ic wylle swingan eow mid þam smeartestum swipum. *a* 1175 *Cott. Hom.* 243 þu ahst to habben..Stede and twei sporen and ane smearte ȝerd. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 15785 Wit maces and wit neues smert vn-rekenli on him [they] ran. *c* 1325 *Chron. Eng.* 929 He was yschote With an arewe kene ant smert. *c* 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* I. 940 The Greek seith eek that if a cloude arise Of bresis smert [L. *locustarum*], men must in house hem hide. 1447 BOKENHAM *Seyntys* (Roxb.) 47 Whan he on ye crosse..Heng nakyd fastnyd wyth nayles smerte. 1593 SHAKS. 2 *Hen. VI*, III. ii. 325 Their softest Touch, as smart as Lyzards stings. 1671 FLAVEL *Fount. Life* xvi. (1836) 143 Sometimes he spares their outward, and afflicts their inner man, which is a much smarter rod.

†**b.** Sharp or rough to the touch. *Obs.*

c 1400 *Destr. Troy* 924 þis stone.., Be it smethe owþer smert, smaragden hit hat.

†**c.** Severe or hard *on* or *upon* one. *Obs.*

1549–62 STERNHOLD & H. *Ps.* XXXII. 4 Thy hand on me so grievous was and smart. 1648 BP. HALL *Breathings Devout Soul* (1851) 164 When thy hand hath been smart and heavy upon me.

2. Of blows, strokes, etc.: Sufficiently hard or severe to cause pain. (In later use approximating to sense 5.) Also in fig. contexts.

c 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 207 þenne me hine pined mid.. smerte smiten of smale longe ȝerden. *c* 1205 LAY. 21364 [They] uppen Colgrime smiten mid swiδe smærte biten. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 25543 Iesu..Sufferd..Dintes sare and smert. 13.. *Sir Beues* 2883 Beues þanne wiþ strokes smerte Smot þe dragoun to þe herte. *c* 1400 *Rule St. Benet* 22 Yef any be tane ofte in faute,..wyd smerte beting sal sho be chastyd. *c* 1435 *Torr. Portugal* 2572 Smert boffettes they yeldyd there. 1602 SHAKS. *Ham.* III. i. 50 How smart a lash that speech doth giue my Conscience? 1658 SIR T. BROWNE *Hydriot.* iv. (1736) 45 The smartest Strokes of Affliction leave but short Smart upon us. 1764 REID *Inquiry* v. § 6 Suppose him first to be pricked with a pin—this will, no doubt, give a smart sensation. 1841 LANE *Arab. Nts.* (Rtldg.) 12 Take a good-sized stick, and give her a smart thrashing. 1859 GEO. ELIOT *A. Bede* XXX, When a man's got his limbs whole, he can bear a smart cut or two.

†**3.** Of pain, sorrow, wounds, etc.: Sharp, keen, painful, severe. *Obs.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 58 Wyt chaunce of ded, or chaunce of hert, þat soft began has endyng smart. *c* 1369 CHAUCER *Dethe Blaunche* 507 Hym thought hys sorwes were so smerte. *c* 1420 *Chron. Vilod.* 1787 Of goddus Passion..& of his wo & of his woundys hard and smert. *c* 1485 *Digby Myst.* (1882) IV. 192 The sorow of your harte Makes my passion mor bitter & mor smarte. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* V. xii. 63 The fadir Eneas, smyt with this smart cais. 1678 *Lively Oracles* III. § 5. 264 That long train of smart calamities which succeeded his sin. 1688 BUNYAN *Jerus. Sinner Saved* (1886) 64 The gospel..threateneth them with the heaviest and smartest judgments.

4. Of words, etc.: Sharp, severe; cutting, acrimonious. Now *rare*.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 3034 Abraham..thoght þis wordes war to smert. 13.. *Ibid.* 12084 (Gött.), Thoru bolning of his hert, To ioseph spac he wordes ouer smart. 1625–8 tr. *Camden's Hist. Eliz.* III. (1688) 269 A Book which was written.. against the Marriage in a smart and stinging Style. 1639 FULLER *Holy War* II. xxiv, He would often give a smart jest, which would make the place both blush and bleed where it lighted. 1726 SWIFT *Gulliver* II. iii, He seldom failed of a smart word or two upon my littleness. 1751 *Narr. H.M.S.* 'Wager' 128 This smart Remonstrance touch'd the Lieutenant to the very Heart. 1825 *Gentl. Mag.* XCV. I. 397 'To start' is to apply a smart word to an idle or forgetful person. 1842 LOVER *Handy Andy* xviii, The crowd ceased its noise when the two Squires were seen engaged in exchanging smart words.

†**b.** Sharp in criticism or comment *upon* one.

1692 WASHINGTON tr. *Milton's Def. People Eng.* iii. Wks. 1851 VIII. 75 The Lawyer, whoever he be, that you are so smart upon, was not so much out of the way. 1699 BENTLEY *Phal.* 390 He fansied, he was very smart upon me; but as it generally happens with him, he lashes himself.

5. Brisk or vigorous; having a certain degree of intensity, force, strength, or quickness: **a.** Of natural forces or processes.

13.. *K. Alis.* 1184 (Bodl. MS.), To moupe he sett his Olyfaunt, He bloweþ smert & loude sounes. *c* 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 3257 Thai er dungen..With smert stormes als of wynd and rayn. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Can. Yeom. Prol. & T.* 215 What sholde I tellen..of the esy fir, and smart also, Which that was maad? *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 1309 Quen it was smeten in small with þe smert wapes. 1672 SIR T. BROWNE *Lett. Friend.* xii. 136 Sepulchral fires and smart flames. 1692 RAY *Disc.* II. ii. (1732) 107 A smart and continued Rain. 1711 SWIFT *Jrnl. to Stella* 31 Jan., We are here in as smart a frost for the time as I have seen. 1726 T. SMITH *Jrnl.* (1849) 265 This has been a very smart, close winter. 1800 *Med. Jrnl.* V. 31 They..had a smart fever for three days, and then an eruption. 1808 *Ibid.* XIX. 106 Leaving for him two smart purges of calomel and jalap. 1829 *Chapters Phys. Sci.* 463 It demonstrates its presence both by a sudden flash and a smart report. 1875 *Ure's Dict. Arts* III. 1055 The assistant must look to the oil, and bring it to a smart simmer.

b. Of liquor, with reference to its effect on the palate.

1648 J. BEAUMONT *Psyche* IX. lxxxi, A flood, to which.. smart Gall is dropping Myrrh. 1664 POWER *Exp. Philos.* I. 33 Both in the keenest and smartest, as well as in the weakest and most watrish Vineger. 1710 T. FULLER *Pharm. Extemp.* 3 The smarter and staler [ale is], the more it openeth and detergeth. 1760–2 GOLDSM. *Cit. W.* lv. (Globe) 177/1 It will eat best with some smart bottled beer. 1818 KEATS *Lett.* Wks. 1889 III. 166 We have now begun upon whisky,..very smart stuff it is.

c. Of encounters, attacks, etc.

a 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 2 July 1685, There was a smart skirmish. 1716 CHURCH *Philip's War* (1865) I. 125 In the Evening they heard a smart firing at a distance from them. 1791 GOUVR. MORRIS in Sparks *Life & Writ.* (1832) II. 137 A good smart action would be useful rather than pernicious. 1813 *Sporting Mag.* XLII. 68 Cooper planted a smart hit on his adversary's neck. 1844 H. H. WILSON *Brit. Ind.* II. 51 A smart affair with the enemy took place. 1885 *Manch. Exam.* 21 Mar. 6/2 A smart passage at arms between his Grace and Lord Bramwell.

6. a. Pretty steep. Now *dial.* or *colloq.*

a 1668 LASSELS *Voy. Italy* (1698) I. 44, I went up a smart hill called Mount Aurigo. *a* 1904 in *Eng. Dial. Dict.*

b. Sharp, abrupt, clearly outlined. *rare.*

1753 HOGARTH *Anal. Beauty* xiii. 182 These objects which ..come forwardest to the view, must have large, strong, and smart oppositions. 1784 J. BARRY *Lect. Art* v. (1848) 187 The cast and manner of their several foldings, some more smart and frequently interrupted, others more flowing.

7. a. Considerable (in number, amount, extent, etc.). Chiefly *dial.* and *U.S.*

Bartlett *Dict. Amer.* (1848) 313 gives various quotations, including three for *a smart chance* in the sense of 'a good deal, a large quantity', etc.

1839 SIR G. C. LEWIS *Gloss. Heref.* s.v., 'A smart few' means a considerable number. 1855 THACKERAY *Newcomes* lxxx, Madame..left a smart legacy to the..children. 1882 *Mrs. Raven's Temptation* I. 276 Hope you will get a smart fee with it.

b. So *Right smart*; also as *sb.*, a good deal. *U.S.*

1856 MRS. STOWE *Dred* II. xvi. 162, I sold right smart of eggs des yere summer. 1857 OLMSTED *Texas* 301 A 'right smart chunk of bacon'. 1863 S. L. J. *Life in South* I. vii. 91 We have read right smart of that book. 1879 TOURGÉE *Fool's Errand* (1880) 88 Directing the work, and, Yankee-like, 'doing right smart of it' himself, as they say here.

II. †**8.** Pert, forward, impudent. *Obs. rare.*

13.. *K. Alis.* 4160 (Bodl. MS.), Darrie was wel sore anoyede..And seide, 'of tale þou art smart'. *c* 1449 PECOCK *Repr.* I. i. 5 In this trowing and holding thei ben so kete and so smert and so wantoun. 1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* (1658) 114 The curst, sharp, smart,..implacable and wanton-rowling-eyed Women.

9. Of persons: Quick, active; prompt.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 7168 Sampson, þat was selcuth smert, Vte o þair handes son he stert. *c* 1380 *Sir Ferumb.* 5575 þe Sarzyn, þat was fers & smert, howel oppon þe helm he gert. *a* 1500 *How good wife taught her daughter* 194 in *O. Eliz. Acad.* 50 When þi seruantes haue do þer werke, To pay þer hyre loke þou be smerte. 1530 PALSGR. 324/2 Smarte, swyfte, *soudayn*. 1655 FULLER *Ch. Hist.* IV. iii. § 1 This year began the smart and active Councel of Basil. 1687 tr. *Sallust* (1692) 96 All the while Catiline, with the most active and smartest of his followers kept still in the head of his Men. 1847 C. BRONTË *J. Eyre* iv, Bessie Lee.. was smart in all she did. 1899 F. T. BULLEN *Log of Seawaif* 342 We were mighty smart getting under way.

b. *transf.* Of things.

a 1325 tr. *Stat. Westm.* II c. 26 (MS. Rawl. B. 520 *lf.* 20 b), Per nis no writ..ware þoru þe plaintifs habbez smarttere riȝt þane þoru þe writ of nouele disseisine. 1658 SIR T. BROWNE *Hydriot.* Introd., Water hath proved the smartest Grave; which in Forty Days swallowed almost Mankind.

10. Clever, capable, adept; quick at devising, learning, looking after oneself or one's own interests, etc. In later use chiefly *U.S.*

1628 LE GRYS *Barclay's Arg.* 81 For he a smart young man, and of great iudgement,..held vp the Kings side. *a* 1656 USSHER *Ann.* VI. (1658) 525 Being..loath to engage in fight with Fimbria, who was both a smart fellow, and a Conqueror to boot. 1709 STEELE *Tatler* No. 26 P 5 [He] is what we most justly call, a Smart Fellow. 1786 M. CUTLER in *Life, Jrnls.*, etc. (1888) I. 189 Those of my subscribers who are smart, able men, I have told shall have an equal chance with other proprietors. 1844 MRS. HOUSTON *Yacht Voy. Texas* II. 215 The Opossum is held in great respect by the Yankees, as a particularly 'smart' animal. 1888 BRYCE *Amer. Commw.* (1890) II. lxv. 484 In America every smart man is expected to be able to do anything he turns his hand to.

b. Marked by special skill or dexterity.

1895 *Daily News* 17 May 3/7 Chatterton being out to a very smart catch at mid-on.

11. Clever in talk or argument; capable of making witty remarks; good at repartee.

1639 MASSINGER *Unnatural Combat* IV. ii, A smart quean! 1695 J. EDWARDS *Perfect. Script.* 514 The younger Vossius is a smart advocate for the Septuagint. 1727 POPE, etc. *Art of Sinking* 109 It is by virtue of this style that..Tully is as short and smart as Seneca. 1753 MISS COLLIER *Art of Torment.* (1811) 194 This, I have been told, is what they call being smart in company. 1778 MISS BURNEY *Evelina* lxiv, You're so smart there's no speaking to you. 1895 *19th Cent.* Aug. 324 He is decidedly smarter as an all-round talker.

b. Of sayings, etc.: Clever, pointed; witty.

1656 EARL MONM. tr. *Boccalini's Advts. fr. Parnass.* I. lv. (1674) 71 We find some Histories..abounding in smart Politick Precepts. 1673 *S'too him Bayes* 19, I acknowledge this Expression to be nice and smart. 1734 tr. *Rollin's Anc. Hist.* (1827) VI. xv. 2 Cicero, who ascribes this saying

to Timæus, declares it a very smart one. 1752 JOHNSON *Rambler* No. 194 P 11 He mistakes the question, that he may return a smart answer. 1824 DIBDIN *Libr. Comp.* 539 A short, but smart notice of him. 1865 DICKENS *Mut. Fr.* I. x, She has a reputation for giving smart accounts of things. 1874 L. STEPHEN *Hours Libr.* (1892) II. vi. 188 Mandeville.. passes off his smart sayings upon the public as serious.

12. Alert and brisk; esp. combining briskness with neatness or trimness of appearance.

1602 MARSTON *Ant. & Mel.* III. Wks. 1856 I. 37, I..Strook a faire wench with a smart speaking eye. 1683 WOOD *Life* 9 Sept., The smart lads of the city march'd downe the streets with cudgells in their hands. 1784 COWPER *Task* IV. 648 He hates the field,..And sighs for the smart comrades he has left. 1827 O.W. ROBERTS *Voy. Centr. Amer.* 80 Sufficient [room] for a smart vessel to work in or out. 1865 KINGSLEY *Herew.* v, To a tight smart Viking's son. 1884 *Pall Mall G.* 29 Aug. 1/2 The Egyptian soldier is..smart, clean, and cheap.

b. Neatly and trimly dressed.

1789 MRS. PIOZZI *Journ. France* II. 204 We observed ..how the town was become neater, the ordinary people smarter. 1806 BERESFORD *Miseries Hum. Life* II. xxiii, Walking out to dinner, clean and smart. 1848 DICKENS *Dombey* ix, He became a little smarter in his dress. 1888 *Poor Nellie* 127 Adela had noticed how smart he looked.

c. Of dress, etc.: Neat and trim; stylish.

(*a*) 1716 DARRELL *Gentl. Instr.* (ed. 3) III. i. 476 Nothing would please his Worship, but Smart Shooes, Smart Hats, and Smart Cravats...The truth is he had been bred up with the Groom, and transplanted the Stable-dialect into the Dressing-room. 1754 FIELDING *J. Wild* I. x, A blue plush coat,.. a smart sleeve, and a cape. 1823 SCOTT *Quentin D.* ii, The smart blue bonnet..was already recognized as the Scottish head-gear. 1859 W. COLLINS *Q. of Hearts* (1875) 23 The man..had a collection of smart little boots and shoes.

(*b*) 1823 CT. DE SOLIGNY *Lett. Eng.* II. lxviii, Looking out on the smart shops, the nicely paved streets. 1851 HAWTHORNE *Twice-t. Tales* I. xvi. 252 There, in a smart chaise, a dashingly dressed gentleman and lady. 1894 SIR J. ASTLEY *Fifty Yrs. Life* I. 94 We put up at a very smart hotel.

(*c*) 1864 D. G. MITCHELL *Sev. Stor.* 3 One of them..is bound in smart red leather. 1888 *Poor Nellie* 8, I will make a cover for them,..a smart one of blue velvet.

13. Fashionable, elegant, esp. in a very high degree. (Common in recent use, from *c* 1882.)

The reappearance of the word in this sense has been the subject of much comment and criticism in newspapers, etc., from about 1885, and the phrases *smart people, smart society, the smart set*, etc., have been commonly used as a general designation for the extremely fashionable portion of society (sometimes with implication of being a little 'fast').

1718 *Freethinker* No. 158 A Cluster of smart Men, in tawdry Dresses, with little Rapiers. 1793 ANNA SEWARD *Lett.* (1811) III. 275 This beach..covered with smart people, and with equipages. 1845 M. J. HIGGINS *Ess.* (1875) 24 They..got my wife invited to several very smart balls. 1881 MALLOCK *Romance 19th Cent.* I. 97, I have seen plenty of smart society. *Ibid.* II. 254 Many smart people were shy of Mrs. Crane.

14. *Comb.*, as *smart-looking, -tongued, -witted.*

1601 B. JONSON *Poetaster* IV. v, A good smart-tongued Goddesse. *a* 1859 in Bartlett *Dict. Amer.* (ed. 2) s.v., A powerful smart looking chunk of a pony. 1897 *Daily News* 28 Sept. 2/1 That friendly, but smart-witted Power.

Smart (smāɹt), *adv.* Forms: 3-4 smerte, 4-5 smert; 4 smarte, 4- smart. [f. SMART *a.*] = SMARTLY, in various senses. (Common in 14th c.)

a 1300 *Havelok* 215 Þe king..dede him sore swinge, And wit hondes smerte dinge. *c* 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 1643 Þey..smyten to-gyder al so smert. 1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. XI. 426 Þere smit no þinge so smerte ne smelleth so soure. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 5515 Þan made he smythis to gaa smert & smethe him a chaiere. 1422 tr. *Secreta Secret., Priv. Priv.* 180 Thes newely come me shale moche more Smertre assayle. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* I. 541 The Stars shine smarter. 1771 T. HULL *Sir W. Harrington* (1797) I. 141 Dressed as smart as my close mourning would permit me. 1794 NELSON 19 July in Nicolas *Disp.* (1845) I. 449 The Enemy have fired smart since daylight. 1852 MRS. STOWE *Uncle Tom's C.* ii. 10 He'd..put him to hoeing and digging, and 'see if he'd step about so smart'. 1886 *Pall Mall G.* 29 Nov. 3/1 It is better for tenants to be compelled to pay up smart than to allow them to heap up a great burden of arrears.

Comb. 1632 J. HAYWARD tr. *Biondi's Eromena* A iv b, Fenced..with sharp-pointed brambles and smart-stinging briers. 1752–3 A. MURPHY *Gray's Inn Jrnl.* No. 22, A laced Coat, and smart-cocked Hat. 1851 MAYHEW *Lond. Labour* I. 379 Smart-dressing servant-maids, perhaps, are my best customers. 1884 PAE *Eustace* 97 We want a smart-built craft like yon.

Smart (smāɹt), *v.* Forms: 1 -smeortan, 3 smeorte(n, 4 smurte; 2–5 smerten (5 -yn), 2–5 smerte, 4–5 smert, 7 *Sc.* smairt; 5–6 smarte, 5– smart. *Pa. t.* 2 smeart, 3 smart, 3–4 smert, 4 smurte; *pl.* smo(u)rte, smerte. [OE. *smeortan* str. vb., = Fris. *smerte*, MDu. *smerten*, *smarten* (Du. *smarten*), MLG. and LG. *smerten* (hence Da. *smerte*, Sw. *smärta*), OHG. *smerzan* str. vb. (MHG. *smerzen* str., G. *schmerzen* wk.); the ablaut-stem *smert-*, *smart-*, *smurt-* is perh. the same as that of Gr. σμερδνός, σμερδαλέος terrible, and L. *mordēre* to bite. Cf. SMART *a.*]

1. *intr.* Of wounds, etc.: To be a source of sharp pain; to be acutely painful.

[*c* 893 K. ÆLFRED *Oros.* I. vii. 36 Gnættas comon..mid fyrsmeortendum bitum.] *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 83 Win makeð wunde smerte. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 238 Þeo hwule þet ȝichinge ilest, hit þuncheð god for to gniden: auh þereſter me iveleð hit bitterliche smeorten. *a* 1300 *Havelok* 2647 Þe dint bigan ful sore to smerte. *c* 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 1317 Yhit es happe of welthe to drede mare þan chaunce of angre, þat smertes sare. *c* 1400 *Sowdone Bab.* 1544 Here woundis sore did smerte. *c* 1430 *Hymns Virgin* (1867) 126 Sche answerd me schortly with wordys þat smartyd. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Edw. IV*, 228 b, Besyde this angre ther came the next daye another corsey that smarted a littell sorer. 1594 NASHE *Unfort. Trav.* Wks. (Grosart) V. 168 They basted him with a mixture..which smarted to the very soule of him. 1848 DICKENS *Dombey* xlv, He saw that this..rankled and smarted in her haughty breast, like a poisoned arrow.

† **b.** To be heavy or hard *upon* one. *Obs.*

1602 CORNWALLIS *Ess.* II. xxxvi. (1631) 122 This smarted doubly upon the taxed people.

2. With dative: To cause pain, be painful, to (a person, etc.).

† **a.** Impersonally (*him, her*, etc., *smarts*). *Obs.*

c 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 21 Swo þat hire ne oc ne ne smeart. *c* 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 206 He criede anon to ihesu crist, þo him smert so sore. 13.. *Guy Warw.* (A.) 433 Sore me meneþ, for me smert, Miche care is in mine hert. 1362 LANGL. *P. Pl.* A. III. 161 For þe pore may haue no pouwer to playne, þauȝ hem smerte. *c* 1412 HOCCLEVE *De Reg. Princ.* 1025, I dar wel seyn it smerteth hym ful sore In euery veyne and place of his body.

b. With sbs., passing into *trans.*: To affect with pain or smarting.

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 326 Nis þing i þisse worlde þet smeorteð him so sore ase him doð swuch beatunge. *c* 1310 in Wright *Lyric P.* XXV. 70 Thi suete body to-toren y se, Hit maketh heorte to smerte me. *c* 1374 CHAUCER *Boeth.* II. pr. iv. (1868) 39 Þis is a þing þat gretly smertiþ me whan it remembreþ me. *c* 1400 *Pilgr. Sowle* (Caxton, 1483) IV. XX. 65 So sore as this martirdom smertith me. *c* 1430 *Syr Gener.* (Roxb.) 6075 Mi woundes smert me so sore With you may I fight nomore. 1558 PHAER *Æneid* II. 30 Than pardon we for pity gaue, this wayling smartes us so. *a* 1568 A. SCOTT *Poems* (S.T.S.) XXXIV. 50 Thay swoun to se 30w smartit. *a* 1653 ADAMS *Serm.* Wks. 1862 II. 195 A goad that pricks the skin and smarts the flesh—affliction. 1787 *Minor* III. viii. 188 My wound..still continued to smart me. 1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* II. 505 It is better that the effluvium be so strong as to smart the eyes. 1884 J. BURROUGHS *Locusts & Wild H.* 109 There was not enough moisture in the air to take the sting out of the smoke, and it smarted the nose.

3. *intr.* To feel sharp pain or distress; to suffer acutely or severely. Freq. with preps., as *at, beneath, by, from, under.*

c 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 207 Þenne wile his heorte aken and smerten. *c* 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 322 Þe bodie..þat in strong Anguysche deth smeorte [*v.r.* smurte]. 13.. *Sir Beues* 631 Þo his bodi be-gan to smerte, He gan plokken vp is hertte. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* VII. xv. (Bodl. MS.), Smoke þat dymmeþ þe ȝȝen and [maketh them] smerte. 1421–2 HOCCLEVE *Dialog* 650 Smertith the fool for lak of good auys. 1496 *Coventry Leet Bk.* 575 Which I dought not I shall haue ayen or Lammasse day, or ells iij or iiij of þe best of yowe shall smart. 1530 PALSGR. 722/1 If thou ytche, care nat, but if thou smarte, beware. *a* 1568 A. SCOTT *Poems* (S.T.S.) XXIV. 17, I speik expart, suppois I smart. 1609 BP. HALL *Passion Serm.* (1627) 432 Thou strikest: Christ Iesus smarteth, and will reuenge. 1670 COTTON *Life of Espernon* II. VIII. 371 Countreys that yet smarted with the last years War. 1781 BURNS *Stanzas Prosp. Death* 9, I..justly smart beneath his sin-avenging rod. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* vii. II. 200 The just indignation of the public was inflamed by many who were smarting from his ridicule. 1885 HORNADAY *2 Yrs. Jungle* xxiii. 268 The salt perspiration ran into my eyes and caused them to smart.

b. To bear the penalty, to suffer severely, *for* some offence, misdemeanour, etc.

1548 SOMERSET *Epist. to Scots* A vij b, If you doo then.. smart for it, whom can you blame, but youre awne eleccion? 1579 W. FULKE *Conf. Sanders* 585 Balthasar abused the holy vessels, he smarted for it. 1634 HEYWOOD *Maidenh. well lost* I. Wks. 1874 IV. 104, I shall ne'r smart for't, what is't to me? 1687 A. LOVELL tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* I. 78 Away, I say, else I'll make you smart for it. 1748 RICHARDSON *Clarissa* (1811) I. XXXII. 243 Offences against warning ought to be smarted for. 1837 DICKENS *Pickw.* ii, 'You shall smart for this,' gasped Mr. Pickwick. 1884 *Sat. Rev.* 5 July 5/2 He has done us a wrong, and should be made to smart for it.

† **4.** *trans.* To atone for (an offence) by suffering. *Obs.*—[1]

a 1400 *Rom. Rose* 7057 He shal in prisoun dye; But if he wol..smerten that that he hath do.

Smarten (smāɹtn), *v.* [f. SMART *a.* In U.S. colloq. the form *smart* is also employed.]

1. *trans.* To make smart or spruce; to improve in appearance. Usually with *up.*

1815 JANE AUSTEN *Emma* x, The vicarage..had been very much smartened up by the present proprietor. 1833 SIR F. B. HEAD *Bubbles fr. Brunnen* 127 The..fashion of smartening up us old people with the teeth and hair of the dead. 1876 MISS BRADDON *J. Haggard's Dau.* (1876) II. 54 We must think of smartening the old rooms a little bit.

refl. 1857 KINGSLEY *Two V. Ago* III. 201 Tom..smartened himself as best he could, went up to the great house, and found Miss Mary. 1887 'MARK RUTHERFORD' *Revol. Tanner's Lane* xvi, When the 'things were washed up', servant and mistress began to smarten themselves.

absol. 1861 HUGHES *Tom Brown at Oxf.* XXVI, He has smartened up, and wears as good a coat as I do. 1881 T. G. BOWLES *Flotsam & J.* (1883) 246 We are now running into Gibraltar bay, and smartening up to go ashore.

2. To brighten *up*, make livelier. Also *intr.*

1864 *Realm* 15 June 8 The dialogue has been smartened up. 1899 CROCKETT *Kit Kennedy* 372 The clerk smartened up noticeably at the entrance of the pretty girl.

3. With *up.* To accelerate.

1888 *Times* 30 June 17/1 The 10.30 p.m. is smartened up 70 minutes.

Hence **Smartened** *ppl. a.*; **Smartening** *vbl. sb.*

1864 *Gentl. Mag.* II. 222 The recent 'smartening up' of the front of the George Hotel. 1873 MISS BRADDON *Str. & Pilgr.* III. xiv, The people dancing in smartened morning-dress.

† **Smartful**, *a. Obs.* [f. SMART *sb.*[1]] Painful, distressing.

1556 J. HEYWOOD *Spider & Fly* lxvii. 12 What naturall father can se [this]..Without his hart smarting, in most smartfull smart. 1600 ABBOT *Jonah* 595 He maketh the wildernesse tedious and bitter and smartfull to us. 1660 *Plea for Ministers in Sequestration* 4 Their smartful experience speaks it enough.

† **Smarthead.** *Obs.*—[1] [f. SMART *a.*] Severity.

1338 R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (1810) 306 Þorgh smerthed of þe law he did þam justise.

† **Smarthole.** *Obs.*—[0] [f. SMART *v.* + HOLE *sb.* 8.] Smartweed.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 108/1 Culrache, smerthole, herbe, *persiccaria.*

Smart-hoop. [perh. f. SMART *sb.*[1] or *a.*; but cf. also older Da. *smert, smært*, Sw. *smärt* slender, slim.] (See quot.)

1832 *Planting* 90 in *Husb.* III. (L.U.K.), *Smart-hoops.*—Shoots of the hazel, six feet in length; they are cleft for hoops, and are used..for salmon kits, small tubs, and other purposes of the cooper. [Cf. Peacock *Lonsd. Gloss.* (1869) 77/1 *Smarts*, small rods cut down in coppice woods.]

Comb. 1881 *Instr. Census Clerks* (1885) 82 Smart Hoop Maker, Bender, Shaver.

Smarting (smāɹtiŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. SMART *v.*] The fact or sensation of feeling a sharp pain, such as is caused by a wound, sore, burn, or the like.

c 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 83 Win makeð wunde smerte. Ah þe smertinge clenseð þe wunde. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 294 ȝif þi sulf..one smerte discepline, & drauh..þet swete likunge into smeortunge. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 29101 Oft for þam smerting sendis he. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* V. XXVIII. (Bodl. MS.), Furste he makeþ icching and tekeling, & after þat greete ache and smerting. *a* 1425 tr. *Arderne's Treat. Fistula*, etc. 27 Þis enoyntment doþe away alle smertyng and fleyng. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 207 Not hauyng there ony sensible payne or smartyng. 1599 T. M[OUFET] *Silkwormes* 6 Wounds how to cure, and smartings to allay. 1605 ARMIN *Foole upon F.* (1880) 23 In an enuious spleene smarting ripe, [he] runnes after him. 1715 DESAGULIERS *Fires Impr.* 41 It causes a smarting also in Animals. 1815 *Hist. J. De Castro* I. 22 Nothing will cure this crack-brain'd coxcomb but a good smarting. 1879 *St. George's Hosp. Rep.* IX. 742 He suffers bad smarting and itching.

Smarting (smāɹtiŋ), *ppl. a.* [f. as prec.]

1. Causing to smart; painful; sharp, acute.

1548 ELYOT, *Aestus ulceris*, the smartyng peyne of a sore, or byle. 1575 FENTON *Gold. Ep.* (1577) 63 They crucified him vnder a most smarting and infamous death. 1633 P. FLETCHER *Elisa* I. xi, Some fault..Hath forc't thee frown, and use thy smarting rod. 1725 POPE *Odyss.* XV. 207 He..flung Athwart the fiery steeds the smarting thong. 1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Mid.* xviii, The old man winced, as one whose smarting sore is suddenly galled. 1879 *St. George's Hosp. Rep.* IX. 741 She complains of excess of perspiration, ..and much of smarting pain.

2. Feeling sharp pain. Also *fig.*

1754 DODSLEY *Agric.* II. 266 Since oft Its cruel twigs compel the smarting youth To dread the hateful seat. 1865 DICKENS *Mut. Fr.* III. i, With smarting eyes and irritated lungs. 1882 *Daily News* 3 Jan. 3/3 A financial crash would at once be laid at its door by the smarting holders of worthless security.

Smartingly (smāɹtiŋli), *adv.* [f. prec. + -LY[2].] Painfully.

c 1555 HARPSFIELD *Divorce Hen. VIII* (Camden) 200 Miseries..which..we have smartingly felt. 1648 HEXHAM II, *Smertelick*, Smartingly, or Painfully. 1822 *Blackw. Mag.* XII. 667 A covenanting slug still stuck smartingly in his shoulder. 1861 DICKENS *Gt. Expect.* iv, I got so smartingly touched up by these moral goads. 1891 G. MEREDITH *One of our Conquerors* II. iii. 41 Those unaccustomed musical tones..were so smartingly persuasive.

Smartish (smāɹtiʃ), *a.* [f. SMART *a.* + -ISH.] Hexham (1648) has '*Smertigh*, Smartish, or Full of Paine', perh. f. the *sb.*

1. Somewhat smart, in various senses.

1740 RICHARDSON *Pamela* (1824) I. xx. 32 Two pairs of ordinary blue worsted hose, that make a smartish appearance, with white clocks. 1748 — *Clarissa* (1811) IV. 173 Prettier entertainment..than sitting with a too smartish daughter. 1807 JANE AUSTEN *Lett.* (1884) I. 328, I flatter myself I have constructed a smartish letter, considering my want of materials. 1843 MARRYAT *M. Violet* XXVII, The most rascally, but *smartish* trick in the world. 1860 WHYTE-MELVILLE *Mkt. Harborough* 107 It takes a smartish nag..to win a steeple-chase.

Comb. *c* 1816 MRS. SHERWOOD *Stories Ch. Catech.* xii. 102 A smartish looking woman went up to their door and knocked. 1852 C. W. H[OSKINS] *Talpa* 131 Dobson said he seemed smartish like.

2. Considerable in amount, degree, extent, etc.

1799 R. WARNER *Walk* (1800) 65 What with smartish work, ..I began to find my legs give out. 1833 T. HOOK *Parson's Dau.* II. xiii, The housemaid..had a smartish bilious attack. 1858 HUGHES *Scour. White Horse* 18 Pretty nigh ever since King Alfred's time, which I reckon is a smartish time ago.

Smartism. [f. SMART *a.*] Smartness in talk; a smart saying.

1830 *Fraser's Mag.* I. 236 Talking endless smartisms of wearisome wit. 1834 *Oxf. Univ. Mag.* I. 39 The self-complacent smartism of the satirist.

† **Smartle**, *v. Obs.*—[0] (See quot.)

1674 RAY *N. C. Words*, To *Smartle* away, to wast[e] away. [Hence in Kersey, Grose, Brockett, etc.]

Smartless, *a. rare.* [f. SMART *sb.*[1]] Free from smart.

1593 R. BARNES *Parthenopil* Sonn. xlvii, Whether he rest at ease, in joys and smartless. *a* 1618 SYLVESTER *Trag. Hen. Gt.* 607 Wks. (Grosart) II. 244 Hee must be heart-less that is smart-less found.

Smartly (smā·ɪtli), *adv.* Also 3–4 **smert(e)liche** (4 *comp.* **-loker**), 4 **smartliche**, 4–5 **smertli**, 4–6 **smertly**, etc. [f. SMART *a.* + -LY 2.]

1. Vigorously, forcibly; sharply (in respect of physical action).

a 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 1990 Almihti godd..smit se smertliche herto, þat alle þeos fowr hweoles tohwiðerin to stucchen. 13.. *Guy Warw.* (A.) 3485 Asaileþ hem smerteliche. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 711 Hem to smyte..smartly I þenk. *c* 1400 *Laud Troy Bk.* 6217 Many of Troye in his defence At that tyme ful smartly stryues. 1616 W. BROWNE *Brit. Past.* II. iii, Thrice had the golden Sun his hote steedes.. smartly lasht Out of the baulmy east. 1673 *Essex Papers* (Camden) I. 146 We went to supper, were very merry, and drank smartly. 1705 HICKERINGILL *Priest-cr* II. viii. 80 Thus the Nurse..Kisses the Wanton..when it ought..to be Smartly Whipt. 1796 MORSE *Amer. Geogr.* I. 761 A breeze..which blows smartly from the land. 1867 F. FRANCIS *Angling* xiv. (1880) 487 The fish played smartly for a minute. 1883 HUXLEY *Pract. Biol.* 8 Pressing smartly with the handle of a mounted needle.

b. Sharply (in respect of treatment, language, etc.); severely; curtly.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 21496 Me war leuer..þan dempt sua smertli to be. *c* 1449 PECOCK *Repr.* I. ix. 47 Of this same mater it is quikli and smertli spoken in a litil book therto.. maad. *a* 1661 FULLER *Worthies* (1662) II. 165, I admired much that a man of his age, could write, so smartly, so solidly, so significantly. 1695 LD. PRESTON *Boeth.* II. 84 He answered smartly [L. *mordaciter*] again, I had indeed believed it, if thou couldst still have held thy Tongue. 1709 STRYPE *Ann. Ref.* I. xxxvii. 382 Haddow smartly answered, this was too impudent an hyperbole. *Ibid.* 390 He treated his adversary now more smartly than he had done before. 1809 PINKNEY *Trav. France* 258 Mrs. Younge replied very smartly to some questions of her husband. 1841 THACKERAY *Gt. Hoggarty Diam.* x, I let him one day know pretty smartly, that I was..a considerable shareholder in the Company.

c. Sharply (in respect of feeling); keenly; also, heavily, largely.

1677 in *Lauderdale Papers* (1885) III. 96 Therfor the fynes to be exacted wold be such as may be smartlie felt by the transgressors. 1800 *Asiatic Ann. Reg.* 255/2 The air proved here as cold.., and having no shelter from trees, was the more smartly felt. 1884 *Manch. Exam.* 22 May 5/2 Foreigners will not be allowed to share in this advantage without paying pretty smartly for the privilege.

2. Promptly, quickly, briskly (and trimly).

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 17810 Quen þat þai herd þis word be said, Ful smertli þai þam þider graid. *c* 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 3323 Parfor þai swippe þurgh purgatory Als a foul þat flyes smertly. *c* 1400 *Pilgr. Sowle* (Caxton) I. xxxiii. (1859) 37 That bylle whan it was leyd in the balaunce peysed so sore, that smartely that other syde aroos. *c* 1450 *Merlin* xx. 324 Thei ronne to armes hastely, and peyned hem harde to be smartly armed and soone. ?*a* 1550 *Freiris Berwik* 563 in *Dunbar's Poems* (1893) 303 Vpoun his feit he stude, And throw the myre full smertly than he 3ude. 1711 BUDGELL *Spect.* No. 161 P 3 A Trip which was given him so smartly that I could scarce discern it. 1833 *Reg. & Instr. Cavalry* I. 112 Come smartly to the position of 'Attention'. 1849 DICKENS *Barn. Rudge* xxxv, The horsemen wheeled smartly round. 1872 *Routledge's Ev. Boy's Ann.* Apr. 281 They walked smartly past the door.

3. Cleverly, neatly; wittily.

1673 *Remarques Humours Town* 46 He replied handsomely and smartly. 1680 H. MORE *Apocal. Apoc.* 204 And Tertullian himself, briefly and smartly [says] *Omnis Spiritus ales est.* 1748 RICHARDSON *Clarissa* (1759) II. 115 Smartly put, Betty. 1859 HAWTHORNE *Transformation* ii, What old man..could have turned a silly compliment more smartly than that!

4. Handsomely, elegantly, fashionably.

1836 MARRYAT *J. Faithful* xxxvi, He expended all his earnings on dressing himself smartly, and making presents to her. 1840 THACKERAY *Shabby-genteel Story* i, Upon this..the two managed to live pretty smartly, and to maintain an honourable reputation. 1891 *Leeds Mercury* 27 Apr. 4/7 The guests dressed very smartly, and the wedding was a really pretty one.

Comb. 1838 DICKENS *O. Twist* xxii, Dressed in a smartly-cut snuff-coloured coat. 1859 REEVE *Brittany* 236 Two smartly dressed girls came to the door.

Sma·rt-money. [f. SMART *sb.*1]

1. A sum of money paid to sailors, soldiers, workmen, etc., as compensation for disablement or injuries received while on duty or at work.

1693 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 2836/3 Smart-Money to such Seamen as have been Wounded in Their Majesties Service. 1696 LUTTRELL *Brief Rel.* (1857) IV. 28 No seaman..not registred shall have any smart money. 1758 J. BLAKE *Mar. Syst.* 62 To say nothing of smart-money, those in the navy are entitled to short allowance money. 1809 LANGFORD *Introd. Trade* 112 Also to all such pensions, salaries, smart-money,..which..may be due. 1840 HOOD *Up Rhine* 262, I do hope..that the King of Prussia will double that poor fellow's smart-money. 1860 *Eng. & For. Mining Gloss.* (ed. 2) 63 *Smart money*, money paid weekly by the owners to persons who have received an injury in the work.

b. Any compensation made for injury or the like; also *spec.* in *U.S. law* (see quot. 1851).

1749 FIELDING *Tom Jones* III. viii, Mr. Allworthy gave Tom Jones a little horse, as a kind of smart-money for the punishment. 1851 A. M. BURRILL *New Law Dict.* II. 936 *Smart-Money*...Damages beyond the value of a thing sued for, given by a jury in cases of gross misconduct or cruelty on the part of a defendant. 1890 HALL CAINE *Bondman* II. i, He..sent Adam Fairbrother an instant warning, with half-a-year's salary for smart money.

2. Money paid to obtain the discharge of a recruit who has enlisted in the army.

1760 *Cautions & Advices to Officers of Army* 144 This Sum the Officer generally divides among his Recruiting Party,..and the more there are who pay this Smart-money, as they call it, the more they share. 1778 *Ann. Reg.* 196 The law..gives a certain time for those who are inlisted to get off, upon returning the inlisting money and what is called the smart money. 1844 *Queen's Regul. & Ord. Army* 390 When Recruits are set at liberty by a magistrate, on the payment of smart-money. 1894 *Daily Telegr.* 11 Jan. 5/7 When a young man he enlisted, but his father paid the smart money,..and secured his release.

b. Money paid on account of cancelling or not fulfilling a bargain or agreement, or in order to free oneself from some disadvantage, recover some lapsed privilege, etc.

1818 SCOTT *Rob Roy* xxvii, He accomplished the exchange ..; nor did I hear further of his having paid any smart-money for breach of bargain.

†**3.** (See quot. and cf. GARNISH *sb.* 5.) *Obs.*

1856 DE QUINCEY *Conf.* Wks. 1862 I. 151, I have always looked upon this fine of five or seven shillings (for wax that you do not absolutely need) as a sort of inaugural *honorarium* entrance-money, what in jails used to be known as *smart* money.

Smartness (smā·ɪtnės). Also 4 **smartnes**, 5 **smertnesse**. [f. SMART *a.* + -NESS.]

1. Pain, smarting. *rare.*

c 1412 HOCCLEVE *De Reg. Princ.* 2226 Disceyt, and..inward fikilnesse, Bulteth out schame, and causeþ gret smartnesse. 1855 BAIN *Senses & Intell.* II. ii. § 7 (1864) 184 A sensation of smartness is produced.

2. That which induces pain or distress; sharp discipline; severity (*of* something).

1303 R. BRUNNE *Handl. Synne* 4966 To chastyse hem wyþ fyn awe And with þe smartnes of þe lawe. 1653 BINNING *Serm.* (1845) 561 If you find not the Smartness of the Gospel..ye are yet in your Sins. 1666 *Phil. Trans.* I. 359 They [waters] had a rough smartness, as if they carried Sand or Gravel into the Eye. 1706 Z. CRADOCK *Serm. Charity* (1740) 17 Mov'd by the smartness of a present calamity.

3. Vivacity and wit in conversation or writing.

1656 *Artif. Handsom.* 111 Those sharp, Satyricall, and popular invectives..To which your Ladyship hath given as much (or more) edge and smartnesse, as ever I found from any. 1664 DRYDEN *Rival Ladies* Ep. Ded., The sudden smartness of the answer. 1711 STEELE *Spect.* No. 132 P 2 The Quaker, who happened to be a Man of Smartness, answered. 1751 JOHNSON *Rambler* No. 174 P 8 With no other hope than that of gaining the reputation of smartness and waggery. 1827 HALLAM *Const. Hist.* (1876) II. viii. 39 His letters to Strafford display some smartness, but no great capacity. 1886 *Manch. Exam.* 27 Jan. 3/2 He has been led astray by that passion for smartness which is the bane of contemporary criticism.

4. Trimness or fashionableness in dress, etc.

1752–3 A. MURPHY *Gray's Inn Jrnl.* No. 17, The more humble, whose Genius does not exceed the Smartness of a Cut Bob. 1801 tr. *Gabrielli's Mysterious Husb.* IV. 164 She..had an air of smartness which rather prepossessed the Prince's household in her favour. 1866 ROGERS *Agric. & Prices* I. xxii. 578 Several of the complaints refer to undue smartness in dress. 1892 MALLOCK in *N. Amer. Rev.* July 29 Smartness..represents the perfection of superficial living, and it has a natural..influence over persons of a certain temperament.

5. Briskness, activity, alertness.

1867 MACGREGOR *Voy. Alone* (1868) 34 Hasty smartness is slowest. 1873 *Daily News* 27 Aug., Their thorough efficiency and soldierly smartness in a cavalry soldier's best work.

b. *Mil.* Neatness of dress and person combined with brisk orderly bearing.

1861 *Times* 24 Sept., A want of the..soldierly spirit which begets attention to personal smartness. 1886 *Pall Mall G.* 19 Oct. 4/3 Keep your person and accoutrements always neat, and acquire that quality:..'smartness'.

6. Extreme cleverness or shrewdness, esp. for one's own advantage. Chiefly *U.S.*

1842 DICKENS *Amer. Notes* (1850) 171/1 This smartness has done more in a few years to impair the public credit.. than dull honesty..could have effected in a century. 1843 MARRYAT *M. Violet* xxxvi, I was perfectly *au fait* to all the tricks of Arkansas' smartness. 1890 *Spectator* 26 Apr., Mr. Blaine..instructed his supporters in the Press and on the platform to proclaim the 'smartness' of his scheme.

Sma·rtweed. Chiefly *dial.* and *U.S.* [f. SMART *sb.*1 or *a.*] A name given to various species of *Polygonum*, esp. the arsesmart or water-pepper (*Polygonum Hydropiper*).

1787 W. H. MARSHALL *E. Norfolk* (1795) II. 388 *Smart-weed*, biting and pale-flowered persicarias; arsmart. 1848 *Amer. Jrnl. Med. Sci.* XVI. 247 The Smart-weed as a Remedy for Mercurial Salivation. 1883 E. H. ROLLINS *New Eng. Bygones* 50 About my grandfather's gate smart-weed and dock-weed and plantain grew profusely. *Ibid.* 181 The smart-weed bed underneath them was always hunted by eager children.

Smarty (smā·ɪti). *U.S.* [f. SMART *a.* II.] A would-be smart or witty person.

1880 'MARK TWAIN' *Tramp Abr.* xxiii. 198 The village smarties recognized a treasure in Nicodemus, right away—a butt to play jokes on. 1902 OWEN WISTER *Virginians* xxvii, 'He is a smarty,' said he, once or twice.

Smash (smæʃ), *sb.*1 [f. SMASH *v.*1]

1. *dial.* or *colloq.* A hard or heavy blow. (In earliest quots. *fig.*)

1779 T. TWINING in R. Twining *Recr. & Stud.* (1882) 68 This last American smash of Sir George Collier's. 1780 *Ibid.* 79, I want nothing but one good smash at the French fleet. 1816 G. MUIR *Minstrelsy* 24 (E.D.D.), Their shoon wi' tackets Were ca'd as fu' as cobler's smash Cou'd get them thacket. 1886 WILLOCK *Rosetty Ends* (1887) 21 Seizin' a hoe..he made a smash at the beast. 1898 *Daily News* 24 Nov. 7/3 Sharkey came back with his right, delivering several smashes on Corbett's wind.

b. *Lawn-Tennis.* A hard and fast overhand volley.

1882 *Daily Telegr.* 18 July 2 Fourth game: Won by E. Renshaw, after some grand play, 'smashes' being frequent. 1894 *Outing* XXIV. 297/2 One of Hovey's smashes brought an end to the situation.

2. †**a.** *slang.* Mashed turnips. *Obs.*

1785 GROSE *Dict. Vulgar T.* s.v., Leg of mutton and smash. 1799 *Sporting Mag.* XIII. 360 W. S. Green,..for a wager of a leg of mutton and smash, drank three pints of Cogniac brandy in half an hour.

b. A shivered or broken-up condition. Chiefly in phrases *to break, knock*, etc., or *go, to smash.* Also used *fig.* (cf. 4 a).

(*a*) 1798 CHARLOTTE SMITH *Yng. Philos.* III. 124 She *rayally* thought her *carriage* would have been broke to smash. 1807–8 IRVING *Salmag.* (1824) 203 He determined to do the thing genteelly, to go to smash like a hero, and dashed into the limits in high style. 1830 GALT *Lawrie T.* II. iv. (1849) 54 It beats Shedry and Abendy to immortal smash. 1840 MARRYAT *Poor Jack* v, [It] had..knocked his figure-head all to smash. 1874 HUXLEY in *Life* (1900) I. xxviii. 413 The..arrangements all went to smash.

(*b*) 1857 HUGHES *Tom Brown* II. ii, The door panels were in a normal state of smash. 1883 STEVENSON *Treasure Isl.* v, You cannot imagine a house in such a state of smash.

3. A loud sound of breaking or crushing; a severe or extensive crushing, shivering, or breaking of anything, esp. accompanied by a crashing sound; a violent collision or impact.

1808 JAMIESON, *Smash*,..the sound of breaking, a crash. 1833 M. SCOTT *Tom Cringle* i, I could distinctly hear a heavy *smash* as the large and ponderous blocks..struck the doomed sailor. 1853 LOWELL *Moosehead Jrnl.* Prose Wks. 1890 I. 4 The last great railroad smash. 1863 GEO. ELIOT *Romola* xiv, One of the dim floating lights disappeared with a smash from a stone. 1876 BRISTOWE *Th. & Pract. Med.* (1878) 113 A smash of the leg.

b. *Geol.* (See quot.)

1902 *Encycl. Brit.* XXXIII. 775 The Lower Chalk formation..contains many ruptures and dislocations, 'smashes' as they are now commonly called.

4. a. Commercial failure; stoppage through insolvency; bankruptcy. (Cf. CRASH *sb.*1 2 b.)

1839 LOCKHART *Ballantyne-humbug* 114 He was careful enough to give his wife £250 on the very morning of the smash! 1858 O. W. HOLMES *Aut. Breakf.-t.* x, A commercial smash kills a hundred men's houses for them. 1867 TROLLOPE *Chron. Barset* I. xxxix. 341 There is no saying what day a smash may come.

b. A crushing defeat or overthrow.

1888 *Spectator* 30 June 878 A smash of Sir E. Watkin by an instinctive vote of the House. 1896 BADEN-POWELL *Matabele Campaign* v, It was a final smash to the enemy in the north.

c. A break-up of some kind; a revolution.

1890 *Spectator* 2 Aug., The 'smash' at Buenos Ayres, which has been expected for the last six weeks,..took place last Saturday.

5. An American beverage made of spirit, ice, water, sugar, and flavoured with mint.

1859 F. FOWLER *Southern Lights* 52 *A Smash*, ice, brandy, and water. 1861 *Times* 10 July, Thirsty souls, who have hastened on board..for a julep, a smash, or a cocktail.

Smash, *sb.*2 *Cant.* [Of doubtful origin: not clearly connected with prec.]

1. Counterfeit coin. Also in comb. *smash-feeder* (see quot. 1860).

1795 POTTER *Dict. Cant, Smash*,..bad coin. 1839 *Slang Dict.* 34 *Smashfeeder*, a silver spoon. 1860 *Ibid.* 219 *Smash-feeder*, a Britannia metal spoon,—the best imitation shillings are made from this metal.

2. (See SLING *v.*1 3 f.)

Smash (smæʃ), *v.*1 [Probably imitative: cf. Norw. dial. *smaska* to crush, *slaa i smask* to knock to smash (Ross).]

I. *trans.* †**1.** *slang.* (See quot.) *Obs.*

a 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew, Smash*, to kick down Stairs.

2. To break (anything) in pieces violently; to dash to pieces; to crush, shatter, or shiver.

1778 FOOTE *Tailors* II. iii, While others shall assault each house of call, Smash all their slates, and plunder every box. 1786 in R. Twining *Recr. & Stud.* (1882) 139 To have his legs and arms smashed. 1815 SCOTT *Guy M.* xxxiii, The first person he met was Frank Kennedy, all smashed and gory. 1820 SHELLEY *Vis. Sea* 145 Some hideous engine whose brazen teeth smash The thin winds and soft waves into thunder. 1851 G. H. KINGSLEY *Sport & Trav.* (1900) 530 The bottle is smashed, smashed to atoms! 1885 HORNADAY *2 Yrs. Jungle* xviii. 198 Nearly every bamboo..had been pulled down and smashed to splinters.

b. In imprecations, with or without object expressed.

1819 MIDFORD in *Coll. Songs* 47 Smash! Jemmy, let us buss, we'll off, And see Newcassel Races. 1825 BROCKETT *N.C. Gloss., Smash*, a kind of oath among the pitmen near Newcastle. 1833 M. SCOTT *Tom Cringle* viii, Smash my eyes, man, but them barrels be full of pimento. 1894 CLEGG *David's Loom* 181 Smash me! I won't be guilty of bragging.

c. *Bookbinding.* To flatten or compress (the sheets of a book) before binding.

1875 [implied in *Smashing machine*].

3. To dash or fling (anything) with noise and violence; to batter; to cause to strike hard.

c 1800 *The Earl o' Bran'* xxviii. in *Child Ball.* IV. 444/2 An he smashed them doun a' bane by bane. 1822 AINSLIE *Land of Burns* 200, I reft at the rock.., an wou'd hae geen a warl' to been able to lift it, an smash't it in amang them. 1852 MRS. STOWE *Uncle Tom's C.* viii. 55 If you give me one word out of your head, I'll smash your face in. 1864 BP.

WILBERFORCE in *Life* (1882) III. v. 137 My mare..smashed my head on the gravel. 1872 SPURGEON *Treas. David* lviii. 6 It is asked that their grinders may be smashed in, broken off, or dashed out.

b. *Lawn-Tennis.* To strike (the ball) violently and swiftly in an overhand volley. Also *absol.*

1882 *Daily Telegr.* 18 July 2 W. 'smashing' a ball into the net, left the game and sett in his brother's favour by six games to two. 1890 *St. Nicholas* Sept. 921 He told them..when to 'smash' a ball.

4. To defeat utterly; to crush completely; to overcome, overwhelm, or destroy.

1813 SIR R. WILSON *Priv. Diary* (1862) II. 443 It is difficult to smash above one hundred and eighty thousand men resting on fortified bulwarks. 1845 DISRAELI *Sybil* (1863) 226, I am told..that the police were regularly smashed. 1865 *Examiner* 18 Mar. 162 Suddenly to set aside the spirit and substance thereof for the purposes..of 'smashing' a particular bill is an act of suicidal wrong. 1884 *Western Daily Press* 28 May 8/5 To join in a British expedition to 'smash' the Mahdi.

b. To render insolvent or bankrupt.

1857 BORROW *Rom. Rye* xli, My father did his best to smash the Bank of England by passing forged notes, and I did my best to assist him. 1858 O. W. HOLMES *Aut. Breakf.-t.* ix, Folks rich once,—smashed up.

II. *intr.* **5.** To move rapidly with shattering effect; to dash or smite violently; to crash.

1835 J. MONTEATH *Dunblane Trad.* (1887) 122 Headlong he over hillocks rush'd, And wet through bogs and mosses smash'd. 1842 LOVER *Handy Andy* xviii, You may smash away as hard as you can. 1852 MRS. STOWE *Uncle Tom's C.* xxxv. 314 Picking up the silver dollar, he sent it smashing through the window-pane out into the darkness. 1898 SIR W. CROOKES *Addr. Brit. Assoc.* 25 The quick moving molecules, smashing on to the surface, have their energy reduced.

6. *colloq.* To fail financially; to be ruined; to become insolvent or bankrupt. Also with *up.*

1839 HOOD *My Son & Heir* xix, A Glazier?—what if he should smash! 1862 SALA *Seven Sons* III. vii. 142 A firm that had smashed for so tremendous an amount. 1876 BESANT & RICE *Golden Butterfly* (1877) 211 The Republic..cannot hope to pay its dividends—Must smash up, in short.

7. To break or fly in pieces, esp. as the result of a blow or impact.

1904 W. W. JACOBS *Dialstone Lane* ii. 27 The pipe fell from the listener's fingers and smashed unheeded on the floor.

III. 8. Used adverbially, as in *to go smash.*

1823 *Spirit Public Jrnls.* (1824) 204 The last went smash through the shop window into the street. 1842 LOVER *Handy Andy* vi, Here the hens flew against the dresser, and smash went the plates and dishes. 1888 VEITCH *Dean's Dau.* I. i. 25, I saw the great egg go smash against her head.

Smash, *v.*[2] *Cant.* [Cf. SMASH *sb.*[2]]

1. *trans.* To pass (counterfeit money).

1811 in *Lexicon-Balatronicum.* 1851 *Household Words* 25 Jan. 423, I [a bad shilling] remained to be 'smashed' (passed) by my master.

2. (See quot.)

1812 J. H. VAUX *Flash Dict.*, To *smash* a guinea, note, or other money, is, in a common sense, to procure, or give, change for it.

Smashable (smæ·ʃăb'l), *a.* [f. SMASH *v.*[1] + -ABLE.] Capable of being smashed.

1884 YATES *Recoll.* iv, The complete smash of everything smashable. 1888 LEES & CLUTTERBUCK *B. C. 1887* iii. (1892) 31 He..smashed all the smashable furniture.

Smashdom (smæ·ʃdəm). [f. SMASH *sb.*[1] + -DOM.] The state of being (financially) smashed.

1859 SALA *Twice r. Clock* (1861) 201 It was indeed the great knell of universal railway smashdom.

Smashed (smæʃt), *ppl. a.* [f. SMASH *v.*[1] + -ED[1].] Crushed; broken to pieces.

1819 SHELLEY *Peter Bell 3rd.* I. xv, Smashed glass—and nothing more! 1857 JANET HAMILTON *Lessons fr. Gt. Biogr.* (1859) 289 A pile of smashed pillars and scorched timbers. 1897 MARY KINGSLEY *W. Africa* 251 A mass of slimy gray abomination on a bit of plantain leaf—smashed snail.

Smasher[1] (smæ·ʃəɹ). [f. SMASH *v.*[1]]

1. *slang.* Anything uncommon, extraordinary, or unusual, *esp.* unusually large or excellent.

1794 *Gentl. Mag.* LXIV. I. 216/1 *Smasher*..signifies any thing larger than common. *a* 1800 in PEGGE *Suppl. Grose.* 1853 MOODIE *Life Clearings* 106 If you make it twelve and a half cents, you'll have a *smasher* [=a full house]. 1894 *Daily News* 11 Sept. 5/1 Lord Rosebery's colt, who, if not the 'smasher' which his precipitate admirers declared him to be.., is above the average of high-class three-year-olds.

2. *colloq.* **a.** A severe or crushing reply, article, review, etc.

1828 *Blackw. Mag.* XXIV. 189 His reply..was a complete smasher. 1849 THACKERAY *Pendennis* xxxi, He's a tremendous hand at a smasher. 1864 *Reader* No. 100. 674/1 The Edinburgh Review had 'come down a smasher on Robert Browning'.

b. A bad or damaging fall; a heavy blow.

1875 BUCKLAND *Log-Book* 4 The horses will come a terrific smasher. 1897 *Daily News* 1 June 8/2 Before I could consider,..I had fetched him the smasher.

3. An appliance or machine which smashes or crushes; *spec.* a bookbinder's compressing-machine; a form of embossing-press.

1822 W. JAMES *Naval Hist.* (1826) I. 47 Its destructive effects..induced its ingenious inventor to give it the name of smasher. 1876 *Encycl. Brit.* IV. 44 The folded sheets are sometimes condensed in another American machine called 'The Smasher'. 1882 J. B. NICHOLSON *Art Bookbinding* 44 A powerful embossing press, technically called a smasher.

4. One who smashes.

1884 *Pall Mall G.* 4 July 1/2 Every day the smashing is postponed..the more likely will it be that the Mahdi will be the smasher and we the smashed.

5. *attrib.* in *smasher hat*, a slouched hat.

1899 G. H. RUSSELL *Under the Sjambok* x. 107 The men ..are content to put a piece of crape round the arm and smasher hat.

Smasher[2] (smæ·ʃəɹ). Orig. *Cant.* [f. SMASH *sb.*[2] or *v.*[2]]

1. One who passes or utters counterfeit coin or forged notes.

1795 POTTER *Dict. Cant, Smasher*, a passer of counterfeit coin. 1796 COLQUHOUN *Police Metropolis* 107 The Dealer.. for the most part disposes of it to the utterers, vulgarly called Smashers. 1836 *Lincoln Herald* 20 Dec. 4/2 Several individuals have been imposed upon by the smashers. 1857 BORROW *Romany Rye* xli, When I said that my father was a smasher, I meant one who passes forged notes. 1895 *Westm. Gaz.* 18 Sept. 3/1 Most frequently the single-handed 'smasher' contents himself in passing one coin in an evening.

fig. 1872 *Punch* 2 Mar. 97/1 Some smashers have lately been trying to pass the base word 'cablegram'.

2. A counterfeit coin. *rare*[−1].

1851 MAYHEW *Lond. Lab.* (1864) II. 488/2 Every bit of it, every coin,..was bad—all smashers.

Smashery (smæ·ʃəri). [f. SMASH *v.*[1]] A smashing or destruction; a state of smash.

1830 GALT *Lawrie T.* III. i. (1849) 84 Having a smashery among his crockery ware. 1849 E. FORBES in Wilson & Geikie *Life* xiii. 465 It is the most singular mince-meat smashery of about eight feet of shales and chert-bands. 1854 LEVER *Dodd Family Abroad* xxxii, The smaller details are, a universal smashery, with occasional vestiges of that part of the creation consigned to hair-dressers..and milliners.

Smashing (smæ·ʃiŋ), *vbl. sb.*[1] [f. SMASH *v.*[1]]

1. The action of SMASH *v.*[1] in various senses.

1821 GALT *Ann. Parish* xxii, There was such a smashing of the poor weans, as had not been known for an age. 1842 DE QUINCEY *Marquess Wellesley* Wks. 1858 VIII. 28 The last great political act of Lord Wellesley was the smashing of the Peel ministry in 1834. 1886 *Law Times* LXXX. 285/1 Mere smashing of windows was held not to be a felonious demolition. 1902 'LINESMAN' *Words Eyewitness* 285 That they..endure smashing after smashing, is..as admirable as it is marvellous.

2. *attrib.*, as *smashing branch, capacity, power*; **smashing-machine**, a heavy press used by bookbinders (Knight *Dict. Mech.* 1875); **smashing-press**, an embossing-press (*Ibid.* Suppl. 1884).

1849 *Punch* XVII. 214 A Bankrupt..to superintend the smashing branch. 1889 *Pall Mall G.* 19 Feb. 2/3 The smashing capacity even of a lion is..limited. 1892 GREENER *Breech-Loader* 152 The increased range and smashing power of the large shot.

Sma·shing, *vbl. sb.*[2] [f. SMASH *v.*[2]] (See quot. 1812.)

1812 J. H. VAUX *Flash Dict.*, *Smashing*, uttering counterfeit money; *smashing of queer screens*, signifies uttering forged bank notes. 1891 M. WILLIAMS *Later Leaves* xii. 144 When once a man commences smashing or passing, he never gives up the practice.

Smashing (smæ·ʃiŋ), *ppl. a.*[1] [f. SMASH *v.*[1]] That smashes, in various senses.

1833 M. SCOTT *Tom Cringle* i, A heavy smashing thump against our bows. 1841 LEVER *C. O'Malley* xcii, A smashing volley was poured into the squadron. 1853 W. IRVING *Life & Lett.* (1864) IV. 124 Thackeray..said the Bostonians had published a smashing criticism on him. 1884 *Pall Mall G.* 23 Oct. 1/2 [To] deal them a smashing blow by an appeal to the country.

Hence **Sma·shingly** *adv.*, in a smashing manner.

1884 *Pall Mall G.* 19 Mar. 2/1 A man..who is too keen to pause unless he is hit smashingly.

Sma·shing, *ppl. a.*[2] [f. SMASH *v.*[2]] **a.** Counterfeit, forged. **b.** Engaged in 'smashing'.

1857 BORROW *Romany Rye* xli, My father had paid for the horses with his smashing notes. 1899 *Pall Mall G.* 15 May 7/3, 98 per cent. of the 'smashing' fraternity make silver and not gold money.

Sma·sh-up. [f. SMASH *sb.*[1] or *v.*[1]] A complete smash. Also *fig.*

1858 HOLLAND *Titcomb's Lett.* viii. 74 Follow it, and see how long it will be before you come to a stump and a smash-up. 1890 S. W. BAKER *Wild Beasts* I. 16 A hollow bullet..is intended..to secure an expansion and smash-up of the lead upon impact with the animal. 1892 *Cath. News* 27 Feb. 5/5 May this smash-up of his facts remain as a warning to him.

Smatch (smætʃ), *sb.*[1] Forms: 2 **smecch**, 3 **smech**; 4, 6–7 **smach**, 5–6 **smache**, **smatche**, 6– **smatch**. [ME. *smech*, *smach*, app. an alteration of OE. *smæc* SMACK *sb.*[1], under the influence of SMATCH *v.*]

1. Taste, smack, flavour; † also, the sense of taste.

a 1200 *St. Marher.* 9 On his hehe hokede neose þreaste smeorðrinde smoke ut smecche forcuðest. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 94 Þis smech and tis cnowunge kumeð of gostliche sihðe. *Ibid.* 276 Bitweonen smech muðes and neoses smel. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 461 He hade þe smelle of þe smach & smoltes þeder sone, Fallez on þe foule flesch [etc.]. 1563 LANGHAM *Gard. Health* (1633) 536 Those that be distilled in mettall, haue some smatch of the mettall. 1581 J. BELL *Haddon's Answ. Osor.* A v j, But it is not errour forthwith that hath somewhat a bitter smatch, and is unsavory to every queysie stomacke. 1600 SURFLET *Countrie Farme* v. xx. 713 The meal of the corne of Champagne, craueth a newer made leauen,..because it hath a smatch of the earth. 1681 GREW *Musæum* IV. I. 353 These Salts have also somewhat of a Nitrous Tast, but mixed with a smatch of a Vitriolick. *a* 1764 R. LLOYD *Author's Apol.* 92 Whosoe'er, though slightly, sips, Their grateful flavour with his lips, Will find it leave a smatch behind. 1853 SURTEES *Sponge's Sp. Tour* xxv. 148 We had a bottle with a queer smatch the other night. 1892 *Pall Mall G.* 29 Mar. 7/3 Not the least smatch or bad taste has ever been imparted to the liquor.

fig. 1583 GOLDING *Calvin on Deut.* cxxi. 746, I haue yet.. this smatch of my wicked bringing up..remayning in mee.

b. A mere tasting. *rare.*

c 1456 PECOCK *Bk. Faith* (1909) 205 Whiche bokis, if ȝe wolen rede diligentli..and not forto take an hasti smel or smatche in hem. 1571 GOLDING *Calvin on Ps.* lxxi. xviii, If God should withdraw his grace, when men have tasted but a little smatch of it. 1755 T. H. CROKER *Orl. Fur.* XXXIII. iii, The monsters..Which did his victuals spoil,.. Nor suffer'd him to taste, or have a smatch.

2. A slight indication, suggestion, or tincture *of* some quality, etc.

c 1525 *Tale of the basyn* 25 in Hazl. *E. P. P.* III. 45 A wyfe that has an yvell tach, Ther of the husbond shalle haue a smache. 1548 UDALL, etc. *Erasm. Par. Luke* Pref. 6 He hath in sundry woordes and phrases sum smatche of his natiue countrey phrases, that he was borne in. 1628 EARLE *Microcosm.* (Arb.) 44 Hee passes the more plausibly because all men haue a smatch of his humour. 1669 HOLDER *Elem. Speech* 59 Some Nations may be found to have a peculiar Guttural or Nasal smatch in their Language. 1727 *Philip Quarll* 174 A Smatch of that Respect he has forfeited by his fatal Transgression. 1760–72 H. BROOKE *Fool of Qual.* (1809) I. 56 Has not your Pegasus some smatch of the qualities of the famous Rosinante? 1788 COWPER *Let.* Wks. 1836 VI. 155 In the style of the lady's note to you, I can easily perceive a smatch of her character. 1808 LAMB *Charac. Dram. Writ.* 531 She speaks the dialect of despair; her tongue has a smatch of Tartarus. 1855 [ROBINSON] *Whitby Gloss.* s.v., He has gotten a smatch of London in his talk. 1889 *Archaeol. Æliana* XIII. 313 A smatch of the old lawless spirit of their ancestors.

b. A slight touch *of* illness, pain, etc.

1647 LILLY *Chr. Astrol.* xliv. 243 Not that moment when first the Patient felt a Smatch of it. 1772–84 *Cook's Voy.* (1790) I. 143 It was resolved to give him a smatch of the cat-o'-nine-tails. 1865 BANKS *Wakefield Words* 65 'Hez he gotten t'feaver?' 'Noa, bud he's a smatch on it.'

3. A slight knowledge, a smattering, *of* something. † Also, a slight turn or trial *at* a thing.

1571 GOLDING *Calvin on Ps.* xl. iv, As yit we comprehend it not perfectly, but onely have a little smatch of it. 1628 EARLE *Microcosm.* (Arb.) 26 If he haue leasure to be idle.. he ha's a smatch at Alcumy. 1703 DE FOE *Reformat. Manners* Misc. 102 A little smatch of Modern Blasphemy. 1719 — *Crusoe* II. (Globe) 549 They have..a Smatch of the Knowledge of the Mathematicks. 1780 COWPER *Progr. Error* 365 We give some Latin, and a smatch of Greek. 1825 A. HEADLEY in J. Raine *Mem. J. Hodgson* (1858) II. 66 If you can get Joe Fenwick to give him a smatch of the value of the land it will be of great service to him.

† **Smatch,** *sb.*[2] *Obs.* Also 6 **smatche.** [Of obscure origin.] The wheatear, *Saxicola œnanthe.*

Turner appears to be the only real authority for the name, and the statement in quot. 1753 is very doubtful.

1544 TURNER *Avium Hist.* C vj, Κυανός, *Cæruleo*, Anglicé, a clotburd, a smatche, an arlyng, a steinchek. 1655 MOUFET & BENNET *Health's Impr.* 100 The Clotbird (called sometimes a Smatch, or an Arling) is as big almost as a Thrush. 1668 CHARLETON *Onomast.* 88 *Cæruleo*, the Clot-bird, Smatch, or Stone-Check. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl., *Smatch*, in zoology, a name by which the common œnanthe is called in many parts of England.

† **Smatch,** *v. Obs.* Forms: *α.* 1 **-smeccan**, 3 **smecchen**, **smechen**; *pa. t.* **smeihte**, *pa. pple.* **i-smeiht**, **i-smecched.** *β.* 1 **smæccan**, 4 **smache**, 5–6 **smacche**, 4, 6 **smatche**, 4, 6–7 **smatch** (7 **smach**); *pa. t.* 3 **smachte**, 4–5 **smauȝt(e**; *pa. pple.* 3 **i-smaht**, **i-smauht.** [OE. (*ge*)*smeccan* and *smæccan*, f. *smæc* SMACK *sb.*[1] Cf. OFris. *smekka*, *smetsa* (WFris. *smeitsje*), MLG. and LG. *smecken*, OHG. *smecchen* (G. *schmecken*). Finally supplanted by the later SMACK *v.*[1]]

1. *intr.* To have a (specified) flavour or taste; to smack (in some way).

c 1000 ÆLFRIC *Gram.* (Z.) xxviii. 166 *Sapio*, ic wat oððe ic smæcce. *a* 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 1526 Mi swete lif, se swoteliche he smecheð me & smealleð. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 955 Al in smolderande smoke smachande ful ille. 1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. v. 363 Is non so hungri hounde..Durst lape of þe leuynges, so vnlouely þei smauȝte [*C.* smauhte]. 1682 HICKERINGILL *Black Non-Conf.* Wks. 1716 II. 152 Revenge..to a polluted Palate..relishes and smach's more sweet..than Muscadine and Eggs.

b. *fig.* To smack *of* something.

c 1380 WYCLIF *Wks.* (1880) 393 Þe whiche smachen of symony and extorcion. *c* 1380 — *Sel. Wks.* II. 226 Many men wenen þat al þes newe sectis..smatchen sumwhat of heresie. 1565 JEWEL *Reply Harding* (1611) 327 This terme, All, heere smatcheth of spight. 1578 BANISTER *Hist. Man* I. 22 Allowing his description therin to retain and smatche of veritie. *a* 1604 HANMER *Chron. Ireland* (1809) 15 The Hebrewes by reason of their peregrination and captivities do smach of the Chaldees, Syriack and Arabick tongues. 1613 DAY *Festivals* viii. (1615) 242 The new Cask will ever smatch of that wherewith it hath beene seasoned.

c. *trans.* To smack of (something).

c 1380 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* I. 27 So eche secte smatchiþ many synnes. *Ibid.* 28 Al þes þree sectis mote nedis smatche errour. 1402 *Pol. Poems* (Rolls) II. 64 Sith alle that is not groundid smacchith grete synne. 1589 PUTTENHAM *Eng. Poesie* II. xiv. (Arb.) 140 They smatch more the schoole of common players than of any delicate Poet Lyricke or Elegiacke. *Ibid.* III. xix. 243 Such as smatch morall doctrine and teach..good behauiour.

2. *trans.* To taste, feel the taste of. Also *fig.*

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 94 Hit is a derne healewi þet no mon ne icnoweð þet naueð hit ismecched. *Ibid.* 106 He smeihte

galle on his tunge, uorto leren ancren þet heo ne gruchie neuermore uor none mete. *a* 1240 *Ureisun* in *O. E. Hom.* I. 189 Al þet ich abbe..mid muþ ispekin oþer ismaht. *c* 1400 *Beryn* 3122 He held it nat al foly þat Geffrey did clatir,..For parcell of his wisdom to-fore he had smaught.

Hence †**Sma·tching** *vbl. sb. Obs.*

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 64 Spellunge & smecchunge beoð ine muðe boðe, ase sihðe is iðen eien. *c* 1230 *Hali Meid.* 13 Hire fif wittes, sihðe & heringe, smecchunge & smealunge & euch limes felunge.

†**Sma·tchcock.** *Obs. rare.* [Of obscure origin.] **a.** A collop. **b.** A spitchcock.

14.. *Lat.-Eng. Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 584 *Frixa*, a colhoppe, or a smachecok. 1746 *Mouffet & Bennet's Health's Impr.* 276 Either to broil them [*sc.* lampreys] as Smatchcocks [1655 Spitchcocks], or to bake them.

Smatchet (smæ·tʃĕt). *Sc.* Forms: *a.* 6 **smachart**, 6, 9 **smatcher**, **-ert**, 9 **-art**, **-ard**. *β.* 7 **smatched**, 9 **smatchet** (**-it**). [Of obscure origin.] An insignificant contemptible person; a chit.

a. c 1582 MONTGOMERIE *Flyting* (Tull.) 623 For schismes, and Symonie, þat smachart [*Harl.* smatched] wes schameit. 1583 *Leg. Bp. St. Androis* 996 Bot ay the mair this smatcher gettis, The closser garris he keip the yettis. 1846 W. CROSS *Disruption* xxxii, Some other smatchert they call Duncanson it seems is coming. 1878 'SAXON' *Galloway Gossip* 98 (E.D.D.), A sort of misleer't kind of a smatchart.

β. 16.. *Montgomerie's Flyting* (Harl.) 473 Where that smatched hade sucked, so sair it was to shed it. 1834 *Tait's Mag.* I. 428/1 These Oxford smatchets too, singing through their noses, in mockery of the Dissenters! 1871 W. ALEXANDER *Johnny Gibb* (1873) 118 Impident smatchet that he is.

†**Sma·tchless,** *a. Obs.*—[1] In 3 **smechleas.** [f. *smech* SMATCH *sb.*[1]] Devoid of savour.

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 138 Al ure deden, & al þet we wurcheð wiðuten salt, þet is, wisdom, al þuncheð God smechleas.

Smatter (smæ·tər), *sb.* [f. the vb.]

1. Superficial knowledge; a smattering.

1668 WILKINS *Real Char.* 205 Unskilfulness, bungling,.. slubber, smatter. 1690 TEMPLE *Ess. Learning* Wks. 1720 I. 297 Other Sciences..were in a manner extinguish'd.., excepting only a Smatter of Judicial Astrology. 1787 W. TAYLOR *Scots Poems* 6 An' than jog on wi' rhymin smatter To toom my noddle. 1881 THOMPSON *Proc. U. S. Superintendents' Conv.* 35 The mistake lies in the substitution of smatter for knowledge. 1883 ADAMS *College Fetich* 27 That worthless smatter of the classics.

2. *pl.* Scraps, trifles, fragments; small sums. *Sc.*

1766 A. NICOL *Poems* 76 He can pray, and tell long scrifts of Greek, And broken smatters of the Hebrew speak. ▪ in JAMIESON.

Smatter (smæ·tər), *v.* Forms: 4 **smatre**, 4–6 **smater**, 6 **smatyr**, 5– **smatter.** [Of uncertain origin. Similar forms occur in Sw. *smattra* to patter, crackle, rattle, etc., G. *schmettern* to dash, resound, etc., but real connexion is very doubtful. In dialects there is also a verb *smatter* to smash: see the *Eng. Dial. Dict.*]

†**1.** *trans.* To dirty, smirch, pollute, defile. *Obs.* The sense in the Chaucer passage is not quite certain.

13.. in *Relig. Antiq.* I. 240 Swarte smekyd smethes smateryd with smoke. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Pars. T.* ℙ 857 Yet wol they Kisse..and smatre [*v.r.* smater] hem. 1575–6 *Durham Deposit.* (Surtees) 278 They of St. Margaret's wolde not smatter ther own church yard with thoise that then died in the plage. 1600 W. WATSON *Decacordon* (1602) 110 To say the Iesuits are all smattred with Atheisme, I will not. *Ibid.* 245 More odious stuffe then I haue handled, or am willing to smatter my pen withall.

†**2.** *intr.* To talk ignorantly or superficially, to prate or chatter, *of* something. *Obs.*

c 1440 LOVELICH *Merlin* 3167 Where-offen with sorwe smateryth he of ony thing that to vs longeth for to be? *c* 1522 SKELTON *Why nat to Court?* 711 For I abhore to smatter Of one so deuyllysshe a matter. But I wyll make further relacion. 1571 R. EDWARDS *Damon & Pithias* in Hazl. *Dodsley* IV. 41 Damon smatters as well as he, of crafty philosophy. 1733 SWIFT *On Poetry* 51 Of State-Affairs you cannot smatter, Are aukward when you try to flatter.

†**b.** Without const. *Obs.*

c 1475 in Wright *Songs & Carols* (Percy Soc.) 89 Trow ye that they lyst to smatter, Ore ageynst ther husbondes to clatter? 1523 SKELTON *Garl. Laurel* 1194 How Cownterfet Cowntenaunce..With Crafty Conueyaunce dothe smater and flater. 1592 SHAKS. *Rom. & Jul.* III. v. 172 Good Prudence, smatter with your gossip, go. *a* 1661 HOLYDAY *Juvenal* (1673) 263 Such rules..your nurses teach children, when they can scarce smatter. 1691 E. TAYLOR *Behmen's Theos. Phil.* 204 No Tongue or Pen can more than smatter, at the recital of the love-inspired Words.

3. To have a slight or superficial knowledge or practice *of*; to dabble, to be a smatterer (*in* or *at* something).

1530 PALSGR. 722/2, I smatter of a thyng, I have lytell knowledge in it. *Ibid.*, He smattereth a lytell of the lawe. 1547 BOORDE *Brev. Health* Pref. 2 Fooles and incipient persons..wyl enterpryse to smatter and to meddle to mynyster medecynes. 1573 L. LLOYD *Marrow of Hist.* (1653) 218 If a man can but smatter in six or seven languages he is noted to be a rare fellow. 1805 G. MCINDOE *Poems* 151 That's no' to hinder me to smatter..At making rhyme. 1827 HOOD *Craniology* 39 Just as in making broth they smatter By bobbing twenty things in water. 1882 *Harper's Mag.* LXV. 595, I never knew you to smatter.

b. To go *through* in a superficial manner.

1881 MAHAFFY *Rep. Irish Schools* 26 The system makes it far more lucrative to smatter through all these things than to learn the great subjects.

4. *trans.* To talk or utter without proper knowledge or proficiency.

1609 B. JONSON *Sil. Woman* IV. ii, The barber smatters Latin, I remember. 1663 BUTLER *Hud.* I. i. 185 In proper terms, such as men smatter When they throw out and miss the matter. 1708 *Brit. Apollo* No. 68. 3/1 So harsh and so mean are the Lines that you smatter. 1819 *Metropolis* II. 253 A man..who could at least smatter a little French. 1860 THACKERAY *Lovel* i, He smattered words in not a few foreign languages.

5. To dabble in (a subject); to study or learn superficially.

1883 *American* XXVI. 281 Then I smatter botany some. 1885 STEVENSON *Dynamiter* Wks. 1907 VI. 191, I have smattered law, smattered letters, smattered geography, smattered mathematics.

Smatterer (smæ·tərəɹ). Also 6 **smaterar**, **smatrer**, 6–7 **smaterer.** [f. SMATTER *v.*] One who has only a slight or superficial knowledge *of* (now rare) or *in* a matter; a dabbler. Also used without const.

(*a*) 1519 HORMAN *Vulgaria* 41 b, Smaterars or bunglers of physyke. *Ibid.* 92 b, He is a smaterar of grammar. 1577 tr. *Bullinger's Decades* (1592) 844 The captious smatterers of Rhetorique. 1810 D. STEWART *Philos. Ess.* 162 A degree of celebrity among the smatterers of science.

(*b*) 1529 MORE *Dyaloge* III. Wks. 244/2 Some proude smaterer in learning. 1576 FLEMING *Panopl. Epist.* 342 A man..would thinke that in versifying he is but a smatterer. 1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* II. iii. i, Smatterers in other mens matters. 1654 WHITLOCK *Zootomia* 104 More mischiefe cometh from such Smatterers in Physick, than those more ignorant. 1711 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 58 ℙ 13 For the Benefit of our modern Smatterers in Poetry. *a* 1763 W. KING *Lit. & Polit. Anecd.* (1819) 150 A bare smatterer in the Latin tongue. 1818 HALLAM *Mid. Ages* (1872) III. 283 Chilperic..was a smatterer in several kinds of literature. 1893 JESSOPP *Stud. Recluse* Pref. p. ix, A clergyman with a cure of souls..must give up all hopes of being anything but a smatterer in science.

(*c*) 1586 W. WEBBE *Eng. Poetrie* (Arb.) 20 Noble Poetry, pittifullie mangled and defaced, by rude smatterers. 1599 H. BUTTES *Dyets drie Dinner* D ij, Such hurt..ensueth by..medling with medlers or common smatterers. 1637 GILLESPIE *Eng..Pop. Cerem.* III. viii. 138 Every smatterer among them hath this much in his mouth. *a* 1680 BUTLER *Rem.* (1759) I. 213 As Smatterers prove more arrogant and pert, The less they truly understand an Art. 1748 SMOLLETT *Rod. Random* (1812) I. 257 No smatterer could read as I had done. 1805 D'ISRAELI in Smiles *Mem. J. Murray* (1891) I. ii. 48 Could you secure the numerous Smatterers of this age, you will have an enviable body of subscribers. 1882 *Manch. Guard.* 5 Sept. 6 Once off a very special line of his own Dr. Richardson is, we fear, no better than a smatterer.

Sma·ttering, *vbl. sb.* [f. SMATTER *v.*]

1. A slight or superficial knowledge *in* or *of* something. Also without const.

(*a*) 1538 STARKEY *England* I. i. 17 Such haue only a lytyl smateryng in gud lernyng. 1631 BRATHWAIT *Whimzies, Almanack-maker* 14 Wherein, trust me, hee ha's a pretty smattering. 1704 F. FULLER *Med. Gymn.* (1711) 55 Known to every one who has but the least smattering in Distillations. 1806 BERESFORD *Miseries Hum. Life* IV. i, Your utter incapability of ever arriving at the slightest smattering in any of the infernal dialects. 1856 *N. Brit. Rev.* XXVI. 255 It is the only alternative to a superficial smattering in all things.

(*b*) 1589 GREENE *Menaphon* (Arb.) 10 Euerie priuate Scholler ..beganne to vaunt their smattering of Latine. 1631 WEEVER *Anc. Funeral Mon.* 785, Onely a little smattering of learning he had. 1742 RICHARDSON *Pamela* IV. 43, I propose to give you a Smattering of the French and Italian. 1836 MARRYAT *Japhet* iv, I soon obtained a very fair smattering of my profession. 1874 L. STEPHEN *Hours Libr.* (1892) II. ii. 33 He had..given his son the chance of acquiring a smattering of 'scholarship'.

(*c*) 1581 MULCASTER *Positions* xxxix. (1887) 219 It were a great deale better that they had no learning at all and knew their owne ignorance, than any little smattering, vnperfit in his kinde. 1612 BRINSLEY *Ludus Lit.* 108 They who haue had but a smattering, or some little beginning. 1693 EVELYN *De la Quint. Compl. Gard.* I. 3 That dangerous and so much fear'd station, which is call'd Smattering. 1865 RUSKIN *Sesame* 161 There is a wide difference between elementary knowledge and superficial knowledge—between a firm beginning, and a feeble smattering.

†**b.** A slight trace or symptom. *Obs.*—[1]

1763 *Phil. Trans.* LIII. 197 The patient, at the usual time for the return of his fit, felt some smattering of his distemper.

2. The action of discoursing or studying in a superficial manner. *rare.*

1649 MILTON *Observ. Articles Peace* Wks. 1851 IV. 564 The changing forsooth of Monarchy into Anarchy, sounds so like the smattering of some raw Politician. 1692 BENTLEY *Boyle Lect.* ii. 70, I would advise them to leave off this dabbling and smattering in Philosophy.

Sma·ttering, *ppl. a.* [f. SMATTER *v.*]

†**1.** ? Ready for smacking or kissing. *Obs.*—[1]

a 1450 *Mankind* (Brandl) 597, I wyll..geett me a lemman wyth a smattrynge face.

†**2.** Given to prating or talking. *Obs.*—[1]

1526 SKELTON *Magnyf.* 2121, I warne you beware of to moche lyberte;..[of being] To flatterynge, to smatterynge, ..To claterynge, to chaterynge [etc.].

3. Dabbling; imperfectly learned.

1581 MULCASTER *Positions* xli. (1887) 236 Simple coniectures of some smattering writers concerning the matter of his traine. 1609 HOLLAND *Amm. Marcell.* 93 A bookish smattering Grecian. 1683 KENNETT tr. *Erasm. on Folly* 140, I, who am but a smattering Novice in Divinity.

4. Slight, superficial, imperfect.

c 1589 *Theses Martinianae* 31, I haue a prety smattering gift in this Pistle-making. 1604 F. HERING *Mod. Defence* 32 Hauing attained any little smattering knowledge. 1686 tr. *Chardin's Coronat. Solyman* 124 Writers of Travels, who understood not the Eastern Languages or at least had but a smattering understanding of 'em. 1818 MOORE *Fudge Fam. Paris* ix. 481 My French..Is, on the whole, but weak and smattering. 1873 HAMERTON *Intell. Life* XI. ii. 406 That smattering acquaintance with questions of religion, politics, and literature which the world calls 'well-informed'.

Hence **Sma·tteringly** *adv.*

1849 MAURY in Corbin *Life* (1888) 52 To see how smatteringly they are taught, look at the great majority of middle-aged women. 1864 TENNYSON *Aylmer's F.* 433 As we task ourselves To learn a language known but smatteringly.

Sma·ttery, *sb.* [f. SMATTER *sb.* or *v.*] Smattering; superficial knowledge.

1892 *Sat. Rev.* 16 Jan. 77/2 Freedom from sciolism and 'smattery'.

Sma·ttery, *a.* [f. SMATTER *sb.*] Superficial; of a smattering character.

1895 *Westm. Gaz.* 14 Feb. 2/2 A small library of the popular literature of the subjects, some of which was as smattery as Madame herself.

Smaw, obs. Sc. variant of SMALL *a.*

Smay (smēi), *v.* Now *dial.* [Aphetic for DISMAY *v.*[1] or ESMAY *v.*] *intr.* To shrink, to flinch; to feel disinclined, etc. Hence **Smay·ing** *vbl. sb.*

1632 HOLLAND *Cyrupædia* 8 But Cyrus,..not smaying at all,..readily came upon him againe with a reply. 1667 P. HENRY *Diaries & Lett.* (1882) 205 He was of a strong healthy constitution, not smaying for cold in school, like other children, as his master hath told me. 1678 BP. CROFT *Second Call* 30 Men in Duels..receive deadly wounds one after another without any smaying, as if they felt them not. 1841–in Cheshire and Shropshire glossaries.

†**Sma·zky,** *a. Obs.*—[1] (Meaning obscure.)

1599 MIDDLETON *Micro-cynicon* A 5, Auant,..Ile anger thee inough, And fold thy firy-eyes in thy smazkie snufe.

Smeach, variant of SMEECH *sb.*

Smear (smĭəɹ), *sb.* Forms: 1 **smeoru**, **-o**, **smeru**, **-o**, **-a**, 3–5 **smere** (4 **smer**), 7 **smeer**, 6–7 **smeare**, 8– **smear** (9 *techn.* **smeir**). [In sense 1 common Teutonic: OE. *smeoru*, *smeru*, etc., = OFris. *smere* (EFris. *smiri*, *smĕr*, NFris. *smēr*, *smör*, WFris. *smoar*), MDu. *smere*, *smeer* (Du. *smeer*), and *smare*, *smaer*, OS. *smero* (MLG. *smere*, *smer*), OHG. *smero*, *smer* (MHG. *smer*, G. *schmer*) fat, grease, ON. *smjǫr* (Icel. *smjer*, Sw. *smör*, Da. and Norw. *smør*) butter:—OTeut. **smerwa* neut. The stem *smer-*, with different suffix, is represented in Goth. by *smairþr* neut., fat. Cognate forms outside of Teut. are Lith. *smarsas* fat, OIr. *smir* (Gael. *smior*) marrow, and perh. Gr. *μύρον* ointment. The later senses are mainly, if not entirely, f. the vb., like G. *schmiere.*

In OE. the *w* of the stem appears regularly in the genitive and dative *smeor(u)wes*, *-we*, *smer(e)wes*, *-we*, etc.]

†**1.** Fat, grease, lard; ointment. *Obs.*

c 725 *Corpus Gl.* U 257 *Unguentum*, smeoru. *c* 825 *Vesp. Ps.* xvi. 10 Smeoru his [hie] bilucun. *c* 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* I. 74 Cnucize wið eald smeoru. *Ibid.* II. 68 Heorotes smera oþþe gate oþþe gose. *c* 1200 ORMIN 13244 Nohht þurrh nan eorþlið smere, acc all þurrh Haliȝ Gastess sallfe. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 1573 In heuene deu, and erðes smere, [Esau] Gatte him bliscing. *c* 1330 *Arth. & Merl.* 1306 (Kölbing), Newe schon þat man haþ bouȝt,..And smere, to smere hem al about. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* IV. vii. (Tollem. MS.), Þe fatnesse þerof..is mad white and turnid in to talowe and smere. 1447 BOKENHAM *Lyvys Seyntys* (Roxb.) 78 Full of pyke rosen oyle and smere. *c* 1450 *M. E. Med. Bk.* (Heinrich) 201 Tak þe crotyng of a goot, & old smere of a red swyn. 1611 COTGR., *Oing*, (Hogs) grease, or seame; smeare. 1648 HEXHAM II, *Smeeren*,..to Rub with Grease or Smeare.

†**b.** A 'company' *of* curriers. *Obs.*

c 1476 in *Hors, Shepe, & Ghoos* (Roxb.) 4 iv b, A Smere of coryers. 1486 *Bk. St. Albans* f vj b, A Smere of Coryouris.

†**2.** Smeared or dirty condition. *Obs.*—[1]

1600 *Hosp. Incurable Fooles* 79 Neither was he like a tinker in any thing, but only the smeare and collour of his beard.

3. A mark, smudge, or stain made by smearing, or suggestive of this; a layer or patch of some substance applied by smearing.

1611 COTGRAVE, *Macheure*, a blacke..smeare. 1793 HOLCROFT tr. *Lavater's Physiogr.* xliv. 225, I see through his disguise, as I should the hand of a great master through the smear of varnish. 1859 REEVE *Brittany* 50 As the figures were moving, no trace of them is seen [in the stereograph], except a light smear along the shops. 1865 DICKENS *Mut. Fr.* I. iii, Roof, and walls, and floor, alike abounding in old smears of flour, red-lead, and damp. 1888 RUTLEY *Rock-forming Min.* 25 The smears of balsam being ultimately cleaned off with a piece of rag or silk moistened with benzol.

fig. 1858 CARLYLE *Fredk. Gt.* VIII. iv. (1872) III. 20 Here is the unprecise but indubitable fact, as the Prussian Dryasdust has left us his smear of it.

b. A small quantity of some substance prepared for microscopical investigation by being smeared upon a slide.

1903 *Med. Record* 7 Feb. 209 Gonococci were demonstrated..by smears only. 1904 *Brit. Med. Jrnl.* Sept. 599 A smear from the red marrow in the case appeared identical in character with the picture of the blood film.

†**4.** *slang.* A painter; a plasterer. *Obs.*

c 1700 *Street Robberies Consider'd*, *Smeer*, a painter. 1725 *New Cant. Dict.*, *Smear*, a Painter, a Plaisterer, &c. 1785 GROSE *Dict. Vulgar T.*, *Smear*, a plaisterer.

5. a. An application for smearing sheep.

1802 C. FINDLATER *Agric. Surv. Peebles* 190 *note*, He proposes a smear composed of butter, train oil, and turpentine. 1870 G. ARMATAGE *Every Man his own Cattle Doctor* 559 Arsenical dips and mercurial smears.

b. A product in the making of sugar.

1843 G. R. PORTER *Sugar Cane* (ed. 2) 220 The wet heads are cut off and put into a large mould; these are called bastard heading or smear.

c. *Fishing.* (See quot.)

1848 JOHNS *Week at Lizard* 241 Pollack are often attracted round the boat by what the fishermen call 'smear', that is, offal of fish and bilge-water, which they occasionally throw overboard.

d. *Pottery.* A mixture used for glazing.

1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2220/1 *Smeir*, a semi-glaze on pottery; common salt added to an earthenware glaze. 1884 C. G. W. LOCK *Workshop Receipts* Ser. III. 221/1 'Smears' and 'flows' are glazes applied by volatilization. 1897 [see *semi-glaze*, SEMI- 7 j].

6. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as (sense 1) †*smear-gavel* (see GAVEL *sb.*[1]), *-monger*; (sense 4 b) *smear preparation*; †**smear-dock**, *Sc.* **-docken**, English Mercury; †**smear-gelt** (see quot.); **smear-glaze**, = 5 d; †**smear-nep**, bryony; **smear-shading**, a method of shading used in glass-painting; so *smear-shadow*.

1297 *Placita coram Rege* m. 11 (1807) 65 Johannes le Smeremongere. 1304 in *Cal. Pat. Rolls* 32 *Edw. I*, 284 Ralph le Smermonger. 13.. *Eng. Gilds* (1870) 359 Euerych sellere of grece and of smere and of talw3 shal..to þe kynge a peny, in þe name of smergauel. *c* 1325 *Gloss. W. de Bibbesw.* in Wright *Voc.* 162 *Mercurial*, smerowo[r]t (smerdocke). *a* 1387 *Sinon. Barthol.* (Anecd. Oxon.) 43 *Viticella*, smerhepe. 1775 TIPPERMALLUCH *Receipts* 12 (Jam.), Rub the person over with the juice of All-good (called in Latin Bonus Henricus, others call it the Smear-docken). 1785 GROSE *Dict. Vulgar T., Smear gelt*, a bribe. 1847 WINSTON *Hints Glass Painting* (1867) 284 A stipple shadow is..always more transparent than a smear shadow of equal depth. 1848 — *Glass Painting* (1865) 80 The first and oldest kind of shading may be called Smear shading, and the second Stipple shading. 1904 *Brit. Med. Jrnl.* Sept. 602 Smear preparations were also made in order that the form of the individual cells might be more closely studied.

Smear (smĭəɪ), *v.* Forms: *a.* 1 **smirian** (**smiran**), 3 **smirien**, 4 **smyrie**. *Pa. t.* 1, 3 **smirede** (1 **-ide**), 4 **smired**, **smyrede**. *Pa. pple.* 3 **i-smiret**. *β.* 1 **smyrian** (**-izan**), 1–3 **smurien**. *Pa. pple.* 3 **i-smured**. *γ.* 1 **smerian**, 3 **smeorie**, 4 **smerie**; 3 **smeren**, 4–6 **smere** (4 **smer**), 6–7 **smeere**, *Sc.* **smeir**, 7 **smeer**; 6–7 **smeare**, 6– **smear**. *Pa. t.* 1–4 **smerede**, 3–4 **smered** (5 **-yd**), 4 **smerd**. *Pa. pple.* 2–3 **i-**, 2–4 **y-smered** (4 **-smerd**), 3, 6 **smered** (*Sc.* 6 **smerit**, **smeiret**). [Common Teutonic: OE. *smir-*, *smyr-*, *smerian* (also *smir-*, *smerwan*), f. *smeoru*, *smeru* SMEAR *sb.*, = OFris. **smera* (EFris. *smēre*, *smiiri*, NFris. *smēr*, *smerri*, *smöre*, WFris. *smarre*, †*smerre*), MDu. *smeren*, *smieren*, *smaren* (Du. *smeren*), MLG. *smeren* (*schmären*, *schmirn*), OHG. *smirwan* (MHG. *smirwen*, *smirn*, G. *schmieren*, †*schmeren*), ON. *smyrva*, *-ja* (MSw. *smyrja*, *smörja*, Sw. *smörja*; MDa. *smørie*, Da. *smøre*).]

1. *trans.* To anoint with oil, chrism, etc., as a symbolic ceremony. In later use only with contemptuous force.

c 825 *Vesp. Ps.* lxxxviii. 21 In ele halgum minum ic smirede hine. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Exod.* 2457 Cristene folc..ben smered ðor quiles he liuen, Wið crisme and olie. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 9377 Vr lige louerd þat yeled is, & ismered to Ihesu Crist. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 7377 Vn-to king þou sal him smer. 1340 *Ayenb.* 93 Of þise oyle byeþ ysmered þo þet god heþ ymad kynges and lhordes of þe wordle. 1550 CROWLEY *Inform. & Petit.* Sel. Wks. (1872) 154 So long as ydle bealies may come to the bishope and be smered for money. 1883 SCOTT *Quentin D.* xxx, What will be left to the descendant..of Charlemagne,..save to be smeared with oil at Rheims, and to eat their dinner under a high canopy? *fig.* *c* 825 *Vesp. Ps.* xliv. 8 Smirede ðec god..mid ele blisse. *a* 1200 *Vices & Virt.* 33 For ði haueð ðin lauerd ismered þe mid ða ele of blisse.

2. To anoint, to rub or daub (a part of the body) with oil, grease, or some similar preparation. Said also of the oil, etc. In later use with suggestion of sense 4.

c 825 *Vesp. Ps.* cxl. 5 Ele..synfulles ne smireð heafud min. 971 *Blickling Hom.* 69 Maria zenam an pund deorwyrþre smerenesse, & smerede þæs Hælendes fet. *c* 1000 *Ags. Gosp.* Matt. vi. 17 Þonne ðu fæste, smyra þin heafod, and þweah þine ansyne. *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 53 Alswa doð monie of þas wimmen heo smurieð heom mid blanchet, þet is þes deofles sape. *c* 1305 *Judas Iscariot* 126 in *E. E. P.* (1862) 110 Wiþ þis swete oignement heo smired oure louerd þer. *c* 1315 SHOREHAM I. 374 For oyle smereþ þane champion, þat me ne schel him festne. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* II. 775 The Groom..stript for Wrestling, smears his Limbs with Oyl. 1717 PRIOR *Alma* II. 454 The Indian Fair Is nicely smear'd with Fat of Bear. 1772–84 *Cook's Voy.* (1790) I. 33 Their..foreheads..being generally smeared with brown and red paints. 1865 LIVINGSTONE *Zambesi* xi. 231 Their foreheads were smeared with white flour. 1885 CLODD *Myths* I. vi. 105 They smear themselves with black paint in memory of that tradition.

fig. 971 *Blickling Hom.* 73 ðif we nu willaþ ure saula smerian mid mildheortnesse ele. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 244 Beoden smurieð him mid swete oluhnunge, auh teares prikieð him.

†b. To prepare (a dead body) with unguents before burial. *Obs.*

c 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Mark xiv. 8 [Hia] forecuom to smirlane [*Rushw.* smiranne, *Cp.* smyrianne, *Hatt.* smeriene] lichoma min on bebyrzennise. *c* 1055 *Byrhtferth's Handboc* in *Anglia* VIII. 299 Mid þam man smyrað ricra manna lic. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 372 Nicodemus brouhte smuriles uorte smurien mide ure Louerd. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 2442 Iosep dede hise lich..Wassen, and riche-like smeren.

3. To anoint medicinally; to treat (a wound, etc.) with a copious application of some thick or greasy medicament.

c 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* John ix. 11 Monn..lam worhte & smiride eȝo mino. *c* 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* III. 114 Smure þæt sar ȝelomelice mid. *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 79 An helendis Mon..wesch his wunden mid wine and smerede mid oli. *a* 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 1600 þe engles wið smirles of aromaz smireden hire wunden. *a* 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 277 He let is heued of-smyte, and smeorie [*Harl.* smyrede] him with is blod. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 13547 Wit þis vn-to þe erth he spitt,..And smerd þar-wit his oþer ei. 14.. *Sir Beues* 3857+16 (MS. C.), [He] smeryd hur with oyntment. 1807 *Med. Jrnl.* XVII. 446 Mischief must extend, although the injured parts be smeared with turpentine. 1843 R. J. GRAVES *Syst. Clin. Med.* xxvi. 331 We were in the habit of smearing it [*sc.* the skin] with zinc ointment for several days successively. 1863 W. C. BALDWIN *Afr. Hunting* vii. 269 We smear him with grease and gunpowder in lieu of sulphur.

fig. *a* 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 7 And bringue with him þe eoyle of milce..to smeorie þare-with and bringe of pine þine fader and alle his.

b. To rub (sheep) with a mixture fitted to keep wet out of the fleece and prevent disease or vermin.

c 1395 *Plowman's Tale* III. i. (Thynne, 1542), Ne Christes apostels were never so bold No such lordshippes to hem enbrace; But smeren hir sheep and kepe hir fold. 1561 A. SCOTT *Poems* (S.T.S.) i. 94 Sic sanctitude was Sathanis sorcereis, Christis sillie scheip and sobir flok to smeir. 1684 [see SMEARED *ppl. a.* 2]. 1796 *Statist. Acc. Scotl.* XVIII. 570 In..November the whole stock is smeared; a practice which..is found to be..beneficial. 1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* III. 1115 When the skin of sheep is covered with such substances they are said to be *smeared*. 1884 L. F. ALLEN *New Amer. Farm Bk.* 439 Smearing, or salving sheep, is a custom little practiced in this country.

4. To spread, daub, cover thickly or in patches, *with* some unctuous, greasy, sticky, or dirty substance. Sometimes said of the substance. Also rarely with *in*.

(*a*) 971 *Blickling Hom.* 73 Þæt næfre ne afulaþ þæt mid hire ȝesmered biþ. *c* 1200 ORMIN 994 Bulltedd bræd..smeredd wel wiþþ elesæw: *c* 1330 *Arth. & Merl.* 599 (Kölbing), Were 3our werk ysmerd þer wiþ, Euer it wold stond in griþ. 1340 *Ayenb.* 60 Hy smerieþ þane way of helle mid hony. *a* 1450 *Knt. de la Tour* (1868) 68 The fende alweye wolde smere her in the face with the brennynge piche, grese, oyle, lede, and terre. *a* 1529 SKELTON *E. Rummyng* 88 Her shone smered wyth talowe. 1555 EDEN *Decades* (Arb.) 196 These they smere or annoint with the pytche of molten Bitumen. 1614 GORGES *Lucan* IV. 161 All their bits were smeared ore With dusty dryed frothy gore. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* XI. 727 A Vessel of huge bulk..Smeard round with Pitch. 1744 BERKELEY *Siris* § 9 Stems of trees, smeared over with tar, are preserved thereby from being hurt by.. goats. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) IV. 123 The unctuous substance with which it is smeared. 1818 SCOTT *Br. Lamm.* xxxiv, The fatal weapon was found in the chamber, smeared with blood. 1877 BLACK *Green Past.* i, I don't suppose he smears his hands with treacle.

(*b*) 1592 *Arden of Feversham* v. i, Sweete Arden, smeard in bloode and filthy gore. 1607 SHAKS. *Cor.* I. vi. 69 If any such be heere..that loue this painting Wherein you see me smear'd. 1807 J. BARLOW *Columb.* v. 204 His troops..smear their paths in blood.

b. Without const.

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 378 He streccheð him touward us ase þing þet is ismured. 13.. *Seuyn Sages* 1151 (W.), In ech [hole] he pelt a dosele, And smerede the holes al aboute. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* v. xxvi. (Bodl. MS.), Men vseth to smere þe iointe of an Elephant to dry þe better. 1532 TINDALE *Exp. 1 John* (1537) 82 One..had nede of greace to grease shues or smeere bootes. 1602 MARSTON *Antonio's Rev.* IV. iii, Let him feed on slime That smeares the dungeon cheeke. 1634 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* (1638) 302 Other Temples have other Pagods;..some of them are painted or smeered black; others red. 1763 CHURCHILL *Proph. Fam.* Poems 1767 I. 90 Slugs, pinched with hunger, smear'd the slimy wall. 1805–6 CARY *Dante*, *Inf.* XXI. 8 Tenacious pitch, to smear Their unsound vessels. 1900 *Daily News* 4 June 6/2 The youngsters were smeared to the eyes.

c. *fig.* Chiefly const. *with*, and usually implying something base or discreditable.

1549 COVERDALE, etc. *Erasm. Par. Jas.* II. 37 Why are you smeared with the vaine pleasures of this world? 1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* (S.T.S.) I. 296 Sche smeiris baith his mynd and eires with thir wordes. 1598 BARKCLEY *Felic. Man* (1631) 171 Happi's the man..whom glory does not smeere With lying drosse. 1602 MARSTON *Antonio's Rev.* II. iii, If the least soyle of lust smeers my pure love. 1652 BENLOWES *Theoph.* XIII. lvii. 243 After Nights soot smears Heav'n, day gilds its face. 1847 HELPS *Friends in C.* I. iv. 63 People smearing each other over with stupid flattery. 1879 'E. GARRETT' *Ho. by Works* II. 165 She would not smear his memory by any falsehoods now.

d. *techn.* To glaze (pottery) by a process of evaporation.

1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 1019 The operation called *smearing*, consists in giving an external lustre to the unglazed semi-vitrified ware. 1893 *Handbk. Brit. Pottery & Porc* (Mus. Pract. Geol.) 58 Certain compositions may also be placed in the bottom of the closed saggers, and by their evaporation the ware in them may be smeared or semi-glazed.

5. To lay *on* in a thick or greasy layer.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 6077 Þis lamb blod..On aider post þer hus to smer. 1595 DUNCAN *App. Etym.* (E.D.S.), *Illino*, *illinio*, to smeir on. 1847 WINSTON *Hints Glass Painting* (1867) 284 A coat of enamel brown smeared smoothly and evenly on the glass. 1888 RUTLEY *Rock-forming Min.* 23 The [slab] of lead or cast-iron, on which rather, but not very, coarse emery is smeared with water. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VII. 550 If some of the exudation from the brain be smeared on these media.

6. To rub *out* with a smear or smudge; to rub or draw in a smeary manner.

1840 DICKENS *Old C. Shop* iii, If he did by accident form a letter properly, he immediately smeared it out again with his arm. 1848 — *Dombey* iii, You go a smearing your wet face against the expensive mourning that Mrs Richards is a wearing for your ma. 1865 — *Mut. Fr.* IV. xv, Smearing his sleeve across his mouth.

Smear-case. *U.S.* [ad. G. *schmierkäse* (Du. *smeerkaas*), f. *schmieren* to smear + *käse* cheese.] (See quot. 1848.)

1848 BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.* 314 *Smear-case*, a preparation of milk made to be spread on bread, whence its name; otherwise called Cottage-cheese. 1893 *Atlantic Monthly* Feb. 231/1 The man held a knife-load of smear-case in front of his mouth.

Smear-dab. [? f. SMEAR *sb.* or *v.*: see quot. 1882.] A variety of dab, also called lemon or smooth dab.

1769 PENNANT *Brit. Zool.* III. 189 The Smear-Dab, *Rhombus lævis*. *Ibid.*, We found one of this species at a fish-monger's in London last winter, where it is known by the name of the smear-dab. 1836 YARRELL *Brit. Fishes* II. 221 *Platessa microcephalus*, Smear Dab. 1864 COUCH *Brit. Fishes* III. 188 The Smear Dab in comparison with the Common Dab is a larger and thicker fish. 1882 DAY *Fishes Gt. Brit.* II. 29 Smear-dab, due to its being frequently covered with slime.

Smeared (smĭəɪd), *ppl. a.* [f. SMEAR *v.* + -ED[1].]

1. In contemptuous use: Anointed.

1550 BALE *Apol.* 17 The popes Smered presthod. 1554 HILARIE *Resurr. Masse* A viij, My smered Chaplens..I make them to be called Syrs euery one. 1583 STUBBES *Anat. Abus.* (1882) II. 70 Being a greasie priest, and smered prelate.

2. Dirtied or soiled by smearing; bedaubed.

1584–7 GREENE *Carde of Fancie* Wks. (Grosart) IV. 62 Pasiphæ preferred a Bull before a King, and Venus a smeered Smith before Mars the God of battaile. 1621 G. SANDYS *Ovid's Met.* v. (1626) 92 Nor could he fall; but.. Hung by the hand against the smeared post. 1684 SYMSON *Descr. Galloway* (1823) 72 The most part of their laid-wool, call'd in other parts smear'd wool, is..so called, because ..they melt butter and tar together, and therewith they.. smear their sheep. 1795 in Robertson *Agric. Perth* (1799) 533 The smeared kind at 7s. or 8s. per stone; and their white wool from 8s. to 10s. 1840 BARRET *Water Colour Painting* 16 While the smeared part is being cleaned with India-rubber. 1865 DICKENS *Mut. Fr.* II. xv, Holding out his smeared hand.

b. *Smeared dagger*, a species of moth.

1883 W. SAUNDERS *Insects Inj. Fruits* 325 The Smeared Dagger, *Apatella oblinita*...This peculiarity being partly obliterated in this species, it has received the common name of the 'smeared dagger'.

3. Laid on in a smearing manner.

1820 KEATS *Isabella* li, The smeared loam With tears, as chilly as a dripping well, She drench'd away.

Smearer (smĭəɪrəɪ). [f. SMEAR *v.* + -ER[1].] One who smears.

1632 SHERWOOD, A smearer, *patrouilleur*. 1881 *Instruct. Census Clerks* (1885) 78 Fur Dyeing...Smearer. Grounder. 1884 *United Presbyt. Mag.* Apr. 156 He was to maintain the smearers of the sheep.

Smea'riness. [f. SMEARY *a.* + -NESS.] The condition or character of being smeared or smeary.

1866 COCKAYNE *Sax. Leechd.* III. 345/1 Neither of these plants [smearwort and smeardock] have any smeariness about them. 1901 *Daily Chron.* 14 June 7/5 There is a general smeariness, a want of proper and thorough cleaning.

Smearing (smĭəɪriŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. SMEAR *v.* + -ING[1].] The action or process of anointing, daubing, etc., with some unctuous substance; a substance used for this purpose; a layer of ointment, paint, etc., smeared on.

c 1000 in Assmann *Ags. Hom.* xvi. 36 Ænig þing..on smyrunge oððe on wyrtum..þæt ðu myhtest myne wunde myd ȝehælan. *c* 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* II. 174 Balzaman smiring wiþ eallum untrumnessum. 1340 *Ayenb.* 148 He ssel þerto do þe smeringes and þe plastres of zuete warningges. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* v. xxvi. (Bodl. MS), Þe cure is resting and smering by somme vnguementes. 1611 COTGR., *Linition*, a smearing, annointing,..rubbing. 1668 WILKINS *Real Char.* 247 Smearing, daubing. *c* 1790 IMISON *School Arts* II. 54 Lay a piece of clean paper upon it, to prevent smearing. 1805 R. W. DICKSON *Pract. Agric.* II. 1154 They are collected together,..in order to undergo the operation of smearing or salving. 1853 KANE *Grinnell Exped.* xxxvi. (1856) 326 A smearing of red sealing-wax. 1893 *Handbk. Brit. Pottery & Porc.* (Mus. Pract. Geol.) 58 Smearing..is produced by the evaporation, or volatilisation, of certain glazes in closed saggers.

attrib. 1814 SCOTT *Wav.* xlv, The hovel..seemed to be intended for what is called, in the pastoral counties of Scotland, a *smearing-house*. 1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* III. 1117 The sheep should be laid on the smearing-stool. 1875 *Encycl. Brit.* I. 397 The smearing material is a salve composed of tar and butter.

Smea'rless, *a.* [f. SMEAR *sb.*] Free from smears; not smeary.

1885 SPON *Mech. Own Book* (1893) 461 The surface..is smearless, hard, and brilliant.

†**Smearwort.** *Obs.* Forms: 1 **smeoru-**, **smerowyrt**, 4 **smerowo(r)t**, 5 **smerw(o)rt**, **smerewourt**. [OE. *smeoruwyrt* (see SMEAR *sb.* and WORT *sb.*), = MDu. *smere-*, *smeerworte* (Du. *smeerwortel*), MHG. *smerwurz* (G. *schmeerwurz*, *schmerwurz*).] One or more plants of doubtful identity (see quots.).

c 725 *Corpus Gloss.* U 98 *Ueneria*, smeoruwyrt. *c* 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* I. 114 Đeos wyrt þe man aristolochiam, & oðrum naman smerowyrt nemneð. *c* 1325 [see SMEAR *sb.* 6]. 14.. *Lat.-Eng. Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 565 *Aristologia*, Smerwort. *Ibid.* 596 *Mintuosa*, Smerwort. *a* 1400–50 *Stockholm Med. MS.* fol. 203 Mercurie or papwourtz or þe more smerewourt: *mercurialis*. *c* 1450 *Alphita* (Anecd. Oxon.) 193 *Unctuosa*,..selhele *uel* smerwrt.

Smeary (smī·ri), *a.* Also 6 smery, smearye, 6–7 smeerie, smearie. [f. SMEAR *sb.* or *v.* Cf. NFris. *smēri*, *smörig*, WFris. *smoarrich*, *smoarch*, MDu. *smerich* (Du. *smerig*), MLG. *smerich* (LG. *smerig*, G. dial. *schmêrig*, G. *schmierig*), MSw. *smörug* (Sw. *smörjig*), MDa. *smørugh*, *-ig*.]

1. Marked or characterized by smears; showing smears or dirty marks; bedaubed, begrimed.

a 1529 SKELTON *Ware the Hawke* 324 Masyd, wytles, smery smyth, Hampar with your hammer vpon thy styth. 1582 STANYHURST *Æneis* III. (Arb.) 78 You shal be so gaunted in hunger, That youre smeary tabils you wyl most greedelye swallow. 1625 PURCHAS *Pilgrims* II. 1769 The said place being all black, smeerie, and foule therewith. 1844 THACKERAY in *Fraser's Mag.* XXIX. 710 The Wilkie-like pictures of Mr. Fraser, with their peculiar smeary manner. 1861 DICKENS *Gt. Expect.* xliii, A smeary newspaper long out of date. 1883 D. C. MURRAY *Hearts* I. 226 A crying woman whose eyes were actually growing smeary whilst she wept.

2. Tending to smear or soil; of a greasy or unctuous nature.

1582 STANYHURST *Æneis* Ded. (Arb.) 9 That bast theyre papers with smearie larde sauoring al too geather of thee frying pan. 1597 A. M. tr. *Guillemeau's Fr. Chirurg.* 35 b/1 Her sweat is fattye, axungiouse, and smearye. 1683 MOXON *Mech. Exerc., Printing* xi. P 23 Trane-Oyl..[makes the ink] dull, smeary and unpleasant to the Eye. 1708 ROWE *Royal Convert* III, A smeary foam works o'er my grinding jaws. 1718 — *Lucan's Pharsalia* III. 1015 The smeary Wax the bright'ning Blaze supplies. 1757 tr. *Henckel's Pyritologia* 317 If again exposed to the air, it becomes smeary, moist, and fluid. 1816 W. SMITH *Strata Identified* 9 Mouldering when dry; smeary when wet. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 252 A good housekeeper who does not like to set her butter on the table in a smeary state, keeps it in summer on ice.

† **Smeat,** *a. Obs.* [OE. *smǽte*, of obscure origin.] Of gold: Refined, pure.

c 725 *Corpus Gloss.* O 24 *Obrizum*, smaetegold. *a* 900 *O. E. Martyrol.* 27 Dec. 8 Hie wurdan sona to þam golde þe man hatað *abritsum*, þæt is smæte gold. *a* 1122 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1070, þe kynehelm..eall of smeate golde. *a* 1200 *St. Marher.* 11 Guldene ȝerde alre gold smeatest. *a* 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 1655 Glistinde & gleaminde, as hit were seoluer oðer gold smeate.

Smeath (smīþ). *local.* Also 7 smieth, 7, 9 smethe, 9 smeeth. [Obscurely related to SMEE.]

1. The smee. Also *smeeth duck.*

1622 DRAYTON *Poly-olb.* XXV. 67 The gossander..With whom the widgeon goes, the golden-eye, the smeath. 1634 BREERETON *Trav.* (Chetham Soc.) 17 Two pellstarts, two smeathes, two shovelars. *Ibid.* 23 Smeathes he keeps in a hut..covered with a net. 1674 JOSSELYN *Voy. New Engl.* 101 But of Ducks there be many more sorts, as..Puets, Plovers, Smethes, Wilmotes [etc.]. 1893 COZENS-HARDY *Broad Norf.* 47 *Smee*—Widgeon, Smeeth Duck.

2. *U.S.* In New Jersey: The pintail duck.

1888 G. TRUMBULL *Names & Portr. Birds* 38 Others refer to it as Smethe.

Smec(ɑ)he, obs. forms of SMATCH *v.*

Smech(e, obs. forms of SMEECH *sb.*

† **Smec(k,** abbrev. forms of *Smectymnuus*: see SMECTYMNUAN.

1663 BUTLER *Hud.* I. iii. 1166 The Handkerchief about the neck Canonical Crabat of Smeck. 1664 *Ibid.* II. ii. 524 Remember how..We..New-modell'd th' Army, and Cashier'd All that to Legion Smec adher'd.

Smec·tic, *a. rare.* [ad. L. *smēcticus* (Pliny), ad. Gr. σμηκτικός, f. σμήχειν to wipe, cleanse; cf. SMEGMA.] Cleansing, abstersive, detergent.

1675 EVELYN *Terra* (1676) 40 Smooth to the touch, as the most Smectic Earths and Marles themselves. 1686 PLOT *Staffordsh.* 124 The Smectic and Figuline Earths. 1858 MAYNE *Expos. Lex.*, *Smecticus*, cleaning;..smectic.

‖ **Smec·tis,** *rare.* [ad. Gr. σμηκτίς, a kind of fuller's earth.] (See quots. and next.)

1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), *Smectis*, .. Fullers-Earth. 1783 *Phil. Trans.* LXXIII. 227 It feels like hard soap, or rather like that kind of stone which the mineralogists call *Smectis*. 1794 SULLIVAN *View Nature* II, How is a clay to be distinguished from the smectis or soap-rock? 1905 *Oban Advertiser* 19 Aug. 3 By different authors, the 'lapis nephriticus' has been considered as an agate, a jasper, a gypsum, and a smectis.

Smectite (smeˑktəit). *Min.* [See prec. and -ITE [1] 2 b.] A kind of fuller's earth.

1811 J. PINKERTON *Petral.* I. 278 [Iconite contains] a combination which nearly corresponds with the smectite of Cimolus. 1868 WATTS *Dict. Chem.*, *Smectite*, a term.. applied..more particularly to an argillaceous mineral from Cilly in Lower Styria,..and another from Condé in France.

† **Smectymnist,** obs. variant of next.

1648 E. SYMMONS *Vind. Chas. I* Pref., He then, and the Smectymnists since, and Pim after them, took great pains.

Smectymnuan (smekti·mniuăn), *sb.* and *a.* [f. *Smectymnuus* (*-vvs*), a fictitious name made out of the initials of the five authors of *An Answer to a Book*, etc. (1641).

The writers thus indicated were Stephen Marshall, Edmund Calamy, Thomas Young, Matthew Newcomen, and William Spurstow. The book was written as a reply from the Presbyterian side to Bishop Hall's *Humble Remonstrance*.]

A. *sb.* One or other of the authors of the work published under the name of Smectymnuus; also, one who accepted the views of these writers.

1646 BP. MAXWELL *Burden Issachar* 56 A sufficient evidence, to evince this truth against the Smectymnuans. 1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.* s.v., From thence they and their Followers were called Smectymnuans. 1733 NEAL *Hist. Purit.* II. 400 The Smectymnuans admit that our blessed Saviour taught his disciples a form of prayer. 1874 MASSON *Milton* I. p. xxx, There were other pamphlets, of retort and rejoinder, between Hall and the Smectymnuans, in all of which Milton advised and assisted the five Smectymnuans.

B. *adj.* Pertaining to, connected with, or characteristic of the Smectymnuans.

1673 S. PARKER *Reproof Reh. Transp.* 182 How little.. sufficiently appears..by the great Smectymnuan labours. 1678 *Pol. Ballads* (Wilkins, 1860) I. 205, I would as soon turn back to mass..As buckle to Smectymnuan laws. 1882–3 SCHAFF *Encycl. Relig. Knowl.* II. 1417 He was one of the chiefs in the Smectymnuan Controversy with Bishop Hall in 1641. 1883 *Encycl. Brit.* XVI. 329/1 The famous Smectymnuan pamphlet in reply to Hall was mainly Young's.

Smeddum (smeˑdŭm). Forms: 1 smeodoma, -uma (smetuma?), smed(e)ma, smidema, 8 smedim, smeadum, 8–9 smeddum (9 -am). [OE., of obscure origin.]

1. A fine powder; *esp.* fine flour. (For other late examples see SMITHAM.)

c 725 *Corpus Gloss.* P 497 *Polenta*, smeodoma. *a* 900 *Leiden Gloss.* 74 *Similа*, smetuma. *c* 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* I. 258 Ȝemin ðas wyrte butan wyrttruman, cnuca mid smedman. *Ibid.* II. 132 Ȝenim acrinde, & drige, & wirc to smedman. 1808 JAMIESON, *Smeddum*, the powder or finest part of ground malt; also called *malt smeddum*.

b. A powder used for medical purposes, or as a vermin-killer.

1786 BURNS *To a Louse* v, O for some rank, mercurial rozet, Or fell, red smeddum. 1828 *Examiner* 35/1 We cannot touch precious ointment without scenting of smeddam.

c. *Mining.* = SMITHAM 2.

1853 URE *Dict. Arts* (ed. 4) II. 37 'Undressed smeddum,' being what has passed through the sieve of the hotching-tub. *Ibid.*, 'Smeddum,' after being dressed or cleared from all foreign substances.

2. *Sc.* Spirit, pith, 'go'; alertness of mind and vigour in action; energy.

1790 D. MORISON *Poems* 4 He has nae smeadum. 1791 LEARMONT *Poems* 215 A guidly band Did smedim shaw on ilka strand. 1821 GALT *Ann. Parish* XXX, Lacking somewhat of that birr and smeddum that is the juice and flavour of books of that sort. 1837 R. NICOLL *Poems* (1843) 129, I was fairly tongue-tied; For I had na the smeddum to chide her. 1897 CROCKETT *Lads' Love* iii, He had been harmlessly expending all the pith and smeddum of his blows upon a.. bolster.

Smedy, obs. Sc. variant of SMITHY *sb.*

Smee (smī). *dial.* and *U.S.* [Prob. a later form of SMEATH. It is not clear how either form is related to early mod.Du. *smeente* (Du. *smient*), LG. *smênt* widgeon, G. *schmi-*, *schmii-*, *schmeiente* a small wild duck.]

1. A name variously assigned to the smew, widgeon, pochard, and scaup-duck.

1668 CHARLETON *Onomast.* 100 *Boscas Mergens*, the Diving Widgeon; *in Norfolcia*, the Smee. 1889 H. SAUNDERS *Brit. Birds* 463 The Smew, or Smee—sometimes called Nun..is the smallest member of the genus. 1893 [see SMEATH 1].

b. *Smee-duck*, a pochard.

1862 JOHNS *Brit. Birds* 516 On some parts of the coast of Norfolk I found that they are included with the Wigeon under the common name of 'Smee-Duck'.

2. *U.S.* In New Jersey: = SMEATH 2.

1888 G. TRUMBULL *Names & Portr. Birds* 38.

Smeech (smīʧ), *sb.* Now *dial.* Forms: 1–2 smec, 2–4 smech, 3–4 smeche, 9 smeech, smeach. [OE. *smēc*, variant of *smīc*, *smȳc* (see SMITCH *sb.*), from the stem of *smēocan* SMEEK *v.* For the equivalent northern forms see SMEEK *sb.*] Smoke; dense or thick vapour, etc. Also in fig. context.

Also in mod. south-western dial. 'fine dust', 'stench', etc.: see the *Eng. Dial. Dict.*

c 825 *Vesp. Hymns* xii. 11 Clæne ȝeleafa coelende slepes smec ȝemetzie. *c* 888 K. ÆLFRED *Boeth.* xxvii. § 3 Hi losiað swa swa sceadu oððe smec. *c* 1000 *Ags. Ps.* (Thorpe) ci. 3 Dagas mine ȝedroren syndan, smece ȝelice. *a* 1200 *Moral Ode* in *O. E. Hom.* I. 177 Eure þer is vuel smech, þusternesse and eie. *c* 1250 *Old Kent. Serm.* in *O. E. Misc.* 28 We mowe sigge þet stor signefieth þe herte, and se smech luue of gode. *c* 1315 SHOREHAM III. 192 Þou ert a sot, and myȝt do bet, And so siȝst yn þe smeche. 1340 *Ayenb.* 66 Al alsuo huanne me alyȝt þet uer, lhapþ þet smech efter þe layt. 1847 HALLIW., *Smeech*, ..obscurity in the air, arising from smoke, fog, or dust. *South and West.* 1875 M. G. PEARSE *D. Quorm* 38 A faggot o' green furse 'pon the fire..fillin' the house with smeach and smoke. 1886 ELWORTHY *W. Somerset Word-bk.* 684 Your bakehouse chimley do make such a smeech.

Smeech, *v.* Now *dial.* Also 9 smeetch, smeechy. [f. prec.]

1. *trans.* To blacken or soil with smoke. ? *Obs.*

1611 COTGR., *Patrouiller*, to smeech, begrime,..besmeere.

2. *intr.* To send off smoke, vapour, or the like; to smoke. 1837– in south-western dialects.

3. *trans.* To perfume or scent.

1897 F. T. JANE *Lordship* xxvii, The hawthorn smeetched the air all round.

Hence **Smee·cher; Smeeching** *vbl. sb.*

1611 COTGR., *Patrouilleur*, a smeecher, begrimer, besmearer. *Ibid.*, *Patrouillement*, a smeeching, begriming, besmearing. 1907 *Sci. Amer.* Suppl. 5 Oct. 210 (Cent. Dict. Suppl.), While the kiln is in operation, the escape of the arsenic fumes can be detected here and there in the form of little jets, which the workmen describe as 'smeeching'.

Smeek, *sb.* Latterly *Sc.* and † *north.* Forms: *a.* 2–5 smeke, 3 smec, 4 smek, 5–6 smeik, 5, 8– smeek. *β.* 2–4 smike, 5 smyk(e. [The more northern forms representing OE. *smēc* and *smīc*, *smȳc*: see SMEECH *sb.* and SMITCH *sb.*1]

1. Smoke arising from burning or smouldering matter; reek. Also in fig. context.

Also in mod. Sc. use, 'a strong or foul smell'.

a. *c* 1200 ORMIN 1088 Þær wass swa mikell smec Off recless att tatt allterr. *c* 1250 *Moral Ode* 9 in *E. E. P.* (1862) 22 Ne myht ic isen be-fore me for smeke ne for myste. *c* 1325 *Metr. Hom.* 104 Rekeles..gifs smek that smelles wele, And fer men mai the smek fele. 1382 WYCLIF *Exod.* xix. 18 The smeek steyde vp of it as of a furneys. 1412–20 LYDG. *Chron. Troy* I. 191 But inwarde brent of hate..The hoote fyre, & ȝit ther was no smeke. *c* 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* VII. 69 Yf the smeke Perpetuel vppon their dwellyng reke. *c* 1590 MONTGOMERIE *Sonn.* XXV. 2, I grein to sie the sillie smiddy smeik. *a* 1774 FERGUSSON *Farmer's Ingle* Poems (1845) 35 Heathery truffs the chimney fill And gar their thickening smeek salute the lift. 1785 BURNS *Vision* iii, The spewing reek, That fill'd, wi' hoast-provoking smeek, The auld clay biggin. 1874 W. ALLAN *Hame-Spun Lilts* 160 Wi' smeek, I thocht they'd baith been smored.

β. *a* 1200 *Moral Ode* in *O. E. Hom.* I. 161 Ne michte ich seon bi-fore me for smike ne for miste. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 2742 Þe smike it reches to þe scki. *c* 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* XI. 362 Let vessel hit, & sette hit vp in smyke. *c* 1460 *Promp. Parv.* (Winch.) 459 Smore with smyk, *fumigo*.

b. In *pl.* Also in fig. context.

a 1200 *Vices & Virt.* 129 Hwanene cumeð manies kennes smekes of unþolemodnesse. *c* 1400 *Sc. Trojan War* II. 856 With quhilk birnyng now it reikis, As wele apperis by þe smeikis. *c* 1420 *Avow. Arth.* xv, So nyȝe discumford was hee, For smelle other smekis.

2. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *smeek-house*; *-like* adj.

a 1200 *Vices & Virt.* 129 Đe þu wunest on ðe smec-huse of ðine likame. *a* 1400 *Stockh. Med. MS.* ii. 951 in *Anglia* XVIII. 330 Dun-red is his flour, þe erbe smek lik in colour.

Smeek, *v.* Latterly *Sc.* and † *north.* Forms: 1 smeocan, 2 smeken, 5 smekyn; 3–4 smeke, 9 smeak, smeik, 9– smeek. [OE. *smēocan* str. vb. (pa. t. *smēac*), = MDu. *smieken* (rare), G. dial. *smiechen*, related by ablaut to OE. *smocian* SMOKE *v.* and to MDu. *smōken*, G. *schmauchen*. Perh. also partly repr. OE. *smēcan*, *smīcan*: cf. prec.]

1. *intr.* To emit smoke; to reek; to send out or give off steam or vapour. Also in fig. context.

a 1000 *Gloss.* in Wr.-Wülcker 244 *Fumigabunt*, smeocaþ. *c* 1000 ÆLFRIC *Exod.* xix. 18 Eall Sinai munt smeac [L. *fumabat*]. *c* 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* I. 338 Heortes mearh ȝebærned oð þæt hyt smeoce. *c* 1325 *Prose Ps.* ciii. 32 þe which touchep þe mounteyns, and hij shul smoken [*v.r.* smeke]. 1412–20 LYDG. *Chron. Troy* I. 4380 For hatred olde to brenne can nat lete With newe flawme..; ȝif it nat smeke, it is þe more to drede. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 460/2 Smekyn, or smokyn, *fumo*, *fumigo*. *Ibid.*, Smekyn, or smokyn as hote lycure, *vaporo*.

2. *trans.* To apply smoke or fumes to, esp. in order to cleanse, cure, dry, etc.; to fumigate.

c 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* I. 352 Wið cyrnla sare, smeoc þone man mid gate hærum. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xlix. (*Thecla*) 111 þe fire þat ves dycht to bryne me, to brule & smeke. 1808 JAMIESON, *Smeik*, *Smeek*, to dry by smoke. 1815 *Pennecuik's Tweeddale* 90 *note*, Smeeking our heads o'er the fire a' winter. 1882 *Jamieson's Sc. Dict.* IV. 303/1 *To smeek fish*, i.e. to cure them. *Ibid.* 303/2 To smeek yarn, to smeek the room.

b. To suffocate (bees), to drive out (an animal), by means of smoke.

1816 SCOTT *Bl. Dwarf* xviii, Elshie's skeps o' bees..shall ne'er be smeekit by ony o' huz. 1821 — *Pirate* xxxv, My bees were as dead as if they had been smeaked. 1882 J. WALKER *Jaunt to Auld Reekie* 219 Smeek in his hole the snoozing badger.

† 3. To scent with incense; to cense. *Obs.*[–1]

1382 WYCLIF *Ecclus.* xxiv. 21 And as torax, and galban, and vngula,..I smekede my dwelling; and as balsame not mengd is my smel.

Hence **Smeeked, Smee·king** *ppl. adjs.*

c 1000 *Ags. Gosp.* Matt. xii. 20 Smeocende [*Hatt.* smekende] flex he ne adwæsċþ. 13.. in *Relig. Antiq.* I. 240 Swarte smekyd smethes smateryd with smoke.

Smee·ky, *a. Sc.* Also 6 smeikie, 9 smeekie. [f. SMEEK *sb.* + -Y.] Emitting, full of, filled with, smoke; smoky.

c 1590 MONTGOMERIE *Sonn.* XXX. 13 The smeikie smeithis cairs not his passit trauel. 1811 A. SCOTT *Poems* 144 (Jam.), Thro' smeekie flame they him addrest. *a* 1837 R. NICOLL *Poems* (1843) 96 (E.D.D.), The smeeky hames o' our toun.

Smeetch, dial. variant of SMEECH *v.*

Smeeth (smīþ, smīð), *a.* and *sb. Obs.* exc. *dial.* Forms: 1 smeoðe, 1–3 smeðe, 2–4 smeþe, 4–5 smethe, smeth (4 smith), 9 *dial.* smeeth, smeath, smeede, smee. [OE. *smēðe*, *smīðe* (:–**smōþi-*), related to *smōð* SMOOTH *a.*, which is rare in OE. but from *c* 1400 has almost entirely supplanted *smeeth*.]

A. *adj.* Smooth; free from roughness.

c 725 *Corpus Gloss.* P 511 *Politis*, smoeðum. *c* 825 *Vesp. Hymns* xii. 7 Đec stefn smoeðu hlydeð. *c* 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* John xix. 23 Cyrtil unruh *vel* smoeðe. *c* 1000 *Ags. Gosp.* Luke iii. 5 Unȝerydu [beoð] on smeðe weȝas. *c* 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 219 Þat he [a rod] be riht and smal and

long and smeþe. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 2 Þe on riwleð þe heorte, þe makeð hire efne & smeðe. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 3490 Þe first was born was rogh as hare, þe toþer child was smeth and bare. 1398 Trevisa *Barth. De P. R.* v. xxxv. (Bodl. MS.), Þe fiessch of þe lunges is nassche and smeþe. *c* 1400 *Liber Cocorum* (1862) 47 Thou hit sethe With otene grotes, þat ben so smethe.

1808 Jamieson s.v., *Smeeth in the mou*, a phrase applied to a horse that has lost mark of mouth. 1878 Dickinson *Cumbld. Gloss.* 89/2 *Smeeth, Smee*, smooth. 1894 Heslop *Northumbld. Gloss.* 661 *Smeede*, smooth. .. This often occurs in place-names.

B. *sb.* A level space. *E. Anglian dial.*

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 460/2 Smethe, or smothe, ..*planicies*. *a* 1825 Forby *Voc. E. Anglia*, *Smeath*, an open level of considerable extent. [*Rye* (1895) *adds*, commonly pronounced and printed *Smee*.] 1893 Cozens-Hardy *Broad Norf.* 70 *Smeaa*—used for marshland, as 'Down by the carnser and over the smeaa'.

Smeeth (smīð), *v.* *Obs.* exc. *dial.* Forms: 1 smeðian, smeðan, 2 smeþien, 3 smeðen, 4–5 smeþe, 4–6 smethe, 8 smeath, 9 smeeth. [OE. *smeðian* and *smeðan*, f. *smeðe* Smeeth *a.*] *trans.* To make smooth. Also *absol.*

c 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* II. 210 Ærest him is to sellanne þæt þone innoð stille & smeþe. *a* 1100 in Napier *O. E. Glosses* 47/2 *Salebrosos complanans anfractus*, woge smeþiende hylcas. *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 31 He wile seggen and foxliche smeþien mid worde, Nabbe ic nawiht þer-of. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 4 Rihten hire & smeðen hire is of euch religiun..al þe strengðe. *c* 1230 *Hali Meid.* 27 Ah Ichulle scheawen hit al wið falschipe ismeðet. 1398 Trevisa *Barth. De P. R.* xvii. lviii. (Bodl. MS.), Enula..haþ vertu to plane and to smethe..and to comforte senewes. *Ibid.* xix. xlv, Bitter þinges..bi..drynes..beþ made smeþinge & softinge. 1788 W. H. Marshall *Yorks.* II. 353. 1829 Brockett *N. C. Gloss.* (ed. 2), *Smeeth*, to smooth. 1886 Holland *Chester Gloss.*, *Smeeth*, to iron linen. 1894 Heslop *Northumbld. Gloss.* 661 *Smeeth* (the *th* as in *seethe*), to smooth.

Smeethly, *adv.* ? *Obs.* Also 3 smeðeliche, 4 smeþelyche, -lich, -ly, 4 smetheliche, 5 *Sc.* smeth(e)ly. [f. Smeeth *a.* + -ly 2.] Smoothly.

a 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 356 Þeos meiden..smirkinde smeðeliche ȝef him þullich onswere. 13.. *Gaw. & Gr. Kt.* 1789 Smeþely con he smyle. 1387 Trevisa *Higden* (Rolls) VII. 259 Þe kyng excused hym self smeþeliche. *c* 1425 Wyntoun *Cron.* viii. 5072 (Wemyss), And he, as bourdand, said smethly: 'Man, will þov haif of me iusting' [etc.]. 1808 in Jamieson.

Smeethness. ? *Obs.* Also 1 smeðnysse, smeþnys, 4 smeþe-, 4–5 smethenes. [f. Smeeth *a.*] Smoothness.

c 1000 Ælfric *Hom.* I. 26 He forgeaf..hréoflium smeðnysse. *c* 1050 *Suppl. Ælfric's Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 177 *Planities*, smeþnys. 1388 Wyclif 1 *Kings* vi. 18 And al the hows.. hadde hise smethenessis, and nise ioynyngis maad suteli. 1398 Trevisa *Barth. De P. R.* v. xxvii. (Bodl. MS.), Þe same bones..meue þe more spedefullich by smeþenes and softenes. *c* 1470 *Promp. Parv.* (K.) 460/2 Smethenes, *planicies*. 1825 Jamieson *Suppl.*, *Smeethness*, smoothness, Clydes[dale].

‖ **Smegma** (smeˈgmă). *Phys.* [L. *smēgma*, a. Gr. σμῆγμα a detergent, soap, or unguent, f. σμήχειν: cf. Smectic *a.*] A sebaceous secretion, *esp.* that found under the prepuce.

Phillips (ed. Kersey), Bailey, etc., give '*Smegma*, soap, or any thing that scours; a wash-ball', but there is no evidence that the word was ever current in English in these senses.

1819 *Pantologia* X, *Smegma*,..soap; any concrete substance resembling it, as the hardened matter often found, in the morning, on the lachrymal caruncle. 1876 Duhring *Dis. Skin* 108 In the newly-born infant, the smegma serves a valuable physiological function. 1899 tr. *Jaksch's Clin. Diagnosis* viii. (ed. 4) 407 The microbe of smegma readily loses its colour under the action of that substance.

† **Smegmatic,** *sb.* and *a.* *Obs.* Also 7 smegmatick(e. [ad. mod.L. *smegmatic-us*, f. Gr. σμῆγμα, σμήγματ-: see prec.]

A. *sb.* Anything that cleanses; a cleanser, a detergent.

1623 Cockeram I, *Smegmaticke*, any thing hauing the power to cleanse and scoure as Sope doth. 1695 J. Edwards *Perfect. Script.* 192 Smegmaticks, mundifiers, cleansers, adorners, are useful.

B. *adj.* Detergent or abstersive.

1656 Blount *Glossogr.*, *Smegmatic*, that hath the power or strength to scoure or cleanse, as soap. 1658 Phillips, *Smegmatick*, belonging to Soap, of a scouring faculty. 1675 Evelyn *Terra* (1676) 23 Bolus's, Rubrics, and Okers, Figuline, Stiptic, Smegmatic, &c. 1710 T. Fuller *Pharm. Extemp.* 344 Smegmatic Pills.

† **Smeigh,** *a.* *Obs.*[1] [Early ME. *smēgh*, related to OE. *smēagan* to consider.] Clever, cunning. Hence † **Smeighly** *adv.*; † **Smeighness,** wisdom, skill.

c 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 195 Þe man..þat is smegh oðer man to bicharren, and to bi-swiken. *Ibid.* 71 Gif it was erfeð to forðen, and smeihliche bicharede. *Ibid.* 205 Þat clene..kinde þat god haueð þer-on broht þureh his smehnesse.

† **Smeke,** *v.* *Obs.* *rare.* [a. MDu. or MLG. *smēken* (OHG. *smeichan*, G. *schmeichen*, etc.).] *intr.* To flatter, fawn. Hence † **Smeking** *vbl. sb.*

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 460/2 Smekynge, or mevyn wythe plesaunte tokenys. *Ibid.* 476/1 Styryn, or mevyn wythe plesaunte tokenys, þat ys clepyd smekynge, *blandior*. 1481 Caxton *Reynard* (Arb.) 91 They flatre and smeke, and plese the prynce for theyr synguler auayl.

Smelite (smĭˈləit). *Min.* [f. Gr. σμήλη soap + -ite[1] 2 b. Named by E. F. Glocker, 1845.] = Kaolinite.

1850 Ansted *Elem. Geol.*, *Min.*, etc. 188 The following are, also, hydrous silicates of alumina—Pholerite,..Gröppite, and Smelite. 1868 Watts *Dict. Chem.*, *Smelite*, an aluminic silicate from Telkebanya in Hungary.

Smell (smel), *sb.* Forms: α. 2–7 smel (3 smeal, 4 smeol), 3–6 smelle, 4– smell. β. 2–4 smul, 4 smil, smyl, 5–6 smyll. [Related to Smell *v.* The OE. equivalent is *stenc* Stench.]

1. The sense of which the nose is the organ; the faculty of smelling. Now usually in *sense, organ*, etc., *of smell.*

(*a*) *c* 1200 *Trin Coll. Hom.* 183 Hie..binimeð þe eien here sene,..muð here smel. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 104 Smel of neose is þe ueorðe of þe vif wittes. 1567 Maplet *Gr. Forest* 106 He is not onely of most swift pace, but also of smell. 1599 Davies *Immort. Soul* xvii. i. (1714) 72 In the Nostrils she doth use the Smell. 1617 Moryson *Itin.* III. 35 He who hath a quicke smell, is troubled with more stinkes, then he is refreshed with sweet odours. 1697 Dryden *Virg. Georg.* iv. 44 Wild Thyme and Sav'ry..Sweet to the Taste, and fragrant to the Smell. 1712–3 Swift *Jrnl. to Stella* 3 Jan., I have no smell yet, but my cold something better. 1774 Goldsm. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) III. 317 He stops to examine, by his smell,..the emanations that may come either from his enemy or his prey. 1805 A. Duncan *Mar. Chron.* III. 145 A certain brackish flavor, offensive both to the taste and smell. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VII. 324 Smell was impaired on the side of the lesion.

(*b*) 1710 J. Clarke tr. *Rohault's Nat. Philos.* (1729) I. 179 The Power of exciting the Sensation of Smell in us. 1851 Carpenter *Man. Phys.* (ed. 2) 549 The lower Mammalia, in which the organ of smell is highly developed. 1872 Huxley *Physiol.* viii. 194 The organ of the sense of smell is the delicate mucous membrane which lines a part of the nasal cavities. 1900 Pollok & Thom *Sports Burma* ii. 40 Elephants have a very keen sense of smell.

2. That property of things which affects the olfactory organ, whether agreeably or otherwise; odour, perfume, aroma; stench, stink.

a. *a* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 53 Þurh þe sweote smel of þe chese he bicherreð monie mus to þe stoke. *c* 1220 *Bestiary* 747 in *O. E. Misc.*, Ut of his ȝrote cumeð a smel. *a* 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 1588 Swiðe swote smeal com anan þrefter. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 1014 Flours þar es wit suete smelles. *c* 1380 Wyclif *Sel. Wks.* II. 114 Þe hous was fillid of smel of þe oynement. *c* 1400 Maundev. (Roxb.) xviii. 84 Þe water chaungez diuersely his sauour and his smell. *c* 1440 *Alph. Tales* 96 Sownd of watir rynyng, & syngyng of burdis, and gude smell of flowris. 1508 Dunbar *Tua Mariit Wemen* 33 Fragrant, all full of fresche odour fynest of smell. 1579 Lyly *Euphues* (Arb.) 90 Muske though it be sweet in ye smel, is sowre in the smacke. 1617 Moryson *Itin.* I. 5 The streets are broad, but very filthy and full of ill smels. 1667 Milton *P. L.* v. 379 The Silvan Lodge..that like Pomona's Arbour smil'd With flourets dec't and fragrant smells. 1747 *Tricks of Town laid open* (ed. 3) 19 He's distinguishable from the rest of his Species, both by his Smell, Garb, Shape and Aspect. 1774 Goldsm. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) II. 184 As smells are often rendered agreeable by habit, so also tastes may be. 1847 Helps *Friends in C.* I. iii. 33 There was such a rich smell of pines. 1885 *Law Times* LXXIX. 74/2 There was a nasty smell about the premises.

β. *c* 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 99 On þe holi fleis bileueð þe shap and hiu and smul of ouelete, and on þe holi blod hew and smul of win. *c* 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 8 A suote smul þare cam of heom þat smelde in-to al þat lond. 1297 R. Glouc. (Rolls) 1009 Hii deieþ þoru smul of þe lond. 1387 Trevisa *Higden* (Rolls) IV. 137 Þe smyl þerof slouȝ boþe bestes and foules. 1475 *Bk. Noblesse* (Roxb.) 70 The herbers of so soote smyllis.

b. An aromatic substance, or the use of this. *rare.*

a 1533 Ld. Berners *Golden Bk. M. Aurel.* (1535) Dd ij b, The vices that they brought [from Asia] to Rome:..The patritiens bearyng Measques, the Plebeyens usynge smelles. 1697 *Phil. Trans.* XIX. 480 All Methods of Cure in the Paroxysm [of apoplexy], are ridiculous and useless, except Smells, and Blooding in the Jugular.

3. *fig.* **a.** A trace, suggestion, or tinge *of* something. Also without article, or with adj.

c 1475 Henryson *Orpheus & Eurydice* 25 Off forebearis thay tuke tarage and smell. 1542 Udall *Erasm. Apoph.* 140 This saiyng hath scacely any smelle or sauour of Diogenes, although he beareth the name of it. 1576 Fleming *Panopl. Epist.* 151 To haue a smack and smel of auncient Latium. 1617 Hieron *Wks.* 129 There is with Thee not so much as any smell or shadow of iniustice. *a* 1688 Bunyan *Saints' Privilege* Wks. 1855 I. 669 Without the least smell or tang of imperfection. 1702 S. Sewall *Diary* (1882) III. 398 Mrs. Thacher..troubled at her Marriage to Mr. Kemp,..some smell of Relation between them. 1882 *Nature* XXVI. 59 The methods have a German 'smell'.

b. That quality by which anything is felt or suspected to be near at hand.

1692 J. Norris *Pract. Disc.* 36 They..won't so much as come within the Smell of Danger. 1865 Kingsley *Herew.* xxx, My spirit likes the smell of gold as well as yours.

4. An act of smelling; a sniff. Also *fig.*

c 1560 Ingelend *Disobedient Child* (Percy Soc.) 16 He hath of knaverye tooke such a smell. *Ibid.* 45 After that I had taken a smell Of their good wyll and fervent love. 1706 E. Ward *Wooden World Diss.* (1708) 16 So many hundred poor Souls, that would reckon it a Blessing to have but one savory Smell at his Flesh-pots. 1817 Scott *Let. in Lockhart* (1837) IV. ii. 66 What do you think Constable would give for a smell of it? 1878 J. S. Campion *On Frontier* (ed. 2) 25 The winner gets a drink and the losers a smell at the cork of the bottle.

5. *attrib.*, as *smell-reach*, *-sense*; **smell-trap,** a trap to intercept and carry off bad smells.

a 1652 Brome *Mad Couple well matched* iv. i, Out of the smell-reach of your Lord's perfum'd gloves. 1851 Kingsley *Yeast* vi, Among high art and painted glass, spade farms, and model smell-traps. 1887 *Pall Mall G.* 10 Aug. 5/1 A guardian affected by anosmia, or absence of the smell-sense.

Smell (smel), *v.* Forms: α. 3–5 smellen (5 -yn), 3 smeallen; 2–6 smelle, 4–7 smel, 4– smell. *Pa. t.* 4–6 smelde (4 smeld), 5– smelled (6 *Sc.* smellit), 6– smelt. *Pa. pple.* 3 i-smelled, 3, 6– smelled, 5 -id, 7– smelt. β. 2–4 smullen, 4 smille, 4–5 smylle. *Pa. t.* 4 smulde, smilde. [Early ME. *smellen* and *smüllen*, no doubt of OE. origin, but not recorded, and not represented in any of the cognate languages.

In the pa. t. and pa. pple. both *smelled* and *smelt* are in use, but the latter is now the more frequent of the two.]

I. *trans.* **1.** To have perception of (an object, odour, etc.) by means of the olfactory sense.

To smell powder: see Powder *sb.*[1] 3 b. *To smell a rat*: see Rat *sb.*[1] 2 a.

c 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 153 Hwenne þe nose bið open to smelle unlofne breð. *a* 1240 *Ureisun* in *O. E. Hom.* I. 189 Of al þet ich abbe..wið neose ismelled. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 23456 (Edin.), In þis lif hauis man gret liking..Swet speceri to thef and smel. *c* 1350 *Leg. Rood* (1871) 57 Anon þer com so swete a smul..Þat al hit smulde wiþ gret loye þat in þe cuntre weren þere. *c* 1489 Caxton *Sonnes of Aymon* xvi. 372 Whan mawgis had passed over the water bayard smelled hym & began to crye. 1509 Hawes *Past. Pleas.* xxiv. (Percy Soc.) 109 The nose, also, every ayre doth smel. 1589 Nashe *M. Marprelate* Wks. (Grosart) I. 80 As good a Hound for his sent to smell a feast as euer man sawe. 1611 Bible *Tobit* viii. 3 The which smell, when the euill spirit had smelled, hee fled into..Egypt. 1691 tr. *Emilianne's Observ. Journ. Naples* 89 The Mole, it seems,.. no sooner had smelt the Oar, but crept into another Hole near to it. 1779 G. Keate *Sketches fr. Nat.* (ed. 2) II. 209 Paris may be smelt five miles before you arrive at it. 1784 Cowper *Tiroc.* 830 Civeted fellows, smelt ere they are seen. 1833 M. Scott *Tom Cringle* iii, A boy, who had seldom smelt powder fired in anger before. 1860 Dickens *Uncomm. Trav.* xvii, I can smell the heavy resinous incense as I pass the church.

b. To inhale the odour or scent of (a thing); to sniff at; to examine in this way.

1830 G. Cruikshank *Gentl. in Black* i. (1831) 5 'Confound this head-ache.'..'Pshaw! pshaw! smell this bottle,' said the stranger. 1845 *Encycl. Metrop.* XXV. 241/1 To smell each other's head or neck is the only mode of salutation practised. 1886 C. E. Pascoe *Lond. of To-day* xl. (ed. 3) 343 They import from Paris flowers so natural that one is tempted to smell them.

2. To perceive as if by smell; *esp.* to detect, discern, or discover by natural shrewdness, sagacity, or instinct; to suspect, to have an inkling of, to divine.

To smell the ground, of ships: see Ground *sb.* 2 b.

c 1380 Wyclif *Wks.* (1880) 216 Men schullen in spirit smelle þe swettenesse & þe holynesse of Iesu crist & his lif. 1382 — *Job* xxxix. 25 Aferr he smellith bataile. *a* 1548 Hall *Chron., Hen. VI*, 136 b, He secretly smelled, that some men priuely disdained his aduancement. *a* 1553 Udall *Royster D.* II. iii, If I beginne first, he will smell all my purpose. 1635 Pagitt *Christianogr.* II. vi. (1636) 61 Lest the Lay people should smell their Idolatrie. 1668 Pepys *Diary* 30 Aug., Lord Brouncker,..I perceive, and the rest, do smell that it comes from me, but dare not find fault with me. 1712 Arbuthnot *John Bull* (1727) 56 We were overjoyed ..not smelling what was at bottom of the plot. 1798 Wolcot (P. Pindar) *Tales of the Hoy* Wks. 1812 IV. 408 The people never smelt the cheat. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* I. III. vii, A victorious Parlement smells new danger. 1885 A. B. Ellis *W. African Isl.* xi. 267 The reverend father at once smelt a miracle.

3. To search or find *out* by, or as by, the sense of smell. Chiefly *fig.*

1538 Bale *Three Laws* III, And hast thou so longe dyssembled thus with me. *Infidelitas.* Yea, for aduauntage, to smell out your subtylyte. 1579 E. K. *Gloss. to Spenser's Sheph. Cal.* June 25 They woulde..smell out the vntruth. 1629 Wadsworth *Pilgr.* viii. 84 Smelling vs out to be English, [they] made vs rise out of our beds. 1688 Penton *Guardian's Instruction* (1897) 29 Humility and want of Learning (which Children are apt to smell out). 1756 Mrs. Calderwood *Jrnl.* (1884) 339 The Scots folks have an excellent nose to smell out their Countryfolks. 1811 *Sporting Mag.* XXXVII. 76 To smell out a little bargain. 1821 Scott *Kenilw.* xxvii, I never smell out a secret, but I try to be either at the right or the wrong end of it. 1892 Rider Haggard *Nada* 12 A rich man.. had lost some cattle, and came with gifts to Noma, praying him to smell them out.

4. To distinguish (one thing *from* another) by the smell. Chiefly *fig.*

1582 in Scoones *Four C. Eng. Lett.* 39, I know your L. will soone smell deuises from simplicity, trueth from trecherie. *a* 1592 Greene *Jas. IV*, I. ii, I can smell a knave from a rat. 1829 Landor *Imag. Conv.* Wks. 1853 II. 7/2 The judges there can smell silver from gold through a Russia-leather portmanteau.

5. To find or make (one's way) by the sense of smell. Also *fig.*

1605 Shaks. *Lear* III. vii. 93 Go thrust him out at gates, and let him smell His way to Douer. 1838 T. Mitchell *Clouds of Aristoph.* 82 He and his school were provided with noses, which smelt their way into sources of knowledge.

II. *intr.* **6.** To exercise, employ, make use of, the sense of smell in relation to a specified object. Const. *at, of* (now *U.S.*), † *on*, or *to* († *unto*).

The const. *to* is by far the most frequent down to the 19th cent., during which *at* has become usual.

(*a*) *c* 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 35 Mid þe nose þarto te smullen. ? *a* 1366 Chaucer *Rom. Rose* 1669 To pulle a rose of al that route..And smellen to it wher I wente. 1477 Norton *Ordin. Alch.* v. in Ashmole (1652) 71 It is not wholesome to smell to some Cole. 1545 Raynold *Byrth Mankynde* 132 Let the chyld smell to rue, and to asafetida. 1586 B. Young *Guazzo's Civ. Conv.* IV 191 b, Lord William,

..in taking of the Cup, did smell to the wine. 1607 MARKHAM *Caval.* II. (1617) 32 This Saddle when you first present to the Horse, let him smell to it. 1670 J. SMITH *Eng. Improv. Revivʼd* 213 The Root smelled unto is good for the same purpose. 1757 W. THOMPSON *R. N. Adv.* 20 Dogs..would not even smell to it. 1803 BEDDOES *Hygëia* IX. 99 The patient drank tea..and smelt to a tuberose. 1890 O. CRAWFURD *Round the Calendar* 147 Their flowers can be plucked or smelled to without bending the back.

(*b*) 1530 PALSGR. 722/2 Smell at my coller, and you shall parceyve whether it be I that stynke or nat. 1644 DIGBY *Nat. Bodies* xxxviii. § 5. 333 If the smell do please it, the beast will alwayes be smelling at it. 1704 N. N. tr. *Boccalini's Advts. fr. Parnass.* III. 280 He bid some of his Priests..smell at the French-men's Hands. 1743 FRANCIS tr. *Hor., Odes* v. vi. 10 But You..at Crusts are smelling. 1836 LANDOR *Pericles & Aspasia* CXXXI. Wks. 1853 II. 406/2 She smells at it and turns away. 1863 READE *Hard Cash* III. 115 She smelt at her salts, and soon recovered that weakness.

(*c*) 1624 QUARLES *Sion's Sonn.* XV. 4 When I smelt of my returned hand. 1815 MRS. INCHBALD *Child of Nature* I. iii, Here—smell of this bottle—it will do you good. 1852 MRS. STOWE *Uncle Tom's C.* XV. 130 She recommended to him to smell of hartshorn. 1852 G. W. CURTIS *Lotos-eating* 3, I have not yet done..smelling of all the flowers.

(*d*) 1626 J. YATES *Ibis ad Cæsarem* II. 77 Error is the weed we so much smell on. 1684 BUNYAN *Pilg.* II. 25 Fetch something, and give it Mercie to smell on, thereby to stay her fainting. 1707 MORTIMER *Husb.* (1721) I. 207 To which hole they bring the Mare for the Horse to smell on. 1784 *New Spectator* No. 3. 3 Having examined and smelled on the leaves, she was satisfied.

† **b.** *fig.* To take or get a slight touch or taste *of*, to pay some slight attention *to*, a thing. *Obs.*

(*a*) 1553 T. WILSON *Rhet.* (1580) 165 The unlearned or foolishe phantasticall, that smelles but of learnyng. 1583 STOCKER *Civ. Warres Lowe C.* II. 46 b, Not without his great domage, which hee shall both feele, and smell of againe. 1600 ? WEBSTER *Weakest goeth to Wall* G iij b, And dogs keepe out of the Chauncell, ye shall smell of the whip else.

(*b*) *c* 1580 J. HOOKER *Life Sir P. Carew* in *Archæologia* XXVIII. 98 He in noe wise coulde frame the younge Peter to smell to a bo[o]cke. 1653 GAUDEN *Hierasp.* 152 Were there never so sweet..flowers gathered,..these supercilious novellers will not vouchsafe to smell to them.

7. Without const. To possess or exercise the sense of smell; to be able to perceive odours, or to be engaged in doing this. Also *fig.*

a 1300 *E. E. Psalter* cxiii. 6 Nese-thirles þai haue, and smel sal noght. *a* 1325 *Prose Psalter* cxv. 6 Hij ne shul nouȝt smullen. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* II. 87 Ere and yhe and nase and mouth, Wherof a man mai hiere and se And smelle and taste in his degre. *a* 1500 *Adrian & Epotys* 68 in *Brome Bk.* 27 The joy [of heaven] may no tonge telle, Tyll domys day thow he woll smell. 1579 LYLY *Euphues* (Arb.) 153 Doth not the Lyon for strength..excell Man? Doth not.. the Vulter smel better. 1607 SHAKS. *Timon* IV. iii. 160 Downe with the Nose..Of him, that his particular to foresee, Smels from the generall weale. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* v. 411 Every lower facultie Of sense, whereby they hear, see, smell, touch, taste. 1726 SWIFT *Gulliver* II. i, Two rats..ran smelling backwards and forwards on the bed. 1824 LADY GRANVILLE *Lett.* (1894) I. 283 We walked and smelt for half an hour. 1898 *Daily News* 23 July 6/2 It will be the object of this Committee..to go smelling in Shoreditch.

III. 8. *intr.* To give out, send forth, or exhale an odour; to have a smell, scent, etc.

c 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 53 He..bret hine [the cheese] for þon þet he scolde swote smelle. *c* 1220 *Bestiary* 751 in *O. E. Misc.*, Al ðat eure smelleð swete. *a* 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 1526 Mi swete lif, se swoteliche he smecheð me & smealleð. *c* 1310 in Wright *Lyric P.* XXX. 88 Hire erbes smulleth suete. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Miller's T.* 505 He cheweth greyn and lycorys To smellen sweete. *c* 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* XII. 514 Chaunge hit ofte vntil hit better smylle. 1484 CAXTON *Fables of Æsop* III. xx, Hit smelleth lyke bame. 1530 PALSGR. 722/2 Take away this fysshe, it smelleth nat very well. 1562 TURNER *Herbal* II. (1568) 126 Sage is a long bushe,..smellinge wounderfully. 1610 SHAKS. *Temp.* II. ii. 26 Hee smels like a fish. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* VII. 319 Herbs of every leaf, that..made gay Her bosom smelling sweet. 1726 SWIFT *Gulliver* IV. viii, I observed the young animal's flesh to smell very rank. 1806 *Med. Jrnl.* XV. 486 The whole matter smelt very sour as it was dug. 1842 PARNELL *Chem. Anal.* (1845) 294 A combustible gas, smelling like bisulphuret of carbon. 1885 HORNADAY *2 Yrs. Jungle* XXVI. 304 It smelled like sulphuretted hydrogen.

b. *spec.* To give out an offensive odour; to stink.

c 1375 *Cursor M.* 14322 (Fairf.), He smellis, for iiij. dayes ar gane syn he was lokin vnder a stane. 1584 COGAN *Haven Health* 263 When the Waters and feelds smoke and smell. 1608 D. T. *Ess. Pol. & Mor.* 80 Beeing told that his breath did smell. 1684 *Contempl. State Man* I. iv. (1699) 35 If he reach old Age..his Breath smells.

c. *fig.*

1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. XI. 426 Þere smit no þinge so smerte, ne smelleth so soure, As shame. 1579–80 NORTH *Plutarch, Artaxerxes* (1896) VI. 112 Me thinketh this smelleth like a lye. 1602 SHAKS. *Ham.* III. iii. 36 Oh my offence is ranke, it smels to heauen. 1820 SHELLEY *Prometh. Unb.* I. 339 The hope of torturing him smells like a heap Of corpses, to a death-bird after battle. [*a* 1862 BUCKLE *Civiliz.* (1869) III. iii. 157 That corrupt and tyrannical dynasty whose offences smelt to heaven.]

9. To exhale or emit the odour *of*, to have the smell *of*, something. Also rarely *on* (now *dial.*).

(*a*) 1526 [cf. b]. 1560 BIBLE (Geneva) *Ps.* xlv. 8 All thy garments smell of myrrhe and aloes, and cassia. 1599 DAVIES *Immort. Soul* XVII. ii. (1714) 72 They smell best, that do of nothing smell. 1662 J. DAVIES tr. *Mandelslo's Trav.* 94 They gave him a bottle that smelt of Oyle. 1711 W. KING tr. *Naude's Ref. Politics* iii. 109 The answer of a peasant to King Henry, that The pouch will always smell of the herring. 1796 KIRWAN *Elem. Min.* (ed. 2) II. 443 Calcined until it no longer smelled of arsenic. 1848 DICKENS *Dombey* XXXI, One of the..men already smells of sherry. 1855 TENNYSON *Maud* I. VI. vi, That oil'd and curl'd Assyrian Bull Smelling of musk and of insolence.

(*b*) 1567 DRANT *Horace, Ep.* I. XIX. F vij, All nighte to sprall and stryue with wyne, all day on it to smell [*L. putêre*]. 1758 BINNELL *Descr. Thames* 179 Its observable that he is thought by some to feed on Water-Thyme, and that he smells on it, at his first being taken out of the Water.

b. To have or exhibit a touch, tinge, or suggestion *of* something.

1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 77 b, Not for..promocyon or other profyte,..for all these smelleth of ypocrisy. 1576 FLEMING *Panopl. Epist.* 3 *marg.*, He supposeth that both their victories will smell of crueltie. 1649 MILTON *Eikon.* XXVI. Wks. 1851 III. 503 Praises in an enemy are superfluous, or smell of craft. 1671 J. DAVIES *Sibylls* II. XXIV. 137 That the Relation of his Adventures smell (as much as may be) of a Romance. 1741 BERKELEY *Wks.* (1871) IV. 270 Most modern writings smell of the age. 1756 LAW *Lett. Important Subj.* 115 Such a free way of speaking.. of my own books may have been suspected of smelling too much of self-esteem. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* III. I. i, Some ..seem to hint afar off at something which smells of Agrarian law. 1887 *Spectator* 17 Sept. 1241 Proposals smelling of confiscation.

c. Of literary work, in the phrases *to smell of the candle, lamp, oil*, etc., to show signs of being laboured and artificial.

1542 UDALL *Erasm. Apoph.* 333 Pythias obiected..that his argumentes of rhetorike smelled all of the candle. 1579 [see LAMP *sb.*[1] 1 b]. 1616 HIERON *Wks.* I. 586 It is an honour to a sermon, when (as the saying is) it shall smell of the candle. 1625 B. JONSON *Staple of N.* Prol. (for the Court), A work not smelling of the lamp. 1650, 1675 [see OIL *sb.*[1] 3 d]. 1732, 1768 [see LAMP *sb.*[1] 1 b]. 1839 HALLAM *Hist. Lit.* III. vii. § 17 Even his letters to his sister, smell too much of the lamp. 1871 LOWELL *Study Windows* (1886) 282 His sentences..smell of the library.

10. *trans.* To have or emit a smell of (something).

c 1586 C'TESS PEMBROKE *Ps.* XLV. iv, Mirrh, Aloes, Cassia, all thy robes doe smell. 1598 SHAKS. *Merry W.* III. ii. 70 He smels April and May. 1603 — *Meas. for M.* III. ii. 194 She smelt browne-bread and Garlicke. 1854 THACKERAY *Wolves & the Lamb* Wks. 1899 XII. 16 There's..crumbs on your cheek, and you smell sherry, sir!

11. *colloq.* To cause to smell; to fill or affect with an (offensive) odour.

1887 *Aberd. Evening Express* 5 Sept. 2/6 Parts [of a whale] which are still in such a condition that they would smell the whole museum.

Smellable (smeˑläbʼl), *a.* [f. SMELL *v.* + -ABLE.] Capable of being smelt.

c 1449 PECOCK *Repr.* II. v. 162 Marie Magdalen..vsid the oynement as a seable and a smelleable rememoratijf signe. *Ibid.*, Smelleable signes as encensis. 1843 *Commissioner* 104 It seemed as if he was being pelted with everything eatable, drinkable,..smellable, thinkable, that the world ever produced. 1881 GRANT ALLEN *Evolutionist at Large* 12 [Ants] probably think of most things as smellable only.

Smeˑllage. *U.S.* ? *local.* [f. SMELL *sb.* or *v.*] Officinal lovage.

1845–50 MRS. LINCOLN *Lect. Bot.* 120/2 *Ligusticum levisticum*, (smellage).

Smelled, *a. rare.* [f. SMELL *sb.*] With qualifying terms: Scented; smelling.

1617 *Extr. Aberd. Burgh Rec.* (1848) II. 350 Weele washine and weele smellit naprie. 1725 SLOANE *Jamaica* II. 52 A red ungratefully smell'd moist pulp or paste.

Smeller (smeˑlǝɹ). Also 6–7 smellar. [f. SMELL *v.* + -ER.]

1. One who has or exercises the sense of smell; one who smells *out*, etc.

1519 HORMAN *Vulgaria* 45 They that haue nostrellis strayght forth be good smellars. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 258 The smellers or felers therof hath thought them selfe rauysshed as yf they had ben in paradyse. 1562 J. HEYWOOD *Prov. & Epigr.* (1867) 171 The smeller of smellers then, thou art euyn he. 1658 tr. *Porta's Nat. Magick* VIII. i. 218 Adding a little Musk, to gain an easier reception of the Smeller. 1662 STILLINGFL. *Orig. Sacræ* III. i. § 12 The first smellers out of so great a design. 1888 H. W. PARKER *Spirit of Beauty* (1891) 92 Calderwood shows how the sensationalists would evolve a whole philosophy of mind and morals from a smell, and that, too, without a smeller.

b. *slang.* 'A prying fellow; one who tries to smell out something; a sneaking spy (*Cent. Dict.*).

2. † **a.** *Cant.* A garden. *Obs.*—[0]

1610 ROWLANDS *Mart. Mark-all* E iv, Smellar, a garden; not Smelling cheate, for thats a Nosegay.

b. One who has a smell; a stinker.

a 1625 FLETCHER *Nice Valour* IV. i, Such nasty smellers, That..They might have cudgell'd me with their very stink.

3. A feeler; a slender tactile organ, hair, etc.; *esp.* one of the whiskers of a cat.

1665 HOOKE *Microgr.* 180 Of the Eyes and Head of a Grey Drone-Fly...As concerning the horns.., the feelers or smellers.., the Proboscis [etc.]. 1738 *Gentl. Mag.* VIII. 378/2 Smellers, or kind of Whiskers, at his Nostrils. 1785 GROSE *Dict. Vulgar T., Smellers*, a cat's whiskers. 1840 *Peter Parley's Ann.* I. 266 Mosette felt her smellers crackle close to her nose. 1899 *Daily News* 18 Apr. 8/2 A black tom cat...White chest, white hind legs, and white smellers.

4. *slang.* **a.** The nose; *pl.* the nostrils.

a 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew.* 1822 *Blackw. Mag.* II. 594 Here was..a hit on the wind—a douss on the smeller. 1853 'C. BEDE' *Verdant Green* I. XVI, Come on..and let me have a rap at your smellers. 1894 *Nation* 29 Nov. 399/3 He would rather not have to draw his claret and close his peepers and mash his smeller and break his breadbasket.

b. A blow on the nose. Also *transf.*

1824 *Spirit Publ. Jrnls.* (1825) 38 He swore he would tip me a smeller. 1864 *Daily Telegr.* 3 Sept., The Metacomet, which was hitting out wildly,..delivered to the Hartford a 'smeller' intended for the rebel ram. 1872 *Punch* 6 Apr. 150/2 What in low fighting slang is called a smeller.

Smeˑll-feast. Also 6 **smellefyeste, smelle-, smel-feast(e.** [f. SMELL *v.* (or *sb.*) + FEAST *sb.*]

1. One who scents out where feasting is to be had; one who comes uninvited to share in a feast; a parasite, a greedy sponger. Now *arch.* (very common *c* 1540–1700).

1519 HORMAN *Vulgaria* 77 Smellefyestes, lyckedysshes, and franchars come vncalled. 1542 UDALL *Erasm. Apoph.* 199 Parasites, wer called suche smellefeastes as would seeke to bee free geastes at riche mennes tables. 1602 F. HERING *Anat.* 13 Our Smell-feast will be sure to haunt the Houses and Tables of Rich and great Men. 1664 H. MORE *Myst. Iniq.* 21 Like so many smell-feasts they hankered near the Altars to enjoy the nidorous fumes. 1692 L'ESTRANGE *Fables* (1694) 33 The Fly is an intruder and a common Smell-feast that spunges upon other people's trenchers. 1708 O. DYKES *Refl. upon Eng. Prov.* 163 The Flatteries of Sicophants and Smell-Feasts. 1869 BROWNING *Ring & Book* VIII. 39 The Smell-feasts rouse them at the hint There's cookery in a certain dwelling-place. 1884 DILLWYN *Jill* II. ix. 135 That smell-feast of a Sue meanwhile had profited by the commotion.

b. *attrib.* Parasitic, sponging.

1566 DRANT *Horace, Sat.* I. vii. F ij, I am a smelfeaste belly-god, idle and full of slouthe. 1609 HOLLAND *Amm. Marcell.* 339 These smel-feast-parasites in comedies. 1642 FULLER *Holy & Prof. St.* IV. xx. 343 These smell-feast birds..came to feed on their carcases. 1772 NUGENT *Hist. Friar Gerund* II. 67 Some smell-feast friars of different communities.

2. 'A feast at which the guests are supposed to feed upon the odors only of the viands' (Webster, 1864.)

Smellfungus (smelˌfʊŋgŏs). Also 8 **smelfungus.** Pl. **-fungi** (**-fʊnd͡ʒəi**). [The name by which Sterne designated Smollett on account of the captious tone of the latter's *Travels through France and Italy* (1766).] A discontented person; a grumbler, faultfinder. Also *attrib.*

[1768 STERNE *Sent. Journ., In the Street, Calais*, The learned Smelfungus travelled from Boulogne to Paris,..but he set out with the spleen and jaundice, and every object he pass'd by was discoloured or distorted.] 1807–8 W. IRVING *Salmag.* (1824) 15 Let the grumbling smellfungi..rail at the extravagance of the age. 1842 MRS. F. TROLLOPE *Visit Italy* II. xxiii. 380 Smellfungus people, who love to torment themselves.

Smelliness (smeˑlinĕs). [f. SMELLY *a.* + -NESS.] The condition of being smelly.

1892 *Critic* Mar. 139 The chronic smelliness of undrained China.

Smelling (smeˑliŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. SMELL *v.*]

1. The sense of smell. Cf. SMELL *sb.* 1.

c 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 75 Hore loking, hore blawing, hore smelling, heore feling wes al iattret. *c* 1230 *Hali Meid.* 13 Sihðe & heringe, smecchunge & smeallunge. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 17017 Hering, sight, smelling and fele. 1382 WYCLIF *1 Cor.* xii. 17 If al the body be heeringe, where is smellinge. 1426 AUDELAY *Poems* 7 Thi heryng, thi seyng,..thi smellyng, here be iij [senses]. *c* 1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 1444 It was odour wondir swete, þat þar with his smellyng mete. *a* 1533 LD. BERNERS *Gold. Bk. M. Aurel.* (1546) I ij b, He had a good and a quycke smellyng. 1592 WYRLEY *Armory, Ld. Chandos* 95 Sweet is fresh aire to lost prisoners smelling. 1633 BP. HALL *Occas. Med.* § 93 Smelling, is one of the meanest, and least useful of the senses. 1638 R. BAKER tr. *Balzac's Lett.* (vol. III) 101, I have lost as well my smelling as my taste. 1710 *Brit. Apollo* No. 72. 3/1 He lost his Smelling. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) III. 105 His senses of smelling and hearing are in no less perfection.

b. The act or fact of smelling. Also with *out.*

1509 HAWES *Past. Pleas.* XXIV. (Percy Soc.) 109 Whan that the nose therof hath smellinge. 1565 COOPER *Thesaurus* s.v. *Odor*, The smellyng..of a thyng. 1611 COTGR., *Halenement*,..a smelling, or searching out. 1709 *Tatler* No. 66 P 15 They cannot ever after come to the Use of their Teeth, or get smelling of a Crust. 1869 SPENCER *Princ. Psychol.* III. iv. I. (1872) 304 Smelling obviously implies the contact of dispersed particles with a specially modified part of the organism. 1893 *Daily News* 20 Sept. 5/4 A smelling-out case by witch doctors. 1899 RIDER HAGGARD *Swallow* ix, She never took part in the 'smelling-out' of human beings for witchcraft.

† **2.** Odour, scent, smell. *Obs.*

13.., *K. Alis.* 2573 (Laud MS.), Swete is þe smellyng of þe flore. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Can. Yeom. Prol.* 337 (Harl.), Lo, þus by smellyng and by þredbare array If þat men list, þis folk þey knowe may. *c* 1480 J. WATTON *Spec. Christiani* 46 b, Ther of come swete smellyng; Sweter felt neuer man here lyuyng. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 346/1 A Smellynge, *odor*. 1611 COTGR., *Senteur*, sent, odor, smelling, sauor.

3. *attrib.* † **a.** *Smelling cheat* (see quots.). *Cant.*

1567 HARMAN *Caveat* 84 A smelling chete, a garden or orchard. 1610 [see SMELLER 2 a].

b. *Smelling-hair, -organ*, etc. (cf. SMELLER 3).

1596 NASHE *Saffron Walden* Ep. Ded., Almost as slender ..as a Catts smelling haires. 1871 DARWIN *Desc. Man* II. ix. 328 Thread-like bodies, which are believed to act as smelling-organs. 1872 — *Orig. Spec.* (ed. 6) ii. 33 The other has antennæ much more abundantly furnished with smelling-hairs.

c. *Smelling-bottle*, a phial or small bottle for containing smelling-salts or perfume ready for use.

1771 SMOLLETT *Humph. Cl.* (1815) 259 My sister began to., use her smelling-bottle. 1827 SCOTT *Surg. Dau.* Concl., When tea had been carried round, handkerchiefs and smelling bottles prepared [etc.]. 1842 MRS. CARLYLE *Lett.* I. 150 He..bought me a very nice smelling-bottle. 1871 M. COLLINS *Marq. & Merch.* III. xii. 285 Ethel's smelling-bottle revived one or two..ladies.

d. *Smelling-salts*, a preparation of carbonate of ammonia and scent for smelling, used as a restorative in cases of faintness or headache.

1840 DICKENS *Old C. Shop* xlvi, Vinegar, hartshorn, and smelling-salts. 1892 MRS. CLIFFORD *Aunt Anne* I. 35 She thought he was ill, and..offered him some smelling-salts.

Smelling (sme·liŋ), *ppl. a.* [f. SMELL *v.*]

1. Giving out a smell or odour. Chiefly with qualifying term (see also SWEET-SMELLING).

13.. *Cursor M.* 3695 (Gött.), Quen he had felt his smelland clath.., 'þis voice,' he said, 'þat i here, Is of Iacob'. 13.. *in Reliq. Antiq.* I. 40, I lilie of the valeyes, that is most white chast love and moste smel3ene. *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (1839) ii. 11 Therfore thei made that pece [of the cross]..of Cypres; For it is welle smellynge. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 346/1 Smellynge, *odorabilis, odorifer*. 1530 PALSGR. 324/2 Smellyng, that maye sone be smelled, *odoratif*. 1585 T. WASHINGTON tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* III. ix. 84 b, A..viall ful of sweete and smelling water. 1591 FLORIO *2nd Frutes* Ep. Ded., Some.. pronosticate of faire, of foule and of smelling weather. 1611 COTGR., *Regnard*, a long-tailed, and ranke-smelling fish. 1848 DICKENS *Dombey* viii, It was not, naturally, a fresh-smelling house. 1888 'J. S. WINTER' *Bootle's Childr.* x, A particularly nasty smelling ferret.

2. Having the sense of smell, or the faculty of perceiving by smell. *rare.*

1598 MARSTON *Pygmal.* IV. 150 But Grillus subtile-smelling swinish snout Must sent,..and needes will finde it out. 1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* (1658) 121 Unto all these smelling Dogs I may also adde the water Spagnel.

Smell-less (sme·l,lės), *a.* [f. SMELL *sb.* + -LESS.]

1. Giving out no smell; scentless.

1612 *Two Noble Kinsmen* I. i, Dazies smel-lesse, yet most quaint. 1683 SALMON *Doron Med.* II. 516 An almost colourless, smell-less, tast-less Liquor. 1855 J. F. W. JOHNSTON *Chem. Common Life* I. xiii, 331 The nearly smell-less juice acquires a fetid..odour. 1882 *Nature* XXVI. 187 Methyl alcohol, in a state of purity, is smell-less.

2. Having no sense of smell.

1873 MIVART *Elem. Anat.* 113 They may..abort altogether, as is the case in the probably smell-less Porpoises.

Sme·ll-smock. [f. SMELL *v.* + SMOCK *sb.* I.]

†1. A licentious man. *Obs.*

In early use employed suggestively as a surname.

1550 BALE *Image Both Ch.* II. xi, Ser Saunder smell smock, our parish priest. 1562 PILKINGTON *Expos. Abdyas* 98 So can our belligoddes, the Popes Sir Jhon smell smocke, smel a feast in all parishes nere him. 1607 MIDDLETON *Faun. Love* II. iii, To prevent this smell-smock, I'll to my friend. 1634 HEYWOOD *Maidenh. well lost* II. Wks. 1874 IV. 125, I thinke you'le proue little better then a smell-smocke, That can finde out a pretty wench in such a Corner. 1673 R. HEAD *Cant. Acad.* 147 These attractions..drew on a number of Smell-smocks, which courted her.

2. *dial.* As a plant-name, applied to (*a*) the cuckoo-flower, (*b*) the wood-anemone, and (*c*) the wood-sorrel.

1876- in dialect glossaries, etc. (cf. Britten & Holland *Plant Names* and the *Eng. Dial. Dict.*).

Smelly (sme·li), *a.* [f. SMELL *sb.* + -Y.] Emitting a bad smell or smells; stinking.

1862 H. MARRYAT *Year in Sweden* II. 398 Down the centre runs a straight canal 'awful smelly'. 1863 KINGSLEY *Water-Bab.* 192 They can't abide anything smelly or foul. 1879 HARE *Story Life* (1900) V. xx. 219 It was a crowded, rolling, smelly steamer.

Smelt (smelt), *sb.*[1] [OE. *smelt*, = obs. G. *schmelt*, *schmelz* (Gesner), Da. *smelt* (from *c* 1600): cf. Du. *smelt*, Flem. *smelte*, G. *schmelte* sand-eel, also Norw. *smelta* a small species of cod or whiting. Relationship to OE. *smolt, smylte* is very doubtful.]

1. A small fish, *Osmerus eperlanus*, allied to the salmon, and emitting a peculiar odour; the sparling or spirling.

c 725 *Corpus Gl.* S 72 *Sardas*, smeltas. 1328–9 *Exch. K. R. Memoranda* m. 125 Quoad capcionem piscis qui vocatur smelt. *c* 1358 in *Eng. Hist. Rev.* XXIV. 742 Item in smelt ij[d]. 1421 *Contin. Brut* 447 Gurnard rosted,..Smelt ffryed. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 460/2 Smelte, fysche. 1530 PALSGR. 271/2 Smelte, a fysshe, *esp[er]lang*. 1558 *Act* 1 *Eliz.* c. 17 § 4 Places where Smelts, Loches,..Gudgions or Eels, have been used to be taken. 1602 R. CAREW *Surv. Cornw.* 30 Of round fish there are Brit, Sprat,..Smelts, &c. 1655 MOUFET & BENNET *Health's Impr.* (1746) 282 Smelts are so called because they smell so sweet. 1767 *Phil. Trans.* LVII. 285 The smelt are a very small sort of fish,..used for garnish to those that are larger. 1769 PENNANT *Brit. Zool.* III. 264 The smelt inhabits the seas of the northern parts of Europe. 1825 S. & SARAH ADAMS *Compl. Servant* 86 Smelts, when fresh, have a fine bright appearance,..and a fragrant smell, like a cucumber. 1896 LYDEKKER *Roy. Nat. Hist.* V. 503 The beautiful and delicately flavoured little fish known as smelts are represented by three species.

fig. 1791 BOSWELL *Johnson* (Oxf. ed.) II. 567 Sir, you were a Cod surrounded by smelts. Is not this enough for you?

b. A fish of a related species, esp. *Osmerus mordax* of the American coast.

1836 W. IRVING *Astoria* III. 189 A daughter of the one-eyed potentate Comcomly, who held sway over the fishing tribe of the Chinooks, and had long supplied the factory with smelts and sturgeons. 1839 YARRELL *Brit. Fishes* Suppl. II. 16 The Hebridal Smelt. 1868 *U. S. Rep. Commiss. Agric.* (1869) 330 Spawn..of the white fish,..the Belgrade smelt, and the wall-eyed pike. 1883 SIR A. SHAW *Newfoundland Fisheries* 7 The American 'smelt' swarms on all parts of the coast.

c. Applied to various other small fishes, in the south of England freq. to the atherine or sand-smelt.

1776 PENNANT *Brit. Zool.* (ed. 4) III. 287 Atherine...This species is very common in the sea near Southampton, where it is called a Smelt. 1886 *Encycl. Brit.* XXI. 224/1 *Retrofinna* contains but one species, *R. richardsonii*, which is known as the New Zealand Smelt. 1898 MORRIS *Austral Eng.* 421 *Smelt*, name given, in Melbourne, to the fish *Clupea vittata. Ibid.*, The *Derwent Smelt* is a Tasmanian fish, *Haplochiton scalii*.

†2. a. *transf.* A simpleton. *Obs.*

In quot. 1607 there is allusion to 2 b.

1599 B. JONSON *Cynthia's Rev.* II. iii, What's he, Mercurie? *Mer.* A notable smelt. 1607 DEKKER & WEBSTER *Westw. Hoe* IV. ii, To see how plaine-dealing women can pull downe men: Moll, you'le helpe vs to catch Smelts too? *a* 1625 FLETCHER *Love's Pilgr.* v. ii, Talk what you will, this is a very smelt.

†b. Used allusively in the phrase *Westward for smelts* (see quots.). *Obs.*

1607 DEKKER & WEBSTER *Westw. Hoe* II. ii, But wenches, with what pullies shall wee slide..out of our husbandes suspition, being gone Westward for smelts all night. 1608 *Great Frost* in Arber *Eng. Garner* (1895) I. 85 Say, have none gone 'westward for smelts', as our proverbial phrase is? 1619 (*title*), Westward for Smelts: or, The Waterman's Fare of mad-merry Western Wenches.

3. *north. dial.* A smolt. See SMOLT *sb.*[1] 1.

a 1633 COKE *On Litt.* II. xlvii. (1642) 478 Yong Salmons, or Salmon peals, or Salmon Smelts. *a* 1672 WILLUGHBY *Hist. Pisc.* IV. iv. 189 Nostratibus in fluvio Ribble agri Eboracensis Salmones primo ætatis anno *Smelts* dicuntur; secundo *Sprods*. 1677, 1769 [see SMOLT *sb.*[1] 1β]. 1825 BROCKETT *N.C. Gloss., Smelts*, the fry of the salmon; generally called salmon-smelts. 1842 *Proc. Berw. Nat. Club* II. 4 He took Smelts of the Salmon with their silvery sides.

4. *attrib.*, as *smelt-boat, family, fishery, -fishing, -leap, net.*

1384–5 *Cal. Lett. Bk.* 'H' *Lond.* (1907) 255 [Eight nets called] smelt net [of unlawful mesh]. 1620 MIDDLETON *Chaste Maid* IV. iii, She would not stay for oars; but took a smelt-boat. 1630 in Binnell *Descr. Thames* (1758) 78 That no Peter-man do fish with any Hagan or Smelt Net below London Bridge. *Ibid.* 79 No Fisherman..shall lay down in the River..any Smelt-Leaps before St. Paul's Day yearly: 1795 COLE *Yng. Angler's Comp.* Title-p., The Best Method of Smelt-Fishing. 1884 GOODE *Nat. Hist. Aquat. Anim.* 543 The Smelt Family, *Microstomidæ*. 1888 — *Amer. Fishes* 492 The smelt fishery is increasing yearly in importance.

†**Smelt,** *sb.*[2] *slang. Obs.* [Of obscure origin.] A half-guinea.

1635 SHIRLEY *Lady of Pleasure* v. i, He..pays the rooks That went their smelts a piece upon his hand. 1688 SHADWELL *Sq. Alsatia* I, Pr'ythee, noble Squire, equipp me with a couple of Meggs, or two couple of Smelts. [1822 SCOTT *Nigel* xxiii, That noble Master Grahame, whom you call Green, has got the *decuses* and the *smelts*.]

†**Smelt,** *a. Obs.*[–1] [? a. ON. *smelt-r* enamelled.] ? Enamelled, polished.

c 1400 *Destr. Troy* 1667 A tabill..all of triet yuer, Bourdurt about all with bright Aumbur, þat smelt is & smethe.

Smelt (smelt), *v.* [prob. ad. MDu. or MLG. *smelten* (*smilten*), whence also MSw. and Sw. *smälta*, Norw. *smelta*, Da. *smelte*, = OHG. and MHG. *smelzen* (G. *schmelzen*), a weak trans. verb corresponding to a strong intr. (of the type *smeltan, smalt*) found in the same languages. The stem appears to be a variation of that of MELT *v.*[1]] *trans.* To fuse or melt (ore, etc.) in order to extract the metal; to obtain or produce (metal) by this process.

1543 in *Mem. Fountains Abbey* (Surtees) 403 For smelting one pece leade. 1602–3 *Shuttleworths' Acc.* (Chetham) 149 To Henry Orrell, bellfounder of Wyggan, for smeltinge the lead ashes, xx[s]. 1686 PLOT *Staffordsh.* 165 Which they Smelted..not far off, where they had Mills, &c. for the purpose. 1729 *Phil. Trans.* XXXVI. 32 This Slag is afterwards smelted again with Cowke only. 1812 BRACKENRIDGE *Views of Louisiana* (1814) 148 The floats have no tiff, and are the most easily smelted. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* iii. I. 317 It was not then the practice to employ coal for smelting the ore. 1873 SPON *Workshop Rec.* Ser. I. 10/1 The best plan of smelting brass is to melt the copper in a black-lead crucible first.

absol. 1831 [see *smelt-furnace* below].

fig. 1850 CARLYLE *Latter-d. Pamph.* viii. (1872) 277 Who will smelt..these scandalous bewildering rubbish-mountains. 1874 H. R. REYNOLDS *John Bapt.* iv. § 6. 272 God ..will scorch and smelt the true metal in the furnace.

Smelt-, the stem of SMELT *v.* in combination, as **smelt-furnace, -house** [Du. *smelthuis*, G. *schmelzhaus*], **-mill,** places where smelting is carried on.

1684 *Phil. Trans.* XVII. 741 When the Smelt-Houses were up at Keswick,..this Work was left good. 1771 *Ann. Reg.* 90 Destroying the wear of Mr. Smith's smelt-mill. 1831 CARLYLE *Sart. Res.* I. vi, Those jingling sheet-iron Aprons, wherein your otherwise half-naked Vulcans hammer and smelt in their smelt-furnace. 1860 *Indenture*, The cottage, shop, and buildings formerly a smelthouse.

Smelted (sme·ltėd), *ppl. a.* [f. SMELT *v.* + -ED[1].] Fused, melted.

1750 tr. *Leonardus' Mirr. Stones* 44 This deception is made..chiefly from smelted glass. 1794 SULLIVAN *View Nature* II. 142 The fusion and fluidity of smelted lavas. 1895 *Daily News* 20 Nov. 9/5 The quantity of stone crushed..has yielded 1,632 ounces of smelted gold.

Smelter (sme·ltəɹ), *sb.*[1] [f. SMELT *v.* + -ER[1]. Cf. Du. *smelter*, MSw. and Sw. *smältare*, G. *schmelzer*.]

1. One who smelts; a workman engaged in smelting; also, an owner of smelting-works.

1455 in *Mem. Fountains Abbey* (Surtees) 364 [Nicholas Bucke employed by the abbot as a] smeltar [at his lead mines]. 1582 in *Trans. Jewish Hist. Soc.* (1903) IV. 93 All manner of Charges of fireworke and smeltars wages. 1778 W. PRYCE *Min. Cornub.* 68 The smelter having taken to himself perhaps one part more for his expence. 1812 BRACKENRIDGE *Views Louisiana* (1814) 149 The miners usually..dispose of their ore to the smelters. 1848 MILL *Pol. Econ.* I. ii. § 1 (1876) 19 The miners and smelters who extracted or prepared the iron. 1891 *Daily News* 6 July 2/6 Manufacturers and smelters are not disposed to accept forward contracts at the current rates.

b. *Smelter's fume* (see quot.).

1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2220/1 *Smelter's Fume*, the metallic fume resulting from the smelting of lead, the sublimation of zinc from ore, mercury from cinnabar, etc.

2. Smelting-works; a smeltery. Orig. *U.S.*

1877 RAYMOND *Statist. Mines & Mining* 235 Several smelters are in course of construction to reduce these ores to ingots at home. 1890 *Pall Mall G.* 12 July 3/2 On completion of eight additional smelters and other works.

3. *attrib.*, as *smelter-man, returns.*

1896 *Columbus* (Ohio) *Disp.* 4 Sept., The millionaire smelterman. 1898 LIEBOLD *Woman Proposes* 68 We tax the gross output of the mines based on the mill and smelter returns.

Smelter (sme·ltəɹ), *sb.*[2] [f. SMELT *sb.*[1] + -ER[1].] One who fishes for smelts; a smelt-catcher.

1845 *Zoologist* III. 1080 A smelter may be deemed the personification of patience. 1883 G. C. DAVIES *Norf. Broads* iii. 23 The smelter passes the night in his boat.

Smeltery (sme·ltəri). [f. SMELT *v.* + -ERY. Cf. Du. *smelterij*, G. *schmelzerei*.] A place where ores are smelted.

1814 in Cleland *Rise & Progr. Glasgow* (1820) 267 Brass founderies and lead smelteries. 1888 *Harper's Mag.* Sept. 592 The product of the smeltery in 1886 had a money value of $1,105,190·76. 1893 C. G. LELAND *Mem.* II. 57 The slag or débris of an iron smeltery.

Smelting (sme·ltiŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. SMELT *v.*]

1. The action of the verb SMELT.

1532–3 *Durh. Househ. Bk.* (Surtees) 78 Et Nicholao Kyrchus et socio pro smeltynge 110 ma. petr. plumbi 6s. 6d. 1582 in *Trans. Jewish Hist. Soc.* (1903) IV. 94 Takeinge the said vitriall or Coppris from the ure before it Come in to the first smeltinge. 1665 HOOKE *Microgr.* Pref., Smelting..seems capable of being improv'd. *a* 1691 BOYLE *Wks.* (1772) V. 741 What Tools are used in smelting, their Figures, use, &c. 1729 *Phil. Trans.* XXXVI. 32 The Dross of the Ore on smelting is called Slag. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XII. 86/2 In the smelting of copper ores, quartz is used. 1851 D. WILSON *Preh. Ann.* II. III. ii. 85 Smelting and working of iron with fires of wood. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* I. 26/1 The smelting, conducted in large blast furnaces, disengages the metal from the oxygen and earths of the ores.

fig. 1882 FROUDE *Carlyle* II. 130 The incompleteness of the smelting shows all the more the actual condition of his [Carlyle's] mind.

b. A process or product of smelting.

1872 *Daily News* 12 Oct., The sulphur smoke of the smeltings kills vegetation.

2. *attrib.*, as *smelting bellows, fire, -furnace, -hearth, -house, mill*, etc.

1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* 767 Minerall men, who have their smelting house by Derwent side. 1664 OLDENBURG in *Boyle's Wks.* (1772) VI. 150 It is like the smelting miln-smoke. 1667 in Pettus *Fodinæ Reg.* (1670) 35 Five Pair of large Smelting Bellows. 1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey) s.v. *Smelt*, A..Furnace..call'd, The smelting-Furnace. 1778 W. PRYCE *Min. Cornub.* 68 It has been carried to the smelting-house, as it came out of the earth. 1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 819 The mixture is calcined over a smelting fire. 1836 *Penny Cycl.* VI. 106/2 In the time of the Romans smelting works were carried on in the neighbourhood. 1877 RAYMOND *Statist. Mines & Mining* 339 What are known as smelting-ores in this district are the richer grades carrying usually 300 ounces of silver and upwards per ton. 1890 W. J. GORDON *Foundry* 100 The air driven into the smelting-hearth was cold.

Smere, obs. form of SMEAR *sb.* and *v.*

†**Smere,** *adv. Obs.* Also 4 smare. [Representing OE. *smǽre*, found only in *gálsmǽre* given to laughing. Cf. OHG. *smierôn* (MHG. *smieren*, obs. G. *schmieren*, LG. *smeren*) to smile.] *To laugh smere*, to laugh lightly, merrily, or contemptuously.

c 1275 LAY. 14981 Þane king hit þohte game inoh, for hire spechе he smere loh. *c* 1290 *Childhood Jesus* 984 in Horstmann *Altengl. Leg.* (1875) 34 His Moder..gret Joye hadde and lou3 smere a non. 13.. *S. Eng. Leg.* (MS. Bodl. 779) in Herrig *Archiv* LXXXII. 409/22 Sysin þo for gladnesse gan to ley3e wel smere. *c* 1380 *Ferumb.* 386 Þe Sarzyn gan to lawe smere, & to Olyuer sayde þan [etc.].

†**Smeri·glio.** *Obs.*[–1] [a. It. *smeriglio* a merlin,] A certain piece of ordnance.

1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. xviii. (Roxb.) 137/2 The Rabbenett or Rabnett or smeriglio is 300 weight.

Smerk(e, Smerky, obs. ff. SMIRK, SMIRKY.

†**Smerl,** *sb. Obs.* Also 4 smerle, smerel. [Back-formation from SMERLES, taken as a plural: cf. RIDDLE *sb.*[1]] Ointment.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 7334 þis saul haue þai mad þair king, Wit smerl and als wit coruning. *Ibid.* 11503 A smerl o selcuth bitturnes. *a* 1300 *E. E. Psalter* cxxxii. 2 Als þe smerle in heued onon Falles in berde..of Aaron.

Hence †**Smerl** *v. trans.*, to anoint. Also †**Sme·rling** *vbl. sb. Obs.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 7328 He sal be smerld þair king to be. *Ibid.* 9338 Quen he þat haliest es cumen, Your smerling sal fra yow be nummen.

Smerle (smɜ·ɹl). [a. Flem. *smerle*, prob. a special application of older *smerle* (now *smerlijn*) merlin.] A variety of the domestic pigeon.

1869 TEGETMEIER *Pigeons* iv. 47 We had a pair of Smerles, or Short-faced Antwerp cocks. 1879 L. WRIGHT *Pigeon Keeper* 210 A really Belgian pigeon called the Smerle.

†Smerles. *Obs.* Forms: 1 **smyrels**, 3 **smuriles, smirles**; 3–4 **smerieles, smerles** (4 **-lis**). [OE. *smyrels*, f. *smyrian* to SMEAR *v.* Cf. MSw. *smyr-*, *smörilse* (Sw. *smörjelse*), MDa. *smørielse* (Da. *smørelse*).] Ointment.

In Small's *Metr. Hom.* 17 the form *smersles* may either be an error for *smerles*, or the pl. of *smersel*, =ON. and Icel. *smyrsl*.

a 1000 *Canons Edgar* 66 in Thorpe *Laws* II. 258 We lærað þæt preosta ȝehwilc æȝðer hæbbe ȝe fulluht-ele ȝe seocum smyrels. *c* 1000 ÆLFRIC *Hom.* II. 508 He ȝehælde an mæden, mid halwendum smyrelse ȝehalȝodes eles. *c* 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 145 [Mary Magdalene] nam ane box..and hine fulde mid derewurðe smerieles. *a* 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 1599 Þe engles wiþ smirles of aromaz smireden hire wunden. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 14003 A bost sco has o smerles nummen. *c* 1325 *Metr. Hom.* 97 The thrid gift thai him tok Was a smerlis, als sais the boc. 1340 *Ayenb.* 187 He ne may na3t þolye þane guode smel of þe ilke smerieles.

†Sme·rlin. *Obs.* [ad. G. *schmerling*. Cf. Da. *smer-*, Sw. *smärling*.] A loach or groundling.

[1617 MORYSON *Itin.* III. 81 They have one most delicate kinde, called Smerling, which in Prussen I did eate.] 1668 CHARLETON *Onomast.* 157 *Cobites Aculeata*,..the Smerlin. [Hence in Ainsworth (1736) and later Dicts.]

Smert, obs. or dial. variant of SMART.

†Smeth. *Obs.*—[o] (See quot.)

1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.*, *Smeth* or *Smoothery*, a medicine or physical Ointment to take away hair.

Smeth(e, obs. forms of SMEETH *a.* and *v.*

Smeuse (smiūs, smiūz), *sb.* Also **smeuce, smewse, -ss, smu(i)ce, smuse,** etc. [Alteration of MEUSE *sb.*] A hole in a hedge, wall, etc.: see MEUSE *sb.* and cf. SMOOT *sb.*[1]

A common dialect form, esp. in N. Midland counties.

1819 in C. W. Hatfield *Hist. Notices Doncaster* (1866) I. 70 By the aid of his dark lantern he knew every smeuce in Wharncliffe or Tankersley parks. 1871 PEACOCK *Ralf Skirl.* I. 255 There was a smuice through the hedge just again' where I was stan'in'. 1883 PENNELL-ELMHIRST *Cream of Leicestersh.* 304 There was only one hole—and that a mere smeuse—in the next blackthorn wall.

Hence **Smeuse** *v.* =MEUSE *v.*

1851 R. HILL in Gosse *Nat. Jamaica* 388 The terrier.. smuicing it under the brushwood. 1862 WHYTE MELVILLE *Inside Bar* x, The hounds threw their tongues merrily enough, when they were 'smeusing' through a fence.

Smew (smiū). [Origin and relation to SMEE uncertain.] A saw-billed duck (*Mergus* or *Mergellus albellus*) belonging to the merganser group; the white nun. The female is known as the *red-headed smew*.

1674 DENT in *Ray's Lett.* (1718) 21 A Pocker, a Smew, three Sheldins. 1678 RAY tr. *Willughby's Ornith.* 338. 1709 *Phil. Trans.* XXVI. 466 *Mergus major cirratus*, the Smew, or White Nun. 1768 PENNANT *Brit. Zool.* II. 439 Red-headed Smew. The head is slightly crested, and of a rust colour. 1785 LATHAM *Gen. Synop. Birds* III. II. 429 The Smew is seen in England only in winter. 1838 AUDUBON *Ornith.* IV. 350 The Smew is a bird of extremely rare occurrence in the United States. 1891 *Nature* 4 June 106/2 Last January a friend showed me a smew..shot on the Dee, near Chester.

attrib. 1829 GRIFFITH tr. *Cuvier* VIII. 626 Smew Merganser, *Mergus Albellus*.

Smewk, obs. form of SMOOK, smoke.

Smiche, obs. or dial. form of SMITCH *sb.*

†Smick, *v.* *Obs. rare.* [prob. a jingling modification of SMACK *v.*[2] Cf. SMICK-SMACK.] *trans.* and *intr.* ? To kiss.

1572 *Schole ho. Women* 132 in Hazl. *E. P. P.* IV. 110 Haue you once turned your eye and back, An other she wil haue to smick and smack. 1685–8 in *Bagford Ballads* (1876) 68 You smack, you smick, you wash, you lick, you smirk, you swear, you grin.

†Smi·cker, *a.* *Obs.* Forms: 1 **smicer**, 3 *Orm.* **smikerr**, 6–7 **smicker**. [OE. *smicer*: cf. OHG. *smehhar*, *smechar* (MHG. *smecker*) elegant, delicate.]

1. Beautiful, elegant, fair, handsome. In later use only of persons.

c 725 *Corpus Gl.* (Hessels) E 141 *Elegans*, smicre. *a* 1000 in Cockayne *The Shrine* (1864) 163 Þat he maȝe windan manigne smicerne wæn & manig ænlic hus settan. *a* 1000 in Thorpe *Dipl. Angl. Sax.* (1865) 536 Hio..bit þæt hi findon betweox him twa smicere scencingcuppan into beodern for hi. *c* 1200 ORMIN 13679 Þurrh whatt he fell.. Inntill nip hellepine, & warrþ till atell defell þær Off shene & smikerr enngell. 1590 TARLTON *News Purg.* (1844) 114 The Smith seeing what a smicker wench the Coblers wife was,..sorrowed at the good fortune of the Cobler, that he had so faire a wife. 1590 LODGE *Euphues* (1592) P iv b, A smicker boy, a lyther Swaine, heigh ho a smicker Swaine: That in his Loue was wanton faine, with smiling looks straight came vnto her.

absol. 1639 J. SMYTH in *Glouc. Gloss.* (1890) 201 Smoke will to the smicker: meaninge, If many gossips sit against a smokey chimney the smoke will bend to the fairest.

2. Of looks: Smirking, gay.

1589 PEELE *Eclogue Gratulatory* 4 Why bin thy looks so smicker and so proud?

3. Loose or lax; wanton.

1606 FORD *Fame's Memorial* XXX, Reguardfull of his honor he forsooke The smicker vse of court-humanity.

Smi·cker, *v.* Now only *Sc.* Also 9 **smikker.** [app. f. prec.]

†1. *intr.* To look amorously or wantonly *at* or *after* a person. *Obs.*

1668 DRYDEN *Even. Love* III. i, Must you be smickering after Wenches, while I am in Calamity? 1668 DAVENANT *Man's the Master* II. i, No, no, I see I may make love long enough before you smicker at me.

2. *Sc.* To smile or smirk.

1802 SIBBALD *Chron. Scot. Poetry* Gloss., *Smikker*, to smile in a seducing manner. 1819 TENNANT *Papistry Storm'd* (1827) 70 At him, my grandsher, and the Vicar,.. The god o' gaups did laugh and smikker. 1888 DELDAY in Edwards *Mod. Sc. Poets* 12th Ser. 41 To pass the time and have a chat, And see them sweetly smicker.

Hence †**Smi·ckering** *vbl. sb.*, an amorous inclination. *Obs.*

1699 DRYDEN *Let. to Mrs. Steward* 28 Sept., We had a young doctour, who rode by our coach, and seem'd to have a smickering to our young lady of Pilton.

Smicket (smi·ket). Now *dial.* Also 7–8 **smicki·t.** [app. dim. of SMOCK *sb.*] A woman's smock or chemise; a small smock.

In use during the 19th cent. in many dialects.

c 1685 *Adv. to Maidens Lond.* ii. in *Bagford Ballads* (1878) 935 Susan and Joan they will have a Top-Knot, although they have never a Smicket. *c* 1690 in *Roxb. Ball.* (1883) IV. 439 Stripping of all their Cloaths, their Gowns, their Petticoats, Shoes and Hose, Their fine white smickits then stripping. 1718 OZELL tr. *Tournefort's Voy.* I. 219 Over this Smicket they wear a large smock. *Ibid.*, Thus are their richest Smickets no better than a penitential Shirt. 1772 BRYDGES *Hom. Trav.* (1797) I. 337 His dear Nelly, who had scarce An undarn'd smicket. 1815 W. H. IRELAND *Scribbleom.* 141 Misses..Who, drench'd, ne'er catch cold, though without change of smickets. 1820 COMBE *Syntax, Consol.* v. II. 199 The white smickets wave below, While.. The petticoats appear'd as banners. 1897 E. PHILLPOTTS *Lying Prophets* 177, I found the whole fortune hid beneath her smickets.

†Smi·ckly, *adv.* *Obs.*—[1] [Cf. SMICKER *a.*] Elegantly, finely.

1624 FORD *Sun's Darling* II. i, *Ray.* What's he that looks so smickly? *Fol.* One that loves mutton so well, he always carries capers about him.

Smick-smack, *sb.* and *a.* [Cf. SMICK *v.* and SMACK *sb.*[2]]

†**A.** *sb.* A smacking noise; a smacking or frequent kissing. *Obs.*

c 1550 *Lusty Iuventus* in Hazl. *Dodsley* II. 85 What a hurly-burly is here! Smick smack, and all this gear! 1677 MIÈGE *Fr. Dict.* II. s.v. *Smack*, Smick-smack, *baisotement*.

B. *adj.* Elegant, first-rate. *rare* —[1].

1802 *Spirit Publ. Jrnls.* VI. 186 The Bacchanalian glees were loudly applauded, and the smick smack repast went off with its usual *eclat*.

Smiddie, -dy, north. and Sc. varr. SMITHY *sb.*

Smi·ddum. *Mining.* [varr. of SMEDDUM.] =SMITHAM 2. Also *attrib.*

1821 W. FORSTER *Section Strata* (ed. 2) 341 The Ore, that collects at the bottom of the Tub, is called *Smiddum*. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade, Smiddum-tails*, in mining, the sludge or slimy portion deposited in washing ore. 1892 HESLOP *Northumb. Gloss.*, *Smiddum*, small particles of lead ore [etc.].

Smie, dial. variant of SMY (fish).

Smifligate, -ation, variants of SPIFLICATE *v.*, SPIFLICATION.

1839 DICKENS *Nickleby* XXVII, Mr. Pyke threatened with many oaths to 'smifligate' a very old man. *Ibid.*, Conjecturing..that smifligation and bloodshed must be one and the same thing.

Smift. *Mining.* [Of obscure origin.] A kind of fuse or slow match used in blasting.

1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 836 Paper rubbed over with gunpowder or grease, for the smifts or fuses. *Ibid.*, A paper smift..is then fixed to the top of the rush-tube. 1871 W. MORGANS *Mining Tools* 137 A 'smift', which is variously made of either a bit of touch-wood, touch-paper, greased candle-wick or paper,..is attached by a bit of grease or clay to the outside end of the train.

Smig. Also **smigg.** [Of obscure origin.] (See quot. *a* 1880.) Also attrib., as *smig bait, herring*.

1879 *Standard* 17 July 3/7 The mackerel were so intent upon chasing shoals of smigg, that numbers of them were stranded on the beach. *a* 1880 BUCKLAND *Nat. Hist. Brit. Fishes* 281 If a basket of whitebait be examined in April there will be found a large number of minute fish 1 in. to 1½ in. long, perfectly transparent, with a large eye and no scales visible, the body being covered with a few black spots. These are called 'smig herring'. *Ibid.* 282 The spratty stuff and the 'smig' bait comes up the river first.

Smi·ggins. *Cant.* (See quots.)

1825 KNAPP & BALDWIN *Newgate Cal.* III. 489/1 The Water in which the beef was boiled is thickened with barley, and forms a mess called smiggins. 1828 P. CUNNINGHAM *N. S. Wales* (ed. 3) II. 63 Descanting upon the sorrows of sour *smiggins* (cold-meat hash). 1839 *Slang Dict.* 34 *Smiggins*, nickname for a soup given on board the hulks.

Smi·ggot. *rare* —[1]. *Devon.* A particle, atom.

1823 *New Monthly Mag.* VIII. 502 Deuce a smiggott of aught wonderful saw we.

Smight, obs. form of SMITE *v.*

Smil, obs. form of SMELL *sb.*

Smilacin (sməi·lăsin). *Chem.* [a. F. *smilacin*, f. *smilac-*, stem of SMILAX + -IN [1].] Parillin.

1836 BRANDE *Chemistry* (ed. 4) 1047 The parillin and smilacin of Palotta and Folchi, I have not been able to identify. 1838 THOMSON *Chem. Org. Bodies* 137 Smilacin is obtained from the root of the Smilax sarsaparilla. 1871 GARROD *Mat. Med.* (ed. 3) 336 Sarsaparilla contains..a peculiar principle occurring as a white powder, *Smilacin*, of which little is known.

Smilax (smə·læks). *Bot.* [a. L. *smilax* (Pliny), a. Gr. σμῖλαξ bindweed, etc.]

1. A large genus of liliaceous plants typical of the order *Smilaceæ*, or a species of this genus, the tuberous rootstocks of which constitute the sarsaparilla of commerce.

In earlier writers, as Morwyng (1559) and Turner (1562), *smilax* is used in other senses of the L. and Gr. word, after passages in Pliny or Dioscorides.

1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* II. 190 Some haue said that Smilax is of 2 sorts: the one..climbing trees, & tufted in the head with clusters..of berries. *c* 1610 FAIRFAX *Eclogues* IV. xv, Bay, Smilax, Myrtle..Grew there. 1671 SALMON *Syn. Med.* III. xxii. 432 Smilax,..Bindweed; it opens the belly, dissolves hard swellings. 1710 W. KING *Heathen Gods & Heroes* XXVII. (1722) 134 The Ivy, the Smilax, or Ropeweed, ..were the Vegetables that he [Bacchus] delighted in. 1817 J. BRADBURY *Trav. Amer.* 30 There was also an abundance of small prickly vines entwined among the bushes, of a species of smilax. 1839 AUDUBON *Ornith. Biog.* I. 302 The Green Briar, or Round-leaved Smilax,..is common along fences. 1874 COUES *Birds N. W.* 162 The ravines overgrown with smilax and brambles.

attrib. 1899 F. V. KIRBY *Sport E. C. Africa* xi. 124 A mass of thorny shrubs woven into an almost solid block by a growth of convolvulus creepers and of the twining smilax yam.

2. A climbing species of asparagus, *Myrsiphyllum asparagoides*, much used for decorative purposes.

1870 *Daily News* 13 June, The sprays of smilax, the roses and violets, bloomed from baskets in the windows. 1887 *The Lady* 20 Jan. 38/3 A large square of pink plush was outlined against the white damask, with a broad, graceful border of smilax.

Smile (sməil), *sb.*[1] Also 6 **smyle**, 7 *Sc.* **smyl**. [f. SMILE *v.* Cf. MHG. *smiel*, Da., Sw., Norw. *smil* (NFris. *smiil*, from Da.).]

1. An act of smiling; a slight and more or less involuntary movement of the countenance expressive of pleasure, amusement, affection, etc., or of amused contempt, disdain, incredulity, or similar emotion.

1562 HEYWOOD *Prov. & Epigr.* (1867) 78 Better is the last smyle, than the fyrst laughter. 1591 NASHE *Pref. Sidney's Astr. & Stella* in G. G. Smith *Eliz. Crit. Ess.* II. 228, I will leaue you to..offer your smiles on the Aulters of Venus. 1621 QUARLES *Div. Poems, Esther* (1638) 105 Where are thy maiden-smiles, thy blushing cheeke? 1667 MILTON *P. L.* IX. 239 This sweet intercourse Of looks and smiles. 1717 LADY M. W. MONTAGU *Lett.* II. xliv. 20 Every smile is waited for with impatience and envied by those who cannot obtain it. 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* vii, St. Aubert gave him a friendly smile for his compliment. 1842 BORROW *Bible in Spain* xiii, The duke was all smiles and courtesy. 1875 GRINDON *Life* xiv. 173 There are more smiles in the world than there are tears.

b. *transf.* and *fig.*

1589 GREENE *Menaphon* (Arb.) 23 To see if the Continent were as full of smiles, as the seas were of fauours. 1613 SHAKS. *Hen. VIII*, II. iv. 187 Me thought I stood not in the smile of Heauen. 1727 DYER *Grongar Hill* 82 Transient is the smile of Fate. 1757 GRAY *Bard* 82 Fell Thirst and Famine scowl A baleful smile. 1814 SCOTT *Lord of Isles* v. vi, The sun..Now tinged them with a parting smile. 1831 — *Cast. Dang.* xi, A knight, who..was poor in worldly goods, and in the smiles of fortune. 1859 TENNYSON *Marriage of Geraint* 350 Turn, Fortune, turn thy wheel with smile or frown.

c. Const. *of* (some quality, feeling, etc.).

1779 *Mirror* No. 64, I discovered a smile of satisfaction in the countenances of most of the guests. 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* XXXVI, Where he was surrounded with plenty, elegance, and smiles of welcome. 1816 SCOTT *Old Mort.* XXX, At this moment another smile of deep meaning passed between Dalzell and Claverhouse. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* XX, Beyond the first smile of recognition. 1859 *Habits of Gd. Society* vii. 246, I never yet saw a smile of pity or sympathy on his face.

2. *collog.* A drink, *esp.* of whisky. Orig. *U.S.*

1859 BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.* (ed. 2) 420 *Smile*, a drink, dram. 1888 G. H. KINGSLEY *Sport & Trav.* (1900) vi. 186 You just take a 'smile' of the real, old, blue-grass Bourbon. 1889 JEROME *Three Men in Boat* ii, Harris..proposed that we should go out and have a smile.

3. *Comb.*, as *smile-covering, -frowning, -peopled, -tuned, -wreathed* adjs.; *smile-maker*.

a 1618 SYLVESTER *Sonn.* i. Wks. (Grosart) II. 50 Eyes cloudy-clear, smile-frowning, stormy-calm. 1676 WYCHERLEY *Pl. Dealer* II. i, I cou'd not sit to a vain young Smile-maker tho' he flatter'd me. 1817 SHELLEY *Rev. Islam* II. xxxiv, The tranquil strength which cradled lay In her smile-peopled rest. 1825 HOOK *Sayings* Ser. II. *Sutherl.* I. 123 A consequent smile-covering frown from the young lady. *c* 1845 MRS. BROWNING *An Island* XXV, Yea, soon, no consonant unsmooth Our smile-tuned lips shall reach. 1895 in *Westm. Gaz.* 12 June 7/3 His sparkling eyes and smile-wreathed face telling of the zest with which the novelty was enjoyed.

Smile, *sb.*[2] *dial.* Also **smale.** [Representing OE. *smygel* 'cuniculus' (only in glosses), related to *smūgan* to creep.] (See quot.)

1823 E. MOOR *Suffolk Words, Smile*, the same, I believe, or nearly, as Smale; the form or fourm, or seat of a hare.

Smile (sməil), *v.* Forms: *a.* 4–5 **smylle**, 4–6 **smyle**, *Sc.* 5–6 **smyll**, 7 **smill**, 4– **smile**. *β.* 6–7 **smoyle**, 7, 9 *dial.* **smoile**. [ME. *smilen*, = OHG. *smîlan* (in pres. pple. *smîlenter*; MHG. *smielen*), also Da. *smile* (hence NFris. *smile*), Norw. and Sw. *smila*; these are prob. adoptions from a MLG. **smîlen*, which may also have been the source of the English word.]

I. *intr.* 1. Of persons: To give to the features or face a look expressive of pleasure or amusement, or of amused disdain, scorn, etc.

To smile in one's sleeve: see SLEEVE *sb.* 2d.

α. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 2731 'Thar þe noght in hethyng smylle.' Sco said, 'for soth smild i noght'. 1338 R. Brunne *Chron.* (1810) 185 Philip held him stille, & bigan to smyle. 1390 Gower *Conf.* II. 14 For with a goodly lok sche smyleth. *c* 1440 *Alph. Tales* cccl. 241 So þis Cardinall smyld, & commendid hym for his gude tale. *c* 1475 *Rauf Coilzear* 711 The King preuilie smylit, Quhen he saw that bald. 1530 Palsgr. 722/2, I smyle, I make a countenaunce towarde laughyng and laughe nat outryght, *je me souberis.* 1560 Daus tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 128 b, He..began to smile, & contempne theyr answere. 1601 Shaks. *Jul. C.* iv. i. 50 Some that smile, haue in their hearts I feare Millions of Mischeefes. 1670 Clarendon *Hist. Reb.* xiii. § 4 They.. reprehended him very sharply if he smiled on those days. 1711 Steele *Spect.* No. 2 ¶ 5 He can smile when one speaks to him, and laughs easily. 1754 Shebbeare *Matrimony* (1766) II. 107 She hung at Sir William's arm, Smiling in his Face. 1848 Thackeray *Van. Fair* lvi, He..would smile when George came down late for breakfast. 1898 J. Arch *Story Life* xv. 357 Chamberlain was smiling all over his face.

β. 1599 Breton *Mamillia* Wks. (Grosart) II. 49/1 And, ..like an olde horses neyghing, would he be smoyling. 1614 — *I would & I would not* lxxix, I would I were an honest Countrey-Wench, That only could make Curtsey, smoile, and blush. 1864 Tennyson *N. Farmer* i. xiv, Loook 'ow quoloty smoiles when they seeäs ma a passin' boy.

b. *transf.* and *fig.*

1594 *1st Pt. Contention* viii, In that I intreat you to vse her well. The world may smile againe and I may liue, To do you fauour if you do it her. 1596 Shaks. *Two Gentl.* i. ii. 63 When inward ioy enforc'd my heart to smile. 1667 Milton *P. L.* ix. 480 Then let me not let pass Occasion which now smiles; behold alone The woman [etc.]. 1747 Gray *Fav. Cat* 28 Malignant Fate sat by, and smil'd. 1794 Mrs. Radcliffe *Myst. Udolpho* xxxii, Thy soothing strains the pensive heart beguile, And bid the visions of the future smile. α 1822 Shelley *Mutability* (2) 1 The flower that smiles to-day To-morrow dies. 1825 Hook *Sayings* Ser. ii. *Sutherl.* I. 110 Now indeed was the crisis of his fate at hand, every thing smiled.

c. In the slang phrase *I should smile*, used to ridicule an idea.

1891 *Youth's Companion* 138 Sing for nothing? Well I should smile!

2. a. To look *on*, *upon*, *at*, or *to* a person with a smile or pleasant expression.

1390 Gower *Conf.* II. 228 Achilles..upon himself to smyle Began, when he was so besein. *c* 1440 *Bone Florence* 1790 He at them can smyle. 1558 Phaer *Æneid* i. A iiij, The maker of the Gods and men to her all swetely smyles. 1581 Pettie *Guazzo's Civ. Conv.* ii. (1586) 73 b, To smile upon euerie man, is rather a signe of a vaine minde, then of a cheerefull countenance. 1676 Hobbes *Iliad* (1677) 15 His mother on him smil'd. 1711 Addison *Spect.* No. 69 ¶ 2 Sir Andrew, who often smiles upon me as he sees me bustling in the Crowd. 1749 Smollett *Gil Blas* xii. xiii. (1782) IV. 268 At these words of my god-daughter, I smiled to her father. 1794 Mrs. Radcliffe *Myst. Udolpho* iii, Ludovico smiled at Annette, and bowed to Emily. 1847 Marryat *Childr. N. Forest* viii, Edward..smiled upon the little girl. 1896 Mrs. Steel *Face Waters* ii. iii, They had smiled on little Sonny Seymour as he passed them.

transf. 1610 Holland *Camden's Brit.* 499 In the Spring time, the medowes arraied with pleasant flowers smile upon the beholders. 1667 Milton *P. L.* v. 124 When fair Morning first smiles on the World. 1821 Shelley *Adonais* xxxii. 8 On the withering flower The killing sun smiles brightly.

b. To look *on* or *upon* one with favour, approval, or encouragement. Freq. *fig.*

c 1400 *Rom. Rose* 4355 It is of Love, as of Fortune,..Which whylom wol on folke smyle, And gloumbe on hem another whyle. 1508 Dunbar *Gold. Targe* 218 Fair Calling did oft apon me smyle, And Cherising me fed wyth wordis fair. 1594 Shaks. *Rich. III*, v. v. 20 Smile Heauen vpon this faire Coniunction, That long haue frown'd vpon their Enmity. 1638 Sir T. Herbert *Trav.* (ed. 2) 220 Yet was it [i.e. a palace] able to smile upon Alexander, when hee extracted thence to pay his Soldats. *c* 1657 Sir W. Mure *Hist. Ho. Rowallane* Wks. (S.T.S.) II. 250 At yt time the Court seemed to smill vpon him. 1709–10 Steele in *Lett. Lit. Men* (Camden) 345 My Lord Hallifax has smiled upon his labours. 1748 Gray *Alliance* 16 If equal Justice with unclouded Face Smile not indulgent on the rising Race. 1833 Ht. Martineau *Tale of Tyne* iii. 60 It is the duty of government to smile on undertakings which favour the industry of the people. 1878 Bosw. Smith *Carthage* 281 Circumstances..seemed to smile on the project.

c. To show by the features one's amusement (or pleasure) *at* something.

c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xviii. (*Mary Egypt*) 509 3one 3onge man..at myn fule speke smylit in hy. *c* 1385 Chaucer *L. G. W.* 2123 *Ariadne*, This lady smylith at his stedefastnesse. *c* 1470 Henry *Wallace* xi. 1384 Than Wallace smyld a litill at his langage. 1596 Shaks. *Tam. Shr.* v. ii. 3 Time it is when raging warre is done, To smile at scapes and perils ouerblowne. 1623 Camden *Rem.* (1636) 245 Our first finest Poets may smile at the verses of that time as succeeding ages..will haply smile at theirs. 1681 Dryden *Abs. & Achit.* 912 While he withdrawn at their mad Labour smiles. 1719 De Foe *Crusoe* ii. (Globe) 356 The Spaniard only smil'd at that, and made him no Answer. 1817 Shelley *Rev. Islam* ii. xxxix, Wherefore dost thou smile At what I say? 1879 Mrs. A. E. James *Ind. Househ. Managem.* 60 Though they may smile inwardly at your ways,..they will never allow the smile to be outwardly seen.

3. Of physical features, things, etc.; To have or present an agreeable or pleasing aspect.

Common in 18th cent. poetry.

1594 Kyd *Cornelia* iv. ii, O Faire Sunne, that gentlie smiles From the Orient-pearled Iles. 1667 Milton *P. L.* iv. 165 Cheard with the grateful smell old Ocean smiles. 1703 Rowe *Fair Penitent* ii. i, A better Order of succeeding Days Come smiling forward, white and lucky all. 1769 Sir W. Jones *Palace Fortune* Poems (1777) 26 Each meadow blossom'd, and each valley smil'd. 1805 Wordsw. *Elegiac Stanzas* 19 A sea that could not cease to smile. 1878 Bosw. Smith *Carthage* 11 A country smiling with cornfields and gardens.

4. Of wine, beer, etc.: To sparkle. ? *Obs.*

a 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew* s.v. *Mantles*, When Drink is brisk and smiles. 1721 Mortimer *Husb.* (ed. 2) II. 325 It flushes violently out of the Cock..and then stops on a sudden, and pearls and smiles in a Glass like any bottled Beer. 1828 in Carr *Craven Gloss.*

5. (*U.S.*) *slang.* To drink; to have or take a drink.

1858 [see Smiling *vbl. sb.* 2]. 1865 J. C. Hotten in 'Artemus Ward' *His Book* 18 *note*, 'Let us take a tod' was formerly a common phrase. Recently, however, 'To Kiss the Baby' and to 'Smile' have taken its place. 1870 *Daily News* 7 Feb., This 'gentleman'..asked me to 'smile'. I had learned by experience that this is the slang phrase for 'taking a drink'.

II. *trans.* **6.** a. To bring or convert into a specified condition by smiling. Const. *in*, *into*, *out of*, etc.

1588 Shaks. *L. L. L.* v. ii. 465 Som Dick That smiles his checke [=cheek] in yeares. 1601 — *Twel. N.* iii. ii. 84 He does smile his face into more lynes, then is in the new Mappe. 1608 — *Pericles* v. i. 139 Thou doest looke like patience..smiling extremitie out of act. 1728 Young *Love of Fame* i. 46 What author shall we find..The courtly Roman's smiling path to tread, And sharply smile prevailing folly dead?

b. To dismiss, get rid of, drive *away* (something) with a smile or smiles; to while *away* (time), dry *up* (tears), in or by smiling.

1760–72 H. Brooke *Fool of Qual.* (1809) III. 142 The great ones of thy court have audaciously smiled away the gloom and horrors of guilt. 1792 S. Rogers *Pleas. Mem.* ii. 78 When sober Judgment has his throne resigned She smiles away the chaos of the mind. 1803 Visct. Strangford *Poems of Camoens* Sonn. xx. (1810) 106 Those charming eyes, within whose starry sphere Love whilom sat, and smil'd the hours away. *c* 1850 Mrs. Browning *Hector & Andromache* 102 She received him straight To her bosom's fragrance—smiling up her tears. 1885 'L. Malet' *Col. Enderby's Wife* i. iii, A woman's reputation must not be smiled away.

transf. 1827 Hood *Hero & Leander* xxviii, The drowsy world shone brighten'd in reply; And smiling off her fogs, his slanting beam [etc.].

†**7.** To treat with contempt or disdain; to deride, laugh at. *Obs.*—1

1605 Shaks. *Lear* ii. ii. 88 A plague vpon your Epileptícke visage, Smoile you my speeches, as I were a Foole?

8. a. To answer or repeat by smiling.

1621 G. Sandys *Ovid's Met.* iii. (1632) 91 Thou smil'st my smiles: when I a teare let fall, Thou shedd'st an other.

b. To exhibit, indicate, or express by smiling; to grant, bestow, etc., with a smile. Also *fig.* and with *in* (quot. 1860).

1646 J. Hall *Poems* 29 Yet it is midnight still with me, Nay worse, unless that kinder she Smile Day. 1803 W. R. Spencer *Year of Sorrow* 46 Thy Susan..Smiled no sweet sunshine on thy closing day. 1814 Byron *Lara* ii. xvii, He ..sadly smiles his thanks to that dark page. 1853 Kane *Grinnell Exped.* xlvi. (1856) 423 They cannot be said to smile a welcome upon the navigator. 1860 Lever *One of Them* iii, 'The very remark I was about to make, my Lord,' smiled in Mrs. Morris. 1880 *Daily Telegr.* 21 Feb., She smiled disbelief.

c. With cognate object: To give (a smile, esp. one of a specified kind).

1837 Dickens *Pickw.* xxiii, Mr. Weller junior smiled a filial smile. 1862 Miss Braddon *Lady Audley* xl, She smiled the queerest smile. 1868 Helps *Realmah* ii. (1876) 21 The Caliph smiled a grim smile.

Hence **Smi·leable** *a.*, at which one may smile; **Smiled** *ppl. a.*, spoken or given with a smile; also with *out*.

1830 *Blackw. Mag.* XXVIII. 893 All speak,..or smile, of all the speakable..and smileable little interesting affairs. 1850 W. C. Bennett *Baby May* Poems 12 Tiny scorns of smiled reprovings That have more of love than lovings. 1892 C. E. Norton *Dante's Parad.* i. 5, I was divested of my first doubt by these brief little smiled-out words.

Smi·leful, *a.* [f. Smile *sb.*] Full of smiles; smiling.

1609 Armin *Maids of More-Clacke* E iv, Be smilefull, and expresse no griefe in sithes. 1850 in Ogilvie. 1895 *Advance* (Chicago) 1 Aug. 157/1 The epoch is signalized with garlands and high festival, with assemblies tearful and smileful.

Hence **Smi·lefulness.**

1887 F. Wilson *Alma Murray as Juliet* 13 The flickering smilefulness with which she uttered the lines.

Smileless (sməi·l,lés), *a.* [f. Smile *sb.*]

1. Of persons, the features, expression, etc.: Exhibiting no smile; never smiling; grave, severe.

1739 Lady Wardlaw *Hardyknute* xxxiv, With smyless luke, and visage wan, The wounded Knight replied. 1837 Wordsw. *Night thought* 11 Ingrates who wear a smileless face The whole year through. 1838 Lytton *Alice* xi. i, Pale, wan,..smileless, she was the ghost of her former self. 1882 C. D. Warner *W. Irving* x. 295 The smileless prig has begun to weary even the popular fancy. 1892 G. Hake *Mem.* xxxv. 115 That free, smileless expression.

b. Of words, etc.: Uttered without a smile.

1810 S. Green *Reformist* I. 208 She either replied not at all, or only answered her by a smileless monosyllable. 1877 *Daily News* 30 Nov., It is a fearfully impressive thing to listen to his smileless, unaltering harangues.

2. Devoid of brightness or cheerfulness; dark, dull, cheerless.

1858 Lytton *What will he do?* vi. ix, And so the old man, whose life had been so smileless, died smiling. 1858 O. W. Holmes *Aut. Breakfast-t.* iv, That smileless eternity to which they look forward. *a* 1873 Lytton *Pausanias* 60 The very moonlight upon these waters, cold and smileless.

Hence **Smi·lelessly** *adv.*; **Smi·lelessness.**

1844 J. T. Hewlett *Parsons & W.* xxvi, Not only smileless herself, but the cause of smilelessness in others. 1869 Aldrich *Story Bad Boy* 68 At seven o'clock my grandfather comes smilelessly down stairs.

Smiler (sməi·lər). [f. Smile *v.*]

1. One who smiles.

c 1386 Chaucer *Knt.'s T.* 1141 Ther saugh I..The smyler with the knyfe vnder the cloke. 1668 Dryden *Even. Love* Epil. 5 Where a lot of Smilers lent an Ear To one that talk'd. 1694 *Poet Buffoon'd* 1 Much like the Losers and the Winners, One Smiler and two hundred Grinners. 1742 Young *Nt. Th.* i. 315 Know, smiler! at thy peril art thou pleas'd. 1795 Aikin *Even. Home* xxix. (Dove) 507 Through her pale and emaciated features, he saw something of his little smiler. 1855 Smedley *H. Coverdale* i, A..pleasant smile it was too.., making the smiler look particularly handsome. 1876 T. Hardy *Ethelberta* (1890) 279 Noticing that a few Gallic smilers were gathering round.

b. As a moth-name: (see quot.).

1832 Rennie *Consp. Butterfl. & Moths* 77 The Smiler (*Polia Polymita*).

2. *slang.* A kind of shandy-gaff.

1892 *Daily News* 16 Nov. 2/3 A singular mixture of beer and lemonade known in Manchester as a smiler. 1900 *Ibid.* 30 Apr. 5/1 To take these generous liquors in the diluted forms of 'shandy-gaff' or 'smiler'.

Smi·let, *rare.* Also 6 **smylet.** [f. Smile *sb.*] A little or slight smile.

1592 Fraunce *C'tess Pembroke's Ivychurch* ii. ii, I..knew her face to be framyng Now with a smylet's allure, and now to repell with a frownyng. 1605 Shaks. *Lear* iv. iii. 21 Those happy smilets, That play'd on her ripe lip. 1906 E. Phillpotts *Portreeve* 8 Her pretty mouth was sunny with smilets.

Smiling (sməi·liŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. Smile *v.*]

1. The action of the verb; an instance of this, a smile. Also *transf.* and *fig.*

c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xli. (*Agnes*) 129 Scho..at his vordis mad smylyng in manere of scornyng. *c* 1386 Chaucer *Prol.* 119 A Nonne..That of hir smylyng was ful symple and coy. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 461/1 Smylynge, *subrisus.* 1508 Dunbar *Tua Mariit Wemen* 230, I turne it in a tender luke,..And him behaldis hamely, with hertly smyling. 1553 Bale *Vocacyon* 27 They flonge vp their cappes..with smylinges and laughinges most dissolutely. 1642 Fuller *Holy & Prof. St.* iii. vii. 167 The beere will be sower for the Suns smiling on it. 17.. Ramsay *Marriage of Lord G.* vi. Wks. 1877 II. 218 I'll study thy delight..And..Fix throughout life a constant smiling. 1771 *Junius Lett.* xlix. (1788) 268 May the gift of smiling never depart from him! 1812 Cary *Dante, Parad.* iii. 24 Wonder not thou..at this my smiling.

attrib. *a* 1500 *Chaucer's Dreme* in Speght (1598) 359/1 That smiling signe Was token that the hart encline Would to requests reasonable.

2. *U.S.* Drinking, tippling.

1858 in Bartlett *Dict. Amer.* (1859) 420 There are many more fast boys about—some devoted to the sex—some to horses—some to 'smiling'. 1864 *Reader* 7 Apr. 451/3 Tobacco-chewing..and smiling (the new Yankee phrase for liquoring-up).

Smiling (sməi·liŋ), *ppl. a.* [f. as prec.]

1. That smiles; covered with or wearing a smile or smiles.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 11509 Ful suetlik wit smiland chere, [He] biheild þaa giftes riche and dere, 1514 Barclay *Cyt. & Uplondyshman* (Percy Soc.) 12 Anone came our Lorde.. And her saluted, with swete and smylynge chere. 1585 T. Washington tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* i. xx. 24 b, A smiling and dissembling countenance. 1602 Shaks. *Ham.* i. v. 106 Oh Villaine, Villaine, smiling, damned Villaine! 1663 S. Patrick *Parable Pilgr.* xxvii, He thought he saw a Man coming to him with a very smiling aspect. 1770 Goldsm. *Des. Vill.* 222 That house..Where grey-beard mirth and smiling toil retired. 1812 Combe *Syntax, Picturesque* xx. 12 His hat a smiling face o'erspread. 1820 Scott *Monast.* xxi, I can judge of the dark purpose, though it is hid under the smiling brow. 1840 Thackeray *Cox's Diary* June, One of the meekest, smilingest little men I ever saw.

b. *transf.* or *fig.*

1576 Gascoigne *Philomene* Wks. 1910 II. 182 But smyling lucke, bewitcht This peerelesse Prince to thinke, That [etc.]. 1692 Norris *Curs. Refl.* 22 These indeed are pretty smiling sentences. ? 1713 Parnell *On Q. Anne's Peace* Posth. Wks. (1758) 260 Here smiling Safety..Securely walks, and chearful Plenty there. 1796 Burney *Mem. Metastasio* III. 154 Your own talents,..and smiling time of life, render your election certain. 1837 Lockhart *Scott* IV. i. 17 By..representing every thing in the most smiling colours.

2. Characterized by smiles or a smiling manner; accompanied by a smile or smiles. Also *fig.*

1803 Jane Porter *Thaddeus*, Her smiling tears spoke more than her lips. 1842 Browning *Incident French Camp* iii, Then off there flung in smiling joy, And held himself erect By just his horse's mane, a boy. 1901 G. Douglas *Ho. Green Shutters* 207 The cunning old pryer went on, with a smiling suavity in his voice.

3. *transf.* Of physical features, etc.: Looking bright or cheerful; pleasant, agreeable to the sight.

1725 Pope *Odyss.* x. 108 Smiling calmness silver'd o'er the deep. 1742 Gray *West* i In vain to me the smileing Mornings shine. 1750 — *Elegy* 63 To scatter plenty o'er a smiling land. 1805 Wordsw. *Elegiac Stanzas* 38 Not for a moment could I now behold A smiling sea. 1842 Borrow *Bible in Spain* xvi, The grand..desert of Andalusia, once a smiling garden. 1879 *Edinb. Rev.* CL. 436 The hill above is populous with smiling villas.

4. Of beer, etc.: Sparkling. ? *Obs.*

1725 *Fam. Dict.* s.v. *Bottling of beer*, Scum off the same again, and while it is in a smiling Condition, put three Spoonfuls to each Bottle.

5. *Comb.*, as *smiling-featured*, *-sweet.*

1598 Sylvester *Du Bartas* ii. ii. iv. *Columnes* 710 Those

eyes so smiling-sweet. 1827 POLLOK *Course T.* (1854) 207 Ye smiling-featured daughters of the sun!

Smi·lingly, *adv.* [f. prec.] In a smiling manner; with a smile or smiles.

c 1500 *Three Kings' Sons* 138 Than seide he smylynglyng [etc.]. 1590 GREENE *Never too late* (1600) 38 She began thus smilingly to assault him. 1624 in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* Ser. I. III. 174 Nay then, smilingly quoth I, your Majestie will [etc.]. 1698 FRYER *Acc. E. India & P.* 18 His Feet,.. he often pulling up into his Cott or Couch, would smilingly cross them. 1760–72 H. BROOKE *Fool of Qual.* (1809) IV. 117 He smilingly shook hands with all the domestics. 1828 MOORE *Sviss Air* i, He Into his bark leaped smilingly. 1883 *Contemp. Rev.* XLIII. 40 The Queen looks smilingly around her as of old.

b. *transf.* Pleasantly, agreeably, cheerfully.

1806 WORDSW. *Horn Egremont Castle* 70 Bold Hubert lives in glee: Months and years went smilingly. 1846 H. G. ROBINSON *Odes of Horace* II. vi, Most smilingly on me that nook, Beyond all others, seems to look. 1858 LYTTON *What will He do?* I. iv, How smilingly the stream flows on.

Smi·lingness. [f. as prec.] A smiling condition or expression.

1816 BYRON *Ch. Har.* III. xvi, The very knowledge that he lived in vain..Had made Despair a smilingness assume. 1835 *New Monthly Mag.* XLIII. 73 The kindness of the eye, the smilingness of the lip, are no more there.

† **Smilt,** *a. Obs.*—[1] In 4 **smylt.** ? Fine.

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 226 As smylt mele vnder smal siue smokes for-þikke.

† **Smilt,** *v. Obs.*—[1] [? Cf. dial. *smilt* the milt of a fish.] *intr.* (See quot.)

1721 MORTIMER *Husb.* (ed. 2) I. 341 Many Corns will smilt, or have their Pulp turn'd into a substance like thick Cream.

Smily (smə·li), *a.* Also **smiley.** [f. SMILE *sb.*] Inclined to smile; readily smiling.

1848 LOWELL *Biglow P.* Ser. I. *The Courtin'* x, All kind o' smily round the lips An' teary round the lashes. 1873 LELAND *Egypt. Sketch Bk.* 120 How they contrived to be so laughy and smiley on pumpkin-seeds and cold water I cannot conjecture.

Smirch (smɜ·rtʃ), *sb.* Also 7 **smyrch.** [f. next.]

1. A dirty mark or smear; a stain; a smudge; also, that which smirches or dirties.

a 1688 BUNYAN *Saints' Privilege & Profit* Wks. 1855 I. 647 That men might see their smyrches when they came to wash. *a* 1688 — *Water of Life* (1838) 430 Crystal..is without those spots and streaks and smirches that are in other precious stones. 1850 ALLINGHAM *Poems, Wayside Well* viii, Sheltered cool and free from smirch In thy cavelet shady. 1863 J. THOMSON *Sunday at Hampstead* I. v, Away from the smoke and the smirch. 1890 DOYLE *White Company* iv, The fellow was but a brown smirch upon the yellow road.

2. *fig.* A moral stain or flaw; a blot or blemish; a fault or defect.

1862 T. A. TROLLOPE *Marietta* iii, One who had blemished the fair escutcheon of the family by a smirch of heresy. 1877 L. MORRIS *Epic of Hades* III. 241 Before the soil And smirch of sadder knowledge..Sully its primal whiteness. 1897 *Outing* XXIX. 559/2 That strange insensibility to the sufferings of animals which draws such an ugly smirch across the whole Latin race.

Smirch (smɜ·rtʃ), *v.* Also 5–6 **smorch,** 7 **smerch, smyrch.** [app. ad. OF. *esmorcher* to torment, torture (as by the application of hot metal), with slight transference of sense.]

1. *trans.* Of things: To make dirty, soil, sully, or discolour (something) by contact or touch.

1495 *Trevisa's Barth. De P. R.* XVI. lxxx. 579 Leed hathe a manere nesshnes, and smorcheth his honde that towchyth it. 1572 BOSSEWELL *Armorie* II. 77 The stalke therof broken, smorcheth them that touche it all with yealow. 1615 G. SANDYS *Trav.* 268 Chaos and ragg'd stone Smircht with blacke Pumice, there reioyce, ore-growne with mournfull Cypresse. 1791 COWPER *Odyss.* XIX. 12 [Weapons] smirch'd and sullied by the breath of fire. 1791 — *Iliad* XXIII. 338 A cauldron of four measures, never smirch'd By smoke or flame. 1805–6 CARY *Dante, Inf.* XV. 26 His parch'd looks.. smirch'd with fire. 1834 TAYLOR *Philip van Artevelde* I. v, Twinkles the re-illuminated star, And all is out of sight that smirched the ray. 1844 HOOD *Workho. Clock* 28 Dingy with smoke..And smirch'd besides with vicious soil. 1894 SALA *London up to date* I. vii, The rain beats down on the smoke, and the smoke on the fog; and all three..smirch your face and hands.

b. To tan (the face). *rare*—[1].

1828 SCOTT *F. M. Perth* x, The sun was high, It smirch'd her cheek, it dimm'd her eye.

2. Of persons (or animals): To stain, smear, or befoul (the face, person, etc.) *with* or by means of something dirty or having staining properties. Also *refl.* and with adjectival complement.

1600 SHAKS. *A. Y. L.* I. iii. 114 Ile put my selfe in poore and meane attire, And with a kinde of vmber smirch my face. 1615 G. SANDYS *Trav.* 215 By chance his dog.. smerched his lips with the tincture. 1853 ARNOLD *Sohrab & Rustum* 711 He seiz'd..the dust which lay around, And threw it on his head, and smirch'd his hair. 1865 KINGSLEY *Herew.* II. xi. 166, I will go..and smirch myself brown with walnut-leaves.

3. *transf.* To cast discredit or disgrace upon (a person, his honour, etc.); to bring into ill-repute; to taint or tarnish. Said of actions, etc., or of persons.

(*a*) 1820 SCOTT *Monast.* XXV, In public opinion, their names will be smirched and sullied with a stain which his tardy efforts cannot entirely efface. 1878 JEFFERIES *Gamekeeper at H.* 216 Their infamy spreads abroad, smirching the whole class to which they belong. 1887 T. A. TROLLOPE *What I remember* II. x. 173 Those lower thoughts as well as lower passions which smirch the human soul.

(*b*) 1856 AYTOUN *Bothwell* I. XV, They durst not so have wronged their blood, And smirched their fair renown. 1870 DIXON *Tower* II. XXXI. 319 No man's name..had yet been smirched by Carr. 1885–94 R. BRIDGES *Eros & Psyche* Mar. XIX, He changeth dynasties, and on the head Of duteous heroes..Smircheth the laurel that can never die.

Hence **Smi·rcher; Smi·rching** *vbl. sb.*

1495 *Trevisa's Barth. De P. R.* VIII. XVII. 327 He [*sc.* the moon] semyth not wemmyd wyth noo specles and smorchynge. 1862 T. A. TROLLOPE *Marietta* ii, Unrevealed smirchings of noble names. 1888 *Scottish Leader* 11 July 4 There will soon not be a place left in his character on which the amateur smircher may operate.

Smirched (smɜ·rtʃt), *ppl. a.* [f. prec.] Marked, soiled, made dirty, etc., with a smirch or stain.

1599 SHAKS. *Hen. V*, III. iii. 17 Impious Warre,..with his smyrcht complexion. 1599 — *Much Ado* III. iii. 145 The smircht worm-eaten tapestrie. 1746 SMOLLETT *Advice* 72 From the smirch'd scullion to th' embroider'd Peer. 1833 M. SCOTT *Cruise Midge* (1859) 489 He hung motionless across the rope like a smirched and half burnt fleece. 1863 WOOLNER *My Beautiful Lady* 157 Here a smirched artisan who merely bolts The plates of iron fortress.

Smi·rchless, *adv.* [f. SMIRCH *sb.*] Without leaving a smirch or stain.

1848 HERSCHEL *Ess.* (1857) 739 The thrice royal robe of ermined proof Whence stain glides smirchless, shame ashamed flies.

Smi·rchy, *a.* [f. as prec.] Marked with a smirch or smirches.

1889 WRIGHT *Chalice of Carden* xxvii, [His] smirchy countenance was irrigated with watercourses of tears.

† **Smi·ring.** *Obs. rare.* [ad. G. *schmiering.*] A variety of sandpiper.

1655 MOUFET & BENNET *Health's Impr.* 99 *Ochropodes.* Smirings live in watrish Copses with worms, and are a fine and delicate meat.

Smi·ris. ? *Obs.* Also 7 **smyris.** [a. Gr. *σμίρις* or *σμύρις.*] = EMERY *sb.*[1] 1.

1610– [see EMERY *sb.* 1]. 1661 LOVELL *Hist. Anim. & Min.* Isagoge e 8 b, All may have Sculpture by the powder of smiris, except the adamant. 1677 PLOT *Oxfordsh.* 74 The best sort of Smiris serves for several uses. 1778 W. PRYCE *Min. Cornub.* 65 Those which are mistaken by many for distinct sorts of Fossils, are the Hæmatites, or Bloodstone; ..the Smiris, or Emery. 1803 *Phil. Trans.* XCIII. 82 It is not..improbable, but that some other substance has been occasionally denoted by the term smiris, emeril, or emery.

Smirk (smɜ·rk), *sb.* [f. SMIRK *v.*]

1. An affected or simpering smile; a silly, conceited, smiling look.

c 1560 INGELEND *Disobedient Child* in Hazl. *Dodsley* II. 297 How many smirks and dulsome kisses! 1599 B. JONSON *Cynthia's Rev.* v. iii. *Palinode,* From Spanish shrugs, French façes, smirks, irpes, and all affected humours. 1675 WYCHERLEY *Country Wife* IV. i, He has the canonical smirk, and the filthy clammy palm of a chaplain. 1718 LADY M. W. MONTAGU *Lett.* II. liv. 81 A jolly face, and a stupid smirk in his countenance. 1782 MISS BURNEY *Cecilia* v. i, He was regarding her with a facetious smirk. 1814 SCOTT *Wav.* lxi, Fortunately the bride, all smirk and blush, had just entered the room. 1882 MISS BRADDON *Mt.-Royal* III. viii. 164 'It is a poet's privilege to worship the beautiful, Leo,' said the Baron, with a self-satisfied smirk.

† 2. *slang.* (See quot.) *Obs.*—[0]

a 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew, Smirk,* a finical, spruce Fellow.

Smirk (smɜ·rk), *a.* and *adv.* Also 6 **smyrke,** 6–7 **smirke.** [app. f. SMIRK *v.*; but perh. partly suggested by SMICKER *a.*]

A. *adj.* 1. Neat, trim, spruce in dress or appearance; pleasant, agreeable. Also *U.S.*, smug. Now chiefly *dial.*

a 1530 HEYWOOD *Love* (Brandl) 349, I am at one poynt with women all, The smotest, the smyrkest, the smallest [etc.]. 1579 SPENSER *Sheph. Cal.* Feb. 72 Seest, howe brag yond Bullocke beares, So smirke, so smoothe, his pricked eares? 1598 FLORIO, *Trisciato,* smooth, vp-straight, smug, smirke, handsomlie drest vp. 1614 J. DAVIES (Heref.) *Ecl. betw. Yng. Willie & Old W.* 159 Thy past'rall Minstralsy Beating the aire, atweene resounding Hils, Draw to thee Bonibels as smirke, as hy. 1648 HERRICK *Hesp., Nuptial Song Sir C. Crew* vii, The smirk Butler thinks it Sin, in's Nap'rie, not to express his wit. 1791 J. LEARMONT *Poems* 43 Shaws whilk road is best to follow Fu' sweet an' smirk. 1847 HALLIW., *Smirk,* neat; trim. *Oxon.* 1873 'OUIDA' *Pascarèl* II. 246 Italy cannot be trim and smirk in modern wise and modern gear.

† 2. Of mental faculties: Quick, ready, smart.

1607 WALKINGTON *Opt. Gl.* xii. 67 A nimble dexterical, smirke, prægnant, extemporary invention. *Ibid.* 82 A smirke, quick, & dexterical wit.

† 3. Eager, ardent. *Obs.*—[1]

1674 N. FAIRFAX *Bulk & Selv.* 129 According as the begetter is hotter and smirker, or cold and listlesser.

† B. *adv.* Smirkingly. *Obs.*—[1]

1556 HEYWOOD *Spider & Fly* xii. 13 Wherat the spider, smirke, and smothlie smiled.

Smirk (smɜ·rk), *v.* Forms: 1 **smearcian,** 1–2 **smercian,** 6–7 **smerk(e;** 3– **smirk,** 5 **smyrke,** 6 *Sc.* **smyrk,** 7 **smirke,** 8–9 *dial.* **smurk,** etc. [OE. *smearcian, smercian,* app. not represented in any of the cognate languages.]

1. *intr.* To smile; in later use, to smile in an affected, self-satisfied, or silly manner; to simper.

c 888 K. ÆLFRED *Boeth.* XXXIX. § 4 Ða ongon he smearcian & cwæð to me. *Ibid.* XXXIV. § 10 Ða smearcode he & cwæð. 971 *Blickling Hom.* 189 Þa Neron þæt gehyrde, þa smercode he. *a* 1023 WULFSTAN *Hom.* (1883) 140 Þonne þu smercodest and hlogze, þonne weop ic biterlice. *a* 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 356 Þeos meiden lette lutel of al þet he seide, & smirkinde smeðeliche ʒef him þullich onswere.

a 1500 in *Ratis Raving,* etc. (1870) 108 [Let her] kep her [self] in kirk To kek abak, to lauch, or smyrke. 1577–82 BRETON *Toyes Idle Head* Wks. (Grosart) I. 37/1 But who so smirking smiles with merry cheare, That countenance shewes that some good newes is neare. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* II. 500 A sober Matron weeping, and a light Courtesan smirking. 1604 *Friar Bacon's Proph.* 131 in Hazl. *E. P. P.* IV. 273 He would smirke and she would smile. 1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), To *Smirk,* to smile, or look pleasant. 1747 RELPH *Poems* Gloss., *To Smurk,* to smile. 1796 MME. D'ARBLAY *Camilla* IV. 327 The young perfumer came, smirking and scraping, into the room. 1833 TENNYSON *The Goose* 20 The parson smirk'd and nodded. 1862 SALA *Seven Sons* I. iii. 51 The little man comes smirking and bowing up to her. 1883 STEVENSON *Silverado Sq.* 63 He had a projecting under-lip, with which he continually smiled, or rather smirked.

b. Const. *at, on,* or *upon* a person, etc.

a 1500 in *Ratis Raving,* etc. (1870) 86 With mekil langag but mesure, Smyrkand one euery creature. 1523 SKELTON *Garl. Laurel* 762 He wyll set men a feightynge and syt hymselfe styll, And smerke, lyke a smythy kur, at sperkes of steile. 1567 DRANT *Horace, Ep.* A iij, The cheares of men as theie will smerke on those that vse to smyle. 1707 *Refl. upon Ridicule* 207 An Old Dotard smirking upon a Young and Handsome Woman. 1839 DICKENS *Nickleby* iii, Gentlemen smirking at each other out of blue and brown skies. 1880 W. H. DIXON *Windsor* III. xiv. 130 Dick smirked at Alice.

transf. 1846 LANDOR *Imag. Conv.* I. 121 Any vices or follies..rather than those that..smirk on us in silks and satins at our churches.

† 2. *trans.* To trim up, to make neat or spruce.

1596 NASHE *Saffron Walden* Ep. Ded. cij b, Will it please you to bee cosmologized and smirkt?

3. To utter with a smirk. *rare*—[1].

1879 BROWNING *Martin Relph* 129 Till the first knave smirked 'You brag Yourself a friend of the king's?'

Hence **Smi·rker,** one who smirks.

1756 COWPER *Connoisseur* No. 138 P 4 The Smirkers and Smilers, who so prettily set off their faces..by a *je-ne-sçai-quoi* between a grin and a dimple.

Smirking (smɜ·rkiŋ), *ppl. a.* [f. SMIRK *v.*]

1. That smirks or smiles affectedly; simpering. Said of persons, or their features.

c 1000 ÆLFRIC *Hom.* I. 430 Hine befran ða Decius mid smercigendum muðe. *c* 1320 BARCLAY *Mirr. Gd. Manners* (1570) E v, Their smerking paynted chin. 1593 HARVEY *Pierce's Super.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 7 Some smirking minions are fine fellowes in their owne heades. 1606 DRAYTON *Pastorals, Eglog* ix, I met a smerking bony lasse, They call her Daffadill. 1673 *Humours Town* 39 This is the wondrous Mystery,—that Smirkin Monsieur wears so many badges of the Ladies Favours. 1753 MISS COLLIER *Art Torment.* II. iii. (1811) 156 It is easy to guess, my dear, by your smirking countenance, who is expected to-day. 1825 HOOK *Sayings* Ser. II. *Sutherl.* I. 123 Grace, whose back was turned towards the smirking group, did not perceive this evolution. 1868 MISS BRADDON *Dead-Sea Fruit* vi, A smirking young man pounced immediately upon the stranger.

2. Accompanied or characterized by, associated with, a smirk; affected.

1577–82 BRETON *Toyes Idle Head* Wks. (Grosart) I. 37/1 The smyrking looke declares a merry minde. 1592 GREENE *Disput.* Address p. ii, What amorous glaunces, what smirking Oeyliades. 1676 ETHEREDGE *Man of Mode* II. i, He ever had a notable smerking way with him. 1728 YOUNG *Love of Fame* v. 513 Her grizzled locks assume a smirking grace. 1820 W. IRVING *Sketch Bk.* I. 160 The smirking commonplace of his countenance. *a* 1845 BARHAM *Ingol. Leg.* Ser. III. *Ho. Warming* (1905) 477 With a sort of smirking, self-satisfied air.

† 3. Of wine, etc.: Sparkling. *Obs.*

1648 HERRICK *Hesp., The Hock-Cart,* If smirking Wine be wanting here, There's that, which drowns all care, stout Beere.

Smi·rkingly, *adv.* [f. prec.] In a smirking manner; with a smirk.

1567 DRANT *Horace, Ep.* I. vi. D ij, Thou thy selfe moste smerkinglye..Saye father, brother, to eche one. 1748 RICHARDSON *Clarissa* (1811) V. 147 Hanging smirkingly upon all I said. 1773 BERRIDGE *Wks.* (1864) 89 It would do you good to see how smirkingly they go to church in summer. 1856 W. WHITE *Through Tyrol* xiii. 273 The bridegroom..looked as smirkingly jovial as could be expected.

Smi·rkish, *a. rare.* [f. SMIRK *a.* or *sb.*] Smiling, pleasant; somewhat smirky or simpering.

1674 N. FAIRFAX *Bulk & Selv.* Ep. Ded., Tickled into such a laughing briskness, and fudged up into such a smirkish liveliness. 1834 BECKFORD *Italy* II. 368 The fair Naiads, comfortably fat, and most invitingly smirkish.

Smi·rkle, *v. Sc.* Also 6 **smyrkle,** 9 **smerkle.** [f. SMIRK *v.* + -LE 3.] *intr.* To smirk or smile. Hence **Smi·rkling** *ppl. a.*

The *sb. smirkle* is also illustrated by Jamieson (1825).

? *c* 1590 *Knox's Hist. Ref.* IV. (Wodrow) II. 409 As this wes said, Ledingtoun smyleit [*MS. G.* smyrklit], and spak secreitlie to the Quene in hir eare. 1597 MONTGOMERIE *Cherrie & Slae* 925 (Waldegrave), Experience then smyrkling smyld. 18.. *Lord Dunwaters* iii. in Child *Ballads* IV. 117 He gave a smirkling smile. 1819 TENNANT *Papistry Storm'd* (1827) 19 The friskier for the flytin', they Gaffaw and smirkle in their play. 1839 CHALMERS *Mem.* (1851) IV. 74 The minister I saw smiling and smerkling, in his own characteristic way, at the more ludicrous passages.

† **Smi·rkly,** *adv. Obs.*—[1] [f. SMIRK *a.* + -LY 2.] Smirkingly.

a 1586 SIDNEY *Arcadia* II. (1622) 258 Venus was glad to heare Such proffer made, which she well shewed with smiling cheare... And smirkly thus gan say [etc.].

Smirky (smɜ·rki), *a. Sc.* and *U.S.* Also 8–9 **smerky.** [f. SMIRK *sb.* or *a.* + -Y.] Smart, neat, smiling; simpering; of the nature of a smirk.

17.. RAMSAY *To Duncan Forbes* v. Wks. 1877 II. 318 How

smirky look'd the little wight. 1835 *Fraser's Mag.* XI. 229 A very haughty dame among her fellow-servants of her own sex, but rather smirky and sly with the men. 1848 [A. B. Longstreet] *Georgia Scenes* 197, I overtook a swarthy, bright-eyed, smerky little fellow. 1880 'Mark Twain' *Tramp Abr.* ii. 92 He introduced himself, smiling a smirky smile borrowed from the courtiers of the stage.

Smirles, var. of Smerles, ointment, *Obs.*

Smirr, Sc. variant of Smurr.

Smi'rtle, *sb. Sc.* [f. next.] A smirk.

1813 W. Beattie *Poems* (1871) 9 Ilka face a smirtle put on.

Smi'rtle, *v. Sc.* Also 7 **smirtell,** 8–9 **smurtle.** [var. of Smirkle *v.*] *intr.* To smirk or smile. Also *transf.*

1651 Calderwood *Hist. Kirk* (1843) II. 240 Lethington smirtelled, and rounded in her eare. 1722 W. Hamilton *Wallace* i. iii, Then Wallace did revive, And leugh, and smirtl'd at them in his sleeve. 1768 Ross *Helenore*, etc. 144 Now I think I may be cocky, Since fortune has smurtl'd on me. 1806 Jamieson *Pop. Ballads* I. 256 'Hech!' quo' Will,..And smurtled at Dory Maclean.

Smish. *Cant.* [App. a later form of Mish *sb.*] (See quots.)

1812 J. H. Vaux *Flash Dict., Smish*, a shirt. 1864 *Slang Dict.* 237 *Smish*, a shirt or chemise.

Smit (smit), *sb.*[1] Forms: 1 **smitte,** 4, 7–8 **smitt,** 5 *Sc.* **smyt(e,** 5– **smit.** [OE. *smitte* (related to *smittian* Smit *v.*[1]), = MDu. *smitte*, MLG. and LG. *smitte* (hence MDa. and Da. *smitte*, MSw. and Sw. *smitta*), MHG. *smitze* (G. *schmitze*). Cf. MDu. *smit*, LG. *smit* (MSw. *smit*, Sw. dial. *smitt*), OHG. *smiz*, *bismiz* (MHG. *smitz*, G. *schmitz*); also MDu. and MLG. *smette*, MDu., Du., Fris., LG., and Sw. *smet*, OHG. *bismez*. All of these forms have the senses 'spot, stain, smear', etc. In later use the word is northern and Sc.]

† **1.** A sullying spot or stain; a taint or blemish. Freq. *fig.* of moral taint. *Obs.*

c 1030 *Rule St. Benet* (Logeman) 4 Se ðe ingæþ butan smittan, swylce wyrcð rihtwisnesse. *a* 1100 in Napier *O. E. Glosses* 93/2 *Inluuiem, i. immunditiam*, wom, smittan. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 9462 Þat sin..nan of left, wit-vten smitt, þat euer was vnder heuen born. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* ii. (*Paul*) 867 Blowmand bewte but wane or smyt of sawle and body to-giddir knyt. *c* 1425 Wyntoun *Cron.* ix. 1858 Bot qwhat at sal be put in wryte Off falssit sal ber nakyn smyte. *a* 1500 in *Ratis Raving*, etc. (1870) 92 For lesing is sa foul a smyt, That quhay sa euer be taynt with It [etc.]. 1562 A. Scott *Poems* (S.T.S.) i. 220 Smaill sweit smaragde, smelling but smit of smot.

† **2.** Smut in grain. *Obs.*—[0]

1585 Higins tr. *Junius' Nomenclator* 144/2 The smit, blasting, or burned blacknes of the eares of corne.

† **3.** (See quot. and Smut *sb.* 3.) *Obs.*—[1]

1670 W. Simpson *Hydrol. Ess.* 65 Those unripe mines which the cole-miners often..find and call Smitts, as being an imperfect cole.

4. A soft reddish earth or clayey ore, esp. used for marking sheep. ? *Obs.*

a 1728 Woodward *Fossils* 2 The softer Ruddle, or, as 'tis call'd in the North, *Smitt*. 1789 J. Williams *Min. Kingd.* I. 440 Kidney ore is found in small masses blended in a red, staining, soft clay or earth, called smit, which is also an iron ore. 1794 Hutchinson *Hist. Cumb.* I. Catal. 52 The reddle, called by the country people clayey iron ore, rud, and smit.

b. A mark of ownership put upon sheep.

1828 Carr *Craven Gloss., Smit*, a sheep mark. 1886 *Pall Mall G.* 9 Aug. 4/1 A 'Shepherds' Guide' setting forth the tar marks, smits, and ear-slits peculiar to the sheep of each farm in the township.

5. A particle of soot; a smut, black spot.

a 1825 in Jamieson *Suppl.* s.v. *Smut*. 1862 C. C. Robinson *Dial. Leeds* 413 'Smitted' clothes, or rather the 'smits' themselves, are the plague of the housewife on the washing day.

6. Infection; contagion.

1829– in northern and Sc. dialect glossaries, etc.

† **Smit,** *sb.*[2] *north. Obs.* In 4 **smitt(e, smite,** 5 **smyte.** [Possibly related to next and to Smite *v.*, and orig. denoting a small piece struck off: cf. Norw. *smitt* (Ross) and G. *schmitzen* in the same sense. In the later quots. the rime-words indicate the form *smite*: the common mod. dial. *smite* does not quite correspond to this.] A very small piece or portion; a little bit.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 18735 Left he noght þar-of a smitt, Of all þe lagh, þat he ne held it. *a* 1325 in Horstm. *Altengl. Leg.* (1878) 146 Ich comand þe..þat þi fader liif be write, & min also, eueri smite. *c* 1425 *Seven Sages* (P.) 1959 The Emperour..wende hit were al gospel That the clerkys dyden hym to wite, And al was fals every smyte.

Smit, *sb.*[3] Now *dial.* Also 5 **smytt.** [Related to Smite *v.* Cf. MLG. *smit*, G. *schmiss*, *schmitz*, in the same sense.] A blow; a stroke; also, the sound of striking. Cf. Smite *sb.*[1] 1.

c 1430 *Sir Tryam.* 1565 Tryamowre on the hedd he hytt, He had gevyn hym an evylle smytt, But his swerde braste. *a* 1803 *Lord William* ii. in Scott *Minstrelsy*, She heard a smit o bridle reins. 1895 *Longman's Mag.* Oct. 641, I have got the death smit.

Smit (smit), *v.* Latterly *north. dial.* and *Sc.* Also 4–5 **smyt.** *Pa. t.* 1 **smittode,** 5 **smytted,** *Sc.* **smyt(t)it,** 7– **smitted.** *Pa. pple.* 1 **smittud,** 4 **smetted, smyttid,** 5 **-ed,** 5– **smitted;** *Sc.* 5 **smyttit, smitit,** 5–6 **smittit;** 3 **i-smitte,** 9 **smit, smitten.** [OE. *smittian* (f. the weak grade of *smītan* Smite *v.*), = MDu. and MLG. *smitten* (hence MDa. and Da. *smitte*, MSw., Sw., and Norw. *smitta*), OHG. (*pi*)*smizzan* (MHG. *smitzen*, G. *schmitzen*). Cf. also MDu., Du., and LG. *smetten*, Fris. *smette*.]

1. *trans.* To stain or mark in some way; to colour or tinge; to smut. Also in fig. context.

a 1000 *Gloss.* in Wr.-Wülcker 244 *Funestauere, maculauere*, smittodan. *c* 1205 Lay. 17701 Iblæcched he hæfede his licame, swulc ismitte of cole. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* ii. (*Paul*) 272 Of his hals firste milk out ran, þe knychtis clathis þat smyttit þan. 1398 Trevisa *Barth. De P. R.* v. iii. (Tollem. MS.), The brayne haþ but litell of blood leste he were infecte and smetted [1495 smytted] with þe coloure þerof. 1456 Sir G. Haye *Law Arms* (S.T.S.) 28 Thai ar all smyttit with that ilke myrknes, of the quhilk the sternis was blekkit. 1876 Robinson *Whitby Gloss.* 177/1 *Smitted*, ..dotted all over; specked on the surface.

† **b.** To contaminate, taint, or infect with sin, guilt, etc. *Obs.*

a 1300 *E. E. Psalter* cv. 36 Dropen es þe land in blodes swa; And smitted in werkes of þa. *c* 1380 Wyclif *Sel. Wks.* I. 198 He was not smyttid wiþ pryde ne wiþ coveityse. *c* 1425 Wyntoun *Cron.* III. iii. 616 Bot Mempris Smyttit wes with [*v.r.* of] mony vice. *a* 1500 in *Ratis Raving*, etc. (1870) 3 The trespas that Adam and Eue commytyt,..quhar-thow al mankynde was smitit. 1562 A. Scott *Poems* (S.T.S.) i. 157 Giff thow persave sum senȝeour it hes smittit, Solist þame softlie nocht to perseveir.

absol. *a* 1500 in *Ratis Raving*, etc. (1870) 92 For lesing is sa foul a smyt,..It smytis sa sare it partis neuer.

c. To tarnish or sully; to bring into disgrace or discredit.

c 1386 Chaucer *Troylus* v. 1545 As regnes shal ben flitted Fro folk to folk, or whan they shal ben smitted. *c* 1425 Wyntoun *Cron.* VIII. v. 854 (Cott.), His litil leaute neuirþeles He smyttit þar in his processe. 1786 Burns *Farewell to J. Kennedy* 3 If e'er Detraction shore to smit you, May nane believe him!

d. To mark (sheep) with smit or ruddle.

1828 Carr *Craven Gloss., Smit*, to mark sheep. 1895 Ellwood *Lakeland & Icel.* 56 Lambs are so smitted when first put upon the fell, and sheep at clipping time.

2. Of contagious diseases, etc.: To infect, affect by contagion. Also in fig. context. Freq. in pa. pple. with *with*.

a 1100 in Napier *O. E. Gloss.* 120/2 *Caccabatus morbo*, smittud mid adle. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xxix. (*Placidas*) 521 Þane amesit sum thing his care, quhen his seknes smytit hym sare. 1427 *Sc. Acts, Jas. I* (1814) II. 16/1 Item at þe bischoppis..inquire diligently in þare visitatiounis ..gif ony be smyttit with lippir. *a* 1500 *Ratis Raving* i. 178 Thir thingis..Wyll smyt men that are hail & fere. 1585 R. Parsons *Chr. Exerc.* Ep. Ded. 3 The readers of them that are before smitted with that kinde of infection. 1788 W. H. Marshall *Yorksh.* II. 353 To *Smit*, to infect. 1829– in dialect glossaries, etc. (see *Eng. Dial. Dict.*).

b. Of persons or animals: To convey or communicate a disease to (another); to infect.

1877– in dialect glossaries, etc.

Smitch, *sb.*[1] Now *dial.* Forms: 1–2 **smic, smyc,** 3 **smyche,** 3, 9 **smiche,** 9– **smitch.** [OE. *smic, smyc*, var. of *smēc* (see Smeech *sb.* and Smeek *sb.*), with development of form as in *dīc* ditch.] Smoke arising from burning or smouldering matter; also *dial.*, grime, dirt, dust, smut, etc.

c 893 K. Ælfred *Oros.* III. xi. 142 Swelce se bitresta smic upp astige. *c* 1000 Ælfric *Gen.* xix. 28 Abraham..ȝeseah, hu þa ysla up fluȝon mid þam smice. *a* 1100 in Napier *O. E. Glosses* 108/1 *Ut fumus euanescens*,..swaswa ȝewitende smyc. *c* 1250 *Hymn* in *Trin. Coll. Hom.* App. 258 He vs bouchte..of bitter helle fur & of þe fule smiche. *c* 1275 *Sinners Beware* 95 in *O. E. Misc.*, Heo schule..in helle smyche Acoryen hit ful wraþe.

1847 Halliw., *Smitch*, dirt, but generally applied to smoke or dust. *West.* 1880 *W. Cornwall Gloss.* 52/2 *Smitch*, the smell or smoke arising from anything burnt in frying.

Smitch (smitʃ), *sb.*[2] *Sc.* and *U.S.* [Of doubtful origin: cf. Smit *sb.*[2]] A particle, bit.

Smitchel is also used in the same sense in *U.S.*

c 1840 J. Ramsay *Eglinton Park Meeting* XXXV, Every smitch o't was a kin' o' red. 1884 *Advance* (Chicago) 10 July, A little smitch of an island.

Smitch (smitʃ), *v.* Now *dial.* [f. Smitch *sb.*[1]] *trans.* To affect with smoke or smut.

1621 G. Sandys *Ovid's Met.* v. (1626) 101 That soile..Now barren grew...Now, too much drouth annoys; now, lodging showres: Stars smitch, winds blast. 1878 E. W. L. Davies *Mem. J. Russell* 71 The country-people..left their milk-pans on the fire till the cream was 'smitched', or perhaps burned.

Smite (smət), *sb.*[1] Also 4–5 **smyt-,** 5 **smete.** [f. Smite *v.* But the ME. examples represent *smīte*, of similar formation to *bīte* Bit *sb.*[1]]

1. A stroke or heavy blow with a weapon, the hand, etc., or the sound made by this. Now chiefly *rhet.* (Cf. Smit *sb.*[3])

c 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 207 Þenne me hine pined mid hunger,..and smerte smiten of smale longe ȝerden. 1297 R. Glouc. (Rolls) 9013 Þo þe smite [*v.r.* smytyn] of lance was ido to þe suerd hii nome. *c* 1330 *Arth. & Merl.* 9774 (Kölbing), It carf so wel, men miȝt delite, þat witeþ þe geaunce of þis smite. 1340 *Ayenb.* 140 Ase zone ase he y-hyerþ þane smite of þe lodes-manne. 14.. *Sir Beues* (S.) 4145+16 Þat þouȝt Beues a good smyte [*v.r.* smete].

1819 Tennant *Papistry Storm'd* (1827) 205 The Mainkirk rang wi' slaps and smites. 1828–32 in Webster. 1905 Vachell *The Hill* xii, We used to think you a slogger, but you never came anywhere near that smite of Scaife's.

† **2.** A slight indication or intimation *of* something. *Obs.* (Cf. Cast *sb.* 9.)

1640 G. Him in N. Wallington *Notices Reign Chas. I* (1869) I. 128, I might say more, but this I do to give you a smite of our condition.

† **Smite,** *sb.*[2] *Sc. Obs.* In 5–6 smyte. [ad. MDu. *smiete* or MLG. *smite* (Du. *smijt*, LG. *smite*, Norw. *smit*, *smitt*, G. *schmeite*, *schmiete*), of obscure origin.] A rope attached to one of the lower corners of a sail.

1494 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* I. 253 Item, fra Will Forstar, tua smytis and ane peis of auld toll [= tow, rope], xviij *s.* 1512 *Ibid.* IV. 304 Tua smytis of gret ȝarne of viij[c]xlv pund wecht.

Smite, *dial.* a particle: see Smit *sb.*[2]

Smite (sməit), *v.* Forms: (see below). [OE. *smītan* (*smāt, smiton, smiten*), = OFris. *smīta* (WFris. *smite*, EFris. *smite, smīt*, NFris. *smit*) to throw, MDu. *smiten* (Du. *smijten*) to throw, strike, MLG. and LG. *smīten* to throw, OHG. *smīzan* to smear (also *bismīzan* to smear, sully, *dasmīzan* to cast out; MHG. *smīzen*, G. *schmeissen* to throw, strike, smear, excrete), Goth. *bi-, gasmeitan* to smear. In the Scand. languages represented by MSw. and Sw. *smita* (*smeta*), Norw. *smita*, Da. *smide*, which are prob. from MLG. The development of the various senses is not quite clear, but that of throwing is perh. the original one.

The compound *besmītan* is common in OE., and Forsmite occurs in ME.]

A. Illustration of Forms.

1. *Inf.* (and *Pres. stem*) 1 **-smītan,** 3 **smiten** (**-enn**), 3–4 **smyten,** 5 **smytyn;** 3– **smite** (4 *north.* **smete**), 4–6 **smyte** (5 **smyit**), 5–6 *Sc.* **smyt,** 5, 7 **smytt,** 5 **smyght,** 6–7 **smight;** 4 **smit,** *north.* **smett, smitt(e.**

c 1000 *Saxon Leechd.* III. 14 Smite mon ða sealfe..on þæt heafod. *c* 1160 *Hatton Gosp.* Matt. v. 39 Ȝif hwa þe smite on þin swiðre wænge. *c* 1200 Ormin 14677 To smitenn itt to dæde. *c* 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 61 He wile smite mid ..swuerde. *c* 1250 *Owl & Night.* 78 Al þat þu myht..smyten. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 5656 He sagh an egypcien.. Smit a juu. *Ibid.* 15798, I wil noght þat þou smete. 1382 Wyclif *Gen.* viii. 21, I shal smyte no more. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 461/1 Smytyn, *ferio, percutio. Ibid.*, Smyte fyyr, *fugillo. c* 1450 *MS. Douce* 55 fol. 3, Smytt it in feyre pecys. 1535 Coverdale 1 *Kings* xx. 35, I praye the smite me. 1539 Bible (Cranmer) *John* xviii. 23 Why smyttest thou me? 1570 Levins *Manip.* 151 To smyte, *percutere, ferire.* 1596 Spenser *F. Q.* IV. iv. 22 For him likewise he quickly downe did smight. *c* 1635 Sir W. Mure *Ps.* cxli. 5 Wks. (S.T.S.) II. 218 Me let the righteouse smytt. 1641 Hinde *J. Bruen* 18 Smighting their consciences. 1663 S. Patrick *Parab. Pilgrim* xxxi. (1687) 379 To have a Dead Palsie smite your loyns.

b. *3rd pers. sing.* 2–4 **smit,** 4–5 **smyt,** 5 **smytt(e.**

a 1200 *Vices & Virt.* 13 Se ðe smit under ða eare. *c* 1340 *Nominale* (Skeat) 188 Man with hamur smyt on the anfelde. 1390 Gower *Conf.* I. 40 Whan..the spore The horse side smit to sore, It grieveth ofte. *c* 1400 Maundev. (1839) v. 45 This Ryvere comethe rennynge..; and aftre it smytt unto Londe.

2. *Pa. t.* **a.** *Sing.* (latterly also *pl.*) **a.** 1–2 **smāt,** 3–6 **smat** (3 **smæt**), 4–6 **smate.** (After 1300 *north.* and *Sc.*)

c 725 *Corpus Gloss.* I 352 *Inpingit*, smat, ȝemaercode. *c* 1160 *Hatton Gosp.* Matt. xxvi. 68 Hwæt ys se þe þe smat. *c* 1205 Lay. 20317 Me hine smæt mid smærte ȝerden. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 20957 A jugelur wit blindnes he smat [*v.r.* smate]. *c* 1440 *Alph. Tales* 516 With his spere he smate hym thrugh. 1513 Douglas *Æneid* IX. xii, Quhou Turnus the big Pandarus smat [*v. r.* smate] down.

β. 3–7 **smot,** 4 **smoth,** 5 **smotte,** 6 **smott;** 4– **smote** (also 4–5 *pl.* **smoten**), 4–5 **smoot, smoote** (also 5 *pl.* **smooten**), 5 **smoitte,** 6 *Sc.* **smoit,** 7 **smoat(e.**

c 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 2925 Oc Moyses wirm hem alle smot. *a* 1300 *Havelok* 2654 Ubbe..smoth Godrich. *a* 1325 *Prose Ps.* lxviii. 31 Hym þat tou smote. *c* 1340 *Ayenb.* 48 Peruore smot god..onam. *c* 1380 Wyclif *Sel. Wks.* II. 415 Petir.. smoot of Malcus eere. *c* 1400 *Sowdone Bab.* 1796 Thay.. smoten down right al a-boute. *c* 1450 *Merlin* xv. 237 Anoon thei smote to-geder fercely. 1490 Caxton *Eneydos* lvi. 152 She smotte grete strokes. 1535 Coverdale 1 *Sam.* xxiv. 5 It smote him..in his hert. 1590 Spenser *F. Q.* III. i. 28 She ..downe him smot. 1604 Shaks. *Oth.* v. ii. 356, I..smoate him, thus. 1642 D. Rogers *Naaman* 30 The Lord smot him with the plague. 1714 Young *Force Relig.* Wks. 1752 I. 87 She smote her lovely breast.

γ. *2nd pers.* 1–3 **smite,** 3–4 **smete.** *3rd pers.* 4 **smite,** 5 **smete.**

c 1150 *Canterbury Ps.* iii. 8 Þu ofsloge *vel* smite. *c* 1205 Lay. 8157 Þu me smite [*c* 1275 smete]. *a* 1325 *Prose Ps.* iii. 7 Þou smete alle þat were oȝains me. 13.. *Guy Warw.* (A.) 942 Gif oȝain to him smite [*rime* hete]. 14.. *Ibid.* (C.) 1196 He..smete in a grete swowne.

δ. 3–5 **smette,** 5 **smet;** 3 **smatte,** 4 **smat.**

These would normally represent an OE. **smætte*, pa. t. of **smætan*, corresponding to MHG. *smeizen*.

c 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 2684 He bi-loc hem & smette a-mong. *a* 1300 *K. Horn* 607 Þe sarazins he smatte þat his blod hatte. *c* 1330 R. Brunne *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 8540 Hengist ageyn anoþer smat [*rime* sat]. *Ibid.* 16371 Þey smette to-gedere so bitterlyke. 1412–20 Lydg. *Chron. Troy* I. 4187 Lamedoun...smet A riche cercle from his basenet. 1470 *Maldon Court Rolls* (Bundle 47, No. 4), Turned that other ende of the forke and smette hym.

ε. 6 **smytt, smitt,** 6–7 **smit.**

1561 Machyn *Diary* (Camden) 259 [It] smytt downe serten grett stones. 1590 Spenser *F. Q.* I. ii. 18 Vpon his

crest With rigour..he smitt. 1614 GORGES *Lucan* III. 115 The rowers one another smit. 1684 BUNYAN *Pilgr.* II. 110 Great-heart..smit the head..from his shoulders.

b. *Pl. a.* 1 **smiton, 3–5 smiten, smyten, 4 smyton, 5 -yn; 3–4 smite, 4–5 smyte; 3–4 smitte(n, 4 smytte(n.**

c 725 *Corpus Gloss.* F 387 *Funestauere*, smiton. *c* 1205 LAY. 5183 Heo smiten to-gædere. *Ibid.* 30097 Mid longe sweorden heo smitten. *c* 1275 *Passion our Lord* 388 in *O. E. Misc.* 48 Hi..smyten [him] vnder þat ere. 1382 WYCLIF *Gen.* xiv. 5 The kingis..smytyn Raphaym. 1481 CAXTON *Reynard* xxxii. (Arb.) 86 His seruauntis..smyten and bete the asse.

β. 3–5 **smete, 4–5 smeten, 5 smetin, -on.**

c 1275 LAY. 5183 Hii smete to-gaderes. 13.. *Coer de L.* 3988 They schotte to hem, and hard smeten. 14.. *Guy Warw.* (C.) 2897 On þer helmes þey smete. 1481 CAXTON *Reynard* xii. (Arb.) 27 They smeton, beten, and wounded hym.

c. *Weak forms.* 5 **smit-, smytide, 9 smited.**

1388 WYCLIF 2 *Kings* ix. 27 Thei smytiden hym. 1858 KINGSLEY *The Red King* 54 Tyrrel he smited..that day.

3. *Pa. pple. a.* 4 **y-, 5 i-smyten; 4–6 smyten (4–5 -yn, 5 -on, -un); 3–5 smiten (4 -in, -on).**

c 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 3690 Ðor wurð ȝhe..wið lepre smiten. *a* 1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* iii. 7 Þou has smyten all contrari- and til me. *c* 1380 WYCLIF *Wks.* (1880) 378 Ysmyten wiþ goddis vengance. 1382 — *Gen.* xli. 6 Smytun with meldew. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* III. 249 He..The Princes hefdes..Hath smiten of. *c* 1450 *Merlin* xv. 239 Than were the saisnes.. harde I-smyten. 1483 CAXTON *G. de la Tour* a vj, A crysten man had his hede smyten of.

β. 3 **hii-, 3–4 y-, 3–5 i-smite; 4 i-, 4–5 y-smyte; 4 (6 *arch.*) smite; 4–5 (6 *arch.*) smyte.**

c 1275 LAY. 10855 Hii-smite he was in fihte. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 6186 þer were duntes arist ismite. *c* 1330 *Arth. & Merl.* 8047 (Kölbing), Mani paien to deþ [were] ysmite. *c* 1369 CHAUCER *Dethe Blaunche* 1323 As hyt hadde smyte oures twelve. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) IV. 123 He was i-smyte wiþ a palsy. 14.. *26 Pol. Poems* xxvi. 117 Nowe hathe age y-smyte me. *c* 1450 *Contin. Brut* 366 þat boþe her hedis schulde be smyte of. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* II. vii. 17 Sum Greikis victouris war smyte [*v.r.* smite] deid.

γ. 4–5 **i-smeten; 4–5 smeten, -yn, 5 -on.**

1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) VII. 477 He was i-smeten wiþ þe vice of pride. 1389 in *Eng. Gilds* (1870) 91 After prime be smeten. 14.. *26 Pol. Poems* xxvi. 173 Now hathe age smetyn..My thryd feder. 1485 CAXTON *Chas. Gt.* 44 Roulland..had smeton hys vncle.

δ. 4 **i-, 5 y-smete; 4–5 smete, 5 smet.**

1303 R. BRUNNE *Handl. Synne* 11920 A lymme..smete yn pallesye. 13.. *Coer de L.* 4956 How the batayle was i-smete. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) VI. 369 Þe enemyes.. were i-smete wiþ blyndenesse. 14.. in *Babees Bk.* 35 With thys bytel be he smete. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 460/2 Smet, or smytyn, *percussus*.

ε. 4, 6– smitten, 5–6 smytten (5 -yn, 6 -yne, smyttin).

a 1400 *Cursor M.* 9603 Saul has smitten a thusand. *a* 1483 in *Househ. Ord.* (1790) 59 That the messes be smyttyn [etc.]. 1489 CAXTON *Faytes of A.* IV. iv. 238 To make theyre hedes to be smytten of. 1551 BIBLE *Isaiah* l. 2 Was my hande cleane smitten of? 1586 *Chron. Grey Friars* (Camden) 65 Hys hond was smyttyne of. 1631 GOUGE *God's Arrows* III. § 84. 340 By Saul they were..smitten.

ζ. 5–6 smytte, 5 i-smyt, 5–6 smyt(t; 4, 6– smit.

a 1400 *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* xliii. 144 Al for my misdede Was he so felli smit! 1423 JAS. I *Kingis Q.* lviii, Artow seke, or smyt with Ielousye? *c* 1425 *R. Gloucester's Chron.* 5254 (Digby MS.), Heueden þet were of smytte. *a* 1536 *Songs, Carols*, etc. (E.E.T.S.) 123, I hope this gonne was well smytt. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* III. 29 Smit with the love of sacred song.

η. 6–7 **smot, 6–9 smote; 7 smotten.**

1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* III. ii. 46 Till thou in open field adowne be smot. 1597 BEARD *Theatre God's Judgm.* (1612) 309 To be smote with the edge of the sword. 1607 HIERON *Wks.* I. 473 Elah, smotten and killed while he was drinking. 1768–74 TUCKER *Lt. Nat.* (1834) II. 523 Turning the right cheek to him that has smote the left. 1813 T. BUSBY *Lucretius* II. VI. 676 What cities have they smote!

B. Signification.

I. *trans.* **†1.** To pollute, blemish. *Obs.*—[1]

c 725 *Corpus Gloss.* F 387 *Funestauere*, smiton.

†2. To smear (a substance) *on* something. *Obs.*

c 1000 ÆLFRIC *Exod.* xii. 7 Nymon of his blode and smiton on æȝðer gedyre.

II. 3. To administer a blow to (a person, etc.) with the hand, a stick, or the like; to strike or hit; to beat or buffet; to slap or smack. Now *rhet.* and *rare.*

c 1160 *Hatton Gosp.* Matt. v. 39 ȝyf hwa þe smite on þin swiðre wænge. *a* 1300 *K. Horn* 503 He smot him a litel wiȝt & bed him beon a god kniȝt. 1382 WYCLIF *Matt.* xxvi. 67 Thanne thei spitten in to his face, and smyten hym with buffetis. *c* 1440 *Gesta Rom.* i. 3 He makith sorowe nowe ..For he smot not þe ymage [with the arrow]. 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* lxxii. 29 Dispituouslie syne [they] did him smyt. *a* 1608 DEE *Relat. Spirits* (1659) I. 82 He smit the round Table with his rod. 1675 J. OWEN *Indwelling Sin* xii. (1732) 147 The Case was the same with Asa in his Anger, when he smote the Prophet. 1718 *Free-thinker* No. 109 The Fairy..smote him on the Shoulder with a Golden Wand. 1791 COWPER *Iliad* IX. 708 Oft would she smite the earth. 1841 DICKENS *Barn. Rudge* viii, Half pausing for an instant now and then to smite his pocket. *Ibid.* xxxix, He smote Mr. Tappertit on the back.

fig. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 324 Smit him anonriht mid te ȝerde of tunge schrifte. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 310 To smyte hem with the same rodd With which I am of love smite. 1611 BIBLE *Jer.* xviii. 18 Come and let vs smite him with the tongue. [Also in earlier versions.] 1785 GROSE *Dict. Vulgar T.*, *To smite one's tutor*, to get money from him.

b. To strike with the foot († or spur). Also said of the foot. Now *rhet.* or *poet.*

13.. *Guy Warw.* (A.) 4059 Mani he smot of fot & fest. 13.. *Sir Beues* (A.) 3398 Sire Morice of Mounclere His stede smot [*v.r.* prekyd] aȝenes Sabere. 1821 JOANNA BAILLIE *Metr. Leg., Wallace* xxxvii, And proudly smote the ground with firmer tread. 1829 CARLYLE *Misc.* (1857) II. 110 Happy that the virago's foot did not even smite him. 1842 TENNYSON *Morte d'Arth.* 190 Juts of slippery crag that rang Sharp-smitten with the dint of armed heels.

c. To strike or touch (a harp, etc.) so as to produce musical sounds. Now *poet.*

c 1384 CHAUCER *H. Fame* II. 777 Eke whan men harpe strynges smyte,..Loo with the stroke the ayre to-breketh. 1486 *Bk. St. Albans* d j b, Then smyte youre tabur, and cry huff, huff, huff and make the fowle to sprynge. 1784 COWPER *Task* V. 682 Ah, tinkling cymbal,..Smitten in vain! such music cannot charm [etc.]. 1842 TENNYSON *Locksley Hall* 34 Love took up the harp of Life, and..Smote the chord of Self. 1847 — *Princ.* IV. 38 A maid, Of those beside her, smote her harp, and sang.

† d. *Naut.* (See quot.) *Obs.*—[o]

a 1625 *Nomenclator Navalis* (Harl. MS. 2301) s.v. *Smitting*, This Line is called a Smitting Line. Soe they smite the missen, that is pull the Roape that the Saile maie come downe. [Hence in Harris and later Dicts.]

4. Of the Deity, in or after Biblical use: To visit with death, destruction, or overthrow; to afflict or punish in some signal manner. (Cf. 8 b.)

c 1150 *Canterbury Ps.* iii. 8 Forðæn þu ofsloge *vel* smite ealle wiðerȝiende me. *a* 1300 *E. E. Psalter* civ. 34 He smate al firstkinned in land of þa. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 189 The hond of hevene him smot In tokne of that he was for-swore. *c* 1440 *Jacob's Well* 126 Þe more þat god smyteth hem wyth his wreche. 1535 COVERDALE 1 *Sam.* xxv. 38 The Lorde smote him, so yt he dyed. 1611 BIBLE *Ps.* lxix. 26 Let none dwell in their tents. For they persecute him whom thou hast smitten. *a* 1737 ABP. WAKE (J.), Let us not mistake God's goodness, nor imagine, because he smites us, that we are forsaken by him. 1784 COWPER *Task* VI. 464 The Governor of all..has interpos'd, Not seldom, his avenging arm, to smite Th' injurious trampler upon nature's law. 1843 WHITTIER *C. Southwick* 142 The Lord shall smite the proud, and lay His hand upon the strong.

5. To strike with a weapon, etc., so as to inflict serious injury or death; also, to strike hard with a cutting tool. Now *rhet.* or *poet.*

Freq. const. *through, upon*, etc. (a certain part). *To smite ..hip and thigh*: see HIP *sb.*[1] 2 d.

c 1205 LAY. 6503 Þe king droh his sweord,..and þet deor he smat a-nan uppe þat hæued-bæn. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 4473 Lucye þe senatour was mid a spere þoru ysmite. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 6671 Qua smites man in wil to sla, He sal him-self be slan alsua. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* VI. 136 He smat the first sa rygorusly Vith his spere,..Till he doun to the erd hym bare. *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (Roxb.) xi. 43 In þat place sawe Dauid þe aungell smytand þe folk with a swerde. *c* 1450 *Contin. Brut* 423 There this persone smote this ffrere Randulf, and sloue hym. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* VI. iii. 46 Smyte with the ax did rair the aikis hie. 1596 SPENSER *F. Q.* IV. ix. 29 Ne yeelded foote,..But being doubly smitten likewise doubly smit. 1641 G. SANDYS *Paraphr. Song of Solom.* V. ii, The Watch..In this pursuit the Afflicted found: Smot, wounded [etc.]. 1676 HOBBES *Iliad* IV. 427 He smote was with a Spear into the Brain. 1842 TENNYSON *Morte D'Arth.* 25, I am so deeply smitten thro' the helm That without help I cannot last till morn. 1844 MRS. BROWNING *Drama Exile* 64 This the sword..That smote upon the forehead, Lucifer The angel.

refl. *c* 1385 CHAUCER *L. G. W.* 915 *Thisbe*, To the herte sche hire self smot. 1514 in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* Ser. I. I. 103 The said Ranalde, with a small knyff that he had secrett, smott hym self.

fig. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Clerk's T.* 66 Deeth menaceth euery age and smyt. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* III. ii. 35 That blinded God, which hath ye blindly smit, Another arrow hath. 1813 T. BUSBY *Lucret.* I. III. 1250 Great Homer lives no more, Smote, like the rest, by Time's relentless power. 1847 TENNYSON *Princ.* III. 176 From my breast the involuntary sigh Brake, as she smote me with the light of eyes.

b. With compl. *to death* (cf. DEATH *sb.* 12) or *dead.* Also in fig. context.

c 1200 ORMIN 14677 Abraham..hoff þe swerd..To smitenn itt [*sc.* Isaac] to dæde. *c* 1330 *Arth. & Merl.* 8047 (Kölbing), Mani paien to deþ [were] ysmite Wiþ swerdes of stiel. 1377 LANGL. *P. Pl. B.* III. 322 What smyth þat ony [weapon] smytheth be smyte þerwith to dethe. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* V. ix. 91 In the skyis [he] smate hir deid. 1819 SHELLEY *Lines Castlereagh Admin.* ii, The abortion with which she travaileth Is Liberty, smitten to death. 1871 R. ELLIS *Catullus* lxviii. 113 When those monster birds..his arrow Smote to the death.

c. In or after Biblical use: To strike, or strike down, in battle; to kill, slay.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 3971 þat quils esau smat an o þe tua þe toþer party suld scape him fra. 1382 WYCLIF *Josh.* vii. 5 The whiche..ben smyten of the men of the cytee of Hay. 1560 BIBLE (Geneva) *Josh.* x. 19 Followe after your enemies, and smite all the hindemost. 1597 BEARD *Theatre God's Judgem.* (1612) 309 He caused..the Citie of the Priests to be smote with the edge of the sword. 1631 GOUGE *God's Arrows* III. § 84. 340 By Saul they were once, and again smitten: and finally by David they were utterly vanquished. 1754 YOUNG *Centaur* II. Wks. 1757 IV. 136 Not Babylon alone has been smitten at a banquet, and perished in its joys.

†6. Of birds or animals: To strike with beak, claw, horn, hoof, etc. *Obs.*

c 1205 LAY. 20172 Hauekes hine [the crane] smiteð. *c* 1250 *Owl & Night.* 78 Al þat þu myht myd clyure smyten. *c* 1374 CHAUCER *Boeth.* III. met. vii. (1868) 80 Þe bee..stynge þ þe hertes of hem þat ben ysmyte. 1382 WYCLIF *Exod.* xxi. 28 If an oxe with the horn smyte a man. 14.. *Lat. & Eng. Prov.* (MS. Douce 52) fol. 16 While þe hors kykys war that he the ne smyte.

7. a. Of hail, lightning, flame, etc.: To strike and injure; to destroy, blast.

1382 WYCLIF *Exod.* ix. 25 The hawle smoot..alle that weren in feeldes,..and al erbe of the feelde smoote the hawle. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) III. 63 Romulus was i-smyte wiþ liȝtnynge. *c* 1400 *Rom. Rose* 3755 Whan the flawme of the verry brond..Had Bialacoil with hete smete. 1480 *Robt. Devyll* 343 in Hazl. *E. P. P.* I. 233 A man had ben as good as haue be smytten with thonder, As to haue a stroke of hys hand. 1535 COVERDALE *Exod.* ix. 31 Thus the flax and the barlye were smytten. *c* 1630 MILTON *Arcades* 52, I..heal..what the cross dire-looking Planet smites. 1760 STERNE *Serm.* III. 136 The hopeful youth..; some cruel distemper lays him prostrate upon the earth, smit and shrivelled up with a malignant blast. 1813 T. BUSBY *Lucret.* II. VI. 676 Eruptive winds, what cities have they smote! 1820 SHELLEY *Vis. Sea* 67 Six the thunder has smitten, And they lie black as inummies.

b. To beat or dash against (something).

c 1440 *Jacob's Well* 248 Þe more grauel & sonde is smet & betyn wyth flodys of þe se, þe more salt & bytter it is. 1624 QUARLES *Job Militant* III. 43 Which [wind] with a full-mouth Blast Hath smote the House. 1805 WORDSW. *Prelude* I. 440 With the din Smitten, the precipices rang aloud. 1839 LONGF. *Hyperion* ii. 6 The storm-wind smites the wall of the mountain cliff.

c. Of sunlight, etc.: To beat or shine strongly upon. Also in fig. context.

1588 SHAKS. *L. L. L.* IV. iii. 28 As thy eye beames, when their fresh rayse haue smot The night of dew [etc.]. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* IV. 244 Where the morning Sun first warmly smote The open field. 1788 ANNA SEWARD *Lett.* (1811) II. 107 On an open plain smote by the summer's sun. 1832 TENNYSON *Œnone* 54 Far up the solitary morning smote The streaks of virgin snow. 1884 W. C. SMITH *Kildrostan* 43 A broad beam of the garish light Smote with a glory her golden hair.

8. Of diseases, distempers, etc.: To attack, affect suddenly or grievously. Freq. in pa. pple., and const. *by* or *with* (a malady, etc.).

c 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 3690 Ðor wurð ȝhe ðanne wið lepre smiten. 1303 R. BRUNNE *Handl. Synne* 11920 A lymme þat ys..smete yn pallesye. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) V. 123 Constantyn was i-smyte wiþ a strong meselrie. *c* 1425 *Cursor M.* 11817 (Trin.), Þe palesy smoot his oon side. 1663 S. PATRICK *Parab. Pilgr.* xxxi. (1687) 379 You may as well desire..to have a Dead Palsie smite your loyns. 1868 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* (1877) II. 446 Abbot Mannig..had been smitten by paralysis.

transf. 1796 H. HUNTER tr. *St.-Pierre's Stud. Nat.* (1799) II. 179 A province considered even at Petersburg as smitten with sterility. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. I. i, A France smitten..with plague after plague.

b. Of personal agents, or of the Deity (cf. 4).

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 20957 A jugelur wit blindnes he smat. *c* 1440 *Jacob's Well* 126 þey se noȝt how god smyt hem in here body, wyth sykenes & tribulacyoun. 1535 COVERDALE *Zech.* xiv. 12 This shalbe the plage, wherwith yᵉ Lorde wil smyte all people. 1642 D. ROGERS *Naaman* 30 He forgat himselfe, till the Lord smot him with the plague.

9. To infect, imbue, impress, strike suddenly or strongly *with* some feeling or sentiment. Chiefly in pa. pple.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 15643 Wit strang dred he smiton was. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* II. 136 Withoute good discrecioun This king with avarice is smite. 1423 JAS. I *Kingis Q.* lviii, Artow seke, or smyt with Ielousye? 1535 COVERDALE *Job* xxi. 6, I am afrayed, and my flesh is smytten with feare. 1622 FLETCHER *Prophetess* III. i, 'Twas I that..smote ye all with terrour. 1671 MILTON *P. R.* IV. 562 But Satan smitten with amazement fell. 1718 POPE *Iliad* I. 354 Smit with love of honourable deeds. 1829 HOOD *E. Aram* 50 The Usher took six hasty strides, As smit with sudden pain. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* I. I. 7 Tyrants, who, when at the height of greatness, were smitten with remorse.

10. Of the heart, conscience, etc.: To discompose or disquiet (one); to affect painfully.

1382 WYCLIF 2 *Sam.* xxiv. 10 The herte of Dauid smoot hym, aftir that the puple is noumbred. 1611 BIBLE 1 *Sam.* xxiv. 5 Dauids heart smote him, because he had cut off Sauls skirt. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 5 May 1659, My heart smote me for it. 1805–6 CARY *Dante's Inf.* XIX. 121 Meanwhile, as thus I sung, he, whether wrath Or conscience smote him, violent upsprang. 1886 'H. CONWAY' *Living or Dead* II. v, I said good-bye with a coldness for which my heart smote me.

b. To distress or perturb (a person, the mind, conscience, etc.).

c 1470 HENRY *Wallace* XI. 1366 Thi febyll wordis sall nocht my conscience smyt. 1535 COVERDALE 1 *Sam.* xxiv. 5 *It* smote him afterwarde in his hert, because he had cut of the typpe of Sauls garment. 1606 SHAKS. *Ant. & Cl.* V. ii. 104 A greefe that smites [*fr.* suites] My very heart at roote. 1817 SHELLEY *Rev. Islam* VII. xxii, Her flight..smote my lonesome heart more than all misery.

11. To strike or impress (the mind, etc.) favourably or attractively. Chiefly in pa. pple. and const. *with.*

1663 S. PATRICK *Parab. Pilgr.* (1687) 158 They note the pretty stories,..and here and there a small sentence which smites their fancy. 1728 POPE *Dunc.* III. 229 See now, what Dulness and her sons admire! See what the charms, that smite the simple heart. 1784 COWPER *Task* V. 560 Smit with the beauty of so fair a scene. 1847 H. MILLER *Test. Rocks* (1857) 3 Smit by the singular ingenuity of the philosophic infidel. 1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) V. 191 Plato is smitten with some features of government which he finds in Egypt.

b. To inspire or inflame with love; to enamour. Chiefly in pa. pple. and const. *with* or *by.*

1663 PEPYS *Diary* 1 Jan., Lord Chesterfield..is..put away from Court upon the score of his lady's having smitten the Duke of Yorke. 1677 MIÉGE *Fr. Dict.* II. s.v., To smite a man, or cause him to fall in love with her. 1687 — *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II. s.v., To be smitten with a Woman, to be passion-

ately in love with her. 1711 STEELE *Spect.* No. 80 ¶ 3 Phillis one Day..smote the Heart of a gay West-Indian. 1755 *Mem. Capt. P. Drake* II. xiv. 243 He soon gave me to understand he was smitten with the Landlady. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* xvii, Young Lieutenant Spatterdash..was evidently and quickly smitten by Mrs. Crawley. 1871 B. TAYLOR *Faust* I. iii. (1875) II. 32 Hath one of you a girl with whom he's smitten?

12. Of thoughts: To strike or occur suddenly to (a person).

1870 W. M. BAKER *New Timothy* 104 (Cent.), A sudden thought smote her.

III. 13. To strike or cut *off* (the head, a limb, etc.) with a slashing blow. (Common in ME.)

c 1205 LAY. 9204 He lette smiten him of þæt hæfde. *c* 1275 *Passion our Lord* 198 in *O. E. Misc.* 43 Seynte peter.. smot of Malkes ere. *c* 1385 CHAUCER *L. G. W.* 1817 *Lucrece*, Men myghte smyte of hire arm or hed. *c* 1450 *Merlin* xiv. 222 He and Frelent were besy to smyte of his heed. 1568 GRAFTON *Chron.* II. 674 He..commaunded his heade there to be smitten off. *a* 1618 RALEIGH *Mahomet* (1637) 203 With his own hands cut his throat and smoat off his head.

b. To strike or knock, to drive or force with a blow or stroke, *away, back, from, off, out, over*, etc. (Common in ME.) Also *transf.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 6705 Qua smites vte his thains eie. 1382 WYCLIF *Matt.* x. 14 Smytith awey the dust fro 3oure feet. *c* 1384 CHAUCER *H. Fame* I. 438 How he lost hys steris-man, Which that the stere..Smote ouer borde. 14.. *26 Pol. Poems* xxvi, 73 Now hathe age y-smete me fro My pryncipall feder of Iolyte. 1470–85 MALORY *Arth.* III. vi. 106 Syre gauayne smote hym of his hors. 1535 COVERDALE *Susanna* i. 25 Then ranne there one to the orcharde dore, & smote it open. 1559 MACHYN *Diary* (Camden) 207 Hytt brust in pesses, and on pesse..smott on of ys leg[s] a-way. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* II. 393 Repressing or smiting backe the swelling incident to wounds. 1684 [see A. 2 a. e].

14. To knock, beat, or strike *down* († *adown*), *to the earth* or *ground*. (Common in ME.)

c 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 316 Hov is þat hit..smit a-doun wel grete treon? *a* 1300 *K. Horn* 639 Hi gonne me assaille, ..I smot hem alle to grunde. *a* 1400 *Lybeaus Disc.* 1185 Thre stedes heoddes doun ryght, He smot at strokes thre. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* XI. 172 To ground he smat him quhar he stud. 1530 PALSGR. 723/1 This wynde hath smytten downe almost all my corne. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* III. i. 28 With that her mortall speare She mightily auentred towards one, And downe him smot. 1611 BIBLE *Judges* xx. 39 Surely they are smitten downe before vs. 1858 SEARS *Athan.* II. xii. 250 He..smote him blind to the earth beneath the blaze.

fig. c 1330 in *Pol. Songs* (Camden) 339 That is muchel reuthe to wite, That alle manere godnesse is thus adoun i-smite. 1535 COVERDALE *Ps.* cxliii[i]. 3 For the enemie ..smyteth my life downe to the grounde. 1871 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* (1876) IV. 249 The last hopes of the House of Godwine had been smitten to the ground.

†**b.** With *down*. To droop or lower (one's head or countenance). *Obs.*

c 1305 in Wright *Pol. Songs* (Camden) 193 When the Kyng of Fraunce y-herde this tydynge, He smot doun is heved. *c* 1374 CHAUCER *Troylus* II. 540 With that he smot his heed adoun anone, And gan to motre. 1582 STANYHURST *Æneis* III. (Arb.) 80 Downe she smote her visadge.

15. a. To hew, cut, chop, or break in pieces, fragments, etc. Const. with preps., as *a, in, on, to*. Also in fig. context. (Common in ME.)

a 1320 *Sir Tristrem* 495 þe chine he smot atvo. *c* 1375 *Cursor M.* 21593 (Fairf.), In foure pecis þai hit smate. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 109 A firy thonder sodeinly He sende, and him to pouldre smot. *c* 1440 *Gesta Rom.* xxxii. 126 Smite the gurdill [of lechery] in thre, *scil.* in prayer, fastyng, and almesdede. 1530 PALSGR. 723/1 He hath smytten his harnayes al to peces. 1611 BIBLE *Ecclus.* xxxvi. 10 Smite in sunder the heads of the rulers.

b. To bring *into* a certain condition by, or as by, striking. Also with adj. compl. *rare.*

1338 R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (1810) 46 Þei were a partie smyten in to elde. 1644 MILTON *Areop.* (Arb.) 67 If we look not wisely on the Sun it self, it smites us into darknes. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* III. iii. vii, Rabidity smites others rabid.

†**16. a.** To strike (fire) from a stone or other hard substance. Cf. SLAY *v.*[1] 2. *Obs.*

c 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 237 He brouȝte a fuyr-Ire ant a ston, þare-with to smite me fuyr. *c* 1440 *Gesta Rom.* lxvi. 298 Whan þe nyȝt com, þe maide ..smot fire at a stone. 1616 B. JONSON *Barriers* Wks. 966 When in a day of honour fire was smit. 1671 J. WEBSTER *Metallogr.* vii. 115 He nameth four of other colours, forth of which fire is smitten.

†**b.** To let out (blood) by lancing. *Obs.*[—1]

1523 FITZHERB. *Husb.* § 58 Take a bloud-yren, and set it streight vppon the vayne, and smyte him bloudde on bothe sydes.

17. To strike, deal, or give (a blow, stroke, etc.).

1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 4441 Vewe duntes hii smite. *c* 1320 *Cast. Love* 1148 Grete boffetes among me him smot. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* II. 72 Thei smyten strokes bot a fewe. *c* 1450 *Merlin* xxiii. 424 Merlin..drough that wey..smytinge grete strokes from oke to oke. 1490 CAXTON *Eneydos* lvi. 152 She smotte grete strokes with her swerde. 1851 HAWTHORNE *Snow Image*, etc. (1879) 84 A terrible blow shall be smitten.

†**b.** To engage in or fight (a battle). *Obs.*

1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 269 Hii smite þer an bataile hard an strong inou. 1338 R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (1810) 14 Under Elendoune þe bataile was smyten. *a* 1470 HARDING *Chron.* CXVII. i. 6 Syxe batayles agayne King Knout he smote. 1600 HOLLAND *Livy* XL. i. 1091 [He] smit a brave and fortunate battaile with the Vaccei. 1631 WEEVER *Anc. Funeral Mon.* 317 This battell was smitten in the yeare of Grace 457.

†**c.** To make or produce (a wound, etc.) by smiting. *Obs.*

a 1400 *Stockh. Medical MS.* i. 298 in *Anglia* XVIII. 302 3if a gret wounde..be..with a wepyn wyckydly smetyn. 1470–85 MALORY *Arth.* II. xviii. 97 They hadde eyther smyten other seuen grete woundes. 1535 COVERDALE 1 *Sam.* xix. 8 Dauid wente forth..and smote a greate slaughter, so that they fled before him. 1581 MUNDAY *Brief Discourse* in Arb. *Garner* VIII. 215 *note*, Drawing his dagger, he smit a great hole in it.

18. To drive, hammer, knock, strike (a thing) with some degree of force *against, into, on*, etc., something else.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 6261 In þe see his wand he smat. *c* 1330 R. RRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 4422 Nemny bar þe scheld o sker, & Iulius smot his swerd ouer fer. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 3678 Smeten was smaragdans in-to þe smeth werkis. 1502 ARNOLDE *Chron.* 165 Make pinnys of wylowe and smyte them faste in. 1593 SHAKS. *Lucr.* 176 His falchion on a flint he softly smiteth. 1611 BIBLE *Judges* iv. 21 Then Iael..went softly vnto him, and smote the naile into his temples. 1670 PETTUS *Fodinæ Reg.* 41 Then the Smiter of Irons..smites them upon the Monie. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. iv. ii, Large clubs; which they smite angrily against the pavement! *Ibid.* II. I. xii, Each smiting heartily his palm into his fellow's.

b. To strike, dash, or clap *together* († *samen*) or *against* each other.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 11998 Iesus samen [*Trin.* togider] his handes smat. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XIX. cxliii. (1495) 946 Cymbales..ben smytte togider and sowneth and ryngeth. 1535 COVERDALE *Ecclus.* xiii. 2 Yf ye one be smytten agaynst the other, it shal be broken. 1611 BIBLE *Numb.* xxiv. 10 Hee smote his hands together. 1671 J. WEBSTER *Metallogr.* vi. 102 Which rubbed hard or smitten together forcibly, .. give sparks of fire. 1842 TENNYSON *Morte d'Arth.* 86 But when he saw the wonder of the hilt, ..he smote His palms together.

†**c.** *refl.* (Cf. sense 24.) *Obs.*

c 1205 LAY. 25605 Þes drake and beore..smiten heom to-gaderen mid feondliche ræsen. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 8323 Hii bisegede vaste the toun, so þat the ꝑpridde day þe cristine ost smot him out. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 120 So that ayein a Roche of Ston..He smot himself til he was ded. 1490 CAXTON *Eneydos* lx. 158 [They] ranne soone to fetche theyr armures. And thenne Turnus smote hym selfe in to the troians.

†**d.** In pa. pple. Stuck (*full*) *of*, studded or set thickly (with). *Obs.*

a 1400–50 *Alexander* 5424 With corouns on hede, As it smytten ware all..of smaragdens fine. *c* 1460 *Contin. Brut* 518 His brigantines smytten ful of gylted nayles.

†**19. a.** To make or contract (an agreement, etc.).

c 1325 *Lei le Freine* 322 Treuthe [was] plight. Allas! that he no hadde y-wite, Er the forward were y-smite. 1382 WYCLIF *Gen.* xxi. 27 Bothe thei smyten a boond of pees. 1596 H. CLAPHAM *Brief Bible* I. 31 Iehovah appeareth and smiteth a Covenant with him.

†**b.** To strike or coin (money). *Obs.*

1338 R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (1810) 238 Edward did smyte rounde peny, halfpeny, ferthyng. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* II. 138 Er gold was smite In Coign. 1423 *Rolls of Parlt.* IV. 258/1 That the Maister of the Mynte do smyte.. half nobles. 1535 COVERDALE 1 *Macc.* xv. 6, I geue the leaue to smyte money of thine owne.

†**c.** To hew or cut (a step). *Obs. rare.*

a 1400–50 *Alexander* 3342 Of a Smeth smaragadane Smyten was þe toþir [step].

†**d.** To cut off (a helping of meat). *Obs. rare.*

a 1483 *Liber Niger* in *Househ. Ord.* (1790) 59 That the messes..be smyttyn in a suffycyaunt and according manner.

†**20. a.** To strike (an hour); to announce or notify by sounding a bell. *Obs.* (Cf. 21 c.)

c 1369 CHAUCER *Dethe Blaunche* 1323 In the castell ther was a belle, As hyt hadde smyte oures twelve Therewyth I a-wooke my selve. 1389 in *Eng. Gilds* (1870) 60 Ho so komys aftyr prime be smytyn, he xal pay..j. *d.* *c* 1450 in Aungier *Syon* (1840) 373 Whylst..the president smytethe allign [*sc.* all in], the couente schal stonde in the freytour.

†**b.** To discharge (a cannon). *Obs. rare.*

c 1450–75 in Halliw. *E. Eng. Misc.* (Warton Cl.) 52 That gonne was welle smet, Thoȝ it had be with a stonne.

IV. *absol.* or *intr.* **21.** To deal or give a blow or blows; to strike, deliver strokes. Also with advs., as *on, out*. †Of a horse: To kick or fling.

c 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 61 Bute we turnen to gode..he wile smite mid bredlinge swuerde. *c* 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 316 No wonder þei it smite harde. 13.. *Sir Beues* (A.) 404 A lokeþ, as a wolde smite Wiþ is bat. 1382 WYCLIF 1 *Esdras* iv. 8 If he seie to smyten, thei smite. 14.. *Guy Warw.* 10248 Mases of yron .. for to smyte wele. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* III. 363 'Smyt on,' he said, 'I defy thine actioune'. 1530 PALSGR. 723/1 You smyte to harde. 1535 COVERDALE *Luke* xxii. 49 Lorde, shal we smyte with the swerde? 1600 SURFLET *Countrie Farme* 178 If he see that he beginne not to smite and snort,..he shall leade him by the reines out of the stable. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* VI. 250 Satan..Saw where the Sword of Michael smote. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. VI. iii, Louis..clutched the tongs, and even smote with them. 1890 DOYLE *White Company* vii, There was one, indeed,..who smote out like a true man.

fig. c 1400 *Beryn* 1456 Yeur wyff woll sikirliche..smyte with hir tunge. 1624 QUARLES *Sion's Elegies* II. xix, That God that smit, oh, mooue that God to heale.

b. To strike *with* a hammer in doing smith-work; now *spec.* to strike with the sledge.

1388 WYCLIF *Isaiah* xli. 7 A smyth of metal smytynge with an hamer. 1560 BIBLE (Geneva) *Ibid.*, So the workeman comforted the founder, & he that smote with the hammer, him that smote by course. 1881 T. HARDY *Laodicean* I. iv, The husband used to smite for Jimmy More the blacksmith. 1888 ELWORTHY *W. Somerset Wordbk.* 685 The smith *hammers*, the assistant *smites*.

†**c.** Of a clock: To strike, chime. *Obs.*

1448–9 in Willis & Clark *Cambridge* (1886) I. 383 He wold ..neuer go to werke till the clocke smyte. 1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* XIV. xii. 681 Thenne he herde a clok smyte on his ryght hand. *c* 1550 COVERDALE *Order of Church in Denmark* in tr. *Calvin's Treat. Sacrament* E iij b, Whan the clocke smyteth (which is comenly .vii. in Sommer, & .viii. in wynter).

22. To strike, deliver a blow or stroke, etc., *at, on*, or *upon* (also † *to*) something.

c 1205 LAY. 23963 Frolle..a-dun riht sloh, and smat an Arðures sceld. *c* 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 231 He gan i-mete þis luþere fisch, and smot to him faste. 13.. *Sir Beues* (A.) 1043 So harde þe smitest vpon me kroun. 1387–8 T. USK *Test. Love* III. vii. (Skeat) I. 99 So ofte must men on the oke smyte, til the happy dent have entred. 1412–20 LYDG. *Chron. Troy* III. 1204 [Menelaus] smette at him with his scharpe swerde Vp-on þe hede. *c* 1450 *Merlin* xxxi. 624 Ye shull smyte vpon hem of that other partye. 1535 COVERDALE *Jer.* xxxi. 19, I shall smyte vpon my thee. 1611 BIBLE *Exod.* vii. 17, I will smite with the rod..vpon the waters which are in the riuer.

transf. 1842 TENNYSON *Locksley Hall* 33 Love took up the harp of Life, and smote on all the chords with might.

b. Of things, in lit. or fig. uses.

1412–20 LYDG. *Chron. Troy* II. 5075 On hillis hiȝe gan his bemys smyte. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* I. 298 The torrid Clime Smote on him sore besides. 1837 WHITTIER *Fountain* 88 Iron clang and hammer's ringing Smote upon his ear. 1852 MRS. STOWE *Uncle Tom's C.* iii. 15 The words smote heavily on Eliza's heart.

†**23.** To come *together* (or *samen*) in conflict.

c 1205 LAY. 5183 Heo smiten to-gædere; helmes þere gullen. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 2109 Đe ranc he hauen ðo ouercumen, To-samen it smiten. 1382 WYCLIF 1 *Esdras* ii. 22 Kingis and cites smitende togidere. 14.. *Guy Warw.* 1893 Now þey smyten faste samen: I wot, ther was lytull gamen. 1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* IV. xviii. 142 [They] smote to gyders with her swerdes that her sheldes flewe in cantels. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* I. v. 8 As when a Gryfon..A Dragon fiers encountreth..: With hideous horrour both together smight.

b. To come *together* with some degree of force; to strike or dash *on* or *against* something.

c 1275 LAY. 1788 þe sipes smiten o þan strond. *c* 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 69 And euere þat watur bi-hinden him smot to-gadere þere. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* V. XXVII. (Bodl. MS.), By hardenes of boones þat smyteþ and meueþ togedres. 1535 COVERDALE *Dan.* v. 6 His knees smote one agaynst the other. 1611 BIBLE *Nahum* ii. 10 The heart melteth, and the knees smite together. 1817 SHELLEY *Rev. Islam* IV. i, The old man took the oars, and soon the bark Smote on the beach.

†**24.** To shoot or move rapidly; to dart, rush.

c 1220 *Bestiary* 507 in *O. E. Misc.*, Vt of his ðrote it smit an onde. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 94 Ase swifte..ase is þe sunne gleam, þet smit from east into þe west. 13.. *K. Alis.* 494 (Laud MS.), Þe lyoun smoot in to þe Est. 1481 CAXTON *Godfrey* CXXX. 194 Thyse thre smote in emong the .xxx. turkes.

25. To strike, to pass or penetrate, *in, into*, or *through* something.

c 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 316 ȝwane þe wynd and þat fuyr smiteth þoruȝ þe watur-cloude. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Knt.'s T.* 362 The deeth he feeleth thurgh his herte smyte. 1393 LANGL. *P. Pl.* C. XX. 323 þe smoke and þe smorþre þat smyt in oure eyen. *c* 1400 *Ywaine & Gaw.* 377 In my face the levening smate. *a* 1425 *Cursor M.* 11824 (Trin.), Þe fester smoot þourȝe his body. 1535 COVERDALE 1 *Sam.* xix. 10 The iauelynge smote in the wall. *a* 1652 J. SMITH *Sel. Disc.* vi. 187 From whence the objects of dread and admiration..smite and insinuate themselves into their senses. 1869 TENNYSON *Coming Arthur* 57 But Arthur..Felt the light of her eyes into his life Smite on the sudden.

†**b.** To give pain *to* one's heart. *Obs.*

a 1300 *K. Horn* 1481 Hit smot to hornes herte So bitere þat hit smerte. *c* 1450 *Coventry Myst.* 81 ȝour swemynge smytyht to myn hert depe.

†**c.** To occur suddenly to one. *Obs.*

c 1440 *Alph. Tales* 20 It smate in his mynd þat it was bod ane illusion of þe devull.

†**26.** To change, pass, fall, *into* something. *Obs.*

c 1305 *St. Dunstan* 74 in *E. E. P.* (1862) 36 Treoflinge heo smot her and þer in anoþer tale sone. 13.. *Gaw. & Gr. Knt.* 1763 With smoþe smylyng & smolt þay smeten in-to merþe. 14.. *Guy Warw.* (C.) 1196 To þe erthe he felle downe And smete in a grete swowne.

Smiter (sməi·təɹ). Also 3 **smitar**, 4 **smitter**, 4–7 **smyter**, 5 **-ere**. [f. SMITE *v.* + -ER[1]. So Fris. *smiter*, Du. *smijter*, G. *schmeisser*, etc.]

1. One who smites, strikes, or buffets; a beater, striker.

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 156 Heo wule..aȝein þe smitare beoden uorð hire cheoken. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 6685 þe smiter sal quite his lechyng, And þe scath of his liging. ?1382 WYCLIF *Isaiah* l. 6 My bodi I ȝaf to the smyteres, and my chekes to the pulleris. 1495 *Trevisa's Barth. De P. R.* XVIII. lxv. 280 Whan a lyon is wounded he..resyth on the smyter. 1535 COVERDALE *Isaiah* xxvii. 7 Smyteth he not his smyter, as euel as he is smytten himself? — *Lam.* iii. 30 He offreth his cheke to the smyter. 1608 A. WILLET *Hexapla Exod.* 477 The smiter was to bee apprehended. 1664 J. TOMBES (*title*), Saints no Smiters; or, Smiters Civil Powers not the Work of Saints. 1813 BYRON *Corsair* III. viii, Therefore came I..To smite the smiter with the scimitar. 1870 JEBB *Sophocles' Electra* (ed. 2) p. vi, Pelops, smiter of horses.

fig. 1869 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* (1876) II. 118 Lanfranc shone forth as the irresistible smiter of heresy.

†**b.** [After L. *percussor*.] An executioner. *Obs.*

a 1380 *Virg. Antioch* 253 in Horstm. *Altengl. Leg.* (1878) 30 A smiter ȝif þer beo to day, Me to sle, nou icomen in [etc.]. *c* 1430 *Life St. Kath.* (1884) 61 The batayl of my stryf fulfylled, I abyde the ꝑwerd of the smyter. *c* 1440 CAPGR. *St. Kath.* v. 1885 The mayde leyde foorth hir nekke fayr & white, And thus she seyde on-to the smytere thoo.

c. One who applies a thing by striking. *rare*[—1].

1670 PETTUS *Fodinæ Reg.* 41 Then the Smiter of Irons, after they be graved, smites them upon the Monie.

d. *dial.* (See quot.)

1823 E. Moor *Suffolk Words, Smiter*, one who does any thing with energy; or in a strikiug manner.

2. †a. A weapon with which one smites; a sword, a scimitar. *Obs.*

Partly, if not entirely, suggested by *simiter* 'scimitar'.

1591 Lyly *Endym.* I. iii, It is my Simiter; which I by construction often studying to bee compendious, call my Smyter. 1593 Nashe *Four Lett. Conf.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 202 Put vp thy smiter, O gentle Peter. 1633 B. Jonson *Tale Tub* IV. iii, Put thy smiter up, and hear; I dare not tell the truth to a drawn sword. 1648 *Leg. Capt. Jones* 2 His fatall Smiter thrice aloft he shakes.

b. *Cant.* An arm. *rare* —°.

a 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew.* [Hence in Bailey, Grose, etc.]

3. A variety of fancy pigeon (see quot. 1778).

1668 Charleton *Onomast.* 76 *Gyratices*,..Clappers, & Smiters. 1676 Willughby *Ornith.* II. xv. 132 *Percussores, Anglicè* Smiters. 1678 Ray tr. *Willughby* 182 Smiters.. do not only shake their Wings as they fly: But also..clap them so strongly, that [etc.]...Our Country-men distinguish between *Tumblers* and *Smiters*. 1778 G. White *Selborne* lxxxiv, Pigeons, and particularly the sort called smiters, have a way of clashing their wings, the one against the other, over their backs, with a loud snap. *c* 1800 D. Girton *Pigeon Fancyer* 107 The smiter..nearly resembles the tumbler, the size excepted, it being a much larger bird. 1854 Meall *Moubray's Poultry* 277 *Smiter.*—This sub-variety, if it ever existed as distinct, has now entirely disappeared.

attrib. 1783 Latham *Gen. Synop. Birds* II. ii. 614 Smiter Pigeon, *Le Pigeon batteur.*

Smith (smiþ), *sb.* Forms: 1–3 **smiđ**, 4 **smiþ**, 3– **smith**, 5 (7) **smithe**; 2 **smyđ**, 3–4 **smyþ**, 4–7 **smyth** (5 **smyȝt**), 5–6 **smythe**; 4–5 **smeth**, 6 *Sc.* **smeith**. [Common Teut.: OE. *smiđ*, = OFris. *smeth*, *smid* (WFris. and EFris. *smid*, NFris. *smet*, *smer*, *smas*), MDu. *smit* (*smet*), *smid* (Du. *smid*), MLG. (and LG.) *smid*, *smed*, OHG. *smid*, *smit* (MHG. *smit*, *smid-*, G. *schmied*, †*schmid*), ON. *smiđr* (Icel. *smiđur*, Norw. *smid*; MSw. *smiþer*, *smidher*, etc., Sw. and Da. *smed*); Goth. *smiþa* (in *aizasmiþa* coppersmith) differs in declension. The relations of the stem are doubtful. The original sense was app. craftsman, skilled worker, in metal, wood, or other material, and this general use still remains in Icelandic.]

1. One who works in iron or other metals; *esp.* a blacksmith or farrier; a forger, hammerman.

Also freq. as a second element in combs., as *black-*, *copper-*, *gold-*, *gun-*, *iron-*, *lock-*, *silver-*, *tin-*, *whitesmith.*

In the early examples referring to Joseph, the word does not mean 'carpenter', but is simply used to render L. *faber.*

Beowulf 1452 Swa hine fyrndaȝum worhte wæpna smiđ. *c* 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Matt. xiii. 55 Ah ne ðis is smiđes *vel* wyrihta sunu? *c* 1000 Ælfric *Gramm.* xxxvi. 216 Ȝyf ðu cweđst *hic cudo*,..ðonne byđ hit nama, smiđ. *a* 1200 *Vices & Virt.* 51 He was buhsum ane deadliche manne, Iosepe đe smiđe. *c* 1275 *Passion our Lord* 59 in *O. E. Misc.*, Hi seyden, he is a smyþes sune, ne beo we noht his frend. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 23238 Als it war dintes on a steþi þat smythes smittes in a smeþey. 1390 Gower *Conf.* II. 159 He was a Smith With Jupiter, which in his forge Diverse thinges made him forge. *c* 1450 *Merlin* xxiii. 427 The Emperour..sente to seche a smyth to bynde hym in chaynes and feteres. 1484 Caxton *Fables of Æsop* III. xii, The forge of a smythe. 1530 Palsgr. 187 A farrer or a smythe that shoeth horses. 1595 Shaks. *John* IV. ii. 193, I saw a Smith stand with his hammer (thus) The whilst his Iron did on the Anuile coole. 1657 Baxter *Call to Unconverted* (1666) 187 Like the Smiths dog, that is brought by custom to sleep under the noise of the hammers. 1704 T. Fuller *Med. Gymn.* (1711) 49 By incessantly following his Blow, the Smith can bring Heat into his Bar of Iron. 1784 Cowper *Task* V. 219 The first smith was the first murd'rer's son. 1851 D. Wilson *Preh. Ann.* (1863) II. III. ii. 83 The excellence of the ancient Celtic smiths.

fig. 1642 Fuller *Holy & Prof. St.* IV. i. 237 True, every man is, *fortunæ suæ faber*, the Smith to beat out his own fortunes. 1687 Dryden *Hind & Panther* III. 1268 The Doves repented, tho' too late Become the Smiths of their own Foolish Fate.

2. In special collocations, as **smith's coal, craft, dust, water, work** (see quots., sense 3, Smithy *sb.* 4, and Smith-work).

1578 Lyte *Dodoens* 175 It groweth..whereas there hath bene myning for Iron and *Smithes cole. 1881 Young *Every Man own Mechanic* 649 The fuel used is fine coal generally called 'Smith's coal' or 'slack'. 1387 Trevisa *Higden* (Rolls) II. 229 Tubalcain fonde first *smythes craft and grauynge. 1561 T. Norton *Calvin's Inst.* IV. 69 A man may say they haue practised smithes craft all their lyfe. 1614 Raleigh *Hist. of World* I. i. vi. § 4 Tubal and Tubalcain (inuentors of pastorage, smiths-craft, and musick). 1568–9 *Sarum Churchw. Accs.* (Swayne, 1896) 283 Sande and *smythes dust, 2d. 1712 J. James tr. *Le Blond's Gardening* 33 Smiths-Dust is either the Scales beaten off at the Anvil, or Iron Filings. 1544 Phaer *Regim. Lyfe* (1560) H iiij b, Julep of roses with a litle of *smiths water. 1565 Cooper *Thesaurus*, *Ferraria aqua*, smithes water in the cole trough wher in they quench yron. 1626 Bacon *Sylva* § 84 Smiths water or other Metalline water. 1714 *French Bk. Rates* 331 Iron-Axels, Hinges, Axes, and such like *Smiths Work. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* III. 381 Most of the smith's work is taken by weight.

† b. *Smith's balm* (see quot.). *Obs. rare.*

1597 Gerarde *Herbal* 561 Smithes Bawme, or carpenters Bawme, is most singular to heale vp green wounds..: Dioscorides and Pliny [call]..this kind of Bawme..Iron woort.

3. *attrib.*, as *smith-shop*, *-tool*; also **† smith-coal, smithy-coal; † smith-man**, an iron-smelter; **smith ore** (see quot.); **† smith-water, smithy water; † smith-wife**, a female smith.

1521 *Maldon Liber B.* fol. 58 (MS.), Due naves onerate cum *Smythcoll. 1645–52 Boate *Ireland's Nat. Hist.* (1860) 124 In the place where this Mine standeth, do lie little Smith-coals above the ground. 1408 in *Eng. Hist. Rev.* XIV. 519 In stipendio Johannis Gylle, *smythman alias blomer. 1883 Gresley *Gloss. Coal-m.* 228 *Smith Ore, ..a rich brown hæmatite iron ore. 1899 *Daily News* 17 Nov. 5/2 At last there came a deputation from the boiler-shop and *smith-shop. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* II. I. i, He sends for his *smith-tools. 1541 Copland *Guydon's Forn.* R iv, [To] be put with *smyth water..tyll it be thycke. 14.. *Nom.* in Wr.-Wülcker 692 *Hec fabrissa*, a *smyth wyfe.

Smith (smiþ), *v.* Forms: *α.* 1 **smiđian**, 3 **smiđien, smiþien**; 3 **smiđie**, 4 **smythye**, 5 **-ie**; 4–5 **smith-, smyth-**, 5 **smyþ-**, 7– **smith.** *β.* 1 **smeođian**, 3 **smeođien**, 4–6 **smeth-**, 5 **smeþ-**, **smethe**. [Common Teut.: OE. *smiđian, smeođian*, = OFris. **smithia* (WFris. *smeije*, EFris. *smithi*, NFris. *smêde, smêre*), MDu. and Du. *smeden*, MLG. *smeden* (LG. *smêden, smêen*), OHG. *smidôn* (MHG. *smiden*, G. *schmieden*, †*schmeden*), ON. and Icel. *smiđa* (Norw. and Sw. *smida*, Da. *smede*), Goth. *gasmipôn*, f. the stem of *smiþ-* Smith *sb.*

There is little evidence for the word from the 15th to the 19th cent., and the modern instances may be derived anew from the sb.]

I. *trans.* To make, construct, or fashion (a weapon, iron implement, etc.) by forging; to forge or smithy.

c 1000 Ælfric *Saints' Lives* III. 126 He..het him smiđian on smætum golde anre culfran anlicnysse. *a* 1100 in Napier *O. E. Glosses* 14/2 *Fabricata*, smeoþud. *c* 1205 Lay. 1563 Wȝ wrõe auer þene smiđ þa þe mid honden smeodõede [*c* 1275 smiþede]. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 52 Ofte a ful hawur smiđ smeodiđ a ful woc knif. *c* 1386 Chaucer *Miller's T.* 576 (Ellesm.), A smyth..That in his forge smythed plough harneys. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 5515 þan made he smythis to..smethe him a chaiere. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 346/1 To smethe, *fabricare*, *cudere*. 1647 Hexham I, To Smith, *smeden*. 1833 Keightley *Fairy Mythol.* I. 258 Sigurd took the very best sword That the Dwarfs had ever smithed.

fig. a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 284 Al þes world is Goddes smiđõe, uorte smeoõien his icorene.

b. To fashion articles out of (iron, etc.); to forge or hammer *into* an implement. *rare.*

c 1340 *Nominale* (Skeat) 136 *Homme forge fer et quiuere*, Man smethuth Irun and copur. 1377 Langl. *P. Pl. B.* III. 305 Alle þat bereth baslarde..Shal be demed to þe deth but if he do it smythye In-to sikul or to sithe.

c. To deal with by heating and hammering; to hammer or beat (a blade, etc.) on an anvil.

c 1400 *Vis. Tundale* (Wagner) 1077 Hem tought, þai were not smethed [*v.r.* smyþyd] inowe, But throwe a fire efte hem drowe. 1831 Holland *Manuf. Metal* I. 281 The whole [penknife blade] is then smithed, or smartly hammered after it has ceased to be soft. 1846 Holtzapffel *Turning* II. 683 The blade..is smithed or hammered, so as to make the saw quite flat. 1851–4 *Tomlinson's Cycl. Useful Arts* (1867) I. 483/1 After forging, the blade is smithed, or beaten on an anvil.

2. *intr.* To work at the forge; to practise smith-work. Also *fig.*

c 1205 Lay. 30743 Brien enne smiđ funde, þe wel cuđe smiđie. *a* 1300 *E. E. Ps.* cxxviii. 3 Ouer mi bak smithed sinful ai. *a* 1340 Hampole *Psalter* cxxviii. 3 Abouen my bak synful smythid. 1893 *Month* Feb. 198 Others sail-making, carpentering, smithing [etc.].

Hence **Smithed** *ppl. a.*

1542–3 *Act* 34 & 35 *Hen. VIII*, c. 6 Pinnes..shalbe double headed,..wel smethed, the shanke wel shauen.

Smitham (smi·ðăm). Forms: 7 **smithom**, 8–9 **smithum**, 9 **smithem**, 7–8 (9) **smytham**, 8–9 **smitham**. [var. of Smeddum, in sense 2 perh. associated with Smith *sb.* or *v.*]

1. The finest particles or dust of ground malt. Also *attrib.* Now *dial.*

1620 Markham *Farew. to Husb.* (1625) 61 Your Malt-dust which is the sprout, come, smytham, and other excrements of the malt. 1649 Blithe *Eng. Improver Impr.* (1652) 127 That so it may receive part of Smithom-Meale. 1883 *Almondbury Gloss.* 123 *Smithum*, the smallest of malt.

2. *Mining.* The finest part of lead ore, usu. obtained by passing through a sieve, and afterwards ground to powder.

1653 Manlove *Customs Lead Mines* 274 Trunks and Sparks of oar. Sole of the Rake, Smytham, and many more. 1681 T. Houghton *Compl. Miner* Gloss., *Smytham* is Lead Ore stamp'd and pounded down [etc.]. 1747 Hooson *Miner's Dict.* s.v. *Buddle*, They must have clear Water enough, otherwise the Smytham will look bad. 1778 Pryce *Min. Cornub.* 244 To separate and cleanse the Ore, which they call Smitham. 1839 Ure *Dict. Arts* 751 The sediment called *smitham* is taken out, and piled up in heaps. 1865 Meteyard *J. Wedgwood* I. 125 After the vessels are painted, they lead them with a sort of lead ore they call 'Smithum'.

3. *Coal-mining.* (See quots.)

1883 Gresley *Gloss. Coal-m.* 228 *Smithem* or *Smytham.* 1. Fine slack. 2. Clay or shale between two beds of coal. 1891 *Sheffield Gloss.* Suppl. 53 *Smithum*, small coal, slack.

Smithcraft. Also 9 **smith-craft.** [f. Smith *sb.* Cf. OE. *smiđcræft.*] The work, craft, or art of a smith.

In Johnson's quotation from Raleigh the genuine reading is *smiths-craft* (see Smith *sb.* 2).

1755 in Johnson. 1860 *Artist & Craftsman* 425 If your locks want..picking to pieces, my old smithcraft may stand us in some stead. 1889 P. A. Bruce *Plantation Negro* 233 It is in smithcraft alone that he would have a wide..field.

† Smithe. *Obs.* Forms: 1 **smiþþe, smiđþe**, 1, 3 **smiđđe**, 3 **smiđe**, 4 **smyþþe, smyþe**; 1 **smeđe**, 5 **smeþe**. [OE. *smiþþe, smiđđe* (:—**smiþjôn*), f. the stem of Smith *sb.* or *v.*), = OFris. *smithe*, *smitha*, MDu. and Flem. *smisse*, *smesse* (Du. *smidse*), OHG. *smiththa*, *smidda*; also OFris. *smitte*, *-a* (Fris. *smitte*), MDu. *smitte*, *smit*, OHG. *smitta*, *-e*, *-i* (MHG. *smitte*, G. dial. *schmitte*), and MLG. *smede* (LG. *smede, smê*), OHG. *smida* (obs. G. *smide*, *schmide*, now *schmiede*). Some of these forms are due to the influence of the word for *smith.* For the Scand. forms see Smithy *sb.*] = Smithy *sb.* 1.

a 900 tr. *Baeda's Hist.* V. xv. (1890) 442 He..ȝewunade in his smiđþan dæges & nihtæs sittan & licgan. *c* 1000 Ælfric *Hom.* I. 64 Gaõ to smiõõan, and fandiaõ þises goldes. *c* 1030 *Rule St. Benet* (Logeman) 23 Smeõe þær we ealle þas õinc ȝeornlice wyrcean. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 88 Vrom mulne & from cheping, from smiõe,..me tiõinge bringeõ. *c* 1305 *St. Dunstan* 60 in *E. E. P.* 36 A priuei smyþþe bi his celle he gan him biseo.

fig. a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 284 Al þes world is Goddes smiõõe, uorte smeoõien his icorene.

Smi·ther, *sb. rare.* Also 5 **smyther**. [f. Smith *v.* + -er 1.] A smith or smithier; a hammerman.

1435 *Coventry Leet Bk.* 185 The Jorneymen..of all oþer Craftes..except hakmen and smythers wurche in hur own houses and nott in hur masters housz. 1881 *Instruct. Census Clerks* 45 Cutlery:..Blade Smither. *Ibid.*, File Making: Forger. Heater. Striker. Smither.

† Smi·ther, *a. Obs.*—1 ? Agile, active.

Perhaps an error for *swyper* Swipper *a.*

c 1420 *Anturs of Arth.* xlii. 543 (Ireland MS.), Gauan was smyther and smerte, Owte of his steroppus he sterte.

Smithereens (smiðərī·nz), *sb. pl. colloq.* and *dial.* [var. of next, with Irish diminutive ending, and either adopted from, or the source of, mod. Ir. *smidirín.*] Small fragments; atoms. Usually in phrases *to knock, split, blow* (etc.) *to* or *into, to go to, smithereens.* Also *fig.*

1841 S. C. Hall *Ireland* I. 68 The harness that was broke into smithereens. *Ibid.* III. 303 The sun..split it into smithereens. 1861 Clara F. Bromley *Woman's Wand.* 189 A celestial worthy..whose prowess and exploits..seem to have beaten Saint George and the dragon quite to smithereens. 1883 Black *Shandon Bells* xxxiii, He'd have knocked the whole town to smithereens.

Smi·thers, *sb. pl. colloq.* and *dial.* [Of obscure origin; cf. prec.] = Smithereens.

1847 Halliw., *Smithers*, fragments; atoms. *Linc.* 1847 FitzGerald *Lett.* (1889) I. 171 One brother is a rascal—another a spend-thrift..—the family all gone to smithers. 1857 Mrs. Carlyle *Lett.* II. 341 Having one's nerves 'all gone to smithers'. 1865 Dickens *Mut. Fr.* IV. xiii, Blowed us into shivers and smithers.

Smithery (smi·þəri). [f. Smith *sb.* + -ery. Cf. Fris. *smidterij, smitterij*, Du. *smederij*, G. *schmiederei.*]

1. The trade, occupation, or art of a smith; smithcraft, smithing, smith-work.

1625 A. Gill *Sacr. Philos.* II. xxiv. 188 All the objects of Smithery, locks, guns, swords, and the like. *a* 1661 Fuller *Worthies, Somerset.* III. (1662) 21 More I have not to say of Dunstan, save that..his skill in Smithery was so great [etc.]. 1705 tr. *Bosman's Guinea* 128 Their chief Handicraft, with which they are acquainted, being the Smithery. 1728 Chambers *Cycl.* s.v. *Lock*, The Lock is reckon'd the Master-piece in Smithery. 1841 Faraday in Bence Jones *Life* (1870) II. 146, I love a smith's shop and anything relating to smithery. 1850 K. H. Digby *Compitum* III. 201 Different labours, such as..masonry, carpentry, smithery, and saddlery.

attrib. 1655 Fuller *Ch. Hist.* II. 128 Leave we him at the Furnace in Smithery-work.

b. In fig. uses.

1796 Burke *Let. to Noble Lord* Wks. II. 271 The din of all this smithery may some time or other possibly wake this noble duke. 1831 De Quincey *Whiggism in Relat. to Lit.* Wks. 1859 VI. 33 From all this sonorous smithery of harsh words..nothing adequate emerged.

2. The forge or workshop of a smith; a smithy; *esp.* in British Admiralty dockyards, the building in which the smith-work is done.

1755 in Johnson. 1861 *Times* 24 May 7/8 The ironworks at Chatham consisted of a mere wreck of a smithery. 1871 *Daily News* 5 Sept., An extensive range of black sheds near the sawmills in the Royal Arsenal..are about to be removed, and replaced by a large smithery.

Smithfield (smi·þfīld). [The name of a locality in London (orig. *Smethefield*, f. *smethe* smooth), long celebrated as a market for cattle and horses, and now the central meat-market.]

1. A cattle- or meat-market. *rare.*

1647 R. Stapylton *Juvenal* 154 Hercules, to whom the Romans dedicated two temples, one of them in the Roman Smithfield or *Forum Boarium.* 1900 *N. & Q.* Ser. IX. VI. 389/2 In a Welsh paper I have just read that a certain lady..has offered to provide 'a free library and a Smithfield' for the town of Newton.

† 2. *Smithfield bargain*, a sharp or roguish bargain, one 'whereby the purchaser is taken in' (Grose); also *transf.*, a marriage of interest, in which money is the chief consideration. *Obs.*

1662 J. Wilson *Cheats* V. v, Is not this better, than a Smithfield bargain? 1710 *Brit. Apollo* No. 77. 3/2 Sure Apollo will not encourage Smith-field Bargains. 1753 Richardson *Grandison* VI. x, The hearts of us women..are pleaded with to rise against the notions of bargain and sale.

Smithfield bargains you Londoners call them. 1775 Sheridan *Rivals* v. i, To find myself made a mere Smithfield bargain of at last!

† b. So *Smithfield match*. *Obs.*—[1]

1742 Fielding *J. Andrews* II. vi, He resolved never to marry his daughter on a Smithfield match; that whoever had love for her to take her, would, when he died, find her share of his fortune in his coffers.

Smithian (smi·piăn), *a.* [f. the surname *Smith* (see defs.).]

1. Devised or suggested by William Smith (1769–1839), the founder of stratigraphical geology.

1819 *Phil. Mag.* LIV. 133 A stratigraphical or Smithian arrangement of the fossil shells.

2. Of or pertaining to, accepting or holding the principles of, Adam Smith.

The sbs. *Smithianism*, *Smithism*, have also been recently employed.

1885 *Encycl. Brit.* XIX. 365/2 The successive rise and reign of three doctrines—the mercantile, the physiocratic, and the Smithian. 1891 W. S. Lily *Shibboleths* 198 The whole Smithian school of political economists.

Smithier (smi·ðiəɹ). Now *arch.* and *rare*. Also 5 smythier(e. [f. Smithy *v.* + -er, or in early use f. Smith *v.* + -ier.] A smith. Also *fig.*

c 1430 *Pilgr. Lyf Manhode* II. cxlviii. (1869) 134 Dame justice, the smythiere of vertues, and the forgeresse. 1435 *Coventry Leet Bk.* 182 Then the Cardwirdrawers and the myddelmen most nedes bye the wire..of the smythiers. *Ibid.*, And then the smythier, lest he lost his Custemers, wolde make true goode. 1876 Morris *Sigurd* II. (1898) 89 And there was I, I Regin, the smithier of the snare.

Smithing (smi·þiŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. Smith *v.*] The action of the verb Smith; the art or process of fashioning or forging metals; forging.

1435 *Coventry Leet Bk.* 181 He..may..do myche harme.. in the smethyng, yif he be necligent & mysrule his Iron, that he wirkithe. *Ibid.* 184. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 346/1 A Smethynge, *fabricatura*. 1677 Moxon *Mech. Exerc.* Pref., I intend to begin with Smithing, which comprehends not only the Black-Smiths Trade, but takes in all Trades which use either Forge or File. 1831 Holland *Manuf. Metal* I. 89 In the forging of the blades just named, there is a final hammer process called smithing. 1843 Holtzapffel *Turning* I. 227 *note*, Wheels for railways display many curious examples of smithing.

attrib. 1714 J. Wyett *Suppl. to Ellwood's Life* (1765) 400 Not to use his own smithing Metaphors of *clinching* and *rivetting*. 1889 E. Matheson *Aid Book Engin.* (ed. 2) 722 Hydraulic smithing-machines.

Smi·thsonite. *Min.* [Named by Beudant (1832), after James *Smithson* (1765–1829), who had distinguished it from calamine.]

1. Silicate of zinc.

c 1835 *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) VI. 520/1 *Smithsonite*. Electric Calamine. *Ibid.* 527/1 *Smithsonite*. Silicate of Zinc. 1878 Gurney *Crystallog.* 55 Smithsonite..is zinc silicate crystallised with one equivalent of water.

2. *U.S.* Carbonate of zinc.

For the difference between the English and the U.S. use of the word, see note on Calamine.

1856 Dana *Rudim. Treat. Min.* 86 Carbonate of Zinc (Calamine, Smithsonite). 1896 Chester *Dict. Min.* 251 *Smithsonite*,..found in drusy incrustations or in botryoidal or stalactitic forms.

Smi·th-work. [Smith *sb.* Cf. MDu. *smedewerck* (Du. *smeedwerk*), MHG. *smidewerc* (G. *schmiedewerk*).] Work performed or done by a smith; also, the work or occupation of a smith.

1720 in *Jrnl. Derbysh. Archæol. Soc.* (1905) XXVII. 215 For smith worke, [£]0 3 2. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* I. II. i, He..determines on a little smith-work; and so..is learning to make locks. 1869 Rankine *Mach. & Hand-tools* App. 56 The fitness of bar iron for shipbuilding and smith-work is tested by bending and punching it cold.

Smithy (smi·ði), *sb.* Forms: *a.* 4 smiþi, 5 smyþi; 5 smythie, 5–6 -y, 6 -ye, smithee, 6–7 smithie, 7– smithy; 4 smeþi, smethi, smeþey, 5–7 smethey, 5–6 smethy, 7 smethie. *β. Sc.* and *north. dial.* 6–7 smydy, 8 smidy; 5–6 smyddy, 6–9 smiddie, 6– smiddy; 5 smede, smedye, 6 smedie, 5–7 smedy, 6 smeddy. [ad. ON. *smiðja* (Icel. *smiðja*, Norw. *smidja*; MSw. *smidhia*, *smidia*, Sw. *smedja*, Da. *smedie*), = OE. *smiððe*: see Smithe *sb.*]

1. The workshop of a smith; a blacksmith's shop; = Forge *sb.* 2. Also occas., a portable forge.

a. c 1300 *Cursor M.* 23238 (Edin.), Als it war dintes of a stiþi þat smiþis smitis in þair smiþi [*Cott.* smeþey, *Gött.* smethi]. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 461/1 Smythy, *fabricia*. 1496 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* I. 289 Item, for bering of xxx waw of irn fra the marchant buthis to Thom Barkaris smythy, xlv d. 1546 *Yorks. Chantry Surv.* (Surtees) 247 One cotage or smythye and a garthyne. 1562 *Wills & Inv. N. C.* (Surtees, 1835) 207 The Smethey. One paire of bellowes [etc.]. 1601 Holland *Pliny* II. 512 In the smithies where brasse is made and wrought. 1700 Dryden *Ovid's Met.* XII. 390 His blazing Locks..hiss'd, like red hot Iron within the Smithy drown'd. 1771 Smollett *Humph. Cl.* 10 July, Finding the tools of the defunct, together with some coals, in the smithy. 1849 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* IX. II. 486 It proved to be a moveable smithy, furnished with all tools and materials necessary for repairing arms and carriages. 1875 Jowett *Plato* (ed. 2) I. 229 Not when I pass a smithy; for then the iron bars make a tremendous noise.

fig. 1865 *Sat. Rev.* 12 Aug. 204/1 The extent to which rivals in Paris, Liege, or Elberfield, were likely to supplant the great British smithy [Birmingham]. 1866 Kingsley *Herew.* vii, They hammered at each other in the devil's smithy.

β. c 1425 Wyntoun *Cron.* I. v. 228 Quhar men war wirkand at a smedye [*v.r.* smyddy]. 1497 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* I. 328 For tua laid of colis, in Melros, to the smyddy. 1500–20 Dunbar *Poems* xxxiii. 56 For smowking of the smydy. 1580 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* III. 320 Item, in the smiddie, ane irne studie [etc.]. 1665 Brathwait *Comment. Two Tales* 50 Those antient Verses..That Scholar well deserves a Widdie, Who makes his Study of a Smiddie. 1786 Burns *Twa Dogs* 19 At Kirk or Market, Mill or Smiddie. 1826 J. Wilson *Noct. Ambr.* Wks. 1855 I. 122 Like..a vice in a smiddy. 1899 Crockett *Kit Kennedy* 243 Kit had trysted with the orra-man to meet him at the smiddy.

† b. = Bloomery[1]. *Obs. rare*—[1].

1565 in West *Antiq. Furness* (1774) App. IX, The queen's majestie's woods..are like to fall into great decay..by reason of certain iron smithies there lately erected and demised.

2. Smithcraft; smith-work. *rare.*

1804 W. Taylor in *Crit. Rev.* III 541 Important inventions; as that of clothing, of fire, of smithy, of foundery. 1855 J. R. Leifchild *Cornwall* 178 Details of the Expenses, ..Smithy, Carpentry, and Sawing, £1,701 19 0.

3. *attrib.*, as *smithy ashes*, *bellows*, *cur*, *dust*, *-fire*, *vice*, *work*, etc.

1469–70 *Durh. MS. Rolls* (Surtees) 642 Le Smethyhouse infra Abbathiam. 1495 *Naval Accs. Hen. VII* (1896) 158 Smythy Bellowes, ij payer. 1523 Skelton *Garl. Laurel* 762 Lyke a smythy kur. 1556 *Knaresborough Wills* (Surtees) I. 73 My smithie geare. 1611 Cotgr., *Escume de Mareschal*, the refuse, or drosse of yron; smithie dust 1669 *Records Baron Crt. Stitchill* (S.H.S.) 54 For smydy werke, one pund eight shillings. 1677 *Churchw. Acc. Pittington*, etc. (Surtees) 241 Item for smiddy ashes, 1s. *a* 1837 Nicoll *Poems*, *The Smith* i, His grip was like a smiddy vice. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* III. v. vi, Smithy-fires..for the manufacture of arms.

4. Special combs.: **smithy-coals**, a kind of small coal used by smiths; **smithy-coom** (see quot. 1855); † **smithy-craft**, smith-craft, smith-work; **smithy-dander**, a forge cinder; **smithy lime**, a limestone layer of Aldstone Moor in Cumberland; † **smithy-man**, an iron-smith; † **smithy-miln**, a smithy in which the work is partly performed by water power; **smithy-slack**, **slag**, the shale or iron dust of a forge; † **smithy-water**, the water in which a smith cools his heated irons.

1482 in *Charters*, etc. *Edinb.* (1871) 169 Of ilk chaldir of *smethy colis vi d. 1789 J. Williams *Min. Kingd.* I. 157 The smithy coal of Balmule and Rosebank. 1611 *Churchw. Acc. Pittington*, etc. (Surtees) 161 Paide for beringe sand and *smethie come to the same lyme, xij d. 1855 Robinson *Whitby Gloss.*, *Smithycome* or *Smitticome*, the smith's iron dust or sweepings mixed with hot pitch as an impervious composition for the tops of wooden sheds. 1513 Douglas *Æneid* VIII. vii. 107 The mychty God of fyr..to his *smyddy craft and forge hym spedis. 1828 Scott *F. M. Perth* III, You cannot suppose that Harry Gow cares the value of a *smithy-dander for such a cub as yonder cat-a-mountain? 1823–4 J. Phillips *Geol.* in *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) VI. 585/2 *Smiddy lime. *a* 1400 *Isumbras* 410 A *smethymane thus was he thore..And blewe thaire belyes bloo. 1533–4 *Durh. Househ. Bk.* (Surtees) 329 Cristofero Willey, le smedyman. 1523 Fitzherb. *Surv.* 9 b, Cutlersmylnes, *smethymylnes & all suche other. 1831 Holland *Manuf. Metal* I. 194 This larger mass being generally..imbedded in *smithy-slack. 1837 J. T. Smith tr. *Vicat's Mortars* 1 Another looked upon *smithy slag and iron-dross as the finest ingredients. *c* 1530 Ld. Berners *Arth. Lyt. Bryt.* (1814) 43 [The water] was blacker than *smythy water.

Smithy (smi·ði), *v.* Also 3 smiðien, 5 smyþ-, smyth-. [f. Smithy *sb.* With the early examples cf. Smith *v.*]

1. *trans.* To make or fashion by smithing; to forge or smith.

c 1205 Lay. 30749 Þe smið gon to smiðeȝe ane þic swiðe long. *c* 1386 Chaucer *Miller's T.* 576 (Lansd.), A smyþe.. þat in his forge smyþeiþ plouhe hernays.

1839 Bywater *Sheffield Dial.* 33, 1st. He moods t' blade. ..3rd. Then he smithies it. 1892 Brooke *E. E. Lit.* II. 27 A famous coat of mail that Weland the great forgeman had smithied.

b. To weld *together* by forging.

1868 G. Stephens *Runic Mon.* I. 185 In others only every other ring is riveted, the alternate ones being smithied together.

2. *intr.* To practise smithing.

1866 Dasent *Gisli* 11 Gisli sat in the hall and smithied.

Hence **Smi·thied** *ppl. a.*, **Smi·thying** *vbl. sb.*

c 1449 Pecock *Repr.* II. xviii. 256 An hamer forto make a knyf in smythiyng. 1868 G. Stephens *Runic Mon.* I. 185 Each clinch ring grasps four smithied and..each smithied grasps four riveted. 1886 P. Robinson *Teetotum Trees* 142 To do a bit of smithying up at the forge.

Smiting (sməi·tiŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. Smite *v.*]

1. The action of the verb; beating, striking. Also *fig.*

c 1330 *Arth. & Merl.* 8874 (Kölbing), Wiþ smiteing & wiþ skirminge. 1382 Wyclif 1 *Macc.* xv. 6 Y suffre thee for to make smytyng, or printe, of thin own money. *a* 1425 tr. *Arderne's Treat. Fistula*, etc. 51 Þe skyn was noȝt cleuen alsone after þe smytyng. *c* 1491 Caxton *Chast. Goddes Chyld.* 74 Say thries this verse with smyting on the brest. 1560 Bible (Geneva) 1 *Kings* xx. 37 The man smote him, and in smiting wounded him. 1660 J. Taylor *Worthy Comm.* I. iii. 55 It was not that smiting that beat the Syrians. 1694 J. Kettlewell *Comp. Penitent* III Father, let thy smiteing reclaim and amend me. 1820 Scott *Monast.* XXXV, It is but the smiting of an Egyptian when all is said out. 1842 Manning *Serm.* II. (1848) 29 Who does not feel within the smiting of conscience. 1887 *Athenæum* 26 Mar. 417/3 It is not everybody..who could take such friendly smiting in this spirit.

attrib. 1653 R. Sanders *Physiogn.* 188 The inflammation and smiting pain of the head.

b. With *a* and pl. An instance of this.

c 1380 Wyclif *Last Age Ch.* (1840) 32 Smyttingis to-gidere of folkis and hurtlynge to-gidere of rewmes. *a* 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 346/2 A Smytyng, *iccio*, *percussio*. 1615 Hieron *Wks.* I. 598 No doubt our hearts would smite vs herein,..and happy should such secret smitings be. 1656 *Artif. Handsom.* 131 Least they be..severe beyond Gods smitings. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* II. III. v, Accelerated..by smitings, twitchings,—spurnings. 1860 Patmore *Faithful for Ever* I. vii, In smitings as of silver bars.

2. *Smiting-line* (see quots.).

a 1625 *Nomenclator Navalis* (Harl. MS. 2301) s.v., [The] Smitting-line is a small Roape which is made fast to the Missen yard arms. 1627 Capt. Smith *Seaman's Gram.* v. 22 The missen hath but one [furling-line] called the smiting line. 1867 Smyth *Sailor's Word-bk.*, *Smiting-Line*, a line by which a yarn-stoppered sail is loosed, without sending men aloft. If well executed, marks the seaman.

Smiting (sməi·tiŋ), *ppl. a.* Also 4 smytende. [f. Smite *v.*] That smites, strikes, or beats.

1382 Wyclif *Prov.* xix. 29 Greithid ben to scorneres domes; and smytende hameres to the bodies of foolis. 1648 G. Daniel *Eclog* v. 57 Dire, as the Smiting Haile to new-ean'd Lambs. 1840 Carlyle *Heroes* iii. (1906) 93 One smiting word; and then there is silence. 1869 T. T. Lynch *Church & St.* 10 The smiting strength of the lightning of God.

† **Smi·ttable,** *a. Sc. Obs.* In 5 smytable. [f. Smit *v.*] Capable of being infected.

a 1500 in *Ratis Raving*, etc. (1870) 108 It kepis thaim oft tymis fra ill. Fore ful women are so smytable, And till al wykit wycis able.

Smitten (smi·t'n), *ppl. a.* [See Smite *v.* A. 3 c.] That has been smit; beaten, struck. Also *absol.* with *down*.

c 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 3867 Ut of ðe smiten ston Ynoȝ hem sulde water gon. *a* 1340 Hampole *Psalter* cxlv. 7 Lord vprightys þe smytyn down. 1742 Young *Nt. Th.* IX. 202 Sudden as the spark From smitten steel. 1859 G. Meredith *R. Feverel* XXX, Her voice just vibrating..like a smitten vase. 1888 H. James *Reverberator* II. v. 122 A violation of sanctities,..a burning of smitten faces.

Smi·tting, *ppl. a.* Now *north. dial.* and *Sc.* [f. Smit *v.*] Infectious; contagious.

1562 Turner *Baths* 2 If he be sieke in a smitting or infective disease. 1595 Duncan *App. Etym.* (E.D.S.), *Contagio*, an infection or smitting-sicknes. 1671 Skinner *Etymol. Ling. Angl.* X XX b/1 Smiting, *pro* Contagious, Infectious, *vox agro Linc. usitatissima*. 1788 W. H. Marshall *Yorksh.* II. 353 *Smitting*, infectious; catching, as a disease. 1858–61 Ramsay *Remin.* v. (1870) 118 Gantin' may be *smittin'*. 1892 M. C. F. Morris *Yorks. Folk-Talk* 73 But she did not think the complaint was smitting.

Smi·ttle, *a. north. dial.* and *Sc.* Also 6 smittel(l, 9 smittal. [f. Smit *v.* + -le I. Cf. MSw. *smittol* in the same sense.] Infectious; contagious. Esp. of diseases, etc.

Smittle has also dialect currency as sb. and vb.; the latter is given by Ray (1674). The adj. *smittlish* is also recorded by Grose (1787) and others.

1583 *Leg. Bp. St. Androis* 760 Thair wald this halie bischope byde, Saying, forsuith, it was not smittell. 1720 Ramsay *Rise & Fall of Stocks* 38 The covetous infatuation Was smittle out o'er all the nation. 1782 in J. Hutton *Tour to Caves* (ed. 2) Gloss. 96. 1811– in dialect glossaries, etc. 1859 H. Kingsley *G. Hamlyn* XXXVI, Get thy saddles off, lad, and come in; 'tis a smittle night for rheumatics.

Smoak, -ing, -y: see Smoke, etc.

† **Smooch,** *a. Sc. Obs.*—[1] (Meaning uncertain.)

1508 Dunbar *Flyting* 364 Thou wald be fayn to gnaw., smoch banis behynd doggis bakkis.

Smock (smɒk), *sb.* Forms: 1, 3 smoc, 3–5 smok, 4– smock, 5–6 smokk; 4–8 smocke, 5–6 smokke; 5–7 smoke, 6 smoake. [OE. *smoc*, = ON. *smokkr* (once, and perh. from OE.), OHG. *smoccho* (once); cf. also NFris. *smok* woman's shift (Helgoland, perh. from E.), neck-ruff (Sylt). The stem is probably related to that of OE. *smūgan* to creep, ON. *smjúga* to creep into, put on, a garment.

The sense of ON. *smokkr* is however not certain; it may be some special application of the later Icel. *smokkr*, Norw. *smokk*, sheath, sheath-formed case or receptacle, finger-stall, etc.]

1. A woman's undergarment; a shift or chemise. Now *arch.* or *dial.* (common down to 18th cent.).

For the use as a plant-name see Lady-smock.

a 1000 in Wr.-Wülcker 210 *Colobium*..., loþa, hom, *uel* smoc, mentel. *c* 1000 Ælfric *Gloss.* Ibid. 125 *Colobium*, smoc, *uel* syrc. *c* 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 163 Hire chemise [is] smal and hwit,..and hire smoc hwit. *c* 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 182 Are hire smok were of i-nome. *a* 1320 *Sir Tristrem* 1788 Þour smock was solwy to sen, Bi mark þo ȝe schuld ly. *c* 1386 Chaucer *Miller's T.* 52 Whit was hir smok, and browdid al byfore And eek byhynde on hir coler aboute. *c* 1425 Lydg. *Assembly of Gods* 377 A smokke was her wede, garnysshyd curyously. 1483 Caxton *Gold. Leg.* 371/1 He..wold not relece hir obedyence tyl that she was despoyled to hir smocke. 1559 W. Cunningham *Cosmogr. Glasse* 173 Their shirtes and smokes are saffroned. 1591 Greene *Farew. Follie* Wks. (Grosart) IX. 316 Shee.. standing in hir smocke by the bed side. 1650 Bulwer *Anthropomet.* 200 The women..weare but three cubits of cloth in their smocks. 1674 tr. *Scheffer's Lapland* xvii. 89 The use of smocks is no more known among women than the use of shirts among men. 1735 Pope *Ep. Lady* 24 Agrees as ill..As Sappho's di'monds with her dirty smock. 1837 Barham *Ingol. Leg.* Ser. I. *Look at the Clock*, You may sell my chemise (Mrs. P. was too well-bred to mention her smock). 1865 Kingsley *Herew.* XV, I would sooner have her in her smock than any other woman with a dower.

Prov. 1461 *Paston Lett.* I. 542 Nere is my kyrtyl, but nerre is my smok. 1639 J. CLARKE *Paræmiologia* 254 Neare is my petticoat, but nearer is my smock.

transf. 1677 GREW *Anat. Pl., Anat. Seeds* (1682) 201 This sticks not to the midle Coat,..but commonly, remains entire, after those are stripp'd off, being as it were, the Smock of the Seed.

b. Offered (formerly) as a prize in races to be run by women or girls.

1722 MRS. BRADSHAW in *C'tess Suffolk's Lett.* (1824) I. 98 The Colonel gave a smock for the young wenches to run for. 1740 SOMERVILLE *Hobbinol* I. 225 See here this Prize, this rich lac'd Smock behold. 1812 in Holland *Cheshire Gloss.* (1886) 325 A race for a good Holland smock by ladies of all ages. 1859 HUGHES *Scour. White Horse* v. 91, I see, Sir, that 'smocks to be run for by ladies' is left out.

†c. Used allusively to denote a woman or womankind. *Obs.*

1591 GREENE *Conny Catch.* I. Wks. (Grosart) X. 60 The Collier..said he would be tried by the verdit of the smock. 1612 *Pasquil's Night-cap* (1877) 7 If his sweet worship.. Scrape fauour with some female-wedded smocke. 1693 SHADWELL *Volunteers* III. i, Thou wert a pretty Fellow, to rebel all thy Life-time against Princes, and trail a Pike under a Smock-Rampant at last!

2. = SMOCK-FROCK 1.

1831 CARLYLE *Sartor Res.* I. iv, The broad button of Birmingham spelter in a Clown's smock. 1882 SERGT. BALLANTINE *Exper.* 16 A man..clad in one of the ordinary white smocks worn by labourers.

3. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *smock-dowry, -linen, -petticoat, -shirt, -skirt, -sleeve*; also *smock-like* adj.

1596 SPENSER *State Irel.* Wks. (Globe) 635/2 The deepe smock sleeve hanging to the grounde. 1603 J. DAVIES (Heref.) *An Extasie* Wks. (Grosart) I. 90/2 Her nether smockes or smock-like Petticotes. 1611 MIDDLETON & DEKKER *Roaring Girl* v. ii, A wench with her smock-dowry, no portion with her but her lips and arms. 1627 *Lismore Papers* (1886) II. 222, 2 smock petticoats of worsted for my mother and my wife. 1630 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Wks.* II. 165 From the loftie Quoyfe to the lowly..Smockeskirt. 1882 CAULFEILD & SAWARD *Dict. Needlwk.* 452/2 *Smock linen*, the linen of which our peasants' Smockfrocks are made, which is a strong even green linen, employed also for articles designed for embroidery. 1883 *Cent. Mag.* Nov. 74/2 Blue smock-shirts have it all to themselves.

b. In allusive terms, usually suggestive of loose conduct or immorality in, or in relation to, women, as *smock-agent, -council, -employment, -fair*, etc.

Examples are very common in 17th cent. dramatists:

1632 MASSINGER *Maid Hon.* II. ii, I hope, sir, You are not ..employed by him As a *smock-agent to me. *a* 1652 BROME *City Wit* III. i, I'll be hang'd if this Doctor be not of her *smock-councell. 1624 MASSINGER *Renegado* II. i, 'Tis but procuring; A *smocke emploiment. *a* 1652 BROME *Novella* III. i, What make you here i' th' *Smock-Faire, precious Mistris? 1611 L. BARRY *Ram Alley* IV. i, A knight, and never heard of *smock-fees? 1681 DRYDEN *Sp. Friar* II. i, Now Plague and Pox on his *Smock-Loyalty! 1640 SHIRLEY *Imposture* V. iii, I was the agent 'twixt them: he was pleased To choose me his *smock-officer. 1632 B. JONSON *Magn. Lady* IV. ii, Keep these women-matters, *Smock-secrets to ourselves. 1705 HICKERINGILL *Priest-cr.* II. Pref. A 3 b, Great Kindred, *Smock-Simony, and Whores, have advanc'd many a Sot to the Holy-Chair. 1598 MARSTON *Sco. Villanie* I. ii. 175 Lust fiered, Attended only with his *smock-sworne Page. 1582 STANYHURST *Æneis* IV. (Arb.) 102 This *smocktoy Paris..with falling woommanish heare-locks. 1611 B. JONSON *Catiline* IV. v, There are of us can be as exquisite traitors, As e'er a male-conspirator of you all. *Cethegus.* Ay, at *smock-treason, matron. *a* 1625 FLETCHER *Elder Brother* III. ii, These *Smock-vermine, how eagerly they leap at old mens kisses.

Smock, *a.* [prob. an attributive or elliptic use of prec.] (See quots.)

1849 D. J. BROWNE *Amer. Poultry Yd.* (1855) 290 In 1823, he [a game-cock] was milk-white, or 'smock', as the English term it. 1854 MEALL *Moubray's Poultry* 111 [Sub-varieties of Game-Fowl.] White, or Smock (vulgar).

Smock (smɒk), *v.* [f. the sb.]

†1. *trans.* To render effeminate or womanish.

1614 SYLVESTER *Bethulia's Rescue* III. 28 Here would the Mede show..that no pomp..Had ever power his Manly mind to smock.

†2. *intr.* To consort with women. *Obs. rare.*

1719 D'URFEY *Pills* IV. 126 Then we all agree; To.. Smock and Knock it, Under the Green-wood Tree. 1731-8 SWIFT *Polite Conv.* 176 You don't smoke, I warrant you, but you smock.

3. *trans.* To dress in a smock.

1847 TENNYSON *Princ.* IV. 228 This is proper to the clown, Tho' smock'd, or furr'd and purpled.

4. *Needlework.* To gather by means of sewing done in lines crossing each other diagonally, after a pattern common on smock-frocks.

1888 *Pall Mall G.* 30 May 11/1 Her gown is of Liberty silk,..smocked here and gathered there.

Smo·ckage. *nonce-wd.* [Allusively f. SMOCK *sb.*, after *socage*.] (See quot.)

1612 CHAPMAN *Widowes T.* I. Wks. 1873 III. 21 Thou shalt hold thy Tenement to thee and thine eares for euer in free smockage, as of the manner of Panderage.

Smocked (smɒkt), *ppl. a.* [f. SMOCK *sb.* or *v.*]

1. Of persons: Provided with, clothed in, a smock. (Cf. *hurden-smocked* s.v. HARDEN *sb.* b.)

1897 G. ALLEN *Type-writer Girl* xviii. 195 While the smocked milkman still stood..in the meadows.

2. Of a garment: Gathered and worked after the fashion of a smock-frock.

1890 *Daily News* 8 Jan. 7/6 The New Smocked Yoke Jersey.

Smocker (smɒ·kəɹ). [f. SMOCK *sb.* or *v.*]

†1. One who consorts with women. *Obs.*

1708 MOTTEUX *Rabelais* V. (1737) 217 Leachers, Shakers, Smockers. 1756 *Gentl. Mag.* XXVI. 605/2 Henry..had formerly been a Cocker, Smocker, and Foxhunter.

2. One who smocks blouses or the like.

1892 *Star* 13 May 4/8 Smockers.—Experienced workers wanted at once.

Smock-face. Now *rare.* [f. SMOCK *sb.*] A pale and smooth or effeminate face; a person having a face of this description.

1605 CHAPMAN *All Fools* v. i, [Fortune gives] Some wealth without wit, some nor wit nor wealth, But good smocke-faces. 1696 VANBRUGH *Relapse* 1st Prol., Perhaps there's not a smock-face here to-day But 's bold as Cæsar to attack—a play. 1786 J. A. D. *Pogonologia* 51 You pretty fellows of the present day,..and all you with smock-faces and weak nerves. 1820 W. TOOKE *Lucian* I. 398 Who does that smock-face belong to there? 1846 LANDOR *Imag. Conv.* I. 354 Who could have expected it from that smock-face! 1874 *Slang Dict.* 298 *Smock-face*, a white delicate face, —a face without whiskers.

Smo·ck-faced, *a.* Now *rare.* [Cf. prec.] Having a pale smooth face; effeminate-looking.

1693 DRYDEN *Juvenal* x. (1726) 158 But your Endymion, your smooth, smock-fac'd Boy,..shall a beauteous Dame enjoy. 1706 ESTCOURT *Fair Example* II. i, A smock fac'd Rogue, with..a great deal of Impudence. 1797 MRS. A. M. BENNETT *Beggar Girl* (1813) I. 49 That poor smock-faced thing of a doctor. 1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* xiii, A little old smock-faced man,..soft-haired as well as beardless, appeared. 1855 A. BYWATER *Shewvild Ann.* 24 (E.D.D.), Working men look raythar too smock-faced for beards. 1866 BROGDEN *Prov. Lincs., Smock-faced*, pale.

transf. 1684 OTWAY *Atheist* I. i, With a hundred smiling smock-fac'd guineas.

Smo·ck-frock, *sb.* [SMOCK *sb.*]

1. A loose-fitting garment of coarse linen or the like, worn by farm-labourers over or instead of a coat and usually reaching to mid-leg or lower.

a 1800 PEGGE *Suppl. Grose, Smock-frock*, a coarse linen shirt worn over the coat by waggoners, &c., called in the South a Gaberdine. 1805 *Ann. Reg., Chron.* 420/2 He pulled off his jacket or smock-frock. 1840 DICKENS *Old C. Shop* xix, Men had lounged about all night in smock-frocks, and leather-leggings. 1883 T. HARDY in *Longm. Mag.* July 258 The genuine white smock-frock..and the whity-brown one..are rarely seen now afield.

Comb. 1891 *Catholic News* 29 Aug. 8/4 It is smockfrock-like in shape, with a hole for the neck.

2. A man wearing a smock-frock.

1898 J. ARCH *Story Life* ii. 31 Regular pitched battles they were of smock frock against cloth coat, in which smock frock held his own right well.

Hence **Smo·ck-frock** *v. intr.* (with *it*), to wear a smock-frock; **smo·ck-frocked** *a.*, wearing a smock-frock.

(*a*) 1808 COBBETT *Political Reg.* XIV. 20 Aug. 257 Among the smock-frocked politicians. 1885 *Eng. Illustr. Mag.* Aug. 739/1 The stolid smock-frocked peasantry.

(*b*) 1840 HOOD *Ye Tourists & Travellers* 6 Play dominoes, smoke, wear a cap and smock-frock it.

Smo·cking, *vbl. sb.* [f. SMOCK *v.* 4.] The action of gathering and working a garment after the fashion of a smock-frock; the ornamental pattern so formed.

1888 *Bow Bells* 9 Mar., This was..shaped by means of the 'honeycombing' or 'smocking'. 1890 *Daily News* 27 Nov. 2/4 Smocking is still largely used for the yokes.

Smo·ckless, *a.* Also 5 **smocles.** [f. SMOCK *sb.* + -LESS.] Having no smock or chemise.

c 1386 CHAUCER *Clerk's T.* 819, I hope it be not youre entente That I smocles out of your paleys wente. 1873 STEPHENS *Black Gin* 16 Lo, by the 'humpy' door a smockless Venus!

Smo·ck-mill. [f. SMOCK *sb.*, with reference to the shape.] A windmill having a revolving top.

1802 *Hull Advertiser* 18 Dec. 3/2. 1825 J. NICHOLSON *Operat. Mechanic* 124 The other method of bringing the windshaft and sails into..position..is by what is called the smock-mill. 1838- in dialect glossaries and technical dictionaries. 1888 *Encycl. Brit.* XXIV. 599 The post mill was succeeded by the tower, smock, or frock mill.

Smo·ck-race. Also **smock race.** [SMOCK *sb.* 1 b.] A race in which a smock was offered as a prize to be run for by women or girls.

1707 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4356/4 The next Day will be a Smock Race run for by Maids in the same Park. 1766 GOLDSM. *Vic. W.* x, I don't like to see my daughters..red with walking, and looking for all the world as if they had been winners at a smock-race. 1805 *Sporting Mag.* XXV. 304 A smock-race and a jingling-match were to take place. 1825 BROCKETT *N. C. Gloss.* s.v., There used to be frequently, in my recollection, smock races among the young country wenches in the North.

So **Smo·ck-racing** *vbl. sb.*

1878 LECKY *England in 18th C.* iv. I. 566 Among other amusements, smock-racing by women was kept up there [Pall Mall] till 1733.

† Smo·ckster. *Obs.*—[1] [f. SMOCK *sb.*] A go-between, a bawd.

1607 MIDDLETON *Your Five Gallants* v. ii, You're a hired smockster; here's her letter, In which we are certified that you're a bawd.

Smock windmill. = SMOCK-MILL.

1795 *Lond. Chron.* 11 Aug. 143 To be Sold, all the Working Geer of a capital Smock Windmill. 1833 LOUDON *Encycl. Archit.* § 1259 Another kind of vertical windmill is called a smock, or tower windmill.

† Smod. *Obs.*—[1] [Cf. SMAD *v.*] Stain, filth.

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 711 Hem to smyte for þat smod smartly I þenk þat wyȝes schal be by hem war, worlde with-outen ende.

Smogue : see SMUG.

† Smoi·liness. *Obs.*—[1] (See quot.)

1530 PALSGR. 271/2 Smoylynesse, fylthynesse, *honniev.*

Smokable (smōu·käb'l), *a.* and *sb.* Also **smokeable.** [f. SMOKE *v.* + -ABLE.]

A. *adj.* That may be smoked; fit or suitable for smoking.

1839 R. M. MARTIN *Stat. Colonies Brit. Emp.* 366 The smokeable extract which each quantity of opium contains. 1872 LEVER *Ld. Kilgobbin* liii, You'll..find it smokeable. 1879 SALA *Paris Herself Again* iv, Very smokable little weeds.

B. *sb. pl.* Things which may be smoked.

1849 *Fraser's Mag.* XL. 2 Bills of fare of the various eatables, drinkables, and smokables, of which the author partook. 1890 *Yacht Racing Calendar* 185 It is exasperating..to have one's drinkables and smokeables sealed up.

Smoke (smōuk), *sb.* **Forms:** 1 **smoca** (**smocca**), 2– **smoke,** 5 **smokke,** 6–7 **smok;** 6 *Sc.* **smoik,** 6–8 **smoake,** 6–9 **smoak.** [OE. *smoca*, f. the weak grade of the stem represented by OE. *smēocan* SMEEK *v.* To a different grade (*smauk-*) belong MDu. *smoock* (Du. *smook*), MLG. (and LG.) *smōk, smōk* (hence Da. *smøg*), MHG. *smouch* (G. *schmauch*). See also SMOOK *sb.*]

I. 1. The visible volatile product given off by burning or smouldering substances.

a. c 1000 *Lambeth Ps.* xvii. 9 Astah smoca on yrre his. *c* 1000 in Cockayne *Narrat.* (1861) 43 Ut æt his nosu eode micel smocca. *a* 1154 *O. E. Chron.* an. 1137, Me henged up bi the fet & smoked heom mid ful smoke. *a* 1200 *St. Marher.* 9 On his hehe hokede neose þreaste smeorðinde smoke ut. *c* 1290 *St. Brendan* 491 in *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 233 Strong was þe stunch and þe smoke. *c* 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 4727 Þat es blode and fire and brethe of smoke. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 9512 The smoke of þe smert loghys..waivet in the welkyn. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 461/1 Smoke, reke, *idem quod* Reke. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VIII*, 100 In the smoke of the gunnes let us entre the gate. 1600 J. PORY tr. *Leo's Africa* III. 133 It cannot be spoiled either by smoke, or too much heat. 1718 PRIOR *Solomon* III. 522 As smoke that rises from the kindling fires Is seen this moment, and the next expires. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) III. 156 A large fire..filling the whole place with smoke. 1829 LYTTON *Devereux* I. viii, Don Diego, inhaling the fragrant weed,..replied to the request of his petitioner by smoke. 1888 F. HUME *Mme. Midas* I. v, The smoke was pouring out thick and black from the tall red chimney.

β. 1591 GREENE *Farew. to Follie* Wks. (Grosart) IX. 343 [He] was tied to a post and choaked with smoake. 1660 BOYLE *New Exper.* xxx. (1682) 113 Filled the Reciever with smoak. 1787 WINTER *Syst. Husb.* 47 Soot may be rather deemed the smoak itself. 1820 VINCE *Astron.* xvii. 159 He compared them to smoak and clouds.

†b. *ellipt.* The fumes of incense. Also *fig. Obs.*

c 1450 *Myrr. Our Lady* 327 Mercifull virgyn,..rodde of smoke, but swete smellynge. *a* 1627 SIR J. BEAUMONT *Poems, The Epiphany* 35 Who lift to God for vs the holy smoke Of feruent pray'rs.

c. The fact of smoke coming out into a room instead of passing up the chimney.

1715 DESAGULIERS *Fires Impr.* 69 We shall..shew of what service the..passage of Air behind the Back is, for hind'ring Smoke. *Ibid.* 72 When you wou'd prevent Smoke.

d. *The* (*big, great*) *smoke*, a colloquial name for London.

1864 *Slang Dict.* 237 Country-people when going to the Metropolis say they are on their way to the Smoke. 1897 F. T. BULLEN *Cruise 'Cachalot'* XXV. (1901) 330, I desired to know what brought him so far from the 'big smoke'.

e. *transf.* The pollen of the yew when scattered in a cloud.

1868 LADY TENNYSON in *Life Tennyson* (1897) II. ii. 53 There has been a great deal of smoke in the yew-trees this year. 1869 TENNYSON *Holy Grail* 15 A gustful April morn That puff'd the swaying branches into smoke.

2. With *a* and pl. A volume, cloud, or column of smoke. In Amer. and Austr. use *spec.* one serving as a signal, sign of an encampment, etc.

sing. 1388 WYCLIF *Rev.* ix. 2 A smoke of the pit stiede vp. *c* 1440 *Jacob's Well* 67 þe feend, as a smoke, vanysched awey. 1594 R. WILSON *Coblers Prophesie* G j b, From one part let a smoke arise. 1695 WOODWARD *Nat. Hist. Earth* IV, (1723) 228 Being succeeded by a Smoak, which..resembles fired Gun-powder. 1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* I. 209, I was afraid of making a Smoak about my Habitation. 1796 WITHERING *Brit. Pl.* (ed. 3) IV. 361 On being touched throwing up the seeds in form of a smoke. 1802 BARRINGTON *New South Wales* vii. 224 Mr. Bass discovered a smoke that they had made to draw his attention.

pl. 1426 LYDG. *De Guil. Pilgr.* 21585 A-mong the smokys blake, Ther he gan hys bed to make. 1523 LD. BERNERS *Froiss.* I. cclxxxi. 421 They can nat..put you out of your realme by their smokes. 1620 MARKHAM *Farew. Husb.* II. xvii. (1668) 76 In seed time make great smoaks in your Corn-fields. 1697 DAMPIER *Voy.* (1699) 252 We..leave them a sign to know where we are by making one or more great Smoaks. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* II. xiii. 271 The enemy..were ..incamped in the woods about us; for we could see their smokes. 1841 CATLIN *N. Amer. Ind.* (1844) II. xli. 55 Their smokes were seen in various directions. 1890 *Melbourne Argus* 26 July 4/4 By-and-by answers came from smokes away in the bush.

b. The smoke arising from a particular hearth or fire-place; hence, a hearth, fire-place, house. Now *rare.*

1592 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* I. iii. 1097 Leading all his life at home in Peace, Alwayes in sight of his own smoak. 1610 in *Council Bk. Youghal Corp.* (1878) 21 A scavenger.. shall be paid yearly out of every smoak, 4*d.* at Michalmas and Easter. *a* 1687 PETTY *Polit. Arith.* iii. (1691) 42 In Ireland wherein are..near 300 Thousand Smokes or

Hearths. 1792 *Stat. Acc. Scotl.* IV. 316 For 6 miles in a well inhabited extent,..there was not a *smoke* remaining. 1883 *Good Words* XXIV. 717 There are [on Minglay] in all thirty houses, or 'smokes', as they are called.

3. Fume or vapour caused by the action of heat on moisture.

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* v. xxxiii. (Bodl. MS.), þat þe lunges mowe open and close þe hoote smoke of þe herte. 1422 tr. *Secreta Secret., Priv. Priv.* 218 Dronknesse makyth for-yetynge..by reyson that the grete smokkes gone vp to the brayn. 1562 TURNER *Baths* 9 They that woulde use the smooke or vaperouse ayer of this water. 1584 LYLY *Alex. & Camp.* II. i, Steeds..whose breathes dimmed the sun with smoake. 1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* II. ii. II. (1651) 239 To purge the heart and brain from ill smoakes and vapours that offend them. *a* 1693 *Urquhart's Rabelais* III. xxxvii. 311 Demanding payment for the Smoak of his Roast-meat. 1888 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Robbery under Arms* xi. 136 You ought to have sense enough not to knock smoke out of fresh horses before we begin.

b. A mist, fog, or miasma (see later quots.).

1648 HEXHAM II, *Een Roock der aerden*, a Smoake, a Mist, or Dampe, rising out of the earth. 1788 FALCONBRIDGE *African Slave T.* 51 Together with what they call *the smokes* (a noxious vapour, arising from the swamps about the latter end of autumn). 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.* 635 *Smokes*, dense exhalations, mixed with the finer particles of sand, on the Calabar shores and borders of the Great Zahara desert, which prevail in autumn. 1897 MISS KINGSLEY *W. Africa* 94 Those thick wool-like mists called smokes, which hang about the whole Bight from November till May.

4. In proverbial, figurative, or allusive uses:

a. In miscellaneous applications or phrases.

1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 211 Whan every thing was fulli spoke, Of sorwe and queint was al the smoke. 1526 *State Papers Hen. VIII*, VI. 542 Of whom..I have lernyd many strange thinges, wherof I smelt a smoke at Calays. 1580 LYLY *Euphues* (Arb.) 287, I perceiue..where the least smoake is, there to be the greatest fire. 1602 MARSTON *Ant. & Mel.* I. Wks. 1856 I. 13 His eyes looke as if they had bene hung In the smoake of his nose. 1670 G. H. tr. *Hist. Cardinals* I. I. 20, I..took my leave, as perceiving him fuller of smoak than of meat. 17.. in *N. & Q.* 3rd Ser. XII. 163/2 Never out of the smoke of your own chimney. 1774 *Westm. Mag.* II. 109 Their *summum bonum* lies in drinking themselves dead drunk,..playing smoak with the girls. 1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss.* s.v., If a lent horse has been over-ridden, it is commonly remarked, 'He played smoke with that horse, he has been good for nothing since'. 1870 LOWELL *Study Wind.* 228 The first lesson of literature, no less than of life, is the learning how to burn your own smoke.

b. In the proverbs *There is no fire without smoke*, and *no smoke without fire*, or variants of these: (see FIRE *sb.* I h).

c 1450 *MS. Douce* 52 lf. 20 Where no fyre is no smoke. 1546– [see FIRE *sb.* I h]. 1650 HUBBERT *Pill to purge Formality* 133 There is no fire but there will be some smoak. 1654 GATAKER *Disc. Apol.* 11 There is seldom anie smoak, but where there is some fire. 1705 WYCHERLEY in *Pope's Lett.* (1735) I. 14 You must allow there is no Smoak but there is some Fire. 1820 COLERIDGE *Lett., Conv.*, etc. I. 118 They..then exclaim: There is no smoke without some fire.

†**c.** *Out of the smoke into the fire*, etc., out of a small danger into a great one. *Obs.* (Cf. L. *de fumo in flammam*, Ammianus.)

1547 J. HARRISON *Exhort. Scottes* f iv b, Leaste by fleynge the smoke, we fall into the fyre. 1600 SHAKS. *A. Y. L.* I. ii. 299 Thus must I from the smoake into the smother. 1609 HOLLAND *Amm. Marcell.* XIV. ii. 25 Hee..went just as the old proverbe saith, out of the smoke into the light fire.

d. Used to designate anything having no real value or substance, or a mere shadow *of* something.

1548 tr. *Papius' Conc. Apothecaries* in Recorde *Urinal Phys.* (1651) 243 That the selfe-conceited..may learne to.. brag and vaunt forth their vanities and smokes. 1559 *Mirr. Mag.* (1563) I v, Our kyngdomes are but cares,..our power a smouldring smoke. 1601–3 DANIEL *C'tess Cumberland* 35 The all-guiding Prouidence..mocks this smoake of wit. 1621 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Superbiæ Flagellum* D 3 Their Pride is..A smoake, a bubble. 1705 WYCHERLEY in *Pope's Lett.* (1735) I. 14 If Compliment be the Smoak only of Friendship. 1749 SMOLLETT *Gil Blas* x. i, Preferring the smoke of public applause to the real advantages which my friendship prepared for him. 1806 *Sporting Mag.* XXVIII. 279 In his opinion it was all smoke. 1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) III. 122 The ambitious man will think knowledge which is without honour all smoke and nonsense.

e. Denoting a clouding or obscuring medium or influence.

1565 COOPER *Thesaurus* s.v. *Fuligo*, To speake obscurely: to cast a darke smoke or miste before their eies.. 1581 J. BELL *Haddon's Answ. Osorius* 273 b, Why shamed he not to blind the eyes of the people with such smoakes? 1594 T. B. tr. *De la Primaud. Fr. Acad.* II. 333 Their eies dimmed with some smoake of honours. 1603 J. DAVIES (Heref.) *Microcosmos* Wks. (Grosart) I. 98/1 The Eyes that ..smoke of praise Doe dimme, are feeble-sighted. *a* 1677 BARROW *Serm.* Wks. 1716 I. 167 Truth will not be discerned through the smoak of wrathful expressions. 1864 TENNYSON *Aylmer's F.* 672 Thro' the smoke, The blight of low desires. 1873 FARRAR *Silence & V.* Ser. I. 22 Reading them, through the lurid smoke of sectarian hate.

f. Denoting fraudulent dealing in the fulfilment of bargains or promises; esp. *to sell smoke* (after L. *fumum vendere*), to act dishonestly, to swindle.

1589 GREENE *Menaphon* Wks. (Grosart) VI. 106 You get but a handfull of smoake to the bargaine. 1599 NASHE *Lenten Stuff* Wks. (Grosart) V. 306 That for your selling smoake you may be courtiers. 1655 tr. *Sorel's Com. Hist. Francion* IV. 24, I abandoned their conversation, because I found they were but sellers of smoak. 1692 WASHINGTON tr. *Milton's Def. People* Pref., To relieve the necessities of Nature..by selling of Smoke, as thou dost.

g. *To come to, end in, vanish into, smoke*, to come to nothing, be unrealized, be without result.

1604 E. GRIMSTONE *Siege Ostend* 184 Their subtill deuises are come to smoake. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* II. 44 The ill successe of the Queenes affaires (whose..Royall Army they had seene vanish into smoke). 1683 TEMPLE *Mem.* Wks. 1720 I. 470 Thus ended in Smoke the whole Negotiation. 1704 *Collect. Voy. & Trav.* III. 699/2 His Designs vanished into Smoke. 1771 SMOLLETT *Humph. Cl.* (1815) 168, I take it for granted, this whole affair will end in smoke. 1853 MRS. CARLYLE in *New Lett. & Mem.* II. 68 One might let him scheme and talk, hoping it might all end in smoke.

h. *Like smoke*, very quickly, rapidly.

1833 M. SCOTT *Tom Cringle* x, Sail was made, and..she began to snore through it like smoke. 1840 MARRYAT *Poor Jack* vi, Away we all went like smoke. 1853 DICKENS *Bleak Ho.* xi, His brandy-balls go off like smoke. 1860 WHYTE MELVILLE *Market Harb.* 86 The hounds are running like smoke!

5. a. Tobacco. Now *rare* or *Obs.*

1612 WOODALL *Surg. Mate* Wks. (1653) 20* A small Gallon of Sack, and a pipe of the best smoake. 1616 R. C. *Times' Whistle* (1871) 71 Every skull And skip-iacke now will have his pipe of smoke And whiff it. 1649 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Wand. West* 19 They gave me smoake and drinke in Plimouth. 1853 'C. BEDE' *Verdant Green* I. vii, That if Mr. Larkyns was no smoker himself, he at least kept a bountiful supply of 'smoke' for his friends.

b. A cigar or cigarette. Also *fig.*

1882 BESANT *All Sorts* 112 The twopenny smoke, to which we cling, though it is made of medicated cabbage. 1893 C. G. LELAND *Mem.* I. 158 She was,..as we used to say at college of certain unpopular people, a 'bad smoke'.

6. [f. the vb.] A spell of smoking tobacco, etc.

1837 W. IRVING *Adv. Capt. Bonneville* II. 286 A crowd of visiters awaited their appearance, all eager for a smoke and a talk. 1890 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Col. Reformer* (1891) 241 It was considered reasonable to devote half an hour to rest..and a smoke for the stockmen.

7. *Cape smoke*, a cheap kind of brandy drunk in South Africa.

1849 E. E. NAPIER *Exc. S. Afr.* II. 9 A young Hottentot, ..as fond of 'Cape Smoke'..as any of his tribe. 1880 GILLMORE *On Duty* 366 He produced a bottle of smoke (Cape brandy). 1893 *Edin. Rev.* Apr. 297 'Cape Smoke' is the most poisonous of all alcoholic drinks.

8. A Persian cat of a deep cinder-colour, with a white under-coat.

Also in combs., as *smoke-breeder, -fancier*, etc.

1893 *Westm. Gaz.* 17 Oct. 4/3 Miss Brigden's cat should not be overlooked among the 'smokes'.

II. *attrib.* and *Comb.* **9.** Attrib., in the sense of 'consisting of smoke', as *smoke-atmosphere, -burst, -cloud, -drift*, etc.

1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. IV. iv, It will burn..its whole *smoke-atmosphere too. 1852 M. ARNOLD *Empedocles* II. 417 Through the black, rushing *smoke-bursts, Thick breaks the red flame. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. I. iii, From yonder White Haven rise his *smoke-clouds. 1884 *Athenæum* 6 Dec. 739/1 Bars of light and shade belonging to the mist and *smoke-drift of London. 1864 LOWELL *Fireside Trav.* 8 Nor did the *smoke-palm of Vesuvius stand more erect and fair. 1890 SIR R. S. BALL *Star-Land* 335 We can make many experiments with *smoke-rings. 1813 HOGG *Queen's Wake* II. Wks. (1876) 19 His stature, on the mighty plan Of *smoke-tower o'er the burning pile. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. I. ii, Thou seest the *Smoke-vapour. 1598 MARSTON *Sco. Villanie* III. ix. 219 Belch impious blasphemies,..Snuffe vp *smoak-whiffs. 1808 SCOTT *Marm.* IV. XXX, The *smoke-wreaths..That round her sable turrets flow.

b. Used for, or promoting, the escape of smoke, as *smoke-flue, -funnel, -pipe*, etc.

1840 *Cottager's Manual* 7 in *Husb.* III. (L. U. K.), Vertical strata of gravel..alternating with *smoke-flues. 1799 G. SMITH *Laboratory* 143 A sort of funnel, like a *smoke funnel to an oven. 1853 URE *Dict. Arts* (ed. 4) II. 105 The *smoke-pipe of a subsidiary fire. 1856 KANE *Arctic Explor.* I. xxxi. 424 The *smoke-tubes of the stove.

c. Due to, or caused by, smoke, as *smoke-blackness, -nuisance, -smell*, etc.

1841 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* IV. 386 Smoke nuisance in large towns. 1874 RUSKIN *Fors Clav.* XXXIX. 56 Golden light and song..are better than smoke-blackness. 1876 T. HARDY *Ethelberta* (1890) 81 Sniffing extraordinary smoke-smells which she discovered in all nooks and crannies of the rooms.

d. With names of colours, as *smoke-blue, -brown, -grey*, etc. (used as sbs. or adjs.).

London smoke: see LONDON.

1807 AIKIN *Dict. Chem. & Min.* II. 98/1 Its colour is ash or smoak-grey. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 388 Their ordinary tint verges upon yellow, or smoke-yellow. *a* 1847 ELIZA COOK *Birds* iii, There the smoke-brown Sparrow sits. 1901 CLIVE HOLLAND *Mousmé* 284 Overhung with smoke-blue mosquito curtains.

e. Having the colour of smoke; of a brownish or bluish grey colour. *Smoke quartz*, smoky quartz.

1872 E. HULL *Build. & Ornament. Stones* 175 *Smoke quartz.* This is a clouded variety [of rock crystal], with a brownish tint. 1884 *Western Daily Press* 11 Apr. 7/6 There are jackets of the finest cloth, geranium-red, electric-blue, smoke,..and brown. 1899 *Westm. Gaz.* 21 Sept. 3/2 The smoke fox, a blue-grey colouring which is really dyed. 1903 F. SIMPSON *Bk. Cat* xiv. 185 Perfect smoke cats..should be black, shading to smoke grey.

10. *Comb.* **a.** Objective, with pres. ppples., adjs., agent-nouns, or nouns of action, as *smoke-burner, -burning, -consumer, -consuming, -consumption, -consumptive*, etc.

Many of these have been in common use from *c* 1840.

(*a*) 1596 FITZ-GEFFREY *Sir F. Drake* (1881) 96 O let our smoake-exhalinge breaths enfold A mightie cloud of sighes. 1612 SELDEN *Illustr. Drayton's Poly-olb.* xi. I. 139 Those foggie mists of error, and smoake-selling imposture. 1842 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* V. 42 This..furnace operates not upon the smoke-preventive, but upon the smoke-consumptive principle. *Ibid.* 131 The..furnace is in reality a smoke-burning and not a smoke-preventing. *Ibid.*, Some new smoke-consuming theory. 1891 MORRIS *News Nowhere* 7 The soap-works with their smoke-vomiting chimneys were gone.

(*b*) 1604 JAS. I *Counterbl. to Tobacco* (Arb.) 111 Of so many smoke-buyers, as are at this present in this kingdome, I neuer read nor heard. 1838 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* I. 168 The adaptation of the patent smoke-consumer to a locomotive engine. *Ibid.* 344 The only effectual smoke-burner I have ever seen. 1851 *Catal. Grt. Exhib.* I. 328/1 Smoke condenser. 1891 *Cent. Dict., Smoke-washer*, a device for purifying smoke by washing as it passes through a chimney-flue.

(*c*) 1842 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* V. 42/1 An incarnation (so to speak) of the principles of smoke-prevention. 1851 *Catal. Grt. Exhib.* I. p. xcix, Apparatus for effecting Smoke-consumption. 1882 (*title*), Official Report of the Smoke-Abatement Committee.

b. Instrumental, with past ppples., as *smoke-begotten, -bleared*, etc.

1872 C. W. KING *Antique Gems & Rings* 148 *Smoke-begotten theories of modern German sciolists. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. V. vi, A..dwarfish individual, of *smoke-bleared aspect. 1720 *Mem. W. Stukeley* (Surtees) I. 157 Their painted or rather *smoak-bound hides. 1822 LAMB *Elia* I. *Distant Correspondents*, Elms,..[with] *smoke-dyed barks, the theme of jesting ruralists. 1748 THOMSON *Cast. Indol.* I. lxx, Then *smoke enrolled Their oracles break forth. 1856 FROUDE *Hist. Eng.* (1862) I. 463 Those streets..so black and *smoke-grimed. 1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* xiii, The daily passage of so many *smoke-pennoned steam-boats. 1879 *19th Cent.* No. 31. 401 The swarming bustle of our *smoke-smothered towns. 1833 TENNYSON in *Life* (1897) I. 130 They are so *smoke-sodden. 1602 CAREW *Cornw.* 72 Hanging me thus vp, to be *smoke-starued ouer your chimnies. 1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* x. 429 There Fabrickes are..of *smoke-torne straw..and Raine-dropping watles.

c. With adjs., as *smoke-like, -proof, -tight.*

1840 R. H. DANA *Bef. Mast.* XXVIII. 98 We calked and pasted, and, so far as we could, made the ship smoke-tight. 1849 THOREAU *Week Concord Riv.* (1894) 4 Skirted..with alder-swamps and smoke-like maples. 1901 *Westm. Gaz.* 24 Dec. 7/2 One of the firemen donned a smoke-proof suit and helmet.

11. Special combs.: **smoke-arch** *U.S.*, the smoke-box of a locomotive (Webster, 1864); **smoke-bell, -board** (see quots.); **smoke-glass**, an eyepiece or spectacle of smoked glass; **smoke helmet**, a helmet used by firemen, enabling the wearer to see and breathe freely in the midst of smoke; †**smoke-hen**, a hen accustomed to perch in the smoke; **smoke-loft**, a loft in which the smoking of bacon, etc., is done; **smoke-mantle**, part of a furnace for roasting tin-ores; †**smoke-merchant**, a tobacconist; †**smoke-money**, money paid by householders as a due or tax (see quots. and cf. *smoke-penny*); **smoke night**, an evening meeting accompanied by smoking; **smoke-pence, -penny** (see quots. and *smoke-money*); **smoke-plant**, the Venetian sumach, *Rhus cotinus*, which has a feathery inflorescence suggestive of smoke; **smoke-proof**, an impression taken from a smoked type-punch, etc.; **smoke respirator** (see quots.); **smoke-sail** (see quot. 1846); †**smoke-seller** (see SMOKE *sb.* 4 f); also, a tobacconist; †**smoke-shop**, a tobacconist's shop in which accommodation for smoking was provided; †**smoke-silver**, silver paid as smoke-money **smoke-talk** *U.S.*, a social meeting accompanied by smoking; **smoke test**, a method of testing the state of drains and pipes by means of smoke; **smoke-tree**, = *smoke-plant*; (also the American species *Rhus cotinoides*); **smoke-wood** (see quot.).

1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2223/2 **Smoke-bell*, a glass bell suspended over a gas-light, to intercept the smoke. 1850 OGILVIE, **Smoke-board*, a board hung in front of a fire-place, to keep the smoke from emerging into the apartment. 1769 *Phil. Trans.* LIX. 334 These two observers looked directly at the Sun, having their instruments armed with *smoke-glasses. 1889 *Anthony's Photogr. Bulletin* II. 373 A pair of light-tinted smoke glasses will afford great relief. 1900 *Daily Mail* 24 Apr. 3/2 An officer of the brigade donned a *smoke helmet. 1577 B. GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* IV. (1586) 162 b, The cause that the old people made choise in their quitrentes of *smoke Hennes, as of the best. 1657 H. CROWCH *Welsh Trav.* 11 Unto the *smoake-loft clim'd he than, and to the bacon crept. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 1246 The *smoke-mantle or chimney-hood, at the end of the furnace. *a* 1618 *Smoke-merchant [see *smoke-seller*]. 1662 PETTY *Taxes* 86 Of all the accumulative excises, that of hearth-money or *smoak-money seems the best. 1778 **England's Gaz.* (ed. 2) s.v. *Brighthelmstone*, The vicar here..claims the old episcopal custom of a penny per head (commonly called Smoak-Money, or the Garden-Penny). 1850 *N. & Q.* 1st Ser. II. 120/2 Smoke Money.. under this name is collected every year at Battle in Sussex. 1891 *Melbourne Punch* 2 June 378/3 The Mutual Store '*Smoke night' was held at the Vienna Cafe on Thursday evening. 1584 R. WILSON *Three Ladies London* I, For here were *smoke-pence, Peter-pence, and Paul-pence to be paid. 1631 WEEVER *Anc. Funeral Mon.* 176 Parsons, and Impropriators of Churches, at this day in many places of England, are payed this pennie vnder the name of a *Smoke pennie. 1652 *Answ. Petit. Poor Husbandmen* 19 The Parishioners do commonly blow away all the tithes due for firewood with a smoak penny. 1850 *N. & Q.* 1st Ser. II. 174/2 Smoke pennies are also yearly levied from most

of the inhabitants of the New Forest. 1856 A. Gray *Man, Bot.* (1860) 76 Sumach...Leaves (simple in R. Cotinus, the **Smoke-Plant* of gardens). 1888 *Encycl. Brit.* XXIII. 699 The flame..blackens the letter, and thus enables an impression, called a **smoke proof*, to be stamped on paper. 1902 De Vinne *Title-pages* 79 Pleasing as a new ornament in this style might appear in the smoke-proof, it was sure to be a blotch in the print. 1866 C. F. T. Young *Fires, Fire-Engines*, etc. 44 About the year 1824 one John Roberts..invented a '*smoke-respirator' or hood, by means of which a fireman could enter a burning building or room. 1884 *Health Exhib. Catal.* 60/1 Tyndale's Smoke Respirators are to enable the wearer to enter into most dense and pungent smoke with perfect safety. 1805 *Naval Chron.* XIII. 379, 90 yards of canvass were purchased to make her *smoke-sail. 1846 A. Young *Naut. Dict.* 288 *Smoke-sail*, a small sail put up for the purpose of preventing the smoke of the galley from going aft to the quarter-deck, when the ship is riding head-to-wind. *a* 1618 Sylvester *Tobacco Battered* 812 Wks. (Grosart) II. 274 'Let the *Smoak-seller suffocate with Smoak': Which our Smoak-Merchants would no lesse befit. 1649 W. M. *Wandering Jew* (1857) 25 And when the miserable smoke-sellers die, how are they buried? 1798 *Sporting Mag.* XII. 194 The chit-chat of a Birmingham *smoke shop. 1802 Beddoes *Hygëia* VIII. 31 Among..the artisans that croud the smoke-shops. 1664 Spelman *Gloss.* s.v., By the payment of *Smoke Silver to the Sheriff yearlie. 1698 in *Ho. of Lords MSS.* (1905) III. 257 The duty commonly called Smoak Silver, Peter Pence or Common Fine. 1893 *Boston* (Mass.) *Jrnl.* 25 Mar. 2/2 The Association of Railroad and Steamboat Agents..held a *smoke-talk..last evening. 1886 *Encycl. Brit.* XXI. 716 The '*smoke test' ..consists of filling the house-drain, soil-pipes, and waste-pipes with a dense and pungent smoke. 1860 Worcester, **Smoke-tree.* 1887 G. W. Cox *Cycl. Common Things* (ed. 6) 573 The Venetian Sumach of Southern Europe is the common smoke tree or fringe tree of the gardens. 1863 Prior *Plant-n.*, **Smoke-wood*, from children smoking its porous stalks, *Clematis vitalba*.

Smoke (smōuk), *v.* Forms: 1 smocian, smokian, 3 smokien, 3–4 smoken (5 smokyn), 4–smoke; 6–7 smoake, 6–9 smoak. [OE. *smocian*, f. *smoca* Smoke *sb.* Cf., with different ablaut-grade, MDu. and Du., MLG. and LG., *smoken* (WFris. *smoke*), G. *schmauchen*; also the trans. LG. *smöken* (whence Da. *smøge*), G. *schmäuchen* (†*schmeuchen*) :—**smaukjan*. See also Smeek *v.*]

I. 1. *intr.* To produce or give forth smoke.

c 1000 Ælfric *Gen.* xv. 17 þa sloh þær micel mist and ferde swilce an ofen eall smociende. *c* 1000 *Lambeth Ps.* ciii. 32 Se þe æthrinð muntas & hiz smociað. *c* 1205 Lay. 25734 þa isezen heo..a muchel fur smokien uppen ane hulle. *c* 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 233/490 Al þe se þare aboute barnde and smokede faste. 1388 Wyclif *Gen.* xv. 17 A furneis smokynge apperide, and a laumpe of fier. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 460/2 Smekyn, or smokyn, *Fumo, fumigo.* 1530 Palsgr. 723/1 This woode smoketh to moche, it is nat drye ynoughe. 1591 Savile tr. *Tacitus, Agricola* 26r The houses fired and smoking farre of. 1647 Cowley *Mistr., Discovery*, The Gods may give their Altars o're; They'll smoak but seldom any more. 1700 Dryden *Ovid's Met., Baucis & Philemon* 52 With Leaves and Barks she feeds her Infant-fire: It smoaks. 1743 Davidson *Æneid* VII. 203 The torch smoaking with grim horrid light. 1815 Scott *Guy M.* x, They perceived that she [the ship] grounded, smoked, and, finally, took fire. 1905 F. Young *Sands of Pleasure* II. iii, The cigarette smoked unheeded in her fingers.

b. In fig. uses or contexts.

1535 Coverdale *Deut.* xxix. 20 His wrath and gelousy shall smoke ouer soch a man. *a* 1548 Hall *Chron., Hen. IV*, 29 b, Where hertes still burne and malice continually smoketh. 1575 Gascoigne *Glasse Govt.* III. i, These young gallants are caught without a net..; no man gladder then I, for as long as that chimney smoketh, I..shall not go hungrie to bed. 1639 S. Du Verger tr. *Camus' Admir. Events* 80 Glory is a perfume fit to smoake no where but before the Altar of vertue. 1677 Hubbard *Narr.* 48 To cause his jealousie to smoak against those of his own heritage. 1834 De Quincey in *Tait's Mag.* I. 196/1 Ireland was still smoking with the embers of rebellion.

c. Of a room, chimney, lamp, etc.: To be smoky, to emit smoke, as the result of imperfect draught or improper burning.

1663 Pepys *Diary* 13 Jan., The dining-room smokes unless I keep a good charcoal fire. 1715 Desaguliers *Fires Impr.* 31 Every little cranny may be stopp'd up close without fear of the Room smoaking. *c* 1725 Pope *Upon Dk. Marlborough's House at Woodstock* 8 The chimneys..never smoke in any wind. 1807 Gass *Jrnl.* 176 We found our huts smoked; there being no chimnies in them except in the officers' rooms. 1826 Scott *Woodst.* xxi, It is best sitting near the fire when the chimney smokes. 1906 H. Wales *Mr. & Mrs. Villiers* xxiii, The lamp had been smoking in his room.

2. To give off or send up vapour, dust, spray, etc.; *esp.* to steam.

With quot. 1869 cf. Smoke *sb.* 1 e.

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 226 As smylt mele vnder smal siue smokes for-þikke. 1533 J. Heywood *Mery Play* 21 (Brandl), Whan I haue beten her tyll she smoke. 1577 B. Googe *Heresbach's Husb.* IV. (1586) 176 Their labour smokes and all of time [= thyme] doth smell, The Hony sweete in their Coames they lay. 1617 Morvson *Itin.* III. 97 These often heated meats, which smoaked on the outside, yet were cold on the inside. 1697 Dryden *Virg. Georg.* III. 274 The lab'ring Yoke and shining Shares, that make the Furrow smoak. 1732 Pope *Ep. Bathurst* 360 Two puddings smok'd upon the board. 1782 Cowper *T. Gilpin* 127 Which made his horse's flanks to smoke. 1802 Pinkerton *Mod. Geogr.* (1811) 329 The water smokes continually. 1863 W. C. Baldwin *Afr. Hunting* ii. 57 It rained incessantly the whole night, and we..lay smoking and steaming. 1869 Tennyson *Holy Grail* 18, I have seen this yew-tree smoke, Spring after spring, for half a hundred years.

b. To rise, spread, or move, like smoke.

In later quots. with suggestion of next sense.

1595 Shaks. *John* v. iv. 34 This night whose blacke contagious breath Already smoakes [etc.]. 1726–46 Thomson *Spring* 194 A yellow mist, Far smoaking o'er th' interminable plain. 1781 Cowper *Truth* 238 See where it smokes along the sounding plain, Blown all aslant, a driving, dashing rain. 1821 Clare *Vill. Minstr.* II. 106 Where the thin clouds smoke along the sky. 1904 J. Conrad *Nostromo* i, They [clouds]..smoke in stormy trails across the snows of Higueroia.

c. To ride, drive, sail, etc., at a rapid pace or great speed. Const. *along* (prep. or adv.).

1697 Dryden *Æneid* VII. 909 Proud of his Steeds he smoaks along the Field. 1725 Pope *Odyss.* III. 615 The coursers..held Their equal pace, and smoak'd along the field. 1735 Somerville *Chase* II. 232 Then like a foaming Torrent, pouring down Precipitant, we smoke along the Vale. 1827 Scott *Chron. Canongate* iii, Smoking along in his travelling chaise-and-four. 1894 *Times* 6 Aug. 5/2 The Vigilant came smoking along in style past Ryde.

d. *Austr. slang.* = Slope *v.*² 1.

1893 in Morris *Austral Eng.* s.v., 'Do not say we were here. Let us smoke.' 'Smoke'.. is the slang for the 'push' to get away as fast as possible.

3. *fig.* †**a.** To fume, be angry. *Obs.*

a 1548 Hall *Chron., Edw. IV*, 212 The Duke..so fumed and smoked at the matter. *a* 1562 G. Cavendish *Wolsey* (1893) 47 Evyn so was she commaundyd to avoyde the court..; whereat she smoked.

b. *School slang.* To blush.

1862 Farrar *St. Winifred's* iv, 'Why, you're smoking now,' said Henderson, as Walter..began to blush a little.

†**4.** To smart, to suffer severely. *Obs.*

In early use with allusion to actual burning; quot. 1773 partly belongs to sense 2.

a 1548 Hall *Chron., Hen. VIII*, 64 b, For feare to bee called heretike, and then they would make hym smoke or beare a faggot. 1595 in *Cath. Rec. Soc. Publ.* V. 352 The farewell was he would make hym smoake for yt before he departed the towne. 1679 Dryden *Limberham* v. i, Now I am resolv'd I will go see 'em, or some-body shall smoak for't. 1773 Goldsm. *Stoops to Conq.* v, No such bad driving; the poor beasts have smoked for it.

II. 5. *trans.* To expose (a person, place, etc.) to the smoke of some curative, purifying, or aromatic substance; to fumigate, esp. as a means of disinfecting.

c 1000 *Saxon Leechd.* I. 116 Ȝenim þu þas ylcan wyrte, & smoca hit [*sc.* the child] mid. *c* 1400 tr. *Secreta Secret., Gov. Lordsh.* 83 [Let him] after smoke him with ensens couenable to þe tyme. 1530 Palsgr. 723/1, I wyll medyll me with no garmentes that were his tyll they be well smoked. 1546 Bale *Eng. Votaries* I. (1560) 92 b, They are..Censed, Smoked, Perfumed and Worshypped. 1599 Shaks. *Much Ado* I. iii. 60 As I was smoaking a musty roome. 1665 in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* Ser. II. IV. 32, I smoke your house twice a week. 1772–84 *Cook's Voy.* (1790) IV. 1215 The ship was smoaked between decks with gunpowder. 1796 C. Marshall *Gardening* (1813) 398 Orchards, dung, dress, prune, or smoak them. 1840 R. H. Dana *Bef. Mast* xxix, The next day was Sunday, and a good day for smoking ship.

b. To expose or subject to smoke, so as to suffocate, stupefy, or make uncomfortable.

It is doubtful whether quots. 1824 and 1825 are based on real knowledge of the phrase they illustrate.

a 1154 *O. E. Chron.* an. 1137, Me henged up bi the fet & smoked heom mid ful smoke. 1617 Brathwait *Smoaking Age* 87 That Alexander Severus would have smoaked such sellers of smoake. 1641 J. Jackson *True Evang. Temper* I. 44 Others inverted..were so smoaked and suffocated to death. 1686 W. Harris tr. *Lemery's Course Chym.* (ed. 2) 483 Tabaco kills serpents..if you should smoke them with it. 1712 Steele *Spect.* No. 358 ¶ 1 After which they have gone in a Body and smoaked a Cobler. [1824 Scott *Red. gauntlet* let. i, Who taught me to smoke a cobbler? 1825 Brockett *N. C. Gloss., Smoke-the-Cobbler*, a mischievous pastime among children.] 1900 Pollok & Thom *Sports Burma* vi. 202 They then smoke the bees until they are stupid.

fig. 1595 Shaks. *John* II. i. 139 Ile smoake your skin-coat and I catch you right. 1601 B. Jonson *Every Man in Hum.* IV. ii, It vanished away like the smoke of tobacco; but I was smoked soundly first. 1680 V. Alsop *Mischief Imposit.* xii. 98 They formed themselves into separate bodies for Government, and were soundly smok'd for it in the high Commission.

c. To fill with, expose to, smoke, esp. so as to blacken, discolour, or render obscure. Also const. *through* (quot. 1846).

1611 Shaks. *Cymb.* V. v. 398 Let's quit this ground, And smoake the Temple with our Sacrifices. 1631 A. Wilson *The Swisser* II. i, With some quaint oath in 's mouth, smoaking his nostrills. *a* 1704 T. Brown *Walk r. Lond.* Wks. 1709 III. III. 64 Others..sat smoaking their Noses, and drinking Burnt-Brandy. 1748 Johnson *Van. Human Wishes* 85 The painted face..Smoak'd in kitchens, or in auctions sold. 1800 *Phil. Trans.* XC. 274, I now took two green glasses; but found that they did not intercept light enough. I therefore smoked one of them. 1846 Holtzapffel *Turning* II. 730 The new piece is laid upon the original, the interstices of which are smoked through with a lamp. 1883 *Cent. Mag.* XXV. 849/1, I copy pictures and he smokes them and sells them as old masters.

d. To cure or preserve (bacon, fish, etc.) by exposure to smoke; to smoke-dry.

1757 Washington *Lett.* Writ. 1889 I. 413, I have directed the provision..to be smoked, if there are conveniences for doing it. 1767 *Phil. Trans.* LVII. 284 The herring..when salted and smoked. 1836 W. Irving *Astoria* III. 251 Having no other food, she killed the two horses, and smoked their flesh. 1846 J. Baxter *Libr. Pract. Agric.* (ed. 4) II. 311 Smoking the bacon is much better than merely drying it.

6. †**a.** With *out* or *away*: To convert into smoke. *Obs. rare.*

1382 Wyclif 2 *Chron.* ii. 4 To brennen encense before hym, and to swote thingis to ben out smokid. 1686 tr. *Chardin's Trav. Persia* 154 The three Grains of Incense.., were strew'd upon a few Embers, and smoak'd away.

b. To drive-*out* or *away* by means of smoke. Also *fig.*

1593 Nashe *Christ's T.* Wks. (Grosart) IV. 230 In smoaking this..trade out of his starting-holes. 1624 Sanderson *Serm.* I. 115 The magistrate..that would speedily smoke away these gnats that swarm about the courts of justice. 1720 De Foe *Capt. Singleton* xv. (1840) 259 William..proposed, that they should..smoke them out. 1839 Scott *Anne of G.* xxv, Till we smoke out of his earths the old fox Louis. 1870 Miss Bridgman *R. Lyune* I. iv. 57 He drew out a second cigar, with the..view..of 'smoking her out'.

†**7.** To cause to smoke; to urge at a high speed. *Obs.*—1

a 1658 Cleveland *May Day* ii, Whiles Phœbus..Smoaks his bright Teem along on the Grand Paw.

8. To get an inkling of, to smell or suspect (a plot, design, etc.). Now *arch.* (in common use *c* 1600–1850).

1608 Chapman *Byron's Consp.* Wks. 1873 II. 201 Least so he might haue smokt our practises. 1667 Dryden & Dk. Newcastle *Sir M. Mar-all* I, Sir John, I fear, smokes your design. 1733 Fielding *Quix. in Eng.* I. viii, Let me tell you,..I begin to smoke a plot. I begin to apprehend no opposition, and then we're sold, neighbour. 1770 Dibdin *Deserter* II. i, Oh, Oh, I smoke this business.—Comrade, I'm off, I'm off. 1812 Combe *Syntax, Picturesque* x. 214 An honest 'Squire, who smok'd the trick, Appear'd well-arm'd with oaken stick. 1837 Barham *Ingol. Leg.* Ser. I. *Monstre Balloon* vi, Such a trumpery tale every one of us smokes. 1886 Burton *Arab. Nts.* (abr. ed.) I. 48 The man, not..smoking the plot, waxed exceeding wroth.

b. *absol.* To have an inkling or idea; to understand. Now *arch.*

1676 Etheredge *Man of Mode* III. iii, Peace, they smoak. 1688 Shadwell *Sq. Alsatia* IV, I am sharp, sharp as a needle; I can smoak now, as soon as another. 1757 Foote *Author* II, Oh, now I begin to understand..; ecod, I begin to smoke. 1842 Barham *Ingol. Leg.* Ser. II. *Lay of St. Medard* xxix, St. Medard paused,—he began to 'smoke'.

9. To make fun of, to jest at; to ridicule, banter, or quiz (a person). Now *arch.*

a 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew, Smoke him, Smoke him again*, to affront a Stranger at his coming in. 1755 *Connoisseur* No. 54 ¶ 4 The Bucks..sat in another box, to smoke their rusty wigs and brown cassocks. 1772 Mme. D'Arblay *Early Diary* (1889) I. 159 He..suffered us to laugh at his affectation.., even joining in our mirth and seeming happy to be smoaked. 1818 Keats *Lett.* (1895) 245 We hated her and smoked her and baited her and I think drove her away. 1859 Thackeray *Virginians* lxxxix, Our young men were accustomed to smoke her, as the phrase then was.

10. To observe, take note of, 'twig'. Now *arch.*

1715 Addison *Drummer* III. i, Thou'rt very smart, my Dear. But see! smoak the Doctor. 1762 Foote *Orator* II, Smoke the justice, he is as fast as a church. *c* 1826 J. Wilson *Noct. Ambr.* Wks. 1855 I. 199 Kit, smoke his eyes, how they glare. 1856 'T. Gwynne' *Young Singleton* viii, 'Smoke the big-wig Lund!' whispered Fotheringay.

III. 11. *intr.* To inhale (and expel again) the fumes of tobacco, or other suitable substance, from a pipe, cigar, or cigarette. † Also with *it.*

1617 Brathwait *Smoaking Age* 174 The sleeping Dormouse..sleepes but all Winter, but this Man i' th' Mist smoakes it all the yeare long: hee proportions his nose [etc.]. 1687 Montague & Prior *Hind & Panth. Transv.* 17 Your Pipe's so foul, that I disdain to smoak. 1721 Hearne *Collect.* (O.H.S.) VII. 208 Even children were oblig'd to smoak. 1777 Dalrymple *Trav. Sp. & Port.* xvii, I declined the favour, but the others smoaked about. 1827 Carlyle *Germ. Rom.* I. 7 Smoking vehemently on his black stump of a pipe. 1852 Thackeray *Esmond* II. xi, Mr. Addison was..smoking out of his long pipe, and smiling very placidly. 1900 Pollok & Thom *Sports Burma* v. 171 He was..never better pleased than when smoking away at a long Shan pipe.

12. *trans.* To use (tobacco, etc.) as material for smoking. Also *fig.* (quot. 1840).

1687 A. Lovell tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* I. 259 Some..have in the mean while smoaked Tobacco, when it was given them. 1716 Church *Philip's War* (1865) I. 28 Capt. Fullers party being troubled with the..lust after Tobacco, must needs strike fire to Smoke it. 1796 Morse *Amer. Geogr.* II. 85 They also smoke tobacco to excess. 1811 [see Hashish]. 1840 Barham *Ingol. Leg.* Ser. I. *St. Odille* xiv, So put that in your pipe..and smoke it. 1878 Stanley *Dark Cont.* xviii. (1889) 324 The bandits' custom of smoking banghi (wild hemp).

b. To use (a pipe, cigar, etc.) in the act of smoking; to take (so many whiffs).

1706–7 Farquhar *Beaux' Strat.* I. i, He..smoaks his Pipe Eight and forty Hours together sometimes. 1762 Sterne *Tr. Shandy* VI. vi, My uncle Toby..lighted his pipe, and smoak'd about a dozen whiffs. 1820 W. Irving *Sketch Bk.* II. 338, I found him..smoking his pipe in the..evening sunshine. 1837 Dickens *Pickw.* xl, Send down word that he's to spend the change in cigars..I'll smoke 'em. 1902 Eliz. Banks *Newspaper Girl* 179, I never saw a woman smoke a cigarette till I came to London.

c. With *out* (= to the end, completely).

1705 tr. *Bosman's Guinea* 306 Which Pipe thus filled they without ceasing can easily smoak out. 1842 Borrow *Bible in Spain* xl, See, I have smoked out your cigar. 1871 M. Collins *Marq. & Merch.* II. vii. 216 She smoked one [cigarette] out right seldom.

13. To wear *out*, waste (*away*), bring *into* a certain state, etc., by smoking tobacco or some similar substance.

1604 Jas. I *Counterbl. to Tobacco* (Arb.) 106 If a man smoke himselfe to death with it (and many haue done).

1616 R.C. *Times' Whistle* (1871) 72 He..smokd out all his living at his nose. 1617 BRATHWAIT *Smoaking Age* 195 Sweet Youth, Smoake not thy time; Too precious to abuse. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 294/2 He who smoaks away the chief of his time. 1823 SCOTT *Quentin D.* Introd., I gradually ..smoked myself into a certain degree of acquaintance with [him]. 1844 *N. Brit. Rev.* II. 81 Newton smoked himself into a state of absolute etiolation. 1893 C. G. LELAND *Mem.* I. 131 To go to their rooms..and smoke them sick or into retreating.

14. *intr.* Of a pipe: To draw.

1883 *Harper's Mag.* July 174/2 These 'church-wardens' smoke freely and softly.

Smo·ke-ball. [SMOKE *sb.* 1.]

1. *Mil.* A paper shell filled with a preparation which, when ignited, sends out clouds of smoke.

The ball is fired from a mortar, and the smoke serves to drive men out of mines, conceal manœuvres, etc.

1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s.v. *Ball, Smoak..Balls,* those which..darken a place, to prevent discoveries. 1760 *Ann. Reg., Chron.* 146/1 A smoke-ball burst in General Desagulier's hand, and shattered his arm. 1802 JAMES *Milit. Dict.* s.v. *Ball,* Smoke-balls..continue to smoke from 25 to 30 minutes. 1828 SPEARMAN *Brit. Gunner* (ed. 2) 52 Balls..are of three descriptions, viz.—lead, light, and smoke-balls. 1859 F. A. GRIFFITHS *Artill. Man.* (1862) 86 The 8 in. Smoke ball burns about 4 minutes.

fig. 1796 *Gentl. Mag.* LXVI. II. 1011 When Christianity is assaulted..by the smoke-balls and stink-pots of English vagabonds.

attrib. 1809 *Naval Chron.* XXII. 286 Every rocket contains smoak-ball composition.

2. A ball used in trap-shooting, which, when struck by a shot, emits a puff of smoke.

1881 GREENER *Gun* 504 The latest improvement is the American smoke-ball, consisting of two hemispheres of paper placed upon a wooden ball.

3. A ball emitting smoke when ignited, used by thieves.

1899 *Daily News* 21 Mar. 7/2 Raising an alarm of fire by means of smoke balls ignited on the various floors. The smoke balls went beyond their commission and kindled a flame.

Smo·ke-black, *sb.* [SMOKE *sb.* 1.] A form of lamp-black obtained by the combustion of resinous materials.

1712 tr. *Pomet's Hist. Drugs* I. 204 The black sealing Wax is ting'd or colour'd with Smoak Black. 1841 LANE *Arab. Nts.* I. 130 An inferior kind is the smoke-black produced by burning the shells of almonds. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade, Smoke-black,* a substance prepared by the combustion of different resinous bodies. 1896 DE VINNE *Moxon's Printing* 412 The crude smoke-black of commerce.

Smo·ke-black, *v.* [SMOKE *sb.* 1.] *trans.* To blacken with smoke.

1809–10 COLERIDGE *Friend* (Bohn) II. 302 The counterfeit frankincense which smoke-blacks the favourite idol of a Catholic village.

Smo·ke-box. [SMOKE *sb.*]

1. A receptacle for smoke. *rare* —1.

1614 W. BARCLAY *Nepenthes* A 8, Not as the English abusers [of tobacco] do, which make a smoke-boxe of their skull.'

2. *techn.* A chamber in a steam boiler between the flues and the chimney stack; in a locomotive placed at the base of the funnel.

1846 *Penny Cycl.* Suppl. II. 670/1 That construction of engine in which the cylinders are placed at the bottom of the smoke-box. 1855 LARDNER *Mus. Sci. & Art* VI. 127 The tubes..through which the hot gases..and smoke pass from the fire-box to the smoke-box. 1897 *Pall Mall Mag.* Mar. 354 The exceptional height of the Smoke-box..rendered it necessary to adopt a dwarfed funnel.

attrib. 1855 LARDNER *Mus. Sci. & Art* VI. 128 The smoke-box door, opening on hinges at the top. 1878 F. S. WILLIAMS *Midl. Railw.* 652 The smoke-box door did not fit tight.

Smoked (smōukt), *ppl. a.* Also 7 smoakt, smoak'd, 8 smoaked. [f. SMOKE *v.* + -ED 1.]

1. Dried or cured by exposure to smoke; impregnated with smoke.

1603 DEKKER *Wonderf. Yeare* B ij b, For..some smoakt gallant, who at wit repines, To dry Tobacco with my holesome lines. 1648 HEXHAM II, *Een Sore,* a smoakt red Heering. 1700 T. BROWN tr. *Fresny's Amusem.* 117 The best smoak'd Beef in Christendom. 1747 WESLEY *Prim. Physick* (1762) p. xix, Pickled or smoaked or salted Food. 1830 M. DONOVAN *Domest. Econ.* II. 233 Smoked provisions are..apt to disagree with some persons. 1883 *Fisheries Exhib. Catal.* 370 Smoked Eels,..Smoked Plaice,..Smoked Herrings.

2. Obscured, made dark, by smoke.

1755 B. MARTIN *Mag. Arts & Sci.* 37 This small Telescope, in which I have put a smoaked Glass. 1819 SHELLEY *Œdipus* I. 400 I'll wager you will see them..With pieces of smoked glass. 1885 GOODALL *Physiol. Bot.* (1892) 383 A slowly revolving cylinder covered with smoked paper.

3. Tainted or spoiled in taste through contact with smoke.

1761 COLMAN *Prose on Sev. Occas.* (1787) I. 123 The water is smoaked, the butter rank, the bread heavy. 1857 ELTON *Below Surface* ix, A cup of smoked coffee and a dubious egg.

4. Of a smoke-colour. (Cf. SMOKE *sb.* 9 e.)

1827 GRIFFITH tr. *Cuvier* II. 75 *note,* The Smoked Kangaroo, the gray of which is somewhat deeper. 1885 *Encycl. brit.* XVIII. 447 The shells usually present a dark colour about the edges, like that of 'smoked pearl'. 1898 *Westm. Gaz.* 18 Nov. 3/2 Dark brown fox fur, that which is called 'smoked fox'.

5. With *-down* or *-out*: Exhausted or consumed by being smoked.

1859 DICKENS *Tale Two Cities* II. xvi, He put down his smoked-out pipe. 1904 BENSON *Challoners* (1906) 76/2 Martin lit a cigarette from a smoked-down stump.

Smo·ke-dried, *ppl. a.* [SMOKE *sb.* 1.] Dried or cured by exposure to smoke.

1653 H. COGAN tr. *Pinto's Trav.* lxiv. (1663) 256 Onyons and some smoak-dried flesh. 1654 H. L'ESTRANGE *Chas. I* (1655) 118 Such a swarthy metamorphosis as neer resembled smoke-dryed Bacon. *a* 1704 T. BROWN *Walk r. London* Wks. 1709 III. III. 3, I made my Smoak-dry'd Infidel shew his Ivory Teeth. 1856 KANE *Arctic Expl.* II. x. 106 Our smoke-dried cabin is a scene worth looking at. 1882 DE WINDT *Equator* 72 The bunch of smoke-dried human heads.

transf. 1857 *Chamb. Jrnl.* 17 Jan. 47/1 The smoke-dried trees of our parks.

Smo·ke-dry, *v.* [SMOKE *sb.* 1: cf. prec.]

1. *trans.* To dry or cure (meat, fish, etc.) by exposure to smoke.

1704 *Dict. Rust.* s.v. *Chesnut,* It is best to beat the Fruit down from the Tree,..or if you don't, you must Smoke-dry 'em. 1796 STEDMAN *Surinam* II. xx. 111 They even took out the jaw-bones, which they smoke-dried. 1843 BETHUNE *Sc. Fireside Stor.* 62 He even spoke of having an old woman..hung up in the chimney, and smoke-drying her for three weeks. 1886 *Encycl. Brit.* XX. 174/2 Boiled, smoke-dried, and packed in bags.

2. *intr.* To become dried by the action of smoke. In quot. *transf.*

1855 SMEDLEY *H. Coverdale* ii, You've been smoke-drying in London..till you're out of condition.

Hence **Smo·ke-drying** *vbl. sb.*

1812 MISS L. M. HAWKINS *C'tess. & Gertr.* I. 265 The discipline of a smoke-drying in one of the closest streets of the city.

Smo·ke-farthing. *Hist.* [SMOKE *sb.* 2 b.] An offering made at Whitsuntide by the householders of a diocese to the cathedral church; also, a hearth-tax (see quot. 1765).

1444 [see LINCOLN 1]. 1524 *Churchw. Acc. St. Giles, Reading* (ed. Nash) 22 To the Official for smoke farthyngs, iiij^{s} j^{d}. 1575 in North *St. Martin's, Leicester* 144 For peterpence or smoke farthynges sometyme due to the Anthecriste of roome, xd. 1609 in W. Money *Hist. of Newbury* (1887) 529 P[ai]d for Pentecostalles, otherwise called smoke farthings. 1710 J. HARRIS *Lex. Techn.* II, *Smoke-farthings,* the Pentecostals, or Customary Oblations offered by the Inhabitants within any Diocess, when they made their Procession to the Mother or Cathedral Church. 1765 BLACKSTONE *Comm.* I. 323 As early as the conquest mention is made in domesday book of fumage or fuage, vulgarly called smoke farthings; which were paid by custom to the king for every chimney in the house. 1857 TOULMIN SMITH *Parish* 503 An 'Ale' held at the time of paying the 'Smoke-farthing' or Wax-silver. 1876 [see FUMAGE 1].

Smoke-ho, -oh. *colloq.* Also smoko. [f. SMOKE *sb.* 6.] A stoppage of work in order to rest and smoke. Also *attrib.*

1897 F. T. BULLEN *Cruise 'Cachalot'* viii, This done, it was 'Smoke-oh!' The luxury of that rest and refreshment was something to be grateful for. 1898 DAVITT *Life & Progr. Austral.* lxxvi. 424 There is a 'smoke-ho' time allowed in a few of the prisons. 1900 H. LAWSON *On Track* 133 We go through the day..in runs of about an hour and 20 minutes between smoke-ho's.

Smo·ke-hole. [SMOKE *sb.* 1.]

1. The vent or external orifice of a flue; a hole in the roof of a hut through which the smoke of the fire escapes.

c 1340 *Nominale* (Skeat) 479 For smoke a smoke-hole. 1493–4 *Rec. St. Mary at Hill* 201 In expences whane sartayne of þe paryshe yede to Awew þe smoke holys. 1663 GERBIER *Counsel* 22 Cover the top of Chimneyes..; the smoake holes can be..made on the sides. 1825 LOCKHART in *Scott's Fam. Lett.* (1894) II. 298 The smoke-hole..in the roof. 1856 KANE *Arctic Expl.* I. xxx. 406 A smoke-hole passed through the roof. 1891 RIDER HAGGARD *Nada the Lily* xxix. 240 Zinita..had climbed the hut, and now lay there in the dark, her ear upon the smoke-hole, listening to every word.

b. = FUMAROLE.

1899 *Daily News* 18 Nov. 7/2 No lava is flowing, and even the fumarole, or smoke-holes, give forth no sign.

†**2.** *transf.* or *fig.* **a.** An imposture, trick. **b.** A smoking-room. **c.** The mouth of a smoker. *Obs.*

1580 HOLLYBAND *Treas. Fr. Tong* s.v. *Fourbe,* We may easily iudge of this stuffe, or smokehole, or guile. 1673 *Charac. Coffee Ho.* in *Harl. Misc.* (1810) VI. 468 The arch devil, wherewith this smoke-hole is haunted, is the town-wit. *a* 1704 T. BROWN *Walk r. Lond.* Wks. 1709 III. III. 59 Which unsavory Compliment was thus retorted.., viz. Stop your Smoak-hole Nincompoop.

Smo·ke-house. [SMOKE *sb.*]

†**1.** A dwelling-house. *Obs.* —1

1672 PETTY *Pol. Surv. Irel.* (1719) 9 The simple Smoak-houses are..184,000.

2. A room in a tannery, heated by smouldering spent tan, where hides are unhaired.

1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XVIII. 306/2 The stoutest and heaviest ox hides..are then hung on poles, in a close room called a smoke-house, in which is kept a smouldering fire of wet tan. [So in Ure *Dict. Arts* (1839) 764, *Penny Cycl.* (1842) XXIV. 37.] 1837 HEBERT *Eng. & Mech. Encycl.* II. 60 In some places, the hides were formerly piled wet one upon another..(or otherwise kept warm in what was called a smoke-house).

3. A house or room used for curing meat, fish, etc., by means of smoke.

1860 MAYNE REID *Hunter's Feast* xiv, A part of the bacon furnishes the 'smoke-house' for home consumption during the winter. 1894 *Outing* XXIV. 201/1 A rusty key that probably belonged to some smoke-house of long ago.

attrib. 1901 CABLE *Cavalier* liii, The servants were loading the smoke-house meat into a waggon.

Smo·ke-jack. [SMOKE *sb.*]

1. An apparatus for turning a roasting-spit, fixed in a chimney and set in motion by the current of air passing up this.

1675 EVELYN *Let.* in Aubrey *Nat. Hist. Surrey* (1719), The Smoke-Jack in my Brother's Kitchen-Chimney; which has been there, I have heard, near a hundred Years. 1754 MRS. DELANY *Life & Corr.* (1861) 301, I think I will have a smoke-jack; the man says he will..keep it in order for nothing. 1777 in *Crts. Europe at Close of Last Cent.* (1841) I. 180 Did you never see a smoke-jack, with a little man in red working away, and seemingly turning the wheel? 1832 BABBAGE *Econ. Manuf.* iv. (ed. 3) 36 The common smoke-jack is an instrument in which the velocity communicated is too great for the purpose required. 1884 JEFFERIES *Red Deer* ix. 172 In how few, even of the most ancient houses, are smoke-jacks still at work!

attrib. 1758 FRANKLIN *Lett.* Wks. 1840 VI. 536 This property of chimneys might, by means of smokejack vanes, be applied to some mechanical purposes.

†**b.** *transf.* The head, as the seat of confused ideas. *Obs.*

1761 STERNE *Tr. Shandy* III. xx, As for my uncle Toby, his smoak-jack had not made a dozen revolutions, before he fell asleep also. 1808 E. S. BARRETT *Miss-led General* 54 That part of the human frame which, in rational mortals, is denominated the Seat of reason; in others, a Smoke-jack.

2. *U.S.* A cowl or hood for the end of a railway-carriage stove-pipe (*Cent. Dict.* 1891).

3. A cargo-steamer.

1892 *Daily News* 3 Feb. 5/5 It may do for a 'smoke-jack' to lay off and wait for the fog, but not for a passenger ship with mails.

4. A smoke-nuisance inspector.

1898 *Daily News* 21 Nov. 8/6 The officer who carried out this duty was called a Smoke Jack.

Smokeless (smōu·klĕs), *a.* [f. SMOKE *sb.* + -LESS.]

1. Emitting or producing no smoke.

1582 T. WATSON *Poems* (Arb.) 134 A Shipwracke of mans life; a Smoaklesse fire. 1732 POPE *Ep. Bathurst* 191 Tenants with sighs the smoakless tow'rs survey. 1795–1814 WORDSW. *Excurs.* VII. 54 The smokeless chimney-top. 1856 KANE *Arctic Expl.* I. xxx. 405 The lamps were cheerful and smokeless. 1868 *Daily News* 2 Sept., It was found that the coals of the Aberdare collieries were comparatively smokeless. 1890 *Nature* 4 Sept., One of the important attributes of a smokeless powder.

2. Free from, clear of, smoke.

1631 BRATHWAIT *Whimzies* 53 To leave his smoakelesse house in the country..to riot in the citie. 1802 WORDSW. *Westminster Bridge* 8 All bright and glittering in the smokeless air. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* III. I. ii, The Sun shines; serenely westering, in smokeless mackerel-sky.

Hence **Smo·kelessly** *adv.*; **Smo·kelessness.**

1877 *Echo* 18 July 1/1 Its Smokelessness, Cleanliness, and Great Economy over all other descriptions [of coal). *a* 1891 *Engineer* LXIX. 357 (Cent.), The appliances for..consuming coal smokelessly are already at work.

Smoke-oh: see SMOKE-HO.

Smoker (smōu·kəɹ). [f. SMOKE *v.* + -ER 1. Cf. Du., Fris., MLG. *smoker,* LG. *smöker* (Da. *smøger*), G. dial. *schmaucher, schmöcher, schmeucher.*]

1. a. One who cures fish, bacon, etc., by means of smoke.

1599 NASHE *Lenten Stuff* Wks. (Grosart) V. 278 Our Herring smoker hauing worn his monsters stale throughout England. 1688 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 2331/4 A Smoaker in Philpot-lane, London. 1699 LUTTRELL *Brief Rel.* (1857) IV. 530 Jeffery Jefferyes, esq. the smoaker. 1831 JANE PORTER *Sir E. Seaward's Narr.* III. 29 Another had been a sausage-maker, or a beef and ham smoker. 1883 F. A. SMITH *Swedish Fisheries* 6 Scotch curers and smokers have, by private enterprise, been sent to Bohuslän.

b. One who jests at, or ridicules, others.

1812 COLMAN *Broad Grins, Two Parsons* lxxxv, These wooden wits, these quizzers, queerers, Smokers.

2. Something which emits smoke: †**a.** A war-vessel employed to conceal or assist hostile operations by discharging volumes of smoke. *Obs.*

a 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew, Smoker,* a Vessel to Blind the Enemies, to make way for the Machine to Play. 1726 SHELVOCKE *Voy. r. World* 321 To bring me away in case I should have occasion to make use of mine as a Fire-ship, or a Smoaker. 1811 *Self Instructor* 587 Vessels of war are.., a machine-vessel, a smoaker.

†**b.** *colloq.* A steamer. *Obs.* —1

1825 *Sporting Mag.* XVI. 211 We walked four miles early in the morning to the smoker.

c. A smoky chimney, locomotive, etc.

1883 J. MARTIN *Reminisc. Old Haddington* 29 Dr. Welsh's kitchen chimney was an inveterate smoker. 1897 *Pall Mall Mag.* Sept. 77 Strangers might suppose that American locomotives are inveterate smokers.

d. A contrivance for smoking bees.

1875 J. HUNTER *Man. Bee-keeping* (1884) 150 The simplest smoker of all is a roll of cotton rags.

3. One who smokes tobacco, opium, or the like.

1617 BRATHWAIT *Smoaking Age* 171 Yet of all these, none to me so profest enemies as these smokers of our Age. 1686 PLOT *Staffordsh.* 302 A great smoker, &c., that never spit in his life. 1727 DE FOE *Protestant Monast.* 10 He had been from his Youth a great Smoaker. 1796 MORSE *Amer. Geogr.* II. 86 Both sexes are great smoakers. 1820 BYRON *Juan* III. xxxiv, Afar, a dwarf buffoon stood telling tales To a sedate grey circle of old smokers. 1882 SALA *Amer. Revis.* (1885) 389 The deficient accommodation provided for smokers.

b. *Smoker's heart, throat,* a diseased condition of the heart or throat caused by excessive smoking. *Smoker's patch,* a smooth, bare white patch on the tongue due to excess in smoking.

1889 *Buck's Handbk. Med. Sci.* VII. 110 Smoker's Patch. *Ibid.* VIII. 553 Catarrh and hoarseness are so frequent as to give rise to the name 'smoker's throat'. 1906 *Daily Chron.* 16 June 4/4 Nicotine..causing irregular action, and producing the condition known as smoker's heart.

c. *U.S.* A grade of tobacco for smoking.

1880 *U.S. Census, Rep. Culture Tobacco* 15 Class 1. Domestic Cigar Tobacco and Smokers.

4. a. A railway carriage or compartment assigned for the use of those travellers who wish to smoke.

1882 SALA *Amer. Revis.* II. 140 The car known as the 'smoker' is usually relegated to the least eligible part of the train. 1894 *Outing* XXIV. 116/1 We threw our bundles upon the platform of the smoker and climbed up after them.

b. A concert at which smoking is permitted.

1891 *Wheeling* 25 Feb. 401 The Upperthorpe C.C. held a very enjoyable smoker on Thursday evening last.

5. *School slang.* One who blushes.

1866 *Routledge's Every Boy's Ann.* 217 If you happen to blush, he whispers in your ear 'smoker'.

Smo·ke-room. [SMOKE *sb.* or *v.*] A room in a club-house, hotel, or the like, set apart for the accommodation of those who wish to smoke.

1883 *Daily News* 29 Sept. 3/2 A young man..in the smoke-room on the night of sailing from Queenstown. 1891 E. ROPER *By Track & Trail* ix. 125 We smokers left them and took up our quarters in our proper place, the smoke-room.

Smokery (smōu·kəri). [f. SMOKE *sb.* or *v.* Cf. Fris. *smokerij* smoking.]

1. In contemptuous use (see quot.).

1657 J. WATTS *Dipper Sprinkled* 97 From the publick Ministery or Steeple-houses, (be it so) to private mysteries or smokeries, rather of their Chimney-houses.

2. Articles or materials used in smoking.

1837 *New Monthly Mag.* L. 86 Pipes of all sorts..—all nations and all people were represented in this vast arsenal of smokery.

3. A place used for smoking; a smoking-room, an opium-den, etc.

1901 *Daily Chron.* 29 May 5/6 The immorality of the 'smokeries' will probably suffice to close them as disorderly.

Smo·ke-stack. [SMOKE *sb.*]

1. *U.S.* **a.** The funnel of a steam-boat.

1862 RUSSELL *Diary North & S.* I. 166 The funnel, *Yankeeicé* smoke stack. 1864 *Daily Telegr.* 30 Aug., The Tennessee .. surrendered, her rudder disabled, her smokestack carried away.

b. The chimney of a locomotive.

1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2227/1. 1890 *Daily News* 22 Sept. 5/5 The locomotive's smokestack was just out of the water.

2. The chimney of a stove; a chimney-stack.

1871 *Daily News* 9 Feb., Carrying the smoke-stack of a stove through the aperture. 1903 *Westm. Gaz.* 27 Jan. 7/1 The brick smoke-stack of the stoke-house.

Smo·kified, *ppl. a.* [f. as from *smokify.*] Discoloured or blackened by smoke. Also *transf.*

1819 *Blackw. Mag.* V. 732 Scrawlings of chalk spread each smokified wall. 1863 B. SAVILE *Man* ii. 75 Have you heard of the smokified Essays?

Smokily (smōu·kili), *adv.* [f. SMOKY *a.* + -LY 2.] In a smoky manner; hazily.

1611 COTGR., *Fumeusement*, smoakily, fumingly, reekingly. 1755 JOHNSON, *Smuttily*, blackly; smokily. 1847 WEBSTER, *Smokily*, so as to be full of smoke. 1897 *Westm. Gaz.* 19 May 2/1 Obfuscations that move smokily across the face of truth.

Smokiness (smōu·kinés). [f. as prec. + -NESS.] The character or quality of being smoky.

1587 GOLDING *De Mornay* xiv. (1592) 222 Our minde..is after a sort troubled..by the smoakiness of the imaginations. 1611 COTGR., *Fuligine*, soot, sootinesse; smoakinesse. 1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.*, *Fumidity*, smoakiness. 1727 BAILEY (vol. II), *Smokiness*, a being smoky, or infected with Smoke. 1881 *Daily News* 14 Dec. 5/3 The marked characteristic of last night's fog was its smokiness.

Smoking (smōu·kiŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. SMOKE *v.*]

1. The action or fact of emitting smoke, giving off steam or vapour, etc.

1530 PALSGR. 271/2 Smokyng, *fumiere.* 1611 COTGR., *Fumement*,..a smoaking. 1663 GERBIER *Counsel* 6 To prevent the smoaking of Chimneyes. 1715 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 5392/4 Any smoaking of Chimneys. 1852 DICKENS *Bleak Ho.* vi, The smoking and steaming of the heated horses.

2. The action of inhaling and exhaling smoke from a pipe, cigar, or the like.

1691 WOOD *Ath. Oxon.* II. 709 Given more to bibbing and smoaking than the duty of his Office. 1762 GOLDSM. *Beau Nash* 24 Smoaking in the rooms was permitted. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* iii. I. 369 Nowhere was the smoking more constant than at Will's.

† **3.** A bantering or quizzing. *Obs.*

1781 MME. D'ARBLAY *Diary* June, What a smoking did Miss Burney give Mr. Crutchley. *Ibid.* Aug., Whether he ..took the opportunity to give us all a smoking.

4. The curing of meat, etc., by exposure to smoke.

1819 in *Pantologia* s.v. 1872 YEATS *Techn. Hist. Comm.* 224 The efficacy of smoking depends on certain chemical products. 1901 BLACK *Carp. & Build.* vi. 65 The barrel..is covered over at the top, and the smoking proceeds.

5. *School slang.* Blushing.

1862 FARRAR *St. Winifred's* iv, Smoking is the name fellows give to blushing.

6. *attrib.* **a.** In combs. relating to the curing of provisions by smoke, or the production of smoke for some special purpose, as *smoking-house, knife, loft, pot, vessel, works.*

1648 HEXHAM II, *Een roock-vat*, a Censoir, or smoaking vessell. 1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), *Thuribulum*, a Censer, or Smoaking-Pot, to burn Incence in. 1736 N. BAILEY *Household Dict.* Ll 2 A Smoking Closet for drying Tongues. 1759 R. BROWN *Compl. Farmer* 61 Curing bacon .. by smoking lofts or closets, adjoining to the funnels of their chimneys. 1791 *Trans. Soc. Arts* IX. 136 The smoking works being erected at the foot, and the tar-funnel higher up the hill. 1805 LINDLEY *Voy. Brasil* (1808) 260 Flesh.. which they salt, and dry in the sun and smoking-houses. 1839 *Mag. Dom. Econ.* IV. 118 The hams..are smoked in smoking-houses. 1883 *Fisheries Exhib. Catal.* 62 New and Improved Smoking Knives for Fishermen.

b. In terms denoting things or places used for, or in connexion with, the smoking of tobacco, etc., as *smoking apparatus, -cap, -carriage*, etc.; **smoking-bean** *U.S.*, the catalpa bean, the pods of which are smoked by boys.

1771 MACKENZIE *Man Feeling* xxi, He took from his pocket a particular *smoaking apparatus. 1872 CALVERLEY *Charades* III. ii, Nor work *smoking-caps for cousins. 1871 M. COLLINS *Marq. & Merch.* III. ii. 67 The..gentlemen were..ensconced in a *smoking-carriage. 1891 PEACOCK *N. Brendon* I. 138 He put on a *smoking coat. 1878 H. SMART *Play or Pay* i, Appearing in a radiant *smoking-jacket that matched the cigar-case. 1843 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* I. 161 Meerschaum, Amber,..are principally used for *smoking-pipes. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* II. 885 In competition with the *smoking-shops, there are now shops where injections are to be had at so much the syringeful. 1884 *Health Exhib. Catal.* 57/2 The *Smoking Temple in the Classic style, with niches and divans in colour. 1796 MORSE *Amer. Geogr.* I. 259 Snuff, chewing and *smoaking tobacco. 1880 *U. S. Census, Rep. Culture Tobacco* 15 Other cigar and smoking tobacco.

c. In the sense of 'at which smoking takes place or is allowed', as *smoking-concert*, etc.

1809 A. HENRY *Trav.* 299 In smoking-feasts, or feasts of the pipe, or calumet, held in honour of the spirits. 1886 C. E. PASCOE *London of To-day* vi. (ed. 3) 78 The smoking concert..with its genial Bohemianism. 1895 *Daily News* 4 Feb. 5/3 The annual meeting of the club would be held.. as a smoking 'At Home'.

Smoking (smōu·kiŋ), *ppl. a.* [f. SMOKE *v.*]

1. Emitting or giving out smoke.

c 1374 CHAUCER *Boeth.* I. metr. iv. (1868) 12 Þe vnstable mountaigne þat hyȝt veseuus, þat wircheþ ȝute..smokyng fires. 1382 WYCLIF *Matt.* xii. 20 He shal nat quenche smokynge flax. *c* 1400 *Pilgr. Sowle* III. vii. (Caxton, 1483) 55 The forneis was al enflammed with smokyng fyre. 1592 KYD *Sp. Trag.* I. i, Ere Sol had..slakte his smoaking charriot in her floud. 1611 COTGR., *Fumeau*, a brand, or smoaking sticke. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 7 Sept. 1666, Clambering over heaps of yet smoking rubbish. 1781 GIBBON *Decl. & F.* xxx. (1787) III. 171 The prospect of the smoking ruins. 1815 SCOTT *Guy M.* viii, This day have ye quenched seven smoking hearths. 1894 DOYLE *S. Holmes* 93 The chaplain stood with a smoking pistol in his hand. *fig.* 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) VII. 331 Lanfrank.. despisede þe smokynge..speche of mysbyleved men. 1587 GREENE *Euphues* Wks. (Grosart) VI. 176 Hir heart offred smoaking thoughtes to Venus. 1677 W. ROW *Suppl. Life R. Blair* (1848) x. 171 Our smoking desires for a more strict union..did break forth into a vehement flame.

b. Of a chimney: = SMOKY *a.* 1 b.

1667 COLLINS in Rigaud *Corr. Sci. Men* (1841) II. 482, I have been troubled with smoking chimneys. 1693 EVELYN *De la Quint. Compl. Gard.* 77 A House with Smoaking Chimneys. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Smoak*, There are various Inventions for preventing and curing Smoaking Chimneys.

2. Giving out steam or vapour, sending up fine dust or spray, etc.

1593 SHAKS. 3 *Hen. VI*, II. iii. 21 Their Steeds, That stain'd their Fetlockes in his smoaking blood. 1607 — *Cor.* I. iv. 11 That we with smoaking swords may march from hence. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* II. 794 'Tis Time to set at Ease the smoaking Horse. 1716 POPE *Iliad* VII. 382 The victim falls; they strip the smoaking hide. 1784 COWPER *Task* III. 517 The smoaking manure. 1848 DICKENS *Dombey* li, They have hot suppers every night,..with smoking drinks upon the board. 1888 STEVENSON *Black Arrow* 184 The *Good Hope* continued to tear through the smoking waves.

b. quasi-*adv.* in *smoking-hot.*

1816 KEATINGE *Trav.* (1817) I. 219 The paunch of a goat.. cut out, and applied..smoking hot, to the part. 1842 LOVER *Handy Andy* xxi, Where tea and coffee, toast and muffins,.. were all smoking-hot together.

3. Characterized by, addicted to, the smoking of tobacco. Also *transf.* and *absol.*

1617 BRATHWAIT (*title*), The Smoaking Age, or The man in the mist: with The life and death of Tobacco. *Ibid.* 174 More guerdon doe I receive of my love from the sleeping Dormouse, than the smoaking Gallants. 1888 G. TRUMBULL *Birds* 21 [The Widgeon is] known to voyageurs throughout the Fur Countries as Smoking-Duck. [*Note.*] Probably because its note was thought to resemble the puffing sound made while smoking. 1890 *Pall Mall G.* 29 Sept. 3/3 The lazy, the drunken, the smoking, the thriftless.

Hence **Smo·kingly** *adv.*, smokily.

1824 LADY GRANVILLE *Lett.* (1894) I. 334, I told you she was uncomfortably, smokingly lodged.

Smo·king-room. [SMOKING *vbl. sb.*] A room in a house, hotel, club, etc., set apart as a place for smoking in.

1689 SHADWELL *Bury Fair* III. i, We'll into my Smoaking-room and sport about a Brimmer. 1754 *Connoisseur* No. 48 ¶ 3, The Squire gets drunk..in the smoking-room. 1840 MARRYAT *Poor Jack* xiii, Most of those who prefer smoking collect in..the smoking room. 1890 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Col. Reformer* (1891) 147 The same deserted library, the same populous smoking-room.

attrib. 1886 *Pall Mall G.* 20 Oct. 4/3 Jotting down short smoking-room stories.

Smokish (smōu·kiʃ), *a.* [f. SMOKE *sb.* + -ISH.] Resembling smoke; somewhat smoky.

1477 NORTON *Ordin. Alch.* v. in Ashm. (1652) 69 Odor is a smokish vapour resolved with heate. 1530 PALSGR. 324/2 Smokysshe, *fumeux.* 1630 *R. Johnson's Kingd. & Commw.* 202 Their Water brackish, their Aire foggie and their Fire smokish. 1648 HEXHAM II, *Roockachtigh*, Smoakish, or Fumie. 1807 W. IRVING *Salmag.* (1824) 47 A yellowish, whitish, smokish, dirty-coloured shawl.

Hence **Smo·kishness.** *rare*—⁰.

1530 PALSGR. 271/2 Smokysshnesse, *fumevseté.*

Smoko : see SMOKE-HO.

Smoky (smōu·ki), *a.* and *sb.* Also 4, 6-7 **smokie**, 7, 9 **smokey**; 6-7 **smoakie**, 6-9 **smoaky.** [f. SMOKE *sb.* + -Y.]

A. *adj.* **1.** Emitting smoke in considerable volume.

1310 *St. Brendan* (Bälz) 472 Þo seie hi..a lond derk inou3 Smokie as it smyþes were. *c* 1407 LYDG. *Reson & Sens.* 4122 Than is the fire..Of smoky Ethna the mounteyn. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 461/1 Smoky, *fumosus.* 1576 GASCOIGNE *Philomene* Wks. 1910 II. 198 A Swallowe..builds in smoky chimney toppes. 1597 tr. *Bullinger's Decades* (1592) 127 To set up a percher, a taper, or a smoakie torch. 1613 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* (1614) 775 They vse smokie fires in their rooms. *c* 1663 COWLEY *To Light* xv, In Sympathizing Night he rowls his smoaky Fires. 1726 GAY *Fables* I. xxiii. 11 A wrinkled Hag..Beside a little smoaky flame Sat hov'ring. 1818 BYRON *Beppo* xliii, Where reeking London's smoky caldron simmers. 1884 *St. James' Gaz.* 25 July 4/2 Letting off a quantity of the noisiest and smokiest fireworks procurable.

b. Of a chimney: Inclined to send out smoke into the room.

1639 J. SMYTH in *Glouc. Gloss.* (1890) 201 If many gossips sit against a smokey chimney the smoke will bend to the fairest. 1785 FRANKLIN (*title*), Observations on Smoky Chimneys. 1844 EMERSON *Ess.* II. *Nature*, It..cured the smoky chimney, silenced the creaking door. 1869 E. A. PARKES *Pract. Hygiene* (ed. 3) 141 The down current coming in puffs is one cause of smoky chimneys.

2. Of vapour, mist, etc.: Having the character or appearance of smoke; resembling smoke; smoke-like.

c 1374 CHAUCER *Troylus* III. 628 Every maner womman that was there, Hadde of that smoky reyn a verray fere. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* v. xxxvi. (Bodl. MS.), Þe breeste ..putteþ oute smoky vapour þat is ibred in þe hert. 1426 LYDG. *De Guil. Pilgr.* 11034 Two ful vnkouth skyes..off smoky mystes & vapours. *a* 1542 WYATT *Ps.* li. 20 There had owt off the sowth A lewk warme wynd browght forth a smoky rayne. 1662 H. HIBBERT *Body of Divinity* I. 205 By breathing..the gross and more smoky spirits are exhaled out of the breast. 1743 DAVIDSON *Æneid* VII. 203 The Smoaky Fluid in Foam overflows. 1784 COWPER *Task* V. 105 The light and smoky mist. 1817 J. BRADBURY *Trav. Amer.* 259 The atmosphere..becomes hazy, or what they term smoky. 1853 KANE *Grinnell Exped.* xxix. (1856) 246 The frost-smoke was in smoky banks to the north-west.

3. Full of, or charged with, smoke; rendered offensive or disagreeable by the presence of smoke.

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XII. iii. (Bodl. MS.), Þerefore here mewes moste be ferre fro smoky places. *c* 1407 LYDG. *Reson & Sens.* 6638 Anoon as he his torche hath queynt, The smoky air..Ran..in lengthe and brede. 1596 SHAKS. 1 *Hen. IV*, III. i. 161 O, he is..Worse then a smoakie House. 1608 D. T. *Ess. Pol. & Mor.* 39 To lodge within the inclosure of a smokie roofe. 1700 T. BROWN tr. *Fresny's Amusements* 116 At the Bar..a charming Phillis or two, invite you..into their smoaky Territories. 1749 BERKELEY *Word to the Wise* Wks. III. 440 It takes the peasant from his smoky cabin into the fresh air. 1866 *Med. Jrnl.* XV. 366 Ozanne received them in a smoaky hut. 1869 E. A. PARKES *Pract. Hygiene* (ed. 3) 107 The effect of smoky town atmospheres in producing lung affections. 1891 C. JAMES *Rom. Rigmarole* 18 All through a smoky evening I spent in that inn parlour.

b. Blackened or begrimed by smoke.

1552 ELYOT *Dict., Fumosæ imagines*, olde smoky images. 1588 GREENE *Metamorphosis* Wks. (Grosart) IX. 50 Wilt thou..seeke with the smoky Cyclops to kisse Venus hand? 1634 MILTON *Comus* 324 In lowly sheds With smoky rafters. 1848 DICKENS *Dombey* xxiii, The two trees with the smoky trunks were blighted high up.

4. *fig.* Having the obscuring, objectionable, or unsubstantial qualities of smoke. *Obs.*

1533 MORE *Answ. Poysoned Bk.* Wks. 1035/1 The pestilent contagion of al such smoky communicacion. 1581 J. BELL *Haddon's Answ. Osorius* 277 b, Besides vayne crakes of smoky speeches, ye shewe no demonstration of sounde proofe. 1624 SKINNER in Parr *Life Usher* (1686) 358 Other points these devilish Spirits of the Jesuits..by their smoaky Doctrine do resist. 1633 HART *Diet of Diseased* II. xiv. 193 Their smoakie promises not being seconded by answerable events.

5. Having the flavour or odour of smoke; tasting or smelling of smoke.

1542 BECON *Potation for Lent* Wks. 1564 I. i. 45 From a smokie pece of Bacon. 1707 FLOYER *Physic. Pulse-Watch* 332 The smoaky Bitters, Cichory, Carduus. 1892 WALSH *Tea* 93 The 'smoky' and 'tarry' flavors possessed by many of them.

6. Of the colour of smoke; dark, dusky; *spec.* of a brownish or bluish shade of grey.

1555 EDEN *Decades* (Arb.) 280 Halfe an houre after the rysynge it appeareth troubeled dymme and smoky. 1598 B. JONSON *Ev. Man in Hum.* I, iii, Ti. conceale such reall ornaments..as a Millaners wife do's her wrought stomacher, with a smokie lawne, or a black cypresse. 1647 HEXHAM I. (Colours), A Smokie colour, *een roock verwe.* 1750 tr. *Leonardus' Mirr. Stones* 38 Blackness is occasion'd by a smoaky and adust terrene. 1796 H. HUNTER tr. *St.-Pierre's Stud. Nat.* (1799) II. 296 The red and smoky colour of their flowers. 1855 BREWSTER *Life Newton* I. vii. 171 A

large crystal of quartz of a smoky colour. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* IV. 288 If it is present in small quantities only, the urine will be smoky.

b. In names of stones, esp. *smoky quartz.*

1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XII. 82/1 Blackish brown, smoky topaz, or *rauch topaz* of the Germans. 1837 DANA *Min.* 340 Smoky quartz is a transparent, or translucent crystalline variety, having a smoky color. 1883 *Encycl. Brit.* XVI. 389 The brown or Smoky Quartz (coloured by a substance containing carbon and nitrogen).

c. In names of moths, bats, birds, etc.

1827 GRIFFITH tr. *Cuvier* V. 63 *Molossus Fumarius* (Smoky Bulldog Bat). 1832 J. RENNIE *Butterfl. & Moths* 87 The Smoky Wainscot. *Ibid.* 142 The Smoky Wave. 1871 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* I. 320 The Smoky Mastiff Bat is a well-known South American species. 1884 COUES *N. Amer. Birds* 419 *Psilorhinus*, Brown Jays. Smoky Pies.

7. Qualifying names of colours.

1576 FLEMING *Panopl. Epist.* A 4 All smokie blacke as Pitch. 1611 COTGR. s.v. *Enfer*, A darke, and smoakie browne. 1629 PARKINSON *Parad.* 182 The three [leaves] that stand upright [are] of a smoakie yellow. 1706 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4249/4 Lost.., a smoaky gray Horse. 1837 *Penny Cycl.* VII. 26/2 Upper part of the neck smoky red. 1872 COUES *N. Amer. Birds* 194 The belly smoky-gray in some localities.

8. Steaming, reeking; rising in fine spray.

c 1590 MARLOWE *Faustus* 1448 My limbes may issue from your smoaky mouthes. 1594 KYD *Cornelia* v. 323 Fro the wound the smoky blood ran bubling. 1697 DRYDEN *Æneid* v. 185 Lash'd with their Oars, the smoaky Billows rise; Sparkles the briny Main, and the vex'd Ocean fries. 1725 POPE *Odyss.* x. 150 Their oars they seize, And sweep with equal strokes the smoky seas. 1807 J. BARLOW *Columb.* III. 523 [They] then part the smoky flesh, enjoy the feast.

9. Addicted to, associated with, the smoking of tobacco.

1596 NASHE *Saffron Walden* Wks. (Grosart) III. 158 And to approue his Heraldrie, scutchend out the honourable Armes of the smoakie Societie. 1613 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* (1614) 827 To which opinion, for the excellence of the Tobacco there found, he should happily have the smokie subscriptions of many Humorists. 1806 LAMB in Ainger *Life* (1882) 65 A smoky man must write *smoky* farces. 1893 *Daily News* 26 Dec. 5/1 The sodden and smokey young men who may be found watching football matches.

† **10.** Quick to suspect or take note; shrewd, sharp, suspicious. *Obs.*

The *Dict. Cant. Crew* (*a* 1700) also gives 'jealous'.

1688 SHADWELL *Sqr. Alsatia* III. i, They shall find me a smoaky Thief. *Ibid.* IV. iv, I am sharp and smoaky. 1711 STEELE *Spect.* No. 132 ₱ 3 Thou art, I see, a smoaky old Fellow, and I'll be very orderly the ensuing Part of the Journey. 1765 FOOTE *Commissary* I. (1782) 23 This old brother of ours tho' is smoaky and shrewd, and tho' an odd, a sensible fellow. 1784 R. BAGE *Barham Downs* II. 132 She is what you call a smoky damsel.

11. *U.S.* Of horses: Vicious.

1899 *Scribner's Mag.* XXV. 13/2 Cow-boys often call vicious horses 'smoky' horses.

12. *Comb.*, as *smoky-bearded, -flavoured, -tinted; smoky-looking, -seeming, -waving.*

1598 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. ii. II. *Babylon* 133 Small, smoaky-waving clouds. 1610 B. JONSON *Alchemist* IV. vi, This Doctor, Your sooty, smoakie-bearded compeere. 1611 SPEED *Theat. Gt. Brit.* (1614) 121/1 Certaine thicke and smoky-seeming mists. 1611 COTGR., *Enfumé*, .. smoakie-coloured. 1825 T. HOOK *Sayings* Ser. II. *Passion & Prince.* viii. III. 124 The dingy, ill-smelling, smoky-looking coffee-room. 1834 *Tait's Mag.* I. 7/1 The smoky-flavoured Glenlivet toddy. 1862 DANA *Min.* 134 A smoky-tinted quartz crystal.

B. *sb.* **1.** *dial.* The hedge-sparrow.

1889 H. SAUNDERS *Brit. Birds* 85 The Hedge-Sparrow is known by a variety of names, such as..'Smokie', and 'Shuffle-wing'. 1894 in HESLOP *Northumbld. Gloss.*

2. *Sc.* A smoked haddock.

1891 W. GORDON in Edwards *Mod. Sc. Poets* Ser. XIV. 243 Will ye buy ony fish—Bonnie smokies, as cheap as they're clean?

3. A smoke or smoke-blue cat.

1898 *Ladies' Field* 6 Aug. 378/2 The two smokies, Cossy and Jetterina.

Smolder, *sb.* and *v.*: see SMOULDER.

† **Smolet, -lat.** *Sc. Obs.*[—1] (Meaning uncertain.)

1508 DUNBAR *Tua mariit wemen* 113 Quhen the smy on me smyrkis, with his smake smolet [*v.r.* smollat].

Smolt(smōult), *sb.*[1] Orig. *Sc.* and *north.* Forms: *α.* 6 smolte, 6–7, 9 smolt, 9 smoult. *β.* 6–7 smowte, 7 smowt, 8–9 smout, 9 smoot. [Of doubtful origin: connexion with SMOLT *a.* is not clear. A later form is *smelt*: see SMELT *sb.*[1] 3.]

1. A young salmon in the stage intermediate between the parr and the grilse, when it becomes covered with silvery scales and migrates to the sea for the first time.

α. 1469 *Sc. Acts, Jas. III*, c. 13 (1814) II. 96 All myllaris þat slais Smo[l]tis with crelis or ony vthir maner of way. 1510 *Reg. Magni Sig. Scot.* I. 730 Cum piscationibus, exceptis salmonibus, le keppir, et smolts. *c* 1575 *Balfour's Practicks* (1754) 581 That thay tak smoltis or salmond in the miln-dammis. 1609 SKENE *Reg. Maj.* 97 Siclike smolts, sould not be taken..fra the middes of Aprill, to the nativitie of Saint John the Baptist. 1804 A. HUNTER *Georg. Ess.* II. 513 At this period of time they are from four to six inches in length only, being in some places called smoults. 1862 *Act* 25 & 26 *Vict. c.* 97 § 2 'Salmon' shall .. include .. sea trout, bull trout, smolts, parr, and other migratory fish of the salmon kind. 1881 *Standard* 10 Sept. 2/1 The migratory instinct does not occur till the young fish have become what are called 'smolts'.

attrib. 1886 *Encycl. Brit.* XXI. 224 The young salmon, as soon as the smolt stage is reached, migrates down the rivers to the sea.

β. 1533–4 *Act* 25 *Hen. VIII*, c. 7 The yonge frie, spaume, or broode of any kinde of salmon, called lakspinkes, smowtes, or salmon pele. 1677 JOHNSON in *Ray's Corr.* (1848) 127 In Cumberland, the fishers,..after the first summer, call them free, or frie, as we [in Yorkshire] smowts or smelts, before they come to be lackes. 1769 PENNANT *Brit. Zool.* III. 242 The young [salmon]..gradually increase to the length of four or five inches, and are then termed Smelts or Smouts. 1803 J. WALKER in *Prize Ess. Highland Soc.* II. 351 They are called samlets,..but are generally known among our country people by the name of salmon smouts. 1866 C. W. HATFIELD *Notices Doncaster* I. 99 The young of the salmon..was known only as a smolt or 'smout'.

b. *transf.* A small person or thing.

1808 JAMIESON, *Smolt*, metaph. used to denote a child. 1868 W. SHELLEY *Flowers* 199 Mamma's pet, Smirkin' smout. 1894 HESLOP *Northumbld. Gloss., Smout*.., anything small.

2. 'A small trout of the speckled kind' (*Jamieson's Sc. Dict.* 1882 s.v. *Smout*).

† **Smolt,** *sb.*[2] *Obs. rare.* Also 5 smolte. [OE. *smolt*, = MLG. and LG. *smolt* (hence MDa., Norw., Icel. *smolt*, Sw. *smult*), MDu. and Du. *smout*, related to MLG. (and LG.) *smalt*, OHG. *smalz* (G. *schmalz*); both stems are ablaut-grades of **smeltan* to melt: see SMELT *v.*] Lard, fat.

In the later quots. perh. after MLG. or MDu.

a 1000 in *Anglia* XIII. 404 *Pinguedo*, smolt. *a* 1100 in Napier *O. E. Lex.* 58 Þær sculan eac ii fætte swyn up arisan to smolte. 1430 *Maldon Court-Rolls* (Bundle 18, No. 3), 1 barell. de smolte, et dimid. barell. de smolte. 1502 ARNOLDE *Chron.* (1811) 74 Salt smolt, for the barel, iii d.

Smolt (smōult), *a.* Now only *dial.* Also 6, 9 *dial.* smoult, 6 *Sc.* smowt. [OE. *smolt*, = MDu. *smolt, smout* (WFris. *smout* sheltered), Da. *smult*; cf. OS. *smultro* quietly, calmly, MSw. *smultna* (Sw. dial. *smyltna*) to become calm. A commoner form in OE. was *smylte*.]

† **1.** Of weather: Fair, fine, calm. *Obs.*

Halliwell's '*Smoult*, hot; sultry. *Kent*,' is not otherwise certified. In Norfolk dial., *smoultin'* is used to denote the calming down of a stormy sea during the ebb-tide.

c 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Matt. xvi. 2 (Ȝe) cueðas, 'smolt bið, read is..heofon'; *c* 1160 *Hatton Gosp.* Matt. xvi. 2 On æfen ȝe cweðeð, 'to-morȝen hit beoð smolt weder'. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* XIII. viii. 30 Makand the hevynnis fayr, cleyr, and scheyne, The weddir smowt, and firmament serene. *a* 1550 *Peblis to Play* vi, in Pinkerton *Sc. Ballads* (1783) II. 4 Mirrie Madinis, think not lang; The wedder is fair and smolt.

† **2.** Pleasant, agreeable, affable. *Obs.*

13.. *Gaw. & Gr. Knt.* 1763 With smoþe smylyng & smolt þay smeten in-to merþe. 1553 *Respublica* III. iii. 80 (Brandl), *Respub.* This ys Honestee. *People.* A gaye smoult smirking howrecop tis, ȝo mot I þee!

3. Bright, shining; smooth, polished.

1837 *Wilson's Tales Borders* III. 304/2 He saw their smolt spirits scour awa to heaven like fire flaughts! 1852– in dial. glossaries (Sussex, Hants.).

Smolt (smōult), *v.*[1] [f. SMOLT *sb.*[1]] *intr.* Of young salmon: To pass into the smolt stage.

1855 J. WILSON in *Mem.* (1859) VIII. 315 The female parr 'smolt' soon after the completion of the first year.

† **Smolt,** *v.*[2] *Obs. rare.* [Of obscure origin.] *intr.* To make off, go, escape, etc.

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 461 He hade þe smelle of þe smach & smoltes þeder sone. *Ibid.* 732, I schal forgyue alle þe gylt..& let hem smolt al unsmyten smoþely atonez.

Smooch (smūtʃ), *sb. U.S.* [Cf. SMOUCH *sb.*[4] and SMUTCH *sb.*] A smutch or smear.

1842 MOTLEY *Lett.* (1889) I. 136 The body of the Child is a mere smooch of lamp-black. 1869 MRS. WHITNEY *We Girls* iii. (1873) 58 A smooch of stove-polish across her arm.

Smooch (smūtʃ), *v.* Latterly *U.S.* [Cf. prec. and SMUTCH *v.*] *trans.* To sully, dirty. Hence **Smooched** *ppl. a.*

1631 HEYWOOD *Fair Maid of West* I. v. i, Must your black face be smooching my Mistresses white lips with a moorian? 1828 WEBSTER s.v. *Smutch*, In New England ..*smooch*..signifies to foul or blacken with something produced by combustion or other like substance. 1835 WILLIS *Pencillings* I. xix. 137 Attracting the attention and courtesies of every smooched petticoat far and near.

Smook (smūk), *sb. Sc.* and *north.* Now *rare.* Also 6 smooke; *Sc.* smowk, smuke, smuik(e, smeuk, smewk. [prob. ad. older Flem. *smuik* (Kilian *smuyck*): cf. next.] Smoke, reek, vapour.

α. 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* XXVI. 120 He smorit thame with smvke [*v.r.* a smuik]. 1549 *Compl. Scot.* vi. 42 The reik, smeuk, and the stink of the gun puldir. 1599 ALEX. HUME *Hymns* v. 8 The altar..is sprinkled be the lew, He makis a smuike.

β. a 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VIII*, 41 b, Of the fyer and smolder did ryse suche a smooke. 1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 159/31 Y^e^ Smooke, *fumus*. 1600 FAIRFAX *Tasso* I. xxii, Of glorie vaine to gaine an idle smooke [*rimes* forsook, betooke].

Smook (smūk), *v. Sc.* and *north.* Forms: 6 smooke, 9 smook; 6 smowk, smewk (8 smuke), 9 smuik. [prob. ad. Flem. *smuiken, smuken* (Kilian *smuycken*, earlier *smuucken*), obscurely related to SMOKE *v.*] *intr.* and *trans.* To smoke, in various senses. Hence **Smoo·king,** *vbl. sb.* and *ppl. a.*

1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* XXXIII. 56 On him come nowthir stole nor fannoun, For smowking of the smydy. *c* 1520 NISBET *N. T., Matt.* xii. 20 He sal..nocht slokin a smewkand brand. 1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 159/34 To Smooke, *fumare*. 1802 R. ANDERSON *Cumbld. Ball.* (*c* 1850) 49 Auld Marget in the fauld she sits, And spins, and sings, and smuiks by fits. 1825 JAMIESON *Suppl., To Smook, Smuik*, to suffocate by means of sulphur; a term applied to the barbarous mode of destroying bees in order to gain their honey.

Smoor (smūəɹ), *sb. Sc.* [f. next.] A stifling or suffocating atmosphere, smoke, etc.; smother.

1894 CROCKETT *Raiders* xiii. 124 Our cave..was full of the white smoor of gunpowder smoke. 1895 — *Men of Mosshags* 106 In the smoor of the snow.

Smoor (smūəɹ), *v. Sc.* and *north. dial.* Forms: 6, 9 smure, 6 smuyr, smuir(e; 6–7 smoore, 6–9 smoor, etc. [perh. ad. MDu. or MLG. *smōren* (Du. *smoren*, LG. *smoren, smören*; G. *schmoren*, G. dial. *schmoeren, schmuren*), = OE. *smorian* SMORE *v.* The vowel is not a normal native variant of the *o* of *smorian*.] To smother, in various senses.

1. *intr.* To undergo smothering (*lit.* or *fig.*).

c 1470 *Gol. & Gaw.* 1204 It war syn, but recure, The knightis honour suld smure, That did me this honoure. 1550 LYNDESAY *Sqr. Meldrum* 45 That his hie honour suld not smure, Considering quhat he did indure. 1791 BURNS *Tam O'Shanter* 90 By this time he was cross the ford, Whare, in the snaw, the chapman smoor'd.

2. *trans.* **a.** *fig.* or *transf.* To conceal or hide; to suppress; to deaden, stupefy, etc.

1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* XI. Prol. 48 He..nevyr dar vndertak a douchty deyd, Bot doith all curage and all manheid smuyr. 1567 *Satir. Poems Reform.* IV. 188 Hurt not your honouris, the samin to smuire. 1636 *Montgomerie's Cherrie & Slae* (Wreittoun) 261 But ay the more I shoope to smoor'de The bolder it brake out. 1718 RAMSAY *Christ's Kirk Gr.* III. xxiii, They drank, 'Till a' their sense was smoor'd. 1792 BURNS *Duncan Gray cam' here to woo* V, Swelling pity smoored his wrath. 1833 M. SCOTT *Tom Cringle* xii, Ye maun smoor my first born puir conscience atween ye.

b. To smother, stifle, suffocate; *esp.* to deprive of life by suffocation.

1535 COVERDALE 1 *Kings* iii. 19 This womans sonne died in the nighte (for she smoored him in the slepe). 1612 WEBSTER *White Devil* V. iv, He smoore some of them. 1656 in W. Ross *Pastoral Wk. in Covenanting Times* (1887) 73 James Tailzor laitlie haid all his horses smoored. 1725 RAMSAY *Gentle Sheph.* I. i, Nine braw nowt were smoor'd. 1787 BURNS *Brigs of Ayr* 33 The bees..Are doom'd by Man, ..The death o' devils, smoor'd wi' brimstone reek. *a* 1800– in many northern dial. glossaries. 1832 R. SURTEES in G. Taylor *Mem.* (Surtees) 282 Nic. Ward was smoor'd in his father's own draw well. 1881 *Blackw. Mag.* Apr. 530 The sheep had been smoored by scores in the drifts.

c. To put out or extinguish (a light or fire). Also in fig. context.

1721 RAMSAY *Lucky Spence* XV, The quacks wha that fire smoors, And puts nae out. 1808 JAMIESON s.v. *Smore, Smure the candle*, put it out. 1903 *Q. Rev.* July 25 When kindling or 'smooring' a fire,

Smoot, *sb.*[1] *north. dial.* Forms: 7 smought, smoute, 9 smout, 8–9 smoot, etc. [Of Scand. origin: cf. ON. *smátta*, Norw. dial. *smotta, smott*, Sw. dial. *smott, smutt*, Da. *smutte* narrow passage, hole, etc.] A hole or opening at the foot of a wall, the bottom of a fence or hedge, etc., esp. one allowing the passage of hares, rabbits, or sheep; a narrow passage or entrance in a beehive. (Cf. SMOOT-HOLE.)

1615 in *Trans. Cumb. & Westm. Archaeol. Soc.* (1906) III. 154 Thomas Langhorne shall make his Smoughts three quarters high and three quarters broad to receive the water which cometh down by the Righouse. 1641 BEST *Farm. Bks.* (Surtees) 62 Then are yow to sette downe the hive on the sieve, leavinge an open smoute for them to goe in just towards the South, and to cover the backside of the hive.., on all sides but onely wheare you make the smoute. 1788 W. H. MARSHALL *Yorksh.* II. 353 *Smoot*, a hare muce; or any small gap or hole in the bottom of a hedge. 1869– in north. dial. glossaries (in forms *smeut, smeyut, smut(e*, etc.). 1891 J. C. ATKINSON *Moorland Parish* 84 The hare had run through the smout into Nanny's garth. 1893 J. WATSON *Conf. Poacher* 58, I scanned the smoots and gates through which she [a hare] passed.

Smoot, *sb.*[2] *Printing slang.* In 9 smout. [f. SMOOT *v.*[2]] (See quot.)

1888 JACOBI *Printers' Vocab.* 127 *Smout*, a compositor who seeks odd jobs in various houses.

Smoot (smūt), *v.*[1] *north. dial.* [f. SMOOT *sb.*[1] Cf. Da. *smutte* to creep, slink.] *intr.* (See quots.)

1788 W. H. MARSHALL *Yorksh.* II. 353 To *Smoot*, to creep under or through, as a hare or sheep through a hedge. 1855 [ROBINSON] *Whitby Gloss.* s.v. *Smooting*, A young man is said to smoot after a girl when he dares not appear openly in the courtship.

Smoot (smūt), *v.*[2] *Printing slang.* Also smout. [Of obscure origin.] *intr.* To do casual work in a printing-house where one is not regularly employed (see quots.). † Also const. *on* (a firm). So **Smoo·ting** *vbl. sb.*

1683 MOXON *Printing* 360 If a Journey-man Smout more or less on another Printing House. *Ibid.* 390 Workmen when .. out of constant Work, do sometimes accept of a Day or twos Work..at another Printing-house: this By-work they call Smouting. [Hence in Holme and Luckombe.] 1757 FRANKLIN in Lockwood *Amer. Dict. Printing* (1894) 513 If a fat old fellow should come to your printing-house and request a little smouting. 1865 C. KNIGHT *Shadows Old Booksellers* 82 Gent..got no regular employment, but laboured here and there without settlement, upon what was called 'smouting work'. 1892 SOUTHWARD & POWELL *Pract. Printing* (ed. 4) 569 '*Smooting*.'—No member of the [Typographical] Association is permitted to work for any other employer than the one by whom he is engaged..., except in case of accident...Transgression of this rule is called 'smooting'.

Smoot, obs. form of SMUT *sb.* and *v.*

Smooth (smūð), *sb.* Also 5–6 smothe. [f. the adj.]

1. † **a.** A level space, = SMEETH *sb. Obs.*

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 460/2 Smethe, or smothe, . . *planicies.*

b. *U.S.* A meadow; a grass field.

1845 S. JUDD *Margaret* I. ii, Get some plantain and dandelion on the smooth for greens. 1848 BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.* 314.

c. *Naut.* A stretch of comparatively smooth or calm water in a rough sea.

1840 MARRYAT *Poor Jack* xlii, You will find that two waves will run into one another, and . . neutralize each other, so that for a few seconds you have what they call a smooth. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk., Smooth*, a Cornish term applied when the surf abates its fury for a short space. Also, the lee of a ship or of a rock. 1878 D. KEMP *Yacht & Boat Sailing* 245 If there is much sea, a 'smooth' should be watched for, to tack in.

d. *Coal-mining.* (See quots.)

1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-m.* 228 *Smooth*, the line of face of a stall. *Ibid., Smooths*, planes of cleavage more or less vertical.

2. The smooth part or surface *of* something; smoothness.

1551 BIBLE *Gen.* xxvii. 16 She put yᵉ skynnes vpon his handes, & vpon the smothe of hys necke. 1805 *Spirit Public Jrnls.* IX. 339 Like the silver-wing'd dove was the smooth of her hair. 1880 BROWNING *Dram. Idyls* Ser. II. *Pan & Luna* 13 See how the sluggish jelly . . Turns marble to the touch of who would loose The solid smooth.

b. Smooth water or ground.

1667 MILTON *P. L.* VII. 409 On smooth the Seale And bended Dolphins play. 1799, 1821 [see ROUGH *sb.*¹ 2].

c. The agreeable or pleasant part, side, or aspect of anything. Used in contrast to *rough.*

1612– [see ROUGH *sb.*¹ 6 b].

† **3.** A polite or veiled rebuke or retort. *Obs.*—¹

1586 A. DAY *Eng. Secretary* II. (1595) 80 *Asteismus*, a smooth, as we call it, as when one tels a thing repugnant to the present matter or company, to say, 'I had as lieue he told me it snew'.

4. An act of smoothing.

1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* lxv, She . . gave one smooth to her hair, and finally let in her visitor.

5. An implement for smoothing or reducing the roughness of a surface; a smoother; a smooth file.

1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* IV. 414/1 When cooled, the roughnesses were taken off with a 'smooth' or scraper, and it was ready to receive the silver. 1881 GREENER *The Gun* 245 The bents are then cut in the tumbler with a small saw, and finished with files and smoothes. 1895 *Model Steam Eng.* 92 'Smooth,' Dead Smooths, the finest of all, complete the various forms of files.

6. a. A species of moth (see quot. 1832). **b.** A smooth-coated dog.

1832 J. RENNIE *Butterfl. & Moths* 110 The Smooth (*Cleora teneraria*, Stephens) appears the end of June or beginning of July. 1897 *Westm. Gaz.* 11 May 4/3 He owns a brace of smooths named Dame Fortune and Dona Fortuna.

Smooth (smūð), *a.* Forms: 1 smoð, 4 smoþe, 4–6 smothe, 5 smoth; 4 smuth, 5 smvythe; 5 smowth, 6 smouth(e, 7 smoath(e; 6–7 smoothe, 6– smooth. [OE. *smóð*, found only once (the usual form being *smēðe* SMEETH *a.*), and not clearly represented in any of the cognate languages.]

1. Having a surface free from projections, irregularities, or inequalities; presenting no roughness or unevenness to the touch or sight.

In the first example the sense is 'unruffled, serene'.

a 1050 *Liber Scintill.* i. (1889) 6 Se þe mid soðre lufe full ys mid smyltum mode . . & mid smoþestum andwlitum forðstæpþ. 13 . . *E. E. Allit. P.* A. 6 So smal, so smoþe her sydez were. ?*a* 1366 CHAUCER *Rom. Rose* 542 Hir fleshe tendre as is a chike With bent browis, smothe and slyke. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 461/1 Smothe, pleyne, *planus. Ibid.*, Smothe, or softe, *lenis. a* 1470 H. PARKER *Dives & P.* x. vi. (W. de W. 1496) 379/2 The basynet . . is . . made slyke and smothe that shot may soone glyde of. 1530 PALSGR. 324/2 Smothe as a borde is that is well planed, *hony.* 1592 SHAKS. *Ven. & Ad.* 143 My smooth moist hand . . Would in thy palm dissolve. 1615 G. SANDYS *Trav.* 67 Women of elegant beauties, for the most part . . cleare, and smooth as the polished ivory. 1682 K. DIGBY *Chym. Secr.* II. 171 Cast this Matter upon a smooth stone. 1763 GOLDSM. *Misc. Wks.* (1837) II. 493 These inequalities serve the better to grind . . their food, but they grow smoother with age. 1779 *Mirror* No. 11, We are not . . to wonder if the smooth enamel of the gentleman has received some little injury from the collision of such coarse materials. 1835 J. DUNCAN *Beetles* (Nat. Lib.) 148 It is . . of a black colour, rather smooth and glossy. 1847 TENNYSON *Princ.* v. 70 Brows as pale and smooth As those that mourn . . In deathless marble. 1871 R. ELLIS *Catullus* lxiv. 48 Smooth ivory glossy from Indies.

absol. 1495 *Trevisa's Barth. De P. R.* III. xxi. (W. de W.) 67 For the vertue of groping the soule knowith . . nesshe and hard, smothe and rough.

b. Free from hairs or bristles.

c 1386 CHAUCER *Prol.* 690 No berd hadde he, . . As smothe it was as it were late shaue. 1535 COVERDALE *Gen.* xxvii. 11 Beholde, my brother Esau is rough, and I am smooth. 1565 COOPER *Thesaurus, Glaber*, smooth without heare. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) V. 6 On their under side they are thin and smooth, but their upper outer edge is parted into two hairy edges. 1783 *Phil. Trans.* LXXIII. 221 The caterpillar . . is of a jetty black, smooth as to a privation of hair, but covered with innumerable wrinkles.

c. *Bot.* Of leaves, etc.: 'Free from asperities or hairs, or any sort of unevenness' (Lindley).

1688 HOLME *Armoury* II. 88/2 Bacchar hath a long smooth leaf. 1776 LEE *Introd. Bot.* 379 *Lævis*, smooth, free from Protuberances or Inequalities. 1796 WITHERING *Brit. Pl.* (ed. 3) II. 356 Leaves flat and smooth. 1834 *Penny Cycl.* II. 11/2 A perennial plant . . having one or two smooth . . leaves. 1861 BENTLEY *Man. Bot.* 593 The Gentian Order . . Usually smooth herbs.

2. Of ground, ways, etc.: Not rugged, rough, or broken; free from obstructions; easy to traverse. Also in fig. contexts.

c 1391 CHAUCER *Astrol.* II. § 29 Lat thyn Astrelabie kowch adown euene vpon a smothe grond. *c* 1449 PECOCK *Repr.* v. viii. 525 Whanne the sitter knowith weel the same ambuler be . . redi into stumbling, thou3 the wey be smothe and euen. 1526 TINDALE *Luke* iii. 5 The rought wayes shalbe made smoth. 1644 MILTON *Educ.* Wks. 1851 IV. 383 The right path of a vertuous . . Education; laborious indeed at the first ascent, but else so smooth, . . so full of goodly prospect. 1681 DRYDEN *Abs. & Achit.* 256 Our Fortune rolls as from a smooth Descent. 1770 LANGHORNE *Plutarch* (1851) II. 598 The traitor led him by a way that was smooth and easy at first. 1847 JAMES *Woodman* iii, The road was . . sandy enough, in all conscience, and not so smooth as it might have been. 1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) V. 291 Hesiod . . says that the road to wickedness is smooth and very short.

† **b.** *To make smooth work of*, to level with the ground, to demolish. *Obs.*—¹

1616 J. LANE *Contn. Sqr.'s T.* VIII. 433 Biddes battries all, and musketes wholie shoote, and make smoothe worke of th' seaun mountes and the towne.

3. Of water, the sea, etc.: Not broken or turbulent; free from big waves or roughness; running or flowing evenly, calmly, or gently.

Smooth chance or *spell*, a stretch of calm water in a rough sea.

c 1374 CHAUCER *Boeth.* I. metr. ii. (1868) 8 þe causes whennes þe soundyng wyndes moeuen . . þe smoþe water of þe see. 14 . . LYDGATE *Churl & Bird* XXVII, Smothe waters been ofte tyme depe. 1606 SHAKS. *Tr. & Cr.* I. iii. 34 The Sea being smooth, How many shallow bauble Boates dare saile Vpon her patient brest! 1667 MILTON *P. L.* I. 450 While smooth Adonis from his native Rock Ran purple to the Sea. 1743 BULKELEY & CUMMINS *Voy. S. Seas* 106 It being smooth Water, she work'd very well. 1754 GRAY *Poesy* 8 Now the rich stream of music winds along Deep, majestic, smooth, and strong. 1817 SHELLEY *Rev. Islam* XII. xix, A river deep, which flies with smooth but arrowy speed. 1840 R. H. DANA *Bef. Mast* v, Seeing what he thought was a 'smooth spell', [he] started to go forward. *Ibid.* XXV, Watching for a 'smooth chance'. 1877 L. MORRIS *Epic of Hades* II. 101 Summer sea, Which gently heaved, and surged, and kissed the ledge With smooth warm tides.

b. Of a passage, voyage, etc.: Accompanied by or performed in good weather.

Common in recent colloq. use.

4. Of wind or weather: Not rough or stormy; agreeable, pleasant. Now *rare.*

c 1402 LYDG. *Compl. Bl. Knt.* 57 The eyre attempre, and the smothe wind Of Zepherus, among the blossomes whyte. *c* 1430 — *Minor Poems* (Percy Soc.) 3 The ayre attempered, the wyndes smowth and playne. 1610 FLETCHER *Faithf. Sheph.* I. i, Air . . as fresh and sweet, As where smooth Zephyrus plays on the fleet Face of the curled Streams. 1700 S. L. tr. *Fryke's Voy. E. Ind.* 260 We had a smooth Gale of Wind at West.

5. Of liquids, etc.: Having a uniform or even consistency; free from lumps or knots. † Also of light: Uniform, equable.

c 1450 *Two Cookery-bks.* 77 Take vinegre and wyne, & stepe þe brede therein, and drawe hit thorgh a streynour . . til hit be smoth. 1655 STANLEY *Hist. Philos.* (1687) 189/2 A fiery light, which being smooth and in some manner thick, they conceived of kin to diurnal light. 1747–96 MRS. GLASSE *Cookery* xiv. 211 Pour it between two vessels, out of one into another, till it is quite smooth. 1846 SOYER *Cookery* 588 Stir in the curdled sauce by degrees until the whole has become very smooth. 1872 HARLAND *Common Sense in Housek.* 183 Put the flour and salt in a bowl, and add a little at a time of the water or milk, working it very smooth as you go on.

b. Of liquor: Soft or pleasing to the taste; free from sharpness or acidity.

1743 FRANCIS tr. *Hor., Odes* III. xxi. 12 Corvinus, Guest divine, Bids me draw the smoothest Wine. 1746 *Ibid., Epist.* I. xv. 26 At Sea-port Towns I shall expect to find My Wines of generous and of smoother Kind. 1896 A. AUSTIN *England's Darling* II. i, More tuns of marsh water, I warrant, than combs of smooth ale.

6. Of looks, words, etc.: Pleasant, affable, polite; seemingly amiable or friendly; having a show of sincerity or friendliness.

The unfavourable sense is the more usual, as in next.

(*a*) 13 . . *Gaw. & Gr. Knt.* 1763 With smoþe smylyng & smolt þay smeten in-to merþe, þat al was blis & bonchef [etc.]. 1606 DEKKER *Seven Deadly Sins* v. (Arb.) 36 They knew howe smooth soeuer his lookes were, there was a diuell in his bosome. 1681 DRYDEN *Abs. & Achit.* 745 Colour'd with a smooth pretence Of specious love and duty. 1703 ROWE *Fair Penit.* II. i, With such smooth looks, and many a gentle Word The first fair She, beguil'd her easie Lord. 1784 COWPER *Task* VI. 853 Where fashion shall not sanctify abuse, Nor smooth good-breeding . . ape the work of love! 1823 SCOTT *Quentin D.* xii, [Oliver spoke] in his smoothest manner, and in a tone more insinuating than that which he usually employed.

(*b*) 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 97 b, Softe wordes and smothe be to be mynystred to idiottes and fooles. *c* 1590 GREENE *Frier Bacon* iii. 22, To sooth me up with such smooth flatterie. 1628 in *Cath. Tract.* (S. T. S.) 272 Knox had withdrawne the harts of the people craftily from the Catholik faith, by his smoath language. 1704 TRAPP *Abra-Mulé* III. i, I . . with smooth Words Persuaded him t'intrust me with his Letter. 1754 WASHINGTON *Lett.* Writ. (1889) 86, I doubt not but they will indeavour to amuse you with many smooth stories, as they did me. 1820 BYRON *Mar. Fal.* III. i. 58, I cannot shape my tongue To syllable black deeds into smooth names. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. VII. ix, The General . . speaks vaguely some smooth words to the National President.

b. Of the tongue, or of persons: Speaking fair or smoothly; using specious or attractive language; plausible, bland, insinuating, flattering.

Usually with implication of insincerity or selfish designs, but occas. in a better sense.

(*a*) *c* 1450 LYDG. *Secrees* 675 Whysperyng tounges, . . Smothe afore folk, to fawnyn and to shyne, And shewe two facys in oon hood. 1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 230 A Smouth tong, *lingua compta.* 1596 SHAKS. 1 *Hen. IV*, II. iv. 79 This Leatherne Ierkin, . . Smooth tongue. 1610 FLETCHER *Faithf. Sheph.* I. i, A Chastitie, That neither pleasing Age, smooth tongue, or Gold, Could ever break upon. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. v. vii, Bertrand-Moleville has a smooth tongue, . . gall in his heart. 1863 WHYTE MELVILLE *Gladiators* I. 32 She is not to be won by a smooth tongue and a beardless face.

(*b*) 1592 TIMME *Ten Eng. Lepers* E iij b, These kinde of burnished and smooth fellowes do they know not what. 1600 SHAKS. *A. Y. L.* V. iv. 46, I haue bin politicke with my friend, smooth with mine enemie. 1653 MORE *Antid. Ath.* III. xi. § 2 That sly, smooth Physician, and faithful Patron of Witches. 1708 HEARNE *Collect.* (O. H. S.) II. 103 A smooth Preacher, and a rank Whigg. 1781 COWPER *Friendship* 23 That man, when smoothest he appears, Is most to be suspected. 1847 TENNYSON *Princ.* V. 376, I saw That equal baseness lived in sleeker times With smoother men. 1870 BRYANT *Iliad* I. IV. 119 He found the smooth of speech Nestor, the Pylian orator.

Comb. 1606 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. iv. I. *Tropheis* 584 Those smooth-slie Aspicks, with their poysony sting Murder mine honor.

7. Of style or diction: Flowing gently or easily; nicely modulated; not harsh or rugged; polished.

1589 PUTTENHAM *Eng. Poesie* III. xix. (Arb.) 207 And our speech is made melodious or harmonicall . . by choise of smoothe words. 1665 BOYLE *Occas. Reft.* (1848) 342, I some times . . tri'd my Pen in a smoother and more florid style. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Past.* IX. 26 Who then shou'd sing the Nymphs, or who rehearse The Waters gliding in a smoother Verse. 1726 SWIFT *Gulliver* II. vii, Their style is clear, masculine, and smooth, but not florid. 1795–1814 WORDSW. *Excurs.* VI. 522 Smooth verse, inspired by no unlettered Muse. 1874 CHAPPELL *Hist. Music* I. v. 99 Plato [described the Phrygian mode] . . as smooth and fit for prayer.

b. Of writers: Having an easy, polished style.

1670 MILTON *Hist. Eng.* I. Wks. 1851 V. 11 Joseph of Exeter, the only smooth Poet of those times. 1805 G. ELLIS in Lockhart *Scott* (1837) II. i. 31 Indeed, who is so unequal as Dryden? It may be said that he was not intentionally so—but to be very smooth is very often to be tame.

8. Making smooth; producing smoothness.

a 1596 *Sir T. More* IV. iii, I haue had A smoothe courte shauing. 1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), *Smooth Boiling of Sugar*, (among Confectioners) is when the Sugar is Boil'd to such a Degree, that [etc.].

9. Free from disturbance or excitement.

1756 BURKE *Subl. & B.* Wks. I. 32 That smooth and voluptuous satisfaction which the assured prospect of pleasure bestows. 1807 WORDSW. *Personal Talk* 48 Hence have I Smooth passions, smooth discourse, and joyous thought. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. IV. iii, Majesties' Apartments closed in smooth rest.

10. Free from, unaccompanied by, obstruction, interruption, impediment, or difficulty. Also in phr. *to make smooth.*

1792 BURKE *Corr.* (1844) II. 371 If government is perfectly in earnest, every thing ought to be made smooth for them. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. III. iv, Consider too whether he had smooth times of it. 1884 *Manch. Exam.* 21 May 5/3 The progress of the measure through Committee should . . be fairly smooth and speedy. 1890 MARTINEAU *Authority in Relig.* I. i. 10 Except where the evolution was smooth and the order eternal.

11. Of sounds: Soft; not harsh or grating.

In quot. 1887 used to render L. *tenuis.*

1836 DUBOURG *Violin* ix. (1878) 267 It is not age, but constant use, that is the means of producing a smooth, clear tone. 1887 COOK *Sievers' OE. Gram.* 111, c is the character for the smooth guttural and the smooth palatal.

12. Special collocations.

Smooth calf-skin (see quot.). *Smooth coat*, a smooth-coated dog. *Smooth-file* (see quots. 1875); hence *smooth-file* v. trans. *Smooth grace*, Mus. (see quot.). *Smoothhead*, Mining (see quot.). † *Smooth-pate*, a smooth-headed person; *Obs. Smooth-plane* (see quots.). *Smooth-sayer*, U. S., a smooth-tongued or plausible person.

1885 C. G. W. LOCK *Workshop Rec.* Ser. IV. 264/2 Coloured calf-skins may be bought almost as cheaply as '*smooth' calf (uncoloured ones). 1890 *Daily News* 10 Dec. 2/3 This is the best show . . ever held by the club, especially of the *smooth coats. 1677 MOXON *Mech. Exerc.* I. 15 The *Smooth file is to take out those cuts or file-stroaks that the fine file made. 1683 *Ibid., Printing* xi. P15 These Ribs must be purely Smooth-fil'd and Pollish'd. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2227/1 *Smooth-file*, I. A finishing-file, whose teeth are of a grade of coarseness between the second-cut and the dead-smooth. . . 2. The rubbing-tool used by the needle-maker in pressing and rolling a pack of wires, cut for needles. 1659 C. SIMPSON *Division Violist* 9 Graces done with the Fingers, are of two sorts: viz. *smooth and shaked. 1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-m.* 228 **Smooth-heads.* See Bright-heads [backs or slines]. 1597 SHAKS. 2 *Hen. IV*, I. ii. 43 The horson *smooth-pates doe now weare nothing but high shoes. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2227/2 **Smooth-plane*, a smoothing or finishing-plane; the last used of the series of bench-planes. 1884 *Ibid.* Suppl. 825/2 *Smooth Plane*, one the bit of which is set at a relatively more obtuse angle than that of a block plane. 1872 C. D. WARNER *Backlog Studies* 132, I should rather, ten times over, dispense with the flatterers and the *smooth-sayers than the grumblers.

b. In the names of animals, esp. fishes and reptiles, as *smooth anemone, blenny, dab, flounder, hound*, etc. (see quots.).

1858 G. H. LEWES *Sea-side Stud.* i. 16 The common *Smooth Anemone..may be had not far from high-water mark in many places. 1769 PENNANT *Brit. Zool.* III. 169 The *Smooth Blenny..on the rocky coasts of Anglesea. 1881 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* V. 99 The Smooth Blenny (*Blennius pholis*) is commonly known as the Shanny. 1836 YARRELL *Brit. Fishes* II. 221 The Lemon Dab, or *Smooth Dab, is not of such frequent occurrence as the common Rough Dab. 1884 GOODE *Nat. Hist. Aquat. Anim.* 183 The *Smooth Flounder..is very similar in habits and appearance to the Flat Fish. 1603 *Smooth hound [see HOUND *sb.*1 5]. 1769 PENNANT *Brit. Zool.* III. 91 The Smooth Hound..is called smooth, not that the skin is really so, but because it wants the spines on the back. 1836 YARRELL *Brit. Fishes* I. 9 The *Smooth Perch, *Perca channus*, a fish..frequently occurring on the coast of Cornwall. *Ibid.*, The *Smooth Serranus. *Serranus cabrilla.* 1713 JAGO in *Ray's Syn. Pisc.* 164 *Cataphractus lævis Cornubiensis.* *Smooth Shan. 1836 YARRELL *Brit. Fishes* I. 230 The Shanny, or smooth Shan, *blennius pholis*. *Ibid.* II. 393 *Squalus mustelus*, *Smooth shark. 1880 DAY *Fishes Gt. Brit.* I. 61 It is known as the Sapphirine gurnard..: sea crow:..*smooth sides. 1802 SHAW *Gen. Zool.* III. II. 515 *Smooth Snake,.. *Coronella Austriaca.* 1897 BATEMAN *Vivarium* 273 The Smooth Snake..is by far the most interesting of our three English snakes. 1769 PENNANT *Brit. Zool.* III. 191 The *Smooth Sole..is extremely thin, pellucid, and white. 1881 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* V. 69 The Scald-fish, or Megrim, or Smooth Sole (*Arnoglossus laterna*).

c. In the names of plants or trees, as *smooth acanthus, archangel*, etc.

1812 *New Botanic Garden* I. 2 Both the *Smooth and Prickly Acanthus are found to succeed in any common soil. 1822 *Hortus Angl.* II. 88 *Lamium Lævigatum.* *Smooth Archangel. 1790 W. H. MARSHALL *Rur. Econ. Midl.* II. 434 *Smooth Cadlock; *brasica napus*, wild rape. 1887 G. NICHOLSON *Dict. Gard.* III. 446 **Smooth flower*, a popular name for *Leianthus longifolius*, and other species. 1889 MAIDEN *Useful Pl.* 554 *Hedycarya angustifolia...'Native Mulberry', '*Smooth Holly'. 1882 F. B. HOUGH *Elem. Forestry* 239 The *Smooth Maple (*Acer glabrum*). 1859 MISS PRATT *Brit. Grasses* 211 *Smooth Rock Spleenwort. 1882 F. B. HOUGH *Elem. Forestry* 297 The *Smooth Sumach (*Rhus glabra*).

13. With sbs. used attributively, as *smooth-face, -tongue*. See also SMOOTH-BORE 2.

1600 ROWLANDS *Lett. Humours Blood* xii. 18 Therfore for the smooth-face cut he calles. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 12 Feb. 1686, Lawyers..whereof one was the smooth-tong Solicitor. 1894 *Westm. Gaz.* 12 Apr. 3/3 Some are in handsome smooth-face cloth.

14. *Comb.* Forming parasynthetic adjs., as *smooth-bellied, -browed, -cheeked, -chinned*, etc.

Only a few of the earlier or more important examples of this type are given.

1607 *Lingua* III. ii, And your *smooth-bellied..drones are never without him. 1612 DRAYTON *Poly-olb.* iii. 122 The *smooth-brow'd Plain..doth bid The lark to leave her bow'r. 1633 FORD *'Tis Pity* I. iii, All that *smooth-cheek'd virtue could advise. 1623 MASSINGER *Dk. Milan* II. i, The *smooth-chinned courtiers are abroad. 1696 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 3243/4 Lost,..a Liver colour and white Spaniel Setting Dog,..*smooth Coated. 1886 C. SCOTT *Sheep-Farm*, 198 Amongst the smooth-coated beauties in the kennel..[is] 'Lady Help'. 1634 MILTON *Comus* 86 His soft Pipe, and *smooth-dittied Song. 1668 WILKINS *Real Charac.* 78 That of *smooth edged leaves; or that whose leaves are..curled or waved about the edges. 1598 JONSON *Ev. Man. in Hum.* v. i, Lets all be *smooth fore headed once agayne. *Ibid.* II. ii, That land..Which to *smooth-fronted peace is most procliue. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* II. 631 Nor Box, nor Limes,.. *Smooth-grain'd, and proper for the Turner's Trade. 1634 MILTON *Comus* 716 Millions of spinning Worms, That in their green shops weave the *smooth-hair'd silk. 1871 M. LEGRAND *Cambr. Freshman* 30 A smooth-haired terrier. 1656 COWLEY *Misc.*; *Elegie upon Anacreon* 21 The *smooth-pac'd Hours of every day Glided numerously away. 1832 TENNYSON *Œnone* 93 Naked they came to the *smooth-swarded bower. 1834 J. S. KNOWLES *Beggar of Bethnal Green* III. (Rtldg.) I. 380 The *smoothest-temper'd fellow in Christendom.

b. In the specific names of birds, fishes, etc.

1787 LATHAM *Gen. Synop. Birds* Suppl. I. 67 *Smooth-billed Toucan. 1829 GRIFFITH tr. *Cuvier* VII. 467 Smooth-billed Barbican, *Pogonias Levirostris*. 1752 J. HILL *Hist. Anim.* 306 The *smooth-bodied Raia. *Ibid.* 125 The lesser, *smooth-clouded.. Cochlea. 1781 LATHAM *Gen. Synop. Birds* I. I. 118 *Smooth-legged Eared Owl,..having the legs bare of feathers. 1752 J. HILL *Hist. Anim.* 154 The yellow, gibbose, *smooth-mouthed Porcellana. 1831 GRIFFITH tr. *Cuvier* IX. Syn. 37 *Smooth-necked Guana, *Iguana Delesatissima*. 1752 J. HILL *Hist. Anim.* 28 The *smooth-nosed Shrimp. 1893 LYDEKKER *Roy. Nat. Hist.* I. 474 The Smooth-nosed Mungooses. 1836 YARRELL *Brit. Fishes* I. 81 The *Smooth-tailed Stickleback, in which the lateral plates extend no farther than the ends of the rays of the pectoral fin. *c* 1880 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* IV. 91 The second sub-family of the Hirundinidæ.—*Smooth-winged Swallows.

c. In the specific names of plants or trees.

1889 MAIDEN *Useful Pl.* 441 The former [was called] by the colonists 'Rough-barked Bloodwood', and the latter '*Smooth-barked Bloodwood'. *Ibid.* 476 The 'Smooth-barked Ironbark' from Brisbane. *a* 1722 LISLE *Husb.* (1757) 240 *Gramen cristatum*..is in English called *smooth-crested grass. 1887 G. NICHOLSON *Dict. Gard.* III. 35 Buckeye; *Smooth-fruited Horse Chestnut. 1822 *Hortus Angl.* II. 7 Long *Smooth-headed Poppy. 1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 587 A small species of vetch, called the *smooth-podded tare. 1822 *Hortus Angl.* II. 160 *Biscutella Lævigata*. Smooth podded Buckler Mustard. 1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 621 *Smooth-stalked meadow-grass thrives best in dry situations. 1854 H. MILLER *Sch. & Schm.* (1858) 398 The prevailing vegetable is the *smooth-stemmed tangle—*Laminaria saccharina*.

Smooth (smūð), *adv.* Also 5 smothe. [f. prec.]

1. Smoothly, in various senses.

1422 tr. *Secreta Secret., Priv. Priv.* 177 This worthy lorde began to smothe lagh. 1590 SHAKS. *Mids. N.* I. i. 134 The course of true loue neuer did run smooth. 1593 — 2 *Hen. VI*, III. i. 53 Smooth runnes the Water, where the Brooke is deepe. *c* 1655 MILTON *Sonn.* xx, Time will run On smoother, till Favonius re-inspire The frozen earth. 1746 FRANCIS tr. *Hor., Sat.* I. x. 62 Smooth flow his Lines, and elegant his Style. 1799 NELSON in Nicolas *Disp.* (1845) IV. 41, I well know your conciliating manners will make every thing go smooth.

2. *Comb.* a. With pa. pples. used attributively or predicatively, as *smooth-bedded, -combed, -cut*, etc.

1793 SMEATON *Edystone L.* § 148 The third step..*smooth bedded...And the sixth smooth bedded, and all the dove-tails roughed out. 1579 NORTH *Plutarch, Cæsar* (1612) 739 Those fat men and *smooth combed heads. 1818 SCOTT *Rob Roy* xiv, As I paced along the *smooth-cut velvet walks. 1631 WEEVER *Anc. Funeral Mon.* 778 White *smooth hewen Asheler stone. 1598 MARSTON *Sco. Villanie* I. iii. 180 His perfum'd she-goat *smooth-kemb'd and high fed. 1854 tr. *Pereira's Polarized Light* 17 When a beam of light falls on a *smooth-polished surface. 1799 WORDSW. *Poet's Epitaph* 29 One to whose *smooth-rubbed soul can cling Nor form, nor feeling. 1820 KEATS *Eve of St. Agnes* xxxiii, Upon his knees he sank, pale as *smooth-sculptured stone. 1632 MILTON *Penseroso* 66, I walk unseen On the dry *smooth-shaven Green. 1865 KINGSLEY *Herew.* xii, The Flemings..prided themselves on their civilised and smooth-shaven chins. 1756 DYER *Fleece* IV. 86 Copious webs arrive, *Smooth wov'n, of other than Britannia's Fleece. 1678 J. NORRIS *Misc.* (1699) 37 Who with a *smooth-wrought Pipe shall play the Song.

b. With pres. pples., as *smooth-flowing, -gliding, -going, -sliding*, etc.

1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. VI. ii, Parliamentary Eloquence, in bursts, or in plenteous *smooth-flowing floods. 1603 DANIEL *Def. Rhime* G v b, We admire them not for their *smooth-gliding words. 1882 BLACK *Shandon Bells* xvi, The Hansom (..was not quite so *smooth-going as that of Dr. Bude). 1598 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. i. I. *Eden* 117 That never gutter-gorging durty muds Defil'd the chrystall of *smooth-sliding floods. 1637 MILTON *Lycidas* 86 Smooth-sliding Mincius, crown'd with vocall reeds. 1606 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. iv. II. *Magnificence* 682 *Smooth-soothing vows, deep sorrows soon appeas'd. 1753 YOUNG *Brothers* I. i, *Smooth-speaking, insincere, insulting boy! 1743 FRANCIS tr. *Hor., Odes* I. ii. 20 Th' uxorious River glides away,..*smooth-winding to the Sea.

Smooth (smūð), *v.* Forms: 4 smope, 5–6 smothe; 6 smouthe; 5, 7, 9 smoothe, 6– smooth. [f. SMOOTH *a.*, taking the place of the earlier *smēðen* SMEETH *v.* The earliest instance occurs in sense 4 a.]

I. 1. *trans.* To make (a surface or substance) smooth, even, or level; to remove or reduce the roughness, irregularity, inequality, or unevenness of; to give a smooth or glossy surface to.

c 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* IV. 430 Of the claue Is best an handful greet..Er eyther ende ysmothed is to haue. 1495 *Trevisa's Barth. De P. R.* III. xiv. (W. de W.) 58 This vertue *informatiua* thyrlyth what shall be thirlled, and smotheth what is rough. 1576 FLEMING *Panopl. Epist.* 58 It surpasseth..all images of the caruer or grauer smothed and fined with his chosen instruments. 1595 SHAKS. *John* IV. ii. 13 To smooth the yce, or adde another hew Vnto the Raine-bow. 1630 DRAYTON *Muses Eliz.* Nymphal vii. 102 Here be fine night Maskes, plastred well within, To supple wrinckles, and to smooth the skin. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* I. 261 Let the weighty Rowler run the round, To smooth the Surface of th' unequal Ground. 1726 SWIFT *Gulliver* I. viii, His Majesty's ship carpenters..helped me in smoothing them after I had done the rough work. 1763 MILLS *Pract. Husb.* IV. 217 The head of the stock being cut off and smoothed. 1823 SCOTT *Quentin D.* Introd., An immense *assiette* of spinage, not smoothed into a uniform surface. 1881 H. JAMES *Portr. of Lady* XXXV, Rosier got up, and stood smoothing his hat.

absol. 1611 BIBLE *Isaiah* xli. 7 The carpenter encouraged the goldsmith, and he that smootheth with the hammer, him that smote the anuill.

fig. 1592 SHAKS. *Rom. & Jul.* III. ii. 97 What tongue shall smooth thy name, When I thy three houres wife haue mangled it. 1850 BLACKIE *Æschylus* I. 200 Time, that smooths All things, hath smoothed the front of my offence.

b. To iron (linen, etc.). Now *dial.*

1617 MORYSON *Itin.* III. 172 They have little skill in washing, starching, or smoothing linnen. 1654 *Nicholas P.* (Camden) II. 58 The girle at that present..being smoothing of Lynnen. 1755 JOHNSON, *Heater*, an iron made hot, and put into a box-iron, to smooth and plait linnen. 1828– in dial. glossaries and texts (Yks., Lancs., Linc., Derby., etc.).

c. To cause (feathers, hair, etc.) to lie smooth and even. Also in fig. context.

1634 MILTON *Comus* 251 How sweetly did they float upon the wings Of silence,..At every fall smoothing the Raven doune Of darknes till it smil'd. 1784 COWPER *Task* V. 692 To smooth The shag of savage nature. 1859 TENNYSON *Elaine* 345 There to his proud horse Lancelot turn'd, and smooth'd The glossy shoulder. 1879 FROUDE *Cæsar* viii. 81 Sylla himself had to smoothe the ruffled plumes of his aspiring follower.

d. *transf.* To reduce to a simple vowel.

1894 SWEET *Anglo-Sax. Rdr.* (ed. 7) p. xxiv, In Angl. *c* (*x*), *h*, *g*..'smooth' a preceding diphthong.

2. To make (a way) easy or plain; to free from obstruction, difficulty, or impediment. Chiefly in fig. contexts.

1582 STANYHURST *Æneis* III. (Arb.) 83 Thee fats thee passage shal smooth. 1593 SHAKS. 2 *Hen. VI*, I. ii. 65, I would remoue these tedious stumbling blockes, And smooth my way vpon their headlesse neckes. 1628 EARLE *Microcosm.*, *Graue Diuine* (Arb.) 24 Hee counts it not profanenesse..to smooth his way by Aristotle to Schoole-diuinitie. 1695 WOODWARD *Nat. Hist. Earth* I. (1723) 41 The more effectualy to smooth my Way. 1717 POPE *Eloïsa* 322 Thou, Abelard! the last sad office pay, And smooth my passage to the realms of day. 1779 *Mirror* No. 32, A qualification extremely useful for smoothing a man's way through the world. 1865 BURRITT *Walk to Land's End* 99 Intending to smoothe the way to matrimonial happiness. 1882 J. H. BLUNT *Ref. Ch. Eng.* II. 249 His earliest work was to smooth the way for Cardinal Pole's return to England.

b. To diminish or clear away (an obstruction, difficulty, etc.).

1599 SHAKS. *Hen. V*, II. ii. 188 We doubt not now, But euery Rubbe is smoothed on our way. 1867 LADY HERBERT *Cradle L.* v. 147 Those who had so kindly..smoothed for her all the difficulties of her journey.

3. To render (the brow) free from wrinkles, lines, frowns, etc., by natural effort; to invest with, replace by, a calm or placid expression. Also in fig. context.

1593 SHAKS. 3 *Hen. VI*, II. vi. 32 Good fortune bids vs pause, And smooth the frownes of War, with peacefull lookes. 1594 — *Rich. III*, I. i. 9 Grim-visag'd Warre, hath smooth'd his wrinkled Front. 1602 MARSTON *Ant. & Mel.* III. Wks. 1856 I. 36 How I clap my hands, and smooth my brow! 1671 MILTON *P. R.* II. 164 To..smooth the rugged'st brow. 1743 FRANCIS tr. *Hor., Odes* III. xxix. 24 Such Scenes have charm'd the Pangs of Care, And smooth'd the clouded Forehead of Despair. 1825 SCOTT *Talism.* ix, The Grand Master,..on exchanging a glance with the Marquis, smoothed his frowning brow as well as he could. 1895 G. MEREDITH *Odes Fr. Hist.* 28 She smoothed a startled look.

refl. 1819 SCOTT *Leg. Montrose* vi, The deep-knit furrows of his brow relaxed and smoothed themselves.

4. a. To make smooth, plausible, or specious.

1340 *Ayenb.* 57 Hit biualþ þet þe speche is grat zenne uor þet hi deþ grat kuead þa3 hy by uayre and ysmoþed. *c* 1600 ? SHAKS. *Passionate Pilgr.* 306 And when thou comest thy tale to tell, Smooth not thy tongue with filed talk. 1621 T. WILLIAMSON tr. *Goulart's Wise Vieillard* 66 She will deliuer him from the strange woman, which smootheth her words. 1653 MILTON *Ps.* v. 28 An open grave their throat, their tongue they smooth.

b. To refine (a person or his manners); to free from rudeness or rusticity. ? *Obs.*

1644 MILTON *Educ.* Wks. 1851 IV. 391 The solemn and divine harmonies of Musick..have a great power over dispositions and manners, to smooth and make them gentle from rustick harshness. 1749 CHESTERF. *Lett.* cxcviii. (1792) II. 246, I am very glad that you like good company so well. I already imagine that you are a little smoothed by it. *Ibid.* cxcix. 250 Such a share of them left, as may contribute to smooth and polish you.

c. To render smooth to the ear; to polish.

1667 MILTON *P. L.* v. 626 Harmonie Divine So smooths her charming tones, that Gods own ear Listens delighted. 1697 DRYDEN *Virgil* Note on Æneid IX. 853–4 Both verses are very rough; but of choice; for it had been easy for me to have smoothed them. 1724 L. WELSTED *Epist.*, etc. 43 Great Spencer first..Smoothed our old Metre, and refined our Lays. 1754 COWPER *Ep. R. Lloyd* 74 Matthew..with endless pains Smooth'd and refin'd the meanest strains.

†**5.** To use smooth, flattering, or complimentary language to (a person). *Obs.* (Cf. 9 a.)

1591 GREENE *Maiden's Dr.* ix, The poor he smooth'd, the proud he kept in awe. 1592 KYD *Sp. Trag.* II. i, Slie deceits smooth Bel-imperias eares. 1623 CAMDEN *Rem.* (1637) 162 A scholler smoothed him with this foolish allusion. 1670 COTTON *Espernon* III. xi. 572 Some expressions of Civility, and Complement, to smooth him withal, at his departure. 1718 HICKES & NELSON *Kettlewell* I. xxi. 44 He could Smooth or Flatter none upon any Consideration whatsoever.

†b. *absol.* To be smooth or plausible in one's language or bearing to others. *Obs.*

1587 *Mirr. Mag., Sir N. Burdet* iii, Fortunes guyle, Which smirking though at first, she seeme to smoothe and smyle. 1594 SHAKS. *Rich. III*, I. iii. 48 Because I cannot flatter,..Smile in mens faces, smooth, deceiue, and cogge. *a* 1618 SYLVESTER *Job Triumphant* I. 823 Or, ween you, smoothing, these Deceits to smother?

†c. So *to smooth it. Obs.*

1583 BABINGTON *Commaudm.* (1590) 427 We must smooth it, and sooth it, and carrie two faces vnder one hoode. 1593 SHAKS. 2 *Hen. VI*, II. i. 22 Pernitious Protector, dangerous Peere, That smooth'st it so with King and Common-weale.

d. *refl.* To put on smooth ingratiating airs.

1868 W. CORY *Lett. & Jrnls.* (1897) 251 At the worst, I never smoothed myself for Belial or for Mammon.

6. a. To allay, assuage, mitigate the force of (passion, trouble, etc.).

1589 GREENE *Menaphon* (Arb.) 23 The King thus smoothing the heate of his cares. 1605 SHAKS. *Lear* II. ii. 81 Such smiling rogues as these..smooth euery passion That in the natures of their Lords rebell. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* IV. 120 Whereof hee soon aware, Each perturbation smooth'd with outward calme, Artificer of fraud.

absol. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. II. vi, All is dissolution, mutual rancour, gloom and despair: till National Assembly Commissioners..gradually levelling, strive in all wise ways to smooth and soothe.

b. To render (the mind, etc.) calm or tranquil; to soothe.

1604 EARL STIRLING *Cræsus* v. ii, What could the world afford, or man affect, Which did not smooth my soule. 1633 G. HERBERT *Temple, Nature* iii, O smooth my rugged heart, and there Engrave thy rev'rend law and fear. 1830 TENNYSON *Leonine Elegiacs*, The ancient poetess singeth, that Hesperus all things bringeth, Smoothing the wearied mind. 1859 DICKENS *T. Two Cities* II. v, What has roughened your temper? Put some punch to it and smooth it again.

7. To hush up, gloss over, make less conspicuous or offensive.

1592 KYD *Sp. Trag.* III. x, This that I did was for a policie, To smooth and keepe the murder secret. 1593 SHAKS. *Rich. II*, I. iii. 240 (Q.1), Oh had't beene a stranger, ..To smooth his fault I should haue beene more milde. 1697

PRIDEAUX *Life Mahomet* (1716) 125 Which raising a great Noise, and many being offended with him for it, to smooth the matter again, he hath recourse to his old Art.

8. *intr.* To become smooth, calm, or tranquil.

1837 LOCKHART *Scott* lxiv. (1845) 570/1 Mrs. Coutts's brow smoothed, and..she was as..easy as ever she was in her life. 1860 *All Year Round* No. 66. 384 Once within the friendly shelter of the pier, the water smoothed rapidly. 1864 J. H. NEWMAN *Apol.* 241, I trust that things are smoothing now.

II. With advs. and preps.

9. *trans.* With *up*: †**a.** To flatter, encourage.

1584 B. R. tr. *Herodotus* II. 100 b, Hector,..whome it behoued not to smooth vp his brother in hys filthy leachery. 1593 G. HARVEY *New Lett.* Wks. (Grosart) I. 275 He that neither cockereth himselfe, nor loueth to be lulled, or smoothed-up of freindes. 1652 BP. HALL *Invis. World* III. § 5 He smooths us up in the good opinion of our own gracious disposition.

†**b.** To cover or hush up; to conceal. *Obs.*

1592 GREENE *Def. Couny Catch.* Wks. (Grosart) XI. 92 Al things was smoothed vp so cunningly, yⁱ he suspected nothing lesse then yᵉ reuenge intended against him. *a* 1661 HOLYDAY *Juvenal*(1673) 12 She..went to her husband with much flattery,..to smooth-up the matter.

†**c.** To contrive smoothly. *Obs.*—[1]

1603 DANIEL *Def. Rhime* G v b, To delight an exterior sense, wee smoothe vp a weake confused sense.

d. To polish up, improve.

1760–2 GOLDSM. *Cit. W.* lii. (Globe) 171 A squire from the country..desirous of..smoothing up the rudiments of his rural minuet.

10. With *over*: †**a.** To win over, appease. *Obs.*—[1]

1608 TOPSELL *Serpents* (1658) 708 For the Dragon being smoothed over with these gifts,..was contented to forsake the old place.

b. To make smooth or smoother in some way, esp. by the removal of a difficulty.

1611 COTGR., *Calendré*,..sleeked, or smoothed ouer. 1809 MALKIN *Gil Blas* XII. vi. ¶ 4 They were politic enough to smooth over the corrugations of their contempt. 1820 BYRON *Mar. Fal.* IV. i. 75 The high moon..Serenely smoothing o'er the lofty walls Of those tall piles and sea-girt palaces. 1873 BLACK *Pr. Thule* XXV. 418 These minor inconveniences were soon smoothed over.

c. To gloss over, minimize.

1684 BAXTER *Cath. Comm.* 40 By hiding, or smoothing over publick sins. 1827 SCOTT *Surg. Dau.* v, This he smoothed over to his conscience. 1852 MRS. STOWE *Uncle Tom* xxiv. 233 There was something about her that Eva never could make out; and she always smoothed it over with thinking that, after all, it was mamma.

11. With *out*: **a.** To take out, remove (a fold or crease) by pressure or rubbing.

1683 MOXON *Printing* xxiv. ¶ 15 As he comes to a Token-sheet, he..smooths out the Crease with the back-side of the Nails of his Right Hand. 1815 SCOTT *Guy M.* XXX, He has had a hard task replacing the folios..., smoothing out the creases and dogs-ears. 1847 C. BRONTË *J. Eyre* xxix, The creases left by the wet [were] smoothed out.

b. To spread out smoothly or evenly.

1859 JEPHSON *Brittany* ii. 19 Some batter, which she smoothed out with a wooden spoon until it was of about the thickness of a pancake.

12. With *down*: **a.** To make smooth by pressing down. Also in fig. context.

1687 MIÈGE *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II. s.v., To smooth down with the Nail, as Taylors and Seamstresses do. 1768 BURKE *Corr.* (1844) I. 150 However,..I am to see him to-morrow, and will smooth down the feathers. 1816 SCOTT *Old Mort.* XXXVII, She had an infant in one arm, and with the other she smoothed down her apron. 1847 TENNYSON *Princ.* II. 432 One In this hand held a volume as to read, And smoothed a petted peacock down with that.

b. *intr.* To become smooth by settling down.

1884 *Field* 6 Dec. (Cassell), The falls were smoothing down.

13. With *off*, *away*, etc. (see quots.).

1680 OTWAY *Orphan* II: i, The superstitious States-man has his sneer To smooth a poor man off with that can't bribe him. 1784 COWPER *Tiroc.* 560 Th' indented stick, that loses day by day Notch after notch, till all are smooth'd away. 1819 SHELLEY *Peter Bell 3rd* VII. iii. 5 From his mean front..Smoothing away the unmeaning furrows. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. VI. viii A moment,—which one had to smooth off with oratory. 1893 'Q.' [QUILLER-COUCH] *Delectable Duchy* 25 Their wives smoothed all intelligence out of their faces as soon as I began to hint at it.

Smoothable (smū·ðăb'l), *a. rare.* [f. SMOOTH *v.*] Capable of being smoothed or made smooth.

1656 W. DU GARD tr. *Comenius' Gate Lang. Unl.* 27 One verie hard, and yet smoothable, Marble.

†**Smooth-boot(s.** *Obs.* [f. SMOOTH *a.* + BOOT *sb.*[3] Cf. SLY-BOOT(S.] One who uses flattering, ingratiating, or plausible language; a bland or smooth-tongued person. Usually in pl. form.

1599 MINSHEU *Sp. Dict., Halagadór*, a smoothbootes, a flatterer, a faire spoken man, a cunning tongued fellow. *a* 1610 [see SLEEKSTONE 2]. 1691 WOOD *Life* 21 Apr., Dr. Nathaniel Foy bishop of Waterford:..a smooth boots. 1707 HEARNE *Collect.* (O. H. S.) II. 8 The V.C. (whom some Waggs call a second Smoothboots). 1709 *Ibid.* 175 Old Smoothboots the Vice-Chancellor.

Hence †**Smooth-booted** *a.*, flattering, fawning, soft-spoken. *Obs.*

1706 HEARNE *Collect.* (O.H.S.) I. 231 Just such another smooth-booted Complyer. 1708 *Ibid.* II. 101 Yᵉ last smooth booted, sneaking Oxford Address. 1710 *Ibid.* III. 28 That old smooth-booted, self-interested,..paultry Lancaster.

Smooth-bore. Also **smoothbore, smooth bore.** [f. SMOOTH *a.* + BORE *sb.*[1]]

1. A cannon or gun of which the barrel is made with a smooth or unrifled bore.

In first quot. with punning allusion to BORE *sb.*[2]

1848 LOWELL *Fable for Critics* 1229 I divide bores myself, in the manner of rifles Into two great divisions..;—There's your smooth-bore and screw-bore [etc.]. 1859 'STONEHENGE' *Shot Gun* 306 A ball from a smooth bore (that is, from a barrel not rifled in any way). 1897 *Century Mag.* Aug. 587 A powerful double-turreted monitor, carrying two 18-inch smooth-bores.

fig. 1883 PAYN *Thicker than Water* xxiii, One thought expelling another in the narrow smoothbore of her mind.

2. *attrib.* **a.** Having a smooth or unrifled bore.

1859 *Musketry Instr.* 31 During the passage of the spherical ball through the smooth-bore barrel. 1860 TENNENT *Story Guns* (1864) 228 These trials were made with the old smooth-bore cannon. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* I. 65 For many years the arm of the British soldier was a smooth-bore musket.

b. Adapted for guns having a smooth bore.

1859 F. A. GRIFFITHS *Artill. Man.* (1862) 203 Smooth-bore projectiles.

Hence **Smoo·th-bored** *a.*, = prec. 2 a.

1859 F. A. GRIFFITHS *Artill. Man.* (1862) 203 Smooth-bored guns. 1890 *Nature* 18 Sept., At short distances..the smooth-bored guns were reasonably accurate.

Smoothed (smūðd), *ppl. a.* [f. SMOOTH *v.*]

1. Rendered specious or plausible. *rare.*

1568 T. HOWELL *Arb. Amitie* (1879) 101 Nor he that files his smoothed speeche. 1575 GASCOIGNE *Weedes* Wks. (1587) 152 Their smoothed toongues are lined all with guile.

2. Made smooth, even, placid; unruffled, etc.

1591 SHAKS. 1 *Hen. VI*, III. i. 124 The Duke Hath banisht moodie discontented fury, As by his smoothed Browes it doth appeare. 1611 COTGR. s.v. *Perpins*, Stones made iust as thicke as a wall, & shewing their smoothed ends on either side thereof. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* I. 772 They..on the smoothed Plank..expatiate. 1713 YOUNG *Last Day* II. 368 How the smooth'd spirit into goodness glides! 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* III. v. i, With cheerfully smoothed countenances. 1897 MISS KINGSLEY *W. Africa* 168 Masses of smoothed rock rise up out of the whirling water.

†**3.** Indulged, pampered. *Obs.*

1600 BRETON *Pasquil's Fooles Cap* lxxiii, Such smoothed Godsons shew in Wisdomes schoole, A Milk-soppe Babie is more halfe a Foole.

Hence †**Smoo·thedness,** smoothness. *Obs.*—[1]

1573 GOLDING in Baret *Alv.* To Rdr. ix, The natiue propertie Of brode North speech and Sowthren smoothednesse.

Smoothen (smū·ð'n), *v.* [f. SMOOTH *a.* + -EN [5].] In frequent use *c* 1820–30, esp. by Landor.

1. *trans.* To reduce the force, harshness, or violence of (something); to assuage, mollify, tone down (a passion, etc.).

1635 R. N. tr. *Camden's Hist. Eliz.* I. 55 The heate of warre..was rather smoothened than any firm peace knit. 1724 WELTON *Chr. Faith & Pract.* 403 The government of our appetites..must needs smoothen and civilize any temper. *c* 1816 FUSELI *Lect. on Art* (1848) 515 The general tone..smoothens the whirlwind that fluctuates on the foreground, and gives an air of temperance to the whole. 1829 LANDOR *Imag. Conv.* Wks. 1853 I. 559/1 For the foundation of civility it is requisite that all malignity be smoothened.

2. To make easy or plain; to clear (a way), to free from difficulty, obstruction, etc.; to lighten or lessen (a difficulty).

1648 HOWELL *Twelve Treat.* (1661) 375 To smoothen and facilitate things, thereby to open a passage, and pave the way to a happy peace. 1795 *Ann. Reg., Hist.* 108 [It] would have smoothened the road to a general pacification. 1829 LANDOR *Imag. Conv.* Wks. 1853 I. 443/1 That I may smoothen the path to arrangements of great advantage to thee. 1857 CANON FLANAGAN *Hist. Ch. in Eng.* II. 426 To smoothen matters to the uttermost Dr. Milner made an ample apology.

3. To make (a surface, substance, etc.) smooth, level, even, calm, etc.; to free from roughness or inequality.

1678 MOXON *Mech. Exerc.* iv. 73 [The paring-chisel's] office is..to pare off and smoothen the irregularities the Former [plane] made. 1683 *Ibid., Printing* xiii. ¶ 3 He goes about to Flat and Smoothen the Face. 1772 J. R. FORSTER tr. *Kalm's Trav.* I. 341 They..scraped off the burnt part of the wood, and smoothened the boat within. 1798 LANDOR *Gebir* Wks. 1853 II. 490/1 There spreads a marble squared And smoothen'd. 1820 W. SCORESBY *Acc. Arctic Reg.* II. 354 The remarkable property of oil in smoothening the surface of the sea. 1890 W. J. GORDON *Foundry* 142 Then we see the furrows smoothened on a stone wheel.

transf. 1864 BURTON *Scot Abroad* I. ii. 91 In France.. the sharp contour of their name [*sc.* Kennedy] was smoothened into Cenedy. 1868 BROWNING *Ring & Bk.* I. i. 1181 Language that goes as easy as a glove O'er good and evil smoothens both to one.

b. Const. *away*, *down*, *off*, *over*.

1680 MOXON *Mech. Exer.* xiii. 221 They cut down and smoothen away the Extuberances left by the Sharp-pointed Grooving Tool. 1821 CLARE *Vill. Minstr.* I. 111 Some may..cut-hedge and lawn adore, Which his shears have smoothen'd o'er. *Ibid.* II. 66 Oft I've seen thy little leg.. Smoothen down thy silken sides. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* I. 57 This [pile] is called the 'cast-shadow', and must not have its lower edge smoothened off.

4. *intr.* To become smooth.

1888 MCCARTHY & PRAED *Ladies' Gallery* I. i. 15 His chest expanded, his skin smoothened.

Hence **Smoothened** (smū·ð'nd), *ppl. a.*; **Smoothening** (smū·ð'niŋ), *vbl. sb.* and *ppl. a.*

1818 *Blackw. Mag.* IV. 45 Every bit of the smoothened, polished..body, thanks a different artist for its ornament. 1841 BROWNING *Pippa Passes* Poems (1905) 176 The soft-rinded smoothening facile chalk That yields your outline to the air's embrace. 1846 LANDOR *Imag. Conv.* Wks. 1853 II. 61/2, I should be sorry to destroy..or even to remove the smoothened plank. 1887 *Amer. Naturalist* XXI. 435 The first step in improvement gained from the chard beets was a smoothening of the root.

Smoother (smū·ðəɹ). [f. SMOOTH *v.*]

†**1.** One who uses smooth or flattering language; a flatterer. *Obs.*

1611 COTGR., *Blandisseur*, a blandisher,..smoother, flattering sycophant, or claw-backe. [*a* 1693 *Urquhart's Rabelais* III. iii. 38 My Claw backs, my Smoothers, my Parasites.]

2. One who or that which smooths in some respect; a refiner, mollifier, pacifier, etc. Also with *down*.

Freq. in recent newspaper use as in quot. 1902.

1611 COTGR., *Polisseur*, a polisher..; sleeker, smoother. 1630 LENNARD tr. *Charron's Wisd.* (1670) 473 [Honesty] preserveth the Magistrate free from..bribes, which is the plague, and smoother of truth. 1724 SWIFT *Drapier's Lett.* Wks. 1755 V. II. 71 A seasonable report of some invasion..; which is a great smoother of rubs in publick proceedings. 1767 PERCY *Anc. Eng. Minstrels* in *Reliq.* (ed. 2) I. p. XX, A word which denotes 'Smoothers and Polishers of language'. 1872 BLACK *Adv. Phaeton* xix. 265 A sunset is a wonderful smoother-down of these artificial features in a landscape. 1902 *Westm. Gaz.* 2 July 2/2 Last March Mr. Lehmann..was very angry with the 'smoothers', as he was pleased to call the peacemakers in the Liberal Party.

b. A worker employed in smoothing linen; a calenderer or ironer.

1776 ADAM SMITH *W. N.* I. i. (1869) I. 7 The bleachers and smoothers of the linen. 1898 *Daily News* 12 July 6/6 Maggie Atkinson, a smoother in Castlereagh Laundry.

3. An implement, tool, or machine for smoothing (see quots.).

1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 352/1 The third..is termed a *Smoother*, with which all their Leather is *slickened*, as they call it. 1738 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Bookbinding*, The book, being put in the press,..is scraped with a knife called a *scraper*; and after that with another called a *smoother*. 1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss., Smoother*, a smoothing iron. 1885 *Trans. Lanc. & Chesh. Antiq. Soc.* III. 256 These [glass] mullers or smoothers were in use for centuries. 1890 W. J. GORDON *Foundry* 154 They [*sc.* pieces of wood] then pass on to the 'smoother', a fixed knife, against which they are driven.

Smoother, obs. form of SMOTHER *sb.* and *v.*

†**Smoothery:** see SMETH. *Obs.*

Smooth-faced, *a.* [f. SMOOTH *a.* 14.]

1. Of persons: Having a face free from hair, wrinkles, etc.; clean-shaven, beardless.

? *c* 1580 in Nichols *Topographer* II. 400 Thomas Myeld in whight armours faire, and smooth-fased. 1591 *Troub. Raigne K. John* xi. 42 A smooth-facte Nunne is all the Abbots wealth. 1621 QUARLES *Esther* iv, Hopefull Princes (ill-aduis'd By young, and smooth-fac'd Councell). 1689 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 2056/4 John Randall,..smooth faced, aged about 20. 1756 C. SMART tr. *Horace, Sat.* I. x. (1826) II. 81 The smooth-faced [L. *pulcher*] Hermogenes. 1856 R. A. VAUGHAN *Hours w. Mystics* (1860) I. 89 No shavelings,.. like the smooth-faced sanctities of the later calendar. 1883 *Standard* 16 May 5/6 Marks of small-pox were so prevalent that it was common to distinguish one free from them as a smooth-faced person.

transf. 1594 SHAKS. *Rich. III*, v. v. 33 Let thy Heires.. Enrich the time to come, with Smooth-fac'd Peace, With smiling Plenty.

b. *fig.* Having or assuming a bland, ingratiating, or insinuating expression; plausible in manner.

1595 SHAKS. *John* II. i. 573 He that winnes of all..: That smooth-fac'd Gentleman, tickling commoditie. 1603 J. DAVIES (Heref.) *Humours Heaven* Wks. (Grosart) I. 43/2 Rogh-cast the skin of smooth-fac'd glozing Guile With burning blisters. 1682 CREECH *Lucretius* (1683) 170 Nor could the treacherous smile Of smooth-fac't Wares tempt one poor man to toyl. 1812 SHELLEY *Address* Prose Wks. 1888 I. 228 Take care then of smooth-faced impostors. 1862 SALA *Ship Chandler* ii. 22 How much has that smooth-faced hound given you to stand in with him?

2. *fig.* Of words, etc.: Specious, plausible.

1640–6 QUARLES *Feast for Worms* 415 They whose smooth-fac'd words become the Altar. 1677 GILPIN *Demonol.* (1867) 194 Weak heads cannot see the far end of a smooth-faced doctrine.

3. Of things: Having a smooth face or surface.

1647 H. MORE *Poems* 177 The rough Earth, one smooth-fac'd Round would show. 1648 J. BEAUMONT *Psyche* II. CXXXIX, For his rich Ring of smoothfac'd Diamond. 1858 HAWTHORNE *Fr. & It. Note-bks.* (1872) II. 68 Other smooth-faced and stuccoed edifices. 1896 *Daily News* 19 Dec. 6/4 A smooth-faced cloth in a soft tone of heliotrope.

Smooth-headed, *a.* [f. SMOOTH *a.* 14.] Having a smooth head. Chiefly in the names of animals, plants, etc.

1752 J. HILL *Hist. Anim.* 326 The variegated-backed, smooth-headed Strix. 1822 *Hortus Angl.* II. 7 *Papaver Dubium.* Long Smooth-headed Poppy. 1831 GRIFFITH tr. *Cuvier* IX. Syn. 65 Smooth-headed Gerrhonote, *Gerrhonotus Leiocephalus.* 1893 LYDEKKER *Roy. Nat. Hist.* I. 156 The Smooth-Headed Sapajou (*Cebus monachus*)..is a species from Rio Janeiro.

Smoothification. [Cf. next.] A smoothing.

1799 SOUTHEY in Robberds *Mem. W. Taylor* (1843) I. 291 These [verses] I meant to have returned you with some proffered smoothifications.

Smoothify, *v.* [f. SMOOTH *a.* + -(I)FY.] *trans.* To render smooth. In quot. *fig.*

1694 MOTTEUX *Rabelais* v. xix. (1737) 85 They flatter the Devil here, and *smoothify* his Name.

Smoothing (smū·ðiŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. SMOOTH *v.*]

1. The action of the verb, in various senses; an instance of this. Also *fig.*

1577 B. GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* I. (1586) 33 b, The Meale which the people in olde tyme dyd vse for the smoothing of their skinnes. 1663 GERBIER *Counsel* d iij, Some of them Bear-like-whelps (by licking and smoothing) have gotten some fashionable like shape. 1676 ROW *Contin. Blair's*

Autobiog. xi. (1848) 291 After some smoothings of it, it was approven. 1738 in *6th Rep. Dep. Kpr.* App. II. 120 A new sort of cast metallick Boxes for the smoothing of Linen. 1822 J. PARKINSON *Outl. Oryctol.* 253 Every degree of resolution, from..destroying the finest striæ to the smoothing of ridges. 1885 'LUCAS MALET' *Col. Enderby's Wife* III. vi, She..slowly settled her mantle into its place, with sundry dainty pattings and smoothings.

b. *Phonology.* (See quot. 1888.)

1888 SWEET *Eng. Sounds* 22 'Smoothing' or the levelling of the two elements of a diphthong under a monophthong is the result of absorption. 1894 — *Anglo-Sax. Reader* (ed. 7) p. xxiv, When these smoothings occur in WS and Kt texts they may..be due to Angl. scribes.

2. *attrib.* in the names of appliances, implements, etc., used in smoothing, as **smoothing-board** (see quot.); **smoothing-box**, a box-iron (now *dial.*); † **smoothing-leather**, a razor-strop; **smoothing-mill, -stone** (see quots.); **smoothing-trowel**, a kind of trowel used in plastering.

1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. xx. (Roxb.) 249/1 Four Instruments belonging to the Art of a Lanthorn maker...The second..is called a *Smoothing Board. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 8 Oct. 1672, A thick piece of yron, such as laundresses use to put in their *smoothing-boxes. 1799 G. SMITH *Laboratory* II. 409 It will be proper to rub the smoothing-box or iron with a little wax. 1709 *Phil. Trans.* XXVI. 496, I passed the same Razor over my Strop or *Smoothing-Leather. 1850 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* III. 1302 For soft stones the *smoothing mill is sometimes a plain disk of willow wood or mahogany. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2227 *Smoothing-mill*, the polishing-mill of the lapidary. *Ibid.*, **Smoothing-stone*, a substitute for a smoothing-iron, made of steatite, attached to a plate and handle of metal. 1825 J. NICHOLSON *Operat. Mechanic* 612 This coat is spread with a *smoothing-trowel. 1873 E. SPON *Workshop Rec.* Ser. I. 121/2 The setting is spread with the smoothing trowel.

b. *Smoothing-iron*, a flat-iron (also *fig.*); an iron slicker used for smoothing leather.

(*a*) 1627 W. HAWKINS *Apollo Shroving* IV. iii. 63 The lace is so thicke...I know not what can foule it, vnlesse the smoothing-iron cast a rusty colour through the paper. 1755 JOHNSON s.v. *Iron*, A flat iron, box iron, or smoothing iron. 1848 MRS. GASKELL *M. Barton* viii, The smoothing-irons that hung before the fire. 1889 GRETTON *Memory's Harkback* 275, I drew the smoothing-iron over all, by expressing as fully..as I knew how, my admiration of his glorious country.

(*b*) 1852 MORFIT *Tanning & Currying* (1853) 370 The wrinkles in the skin are flattened by means of a mallet or a smoothing iron.

c. *Smoothing-plane*, a small fine-set plane used in finishing (see quots.).

1678 MOXON *Mech. Exerc.* iv. 72 The Fore-Plain is used before the Smoothing-Plain. 1703 [R. NEVE] *City & C. Purchaser* 190 The Smoothing-plane..is a thick Plate of Polish'd-brass, about 9 Inches square, a little turn'd up, on all the 4 edges. 1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* I. 110 The smoothing-plane is about seven inches in length, it has no tote or handle, and otherwise differs in shape from any of the planes yet mentioned. 1875 SIR T. SEATON *Fret-Cutting* 83 The smoothing-plane must be set very fine, and the upper iron should come quite low down towards the edge.

Smoo·thing, *ppl. a.* [f. as prec.]

1. That smooths or makes smooth; having the effect of smoothing.

1495 *Trevisa's Barth. De P. R.* XIX. xlvii. (W. de W.) 890 Bytter thynges..bi grete drynesse..be made smothyng and softynge. 1650 VENNER *Via Recta* 103 It induceth a smoothing delectation to the gullet. 1857 DICKENS *Dorrit* II. vii, It made her anxious..to be operated upon by that smoothing hand.

† **2.** Plausible, blandishing, flattering. *Obs.*

a 1592 GREENE *Jas. IV*, 1. i, Princes rather choose a smoothing tongue, Than men of art that can accept the time. 1592 — *Groat's W. Wit* Wks. (Grosart) XII. 114 He learnd likewise with smoothing words to faine. 1593 SHAKS. *Lucr.* 892 Thy secret pleasure turnes to open shame, ..Thy smoothing titles to a ragged name. 1675 OTWAY *Alcibiades* III. i, Fine smoothing Terms to cloke a Passion in.

Hence **Smoo·thingly** *adv.*

1894 R. S. SURTEES *Handley Cross* (1898) I. 186 You seem an honest, intelligent sort of man, continued Mr. Bolster smoothingly. 1884 E. FAWCETT *Rutherford* vi, One of his white hands fluttered smoothingly about his yellow beard.

Smoothish (smū·ðiʃ), *a.* [f. SMOOTH *a.*] Somewhat or rather smooth; slightly glabrous.

1681 GREW *Museum* II. I. iv. 205 The Skin smoothish. 1796 WITHERING *Brit. Pl.* (ed. 3) II. 103 The smoothish straw, and the creeping root, are obvious distinctions. 1836 T. HOOK *G. Gurney* III. 320 Having made, even in smoothish water, several experiments. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 920/2 A fast-growing tree, with a smoothish grey bark.

Smooth-leaved, *a.* [f. SMOOTH *a.* 14.] Of plants: Having smooth leaves. Chiefly in specific names.

1731 MILLER *Gard. Dict.* s. v. *Acanthus*, The smooth-leav'd Garden Bear's-breech. 1751 J. HILL *Hist. Plants* 456 The pinnated smooth-leaved Sorbus. The Quicken-tree. 1825 *Greenho. Comp.* I. 95 A smooth-leaved plant of easy culture. 1840 *Penny Cycl.* XVIII. 172/2 The Smooth-leaved Pine (*Pinus leiophylla*). 1841 *Ibid.* XIX. 485/1 *Rhus glabra* (Smooth-leaved Sumach). 1857 MISS PRATT *Flower. Pl.* V. 108 Smooth-leaved Alpine Willow.

Smoothly (smū·ðli), *adv.* Forms: 4 **smopely**, 5–6 **smothely**, 6 **smothly**, 6– **smoothly**, 7 **smouthly**. [f. SMOOTH *a.*]

1. In a smooth manner; with smooth, easy, or gentle movement or motion; gently.

13.. *Gaw. & Gr. Knt.* 407 Þou me smopely has smyten. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 732, I schal..let hem smolt al unsmyten smopely atonez. *a* 1529 SKELTON *Col. Cloute* 1254 The forecastell of my shyp Shall glyde, and smothely slyp Out of the wawes wod. 1594 KYD *Cornelia* IV. ii, Thine easie streames That glide as smothly as a Parthian shaft. 1612 WOODALL *Surg. Mate* Wks. (1653) 2 To make a Launcet himself which will enter smoothly. 1665 BOYLE *Occas. Refl.* VI. i. (1848) 340 A belief that the toothsome would make the nutritive part go smoothly down. 1722 DE FOE *Col. Jack* (1840) 47, I brushed smoothly, but closely by the man. 1784 COWPER *Task* II. 262 That winds and waters..May bear us smoothly to the Gallic shore. 1805 WORDSW. *Waggoner* IV. 62 Where, smoothly urged, the vapours sweep Along. 1886 *Manch. Exam.* 8 Jan. 6/1 The sleighs skim along very smoothly and lightly.

transf. 1597 DRAYTON *Heroical Ep., Q. Kath. to O. Tudor* 137 The Brittish language..runnes as smoothly from those lypps of thine, As the pure Thuskan from the Florantine. 1599 SHAKS. *Much Ado* V. ii. 33 Carpet-mongers, whose name yet runne smoothly in the euen rode of a blanke verse.

Comb. 1805 WORDSW. *Waggoner* II. 108 A gallant, stately Man-of-war, Fixed on a smoothly-sliding car. 1888 LEES & CLUTTERBUCK *B. C. 1887* XXX, The broad surface of the now smoothly-flowing Kootenay.

2. So as to present or leave a smooth, even, or level surface; evenly, regularly.

1489 CAXTON *Faytes of A.* I. xxiii. 71 A longe trayne of men of armes al clos togyder and renged full smothely. 1641 G. SANDYS *Paraphr. Song Sol.* IV. i, Thy Teeth like Sheep in their return From Chison, washt, and smoothly shorn. 1713 *Guardian* No. 168, Beneath the Shade of flowing Jet The Iv'ry Forehead smoothly set. 1813 J. THOMSON *Lect. Inflam.* 449 A bandage..should be applied, as smoothly as can be possibly performed. 1877 RAYMOND *Statist. Mines & Mining* 121 The rocks they contain, generally smoothly worn, but not fully rounded, are [etc.].

Comb. *c* 1730 SAVAGE *Wks.* (1775) II. 198 Her soft attendants smooth the spotless skin, And, smoothly oval, turn the shapely chin. 1873 TRISTRAM *Moab* V. 71 The wall with its smoothly-sloped facing.

b. With clothes of smooth or fine texture.

1579 GOSSON *Sch. Abuse* (Arb.) 39 They were smoothly appareled, soft lodged, daintely feasted.

3. In a bland, mild, or plausible manner; blandly, suavely.

1563 SKELTON *Garl. Laurel* 504 Some lokyd full smothely, and had a fals quarter. 1592 *Arden of Feversham* III. v, Thou hast..spoke as smoothly as an orator. 1649 MILTON *Eikon.* 8 Heer he smoothly seeks to wipe off all the envy of his evill Government upon his Substitutes. 1653 H. MORE *Conject. Cabbal.* 226 The Serpent..looking so smoothly and innocently on't,..and so deceiving them. 1825 SCOTT *Talism.* vi, Despardieux! This is smoothly said to soothe a sick man. 1845 JAMES *Arrah Neil* iv, Did he speak smoothly and civilly?

4. Without impediment, obstruction, or complication; without any trouble or difficulty arising. (Common in 19th cent.)

1668 CHAS. II in Cartwright *Madame* (1894) 260 Things should go on smouthly. 1777 WATSON *Philip II* (1839) 59 It could not reasonably be expected that the government would proceed smoothly. 1792 BOSWELL *Johnson* an. 1766 (Oxf. ed.) I. 336 Goldsmith..mentions Luke as a person well known, and superficial readers have passed it over quite smoothly. 1856 MERIVALE *Rom. Emp.* xlii. V. 135 The ceremony passed smoothly without demur or scruple. 1882 LADY HERBERT *Edith* 6 For the first few months all went on smoothly.

Smoothness (smū·ðnės). Also 4 smope-, 5–6 **smothnesse**. [f. SMOOTH *a.*]

1. The quality of being smooth or of having a smooth, level, or even surface; calmness (of water).

c 1374 CHAUCER *Boeth.* V. met. 4 (1868) 166 Lettres emprentid in þe smopenesse or in þe plainesse of þe table of wex. 1495 *Trevisa's Barth. De P. R.* XVII. xx. (W. de W.) 615 Boxe..for smothnesse of matere..is able to receyue wrytynge of letters. 1548 ELYOT, *Lævitas*, playnnesse or smothnesse. 1586 MARLOWE *1st Pt. Tamburl.* II. i, His lofty browes in foldes do figure death, And in their smoothnesse, amitie and life. 1656 tr. *Hobbes' Elem. Philos.* (1839) 405 Smoothness, roughness,..refer to figure, and are therefore common both to touch and sight. *a* 1688 CUDWORTH *Immut. Morality* (1731) 62 Democritus..makes one of them to consist in Roughness and Ruggedness, the other in Smoothness and Evenness of Parts. 1774 M. MACKENZIE *Maritime Surv.* 86 If the Card of the Compass can be made to stand at Rest in the Boat, either by Art, or the Smoothness of the Sea. 1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* I. 31 The last degree of smoothness can only be obtained by grinding. 1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* I. xv. 101 The water was of a glassy smoothness.

b. *fig.* or in fig. context.

1593 SHAKS. *Lucr.* 1247 Their [*sc.* women's] smoothness, like a goodly champaign plain, Lays open all the little worms that creep. 1663 S. PATRICK *Parab. Pilgr.* XV. (1687) 124 The roughness of your way, and the asperities of mens manners, must not spoil the smoothness of your soul. 1845 PATTISON *Ess.* (1889) I. 3 A deficiency of moral energy, arising chiefly from the smoothness with which the current of social life runs down.

c. The fact of having a smooth or hairless skin.

1626 BACON *Sylva* § 680 The Cause of the Smoothness in Men, is not any Abundance of Heat and Moisture, though that indeed causeth Pilositie.

d. A smooth place or part.

1674 N. FAIRFAX *Bulk. & Selv.* 86 The pieces of a body ..are only clapt together at their little smoothnesses.

2. Easy flow, elegance, or polish (of language, diction, etc.).

1589 PUTTENHAM *Eng. Poesie* II. vii. (Arb.) 93 The smoothnesse of your words and sillables running vpon feete of sundrie quantities. 1602 SHAKS. *Ham.* III. ii. 9 In the verie Torrent..and (as I may say) the Whirle-winde of Passion, you must acquire and beget a Temperance that may giue it Smoothnesse. 1666 DRYDEN *Pref. Ann. Mirab.* 42, I affected the softness of expression and the smoothness of measure. 1781 COWPER *Table-talk* 513 That verse, whatever fire the fancy warms, Without a creamy smoothness has no charms. 1836 *Random Recoll. Ho. Lords* xvi. 385 His sentiments and arguments flow from his lips with a smoothness and facility..seldom witnessed. 1885 *Manch. Exam.* 30 Mar. 5/4 The Cabinet, lulled to repose by the smoothness of Lord Clarendon's flowing periods.

b. Polish, refinement, ease (of manners, bearing, etc.).

1832 LYTTON *E. Aram* I. vi, Judge for yourself if I be fit for the smoothness, and confidence, and ease of social intercourse. 1838 — *Alice* 60 She acquired self-possession and the smoothness of society.

3. The quality of being bland, ingratiating, or plausible; assumed or simulated friendliness, civility, or amiability.

1600 SHAKS. *A. Y. L.* I. iii. 79 She is too subtile for thee, and her smoothnes.., and her patience, Speake to the people. 1611 BEAUM. & FL. *Maid's Trag.* IV, I want smoothness To thank a man for pardoning of a crime I never knew. 1845 JAMES *Arrah Neil* iv, Dry, of Long-soaken, was all smoothness and civility. 1858 W. ARNOT *Laws fr. Heaven* ii. 22 Smoothness is not an equivalent for truth.

4. Easiness, facility (of working).

1893 HODGES *Elem. Photogr.* (1907) 133 Many such devices work with great smoothness and certainty.

Smoo·t-hole. *dial.* Also smout-. [f. SMOOT *sb.*[1] Cf. Da. *smuthul.*] (See quots. and SMOOT *sb.*[1])

a 1828 BEWICK *Mem.* (1862) 39 The entrance to these last was always by a 'smout hole', or small opening, through which we crept on hands and knees. 1828 CARR *Craven Gloss., Smoot-hole*, a hole in a fence, through which a hare is accustomed to pass. 1893 J. WATSON *Conf. Poacher* 133 A smoot-hole in the fence through which the rabbits run.

Smooth-skinned, *a.* [f. SMOOTH *a.* 14.] Having a smooth skin.

1611 TOURNEUR *Ath. Trag.* II. v, I do not like these phlegmatic smooth-skinned, soft-fleshed fellows. 1668 CHARLETON *Onomast.* 128 *Galeus Lævis*,..the smooth-skinned Dog-fish. 1689 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 2454/4 A smooth skinn'd little Spaniel Bitch. 1798 *Trans. Soc. Arts* XVI. 329 The fruit is of various shapes and sizes,..some smooth skinned. 1881 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* V. 41 The Homelyn Ray is a smooth-skinned species.

Smooth-spoken, *a.* [f. SMOOTH *adv.*] Smooth-tongued, soft-spoken.

1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* xxiii, Now, a plague upon all smooth-spoken hosts! 1838 LYTTON *Alice* II. vii, You corroborate my own opinion of that smooth-spoken gentleman. 1854 H. MILLER *Sch. & Schm.* (1858) 255 The landlord, a smooth-spoken, little old man, striving hard to conciliate him.

Smooth-tongued, *a.* [f. SMOOTH *a.* 14.]

1. Smooth or plausible in speech; using fair or flattering words; smooth-spoken.

1592 MARLOWE *Edw. II*, IV. v, Spencer..Is with that smoothe toongd scholler Baldock gone. 1603-35 BRETON *Mad World my Masters* Wks. (Grosart) II. 8/1 A very artificiall faire, sharpe-witted,..and, as I after found, smooth-tongued gentlewoman. 1684 OTWAY *Atheist* III. i, What a smooth-tongu'd little Rascal 'tis. 1771 SMOLLETT *Humph. Cl.* (1815) 253 The smooth-tongued rascal found no difficulty to insinuate himself into the place of her heart. 1829 LYTTON *Devereux* I. xiii, Those Jesuits are so smooth-tongued to women. 1864 PUSEY *Daniel* viii. 552 His once smooth-tongued friend, with whom he had taken sweet counsel.

b. Of a poet or writer: Polished, refined. *rare*[−1].

1658 COKAINE *Poems* 11 Here smooth-tongu'd Drayton was inspired by Mnemosynes's manifold progenie.

2. Marked or characterized by, of the nature of, plausibility or speciousness.

1761 CHURCHILL *Night* 162 Poems 1767 I. 68 By slavish methods must he learn to please, By smooth-tongu'd flatt'ry, that curst court-disease. 1843 BETHUNE *Sc. Fireside Stories* 298 Almost from infancy he had been noted for smooth-tongued falsehood.

Hence **Smooth-tonguedness.**

1737 OZELL *Rabelais* II. 113 The smooth-tonguedness of the Adversary.

Smooting, *vbl. sb.*: see SMOOT *v.*[2] and SMUTTING. **Smooty**: see SMUTTY. **Smorch**, obs. variant of SMIRCH *v.*

Smore (smōəɹ), *sb.* Now *Sc.* Also 4 smorre. [f. SMORE *v.* Cf. Du. and Flem. *smoor*, G. (rare) *schmor.*] Smother, smoke, etc.

1393 LANGL. *P. Pl.* C. xx. 303 (MS. Cott. Vesp.), Þe smoke and þe smorre þat smyth in oure eyne. *Ibid.* 323. 1866 W. GREGOR *Banffsh. Gloss.* 171 *Smore*, a stifling smoke;.., a close, stifling atmosphere [etc.].

Smore (smōəɹ), *v.* Now *Sc.* and *north. dial.* Forms: 1 **smorian**, 4– **smore** (4 smor, 6 *Sc.* smoir), 7–9 **smoar**; 9 *dial.* **smor(r, smur(r.** See also SMOOR *v.* [OE. *smorian*, = WFris. *smoarje, smoare*, MDu. and Du. *smoren* (Flem. also *smooren*), MLG. and LG. *smoren* (hence G. *schmoren*), of uncertain relationship. The stem is the base of early ME. *smorðer, smorðren* SMOTHER *sb.* and *v.*]

1. *trans.* To suffocate, smother.

c 725 *Corpus Gloss.* S 558 *S(t)rangulat*, wyrġeð, *uel* smorað. *c* 975 *Rushw. Gosp.* Matt. xiii. 7 Sume þonne ġefetun in þornas & wexon þa þornas & smoradun hiæ. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 8670 Mi felaw smord hir barn in bedd. *c* 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 7601 All suld be smored withouten dout, War ne þa hevens ay moved about. *c* 1440 *Alph. Tales* 145 As hur fadur was slepand vndernethe a matres, sho smoryd him odead. *a* 1470 HARDING *Chron.* CLXXVIII. xx, Thei smored were by their contrariaunce. 1513 MORE *Rich. III* (1883) 84 Smored and styfled, theyr

breath failing, thei gaue vp to God their innocent soules. 1585 Jas. I *Ess. Poesie* (Arb.) 39 A rauing cloude, Which threatnes..To smore and drowne him. ?*a* 1800 *Lady Diamond* in Child *Ballads* V. 37/2 Bring here to me that bonny boy, And we'll smore him right quietlie. 1808 Jamieson s.v. *Thow, Smore Thow*,..a heavy snow, accompanied with a strong wind, which..threatens to *smore*, smother, or suffocate one.

b. To suffocate or smother *in* or *with* smoke, or implying this.

14.. *Smyth & his Dame* 380 in Hazl. *E. P. P.* III. 215 Whan he had smored her in ye smok. *c* 1450 Holland *Howlat* 825 Lyke a smaik smorit in a smedy. 1500–20 Dunbar *Poems* xxvi. 120 In the depest pot of hell He smorit thame with smvke. 1584 Hudson *Du Bartas' Judith* III. 124 Some other vndertooke To fire the gates, or smore the towne with smoke. *c* 1755 R. Forbes *Jrnl. from London* 2 He was like to smore us a' i' the coach wi' the very ewder [of his pipe].

c. *intr.* To choke, be suffocated.

c 1470 Henry *Wallace* VII. 452 Sum neuir rais, bot smoryt quhar thai lay. *a* 1586 Montgomerie *Misc. Poems* xlvi. 55, I smore if I conceill, I wrak if I reveill, My hurt. 1808 Jamieson s.v., 'I was like to smore': I was in danger of being suffocated.

2. *fig.* To smother, suppress, keep in obscurity or concealment, put or keep *down*, etc.

c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xl. (*Ninian*) 156 Sa þat þe science lent to þe be nocht tynt na smoryt in þe. *c* 1470 Henry *Wallace* XI. 1436 Gret harm I thocht his gud deid suld be smord. 1538 Cromwell in Merriman *Life & Lett.* (1902) II. 164 Yf the same shuld be smored or mysordered after your decease. 1599 Jas. I Βασιλ. Δωρον (1603) 47 Vntill yee roote out these barbarous feides, that their effectes may bee..smoared downe. 1637 Gillespie *Eng. Pop. Cerem.* Ep. A iij b, The true life of godlinesse is smoared downe and suppressed by the burthen of these human inventions. 1790 Shirrefs *Poems* 179 'Till now, I smoar'd my joy within my breast.

† **3.** To smear, bedaub. *Obs.*–°

1530 Palsgr. 723/2 Where have you ben, you have all to smored your face.

† **4.** To cook in a close vessel. Also *intr. Obs.* This sense is prominent in Du., Flem., LG., and G.

1562 Turner *Herbal* (1568) 76 They put it [slauke] in a poot, and smore it, as they call it, and then it looketh blake. 1615 Markham *Eng. Housew.* (1660) 67 Set it on a gentle fire, and let it stew, and smoar till the hearbs and onyons be soft.

5. *intr.* To smoulder. *rare.*

1651 H. More *Enthus. Tri.* (1712) 17 Melancholy, that lies at first smoaring in the Heart and Blood. 1854 Miss Baker *Northampt. Gloss., Smore*, to burn without flame. 'The fire smores.'

Hence **Smo·ring** *vbl. sb.* and *ppl. a.*

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 461/1 Smorynge, *fumigacio*. 1586 *Rec. Elgin* (Spald. Cl.) II. 6 To prowe the death of hir tua bairnis to have bein without violence and smoiring. 1642 H. More *Song of Soul* 1. iii. 38 There lyes A little spark.., But smoreing filth so close it doth comprize That it cannot flame out. *Ibid.* II. III. ii. 15 Let fall that smoring mantle. 1647 — *Exorcismus* ii, Thou fast-bound ball Of smoring darknesse!

Smorther, etc., obs. ff. Smother *sb.* and *v.*

‖ **Smorzando** (smɔrtsa·ndo), *adv.* and *sb.* [It., pres. pple. of *smorzare* to extinguish.] (See quot. 1801.) Also **Smorzato** (smɔrtsā·to) *adv.* [pa. pple.]

1800 *Spirit Public Jrnls.* IV. 3 Mesdames Crouch,..De Camp, &c. will warble their dulcet tones, semitones,.. diminuendo's, rallentando's, and smorzando's, in due time and place! 1801 Busby *Dict. Mus., Smorzando*, or *Smorzato*, an expression implying that the sounds of the passage over which it is placed are to be gradually diminished in the *legato* style.

Smot, *sb.*[1] *Sc.* and *dial.* Also 6 **smoit**, 8 **smott**, 6, 9 **smote**. [f. Smot *v.* Cf. G. dial. *schmotz*, var. of *schmutz*.]

1. A spot, stain, mark, blot. Also *fig.*

1532 *Sc. Acts, Jas. V* (1814) 335/2 Obedient sonnis to.. þe auctorite apostolik, without ony manere of smot, violacioune, or defectioune. 1562 Winjet *Wks.* (S.T.S.) I. 26 That I may be clein fra all smot of blame. *a* 1572 Knox *Hist. Ref.* Wks. 1846 I. 277 Ever trew and obedient ..without any smote. 1899 'A. Raine' *Berwen Banks* 104 The same brown smot on the nother ear, and that's the only smot upon her!

2. A distinguishing mark put on sheep; a flock of sheep marked in one way.

a 1672 Livingstone in *Sel. Biog.* (Wodrow Soc.) I. 340 You must have the tarr pigg by your belt, and be ready to give a smott to every one of Christ's sheep as they come in your way. 1808 in Jamieson. 1857 Aiton *Domest. Econ.* 225 No man will break his 'smote', as it is called, but at a loss, even when a fair price is given.

† **Smot,** *sb.*[2] *Obs.*–[1] [Irreg. f. *smot(e*, pa. t. of Smite *v.*] A stroke, blow.

1566 Studley tr. *Seneca, Agam.* G viij, Thryse aboute to smyte, He staide the smot.

Smot, *v.* ?*Obs.* In later use *Sc.* [Related to MHG. *smotzen* (? hence Du. *smotsen*), var. of *smutzen* (G. *schmutzen*): see Smut *v.*] *trans.* To besmirch, defile, befoul. Also *fig.*

Also 'to mark with ruddle, tar, &c.' (Jamieson, 1808).

1387 Trevisa *Higden* (Rolls) I. 359 þey be i-smotted wiþ þe schrewednesse and bycomeþ traytours also. *a* 1400 *Apol. Lollards* 18 þe kirk..forbediþ him comyn feleschip.. þat he mend þe raþer, and smot not oþer. 1483 Caxton *Gold. Leg.* 97/2 The sergeants that sawe hym so black and smotted bete hym wel wyth roddes. 1513 Douglas *Æneid* v. vii. 91 Behald thaim smottit quyte Of his reid bluide. *a* 1568 A. Scott *Poems* (S.T.S.) xxx. 52 Ladeis suld all thingis eschew That ma thair honor smot.

† **Smo·terly,** *a. Obs.*–[1] [Cf. Smotry *a.* and Smotter *v.*] ? Besmirched in reputation.

c 1386 Chaucer *Reeve's T.* 43 And eeck, for she was somdel smoterlich, She was as digne as water in a dich.

Smother (smʌ·ðəɹ), *sb.* Forms: *α.* 2 **smorðer**, 3 **smurðre**, 4 **smorþre**, 5 **smorþur**, **-thour**, **-ther**. *β.* 3–4 **smoþer**, 6– **smother**, 6–7 **smoother**. *γ.* 5 **smodyr**, **-er**, 6 **smooder**, 9 *dial.* **smudder**. [Early ME. *smorðer*, f. the stem of OE. *smorian* Smore *v.*]

1. Dense, suffocating, or stifling smoke, such as is produced by combustion without flame. (Freq. coupled with *smoke*.)

a. c 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 43 þet þridde [was] fur,..þe siste smorðer. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 272 þes feones chef þet his to none þinge nouht bute to helle smurðre. 1393 Langl. *P. Pl.* C. xx. 303 When smoke and smorþre smyt in hus eyen. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 11796 Hit fest was on fyre, & flappit out onone, Vnto smorther & smoke.

β, γ. a 1300 *Body & Soul* in *Map's Poems* (Camden) 339 þe erþe it openede anon, smoke and smoþer op it wal. 13.. *Adultery* 87 in Herrig *Archiv* LXXIX. 420 Smoþer & smoke þer come owte wylde. *a* 1400 *Stockh. Medical MS.* ii. 598 in *Anglia* XVIII. 322 3if vnder nethyn þer hennys sate Of hennebane a smoþer thou make. *a* 1470 H. Parker *Dives & Pauper* (W. de W. 1496) VI. xxii. 270/2 There shall be brennynge fyre and smoder without ende. *a* 1618 Sylvester *Urania* lxxxii, A thick, dark, pitchy Cloud of smoak, That round-about a kindling Fire suppresses With waving smother. 1657 P. Henry *Diaries & Lett.* (1882) 33 When a fire is first kindled there's a great deale of smoke and smother. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* III. viii. 381 The great smother and smoke of the oakum. 1787 G. White *Selborne* vii, Nothing is to be seen but smother and desolation. 1828 Planché *Descent Danube* i. 25 The distant dome of Saint Paul's rising above the smother of our huge metropolis. 1882 Blackmore *Christowell* l, Filled with blue sulphureous fog, and smother of bitumen.

Prov. 1600 Shaks. *A. Y. L.* I. ii. 299 Thus must I from the smoake into the smother. 1890 *Daily News* 25 June 5/1 They had gone from the smoke into the smother.

fig. 1565 Jewel *Reply Harding, Answ. Concl.* (1611) 651 Now the Sonne is vp; your smooder is scattered. 1654 Gataker *Disc. Apol.* 12 A great smother of foggie fumes, raised by slanderous tongues. 1697 Collier *Ess. Mor. Subj.* (1709) II. 2 Why else do they..spend their Taper in Smoak and Smother? 1809 Malkin *Gil Blas* X. i. (Rtldg.) 337 The mad blockhead was so suffocated by the smother of authorship.

b. A smouldering state or condition; a smouldering or slow-burning fire. Also *fig.*

1597 J. King *On Jonas* (1618) 172 It lieth happely in a smother and smoak a long time before it breaketh out. 1625 Bacon *Ess., Suspicion* (Arb.) 528 Men should remedy Suspicion, by procuring to know more, and not to keep their Suspicions in Smother. 1893 *Wilts. Gloss., Smother*, a weed and rubbish fire in a garden. 1899 Baldock *Cromwell as Soldier* 363 This [liberty] he employed in fanning the smother into flame.

2. Dense or suffocating dust, fog, etc., filling the air.

1697 Dryden *Æneid* II. 827 Where clouds of dust arise,— Amid that smother, Neptune holds his place. 1806 Beresford *Miseries Hum. Life* IV. xlii, Rubbish, flying smother, tumbling bricks, &c. of a half-ruined house. 1845 Browning *Flight of Duchess* xi, The Duke..Stood for a while in a sultry smother. 1886 Stevenson *Dr. Jekyll* 50 Through the muffle and smother of these fallen clouds.

b. A confused turmoil or welter of foam or water. Also const. *of.*

1840 R. H. Dana *Bef. Mast* xviii, We..brought the boat to in a smother of foam. 1888 Stevenson *Black Arrow* 183 The horror of that great salt smother and welter under my foot here. 1890 Clark Russell *My Shipmate Louise* II. xx. 108 It made one think..of the smother one falls in with on the edge of the Gulf-Stream.

c. A wild profusion *of* flowers, etc.

1888 *Daily News* 2 July 5/8 The smother of roses along the river fronts.

d. A smothered or indistinct noise.

1904 H. B. M. Watson *Hurricane Island* i. 7 A smother of sound came to me, as if the swimmer was under water, and his voice stifled.

3. *slang.* (See quots.)

1851 Mayhew *Lond. Labour* II. 34 A 'lick-up' is a boot or shoe re-lasted..,and the bottom covered with a 'smother'. *Ibid.*, This 'smother' is obtained from the dust of the room.

4. *Comb.*, as *smother-burned, -dangled.*

1597 *Pilgr. Parnassus* I. 87 Those Amorettoes that doe spend theire time In comminge of their smother-dangled heyre. 1849 Johnston *Exp. Agric.* 265 Such burned sulphury shales (smother burned) may be tried with advantage.

Smother (smʌ·ðəɹ), *v.* Forms: *α.* **smeorðren**, 5 **smorther**. *β.* 3 **smoðren**, 5– **smother**, 6 **smowther**, 6–7 **smouther**, 6–8 **smoother**, 7 **smuther**. *γ.* 6 **smoder**, 6–7, 9 *dial.* **smudder**. [f. Smother *sb.*]

I. *trans.* **1. a.** To suffocate with smoke.

a 1200– [see Smothering *ppl. a.* 1]. 1560 Daus tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 220 b, They were smothered with smoke and burnt all. 1579 Walsingham in *Victoria Co. Hist., Surrey* (1902) I. 391 A fyre made..by hunters that had earthed a badger, and thought to have smouthered him. 1624 Capt. Smith *Virginia* (1629) 85 But the poore Salvage..was so smoothered with the smoake he had made..that we found him dead. 1719 De For *Crusoe* II. (Globe) 496 The House, which was by this time all of a light Flame, fell in upon them, and they were smothered or burnt together. 1848 Bartlett *Dict. Amer.* 314 That the inky stream may smother or drive away mosquitoes.

fig. 1589 *Pappe w. Hatchet* To Rdr., With the verie smoke the consciences of diuers are smothered. *a* 1704 T. Brown *Sat. Persius imit.* Wks. 1730 I. 54 By the thick fogs, which from his diet rise, His sense is smothered.

b. To suffocate by the prevention of breathing; to deprive of life by suffocation. (Freq. in passive without implication of personal agency.)

a 1548 Hall *Chron., Hen. VIII*, 55 [Certain criminals] the same Richarde Hun feloniously strangeled and smodered. 1600 E. Blount tr. *Conestaggio* 51 The thirde was smothered in the water. 1665 Manley tr. *Grotius' Low C. Wars* 221 They that escaped slaughter..were smother'd in the Mud. 1713 Addison *Cato* II. vi, The helpless traveller.. smother'd in the dusty whirlwind dies. 1745 Pococke *Descr. East* II. I. vi. 27 Being surrounded, and almost smothered by the crowd. 1819 Shelley *Cenci* II. i. 143 How just it were to..smother me when overcome by wine. 1864 Miss Braddon *Aurora Floyd* xviii, What does the chap in the play get for his trouble when the blackamoor smothers his wife?

fig. 1742 Young *Nt. Th.* I. 147 Is it in the flight of threescore years, To..smother souls immortal in the dust? 1781 Cowper *Truth* 316 He begs their flatt'ry,..And, smother'd in't at last, is prais'd to death! ? 1813 Shelley *Falsehood & Vice* 50 She smothered Reason's babes in their birth. 1897 Miss Kingsley *W. Africa* 472, I therefore used to smother those twins by leading the conversation off.

absol. 1827 Shelley *Rev. Islam* VI. xlix, I am Pestilence... I flit about, that I may slay and smother.

c. Used hyperbolically to denote an effusive welcome, etc., or the gaining of a complete or overwhelming victory.

(*a*) 1676 Wycherley *Pl. Dealer* IV. i, She..smothered me with a thousand tasteless kisses. 1873 Holland *A. Bonnicastle* v. 98 In a moment I was smothered with welcome. (*b*) 1890 *Pall Mall G.* 1 Dec. 1/3 If there is one club more than another which Notts County would care to smother it is Aston Villa. 1900 *Westm. Gaz.* 30 Mar. 2/2 They have simply smothered every scratch that has rowed against them.

2. † **a.** To conceal by keeping silent about; to suppress all mention of, to hush up (a matter, etc.). *Obs.* (Now with *up*: see 6 a.)

1579 W. Wilkinson *Confut. Fam. Love* 70b, I lyke not to smother sinnes. 1591 Greene *Maidens Dr.* ix, Bribes could not make him any wrong to smother. 1642 Gauden *3 Serm.* 48 As much as we defalk or smother of an inquired Truth. 1699 Bentley *Phalaris* 203 Somebody's artifice in suppressing and smothering what he thinks makes against him. 1704 Hearne *Ductor Hist.* (1714) I. 344 Great Care has been taken to smoother his Name, but Theopompus.. tells us, he was called Erostratus. 1752 Young *Brothers* I. i, [Her story was] Smother'd by the king; And wisely too.

b. To cover up, so as to conceal or cause to be forgotten.

c 1585 *Faire Em* I. 295 Where neither envious eyes nor thought can pierce, But endless darkness ever smother it. 1613 Jackson *Creed* II. 357 It was in their hearts, though hid and smothered in the wrinkles of their crooked hearts. 1643 Baker *Chron., Eliz.* 120 Richard Hooker,..who with too much meeknesse smoothered his great Learning. 1722 Steele *Conscious Lovers* I. ii, I am afraid..there's something I don't see yet, something that's smother'd under all this Raillery. 1863 Kinglake *Crimea* (1876) I. vii. 100 So he began to turn this way and that, in order that by turmoil he might smother the past.

c. To repress, refrain from displaying, (feeling, etc.) by the exercise of self-control.

1591 Shaks. I *Hen. VI*, IV. i. 110 Your priuate grudge my Lord of York, will out, Though ne'er so cunningly you smother it. 1593 — *Lucr.* Argt., Smothering his passions for the present, [he] departed with the rest. 1624 Capt. Smith *Virginia* III. iii. 52 Smothering his distast to avoyd the Saluages suspition. 1662 J. Davies tr. *Mandelslo's Trav.* 245 The Gentleman..was a little troubled at it, but smother'd his indignation. 1712 Steele *Spect.* No. 263 ₱6 Both your Sisters are crying to see the Passion which I smother. 1813 Shelley *Q. Mab* III. 43 Smothering the glow of shame. 1847 Prescott *Peru* III. vii. (1850) II. 190 Almagro..had seemed willing to smother his ancient feelings of resentment towards his associate. 1891 E. Peacock *N. Brendon* II. 101 She smothered her own grief.

3. To cover up so as to prevent from having free play or development; to suppress or check in this way.

1590 Shaks. *Com. Err.* III. ii. 35 My earthie grosse conceit: Smothred in errors. 1605 — *Macb.* I. iii. 141 Function is smother'd in surmise. 1650 H. More *Observ.* in *Enthus. Tri.*, etc. (1656) 108 You..by your slubbering and barbarous translating..smother the fitnesse of the Sense. 1762 Cowper *To Miss Macartney* 7 Dwells there a wish..To smother in ignoble rest At once both bliss and woe? 1780 *Mirror* No. 71, These exertions..would soon have been smothered by cold political prudence. 1823 Scott *Quentin D.* xxiv, Ridicule..often checks what is absurd, and fully as often smothers that which is noble. 1843 R. J. Graves *Lect. Clin. Med.* 371 You may smother the disease while it is merely local. 1882 Serg. Ballantine *Experience* i. 9 Ability..smothered by pomposity and vulgar pride.

b. To prevent (words, etc.) from having full utterance; to render indistinct or silent.

1601 Holland *Pliny* I. 164 The fore-teeth..yeeld a distinction and varietie in our words,..drawing them out at length, or smuddering and drowning them in the end. 1797–1809 Coleridge *Three Graves* IV. xiv, No power Had she the words to smother. 1821 Clare *Vill. Minstr.* I. 161 Contented she smother'd her sighs on his breast. 1832 Brewster *Nat. Magic* vii. 176 Suddenly the voice seemed smothered.

c. To stop (a cricket-ball) by placing the bat more or less over it.

1889 *Boy's Own Paper* 4 May 496 How the twists should smothered be Before they reach the middle stump.

4. a. To deaden or extinguish (fire, etc.) by covering so as to exclude the air; to cause to smoulder. Also *fig.*

a 1591 H. Smith *Serm.* (1637) 727 Many have smothered

their light so long that the dampe hath put out the candle. 1627 Capt. Smith *Seaman's Gram.* xiii. 61 Smother the fire with wet cloathes. 1657 Austen *Fruit Trees* II. 143 Heat pent up and smoothered for a time. 1758 Reid tr. *Macquer's Chym.* I. 141 If care be taken to smother them, so as to prevent their flaming while they burn. 1787 Jefferson *Writ.* (1859) II. 322 A fire, which, though smothered of necessity for the present moment, will probably never be quenched but by signal revenge. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* I. iv. iv, A fiery fuliginous mass, which could not be choked and smothered, but would fill all France with smoke. 1856 Kane *Arctic Expl.* I. xxxii. 444, I succeeded in smothering the fire.

b. To cook in a close vessel. (Cf. Smore *v.* 4.)

1706–7 Farquhar *Beaux' Strat.* I. i, They'll eat much better smothered with onions. 1748– [see Smothered 3].

5. To cover up, cover over, densely or thickly by some thing or substance. (Common in recent use.)

1598 E. Guilpin *Skial.* (1878) 21 To..shew good legs, spite of slops smothering thies. 1840 R. H. Dana *Bef. Mast* xxxi. 113 In a few minutes the sails [were] smothered and kept in by clewlines and buntlines. 1851 Mayhew *Lond. Lab.* II. 34/2 When dry and finished, we take what is called a 'soft-heel-ball' and 'smother' it over. 1872 Black *Adv. Phaeton* xxi. 297 The small stations we passed were smothered in green foliage.

6. With *up*: a. To conceal, suppress, hush up (a matter, etc.). Cf. sense 2 a.

1589 *Pappe w. Hatchet* B iv b, Hee woulde not smoother vp sinne, and deale in hugger mugger against his Conscience. 1649 Milton *Eikon.* ix. Wks. 1851 III. 401 The suspected Poysoning of his Father, not inquir'd into, but smother'd up. 1687 Miége *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II. s.v., The Business was smothered up. 1827 Scott *Surgeon's Dau.* Pref., It was thought best to smother it up at the time. 1883 Stevenson *Treas. Isl.* xiii, He's as anxious as you and I to smother things up.

b. To cover up in a close, dense, or suffocating manner, etc.

c 1590 Greene *Fr. Bacon* xiv, A nunne?..Twere injurie to me, To smother up such bewtie in a cell. 1592 Shaks. *Ven. & Ad.* 1035 And there [the snail] all smother'd up, in shade doth sit. 1632 Gouge *God's Arrows* IV. § 13. 391 This fire..lay ..smothered up. 1644 J. Fary *God's Severity* (1645) 23 The Lords wrath lies long smothered up, but at last it kindles. 1820 Keats *Hyperion* I. 106, I am smother'd up, And buried from all godlike exercise.

7. With *down*, *out* (see quots.). *rare.*

1632 Lithgow *Trav.* VIII. 371 The..ingeniosity of their best styles..is ecclipsed, and smothered downe. 1863 *Gardener's Chron.* 23 May 493 The next year it may be noticed that the wished for crop has been smothered out.

II. *intr.* 8. To be suffocated or stifled; to be prevented from breathing freely by smoke or other means.

c 1520 *Everyman* 796 What, sholde I smoder here? 1648 Hexham II, *Ick Smoore van den roock*, I Smoother with the smoake, or, I am Choaked with the Vapour. 1871 B. Taylor *Faust* V. iv. (1875) II. 283 Ah, the good old father, mother, Doomed among the smoke to smother. 1895 *Cent. Mag.* Aug. 628/2 One opinion was that he would not go into his hole because he was too hot and would smother.

9. To smoulder; to burn slowly. Now *dial.*

1600 Surflet *Countrie Farme* 558 Set on fire a quantitie of haye, after quench it againe by and by,..and whiles it is smoothering and smoaking, spread it vpon a plate of iron. 1667 Pepys *Diary* 29 July, The fire..lies smothering a great while..before it flames. 1729 G. Adams tr. *Sophocles, Antig.* IV. i. II. 56 The Fire shone not from the Sacrifices, but in the Ashes the Flame smothered. 1804 *Naval Chron.* XI. 79 She will burn and smother to the Water's edge. 1825 E. Hewlett *Cottage Comforts* vi. 42 Let the fire be banked up..with turves, which will smother on for hours. 1881– in dialect use (Notts., Leic., Warw.).

b. *fig.* or in fig. context.

1579 L. Tomson *Calvin's Serm. Tim.* 447/1 He will not haue our sinns couered, and lie smothering so, yᵗ they may not be knowen. 1588 Greene *Pandosto* (1607) 4 These ..thoughts a long time smothering in his stomacke, began at last to kindle..a secret mistrust. 1621 Lady M. Wroth *Urania* 357 Heere began the harme to smother like wet hay in fire. 1679 Mansell *Narr. Popish Plot* 5 When their old animosity did yet smoother. 1697 Collier *Ess. Mor. Subj.* II. (1709) 65 A Man had better talk to a Post, than let his Thoughts lie Smoking and Smothering in his Head.

c. To die *out* in smoulder. *rare* −¹.

1621 T. Williamson tr. *Goulart's Wise Vietillard* 63 The heate of passions in youth beginning to coole and smoother out in old men.

10. Of smoke: To escape slowly.

1725 De Foe *Voy. round World* (1840) 262 We saw a smoke indeed *in* the house, rather than coming *out* of it; and the little that did, smothered through a hole in the roof instead of a chimney.

Hence **Smo·therable** *a.*, that may be smothered.

1824 *Blackw. Mag.* XVI. 664 A woman who is not over fastidious in all her personal arrangements..is to me the most justifiably smotherable.

Smotheration (smɔ̄ðərēi·ʃən). [Jocularly f. Smother *v.* + -ation: cf. *botheration.*]

1. The action of smothering; the state or condition of being smothered; suffocation.

1826 J. Wilson in *Blackw. Mag.* XIX. 242 Nor shall we ever forget our horror on being within an ace of smotheration in the cellar. 1840 *New Monthly Mag.* LX. 235 Accidental death, by natural smotheration in the snow. 1882 W. M. Williams *Sci. in Short Chapters* 360 To return the carbonic acid..to the already suffocated fire can only add smother to smotheration.

2. *U.S.* 'A sailor's dish of beef and pork smothered with potatoes' (*Cent. Dict.*).

Smothered (smɔ·ðəd), *ppl. a.* [f. Smother *v.*]

1. Of fire, flame, etc.: Not allowed to burn freely or break out. Also *fig.*

1594 Willobie *Avisa* xlv. 17 The smothered flame, too closely pent, Burnes more extreame for want of vent. 1697 Dryden *Virg. Past.* VIII. 150 Break out ye smother'd Fires, and kindle smother'd Love. 1734 R. Erskine *Gospel Sonn.* (1782) 252 My praise is now a smotherd fire. 1837 P. Keith *Bot. Lex.* 217 That the mass..may be still kept burning with a smothered flame.

2. Suppressed, concealed, restrained, kept down or under in some manner.

1607 Earl Stirling *J. Cæsar* III. ii, Whil'st smothred sorrow by a habite smokes. 1645 Pagitt *Heresiogr.* (1661) 75 Their known uncleanness, smother'd mischiefs [etc.]. 1728 Eliza Heywood tr. *Mme. de Gomez's Belle A.* (1732) II. 229 Angry with himself, that he had so long concealed the smother'd Anguish. 1752 Young *Brothers* I. i, I've partly heard Her smother'd story. 1807 Crabbe *Par. Reg.* II. 552 While smother'd envy rises in the breast. 1856 Froude *Hist. Eng.* (1858) I. 222 They must have heard something of the growls of smothered anger.

b. *Smothered mate* (see quot. 1847).

1822 W. Lewis *Chess* 24 The Knight is the only piece that can give a smothered mate. 1847 Staunton *Chess-Player's Handbk.* 25 *Smothered mate*, a checkmate which is sometimes given by the Knight when the adverse King is hemmed in, or *smothered*, by his own forces.

3. Cooked in a close vessel.

1748 in Omond *Arniston Mem.* (1887) 108 Dinner...Roast goose. Smothered rabbits. 1809 Malkin *Gil Blas* X. iii. P 10 A smothered rabbit on one side, and a fricasseed capon on the other.

4. Of sound: Suppressed, rendered indistinct.

1810 Southey *Kehama* XI. x, A sound, like smother'd thunder, Was heard. 1823 W. Price *Gram. 3 Oriental Langs.* Pref. p. v, The Persians..seldom give the smothered sound of *u* to the short vowels. 1862 Burton *Book Hunter* I. 9 It is told in a smothered whisper..to the horrified family.

5. Thickly or densely covered up.

1902 'Linesman' *Words Eyewitness* 89 The red tongue of flame which told that the smothered piece was countering the blow.

Hence **Smo·theredly** *adv.*

1656 Duchess of Newcastle *Nature's Pictures* 117 She perceived his Amorous Humour not to quench, but rather to burn, though smotheredly.

Smotherer (smɔ·ðərəɪ). Also 7 **smoothere**r. [f. Smother *v.* + -er 1.] One who or that which smothers.

1648 Hexham II, *Een Smoorder*, a Smootherer, or a Sweater out. 1687 in Miége *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II. 1897 *Columbus Dispatch* 20 Nov. 4/1 There is but one course..and that is to call upon the smotherers of the protest and petition for an explanation.

Smo·ther-fire. [f. Smother *sb.* or *v.*] A smouldering or smoky fire. Also *fig.*

1625 Gill *Sacr. Philos.* viii. 139 That dampish smother-fire of heresies, which the devill did kindle among his brands. 1905 *Daily News* 27 Jan. 4 If any ashes are to hand from a smother fire this will be found a grand fertiliser for onions.

Smo·ther-fly. *dial.* [f. Smother *v.*] A species of aphis.

1781 G. White *Selborne* xcvii, The people..were surprised by a shower of *aphides*, or smother-flies, which fell in these parts. 1796 W. H. Marshall *Rur. Econ. Midl.* (ed. 2) II. 386 The very 'Black bug' 'Negro'—here provincially 'Smother fly'—with which beans are frequently infested. 1851 *B'ham & Midl. Gardeners' Mag.* Dec. 239 The Plum stocks in particular being infested with smother-fly.

Smo·theriness. [f. Smothery *a.*] The 'state of being smothery' (Webster, 1847).

Smothering (smɔ·ðəriŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. Smother *v.*] The action of the verb, in various senses.

1602 Fulbecke 1*st Pt. Parall.* 83 If any Judge..shall partially demeane himself in the smothering of that fault. 1624 Sanderson *Serm.* I. 241 All vain boasting of the gifts of God..is a kind of smothering of the receipt. 1857 Toulmin Smith *Parish* 382 Any attempt to shut this out..is but a smothering of the inquiry.

b. *attrib.*, as *smothering-hole*, *-pan*, *-process.*

1648 Hexham II, *Een demp-kuyl*, a smothering-hole. *Ibid.*, *Een Smoor-panne*, a Smoothering-pan. 1834 *Brit. Husb.* I. 376 The smothering process..cannot be so perfectly accomplished.

Smothering (smɔ·ðəriŋ), *ppl. a.* [f. Smother *v.* + -ing 2.] That smothers, in various senses.

1. a. Of smoke, etc.: Stifling, suffocating.

a 1200 *St. Marher.* 9 In his ihurnd heauet..preaste smeorðrinde smoke ut, smeeche forcuðest. 1401 *Pol. Poems* (Rolls) II. 54 Ther rose smotheryng smoke, and brese therinne. *Ibid.*, The smorthering smoke is 3our dymme doctrine. *c* 1475 *Partenay* 3303 The smoky fume smorthering so was, The Abbay it toke. 1575 Churchyard *Chippes* Mvj b, A second hell For smothryng smoke, for shot and fiery flame. 1725 Pope *Odyss.* XIV. 340 The whirling ship is..all in clouds of smoth'ring sulphur lost. 1831 Scott *Cast. Dang.* xvii, Free from the smothering atmosphere which had before oppressed her like that of a charnel-house. 1863 Princess Alice *Mem.* (1884) 57 We went..to see the different machines at work, in a crowd close round us and a smothering heat.

b. Smouldering; burning slowly.

1563 Foxe *A. & M.* 1048/1 Greene woode, and other smotheryng rather then burnyng fewel. 1621 G. Sandys *Ovid's Met.* VIII. (1626) 167 Who stird abroad the glowing coles, that lay In smothering ashes. 1635 Quarles *Embl.* II. xiv, What fenny trash maintaines the smoth'ring fires Of his desires! 1681 Flavel *Method Grace* x. 229 Let not your troubles lye like a secret smothering fire always in your own breasts.

2. Covering (or suppressing) completely and overwhelmingly. Also *fig.*

1586 Marlowe *1st Pt. Tamburl.* III. i, The spring is hindred by your smoothering host. 1591 Horsey *Trav.* (Hakl.) 257 The innocent bloud spilt in that smotheringe tyme of tiranie. 1805 R. W. Dickson *Pract. Agric.* I. 370 If ground can be covered with such smothering crops of the fallow kind. 1851 Trench *Poems* (1862) 19 As from beneath the smothering earth The seed strives upward to a birth. 1899 Roddway *Guiana Wilds* 113 Fire..covered with green leaves; unable to escape from its smothering burden.

3. Characterized by suffocation from smoke, etc.

1864 *Daily Telegr.* 30 Aug., The Tennessee..surrendered, ..[with] her crew in an exhausted and smothering condition.

Hence **Smo·theringly** *adv.*

1778 *Exmoor Gloss., Smuggle*, to hug violently, smotheringly. 1857 *Chamb. Jrnl.* VIII. 71 Two little arms tight round her neck, smotheringly expressing a wealth of love.

Smo·ther-kiln. [f. Smother *sb.* or *v.*] A kiln in which pottery in process of firing is blackened by smoke. Also *attrib.*

1851 D. Wilson *Preh. Ann.* (1863) II. 13 The rude vessels of the smother kiln. 1865 *Intellect. Obs.* No. 39. 233 What some antiquaries have termed 'smother-kilns'. 1894 *Daily News* 13 Dec. 8/1 Fragments of Upchurch pottery, blackened by process of firing in smother kilns. 1898 *Berks., Bucks. & Oxon. Archæol. Jrnl.* Apr. 12 The coarse 'smother-kiln' ware, probably made in the district.

Smo·therly, *adv. Obs.*−¹ (Meaning doubtful.)

c 1400 *Rowland & O.* 259 The Sarazyn laughes full smothirly.

Smothery (smɔ·ðəri), *a.* Also 7 **smoothrie.** [f. Smother *sb.* or *v.* + -y 1.] Tending to smother.

1603 Holland *Plutarch's Mor.* 339 Now else should not ..The plough beame hang aloft in smoothrie smoke. 1840 Browning *Sordello* III. 717 We and you in smothery chafe, ..stumbled thus far into Zin The Horrid. 1893 *Pall Mall Mag.* I. 781 The softly smothery effect of her manner.

†**Smo·try,** *a. Obs. rare.* [f. the stem *smotter-* (see Smotter *v.*) + -y 1.] Smutty, grimy.

c 1407 Lydg. *Reson & Sens.* 3791 Vulcanus Was to hir so odious For his smotry, swarte face. 1412–20 — *Chron. Troy.* II. 5803 þis smotry smyth, þis swarte Vlcanus.

†**Smo·tter,** *a. Obs.* [Of obscure origin.] ? Pretty, handsome.

a 1500 Medwall *Nature* (Brandl) II. 194, I shall shew you the smorterst place [? *read* smotterst face] That euer ye saw wyth eyes. *c* 1515 *Interlude of Four Elements* B vij, We wyll haue bounsynge besse also, And two or thre proper wenchis mo, Ryght feyr and smotter of face.

Smo·tter, *v. Sc. rare.* [f. Smot *v.* + -er 5: cf. Smotry *a.* and Besmottered.] *trans.* To bespatter; to soil or stain.

1513 Douglas *Æneid* VI. v. 13 His smotterit habit, our his schulderis lidder, Hang prevagely [etc.]. 1819 Tennant *Papistry Storm'd* (1827) 182 Big bluidy draps..Barst out and smotter't a' the stane.

Smouch (smauʧ), *sb.*1 Now *dial.* Also 8 *dial.* **smeawtch**, 9 **smoutch.** [Cf. G. *schmutz* (MHG. *smuz*) in the same sense.] A kiss, a buss.

1578 Whetstone *Promos & Cass.* I. IV. vii, Come smack me, I long for a smouch. 1634 Heywood & Brome *Lanc. Witches* II. H.'s Wks. 1874 IV. 194 I'le have one smouch at thy lips. *c* 1746 J. Collier (Tim Bobbin) *View Lanc. Dial.* (1775) 66 Let meh ha one smeawtch at parting. *a* 1800 Pegge *Suppl. Grose*, *Smouch*, a kiss. North. *a* 1825– in dial. glossaries (Yorks., Lanc., Chesh., Linc., Northampt., E. Anglia, etc.).

Smouch (smauʧ), *sb.*2 Now *rare* or *Obs.* Also **smoutch.** [Alteration of Smouse *sb.*]

1. A Jew.

1765 C. Johnston *Chrysal* (1794) III. 60, I hate them [the Inquisitors] mortally ever since I saw them roast some poor Smouches at Lisbon because they would not eat pork. 1785 Cumberland *Observer* No. 38 P 2 Smoke the Jew!..Throw him over, says another, hand over the smoutch! 1826 Scott *Jrnl.* I. 137, I took lessons of oil painting..from a little Jew animalcule; a smouch called Burrell. 1842 Barham *Ingol. Leg.* Ser. II. *Merch. V.* (1905) 246 You find fault mit ma pargains, and say I'm a Smouch.

2. *S. African.* An itinerant trader.

1849 E. E. Napier *Exc. S. Africa* II. 391, I dare say.. you have heard that I have turned a regular 'smoutch', the Colonial term for trader.

†**Smouch,** *sb.*3 *Obs.* (See quot.)

1785 Grose *Dict. Vulgar T.*, *Smouch*, dried leaves of the ash tree, used by the smugglers for adulterating the black, or bohea teas.

Smouch (smauʧ), *sb.*4 [? var. of Smutch *sb.* Cf. Smooch *sb.* and *v.*] A smudge, a dirty mark.

The vb. *smouch* 'to daub, dirty, stain', is given by Sir G. C. Lewis *Gloss. Heref.* (1839) s.v. *smirch.*

1873 Miss Broughton *Nancy* III. 192 A huge smouch of black under each of their eyes. 1882 *Harper's Mag.* Aug. 379 They keep carefully away from the smouch of the cigarette trays.

Smouch (smauʧ), *v.*1 Also 6 **smowtch**, 6–7 **smoutch.** [Cf. G. dial. *schmutzen* to kiss, to smile.] *intr.* and *trans.* To kiss, buss.

(*a*) 1588 E. D. tr. *Theocritus Six Idillia* A vij, Thinkst thou..mee to kisse? I haue no will After the Countrie guise to smouch. 1600 Heywood *1st Pt. Edw. IV*, III. i, I had rather than a bend of leather She and I might smouch together.

(*b*) 1595 *Eng. Tripe-wife* (1881) 165 Kisse and smowtch the Widdow neuer so much: there is one..must carrie the wench away. 1622 Drayton *Poly-olb.* xxi. 71 Chill zmouch thee every morn, before the Sun can rise. 1654 Gayton *Pleas. Notes* IV. 235 The Knights..did so smouch them, that the lippe-frolicks were heard into the Kitchin. 1811 Lady Granville *Lett.* (1894) I. 21 The little hideous Duc de Berri smouches us all. *a* 1825– in dial. glossaries (E. Anglia, Lanc., Cheshire, etc.).

Hence **Smou·cher**; **Smou·ching** *vbl. sb.*

1583 STUBBES *Anat. Abuses* M viij b, What kissing and bussing, what smouching & slabbering one of another. 1611 COTGR., *Baiseur*, a kisser, smoutcher, smacker.

Smouch (smautʃ), *v.*^{2} Now *U.S.* Also **smoutch.** [? f. SMOUCH *sb.*^{2}]

1. *trans.* To acquire dishonestly; to pilfer.

1826 COBBETT *Rural Rides* (1830) 514 The far greater part of them are..getting or expecting loaves and fishes... They smouch, or want to smouch, some of the taxes. 1880 'MARK TWAIN' *Tramp Abr.* xxx. 289 Odds and ends smouched from half-a-dozen learned tongues. 1888 *New Princeton Rev.* V. 49 (Cent.), The rest of it was smouched from House's Atlantic paper.

2. *intr.* To deal unfairly or dishonestly.

1848 BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.* 314 *To Smoutch*, to gouge; to take unfair advantage. Colloquial in New York.

Smou·chy, *a.* *rare*$^{-1}$. (Meaning not clear.)

1803 LAMB *Let. to Manning* 19 Feb., The Tartars, really, are a cold, insipid, smouchy set.

Smought, obs. form of SMOOT *sb.*^{1}

† **Smould.** *Obs. rare.* [Of obscure origin.] The sand-eel or launce.

1605 *Act 3 Jas. I*, c. 12 Every person which..shall fish with any Draw-net or Drag-net..except for the Taking of Smoulds in Norfolk only.

Smoulder (smōu·ldəɹ), *sb.* Forms: 4–7, 9 *U.S.*, **smolder,** 6, 9 **smoulder.** [Of obscure formation; the first syllable may be related to LG. *smölen*, *smäulen* (also *smälen*, *smelen*), Du. *smeulen*, to smoulder, Flem. *smoel*, *smul* hot.]

Discontinued about (or shortly after) 1600, and revived in the 19th cent.: see the note to the vb.

1. Smother; smoky vapour; the result of smouldering or slow combustion.

c 1325 *Body & Soul* 435 in *Map's Poems* (Camden) 345 The eorthe openede up anon, Smoke and smolder up ther wel. 1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. XVII. 321 Whan smoke & smolder smyt in his syȝte. *c* 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* I. 929 The fired nuttis smolder throgh shal fle This grettist hole. *c* 1450 *Merlin* xv. 248 Men myght se the smolder of the fire x myle longe. 1575 GASCOIGNE *Flowers* Wks. 49 The smoulder stops our nose with stench, the fume offends our eies. *a* 1626 BP. ANDREWES *96 Serm., Holy Ghost* xi. (1661) 472 From blood and fire and the smolder of smoke.

1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* III. I. viii, Lille too, black with ashes and smoulder. 1851 G. BORROW *Lavengro* III. 355 The smoulder and smoke of that fire-ball have rather bewildered my head. 1862 THORNBURY *Turner* I. 315 That driving smoulder of fire..indicates the mouth of the fatal cave.

2. A slow-burning fire or the ashes of this.

a 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VIII*, 41 b, Of the fyer and smolder did ryse suche a smooke. 1561 DAUS tr. *Bullinger on Apoc.* (1573) 115 b, It ascendeth..as a smoke out of great smolder. 1869 BLACKMORE *Lorna D.* (1889) 398 A barrow-load of the smoulder.

Smoulder (smōu·ldəɹ), *v.* Forms: 5–7, 9 (now *U.S.*) **smolder** (7 **-ther**), 6 **smoolder, smow(l)der, smoulther,** 6– **smoulder.** [f. prec.]

During the 17th and 18th cents. both sb. and vb. fell into disuse, although poets continued to employ the ppl. adj. *smouldering*, of which Johnson (1755) says 'This word seems a participle; but I know not whether the verb *smoulder* be in use'. The revival of the verb in the 19th cent. was evidently due to Scott.

† **1.** *trans.* To smother, suffocate. *Obs.*

1481 CAXTON *Reynard* xxxiv. (Arb.) 98 Hit stanke that I was almost smoldred therof. 1489 — *Faytes of A.* I. xxiv. 77 The hete of the sonne was so brennynge hoot that almost hyt smoldred the rommayns. 1529 RASTELL *Pastyme* (1811) 292 The most commyn opinyon was, that they were smolderyd betwene two fetherbeddes. 1563 GOLDING *Cæsar* (1565) 157 b, Other some..doe smoolder the men wythin them wyth the flame. 1586 WARNER *Alb. Eng.* II. vii. (1589) 24 Some stumbling on the bodies dead are smoldred so and die.

† **b.** To smother, in various fig. uses. *Obs.*

1571 GOLDING *Calvin on Ps.* li. 12 Although the giftes of the Holy Ghoste were smoldered in him. 1575 *Gammer Gurton* v. ii, How-euer the thing he clockes or smolders. 1603 KNOLLES *Hist. Turks* (1621) 68 Which indignitie..as then..smouldered up in respect of the common cause,.. afterwards brake out againe.

2. *intr.* To burn and smoke without flame. Also *transf.* (quot. 1851).

1529 MORE *Suppl. Souls* II. Wks. 321/2 The tone is a light flame sone ended, the tother smowdreth much lenger. 1530 PALSGR. 723/1, I smolder, as wete wood doth. *Ibid.*, This woode burneth nat clere, it dothe but smolder.

1851 TENNYSON *E. Morris* 147 The light cloud smoulders on the summer crag. 1857 MILLER *Elem. Chem., Org.* ix. 574 Baryta salt..when burned in open air smoulders like tinder till the naphthalin is consumed. 1859 W. COLLINS *Q. of Hearts* (1875) 55 The floor was smouldering in several places.

b. In fig. contexts.

1575 GASCOIGNE *Flowers* Wks. 88 Nor yet [can] my fancie make such flame, that I may smoulder in the same.

1814 SCOTT *Lord Isles* II. xxvi, He waked a spark, that, long suppress'd, Had smoulder'd in Lord Ronald's breast. 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xviii. IV. 188 The civil war.., after it had ceased to flame, had continued during some time to smoulder.

c. *fig.* To exist or continue in a suppressed state.

1810 SCOTT *Lady of L.* II. xv, Still..Smoulders in Roderick's breast the feud. 1842 MANNING *Serm.* (1848) I. 3 For wise ends, God suffers this rebellion to smoulder in His Kingdom. 1888 FAGGE *Princ. Med.* I. 185 Intestinal lesions may smoulder on without giving rise to any symptoms.

† **3.** To be feeble or languid. *Obs.*$^{-1}$

1578 BANISTER *Hist. Man* IV. 55 It [the midriff] beyng wounded the hart smoldreth, like the lampe that dyeth for lacke of cyle.

Hence **Smou·ldered** *ppl. a.*

1796 COLERIDGE *Destiny of Nations* 258 Aside the beacon, up whose smouldered stones The..ivy-trails crept thinly.

Smouldering (smōu·ldəriŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. SMOULDER *v.*] The action of the verb.

1483 CAXTON *Gold. Leg.* 156/3 They made therin a grete smolderyng of smoke for to dysease hym. 1571 GOLDING *Calvin on Ps.* lxviii. 2 The smooldering itself will compel him to let in the water. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. IV. iv, Forty years of that smouldering. 1900 *Westm. Gaz.* 3 Oct. 2/2 Smouldering is often more difficult to deal with than open flame.

Smou·ldering, *ppl. a.* [f. SMOULDER *v.*]

† **1.** Smothering, suffocating, stifling. *Obs.*

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 955 Al in smolderande smoke smachande ful ille. 1577 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 199 His acts be like the smoldring smoke. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* II. v. 3 The smouldring dust did round about him smoke. 1629 MILTON *Hymn Nativ.* xvii, While the red fire, and smouldring clouds out brake. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* III. 740 Clouds of smouldring Smoke forbad the Sacrifice. 1725 POPE *Odyss.* XII. 492 Sulphureous odours rose, and smouldering smoke.

† **2.** Smoky; giving out smoke. *Obs.*

1577 tr. *Bullinger's Decades* (1592) 210 Least while hee goeth about to auoide the smoulthering cole-pitte hee happe to fall into the scalding lime kill. 1767 JAGO *Edge-Hill* III. 491 From russet Lawns, and smould'ring Furnaces, To trace the Progress of thy steely Arts.

3. Burning slowly and without flame.

1832 HT. MARTINEAU *Weal & Woe* ii. 18 The widow.. applied more fuel to her smouldering fire. 1848 DICKENS *Dombey* xxxiv, When any stray drops of rain fell hissing on the smouldering embers. 1877 BLACK *Green Past.* xlv. (1878) 362 He only stared into the smouldering wood before him.

b. In fig. contexts.

1852 MRS. STOWE *Uncle Tom* xxxv, All the smouldering embers of womanly feeling flashed up. 1856 *N. Brit. Rev.* XXVI. 243 It is not a pleasant duty to rake up the smouldering embers of ancient controversies. 1872 BLACK *Adv. Phaeton* xxv. 343 The smouldering fires of Arthur's wrath.

c. *fig.* Existing or continuing in a state of suppression or restraint.

1818 SCOTT *Rob Roy* xi, I subdued it into a sort of smouldering heart-burning. 1859 GEO. ELIOT *A. Bede* ii, A little smouldering vague anxiety. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* III. 56 The continuous smouldering activity of the true rheumatic process.

d. Glowing with a dull light.

1898 DOYLE *Trag. Korosko* iv, Belmont, looking with smouldering eyes at the wretched Mansoor. 1904 BENSON *Challoners* i, The dusky smouldering gold of her hair.

Hence **Smou·lderingly** *adv.*; **-ness.**

1849 LOWELL *Biglow P.* Ser. I. Introd., A smothered smoulderingness of disposition seldom roused to open flame. 1893 F. THOMPSON *Poems* 76 The verge shrivelled inward smoulderingly.

† **Smou·ldery,** *a. Obs.* Also **smouldry.** [f. SMOULDER *v.* + -Y^{1}.] = SMOTHERY *a.*

1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* I. vii. 13 Through smouldry cloud of duskish stincking smoke. 1593 NASHE *Christ's T.* (1613) 185 As Gods hand wee will not take it, but..the hand of close smouldry ayre. 1642 H. MORE *Song of Soul* II. II. ii. 8 The high arch'd roof of heaven with smouldry smoke they taint.

Smoult *v.* (dial.): see SMOLT *a.*

Smouse (smauz), *sb.* [ad. Du. *smous* Jew, usurer, supposed to be the same word as G. dial. *schmus* talk, patter, ad. Jewish *schmuoss*, Heb. *sh'mūʾōth* tales, news, the reference being to the persuasive eloquence of Jewish pedlars. Cf. SMOUCH *sb.*^{2}]

† **1.** *slang.* A Jew. *Obs.*

1705 tr. *Bosman's Guinea* 190 They are as Impertinent and Noisie as the Smouse or German Jews at their Synagogue at Amsterdam. 1761 COLMAN *Genius, Prose on Sev. Occas.* (1787) I. 35 [Earring-] bobs or drops.., which also the insinuating Smouse soon provided for her. 1785 MACKLIN *Man of World* II. 30, I honour the smouse;..it was devilish clever—the Jew distilling the Beeshop's brains.

2. *S. African.* An itinerant trader. Also *attrib.*

1850 R. G. CUMMING *Hunter's Life S. Africa* (1902) 13/2 Here we met a 'smouse', or trader, coming down the country. 1883 OLIVE SCHREINER *Story Afr. Farm* II. iii, A spray of orange-blossom which she had bought from a smouse. 1890 *Eng. Illustr. Mag.* Nov. 112, I..did a little in the 'smouse' line.

Hence **Smou·sing** *vbl. sb.* Also **Smou·ser.**

c 1876 SIR B. FRERE in J. E. Carlyle *S. Africa & Mission Fields* (1878) 103 This process of smousing, as it is termed in local slang. 1903 E. GLANVILLE *Diamond Seekers* 225 We are smousers (traders), said Amos.

Smouse (smauz), *v.* Also 8 **smouze.** [app. ad. G. *schmausen* (LG. *smûsen*) to feast, to drink or eat luxuriously.] **a.** *intr.* To feast. **b.** *trans.* To eat up, consume, as a delicacy.

1775 *Election Ball.* 64 Let me, my dear, quaff my Beer, Smouze and carouze. 1840 J. H. FRERE *Aristophanes' Acharnians* Wks. III. 50 Some that require Quickly to be broil'd, devour'd and smoused, On the spot, piping hot.

† **Smout,** *ppl. a.* *Sc. Obs.*$^{-1}$ [ad. MDu. *ghesmouten*, pa. pple. of *smelten* to smelt.] Smelted.

1595 D. WEDDERBURNE *Compt Buik* (S.H.S.) 30 Ane schip pund gad Iron and..four lib. round wecht smout iron.

Smout: see SMOLT *sb.* and SMOOT.

Smoutch, variant of SMOUCH *sb.* and *v.*

Smowk, obs. form of SMOOK, smoke.

Smowt, obs. form of SMOLT *sb.* and *a.*

Smuckle(r, obs. forms of SMUGGLE(R.

Smudge (smʌdʒ), *sb.*^{1} [Related to SMUDGE *v.*^{1} Cf. the earlier SMUTCH *sb.*, to which this has the same correspondence as *sludge* to *slutch.*]

1. A dirty mark or stain, esp. such as is caused by a smear or by trying to rub out a previous mark.

1768–74 TUCKER *Lt. Nat.* (1834) II. 596 A long sooty smudge upon the lining of my coach. 1846 D. JERROLD *Mrs. Caudle* xviii, And you think I didn't see the smudges of court plaster about her face? 1862 LYTTON *Str. Story* II. 95, I rubbed the circle and the pentacle away,..leaving but an undistinguishable smudge behind. 1874 BURNAND *My Time* vi. 48 Like a smudge from a lead pencil.

fig. 1891 HARDY *Tess* (1900) 38/1 The smudge which Tess had set upon that nobility.

b. *transf.* A blurred indistinct mass or area.

1871 MISS MULOCK *Fair France* 3 Mixing earth and sky in one settled 'smudge'. 1885 *Manch. Exam.* 11 June 5/7 Wales and Scotland [in common maps] are simply smudges of mountains.

2 A smeary condition, substance, etc.; the result of smearing or dirtying.

1830 MARRYAT *King's Own* xxvi The master..finds one day that his sextant-case is all of a smudge. 1837 WHITTOCK *Bk. Trades* (1842) 260 The oil, the grease and consequent 'smudge' incur a good portion of uncleanness. 1864 *Soc. Sci. Rev.* 165 The countryman who..declared that it [a picture] was nothing but 'smudge'.

b. *techn.* The scum of paint.

1823 P. NICHOLSON *Pract. Builder* 411 The scum is called smudge, and is used for outside work. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* IV. 207/1 Smudge, which consists of the refuse from paint and varnish pots, and therefore contains a number of fatty, oily substances.

3. Very small coal; fine slack, coal dust.

1883 in GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-m.* 228. 1890 *Pall Mall G.* 4 Oct. 7/2 Small coal, such as smudge and slack, are plentiful.

4. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *smudge-faced*, *-pot*; also **smudge-coal,** blind-coal, stone-coal (*Imperial Dict.* 1882).

1883 *Fortn. Rev.* 1 Sept. 455 Huge poles..smeared over by a property-man with a smudge-pot. 1891 H. HERMAN *His Angel* v. 96 A grimy, smudge-faced, half-ragged urchin.

Smudge (smʌdʒ), *sb.*^{2} [Related to SMUDGE *v.*^{2}]

1. A suffocating smoke. Now *U.S.*

1767 MASON in *Corresp. w. Gray* (1853) 401, I will sacrifice the first stanza on your critical altar, and let it consume either in flame or smudge as it choose. 1781 J. HUTTON *Tour to Caves* (ed. 2) Gloss. 96 *Smudge*, a suffocating smoke. 1879 BURROUGHS *Locusts & Wild Honey* 125 No smoke or smudge. 1896 *Pall Mall Mag.* Sept. 63 A small fire of green wood was making a smoke—or 'smudge', to use the Floridan vernacular.

2. A heap of combustibles ignited and emitting dense smoke, usually made with the object of repelling mosquitoes, etc. Chiefly *U.S.* and *Canada.*

1842 MRS. C. M. KIRKLAND *Forest Life* xviii. I. 183, I have had a 'smudge' made in a chafing-dish at my bed-side. 1880 MARY FITZGIBBON *Trip to Manitoba* x. 114 A smudge (a fire of chips mulched with wet hay or green twigs when well started, to create smoke). 1893 EARL DUNMORE *Pamirs* I. 346 We had three or four smudges made, the smoke from which nearly blinded us.

attrib. 1882 *Harper's Mag.* Oct. 724 The most effectual of these is to kindle smudge fires about the vineyard.

Smudge (smʌdʒ), *sb.*^{3} [f. SMUDGE *v.*^{4}] A slight sign or indication (*of* laughter, etc.).

1866 CARLYLE *Remin.* (1881) II. 126 A bright dimpling chuckle sometimes (smudge of laughter, the Scotch call it). 1898 G. A. SMITH *H. Drummond* i. (1899) 3 There was never a glimpse of a phylactery nor a smudge of 'unction'

† **Smudge,** *a.* *Obs.*$^{-1}$ [Related to SMUDGE *v.*^{3} Cf. SMUG *a.*] Smart, trim.

1596 NASHE *Saffron Walden* Wks. (Grosart) III. 138 A smudge piece of a handsome fellow it hath beene in his dayes, but now he is olde and past his best.

Smudge (smʌdʒ), *v.*^{1} Forms: 5 **smoge,** 6 **smoudge,** 7 **smodge, smooge,** 6–7, 9 **smudge.** [Of obscure origin; cf. the later SMUTCH *v.*]

1. *trans.* To soil, stain, blacken, smirch; to mark with dirty stains or smears.

c 1430 *Freemasonry* (1860) 744 Kepe thyn hondes, fayr and wel, From fowle smogynge of thy towel. 1548 ELYOT, *Atratus*, blacked or smudged [1565 *Cooper* smoudged]. 1604 T. M. *Black Bk.* D j b, The Sheetes smudged so durtily. 1609 HEYWOOD *Brit. Troy* v. Epil., The God whose face is Smoog'd with smoke and fiar. 1637 — *Pleas. Dial.* iv. Wks. 1874 VI. 157 To be smudg'd and grim'd with soot. 1828 CARR *Craven Gloss.*, *Smudged*, begrimed. 1841 J. T. HEWLETT *Parish Clerk* II. 195 His coat..smudged for several inches up the sleeve of the left arm with the wipings of his pens. 1887 DOWDEN *Shelley* I. i. 30 With face and hands smudged and stained by explosive powders and virulent acids.

fig. 1602 *How to choose a Good Wife* v. ii, The beauty of the mind, Which neither time can alter..nor the black hand of envy Smudge and disgrace. 1896 *Boston* (Mass.) *Jrnl.* 29 Feb. 5/1 Halifax Chronicle smudged [=charged with libel].

b. To rub out or in, to paint or lay on, etc., in a smearing or daubing manner.

1865 *Slang Dict.* 237 *Smudge*, to smear, obliterate. 1878 [G. N. BANKS] *About some Fellows* 26 [He] made a considerably worse mess trying to smudge it out. 1899 J. G. MILLAIS *Sir J. E. Millais* II. xvii. 213 The critics insisting ..that it was a stuffed bird, just smudged into the picture. 1901 *J. Black's Carp. & Build.* 42 Everybody, even the youngest boy, imagines he can 'smudge' paint.

c. *absol.* To make or leave a stain.

1902 *Longman's Mag.* May 4 The soil here, coloured by old Devon Sandstone, smudges red, not brown.

2. To bungle, make a mess of (something).

1864 WHYTE MELVILLE *Brookes of Bridlemere* xviii, He *smudged* it awfully, but we got over without a fall!

Hence **Smu·dging** *ppl. a.*

a 1861 MRS. BROWNING *Par. Theocritus* Poet. Wks. (1904)

584 One shaggy eyebrow draws its smudging road Straight through my ample front, from ear to ear.

Smudge (smʌdʒ), *v.*[2] Now *dial.* and *U.S.* [Of obscure origin.]

1. *trans.* †a. To cure (herring) by smoking. *Obs.*—[1] Halliwell's '*Smudge*, to stifle. *North.*' is not otherwise certified.

1599 Nashe *Lenten Stuffe* Wks. (Grosart) V. 239 In the craft of catching or taking it, and smudging it (marchant-and chapman-able as it should be), it sets a-worke thousands.

b. *U.S.* To make a smoky fire in (a tent, etc.); to fill with smoke from a smudge.

1891 in *Cent. Dict.*

2. *intr.* To smoulder.

1825 Brockett *N. C. Gloss.*, *Smudge*, to burn without a flame, or any appearance of fire, except smoke. 1892 *Whitby Gaz.* 13 May 2 The bed and bed-clothes which burned and smudged for a considerable time before the fire was extinguished.

†Smudge, *v.*[3] *Obs. rare.* [Of obscure origin; the sense agrees with that of Smug *v.*[1] For the form cf. Smudge *a.*] *trans.* To make smart or trim; to deck or trick *up*.

1589 Greene *Menaphon* (Arb.) 92 Doron smudgde himselfe vp, and iumpde a marriage with .. Carmela. 1593 Nashe *Four Lett. Conf.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 279 White wine ..is good for nothing, but to wash sores in, and smudge vp withered beauty with. 1596 — *Saffron Walden* Wks. (Grosart) III. 135 He..stood..by the glasse,..currying and smudging and pranking himselfe vnmeasurably.

Smudge (smʌdʒ), *v.*[4] *Sc.* and *north. dial.* Also smoodge. [Of obscure origin; connexion with G. dial. *schmutzen* (MHG. *smutzen*) to smile, is very doubtful, but cf. next and Smouch *v.*[1]] *intr.* To laugh quietly or to oneself.

1808 Jamieson, To *Smue*, or *Smudge*, to laugh in one's sleeve, to laugh in a clandestine way. Loth[ian]. 1823 *Blackw. Mag.* Mar. 312 Ye needna smudge and laugh at me now. 1828 Moir *Mansie Wauch* xvii, Arm-and-arm together, smoodging and laughing like daft. 1861 Quin *Heather Lintie* (1863) 96 Weel may he smudge within his sleeve At our attempts his snares tae leave.

Smudge (smʌdʒ), *v.*[5] *rare.* [Cf. Smouch *v.*[1]] *trans.* To smouch, to caress.

1844 J. T. Hewlett *Parsons & W.* xliv, She smudged them and kissed them so very naturally.

Smudged (smʌdʒd), *ppl. a.* [f. Smudge *v.*[1]] Marked with smudges; smeared, besmirched; applied in a smeary manner.

1624 Heywood *Gunaik.* IV. 199 To bee seene..with a smodged face. 1658 Rowland tr. *Moufet's Theat. Ins.* 1037 Having a black smudged face. 1839 Thackeray *Major Gahagan* vi, Uncurled wigs, smudged rouge, blear eyes. 1897 *Bookman* Jan. 122/2 A smudged half sheet of paper with bald facts.

Hence **Smu·dgedly** *adv.*, in a smudged manner.

1889 *Fabian Ess.* 217 We shall see as in a glass, darkly, or smudgedly,..that confrontation of rich and poor.

Smudger (smʌ·dʒəɹ). [f. as prec.] One who smudges.

1884 *Punch* 13 Sept. 129/1 Away with all your 'turps' and tubes, oh, smudgers on the shore. 1887 H. Pratt *Jesus, Bar Rabba*, etc. 311 And the man called the name of his wife *Chavah* (smudger), for she was the stainer of life.

Smudgily (smʌ·dʒili), *adv.* [f. Smudgy *a.*[1]] In a smudgy manner.

1864 *Athenæum* No. 1891. 121/2 The details..are carelessly, even smudgily, put in. 1887 Hissey *Holiday on Road* 229 Are we to..ignore the picturesque wholly for..the smudgily suggestive?

Smudginess (smʌ·dʒinės). [f. as prec.] The state, character, or quality of being smudgy.

1864 *Spectator* 31 Dec. 1511 Some of the smudginess that here and there disfigures the *fac-similes*. 1881 *Academy* 13 Aug. 128/2 These reproductions..are pervaded by an unpleasant smudginess.

Smudgy (smʌ·dʒi), *a.*[1] [f. Smudge *sb.*[1] or *v.*[1]]

1. Grimy, dirty; marked with smudges.

1859 J. R. Green *Lett.* (1901) I. 32 Some one..who can paint without having her fingers always smudgy. 1867 Miss Braddon *Doctor's Wife* I, The young man with the smudgy nose was an author.

Comb. 1897 *Outing* XXX. 213/2 As if by magic hundreds of smudgy-faced love-pledges surround you.

2. Smeared, smeary; blurred, indistinct.

1865 *Sat. Rev.* 16 Dec. 675/1 It does not follow that, because an etching is black and smudgy, it has depth and power. 1875 *Zoologist* X. 4485 Dull, smudgy brown..lends security to the brooding bird.

fig. 1887 Jessopp *Arcady* vi. 170 A smudgy surface of dreary, dismal, dull, dead-alivism.

Smudgy (smʌ·dʒi), *a.*[2] [f. Smudge *sb.*[2] or *v.*[2]]

1. *dial.* a. Stifling, stuffy. b. Thick, foggy.

1847 Halliw. s.v., The fire is so large that it makes the room feel quite hot and smudgy. 1871 Peacock *Ralf Shirl.* II. 182 If it wasn't so..smudgy we should see 'em.

2. Giving out much smoke; smoky.

1878 *Pop. Sci. Monthly* XIII. 267 If more light was needed, other smudgy lamps were added. 1905 *Blackw. Mag.* Dec. 768/1 He built a fire—a smouldering smudgy fire.

†Smug, *sb.*[1] *Obs.* [Of obscure origin; cf. Smuggy *a.*] A blacksmith.

1600–9 Rowlands *Knave of Clubbes* (Percy Soc.) 34 A smug of Vulcan's forging trade. 1609 Dekker *London's Tempe* 123 Worke, my fine smugges. 1709 E. Ward *Hud. Redie.* I.-133 'You're an impudent slut,' cries the smug at his bellows.

Smug (smʌg), *sb.*[2] [f. Smug *a.*]

Smug (and *Sir Smug*) is used as a suggestive personal name by Cowper *Hope* 413 and 438.

1. *Univ. slang.* A quiet hard-working student.

1882 *Daily News* 23 Mar. 4/7 A 'smug' was always unpopular, but all unpopular persons were not smugs. The quiet smug was generally not a rich man. 1884 Radford in Birrell *Obiter Dicta* 212 He had many friends at Clement's Inn who were not smugs, nor, indeed, reading men in any sense.

transf. 1888 *Pall Mall G.* 17 May 1/1 The Conservative free and easy voters—unlike the Liberal smugs—'would have their holidays'.

2. A smug or self-satisfied person.

1891 *Sat. Rev.* 13 June 701 The ocean of silly cant which has been poured forth on the occasion by smugs and prigs.

Smug (smʌg), *a.* Also 6 smogue, smoog, 6–7 smugg(e. [Of doubtful origin; the form is against its being ad. LG. *smuk* (whence Da. *smuk*, Sw. *smukk*, G. *schmuck*) pretty, nice, as the change of *k* to *g* would be very irregular.]

1. Of male persons: Trim, neat, spruce, smart; in later use, having a self-satisfied, conceited, or consciously respectable air.

The word has been in very common use from the 16th cent., and the earlier sense shades imperceptibly into the later, so that quotations cannot be separated.

1551 Robinson tr. *More's Utopia* I. (1895) 11 They be so smugge and smoothe, that they haue not so much as one heare of an honest man. 1581 Rich *Farew.* K j, The Duke.. perceiuyng him to bee a proper smogue yong man, gaue hym entertainment. 1613 Heywood *Brazen Age* II. iv, I was when I was borne A pretty smug knaue. 1669 Pepys *Diary* 28 Mar., To the Office with Tom, who looks mighty smug upon his marriage. 1706 Estcourt *Fair Example* v. i, Thou hast a handsom smug Neighbour that I believe knows her as well. 1740 Lady M. W. Montagu *Lett.* I. 124 He is a patrician too, and a smugger gentleman than Livy or any of his heroes. 1812 Byron *Ch. Har.* I. lxix, Then thy spruce citizen, wash'd artizan, And smug apprentice gulp their weekly air. 1859 Thackeray *Virgin.* II. 337 A smug officer of the United States Government. 1884 Sharman *Hist. Swearing* I. 2 The..smug undertakers of the neighbouring Soho.

b. Of women or girls. (Common *c* 1590–1650 in the older sense of the word.)

1590 Greene *Never too late* (1600) 98 Nowe Gods blessing on thy heart (quoth Callena) for louing such a smugge lasse. 1627 Feltham *Low Count.* (1677) 47 As smug as a Lady that hath newly lockt up her Colours, and laid by her Irons. 1677 Otway *Cheats of Scapin* I. i, She is indeed a good smug lass. 1701 Steele *Grief a la Mode* III. i, Oh, that smug old woman! There's no enduring her affectation of youth.

2. Of the face (person, etc.): Smooth, sleek; also, in later use = sense 5.

1582 Stanyhurst *Æneis* II. (Arb.) 59 His tayle smoog [L. *lubrica*] thirling, slyke breast to Titan vpheauing. 1592 Lyly *Midas* IV. i, Cross-gartred Swaines, & Dairie girles, With faces smug, and round as Pearles. 1593 G. Harvey *Pierce's Super.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 59 A slicke forhead, a smugg countenaunce. 1648 J. Beaumont *Psyche* VI. iv, Those dangerous Sirens whose smug maiden face Is ugly mortal Treason's burnish'd Glass. 1712 Steele *Spectator* No. 428 ¶ 1 The Instrument which is to make your Visage less horrid and your Person more smug. 1790 Cowper *Odyss.* XV. 404 Sleek their heads And smug their countenances. 1852 Thackeray *Esmond* I. x, It was edifying to behold him, fresh shaved and with smug face, singing out 'Amen!' 1892 Mrs. Oliphant *Hist. Sk. Q. Anne* V. (1894) 237 Jeremy Bentham, in whose smug countenance Mill divined unspoken offences.

3. Of things: Smooth, clean, neat, trim, or tidy; in later use, having an appearance suggestive of complacency or respectability.

1596 Shaks. *1 Hen. IV*, III. i. 102 The smug and Siluer Trent. 1603 Dekker *Wonderful Year* Wks. (Grosart) I. 84 The skie..lookte smug and smoothe, and had not so much as a wart sticking on her face. 1620 Markham *Farew. Husb.* II. xviii. (1668) 88 The Come..falls away and leaves the corn clean and smug of itself. 1777 Mme. D'Arblay *Early Diary, Journ.*, Putting on clean linnen, a tidy gown, and smug cap. 1841 De Quincey *Rhetoric* (1860) 376 The smug and scanty draperies of his style. 1872 J. Hatton *Memorial Window* II. 262 To them, the smug signboards have been coffin plates.

†4. Of language: Smooth, neat. *Obs.*

1607 Walkington *Opt. Glass* 129 A smug neate stile,.. vernished phrases. 1648 J. Beaumont *Psyche* XVII. clxxxviii, His soft smug words tickle your wanton ear. 1682 *Annot. on Glanvill* 184 That trim and smug saying.

5. Indicative of, characterized by, complacency or conscious respectability.

1851 D. Jerrold *St. Giles* xi. 103 Human arrogance,..in the smug belief of its own election,..looks upon its fellow ..as irrevocably lost. 1859 Kingsley *Misc.* II. 102 Addressing the audience..in the most smug and self-satisfied tone. 1885 *Athenæum* 30 May 688 A man of smug expediency and polite compromise.

6. *Comb.*, as *smug-faced, -looking, -skinned.*

1575 Gascoigne *Herbs* Wks. 173, I coulde haue brought a noble regiment Of smugskinnde Nunnes into my countrey soyle. 1630 J. Taylor (Water P.) *Wks.* II. 252/1 The fourth that entred .. Was .. a smugfaced furie. 1720 Ramsay *Wealth* 113 Thrice lucky pimps, or smug-fac'd wanton fair. 1876 Miss Braddon *J. Haggard's Dau.* II. 2 The smug-faced deacons, in their glossy Sunday coats. 1895 'Ian Maclaren' *Beside the Bonnie Brier Bush* I, A trim, smug-looking teacher's house.

Smug (smʌg), *v.*[1] Also 7 smugg(e. [f. prec.]

1. *trans.* To smarten up (oneself or another, one's appearance, etc.); to make trim or gay. Freq. with *up*.

(*a*) 1588 Greene *Perimedes* To Rdr., To enter parlee with his wif, smugd vp in her best apparrell. 1599 Dekker *Shoemaker's Holiday* III. iv, Mistress, smug up your looks; on with your best apparel. 1623 Middleton & Rowley *Sp. Gipsy* IV. i, Smug up your beetle-brows, none look grimly. 1672 Wycherley *Love in Wood* III. ii, If she has smugged herself up for me, let me prune and flounce my peruke a little for her. 1750 F. Coventry *Hist. Pompey* I. ix, Your..master..has been smugging up his pretty face. 1772 tr. *J. F. de Isla's Friar Gerund* IV. iii. 68 He had smugged himself up, it is evident, with the utmost prolixity. 1888 *Blackw. Mag.* June 788 This worthy tutor, doubtless 'smugged up' in his Sunday suit.

(*b*) 1598 E. Guilpin *Skial.* (1878) 65, I must craue A little labour to be smug'd, and haue A blessing of Rose-water. 1602 Marston *Ant. & Mel.* III. Wks. 1856 I. 37, I have put on good cloathes, and smugd my face. 1654 Gayton *Pleas. Notes* IV. xvii. 260 But to the Pole annex your Brasen Bason, 'Tis not to smug one then, but to amaze one. 1772 tr. *J. F. de Isla's Friar Gerund* II. v. 362 Our Friar Gerund was so shaved, and combed, and smugged, and spruced, that it was a delight to behold his face. 1841 *Peter Parley's Ann.* II. 234 Poor old Goody Clackett had little thoughts of ever being smugged..to make a guy on the fifth of November. 1841 L. Hunt *Seer* (1864) II. 74 All the thoroughfares in towns near London..have wonderfully plucked up, and *smugged* themselves of late years.

b. *absol.* To put on a smart or smug expression.

1649 G. Daniel *Trinarch., Hen. V*, ccxcii, The Bloat Face of Rusticitie, Smuggs, looking in A Mirrour. 1719 D'Urfey *Pills* V. 74 You smug, you trick, You toss a twire, a grin.

2. To smarten up (a thing); to fit *up* (a room, etc.) neatly or nicely. *rare.*

1598 Florio, *Brandire*, to trick, smug, spruce, or trim vp any thing. 1745 H. Walpole *Lett.* (1846) II. 64 The moment I have smugged up a closet or a dressing-room, I have always warning given me, that my lease is out. 1751 *Ibid.* 399 The chapel is very pretty, and smugged up with tiny pews.

Hence **Smugged** *ppl. a.* (also *Comb.*); **Smu·gging** *vbl. sb.*[1]

1706 Hearne *Collect.* (O.H.S.) I. 217 Dr. Green was a little spruce smugg'd fac'd..Chaplain. 1719 D'Urfey *Pills* IV. 319 Drapers smugg'd Prentices. 1736 Ainsworth 1,[2] A smugging up, *ornatus nitidus.*

Smug (smʌg), *v.*[2] *slang.* [Of doubtful origin.]

1. *trans.* To steal, filch, run away with.

1825 T. Hook *Sayings* Ser. II. *Man of Many Friends* I. 320 Some cold cream, which she had *smugged* from Mrs. Abberly. 1834 R. H. Froude *Rem.* (1838) I. 386, I have had a horse, which I have been cool enough to smug from the Bishop's stables. 1851 Mayhew *Lond. Lab.* I. 421/1 After that he used to go 'smugging' (running away with) other people's things.

2. *intr.* To copy surreptitiously; to crib.

a 1860 Alb. Smith *Med. Stud.* (1861) 54 Copying out their notes in little, that they may smug from them when locked up in the examination-room.

3. *trans.* To hush up (a matter).

1857 *Morning Chron.* 3 Oct. 8/3 She wanted however a guarantee that the case should be smugged, or, in other words, compromised.

4. To arrest, put in prison.

1896 A. Morrison *Child Jago* 247 His father had been smugged.

Hence **Smu·gging** *vbl. sb.*[2] (See quots.)

1825 Hone *Every-day Bk.* I. 253 When any game was out,..it was lawful to steal the thing played with; this was called smugging. 1861 Mayhew *Lond. Lab.* III. 58 Landlord (collaring the bell). Smuggings! pursession is nine points of the law! 1864 *Slang Dict.* 237 *Smuggings*,.. shouted out by boys, when snatching the tops, or small play property, of other lads.

Smug-boat. (See quot.)

1867 Smyth *Sailor's Word-bk.*, *Smug-boats*, contraband traders on the coast of China; opium boats.

Smu·ggish, *a. rare*—°. [f. Smug *a.*] Somewhat smug or trim. Hence **Smu·ggishly** *adv.*

1736 Ainsworth *Eng.-Lat. Dict.* I. s.v.

Smuggle (smʌg'l), *v.*[1] Also 7 smuckle, 8 smugle. [App. of LG. or Du. origin. The earlier form *smuckle* corresponds to LG. *smukkeln* (G. dial. *schmuckeln*, *schmucheln*) or Du. *smokkelen*, while the slightly later *smuggle* agrees with LG. *smuggeln* (G. *schmuggeln*, Da. *smugle*, Norw. *smugla*, Sw. *smuggla*). The origin of the term, and the precise relationship of the two types, is not clear. Cf. Smuggler, which appears earlier.]

1. *trans.* To convey (goods) clandestinely into (or out of) a country or district, in order to avoid payment of legal duties, or in contravention of some enactment; to bring *in*, *over*, etc., in this way.

a 1687 Petty *Pol. Arith.* IV. (1691) 84 Two Hundred thousand pounds smuckled by the Merchants. 1687 Miège *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II, To Smuckle. See to Smuggle. 1706 Phillips (ed. Kersey), To *Smuggle Goods*, to run them ashore, or bring them in by stealth, without paying the Custom. 1790 Burke *Fr. Rev.* 36 In order afterwards to smuggle them back again into this country. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* I. II. v, Weapons, military stores can be smuggled over (if the English do not seize them). 1846 McCulloch *Acc. Brit. Emp.* (1854) II. 397 The means of preventing its being smuggled or the duty evaded.

b. *intr.* To practise smuggling.

1697 Dampier *Voy.* (1729) I. 308 The Spaniards can and will Smuggle (as our Seamen call Trading by stealth) as well as any Nation that I know. 1830 Marryat *King's Own* xxiii, We don't mean to smuggle any more. 1845 McCulloch *Taxation* II. vi. (1852) 251 The temptation to smuggle was diminished.

†2. *To smuggle the coal* (see quot.). *slang. Obs.*

1687 Miège *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II, *To smuggle the Coal*, to make people believe one has no Money when the Reckoning is to be paid.

3. *transf.* **a.** To get possession of by stealth.

1766 GRAY *Kingsgate* 3 The pious resolution To smuggle a few years. *c* 1790 in Hone *Every-day Bk.* (1827) II. 832, I shall prove the Excise Office to be the greatest smuggle[r] in the nation, for they smuggled the ground from the public.

b. To convey, etc., in a stealthy or clandestine manner. Const. with advs. and preps., as *away, in, into, off, out of, through*, etc.

1783 W. GORDON *Livy* v. ii. (1823) 400 Among all that number a single Plebeian could not be smuggled in. 1816 SCOTT *Old Mort.* x, She smuggled him out of the garrison through the pantry window. 1853 LYTTON *My Novel* XII. xxxi, I have two private bills I want to smuggle through Parliament. 1872 BLACK *Adv. Phaeton* xiii. 177 On our entrance the document was hastily folded up and smuggled away.

c. intr. To make *off* stealthily.

1865 CARLYLE *Fredk. Gt.* (Tauchn.) X. 263 These good people are smuggling off. Let them go in peace.

† Smu·ggle, *v.*[2] *Obs.* [Of obscure origin: cf. SNUGGLE *v.*] *trans.* To cuddle, fondle, caress.

1679 PRANCE *Narr. Popish Plot* 36 This pretious Saint.. hath been seen to..kiss her many times over, as if it had been part of her Penance to be most filthily smuggled. 1698 FARQUHAR *Love & Bottle* I. i, Oh, the little Lips!—and 'tis the best natur'd little dear.—(Smuggles and kisses it.) 1709 *Brit. Apollo* No. 75. 3/1 He was smugling Blouze. 1719 D'URFEY *Pills* II. 195 He Smuggled her, and Squeez'd her. *absol.* 1709 E. WARD *Hud. Rediv.* I. 68 You may smuggle and grope.

Smu·ggleable, *a.* [f. SMUGGLE *v.*[1]] Capable of being smuggled.

1805 SOUTHEY in *Life* (1850) II. 332 Only a box at a time, of such a smuggleable size that a man can easily carry it.

Smuggled (smʌ·g'ld), *ppl. a.* [f. as prec.] Imported, brought in, conveyed, etc., by stealth.

1706 E. WARD *Wooden World Diss.* (1708) 68 Many a Boat-Load of smuggl'd Ware has he popt forth at his Gun-room Ports. 1810 CRABBE *Borough* xviii. 178 By smuggled news from neighb'ring village told. 1836 MARRYAT *Pirate*, etc. (Rtldg.) 169 [They] handed up all the smuggled goods. 1894 MRS. DYAN *Man's Keeping* (1899) 8 The consciousness of that smuggled paper made her nervous.

Smuggler (smʌ·glə1). Also 7 **smuckellor, smuckler.** [ad. LG. *smukkeler*, Du. *smokkelaar*, or LG. *smugg(e)ler* (G. *schmuggler*, Sw. *smugglare*): see SMUGGLE *v.*[1]]

1. One who smuggles commodities; *esp.* one who makes a trade or practice of smuggling.

1661 *Proclamation* 9 Aug., A sort of leud people called Smuckellors, never heard of before the late disordered times, who make it their trade..to steal and defraud His Majesty of His Customs. 1670 BLOUNT *Glossogr.* (ed. 3), *Smuglers*, are stealers of Customs; well known upon the Thames. 1740 WESLEY *Wks.* (1872) I. 289 He declared before us all that he was a Smuggler. 1779 *Mirror* No. 62, He had served with *eclat* in the corps established for repressing smugglers of tobacco. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. VI. iii, Smugglers of salt go openly in armed bands. 1870 F. R. WILSON *Ch. Lindisf.* 36 It had the reputation..of being the haunt of smugglers.

transf. 1790 BURKE *Fr. Rev.* 134 The infectious stuff which is imported by the smugglers of adulterated metaphysics. 1849-50 ALISON *Hist. Europe* VIII. l. § 30. 150 An immense annual profit for the behoof of the great Imperial Smuggler in the Tuileries.

2. A vessel employed in smuggling.

1799 *Naval Chron.* II. 443 The *Assistance* Smuggler, from Guernsey. 1836 MARRYAT *Pirate*, etc. (Rtldg.) 164 This vessel..must be a smuggler. 1894 K. HEWAT *Little Scottish World* I. 12 The casks landed from the smuggler were safely deposited.

3. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *smuggler boat, devil, dogger, -hunting.*

1776 *Ann. Reg.* 135 His majesty's sloop Princess Anne fell in with a smuggler dogger in the frith of Forth. 1815 SCOTT *Guy M.* xlv, Thae smuggler deevils. 1862 THORNBURY *Turner* I. 333 He beat about year after year in all sorts of smuggler boats. 1899 SOMERVILLE & ROSS *Irish R. M.* 202 He had taken up the unprofitable task of smuggler-hunting.

Smugglery (smʌ·glərі). [f. SMUGGLE *v.*[1] Cf. Da. *smugleri*, Sw. *smuggleri*, Du. *smokkelarij*; also LG. *smugg-*, G. *schmuggelei.*] Smuggling.

1895 *United Service Mag.* 212 This time, as doubtless often before, Mrs. S. succeeds in her smugglery.

Smuggling (smʌ·glіŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. SMUGGLE *v.*[1]] Clandestine importation of goods, etc.

1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl., Smuggling*, a cant Term for the Running of Goods. 1769 BLACKSTONE *Comm.* IV. 155 Smuggling, or the offence of importing goods without paying the duties imposed thereon by the laws of the customs and excise. 1845 MCCULLOCH *Taxation* II. ix. (1852) 330 The true way to suppress smuggling is to render it unprofitable. 1894 J. MACINTOSH *Ayrshire Nts. Entert.* vii. 109 The smuggling of tea, tobacco, and brandy formed one of the staple industries of the place.

attrib. 1698 LUTTRELL *Brief Rel.* (1857) IV. 409 Mr. David Barrau, committed to Newgate for the smuggling trade, has paid his fine. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* I. ix. 85 These smuggling engagements are doubtless very extensive. 1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* xxxiii, I readily joined Wilson in a perilous smuggling adventure.

Smuggling (smʌ·glіŋ), *ppl. a.* [f. SMUGGLE *v.*[1]] That smuggles, or is engaged in smuggling:

a. Of persons.

1816 SCOTT *Let..in Lockhart* (1837) IV. i. 10 A pirate, or an outlaw, or a smuggling bandit. 1824 — *Redgauntlet* ch. xxiii, 'Is this the smuggling fellow?' demanded Redgauntlet. 1884 PAE *Eustace* xix. 244 Every smuggling rascal of them has fled to his hole.

b. Of vessels.

Perh. properly an attributive use of the *vbl. sb.*

1813 *Examiner* 22 Feb. 122/2 The prisoner..was mate of a smuggling cutter. 1815 SCOTT *Guy M.* iii, A smuggling lugger from the Isle of Man. 1836 MARRYAT *Pirate*, etc. (Rtldg.) 174, I..have sent them in the smuggling vessel.

† Smuggling-ken. *Cant. Obs.* [Cf. SMUGGLE *v.*2] A brothel.

1725 *New Cant. Dict.* s.v. *Clicketting*, He has pick'd up the Blowse, and they are pik'd into that Smuggling-Ken a Clicketing.

† Smu·ggy, *a. Obs. rare.* Also 6 **smoggy.** [Cf. SMUG *sb.*[1]] Grimy, smutty.

c 1515 *Cocke Lorell's B.* 11 With smoggy colyers, and stynkynge gonge fermers. 1630 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Wks.* I. 124/2 Noble Vulcan, a mad smuggy Smith.

Smugly (smʌ·glі), *adv.* [f. SMUG *a.*] In a smug, complacent († smart or trim) manner.

1575 LANEHAM *Lett.* (1871) 30 Hiz beard smugly shauen. 1598 FLORIO, *Nettamente*, neatly,..handsomely, smugly. 1656 S. HOLLAND *Zara* (1719) 146 Dragons may now securely sleep, and ugly Deformed Orks seem to look smooth and smugly. 1727 GAY *Begg. Op.* I. iv, Though she be never so ugly, Lillies and roses will quickly appear And her face look wond'rous smuggly. 1840 HOOD *Up Rhine* 207 Instead of looking smugly..The votaries are all so old and ugly. 1892 *Spectator* 16 Jan. 84/1 Just consider what the smugly respectable man has done for himself

Smugness (smʌ·gnės). [f. SMUG *a.*] The condition or quality of being smug.

1632 SHERWOOD, Smugnesse, *netteté*. 1677 WYCHERLEY *Pl. Dealer* III. i, She looks like an old Coach new painted; affecting an unseemly Smugness. 1755 H. WALPOLE *Corr.* (1903) III. 341, I like the smugness of the cathedral, and the profusion of the most beautiful Gothic tombs. 1789 MRS. PIOZZI *Journ. France* II. 78 No smugness..ever crossed the fancy of Schidone. 1836 *Tait's Mag.* III. 491 It has been..smoothened, and tamed down to smugness, by cultivation, enclosing, and planting. 1883 *Contemp. Rev.* Oct. 602 There is probably nosmugness in the world comparable to the complacent smugness of our insular ignorance.

Smuik(e, Smuke, obs. Sc. forms of SMOOK.

† Smu·lkin. *Obs. rare.* [? Irish.] (See quot. 1617.)

1571 CAMPION *Hist. Irel.* II. v. (1633) 84 Indebted to the Citizens of Divelin..a thousand poundes, whereof he payde not one smulkin. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* I. 284 They [*sc.* the Irish] had also brasse farthings, called smulkins, whereof foure made a penny.

† Smult, *pa. pple. Obs.*[—1] (Meaning doubtful.)

c 1400 *Destr. Troy* 911 With a smorther & a smoke smult through his nase.

Smur (smɜ1), *sb. dial.* and *Sc.* Also **smurr, smir(r.** [Of obscure origin.]

1. Fine rain; drizzle.

1808 JAMIESON, *Smurr*, a drizzling rain. Ayrs. 1823 E. MOOR *Suffolk Words, Smur*, small rain. 1878 *Good Words* 245 Sunday morning, which was grey with mist and 'smur'.

2. A drizzle *of* rain, etc.

1830 GALT *Lawrie T.* VII. iii. (1849) 315 During the afternoon a smur of rain came on. 1872 YOUNG *Lochlomond* (E.D.D.), A cannie smir O' a refreshing simmer shower. 1873 G. C. DAVIES *Mount. & Mere* xix. 176 The morning broke with a little wind and a slight smurr of rain.

Smur (smɜ1), *v. dial.* and *Sc.* Also **smurr, smir(r.** [Cf. prec.] *intr.* To drizzle.

1825 JAMIESON *Suppl., It's Smurrin*, it rains slightly. 1838 HOLLOWAY *Prov. Dict., To smur*, to rain lightly and mistily. 1881 FITZGERALD *Lett.* I. 472 It has been what we call down here 'smurring' rather than raining. 1898 N. MUNRO *J. Splendid* 290 Whenever rains are smirring and mists are blowing.

Smurien, obs. form of SMEAR *v.*

Smu·rlin. *Shetl. dial.* [app. an error for *smurslin* (cf. *smircelin* in the *Eng. Dial. Dict.*), corresponding to Icel. *smyrslingr.*] A species of clam.

1806 NEILL *Tour Orkney & Shetl.* 93 They have abundance of what are called *culleocks* and *smurlins*. The *smurlin* or *smuthlin* is the Mya truncata, remarkable for a shrivelled leathery process at one end. Both these shell-fish are highly relished by the Shetlanders.

Smu·rry, *a.* [f. SMUR *sb.*] Drizzly.

1888 BLACK *House-boat* x, The cold hues of green through which we had been sailing on this smurry afternoon.

† Smush, *a. Sc. Obs.*[—1] (Meaning uncertain; perhaps a later form of SMOOCH *a.*)

1629 Z. BOYD *Balm of Gilead* 107 He..seeth him gaping for lyfe lyke a hungry dogge gaping for a smush bone.

† Smuss, *v. Obs.*[—1] [f. MUSS *sb.*[1]; the verb *muss* occurs in Linc. dial. For the prefixed *s-* cf. SMEUSE *sb.* and *v.*] *trans.* To take by force; to grab, seize, or snatch.

1736 ELIZA STANLEY tr. *Hist. du Prince Titi* 14 He denied himself the Enjoyment of such Knicknacks as were given him, and would scramble for and smuss [F. *grapiller*] those of other Children his Playfellows.

Smut (smʌt), *sb.* Also 7–8 **smutt,** 8–9 **smoot.** [Related to SMUT *v.* Cf. LG. *schmutt*, G. *schmutz*, in sense I; also MHG. *smuz, smutz* fat, grease, G. *schmutz* (Sw. *smuts*, Da. *smuds*) dirt, filth. See also SMOT *sb.*[1]

The adj. *smutty* is recorded earlier in most of the senses, and the sb. may be mainly a back-formation from this.]

1. A fungous disease affecting various plants, esp. cereals, which are spoiled by the grain being wholly or partly converted into a blackish powder; also, one or other of the fungi (species of *Ustilagineæ*) causing the disease.

1665 *Phil. Trans.* I. 93 Meldew, Blasting, Smut. 1669 WORLIDGE *Syst. Agric.* (1681) 214 Smut seems to proceed from the same cause. *a* 1722 LISLE *Husb.* (1757) 132 Such grain was apt to carry a smut. 1796 WITHERING *Brit. Pl.* (ed. 3) IV. 388 This is the Smut, so frequently found upon the ears of different sorts of growing corn, and also upon grasses. 1834 *Brit. Husb.* I. 379 (L.U.K.), The practice of steeping seed-wheat..applies rather to smut, than to rust or mildew. 1875 H. C. WOOD *Therap.* (1879) 555 The Smut of Indian Corn (*Ustilago maidis*) appears to have active medicinal properties.

b. A smutted grain. *rare*—[1].

1799 *Hull Advertiser* 23 Feb. 1/1 These machines..do not crush the smuts or bunt in wheat.

2. A black mark or stain; a smudge. Also *fig.*

1664 H. MORE *Myst. Iniq.* 474 That there is not the least smutt of Antichristianism in Episcopacy itself. 1671 WOODHEAD *St. Teresa* II. ii. 12 All that is fair..in this world, is but a smut with a cole. 1830 'B. MOUBRAY' *Dom. Poultry*, etc. 163 The smut consists of a black spot on the side of the rabbit's nose. 1861 *Fraser's Mag.* June 772 A black mark on his [*sc.* a rabbit's] nose, which is called a butterfly smut.

3. *Coal-mining.* Bad, soft, earthy coal.

1686 PLOT *Staffordsh.* 146 Above ground they look for a *smut* as they call it, i. e. a friable black earth. 1796 KIRWAN *Elem. Min.* (ed. 2) II. 51 Smut seems also a variety of this species [*sc.* inflammable mineral carbon], but more impure. 1799 — *Geol. Ess.* 292 The uppermost seam of coal is commonly soft and dusty, it is vulgarly called *smut*. 1806 *Phil. Trans.* XCVI. 346 Smoot and Fire Clay. 1829 GLOVER *Hist. Derby* I. 59 Measures of strata:..Soft coal or smut 2 ft. 10 in. 1860– in mining glossaries.

4. Soot or sooty matter.

1693 DRYDEN, etc. *Juvenal* vi. (1726) 71 The steam of Lamps still hanging on her cheeks In ropy Smut. 1712 E. COOKE *Voy. S. Sea* 45 Spotted down the Cheeks with white Clay, and some black Streaks of Smut. 1790 BURKE *Let. Noble Lord* Wks. VIII. 97 Our most salutary and most beautiful institutions yield nothing but dust and smut. 1846 LANDOR *Imag. Conv.* II. 91 The furnace is mere smut, and no bellows to blow the embers. 1893 *Scribner's Mag.* June 778/1 The remotest articles of furniture are rife with infinitesimal smut.

b. A particle of sooty matter.

1806 SOUTHEY *Lett.* (1856) I. 375 That cursed composition of smoke, dust, smuts, human breath, and marsh vapour. 1849 LYTTON *Caxtons* XIV. ii, A joyous dance of those monads, called vulgarly *smuts*. 1894 MRS. RITCHIE *Chapters Mem.* viii. 106 A lady sitting with an umbrella in the drizzle of rain and falling smuts from the funnel.

c. A very minute insect.

1899 *Daily News* 28 Dec. 6/4 A trout..grubs in the weeds, chases larvæ, and revels in almost invisible smuts.

5. Indecent or obscene language.

1698 J. COLLIER *Immor. Stage* i. (1730) 4 The Modern Poets seem to use Smut as the old Ones did Machines, to relieve a fainting Invention. 1707 *Refl. upon Ridicule* 206 'Tis a miserable way of Pleasing, to scatter Smut in all your Stories. 1760–2 GOLDSMITH *Cit. W.* xlix, The gentlemen talked smut, the ladies laughed and were angry. 1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* ii, Drunken freaks, and drunken quarrels, and smut, and blasphemy. 1858 CARLYLE *Fredk. Gt.* VI. IV. (1872) II. 173 Discourse of a cheerful or of a serious nature,..and not the least smut permitted. 1886 *Spectator* 4 Dec. 1621 The public must have titles, or smut, or murder, and wishes in its heart always to have two of them together.

† 6. *slang.* (See quot.) *Obs.*—[o]

1812 J. H. VAUX *Flash Dict., Smut*, a copper boiler, or furnace.

7. *attrib.*, as (sense 1) *smut bag, corn, fungus, machine, spore*, etc.; (sense 5) *smut-note*; **smut-grass** *U.S.*, a rush-grass (*Sporobolus Indicus*), the spikes of which are usually blackened by a smut.

1712 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 361 ₱ 13 He teaches the Smut-note, the Fustian-note, the Stupid-note. 1732 in *6th Rep. Dep. Kpr.* App. II. 119 A new Machine for cleaning Wheat ..is contrived to take away the stains, smut bags, and other trumpery. 1790 *Trans. Soc. Arts* VIII. 32 Wheat, sown too long on the same spot, without changing the seed, will generally become smutt and hen-corn. 1852 *Appleton's Dict. Mach.* II. 588 Smut Machine .. for cleaning all kinds of grain. 1868 *Rep. U.S. Commiss. Agric.* (1869) 37 A few cattle in Massachusetts have died from eating 'smut corn'. 1897 W. G. SMITH tr. *Tubeuf's Dis. Plants* 275 The Ustilagineae or Smut-fungi are distinguished by their dark-coloured or black chlamydospores. *Ibid.* 276 In this way any adherent smut-spores are killed.

Smut (smʌt), *v.* Also 7 **smutt, smoot.** [Cf. SMOT *v.*, and MHG. *smutzen* (G. *schmutzen*) to smear, dirty.]

1. *trans.* To mark with some black or dirty substance; to blacken, smudge.

α. 1587 HARMAR tr. *Beza's Serm.* 195 No man can like to be smutted and blatched in his face. 1624 MIDDLETON *Game at Chess* III. i, *W. Pawn.* White quickly soils you know. *B. Y. Pawn.*..Get thee gone then, I shall smut thee. 1668 H. MORE *Div. Dial.* III. iv. (1713) 187 A Company.. whom some unlucky Wag has smutted with his sooty and greazy fingers. 1705 ADDISON *Italy, Pavia* 26 The Inside is so smutted with Dust, and the Smoak of Lamps. 1752 JOHNSON *Rambler* No. 188 ₱ 12 Contriving to smut the nose of any stranger who was to be initiated into the club. 1836 WHATELY in Miss E. J. Whately *Life* (1866) I. 366 He who wrestles with a chimney-sweeper is sure to be smutted. 1877 *Daily News* 27 Dec. 6/1 The dingy whitewashed walls, smutted by the smoke of the tottering stove.

β. 1657 W. MORICE *Coena quasi Kouvη* xxxiii. 306 To keep my cloaths from being smootted by a Chimnie-sweeper.

b. *fig.* To stain with some fault or imperfection.

α. 1601 DENT *Pathw. Heaven* 202 What is the cause why some one sinne doth so blot and smut the most excellent men? 1674 COTTON in *Flatman's Poems* 47 You no prophane, no obscene language use To smut your paper or defile your Muse.

β. *a* 1661 FULLER *Worthies* (1840) II. 102 Considering the sottishness of superstition in the age he lived in, he is less smooted therewith than any of his contemporaries.

2. To affect (grain) with smut.

1626 Bacon *Sylva* § 497 There falleth also Mildew upon Corn and smutteth it. 1812 Sir J. Sinclair *Syst. Husb. Scot.* I. 325 Having often observed in his wheat fields, a few ridges alternately clean and smutted. 1841 Hood *Tale Trumpet* 761 Though the wishes that Witches utter Can.. Smut and mildew the corn on the stalk.

b. *intr.* Of grain: To be affected by smut.

1657 S. Purchas *Pol. Flying-Ins.* 143 Corn thus imbibed, and then sown without lime, will not smut. 1677 Plot *Oxfordsh.* 244 Wheat following the dung Cart on their best Land, is the more liable to smut. 1745 *Gentl. Mag.* 31 Corn managed in this manner is not apt to smut or mildew.

3. *trans.* To make obscene.

1722 Welsted *Prol. Steele's Consc. Lovers* 11 Another smuts his Scene (a cunning Shaver), Sure of the Rakes and of the Wenches Favour.

4. *intr.* Of fish: To rise at, or feed on, smuts.

1889 *Sat. Rev.* 18 May 612/2 These demonstrations are made by trout bulging, tailing, smutting, or minnowing. 1892 *Field* 4 June 838/2 The fish were smutting or bulging on the shallows.

Smut-ball. [f. Smut *sb.* 1.] A single grain of wheat or other cereal affected by smut or bunt; a cohesive body of smut.

1750 W. Ellis *Mod. Husb.* IV. iv. 130 (E.D.S.). *a* 1761 S. Hales in Mills *Pract. Husb.* III. 128 The moisture that was equal to the weight of the smut-balls and smut that was washed from the wheat. 1801 *Farmer's Mag.* Apr. 154 The grains were..rubbed between the hands, in such a manner as to break the whole of the smut balls. 1844 H. Stephens *Bk. Farm* III. 954 A longitudinal section of a smut-ball taken when the stamens are fully formed within the corolla. 1883 *Good Words* Nov. 736/1 Bunt..is known by various names in different parts of the country, as smut-balls, bladder-brand, stinking-rust, &c.

Smutch (smʌtʃ), *sb.* Also 6 **smutche**, 7 **smuch.** [Of uncertain origin; related in some way to Smudge, which is recorded earlier as a vb. though much later as a sb. More recent forms are Smooch *sb.* and Smouch *sb.*[4]]

1. A black or dirty mark; a stain; a smudge.

1530 Palsgr. 272/1 Smutche on ones face, *barboyllement.* 1637 Dow *Answ. H. Burton* 125 Though it bee not needfull to wipe off every smutch. 1652 Crashaw *Wks.* (1904) 360 Those durty smutches, wch their faire fronts wore. 1784 Cowper *Task* IV. 608 The palm is hardly clean—But here and there an ugly smutch appears. 1844 Lowell *Hunger & Cold* v, He recks not a bloody smutch On his gold. 1879 G. Macdonald *P. Faber* II. xiii. 256 He in whose eyes even a smutch on her face would have lowered a woman.

b. *fig.* A moral stain.

1648 Earl Westmoreland *Otia Sacra* (1879) 15 Our Souls, which before did lye Defil'd through th' smutch of Sin. 1688 Bunyan *Solomon's Temple* xxxiii, Hence the word of God is compared to a glass,..by which we see..our smutches. 1900 *Westm. Gaz.* 8 Nov. 5/1 The work of cleansing the city from the smutch of Croker and his fellow-ruffians.

c. A slight mark or indication; semblance; also, a slight or light touch.

1776 Burke *Corr.* (1844) II. 98 Without a shadow, a relish, a smutch, a tinge,..of anger. 1856 Mrs. Browning *Aur. Leigh* v. 506, I never envied Graham his breadth of style, Which gives you, with a random smutch or two,..Such delicate perspectives of full life.

2. Soot, smut, grime, dirt.

1790 Cowper *Odyss.* XVIII. 34 Collied with chimney smutch! 1790 — *Iliad* XVIII. 513 His arms and brawny neck Purified, and his shaggy breast from smutch. 1890 R. Bridges *Shorter Poems* III. 13 The soil, the smutch the toil and ache and wear.

3. *attrib.*, as *smutch box, pan.*

1688 Holme *Armoury* III. 145/1 Stainshall, of some called a Smuch Box; it is a Tin with a bottom and three sides, in which Oil Pencils are put with their points in Oil to keep them from drying. *c* 1896 *Rowney's Price List* 20 Oil Slant and Smutch Pan.

Smutch (smʌtʃ), *v.* [See prec. and cf. Smooch *v.*] *trans.* To blacken, make dirty, smut, smudge. Also in fig. context.

1611 Shaks. *Wint. T.* I. ii. 121 Why that's my Bawcock: what? has't smutch'd thy Nose? 1655 Gurnall *Chr. in Arm.* II. 275 It would not do well to have the Collier and Fuller live together; what one cleanseth, the other will crock and smutch. 1690 C. Ness *Hist. O. & N. Test.* I. 20 The brightest ivory, if smutched with the fire, contracteth a filthy blackness. 1790 Cowper *Odyss.* XIII. 536 A cloak And kirtle..foul And smutch'd with smoke. 1818 Keats *Endym.* II. 90 As though afraid to smutch Even with mealy gold the waters clear. 1850 Browning *Christmas Eve* xiv, Under the foot they could not smutch, Lay all the fleshly and the bestial. 1876 Holland *Seven Oaks* xv. 210 Puppies that might..fawn before her, but might not smutch her robes with their dirty feet.

b. *fig.* To stain, sully, besmirch, etc., morally or otherwise.

1640 Yorke *Union Hon.* To Rdr., Some, who must quarrell ..with my Booke..and smutch it with a scorne of my Profession. *a* 1680 Butler *Rem.* (1759) II. 134 The Fumes.. from his Spleen..have..smutched and sullied his Brain. 1858 Morris *Old Love* 158 This love is not so hard to smutch. 1865 J. Skelton *Campaigner at Home* ix. 264 The passion is always pure. It is never smutched by sensuality.

Hence **Smutching** *vbl. sb.* and *ppl. a.*

1611 Cotgr., *Souillement*, a..slurrying, durtying, smutching. 1648 Jenkyn *Blind Guide* i. 3 He is but your scullion to make your integrity shine the brighter by all these reproachfull smutchings. 1871 B. Taylor *Faust* III. (1875) II. 182 The black blood's horrible and smutching stains.

Smutched (smʌtʃt), *ppl. a.* [f. Smutch *v.*]

1. Smudged, smutted, stained, sullied.

1784 Cowper *Task* II. 491 The bow Respectful of the smutch'd artificer. 1848 Keightley *Notes to Horace, Sat.* I. ii. 36 The smutched face of the prostitute. 1899 *Macm. Mag.* Nov. 35 A..woman..with a lawless tongue and a smutched reputation.

† 2. Of corn: Affected by smut. *Obs.*

1620 Markham *Farew. Husb.* (1625) 108 Wher it is blacke at both ends, yet full and sound in the middest, and this is called smutcht corne, being disfigured in part, and not in all.

† **Smutchin.** *Obs. rare.* [ad. Ir. *smuiteán, smúiteán* powder, fine ashes, soot, = Sc. Gael. *smuidean* a mote, particle of dust.] Snuff.

1650 Howell *Lett.* III. 12 The Spaniards and Irish take it [tobacco] most in powder or smutchin, and it mightily refreshes the brain. *Ibid.*, Their boxes of smutchin.

Smutchless, *a.* [f. Smutch *sb.*] Unsmirched.

1853 W. Cadenhead *Bon-Accord* 177 (E.D.D.), Gar me stain my smutchless name, Wi' lawless pleasures.

Smutchy (smʌ·tʃi), *a.* Also 6 **smutchie.** [f. Smutch *sb.*] Smudgy, smeary, dirty.

1579 Twyne *Phis. agst. Fortune* I. xlii. 60 The woorkemanshyp of a smutchie and filthie woorkeman. 1628 Shirley *Witty Fair One* IV. iv, You are in hope to filch a point from my breeches, Which..you will wear About your smutchy wrist for a bracelet. 1867 Lowell *Lett.* (1894) I. iv. 423, I have no fear that these smutchy backdoors of hell shall prevail against her. 1883 *Nation* (N.Y.) 20 Dec. 527/1 The illustrations..have that heavy and smutchy effect in the closely shaded parts which is a constant defect in mechanical engraving.

Smutted (smʌ·tĕd), *ppl. a.* [f. Smut *v.*]

1. Begrimed, smirched, dirtied, etc.

1622 Drayton *Poly-olb.* XXV. 34 Whence that infernal Flood, the smutted Acheron Shoves forth her sullen head. 1708 *Phil. Trans.* XXVI. 37 There was left on the Wall a smutted Scar or Trace. 1770 Goldsm. *Des. Vill.* 27 The swain, mistrustless of his smutted face. 1821 *Blackw. Mag.* IX. 318 Till every smutted feature swell with joy. 1850 P. Crook *War of Hats* 47 Those heavers, too, of coals, with smutted face.

2. Of grain: Affected by smut.

1766 *Compl. Farmer* s.v. *Smut*, I..have sown smutted wheat..and have not had one smutted ear from the produce. 1801 *Farmer's Mag.* Apr. 155 Some smutted ears, of rather an unusual appearance. 1812 Sir J. Sinclair *Syst. Husb. Scot.* I. 339 The Corporation of Bakers at Perth, have a wooden tub for cleaning smutted wheat. 1867 H. Macmillan *Bible Teach.* vi. (1870) 118 Myriads of seeds are shed from the smutted ears long before the corn is ripe.

Smutter (smʌ·tər), *sb.* [f. Smut *v.*]

1. One who smuts or stains.

1611 Cotgr., *Barbouilleur*,..a blotter, spotter, smutter, besmearer of.

2. A smutting-machine for cleaning grain. Hence *smutter room.*

1887 *Daily News* 3 May 6/6 A fire happened at the steam flour mills.., which occasioned the subjoined damage: Smutter room and contents burned out and the roof off.

3. A fish that rises at, or feeds on, smuts.

1889 *Sat. Rev.* 18 May 612/2 'Never take under-sized or ill-conditioned fish' (bulgers and smutters probably).

Smutter (smʌ·tər), *v.* [f. Smut *sb.* 4 c.] *intr.* = Smut *v.* 4.

1899 *Daily News* 28 Dec. 6/4 There are three provoking habits of trout—'bulging',..'tailing',..and 'smuttering' when only a minute not imitable fly is being taken.

Smuttily (smʌ·tili), *adv.* [f. Smutty *a.*] In a smutty manner; indecently, obscenely.

1672 Marvell *Reh. Transp.* (1673) II. 10 Theodorus somewhat smuttily asked him, whether he had seen her without her shift. 1698 J. Collier *Immor. Stage* i. (1730) 5 The Poets make Women speak Smuttily. 1710 *Tatler* No. 269 P 5 It is the same poverty which makes men speak or write smuttily, that forces them to talk vexingly.

Smuttiness (smʌ·tinĕs). Also 7 **smootiness.** [f. Smutty *a.*]

1. A smutty condition of grain.

a 1659 Speed *Adam out of Eden* xiv. 106 It..doth.. totally prevent the Smuttiness of Wheat. 1660 Sharrock *Veget.* 102 The change of seed from grounds of a contrary nature..is thought to prevent smootiness. 1733 Tull *Horse-Hoeing Husb.* xii. (Dubl.) 143 Smuttiness is when the Grains of Wheat instead of Flour are full of a black stinking Powder. 1764 *Museum Rust.* II. lxviii. 223 Good wheat is so often spoiled by smuttiness and sprouting.

2. Indecency, obscenity of language.

1687 Miège *Gl. Fr. Dict.* II, Smuttiness, *impureté, impudicité.* 1698 J. Collier *Immor. Stage* i. (1730) 4 Smuttiness is a Fault in Behaviour as well as in Religion. 1721 Amherst *Terræ Fil.* No. 26. 135 They begin with satire and funeral lamentation; but end with love, smuttiness, and a song.

3. Sootiness, griminess.

1881 *Globe* 30 June 2/1 The..kettle cannot..taunt the veriest heathen pot with smuttiness.

Smutting (smʌ·tiŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. Smut *v.*]

1. The action of the verb in various senses, or the result of this.

1621 Hakewill *David's Vow* 165 Slander..being..the smutting of a mans good name. *a* 1661 Fuller *Worthies, Middlesex* (1662) 189 A help hath been found out against the smooting of Wheat,..I say the smooting of Wheat which makes it a Negro, as Mildew makes it a Dwarfe. 1757 tr. *Henckel's Pyritologia* 171 The smutting or blackness thence arising.

2. *attrib.*, in terms relating to the cleaning of grain from smut, as *smutting device, machine, room.*

1856 Morton *Cycl. Agric.* II. 431/2 The screening or smutting machine. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2228/1 The outer shell of the conical smutting-device. 1892 *Daily News* 14 Jan. 3/2 The mills consisted of five blocks used as mills, warehouses, smutting rooms, store rooms, and engine and boiler house.

Smutting, *ppl. a.* [f. Smut *v.*]

1. Making black or gloomy.

1626 B. Jonson *Staple of N.* I. vi, This is better farre, then to weare Cypresse, Dull smutting gloues, or melancholy blacks.

2. Of fish: Rising at, or feeding on, smuts.

1899 *19th Cent.* Jan. 122 There is the 'smutting' fish [trout], greedily taking down the tiniest of insects.

Smutty (smʌ·ti), *a.* Also 6–7 **smootie,** 7–8 **smooty,** 7 **smuttie.** [f. Smut *sb.* or *v.* Cf. G. *schmutzig.*]

1. Of grain: Affected by smut.

1597 Gerarde *Herbal* I. 1. 70 That corne where it is, is called smootie corne. 1637 Remnant *Disc. Bees* Title-p., The Causes and Cure of Blasted Wheat,..together with the Causes of Smutty Wheat. 1657 S. Purchas *Pol. Flying-Ins.* 142 Usually if one stalk hath the ear smutty, all that arise from the same root are infected. 1733 Tull *Horse-Hoeing Husb.* xii. (Dubl.) 143 The Wheat Plants in the Field, from whence these were taken, brought very few smutty Grains. 1769 Reid *Wks.* (1863) I. 49/1, I put some smutty oats in water. 1803 A. Hunter *Georg. Ess.* I. 182 There was a great deal of smutty wheat that year. 1846 J. Baxter *Libr. Pract. Agric.* (ed. 4) II. 401 The following experiment was made..on a smutty sample of wheat.

2. Soiled with, full of, characterized by, smut; dirty; blackened.

c 1645 Howell *Lett.* I. iv. v, I pray [you] leave the smutty Ayr of London, and com hither to breathe sweeter. 1665 Hooke *Microgr.* 3 Like smutty daubings on a matt or uneven floor. *a* 1704 *Compl. Servant-Maid* (ed. 7) 119 Though your employment be greasie and smooty. 1716 Pope *Let. to Earl Burlington*, He was a smutty dog yesterday, and cost me near two hours to wash the ink off his face. 1812 Sir W. Elford in *Friendships Miss Mitford* (1882) I. iii. 85 On turning the corner, I see my paper is very smutty. 1880 'Vernon Lee' *Italy* II. iii. 57 A smutty portrait of her dressed in brown brocade.

3. Of the colour of smut; dusky; dark.

1648 Earl Westmorland *Otia Sacra* (1879) 148 The smooty shadows of some one Or others Trophees carv'd in stone. 1658 Franck *North. Mem.* (1821) 302 Smooty and discoloured clouds. 1778 W. Pryce *Min. Cornub.* 91 A smutty black, or black grey Crystal. 1796 Kirwan *Elem. Min.* (ed. 2) I. 288 It seems of a smutty yellow. 1863 Kingsley *Water-Bab.* (1874) 40 Four or five smutty little cubs. 1890 *Spectator* 30 Aug. 274 His once smutty plumage now showing rich colouring of black and white and brown.

4. Having the appearance or form of smut.

1667 Milton *P. L.* IV. 817 The Smuttie graine With sudden blaze diffus'd, inflames the Aire. 1714 Gay *Trivia* III. 383 The nitrous Store is laid, the smutty Train With running blaze awakes the barrell'd Grain.

5. Indecent, immodest, impure, obscene.

1668 Pepys *Diary* 20 June, I saw this new play my wife saw yesterday, and do not like it, it being very smutty. *a* 1677 Barrow *Serm.* Wks. 1716 I. 146 It is very culpable to be facetious in obscene and smutty matters. 1706 J. H. Browne *Pipe of Tobacco* Poems (1768) 124 The smutty tale Of country justice o'er his ale. 1768–74 Tucker *Lt. Nat.* (1834) II. 124 He..puts the women to the blush with his smutty jokes and rude jeers. 1820 *Blackw. Mag.* VI. 629 Mr. Hunt's smutty story of Rimini. 1851 Th. Parker in Weiss *Life* (1863) I. 390 He is smutty, and vulgar and low. 1894 *Tablet* 16 June 920 It is only when the details are sensational or smutty that room is found for them in the columns of the great dailies.

6. *Comb.*, as *smutty-face, -faced, -nosed.*

1675 Cotton *Burlesque upon B.* I. 60 Ha! ha! old *Smutty-face, well said. 1899 F. W. Bourne *Billy Bray* 99 (E.D.D.), He told the tempter, 'old smutty-face', to do this himself. 1833 Ht. Martineau *Tale of Tyne* v. 96 The *smutty-faced crew. 1901 *Dundee Advertiser* 7 June 4 The pride of Mr. Tory's farms are his..'smutty-faced' Dorset Down sheep. 1884 Coues *N. Amer. Birds* 425 *Perisoreus canadensis fumifrons*, ..*Smutty-nosed Jay. *Ibid.* 783 *Priofinus melanurus*, Smutty-nosed Shearwater.

† **Smy** [1]. *Sc. Obs.* [Of obscure origin.] A knave or rascal.

1501 Douglas *Pal. Hon.* I. lxiv, Than suddanelie Venus.. Answerit thus, 'Thow subtell smy [etc.]'. 1508 Dunbar *Tua Mariit Wemen* 113 Quhen the smy on me smyrkis. *a* 1585 Montgomerie *Flyting* 648 Sen all is suith that's said of this smy.

Smy [2]. ? *Obs.* Also **smie.** [Of obscure origin.] A small fish (see quots.).

1552 Elyot *Dict.* s.v. *Aphya*, In Essex is a fishe called a Smie, whiche if he be longe kept, will turne to water. 1601 Holland *Pliny* I. 265 The Apuæ, which are the groundlings and Smies, [come] of the fome of the sea set in an heat & chafed after some good shower. 1611 Cotgr., *Melette*, a very small, soft, and fat sea-fish, bred of raine, and water, and called the Smie, or sea-Groundlin. 1668 Charleton *Onomast.* 143 *Apua*,..the Spirling, Smy, or Sea-Dace. 1694 Motteux *Rabelais* IV. lx. (1737) 246 Craylings, Smys.

Smyddy, obs. Sc. variant of Smithy *sb.*

Smyris, variant of Smiris.

Smyrna (smə·rna). [A place-name (see def.); L. *Smyrna*, Gr. Σμύρνα.] The chief port of Asia Minor, situated at the head of the gulf of the same name, used *attrib.* in the names of various things produced in the vicinity of or connected with the city, as *Smyrna cotton, earth, kingfisher, opium, runt, wheat* (see quots.).

1735 J. Moore *Columbarium* 44 The Smyrna Runt..is middle siz'd and feather-footed. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl., *Saponacea terra*,..a kind of native alkali salt, of the nature of the nitre,..called by some Smyrna earth. *Ibid.* s.v. *Wheat, Smyrna Wheat*, a peculiar kind of Wheat that has an extremely large ear. 1782 Latham *Gen. Synop. Birds* I. II. 615 Smyrna Kingfisher..inhabits the environs of Smyrna. 1840 *Penny Cycl.* XVII. 203/2 The physical

characters of the best Smyrna opium. 1877 *Encycl. Brit.* VI. 482/2 One of these [Indian cottons] is cultivated to a considerable extent in the Levant, and is known in the market as Smyrna cotton.

b. *ellipt.* Smyrna raisins.

1845 G. Dodd *Brit. Manuf.* V. 102 The 'Black Smyrnas' [produce] a strong-bodied wine, and the 'Red Smyrnas' and 'Valencias' a rich and full wine.

Smyrnæan (smɔɪmī·ăn), *sb.* and *a.* Also 9 **Smyrnean.** [f. L. *Smyrnæ-us* (ad. Gr. Σμυρναῖος, f. Σμύρνα; see prec.) + -AN.]

A. *sb.* An inhabitant or native of (ancient) Smyrna. (Cf. Smyrniote *sb.*)

1598 Grenewey *Tacitus, Ann.* III. xiii. (1622) 83 The Smyrnæans alleaged an oracle of Apollo. 1603 Holland *Plutarch's Mor.* 103 After which sort did the Lacedæmonians..when they had sent corne unto the Smyrnæans. 1807 Robinson *Archæol. Græca* III. xix. 308 The Athenians, Smyrnæans, Macedonians. 1840 tr. *Müller's Hist. Lit. Greece* v. § 1 Pindar's statements, who in one place called Homer a Smyrnæan by origin. 1904 W. M. Ramsay *Lett. Seven Ch.* xix. 255 The Smyrnaeans were specially proud of the beauty of their city.

B. *adj.* Of or pertaining to Smyrna.

1807 R. Semple *Observ. Journ. Spain*, etc. II. 204 An old bridge..completes the scenery of this Smyrnean paradise. 1840 tr. *Müller's Hist. Lit. Greece* v. § 2 The Smyrnæan river Meles. 1904 W. M. Ramsay *Lett. Seven Ch.* xx. 278 The Smyrnaean letter is not without similar reference.

Smy·rnian, *sb.* and *a. rare.* Also 6 **Smir-.** [f. Smyrn-a + -ian.] = Smyrnæan *sb.* and *a.*

? 1580 Lodge *Sch. Abuse* A 6, Why seke ye Smirnians to recouer from ye Salaminians the prais of Homer? 1641 Milton *Prel. Episc.* Wks. 1851 III. 85 The most famous of all the Smyrnian Presbyters. 1718 Prideaux *Connexion O. & N. Test.* II. II. (1799) III. 72 The Smyrnians did the same for Stratonice.

Smyrniote (smɔ̄·rniŏt), *sb.* and *a.* Also 7 **Smyrneot.** [f. Smyrna + -(i)ote.]

A. *sb.* An inhabitant or native of Smyrna, esp. in modern times. (Cf. Smyrnæan *sb.*)

1670 Covel in *Early Voy. Levant* (Hakl. Soc.) 133 The inhabitants of Smyrna..are called Smyrniotes. *a* 1700 Ken *Hymnotheo* Poet. Wks. 1721 III. 292 That Smyrneots may thy glorious Godhead own. 1849 *New Monthly Mag.* Oct. 162 The best lawyers,..if not Germans, are Ionians or Smyrniotes. 1897 *Edin. Rev.* Jan. 111 A Smyrniote of low extraction.

B. *adj.* Smyrnæan.

1869 Tozer *Highl. Turkey* II. 114 The multitude of Smyrniote and Alexandrian merchants. 1881 *Athenæum* 2 July 12/3 The English, French, Italians..form the rest of the Smyrniote community.

† **Smyth(e,** ME. variants of Smite *v.*

c 1440 *Gesta. Conq. Irel.* 38 Oconnoghur..let smyth of [the] sonnes heed. 1463 *Bury Wills* (Camden) 28 That at twelve of the clokke..he do the chymes smythe. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 346/2 To smythe fyre, *fugillare*. *Ibid.*, A Smythynge,..*icio, percussio.*

Smy·trie. *Sc. rare.* [Cf. Fris. *smite*, used in the same sense.] 'A numerous collection of small individuals.'

1786 Burns *Twa Dogs* 76 A smytrie o' wee, duddie weans.

Snaast, dial. form of Snast.

Snab. *Sc.* [perh. related to Nab *sb.*1; but cf. MFlem. (1460) *snabbe*, app. point of land, later Flem. *snabbe*, *snab* beak, OFris. *snabba* mouth (Fris. *snabbe* mouth of a purse-net).] A steep place or ascent; a rugged rise or point.

1797 *Statist. Acc. Scot.* XIX. 554 There is a tradition.. That at the Snabs of Drimmie, it [*sc.* the Tay] sent off a portion of its waters. 1811 A. Scott *Poems* 122 (Jam), Then knees an' elbows like a crab, Spraul up yoursel yon dizzy snab. 1883 J. Martine *Reminisc. Haddington* 402 His steady sure-footed cob always took him safe home in a dark night, although he had steep snabs to climb and go down.

Snab, Sc. variant of Snob, a shoemaker.

† **Sna·bble,** *v. slang. Obs.* (See quot.)

1725 *New Cant. Dict.*, *Snabble*, to rifle, to strip, or plunder. Also to knock down; to cause to reel or stagger by a Blow on the Head. *Snabbled*, is also used sometimes for being apprehended, seized, or taken.

† **Snack,** *sb.*1 *Obs.* Also 1–2 snacc, 3 snak. [Late OE. *snacc*, obscurely related to OHG. *snacga, snaga* (G. dial. *snacke, schnake*), ON. *snekkja*, etc. Cf. also OF. *esneque, esneke*, med.L. (*e*)*snecca.*] A species of ship.

1052 *O. E. Chron.* (MS. C), Þa let Eadward cyng scypian .xl. snacca. *c* 1100 *Ibid.* an. 1066 (MS. D), He for to Scotlande mid .xii. snaccum. 1299 *Stat. & Ordin. Irel.* (Rolls) 216 Quod soluerunt per preceptum Regis pro fretto cuiusdam nauis que vocata fuit le Snack. 1300 *Liber Quotid. Garderobæ* (1787) 275 Johanni Kittey, magistro del snak de la Rye. *Ibid.*, Johanni Manekyn, magistro del snak Sancti Thome.

Snack (snæk), *sb.*2 Also 5 **snake,** 6 **snacke,** *Sc.* **snak.** [f. Snack *v.* Cf. MDu. *snac*(*k*, WFlem. *snak*, in sense 1.]

1. A snap, a bite, esp. that of a dog. Now *dial.*

In quot. 1402 *fig.*, with approximation to sense 3.

1402 Hoccleve *Letter of Cupid* 109 She, behinde thy bake, So lyberal ys, she wol no wyght with-sey, But smertly of another take a snake. 1513 Douglas *Æneid* XII. xii. 150 The swipir Tuscan hund..With hys wyd chaftis at hym makis a snak. 1570 Levins *Manip.* 5/14 Ye snacke of a dog, *morsus*. 1831 Miss Ferrier *Destiny* xx, The honest man who found a snail in his [broth]. 'Tak ye that snack, my man,' says he, 'for looking sae like a plum-damy'. 1896 Lilburn *Borderer* vi. 39 The bitch overtook the hare and gave a snack at its hinder parts.

b. A sharp or snappish remark or jibe.

1555 tr. *Latimer's Protest.* in Strype *Eccl. Mem.* (1721) III. App. xxxiv. 92, I coulde..not be suffered to declare my faithe befor you..without snakkes, reiagges,..rebukes, and tauntes. 1896 Chanter *Witch of Withyford* x. 121 She fancied 'twas a snack at the Squire, as he hadn't been near her since the storm.

† **2.** A short time; a snatch. *Obs.*—1

1513 Douglas *Æneid* VIII. vii. 86 As he had slummerit bot a snak.

3. A share, portion, part.

1683 Kennett tr. *Erasm. on Folly* 112 Because the first, if they are humoured, giue them some snacks out of unjust gain. 1699 E. S—cy *Country Gentl. Vade M.* 98 If any body has any right to a Snack, 'tis this Gentleman, who saw me take it up. 1706 E. Ward *Wooden World Diss.* (1708) 79 It will go plaguy hard, if he miss a Snack of it. 1777 Eliz. Ryves *Poems* 159 I'll never lose scent of thee, until I have at least had snacks in the reward for apprehending thee. 1855 Carlyle *Misc.* (1857) IV. 339 None of them without some snack of principality taken from the main lot.

b. In phr. *to come* (or *put*) *in for a snack*, etc.

1693 Chauncy *Rej. Williams* 10 But there is another Righteousness..that puts in for a snack, viz. that of the new Law. 1700 Earl Bellomont *Let. to Sir J. Stanley* 5 Mar. (Welbeck MSS.), I am told that..I have a right to a third part of them, but if the rest of the Lords come in for snacks, I shall be satisfyed. 1760–72 H. Brooke *Fool of Qual.* (1809) I. 141 The landlord would take all if we did not come in for snacks.

c. *To go snacks* († or *snack*), to have a share (*in* something), to divide profits.

1693 Dryden, etc. *Juvenal* VII. (1726) 98 If one piece thou take, That must be cantled, and the Judge go snack. 1701 Farquhar *Sir H. Wildair* IV. ii, Well, monsieur! 'tis about a thousand pounds; we go snacks. 1748 Smollett *R. Random* (1812) I. 106 A present to the Secretary with whom some of the commissioners went snacks. 1788 Cowper *Pity for poor Africans* 16 While they get riches.., Pray tell me why we may not also go snacks? 1829 Creevey in *Creevey P.* (1904) II. viii. 201 To go snacks himself in the acquisition of power and profit. 1862 *Temple Bar* VI. 10 The Princesses..were mean enough to go snacks in the profits.

4. a. A mere taste, a small quantity, of liquor. In quot. 1685 perh. simply in sense 3.

1685 J. Dunton *Lett. fr. New-Eng.* (1867) 11 As he was sure to supply us with Drink even without asking, so he would always thrust himself in for a snack, in helping to drink it. 1721 Ramsay *Lucky Spence* xvi, My malison..On them that drink and dinna pay, But tak a snack and run away. 1848 Kingsley *Saint's Trag.* III. ii, And take his snack of brandy for digestion,

b. A mere bite or morsel of food, as contrasted with a regular meal; a light or incidental repast.

1757 *Monitor* No. 90, When once a man has got a snack of their trenchers, he too often retains a hankering after the honey-pot. 1763 Foote *Mayor of G.* I. Wks. 1799 I. 174 We have but just time for a snack. 1811 *Ora & Juliet* III. 134, I didn't eat nothing but a bit of a snack at noon, and I am hungry. 1844 Alb. Smith *Adv. Mr. Ledbury* xli. (1886) 126 Our friends took a slight snack of cold bread and meat. 1874 Lisle Carr *J. Gwynne* I. ii. 46 Just to take a snack of dinner, before going over the outlying parts.

fig. 1817 Keats *Let.* Wks. 1889 III. 75 Having taken a snack or luncheon of literary scraps. 1892 Zangwill *Childr. Ghetto* I. 76 He craved more for spiritual snacks between meals than for physical.

c. *attrib.*, as **snack-house,** a restaurant.

1820 T. Cromwell *Excurs. Irel.* vii. 2 Partaking of the snack at one or other of the Snack-houses which abound in these villages. 1895 *Amer. Dial. Notes* I. 374 There's a right chance o' snack houses down to Bakervul.

† **Snack,** *sb.*3 *Obs.*—0 (See quot.)

1787 Grose *Prov. Gloss.*, *Snack*, or *Spunk*, a dried fungus, used as tinder.

Snack, dial. variant of Sneck, latch.

Snack, *a.* and *adv. Sc.* [? Related to Snack *v.* Cf. also Norw. dial. *snak* greedy.]

A. *adj.* **1.** Quick, alert, clever, smart.

1710 in Ruddiman *Gloss. Douglas' Æneis* s.v. *Snak.* 1719 Ramsay *First Answ. Hamilton* x, Europe had nane mair snack and snell At verse or prose. 1789 Ross *Helenore* (ed. 3) 16 By this time Lindy is right well shot out,..And snack and plump. 1791 J. Learmont *Poems* 280 Weel I ken ye're snack. 1808 Jamieson s.v., *Be snack*, be quick, do not lose time.

2. Snappish, peevish; greedy.

1883 *Good Words* 651 It is..the being grasping, or what Scotch people would call 'snack', over every trifle. 1894 *Longm. Mag.* May 9 You needn't be so snack: I can't stop to pick my words when I'm worried.

B. *adv.* Quickly, sharply, smartly.

1739 A. Nicol *Nature without Art* 60 She answered me chastly and snack Why do you impose on me so? 1801 Beattie *Poems* 22 (E.D.D.), Trump-about gade on as snack As we'd been lairds. 1828 in Buchan *Ball. N. Scott.* II. 260 The lassie..ran to the door fu' snack.

Snack (snæk), *v.* Also 4, 6 **snak,** 6 **snacke.** [Of doubtful origin: cf. MDu. or Flem. *snacken* to snap (of a dog), Norw. dial. *snaka* to snatch (of animals). The LG. and Du. *snakken* (G. dial. *schnakken*) to gasp, desire, etc., to talk or chatter, which agree in form, do not correspond in sense. The later senses are partly from Snack *sb.*2]

1. *intr.* To bite or snap (esp. *at* a thing). Also *fig.* Only *north.* and *Sc.*

13.. *Peter & Paul* 310 in Horstm. *Altengl. Leg.* (1881) 79 Sone come þare forthe dogges blak, & on Peter gon þai snak. ? 1520 *Dial. Creatures Moralysed* xlvi, Euery of them began to snak at othir & wolde haue torn eche other on smale pecys. 1570 Levins *Manip.* 5 To Snacke, byte, *morsitare*. 1635 D. Dickson *Pract. Writ.* (1845) I. 24 God will not ..Captiously snack at his words. 1895 Crockett *Bog-Myrtle* v. ii. 366 He'll no as muckle as snack at a flee that lichts on his nose. 1902 in *Eng. Dial. Dict.* s.v., The pony had never shown any vice..beyond snacking at the collar when put on.

b. *trans.* To snap *up*, seize upon, etc. *Sc.*

1871 Waddell *Ps.* lxxviii. 63 His ain youngsters, the lowe snacket up. 1891 Barrie *Little Minister* xvii, In the tail o' the day ane o' them snacked him up.

2. *trans.* To share, divide. ? *Obs.*

1707 E. Ward *Hud. Rediv.* II. x. 26 Unless they are allow'd to snack The Booty which they jointly take. 1733 *Revolution Politicks* VII. 73 'Tis to be feared, the Guards and the Highwaymen snack'd the Booty. 1745 *Life B. M. Carew* 105 At this Alehouse they tarried some Time, and snack'd the Argot, *i. e.* shared the Money.

absol. 1675 Wycherley *Country Wife* III. ii, Who is that that is to be bubbled? Faith! let me snack. *a* 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew, Crossbite*, to draw in a Friend, yet snack with the Sharper. 1768 [W. Donaldson] *Life Sir B. Sapskull* I. iv. 41 If our ministers were as poor and beggarly as the Dutch, they might have snack'd with these illegal executors. 1853 Cooper *Sussex Gloss.* 76 *Snack*, to share or be in partnership with.

3. *intr.* To lunch, to take a snack.

1807 Sir R. C. Hoare *Tour Irel.* 35 At Birr is a good inn, ..where I snacked. [*Note.*] *Snack* is in Ireland synonimous with *lunch* in England. 1894 A. Morrison *Mean Streets* 90 The snacking women resumed their talk.

† **Sna·cket.** *Obs.*—0 [Cf. *snack*, dial. var. Sneck *sb.*] A casement hasp.

1611 Cotgr., *Targette*, a kind of snacket, or haspe, wherewith casemates, &c., are closed. [Hence in Sherwood and some later Dicts.]

† **Sna·ckle,** *a. Obs.*—1 [prob. a var. of *snaggle* in Snaggle-toothed *a.*] ? Snaggy.

? 1567 Studley tr. *Seneca, Hipp.* v. (1581) 74 b, [Let] eke the snackle wheele That whirleth stil enforce my limmes thy swinging swift to feele.

Sna·ckle, *v.* [Of obscure origin.] *trans.* To secure, make fast.

1887 Doyle *Study in Scarlet* II. vi, This young man here had the bracelets on my wrists, and as neatly snackled as ever I saw in my life.

Sna·ckly, *adv. Sc.* [f. Snack *a.*] Smartly.

1728 Ramsay *Robt., Richy, & Sandy* 61 How snackly cou'd he gi'e a fool reproof.

Sna·cky, *a. Sc.* [Cf. Snack *a.*] Clever, acute, sharp.

1806 Jamieson *Pop. Ballads* I. 297 Tam Tod was..Slee, snackie, and wilie, and quirkie. 1866 J. Smith *Merry Bridal* 3 Snacky Rab, an' pawky Hab.

† **Snacot-fish.** *Obs.*—0 The garfish.

1611 Cotgr., *Ayrfie*, a Hornefish, Hornebeake, Snacotfish, Ganefish. *Ibid.*, *Esguille*,..a small fish called a Hornebeake, Snacot-fish,..Piper-fish. [Hence in Beck (1657), Ainsworth (1736), Johnson, etc.]

Snad(e, obs. forms of Sned *v.*

Snade. *Cornish dial.* [? Related to Sned *v.* Cf. Snode *sb.*] A piece cut from the tail of a mackerel for use as bait.

1901 Aflalo *Sea & Coast Fishing* 134 Matt pushes the 'snade' well down on the bend of the hook, from which it presently dangles [etc.].

Snade, northern form of Snode *Obs.*, morsel.

Snaffe, error for *snaste* Snast.

Snaffle (snæ·f'l), *sb.*1 Also 6–7 **snafle, snaffel** (6 **-ell, -ul**). [Of doubtful origin: connexion with (M)Du. and (M)LG. *snavel* (late OFris. *snavel, snaul*, WFris. *snaffel* mouth), OHG. *snapal* (MHG. *snabel*, G. *schnabel*), beak, bill, mouth, is not clear; but cf. the use of G. *schnabel* for a forked instrument used in training hunting-dogs to keep the head up.]

1. A simple form of bridle-bit, having less restraining power than one provided with a curb.

1533 Frith *Another Bk. agst. Rastell* A vj b, I verye well lyken yow to him that hath a wilde horse to tame,..when he perceueth that he can not holde him with a scottyshe snafle. 1577 B. Googe *Heresbach's Husb.* I. (1586) 15 b, Geue a Horse the whip, an Asse the snaffell, and a Foole the rodde. *c* 1618 Moryson *Itin.* IV. i. (1903) 48 Their bridles are like our snafles but commonly sett with Copper studds guilded. 1686 Plot *Staffordsh.* 377 They make also great variety of bridles, both Snaffles and Bitts: such as the wheel and joynted Snaffle, the neck-Snaffle [etc.]. 1774 Goldsm. *Nat. Hist.* (1862) I. 252 They are rid generally in a snaffle, without spurs. 1833 *Reg. & Instr. Cavalry* I. 75 Great care must be taken not to press the horse too suddenly up to the snaffle. 1882 B. D. W. Ramsay *Rough Recoll.* I. v. 95 Finding [the horse]..would bear no pressure on his mouth, I at last tried him with a plain light snaffle.

b. *fig.* or in fig. contexts.

1542 Brinklow *Compl.* xii. (1874) 28 This were a good snaffull for the tyrannes and oppressers. 1579 North *Plutarch* (1896) V. 168 Rome also not being used to be brideled with the snaffle of such insolencie. 1639 Fuller *Holy War* III. xxvii. (1840) 167 Being a place of such importance, it would always be a snaffle in the mouth of the Egyptian king. 1679 Alsop *Melius Inq.* II. v. 264 The Ἄνομος or Lawless person, who has a curb for every mans Conscience, but will not endure a snaffle upon his own. 1813 Moore *Post-bag* i. 49 His Lordship proposes 'The new Veto-snaffle to bind down their noses'. 1833 T. Hook *Parson's Dau.* II. vii, Give your own passions the curb, and allow mine the snaffle.

c. *To ride* (one) *in, on,* or *with the snaffle,* to rule easily, to guide with a light hand.

1577 Holinshed *Chron., Hist. Scotl.* I. 249, I perceyue this man will neuer obey my commaundements, till he be rydden with a snaffle. 1593 Nashe *Christ's T.* To Rdr., Ile..ride him with a snaffle vp & down the whole realme.

a 1668 Lassels *Voy. Italy* (1670) II. 281 Such a wanton Courser as Naples is not to be ridden with snaffles. 1844 Ld. Ashburton in *Croker P.* (1884) III. xxiii. 18 As old Hunt said of Manners Sutton as Speaker, he rode them in a snaffle. 1904 Benson *Challoners* i, The world has begun ..to ride life on the snaffle instead of the curb.

2. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *snaffle-bit, -bridle, -rein*; *snaffle-bridled, -mouthed* adjs.

1576 Gascoigne *Steele Gl., Philomene* (Arb.) 90 A snaffle Bit or brake, Bebost with gold. 1668 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 272/4 He took away with her a deep skirted Saddle..and a snaffle Bridle. 1814 Earl Dudley *Lett.* 7 May (1840) 35 There is no riding the French in a snaffle-bridle. 1856 'Stonehenge' *Brit. Rural Sports* 395/1, I have never yet ridden a snaffle-bridled horse comfortably through a run. 1856 Lever *Martins of Cro' M.* xv, An old worsted bell-rope formed the snaffle-rein of his bridle. 1862 H. H. Dixon *Scott & Sebright* IV. 308 Early in the ensuing year, Becher was again on the snaffle-mouthed Grimaldi. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2228/2 Price's bridle-bit..combines the snaffle-bit with a lever-bar.

† **Sna·ffle,** *sb.*[2] *Cant. Obs.* [perh. the same word as prec., but cf. Snaffle *v.*[4]] (See quot.)

a 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew, Snaffle*, a Highwayman that has got Booty.

Snaffle (snæ·f'l), *v.*[1] [f. Snaffle *sb.*[1]]

1. *trans.* To put a snaffle on (a horse, etc.); to restrain or guide with a snaffle. Freq. *fig.*

1559 *Mirr. Mag.* (1563) L iv, For hytherto slye wryters wyly wittes..Have been lyke horses snaffled with the byttes Of fansye, feares or doubtes. 1562 J. Heywood *Prov. & Epigr.* (1867) 139 If thou wylt brydell me, I wyll snafell the. 1581 J. Bell *Haddon's Answ. Osor.* 295 Their arrogaunt insolency, beyng a long tyme reasonably well snafled by the Greeke and Frenche Emperours. 1603 Dekker & Chettle *Grissil* 2622 Asse, Ile haue you snaffled. 1679 Bunyan *Fear of God* Wks. 1835 I. 478 The guilt and terror that thy sins will snaffle thee with. *a* 1849 Mangan *Poems* (1859) 279 The animal snaffled by Boileau. 1875 Tennyson *Q. Mary* v. iii, If you marry Philip, Then I and he will snaffle your 'God's death', And break your paces in.

2. *slang.* To arrest; to seize.

1860 *Slang Dict.* 220 *Snaffled*, arrested, 'pulled up'. 1902 *Essex Weekly News* 24 Jan. 2/6 On one occasion we snaffled a Cape cart in which were two females dressed in male attire.

Hence **Sna·ffled** *ppl. a.*, bridled.

1877 Blackie *Wise Men* 335 Their powers .. discharge Their snaffled wrath at Jove's high beck.

Sna·ffle, *v.*[2] ? *Obs.* [Of obscure origin.] *intr.* To saunter.

1611 Middleton & Dekker *Roaring Girl* D.'s Wks. 1873 III. 208, I haue gon snaffling vp and downe by your dore this houre to watch for you. *a* 1743 Relph *Poems* (1747) 5 Mun I still be..shamefully left snaffled by my sell?

Snaffle (snæ·f'l), *v.*[3] Now *dial.* [Imitative: cf. WFris. *snaffelje* and Snuffle *v.*] **a.** *trans.* To utter through the nose. **b.** *intr.* To speak through the nose; to make a snuffling noise.

1616 Holyday *Persius* I. B 4 If forsooth one clad in purple cloth's Snaffle some mustie stuff through's muffling nose. 1647 Corbet *Poems* (1807) 95 To Saint Denis fast we came To see the sights of Nostre Dame, The man that shews them snaffles. 1826 in Hone *Every-day Bk.* II. 549 A hare-lip.. caused him to speak through the nose, or to *snaffle*, as they term it in Yorkshire. 1869 Blackmore *Lorna D.* (1889) 286 Snorting, snaffling, whinnying and neighing.

Hence **Sna·ffling** *vbl. sb.*

a 1668 Lassels *Voy. Italy* (1698) II. 259 The snafling through the nose made all the edification that I saw in it.

Snaffle (snæ·f'l), *v.*[4] *dial.* or *slang.* [Of obscure origin; cf. Snaffle *sb.*[2]] *trans.* To steal, purloin.

1725 *New Cant. Dict.*, *Snaffle*, to steal, to rob, to purloin. *c* 1850 Bagnall *Songs* 24 (E.D.D.), He cud snaffle the raisins an' currins away. 1897 *Longm. Mag.* Aug. 372 Archy did not 'snaffle' £6000 and invest it in business.

† **Sna·ffler**[1]. *Cant. Obs.*—[o] (See quot.)

c 1700 *Street Robberies Consider'd, Snafflers*, highwaymen.

Sna·ffler[2]. *dial.* [f. Snaffle *v.*[3]] One who talks through the nose.

1885 *North Star* 1 July 3/2 Like the snarling snafflers such people generally are.

Sna·ffles. ? *Obs.* [Cf. Snaffle *v.*[3]] A form of catarrh affecting respiration; the snuffles.

1822–7 Good *Study Med.* (1829) II. 590 Whence in common language it is called emphatically *the distemper*, though vulgarly the *snaffles*,..from the state of the nostrils.

Sna·ffling, *ppl. a.* [f. Snaffle *v.*[3]] Snuffling; speaking through the nose.

a 1585 Montgomerie *Flyting* 569 Contagious cankers carues his snafling snout. 1620 Shelton *Quix.* III. vi. I. 164 He stopt his nose very well between his Fingers, and then said with a Snaffling voice. 1651 Lilly *Chas. I* (1774) 211 An obstinate King, wholly led by the nose by these snaffling Priests. *a* 1668 Lassels *Voy. Italy* (1698) II. 135 The snaffling fellow..will tell you another story of this statue through the nose. 1793 Southey *Juv. & Minor P., Chapel Bell*, The snuffling, snaffling Fellow's nasal tone. 1895 in 'Geo. Paston' *Side-lights Georgian Period* (1902) 251 Such a little snaffling man, if I may use the expression, I hardly ever heard.

† **Sna·ffling-lay.** *Cant. Obs.* [Cf. Snaffle *sb.*[2] and Snaffle *v.*[4]] The trade of highwayman.

1752 Fielding *Amelia* I. iii, I thought by your look you had been a clever fellow, and upon the snaffling-lay at least.

Snag (snæg), *sb.*[1] Also 6–7 **snagge**, 8–9 **snagg.** [prob. of Scand. origin: cf. Norw. dial. *snag* sharp point, projection, stump, spike, etc., also *snage* in the same senses = Icel. *snagi* peg. The stem is also found in OIcel. *snag-hyrndr*, said of an axe having a sharp point. For the retention of *g* in the English word cf. Flag *sb.*[2]]

1. A short stump standing out from the trunk, or from a stout branch, of a tree or shrub, esp. one which has been left after cutting or pruning; † also, a fruiting spur.

1577–87 Holinshed *Chron.* (1808) IV. 644 Artificiallie made gates raised of ragged staues, and vpon euerie snag stood a small wax candle burning. 1596 Spenser *F. Q.* IV. vii. 7 In his hand a tall young oake he bore, Whose knottie snags were sharpned all afore. 1623 Camden *Rem.* (1637) 420 An Ewtree with the Berries, and a great N. hanging upon a snag in the midst of the tree. 1674 Josselyn *Voy. New Eng.* 138 They make their..fire near to a great Tree, upon the snags whereof they hang their kettles. 1731 Miller *Gard. Dict.* s.v. *Ribes*, These Plants produce their Fruit.. also upon small Snags which come out of the old Wood. 1791 W. Bartram *Carolina* 89 Old weather-beaten trees, hoary and barbed, with the long moss hanging from their snags. 1811– in many dialect glossaries. 1859 Delamer *Flower Gard.* 167 Above all, do not leave a long snag to die down to the bud. 1898 Card *Bush Fruits* 363 The top being cut down in spring and the snag removed afterward.

fig. 1824 *Blackw. Mag.* XV. 177, I shall make each of these important topics a head, or rather a snag, in my Pastoral Calendar. 1857 *Fraser's Mag.* LVI. 357 A man who has many crotchets..must be a conglomeration of snags and snarls.

b. A trunk or large branch of a tree imbedded in the bottom of a river, lake, etc., with one end directed upwards (and consequently forming an impediment or danger to navigation). Orig. *U.S.*

1807 P. Gass *Jrnl.* 31 About 12 one of the periogues run against a snag which broke a hole in it. 1817–8 Cobbett *Resid. U.S.* (1822) 294 The wheels are made to work in the stern of the boat, so as not to come in contact with the floating trees, snaggs, planters, &c. 1877 H. Dixon *Diana* III. iii, A snag, jammed in the stony bed, throws up a jet of water.

c. *fig.* An impediment or obstacle.

1830 Galt *Lawrie T.* IV. ix, I guess he's a snag in the Devil's way. 1886 *Pall Mall G.* 4 Aug. 3/1 Our extradition treaty with the United States has run up against its first snag, to use an expression familiar on the Mississippi. 1891 C. Roberts *Adrift Amer.* 8, I was continually running against some snag in the shape of an unwritten law.

2. A sharp, angular, or jagged projection.

1586 Bright *Treat. Melancholy* XXVI. 149 The rowels of the neckbone with their snagges hinder that inclination. 1611 Cotgr., *Barbelé*...full of snags, snips, iags. 1692 Ray *Disc.* II. ii. (1732) 102 Hailstones..like great pieces of Ice with several Snags or fangs issuing out of them. 1757 Wilkie *Epigoniad* II. (1769) 28 A ponderous mace ..with snags around Of pointed steel. 1799 E. King *Mun. Antiqua* I. 105 They [stone arrow-heads]..have snaggs, or as they are called beards on each side. 1817 Kirby & Spence *Entomol.* XXI. (1818) II. 220 The legs, as well as the head, having their little snags and knobs. 1863 Baring-Gould *Iceland* 103 Blowing snags and splinters [of lava] into cairnlike heaps all around.

b. A broken piece or stump of a tooth; a large or unshapely tooth.

1612 Woodall *Surg. Mate* Wks. (1653) 11 Crowes bils.. are only used to take hold of any snag of a tooth. 1676 *Poor Robin's Intell.* 4 Apr. 1/2 As old folks when they have but a snag or two left pass for Children. 1717 Prior *Alma* II. 428 In China none hold Women sweet, Except their Snags are black as Jett. 1792 Wolcot (P. Pindar) *Wolves, Bear*, etc. Wks. 1812 III. 74 It is the wish of many a beast, That you consent your teeth may all be pull'd; Damn me, if I would lose my snags, my Lords. 1825– in many dial. glossaries (esp. of south-western counties). 1829 Landor *Imag. Conv.* Wks. 1853 I. 375/2 Their old snags will stick tight in them till they rattle in the coffin.

c. A tine or branch of a deer's horn, *spec.* one which is short or imperfectly developed.

1673 Ray *Journ. Low C.* 27 The Horns have no Brow-Antlers, but only a broad palm with several Snags upon it. 1842 Brande *Dict. Arts* s.v. *Deer*, The points between the notches are developed into long branches or *snags*, of which a single antler sometimes sends off as many as four-teen. 1872 Nicholson *Palæont.* 437 This extraordinary ..species..having horns which have a snag in front.

3. *dial.* A rent or tear, such as is made by a sharp projection.

1854 Miss Baker *Northampt. Gloss.*, *Snag*, a rent at right angles.

4. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *snag-toothed* adj., *-voyage*; **snag-boat, -pruning, -scow** (see quots.).

a 1661 Holyday *Juvenal* (1673) 138 What smith then toils so hard? Or who, that wool with snag-tooth'd wire does card? 1823 E. Moor *Suffolk Words* s.v. *Snags*, That mode of pruning which leaves the snags is called snag-pruning, in distinction from close pruning. 1851 Eliza Cook *Jrnl.* VI. 100 A snag voyage up the yellow Missouri for some 400 miles, is no joke. 1858 Simmonds *Dict. Trade, Snag-boat*, a steam-boat fitted with an apparatus for remov-ing snags, or obstructions to navigation in rivers. 1895 Zangwill *Master* II. vii, The grotesque snag-toothed hags in the crowd. 1907 C. D. Stewart *Partners of Providence* xiii. 176 The white snag-scow..did keep the snags pulled out of the mouth of the Missouri anyway.

Snag, *sb.*[2] Now *dial.* and *rare.* [Of obscure origin: cf. Skeg *sb.*[2], Scad [2].] A sloe.

1578 Lyte *Dodoens* 719 The wilde Plummes are the least of al, and are called Slose, Bullies, and Snagges. 1611 Cotgr., *Prunelle*, a Sloe, or Snag. 1825 Jennings *Obs. Dial. W. Eng.* 70 *Snags*, small sloes. 1901 *Longm. Mag.* Feb. 363 'Twere made o' nought but the snags what grows in the hedges.

attrib. 1598 Florio, *Spino*, a sloe tree, a black-thorne, a snag tree. 1617 Holyoke *Dict. Etymol., Spinus*,..a blacke thorne, the snagge tree. 1893 *Wiltshire Gloss.* 149 Snag-bush, *Prunus spinosa*, the Sloe.

Snag, *sb.*[3] *dial.* and *rare.* [Later form or var. of Sneg *sb.* See also Snag-greet.] A snail.

1674 Ray *S. & E. Co. Words* 77 A *Snagge*, a snail. *Suss.* [Hence in Kersey, Bailey, Grose, etc.] *a* 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew, Snaggs*,..Snails. 1862 Lower in *Athenæum* 30 Aug. 281 When my occasional gardener talks of the ravages of 'them snags' on a peach-tree.

Snag (snæg), *v.*[1] Now *dial.* [perh. related to Snag *sb.*[1], but the sense has more connexion with Nag *v.*] *intr.* To carp, cavil, sneer, nag. Also const. *at.* Hence **Sna·gging** *vbl. sb.*[1]

1554 J. Bradford in Coverdale *Lett.* (1564) 326 You are one of hys liuely stones: be contente therefore to be hewen and snagged at. 1642 D. Rogers *Naaman* 14 How much more then should ye beware of snagging and snarling at Gods secrets. *Ibid.* 291 Let us..be so farre from snagging or nipping of such, that rather we marke them for peculiar ones. 1806 A. Douglas *Poems* 121 Sic snaggin' an' braggin' An' randy-beggar jaw. 1839 Sir G. C. Lewis *Gloss. Heref., To snag*, to teaze, to repeat the same thing several times. 1866 Brogden *Prov. Lincs., Snag*, to irritate or scold in an 'aggravating' manner.

Snag (snæg), *v.*[2] [f. Snag *sb.*[1]]

1. *trans.* **a.** In passive: To be caught, pierced, or damaged by a snag. Chiefly *U.S.*, and esp. of river-steamers.

(*a*) 1807 P. Gass *Jrnl.* 229 One of our best horses got snagged to day, and was left here.

(*b*) 1839 De Quincey *Milton v. Southey* Wks. 1862 XI. 196 One does not altogether like being snagged by the Mississippi. 1850 Lyell *2nd Visit U.S.* II. 267, I after-wards learnt, that in the course of her voyage she was snagged. 1864 *Daily Telegr.* 6 Apr., It is no light matter to be 'snagged' on a dark night in Virginia.

(*c*) 1891 C. Roberts *Adrift Amer.* 211 Feeling no pull I started to haul my line in, but found I was snagged.

b. *fig.* To occupy or block as with a snag.

1863 W. Phillips *Sp.* iii. 38 A great mind, anchored in error, might snag the slow-moving current of society.

2. To cut roughly, or so as to leave snags.

1812 Willan in *Archæologia* XVII. 158 *Snag*, to hew, or cut rudely with an axe, &c. 1812 Henry *Camp. agst. Quebec* 24 Blazing the trees and snagging the bushes with our tomahawks. 1840 *Penny Cycl.* XVIII. 216/2 Whether the branches..should be cut close to the stem at once,..or whether they should first be *snagged*.

b. To tear on or by a sharp projection.

1854 Miss Baker *Northampt. Gloss.* II. 258, I have snagged my gown. 1897 *19th Cent.* Feb. 242 My knicker-bockers and stockings were snagged to pieces by these hidden stumbling blocks.

3. To clear (a river, etc.) from snags.

1884 *Law Rep.* 9 App. Cases 429, I got much useful in-formation from him when snagging the river. 1889 *New York Times* 21 July (Cent.), Both of these parties..are engaged in snagging the waterways.

Hence **Sna·gging** *vbl. sb.*[2]

1880 'Mark Twain' *Tramp Abroad* I. 83 He..had gone to bed, with his head filled with impending snaggings, and explosions, and conflagrations.

Snagged (snæ·gd), *ppl. a.* [f. Snag *sb.*[1] or *v.*[2]]

1. Having projecting points or jagged protuber-ances; jagged, ragged.

1658 Rowland tr. *Mouffet's Theat. Ins.* 964 The edge of the wings like the Bats snagged, and as it were prickly. 1662 H. More *Antid. Ath.* II. iii. 49 Howlings and shout-ings of poor naked men belabouring one another with snag'd sticks. 1741 *Phil. Trans.* XLI. 563 The Roch, or snagged Wheel, being herein accounted as Part of the great Wheel. 1791 W. Bartram *California* 247 Having provided our-selves with a long snagged sapling, called an Indian ladder. 1898 *Westm. Gaz.* 9 Apr. 1/3 By this time his trouser knees were torn in snagged rents.

† **b.** Of teeth: = Snaggled *a.* 1. *Obs.*—[o]

1687 Miége *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II. s.v., A snagged Tooth, that does not stand even.

2. Caught or impaled upon a snag.

1872 C. King *Sierra Nevada* viii. 174, I made a dash for the snagged mule.

Sna·gger. *dial.* [f. Snag *v.*[2] 2.] (See quot.)

1847 Halliw. s.v. *Snag*, A snagger..is a simple bill-hook without the usual edge on the back. 1877–99 in dial. gloss-aries (Cumb., Yks.).

Sna·ggle, *v. slang.* (See quots.)

1839 *Slang Dict.* 34 *Snaggling*, driving geese into a corner in a stubble-field. 1864 *Slang Dict.* (Hotten) 238 *Snaggling*, angling after geese with a hook and line, the bait being a worm or snail.

Sna·ggled, *a. U.S.* [Cf. next.]

1. Of teeth: Uneven, irregular, projecting.

1884 J. G. Bourke *Snake Dance Moquis* XXXII. 360 His snaggled teeth, projecting tusk-like from an unnecessarily large mouth. 1889 'C. E. Craddock' *Despot Broomsedge Cove* XXII. 396 He glanced at Jepson with a lively little grin, all his snaggled teeth on parade.

2. Knotty, intricate.

1896 *Advance* (Chicago) 26 Mar. 457/1 Snaggled problems grew plain as light, under the gentle explanations which she could give.

Sna·ggle-tooth. [Cf. next and Snag-tooth.] An irregular or projecting tooth.

1825 Jennings *Obs. Dial. W. Eng.* 71 *Snaggle-tooth*, a tooth growing irregularly. 1859 *Slang Dict.* 96 *Snaggle teeth*, uneven, and unpleasant looking dental operators. 1897 S. Watson *Life's Look-out* 67 Every building had its own lurch inwards or outwards, like a mouthful of snaggle teeth.

Sna·ggle-toothed, *a. rare.* [app. f. Snag *sb.*[1]] Having snaggle-teeth.

1585 Higins tr. *Junius' Nomencl.* 452/1 s.v. *Dento*. 1688 Holme *Armoury* II. 427/1 *Snaggle*, or *Rake toothed*, is when the teeth stands at a distance, one from the other. 1884 J. C. Harris *Nts. Uncle Remus* 105 I'm snaggle-toofed an' double j'inted.

†Snag-greet. *Obs.* [app. f. SNAG *sb.*3 + *greet* GRIT *sb.*1] (See quot. and cf. *snail-cod.*)

1651 R. CHILD in *Hartlib's Legacy* (1655) 34 Snag greet: which is a kind of earth taken out of the Rivers, full of small shels. [Hence in Worlidge (1669) and some later works.]

Snaggy (snæ·gi), *a.*1 [f. SNAG *sb.*1 + -Y.]

1. Having snags or sharp protuberances; jagged, knotty; snag-like.

1581 STUDLEY *Seneca, Medea* 134 Cause yee the snaggy wheele to pawse that rentes the carkas bound. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* I. vii. 10 His stalking steps are stayde Vpon a snaggy Oke. 1621 G. SANDYS *Ovid's Met.* ii. (1632) 62 Envie..a snaggy staffe..tooke Wreathed with thornes. 1888 *Harper's Mag.* Apr. 735 A multitude of blackened snaggy shapes protruding above the water. 1895 JANE BARLOW *Lisconnel* ix. 212 His snaggy stick lay at a little distance.

fig. 1857 *Fraser's Mag.* LVI. 358 We do not think that your genuine snaggy fellow belongs to any class in particular.

2. Of teeth: Suggestive of snags.

1703 MOTTEUX *Quix.* (1733) III 210 Her Teeth..seem'd to be thin and snaggy.

3. Abounding in, full of, snags.

1864 J. K. HOSMER *Color-Guard* xii, We passed into snaggy lakes at last. 1891 *Pall Mall G.* 22 Oct. 2/1 The river is..a turbulent, snaggy stream to navigate.

Sna·ggy, *a.*2 *Sc.* and *dial.* [Cf. SNAG *v.*1] Ill-tempered, peevish, snappish, cross.

1781 J. HUTTON *Tour to Caves* (ed. 2) Gloss. 96 *Snaggy*, tetchy, peevish. 1806 A. DOUGLAS *Poems* 130 Quo' Maggy fell snaggy, 'Ye lie, you loun, an' joke'. 1823– in dial. glossaries (Suffolk, E. Anglia, Lincs.). 1898 B. GREGORY *Side Lights* 405 The stalwart President..had become spasmodic, snatchy, and at times snaggy.

Snag-tooth. [f. SNAG *sb.*1 Cf. SNAGGLE-TOOTH.] A snag-like tooth.

1655 COTGRAVE *Wits Interpr.* (1662) 253 How thy snag-teeth stand orderly, Like stakes which strut by th' water side. 1727 in BAILEY (vol. II.). 1890 *Amer. Anthropologist* Oct. 316 Projecting canines or 'snag teeth' are so common in low faces as to be universally remarked.

Snail (snēl), *sb.*1 Forms: *α.* 1 **snegel, snegl,** snægel, snægl, 4–7 **snayl,** 5–7 **snayle** (5 **snaylle**); 3, 5– **snail** (6 **snaill**), 5–7 **snaile,** 6–7 **snale.** *β.* 1 **snél, snæl,** 5 **snele, snyle,** 9 *dial.* **sneel.** *γ.* 4 **snawile.** [OE. *snegel, snægel*, etc., = MLG. *sneil* (LG. *snäl, sniel*, etc.), OHG. *snegil* (MHG. *snegel*, G. *schnägel*, now dial. with variants *schnäl, schnel*, etc.), ON. and Icel. *snigill* (Norw. and Sw. *snigel*, Da. *snegl*).]

1. One or other of the terrestrial or freshwater gasteropods having a well-developed spiral or whorled shell capable of housing the whole body; also formerly (and still *dial.* and *Sc.*) a slug.

The common types of the true snail belong to the genus *Helix* (esp. *H. aspersa* or *hortensis*, the common garden-snail, and *H. pomatia*, the edible snail) or *Clausilia*, of the family *Helicidæ*.

α. c 725 *Corpus Gloss.* C 630 *Cocleae*, lytle sneglas. *c* 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* II. 110 ȝif næddre slea man, þone blacan snegl awærc on haliȝ wætre. *c* 1000 ÆLFRIC *Gloss.* in Wr.-Wülcker 121 *Limax*, snægl. *Testudo*, ȝehused snægl. *a* 1250 *Owl & Night.* 87 Snayles Mus and fule wihte Beoþ þine cunde. 13.. *Coer de L.* 3836 Anon they..gunne to drawen in her hornes, As a snayl among the thornes. *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (1839) xv. 169 Thei anoynten here Hondes and here Feet with a juyce made of Snayles. 1412–20 LYDG. *Chron. Troy* II. 3313 Wrinkled double, like an hornyd snail. 1542 BOORDE *Dyetary* viii. (1870) 249 Beware that you do not lye in..such chambres as myse, rattes, and snayles resorteth vnto. 1592 SHAKS. *Ven. & Ad.* 1033 As the snail, whose tender horns being hit, Shrinks backward in his shelly cave. 1633 BP. HALL *Occas. Medit.* § 29 See there two snails. One hath a house; the other wants it: yet both are snails. 1683 TRYON *Way to Health* 226 If People were sensible of the hurt they do, they would no more eat them, than they would Frogs, Snales. 1727 GAY *Fables* I. xxiv, A snail, Beneath his house, with slimy trail Crawls o'er the grass. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1824) III. 113 The noise which the snail makes in moving the water. 1813 BINGLEY *Anim. Biog.* (ed. 4) III. 467 The garden snail, hedge snail, and grove snail. 1871 T. R. JONES *Anim. Kingd.* (ed. 4) 566 The common Snails..not unfrequently become formidable pests to the horticulturist, from the ravages caused by their voracity.

β. c 825 *Epinal Gloss.* 611 *Limax*, snel. [*c* 1000 ÆLFRIC *Gloss.* in Wr.-Wülcker 122 *Chelio*,..sæsnæl.] *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (Roxb.) xxi. 96 Þer er in þat land so grete snyles þat in þaire schelles three men or foure may be herberd. *c* 1440 *Alph. Tales* 157 He commandid þat þis vglie burth..sulde be closid in a stone, as a snyle is in hur shell. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 346/2 A Snele,..*limax*. 1828– in dial. glossaries (Yorks., Chesh., Linc., Leic.), in form *sneel*.

γ. c 1305 *Land Cokayne* 40 in *E. E. P.* (1862) 157 Þe lond is ful of oþer gode...Þer nis dunnir, slete, no hawle, No non vile worme no snawile.

transf. 1579 NORTHBROOKE *Diceing* (1843) 58 They were wont, in olde time, to haue paynted snayles in their houses. 1851 PLANCHÉ *Pursuivant of Arms* (1873) 125 Snails are borne by the family of Shelley.

fig. 1590 NASHE *M. Marprelate* Wks. (Grosart) I. 245, I wonder how these seelie snayles, creeping but yesterdaie out of shoppes and Graumer-schooles, dare thrust out theyr feeble hornes. 1596 — *Saffron Walden* Ep. Ded., It shall neuer put foorth his snayles hornes againe.

†b. A tortoise or turtle. *Obs.*

1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) II. 377 Whan þis snayl was i-roted, þe senewes were i-streyned with ynne þe skyn of þe snayles hous. 1398 — *Barth. De P. R.* XVIII. cvii. (Bodl. MS.), Þere beþ foure manere [snails], londe snailles & see stronde snailles & venny snailles..[1495 and ryuer snayles].

c. Applied to various animals allied to, or resembling, the snails or slugs. (Cf. SEA-SNAIL.)

1541 COPLAND *Guydon's Quest. Chirurg.* N iij, The moste dyfference is of blode lettynge, for it drawēth the blode deper than the boxynge or the snayles [=leeches]. 1666 J. DAVIES tr. *Rochefort's Caribby Isles* 78 There is a kind of Snailes, called by the French *Soldats* that is Souldiers, because they have no shells proper and peculiar to themselves. 1731 MEDLEY tr. *Kolben's Cape Good-Hope* II. 209 The Nabel-Snail has an upper and an under Shell, like a Muscle. *Ibid.* 208 The Shell of the Sea-Porcupine Snail is..arm'd on almost every Part with long Prickles. 1783 JUSTAMOND tr. *Raynal's Hist. Indies* IV. 134 On the coast of Guayaquil.. are found those snails which yield the purple dye so celebrated by the antients. 1794 *Reports Agric. Survey* Camb. 111 In the first stage of this disease [*sc.* the blood-rot] the liver has not been infected with the snails, or plaice [=liver-fluke]. 1839 *Penny Cycl.* XIII. 337/1 The *Janthina*, or Oceanic Snail. 1865 MRS. L. L. CLARKE *Common Seaweeds* i. 23 As we gather a bunch of seaweed, we shake out dozens of a pretty little snail called Rissoa. 1884 [see *snail-bore* in sense 7].

2. Used with reference or allusion to the exceptionally slow motion of the snail.

a 1000 *Riddles* XLI. 70 (Gr.), Me is snægl swiftra. 1533 J. HEYWOOD *Mery Play* 421 (Brandl), Go and hye the, as fast as a snayle. 1599 PORTER *Angry Women Abington* (Percy Soc.) 105 A man may bee as slowe as a snaile, but as fierce as a lyon. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* I. 252, I..went forward like a snaile, till despairing of going further I fell upon the ground. 1652 COLLINGES *Caveat for Prof.* xiii. (1653) 71 Sure..our Saviour *drave snails* as he went, he reckons so long for his journey! 1778 MISS BURNEY *Evelina* LXXV, During our whole ride, I thought the carriage drawn by snails. 1821 COMBE *Syntax, Search Wife* III. (Chandos) 303 He, by degrees, would seldom fail T' adopt the gallop of a snail. 1862 C. C. ROBINSON *Dial. Leeds* 406 As slaw as a sneel. 1881 FREEMAN in Stephens *Life & Letters* (1895) II. 244 Riding..at the pace of a snail.

b. *Snail's gallop, pace,* an excessively slow or tardy pace, rate of progress or motion, etc.

a 1400–50 *Alexander* 4095 Þan snyȝes þar, out of þat snyth hill as with a snayles pas, A burly best. 1565 COOPER, *Testudineus gradus*, a slowe pase: a snayles pase. 1707–91 [see GALLOP *sb.* 3 c]. 1793 MME. D'ARBLAY *Lett.* 12 Sept., That snail's pace with which business is done by letters. 1816 *Sporting Mag.* XLVII. 32 Every thing short of eight miles per hour is accounted *snail's pace.* 1842 BORROW *Bible in Spain* xvi, The snail's pace at which we were proceeding. 1901 *Scotsman* 5 Nov. 6/8 For a time they were able to get along at a snail's gallop, men leading the horses with torches and lanterns.

c. A slow or indolent person; a sluggard.

1590 SHAKS. *Com. Err.* II. ii. 196 Dromio, thou Dromio, thou snaile, thou slug. *a* 1593 H. SMITH *Serm.* (1866) II. 83 Every snail shall step before thee, and take thy crown from thee. 1641 BROME *Joviall Crew* IV. i. When he comes, he comes apace; he's no snail, I assure you.

†3. a. A structure or formation resembling a snail-shell; a testudo. *Obs.*

1408 tr. *Vegetius' De Re Milit.* IV. xiv. (MS. Laud 416), The gynne that is clepid the snaile or þe wilk is a frame made of good tymbyr. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 66/2 Cercle, clepyd the snayle, as of pentys, and other lyke, *spira.* 1610 W. FOLKINGHAM *Art of Survey* 44 Ground-plots are..externall, as Groves, Arbours, Bowers, Mounts, Mazes, Snailes.

†b. *Mil.* A formation resembling the letter D; = LIMAÇON 1. *Obs.*

1579 NORTH *Plutarch* (1895) III. 57 As for the order of their battelles, they knewe not what it ment, nor to cast them selves into a snaill or ringe. 1581 STYWARD *Mart. Discipl.* I. 67 How to bring them into a Ring, an Esse, or a Snaile, verie profitable for young Souldiers. 1591 *Garrard's Art Warre* 87 This order of a D. otherwise called a snaile.

4. *pl.* A species of medick (usually *Medicago scutellata*) having snail-shaped seed-pods.

1629 PARKINSON *Parad.* 339 *Medica spinosa altera.* Small thorney Buttons, or Snailes. 1730 MILLER *Gard. Dict.* s.v. *Medica Cochleata*, The Snail-Trefoil, commonly call'd in the Seed-shops *Snails.* 1741 *Compl. Fam. Piece* II. iii. 371 Sow these dwarf annual Flowers.., Snails and Catterpillars. 1846–50 A. WOOD *Class-bk. Bot.* 229 *M. scutellata* (Snails)...This curious plant derives its name from the singular nature of its fruit, which is twisted like the shell of a snail. 1858 R. HOGG *Veget. Kingdom* 269 Some years ago..some..were admitted into the annual flower borders under the singular names of Snails, Bee-hives,..and similar names suggested by the fancied resemblance of their pods to these subjects. 1866 [see *snail-plant* in 7].

5. *Mech.* A flat, spirally curved piece of metal; *esp.* a toothed disc of this shape forming part of the striking mechanism of a clock; a spiral cam.

1696 W. DERHAM *Artificial Clockm.* (1759) 7 The Snail, or Step-Wheel in Repeating-Clocks. 1764 *Ann. Reg.* I. 79/1 The quarter and half quarter snail. *Ibid.*, The hour snail and star. 1825 J. NICHOLSON *Operat. Mechanic* 38 The collar..is formed like a snail or camm, which will act upon either of the levers. 1846 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* II. 942 The punch being driven through the plate by one revolution of a snail or cam. 1884 F. J. BRITTEN *Watch & Clockm.* 252 Clockmakers generally mark off the snail on the clock itself after the rest of the striking work is planted.

b. (See quot.)

1834–6 *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) VIII. 280/1 The German snail is an apparatus of nearly the same kind [as the Archimedes' screw]; it consists of a cylinder with its spiral projections detached from the external cylinder or coating within which it revolves.

6. *attrib.* and *Comb.* **a.** In sense 1, as *snail-broth, -culture, -eater, -feast, -garden*, etc.

1771 MRS. HAYWOOD *New Present for Maid* 41 *Snail Broth. 1875 *Chambers's Jrnl.* XII. 46 Any one desiring a lesson in *snail-culture, may learn all about it in the Tyrol. 1889 *Science-Gossip* XXV. 281/1, I would suggest that conchologists pay some attention to..these *snail-eaters. 1875 *Chambers's Jrnl.* XII. 46 The Newcastle glassmakers hold an annual *snail-feast. 1895 A. H. COOKE *Molluscs* iv. 119 *Escargotières*, or *snail-gardens, still exist in many parts of Europe. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) VII. 19 Turbinated Shell-Fish of the *Snail Kind. 1883 *Science* I. 492/1 A small open square used as a *snail-market. 1887 JEFFERIES *Amaryllis* xxxii, My sister, as was in a decline, used to have *snail-oil rubbed into her back. 1861 HULME tr. *Moquin-Tandon* II. III. ii. 85 A *snail paste which enjoyed a certain amount of repute. 1900 *Daily News* 13 Oct. 6/6 Circular lines of fine black braid following each other in what is called the *snail pattern. 1780 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 2) VI. 4572/1 With small yellow flowers, succeeded by small, round, *snail-shaped fruit. 1845 LINDLEY *Sch. Bot.* v. (1858) 56 *Medicago orbicularis* (Snails). Legumes unarmed, snail-shaped, orbicular. 1802 BINGLEY *Anim. Biog.* (1805) III. 580 The Romans.. kept these animals in what were called *Cochlearia*, or *Snail Stews. 1733 W. ELLIS *Chiltern & Vale Farm.* 355 This Slug is a small whitish Insect..of the *Snail Tribe. 1896 LYDEKKER *Roy. Nat. Hist.* VI. 345 The Snail Tribe,—Family *Helicidæ*. 1682 G. HARTMAN *True Preserver & Rest. Health* 21 Dr. Harvey his excellent *Snail-water against Consumptions and Hectick Feavers. 1712 tr. *Pomet's Hist. Drugs* I. 206 Mix it with Snail-Water, or Bean-Flower-Water, to make a Virgin's Milk, or Wash of.

b. Used attrib. to denote: Exceptionally tardy or slow.

1562 J. HEYWOOD *Prov. & Epigr.* (1867) 163 So may it run, runnyng but a snayle pace. 1828 CARR *Craven Gloss.*, *Snail-gallop*, a very slow motion, like that of a snail. 1845 E. HOLMES *Mozart* 29 The Court delayed to pay them, and their affairs, in German phrase, travelled 'by the snail post'.

c. In senses 3 and 5, as *snail-cam, -mount, -movement, -piece, -work.*

1591 in *Gentl. Mag.* (1779) XLIX. 81 The 3. and last was a Snaylmount, rising to four circles of green priuie hedges. 1803 *Trans. Soc. Arts* XXI. 399 The snail-piece to raise a weight somewhat similar. 1825 J. NICHOLSON *Operat. Mechanic* 19 The wedge, placed on the internal face of the circle,..causing..the obstacle..to approach nearer to the centre..; this is called the snail movement. 1835 URE *Philos. Manuf.* 149 This traverse movement is effected by an endless screw and toothed-wheel, or snail-work. 1902 W. J. DIBDIN *Public Lighting* 77 Motion was given to the reflecting screen by a fine chain wound upon a snail cam.

7. Special combs.: **snail-bore** *U.S.*, a shell-fish (*Urosalpinx cinerea*) which injures oysters by boring; **†snail clover,** (*a*) lucerne; (*b*) sainfoin; **† snail clover-grass,** sainfoin; **† snail-cod,** a kind of fertile mud or sludge obtained from rivers; hence *snail-codding* vbl. sb.; **†snail-crawled** *a.*, crawling as slow as a snail; **snail-creep, -creeping** (see quots.); **snail-eater** *Ornith.*, = OPEN-BILL; **snail-fish,** a fish related to the lump-sucker; **snail-flower** (see quots.); **snail-house** *dial.*, a snail-shell; **snail-leech,** a species of leech which eats snails; **snail-plant** (see quot. 1866 and sense 4); **snail sea-cucumber** (see quot.); **snail-seeded** *a.*, having seed-pods resembling snails in form; **snail-stone** (see quots. 1611, 1797); **†snail-trefoil,** (*a*) lucerne; (*b*) snail-plant; **snail-wheel** (see quot. and sense 5).

1884 GOODE *Nat. Hist. Aquat. Anim.* 696 These small 'Snails', 'Drills', 'Borers', and '*Snail-bores', as they are variously called. 1597 GERARDE *Herbal* II. CCCCIXXXV. 1029 Of Medick fodder, or *Snaile Clauer,..*Trifolium Cochleatum..: the flowers are very small, and..turne into round wrinckled knobs, like the water snaile. 1600 SURFLET *Country Farm* v. xviii. 697 There is not..any pulse..more pretious for the feeding of beastes then snaile clauer, called in French *Sainct foin.* 1760 J. LEE *Introd. Bot.* 327 Snail Clover, *Medicago.* 1726 *Dict. Rust., Saintfoin*,..otherwise call'd..*Snail or Horned Clover-grass. 1649 BLITHE *Eng. Improver* xix. 112 A Mudde or Sludg, that lyeth frequently in deepe Rivers,..which is very Rich...They Call it *Snayle-Cod*, and it hath in it many Snayles and Shells, which is conceived occasioneth the Fatnesse of it. [Hence in later agricultural works.] *Ibid.* xvii. 100 And in thy Tillage are these special Opportunities to Improve it,..by Liming, Marling,..Mudding, *Snayle-codding. *a* 1658 CLEVELAND *To T. C.* 13 Wks. (1687), If thou wilt needs to Sea, O must it be In an old Galliasse of sixty three; A *Snail-crawl'd Bottom? 1592 *Will of Kelleway* (Somerset Ho.), One dozen of *snaile creepe worke. 1887 *Archit. Soc. Dict.* VII. 96/2 *Snail creep.* The common form of pointing granite or limestone uncoursed walls. 1792 *Young's Annals Agric.* XVIII. 41 The ends of the beams [of the *Royal William*]..had been gouged in a manner then [in 1719] practised, which was called **snail-creeping.* 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.* 635 *Snail-Creeping*, gouging out the surfaces of timbers in crooked channels, to promote a circulation of air. 1894 NEWTON *Dict. Birds* 655 Shell-eater, Shell-Ibis, and *Snail-eater. 1840 *Cuvier's Anim. Kingd.* 324 There are one or two British species [of *Leparus* or *Liparis*], some of which are called '*Snail-fishes', from their soft and unctuous texture. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* II. 114/2 *Snail Flower, or rather Snail Seed Vessel, is a kind of Pod, in form like a Snail house. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1067/2 Snail-flower, *Phaseolus Caracalla.* 1688 *Snail-house [see *snail-flower*]. 1879 MISS JACKSON *Shropsh. Word-bk.* 393 *Snail-housen*, snail-shells. 1865 *Intellect. Obs.* No. 44. 81 The different species of *snail-leech. 1767 J. ABERCROMBIE *Ev. Man own Gardener* (1803) 735/2 *Snail Plant,..Caterpillar Plant. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1067/2 Snail-plant, *Medicago scutellata*, and also *M. Helix*; the pods of these are called snails from their resemblance to those mollusks. 1858 BAIRD *Cycl. Nat. Sci.*, *Psolus phantapus*, the *snail sea cucumber, is a British species. 1858 MAYNE *Expos. Lex.* 1116/1 *Salsola Kali*,.. the *snail-seeded glasswort, or saltwort. 1611 COTGR., *Pierre de Limaçon*, the *Snaile stone; found in the heads of some (dew) Snailes; tis white, somewhat transparent, and rugged. 1681 GREW *Museum* III. i. 262

Divers others Snail-Stones; some of them of a Limy substance, others perfect Flint. 1700 E. Lhwyd in Rowlands *Mona Antiqua* (1723) 338 Besides the Snake-Stones,..the Highlanders have their Snail-Stones, Paddoc-Stones,..to all which they attribute their several Virtues. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) X. 76/2 It is in its [*sc.* the slug's] head and back that the snail-stone is found; which is a small pearled and sandy stone, of the nature of lime stones. 1548 Turner *Names Herbes* (E. D. S.) 51 Medica.. maye be called in englishe horned Clauer or *snail Trifoly. 1731 Miller *Gard. Dict., Medica cochleata*, Snail-Trefoil. 1733 W. Ellis *Chiltern & Vale Farm.* 279 The Plant commonly called La Lucerne is a Medic Clover, or by some called Snail Trefoyl. 1771 R. F. Forster *Flora Amer. Sept.* 32 *Medicago virginica*, Snail Trefoil. 1846 Holtzapffel *Turning* II. 891 The *snail-wheel of a striking clock..has an edge formed in twelve steps, arranged spirally, the positions of which determine the number of strokes of the hammer on the bell.

†Snail, *sb.*[2] *Obs.* [app. an assimilation of *chenille* to prec., perh. through the dial. form *sneel*. Cf. Snailing *sb.*] = Chenille. Also *attrib.*

1741 Lady Pomfret *Lett.* (1805) III. 216 The dress of the nuns here is all white, with a black silk snail-string about their necks. 1744 Mrs. Montagu *Lett.* (1906) I. 194, I have brought down a screen to work in snail for the Duchess. 1773 *Ann. Reg.* 124, I'm compass'd now With worms instead of lovely snails.

†Snail, *sb.*[3] *Obs.*—[1] (See quot. and Snouting 2.)

1662 *Irish Statutes* (1678) 628 Snouting, alias snayl, or drest towe, the twelve pound, o. 5ˢ. o.

Snail (snēl), *v.* Also 6 **snayle**, 6–7 **snaill**, 7 **snaile**. [f. Snail *sb.*[1]]

†1. *intr.* Of soldiers: To form into a 'snail' or 'snails'. *Obs.*—[1]

a 1548 Hall *Chron., Hen. VIII*, 235 b, All the gonnes seuered themselues into one place,..and likewise the byllmen, and there rynged and snayled, which was a goodly sight to beholde.

2. To move, walk, or travel lazily or sluggishly; to go very slowly. Also with *on*.

1582 Stanyhurst *Æneis* IV. (Arb.) 118 Shee trots on snayling, lyk a tooth shaken old hagge. 1748 Richardson *Clarissa* (1811) IV. 124 Draw in your horns, and resolve to snail-on..in a track we are acquainted with. 1813 Sir R. Wilson *Priv. Diary* (1861) II. 238 The Crown Prince is *snailing* towards the Elbe. 1903 A. Adams *Log Cowboy* xviii. 275 The herd was snailing along the North Platte. *Ibid.* xxiii. 365 We snailed on westward at our leisurely gait.

b. With *it*.

1628 Feltham *Resolves* I. xciv, You shall finde, that every thing, as farre as the Abilitie will give it Line, does Snaile it after Deitie. *Ibid.* II. xliv, When the grave Vespasian came to snail it, and be leaver'd in the throngs slow march. 1893 W. C. A. Blew *Brighton* 48 From Clayton Hill the coach *snailed it on* towards Cuckfield.

3. *trans.* To make or construct after the spiral form of a snail-shell. Now *spec.* in clockmaking.

1591 Sylvester *Du Bartas* I. vi. 637 God plac't the Ears ..As in two turrets, on the building's top, Snailling their hollow entries so a-sloap [etc.]. 1885 Glasgow *Watch & Clock Making* vi. 73 The arbor should be snailed, so that when the spring is wound on to it, it will take a spiral form.

b. To finish off with curved eccentric lines.

1884 F. J. Britten *Watch & Clockm.* 242 Fusee caps, steel keyless watches, &c., are snailed with a copper mill.

4. To clear of, keep free from, slugs or snails.

a 1661 Fuller *Worthies, Glouc.* I. (1662) 349 Many got great [tobacco] estates thereby, notwithstanding the great ..cost in..watering, snailing, suckering,..and rowling it.

Hence **Snai'ling** *vbl. sb.* (see 3 b).

1884 F. J. Britten *Watch & Clockm.* 242 Snailing requires a sharp polishing material. 1891 Tripplin & Rigg *Watchmaker's Hdbk.* (ed. 3) 119 A beautiful snailing can be obtained with Arkansas stone mud.

attrib. 1884 F. J. Britten *Watch & Clockm.* 242 The snailing mill is fixed in nearly the right position. 1885 Glasgow *Watch & Clock Making* ix. 119 The snailing roller [is] held in the fingers and prevented from turning.

Snailery (snē'lĕri). Also 9 **snaillery**. [f. Snail *sb.*[1] + -ery.] A place where (edible) snails are bred or reared.

1725 in *Archit. Soc. Dict.* (1887) VII. 96/2 [That] a snailery and a place for breeding tortices be made at Kensington for his majesty's service. 1834 W. H. Smyth *Roman Medals* 210 The luxury and profusion of Roman gastrology were attested by..their lepories, their lobsteries, and their snaileries. 1874 Wood *Nat. Hist.* III. 406 There are.. on the Continent several snaileries, where the inmates are abundantly supplied with food.

Snail-horn. Now *dial.* [Snail *sb.*[1]]

1. A snail-shell; a snail.

1672 C. Hoole tr. *Comenius Vis. World* xxxii, The Snail carrieth about her Snailhorn [*testa*]. 1747 [see b]. 1820 Clare *Rural Life* (ed. 3) 10 The snail-horn searching, or the mossy nest. 1828– in dial. glossaries (Yks., Northampt., Leic., Lancs.).

b. *Snail-horn stone* (see quot.).

1747 Hooson *Miner's Dict.* U j b, Snailhorn Stone is a course Stone, having mixt Knotts within it, much like Snailhorns when it is broken, and hard to break.

2. (See quot. and next.) ? *Obs.*

1749 W. Ellis *Exper. Impr. Sheep* 94 If..a lamb is gelt at a week or fortnight old, it will cause it to have a thin, short, and what we in Hertfordshire call a Snail-Horn.

So **Snail'-horned** *a.* (See quot.) ? *Obs.*

1787 W. H. Marshall *E. Norfolk* (1795) II. 388 *Snail-horned*, having short, down-hanging horns, with blunt points, and somewhat bent, in the usual form of the snail; spoken of cattle.

†Snailing, *sb. Obs.*—[1] ? = Snail *sb.*[2]

1688 Holme *Armoury* III. xiv. (Roxb.) 16/1 The lower Valens..fringed for state..either with..Tufted fring, snailing fring, Gimpe fring.

Snailing, *ppl. a. rare.* [f. Snail *sb.*[1] or *v.*] Winding spirally, or like the tracks of snails.

1615 Crooke *Body of Man* 94 Wherein the snaking and snayling diuarications of the vessels do craule all ouer the belly. *Ibid.* 456 Some of these snailing paths are deeper.

Snailish (snē'liʃ), *a.* [f. Snail *sb.*[1] + -ish.] Somewhat resembling (that of) the snail; slothful, slow, sluggish.

1582 Nuce tr. *Seneca, Octavia* I. iii, And snaylish age in going soft Unto her thews is not ybounde. 1623 Wodroephe *Marrow Fr. Tongue* 245/2 O, what snailish heart hast thou! *cœur de limaçon*. 1889 C. Edwardes *Sardinia* 130 The snailish movements of the dance.

Hence **Snai'lishly** *adv.*

1889 *Punch* 1 June 257/2 Your progress may also be snailishly slow.

Snail-like, *a.* and *adv.* [f. Snail *sb.*[1] + -like.]

A. *adj.* **1.** Like or resembling a snail in appearance, habits, etc.

1607 J. Davies (Heref.) *Summa Totalis* Wks. (Grosart) I. 7/1 And though it be..steepe,..Yet (Snaile-like) cling to it, and climbing creep, But fall not off it. 1611 Cotgr., *Limaceux*,..Snaile-like. 1665 Brathwait *Comment. Two Tales* (1901) 45 Must I Snayl-like, keep still under roof. 1774 Goldsm. *Nat. Hist.* (1824) III. 82 Those snail-like animals that receive the name of testaceous fishes. 1881 Grant Allen *Evolutionist at Large* 57 The truest and most snail-like snails. 1901 E. Step *Shell Life* xix. 347 The snail-like slugs are succeeded by the genus *Helix*.

2. Characterized by slowness of progress, etc.; slow, tardy.

1639 Fuller *Holy War* III. v. (1840) 122 The snail-like siege of Ptolemais, still slowly creeping on. 1831 *Lincoln Herald* 29 July 1/6 The snail-like progress of the English Reform Bill.

B. *adv.* With the slow motion characteristic of a snail; tardily, sluggishly.

1825 Scott *Talisman* xxi, The marabout..glided on gradually and imperceptibly, serpent-like, or rather snail-like. 1898 J. Arch *Story Life* vii. 162 They would crawl snail-like, to the feet of the squire.

Snail-paced, *a.* [Snail *sb.*[1]]

1. Slow, sluggish, or tardy in pace, progress, or motion; slothful, slow-moving. Also *fig.*

1594 Shaks. *Rich. III*, IV. iii. 53 Delay leds impotent and Snaile-pac'd Beggery. 1606 — *Tr. & Cr.* v. v. 18 Goe..bid the snaile-pac'd Aiax arme for shame. 1646 W. Jenkyn *Remora* 9 Doth that winged speed..deserve a snail-paced Reformation? 1770 Armstrong *Misc.* I. 154 Thus they lash on The snail-pac'd Hyperborean nights. 1862 Christina Rossetti *Goblin Market*, etc. 6 The whisk-tailed merchant bade her taste In tones as smooth as honey,..and the snail-paced even was heard. 1874 J. Robertson in Gordon *Life* xv. (1908) 117 We left here..with a snail-paced horse.

2. Marked or characterized by tardiness, slowness, or sluggishness.

1601 Chester *Love's Martyr*, etc. (1878) 123 Snaile-paced gate. 1818 Keats *Endym.* IV. 25 In very scorn Of our dull, uninspired, snail-paced lives.

†'Snails, *int. Obs.* Also 7 **snailes, snayles, 'snayles.** An abbreviation of *God's nails* (see God *sb.* 14 a), used as a petty oath or exclamation.

1599 Hayward *Hen. IV*, I. 19 Sir Hugh swore, swownes, and snayles, let vs set vpon them. 1605 *London Prodigal* v. i. 222 Snailes, is there such cowardice in that? 1617 Middleton & Rowley *Fair Quarrel* v. i, Snailes shees the Phisicians Bronstrops, Trim. [1821 Scott *Kenilw.* xxiv, Nay, 'snails! I think his horse will take the matter in his own hand. 1828 — *F. M. Perth* xii, 'Snails!..were any neighbour to meet me..., what could they think?]

Snail-shell. [Snail *sb.*[1]]

1. The shell or house of a snail; = Cochlea 3.

1530 Palsgr. 272/1 Snayle or snayle shell, *lymacon*. 1578 T. N. tr. *Conq. W. India* 311 They entred..with the sound of drummes, snaile-shelles and other instrumentes of Musicke. 1611 Cotgr., *Limace*,..any thing that winds or turnes like a Snaile-shell. 1676 *Phil. Trans.* XI. 594 Turn'd helically like a Snail-shell. 1713 Petiver *Aquat. Anim. Amboinæ* Tab. iv, *Valvata*,..Small waved Snail-shell. 1775 Ash, *Cochlea*,..a genus of shell fish, a snail-shell. 1822 J. Parkinson *Outl. Oryctol.* 248 The exterior characters of the snail-shells of the present day. 1891 *Science-Gossip* XXVII. 18/1 The lower step..bore witness to the frequent visits of the thrushes, for it was covered with broken snail-shells.

b. *attrib.*, as *snail-shell pattern*; **snail-shell medick,** (*a*) heart-clover; (*b*) snail-plant.

1796 Withering *Brit. Plants* (ed. 3) III. 660 *Medicago arabica*,..Snailshell Medick. 1855 Miss Pratt *Flower. Pl.* II. 92 The Snail-shell Medick of the South of Europe (*Medicago scutellata*). 1898 *Daily News* 17 Sept. 6/2 Richly braided in a snail-shell pattern.

†2. = Cochlea 2. *Obs.*—[1]

1683 *Phil. Trans.* XIII. 261 The Small-bones,..the Snail-shell,..have the same figure and..bulk in Infants which they have in men.

Snail-slow, *a.* [Snail *sb.*[1]]

1. That is as slow as a snail; very sluggish or tardy in motion, progress, etc.

1596 Shaks. *Merch. V.* II. v. 47 The patch is..a huge feeder: Snaile-slow in profit. 1803 *Pic Nic* No. 1 (1806) I. 13 France is..cold and snail-slow in redress or justice. 1812 Tennant *Anster F.* III. viii, The son, impatient, leaves his snail-slow sire. 1901 E. Phillpotts *Striking Hours* 114 Off goes Squire snail-slow.

2. Marked by excessive slowness of progress.

1900 *Daily News* 12 July 6/2 The era of military reform, which may be said to have begun its snail-slow course in 1870.

Snaily (snē'li), *a.* (and *sb.*). Also 6–7 **snailie**, 7 **snayly**, 9 **snailey**. [f. Snail *sb.*[1]]

1. Like a snail; resembling that of a snail; snail-like.

1596 *Edw. III*, I. i, But I will make you shrinke your snailie hornes. 1611 Cotgr., *Limaceux*, Snailie, Snaile-like. 1627 Drayton *Agincourt*, etc. 187 These Dialls.., Whose Snayly motion of the moouing hand, (Although it goe) yet seeme to me to stand.

2. Infested by snails; covered with the slime of snails.

1870 Furnivall in *Boorde's Dyetary* (1870) 249 *marg.*, Don't lie in ratty and snaily rooms. 1882 Blackmore *Christowell* xii, The rooks began to caw,..the young lady, reading in a snaily chair, to gaze about.

3. *Austr.* Slightly curled after the manner of a snail-shell; having horns of this description. (Cf. Snail-horn 2.)

1884 'R. Boldrewood' *Melb. Mem.* xvii. 123 That black bullock,..him with the snaily horn. 1891 — *Sydney-side Saxon* viii. 133 There's a snailey Wallanbah bullock I haven't seen this two years.

b. As *sb.* A kind of bullock characterized by having such horns.

1884 'R. Boldrewood' *Melb. Mem.* ix. 68 Snaileys and poleys, old and young, coarse and fine, they were a mixed herd in every sense.

†Snaip, *a. Obs.*—[1] (Prob. an error for Snarp *a.*)

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 7753 (Cott.), Ful snaip [*v.rr.* snaipe, sharp, scharp] it was pair stur and snell.

Snaip, Snair: see Snape, Snare.

Snake (snēk), *sb.* Forms: 1 **snaca**, 2– **snake**, 6 **snayke, snack.** [OE. *snaca*, = MLG. *snake* (LG. *snake, snaak*): cf. ON. *snákr* (poet.), Sw. *snok*, Da. *snog*, which may be from LG.]

I. 1. One or other of the limbless vertebrates constituting the reptilian order *Ophidia* (characterized by a greatly elongated body, tapering tail, and smooth scaly integument), some species of which are noted for their venomous properties; an ophidian, a serpent. Also, in popular use, applied to some species of *Lacerta*, and to certain snake-like amphibians.

The various species are freq. distinguished by a prefix denoting colour or marking, habitat, or other characteristic feature, as *black-, carpet-, coach-whip-, coral-, corn-, diamond-, grass-, hooded, rattle-, ribbon-, ringed, tiger-, whip-snake*, etc. (see these words).

c 1000 *Ags. Gosp.* Luke x. 19 Ic sealde eow anweald to tredenne ofer næddran & snacan. *a* 1023 Wulfstan *Hom.* (1883) 192 Sy Dan snaca on wege and næddre on pæðe. 1154 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1137, Hi dyden heom in quarterne þar nadres & snakes & pades wæron inne. *a* 1200 *Moral Ode* 273 Þeor beð naddren and snaken, eueten and frude. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 2805 It warp vt of hise hond, And wurð sone an uglike snake. 13.. *K. Alis.* 5972 For hii libben by addren, and snaken. *a* 1340 Hampole *Psalter* xiii. 5 Tricherously þai wroght venome of snakis vndire þe lippes of þa. 1412–20 Lydg. *Chron. Troy* I. 3347 Whos vertu is al venym to distroye,..Of dragoun, serpent, adder & of snake. 1486 *Bk. St. Albans* C ij, Ther be in woddys ..wormys calde edders..and also ther be snakys of the same kynde. 1559 W. Cunningham *Cosmogr. Glasse* 173 Edder, Snack, swift, or such like. 1570 Levins *Manip.* 198/16 A Snayke, *anguis*. 1591 Sylvester *Du Bartas* I. vi. 202 Th' Eft, Snake, and Dipsas (causing deadly Thirst). 1606 Shaks. *Ant & Cl.* II. v. 42 Thou shouldst come like a Furie crown'd with Snakes. 1661 J. Childrey *Brit. Bacon.* 73 No Snakes or Adders are to be found about Badminton. 1774 Goldsm. *Nat. Hist.* (1824) III. 167 That horrible *fætor*, which even the commonest and the most harmless snakes are still found to diffuse. 1817 Shelley *Rev. Islam* I. xiii. 236 Then..would the Snake Relax his suffocating grasp. 1847 L. Leichhardt *Overland Exped.* i. 16 A carpet snake and a brown snake with yellow belly. 1873 Dawson *Earth & Man* ix. 217 A peculiarity, seen in some snakes, namely a joint in the middle of the jaw enabling its sides to expand.

transf. and *fig.* 1821 Shelley *Adonais* xxii, Swift as a Thought by the snake Memory stung. 1847 Tennyson *Princ.* III. 27 At these words the snake, My secret, seem'd to stir within my breast. 1879 Farrar *St. Paul* (1883) 753 The Apostle first tramples on the snake of any mere personal annoyance. 1885 *Times* (weekly ed.) 18 Sept. 14/3 There must be snakes of some sort in each earthly Eden.

b. A representation, image, or figure of a snake.

1579–80 in Nichols *Progr. Q. Eliz.* II. 290 An armering of golde,..being a snake with a mean white saphire on the hedd. 1688 [see sense 5]. 1818 R. P. Knight *Symb. Lang.* (1876) 15 The winged disk of the sun is placed between two hooded snakes (or asps). 1859 Tennyson *Merlin & V.* 737 She hung her head, The snake of gold slid from her hair. 1903 J. E. Harrison *Study Gr. Relig.* vii. 331 The snakes sculptured on the top round the hollow cup.

c. In *pl.* as an exclamation, esp. *great snakes!*

1891 *Scribner's Mag.* Sept. 293/1 Why in snakes should anybody want to be a sculptor, if you come to that? 1897 F. T. Bullen *Cruise 'Cachalot'* i. (1901) 4 Great snakes! why, here's a sailor man for sure.

2. In figurative or allusive uses:

a. With reference to the ingratitude or treachery displayed by the snake in Æsop's fable (I. x).

1593 Shaks. *2 Hen. VI*, III. i. 343, I feare me, you but warme the starued Snake, Who, cherisht in your breasts, will sting your hearts. 1671 Milton *Samson* 763 Drawn to wear out miserable days, Entangl'd with a poysnous bosom snake. 1688 Sir S. Morland in *Pepys' Diary & Corr.* (1879) VI. 160 To assure me that I was taking a snake into my bosom. 1865 Kingsley *Herew.* I. ix. 214 The wild Viking would have crushed the growing snake in his bosom.

b. Used to denote some lurking danger, suspicious circumstance or person, etc.; esp. in the phr. *a snake in the grass* (after Virgil *Ecl.* III. 93 *Latet anguis in herba*).

1611 W. Barksted *Hiren* (1876) 109 O could this diuell my soule so transforme That I must eate that snake in him did lurke. 1659 Haslerig in *Burton's Diary* (1828) IV. 337 Consider what a snake lies under this fair Declaration. 1677 Yarranton *Eng. Impr.* 101 Hold, hold, you drive too fast; there is a snake in the Bush. 1696 [C. Leslie] (*title*), The Snake in the Grass. 1709 Hearne *Collect.* (O.H.S.) II. 173 There is a Snake in the grasse, and the designe is mischievous. 1881 Evans *Leic. Gloss.*, *Sneck-i'-the-gress*, a sneak; a traitor; a treacherous deceiver.

†c. *To eat* (or *feed on*) *snakes*, as a means of renewing one's youth or vigour. *Obs.*

1603 Dekker *Honest Wh.* Wks. 1873 II. 103, I eate Snakes, my Lord, I eate Snakes. My heart shall neuer haue a wrinkle in it. *a* 1625 Fletcher *Elder Brother* IV. iv, That you have eat a Snake, and are grown young, gamesome, and rampant. *a* 1640 Massinger, etc. *Old Law* v. i, He hath left off o' late to feed on snakes; His beard's turn'd white again.

d. *To wake snakes* (see quot. 1872); *to have snakes in one's boots*, *to see snakes*, to have delirium tremens. *U.S. slang.*

1872 De Vere *Americanisms* 212 The other meaning.. makes *waking snakes* equivalent to 'running away quickly'. 1877 J. Habberton *Barton Exper.* ix, He's been pretty high on whisky for two or three days,..and they say he's got snakes in his boots now.

3. Applied to persons, esp. with contemptuous or opprobrious force; in early use freq. *poor snake*, a poor, needy, or humble person; a drudge.

(*a*) 1590 Greene *Mourning Garment* Wks. (Grosart) IX. 193 The Gentleman..seeing such a poore snake to hinder his attempt, thought to checke him with a frowne. 1597 Tofte *Laura* (1880) p. xliii, Then Cupid worke that I (poore Snake in loue) This sdainfull Snake for to be kinde may moue. 1616 R. C. *Times Whistle* (1871) 71 A poore snake, whose best of meanes Is but to live on that he dayly gleanes. 1665 Brathwait *Comment. Two Tales* (1900) 42 These poor Snakes of hers were far from challenging any property in either. 1821 Scott *Kenilw.* ix, This Doctor Doboobie had a servant, a poor snake, whom he employed in trimming his furnace,..compounding his drugs [etc.].

(*b*) 1600 Shaks. *A. Y. L.* IV. iii. 71, I see Loue hath made thee a tame snake. 1643 Baker *Chron., Hen. III*, 112 The Dragon once appeased or destroyed, these lesser Snakes will soone be trodden downe. 1833 M. Scott *Tom Cringle* vii, Don't provoke me to try, you yellow snake, you! 1897 Gunter *Susan Turnbull* xvi. 193 Do you remember a little toadying snake who used to be at school with us?

4. Applied to various things resembling a snake in some respect.

†a. A long curl or tail attached to a wig. *Obs.* b. The long flexible tube of a hookah. c. A kind of firework burning with a snake-like movement or having a snaky form. d. In miscellaneous transf. senses.

a. 1676 Dryden *Ep. Etheredge's Man of Mode* 24 His Sword-knot this, his Crevat this design'd; And this the yard long Snake he twirls behind. 1728 Swift *On Five Ladies at Sol's Hole* 34 Misc. 1735 V. 456 We who wear our Wigs With Fan-Tail and with Snake.

b. 1865 *Reader* No. 123. 508/2 The tube, or 'snake', as it is conventionally called, of a hookah. 1875 in W. Hamilton *Poems Tobacco* (1889) 121 Here's to the hookah with snake of five feet.

c. 1891 *Chambers's Encycl.* VIII. 509/1 When the lower portion [of the rocket] is burned, the upper..takes fire and sets off its garniture of stars, snakes, and other ornaments.

d. 1891 Haggard *Nada* xviii, Chaka watched the long black snake of men winding..across the plain. 1894 Mrs. Dyan *Man's Keeping* iv. (1899) 40 The floor was strewn with scraps of torn lace, curling snakes of ribbon. 1896 Mrs. F. A. Steel *Face Waters* III. iv, That snake of fire flashing to the powder magazine.

†5. Some dicing game. *Obs.*—0

1688 Holme *Armoury* III. xvi. (Roxb.) 68/1 A snake board vert; there on a snake depicted, with houses, birds and the like fixed on his back all proper...This is a bord whereon is playd the game of Snake.

6. A kind of man-trap used in Ireland. ? *Obs.*

1835- in *Eng. Dial. Dict.* 1867 *Chronicle* 13 July 38/1 The 'snakes' in question are iron barbs, theoretically maintained as a terror to trespassers, but hardly existing in fact.

7. A species of mediæval war-vessel.

Used as a rendering of OE. *snacc* Snack *sb.*[1] or ON. *snekkja*.

1864 Dasent *Jest & Earnest* (1873) I. 275 He was left with only twelve snakes or war-galleys. 1880 Dawkins *Early Man* 396 These boats are to be looked upon as the precursors of the long ships, snakes, and sea-dragons.

II. *attrib.* and *Comb.* 8. a. Simple attrib., as *snake-bite*, *-broth*, *family*, *-poison*, *-skin*, etc.

1839 *Penny Cycl.* XIII. 161/1 It is also one of their remedies for *snake-bites, but is no doubt inefficacious. *c* 1880 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* IV. 323 The population being dense, it is reasonable to expect that great mortality would occur from Snake bites every year. 1894 A. Robertson *Nuggets*, etc. 73 She knows as much about snake-bite as any doctor. 1747 tr. *Astruc's Fevers* 81 Viper or *snake-broth is also powerfully deobstruent. 1885 Hornaday *2 Yrs. Jungle* xxxii. 388 The Dyak proceeded to roast the serpent,..preparatory to making a *snake curry. *c* 1880 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* IV. 301 All the species of the *Snake family..have minute vestiges of hind limbs. 1774 Goldsm. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) VII. 178 A single meal, with many of the *snake kind, seems to be the adventure of a season. 1883 *Science* I. 260/2 It acted like *snake-poison, especially on birds. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* II. 810 Snake-poison is a clear limpid fluid of a pale straw to yellow colour. 1874 (*title*), Report on the Effects of Artificial Respiration..in Indian and Australian *Snake-Poisoning. 1825 Scott *Talism.* xx, A straight broadsword, with a handle of box-wood, and a sheath covered with *snake-skin. 1897 Mary Kingsley *W. Africa* 270 Each man..loosened his knife in its snake-skin sheath. 1888 G. Meredith *Poems* (1898) II. 191 The *snake-slough sick of the snaky sin. 1805 Southey *Madoc* II. vi. 192 *note*, *Snake worship was common in America. 1883 Monier Williams *Relig. Th. India* I. xii. 319 Many..believe that snake-worship was the earliest form of religion prevalent among men.

b. Attrib., with terms denoting persons or things connected with the catching, selling, exhibition, or worship of snakes, as *snake-boy*, *-man*, *-player*; *snake-dance*, *-temple*, etc.

1873 Leland *Egypt. Sketch-Bk.* 60, I did quite a business with that *snake-boy, for I was interested in the study of his ware. 1883 *Pall Mall G.* 16 Nov. 12/1 A *snake dance of Savages. 1901 *Athenæum* 11 May 599/2 He saw snake-dances and fire ceremonies, of which he preserved an accurate report. 1836 [Miss Maitland] *Lett. fr. Madras* (1843) 36 Eight cobras and three other snakes.., and the *snake-men singing and playing..to them. 1859 Sir J. G. Wilkinson in Rawlinson *Herodotus* III. 151 *note*, The *snake-players of the coast of Barbary. 1889 *Cent. Mag.* Aug. 507 The *snake-staff is used to handle snakes. 1891 Miss Gordon-Cumming *2 Yrs. Ceylon* (1892) I. v. 127 There was a very ancient *snake-temple..near Jaffna.

c. Appositive, as *snake-girdle*, *-god*, *-idol*, *-king*, *-lock*, etc.

1606 Sylvester *Du Bartas* II. iv. II. *Magnificence* 912 A Mantle..round about him ty'd With a Snake-girdle biting off her tail. 1805 Southey *Madoc* II. vi. 192 A temple ..where the Snake-Idol stood. *Ibid.* II. vii. (*heading*), The Snake God. 1866 Conington *Æneid* VI. 185 Her [Discord's] snake-locks hiss. 1871 Alabaster *Wheel of Law* 136 If a snake-king he will sink into the earth. 1901 *Athenæum* 13 Apr. 475/2 The influence of the snake-woman, gorgeous in beauty and irresistible in allurement.

d. Used to designate things having the form of a snake, as *snake-arrow*, *-bow*, *-knot*, *neck*, etc.

1895 Haddon *Evol. Art* 25 A *snake-arrow which has lost all trace of its saurian ancestry. *c* 1660 Wood *Life* (O.H.S.) I. 300 Lac'd bands and tassell or *snake-bow band-strings. 1866 G. Stephens *Runic Mon.* I. 327 The intertwining arabesques have everywhere a tendency to the regular *Snake-knot. 1865 Kingsley *Herew.* ii, His long *snake neck and cruel visage wreathing about in search of prey. 1625 in *Rymer's Fœdera* (1726) XVIII. 239 One Paire of Goulde Cupps with Covers, haveinge blewe *Snake Rings in the Topp of theire Covers. 1891 M. Williams *Later Leaves* v. 63 A gold snake ring.

9. Objective and obj. genitive, as *snake-bearer*, *-catcher*, *-charmer*, *-eater*, *-worshipper*, etc.; *snake-devouring*, *-eating* adjs.; *snake-killing*.

1610 Healey *St. Aug. Citie of God* 383 Æsculapius was.. called..the *Snake-bearer. 1796 T. Twining *Trav. India*, etc. (1893) 164 The exhibition of the *snake-catchers near Benares. *c* 1880 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* IV. 306 The Cobras are the favourites of the snake-catchers. 1836 [Miss Maitland] *Lett. fr. Madras* (1843) 36 Those *snake-charmers are most wonderful. 1891 Miss Gordon-Cumming *2 Yrs. Ceylon* (1892) I. v. 129 Professional snake-charmers, who go about with a basket full of these wriggling reptiles for exhibition. 1621 Quarles *Esther* vii, Enuie did ope her *Snake-deuouring lawes. 1835 J. Duncan *Beetles* 189 If it enjoyed an inferior degree of veneration to the snake-devouring Ibis [etc.]. 1771 *Phil. Trans.* LXI. 56 This bird [the secretary-bird] was called a *snake-eater, by those who brought it from India. 1872 *Routledge's Ev. Boy's Ann.* 393/1 Such a creature as a snake-eater is man's best friend. *c* 1880 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* IV. 307 A *snake-eating Snake. 1887 Mrs. Daly *Digging & Squatting* 94 The reptile known as the *Ophiophagus elaps* or snake-eating cobra. 1895 J. G. Millais *Breath fr. Veldt* (1899) 29 As for his *snake-killing exploits, I think he is a bit of a fraud. 1880 G. C. M. Birdwood *Indust. Arts India* 83 The Nagas are a mythical type of the Scythic race of *snake-worshippers.

10. With pa. pples. or (ppl.) adjs., forming parasynthetic, similative, or instrumental combs., as *snake-bitten*, *-bodied*, *-bred*, *-drawn*, *-encircled*, *-engirdled*, *-eyed*, *-haired*, *-headed*, etc.

Freq. in allusion to the snake-like hair of the Furies.

1807 Gass *Jrnl.* 20 One of our people got *snake bitten but not dangerously. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 47/2 *Snake-bodied Batrachians. 1587 Golding *De Mornay* xvii. (1592) 271 This Diuell.., whom he calleth ὀφιογενῆ or ὀφιόνεον, that is to say *Snakebread or Adderbread. 1876 A. S. Murray *Mythol.* iii. (1877) 42 [Demeter] giving..to his son, Triptolemos, the seed of barley and her *snake-drawn car. 1765 Goldsm. *New Simile* 32 His hand Fill'd with a *snake-encircled wand. 1873 Symonds *Greek Poets* vii. 227 Hound not Those blood-faced, snake-encircled women on me. 1866 J. B. Rose *Ovid's Met.* III Tisiphone..*snake-engirdled issued forth in air. 1896 Lydekker *Roy. Nat. Hist.* V. 168 *Snake-eyed..lizards differ from all their kin in having no movable eyelids. 1625 K. Long tr. *Barclay's Argenis* v. i. 330 From the barre The *snake-hayrd Sisters dragge the prisoner. 1634 T. Carew *Cœlum Brit.* 19 Thus I charme ..The Snake-heard Gorgon, and fierce Sagittar. 1856 Olmsted *Slave States* 65 These—long, lank, bony, *snake-headed, hairy, wild beasts. 1883 F. Day *Indian Fish* 33 The walking, or snake-headed fishes, *Ophiocephalidæ*, of India. 1857 Hughes *Tom Brown* I. i, They are a square-headed and *snake-necked generation. *c* 1880 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* IV. 255 The Snake-necked Tortoises of Monte Video, Buenos Ayres, and Southern Brazil. 1598 Sylvester *Du Bartas* II. i. III. 250 Come *snake-trest Sisters, come ye dismall Elves. 1605 *Ibid.* II. iii. III. *Law* 428 Smiting the Waves with his *Snake-wanded wood. 1682 N. O. *Boileau's Lutrin* I. 85 A corner'd Cap her *Snake-wigg'd Head did cover.

11. Special combs.: †**snake-board** (see sense 5); **snake-boat**, a form of canoe used in the East (see quot. 1882); **snake-box**, (*a*) a box or case for keeping snakes; (*b*) a faro-box fraudulently made so that a slight projection called a snake warns the dealer of the approach of a particular card (*Cent. Dict.*); †**snake-button**, a snake-stone, adder-stone; **snake-doctor**, one who cures snake-bites; †**snake-foot** *a.* (rendering L. *anguipes*), snake-footed, as a poetic epithet of giants; **snake juice**, *Austr. slang*, whisky; **snake-line**, **-piece** (see quots.); **snake-pill**, a pill used as a remedy for snake-bite; **snake-poison** *U.S.*, whisky; †**snake-proof** *a.*, proof against snakes; in quot. *fig.*; **snake-spit** *dial.* (see quot.); **snake story**, **yarn**, an incredible tale about a snake, esp. in regard to its great length or size.

1882 Annandale *Imperial Dict.*, *Pamban-manche*, a canoe of great length, used on the Malabar coast...Called also Serpent-boat, *Snake-boat. 1900 *Daily News* 14 Feb. 4/4 They have fifteen steam launches and a great number of snake boats at their service. 1886 P. Robinson *Teetotum Trees* 92 Very much like the showman's *snake-box in which each reptile had swallowed the one next to it in size. 1699 E. Lhwyd in *Phil. Trans.* XXVIII. 98 The *Snake-button is the same described..in Camden, by the Name of Adder-beads. 1800 *Asiatic Ann. Reg.* 325 A specimen was brought me by a *snake-doctor. 1598 Chapman *Hero & Leander* vi. 46 To *snake-foote Boreas next she doth remoue. 1890 *Pall Mall G.* 3 Sept. 3/2 This whisky, or *snake juice, as bushmen often call the hell-broth prepared for them. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2229 *Snake-line*, line used in worming a rope. 1867 Smyth *Sailor's Word-bk.*, *Snake-pieces,.. stout props, placed obliquely to the timbers of whalers, to sustain the shock of icebergs. 1800 *Asiatic Ann. Reg.* III. 125/1 So much I can say for the arsenic *snake pills, the only other remedy recommended. 1890 L. C. D'Oyle *Notches* 4 It was variously called for as tangle-foot, *snake-poison,.. chain-lightning, or other fancy name, but it was never called for as *whisky*. 1609 Dekker *Gull's Horn-bk.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 203, I am *Snake-proof: and..it is impossible for you to quench..my Alpine-resolution. 1823 E. Moor *Suffolk Words*, *Snake-spit*, small masses of delicately white frothy matter, seen on leaves of weeds or wild flowers..; popularly believed to be the saliva of snakes. 1885 Hornaday *2 Yrs. in Jungle* xxvii. 331 All the big *snake stories I had heard. 1891 E. Kinglake *Australian* 97 If anyone told a good anecdote with a dash of the *snake yarn about it.

b. In the specific or popular names of animals, birds, fishes, etc. (see quots.).

A large number of combs. of this type are given in recent American Dicts., as *snake-blenny*, *-doctor*, *-feeder*, *-hag* (=lizard), *-mackerel*, etc.

1881 Day *Fishes Gt. Brit.* I. 330 Snedden...At St. Ives the fishermen term the adult *snake-bait, and the young naked-bait. 1869-73 *Cassell's Bk. Birds* II. 49 About noon the *Snake Buzzard [*Circaëtus gallicus*] appears upon the river banks. 1863 S. L. J. *Life in South* I. vii. 93 The cat-bird, or *snake-charmer. 1869-73 *Cassell's Bk. Birds* IV. 91 The *Snake Cranes (*Dicholophus*) constitute a group of remarkable birds. 1668 Charleton *Onomast.* 113 *Hoactzin*,..the *Snake-eater of America. 1829 Griffith tr. *Cuvier* VI. 68 The Snake-Eater, or Secretary (*Serpentarius*). 1803 Shaw *Gen. Zool.* IV. I. 23 *Snake Eel. *Anguilla Serpens*. 1866 *Carpenter's Zoology* II. 75 The *Ophisurus*, or Snake Eel (so called from its strong resemblance to a serpent) of the Mediterranean. 1668 Charleton *Onomast.* 42 *Serpentisuga*,..the *Snake-fly. 1817 Kirby & Sp. *Entomol.* xxiii. (1818) II. 309 A kind of snake-fly (*Raphidia Mantispa*, F.) is said to walk upon its knees. 1882 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* VI. 15 The Snake-flies, or Camel-flies (*Rhaphidiæ*) form a small genus. 1781 Latham *Gen. Synop. Birds* I. I. 61 Swallow-tailed Falcon..inhabits Carolina in the summer months; where it is called *Snake-hawk. 1863 Russell *Diary North & S.* I. 216 The young gentleman was good enough to bring over a snake hawk he had shot for me. 1816 Keatinge *Trav.* (1817) I. 344 They have a remarkably swift..race of horses, which, from the lankness of their bodies,..are called *snake-horses. 1872 Coues *N. Amer. Birds* 189 *Geococcyx*,..Road Runner. *Snake Killer. 1902 P. Fountain *Mountains & Forests South America* iv. 89 A hawk seen on all parts of the river [Purus] was a beautiful black and white one, known in the States as the *snake-kite, on account of its preying largely on those reptiles. 1802 Shaw *Gen. Zool.* III. I. 305 *Snake-Lizards, with extremely long bodies, and short legs. 1866 *Carpenter's Zoology* I. 564 The Four-toed *Saurophis*, or Snake-Lizard, which is a native of the southern part of Africa. 1863 S. L. J. *Life in South* I. vi. 87 That's a *snake-maid [=dragon-fly]. 1883 J. Curtis *Farm Insects* vii. 201 Linnæus gave them the generic name of Julus; and from the typical species resembling snakes in miniature,..I have applied to them the English appellation of *snake-millipedes. 1900 Davis tr. *Bos' Agric. Zool.* (ed. 2) 195 The Snake Millipedes..or 'False Wireworms'. *c* 1880 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* IV. 200 The Darters (*Plotus*)..are also called *Snake-necks, from the habit they have of swimming with the body submerged and only the neck exposed above the water. 1713 Petiver *Aquat. Anim. Amboinæ* Tab. 16/32 *Solen Anguinus*,..*Snake pipes. 1804 Shaw *Gen. Zool.* V. II. 453 *Snake Pipefish, ..*Syngnathus Ophidion*. 1883 Day *Fishes Gt. Brit.* II. 261 Ocean pipe-fish and snake pipe-fish. 1868 Darwin *Var. Anim. & Plants* xv. II. 87 Some *snake-rats (*Mus alexandrinus*) escaped in the Zoological Gardens. 1713 Petiver *Aquat. Anim. Amboinæ* Tab. xii, *Serpentulus*,..*Snake-shell. 1800 Shaw *Gen. Zool.* III. I. 72 *Snake Tortoise. *Testudo Serpentina*.

c. In the names of plants, etc. (see quots.).

Various others occurring in dialect or local use are recorded in the *Eng. Dial. Dict.* and recent American Dicts.

1846–50 A. Wood *Class-bk. Bot.* 275 *Cereus flagelliformis*, ..*Snake Cactus. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 652/1 *Kunthia*, a genus of palms..of New Grenada, where the natives call it *Cana de la Vibora*, i. e. *Snake Cane, from the resemblance of its stem to a snake. 1882 *Garden* I Apr. 219/3 Packets of seed of various plants, including Water Melons and *Snake Cucumbers. 1902 Cornish *Naturalist Thames* 170 The fritillaries, the chequered red or pale '*snake-flowers', are grass-lovers. 1823 Crabb *Technol. Dict.* II. s.v., *Snake-gourd. 1857 Henfrey *Bot.* § 479 The Snake-gourd, *Trichosanthes anguina*, is eaten in India. 1901 Bailey & Miller *Cycl. Amer. Horticult.* II. 874 The long curved forms [of *Lagenaria vulgaris*] are often called snake gourds in this country. 1883 A. K. Green (Mrs. Rohlfs) *Hand & Ring* I, The ground is marshy and covered with *snake grass. 1845 Lindley *Sch. Bot.* 154 *Lycopodium clavatum*

(Clubmoss, *Snakemoss). 1845-50 Mrs. Lincoln *Lect. Bot.* App. 144 *Pogonia ophioglossoides* (*snake-mouth arethusa). 1846 Lindley *Veg. Kingd.* 383 The nut of a Demerara tree, called the *Snake-nut, in consequence of the large embryo, resembling a snake coiled up. 1849 Balfour *Man. Bot.* § 807 *Ophiocaryon paradoxum*, is the Snake-nut-tree of Demerara. 1885 C. G. W. Lock *Workshop Rec.* Ser. IV. 277/1 The best variety is known under several names, as those of the *snake osier [etc.]. 1883 W. Robinson *Eng. Flower Garden* (1901) 436 *Arum Dracunculus* (Dragons, *Snake Plant). 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXIII. 152/2 *Strychnos colubrina*, Snake-wood, or *Snake-poison Nut, is a climbing plant with simple tendrils. 1832 Don *Gen. Syst. Gard. & Bot.* II. 60/1 *Ophispermum Sinense*.., China *Snake-seed. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 815/2 The fruits [of *Ophiocaryon paradoxum*] are often sent to this country as curiosities, under the name of Snake-nuts or Snake-seeds. 1880 Jefferies *Gt. Estate* 87 The *snake-skin willow, so called because it sheds its bark. 1632 Sherwood, Snake-weede, *snake-wort, *bistorte.*

12. In collocations with **snake's**, chiefly in plant-names (see quots.).

Cf. also the *Eng. Dial. Dict.* and recent American Dicts. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1067/2 *Snake's-beard, *Ophiopogon.* 1597 Gerarde *Herbal* 659 Buglosse..is called..in English vipers Buglosse, *Snakes Buglosse. 1611 Cotgr., *Ail Sauvage*, Wild Garlicke,..Stags Garlicke, *Snakes Garlicke. 1887 G. Nicholson *Dict. Gard.* III. 447 *Snake's-mouth Orchis...*Pogonia ophioglossum.* *c* 1675 R. Cromwell *Let.* in *Eng. Hist. Rev.* (1898) XIII. 93 He hath sent of the *Snakes root of Verginnia..as the best of cordialls. 1879 *Folk-Lore Rec.* II. 81 The..*snake's-spit, or woodsear of England and Scotland,..is a froth discharged by the young froghoppers. 1863 Prior *Plant-n.* s.v., *Snake's tail, from its cylindrical spikes, *Rottböllia incurvata.* 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1067/2 Snake's-tail, *Lepturus incurvus. *Ibid.*, *Snake's-tongue, *Lygodium.* 1902 Bailey & Miller *Cycl. Amer. Hort.* IV. 1673 Snake's Tongue, *Ophioglossum.*

Snake (snēik), *v.*[1] [f. Snake *sb.*]

I. 1. *trans.* To twist or wind (hair) into the form of a snake. *rare*—[1].

1693 J. Hall *Parad.* 114 Who would not be sooner smitten with Tresses curiously snak't.

b. *Naut.* (See quot. 1846.)

1815 Burney *Falconer's Dict. Marine* 487/1 Snaking the Stays, or Ropes on the Quarters, instead of Netting. 1840 Adm. Winnington-Ingram *Hearts of Oak* (1889) 27 Put ratlines on the backstays, snaked the stays, slung the topmasts with chain. 1846 A. Young *Naut. Dict.* 288 *Snake*, to pass small stuff across a seizing at the outer turns by way of finish. To attach lengths of rope between two stays or backstays.

c. To move, stretch out, (the head, etc.) after the manner of a snake. Also *refl.*

1887 D. C. Murray & Herman *Traveller Returns* i, The girl snaking her head hither and thither in the eagerness of her regard. 1890 L. C. D'Oyle *Notches* 60 Then falling down full-length upon the ground he began to crawl, or rather 'snake' himself, up to the brow.

d. To cover or decorate *with* spirals or coils.

1887 *Sporting Life* 22 June 6/5 The portico pillars of the Mansion House were 'snaked' with richly coloured illumination lamps.

2. *intr.* To move in a creeping, crawling, or stealthy manner suggestive of the movements of a snake.

1848 in Bartlett *Dict. Amer.* 315 There's some fellows who..are snaking up to the Grand Jury, on their bellies in the grass, kind of trying to hear what the Jury are talking about. 1848 Lowell *Biglow P.* Ser. I. ix, Pomp he snaked up behin', An' creepin' grad'lly close tu,..grabbed my leg. 1893 Capt. King *Foes in Ambush* 187 Unseen Indians would come skulking, spying, 'snaking' upon their refuge. *fig.* 1852 Mrs. Stowe *Uncle Tom's C.* viii. 57, I b'lieve.. I could get along and snake through, even if justices were more particular than they is.

b. *spec.* (see quots.).

1875 *Encycl. Brit.* II. 378 An arrow is said to snake when it works itself under the grass. 1876 Voyle & Stevenson *Milit. Dict.* 391/1 Projectiles subject to this influence [i. e. spiral motion of rotation round their original direction] are technically said *to snake*.

3. To wind, twist, curve, etc., in a snake-like manner.

1875 Miss Bird *Sandwich Isl.* xxi. 302 The irack..snaked along the narrow tops of spine-like ridges. 1888 Clark Russell *Death Ship* II. 206 The hacked ends of the shrouds snaking out into the hollows and swellings over the side. 1908 A. E. W. Mason *Four Feathers* (1903) 2 A coil of white smoke from a train snaked rapidly in and out amongst the trees.

4. *trans.* To make (one's way) in a sinuous or creeping manner.

1879 Miss Bird *Rocky Mountains* 5 The monster train snaked its way upwards. 1894 D. C. Murray *Making of Novelist* 28 One by one we snaked our way..into the hole.

II. 5. *U.S.* To drag, pull, or draw; *spec.* in *Lumbering*, to haul (logs) along the ground lengthwise by means of chains or ropes.

1848 Bartlett *Dict. Amer.* 316 A farmer in clearing land, attaches a chain to a stump or log, whereby to draw it out; this he calls, *snaking it out*. 1878 *Lumberman's Gaz.* 26 Jan., Where the haul is very short, and so close to the streams that the logs are 'snaked' in without being skidded. 1883 *Harper's Mag.* Jan. 206/1 The..cattle snake the log endwise down the hill.

fig. 1833 [Seba Smith] *Lett. of J. Downing* (1835) 26 We snaked him out of that scrape as slick as a whistle. 1883 *Philad. Times* No. 2810. 4 Some legal loophole..through which an evasion or extension can be successfully snaked.

b. *transf.* To drag or pull forcibly or quickly.

1897 F. T. Bullen *Cruise 'Cachalot'* xxvii. (1900) 359 One of the small London tugs..would have snaked those monsters along at the rate of three or four knots an hour. 1899 — *Log Sea-waif* 341 How we did snake the hatches off.

6. *U.S. slang.* To beat, thrash.

a 1859 in Bartlett *Dict. Amer.* (ed. 2) 421 Any gal like me ..ought to be able to snake any man of her heft.

7. *U.S.* To take *out* surreptitiously.

1862 Lowell *Biglow P.* Ser. II. iii, Ef You snake one link out here, one there, how much on 't ud be lef' ?

Snake, *v.*[2] *dial.* (chiefly *north.* and *Sc.*). Also **snaik.** [prob. a. ON. *snaka* (Norw. *snaka*, MDa. *snage*) to go snuffing or searching about; cf. G. dial. *schnaken* (*schnacken*) to creep.]

1. *intr.* To skulk or sneak.

1818 Hogg *Brownie of Bodsbeck* vii, Some o' thae beasts that gang snaiken about i' the derk. 1882 *Jamieson's Sc. Dict.*, To *snaik*, to sneak, in walking, working, or speaking. 1894 Hall Caine *Manxman* IV. xvii, Young Ross snaked out of the house same as a cur.

2. *trans.* To get or obtain (a thing) furtively or surreptitiously; to steal or pilfer; to cheat (a person) *out of* something.

1881– in dial. texts and glossaries (Yorks., Lancs., Notts., Somerset).

Snake-bird. Also **snakebird, snake bird.** [Snake *sb.*]

1. A bird belonging to the genus *Plotus*, esp. the American species *P. anhinga*, characterized by its long snake-like neck; the darter or water-turkey.

1791 W. Bartram *Carolina* 132 Here is..in the waters all over Florida, a very curious and handsome bird, the people call the Snake Birds. 1814 A. Wilson *Amer. Ornith.* IX. 79 Black-bellied Darter, or Snake-bird, *Plotus melanogaster*. 1838 Audubon *Ornith.* IV. 136 Anhinga or Snake-bird, *Plotus anhinga*. 1883 *Fish. Exhib. Catal.* (ed. 4) 152 The Darter, sometimes known as the snake bird, is not at all uncommon in Bengal. 1895 Lydekker *Roy. Nat. Hist.* IV. 280 The darters, snake-birds, or snake-necks, form a group of four species.

2. *dial.* The wryneck, *Iynx torquilla.*

1831 Rennie *Montagu's Ornith. Dict.* 576 Long Tongue. Emmet Hunter. Snake Bird. 1844 *Zoologist* II. 449 The bird .. proved to be what is here [in Kent] provincially called a 'snake-bird', and only known among the lower orders by that name. 1848 *Ibid.* VI. 2186 The wryneck [in Norfolk] is the 'cuckoo's leader' and 'snake-bird'. 1889 H. Saunders *Brit. Birds* 262 When disturbed, the sitting bird makes a loud hissing,..which has led to the popular name of 'Snake-bird'.

Snaked (snēikt), *ppl. a.* [f. Snake *sb.*] Polished with snakestone.

1841 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* IV. 185/1 The snaked or finely rubbed [slabs of slate]..when oiled have the appearance of black marble.

Snake-fence. *U.S.* [Snake *sb.*] A fence made of roughly split rails or poles laid in a zig-zag fashion; a worm or zigzag fence.

1830 Galt *Lawrie T.* VII. I. (1849) 303 The American regions of stumps and stones, log-houses and snake-fences. 1864 Charlotte M. Yonge *Trial* II. 173 An untidy desolate-looking region, with a rude snake fence. 1887 I. R. *Ranche Life Montana* 61 They are called 'snake' fences because they don't go straight, but form an angle, where the poles overlap each other.

Snake-fish. [Snake *sb.*] One or other of certain fishes (see quots.) having some resemblance to a snake.

1796 Stedman *Surinam* II. xviii. 60 The snake-fish takes its name from its resemblance to that reptile: this is a black eel with a white belly. 1836 Yarrell *Brit. Fishes* I. 195 The red Bandfish, or Red Snakefish, *cepola rubescens*. 1876 Goode *Fishes of Bermudas* 68 *Synodus Lacerta*,.. Snake-Fish. 1896 Lydekker *Roy. Nat. Hist.* V. 438 Snake-fishes. The typical genus *Ophidium*..has the pelvic fins replaced by a pair of barbel-like filaments. 1899 *Proc. Zool. Soc.* Nov. 985 The two Snake-Fishes (*Polypterus senegalus*) from the River Gambia.

attrib. 1884 Goode *Nat. Hist. Aquat. Anim.* 548 The Snake-fish family, *Synodontidæ*.

Snake-head. Also **snakehead.** [Snake *sb.*]

1. a. The North American plant *Chelone glabra.*

1845-50 Mrs. Lincoln *Lect. Bot.* App. 88/2 *Chelone glabra* (snake-head). 1846-50 A. Wood *Class-bk. Bot.* 400 Snake-head. Salt-rheum Weed.. A plant of brooks and wet places,..with flowers shaped much like the head of a snake.

b. The snake's head or common fritillary.

1884 G. Allen *Philistia* I. 146 'Has your brother ever sent you any of the fritillaries?' 'What? snake-heads?'

2. *U.S.* (See quots. and cf. Snake's-head 3).

1848 Bartlett *Dict. Amer.* 315 *Snake-head*,..the end of an iron rail, which sometimes is thrown up in front of the car wheels, and passes through the cars. 1848–71 W. M. Gillespie *Man. Road-making* 305 Most American roads with longitudinal timbers have been laid with plate rails, so thin that their ends sometimes spring up so as to form 'snake-heads'.

3. A representation of a snake's head. Also *attrib.*

1865 Kingsley *Herew.* iii, Two ships..whose long lines and snake-heads..bore witness to the piratical habits of their owner. 1887 *Archit. Soc. Dict.* VII. 96/2 Snake head Molding.

4. A fish (*Ophiocephalus*) or turtle having a snake-like head. 1891 in *Cent. Dict.*

Snake'less, *a.* [f. Snake *sb.*] Free from, not infested by, snakes.

1882 Tennyson *To Virgil* v, Summers of the snakeless meadow. 1893 *Voice* (N. Y.) 2 Feb., In snakeless regions [alcohol is supposed] to bring snakes and in snaky regions to cure their bites.

Snake'let. *rare.* [-let.] A small snake.

1887 *Pop. Sci. Monthly* XXX. 167 Dozens of young snakelets have been seen crawling into the open jaws..of certain pythons.

Snake-like, *a.* [f. Snake *sb.*] Like or resembling a snake or that of a snake; having the characteristic form of a snake; long and slender.

Common in the 19th cent.

1612 Drayton *Poly-olb.* ii. 34 Aloft where Chesil lifts Her ridged snake-like sands, in wrecks and smould'ring drifts. 1824 Miss Mitford *Village* Ser. I. (1863) 83 My own pet May..is sliding her snake-like head into my hand. 1839 Lever *H. Lorrequer* xiii, The long procession wound its snake-like length down the narrow stair. *c* 1880 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* IV. 301 Many of the smaller Colubrine Snakes resemble some of the Snake-like Lizards.

fig. 1821 Byron *Juan* IV. ix, A long and snake-like life of dull decay. 1839-52 Bailey *Festus* 99 This is a snakelike world, And always hath its tail within its mouth.

Snake'keling. [f. Snake *sb.* + -ling.] A young snake. (Cf. Snakelet.)

1868 J. Fergusson *Tree & Serpent Worship* 38 There they laid their eggs and nursed their snakelings. 1894 *Pop. Sci. Monthly* Nov. 78 In these little snakelings the instinct of self-defense was born.

Snakeology (snēikǫ'lŏdʒi). Also **snakology.** [f. Snake *sb.* + -ology.] The study of snakes.

1820 *Sporting Mag.* VII. 27 English snakology and its correlatives. *Ibid.*, His former practical experience in snakology. 1882 Hopley *Snakes* xii. 207 Not being specially interested in snakeology.

† Snaker, *v. Obs. rare.* [Cf. Snake *v.*[2] and -er 5.] *intr.* To approach stealthily; to sneak.

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 290 So sone so þu euer undersitest þet tes dogge of helle kumeð snakerinde mid his blodie vlien of stinkinde þouhtes, ne lie þu nout stille. *Ibid.* 380 Þet te best of helle, hwon he snakereð toward ou uorto biten on ou.

Sna'ke-root. Also **snake root, snakeroot.** [f. Snake *sb.*]

1. The root or rhizome of one or other of several American plants reputed to possess properties antidotal to snake-poison, *esp.* the dried root of *Polygala Senega* and *Aristolochia serpentaria* used largely in medicine; the medicinal preparation obtained from this.

1635 *Relat. Maryland* iii. 17 An excellent preseruative against Poyson, called by the English, the Snake roote. 1679 Moreau in Perry *Hist. Coll. Am. Col. Ch.* I. 30, I make bold to send a small quantity of snake root, the best sudorific..and counter poison that nature..can afford. 1703 Dampier *Voy.* III. I. 72 Drugs of several sorts, *viz.* Sassafras, Snake-root, &c. 1783 *Med. Comment.* I. 143 He was ordered to take a decoction of bark and snakeroot. 1822–7 Good *Study Med.* (1829) I. 675 Bark, valerian, snake-root, conium, and the various preparations of the hop. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1067/2.

b. One or other of these plants.

1712 *Pomet's Hist. Drugs* I. 26 Snake-Root..is called by some Dittany, by others Contrayerva of Virginia. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. *App.*, Snake-root, *aristolochia*,..a genus of plants, otherwise called birthwort. 1832 Griffith tr. *Cuvier* XIV. 60 The spathes of the snake-root..are often covered or filled with sylphs. 1846 Lindley *Veg. Kingd.* 378 Of these the most celebrated is a North American herb called Snake-root, *Polygala senega*. 1861 G. F. Berkeley *Eng. Sportsman* xi. 173 Only a flower here and there to be seen [on the prairie], consisting of the snake-root and the wild sun-flower.

c. Used with specific names, as *American, black, button, Canada* or *Canadian, Red River, Samson's, Seneca, Texan, white, wild snake-root*; **Virginia(n) snake-root,** the root of *Polygala Senega* or *Aristolochia serpentaria*, the medicinal preparation made from this, or either of the plants producing it.

1857 Henfrey *Bot.* 257 *Polygala Senega*, the *American Snake-root. 1755 Johnson s.v. *Ducksfoot*, *Black snake-root, or Mayapple. 1760 J. Lee *Introd. Bot.* 325 Root, Snake, black or wild, of America, *Actæa*. 1812 *New Botanic Gard.* I. 19 [*Actæa Racemosa*] is a native of North America, where it is often distinguished by the title of Black Snake-root. 1858 R. Hogg *Veg. Kingd.* 380 *Sanicula marilandica*, called in the United States Black Snake-root. 1845-50 Mrs. Lincoln *Lect. Bot.* App. 101 *Eryngium aquaticum* (*button snake-root). 1856 A. Gray *Man. Bot.* 151 *E. yuccæfolium* (Rattlesnake-Master, Button Snake-root). *Ibid.* 184 *Liatris*. Button Snakeroot. 1849 J. H. Balfour *Man. Bot.* 491 *Asarum canadense*, Wild Ginger, or *Canada Snake-root, is used as a spice in Canada. 1887 *Encycl. Brit.* XXII. 189 The rhizome of *Asarum canadense*, L., passes under the name of Canadian Snake-root. *Ibid.*, The root of *Aristolochia reticulata*,..which is known in the United States as *Red River or Texan Snake-root. 1892 F. P. Foster *Med. Dict.* IV. 2660 *Psoralea eglandulosa*. *Samson's snakeroot. 1845-50 Mrs. Lincoln *Lect. Bot.* 180 We find here Polygala, one species of which is called *Seneca snake-root. 1694 Salmon *Bate's Dispens.* (1713) 258/2 The Sudorifick Tincture, or Tincture of *Virginia Snake-root. 1720 tr. *Hodge's Loimologia* 165 Virginian Snake-Root, when fresh and fragrant is the most efficacious. 1789 W. Buchan *Dom. Med.* (1790) 481 Take of Virginian snake-root in powder, half a drachm. 1841 *Penny Cycl.* XXI. 448/1 A deficiency of saliva..is removed by the Virginian snake-root. 1856 A. Gray *Man. Bot.* 188 *Eupatorium ageratoides* (*White Snake-root).

2. One or other of several plants so called from a fancied resemblance to a snake in some respect (see quots.).

1856 Delamer *Fl. Gard.* (1861) 55 The Snake-root, *Arum dracunculus*, or Dragon Arum, is often found in old flower-gardens. 1858 A. Irvine *Handbk. Brit. Plants* Index 832 Snake-root,..*Polygonum Bistorta*. 1895 Oliver tr. *Kerner's Plants* I. 708 The creeping stems of the Snake-root (*Calla palustris*).

Snakery (snē·kəri). [f. SNAKE *sb.* + -ERY 2.] A snake-house.

1886 *Voice* (N.Y.) 30 Dec. 2 No man can be a successful snake-killer as long as he owns a snakery. 1888 *Longm. Mag.* Apr. 651 The late king of Oude had built a snakery in the gardens of his palace.

Snake's head. Also **snakeshead, snake's-head.** [SNAKE *sb.* 12.]

1. *attrib.* a. *Snake's-head iris*, an iris of the Mediterranean region, *Hermodactylus tuberosus*.

1739 MILLER *Gard. Dict.* II, *Hermodactylus*, the Hermodactyl, commonly called Snakes-head Iris. 1786 ABERCROMBIE *Arr.* in *Gard. Assist.* 59 Tuberous-rooted, or snake's head iris. 1825 *Greenho. Comp.* I. 117 Chalcedonian and Snakeshead Iris. 1882 *Garden* 18 Mar. 176/1 The Snake's-head Iris..is not a new, but a very old, plant.

b. *Snake's-head fly* (see quot.).

1826 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* III. xxxiv. 527 *Raphidia*, the snake's-head fly.

c. *Snake's-head fritillary, lily* (see 2 b).

1899 *Gardening Illustr.* 29 Apr. 112/1 The beautiful Snake's-head Fritillary..that grows in the Oxfordshire meadows. 1902 CORNISH *Naturalist Thames* 180 Butterburs and wild snake's-head lilies.

2. a. *U. S.* = SNAKE-HEAD 1.

1834 AUDUBON *Ornith.* II. 150 The Snake's Head [*Chelone glabra*] grows on the banks of rivers and swamps, in the Middle and Southern States. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1067.

b. The common fritillary, *Fritillaria meleagris*; so called from the fancied resemblance of the bud to the head of a snake.

1859 MISS PRATT *Flower. Pl.* V. 277 Common Fritillary, or Snake's-head. 1869 RUSKIN *Q. of Air* § 87 It chequers itself into a snake's head, and secretes in the deep of its bell ..honey-dew. 1897 *E'ham Weekly Post* 17 Apr. 4/7 Snakes-heads, our wild flower is sometimes called, from the shape of the buds.

3. *U.S.* (See quots. and SNAKE-HEAD 2.)

184. in Bartlett *Dict. Amer.* 315 The road to Petersburg consists of an iron strap laid upon pine timber, and is beautifully diversified with that peculiar half horizontal, vibrating rail, known as 'snake's head'. 1886 *Encycl. Brit.* XX. 223 *n.*, As the ends of the bars became loose and turned upwards they were known as 'snakes' heads'.

Snakeship (snē·kʃip). [f. SNAKE *sb.* + -SHIP.] The personality of a snake. (Used as a mock title or humorous designation.)

1839 F. BARHAM *Adamus Exul* 14 Thus unknown, My lubricating snakeship will I wind Cunningly onward. 1849 *Zoologist* VII. 2459 Captain Adams, not feeling partial to an encounter with his snakeship, ordered the vessel to be kept off. 1876 E. W. CLARK *Life Japan* 90 One of my bearers poked him [a snake] gently with a stick, whereupon his snakeship moved slowly away.

† **Sna·kesman.** *Cant. Obs.* (See quot.).

1785 GROSE *Dict. Vulgar T.* s.v. *Little, Little snakesman*, a little boy who gets into a house through the sink hole, and then opens the door for his accomplices.

Sna·ke-stone. Also **snakestone, snake stone.** [f. SNAKE *sb.*]

1. An ammonite. Now *dial.*

1661 J. CHILDREY *Brit. Bacon.* 77 In this too they agree with the Snake-stones of Keinsham. 1668 CHARLETON *Onomast.* 267 *Sceleton Serpentis,..Ophiomorphites*, Snake-stone. 1696 AUBREY *Nat. Hist. Wilts.* (1847) 45 About two or three miles from the Devises are found in a pitt Snake-stones (*cornua ammonis*) no bigger than a sixpence. 1708 *Phil. Trans.* XXVI. 78 The Sayler or (as 'tis commonly call'd) the Snake-stone. 1758 [see AMMONITE 1]. 1828 G. YOUNG *Geol. Surv. Yorksh. Coast* 138 The well known Whitby snake-stones. 1854– in dialect glossaries (Yks., Linc., Northants., Leic.).

2. A porous or absorbent substance regarded as efficacious in curing snake-bite or as a remedy against poison; a serpent-stone.

1694 *Phil. Trans.* XVIII. 128, I think they all recovered, to which he applyed the Snake-stones. 1698 FRYER *Acc. E. India & P.* 53 A Factitious Stone (which we call a Snake-stone) is a Counter-poyson to all deadly Bites. 1822 J. FLINT *Lett. Amer.* 128 In some parts of the Union, what are called snake-stones are relied on as certain cures for the bite of the reptile, and of mad dogs. 1855 BROWNING *An Epistle* 17 The vagrant Scholar to his Sage at home Sends..Three samples of true snake-stone. 1903 SIR M. G. GERARD *Leaves fr. Diaries* x. 376 A snake-stone is..a secretion which occasionally forms on the palate of a snake's mouth.

3. A small perforated stone (cf. *adder-stone*, ADDER *sb.*2 5).

1700 LHWYD in Rowlands *Mona Antiqua* (1723) 338 Besides the Snake-Stones,..the Highlanders have their Snail-Stones, Paddoc-stones [etc.], to all which they attribute their several Virtues. 1872 J. EVANS *Anc. Stone Impl.* 391 In Harris and Lewis the distaff and spindle are still in common use, and yet the original intention of the stone spindle-whorls, which occur there as elsewhere, appears to be unknown. They are called *clach-nathrach*, adder-stones, or snake-stones.

4. *techn.* (See later quots.)

1850 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* III. 1040 Marks are then made with a piece of snake-stone, blue-stone, or even common slate pencil. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade, Snake-stone*, a kind of hone slate, or whetstone obtained in Scotland, and also known as Ayr stone. 1870 *Eng. Mech.* 7 Jan. 417/3 The snakestone..used by lithographers ..is a carbonate of lime, and is found in Germany and in India. The snake stone used by marble polishers is a fine *grit*, and is found at Water of Ayr.

Sna·ke-weed. Also **snakeweed.** [SNAKE *sb.*]

1. The plant bistort, *Polygonum bistorta*.

In dial. use the name has also been applied to other species of *Polygonum*, as *P. lapathifolium* and *P. viviparum*; and to the plants *Mercurialis perennis*, dog's mercury, and *Cicuta maculata*, an American hemlock.

1597 GERARDE *Herbal* II. lxxxi. 323 *Bistorta* is called in English Snakeweede. *Ibid.*, Broade leafed Snakeweede. 1601 R. CHESTER *Love's Martyr* (1878) 90 Dwarfe gentian, Snakeweed, and Sommer Sauory. 1611 COTGR., *Bistorte*, Bistort,..Snakeweed. 1707 *Curios. in Husb. & Gard.* 284 Mountebanks..instead of Mandrakes..sell the Roots of Bryony or of Snake-weed. 1760 J. LEE *Introd. Bot.* 327 Snakeweed, *Polygonum*. 1852 MORFIT *Tanning & Currying* (1853) 40 Certain annual plants—as the septfoil and bistort, or snake-weed. 1887 *Brit. Med. Jrnl.* Feb. 424 The rhizome of snake-weed..is successfully used by the Lithuanian peasantry as a prophylactic in cases of bite by rabid animals.

2. = SNAKE-ROOT 1.

1631 WINTHROP *Hist. New Eng.* (1825) I. 62 He always carried about with him match and a compass, and in summer time snake-weed. 1671 SALMON *Syn. Med.* III. xxii. 392 Snakeweed. The root of the Virginian cures the Plague, poyson, Pox [etc.]. 1725 *Fam. Dict.* s.v. *Fryars-Balsam*, Infuse in it..one Ounce of Virginia Snake-weed cut small. 1855 DUNGLISON *Dict. Med. Sci.* (ed. 12) 100 *Aristolochia Serpentaria*,..Virginian Snakeroot,..Snake-weed.

Sna·kewise, *adv.* [f. SNAKE *sb.*] In the manner of a snake; with a snake-like movement.

1874 LANIER *Poems, In Absence* ii, The mottled formulas of Sense Glide snakewise through our dreams of Aftertime. 1894 D. C. MURRAY *Making of a Novelist* 29 It was so low that we had to go snakewise.

Sna·kewood. Also **snakewood.** [SNAKE *sb.*]

1. a. A tree or shrub belonging to the genus *Strychnos*, esp. *S. colubrina* of the East Indies; the wood of one or other of these trees used as a remedy for snake-poison. b. The East Indian plant *Ophioxylon serpentinum*.

1598 W. PHILLIP tr. *Linschoten* I. lxxv. 121/1 Snakewood is most in the Island of Seylon: it is a lowe Tree: the roote thereof being the Snake-woode is of colour white. 1613 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* (1614) 507 Snakewood groweth in Seylon, and is good against the stinging of Snakes and other poyson. 1711 *Phil. Trans.* XXVII. 347 The first Figure is of a Wood from India,..*Lignum Colubrinum*, or Snake-Wood. 1835 G. T. BURNETT *Outlines Bot.* § 4614 *Ophioxylon serpentinum* is one of the snake-woods, which in various parts of India are affirmed to be antidotes to the bites of poisonous reptiles. 1836 J. GULLY *Magendie's Formul.* (ed. 2) 6 Nux vomica, the Javanese poison, and the snake-wood all owe their violent action on animals to strychnia [and] brucia. 1861 BENTLEY *Man. Bot.* 592 The wood of *S[trychnos] colubrina* and *S. ligustrina* is employed in certain parts of Asia as an antidote to the bites of poisonous snakes, hence it is known under the name of *Lignum Colubrinum* or Snake-wood.

2. One or other of various trees formerly classed under the genus *Colubrina*, or of the West Indian trees *Cecropia peltata*, the trumpet tree, and *Plumieria rubra*, the red jasmine.

1832 DON *Gen. Syst. Gard. & Bot.* II. 36/1 *Colubrina ferruginea*...This tree is called *Bois couleuvre* or Snake-wood in Martinique. *Ibid.*, Reclined-branched Snake-wood [and many other species]. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade, Snake-wood*, a name applied both to the *Cecropia peltata*, and the *Plumeria rubra*. 1864 GRISEBACH *Flora Brit. W. Ind.* 787/2 Snake-wood,..*Colubrina ferruginosa*.

3. The wood of the South American timber-tree *Brosimum Aubletii* (or *Piratinera guianensis*), so called from its snake-like markings; letter-wood; also, the tree producing this wood.

1843 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* I. 106 Snake-wood is scarce in England, and chiefly used for the most expensive walking-sticks. 1851 *Art Jrnl. Illust. Catal.* II. p. vii/1 The beautiful snake-wood is the timber of a *Brosimum*. 1880 BESSEY *Botany* 490 The beautifully mottled and streaked Snakewood, much prized by cabinetmakers, and for making bows.

Snakily (snē·kili), *adv.* [f. SNAKY *a.* + -LY 2.] In a snaky or snake-like manner; windingly.

1870 W. THORNBURY *Tour r. Eng.* I. xv. 308 The Orwell.. snakily winding between flat muddy reaches. 1891 G. MEREDITH *One of our Cong.* III. ix. 179 Foul Furies..hissing and snakily lashing, hounding her to expulsion.

Snakiness (snē·kinės). [f. SNAKY *a.*] Snaky character or appearance.

1842 *Peter Parley's Ann.* III. 143 There was a sort of sleight-of-hand in his face—a snakiness about his jaws. 1882 *Spectator* 19 Feb. 258/2 In the description of Narcissa ..her snakiness is expatiated upon to a needless extent.

Snaking (snē·kiŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. SNAKE *sb.* or *v.*1] 1. *Naut.* (See quots. and SNAKE *v.* 1 b.)

1815 BURNEY *Falconer's Dict. Marine* 487/1 *Snaking*..is the act of winding small ropes spirally round a large one, ..and is frequently termed Worming. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.* 635 *Snaking*, the passing of small stuff across a seizing, with marline hitches at the outer turns. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2229/1 *Snaking*,..stoppers passed alternately from one stay or rope to another throughout their length in a parallel direction.

2. A snake-like curl or coil.

1888 CLARK RUSSELL *Death Ship* xli, Heights of the sea.. spouting their prodigious lengths alongside, sometimes tumbling in thunder upon her forward decks, sometimes curling in blown snakings ahead of her.

3. *U.S.* The action of dragging *out*.

1883 *Harper's Mag.* Jan. 206/1 The snaking out of these logs is another source of casualty to the lumberman.

Snaking (snē·kiŋ), *ppl. a.* [Cf. SNAKE *v.*1] Winding, twisting, sinuous.

1591 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* I. vii. 81 The flowry Plains.. Laced about with snaking silver brooks. 1615 CROOKE *Body of Man* 94 Wherein the snaking and snayling diuarications of the vessels do craule all ouer the belly. 1906 *Westm. Gaz.* 5 June 2/1 From that height,..the city took an odd look, with its snaking quays and its many domed churches.

Snakish (snē·kiʃ), *a.* [f. SNAKE *sb.*] Of or pertaining to a snake; snake-like, snaky.

1532 MORE *Confut. Tindale* Wks. 512/1 These Heretiques ..whose snakish and serpentine generacions haue..hadde theyr heades troden downe by Godde. 1565 GOLDING *Ovid's Met.* IV. (1593) 97 Before this snakish shape do whole my body over-run. *Ibid.* 98 On their snakish heads grew crests. 1594 CAREW *Tasso* (1881) 26 So gentle seemd a while, the Snakish brood. 1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* B j b, The hissing of snakish Papists. 1825 *Examiner* 560/1 The sneaking, snakish, and vile token of displeasure, hissing. 1864 CARLYLE *Fredk. Gt.* XV. xi. IV. 168 If you will withdraw your snakish notions, will guarantee Silesia,..he will march home.

Hence **Sna·kishness.**

1901 S. DARK *Stage Silhouettes* 18 Mrs. Campbell's subtlety and snakishness as Lady Macbeth.

Snaky (snē·ki), *a.* Also 6–7 **snakie,** 7 *Sc.* **snaiky,** 8 **snakey.** [f. SNAKE *sb.* + -Y.]

1. Formed or composed of snakes.

Chiefly in allusions to the serpent hair of the Furies.

1567 TURBERV. *Epit.*, etc. 64 b, All ye that Ladies are of Lymbo Lake With hissing haire, and Snakie bush bedect. 1595 SPENSER *Sonn.* LXXXV, The Furies fell Theyr snaky heads doe combe. 1602 *2nd Pt. Return fr. Parnass.* IV. ii. 1735 Megæra with her snakie twine. 1633 P. FLETCHER *Purple Isl.* v. lxv, The Furies flung their snakie whips away. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* x. 559 Thicker than the snakie locks That curld Megæra. 1710 ADDISON *Tatler* No. 154 ₱ 3 The Gorgon with Snakey Hair. 1862 COX *Tales Gods & Heroes* 203 Pegasos, the child of Gorgo with the snaky hair. 1868 MORRIS *Earthly Par.* (1870) I. i. 290 He drew the head out by the snaky hairs.

b. *The snaky sisters*, the Furies.

1728 RAMSAY *Fables, Miser & Minos* 31 The three-pow'd dog of hell Gowl'd terrible a triple yell; Which rouz'd the snaky Sisters three.

2. Entwined with snakes. Said of the caduceus.

1591 SPENSER *M. Hubberd* 1292 In his hand He tooke Caduceus his snakie wand. 1599 B. JONSON *Cynthia's Rev.* I. i, What? vse the vertue of your snakie tip-staffe there vpon vs? 1700 DRYDEN *Ovid, Metamorphoses* I. 928 In his Hand He holds the Virtue of the Snaky Wand. 1735 *Dict. Polygraph.* II. s.v. *Mercury*, A *caduceus*, or snaky staff, *viz.* a slender wand, about which two snakes did annodate.

3. Of or pertaining to a snake; freq. in allusive use, venomous, guileful, deceitful, treacherous.

a 1586 SIDNEY *Arcadia* V. (1605) 455 O snakie ambition, which can wind thy selfe in so many figures. 1596 COLSE *Penelope* (1880) 162 Knowne trueth ne snaky enuies spite, Nor wrath can touch. 1612 CHAPMAN *Rev. Bussy d'Ambois* V. v. 208 Hide, hide thy snaky head! to cloisters fly. 1671 MILTON *P. R.* I. 120 So to the Coast of Jordan he directs His easie steps; girded with snaky wiles. 1729 SAVAGE *Wanderer* III. 125 Can the dove's bosom snakey venom draw? *c* 1840 DE QUINCEY *Murder* Wks. 1862 IV. 65 The oiliness and snaky insinuation of his demeanour. 1865 KINGSLEY *Herew.* vi, His thin Punic lips curved into a snaky smile. 1879 BROWNING *Ivan Ivanovitch* 215 Have at the snaky tongue! That's the right way with wolves!

4. Resembling the form of a snake; long and winding or twisting; sinuous, tortuous.

1596 SHAKS. *Merch. V.* III. ii. 92 Those crisped snakie golden locks Which make such wanton gambols with the winde. *c* 1611 CHAPMAN *Iliad* II. 769 The crooked armes Meander bow'd with his so snakie flood. 1695 BLACKMORE *Pr. Arth.* II. 153 Their watry Train in Snaky Windings slides. 1827 CARLYLE *Misc.* (1840) I. 15 No story proceeds without..voluminous tagrags rolling after it in many a snaky twine. 1869 PHILLIPS *Vesuv.* iv. 126 The black sand lay thick between the snaky ridges of lava. 1887 PALGRAVE *Ulysses* 4 Huge woolly camels..thrust out their shaggy snaky necks.

5. *Snaky letter*, a sibilant. *nonce-use.*

1599 MINSHEU *Sp. Gram.* 8 One of the *Culebrinas letras*, the snakie or hissing letters.

6. Of places: Infested with snakes.

1856 LADY CANNING in Hare *Two Noble Lives* (1893) II. 121 A charming ride round jungly lanes, with..tangles—very snaky, I should fear. 1883 ROLLINS *New Eng. Bygones* 185 The place was said to be snaky.

7. Relating to snakes. (Cf. *snake-story.*)

1882 *Daily News* 18 Jan. 5/5 'Snaky' stories are only fit for that presently-to-vanish corps, the Marines.

8. *Comb.*, as *snaky-footed, -haired, -headed*, etc., *snaky-sparkling* adjs.; *snaky-like* adv.

1591 SPENSER *Ruins of Rome* 178 Nor swelling streames of that God [Tiber] snakie-paced. 1596 — *F. Q.* VII. vi. 18 He on her shoulder laid His snaky-wreathed Mace. 1596 FITZ-GEFFREY *Sir F. Drake* (1881) 96 The snaky-hayred Furies loathsome cell. 1638 JUNIUS *Paint. Ancients* 60 The snaky-headed Furies tearing..and thrusting a hand-full of hissing serpents. 1736 AINSWORTH *Eng.-Lat. Dict.* I, Snaky handed, or snouted (as an elephant), *anguimanus*. Snaky footed (as the fabulous giants), *anguipedes*. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* III. I. iv, May not Murder come; and, with her snaky-sparkling head, illuminate this murk! 1855 SMEDLEY *Occult Sci.* 181 He persuaded that snaky-tailed monster to accompany him. 1871 B. TAYLOR *Faust* (1875) II. II. iii. 134 Her smooth braids, snaky-like, intwine.

Snap (snæp), *sb.* Also 5–7 **snappe,** 7 (9) **snapp.** [Related to SNAP *v.* Cf. Du. *snap*, LG. *snap, snapp*, late MHG. *snap* (G. *schnapp* masc.; also *schnappe* fem.) in the same or related senses.]

I. 1. A quick or sudden closing of the jaws or teeth in biting, or of scissors in cutting; a bite or cut made in this way. Also *fig.* and in fig. context.

1495 in *Blackw. Mag.* Apr. (1908) 506/1, I bay mare, a snappe in the left ear and in the right ear a ferthyng. 1555 EDEN *Decades* (Arb.) 170 Whiche cutteth a man in sunder ..at one snappe with his teethe. 1592 GREENE *Upst. Courtier* Wks. XI. 247 At euery word a snap with your

sissors. 1634 CANNE *Necess. Separ.* (1849) 20 Craving to be put into one of the priests' offices, that he may have a snap at a crust of bread. 1725 DE FOE *Voy. r. World* (Bohn) 299 He took the scissors, and at one snap set them at liberty again. 1816 SCOTT *Antiq.* iii, He had the scent of a slow-hound..and the snap of a bull-dog. 1899 F. V. KIRBY *Sport E. C. Africa* iv. 51 The huge jaws opened once and shut with a vicious snap.

2. *slang.* A share (cf. SNACK *sb.*[2] 3); something worth securing or getting hold of; an odd chance; a good place or job.

1561 AWDELAY *Frat. Vacab.* (1869) 4 An Vpright man.. may cal them to accompt, & commaund a share or snap vnto him selfe, of al that they haue gained by their trade in one moneth. *a* 1800 PEGGE *Suppl. Grose* s.v., To go snaps is to go halves in anything. 1864 *Slang Dict., Snapps*, share, portion; any articles or circumstances out of which money may be made. 'Looking out for snapps,' waiting for windfalls or odd jobs. 1893 *Dispatch* (Columbus) 20 Feb., 'A public office is a public trust.' The clerks regard it rather as a public 'snap'. 1897 FLANDRAU *Harvard Episodes* 259 He's on the lookout for snaps.

b. *Theat.* A short engagement.

a 1891 FREUND *Music & Drama* XIV. xvi. 3 (Cent.), Actors and actresses who have just come in from 'summer snaps' to prepare for the work of the coming season.

3. A small piece or portion; a scrap, fragment, or morsel: **a.** In emphatic use, as *not a snap, every snap.* Now *dial.*

1610 BEAUM. & FL. *Scornf. Lady* iv. i, Come, come, you would know it;..but not a snap, never long for't, not a snap dear Ladie. 1690 W. WALKER *Idiomat. Anglo-Lat.* 423 They leave not a snap i' th' dish; i. e. eat all up; every bit and snap. 1837 *Wilson's Tales Borders* III. 257 The puir hungry wratches will eat it up, every snap, afore morning. 1875 DICKINSON *Cumbriana* 10 Then he choppt up a drinkin' glass an' eat it ivery snap.

b. In general use. ? *Obs.* (freq. in 17th cent.).

1626 B. JONSON *Staple of N.* I. v, Hee's a nimble Fellow! And alike skil'd in euery liberall Science, As hauing certaine snaps of all. 1642 FULLER *Holy & Prof. St.* v. xiv. 411 He may get some almes of learning, here a snap, there a piece of knowledge, but nothing to purpose. 1698 FRYER *Acc. E. India & P.* 260 Our Burses being but Snaps of Buildings to these famous Buzzars.

4. A slight or hasty meal or mouthful; a snack. Now *dial.* or *spec.* (cf. quot. 1883).

Not always clearly distinguishable from prec.

1642 FULLER *Holy & Prof. St.* III. xii. 5 It is one thing to laugh at them *in transitu*, a snap and away, and another to make a set meal in jeering them. 1655 — *Ch. Hist.* XI. ii. 59 Henry Burton..rather took a snap then made a meal in any University. 1668 R. STEELE *Husbandman's Calling* x. (1672) 251 The Egyptian dogs do taste the waters of Nilus for fear of the crocidiles, a snap and away. 1700 MOTTEUX *Quix.* (1733) II. 55 The Curate's Provision..was but a Snap among so many, for they were all very hungry. 1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* xxx, First taste a snap of right Hollands. 1858 GEO. ELIOT *Scenes Clerical Life, Janet's Repentance* i, Two hearty meals that might have been mistaken for dinners, if he had not declared them to be 'snaps'. 1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-m.* 229 *Snap*,..food taken by a collier during his shift.

5. A sudden snatch or catch at something; a quick movement or effort. †*To lie at* (or *upon the*) *snap*, to lie in wait. †*By snaps*, fitfully, spasmodically.

1631 T. POWELL *Tom of All Trades* 42 A Sea Soldier may now and than chaunce to haue a snapp at a bootie. 1648 HEXHAM II, *Een Luymer, ofte Loerer*, one that Lies upon the Snap, or Leers what one saith. *c* 1660 *Songs & Poems Costume* (Percy Soc.) 152 With sugared words they lye at snap, But I'le be sure to watch 'um. 1692 L'ESTRANGE *Josephus* (1733) 860 Now Apollonius does not carry on his Malice..in a continu'd set Discourse, but now and then by Snaps as the Humour takes him. 1755 JOHNSON, *Snap*,.. a catch; a theft. 1823 E. MOOR *Suffolk Words, Snap*,.. any sharp, quick, short motion. 1882 *Jamieson's Sc. Dict., Snap*, a sudden..grip, or seizure of any kind.

b. *Angling.* One or other of different methods of fishing for pike (see quots.).

1651 T. BARKER *Art of Angling* (1820) 23 There is a way to take a Pike, which is called the taking of a Pike by snap, for which angling you must have a pretty strong rod. *Ibid.* 28 That other fine trick, Which our Artists call Snap, with a Goose or a Duck. 1787 BEST *Angling* (ed. 2) 45 Angling for the pike at the snap is to let him run a little, and then to strike him, the contrary way from whence he runs, with two strong jerks. 1847 T. BROWN *Mod. Farriery* 902 At both troll and snap some persons have two or more swivels to their line.

c. *In a snap*, in a moment, immediately.

So WFris. *yn ien snap*, G. *in einem schnapp*, LG. *mit ên(em) snapp.*

1768 ROSS *Helenore* 119 An' now the fead [=feud] is softn'd..The face o' things is alter'd in a snap. 1801 *Spirit Public Jrnls.* IX. 381 I'll put you to rights in a snap.

d. A card-game, in which the call of 'snap' under certain conditions gives to one player the right to take cards from another.

1903 *Cassell's Bk. of In-door Amusem.* 125 Snap..may be played either with the ordinary whist cards, or with a special pack manufactured for the purpose. [Description follows.]

6. A curt or sharp speech or manner of speaking; an angry dispute.

1648 HEXHAM II, *Een Snap*, a Snap, or a Taunt. 1745 MRS. DELANY *Life & Corr.* (1861) II. 395 The least disapprobation, or snap, from the person I wish to oblige. 1760-2 GOLDSM. *Cit. W.* lxxiv, The moment I ventured to speak I was at once contradicted with a snap. 1859 *Habits of Gd. Society* vii. 245 'Beg your pardon,' answered Tibbs, with a sharp snap, which makes the words sound like 'Don't be a fool!' 1897 W. BEATTY *Secretar* 254 It was while I was watching this game..that we had a bit snap with one another.

7. A brief and sudden spell *of* cold, winter, etc. Orig. *U.S.*

1740 T. SMITH *Jrnl.* (1849) 268 We had..two or three snaps of cold weather, else constantly warm. 1776 *Ibid.* 279 A dismal cold snap of weather. 1885 H. C. MCCOOK *Tenants Old Farm* 114 If there comes a snap of cold. 1899 *Daily Telegr.* 31 Mar. 6/5 She felt the effects of the snap of winter last week.

b. A sharp and sudden frost; a short spell of cold weather. Chiefly in *cold snap* (very common in recent use).

1829 COL. HAWKER *Diary* (1893) II. 9 A determined 'black snap'...Harbour all ice. 1830 *Ibid.* 14 The tightest snap on record. 1848 BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.* 316 'A cold snap,' i. e. a period of sudden cold weather. A common expression. 1892 W. PIKE *Barren Ground N. Canada* 237 The cold snap continued for several days.

8. *Mus. Scotch snap*: (see quots. and SCOTCH *a.* 4).

1789 BURNEY *Hist. Mus.* IV. 272 The *Scots snap* seems to have been contagious in that School [the Neapolitan] at this time. 1875 STAINER & BARRETT *Dict. Mus. Terms* s.v. *Scotch, Scotch snap*, a peculiarity of the comparatively modern Scotch melodies in which a short note precedes a long one.

9. = SNAP-SHOT *sb.* 1.

1851 G. H. KINGSLEY *Sport & Trav.* (1900) 526 Before I had recovered my senses sufficiently to take a desperate snap at him. 1860 W. H. RUSSELL *Diary India* I. xxi. 346 Fellows took snaps at us from balconies, from doors on the roofs of houses.

b. = SNAP-SHOT *sb.* 2.

1894 *Amer. Ann. Photogr.* 251 The exposures were mostly 'snaps'.

10. *Wrestling.* A throw made when the hold of one of the wrestlers on the other is broken.

1868 J. ROBINSON & S. GILPIN *Wrestling* 57 The stewards were inclined to bring the fall in a 'snap', but the vanquished man very honourably declared himself to be fairly thrown.

11. Alertness, energy, vigour, '*go*'. Orig. *U.S.*

1872 BEECHER *Lect. Preaching* x. 285, I like to see a man who has got snap in every part of him. 1885 *Harper's Mag.* Jan. 286/1 There are few..factories which have not 'snap' enough to make a..pair of samples at half a day's notice. 1894 DOYLE *Sherlock Holmes* 60 A young, pushing man with plenty of snap about him.

b. *transf.* Of writings, etc.

1885 G. S. MERRIAM *S. Bowles* II. 375 The vigorous vernacular, the pithy phrase of the Yankee farmer, gave zest and snap to many a paragraph. 1896 *Peterson's Mag.* Jan. 111/1 A delightful little tale, full of romance, snap, and brightness.

II. †12. a. *Thieves' Cant.* = CLOYER[2] 1. *Obs.*

1592 GREENE *Conny Catch.* Pref. p. iv, When the Foist, the picke pockets (sir reuerence I meane) is cros-bitten by the Snap, and so smoakt for his purchase. *Ibid.* Wks. (Grosart) X. 38 He that bringeth him in, a Nip, He that is halfe with him, the Snap. 1612 MIDDLETON & DEKKER *Roaring Girl* D.'s Wks. 1873 III. 220 Then there's a cloyer, or snap, that dogges any new brother in that trade, and snappes, will haue halfe in any booty.

†**b.** A sharper or swindler; a sly or treacherous fellow. *Obs.*

Freq. in 17th c. in *cunning* or *subtle snap.*

1622 FLETCHER *Sp. Curate* II. i, Take heed of a Snap, Sir, ha's a cozening countenance, I do not like his way. 1653 A. WILSON *Jas. I*, 288 Butler being a subtle Snap, wrought so with his companion that he got the possession of it. 1699 R. L'ESTRANGE *Colleq. Erasm.* (1711) 206 There were a great many cunning Snaps that had the Plot in the Wind.

c. Applied to persons in somewhat slighting use, but without implication of bad qualities.

1653 WHARTON *Comets* Wks. (1683) 141 Why do I discourage the poor Snap? 1671 SKINNER *Etymol. Ling. Angl.*, A merry Snap,..*alacer, lepidus, agilis.* 1676 WYCHERLEY *Pl. Dealer* II. i, Come, lady, pray snap up this young snap at first. 1703 THORESBY *Let. Ray, Snap*, a lad or servant; now mostly used ludicrously.

d. *dial.* (See quot. and *snap-dog* s.v. SNAP-.)

a 1796 PEGGE *Derbicisms* (E.D.S.) 123 *Snap*, a mongril greyhound with a short tail, excellent at *snapping*, or jumping on a hare.

III. 13. † **a.** (See quot.) *Obs.*—[0]

1611 COTGR., *Pelican*,..a Snap, or Dog; the toole wherewith Barbers pull out teeth.

b. A pistol. *nonce-use.*

1775 SHERIDAN *Rivals* IV. i, For your curst sharps and snaps, I never knew any good come of 'em.

c. A snap-hook.

1839 SALTER in T. C. Hofland *Brit. Angler's Man.* v. 125 This snap-hook is a double hook, or two single hooks, No. 6, tied back to back, on gimp; to bait this snap, use the baiting-needle. 1856 'STONEHENGE' *Brit. Rural Sports* I. v. iii. 256 The plain snap is made in several ways, as follows.

d. A device or implement used for rounding the head of a rivet.

1869 RANKINE *Mach. & Hand-tools* Pl. P 14, The snap, *c*, has a conical projection at the end, which fits exactly into a corresponding recess in the die. 1890 W. J. GORDON *Foundry* 48 The rivet was inserted from the inside, and held in position by the holder, and the snap outside. 1900 HASLUCK *Mod. Eng. Handybk.* 124 Rivet with a small hammer, and, for appearance sake, finish with a snap.

attrib. 1869 REED *Shipbuild.* xvii. 329 The snap-point is sometimes formed on snap-headed rivets, and nearly always so in machine riveting. 1874 THEARLE *Naval Archit.* 127 This snap tool consists of a hollow cup of steel welded to a punch head for striking upon. 1889 WELCH *Text Bk. Naval Archit.* iv. 75 'Snap punch'—a tool provided with a hemispherical hollow at one end.

e. In miscellaneous uses (see quots.).

1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2229/1 *Snap*,..an implement used in making glassware. 1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-m.* 229 *Snaps*, a haulage clip. 1888 ADDY *Sheffield Gloss.*, *Snaps*, a horizontal vice. 1888 NICHOLSON *Coal Trade Gloss.*, *Snap*, a small flat pointed pick, used on the screens.

†**14. a.** An ear-ring, fastened with a spring-catch. *Obs.*—[1]

1748 RICHARDSON *Clarissa* (1811) III. 29 A pair of diamond snaps in her ears.

b. A spring-catch, clasp, or fastening, or one closing with a snapping or clicking sound.

c 1815 *Houlston's Juvenile Tracts, Cork Jacket* 4 She took off her spectacles, and put them carefully into an old fish skin case with a snap to it. 1859 *Habits of Gd. Society* iv. 179 Rows of pearls, confined by a diamond snap, are beautiful in every [evening] dress. 1903 F. J. GARRARD *Watch Repairing* 156 Bottoms and bezels are sometimes jointed to the case band, and sometimes are loose, being merely snapped tight. These circular snaps, as they are called, are much more dust tight than a joint can be.

IV. 15. A quick, sharp sound or report.

1611 COTGR., *Niquet*,..a knicke, clicke, snap with the teeth, or fingers. 1687 MIÉGE *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II. s.v., It gave such a snap, that it made me startle, *cela fit un si grand bruit* [etc.]. *c* 1710 C. FIENNES *Diary* (1888) 153 Set the Coales together with some fire and it shall give a snap and burn up light. 1767 FRANKLIN *Lett.* Wks. 1840 V. 414 In our small experiments, we call this light and sound the electric spark and snap. 1825 SCOTT *Talism.* iv, A spring bolt,..the snap of which resounded through the place. 1856 KANE *Arctic Expl.* I. xii. 136 With a crack like the snap of a gigantic whip, the ice opened. 1880 MRS. RIDDELL *Myst. Palace Gard.* xxx, Edwina shut the book with a snap.

b. In negative phrases denoting complete disregard or indifference.

1859 FARRAR *J. Home* ii. 19 Should you care the snap of a finger for the opinion or the acquaintance of a man [etc.]? 1877 SPURGEON *Serm.* XXIII. 60 Never caring a snap of the fingers whether it offended or whether it pleased. 1897 HENTY *Irrawaddy* 338, I don't care a snap for the titles.

16. The act of snapping or breaking suddenly; a break or fracture.

1755 JOHNSON, *Snap*, the act of breaking with a quick motion. 1828-32 WEBSTER, *Snap*, a sudden breaking or rupture of any substance. 1891 C. ROBERTS *Adrift Amer.* 73 In the majority of cases the snap is so clean that a green hand would most likely pass it by.

17. *Sc.* and *north. dial.* A small, usually round, cake or biscuit of crisp gingerbread; a ginger-snap.

1818 SCOTT *Br. Lamm.* xii, She will gie ye a ginge-bread snap for your pains. 1852 CARLYLE in Froude *Life in Lond.* II. 110 The main panes round, and about the size of a biggish snap. 1855 [ROBINSON] *Whitby Gloss., Snaps*, thin round gingerbread cakes for children.

b. *attrib.*, as *snap-machine, -wife, -woman.*

1831 R. SHENNAN *Poems* 42 The auctioneers and snap-wives too, Had staid to try what they could do. 1871 CARLYLE in Mrs. Carlyle *Lett.* I. 110 Beggars, ballad-singers, snap-women, &c. 1884 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* Suppl. 826/1 *Snap Machine*, a machine for cutting a blanket of dough into snaps.

18. *U.S.* (See quots.)

1848 BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.* 316 *Snaps*, young kidney-beans in the pod. 1872 DE VERE *Americanisms* 410 Such are the beans, known in England as Kidney-beans or French-beans, while here they are called String-beans.. or Snaps, and occasionally Snap-beans.

Snap (snæp), *a. Sc.* [Cf. MDa. *snap* quick, smart.] Quick; smart; sharp.

Jamieson's Sc. Dict. (1882) also gives: 'short-tempered, surly'; 'brittle, short-grained, crisp'; these senses may be derived from SNAP *v.*

1790 SHIRREFS *Poems* 352 She is a lass fu' snap To grant her patronage. *a* 1796 BURNS *Poem Pastoral Poetry* ix, Nae snap conceits, but that sweet spell O' witchin' love.

Snap (snæp), *v.* Also 6 **snappe, snoppe,** 7 **snapp.** [app. ad. MDu. or MLG. *snappen* (so mod.Du. and LG.; Fris. *snappe*), = MHG. *snappen* (G. *schnappen*); Da. *snappe*, Sw. *snappa* are also from LG. The stem is prob. based on that of MHG. *snaben*, MLG. *snaven*, of similar meaning; cf. MHG. *snabel*, MLG. *snavel* beak, bill.]

I. 1. *intr.* Of animals: To make a quick or sudden bite *at* something; to feed *on* in this way.

1530 PALSGR. 723/2, I snappe at a thyng to catche it with my tethe. *Ibid.*, His horse snapped at myne arme. *c* 1592 MARLOWE *Jew of Malta* v. ii, Like the Asse..That labours with a load of bread and wine, And leaues it off to snap on Thistle tops. 1648 WINYARD *Midsummer Moon* 2 This makes the mad bandog snap at all hee meets. *a* 1653 GOUGE *Comm. Heb.* iii. 13 Fair baits, whereby dangerous hooks are covered over to entice silly fish to snap at them. 1710 ADDISON *Tatler* No. 120 ¶ 3 A little Lap-Dog, that barked and snapped at every one. 1832 IRVING *Alhambra* II. 261 The seven dogs..snapping at the heels of the terrified friar. 1875 W. S. HAYWARD *Love agst. World* 14 The fox turns and snaps viciously at his relentless pursuer.

fig. 1597 SHAKS. 2 *Hen. IV*, III. ii. 357 If the young Dace be a Bayt for the old Pike, I see no reason.., but I may snap at him.

b. Without const.

1555 EDEN *Decades* (Arb.) 236 The hounde..approcheth so neare hym snappynge and grynnynge. 1633 P. FLETCHER *Purple Isl.* XI. XXV, A gentle greyhound set around With little curres, which dare his way molest, Snapping behinde. *a* 1692 L'ESTRANGE (J.), All mungrel curs bawl, snarl, and snap. 1858 HOLMES *Aut. Breakf.-t.* viii, Settle snapping-turtles snap..before they are out of the egg-shell.

fig. 1589 NASHE *Martin Marprelate* Wks. (Grosart) I. 122 The Preachers of the faction..begin to snappe and to turne. 1782 MISS BURNEY *Cecilia* IX. i, Never mind, my chick,.. more to be had; if one won't snap, another will. 1884 *Kendal Mercury* 3 Oct. 5/2 All the newspapers abroad have been set a-barking and snapping, big dogs and little dogs alike.

2. To utter sharp, tart, or cutting words or re-

marks; to speak or reply irritably or abruptly. Usu. with *at*.

1579 L. Tomson *Calvin's Serm. Tim.* 1002/1 By this word, he snappeth at them which haue their eyes so dazeled with these flitting thinges. 1635 Pagitt *Christianogr.* To Rdr., Let him confute the maine plot..and not snap and cavil onely at some particulars in it. 1666 Wood *Life* (O.H.S.) II. 89 Dr. Fell..snapt up and told me 'I should pay [etc.].' 1693 *Ibid.* 13 July, He would not suffer him to speak for snapping and snarling. 1786 tr. *Beckford's Vathek* (1868) 68 He was afraid of being snapped at by Shaban his tutor. 1825 E. Hewlett *Cottage Comforts* xii. 193 They humour the child till they are out of patience with him, and then snap at him. 1865 Trollope *Belton Est.* xxiv. 286 Every now and then speaking a word, and restraining himself from snapping at his rival.

b. *trans.* To utter (words) in an angry, sharp, or peevish manner or tone.

1683 Villiers (Dk. Buckhm.) *Rehearsal* I. i. (ed. 4) 6 Whereupon I presently snapt this upon her; *Non, non, Madam* [etc.]. 1853 Surtees *Sponge's Sp. Tour* (1893) 297 'You *can't* know all about it!' snapped Mr. Sponge. 1884 Browning *Family* 36 The next in age snapped petulant: 'Too rash!' 1897 Rhoscomyl *White Rose Arno* xxviii. 298 He tore into the long reaches behind, panting and snapping curses.

c. Similarly with *out*.

1888 F. Hume *Mme. Midas* I. ii, Slivers was just going to snap out a refusal. 1902 R. Bagot *Donna Diana* viii. 99 She snapped it out, however—the plain, vulgar word *porco*.

3. †a. *Thieves' cant.* To go shares with a thief or sharper. Cf. Snap *sb.* 2. *Obs.*

1609 Field *Woman's a Weathercock* IV. ii, Thou snapp'st besides with cheats and cutpurses. 1611 [see Snap *sb.* 12 a].

b. To snatch, to make a quick or eager catch, *at* a thing. Also *fig.*

1673 Dryden *Marr. à la Mode* I. i, A man in these hard times snaps at them as he does at broad gold. 1691 Wood *Ath. Oxon.* I. 313 Such..are apt to snap at anything to please themselves. 1741 *Chinese Lett.* vi. 34 They delay to take a Revenge,..and when they find an Opportunity, they snap at it greedily. 1778 Mme. D Arblay *Diary* 3 Aug., Any bookseller will snap at what you write. 1827 Scott *Frnl.* 10 July, His resignation was eagerly snapped at. 1898 Pr. Ranjitsinhji *With Stoddart's Team* x. (ed. 3) 198 Storer in his eagerness snapped at the ball which otherwise would have landed safely into short slip's hands.

c. *To snap short*, to fail to get or obtain.

1677 W. Hughes *Man of Sin* II. v. 95 Lay-men may not tast the Cup at all...Their Clergy..will not snap short as the Laity must. 1732-8 Swift *Polite Conv.* 109 Snap short makes you look so lean, Miss.

†d. *Sc.* To attempt *to* do something. *Obs.*

1766 A. Nichol *Poems* 19 If some auld swinger snap to speak Of pink-ey'd queans, he gives a squeek.

†4. a. To strike or stab *at* one. *Obs.*—1

1626 B. Jonson *Staple of N.* II. Interm. (1905) 54 I'ld not giue a rush for a Vice, that has not a wooden dagger to snap at euery body he meetes.

†b. To pounce *upon* a person or thing. *rare.*

1648 Hexham II, *Een Snap-haen*, a Robber that Snaps upon one in the high way. 1679 Puller *Moder. Ch. Eng.* (1843) 41 Those who love not to be contained in any good bounds when they read the Bible, choose to do it out of all canonical order, or generally snap upon the chapters fortuitously.

II. 5. *trans.* To catch, capture, or seize quickly, suddenly, or by surprise.

Common in the 17th c.; now chiefly *dial.*, or spec. in *Cricket*.

1568 T. Howell *Arb. Amitie* (1879) 86 And shall I thus an wofull wretch, be snapt in sugred snare? 1582 Stanyhurst *Æneis* II. (Arb.) 46 My coosen was snapt by wycked Vlisses. 1625 Fletcher & Shirley *Nt. Walker* II, The chest is of some weight, and we may make Such noise ith carriage we may be snap'd. *c* 1645 Tullie *Siege of Carlisle* (1840) 6 They..failed in snapping Col. Graye's small regement of horse at Stanwick. 1699 Bentley *Phal.* 103 The Doctor finds Stesichorus in danger of being snapt in his intended Journey. 1720 De Foe *Capt. Singleton* x. (1840) 182 We should snap her in the morning. 1798 O'Keeffe *Wild Oats* v. i, I wish we could snap any straggler to bring before her. 1823 Scott *Quentin D.* xxxvi, She is not quite goose enough to fall in love with the fox who has snapped her. 1855 Browning *Fra Lippo* 76 As I was stealing back again..You snap me of the sudden. 1898 Pr. Ranjitsinhji *With Stoddart's Team* x. (ed. 3) 195 Iredale also secured an 'egg', Storer snapping him at the wicket.

transf. and *fig.* 1580 Hollyband *Treas. Fr. Tong*, *Prendre au pied levé*, to snappe one in wordes, to take him at aduantage. *a* 1677 Barrow *Serm.* Wks. 1716 II. 104 Alexander was snapt in the flower of his age and glory. 1706 Hearne *Collect.* (O.H.S.) I. 303 A Daughter who by chance snap'd a Gentleman Commoner..of a considerable Estate. 1859 *Watson's Bards Borders* 73 If disease them didna snap, He wad ha'e plenty tatties.

b. To snatch for one's own use; to take to oneself with a quick movement; to steal or purloin in this manner. Also with *away*.

1624 Wotton in *Relig.* (1651) 88 There was near Bayon, an Herd of Goats.., upon which sight the said Sir R. Greham tells the Marquess, he would snap one of the Kids. 1697 Dryden *Virg. Past.* III. 24 Did I not see you, Rascal,.. When you lay snug to snap young Damon's Goat? *c* 1756 in W. Wing *Ann. Steeple Aston* (1875) 57 A simple hare, had he but snapt, Or partridge in the wood. 1821 Scott *Kenilw.* xx, See that he snap them [gold buttons] not away. 1858 Carlyle *Fredk. Gt.* II. xiv. (1872) I. 129 Neighbouring potentates..snapped away some convenient bit of territory. 1899 S. MacManus *In Chim. Corners* 133 Doesn't one of the king's men snap the shoe off his foot.

c. To catch or seize with a quick bite or snap. Also in fig. context.

1687 Miége *Dict.* II. s.v., An unlucky dog snapt my leg. *a* 1716 South *Serm.* (1717) IV. 162 He who has escaped in many Battles,..by playing too often at the Mouth of Death, has been snapped by it at last. 1760 Jortin *Erasmus* II. 153 The Ægyptian dogs, when they drink at the Nile, are said to run all the while, for fear of being snapped by the Crocodiles. 1824 Mactaggart *Gallovid. Encycl.* 499 Now a trap did snap him:..A rafter down did fa', Which catch'd a leg. 1863 Cowden Clarke *Shaks. Char.* vi. 161 They think it a mere flouting at the gifts of Providence if they do not snap the bait like gudgeons.

d. To secure, obtain, take up, quickly or readily. More frequently with *up*: see 6 c.

1798 O'Keeffe *Wild Oats* II. iii, Oh, here he is! *Trap.* Snap him at any terms. 1905 *Westm. Gaz.* 15 Feb. 9/1 Recent issues have been readily snapped.

e. To secure the passing or giving of (decisions, legislation, etc.) without allowing due time for consideration or discussion.

1883 Gibson *Sp. in Parlt.* 14 Aug., To snap legislation.. which they were not gravely asked to pass at the time when it could have been carefully considered. 1885 *Law Rep.* 29 Chanc. Div. 453 He was defeated by the Defendant going to another Court and managing to snap a judgment first. 1901 *Scotsman* 11 Mar. 9/4 They were strong enough..to prevent hasty decisions being snapped behind the backs of the people.

6. With *up*: a. = senses 5, 5 b, and 5 c.

1550 Coverdale *Spir. Perle* x. 84 Whan we liue in ydlenes, in al lust and pleasure, the deuyl snappeth vs vp. 1601 J. Wheeler *Treat. Comm.* 59 The single Merchant..is many times snapped vp and made a praye to Dunkerkers, and other Sea rouers. 1692 Luttrell *Brief Rel.* (1857) II. 427 A yatch..is missing, and 'tis feared is snapt up by some French privateer. 1732 *Tricks of Town* 9 The Dog is instantly snapp'd-up, and convey'd away..to some filthy Cellar or Garret. 1823 Scott *Quentin D.* vii, Tristan but pretends to mistake, that he may snap up the kindly Scots that come over to see their kinsfolks. 1865 Ruskin *Sesame* i. § 33 We snap up anything in the way of a scientific bone that has meat on it. 1884 *Spectator* 4 Oct. 1287/2 Merchant-steamers..would be snapped up by the fast cruisers of the enemy.

fig. 1809 Malkin *Gil Blas* IX. vi. (Rtldg.) 320 Then..I snapped up the words out of his mouth. To be sure, my tongue did run at a fine rate against him.

b. To secure (a girl) in marriage.

1842 Barham *Ingol. Leg.* Ser. II. *Merch. V.* (1905) 245 Portia..Is not to be snapp'd up like little potatoes. 1865 Trollope *Belton Est.* x. 116 The conquest of Clara would not be too facile. She was a woman of value, not to be snapped up easily. 1889 'R. Boldrewood' *Robbery under Arms* xxxvi, All the girls about here are getting snapped up quick.

c. = sense 5 d.

1873 *Punch* 20 Sept. 118/1 When you see one at that price, don't wait to write, but snap him up—buy him for me. 1887 Jessopp *Arcady* vii. 196 Every little outlying farm was snapped up and bought by country gentlemen. 1890 'R. Boldrewood' *Col. Reformer* (1891) 402 Cattle..were snapped up at eight-pounds-ten a head.

d. To eat up quickly or hastily.

1808– in dial. glossaries (Sc., Lanc., Wilts., Somerset, etc.).

7. With *off*: a. To bite off (a limb, etc.) sharply and quickly. Also *transf.*, to drink off quickly.

c 1590 Greene *Fr. Bacon* iii. 34 We will to the tavern and snap off a pint of wine or two. 1599 Shaks. *Much Ado* v. i. 116 Wee had likt to haue had our two noses snapt off with two old men without teeth. 1700 S. L. tr. *Fryke's Voy. E. Ind.* 16 The Carpenter..had his Arm and Shoulder snap'd off. 1774 Goldsm. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) VI. 241 The shark darted upon him..and snapped off his leg.

b. *To snap one's nose*, or *head*, *off*, to speak or reply to (a person) in a curt, sharp, ungracious, or angry manner.

1709 [see Nose *sb.* 9c]. 1742 Mrs. Delany *Life & Corr.* (1861) II. 166 Old G. snapped my nose off for saying I had sent for him. 1861 Hughes *Tom Brown at Oxf.* xxvii, Do you ever snap people's noses off, or tell them you think them very foolish. 1886 F. Robinson *Courting May Smith* I. xiv, If I had not been quite sure he would have snapped my head off.

8. To catch or take (one) *up* with an abrupt or sharp remark. Also with *short*.

1647 Hexham I, Snapped him up,..*berispte hem.* 1649 *Nicholas Papers* (Camden) 156 The King grew very cholerick and angry and did snap him up very short. 1691 Wood *Ath. Oxon.* II. 185 William Earl of Exeter..snapped him up for a begging scholar. 1797 Mrs. Radcliffe *Italian* xxii, You always snap me up so short at the beginning. *Ibid.* xxiii, I don't much like to be snapped up so. 1848 Dickens *Dombey* xliv, 'Susan Nipper,' snapping her up particularly short, 'a month's warning from this hour'. 1883 J. Payn *Thicker than Water* xx, If I am snapped up in this manner, and not permitted to go on,..argument is impossible.

b. To interrupt or snub, to cut *short*, in an abrupt or peevish manner. Also with *off*.

1687 Miége s.v., To snap one, or to speak roughly to him. 1722 De Foe *Col. Jack* ii. (1840) 30 He snapped me short, Why, says he, how shall I get them to him? 1796 Mrs. M. Robinson *Angelina* III. 172 To be sure your ladyship did snap and snub her confoundedly. 1837 Hood *United Family* i, One liking this, one hating that, Each snapping each, like dog and cat. 1899 W. Raymond *No Soul above Money* II. i, Never waiting to snap a body off short who had any little favour to ask.

9. a. To bring *down* by a quick shot.

1828 Col. Hawker *Diary* (1893) I. 342 The only plan was ..to snap down the birds as they rose.

b. To take (an instantaneous photograph); to snap-shot.

1890 *St. Nicholas* Oct. 1034 A hand camera, with which he followed the babies about, 'snapping' them in their best positions. 1892 *Pall Mall G.* 20 Apr. 6/1 The privilege of 'snapping' photographs from the pier.

c. *intr.* To take instantaneous photographs.

1891 *Anthony's Photogr. Bulletin* IV. 202 Perhaps the circus has been in town, and you've snapped on the elephants. *Ibid.*, Why, you were snapping away for dear life. 1894 *Westm. Gaz.* 2 Jan. 7/3 The photographers.. were busily at work snapping at everything and anything.

III. 10. *trans.* a. To close (the jaws, mouth, etc.) suddenly or with a snap.

1573 Twyne *Æneid* XII. Nn ij b, He [a dog] snoppes his iawes, and is deceaued [h]is bit by half an inche. 1852 Mrs. Stowe *Uncle Tom's C.* viii. 57 Tom, whose great heavy mouth had stood ajar,..now suddenly snapped it together. 1904 *Field* 6 Feb. 208/1 He snapped his beak with a noise like pistol shots.

b. To wink or blink (the eyes) quickly or angrily (cf. 14).

1847 Halliw. s.v., To snap the eye, i.e. to wink. 1907 W. W. Jacobs *Short Cruises* 205 Mr. Wragg, snapping his eyes nervously, threatened in vain.

11. To pull the trigger of or fire (a pistol); to strike (a flint, etc.).

1673 *Justiciary Proc.* (S.H.S.) 131 [They] saw the gun presented and snapped. 1719 De Foe *Crusoe* I. (Globe) 307, I, snapping an uncharg'd Pistol. 1743 Bulkeley & Cummins *Voy. S. Seas* 83 The Lieutenant, bringing a Pair of Pistols to the Carpenter,..did not imagine they were loaded, snapping the first it miss'd Fire. 1847 *Infantry Man.* (1854) 42 He..will be taught to snap caps. 1857 Holland *Bay Path* xxvi. 334, I..drew the old charge, and snapped it two or three times, to let the children see the fire roll.

b. Const. *at* a person or thing.

1798 Ld. Auckland *Corr.* (1862) III. 418 He snapped a pocket-pistol at him, which missed him. 1825 Hone *Everyday Bk.* I. 1288 He had the imprudence to snap an unloaded pistol at him. 1852 Thackeray *Esmond* I. v, The officer, drawing a pistol, snapped it at his lordship.

c. To fire off (questions).

1874 R. Tyrwhitt *Sketch Club* 39 They are apt to flash or snap questions at each other as in a French novel.

12. To cause (something) to make or give out a sharp sound of the nature of a click or crack; to close or fasten, to open or shut, etc., with this sound; to crack (a whip); to jerk *out* with a snap.

1714 Mrs. Manley *Adv. Rivella* 82 The Man..got up nimbly into his Coach-box, snapt his Whip. 1747 Richardson *Clarissa* xxxi. (1749) I. 198 Many a fan have I caused to be snapped at a sister beauty. 1781 Cowper *Table-T.* 477 Tyranny..Slips the slave's collar on, and snaps the lock. 1853 R. S. Surtees *Sponge's Sp. Tour* (1893) 153 Snapping his toothpick against the frame of his chair. 1889 *Brit. Frnl. Photogr.* XXXVI. 605/2 How can any one snap his shutter at the right moment unless he is carefully watching the object. 1893 Kipling *Many Invent.* 196 Gisborne snapped out the empty shells [from his rifle].

absol. 1880 'Mark Twain' *Tramp Abr.* xxiv. 206 She got to snapping the lid of her smelling-bottle,—it made a loud sharp sound, but..she snapped and snapped away.

b. To cause (the fingers) to make a sharp noise by striking against the ball of the thumb, esp. as a sign of delight or contempt. Also *fig.*

[1671 Skinner *Etymol. Ling. Angl.* X xx j b, To snap with ones fingers,..*digitis concrepare, vel crepitare.* 1721 in Bailey.] 1742 Fielding *J. Andrews* I. xvii, He then snapped his fingers,..and took two or three turns about the room in an extacy. 1821 Joanna Baillie *Metr. Leg., Columbus* xlviii. 20 The..Indian..foots the ground like vaunting child, Snapping his thumbs with anticks wild. 1839 T. Mitchell *Frogs of Aristoph.* 66 *note*, At its conclusion he snaps his fingers in sovereign contempt. 1886 Jerome *Idle Th.* 36 It is not until you have snapped your fingers in Fortune's face..that she begins to smile upon you.

c. *To snap one's fingers at*, to treat with indifference or contempt; to disregard or ignore.

1806 Scott 11 Feb. in *Lockhart*, I hope I shall be very soon able to..snap my fingers at the bar and all its works. 1861 Hughes *Tom Brown at Oxf.* xli, You'll..be able to snap your fingers at them all. 1886 Stevenson *Kidnapped* xxiii, The men of his country..would have snapped their fingers at the Court of Session.

d. *absol.* To strike *at* with a snapping sound.

1852 Mrs. Stowe *Uncle Tom's C.* iv. 22 He set her on his broad shoulder, and began capering and dancing with her, while Mas'r George snapped at her with his pocket-handkerchief.

13. *intr.* Of things: To make or emit a sharp cracking sound or report; to crack, crackle.

1673 *Justiciary Proc.* (S.H.S.) 131 He heard not the gun snapp. 1727 Boyer *Dict. Royal* II, To snap, (or to give a snap), *éclater, faire du bruit.* 1768 J. Byron *Narr. Patagonia* (ed. 2) 74 Cedar..makes a brisk fire, but is.. subject to snap and fly. 1789 Coleridge *The Nose* iv, Hear ye my entrails how they snap? 1855 Browning *Old Pictures in Florence* i, No flash snapped, no dumb thunder rolled. 1884 E. P. Roe *Nat. Ser. Story* ii, My caps only snapped.

b. To move or slide *into* place, to close or shut, to fit *home*, with a snap.

1793 Smeaton *Edystone L.* § 241, I..gave it a violent pull, upon which it snapped into its place. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2229/2 *Snap-lock*, ..a lock with a spring latch which snaps shut. 1891 Kipling *Light that Failed* (1900) 217 The studio door snapped behind her. 1892 Greener *Breech-Loader* 63 They are liable to miss fire if the lever does not snap 'home'.

14. a. Of the eyelids or eyes: To open and close quickly in an angry manner.

1870 E. E. Hale *Ten Times One* ii. (Cent. Dict.), How Caroline's eyes snapped and flashed fire! 1899 Capes *Lady of Darkness* ii, Ned..saw his Madonna jerk erect, her eyelids snapping.

b. Of jaws, etc.: To close with a snap.

1899 F. V. Kirby *Sport E. C. Africa* iv. 51 The great jaws snapped like the teeth of so many wolf-traps.

IV. 15. *intr.* To break suddenly and (usually)

with a sharp noise or report; to give way or part suddenly owing to strain or tension.

Du. *snappen* and Fris. *snappe* have also this sense.

1602 MARSTON *Ant. & Mel.* I. Wks. 1856 I. 14 What a slender waste he hath! Heele snap in two at every little straine. *a* 1631 DONNE *Poems, The Storm* (1633) 58 Our tacklings Snapping, like too-high-stretched treble strings. 1799 J. ROBERTSON *Agric. Perth* 236 Scotch oak..is found to snap over when used as ribs to a ship. 1819 MISS MITFORD in L'Estrange *Life* (1870) II. iii. 76 Four or five glasses snapped, one after another. 1850 SCORESBY *Cheever's Whalem. Adv.* xiv. (1858) 198 Another line was taken on board, which immediately snapped. 1897 W. H. THORNTON *Rem. W.Co. Clergyman* vi. 181 Even strong harness snaps when subjected to a sudden jerk.

b. *fig.* or in fig. context.

1822 SHELLEY *Triumph Life* 158 The fiery band which held Their natures, snaps. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* III. III. i. When the so-called Bonds of Society snap asunder. 1876 MISS YONGE *Womankind* xviii. 137 When your power of arresting mischief snaps. 1896 HOUSMAN *Shropshire Lad* ix, Sharp the link of life will snap.

c. To be broken *off* with a snap.

1806 *Med. Jrnl.* XV. 497 Such a violent spasm of the jaw that a piece of one of the incisor teeth snapped off. 1842 LOVER *Handy Andy* xlvii, The butt-ends of the muskets snapped off like tobacco pipes. 1892 STEVENSON *Across Plains* ii. 87 Without a nod of warning, the huge pine-tree snaps off short.

16. *trans.* To break (something) suddenly and cleanly; to break in two; to cause (a rope, etc.) to part or give way.

1679 *Trial Lord Cornwallis* 12 My Lord..holding the white Staff..in both hands..; snapt it in two. 1680 MORDEN *Geog. Rect.* (1685) 52 There is the Herb Ossifraga..which snaps the bones of Cattel that tread upon it. 1725 POPE *Odyss.* x. 668 Full endlong from the roof the sleeper fell, And snapped the spinal joint and waked in hell. 1768–74 TUCKER *Lt. Nat.* (1834) II. 638 They found no difficulty in snapping short the single sticks. 1825 J. NICHOLSON *Operat. Mechanic* 33 The shock proceeding from inertia snaps the teeth of the wheels. 1855 TENNYSON *Maud* II. II. iv, The shock Of cataract seas that snap The three decker's oaken spine. 1871 MACDUFF *Mem. of Patmos* XXV. 347 Its moorings are snapped as tow.

slang. 1785 GROSE *Dict. Vulgar T., To snap the glaze*, to break shop windows, or shew glasses.

b. *fig.* or in fig. context.

1771 FRANKLIN *Autobiog.* Wks. 1840 I. 71 At length a trifle snapped our connexion. 1798 COLERIDGE *Anc. Mar.* VI. x, And now this spell was snapt. 1819 SHELLEY *Cenci* V. i. 82 There arose a PowerWhich grasped and snapped the threads of my device. 1863 GEO. ELIOT *Romola* II. v, She had been strong enough to snap asunder the bonds she had accepted in blind faith.

c. To break *off* with a snap.

1808 [see *snapwood* s.v. SNAP-]. 1820 SHELLEY *Sensit. Pl.* III. 109 A northern whirlwind..Shook the boughs..And snapped them off. 1833 T. HOOK *Parson's Dau.* I. vii, A five pound fish .. had snapped off the top-joint of his .. rod. 1834 *Good's Study Med.* (ed. 4) III. 101 If it be forcibly snapped off, it will shoot out the wider.

V. 17. a. Adverbially: With, or as with, a snap; quickly, smartly. Freq. in phr. *to go snap.*

1583 STUBBES *Anat. Abus.* II, (1882) 50 Then snap go the fingers, ful brauely, god wot. 1598 SHAKS. *Merry W.* IV. v. 3 What wouldst thou haue?..speake, breathe, discusse: breefe, short, quicke, snap. *c* 1746 J. COLLIER (Tim Bobbin) *View Lanc. Dial.* (1775) 28 On coom snap, on axt meh whot he wantut? 1844 N. PATERSON *Manse Garden* 64 Snap goes the branch, making a very unseemly fracture. 1890 L. C. D'OYLE *Notches* 175 Snap went the noose.

b. In phr. *to cry snap.*

In quot. 1782 in allusion to the crying of 'Snap!' in the game *Snip-snap-snorum.*

1694 JOHNSON *Notes Past. Lett.* I. 13 This is an Argument which cries snap like a Mousetrap, but will catch nothing. 1782 MISS BURNEY *Cecilia* IX. iii, I suppose he'll shilly-shally till somebody else will cry snap, and take her.

Snap-, the stem of SNAP *v.* in combination, as **snap action gun** (see quot. 1884); so *snap-actioned* ppl. a.; **snap-apple** (see quot. 1823); †**snap-bag**, = SNAPSACK; **snap-bean** *U.S.* (see SNAP *sb.* 18); **snap-beetle**, a click-beetle (cf. CLICK *sb.*[1] 4); **snap-block** *Naut.* (see quot. 1884); **snap-bug**, = *snap-beetle*; **snap-cap** (see quot. 1876); **snap-dog**, *local*, a lurcher; **snap-dyke** *Sc.* (see quots.); †**snap-fig**, = BECCAFICO; **snap-flask** (see quot. 1875); **snap-jack**, *dial.* the stitchwort; **snap-plough**, *local* (see quots.); †**snap-rod** (see quot.); **snap-sound** *Path.*, a snapping sound heard in auscultation; **snap-thought** *attrib.*, used for noting ideas as they occur; **snap-tree**, **-weed** (see quots.); **snap-willow**, *local*, the brittle or crack willow, *Salix fragilis*; **snapwood** (see quot.).

Other examples of this type occur in recent use, esp. *dial.* or *U.S.* Similar formations are also employed in Dutch and German.

1882 *Worc. Exhib. Catal.* III. 56 Top lever *snap action gun. 1884 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* Suppl. 826 *Snap Action*, as distinguished from a lever gun; one which as the hinged barrel closes is fastened by a spring catch. 1875 'STONEHENGE' *Brit. Rural Sports* I. I. ii. 26 Patents for slight modifications of this *snap-actioned 'central fire'. 1823 E. MOOR *Suffolk Words*, **Snap apple*, a mirth exciting frolic; in which catching..an apple in your mouth, while twirling on a stick suspended on its centre, with a candle at the other end of it, is the jest of the sport. 1870 *Routledge's Ev. Boys' Ann.* Oct. 583 Who's for snap-apple? 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. xiv. (Roxb.) 17/2 The Port-Mantle, of some termed a Bugett, or Snapsack, or *Snapbag. 1870 LANIER *Poems, Nine from Eight* 48 Hit gobbled me up like *snap-beans. 1897 *Outing* XXX. 383/2 The supper consisted of fried ham and snap-beans. 1698 PETIVER in *Phil. Trans.* XX. 397 A peculiar species I have seen in England, and call *Snap-Beetles, from their elastick or springing Faculty. 1702 — *Gazophyl.* i. § 10 The Velvet-eyed Virginia Snap-Beetle. 1889 G. NICHOLSON *Dict. Gard.* IV. 213 The names ..Click Beetle and Snap Beetle refer to the sound produced in the leap. 1626 CAPT. SMITH *Accid. Yng. Seamen* 15 A *snap blocke is seldom vsed but in heauing of goods and ordnances. 1884 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* Suppl. 826/1 *Snap Block*, a block with an opening in the side at which the rope may be laid in the sheave without the trouble of reeving it in. 1834 MCMURTRIE *Cuvier's Anim. Kingd.* 350 *Elater noctilucus*..; dusky brown, with a cinereous down...North America is extremely rich in this genus. The insect is usually called a **Snap-bug*. 1844 *Queen's Regul. & Ord. Army* 96 *note*, Muzzle-Stoppers, *Snap-Caps. 1876 VOYLE & STEVENSON *Milit. Dict.* 391/1 *Snap-cap*, a small leather cylinder with a metal top of the size of the hammer of a percussion musket, and fitting closely to the nipple. 1877 *N.W. Linc. Gloss.* 230 **Snap-dog*, a half-bred greyhound. 1891 *Pall Mall G.* 23 Dec. 6/3 Rabbit Coursing Sweepstakes for so many 'snap-dogs'. 1793 *Statist. Acc. Scotland* VI. 104 A kind of stone fence, called *Snap-dykes, peculiar to Carrick and the north parts of Galloway, is admirably fitted for sheep parks; being from 4 to 6 feet in height, strong and firmly locked together at the top. 1812 SIR J. SINCLAIR *Syst. Husb. Scot.* I. 42 Among the various sorts of stone wall usual in Scotland, there is one, known under the name of the Galloway or snap dike. 1603 FLORIO *Montaigne* III. xiii. (1894) 565 The dainty bird beccafico or *snapsig deserveth to bee eaten whole at one morsell. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2229/1 **Snap-flask*, a two-part flask having its halves joined together by a butt-hinge at one corner and a latch at the diagonally opposite corner. 1884 C. G. W. LOCK *Workshop Rec.* Ser. III. 252/1 Most malleable castings are .. moulded in snap-flasks. 1867 ROCK *Jim & Nell* xlix. (E. D. S.), Whit-zindays, *snap-jacks, goosey-vlops. 1894 WHITBY *Mary Fenwicke's Daughter* I. 57 Bird's-eye and snap-jack, ragged robin and hemlock. 1798 J. MIDDLETON *View Agric. Middlesex* 91 A swing turn-wrest plough..in which the wrest is moved in half the usual time... This farmer calls them *snap ploughs. 1875 W. D. PARISH *Dict. Sussex Dial.* 108 *Snap-plough*, a plough with two wings, so fixed as to snap or move from one side to the other, though only one projects at a time. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 103 A Snapper, or *Snap-Rod, is a strong Pole, peculiar for a Pike. 1898 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* V. 1021 The *snap sound and the thrill may be observed in some cardiac cycles. 1738 WEDDELL *Voy. Thames* 83 Taking every Opportunity to put down Notes in his *Snap-thought Leger. *c* 1711 PETIVER *Gazophyl.* x. § 91 *Luzone Adhatoda* or *Snap-tree with a Jasmin Flower. 1731 MILLER *Gard. Dict.* s.v. *Adhatoda*, The Willow-leav'd Malabar Nut, commonly call'd, The Snap-tree. 1823 CRABB *Technol. Dict.*, Snap-tree, *Justicia kyssopifolia. *Ibid.*, *Snapweed, *Impatiens*. 1899 STEP *Romance Wild Fl.* 135 The handsome Jewel-weed, or Snap-weed (*Impatiens fulva*). 1880 JEFFERIES *Gt. Estate* 87 The '*snap-willow', which is so brittle that every gale breaks off its feeble twigs. 1808 VANCOUVER *View Agric. Hants.* (1813) xii. § 4. 389 A claim..of taking what is called **snap-wood*, that is, all the fallen branches, and such as they can snap off by hand.

b. In the names of things or appliances operating, closing, fastening, fitting, etc., with a snap or by means of a catch, as *snap-bolt, -catch, -gun, -harness*, etc.

1875 'STONEHENGE' *Brit. Rural Sports* I. I. ii. 33 Mr. W. W. Greener's is also a good *snap-bolt. 1880 *Encycl. Brit.* XI. 285/2 The breech is closed sharply on the hinge and is held by a *snap-catch. 1644 *Sc. Acts, Chas. I* (1870) VI. 65 Their foote men haveing *snap gunnes and swordis sall have the pay of foote souldiers. 1881 GREENER *Gun* 206 [Mr. Needham's] first snap gun..was so constructed that upon depressing the lever for opening the gun, the hammers were raised to half-cock. 1888 *Daily News* 3 Dec. 3/5 The *snap harness which enables the horses to be harnessed in less than ten seconds. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2229/2 **Snap-link*, an open link with a spring, for the purpose of connecting parts of harness, chains, etc. 1775 G. WHITE *Selborne* lxiii, *Snap mouse-traps baited with tallow or suet. 1886 *Longm. Mag.* VII. 652 Years ago an immense number of salmon used to be taken by means of these *snap-nets. 1897 *Daily News* 23 Mar. 7/1 *Snap-purses, writing cases, pearl necklets. 1827 CARLYLE *Germ. Rom.* I. 99 A loud humming symphony of *snap-reel and spinning-wheel. 1903 *Sci. Amer.* 14 Feb. 110 These last [=packing rings] are called '*snap rings', from the fact that they are sprung into the piston. 1875 *Zoologist* X. 4662 Rats caught in *snap-traps. 1875 'STONEHENGE' *Brit. Rural Sports* I. I. ii. 36 The hook in which the *snap-wedge enters to keep the gun closed.

c. In combs. relating to or connected with the use of a snap-hook in fishing, as *snap-angling* [cf. G. *schnappangel*], *-fishing*; *snap-bait, -tackle.*

1792 OSBALDISTONE *Sportsman* 606 Snap-angling is with two large hooks tied back to back, and one smaller to fix your bait on. 1794 *Sporting Mag.* III. 247 The directions for snap-fishing. 1839 HOFLAND *Brit. Angler's Man.* v. 124, I generally resort to my snap-tackle. 1856 'STONEHENGE' *Brit. Rural Sports* I. v. iii. 254 Snap-fishing must be practised with the top joints of the rod reduced in length and of greater stiffness. *Ibid.* 257 The Snap-Bait is employed only when the fish are wary and inclined to eject the ordinary kind.

d. Formed, taken, performed, etc., hastily or rapidly, as *snap exposure, -firing, judgement*, etc.

In this and the next group passing into *adj.*

1861 *N. York Tribune* in *Times* 19 Nov., A traveller's snap-judgement formed on the most superficial observation. 1876 BLACK *Madcap Violet* XXVIII, After..a great deal of snap-firing, the skart was at last stretched on the water. 1889 *Anthony's Photogr. Bulletin* II. 255 For snap exposures a different course is necessary. 1894 *Amer. Ann. Photogr.* 137 The real necessities for snap photography.

e. In Parliamentary usage, as *snap dissolution, division, vote*, one obtained or taken unexpectedly or when comparatively few members are present.

1879 MCCARTHY *Own Times* XX. II. 96 It was evident that this was only what is called a 'snap' vote. 1884 *Nonconformist* 7 Feb. 129/2 The majority was the result of a 'snap division'. 1892 *Rev. Reviews* V. 3/2 Administrations have tried by a snap dissolution..to capture a fresh majority.

Snapdragon (snæ·pdræ:gən). Also **snap dragon, snap-dragon.** [f. SNAP *v.* + DRAGON[1].]

1. A popular name for one or other of the plants belonging to the genus *Antirrhinum*, esp. *A. majus*, a hardy plant bearing showy flowers, freq. grown in gardens.

1573 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 96 Roses of all sorts...Snap [*pr.* snag] dragons. 1597 GERARDE *Herbal* 438 The flowers [are]..fashioned like..a dragons mouth; from whence the women haue taken the name Snapdragon. 1629 PARKINSON *Parad.* 269 There is some diuersity in the Snapdragons, some being of a larger, and others of a lesser stature and bignesse. 1657 S. PURCHAS *Pol. Flying-Ins.* 93 Those flowers, that..shut hard and close at the top or lips,..as Toads-flax, Snap-dragon, Fox-gloves. 1705 tr. *Cowley's Plants* Wks. 1711 III. 372 Antirrhinon..takes the Stile Of Lion's Mouth, sometimes of Calf's-Snout vile, By us Snap-Dragon call'd. 1785 MARTYN *Rousseau's Bot.* iv. (1794) 45 Having the two lips not usually open, or gaping, but closed and joined, as you may see in the snap-dragon. 1847 JAMES *Convict* x, Those old walls, time-worn, and lichen-covered, and loaded with snapdragon. 1882 *Garden* 26 Aug. 183/2 Truly the Snap-dragon is one of our finest open-air flowers.

attrib. and *Comb.* 1871 KINGSLEY *At Last* xii, This raft supports the little scape of yellow snapdragon-like flowers. 1872 TYNDALL *Fragm. Sci.* (ed. 4) 412 In the path of the bean is interposed this snapdragon light. Alcohol and water are here mixed with a quantity of common salt.

b. With distinguishing terms.

1597 GERARDE *Herbal* 438 The purple Snapdragon hath great and brittle stalks. 1629 PARKINSON *Parad.* 269 Variable Snapdragon...Yellow Snapdragon. *c* 1710 PETIVER *Cat. Ray's Eng. Herbal* XXXV, Small Snap-Dragon. 1731 MILLER *Gard. Dict.* s.v. *Antirrhinum*, The Broad-leav'd Snap-dragon. *Ibid.*, The strip'd Snap-dragon. 1796 WITHERING *Brit. Plants* (ed. 3) III. 549 Ivy-leaved Snapdragon...Round-leaved Snapdragon. *Ibid.* 550 Creeping Snapdragon [etc.]. 1856 DELAMER *Fl. Garden* (1861) 74 Garden Snapdragon.

c. Applied to various other plants having personate flowers (see quots.).

Also *dial.* the foxglove, the columbine, and the common fumitory (*Eng. Dial. Dict.*).

1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s.v. *Linaria*, The species of toad flax..called by authors the lesser snapdragon...Stone snapdragon. 1760 J. LEE *Introd. Bot.* 327 Snap Dragon of America, *Ruellia*. 1859 MISS PRATT *Flowering Pl.* IV. 125 Lesser Snapdragon. 1864 GRISEBACH *Flora Brit. W. Ind.* 787/2 Snapdragon, *Ruellia tuberosa*. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1067/2 Snapdragon, ..*Silene Antirrhina.*

2. A figure or representation of a dragon, esp. one so constructed as to open and shut the mouth, used in mayoral or civic shows or processions. *Obs.* exc. *Hist.*

1611 FLORIO, *Manduco*, a disguised or vglie picture to make children afraid, as wee say, a snap-dragon, a turke, a bug-beare. 1694 ECHARD *Plautus* 234 Antick Figures with wide Mouths, like our Snap-dragons for Mayor's Shows. 1726 in *Hist. Norfolk* (1829) II. 1202 Great preparations are making in this city for the guild on Tuesday next, and the old snap dragon being dead, a young one..will make his first public appearance.

†3. ? Burnt brandy. (Cf. next.) *Obs.*

1696 *Poor Robin's Intell.* 22–29 Aug. 1/1 An old Crony.. with whom he drank Snapdraggon so plentifully [etc.]. 1684 DRYDEN & LEE *Dk. Guise* I. i, I swallow oaths as easy as snap-dragon.

4. A game or amusement (usually played at Christmas) consisting of snatching raisins out of a bowl or dish of burning brandy or other spirit and eating them whilst alight; a bowl or quantity of the liquor, etc., used in this game. (Cf. FLAP-DRAGON 1.)

1704 SWIFT *T. Tub* xi, He bore a strange kind of appetite to snap-dragon, and to the livid snuffs of a burning candle. 1709 STEELE *Tatler* No. 85 P 2 We got into a dark Corner with a Porringer of Brandy, and threw Raisins into it, then set it on Fire...This fantastical Mirth was called Snap-Draggon. 1792 WOLCOT (P. Pindar) *More Money* Wks. 1812 II. 505 He hates snap-dragon; 'tis a game of danger. 1835 SIR J. ROSS *Narr. 2nd Voy.* xvii. 273 The exhibition of snap-dragon..produced also great surprise. 1847 L. HUNT *Men, Women, & B.* II. xi. 275 The recollections of last night's snap-dragon and blindman's-buff. 1894 *Times* 12 Jan. 9/2 An accident arising from an explosion of methylated spirits used in a snapdragon.

fig. 1818 HAZLITT *Eng. Poets* v. (1870) 141 His Muse is, in fact, a giddy wanton flirt, who spends her time in playing at snap-dragon.

5. *techn.* (See quots.)

1833 J. HOLLAND *Manuf. Metal* II. 11 A snap-dragon..is a sort of screw nippers placed in an ordinary vice, and opening horizontally to hold a horn or other scale while being flat filed. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2229/1 *Snap-dragon*, a kind of tongs used by glass-blowers to hold their hot hollow ware.

Snape, *sb.*[1] *dial.* [f. SNAPE *v.*[1]] a. A snub, rebuke, or check. b. A check to growth; a change to cold or bad weather.

1828– in dial. glossaries and texts (*Eng. Dial. Dict.*).

Snape, *sb.*[2] *rare.* [f. SNAPE *v.*[2]] A tapering, a bevel; an act of snaping.

1794 *Rigging & Seamanship* 23 The lower ends [are] haunched away with a snape, resembling the bill of a duck. *Ibid.* 28 The lower ends are..thinned with a duck's-bill snape.

†Snape, *sb.*[3] *Obs.*—[1] (Meaning uncertain.)
In south-western dial. *snape* denotes a spring or boggy place in a field; it is very doubtful if this can be the same word.

a 1400–50 *Alexander* 1560 As blast ere þaire wedis As any snyppand snawe þat in þe snape liȝtis.

Snape (snēip), *v.*[1] Now *dial.* Forms: 4 (9) **snaip** (4 snaipe), 4–5 **snayp-** (5 **snaypp-**), 5– **snape**, 6 **snep**, 9 **snaap**, etc. See also SNEAP *v.* [a. ON. *sneypa* to outrage, dishonour, disgrace (Icel. *sneypa* to chide, snub, Norw. *snøypa* to withdraw, draw in, pinch, etc., MSw. and Sw. *snöpa* to castrate).]

†1. *trans.* To be hard upon; to harm, damage, or injure in some way. *Obs.*

13.. *Gaw. & Gr. Knt.* 2003 Þe snawe snitered ful snart, þat snayped þe wylde. *c* 1400 *Anturs of Arth.* vii, Þe slete and þe snawe, þat snayppede þame so snelle. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 3995 Sire Porrus with a proude swerd him on þe pan strikis, So snelle at he snatirs with, nere snaypid him for euire.

2. To rebuke or snub (a person, etc.) sharply or severely; to check, restrain, or curb (a child); to call off (a dog). Now *dial.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 13027 Vte of desert þar he was in, He com to snaip þe king sinn. *Ibid.* 22103 Vr lauerd snaips þir tua tuns, And þus he sais in his sermuns. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 346/2 To Snape, *corripere*. 1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 26 To Snape, *redarguere*. 1601 [BP. W. BARLOW] *Defence* 201 Durand snaped, about originall sinne, and merite in the workes of grace. 1691 RAY *N. C. Words*, To *snape* or *sneap*, to check [a child]. 1788 W. H. MARSHALL *Yorksh.* II. 353 To *Snape*, to silence, check, or at least threaten, as a barking dog, or a mischievous child. 1811– freq. in dial. glossaries (Cumb., Durh., Yks., Lancs., Staffs., Shrops., etc.).

b. To check or stop (growth); to blight, nip, or mar the growth of (a plant, etc.). Now *dial.*

1630 CRAVEN *God's Tribunal* (1631) 12 Magistrates, have you laboured to snape the growth of sinne. 1828– in dial. glossaries (Cumb., Yks., etc.).

3. *dial.* To stint *of* food.

1847 HALLIW., A step-mother snapes her step-children-in-law of their meat. 1869– in *Eng. Dial. Dict.*

Hence **†Sna·ping** *vbl. sb.*, rebuking, snubbing.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 18853 In his snaiping [*Trin.* snybbyng] auful was he. *Ibid.* 24007 Mi spirite for yeild i wend, þair snaiping was sa smert. 1555 *Inst. Gentleman* C ij b, To correcte them in wordes, which manye fonde mothers doo call snepping of a childe, dyscoraging his boldnes.

Snape (snēip), *v.*[2] *techn.* [Possibly the same word as prec.; cf. SNEIPE *v.*]

1. *trans.* To cause or make to taper; *spec.* in *Shipbuilding* (see quot. 1846).

(*a*) 1794 *Rigging & Seamanship* 10 *Snaping*, reducing the ends of any piece to a less substance. *Ibid.* 24 Short fillings are remedied by snaping their ends. 1846 A. YOUNG *Naut. Dict.* 288 *Snape*, or *Flinch*, in shipbuilding, to bevel the end of any thing so as to fay upon an inclined surface. [Hence in Weale, Smyth, etc.] 1869 REED *Shipbuild.* xiii. 144 The butts of the plates were each snaped away with the hammer.

(*b*) 1841 HAMILTON *Nugæ Lit.* 354 The handle of a knife is *snaped*. 1888 ADDY *Sheffield Gloss.* s.v., A blacksmith is said to snape a piece of iron to a point when by hammering or some other process he tapers it off to a point.

2. *intr.* To taper (*off*).

1794 *Rigging & Seamanship* 24 The lower end of the long filling snapes. 1874 THEARLE *Naval Arch.* 57 The deck plank snapes off to a sliver edge.

Hence **Snaped** *ppl. a.* (See quot.)

1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2229/1 *Snaped Timber*, timber cut beveling, so that one face is narrower than the other.

†Snapely, *adv.* In 5 **snaypely.** [Cf. ON. *sneypiliga*, MSw. *snöppelica*; but the text is doubtful (cf. SNAPE *v.*[1] 1).] Sharply, severely.

c 1420 *Anturs of Arth.* vii. (Ireland MS.), The snyterand snaue, that snaypely [*v.r.* snartly] hom snellus.

†Sna·per. *Obs.* (Of uncertain meaning.)

c 1550 *Pryde & Abuse Women* 200 in Hazl. *E. P. P.* IV. 243 Rubbe a galde horse on thee backe, And he wyll kicke and wynse; And so wyll wanton wylyons When they have anye snaper or twynche.

Snaphance, snaphaunce (snæ·phans). Now *Hist.* Forms: *a.* 6–7 **snaphanse**, 6–7, 9 **snaphance** (6 snapp-), 7 **snaphanch**; 6–7, 9 **snap-hance**; 7 **snap hance, hans.** *β.* 6–7 **snap-haunse**, 6–7, 9 **snaphaunce**; 7 **snap-haunce**, 7, 9 **-haunch**; 6 **snap haunce.** [Of Continental origin, repr. Du. and Flem. *snaphaan* (in Kilian *snap-haen*), MLG. *snaphân*, LG. *snapphân*, G. *schnapphahn* (†*-han*), f. *snappen, schnappen* SNAP *v.* + *haan, hahn* cock. It is not quite clear whether the sense is 'snapping cock' or 'cock-snapper' (i.e. cock-stealer). In English the second element may have been confused with the personal name *Hans*; but Heyne (in Grimm's Dict.) cites an early example of G. *schnaphons*.]

†1. An armed robber or marauder; a freebooter or highwayman; a desperate fellow or thief. *Obs.*

a. 1538 TONSTALL *Serm. Palm Sunday* (1539) D viij b, To make this realme a praye to al venturers, al spoylers, al snaphanses, all forlornehopes. 1541 PAYNELL *Catiline* xxiii. 43 Thynkynge..that huge routes of snaphances and hopelostes, from all partes of Italy wolde resorte to hym. 1577–87 HOLINSHED *Chron.* II. 684 He therefore required the prince to rid the realme of those snaphances.

β. 1548 UDALL, etc. *Erasm. Par. Mark* v. 37 Euen as thoughe a sorte of snaphaunses set all on mischiefe..would make this peticion. 1609 ARMIN *Maids More-Cl.* (1880) 73 He that shall marry thee, is matcht y'faith, To English rash, or to a Dutch snap-haunce.

2. An early form of flint-lock used in muskets and pistols (cf. 3); also, the hammer of this.

Freq. contrasted with *firelock* (=wheel-lock), but the distinction is not always observed.

a. 1588 in *Norfolk Archæol.* (1847) I. 16 To Henry Radoe, smyth, for making one of the old pistolls with a snapphance. 1594 LYLY *Mother Bombie* II. i, These old huddles haue such strong purses with locks, when they shut them they go off like a snaphance. 1603 FLORIO *Montaigne* I. xlviii. 157 A pistoll to which belong so many severall partes, as powder, stone, locke, snap-hanse [etc.]. 1660 *Act 12 Chas. II*, c. iv, Daggs with fire lockes or Snaphances. 1680 HARFORD tr. *Gaya* in *Eng. Milit. Discipl.* 22 Upon which, when one intends to fire, he puts down the Snaphaunce, which in stead of a Flint, ought to be provided with a true Mine-stone.

β. 1594 BARWICK *Disc. Weapons* 22 A Harquebuze with a snaphaunce. 1607 MARKHAM *Caval.* II. (1617) 120 A pistoll which goes with a Snaphaunce. 1642 SIR E. HARWOOD *Advice* Dj, Whether their Peeces to bee with Firelocks or Snaphaunces, is questionable.

†b. *transf.* A spring catch or fastening. *Obs.*

1603 DEKKER *Wonderful Year* Wks. (Grosart) I. 238 A leatherne pouch..that opened and shut with a Snap-hance. *a* 1613 OVERBURY *A Wife*, etc. (1638) 194 His heart goes with the same snaphance his purse doth. 1633 T. ADAMS *Exp. 2 Peter* i. 4 In a countryman's budget, shut up with Snaphance?

¶ **c.** A spring trap. *Obs.*

1823 SCOTT *Quentin D.* v, There are such traps and snaphaunches as may cost you a limb.

3. A musket, gun, etc., fitted with a lock of this kind, in use in the 16–17th centuries. Now *Hist.*

So Du. and Flem. *snaphaan*, G. †*schnapphahnrohr*.

a. 1590 SIR J. SMYTH *Disc. Weapons* 47 [Not] to strike iust vpon the wheeles being firelockes, or vpon the hammers or steeles, if they be Snap-hances. 1624 CAPT. SMITH *Virginia* III. xii. 93 Three hundred Muskets, Snaphances, and Firelockes. 1651 in H. Cary *Mem. Civ. War* (1832) II. 289 We have left us in store but..two thousand and thirty muskets, whereof thirty snaphancies. 1860 MOTLEY *Netherl.* vi. I. 316 [He] had borne a snap-hance on his shoulder as a volunteer. 1882 *Standard* 10 Feb. 5/3 The seafaring man with his snap-hance, his flint lock, or his steel lance was upon them.

β. c 1580 J. HOOKER *Life Sir P. Carew* in *Archæol.* XXVIII. 139 Sir Peter..hade with hyme a case of excellente snaphaunses. 1591 *Garrard's Art Warre* 129 If the horse men use firelocke peeces, or snap haunces. 1655 MARKHAM *Hunger's Prevention* 44 Tis better it be a fier locke or Snaphaunce then a cocke and tricker. 1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.*, *Snaphaunse*, a fire-lock, or Gun that strikes fire without the use of a match. 1821 SCOTT *Nigel* xxvii, 'Let me see those pistols.' 'Ye are not so unwise as to meddle with such snap-haunches?' 1840 GRESLEY *Siege of Lichfield* 287 The snaphaunce differed from the modern firelock, in the hammer not forming the covering for the pan.

fig. 1608 J. DAY *Law Trickes* v. i, A parlous Girle; her wits a meere Snaphaunce, Goes with a fire locke.

†b. A soldier armed with this form of gun.

1645 N. DRAKE *2nd Siege of Pontefract* (Surtees) 47 Capt. Joshua Walker with..about 20 snaphanches went out through the howses.

†4. *fig.* Ready answer or argument. *Obs.*—[1]

1598 MARSTON *Sco. Villanie* I. iv. 190 And old crabb'd Scotus..Pay'th me with snaphaunce, quick distinction.

†5. A woman of low character. *Obs.*—[1]

a 1625 FLETCHER *Women Pleased* III. ii, 'Faith wholsome women will but spoil ye too, For you are so us'd to snaphaunces.

6. Attrib., as *snaphance bag, hate, lock, musket, pistol, satirist.*

1592 NASHE *P. Penilesse* Wks. (Grosart) II. 77 It is your dooing..that these stal-fed cormorants..must bung vp all the welth of the Land in their snap-haunce bags. 1598 E. GUILPIN *Skial.* (1878) 65 The sharp tart veriuice of his snaphaunce hate. 1598 MARSTON *Pygmal. Sat.* ii. Wks. 1856 III. 217, I, that even now lisp'd like an amorist, Am turn'd into a snaphaunce Satyrist. 1643 in *10th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. IV. 67 The hundred Snaphance muskets and ..other small things. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. xviii. (Roxb.) 135/1 A snaphaunch Lock is the generall name for all fire Locks. 1898 *Proc. Soc. Antiquaries* Mar. 107 The President exhibited a snaphaunce pistol of the year 1619.

Snap head. Also **snap-head.** [f. SNAP *sb.*]

1. A round head to a rivet, bolt, etc.

1869 REED *Shipbuild.* xvii. 328 The common form of rivet head employed for shipbuilding is that known as 'pair' head; but hemispherical or Snap heads are also used. 1889 WELCH *Text Bk. Naval Archit.* iv. 75 For machine-riveted work, and occasionally for that put together by hand, snap heads and points..are employed.

attrib. 1874 THEARLE *Naval Arch.* 128 The snap head rivet, used in machine riveting of beams, boilers, etc.

2. A tool used to shape the head of a rivet.

1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 1947/2 The end is swaged down by striking directly with a riveting-hammer, or a species of die called a snap-head is interposed.

Hence **Snap-headed** *ppl. a.*

1869 REED *Shipbuild.* xvii. 329 The snap-point is sometimes formed on snap-headed rivets.

Snap-hook. [f. SNAP-.]

1. *Angling.* A device consisting of three or four hooks connected in a special manner.

1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. xxii. (Roxb.) 277/2 The first is termed a Snap Hooke or a Gorge Hooke. 1742 *Compl. Family Piece* II. ii. 344 Your Snap-hook..should be made thus: Take two Salmon-Hooks..; turn the Hooks back to back, and place the Gimp in the Middle [etc.]. 1820 T. F. SALTER *Troller's Guide* 90 *Snap hooks*, dead or plain, are synonimous terms; meaning all hooks used in Jack fishing that are made without springs. 1839 [see SNAP *sb.* 13 b]. 1856 'STONEHENGE' *Brit. Rural Sports* I. v. iii. § 10. 256 The snap-hook is either the plain or the spring snap hook. [Description of several varieties follows.]

2. (See quot. 1875.)

1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2229/1 *Snap-hook*, a hook with a spring mousing by which it is prevented from accidental disengagement. 1889 *Pall Mall G.* 9 July 3/2 A stout leather strap, with a buckle fastening it in front, and snap hooks projecting from each side at the back.

Sna·ply, *a. Sc.* (and *Ir.*). *rare.* [Cf. SNAP *a.*] Sharply, smartly, quickly.

In *Cursor M.* 18228 the Gött. MS. has *snapli*, but the correct reading is no doubt *snarpli* as in the Cott. MS.

1768 Ross *Helenore* 43 They shot him in before In a dark hole, an' snaply lock'd the door. 1880 in *Antrim & Down Gloss.* 94.

Snappable (snæ·păb'l), *a.* [f. SNAP *v.* + -ABLE.] That may be snapped or broken.

1866 BLACKMORE *C. Nowell* xlvi. (1883) 306 Our life is but a thread at any moment snappable.

†Sna·ppage. *Thieves' cant. Obs.* [f. SNAP *sb.* or *v.*] A share in the proceeds of a theft or robbery claimed by a snap or cloyer.

1602 ROWLANDS *Greenes Ghost* 16 They can no sooner draw a bung but these come in for their tenths, which they generally tearm snapping, or snappage. *Ibid.*, If the cut-purse denie snappage, his cloyer or follower forthwith.. bewrayes him.

Snapped (snæpt), *ppl. a.* [f. SNAP *v.*] Broken with a snap; also *colloq.*, abrupt, sudden.

1867 AUGUSTA WILSON *Vashti* xii, Snapped harness, broken carriage, torn flesh, and strained joints. 1893 LELAND *Mem.* II. 293 A lively incident which was to put a snapped end to this humbugging. 1900 *Daily News* 8 Aug. 5/1 A cart..loaded with snapped branches.

Snapper (snæ·pəɹ), *sb.*[1] [f. SNAP *v.* Cf. Fris., Du., LG. *snapper*, G. *schnapper*.]

†1. *Cant.* ? An accomplice or sharer. (Cf. SNAP *v.* 3 a). *Obs.*

1532 *Use of Dice Play* (Percy Soc.) 29 This new nustured novice..is become so good a scholar, that he knoweth readily his flats and barris, and hath been snapper with the old cole at 2 or 3 deep strokes.

2. A thing which snaps or produces a sharp cracking sound: **a.** A pistol. *rare.*

1577–87 HARRISON *England* II. xvi. (1877) I. 283 The honest traueller is now inforced to ride with a case of dags.., or with some pretie short snapper, whereby he may deale with them further off in his owne defense. 1785 in GROSE *Dict. Vulgar Tongue.*

b. *pl.* Bones (see BONE *sb.* 5 b); castanets. ? *Obs.*

1605 *Entert. of Earl Nottingham* 18 Those six Ladies.. danced a country dance with snappers on their thumbs. 1615 G. SANDYS *Trav.* 172 The instruments [of music] no other than snappers, gingles, and round-bottomd drums. 1699 DAMPIER *Voy.* II. i. 84 They hold them both in the right hand..as our Boys do their Snappers. 1705 tr. *Bosman's Guinea* 268 Like two pieces of Wood stroke against each other, or a pair of Snappers. 1742 C. OWEN *Serpents* III. vi. 239 Whether this Custom be not the Original of Castanets or Snappers in Dancing.

†c. *pl.* Prince Rupert's drops. *Obs.*—[0]

1788 HOWARD *New Roy. Cycl.* II. 1738.

d. A cracker-bonbon.

a 1845 BARHAM *Ingol. Leg.* Ser. III. *Wedding-day* (1905) 428 Nasty French lucifer snappers with mottoes.

e. *U.S.* A word, sentence, verse, etc., used as a finishing touch or wind-up.

App. *transf.* from next, though recorded earlier.

1857 J. G. HOLLAND *Bay Path* xiv, You'd 'a said twenty lashes, and she'd got 'em, and Mr. Moxon would 'a said twenty Amens on the end on 'em for a snapper. 1892 CHILD *Pop. Ballads* IV. 393/1 A copy..with the addition of one stanza for a 'snapper'.

f. *U.S.* A cracker on the end of a whip-lash. Also *fig.*, a sharp or caustic remark.

1882 PENTECOST *Out of Egypt* iii. 60 She brought out the last end of that question like the snapper on the end of a whip. 1890 O. W. HOLMES *Over the Teacups* xii, If I had not put that snapper on the end of my whip-lash, I might have got off without the ill temper which my antithesis provoked.

3. One who snaps *up* or seizes upon a thing quickly.

1611 SHAKS. *Wint. T.* IV. iii. 26 My Father..was likewise a snapper-vp of vnconsidered trifles. 1823 SCOTT *Quentin D.* xxvi, The possibility of those erratic Countesses of Croye ..falling into the hands of some wild snapper upon the frontiers. 1887 JEFFERIES *Amaryllis* x, From Berlin and Vienna come the eager snappers-up of much considered trifles. 1902 *Westm. Gaz.* 3 Mar. 11/1 The snapper-up of such things should glance at the Mexican Eastern Railway 5 per cent. debentures.

4. A snappish person; one who speaks or answers snappishly or roughly.

1648 HEXHAM II, *Een Versnauwer*, a Snapper, or a Taunter. 1847 HALLIW., *Snappers*, waspish persons that answer crossly or peevishly. 1869 BLACKMORE *Lorna D.* li, What a nasty way you have of telling the very commonest piece of news!..What man will ever fancy you, you unlucky little snapper? 1908 *Daily Chron.* 17 Aug. 5/7 We are told that though these mischief-makers, these snappers and snarlers, may be few, yet they are very influential.

5. **†a.** *Angling.* A snap-hook or snap-rod. *Obs.*

1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 103/1 A Snapper, or Snap Rod, is a strong Pole, peculiar for a Pike. *Ibid.* xvi. (Roxb.) 80/1 This is by some termed a cod fish hooke; but by Fishers and Anglers it is termed a Snapper, being made with a loop at the top.

b. *local.* (See quot.)

1892 *Longm. Mag.* Nov. 83 Some of the men were armed with long wooden 'snappers', not unlike blacksmith's tongs, ..thickly set with wire points or projecting nails,..and with

these cruel implements they struck at and secured the stupefied fish [=eels].

6. a. One or other of various fishes, esp. the West Indian *Lutjanus Blackfordii* or *L. vivanus* or other fish of this group, the N. American rose-fish, *Sebastes marinus*, and the Australian *Pagrus unicolor* (see quots. and b).

1697 Dampier *Voy.* (1699) 88 Fish, particularly Snappers and Rock-fish, are..plentiful. *Ibid.* 91 The Snapper is a Fish much like a Roach, but a great deal bigger,..the back is of a bright red. 1712 E. Cooke *Voy. S. Sea* 114 Silver Fish, Snappers, Bonito's and very large Craw-fish. 1772–84 *Cook's Voy.* (1790) IV. 1370 There are also snappers, parrot-fish, and a brown spotted rock-fish. *a* 1818 M. G. Lewis *Jrnl. W. Ind.* (1834) 104 Nothing can be less tempting than the sounds of Jew-fish, hog-fish, mud-fish, snappers,..and grunts. 1840 F. D. Bennett *Whaling Voy.* I. 23 They were chiefly of the kinds known as 'rock-cod', 'snappers', or gilt-heads. 1888 Goode *Amer. Fishes* 73 The Snappers and Grunts are among the most highly colored of the tropical fishes.

attrib. and *Comb.* 1884 Goode *Nat. Hist. Aquat. Anim.* 395 The Snapper Family—*Pristipomatidæ*. 1888 — *Amer. Fishes* 76 Snapper-fishing is usually carried on with a bottom bait. *Ibid.*, A trip to the Snapper banks is a favorite summer recreation.

b. With distinctive epithets, as *alligator*, *bastard*, *black*, *brown*, *grey snapper*, etc.

Many different species are mentioned by Goode *Fishes Bermudas* (1876), *Nat. Hist. Aquatic Anim.* (1884), and *American Fishes* (1888).

1775 Romans *Hist. Florida* App. 52 The fish caught here ..are such as..red, grey and black snappers, dog snappers, mutton-fish. 1822–27 Good *Study Med.* (1829) I. 241 Fishes of a few other kinds, as..gray-snapper (*coracinus fuscus major*). 1827 O. W. Roberts *Voy. Centr. Amer.* 34 They ..soon caught plenty of groupers, red and silver snappers. 1833 M. Scott *Tom Cringle* xv. (1859) 365 A red snapper for all the world like a gigantic gold fish was hauled on board. 1885 C. F. Holder *Marvels Anim. Life* 176 Snappers, red and brown.

c. A snapping-turtle.

1872 De Vere *Americanisms* 388 The Snapping Turtle.., also called simply Snapper, is a ferocious kind, snapping at everything, and inflicting a painful bite. *c* 1880 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* IV. 255 One of these aquatic Emydes..preys upon small fish, and is called Temminck's Snapper. 1888 *Encycl. Brit.* XXIII. 458 The family of *Chelydridæ* includes freshwater tortoises, which are known under the names of Snappers or Alligator Terrapins.

d. A woodpecker (Halliwell, 1847).

e. *U.S.* A flysnapper (*Cent. Dict.* 1891).

7. *dial.* Something exceptionally large, heavy, etc.

1874 T. Hardy *Far fr. Mad. Crowd* xv, We get a fine day, and then down comes a snapper [of rain] at night. 1902 *Ardrossan Herald* 3 Jan. 4 That's a snapper o' an orange they've gi'en ye.

8. *dial.* a. The greater stitchwort, *Stellaria Holostea*. b. The bladder campion, *Silene inflata*.

1882 in Friend *Gloss. Dev. Plant-n.* 1886 in Britten & Holland.

Sna·pper, *sb.*[2] *Sc.* [f. Snapper *v.*[1]] A stumble or trip. Freq. *fig.*, a slip in conduct; a fault or error; a scrape or difficulty.

a 1572 Knox *Hist. Ref.* Wks. 1846 I. 79 Forresse war runne upon the day to Smallame..and such place nere about, but many snapparis thei gate. 1596 Dalrymple tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* (S.T.S.) I. 340 This king dies..throuch the vehement snapper of a Wantount horse. 1629 Z. Boyd *Last Battell* 190, I am not like these sinners which but trip and stumble, and rise again after a snapper. 17.. Ramsay *Epil. to 'The Drummer'* 8 Men of sense will kindly praise us, And, if we make a little snapper, raise us. *a* 1732 Boston *Crook in Lot* (1805) 164 They were only so [over-rash] in applying the time to the promise; a snapper that saints in all ages have made. 1818 Scott *Hrt. Midl.* xx, Advocate Langtale has brought folk through waur snappers than a' this.

Sna·pper, *a. Sc.* Also 9 **snappert.** [app. f. Snap *v.*] Sharp, snappish.

1673–4 Earl Kincardin in *Lauderdale P.* (Camden) III. 30 The K. gave him a snapper ansuer. 1808 Jamieson s.v., A snappert answer.

Snapper (snæ·pəɹ), *v.*[1] Chiefly (and now only) *north.* and *Sc.* Forms: 4–5 **snaper** (-ere, 5 -ir, 6 -yr), 5 **snap(p)re**, 6 **snappar** (*Sc.* -ir), 5– **snapper.** [app. a frequentative from a stem **snap*, corresponding to older and dial. G. *schnappen* to stumble, to limp, related to MHG. *snaben*, MLG. *snaven*, whence MDa. *snave*, MSw. *snava* (Sw. *snafva*), Norw. *snaava*, to stumble, Icel. *snáfa* to sneak, slink.]

1. *intr.* To stumble or trip. †Also, to fall through stumbling.

13.. *Metr. Hom.* (MS. Ashm. 42) fol. 70 b, Full radde he was to snapir rathe, To drowne him & his childir bathe. *a* 1352 Minot *Poems* (Hall) x. 16 Wight men of þe west neghed þam nerr, And gert þam snaper in þe snare. *c* 1400 *26 Pol. Poems* iv. 90 Many can stomble at a stre; þey nyl not snapere at a style. *c* 1425 *Thomas of Erceld.* 381 Stedes shall snapre throwght tresoun. 1530 Palsgr. 723/2 My horse dyd nat stumble, he dyd but snapper a lytell. 1597 Skene *De Verb. Sign.* s.v. *Cathorius*, Quhen ane horse.. snappers or fallis with his maister. 1607 Markham *Caval.* II. 134 Or els setting downe his feete vncertainly [he does] both often stumble and snapper. 1650 *Reg. Privy Counc. Scot.* VIII. 233 He snappered and lighted upon ane cart wheele. 1737 Bracken *Farriery Impr.* (1756) I. 349 He will not..be so apt to snapper and stumble. 1816 Scott *Bl. Dwarf* x, Wouldst thou snapper now and break my neck? 1871 W. Alexander *J. Gibb* (1873) 226 Only Samie's shaltie snappert.

Prov. 1641 Fergusson *Scot. Prov.* No. 105, A horse may snapper on foure feet. 1721 Kelly *Prov.* 26 A Horse with four Feet may snapper, by a time.

2. *fig.* or *transf.* To stumble or make a slip in action or conduct; to fall into error.

c 1380 Wyclif *Sel. Wks.* II. 367 Mannis affeccioun.. shulde stonde stalworþly, lest þe soule snaperide afrir. 1388 — *Jer.* xviii. 15 My puple hath forȝete me..and snaperiden in her weies. *a* 1500 in *Ratis Raving* 23 The foly of the ful garis hyme snapyr. *a* 1529 Skelton *Replyc.* Wks. 1843 I. 217 Count ye your selfe good clerkes, And snapper in suche werkes? 1596 Dalrymple tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* (S.T.S.) I. 227 He appeiret to snapper, anent the celebratione of the Pasche day.., at quilke stane snappired lykwyse Bischope Aidane. 1731 *Reasons for Presbyterians dissenting* 101 He hath miserably snapper'd upon Hazael for a pattern. 1794 Burns *'Contented wi' little'* iv, Blind Chance, let her snapper and stoyte on her way.

Hence **Sna·ppering** *ppl. a.*

1596 Dalrymple tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* (S.T.S.) II. 319 To bring..tua bald snapring horsses [L. *summæ pernicitatis equos*] for the flicht.

Sna·pper, *v.*[2] *rare.* Now *dial.* [A frequentative of Snap *v.* Cf. MLG. *snapperen*, G. *schnappern*, to chatter.]

1. *intr.* ? To snap the beak.

1664 H. More *Myst. Inig.* 333 This Image was made to snapper and chatter something like that Bird [the magpie].

2. To snap or crackle; to give out a sharp snapping sound.

1852–88 in Berkshire glossaries.

Sna·ppering, *vbl. sb.*[1] [f. Snapper *v.*[1]] Stumbling. Also *attrib.*

1591 R. Bruce *Serm.* R ij, I am sory to see, that the maist parte of this countrie shuld mak a snappering stane of that precious corner. 1599 Rollock *Serm.* Wks. 1849 I. 326 When we sall walk in the hevins,..then na snappering neither to this side nor to that.

Sna·ppering, *vbl. sb.*[2] [f. Snapper *sb.*[1] 5 a.] The action or pastime of fishing for snappers.

1870 G. H. Kingsley *Sport & Trav.* iii. (1900) 57 Sharking and snappering.

†**Sna·ppery.** *nonce-wd.* [f. Snap *v.*] The action of cutting with a snap.

1639 *Crabtree Lect.* 57 With thy snippery and snappery thou thinkest to go shear away with all.

Sna·ppily, *adv.* [f. Snappy *a.*] Snappishly.

1890 Gunter *Miss Nobody* xvii, 'I may and I may not,' he says shortly and snappily. 1898 *Daily News* 24 Aug. 4/7 The 'Post' to-night snappily remarks [etc.].

Snapping (snæ·piŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. Snap *v.*]

1. The action of the vb. in various senses:

a. In intransitive senses.

1583 Stubbes *Anat. Abus.* II. (1882) 50 When they come to the cutting of the haire, what snipping and snapping of the eycers is there. *a* 1734 North *Examen* Pref. (1740) 14 Such Snapping and Quarrelling would not clearly answer his Book. 1812 M. Cutler in *Life*, etc. (1888) II. 196 The only way to account for the fire is by the snapping of the hemlock wood. 1815 J. Smith *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 196 If a person not electrified held his hand near the tube while it was rubbed, the snapping was very sensible. 1891 C. Roberts *Adrift Amer.* 47 The snapping and snarling [of wolves], varied by a howl. 1891 *Daily News* 7 Nov. 6/4 In consequence of the snapping of an axle.

b. In transitive senses. Also with *up*.

1646 J. Hall *Horæ Vac.* 113 Hee playes not well at draughts, that onely can avoyd snapping when it comes to a pinch. 1741 *Compl. Family Piece* II. ii. 344 You must remember in Snapping, that you never give a Fish time to run.., but hook and draw him out directly. 1816 Scott *Bl. Dwarf* ii, There's me, and my twa brothers,..will be wi' you..in the snapping of a flint. 1860 Gen. P. Thompson *Audi Alt.* cxxxix. III. 115 An abiding arrangement, opening its capacious jaws for the snapping-up of the guilty. 1885 *Law Rep.* 29 Chanc. Div. 453 There was no snapping of a judgment in the Irish action.

†2. *Thieves' cant.* The proceeds of a theft or robbery; a share of stolen goods claimed by a snap. (Cf. Snappage.) *Obs.*

1591 Greene *Conny Catch.* II. Wks. (Grosart) X. 122 When he hath the window open and spyes any fat snappings worth the Curbing, then streight he sets the Warp to watch. *Ibid.*, Which stolne parcells, they in their Art call snappinges. 1602 [see Snappage].

3. *attrib.*, as *snapping movement*, *noise*, *sound*, etc.; **snapping time**, **-tool** (see quots.).

1815 J. Smith *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 193 A sharp pain ..which was accompanied by a snapping noise. 1849 Noad *Electricity* (ed. 3) 30 A vivid spark will dart between them, accompanied by a sharp snapping sound. 1870 H. A. Nicholson *Man. Zool.* (1880) 375 Keeping up a constant snapping movement. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2229/2 *Snapping-tool*, a stamping-tool used to force a plate into holes in a die. 1883 Gresley *Gloss. Coal-m.* 229 *Snapping Time*, a short period of rest during a shift in which a collier takes his snap.

Sna·pping, *ppl. a.* [f. as prec.]

1. Sharp, curt, snappish; peevish, petulant.

1642 Milton *Apol. Smect.* Wks. 1851 III. 255 His designe was..with quips and snapping adagies to vapour them out. 1718 Ockley *Saracens* (Bohn) 177 Omar..grew very angry: ..at last he wrote a short snapping sort of a letter. 1746 *Exmoor Scolding* (E.D.S.) 106 Go, ye rearing, snapping, tedious, cutted Snibblenose! 1880 'Ouida' *Moths* III. 17 Snapping creatures are thought so sweetly sincere.

2. That snaps or breaks suddenly.

1823 Lamb *Elia* II, *Amicus Redivivus*, Marvellous escapes —..by orchard pranks, and snapping twigs. 1899 F. V. Kirby *Sport E. C. Africa* xx. 218 Our ears were gladdened by the sound of a snapping branch.

3. That snaps with the jaws or beak.

1873 G. C. Davies *Mount. & Mere* xiv. 116 Such screaming and laughing as they pulled the struggling snapping brutes ashore. 1890 S. W. Baker *Wild Beasts* II. 29 The force of the snapping jaws would crush any human bone.

b. *Snapping-turtle*, one or other of the North American freshwater tortoises of the family *Chelydridæ*, esp. *Chelydra serpentina*, the alligator terrapin. (Cf. Snapper *sb.*[1] 5 c.)

1848 Bartlett *Dict. Amer.* 316 *Snapping-turtle*, a reptile common to all parts of the United States, so named from its propensity to snap at everything within its reach. 1850 Lyell *2nd Visit U.S.* II. 205 On the shore of the lake we caught a tortoise, called here the snapping-turtle. 1884 Goode *Nat. Hist. Aquat. Anim.* 153 The more northern species, *Chelydra serpentina*, known everywhere throughout the United States as the 'Snapping Turtle'.

c. *Snapping beetle* (or *bug*), *snapping mackerel* (see quots.).

1868 *Rep. U.S. Comm. Agric.* (1869) 93 These insects [sc. *Elateridæ*] are known in Europe by the common name of 'skip-jacks',..and in America as 'snapping beetles', and erroneously 'snapping bugs'. 1884 Goode *Nat. Hist. Aquat. Anim.* 433 The Bluefish, *Pomatomus saltatrix*,.. [is] in some parts of New England called 'Snapping Mackerel' or 'Snappers'.

Snappingly (snæ·piŋli), *adv.* [Cf. prec.] With a snap or snaps; snappishly.

1567 Drant *Horace*, *Ep.* B vij, He redeth them so fearse, And doth theire workes so snapingly and snatchingly rehearse. 1884 J. Parker *Apost. Life* III. 13 When was 'Good-bye' said quite snappingly and briefly and with abruptness? 1896 *Westm. Gaz.* 12 Dec. 1 Numerous dogs of every breed and aggressiveness career snappingly about.

Snappish (snæ·piʃ), *a.* Also 6 **snappyshe**, **-ishe**, 7 **snapish.** [f. Snap *v.* + -ish.]

1. Of persons: Using, or apt to use, sharp, harsh, or uncivil language; peevish, testy, or ill-natured in speech or reply.

1542 Udall *Erasm. Apoph.* 319 b, He found his wife coumbresome, crabbed & snappyshe unto hym. 1577 Stanyhurst *Descr. Irel.* i. in *Holinshed*, Here percase some snappish carper will..snuffingly snibbe me, for debacing the Irish language. 1626 R. Bernard *Isle of Man* (1627) 20 Scrupulosity..is an unsociable and snappish fellow. 1672 O. Heywood *Diaries* (1883) III. 119 Clark..was churlish and snappish. 1740 Richardson *Pamela* I. 47 Our Cook.., who is a little snappish and cross sometimes. 1842 Borrow *Bible in Spain* xiii, I found him morose and snappish. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* III. 400 [Dyspeptics] are likely to become irritable and snappish.

b. Of manner, etc.: Marked or characterized by sharpness or curtness of speech.

1836 *Random Recoll. Ho. Lords* xiv. 334 The contemptuous and snappish manner in which he spoke to deputations. 1848 Dickens *Dombey* li, 'Well,' says Mrs. Pipchin, in her snappish way, 'he's pretty much as usual'. 1885 *Manch. Even. News* 16 July 2/3 A most femininely snappish tone of voice.

c. Of the sea: Somewhat choppy or rough.

1867 Macgregor *Voy. Alone* (1868) 85 When we..met the short, snappish sea in the bay, every wave dashed over me.

2. Of words, language, etc.: Sharp, curt, peevish, ungracious.

1551 Robinson tr. *More's Utop.* (1895) 10 Aferd that at euery snappishe worde theire nose shalbe bitten of. 1582 J. Bell *Haddon's Answ. Osor.* 277 b, Your crabbed and snappish accusation agaynst Luther. 1603 Breton *Packet Mad Lett.* I. lxviii, I haue receiued your snappish Letter. 1665 Pepys *Diary* 22 Dec., Vexed at a snappish answer Madam Williams did give me. *c* 1740 Mrs. Delany *Life & Corr.* (1861) I. 35 No one ever heard him say a snappish or cross thing to me. 1784 Cowper *Task* IV. 198 The smart And snappish dialogue, that flippant wits Call comedy. 1896 H. M. B. Reid *Cameronian Apostle* viii. 122 The snappish criticisms recorded in the Presbytery minutes.

†3. Bold, forward, impudent. *Obs.*

1608 Topsell *Serpents* (1658) 783 If any wedlock-breakers ..dare be so snappish to enter..into anothers house [etc.].

4. Of a dog, etc.: Inclined or prone to snap.

a 1700 in B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew.* *a* 1710 Pope *Imit. Eng. Poets*, *Spenser* 19 The snappish cur..Close at my heel with yelping treble flies. 1727 Gay *Fables* xlvi. 13 A village-cur, of snappish race. 1862 H. H. Dixon *Scott & Sebright* 199 He [a horse] went to Malton, and a very rough snappish customer they thought him.

b. *transf.* (Cf. sense 2.)

1842 Lover *Handy Andy* xv, The snappish barking of the pets was returned by one hoarse bay from 'Bloodybones'.

5. Breaking with a snap; 'short'.

1833 *New Monthly Mag.* XXXIX. 297 The crust .. is exceeding crisp, dry, and snappish.

Sna·ppishly, *adv.* [f. prec.] In a snappish manner; in or with sharp, ungracious, or peevish language; curtly, abruptly.

1548 Udall, etc. *Erasm. Par. Luke* ii. 39 So did he also at an other time more snappishly make aunswere unto theim. 1602 Middleton *Blurt, Master-Constable* III. iii, You cannot 'scape without a pardon here, if you take us up never so snappishly. 1662 J. Davies tr. *Olearius' Voy. Amb.* 266 The other making answer somewhat too snappishly. *c* 1765 Floyd *Tartarian T.* (1785) 45/1 'What is that to you!' said the porter very snappishly. 1837 Dickens *Pickw.* xxxi, He said rather snappishly: 'Who is with me in this case?' 1885 *Manch. Exam.* 12 Aug. 6/1 The hon. member..had been rather snappishly put off.

Sna·ppishness. [f. Snappish *a.*] The fact or quality of being snappish; sharpness, curtness, or peevishness of language or speech.

1598 Florio, *Proterutà*, frowardnes,..skittishnes, snappishnes. 1727 Bailey (vol. II), *Snappishness*, Crossness, Peevishness, Crabbedness in Speech. 1757 Rutty *Spiritual Diary* (1776) 2nd month, no. 26, Cursed snappishness,..on

a bodily indisposition. *a* 1801 WAKEFIELD *Mem.* (1804) I. 25 He threatened with great snappishness to flog me. 1836 HOOK *G. Gurney* III. 174 The cause of my old lady's snappishness to-night. 1876 MISS BRADDON *J. Haggard's Dau.* xi, A little extra snappishness on the part of Judith.

Snappy (snæ·pi), *a.* [f. SNAP *v.* + -Y.]

1. = SNAPPISH *a.* 1.

1834 in B. Gregory *Side Lights* (1898) 157, I am inclined to be snappy when I am told [etc.]. 1858 E. B. RAMSAY *Scot. Life & Char.* iv, Snappy and disagreeable..in their replies. 1889 JEROME *Three Men in Boat* 155 Harris and George and I were quarrelsome and snappy and ill-tempered.

b. = SNAPPISH 1 b.

1890 *Star* 13 Oct. 4/1 Hard work..doesn't improve Sir Peter's temper, and consequently he was in a particularly snappy mood to-day. 1892 GUNTER *Miss Dividends* (1893) 16 This request..is given in an off-hand, snappy kind of a way.

2. = SNAPPISH *a.* 2.

1886 *St. James' Gaz.* 25 Sept. 5/1 The Queen's Speech..might even be called curt and snappy. 1897 W. H. THORNTON *Rem. W. Co. Clergyman* iii. 84 We grew warm, and our conversation snappy.

3. *Sc.* (See quot.)

1825 JAMIESON *Suppl.*, *Snappy*, keen in business, disposed to take the advantage of another, *Ang*[*us*].

4. = SNAPPISH *a.* 4.

1881 *Harper's Mag.* LXIII. 496 Sharing the vehicle with a snappy terrier. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* II. 701 Dogs inoculated..fell into emaciation, foamed at the mouth and became snappy.

5. Of the nature of, producing or emitting, a snap or crack; crackling.

1878 JEFFERIES *Gamekeeper at H.* 120 Short sharp snappy sounds. 1894 *Outing* June 190/2 The birch..makes a hot, snappy, cheerful fire.

6. *colloq.* Cleverly smart, bright, or pointed; full of 'go'; brisk.

Freq. in recent use, esp. with reference to language.

1873 'SUSAN COOLIDGE' *What Katy did at Sch.* vi. 88 We'll never use the whole name..: we'll say, 'the S.S.U.C.' That sounds brisk and snappy. 1901 *Athenæum* 17 Aug. 209/3 Mere stage back grounds for snappy tales, generally realistic.

b. Neat and elegant; smart, 'natty'.

1881 *Punch* LXXX. 310/3. 1887 W. RYE *Norfolk Broads* 57 The frame of a very 'snappy' little pleasure wherry. 1897 *Outing* XXX. 108/1 A snappy team of grays.

c. Having a brisk smack or flavour.

1892 WALSH *Tea* 164 Many..teas are full and round in body, pungent and 'snappy'.

7. Quick, sudden, instantaneous; jerky.

1872 O. W. HOLMES *Poet at Breakf.-t.* viii. 216 The dry-goodsman's life behind his counter is a succession of sudden, snappy perceptions. 1882 [LEES & CLUTTERBUCK] *Three in Norway* xxiv. (1888) 182 It was almost impossible to get even the snappiest of snap-shots at the agile bird. 1896 MRS. CAFFYN *Quaker Grandmother* 212 To give her a snappy hand-shake.

‖ Snaps. Also **snapps.** [a. Du., Da., or Sw. *snaps.*] = SCHNAPPS.

1845 [C. H. J. ANDERSON] *Swedish Brothers* 8 A trifling scratch,..which a snaps will soon cure. 1865 *Slang Dict.* 238 *Snapps*, Hollands gin.

Sna·psack. Now *dial.* Also **snap-sack.** [ad. LG. *snappsack* (hence G. *schnappsack*), f. *snappen* SNAP *v.*] A knapsack.

Common from *c* 1650 to 1700.

1633 SHIRLEY *Contention* D j b, She cannot eat e a Snapsacke, Nor carry baggage. *a* 1656 USSHER *Ann.* (1658) 515 Mithridates sent all the prisoners..home, with provision in their snapsacks. 1670 *Phil. Trans.* V. 2097 A very large Heart, ..the figure of which was not Conical, but like a Souldiers *pera* or Snapsack. 1716 CHURCH *Philip's War* (1867) II. 22 He finding..three Snapsacks of Powder, went immediately to the Army. 1725 BAILEY *Erasm. Colloq.* 7 If you put nothing into my Snapsack but Healths, I shall carry them with ease. 1882 *Isle Wight Gloss.* 33 *Snapzack*, a knapsack. *fig.* 1643 J. P. (*title*), A Spirituall Snapsacke for the Parliament Souldiers, containing cordiall encouragements.

† Sna·psauce. *Obs. rare.* [f. SNAP *v.* + SAUCE *sb.*] = SLAPSAUCE 1. Also *attrib.*

1611 COTGR., *Fripe-sauce*, a snap-sauce, licke-dish, lickorous fellow. [1653 URQUHART *Rabelais* II. xxx, Hector, a Snap-sauce Scullion.]

† Sna·pshare. *Obs.* [f. SNAP *v.* + SHARE *sb.*] A share or portion obtained as an extra emolument.

1538 COWLEY in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* Ser. II. II. 95 They gayne yerely ij[l] M. markes by their fermes and fees besydes their snap shares. 1548 UDALL, etc. *Erasm. Par. Luke* iii. 32 A porcion of the parties gooddes beyng seased as a forfaict, may come to their snapshare in rewarde of theyr false accusacion. 1553 T. WILSON *Rhet.* 20 A patrone of a benefice wil haue a poore yngrame soule to beare the name of a persone for xx marke, and the patrone hymself wil take up for his snapshare as good as an .c. marke.

Snap-shooter (snæ·pˌʃūtəɹ). [f. SNAP-.]

1. One who practises or is skilled in snap-shooting.

1887 *Field* 8 Jan. 41/1, I cannot but believe that our brilliant snap-shooters..are born, not made.

2. One who takes snap-shot photographs; a camera suitable for this.

1890 *Anthony's Photogr. Bulletin* III. 200 It may become a 'snap shooter', by taking the cork out. 1896 J. ASHBY STERRY *Tale Thames* ii, [It] won't go down in these days of the universal kodak and perpetual snap-shooter.

Snap-shooting, *vbl. sb.* [f. SNAP-.] The practice of firing or taking snap-shots.

1878 *Gentl. Mag.* Dec. 664 Snap shooting, as it is termed, is very effective sometimes by experienced gunners. 1883 *Cent. Mag.* Aug. 493 Snap-shooting is generally understood to consist in putting the gun to the shoulder and firing the instant it is in position.

Snap-shot (snæ·pˌʃɒt), *sb.* Also **snap shot, snapshot.** [f. SNAP-.]

1. A quick or hurried shot taken without deliberate aim, esp. one at a rising bird or quickly moving animal.

1808 COL. HAWKER *Diary* (1893) I. 11 Almost every pheasant I fired at was a snap shot among the high cover. 1846 GREENER *Sci. Gunnery* 164 Were a bird to spring in a situation where we could get only a snap shot. 1899 F. V. KIRBY *Sport E. C. Africa* iii. 42, I got in a snapshot, tumbling her over like a rabbit.

fig. 1865 *Pall Mall G.* 2 Aug. 1 Our courts of law are distinguished from those of other countries by taking snap-shots at justice.

b. One who fires such shots; a snap-shooter.

1887 *Field* 8 Jan. 41/1, I myself am a snap-shot.

2. An instantaneous photograph, esp. one taken with a hand-camera.

[1860 HERSCHEL in *Photogr. News* 11 May 13 The possibility of taking a photograph, as it were by a snap-shot—of securing a picture in a tenth of a second of time.] 1890 *Rev. Reviews* II. 489/2 The annexed snap-shots were taken with a hand camera.

transf. 1897 *Daily News* 3 May 8/3 Your Yankee interviewer is a snap-shot incarnate. 1902 A. DOBSON *Richardson* vii. 196 The language of literature seems to tend..towards the cultus of the short-cut and the snap-shot.

3. *attrib.*, as *snap-shot photograph(y, system*, etc. Freq. in recent use.

1892 GREENER *Breech-Loader* 266 Dr. Carver shoots on the snap-shot system, shooting both barrels in quick succession at the pigeon. 1893 HODGES *Elem. Photogr.* (1907) 15 What is popularly called 'snap-shot' photography. 1894 *Daily News* 26 May 6/1 The book is illustrated with..interesting views, some of them from snapshot photographs.

Hence **Sna·p-shot** *v.*: **a.** *intr.* or *absol.* To take snap-shots with a camera. **b.** *trans.* To photograph (a person, etc.) by means of a snap-shot. **Sna·p-sho·tter, -sho·ttist,** one who takes snap-shot photographs.

Freq. in recent newspaper use.

1894 *Amer. Ann. Photogr.* 63 Many..think it just the thing to commence with a detective camera and *snap-shot. 1898 *Pall Mall Mag.* Sept. 29 One of our party desired to 'snap-shot' the scene. 1899 C. G. HARPER *Exeter Road* 211 All trooped back to Amesbury, the *snapshotters disgusted beyond measure. 1891 *Scottish Leader* 28 Sept. 6 The Shah of Persia is an enthusiastic *snap-shottist.

† Snap snorum, obs. f. SNIP-SNAP-SNORUM.

1622 *MS. Archd. Oxon. c.* 157 fol. 85, Edward Camell for playing at Snape snorum on the Sabaoth day.

Snap-work. Also **snapwork.** [f. SNAP-.]

†1. *Sc.* A firelock. *Obs.*

1568 *Satir. Poems Reform.* xlvii. 53 Snapwark, adew, fra dagmen dow nocht stand. 1676 ROW *Contin. Blair's Autobiog.* xi. (1848) 298, 400 men with bows and long Snap works. *a* 1689 W. CLELAND *Poems* (1697) 12 (Jam.), Right well mounted of their gear:—With durk, and snap-work, and snuff-mill. *Ibid.* 34 Some with snapwarks, some with bowes.

attrib. 1653 URQUHART *Rabelais* I. lv, The buts and marks for shooting with a snap work-gun [Fr. *l'arquebuse*].

2. Snap-shot photography.

1889 *Photogr. News* XXXIII. 266/2 A very necessary thing in quick snapwork in the streets.

Sna·py, *a.* Now *dial.* [Cf. note to SNAPE *sb.*3] Of land: Wet, marshy, boggy.

1607 J. CARPENTER *Pl. Mans Plough* 143 The husbandman..brings..into snapy and wet places hotte lime. 1846 in BARNES *Poems Rural Life.* 1883 in Elworthy *W. Somerset Word-bk.* 688 Snapy ground containing small springs, and requiring to be drained.

Snar (snāɹ), *sb. rare.* Now *dial.* [Of doubtful origin: cf. Norw. dial. *snar* a twist or knot.]

†1. A knot in wood. *Obs.* (Cf. SNARL *sb.*[1] 4.)

1611 FLORIO, *Nocchio*, any bosse,..node, snag,..snar, or ruggednesse in any tree or wood.

2. A stump or stub. (Cf. *hag-snare* HAG *sb.*3 2.)

1892 M. C. F. MORRIS *Yorks. Folk-talk* 154 A ploughing field with old stumps or snars.

† Snar, *v. Obs.* [Corresponds to Du., Flem., (M)LG., MHG. *snarren* (G. *schnarren*, Sw. *snarra*, Da. *snærre*, †*snarre*) to rattle, whirr, snarl, etc., prob. of imitative origin.] *intr.* Of dogs, etc.: To snarl or growl.

1530 PALSGR. 723/2 Take hede of your dogge, alwayes as I come by he snarreth at me. 1553 T. WILSON *Rhet.* 91 b, As uncomely as a dogge dothe when he snarreth. 1596 SPENSER *F. Q.* VI. xii. 27 Tygres, that did seeme to gren, And snar at all, that euer passed by.

b. *transf.* or *fig.* Of persons.

1553 T. WILSON *Rhet.* 91, I maruaile sir what you meane to be euer snarringe at me. 1576 FLEMING tr. *Caius' Dogs* To Rdr. (1880) B 5 b, Such as shall snarr and snatch at the Englishe abrydgement. 1581 RICH *Farew.* (1846) 126, I have written it..not to sette you a snarryng or grudgyng against me.

Hence **† Sna·rring** *vbl. sb.* and *ppl. a. Obs.*

1565 COOPER, *Litera aspera*, snarryng. 1576 FLEMING tr. *Caius' Dogs* (1880) 30 This Dogge,..by furious iarring, snarring, and such like meanes, betrayeth the malefactour.

† Snarche, *v. Obs.* In 3 *pa. t.* **snarchte, snercte.** [app. related to Du. *snerken* to crackle, fry, LG. *snerken* to fry, singe, ON. *snerkja* to sputter, wrinkle, MSw. *snärkia* to wrinkle.] *intr.* To become scorched; to frizzle.

a 1200 *St. Marher.* 18 Þet te hude snaw hwit swartete as hit snarchte [*v.r.* snercte] ant barst on to bleinen.

Snare (snēəɹ), *sb.* Forms: 2 **sneare,** 4–**snare,** 5 **snayr,** 6 **snayre,** 6–7 *Sc.* **snair** 4 **snarr,** 5–6 **snar.**

[In sense 1 a. ON. *snara* (Icel. *snara*, Norw. *snara, snora, snuru*; MSw. and Sw. *snara*, Da. *snare*) noose, snare, = OHG. *snarahha* snare, and related to OHG. and MHG. *snar* (obs. or dial. G. *schnarre*), OS. *snari* (MLG. and LG. *snare, snar*), MDu. *snare, snaer* (Du. *snaar*), string. Sense 2 is probably from the Du. or LG. forms.]

1. A device for capturing small wild animals or birds, usually consisting of a string with a running noose in which a foot or the head may be caught. Also in fig. context.

a 1100 in Napier *O. E. Glosses* (1900) 26/2, *Tenticulam, .i. decipulam*, þelman, snearan, wocie. *a* 1300 *E. E. Psalter* ix. 16 In þis snare whilk þai hid swa Gripen es þe fote of þa. *c* 1325 *Metr. Hom.* 70 Lorde, what thyng sall passe qwyte, And be noght in this snarres tane. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* v. xxiii. (Bodl. MS.), Ofte by swete soune þe fouler bringeþ hem to grenes and snares swetlich. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 461/2 Snare, *laqueus, pedica.* 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 346/2 A Snare.., *vbi* A gylder. 1535 COVERDALE *Amos* iii. 5 Taketh a man his snare vp from the grounde, afore he catche somwhat? 1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 202/40 A Snayre, *laqueus, pedica.* 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* I. 413 The proper time..For stalking Cranes to set the guileful Snare. 1731 MEDLEY tr. *Kolben's Cape G. Hope* II. 149 Several Snares, made of Horse-Hairs, twisted together, are hung between the Branches. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) IV. 167 They either catch them in snares, or take them by surprize. 1847 TENNYSON *Princ.* I. 218 The nightingale, Rapt in her song, and careless of the snare. 1885 HORNADAY *2 Years Jungle* IX. 99 They..set no snares, dig no pitfalls, nor capture game in any way whatever.

b. In fig. and allusive uses.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 29532 Þat þou mai lightloker þam here, Ar þou be laght in findes snarr. *a* 1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* cxxiii. 6 Þe swetnes of þis life is snare þat þe deuyl gildirs men with. 1412–20 LYDG. *Chron. Troy* I. 3648 Blendid with lust,..Til in þe snare þei ben englued faste. 1451 CAPGRAVE *Life St. Aug.* 12 Faustus, a grete snare of þe deuele, for þis man was þe moost famous heretik of all þe Manicheis. 1538 STARKEY *England* II. i. 156 The daungerys and snarys of the world. 1576 GASCOIGNE *Philomene* Wks. 1910 II. 182 Bewtie was the guileful bayte, which caught their lives in Snare. 1641 MILTON *Reform.* I. Wks. 1851 III. 30 Such commands were no commands, but snares. 1710 LADY M. W. MONTAGU *Lett.* lxvii. 112 Ignorance..exposes them to the snares of any..extreme. 1779 J. MOORE *View Soc. France* (1789) I. i. 5 He who has the vigour to disentangle himself from the snares of deep play. 1825 SCOTT *Betrothed* xxvii, Their very virtues become snares to them. 1844 LD. DENMAN *Judgment O'Connell* 1 Trial by jury itself, instead of being a security to persons who are accused, will be a delusion, a mockery, and a snare. 1866 MARTINEAU *Ess.* I. 235 Dr. Mansel falls, we think, into the same snare.

†c. A noose, a halter. *Obs.*[-1]

1388 WYCLIF *Matt.* xxvii. 5 He passide forth, and 3ede, and hongide hym silf with a snare [L. *laqueo*].

d. *Surg.* A device, on the principle of a snare, for removing morbid growths.

1884 M. MACKENZIE *Dis. Throat & Nose* II. 269 Snares have been used for many years for the removal of polypi. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* IV. 690 The larger growths..are best removed by the cold snare. Many advocate the use of the incandescent snare.

2. One of the strings of gut or rawhide which are stretched across the lower head of a side-drum.

1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. xvi. (Roxb.) 61/1 The seuerall parts of a drumme...The Snares, which is made of Bowell strings. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.*, *Snares*, the cords which pass across the diameter of one hoop at the end of a drum. 1875 STAINER & BARRETT *Dict. Mus. Terms* s.v. *Side-drum*, The lower [surface] having catgut strings called snares, stretched across to check the reverberation.

3. *attrib.* and *Comb.* **a.** In sense 1, as *snare-cord, -trap*; *snare-wise* adv.

c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xii. (*Matthias*) 288 Resone wald þat his throt ware vith a snar cord hangyt ful sare. 1611 COTGR., *Anses*.., th' ends of ropes tyed snare-wise, or made into nooses. 1889 *Pall Mall G.* 30 Sept. 6/3 They manufacture a clever snare-trap for the wild geese.

b. In sense 2, as *snare-drum, -head, pin*, etc.

1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. xvi. (Roxb.) 61/1 The seuerall parts of a drumme... The Snare head. *Ibid.*, The Snare pin, or Screw. 1704 [E. SMITH] *Athenian Oracle* III. 423 Their drums..received several small shot in the batter heads, which they went through, but immediately struck out again by the Rims, and touch'd not the snare heads. 1875 STAINER & BARRETT *Dict. Mus. Terms* s.v. *Drum*, The lower head has occasionally strings of catgut stretched over its surface, and then it is called a snare drum. 1884 *Harper's Mag.* Sept. 513/2 The little snare-drum trotted bravely along.

Snare (snēəɹ), *v.* Also 5 **snarre,** 6–7 *Sc.* **snair, 6 snayre.** [f. SNARE *sb.* Cf. Norw. *snara*; MSw. *snära* (Sw. *snärja*), MDa. *snerie, snerge* (Da. *snære*), in similar senses.]

1. *trans.* To capture (small wild animals, birds, etc.) in a snare; to catch by entangling.

1388 WYCLIF *Isaiah* xxviii. 13 That thei..falle backward, and be al to-brokun, and be snarid, and be takun. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 461/2 Snaryn, or snarlyn, *illaqueo.* 1530 PALSGR. 723/2, I snare, I catche in a snare, *je prens au las.* 1548 ELYOT, *Laqueus*, an halter, any thynge that one is snared or intangled in. 1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 202/44 To Snayre, *illaqueare.* 1610 SHAKS. *Temp.* II. ii. 174, I..will ..show thee a layes nest, and instruct thee how to snare the nimble Marmazet. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* I. 365 To fire the Brambles, snare the Birds. 1781 COWPER *Retirement* 401 To carve his rustic name upon a tree, To snare the mole. 1832 LYTTON *Eugene A.* III. iii, I should not be surprised if you snared one of Squire Nixon's hares by the way. 1878 BOSW. SMITH *Carthage* 422 The cultivated portions..swarm with quails, vast numbers of which are snared in nets by the natives.

absol. 1807 CRABBE *Par. Reg.* I. 813 He poach'd the wood, and on the warren snared. 1863 [H. W. WHEELWRIGHT] *Spring & Summer in Lapland* 144 Where every one shoots and snares just as he pleases.

b. *fig.* To entangle, entrap.

1401 *Pol. Poems* (Rolls) II. 55 Cauteles and sleiȝtes, ech intrikid in other, to snarre symple soules. *c* 1430 *Life St. Katherine* (Roxb.) 31, I se wel þat þou woldest wyth þy venoms sotyltees snare vs. 1535 COVERDALE *Exod.* x. 7 How longe shall we be snared after this maner? 1567 *Gude & Godlie Ball.* (S.T.S.) 216 Be thow not snairde in Venus snair. 1616 R. C. *Times' Whistle* (1871) 38 Cast downe thy looke, Least prides bait snare thee on the devils hooke. 1642 D. ROGERS *Naaman* 16 Those ten tribes were justly snared by Jeroboams calves. 1810 SCOTT *Lady of Lake* II. xxviii, Themselves in bloody toils were snared. 1864 TENNYSON *Aylmer's F.* 780 Who wove coarse webs to snare her purity.

refl. *c* 1550 COVERDALE *Fruitful Lessons* (1593) O iij, Who so goeth about to bind the truth, dooth knitte and snare himselfe with vnlowsable bands. 16.. SIR W. MURE *Sonn. to Margareit* iv, Alace!..To snair myselfe in hope to be reliued. 1642 D. ROGERS *Naaman* 26 Adore it, but snare not thyselfe with it.

2. *Surg.* and *Path.* To catch in a loop, *esp.* in order to remove; to cut off with a snare.

1884 M. MACKENZIE *Dis. Throat & Nose* II. 355 An instrument for snaring nasal polypi. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* III. 794 A peritoneal adhesion by which a loop of bowel is snared and acutely strangulated.

Hence **Snared** (snēəd), *ppl. a.*; **Sna·ring** *vbl. sb.* and *ppl. a.*

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 461/2 Snarynge, or snarlynge, *illaqueacio.* *a* 1586 SIDNEY *Ps.* XVIII. ii, To my snaring greave to goe. 1591 PERCIVALL *Sp. Dict.*, *Enlazamiento*, intangling, snaring. 1605 EARL STIRLING *Alexandr. Trag.* II. Chor., Then snaring laws did not extend The bounds of Reason. 1640 T. CAREW *Willing Prisoner* ii, Her murdring glances, snaring haires,..so please me. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. III. v, Driven mad like the snared lion. 1845 DISRAELI *Sybil* (1863) 160 Meditating the snaring of a hare. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 899 The artificial snaring of tumours.

Snare, variant of SNATH(E *v. dial.*

†**Sna·reful**, *a.* *Obs.*–1 [f. SNARE *sb.*] Full of snares; insidious.

a 1618 SYLVESTER *Cup of Consolation* 35 Wks. (Grosart) II. 263 All the snarefull Wiles, And cunning Colours of mysterious Guiles.

Sna·reless, *a.* [f. SNARE *sb.*] Free from snares.

1823 CAROLINE B. SOUTHEY *Poet. Wks.* (1867) 139 Stopt was the busy mill-wheel now, Snareless the rippling brook.

Snarer (snēə·rəɹ). [f. SNARE *v.*] One who sets snares or traps. Also *fig.*

1597 MIDDLETON *Wisd. Solomon* xvii. 14 Snare without snarer, net without a bait. 1623 — *More Dissemblers* II. i, He..has broke through the net..And left the snarer here herself entangled. 1807 CRABBE *Par. Reg.* I. 178 Snarers and smugglers here their gains divide. 1885 *Law Times Rep.* LII. 327/1 The proviso did not apply to snarers like Gilham, who captured birds on certain lands.

Snark (snāɹk), *sb.* [Invented by 'Lewis Carroll' (C. L. Dodgson) in *The Hunting of the Snark* (1876).] An imaginary animal. Also *Comb.*

1879 *Temple Bar* Nov. 391 Hunting for snarkes is a very pleasant occupation, if you do but make-believe strong enough. 1888 LEES & CLUTTERBUCK *B.C. 1887* xxvi. (1892) 297 There is quite a Snark-hunting ring about it. 1895 K. GRAHAME *Golden Age* 90 Some sinuous and snarklike conflict on the mat.

Snark (snāɹk), *v. dial.* [Corresponds to MLG. and LG. *snarken* (NFris. *snarke*, Sw. and Norw. *snarka*), MHG. *snarchen* (G. *schnarchen*, † *schnarken*), of imitative origin: cf. SNORK *v.*]

1. *intr.* To snore; to snort.

1866 *N. & Q.* 3rd Ser. X. 248/1, I will not quite compare it [a sound] to a certain kind of snarking or gnashing. 1907 *Westm. Gaz.* 9 Nov. 4/1 All of a sudden she (the mare, I suppose he meant) snarked an' begun to turn round.

2. *intr.* and *trans.* To find fault (with), to nag.

1882 *Jamieson's Sc. Dict.* IV. 314/2 To *Snark*,..to fret, grumble, or find fault with one. 1904 E. NESBIT *Phœnix & Carpet* x. 185 He remembered how Anthea had refrained from snarking him about tearing the carpet.

Snarl (snāɹl), *sb.*[1] Also 4, 7–8 **snarle**, 9 *dial.* **snarrel**. [f. SNARE *sb.* or *v.*: see -LE I.]

1. A snare, gin; a noose. *Obs.* exc. *dial.* Also *fig.*

c 1380 *Metr. Hom.* (Vernon MS.) in Herrig *Archiv* LVII. 247/1 Lord, what þing schal passe quite And in þeos snarles not beo tan. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) II. 385 Maydens of Athene were compelled as it were to snarles and grenes. *Ibid.* VI. 27 To brynge þe peple þat was so bygiled þe faster in snarl. 1601 BRETON *Blessed Weeper* xxi, Shame bad me weepe..to feele how I was feltred in The wretched snarles of wicked nature's knots. 1829 BROCKETT *N. C. Gloss.* (ed. 2), *Snarl*, the snare itself, made of wire. 1893 in *Eng. Dial. Dict.* s.v., They put this snarl or snirrup roond t'gills an' click t' fish oot.

2. A tangle, knot, ravel.

1609 *Ev. Woman in Hum.* v. i. in Bullen *O. Pl.* IV, Curle not the snarles that dwell upon these browes. 1611 COTGR., *Grippets*,..the rufflings, or snarles of ouer-twisted thread. 1741 *Compl. Family-Piece* II. ii. 331 Let your Hair be round,..twist it neatly without Gaping or Snarles. 1750 GLANDVILLE in W. Ellis *Mod. Husb.* IV. II. 73, I found it [the hairworm] to twist itself all up into a close Snarle. 1836 HALIBURTON *Clockm.* xviii. (1862) 79 To wind off a snarl of ravellins as slick as if it were on a reel. 1854 SUSAN WARNER *Old Helmet* I. 113 The green silk was in a great snarl. 1897 *Outing* XXX. 434/2 The worm..lying upon the bottom like a snarl of black thread.

b. *fig.* or in fig. context.

1631 QUARLES *Samson* xii, The day's at hand, wherein thou must untie The Riddle's tangled Snarle. 1675 J. SMITH *Chr. Relig. App.* I. 18 Here was..a snarle in his fortune requiring the aid of a Divine Solution. 1710 S. PALMER *Proverbs* 73 That men and women shou'd be..in a continu'd snarle, contradiction, hatred, and infinite disorders. 1860 [MRS. M. C. HARRIS] *Rutledge* 111 Dorothy has got her account with the grocer in a great snarl. 1889 *Spectator* 13 Apr., Our children will see how this Irish snarl is unravelled.

3. *U.S.* A swarm, large number.

1855 MRS. WHITCHER *Widow Bedott P.* xxiii, A cheaper minister, and one that hadn't such a snarl o' young ones.

4. A knot in wood. (Cf. SNARLY *a.*[1] 2.)

1881– in dial. glossaries (Leic., Warw.). *a* 1891 *Tribune Book of Sports* 12 (Cent.), Let Italian or Spanish yew be the wood, clear of knots, snarls, and cracks.

5. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *snarl-headed* adj., *-knot*, *-preventer*.

1790 R. TYLER *Contrast* II. ii. (1887) 39 The snarl-headed curs fell a-kicking and cursing of me. 1847 HALLIW., *Snarl-knot*, a very intricate one. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.*, *Snarl-Knot*, a northern expression for a knot that cannot be drawn loose. 1884 *Illustr. Lond. N.* 27 Sept. 291/1 Mr. Brooks's 'Snarl preventor' is a new form of thread-wire which pounces on snarled threads.

Snarl (snāɹl), *sb.*[2] [f. SNARL *v.*[2]] An act of snarling; a display of the teeth accompanied by an angry sound. Freq. *fig.*

1613 SIR E. HOBY (*title*), A Counter Snarle for Ishmael Rabshacheh. 1653 W. RAMESEY *Astrol. Restored* To Rdr. 4, [I] content my self to incur all the Currish Snarls..of the envious. 1832 W. IRVING *Alhambra* II. 178 With the wary side glance of a cur..ready for a snap and a snarl. 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xiv. III. 393 A sum..which he took with the savage snarl of disappointed greediness. 1885 RUSKIN *Pleas. Eng.* 147 The mocking snarl and ruthless blow of the Puritan.

transf. 1889 DOYLE *M. Clarke* 189 The blare of trumpets and the long deep snarl of the drums.

Snarl (snāɹl), *v.*[1] Also 5 **snarlyn**, 5–7 **snarle**. [Cf. SNARL *sb.*[1]]

In R. Brunne *Chron. Wace* 4629 (Ropes ryueled, & swerued in lyne) the reading *suarled* cited from the Petyt MS. should prob. be *snarled* in sense 2 or 3; the construction is not quite clear.

1. *trans.* To catch in a snare or noose; to entangle or secure with a cord, rope, etc.; to strangle. Now *dial.*

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XVIII. xv. (Bodl. MS.), þee hunter..knowyþ þat þe beeste is i-snarled and faste yholde. *Ibid.* LXXIX, *Sicut orix allaqueatus*, as Orix is isnarled. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 461/2 Snaryn, or snarlyn, *illaqueo.* *a* 1470 H. PARKER *Dives & Pauper* (W. de W. 1493) IX. vii. G ij b, They [*sc.* sheep] ben so..snarled amonges brembles and thornes that they may nat go away. 1563 FOXE *A. & M.* 1255/2 He made him priuely to be snarled, and his flesh to be torn. 1565 COOPER, *Laqueus*, an halter: any thyng that one is snarled or tied with. 1602 ROWLANDS *Greenes Ghost* 36 With his necke snarled in an hempen halter. 1648 J. BEAUMONT *Psyche* IX. cclxxv, So may all Rebels find their shameless feet Snarled for evermore in their own Net. 1829 BROCKETT *N. C. Gloss.* (ed. 2), *Snarl*, to insnare; as to snarl hares. 1849– in dial. glossaries, etc. (Northumb., Durham, Cumb., Leic., etc.).

refl. 1530 PALSGR. 723/2 My grayhounde had almost snarled hym selfe to night in his own leesse. 1580 BLUNDEVIL *Horsemanship* IV. 60 b, A Horse..being laid, and the halter slacke about his feete,..he snarleth himselfe, so as he is not able to get vp.

b. *fig.* To ensnare, entangle, entrap.

1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) VII. 431 þe kyng..snarlede hem wiþ sotil sophyms. *c* 1400 *Pilgr. Sowle* (Caxton) I. i. (1859) 2 That no pylgrym escape, that he ne shal be snarlyd in my trappe. 1447 BOKENHAM *Seyntys* (Roxb.) 192 Wyth þi treccherous sotylte Us to snarlyn þou besyist þe. 1545 JOYE *Exp. Dan.* viii. S iv, To studye by what engyns mennes myndes might be trapped and snarled. 1593 NASHE *Christ's T.* Wks. (Grosart) IV. 148 Their wealth, they make no other vse of but to snarle and enwrappe men with. 1641 'SMECTYMNUUS' *Vind. Answ.* xiii. 121 Foreseeing how his owne words would snarle him, if he should grant them all Bishops.

refl. *a* 1470 H. PARKER *Dives & Pauper* (W. de W. 1493) IX. vii. G ij b, They snarle themself so in dett & in false richesses. 1551 CRANMER *Answ. Gardiner* 168 You snarle youre selfe into so many and heynouse absurdites. 1597 J. PAYNE *Royal Exch.* 37 Let vs not..snarle and intangle our selves with over moche toyle and care of the world. *c* 1680 HICKERINGILL *Hist. Whiggism* I. Wks. 1716 I. 37 They lose themselves, and snarl themselves and the Holy Text, so that they never find the right end.

2. To tangle; to twist together confusedly; to make a tangle of. Now chiefly *dial.* and *U.S.*

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 439/1 Ruffelyn, or snarlyn, *innodo.* *c* 1440 *Partonope* 2300 Hys swerde is broken; the other tweyn [swords] be Snarled in the sheeldes ryght fast. 1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 32/21 To Snarle, *contrahere.* 1578 LYTE *Dodoens* 97 It bringeth forth many tender branches full of knotty joynts, entangled and snarled, or wrapped one in another. 1606 S. GARDINER *Bk. Angling* 22 The mudde of this place doth pollute the nette, snarle it, and hurte it. *a* 1687 H. MORE *Cont. Remark. St.* (1689) 424 The Daughter had..her Hair snarled and matted together. *a* 1825 FORBY *Voc. E. Anglia*, *Snarl*, to twist, entangle, and knot together. 1847 PRESCOTT *Peru* (1855) II. 165 Mangrove trees with their complicated roots snarled into formidable coils under the water. 1894 *Outing* XXIII. 404/1 The head tide had snarled the trawls badly.

absol. 1890 BYNNER *Begum's Dau.* xxxvii, The begum made bad work of her embroidery in those days; she snarled and knotted, and cut and ravelled.

b. *fig.* To render complicated or confused.

1653 tr. *Præpcovius' Diss. de Pace* 15 You do not comprehend doctrines snarled and entangled with so many knots. 1675 J. SMITH *Chr. Relig. App.* I. 44, I would thus unty these knots with which he snarles this story. 1701 J. NORRIS *Ess. Theory Ideal World* I. 414 'Tis the want of this Distinction..that has..so snarl'd and perplex'd this Question. 1901 *Jrnl. Sch. Geogr.* Nov. 340 His starting point..being different.., everything else must be snarled hopelessly.

3. *intr.* To become twisted or entangled; to get into, or form, tangles or knots.

1600 HOLLAND *Livy* XXXI. XXXIX. 797 Their speares..snarling within the boughes and branches of trees..hindered them verie much. 1613 DENNIS *Secr. Angling* I. x, Then twist them finely...But not too hard or slacke,..Least slacke they snarle, or hard they proue vnsound. 1681 CHETHAM *Angler's Vade-m.* XXX. § 5 (1689) 177 Which will cause the wyre to be more tough and not so apt to snarl, or break. 1835 URE *Philos. Manuf.* 226 To cause it to snarl into a knot when left free to turn on itself. 1884 W. S. B. MCLAREN *Spinning* 155 The yarn tends to 'snarl' and curl, and cannot be drawn out straight.

Snarl (snāɹl), *v.*[2] Also 6–8 **snarle** (7 **snarlle**). [f. SNAR *v.*: see -LE 3, and cf. GNARL *v.*[1]]

1. *intr.* Of dogs, etc.: To make an angry sound accompanied by showing the teeth.

1589 R. HARVEY *Pl. Perc.* 9 Yf he snarle like a cur at vs, why should not we prouide a Bastinado for him? 1631 QUARLES *Samson* XV, T'one skulks and snarles, the t'other tugges and hales. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* IV. 692 The gaping three-mouth'd Dog forgets to snarl. *a* 1732 BOSTON *Crook in Lot* (1805) 38 A dog snarls at a stone, but looks not at the hand that cast it. 1814 SCOTT *Lord of Isles* III. XXXII, While o'er those caitiffs, where they lie, The wolf shall snarl. 1861 *Morn. Post* 12 Nov., The bear snarled, but crawled on. 1889 RUSKIN *Præterita* III. 48 Their dogs barked and snarled irreconcileably.

fig. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. I. i, Such Patriotism as snarls dangerously and shows teeth. 1842 TENNYSON *Locksley H.* 106 Nations..snarling at each other's heels. 1866 B. TAYLOR *Poems*, *The Test* 414, I hear the angry trumpet snarling.

2. Of persons: To quarrel; to grumble viciously; to show strong resentment or ill-feeling.

1594 SHAKS. *Rich. III*, I. iii. 188 What? were you snarling all before I came,..And turne you all your hatred now on me? 1612 WOODALL *Surg. Mate* Wks. 1653 Pref. 12 Hee is not ignorant, that a large broode of pregnant wits ..will snarl. 1689 *Muses Farew. to Popery* 28 When Servants snarl, we ought to kick 'em out. 1709 PRIOR *The Ladle* x, Kissing to Day, to Morrow snarling. *a* 1776 in Herd *Anc. & Mod. Sc. Songs* II. 208 The surly auld carl did naething but snarl. 1843 JAMES *Forest Days* ii, Don't let me find you snarling with a gentleman's servants again. 1894 G. M. FENN *In Alpine Valley* I. 6, I should have snarled, written my cheque, and paid.

b. Const. *against* or *at* a person or thing.

1593 NASHE *Four Lett. Conf.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 196 Thy hot-spirited brother Richard..snarld priuily at Pap-hatchet, Pasquill, and others. 1624 GATAKER *Transubst.* 39 Lest the Heretiques should be snarling at us. *c* 1640 H. BELL *Luther's Colloq. Mens.* (1652) 154 No man giueth a fillip for the Gospel, but all do snarl against it. 1715 CHAPPELOW *Right Way Rich* (1717) 161 Let wicked men snarl and grin at you now. 1881 *Leicester Gloss.* 245 Jane snarls an' snags at Lizzy.

c. To give *out* a snarling noise.

1675 COVEL in *Early Voy. Levant* (Hakl. Soc.) 246 The manner of the Christians buriall here is much the same; all have the *Præficae* [hired mourners], who sing (or rather howl and snarlle out).

3. *trans.* To utter in a harsh, rude, or ill-natured manner.

1693 CONGREVE *Old Bach.* I. iv, Where hast thou been snarling odious truths, and entertaining company .. with discourse of their diseases? 1839 DICKENS *Nickleby* iii, 'Who, indeed!' snarled Ralph. 1866 GEO. ELIOT *F. Holt* xiv, When the wicked Tempter is tired of snarling that word failure in a man's cell. 1893 *Times* 18 May 9/4 They would..confine themselves to snarling complaints.

4. To put *down* with snarling.

a 1873 LYTTON *K. Chillingley* IV. ix, I can't bear to see a man snarled and sneered down..by..rivals.

5. *refl.* To bring into a certain condition by snarling.

a 1849 SOUTHEY in *Life*, etc. I. v. 306 He has a most critic-like voice, as if he had snarled himself hoarse.

Snarl (snāɹl), *v.*[3] *techn.* [? f. SNARL *sb.*[1] 4.] *trans.* To raise, or force *up*, into bosses or projections by the use of the snarling-iron.

1688 [implied in SNARLING *vbl. sb.*[3]]. 1843 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* I. 412 If from the shape of the works swage tools ..cannot be employed for raising the projecting parts, they are *snarled-up*. 1851–3 *Tomlinson's Cycl. Usef. Arts* II. 431/1 With them the snarled-up parts are corrected.

Snarled (snāɹld), *ppl. a.* [f. SNARL *v.*[1]]

†**1.** Ensnared, entrapped. *Obs.*

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 461/2 Snaryd, or snarlyd,..*illaqueatus.* 1648 J. BEAUMONT *Psyche* XIV. lxvii, There A snarled Ram untwisted Isaac's fate.

2. Entangled, twisted, complicated. Also *fig.*

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 439/1 Rufflyd, or snarlyd, *innodatus.* 1571 GOLDING *Calvin on Ps.* XXXVII. 25 Out of the matter itselfe there springeth a difficult and snarled question. 1598 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. i. 1. *Eden* 723 Adam's self..Could scant unwinde the knotty snarled clew. 1648 J. BEAUMONT *Psyche* XVIII. cxliv, Through a thousand snarl'd Meanders, to A goodly Room he soon conducted her. 1667 *Decay Chr. Piety* vii. § 3. 259 Whose confus'd snarl'd consciences render it difficult, thus to pull out thred by thred. 1883 W. C. SMITH *N. Country Folk* 78 More tangled thrums,.. More snarled basps. 1884 [see SNARL *sb.*[1] 5].

b. Mentally confused.

1881 CABLE *Mme. Delphine* viii. 42 The returned rover was a trifle snarled in his top-hamper.

†**Sna·rler**[1]. *Obs.*–1 [app. f. SNARL *v.*[1]] A species of pedlar or hawker.

1398 in A. F. Leach *Beverley Town Doc.* (Selden Soc.) 42 Homines mercenarii forinseci, vocati Snarlers et haukers, vagantes per stratas ville.

Snarler[2] (snā·ɹləɹ). [f. SNARL *v.*[2]]

1. One who snarls; an ill-tempered, grumbling, or fault-finding person.

1634 CAREW *Cœlum Brit.* 7, I shun in vaine the importunity With which this Snarler vexeth all the gods. 1703 ROWE *Ulysses* I. i, 'Tis the Snarler Æthon, A priviledg'd Talker. 1779 *Ann. Reg.* II. 52 The snarlers against Mr. Garrick's management of the theatre. 1821 *Blackw. Mag.* X. 555 A plain good woman, neither blue-stocking nor snarler. 1884 *Contemp. Rev.* Aug. 253 Shakespeare..was much too great to take vengeance or damn the ill-natured snarlers to immortal disgrace.

2. A dog or other animal addicted to snarling.

1797 *Monthly Mag.* III. 536 Their doors guarded by large and very surly dogs. The women were no great admirers of those snarlers.

Snarler[3] (snā·ɹləɹ). [f. SNARL *v.*[3]]

1. One who works with a snarling-iron.

1864 in WEBSTER. 1900 *Daily Mail* 31 Oct., A snarler.. is a worker in teapots, and may..be compared with the leaf bumper who bumps up the leaves commonly seen in metal work.

2. A snarling-iron.

1903 H. WILSON *Silverwork & Jewellery* 59 This causes the point of the snarler to strike against the inner side of the cup.

Snarley-yow. *Naut.* [After the name of the dog in Marryat's novel *Snarleyyow, or the Dog-Fiend* (1837).] (See quot.)

1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk., Snarley-yow*, a discontented, litigious grumbler. An old guard-ship authority who knows when to play the courtier.

Snarling (snā·ɹlin), *vbl. sb.*[1] [f. SNARL *v.*[1]]

1. The action of snaring, entangling, or twisting. Also *attrib.* in *snarling-net.*

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 461/2 Snarynge, or snarlynge, *illaqueacio.* 1601 DENT *Pathw. Heaven* 83 This world is..a snarling net, wherein thousands are taken. 1615 MARKHAM *Pleas. Prin.* ii. (1635) 8 Twist your hayres..without eyther snarling, or gaping one from another. 1853 URE *Dict. Arts* (ed. 4) II. 831 Thus preventing a snarling or damage of the yarn.

2. (See quot.) *rare*[−1].

1750 W. ELLIS *Mod. Husb.* III. iii. 88 Some [sheets] are made of the worst sort of hemp, called Snarlings.

Snarling (snā·ɹlin), *vbl. sb.*[2] [f. SNARL *v.*[2]] The action of the vb., in various senses; the sound produced by this.

1591 PERCIVALL *Sp. Dict., Gañido*, the snarling of a dogge. 1602 *2nd Pt. Return fr. Parnass.* v. iv, We three vnto the snarling Iland hast, And there our vexed breath in snarling wast. 1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* IX. 401 The bussing of Bees, or snarling of Wolues. 1672 SIR T. BROWNE *Let. Friend* 143 His sober contempt of the world wrought..no laughing or snarling at it. 1806 SIR C. BELL *Anat. Expression* 90 This action of snarling is quite peculiar to the ferocious and carnivorous animals. 1863 GEO. ELIOT *Romola* xxii, There was no care that certain snarlings..should be strictly inaudible.

attrib. 1806 SIR C. BELL *Anat. Expression* 90 In the carnivorous animal the muscles of the lips are so directed as to raise the lip from the canine teeth...The former I would take the liberty of distinguishing by the name of *Ringentes*, snarling muscles.

Snarling (snā·ɹlin), *vbl. sb.*[3] [Cf. SNARL *v.*[3]] A method of producing raised work in metal by means of indirect percussion. Chiefly *attrib.* in *snarling-iron, -tool.*

1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 259/2 Terms of Art used by the Gold-smiths...*Snarling* is to set or punch it [the metal] out as the shape is drawn. *Ibid.* xxi. (Roxb.) 267/2 He beareth ..three snarling Irons Argent...These snarling Irons haue sharp ends. 1843 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* I. 412 When the snarling-iron is struck with a hammer..the re-action gives a blow within the vessel. 1877 G. E. GEE *Silversmith's Handbk.* 122, Fig. 32 and 33 represent the snarling-tool.

Snarling (snā·ɹlin), *ppl. a.* [f. SNARL *v.*[2]]

1. That snarls; given to snarling: **a.** Of dogs or other animals.

1595 *Locrine* v. iv, The snarling curres of darkened Tartarus. 1612 FIELD *Woman is Weathercock* I. i, The snarling dogs were mute. 1675 MARVEL *Corr.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 489 Not at all..dejected or much concerned with such snarling currs. 1753 MISS COLLIER *Art Torment.* I. i. (1811) 28 Little snarling lap-dogs. 1828–32 WEBSTER, *Growler*, a snarling cur.

b. *transf.* Of persons.

1593 NASHE *Christ's T.* 69 b, Nought but sharpe discipline, is a fitte disputant with snarling Scismatiques. 1635 BARRIFFE *Mil. Discipl.* lxx. (1643) 187 Snarling Cynicks, I know, will carpe at my curiositie. 1732 BERKELEY *Alciphr.* v. § 28 A pack of snarling sour bigots. 1841 THACKERAY *Gt. Hoggarty Diamond* v, All admired it hugely, except that snarling Scotchman. 1884 *Nonconf. & Indep.* 19 June 594/2 This perpetual worrying, by snarling busybodies,.. of the greatest statesman of the age.

2. Of the nature of, accompanied or characterized by, snarling.

1599 (*title*), Micro-cynicon: Sixe Snarling Satyres. 1633 BP. HALL *Occas. Med.* (1851) 29, I had justly drawn on..this snarling importunity. 1667 TEMPLE *Wks.* (1720) II. 44 Such a snarling Peace as that at Breda. 1709 STEELE *Tatler* No. 2 ¶ 9 Long this uncomfortable Life they led, With snarling Meals. 1806 *Med. Jrnl.* XV. 504 That polite language and supreme urbanity which characterize these snarling productions. 1855 J. D. BURN *Autobiogr. Beggar Boy* (1859) 184 It may be supposed that I have made these observations in a snarling temper.

3. Having or producing the sound of a snarl.

1602 MARSTON *Antonio's Rev.* Prol., Snarling gusts nibble the juyceles leaves. 1655 VAUGHAN *Silex Scint.* I. 81 Each snarling blast shot through me. 1820 KEATS *Eve St. Agnes* iv, Soon, up aloft, The silver, snarling trumpets 'gan to chide. 1860 HOLLAND *Miss Gilbert's Career* iv. 67 The snarling, grinding din of the gearing was hushed. 1900 ST. BARBE *Mod. Spain* 59 The rain drove with an angry, snarling hiss.

Hence **Sna·rlingly** *adv.*

1862 SALA *Acc. Addresses* 35 He..denied, snarlingly, that he was worth a penny. 1865 CARLYLE *Fredk. Gt.* XVI. xv. (1872) VI. 313 Whose reflections on it..are stingy, snarlingly contemptuous.

Snarlish (snā·ɹliʃ), *a.* [f. SNARL *sb.*[2] or *v.*[2]] Somewhat snarly or ill-tempered.

1819 *Pantologia* VII. s.v. *Menippus*, He wrote some snarlish satires, for which reason writings of that stamp have been sometimes called Menippean. 1848 MOZLEY *Ess.* (1878) I. 376 This excellent Henry accuses me..of being snarlish and quarrelsome. 1893 COZENS-HARDY *Broad Norf.* 12 A snarlish fellow weak in the head.

Sna·rly, *a.*[1] Now *dial.* [f. SNARL *sb.*[1] or *v.*[1]]

1. Tangled, ravelled.

1647 G. W. *Grand Pluto's Progr. thro. Gt. Brit.* 15 Thy snarly haire, thy cheeks as red As paint that they on signes do spread. 1876 ROBINSON *Whitby Gloss.* 178/1 *Snarly*, knotty or twisted, as entangled thread.

2. Full of snarls or knots.

1770 WASHINGTON *Writ.* (1889) II. 311 Walnut, cherry, and some other woods that grow snarly and neither tall nor large. 1890 *Gloucester Gloss.* 144 *Snarly*, knotty, cross-grained; of wood.

Snarly (snā·ɹli), *a.*[2] [f. SNARL *sb.*[2] or *v.*[2]] Inclined to snarl; irritable, cross. Also *transf.*

1798 *Monthly Mag.* VI. 346 My wine's a cure for anguish, My sword for snarly puppies. 1827– in *Eng. Dial. Dict.* 1838 *Penny Cycl.* XII. 400/2 He [a mad dog] grows sullen and snarly; he..runs about wildly, biting at whatever approaches him. 1869 MRS. STOWE *Oldtown Folks* xxii, We all know that..the hyena [is] snarly and fretful. 1879 E. M. COLE *Place-names* 31 The weather is said to be 'snarly' when there is a keen cutting wind in Winter.

Snar-noise. *nonce-word.* [f. SNAR *v.*] A snarling or angry noise.

1582 STANYHURST *Æneis* I. (Arb.) 25 Rough the sea floas forward, thee land with snarnoise enhaunting.

†Snarp, *a. Obs.* [a. ON. *snarp-r* (Norw. *snarp*).] Sharp, keen.

Snarp should prob. be read in *Cursor M.* 7753: for the quot. see SNAIP *a.*

c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xxxiii. (*George*) 547 Snarpe [*so MS.*] swerdis scherand in al syde.

Hence **Sna·rply** *adv.*, sharply.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 18228 And selcut snarpli [*Gött. MS.* snapli, *Laud & Trin. MSS.* sharply] snibbed him.

Snarring: see SNAR *v.*

†Sna·rry, *a. Obs.*[−1] [f. SNAR *v.*] Snarling.

1582 STANYHURST *Æneis* III. (Arb.) 84 Whear curs barck bawling, with yolp yalpe snarrye rebounding.

†Snart, *adv.* and *a. Obs.* [a. ON. *snart* neut. (also as adv.) of *snarr* (Norw., Sw., Da. *snar*) quick, prompt, sharp, etc.] **a.** *adv.* Sharply, severely. **b.** *adj.* Severe, strong.

13.. *Gaw. & Gr. Knt.* 2003 Þe snawe snitered ful snart, Þat snayped Þe wylde. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 3633 Þire Olifantis ..sone was snaypid on Þe snowte with Þe snart hetis.

Hence **†Sna·rtly** *adv. Obs.*

c 1420 *Anturs of Arth.* vii. (Douce MS.), Þe sneterand snawe snartly hem snelles.

Snary (snē·ɹri), *a.* [f. SNARE *sb.* + -Y.] Of the nature of, resembling, a snare; ensnaring.

1592 DANIEL *Sonn. Delia* xiv. Wks. (Grosart) I. 45 Those snary locks are those same nets ..Wherewith my liberty thou didst surprise. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* IV. 361 Spiders in the Vault their snary Webs have spred.

Snash (snaʃ), *sb. Sc.* (and *north. dial.*). [Related to SNASH *v.*] Abuse, impertinence, insolence.

1786 BURNS *Twa Dogs* 96 Poor tenant bodies,..How they maun thole a factor's snash. 1832–53 *Whistle-Binkie* Ser. I. 55 Xantippe's sel', wi' snash sae snell, Was but a lamb compared wi' Betty. 1898 MACMANUS *Bend of Road* 102, I doubt if they'd put up with yer *snash* elsewhere.

Snash (snaʃ), *v. Sc.* [prob. imitative. Cf. WFris. *snasje, snaskje*, Sw. *snaska*, in sense 2; MLG. *snascherie* eating of dainties.]

1. *intr.* To use abusive or impertinent language.

1802 GALLOWAY *Adm. Crichton*, etc. 77 Until he get ye by degrees To snash and snarl. 1818 W. MUIR *Poems* 25 Wae worth them, wha jeering snash.

2. To bite *at* hastily and noisily.

1856 *Deil's Hallowe'en* 29 (E.D.D.), Ilk deevil, dippin' in his headie, Snashed at the apples unco greedy.

Snaste (snēst), *sb.* Now *dial.* Also 7, 9 snast, 9 snaast, snaist, sneest(e; 6 snase, 9 snace, snaice, sneeze. [Of obscure origin: cf. GNAST.] A candle-wick: freq. the burning or burnt part of a wick, a snuff.

1592 GREENE *Upst. Courtier* G iv b, After your weeke or snast [*pr.* snaft] is stiffened, you dip it in filthy drosse. 1596 NASHE *Saffron Walden* Wks. (Grosart) III. 203 His stinking breath, (which smells like the greasie snase of a candle). 1626 BACON *Sylva* § 369 Till some part of the Candle was consumed, and the Dust gathered about the Snaste; But then it made the Snaste big, and long, and to burn duskishly. 1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* 140 In our daies doe men practise to make long-lasting Snasts for lampes. 1691 RAY *N. C. Words, The Snaste*, the burnt Week or Snuffe of a Candle. *a* 1825– in dial. glossaries, etc. (Northampt., E. Anglia, Essex).

†Snaste, *v. Obs. rare.* [Cf. prec.] *trans.* To snuff (a candle). Also *fig.*

1561 DAUS tr. *Bullinger on Apoc.* 51 He had the charge ..of seuen candels, for those must he pourge and snaste. *Ibid.*, He..snasteth and pourgeth by faithe, what thinge so euer hath nede to be pourged.

† Snat, obs. variant of SNOT *sb.*

1573 BARET *Alv.*, Sneuell, the snat or filth of the noze.

Snatch (snæʧ), *sb.* Also 4 snacche, snasche, snache, 6 snach, snatche. [f. SNATCH *v.*]

†1. A hasp, catch, or fastening. *Obs. rare.*

1341–2 *Ely Sacr. Rolls* (1907) II. 118 In factura..lasches snasches et rening barres pro hostio pro les nonises. 1527–8 *Rec. St. Mary at Hill* 343 Paid for mending of a snach in the morrow mas prestes chist.

† 2. A trap, snare, entanglement. *Obs.*

13.. *K. Alis.* 6559 (Laud MS.), No man ne may hym [*sc.* the unicorn] lacche, Bot by gyle & by snacche. 1568 T. HOWELL *Arb. Amitie* (1879) 43 By dailie doome these precepts vewe, to scape the bayted snatch. 1581 J. BELL *Haddon's Answ. Osor.* 20 b, You are caught..and so entangled in this snatch, that ye cannot escape. 1620 SHELTON *Quix.* III. i, The Chevalier del Febo, being taken in a Gin like unto a Snatch that slipped under his feet. 1655 BAILY *Life of Fisher* xxi. 162 They think to take me in a Poppes snatch, but they are deceived.

3. A hasty catch or grasp; a sudden grab or snap *at* something. Freq. *fig.*

1577–87 HOLINSHED *Chron.* II. 514 At which words George Buchanan giveth a snatch. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* III. i. 22 Like dastard Curres, that..rome from place to place, To get a snatch, when turned is his face. 1611 BIBLE *Transl. Pref.* ¶ 2 Happy is he that is least tossed vpon tongues; for vtterly to escape the snatch of them it is impossible. 1651 N. BACON *Disc. Govt. Eng.* II. (1739) 175 What was gotten by the snatch was lost by the catch. 1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* xx, The fawning wile of the spaniel, the determined snatch of the mastiff. 1866 *Morn. Star* 21 Aug. 3/2 He saw him..walk a few steps in advance of her, then suddenly turn and make 'the snatch' in question. 1873 M. ARNOLD *Lit. & Dogma* (1876) 226 Here and there he made guesses and snatches at the truth.

b. A catch, check, or hesitancy. *rare*[−1].

1611 SHAKS. *Cymb.* IV. ii. 105 The snatches in his voice, And burst of speaking were as his.

c. A sudden twitch or jerk. *rare*[−1].

1822–7 GOOD *Study Med.* (1829) IV. 477 The movements of his arms were indeed in ungraceful snatches, and the muscles of the neck frequently evinced a like convulsive start.

4. *By,* or *in, snatches,* by hasty, unsustained efforts; hurriedly, by fits and starts; intermittently, interruptedly, not continuously. Also rarely *at.. snatches.*

(*a*) 1577 B. GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* II. (1586) 48 By snatches (as it were) and not throughly. 1625 *Commons Deb.* (Camden) 101 What is it..to get or lose a towne by snatches? 1665 MANLEY *Grotius' Low C. Wars* 507 Hitherto all that was done, was by snatches and intervals, as it were at a breathing. 1733 POPE *Let. to Swift* 28 May, I have begun two or three letters to you by Snatches, and been prevented from finishing them. 1753–4 RICHARDSON *Grandison* (1781) VII. 182 When..she now-and-then could look up, which she did by snatches, as it were. 1837 LOCKHART *Scott* (1839) IX. 59 The little that he read of new books..was done by snatches in the course of his meals. 1898 BARING-GOULD *Old Eng. Home* xi. 250 He has to take his victuals and his rest by snatches.

(*b*) 1799 J. ROBERTSON *Agric. Perth* 169 The business.. must often..be done in snatches, or not done at all. 1850 S. DOBELL *Roman* vi. Poet. Wks. (1875) 74 Passing gales in snatches bore me Their evening talk. 1897 MISS KINGSLEY *W. Africa* 287, I went in again and slept in snatches.

(*c*) 1692 BURNET *Life & Death Rochester* 138 He told me as his strength served him at several snatches.

5. A brief period, short space (*of* time).

1563 FOXE *A. & M.* 1187/2, I wene we shall haue a snatch of rebellion euen now. 1573 TUSSER *Husb.* li. (1878) 113 Then after a shower to weeding a snatch. 1619 HIERON *Wks.* II. 451 By day is not meant now and then a snatch, or a piece of the forenoone only. 1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* To Rdr., In this work attempts will exceed performances; it being composed by snatches of time. 1663 BUNYAN *Praying in Spirit* Wks. 1855 I. 623 One [vizard] for an appearance before men, and another for a short snatch in a corner. 1825 LAMB *Elia* II. *Superannuated Man*, The..tedious weeks that must intervene before such another snatch [of holidays] would come. 1893 STEVENSON *Catriona* xxix. 339, I was scarce so miserable the next days but what I had many hopeful and happy snatches.

b. *esp.* A short spell *of* sleep or slumber.

1820 L. HUNT *Indicator* xiv, The most relishing snatch of slumber out of bed. 1863 MRS. OLIPHANT *Salem Chapel* xxi, Snatches of momentary sleep..had fallen upon her.

c. A brief manifestation or display *of* something.

1880 JEFFERIES *Gt. Est.* 32 The sunshine broods warm over the mead. It is a delicious snatch of spring. 1885 *Manch. Exam.* 14 July 5/1 Those snatches of fitful energy which mark the movements of the East.

6. a. A hasty meal or morsel; a snack.

1573 TUSSER *Husb.* lxxvi. (1878) 168 Call seruants to breakefast by day starre appere, a snatch and to worke. 1611 BEAUM. & FL. *Knt. Burning Pestle* II. i, Believe me, To sleep without a snatch would mickle grieve me. 1623 MASSINGER *Dk. Milan* III. ii, I fear you'll have cold entertainment..; and 'twere discretion To take a snatch by the way. 1694 MOTTEUX *Rabelais* v. vi, After we had pretty well staid our Stomachs with some tight Snatches. 1791 BOSWELL *Johnson* (1831) II. 490 Our kind host and hostess would not let us go without a snatch as they called it; which was in truth a very good dinner. 1823 E. MOOR *Suffolk Words, Snatch*, a mouthful between meals. 1893 WALKER *Three Churchmen* vii. 76 He took only a snatch or light refection, returning immediately to his desk.

† b. In allusive use (see quots.). *Obs.*

1592 GREENE *Upst. Court.* Wks. (Grosart) XI. 256 Tush! what bawdry is it he wil not suffer, so he may have mony and good chere, and, if he like the wench well, a snatch

himselfe. 1611 COTGR. s.v. *Pain, Prendre vn pain sur la fournée*, to get a snatch at his wench thats readie to be maried. 1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* III. II. v. iii. 648 They had rather go to the stewes, or haue now and then a snatch.., then haue wiues of their owne.

†c. A share; a portion seized on. *Obs.*

1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* I. 368 And not only these haue a share, but also..other seruitors pill and poll, and euery one hath a snatch. *a* 1610 HEALEY *Theophrastus* (1636) 51 Those which sacrifice and feast he makes great love to, hoping to get a snatch.

7. A small amount or portion (†taken hurriedly); a mere fragment or disconnected piece.

1592 HARVEY *Four Lett.* iv. 57 A snatch, and away, with..the common sort of studentes, may please a little, but profiteth nothing. 1656 BAXTER *Reformed Pastor* 20 It is not now and then an idle snatch or taste of studies that will serve to make a sound Divine. 1673 *Remarques Hum. Town* 124 You will hear..some snatches of occurences, whose beauty you are not able to perceive without the knowledge of the whole. 1732 H. WALPOLE *Lett.* (1903) I. 1 That little snatch of conversation was so agreeable. 1780 JOHNSON in *Boswell* (Oxf. ed.) II. 347 Snatches of reading..will not make a Bentley or a Clarke. 1809 MALKIN *Gil Blas* II. vi. P 5 The barber..had heard some little snatches of my story from Fabricio. 1865 CARLYLE *Fredk. Gt.* XIII. IV. (1872) V. 43 We had better give the snatch of Dialogue in primitive authentic form. 1890 STEVENSON *Vailima Lett.* (1895) 12, I returned to begin this snatch of a letter before dinner was ready.

b. A brief view; a glimpse.

1816 L. HUNT *Rimini* II. 133 For leafy was the road, with ..distant snatches of blue hills between. 1842 LOUISA S. COSTELLO *Auvergne* I. 319 Planted with gigantic trees, from openings between which are charming snatches of country.

8. A short passage, a few words, *of* a song, etc.; a small portion, a few bars, *of* a melody or tune.

1602 SHAKS. *Ham.* IV. vii. 178 Which time she chaunted snatches of old tunes. 1795–1814 WORDSW. *Excurs.* I. 569 He..whistled many a snatch of merry tunes. 1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* xl, Madge was..singing her own wild snatches of songs and obsolete airs. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* III. III. viii, Not a musical Patriot can blow himself a snatch of melody from the French Horn. 1884 F. M. CRAWFORD *Rom. Singer* I. 10 It was quite natural that he should.. begin to sing a snatch of the tenor air to me.

b. *ellipt.* in the same senses.

1823 LAMB *Elia* II. *New Year's Coming of Age*, Singing ..a number of old snatches besides, between drunk and sober. 1847 ALB. SMITH *Chr. Tadpole* vii. (1879) 66 Having carolled which snatches, he played a kind of symphony. 1890 SAINTSBURY *Elizab. Lit.* I. 9 Sometimes..both syntax and prosody..recall the ruder snatches of an earlier time.

†**9.** A quibble; a captious argument. *Obs.*

1603 SHAKS. *Meas. for M.* IV. ii. 6 Come sir, leaue me your snatches, and yeeld mee a direct answere. 1687 R. L'ESTRANGE *Answ. Dissenter* 33 There are several Snatches in This Paper, that are either Founded, or Pretend to be Founded upon the Resolution, and Obligation of Laws.

10. That which is obtained in snatches.

1879 J. D. LONG *Æneid* p. v, This, the snatch and pastime of the last year, is not printed because there is want of it.

11. *ellipt.* (See quot. 1867 and SNATCH-BLOCK.)

c 1850 *Rudim. Navig.* (Weale) 98 The hawser is hauled in through the snatch. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.* 636 *Snatch*, any open lead for a rope: if not furnished with a sheave, it is termed a *dumb snatch*, as on the bows and quarters for hawsers. 1882 NARES *Seamanship* (ed. 6) 180 The snatch for the mast rope must be fitted with a bolt.

12. *Mining.* (See quot.)

1860 *Eng. & For. Mining Gloss.* (ed. 2) 79 *Snatch*, a small chimney at surface,..used to ventilate very limited underground workings by means of one shaft.

13. An illicit line used in fishing.

1899 in *Eng. Dial. Dict.* s.v., Charged with using a snatch for the purpose of catching salmon.

Snatch (snætʃ), *v.* Also 3 **sneccben**, 4–5 **snacche**, **snache**, 6 **snach**, **snatche**; 7 *pa. t.* **snaught**. [Of obscure origin: perhaps related to SNACK *sb.*²]

1. *intr.* **a.** To make a sudden snap or bite (*at* something).

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 324 Ase ofte ase þe hund of helle keccheð ei god from þe,..smit hine so luðerliche þet him loðie to snecchen eft to þe. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XVIII. xxvi. 788 Whan þei [flies] fleeþ aȝens his face, he [a hounde] snaccheþ after [1495 snatchyth at] hem wiþ his mouþe. *c* 1400 *Beryn* 651 The dogg lay evir grownyng, redy for to snache. 1568 *Jacob & Esau* II. ii, *Esau.* If I had thee, I woulde eate thee, to God I vowe...*Ragau.* Fall ye to snatching at folkes: adieu, I am gone. 1595 SHAKS. *John* IV. i. 117 And, like a dogge that is compell'd to fight, Snatch at his Master that doth tarre him on. 1718 BP. HUTCHINSON *Witchcraft* 6 In that Madness..the Person will Bark, and Snatch at those that are near. 1828 [see SNATCH- b].

fig. 1561 T. NORTON *Calvin's Inst.* I. To Rdr., I thinke there is no man, that hath ben snatched at, bitten, & torne in sonder with moe sclaunders than I. 1581 J. BELL *Haddon's Answ. Osor.* 59 b, You come at the length to our Church, the orders whereof you do captiously snatch at.

b. To make a sudden catch *at* a thing, in order to secure hold or possession of it. Also *fig.*

1530 PALSGR. 723/2, I snatche at a thynge hastelye to take it, *je happe apres.* 1590 SHAKS. *Mids. N.* III. ii. 29 Briars and thornes at their apparell snatch. 1604 — *Oth.* V. ii. 275 This looke of thine will hurle my Soule from Heauen, And Fiends will snatch at it. 1665 MANLEY *Grotius' Low-C. Wars* 375 The Government..was snatched at on the one side by the Wife..: On the other side, by some Noblemen. 1789 MME. D'ARBLAY *Diary* 6 Jan., I had previously entreated my father to snatch at any possible opportunity of expressing his satisfaction. 1829 SCOTT *Anne of G.* I, All..snatched at bushes and rocks by which to secure themselves. 1831 — *Cast. Dang.* XIX, To snatch at any such occasion as shall be ministered to me. 1882 J. PARKER *Apost. Life* I. 93 The Apostles did not snatch at praise for themselves.

2. *trans.* To seize, to take or lay hold of, suddenly, smartly, or unexpectedly.

c 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 13889 Þe lyon for hunger snacches & sleþ þe best þat he first lacches. 1526 SKELTON *Magnyf.* 1170 Snatche a puddyng tyl the rost be redy. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* I. ii. 17 The Sarazin..Snatcheth his sword, and fiercely to him flies. 1616 J. LANE *Contn. Sqr.'s T.* VII. 262 Algarsife..snaught his swoord, and with a loftie whiff, rann vppon Camball. 1687 A. LOVELL tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* II. 60 He snatches a man, and jumping into the water with him, carries him over to the other side. 1728 YOUNG *Love Fame* I. 47 Will no superior genius snatch the quill, And save me, on the brink, from writing ill? 1765 *Ann. Reg.* I. 215 It was agreed that Matthews and Byfield should that night pick pockets or snatch hats. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. v. iv, All green things are snatched, and made cockades of. 1841 LANE *Arab. Nts.* I. 83 The fisherman hastily snatched the sealed leaden stopper.

fig. 1597 SHAKS. 2 *Hen. IV*, IV. v. 192 It seem'd in mee, But as an Honour snatch'd with boyst'rous hand. 1823 SCOTT *Quentin D.* i, Those advantages, which..the Duke would have snatched with an armed hand.

b. With immaterial object: To take, obtain, acquire, etc., in a hasty or improper manner, or so as to take advantage of a momentary chance.

1563 FOXE *A. & M.* 1367/1, I could wyshe more faythfull dealyng with Gods woorde, and not to..snatche a part here and another there. 1598 DRAYTON *Heroical Ep.* viii. 98 My lips haue waited,..And snatch'd his words, ere he could get them forth. 1621 G. SANDYS *Ovid's Met.* II. (1626) 30 What should shee doe? but..snatch a parting kisse? 1667 MILTON *P. L.* X. 1025, I fear least Death So snatcht will not exempt us from the paine. 1726 BERKELEY *Let.* Wks. 1871 IV. 138, I shall nevertheless snatch the present moment to write you short answers. 1789 BELSHAM *Ess.* I. xi. 212 Let not..persons..pretend to snatch those graces which are beyond the reach of art. 1849 LYTTON *Disowned* 40 Let us snatch what happiness is yet in our power. 1879 *19th Cent.* No. 32. 665 He seeks, at times, to snatch a verdict for his client by ignoring..evidence. 1891 *Labour Commission Gloss., Snatching a victory* by getting an advance in wages. The method employed is to choose a time when the masters are divided in opinion.

†**c.** *refl.* To catch or entangle (oneself). *Obs.*—¹

1575 GASCOIGNE *Flowers*, etc. Wks. 1907 I. 99 His wayting still to snatch himselfe in snare.

3. To seize, catch, or take suddenly *from* or *out of* one's hands, etc.

1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* II. i. 43 Out of her gored wound the cruell steele He lightly snatcht. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* I. 219 They sent out their boyes to scorne us, who..snatched from us our hats and other things. 1663 S. PATRICK *Parab. Pilgr.* xxiii. (1687) 244 She sometimes..threw it abroad among the people; and then again snatched it out of their hands. 1737 [S. BERINGTON] *Mem. G. de Lucca* (1738) 106 He snatch'd it out of my Hands with a prodigious Eagerness. 1812 CARY *Dante, Parad.* III. 109 [Men] Forth snatch'd me from the pleasant cloister's pale. 1878 M. A. BROWN *Nadeschda* 35 He hurries off, with the intent to snatch The savage garland from her locks.

fig. 1607 SHAKS. *Timon* IV. iii. 441 The Moones an arrant Theefe, And her pale fire, she snatches from the Sunne. 1651 HOBBES *Leviath.* I. viii. 33 Such as they have, that entring into any discourse, are snatched from their purpose. 1781 COWPER *Table-T.* 689 He snatch'd it [the laurel] rudely from the muses' hand. 1825 SCOTT *Talism.* viii, Nor befits it our fame that a brave adversary be snatched from our weapon by such a disease. 1848 GALLENGA *Italy* I. p. xxvi, The sons of the north are snatching from your hands the sceptre of the arts.

absol. 1674 N. FAIRFAX *Bulk & Selv.* To Rdr., While we ..snip here and snatch there from some of them.

b. With immaterial object. (Cf. 2 b.)

1588 SHAKS. *L. L. L.* V. ii. 382 It were a fault to snatch words from my tongue. 1725 POPE *Odyss.* I. 13 Oh, snatch some portion of these acts from fate, Celestial Muse! 1755 JOHNSON *Let.* 4 Feb. in *Boswell*, Snatch what time you can from the Hall, and the pupils [etc.]. 1795 COLERIDGE *Sibyl. Leaves, Eolian Harp* 10 How exquisite the scents Snatched from yon bean-field! 1845 JAMES *Arrah Neil* IV, All were anxious to snatch a few hours from the gloomy thoughts that hung over the times. 1871 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* (1876) IV. 116 That a new English host was coming to snatch the victory from the conquerors.

c. To remove or avert hastily. Const. *from.*

1796 MME. D'ARBLAY *Camilla* I. 316 She snatched her hands from her face. 1855 TENNYSON *Brook* 101 But Katie snatched her eyes at once from mine.

4. With adverbs: †**a.** With *down*: To devour hastily. *Obs.*—¹

1519 HORMAN *Vulg.* 39 b, Beware snatche nat thy meate downe to gredelye.

b. To catch, pick, or take *up*, suddenly or smartly.

1555 EDEN *Decades* (Arb.) 173 One of these wylde men.. soodenly snatched vppe a childe of therse. 1592 *Arb. of Feversham* v. i, Chast Diana..Would..Fling down Endimion and snatch him vp. 1638 F. JUNIUS *Paint. Ancients* 112 So were they taught that Art whose instruments they had snatched up. 1698 FRYER *Acc. E. India & P.* 276 The Women..never are snatch'd up for their Great Fortunes. 1784 COWPER *Task* V. 49 His dog..snatches up the drifted snow With iv'ry teeth. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. I. iii, Scarcely..could they snatch up their 'enormous hoops': *transf.* 1575 GASCOIGNE *Certain Notes Instruct.* (Arb.) 33 The light accent is depressed or snatched vp.

c. To seize and take *away* suddenly.

1608 SHAKS. *Per.* III. i 24 Why do you make us love your goodly gifts, And snatch them straight away? 1684 *Contempl. State Man* I. ii. (1699) 15 That which Time spares, is often snatcht away by the covetousness of the Thief. *a* 1770 JORTIN *Serm.* (1771) II. xvii. 332 The Devil is here said to snatch the wood away from such persons. 1820 SHELLEY *Hymn Merc.* xxix, And from the portion..I will snatch my share away.

d. To pull or tear *off* quickly (and roughly).

1687 A. LOVELL tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* I. 33 They snatch it quickly off of the fire, or stir it. 1709 STEELE *Tatler* No. 45 P 7, I snatched his Hat off his Head. *a* 1763 W. KING *Polit. & Lit. Anecd.* (1819) 63 One of Cromwell's soldiers snatched off Sir William Smyth's hat. 1847 SARAH AUSTIN *Ranke's Hist. Ref.* III. 371 Those who were standing near snatched off the wax of the seal.

5. To remove quickly *from* sight, etc.; to hide or conceal suddenly.

1582 STANYHURST *Æneis* I. (Arb.) 20 Thee clowds snach gloomming from sight of Coompanie Troian Both Light and welken. 1711 POPE *Temple Fame* 354 A sudden cloud strait snatch'd them from my sight. 1835 LYTTON *Rienzi* I. xii. 90 The long herbage, and the winding descent, soon snatched her ill-omened apparition from the desolate landscape. 1887 BOWEN *Æneid* I. 88 Clouds snatch from the Teucrians' sight Sunlight and sky.

6. To remove suddenly from this world or life. Used in passive and freq. with *away* and *from*.

1597 HOOKER *Eccl. Pol.* V. xlvi. § 1 Rather to bee taken then snatched away from the face of the earth. 1601 SHAKS. *All's Well* V. iii. 154, I am a-feard the life of Hellen (Ladie) Was fowly snatcht. 1655 FULLER *Ch. Hist.* IX. 110 William Bradbridge..was snatcht away with a sudden death. 1694 F. BRAGGE *Disc. Parables* ix. 335 The covetous rich fool, that trusted in his riches,..was suddenly snatched from them to give account of his stewardship. 1752 BERKELEY *Th. Tar-water* Wks. III. 501 Several who are snatched away by untimely death. 1781 COWPER *Retirem.* 167 They ..unregretted, are soon snatch'd away From scenes of sorrow into glorious day. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. III. vii, Wailing..that a Sovereign Man is snatched away. 1888 BURGON *Lives 12 Good Men* I. Pref. p. xiv, He was snatched away while affording..fresh promise of a truly brilliant Professorial career.

b. To cut off *from*, by sudden removal.

1799 COWPER *Castaway* 63 When, snatch'd from all effectual aid, We perish'd, each alone.

7. To save or rescue *from* or *out of* danger, etc., by prompt or vigorous action.

1601 SHAKS. *Twel. N.* III. iv. 394 This youth that you see heere, I snatch'd one halfe out of the iawes of death. 1696 TATE & BRADY *Ps.* cxliv. 7 And snatch me from the stormy Rage. 1737 WHISTON *Josephus, Antiq.* VI. vi. 169 They snatched him out of the danger he was in. 1791 BURKE *Corr.* (1844) III. 215 The men who..snatch the worst criminals from justice. 1876 MISS BRADDON *J. Haggard's Dau.* II. 22 Every soul snatched from darkness and death was a rich harvest. 1893 MATHESON *About Holland* 10 A great part of it has been snatched from the sea.

8. In miscellaneous uses (see quots.).

1648 J. BEAUMONT *Psyche* VII. CXXIV, Through the air they snatch'd their greedy way. 1657 W. MORICE *Coena quasi Κοινή* XVI. 256 The Spartan valour, who being struck down by a mortal blow, used to snatch their mouths full of earth [etc.]. 1864 TENNYSON *Aylmer's F.* 209 But Edith's eager fancy hurried with him Snatch'd thro' the perilous passes of his life.

9. *Naut.* To place (a line) in a snatch-block.

1769 FALCONER *Dict. Marine* (1780) E ee, To snatch the main-bowline, or put it into the snatch-block. 1840 R. H. DANA *Bef. Mast* XXXVI. 136 The line is snatched in a block upon the swifter. 1882 NARES *Seamanship* (ed. 6) 181 Snatch the top-gallant sheets.

Hence **Sna·tching** *ppl. a.*

1828 SCOTT *F. M. Perth* VI, Those naked, snatching mountaineers, who are ever doing us wrong.

Snatch-, the verb-stem used in combs.: **a.** *Naut.* Denoting devices capable of rapid attachment, or to which a rope can be quickly attached, as *snatch-cheek*, *-cleat*, *-hook*, †*-pulley*, *-sheave* (cf. SNATCH-BLOCK).

1485 *Naval Acc. Hen. VII* (1896) 50 Snache poleis, ij. 1495 *Ibid.* 192 Snache poleyes with oon shever of brasse to ye same. 1842 R. BURN *Fr. Techn. Dict.* 162 *Taquet à gueule*,..snatch-cleat. 1882 NARES *Seamanship* (ed. 6) 73 A snatch cheek on the after side of the..yard-arm. *Ibid.* 76 Rove..through a snatch sheave. 1891 *Cent. Dict.*, *Snatch-cleat*, a curved cleat or chock round which a rope may be led.

b. In objective combs., as *snatch-apple*, †*-cly*, *-grace*, †*-pasty* (see quots.).

1687 MIÉGE *Gt. Fr. Dict.*, A Snatch-pasty, *un Voleur de Pâtes.* 1796 *Grose's Dict. Vulgar T.*, *Snatch cly*, a thief who snatches women's pockets. 1828 CARR *Craven Gloss.*, *Snatch-apple*, an apple suspended by a string, with which children amuse themselves by snatching at it with their teeth. 1884 BROWNING *Ferishtah* (1885) 65 No scape-grace? Then, rejoice Thou snatch-grace safe in Syria!

c. = SNAP- c.

1889 *Spectator* 7 Dec., He secured a snatch-vote in favour of a permanent system of arbitration. 1893 *Times* 21 June 9/4 It is impossible to suppose the snatch-division .. has settled the point. 1895 *Westm. Gaz.* 22 June 5/3 What Ministerialists regard as a snatch reverse in Supply.

d. Denoting the practice or use of snatching, as *snatch-thief.*

1892 *Boston* (Mass.) *Jrnl.* 3 Nov. 3/7 A snatch thief arrested. 1903 *19th Cent.* Mar. 507 The snatch-thief who relies on his swiftness of foot.

Sna·tchable, *adj.* [f. SNATCH *v.* + -ABLE.] That may be snatched or seized.

1896 A. MORRISON *Child Jago* 167 Hoping for a temporary absence of the shop-keeper, which might leave something snatchable. 1899 W. JAMES *Talks to Teachers* vi, The child sees a snatchable object in some one's hands.

Sna·tch-block. Also **snatchblock**, **snatch block.** [SNATCH- a.] A block having a hole in one side to receive the bight of a rope.

a 1625 *Nomenclator Navalis* (MS. Harl. 2301), *Snatch block* is a greate Block with the Sheever in it and a Notch cutt through one of the Cheeks of it by which Notch they reeve anie Roape into it. [Hence in Harris, *Chambers' Cycl.*

Suppl., etc.] 1769 Falconer *Dict. Marine* (1780) s.v. *block*, A snatch-block; a top-block; a voyal-block [etc.]. 1793 *Trans. Soc. Arts* XI. 173 Passing through proper snatch-blocks. 1839 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* II. 97/2 A car.. is suspended to the top round of the ladder by means of a chain passing over a pulley of a snatch block. 1886 R. C. Leslie *Sea Painter's Log* 145 This line, when the boat is launched, passes through..a snatch-block.

Snatched (snætʃt), *ppl. a.* [f. Snatch *v.*] Hurriedly or hastily obtained or taken.

1575 G. Sandys *Trav.* 1. 84 Full boules Of wine powr'd on; and goblets (gladding soules) Of blacke bloud, and snatcht [L. *rapti*] milke. 1834 Mar. Edgeworth *Helen* (Rtldg.) 129 These snatched moments..enhanced the enjoyment. 1863 Geo. Eliot *Romola* vi, I remember..a hastily snatched visit to Athens. 1892 *Pall Mall G.* 25 Jan. 6/3 This is no snatched victory.

Snatcher (snætʃəɹ). [f. Snatch *v.*]

1. One who or that which snatches; a thief, a robber. (Also with *at* or *away*.)

1575 *Mirr. Mag., Tresilian* xi, So catchers and snatchers toyle both night and daye, Not needy but greedy, still prolling for their praye. 1582 Stanyhurst *Æneis* 1. (Arb.) 29, I am kind Æneas, from foes thee snatcher of housgods. 1599 Shaks. *Hen. V*, 1. ii. 143 We do not meane the coursing snatchers onely, But feare the maine intendment of the Scot. 1611 Cotgr., *Grippeur*, a griper; catcher, snatcher. 1648 Hexham II, *Een Rucker*, a Puller, or a Snatcher away. 1736 Ainsworth *Eng.-Lat. Dict.* I, A snatcher at, *captator*. 1805 Scott *Last Minstr.* IV. iv, Full oft the Tynedale snatchers knock At his lone gate. 1866 *Morn. Star* 21 Aug. 3/2 There having lately been a great many 'snatchers' in the neighbourhood of Whitechapel. 1868 Morris *Earthly Par.* (1870) I. II. 461 The snatchers..Lurked round the gates of less well-guarded folds.

b. A body-snatcher. (See Body *sb.* 30.)

1831 *Ann. Reg., Law Cases*, etc. 321/1 A person in the room..told him that he must mind what he was at, as they were snatchers. 1884 A. Griffiths *Chron. Newgate* II. vii. 331 The snatchers brought a hamper which contained a body in a sack.

c. One who takes fish by 'snatching'.

1878 *Standard* 21 Oct. (Davies), Some 'snatchers' will use two, three, or even four triangles.

2. *pl.* 'A book-name for the Raptores' (*Cassell's Encycl. Dict.* 1887).

Snatchery. *nonce-wd.* Snatching.

1553 *Respublica* v. ix, Thou saiest even trueth, tis a bagg of Rye in dede:..briberee, snatcherie, catcherie [etc.].

Snatchily (snæ·tʃili), *adv.* [f. Snatchy *a.*] By or in snatches.

1880 Miss Broughton *Sec. Th.* 1. xii. 204 The book-case on whose ladder she has so often stood in cramped discomfort, snatchily reading.

Snatching, *vbl. sb.* [f. Snatch *v.*]

1. The action of the verb.

1526 Skelton *Magnyf.* 1143 *Fan.* Where the Deuyll gate he all these hurtes? *Fol.* By God, for snatchynge of puddynges and wortes. 1589 R. Harvey *Pl. Perc.* (1590) A iij, Soft maisters, faire plaie and no snatching. 1641 J. Jackson *True Evang. T.* 1. 73 Our rapacity,..our snatching, and catching, at far more then is our own. 1846 Trench *Mirac.* ix. (1862) 207 Snatchings on the part of the creature at honours which of right belonged only to the Creator. 1847 Bushnell *Chr. Nurture* II. iii. (1861) 282 The casual snatching and feeding at all hours.

2. Twitching.

1822–7 Good *Study Med.* (1829) IV. 477 The limbs were in a state of constant snatching and trepidation.

3. The practice of catching fish by means of hooks which are pulled sharply through the water.

1878 *Standard* 21 Oct. (Davies), 'Snatching' is a form of illicit piscicapture for which it is impossible to entertain ..sympathy. 1884 Jefferies in *Pall Mall G.* 6 Sept. 1/2 The fish..are also protected by regulations..; snatching, for instance, is unlawful.

4. *techn.* (See quot.)

1887 *Archit. Soc. Dict., Snatching.* The term for making laths break bond for plastering.

Snatchingly, *adv.* [f. *snatching*, pres. pple. of Snatch *v.*] In a snatching manner; hurriedly; by snatches.

1552 Huloet, Bytynge one an other, or as snatchyngelye, *morsicatim*. 1588 Udall *Diotrephes* (Arb.) 8 You seeme to bee so possessed with discontentment that it maketh you to speak (as it were) snatchingly. 1629 H. C. *Disc. Draining Fens* A ij b, The prosecution of this businesse was..so snatchingly persued, that little fruit came thereof. 1647 Hexham I, Snatchingly, *haestelick, ofte snellick*.

Snatchy (snæ·tʃi), *a.* [f. Snatch *sb.* or *v.*] Consisting of, characterized by, snatches; irregular; spasmodic.

1861 *N. Brit. Rev.* May 351 The haste in which so many people live..tends to foster a shallow and snatchy habit of mind. 1869 Mrs. Whitney *Hitherto* xiv, I like monosyllables. I like brief, snatchy talk. 1886 *Q. Rev.* Apr. 515 Some books lend themselves to a snatchy method of perusal. 1898 [see Snaggy *a.*²].

b. *spec.* Of rowing.

1865 *Sk. from Cambridge* 16 The modern style [of rowing] seems short and snatchy; it has not the long majestic sweep of former days. 1893 *Daily News* 14 Mar. 2/6 He does not keep a very even stroke, and to this is largely attributable the 'snatchy' form in the boat.

†**Snater,** *v. Obs.*⁻¹ [? Error for *snapir* Snapper *v.*¹] *intr.* To stumble.

a 1400–50 *Alexander* 3995 Sire Porrus with a proude swerd him on þe pan strikis So snelle at he snatirs with.

Snath (snæþ). Chiefly *dial.* and *U.S.* Forms: α. 6 snythe, 9 snithe. β. 7– snathe, 9 snaythe, snaith. γ. 8– sneath, 9 sne(a)the, sneetha, 8– snath. [Variant of Snead *sb.*, but all the forms are irregular and difficult to account for.] The pole or shaft of a scythe.

α. 1574 R. Scot *Hop Garden* (1578) 28 Thys helue shoulde boowe somewhat lyke to a Snythe, or to the steale of a Sythe. 1854 Miss Baker *Northampt. Gloss.* s.v. *Snathe, Snithe*, the crooked handle or long shank of a mowing scythe.

β. 1691 Ray *S. & E. C. Words* 114 *A Snathe*, the handle of a Sithe. 1848 Bartlett *Dict. Amer.* 317 Snathe. 1888 Addy *Sheffield Gloss.* 224 Snaith or Snathe. 1899 Dickinson & Prevost *Cumbld. Gloss.* 301/2 Snaythe.

γ. 1704 *Dict. Rust.* (1726) s.v. *Snead, Sneath*, the handle of a Scithe, or the like Tool. 1844 H. Stephens *Bk. Farm* III. 849 The handle, or sned or sneath,..is made either curved..or straight. 1866 G. Stephens *Runic Mon.* I. 314 No Sithe could be handled without its pole or shaft or sneath or sned. 1907 'J. Halsham' *Lonewood Corner* 150 The two 'sneathes' or grips on the sneath.

δ. 1782 J. Scott *Ameb. Ecl.* ii. Poet. Wks. 119 There crooked snaths of flexile sallow make. 1839 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* II. 231/1 An improvement in the Scythe Snath. 1864 Whittier *Wreck Rivermouth* 89 O mower, lean on thy bended snath. 1881 *Metal World* No. 22. 343 Suppose the centre of gravity of the snath be..4 in. from the body of the snath.

Snath(e, *v. dial.* Also 7 sneath, 7, 9 snare, 8 snaze (?). [app. ad. ON. *sneiða* (Norw. *sneida*; MSw. *snetha*) to cut, slice; but the sense is more precisely that of OE. *snædan* Sned *v.*] *trans.* To prune or lop (trees, etc.); to remove by lopping. Hence **Sna·thing** *vbl. sb.*; also *attrib.*

1485 *Nottingham Rec.* III. 230 For snathing of treez. *Ibid.*, For makyng of a mlcccc. xl. kyddez of oke of þe seid snathinges. 1609 *Burgery of Sheffield* 312 A payne laid that every person do snath and brush ther hedges. 1641 H. Best *Farm. Bks.* (Surtees) 121 Yow are to snath off all the small twigges and boughes. *Ibid.*, Hee hayth for this purpose a little broad snathinge axe. 1691 Ray *N. C. Words* 65 To *Snathe* or *snare*, to prune Trees, to cut off the Boughs of Ash or other Timber trees. 1781 J. Hutton *Tour to Caves* (ed. 2) Gloss. 96 *Snaze*, clip an hedge. 1825 Brockett *N. C. Gloss., Snathe*, to prune, to lop. 1866 Brogden *Prov. Lincs., Snare*, to cut large boughs off a tree.

†**Snat-nosed,** *a. Obs.* [Cf. Snatted *a.*] Snub-nosed.

1519 Horman *Vulg.* 31 All mooris and men of Ynde be snatte nosed: as be gootis, apis, and beeys. 1542 Udall *Erasm. Apoph.* 223 Silenus..was an eiuill disfigured apyshe bodye, croumpe shouldreed, shorte necked, snatnosed.

†**Sna·tted,** *a. Obs.* [Of obscure origin.] Snub.

13.. *K. Alis.* 6447 (Laud MS.), Hij haue visages euelong, And snatted nosen, þat ben wrong. 1387 Trevisa *Higden* (Rolls) III. 285 3e stryveþ for a man wiþ snatted nose. 1398 — *Barth. De P. R.* XVIII. xcvi. (1495) 842 The ape hight Simea in grewe and hath that name of snattid nose: ..for thei ben snattyd in the nose. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 461/2 Snattyd, or schort nosyd, *simus*.

†**Sna·tter,** *v. Obs. rare.* [ad. Du. *snateren* (so in MDu., MLG., and MHG.) or LG. *snat(t)ern* (G. *schnattern*, Sw. *snattra*), of imitative origin.] *intr.* To chatter.

1647 Hexham I. (Birds), The Pie snatters, *den Exter snattert*. 1662 R. Mathew *Unl. Alch.* 189 Many will be angry and snatter at it.

†**Snattines,** obs. variant of Snottiness.

1594 T. B. *La Primaud. Fr. Acad.* II. 377 From hence commeth spettle, snattines of the nose, catharres, & distillations.

†**Sna·ttock.** *Obs.* [Of obscure origin.] A scrap, fragment.

1654 Gayton *Pleas. Notes* III. xi. 148 From rags, Snattocks, Snips, irreconcilable and super-annuated Smocks and Shirts. *Ibid.* xiii. 160 The Letter..crumbled into such miserable Snattocks, that the Divell could not piece it together.

†**Snatty,** obs. variant of Snotty *a.*

1545 Elyot, *Mucosus*, snatty or sniueled. 1647 Hexham I, Sneevelly or snatty, *snotachtigh*.

†**Snavel,** *v. Sc. Obs.*⁻¹ In 5 snawil. [Imitative: cf. Snaffle *v.*, and Sw. dial. *snavla*.] *intr.* To snuffle.

c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xvi. (*Magdalene*) 459 þe child cane snawil þan, & grape þe modyr pape, for fud to tak.

Snaw(e, Snawy, Sc. and north. variants of Snow, Snowy.

Snawith: see Snowish *a.*

Snayballe, obs. form of Snowball.

Snaype, obs. form of Snape *v.*¹

Snead (snīd), **sned** (sned). Now *dial.* Forms: α. 1 sneed, 3 snede, 7–9 sneed, 9 sneyd, sneid; 7– snead. β. 9 sned. See also Snath. [OE. *sníed*, of obscure origin and not represented in the cognate languages.] The shaft or pole of a scythe.

α. *c* 1000 Ælfric *Hom.* II. 162 Hwilon eac befeoll an siðe of ðam snæde into anum deopan seaðe. 1235–52 *Rentalia Glastonb.* (Somerset Rec. Soc.) 165 Et [habebit] de herba quantum potest levare cum sidsnede. 1664 Evelyn *Sylva* xii. § 2 These Hedges are..kept in order with a Scythe of four foot long..; this is fix'd on a long sneed or streight handle. 1686 Plot *Staffordsh.* 357 A short strong Sithe.. fitted with a strong Snead. 1813 Davis *Agric. Wilts.* in *Archæol. Rev.* (1888), Scythe, or Sive—The handle [is] called the snead. 1825– in dial. glossaries, etc. (Somerset, Northampt., Chesh., Warwicks.). 1885 *Calendar of Prisoners at Mids. Sessions, Taunton* 30 June, William Chorley.. stealing a scythe and snead.

β. 1825– in dial. glossaries (Northumb., Shropsh., Northampt.). 1844 H. Stephens *Bk. Farm* III. 849 The curved sned is usually made of willow. 1901 *Scotsman* 1 Apr. 8/7 He sent his servant..for a scythe sned.

Sneak (snīk), *sb.* Also 7 sneake. [app. f. Sneak *v.*]

By earlier writers used as a suggestive personal name:— 1597 Shaks. *2 Hen. IV*, II. iv. 12 See if thou canst finde out Sneakes Noyse. 1633 B. Jonson *Tale of Tub* v. viii, Was she..wench to that Sneake-Iohn?

1. a. A sneaking, mean-spirited, paltry, or despicable person; one who acts in a shifty, shabby, or underhand manner.

Jerry Sneak: see Jerry *sb.* 6.

a 1643 W. Cartwright *Ordinary* IV. v, I'll suffer no such sneaks As you to offend this way. 1668 Pepys *Diary* 8 Mar., When all is done, he is a sneake; who owns his owing me £10..and yet cannot provide to pay me. 1677 W. Hughes *Man of Sin* II. x. 159 The Devil,..being baffled, packs away, like a silly Sneak as he was.

1840 Thackeray *Shabby-genteel Story* iii, We call him tuft-hunter, lickspittle, sneak. 1848 — *Van. Fair* v, The sneak of an usher jeered at him no longer. 1848 B. D. Walsh tr. *Aristophanes' Knights* II. iii, I knew not..that you had been so long..a sneak and a shuffler. 1874 L. Stephen *Hours Libr.* (1892) II. v. 174 A penitent is generally a bit of a sneak.

b. One who robs or steals in a sneaking manner, or who enters places clandestinely for that purpose. (See also *Area-sneak* s.v. Area 2 b.)

1785 Grose *Dict. Vulgar T., Sneak*, a pilferer. 1839 *Slang Dict.* 34 *Sneaks*, boys who creep into houses, down areas, or into shops, etc. to enter the premises. 1902 *Westm. Gaz.* 30 June 2/3 The genuine poacher—the real article we mean, not the commercial midnight game sneak.

2. *Cant.* a. The act or practice of stealing in unperceived in order to rob; a robbery effected in this manner. Usu. in phr. *upon the sneak.*

a 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew* s.v. *Ken-miller*, '*Tis a bob Ken, Brush upon the Sneak*, 'tis a good House, go in if you will but Tread softly. 1812 J. H. Vaux *Flash Dict.* s.v. *Gammon*, A thief detected in a house which he has entered, upon the sneak, for the purpose of robbing it. *Ibid., Morning-sneak*, going out early to rob private houses or shops by slipping in at the door unperceived [etc.].

b. The act of stealing away or running off in a sneaking manner.

1812 J. H. Vaux *Flash Dict.* s.v., One or more prisoners having escaped..by stealth, without..alarming their keepers, are said to have..*given it to 'em upon the sneak.* 1901 *Wide World Mag.* VI. 478/1 Geronimo and his bloodthirsty cut-throats had 'made a sneak', that is, left their reservation and were on the war-path.

3. *Cricket.* A ball bowled so as to roll along the ground; a daisy-cutter.

1862 Pycroft *Cricket Tutor* 52 Sneaks jump about and twist with the ground. 1886 — *Oxford Mem.* II. 93 Once, when good bowling was unsuccessful, they put in Tailor Humphreys to bowl twisting sneaks. 1899 Lubbock *Mem. Eton* xviii. 278 A long hop to leg would have been a more suitable ball than a straight sneak.

4. *slang.* A soft-soled, noiseless slipper or shoe.

1883 Greenwood *Strange Company* (ed. 2) 321 'Sneaks' ..are shoes with canvas tops and indiarubber soles. 1904 A. Griffiths 50 *Yrs. Public Service* xiv. 204 His footsteps were..deadened by the 'sneaks', or cloth slippers, worn to conceal his whereabouts.

Sneak (snīk), *v.* Also 6 sneke, 7 sneek, sneake. [Of doubtful origin: the form does not agree with that of early ME. *sníken*, OE. *snícan* to creep, crawl (cf. ON. *snikja*, Norw. *snikja*, Da. *snige*, in senses similar to 'sneak'), and the historical gap is very great. The stem *sneak-* appears a little earlier in Sneakish(ly *a.* and *adv.*]

I. *intr.* 1. To move, go, walk, etc., in a stealthy or slinking manner; to creep or steal furtively, as if ashamed or afraid to be seen; to slink, skulk:

a. With advs., as *away, down, in, off, out*, etc.

1596 Shaks. 1 *Hen. IV*, IV. iii. 58 A poore vnminded Outlaw, sneaking home. 1604 Dekker *Honest Wh.* Wks. 1873 II. 138, I hope he will not sneake away with all the money. 1625 B. Jonson *Staple of N.* II. iv, Where's Madrigall? Is he sneek'd hence? 1709 Steele *Tatler* No. 9 ¶ 3 Miss having heard enough, sneaks off for Fear of Discovery. 1740–2 Richardson *Pamela* (1824) I. xix. 31 [The cook] was hot with her work; and I sneaked away. 1844 Dickens *Mart. Chuz.* xlvii, To avoid people, and sneak on unobserved. 1877 Black *Green Past.* i, The two women were sneaking off by themselves.

fig. and *transf.* 1643 Wither *Campo-Musæ* 72 That Delusion Which had so hotly charg'd me, sneaked thence. *a* 1661 Fuller *Worthies, Sussex* III. 96 When the Sun ariseth the Moon sneaketh down obscurely. 1857 S. Osborn *Quedah* xii. 159 Towards dusk a small canoe sneaked out, under the plea of fishing.

b. With preps., as *about, after, from, into*, etc.

1599 Shaks. *Hen. V*, I. ii. 172 To her vnguarded Nest, the Weazell (Scot) Comes sneaking. 1607 Fletcher *Woman Hater* v. iv, There are they still poor rogues,.. sneaking after cheeses. 1609 Rowlands *Dr. Merrie-man* (Hunterian Cl.) 20 The Rusticke..softly sneaking out of doores, About his message goes. 1714 Pope *Let. to Caryll* 25 Sept., I have..sneaked along the walks with that astonished and diffident air [etc.]. 1749 Smollett *Gil Blas* I. xiii, But I made no reply, and very wisely condescended to sneak into the straw. 1825 T. Hook *Sayings* Ser. II. *Man of Many Fr.* II. 51 They..sneaked from my door with every mark of..servile cowardice. 1835 Sir J. Ross *Narr. 2nd Voy.* ii. 22 Appearing disorderly and dirty, as they..sneaked about the ship. 1879 E. K. Bates *Egypt. Bonds* II. viii. 191 Like truant schoolboys who sneak into the busy schoolroom.

fig. 1726 De Foe *Hist. Devil* II. v, Being ashamed, as well as discouraged, they sneaked out of the world as well as they could. 1838 Emerson *Address, Cambridge* Wks. (Bohn) II. 200 Now man is ashamed of himself; he skulks and sneaks through the world. 1871 Browning *Balaustion* 1549 To thee who livest now Through having sneaked past fate apportioned thee.

c. Without const. (Freq. used to denote want of courage, independence, or straightforwardness, without reference to place or movement.)

1665 Boyle *Occas. Reft.* (1848) 358 As these Russians' could not take a better way than that of not sneaking, to avoid the having their Rites and Persons undervalu'd. 1682 N.O. *Boileau's Lutrin* II. 184 For he..scorn'd to stand, and sneak with hands in Pocket. 1699 Bentley *Phalaris* xi. 266 He sneak'd like a Cock, that hangs down his wings when he's beaten. 1732 Pope *Ep. Cobham* 154 Tom struts a Soldier,..Will sneaks a Scriv'ner, an exceeding knave. 1779 Johnson *L. P., Pope*, Pope was reduced to sneak and shuffle, sometimes to deny, and sometimes to apologize. 1845 *Nonconformist* V. 133 Law..may allow..them to sneak—but law cannot wipe away the reproach of sneaking. 1861 Geo. Eliot *Silas M.* ix, If you know where he's sneaking..you may tell him to spare himself the journey o' coming back home.

fig. 1633 G. Herbert *Temple, Ch. Militant* 121 Thus Sinne in Egypt sneaked for a while. 1692 *Vindication* 15 Vice..always sneaks when bravely born up to. 1765 Beattie *Judgm. of Paris* cii, Coward Office..sneaks secure in insolence of state. 1821 Clare *Vill. Minstr.* II. 83 How blest she'd been,..If, ere want sneak'd for grudg'd support from pride [etc.].

d. *U.S. colloq.* To make off quietly.

1901 *Scribner's Mag.* Apr. 409/1 When you get over the fence,..yell fire till the crowd comes, then sneak.

2. To cringe or be servile *to* (a person, etc.).

c 1660 South *Serm.* (1715) I. 32, I need salute no great Man's Threshold, sneak to none of his Friends or Servants. *a* 1704 T. Brown *Oxford Scholars* Wks. 1730 I. 10 Pitiful curates and chaplains, that must sneak to the groom and butler. 1796 Burke *Corr.* (1844) IV. 383 We sneak to the regicides, but we boldly trample on our poor fellow-citizens. 1873 Browning *Red Cott. Nt.-cap.* iv. 257 Why else to me.. Sneak, cap in hand, now bribe me to forsake My maimed Léonce, now bully, cap on head.

transf. 1707 Hearne *Collect.* 30 Sept., Our Bishops sneak to the old Cause.

3. *School slang.* To peach, inform, tell tales.

1897 *Daily News* 3 June 7/2 Sneaking, in the ethics of public school boys, is the unpardonable sin. 1902 *Spectator* July 46/2 The boys..usually prefer to suffer rather than 'sneak' of one of their companions.

II. *trans.* 4. To turn or draw *aside*, to put or thrust *in* or *into*, to move or slide *to*, etc., in a stealthy manner.

1648 J. Beaumont *Psyche* I. xlvii, Stout Trees..From this dire Breath sneak'd their faint heads aside. 1684 Otway *Atheist* III. i, Sneak what Ready-mony thou hast into my Hand. 1754 *Connoisseur* No. 32 ₱ 3, I see a man every minute stealing out a dirty muckender, then sneaking it in again. 1889 *Macm. Mag.* Aug. 253/1, I lay stirless, softly sneaking my right hand to the pistol. 1892 Gunter *Miss Dividends* (1893) 275 When Lawrence's name comes up for membership, he sneaks in a black-ball, as many another prig ..has done before.

refl. 1680 *Advice to Soldier* ii. in *Harl. Misc.* (1753) I. 467, I have seen some of those Gallants..in the Middle of a Sea-fight,..sneak themselves behind the Main-mast.

b. To keep out of sight; to hide. *rare*$^{-1}$.

1701 Wake *Ration.* 222 (Todd), Some sins dare the world in open defiance, yet this [*sc.* slander] lurks, and sneaks its head.

c. To pass *through* in an underhand or stealthy manner.

1891 *Daily News* 29 Jan. 2/4 Mr. Stephens..objected.. to this cruel and unjust Bill being 'sneaked' through Parliament. 1896 *Voice* (N.Y.) 5 Mar. 2/4 A most important measure is being sneaked through the general assembly.

† 5. To do or act (one's part) in a sneaking or cringing manner. *Obs.*$^{-1}$

1649 G. Daniel *Trinarch., Hen. V*, ccxcii, Something hidden lifts the Thought To Noble Actions, when they heare 'em told, And Hee who Sneaks his part, will praise 'em bold.

6. a. *Cant.* (See quot.)

1812 J. H. Vaux *Flash Dict.* s.v., To sneak a place is to rob it upon the sneak. *Ibid.*, One or more persons having escaped from their confinement by stealth, without.. alarming their keepers, are said to have *sneak'd 'em.*

b. *colloq.* To steal in a sneaking or stealthy manner; to filch.

1883 *Daily News* 14 Sept. 3/7 The various kinds of people who visit public libraries for other than legitimate purposes, such as..those who sneaked umbrellas, and those who stole books. 1889 Jerome *Three Men in Boat* ix. 142 Somebody must have sneaked it, and run off with it.

Sneak-, the sb. or verb-stem used in combs., as **sneak-boat**, *U.S.* a boat by which one may readily move or approach unobserved; *esp.* a sneak-box; **sneak-box**, *U.S.* a small, flat, shallow boat used in wild-fowl shooting, and when in use masked with brush or weeds; **sneak-current**, *Electr.* current which escapes or strays owing to leakage or imperfect insulation (1904 in *Cent. Dict.* Suppl.); **sneak-pasty** *a.*, insidious, sneaky; **sneak-shooting**, the shooting of wild-fowl from a sneak-boat (*Cent. Dict.*); **sneak-thief** (orig. *U.S.*), one who steals or thieves by sneaking into houses through open or unfastened doors or windows; hence *sneak-thieving* vbl. sb.

1882 D. Kemp *Yacht Sailing* xvi. (1884) 258 The home of the *sneak-boat, or sneak box, or devil's coffin, as the contrivance is indifferently termed, is Barnegat Bay. 1889 Bucknill *Submarine Mines* 232 The Howell [torpedo]..is inferior only as an arm for a sneak boat, or for a vessel attempting to run a blockade. 1879 N. H. Bishop *4 Months in a Sneak-Box* (1880) 1 The comical-looking..Barnegat *sneak-box, or duck-boat. 1884 Knight *Dict. Mech.* Suppl. 826/2 The New Jersey sneak box is from 12′ to 14′ in length.

1681 T. Flatman *Heraclitus Ridens* No. 15 (1713) I. 101 Some creeping *Sneakpasty Schismatick would have informed against you. 1877 Talmage *Serm.* 58 The meanest *sneak-thief that comes up..at the Tomb Court. 1884 *Cent. Mag.* Mar. 653/2 The offences are nearly all trivial, most of them being petty larceny and *sneak-thieving.

Snea·kaway. *rare.* [f. Sneak *v.* 1 a.] One who makes off in a sneaking manner.

1900 *Westm. Gaz.* 6 June 1/3 Men who know themselves beaten already, but are not the cowards and sneakaways we sometimes make them out to be.

† **Snea·kbill.** *Obs.* Also 6 **sneke-, sneek-, 7 sneake-** (and Sneaksbill). [Of obscure origin: cf. Sneaksby.] A mean or paltry fellow; a starved or thin-faced person. Also *attrib.*

1562 J. Heywood *Prov. & Epigr.* (1867) 72 Why will ye.. I shall folow hir will? To make me Iohn drawlache, or such a snekebill. 1577 Kendall *Floures of Epigr.* 9 Perchaunce thou deemst me in thy minde, Therefore a sneekbill, snudge vnkinde. 1611 Cotgr., *Chiche-face*, a chichiface, micher, sneake-bill, wretched fellow. *Ibid.*, *Visage de bec*, a sneake-bill, sharp-nose, chittiface. 1653 Urquhart *Rabelais* I. liv, Here enter not base pinching Usurers,..chichie sneakbil rogues.

Sneak-cup, app. an error for Sneak-up *sb.*

1596 Shaks. 1 *Hen. IV*, III. iii. 99 *Falst.* How? the Prince is a Iacke, a Sneake-Cuppe. 1673 *S'too him Bayes* 99 You will but cry like Falstaff (when the Prince asked him if he had said he was a Sneak-Cup).

Sneaker (snī·kəɹ). [f. Sneak *v.*]

1. A person or animal that sneaks; a sneak.

1598 Florio, *Origlione*, an eauesdropper, a listner,..a sneaker, a lurking knaue. *c* 1613 Middleton *No Wit like Woman's* IV. ii, I thought they were some such sneakers. 1621 Burton *Anat. Mel.* III. ii. iv. i. (1651) 519 A long lean rawbone, a skeleton, a sneaker. 1715 Hearne *Collect.* (O.H.S.) V. 66 He being one of the Sneakers and terribly afraid of disobliging the debauched Court of K. George. *a* 1734 North *Examen* III. viii. § 37 (1740) 611 The Courtiers that were more used to Sneakers, than to Men of clear Courage. 1800 Coleridge *Piccolomini* II. xiv, Not a sneaker among us, thank heaven. 1826 Scott *Jrnl.* 7 Mar., We have more sneakers after Ministerial favour than men who love their country. 1865 Livingstone *Zambesi* vii. 161 He soon departed and we heard no more of the majestic sneaker.

2. † a. A small bowl (*of* punch). *Obs.* (Common from *c* 1710 to *c* 1740.)

(*a*) *a* 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew, Sneaker*, (of Punch) a small Bowl. 1726 G. Roberts *Four Yrs. Voy.* 71 He would take me on Board the Scooner with him, to treat me with a Sneaker of Punch before parting. 1743 Fielding *J. Wild* II. iv, He called for a sneaker of punch. 1772 in Jas. Forbes *Oriental Mem.* (1813) IV. 217 He then ordered five sneakers of a mixture which he denominated punch.

(*b*) 1714 *Spect.* No. 616 ₱ 4, I have just left the Right Worshipful and his Myrmidons about a Sneaker of Five Gallons. 1742 Fielding *J. Andrews* I. xiii, Mr. Barnabas ..having..drank a bowl of punch.., returned to take the other sneaker; which when he had finished [etc.]. 1775 S. J. Pratt *Liberal Opin.* lxxxviii. (1783) III. 157 A little snug place..where we might take a friendly sneaker together.

b. A glass *of* brandy.

1805 Ramsay *Scott. & Scotsmen 18th C.* (1888) II. 293 He had a small sneaker of brandy before retiring to his bedroom. 1821 *Blackw. Mag.* IX. 60 Step to the corner and fetch me a sneaker of brandy.

3. *U.S. colloq.* = Sneak *sb.* 4.

1895 in *Funk's Stand. Dict.*

4. *Cricket.* = Sneak *sb.* 3.

1909 in *Cent. Dict.* Suppl.

Sneaker-snee, variant of Snickersnee *v.*

Sneakiness (snī·kinės). [f. Sneaky *a.*] The character or quality of being sneaky.

1859 Boyd *Recreat. Country Parson* (1862) 63 Sneakiness ..is worse than the most indiscreet honesty. 1865 — *Crit. Ess.* (1867) 3 His sneakiness as a patriot, his corruption as a judge.

Sneaking (snī·kiŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. Sneak *v.*] The action of the vb. in various senses. Also with preps. and advs.

1649 G. Daniel *Trinarch., Rich. II*, cxliv, But sneaking smells of Peasant, though they weare Blue Ribbands. 1656 *North's Plutarch* Add. Lives 43 He built a house without his Camp for all strangers.., whereby he prevented their sneaking into his Camp. 1706 Hearne *Collect.* (O.H.S.) I. 217 By his Sneaking and Cringing. 1772 T. Simpson *Vermin-Killer* 20 They appear shy, but that is from your sneaking after them. 1829 Carlyle *Misc.* (1857) II. 23 An assiduity..which sometimes almost verges towards sneaking. 1895 *Outing* XXVI. 403/2 By hard sneaking it was possible to get within about two hundred and fifty yards.

Sneaking (snī·kiŋ), *ppl. a.* Also 7 **sneeking.** [f. Sneak *v.*]

1. That sneaks; moving, walking, acting, etc., in a furtive or slinking manner. Also *transf.*

1590 Greene *Never too late* (1600) 98 Hee is such a sneaking fellowe, that..touch him and he will scrike. 1594 Nashe *Unfort. Trav.* B iij, They will..call him a sneaking Eauesdropper. 1659 in *Burton's Diary* (1828) IV. 71 Where is then the anarchy, the sneaking oligarchy? 1673 A. Walker *Lees Lachrymans* 26 He had a great mans mind, not a little sneeking, servile, narrow, soul. 1710 Hearne *Collect.* (O.H.S.) III. 34 Authoriz'd to be printed by our sneaking Vicechanc[ellor]. 1726 Dyer *Country Walk* 75 The sneaking tribe of Flattery. 1824 W. Irving *T. Trav.* I. 227 Lurking footpads and sneaking pickpockets. 1839 Dickens *Nickleby* xiii, A nasty, ungrateful, pig-headed, brutish, obstinate, sneaking dog. 1891 C. Roberts *Adrift Amer.* 99 Several of these sneaking beasts [coyotes] were prowling round.

Comb. 1828 *Lights & Shades* I. 292 The same sneaking-looking animal, whether you meet with it in a palace or a jail.

† b. *Sneaking-budge*, one who steals or robs alone; also *erron.* (quots. 1743–51), stealing, pilfering. *Obs.*

a 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew.* 1743 Fielding *J. Wild* I. viii, Wild..looked upon borrowing to be as good a way of taking as any, and, as he called it, the genteelest kind of Sneaking-budge. 1751 — *Amelia* I. iii, I find you are some sneaking-budge rascal.

† c. Niggardly, mean; near. *Obs.*

1696 W. Mountagu *Holland* Pref. 2 We were not Sneaking..but thriftily Liberal. 1749 Fielding *Tom Jones* x. iii, He had some few blemishes.., yet being a sneaking or a niggardly fellow, was not one of them. 1773 Foote *Bankrupt* III, No gentleman can accuse me of being sneaking. Dingey, give him six pence.

transf. 1697 Tryon *Way to Health* vi. 116 How many stingy sneaking Names will they call us?

2. Marked or characterized by, partaking or suggestive of, sneaking; hence, mean, contemptible.

1582 Stanyhurst *Æneis* III. (Arb.) 84 But Scylla in cabbans with sneaking treacherye lurcketh. 1648 J. Beaumont *Psyche* XIII. xxiii, No Conventicle's sneaking Cloisters hid Those Doctrines. 1658 *Verney Mem.* (1907) II. 73 He has an extraordinary sneaking countenance and way with him. 1724 Welton *Chr. Faith & Pract.* 223 It was, methinks, as sneaking a submission..as it was a false assertion. 1770 Foote *Lame Lover* I, An absolute monarch to sink into the sneaking state of being a slave to one of his subjects. 1845 Ld. Campbell *Chancellors* lxxiii. (1857) III. 402 They, in a sneaking and paltry manner, pretended that they were not prepared. 1865 Dickens *Mut. Fr.* I. i, It's worthy of the sneaking spirit that robs a live man.

† 3. Mean in appearance or amount; petty, paltry, contemptibly poor or small. *Obs.*

1703 R. Neve *City & C. Purchaser* 87 Sometimes little sneaking ill-contrived Stair-cases are built in a good comely large Structure. 1733 Fielding *Quix. Eng.* II. i, For a sneaking fee he pleads the villain's cause. 1779 Mme. D'Arblay *Diary* 20 Oct., A meaner, more sneaking and pitiful wig..did I never see.

4. Of feelings, affection, etc.: Unavowedly cherished or entertained; not openly declared or shown; undemonstrative. Freq. in *a sneaking kindness.*

1748 Richardson *Clarissa* (1811) III. 303, I believe I have a sneaking kindness for the sneaking fellow. 1753–4 — *Grandison* (1812) I. 250 (D.), You..shall reveal to me your sneaking passion, if you have one. 1784 Cowper *Tiroc.* 244 Some sneaking virtue lurks in him, no doubt. 1842 Thackeray *Miss Tickletoby's Lect.* vii, I can't help having a sneaking regard for him. 1871 L. Stephen *Playgr. Eur.* ix. (1894) 204, I have a sneaking..belief in the virtues of the scrambling Briton. 1897 Miss Kingsley *W. Africa* 676, I have a sneaking sympathy with these good people.

Snea·kingly, *adv.* Also 6 **snekingly,** 7 **sneekingly.** [f. prec.]

1. In a sneaking manner; not openly or boldly.

1598 Florio, *Gatto gatto*, groping, creeping,..sneakingly as a cat. 1599 Linche *Anc. Fiction* M iij, The Serpent.. snekingly conueyeth her selfe away. 1633 G. Herbert *Temple, Ch. Porch* xxi, Doe all things like a man, not sneakingly. 1678 Otway *Friendship in F.* IV. i, How sneakingly will he look when he shall find his mistake. 1726 *Brice's Weekly Jrnl.* 17 June 1, I shall not..sneakingly hang my Head, under the smartest Strokes..of Adversity. 1778 Mrs. Scott in Doran *Lady of last Cent.* (1873) x. 243 If she ever does ill, she will do it sneakingly. 1835 *Tait's Mag.* II. 377 Certain senators, who, having boldly given the lie, give sneakingly the hand of reconciliation. 1873 Miss Broughton *Nancy* I. 80 We hurriedly and sneakingly enter the drawing-room.

† 2. Meanly; niggardly. *Obs.*

1695 De la Pryme *Diary* (Surtees) 74 He behaved himself the sneakinglyest to him that can be imagined.

3. Without open declaration; unavowedly.

1730 [A. Hill] *Progr. Wit* 7 Unborn to cherish, sneakingly approves, And wants the Soul to spread the Worth, he loves. 1879 Browning *Martin Relph* 141 Suppose I had sneakingly loved her myself, My wretched self.

Snea·kingness. *rare.* [f. as prec.] Sneaking quality; sneakiness.

c 1647 Boyle *Agst. Swearing* Wks. 1772 VI. 16 Such persons are deeply accessary..by a sneakingness, which.. implies a guilt. [1687 in Miege. 1727 in Bailey (vol. II).]

Sneakish (snī·kiʃ), *a.* [Cf. Sneak *sb.* and *v.*]

† 1. ? Farcical, ludicrous. *Obs.*$^{-1}$

1570 Levins *Manip.* 145 Sneakish, *bardus, mimus.*

2. Somewhat sneaky.

1864 Carlyle *Fredk. Gt.* IV. 302 The sneakish courtly gentleman. 1897 'Tivoli' *Short Innings* xv. 227 Well, it was a beastly, sneakish trick.

Hence **Snea·kishness.**

1895 A. H. S. Landor *Corea* 114 It is generally associated with sneakishness, treachery, and perfidy.

Snea·kishly, *adv. rare*$^{-1}$. In 6 **sneknekyshelye.** [See Sneak *v.* This is the earliest example of the stem.] Meanly, despicably.

1560 Daus tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 270 b, All men..cried out upon Duke Maurice, whiche serued him so sknekyshely, whome he oughte to haue honoured as his father.

† **'Sneaks,** *sb. Obs. rare.* = Sneak *sb.* 1.

1653 W. Ramesey *Astrol. Restored* To Rdr. 17 Domineer abroad, be a sneaks at home? 1687 Miege *Gl. Fr. Dict.* II. s.v., A poor Sneaks, or a poor Sneaksby (that is a pitifull Fellow, that scarce dares shew his Head). *a* 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew, Peeking Fellow*, a meer Sneaks.

† **'Sneaks,** *int. Obs.*$^{-1}$ An abbrev. of *God's neaks* (see God *sb.* 14 b and Neakes), used as a petty oath. (Cf. 'Snigs.)

1602 Marston *Antonio's Rev.* IV. ii, S'neaks, and I were worth but three hundred pound a yeare more, I could sweare richly.

†Snea·ksbill. *Obs. rare.* = SNEAKBILL.

1602 DEKKER *Satirom.* I iv b, Come Grumboll, thou shalt Mum with vs; come, dogge mee sneakesbill. *a* 1643 CARTWRIGHT *Ordinary* III. ii, A base thin-jaw'd sneaksbill, Thus to work gallants out of all.

Snea·ksby. Now *rare.* Also 6 **snekesbie, 7 sneaksbie,** etc. [Of obscure origin: see -BY 2, and cf. prec. and SNEAKBILL.] A mean-spirited person; a paltry fellow.

1580 HOLLYBAND *Treas. Fr. Tong, Niez,* an idiote,..a simple soule, a snekesbie. 1611 COTGR., *Coquefredouille,* a meacocke, milkesop, sneaksbie. *a* 1677 BARROW *Serm.* Wks. 1716 III. 274 To be termed..a demure Sneaksby..Men can hardly brook. 1690 DRYDEN *Amphitryon* II. ii, There is no comparison between my master and thee, thou sneaksby. 1785 in GROSE *Dict. Vulgar T. a* 1877 COWDEN CLARKE in Rolfe *Shaks. Two Gent.* 28 A woman..will cling to a ruffian,..but she will despise and shun a pettifogging sneaksby.

Snea·ksman. *Cant.* [f. SNEAK *sb.* or *v.*] (See quots, 1812, 1859.)

1812 J. H. VAUX *Flash Dict., Sneaksman,* a man or boy who goes upon the sneak. 1834 AINSWORTH *Rookwood* III. v, There was no such sneaksman..going. 1859 *Slang Dict.* 97 *Sneaksman,* a shoplifter; a petty cowardly thief.

Sneak-up (snī·kˌʉp), *sb.* [f. SNEAK *v.*; see also SNEAK-CUP.] A mean, servile, or cringing person; a sneak; a shirk.

1596 SHAKS. 1 *Hen. IV,* III. iii. 99 (Q.), The prince is a iacke, a sneakeup. 1620 SHELTON *Quix.* II. xlv. 299 You must set other manner of Coltes vpon me then this poore nasty sneake-vp. 1775 ASH, *Sneaksby,* a sneakup. 1798 T. MORTON *Secrets* III. 1 But he is such a Sneakup! Were he a boy of mettle, I would adopt him.

attrib. 1851 JERROLD *St. Giles* (1852) I. 305 It's only your sneak-up chaps, that are afraid of the glass, that get into trouble,..and catch rheumatism.

Sneak-up, *v. pseudo-arch.* Alteration of *snick-up* (see SNICK *v.*[1]), under the influence of prec.

1855 KINGSLEY *Westw. Ho!* xxx, Here's a fellow..talks about failing..! Blurt for him, sneak-up! say I. *Ibid.,* Marry, sneak-up! say I again.

Sneaky (snī·ki), *a.* [f. SNEAK *sb.*]

1. Of persons: Like or resembling a sneak; mean, paltry, sneaking.

1833 *Christmas Improvement* ii. (1841) 32 She is a nasty sneaky thing, for she is always trying to make us say things that are not true. 1873 Miss BROUGHTON *Nancy* I. 142 'Did you ever see such a fool as I look?' say I, feeling very sneaky.

2. Characterized by, partaking of, sneaking.

1860 G. H. KINGSLEY *Sport & Trav.* (1900) 224 The blue hare ..pestering your pointers and setters with his sneaky draws, and foolishly astute meanderings. 1865 BURRITT *Walk Land's End* 333 We attribute a mean, sneaky, hypocritical mind to Mr. Pecksniff. 1868 BOYD *Less. Middle Age* 256 That sneaky way in which some people are able to insinuate evil against their neighbours.

Sneap (snīp), *sb.* Now *arch.* [f. SNEAP *v.*] A snub or check; a rebuke, reproof.

1597 SHAKS. 2 *Hen. IV,* II. i. 135 My Lord, I will not vndergo this sneape without reply. 1876 WEISS *Wit, Humour,* etc. iv. 149 A charter from Providence to give Falstaff his first sneap of retribution. 1887 *Blackw. Mag.* Sept. 365 He might have spared us this sneap, seeing that his own queen had been enamoured of an ass.

Sneap (snīp), *v.* Now *dial.* and *arch.* Also 7 sneep. [Later form of *snaip* SNAPE *v.*[1]]

1. *trans.* To nip or pinch.

1588- [see SNEAPED, SNEAPING *ppl. adjs.*]. 1691 RAY *N. C. Words* 65 Herbs and Fruits sneapt with cold weather.

2. To check, repress; to snub, reprove, chide.

1611 *Sec. Maiden's Trag.* III. i, Nay ham gon, Ime a man quickly sneapt. 1640 BROME *Antipodes* IV. ix, Doe you sneap me too my Lord?.. I had No need to come hither to be sneapt. 1659 MRS. HUTCHINSON *Mem. Col. Hutchinson* (1846) 391 They set him at light,..and made the poor man retire sneaped to his colonel. 1691 RAY *N. C. Words* 65 Children easily sneaped. 1865 S. EVANS *Brother Fabian's MS.* 5 My lord Archbishop sneaps us for our sloth. 1886- in dial. glossaries, etc. (Lincs., Staffs.).

fig. and *transf.* 1623 BP. HALL *Works* (1837) V. 141 That we do enough hate our corruptions; when, at our sharpest, we do but gently sneap them. 1642 H. MORE *Song of Soul* III. iii. 18 Life that's here, When into it the soul doth closely wind, Is often sneep'd by anguish.

Hence **Sneaped** *ppl. a.*

1593 SHAKS. *Lucr.* 333 To ad a more reioysing to the prime, And giue the sneaped birds more cause to sing.

Sneaping (snī·piŋ), *ppl. a.* [f. SNEAP *v.*] Of the wind, etc.: Checking growth; nipping, biting. Also in fig. context.

1588 SHAKS. *L. L. L.* I. i. 100 Like an enuious sneaping Frost, That bites the first borne infants of the Spring. 1611 — *Wint. T.* I. ii. 13 No sneaping Winds at home. 1882 L. CAMPBELL *J. C. Maxwell* 45 His activities were apt..to take odd shapes, as in a healthy plant under a sneaping wind. 1900 *Contemp. Rev.* July 119 Sheltered..from the sneaping winds of ill-usage or mischance.

†Sneap-nose. *Obs.*[-1] [f. SNEAP *v.*] One who has a pinched nose. (Cf. SNEIPE *v.*)

1649 QUARLES *Virgin Widow* II, Must I be thus slighted ..by a Runnagate, a Sneap nose, a thin gut?

Sneath, dial. var. of SNATH, scythe-pole.

Sneb, *v.* Now *dial.* Also 5–7 **snebbe.** [var. of SNIB *v.*[1]] *trans.* To reprimand, reprove, or check; to snub. Also *absol.*

In Chaucer *Prol.* 525 (see SNIB *v.*[1] 1) two or three manuscripts have *snebbe.*

c 1440 CAPGRAVE *Life St. Kath.* III. 261 (MS. Arundel), Therfore youre grace wyth pytous voys I pray To punyshe and snebbe youre-self as ye lest. 1579 SPENSER *Sheph. Cal.* Feb. 126 Which made this foolish Brere wexe so bold, That ..he cast him to scold, And snebbe the good Oake, for he was old. *a* 1586 SIDNEY *Arcadia* xxxiii. 22 (Grosart) II. 98 Thou heardst euen now a yong man sneb me sore. 1606 S. GARDINER *Bk. Angling* 157 So was Dauid by Nathan.. snebbed in this sort for his euill example. 1617 COLLINS *Def. Bp. of Ely* II. x. 515 The Nurse her selfe may waken the child..; chide it and sneb it, as well as giue it the dugge. 1846 W. DRUMMOND *Muckomachy* 18 The man thus snebbit Lost too his tebbit. 1867- in dial. use (Lancs., Yks.).

Sneck (snek), *sb.*[1] Chiefly *Sc.* and *north. dial.* Forms: *a.* 4–5 **snekke, 5 snekk,** 5–7, 9 **snek,** 5–6 **sneke;** 6– **sneck, 7 snecke;** 7, 9 **snack;** 8 **snake.** *β.* 8– **snick.** [Of obscure origin: cf. SNATCH *sb.* 1.]

1. The latch of a door or gate; the lever which raises the bar of a latch; †a catch (cf. 2 a).

a. 1324 *Acc. Exch., K. R.* Bd. 165 No. 1 m. 4, Pro xxviij snekkes cum xxviij stapulis ad tenendum trendles ligni pro springaldis tendendis. 1419 *Mem. Ripon* (Surtees) III. 147 Et in j snek ad ostium pulpiti, *id. c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 461/2 Snekke, or latche, *clitorium, pessulum. c* 1460 *Towneley Myst.* xiii. 306 *Mak.* Good wyff, open the hek!..*Vxor.* I may thole the dray the snek. 1530 PALSGR. 272/1 Sneke, latche, *locquet, cliquette.* 1560 *Extr. Burgh Rec. Peebles* (1872) 258 To vphald substantiousle thair portis in..stapillis, snekkis and all irne graith necessare. 1600 *Churchw. Acc. Pittington,* etc. (Surtees) 133 For mending the North church gate, and also an iron sneck. 1638 *Ibid.* 302 A snecke for the ministers sette. *c* 1725 in J. J. Vernon *Parish of Hawick* (1900) 80 Paid for 2 Snecks for Quire doore. 1770 BP. FORBES *Jrnl.* (1886) 303 Any one, by Night or by Day, can lift the Sneck and come in. 1782- in many dial. glossaries and texts (Sc., N. Ir., N. Cy., E. Ang., Derby, Warw., etc.). 1816 SCOTT *Antiq.* xxxiii, The sneck was drawn, and the Countess..entered my dwelling. 1853 G. J. CAYLEY *Las Alforjas* II. 216 Sometimes the demons will undo the sneck of the gate. 1885 RUNCIMAN *Skippers & Shellbacks* 50 The old man lifted the 'sneck' quickly and caught us.

β. 1786 BURNS *The Vision* vii, When click! the string the snick did draw. 1889 A. MUNRO *Siren Casket* 169 He raised the snick Of Allan's cottage door.

b. *To draw a sneck,* to act cunningly or stealthily.

a 1500 in *Ratis Raving,* etc. 89 Thar word is fyrst in awdiens, With fenȝeand falsat ay reddy To draw a snek rycht subtely. 1786 BURNS *To G. Hamilton* iii, I ken he weel a Snick can draw, When simple bodies let him.

c. *On the sneck,* latched. So *off the sneck.*

1824 SCOTT *St. Ronan's* xxviii, I'se warrant it a twa-handed ghaist, and the door left on the sneck. 1893 STEVENSON *Catriona* xv. 167 The door was on the sneck that day. 1897 CROCKETT *Lads' Love* iv. 43 Then..leave the lang window o' the ben room off the sneck, after the lairds are awa'.

2. *techn.* **a.** A catch or device for holding the lever of a spinning-machine.

1825 J. NICHOLSON *Operat. Mechanic* 426 When in geer they [i. e. levers] are held firm by the sneck. *Ibid.,* The machine is put in motion by raising the main lever into the sneck by hand.

b. (See quot.)

1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-m.* 229 *Snecks,* appliances for diverting wagons from the main line into a siding.

3. *dial.* or *techn.* in various senses (see quots.).

1810 S. SMITH *Agric. Surv. Galloway* 86 Besides the improvement of locked tops [in stone walls], he invented also snecks or hudds, i. e. spaces built single at short intervals. 1828 CARR *Craven Gloss., Sneck,* a small piece or tongue of land, abutting on or intersecting an adjoining field. 1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-m.* 229 *Sneck,* a carving [=air-way].

4. *attrib.,* as *sneck-fastening, -lock*; **sneck-band** (see quot. 1828); **sneck-bend,** a form of fish-hook (see quots.); **sneck posset,** a cold reception or greeting; a discharge or dismissal; **sneck-string,** a sneck-band.

The *Eng. Dial. Dict.* contains a number of other examples. 14.. *Nom.* in Wr.-Wülcker 733 *Hec mastiga,* a *snek-bank [*read* -band]. *Hic gumfus,* a dorbande. 1828 CARR *Craven Gloss., Sneck-band,* the string fastened to the latch, and passed through a hole to the outside of the door. 1855 WAUGH *Life & Local.* 106 The door is still opened from without by a 'sneck-bant'. 1816 BAINBRIDGE *Fly Fisher's Guide* 31 The *Sneckbend, as it is commonly called, diverges from the parallel lines from the bend upwards. 1856 'STONEHENGE' *Brit. Rural Sports* I. v. ii. 235 Many Scotchmen use what is called the sneckbend, differing slightly from both of the above [hooks], in being made of a more square shape. 1844 H. STEPHENS *Book of Farm* I. 204, 10 Pairs of crooks and bands for feeding-holes. 10 *Sneck-fastenings for ditto. 1570 *Wills & Inv.* (Surtees, 1835) 312, I do geve vnto An Jaxssonn one woode Cheast which haithe a *sneck locke. 1876 J. RICHARDSON *Cumbld. Talk* Ser. II. 65 A *sneck posset I gat. 1885 HALL CAINE *Shadow Crime* 8 He had his own reasons for not quitting Wythburn after he had received his very unequivocal 'sneck posset'. 1758 W. RECKITT *Jrnl.* (1799) 59 They did not so much as pull in their *sneck-string when they went to bed and had neither lock nor bar.

Sneck, *sb.*[2] *Sc.* [f. SNECK *v.*[2]] A sharp cut; a snick or snip.

1768 ROSS *Helenore* II. 84 The gully..may chance to gee's a sneck into the hand. 1814 SCOTT *Wav.* xli, If there's a pair of sheers in the Highlands that has a baulder sneck than her's ain.

Sneck, *sb.*[3] [Imitative.] A sharp clicking sound. Cf. SNICK *sb.*[3]

1851 MAYNE REID *Scalp Hunt.* iv, Back went the girth buckles with a 'sneck'. 1861 A. LEIGHTON *Trad. Sc. Life* Ser. II. 116 An industrious house too, wherein the birr of the wheel and the sneck of the reel had sounded.

Sneck (snek), *v.*[1] Chiefly *Sc.* and *north. dial.* Also 5 **snekk-, 9 snek.** [f. SNECK *sb.*[1]]

1. *trans.* To latch (a door or gate); to close or fasten with or by means of a sneck.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 284/2 Latchyn, or snekkyn, *pessulo.* 1560 *Maitl. Club Misc.* III. 239 The deponar..fand the dur snecked and vnbarred and sche barred the dur. 1674 RAY *N. C. Words* 43 *Snock* [1691 *Sneck*] the door: Latch the door. 1768 ROSS *Helenore* 36 Sae out she slips, an' snecks the door behind. 1787- in dial. glossaries and texts (Sc., N. Cy., Notts., Linc., Warw., etc.). 1868 G. MACDONALD *R. Falconer* I. 175 Sneck the door, laddie. 1889 *Carlisle Patriot* 1 Mar. (E.D.D.), If the gate had been snecked, the cattle could not have got on the line.

b. To lock or shut *up.* In quot. *fig.*

1816 SCOTT *Antiq.* xxix, The secrets of grit folk..are just like the wild beasts that are shut up in cages. Keep them hard and fast snecked up, and it's a' very weel.

c. *intr.* Of a door or gate: To latch, shut.

1871 MRS. EWING *Brownies,* etc. 107 The gate opened for them and snecked after them. 1889 TENNYSON *Owd Roa* xxxii, I'd clear forgot..thy chaumber door wouldn't sneck.

2. *trans.* (See quot. 1808.) *Sc.*

1792 *Stat. Acc. Scotl.* II. 534 Farm-houses and Cottages.— ..A very few of them have been stob-thatched, or covered with a deep coat of straw,—and snecked or harled with lime. 1808 JAMIESON, *To sneck* with lime, to make indentations in a wall, filling the blanks with lime; or, in building, to insert a small quantity between the stones in the outer side.

Sneck (snek), *v.*[2] *Sc.* [Origin, and relation to SNICK *v.*[2], uncertain.] *trans.* To cut (*off*).

1560 ROLLAND *Seven Sages* 103 He tuik hir be the nek, And with ane knife hir heid he did of snek. 1818 SCOTT *Rob Roy* xxxii, Do the folk think I hae another thrapple in my pouch after John Highlandman's sneckit this ane wi' his joctaleg? 1835 CARRICK *Laird Logan* (1854) 156 Mony a ane o' my acquaintances hae gotten the thread o' life sneckit.

Sneck, *v.*[3] Now *dial.* [Origin obscure.] *trans.* To snatch; to take or seize quickly.

1607 MIDDLETON *Five Gallants* I. ii, *Pursn.* Her Chaine of Pearle. *Boy.* I sneckt it away finely. 1873 MURDOCH *Doric Lyre* 43 When rent day comes ye're unca fain To look us up an' sneck the siller.

Sneck-drawer. Now *Sc.* and *north.* Also 9 **snick-.** [f. SNECK *sb.*[1] + DRAWER *sb.*[1]: cf. *latch-drawer* and DRAW-LATCH.] One who draws or lifts a sneck or latch (in order to enter stealthily); a crafty, flattering, or sly fellow (cf. quot. 1808).

1402 *Pol. Poems* (Rolls) II. 98 ȝoure prowde losengerie that rune abowt as snek-drawers. 1806 R. JAMIESON *Pop. Ballads* I. 295 Whan the tittlin ald snick-drawers fell to. 1808 JAMIESON s.v., *An auld sneck-drawer,* one who, from long experience, has acquired a great degree of facility in accomplishing any artful purpose. 1818 SCOTT *Br. Lamm.* xiii, Doited idiot!—that auld clavering sneck-drawer wad gar ye trow the moon is made of green cheese. 1846 CHALMERS in Hanna *Mem.* (1852) IV. xxiv. 457 He was just too much of a sneck-drawer.

So **Sne·ck-draw**; also **Sneck-drawing** *vbl. sb.* and *ppl. a.*, **Sneck-drawn** *a.*

1886 STEVENSON *Kidnapped* xvi, There's many a lying *sneck-draw sits close in kirk. 1894 CROCKETT *Raiders* xxxi, I ken the Maxwell lads and I ken the hill sneck-draws. 1785-6 BURNS *Addr. to Deil* xvi, Ye auld, *snick-drawing dog! 1818 SCOTT *Br. Lamm.* xxi, The old sneck-drawing whigamore her father. *c* 1830 HOGG *Bridal of Polmood* vii, Onye sikkan wylld sneckdrawinge and pawkerye. 1820 T. WILSON *Pitman's Pay* I. iii, If aw din't her bottle fill, Aw's then a skint-flint, *sneck-drawn dog.

Snecke, obs. form of SNICK *v.*[1]

Snecked (snekt), *ppl. a. Building.* [app. f. SNECK *sb.*[1]] Built of squared stones, but of different sizes and not laid in regular courses.

1883 *Specif. Alnwick & Cornhill Rlwy.* 48 The abutments, ..foundations and parapets are to be constructed in accordance with the General Specification for Snecked or Fitted Rubble. 1883 *Alnwick Mercury* 17 Nov. 2 The building is of snecked walling.

Sne·cket. [Dim. of SNECK *sb.*[1]] A sneck or sneck-band. Also *transf.*, a noose, halter.

1611 COTGR., *Loquet d'vne huis,* the latch, or snecket of a doore. 1671 SKINNER *Etymol. Ling. Angl.,* The Sneck or Snecket of a door, *funiculus obicis* [etc. Hence in Ray, Grose, etc.]. 1788 *New London Mag.* 494 Then over his head let the snecket be got, And under one ear be well settled the knot. 1869- in Cumbld. dial. glossaries.

Sned, *sb.*: see SNEAD.

Sned, *v.* In later use *Sc.* and *north. dial.* Forms: 1 **snædan** (*pa. t.* **snædde, snedde**), 6–**sned,** 7 **snedde, snad, snead,** 8 **snade.** [OE. *snǽdan,* related to *sníðan* SNITHE *v.* For the shortening of the vowel cf. KEP *v.*]

1. *trans.* To cut or lop off (a branch). Also in fig. context, and with *off.*

a 800 *Leiden Gloss.* 249 in *O. E. Texts* 117 *Putat,* snædit. *c* 897 K. ÆLFRED *Gregory's Past. C.* xxxiii. 222 Hit bið unnyt ðæt mon hwelces yfles bogas snæde [etc.]. *c* 975 *Rushw. Gosp.* Matt. xxi. 8 Sume ȝonne sneddun telgran of treowum & strægdun on þæm wege. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* XI. i. 14 Ane akin tre,..The branchis sned and kut abowt alquhair. *a* 1572 KNOX *Hist. Ref.* Wks. 1846 I. 192 Otheris sned the branches of the Papistrie, but he struckis at the roote. 1637 GILLESPIE *Eng. Pop. Cerem.* III. ii. 26 Whereby they did in some sort snedde the reviving twigs of old superstition. 1645 in *Baillie's Lett. & Jrnls.* (1775) II. 94 Which [writing], although it took not away the root, yet did it sned many of the branches of the evils complained of. 1735 E. ERSKINE *Serm.* Wks. 1871 II. 337 The Lord of the Vineyard sneds the luxuriant branches. 1829 in BROCKETT *N. C. Gloss.* (ed. 2). *c* 1870 W. GRAHAM *Lect. Ephes.* 351 The branch sned off from the vine becomes a sport of the winds.

transf. 1786 BURNS *To a Haggis* vii, He..legs, an' arms, an' heads will sned, Like taps o' thrissle. 1819 TENNANT *Papistry Storm'd* (1827) 199 First his richt ear he clean afflcleft, And then he sneddit aff his left.

b. To prune (a tree); to divest of branches.

1595 DUNCAN *App. Etym.* (E.D.S.), *Puto, autumno*,..to sned trees. 1640 RUTHERFORD *Lett.* (1881) II. xxxv. 438 He is only lopping and snedding a fruitful tree. 1689 in *14th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. III. 116, I resolve rather to give it over and go home and snad trees at Polwart House. 1710 RUDDIMAN *Gloss. Douglas' Æneis* s.v. *Sneith*, To sned, i. e. to prune timber-trees. 1894 HESLOP *Northumbld. Gloss.* 664 After a tree is cut down it is *snedded*, or divested of all its branches.

2. To cut; to form, or sever, by cutting.

In ME. this sense occurs in the comb. *to-sneden*.

1789 BURNS *To Dr. Blacklock* vi, But I'll sned besoms—thrawsaugh woodies. 1888 YEATS *Folk Tales* 268 He..pulled up the fir-tree,..and having *snedded* it into a walking-stick [etc.]. 1889 A. MUNRO *Siren Casket* 239 Heart I've not.. To sned your thrad of life.

Hence **Sne·dded** *ppl. a.*; **Sne·dder**; **Sne·dding** *vbl. sb.* (also *attrib.*).

1584 in *Melvil's Diary* (Wodrow Soc.) 177 The snedders and delvers of the wyneyeard. *c* 1670 J. FRASER *Polichron.* (S.H.S.) 269 The smith..finding the fresh sneaded branches, makes search under the tree. 1720 T. BOSTON *Fourf. State* (1797) 279 He that would ingraft, must needs use the snedding-knife. 1725 A. JERVISE *Epit.*, etc. (1879) II. 39/1 With spade and Raik,..The snading ax and pruning knife. 1735 E. ERSKINE *Serm.* Wks. 1871 II. 337 The snedding of the tree contributes to the..growth of the branches. 1808 JAMIESON, *Sneddins*, the prunings, or twigs, lopped off from trees. 1825 — *Suppl.*, *Snedder*, a pruner, one who lops off branches.

† **Snede.** *Obs.* [OE. *snǽd*, = ON. *sneið*, related to OE. *snīðan* SNITHE *v.*] A small piece, morsel.

c 1000 *Saxon Leechd.* II. 268 Genim rædices .iii. snæda. *c* 1000 ÆLFRIC *Saints' Lives* I. xii. 62 Þa hwile ðe se bisceop mæssode and began to etenne he feoll þa æt ðære forman snæde. *c* 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 181 Enes he [Adam] þar-offe bot, and wearð þar mide acheked, and þureh þat one snede wearð al his ofspring acheked.

Snee (to cut): see SNICK OR SNEE.

Snee, variant of SNY (to swarm), *dial.*

Sneeker-snee, variant of SNICKERSNEE *v.*

Sneer (snīəɹ), *sb.* Also 8 **snear.** [f. the vb. Cf. NFris. *sneer* a scornful remark.]

1. An act of sneering; a look or expression implying derision, contempt, or scorn; a disdainful or scornful remark or utterance, esp. one of a covert or indirect nature.

1707 *Refl. upon Ridicule* 107 He is applauded with a Sneer. 1711 HEARNE *Collect.* (O. H. S.) III. 251 He looks upon Atterbury's Complement as a Snear. 1773 GOLDSM. *Stoops to Conq.* III. i, A sneer at my understanding. 1816 J. SCOTT *Vis. Paris* (ed. 5) p. xvii, By making this confession I shall incur the sneers of those..who have strong prepossessions and few scruples. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* vi. II. 113 Halifax..answered with a sneer that there was no danger. 1879 H. GEORGE *Progr. & Pov.* II. iii. (1881) 121 Amid the scoffs..and the sneers that stab like knives.

b. Without article: Sneering, scorn.

1791 LD. AUCKLAND *Corr.* (1861) II. 396 He speaks even of those who are opposed to his government..without either sneer or acrimony. 1841 in *Leic. Gloss.* (1881) 246 He could not bear To see her treated with such scorn and sneer.

2. *Sc.* A snort.

Jamieson (1825) also gives 'the act of inhalation or inspiration by the nostrils'; 'the act of a horse, when colded, in throwing the mucus from his nostrils'; 'the hiss of an adder'.

17.. *Lochmaben Harper* in Child *Ballads* IV. 18/1 When she came to the harper's door, There she gave mony a nicher and sneer.

Sneer (snīəɹ), *v.* Also 7 **sneare**, 7–8 **snear.** [prob. of imitative origin. The relation to NFris. (Sylt) *sneere* to scorn, is not clear.

Apparent examples of *snere*, *snered*, and *snering* occur about 1300 in the *E. E. Psalter* ii. 4, xxxiv. 16, lxxviii. 4, and lxxix. 7, as renderings of L. *irridebit*, *deriserunt*, and *derisus*; but two of the MSS. have variants *swere*, *swered*, *swering*. The translator was evidently influenced by the OE. glosses *bismerað*, *bismeradon*, *bismerung*, and it is very doubtful whether he was using a word which was really known to him.]

1. *intr.* Of a horse: To snort. Now *dial.* †Also *trans.*, to send *out* with snorts.

1553 *Douglas' Æneid* VII. v. 101 With twa sterne stedis.. At thair neis thyrles the fyre fast furth snering out. 1607 MARKHAM *Cavel.* (1617) VI. 12 If..you doe now and then spirt a little Vinegar into his nostrels,..it will both make him sneare and neese. 1814 in Hone *Every-day Bk.* II. 1115 The colt..scampered off sneering, with his tail on his 'riggin'. 1878 DICKINSON *Cumbld. Gloss.* s.v., If a horse sneers efter he coughs he's nut brokken windit.

b. *Sc.* Of an animal: To make a twitching movement with the nose.

1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* II. 447 On the extrusion of the calf, the first symptom it shews of life is a few gasps..; and then it opens its eyes, and tries to shake its head, and sneer with its nose.

2. To smile scornfully or contemptuously; to express scorn, derision, or disparagement in this way; to speak or write in a manner suggestive or expressive of contempt or disparagement:

a. Const. *at* a person or thing.

1680 H. MORE *Apocal. Apoc.* 357 The Wits of this age that are ready to snear and flear at any such profession. *a* 1744 POPE (J.), I could be content to be a little sneered at in a line. *a* 1763 W. KING *Polit. & Lit. Anecd.* (1819) 20 The French seemed to sneer at this behaviour of the German officers, and looked on them with a kind of contempt. 1814 SCOTT *Wav.* liv, Flora, observing the Lowland ladies sneer at the comparison, produced some reason to shew that it was not altogether so absurd. 1858 MAX MÜLLER *Chips* (1880) III. i. 30 Luther was sneered at because of his little German tracts. 1874 L. STEPHEN *Hours Libr.* (1892) I. x. 361 Walpole sheltered himself behind..a pension to sneer at the tragi-comedy of life.

b. Without const.

1735 POPE *Prol. Sat.* 202 Damn with faint praise, assent with civil leer, And without sneering, teach the rest to sneer. 1781 COWPER *Conversat.* 182 The fear Lest fops should censure us, and fools should sneer. 1818 SHELLEY *Rosalind* 655 Men wondered, and some sneered to see One sow what he could never reap. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. III. iii, Philosophedom sneers aloud, as if its Necker already triumphed. 1855 THACKERAY *Newcomes* I, If authors sneer, it is the critic's business to sneer at them for sneering.

fig. 1835 L. HUNT *Poems* (1844) 96 Sneereth the trumpet, and stampeth the drum.

† 3. To laugh foolishly or smirkingly; to grin.

1683 WOOD *Life* 17 Feb., They..stand silent, while their abbettors sneare and grin. 1695 *Ibid.* 23 Mar., With Mr J. Ecc. at the house next the Half-Moon; two snearing and laughing wo[men]: he sneared and laughed with them. 1705 R. BEVERLEY *Virginia* II. xviii. (1722) 121 A Fourth would fondly kiss, and paw his Companions, and snear in their Faces, with a Countenance more antick, than any in a Dutch Droll. 1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* II. (Globe) 558 Our.. Pilot, who had always something or other to say to make us merry, came sneering to me, and told me [etc.].

b. *dial.* (See quot.)

a 1825 FORBY *Voc. E. Anglia*, *Sneer*, to make wry faces, without intention of expressing contempt or insult.

c. *Naut.* (See quot.)

1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.* s.v., To 'make all sneer again' is to carry canvas to such an extent as to strain the ropes and spars to the utmost.

4. *trans.* To utter with a sneer or in a sneering tone.

1693 CONGREVE *Old Bach.* I. iv, I confess I have not been sneering fulsome lyes and nauseous flattery. 1864 TENNYSON *Voyage* 78 'A ship of fools,' he sneer'd and wept. 1904 A. E. GLOVER *1000 Miles of Miracle* x. (1908) 126 He sneered some contemptuous word.

5. To speak or write of (a person or thing) with scorn, contempt, or disparagement; to deride or decry. *Obs.* exc. *dial.*

1707 *Refl. upon Ridicule* 94 When People ridicule and sneer you. 1740–2 RICHARDSON *Pamela* III. 41 Wedlock, which used to be very freely sneered by him. 1755 B. MARTIN *Mag. Arts & Sci.* 64 Blackmore's Banter on the Philosophers..proved more his own than their Ignorance, when he thus sneers them. *a* 1900 in *Eng. Dial. Dict.* s.v., He sneered me shameful.

6. To curl *up* (the lip) in contempt or scorn. *rare.*

1775 S. J. PRATT *Liberal Opin.* liii. (1783) II. 136 A pennyworth, sir!—cried the steward, (sneering up his upper-lip, till it touched the tip of his nose..) a pennyworth!

7. To affect in a certain way by sneering; to drive or force by means of sneers or scornful speech or manner:

a. Const. with preps., as *from*, *into*, *out of*.

1737 SAVAGE *Of Public Spirit* 325 Careless of Whispers meant to wound their Name, Nor sneer'd nor brib'd from Virtue into Shame. 1859 *Habits of Gd. Society* vii. 243 Who contradicts us flatly, and sneers us into insignificance. 1867 AUGUSTA WILSON *Vashti* xviii, The world has not sneered it [feminine constancy] entirely out of existence. *refl.* 1841 THACKERAY *Sec. Funeral Napoleon* iii, It sneaks and bullies and sneers itself into place.

b. Const. with advs., as *away* or *down*.

1816 SCOTT *Antiq.* xii, But dinna ye sneer awa the lad Lovel. 1838 LYTTON *Alice* VI. ii, Proclaimed a sublime genius in the same circles which sneer down Voltaire. 1868 WHYTE MELVILLE *White Rose* xlviii, Very likely they were laughing over his infatuation and sneering her fair fame away. 1868 HELPS *Realmah* viii. (1876) 237 Sneering can do a great deal: you can sneer down, at any rate for the moment, truth, honour [etc.].

refl. 1847 HELPS *Friends in C.* I. iv. 68 He mutters to himself sarcastically, sneering himself up as it were to the attack.

Sneerer (snīəɹəɹ). [f. prec.] One who sneers.

1713 *Guardian* No. 29, The Sneerers..always indulge their mirth at the expence of their friends, and all their ridicule consists in unseasonable ill-nature. 1770 LANGHORNE *Plutarch* (1851) II. 795/2 The laughter of these sneerers has cost their country many a tear. 1824 BYRON *Def. Transformed* I. ii, Oh, thou everlasting sneerer! Be silent! 1842 BORROW *Bible in Spain* ii, The sneerers and scoffers at religion do not spring from amongst the simple children of nature. 1874 B. TAYLOR in *Life* (1884) II. 652 The sneerers and cavilers are growing silent one by one.

Sneerful, *a.* [f. SNEER *sb.*] a. Of persons: Given to sneering. b. Of words, etc.: Of the nature of a sneer; scornful.

a 1763 SHENSTONE *Economy* III. Wks. 1764 I. 303 Cell ever squalid! where the sneerful maid Will not fatigue her hand! 1844 TUPPER *Heart* xi. 120 Out-swearing and out-threatening our sneerful stock-jobber. 1880 *S. Wales Daily News* No. 2514. 6/6 We had a sneerful and insulting answer.

Hence **Sneerfulness.**

1873 LELAND *Egypt. Sketch-Bk.* 204 Cherishing no feeling of scorn or sneerfulness against them.

Sneering (snīəɹiŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. SNEER *v.*] The action of the verb SNEER.

1687 MIÈGE II, *Sneering*, a kind of ridiculous Laughter. 1847 HARE *Guesses* Ser. I. (ed. 3) 345 Sneering is commonly found along with a bitter, splenetic misanthropy. 1868 [see SNEER *v.* 7 b]. 1908 *Edin. Rev.* Oct. 421 The Baron was equal with her in the matter of sneering.

b. *attrib.*, as **sneering match**, *E. Angl. dial.* a grinning match (Forby, *a* 1825); **sneering muscle**, a muscle instrumental in producing a sneering expression on the face (*Cent. Dict.* 1891).

Sneering (snīəɹiŋ), *ppl. a.* [f. as prec.]

1. That sneers; wearing a sneer.

1681 N. N. *Rome's Follies* 17, I believe the sneering sluts laugh'd at me. 1695 WOOD *Life* 23 Mar., Two sneering and laughing wo[men]. 1716 C'TESS COWPER *Diary* (1864) 114 Lord Townshend is the sneeringest, fawningest knave that ever was. 1792 MARY WOLLSTONECR. *Rights Wom.* vii. 285 Thou startest from a dream, only to face a sneering frowning world. 1823 LAMB *Elia* II. *Poor Relations*, The streets of this sneering and prying metropolis. 1841 BROWNING *Pippa Passes* Poems (1905) 168 White sneering old reproachful face.

fig. 1832 L. HUNT *Poems* 173 The harsh bray The sneering trumpet sends across the fray.

2. Of the nature of, marked or characterized by, a sneer; scornful, contemptuous, disparaging.

1692 L'ESTRANGE *Fables* I. clvi, The Fox in a Snearing Way advis'd him..not to Irritate a Prince against his Subjects. *c* 1695 H. ANDERSON *Court Convert* 221 You must.. With sneering Praise guild o'er his blackest Crimes. 1771 *Junius Lett.* liv. (1788) 293, I..will not descend to answer the little sneering sophistries of a collegian. 1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* xli, His countenance presenting..the habitual expression of sneering sarcasm. 1848 W. H. KELLY tr. *L. Blanc's Hist. Ten Y.* II. 316 They were received with a sneering indifference. 1877 DOWDEN *Shaks. Primer* vi. 78 Greene's sneering allusion to Shakespere in the 'Groatsworth of Wit'.

Snee·ringly, *adv.* [f. prec.] In a sneering or scornful manner; with a sneer.

1711 HEARNE *Collect.* (O.H.S.) III. 127 This he spoke sneeringly and by way of derision and Contempt. 1740–2 RICHARDSON *Pamela* II. 227 Well, Child, said she, sneeringly, how dost find thyself? 1813 BYRON *Br. Abydos* I. v, Sneeringly these accents fell. 1865 MISS BRADDON *H. Dunbar* ii, James Wentworth laughed sneeringly. 1886 W. J. TUCKER *E. Europe* 243 'They now rejoice in the aristocratic name of Desewffy,' said he sneeringly.

Snee·rless, *a.* [f. SNEER *sb.*] That does not sneer; free from sneers.

1884 BIRRELL *Obiter Dicta* 157 A sneerless Gibbon and an impartial Macaulay.

Snee·ry, *a.* [f. SNEER *sb.*] Of a sneering or scornful character.

1872 LEVER *Ld. Kilgobbin* lix, The summary..was acrimonious and sneery.

Sneesh (snīʃ). *Sc.* and *north. dial.* Also 9 **sneish**; 8–9 **snish.** [? Back-formation from next; but cf. SNUSH *sb.*, of which the Gloucester dial. *snish* is probably a variant. Ir. Gael. has *snaois*.] a. Snuff. b. A pinch of snuff.

The verb *sneesh* to snuff, and *sneesher* a snuffer, are also current in mod. Sc. dial. (recorded from 1801–9).

1786 *Hav'st Rig* xix, Led on by Malcolm,..Wha taks his snish. 1817 [R. D. C. BROWN] *Lintoun Green* 57 Whan takan' o' a sneesh. 1874 HISLOP *Scot. Anecd.* 6 She did not care one pinch o' snish!

attrib. 1825 [see SNEEZE *sb.* 1 b].

Snee·shing. *Sc.* (*Ir.*) and *north. dial.* Forms: α. 8 **snishon**, **-en**, 9 **-an** (8 **snichen**, **snitian**), 8–9 **snishin**(g. β. 7, 9 **sneeshon**, 9 **-an**, 8–9 **sneeshin**(g, **sneeshin'**, 9 **sneechin**(g, etc. [Alteration of SNEEZING *vbl. sb.* 2 b, perhaps after Highland or Irish pronunciation: cf. Sc. Gael. *snaoisean*, Ir. *snaoisin*.]

1. Snuff.

α. 1714 R. SMITH *Poems* (1853) 12 Thy vile snichen, and thy brose. 1720 PENNECUIK *Helicon* 65 A Mill with Snitian, to pepper her Nose. 1724 RAMSAY *Tea-t. Misc.* (1733) I. 91 A Mill of good snishing to prie. 1761 in Hull *Select Lett.* (1778) I. 314, I have sent you a little Provision of the best Preston-Pans Snuff,.. with one Bottle of Highland Snishon. 1818 SCOTT *Br. Lamm.* xii, Bid her fill my mill wi' snishing. 1847 LE FANU *T. O'Brien* 213 Take a pinch iv the snishin.

β. 1808 JAMIESON, *Sneeshin*,..the vulgar name for snuff. 1816 SCOTT *Antiq.* xxi, A' the siller I need is just to buy tobacco and sneeshin. 1824 — *Redgauntlet* ch. vii, Will ye try my sneeshing? 1900 CROCKETT *Little Anna Mark* xxi, The noblest sneeshan in the worl'.

2. A pinch of snuff. Chiefly with negatives, used to denote something of very slight value or significance.

1686 G. STUART *Joco-ser. Disc.* 13, I drew my Box, and teuk a sneeshon. 1723 MESTON *Knt. of Kirk* Poems (1767) 25 Else they are not worth a snishen. 1787– in Scottish use (*Eng. Dial. Dict.*).

3. *attrib.*, as *sneeshing-box*, *-horn*, *-mill* or *-mull.*

1717 RAMSAY *Elegy Lucky Wood* x, To the sma' hours we aft sat still, Nick'd round our toasts and snishing-mill. 1780 W. FORBES *Dominie* I. 79 His fishing-wand, his sneeshing-box. 1786 BURNS *Twa Dogs* 133 The luntan pipe, an' sneeshin mill, Are handed round wi' right guid will. 1816 SCOTT *Antiq.* xxiii, I could take my aith to that sneeshing-mull amang a thousand. 1825 JAMIESON *Suppl.*, *Sneeshin-Horn*, a horn used for holding snuff. 1858 PORTEOUS *Souter Johnny* 28 I'm Souter Johnny's sneeshin'-Box.

Sneevel, Sc. var. SNIVEL *sb.* and *v.*

Sneeze (snīz), *sb.* [f. the vb.]

1. A powder or preparation for inducing sneezing; snuff. *Obs.* exc. *north. dial.*

1632 tr. *Bruel's Praxis Med.* 7 A sneeze of bastard Pellitory, Pepper. *c* 1746– [see b]. *a* 1800 in PEGGE *Suppl. Grose.* 1857– in Lanc. dial. (*Eng. Dial. Dict.*).

b. *attrib.*, as *sneeze-box*, *-horn*, *-lurker* (see quots.).

c 1746 J. COLLIER (Tim Bobbin) *View Lanc. Dial.* (1775) 40 [Sneeze-horn]. 1825 BROCKETT *N. C. Gloss.*, *Sneeze-horn* or *Sneesh-horn*, a common sort of snuff-box, made of cow's horn. 1838 DICKENS *O. Twist* xliii, To think of..the Artful

Dodger going abroad for a common twopenny-halfpenny sneeze-box! 1864 *Slang Dict., Sneeze-lurker*, one who throws snuff in a person's face and then robs him.

2. An act of sneezing; a sudden and involuntary expiration of breath through the nose and mouth, accompanied by a characteristic sound.

1646 Sir T. Browne *Pseud. Ep.* IV. ix. 199 Upon a sneeze of the Emperour of Monomotapa, there passed acclamations successively through the city. 1671 Milton *P. R.* IV. 458 As inconsiderable, And harmless, if not wholsom, as a sneeze To mans less universe. 1839 Dickens *Nickleby* iv, The little boy on the top of the trunk gave a violent sneeze. 1874 Carpenter *Ment. Phys.* I. i. (1879) 17 Whilst the act of coughing can be excited by a mandate of the will,..we cannot thus execute a true sneeze.

Sneeze (snīz), *v.* Forms: 5 snese, 6–8 sneese (6 sceniese), 6– sneeze, 7 sneez. [app. an alteration of Fnese *v.*, due to misreading or misprinting it as *fnese*, after the initial combination *fn-* had become unfamiliar.

Fnese had app. gone out of use early in the 15th cent., its place being mainly supplied by *nese* Neeze *v.* The adoption of *sneeze* was probably assisted by its phonetic appropriateness; it may have been felt as a strengthened form of *neeze*.

In the following places where *sn-* is printed in modern editions the correct reading is *fn-*:—Trevisa *Higden* (Rolls) V. 389; Chaucer *Manciple's Prol.* 62 (Camb. MS. Gg 4. 27); *Lanfranc's Cirurg.* 197; Caxton's *Trevisa* (Rolls) V. 389 *footnote*; Caxton *Golden Leg., Litanies* (= fol. xxii/1 of ed. 1483). See also the variants in the quots. below.]

1. *intr.* To drive or emit air or breath suddenly through the nose and mouth by an involuntary and convulsive or spasmodic action, accompanied by a characteristic sound.

In quot. 1493 = to snort.

1493 *Festivall* (W. de W.) 108 b, Whan he herde ony man speke of theym anone for grete angre he wolde snese [1483 *Caxton* fnese] at the nose. 1495 *Trevisa's Barth. De P. R.* XVII. XXXVIII. 625 Yf it [*sc.* cummin] is..blowen in to the nosethrilles,..it makith a man snese [*Bodl. MS.* fnese]. 1540 R. Jonas *Byrth Mankynde* 30 b, Let her be prouoked to sneese with the pouder of eleborus or pepper. 1570 Levins *Manip.* 211 To Sneeze, *sternutare*. 1582 N. Lichefield tr. *Castanheda's Cong. E. Ind.* I. xvii. 44 b, To spit or to sceniese. 1601 Holland *Pliny* XXVIII. ii. II. 297 If one chaunce to sneese after repast. 1673 Ray *Journ. Low C.* 403 One custom which prevails generally in foreign countreys..is to salute those that sneez. 1709 Steele *Tatler* No. 35 ¶ 3 Being unused to Snuff, some Grains from off her upper Lip made him sneeze aloud. 1753 *Scots Mag.* Nov. 544/2 They bowed with a graceful simper to a lady who sneezed. 1849 Lytton *Caxtons* 61 You certainly have caught cold; you sneezed three times together. 1872 Geo. Eliot *Middlem.* lxii, There are conditions under which the most majestic person is obliged to sneeze.

b. *refl.* To bring (oneself) *into* a certain state by sneezing.

1668 R. L'Estrange *Vis. Quev.* VII. (1702) 268 By how much it is more Honorable to Dye upon a Swords-point.. than for a Man to snivel and sneeze himself into another World.

2. *colloq.* With *at*: To regard as of little value, worth, or consideration; to despise, disregard, underrate. Chiefly in the negative phrase *not to be sneezed at.*

(*a*) 1806 Surr *Winter in Lond.* II. 90 It's a sort of thing a young fellow of my expectations ought to sneeze at. 1838 Barham *Ingol. Leg.* Ser. I. *B. Maguire's Acc. Coronation* viii, If any bould traitour..Sneezes at that, I'd like to see the man! 1902 *Daily Chron.* 12 June 9/3 Supposing this fire had occurred in Hackney,..it would have been 'sneezed' at, if I may so put it.

(*b*) 1813 Scott 24 Aug. in *Lockhart*, As I am situated, £300 or £400 a-year is not to be sneezed at. 1840 Marryat *Poor Jack* I, She was a prize 'not to be sneezed at'. 1891 N. Gould *Double Event* 82 A thousand pounds..was not a thing to be sneezed at.

3. *trans.* To eject or cast by sneezing.

1677 Johnson in *Ray's Corr.* (1848) 128 Horsemen are not agreed what that is the foal is said to sneeze, which they call a milt.

4. To utter with a sneeze. Also with *out*.

The allusion in the first quot. is to Catullus xlv. 9–10.

1851 Tennyson *E. Morris* 80 Shall not Love to me, As in the Latin song I learnt at school, Sneeze out a full God-bless-you, right and left? 1873 Ld. Houghton *Monogr.* 260 The preacher..at once *sneezed* out the name *Ker-shaw* several times in various intonations.

Hence **Snee·zing** *ppl. a.*

1642 H. More *Song of Soul* II. I. i. 22 Swift as the levin from the sneezing skie.

Sneezer (snī·zəɹ). [f. Sneeze *v.*]

1. One who sneezes.

1648 Hexham II, *Een Nieser*, a Sneeser. 1684 tr. *Bonet's Merc. Compit.* III. 65 The Ancients said, that Sneezers..were indicated by excrementitious humours..in the Ventricles.. of the Brain. 1801 *Monthly Mag.* XII. 224 He proves from Petronius..that the custom of blessing sneezers was established among the Romans. 1882 Lubbock *Orig. Civil.* App. 495 A sneeze..is evidence..that the sneezer was possessed by some evil-disposed spirit.

2. In various slang, colloq., or dial. senses: **a.** A snuff-box. **b.** The nose. **c.** A dram or drink, esp. a stiff one. **d.** A pocket-handkerchief.

The *Eng. Dial. Dict.* gives other purely dial. uses.

a. 1725 *New Cant. Dict., Cog a Sneezer*, Beg a..Snuff-box. 1812 J. H. Vaux *Flash. Dict.* 1839 *Slang Dict.* 34. **b.** 1820 *Sporting Mag.* VI. 271 Hawkins put a tremendous nobber on the tip of Paddy's sneezer. **c.** 1823 E. Moor *Suffolk Words, Sneezer*, or *Sneezer*,..also..means a dram. 1841 J. T. Hewlett *Parish Clerk* I. 290 He knew he should get a sneezer of something short for his trouble. 1868 Dickens *Lett.* (1880) II. 363 My New York landlord made me a 'Rocky Mountain sneezer'. **d.** 1857 *Slang Dict.* 19.

e. Something exceptionally good, great, strong, violent, etc., in some respect (cf. quots.).

1823 E. Moor *Suffolk Words, Sneezer*, or *Sneezer*, a severe blow. 1836 Haliburton *Clockm.* I. viii, It's awful to hear a minister swear; and the only match I know for it, is to hear a regular sneezer of a sinner quote Scripture. *Ibid.* xiii, I have one [horse] a proper sneezer, a chap that can go ahead of a rail-road steamer. 1855 F. Francis *Newton Dogvane* (1888) 242 What a fine breeze we have! a regular sneezer. 1867 Smyth *Sailor's Word-bk., Sneezer*, a stiff gale of wind. 1902 *Westm. Gaz.* 22 July 3/1 The ball he bowled Fry with..was what he would himself describe as a 'sneezer'.

Snee·zeweed. Also sneeze-weed. [f. Sneeze *v.*]

1. *U.S.* The plant *Helenium autumnale*, or other species of the same genus.

1856 A. Gray *Man. Bot.* 224 *Helenium autumnale*, L. (Sneeze-weed). 1857 — *First Less. Bot.* (1866) 130 In the Sunflower..it consists of two thin scales..; in the Sneeze-weed, of about five very thin scales. 1885 J. M. Coulter *Bot. Rocky Mt. Region* 196.

2. *Austr.* (See quots.)

The two quotations refer to the same plant.

1877 F. von Mueller *Bot. Teachings* 58 The Sneeze-weed (*Cotula* or *Centipeda Cunninghamii*). A dwarf, erect,..odorous herb;..can be converted into snuff. 1889 Maiden *Useful Pl.* 195 *Myriogyne minuta*,..'Sneezeweed' of Southern New South Wales.

Snee·zewood. Also sneeze-wood. [f. Sneeze *v.*, probably after Cape Du. *nieshout*.] A South African timber tree, *Ptæroxylon utile*; also, the wood of this tree.

1834 Pringle *Afr. Sk.* vi. 219 A saffron-coloured timber, called sneeze-wood, from the effect of its pungent scent when newly cut. 1854 Pappe *Silva Capensis* (1862) 5 *Ptæroxylon Utile*...From the fact of its producing violent sneezing when sawn or otherwise worked at, it has received the name of *Sneeze-wood*. 1880 *Silver & Co.'s S. Africa* (ed. 3) 130 Melkhout, Olive-wood, and Sneezewood.

b. *attrib.*, as *sneezewood spade, stump, tree*, etc.

1877 J. A. Chalmers *Tiyo Soga* I. 7 The sneezewood spade gave place to the crooked plough-share. *Ibid.* II The branches of the sneezewood tree. 1880 Bessey *Botany* 535 *Ptæroxylon utile*, the Sneezewood Tree of the Cape of Good Hope, furnishes a hard and durable timber. 1887 Miss E. Money *Dutch Maiden* (1888) 229 Nodding away on his sneeze-wood stump.

Snee·zewort. Also 6 sneesewoort, 7 -wort, 8–9 sneeze-wort. [f. Sneeze *v.*]

1. The plant *Achillea Ptarmica*, bastard or wild pellitory, the dried leaves of which are powdered and used as a sternutatory.

1597 Gerarde *Herbal* 484 The small Sneese woort hath many rounde and brittle braunches...The smell of this plant procureth sneezing. *Ibid.* 607 Sneesewort is called of some Ptarmica. 1629 Parkinson *Parad.* 288 We vsually call it double wilde Pelletorie, and some Sneesewort, but *Elleborus albus* is vsually so called. 1712 tr. *Pomet's Hist. Drugs* I. 47 There is also a Pseudopyrethrum which is call'd *Ptarmica* or Sneezewort which grows in Meadows. 1786 Abercrombie *Arr.* in *Gard. Assist.* 48 (*Ptarmica*) or sneeze-wort double flowered. 1858 R. Hogg *Veget. Kingdom* 455 *Ptarmica vulgaris*, or Sneezewort, is also a native of Great Britain. 1901 *Scotsman* 12 Nov. 8/1 The sneezewort is remarkable for its pungent qualities.

attrib. 1855 Miss Pratt *Flower. Pl.* III. 323 Sneeze-wort Yarrow. 1861 S. Thomson *Wild Fl.* III. (ed. 4) 306 The sneeze-wort yarrow (*Achillea ptarmica*).

2. Applied to other plants: **a.** The white hellebore, *Veratrum album* [cf. Neeze-wort].

1629 [see 1]. 1671 Skinner *Etymol. Ling. Angl., Bot.*, Neese, or Sneese-wort, *Helleborus albus*. 1799 W. Tooke *View Russ. Emp.* I. 383 Wolf's bane and sneeze-wort [note, *Veratrum*] are taken against almost all accidents.

b. *American, Austrian sneezewort* (see quots.).

1611 [see Sneezing *vbl. sb.* 3 b]. 1760 J. Lee *Introd. Bot.* App. 327 Sneeze-wort, Austrian, *Xeranthemum*. 1846–50 A. Wood *Class-bk. Bot.* 342 *Helenium autumnale*, American Sneeze-wort.

Sneezing (snī·zĭŋ), *vbl. sb.* Also 5 snesynge, 6 sneesyng, 6–8 -ing, 7 *Sc.* sneisin(g, snising, snizing. [f. Sneeze *v.*]

1. The action of the verb; an instance of this.

1495 *Trevisa's Barth. De P. R.* XVII. CXXXI. 688 Powder therof [*sc.* of pepper] makyth snesynge [*Bodl. MS.* fnesinge]. 1545 Raynold *Byrth Mankynde* 67 Farthermore she muste be prouoked to sneesyng. 1580 Hollyband *Treas. Fr. Tong, Esternuëment*, a sneesing. 1615 Crooke *Body of Man* 523 In sternutations or sneezings. 1646 Sir T. Browne *Pseud. Ep.* 200 Aristotle hath a Probleme, why sneezing from noone unto midnight was good, but from night to noon unlucky. 1707 Floyer *Physic. Pulse-Watch* 220 Sneesing promotes the Motion of the Blood, and excites the Pulse. 1770 Langhorne *Plutarch* (1851) I. 138/1 A Sneezing was heard from the right. 1818 E. Thompson *Cullen's Nosologia* (1820) 203 Contagious inflammatory fever with sneezing. 1844 Dickens *Mart. Chuz.* xiv, He was taken with a violent fit of sneezing. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 98 Abnormal visceral or reflex movements, such as..sneezings, yawnings, or hiccoughings.

fig. 1691 Beverley *1000 Yrs. Kingd.* 31 From Time to Time..there have been Sneesings by a Power of God, as I may so express it, of this Prophecy.

b. *pl.* Matter emitted in sneezing. *rare*—¹.

1607 Topsell *Four-f. Beasts* (1658) 431 The sneezings of a Musk-cat is an excellent remedy against the resolution of the sinews or the Palsie.

† **2.** A preparation or powder inducing sternutation; an errhine or sternutatory. *Obs.*

1621 Burton *Anat. Mel.* II. v. ii, iv, Sneesings, masticatories and nasalls, are generally receiued. 1632 tr. *Bruel's Praxis Med.* 61 A sneezing of pepper, Hellebore. 1653 W. Ramesey *Astrol. Restored* 119 Of the administration of gargarisms, or sneezings, and such like.

† **b.** Snuff. *Obs.* (Cf. Sneeshing 1.)

1648 *Dunfermline Kirk Sess. Rec.* (1865) 25 Those that offers and takes snising in the kirk. 1672 *Essex Papers* (Camden Soc.) 7 Who euer sells Ale, Tobacco, Sneezinge Broges, &c. is an Irish Merchant. ?*c* 1680 F. Sempill in *Poems Sempills* (1849) 70 A mill of good snizing to prie. 1720 Swift *Irish Feast* Wks. 1755 IV. I. 27 Give us a pinch Of your sneezing.

3. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *sneezing-coffer, -maker, -mill, -powder, -tobacco.*

1611 Cotgr., *Sternutatoire*, a sneezing medicine, or powder. *a* 1616 Beaum. & Fl. *Kt. of Malta* II. iv, Bring a little sneezing powder in your pocket. 1626 Bacon *Sylva* § 38 Sneezing-powder and other powders or Liquors (which the Physitians call Errhines). 1643 *Dunfermline Kirk Sess. Rec.* (1865) 12 Those who..taks yr sneising tobacco in the most remott..pairt of yo said yle. 1659 in Macgill *Old Ross-sh.* (1909) 377 Walter Denune, sneisin maker. 1681 Colvil *Whig's Supplic.* II. 134 And there his Sneezing Milne and Box lyes. 1812 J. H. Vaux *Flash Dict., Sneezer* or *Sneezing-Coffer*, a snuff-box.

† **b.** *Sneezing-wort*, = Sneezewort. *Obs.*

1611 Cotgr. s.v. *Esternuer*, Sneesingwort, or sneesewort of Austria, wild Pellitorie of Spaine. 1682 Wheler *Journ. Greece* III. 219 With long sharp leaves, with streight Nerves, in shape like Sneezing Woort. 1741 *Compl. Family Piece* II. iii. 397 You have now in Flower the..double Ptarmica or Sneezing-wort.

c. *Sneezing brick* (see quot.).

1887 *Archit. Soc. Dict.* VII. 97 *Sneezing Brick*, one of the names given to the burnt bricks which case the clamp before burning.

Sneezy (snī·zi), *a.* [f. Sneeze *sb.* + -y.] **a.** Of persons: Inclined to sneeze. **b.** Of things: Causing one to sneeze; dusty.

1839 Hood *Sweep's Compl.* 41, I find my suppress'd voice very uneasy, And comparable to nothing but having your tissue stopt when you are sneezy. 1848 Dickens *Dombey* lvii, They..have signed their names in one of the old sneezy registers. 1896 *Punch* 7 Mar. 112/1 East winds always make me feel snappy and sneezy.

Sneg, *sb. Obs.* exc. *dial.* [ME. *snegge*, = MLG. *sniggę*, MHG. *snegge, snecke*, G. *schnecke*.] A snail. Cf. Snag *sb.*³

1340 *Ayenb.* 32 Þo anlikneþ þan þet ne dar nazt guo ine þe peþe uor þane snegge þet sseaweþ him his hornes. 1880–7 in Kentish and Cornish glossaries.

Sneg, *v. Sc.* [Of obscure origin: cf. Sneck *v.*²] *trans.* To cut.

Jamieson (1808) also gives *sneg* as a sb.

1718 Ramsay *Christ's Kirk Gr.* III. xii, [She] sneg'd the raips fow snack, We' er knife that day. 17.. — *Address of Thanks* xviii, Bring to the warld the luckless wean, And sneg its infant thrapple. 1808–57 in *Eng. Dial. Dict.*

Sneg-stone. [? f. Sneg *sb.*] (See quot.)

1815 W. Smith *Map Strata* Mem. 17 The clay, with some modifications (and in some parts of it beds of Sussex Marble or sneg stone).

Sneipe, *v. Obs.*⁻¹ [perh. identical with Snape *v.*¹ and *v.*²] *intr.* ? To become pinched.

c 1300 *Old Age* vii. in *E. E. P.* (1862) 149, I snurpe, i snobbe, i sneipe on snovte. [Cf. Sneap-nose.]

† **Sneir,** *v. Sc. Obs.*⁻¹ [app. repr. OE. *snyrian, snyrgan* to hasten, if not an error for *steir*.] *intr.* To sail.

a 1568 A. Scott *Poems* (S. T. S.) i. 190 This ȝeir bayth blythnes and abundance bringis, Naveis of schippis out-t[h]roch þe sea to sneir.

Sneith, *a. Sc.* ? *Obs.* [Of obscure origin.] Smooth, polished. Also *fig.*

1513 Douglas *Æneid* XI. i. 94 The gapand deidly wound ..Amyd his sneith and fair slekyt breist bane. 1808 A. Scott *Poems* 121 This put the dame in perfect wrath; Her words they werena sneith.

† **Sneke.** *Obs. rare.* Also 6 snyke. [Of obscure origin.] A cold in the head.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 461/2 Sneke, or the poose,..*catarrus*. *c* 1460 *Play Sacram.* 616 All tho yt haue yo poose, yo sneke, or yo tyseke. 1530 Palsgr. 272/1 Sneke, pose, *rime*. 1547 Boorde *Brev. Health* cccvi. 100 The 306 chapitre doth shewe of the Pose or Snyke.

Snell (snel), *sb. U.S.* [Of obscure origin.] A short line of gut or horsehair by which a fish-hook is attached to a longer line.

1859 Bartlett *Dict. Amer.* (ed. 2) 238 *Leader*, a length of finely twisted hair, gut, or grass, for attaching an angler's hook to the line; a bottom. Called also a Snell. 1883 *Cent. Mag.* July 381/2 Reeling up his line to the snell of the hook. 1894 *Outing* XXIV. 452/2, I..rigged the strongest leader and the heaviest snell and hook in my box.

Snell (snel), *a.* and *adv.* In later use *Sc.* and *north.* Also 1–5 snel, 3 snœll, 4–5 snelle. [Common Teut.: OE. *snel, snell*, =OS. (MLG. and LG., MDu. and Du.), OHG. (MHG.) *snel, snell-* (G. *schnell*), swift, quick, active, etc., ON. *snjallr* (Icel. *snjallur*, Norw. *snjall, snjell, snell*; Sw. *snäll*, Da. *snild*); the Scand. languages exhibit a great variety of senses.]

A. *adj.* **1.** Of persons: Quick in movement or action; prompt, smart, active, strenuous; † good.

In ME. freq. as a general epithet of commendation. In later Sc. use tending towards the sense of 'sharp, keen'.

Beowulf 2971 Ne meahte se snella sunu Wonredes ealdum ceorle hondslyht giofan. *a* 1000 *Bi Monna Cræftum* 52 (Gr.), Sum biŏ ryniȝ,..sum on londe snel, feþespediȝ. *c* 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 13 Þat man be waker, and liht, and snel,..and

erliche rise. *c* 1250 *Meid. Maregrete* lv, Olibrius heitte þe mai ut of prisun don; Đe sergaunz were snelle ant broutten hire son. *a* 1300 *Body & Soul* in *Map's Poems* 334 Ȝwere ben thine cokes snelle, that scholden gon greithe thi mete? 1338 R. Brunne *Chron.* (1810) 132 Of messengers fulle snelle he sent hider to loke. *c* 1425 *Seven Sag.* (P.) 316 The messangers were ful snelle, Hastilich the way thay nomen. *c* 1450 *Cov. Myst.* xii. (Shaks. Soc.) 121 Byd hym with Mary abyde and dwelle, For it [is] my sone ful snelle That she is with i-wys.

1720 Ramsay *Edinb.'s Salut. to Ld. Carnarvon* vi, That in ilk action, wise and snell, You may shaw manly fire. 1721 — *Elegy Patie Birnie* ix, Jove's nimble son and leckie snell Made the first fiddle of a shell. 1768 Ross *Helenore* 9 Fu' o' good nature, sharp an' snell with a'. 1817 [R. D. C. Brown] *Lintoun Green* 91 The Smith, black, bardy, wee, and snell, Served round the nappy ale. 1859 J. Brown *Rab & Fr.* (1891) 10/2 That horny-handed, snell, peremptory little man. 1889 J. Robertson *Early Relig. Israel* (1892) iii. 57 Amos is a lithe, keen, *snell* man.

absol. *a* 1000 *Judith* 199 (Gr.), Þa wearð snelra werod snude gezearewod. *a* 1250 *Owl & Night.* 526 Þanne erest hit is isene Hwar is þe snelle, hwar þe kene.

b. Similarly of animals (or things). ? *Obs.*

a 1000 *Phœnix* 123 (Gr.), Se haswa fugel..fareð feþrum snell flyhte on lyfte. *a* 1000 *Andreas* 505 On brim snoweð snel under segle. *a* 1250 *Owl & Night.* 918 Þu farest so doþ on yde[l] wel þat springeþ bi burne þat is snel. 13.. *Guy Warw.* (A.) 4668 Mi stede þai han, þat is so snelle. *a* 1450 *Le Morte Arth.* 2234 Stedys that were bolde and snelle. 1481 Caxton *Reynard* xxxix. (Arb.) 106 So subtyl and snelle was the foxe, that many tymes whan the wulf wende wel to be sure of hym, he sterte thenne bytwene his legges. 1596 Dalrymple tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* (S.T.S.) I. 25 Thay [*sc.* solan geese] ar sa snell and suift of flicht.

† **c.** Const. *to* (with sb. or inf.). *Obs.*

c 1150 *Canterb. Ps.* xiii. 3 [6] Hiræ fet hræþe *vel* snelle to æzjotænæ *vel* to scedende blod. *c* 1275 *Sinners Beware* 41 in *O. E. Misc.* 73 Ne may no tunge telle..of þare pyne of helle; þar-to we beoþ to snelle. 1340–70 *Alex. & Dind.* 437 Hie boldus to be we not snelle. 13.. *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* (1901) 558 To fleo folye þe snelle. *c* 1400 *Rowland & O.* 403 To arme hym wele þay were full snelle.

2. Keen-witted, clever, sharp, acute, smart.

c 1425 *Seven Sages* (P.) 53 The mayster was wys and snel. *c* 1440 *York Myst.* xli. 111 Melachiell, that proffett snell, Hais tolde vs of that babb so bright. *a* 1450 Myrc 121 Teche hem alle to be war and snel, That they conne sey þe wordes wel. 1719 Ramsay *First Answ. Hamilton* x, Europe had nane mair snack and snell At verse or prose. 1861 J. Brown *Horæ Subs.* II. 273 He had no want..of quick, snell remark, often witty and full of spirit.

3. Severe, sharp, unsparing.

a 1425 *Cursor M.* 16628 (Trin.), Sore þei auȝte him drede: þe folke þat were so snelle [*Cott.* fell]. *a* 1560 Rolland *Crt. Venus* iv. 184 [To] caus Ladeis to..be haldin..Baith odious, and snell as ane serpent. 1742 R. Forbes *Ajax* (1755) 17 Fa wi' snell words him sair did snib. 1816 Scott *Antiq.* xxi, He's snell and dure eneugh in casting up their nonsense to them, as if he had nane o' his ain. 1833 M. Scott *Tom Cringle* xii, Conscience is a rough lad,..and I am keen and snell also.

4. Of weather: Keen, bitter, severe.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 6018 þe seuend on-sand þat siþen fell, Was a weder ful selcut snell [*Gött.* fell]. 1375 Barbour *Bruce* III. 377 Sa hard anoy thaim then assayit, Off hungir, cauld, with schowris snell. 1513 Douglas *Æneid* VII. Prol. 139 Chiverand for cauld, the sessoun was so snell. 1535 Stewart *Cron. Scot.* I. 342 The snaw so snell ay dryvand with sic drift. 1677 Nicolson in *Trans. R. Soc. Lit.* (1870) IX. 319 *Snell*, sharp, bitter. 1785 Burns *To a Mouse* iv, Bleak December's winds ensuin, Baith snell an' keen! 1822 *Blackw. Mag.* XI. 119 The wintry air is snell and keen. 1881 R. Buchanan *God & the Man* III. 209 We ..passed the snell season without the loss of a single soul aboard.

5. Grievous, heavy, stinging; rigorous; painful.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 7759 O þis batail þat was sa snell, þe force a-pon þe king it fell. 13.. *Ibid.* 16638 (Gött.), Þai gaue him buffetes snell. 14.. *Sir Beues* (E) 4312+147 In hys hand a mase ful snel, þat was maad off good steel. 1755 Ramsay *To J. Clerk* 88 [He] gave the scarlet whore a box Mair snell than all the pelts of Knox. 1790 A. Wilson *2nd Ep. to Kennedy* Poet. Wks. (*c* 1846) 117 This is the last, the snellest lick, That I'll e'er get frae Fortune's stick. 1824 Scott *Redgauntlet* ch. xi, That was a snell law. 1879 J. White *Jottings* 154 (E.D.D.), Bear life's rebuffs, Tho' they're aft unco snell.

b. Sharp-tasted; pungent.

1835 Carrick *Laird Logan* 172 (E. D. D.), That's just the mustard I mean, an gay snell mustard he is whiles.

6. Shrill, clear-sounding.

c 1730 *Robin Hood & Bp. of Hereford* vii. in Child *Ballads* III. 198/2 He put his horn in to his mouth, And a snell blast he did blow. *c* 1820 Beattie *Arnha'* (1826) 58 Douff like drum, and snell like cymble.

B. *adv.* **1.** Quickly, promptly, swiftly.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 14946 Wat yee breþer qui..I weind again sua snell? 13.. *Guy Warw.* (A.) 801 His ost him answerd snelle, 'Of þat turnament y schal ȝou telle'. *c* 1420 *Chron. Vilod.* 556 Hom aȝeyn he come fulle snelle. 1895 Crockett *Men of Moss Hags* xlvii, We held fast and snell to the eastward.

2. Vigorously, strongly, keenly, etc.

c 1330 *Arth. & Merl.* 1322 (Kölbing), þe messangers bad him þo telle, Whi it was he lou3 so snelle. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xxix. (*Placidas*) 519 Ȝet wes lewit hym a schele to schrape his scabbis rycht snel. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 3995 Sire Porrus..him on þe pan strikis So snelle at he snatirs with. *c* 1470 Henry *Wallace* II. 250 He saw, As to hys sycht, dede had him swappyt snell. 1728 Ramsay *Robt., Richy, & Sandy* (1877) II. 5 Ae rough night the blatt'ring winds blew snell. 1773 Fergusson *Auld Reekie* 35 Poems 1789 II. 93 Antrin fock may ken how snell Auld Reikie will at morning smell. 1884 R. Buchanan *The Lights of Leith* I. i, While the wintry gale..Blew snell thro' sail and shroud.

Snell, *v.* *U.S.* [f. Snell *sb.*] *trans.* To tie or fasten (a hook) to a line.

1891 in *Cent. Dict.* 1893 *Outing* XXII. 123/2 Well-made, securely wrapped, double-snelled Aberdeen..are very satisfactory hooks.

Snelly (sne·li), *adv.* Also 1 snellice, 4 snellich, -lik. [f. Snell *a.* Cf. MDu. *snellike, -lijc* (Du. *snellijk*), MLG. *snellik(en*, OHG. *snellîcho*, MSw. *sniälle-, sniellelika.*] In a snell manner; quickly, smartly, severely, etc.

a 1000 *Bi Manna Wyrdum* 82 (Gr.), Sum sceal..snellice snere wræstan. *c* 1305 *Land Cokayne* 163 And euch monke him taketh on, And snellich berith forth har prei. *c* 1325 *Metr. Hom.* (1862) 59 His sawel..bes felaw wit the fend, That snellik sal it scham and schend. 13.. *K. Alis.* 2524 (Laud MS.), Vche bare xij. oþer xvj. knigth, Wel arenged snelly to figth.

1790 Shirref *Poems* p. xix, At first he frown'd, and said, right snelly, It's gryte presumption. *c* 1790 Pickering in *Burns' Wks.* (ed. Chambers, 1857) IV. 91 The snaw drives snelly through the dale. 1836 M. Mackintosh *Cottager's Daughter* 70 The thumbkin was maist snelly screwed. 1881 J. Ballantine in *Modern Scot. Poems* III. 30 Snelly the hail smote the skeleton trees.

Snepe, *a.* *rare.* [Of obscure origin; *sneep* and *snape* in the same sense are given as current in Linc.] Foolish, silly.

a 1250 *Owl & Night.* 225 Hit þincheþ boþe wise & snepe, Nouht þat þu singe, ac þat þu wepe.

Snercte: see Snarche *v.*

† **Snese,** *v.* *Obs.* *rare.* [OE. (*á*)*snésan*, f. *snís* spit, skewer. Cf. ON. *sneisa* to spit.] *trans.* To run through with a weapon.

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 212 Hwu þe deoflen schulen..mid helle sweordes alsnesien [*v.rr.* snesen, sneasin] ham þuruhut.

Snet(te, error in Phillips (1658) and some later Dicts. for Suet.

† **Snetched,** *a.* *Obs.*–1 [? Related to Sneck *v.*2] Slaughtered.

1567 Golding *Ovid's Met.* v. (1593) 108 Like a snetched ox Strait tumbling downe against the ground his groveling face he knox.

Sneuel, -ill, etc., obs. forms of Snivel.

† **Sneve,** *v.* *Obs.* [Cf. Icel. *snefja* to scent out; Norw. *snev* (also *snevl*, Icel. *snefill*) scent, hint, suspicion.] *trans.* To smell or smell at. Hence **Sne·ving** *vbl. sb.*

c 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 37 Alse swin þe uulieð and wroteð and sneuieð aure fule. *Ibid.* 183 Hie..binimeð..Eien here sene,..nose here sneuenge, and muð here smel. *Ibid.* 207 He haueð..mid his eȝen bihelden þat he ne sholden..and alse mid nose sneued.

Snevel(l, etc., obs. forms of Snivel.

Sne·ver, *a.* *dial.* [ad. ON. *snæfr* (stem *snæfr-*, MSw. *snäfr-*, Da. *snæver*; also MSw. *snäfw-*, Sw. *snäf*, Norw. *snæv*, *snøv*) narrow, tight.] Narrow; slender, slight; neat.

1640 Brathwait *Lanc. Lovers* iv. 18 We han store of goodly Cattell;..peepe here and peepe there, aw the wide dale is but snever to them. 1674 Ray *N. C. Words* 43 A *Snever-spawt*, a slender stripling. 1691 *Ibid.* (ed. 2) 66 *Snever*, slender: an usual Word. 1788 W. H. Marshall *Yorksh.* II. 354 *Snevver*, slender and neat. 1855 [Robinson] *Whitby Gloss.* s.v., Snever, Sneever.

Snevyll, Snevylysshe, obs. ff. Snivel(lish.

Snew, *v.* ? *Obs.* Forms: 1 sniwan (sniu-, sniuw-), 3–4 snywe(n, 3 sniuw-, 4 sneuw-, 4–6 snewe. [OE. *sniwan*, = WFris. *snije* (*sneie, snīe*), NFris. *snī, sneie, snaie*, MDu. *sniwen, snien*, MLG. *snīghen, snygen*, OHG. *snīwan* (MHG. *sniwen, snīgen, snīen*, G. *schneien*, dial. *schneuen, schneiben*, etc.) :—**snigwan-*, related by ablaut to Snow *sb.*1

The evidence for survival in mod. dial. is very slight; it is doubtful whether *snew*, to swarm, is the same word.]

1. *intr.* To snow.

c 725 *Corpus Gloss.* (Hessels) N 117 *Ninguit*, sniuwið. *c* 900 tr. *Baeda's Hist.* II. xiii, [If] hit rine & sniwe & styrme ute. *a* 1000 *Epist. Alex.* in Cockayne *Narrat. Angl.* (1861) 23 Ða cwom þær micel snaw and swa miclum sniwde swelce micel flys feoll. *a* 1250 *Owl & Night.* 620 His hou [=hue] neuer ne uorlost, Wan hit sniuw [*v.r.* snywe] ne wan hit frost. 13.. *K. Alis.* 6450 (W.), Whan hit snywith [*Laud MS.* snoweþ], other rayneth. *a* 1325 *Orfeo* 245 Þei it comenci to snewe and frese. *a* 1400 *Launfal* 293 Sche was as whyt as..snow that sneweth yn wynterys day. 1530 Palsgr. 130 *Il neige*, it sneweth. 1746 *Exmoor Scolding* (E.D.S.) 124 Whan [it] snewth, or blunketh, or doveth, or in scatty Weather.

fig. *c* 1386 Chaucer *Prol.* 347 It snewed in his hous of mete and drynke.

2. *trans.* To sprinkle like snow.

c 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* XI. 332 On kadis thre Of wyn a certeyn of this flouris snewe.

Hence † **Snewed** *ppl. a.*; † **Snew·ing** *v l. sb.*

1300–1400 *R. Gloucester's Chron.* (Rolls) App. xx. 248 Temese was þo ifrore harde..& was swiþe whit aboue of þe snywede snou. *c* 1400 *Laud Troy-bk.* 7318 The wynd sesid the gret blast, The snewyng then no lenger last.

Snew, obs. or dial. pa. t. of Snow *v.*

Snib, *sb.*1 Latterly *Sc.* Also 5 snybb, 7 snibbe. [f. Snib *v.*1 Cf. Da. *snibbe*, Sw. *snybba*, in the same sense.] A check, sharp rebuke, or snub.

c 1440 *Alph. Tales* 392 When Hillarion .. was giffen alonelie vnto his prayers, he sufferd many snybbis of þe fend. 1587 Churchyard *Worth. Wales* (1876) 61 No sorer snib, nor nothing nips so neere, As feele much want, yet shewe a merrie cheere. *a* 1601 *Pasquil & Kath.* (1878) I. 267 Then may one..Rule all, pay all, take all, without checke or snib. 1681 W. Robertson *Phraseol. Gen.* (1693) 1067 Tart reproofs; Biting and taunting snibs. *c* 1740 Skinner *Poems* (1809) 128, I thought he might hae gott'n a snib. 1768 Ross *Helenore* 13 Sick snibs as that, may sair to let us see, 'Tis better for us to be loose an' free.

† **Snib,** *sb.*2 *Cant. Obs.* A petty thief.

1607 Dekker *Jests to make you Merrie* Wks. (Grosart) II. 300 Some horse-stealers, some snibs, some foysts. 1823 Egan *Grose's Dict. Vulgar T.*, *Snib*, a prig. *Scotch cant.*

Snib, *sb.*3 Chiefly *Sc.* [Of doubtful origin: perh. a. LG. *snibbe* (G. *schnippe*), *snib* (Sw. *snibb*) beak, beak-like point, etc.] A catch or fastening for a door, window, lock, or the like.

1825 Jamieson *Suppl.* s.v., The snib is the small bolt placed under the latch, and fastening the door so that it cannot be opened from without. 1869 *N. & Q.* 4th Ser. IV. 467/2 Most doors have both a snib and a sneck. 1891 Barrie *Little Minister* xxii, An unearthly hand presses the snib of the window, the latch rises.

Snib (snib), *v.*1 Now *dial.* and *Sc.* Forms: 4–5 snybbyn, snybbe(n, snyb (6 *Sc.*), snybe; 4, 6–snib (4, 6 *Sc.*, snibe), 6 snibb, 6–7 snibbe. See also Sneb *v.* [Of Scand. origin: cf. older Da. *snibbe*, MSw. *snybba*, related to *snubba* Snub *v.*1]

1. *trans.* To reprove, reprimand, rebuke, check sharply or severely: **a.** A person.

Common in literary use down to *c* 1675.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 18228 Hell hint þan þat gerard grim And selcut snarpli snibbed him. *c* 1386 Chaucer *Prol.* 525 Hym wolde he snybben sharply for the nonys. *c* 1412 Hoccleve *De Reg. Princ.* 2825 But to þe pore, is denyed al grace; He snybbyd is. *c* 1450 Capgrave *Life St. Aug.* 6 Desiryng of him þat he schuld snybbe þe maydenes þat þei schuld not be redy to telle swech tales. 1515 Douglas *Lett.* Wks. 1874 I. p. xxxviii, He is..the instrument of mekyll harm, and I dreyd sall yit be of mayr and he be nocht snybbyt. 1577 Stanyhurst *Descr. Irel.* i. in *Holinshed*, Here percase some snappish carper will..snuffingly snibbe me, for debacing the Irish language. 1607 Middleton *Five Gallants* II. iii, You have snibbed the poor fellow too much; he can scarce speak. 1655 Fuller *Ch. Hist.* IX. 139 Hence it was that many Bishops..were checkt and snibt by this great favourite to their no small..discouragement. 1678 Bunyan *Pilgr.* I. 169 Christian snibbeth his fellow for unadvised speaking. 1742 [see Snell *a.* 3]. 1836 Carleton *Fardorougha* vi, If Honor comes to be snibbin' an' makin' little o' me afore them. 1851 W. Hay in *The Lintie o' Moray* 64 No termagant tongue..Dares rattle around us, or scold us, or snib. 1854– in dial. glossaries (Northampt., Leic., Rutland). [1888 Doughty *Arabia Deserta* I. 240 In bitterness of a displeasure he will snib his disobedient son with vehement words.]

absol. *c* 1440 Capgrave *Life St. Kath.* III. 261 (MS. Rawl.), Therfor ȝour grace..I pray To punch & snybe, ȝourself as ȝe last.

b. A thing, action, conduct, etc.

In later quots. passing into sense 2.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 26233 Spous-brecking, and als hordom,..þe biscop agh þaa for to snib. 1435 Misyn *Fire of Love* II. ix. 95 If any of slyke þingis ȝee ful seldum wald snyb, to scorne he is laghyd. *a* 1578 Lindesay (Pitscottie) *Chron. Scot.* (S.T.S.) II. 133, [I] wald snibe the same [conduct] and schaw thame that law of god. 1596 Dalrymple tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* (S.T.S.) II. 361 She snibbit the hauiest offences of al men in that cuntrie. 1631 J. Done *Polydoron* 3 Satyricall Poetry..Snibbing filth in others but retayning it in itselfe. 1648 T. Hill *Dying Saints* Ep. Ded. B iij b, Far bee it from mee to snib the movings of God's Spirit in the weakest..of his saints. 1720 Wodrow *Life R. Bruce* (1843) 93 Mr. Bruce wrote..that he was ready to snib the sinister interpretations the people were running to.

2. To check by some repressive action.

c 1500 *Lancelot* 3387 As at the stok the bere Snybbith the hardy houndis that ar ken, So farith he. 1513 Douglas *Æneid* X. Prol. 15 Wyntyr to snyb the erth wyth frosty schouris. *a* 1607 Brightman *Bright. Rediv.* (1647) iv. 117 Though it [hope] moderate the desire.., yet it quenches not, nor snibs the earnestnesse thereof. 1663 R. Blair *Autobiog.* (1848) iv. 63 All the corns were thrown down and fully dried, the growing thereon snibbed. 1674 Bp. Ward *Serm. 30 Jan.* 13 The seeds of Piety..may be trampled on and kept under, crop'd and snib'd by the bestial part.

b. *Sc.* (See quot.)

1808 Jamieson, *To Snib a candle*, to snuff it.

Snib, *v.*2 *Sc.* [Cf. Snib *sb.*3]

1. *trans.* To fasten (a door, etc.) by means of a snib or catch; to shut *in* in this way.

1808 Jamieson, *To Snib a door*, to fasten it with a small bolt. 1861 Ramsay *Remin.* Ser. II. 185 Quite a vulgar body, so much so as to ask any one leaving the room to 'snib the door'. 1864 J. Brown *Horæ Subs., Jeems*, Hurrying them to their appointed place, Jeems snibbed them slowly in. 1869 *N. & Q.* 4th Ser. IV. 467/2 When a door is *snibbed* it cannot be opened from the outside.

2. To catch, secure.

1813 Picken *Poems* I. 59 I'se..reveal to you How..I [*sc.* a rat] maist was snibbit. 1819 R. Gall *Poems* 134 The Dutchmen endeavoured to rin for't, But fand themselves snib'd in a girn.

Hence **Sni·bbing-bolt.**

1844 H. Stephens *Bk. Farm* I. 218 Fine water-closet latch, with snibbing-bolt and 5-inch joints.

Sni·bbing, *vbl. sb.* [f. Snib *v.*1] The action of rebuking, reprimanding, or checking sharply.

a 1300 *E. E. Ps.* xvii. 18 Groundes of ertheli werld vnhiled are For þi snibbing, lauerd myne. *a* 1340 Hampole *Psalter* xv. 7 Alswa oure neris, þat is, oure fleschly delites, makis vs worthi snybynge. *a* 1400 *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* xxiv. 285 From his wrabþe vs schilde, þat we fele not þat harde snibbyng. 1451 Capgrave *Life St. Gilbert* viii. 73 To encrese of religion and snybbyng of vices. 1596 Dalrymple tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* (S.T.S.) I. 226 This Columban was scharpe in snibbing of maneris. 1633 T. Adams *Exp.* 2 *Pet.* iii. 1 The man of a pure mind is

always of a cheerful look, because there are no secret snibbings within him. 1642 D. Rogers *Naaman* 94 Others by their snibbing and chiding..doe blast that bud. 1891 *Rutland Gloss.* 32 Them fox-terriers takes a deal of snibbing.

Sni·bble, *sb. Mining.* [Of obscure origin: cf. Snib *sb.*3] (See quot.)

1883 Gresley *Gloss. Coal-m.* 229 *Snibble*, see *Locker* [a short iron or wooden bar for scotching tram wheels on inclined roads].

Hence **Sni·bble** *v. trans.*, to scotch.

1880 J. Nicol *Poems & Songs* 79 Away they go, Though snibbled wheels may slip.

Snibel, variant of Snipe-bill 4.

Snichel: see Snitchel.

Snick, *sb.*1 *slang* or *dial.* [Cf. Snicking *vbl. sb.*] A snack or share. Usu. *pl.*

1723 Dk. Wharton *True Briton* No. 59, There is no Room for the Encouragement of Industry where the Snicks will hardly pay for a Saturday's Supper. 1888 *Berkshire Gloss.* 151 *Snicks*, shares, halves. 1891 Wrench *Winchester Word-bk.* (1901) 51 *To go snicks*, = to go snacks.

Snick (snik), *sb.*2 [f. Snick *v.*2]

1. A small cut; a nick, a notch.

1775 Ash, *Snick*, ..a small snip or cut as in the hair of a beast. 1828 Carr *Craven Gloss.*, *Snick*, a cut, a hollow, a notch. 1897 *Leeds Merc. Suppl.* 4 Dec. (E.D.D.), Mak' a bit of a snick in 't.

b. An act of snipping or slight cutting.

1898 Ld. E. Hamilton *Mawkin* v. 67 Just a snick of the shears and a dab of walnut juice.

2. *Cricket.* A light, glancing blow given to the ball by the batsman, sending it in the direction of the slips or to leg; a ball so hit.

1879 *Sat. Rev.* 5 July 21 Standing at short-leg to stop a snick, he caught Mr. Studd off a leg hit. 1891 W. G. Grace *Cricket* 258 He [short-slip] has to run after most of the snicks which pass the wicket-keeper.

Snick (snik), *sb.*3 [f. Snick *v.*3 Cf. Sneck *sb.*3] A sharp noise; a click.

1894 Doyle *Mem. Sherlock Holmes* 241 Suddenly there came from the window a sharp metallic snick. 1899 F. V. Kirby *Sport E. C. Africa* ii. 23, I pressed the trigger; but only the 'snick' of the striker answered the touch.

Snick, *sb.*4 *techn.* [? f. the first element of Snick-snarl.] (See quot. and cf. Snickey *a.*)

1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2230/1 *Snick*, ..a knot or irregularity on yarn, removed by passing it through a slotted plate.

Snick, variant of Sneck *sb.* (latch).

Snick (snik), *v.*1 *Obs.* exc. *dial.* Also 6 **sneik**, 7 **snecke**. [Of obscure origin.] Used with *go*, or imperatively, and always followed by *up*, in the sense of 'go hang'.

(*a*) 1599 H. Porter *Angry Wom. Abingt.* (Percy Soc.) 8 And his men be good fellowes, so it is; if they be not, let them goe sneik [*v.r.* snick] vp. 1611 Beaum. & Fl. *Knt. Burning Pestle* III. i, Give him his money George, and let him go snick up. 1631 Heywood *Fair Maid of West* I. Wks. 1874 II. 268 Goe, let your Master snick-up. *a* 1668 Davenant *Play-Ho. to be Let* Wks. (1673) 116 He may go snick-up if he hates Nymphidious. [1821 Scott *Kenilw.* xxix, Bidding the steward go snick up, if he came to startle us too soon from our goblets.]

(*b*) 1601 Shaks. *Twel. N.* II. iii. 101 We did keepe time sir in our Catches. Sneck vp! 1602 Middleton *Blurt, Master-Constable* IV. i, I have been believed of your betters, marry, snick up! 1605 *London Prodigal* v. i, Wherefore to prison? snick vp, I owe you nothing. *a* 1825 Forby *Voc. E. Anglia*, *Snickup*, begone; away with you! 1883 in *Eng. Dial. Dict.* (West Yks.).

Snick (snik), *v.*2 Also 8 **snic**. [prob. suggested by Snick and snee, etc. Connexion with Sneck *v.*2, or with Norw. and Icel. *snikka*, Sw. dial. *snicka*, to carve, whittle, is very doubtful.]

1. *trans.* To cut, snip, clip, nick. Also with *off*, *out*.

c 1700 *Street Robberies Consider'd*, *Snic*, to cut. 1825 Jamieson *Suppl.* s.v. *Sneck*, *Snick*, ..to cut with a sudden stroke of a sharp instrument. 1862 H. Kingsley *Ravenshoe* lxiii, He began by snicking the corner of her [sc. the doll's] foot off with nurse's scissors. 1875 *Ure's Dict. Arts* (ed. 7) I. 422 The third case-maker..quickly snicks out, with a pair of scissors, the superfluous cloth at each of the four corners.

b. *intr.* (Cf. Snick *v.*3 2.)

1863 Reade *Hard Cash* III. 22 The heavy scissors were heard snick, snick, snicking all day long.

2. *trans.* To strike or hit sharply.

1880 Webb *Goethe's Faust* II. v. 130 But we nick 'em and we snick 'em, Wherever they may stick. 1891 Mrs. J. A. Owen *On Surrey Hills* v. 158 He..lets drive, or, as he says, 'snicks him', killing him at once.

b. *Cricket.* To strike (the ball) lightly so that it glances off in the slips or to leg; to obtain (so many runs) in this way.

1880 *Daily Telegr.* 23 Sept., Bates drove him finely for 4, and snicked him another 4. 1889 *Pall Mall G.* 8 Aug. 7 [He] snicked the first ball he received for 3.

3. *colloq.* To cut or slip across or along (a road) quickly or sharply.

1883 Pennell-Elmhirst *Cream Leicestersh.* 343 The two former jumped an uncompromising piece of timber abreast into the field beyond;..the rest snicked the road for the corner immediately at hand.

Snick (snik), *v.*3 [Imitative.]

1. *trans.* To cause to click or sound sharply.

1828 *Ann. Reg., Chron.* 25/1 They snicked their guns, but I saw no flash. 1900 Crockett *Black Douglas* 9 He stood ..drawing it an inch from its sheath and snicking it back again.

2. *intr.* To make a sharp, clicking noise. Hence **Sni·cking** *vbl. sb.*

1892 Kipling *Barrack Room Ball.* 76 Ye may hear a breech-bolt snick where never a man is seen. 1893 Raymond *Gent. Upcott* xiv, The snicking of the flint and steel sounded hard and vicious.

Snick and snee. ? *Obs.* Also 7 **snic (snik) and snee, snick and sneer.** [See Snick or snee.]

1. a. *vb.* To thrust and cut. **b.** *adv.* With thrusting and cutting. **c.** *sb.* = Snick-a-snee 1.

c 1645 Howell *Lett.* I. xli, None must carry a pointed Knife about him; which makes the Hollander, who is us'd to Snick and Snee, to leave his Horn-sheath and Knife a Ship-board when he comes ashore. 1665 Marvell *Charact. Holland* 96 When, stagg'ring upon some Land, Snick and Sneer, They try, like Statuaries, if they can, Cut out each other's Athos to a Man. 1697 Dryden *Virgil* Note on Georg. IV. 660 The monks .. were at *snic* and *snee* with their drawn knives. 1802 James *Milit. Dict.*, *Snick and snee*, a combat with knives, such as the Dutch carry.

2. *attrib.* (with *knife*), = Snick-a-snee 2.

1842 Borrow *Bible in Spain* vii, The Spaniard..sprang up like a tiger,..unsheathing instantly a snick and snee knife.

So † **Snicking and sneeing** *vbl. sb. Obs.*—1

1674 N. Fairfax *Bulk & Selv.* To Rdr., If the humor of huffing be but a little further cocker'd,..snicking and sneeing will be nothing else in the world but writing of Book *a la mode d'Angleterre*.

Snick-a-snee. ? *Obs.* Also 7 **-sne.** [Cf. prec. and Snick or snee.]

1. A combat with cut-and-thrust knives.

1673 Mrs. Behn *Dutch Lover* III. iii, There lies my sword, and..I tell you I am as good at Snick-a-sne as the best Don of you all. 1688 B. Willy *On Dutch War* in Jane Barker *Poet. Recreat.* II. 56 But they'll e'er long come to themselves you'll see When we in earnest are at Snick-a-snee. 1767 S. Paterson *Another Trav.* II. 115 We may.. possibly have a few bouts at snik-a-snee.

2. A cut-and-thrust knife. Also *attrib.*

1760 *Brit. Chron.* 6 Aug. 127 One Turner..with a snick-a-snee stabbed her several times in her body. 1832 Marryat *N. Forster* xlix, Flemish seamen, with their long snick-a-snee knives. 1837 — *Snarleyyow* liv, Jansen stepped forward with his snickasee [*sic*], the rope was divided at once. 1865 in *Slang Dict.* 238.

Snicker (sni·kəɹ), *sb.*1 Also *Sc.* **snicher.** [f. Snicker *v.*] A smothered laugh; a snigger.

1857 Holland *Bay Path* iv, That individual..gave utterance to an explosive snicker. 1881 *Daily News* 5 Apr. 6 There's an audible snicker up above. 1888 Gunter *Mr. Potter* xiv. 175 There comes a cruel silence, broken only by a snicker from Van Cott.

† **Sni·cker**, *sb.*2 *slang. Obs.* (See quot.)

1796 *Grose's Dict. Vulgar T.* (ed. 3), *Snicker*, a glandered horse.

Sni·cker, *sb.*3 [f. Snick *v.*2 The passage is burlesque.] A knife.

1848 Thackeray *Van. Fair* vi, If they screak, out with your snickers and slick!

Snicker (sni·kəɹ), *v.* Also 9 *Sc.* **snicher.** [Imitative: cf. Nicker *v.* and Snigger *v.*1]

1. *intr.* To laugh in a half-suppressed or smothered manner; to snigger.

1694 Motteux *Rabelais* IV. lii, While he said this, the Maidens began to snicker at his Elbow, grinning, giggling and twittering among themselves. *a* 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew*, *Snickering*, Laughing in his Sleeve or privately. 1796 Mrs. M. Robinson *Angelina* II. 251 'You may sneer and snicker, and look grand'; cried Sir Edward. 1836 Haliburton *Clockm.* Ser. I. vi, The neighbours snickered a good deal, and the Elder felt pretty streaked. 1855 Browning *Heretic's Trag.* viii, John, snickering, crook'd his wicked thumb. 1880 J. Hawthorne *Ellice Quentin*, etc. I. 255 One or two persons snickered, and others joined in, and almost immediately there was a universal explosion of derisive mirth.

transf. and *fig.* 1857 Holland *Bay Path* xii. 144 And the ripples came up, one after another, and whispered and snickered in his ears. 1884 *Harper's Mag.* May 922/1 A squirrel barked and 'snickered'. 1897 *Outing* XXX. 172/2 Every wee water-course seems to snicker gleefully as it romps along.

2. Of horses: To neigh, nicker.

1824 Scott *Redgauntlet* let. i, The rascal knows me already, and snickers whenever I cross the threshold of the stable. 1880 *Macm. Mag.* Jan. 217/2 The sturdy colt that hinnied and snickered round his mother in the pasture.

Hence **Sni·ckering** *vbl. sb.* and *ppl. a.*; **Sni·ckeringly** *adv.*, in a snickering manner.

1775 Ash *Dict.*, *Snickering*, a silly kind of laugh. 1872 Holland *Marble Prophecy* 78 Much as if for a snickering fit or a sneeze. 1878 Browning *Poets Croisic* 142 Yes, I'm Macrais, and somebody beside, You snickering monkey! 1885 *Harper's Mag.* Feb. 485/2 They silently—and snickeringly—arose and left the theatre. 1893 *Advance* (Chicago) 9 Nov., There had been..a snickering and chuckling in the further part of the room.

Snickersnee (sni·kəɹsnī), *sb.* Also **snicker-, snikker-snee.** [Alteration of Snick or snee.]

1. = Snick-a-snee 1.

1727 Boyer *Dict. Royal* II, *Snicker-snee* (the Dutch way of fighting with pointed Knives). 1867 Smyth *Sailor's Word-bk.*, *Snikker-Snee*, a combat with knives.

2. A large knife.

1775 Ash *Dict.*, *Snickersnee*, ..a long kind of knife. 1791 G. Huddesford in *Salmagundi* 86 He pulled out his Snicker-snee With imprecations horrid. 1809 Irving *Knickerb.* (1861) 171 A host more, armed..with swords, hatchets, snicker-snees,..and what not. *a* 1825 Forby *Voc. E. Anglia*, *Snicker-snee*, a large clasp knife. 1840 Thackeray *Catherine* xiv, Drawing his snickersnee, he plunged it in the bailiff's chest. 1885 W. S. Gilbert *Mikado* II. 37 As I gnashed my teeth, When from its sheath I drew my snicker-snee.

† **Snickersnee**, *v. Obs.* Also 8 **snigger-, sneaker-, sneeker-.** [f. as prec.] *intr.* To fight with knives; to use a knife as a weapon. Hence † **Snickersneeing** *vbl. sb.* and *ppl. a.*

Cf. the mod. Linc. dial. *snickersneeze*, used in threatening children ('If you do that, I'll snickersneeze you').

1698 Fryer *Acc. E. India & P.* 119 Boxing among the English; Snicker-Sneeing among the Dutch. 1704 N. N. tr. *Boccalini's Advts. fr. Parnass.* III. 16 But when the Officers came to inforce the Execution of this Decree upon the Dutch, they were ready to fall to Snigger Snee with 'em about it. 1712 Arbuthnot *John Bull* IV. vii, He pull'd out a Case-knife, with which he used to sneaker-snee, and threaten'd to cut his own Throat. 1738 [G. Smith] *Curious Relat.* I. iii. 443 He that acted the Character of the Insolent Sailor, humour'd it to the Life..: He wanted to fight, or Sneeker-snee. 1778 Brydges *Homer Trav.* (1797) II. 268 An ugly dream, Wherein a Dutch-built thief did seem To shake a snickersneeing knife.

Sni·ckey, *a. rare*—1. [? f. Snick *sb.*4] ? Full of knots or irregularities.

1845 Disraeli *Sybil* (1863) 72 'Soul alive, but those Shuffle and Screw are rotten, snickey, bad yarns,' said Mistress Carey.

Sni·cking, *vbl. sb.* [Cf. Snick *sb.*1] The action of getting surreptitiously.

1673 R. Head *Cant. Acad.* 103 She hath half share of her own Gettings besides a little *Snicking* by the by.

Snickle (sni·k'l), *sb.* Now *dial.* Also 9 **snikkle.** [Cf. next.] A snare or gin; a noose.

1681 T. Flatman *Heraclitus Ridens* No. 30 (1713) I. 197 This was a way of Man-catching which our Friend Hick ne'er thought on, for a Man to run his own Head into the Snickle. 1688 Holme *Armoury* III. 104/1 For Pike [fishing], ..Snap, Gorge, Snare or Snickle. 1819 in Hatfield *Hist. Notices Doncaster* (1866) I. 71 Thou hast got a gun this morning, I see, and a pocketful of snickles. 1828 Heber *Jrnl.* I. 173 The capture of a very beautiful iguana;..one of the boatmen caught it in a snickle. 1862– in dial. glossaries, etc. (Yorks., Nhp., Leic.). 1902 Cutcliffe Hyne *Thompson's Progress* 183 A fine cock pheasant with..a wire snickle tightly round its neck.

Snickle (sni·k'l), *v.* Now *dial.* Also 7 **snickell.** [Of obscure origin.]

In Marlowe *Jew of Malta* IV. v. 1941 the reading is uncertain and the meaning obscure.

1. *trans.* To catch with a snickle or noose; to snare. Also with *up*.

1615 Markham *Pleas. Princ.* vi. (1635) 34 There be some which take great delight to snickell or halter the Pike. 1616 Surfl. & Markham *Country Farme* VII. iii. 648 Some spring-trappes, to snickle or halter either bird or beast. 1674 J. W[right] *Mock-Thyestes* 128 Seeing his advantage pat, He snickles up the eldest cat. *a* 1800 Pegge *Suppl. Grose*, *Snickle*, to take a hare in a gin. Derb. 1813 in Hatfield *Hist. Notices Doncaster* (1866) I. 67 [A] gamekeeper..was..ill-treated by three men who were snickling hares. 1855 [Robinson] *Whitby Gloss.*, *To Snickle*, to snare with a draw-loop as hares are entangled or snickled.

refl. 1675 Alsop *Anti-Sozzo* III. ii. 249, I know no Obligation [that] lies upon me to cut the Rope, as often as he will Snickle himself.

fig. 1679 Alsop *Melius Inq.* II. iii. 248 It seems the Blessed Apostle had not yet learnt to snickle the private Conscience with his publick Authority. 1770 Jenner *Placid Man* VI. v, If I don't see you both fairly snickled before I go, I'll never forgive either of you.

2. To draw *out* by means of a noose.

1865 *Sheffield Indep.* Jan., After..making a new opening into the cave, one hound was 'snickled' out with a noose over his head, after about 24 hours' imprisonment.

† **Snick or snee**, *v.* and *sb. Obs.* Also 7 **steake or snye, stick or snee, 8 snic or snee**; 7–8 **snick-or-snee.** [orig. ad. Du. *steken* (G. *stechen*) to thrust, stick, and *snijen*, *snijden* (G. *schneiden*) to cut, with subsequent assimilation of the *st-* of the first word to the *sn-* of the second.

In the first quotation the form *snye* indicates a pronunciation of *snijen* similar to that in mod. standard Du.; the later *snee* represents a variant pron. still widely current in Du. and Flem. dialects.]

1. a. As *vb.* To thrust or cut in fighting with a knife; to use a knife in this manner.

a 1613 Rowland *Four Knaves* (Percy Soc.) 31 Let falchion, polax, launce, or halbert try, With Flemings-knives either to steake or snye. 1635 Glapthorne *Hollander* I. i, It is our Countrie Custome onely to Stick or Snee. *a* 1704 T. Brown *Wks.* (1730) IV. 17 Let the dull-pated Boors Snic or snee at their Punch-Bowls, or slash for their Whores. 1704 D'Urfey *Hell beyond Hell* 55 Fish-wives whom rage does enflame To snick-or-snee at Rotterdam.

b. As *sb.* The practice of fighting with cut-and-thrust knives.

1670 in *14th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. IV. 87 [They] fell upon him with knives (one was found afterwards of the Duch fashon, for their snick or snee). 1695 Dryden *Parall. Poetry & Paint.* Ess. (Ker) II. 132 The representation of a Dutch kermis, the brutal sport of snick-or-snee. *a* 1704 T. Brown *Dial. Dead* Wks. 1711 IV. 33 The noble Combats of *Snick* or *Snee*, or some illustrious Sea-fight.

2. *transf.* Used to denote one or other of two possible alternatives or courses.

1675 Alsop *Anti-Sozzo* 324 Yet that is interpreting Scripture by the sound of words also; so that we are in a Fork, Snick or Snee; and both wayes equally undone. 1680 — *Mischief Imposit.* viii. 75 The Question now is, Snick or Snee: Turn or Starve: Conform or Hang: Use the Cross or bear the Cross. [1682 *Reply 'Mischief of Imposit.'* 6 One would guess this man has an aking tooth to be at it again, though with snick or snee, as he calls it.]

Sni·ck-snarl. Now *dial.* [f. Snarl *sb.*1, with obscure first element; cf. the common north. dial. *snock-snarl.*] A tangle, knot, twist. Also *fig.*

1649 LIGHTFOOT *Battle Wasp's Nest* Wks. I. 383, I could deduce such conclusions from these premises, that would make his opinion..run so on snicksnarles, that..he would find enough to do to unknot it again. 1675 ALSOP *Anti-Sozzo* 277 It were tedious to instance..how they run their Enemies all on Heaps, and perplex their Discourses all into Snicksnarles. 1828 CARR *Craven Gloss.*, *Snick-snarles*, the complication of thread, yarn, &c., the state of its being entangled. 1862 *Oldham Standard* 5 Apr. 2/4 (Cassell), Somebody must unravel the snick-snarls in the hank which somebody else had no more wit than to tangle. 1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal Mining* 145 *Kank*, a twist or snick-snarl in a rope.

†Snick-up[1]. *Obs. rare.* [? f. SNICK *v.*[1]] A hangman's rope; a halter.

1623 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Praise of Hempseed* 15 A Tiburne Hempen caudell well will cure you;..in Sparta it ycleped was Snickvp, which is in English Gallow grasse.

Snick-up[2]. Now *dial.* Also 9 snicoup. [Imitative: cf. LG. *snik-up* hiccup, Du. *snik* gasp, sob.] A sneeze, sneezing-fit.

1692 L'ESTRANGE *Fables* (1694) 397 If there had been but a Snick-up in the case, you'd have cry'd 'The Lord bless ye Sir'. 1879 *N. & Q.* 5th Ser. XII. 45/2 The turkeys in his neighbourhood [Essex] were dying very much this season of the 'snickups'. By this he meant a kind of sneezing fit.

Snick-up, *v.* : see SNICK *v.*[1]

Snid. *slang.* ? *Obs.* A sixpence.

1839 *Slang Dict.* 34.

Sni'ddle. *dial.* Also 5 snythill. [prob. f. the stem of OE. *sníðan* to cut: see SNITHE *v.* WFris. has *snyl* (from **snidel*) or *snile* in the same sense.] Coarse grass, rushes, or sedge.

a 1400-50 *Alexander* 4095 A dryi meere..full of gladen & of gale & of grete redis. Þan snyȝes þar, out of þat snyth hill [*read* snythill]..A burly best. 1794 WEDGE *Agric. Chester* 57 Before the cheese is brought into the rooms, the floors are mostly well littered with what the farmers here call 'sniddle'. *a* 1800 PEGGE *Suppl. Grose*, *Sniddle*, long grass; also stubble, Lanc. 1845 *Trnl. R. Agric. Soc.* VI. i. 119 The floor of the cheese-room is generally covered with ..a coarse grass resembling rushes, called 'sniddle'. 1886 HOLLAND *Chesh. Gloss.*, *Sniddle*, any kind of sedge, *Carex*.

Snide (snəid), *a.* and *sb. Cant.* Also **snyde.** [Of obscure origin.]

A. *adj.* Counterfeit, sham, bogus.

1862 *Cornh. Mag.* Nov. 652 [To] get ready for the trial, and look up the 'snyde witnesses'. 1868 *Temple Bar* XXIV. 538 *Snyde*.. means counterfeit or bad. 1893 *Advance* (Chicago) 5 Oct., When stripped of their gay apparel..the most of them were very snide religions. 1894 MASKELYNE *Sharps & Flats* 309 A holdout in the vest is more use than snide jewelry in the pocket.

B. *sb.* **1.** Counterfeit jewelry; base coin.

1885 *Lisbon* (Dakota) *Star* 27 Mar. 5 They pass by the jewels and take 'the snide', for that is all they know. 1887 *Times* 22 Dec. 14/2 Witness caught hold of Clark and said 'Bill, I think you have a little snide (base coin) on you'.

2. *Comb.*, as *snide-pitcher*, *-pitching*; *snidesman.*

1862 *Cornh. Mag.* Nov. 649 Every professional thief is considered as belonging to the branch of thieving in which he excels the most, and he is named after it:..a snyde pitcher, a magsman,..as the case may be. 1868 *Temple Bar* XXIV. 538 *Snyde-pitching* is passing bad money. 1896 A. MORRISON *Child Jago* 111 An outer fringe of such dippers—such pickpockets—as could dress well, welshers, and snidesmen.

Snider (snəi'dəɹ). [See def.] *Snider rifle*, a form of breech-loading rifle invented by Jacob Snider († 1866). Also *ellipt.* for this.

1868 *U.S. Rep. Munit. War* 32 The Snider rifle..has attracted perhaps as much attention as any breech-loader in Europe or America. 1876 VOYLE & STEVENSON *Milit. Dict.* 27/1 The Snider or converted Enfield rifle cartridge. 1890 KIPLING *Soldiers Three* (1891) 65 The good and virtuous people who hardly know a Martini from a Snider.

Snidge. Now *Lanc. dial.* Also 6 **snydge.** [var. of SNUDGE *sb.*] A greedy or miserly person.

1548 FORREST *Pleas. Poesye* 97 For suche solayne snydges [do thou] caste reformation by forfeture too the poores sustentation. 1855 J. DAVIES in *Trans. Philol. Soc.* 272 *Snidge*, a greedy, sordid person.

Sniff (snif), *sb.* [f. the vb.]

The phrase *in a sniff* 'in a moment' occurs slightly earlier in dial.: see the *Eng. Dial. Dict.*

1. An act of sniffing; a single inhalation through the nose in order to smell something, usually accompanied by a characteristic short snuffling sound; the sound made in doing this.

1767 WARTON *Oxford Newsman's V.* 34 Oh, cou'd I but have had one single sup, One single sniff at Charlotte's caudle-cup! 1798 O'KEEFFE *Wild Oats* II. i, Rain over—quite fine—I'll take a sniff of the open air too. 1833 T. HOOK *Parson's Dau.* II. i, Then he made a sort of a sniff with his nose, because he could smell the dinner. 1868 H. SPENCER *Princ. Psychol.* I. vi. (ed. 2) I. 109 When the sniffs have been continued for some time, scarcely any scent can be perceived. 1883 F. M. CRAWFORD *Dr. Claudius* i, [He] was taking his evening sniff of the Neckar breeze.

transf. 1860 MAYNE REID *Hunters' Feast* vi, It was a sort of prolonged hiss, that all except Ike believed to be the snort of the black bear. Ike..declared that it was..the 'sniff', as he termed it, of the 'painter' (cougar).

b. A smell or scent.

1844 HOOD *The Turtles* 34 All whiffs, and sniffs, and puffs and snuffs,..That, as we walk upon the river's ridge, Assault the nose.

c. Sniffing distance.

1878 STEVENSON *Inland Voy.* xx. 216 We were within sniff of Paris, it seemed.

2. An act of sniffing in order to express or show contempt, disdain, incredulity, or similar feeling.

1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. III. iii, Lambeth..is met..by nothing but Royalist *brocards*; sniffs, huffs, and open insults. 1840 DICKENS *Barn. Rudge* xli, Miss Miggs gave a great sniff to the same effect. 1884 *Manch. Exam.* 19 Dec. 5/2 A look and a sniff which express as clearly as articulate words a homely rejoinder [etc.]. 1891 'J. S. WINTER' *Lumley* xii, 'She is downstairs, and I think she's come to stop,' with a sniff of disgust.

3. An act (or habit) of clearing the nose by a short inhalation.

1860 *All Year Round* No. 75. 588 An elderly woman labouring under a chronic sniff. 1883 H. DRUMMOND in G. A. Smith *Life* (1899) viii. 188 The creature..gives vent to a tremendous sniff, as if he had just caught a severe cold in the head.

4. *U.S.* A contemptible or insignificant person.

1890 GUNTER *Miss Nobody* xii, Her mother..cries out, astounded: 'Going to marry that little sniff?'

Sniff (snif), *v.* Forms: 4-5 **snyff**, 6 **sniffe**, 8- **sniff.** [Imitative: cf. SNIFFLE *v.* and SNUFF *v.*]

1. *intr.* To draw air through the nose with short or sharp audible inhalations; to clear the nose in this way, esp. when under the influence of emotion.

c 1340 *Nominale* (Skeat) 88 Man snyffyth and snyuelith. *c* 1400 *Beryn* 39 She snyffith, sighith, and shooke hire hede, and made rouful chere. *c* 1460 J. RUSSELL *Bk. Nurture* 284 Pike not youre nose.., Snyff nor snitynge hyt to lowd lest youre soueravne hit here. 1575 TURBERV. *Faulconrie* 231 It shall be good..to skowre the head alone, and purge it with some deuise, to force hir snyte and sniffe as men do accustome to sneze. *Ibid.* 232 To discerne this disease of the head, the hawke will sniffe often. 1839 DICKENS *Nickleby* iv, The little boy beyond alternately sniffing and choking, gave no further vent to his emotions. 1885 *Manch. Exam.* 9 May 6/2 The ladies were all weeping wildly,..dozens of men were sniffing suspiciously.

2. To do this in smelling; to smell with a sniff or sniffs. Said esp. of animals.

1788 COWPER *Death of Mrs. Throckmorton's Bulfinch* 40 He [*sc.* a cat]..something in the wind Conjectur'd, sniffing round and round. 1848 DICKENS *Dombey* lv, Some dogs.. that sniffed upon the road. 1874 C. KEENE *Let.* in *Life* (1892) vii. 160 [A] little animal, always sniffing about for mice. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VII. 341 The patient in smelling sniffed with one nostril only.

fig. 1865 DICKENS *Mut. Fr.* III. xiv, If he came sneaking and sniffing about the property.

b. Const. *at.*

1792 MME. D'ARBLAY *Diary* 27 June, She..sniffed at her flowers with a sort of ecstatic eagerness. 1833 MARRYAT *P. Simple* (1863) 239 After sniffing at it two or three times, I knew it to be otto of roses. 1865 TYLOR *Early Hist. Man.* iii. 45 The Fijians, who used to salute by smelling or sniffing at one another. 1883 OLIVE SCHREINER *Story Afr. Farm* I. i, A curious old ewe came to sniff at him.

3. To show or express contempt, disdain, disparagement, incredulity, or similar feeling, by sniffing:

a. Const. *at* a person or thing.

1729 SWIFT *Grand Question* Wks. 1755 IV. I. 109 So then you look'd scornful, and snift at the dean. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. VI. iv, Camille Desmoulins, and others, sniffing at him for it. 1864 — *Fredk. Gt.* XVI. x. (1872) VI. 262 Our Shopkeepers of the Rue St. Honoré would sniff at such a lodging. 1888 *Times* 6 July 9/3 Superior persons..will doubtless sniff at the expression of opinion upon these topics by the House of Lords.

b. Without const.

1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. VI. ii, Dusky D'Espréménil does nothing but sniff and ejaculate. 1871 MRS. WHITNEY *Real Folks* xvii, She did not sniff; she was a great deal too much a lady. 1881 BESANT & RICE *Chapl. Fleet* I. 91 Mrs. Gambitt sniffed disdainfully.

4. *trans.* To take *up*, draw *in*, (air, etc.) by inhaling through the nostrils.

1796 MME. D'ARBLAY *Camilla* I. 147 Seeing he was sniffing up the *eau suave* without looking at her. 1822-7 GOOD *Study Med.* (1829) III. 189 Cold water may be sniffed up the nostrils. 1828 LADY GRANVILLE *Lett.* 29 July (1894) II. 29, I sniffed up country air, and felt better and better every mile. 1873 AGNES MATHESON in *Mem. Minister's Wife* (1881) vii. 98, I can sit and sniff in the sea-breezes.

b. Without adv.

1843 SIR C. SCUDAMORE *Med. Visit Grafenberg* 75 Head-bath twice a day; and to sniff water freely several times in the day. 1856 KANE *Arctic Explor.* II. xiii. 138 Dr. Hayes..came aft and crawled upon deck to sniff the daylight. 1870 R. BROUGH *M. Lynch* x, [He] could sniff the sea breeze through the counting-house window.

c. *fig.* or in fig. context.

1864 DK. MANCHESTER *Crt. & Soc.* I. vii. 106 Sniffing a far-off scent of battle with the restless craving of the war-horse. 1881 BESANT & RICE *Chapl. Fleet* II. x, His turn-up nose seemed so joyfully to sniff the incense of praise.

5. a. To smell (a thing).

a 1845 HOOD *Town & Country* v, For meadow-buds I get a whiff of Cheshire cheese,—or only sniff The turtle made at Cuff's. 1871 B. TAYLOR *Faust* I. iii. (1875) II. 28 The platter-licker, he sniffs the roasting.

b. *fig.* To perceive as if by smell; to smell or smell out (a plot, etc.); to suspect.

1864 C. KNIGHT *Passages Work. Life* I. iii. 175 Lord Sidmouth, as was his wont, had sniffed a plot from afar. 1873 C. M. DAVIES *Unorth. London* (1876) 43 It is not only Rome that sniffs heresy in independent thought or action. 1899 C. SCOTT *Drama of Yesterday* I. xvi. 538, I sniffed more prey.

6. To regard (something) with contempt or scorn; to sneer at.

1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. V. viii, Thus some, with up-turned nose, will altogether sniff and disdain Sansculottism.

7. To utter with a (scornful) sniff; to express by means of a sniff.

1859 MEREDITH *R. Feverel* xl, 'Are you cold?' she would ask, smiling charitably. 'I am.'..'You always appear to be,' the bosom sniffed and snapped. 1865 A. SMITH *Summer in Skye* i. 24 Fastidious Edinburgh sniffs disdain. 1870 MRS. RIDDELL *Austin Friars* iv, 'Of course you would forgive anything from her,' sniffed Melinda.

Hence **Sni'ffer**, one who sniffs (*lit.* and *fig.*).

1864 *Realm* 1 June 8 Sniffer and snorter. 1889 *Pall Mall G.* 30 Jan. 3/1 Those who are deaf and those who are sniffers.

Sniffing (sni'fiŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. SNIFF *v.*] The action of the vb.; an instance of this, a sniff.

1575 TURBERV. *Faulconrie* 231 You may rubbe..the pallate of your Hawke with the saide powder, and not feede hir after it, vntill such tyme she haue lefte snyting and sniffing. 1842 THACKERAY *Fitz-Boodle's Conf.* Wks. 1869 XXII. 229 People looking and making a strange nasal noise (it is called sniffing). 1872 HUXLEY *Physiol.* iv. 90 Sniffing is a more rapid inspiratory act, in which the mouth is kept shut, and the air made to pass through the nose. 1893 SELOUS *Trav. S. E. Africa* 421 Sometimes these sniffings were very loud.

attrib. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VII. 870 Obstructive diseases of the nose..occasion sniffing movements of the face.

Sni'ffing, *ppl. a.* [f. as prec.] That sniffs, in senses of the vb.; characterized by sniffing.

1831 CARLYLE *Sart. Res.* I. x, To him thou, with sniffing charity, wilt protrusively proffer thy hand-lamp. 1837 — *Fr. Rev.* II. I. x, What a humour the once sniffing mocking City of Paris..had got into.

Hence **Sni'ffingly** *adv.*, with a sniff (esp. of scorn or contempt).

1873 BAYNE in *Contemp. Rev.* XXI. 411 He glances at Cromwell's speeches jauntily, sniffingly, in a mood of pleasant indifference dashed by cynicism. 1893 K. GRAHAME in *National Observer* 23 Sept. 487/1 Charlotte turned away sniffingly.

Sniffle (sni'fl), *sb.*[1] [f. SNIFFLE *v.*]

1. *The sniffles*, the snuffles. Also *U.S. slang*, a fit of low spirits.

1825 JAMIESON *Suppl.*, *Sniffles*, that difficulty of breathing through the nostrils, which is caused by cold in the head. 1903 A. ADAMS *Log Cowboy* xviii. 279, I hope you won't get the sniffles and tell any [*sc.* gloomy tales].

2. An act of sniffling; a slight snivel or snuffle.

1880 MEREDITH *Trag. Com.* (1881) 195 'You have been a little weak,' the phantom said to her, and she acquiesced with a soft sniffle. 1885 MARTINEAU *Types Eth. Th.* (1886) II. I. v. 174 A curve in the nose, a colour of the hair, a sniffle in the voice.

Sni'ffle, *sb.*[2] *Weaving.* [Origin obscure.] A form of ravel or separator.

1805 J. AUSTIN in *Trans. Soc. Arts* XXIII. 242 An universal ravel or sniffle, useful at the beaming of all kinds of webs. This machine is of itself complete, and will beam from the coarsest to the finest web.

Sniffle (sni'fl), *v.* Also 9 *dial.* snifle. [Imitative: cf. G. (now dial.) *schniffeln*, † *schnifeln*, and see SNIVEL *v.*, SNUFFLE *v.*] *intr.* To snivel or snuffle slightly; to sniff. Also (with *that* and compl.), to say with a sniffle.

The vbl. sb. and ppl. a. are recorded much earlier.

1819 SCOTT *Leg. Montr.* xiv, So saying, and..sniffling a little to swallow his grief, he turned from the heart-rending spectacle. 1846 LANDOR *Imag. Conv.* Wks. 1853 II. 228/2 He does not sniffle: to my ears he speaks plain English. 1883 L. A. LAMBERT *Notes on Ingersoll* vi. 57 And yet you sniffle that He killed art.

b. *transf.* Of a breeze. (Cf. next.)

1885 RUNCIMAN *Skippers & Shellbacks* 143 About nine it began to sniffle and blow a bit.

Sniffler (sni'flə). [f. SNIFFLE *v.*]

1. A strong, smart, or brisk breeze or wind.

1768 ROSS *Helenore* 32 Wi weet an wind sae tyte into my teeth,..I gat na sik a teazle this seven year... I maun na lika day be coming here, To get sic sniffers [1789 snifters]. 1833 M. SCOTT *Tom Cringle* viii, At length the sniffler reached us, and the sharp little vessel began to speak. 1891 *Cent. Dict.*, *Sniffler*, a capful of wind.

2. One who sniffles.

1887 W. S. GILBERT *Ruddigore* II, Sniffler, snuffler, wailer, weeper.

Sniffling (sni'fliŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. SNIFFLE *v.*] Snivelling; snuffling; † canting discourse.

1653 *Clarke Papers* (Camden) III. 6 This answer not satisfying them they went to the Councell of State with another peticion, where they had much more sniffling but went away free men. 1836 HOWARD *R. Reefer* xiii, You will ..oblige me by not taking snuff..., the sniffling is abominable. 1840 THACKERAY *Catherine* ii, The tip of her nose as red as fire with sniffling and weeping. 1873 B. HARTE *Fiddletown* 13 There now—stop that sniffling.

Sni'ffling, *ppl. a.* Also 7 sniffeling, 7-8 sniffing. [f. SNIFFLE *v.*] That snivels or snuffles; characterized by sniffling.

1631 WEEVER *Anc. Funeral Mon.* 40 A snifling conuenticle or companie of proud Sectaries. 1654 GAYTON *Pleas. Notes* IV. ii. 181 Notwithstanding his sniffeling example of Amadis Du Gaull, or any other puling Knight. *a* 1796 PEGGE *Derbicisms* (E.D.S.) 123 A *sniffing* cold,..a slight running disorder in the nose. 1833 MARRYAT *P. Simple* xlvii, When you were a little spalpeen, with a sniffling nose. 1890 MRS. BARR *Friend Olivia* xiv, A pretty crowd of sniffling, sneaking varlets he has been feeding and pampering!

Sniffy (sni'fi), *a. dial.* and *colloq.* [f. SNIFF *v.*] Prone or inclined to sniff; scornful, contemptuous, disdainful; disagreeable, ill-tempered.

Sniffily and *Sniffiness* have also been used in recent periodicals, etc.

1871 C. GIBBON *Lack of Gold* XX, Her curt sniffy manner did not alter in the least. 1896 *Westm. Gaz.* 4 Dec. 2/1 When Lothair's sniffy I keep out of his way.

Snift, *sb. techn.* [f. SNIFT *v.*; cf. dial. *snift* a scent, whiff, etc.] (See quot. and SNIFTING *vbl. sb.*)

1890 *Times* 7 Aug. 10/2 The whole of the 'snift' (which is the waste in bottling aerated waters) is saved by this machine.

Snift (snift), *v.* Now chiefly *dial.* [Imitative: cf. SNIFTER *v.*, and older Da. *snifte*, *snyfte* (Da. *snøfle*), Sw. *snyfta* (MSw. *snypta*, *snöpta*).]

1. *intr.* To sniff, in various senses.

The vbl. sb. is recorded much earlier.

1703 THORESBY *Let. to Ray* (E.D.S.), *Snift*, to draw the wind smartly up the nose. 1744 DESAGULIERS *Exp. Philos.* II. xii. 474 The Air makes a Noise..like a Man snifting with a Cold. 1762 STERNE *Tr. Shandy* VI. v, He shall neither..hawk, or spit, or snift. 1801 H. F. CARY *Mem.* I. 186 With her mouth and nose drawn up on one side, and snifting through the latter, which..is the highest elevation of her mirth and gladness. 1828– in dial. glossaries and texts (N. Cy., Yks., Lancs., Leic., Northampt., Warw., etc.). *a* 1845 BARHAM *Ingoldsby Leg.* Ser. III. *Brothers of Birchington* lx, Father Richard..At once began coughing, and snifting, and sneezing. 1893 KIPLING *Many Invent.* 13 More steamers came along snorting and snifting at the buoys.

b. *fig.* (With *after* or *at*.)

1824 LANDOR *Imag. Conv., Bp. Burnet & Humphrey Hardcastle* Wks. 1853 I. 46/2 It now appears that they were still snifting and hankering after their old quarters. 1824 *Spirit Public Jrnls.* (1825) 304 He has seen 'Life', and *dum vivimus vivamus* is a motto not to be snifted at.

c. Of an engine, etc.: To blow out air or steam.

1865 SMILES *Lives Boulton & Watt* 135 The machine snifted at many openings.

2. *trans.* To draw *up* by sniffing; to sniff the smell of. *rare.*

1736 AINSWORTH I, To snift up, *mucum resorbere.* 1796 MME. D'ARBLAY *Camilla* IV. viii, I would sooner snift thy farthing candle once a day, than sustain that nasal cadence ever more.

Snifter (sni·ftəɹ), *sb.* Chiefly *Sc.* and *north. dial.* [f. the vb.]

Various other dial. senses are recorded in the *Eng. Dial. Dict.* and *Jamieson's Sc. Dict.*

1. A strong or rough breeze or wind.

1789 [see SNIFFLER 1]. 1866– in northern dial. glossaries. 1886 BRET HARTE *Snowbound* 121 This is no blizzard, but a regular two-days' snifter. 1897 F. T. BULLEN *Cruise 'Cachalot'* 350 There came a 'snifter' from the hills that caught her unprepared, making her reel again.

2. *pl.* A bad cold in the head, or the stoppage of the nostrils caused by this; the snuffles. Also, a disease of poultry (see quot. 1844). *Sc.*

1808 JAMIESON, *Snifters*, a stoppage of the nostrils from cold, which occasions frequent sniffing. 1828 MOIR *Mansie Wauch* xvii, I asked him..about..curing the sturdie, and the snifters. 1837 MRS. CARLYLE *Lett.* I. 71 The blessedness of having a head clear of snifters. *c* 1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* II. 260 The only disease [among fowls] I can remember to have seen in winter is what is vulgarly called the *snifters*, that is, a discharge of matter from the nose, which causes a noise in the nose like stifled breathing.

3. A sniff. Chiefly *dial.*

a 1835 HOGG *Good Man Alloa* xxxiii. Poems (1865) 309 The palfrey dash'd o'er the bounding wave, with snifter and with stenne. 1866– in Sc., Yks., Lancs. dial. glossaries and texts (*Eng. Dial. Dict.*). 1884 *Good Words* May 324/2 With a snifter of the nostrils he emits a dry, respiratory sound.

Snifter (sni·ftəɹ), *v.* [Imitative: cf. SNIFT *v.*] Other purely dial. senses are recorded in the *Eng. Dial. Dict.*, as, to giggle, to snow slightly, etc.

1. *intr.* To sniff, snivel, snuffle.

c 1340 *Nominale* (Skeat) 152 Man snyfterith and nose snyt. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 347/1 To Snyfter, *reumatizare, fleumaticare.* 1611 COTGR., *Brouffer*, to snurt, or snifter with the nose, like a horse. *Ibid.*, *Nifler*, to snifter, or snuffe vp sniuell; to draw it vp by drawing in the wind. 1719 RAMSAY *2nd Answ. Hamilton* xii, Gin I can snifter thro' mundungus. 1825– in Sc. and north. glossaries and texts (*Eng. Dial. Dict.*). 1835 HOGG *Tales & Sk.* V. 266, I was obliged to..snifter like a whipped boy. 1853 HICKIE tr. *Aristoph.* (1872) II. 550 He would have lain sniftering if he was a coward.

2. *trans.* With *out*: To utter (words) in a snuffling manner. *rare.*

1880 W. GRANT *Christ our Hope*, etc. p. xx, He is indeed a forcible speaker, sniftering out his words with the quaintest, queerest accent.

Hence **Sni·fterer**; **Sni·ftering** *ppl. a.*

1790 A. WILSON *Rabby's Mistake* Poems 1876 II. 41 Nae sniftering dog had he, I wat, To air't him to the lanely spat Whare ony creature lay. *a* 1800 PEGGE *Suppl. Grose, Sniftering* fellow; a shuffling sneaking fellow. Lanc. 1855 [ROBINSON] *Whitby Gloss., Snifte*,..to have the habit of puffing in audible successions through the nostrils, as a 'snifterer'.

Sni·fting, *vbl. sb.* [f. SNIFT *v.*] **a.** The action of sniffing; also *attrib.* **b.** (See quot. 1890 and SNIFT *sb.*)

c 1430 *Freemasonry* (Halliw. 1840) 36 From spyttynge and snyftynge kepe the also. 1755 JOHNSON, *Snuff*,..resentment expressed by snifting. 1849 CRAIG s.v. *Snift*, The snifting noise made by the air in making its escape. 1890 *Star* 5 Nov. 4/1 There is no necessity for what under the ordinary system is called 'snifting'—the process by which the air in the bottles is allowed to escape.

Sni·fting, *ppl. a.* [f. SNIFT *v.*] *Snifting valve*, a valve through which air may be expelled from the cylinder of a condensing steam-engine. So † *snifting clack*, *pipe.*

(*a*) 1744 DESAGULIERS *Exp. Philos.* II. 474 This is call'd the Snifting Clack, because the Air makes a Noise every time it blows thro' it, like a Man snifting with a Cold. 1812 SMEATON *Rep.* I. 227 The steam, finding a passage at the snifting clack..blows out thereat. [1873 EVERS *Steam & Steam Eng.* iii. 50 A valve to preserve the vacuum, which valve, from the peculiar noise it made, was called the snifting valve, or snifting clack.]

(*b*) 1759 H. WOOD *Pat. Specif.* No. 739. 2 If the hot air be driven into the cylinder with a force superior to the pressure of the atmosphere, that force will drive out the condensed air through what is now called the snifting pipe.

(*c*) 1822 J. ROBISON *Syst. Mech. Phil.* II. 61 The steam from the boiler will immediately rush in, and..will force the air to issue by the snifting-valve. 1846 A. YOUNG *Naut. Dict.* 302 The tail-valve, or snifting-valve, is at the opposite side of the air-pump from the condenser. 1878 THURSTON *Growth of Steam-Eng.* 138 A snifting-valve, *k*, opens when the engine is blown through.

† **Sni·fty,** *sb. Sc. Obs.*[−1] [f. SNIFT *v.* Cf. SNIFF *sb.* 4.] An insignificant person.

1660 BAILLIE *Lett.* (1842) III. 412 To..be accounted poor feckless snifties, who has no witt nor action to end what he has so magnificentlie begun.

Snifty (sni·fti), *a. U.S. slang.* [f. SNIFT *v.*] Having a pleasant or agreeable smell.

1891 in *Cent. Dict.*

Snig (snig), *sb.*[1] 'Also 5–6 snygge, 6, 8–9 snigg. [Of obscure origin.]

1. A young or small eel; a grig. In later use a distinct species of eel (see quots.).

1483 *Cath. Angl.* 347/1 A Snygge, *vbi* a ele. 1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 118/44 A Snig, *anguillæ genus.* 1586–7 *Shuttleworths' Acc.* (Chetham Soc.) 35 Syxtene snygges, ij^{s} ij^{d}. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* IX. li, Those scrapings (as it were) which are fretted from them [*sc.* eels]; in time come to take life, and prove snigs. 1664 H. POWER *Exp. Philos.* I. 32 Eels in Vinegar..appear like small Silver-Eells, or little Snigs. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* II. 325/1. An Eel, first a Fausen, then a Grigg, or Snigg, then a Scaffling, then a little Eel [etc.]. *c* 1746 COLLIER (Tim Bobbin) *View Lanc. Dial.* (1775) 43, I feel hoose os fat os o Snig. 1781– in dial. glossaries (N. Cy., Lanc., Chesh., Warw., Wilts., Hants., etc.). 1836 YARRELL *Brit. Fishes* II. 302 The Hampshire Snig differs from our other Eels in its habit of roving and feeding during the day. 1863 H. C. PENNELL *Angler-Naturalist* 400 The Snig, or Medium-nosed Eel (*Anguilla mediorostris*). 1883 G. C. DAVIES *Norfolk Broads* xxxi. (1884) 242 The grig or snig, a yellowish eel with a projecting under-lip.

fig. 1581 J. BELL *Haddon's Answ. Osorius* 384 b, This heroycall Gyant..despising and loathing these small snigges of Babish Haddon.

2. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *snig-eel*, *-pie*, *-pot*, etc.

Other examples are given in the *Eng. Dial. Dict.*

1836 YARRELL *Brit. Fishes* II. 301 *Anguilla mediorostris*, Snig Eel. 1861 WAUGH *Rambles Lake Cy.* 24 They'd etten so mich snig-pie..that [etc.]. 1865 G. F. BERKELEY *Life & Recoll.* II. 316, I was looking at some snig-pots..in my fishery. 1883 DAY *Fishes Gt. Brit.* II. 242 Sharp-nosed-eel, Dublin-eel, Broad-nosed-eel, Snig-eel.

† **Snig,** *sb.*[2] *Obs.*[−1] [Cf. SNIG *v.*, and NIG *sb.*[1]] A covetous or avaricious person.

1629 GAULE *Holy Madnesse* 322 A Couetous Man..hath more Names, than euer he was christend with. The Best call him no better, than you would call a Wretch;..Cark, Snig, Gripe, Sharke [etc.].

† **Snig,** *sb.*[3] *Obs. rare.* [? Dim. of SNAG *sb.*[1]] A slight projection or process.

1649 J. BULWER *Pathomyot.* II. i. 59 The other [muscle] ariseth from the Snig of the seventh Vertebre of the Neck. *Ibid.*, The knob of the first vertebre of the Neck, which holds Analogy with the Snigs of the other vertebres of the Back.

† **Snig,** *v. Obs.*[−1] (Sense not quite clear: cf. SNIG *sb.*[2])

1642 D. ROGERS *Naaman* 211 Others are so dangerously worldly, snigging and biting, usurers, hard and oppressing.

Snigger (sni·gəɹ), *sb.*[1] [f. SNIGGER *v.*[1] Cf. SNICKER *sb.*[1]] An act of sniggering; a slight or half-suppressed laugh; a snicker.

1823 BEE *Dict. Turf* 162 *Snigger*, ill-suppressed laughter. 1830 *Examiner* 677/2 He appeared to have a constant snigger lurking under his frown. 1855 J. H. NEWMAN *Callista* (1890) 64 Juba..indulged himself from time to time in an inward laugh or snigger. 1882 'F. ANSTEY' *Vice Versa* vi. 127 Suspecting that the faint sniggers he heard were indulged in at his own expense.

fig. 1865 CARLYLE *Fredk. Gt.* XX. v. (1872) IX. 77 Ages.. which have lost their mirth, and become all one snigger of mock-mirth.

Sni·gger, *sb.*[2] *local.* [f. SNIGGER *v.*[2]] A kind of grapple used by salmon poachers.

1901 *Scotsman* 29 March 7/1 Labourers..poached for salmon on the Don..by means of sniggers.

Snigger (sni·gəɹ), *v.*[1] [Imitative: cf. SNICKER *v.*]

1. *intr.* To laugh in a half-suppressed, light or covert manner; to snicker.

1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), To *Snicker* or *Snigger.* 1728 MORGAN *Hist. Algiers* I. 188 This, and other such Jokes, set most of the Assembly a sniggering. 1771 MME. D'ARBLAY *Early Diary* July, Mr. Featherstone enjoyed it prodigiously, sniggering and joking. 1822 SCOTT *Nigel* iii, So they let me go, and rode a' sniggering, laughing, and rounding in ilk ither's lugs. 1867 CARLYLE *Reminis.* (1881) II. 15 He never laughed loud, and indeed oftener sniggered slightly than laughed in any way. 1887 JESSOPP *Arcady* iv. 112 They snigger and grin sometimes, and then turn away as if ashamed of themselves.

fig. 1894 MRS. OLIPHANT *Hist. Sk. Q. Anne* vii. 364 The younger world..still sniggers in its sleeve [etc.].

b. Const. *at* or *over.*

1847 ALB. SMITH *Chr. Tadpole* xxxiii, Fools, sniggering at you because they won't understand what you mean. 1859 THACKERAY *Virginians* lxxviii, She..sniggered over the faults of the self-styled righteous with uncommon satisfaction. 1887 JEFFERIES *Amaryllis* xiv, He kind of sniggered in a foolish way at Amaryllis. 1899 *Q. Rev.* Apr. 487 Norwich has ceased to snigger over the youthful indiscretions of George Borrow.

c. *dial.* (See quots.)

1823 E. MOOR *Suffolk Words, Snigger, Sniggeren*, exulting, boasting, jeering. *a* 1825 FORBY *Voc. E. Anglia, Snigger*, to sneer ill-naturedly.

2. *trans.* To utter with a snigger.

1857 KINGSLEY *Two Y. Ago* I. 96 'Don't you wish yours was, Doctor?' 'Eh, eh, eh,' sniggered Heale. 1905 P. WHITE *Patient Man* xiv, 'Then he has the oddest way of keeping it,' sniggered Mrs. Archie.

Sni·gger, *v.*[2] *local.* [Of obscure origin: cf. SNIGGLE *v.*[1]] *trans.* To catch (salmon) by means of weighted hooks.

1886 *Fishing Gaz.* 30 Jan. 58/1 In the way of grappling—or sniggering, as it is more politely termed—i. e., dragging the river with huge grapples and lead attached for the purpose of keeping them to the bottom of the pool. 1898 *Scotsman* 19 Nov. 6 The bailiffs..said they had no doubt, from the position and movements of the accused and his companions.., that they were 'sniggering' salmon.

Sniggerer (sni·gərəɹ). [f. SNIGGER *v.*[1]] One who sniggers or laughs covertly.

1860 DICKENS in *All Year Round* 5 May 87 The sniggerers tempt him to secular thoughts of marbles. 1901 G. DOUGLAS *Ho. w. Green Shutters* 182 Gourlay ceased to care a rap for the sniggerers.

Sniggering (sni·gəriŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. SNIGGER *v.*[1]] The action of the vb.; half-suppressed laughter.

1775 ASH *Dict.*, *Sniggering*,..a silly kind of laugh. 1779 MME. D'ARBLAY *Diary* Oct., I..had been obliged to turn my head another way, that my sniggering might not sooner make him see his mistake. 1823 [see SNIGGER *v.*[1] 1 c]. 1865 *Sat. Rev.* 4 Mar. 245 The sniggering of everybody around one over indecorous inuendos. 1876 FREEMAN in Stephens *Life* (1895) II. viii. 144 The sniggering only shows what a move it was.

Sni·ggering, *ppl. a.* [f. as prec.]

1. Of the nature of, accompanied or characterized by, a snigger or sniggers.

1793 in W. Roberts *Looker-on* No. 54 (1794) II. 312 Hip here, jade, and bring with thee Jokes and sniggering jollity. 1876 *World* V. 21 The writer's innuendoes and sniggering asides..are coarse and disgusting. 1882 BESANT *All Sorts* 44 You saw his sniggerin', sneerin' way with me.

2. That sniggers; snickering.

1815 *Sporting Mag.* XLVI. 68 No doubt there is plenty of gaping and sniggering fools who will say [etc.]. 1860 DICKENS in *All Year Round* 5 May 87/1 The aunt and nephew in this City church are much disturbed by the sniggering boys. 1887 HALL CAINE *Deemster* x, He had almost lifted his hand to fell the sniggering waistrel.

Hence **Sni·ggeringly** *adv.*

1886 JEROME *Idle Th.* 141 Glancing round with an imbecile smile, you sniggeringly observe that [etc.].

'Sniggers, *int.* ? *Obs.* [Cf. 'SNIGS and NIGS.] A form of minced oath.

1633 ROWLEY *Match at Midn.* I. i, Sniggers! what does the devil and a saint both in a sign? 1749 SMOLLETT *Gil Blas* I. xvii. P 3 Odd 'sniggers! this smells strong of intrigues! 1836 HALIBURTON *Clockm.* Ser. I. xxi, I sniggers if you didn't frighten us properly.

Snigger snee, variant of SNICKERSNEE *v.*

Sni·gging, *vbl. sb. techn.* (See quot.)

1892 *Labour Commission Gloss., Snigging*, term used in the hosiery industry to describe cases in which the thread is partly cut and escapes the notice of the menders.

Sniggle (sni·g'l), *sb.*[1] [f. SNIGGLE *v.*[1]] A baited hook or other device used in sniggling for eels, etc.

1837 HOOD *Ode to Dr. Hahnemann* iii, When Anhalt-Coethen babies wriggle, Like eels just caught by sniggle. 1848 [W. F. CAMPBELL] *Life in Normandy* (1863) I. 183 There may be one [lobster there] now. I will make the girl try, if she has brought her sniggle with her. *Ibid.* 184 He saw that she had a sniggle stick stuck into the string of her petticoat.

Sniggle (sni·g'l), *sb.*[2] [f. SNIGGLE *v.*[2]] A snigger or snicker.

1852 MRS. STOWE *Uncle Tom's C.* viii. 54 Marks patronised his joke by a quiet introductory sniggle. 1887 RIDER HAGGARD *Jess* xxxii, A fierce sound—half sniggle, half laugh.

Sni·ggle, *sb.*[3] *dial.* [Dim. of SNIG *sb.*[1]] A snig or small eel.

1863 WISE *New Forest* xii. 125 The Avon flows close by, famous for a peculiar eel, locally called the 'sniggle' (*anguilla mediorostris*). 1879–83 in dial. glossaries (Hants., Shrops.).

Sniggle (sni·g'l), *v.*[1] [See SNIGGLING *vbl. sb.*] Fletcher's *Thierry & Theod.* II. ii. 'I haue snigled him' is cited by Todd and later Dicts. as an early example of this verb; but the correct reading is doubtless 'singled' (cf. SINGLE *v.* 2 and 3).

1. a. *intr.* To fish *for* eels by the method known as sniggling.

1671 SKINNER *Etymol. Ling. Angl.*, To Sniggle, *vox Piscatoribus satis nota.* 1775 ASH, *Sniggle*, to fish for eels by putting a bait to the holes in which they conceal themselves. 1799 G. SMITH *Laboratory* II. 275 How to sniggle for Eels. 1833 *Bowlker's Art of Angling* 96 To sniggle for Eels procure a strong top rod, or a long hazel stick [etc.]. 1867 BURNARD *Happy Thoughts* iii. 17, I ask 'Sniggle for chub?' He..answers, 'No, sniggle for eels'.

b. *trans.* To fish for, catch, pull out (an eel or eels) in this way.

1844 BADHAM *Prose Halieutics* 390 As wily anglers sniggling eels The approved device employ. 1867 F. FRANCIS *Angling* iii. (1880) 89 Sniggling an old eel out of his hole.. is not altogether unamusing.

2. *trans.* To catch (fish) by means of striking a hook into them.

1834 MEDWIN *Angler in Wales* II. 197 Charters has since sniggled abundance of trout. 1894 *Sat. Rev.* 6 Jan. 15/1 These noble salmon, netted, speared, sniggled, very likely.

A NEW ENGLISH DICTIONARY ON HISTORICAL PRINCIPLES.

LIBRARY OF THE BOMBAY BRANCH OF THE ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY

(VOLUME IX. FIRST HALF. SI—ST.)

SNIGGLE—SORROW.

BY

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PREFATORY NOTE.

THIS double section contains 1688 Main words, 237 Special Combinations explained under these, 808 Obvious Combinations, and 351 Subordinate entries; in all 3084 words. Of the Main words, 364 are marked † as obsolete, and 70 are marked ‖ as alien or not fully naturalized.

Comparison with Johnson's and some recent Dictionaries gives the following figures:—

	Johnson.	Cassell's 'Encyclopædic'.	'Century' Dict.	Funk's 'Standard'.	Here.
Words recorded	251	1065	1349	1329	3084
Words illustrated by quotations	209	427	534	173	2736
Number of quotations	813	661	1380	228	17,706

The number of quotations in the corresponding portion of Richardson is 707.

This portion of the Dictionary comprises the second half of the words beginning with SN-, and about three-fourths of those beginning with So-. Up to the end of SN- the vocabulary is either of English origin or derived from the languages most closely related to it. Of the older native words the most important is *snow* sb.[1] with its many combinations, occupying altogether 17 columns. Such words as *snip, snivel, snore, snort, snot, snuff, snuffle* make their appearance at various dates and some of them have probably been adopted from the Continent. To these may be added *snow* sb.[2] from Dutch, and *snipe, snuff,* from Scandinavian. *Snob* sb.[1] and *snooze* appear first as slang terms of the 18th century, and the history of the former is of some interest.

In So- the native words still hold a prominent place, but are rivalled in number and extent by those of Romanic origin. Among those which go back to Old English are *so, soak, soap, soft, some, son, song, soon, sooth, soothe, sore, sorrow,* and some of these have many derivatives and compounds attached to them. The group *soc, socage, soke, sokeman, soken,* has considerable historical interest; the disappearance and revival of *sooth,* and the sense-development of *soothe,* are also noteworthy. *Sob,* which first appears in early Middle English, has no obvious cognates; a peculiar use of the noun by Shakspere proves to have been a technical term of horsemanship.

From Gaelic come the Sc. *sonse,* whence the more widely-used adj. *sonsy,* and the verb *sorn*; the fuller form *sorren* occurs as a sb. in older Sc. and in Irish use.

The French element is so extensive that only some of the more important words can be mentioned. Among those which are most distinctively French in form or origin are *soar, sobriquet, sock* (of a plough), *socket, soil, sojourn, sombre, somersault, sorcerer, sorcery,* and *sorrel.* The variations of older French and English spelling are well illustrated in the numerous forms of *soldan, solder,* and *soldier*; the last of these has been spelled in at least 70 different ways. In a large number of words, whether adopted through French or directly, the Latin origin is obvious, as *sober, social, society, solace, solar, sole, solemn, solicit, solid, soliloquy, solitary,* etc. Among recent formations from Latin stems the most interesting are *socialism, socialist,* and *solidarity.*

Italian is represented by the musical terms *solfeggio, solo, soprano,* as well as by *solfatara* and *sorgho,* more commonly Latinized as *sorghum*; the forms *socle, soffit,* and *sonnet* have passed through French.

In addition to various scientific terms (chiefly from *sōlēn* and *sōma*), Greek has contributed *solecism, solecize,* etc., and *sophism, sophist,* etc., whence *sophisticate* and *sophistication. Sophister* and *sophomore* have interesting academical associations.

Among the few Oriental words the most important are *sofa* and *Sophy.*

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS, SIGNS, &c.

a. [in Etymol.] ... = adoption of, adopted from.
a (as *a* 1300) ..... = *ante*, before.
a., adj., adj..... = adjective.
absol., absol. ..... = absolutely.
abst. ..... = abstract.
acc. ..... = accusative.
ad. [in Etymol.]... = adaptation of.
adv., adv. ..... = adverb.
advb. ..... = adverbial, -ly.
AF., AFr. ..... = Anglo-French.
Anat. ..... = in Anatomy.
Antiq. ..... = in Antiquities.
aphet. ..... = aphetic, aphetized.
app. ..... = apparently.
Arab. ..... = Arabic.
Arch. ..... = in Architecture.
arch. ..... = archaic.
Archæol. ..... = in Archæology.
assoc. ..... = association.
Astr. ..... = in Astronomy.
Astrol. ..... = in Astrology.
attrib. ..... = attributive, -ly.
bef. ..... = before.
Biol. ..... = in Biology.
Boh. ..... = Bohemian.
Bot. ..... = in Botany.
Build. ..... = in Building.
c (as *c* 1300) ..... = *circa*, about.
c. (as 13th c.)..... = century.
Cat. ..... = Catalan.
catachr. ..... = catachrestically.
Cf., cf. ..... = *confer*, compare.
Chem. ..... = in Chemistry.
cl. L. ..... = classical Latin.
cogn. w. ..... = cognate with.
collect. ..... = collective, -ly.
colloq. ..... = colloquially.
comb. ..... = combined, -ing.
Comb. ..... = Combinations.
Comm. ..... = in commercial usage.
comp. ..... = compound, composition.
compl. ..... = complement.
Conch. ..... = in Conchology
concr. ..... = concretely.
conj. ..... = conjunction.
cons. ..... = consonant.
Const., *Const.* ... = Construction, construed with.
Cryst. ..... = in Crystallography.
(D.) ..... = in Davies (Supp. Eng. Glossary).
Da. ..... = Danish.
dat. ..... = dative.
def. ..... = definite.
deriv. ..... = derivative, -ation.
dial., *dial.* ..... = dialect, -al.
Dict. ..... = Dictionary.
dim. ..... = diminutive.
Du. ..... = Dutch.
Eccl. ..... = in ecclesiastical usage.
ellipt. ..... = elliptical, -ly.
e. midl. ..... = east midland (dialect).
Eng. ..... = English.
Ent. ..... = in Entomology.
erron. ..... = erroneous, -ly.
esp., esp. ..... = especially.
etym. ..... = etymology.
euphem. ..... = euphemistically.
exc. ..... = except.
f. [in Etymol.] ... = formed on.
f. (in subordinate entries) ..... = form of.
fem. (*rarely* f.) ... = feminine.
fig. ..... = figurative, -ly.
F., Fr. ..... = French.
freq. ..... = frequently.
Fris. ..... = Frisian.
G., Ger. ..... = German.
Gael. ..... = Gaelic.
gen. ..... = genitive.
gen. ..... = general, -ly.
gen. sign. ..... = general signification.
Geol. ..... = in Geology.
Geom. ..... = in Geometry.
Goth. ..... = Gothic (= Mœso-Gothic).
Gr. ..... = Greek.
Gram. ..... = in Grammar.
Heb. ..... = Hebrew.
Her. ..... = in Heraldry.
Herb. ..... = with herbalists.
Hort. ..... = in Horticulture.
imp. ..... = Imperative.
impers. ..... = impersonal.
impf. ..... = imperfect.
ind. ..... = Indicative.
indef. ..... = indefinite.
inf. ..... = Infinitive.
infl. ..... = influenced.
int. ..... = interjection.
intr. ..... = intransitive.
It. ..... = Italian.
J., (J.) ..... = Johnson (quotation from).
(Jam.)..... = in Jamieson, Scottish Dict.
(Jod.)..... = Jodrell (quoted from).
L. ..... = Latin.
(L.)(in quotations) = Latham's edn. of Todd's [Johnson.
lang. ..... = language.
LG. ..... = Low German.
lit. ..... = literal, -ly.
Lith. ..... = Lithuanian.
LXX. ..... = Septuagint.
Mal. ..... = Malay.
masc. (*rarely* m.) = masculine.
Math. ..... = in Mathematics.
ME. ..... = Middle English.
Med. ..... = in Medicine.
med.L. ..... = mediæval Latin.
Mech. ..... = in Mechanics.
Metaph. ..... = in Metaphysics.
MHG. ..... = Middle High German.
midl. ..... = midland (dialect).
Mil. ..... = in military usage.
Min. ..... = in Mineralogy.
mod. ..... = modern.
Mus. ..... = in Music.
(N.) ..... = Nares (quoted from).
n. of action..... = noun of action.
n. of agent ..... = noun of agent.
Nat. Hist. ..... = in Natural History.
Naut. ..... = in nautical language.
neut. (*rarely* n.) = neuter.
NF., NFr. ..... = Northern French.
N. O. ..... = Natural Order.
nom. ..... = nominative.
north. ..... = northern (dialect).
N. T. ..... = New Testament.
Numism. ..... = in Numismatics.
obj. ..... = object.
Obs., obs., obs. ... = obsolete.
occas. ..... = occasional, -ly.
OE. ..... = Old English (= Anglo-Saxon).
OF., OFr. ..... = Old French.
OFris. ..... = Old Frisian.
OHG. ..... = Old High German.
OIr. ..... = Old Irish.
ON. ..... = Old Norse (Old Icelandic).
ONF. ..... = Old Northern French.
Opt. ..... = in Optics.
Ornith. ..... = in Ornithology.
OS. ..... = Old Saxon.
OSl. ..... = Old Slavonic.
O. T. ..... = Old Testament.
OTeut. ..... = Original Teutonic.
orig. ..... = original, -ly.
Palæont. ..... = in Palæontology.
pa. pple. ..... = passive or past participle.
pass. ..... = passive, -ly.
pa. t. ..... = past tense.
Path. ..... = in Pathology.
perh. ..... = perhaps.
Pers. ..... = Persian.
pers. ..... = person, -al.
pf. ..... = perfect.
Pg. ..... = Portuguese.
Philol. ..... = in Philology.
phonet. ..... = phonetic, -ally.
phr. ..... = phrase.
Phren. ..... = in Phrenology.
Phys. ..... = in Physiology.
pl., *pl.* ..... = plural.
poet. ..... = poetic.
pop. ..... = popular, -ly.
ppl. a., ppl. adj.... = participial adjective.
pple. ..... = participle.
Pr. ..... = Provençal.
prec. ..... = preceding (word or article).
pref. ..... = prefix.
prep. ..... = preposition.
pres. ..... = present.
Prim. sign. ..... = Primary signification.
priv. ..... = privative.
prob. ..... = probably.
pron. ..... = pronoun.
pronunc. ..... = pronunciation.
prop. ..... = properly.
Pros. ..... = in Prosody.
pr. pple. ..... = present participle.
Psych. ..... = in Psychology.
q.v. ..... = *quod vide*, which see.
(R.) ..... = in Richardson's Dict.
R. C. Ch. ..... = Roman Catholic Church.
refash. ..... = refashioned, -ing.
refl., refl. ..... = reflexive.
reg. ..... = regular.
repr. ..... = representative, representing.
Rhet. ..... = in Rhetoric.
Rom. ..... = Romanic, Romance.
sb., *sb.* ..... = substantive.
Sc. ..... = Scotch.
sc. ..... = *scilicet*, understand or supply.
sing. ..... = singular.
Skr. ..... = Sanskrit.
Slav. ..... = Slavonic.
Sp. ..... = Spanish.
sp. ..... = spelling.
spec. ..... = specifically.
subj. ..... = subject, subjunctive.
subord. cl. ..... = subordinate clause.
subseq. ..... = subsequently.
subst. ..... = substantively.
suff. ..... = suffix.
superl. ..... = superlative.
Surg. ..... = in Surgery.
Sw. ..... = Swedish.
s.w. ..... = south western (dialect).
T. (T.) ..... = in Todd's Johnson.
techn. ..... = technical, -ly.
Theol. ..... = in Theology.
tr. ..... = translation of.
trans. ..... = transitive.
transf. ..... = transferred sense.
Trig. ..... = in Trigonometry.
Typog. ..... = in Typography.
ult. ..... = ultimate, -ly.
unkn. ..... = unknown.
U.S. ..... = United States.
v., vb. ..... = verb.
v. str., or *w.* ..... = verb strong, or weak.
vbl. sb. ..... = verbal substantive.
var. ..... = variant of.
wd. ..... = word.
WGer. ..... = West Germanic.
w.midl. ..... = west midland (dialect).
WS. ..... = West Saxon.
(Y.)..... = in Col. Yule's Glossary.
Zool. ..... = in Zoology.

Before a word or sense.
† = obsolete.
‖ = not naturalized.

In the quotations.
* sometimes points out the word illustrated.

In the list of Forms.
1 = before 1100.
2 = 12th c. (1100 to 1200).
3 = 13th c. (1200 to 1300).
5–7 = 15th to 17th century. (See General Explanations, Vol. I, p. xx.)

In the Etymol.
* indicates a word or form not actually found, but of which the existence is inferred.
:— = extant representative, or regular phonetic descendant of.

The printing of a word in SMALL CAPITALS indicates that further information will be found under the word so referred to.

Hence **Sni·ggled** *ppl. a.*

1844 TUPPER *Crock of G.* xlvi. 294 He wriggled like a sniggled eel.

Sniggle (sni·g'l), *v.*[2] [Imitative.] *intr.* To snigger or snicker.

1815 SCOTT *Guy M.* liii, As for the Dominie,..he looked at Lucy—he whimpered—he sniggled—he grinned. 1840 C. BRONTE in Mrs. Gaskell *Life* (1857) I. 215 [The preacher] did not whine; he did not sniggle. 1889 GUNTER *That Frenchman* vi, At which flattery the other sniggles and calls him a wit.

Hence **Sni·ggling** *ppl. a.*

1826 SCOTT *Woodst.* xii, Wildrake laughed without ceremony,..and was joined by a sniggling response from behind the cupboard.

Sni·ggle, *v.*[3] *dial.* or *colloq.* [Of doubtful origin. Cf. Norw. *snygla* to sponge, beg.]

1. *intr.* **a.** (See quot. 1837). **b.** To wriggle, crawl, creep stealthily.

1837 J. F. PALMER *Gloss. Devon Dialogue, To Sniggle,* (at taw) to shuffle the hand forwards in an unfair manner; *Unde* Sniggler. 1881 *Leicestersh. Gloss.* 247 *Sniggle,*..to wriggle away. 1900 FLORA A. STEEL *Hosts of the Lord* xxiii, There's a brute trying to sniggle along the wall.

2. *trans.* To get (a thing) *in* surreptitiously.

1881 *Oxfordsh. Gloss.* 98 *Sniggle in,* to get anything in an underhand manner. 1900 POLLOK & THOM *Sports Burma* vi. 190, I calculated that if I were successful in my application I could sniggle in those two days as well.

Sniggler[1] (sni·glə(r)). [f. SNIGGLE *v.*[1]] One who fishes for or catches eels or salmon by sniggling.

1840 J. T. HEWLETT *P. Priggins* i, Like an eel in a wall, politely declining a sniggler's offer of a lobworm. 1864 *Q. Rev.* CXV. 186 Towards evening the juvenile sniggler knows that he has the best chance of success. 1890 *Daily News* 6 Nov. 5/1 The truth is that the apparent sportsmen are snigglers, not anglers.

Sni·ggler[2]. [f. SNIGGLE *v.*[2]] A sniggerer.

1876 ROBINSON *Whitby Gloss., Sniggler,* a derider. 1886 in ELWORTHY *W. Somerset Wordbk.*

Sni·ggler[3]. [f. SNIGGLE *v.*[3]] One who plays in a manner not quite fair or correct.

1837 (see SNIGGLE *v.*[3] 1). 1887 BLACK *Sabina Zembra* i, It has been affirmed..that the pool-players..break out into mild revelry; that derisive cheers overwhelm the 'sniggler'.

Sniggling (sni·gliŋ), *vbl. sb.* [? Related to SNIG *sb.*[1]]

1. The action or practice of fishing for eels by means of a baited hook or needle thrust into their holes or haunts.

1661 WALTON *Angler* xiii. (ed. 3) 193 Because you..know not what *snigling* is, I will now teach it to you..: take a strong small hook tied to a strong line.., and then into one of these holes,..or any place where you think an Eele may hide or shelter her self, there with the help of a short stick put in your Bait. 1669 WORLIDGE *Syst. Agric.* (1681) 260 Eels commonly abscond themselves under stones.., and under Timber, Planks, or such-like..., where you may take them by this way of Snigling. 1740 R. BROOKES *Art of Angling* I. xl. 85 Snigling or Brogling for Eels is another remarkable Method of taking them. 1787 BEST *Angling* (ed. 2) 55 There are two ways to take them in the day time called sniggling and bobbing. 1856 'STONEHENGE' *Brit. Rural Sports* 258 Sniggling is another mode of taking eels,..and the apparatus consists in a strong needle [etc.]. 1885 *Sat. Rev.* 21 Nov. 673/1 'Sniggling'..is one of the most favourite ways of catching eels.

attrib. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 103/1 A Snigleing, or Prokeing Stick, is a forked stick, and a short long Line with a Needle Bated with a Lob Worm. It is only for Eels in their holes. 1867 F. FRANCIS *Angling* iii. (1880) 91 A sniggling stick or rod.

2. In salmon-fishing (see quots.).

1890 *Scottish Leader* 20 Nov. 5 'Sniggling,' means fishing with rod and line and artificial fly, but the hook is made to sink in the water where fish are supposed to be, and the rod so jerked that they are hooked and quickly landed. 1891 *Ibid.* 13 Nov. 4 'Sniggling'..is a mode of fishing by which the hook takes the fish, and not the fish the hook.

Snight, obs. f. SNITE (the snipe).

†'Snigs, *int. Obs.* An abbrev. of *God's nigs* (see GOD *sb.* 14 b and cf. NIGS), used as a minced oath. Cf. 'SNIGGERS.

a 1643 CARTWRIGHT *Ordinary* III. ii, 'Snigs, another! *Ibid.* IV. i, 'Snigs, I would fain now hear some fighting news. 1675 COTTON *Burlesque upon B.* 72 S'nigs, well remembred! I'le be gone.

† Snigsnarl, obs. var. SNICK-SNARL.

1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 288/2 The Yarn..is..tied up with a Lay Band, to keep it from ravalling or running into Snigsnarles or Knotted up.

Snik-a-snee, variant of SNICK-A-SNEE.

† Snike, *v. Obs.* [OE. *snícan,* prob. related to ON. *snikja* (Da. *snige*) to sneak.] *intr.* Of reptiles: To creep, crawl.

c 897 K. ÆLFRED tr. *Gregory's Past.* 311 On ðinre wambe & on ðinum breostum ðu scealt snican. *c* 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* III. 34 Wyrm com snican. *a* 1240 *Sawles Warde* in *O. E. Hom.* I. 251 Þe laðe helle wurmes, tadden ant froggen, þe.., snikeð in ant ut.

Snikker-snee, obs. form of SNICKERSNEE.

† Snilch, *v. Cant. Obs.* (See quots.)

1676 COLES, *Snilches,* sees or eyes you. *a* 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew, Snitch,* to Eye or See any Body.

Snip (snip), *sb.* Also 6–8 **snippe,** 6 **snypp,** 7 **snipp.** [Related to SNIP *v.*, and in some senses perh. directly of LG. origin: cf. LG. *snip* (G. dial. *schnipf, schnipp*) and *snippe* a small piece, etc., Du. and Fris. *snip* a snappish girl or woman.]

I. 1. A small piece or slip, esp. of cloth, cut off or out; a shred.

1558 in Feuillerat *Revels Q. Eliz.* (1908) 27 In to Iagges and Snippes for defacinge of torche bearers. 1606 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. iv. 1. *Tropheis* 1103 Her lips two snips of crimsin Sattin are. *c* 1620 MORYSON *Itin.* IV. 489 To weare a litle snipp of yellowe lace vpon the left syde of their Clokes. 1691 T. H[ALE] *Acc. New Invent.* 95 Cut a snip from the thickest and thinnest part. 1756 *Connoisseur* No. 115 ¶ 7 A snip of hair, or the portrait of a cherry-cheeked gentleman,..are the only remaining proofs of those beauties. 1787 COWPER *Let.* 10 Dec., I thank you for your snip of cloth commonly called a pattern. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. VI. viii, Patriotism has torn their red coats into snips. 1849 ALB. SMITH *Pottleton Legacy* (1854) 24 Snips of the metal used in packing tea. 1864 CARLYLE *Fredk. Gt.* IV. 542 A snip of paper.

b. *transf.* or *fig.* (Freq. in Fuller.)

1650 FULLER *Pisgah* 370 No snip, or shred of empty space cut off from the squareness of the Oracle. *a* 1661 — *Worthies* (1840) III. 391 Yorkshire hath..Lancashire and a snip of Cheshire on the west. 1682 WHELER *Journ. Greece* III. 280 There might be some Mediterranean Snip of Land, running down between Ionia and Lydia.

† c. *spec.* Of glass: (see quot.). *Obs.*

1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 385/2 A Snip, is the upper halfe, and sometymes a quarter or lesse of a Quarry, Three Snips goes for a quarry.

2. A white or light mark, patch, or spot on a horse, esp. on the nose or lip.

Cf. G. dial. *schnippe* a horse with a mark on the nose, *schnipp* a horse or cow with a narrow blaze.

1562 *Wills & Inv. N. C.* (Surtees, 1835) 202 A younge baye geldinge with a whyte snypp off [=on] ye nose. 1607 MARKHAM *Cavel.* II. (1617) 3 Your redde Sorrell, and your darke Chesnutte, are much graced, if..they be accompanied with any white markes, as..white snippes on the nose. 1679 *Poor Robin's Intelligence* in *Sporting Mag.* XXXIX. 61 Her colour was now coal black, with a star, snip, and one white foot. 1726 *Brice's Weekly Jrnl.* 25 Mar. 3 A Brown Bay Nag, with..a white Snip in one of the hinder Feet. 1799 *Hull Advertiser* 10 Aug. 2/2 A stout handsome chesnut gelding,..a white snip on his nose. 1820– in Sc. and north. dial. use (Jam. and *Eng. Dial. Dict.*). 1891 E. KINGLAKE *Australian* 118 That brown horse over there with a snip. 1893 M. H. HAYES *Points of Horse* xx. (1897) 222 A white or pink patch on either lip is called a 'snip'.

3. A small amount, piece, or portion, a little bit (*of* something). *Every snip,* every bit.

(*a*) 1588 SHAKS. *L. L. L.* III. i. 22 Keepe not too long in one tune, but a snip and away. *a* 1641 BP. MOUNTAGU *New Gagg* iii. 42, I like not that the ancient Fathers should be ..sent away like school boys with snips. 1749 SMOLLETT *Gil Blas* VII. xii. (1782) III. 89 Let me know what is the business, and I promise you shall get some snips out of the minister. 1833 CARLYLE *Misc.* (1857) III. 185 Picking up a few residuary snips.

(*b*) 1624 J. GEE *New Shreds* Pref. p. ii, Some snips of.. their legerdemaine trickes..here I display. *a* 1668 DAVENANT *Man's the Master* II. i, May not a man see a snip of her face? 1700 DRYDEN *Epilogue Dryden's Benefit* 14 The Poets..Tainted the Stage for some small Snip of Gain. 1831 CARLYLE in *Froude* (1882) II. 179 Sunday morning had a snip of a note from Empson. 1894 BLACKMORE *Perlycross* 50 My hair is such a trouble, I have half a mind sometimes to cut off every snip of it.

b. Applied to persons in depreciation or contempt. In later use: A young, slight, or diminutive person.

1625 MASSINGER *New Way* II. ii, This term-driver, Marrall, This snip of an attorney. 1838 [MISS MAITLAND] *Lett. fr. Madras* (1843) 221 Half the experienced men are kept in subordinate situations, and young raw snips placed over their heads. 1902 *Daily Chron.* 11 Feb. 5/1 Why, this snip is no better than anybody else when he lands here.

† 4. A share or portion; a snack. *Obs.*

1655 tr. *Sorel's Com. Hist. Francion* I. 13 The Justice of the place..not willing to lose his Snip [etc.]. 1672 WYCHERLEY *Love in a Wood* I. ii, He watches them like a younger brother that is afraid to be mumped of his snip. 1698 FRYER *Acc. E. India & P.* 140 The Governor distributing to the Officers, and they to the Soldiers, every one having their Snips. 1702 STEELE *Funeral* III. ii, Take care of their Young Ladyships; you shall..have a Snip in the Sale of 'em.

b. *To go snips* († or *snip*), to go shares (*with* some one, or *in* something), to share or participate in the profits. Now *dial.*

In very common use *c* 1680–1690, esp. by Hickeringill.

(*a*) 1668 DRYDEN *Even. Love* v. i, Pray, Sir, let me go snip with you in this Lie. 1687 R. L'ESTRANGE *Fairfax' Tasso* Pref. A 2, I recommend it to the Bookseller, for the common benefit, and..I go no snip with the Stationer.

(*b*) 1677 THORESBY *Corr.*, etc. (1830) II. 408 Some of our company went snips with them. 1682 TOPHAM *Rome's Tradit.* 209 The Subtil Old Gentleman..offered him (if he would promote the Trade) to go Snips. 1706 BAYNARD *Cold Baths* II. 202 Those that go Snips with their Apothecaries, are Villains of the first Magnitude. 1725 BAILEY *Erasm. Colloq.* (1733) 322 The Gamester..promises I shall go Snips with him in what he shall win. *a* 1800 PEGGE *Suppl. Grose* s.v. *Snaps.* 1861– in Sc. and north. dial. use (*Eng. Dial. Dict.*).

II. 5. A small cut or incision made by, or such as that made by, a pair of scissors; a wound of this nature. Also *dial.*, a small hole or crack.

1596 SHAKS. *Tam. Shr.* IV. iii. 89 What's this? a sleeue? .. Heers snip, and nip, and cut, and slish and slash. 1600 SURFLET *Countrie Farme* I. XXV. 159 If there be any snips in their skins, you shall apply ynto them melted waxe. 1682 WHELER *Journ. Greece* III. 219 Long sharp leaves.. without snips at the Edges. 1698 J. CRULL *Muscovy* 136 Bonnets, with a little snip open before and behind. 1775 ASH, *Snick,* a small snip or cut as in the hair of a beast. 1867 WAUGH *Tattlin' Matty* ii. 24 Squirtin' wayter into my ear through a snip i' th corner o' th window. 1886 C. SCOTT *Sheep Farm.* 149 The snip and hole are used alternately, to designate..the exact part of the ear intended to be marked.

b. *Pottery.* A small projection on the lip of a vessel, the place for which is prepared by cutting a notch.

1834–6 BARLOW in *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) VIII. 455 These manipulations fix on the clay vessels their handles, snips, spouts [etc.]. *Ibid.*, For snips of jugs, &c., a piece is cut out of the upper edge of proper size and shape.

6. An act of snipping; a single cut or clip *of* scissors, etc.

1676 WISEMAN *Surg. Treat.* 256, I laid it open by a snip of a pair of Scissors. *c* 1765 FLLOYD *Tartarian T.* (1785) 103/2 Four snips of a pair of scissars will initiate you. 1831 CARLYLE *Sartor Res.* I. v, Every snip of the Scissors has been regulated..by ever-active Influences. 1886 *Daily Telegr.* 14 Jan. (Cassell), A few snips of the scissors..and last year's robe will do duty for this.

b. A nip, pinch, bite, etc.

1767 S. PATERSON *Another Trav.* II. 41 He has a snip, or a flip, or a sting, or a fling, at almost every body! 1840 HOOD *Miss Kilmansegg, Education* 509 He got..Scratches, and pinches, snips, and snaps, As if from a Tigress or Bearess. 1880 BLACKMORE *Mary Anerley* xxxix, The bruising snip a hungry cow makes.

7. *slang* or *colloq.* A tailor. Also employed as an allusive personal name for a tailor.

(*a*) 1599 B. JONSON *Ev. Man out of Hum.* IV. v [iv], Well, now, master Snip, let mee see your bill. *a* 1634 RANDOLPH *Muses' Looking Gl.* IV. iii, Sir, here's Snip the Taylor Charg'd with a riot. 1694 MOTTEUX *Rabelais* IV. lii, At Paris..Snip Groignet the Taylor had turn'd an old Clementinæ into Patterns and Measures. 1824 W. E. ANDREWS *Rev. Fox's Bk. Martyrs* I. 252 Both Snip and Snob were burned for their pains. *a* 1849 H. COLERIDGE *Ess.* (1851) I. 206 Snip can do more—he can make you an impeccable pair of inexpressibles by simply taking the girth of your thumb. 1858 TROLLOPE *Dr. Thorne* II. iii. 56 Well done, Snip; go it again with the wax and thread.

(*b*) 1630 B. JONSON *New Inn* v. i, Hang him, poor snip, a secular shop-wit! He hath nought but his sheers to claim by, and his measures. *a* 1634 RANDOLPH *Muses' Looking Gl.* IV. ii, *Lup.* Where's my wife? *Colax.* Shee's gone with a young Snip, and an old baud. 1785 GROSE *Dict. Vulgar T., Snip,* a taylor. 1808 J. MAYNE *Siller Gun* III. xxi, 'A ring, a ring!' the sutors cried; 'A ring, a ring!' the snips replied. 1853 R. S. SURTEES *Sponge's Sp. Tour* (1893) 26 'Very neat, sir; would look remarkably well on you, sir,' replies the obsequious snip. 1871 MISS BRADDON *R. Godwin* II. i. 6 Shall I give you a line to my snip?

8. *pl.* (See quot.)

1846 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* II. 915 Hand shears..are often called snips, to distinguish them from bench shears.

9. *pl.* Handcuffs. *slang.*

1891 *Newcastle Even. Chron.* 21 Feb. 3/2 Accused did not offer to go quietly till the police had the 'snips' on him. 1895 A. PATTERSON *Man & Nat.* 141 In a moment the slop..had the snips (handcuffs) on me.

10. *slang.* Something easily obtained or won; a sure thing, a certainty.

1894 ASTLEY *50 Yrs. Life* II. 181 The event looked a dead snip. 1899 *Westm. Gaz.* 24 July 5/3 The half-mile was described by the supporters of the Americans as a 'snip' for their men.

III. 11. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *snip-like, snip-nosed* adjs.; **snip-bag,** a bag for holding snips of cloth, etc.; **† snip-cabbage,** a tailor; **snip-faced** *a.* (of a horse), marked with a snip; **snip-jack,** a person of little account or worth (cf. quot.); **snip-nose** (see quot. 1753); **† snip-work,** *Glazing* (cf. I c above).

1703 [R. NEVE] *City & C. Purchaser* 154 Ordinary Houses ..are Glazed with Quarries, which is Bevel Work, so likewise is a great deal of Fret, and all Snip-work. 1708 E. WARD *Terræfil.* v. 35 The Gentleman and yonder Snip-Cabbage, his Taylor, [were] Commended for their Ingenuity. 1753 HANWAY *Trav.* (1762) II. xv. iv. 420 This man was from that time called *binnie buride,* or snip-nose. 1814 MOORE *New Cost. Ministers* v, While Y-rm-th, with snip-like and brisk expedition, Cuts up..a large Cath'lic Petition. 1846 MARRYAT *Privateer's-man* xiv, 'I can do without such snip-jacks as you are.' 'Snip-jacks!'..replied I, 'if I must say it, we are better born and better bred than you or any of your connections'. 1878 DICKINSON *Cumbld. Gloss., Snip feast.* 1880 *Plain Hints Needlewk.* 35 Take one yard of 'cheese cloth'..out of the snip bag. 1880 DAY *Fishes Gt. Brit.* I. 130 *Trachinotus Cumberlandi,*..the fisherman's name is Snip-nosed-mullet.

Snip (snip), *v.* Also 6 **snyppe.** [prob. of Du. or LG. origin: cf. Du., Flem., and LG. *snippen,* G. dial. *schnippen, schnipfen, schniffen,* to snip, snatch, etc.]

† 1. *trans.* To take (something) quickly or suddenly; to snap or snatch. *Obs.*

1586 J. HOOKER *Hist. Irel.* in *Holinshed* II. 83/1 One of your horssemen promised me a choise horsse, if I snip one haire from your beard. Well, quoth the earle,..if thou plucke anie more than one [etc.]. 1633 ROWLEY *Match at Midnight* II. i, Well, and she be snipped by threescore and ten, may she live six-score and eleven. 1720 DE FOE *Capt. Singleton* i. (1840) 7 The captain seldom ordered anything..but I snipt some of it for my own share.

absol. 1592 GREENE *Def. Conny Catch.* Wks. (Grosart) XI. 96 They wil to snip and snap, that al the reuersion goes into hel. 1674 N. FAIRFAX *Bulk & Selv.* To Rdr., While we..snip here and snatch there from some of them.

2. To cut, to cut up or off, by or as by scissors or some similar cutting instrument.

1593 NORDEN *Spec. Brit.* (Camden) Pref. p. xiv, They have snippers wherwith they snyppe and pare their plates. 1649 G. DANIEL *Trinarch., Rich. II,* xlii, Hee takes the Measure of his Maister's stuffe, And Snips it to a Size ..Convenient for his Fashion. *a* 1687 H. MORE *Cont.*

Remark. Stories 420 They would be snipt and slasht full of holes. 1796 *Phil. Trans.* LXXXVI. 445 It was snipt a good deal, and several holes were worn in the middle. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* xl, He found Becky and her companion..busy cutting, ripping, snipping, and tearing all sorts of black stuffs. 1871 T. R. JONES *Anim. Kingd.* (ed. 4) 599 If one of these muscular capsules be snipped by means of a pair of very fine scissors.

fig. 1628 JACKSON *Creed* VI. Wks. VI. 83 For snipping this secret hypocrisy..this exercise of the civil sword hath no force or dint. 1674 J. B[RIAN] *Harvest-Home* ii. 5 Th' impartial Fates..With keenest Scissars snip lifes thread asunder. 1893 *Advance* (Chicago) 11 May, While the 'Higher Criticism' is laboriously snipping the book of Genesis into 'Elohistic' and 'Jehovistic' fragments.

b. *absol.* To make a cut or cuts with or as with scissors, etc. Also, of scissors: To cut.

a 1680. BUTLER *Rem.* (1759) II. 138 Like a Barber's Scissars, which are always snipping, as well when they do not cut, as when they do. 1827 SCOTT *Jrnl.* 7 Dec., I wish I have not made that article too long, and Lockhart will not snip away. 1848 DICKENS *Dombey* xxix, Miss Tox..arming herself with her scissors, began to snip and clip among the leaves. 1872 PROCTOR *Ess. Astron.* xxiv. 312 One can snip round the borders of a region until its size has been reduced.

e. To injure by chipping or taking small pieces out of.

1822– in north. dial. use (*Eng. Dial. Dict.*). 1884 *Liverpool Mercury* 22 Oct. 5/5 The granite pedestal may be snipped; or a thousand other disasters may occur.

d. *Cricket.* To hit (the ball) lightly; to snick.

1890 *Pall Mall G.* 21 Aug. 6/3 Maclaren soon opens his account.., but gently snipping a ball from Streatfeild he is easily caught by Abel in the slips.

3. To cut *off* by means of scissors or other sharp instrument. Also *fig.*

1611 COTGR., *Mordiller*, to nibble, gnaw, fret, snip off. 1624 GATAKER *Transubst.* 214 Hee should have done well ..to have snipt off or concealed at least, the last clause. *a* 1625 FLETCHER *Fair Maid Inn* IV. i, Because I will not afflict you with any large bill Of circumstances, I'll snip off particulars. 1697 DAMPIER *Voy.* (1699) 339 He takes hold of the fore-skin with two sticks and with a pair of Scissors snips it off. 1742 H. BAKER *Microsc. made Easy* II. x. 122 A piece of the..Membrane..snipped off with a Pair of sharp Scissars. 1826 S. COOPER *First Lines Surgery* (ed. 5) 349 The new opening..is then to be enlarged by snipping off the flap of the iris. 1846 LANDOR *Imag. Conv.* I. 79 He has snipt off as much as he could pinch from every author of reputation. 1888 FREEMAN in Stephens *Life* (1895) II. x. 380, I simply had my uvula snipped off.

b. With *away*, *from*, *out of*, etc.

1768–74 TUCKER *Lt. Nat.* (1834) I. 101 By snipping away the superfluities of the paper from her figure. 1858 DICKENS *Lett.* (1880) II. 60 He is perpetually snipping pieces out of newspapers. 1896 *Pall Mall Mag.* May 16 A bullet snipped a corner from my hat.

c. To cut *out* by snipping. Also *fig.*

1800 *Asiatic Ann. Reg.* II. 113/2 He next proceeded very accurately to snip out their suspicions into four and twenty parts. 1855 O. W. HOLMES *Poems* 137 Boys..Who, for a very trifling sum, Will snip one's picture out.

4. To snub, check, repress. Now *dial.*

1601–14 [see SNIPPING *vbl. sb.* 3]. 1647 FULLER *Good Th. Worse T.* 24 If I were curb'd and Snip't in my younger yeares by feare of my parents, from those vicious excrescencies. 1823– in dial. use (Suffolk, Somerset, Devon).

5. Used adverbially to denote either sound or action.

a 1661 HOLYDAY *Juvenal* (1673) 189 How many towns he owns, who went snip, snip; As his quick sizzers my young beard did clip!

Snipe (snəip), *sb.* Forms: 4–6 **snype**, 4, 6 **snyppe** (7 **snippe**), 6 **sknipe**, 7– **snipe**. [Of doubtful origin: the ME. type *snīpe* corresponds to a Scand. *snīpa* recorded in Icel. *mýrisnīpa*, Norw. *myr-*, *strandsnipa*. It is not clear how this is related to MDu. *snippe* (Du. and WFris. *snip*), MLG. and LG. (also older Da.) *snippe*, G. dial. *schnippe*, and MDu. *sneppe* (Du. *snep*), MLG. and LG. *sneppe* (hence Da. *sneppe*, Sw. *snäppa*), OHG. *snepfa* (*snepfa*) and *snepfo* (G. *schnepfe*, obs. or dial. *schneppe*).]

1. One or other of the limicoline birds of the genus *Gallinago* (formerly included in the Linnæan genus *Scolopax*), characterized by having a long straight bill, and by frequenting marshy places; esp. *G. cælestis* or *media*, the common English species.

c 1325 *Gloss. W. de Bibbesw.* in Wright *Voc.* 166 *Un oysel ke est dist becas*, a snype (snyte). *c* 1350 *Wynnere & Wastoure* 349 Barnakes and buturs and many billed snyppes. *c* 1420 *Liber Cocorum* (1862) 35 To wodcok, snype, curlue also, The betore in fere with hom schalle goo. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 461/2 Snype, or snyte, byrde, *ibex*. 1530 PALSGR. 272/1 Snyppe, a byrde, *cigoigne*. 1551 *Sc. Acts, Mary* (1814) II. 484/1 Item the snype and qualzie,..ij d. 1565 COOPER, *Gallinago*, a wodcocke or a snype. *Ibid.*, *Rusticula minor*, a sknipe. 1611 COTGR., *Beccassine*,..a Snite, or Snipe. 1655 MOUFET & BENNET *Health's Improv.* (1746) 179 Where they perceive a Worm's Hole, as I have seen Snipes to do, there they thrust in their Bill. 1758 JOHNSON *Idler* No. 33 ¶ 16 Went to the common-room, and supped on the snipes with Dr. Dry. 1794 GISBORNE *Walks in Forest* vi. (1796) 104 The snipe flies screaming from the marshy verge. 1827 D. JOHNSON *Ind. Field Sports* 36 The Calcutta market is well supplied with..snipes. 1865 TENNYSON *On a Mourner* ii, Nature..greens The swamp, where humm'd the dropping snipe.

b. With adjs., denoting species of this bird.

See also *double snipe*, GUTTER-, HALF-, JACK-, MIRE-, WOOD-SNIPE.

a 1705 RAY *Syn.* (1713) 193 *Gallinago Maderspatana*,.. the Partridge-Snipe. 1785 PENNANT *Arct. Zool.* II. 471 Finmark Snipe, *Scolopax Gallinaria*. 1813 BINGLEY *Anim. Biogr.* (ed. 4) II. 302 It is stated, that the Common Snipes never frequent woods. 1839 AUDUBON *Ornith. Biogr.* V. 583 Common American Snipe, *Scolopax Wilsoni*. 1843 YARRELL *Brit. Birds* II. 621 *Scolopax grisea*, Brown Snipe. 1866 *Chambers's Encycl.* VIII. 788/1 The Great Snipe, or Solitary Snipe (*Scolopax* or *Gallinago major*),..abounds in the extensive marshes of continental Europe.

c. Applied to various species of birds resembling the snipe. Chiefly with distinguishing epithets.

See also *duck-snipe*, JACK-SNIPE, *painted*, *red-breasted*, *robin snipe*, SEA-SNIPE, *stone-*, *summer-snipe*.

1785 LATHAM *Gen. Synop. Birds* III. i. 154 *Brown Snipe. ..The head, neck, and scapulars, of a fine uniform cinereous brown. 1866 *Chambers's Encycl.* VIII. 788/1 The Red-breasted Snipe, or Brown Snipe (*Macrorhamphus griseus*) of North America has been occasionally seen in Britain. 1785 LATHAM *Gen. Synop. Birds* III. i. 155 *Dusky snipe. 1829 GRIFFITH tr. *Cuvier* VIII. 387 Red-shank, or *Gambet Snipe, *Tringa Gambetta*. 1887 *Encycl. Brit.* XXII. 200 The so-called *Pin-tailed Snipe *Gallinago stenura*. 1785 PENNANT *Arct. Zool.* II. 469 *Semi-palmated Snipe, with a bill two inches long. 1839 AUDUBON *Ornith. Biogr.* V. 585 Semipalmated Snipe or Willet, *Totanus semipalmatus*. 1785 LATHAM *Gen. Synop. Birds* III. i. 148 *Spotted Snipe.

d. Without article, in collective sense.

1842 LOVER *Handy Andy* I, The delighted pointer would ..dash forward to the well-known 'bottoms' in eager expectancy of ducks and snipe. 1845 J. COULTER *Adv. in Pacific* iii. 29, I have often seen flocks of snipe crossing the bay. 1872 COUES *N. Amer. Birds* 249 In woodcock and true snipe the ear appears below and not behind the eye.

2. † **a.** The Egyptian ibis. *Obs.*

1432–50 tr. *Higden* (Rolls) II. 323 Bryddes callede snypes, odious to serpentes and amiable to men.

b. As a moth-name (see quot.).

1832 J. RENNIE *Butterfl. & Moths* 66 The Snipe (*Xylophasia scolopacina*, Haworth) appears in June.

3. As an opprobrious or abusive term.

1604 SHAKS. *Oth.* I. iii. 391 For I mine owne gain'd knowledge should prophane, If I would time expend with such [a] Snipe. 1730 SWIFT *Panegyric on the Dean* Misc. 1735 V. 233 Sir A—r, since you set the Pattern, No longer calls me Snipe and Slattern. 1896 CROCKETT *Grey Man* xii. 84 The Earl had set a little snipe of a raggetty loon to stir her up.

4. *slang.* **a.** *pl.* A pair of scissors.

1812 J. H. VAUX *Flash Dict.*, *Snipes*, scissors. 1834 AINSWORTH *Rookwood* III. v. (1878) 200 No slour'd hoxter my snipes could stay.

b. (See quot.)

1864 *Slang Dict.* 238 *Snipe*, a long bill or account; also a term for attorneys—a race remarkable for their propensity to long bills.

5. *ellipt.* = SNIPE-BILL 1.

1873 *Iron* 1 Feb. 78/2 Planes...Side snipe, per pair, 7/–

6. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *snipe-bog*, *-dust*, *-shooter*, *-shooting*, *-shot*, etc.; also **snipe-eel**, (*a*) a species of fish belonging to the deep-sea family *Nemichthyidæ*; (*b*) the sea-pike or garfish, *Belone vulgaris*; **snipe-fly** (see quot.); **snipe's-head** (see quots.); † **snipe-knave**, a half-snipe, jack-snipe; **snipe-shell** (see quot. and cf. SNIPE-BILL 2).

1844 J. T. HEWLETT *Parsons & W.* xi, The road across the marshes and *snipe-bogs. 1851 KINGSLEY *Yeast* viii, Those five miles of heather and snipe-bog. 1861 *Times* 12 July, A creature who carries a smaller charge of *snipe dust in his head. 1888 JORDAN & GILBERT *Syn. Fishes N. Amer.* 365 *Nemichthyidæ*. (The *Snipe-Eels.) 1887 J. BICKERDYKE *Angling in Salt Water* 99 The Garfish,..Snipe Eel, or Sea Needle, is a long, slender fish [etc.]. 1890 *Science-Gossip* XXVI. 6 One of the larger *snipe-flies, the *Empis tessellata*. Notwithstanding the long snipe-like tongue or proboscis of the highly predatory Empis [etc.]. 1887 W. RYE *Norfolk Broads* 13 The finest *snipe ground in England. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 54/2 Species with a very long tube and without spines. .. Example, *Murex Haustellum* (*Snipe's or Woodcock's head of collectors). [Cf. SNIPE-BILL 2.] 1889 *Cent. Dict.*, *Caput gallinaginis*, the snipe's head; the crista urethræ. 1590 *Shuttleworths' Acc.* (Chetham Soc.) 60 Fourtene snypes and five *snype kneves xj^{d}. *Ibid.* 61 Seventene snype kneves and foure snypes ix^{d}. 1611 COTGR., *Deux pour vn*, a Snipe-knaue; so called, because two of them are worth but one Snipe. 1889 *Loudon's Nat. Hist.* 532 The *Snipe Shell (*Murex haustellus*, or *cornutus*), so called on account of the length of the prominency coming out of the shell. 1833 W. H. MAXWELL *Field Book* 494/2 When these birds are very plenty, the *snipe-shooters never make use of a dog. 1860 *All Year Round* No. 53. 66 The Analogist had the opportunity of studying the snipe-shooter of Albion. 1829 CARLYLE *Misc.* (1857) II. 7 Are not such lies themselves..equal to *snipe-shooting? 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* iii, A fine, lonely, marshy, jungly district, famous for snipe-shooting. 1822 *Sporting Mag.* IX. 174 The best *snipe-shot complained that he had not killed more than sixty of these birds. 1832 BABBAGE *Econ. Manuf.* ii. (ed. 3) 23 A gun loaded with a quantity of sand, equal in weight to a charge of snipe-shot, kicks still more. 1854 BAKER *Rifle & Hound in Ceylon* vi, I had been firing snipe shot at him. 1805 BINGLEY *Anim. Biogr.* (ed. 3) II. 471 The *Snipe Tribe.

b. Forming adjs., as *snipe-beaked*, *-faced*, *-nosed*; *snipe-like* (also as adv.).

1812 *Pennant's Brit. Zool.* III. 190 Trumpet Fish..[*marg.*] Snipe nosed. 1850 JAMES *Old Oak Chest* III. 45 A little snipe-faced man. 1857 J. MILLER *Alcohol* (1858) 55 He who lives thus snipelike by suction. 1872 COUES *N. Amer. Birds* 252 A very snipe-like bird. 1895 LYDEKKER *Roy. Nat. Hist.* IV. 494 Snipe-beaked sandpipers.

Snipe (snəip), *v.* [f. SNIPE *sb.* 1.]

1. *trans.* To shoot or fire at (men, etc.), one at a time, usu. from cover and at long range; to pick off (a person) in this manner. Also *fig.*

1782 G. SELWYN *Let.* in *15th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* VI. 621 Now people have been shot by platoons and in corps, the individual will be popped at or sniped, as they call it, from time to time. 1895 *Edin. Rev.* Jan. 14 The Indian soldier has been called on to be 'sniped' by fugitive dacoits. 1900 *Daily News* 30 Apr. 5/4 The other positions were sniped.

2. *intr.* To fire as in snipe-shooting; to shoot at an enemy in this manner (cf. prec.). Also with *at* and *away*.

1832 *Oriental Sporting Mag.* May (1882) II. 291/2 They were all found among high cliffs, and we generally sniped at them from a considerable height. 1844 tr. *Mir Hussain Ali's Life Tipu* xiv. 179 The Kuzzaks..remained all night attacking, or sniping and throwing rockets into the English camp. 1897 *Daily News* 4 Sept. 5/4 The enemy sniped away all day without effect. 1901 *Scotsman* 6 Apr. 9/5 Three hundred Boers hung on the rearguard, sniping but refusing battle.

Snipe-bill. Also **snipe's bill**. [SNIPE *sb.* 1.]

1. A kind of narrow moulding-plane with a sharp arris, for forming or cutting quirks. Also *attrib.*

1678 MOXON *Mech. Exerc.* iv. 70 Plains in use among Joyners, called Molding-plains; as, the Round,..the Snipes-Bill. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Plane*, Moulding-Planes,.. as the Round Plane, the Hollow, the OG, the Snipe's Bill, &c. 1842 GWILT *Archit.* Gloss., *Snipe's Bill Plane*, one with a sharp arris for getting out the quirks of mouldings. 1873 *Iron* 1 Feb. 78/2 Planes...Snipe bills, per pair, 5/.

2. *Conch.* The snipe-shell or snipe's head.

1713 PETIVER *Aquat. Anim. Amboinæ* iv, *Haustellum*,.. Snipes-bill.

† **3.** *Naut.* (See quot.) *Obs.*

1750 BLANCKLEY *Naval Expos.* 154 Snipe Bills are a Sort of Hooks used for fastening the Axle-trees of the Chain Pumps to the Bitts.

4. *U.S.* (See quots. Also written *snibel*.)

1860 WORCESTER, *Snipe-bill*, the bolt which connects the body of a cart with the axle. (Local, U.S.) 1902 *Webster's Suppl., Snipe-bill*, a hinge beneath the body of a dumping cart, consisting of two interlinked eyebolts.

5. *attrib.* Resembling the bill of the snipe.

1795 J. WOLCOT (P. Pindar) *Pindariana* Wks. 1812 IV. 186 Her nose of snipe-bill race Which took a deal of stuff.

Snipe-fish. [SNIPE *sb.*]

1. Any fish of the genus *Centriscus*; esp. the trumpet-fish, bellows-fish, or sea-snipe, *C. scolopax*.

1668 CHARLETON *Onomast.* 123 *Scolopax*,..the Snipe-fish. 1681 GREW *Museum* f. v. i. 101 The figure of his Bill, which is an entire Pipe; shaped almost like that of the Snipe-Fish. 1836 YARRELL *Brit. Fishes* I. 302 *Centriscus scolopax*, Snipe-fish. 1867 *Chambers's Encycl.* IX. 568/1 Trumpet-fish, or Snipe-fish (*Centriscus*), a genus of fishes..remarkable for the elongated and tubular snout. 1881 DAY *Fishes Gt. Brit.* I. 250 The trumpet, bellows-fish, woodcock or snipe-fish.

2. The snipe-eel (*Cent. Dict.* 1891).

Sniper (snəi·pəɹ). [f. SNIPE *v.*]

1. One who snipes, or shoots from concealment, etc.; a sharp-shooter.

1824 *E. India Mil. Cal.* II. 341 Several sepoys were killed and wounded by the enemy's snipers. 1897 *Daily News* 30 July 5/2 It is impossible to see the snipers, who generally stalk the sentries from behind stones. 1900 *Daily Telegr.* 27 Feb. 9/3 The artillery keep the Boer snipers down.

2. A snipe-shooter.

1840 E. NAPIER *Scenes & Sp. Foreign Lands* II. v. 140 With his brandy flask by his side, and his well filled bag, the sniper still wanders through his old haunts.

3. *U.S.* A prospector for gold or the like.

1900 *U. S. Geol. Surv., Prof. Paper* 10, 51 Some unsystematic work [searching for gold] was done during the fall of 1901 by snipers, usually working with rockers.

Snipey, freq. variant of SNIPY *a.*

Sniping (snəi·piŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. SNIPE *v.*]

1. The action of the verb.

1773 *Let. fr. India* in J. W. Fortescue *Hist. Brit. Army* III. 141 [The soldiers..put their hats on the parapet for the enemy to shoot at, and] humorously called it sniping. 1891 *Daily News* 29 Dec. 2/1 The sniping of the outposts against each other. 1898 B. BURLEIGH *Sirdar & Khalifa* x. 162 Our camps upon the right bank of the Atbara were exceptionally open to sniping by night.

2. Snipe-shooting.

1875 *Ibis* 15 The doctor..was not accustomed to sniping, and our bag was not so full at the end of the day as it might have been. 1877 HALLOCK *Sportsman's Gaz.* 174 The pleasures of Bay bird shooting should not be spoken of in the same sentence with cocking or sniping.

b. *attrib.* Engaged in snipe-shooting.

1840 E. NAPIER *Scenes & Sp. Foreign Lands* II. v. 142 Frequently the slaughter committed by a sniping party is so great, that..nothing but the brains and trail are eaten, the rest being cast away.

Sniping (snəi·piŋ), *ppl. a.* [f. SNIPE *v.*] That snipes, or shoots from cover. *Sniping fire*, individual and irregular shooting from a concealed position.

1821 VI. BLACKER *Mahratta War* II. i. 179 But even this advantage was greatly reduced, by their being exposed to a sniping fire from neighbouring walls. 1899 *Daily News* 24 Oct. 5/5, I was..able to help him out of range of this sniping fire.

Snipish, *a. rare.* [f. SNIPE *sb.* + -ISH.] Somewhat resembling the beak of the snipe.

1834 BECKFORD *Italy* II. 297 A priest or two with enormous spectacles on their thin snipish noses.

Snipocracy. [f. SNIP *sb.* 7 + -(O)CRACY.] The tailoring profession or its leading members.

1861 G. MEREDITH *Evan Harr.* xiv, By Jove! this comes it strong. Fancy the snipocracy here! 1912 *Nation* 20 Apr. 84/1 The glorified tailor,..the Marquis of Snipocracy.

Snipped (snipt), *ppl. a.* Also 6 **snipte**, **y-snipt**. [f. SNIP *v.*]

1. *Bot.* Irregularly notched or serrated; incised.

1578 LYTE *Dodoens* 15 The lesser Clote Burré hath grayish leaues,..iagged or snipte round about the edges. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* XXV. vi. II. 220 The leaves..snipped and cut about the edges ordinarily in five parts. 1682 WHELER *Journ. Greece* 2. 67 A fair leaf,..snipped about the edges with sharp-pointed teeth, like a great saw. 1796 WITHERING *Brit. Pl.* (ed. 3) III. 575 Stem-leaves snipt.

2. That has been subjected to snipping; jagged or irregularly cut.

1601 SHAKS. *All's Well* IV. v. 2 Your sonne was misled with a snipt taffata fellow there. 1611 COTGR., *Passe-poil*, a snipped, or iagged welt of Taffata, &c. in a garment. 1796 *Phil. Trans.* LXXXVI. 446 The snipt edges were hard. 1847 ALB. SMITH *Chr. Tadpole* lviii. (1879) 491 There were no cheerless grates filled up with snipped silver papers.

3. Of style: Clipped, disjointed.

1806 COLERIDGE *Lett.* (1895) 506 Persons who write in a hurry are very liable to contract a sort of snipt, convulsive style.

Snipper (snipəɹ). [f. SNIP *v.*]

1. *pl.* A machine or instrument for snipping or clipping; scissors.

1593 J. NORDEN *Spec. Brit.* (Camden) Pref. p. xiv, They have snippers wherewith they snyppe and pare their plates, which snippers..are so artificially placed, .. that by the mocion of the water also the snippers open and shut. 1603 FLORIO *Montaigne* II. ii. (1632) 192 When in Josephus we heare a childe all to rent with bitting snippers. 1647 HEXHAM I, A paire of snippers, *een snip-schaerken*.

2. One who snips or clips; *spec.* a tailor.

1611 COTGR., *Tondeur*, a sheerer,..barber, vermine-snipper. 1648 HEXHAM II, *Een Knipper*,..a Snipper. *Ibid.*, *Een snipperaer*, a Snipper or a Cutter off. 1684 DRYDEN tr. *Maimbourg's Hist. League* Postscr. 35 As our Snippers go over once a year into France, to bring back the newest Mode, and to learn to cut and shape it. 1827 *Lancet* 10 Nov. 293/2 For the snippers of broad cloth and calf-skin I had little compassion. 1865 S. EVANS *Brother Fabian's MS.* 156 You'd be delighted to murder the snipper Who measures my waist for a skirt.

3. A cattle-dealer on a small scale.

1869 *Pall Mall G.* 9 Sept. 22 The snippers and provincial jobbers..furnish the raw material to the Aberdeen dealers and butchers.

† **Sni·ppering**, *vbl. sb. Obs. rare.* [Cf. LG. *snipperen* (G. *schnippern*) to snip, cut small.] *pl.* Parings.

1599 A. M. tr. *Gabelhouer's Fr. Physicke* 143/1 The poulder of combured cobblers snipperinges of ould shoes. [1604 R. CAWDREY *Table Alph., Snipperings*, payrings.]

Snipper-snapper. Now *dial.* [Of fanciful formation: cf. WHIPPER-SNAPPER.] A young insignificant or conceited fellow.

c 1590 MARLOWE *Dr. Faustus* xi. 1161 Ile seeke out my Doctor..O yonder is his snipper snapper. 1600 DEKKER *Shoemaker's Holiday* iv, Quick snipper-snapper, away Firke, Scour thy throat. 1638 FORD *Fancies* I. ii, Thou'rt a prick-ear'd foist,..a knack, a snipper-snapper! 1677 *Poor Robin's Vision* 12 Having ended his discourse, this seeming gentile snipper-snapper vanisht. 1835 MOORE *Mem.* (1856) VII. 108 Ear better worth listening to than many of the young snipper-snappers of his profession. 1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss.*, *Snipper-snapper*, a small, insignificant, effeminate, self-conceited young man.

† **Sni·ppery.** *nonce-wd.* [f. SNIP *v.*] Snipping.

1639 [see SNAPPERY].

Snippet (sni·pĕt). [f. SNIP *v.* + -ET.] A small piece cut off; a small fragment or portion.

1664 BUTLER *Hud.* II. iii. 824 Witches Simpling, and on Gibbets Cutting from Malefactors snippets. 1862 SALA *Seven Sons* III. 272 [She] used to cut her dress into snippets with a pair of scissors. 1885 LADY BRASSEY *In the Trades* 120 The droll little heaps, and dabs, and snippets in which everything was sold. 1897 F. THOMPSON *New Poems* 135 Snippets and waste From old ancestral wearings.

attrib. 1909 *Nation* 30 Oct. 191/1 One of them bears the tell-tale snippet-mark of a leaf-cutter bee.

b. In *transf.* or *fig.* uses.

1880 *Sat. Rev.* 2 Oct. 438/1 The mere sticking on to his dialogue of snippets from Elizabethan phraseology is a vain thing. 1882 F. HARRISON *Choice of Books* (1886) 296 The love of beauty is nothing of dilettantism to be cut into snippets and shreds. 1886 STEVENSON *Prince Otto* II. iv, That is a poor snippet of malicious gossip.

c. *spec.* A short passage taken from a literary work; a short scrap of literary matter of any kind.

1864 *Spectator* 12 Mar., These paragraphs and snippets from the Saturday Review. 1884 *Ibid.* 4 Oct. 1309/2 It is the latest stamp of the true 'classic' to be cut up into snippets for a birthday-book. 1897 *Month* Oct. 435 The text is in fact largely made up of a kind of patchwork of snippets which often amalgamate ill.

attrib. 1899 *Daily News* 5 July 8/2 He..reads nothing but sporting papers and 'snippet weeklies'.

Sni·ppetiness. [f. next.] The state or condition of being snippety; scrappiness.

1878 *Spectator* 16 Feb. 220/2 The defect of Fraser's Magazine is snippetiness, a habit of publishing so many articles that they are none of them exhaustive. 1890 *Athenæum* 7 June 730/1 A certain snippetiness of style and arrangement, which is too suggestive of paste and scissors.

Sni·ppety, *a.* Also **-etty**, **-ity**. [f. SNIPPET.] Of the nature of, suggestive of, a snippet or snippets; composed of snippets or scraps.

1864 *Spectator* 1406 The snippety style of American reporting. 1865 *Ibid.* 25 Nov. 1307/2 A..very clever, but somewhat snippety magazine. 1888 *Pall Mall G.* 25 June 1/1 More or less snippetty instalments of our Special Commissioner's Report.

Snipping (sni·pĭŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. SNIP *v.*]

1. The action of the verb; cutting, clipping. Also with *off*.

1583 STUBBES *Anat. Abus.* II. (1882) 56 When they come to the cutting of the haire, what snipping and snapping of the cycers is there. 1611 COTGR., *Retaillement*, a shredding, clipping, snipping. 1648 HEXHAM II, *Een snipperinge*,..a Snipping off, or a Snip. 1867 MISS BRADDON *Doctor's Wife* xxxvii, She heard the horrible snipping of crape and bombazine going on all day.

attrib. 1648 HEXHAM II, *Knip-schaerken*, Snipping Cicers.

2. A part or piece snipped or cut off; a clipping, cutting. Usu. in *pl.*

1611 COTGR., *Retaillûres*, shreds, clippings, snippings, parings. 1846 LANDOR *Imag. Conv., Lucian & Timotheus* (1891) I. 321 Give me all the shreds and snippings you can spare me. They will feel like clothes. 1870 PEACOCK *Ralf Skirl.* II. 41 These little snippings of bright coloured raiment. *fig.* and *transf.* 1862 *Sat. Rev.* 5 July 23 The remaining snippings from our author's book of ethical commonplaces. 1884 *Athenæum* 5 Jan. 21/2 By complete essays or sections, and not by mere snippings here and there.

† 3. A snibbing, snubbing, or reproving. *Obs.*

1601 BRETON (*title*), No Whippinge, nor Trippinge, but a kinde friendly Snippinge. 1614 J. TAYLOR (*title*), The Nipping or Snipping of Abuses.

† **Sni·pping**, *ppl. a. Obs. rare.* In 5 **snyppe**, 6 **snypand**. [Of doubtful origin; the verb *snip* is not recorded till much later.] Nipping, biting with cold.

a 1400–50 *Alexander* 1560 As blast..As any snyppand [*v.r.* snappand] snawe bat in be snape liftis. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* VII. Prol. 50 Scharp soppis of sleit, and of the snypand snawe.

Snippy (sni·pi), *a.* [f. SNIP *v.* Cf. Du. *snippig* (Flis. *snippich*) snappish.]

1. *dial.* Parsimonious, mean; covetous.

1727 BAILEY (vol. II), *Snippy*, parcimonious, niggardly. 1825– in dial. glossaries, etc. (*Eng. Dial. Dict.*).

2. *dial.* and *colloq.* Fault-finding, snappish, sharp.

1848 BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.* 318 *Snippy*, finical; and substantively, a finical person. A woman's word. 1887 GUNTER *Mr. Barnes* xx, So dictatorial!..And so snippy! 1896 *Harper's Mag.* June 23/2 She's too snippy for me.

3. Scrappy, fragmentary, snippety.

1886 *Pall Mall G.* 20 May 2/1 Paragraphs and very short articles which may fairly be regarded as 'snippy' bits.

Snip-snap (snip,snæp), *sb.* [f. SNIP *sb.* + SNAP *sb.*, used with imitative effect.]

In Bale *Thre Lawes* (1538) 1474 Hypocrisy addresses Infidelity as 'brother snyp snap'.

† 1. The action of snipping or clipping with a pair of scissors or the like; an instance of this. Also *fig.*

1597 G. HARVEY *Trimming T. Nashe* Wks. (Grosart) III. 72 If heere I haue been too prodigall in snip snaps, tell me of it. 1638 FORD *Fancies* v. ii, The fashion of gentry, which is never complete till the snip snap of dexterity hath mowed off the excrements of slovenry.

2. Smart remark or reply; sharp repartee.

1727 POPE, etc. *Art of Sinking* 109 It is by virtue of this style that..Marcus Aurelius is excellent at snip-snap. 1781 C. JOHNSTON *Hist. J. Juniper* II. 246, I have amused myself with..playing a game at snip-snap, with Beatrice in Benedick. 1811 MISS MITFORD in L'Estrange *Life* (1870) I. 149 Letters should assimilate to the higher style of conversation, without the snip-snap of fashionable dialogue. 1872 TENNYSON in *Life* (1897) II. iv. 113 *note*, To print the names of the speakers..over the short snip-snap of their talk.

† 3. = SNAPPER *sb.*[1] 2 b. *Obs.*[–c]

1736 AINSWORTH I, A snip snap, or snappers, *crotalum*.

Snip-snap (snip,snæp), *a.* [Cf. prec.]

† 1. Making a snipping sound; working or acting by snipping or clipping. *Obs.*

1600 J. LANE *Tom Tel-troth* 120 These snip-snap sheers. 1643 *Mercurius Brit.* No. 28. 211 Barbers and every Snip-snap Jack which can tell the King a faire tale in his eare.

2. Of the nature of snip-snap; characterized by snip-snap or smart repartee.

1673 R. LEIGH *Transp. Reh.* 139 His snip-snap wit, hit for hit, and dash for dash. 1702 MOTTEUX *Prol. to Farquhar's Twin-Rivals*, With volleys of small shot, or snip-snap wit. 1752 A. MURPHY *Gray's Inn Jrnl.* No. 5, Run off from the Point, in a snip-snap Stile, with pert Question and Answer. 1830 H. LEE *Mem. Manager* I. iv. 152 A snip-snap mode of expression. 1861 S. BROOKS *Silver Cord* viii. (1865) 45 It is not a bit of snip-snap impertinence..that will frighten me. 1884 *Fortn. Rev.* Dec. 785 The snip-snap dialogue about prodigies.

b. Of persons: Given to snip-snap. *rare*[–1].

1785 [R. GRAVES] *Eugenius* II. xix. 126 He found she.. was not that pert, snip-snap formidable Beatrice, which he at first had some reason to think her.

3. Snappish, quarrelsome, irritable. *rare*[–1].

1770 C. JENNER *Placid Man* IV. iii. II. 23 In this kind of snip-snap disposition the family arrived in town.

Snip-snap (snip,snæp), *v.* [Cf. SNIP-SNAP *sb.*]

1. *intr.* To indulge in snip-snap or smart repartee; to speak in a snappy manner.

1593 G. HARVEY *Pierce's Super.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 313 If any whosoeuer will needes be offering abuse in fact, or snip-snapping in termes. 1826 MISS MITFORD *Village* Ser. II. (1863) 367, I believe..that you think I have nothing better to do than to read novels.' And so she snip-snaps to the end of the visit. 1845 JUDD *Margaret* I. xvii, Pluck snip-snaps with his wife, cracks on Hash, shows his white teeth to Margaret.

2. To snip; to clip with a snipping sound. Hence **Snip-snapping** *vbl. sb.*

1906 *Westm. Gaz.* 14 July 2/2 Scissors join in, with their snip-snapping, as a third bodice is cut out.

Snip-snap, *adv.* (and *int.*). ? *Obs.* [Cf. prec.] With snip and snap; with a snipping, snapping sound.

1588 SHAKS. *L. L. L.* V. i. 63 A sweet tutch, a quicke venewe of wit, snip snap, quick & home. 1596 NASHE *Saffron Walden* Ep. Ded., To torment him, and deal as snip snap snappishly with him, as euer he was delt withall. 1602 MIDDLETON *Blurt, Master-Constable* II. i, My sister shoots him off, snip-snap, at her pleasure. 1672 VILLIERS (Dk. Buckhm.) *Rehearsal* III. i. (Arb.) 67 For you shall see 'em come in upon one another snip snap..as fast as can be. 1793 L. WIELIAMS *Children's Friend* I. 16, I will..come with my bill-hook, and snip-snap, cut all those briars down to the ground.

Snip-snapper, *rare*[–1]. [Cf. SNIP-SNAP *v.*] A tailor.

1626 MIDDLETON *Anything for Quiet Life* IV. ii, Not a word more, goodman snipsnapper, for your ears.

Snip-snap-snorum. [a. LG. *snipp-snapp-snorum* (also *-saurx*), = G. *schnipp-schnapp-schnorum* (or *-schnarr*), on which see the article in Grimm's Dict.] A round game of cards, played (esp. by the young) in various ways, in which the players on turning up the requisite cards respectively call 'snip', 'snap', and 'snorum'.

In R. Hardie *Heyle-macks Familiar* (1830) so the game is called 'Snip, Snap, Snore em', and in describing it the words *snip*, *snap*, and *snore* are employed.

1755 *Connoisseur* No. 52 P 6, I saw these strange women place themselves at a huge round table..to play..at Pope Joan and Snip-snap-snorum! 1784 *Laura & Augustus* I. 98 The..enlivening snip-snap snorum; which game they were then playing. 1820 MRS. TRENCH *Remi.* 439 His wife, his children, his garden,..fill up his day as snip-snap-snorum does his evening. 1834 SOUTHEY *Doctor* (1837) IV. 72 It had been found convenient to set down the children..to Pope-Joan, or snip-snap-snorum, which was to them a more amusing because a noisier game. 1887 BESANT *The World Went* xxiv, Bess..could play All-fours, Put, Snip-snap-snorum.

Snipy (snai·pi), *a.* Also **snipey**, *Sc.* **snipie**. [f. SNIPE *sb.*]

1. Characterized by having a long pointed nose or muzzle suggestive of a snipe's bill. Also *Comb.*

1825 JAMIESON *Suppl.*, *Snipie-nebbit*, having a nose resembling a snipe's neb or bill. 1884 G. STABLES *Our Friend the Dog* vii, *Snipey*—Applied to the muzzle when peaked like a fox's. 1902 *Fur & Feather* 29 Sept. 292/3 Brindle [cavy] with white blaze,..rather snipy. 1904 H. COMPTON *20th Century Dog* II. 342 The long-legged, snipey-faced,..flat-sided specimens.

2. Resembling a snipe; snipe-like.

1888 LEES & CLUTTERBUCK *B. C. 1887* xvii. (1892) 183 In flight they [dowitchers] were not so snipey as the genuine article.

3. Frequented by snipe.

1903 *Blackw. Mag.* Sept. 368/1 The chief characteristics of this essentially snipey tract.

Snirt (snɔ̄ɹt), *sb.* Chiefly *north. dial.* and *Sc.* Also 8–9 **snert**. [f. next.] A suppressed laugh; a snicker.

1781 J. HUTTON *Tour to Caves* (ed. 2) Gloss. 96 *Snert*, an ineffectual effort to stifle a laugh. 1825 in JAMIESON *Suppl.* 1828– in north. dial. glossaries, etc. (see also *Eng. Dial. Dict.*). 1899 HALL CAINE *Shadow of Crime* xxiv, 'Saucereen,' said Mrs. Garth with a snirt.

Snirt (snɔ̄ɹt), *v. north. dial.* and *Sc.* Also 8–9 **snert**. [Imitative: cf. SNURT *v.*] *intr.* To laugh in a suppressed manner; to snicker.

1724 RAMSAY in *Evergreen* (1761) II. 15 Now let hir snirt, and fyk her fill. 1791 J. LEARMONT *Poems* 2 They gang by ye wi' sic a huff, An' pridfu' caper, snirt, an' snuff, As gif Death ne'er meant them a cuff. 1829– in north. dial. glossaries. 1871 BLACK *Daughter of Heth* (1872) 94 The Whaup grew very red in the face and 'snirted' with laughter.

Sni·rtle, *v. Sc.* and *north. dial.* [f. prec. + -LE 3.] *intr.* To laugh in a quiet, suppressed, or restrained manner; to snigger.

1785 BURNS *Jolly Beggars* xiii, But though his little heart did grieve.., He feigned to snirtle in his sleeve. 1824 MACTAGGART *Gallovid. Encycl.* 112 The Dominie..fain wad fa' a laughing; He snirtles wi' his neb and snirks. 1887 J. SERVICE *Life Dr. Duguid* iv. 26 Her aul' worl' cracks and stories often mak me snirtle and laugh.

Snish, snishing: see SNEESH, SNEESHING.

† **Snit.** *Obs.*[–1] In 5 **snytte**. [Related to SNITE *v.*] The glowing part of the wick of a candle when blown out.

c 1420 *Chron. Vilod.* 1277 þis mayde..blewe ou3t þe leyȝt anone sodanly—Bot þe weke hulte stylle þe snytte.

Snitch, *sb. slang.* [Of obscure origin.]

† 1. A fillip (on the nose). *Obs.*

1676 COLES, *Snitch*,..a fillip. *a* 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew, Snitch*,..a Filip on the Nose.

2. The nose.

a 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew, Snite his Snitch*, Wipe his Nose, or give him a good Flap on the Face. 1895 RYE *E. Angl. Gloss.* 204 Pull her snitch for her. 1902 *Westm. Gaz.* 3 July 2/1 As the.. egg..broke on the 'snitch' of the Socialist candidate.

3. An informer; one who turns King's evidence. In the phr. *to turn snitch.*

1785 in GROSE *Dict. Vulgar T.* *c* 1800 in BYRON *Juan* XI. xix. Note 14, She'll surely turn snitch for the forty—That her Jack may be regular weight.

Snitch (snitʃ), *v.* [Of obscure origin: cf. prec.]

1. *intr.* To inform *upon* a person; to peach, turn informer.

1801 *Sporting Mag.* XIX. 88 A man who is now in Chester Gaol and has been snitching about me. 1812 J. H. VAUX *Flash Dict.* s.v., To impeach or betray your accomplices, is termed *snitching upon* them. 1839 A. SOMERVILLE *Hist. Brit. Leg.* v. 105 How one of these had frequently threatened to *snitch*—or tell who stole the bridle. 1867 *Crim. Chronol. York Castle* 189 Wright,..finding that Norburn had been snitching, also made a confession.

b. *trans.* To inform or give evidence against (a person or accomplice). *rare* —1.

1801 *Sporting Mag.* XIX. 88 Nadin asked him, how he knew the man had snitched him?

2. To catch by means of a noose or loop.

1900 *Daily News* 13 Oct. 8/2 The pike..is killed anyhow, 'shot at sight', or snitched with a wire loop, or netted.

Hence **Sni·tching** *ppl. a.*

1812 J. H. VAUX *Flash Dict.* s.v. *Snitch*, An informer, or tale-bearer in general, is called a *snitching* rascal.

† **Sni·tchel,** *sb. slang. Obs.* [Cf. SNITCH *sb.*] A fillip (on the nose).

1676 COLES, *Snitchel*, a fillip. *a* 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew, Snitchel*, a Filip on the Nose.

Hence † **Sni·tchel** *v. Obs.*

a 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew.* s.v. *Gig, Snichel the Gig*, Fillip the Fellow on the Nose.

† **Snitch'ems.** *Obs.*—1 A card-game.

1798 *Sporting Mag.* XI. 150 The game of snitch'em's. This game may be ranked among the fairest games on the cards. [Description follows.]

Snitcher (sni·tʃəɹ). *slang.* [f. SNITCH *v.*]

† **1.** (See quot.) *Obs.*—1

1761 *Ann. Reg.* II. 51/1 He was a respectable member of ..the Bucks,—Bloods,—Snitchers,—Choice Spirits.

2. An informer, peacher; = SNITCH *sb.* 3.

1827 *Examiner* 796/2 He had committed hundreds of robberies, but would not confess them, as it might implicate other parties, and he scorned to be a snitcher. 1859 in *Slang Dict.* 97. 1862 C. C. ROBINSON *Dial. Leeds* 415 Ah nivver wor a snitcher.

3. *pl.* Strings used by policemen in place of handcuffs. *Sc.*

1864 *Slang Dict.* 238 In Scotland Snitchers mean handcuffs. 1887 SERVICE *Life Dr. Duguid* xxvi. 168 The policman never had the snitchers in his pooch.

Snite (snəit), *sb.*[1] Now *dial.* Forms: 1, 6– snite, 4–7 (8) snyte, 5 snyghte, snyhte, snyȝt, 6–7 snight. [OE. *snite* (also in comb. *wudusnite*), apparently not represented in any of the cognate languages.]

1. = SNIPE *sb.* 1.

Some distinction between *snite* and *snipe* is implied in the following entries in MS. Cott. Nero A. vi. (early 15th cent.):—fol. 165 *v*, Plouer, snytys, snypys, larkys; fol. 177 *r*, Plouères, snytes, quaylys, snypys.

c 725 *Corpus Gloss.* A 138 *Acegia*, snite. *c* 1000 ÆLFRIC *Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 132 *Aceta*, snite, *uel* wudecocc. *c* 1325 [see SNIPE *sb.* 1]. 1363 in Riley *Memorials London* (1868) 312 A snyte, 12*d*. 1382 WYCLIF *Isaiah* xxxiv. 11 The snyte [*L. ibis*] and the crowe dwelle shul in it. *a* 1400 *Sqr. lowe Degre* 323 With deynty meates that were dere;.. Both storkes and snytes ther were also. *c* 1400 LYDG. *Churl & Bird* in *Minor P.* (Percy Soc.) 192 A downghille doke [is to thee] as deynte as a snyghte. 1515 BARCLAY *Egloges* iv. (1570) C v b/2 A shamfull rable..presumeth to indite, Though they have scantly the cunning of a snite. 1581 J. BELL *Haddon's Answ. Osorius* 374 Ill may the Snight the Woodcock twight for his long bill. 1604 DRAYTON *Owle* 947 The witlesse Wood-cocke, and his Neighbour Snite. 1688 *Phil. Trans.* XVII. 713 These passages are also in the Heads of Snites. 1694 MOTTEUX *Rabelais* IV. lix. (1737) 244 Snytes...Thistle-Finches. 1837– in Devon and Cornwall glossaries, etc. 1893 BARING-GOULD *Mrs. Curgenven* xlix, Widgeon, nor wild goose, hearn, and snite.

† **b.** Applied to species of birds resembling the snipe. *Obs.*

1694 *Martens' Voy. Spitzbergen* in *Acc. Sev. Late Voy.* II. 72 This Snite, which is also called the Strand-runner.., is no bigger than a Lark.

† **2.** As a term of abuse. *Obs.* Cf. SNIPE *sb.* 3.

1653 URQUHART *Rabelais* I. liv, Here enter not vile bigots, hypocrites, Externally devoted Apes, base snites.

3. *attrib.*, as † **snyte-knave,** a jack-snipe (cf. *snipe-knave* s.v. SNIPE *sb.* 6).

1611 COTGR. s.v. *Un, Deux pour vn*, the Snyte-knaue; tearmed so, because two of them are worth but one good Snyte.

† **Snite,** *sb.*[2] *Obs.*—1 Also snyt. [Cf. WFris. *snjit, snitte* a spit or sprinkling of rain.] (See quot.)

a 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VI*, 186 b, Their fell a small snyt [*Grafton* snite] or snow, which by violence of the wynd was driven into the faces of them.

Snite (snəit), *v.* Now *dial.* and *Sc.* Forms: 1 snytan, 5 snytyn, 5–7, *dial.* and *Sc.* 9 snyte (5 snyth-), 5– snite (5 snete); 6 snytte, 7 snit, snett. *Pa. t.* 4 snytte. *Pa. pple.* 4 y-snyt, 7 snit. [OE. *snýtan*, = ON. and Icel. *snýta* (Norw. and Sw. *snyta*, Da. *snyde*), OHG. *snûzan* (MHG. *snûtzen, sniuzen*, G. *schneuzen, schnäuzen*), MLG. *snûten* (LG. *snüten*), Du. *snuiten* (WFris. *snute*): the stem *sniūt-* is prob. the same as that of SNOUT *sb.* Cf. also SNOT *sb.*]

1. a. *intr.* To clean or wipe the nose; to cast away mucus. **b.** *trans.* To remove by wiping, etc.

a 1100 in Napier *Contrib. O. E. Lexicog.* 58 Hræce & snyte bæftan him oððe adun be his sidan. *Ibid.*, Swa hwæt swa man him fram hræce oððe snyte, fortrede hit mid his fotum. *a* 1586 in *Maitland MS.* (Pinkerton, 1786) 185 They snyte, thoch thair na mister be, That ye may thair trim napkyne see. 1598 Br. HALL *Sat.* VI. i, So looks he like a marble toward rain, And wrings and snites, and weeps, and wipes again. 1632 HOLLAND *Cyrupædia* VIII. ii. 181 Hee inured them to this, neither to spit nor snit openly in sight. *a* 1779 GRAHAM *Writ.* (1883) II. 154 A weel blooded hissie..that..snites the snotter frae their nose.

2. *trans.* To clean or clear (the nose) from mucus, esp. by means of the thumb and finger only; to blow. Also *fig.*, to tweak or pull.

c 1305 *St. Dunstan* 85 in *E. E. P.* (1862) 36 Mid his tonge he snytte hire nose, and tuengde hire sore. *Ibid.* 91 As god þe schrewe hadde ibeo atom ysnyt his nose. 1422 tr. *Secreta Secret., Priv. Priv.* 189 Therfor sayth Salamon, whoso ouer-harde Snythyth the noos, he draueth blode. *c* 1460 J. RUSSELL *Bk. Nurture* 284 in *Babees Bk.*, Pike not youre nose.., Snyff nor snitynge hyt to lowd. 1530 PALSGR. 724/1 Snytte thy nose, or thou shalte eate no buttered fysshe with me. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* XXXV. xi. II. 550 Theodorus drew one snetting his nose. 1632 — *Cyrupædia* 6 Even yet among the Persians it is held a shamefull thing..to snit the nose. *a* 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew, Snite his Snitch*, Wipe his Nose, or give him a good Flap on the Face. 1701 GREW *Cosmol. Sacra* I. v. 26 Nor would any one be able to snite his Nose, or to Sneeze. 1785 GROSE *Dict. Vulgar T., Snite*, to wipe, or slap. 1804 COUPER *Poetry* II. 61 (E.D.D.), Tibb snyted Madge's muckle nizz Till out the purple sprang. 1828– in many dial. glossaries, etc. (Cumb., Westm., Lancs., Chesh., Yks., Derby, Linc., Leic., Heref., Glos.).

† **b.** *Falconry.* Of a hawk, etc.: To wipe (the beak or bill) after feeding. *Obs.*

1486 *Bk. St. Albans, Hawking* a vj, An hawke snytith or sewith hir beke and not wipith hir beke. 1575 TURBERV. *Faulconrie* 289 Let hir tire against the Sunne, snyting and sewing hir beake a little at your discretion.

3. To snuff (a candle). ? *Obs.*

Cf. next for evidence of this use in OE.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 461/2 Snytyn..a candyl, *emungo, mungo.* 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 347/1 To Snyte..a candelle, *mungere.* ? *a* 1800 in Gordon *Bk. Chron. Keith* (1880) 65 [He could not] snite [the candles and attend to his Psalm Book at the same time.] 1808 in JAMIESON s.v.

† **Sni·te(l)s.** *Obs. rare.* In 1, 4 snytels, 5 -ele. [OE. *snýtels*, f. *snýtan* SNITE *v.*] = next 1.

c 1000 ÆLFRIC *Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 126 *Emunctorium*, candelsnytels. 1388 WYCLIF *Numb.* iv. 9 The candilstike, with hise lanternes, and tongis, and snytels. *c* 1460 *Promp. Parv.* (Winch.), Snytele of a candel, *munctorium.*

Sni·ter, Also 5, 7 snyter. [f. SNITE *v.*]

1. *pl.* A pair of candle-snuffers.

1382 WYCLIF *Numb.* iv. 9 The candelstik, with the lanterns, and her toonges, and snyters. 1881 *Leicester Gloss.* 247.

2. One who wipes or snuffs.

1611 COTGR., *Moucheur*, a snyter, wiper, snuffer.

Snithe, *a. north. dial.* Also 9 snyde. [Related to next.] = SNITHING *ppl. a.*

1671 SKINNER *Etymol. Ling. Angl., A Snithe-wind*, vox elegantissima agro Linc. usitatissima. Significat autem Ventum valde Frigidum & Penetrabilem,..ut nos dicimus, *a Cutting wind.* [Hence in Ray.] 1683 *Yorkshire Dialogue* 39 It is varra Snithe, And Ise flaid, Wife, it will be Frost Belive. 1828– in north. dial. use (*Eng. Dial. Dict.*). 1884 STREATFEILD *Linc. & Danes* 265 At the fore-end of the year the winds are often hask and snyde.

Snithe, *v. Obs.* exc. *dial.* [Common Teutonic: OE. *sníðan*, = OFris. *snítha* (*snida, snia*, WFris. *snije*), MDu. *snîden* (Du. *snijden*), OS. *snîðan* (LG, *snîden*), OHG. *snîdan* (MHG. *snîden*, G. *schneiden*), ON. *sníða* (Norw. and Sw. *snida*), Goth. *sneiþan*. The mod. dial. use may be from ON.] *trans.* To cut; † to kill by cutting.

c 725 *Corpus Gl.* (Hessels) D 342 *Dolatum*, ȝesniden. *c* 897 K. ÆLFRED *Gregory's Past. C.* 377 ȝif hwelc god læce bið, ðe wel cann wunda sniðan. *c* 1000 ÆLFRIC *Hom.* II. 40 God..het niman anes ȝeares lamb æt ælcum hiwisce, and sniðan on Easter-tide. *c* 1200 ORMIN 1338 Þe preost..toc & snaþ þatt oþerr bucc. *Ibid.* 14666 Tacc Ysaac þin wennchell, & snip itt, alls itt wære an shep. 1888 ADDY *Sheffield Gloss.* 226 Snithe a piece off with thy knife.

Snithe, dial. var. SNATH, scythe-pole; obs. f. SNY *v.* to swarm.

Sni·thing, *ppl. a.* Now *dial.* [f. SNITHE *v.*] Of wind, etc.: Nipping, cutting; piercing, sharp. (Cf. SNITHE *a.*)

a 1350 *St. Martin* 24 in Horstm. *Altengl. Leg.* (1881) 152 It was cald with weders wete, Snythand frost with snaw and slete. 1851 STERNBERG *Dial. Northampton* s.v., A snithing wind. 1881 *Leicester Gloss.* 247 *Snithing*,..applied to weather. 'A bloshing and snithing day.'

Sni·ting, *vbl. sb.* [f. SNITE *v.*]

1. The action of the verb; a blowing or wiping of the nose or beak; the snuffing of a candle.

c 1000 ÆLFRIC *Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 162 *Sternutatio*,.. snytinge, *uel* fneosung. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 461 Snytynge, of a nose or candyl, *munctura.* *c* 1460 *Vrbanitatis* 19 in *Babees Bk.*, Fro spettyng & snetyng kepe þe also. 1575 TURBERV. *Faulconrie* 306 And ye may perceive this disease by your hawkes often sniting & by making a noyze twice or thryse in hir snyting. 1611 COTGR., *Mouchement*, a snyting, or wiping of the nose. 1656 W. DU GARD tr. *Comenius' Gate Lat. Unl.* 57 The snivel..is detained by the hairs in the nostrils, that it may not flow down before sniting.

† **2.** The snuff of a candle. *Obs.*

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 461/2 Snytynge, of a candel, *munctorium, emunctorium.* 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 347/1 A Snytynge of a candelle, *licinus, licinum.*

3. *Comb.*, as † *sniting hole*; † **sniting instrument,** † **iron,** † **tongs,** candle-snuffers.

1388 WYCLIF *Exod.* XXXVII. 23 He made also seuene lanternes, with her snytyng tongis. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* v. ii. (Tollemache MS.), Þat þe open fumositeis and boystous filþe may be voyded and clensid by open and snytynge holes. *c* 1475 *Promp. Parv.* 461/2 (K.), Snytinge instrument, *munctorium, emunctorium.* 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 347/1 A Snytynge yren, *emunctorium.*

† **Sni·tling,** *ppl. a. Obs.*—1 ? Trifling.

1682 H. MORE *Annot. Glanvill's Lux O.* 80 And now for that snitling Dilemma of the eager Opposer of Pre-existence.

Sni·tter, *v. Obs.* exc. *dial.* Also 4 sniter-, 5 snyter-, sneter-. [Of obscure origin: cf. SNITE *sb.*[2]] *intr.* Of snow: To fall. Hence **Sni·ttering** *ppl. a.*

13.. *Gaw. & Gr. Knt.* 2003 Þe snawe snitered ful snart, þat snayped þe wylde. *c* 1400 *Anturs of Arth.* vii, Thay ran to the roches,..For the snyterand [*Douce* sneterand] snaue, that snaypely hom snellus. 1888 ADDY *Sheffield Gloss.* 227 *Snitter*, to snow.

† **Sni·tting,** *vbl. sb. Obs.*—1 (Meaning doubtful.)

1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) II. 147 Þei beeþ i-cleped Pictes by cause of peyntynge and snittynge of woundes þat beeþ i-sene on hire bodies.

Sni·ttle, *sb.* Now *dial.* Also 7 snitle. [Of obscure origin.] A loop with a running knot; a noose, snare; a slip-knot.

1611 COTGR., *Lags courant*, a noose, grinne, snitle, running knot. 1642 *Proceedings at Banbury* 7 Till they had all their necks in a snittle. 1862 in C. C. ROBINSON *Dial. Leeds* 415. 1895 RYE *E. Angl. Gloss.* 203 *Snickle, Snittle*, a slip-knot.

Snive, variant of SNY *v.* to swarm.

Snivel (sni·v'l), *sb.* Forms: α. 5 snevel, -yl, 6 -yll, 6–7 -il, 7 -ill; 6 sneuyll, -il, 6–7 -ill; 6 sneuel, -ill, 9 *Sc.* sneevel, -il. β. 6 snyuell, sniuil, -yll, 6–7 -ell; 7 snivell, -ill, 7– snivel. [f. SNIVEL *v.*]

1. Mucus collected in, or issuing from, the nose.

α. 14.. *Parts Body* in Wr.-Wülcker 631 *Pus nasi*, snevel of þe nose. *c* 1440 *Jacob's Well* 247 Wype wyth þi tunge oute of myn nase þe snevyl þat hangyth þer-inne. 1530 PALSGR. 272/1 Snevyll whan it hangeth at ones nose, *roupie, boe.* 1540 — *Acolastus* I j, He wolde throwe the sneuyll of his nose into it. 1626 BRETON *Pasquil's Madcappe* xi, As sower, As beldam's milke that turned with her sneuill. 1671 W. SALMON *Syn. Med.* t. liv. 136 Without avoiding any thing, except bloody or filthy Matter, like Snevil.

β. 1519 HORMAN *Vulg.* 28 b, Thy nose is full of snyuell. 1548 ELYOT, *Mucosus*, ȝnattye,..fulle of sniuyll. 1593 G. HARVEY *Pierce's Super.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 238, I will..squise thy braine to sniuell, whereof it was curdled. 1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* III. ii. vi. iii. (1651) 562 Snot and snivell in her nostrils, spittle in her mouth. 1682 *Eng. Elect. Sheriffs* 46, I will sooner worship the Sun, than..the Snot and Snivel of Loyala's Nose. 1739 R. BULL tr. *Dedekindus' Grobianus* 11 If with your Elbow you wipe off the Snivel, No Man alive shall be esteem'd more civil. 1871 R. ELLIS *Catullus* xxiii. 17 Thee sweat frets not,..Frets not snivel or oozy rheumy nostril.

b. A condition of the nose marked by the accumulation of mucus. Also *the snivels.*

1600 SURFLET *Countrey Farme* I. xxviii. 188 For the sniuell, take orpin and brimstone [etc.]. 1844 LOWSON *Mod. Farrier* 209 This affection is termed the snores or snivels. 1877 *Holderness Gloss.* 132/1 *Snivels*, a cold, accompanied by a difficulty of breathing, and a running at the nose.

† **2.** Saliva. *Obs.*—1

1697 *Phil. Trans.* XX. 50 The Snivel or Drivel that comes from the Mouth of a Dog..when mad.

† **3.** (See quot.) *Obs.*

1693 EVELYN *De la Quint. Compl. Gard.* II. 195 Grounds ..that being colder and stronger or heavier, easily infect them [lettuces] with slimy Snivel [='a sort of rotting moisture, hanging about some plants'].

4. A slight sniff indicating, or intended to suggest, suppressed emotion.

1848 DICKENS *Dombey* xxxix, Rob..took up the pieces one by one with a sob and a snivel for each. 1866 GILPIN *Songs Cumbld.* 280 Sae wi' snuffs an' sneevils [he] Rair't out. 1890 *Daily News* 18 Feb. 5/2 A carefully arranged and expressive 'snivel' is regarded as their most valuable acquirement.

b. A show or pretence of emotion; hypocritical expression of feeling.

1878 E. JENKINS *Haverholme* 194 Lords and ladies.., penned elegiacs to his praise in tears and snivel. 1886 *St. James's Gaz.* 9 Feb. (Cassell), The cant and snivel of which we have seen so much of late.

5. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *snivel-bottle, -guts, -monger, -nose.*

1690 DRYDEN *Amphitryon* III. i, A received opinion, snivel-guts. 1778 *Exmoor Scolding* Gloss., *Snibble-nose*, or rather *Snivel-nose*, one who snuffs up the Snot. 1792 WOLCOT (P. Pindar) *Ep. Sir W. Hamilton* Wks. 1812 III. 185 More snivel-bottles, jordens, and old jugs. 1896 A. MORRISON *Child Jago* 149 He preferred the frank rogue before the calculating snivel-monger.

Snivel (sni·v'l), *v.* Forms: α. 4 snevele, 5–6 sneuel, 6 -il, snevel(l, -ill, -yll; 9 *dial.* sneavel, *Sc.* sneevil. β. 4 snyvele, 5 -elle, 6 snyuel, 7 sniuel, 7– snivel (9 *dial.* snivvel). [OE. **snyflan* (implied in *snyflung* SNIVELLING *vbl. sb.*), f. *snofl* mucus. Cf. Da. *snøvle* (older *snevle*) to snuffle.]

1. *intr.* To run at the nose; to emit mucus from the nose; also, to draw up mucus audibly.

c 1325 *Gloss. W. de Bibbesw.* in Wright *Voc.* 173 Ely autre ne pout parler Une parole sanz nasyer, [*glossed*] snevelet, snyvele. *a* 1450 *Langland's P. Pl.* B. v. 135 (MS. Bodl. 814), Now awakiþ wratthe, wiþ two white eisen, And sneuelyng wiþ his nose. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 347/1 To Snyvelle, *naricare.* 1508 KENNEDIE *Flyting w. Dunbar* 550 Out! out! I schout, apon that snowt that snevillis. 1526 SKELTON *Magnyf.* 1805 The snyte snyueled in the snowte and smyled at the game. 1614 B. JONSON *Barth. Fair* II. v, Dos't so, snotty nose? Good Lord! are you sniueling? 1649

QUARLES *Virgin Widow* II, Must I be still yawling, and calling,..whilst y'are..potting, and piping, and driveling and sniveling! *a* 1722 LISLE *Husb.* (1757) 319 When they are sheared they catch cold, and will be glandered, and snivel very much.

b. *trans.* (See quot.) *rare.*

1530 PALSGR. 723/2, I snevell, I beraye any thynge with snyvell, *je amorue.* Se howe this boye snyvelleth his cote.

c. To clear (the nose) by snuffling.

1835 *Politeness & Gd.-breeding* 104 Never .. snivel and snort a wet nose.

2. *intr.* To make a sniffing or snuffling sound expressive of real or assumed emotion; to be in, or affect, a tearful state.

1690 DRYDEN *Prol. to 'Mistakes'*, I left our young Poet sniveling and sobbing behind the Scenes, and cursing somebody that has deceiv'd him. 1712 STEELE *Spect.* No. 364 P 4 To take a Lad from Grammar and..send him crying and snivelling into foreign Countries. 1791 COWPER *Iliad* II. 329 And whip thee hence Home to thy galley, sniveling like a boy. 1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* xxiii, What signified his bringing a woman here to snotter and snivel, and bather their Lordships? 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* lxii, Every woman in the house was snivelling at the time. 1882 MISS BRADDON *Mt.-Royal* III. i. 22 Why do you stand there snivelling about him?

3. *trans.* a. To affect in some way by snivelling; to address in a snivelling manner. *rare.*

1668 R. L'ESTRANGE *Vis. Quev.* (1702) 268 To snivel and sneeze himself into another World. 1700 CONGREVE *Way of World* I. ix, Let 'em snivel and cry their Hearts out. 1717 *Entertainer* No. 25. 168 Thus they Whine and Snivel the Multitude, to enrich themselves and help forward the Faction.

b. To utter with a snivelling or sniffing sound; to shed (tears) snufflingly. Also with *out.*

1780 COWPER *Progr. Error* 310 Ye novelists, who mar what ye would mend, Sniv'ling and driv'ling folly without end. 1818 SCOTT *Rob Roy* xxx, I heard the former snivel out, in a very subdued tone, 'And ye'll ask her' [etc.]. 1851 THACKERAY *Eng. Hum.* vi. (1876) 328 That fine flower of love..over which Sterne snivelled so many tears. 1865 ALEX. SMITH *Summer in Skye* I. 237 The doctor saluted Flora and snivelled his compliments.

†**Snivelard.** *Obs. rare.* In 4–5 sneuel-, 5 snyvelard. [f. SNIVEL *v.*] A sniveller.

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* v. xiii. (Tollemache MS.), The nose is sum tyme let..by bredynge of superfluite..in þe holis of the nose, as it fareþ in sneuelardis. 14.. *Lat.-Eng. Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 606 *Pusio*, a sneuelard. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 461/2 Snyvelard, or he þat spekythe yn the nose, *nasitus.*

Sni·veldom. *nonce-wd.* [f. SNIVEL *sb.* or *v.*] A slight cold causing one to snivel.

1767 C'TESS COWPER in *Mrs. Delany's Life & Corr.* Ser. II. I. 91, I caught the first cold I have had this year..; but it was only a 'sniveldom' and is gone off.

Sni·velled, *ppl. a.* [f. SNIVEL *sb.* or *v.*] Soiled or foul with snivel.

1530 TINDALE *Answ. More* (Parker Soc.) 124 That men should shrine his snivelled napkin, and not to believe his preaching. 1576 R. PETERSON *Galateo* (1852) 13 They spare not to snot their sniueld noses vppon them. 1581 G. PETTIE tr. *Guazzo's Civ. Conv.* I. (1586) 43 He woulde through negligence suffer his nose alwaies to be sneueled, and tooke no care to wipe it. 1619 R. WEST *Bk. Demeanor* 46 in *Babees Bk.* 292 To wipe thy snivelled nose Vpon thy cap. 1738 tr. *Guazzo's Art Convers.* 78 He was so negligent, as always to go with a snivell'd nose.

Sniveller (sni·v'lər). Also 5 sneveler. [f. SNIVEL *v.*]

1. One who snivels or whines. Also in fig. context.

c 1450 *Cov. Myst.* (Shaks. Soc.) 396, I schal snarle tho sneveleris wyth rith scharp schouris. 1731 SWIFT *On his Death* Wks. 1755 III. II. 244 [He would] more lament, when I was dead, Than all the sniv'lers round my bed. 1791 WOLCOT (P. Pindar) *Ep. to Ld. Lonsdale* Wks. 1812 III. 13 Despise that thing call'd Meekness; 'tis a sniveller. 1905 *Speaker* 25 Feb. 512/2 Savonarola and his Piagnoni or snivellers..had a fatal influence on art.

2. A cold breeze (causing one to snivel).

1834 COL. HAWKER *Diary* (1893) II. 69 The pinching 'sniveller' was changed to a tempest. 1846 *Ibid.* 271 A chill that I took in a deadly cold 'sniveller'.

†**Sni·velliness.** *Obs.*—1 [f. SNIVELLY *a.*] A soft glutinous state.

1662 CHANDLER *Van Helmont's Oriat.* 147 The Eggs of Fishes are at first more hard, and straightway..wax tender into a snivelliness.

Snivelling (sni·v'liŋ), *vbl. sb.* Also 2 snyfiung, 5 -ynge; 5 sneuelyng, 6 -ing, etc. [See SNIVEL *v.*] The action of the vb. in various senses.

a 1100 in Napier *Contrib. O. E. Lexicog.* 58 ðif heora ænegum for unhæle hraca of breoste oððe snyflung of nosa derize. *c* 1430 *Freemasonry* (Halliw. 1840) 711 From spyttynge and snyflynge kepe the also. 1587 MASCALL *Govt. Cattle, Sheepe* (1627) 220 Sheep oftentimes wil haue the glaunders, and a sneuelling at their noses. 1655 MOUFET & BENNET *Health's Improv.* (1746) 380 Spitting, Sniveling and Yawning, are only the Fruits of Fulness or Idleness. 1693 *Apol. Clergy Scot.* 15 They never thought Sniveling necessary to make a great Saint. 1748 SMOLLETT *Rod. Rand.* lxi. (1804) 436 After a good deal of snivelling and sobbing. 1782 COWPER *To the Rev. Mr. Newton* 11 There is nothing but sniv'ling and blowing of noses. 1815 *Hist. J. Decastro* I. 44 Come, John,..let us have no more sniv'ling. 1875 EMERSON *Lett. & Social Aims* x. 256 Meantime we hate snivelling.

attrib. 1782 ELIZ. BLOWER *G. Bateman* II. 115, I war'nt there was fine sniveling work when ye parted. 1816 GILCHRIST *Philos. Etym.* 52 They only require a gentle grunt through the snivelling organs, to soothe dainty ears with much sweet melody.

Snivelling (sni·v'liŋ), *ppl. a.* Also 3 snvuelinde, 5 snyvelande; 4 snyvelinge, 5 sneuelyng, snevyllynge, etc. [f. SNIVEL *v.*]

1. Of the nose, etc.: Discharging, or full of, snivel. Also of persons, given to snivelling or snuffling.

c 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 319 Snvuelinde nose and wet mouth. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 347/1 Snyvelande (*A.* Snevyllynge), *naricans, naricus.* 1608 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. iv. IV. *Decay* 175 Stooping as she goes, With driveling mouth, and with a sniveling nose. 1615 *Baud, Ruffe, & Cuffe* (Halliw.) 16 He is a most filthy snivelling fellow..; he will wipe your nose of all, if you put the case to him. 1813 H. & J. SMITH *Rej. Addr.* 72 A snivelling fellow he's call'd by his foes, For he can't raise his paw up to blow his red nose. 1862 *Macm. Mag.* Sept. 380 Another, whom he remembers a little snivelling boy. 1902 *Times* 16 July 13/6 The wonderful picture of leering, chuckling, snivelling senility.

transf. 1858 R. S. SURTEES *Ask Mamma* xxiii, The landlady brought a snivelling mould candle into the cheerless.. little inn-parlour.

b. Of a cold: Accompanied by snivelling.

1687 MIÉGE *Gl. Fr. Dict.* II, A snivelling Cold, *un Rûme.*

2. Sounding through the nose. *rare.*

1447 BOKENHAM *Seyntys* (Roxb.) 21 At the laste he thus owt abrayde Wyth a sneuelyng vooys & to hyr sayde. 1816 GILCHRIST *Philos. Etym.* xvii, To see this good, plain dialect superseded by snivelling, flippant, senseless French.

3. Displaying emotion or the semblance of it; mean-spirited, weak: a. Of persons.

1647 J. C[LEVELAND] *Char. Lond.-Diurn.* 8 Two of Mars his Petty-toes, such snivelling Cowards, that it is a favour to call them so. 1692 WOOD *Ath. Oxon.* II. 84 The snivling Presbyterians..did not stick to report that he died no better than a Brewers Clerk. 1732 FIELDING *Covent Gard. Trag.* I. vii, Without wine all human kind wou'd be One stupid, sniveling, sneaking, sober fellow. 1790 WOLCOT (P. Pindar) *Advice to Future Laureat* Wks. 1812 II. 343 The little snivelling spirit. 1805 DIBDIN in *Naval Chron.* XIII. 394 The snivlingest scoundrel that ever was seen. 1838 DICKENS *O. Twist* xxvi, Why not have kept him here among the rest, and made a sneaking, snivelling pickpocket of him at once? 1860 EMERSON *Conduct of Life* ii. Wks. (Bohn) II. 335 These Hoosiers and Suckers are really better than the snivelling opposition.

b. Of discourse, writings, etc.

1673 HICKERINGILL *Gregory F. Greybeard* 276 Pickt the peoples pockets with canting long snivelling sermons. 1707 HEARNE *Collect.* (O.H.S.) II. 19 A poor, sniveling discourse. 1767 STERNE *Tristram Shandy* IX. xii, That snivelling virtue of Meekness. 1771 SMOLLETT *Humph. Cl.* (1815) 4, I have received a snivelling letter from Griffin, offering to make a public submission, and pay costs.

†**Sni·vellish,** *a. Obs.*—0 [f. SNIVEL *sb.*]

1530 PALSGR. 324/2 Snevylysshe, full of snevyll, *morueux.*

†**Sni·velly,** *a. Obs.* Also 6 snevelly, sniuely, -elie, 6–7 sniuelly (7 -ie). [f. SNIVEL *sb.*]

1. Of the nature of snivel or mucus.

1576 T. NEWTON tr. *Lemnie's Complex.* (1633) 175 A thicke, filthy, and snevelly Phlegme. 1608 TOPSELL *Serpents* (1658) 620 A foul, stinking, glutinous, and snivelly matter. 1658 ROWLAND tr. *Mouffet's Theat. Ins.* 1109 Nothing else but snotty matter..or snivelly flegm.

2. Foul with snivel or mucus.

1580 HOLLYBAND *Treas. Fr. Tong, Morveux*, snotty, sniuelly. 1598 FLORIO, *Moccicoso*, snottie, sniuelie. 1600 SURFLET *Countrie Farme* I. xiii. 89 [The cow's] wide nostrels and sniuely.

Snoach (snōʊtʃ), *v. dial.* Also 4, 9 snoche, 9 snötch. [Imitative.] *intr.* To snuffle; to breathe or speak through the nose, etc. Hence **Snoa·ching** *vbl. sb.*

1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) I. 11, I..schamede and dradde after so noble spekers..to putte forþ my bareyn speche, hosnes and snochynge. 1844 W. BARNES *Poems* Gloss. 350 *Snötch*, to speak or breathe hardly through the nose. 1881 *Isle of Wight Gloss.* 33 *Snoche*, to speak with a nasal twang. 1886 *W. Somerset Word-bk.* s.v. *Snoachy.*

Snoak, variant of SNOKE *v.*

Snoar, obs. form of SNORE *v.*

Snob (snɒb), *sb.*1 Also 9 *Sc.* snab. [Orig. slang, of obscure origin.]

1. *dial.* or *colloq.* A shoemaker or cobbler; a cobbler's apprentice.

a. 1781 in Hone *Every-day Bk.* II. 837 Sir William Blase, a snob by trade. 1785 GROSE *Dict. Vulgar T., Snob*, a nick name for a shoemaker. 1819 *Sporting Mag.* IV. 249 Tom Jenkins was known as a cobbler or snob. 1824 W. E. ANDREWS *Rev. Fox's Bk. Mart.* I. 252 Both Snip and Snob were burned for their pains. 1880 *Fraser's Mag.* Nov. 642 Even among the snobs the custom of the trade is against giving credit.

β. 1808 JAMIESON, *Snab*, a cant term for a..cobler's boy. 1813 PICKEN *Poems* II. 132 To flame as an author our Snab was sae bent. 1828 MOIR *Mansie Wauch* xiv, Rory Skirl, the snab, and Geordie Thump, the dyer. 1896 W. HARVEY *Kenneth-crook* 38 (E.D.D.), He had entered the craft in the usual way by being what the villagers called a 'snab'.

†2. *Cambridge slang.* Any one not a gownsman; a townsman. *Obs.* (Cf. CAD2 4.)

c 1796 in Whibley *In Cap & Gown* (1889) 87 Snobs call him Nicholson! Plebeian name. 1828 *Sporting Mag.* XXI. 428 A capital front rank of 'tassells'..all eager for a 'slap at a snob'. 1865 *Sat. Rev.* Sept. 298/2 Happily the annals of Oxford present no instance of a 'snob' murdered in the streets.

3. A person belonging to the ordinary or lower classes of society; one having no pretensions to rank or gentility.

1831 *Lincoln Herald* 22 July 3/6 The nobs have lost their dirty seats—the honest snobs have got 'em. 1834 W. H. BROOKFIELD in F. M. Brookfield *Cambridge 'Apostles'* (1906) iv. 66 *Snobs* go early [to the Grand Opera, Paris], buy pit tickets.., and beset comers at a quarter past seven to give them 5½ francs for their tickets. 1841 J. T. HEWLETT *Parish Clerk* III. 165 In the presence of a tail of snobs who accompanied him on his way. 1852 EARP *Gold Col. Austr.* 9 The majority of the colonists are essentially snobs, and they are justly proud of the distinction.

b. One who has little or no breeding or good taste; a vulgar or ostentatious person.

1838 MRS. SHERWOOD *Henry Milner* III. ix. 175 He is a genteel young man—no snob—quite the gentleman. 1843 THACKERAY *Irish Sk. Bk.* Wks. 1879 XVIII. 111 A vulgar man in England..chiefly displays his character of snob by ..swaggering and showing off in his coarse dull stupid way. 1859 *Slang Dict.* 97 *Snob*, a low, vulgar..person.

c. One who meanly or vulgarly admires and seeks to imitate, or associate with, those of superior rank or wealth; one who wishes to be regarded as a person of social importance.

1848 THACKERAY *Bk. Snobs* i, I mean by positive [Snobs] such persons as are Snobs everywhere,..being by nature endowed with Snobbishness. 1860 H. MAYHEW *Upper Rhine* iv. i. 183 So necessary..are the professional titles considered by the supreme Snob of an authority from whom we quote. 1863 MISS BRADDON *J. Marchmont's Legacy* I. ii. 42 'What a snob I am,' he thought; 'always bragging of home'. 1882 MRS. RIDDELL *Pr. of Wales's Garden-Party* 127 He was..such a snob, he felt pleased his clerks should hear a butler ask for a situation.

4. = BLACK-LEG 3.

a 1859 DE QUINCEY (Webster), Those who work for lower wages during a strike are called snobs, the men who stand out being 'nobs'.

5. *attrib.*, as *snob ambition, -land, nature, ore*, **snob-stick,** = sense 4 (cf. KNOBSTICK 2).

Other examples occur in Thackeray's *Book of Snobs.*

1848 THACKERAY *Bk. Snobs* Pref., It is Beautiful..to sink shafts in society and come upon rich veins of Snobore. *Ibid.* xxxii, O you pride of all Snobland! O you crawling, truckling..lacqueys and parasites! 1860 *Slang Dict.* 221 *Snob-stick*, a workman who refuses to join in strikes, or trade unions. 1866 CARLYLE *Remin.* (1881) II. 189 What of snob ambition there might be in me. 1883 *Congregationalist* May 377 The snob nature comes out in strange ways.

Snob (snɒb), *sb.*2 [Of obscure origin.] A game of cricket played with a soft ball and a thick stick in lieu of a bat.

1892 *Daily News* 6 May 5/2 They are subject to very dangerous accidents at cricket, and might well confine themselves to 'snob'. 1894 *Ibid.* 10 May 6/1 Snob, or stump cricket, is indeed an excellent game.

Snob, *v.*1 Now *dial.* Also 3–5 snobbe. [Imitative.] *intr.* To sob. Hence **Sno·bbing** *vbl. sb.*

c 1300 *Old Age* vii. in *E. E. P.* (1862) 149, I snurpe, i snobbe, i sneipe on snovte. *a* 1380 *St. Ambrose* 940 in Horstm. *Altengl. Leg.* (1878) 23 He wept and snobbed and ofte abreid. 1388 WYCLIF *Lam.* iii. 56 Turne thou not awei thin eere fro my sobbyng [*v.r.* snobbyng] and cries. *c* 1420 *Chron. Vilod.* 1865 He with sore sykyng & snobbyng bothe Vnswered þe monke. *Ibid.* 1986 þus ladyes alle.. snobbedone & sykedone fulle sore. 1608 MIDDLETON *Mad World* III. ii, She cannot hear me for snobbing. 1668 L'ESTRANGE *Vis. Quev.* (1708) 124 There was such Blowing, Snobbing, Sniveling,..that there was no enduring the House. 18.. in *Eng. Dial. Dict.* s.v., She neither sighed, not snobbed, nor spoke, nor nothing. 1884– in dial. glossaries (Worc., Glouc.).

†**Snob,** *v.*2 *Obs.*—1 [? var. of SNUB *v.* Cf. SNOBBERLY *adv.*] *intr.* To gird *at* something.

1654 GAYTON *Pleas. Notes* III. vi. 107 A few words being spoken to Sancho, snobbing at his Insensiblenesse.

Snobber (snɒ·bər). *colloq.* [f. SNOB *sb.*1 1.] A shoemaker, cobbler.

1900 *Daily News* 15 Aug. 6/4 She takes up with a worthy 'snobber' (shoemaker).

†**Sno·bberly,** *adv. Obs. rare.* [app. related to SNOB *v.*2] Snubbingly.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 24024 Vn-reufulli þai can him raipe, Ful snoberli [*Edinb.* snubnerlik] him for to snaipe.

Snobbery (snɒ·bəri). [f. SNOB *sb.*1 3.]

1. The class of snobs.

1833 *Lincoln Herald* 15 Jan. 3/6 In 'talking conversation' with some of the Snobbery of Brummagem. 1887 *Twin Souls* II. xvi. 198 The admiration of all the 'snobbery' of London.

2. The character or quality of being a snob; snobbishness; vulgar ostentation.

1843 *Blackw. Mag.* LIII. 232 Snobbery, like murder, will out; and, if you do not happen to be a gentleman born [etc.]. 1853 GEO. ELIOT in Cross *Life* I. 315 They are two capital people, without any snobbery. 1891 *Speaker* 11 July 36/1 A type of snobbery which regards the established religion as a stepping-stone to respectability.

b. An instance of this; a snobbish trait.

1866 *Cornh. Mag.* Nov. 632 Arms sometimes indispensable in mixed societies against the pushing snobberies of vulgar wealth. 1880 *Cope's Tobacco Plant.* Oct. 536/1 Hence youth rivals with youth .. in varying vulgarest snobberies with maddest absurdities.

Sno·bbess. Also snobess. [f. SNOB *sb.*1 3.] A female snob.

1869 *Punch* 14 Aug. 62/2 Reporters in front, snob and snobess behind! 1887 *Truth* 16 June 979 The crowd of snobs and snobesses.

Sno·bbiness. *rare.* [f. SNOBBY *a.*] Snobbishness.

1851 MILLAIS in J. G. Millais *Life* (1899) I. iv. 142 Revelling in snobbiness at having such distinguished persons at the farm.

Sno·bbing, *vbl. sb.*[1] [f. SNOB *sb.*[1] 1.] The cobbling, or partial making, of boots.

1880 *Fraser's Mag.* Nov. 643 It has become a custom to endeavour to get the necessary 'snobbing' done between Friday evening and Monday morning. 1900 ANNIE WAKEMAN *Autobiog. Charwoman* viii. 111, I could see meself a-learnin' the easy parts of shoe-makin'—sech as doin' the uppers, called snobbin'.

Sno·bbing, *vbl. sb.*[2]: see SNOB *v.*[1]

Snobbish (snɒ·biʃ), *a.* [f. SNOB *sb.*[1] 3.]

1. Of, pertaining to, or characteristic of a snob.

1840 DICKENS *Old C. Shop* lvi, This form of inquiry he held to be of disrespectful and snobbish tendency. 1846 THACKERAY *Snob Papers* Wks. 1886 XXIV. 332, I can conceive nothing more dangerous, insolent—Snobbish, in a word—than such an opposition. 1854 *Illustr. Lond. News* 8 July 7/2 The snobbish display of plush breeches. 1873 HAMERTON *Intell. Life* VII. iii. 242 You will not suspect me of a snobbish desire to pay compliments to royalty.

absol. 1848 THACKERAY *Bk. Snobs* Pref., It is Beautiful to study even the Snobbish; to track Snobs through history.

Comb. 1891 E. KINGLAKE *Australian* 144 It is doubtless not pleasant for the snobbish-minded man..to remember an origin of the kind.

2. Having the character of a snob.

1849 SAXE *Poems, Proud Miss M'Bride* xv, Depend upon it, my snobbish friend, Your family thread you can't ascend. 1863 W. PHILLIPS *Speeches* xv. 325 Snobbish sons of fathers lately rich. 1885 *Spectator* 30 May 714/2 Julian is..vain, cowardly, snobbish, and untrustworthy.

Hence **Sno·bbishly** *adv.*

1848 THACKERAY *Bk. Snobs* iii, It encourages the commoner to be snobbishly mean. 1892 ZANGWILL *Bow Myst.* iv. 51 One whom he seems snobbishly anxious to claim as a friend.

Sno·bbishness. [f. prec.] The character or quality of being snobbish.

1846 THACKERAY *Snob Papers* Wks. 1886 XXIV. 318 This ..shameful caricature of a man which Snobbishness has set up to worship it. 1859 JEPHSON *Brittany* xvi. 274 So the insolent young sham-aristocrat was punished for his snobbishness. 1881 HUXLEY *Hume* v. 106 One of the most curious peculiarities of the dog mind is its inherent snobbishness.

Sno·bbism. [f. SNOB *sb.*[1] 3.] The characteristic qualities of a snob; snobbishness.

1856 GEO. ELIOT *Ess.* (1884) 267 As long as snobbism runs in the blood, why should it not run in our speech? 1869 *Daily News* 2 Sept., All that has been said latterly about the snobbism of our countrymen..on their travels. 1884 *Contemp. Rev.* Oct. 545 Is there any society..where such a piece of snobbism could be represented as possible.

Sno·bbite. *rare*[−1]. In 8 snobite. [f. SNOB *sb.*[1] 2.] A townsman.

c 1796 in Whibley *In Cap & Gown* (1889) 87 Plebeian name Which ne'er would hand a Snobite down to fame.

Sno·bby, *a.* [f. SNOB *sb.*[1] 3.] Snobbish.

1846 Mrs. GORE *Eng. Char.* (1852) 128 Thither comes the snobby gig, conveying red-faced individuals. 1858 RAMSAY *Remin. Sc. Life & Char.* 60 If we can't get in with the nobs,..we will never take up with any society that is decidedly snobby. 1888 *Temple Bar* Aug. 539 Perhaps he was snobby enough to object to my earning money.

Sno·bdom. [f. SNOB *sb.*[1] 3.] The aggregate of snobs; snobs collectively.

1846 *New Monthly Mag.* Sept. 31 The congress of *mauvais sujets* from all parts of Snobdom, who infest Wiesbaden. 1851 MAYNE REID *Scalp Hunters* xxvi. 196 In savage as in civilized life there is a 'snobdom'. 1873 W. S. MAYO *Never Again* iv. 48 We must go..to England,..where a more rigid tabooism gives a wonderful exaltation to the idols of snobdom.

Sno·blet. *rare*[−1]. [f. SNOB *sb.*[1] 3.] = next.

1847 ALB. SMITH *Chr. Tadpole* li. (1879) 439 He looked as good a type of the party snoblet, as could be imagined.

Sno·bling. [f. SNOB *sb.*[1] 3.] A little, young, or petty snob. Also *attrib.*

1848 THACKERAY *Bk. Snobs* xii, You see, dear Snobling, that..he might have been excused from interfering. 1876 *World* V. 13 Every brainless bank-clerk and snobling sub-inspector of constabulary. 1881 CLARK RUSSELL *Ocean Free Lance* II. iii. 149 The contemptuous usage every little snobling..thinks himself privileged to give us.

Snobocracy (snɒbɒ·krăsi). [f. SNOB *sb.*[1] 3 + -OCRACY.] The class of snobs, as having some power or exerting some influence.

1854 LEVER *Dodd Family Abr.* lxvii, The fun derived from watching the 'snobocracy' I have mentioned. 1858 KINGSLEY *Misc.* (1859) I. 138 Soliciting the votes, not of the people, but of the Snobocracy. 1885 *Manch. Exam.* 7 Apr. 4/4 The Orange flag..would be floating over the houses of the Dublin snobocracy.

Snobo·grapher. [f. as prec. + -(O)GRAPHER.] A writer on, a describer of, snobs. So **Snobo·graphy,** the description or delineation of snobs. **Snobo·logist, Snobo·nomer,** a student of, a specialist in, snobs.

1848 THACKERAY *Bk. Snobs* xxxv, Up that long avenue the *Snobographer walked in solitude. 1868 *Imperial Rev.* Mar. 272, I may mention..that Thackeray, the great Snobographer, hated a Cad much more than he hated a Snob. 1848 THACKERAY *Bk. Snobs* xxxviii, In the Country *Snobography my poor friend Ponto has been held up almost exclusively for the public gaze. 1884 *Sat. Rev.* 19 Jan. 76/1 The safer and wiser way in this infancy of the science of snobography is to refrain from the attempt at absolute aphorism. 1888 E. A. PARRY *Lett. Dorothy Osborne* Introd. 158 Both the circumstance and the doggerel should be very instructive to the *snobologist. 1848 THACKERAY *Bk. Snobs* xxiii, Some telescopic philosopher will arise one day, some great *Snobonomer [etc.].

Snochynge: see SNOACH *v.*

Snock. *dial.* [prob. imitative.] A knock; a smart blow.

1825 in JENNINGS *Obs. Dial. West Eng.* 71. 1898 T. HARDY *Wessex Poems* 46 Such snocks and slats since war began Never saw raw recruit or veteran.

Snod (snɒd), *a. Sc.* and *north. dial.* Also 7 snoode (?). [Of obscure origin: the stem may be the same as that of ON. *snoðinn* bald (Norw. *snoden* bare).]

1. Smooth, sleek; even. Also *absol.*

c 1480 HENRYSON *Fables, Wolf & Sheep* viii, He wald chais thame baith throw rouch and snod. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* v. xiii. 24 His awin heid warpit with a snod olive, Heich in a schippis forcastell [he] did stand. *a* 1585 POLWART *Flyting w. Montgomerie* 562 Foot-foundred beasts.. Hes not their hair sa snod as other good. 1641 BEST *Farm. Bks.* (Surtees) 4 Howe to choose a good Tuppe. Lett him bee ..of a snoode and goode stapple. 1692 A. SYMSON in *Macfarlane's Geogr. Coll.* (S.H.S.) II. 102 The long beards and awnds are separated from the corne; and the corne made, as they terme it, more snod and easie to pass through the mill. 1695 KENNETT *Par. Antiq.* Gloss. s.v. *Snodde*, Wheat ears are said to be *snod* when they have no beard or awns. And a tree is *snod* when the top is cut smooth off. 1781 J. HUTTON *Tour to Caves* (ed. 2) Gloss. 96 *Snod*, smooth. 1790 Mrs. WHEELER *Westm. Dial.* (1821) 18 A lile stiff fello, wie a varra snod feace. 1862 C. C. ROBINSON *Dial. Leeds* 416 A snod piece o' cloath—as snod as a bit o' silk!

Comb. 1855 WAUGH *Life & Local.* 201 Rough and free as so many snod-backed young modiwarps. 1898 A. OLLIVANT *Owd Bob* xiii. 117 Ye ox-limbed, snod-faced profleegit!

2. Of persons: Neat, tidy, trim, smart, spruce.

1692 RAY *N. C. Words* 66 *Snod*,..neat, handsome. 1719 RAMSAY *To Arbuckle* 71 A black-a-vic'd snod dapper fallow. 1756 Mrs. CALDERWOOD *Jrnl.* (1884) 194 The niece was a little, snod, fair lass. 1822 GALT *Provost* xxvi, A tight and snod serving lassie. 1889 BARRIE *Window in Thrums* 14 Here comes the minister himsel', an' very snod he is.

b. Of things: Neat, trim, in good order.

1717 RAMSAY *Elegy Lucky Wood* iv, She..kept her housie snod and bein. 1785 HUTTON *Bran New Wark* 3 The gentleman that treads in black snod pumps. 1819 W. TENNANT *Papistry Storm'd* (1827) 41 His velvet breeks,..The snoddest pairt o' his attire. 1837 R. P. GILLIES *Recoll. Scott* III. ix. 199, I see ye're admiring how *snod* the library looks there. 1894 CROCKETT *Raiders* xxii. (ed. 3) 195 My clothes were clean brushed and exceedingly neat and snod.

3. Comfortable, snug, cosy. Also as quasi-*adv.*

1695 KENNETT *Par. Antiq.* Gloss. s.v. *Snodde*, To lie snod and snug. 1888 BARRIE *When a Man's Single* (1900) 91/2 'Ay,' he said, with a chuckle, 'but I've a snod bit cornery up there for mysel'.

Snod (snɒd), *v.* [f. prec.] *trans.* To make smooth, trim, or neat; to tidy, put in order. Also with *down, off, up.*

1584 HUDSON *Judith* iv. 269 On stake and ryce, hee knits the crooked vines, And snoddes their bowes. *a* 1774 FERGUSSON *Poems* (1789) II. 7 Ye saw yoursel how weel his mailin' thrave, Ay better faugh'd an' snodit than the lave. 1791 J. LEARMONT *Poems* 85 The ploughman cultivates the field, The mower snods the common. 1819 SCOTT *Let. in Lockhart* (1837) IV. viii. 251, I have planted a number of shrubs,..and am snodding up the drive of the old farm house. 1865 G. MACDONALD *A. Forbes* xxvi. 115 The..tallow candles..had..to be *snodded* laboriously.

†**Snode.** *Obs.* Also 4 *north.* snade. [app. repr. OE. **snād*, unrecorded variant of *snǽd* SNEDE, related to *snīðan* SNITHE *v.*] A piece or bit (of bread or other food); a morsel.

a. c 1150 *Voc.* in WT.-Wülcker 548 *Offa*, snode. *c* 1275 *Passion our Lord* 108 in *O. E. Misc.*, [Judas ate the bread] And þe veond him on bi-com myd þerylke snode. *a* 1300 *E. E. Psalter* cxlvii. 17 He sendes als snodes [L. *frusta panis*, or *buccellas*] his cristal. 1340 *Ayenb.* 111 Þe lecherous .. þet .. uorzuelȝþ þane guode snode wyþ-oute chewynge. *Ibid.* 218 Hy..eteþ þe blodi snoden.

β. 13.. *Cursor M.* 15387 (Gött.), þe morsel laght iudas, wid þat ilk snade..croupe in him sathanas. 13.. *Metr. Hom.* (Vernon MS.) in Herrig *Archiv* LVII. 313 Was neuere Beggere þat þer bade At his hous gete bite or snade.

Snodly (snɒ·dli), *adv. Sc.* [f. SNOD *a.* + -LY[2].] Neatly, tidily, trimly.

1721 RAMSAY *Scribblers Lashed* 75 'Till by degrees it creeps right snodly, On hips and head-dress of the godly. 1791 J. LEARMONT *Poems* 304 Here's something here..will mak life's road to me fu' snodly sleekit. 1823 GALT *R. Gilhaize* lxxii, A clean cambric handkerchief very snodly pruned over her breast. 1850 W. HOWSON *Cur. Craven* 118 Shadows flicker On the snodly whitewesh'd wa'. 1904 *Dundee Advertiser* 19 Aug. 6 We took the short road by Burns' Monument and the snodly theekit hoosie at the wayside.

‖ **Snoek** (snŭk). Also snook. [Du. *snoek* pike: cf. SNOOK[2].] At the Cape of Good Hope, the common name of the fish *Thyrsites Atun.* Also *attrib.* and *Comb.*

1853 PAPPE *Edible Fishes C. Good Hope* 24 *Thyrsites Atun.* Cuv. and Val. (Snook; Snoek). 1872 HUTTON & HECTOR *Fishes N. Zealand* s.v. *Thyrsites Atun*, This is, I believe, the fish called snook in Cape Colony. 1889 *Science-Gossip* XXV. 50 The unhappy snoek-eaters wander about like so many grown children afflicted with mumps. 1896 BADEN-POWELL *Matabele Campaign* i, Old Cape Town just the same as ever...Malays and snoek fish everywhere.

Snoff. *Cornish mining.* [A survival of the early form of SNUFF *sb.*[1]] (See quots.)

1860 *Eng. & For. Mining Gloss.* (ed. 2) 23 *Snoff, or Match*, ..brown paper, or other slowly combustible substance, which is ignited at one end, the other being in contact with the rush or train in blasting. 1881 RAYMOND *Mining Gloss.*, *Snoff*, a short candle-end, put under a fuse to light it. 1891 J. H. PEARCE *Esther Pentreath* I. i, Dick having charged the hole with powder, set fire to the train with a 'snoff' from his candle.

Snoffe, obs. form of SNUFF *sb.*[1] and *v.*

Snog (snɒg), *a. north. dial.* and †*Sc.* [app. a. ON. *snøgg-r* smooth, short-haired, etc. (cf. the etym. note to SNUG *a.*[1]).] Smooth, sleek; neat, tidy. Hence **Sno·gly** *adv.*

1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* XII. Prol. 186 All snog and slekyt worth thir bestis skynnis. 1615 CROOKE *Body of Man* 1111 Thin they are and conuex, that they might lye more snogly vpon the fingers. 1691 RAY *N. C. Words* 66 *Snog*, neat, handsome: as *snogly gear'd*, handsomely drest. *Ibid.*, *Snog* Malt, smooth with few Combs. 1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* xxxii, Thou wouldst be a mettle lass enow, an thou wert snog and snod a bit better. 1855 [ROBINSON] *Whitby Gloss.*, *Snod and Snog*, smooth and compact.

†**Snog,** *v. Obs.*[−o] [Cf. next.] *intr.* To bristle.

1530 PALSGR. 724/1, I snogge, *je herisonne.*

†**Sno·ggy,** variant of (or error for) SNAGGY *a.*

1670 COVEL in *Early Voy. Levant* (Hakl. Soc.) 141 They were all short, snoggy trees, much loaded with boughs.

Snogly, *adv.*: see SNOG *a.*

Snoif, obs. form of SNOOVE *v. Sc.*

Snoir(e, obs. Sc. forms of SNORE *sb.*

Snoke (snōuk), *v.* Chiefly *north.* and *Sc.* Forms: *α.* 4–5, 9 snoke (5 snokyn), 6 *Sc.* snokk-, 9 snoak. *β.* 6 snooke, 7– snook (8 *dial.* snoaac). *γ.* 7– snouk, 8– snowk. [prob. of Scand. origin: cf. Norw. dial. *snōka* to snuff, smell.] *intr.* and *trans.* To snuff or smell; to go snuffing or smelling (at); to poke about with the nose. Also *fig.*, to sneak about, to keep watch *over*, etc.

α. c 1380 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* II. 83 Disciplis of Crist wenten into þe citee to bie hem mete; for þei snokiden not fro hous to hous and beggiden mete, as freris doon. *c* 1475 *Promp. Parv.* 462/1 (MS. K.), Snokyn, or smellyn, *nicto.* 1500 *Ortus Vocab.* BB vij, *Nicto*,..to snoke as a honde dos. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* v. ii. 99 The drink, and eik the offerandis gret and small, [the snake] Snokkis [*v.r.* snokis] and likkit. 1831 J. WILSON *Noct. Ambr.* Wks. 1855 III. 98 After smellin an' snokin an' snortin at it for a while. 1834 M. SCOTT *Cruise Midge* xxi, He lay still, with the beast .. poking down its head, and snorting and snoking at him.

β. 1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 159/35 To Snooke, *olfacere.* 1608 HIERON *Defence* II. 8 Whether he snooketh not as right into Rheames and Rome as maie be [etc.]. 1641 BEST *Farm. Bks.* (Surtees) 74 The hogges went snuffinge and snookinge from heape to heape. *a* 1652 BROME *New Acad.* II. i, I must not lose my harmlesse recreations Abroad, to snook over my wife at home. 1687 MIÈGE *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II, To Snook, or ly lurking for a thing. 1722 WODROW *Hist. Suff. Ch. Scot.* III. viii. II. 449 The Dogs would snook and smell about the Stones under which they were hid, and yet they remained undiscovered. 1788 W. H. MARSHALL *Yorksh.* II. 354 To *Snooac*, to smell in a snuffing manner. 1834 [SEBA SMITH] *Lett. J. Downing* (1835) 106 All we've got to do is to open that, and snook among old papers. 1891 R. FORD *Thistledown* ix. 163 That we do not gang..snookin' amang the snaw like mowdiewarts.

γ. 1624 SANDERSON *Serm.* I. 241 Like swine under the oaks, we grouze up the acorns, and snouk about for more. 1786 BURNS *Twa Dogs* 39 Wi' social nose [the dogs] whyles snuff'd an' snowket. 1862 QUIN *Heather Lintie* (1863) 76, I snouk aboot For 'tatty peels and banes o' herrin'. 1894 CROCKETT *Raiders* xlv. 384 Gin ony o' Agnew's men were gaun snowkin' roond, it micht cause misunderstandings.

Hence **Sno·king** *vbl. sb.*

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 462/1 Snokynge, *olfactus.*

†**Snoke-horn.** *Obs.*[−1] ? A sneaking fellow.

c 1460 *Towneley Myst.* ix. 80 Then were my worshyp lorne, If sych a swayn, a snoke horne, Shuld thus be my suffrane.

Sno·key, *a. rare*[−1]. [f. SNOKE *v.*] Adapted for snuffing or poking.

1828 *Blackw. Mag.* XXIII. 865 Nuzzling with that snokey nose of his.

Snood (snūd), *sb.* Forms: 1 snod, 6– (*Sc.* and *north.*) snude (9 sneud), 7– snood (9 snoud); *north.* 8 snead, 9 sneiad; *Sc.* 9 snid, sneed, etc. [OE. *snōd*, of obscure origin.]

1. A fillet, band, or ribbon, for confining the hair; latterly, in Scotland (and the north of England), the distinctive hair-band worn by young unmarried women.

c 725 *Corpus Gloss.* (Hessels) C 137 *Cappa*, snod. *a* 1000 in WT.-Wülcker 204 *Cinthium, mitra*, snod. *c* 1000 ÆLFRIC *Hom.* II. 28 þa lærde hi sum iudeisc man, þæt heo name ænne wernægel..and becnytte to anum hringe mid hire snode. *c* 1150 in WT.-Wülcker 540 *Uitta*, snod.

1535 STEWART *Cron. Scot.* I. 377 Ȝone ma nocht saif thair bodie with ane snude. 1643 *Orkney Witch Trial* in *Abbotsford Club Misc.* I. 177 Ȝe said vnto hir that Ȝe haid Vrsulla Alexanderis snood, quhilk Ȝe haid keipit since Ȝe put hir in hir winding sheit. 1677 NICHOLSON in *Trans. R. Soc. Lit.* (1870) IX. 319 *Snude*, a fillet, or hair lace. 1725 RAMSAY *Gentle Sheph.* II. iv, The rashes green..Of which..For thee I plet the flow'ry belt and snood. 1771 PENNANT *Tour in Scotl.* (1794) 213 The single women wear only a ribband round their head, which they call a snood. 1810 SCOTT *Lady of L.* III. v, No hunter's hand her snood untied, Yet ne'er again to braid her hair The virgin snood did Alice wear. 1840 BARHAM *Ingol. Leg.* Ser. II. *Bloudie Jacke of Shrewsberie* (1905) 322 While her tresses are bound with a snood. 1889 R. BUCHANAN *Heir of Linne* vii, Her hair was bound up in a simple snood.

†b. ? A skein. *Obs.*[−1]

1425 in Kennett *Par. Antiq.* (1695) Gloss. s.v. *Snodde*, In viii snoden de Pakthred.

2. a. In sea-fishing: One of a number of short lines, each carrying a baited hook, attached at regular distances along the main line.

c 1682 J. COLLINS *Salt & Fishery* 112 To each of these are fastned 20 Snoods, *alias* Nossels, which are small Lines, with Hooks and Baits at them. 1769 PENNANT *Brit. Zool.* (1776) III. 205 The hooks are fastened to the lines upon sneads of twisted horse hair 27 inches in length. 1793 *Statist. Acc. Scotl.* VII. 204 The quantity of line..contains ..720 hooks,..one yard distant from each other, on snoods of horse hair. 1848 *Chambers's Information for People* I. 699 These are long lines, with hooks fastened at regular distances..by shorter and smaller cords called *snoods*. 1883 *Fisheries Exhib. Catal.* 7 Simple Machine, for making Norsels or Snoods of any length.

b. *Angling.* A hair or catgut line attaching the hook to the rod line.

1823 E. MOOR *Suffolk Words, Snood*, that part of an angler's line to which the hook is affixed. 1832 W. H. MAXWELL *Wild Sp. West* I. 263, I..lost time, hooks, and snouds. 1873 W. GRAHAM in *Harp of Perthshire* (1893) 149 My licht thrown snood scarce touched the flood When doun it flew like lichtnin'.

Snood (snūd), *v.* [f. prec.]

1. *trans.* To bind *up*, fasten *back*, or secure (the hair) with a snood.

1725 RAMSAY *Gentle Sheph.* I. i, Her cockernony snooded up fou sleek. 1793 *Statist. Acc. Scotl.* IX. 325 At home they went bareheaded, with their hair snooded back on the crown of their head, with a woollen string in the form of a garter. 1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* xiv, Her hands trembled as she snooded her fair hair beneath the riband. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* III. VII. ii, Her sweeping tresses snooded by glittering antique fillet. 1890 *Pall Mall G.* 29 Jan. 6/3 The new fashion of wearing the hair snooded low on the nape of the neck.

transf. 1856 S. DOBELL *Eng. in Time of War, Home, Wounded* 27 Where The larch is snooding her flowery hair With wreaths of morning shadow.

2. *Angling.* To attach (a hook) to a snood.

1840 MARRYAT *Poor Jack* vi, He was snooding a hook.

Snooded (snūːdėd), *ppl. a.* [f. SNOOD *sb.* or *v.*] Wearing a snood; bound by a snood.

1810 SCOTT *Lady of L.* III. xx, And plaided youth, with jest and jeer, Which snooded maiden would not hear. 1847 WHITTIER *Barclay of Ury* 81 The snooded daughter.. Smiled on him who bore renown. 1898 R. BUCHANAN *Father Anthony* xvii, Her hand stole up to her head and touched the snooded folds of the locks.

Snooding (snūːdiŋ). [f. SNOOD *sb.* 2.] The material used for fishing-snoods.

1815 *Sporting Mag.* XLV. 153 Hempen snooding I always have sold, That will ne'er lose the fish, while the hook have her hold. 1873 G. C. DAVIES *Mount. & Mere* xix. 176 At short intervals were hooks attached to lengths of snooding. 1884 *Sat. Rev.* 603/1 The amateur, provided with his..Manchester snooding, his gut trace, and his artificial spinner.

†**Snook,** *sb.*[1] *north.* and *Sc. Obs.* Forms: 3 snoc, snoke, 4–5 snuk(e, snwk, 7 snewke. [Of obscure origin: cf. NOOK *sb.*] A projecting point or piece of land; a promontory.

c 1236 *Newminster Cartul.* (Surtees) 55 In illa parte agri quæ vocatur le Snoc. ?1297 *Documents Illustr. Hist. Scotl.* (1870) II. 160 In factura pontis castri Berwyci, muri lapidei juxta mare subtus le Snoke. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* I. 188 Fra Weik anent Orknay To Mullyr-snwk in Gallaway. *Ibid.* IV. 556 On Turnberyis nwk [*v.r.* snuke] he may Mak a fyre. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* VII. 1044 Furth thai fle Till Dwnottar, a snuk within the se. 1648 BLAEU *Atlas Engl., Map of Insvla Sacra*, The Snewke or Conny warren.

Snook (snūk), *sb.*[2] [ad. Du. *snoek* pike: cf. SNOEK.] A name given to various fishes, esp. the sergeant-fish, *Elacate canada*, and the robalo, *Centropomus undecimalis*.

1697 DAMPIER *Voy.* (1699) 243 The Fish I observed here mostly, were what we call Snooks, neither a Sea fish nor fresh Water fish, but very numerous in these salt Lakes. 1725 SLOANE *Jamaica* II. 288 Snook. It was taken at Passage fort. 1827 O. W. ROBERTS *Voy. Centr. Amer.* 156 It [Caratasca Lagoon] abounds in various sorts of fish of the finest description, particularly mullet, calapaner, snoak, cavallee, and also manatee. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade, Snook*, a common fish, both of the sea and the rivers of the West Indies, the *Centropomus undecimalis*. 1883 *Fisheries Exhib. Catal.* (ed. 4) 170 Model of Fresh-water Fishpot, for taking mullet, snook, &c.

Snook, variant of SNOKE *v.* and SNOOKS.

Snooker (snūːkəɹ), *sb.*[1] *Woolwich slang.* A newly joined cadet.

1872 *Routledge's Ev. Boy's Ann.* 148/1 These embryo generals..were called by the somewhat sneering terms of 'snookers' or 'last-joined'.

Snooker (snūːkəɹ), *sb.*[2] [Of obscure origin.] A game, played with balls on a billiard table, combining pool and pyramids. Also *snooker('s) pool*.

1889 DRAYSON *Pract. Billiards* 110 The game of snooker. 1896 W. BROADFOOT *Billiards* xiii. 424 Snooker—or to give it its full title, Snooker's Pool—is a hybrid game, half pool and half pyramids. 1905 GLASFURD *Rifle in Ind. Jungle* 70 The old Doctor and we two, after several games of 'Snookers', had passed into the ante-room.

Hence **Snoo·ker** *v.* (See quots.)

1889 DRAYSON *Pract. Billiards* 111 If each pool ball is covered by a pyramid ball, the player is said to be 'snookered'. 1896 W. BROADFOOT *Billiards* xiii. 426 If the striker is by law obliged to play on a red ball or on a coloured ball, but..is unable to do so directly, he is said to be snookered.

Snooks (snūːks). Also **snook.** [Of obscure origin.] A derisive gesture, = SIGHT *sb.*[1] 7 c.

1879 A. J. C. HARE *Story Life* (1900) V. 218 If I put my hands so..(cutting a snooks), they might reproach me very much indeed. 1904 *Times* 24 Sept. 8/3 The young monkey puts his tongue in his cheek and cocks a snook at you. 1906 DRURY *Men at Arms* 36 Her Majesty's ship..cocked her jibboom snooks-fashion at her late enemy the sea.

Snool (snūl), *sb. Sc.* and *north. dial.* Also 8– *Sc.* **snule, snuil,** 9 *north.* **snuol.** [Of obscure origin.] A tame, abject, or mean-spirited person.

1718 RAMSAY *Christ's Kirk Gr.* III. XVI, Ye silly snool, Wae worth ye'r drunken saul. 1791 J. LEARMONT *Poems* 4 [They] lead ye on like arrant snools, 'Lang error's road. 1815 G. BEATTIE *John o' Arnha'* (1826) 13 Your snools in love, and cowards in war, Frae maiden grace are banish'd far. 1822 CARLYLE *Early Lett.* II. 51 You or any one of us will never be a snool; we have not the blood of snools in our bodies. 1882 J. WALKER *Jaunt to Auld Reekie* 87 Crouching snools are kin to gangrel bodies.

Snool (snūl), *v.* [f. prec.]

1. *trans.* To keep in subjection; to snub.

17.. RAMSAY *Address of Thanks* iv. Wks. 1877 I. 258 Our dotard dads, snool'd wi' their wives. *a* 1796 BURNS *'An' O for ane-and-twenty, Tam!'* ii, They snool me sair, and haud me down. 1830 GALT *Lawrie T.* IX. i. (1849) 406 The arrogance and high hand with which Mr. Bell was attempting to snool us all.

2. *intr.* To submit tamely; to cringe; to crawl meekly or humbly.

1786 BURNS *Bard's Epitaph* i, Owre blate to seek, owre proud to snool. 1810 TANNAHILL *Poems* (1846) 141 Never snool beneath the frown Of any selfish roggie. 1833 CHALMERS in Hanna *Mem.* (1851) III. 391 We had to snool back to London the way we came. 1895 'G. SETOUN' *Sunshine* IX. 198 Sandy 'snooled' through life with bovine equanimity.

Snoop (snūp), *v. U.S.* [ad. Du. *snoepen* (LG. *snōpen*) in sense 1.]

1. *intr.* To appropriate and consume dainties in a clandestine manner.

1848 BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.* 318 A servant who goes slyly into a dairy-room and drinks milk from a pan, would be said to be snooping.

2. To go *around* in a sly or prying manner.

1864 KIMBALL *Was he successful?* 178 Don't come snooping around to find out whether you sometimes go to the theatre. 1876 BESANT & RICE *Gold. Butterfly* XX, I see the gells snoopin' around with their eyes as soft as velvet. 1883 *Cent. Mag.* Sept. 744 He had no right to come snoopin' around where I was at work.

Hence **Snoo·per,** one who pries or peeps.

Snoop is also used as a sb. in the same sense.

1896 *Westm. Gaz.* 18 Mar. 3/1 Artists sketching whenever they can get a chance, and surrounded by 'snoopers'.

Snoore, obs. variant of SNORE *v.*

Snoove (snūv), *v. Sc.* Also 6 **snoif,** 9 **snuive, snuve.** [a. OScand. (east) **snóa* (MSw. *snoa*, Sw. *sno*, Da. *snoe*), = ON. and Icel. *snúa* (Fær. *snúgva*, Norw. *snu*). For the development of the *v*, cf. the etym. note to Ro *sb.*]

1. a. *trans.* To twirl, cause to turn. b. *intr.* (See quot. 1808.)

1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* VIII. vii. 100 To werk the lyne, To snoif the spyndill, and lang thredis twyne. 1722 RAMSAY *Three Bonnets* III. 80 A wife that snooves a spindle. 1808 JAMIESON s.v., A boy's top is said to *snuve*, when it whirls round with great velocity, preserving at the same time an equal motion.

2. *intr.* To move or advance steadily, or with a steady pace; to glide. Also *fig.*

1719 W. HAMILTON *Ep. to Ramsay* III. ii, The pleasure counterpois'd the cumber..And snoovt away like three-hand Ombre. 1786 BURNS *To Auld Mare* xiv, But just thy step a wee thing hastet, Thou snoov't awa. 1830 *Memorabilia Curliana* 106 Come snooving down white ice. 1881 R. BUCHANAN *God & the Man* III. 212 Many a sharp rap did the old ship get [from the ice] as she snooved along.

Snooze (snūz), *sb.* Also **snoose.** [Cf. next.]

1. *colloq.* A sleep; a nap, a doze.

α. 1793 W. ROBERTS *Looker-on* II. 315 That Shuter's self might heave his head From drunken snoozes. 1813 SIR G. JACKSON *Diaries & Lett.* (1873) II. 177, I..had not had my snooze half out, when a courier arrived. 1845 W. H. MAXWELL *Hints Soldier* I. 51, I question whether I could manage to obtain a snooze. 1886 J. R. REES *Pleas. Bk.-Worm* v. 178 With a warm ejaculation on his tongue, the interrupted sleeper returns to his snooze.

β. 1812 H. & J. SMITH *Rej. Addr., Tale Drury Lane* 51 Starting from short and broken snoose, Each sought his pond'rous hobnail'd shoes. 1869 *Daily News* 8 Oct., Seals like nothing better than a snoose on the sand.

2. *slang.* (See quots.)

1812 J. H. VAUX *Flash Dict.* s.v., A snooze sometimes means a lodging; as, where can I get a snooze for this darky, instead of saying a bed. 1839 *Slang Dict.* 34 *Snooze*, a bed. 1865 *Ibid.* (Hotten) 239 *Snooze-case*, a pillow-slip.

Snooze (snūz), *v. colloq.* [app. a cant or slang word of obscure origin.] *intr.* To sleep; to slumber, to doze.

1789 G. PARKER *Life's Painter* (*c* 1800) 138 The cull with whom she snooz'd. 1795 POTTER *Dict. Cant* (ed. 2), *Snooze*, to sleep. 1813 MOORE *Diary* VIII. 136 If..I had nothing to do but put on my nightcap and snooze quietly by their side. 1842 MRS. GORE *Fascination* 37 She withdrew, leaving him to snooze beside the fire. 1887 *Pall Mall G.* 20 Sept. 2/3 A swarm of literary drones, who go there to lounge, snooze, and gossip.

Hence **Snoo·zer,** one who snoozes.

1878 P. ROBINSON *In Ind. Garden* 32 A bird—perhaps the middle one of a long row of closely-packed snoozers. 1887 *Pall Mall G.* 20 Sept. 2/3 The non-workers..may be divided into two classes—the snoozers and the talkers. The snoozer, if he reads at all, is an aimless reader.

Snoo·ziness. [f. SNOOZY *a.*] The state of being snoozy or sleepy.

1887 *Temple Bar* Oct. 199, I was just beginning to realise a sense of comfort, and (if I may say so) downy snooziness.

Snoo·zing, *vbl. sb.* [f. SNOOZE *v.*] The fact of dozing or sleeping. Also *attrib.*

1811 *Lexicon-Balatronicum, Snoozing ken*, a brothel. 1851 MELVILLE *Whale* I. XXXIX. 274 Grand snoozing to-night, maty. 1867 BRIERLEY *Marlocks* 39 Old Makapenny had made several journeys from his 'snoozing crib' to the door.

Snoo·zing, *ppl. a.* [f. SNOOZE *v.*] Dozing, sleeping, slumbering.

1836 HOR. SMITH *Tin Trumpet* (1876) 183 What snoozing hum Ascends to thee?—what pæans, what adorings? 1883 STEVENSON *Merry Men, Treas. Franchard* v, The same snoozing, countryfied existence.

Snoozle (snūːz'l), *v. colloq.* or *dial.* [Cf. SNOOZE *v.* and NUZZLE *v.*[1]]

1. *intr.* To nestle and sleep or doze; to nuzzle.

1831 *Westm. Rev.* XV. 196 Comfortably snoozling like other birds deep in the fertilizing warmth of their downy boxes. 1862 SALA *Seven Sons* I. vii. 177 The little dog, snoozling on the hearthrug, lifted up his blinking eyes. 1881 G. D. LESLIE *Our River* 12 There were a lot of black Berkshire pigs snoozling in the straw.

2. *trans.* To thrust affectionately.

1847 E. BRONTE *Wuthering Heights* iii, A dog..that snoozled its nose over-forwardly into her face. 1894 'G. EGERTON' *Discord* 187 The dog..snoozles her snout into the palm of his hand.

Hence **Snoo·zledom,** the state of nestling and dozing in bed.

1865 D'ARCY THOMPSON *Odds & Ends* iii. 6 How precious are the last five minutes of snoozledom!

Snoo·zy, *sb. slang.* (See quot.)

1823 EGAN *Grose's Dict. Vulg. T., Snoozy*, a night-constable.

Snoozy (snūːzi), *a.* [f. SNOOZE *v.*] Drowsy, sleepy, slumberous.

1877 C. KEENE in Layard *Life* (1892) ix. 255 This sea air.. makes me snoozy sometimes in the day. 1886 J. R. REES *Pleas. Bk.-Worm* v. 178 [He] sits in a stupid snoozy state.

Snop, *sb. dial.* [Imitative: cf. next.] A sharp blow or impact; the sound made by this.

1849 *Boy's Own Bk.* 12 Spans and snops. This is a very simple game; one player first shoots his marble, the second then endeavours to strike or *snop* it, or otherwise to shoot his own within a span of it. 1871– in south-western dial. glossaries. 1881 JEFFERIES *Wood Magic* II. iv. 110 His body.. rebounded with a snop, and he fell disabled and insensible to the earth.

Snop, *v. dial.* [Imitative.] *trans.* To strike sharply and smartly; to break in this way. Also *absol.*

1849 [see SNOP *sb.*]. 1882 JEFFERIES *Bevis* X, I see a man do that once...A' had a gate-hinge snopping um. *a* 1887 — *Field & Hedgerow* (1889) 141 To stand there swinging that heavy bit of wood all day meant meat and drink..for themselves and families..: but only a few of them could get barns to snop away in.

Snore (snōəɹ), *sb.* Also 6 *Sc.* **snor, snoir(e.** [f. the vb.]

†1. A snort; snorting. *Obs. rare.*

c 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 1821 Þeyr teþ gnaisted wiþ nose snore, Hurtlede hedes set ful sore; Ilk oþer pulled, ilk oþer schok. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* X. x. 72 For feir thai [*sc.* horses] start abak..And brak away with the cart to the schor, With stendis feyll and mony bray and snor.

2. A disease or affection which causes snuffling; the snivels.

a 1585 MONTGOMERIE *Flyting w. Polwart* 302 (Tullib.), The snuf, þe snoir, þe scheippisch, the schanker. 1844 W. JAMIE *Muse* 157 (E.D.D.), May he ne'er be subject unto snors. 1844 LOWSON *Mod. Farrier* 209 This affection is termed the snores or snivels.

3. An act of snoring; a harsh or noisy respiration through the mouth, or through the mouth and nose, during sleep.

1605 SHAKS. *Macb.* II. ii. 6 The surfeited Groomes doe mock their charge with Snores. I haue drugg'd their Possets. 1610 — *Temp.* II. i. 218 Thou do'st snore distinctly; There's meaning in thy snores. 1622 MABBE tr. *Aleman's Guzman d'Alf.* I. 133 The snores and snorts that came from them [a man and his wife]. 1826 F. REYNOLDS *Life & Times* II. 213 Then with a loud snore, he again sank into sleep. 1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* I. ii. 21 The sound rose and fell for several minutes, like a kind of intermittent snore. 1897 MARY KINGSLEY *W. Africa* 418 One of them has an abominable quavering, hysterical, falsetto snore.

b. *All of a snore,* filled with the sound of snoring. *rare.*

1834 BECKFORD *Italy* II. 244 Dark vestibules and guard-chambers (all of a snore with jaded equerries).

4. *transf.* A sound resembling that of a snore; a loud roaring or droning noise.

1709 *Brit. Apollo* No. 41. 3/1 She wak'd from Bag-pipe snore. 1832 DENNISTON *Craigmilder* 60 Now dark December's wintry snore Rang through the leafless wood.

5. *Mining.* A snore-piece.

1875 J. H. COLLINS *Met. Mining* 89 The suction pipe *a*, now called the 'wind-bore' or 'snore'.

Snore (snōəɹ), *v.* Also 7 **snoar,** 7–8 **snoore.** [prob. imitative: cf. SNORK *v.* and SNORT *v.*]

1. *intr.* Of animals, *esp.* horses: To snort. Now *dial.*

c 1400 *Laud Troy Bk.* 7738 The horses snored as it hadde thondred. 1530 PALSGR., 724/1, I snore..as a horse dothe. 1648 HEXHAM II, *Ruchelen*, to Grunt, or to Snoore like Hoggs. 1778 G. WHITE *Selborne* LXXXV, They [owls]..can snore and hiss when they mean to menace. 1786 BURNS *To Auld Mare* viii, How thou wad prance, an snore, an' scriegh, An' tak the road! 1898 C. SPENCE *Poems* 57 He [a bull]..roared and bored and sniffed and snored.

b. *Sc.* and *north. dial.* Of things, wind, etc.: To make or give out a roaring or droning noise.

1823 Galt *R. Gilhaize* xiv, I never hear my ain bellows snoring at a gaud o' iron in the fire, but [etc.]. 1842 Vedder *Poems* 75 A score of rival steamers..Hiss, flap, and snore, like river monsters. 1886 W. Alexander *S. Augustine's Holiday* 135 The wind..Humming and snoring thro' rigging and spar.

c. Of a ship, etc.: To move or cut *through* the water with a roaring sound; to sail or travel quickly. Chiefly *Sc.*

1830 Wilson in *Blackw. Mag.* XXVII. 540 Our cut-water snores through the swell. 1834 M. Scott *Tom Cringle* x, She began to *snore* through it like smoke. 1849 Cupples *Green Hand* iii. (1856) 36 The pilot-boat snoring off close-hauled to windward.

2. To make harsh or noisy sounds in sleep by breathing through the open mouth or through the mouth and nose; to breathe in this manner during sleep. Also *poet.* or *rhet.*, to sleep heavily.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 462/1 Snoryn, yn sleep, *sterto.* 1530 Palsgr. 724/1, I wylle nat lye with hym, he snoreth so in his slepe. 1576 Fleming *Panopl. Epist.* 284 Nature hath not giuen unto men their essence & being..to slugge and snore in the couche of carelessnesse. 1609 Holland *Amm. Marcell.* xxvii. xii. 323 Whiles the centinels by reason of securitie were found asleepe that they snored againe, the citie gate was set open. 1658 A. Fox *Würtz' Surg.* iii. ii. 222 Sound peoples sleep is not alike, some snoar in their sleep, others without a noise. 1695 Prior *Prol. Dryden's 'Cleomenes'* 20 Most of you snor'd whilst Cleomenes read. 1725 Pope *Odyss.* ix. 440 Then nodding with the fumes of wine, [he] Dropt his huge head, and snoring lay supine. 1784 Cowper *Task* i. 90 The nurse sleeps sweetly, hir'd to watch the sick, Whom snoring she disturbs. 1818 Scott *Rob Roy* xxx, [He] tumbled himself into one of the cribs..and soon was heard to snore soundly. 1860 Tyndall *Glac.* i. xvi. 107 He assured me..that he did not snore, and we lay down side by side. 1900 Pollok & Thom *Sports Burma* 286 A solitary tusker elephant sound asleep and snoring loudly.

fig. 1660 N. Ingelo *Bentivolio & Urania* ii. (1682) 89 The Soul, having snor'd many hundreds or thousands of years.

b. *I snore*, used as a mild expletive. *U.S.*

1790 *Mass. Spy* 30 Dec. (Thornton), In one village you will hear the phrase 'I snore',—in another, 'I swowgar'. 1836 Haliburton *Clockm.* Ser. i. xii, Now its fairly run out, that's a fact, I snore. *Ibid.* xxxvi, You will, I snore.

3. *trans.* With *out* or *away*: To spend or pass (time) in snoring.

1597 Shaks. 2 *Hen. IV*, iv. v. 28 Sleepe with it now, Yet not so sound..As hee whose Brow..Snores out the Watch of Night. *a* 1704 T. Brown *Walk r. Lond., Tavern* Wks. 1709 III. iii. 9 Where she Surfeits upon Sack,..and Snoars away the Remainder of her Life. 1746 Francis tr. *Hor., Sat.* i. iii. 24 He drank the Night away Till rising Dawn, then snor'd out all the Day. 1781 Cowper *Hope* 510 The full-gorg'd savage at his nauseous feast Spent half the darkness, and snor'd out the rest. 1829 Scott *Anne of G.* xix, Some ..snored away the interval between their own arrival and that of the expected repast.

4. To bring into a certain state by snoring (cf. quots.).

1784 Cowper *Task* i. 97 Sleep Of lazy nurse, who snores the sick man dead. *a* 1793 J. Pearson *Polit. Dict.* 10 If the House are too sleepy to cough him down, they'll soon snore him down.

5. To utter with a snore or with a sound resembling this. Also with cognate object.

1790 Coleridge *Inside the Coach* 22 Till ere the splendid visions close We snore quartettes in ecstasy of nose. 1889 Gunter *That Frenchman* ii, Maurice..is already asleep and snoring the snores of an exhausted manhood. 1891 *Daily News* 9 Feb. 6/2 Some good people seemed to snore prayer; they were so sleepy.

Snore-, the stem of the vb. in comb., as *snore-hole, -piece* (see quots.).

1860 *Eng. & For. Mining Gloss.* (ed. 2) 63 **Snore-holes*, the holes in the windbore to admit the water. 1862 Smiles *Engineers* III. 45 The pumps frequently got choked by the sand drawn in at the bottom of the well through the snore-holes, or apertures through which the water is to be raised is admitted. 1883 Gresley *Gloss. Coal-m.* 229. 1867 W. W. Smyth *Coal & Coal-mining* 180 The lowermost portion [of the pump] is the so-called wind-bore, or *snore-piece, where the holes in the bottom..are of such size as to prevent the entry of chips or stones. 1883 Gresley *Gloss. Coal-m.* 229 *Snore-piece*, the lowest end of a pump sett through which the water passes.

Sno·reless, *a.* [f. Snore *sb.*] Of sleep: Unaccompanied by, free from, snoring.

1830 *Blackw. Mag.* XXVII. 423 The snoreless sleep of the last upper-earth journey. 1845 *Ibid.* LVII. 391 The printer's devil..indulged in snoreless sleep.

Snorer (snō·rəɹ). [f. Snore *v.*]

1. One who snores.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 462/1 Snorare, *stertor.* 1611 Cotgr., *Ronfleur*, a snorer, a snorter. 1694 Motteux *Rabelais* xliii. (1737) 174 Old Goodman Æolus, the Snorer. 1751 Smollett *Per. Pickle* (1779) II. lvii. 155 The face of the gaping snorer. 1864 Dasent *Jest & Earnest* (1873) I. 49 Our friend..is not the Club snorer whose feats he recalls so painfully. 1875 Emerson *Lett. & Social Aims* i. 40 This unwritten play.., composed by the dullest snorer on the floor of the watch-house.

2. A stiff breeze or wind.

1871 *Daily News* 6 Nov., We lay our course famously, running..before a regular snorer—a strong sea on [etc.].

Snoring (snō·riŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. Snore *v.*] The action of the vb.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 462/1 Snorynge, *stertura.* 1532 Du Wes *Introd. Fr.* in *Palsgr.* 906 The snowring, *le ronfler.* *a* 1616 Beaumont *Charme* v. Poems (1640) H iv b, Sable Midnight makes all dumbe, But thy jealous husbands snoring. 1710 Steele *Tatler* No. 208 ¶ 6 We have a Member of our Club, that when Sir Jeffery falls asleep, wakens him with Snoring. 1781 R. Burke in *Burke's Corr.* (1844) II. 404 The meditations of the judge, the snoring of jurors. 1842 Lover *Handy Andy* xxiv, The dormitory, where.. a concert of snoring began to be executed. 1897 Watts-Dunton *Aylwin* ii. v, It was the snoring of Wynne in a drunken sleep: it filled the entire cottage.

b. *spec.* in *Path.* (see quots.).

1822–7 Good *Study Med.* (1829) I. 537 *Rhonchus Stertor.* Snoring. 1834 J. Forbes *Laennec's Dis. Chest* (ed. 4) 49 We can distinguish five principal kinds of rhonchi:..3. the dry sonorous rhonchus, or snoring.

Sno·ring, *ppl. a.* [f. as prec.]

1. That snores. Also *fig.*

1687 Miége *Gt. Fr. Dict.* i, *Ronfleur*,..a snoring Man. 1714 Gay *Sheph. Week* vi. 36 Cic'ly, brisk maid, steps forth..; And kiss'd with smacking lip the snoring lout. 1809 Pinkney *Trav. France* 131, I was lying at one end of a dirty room, the other being occupied by the snoring landlord. 1868 Geo. Eliot *Sp. Gypsy* i. 118 He is of those Who steal the keys from snoring Destiny. 1894 *Outing* XXIV. 119/2 Great rocks which resemble the snouts of snoring humans.

2. Of a breeze: Strong, stiff.

1822 A. Cunningham *Mariner's Song* ii, But give to me the snoring breeze, And white waves heaving high. 1885 J. Runciman *Skippers & Shellbacks* 78 A snoring breeze came away from the southward.

3. Having the characteristic sound of a snore; loud and harsh.

1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* ii. iv. iii, Sleeping Paris is now.. silent except for some snoring hum. 1879 *St. George's Hosp. Rep.* IX. 610 On the left side the respiration was loud and 'snoring'...Posteriorly the 'snoring' breathing was audible everywhere. 1898 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* V. 1018 Most frequently it [a presystolic murmur] is snoring or rolling.

Hence **Sno·ringly** *adv.*

1824 *Blackw. Mag.* XV. 593 A set of prosy lines slumber along snoringly.

Snork (snȱk), *sb. dial.* [f. the vb.]

1. A snort or grunt; a noisy sniff or inhalation.

1814 in Hone *Every-day Bk.* II. 1115 The pig..gave a snork. 1824 Mactaggart *Gallovid. Encycl.* 430 *Snork*, the snort of an affrighted horse. 1876–99 in Mid-Yks. and Cumbld. glossaries.

2. A young pig; a pigling.

1891 'Son of Marshes' in *Blackw. Mag.* Nov. 651 The farm lad who leads a family of snorks from one part of a wood..to another. 1895 — in *Month* Oct. 248 The little nose-twisting,..curly-tailed, winking, and blinking snorks.

Snork (snȱk), *v.* Now *dial.* [prob. ad. MDu. or MLG. *snorken* (still Du. and LG.; hence Da. *snorke*), variant of *snarken* Snark *v.*]

1. *intr.* To snore.

1531 Tindale *Exp. 1 John* (1537) 98 We..lye snorkyng lyke sloggardes. 1565 T. Stapleton *Fortr. Faith* 121 b, Thou shalt not heare there the seruauntes snorke.

2. To snort or grunt; to breathe noisily. Said esp. of horses and pigs. Hence **Sno·rking** *vbl. sb.* Other dial. senses are recorded in the *Eng. Dial. Dict.*

1807 Hogg *Pedlar* xxiv. Poems (1865) 66 The horses they snorkit for miles around. 1814 in Hone *Every-day Bk.* II. 1113 The pig ran snorking and grunting after her. 1868– in Sc. and north. glossaries and texts (*Eng. Dial. Dict.*). 1896 Crockett *Grey Man* xii, The old grouting wretch kept up such a snorking.

Hence **Sno·rker**, = Snork *sb.* 2.

1891 'Son of Marshes' *On Surrey Hills* iii. 96 He reckoned it was one o' his young snorkers hed got out.

† **Sno·rkle.** *Obs.*[1] [Cf. G. *schnörkel* curve, flourish.] ? A wrinkle, crease.

a 1340 Hampole *Psalter* cxlvii. 5 Of þaim..cristis kirtil sall be made, wiþouten spot and snorkil.

† **Snorl**, *v. Obs.*[1] (Meaning uncertain: perh. a misprint for *snarl.*)

1633 B. Jonson *Tale Tub* ii. ii, Doe you mutter: Sir, snorle this way; That I may heare.

Snort (snȱɹt), *sb.* [f. the vb.]

†1. A snore. *Obs. rare.*

1619 H. Hutton *Follies Anat.* (Percy Soc.) 22 At noontide to concoct he takes a snort, His drowsie sences hud-winkt in a cap, Leaning upon his chaire do take a nap. 1622 [see Snore *sb.* 3].

2. An act of snorting; a loud sound made by a horse or other animal in driving breath through the nostrils with some force. Also *transf.*

1808 Jamieson, *Snocher*, a snort. 1823 Scott *Quentin D.* xxxvi, Wishing..good-night in a tone resembling the snort of a shy horse. 1828 — *F. M. Perth* xvii, Inarticulate groans and snorts, like those of a dying boar. 1852 Mrs. Stowe *Uncle Tom's C.* vi, He overturned Sam, and, giving two or three contemptuous snorts, .. was soon prancing away. 1884 W. C. Smith *Kildrostan* i. i. 77 Now and then the snort of steam Sounds from the headland far away.

b. A similar sound made by persons in order to express contempt, disdain, or other feeling.

1865 Dickens *Mut. Fr.* i. x, Medusa..follows every lively remark made by that dear creature, with an audible snort. 1885 R. Buchanan *Annan Water* vii, The old man uttered a low snort of defiance. 1887 Hall Caine *Son of Hagar* ii. xvi, The lawyer gave a contemptuous snort and turned on his heel.

Snort (snȱɹt), ▼ Also 6–7 **snorte.** [prob. imitative: cf. Snore *v.* and Snork *v.*]

†1. *intr.* Of the nose: To turn *up*, as in sniffing.

a 1366 Chaucer *Rom. Rose* 157 Hir nose snorted vp for tene, Ful hidous was she forto sene.

†2. To snore; to sleep heavily or sluggishly. *Obs.* Common from *c* 1590–1650 in this and the next group.

c 1386 Chaucer *Reeve's T.* 243 This Millere hath so wisely bibbed Ale That as an horse he snorteth in his sleepe. — *Man of Law's T.* 692 He slepeth and he snorteth in his gyse. 1535 Coverdale *Isaiah* lvi. 10 They are slepery: slogish are they, & lie snortinge. 1567 Maplet *Gr. Forest* 96 All winter long he snorteth, and is as he were deade. 1591 Sylvester *Du Bartas* i. i. 809 Their Watch within their Corps de Garde About the fire securely snorted hard. 1602 Marston *Antonio's Rev.* i. i, Strotzo, to bed: snort in securest sleepe. 1648 Gage *West Ind.* 141 Thus do they soundly sleep, and loudly snort after a dayes work. *a* 1680 Charnock *Attrib. God* (1834) II. 534 Some rise out of their ..beds..at the first,..others lie snorting longer.

fig. 1653 Jer. Taylor *Serm. for Year* 208 The spark of Divinity that dwels within is quenched, and the mind snorts, dead with sleep.

† b. In various fig. contexts. *Obs.*

1581 J. Bell *Haddon's Answ. Osorius* 25 Truly you sleape so soundly, that you snorte agayne. 1583 Stubbes *Anat. Abus.* (1882) II. 20 Many a one snorteth in palpable ignorance all daies of their life. 1597 J. King *On Jonas* (1618) 14 Haue we not read..that although themselues slept and snorted in pleasure, yet their damnation slept not? 1630 Dyke *Myst. Self Deceiving* 353 Dauid lay snorting in his owne sin. 1642 *Vind. of the King* 2 The same malignant party..hath been supinely snorting.

† c. *refl.* To convert (oneself) *into* something by idleness. *Obs.*

1650 J. Hall *Parad.* 15 The King employed the people that way, who else might have sunke into Luxury, or snorted themselves into implacable enemies.

3. Of a horse: To make a characteristic loud or harsh sound by violently driving the breath through the nostrils, esp. when excited or frightened. Also said of other animals.

c 1386 (see 2 above). 1530 Palsgr. 724/1 This jade snorteth as were a courser of ten pounde. 1577 B. Googe *Heresbach's Husb.* iii. (1586) 116 If farr away There happen a noise,..he snuffes, and snortes at the same. 1600 Fairfax *Tasso* xx. xxix, He fomes, snorts, neies, and fire and smoake breaths out. 1601 Hakluyt *Galvano's Disc. World* 85 Certaine fishes which make a noyse like vnto hogs, and will snort. 1697 Dryden *Virg. Georg.* iii. 392 The Stallion ..snorts and trembles for the distant Mare. 1735 Somerville *Chase* ii. 162 Snorting they breathe, their shining Hoofs scarce print The grass unbruis'd. 1786 tr. *Beckford's Vathek* (1883) 70 The horses snorted, stamped the ground, ..and plunged about without mercy. 1818 Scott *Br. Lamm.* xxiii, His horse..suddenly interrupted its steady and composed pace, snorted, reared, and..refused to proceed. 1825 T. Hook *Sayings* Ser. ii. *Man of Many Fr.* II. 41 The fat poodle snorting and wagging his little lionized tail. 1871 C. Gibbon *Lack of Gold* xxi, The horses were steaming and snorting with exertion.

fig. 1891 Baring-Gould *In Troubadour Land* xviii. 252 The Crusaders were snorting for plunder and murder.

b. To rush *past* with snorts.

1899 F. V. Kirby *Sport E. C. Africa* xi. 122, I obtained a glimpse of his dark grey hide as he [a rhinoceros] snorted past.

4. *transf.* Of things, esp. in later use of a railway engine: To make or emit a sound resembling or suggestive of a snort.

1582 Stanyhurst *Æneis* ii. (Arb.) 59 The riuer..Through the breach owt spurging...It brayeth in snorting. 1822 Shelley *Faust* ii. 50 The giant-snouted crags,..How they snort, and how they blow! 1879 Sala *Paris herself Again* (1880) II. xxi. 320 The little circular railway puffed and screamed and snorted. 1902 'Linesman' *Words Eyewitness* 196 The lyddite shells, snorting slowly through the air like a goods train up a gradient.

5. Of persons: a. To express contempt or indignation by a snorting sound.

1818 Scott *Hrt. Midl.* xlvi, Duncan..snorted thrice, and prepared himself to be in a passion. 1827 — *Two Drovers* i, Ye needna snort, none of you Highlanders. 1889 Gretton *Memory's Harkback* 300 Upon this conclusion, his reverence snorted, and turned upon his heel in dudgeon.

b. *dial.* and *U.S.* To laugh loudly or roughly.

1825 Brockett *N. C. Gloss., Snorf*, to laugh outright. 1834 [Seba. Smith] *Lett. J. Downing* (1835) 27 We all snorted and snicker'd. 1835 Haliburton *Clockm.* Ser. i. xix, I thought I should have snorted right out two or three times.

6. *trans.* a. To utter with a snort; to give *out*, drive *away*, etc., by snorting (†or snoring).

a 1634 Randolph *Muses Looking-gl.* iv. iii, Your pittifull Worship snorting out pardons To the despairing sinner. 1796 Burke *Reg. Peace* i. (1892) 27 The..tyrant Carnot shall have snorted away the fumes of the indigested blood of his Sovereign. 1840 Thackeray *Barber Cox* Apr., 'Dat is gut! haw! haw!' snorted the Baron. 1900 Pollok & Thom *Sports Burma* 376 He snorted defiance, challenging us, as it were, to approach nearer.

b. To eject or discharge through the nostrils with a snort; to spout *out* in this way.

1818 Keats *Endymion* ii. 885 Fish-semblances, of green and azure hue, Ready to snort their streams. 1853 Kane *Grinnell Exped.* iii. (1856) 28 Great..wallowing sea-hogs, snorting out fountains of white spray. 1868 Browning *Ring & Bk.* i. 901 The old Triton..A spray of sparkles snorted from his conch High over the caritellas.

c. To clear (the nose) with a snort.

1835 *Politeness & Gd.-breeding* 104 Never..snivel and snort a wet nose.

Snorter[1] (snȱ·ɹtəɹ). [f. Snort *v.*]

1. One who or that which snorts († or snores); a person who utters a snort in scorn, indignation, etc.; also, a pig.

1601 Hakluyt *Galvano's Disc. World* 85 Besides these there be certaine fishes which make a noyse like vnto hogs, and will snort, for which cause they be named snorters. 1611 Cotgr., *Ronfleur*, a snorer, a snorter. 1662 J. Chandler *Van Helmont's Oriad.* 213 Surely that thing..renders the Snorters of the Schooles unexcusable. 1827 in Evans *Leic. Gloss.* s.v., To labourer Tom I give the swine: Snorters collected with great pains. 1894 *Westm. Gaz.* 25 Aug. 1/3

Suppose, then,..that the Welsh 'snorters' had carried their point.

b. *dial.* The wheatear.

1802 MONTAGU *Ornith.* s.v. *Wheatear.* 1863 W. BARNES *Dorset Gloss.* 87.

2. In various slang or colloq. senses: **a.** *U.S.* 'A dashing, riotous fellow' (Bartlett). **b.** A stiff or strong wind; a gale. **c.** Anything exceptionally remarkable for size, strength, severity, etc. **d.** A blow on the nose (*Slang Dict.* 1874).

a. 1846 T. B. THORPE *Myst. Backwoods* 182, I am a roaring earthquake in a fight,..a real snorter of the universe. 1872 DE VERE *Americanisms* 224 If animal spirits are a little too prominent, and assert themselves with vehemence, they procure for the owner the name of snorter. b. 1855 H. A. MURRAY *Lands Slave & Free* I. vii. 110 My..regret..that I could not see her under the high pressure of a good snorter. *a* 1859 in Bartlett *Dict. Amer.* (ed. 2) 424 The skipper said ..we must make all snug, for we're going to have a snorter. 1900 MRS. STEEL *Hosts of the Lord* xix, We had a regular black snorter. c. 1859 J. LANG *Wand. India* 399 The Commander-in-Chief..certainly did put forth 'a snorter of a General Order'. 1886 MRS. E. KENNARD *Girl in the Brown Habit* i, Some of these fences are regular downright snorters. 1899 *Daily News* 19 July 5/5 It is a leader of the kind which we used to describe as 'a regular snorter'.

Sno·rter 2. *Naut.* [Variant or earlier form of SNOTTER *sb.*2] A snotter.

1750 BLANCKLEY *Naval Expos.* 154 *Snorters*, the Smiths put them on one End of the Beak Iron, to turn any of their Work with. 1886 *Field* 27 Feb. 251/2 The lower end or heel has been known often to part or jump out of the becket or snorter, which supports it and confines it to the mast.

Sno·rter 3. *U.S.* (See quot.)

1859 BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.* (ed. 2) 424 *Snorter*, the edge pieces of tortoise-shell, called also toe-nails or nails.

Snorting (snɔ̄·rtiŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. SNORT *v.*] The action of the vb.

1575 GASCOIGNE *Glasse Govt.* Wks. 1910 II. 61 Assone as ever shee is laid she falleth on snorting. 1589 WARNER *Alb. Eng.* VI. xxx. 51 Her Lubber now was snorting ripe. 1601 DENT *Pl. Man's Pathw.* 164 The properties of drunkards:..their staggering, their reeling, their snorting. 1655 CULPEPPER, etc. *Riverius* VII. i. 147 Asthma is a great and often breathing..joyned with snorting and wheesing. 1733 CHEYNE *Eng. Malady* II. xiii. (1734) 246 A constant Snorting or Snoring in the Throat and Nostrils. 1849 *Sk. Nat. Hist., Mammalia* III. 15 At each snorting the animal spouted out large streams of blood. 1864 *Reader* 16 Jan. 68 The snorting of a tiger (for the sound this animal makes singularly resembles that of an enormous..pig). 1884 *Manch. Exam.* 7 Oct. 5/7 The snorting of the postal steamer.

b. *spec.* in *Path.*

1887 *Brit. Med. Jrnl.* 2 Apr. 730/1 Rhinitis with Spasmodic 'Snorting'.

Sno·rting, *ppl. a.* [f. as prec.]

1. That snorts; † snoring.

1573 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 17 To raise betimes the lubberlie, both snorting Hob and Margerie. 1598 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. ii. 1. *Ark* 553 He wallowes on the ground His shame-lesse snorting trunk, so deeply drown'd In self, oblivion. 1601 HAKLUYT *Galvano's Disc. World* 85 *marg.*, Snorting fishes. 1602 HERING *Anat.* 2 A laizie, drowzie, and slothfull-snorting Thersites. 1767 JAGO *Edge-Hill* III. 110 Oft will his snorting Steed, with Terror struck, His wonted Speed refuse. 1782 COWPER *Gilpin* 83 The snorting beast began to trot. 1848 JOHNS *Week at Lizard* 233 Encountering a shoal of snorting porpoises. 1875 in F. T. Buckland *Log-Book* 84 *note*, A steam-ship is not a huge snorting monster trying to run over sailing ships.

2. Of the nature of, or resembling, a snort; characterized by snorts.

1825 JAMIESON *Suppl.* s.v. *Snirt*, A snorting noise from the nostrils. 1833 M. SCOTT *Tom Cringle* xvii, One of the three men..sounded a short snorting note on a..horn. 1842 LOVER *Handy Andy* xxiv, Mrs. Kelly..uttering indignant ejaculations in a sort of snorting manner.

3. Of weather or wind: Severe, rough, violent.

1824 SOUTHEY *Lett.* (1856) III. 450 When I have told you that it is snorting weather. 1888–9 OSBOURNE in G. Balfour *Life Stevenson* (1911) xiii. 196 When..we got our wind, it was a snorting Trade, and we ran into the harbour like a steamboat.

Hence **Sno·rtingly** *adv.*, in a snorting manner; with a snort.

1853 KANE *Grinnell Exped.* xx. (1856) 160 They invariably rose after plunging, and looked snortingly around.

Snortle (snɔ̄·rt'l), *v.* [f. SNORT *v.* + -LE.]

1. *intr.* To snort. Now *dial.*

1577–82 BRETON *Flourish upon Fancie* Wks. (Grosart) I. 6/2 To wallow almost like a Beare, and snortle like a Hog. 1635 SWAN *Spec. Mundi* viii. § 1 (1643) 370 It is supposed that these monsters [i. e. mermen] are very devils..by their howling and snortling under the waters. 1807 BERESFORD *Miseries Hum. Life* xx. II. 244 Where long she lies tumbling,..And snortling, and grumbling. 1876 ROBINSON *Whitby Gloss., Snortle*, to puff through the nostrils as a person with a cold.

2. *refl.* To bring (oneself) into a certain condition by snorting.

1806 BERESFORD *Miseries Hum. Life* VI. (ed. 3) I. 120 The Monster—when..he has finally pumped, and panted, and snortled himself into tranquillity.

Snorty (snɔ̄·rti), *a.* and *adv.* [f. SNORT *v.*]

A. *adj.* **1.** Accompanied or characterized by snorting or snoring; given to snorting.

1582 STANYHURST *Æneis* III. (Arb.) 91 His nodil..droups to the growndward,..vometing with dead sleape snortye the collops. 1828 *Blackw. Mag.* XXIII. 494 What a snout he [the drunkard] turns up to the morning air, inflamed, pimpled, snubby, and snorty.

2. *colloq.* or *slang.* Ill-tempered, captious, disagreeable.

1893 'KATE WIGGIN' *Cathedral Courtship* 122 She found Mrs. Gooch very snorty, very snorty indeed.

B. *adv.* In a snorting manner.

1892 'Q.' (QUILLER COUCH) *I saw Three Ships* i, At the word 'whales', let the music go snorty.

Snory (snōə·ri), *a.* [f. SNORE *v.*] Inclined to snore; sleepy, drowsy.

1837 *Fraser's Mag.* XVI. 266 Sleepy and snory, full of godless slang.

Snot (snɒt), *sb.* Also 5–6 snotte, 6 snott. [ME. *snotte* or *snot* (cf. OE. *gesnot*), = Fris. *snotte*, *snot*, MDu. *snotte* (Du. *snot*), MLG. (and LG.) *snotte*, *snot* (hence Da. *snot*, † *snaat*, *snøt*), in sense 2; cf. also LG. *snut*, MHG. *snuz* (G. dial. *schnutz*). The stem is related by ablaut to that of SNITE *v.*]

1. The snuff of a candle; the burnt part of a candle-wick. Now *north. dial.*

1388 WYCLIF *Exod.* xxv. 38 Also tongis to do out the snottis. *c* 1420 *Chron. Vilod.* 1281 Þe snotte fast brende, Þe clothys caust hete & by-gonne to brenne ful fast. 1829 BROCKETT *N. C. Gloss.* (ed. 2), *Snot*, used by the common people to designate the burnt wick of a candle. 1836 *Wilson's Tales Borders* II. 163 That lang black snot that's hangin' at the candle. 1888– in dial. glossaries (Northbld., Cumbld., Durh., etc.).

2. The mucus of the nose. Now *dial.* or *vulgar.* Common in the 17th cent.

c 1425 *Eng. Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 636 *Hic polipus*, snotte. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 462/1 Snothe, fylthe of the nose (*S.* snotte). 1530 PALSGR. 272/1 Snotte of the nose, *roupye*. 1561 T. NORTON *Calvin's Inst.* IV. 81 That no man should draw snott oute at hys nosethrilles. 1594 NASHE *Unfort. Trav.* Wks. (Grosart) V. 154 His snot and spittle a hundred tymes he hath put ouer to hys Apothecarie for snowe water. 1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* III. ii. vi. iii. (1651) 562 Snot and snivell in her nostrils, spittle in her mouth. 1662 H. STUBBE *Indian Nectar* vii. 126 The Blood is more naturally purg'd.. by spittle, and snot, then by any Purges. 1713 DERHAM *Phys.-Theol.* VIII. vi. 421 A great deal of Snot from his Nose. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* VII. i. (1862) I. 500 From the nose there is always seen issuing a snot. 1808 in JAMIESON s.v. *Snotter*. 1824– in dial. glossaries (Sc., Cumbld., Yks., Lanc., Linc., Somerset, etc.).

3. *dial.* and *slang.* Applied to persons as a term of contempt or opprobrium.

[1607 DEKKER & MARSTON *Northw. Hoe* I. D.'s Wks. 1873 III. 19 Farewell father SNOT.] 1809 DONALDSON *Poems* 171 Ye're a dozen'd, stupid snot. 1825– in dial. glossaries (Cumbld., Yks., Somerset, etc.). 1875 W. ALEXANDER *Ain Folk* 207 There's Briggies, the aul' snot, at the ga'le [gable] o' the hoose.

4. (See quot. and cf. next.)

1860 *Slang Dict.* 222 *Snots*, small bream, a slimy kind of flat fish. Norwich.

5. Attrib., as **snot-fish,** (*a*) the lump-fish, *Cyclopterus lumpus*; (*b*) a species of dace, *Cyprinus* (*Leuciscus*) *dobula* [so G. *schnottfisch*]; **snot-gall,** † (*a*) the nose; (*b*) a Tasmanian fish, *Seriolella brama* (*Cent. Dict.* Suppl. 1909); † **snot-hole,** a nostril.

1648 HEXHAM II, *Het Snot-gat*, the Snot-hole, or Nostrill. 1655 MOUFET & BENNET *Health's Improv.* 156 Lumps are of two sorts,..either of them is deformed, shapeless and ugly, so that my Maides once at Ipswich were afraid to touch it; being flayed they resemble a soft and gellied substance, whereupon the Hollanders call them Snot-fishes. 1668 CHARLETON *Onomast.* 154 Hisce annumeravit Gesnerus *Orbem Britannicum*, sive *Muconem*,..the Snot-fish. 1685 *Poor Robin's Almanack* C vij b, Three Kisses, four Busses, and five licks under the Snot gall.

Snot (snɒt), *v.* Now *north. dial.* and *Sc.* [f. prec. Cf. older Flem. *snotten*, *snutten* (Kilian), G. dial. *schnutzen*.]

1. *trans.* To snuff (a candle).

1388 WYCLIF *Exod.* xxv. 38 Also..where tho thingis, that ben snottid out, ben quenchid, be maad of clenneste gold. 1877 EGGLESTONE *Betty Podkins' Lett.* 7 Noo snot t' candle, Peter. 1888– in dial. glossaries (Northbld., Durh.).

2. To blow or clear (the nose). Also *refl.*

1576 R. PETERSON *Galateo* (1852) 13 They spare not to snot their sniueld noses vppon them. 1611 FLORIO, *Smozzicare*,..to snot ones nose. 1632 SHERWOOD, To snot (or blow) his nose, *se moucher le nez*. 1653 URQUHART *Rabelais* I. xxi, Then he..sneezed and snotted himself.

3. *intr.* To sniff or snivel; to snort.

1662 *Rump Songs* (1874) II. 199 They cheat us all with their looks, And snivell and snot by roate! 1899 LUMSDEN *Edinb. Poems & Songs* 73 Your faither's gane three hour an' mair, An' still ye snot, an' snotter there.

† **Snoter,** *a. Obs.* [OE. *snot(t)or, -er*, = OHG. *snottar*, ON. *snotr*, Goth. *snutrs*, in the same sense.] Wise, learned, skilful. Also *absol.*

c 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Matt. xxiii. 34 Witȝo & snotre menn & uð-uuto. 971 *Blickling Hom.* 107 Se ȝeonga ȝe ealde, ȝe snottre ȝe unwise. *c* 1100 *O. E. Chron.* (MS. F.) an. 995, Ðes Ælfric was swyðe ȝewis mann, þet nas nan snotere man on Engla lande. *c* 1200 ORMIN 7087 [The Magi that] unnderrstodenn manniwhatt þurrh snoterr gyn bi sterrness.

Snotter (snɒ·tə(r)), *sb.*1 *Sc.* and *north.* [A derivative from SNOT *sb.*, corresponding to MDu. *snoter*, MLG. *snotter*, G. dial. *schnotter*, *schnodder*: cf. Du. and LG. *snotterig* snotty. Sense 3 is prob. f. SNOT *v.*]

1. Snot or nasal mucus. Also used *fig.* to denote something of little or no value, significance, or importance.

Various other dial. senses and attrib. uses are recorded in the *Eng. Dial. Dict.*

a 1689 CLELAND *Poems* (1697) 109 (Jam.), Hence I inferr.. No help nor gloss can weigh a snotter. 1720 RAMSAY *Rise & Fall of Stocks* 110 Coachmen, grooms, or pasment trotter, Glitter'd a while, then turn'd to snoter. *a* 1779 D. GRAHAM *Writ.* (1883) II. 154 A weel blooded hissie..that carefully combs the young things' heads,..snites the snotter frae their nose [etc.]. 1808– in Sc. and north. dial. glossaries. 1836 J. STRUTHERS *Dychmont* II. Wks. 1850 II. 70 Brats in rags, inch thick with snotter.

attrib. a 1779 ?D. GRAHAM *Yng. Coal-man's Courtship* (1787) 4 His mither..blew her snotter box, primed her nose, kindled her tobacco pipe [etc.].

2. *attrib.* and *pl.* (See quots.)

1781 J. HUTTON *Tour to Caves* (ed. 2) Gloss. 96 *Snotter-gob*, the red part of a turkey's head. 1832 GOODRIDGE *Voy. S. Seas* 30 The parts [of the sea-elephant] we made use of for food, were the heart,..the snotters, (a sort of fleshy skin which hangs over the nose,) and the flippers.

3. *slang.* (See quots.)

1823 BEE *Dict. Turf, Snotter*, a ragged, dirty kerchief. 1864 *Slang Dict.* 239 *Snotter*, or *wipe-hauler*, a pick-pocket who commits great depredations upon gentlemen's pocket-handkerchiefs.

Sno·tter, *sb.*2 *Naut.* [Of obscure origin: cf. SNORTER 2.] (See quots.)

1769 FALCONER *Dict. Marine* (1780) s.v. *Sprit*, The lower end of the sprit rests in a sort of wreath or collar called the snotter, which encircles the mast in that place. 1815 BURNEY *Falconer's Dict. Marine* 487/2 *Snotter*,..a short rope spliced together at the ends, and served with spun-yarn, or covered with hide. 1846 A. YOUNG *Naut. Dict.* 288 *Snotter*, a rope going over a yard-arm with an eye forming a becket to bend a tripping-line to, in sending down topgallant and royal yards. 1894 *Outing* XXIV. 149/2 The upper end fits into a cringle or eye in the peak of the sail and the lower end into a snotter on the mast.

Sno·tter, *v. Sc.* and *north. dial.* [Cf. SNOTTER *sb.*1]

The *Eng. Dial. Dict.* contains other dial. uses.

1. *intr.* To breathe heavily; to snuffle, snore, or snort.

1710 RUDDIMAN *Gloss. Virgil* s.v. *Snokis*, Perhaps it may signifie smels or snuffs by sucking in the breath at the nose; which..also we call Snottering, or Snokering, or Sniftering. 1724 RAMSAY *Health* 288 All day he snotters, nods, and yawns. 1776 HERD *Collect. Songs* II. 98 Thou turns sleepy and blind, And snoters and snores far frae me. 1849– in dial. glossaries and texts.

2. To snivel or snuffle in weeping.

1781 J. HUTTON *Tour to Caves* (ed. 2) Gloss. 96 *Snotter*, to sob or cry. 1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* xxiii, What signified his bringing a woman here to snotter and snivel, and bather their Lordships? 1825– in northern dial. glossaries, etc.

† **Sno·ttery,** *Obs. rare.* [f. SNOT *sb.*] Snot; hence, filth, filthiness.

1598 MARSTON *Sco. Villanie* I. ii, O what dry braine melts not sharp mustard rime, To purge the snottery of our slimie time? 1601 B. JONSON *Poetaster* v. iii, Teach thy incubus to poetize; And throw abroad thy spurious snotteries.

Sno·ttily, *adv.* [f. as next.] In a snotty manner. 1864 in WEBSTER.

Sno·ttiness, *rare.* [f. SNOTTY *a.*] The state or condition of being snotty.

1530 PALSGR. 272 Snottynesse, *morueyseté*. 1728 BAILEY, *Muculency*, snottiness. 1864 in WEBSTER.

Sno·ttinger. *slang.* [f. SNOT *sb.*] (See quot.)

1864 *Slang Dict.* 239 *Snottinger*, a coarse word for a pocket handkerchief.

† **Sno·ttish,** *a. Obs.*—0 [f. SNOT *sb.*] Somewhat snotty.

1648 HEXHAM II, *Snotachtigh*, snottish.

Sno·tty, *sb. slang.* A midshipman.

1903 in FARMER & HENLEY. 1904 KIPLING *Traffics & Disc.* 109 He was the second cutter's snotty—*my* snotty—on the Archimandrite.

Snotty (snɒ·ti), *a.* [f. SNOT *sb.* Cf. MDu. *snottich*, NFris. *snottig*, older Da. *snottig*, obs. G. *schnutzig*. The variant SNATTY appears earlier.]

The word occurs also as a sb. in dial. use; see the *Eng. Dial. Dict.* and *Jamieson's Sc. Dict.*

1. Foul with snot or nasal mucus.

Freq. in the 17th cent. of the nose.

1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 112/9 Snotty, *purulentus*. 1579 FULKE *Refut. Rastel* 797 [They] vsed them..as the Papists did with ye snottie napkins of Thomas Becket. 1602 *2nd Pt. Return fr. Parnass.* III. iii, *Amoretto*. Her nose is like a beautious maribone. *Page*. Marry a sweete snotty mistres. 1654 GATAKER *Disc. Apol.* 77 A defluxion from his nittie Hed, into his snottie Nose. 1739 R. BULL tr. *Dedekindus' Grobianus* 12 Your snotty Fingers..Shall well supply the polish'd Mirror's Place. 1752 CHESTERF. *Lett.* (1792) III. cclxxxii. 296 One day his nose was very snotty, upon which I..wiped it for him. 1867 A. DAWSON *Rambling Recoll.* (1868) 11 There was a knot of bare-legged snotty striplings. *prov.* 1611 COTGR. s.v. *Morveux*, Better a snottie nose then none. 1633 G. HERBERT *Jacula Prud.* Wks. (1862) 328 Better a snotty child than his nose wiped off.

b. Dirty, mean, paltry, contemptible, etc. Now *dial.* or *slang.*

1681 RYCAUT tr. *Gracian's Critick* 199 Let the confident Sophister know that he is but a snotty Charlatan. 1681 W. ROBERTSON *Phraseol. Gen.* (1693) 193 He babbles out his snotty slanders. 1712 *Odes of Horace* II. 27/1 Horace is no such snotty author as to have this putid Stuff put upon him. 1828 T. WILSON *Pitman's Pay* (1843) 26 Ye snotty dog, Put in yor tram. 1828– in dial. glossaries (Northbld., Cumbld., Yks., Wilts., Som., etc.).

c. *dial.* or *slang.* Angry, curt, short-tempered; pert, saucy, impudent; proud, conceited.

1870– in various dial. glossaries and texts.

2. Consisting of snot; mucous; of the nature of, or resembling, snot; viscous, slimy. ? *Obs.*

1656 RIDGLEY *Pract. Physick* 88 That snotty white matter is not the fat. 1658 A. FOX *Würtz' Surg.* II. xxii. 137 Cooling Ointments..of Oyls and other snotty and greasie things. 1683 SNAPE *Anat. Horse* III. v. (1686) 111 The snotty Excrements of the Brain. *c* 1720 GIBSON *Farrier's Guide* II. xxviii. (1738) 100 All that snotty matter comes from thence.

Snotty-nose. ? *Obs.* [See prec.] One whose nose is dirty with snot; hence, a paltry, mean, or contemptible fellow.

1602 DEKKER *Honest Whore* I. II. i, Hang him, Mole catcher, it's the dreamingest snotty nose. 1614 B. JONSON *Barth. Fair* II. v, Dos't so, snotty nose? good Lord! are you sniueling? 1712 *Odes of Horace* V. 12/2, I own he is no Snotty-Nose.

b. *attrib.* or as *adj.* Snotty-nosed.

1622 MASSINGER & DEKKER *Virg. Martyr* II. i, Our puling, snotty-nose lady sent me out likewise. 1751 SMOLLETT *Per. Pickle* ii, A snotty-nose boy, whom I myself have ordered to the gun, for stealing eggs.

Sno·tty-nosed, *a.* Now *dial.* [Cf. prec.] Having the nose running or dirty with snot; also, mean, paltry, contemptible.

1610 SELDEN *English Janus* Pref. 25 Let snotty nosed Fellows..approve what I write, or let them flout and fleer. 1712 ARBUTHNOT *John Bull* I. xv, My Husband took him in, a dirty, snotty-nosed Boy. 1721 BAILEY, *Snivelling*, peaking, snotty-nosed, childish. 1886 ELWORTHY *W. Somerset Word-bk.* 690 A snotty-nosed boy. 1894 J. HARTLEY *Clock Alm.* 2 (E.D.D.), Snotty-nosed lads 'at aw remember.

Snouch, *sb.* [f. next.] A jibe, jeer, or scoff.

c 1780 in *Gentl. Mag.* (1848) June 616/1 The taunts and snouches which the two English regiments had thrown upon the Virgin Mary's Guards.

Snouch (snauʃ), *v.* ? *Obs.* Also **snoutch.** [Of obscure origin.] *trans.* To snub; to treat scornfully. Also *absol.*

1761 MRS. F. SHERIDAN *S. Biddulph* (1796) III. 156, I am glad of it, said he (very quick); I'll be here to snoutch them. Dear Sir, said I,..you cannot conceive how humbled they are. 1809 *Ann. Reg.* 40 They may pun and epigrammatise, they may sneer, or they may snoutch. 1819 *New Whig Guide* 131 Then at last they might discover 'Tis not well to *snouch* me so.

Snouk, variant of SNOKE *v.*

Snout (snaut), *sb.*[1] Forms: 3–4 **snute,** 4–6 **snoute,** 4–7 **snowte,** 7 **snoote;** 4– **snout** (6 **snought**), 6–7, *Sc.* 8–9 **snowt,** 9 *Sc., north.* (and *U.S.*) **snoot.** [ME. *snūt(e,* = WFris. *snút, snute* (NFris. *sniit, snit*), MDu. *snūte, snuut* (Kilian *snuyte,* Du. *snuit*), MLG. *snūt(e,* G. *schnauze* († *schnausze, schnausz*), MSw. and Sw. dial. *snuta,* Da. *snude,* Norw. and Sw. *snut.*

The early history of these forms is somewhat obscure. There is no example of an OE. or ON. *snút* or *snút-*, although the existence of the stem is proved by the verbal derivatives, OE. *snýtan,* ON. *snýta* (see SNITE *v.*), and it is possible that both in English and the Scand. languages the sb. has been adopted from LG. A variation of the stem appears in the synonymous older G. *schnotz(e.*]

1. a. The trunk of an elephant. Also *transf.*

c 1220 *Bestiary* 669 in *O. E. Misc.,* Rennande cumeð a ȝungling,..his snute him under puteð, and..ðis elp he reisen on stalle. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) V. 159 þe snowtes of olyfauntes and his hors eren were..ful of gnattes. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 3633 Þire Oliſantis of ynde..was snaypid on þe snowte with þe snart hetis. 1542 UDALL *Erasm. Apoph.* 196 b, [The elephant] with his snoute tendrely plucked out of his maister's bodye all the said dartes. 1581 MARBECK *Bk. Notes* 72 Also ye long snout of an Elephant is called an hand or an arme, for that by that instrument he worketh manie things. 1600 J. PORY tr. *Leo's Africa* IX. 337 If the Elephant intendeth to hurt any man, he casteth him on the ground with his long snout or trunk. 1676 WOOD *Life* (O.H.S.) II. 349 Crest unicorne head..between elephants' snowtes. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s.v. *Elephant,* The Elephant this author [Linnæus] distinguishes by his snout. 1828–32 WEBSTER, *Trunk,*..the snout or proboscis of an elephant.

b. The projecting part of the head of an animal, which includes the nose and mouth (= MUZZLE *sb.*[1] 1); the proboscis or rostrum of an insect; † the beak or bill of a bird, etc.

13.. *K. Alis.* 6534 (Laud MS.), On his snoute an horne he [the rhinoceros] beres. *c* 1380 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* I. 200 Whanne þei bigynen to ȝoule, þei turnen her snowte to hevene ward. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 326 This Leoun..A beste..Hath slain, and with his blodi snoute [etc.]. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 462/1 Snowte, or bylle, *rostrum.* *c* 1475 HENRYSON *Poems* (S.T.S.) III. 151 With þe snowt of ane selch, ane swelling to swage. 1535 COVERDALE *Prov.* xi. 22 Like a rynge of golde in a swynes snoute. 1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 228 V^o^ Snoute of a dog, *rostrum. Ibid.,* V^o^ Snout of a fish, *rostrum.* 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* II. 390 Only the little pretty snouts end of a mouse. 1687 A. LOVELL tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* I. 245 They have a long sharp Snout, full of long and sharp Teeth, but no Tongue. 1725 *Fam. Dict.* s.v. *Boar,* In the Choice of this Animal, you must pitch upon one..having..a thick Head, long Snout. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s.v. *Rostrum,* The *rostrum* or snout in fishes varies very much in figure. 1784 COWPER *Task* V. 50 His dog..snatches up the drifted snow,..or ploughs it with his snout. 1802 SHAW *Gen. Zool.* III. II. 587 Greenish-black Slow-Worm..with elongated snout. 1873 MIVART *Elem. Anat.* ix. 380 An extra median ossicle may be developed in the snout, as e. g. in the mole. 1901 FOUNTAIN *Deserts N. Amer.* IX. 183 The large fleshy snout of the moose.

2. Contemptuously: The nose in man, esp. when large or badly shaped; † the face or countenance.

a 1300 *K. Horn* 1082 He lokede him abute, Wiþ his colmie snute. *c* 1380 *Sir Ferumb.* 1760 A boȝ adoun on þat tyde and cauȝte hym [the Saracen] by þe snoute. *c* 1400 *Laud Troy Bk.* 7942 Some lefft his hed, and som his snout. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 347/1 A Snowte, *vbi* A nese. 1508 KENNEDIE *Flyting w. Dunbar* 550 Out! out! I schout, apon that snowt that snevillis. 1548 UDALL, etc. *Erasm. Par. Luke* i. 26 The sturdie holders up of their snoute he hath cast downe. 1592 GREENE *Upst. Courtier* Wks.(Grosart) XI. 242 Betweene the filthy reumicast of his bloudshotten snowt, there appeared smale holes. 1645 MILTON *Colast.* Wks. 1851 IV. 368 But what should a man say more to a snout in this pickle? 1693 DRYDEN, etc. *Juvenal* x. (1697) 250 What Ethiop Lips he has, How foul a Snout, and what a hanging Face! 1708 *Brit. Apollo* No. 38. 2/1 Her Chin and Snout are so firmly united. 1771 SMOLLETT *Humph. Cl.* (1815) 72 A young fellow,..when he first thrusts his snout into the world, is apt to be surprised at many things. 1820 SCOTT *Monast.* XXVI, Sae I said it wad prove since I first saw the false Southron snout of thee. 1905 G. H. LORIMER *Old Gorgon Graham* 220 Just as he got good and ready to strike, I pasted him one in the snoot.

† b. In asseverations or imprecations. *Obs.*

c 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 11935 We schal..reue hym his regne, maugre his snoute. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Shipman's T.* 1595 What? evel thedom on his monkes snowte! 14.. *Sir Beues* (MS. C) 1622+65 Then seyde the portar, 'Be my snowte, Thys was Befyse, that y lete owte'.

3. The end of a ship's prow; the beak or rostrum of a vessel.

1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) III. 237 Schippes of werre wiþ yren snowtes. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* VIII. xii. 2 The weyrly schippis wyth thair snowtis of steyll. *a* 1572 KNOX *Hist. Ref.* Wks. 1846 I. 120 Upon Sounday..ordered thei thare schippis so that a galay or two lade thare snowttis to the craiggis. 1632 J. HAYWARD tr. *Biondi's Eromena* 61 Metaneone..hastened to grapple with the Galley; and..tearing off her snout,..bruised her all-over. *a* 1668 LASSELS *Voy. Italy* (1698) II. 84 The Rostra or brazen snouts of the ships won from the Antiates. 1853 KANE *Grinnell Exped.* xxiii. (1856) 182 Five black masses [*sc.* ships]..are seen with their snouts shoved into the shore of ice. 1871 R. ELLIS *Catullus* lxiv. 12 Scarcely the forward snout tore up that wintery water.

4. A structure, formation, projecting part, etc., resembling or suggestive of a snout; a nozzle or the like. Also with *of.*

a 1425 tr. *Arderne's Treat. Fistula,* etc. 9 A snowted nedle..ow to be no gretter ne lenger in þe snowte þan as it is paynted. *Ibid.* 24 Putte..þe poynt of þe rasour in þe holwnes of þe snowte. 1447 BOKENHAM *Seyntys* (Roxb.) 27 My penne also gynnyth make obstacle,..For I so ofte have maad to penne Hys snowte up on my thombys ende. 1612 WOODALL *Surg. Mate* Wks. (1653) 32 Your glister pot should be made with a snout or lip. 1623 MINSHEU *Sp. Dict.,* *Limon del cárro,* the long snout that goeth between the oxen in a waine. 1687 MIÉGE *Gt. Fr. Dict.* I, *Tuiau de Souflet,* a Bellows-Snout. 1755 JOHNSON, *Snout,*..the nosel or end of any hollow pipe. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 1535/1 The snout of a pair of bellows or a tuyere. 1902 'LINESMAN' *Words Eyewitness* 198 The heavy naval ordnance begin to cock their long snouts higher..into the air.

b. A projecting point of land, rock, etc.

1536 BELLENDEN *Cron. Scot.* (1821) I. p. xxviii, Galloway rinnis, with ane gret snout of craggis,..in the Irland seis. This snout is callit be the peple, the Mulis Nuk. 1773 FERGUSSON *Poems* II. (1789) 35 The bonny wa'-flowers sprout On yonder Ruin's lofty snout. 1867 N. MACLEOD *Highland Parish, Spirit of Eld* 362 The black raven..sat on a snout of rock above him. 1873 BRUCE in Morley *Gladstone* VI. xi. (1905) II. 47, I see no other rock ahead; but sometimes they project their snouts unexpectedly.

c. The front portion or termination of a glacier.

1841 B. HALL *Patchwork* I. vii. 107 The glacier;..its enormous snout ploughs up the ground before it. 1860 TYNDALL *Glac. II.* xvii. 322 The snout of the glacier abuts against the ground. 1878 HUXLEY *Physiogr.* 161 At the end, or snout, of the glacier, the water issues forth.

† 5. *slang.* A hogshead. *Obs.*—^0^

1725 in *New Cant. Dict.* (Hence in Grose.)

6. One or other of various species of moths characterized by having abnormally long palpi projecting in front of the head; esp. the snout-moth, *Hypena proboscidalis.*

1819 SAMOUELLE *Entomol. Comp.* 424 *Herminia albistrigalis.* The white-line Snout. 1832 J. RENNIE *Butterfl. & Moths* 145 The Snout. *Ibid.* 146 The Small Snout. *Ibid.* 147 White-line Snout..Rib-striped Snout. 1888 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* VI. 66 The 'Snout' (*Hypena proboscidalis*), a brown Moth, with rather slender body, and very long palpi, resembling a beak.

7. *attrib.,* as *snout-bone, -end, -nose, -piece;* **snout-beetle,** one or other of several species of beetles characterized by having the head prolonged into a rostrum or proboscis; † **snout-flower** (see quot.); **snout-horn,** a rhinoceros (*poet.*); the horn of a rhinoceros or beetle; **snout-moth** (see sense 6); **snout-ring** (see quot.).

1868 *Rep. U.S. Commiss. Agric.* (1869) 308 The *Curculionidæ,* *snout beetles, or weevils, infest grain, seeds, or fruits. 1889 *Cent. Dict., Otiorhynchidæ,* an important family of rhynchophorous *Coleoptera,* or snout-beetles. 1846 YOUATT *Pig* (1847) 118 Between the supplemental, or *snout-bone, and the proper nasal. 1681 GREW *Museum* I. II. i. 18 From his *Snout-end to his Tail. 1715 *Phil. Trans.* XXIX. 269 *Plantæ Nasifloræ.* *Snout-flowers. 1625 LISLE *Du Bartas, Noe* 28 The *Snout-horne large, The rinde-hide Elephant, the Camel. *c* 1711 PETIVER *Gazophyl.* VII. § 70 Sawing thro' the Bark by the Help of their Snout-horn. 1819 SAMOUELLE *Entomol. Comp.* 253 *Snout moth. 1887 *Cassell's Encycl. Dict.* s.v., Snout-moth, *Hypena proboscidalis.* Body slender, wings broad and triangular, colour mainly brown. 1896 LYDEKKER *Roy. Nat. Hist.* VI. 118 The snout-moths (*Hypena*). 1775 ASH, *Silo,*..one that has a *snout nose. 1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* III. iii. IV. ii. 702 A modest virgine..to such a faire *snout piece is much to be preferred. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.,* **Snout-ring,* a ring or staple placed in the nose of a hog to deter him from rooting.

8. *Comb.,* as *snout-bearing, -holy, -horned, -like.*

1589 [? NASHE] *Almond for Parrat* 4 The painted poison of snout-holy deuotion. 1593 G. HARVEY *Pierce's Super.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 302 That same snowt-horned Rhinoceros. 1883 *Cassell's Encycl. Dict.* s.v. *Curculionidæ,* Sub-tribe Rhynchophora (Snout-bearing Insects). 1909 *Daily Chron.* 18 Jan. 5/3 A very remarkable snout-like head.

Snout (snaut), *sb.*[2] *slang.* [Of obscure origin.] Tobacco.

1896 *Westm. Gaz.* 29 May 2/1 Here, mate, give us a bit of the snout. 1904 A. GRIFFITHS *50 Yrs. Public Service* xi. 154 The 'snout'..is introduced in small quantities, and distributed by the prisoners themselves.

Snout (snaut), *v.* [f. SNOUT *sb.*[1]]

1. *trans.* To finish *off* with a snout.

1753 *Songs & Poems Costume* (Percy Soc.) 230 Hang a small bugle cap on, as big as a crown, Snout it off with a flower *vulgo dict.* a pompoon.

2. *trans.* and *intr.* To root, dig up, or grub, with or as with the snout.

1857 G. H. KINGSLEY *Sport & Trav.* (1900) 452 He would ..snout and jigger about the stones in a most unsalmon-like manner. 1884 STEVENSON *Lett.* (1899) I. vi. 306 The brutal and licentious public, snouting in Mudie's wash-trough. 1888 *Daily News* 29 Mar. 3/2 Snouting, grubbing, and biting their ditch..deep enough for great ocean ships to sail through.

Snouted (snau·tĕd), *ppl. a.* [f. SNOUT *sb.*[1]]

1. Of things: Furnished with a snout or distinct terminal part.

a 1425 tr. *Arderne's Treat. Fistula,* etc. 9 Anoþer instrument, þat is called 'Acus rostrata', a snowted nedle, for it hath þe tone heued like a snowte. *Ibid.* 32. 1584 B. R. tr. *Herodotus* I. 53 They had..no beaked or snowted shippes armed with a pyke or stemme of iron. 1605 CAMDEN *Rem.* (1623) 200 Their shooes and patens are snowted and piked more then a finger long crooking vpwards. 1772–84 *Cook's Voy.* (1790) V. 1903 All of them wear a sort of oval snouted cap, made of wood. 1869 in *Eng. Dial. Dict.* s.v., The neat clogs of the factory girls are snouted with brass.

2. Of persons or animals: Provided or furnished with a snout, muzzle, or rostrum. In early use predicative with *like.*

Also freq. in combs., as *long-, sharp-, short-snouted.*

a 1536 *Songs, Carols,* etc. (E. E. T. S.) 113 Sum [people] be snowted like an ape. 1565 J. PHILLIP *Patient Grissell* 23 (Malone Soc.), A Horse which to my Judgement..Was snowted like a wodcoke. 1611 COTGR. s.v. *Chenin,* A kind of Badger, that is..snowted like a dog. 1613 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* (1614) 503 The Rhinoceros is..snouted like a Hogge. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 18 June 1657, A sort of Catt..snouted much like the Egyptian racoon. 1796 COLERIDGE *Lett.* (1895) 194 [To] feed a couple of snouted and grunting cousins from the refuse. 1802 SHAW *Gen. Zool.* III. II. 587 Snouted Slow-worm. *Anguis Nasuta.* 1804 *Ibid.* V. I. 87 Snouted Salmon. *Salmo Nasus.* 1855 WHITTIER *The Barefoot Boy* 53 For my sport the squirrel played, Plied the snouted mole his spade. 1859 N. P. WILLIS *Convalescent* XXXII. 181, I spied the snouted invader rooting busily in the velvet sward.

3. Shaped or fashioned like a snout; snout-like.

1866 J. B. ROSE tr. *Ovid's Met.* 89 Lycabas..appeared with gaping jaws and snouted nose. 1872 BLACKIE *Lays Highl.* 100 By this snouted crag will blow Oft a sudden whiff. 1882 *Harper's Mag.* LXV. 89 Adorned a smooth head with a snouted countenance.

Snou·ter. [f. SNOUT *sb.*[1]] (See quot.)

1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2230/1 *Snouter,* a cutting shears with one curved blade approximating to the shape of a hog's snout, and used for removing at one cut the cartilage wherewith he roots.

† **Snout-fair,** *a. Obs.* [f. SNOUT *sb.*[1] Cf. MSw. *snutofagher,* Sw. *snutfager.*] Having a fair countenance; fair-faced, comely, handsome.

Freq. in 16th and early 17th cent., usually with some disparaging suggestion.

1530 TINDALE *Pract. Prelates* F ij, If he come in to an house, & the wiff be snoutefayre he will rote him self there. 1598 BP. HALL *Sat.* IV. i. 111 Who list excuse? when chaister dames can hyre Some snout-faire stripling to their apple-squire. 1616 R. C. *Times' Whistle* (1871) 34, I knowe a snowt-faire, selfe-conceited asse. 1649 QUARLES *Virgin Widow* I, True, She's snout faire; yet by her favour I Would scarce turn tables with her, though I say't.

† **Snou·ting**[1]. *Obs.*—[1] [? f. SNOUT *sb.*[1]] A variety of apple.

1651 CHILD in Hartlib *Legacy* (1655) 19 In Biscay..they make Cider of a certain sweet Apple, which hath a little bitterness in it, and is like to our snouting.

† **Snou·ting**[2]. *Obs.*—[1] [app. f. Du. *snuit* tow.] (See quot.)

1662 *Irish Statutes* (1765) II. 416 Snouting, alias snayl, or drest towe, the twelve pound, £0. 5^s^ 0.

Snou·tish, *a.* [f. SNOUT *sb.*[1] + -ISH.] Somewhat resembling a snout.

1898 G. B. SHAW *Plays* II. *Candida* 88 He is podgy, with a snoutish nose.

Snou·tless, *a. rare.* [f. SNOUT *sb.*[1]] Destitute or devoid of a snout or point.

1862 LOWELL *Biglow P.* Ser. II. iv. *Festina Lente,* Here snoutless tails, there tailless snouts: The only gainers were the pouts.

Snouty (snau·ti), *a.* [f. SNOUT *sb.*[1]]

1. Resembling a snout or muzzle; having a pronounced or prominent snout.

a 1685 OTWAY *Compl. Muse* xii, The Nose was ugly, long, and big, Broad, and snowty like a Pig. 1863 HUXLEY *Man's Place in Nature* iii. 147 The skull..is called 'prognathous'; a term which has been rendered, with more force than elegance, by the Saxon equivalent 'snouty'. 1880 G. MEREDITH *Tragic Com.* iii. (1892) 25 The hairy, hoofy, snouty evil one.

2. *colloq.* Overbearing; insolent.

1858 *Times* 29 Nov., Her manner was so domineering that he could not imagine she was his wife;—her manner was perfectly 'snouty'.

Snow (snōu), *sb.*[1] Forms: α. (Latterly *north.* and *Sc.*) 1- snaw, 4-6, 8-9 snawe; 1 snauw, 1-4, 6 snau, 5 snaue; 1, 9 sna, 9 snaa. β. 3- snow (3 snou, snov), 3-7 snowe (5 sknowe), 9 *dial.* sno, snoo. γ. 3-4 snouh, 3 snovȝ, 4 snowh, snowȝ, snoȝ. [Common Teutonic: OE. *snāw*, = OFris. **snē* (WFris. *snie*, EFris. *snē*, *snō*, NFris. *sne*, *sni*, *snie*), MDu. *sneeu*, *sneu*, *snee* (Du. *sneeuw*, dial. *snee*), OS. *snēu*, *snēw-* (MLG. and LG. *snee*), OHG. *snêo*, *snêw-* (MHG. *snê*, G. *schnee*), ON. *snær*, *snjár*, *snjór* (Icel. *snjór*, Norw. *snjo*, *snjø*, *sne*, etc.; MSw. *snyo*, *snyö*, etc., Sw. *snö*; MDa. *sno*, *sne*, Da. *sne*), Goth. *snaiws*:—OTeut. **snaiwaz*. Various grades of the pre-Teut. stem are widely represented in the cognate languages, as Lith. *snëgas*, OSlav. *snegŭ* (Russ. *snieg'*), OIr. *snechta* (Ir. *sneachd*), L. *niv-is* (*nix*), Gr. *νίφα* (acc.) snow, *νίφει* it snows, etc.]

I. 1. The partially frozen vapour of the atmosphere falling in flakes characterized by their whiteness and lightness; the fall of these flakes, or the layer formed by them on the surface of the ground.

a. c **825** *Vesp. Ps.* cxlvii. 16 Se seleð snaw swe swe wulle. *a* **1000** *Boeth. Metr.* xxix, 63 Swylce hagal & snaw hrusan leccað On wintres tid. *c* **1050** *O. E. Chron.* (MS. C) an. 1046, On þis ylcan ȝeare..com se stranga winter mid forste & mid snawe. *c* **1175** *Lamb. Hom.* 35 Ic walde fein pinian and sitten on forste and on snawe up et mine chinne. *c* **1205** Lay. 27459 Flan al swa þicke swa þe snau adun ualleð. *a* **1300** *Cursor M.* 22692 A stormi dai..Bath o frost, and hail, and snau. **1375** Barbour *Bruce* ix. 128 This wes eftir the Martymes, Quhen snaw had helit all the land. **1432-50** tr. *Higden* (Rolls) I. 265 Peple..whiche haue plente of snawe in the tyme of somer. **1549** *Compl. Scot.* vi. 59 The snau is ane congelit rane. **1596** Dalrymple tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* I. 31 How deip saeuir be the snawe,..thay nevir thair heid sett vndir the ruffe of ony hous. **1781** Burns *Winter* i, The stormy North sends driving forth The blinding sleet and snaw. **1863** Quinn *Heather Lintie* (ed. 2) 196, I..saw Puir Robin 'midst the driftin snaw.

β. c **1200** *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 99 Þis is þe holi manne [=manna] þe ure drihten sende alse snow sleȝrende. *c* **1250** *Owl & Night.* 413 Þu singest so doþ hen a snowe. **13**.. *Fall & Passion* 13 in *E. E. P.*, Seue daies a seue niȝt as ȝe seeþ þat falliþ snowe. **1377** Langl. *P. Pl.* B. xv. 110 A dongehul, þat were bysnewed with snowe. *c* **1400** *Destr. Troy* 10971 Of cleane white, As the glyssenond glemes þat glenttes on þe sknowe. *c* **1425** *Cast. Persev.* 2642 in *Macro Plays* 156 It [riches] flyet a-wey, as any snow. **1526** *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 140 Let vs stande there in ye rayne or snowe, all thus storuen for colde. **1562** Heywood *Prov. & Epigr.* (1867) 51 Snow is white And lyeth in the dike. **1617** Moryson *Itin.* I. 179, I could hardly keepe him..from being drowned in the snow. **1672** Petty *Pol. Anat.* (1691) 50 The Snow lies not long in the lower ground of Ireland. **1774** Goldsm. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) I. 372 Some vapours that ascend to great heights, will be frozen into snow. **1813** Sir H. Davy *Agric. Chem.* (1814) 209 Snow and ice are bad conductors of heat. **1860** Tyndall *Glac.* I. ii. 19 A vast quantity of snow fell during the night. **1878** Huxley *Physiogr.* 155 Snow is white and opaque in consequence of the air entangled among its crystals.

γ. c **1250** *Owl & Night.* 430 Hwanne snouh liþ þikke & wide. *c* **1290** *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 209 Þat..caldore was þane ani ys oþur snovȝ. *c* **1320** *Cast. Love* 722 Þe snowȝ [*v.r.* snowh] þat is sneuwynge. **1382** Wyclif *Prov.* xxvi. 1 What maner snoȝ in somer, and reyn in rep time [etc.].

b. Taken as a type of whiteness or brightness. See also Driven *ppl. a.* **2.**

c **825** *Vesp. Ps.* l. 9 Ofer snaw ic biom ȝehwitad. *c* **950** *Lindisf. Gosp.* Matt. xvii. 2 Wedo his ȝeworden weron huita sua sna [*Rushw.* snau]. **971** *Blickling Hom.* 147 Heo hæfde seofon sibum beorhtran sawle þonne snaw. *a* **1200** *Vices & Virtues* 83 Þanne wurð ic..hwittere ðane ani snaw. **1297** R. Glouc. (Rolls) 9514 Wite cloþes heo dude hire on, as wo seiþ, ilich þe snowe. *a* **1366** Chaucer *Rom. Rose* 558 Hir throte, al-so whyt of hewe, As snow on braunche snowed newe. **1423** Jas. I *Kingis Q.* lxvii, Hir faire fresche face, as quhite as ony snawe. *a* **1533** Ld. Berners *Huon* lxx. 239 He chaunged coloure and waxed as whyte as snowe. **1593** G. Fletcher *Licia*, etc. (Grosart) 106 So is my sweet, much paler than the snowe. **1634** Sir T. Herbert *Trav.* 25 The Ocean was as white as snow. **1730-46** Thomson *Autumn* 916 How, white as hyperborean snow To form the lucid lawn. **1817** Shelley *Rev. Islam* I. liv, Some, whose white hair shone Like mountain snow.

c. In various fig. or allusive uses.

a **1548** Hall *Chron., Edw. IV*, 43 Why you .. so sore laboured and entyced me to passe ouer the Sea, promysynge mountaines of Golde, whiche turned into snowe. **1591** Shaks. *Two Gent.* II. vii. 19 Thou wouldst as soone goe kindle fire with snow. **1594** — *Rich. III*, I. iv. 249 *Cla.* O do not slander him, for he is kinde. [*First Murderer.*] Right, as Snow in Haruest. **1668** Dryden *Dram. Poesy* Ess. (ed. Ker) I. 43 He was not only a professed imitator of Horace, but a learned plagiary of all the others; you track him every where in their snow. **1738** *Wesley's Hymns*, '*Come holy Spirit, send down those Beams*' iii, Warm with thy Fire our Hearts of Snow. **1854** Miss Baker *Northampt. Gloss.* s.v., He looks as cold as snow in harvest. **1860** Hughes *Tom Brown at Oxf.* xxxiii, When one has been a year at Oxford, there isn't much snow left to soil. **1862** Pusey in Liddon *Life* (1897) IV. 241 Here..we seem to be so familiar with our evils as to acquiesce in them, sleeping in the snow, which is death.

d. With adjs. of colour, denoting snow tinged by various foreign substances, or the alga, etc., to which the colouring is due.

1678- [see Red snow 1]. **1842** *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 168/1 A field of green snow. *Ibid.*, Martius arrived at the conclusion..that the green snow (*Protococcus viridis*) and the red (*P. nivalis*) are one and the same plant. **1898** *Westm. Gaz.* 31 Mar. 7/2 Black snow in the Lake district...On Tuesday,..it is stated, there was a sharp fall of perfectly black snow. **1909** *Cent. Dict.* Suppl. s.v., Golden snow.

2. A fall of snow; a snowstorm. Now *rare.* Not always clearly distinguishable from sense 3.

c **888** K. Ælfred *Boeth.* xxiii, Norðanwindas & micle renas & snawas. **1408** tr. *Vegetius' De Re Milit.* (MS. Digby 233) 186/2 Sodeyn snowes..rysyng & encrees of ryuers & flodus. **1489-90** *Plumpton Corr.* (Camden) 90 At my departing I rode..a full troubleous way in that great snaw. **1562** *Child Marr.* 112 Apon a saturday afore that tyme, beynge a gret snowe. **1588** Shaks. *L. L. L.* I. i. 106 At Christmas I no more desire a Rose, Then wish a Snow in Mayes new fangled showes. **1694** S. Sewall *Diary* 16 Mar., A great Snow falls. **1717** *Ibid.* 20 Feb., Another Snow coming on. **1740** T. Smith *Jrnl.* (1849) 268 We had only two snows and sledding but about three weeks. **1803** Mary Charlton *Wife & Mistress* II. 92 Her good man..walked through a very thick snow, to inform her [etc.]. **1817** Shelley *Rev. Islam* ix. xxi, Next come the snows, and rain, And frosts, and storms.

transf. **1728** Pope *Dunc.* III. 262 How calm he sits at ease, 'Mid snows of paper and fierce hail of pease. **1855** Kingsley *Westw. Ho!* xix, Great white tassels..tossed in their faces a fragrant snow of blossoms. **1866** B. Taylor *Poems, Poet's Jrnl.* 31 The bosom of the lawn Whitened beneath her silent snow of light.

b. As marking a period of time; a winter.

1825 Longf. *Burial of Minnisink* iv, Thirty snows had not yet shed Their glory on the warrior's head. **1841** Catlin *N. Amer. Ind.* (1844) I. xx. 147 The notches he had recorded for the snows (or years) of his life. **1850** Tennyson *In Mem.* xxii. 4 Thro' four sweet years.., from snow to snow.

3. An accumulation, mass, expanse, or field, of snow.

c **1374** Chaucer *Troylus* v. 10 The golden-tressed Phebus.. Thryes hadde alle with his bemes shene The snowes molte. **1596** Dalrymple tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* I. 5 [There are] mony weitis, deip snawis. **1660** F. Brooke tr. *Le Blanc's Trav.* 347 There is a large river.., which some Spanish were about to crosse, but could not for snows. **1693** Dryden, etc. *Juvenal* vi. (1697) 127 When Winter shuts the Seas, and fleecy Snows Make Houses white. **1705** Addison *Italy* 125 This River .. was much increas'd by the melting of the Snows when Cæsar pass'd it. **1748** Gray *Alliance* 77 O'er Libya's deserts and through Zembla's snows. **1820** Scott *Monast.* xxxi, The snows of that Mont Blanc which we saw together. **1854** Hooker *Himal. Jrnls.* II. xxix. 294 The most conspicuous group of snows seen from Khasia. **1878** Browning *La Saisiaz* 24 Yonder, where the far snows blanch Mute Mont Blanc.

b. *pl.* The regions of perpetual snow; the Arctic regions.

1844 Emerson *Young American* Wks. (Bohn) II. 296 To men legislating for the area betwixt..the snows and the tropics.

II. 4. Applied to various things or substances having the colour or appearance of snow:

a. *Cookery.* A dish or confection resembling snow in appearance, esp. one made by whipping the white of eggs to a creamy consistency.

1597 *Bk. Cookerie* F b, How to make Snowe. Take a quart of thicke cream, and fiue or sixe whites of eggs [etc.]. **1864** *Englishw. in India* 173 Whip the whites of six eggs to a hard snow. *a* **1887** *Cassell's Dict. Cookery* 375 Lemon snow. *Ibid.* 887 Recipes for the following snows will be found under their respective headings. *Ibid.*, Apple snow may be iced.

b. *Chem.* One or other of various substances having a snow-like appearance (see quots.).

1802 *Encycl. Brit.* Suppl. I. 240 A white powder, formerly called snow or white flowers of antimony. This is the white oxyd of antimony. **1815** J. Smith *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 401 Argentine snow, or flowers of antimony. **1841** *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* IV. 317/1 A small piece of this carbonic acid snow was placed on the surface of water.

c. *poet.* White marble.

1848 Bailey *Festus* Proëm (ed. 3) p. vii, Ere new marmoreal floods had spread their couch Of perdurable snow.

5. a. The white hair of age. Chiefly in phrases. Also *pl.*

1638 R. Baker tr. *Balzac's Lett.* (vol. III) 57 If my passions be cooled by the snow of my head, I have then never a white hair [etc.]. **1743** Francis tr. *Hor., Odes* v. xvii. 30 Thy fragrant Odours on my Head More than the Snows of Age have shed. **1757** Duncombe tr. *Horace, Odes* II. xi. 9 Age drops her Snow upon our Heads. **1852** Thackeray *Esmond* I. ii, Attiring herself like summer though her head was covered with snow. **1871** R. Ellis *Catullus* lxiv. 309 Wreaths sat on each hoar crown, whose snows flush'd rosy beneath them.

b. *slang.* (See quots.)

1811 *Lexicon-Balatronicum, Snow*, linen hung out to dry or bleach. **1812** J. H. Vaux *Flash Dict., Snow*, clean linen from the washerwoman's hands, whether it be wet or dry. **1859** *Slang Dict.* 97 *Snow*, wet linen.

c. White bloom or blossom; spray or foam.

1859 Geo. Eliot *A. Bede* i, The elder-bushes which were spreading their summer snow close to the open window. **1885** J. H. Dell *Dawning Grey, Songs of the Surges* 97, I stood looking forth o'er the surges,—Looking forth o'er their squadrons of snow. **1900** *Westm. Gaz.* 14 Apr. 2/3 With the May rain still on their petalled snow.

d. In some popular names of plants, as *snow-in-harvest*, *-in-summer*, *-on-the-mountain* (see quots.).

1878-80 T. Meehan *Native Wild Flowers U. S.* Ser. II. I. 79 This Euphorbia marginata..is called by the people here 'Snow on the Mountain'. **1881** *Leicester Gloss.* 247 Snow-in-harvest, .. a flower, *Cerastium tomentosum.* **1886** Britten & Holland *Plant Names* 440 Snow-in-harvest,..(2) *Clematis Vitalba*...(3) *Alyssum maritimum. Ibid.*, Snow-on-the-mountain. (1) *Arabis alpina*..(also Snow-in-summer)...(2) *Cerastium tomentosum.*

6. The pure white colour of snow; snow-white. Chiefly *poet.*

a **1745** Broome in *Fawke's Anacreon, Ode* liii. 33 (1760) 126 The Graces more enchanting show, When rosy Blushes paint their Snow. **1760** Macpherson *Fragm. Anc. Poetry* xiv. 65 The youth with the breast of snow! **1827** Scott *Highl. Widow* v, The daughters of the land were beautiful, with blue eyes and fair hair, and bosoms of snow. **1843** Bethune *Sc. Fireside Stor.* 163 Her eye sae bright and womanly—Her breast o' mountain snaw.

b. *pl.* White breasts.

1803 Viscr. Strangford *Poems of Camoens* (1810) 41 Starlight eyes, and heaving snows.

III. 7. *attrib.* **a.** In the sense of 'consisting or composed of snow; covered, filled, or mixed with snow; derived from, due to, made in, snow', etc.; as *snow-bank*, *-bed*, *-berg*, *-blast*, etc.

Many combs. of this type occur in works specially dealing with Alpine or Arctic regions, as Kane *Arctic Explor.* (1856), Tyndall *Glaciers* (1860), etc.

1803 Viscr. Strangford *Poems of Camoens* (1810) 106 Like *snow-banks scatter'd with the blooms of May. **1845-50** Mrs. Lincoln *Lect. Bot.* xxiv. 139 The Crocus,..not unfrequently blossoming in the neighbourhood of a snow-bank. **1857** M. Arnold *Rugby Chapel* 100 The unseen *snow-beds dislodge Their hanging rain. **1884** *Good Words* Jan. 43/1 We now hastened..across the old snow-beds. **1840** Bremner *Excur. Denmark*, etc. I. 219 Its towers turned into *snow-bergs. **1773** *Cook's Voy.* I. iv. 47 The cold was now become more severe, and the *snow-blasts more frequent. **1889** Gretton *Memory's Harkback* 210 A snow-blast fell upon them, to Devonians almost an unknown thing. **1871** Proctor *Light Sci.* 110 Observing the earth's polar *snow-caps must lead to several important conclusions. **1899** Crockett *Kit Kennedy* 318 A light haze of *snow-cloud obscured the lesser stars. **1871** Whymper *Scrambles Alps* xii. (1900) 246 These *snow-cornices are common on the crests of high mountain ridges. **1820** Shelley *Liberty* xiii, The cold *Snow-crags by its reply are cloven in sunder. **1866** *Chambers's Encycl.* VIII. 789/1 The different prismatic rays issuing from the minute *snow-crystals. **1856** Kane *Arctic Explor.* I. xxi. 267 The fine impacted *snow-dust of winter. **1797** Coleridge *Anc. Mar.* Marg. Notes 3 A great sea-bird ..came through the *snow-fog. **1897** *Outing* XXIX. 368/2 The shadowy forms of birds rapidly vanished in the snow-fog. **1827** Scott *Diary* 28 May, As ideas..flag and something like a *snow haze covers my whole imagination. **1882** *Imperial Dict.*, **Snow-hut*,..a hut built of snow. **1844** *Civ. Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* VII. 332/2 If the latter freezes, the result is '*snow-ice', which is of no value. **1882** Geikie *Text-bk. Geol.* II. II. 110 Snow-ice is formed above the snow-line, but may descend in glaciers far below it. **1878** Seeley *Stein* II. 523 Out of what planet have these people dropped into Muscovy's frozen *snowland? **1879** Browning *Ivan Ivanovitch* 114 Daylight, bred between Moon-light and *snow-light. **1872** C. King *Sierra Nevada* vi. 126 Rosy peaks, with dull, silvery *snow-marblings. **1866** Whittier *Snow-Bound* 96 The sun through dazzling *snow-mist shone. **1870** Bryant *Iliad* XIII. II. 40 Seen from afar, like a *snow-mountain's peak. **1882** *Garden* 7 Jan. 5/2 Alpine flowers..striving to bloom in the *snow-ooze on the Alps. *a* **1835** Mrs. Hemans *Chamois Hunter's Love* Poems (1875) 450 Where the *snow-peaks gleam like stars. **1837** J. E. Murray *Summer in Pyrenees* II. 201 *note*, The wreath might terminate..in a *snow-plain. **1807** J. Barlow *Columb.* VI. 161 Hail, sleet and *snow-rack far behind him fly. **1854** H. Miller *Sch. & Schm.* (1858) 13 When..the driving snow-rack cleared up. **1857** Emerson *Poems* 41 *Snow-ridges masked each darling spot. **1884** *Congregationalist* June 493 A *snow river crashing down the sides of the mountain. **1880** Burbidge *Gardens of Sun* I. 9 Here and there the surface is rippled like a *snow-ruck. **1827** Clare *Sheph. Cal.* 85 Like spots of *snow-shine in dark fairy rings. **1887** Swinburne *Poems & Ball.* 3rd Ser. (1897) 3 As the sunshine quenches the snowshine. **1807** Gass *Jrnl.* 181 There were several *snow showers during the day. **1850** E. Bronte *Wuthering H.* ii, The first feathery flakes of a snow-shower. **1841** Whittier *Funeral Tree of the Sokokis* 12 Where the..*snow-slide left its dusky streak. **1891** E. Roper *By Track & Trail* x. 138 High precipitous mountains..scored with snow-slides. **1774** Goldsm. *Nat. Hist.* (1824) I. 69 *Snow-slips, well known, and greatly dreaded by travellers. **1898** *Speaker* Oct. 410 The snow-slips are very destructive in this narrow valley. **1860** Tyndall *Glac.* I. xiv, 96 Precipitous *snow-slopes, fluted by the descent of..avalanches. **1878** Hooker & Ball *Marocco* 263 We had kept close to one of these long and..narrow snowslopes. **1837** Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* III. III. iv, In the *snow-slush of last winter. **1860** Tyndall *Glac.* I. xiv. 96 Our way lying in part through deep snow-slush. **1888** *Nature* 2 Feb. 333 Copeland..was almost completely thwarted by *snow-squalls. **1837** Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* I. II. i, There are *Snow-statues raised by the poor in hard winter. **1856** Kane *Arctic Explor.* I. ix. 95 The *snow-streams or gullies that led to a gorge. **1819** L. Richmond in Grimshawe *Memoir* (1828) xiii. 432 Illuminated with *snow-sunshine. **1877** Bryant *Poems, Little People of the Snow* 106 The little maiden.. climbed the rounded *snow-swells. **1765** Goldsm. *Trav.* 189 The den where *snow-tracks mark the way. **1844** Mrs. Browning *Drama of Exile* 1708 As the *snow-wind beats blindly on the moorland.

b. In the sense of 'used for, or in connexion with, snow', as *snow-boot*, *-fence*, *spectacles*, etc.

1773 *Phil. Trans.* LXIII. 225 Each of the three species of Tetras..; it is usually said with us, that they have in winter their *snow-boots. **1768** *Ibid.* LX. 109 *note*, *Snow-eyes, which..are most excellently contrived for preserving the eyes from the effect of the snow in the spring. **1885** *Longman's Mag.* Feb. 423 These cuttings had not been protected..with *snow..fences. **1902** *Nature* 4 Sept. 454 Snow-fences are commonly erected in Canada to check the rate of snow-drifting. **1884** Knight *Dict. Mech.* Suppl. 826 **Snow Flanges*,..a bar of iron or steel attached to a car or engine to scrape away snow and ice on the sides.. of the rails. **1886** *Encycl. Brit.* XX. 257/1 Glaisher's rain and *snow gauge. **1887** *19th Cent.* Nov. 672 Mr.

Murdock..found an Eskimo *snow-goggle. 1093 EARL DUNMORE *Pamirs* I. 59 The reflection..off the snow would have been positively blinding had we not been provided with snow goggles. 1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* II. 622 A **snow-harrow* or a *snow-plough* will be found a useful implement. 1865 LUBBOCK *Preh. Times* 401 In the South the men have..*snow-knives, ice-chisels [etc.]. 1875 WOOD & LAPHAM *Waiting for Mail* 36 We found him lying beside the *snow-pole just on the hill. 1901 *Blackw. Mag.* Nov. 688/1 It is then only accessible with dog-sleighs and *snow-raquets. 1856 KANE *Arctic Explor.* II. i. 21 A *snow-saw. 1864 *N. & Q.* 3rd Ser. VI. 454/1 The Icelanders have their *snow-shades, but a reader has no protection from paper glare. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.*, **Snow-shed*, a protection for a railway-track in exposed situations. 1882 PIDGEON *Engineer's Holiday* I. 275 The track is covered by snow-sheds. 1820 SCORESBY *Acc. Arctic Reg.* II. 233 A wooden 'mallet', and '*snow-shovel'. 1854 R. G. LATHAM *Native Races Russian Emp.* 84 The *skide* (pronounced *she*) is a *snow-skate upwards of six feet long. 1897 *Outing* XXIX. 357/2 For this purpose nothing could be better than the snowshoe and snowskate, or ski, of to-day. 1793 HOLCROFT tr. *Lavater's Physiog.* xix. 97 The effusions of light from the snow (to guard against which the Esquimaux wear *snow-spectacles). 1901 H. SEEBOHM *Birds of Siberia* v. 47 The glare of the sunshine on the white snow forced us to wear snow spectacles. 1886 *Daily News* 28 Dec. 5/7 Yesterday morning the *snow-sweep, drawn by six horses, was got to work early. 1885 *Longman's Mag.* Feb. 425 About nine o'clock the 'snow outfit' steamed in. The *snow-train was made up of six vehicles.

c. In the sense of 'snow-like, white as snow'.

1750 tr. *Leonardus' Mirr. Stones* 94 It has a brown or iron colour, sprinkled over with snow spots. 1819 BYRON *Juan* II. cxxi, Her small snow feet had slippers, but no stocking.

d. *Cookery.* (Cf. 4 a.)

1877 *Cassell's Dict. Cookery* 887 Snow Cake... Snow Cheese... Snow Cocoa-nut [etc.]. 1894 *Westm. Gaz.* 30 May 8/2 Recipe for Snow Eggs.

8. *Comb.* **a.** With pa. pples. (chiefly with instrumental force), as *snow-beaten*, *-blown*, *-bound*, *-choked*, etc., or in parasynthetic combs., as *snow-bearded*, *-capped*, *-coloured*, *-crested*, etc. Also *snow-rub*, *-swathe* vbs.

c 1745 ARMSTRONG *Misc.* (1770) I. 150 Thro' the *snow-barricadoed cottage door. 1827 DARLEY *Sylvia* 7 The *snow-bearded tenant of a wilderness. 1836–48 B. D. WALSH *Aristoph., Clouds* I. iii, On the *snow-beaten peak Of Olympus. 1800 HURDIS *Favourite Village* 118 Isles desolate and horrid, *snow-besprent. 1855 LONGF. *Hiaw.* ii. 192 From his *snow-besprinkled tresses. 1866 WHITTIER *Snow-Bound* 118 The sun, a *snow-blown traveller, sank From sight. 1814 BYRON in L. Hunt *Autobiogr.* (1850) II. 318, I have been *snow-bound..for nearly a month. 1894 GLADSTONE *Odes of Horace* II. ix. 20 'Mid snow-bound mountains of the Medes. 1797 TWEDDELL *Rem.* xxvii. (1815) 150 All the *snow-capt hills of the canton of Berne. 1879 WALLACE *Australasia* xii. 242 Its higher mountains are snow-capped. 1857 EMERSON *Poems* 62 Wading in the *snow-choked wood. *c* 1580 in *P. M. Barnard's Catal.* No. 30 (1909) 12 Thy trumpet..and thy *snow coloured swan. 1649 G. DANIEL *Trinarch., Hen. IV*, CXXXIX, Soe may Thessalia..Envy the still *Snow-Couer'd Rhodope. 1856 KANE *Arctic Explor.* II. xxii. 218 Emerging from the snow-covered roof. 1834 J. PHILLIPS in *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) VI. 705/2 The *snow-crested Alps. 1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* I. xvi. 106 Those glorious mountains,..snow-crested and star-gemmed. 1603 DRAYTON *Bar. Wars* VI. lxiv, From the *snow-crown'd Skidos lofty cleeues. 1832 G. DOWNES *Lett. Cont. Countries* I. 99 This fine chain of snow-crowned Alps. 1854 J. S. C. ABBOTT *Napoleon* (1855) II. i. 14 The deficiency of accommodation for travelers on those bleak and *snow-drifted heights. 1616 J. LANE *Contn. Sqr.'s T.* VII. 225 A plume of *snowe-drivn white. 1776 *Ann. Reg.* 115 *Snow-drowned fields, obstructed roads. 1808 SCOTT *Marm.* v. Introd., Our *snow-encircled home. 1596 FITZ-GEFFREY *Sir F. Drake* (1881) 76 *Snowe-feath'red swan, the Nestor of the West. 1726–46 THOMSON *Winter* 995 A thousand *snow-fed torrents. 1820 SHELLEY *Prometh. Unb.* I. 120 Rock-embosomed lawns, and snow-fed streams. 1818 BUCKE *Italians* III. ii, The *snow-hair'd sire shall recognize his son. 1866 WHITTIER *Snow-Bound* 99 Woods of *snow-hung oak. 1808 SCOTT *Marm.* v. Introd., Carriers' *snow-impeded wains. 1850 MARG. FULLER *Wom. 19th C.* (1862) 312 That..freezing, *snow-laden winter. 1642 H. MORE *Song of Soul* II. App. 99 *Snow-limb'd, rose-cheek'd. 1855 TENNYSON *Maud* I. XVIII. iii, Shadowing the snow-limb'd Eve. 1856 KANE *Arctic Explor.* II. vii. 80 After a walk over a heavy *snow-lined country of thirty miles. 1820 SHELLEY *Prometheus Unbound* I. 434 Yon huge *snow-loaded cedar. 1798 MISS H. M. WILLIAMS *Tour Switzerland* II. App. 292 The modest, *snow-mantled nymphs. 1884 *Manch. Exam.* 2 Sept. 5/1 As the ball..is rolled over the snow-mantled earth. 1593 NASHE *Christ's T.* Wks. (Grosart) IV. 113 His pure *snow-molded soft fleshe. *Ibid.* 207 Theyr heads, with theyr..*Snow-resembled siluer curlings. 1839–52 BAILEY *Festus* 140 Thine are the *snow-robed mountains circling earth. 1853 KANE *Grinnell Exped.* xxxiv. (1856) 306 The crew have been *snow-rubbing their blankets. 1885 BLACK *White Heather* iii, A large and fleecy cloud that clung around the *snow-scarred peak. 1898 *Edinb. Rev.* Jan. 55 On the *snow-sprinkled braes of Yarrow. 1843 BROWNING *Return of Druses* II, Dost thou *snow-swathe thee kinglier, Lebanon, Than in my dreams? 1804 *Europ. Mag.* XLV. 63/2 While, with *snow-tipp'd feet, The..waves she sports among. 1883 F. S. RENWICK *Betrayed* 36 One snow-tipped..feather graced his hair. 1596 DRAYTON *Bar. Wars* VI. lxiv, From *snow-topd Skidos frostie cleeues. *c* 1750 JOHNSON *Ode Winter* 12 The snow topt cot, the frozen rill. 1823 CLISSOLD *Ascent Mt. Blanc* 23 The snow-topped Apennines. 1879 BROWNING *Ivan Ivanovitch* 33 A village,..*Snow-whitened everywhere except the middle road. 1606 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. iv. II. *Magnificence* 1073 O how I love thee, My *Snow-winged Dove! 1729 SAVAGE *Wanderer* I. 55 His Robe *snow-wrought, and hoar'd with Age.

b. Objective, etc., with vbl. sbs. and pres. pples., as *snow-casting*, *-clearing*, *-dropping*, etc., or with agent-nouns, as *snow-breaker*, *-gatherer*, *-melter*, etc.

(*a*) 1542 UDALL *Erasm. Apoph.* (1877) 243 The *snowe casting season nowe coming in place. 1894 *Westm. Gaz.* 10 Jan. 5/1 He was in charge of the *snow-clearing party. 1838 MISS PARDOE *River & Desert* II. 44 The majestic tamarind tree overshadowed the *snow-dropping acacia. 1849 J. FORBES *Physician's Holiday* viii. (1850) 75 The waters..overflowed their banks during the *snow-melting season. 1757 DYER *Fleece* IV. 466 White Imaus, whose *snow-nodding crags Frighten the realms beneath. 1616 DRUMM. OF HAWTH. *Poems* A iv b, *Snow-passing Iuorie that the Eye delights. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade*, **Snow-sweeping Engine*, a plough or other contrivance for removing snow from railways and common roads. 1892 *Daily News* 21 Nov. 5/5 Matters..have reached such a point that snow-sweeping is the one harvest they hope for.

(*b*) 1791 *Young's Annals Agric.* XVI. 431 The sheep are often obliged to procure their food by scraping the snow off the ground with their feet..; hence they have obtained the name of *snow-breakers. 1856 KANE *Arctic Explor.* I. xxxi. 424 To reduce our effete *snow-melter to its elements. 1884 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* Suppl. 826/2 *Snow Scraper. 1891 C. ROBERTS *Adrift Amer.* 114 Two snow ploughs, and a gang of 75 *snow shovellers. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2231/2 **Snow-sweeper*, a vehicle or apparatus adapted for removing snow from paved streets.

c. With adjs., chiefly in the sense of 'as or like snow', as *snow-bright*, *-brilliant*, *-fair*, etc.

1572 *Bossewell's Armorie* Prelim. Verses, Whose *snow-bright skil by snow procurde the Fates to hast thy fate. 1817 SHELLEY *Rev. Islam* XII. xli, I saw its marge of snow-bright mountains rear Their peaks aloft. 1853 F. W. NEWMAN *Odes of Horace* 148 The slave Briséis With hue *snowbrilliant. 1799 [A. YOUNG] *Agric. Linc.* 328 Mr. Hyde seldom corn feeds, unless turnips are rotten or *snow deep. 1895 NUTT in Meyer *Voy. Bran* I. 176 *Snowfair the bodies from top to toe. 1818 KEATS *Endym.* II. 79 Some *snow-light cadences Melting to silence. 1841 BROWNING *Pippa Passes* Poems (1905) 166 One flash Of the pale, *snow-pure cheek and black bright tresses. 1596 W. SMITH *Chloris* (1877) 8 Tripping vpon the *snowe soft downes I spide Three nimphs. 1625 MILTON *Death Fair Infant* 19 Down he descended from his Snow-soft chaire. 1867 GILFILLAN *Night* I. 12 With the *Snow-still foot of thought.

9. Special combs.: **snow-blanket**, **-blink** (see quots.); † **snow-blossom**, a snowflake; **snow-bones** *dial.* (see quots.); **snow-break**, (*a*) a rush of loose or melting snow; (*b*) a narrow strip of forest serving as a protection against snow; (*c*) the breaking of trees by the weight of snow; an area over which this happens; **snow-bucking** *U.S.*, the action of forcing a railway-train through a snow-drift; **snow-craft**, the art of traversing or dealing with snow in mountaineering; **snow-creep**, the gradual movement of snow down a slope; **snow-cripple**, a tree injured by the weight or pressure of snow; **snow-dropper** *Cant*, = snow-gatherer (*Slang Dict.* 1864); **snow-dropping** *Cant*, † **-fire** (see quots.); **snow-foot**, (*a*) an accumulation of snow at the foot of steep Arctic sea-coasts; (*b*) a foot adapted for walking on snow; **snow-gatherer** *Cant* (see quot.); **snow-hole**, a hole or opening in the burner of a pyrites kiln; **snow-house**, (*a*) a house in which snow is preserved in warm weather; (*b*) a house or hut built of snow; **snow-limit**, the limit (towards the equator) for the fall of snow at sea-level; **snow-merchant**, one who deals in snow (for cooling purposes); **snow-scape**, a snow scene, a landscape covered with snow; **snow-sheen**, = *snow-blink*; **snow-sleep**, a somnolent condition induced by walking in snow; so *snow-sleepiness*; † **snow-stone** (see quot.); **snow-tan**, a tanned complexion produced by exposure to snow; **snow-time**, the time of snow, winter.

1863 D. PAGE *Introd. Text-bk. Phys. Geogr.* 154 In the higher latitudes,.. snow forms a warm covering for the soil (the **snow-blanket*, as it is termed by farmers). *Ibid.*, Within the polar circle, also, the darkness of the long winter is..diminished by the *snow-sheen* or **snow-blink*. 1676 *Phil. Trans.* XI. 734 As hard..as to shew a specifical difference betwixt several *Snow-blossoms. *a* 1800 PEGGE *Suppl. Grose*, **Snow-bones*, remnants of snow after a thaw. 1862 C. C. ROBINSON *Dial. Leeds* 416 *Snow-bones*, the patches of snow seen stretching along ridges, in ruts, or in furrows, &c., after a partial thaw. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. VII. iv, And so, like *snowbreak from the mountains, ..it storms. 1885 *Longman's Mag.* Feb. 422 '*Snow Bucking' in the Rocky Mountains. 1892 C. T. DENT *Mountaineering* 217 'Snowcraft consists largely in the avoidance of difficulties and dangers. 1902 *Encycl. Brit.* XXXI. 23 It [mountaineering] consists of two main divisions, rock-craft and snow-craft. 1908 *Science* 28 Feb. 339 Small trees are directly broken and abraded by weight of snow or by *snow creep. *Ibid.*, *Snow-cripples possess the spire-form, with flourishing upper shoots, but the lower branches and foliage are dying or dead. 1839 *Slang Dict.* 34 **Snow-dropping*, stealing linen off a hedge. 1771 J. R. FORSTER tr. *Kalm's Trav.* II. 81 We observed a meteor, commonly called a *snow-fire. [*Note.*] Probably nothing but an Aurora borealis. 1881 tr. *Nordenskiöld's Voy. Vega* I. ii. 75 A steep escarpment..below which there is formed during the course of the winter an immense snow-drift or so-called '*snow-foot'. 1905 *Westm. Gaz.* 11 Mar. 4/2 This peculiarity of 'snow-feet' is not so well marked as in the reindeer or caribou. 1859 *Slang Dict.* 97 **Snow gatherers*, rogues who steal linen from hedges and lines. 1880 J. LOMAS *Alkali Trade* 48 So adjusted..that..the tongues of flame just show a decided direction towards the exit, or '*snow' hole. 1662 J. DAVIES tr. *Olearius' Voy. Amb.* 303 Having made as much [ice] as they desire, they.. put it up into *Snow-Houses, whereof there are so many at Ispahan. 1827 J. HOLMES *Hist. United Brethren* ii. (ed. 2) 80 The Esquimaux now began to build a snow-house, about thirty paces from the beach. 1881 GEIKIE *Prehistoric Europe* 19 He may even have occupied temporary snow-houses, like those made by the Eskimo. 1705 ADDISON *Italy* Wks. 1721 II. 84 The Banditti..often put the *Snow-merchants under contribution. 1886 *Christian Leader* 17 June, Charmed by the beauty of the *snow-scape, with the feathery flakes clinging to the twigs. 1891 ATKINSON *Moorland Par.* 372 The unaccustomed eye is fairly bewildered with the strange pale beauty of the snow-scape. 1901 *Wide World Mag.* VI. 456/2 He had been overcome by that worst of all enemies to the Australian Alpine traveller—*snow-sleep. 1896 MERRIMAN *Sowers* xxxii, It was quite dark,..and I had *snow-sleepiness. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl., **Snow-stone*,..a name given by some to a very beautiful stone found in America; of which the Spaniards are very fond. 1901 *Wide World Mag.* VI. 458/2 Almost unrecognisable from *snow-tan and exposure. 1535 COVERDALE 2 *Sam.* xxiii. 20 Benaia..slewe a lyon at a well in the *snowe tyme. 1844 LD. HOUGHTON *Palm Leaves, Kiosk* II. 17 In the bleak snow-time, when the winds rung shrill.

b. In names of animals, insects, etc., as **snow-fish** (?); **snow-flea**, **-fly**, **-gnat**, **-insect**, one or other of several species of small insects frequenting snow (also *snow-fly*, an artificial fly used in angling); **snow-leopard**, the ounce; **snow-mouse** (see quots.); **snow-panther**, the ounce; **snow-worm**, a worm frequenting or living among snow.

1833 MARRYAT *P. Simple* xxix, Not cribbled up like a *snow-fish, chucked out on the ice of the river St. Lawrence. 1888 COMSTOCK *Introd. Entom.* 61 Our common *snow-flea is *Achorutes nivicola*. This is sometimes a pest where maple sugar is made, the insects collecting..in the sap. 1668 CHARLETON *Onomast.* 48 *Oripæ*,..*Snow-Flies. 1867 F. FRANCIS *Angling* x. (1880) 379 There is a singular fly used on the Beauly, which is there termed the Snow Fly. 1879 E. P. WRIGHT *Anim. Life* 491 In America we find that these little creatures [*sc.* spring-tails] are at this day called snow-flies. 1894 *Amateur Gardening* 3 Mar. 422 The insects..are known as the Cabbage Powder Wing or Snow Flies (*Aleyrodes proletella*). 1891 *Cent. Dict.* s.v., *Snow-gnat. *Ibid.*, *Snow-insect. 1866 A. MURRAY *Geog. Distrib. Mammals* 99 The Ounce or *Snow Leopard represents the Leopard in the high regions of Thibet. 1902 T. W. WEBBER *Forests Upper India* vi. 54 Prowling snow leopards, white like the weather-beaten rock. *c* 1880 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* III. 117 The *Snow Mouse (*Arvicola nivalis*), lives on the Alps and Pyrenees, at elevations of 4,000 feet and upwards. 1891 *Cent. Dict.*, *Snow-mouse*,..a lemming of arctic America which turns white in winter, *Cuniculus torquatus*. 1884 STERNDALE *Mammalia India* 184 The Ounce or *Snow Panther. 1608 TOPSELL *Serpents* 816 Old snow..will look somewhat dun..: and therefore the *snow-worms are of the same hiew. 1835 BURNES *Trav. Bokhara* (ed. 2) III. 209 The most singular phenomenon of nature on Hindoo Koosh appears to be the snow-worm, which is described to resemble the silk-worm in its mature state. 1895 *Cambridge Nat. Hist., Insects* I. 194 The occurrence on snow and glaciers of Insects spoken of as snow-fleas, or snow-worms.

c. In names of birds, as **snow-cock**, a snow-partridge, snow-pheasant, *Tetraogallus*; **snow-flight**, the snowflake or snow-bunting (*Cent. Dict.* 1891); **snow-fowl**, the snow-bunting; **snow-grouse**, the ptarmigan; †**snow-hammer** [ad. G. *schneeammer*], the snow-finch; † **snow-hen**, the ptarmigan; **snow-lark**, ? the snow-finch; **snow-owl**, the snowy owl; **snow-partridge**, (*a*) the snow-pheasant, *Tetraogallus*; (*b*) a Himalayan gallinaceous bird, *Lerwa nivicola*; **snow-petrel** (see quot. 1905); **snow-pheasant** (see quots.); **snow-pigeon**, a pigeon of Northern India and Tibet, *Columba leuconota*; **snow-quail** *U.S.*, the white-tailed ptarmigan, *Lagopus leucurus*; **snow-sparrow**, any passerine bird of the genus *Junco*. Also SNOW-BIRD, -BUNTING, -FINCH, etc.

c 1880 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* IV. 146 The finest representatives of the Partridge are, undoubtedly, the *Snow Cocks or Snow Partridges. 1897 LYDEKKER, etc. *Conc. Knowl. Nat. Hist.* 232 The snow-cocks, or snow-pheasants.., are the largest of the partridge group. 1813 MONTAGU *Ornith.* Suppl. s.v. *Snow-bunting*, *Snow-fowl. Oat-fowl. 1884 COUES *N. Amer. Birds* 585 *Lagopus*, Ptarmigan. *Snow Grouse. 1888 ROOSEVELT in *Cent. Mag.* XXXVI. 210 Up above the timber line were snow-grouse and huge, hoary-white woodchucks. 1802–3 tr. *Pallas's Trav.* (1812) I. 52 During the whole of our journey..we were accompanied by small flights of *snow-hammers. 1648 HEXHAM II, *Een sneeuw-hoen*,..a *Snowe-hen, or a Shoveler so called because of her w[h]itnesse. 1674 tr. *Scheffer's Hist. Lapland* 138, I call it *Lagopus*.., the Germans..term it *Schnaehuner*, i. e. Snow-hens. 1832 J. BREE *St. Herbert's Isle* 48 There never sings the *snow-lark as she soars. 1811 A. WILSON *Amer. Ornith.* Pref. p. xi, *Snow Owl. The largest of his tribe; white, spotted with small brown spots. 1884 COUES *N. Amer. Birds* 510 *Nyctea*, Snow Owls. 1853 *Zoologist* II. 3861 The great *snow-partridge of Persia. *c* 1880 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* IV. 146 The Himalayan Snow Partridge (*Tetraogallus himalayensis*). 1895 LYDEKKER *Roy. Nat. Hist.* IV. 406 The snow-partridge (*Lerwa nivicola*), inhabiting the higher Himalayan ranges. 1843 *Zoologist* I. 61 The bird called the *snow petrel by sailors. 1905 E. A. WILSON in Capt. Scott *Voy.* '*Discovery*' II. App. II. 483 The Snow petrel (*Pagodroma nivea*) is perhaps the most beautiful of all the Southern petrels;..it is pure white all over. 1884 *Encycl. Brit.* XVII. 341 Among the birds [in Nepal] are the..*snow pheasant (*Tetraogallus himalayensis*), snow partridge. 1885 *Ibid.* XVIII. 733 The fine Snow-Pheasants, *Crossoptilum*—of..which..there are several species. 1902 T. W. WEBBER *Forests Upper India*

xii. 148 A remarkable bird, the snow pheasant or snow cock (*Tetraogallus Tibetanus*). 1891 *Cent. Dict.*, *Snow-pigeon. 1905 E. CANDLER *Unveiling of Lhasa* iii. 59 Another common bird is the snow-pigeon. 1895 W. R. OGILVIE-GRANT *Game Birds* I. 45 In the Rocky Mountain region it is generally known by the very appropriate name of 'White' or '*Snow' Quail. 1884 COUES *N. Amer. Birds* 377 *Junco*, *Snow Sparrows. 1895 *Times* 22 Feb. 3/1 The sight of a snow sparrow, the first of the season.

d. In names of plants or fruits, as **snow-apple**, a variety of apple (Ash, 1775); **snow-bush**, one or other of various shrubs bearing a profusion of white flowers (*Cent. Dict.*); **snow-gem**, = next (*Ibid.*); **snow glory**, a hardy garden-plant of the genus *Chionodoxa*; **snow-grass**, -mould (see quots.); **snow-pear** [G. *schneebirne*], a variety of pear; esp. *Pyrus nivalis*, which comes into season after snow has fallen; **snow-plant**, (*a*) a snow-alga; (*b*) a plant of the Sierra Nevada in California (see quot. 1905); **snow-rose**, a species of rhododendron (*Cent. Dict.*); **snow-tree** (see quot.).

1887 *G. Nicholson's Dict. Gardening* III. 447/2 *Snow Glory, a common name for *Chionodoxa Luciliæ*. 1865 *Reader* No. 151. 575/3 The common *snow-grass (*Schœnus Pauciflorus*). 1875 WOOD & LAPHAM *Waiting for Mail* 31 Tethering my good old horse to a tussock of snow-grass. 1898 MORRIS *Austral Eng.* 425 Snow-Grass, *Poa cæspitosa*,.. another name for Wiry-grass. 1902 *Webster's Suppl., Snow grass*,..a coarse tall grass (*Danthonia Raoulii*) of New Zealand. 1855 OGILVIE *Suppl.*, **Snow-mould*, a fungous plant, the *Lanosa nivalis*, which grows beneath snow, on grasses or cereal crops. 1860 HOGG *Fruit Manual* 212 *Snow [Pear]. See White Doyenné. 1884 *De Candolle's Orig. Cultivated Pl.* 232 Snow-Pear—*Pyrus nivalis*. This variety of pear is cultivated in Austria, in the north of Italy, and in..France. 1846 LINDLEY *Veg. Kingd.* 15 The red and green *Snow-plants, which have been described as Confervæ, and assigned to the genus Protococcus. 1882 *Garden* 18 Feb. 114/3 The Snow Plant of California with its rich colour. 1905 A. R. WALLACE *My Life* II. xxxi. 161 The strange Snow plants (*Sarcodes sanguinea*) .. with a dense spike of flowers of a blood-red colour. 1899 *Gardening Illustr.* 3 June 181/2 The *Snow-tree (*Ozothamnus rosmarinifolius*).

Snow (snōu), *sb.*2 Also 7–8 **snaw**. [ad. Du. *snauw*, *snaauw*, or LG. *snau* (hence Da. and Sw. *snau*, G. *schnau*, *schnaue*, and F. *senau*), of doubtful origin.] A small sailing-vessel resembling a brig, carrying a main and fore mast and a supplementary trysail mast close behind the mainmast; formerly employed as a warship.

a. 1676 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1079/3 Ostend, March 29. On the 25 instant,..appeared off of this Harbour..two Snaws of four Guns each. 1695 LUTTRELL *Brief Rel.* (1857) III. 441, 28 sail of French ships,..and among them 6 or 8 snaws of 8 or 10 guns each. 1710 *Ibid.* VI. 532 A French snaw, with 33 men and 4 guns.

β. 1721 S. SEWALL *Diary* 14 Apr., A Letter from Capt. Tuthill,..giving me an account of the Arrival of the Snow Anna. 1763 JANSSEN *Smuggling Laid Open* 263 A Snow of 120 Tons, and 48 Men,..Mounting 12 Carriage Guns, besides Swivels. 1784 COLMAN *Prose on Sev. Occas.* (1787) III. 255 Majestick navies in her harbours ride, Skiffs, snows, and frigates anchor by their side. 1810 CRABBE *Borough* i. 52 Far other craft our prouder river shows, Hoys, pinks and sloops; brigs, brigantines and snows. 1846 A. YOUNG *Naut. Dict.* 50 A Brig bends her boom-sail (or..trysail) to the mainmast, while a Snow bends it to a trysail mast: in other respects these two vessels are alike. 1881 CLARK RUSSELL *Ocean Free Lance* II. iv. 193 The whole ocean ..was covered by..brigs, snows, tartans, schooners, pinks.

attrib. and *Comb.* 1790 BEATSON *Naval & Milit. Mem.* II. 183 The James & Thomas tender..was attacked by a large snow privateer. 1860 *Merc. Mar. Mag.* VII. 148 She was a two-masted vessel,..and snow-rigged.

Snow (snōu), *v.* Pa. t. and pple. **snowed** (snōud). Forms: *a. Sc.* and *north.* 4–5 **snawe**, 5– **snaw**; 4 snou-, 5–7 **snowe** (5 -yn), 4– **snow**. *Pa. t.* and *pa. pple.* 4, 8– **snawed**, 9 **snaa'd**, **snaa't**; 6– **snowed**. *β. Pa. t.* 4 **sneu**, 4– (now *dial.*) **snew**, 6 **snewe**. *Pa. pple.* 5 **snawen**, 9 *dial.* **snawn**; 6 **snowen**, 9 *dial.* **snown**, **snewn**. [f. SNOW *sb.*1, taking the place of OE. *sníwan*, SNEW *v.* Cf. MDu. *sneuwen*, *sn(o)uwen* (Du. *sneeuwen*), LG. *sneen*, *schneen*, ON. *snjóva*, *snjóva* (Icel. *snjóa*, Norw. *snjoa*, *snjøa*, etc.; Sw. *snöga*, *snöa*, Da. *sne*). The strong conjugation, formerly common, was no doubt due to the influence of BLOW *v.*1]

1. *intr.* *It snows*, snow falls. Also occas. with *snow* as subject.

Examples of the strong forms are given under *β*.

a. 13.. *K. Alis.* 6450 (Laud MS.), Whan it snoweþ, oiþer rineþ. 1412–20 LYDG. *Chron. Troy* I. 1644 Sche koude make..to hayle and snowe, And frese also. *c* 1425 *Eng. Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 665 *Floctat*, snawes...*Ningit*, snawes. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 462/1 Snowyn, *ningit*. 1486 *Eng. Misc.* (Surtees, 1890) 57 And ther schall it snaw by craft, to be made of waffrons in maner of snaw. 1530 PALSGR. 724/1 In wynter, whan it snoweth, it is good sytynge by a good fyre. 1592 *Arden of Feversham* v. i, As we went, it snowed al the way. 1638 R. BAKER tr. *Balzac's Lett.* (vol. II) 45 Where it is counted for a wonder, that..it was cold or snowed. 1662 J. DAVIES tr. *Mandelslo's Trav.* 4 Though it were very bad weather, and snow'd all night. 1707 FLOYER *Physic. Pulse-Watch* 322 The Barometer sunk to the bottom, it Rain'd and Snow'd. 1772 T. SMITH *Jrnl.* (1849) 287 Though it has snowed very often this month, there has been no deep snows. 1841 DICKENS *Barn. Rudge* xvi, Glad to hear it rained, or snowed, or blew, or froze. 1864 MRS. CARLYLE *Lett.* III. 237 If it..snows as hard there as here.

β. c 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 13551 Also þikke as snow þen [*v.r.* þat] snew, Or al so hail þat stormes blew. 1525 LD. BERNERS *Froiss.* II. 342 Also it rayned, blewe, & snewe, that it was a mervaylouse yvell wether. *c* 1540 COPLAND *Hye Way to Spyttel Ho.* 99 in Hazl. *E. P. P.* IV. 27 For it had snowen, and frosen very strong. 1586 A. DAY *Eng. Secretary* II. (1625) 80, I had as lieue he told me it snew. 1640 E. DACRES tr. *Machiavelli's Prince* 279 Always and in all seasons, whether it rain'd or snew, he went with his head uncover'd. 1695 WOOD *Life* 30 Jan., On T[uesday] the 29 of Jan. it snew all the day. *a* 1800 PEGGE *Suppl. Grose, Snew*, the Preterit of *snow*. York. 1870 VERNEY *Lettice Lisle* 295 It never snew once last winter. 1877 *Holderness Gloss.* 131/2 It's snawn all way here.

2. To fall, descend, etc., in the manner of snow. Also *fig.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 6381 It sneu to þam als it war flur. 1833 TENNYSON *Pal. Art* 139 A hundred winters snow'd upon his breast, From cheek and throat and chin. *c* 1860 F. W. FABER *Hymn*, '*The House of Mourning*' xviii, That unrestful gloom, Where the light snows in. 1894 BARING-GOULD *Queen of Love* I. 153 Away shot the cards,..snowing upon the audience in the front rows.

3. *trans.* To let fall as snow; to cause to descend in the manner of snow; to shower down.

? *a* 1366 CHAUCER *Rom. Rose* 558 Hir throte al so white of hewe, As snawe on braunche snawed newe. 1587 FLEMING *Contn. Holinshed* III. 1355 It hailed small confects, rained rosewater, and snew an artificiall kind of snow. 1598 SHAKS. *Merry W.* v. v. 22 Let the skie raine Potatoes: let it thunder..,haile kissing Comfits, and snow Eringoes. 1608 CHAPMAN *Dk. Byron* v. iii. 233 As a savage boar..holds his anger up, And snows it forth in foam. 1613 HEYWOOD *Braz. Age* II. ii, Wks. 1874 III. 192 Where the Boare Hath in his fury snow'd his scattered foame. 1827 SCOTT *Chron. Canongate* Introd., The theatrical mechanist, who, when the white paper which represented his shower of snow was exhausted, continued the storm by snowing brown. 1847 TENNYSON *Princ.* I. 60 He..tore the king's letter, snow'd it down. 1876 'MARK TWAIN' *Tom Sawyer* xvi, A sweep of chilly air passed by,..snowing the flaky ashes broadcast about the fire.

b. In figurative use. Also *absol.* (quot. 1751).

a 1631 DONNE (J.), 'Till age snow white hairs on thee. 1684 N. LEE *Constantine* II. 15, I'll stay till Age Has Snow'd a hundred Winters on my Head. 1751 YOUNG *Nt. Th.* v. 602 Time on this head has snow'd. 1878 *N. Amer. Rev.* CXXVI. 166 'Snowing' old inflation speeches over the Eastern states. 1905 SOLLAS *Age of Earth* iii. 65, [The] Eiffel Tower, snowing post-cards from its summit all over the civilized world.

4. To strew or cover with or as with snow. Also *transf.*

c 1400 MAUNDEV. (ROXB.) xiv. 65 Waters and maracez.. whilk a man may noȝt passe, bot if he hafe riȝt hard frost and þat it be wele snawen abouen. 1635 HEYWOOD *London's Sinus Salutis* 295 Even the Horse,..When the most curb'd, and playing with the bit,..snowes the ground. 1743 FRANCIS tr. *Hor., Odes* IV. xiii. 12 Scar'd at thy Wrinkles,.. And Head snow'd o'er with Grey. 1820 SHELLEY *Hymn Merc.* xciv, Three virgin Sisters, who,..Their heads with flour snowed over white and new, Sit in a vale. 1873 SYMONDS *Greek Poets* x. 321 Cherry trees and apricots snow the grass in spring with a white wealth of April blossoms. 1887 F. ROBINSON *New Religio Medici* 133 The mantle..of the Star of India drapes a coffin whose lid is snowed with flowers.

5. To cause (the hair, etc.) to turn white like snow; to invest with white hair.

1598 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. ii. III. *Colonies* 761 Thou (tender Mother) will not suffer Age To snow my locks in Forrein Pilgrimage. *a* 1689 MRS. BEHN tr. *Cowley's Plants* C.'s Wks. (Grosart) II. 245 In Youth severe, Before the Winter-Age had snow'd their Hair. 1698 FRYER *Acc. E. India & P.* 275 He is a goodly Reverend Old Man, snowed with Age. 1904 *Westm. Gaz.* 28 Dec. 1/3 Yamagata stays in Tokio,..snowed with seventy years.

6. a. With *up*. To block, obstruct, incommode, imprison, etc., with snow. Usu. in pa. pple.

1815 JANE AUSTEN *Emma* xiii, I was snowed up at a friend's house once for a week. 1862 SALA *Seven Sons* I. v. 95 News came from the country of trains snowed-up. 1873 SMILES *Huguen. France* (1881) I. iv. 67 He wrote.. from some remote place where he was snowed up.

transf. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. iv. i, It is a sheer snowing of pamphlets; like to snow up the Government thoroughfares!

b. With *under*: To bury in snow; *fig.* to submerge, overwhelm, overpower, etc. Orig. *U.S.*

1880 E. KIRKE *Garfield* 32 Democrats vied with Republicans..in snowing him under with congratulations. 1894 *United Service Mag.* Oct. 28 Mercier was snowed under by a majority greater than had ever been known in Canadian history. 1911 WEBSTER s.v., The train was snowed under.

c. To drive *out*, take *away*, by means of snow.

1851 MRS. BROWNING *Casa Guidi Wind.* I. Wks. (1904) 345 [To] prove that all the winters which have snowed Cannot snow out the scent..Of a sincere man's virtues. 1891 W. F. MOULTON *Let.* in *Mem.* (1899) 247 Every lingering fragment of inflection would be blown, snowed, sleeted, rained and sunned away.

Snowball (snōu-bǭl), *sb.* Also 5 **snoweballe**, 6 **snowbal**(le, 7– **snow-ball**; 5 *north.* **snayballe**, 8–9 *Sc.* **snawbaw**, 9 **-ba'**. [f. SNOW *sb.*1 + BALL *sb.*1 Cf. WFris. *sniebal*, MDu. *snee(u)-*, *sneubal*, Du. *sneeuwbal*, G. *schneeball*, Da. *sneboldt*, Sw. *snöboll*, Norw. *snjoball*.]

1. A ball of snow, esp. one made of a size convenient for throwing by hand.

c 1400 *Brut* cxcviii, Meny of þe citee..caste oppon him meny snoweballes, and meny oþer reproues dede him. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 346/2 Snayballe, *floccus*, *nivenodium*. *a* 1530 HEYWOOD *Play of Wether* 1011 (Brandl), All my pleasure is in..makynge of snow ballys and throwyng the same. 1598 SHAKS. *Merry W.* III. v. 24 My bellies as cold as if I had swallow'd snowballs. 1657 TRAPP *Comm. Job* xxxviii. 22 We see..what paines they take to rake and scrape together snow to make a Snow-ball. 1677 HORNECK *Gt. Law Consid.* iv. 149 As wise an act, as to hope to be warm by ..surrounding thy self with snow-balls. 1768–74 TUCKER *Lt. Nat.* (1834) I. 281 If I take a snow-ball into my hand, I shall be satisfied of its coldness by my sensation. 1789 E. DARWIN *Bot. Gard.* II. (1791) 25 *note*, If a piece of Camphor be immersed in a snow-ball. 1816 BYRON *Swiss Jrnl.* Wks. 180/2, I made a snowball and pelted Hobhouse with it. 1853 KANE *Grinnell Exped.* xxx. (1856) 258 By-and-by the sludge which we passed through..became pancakes and snow-balls. 1878 HUXLEY *Physiogr.* 158 When a schoolboy makes a snowball, he squeezes a handful or two of light snow into a hard compact lump.

b. In allusive use. (Common in the 17th c.)

(*a*) 1612 WEBSTER *White Devil* IV. iii. 114 Your good heart gathers like a snow-ball, Now your affection's cold. 1613 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* (1614) 519 They passed through Fraunce, Germanie, Hungarie, their company (like a snowball) encreasing as they went. 1674 *Govt. Tongue* vi. 75 For reports we know like snow balls gather still the farther they roule. 1740 RICHARDSON *Pamela* (1824) I. 163 For they are like a snow-ball, and intend to gather company as they go. 1818 COBBETT *Pol. Reg.* XXXIII. 610 His army, increasing like a snowball. 1845 FORD *Handbk. Spain* I. 43 The Caravan like a snow-ball, increases in bulk as it rolls on.

(*b*) 1622 BACON *Hen. VII* (1876) 35 The rebels took their way toward York,..but their snow-ball did not gather as it went. 1645 PAGITT *Heresiogr.* (1647) 3 Before this snowball grew greater by rolling, Count Mansfield raiseth forces. 1649 MILTON *Eikon.* xix. Wks. 1851 III. 473 Such a Snowball hee might easily gather by rowling through those cold and dark provinces of ignorance and leudness.

† **c.** *Sc.* In the fig. phr. *to cast snowballs*, to be reserved or distant. *Obs.*

1725 RAMSAY *Gentle Sheph.* IV. i, I trow sae,..lasses will come to at last, Tho' for a while they maun their snaw-baws cast. 1821 LIDDLE *Poems* 236 The lasses a' their snaw-baws cast, For fear we should betray.

d. The pastime of snow-balling.

1708 *Brit. Apollo* No. 55. 3/2 A Game at Snow-ball.

2. *Cookery.* One or other of various dishes or confections intended to resemble a ball of snow in appearance.

1769 MRS. RAFFALD *Eng. Housekpr.* (1778) 263 To make Snow Balls. Pare five large..apples, make a little good hot paste, and roll your apples in it,..make iceing for them..and ice them all over with it about a quarter of an inch thick. 1854 MARION HARLAND *Alone* XXX, A dozen loaves of cake, and ever so many snow-balls. 1877 *Cassell's Dict. Cookery* 887 Fry the snowballs till they are lightly set.

3. *slang* or *jocular.* (See quots.)

1785 GROSE *Dict. Vulgar T.*, *Snowball*, a jeering appellation for a negroe. 1819 MOORE *Tom Crib's Memor.* (ed. 3) 45 *note*, *Lily-whites* (or *Snow-balls*), Negroes. 1842 LOVER *Handy Andy* xlvi, The sweep was passing by, and I called him 'snow-ball'.

4. a. The Guelder rose, *Viburnum opulus*, or one of its clusters of white flowers.

1799 SOUTHEY *Eng. Ecl.* Poet Wks. III. 4 In spring the lilac and the snow-ball flower. 1828 CARR *Craven Gloss.*, *Snow-ball*, the Guelder Rose. 1850 *Beck's Florist* July 171 Here's snowballs, and waxberries, and mock-orange flowers, and lilacs. 1880 BESSEY *Botany* 518 Many species [of *Caprifoliaceæ*] are ornamental—e.g. *Viburnum*, the Snowball.

b. *U.S.* (See quots.)

1834 AUDUBON *Ornith.* II. 121 The Swamp Snowball, *Hydrangea quercifolia*,..found on the broken sandy banks bordering small watercourses. 1902 *Webster's Suppl.*, *Wild snowball*..,the New Jersey tea (*Ceanothus Americanus*), so called from its clusters of small white flowers. 1909 *Cent. Dict.* Suppl., *Little snowball*, the button-bush, *Cephalanthus occidentalis*.

5. *attrib.* and *Comb.* **a.** Miscellaneous, as *snowball chrysanthemum*, *fritters*, *-like* adv., *war*.

1662 HIBBERT *Body Divinity* I. 188 Fame, snow-ball like, *crescit eundo*. 1877 *Cassell's Dict. Cookery* 887 Snowball Fritters. 1899 *Westm. Gaz.* 6 Jan. 4/1 Giant snowball chrysanthemums. 1901 'IAN MACLAREN' *Yug. Barbarians* iv, As the snowball war was a serious affair.

b. *Snowball-tree*, the Guelder rose (cf. 4 a).

So WFris. *sniebalbeam*, Du. *sneeuwbalboom*, Sw. *snöbollsbuske*, *-träd*.

1760 J. LEE *Introd. Bot.* App. 327 Snowball-tree, *Viburnum*. 1783 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 2) X. 8713/2 This tree when in bloom exhibits a singularly fine appearance; the flowers..are collected numerously into large globular umbels round like a ball; hence, it is sometimes called *snowball-trees*. 1856 A. GRAY *Man. Bot.* (1860) 168 The well-known Snow-ball Tree..is a cultivated state, with the whole cyme turned into large sterile flowers.

c. Used to denote increase by a kind of geometrical progression, as *snowball contribution*, *letter*, *system*, etc.

1897 *Westm. Gaz.* 8 Apr. 7/2 An anonymous 'snowball' contribution has been started. 1899 *Ibid.* 28 Jan. 6/1 The scheme of old-age pensions on the snowball system... They offer magnificent terms to any assurer who gets them ten other assurers,..and so on, like the rolling snowball.

Snowball (snōu-bǭl), *v.* [f. prec. In sense 2 perh. a back-formation from *snow-balling*: but cf. Fris. *sniebalje*, G. *schneeballen*.]

1. *intr.* To form balls or masses of snow.

1684 O. HEYWOOD *Diaries* (1883) III. 343 It fell a considerable snow...I..found it very dangerous way, for it snow-balled on my horses feet.

2. *trans.* To throw a snowball at (a person); to pelt with snowballs. Also *fig.*

1855 in Hyde Clarke *Dict.* 1889 *Pall Mall G.* 26 Feb. 2/3 The..Opposition..could do nothing but snowball the other side with Pigott all the evening. 1899 *Westm. Gaz.* 24 Apr. 10/1 To hear the old gentleman tell how he had actually snowballed Keats.

3. *intr.* To throw snowballs.

1860 in Worcester. 1866 Miss Yonge *Dove in Eagle's Nest* ix, Christina..had been watching them snowballing in the castle court.

So **Sno·wba·lling** *vbl. sb.*, the action or pastime of making and throwing snowballs.

1870 Aldrich *Story of a Bad Boy* xii. 124 Snow-balling at school, skating on the mill-pond,..were sports no less exhilarating. 1887 H. Smart *Cleverly Won* iv. 28 They skated,.. and at times even relaxed so far as to fall to snowballing. 1887 *Times* (weekly ed.) 30 Dec. 10/1 The mobbing and snowballing of Mr. Gladstone's party.

Snowberry (snō·ubĕ:ri). [f. Snow *sb.*[1] Cf. G. *schneebeere* (Nemnich).] A name given to various plants or shrubs bearing white berries, or to the fruit of these.

When denoting the plant or shrub, freq. used attrib. with *bush* (or *tree*). In the earliest example the identification is doubtful:—1760 J. Lee *Introd. Bot.* App. 327 Snowberry-bush, *Lonicera.*

1. A rubiaceous shrub (*Chiococca racemosa*), native to the West Indies and Florida, cultivated as a greenhouse or hothouse plant.

1815 J. Smith *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 678 Hothouse Plants...Snow-berry. 1839 R. Sweet *Hothouse & Greenh. Man.* (ed. 6) 54 *Chiococca racemosa* or Snow-berry-bush, thrives well in a mixture of loam and peat. 1864 Grisebach *Flora Brit. W. Ind.* 787/2 Snowberry, *Chiococca racemosa.*

2. A caprifoliaceous shrub (*Symphoricarpus racemosus*), native to North America and Mexico, commonly grown in gardens and shrubberies.

(*a*) 1821 W. P. C. Barton *Flora N. Amer.* I. 69 The late Governor Lewis first brought to this city seeds of the snow-berry bush. 1872 Christina Rossetti *Sing Song* 10 A song-singing thrush, Dead at the foot of a snowberry bush. 1894 Mrs. H. Ward *Marcella* I. 16 The branches of a snowberry tree.

(*b*) 1821 W. P. C. Barton *Flora N. Amer.* I. 69 Snow-berry is a very ornamental shrub. 1857 Henfrey *Bot.* 313 The berries..of *Symphoricarpus*, the Snow-berry of our shrubberies, appear to be harmless. 1882 *Garden* 25 Feb. 134/1 The Snowberry..stands almost alone as the representative of the white fruited section.

b. The fruit of this shrub.

1837 Ht. Martineau *Soc. Amer.* II. 245 Smart mulatto girls, with snow-berries in their hair. 1861 Mrs. Stowe *Pearl of Orr's Island* 7 The cheek was white and bloodless as a snowberry.

3. *U.S.* **a.** *Creeping snowberry*, a trailing evergreen plant (*Chiogenes hispidula*) common in bogs and woods.

1856 Gray *Man. Bot.* (1860) 250 *Chiogenes*, Creeping Snow-berry. 1857 Thoreau *Maine W.* (1894) 125 Creeping snow-berry, painted trillium. 1872 De Vere *Americanisms* 404 The queen of them all is said to be the lovely, creeping snowberry (*Chiogenes hispidula*).

b. The wintergreen, checkerberry, or tea-berry.

1866 *Chambers's Encycl.* VIII. 789/2 The name Snowberry is also given to *Gaultheria serpyllifolia*, a native of the bogs of North America.

4. *Austr.* The wax-cluster, *Gaultheria hispida.*

1880 Mrs. Meredith *Tasmanian Friends & Foes* 11 The 'Snow-berry' or 'Wax cluster' is also called native Arbutus.

Snow-bird. Also **snow bird, snowbird.** [f. Snow *sb.*[1] Cf. Du. *sneeuwvogel*, G. *schneevogel.*]

1. One or other of various small European or American birds, *esp.* the snow-bunting (*Plectrophanes nivalis*), snow-finch (*Montifringilla nivalis*), or snow-sparrow (*Junco hiemalis*).

In the first group of quotations there is some indication of the precise bird intended.

(*a*) 1688 *Phil. Trans.* XVII. 996 The Snow-bird which I take to be much the same with our Hedge Sparrow; this is so called because it seldom appears about Houses but against Snow or very cold Weather. 1709 J. Lawson *Hist. Carolina* 146 The Snow-Birds are most numerous in the North Parts of America, where there are great Snows... They are like the Stones Smach, or Wheat-Ears. 1750 G. Edwards *Nat. Hist. Birds* III. Pl. 126 The Snow-Bird from Hudson's-Bay. This Bird..agrees exactly in Size and Shape with our great Pyed Mountain-Finch, or Brambling. 1771 J. R. Forster tr. *Kalm's Trav.* II. 81 The Swedes call a species of little birds, *Snofogel*, and the English call it Snow-bird. 1802 Montagu *Ornith.* s.v. *Bunting, Snow*, Snow-bird. Snow-flake. 1810 A. Wilson *Amer. Ornith.* II. 129 Snow-Bird, *Fringilla nivalis. Ibid.* 131 The Snow-bird is six inches long, and nine in extent. 1839 Audubon *Syn. Birds N. Amer.* 106 *Niphæa*, Snow-Bird. *Ibid.* 107 *Niphæa Oregona*, Oregon Snow-Bird. 1853 Kane *Grinnell Exped.* xli. (1856) 379 Crowds of little snow-birds (*Emberizæ* and *Plectrophanes*), with white breasts and jetty coverts. 1884 Coues *N. Amer. Birds* 377 *Junco*, Snow Sparrows. Snow-birds. *Ibid., Junco hiemalis*,.. Eastern Snow-bird. Black Snow-bird.

(*b*) 1798 Miss H. M. Williams *Tour Switzerland* II. App. 293 Her sledgy-car..O'er the pellucid ice her snow-birds drew. 1820 Scoresby *Acc. Arctic Regions* I. 535 The snow-bird, though so delicate in its appearance, is almost as ravenous as the fulmar. 1841 Bryant *Poems, Winter-Piece* 30 The snow-bird twitter'd on the beechen bough. 1880 W. Newton *Serm. for Boys* (1881) 358 The little snow-birds seem to enjoy it all. 1883 *Cent. Mag.* Sept. 681 From the first nest..to the last, which was that of a snow-bird.

2. The ivory gull, *Pagophila eburnea.*

1831 Rennie *Montagu's Ornith. Dict.* 470 Snow Bird, (*Larus eburneus*). 1843 Yarrell *Brit. Birds* III. 449 *Larus candidus*, The Snow-bird.

Snow-blind, *a.* Also **snowblind.** [f. Snow *sb.*[1] Cf. Du. *sneeuw-*, G. *schnee-*, Da. *sne-*, Sw. *snöblind.*] Having the eyes or sight affected by exposure to the glare of snow.

1748 H. Ellis *Voy. Hudson's Bay* 189 [Indians] frequently become Snow-blind in the Spring of the Year. 1865 *Times* 5 Feb., When the day at length dawned there was a thick fog, and I was rapidly becoming snow-blind. 1896 *Harper's Mag.* 728/2 Every man in the party but myself was more or less severely snow-blind.

So **Snow-blinded** *a.*

1839–52 Bailey *Festus* 316 As tired wanderer, snow-blinded, sinks And swoons upon the swelling drift.

Snow-blindness. Also **snowblindness.** [Cf. prec.] Blindness or defective vision caused by exposure of the eyes to the glare of snow.

1748 H. Ellis *Voy. Hudson's Bay* 137 This Invention prevents Snow-Blindness, a very grievous and painful Distemper, occasioned by the Action of the Light strongly reflected from the Snow upon the Eyes. 1836 *Uncle Philip's Convers. Whale Fishery* 202 The glare of the snow..gave them what was called the snow blindness. 1862 *Peaks, Passes & Glac.* II. 377 Snow-blindness, which..is not blindness at all, but merely a painful affection of the eyes. 1895 *Westm. Gaz.* 11 Apr. 5/1 There were thirty cases of snowblindness and twenty-six cases of frostbite.

fig. 1877 E. R. Conder *Basis Faith* Pref. p. xiii, The snow-blindness of moral insensibility.

Snow-broth. Also *Sc.* **snaw-broo, -bru.** [f. Snow *sb.*[1]] Melted snow; water produced or obtained by the melting of snow, esp. from natural causes.

a. 1600 Holland *Livy* xxi. xxxvi. 413 They were faine to go upon the bare yce underneath, and in the slabberie snow-broth. 1603 Shaks. *Meas. for M.* I. iv. 58 A man, whose blood Is very snow-broth. 1681 Chetham *Angler's Vade-m.* viii. § 2 (1689) 89 In cold, frosty or snowy Weather or where store of Snow-broth is in the River. *a* 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew, Snow-broth*, Snow-water. 1845 Judd *Margaret* I. vi, This is none of your snow-broth,..it's warming. 1862 C. C. Robinson *Dial. Leeds* 416 *Snow-broth*,.. snow melted in a vessel is so called. 1888 *Pall Mall G.* 7 Apr. 5/1 The bitter east winds of March,..and the almost certain 'snow-broth' in the water.

β. 1787 Burns *Brigs of Ayr* 120 In mony a torrent down the snaw-broo rowes. 1803 *Prize Ess. Highl. Soc.* II. 400 Until the melted snow (snaw bru) is out of the water. 1899 *Westm. Gaz.* 21 Jan. 7/2 Fishing will almost certainly be temporarily stopped on account of the 'snaw-broo'.

Snow-bunting. [f. Snow *sb.*[1]] A fringilline bird, *Plectrophanes nivalis*, widely distributed in Arctic regions.

1771 Forster *Catal. Anim. N. Amer.* 11 Snow-bunting. *Emberiza Nivalis.* 1783 Latham *Gen. Synop. Birds* II. i. 161 Snow Bunting. Size of the Chaffinch. 1811 A. Wilson *Amer. Ornith.* III. 39 The Snow Bunting derives a considerable part of its food from the seeds of certain aquatic plants. 1843 Yarrell *Brit. Birds* I. 426 The Snow Bunting may be generally considered as only a winter visitor to this country. 1872 Coues *N. Amer. Birds* 29 Titmice, redpoll linnets, snow buntings and other northern *Fringillidæ.*

Snow-clad, *a.* [f. Snow *sb.*[1]] Clad or covered with snow.

1809 Byron *Ch. Har.* I. lx, Oh, thou Parnassus!..soaring snow-clad through thy native sky. 1844 H. H. Wilson *Brit. India* III. 10 Whence it stretched..to snow-clad mountains separating it from China. 1865 *Proc. R. Geogr. Soc.* 16 Mr. Thornton made numerous observations of the snow-clad peak.

transf. 1839 Sterling *Poems, Coleridge* 153 With sybil eyes, and brow By age snow-clad, yet bright with summer's glow.

Snow-cold, *a.* [f. Snow *sb.*[1] Cf. OE. *snāw-ceald*, G. *schneekalt.*] As cold as snow.

1593 Nashe *Christ's T.* Wks. (Grosart) IV. 67 The Sonne of God hath sought to resolue thy snow-colde hart into water. 1832 Tennyson *Œnone* 140 Over her snow-cold breast and angry cheek. 1844 Louisa S. Costello *Béarn & Pyrenees* II. 88 In its snow-cold water I dipped my travelling-cup. 1855 Bailey *Mystic* (ed. 2) 14 Æternal silence laid her snow-cold hand Upon his lips.

† **Snowerie.** *Obs.*[−1] (Meaning uncertain.)

1402 *Pol. Poems* (Rolls) II. 111 Not in Goddis gospel, but in Sathanas pistile, wher of sorowe and of snowcrie noon is to seken.

Snowdon (snō·udən). Forms: (see quots.). [See note.] *Snowdon herald*, one of the six Scottish heralds. Also *ellipt.*

Snowdon was occ. used as a name for Stirling, but Jamieson cites statements that the designation of the herald was derived from 'Snowdoune castle of the county of Rosse': cf. his note on Barbour's *Bruce* (1820) III. 410 (=IV. 181), and the entry in his Dictionary s.v. *Snawdoune.*

1450 *Excheq. Rolls Scot.* V. 382 Et per solucionem factam Snawdoun heraldo, equitanti..ad regem Anglie,..xl*i.* 1473 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* I. 45 Gevin to Snawdone,.. passande to Anwic [on] secrete materis of the Kingis, xl*s.* 1568 *Sc. Acts, Jas. VI* (1814) III. 47/2 Johne patersone snadoun herauld. 1592–3 *Excheq. Rolls Scot.* XXII. 308 To Snawdoun,..Rothissay, Merchimont herauldis, every ane of thame takand in the yeir £20. 1636 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* VI. 190 James Law, Snadoune herald, charged him to..render his house of Arradoull within fifteen days. 1710 Chamberlayne *Pres. St. Gt. Brit.* II. 414 There are Six Heralds [in Scotland], Albany, Rothesay, Snadown, Marchmont, Yla, and Ross. 1863 [see Ross *sb.*[1]].

Snowdonian (snōudō·uniăn), *a.* [f. the place-name *Snowdon* (see def.) + -ian.] Of or pertaining to Snowdon, a lofty mountain in North Wales; relating to, found at or near, Snowdon.

1820 Shelley *Let. Maria Gisborne* 239 The milk-white Snowdonian Antelope. 1829 H. L. Jones (*title*), Illustrations of the Natural Scenery of the Snowdonian Mountains. 1855 A. Sedgwick *British Palæozoic Rocks* Introd. p. xli. *note*, The Snowdonian fossils were both embedded amongst, and overlaid by, contemporaneous plutonic rocks. 1897 Watts-Dunton *Aylwin* xii. iv, Those Snowdonian spirits which her music was supposed to have evoked from the mountain air.

Snow-drift. Also **snowdrift.** [f. Snow *sb.*[1] Cf. Norw. dial. *snjodrift, -driv*, ON. *snjódrif*, Sw. *snödrifva*, Da. *snedrive.*]

1. A heap or mass of snow driven together, or piled up, by the action of the wind.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 9932 Wit-in þis castel þat sua es tift, þat quitter es þan snau drif [*read* drift, *but the Gött. MS. has* on drift]. 1600 Fairfax *Tasso* xx. cxxxvi, As against the warm'th of Titans fire, Snow drifts consume. 1821 Scott *Kenilw.* xxxv, I would rather keep watch on a snow-drift. 1860 G. A. Spottiswoode *Vac. Tour* 96 We were soon planted in a snow-drift, fifty or sixty yards long, higher than the carriage. 1874 Green *Short Hist.* ii. § 4. 72 He..helped with his own hands to clear a road through the snowdrifts.

transf. 1864 *Daily Telegr.* 16 July, There are snowdrifts of pearls of great price.

2. A driving mass or cloud of snow; snow driven before the wind.

1836 *Uncle Philip's Convers. Whale Fishery* 200 He.. never walked farther from the ships than a mile, for fear of being overtaken by a snow-drift. 1892 J. Lumsden *Sheep-head & Trotters* 137 The snawdrift, o'er Soutra, in tempest was blawing.

Snowdrop (snō·udrɒp). Also **snow-drop.** [f. Snow *sb.*[1] Cf. G. *schneetropfen, -tröpfchen, -tröpflein*, Sw. *snödroppe*; also G. *schneeglocke*, Du. *sneeuwklokje*, Da. *sneklokke*, Sw. *snöklocka* 'snow-bell'.]

1. An early-flowering bulbous plant (*Galanthus nivalis*), having a white pendent flower; also, a flower, bulb, or single plant of this.

1664 Boyle *Colours* 264 Those purely White Flowers that appear about the end of Winter, and are commonly call'd Snow drops. 1664 Evelyn *Kal. Hort.* 81 December... Flowers in Prime,..Snow flowers or drops, Yucca, &c. 1728–46 Thomson *Spring* 529 Fair-handed Spring..Throws out the snowdrop, and the crocus first. 1763–5 Churchill *Gotham* I. Poems 1767 II. 12 The Snow-drop, who, in habit white and plain Comes on the Herald of fair Flora's train. 1796 Withering *Brit. Pl.* (ed. 3) I. 21 The Snow-drop, though not frequent in a wild state, is to be found in almost every Garden. 1820 Shelley *Sensit. Pl.* I. 13 The snowdrop, and then the violet, Arose from the ground with warm rain wet. 1856 Delamer *Fl. Garden* (1861) 42 There are single and double snowdrops. 1872 Tennyson *Last Tourn.* 220 The snowdrop only, flowering thro' the year, Would make the world as blank as winter-tide.

attrib. 1811 W. R. Spencer *Poems* 66 The snow-drop paths of innocence. 1865 Allingham *50 Mod. Poems, Vernal Voluntary*, Snowdrop-flow'r, and crocus. 1894 *Daily News* 1 June 8/1 The cold and rather trying purity of snowdrop white.

b. *transf.* Applied to a girl.

1833 T. Hook *Parson's Dau.* I. vii, Our little snow-drop, as I call her, is the cause. 1884 *Milnor* (Dakota) *Teller* 27 June, A photograph gallery where the boys will gather with their little Dakota snowdrops.

2. With distinctive terms, or *attrib.* (see quots.).

1731 Miller *Gard. Dict.* s.v. *Narcisso-Leucojum*, Lesser Bulbous-violet or Snow-drop. *Ibid.*, Greater Snow-drop or Bulbous-violet. 1822 *Hortus Anglicus* II. 50 *Anemone sylvestris*, Large white flowered or Snow Drop Anemone. 1848 Craig II. s.v. *Snow*, The *placid snowdrop* is the Galanthis plicatus, a native of the Crimea. 1891 *Cent. Dict.* s.v. *Royena, R. lucida*, known as *African snowdrop*, or *African bladder-nut*, is a pretty greenhouse species.

3. Used as a name for a variety of wheat or potato.

1844 C. Hillyard *Pract. Farm. & Grazing* (ed. 4) 89 The Whittington, and my snowdrop white wheat. 1900 *Daily News* 23 July 2/5 Potatoes: Early Puritans,..Snowdrops.

Snow-drop tree. [f. prec.]

1. The Virginian fringe-tree, *Chionanthus virginica.*

1731 Miller *Gard. Dict., Arbor Zeylanica*,..the Snow-drop Tree...This Tree is very hardy in respect to Cold, standing abroad in the open Air. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl., *Snow-drop-tree*, a very beautiful American tree, which bears the cold of our climate in the open air. *Ibid.*, App., *Snow-drop-tree*, the English name of a genus of trees, called by botanists *chionanthus.* 1760 J. Lee *Introd. Bot.* App. 327. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 270/2 *Chionanthus*, the Snowdrop tree of North America [etc.].

2. A North American styraceous tree or shrub, *Halesia tetraptera.*

1823 Crabb *Technol. Dict.* s.v. *Halesia*, Four-winged Halesia, or Snow-drop Tree. 1831 Audubon *Ornith. Biog.* I. 123 The Snow-Drop Tree, Silver-Bell Tree, or Wild Olive. 1857 Henfrey *Elem. Bot.* § 509 *Halesia tetraptera*, another North American plant, is called the Snowdrop-tree, on account of its numerous white bell-shaped blossoms. 1875 *Encycl. Brit.* II. 320 The snow-drop tree..is one of the hardiest of North American trees.

3. A West Indian tree (see quots.).

1864 Grisebach *Flora Brit. W. Ind.* 787/2 Snowdrop tree, *Hænianthus incrassatus.* 1889 *Cent. Dict.* s.v. *Linociera, L. incrassata* of Jamaica, a large tree with panicles of white flowers, is called *snowdrop-tree.*

4. *African snowdrop tree*, = Snowdrop 2 (quot. 1891). 1895 in *Funk's Stand. Dict.*

Snowed (snōud), *ppl. a.* [f. Snow *sb.*[1] or *v.*]

1. Cooled with snow. *rare*[−1].

1682 Sir T. Browne *Chr. Mor.* II. § 1 Nero..lingring after his snowed water, hardly got down an ordinary cup of *Calda.*

2. Covered with snow.

1854 Hooker *Himal. Jrnls.* I. 184 The sweep of snowed mountains to the eastward. *Ibid.* II. 60 It..flowed amongst little snowed mountains.

3. *Snowed-up*, blocked, stopped, or covered with snow.

1836 Fonblanque *Eng. under 7 Administ.* (1837) III. 302 Not one of the *Standard's* snowed-up sixty has found his way to the House of Commons. 1881 *Times* 19 Jan. 10/2 Passing the night in the snowed-up train. 1882 Flover *Unexpl. Baluchistan* 364 The valley..contained every few miles a snowed-up village.

Snowfall (snōu·fǫl). Also **snow-fall.** [f. Snow *sb.*[1] Cf. G. *schneefall*, Da. *sneefald*, Sw. *snöfall*, ON. *snæ-*, *snjófall.*]

1. A fall of snow; a quantity of snow falling during a certain time.

1821 W. C. Wells *Ess. Dew* (1866) 42 Immediately after a considerable snowfall had ceased. 1849 D. J. Browne *Amer. Poultry Yd.* (1855) 149 During melting snow-falls, turkeys will travel very great distances. 1884 *Manch. Exam.* 11 Oct. 4/6 In various parts of the country..there was a rather heavy snowfall.

2. The amount of snow falling at a particular place.

1875 Croll *Climate & T.* 382 The fact..proves that the snowfall must be great. 1889 F. G. Wright *Ice Age N. Amer.* 13 There is abundance of snow-fall.

Snow-field. Also snowfield. [f. Snow *sb.*[1] Cf. G. *schneefeld*, Sw. *snöfält.*] An extensive stretch or expanse of snow.

1845 S. Judd *Margaret* I. xvii, The snowfields seemed to bloom with glowing sorrel-flowers. 1856 Kane *Arctic Explor.* II. xxiii. 224 The snow-fields before us to the south. 1871 L. Stephen *Playgr. Eur.* (1894) v. 120 The sun had long touched the higher snow-fields.

Snow-finch. Also snow finch. [f. Snow *sb.*[1]] A species of mountain-finch. (See also quot. 1839.)

1783 Latham *Gen. Synop. Birds* II. I. 264 Snow Finch.. inhabits various parts of the European continent. 1829 Griffith tr. *Cuvier* VII. 139 The Snow Finch, *Fringilla Nivalis*. 1839 Audubon *Ornith. Biog.* V. 68 Oregon Snow-Finch, *Fringilla Oregona*. 1882 *Encycl. Brit.* XIV. 676 The Snow-Finch of the Alps, *M[ontifringilla] nivalis*, so often mistaken by travellers for the Snow-Bunting, *Plectrophanes nivalis*. 1894–5 Lydekker *Roy. Nat. Hist.* III. 388 The snow-finches form a small group possessing the characteristic form of the true finches.

Snowflake (snōu·flēik). Also **snow-flake.** [f. Snow *sb.*[1] + Flake *sb.*[2]]

1. One of the small masses in which snow commonly falls.

1734 *Cupid & Psyche* 28 Soft as the cygnet's down his wings, And as the falling snowflake fair. 1822 Shelley *'We meet not as we parted'* ii, That moment is gone for ever,..Like a snowflake upon the river. 1847 Prescott *Peru* III. ii. (1850) II. 39 A white cloud of pavilions was seen covering the ground as thick as snow-flakes. 1878 Huxley *Physiogr.* 63 The largest snow-flakes fall when the temperature is near the freezing point.

2. The snow-bunting. (Cf. Snow-fleck.)

1770 Pennant *Brit. Zool.* IV. 17 Snow Flake. These birds appear in hard weather on the Cheviot Hills, and in the Highlands of Scotland, in amazing flocks. 1793 *Statist. Acc. Scot.* VII. 547 The snowflake, the rail or corncrake. 1837 Dunn *Ornith. Orkn. & Shetl.* 79 The Snowflake appears regularly in both countries. 1845 *Zoologist* III. 822 In hard winters snowflakes come from the North by thousands. 1872 Coues *N. Amer. Birds* 133 Snow Bunting. Snowflake. In breeding plumage, pure white, the back, wings and tail variegated with black.

3. One or other variety of *Leucojum.*

1798 Curtis *Fl. Londinensis* II. pl. 72 As it differs very essentially in its fructification from the *Galanthus* we have thought it necessary to give it the new English name of *Snowflake*. 1806 J. Galpine *Brit. Bot.* 168 *Leucojum æstivum*, summer snow-flake. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1067/2 Spring Snowflake, *Erinosma*. 1882 *Garden* 28 Jan. 56/3 The Snowflake..is in full bloom, but owing to want of sun, has not expanded its flowers. 1899 *Gardening Illustr.* 27 May 167/1 In the earliest spring..the Spring Snowflake (*L. vernum*) is flowering in southern gardens...Later on comes the taller-growing Summer Snowflake (*L. æstivum*).

4. (See quot.) Also *attrib.*

1882 Caulfeild & Saward *Dict. Needlew.* 452/2 *Snowflake*, a term employed to denote a particular method of weaving woollen cloths, by which process small knots are thrown upon the face. 1890 *Daily News* 8 Jan. 1/6 A Large Lot..Snowflake Costumes, all Pure Wool.

5. A name for a variety of potato.

1882 *Daily News* 9 Mar. 2 Potatoes,..foreign Snow-flakes.

Snow-fleck. Also snowfleck, snow fleck. [f. Snow *sb.*[1] Cf. prec. 2.] The snow-bunting, or Lapland bunting.

1683 A. Garden in *Macfarlane's Geogr. Coll.* (S.H.S.) II. 142 In winter there is great abundance of the small bird called the Snowfleck. 1769 G. White *Selborne* xxviii, Your account of the greater brambling, or snow-fleck, is very amusing. 1844 H. Stephens *Bk. Farm* I. 304 The fieldfare,..snowfleck, and other birds of passage. 1873 *Routledge's Young Gentl. Mag.* Feb. 153/1 The Lapland Bunting.., often called the Snow-fleck. 1893 Cozens-Hardy *Broad Norf.* 46 *Snow fleck*, snow bunting.

Snow-flower. Also snowflower.

†1. = Snowdrop 1. *Obs.*

1664 Evelyn *Kal. Hort.* 81 December... Flowers in Prime, ..Snow flowers or drops, Yucca, &c.

2. (See quot.)

1836 *Backwoods Canada* 240–1 The hepatica is the first flower of the Canadian spring...[They] call it snow-flower, from its coming so soon after the snow disappears.

3. = Snowdrop tree 1.

1862 *Chambers's Encycl.* IV. 527/1 The Common Fringe tree or Snowflower..has..very numerous snow-white flowers in panicled racemes. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1067/2 Snowflower, *Chionanthus virginica.*

†**Snowge,** obs. form of Snudge *sb.* 1.

c 1570 *Durham Deposit.* (Surtees) 106 Sainge that the said Bartram was a covetous snowge. *Ibid.* 107.

Snow-goose. Also snow goose. [f. Snow *sb.*[1] Cf. Flem. *sneeuwgans* (Kilian) wild goose, G. *schneegans* (MHG. *snêgans*) wild goose, snow-goose, pelican.] A northern (American) goose of the genus *Chen*, esp. *C. hyperboreus*, characterized by its pure white plumage.

1771 Forster *Catal. N. Amer. Anim.* 16 Snow Goose, *Anas nivalis*. 1785 Pennant *Arct. Zool.* II. 549 Snow Goose, *Anser Grandinis*..: head, neck, and body of a snowy whiteness. 1814 A. Wilson *Amer. Ornith.* VIII. 76 Snow Goose, *Anas hyperborea*. 1838 Audubon *Ornith.* IV. 562 The geographical range of the Snow Goose is very extensive. 1860 Mayne Reid *Hunter's Feast* xxvii, We had also a pair of Canada geese, a snow-goose, and three brant. 1884 Lathrop *True* x. 113 The snow-goose had already been heard piping in the air, on its southward flight.

Snowily (snōu·ili), *adv.* [f. Snowy *a.*] In a snowy manner; with or through snow; as snow.

1852 M. Arnold *Youth of Nature* 40 Afar rose the peaks Of Parnassus, snowily clear. 1862 Thornbury *Life Turner* I. 15 The wig is frizzed and snowily powdered. 1887 Bowen *Virg., Ecl.* II. 16 Dark though he be of complexion, and thou all snowily fair!

Snowiness (snōu·inės). [f. as prec.]. The state or condition of being snowy; whiteness.

1727 Bailey (vol. II), *Sleetiness*, Raininess and Snowiness. 1868 M. C. Lea *Photogr.* 210 These last may..give an effect of snowiness in the high lights. 1894 *Daily News* 1 Sept. 6/5 The cool dining room..with its glossy snowiness of napery.

Snowing, *vbl. sb.* [f. Snow *v.*] The fact of snow falling; the result of this. Also with *in*, and *fig.*

a 1320 *Sir Tristr.* 1355 A brid brist þai ches As blod opon snoweing. *a* 1700 Evelyn *Diary* Sept. 1646, Because by the frequent snowing the tracts are continualy fill'd up. 1801 Moore *Bk. Follies* 21 White as the snowings of that Heaven By which those hours of peace were given. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* I. IV. i, It is a sheer snowing of pamphlets; like to snow up the Government thoroughfares. 1885 *Fortn. Rev.* Feb. 170 Soon the snowfalls become more heavy, and the 'snowing-in' begins. *Ibid.*, The 'snowing-in' period is often supposed to be an extremely objectionable and almost intolerable time.

Snowish (snōu·iš), *a.* Also 4–5 snowisse, 5 -ych, 6 -yshe, **snawishe,** 7 *Sc.* **-isch.** [f. Snow *sb.*[1]]

†1. Resembling snow in whiteness; snowy, snow-white. *Obs.*

c 1374 Chaucer *Troylus* III. 1250 Her snowisse throte, hir brestis rounde and lyte. 1433 Lydg. *S. Edmund* App. 189 A dowe with snowych fetherys whight. 1500–20 Dunbar *Poems* xxxvii. 9 This angellis weid wes snawith [*read* -ich] in cullour. 1540 Palsgrave *Acolastus* II. ii, O Festyuall daye, worthy a snowyshe lytell stone. 1589 Warner *Alb. Eng.* IV. xx, Her Snowish necke with blewish Vaines. 1603 *Philotus* lxi, Þour snawisch cheiks lyke quhytest Allabast.

2. Characterized by the presence or prevalence of snow; somewhat snowy.

1566 Drant *Horace, Sat.* II. vi. H vj b, Though whiskinge wyndes do shaue the earth, and though the snawishe day Be shorte, and sharpe.

†3. Covered with snow. *Obs.*–[1]

1589 Fleming *Virg. Georg.* IV. 75 Tanais floud all snowish (or all ouerlaid with snow), And grounds at no time void of frosts.

Snowk, variant of Snoke *v.*

Snow·less, *a.* [f. Snow *sb.*[1] Cf. G. *schneelos*, Da. *snelos*, Sw. *snölös*, etc.] Free from snow; characterized by the absence of snow.

1828–32 Webster (citing Tooke). 1860 Tyndall *Glac.* II. iv. 249 A belt, below which, in summer, snowless valleys and plains would extend. 1884 *Harper's Mag.* LXX. 206 It was a black and snowless winter until late in January. 1887 Ruskin *Præterita* II. 395 The higher summits by midsummer are snowless.

Snow-like, *a.* and *adv.* [f. Snow *sb.*[1]]

A. *adj.* Like or resembling snow in colour, appearance, etc.

1663 S. Patrick *Parab. Pilgr.* xxxv. (1687) 433 But after their resurrection they were of a pure white snow-like colour. 1694 Salmon *Bate's Dispens.* (1713) 209/1 With a Glass Spoon take off the Snow-like Cream as it arises. 1820 Shelley *Prom. Unb.* II. iv. 95 Cities then Were built, and through their snow-like columns flowed The warm winds. 1836–41 Brande *Chem.* 526 Another portion is frozen into a white snow-like solid. 1895 Swettenham *Malay Sketches* 126 A motionless drift of snow-like cloud.

B. *adv.* In or after the manner of snow.

1850 Mrs. Browning *Man's Requirem.* iv, Their lids, that fall Snow-like at first meeting.

Snow-line. Also snowline. [f. Snow *sb.*[1] Cf. G. *schneelinie*, Sw. *snölinie.*]

1. The general level on mountains, etc., above which the snow never completely disappears; the lower limit of perpetual snow, or (more rarely) of snow at a particular season.

1835 *Partington's Brit. Cycl., Arts & Sci.* II. 712/2 The snow-line, or plane of perpetual snow, is the elevation at which mountains are covered with perpetual snow. 1845 Darwin *Voy. Nat.* xi. (1852) 245 As the snow-line is so low in Tierra del Fuego, we might have expected that many of the glaciers would have reached the sea. 1875 Croll *Climate & T.* ii. 28 If those currents were warm, they would elevate the snow-line above themselves.

fig. 1839–52 Bailey *Festus* 468 My thought of thee Above all passionate fire-peaks and above The sacred snowline of my heart. 1902 *Westm. Gaz.* 20 Dec. 2/2 Mr. Haldane.. viewing men and things from above his snow-line.

2. (See quot.)

1898 Morris *Austral Eng.* 425 In pastoralists' language of New Zealand, 'above the snow-line' is land covered by snow in winter, but free in summer.

Snow-man. Also snowman. [f. Snow *sb.*[1] Cf. Fris. *snieman*, G. *schneeman*, Da. *snemand.*]

1. A mass of snow made into the figure of a man. Also *transf.*, a man dressed so as to represent or imitate this.

1827 Clare *Sheph. Cal.* 3 Making rude forms of various names, Snow-men, or aught his fancy frames. 1902 *Westm. Gaz.* 26 Sept. 7/2 Six men, dressed in wadding and representing musical snowmen.

attrib. and *Comb.* 1902 *Academy* 27 Dec. 712/1 The daylight passed in snowman-making on the meadow. 1908 S. A. Cook *Relig. Anc. Palestine* iii. 31 Small idols..in the clumsy 'snow-man' technique.

2. *dial.* The snow-bunting.

1893 Cozens-Hardy *Broad Norf.* 49.

Snow·manship. *nonce-wd.* [Cf. Icemanship.] Skill in traversing snow.

1869 Freshfield *Central Caucasus & Bashan* vii. 194 We spent a pleasant hour on our lofty perch, and then, by a rapid act of what may be called 'snowmanship', rejoined Paul and Alexis.

†**'Snowns.** *Obs.* (See Nouns and Od 2.)

1594 R. Wilson *Coblers Proph.* I. i. 63 Course me, snowns, I would thou durst come out of dore.

Snow-plough. Also **snow plough,** *U.S.* **-plow.** [f. Snow *sb.*[1] Cf. G. *schneepflug*, Da. *sneplov*, Sw. *snöplog.*] An implement or machine for clearing away snow from a road, railway track, etc.

A number of the various makes are described in Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2230–1 and *Suppl.* 826.

1792 Belknap *Hist. New-Hampshire* III. 79 When a deep snow has obstructed the roads, they are in some places opened by an instrument called a snow plough. It is made of planks, in a triangular form, with two side boards to turn the snow out on either hand. 1829 D. Conway *Journ. Norway*, etc. 148 Immediately after the snow has ceased the snow-plough is used. 1858 Simmonds *Dict. Trade, Snow-plough*, a machine for clearing away snow from railway tracks. 1888 Lees & Clutterbuck *B. C. 1887* xxxiv. (1892) 379 The huge snow ploughs (driven sometimes by six or eight locomotives) had been at work.

†**Snowre,** *v. Obs. rare.* [Of obscure origin.] *intr.* To frown or scowl. So †**Snowring** *vbl. sb.* and *ppl. a. Obs.*

c 1440 *Alph. Tales* 326 And if þou be wed þou may happen wed a shrew at will be þi maister, and þou þus..suffer many grete wurd & say nothyng agayn, & hafe a snowr-yng cowntenance. 1508 *Mayd Emlyn* 177 in Hazl. *E. P. P.* IV. 89 Whan she dothe loure, And begynneth to snowre. 1562 J. Heywood *Prov. & Epigr.* (1867) 210 Small diffrence betweene lowryng and snowryng.

Snow'-shoe, *sb.* Also snow shoe. [f. Snow *sb.*[1] Cf. G. *schneeschuh*, Sw. *snösko.*]

1. a. A kind of foot-gear enabling the wearer to walk on the surface of snow, *esp.* one of a pair of racket-shaped frames of light wood, strung and netted with narrow strips of raw hide, used by the Indians and others in North America.

1674 Josselyn *Two Voy.* 55 A crust upon the snow sufficient to bear a man walking with snow-shoos upon it. 1681 Grew *Museum* IV. iii. 375 A Snow-Shooe, used in Greenland, and some other places. 1707 in *Sewall's Diary* (1879) II. 60 They made her put on Snow Shoes, which to manage, requires more than ordinary agility. 1773 *Hist. Brit. Dom. N. Amer.* II. 59 In winter, when the snow would bear, they put on snow-shoes, which were made like a large tennis-racket, and laced them to their feet with the guts of deer. 1806 Pike *Sources Mississ.* (1810) 69 Who.. went so fast as to render it difficult, for the men with snow shoes, to keep up with them. 1841 Catlin *N. Amer. Ind.* (1844) I. xxx. 254 The snow shoes are made in a great many forms,..of a hoop or hoops, bent around for the frame [etc.]. 1884 Dawson *Hdbk. Canada* 230 It is quite usual in Montreal for young ladies to walk on snow-shoes [etc.].

b. One of a pair of ski.

1864 Dasent *Jest & Earnest* (1873) II. 185, I can..ride, swim, glide on snowshoon. 1901 H. Seebohm *Birds of Siberia* v. 44 On snow-shoes we got along comfortably... They were about seven feet long and six inches wide.

2. *U.S.* The snow-shoe rabbit (see 3).

1888 Lees & Clutterbuck *B.C. 1887* xxiii. (1892) 261 The Snowshoe..is the largest kind of alpine hare.

3. *attrib.*, as *snow-shoe excursion, expedition, step, track*, etc.; **snow-shoe disease, evil** (see quot. 1809); **snow-shoe foot,** a foot (in certain animals) adapted for walking on snow; **snow-shoe rabbit** (see quot. 1889).

1760 *Lett. to Hon. Brigadier General* 5 The Snow-Shoes Expeditions of America. 1809 A. Henry *Trav.* 68, I was now troubled with a disorder, called the snow-shoe evil, proceeding from an unusual strain on the tendons of the leg, occasioned by the weight of the snow-shoe, and brings on inflammation. 1889 *Cent. Dict.* s.v. *Rabbit, Snow-shoe rabbit*, that variety of the American varying hare which is found in the Rocky Mountains...It has been described as a distinct species, *Lepus bairdi*. 1894 *Outing* XXIV. 271/2 A scuffling, sliding, snow-shoe step. *Ibid.* 357/1 In a mild climate the snowshoe foot might frequently be a serious drawback.

Hence **Snow'-shoe** *v. intr.*, to travel on snow-shoes or ski; **Snow'-shoed** *a.*, wearing snow-shoes; **Snow'-shoeing** *vbl. sb.*, the action or practice of travelling on snow-shoes, esp. as an exercise or sport; also *attrib.*; **Snow'-shoer**, one who uses, or travels on, snow-shoes.

1880 C. B. BERRY *The Other Side* 214 As we *snowshoed over Lake Joseph. 1890 HIBBS in *Big Game N. Amer.* 41 The depth of snow..does not enter into account when snow-shoeing. 1896 *Harper's Mag.* Apr. 726/2 The spectacle of a *snow-shoed Indian chasing the fleetest quadruped on earth. 1885 *Cent. Mag.* XXIX. 523 The vicissitudes of lacrosse, *snow-shoeing, and tobogganing. 1887 *Cornhill Mag.* Mar. 267 Which outings are the snowshoeing events of the season. 1884 DAWSON *Hdbk. Canada* 230 A strong turn-out of *snow-shoers..is a very picturesque sight. 1897 *Outing* XXIX. 360/2 Two fine club-houses..where snow-shoers have long fraternized.

Snow-storm. Also snowstorm. [f. SNOW *sb.*1 Cf. G. *schneesturm*, Sw. *snöstorm*.] A storm accompanied by a heavy fall of snow.

a 1800 PEGGE *Suppl. Grose, Snow-storm*, a continued snow so long as it lies on the ground. *North.* 1813 SHELLEY *Q. Mab* VIII. 60 Those wastes of frozen billows that were hurled By everlasting snowstorms round the poles. 1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* I. xxiv. 170, I..climbed amid a heavy snow-storm to the Cleft station. 1878 BROWNING *Poets Croisic* 17 Bidding care Keep outside with the snow-storm.

fig. 1893 F. F. MOORE *I Forbid Banns* (1899) 141 The next day there was a snow-storm, with invitation cards for flakes, on her table. 1896 *Westm. Gaz.* 23 Apr. 7/2 He lived in a snow-storm of letters asking him for money.

Snow-water. Also snow water. [f. SNOW *sb.*1 Cf. Fris. *sniewetter*, MDu. *snee(u)water* (Du. *sneeuwwater*), MHG. *snêwazzer* (G. *schneewasser*), etc.] Water derived or obtained from melted snow. Also *transf.*

c 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 159 Þe ter þet mon schet for his emcristenes sunne is inemned snaw water, for hit melt of þe neche horte swa deð þe snaw to-3eines þe sunne. 1434 MISYN *Mending of Life* 122 If I be waschyd with snaw watyr. 1535 COVERDALE *Job* ix. 30 Though I wasshed my self with snowe water. 1599 MINSHEU *Span. Dial.* 18 In Spaine they coole their wine by setting the flagons in snow water. 1620 VENNER *Via Recta* Introd. 10 Snow-waters are grosse and ouer-cold. 1694 *Acc. Sev. Late Voy.* (1711) I. 74 Several streams of Snow-water run down in the Cliffs of the Hills 1763 MILLS *Pract. Husb.* III. 454 He rejects snow water for the same reason. 1789 W. BUCHAN *Dom. Med.* (1790) 67 The inhabitants of the Peak of Derby..have large tumours or wens on their necks. This disease is generally imputed to the snow water. 1809 A. HENRY *Trav.* 278 We supped on wild beef and snow-water. 1855 *Orr's Circ. Sci., Elem. Chem.* 299 Even rain and snow-water are far from pure. 1903 A. C. P. HAGGARD *Sport. Varns* 273 The snow water used to come down the Don every afternoon.

Snow-white (snōʊ'hwəit), *a.* and *sb.* Forms: (see SNOW *sb.*1 and WHITE *a.*). [f. SNOW *sb.*1 Cf. Fris. *sniewit*, MDu. *sne(e)wit* (Du. *sneeuwwit*), MLG. *snewit*, MHG. *snêwîz* (G. *schneeweiss*), ON. *snæ-*, *snjóhvítr* (Sw. *snöhvit*, Da. *snehvid*).]

A. *adj.* 1. White as snow; pure white.

a. c 1000 ÆLFRIC in Assmann *Ags. Hom.* iv. 186 Ða ȝesloh hine sona se snawhwita hreofia. *a* 1200 *St. Marher.* 18 The hude snaw hwit swartete as hit snarchte. *c* 1205 LAY. 24521 Þreo snau-white culueren. *a* 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 2443 Heo..strahte forð swiftliche þe snawhwite swire. 1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* I. 29 Oxne and Bules snawquhyte with a mane thick. 1791 BURNS *Tam o' Shanter* 154 Snaw-white seventeen hunder linnen!

β. c 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 115 Þe engles þe wið þe apostles stoden mid snouwite shrude. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 314 Efter his deaðe, he com one niht.., ine snou hwite cloðes. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Sec. Nun's T.* 254 Tuo corunes han we, Snow white and Rose reed, that shynen cleere. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 306 That ther he was snow whyt tofore, Evere afterward colblak therfore He was transformed. *c* 1450 *Godstow Reg.* 17 þat we ben cladde in a snow-why3t stole. 1582 STANYHURST *Æneis* III. (Arb.) 87 Heere..fowre fayre steeds snow whit I marcked. *c* 1610 *Women Saints* 39 She thought she brought forth a snow-white doue. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 14 Feb. 1645, With her statue over it in snow-white marble. 1763 *Phil. Trans.* LIV. 97 It has a body like a gnat, snow-white. 1807 THOMSON *Chem.* (ed. 3) II. 277 Camphoric acid thus obtained is in snow-white crystals. 1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* I. iii. 30 Above all rose the snow-white cone of the Ortler. 1877 BLACK *Green Past.* ii, Two snow-white and waxen hyacinths.

Comb. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s.v. *Linaria*, The snow-white flowered creeping toad flax. *Ibid.* s.v. *Plumeria*, The snow-white-flowered plumeria, with..pointed leaves.

b. Clad in robes of pure white. *rare.*

1847 EMERSON *Poems, Each & All*, Her beauty's best attire Was woven still by the snow-white choir.

2. In the specific names of fishes, birds, or moths (see quots.).

1804 SHAW *Gen. Zool.* V. I. 73 Snow-white Salmon. 1809 *Ibid.* VII. I. 149 Snow-White Falcon. *Ibid.* 240 Snow-white Owl spotted with black. 1832 J. RENNIE *Butterfl. & Moths* 224 The Snow White Spot (*Incurvaria spuria*). *Ibid.* 230 The Snow-white Plume (*Pterophorus niveidactylus*).

B. *sb.* a. Pure white. b. A kind of wool of this colour.

1890 *Science-Gossip* XXVI. 170 The flowers varied in colour from snow-white to green and white flushed with crimson purple. 1896 *Daily News* 23 Jan. 9/4 Cape and Natal wools meet with good competition, and medium to superior snow-whites..have advanced.

Hence **Snow-whiteness.**

1856 RUSKIN *Mod. Paint.* IV. v. iii. § 24. 53 The authority for using snow-whiteness as a type of purity.

Snow-wreath (snōʊ'riþ). [f. SNOW *sb.*1]

1. A heap of snow blown together by the wind; a snowdrift.

1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* viii, The tenants..were not actually turned out of doors among the snow-wreaths. 1854 J. S. C. ABBOTT *Napoleon* (1855) II. ix. 139 The outer ranks melted like snow-wreaths on the river's brink. 1873 SYMONDS *Grk. Poets* xi. 357 The oxen came Down from the mountain through the snow-wreaths deep.

2. As a plant-name (see quot.).

1901 BAILEY & MILLER *Cycl. Amer. Horticult.* III. 1079 [*Neviusia*] *Alabamensis*, Gray. Snow Wreath.

Snowy (snōʊ'i), *a.* and *sb.* Forms: α. 1 snawiz, 3 snawi, 5, *Sc.* 8– snawy, 8 snawie. β. 6–7 snowie, snowey, 6– snowy. [f. SNOW *sb.*1 Cf. Fris. *snieich*, MDu. *sneeich*, *sneeuwich* (Du. *sneeuwig*), OS. *snêgig* (MLG. *snêyg*, *snyig*), MHG. *schnêîg* (G. *schneeig*), Sw. *snöig*, *snögig*.]

A. *adj.* 1. Of weather, time, etc.: Characterized by the presence or prevalence of snow.

c 1000 *Saxon Leechd.* III. 274 Se feorða heafod wind.. blæwð norðan cealde & snawlic [*v.r.* snawiz]. 1600 PORY tr. *Leo's Africa* IX. 333 It ouerfloweth not but in rainie and snowie weather. 1635 SWAN *Spec. M.* v. § 2 (1643) 155 Your experienced husbandman desireth that the winter may be cold and snowie. 1660 BOYLE *New Exp. Phys. Mech.* xviii. 133 It was a Snowy day. 1701 O. HEYWOOD *Diaries* (1885) IV. 175 This is a snowy morning. 1748 T. SMITH *Jrnl.* (1849) 270 A cold, snowy, uncomfortable month. 1800 CAMPBELL *Ode to Winter* 53 Milder yet thy snowy breezes Pour on yonder tented shores. 1830 CARLYLE *Misc.* (1857) II. 143 Let the weather be sunny or snowy. 1884 E. P. ROE *Nat. Ser. Story* vii, The snowiest day of winter.

2. Composed of melted snow; consisting, formed, or made of snow.

a. a 1240 *Sawles Warde* in *O. E. Hom.* I. 251 Þer is.. toðes hechelunge ihe snawi weattres. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 346/2 Snawy, *niueus*. 1785 BURNS *Addr. to Deil* xii, When thowes dissolve the snawy hoord.

β. 1565 COOPER *Thesaurus*, *Niueus liquor*, snowy water. 1613 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* (1614) 862 The lower Mountaines ..haue more Giantly ouer-lookers, with Snowie lockes and Cloudie lookes. 1730 BAILEY (fol.), *Sleetiness*, .. snowy Rain. 1754 GRAY *Pleasure* 26 The sullen year Saw the snowy whirlwind fly. 1784 COWPER *Task* v. 98 On the flood, Indurated and fixt, the snowy weight Lies undissolv'd. 1818 BYRON *Ch. Har.* IV. clxxxi, As the snowy flake, They melt. 1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* I. xii. 90 The Glacier..thrust through the black pines its snowy tongue.

3. Covered with snow; abounding in snow.

1548 ELYOT, *Ninalia loca*, snowy places. 1592 *Soliman & Pers.* IV. i. 83 Neck, whiter then the snowie Apenines. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* I. 98 We continually did see the snowy toppes of those Mountaines. 1638 BRATHWAIT *Barnabees Jrnl.* III. (1818) 137 Thence to Ayscarth, from a mountaine ..cliffs steep and snowy..saw I. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 2 Nov. 1644, Monte Mantuamiato..peeping above any clowds with its snowy head. 1784 COWPER *Task* v. 7 His slanting ray Slides ineffectual down the snowy vale. 1847 TENNYSON *Princ.* IV. 2 The splendour falls on castle walls And snowy summits old in story. 1871 L. STEPHEN *Playgr. Eur.* ii. (1894) 49 The snowy ranges of California..seem to be unpleasantly bare and chill.

transf. 1648 J. BEAUMONT *Psyche* XIII. xlv, That fire of leacherous rage Which burnt ev'n in their cold and snowy age.

4. Of or resembling the pure white colour of snow; snow-white, niveous.

1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* I. x. 48 That godly aged Sire, With snowy lockes. *Ibid.* III. i. 38 Which staines his snowy skin with hatefull hew. 1592 SHAKS. *Rom. & Jul.* I. v. 50 So shewes a Snowy Doue trooping with Crowes. 1662 J. DAVIES tr. *Olearius' Voy. Amb.* 16 Many antient Men, venerable for their long snowy beards. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* III. 594 Ev'n though a snowy Ram thou shalt behold. 1725 POPE *Odyss.* XXIV. 93 We then collect thy snowy bones. 1786 BURNS *To Mountain Daisy* v, Thy snawie bosom sun-ward spread. 1833 L. RITCHIE *Wand. by Loire* 21 Towering caps of the snowiest muslin, enriched with lace. 1882 *Garden* 9 Sept. 224/3 A charming little plant..with dense tufts of snowy blooms.

transf. 1646 BP. HALL *Poems* 95 There did he loose his snowy Innocence.

b. Used to qualify *white* or *whiteness*.

1785 PENNANT *Arct. Zool.* II. 549 Of a snowy whiteness. 1791 COWPER *Yardley Oak* 128 A splinter'd stump bleach'd to a snowy white. 1838 DICKENS *Nickleby* I, Stained rotten canvas looked a snowy white. 1859 JEPHSON *Brittany* v. 50 That snowy whiteness which I so much admired in the Breton caps. 1883 *Longman's Mag.* July 308 Some Alpine buttercups are snowy-white.

5. a. In the specific names of birds or animals (see quots.).

1829 GRIFFITH tr. *Cuvier* VIII. 557 *Snowy Auk, *Mormon Glacialis*. 1895 *Funk's Stand. Dict.*, **Snowy egret* or *heron*, an entirely white egret (*Ardea candidissima*) ranging from New York to Chile. 1829 GRIFFITH tr. *Cuvier* VI. 44 *Snowy Falcon, *Falco niveus*. 1827 *Ibid.* V. 265 *Lepus Glacialis* (*Snowy Hare). 1785 LATHAM *Gen. Synop. Birds* III. i. 92 *Snowy Heron, *Ardea nivea*. 1813 A. WILSON *Amer. Ornith.* VII. 120 Snowy Heron, *Ardea candidissima*. The Snowy Heron seems particularly fond of the salt marshes during summer. 1872 COUES *N. Amer. Birds* 267 Little White Egret. Snowy Heron.. Plumage always entirely white. 1885 *Snowy lemming [see LEMMING 2]. 1781 LATHAM *Gen. Synop. Birds* I. i. 132 *Snowy Owl..The whole plumage is white as snow. 1876 *Nature* XIV. 562/1 The additions to the Zoological Society's Gardens..include ..two Snowy Owls (*Nyctea nivea*). 1895 LYDEKKER *Roy. Nat. Hist.* IV. 162 The great snowy owl (*Nyctea scandiaca*) cannot be confounded with any other member of the order, being the only representative of its genus. 1777 FORSTER *Voy. round World* I. 96 Its colour induced us to call it the *snowy-petrel. 1895 LYDEKKER *Roy. Nat. Hist.* IV. 525 The snowy petrel (*Pagodroma nivea*). 1872 COUES *N. Amer. Birds* 245 *Snowy Plover..; several lateral tail feathers entirely white. 1891 *Cent. Dict.* s.v., Snowy plover, *Ægialites nivosus*, a small ring-plover of the Pacific and Mexican Gulf coasts of the United States.

b. In names of flowers, etc.

1822 *Hortus Anglicus* II. 392 *Tussilago Nivea*. Snowy Colt's-foot. 1889 R. A. R. BENNETT *Marine Aquaria* viii. 71 Snowy Anemone, ..*Sagartia nivea*. 1901 *Gardener* 12 Jan. 1047/3 In cultivation the Snowy Crowfoot [*Ranunculus amplexicaulis*] generally blooms in April or May.

c. *Snowy pear*, the snow-pear (see SNOW *sb.*1 9d).

1884 *De Candolle's Orig. Cultivated Pl.* 233 The snowy pears cultivated in France to make the drink called perry have become wild in the woods here and there.

6. *Comb.*, as *snowy-banded*, *-bosomed*, etc.

a 1618 SYLVESTER *Cup of Consolation* 10 Wks. (Grosart) II. 263 Where Snowie-winged Victory doth wun. 1648 J. BEAUMONT *Psyche* III. cxviii, Pure and snowy-countnanc'd Linen. 1717 ROWE *Ode for New Year* ii, Snowy-headed Winter leads. 1744 AKENSIDE *Pleas. Imag.* III. 434 On the brink of Ganges waits The snowy-vested seer. 1760 FAWKES tr. *Anacreon, Ode* v. 19 With snowy-bosomed Sappho gay. 1830 HOWITT *Bk. Seasons* (1837) 145 The verdurous, snowy-flowered elder. 1836–48 B. D. WALSH *Aristoph., Clouds* I. iii, Mimas's snowy-capped summit. 1855 TENNYSON *Maud* I. VIII, I heard no longer The snowy-banded..priest intone. 1889 DOYLE *M. Clarke* 227 A great herd of snowy-fleeced sheep.

B. *sb.* a. *slang.* Linen. b. The snowy owl.

1877 J. W. HORSLEY *Jottings fr. Jail* 6 We used to go and smug snowy (steal linen) that was hung out to dry. 1904 P. FOUNTAIN *Great North-West* xiii. 144 If these are European snowies, the North-West Territory bird is probably a distinct variety. *Ibid.*, The snowy made the feathers fly.

Hence **Snow'yish** *a.*, somewhat snowy.

1821 *Blackw. Mag.* X. 570 It is..rawish—coldish—icyish —snowyish.

Sno'zzle, *v. rare.* [Cf. *nozzle*, variant of NUZZLE *v.*1] *intr.* = SNUZZLE *v.* 1.

1881 *Spectator* 3 Dec. 1534 The pig snozzles in the gutter.

Snub (snʌb), *sb.*1 Also 6 snobbe, snubbe. [f. SNUB *v.*1 Cf. MSw. and Norw. *snubba* in sense 1; Sw. dial. *snubba* a short-stemmed pipe, short-horned cow.]

I. 1. An act or instance of snubbing; a remark or action intended to repress or rebuke a person.

1537 CRANMER in *State Papers Hen. VIII*, I. 562 Although in the meane season you suffre some snubbes..for the same, yet one day He will requite altogether. 1583 BABINGTON *Commandm.* (1590) 209 When euer any snubs and checkes in worde or countenance vndeserued arise. 1598 STOW *Surv.* 470 In which Tragedie London..had now and then a part, and had many a snubbe at the kinges hand. *a* 1688 BUNYAN *Israel's Hope Encouraged* Wks. 1852 I. 589 This word 'let' is sometimes used by way of rebuke and snub. 1748 RICHARDSON *Clarissa* (1811) VIII. 10, I..must have been accustomed to snubs and rebuffs from the affluent. 1861 *Sat. Rev.* 14 Sept. 269 When we endeavour to analyse it, the immediate effect of a snub is to induce a feeling of deprivation and exposure. 1885 *Manch. Exam.* 11 Mar. 5/5 Mr. Gladstone ..administered to the most presumptuous member of the House a proper snub.

† 2. A check, stop, stay, hindrance. *Obs.*

1581 T. LAWSON *Orchett* (MS. Lansd. 208 lf. 142 b), Mortimer in all haist pursued ye Saxons, And gaue thame snobbes with his Britons. 1615 W. LAWSON *Country Housew. Garden* (1626) 18 Thriuing without snub he will ouerlay your grafted Stocke much. 1672 P. HENRY *Diaries & Lett.* (1882) 248 Exchequer stopt from issuing forth moneyes to pay debts for this year, a snub to trade.

3. *U.S.* A sudden check given to a rope or cable in running out; a post or stake enabling this to be done. 1891 in *Cent. Dict.*

II. †4. A snag or stub. *Obs.*

1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* I. viii. 7 Lifting vp his dreadfull club on hight, All arm'd with ragged snubbes and knottie graine.

5. *Mech.* ? = SNUG *sb.*1 2.

1844 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* VII. 19/2 The swings are attached to the frame by means of snubs.., which are bolted vertically to the lower ends of the swings.

† **Snub,** *sb.*2 *Obs.*—1 [Cf. SNUB *v.*2] A sob.

1742 SHENSTONE *Schoolmistr.* xxiv, He..with snubs profound, and heaving breast,..does declare His grievous wrong.

Snub (snʌb), *sb.*3 and *a.* [See SNUB NOSE.]

A. *sb.* A snub nose.

1830 MARRYAT *Pacha Many T.* XV, As my father's nose was aquiline, and mine is a snub. 1840 BARHAM *Ingol. Leg* Ser. II. *Aunt Fanny* vii, She turn'd up her dear little snub at 'the Man'. 1862 SALA *Seven Sons* I. xi. 266 Her nose between the mild retroussé and the decided snub.

B. *adj.* 1. Of the nose: Short and turned up.

1844 DICKENS *Mart. Chuz.* xvi, That order of nose on which the envy of mankind has bestowed the appellation 'snub'. 1853 MRS. GASKELL *Cranford* i, Her nose was unformed and snub. 1886 WELLDON *Aristotle's Rhet.* 30 The aquiline or snub character of a nose.

2. Snub-nosed.

1883 G. MEREDITH *Poems of Joy of Earth* 39 The snub kids Upon hindlegs went sportive.

Snub (snʌb), *v.*1 Also 4 snube, 5–6 snubbe, 7 snubb. [a. ON. *snubba* (MSw. *snubba*, *snobba*), recorded in sense 1; mod. Norw. and Sw. dial. *snubba*, Da. *snubbe*, have also the sense of cutting short, making stumpy, etc. See also SNIB *v.*]

1. *trans.* To check, reprove, or rebuke in a sharp or cutting manner; in later use, to treat or receive (a person, suggestion, etc.) in a way calculated to repress or mortify.

(*a*) *a* 1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* lviii. 17 They sal snube [*v.r.* snyb] þaim, þat will not be converted. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 347/2 To Snubbe. 1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 181 To Snubbe, *arguere, culpare.* *a* 1610 BABINGTON *Wks.* (1622) 48 We see the great .. goodnesse of God, .. neuer snubbing any child of his for imperfection of faith. 1676 ETHEREDGE *Man of Mode* III. ii, Do not you fall on him, Medley, and snub him. Sooth him up in his extravagance! 1727 DE FOE *Protestant Monastery* 6 When they see the Son curbing the Father, or the Daughter snubbing the Mother. 1796 MME. D'ARBLAY *Camilla* V. 9, I often snub Hal..for fear of his getting out of my hands. 1835 MARRYAT *J. Faithful* xv, Mr. Turnbull occasionally throwing in a word, and each time snubbed by his wife. 1882 B. D. W. RAMSAY *Rough Recoll.* I. viii. 187, I ventured to address him, and was most decidedly snubbed.

fig. 1620 SANDERSON *Serm.* I. 146 The force of natural conscience..will be sometimes snubbing, and stinging, and lashing, and vexing him.

(*b*) 1861 HOLME LEE *Warp & Woof* I. 30 Ursula..snubbed it as she would have snubbed any plan that did not originate with herself. 1882 in *R. Geog. Soc. Suppl. Papers* I. 1. 117 The stream now..runs in rock-strewn whirls and races which snub any question about its navigability. 1891 *Spectator* 2 May, Nothing could be more foolish than to snub voluntary effort.

b. *absol.* To employ snubbing; † to scold.

1694 CONGREVE *Double-Dealer* III. vi, I acquiesce, my Lady, but don't snub so loud. 1787 [see SNUBBEE]. 1861 *Sat. Rev.* 14 Sept. 269 But there need be nothing cruel in the man who snubs. 1907 *Blackw. Mag.* Nov. 678/1 The power to snub is a weapon of defence.

† **c.** To take *up* sharply or severely; to order *about* in a sharp fashion. *Obs.*

1672 VILLIERS (Dk. Buckhm.) *Rehearsal* IV. i. (Arb.) 95 A fierce Hero, that frights his Mistriss, snubs up Kings, ..and does what he will. 1711 SHAFTESBURY *Charac.* (1737) III. Misc. v. ii. 271 To censure merely what another Person writes, to twitch, snap, snub up, or banter. *a* 1797 MARY WOLLSTONECR. *Posth. Wks.* (1798) I. 160 She did not like to go to service, to be snubbed about, after being her own mistress.

2. † **a.** To check or restrain (a thing); to prevent from having free course or development. *Obs.*

1583 BABINGTON *Commandm.* (1590) 251 Euery Christian is to take heede..to snub the course of Sathan at the first. 1592 — *Notes Genesis* XXXVIII. § 8. 151 Beware we then euer of discontent, and snubbe it betimes. *a* 1624 BP. M. SMITH *Serm.* 186 Wisedome..snubbeth and crosseth all vnlawfull designes. *a* 1688 BUNYAN *Christ a Compl. Saviour* Wks. 1853 I. 217 He is holy, and so will snub their lusts.

b. *Naut.* and *U.S.* To check or stop (a rope or cable) suddenly while running out; to stop or bring *up* (a boat, etc.) sharply or suddenly, esp. by passing a rope round a post; to fasten or tie (*up*).

(*a*) 1841 R. H. DANA *Seaman's Man.* 124 *Snub*, to check a rope suddenly. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk., Snubbing her*, bringing a ship up suddenly with an anchor. 1887 *Century Mag.* Aug. 483/2 A deck-hand forward to 'snub' her in the locks and take a line to the tow-path.

(*b*) 1888 *Century Mag.* Mar. 660/1 He is taught this by being violently snubbed up..the first two or three times that he feels the noose settle round his neck. 1895 *Outing* XXVII. 224/1, I kept him snubbed up too closely for him to get a start. 1903 A. ADAMS *Log Cowboy* x. 153 We took a guy line from the wagon and snubbed it to a tree.

3. To check the growth of; to shorten; to cut, nip, or break *off*, the end of (a thing). Now *rare*.

1615 W. LAWSON *Country Housew. Garden* (1626) 35 Either snub his top with a nip betwixt your finger and your thumb, or with a sharpe knife. 1641 H. BEST *Farm. Bks.* (Surtees) 77 The yeere was (as yett) but younge, and the field indifferent good, and not much snubbed. 1704 RAY *Creation* I. (ed. 4) 96 The Trees..whose Heads and Boughs I have observ'd..to be so snub'd by the Winds, as if their Boughs and Leaves had been par'd or shaven off on that side. 1831 JANE PORTER *Sir E. Seaward's Narr.* I. 161, I therefore hung the handkerchief on the branch of a tree, that I snubbed off short for the purpose. 1886 *S. W. Linc. Gloss.* 136 You should ha' putten some salt on, it would ha' snubbed them [*sc.* weeds] anyhow.

b. To make snub-nosed or snub.

1796 *Mod. Gulliver* 186 Get snubb'd i' th' nose—or haply singe our beards. 1845 S. JUDD *Margaret* I. xiv, They laughed, and snubbed their noses with their handkerchiefs.

† **4.** To cheat or defraud. *Obs.*

1694 ECHARD *Plautus* 93 For th' old Men ha' now open'd a Passage for my Tricks to make Incursions, and snub 'em o' their Mony.

5. *intr.* To press bluntly.

1846 in Thornton *Amer. Gloss.* (1912) s.v., I felt the cold nose of the captain of the band [of sharks] snubbing against my side.

Hence **Snu·bbable** *a.* (Cf. UNSNUBBABLE *a.*)

1908 L. A. TOLLEMACHE *Old & Odd Mem.* 130 So wholesomely snubbable as just to stop short of being bores.

Snub, *v.*[2] Now *dial.* and *U.S.* [var. of SNOB *v.*[1]] *intr.* To sob.

1621 T. BEDFORD *Sin unto Death* 50 He striveth, strugleth, roareth, sobbeth, snubbeth, and ready he is to burst for anger. 1671 in SKINNER. 1880 *Scribner's Mag.* June 300/2, I heerd her a-cryin' an' a-snubbin', all night.

Snub-, the stem of SNUB *v.*[1] used in a few combs., as † **snub-devil,** a clergyman (*obs. slang*); **snub-line, -post,** *U.S.* a snubbing-line or -post.

1785 GROSE *Dict. Vulg. T., Snub devil*, a parson. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2231/2 *Snub-post*, a form of bitt or mooring-post on a raft or canal-boat. 1908 H. DAY *King Spruce* XXVI, The snub-line down the steep quarter-mile.. made a cut-off that doubled the efficiency of the teams.

Snubbed (snʌbd), *ppl. a.* [f. SNUB *v.*[1]]

1. Checked, restrained; repressed by snubbing.

1596 BABINGTON *Brief Conf.* 20 Their snubbed harts would call their snubs to remembrance. 1840 HOOD *Up Rhine* 228 The snubbed children of a family are often better than the spoiled ones. 1895 MEREDITH *Amazing Marriage* xii, O but she was a snubbed young woman last night!

2. Turned up and flattened at the tip.

1802 H. MARTIN *Helen of Glenross* I. 70 Mr. Isaac now saw beyond his nose, (no great distance, by the bye, for it is vulgarly snubbed). 1840 MARRYAT *Poor Jack* viii, His nose [was] snubbed. 1862 BORROW *Wales* cviii, A broad face, grey eyes, a snubbed nose [etc.].

Snubbee. In 8 snubee. [f. SNUB *v.*[1]] One who is snubbed.

1787 H. WALPOLE *Lett. to C'tess Ossory* II. 298 You tell me too that I snub and sneer; I protest I thought I was the snubee.

Snubber (snʌ·bəɹ). [f. SNUB *v.*[1]]

1. One who administers a snub or snubs.

1861 *Sat. Rev.* 14 Sept. 269 Either the snubber has authority on his side,..or perhaps we have given way to enthusiasm, and are met by ridicule. 1880 'OUIDA' *Moths* III. 18 The disagreeable snappers and snubbers and snarlers.

2. *U.S.* One who snubs a rope or boat; a device for snubbing or checking.

1853 in Thornton *Amer. Gloss.* (1912) II. 825 A snubber.. snubs the boat when she heaves to on the heel-path shore. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2231/2 *Snubber*, a cable-stopper.

Snubbiness (snʌ·binės). [f. SNUBBY *a.*[2] and *a.*[3]] The character or quality of being snubby.

1828 *Lights & Shades* II. 183 The snubbiness and obstinate stupidity of the Irish nose. 1865 MRS. GASKELL *Wives & Daughters* XXVIII, At last there came a day when Mrs. Gibson went beyond her usual negative snubbiness, and.. was guilty of positive rudeness.

Snubbing (snʌ·biŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. SNUB *v.*[1]]

1. The action of checking, repressing, or rebuking, esp. by means of a snub.

1600 SURFLET *Countrie Farme* VI. XXII. 778 At the least by snubbing and checking of naturall heat. 1693 BAMPFIELD *Reply to Wallis* 55 Other snubbing of Sunday..I remember none, but he often calls the Lords Sabbath by a reflecting addition. 1768 GOLDSM. *Good-n. Man* IV, I did hear him say, a little snubbing, before marriage, would teach you to bear it the better afterwards. 1861 *Sat. Rev.* 14 Sept. 268 By cultivating the art of snubbing. 1876 F. E. TROLLOPE *Charming Fellow* III. XXV. 302 The kind-hearted little spinster endured a vast amount of snubbing.

attrib. 1869 TROLLOPE *He Knew*, etc. XLII. (1878) 231 On that occasion,..being in a snubbing humour, [she] had snubbed him.

b. An instance of this.

1841 J. H. NEWMAN in *Apologia* (1864) 241, I have managed to take out on my side my snubbing's worth. 1857 S. OSBORN *Quedah* XII. 153 They got a severe snubbing for doing so. 1896 A. J. C. HARE *Story Life* II. viii. 99, I was more free from family snubbings than I had ever been before.

2. *Naut.* and *U.S.* (See SNUB *v.*[1] 2 b.)

1846 A. YOUNG *Naut. Dict.* 288 *Snubbing*, checking or easing off a little of a ship's cable or hawser, in order to prevent a sudden jerk when bringing the vessel up, or on other occasions. 1889 A. T. PASK *Eyes Thames* 69 The snubbing of the chain gives a disagreeable jerking which is trying to the system.

b. *attrib.*, as *snubbing-line, -post.*

1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2231/2 *Snubbing-line*, the line on the bow of a canal-boat [etc.]. 1887 *Sci. Amer.* 21 May 326/2 A stout line is carried forward, and the ends are attached .. to snubbing posts. 1888 *Century Mag.* Mar. 655/2 The high, circular horse-corral, with a snubbing-post in the center. 1900 *Engineering Mag.* XIX. 665 The checking of the ship when afloat is done exclusively by snubbing lines.

Snu·bbing, *ppl. a.* [f. SNUB *v.*[1]] Of the nature of a snub; repressing by a snub or snubs.

1887 [? MISS INGHAM] *Poor Nellie* (1888) 120 He hoped Adela had not thought his abrupt departure rude and snubbing. 1900 ELEANOR GLYN *Visits Elizabeth* (1906) 20, I was not once agreeable, or anything but stiff and snubbing.

So **Snu·bbingly** *adv.*, in a snubbing manner.

1861 MEREDITH *Evan Harrington* I. xi. 205 The chairman welcomed them a trifle snubbingly. 1883 MISS BROUGHTON *Belinda* I. vi, 'You never do anything but what you wish yourself?' asks Rivers snubbingly.

Snubbish (snʌ·biʃ), *a.* [f. SNUB *a.* and *v.*[1]]

1. Somewhat snub.

1828 *Ann. Reg., Law Cases* 365/2 A short snubbish nose. 1848 H. ROGERS *Ess.* (1874) I. vi. 310 His eyes are not so prominent as yours, nor is his nose so snubbish.

2. Repressive; inclined to snub.

1840 HOOD *An Open Question* 146 Have we not had enough To make Religion sad, and sour, and snubbish?

Hence **Snu·bbishly** *adv.*; **Snu·bbishness.**

1840 *New Monthly Mag.* LVIII. 526 Miss Biggs..turned up her snub-nose more snubbishly. 1848 H. ROGERS *Ess.* (1874) I. vi. 310 He has a strong resemblance to you..in the *snubbishness* of his nose.

Snu·bby, *a.*[1] *rare*—[1]. [f. SNUB *sb.*[1] 4.] Knotty.

a 1758 M. MENDEZ *Seasons, Summer* 1 in *Coll. Poems* (1770) II. 233 Beneath yon snubby oak's extended shade.

Snubby (snʌ·bi), *a.*[2] [f. SNUB *a.* Cf. Sw. dial. *snubbug, snubbi*, Icel. *snubbóttr* (Norw. *snubbutt*) in same sense.] Somewhat snub; short, stumpy.

(*a*) 1828 *Blackw. Mag.* XXIII. 494 What a snout he turns up to the morning air,..pimpled, snubby, and snorty. 1860 GEO. ELIOT *Mill on Floss* I. 108 Her little straight nose, not at all snubby. 1894 SIR E. SULLIVAN *Woman* 69 If Cleopatra's nose had been..a little more snubby or a little more aquiline.

(*b*) 1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss.* s.v., What a snubby point you've got to your pencil. 1865 WHITNEY *Gayworthys* iv, The snubby end of her little freckled nose.

Snubby (snʌ·bi), *a.*[3] [f. SNUB *v.*[1]] Inclined to snub; repressing with snubs.

1867 E. V. B. in *Cornhill Mag.* (1907) Feb. 196 She would not understand. She was just a little snubby, I thought. 1889 'F. ANSTEY' *Pariah* I. iii, You were so very snubby to that poor Mr. Chadwick.

Snubnerlik: see SNOBBERLY *adv. Obs.*

Snub nose. Also **snub-nose.** [f. SNUB *v.*[1] 3. Cf. Norw. dial. *snubbnos* (Ross).] A short stumpy nose turned up and flattened at the tip.

1724 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 6251/3 He is a thick-set Boy, with a snub Nose. 1793 HOLCROFT tr. *Lavater's Physiog.* xvii. 87 [I know] the Russians by the snub nose. 1818 BYRON *Juan* I. clx, With prying snub-nose, and small eyes, he stood, Following Antonia's motions. 1838 BARHAM Ser. I. *Hand of Glory* (1905) 28 The very snore froze, In his very snub nose. 1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) IV. 235 He has a snub nose, and projecting eyes.

Snu·b-nosed, *a.* [f. as prec.] Having a snub nose.

1725 BAILEY *Erasm. Colloq.* (1878) I. 44 Can you fancy that..Snub-nos'd, Sparrow-mouth'd, Paunch-belly'd Creature? 1758 *Ann. Reg., Poetry* 439 A snub-nos'd dog to fat inclin'd. 1775 SHERIDAN *Duenna* II. ii, I was taught to believe you a little black, snub-nosed fellow. 1833 MARRYAT *P. Simple* (1863) 187 The lieutenant, who was a little snub-nosed man, with a pimply face. 1882 *Macm. Mag.* XLVI. 126 The snub-nosed effigy on his coins.

b. In specific names (see quots.).

c 1880 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* II. 255 The Short-headed Whale, or Snub-nosed Cachalot. 1884 COUES *N. Amer. Birds* 807 *Simorhynchus cristatellus*,..Snub-nosed Auk. 1891 *Cent. Dict.* s.v. *Simenchelys, S. parasiticus*, the only species, is known as the pug-nosed or snub-nosed eel.

Hence **Snu·b-no·sedness.**

1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) IV. 228 The snubnosedness of Theaetetus..is characteristic both of him and Socrates.

† **Snuch.** *Obs.*—[1] [Related to *snudge* in the same way as *slutch, smutch*, to *sludge, smudge.*] = SNUDGE *sb.*

1579–80 NORTH *Plutarch* (1595) 135 But in the ende..this bribing wretch was forced for to hold a typling booth, most like a clowne or snuch.

† **Snu·ddle,** *v. Obs.*—[1] [perh. an error for *suddle*, but cf. G. *schnudeln* to snotter, *beschnudeln* to befoul, etc.] *trans.* To defile, dirty.

1661 K. W. *Conf. Charac.* (1860) 87 She's a fine dirty hiero-glip[h]ick of her pigsty recreations, snuddled and kennel'd over with the dirty sackcloth of her gloomy harding.

Snudge (snʌdʒ), *sb.* [Cf. SNUDGE *v.*[1], and see also SNOWGE, SNUCH.]

1. A miser, a mean avaricious person, a niggard; a sneaking or sponging fellow. Now *dial.*

Very common from *c* 1550 to 1610.

1545 ASCHAM *Toxoph.* I. (Arb.) 28 Thus youre husbandrie me thinke, is more like the life of a couetouse snudge.., then the labour of a good husband. 1553 T. WILSON *Rhet.* (1567) 82 Some riche snudges hauyng greate wealthe, goe with their hose out at heeles. 1608 DEKKER *Work for Armourers* Wks. (Grosart) IV. 160 Those snudges and miserable cormorants that now feede vpon thee. 1677 MIÉGE *Dict.* II. s.v., A Snudging man, or a Snudge, a man that has a curmudging way with him. 1694 MOTTEUX *Rabelais* v. xvi. (1737) 72 The filthy Snudge is..mischievous. 1877–88 in Cheshire and Sheffield glossaries.

transf. 1573 G. HARVEY *Letter-bk.* (Camden) 8 He plaid the veri snudg then that had so much lerning and shoud so litle. 1593 — *Pierce's Super.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 254 Histories are no snudges in matters of note. 1600 DEKKER *Fortunatus* II. ii, O I feare that deitie Hath stolne him hence, that snudge his destinie.

Comb. 1576 T. NEWTON tr. *Lemnie's Complex.* 103 b, Who Snudgelike to his frend..Not one poore draught thereof would send. 1606 *Wily Beguiled* in Hazl. *Dodsley* IX. 232, I heard your father say that he would marry you to Peter Plod-all, that puck-fist, that snudge-snout.

† **2.** *Cant.* (See quot.) *Obs.* (Cf. SNUDGE *v.*[2])

1676 COLES, *Snudg*, one that hides himself in a house to do mischief. *a* 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew, Snudge*, one that lurks under a Bed, to watch an opportunity to Rob the House.

Snudge (snʌdʒ), *v.*[1] [Of obscure origin.]

† **1.** *intr.* To be miserly, stingy, or saving. Also with *it. Obs.*

c 1540 COPLAND *Hye Way to Spyttel Ho.* 25 That man that..euer is bare, hungry and indygent, Scrapynge and snudgynge without any cease. 1573 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 139 Good husbandry snudgeth, for fear of a dout. 1611 FLORIO, *Spilorciare*, to grudge, to snudge, to dodge or play the slouenlie niggard or pinch-pennie. 1611 COTGR. s.v. *Avoine*, To snudge it; or churlishly to eat all his meat all alone.

2. To walk in a stooping or meditative attitude. Freq. with *along.* Now *dial.*

1677 MIÉGE *Dict.* II. s.v., To Snudge about business, *aller d'un air rampant, comme font les grands avares.* 1687 — *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II. s.v., To Snudge along, or go like an old Snudge, or like one whose Head is full of business. 1828–in dial. glossaries (Yorks., Northampt., E. Anglia, Surrey, Sussex).

Hence **Snu·dging** *vbl. sb.* and *ppl. a.*

1553 T. WILSON *Rhet.* (1580) 145 Snudgyng wittely rebuked. 1577 STANYHURST *Descr. Irel.* in *Holinshed* (1808) VI. 23 Some of his friends, that were snudging penie-fathers, would take him up verie roughlie for..his outragious expenses. 1677 [see SNUDGE *sb.* 1]. 1687 MIÉGE *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II. s.v., A Snudging along, *demarche de Faquin.* 1713 PRIOR in *Bolingbroke's Corresp.* (1798) II. 445, I cannot imagine how you came to know that snudging boy.

Snudge (snʌdʒ), *v.*[2] Now *dial.* [Of obscure origin: perh. related to SNUG *v.*] *intr.* To remain snug and quiet; to nestle.

1633 G. HERBERT *Temple, Giddinesse* iii, Now he will fight it out, and to the warres; Now eat his bread in peace, And snudge in quiet. 1655 VAUGHAN *Silex Scint.* I. (1858) 124

The Age, the present times are not To snudge in, and embrace a cot. 1686 F. SPENCE tr. *Saint Euvremont's Misc.* Pref. C 3, Tragedy, like the Aristotelian virtue, is to lie snudging betwixt them both. 1755 JOHNSON, To *snug*, to lie close; to snudge. 1823– in dial. glossaries (Westm., Yorks., Derby, Suffolk).

†Snu·dgery. *Obs. rare*$^{-1}$. [f. SNUDGE *sb.*] Miserliness.

1599 NASHE *Lent. Stuffe* 3 Those graybeard huddle-duddles..were stroke with such stinging remorse of their miserable Euclionisme and snudgery.

Snuff (snʌf), *sb.*[1] Forms: 4–6 **snoffe**, 5 **snof**, 9 *dial.* **snoff**; 4–7 **snuffe**, 7 **snuf**; 6– **snuff**. [Of obscure origin: G. *schnuppe* (†*snupe*), which agrees in sense, does not correspond phonetically.]

I. 1. That portion of a wick, etc., which is partly consumed in the course of burning to give light, and in the case of candles requires to be removed at intervals; †a candle-end.

Also *Mining*, a smift (Gresley, 1883): cf. SNOFF.

1382 WYCLIF *Exod.* xxv. 38 Candelquenchers, and..where the snoffes ben quenchid. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* xviii. xxxix. (MS. Bodl.), 3if a mare..smelleþ þe snoffe of a candel sheo casteþ here foole. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 462/1 Snuffe, of a candel, *muco*. 1530 PALSGR. 272/1 Snoffe of a candell, *mesche, limignon, lumignon*. 1544 PHAER *Regim. Lyfe* (1553) E iij, Ye must lay to yᵉ nose..assafetida, or the snuffes of candels. 1577–87 HOLINSHED *Chron.* III. 1208/1 Through negligence of a maiden with a candell, the snuffe falling in an hundred pounds weight of gunpowder. *c* 1645 HOWELL *Lett.* (1655) IV. xxi. 58 In som this light goes out with an ill-favor'd stench; But others have a save-all to preserve it from making any snuff at all. *a* 1687 H. MORE *Cont. Remark. Stories* (1689) 406 Striking the Candle..and afterwards making three Scrapes on the Snuff to put it out. 1687 MIÈGE *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II, Snuff,..*bout de Chandelle*. 1705 ADDISON *Italy, Antiq. near Naples* 230 A Torch, Snuff and all, goes out in a Moment when dipp'd into the Vapour. 1756 *Phil. Trans.* LV. 185 Hence the suffocating nature of air impregnated with burnt grease, as from snuffs of candles, and the like. 1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 347 On letting it down again, it will be perfectly lighted from the spark of the snuff. 1843 KEIGHTLEY *Notes Virg., Georg.* I. 390 The thick snuff which gathers on the wick [of the lamp]. 1870 E. PEACOCK *Ralf Skirl.* II. 161 A candle with a long snuff burnt on the table.

collect. a 1400–50 *Bk. Curtasye* 829 in *Babees Bk.*, Of wax þese candels alle..; Þo snof of hom dose a-way With close sesours. *a* 1631 DONNE *Sat.* ii.-78 As a thrifty wench..barrelling the droppings, and the snuffe, Of wasting candles.

Comb. 1733 LADY G. BAILLIE *Househ. Bk.* (1911) 381, 2 Snuff pans. 1758 FRANKLIN *Lett.* Wks. 1887 III. 8 There are also snuffers, a snuffstand, and extinguisher, of steel.

b. In comparisons, used to describe what is faint, feeble, or on the point of extinction.

1534 MORE *Comf. agst. Trib.* II. Wks. 1172/1, I can not licken my life more metely now than to the snuffe of a candle. 1589 *Pappe with Hatchet* (1844) 36 A wit worn into the socket, twinkling and pinking like the snuffe of a candle. 1631 QUARLES *Samson* viii, The other are but blasts, That faintly blaze like Oyle-forsaken snuffes. 1654 WARREN *Unbelievers* 252 His Arguments should go out like a snuffe of a candle in the socket. 1730? SWIFT *Clad all in Brown* Wks. 1755 IV. I. 263 Thy soul, which through thy hide of buff, Scarce glimmers like a dying snuff. 1786 MME. D'ARBLAY *Diary* 6 Oct., All the poor attendants..drop off, one after another, like so many snuffs of candles. 1869 TROLLOPE *He Knew*, etc. lxxxix. (1878) 494 Some said..that she was going out like the snuff of a candle.

c. *fig.* or in fig. context (see quots. and cf. prec.).

1589 *Hay any Work* 39 Why thou vnsauorly snuffe, dost tow thinke that men know not D. Bridges? 1601 SHAKS. *All's Well* I. ii. 59 Let me not liue..After my flame lackes oyle, to be the snuffe Of yonger spirits. 1652 N. CULVERWEL *Lt. Nature* I. xviii. (1661) 166 The Lamp of a Moralist..may go out in a *snuff*. *a* 1680 CHARNOCK *Attrib. God* (1834) II. 525 Were such filthy snuffs fit of themselves to be kindled by..a gospel beam? 1705 tr. *Bosman's Guinea* 410 The Buffel soon trod out the small remainder of the Snuff of his Life. 1742 YOUNG *Nt. Th.* VIII. 467 How mean that snuff of glory fortune lights, And death puts out!

d. Used to denote something of no value.

1778 MISS BURNEY *Evelina* lxxxii, Who..cares the snuff of a candle? 1887 W. S. GILBERT *Ruddigore* II, You don't care the snuff of a candle.

2. The nozzle of a lamp, in which the wick burns.

1611 COTGR., *Bec de la lampe*, the socket, or snuffe of the lampe. 1797 *Monthly Mag.* III. 507 There is also a little portative lamp, having only one snuff.

†3. A heel-tap; a portion of a drink left at the bottom of a cup. *Obs.*

1592 NASHE *P. Penilesse* Wks. (Grosart) II. 83 Rather keepe a snuffe in the bottome of the glasse to light you to bed withall. 1616 R. C. *Times' Whistle* (1871) 60 Then each must haue his bout And drink vp all; to leave a little snuffes Is petty treason. 1647 [H. NEVILE] *Parliam. of Ladies* Title-p., Either malice, or want of wit, hightned with snuffes of Ale or stayned Claret. 1673 O. WALKER *Educ.* II. i. 218 Drinking many in the same cup; and many times the snuffs left by the former. 1731–8 SWIFT *Polite Conv.* 163 (*Miss* drinking part of a Glass of Wine). *Neverout.* Pray, let me drink your Snuff.

fig. a 1640 JACKSON *Creed* XI. xix, The devil still labours to glut men.., then he vents his snuffs or refuse upon them.

II. 4. †a. *To take..in* (*the*) *snuff* (or *to snuff*), to take (a matter) amiss, to take offence at, to be annoyed or indignant at, to resent. *Obs.*

The original reference was no doubt to the unpleasant smell proceeding from the smoking snuff of a candle, but there may also have been association with SNUFF *sb.*[2] or *v.*[2] The phrase was especially common between 1580 and 1660.

1560 DAUS *Sleidane's Comm.* 463 A brute went that the Pope toke it in snuffe [L. *indigne tulisse*] that this truce was made. 1570 FOXE *A. & M.* 2281/1 This matter the Justice tooke sore to snuffe, and was very angry. 1579 W. WILKINSON *Confut. Fam. Love* 41 Hee..taketh it greatly in the snuffe, that his stuffe..should be brought to light. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* III. 28 Englishmen, especially being young and unexperienced, are apt to take all things in snuffe. 1661 PEPYS *Diary* 6 Oct., Mr. Mills.., I expect, should take it in snuffe that my wife did not come to his child's christening the other day. 1716 T. WARD *Eng. Reform.* 129 Pray take it not, you old Cur-mudgeon, So much in snuff and evil dudgeon.

b. *To take snuff*, to take offence or umbrage (*at* a thing). *Obs.* exc. *arch.*

In quot. 1821 associated with SNUFF *sb.*[3] (cf. PEPPER *sb.* 4 b).

1565 ALLEN *Defence Purg.* xiv. 262 Aërius,..taking snoffe that he could not get a bisshoprike, fell in to the hæresy of Arius. 1597 BEARD *Theatre God's Judgem.* (1612) 195 The yonker taking snuffe thereat, Why (said hee) takest thou thought for me? 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* II. 211 Which the Manksmen hearing, tooke such a snuffe and indignation thereat that they sent for Olave. 1640 FULLER *Joseph's Coat* (1867) 51 Let us heed how we take snuff at the simplicity of God's ordinance. 1692 R. L'ESTRANGE *Fables* I. clxxxv. 156 Jupiter took Snuff at the Contempt, and Punish'd him for't. 1725 *New Cant. Dict.* s.v., *To take Snuff*, to take Pet. [1822 SCOTT *Kenilw.* i, But take no snuff in the nose about it. 1876 G. H. KINGSLEY *Sport & Trav.* (1900) 322 With hearty hoping that North Britons will not take huffe nor snuffe at these kindly criticisms.]

5. A fit of indignation; a huff, pet, rage, passion. Used with *a*, *the*, or without article. Now *Sc.*

(*a*) 1592 GREENE *Upst. Courtier* Wks. (Grosart) XI. 279 These were going away in a snuff, for beeing thus plainly taunted. 1605 SHAKS. *Lear* III. i. 26 Either in snuffes, and packings of the Dukes, Or the hard Reine which both of them hath borne Against the old kinde King, *c* 1620 BP. HALL *Contempl., O. T.* XIV. (1628) 1145 Abners duty..not to flye out in a snuffe.

(*b*) 1607 S. COLLINS *Serm.* (1608) 184 Smothering the talent that he lent thee..in snuffe, and pelting discontent. 1609 B. JONSON *Sil. Wom.* IV. v, He went away in snuffe, and I followed him. 1665 PEPYS *Diary* 19 Sept., I find they go up in snuffe to bed without taking any manner of leave of them.

(*c*) 1886 STEVENSON *Kidnapped* iii. 18 Dinnae fly up in the snuff at me. 1898 COBBAN *Angel of Covenant* xi. 124 The mighty high snuff and dudgeon ye gaed aff wi'.

†6. *attrib.* Angry, violent. *Obs.*[-1]

1582 STANYHURST *Æneis* II. (Arb.) 68 Now me the Myrmidones for captiue prisoner hold not, Nor sterne snuff Dolopans.

Snuff (snʌf), *sb.*[2] Also 6–7 **snuffe**. [f. SNUFF *v.*[2] Cf. MDu. and Du. *snuf*, *snof* snuffing, snuffling, cold in the head, scent (of a thing), G. *schnuff* scent, nose, LG. *snüff* nose, snout; also MDu. *snuuf*, *snuyf*, LG. *snüf* snuffing, snuffles.]

1. An (*or* the) act of snuffing, esp. as an expression of contempt or disdain.

1570 DEE *Math. Pref.* 10 Other (perchaunce) with a proud snuffe will disdain this litle. 1593 ABP. BANCROFT *Daungerous Positions* IV. iii. 140 These points are..passed ouer with a snuffe, and with great disdaine. 1629 GAULE *Holy Madnesse* 198 Nought but a glance, a puffe, a snuffe, a frown. 1809 MALKIN *Gil Blas* IV. viii. P 9 That hound-like snuff at an ill construction, with which the devil has armed the noses of the most charitable. 1840 HOOD *Up Rhine* 178 Ere a horrible reek..Set the dogs on the snuff. 1849 C. BRONTË *Shirley* viii, His nostrils emitted a derisive and defiant snuff. 1866 [see SNIVEL *sb.* 4].

b. A persistent snuffling; a disease in sheep.

a 1585 MONTGOMERIE *Flyting* 308 The snuff and the snoire, the chaud-peece, the chanker. 1902 *Westm. Gaz.* 13 June 10/2 A sheep affected soon becomes thin and languid, and its painful snuffling has led farmers to call the disease 'snuff'.

†2. A puff, blast. *Obs.*

1613 J. DAVIES (Heref.) *Muse's Tears* Wks. (Grosart) I. 15/1 Then, let Fates Snuffes and Puffes as winds of Grace, Serene the Heauen of your Maiestick Face. 1642 D. ROGERS *Naaman* 439 Though it lye long in the moulds by reason of cold snuffes of weather.

3. Smell, odour, scent.

1763 STUKELEY *Palæogr. Sacr.* 93 The immortal, the eternal,..wants not the snuff of mortal incense, for his, but for our own sakes. 1844 HOOD *The Turtles* 34 All whiffs, and sniffs, and puffs, and snuffs, From metals, minerals, and dyewood stuffs.

4. An inhalation, a sniff, *of* something.

1822 GALT *Sir A. Wylie* lxxv, Take a snuff of caller air on the brow of the hill. 1852 MRS. STOWE *Uncle Tom's C.* 151 One snuff of anything disagreeable being..sufficient to put an end to all her earthly trials.

Snuff (snʌf), *sb.*[3] [prob. ad. Du. and Flem. *snuf* or *snuif* (WFris. *snuf*) in the same sense, app. an abbreviation of *snuiftabak* (cf. LG. *snuvtobak*, G. *schnupftabak*, for which Swiss dial. has *schnupf*, *schnopf*): cf. prec. and SNUFF *v.*[2]]

1. A preparation of powdered tobacco for inhaling through the nostrils.

The practice of taking snuff appears to have become fashionable about 1680, but prevailed earlier in Ireland and Scotland (see SMUTCHIN and SNEEZING *vbl. sb.* 2 b).

1683 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1800/4 James Norcock, Snuffmaker and Perfumer,..sells all sorts of Snuffs, Spanish and Italian. 1703 *Ibid.* No. 3963/3 Tobacco at 2d. per *lb.* Snuff 4d. 2q. per *lb.* 1724 SWIFT *Reasons agst. Exam. Drugs* Wks. 1755 III. I. 127 The makers of snuff, who..employ by far the greatest number of hands of any manufacture of the kingdom. 1796 MME. D'ARBLAY *Camilla* III. 142 She perceived him, a few yards off, taking a pinch of snuff. 1815 ELPHINSTONE *Acc. Caubul* (1842) I. 307 Their snuff is a dry and fine powder like Scotch snuff. 1837 DICKENS *Pickw.* ii, He took snuff with everybody. 1884 F. M. CRAWFORD *Rom. Singer* I. 23 Ercole takes snuff when he is not smoking.

transf. 1709 *Brit. Apollo* No. 4. 4/2 A Most Excellent Cephalick Water, or Liquid Snuff.

fig. 1719 D'URFEY *Pills* V. 90 A Wench..Gave Snuff to me, Out of her Placket box. 1819 SHELLEY *Peter Bell 3rd* III. xix. 3 Sometimes the poor are damned indeed To take.. Cobbett's snuff, revenge.

b. Any powder used like snuff, esp. for medical purposes; a sternutatory or errhine. *rare.*

1861 S. THOMSON *Wild Fl.* III. (ed. 4) 306 Of one, the sneeze-wort yarrow (*Achillea ptarmica*), the leaves..are used as a snuff in head affections.

2. A pinch of snuff. [So WFlem. *snuuf.*]

17.. RAMSAY *Vision* xxi. Poems 1877 I. 127 Gallus sneerd and tuke a snuff. 1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* Prol., I will enrich..thy nose with a snuff from my mull. 1863 A. H. CHARTERIS *Life Robertson* x. 308 A snuff between his finger and thumb which he had no time to take. 1897 PRYDE *Queer Folk Fife* 87 In his excitement he took four or five snuffs consecutively.

b. Used to denote something of small value.

1809 DONALDSON *Poems* 72 My memory, man, 's no worth a snuff. 1844 W. CROSS *Disruption* xviii, I wadna gie a snuff for ony minister but a parish minister. 1881 W. WALKER in Edwards *Mod. Sc. Poets* Ser. III. 106 They'll care nae a snuff though grim poverty shake ye.

c. A pinch, a very small quantity, *of* something.

1842 J. AITON *Domest. Econ.* 258 Put a snuff of the carbonate of soda into the broth pot when it first comes to boil. 1883 *Cassell's Bk. Sports & Pastimes* 50 A snuff of sand, or tuft of grass, to give the requisite elevation.

3. In colloquial phrases: **a.** *Up to snuff*, knowing, sharp, not easily deceived. Also *attrib.*

1811 POOLE *Hamlet Trav.* II. i, He knows well enough The game we're after: Zooks, he's up to snuff. 1823 EGAN *Grose's Dict. Vulg. T.* s.v. *Up*, Up to snuff, and a pinch above it. 1848 DICKENS *Dombey* xxxi, An up-to-snuff old vagabond. 1879 HOWELLS *L. Aroostook* xxii, You American ladies are so—up to snuff, as you say.

b. *To beat to snuff*, to beat utterly.

1819 *Blackw. Mag.* V. 638 All other Colleges, thou beat'st to snuff.

c. *In high snuff*, in high feather; elated.

1840 R. H. DANA *Bef. Mast* xvi, The Sandwich-Islanders rode down, and were in 'high snuff'.

d. *To give* (one) *snuff*, to deal sharply or severely with; to punish.

1890 [R. C. LEHMANN] *Harry Fludyer* 30 He rather gave me snuff about my extravagance. 1896 BADEN-POWELL *Matabele Campaign* vii, Then with eager haste..he dashed up the rocks to 'give the nigger snuff'.

4. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *snuff-bottle*, *-colour*, *hand*, *-handkerchief*, *-mundungus*, *-rasp*, *-shop*, *-spoon*, *-stick*, *-work*; obj. and obj. gen., as *snuff-grinder*, *-maker*, *-manufacturer*, *-merchant*, *-taker*, *-taking*, *-using*; instrumental and parasynthetic, as *snuff-clad*, *-headed*, *-stained*; similative, as *snuff-brown*. Also SNUFF-BOX, -COLOURED, etc.

1884 GILMOUR *Mongols* 90 After *snuff bottles had been exchanged. 1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* Prol., A new coat (*snuff-brown, and with metal buttons). 1857 LIVINGSTONE *Trav.* xvii. 319 He had on a snuff-brown coat. 1790 WOLCOT (P. Pindar) *Elegy to Apollo* Wks. 1812 II. 278 In proud disdain their *snuff-clad noses rise. 1698 *Phil. Trans.* XX. 461 Down of a dark yellowish *Snuff-Colour. 1883 T. HARDY in *Longman's Mag.* July 256 Her dress and that of the children were mostly of faded snuff-colour. 1763 *Brit. Mag.* July 337/1 He next took up salt with the finger and thumb of his *snuff hand. 1695 MOTTEUX tr. *St. Olon's Morocco* 65 His Face muffled up in a *Snuff-Handkerchief, of a dirty hue. [1711 SWIFT *Jrnl. to Stella* 4 May, I have been a mighty handkerchief-monger, and have bought abundance of snuff ones since I have left off taking snuff.] 1849 *Zoologist* VII. 2393 The pochard is a '*snuff-headed wigeon'. 1683 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1800/4 *Snuffmaker and Perfumer. 1764 *Ann. Reg.* 108 A dreadful fire broke out in the workshop of a snuff-maker. 1822 (*title*), The British Perfumer, *Snuff-Manufacturer, and Colourman's Guide. 1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* XXXV, My worthy *snuff-merchant. 1678 BUTLER *Hud.* III. ii. 1006 After h'had ministred a Dose Of *Snuff-Mundungus, to his Nose. 1711 SWIFT *Wks.* (1824) II. 407 A fine *snuff-rasp of ivory. 1859 FAIRHOLT *Tobacco* (1876) 244 A similar snuff-rasp to this. 1767 S. PATERSON *Another Trav.* I. 192, I had recruited myself at one of the best *snuff-shops in Bruges. 1802 *Edin. Rev.* I. 109 Doomed to quiet repose in a snuff-shop. 1892 RIDER HAGGARD *Nada* xx. 166 Watching the two of them over the edge of my *snuff-spoon. 1791 WOLCOT (P. Pindar) *Magpie & Robin* Wks. 1812 II. 473 With *snuff-stain'd neckcloth. 1879 TOURGEE *Fool's Err.* (1883) 43 She had a *snuff-stick in her mouth. 1710 *Tatler* No. 141 P 6 The Whetter is obliged to refresh himself every moment with a liquor, as the *Snuff-taker with a powder. 1857 E. B. RAMSAY *Reminisc. Scot. Life & C.* iii, The inveterate snuff-taker. 1775 ASH, **Snuff-taking*, the act or practice of taking snuff. *a* 1797 in *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XVII. 565 Allowing 16 hours to a snuff-taking day. 1801 SOUTHEY *Lett.* (1856) I. 174 As I have written a reasoning defence of snuff-taking. 1813 *Examiner* 17 May 318/1 The reader has heard of his inordinate snuff-takings. 1886 *Pall Mall G.* 10 Aug. 11/3 *Snuff-using..is on the decline. 1812 J. SMYTH *Pract. Customs* (1821) 259 No Tobacco Stalks or *Snuff-work allowed to be imported on penalty of forfeiture.

5. Special combs.: **snuff-bean**, the tonka-bean, used for scenting snuff; one of these kept in a snuff-box for this purpose; **snuff-dipper** *U.S.* (see quot. 1859); also *snuff-dipping*; **snuffman**, a dealer in snuff; **snuff-paper** (in contemptuous use), bank-notes; **snuff-swab** *U.S.* (see quot.).

1898 in *Eng. Dial. Dict.* s.v., In the corner o' his mull there aye lay buried a scentit *snuff-bean. 1859 BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.* (ed. 2) 424 **Snuff-dipper*, one who makes a practice of chewing snuff. 1896 *Amer. Missionary* Oct. 324 One sister who had been a snuff-dipper for more than twenty years. *Ibid.*, The vile habit of *snuff-dipping. 1723 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 6195/7 Abraham Carcas,..*Snuffman. 1852

SAVAGE *R. Medlicott* III. i, The shop of a snuffman of the present day. 1826 SCOTT *Mal. Malagr.* iii. 8 The want of gold, to supply the place of that *snuff-paper of yours. 1872 DE VERE *Americanisms* 63 The dipping-stick is also called *snuff-swab.

Snuff, *int. Sc.* = STUFF *int.*

1725 RAMSAY *Gentle Sheph.* II. i, Spin ! Snuff !—Gae break your wheel. 1807–10 R. TANNAHILL *Poems* (1846) 21 Toot, snuff ! 'bout news ye needna be sae thrang.

Snuff (snʌf), *v.*[1] Also 5–6 snoffe, 6–7 snuffe. [f. SNUFF *sb.*[1] LG. *snuppen*, G. *schnuppen*, are used as in sense 1.]

1. *trans.* To free (a candle, wick, etc.) from the snuff, by pinching or cutting this off, or removing it with a special instrument.

c 1450 in Aungier *Syon* (1840) 367 To lyghte and quenche the tapers and candles, and snoffe them. 1465 *Mann. & Househ. Exp.* (Roxb.) 492 Item, the same day my master bowt a snoffer to snoffe wyth candeles. 1530 PALSGR. 724/1 Snoffe the candell, I can nat se to write els. 1573 R. LEVER in Luckombe *Hist. Print.* (1771) 111 The first lighteth the candle..and the second doth but snuff it. 1652 N. CULVERWEL *Lt. Nature* I. ii. (1661) 9 Some unskilful ones, while they go about to snuff the Candle,..put it out. 1691 T. BIRCH *Life Boyle* B.'s Wks. 1772 I. p. CXXXIV, When the candles are newly snuffed and so the light increased. 1753 HANWAY *Trav.* III. XXXIII, (1762) I. 151 In the middle of the room..was one large wax-candle ; which they snuffed with scissers. 1793 *Phil. Trans.* LXXXIV. 100 The candle being occasionally snuffed when it appeared to stand in need of it. 1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 316 The candle or lamp..should have a thick wick, which should be snuffed clean. 1841 DICKENS *Barn. Rudge* x, John..placed a pair of..candlesticks on the table, and snuffed the lights they held. 1887 T. A. TROLLOPE *What I remember* I. i. 26 Two tallow candles, requiring to be snuffed by snuffers lying in a little plated tray.

absol. 1637 HEYWOOD *Pleas. Dial.* Wks. 1874 VI. 321 To cleare the taper, if you snuffe too deepe, Out goes the light.

b. *fig.* To make clearer or brighter ; to purge.

1574 HELLOWES *Gueuara's Fam. Ep.* (1577) 355 It shall not be ouermuch..euerie weeke..once or twice to purge and snuffe the soule. 1577 tr. *Bullinger's Decades* (1592) 348 The ministers of Christ must be..throughly snuffed from all affections of the flesh. 1651 HOBBES *Leviath.* I. v. 22 By exact definitions first snuffed, and purged from ambiguity. *a* 1715 HALIFAX *On C'tess Dowager of* *** 5 Mopsa..Sets up for charming, in her fading days ; Snuffs her dim eyes to give one parting blow.

c. To suppress temporarily. *rare*[−1].

1650 FULLER *Pisgah* I. x. 33 The Babylonish captivity did onely snuffe Judah for seventy years.

2. With *out* : †a. To remove by snuffing. *Obs.*

c 1430 *Wyclifite Bible* Exod. xxv. 38 Where tho thingis, that ben snottid [*v.r.* snuffid] out, ben quenchid.

b. To extinguish, put out; to cause to go out or disappear from sight.

1674 HELLOWES *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II, To snuff out the Candle. 1818 BYRON *Juan* XI. lx, 'Tis strange the mind, that fiery particle, Should let itself be snuff'd out by an article. 1841 DICKENS *Barn. Rudge* iii, Slight yellow specks, that seemed to be rapidly snuffed out one by one. 1890 *Science-Gossip* XXVI. 271 During these occultations the light of the star is instantaneously snuffed out, as it were, when overtaken by the moon's limb.

c. To eclipse, efface, wipe out.

1852 HAWKER *Diary* (1893) II. 340, I hope to see the Minié snuffed out, no matter by whom. 1873 C. M. DAVIES *Unorthodox London* I. 46 At first the attempt was made to 'snuff out' 'The Sling and the Stone'. 1874 L. STEPHEN *Hours in Libr.* (1892) II. v. 149 A silly coxcombry to be.. snuffed out by the worldly cynicism of the new generation.

3. *intr.* With *out* : To die. *slang* or *colloq.*

1865 *Slang Dict.* 239 *Snuff out*, to die. 1895 A. C. BICKNELL *Trav. N. Queensland* xxi. 186 The old man was very feeble, and looked like snuffing out before he had completed his story.

b. With *it* : = prec. *slang.*

1885 SIMS *Rogues & Vagabonds* iv. 21 Josh Heckett isn't going to snuff it just for a crack on the head. 1896 *Daily News* 26 Mar. 6/4, I have the pleasure to inform you that your mother-in-law snuffed it.

Snuff (snʌf), *v.*[2] Also 6 snoffe, 6–7 snuffe. [prob. ad. MDu. *snoffen*, *snuffen* to snuffle, etc., corresponding to G. dial. *schnuffen*, † *schnüffen* (cf. also LG. and MHG. *snûfen*, G. *schnaufen*), either of imitative origin, or related to MDu. *snuwen*, etc. : see SNUVE *v.* In sense 8 perhaps directly from SNUFF *sb.*[3]]

I. *trans.* **1.** To draw *up* or *in* through the nostrils by the action of inhalation.

1527 ANDREW *Brunswyke's Distyll. Waters* D iv, The same water snuffed upward in the nose is very good to puryfye the hede. 1555 EDEN *Decades* (Arb.) 101 Snuffinge vp into theyr nosethryls the pouder. 1579 E. K. *Gloss. Spenser's Sheph. Cal.* Feb. 75 *Venteth*, snuffeth in the wind. 1608 D. T. *Ess. Pol. & Mor.* 59 b, For euen so likewise may those little Atomies be snuft vp with the ayre. 1632 tr. *Bruel's Praxis Med.* 151 We will make a powder..and snuffe this vp into the nose. 1697 *Phil. Trans.* XIX. 681 The Juice of this Weed being snuft up the Nose, is good to make one sneeze. 1746 BERKELEY *Sec. Let. Tar-water* § 15 Tar-water hath been snuffed up the nostrils. 1782 MISS BURNEY *Cecilia* IX. i, Then I take a walk..and snuff in a little fresh country air. 1818 SCOTT *Rob Roy* XXVIII, Snuffing up his breath through his nose. 1872 HUXLEY *Physiol.* viii. 197 When we wish to perceive a faint odour more distinctly, we sniff, or snuff up the air.

fig. 1629 H. BURTON *Truth's Triumph* 224 These Pontificians..snuffing vp the winde of vaine opinions. 1639 G. DANIEL *Vervic.* 485 Like to those Who put on Sullen lookes, and grumble short, Who Snuffe poore Women vp, with a hot Nose.

2. To inhale, draw up, into or through the nostrils.

To snuff pepper : see PEPPER *sb.* 4 b.

1547 BOORDE *Brev. Health* § 264 The pouder of Peper.. snuft or blowen into the nose doth make quycke sternutacions. 1615 ROWLANDS *Melancholie Knt.* 13 Snuffe some into your nostrils till you neese. 1642 H. MORE *Song of Soul* III. I. XXIX, The nostrills snuff perfumed wind. 1726 POPE *Odyss.* XIX. 508 The pack impatient snuff the tainted gale. 1774 NICHOLLS in *Corresp. w. Gray* (1843) 175 There I snuffed once more the fragrance of that air. 1814 SCOTT *Wav.* XXXVIII, The leading Highlander snuffed the wind like a setting spaniel. 1870 MORRIS *Earthly Par.* III. IV. 239 The Persian merchants stood and snuffed the scent Of frankincense.

fig. 1844 DISRAELI *Coningsby* IX. VI. 325 They snuffed the factious air, and felt the coming storm.

b. To draw *out* by snuffing. *rare*[−1].

1648 HEXHAM II, *Snuyven, ofte snuffen*, to Snuffe out the Snot or Filth out of ones Nose.

†**3.** To clear (the nose) by inhalation. *Obs.*

1561 HOLLYBUSH *Hom. Apoth.* 3 If he can not snoffe his nose. 1653 URQUHART *Rabelais* I. XX, Master Janotus with his Adherents vowed never to blow or snuffe their noses, until judgement were given.

4. To detect, perceive, or anticipate, by inhaling the odour of. Also freq. *fig.*

1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* I. 519 The Cow..from afar can find The Change of Heav'n, and snuffs it in the Wind. *a* 1763 SHENSTONE *Elegies* XXII. 82 E'en now the villain snuffs his wonted prey. 1790 P. FRANCIS in *Four C. Eng. Lett.* (1880) 307, I snuff it [i. e. mischief] in the wind. I taste it already. 1810 SOUTHEY *Kehama* VI. i, What if the hungry tiger..Should snuff his banquet nigh? 1830 GEN. P. THOMPSON *Exerc.* (1842) I. 287 The high church and the tories snuff the possibility of another revolutionary war. 1863 W. C. BALDWIN *Afr. Hunting* ii. 41 The old bull snuffed danger in the wind.

5. To smell at, examine by smelling.

1859 BROWN *Rab & Fr*, § 11 He [a dog]..snuffed him all over. 1874 BLACKIE *Self Cult.* 29 Like the racing of some little dog about the moor, snuffing everything and catching nothing. 1888 T. FROST *Country Journalist* iii. 34 He observed a dog..snuff the earth at the edge of the swampy ground.

II. *intr.* **6.** To draw air, etc., into the nostrils by an effort of inhalation; to do this in order to smell something. Also const. *after*, *at*.

a. 1530 PALSGR. 724/1, I snoffe, as a man doth, or a horse, *je renifle*. Herke how he snoffeth. 1535 COVERDALE *Jer.* ii. 23 Like a wilde Asse..that snoffeth and bloweth.

β. c 1530 LD. BERNERS *Arth. Lyt. Bryt.* (1814) 163 Than sir Isembarte..snuffed in the nose, and bette togyder his teth. 1553 *Respublica* III. iv. 775 Come the devill, yf hym luste, staring and snuffing. 1614 B. JONSON *Bart. Fair* II. v, Go, snuffe after your brothers bitch. 1672 VILLIERS (Dk. Buckhm.) *Rehearsal* I. (Arb.) 43 So Boar and Sow, when any storm is nigh, Snuff up, and smell it gath'ring in the Skie. *a* 1720 SEWEL *Hist. Quakers* (1795) II. VII. 61 But the bull snuffing, went a little back. *a* 1761 CAWTHORNE *Antiquarians* 265 Quick to his side he flies amain, And peeps, and snuffs, and peeps again. 1826 SCOTT *Woodst.* iii, The good hound..continued to snuff around Joseph Tomkins's cloak. 1863 W. C. BALDWIN *Afr. Hunting* ix. 389 He elevated head and tail, snuffed, trotted, and snorted. 1879 BEERBOHM *Patagonia* iv. 61, I woke, roused by some horse which..was snuffing at me curiously.

b. Const. *up* one's nose.

1714 in Addison *Lover* No. 10, He will also snuff up his nose and spit it out as he eats. 1741 CHESTERF. *Lett.* 25 July, Tricks such as snuffing up his nose. 1756 C. SMART tr. *Horace, Sat.* II. vii. (1826) II. 161, I am easily seduced by my appetite ; I snuff up my nose at a savoury smell.

7. To express scorn, disdain, or contempt by snuffing; to sniff. Freq. const. *at* a thing or person. Now *rare* or *Obs.*

(*a*) 1544 PHAER *Bk. Childr.* (1553) A ij, Suche..will doo nothinge but detract and iudge other, snuffing at all that offendeth the noses. 1575 GASCOIGNE *Glasse of Govt.* Wks. 1910 II. 69 That one being ignorant of that others punishment, shall never grudge or snuffe at the same. 1643 *Lismore Papers* Ser. II. (1888) V. 139 Being snuffed at by some great ones, none of the rest wold signe. 1677 GILPIN *Demonol. Sacra* (1867) 107 Satan first presented these services as a wearisome burden, then they snuffed at them.

(*b*) 1567 DRANT *Horace, Ep.* De Arte Poet. A vij, The noble, honorable rytche..will snuffe, and take it peper in the nose. 1579 TOMSON *Calvin's Serm. Tim.* 61/2 Curssed shall he be, that shal dare to snuffe against his creator. 1607 HIERON *Wks.* I. 332 When the word of God is preached,.. many worldlings begin by and by to snuffe. 1674 BUNYAN *Christ. Behaviour* Wks. 1852 II. 568 It argueth pride when ..thou snuffest and givest way to thy spirit to be peevish. 1809 MALKIN *Gil Blas* XII. VI. (Rtldg.) 432 If any of my acquaintance should snuff or snigger when they call me Don.

8. To inhale powdered tobacco ; to take snuff.

1725 RAMSAY *Gentle Sheph.* III. ii. Prol., The auld anes think it best..to..Snuff, crack, and take their rest. 1826 DISRAELI *V. Grey* V. ii, 'Do you snuff?' and here he extended to Vivian a gold box. 1858 E. B. RAMSAY *Reminisc. Scot. Life & Char.* V, I hope you do not let him *snuff* so much as he did. 1881 DU CHAILLU *Land Midnight Sun* II. 92 The men and women smoked and snuffed a great deal.

Snuff, *v.*[3] *Cant.* [f. SNUFF *sb.*[3] I.] *intr.* To blind (a shopkeeper) with snuff in order to steal.

1812 J. H. VAUX *Flash Dict.* s.v. *Snuffing.*

Snuff, *v.*[4] *techn.* [Of obscure origin.] *trans.* To smooth (leather) in the process of currying.

1897 C. T. DAVIS *Manuf. Leather* 429 The leather is then set out either by machine or hand, and hung to dry, and when dry..is taken down and snuffed with a buffing slicker.

Snuff-box. [SNUFF *sb.*[3] I.]

1. A box for holding snuff, usually small enough to be carried in the pocket.

1687 MIÈGE *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II, A Snuff-box, *une Tabatiere.* 1707 *Refl. upon Ridicule* 207 The Snuff-boxes she has in Pockets, and the Profusion she makes of Snuff. 1711 'J. DISTAFF' *Char. Don Sacheverellio* 4, I have heard the Lid of a Beau's Snuff-Box crack in his Pocket. 1786 MME. D'ARBLAY *Diary* 25 July, She had brought the Queen's snuff-box, to be filled with some snuff. 1837 DICKENS *Pickw.* ii, Colonel Bulder and Sir Thomas Clubber exchanged snuff-boxes. 1846 MCCULLOCH *Brit. Empire* (1854) I. 293 Those beautifully jointed and varnished wooden snuff-boxes, long in universal demand. 1882 SERGT. BALLANTINE *Experience* xxiii. 221 The owner of the snuff-box is the proprietor of the hall.

b. *Musical snuff-box*, one fitted with mechanism capable of playing tunes.

1825 T. HOOK *Sayings* Ser. II. *Passion & Princ.* ix. III. 139 It was actually handed round the room like a musical snuff-box, or any other indifferent trinket. 1852 R. S. SURTEES *Sponge's Sp. Tour* I, The child, who had been wound up like a musical snuff-box, then went off as follows. 1881 *Grove's Dict. Music* III. 542.

c. A puff-ball or similar fungus; usually *devils' snuff-box* (see DEVIL *sb.* 25 c.).

1883– in Hampshire and Somerset glossaries.

2. *slang.* The nose.

1853 'C. BEDE' *Verdant Green* I. XVI, There's a crack on your snuff-box.

3. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *snuff-box maker, painting, wright*; **snuff-box bean,** a species of sea-bean used medicinally, or the plant producing this; **snuff-box gourd,** a species of *Lagenaria.*

1714 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 5268/10 Snuff-box-maker. 1765 H. WALPOLE *Lett.* (1840) V. 68 Snuff-box-wrights, milliners, &c. 1884 *Athenæum* 9 Aug. 183/3 After a trial of snuff-box painting at Mauchline, Leitch came to London. 1884 *De Candolle's Orig. Cultivated Pl.* 245 Other less common varieties have a flattened, very small fruit, like the snuff-box gourd.

Hence **Snu·ff-boxer,** a seller of snuff-boxes.

a 1871 DE MORGAN *Budget Parad.* (1872) 153 Fifty years ago a fashionable snuff-boxer would be under inducement ..to have a stock with very objectionable pictures.

Snuff-coloured, *a.* [SNUFF *sb.*[3] I.] Of the colour of snuff; brown, brownish.

Cf. *snuff-colour* s.v. SNUFF *sb.*[3] 4.

1787 LATHAM *Suppl. Gen. Syn. Birds* I. 129 Snuff-coloured Creeper...The head, neck, and back, are of a deep cinnamon, or snuff-colour. 1803 SYD. SMITH *Delphine* Wks. 1859 I. 45 A grave old gentleman, in a peruke and snuff-coloured clothes. 1860 *All Year Round* No. 65. 351 A man in a high and long snuff-coloured coat. 1892 E. REEVES *Homew. Bound* 80 Dressed in deep snuff-coloured trousers and loose blouse or coat.

Snuff-dish. [SNUFF *sb.*[1] I.] A dish to hold the snuff of candles or lamps ; a snuffer-tray.

1560 BIBLE (Geneva) *Exod.* XXXVII. 23 And he made for it seuen lampes with ye snuffers, & snuffdishes thereof of pure gold. 1611 — *Exod.* XXV. 38 And the tongs thereof, and the snuffe dishes therof shalbe of pure gold. 1667 PEPYS *Diary* 2 Feb., This night comes home my new silver snuffe-dish, which I do give myself for my closet. 1707 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4379/4 One Pair of Snuffers and Snuff Dish. 1800 MAR. EDGEWORTH *Parent's Assist.* (1831) II. 207, I was hunting for the snuff-dish ; as I knew it must be for candles.

Snuffer[1] (snʌ·fəɹ). Also 5–6 snoffer. [f. SNUFF *v.*[1]]

1. An instrument used for snuffing, or snuffing out, candles, etc. In later use only in plur. form (also *a pair of snuffers*).

a. 1465 *Mann. & Househ. Exp.* (Roxb.) 492 Item, the same day my master bowt a snoffer to snoffe wyth candeles: 1517–8 *Rec. St. Mary at Hill* (1905) 296 Paid..for Snoffers of plate for to put owte the tapurs. 1535 COVERDALE *Exod.* XXV. 38 Snoffers and out quenchers of pure golde. 1574 *Churchw. Acc. St. Edmund's, Sarum* (Wilts. Rec. Soc.) 82 The makynge of the Snoffer to serve candelles in the churche.

β. 1538 ELYOT, *Emunctorium*, an instrumente [etc.]..a snuffer. 1596 HARINGTON *Metam. Ajax* (1814) 106 Like to the snuffers or extinguishers wherewith we put out a candle. 1656 W. DU GARD tr. *Comenius' Gate Lat. Unl.* 225 The snuffers ready at hand, to snuff the wick ever and anon. 1687 CHERNOCK in *Magd. Coll.* (O.H.S.) 232 Why did you tear the Buttery book with the snuffers? 1747 FRANKLIN *Lett.* Wks. 1887 II. 72 We light candles, just blown out, by drawing a spark among the smoke between the wire and snuffers. 1764 J. FERGUSON *Lect.* iii. 33 To this kind of lever may be reduced several sorts of instruments, such as scissars, pinchers, snuffers. 1860 MAYHEW *Upper Rhine* Introd. 3 Here it is that our eyes are still cheered with the sight of a pair of snuffers. 1885 *Athenæum* 7 Feb. 189 In [Hogarth's] 'Night' the small man..is known by the snuffers hanging at his girdle to be a drawer at a tavern.

fig. 1630 LENNARD tr. *Charron's Wisd.* I. Pref. 6 Sounding him to the quick, entring into him with a candle and a snuffer. 1642 HOWELL *For. Trav.* (Arb.) 77 If these Lights grow dim, there is a Triennial Snuffer for them. 1827 HARE *Guesses* Ser. I. (1873) 10 A critic should be a pair of snuffers. He is oftener an extinguisher.

b. *transf.* The finger and thumb as used for clearing or wiping the nose.

1843 MARRYAT *M. Violet* XXVII, Employing..the pair of snuffers which natural instinct has supplied him with.

2. One who snuffs candles. (Cf. CANDLE-SNUFFER 2.)

1611 COTGR., *Moucheur*, a snyter, wiper, snuffer. 1722–7 BOYER *Dict. Royal* I. s.v. *Moucheur*, The Snuffer, He that snuffs the Candles at the Play-house. 1761 CHURCHILL *Rosciad* Poems 1769 I. 14 Then came..snuffer, sweeper, shifter, soldier, mute. 1762 FOOTE *Orator* I. Wks. 1799 I. 191 What is all this business about here? *Snuffer.* Can't say, Sir. 1814 W. WILSON *Hist. Dissent. Churches* IV. 78 Betty Gray had been a snuffer of candles at the playhouse.

3. *attrib.* and *Comb.* (in sense 1), as *snuffer(s)-dish, -pan, -tray*; *snuffers-maker.*

1677 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1260/4 Two large silver Candlesticks, and Snuffer Pan. 1686 *Ibid.* No. 2203/4 A Silver Snuffer-dish and Snuffers chain'd. 1773 *Lond. Chron.* 7 Sept. 248/3 The following articles were assayed and marked;..bottle stands, snuffer pans [etc.]. 1830 GALT *Lawrie T.* II. i. (1849) 42 He took his cigar out of his mouth,..trimming it on the edge of the snuffer-tray. 1844 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* VII. 130 Moulded per gross, like..snuffer-dishes, inkstands, metal buttons, and brads! 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade, Snuffers'-maker*, a manufacturer of metal snuffers.

Snuffer 2 (snʌ·fəɹ). [f. SNUFF *v.*2]

1. One who snuffs, or who sniffs disdainfully.

a 1610 BABINGTON *Wks.* (1622) 102 Let all snuffers and brow-beaters of honest men consider this. 1648 HEXHAM II, *Een Snuyver*, a Snuffer.

†**2.** *slang* or *dial.* In *pl.* The nostrils. *Obs.*

a 1658 CLEVELAND *Sing-song* xxvi, Sybill so sweet, Whose Cheeks on each side of her Snuffers did meet, As round and as plump as a Codlin. 1703 THORESBY *Let. to Ray* (E.D.S.), *Snuffers*, for the nose, or nostrils.

3. One who takes snuff.

1889 GRETTON *Memory's Harkback* 99, I knew an elderly gentleman who was a great snuffer. 1903 R. LAWSON in R. Wallace *Life & Last Leaves* 628 He was an inveterate snuffer.

4. *U.S. local.* A porpoise.

1884 GOODE *Nat. Hist. Aquat. Anim.* 14 On the Atlantic coast occurs most abundantly the little Harbor Porpoise, *Phocæna brachycion* Cope, known to the fishermen as 'Puffer', 'Snuffer', 'Snuffing Pig'.

Snu·ffiness. [f. SNUFFY *a.*2] The state of being snuffy.

Jamieson *Suppl.* (1825) gives '*Snuffiness*, sulkiness'.

1834 CARLYLE in Froude *Hist. First 40 Years* (1882) II. 449 A tendency to pot-belly and snuffiness. 1885 *Even. Standard* 14 Nov. (Cassell), There is a snuffiness, a stuffiness, a general seediness about the former. 1891 *Daily News* 20 June 5/5 Pocket-handkerchiefs only came in with snuff, and were of coloured foulard to hide snuffiness.

Snuffing (snʌ·fiŋ), *vbl. sb.*1 [f. SNUFF *v.*1]

1. The action of removing the burnt part of a wick from a candle or lamp.

1591 PERCIVALL *Sp. Dict.*, *Despauesadura*, the snuffing of a candle. 1638 QUARLES *Hieroglyphics* IV. i, Too much snuffing makes a wast. 1657 W. MORICE *Coena quasi* Κοινὴ xxi. 209 If the lights burn dimme, it is a wildness instead of snuffing to put them out. 1763 W. LEWIS *Phil. Comm. Arts* 28 The Lamps require frequent snuffing and smoke much. 1837 P. KEITH *Bot. Lex.* 360 The candle burns with a clear and brilliant flame, and the wick needs no snuffing. 1884 E. YATES *Recoll.* I. 44 Tallow-candles, which required snuffing..about every quarter of an hour.

fig. 1641 MILTON *Reform.* I. Wks. 1851 III. 22 The dim Taper of this Emperours age that had such need of snuffing.

b. The burnt part of a wick which is removed with snuffers or otherwise. Also *fig.*

1574 HELLOWES *Gueuara's Fam. Ep.* (1577) 357 The bason of gold, wherein they should bestow the snuffings of the lampes. 1652 N. CULVERWEL *Lt. Nature* I. xviii. (1661) 164 The snuffings of Nature, and Reason will never make up a Day. 1789 BUCHAN *Dom. Med.* (1790) 155 Many dirty things,..as spiders, cobwebs, snuffings of candles, &c. 1817 BYRON *Beppo* lxxv, These unquench'd snuffings of the mid-night taper.

attrib. 1687 MIÉGE *Gt. Fr. Dict.* I, *Porte-mouchettes*,..a snuffing pan.

2. The action of putting *out* or extinguishing.

1881 *Nation* (N.Y.) XXXII. 442 The snuffing out of the school by a parietary regulation. 1897 *Advance* (Chicago) 29 July 144/1 The great triumph of Parnell, and his sad, inglorious snuffing-out.

Snuffing (snʌ·fiŋ), *vbl. sb.*2 [f. SNUFF *v.*2]

1. The action of drawing in air through the nose; sniffing, snuffling.

1540 MORYSINE tr. *Vives' Introd. Wysd.* F iij b, What snuffynge of the nose, what grennynge of the tethe. 1609 W. M. *Man in Moon* (1849) 11 He..keepeth such a snuffing and puffing. *a* 1616 BEAUM. & FL. *Custom of Country* IV. iv, You seem to have a snuffing in your head Sir, A parlous snuffing. 1661 EVELYN *Fumifugium* (1825) 225 Is there under heaven such coughing and snuffing to be heard, as in the London churches and assemblies of people? 1860 MAYNE REID *Hunters' Feast* xxii, I heerd now and then the snuffin' o' the bar.

fig. 1573 G. HARVEY *Letter-bk.* (Camden) 32 Seeming nether to be ignorant of the contents of them [letters] nor of M. Nuces snuffing at them. *c* 1584 *Robinson's Handful Delights* (Arb.) 35 And do not snuffe though I be plaine,.. For huffing and snuffing deserueth blame.

b. *pl.* Mucus collected in this way. *rare*—1.

1598 FLORIO, *Mocci*, the snots or snuffings of ones nose.

2. The action or practice of taking snuff.

1691 WOOD *Ath. Oxon.* II. 419 Intoxicated with bibbing, but more with talking, and snuffing with powder. 1830 MARRYAT *King's Own* xxxv, Snuffing's a vile habit,—I wish I could leave it off. 1859 *Habits of Gd. Society* vii. 252 Sneezing brings me to snuffing, which is an obsolete custom, retained only by a few old gentlemen. 1860 TRISTRAM *Grt. Sahara* xii. 203 Hence the prohibition of smoking, snuffing, and coffee.

Snuffing (snʌ·fiŋ), *ppl. a.* Also 6 **snoffyng.** [f. SNUFF *v.*2] That snuffs, in various senses.

a 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VIII*, 242 He was a man, that..could not abide the snoffyng pride of some prelates. 1570 FOXE *A. & M.* II. 1360/1 These snuffing Prelates.. hee could neuer abyde. *a* 1618 SYLVESTER *Job Triumphant* IV. 590 Canst thou his tongue with steely Crotchets thrill; Or with a Thorn his snuffing Nose, or Guill? 1683 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1800/4 At the [sign of the] Jessamine-Tree and Snuffing-Gentleman. 1744 E. MOORE *Fables* vi. 90 Fear wings his flight; the marsh he sought, The snuffing dogs are set at fault. 1884 [see SNUFFER2 4].

Hence **Snu·ffingly** *adv.*, in a snuffing manner.

1577 STANYHURST *Descr. Irel.* i. in *Holinshed*, Here percase some snappish carper will..snuffingly snibbe me: 1891 *Harper's Mag.* Jan. 228/1 The dogs..went about with inquisitive, drooping noses.., amongst the various gear which they snuffingly recognized.

Snu·ffish, *a. rare*—1. [f. SNUFF *v.*2] Somewhat snuffy or touchy.

1689 *Pol. Ballads* (1860) II. 11 Commonwealth Wildman is Jack out of office, Sidney and Norfolk are grown very snuffish. 1727 BAILEY (vol. II), *Snuffish*, apt to take Exceptions at.

†**Snu·ffkin.** *Obs.* Forms: 5 snwf-, 5–7 snuf-, 6 snof-, 6–7 snuft-, 7 snuff(e)kin; also 5–6 -kyn. [Of obscure origin.] A muff.

1483 *Cath. Angl.* 347/2 A Snufkyn [*v.r.* Snwfkyn], *pellicudia, nebrida.* 1598 FLORIO, *Manicone*, a great sleeue, manchon, muffe or snufkin. 1599–1600 in Nichols *Progr. Q. Eliz.* (1805) III. 135 One snofkyn of crymson satten. 1602 *Entert. Harefield* in Lyly's Wks. 1902 I. 500 'Tis sommer, yet a snuffkin to your lott, But t'will be winter one day, doubte you nott. 1611 COTGR., *Bonne grace*,..a snufkin, or Muffe. 1694 MOTTEUX *Rabelais* IV. liii. (1737) 214 The Crepines of their Hoods, their Ruffles, Snuffekins, and Neck-Ruffs, new wash'd, starch'd, and iron'd.

†**Snuffle,** var. of (or error for) SNAFFLE *sb.*1

1589 R. HARVEY *Pl. Perc.* 12 She will prepare a boisterous snuffle, for such boisterous head-strong Jaddes, as will be wincing.

Snuffle (snʌ·fl), *sb.* [f. the vb.]

†**1.** Surf or surge. *Obs.*—1

1630 CAPT. SMITH *Trav. & Adv.* 54 Such a snuffle of the Sea goeth on the shore, ten may better defend than fifty assault.

2. An (*or* the) act of snuffling.

a 1764 LLOYD *Actor* Poet. Wks. 1774 I. 16/3 With shrug, wink, snuffle, and convulsive limb. 1809 MALKIN *Gil Blas* I. xii. P 3 What is a prison above-ground, after so brimstone a snuffle as thou hast had of the regions below? 1835 MARRYAT *J. Faithful* iii, It was an intellectual nose...Its snuffle was consequential, and its sneeze oracular. 1865 BARING-GOULD *Werewolves* viii. 126 She hears the tramping of his approaching feet, and the snuffle of his breath.

3. *pl.* A stopped condition of the nose, through a cold in the head or otherwise, causing a snuffling sound in the act of respiration.

1770 MRS. DELANY *Life & Corr.* Ser. II. (1861) I. 317 She has at present a little London cold, but her Grace says it is 'only the snuffles'. 1799 M. UNDERWOOD *Dis. Child.* (ed. 4) III. 107 The slightest symptom..is that called the Snuffles, or stoppage of the nose. 1845 DICKENS *Chimes* IV. 139 The nose afflicted with that disordered action of its functions which is generally termed the Snuffles. 1878 BRYANT *Pract. Surg.* II. 6 The snuffles in infancy are very characteristic.

4. A nasal tone in the voice.

1820 SCOTT *Monast.* v, With a hypocritical snuffle, and a sly twinkle of his eye. 1830 H. LEE *Mem. Manager* I. ii. 61 His spectacles..being rather too small for him..increased his natural snuffle. 1859 JEPHSON *Brittany* I. 3 The monotonous whine and snuffle of the children in the National School as they read.

Comb. 1889 DOYLE *M. Clarke* 94 Half-a-dozen broad-brimmed snuffle-nosed preachers.

Snuffle (snʌ·fl), *v.* [prob. ad. Du. and Flem. *snuffelen* (also † *snoffelen*), = Fris. *snuffelje*, LG. *snüffeln* (whence G. *schnüffeln*, *schnuffeln*) in similar senses: see SNUFF *v.*2 and -LE.]

I. *intr.* †**1.** To show dislike or disdain by snuffing; to sniff *at* a thing in contempt. *Obs.*

1583 GREENE *Mamillia* Wks. (Grosart) II. 128 The young colt, at the first breaking, snuffles at the snaffle. 1600 BRETON *Strange Fort. Two Princes* Wks. (Grosart) II. 12/2 The wicked wretch..in a great rage, snuffling at his cold entertainment. 1609 HOLLAND *Amm. Marcell.* XXV. iv. 268 Making a speech on a time to his souldiors all armed, when they snuffled and became unruly. 1662 R. MATHEW *Unl. Alch.* 165, I know nice noses will snuffel at this Oyl as a thing most detestable.

2. To draw air into the nostrils in order to smell something; to snuff or smell *at* a thing.

c 1600 CHALKHILL *Thealma & Cl.* (1683) 12 Their cry soon reacht his ear, And he came snuffling toward them. 1601 WEEVER *Mirr. Mart.* B iij b, I dream'd I wore a garland of greene willow. But snuffling low, I prickt me with a fether. 1825 SCOTT *Talism.* iii, The steeds..neighed and snuffled fondly around their masters. 1861 HUGHES *Tom Brown at Oxf.* iii, [The dog] went trotting about the room, and snuffling at Schloss's legs. 1889 RIDER HAGGARD *Allan's Wife* 278 The oxen..were very restless—they kept snuffling and blowing.

3. To speak through the nose; to have a nasal twang.

Sometimes taken as indicating hypocrisy or canting.

c 1600 DAY *Begg. Bednall Gr.* III. ii, There's an odde fellow snuffels i' the nose that shows a motion about Bishopsgate. 1634 T. JOHNSON tr. *Parey's Chirurg.* XXIII. iv. (1678) 526 They cannot pronounce their words distinctly, but obscurely and snuffling. 1755 SMOLLETT *Quix.* II. III. viii, Would it not have been better..to cut off half their noses, even though they should snuffle in their speech? 1756 *Connoisseur* No. 126 P 6 Snuffling through the nose with an harmonious twang. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* xli, You would have thought it was the Countess's own Roman nose through which she snuffled. 1888 DOUGHTY *Arabia Deserta* I. 154 He snuffled in his holy talk like an honest Roundhead.

4. To draw up air or mucus through the nostrils in an audible or noisy manner.

c 1600 *Tarlton's Jests* (1628) A 4, Who falling vpon his nose, broke it extremely, that euer after he snuffled in the head. 1611 COTGR., *Renifler*, to snuffle, or snifter often. 1707 J. STEVENS tr. *Quevedo's Com. Wks.* (1709) 435 He.. was gaul'd and snuffled [Sp. *con mataduras y muermo*] because they had thrown Feathers into his Manger. 1835 *Politeness & Gd.-breeding* 53 Remember never to whisper, or snuffle and laugh. 1857 C. BRONTE *Professor* vii, How he did snuffle, snort, and wheeze! 1898 *Hutchinson's Arch. Surg.* IX. 141 The child, a girl,..at the age of a month began to snuffle.

†**5.** Of the wind: To blow in fitful gusts. *Obs.*

1633 T. JAMES *Voy.* 24 In the after-noone it began to snuffle and blow. 1781 ARCHER in *Naval Chron.* XI. 286 At eleven at night it began to snuffle, with a monstrous heavy appearance.

II. *trans.* **6.** To inhale, to clear, to search out or examine, by snuffing.

1599 A. M. tr. *Gabelhouer's Bk. Physicke* 11/2 Mixe all these.., & snuffle heerof a little in your Nose in the Morninges. 1667 DENHAM *Direct. Painter* II. 18 She shed no tears,..But onely snuffling her Trunk Cartilaginous, From scaling Ladder she began a story. 1871 B. TAYLOR *Faust* (1875) I. xxii. 199 He snuffles all he snuffle can; 'He scents the Jesuits' traces'.

7. To utter, say, declare, etc., in a snuffling or nasal tone.

1641 in Nalson *Collect. Affairs State* (1683) II. 809 Those That snuffle their unlearned Zeal in Prose. 1826 SCOTT *Woodst.* XXXIII, 'I profess I do...' snuffled the corporal. 1837 CARLYLE *Misc.* (1857) IV. 108 Even the old Marquis snuffles approval. 1865 — *Fredk. Gt.* VII. vi. (1872) II. 321 Seckendorf..snuffled into him suggestions of mercy. 1892 ZANGWILL *Childr. Ghetto* I. 128 The scarecrow who shambled along snuffling 'Old clo'.

b. Similarly with *out* or *forth.*

1828 CUNNINGHAM *N. S. Wales* II. 205 On being questioned how he had existed, he snuffled out [etc.]. 1842 LOVER *Handy Andy* iii, She..snuffled forth at the astonished boy, 'Get out o' that, you dirty cur!' 1891 GOSSE *Gossip Libr.* iii. 33 A whining ballad snuffled out in the street at night by some unhappy minstrel.

Snuffler (snʌ·fləɹ). [f. prec. Cf. Du. *snuffelaar*, LG. *snüff(e)ler*, G. *schnüffler*, *schnuffler.*] One who snuffles or speaks through the nose; one who speaks cantingly.

1642 *Tom Nash his Ghost* Title-p., To the three scurvy Fellowes of the upstart Family of the Snufflers, Rufflers and Shufflers. 18.. T. MOORE *Canonization of St. B-tt-rw-rth* xiii, Call quickly together the whole tribe of Canters,.. Bring Shakers and Snufflers and Jumpers and Ranters. 1861 HUGHES *Tom Brown at Oxf.* xliv, I never was a snuffler; but this sort of life makes one serious. 1879 A. REED *Alice Bridge of Norwich* 211 'Down with canting snufflers!' began to be heard.

Snu·ffless, *a.* [f. SNUFF *sb.*1 I.] Of candles: Having no snuff.

1895 *Army & Navy Stores Price List* 10 Dips...Palmer's Snuffless.

Snu·ffliness. [f. SNUFFLY *a.*] The quality of being snuffly.

1873 Miss BROUGHTON *Nancy* II. 14 Speaking..with a snuffliness of tone, engendered by much crying.

Snuffling (snʌ·fliŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. SNUFFLE *v.*] The action of the verb, in various senses.

1580 BLUNDEVIL *Horsemanship* IV. iv. 3 b, Lowd snuffling in the nose, and casting out vapors at his nostrils. 1599 DALLAM in *Early Voy. Levant* (Hakluyt Soc.) 29 They made a great noyse with their snufflinge, and, in the ende, went Runing awaye. 1614–8 LATHAM *Falconry* (1633) 138 As you shall see cause, first in the head by snuffling or sniting, or any other signes. 1702 BAYNARD *Cold Baths* II. (1709) 383 To speak without snuffling is hardly genteel. 1822 GOOD *Study Med.* (1829) I. 530 The coryza, or snuffling of old age, is precisely analogous to its ptyalism or drivelling. 1861 BUMSTEAD *Ven. Dis.* (1879) 747 The first indication..is the characteristic snuffling.

Snuffling (snʌ·fliŋ), *ppl. a.* [f. SNUFFLE *v.*]

1. That snuffles; drawing air up the nose, or characterized by this.

a 1586 SIDNEY *Arcadia* II. (1912) 216 A water spaniell.. came downe the river, shewing that he hunted for a duck, & with a snuffling grace. 1735 SOMERVILLE *Chase* I. 324 His Heart Beats quick; his snuffling Nose, his active Tail Attest his Joy. 1760 *Cautions & Adv. Officers of Army* 98 Little Good can be expected from him whose snuffling Nose, unbraced Nerves, and rotten Carcase, denote him fitter for his Grave..than for his Duty. 1800 HURDIS *Favourite Village* 33 What time the snuffling spaniel, as he runs, Pants freely. 1849 ALB. SMITH *Pottleton Legacy* (1854) 64 Little shrews peered with perking snuffling noses.

fig. 1869 BROWNING *Ring & Bk.* XI. 1502 Whose swine-like snuffling greed and grunting lust I had to wink at.

2. Speaking through the nose; canting, hypocritical, sanctimonious.

c 1600 DAY *Begg. Bednall Gr.* IV. i, I think this snuffling slave flouts us. 1719 D'URFEY *Pills* (1872) IV. 124 A Pox of all these snuffling Knaves, That do our Sports despise. 1793 [see SNAFFLING *ppl. a.*]. 1820 W. IRVING *Sketch Bk.* (1859) 69 The service was performed by a snuffling well-fed vicar. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* iii. I. 399 The straight-haired, snuffling, whining saints, who christened their children out of the Book of Nehemiah. 1868 BP. WILBERFORCE in R. S. Wilberforce *Life* (1882) III. ix. 271, I have infinitely more sympathy..with his views concerning the Church than with those of the snuffling Puritan clique.

3. Coming or uttered through the nose; nasal. Also *fig.*

1819 SCOTT *Ivanhoe* vii, Answered the Prior, in a sort of snuffling tone. 1841 THACKERAY *Sec. Funeral Napoleon* iii, They chanted something in a weak, snuffling..manner. 1871 LOWELL *Study Wind.* (1886) 278 He bewails..in snuffling heroics.

Hence **Snu·ffingly** *adv.*, in a snuffling manner.

1619 R. WESTE *Bk. Demeanor* 57 in *Babees Bk.*, Nor practize snufflingly to speake. 1837 *New Monthly Mag.* L. 415 James shuffled, and snuffled,..and snufflingly said [etc.].

Snuffly (snʌ·fli), *a.* [f. SNUFFLE *v.*] Characterized by snuffling.

1873 Miss BROUGHTON *Nancy* III. 3, I still speak in a

subdued and snuffly voice. 1883 — *Belinda* I. vi, He has the threatenings of a snuffly cold.

Snuff-mill. [SNUFF *sb.*3 I.]

1. *Sc.* A snuff-box, snuff-mull.

a 1689 W. CLELAND *Poems* (1697) 12 (Jam.), Right well mounted of their gear:—With durk, and snap-work, and snuff-mill. 1707 LADY G. BAILLIE *Household Bk.* (1911) 18 For 3 snuf milnes £4. 1715 *Mar's Lament* in *Roxb. Ball.* (1888) VI. 621 Each man unto the spoyl he gat, some got plaids and snuff-mills in their pack. 1835 D. WEBSTER *Rhymes* 27 (E.D.D.), His snuff-mill was the horn o' ram.

2. A mill, or machine, for grinding tobacco into snuff.

1758 in *Jedburgh Gazette* (1906) 29 Sept. 3 Snuff and Waulk Miln, [rent] £7:10:0. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 1255 The sides of the snuff-mill have sharp ridges from the top to near the bottom. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2232/1 The snuff-mills of Holland are on a very large scale, and are impelled by wind.

Snuff-mull. *Sc.* [See prec. I, and MULL *sb.*6] A snuff-box.

1827 SCOTT *Two Drovers* i, Some thrust out their snuff-mulls for the parting pinch. 1854 H. MILLER *Sch. & Schm.* v. (1857) 97 A number of curious little articles... Among the rest, Highland snuff-mulls. 1887 MCNEILL *Blawearie* 101 He..drew his snuff-mull from his waistcoat pocket, gave three vicious taps on the lid of it [etc.].

Snuffy (snʌ·fi), *a.*1 [f. SNUFF *v.*2 or SNUFF *sb.*1 4.] Annoyed, displeased; ready to take offence.

1678 MRS. BEHN *Sir Patient Fancy* IV. i, She left me in the very middle on't so snuffy I'll warrant. *a* 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew, Captious*, Touchy, Snuffy. 1825 JAMIESON *Suppl., Snuffie*, sulky, displeased; often *Snuffie-like*, Clydes[dale]. 1845 S. JUDD *Margaret* I. xiii, Don't be snuffy, Molly, none of your mulligrubs.

Snuffy (snʌ·fi), *a.*2 [f. SNUFF *sb.*3] Bailey (1727, vol. II) gives '*Snuffy*,..dawbed with Snuff', an earlier instance of either 2 a or 2 b.

1. Like, or resembling, snuff or powdered tobacco in colour or substance.

1789 T. WILLIAMS *Min. Kingd.* I. 285 A brownish ferruginous soft soil, of a snuffy appearance. 1860 SALA *Baddington Peerage* i, They were mostly bright yellow, or of that peculiar shade of green known as 'snuffy'. 1872 COUES *N. Amer. Birds* 290 Head snuffy-brown, and no white patch in front of the eye. 1884 *Harper's Mag.* Mar. 522/2 A black or snuffy dust.

2. a. Of persons: Given to taking snuff; bearing marks of the habit of snuff-taking.

c 1790 A. WILSON *Watty & Meg* Poet. Wks. (*c* 1846) 151 Nasty, gude-for-naething being! O ye snuffy, drucken sow! 1826 DISRAELI *V. Grey* III. vii. 118 A little odd-looking snuffy old man, with a brown scratch wig. 1848 THACKERAY *Trav. Lond.* Wks. 1886 XXIV. 349 Dinners where you meet ..a Knight, and a snuffy little old General. 1888 MRS. H. WARD *R. Elsmere* 309 Two well-known English antiquarians —very learned, very jealous, and very snuffy.

b. Of things: Soiled with snuff.

1840 THACKERAY *Shabby-genteel Story* i, A snuffy shirt-frill, and enormous breast-pin. 1856 LD. COCKBURN *Mem.* i. (1874) 46 His old snuffy black clothes,..and his thread-bare blue great-coat. 1885 *Harper's Mag.* Mar. 563/2 [She] pulled out a snuffy pocket-handkerchief.

3. 'Tipsy, drunk' (*Slang. Dict.* 1864).

1891 *Newcastle Even. Chron.* 30 Jan. 4/6 He considered, if a member got 'snuffy', he should go home, and not come there to annoy the meeting.

Snuff, *sb. dial.* [variant of SNUFF *sb.*1] †a. (See quot. 1611.) *Obs.* b. The snuff of a candle or the like.

1611 COTGR., *Camoufflet*, a Snuft, or cold Pie; a smóakie paper held vnder the nose of a slug, or sleeper. 1657 REEVE *God's Plea* 126 The candle doth yet give a glorious light, we are loth to think of the snuft. 1874 WAUGH *Chimney Corner* (1879) 146 He went out as quiet as th' snuft o' a candle. 1881– in dial. glossaries (Lanc., Chesh., Nott., Leic.).

Snuft, *v. dial.* [var. of SNUFF *v.*2] *intr.* To smell, sniff.

1820 CLARE *Rural Life* (ed. 3) 107 As snifting and snufting the clodhopper goes. 1854– in dial. glossaries (Northampt., Leic., Chesh.).

†**Snufter,** *sb. Obs.* [Cf. SNUFT *sb.*] A snuffer.

1558 *Lanc. Wills* (Chetham) I. 176 On snufter for candelle.

Snufter, *v. dial.* [var. of SNIFTER *v.*] *intr.* To sniff, snuff. Hence **Snufftering** *vbl. sb.*

1611 COTGR., *Esbrouëment*,..a snurting, or snuftering with the nose. *Esbrouër des narines*, to snurt, or snuffter. 1632 SHERWOOD, To snuffle, or snufter often, *renifler, ressimer.* 1876– in dial. glossaries (Northumbld., Yorksh.).

Snuftkin, variant of SNUFFKIN.

Snug (snʌg), *sb.*1 [Of obscure origin: cf. SNAG *sb.*]

1. A rugged projection; a hard knob or knot; a snag. *rare.*

1665 BUNYAN *Holy City* xv. (1669) 107 There shall be a smooth Face upon the whole Earth, all Snugs, and Hubs, and Hills..shall now be took away. *a* 1800 *Devon Gloss.* in Halliw. s.v. *Snag*, A snagg, *vel* snugg, a hard wooden ball, commonly some gnurre, knobb, or knott of a tree, which they [boys] make use of at the play of bandy instead of a ball. 1808 JAMIESON, *Snugs*, small branches lopped off from a tree.

2. *techn.* A projection or ridge cast on a plate, bolt, etc., in order to keep something in position, prevent rotation, or for some similar purpose.

1843 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* VI. 138/2 Instead of the flanges there are 'snugs' on the tumbler between the chains to keep them on. 1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* II. 214 On the top bar of the frames there are two strong snugs..cast, sufficient to resist the pressure of the rollers. 1887 D. A. LOW *Machine Draw.* (1892) 17 The snug fits into a short groove cut in the side of the hole.

attrib. c 1850 *Rudim. Nav.* (Weale) 134 *Deck nails*..have snug heads.

Snug (snʌg), *sb.*2 [f. SNUG *a.*1]

1. *The snug*, that which is comfortable, quiet, or private. *Upon the snug*, privately. *rare.*

1768 *Woman of Honor* I. 187, I escaped from those scenes of tasteless enjoyment..into the snug of life. 1861 [MRS. M. A. PAUL] *Two Cosmos* I. iv, A bye thing [*sc.* a prize-fight] got up upon the snug at Kilburn Wells.

2. *dial.* or *slang.* The bar-parlour of an inn or public-house; = SNUGGERY 1 b.

1864 BRIERLEY *Layrack* xiii, Who would have followed him into the snug. 1890 *Eastern Morn. News* (Hull) 16 Apr. 4/9 Charged with having wilfully broken a window in the snug of the Shepherdess Inn. 1894– in dial. glossaries and texts (Northumbld., Cumbld., Lanc., Warw.).

b. *Sc.* One of the compartments in the tap-room of an old-fashioned inn.

1891 *Scottish Leader* 18 Sept. 5 He came out of one of the 'snugs' or boxes.

Snug (snʌg), *a.*1 and *adv.* Also 6–7 **snugg.** [Of doubtful origin; first recorded as a nautical term. In later use app. associated with the early senses of SNUG *v.*, but it is possible that there is no original connexion between the two.

There is resemblance in form, and some correspondence in sense, to LG. *snügger* (*snigger*), *snögger* slender, smooth, clean, dainty, smart, etc., older Du. *snuggher*, *snoggher* (Kilian), slender, slim, active (Du. *snugger* lively, sprightly), but evidence of connexion is wanting. Cf. also Sw. *snygg*, Da. *snyg*, neat, tidy, etc., which may be from LG.; but Da. dial. *snag*, Sw. dial. *snögg* (*snägg*), Norw. dial. *sneggd* (*snegg*) represent ON. *snoggr* (Icel. *snöggur*) short, short-haired, sudden, quick, etc., which is app. represented in English by SNOG *a.*]

A. *adj.* 1. *Naut.* Of a ship or her parts: Trim, neat, compact; adequately or properly prepared for, or protected from, bad weather.

c 1595 CAPT. WYATT *R. Dudley's Voy. W. Ind.* (Hakluyt Soc.) 58 A verie fine snugg long shipp, having on each side vi. portes open, beside her chase and her sterne peeces. *a* 1642 SIR W. MONSON *Naval Tracts* III. (1704) 358 She will overtop a lower and snug Ship. 1711 W. SUTHERLAND *Shipbuild. Assist.* 50 The streighter and snuger the Sheer lies, the less Wind is held to hinder the Motion of the Ship. 1799 *Naval Chron.* II. 304 The stern is..plain, and snug, without much carving. 1840 R. H. DANA *Bef. Mast* ii. 3 Soon all was snug aloft, and we were again allowed to go below. 1882 NARES *Seamanship* (ed. 6) 46 It would not form so snug a lashing. 1883 *Harper's Mag.* Aug. 447/2 She will be..snug for any gale.

fig. 1848 DICKENS *Dombey* iv, The shop seemed almost to become a snug sea-going, ship-shape concern.

b. In phrase *to make snug.*

1697 DAMPIER *Voy.* (1699) 380 Captain Read..ordered the Carpenters to cut down our Quarter Deck to make the Ship snug and the fitter for Sailing. 1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* I. (Globe) 9 [To] make everything snug and close, that the Ship might ride as easy as possible. 1726 SHELVOCKE *Voy. round World* (1757) 70 To ease our bows, and make everything as snug as possible. 1830 MARRYAT *King's Own* ii, We'll make her all snug...Furl the fore and mizen-topsail. 1851 KITTO *Daily Bible Illustr.* LII. iv. (1867) 445 Their next care was to make the ship 'snug', by lowering the sail, and bringing down upon deck her spars and rigging. 1897 MARY KINGSLEY *W. Africa* 385 We let go the anchor, make all snug and go ashore.

c. *transf.* Of persons or things: Neat, trim. Now *Obs.* or *dial.*

1714 STEELE *Lover* No. 15, There was seated just before her a pretty snug Academick. 1725 RAMSAY *Gentle Sheph.* I. ii, He kames his hair, indeed, and gaes right snug. 1756 *Connoisseur* No. 126 P 5 Flowers of rhetoric, injudiciously scattered over a sermon, are as disgusting in his discourse, as the snug wig and scented white handkerchief in his dress. 1789 GOUV. MORRIS in Sparks *Life & Writ.* (1832) II. 90 Sometimes an orator closes with a good snug resolution which is carried with a huzza.

d. Close-fitting; tight.

1838 in HOLLOWAY *Prov. Dict.* 1895 *Westm. Gaz.* 13 Aug. 7/2 The corsage of the gown should not be too snug, but it should be shapely and 'tailor made' to the last degree.

2. In a state of ease, comfort, or quiet enjoyment. Chiefly pred., and freq. with *in* (a place).

1630 J. LANE *Contn. Sgr.'s T.* vi. 5 (Ashm. MS.), Now Chaunticleere..the poise of his clockes watch at twoe gann sterr,..Yet snugg binn they in cabins. 1706– [see b]. 1783 COWPER *Lett.* Wks. (1876) 144 There is hardly to be found on Earth I suppose so snug a creature as an Englishman by his fire-side in winter. 1798 SOUTHEY *Pious Painter* II. xi, Released from his prison,..The Painter is snug in his bed. 1812 H. & J. SMITH *Horace in London* 173 Tho' all the while my proper self Is snug at home, My pen shall roam. 1859 W. COLLINS *Q. of Hearts* (1875) 50, I made a blazing fire..and sat down to tea, as snug and comfortable as possible. 1891 E. PEACOCK *N. Brendon* I. 131 He found ..the Colonel's groom making the animals snug for the night.

b. In phrases of comparison (see quots.).

1706 E. WARD *Wooden World Diss.* (1708) 58 He sits as snug as a Bee in a Box, making his Honey. 1769 *Stratford Jubilee* II. i, If she [a rich widow] has the mopus's, I'll have her, as snug as a bug in a rug. 1809 MALKIN *Gil Blas* X. x. P 23 You will be as snug there as a bug in a blanket. 1833 T. HOOK *Love & Pride* vi, You might sit as snug as a bug in a rug.

c. With *lie* vb. Also, securely caught or imprisoned. (Cf. 6.)

1687 MIÉGE *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II. s.v., To lie snug in a Bed. 1781 COWPER *Anti-Thelyphth.* 79 On southern banks the ruminating sheep Lay snug and warm. 1796 NELSON 1 Aug. in Nicolas *Disp.* (1845) II. 224 This blockade is complete, and we lay very snug in the North Road. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* xii, While Becky Sharp was on her own wing in the country..Amelia lay snug in her home of Russell Square. 1879 BROWNING *Martin Relph* 51 Safe in the trap would they now lie snug, had treachery made no sign.

3. Of places, buildings, etc.: Comfortable and warm, cosy; esp. combining comfort with neatness and compactness.

c 1718 PRIOR *The Ladle* 68 A Country Farm, Where all was snug, and clean, and warm. 1784 COWPER *Task* I. 513 Then snug enclosures in the shelter'd vale..Delight us. 1806 BERESFORD *Miseries Hum. Life* III. vii, Your snug warm bed. 1841 DICKENS *Barn. Rudge* ii, Those inside had risen from their snug seats, and were making room in the snuggest corner for the honest locksmith. 1885 MISS BRADDON *Wyllard's Weird* i, Heathcote inherited a snug little estate near Bodmin. 1898 J. A. GIBBS *Cotswold Village* 141, I know no..snugger hostelry than the Swan.

b. *Comb.*, as *snug-box, -chair, -parlour.*

1702 FARQUHAR *Twin-Rivals* IV. i, Presently enters Mr. Moabite, followed by a snug-chair, the windows close drawn. 1768 *Woman of Honor* III. 76 That neat snug-box of mine in Surry. 1817 KEATINGE *Trav.* II. 5 The snug-parlour travellers of the critic.

c. Of climate: Agreeable, pleasant, genial.

1888 *Harper's Mag.* Mar. 562/1 Duluth has a cool, salubrious summer and a snug winter climate.

4. a. Enabling one to live in comfort and comparative ease.

1735 FIELDING *Mod. Husb.* II. v, Have you no friend that could favor you with some comfortable snug employment, of a thousand or fifteen hundred per annum? 1780 *Mirror* No. 78, Looking out for some snug office, or reversion, to which my interest with several powerful friends might recommend me. 1822 HAZLITT *Table-t.* Ser. II. iv. (1869) 97 A few hundreds a year are something snug and comfortable. 1867 *Routledge's Ev. Boy's Ann.* 79 A good snug business they've got.

transf. 1807 SYD. SMITH *Lett. Catholics* (1808) 130 An endless series of snug expectations and cruel disappointments. 1814 SCOTT *Wav.* v, The snug probability of succeeding to his father's office.

b. Moderately well-to-do; comfortably off; 'warm'. Chiefly *Irish dial.*

1802 MAR. EDGEWORTH *Moral T.* (1816) I. xv. 121 He was a very cautious snug man, and he did not choose to interfere. 1828 CROKER *Leg. S. Irel.* II. 222 Tim himself would have been snug enough sometimes but that he loved the drop. 1842 LOVER *Handy Andy* viii, You're a snug man, Mat; you ought to be able to give a husband a trifle with them. 1900 E. PHILLPOTTS *Sons of Morning* III. iii, 'Twenty pounds ban't much.'..'Not to your faither, as he be a snug man enough by accounts.'

c. Fairly large or substantial.

1833 HT. MARTINEAU *Vanderput & S.* iv. 65, I shipped a snug package of velvets, which certain great folks are at this moment wearing. 1848 THACKERAY *Vanity Fair* xl, Having a snug legacy from Miss Crawley. 1873 B. HARTE *Fiddletown* 40 This gentleman had made a snug fortune during the felicitous prevalence of a severe epidemic.

5. Marked or characterized by ease or comfort; comfortable, cosy.

(*a*) 1766 [ANSTEY] *Bath Guide* xiii. 16 No Lady in London is half so expert At a snug private Party, her Friends to divert. 1781 HAN. MORE in Roberts *Mem.* (1835) I. 210, I was on Monday night at a very snug little party...We had a snug day. 1824 IRVING *Tales Trav.* I. 185 They did occasionally give snug dinners to three or four literary men at a time. 1827 SCOTT *Chron. Canongate* i, The club-room, and the snug hand at whist. 1849 THACKERAY *Pendennis* XXXVII, He liked snug dinners of all things in the world.

(*b*) 1823 *Examiner* 15 Feb. 102/2 Denmark and Sweden.. had kept themselves in a very snug neutrality. 1844 DICKENS *Mart. Chuz.* xlvi, A sort of snug and comfortable penitence.

†b. *Cant.* (See quot.) *Obs.*

1725 *New Cant. Dict.* s.v., *All's snug*, all's quiet; used by Villains, when every thing is silent, and they hear no body stir to oppose their intended Rogueries.

c. Of a borough: Close. (See BOROUGH 3 c.) *rare.*

1844 P. HARWOOD *Hist. Irish Rebell.* 41 *note*, The other boroughs, which were close or snug, sent the remainder.

6. In concealment or hiding; out of sight or observation. Chiefly with *lie* vb. (Cf. 2 c.)

1687 tr. *Sallust* (1692) 185 The Numidians kept themselves and their Horses snug within the Trees and Bushes. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Past.* III. 24 Did I not see you, Rascal, did I not? Where you lay snug to snap young Damon's Goats? 1733 SWIFT *On Poetry* Wks. 1755 IV. 1. 187 Be sure at Will's, the following day, [To] Lie snug, and hear what criticks say. 1797 F. REYNOLDS *The Will* III. i, When a man is in debt, the Capital is the place to lie snug in! 1809 MALKIN *Gil Blas* v. i. P 4 A hue and cry was raised.., but I lay snug, and they missed me. 1815 SCOTT *Guy M.* XXXIII, But you must remain snug at the Point of Warroch till I come to see you. 1862 BORROW *Wales* LXXII, Lying snug in cave by day and going out at night to rob.

† b. Marked or characterized by privacy, secrecy, or concealment; private, secret. *Obs.*

1710 SWIFT *Lett.* (1767) III. 37 Methinks when I write plain..all the world can see us. A bad scrawl is so snug. 1766 *Life of Quin* i. 7 James had..carried on what he thought a very snug intrigue with Mrs. L.

c. *To keep* (: .) *snug*, to keep quiet, to refrain from talking about or alluding to (something). Now *dial.*

1778 MME. D'ARBLAY *Diary* 26 Aug., My conduct has been as uniform in *trying* to keep snug as my words. 1796 — *Lett.* 10 July, He,..laughingly, said, 'So you keep it quite snug'. 1856 LEVER *Martins of Cro' M.* 508, I take it for granted that he'll be as glad of a settlement that keeps all 'snug', as ourselves. 1877 *N. W. Linc. Gloss.* 231/2 Doctors an' lawyers is beholden to keep things snug, folks tells 'em.

7. Used as an interjection asking for or commanding secrecy, esp. in phrase *snug's the word.*

1700 CONGREVE *Way of World* I. ii, If throats are to be cut, Jet swords clash I snug's the word, I shrug and am silent. 1748 FOOTE *Knights* I. Wks. 1799 I. 65 You could give us a little news if you would; come now!—snug!—nobody by! 1809–12 MAR. EDGEWORTH *Vivian* viii, There's a man who could tell you more than any of us, if he would; but snug's the word with Wicksted. 1842 LOVER *Handy Andy* xxi, Whisht,..not a word...Good-bye, you'll hear more about it to-morrow—snug's the word.

B. *adv.* Snugly.

1674 N. FAIRFAX *Bulk & Selv.* 128, I take the seed..to be a cluster of bubbles wryed up snug. 1766 [ANSTEY] *Bath Guide* vi. 27 So they hoisted her down just as safe..And as snug as a Hod'mandod rides in his shell. 1768 GOLDSM. *Good-n. Man* Epil., He eyes the centre, where his friends sit snug. 1831 *Lincoln Herald* 9 Sept. 3/6 It is calculated to button across snug up to the neck. 1853 KANE *Grinnell Exped.* xxix. (1856) 252 The provisions and stores of all sorts are packed snug. 1884 PAE *Eustace* 34 To see you succeed in getting your son and my nephew put snug into the estate.

†**Snug**, *a.*[2] *Obs.* [Cf. SNUG *sb.*[1]] ? Snub.

1626 B. JONSON *Staple of News* III. ii, It is an Automa, ..With a snug nose, and has a nimble taile.

Snug (snʊg), *v.* [Of obscure origin: in later use associated with, and partly f., SNUG *a.*[1]]

1. *intr.* Of persons (or animals): To lie or nestle closely or comfortably, esp. in bed; to snuggle. Now *rare* or *dial.* (Cf. SNUDGE *v.*[2])

1583 GOLDING *Calvin on Deut.* lxvii. 411 In stead of setting forward we retire backe, or els sit snugging stil in our owne slothfulnesse. *a* 1586 SIDNEY *Arcadia* I. (1622) 84 Betwixt them two the peeper tooke his nest, Where snuging well he well appear'd content. 1616 J. LANE *Contn. Sqr.'s T.* vi. 5 While snugginge they in cabbins lay each one. 1692 R. L'ESTRANGE *Fables* (1694) 61 The loving couple lay snugging together. 1824 LAMB *Lett.* (1888) II. 118 Let 'em all snug together, Hebrews and Proselytes of the gate.

transf. and *fig.* 1648 J. BEAUMONT *Psyche* II. vi, The Summer Clouds, snugging in laps of Flowers. 1648 HERRICK *Hesper., Upon Roses,* Under a Lawne..Some ruffled Roses nestling were: And snugging there, they seem'd to lye As in a flowrie Nunnery. 1674 N. FAIRFAX *Bulk & Selv.* 86 The pieces of a body..are only clapt together at their little smoothnesses as close as they can snug.

b. With *to* or *into.*

1674 N. FAIRFAX *Bulk & Selvedge of the World* 110 [An atom] so snugs to another, as not to be in another. 1687 MIÉGE *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II, To snug to his Bed-fellow. 1828–32 WEBSTER s.v., A child snugs to its mother or nurse. 1888 EDMONDSTON & SAXBY *Home Naturalist* 85 After she and Wildie had snugged into bed.

2. With *down*: To nestle, settle down; to make oneself snug or comfortable.

1603 DEKKER & CHETTLE *Grissill* 100 Then this eye lookes vp, yet downe I snug againe. 1898 *Westm. Gaz.* 4 Mar. 3/1 They turn into the Home for Asiatics, and snug down till Mr. Johnston..gets them a ship. 1904 'E. NESBIT' *Phœnix & Carpet* ii. 26 'I'm a baby bear!' said the Lamb, snugging down.

3. *trans.* a. To place or put snugly, neatly, or comfortably.

1754 GOLDSM. in Forster *Life* (1871) I. 437 Every woman carries in her hand a stove with coals in it, which, when she sits, she snugs under her petticoats.

b. *U.S. slang.* 'To conceal from the owner, to purloin' (Bartlett).

a 1859 in Bartlett *Dict. Amer.* (ed. 2) 424 I'd stuff watches, drop pocket-books,..but I'd never condescend to snug dogs.

4. *refl.* To make (oneself) comfortable, secure, or safe (cf. quots.); to bring (oneself) *into* something comfortable.

1795 *Gazette of the U. S.* (Phila.) 7 March (Thornton), [He will] keep up his credit and character, till he has snugged himself into a good estate. 1822 MRS. E. NATHAN *Laugreath* I. 5 His steward, who has snugged himself pretty well by robbing his master and oppressing the poor. 1856 *Leisure Hour* 28 Aug. 559/1 We hear voices and steps just outside, but snug ourselves in the security of our retreat.

5. To make snug, comfortable, or tidy; to set nicely in order. Freq. with *up* or *down.*

(*a*) 1787 BURNS *Brigs of Ayr* 27 Potatoe-bings are snugged up frae skaith Of coming Winter's biting, frosty breath. 1836 HALIBURTON *Clockm.* Ser. I. xxxv, What the dickens was them two great rolls o' canvass for, I seed snugg'd up and tied to your crupper? *Ibid.* xxxvii, Whenever you see a place all snugged up.., depend on it the folks are of the right kind. 1888 *Cent. Mag.* Aug. 617/2 The tent was shut, and everything snugged up. 1892 LOWNDES *Camping Sketches* I. 44 We snugged things down quite elegantly, in expectation of visitors.

absol. 1885 *Field* 19 Dec. 870/3 We snugged up for the night.

(*b*) 1890 CLARK RUSSELL *Marriage at Sea* iv, I snugged her in rugs. 1897 *Advance* (Chicago) 18 Mar. 342/1 They have become an 'Army of Occupation', with huts snugged for winter.

b. To put or stow *away* snugly.

1859 H. W. BEECHER *Life Thoughts* Ser. II. 55 He knows very well where it is snugged away. 1880 L. WALLACE *Ben-Hur* 516 He beheld Esther,..a small figure snugged away under her father's lap-robe. 1897 *Daily News* 21 June 4/5 You are comfortably snugged away under a wide-spreading arch.

6. *Naut.* To make (a ship, etc.) snug or trim, esp. by lashing or stowing movables, furling or reducing sails, lowering topmasts, etc., in preparation for bad weather; to furl (a sail).

1881 *Daily Telegr.* 28 Jan., Bit by bit the canvas was snugged until the brig had nothing on her but her lower maintopsail [etc.]. 1881 CLARK RUSSELL *Ocean Free Lance* II. 177 The men were employed in snugging the decks. 1890 — *Ocean Trag.* I. ix. 189 They had snugged the 'Bride' to very small canvas.

b. Similarly with *down.* Also *absol.*

1893 *Westm. Gaz.* 28 Feb. 10/3 Having hove in their trawl they were all forward..snugging the vessel down, as they were threatened with more wind. 1899 'Q.' (Quiller Couch) *Ship of Stars* xxiv, [Taffy] gave the order to snug down and man the cradle for shore.

Snugger (snʊ·gəɹ). [f. prec.: cf. SNUGGING *vbl. sb.* 1.] A device by which cordage is made smooth and uniform.

1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2192/1 The cordage..is drawn slowly between closely pressing reciprocating *rubbers* and *snuggers.*

Snuggery (snʊ·gəri). Also 9 -erie. [f. SNUG *a.*[1] + -ERY.]

1. A cosy or comfortable room, esp. one of small size, into which a person retires for seclusion or quiet; a bachelor's den.

1815 *Zeluca* I. 171 You must come and dine, and..play whist in a snuggerie with Lady Whitelock. 1825 LOCKHART in Smiles *Mem. J. Murray* (1891) II. xxvii. 229 Habits which render it difficult for me to do any serious work out of my own snuggery. 1853 R. S. SURTEES *Sponge's Sp. Tour* xlii. 230 Each particular apartment..down to the smallest bachelor snuggery, was replete with elegance and comfort. 1892 BARING-GOULD *Trag. Caesars* I. 192 On the top of the house was a snuggery, into which he retired when he wanted to be entirely alone.

attrib. 1857 HUGHES *Tom Brown* II. viii, Tom..soon managed to place on the snuggery table better materials for a meal. 1898 W. WHITE *Jrnls.* 72 An attempt to make a Cambridge snuggery affair of it.

b. *spec.* The bar-parlour of an inn or public-house; = SNUG *sb.*[2] 2.

1837 DICKENS *Pickw.* x, There's these here painted tops in the snuggery inside the bar. 1847 ALB. SMITH *Adv. Chr. Tadpole* xxix. (1879) 259 The bar did not differ from others of its class,..but the snuggery behind was remarkable.

2. A snug, comfortable, or cosy house or dwelling.

1833 T. HOOK *Parson's Dau.* I. i, It [the cottage] was one of the prettiest things imaginable: its interior was a perfect snuggery. 1847 W. IRVING *Life & Lett.* (1866) III. 402 Converting what was once rather a make-shift little mansion into one of the most complete snuggeries in the country. 1893 LADY BURTON *Life Burton* I. 440 The Diplomats have snuggeries here [i.e. Petropolis], and form a pleasant society.

b. A snug place, position, feature, etc.

1850 *Lit. Gazette* 16 Nov. 849/2 The zeal of your modern squire, ensconced in his curtained snuggery of a pew. 1863 HAWTHORNE *Our Old Home* (1883) I. 254 A friend had given us his suburban residence, with all its conveniences, elegancies, and snuggeries. 1867 E. YATES *Forlorn Hope* viii, Lady Muriel rose from the soft snuggery of her cushioned chair.

3. A snug company or party. *rare*—[1].

1832 *Lincoln Herald* 1 July 4/5 Let not this snuggery of literary dunderheads imagine that they are all ambushed.

4. An easy comfortable position or post; a sinecure. *rare.*

1839 *Blackw. Mag.* XLV. 767 Another puts his bastard son into a splendid snuggery for life. 1855 TROLLOPE *Warden* iii, Here was a nice man to be initiated into the comfortable arcana of ecclesiastical snuggeries.

Snugging (snʊ·gĭŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. SNUG *v.*]

1. *techn.* The operation of rubbing down a rope in order to give it a smooth finish.

1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2192/1 The size is flour-paste mixed with other ingredients, and the operation on the rope is called *snugging, sticking,* or *finishing.*

2. *Naut.* The action of making snug or trim. Also with *up.*

1886 R. C. LESLIE *Sea Painter's Log* 61 The washing out and snugging-up of a boat at her moorings for the night. 1886 *Pall Mall G.* 14 Sept. 4/3 With a sloop no corresponding order could have been given which would have led to such smart snugging of canvas.

Snu·gging, *ppl. a. rare*—[1]. [f. as prec.] Snug, quiet, sheltered.

1701 SEDLEY *Happy Pair* Wks. 1722 I. 23 He slily flies to copses, where he finds The snugging woods secure from blasts and winds.

Snuggish (snʊ·gĭʃ), *a.* [f. SNUG *a.*[1]] Somewhat snug; rather comfortable.

1818 *Blackw. Mag.* III. 404 We had chanced ourselves to cram Into a snuggish treckschuit. 1863 SALA *Capt. Dangerous* II. vii. 233, I accompanied him to the 'Admiral Benbow', a snuggish little hostelry. 1866 CARLYLE *E. Irving* in *Reminr.* (1881) II. 260 The Irvings had a dim but snuggish house.

Snu·ggle, *sb. rare.* [f. next.] An act of snuggling. Also with *down.*

1901 'R. CONNOR' *Man from Glengarry* xx. 328 'You are sure you are comfortable?' 'Quite,' she replied, with a cosy little snuggle down among the cushions.

Snuggle (snʊ·g'l), *v.* [Cf. SNUG *v.* and -LE.]

1. *intr.* Of persons, esp. children: To lie snug or close, esp. for warmth or comfort; to settle down cosily or comfortably; to get or press close to a person, esp. as a mark of affection; to nestle.

1687 MIÉGE *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II, To Snuggle, or to snuggle together, *se serrer dans un lit.* 1727 BAILEY (vol. II), *To Snuggle,* to lie close together; to embrace one another in Bed. 1823 E. MOOR *Suffolk Words, Snuggle,* to lie snug in bed—or to get close together in bad weather. 1850 THACKERAY *Pendennis* lviii, She coaxed and snuggled and smiled. 1854 — *Newcomes* i, We were friends in a minute—young Newcome snuggling by my side. 1865 DICKENS *Mut. Fr.* I. iii, I snuggled under a little shawl, and it was warm there. *fig.* 1879 'E. GARRETT' *Ho. by Works* I. 25 It was a wealthy household,..where virtue..snuggled in broad cloth and satin.

b. To nestle *close* or near *to* a person or thing.

1845 S. JUDD *Margaret* I. xiv, Children snuggled to their parents. 1884 *Ordnance Gaz. Scotl.* II. 394 A collie snuggles to his foot. 1900 R. J. MUIR *Myst. Muncraig* xxi. 260 'Don't say that, moaned the girl, snuggling close.

c. With *up* or *down.* Also, to curl up snugly or comfortably.

(*a*) 1840 HALIBURTON *Letter Bag* I. 11, [I] unbooted, unstayed, and snuggled up like a kitten, in bed. 1879 G. MEREDITH *Egoist* xlii, He..dashed downstairs into the drawing-room, where he snuggled up and dropped asleep. 1880 *19th Cent.* Sept. 451 That is the time to appreciate the comfort of a warm weather-proof house, to snuggle up in your blanket [etc.].

(*b*) 1879 STEVENSON *Trav. Cevennes* 61, [I] put my revolver ready to my hand, and snuggled well down among the sheepskins. 1886 MISS MULOCK *King Arthur* viii. 311 When the old birds are flown we must snuggle down in the empty nest.

2. *transf.* Of buildings, etc.: To lie in a sheltered or snug situation; to nestle.

1862 H. MARRYAT *Year in Sweden* II. 301 Under these bastions snuggle small wood tenements. 1892 *Black & White* 26 Nov. 614/1 The towns..snuggle among foliage. 1898 BARING-GOULD *Old Eng. Home* I. 18 In a dip in the land,..snuggling into the folds of the down,..lies this lovely old house.

3. *trans.* To clasp or draw (a person, etc.) to one closely or affectionately; to hug or cuddle.

1775 ASH, *Snuggle,* to receive into the bosom, to receive into a snug place. 1823 E. MOOR *Suffolk Words* s.v., A nurse hugging a child warmly and kindly, would be said to snuggle it. 1874 CHRISTINA ROSSETTI *Poems, Speaking Likenesses* 92 She snuggled it tenderly to her.

b. To wrap *in* some warm garment, etc. Also with *up.*

1867 ALGER *Solitudes Nat. & Man* III. 169 To lie amid the clover..; or, snuggled in furs, to trudge [etc.]. 1893 *Advance* (Chicago) 30 Nov., Little boys whom doting mammas have snuggled up in leggings, mittens and mufflers.

c. To push or press, to place or settle, (the head, etc.) in a snug or affectionate manner.

1883 *Harper's Mag.* Dec. 94/1 He..patted the little hand snuggled in upon his arm. 1899 DOYLE *Duet* [xiv.] 185 She snuggled her head up against his knee.

d. To fit or push closely *into* something.

1902 *Temple Bar* May 578 As he snuggled the weapon into the groove of the parapet.

4. *refl.* To settle or nestle (oneself) *in* a place snugly or comfortably.

1876 W. WHITE *Holidays in Tyrol* x. 82 Nests erected on poles in which the watchers snuggle themselves.

Snu·gify, *v.* [f. SNUG *a.*[1]] *trans.* To make snug or comfortable.

1796 LAMB in Talfourd *Life & Lett.* ii. (1840) 12, I devoutly wish that Fortune..may..throw you into London,..and there snugify you for life.

Snugly (snʊ·gli), *adv.* [f. SNUG *a.*[1]] In a snug or comfortable manner; cosily, comfortably.

1611 *Tarlton's Jests* (1844) p. xl, Being thus under saile, going so snugly downe, it made us all so merry. 1732 J. WHALEY *Poems* 180 You,..the reigning Toast, may snuggly err, secure from Harm. 1799 CAMPBELL *The Harper* 15 How snugly we slept in my old coat of gray. 1815 SCOTT *Guy M.* liii, Even in winter it was a sheltered and snugly sequestered spot. 1852 MRS. STOWE *Uncle Tom's C.* xiii. 117 She found herself snugly tucked up on the bed with a blanket over her. 1890 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Col. Reformer* (1891) 220 He..professed himself to be snugly lodged.

b. Neatly, trimly; closely, securely.

1800 *Naval Chron.* IV. 134 These balls..might be stopped up snugly to the beams. 1901 *J. Black's Carp. & Build.* 68 A..piece of heavy galvanized sheet iron is fitted into the groove with white lead, and then the parts are brought snugly together.

Snugness (snʊ·gnĕs). [f. as prec.]

1. The state, condition, or quality of being snug or comfortable; cosiness. Also *personif.*

1766 GOLDSM. *Vicar W.* iv, My house..was covered with thatch, which gave it an air of great snugness. 1766 COWPER *Wks.* (1837) XV. 11, I rejoice with you in the snugness of your situation. *c* 1790 WARTON *Phaeton & One-horse Chair* 70 O'er me soft Snugness spreads her wings. 1809 PINKNEY *Trav. France* 179 The fields..are so small as to give them a peculiar air of snugness. 1850 HAWTHORNE *Scarlet Letter* Introd. (1879) 12 All the softness and snugness of an eider-down pillow. 1873 HAMERTON *Intell. Life* XII. iii. 447 There is a well-known objection to extensive views as wanting in snugness and comfort.

†2. Secrecy, reticence. *Obs.*

1778 MME. D'ARBLAY *Diary* Sept., Had I been allowed to preserve the snugness I had planned, I need not have concerned myself at all about its fate.

3. Neatness, trimness; compactness, closeness.

1799 [A. YOUNG] *Agric. Linc.* 325 Though the Lincoln had the thicker pelt, and more wool, the thickness and snugness of frame of the Leicester made amends. 1802 *Naval Chron.* VII. 178 She..has all the snugness on the water of a large frigate.

†**Snur,** *v. Obs.*—[1] In 6 snurre. [Imitative, or ad. MLG. *snurren* (hence Da. *snurre,* Sw. and Norw. *snurra*), MHG. *snurren* (G. *schnurren*).] *intr.* To snort.

1523 SKELTON *Garl. Laurel* 1472 Apollo that whirllid vp his chare, That made sum to snurre and snuf in the wynde.

Snurl, *sb. dial.* Also 9 **snirl, snerl,** etc. [Cf. WFlem. *snorrelen* to snuffle or snort.]

† 1. (See quot.) *Obs.*—[0]

1674 RAY *S. & E. C. Words* 77 *A Snurle*, a Pose or Cold in the head... Suff. [Hence in Coles, Kersey, Bailey, etc.]

2. A nostril.

1691 RAY *N. C. Words* 137 *Snurles*, Nostrils. 1876– in northern glossaries.

Snurl, *v. dial.* Also 9 snirl, snerl. [Cf. SNARL *v.*[1]]

Some other senses in northern dial. and Sc. are recorded in the *Eng. Dial. Dict.*

1. *trans.* To ruffle or disturb.

1719 RAMSAY *3rd Answ. Hamilton* vii, When northern blasts the ocean snurl.

2. To turn *up* (the nose) in disdain.

a 1833 R. ANDERSON *Cumb. Ballads* (1881) 138 She snurl'd up her neb. 1873 in *Swaledale Gloss.* 24/1.

Snurp, *v.* (app. the same as the mod. dial. *snurp* (more commonly *snirp*, *snerp*), of Scand. origin: cf. Norw. dial. *snurpa*, *snyrpa* to draw together in wrinkles.] *intr.* To become shrivelled or wrinkled.

c 1300 *Old Age* vii. in *E. E. P.* (1862) 149, I snurpe, i snobbe, i sneipe on snovte.

Snurt, *v.* Now *north.* and *Sc.* Also 5 snvrtyn, 6, 8 *dial.* snourt, 6 snowrt. [prob. imitative.]

1. *intr.* To snort; † to sneer; to snore.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 462/1 Snvrtyn, or frowne wythe þe nese for scorne or schrewdenesse, *nario*. 1549 COVERDALE, etc. *Erasm. Par. Thess.* 7 That we watche in the dayelight and not lye snourtyng in darkenesse. 1551 *Dr. Haddon's Exhort.* in Furnivall *Ballads fr. MSS.* I. 325 Yet snowrteste thow, & sleapeste sownd. 1611 COTGR., *Brouffer*, to snurt, or snifter with the nose, like a horse. 1790 Mrs. WHEELER *Westmld. Dial.* (1821) App. 2 They [fish] snourt when they com out oth girt dub like thunner. 1887 DARLINGTON *Folk Sp. S. Cheshire, Snurt*, to snort; but used only of a horse.

† **2.** *trans.* To eject or cast *out* with a snort or clearing of the nose. *Obs. rare.*

1600 *Minte of Deformities* (Halliw.), One snurts tobacco, as his nose were made A perfum'd jakes for all scurrilities. 1610 MARKHAM *Masterpiece* II. xxii. 256 Giue him liberty to hold downe his head, and to snurt out the filthy matter.

Hence **Snu·rter,** a snorer; **Snu·rting** *vbl. sb.* and *ppl. a.*

1549 COVERDALE, etc. *Erasm. Par.* 1 *Peter* II. 12 So as he that is the more watchefull, maye rayse vp the drowsye snourtour. 1567 DRANT *Horace, Ep.* I. xiv. E v, Swetely by the hussning brookes to take a snurting nap. 1611 COTGR., *Esbrouëment*,...a snurting, or snuftering with the nose. 1891 *Sheffield Gloss.* Suppl. 54 A man who was blowing through his tobacco pipe said that 'it made a snurting noise'.

† **Snush,** *sb. Obs.* [perh. imitative of a sneezing sound, but cf. Da. and Sw. *snus*. See also *snish* SNEESH *sb.*]

1. Snuff. (Freq. *c* 1680–1700.)

1671 CROWNE *Juliana* III. 33 Some snush would purge your simple brain. 1698 *Phil. Trans.* XX. 7 He had Snush on his Hand, as if just ready to take it. 1700 FARQUHAR *Constant Couple* II, [Stage direction] Throws snush into his eye. 1716 M. DAVIES *Athen. Brit.* III. Diss. Drama 31 To see six or seven Spanish and Italian Priestly Converts ..Carrying of Snush, like Jews, from Door to Door. 1767 MESTON *Poems* (ed. 6) 82 Bedaub'd with soot, and snush and bubblings. 1825 JAMIESON *Suppl., Snush*, snuff; a term still used by old people; Aberd[een].

2. A pinch, or small quantity, of snuff.

1703 M. MARTIN *Desc. Western Islands* 14 They will tug at the Oar all day long upon Bread and Water, and a snush of Tobacco.

3. *attrib.*, as *snush-box, -tobacco.*

1682 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1757/4 A round Gold Snush-box. 1691 tr. *Emilianne's Observ. Journ. Naples* 204 The Gentlemen that Travell'd with me, having presented them with a Paper of Bononia Snush-Tobacco. 1702 T. MORER *Short Acc. Scotl.* 20 They are fond of Tobacco, but more from the Snush-Box than pipe. 1709 PRIOR *Cupid & Ganymede* 13 A Snush-Box, set with bleeding Hearts, Rubies, all pierc'd with Diamond Darts.

† **Snush,** *v. Obs. rare.* [Cf. prec.] *trans.* To snuff, snuff *up* (tobacco); to take as snuff.

1703 M. MARTIN *Desc. Western Islands* 40 She took a Quill with which she ordinarily snushed her Tobacco. *a* 1704 T. BROWN *Wks.* (1720) 126 Then filling his short Pipe, he blows a Blast, And does the burning Weed to Ashes wast, Which, when its cool, he snushes up his Nose.

† **Snute.** *Obs.* In 7 snewtte, snut(t)e, snuyt. [ad. Du. *snuit* or Flem. *snuite*, *snute*: cf. SNOUTING 2.] (See quots. 1651.)

1649 *Rec. Merchant. Adv. Newcastle* (Surtees) I. 157 A little hempe, snute and sope. 1651 *Ibid.* 174 Snutte, a comodity made out of flax. *Ibid.*, In which manufacture there are these 3 partes, that is, the flax.., the snewtte which is the combeings of the tow which was heckled of the flax. 1663 *Ibid.* 59 Tow or snute the c weight, iij d.

† **Snut-nose.** *Obs.* [Cf. SNAT-NOSED *a.*] A snub-nose. Also † **Snut-nosed** *a.*, snub-nosed. *Obs.*

1603 HOLLAND *Plutarch's Mor.* 666 If men be jested at, for that they be long-nosed.., or otherwise have short snut-noses. 1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey) s.v. *Silo*, An Ape-Nosed or Snut Nosed Fellow.

† **Snu·ttering,** *vbl. sb. Obs.*[–1] [Imitative: cf. SNATTER *v.*] Chattering.

a 1693 *Urquhart's Rabelais* III. xiii. 107 The..snarling of Messens, rantling of Rats,..snuttering of Monkies.

† **Snuve,** *v. Obs.*[–1] [= WFris. *snuve*, MDu. *snuven, snuyven* (Du. *snuiven*), LG. *snuven*, MHG. *snuben* (G. *schnauben*), etc., in similar senses.] *trans.* To snuff or sniff.

c 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 191 þe werse..secheð..at te nose 3if it beoð open to snuuende unluuede breð.

Snu·zzle, *v.* Now *dial.* Also 8 snuzle. [? variant of NUZZLE *v.*[1] Cf. SNOOZLE *v.*]

1. *intr.* **a.** Of swine: To rout *about* with the snout or nose.

1737 BRACKEN *Farriery Impr.* (1757) II. 130 Swine will thrive best when they have the Opportunity of..snuzling about, and picking up the Oats, &c.

b. Of a dog: To sniff or poke with the nose.

1861 HUGHES *Tom Brown at Oxford* iii, A way he [a dog] had of going 'snuzzling' about the calves of strangers.

2. *dial.* Of persons, esp. children: To nuzzle, snuggle, or settle down comfortably.

1781 J. HUTTON *Tour to Caves* (ed. 2) Gloss. 96 *Snuzzle*, to hide the face in the bosom as children. [Hence in Grose (1790), Holloway, etc.] 1869– in dial. glossaries, etc. (Yks., Lanc., Chesh., Nott.).

Sny (snəi), *sb. Shipbuilding.* [Cf. SNYING *vbl. sb.*] (See quots. 1846 and 1875.)

a. 1711 W. SUTHERLAND *Shipbuild. Assist.* 54 In working up a round Buttock of a Ship, the lower Edge of the Planks will have a sudden Sny aft. 1846 A. YOUNG *Naut. Dict.* 288 In shipbuilding, a plank is said to have sny, when its edge has an upward curve.

b. *c* 1850 *Rudim. Nav.* (Weale) 149 The great sny occasioned in full bows..is..to be prevented by introducing steelers. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2232/1 *Sny*,..the trend of the lines of a ship upward from amidship toward the bow and the stern.

† **Sny,** *v.*[1] *Obs.*[–1] In 5 snyȝe. [Of obscure origin.] *intr.* To move, proceed.

a 1400–50 *Alexander* 4095 þan snyȝes þar, out of þat snyth hill.., A burly best.

Sny (snəi), *v.*[2] Now *dial.* Forms: 7 snithe, 9 snive; 7, 9 snie, 8–9 sny, 9 snye; 7, 9 snee. [Of obscure origin.] *intr.* To abound, swarm, teem, be infested, *with* something.

1674 RAY *N. C. Words* 44 To *Snee* or *snie*, to abound or swarm. He *snies* with Lice, he swarms with them. 1675 V. ALSOP *Anti-sozzo* 503 Certainly never did man so snithe with prejudices against Truth. *c* 1746 J. COLLIER (Tim Bobbin) *View Lanc. Dial.* Gloss., *Snye*, to swarm. 1849 HOWITT *Year Bk. Country* 242/32 The villages in the forest sny with children. 1882 *Echo* 16 Jan. 4/1 The place literally 'snives' with rabbits. 1897 J. PRIOR *Ripple & Flood* xix, The watter snies wi' fish.

Snye (to cut): see SNICK OR SNEE.

Snying (snəi·iŋ), *vbl. sb. Shipbuilding.* [Of obscure origin: cf. SNY *sb.*, and dial. *sny*, *snigh* to turn up the nose.] (See quots.)

1711 W. SUTHERLAND *Shipbuild. Assist.* 47 As much as possible keep your Work from extream Snying or Cambering. *Ibid.* 164 *Snying*, an arching upwards, where the Middle of the Plank appears higher than the Ends. 1815 BURNEY *Falconer's Mar. Dict.* 488/1 *Snying*, among shipwrights, a term used for a circular plank, edgeways, to work in the bows of the ship.

So **Sny·ing** *ppl. a.*, having an upward curve or sny.

1711 W. SUTHERLAND *Shipbuild. Assist.* 47 You will likewise be obliged to have snying (or crooked) Planks. 1736 PEGGE *Kenticisms* (E.D.S.) 48 A stick or bat of timber is said to be a snying piece, when it bends or is somewhat curved. *c* 1850 *Rudim. Nav.* (Weale) 149 *Snying*, a term applied to planks when their edges round or curve upwards. *Ibid.* 152 Its use is to take out the snying edge.

Snythe, obs. variant of SNATH, scythe-pole.

Snyth-hill: see SNIDDLE.

So (sōu), *adv.* and *conj.* Forms: (see below). [Common Teut.: OE. *swa*, *swā* (also *swǣ*, *swē*, etc.), = OFris. *sa*, *so* (Fris. *sa*, *so*, *sô*, *sü*, etc.), MDu. *so*, *soo*, *soe* (Du. *zoo*), OS. *sô* (MLG. *so*, LG. *so*, *sou*), OHG. *sô*, *suo* (MHG. *sô*, *sô*, G. *so*), ON. *svá* (Icel. *svo*, †*so*, Norw. and Da. *saa*, Sw. *så*), Goth. *swa* (also *swē*). The precise relation of some of these forms to each other, and the ultimate origin of the stem, are uncertain.]

In OE. frequently strengthened by a preceding *eall* (*all*): for the subsequent history of this see ALSO and AS.

A. Illustration of forms.

1. *a.* 1 suae, suæ (suœ), swæ.

c 725 *Corpus Gl.* (Hessels) Q 18 *Quantisper*, suae suiðe. 805 *Charter* in *O. E. Texts* 442 Suæ hueðer hiora suæ leng lifes. *c* 888 K. ÆLFRED *Boeth.* xxxiv. § 9 Swæ me ðincð. *c* 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Matt. xiii. 32 Suoæ þæt fleȝendo heofnes cymes.

β. 1 sue, suue, 1, 3 swe.

c 700 CÆDMON *Hymn* 3 Sue he uundra ȝihuaes..or astelidæ. *c* 825 *Vesp. Psalter* ii. 9 Swe swe fet lames. *c* 875 *Erfurt Gloss., Quacumque*, suue suidae. 971 *Blickl. Hom.* 23 Swe we nu ȝeearnian willaþ. *c* 1205 LAY. 29805 And swe he dude seoððe.

γ. 1–3 se (2 see).

c 831 *Charter* in *O. E. Texts* 446 Suelc mon se ðet lond hebbe. 1154 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1137, War sæ me tilede. *Ibid.* an. 1140, Ware se he com. *a* 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 49 Se wide se þet lond wes.

2. (Only *OE., north.*, and *Sc.*) *a.* 1–7 swa (5 swaa), 1, 4–7 sua, 4 squa; 6 sway, suay, swae.

Beowulf 29 Swa he selfa bæd. *c* 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Matt. v. 31 Sua hua forletas wif his. *c* 1200 ORMIN Ded. 107 þatt he't write swa. *c* 1325 *Metr. Hom.* 6 That it be sua. *c* 1375 *Cursor M.* 522 (Fairf.), Squa ys þe firmament. *a* 1400 *Syr Perc.* 524, I rede at it be swaa! *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* I. 250 Thai left him swa. 1537 *Registr. Aberdon.* (Maitl. Cl.) I. 413 And sway to continue. 1539 *Lib. Officialis Sti. Andree* (Abbotsford Cl.) 85 Suay þat þe said mareage cum nocht to effect. 1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* I. 274 Sua sal ȝe find na place. 1597 MONTGOMERIE *Cherrie & Slae* (ed. 2) 502 Thou sal sie it swae. *a* 1670 SPALDING *Troub. Chas. I* (Spalding Cl.) I. 88 Right sua Caithness, Sutherland [etc.]. 1678 SIR G. MACKENZIE *Crim. Laws Scot.* I. xxi. ii. (1699) 111 In swa far as he came.

β. 5–7, 9 sa, 6 saa.

a 1400–50 *Alexander* 259 Sa clere a witt & sa clene. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* I. i. 16 Sa feill dangeris. 1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* II. 104 Althoch neuir saa Just. 1673 *Yorkshire Dial.* 4 (E.D.S.), Thou stayes sa lang. 1801 *Lonsdale Dial.* 4 (E.D.S.), I sat up sa lang yesternete. 1887 HALL CAINE *Son of Hagar* I. i, The..days you crack on sa often.

γ. 5–6 say, 7– sae; 6, 9 sea, 7 seay; 6, 9 see, 9 seea.

14.. *Sc. Leg. Saints* xviii. (*Mary Egypt*) 290 Lyand say one athyr syd. 1533 GAU *Richt Vay* 102 Say greit faith. *c* 1566 *Merie Tales of Skelton* S.'s Wks. 1843 I. p. lviii, In gewd faith, saith the Kendallman, do see. 1583 *Leg. Bp. St. Androis* 899 Threttie pundis he conqueist sea. *c* 1620 A. HUME *Brit. Tongue* 17 Sae soft a mynt. 1684 *Yorkshire Dial.* 15 (E.D.S.), What need thou be seay flaid? 1728 RAMSAY *Anacreontic on Love* 12, I thought it sae. 1785 BURNS *2nd Ep. Lapraik* vii, Sae I've begun to scrawl. 1808 J. STAGG *Misc. Poems* 143 Suld ye..be sea daft. 1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* xvi, Do sae, minister—do sae.

3. *a.* 2–3 swo, 3 suo, 4 zuo.

a 1200 *Vices & Virtues* 33 Swo he mai me folȝin. *c* 1275 *Passion our Lord* 543 in *O. E. Misc.*, Iesus crist þet suo aros. 1340 *Ayenb.* 1 Zuo by hit.

β. 3– so, 4–6 soo, 5–7 soe; *dial.* 8–9 soa, zo, 9 soo, zoo, zaw, etc.

a 1240 in *O. E. Hom.* I. 203 Nere þe heorte so cold. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 16762+41 Mony grete clerkez..Seghen þe son fare soo. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) VII. 43 þat his broþer..was so i-slawe. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 4772 þat þai suld wax soo. *c* 1420 *Avow. Arth.* xxiv, Is hit soe? 1482 *Cely Papers* (Camden) 131, Y would nott a wreten so. 1557 *Cal. Anc. Rec. Dublin* (1889) 463 The fynes..soo by hym not executed. 1683 *Col. Rec. Pennsylv.* I. 72 Which was soe done. 1746 *Exmoor Scolding* 195 (E.D.S.), And more an zo. 1785 W. HUTTON *Bran New Wark* 421 (E.D.S.), Soa far fra loving the man. 1867 ROCK *Yim an' Nell* xcv, Zo let us muve along.

B. Signification.

I. 1. In the way or manner described, indicated, or suggested; in that style or fashion.

Contextually the sense may be 'in the same way', 'by that means', etc. For the elliptic phrase *so please you*, etc., see PLEASE *v.* 3 c.

c 888 K. ÆLFRED *Boeth.* v. § 3 Ȝelefst ðu þæt..auht godes swa ȝeweorðan mæȝe butan þæm wyrhtan. *c* 1200 ORMIN Ded. 44 Icc hafe sett her..manig word þe rime swa to fillenn. *a* 1250 *Prov. Ælfred* 350 So me may þane lobe lengust lede. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 19005 Fra dede to lijf nu resin es he,.. Raisd sua wid godds might. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Prologue* 102 A Yeman had he, and servantes nomoo At that tyme, for him luste ride soo. *a* 1450 *Mirk's Festial* 26 A well yn Rome of watyr turned ynto oyle and ran soo all þat day. 1563 *Homilies* II. *Right Use Ch.* I. (1859) 154 His heavenly grace, wherewith he..endueth his people so there assembled. 1580 in W. H. Hale *Prec. Causes of Office* (1841) 85 They had in their church a godly interlude..Dominus monuit that herafter they do not so prophane their churche. 1643 DENHAM *Cooper's Hill* 202 For so our Children, thus our Friends, we love. 1725 POPE *Odyss.* IV. 159 So moves ..The silver-shafted goddess of the chace! 1780 *Mirror* No. 106, A person, engaged in the ordinary business of life, ..and, while so engaged [etc.]. 1840 THACKERAY *Shabby-genteel Story* viii, There was the woman at Pau; and that girl..at Vienna. He went on just so about them all. 1874 T. HARDY *Far fr. Mad. Crowd* xx, 'You don't hold the shears right, miss...Incline the edge so,' he said.

2. With the verbs *do*, *say*, *think*, etc., latterly assuming the function of an object and passing into the sense of 'that'.

Placed either after or before the verb; but the latter order is now only literary and archaic, as in the phrase *so to do* (after quot. 1552).

(*a*) *c* 825 *Vesp. Psalter* cxlvii. 20 Ne dyde swe ylcre cneorisse. *c* 1000 *Ags. Gosp.* John xviii. 22 Andswarast ðu swa? *c* 1055 *Byrhtferth's Handboc* in *Anglia* VIII. 301 Do eall swa be eallum þam oðrum. *c* 1205 LAY. 2348 Ah ne dude he nawiht swo. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 13056 Qui sais þou sua? 1362 LANGL. *P. Pl.* A. II. 90 þe Tixt telleþ not so. *a* 1400 *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* xxiii. 224 Offreþ þe lombes of Innocensye, For he comaundet so. *c* 1450 in Aungier *Hist. Syon* (1840) 251, I haue not in mende that I seyd so or dyd so. *a* 1536 *Songs, Carols*, etc. (E. E. T. S.) 21 Pesse, dere son, tell me not soo. 1611 BIBLE *Isaiah* xx. 2 And he did so, walking naked. 1697 J. LEWIS *Mem. Dk. Glocester* (1789) 24 When the Princess asked him, who taught him so? he said, Lewis. 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* xxxviii, 'I must believe so, sir,' replied Emily. 1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* xxiii, It was now the presiding Judge's turn to address the jury. He did so briefly and distinctly. *a* 1834 COLERIDGE *Confess. Enq. Spirit* iii. (1840) 37, I cannot doubt that they think so. 1892 *Law Times Rep.* LXVII. 252/1 If this had not been true, the pilot would have taken very good care to tell us so.

(*b*) *a* 1122 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 656, Ða seonde se kyning æfter þone abbode, þet he æuestlice scolde to him cumon, & he swa dyde. *a* 1275 *Prov. Ælfred* 292 ȝif he for-swunken swoti wuere, swo hie ne þochte. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 4933 Sa þai me tald. 1422 tr. *Secreta Secret., Priv. Priv.* 123 Yf ye So do, ye may haue hoppe [etc.]. 1496 *Cov. Leet Book* 572 þat they may be compelled so to do. 1535 COVERDALE *Judith* vi. 17 He tolde them..how Holofernes people wolde haue slayne him for so sayenge. 1552 *Bk. Common Prayer, Morning Prayer*, Yet oughte we most chiefly so to doe, when [etc.]. 1660 SHARROCK *Vegetables* 16 You must not sow them too thick, for so doing hath lost many a peck of seed. 1816 SCOTT *Bl. Dwarf* xiv, So exclaimed Ellieslaw. 1844 DISRAELI *Coningsby* v. iii, So saying, the secretary effected his escape. 1888 BRYCE *Amer. Commonw.* I. xxxiv. 521 Some State legislatures have affected so to do.

b. With auxiliary verbs in elliptic use (requiring the addition of *do* or *to do*). Sometimes emphasizing a previous statement (quot. 1777).

Beowulf 797 Dær hie mealton swa. *a* 1310 in Wright *Lyric P.* xv. 49 Me thunketh myn herte breketh a tuo; Suete God, whi shal hit swo? *a* 1400 *Isumbras* 57 In 3outhe I maye bothe ryde and goo, When I ame alde I may nott so. *a* 1425 *Cursor M.* 9342 (Trin.), Kyngis anoynt 3e haue to-fore; So shul 3e þenne no more. *c* 1475 *Babees Bk.* 127 Now must I telle in shorte, for I muste so [*i.e.* in brief], Youre observaunce that ye shalle done. 1607 SHAKS. *Cor.* II. iii. 262 *Brut*[*us*]. Repaire to th' Capitoll. *All.* We will so. 1777 SHERIDAN *Trip Scarb.* III. iv, It's well I have a husband a-coming, or ecod I'd marry the baker, I would so. 1860 RUSKIN *Unto this Last* iv. § 81 All England may, if it so chooses, become one manufacturing town. 1871 R. ELLIS *Catullus* lxi. 97 Forth, fair bride, to the people, if So it likes you.

c. In this way; thus; as follows.

a 1250 *Prov. Ælfred* 405 For so seyde Salomon, þe wise: 'Þe mon þat her wel deþ' [etc.]. *c* 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* I. 480 For when it es born it cryes swa: If it be man it says 'a. a' [etc.]. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 462 So, or on thys wyse, ..*sic, siceine.* 1611 BIBLE *Isaiah* xviii. 4 For so the Lord sayd vnto me; I will take my rest [etc.]. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* vi, How Amelia trembled as she opened it! So it ran—[etc.].

3. Used as predicate with the verb *be*.

In literary use still placed before the verb for emphasis, or in archaic phrases, as *so be it* (formerly used as a rendering of AMEN).

(*a*) *Beowulf* 1471 Ne wæs þæm oðrum swa. *c* 888 K. ÆLFRED *Boeth.* xxxvi. § 7 Ac ðeah hi his nu næfre ne ȝelefen, ðeah hit is swa. *a* 1000 *Rel. Ant.* I. 35 Ic ȝe-lyfe on ..þat ece lif. Sy it swa. 1338 R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (1810) 55, I praye God, if it were so, I strangle of þis brede. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 179 Sen it is sett to be soo, & slipe it ne may. 1530 PALSGR. 586 I holde you a noble it is nat so. 1611 BIBLE *Judges* vi. 38 If the deaw be on the fleece onely... And it was so. 1697 COLLIER *Ess. Mor. Subj.* I. (1703) 164 You argue from fact to necessity; 'Tis so, therefore it must be so. 1756 BURKE *Vind. Nat. Soc.* Wks. I. 27 It is always so; but was here emphatically so. 1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* xviii, If this be all so, is it not reasonable [etc.]. 1862 MISS BRADDON *Lady Audley* xxiii, I pray that it may be so, but I cannot think that it is so—I cannot even hope that it is so. 1880 'MARK TWAIN' *Tramp Abroad* xxvii. 246 No! Is that so?

(*b*) *c* 1000 ÆLFRIC *Exod.* x. 11 Hit ne mæg na swa beon. 1340 *Ayenb.* 1 Ich bidde þe hit by my sseld..al to mi lyues ende, zuo by hit. *c* 1375 *Cursor M.* 1148 (Fairf.), For if I walde for-gif hit þe, hit nys noȝt worþi so to be. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* ii. (*Paul*) 1015 Gif it swa be, we mon all obey till his lare. 1535 COVERDALE *Judith* xiii. 15 That thou mayest se that it so is, beholde, this is yᵉ heade of Holofernes. 1536 *Primer Salish. Use* 48 As it..euer shalbe. So be it. 1599 PORTER *Angry Wom. Abingt.* (Percy Soc.) 8 And his men be good fellowes, so it is. 1682 BUNYAN *Holy War* Wks. 1768 II. 7 No reason being annexed, but so I will have it, so it shall be. 1812 CRABBE *Tales* xviii, If he On aught determined, so it was to be. 1833 T. HOOK *Parson's Dau.* I. ix, How the conversation took that particular turn, I do not presume to know—so it was.

b. With auxiliary verbs in elliptic use (requiring the addition of (*to*) *be*, (*to*) *have it*, etc.).

Beowulf 2091 He mec þær on innan..ȝedon wolde...: hyt ne mihte swa. *c* 1205 LAY. 131 Mid wintre he wes biweaued; Swo hit wolde godd. *c* 1440 *Alph. Tales* 83 And Saynt Petur wolde nevur so, it myght nevur com samen agayn. *c* 1489 CAXTON *Sonnes of Aymon* xvii. 392 Ye saye well, .. and I am soo contente. 1594 GREENE & LODGE *Looking Gl.* G.'s Wks. (Rtldg.) 130 You are a welcome guest, if so you please. 1701 J. NORRIS *Ideal World* I. ii. 95 We need but..., instead of *I affirm so if so*, say *If so I affirm so*. 1731 POPE *Let. to Hill* 15 Feb., I am very desirous to leave out that note if you like so.

c. Followed by a clause introduced by *that*.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 11725 Quer it es sua, yee wat it noght, þat handes mine þis tre has wroght. *c* 1400 *Beryn* 3569 Sith þat it so is, That of the first pleyntyff wee have sikirnes. *a* 1450 *Le Morte Arth.* 2517 The knyghtis..said..that so them thought That syr mordred the sekereste was. 1538 STARKEY *England* I. i. 10 Though hyt be so that man abusyth the..cumpany of man. 1663–8 S. PATRICK *Parab. Pilgr.* (1687) 474 Yet so it was, that one day he seriously told his Friend. 1711 STEELE *Spect.* No. 144 ¶ 1 Yet so it is, that People can bear any Quality in the World better than Beauty. 1763 J. BROWN *Poetry & Music* v. 61 How came it so to pass, that the first Race of Men were..of a stronger Turn to Poetry?

d. In clauses of supposition (sometimes with omission of *that*). *By so* (*that*): see BY *prep.* 23 d.

13.. in Horstman *Hampole's Wks.* (1896) I. 169 If so be þat þo haf les schame with þi foule herte þen with þi foule body. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 48 That can I do wel, Be so my lif therto wol laste. *c* 1482 in *Cal. Proc. Chanc. Q. Eliz.* II. (1830) Pref. 64 If it hadde be soo that the forsaide John Ferrers hadde not made feithfull promyse. 1495–1611 [see IF *conj.* 8 f]. 1638 BRATHWAIT *Barnabees Jrnl.* (1818) 193 Thus love I thee, so be thou loue me. 1665–1861 [see IF *conj.* 8 f].

4. Representing a word or phrase already employed: Of that nature or description; of or in that condition, etc.

c 1000 ÆLFRIC *Saints' Lives* II. xxix. 52 Paulus..ȝemette ænne blindne mann, se wæs ȝeboren swa. *c* 1440 *Alph. Tales* 85 A preste þat trowid he was a passand gude synger, not-with-stondyng he was not so. 1563 *Homilies* II. *Fasting* I. (1859) 284 Which works..are called good works, and are so indeed. 1573 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 128 Some come, some go, This life is so. *a* 1640 MASSINGER *Old Law* IV. ii, He's merry As if he had no such charge: one with that care Could never be so. 1664 H. MORE *Myst. Iniq.* II. II. i. 338 If the Devil be a Beast, that which makes him so is the wickedness of his nature. 1737 POPE *Hor. Epist.* I. vi. 2 To make men happy, and to keep them so. 1842 BORROW *Bible in Spain* vii, He was half intoxicated, and soon became three parts so. 1885 *Law Reports* 15 Q.B.D. 316 The catch..was worn away, and probably had been so for months.

b. With verbs of thinking, considering, etc.: To be such, as such.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 27573 Man es..prode for halines, And lates oft lightly o þaa Men þat er noght funden sua. 1609 BIBLE (Douay) 1 *Macc.* x. *comm.*, It was not in the kings powre to make Jonathas highpriest, but..the king..did so account him. 1644 VICARS *God in Mount* 195 They taking us to be their friends, and wee them so too. 1710 STEELE *Tatler* No. 126 ¶ 1 Her Attractions would indeed be irresistible, but that she thinks them so. 1784 J. POTTER *Virtuous Villagers* II. 179 Though I am afraid it is not always considered so. 1847 C. BRONTË *J. Eyre* ii, 'Silence! This violence is all most repulsive;' and so, no doubt, she felt it. 1896 *Law Times* C. 358/1 R. became a lunatic, and was so found by inquisition.

c. As object after *have*.

1658 *Whole Duty Man* iii. 52 The first is the having a mean and low opinion of our selves, the second is the being content that others should have so of us. 1662 STILLINGFLEET *Orig. Sacræ* II. iii. § 4 Whether the person..hath divine authority for what he saith. What ground can I have to believe that he hath so?

d. With *call*, *name*, etc.: By that name or designation. (Cf. 6.)

1608 SHAKS. *Per.* III. iii. 13 My..babe Marina, Whom, for she was borne at sea, I haue named so. 1617 COLLINS *Def. Bp. Ely* To Rdr. p. ix, Hee maruells that the Papists should be so called [*sc. nouitii*]. 1659 PEARSON *Creed* (1839) 446 The.. Scriptures..term him plainly and expressly so. 1728 SWIFT *Gulliver* I. viii, My son Johnny, named so after his uncle. 1803 WORDSW. *Blind Highland Boy* 11 A Highland Boy!—why call him so? 1859 HADLEY *Ess.* x. (1873) 194 This mode of 'futurizing' (if we may so call it).

5. In various elliptic uses:

†**a.** = Yes. *Obs.*[-1]

a 1425 *Cursor M.* 13560 (Trin.), Somme seide nay & somme so.

b. After adverbs and conjunctions, as *how so? not so, if so*, etc.

a 1300 [see How *adv.* 17]. 1526 TINDALE *Luke* i. 60 Not soo, but he shalbe called Jhon. 1579 FULKE *Heskins' Parl.* 135 This hath nothing lesse then that. Why so? 1579 SPENSER *Sheph. Cal.* May 312 If Foxes bene so crafty, as so. *a* 1593 MARLOWE *Edw. II*, v. ii, That Edmund laid a plot To set his brother free, no more but so. 1676 ETHEREDGE *Man of Mode* I. i, *Dor.* I am glad he pitcht upon Loveit. *Bell.* How so? 1819 SCOTT *Ivanhoe* xxviii, He will not die unless we abandon him; and if so, we are indeed answerable for his blood. 1842 TENNYSON *Lady Clare* xi, 'Nay now,..keep the secret all ye can.' She said, 'Not so'. 1871 R. ELLIS *Catullus* lxxxv. 1 Half I hate, half love. How so? one haply requireth. 1896 GUY BOOTHBY *Dr. Nikola* i, 'I know China as well as any living Englishman.' 'Quite so.'

c. As an introductory particle. Also *so, so*.

This and the two following uses are common in Shakspere's plays.

1593 SHAKS. *Lucr.* 330 So so, quoth he, these lets attend the time. 1602 *How to choose Gd. Wife* in Hazl. *Dodsley* IX. 55 So, let me see: my apron. 1605 *1st Pt. Jeronimo* I. i. 77 So, so, Andrea must be sent imbassador? 1741 RICHARDSON *Pamela* III. 251 And I say..So, my good Friends!—I am glad to see you. 1775 SHERIDAN *Rivals* II. ii, So, so, ma'am! I humbly beg pardon.

d. As an expression of approval, or a direction to do something in a particular manner. Also in phr. *so best*.

(*a*) 1598 SHAKS. *Merry W.* III. i. 109 Giue me thy hand (Celestiall) so. 1627 CAPT. SMITH *Seaman's Gram.* ix. 38 Steare steady & keep your course, so, you go wel. 1649 LOVELACE *Poems* (1864) 112 Where now one *so so* spatters, t'other: *no!* 1669 STURMY *Mariner's Mag.* I. ii. 18 So, thus, keep her thus. 1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* xxiii, Walk through the apartment...So; feel you not now that you are possessed of the full use of your limbs? 1833 T. HOOK *Parson's Dau.* II. i, Here, let me just turn that curl—there, so. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.* 637 *So!*, an order to desist temporarily from hauling upon a rope, when it has come to its right position.

(*b*) 1851 MRS. BROWNING *Casa Guidi Wind.* II. Wks. (1904) 372 Shaking Austria's yoke He shattered his own hand and heart. 'So best'. 1860 *Trans. Philol. Soc.* LXI. 164 It is to be an omnium-gatherum, and if this be practicable, so best.

†**e.** = Let it be so; it is well. *Obs.*

1591 SHAKS. *Two Gentl.* II. i. 137 If it please you, so: if not: why so. 1611 — *Cymb.* II. iii. 16 If you can penetrate her with your fingering, so.

f. With ellipse of 'says' or 'writes'.

1613 F. T. *Suppl. Discussion of Barlowe's Answer* 220 So he; doubting as you see, of the truth of his witnesses. 1685 STILLINGFL. *Orig. Brit.* i. 9 So Bale; but Pits places him ten years later.

6. In combinations: **a.** With past (or present) pples., as *so-caused, -formed, -named, -titled*, etc., *so-seeming*.

See also SO-CALLED, -STYLED, -TERMED.

c 1430 HOCCLEVE *Minor Poems* 124 If so-causid seeknesse on me fil As dide on the. 1467–8 *Rolls of Parlt.* V. 629/2 The which soo named brode sette Clothes. 1598 SHAKS. *Merry W.* III. ii. 41, I will..plucke the borrowed vaile of modestie from the so-seeming Mist[ress] Page. 1602 W. WATSON *Decacord.* 181 The so authorized deprives the authorizer of his superioritie over him. 1621 G. SANDYS *Ovid's Met.* VII. (1626) 135 Whom now the so-instructed sisters led Into his chamber. 1815 *Ann. Reg., Hist.* 63 Forbidding all his subjects to pay taxes..to the so-titled imperial government. 1830 HERSCHEL *Study Nat. Phil.* III. iv. 304 The multiplication of so-considered elementary bodies. 1883 *Nature* XXVII. 326 The so-formed superphosphate.

b. With vbl. sbs., as *so-doing, -saying*.

1509 in *Mem. Hen. VII* (Rolls) 444 Farnando Duke and the do[ctor] de Puebla had byn dysstroyed for theyre so doyngys. 1803 tr. *P. Le Brun's Mons. Botte* I. 110 What! asleep yet, sluggard!..And with so saying, pinched his ear. *a* 1834 COLERIDGE *Confess. Enq. Spirit* iii. (1840) 37 Because the so thinking supersedes the necessity of all after-thought.

c. *Sc.* With advs., as *so-like, -wise*. Cf. SOGATE(S.

1533 GAU *Richt Vay* 104 To cal thayme selff..successours of the apostlis, o say lik? say lik? 1556 LAUDER *Tractate* 428 Salyke sic Pryde pertenis to trew teaching. 1819 TENNANT *Papistry Storm'd* (1827) 158 Sae-wyse the Papists..Did scatter aff.

7. As *adj.* (See quot.)

1867 J. F. DIMOCK *Giraldus Cambrensis' Opera* V. 431 Perhaps it was something like the modern Scotch plaid, wrapped round the body; the so use of which is certainly very ancient.

II. Placed at the beginning of a clause with continuative force, and freq. preceded by *and*.

8. Used to confirm or strengthen a previous statement.

(*a*) 1154 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1135, Men..sæden ȝet micel þing sculde cumen herefter; sua dide. *c* 1330 *Arth. & Merl.* (Kölbing) 9817 Þe clerk Merlin..dede hem liȝt,..So þai dede & blisse made. *c* 1374 CHAUCER *Troylus* II. 1284 'Lo, yond he rit!' Quod she, 'ye, so he dooth'. 1526 SKELTON *Magnyf.* 798 Abyde, syr, quod he! mary, so I do. 1590 SHAKS. *Com. Err.* v. i. 58 *Ab.* You should for that haue reprehended him. *Adr.* Why so I did. 1621 BIBLE *Ezra* iv. 24. 1653 WALTON *Angler* ii, Now have at him with Killbuck, for he vents again. *Venator.* Marry! so he does. 1757 FOOTE *Author* I. Wks. 1799 I. 142 You had better hold your chattering, so you had. 1898 WATTS-DUNTON *Aylwin* IV. iii, My father's birthday? Why, so it is!

(*b*) *c* 1440 *Alph. Tales* 256 He bad þis whik-man lay þe dead man ouerthwarte befor hym..; and so he did. 1510 *Sel. Cas. Star Chamber* (Selden) II. 72 Intendyng..to have drowned the same Shipp, and so hadd doon hadd nott the mariners..made great..defence. 1602 in Morris *Troubles Cath. Foref.* (1872) I. iv. 192 My abode at this present is, and so hath been for some years, altogether in London. 1864 BROWNING *J. Lee's Wife* IV. i, You wanted my love—is that much true? And so I did, love, so I do.

9. Denoting similarity or parallelism in some respect between two facts, actions, etc.

(*a*) *c* 888 ÆLFRED *Boeth.* XXV, Swa doð eac wudufuglas. *a* 1200 *Moral Ode* 146 Ful wombe mei lihtliche speken of-bunger..swa mei of pine þe ne cnauð hu þe scal a-ilesten. *a* 1250 *Prov. Ælfred* 308 Mony appel is bryht wiþ-vte, and bitter wiþ-inne; So is mony wymmon [etc.]. *c* 1350 *Childhood Jesus* 91 in Horstm. *Altengl. Leg.* (1878) 102/2 'Certes, me thrystyt wonder sore.' 'Certes,' seyt Josep, 'so do I'. *c* 1430 LYDG. *Minor Poems* (Percy Soc.) 24 The sonne chaungith, so doth the pale mone. 1601 R. JOHNSON *Kingd. & Commw.* (1603) 213 So again was Cyrus by Tomiris, who slue him and all his host. 1671 MILTON *Samson* Pref., For so in Physic, things of melancholic hue and quality are us'd against melancholy. 1721 RAMSAY *Prospect of Plenty* 7 Sae, th' heedless heir .. Lets ilka sneaking fellow take a pluck. 1842 BROWNING *Pied Piper* ix, The Mayor looked blue; So did the Corporation too. 1890 *Law Times* LXXXIX. 165/1 If the lienors may insure, so may the owners of the injured ship and cargo.

(*b*) *a* 890 *Charter* in *O. E. Texts* 452 In þissum life ond-wardum, & eac swa in þæm towardan life. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 130 Auh Dauid wende þider..& so deð þe gode ancre. *c* 1400 *Laud Troy Bk.* 11395 He sclow oure kyng Architogus,..And so he did kyng Archomene. 1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* IX. vi. 348 Thenne was sir Bryan ful gladde and soo was his lady & alle his knyghtes. *a* 1586 SIDNEY *Ps.* v. ii, Thou..in endles hatred hast The murd'rous man, and soe the fraudulent. 1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* III. xv. 142 Leeches will move both waies; and so will most of those animals, whose bodies consist of round and annulary fibers. 1786 BURNS *Ded. to G. Hamilton* 7 When I'm tir'd—and sae are ye, Wi' monie a fulsome, sinfu' lie. 1842 TENNYSON *Dora* 26 But in my time a father's word was law, And so it shall be now for me. 1884 *Longman's Mag.* Mar. 492 All other branches of athletic sport..have their ruling bodies, and so has cycling.

10. For that reason, on that account, accordingly, consequently, therefore.

The causative force is sometimes very slight, the use approximating to that in b.

(*a*) *c* 1250 *Old Kentish Serm.* in *O. E. Misc.* 32 Hise deciples hedde gret drede of þise tempeste, so hi a-wakede hine. *c* 1374 CHAUCER *Troylus* v. 1233 Fayn he wolde dye, So on a day he leyde him doun to slepe. *c* 1420 LYDG. *Assembly of Gods* 434 So forthe yn he went & spake wordys fell. 1563 *Homilies* II. *Sacrament* I. (1859) 440 So then, as of necessity we must be our selves partakers of this Table [etc.]. 1616 J. LANE *Contn. Sqr.'s T.* VI. 334 What all pleasures dothe containe is greater, so is pleasures soveraigne. 1713 SWIFT *Cadenus & Vanessa* Wks. 1755 III. II. 31 The cry'r was order'd to dismiss The court, so made his last O yes! 1821 SCOTT *Pirate* I, A shelter..is all I seek for. So name your rent. 1896 GUY BOOTHBY *Dr. Nikola* v, We leave at daybreak for Pekin, so I will wish you good-bye now.

(*b*) *a* 1200 *Vices & Virtues* 35 Karitas is heiȝest and betst of ðese þrie, and swo hie is ouer alle oðre. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 2091 Maximian was suþþe aslawe,..& so þei ssrewe robeours abbe hor wille an stounde. *a* 1390 *Wycliffite Bible* (1850) II. 738 And so alle the salmys of Dauid ben maad in noumbre of an hundrid and fifti. *c* 1440 *Alph. Tales* 164 He had not money enogh to pay for þaim; & so he frustid hym. 1549 in *Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* Var. Coll. (1907) IV. 282 Quere yf this be not againste the profitt of the common people, and so voide. 1604 *3rd Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* 11/1 All these Bills had the royal assent, and so were enacted. *c* 1680 BEVERIDGE *Serm.* (1729) II. 566 He must love God with all his heart and soul, and so above all things in the world. 1818 BYRON *Juan* I. v, But then they shone not on the poet's page, And so have been forgotten. 1888 *Law Times* LXXXV. 133/1 A mortgagor's tenant is emphatically a person interested in the equity of redemption, and so entitled to redeem.

b. As an introductory particle, without a preceding statement (but freq. implying one).

1710 SWIFT *Jrnl. to Stella* 21 Sept., So you have got into Presto's lodgings; very fine, truly! 1777 SHERIDAN *Sch. Scandal* II. iii, Well—so one of my nephews is a wild rogue, hey? 1809 BYRON in R. C. Dallas *Corr. of B.* (1825) I. 95 So Lord G* is married to a rustic! Well done! 1881 JOWETT *Thucyd.* I. 42 And so we have met at last, but with what difficulty!

11. Denoting sequence, freq. without implication of manner, and hence passing into: Then, thereupon, thereafter, subsequently.

(*a*) *c* 1300 *Havelok* 2858 Thanne he hauede sikernesse Taken.., so dide he calle þe erl of Cestre. 1393 LANGL. *P. Pl.* C. VIII. 232 So [*earlier texts* þenne] shalt þow come to a court. *c* 1450 HOLLAND *Howlat* 794 Sa come the Ruke. *c* 1614 Sir W. MURE *Dido & Æneas* Wks. (S.T.S.) I. 72 Achates only he his convoy makes, Swa journey taks where fortune guides the way. 1697 J. LEWIS *Mem. Dk. Gloucester* (1789) 29 The Princess thought it high time to have him taught to walk regularly, so by degrees to dance.

(*b*) 1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* II. v. 82 Balyn hyt hym thorugh the sheld, and the hauberk perysshed, & so percyd thurgh his body. 1517 TORKINGTON *Pilgr.* (1884) 2 The thursday I went to Seynt Denys.., and so retornyd a gayne the same nyght to Parys. 1585 T. WASHINGTON tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* I. vi. 4 b, The Ambassadour shewed hym his commission, and so tooke his leaue of him. 1620 E. BLOUNT *Horæ Subs.* 349 But for a tast and so away. 1715 *Maryland Laws* vi. (1723) 20 Stakes..with Numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, and so to an Hundred. 1821 SCOTT *Pirate* ii, Thence by a whaling vessel to Lerwick, and so to Jarlshof. 1892 A. J. BUTLER tr. *Memoirs Marbot* I. iii. 17 Then we marched out as we had come in, to the drum, and so to bed.

† **12.** Following on conditional clauses: Then.

a 1536 TINDALE *Doct. Treat.* (Parker Soc.) 433 If thou believe not.., so is it impossible that [etc.]. 1567 *Gude & Godlie B.* (S.T.S.) 18 Will thow thy sinfull lyfe confes,..Sa ar ye worthie, small and greit.

III. To that extent; in that degree.

For *ever so, never so,* in emphatic use, see EVER *adv.* 9 b, c, and NEVER *adv.* 4.

13. With adjs. or advs. (or equivalent phrases), in negative and interrogative clauses.

(*a*) *c* 888 K. ÆLFRED *Boeth.* v. § 3 Ne ʒelyfe ic no þæt hit ʒeweorþan meahte swa endebyrdlice. *c* 975 *Rushw. Gosp.* Matt. viii. 10 Swa micel ʒeleafa ne ʒemotte ic þ Israhele. *c* 1205 LAY. 600 Nes castel nan swa strong. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 7551 Þer nas prince in al þe world of so noble fame. 1338 R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (1810) 54 In suilk apparaille dight, þat so riche armes was neuer sene with sight. *c* 1400 *Laud Troy Bk.* 15509 In al this world is non silke, So noble werk, ne so riche. 1501 *Plumpton Corr.* 157, I was never so werie & soferd of my life, since I was borne. 1578 LYTE *Dodoens* 22 The great Bistorte hath long leaves like Patience, but smaller, and not so smothe or playne. 1646 FULLER *Wounded Consc.* (1841) 335 A meaner man, of whose spirituality the patient hath not so high..conceits. 1746 FRANCIS tr. *Horace, Epist.* II. i. 46 They neither wrestle, sing, or paint so well. 1797 GODWIN *Enquirer* I. vi. 38 Men were no longer shut up in so narrow boundaries. 1803–5 WORDSW. *Solitary Reaper* 13 A voice so thrilling ne'er was heard. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* vi. II. 89 The Cavaliers..were by no means disposed to revive an institution so odious.

(*b*) *c* 900 tr. *Baeda's Hist.* v. ix. (1890) 410 Forhwon seȝdes ðu Ægcbrihte swa ȝemeaslice & swa wlæclice þa ðing..? *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Can. Yeom. Prol. & T.* 340 And if a man wol aske hem prively Why they been clothed so unthriftily [etc.]. 14.. *26 Pol. Poems* xxvi. 24, I..asked who had ..brought her in so drowpyng chere. 1445 in *Anglia* XXVIII. 281 Is his worship of so litel peys? 1598 MARSTON *Sco. Villanie* III. ix, Why lookes neat Curus all so simpringly? 1611 BIBLE *John* xiv. 9 Haue I bin so long time with you? 1690 LOCKE *Hum. Und.* III. v. § 9 The reason why I take so particular notice of this. 1735 BERKELEY *Querist* § 215 Whence is it that Barbs and Arabs are so good horses? 1780 *Mirror* No. 95, She..asked me, with her usual good-humour, what made me look so grave? 1850 NEWMAN *Difficulties Anglicans* I. v, What am I to say in answer to conduct so preposterous?

b. Followed by a relative clause or equivalent complement. (Cf. 24.)

Rarely when the antecedent clause is affirmative.

1581 in Allen *Martyrdom Campion* (1908) 17 Is it possible to find xii so wicked..men in this citye..that will finde us guiltie togeather of this one crime? 1593 SHAKS. *Lucrece* 853 No perfection is so absolute, That some impurity doth not pollute. 1601 — *Jul. C.* I. ii. 316 Who so firme, that cannot be seduc'd? 1610 — *Temp.* v. 269 A Witch..so strong That could controle the Moone. 1611 BIBLE *Job* xli. 10 None is so fierce that dare stirre him vp. 1753 L. M. tr. *Du Bosc's Accompl. Woman* 26 There is no design so black, which Ambition scruples to conceive. 1780 *Mirror* No. 92, There is nothing so absurd or extravagant, which riches..will not tempt him to commit. 1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* viii, He..came not thither so private but what he was espied by one who told me.

14. In affirmative clauses, tending to become a mere intensive without comparative force, and sometimes emphasized in speaking and writing.

(*a*) *Beowulf* 347 ȝif he us ȝeunnan wile, þæt we hine swa godne gretan moton. *c* 888 K. ÆLFRED *Boeth.* xxxv. § 3 Nu ðu þæt swa openlice onȝiten hæfst, ne ðearfe ic nu.. ymb ðæt swincan. *a* 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 171 þe wrecches þet ha seh swa wraðe werkes wurchen. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 590 þat king lotrin..dude al his wille, vor he lokede so rowe. 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 4073 þe empire, þat was swa myghty, Es now destruyed a grete party. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* III. 1 This vice, which so out of rule Hath sette ous alle, is cleped Gule. 1412 *26 Pol. Poems* xi. 50 God dede þe make, Put soule of resoun in flesche so frele. 1503 HAWES *Examp. Virt.* XII. 238 Amonge the floures so swete of ayre. 1626 W. SCLATER *Exp. 2 Thess.* (1629) 297 The bones of so dogged Contentions. 1678 DRYDEN *All for Love* III. i, I fear'd he loved her:. For 'twere impossible that two, so one, Should not have lov'd the same. 1741 RICHARDSON *Pamela* III. 168 My Face..was hid in my Bosom, and I looked so silly! 1820 KEATS *Lamia* I. 183 To see herself escap'd from so sore ills. 1839–52 BAILEY *Festus* 208 The Norman! so noble, and stately and tall. 1882 FLOYER *Unexpl. Baluchistan* 302 The absence of ruined buildings, which so invariably form the major part of a Persian town.

(*b*) 1837 DICKENS *Pickw.* iv, My dear brother is *so* good. 1853 MRS. GASKELL *Cranford* i, A man is *so* in the way in the house. 1875 E. FITZGERALD *Lett.* (1889) I. 369, I am *so* glad (as the Gushingtons say) that you like the Carlyle.

b. Preceded by *a, the, this,* etc., or possessive pronouns. Now rare except in combs.

c 1205 LAY. 3812 þu eært a swa hende gome. 13.. in Horstm. *Altengl. Leg.* (1875) 75 Of a so ȝong þing. 1340 *Ayenb.* 100 To by zone to ane zuo greate emperur. 1535 JOYE *Apol. Tindale* 19 Nothinge performing his so large promyses. 1545 BRINKLOW *Compl.* 18 Ye may set to reforme thes so wicked lawes. 1629 GAULE *Holy Madnesse* 329 You may see your face in his so transparant cheeks. 1667 MARVELL *Corr.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 81 The reason of our so long silence. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* June 1645, Divers statues.., amongst which is the so celebrated Eve. 1865 RUSKIN *Sesame* ii. § 57 The one weakness of his so mighty love. 1887 HALL CAINE *Deemster* xxxix, The so heavy burden thou bearest.

c. With adj. and singular sb., in cases similar to next, but without *a.* Now *rare.*

1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 1490 Vor he was so god knizt & al so so noble king, He bed vor to ȝiue him is doȝter in spousing. *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (1839) vi. 66 Thei seyn, that thei scholde not entre in to so holy Place. *c* 1425 LYDG. *Assembly of Gods* 1417 Syth they so long tyme haue made me so madde. 1557 NORTH *Gueuara's Diall Pr.* 110 In the time of so great and excellent philosopher. 1814 SCOTT *Let.* in *Lockhart* (1837) III. ix. 292 So short time have I been absent. 1867 RUSKIN *Time & Tide* ix. § 40 In so apparently desultory manner.

d. With adj. followed by *a.* † Sometimes preceded by *this.*

(*a*) 13.. *Gaw. & Gr. Knt.* 1538 Gret is þe gode gle,.. þat..ȝe wolde..pyne yow with so pouer a mon. 1412–20 LYDG. *Chron. Troy* IV. 1855 Hector, þat was so noble a knyȝt. 1548 HALL *Chron., Rich. III*, 56 b, Yf we dye so glorious a death in so good a quarell. 1624 QUARLES *Sion's Sonn.* viii. 4 To kisse the lips of so, so faire a Bride. 1780 *Mirror* No. 95, I thought I had never beheld so interesting an object. *a* 1845 BARHAM *Ingol. Leg.* Ser. III. *Brothers Birchington* lxvi, So barefaced a blunder. 1902 GAIRDNER *Hist. Eng. Ch. 16th Cent.* viii. (1903) 140 So insulting a message was clearly out of the question.

(*b*) 1611 BIBLE 1 *Kings* iii. 9 Who is able to iudge this thy so great a people? 1632 HAYWARD tr. *Biondi's Eromena* 169 Of such as were privy to this so important a secret. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 22 Apr. 1694, How this so young a gentleman..could live in such an expensive manner. 1736 BUTLER *Anal.* II. vii, This so remarkable an Establishment.

† e. With *a* or *an* inserted before the adj. (cf. SUCH *a.*). Also *so very a. Obs.*

1569 J. SANFORD tr. *Agrippa's Van. Artes* 66 b, The feeble definition of so an approved philosopher. 1614 SELDEN *Titles Honor* 148 Vpon so an apparant diminution of the peoples libertie. 1657 FULLER *Notes Jonah* i. 5 So an unnatural sin was atheism. 1664 PEPYS *Diary* 10 Jan., We are all glad, so very a known rogue he was.

† f. With *a* inserted between the two parts of a combination. *Obs.*

1595 SHAKS. *John* IV. ii. 27 Putting on so new a fashion'd robe. 1631 MASSINGER *Believe as You list* II. i, Was there ever So sweete a temperd Roman? 1682 A. MUDIE *Pres. St. Scotl.* Ep. Ded. A iiij b, The constitutions of so well a Governed Kingdom. 1756 TOLDERVY *Hist. 2 Orphans* III. 173 So jealous a pated fellow.

15. With verbs. Now usually intensive.

c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xlviii. (*Juliana*) 245 For þe desert þat þu can ma to god, þat þe a-wansit sa. *a* 1425 *Cursor M.* 5290 (Trin.), He hab delyuered me of my woo, And put me to welþe, no mon so. 1579 SPENSER *Sheph. Cal.* Aug. 25 What payne doth thee so appall? 1615 G. SANDYS *Trav.* 1 Celebrated for quarries of excellent marble, which do so adorne the Venetian palaces. 1626 T. H[AWKINS] *Caussin's Holy Crt.* 436, I cannot so harden my hart, but that it may be softned. 1833 HT. MARTINEAU *Manch. Strike* i. 2 O father, my knees have been aching so all day. 1849 [EASTWICK] *Dry Leaves* 22 The waves, which..did in this place so confound and toss about the triremes of Alexander. 1884 C. GIBBON *Fancy Free* xiv, I held back because I loved you so.

† **16.** Equally; to the same extent. *Obs.*[—1]

1697 DAMPIER *Voy.* (1729) I. 228 The Tree or Shrub that bears it is like the Prickle-Pear-Tree, about 5 foot high, and so prickly.

IV. Introducing one or both of two clauses expressing comparison or correspondence.

† **17.** In the way that; as much as; as. *Obs.*

Soon so, as soon as: see SOON *adv.*

Beowulf 490 Site nu to symle,..swa þin sefa hwette. *c* 888 K. ÆLFRED *Boeth.* xxxix. § 12 He..swincð þonne ymb þæt swa he swiðost mæg. 971 *Blickl. Hom.* 19 Cleopian we nu in eglum mode.., swa se blinda dyde. *a* 1122 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1016, Se here..slogon & bærndon.. swa heora ȝewuna wæs. *a* 1275 *Prov. Ælfred* 608 Sone min so dereð, do so ich þe lere. 13.. *K. Alis.* 6260 (W.), A folk.. Al blak so cole-brond. *c* 1380 *Sir Ferumb.* 5383 Gweynes fleȝ forþ so wynd and rayn.

† b. After numerals: As. *Obs.*

In OE. also in other forms of expression.

a 1000 in Thorpe *Laws* I. 190 Syx swa micel. *c* 1330–*c* 1420 [see TEN C]. 1587 MASCAL *Govt. Cattle, Sheepe* (1627) 203 Others with twise so great a stocke.

† c. As if. *Obs.*

a 900 CYNEWULF *Crist* 850 Nu is þon ȝelicost, swa we on laguflode..ceolum liðan. 971 *Blickl. Hom.* 205 And þa fotlastas wæron swutole..on þæm stane, swa hie on wexe wæron aðyde. *c* 1250 *Owl & Night.* 142 Heo song so lude.., Ryht so me gruldе schille harpe. *c* 1275 *Passion Our Lord* 542 in *O. E. Misc.* 52 Hi vellen so hi were ded. *c* 1300 *Havelok* 594 Also lith was it þer-inne, So þer brenden cerges inne.

† d. After relative pronouns or advs.: So ever. In OE., and very early ME., the pronoun or adverb was preceded as well as followed by *swa.*

c 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 145 Hwa se wile cume efter me. 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* III. 2595 In what state swa he be þan. *c* 1350 *Will. Palerne* 2565 What man so vs metes, may vs sone knowe. *c* 1400 *Cursor M.* 28788 (Cott. Galba), Whether so askes more rightwisly, Sall be herd of god. *c* 1425 LYDG. *Assembly of Gods* 1406 Dredde shalt thow be, wher so thow become. *c* 1440 *Alph. Tales* 34 Promysyng hym to do what þing so he commanddid hym. 1559 *Mirr. Mag.* (1563) B iv, Whom so they take they slay. *a* 1593 MARLOWE *Edw. II*, I. i, Commaund What so thy mind affectes.

† **18.** *So . . so.* a. = So . . as (see 20). *Obs.*

In OE. also *swa swa* without intervening words, and sometimes *swa . . swa swa.*

c 888 K. ÆLFRED *Boeth.* xxxix. § 4 Swa hit is swa þu sægst. 971 *Blickl. Hom.* 137 Hit wæs þa swa leoht swa se merzenlica steorra. *a* 1240 *Ureisun* in *O. E. Hom.* I. 193 Heo beoð so read so rose, so hwit so þe lilie. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 5369 þat londfolc to him com so þikke so it miȝte go. *c* 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 6827 þe arewes come so þykke so reyn. 1393 LANGL. *P. Pl.* C. XIV. 188 Ich see noone so ofte sorfeten, Soþliche so mankynde.

† b. = As . . so (see 22). *Obs.*

In OE. also *swa swa . . swa.*

c 825 *Vesp. Psalter* cii. 13 Swe mildsað feder bearnum, swe mildsiende bið dryhten ondredendum hine. 971 *Blickl. Hom.* 9 Swa se hyhtenda ȝigant, swa Drihten on middanȝearde bliðe wunode. *a* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 39 Swa se þu forȝeuest..swa þin drihten forȝeueð þe þine misdede. 13.. *K. Alis.* (Laud MS.) 2210 So on þe shyngel liþe þe haile, Euery knizth so liiþ on oþer. [1667 MILTON *P. L.* VII. 288 So high as heav'd the tumid Hills, so low Down sunk a hollow bottom.]

† c. With comparatives: The . . the. *Obs.*

c 888 K. ÆLFRED *Boeth.* vii. § 4 Swa him mon mare selð, swa hine ma lyst. 971 *Blickl. Hom.* 15 Swa hie him swyþor styrdon, swa he hludor cleopode. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 182 So þe sicnesse is more, se þe goldsmið is bisegure. *a* 1240 *Lofsong* in *O. E. Hom.* I. 215 Þet hit ontende me..in þine luue, so lengre so more. *a* 1400 *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* xxix. v. 47 Hym þhouȝte euere so leng so wors.

19. In adjurations or asseverations.

So has here the sense of 'in that way' or 'to that extent', the complementary clause being omitted. The two usual types are here illustrated separately. For *so help* see also S'ELP, S'HELP, and SWELP.

(*a*) *Beowulf* 435 Ic þæt þonne forhicȝe, swa me Hiȝelac sie ..modes bliðe, þæt [etc.]. *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 33 Swa me helpe drihten. *c* 1205 LAY. 3041 Iheren ich wile,..sua þe helpe Appolin, hu deore þe beo lif min. 1382 WYCLIF *Exod.* x. 10 So the Lord be with ȝow, what maner thanne Y shal leeue ȝow? *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Merch. T.* 931 This schal ben doon.., So wisly God my soule bringe in blisse! [See also SAVE *v.* 2 b.] *c* 1440 LOVELICH *Merlin* 12034, I wolde, so god me spede, that pes purchaced were betwixen vs two. 1480 in Gross *Gild Merch.* II. 71 Soo god yow help and holydome. 1508 [see HELP *v.* 1 c]. 1565 COOPER *Thesaurus* s.v. *Ita,* So god saue me. 1603 KNOLLES *Hist. Turks* (1621) 572 So helpe me great Mahomet it shall not so be. 1828 SCOTT *F. M. Perth* XXVIII, This seat..I claim as my right—so prosper me God and St. Barr! 1868 [see HELP *v.* 1 c].

(*b*) *a* 1300–*c* 1386 [see THEE *v.*[1] 1 b]. *c* 1400 [see THRIVE *v.* B. 2]. *c* 1400 *Gamelyn* 515 And I wil kepe þe dore, so ever here I masse. *c* 1420 *Liber Cocorum* (1862) 6 Þis seȝe I preved, so have I blys. *c* 1475 *Rauf Coilȝear* 53 'Sa mot I thrife,' said the King, 'I speir for nane ill'. *c* 1500 MEDWALL *Nature* 753 (Brandl), The scald capper sware sythyche [= so thee ich] That yt cost hym euen as myche. *a* 1553 UDALL *Royster D.* III. v. (Arb.) 56 The selfe same that I wrote out of, so mote I go. 1598 [see THEE *v.*[1] 1 b].

20. *So . . as, so as,* in such or the same way, manner, etc., as.

a 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 1055 Unweoten, þe weneð þet hit beo swa as hit on ehe bereð ham. *a* 1300 *E. E. Psalter* i. 3 Al his liue swa sal it be, Als it fares bi a tre. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* Prol. I. 5, I thenke forto touche also The world..So as I can, so as I mai. *c* 1440 *Alph. Tales* 85 þis preste askid hur whi sho wepud so as sho did. *c* 1489 CAXTON *Sonnes of Aymon* iv. 119 Soo well clothed & arrayed, as I have tolde you above. 1535 COVERDALE *Gen.* xviii. 5 Do euen so as thou hast spoken. 1554 *Act 1 & 2 Phil. & Mary* c. 8 § 52 Hereditaments, so to be amortized as is aforesaid. 1593 SHAKS. *Lucr.* 1811 He with the Romans was esteemed so As silly-jeering idiots are with kings. 1611 BIBLE *Ps.* lxiii. 2 To see thy power and thy glory, so as I haue seen thee in the Sanctuary. 1681 FLAVEL *Meth. Grace* xxix. 496 They must so walk, as he walked. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XVII. 407/1 Lay the bend mould upon it, so as may best answer the round.

† b. In adjurations. *Obs.*

c 1386 CHAUCER *Clerk's T.* 493 Sche to the sergeant preyde, So as he was a worthy gentilman, That [etc.]. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 310, I..beseche Unto the mihti Cupido,..So as he is of love a godd [etc.]. 1463 in *Somerset Medieval Wills* (1901) 197, I charged ham so as they will answere afore God.

† c. With *as* = *as if. Obs.*

1596 SPENSER *F. Q.* v. viii. 5 So ran they all, as they had bene at bace.

21. *So . . as,* to the same extent, in the same degree, as:

a. In negative or interrogative clauses.

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 150 þenne nis hit to nout so god ase to þe fure of helle. 1362 LANGL. *P. Pl.* A. VIII. 167 Bote trustene to Trienals..Is not so syker for þe soule, sertes, as do-wel. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Merch. T.* 45 Who is so trewe and eek so ententyf To kepe him..as is his make? 1581 ALLEN *Apol.* 121 Death and dungeons be not so terrible things..as they seeme. 1596 SPENSER *F. Q.* VI. iii. 1 For a man by nothing is so well bewrayd As by his manners. 1646 in *Verney Mem.* (1907) I. 343 Women were never soe usefull as now. 1670 DRYDEN *Conq. Granada* I. II. i, His victories we scarce could keep in view, Or polish them so fast as he rough-drew. 1763 C. JOHNSTON *Reverie* I. 260 This is not so strange or ingrateful as it may appear. 1779 *Mirror* No. 58, Emilia,

who now observed that her husband was nowhere so happy as in the country. 1842 TENNYSON *Morte d'Arthur* 156, I never saw..So great a miracle as yonder hilt. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* v. I. 667 Never..had the condition of the Puritans been so deplorable as at that time.

b. In affirmative clauses: As . . as. Now *arch.* or *dial.* (except in such phrases as *so far as, so much as*: see 35 b, etc.).

So long as: see LONG *adv.* 1 b. † *So soon as*: see SOON *adv.* 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 154 So seker as I have a lif, Thou scholdest thanne be my wif. *c* 1460 FORTESCUE *Abs. & Lim. Mon.* (1885) 128 A prince double so myghty as was thair old prince. 1535 COVERDALE 2 *Sam.* xix. 32 Barsillai was very olde, so good as foure score yeare olde. *c* 1550 R. BIESTON *Bayte Fortune* A vj b, Smockes as snow so white. 1621 BP. MOUNTAGU *Diatribæ* 252 The one is become so old as the other. 1690 LOCKE *Hum. Und.* I. ii. § 14 This Way of arguing is so frivolous, as the Supposition of itself is false. *c* 1790 IMISON *Sch. Arts* I. 303 This planet being but a fifth part so big as the earth. 1818 SCOTT *Rob Roy* xiv, Although I readily gave my uncle the advantage of my pen..so often as he desired to correspond with a neighbour. 1876 PEARSE *Daniel Quorm* 155 'Tis a'most so good for ourselves as 'tis for those we try to save.

c. Preceding the citation of a special example or instance.

1582 N. LICHEFIELD tr. *Castanheda's Conq. E. Ind.* 123 So small a kingdome as that is of Portingale. 1664 MARVELL *Corr.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 167 Seeing upon so extraordinary occasions as these, the boldest eloquence would lose its speech. 1779 *Mirror* No. 63, It was impossible that a girl so amiable as Emily Hargrave could fail to attract attention. 1820 KEATS *Hyperion* II. 321 Have I rous'd Your spleens with so few simple words as these? 1861 PATTISON *Ess.* (1889) I. 37 The interest excited in England by events passing in so distant a quarter as Moravia. 1878 T. HARDY *Ret. Native* VI. iii. (1890) 399, I am not fit for town life—so very rural and silly as I always have been.

d. With *as* taking the place of an object to the following verb.

1555 J. PROCTOR *Hist. Wyat's Rebellion* 37 It is so straunge a case as the world neuer saw. 1629 DRAYTON in *Sir Y. Beaumont's Bosworth Field* 14 So lasting Pillars to prop up thy Praise, As time shall hardly shake. 1676 DRYDEN *State of Innocence* IV. i, Is our Perfection of so frail a Make, As ev'ry Plot can undermine or shake?

† **e.** With a comparative: So much. *Obs.*[-1]

1726 LEONI *Alberti's Archit.* II. 46 Their Arch may come ..so lower as you think fit.

22. *As . . so*: **a.** Denoting more or less exact correspondence, similarity, or proportion.

Ormin has *all swa summ..swa* in this use.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 17465 Als þat war for-boght sua þai did. *c* 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 32 Als he was ay God in trinite Swa he es, and ay God sal be. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 14 For as þaire wittis ere with-in, so þer will folowis. *a* 1533 LD. BERNERS *Huon* lxvii. 232 Such as the mayster was so was the seruuant. 1553 T. WILSON *Rhet.* Prol. (1580) A v b, As it was, so it is, and so be it still hereafter. 1611 BIBLE *Prov.* xxiii. 7 For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he. 1711 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 47 ¶ 7 In proportion as there are more Follies discovered, so there is more Laughter raised. 1821 KEATS *Lamia* I. 260 Even as thou vanishest so shall I die. 1830 TENNYSON *Poet* xiv, And as the lightning to the thunder..So was their meaning to her words. 1887 MORRIS *Odyssey* XI. 586 For as often as stooped the elder when he longed for the water sweet So often it waned.

b. Denoting a simple parallelism between two different acts, concepts, etc., and sometimes approaching the sense of 'not only . . but (also)'.

c 1340 HAMPOLE *Prose Tr.* 2 Als ded slaas all, Swa lufe ouer-comes all. 1563 *Homilies* II. *Sacrament* I. (1859) 439 As of old time God decreed..., so our loving Saviour hath ordained [etc.]. 1588 A. KING tr. *Canisius' Catech.* 67 As it vald be verray lang, sa is it verray hard. 1619 in W. Foster *Eng. Factories India* (1906) I. 79 As itt is an unsupportable wrong, soe itt inthralleth us to many other inconveniences. 1677 MARVELL *Corr.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 549 As he loved not to make work, so not to leave it imperfect. 1766 GOLDSM. *Vicar* iv, As we rose with the sun, so we never pursued our labours after it was gone down. 1831 LOUDON *Encycl. Agric.* § 6009 As the planters differ in the number of hills.., so are they no less capricious as to the manner of placing them. 1881 JOWETT *Thucyd.* I. 45 As in the arts, so also in politics, the new must always prevail over the old.

V. 23. *So that* († rarely *so* alone), denoting result or logical consequence; also sometimes = 'in order that'.

(*a*) *Beowulf* 1508 Bær þa seo brimwylf..hringa þengel to hofe sinum, swa he ne mihte no..wæpna ȝewealdan. 1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. XIII. 64 Thanne seide I to my-self, so Pacience it herde.

(*b*) *c* 888 K. ÆLFRED *Boeth.* i, He ȝehet Romanum his freondscipe, swa þæt hi mostan heora ealdrihta wyrðe beon. *c* 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Matt. xv. 31 [He] ȝelecnade hea..., sua þæt ðreatas wundradun. *c* 1200 ORMIN Ded. 293 Swa þatt he mannkinn wel inoh Off helle mihhte lesenn. *c* 1300 *Havelok* 216 þe king..dede him sore swinge,..So þat þe blod ran of his fleys. 1340 *Ayenb.* 53 þe ilke..wylleþ hyealde hire sole uela3redes, zuo þet hi ne conne ne hi ne mo3e healde mesure. *c* 1440 *Alph. Tales* 65 Such weddur þat stroyed all þe vynys,..so at þer wyne had nowder colour nor savor. 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. IV*, 28 b, [They] had conveighed their shippes in to the havens, so that he could not fight with them on the sea. 1600 PORY tr. *Leo's Africa* VI. 280 Of..flesh heere is great scarcitie, so that they are constrained to eate camels flesh onely. 1670 *12th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. V. 21 The under pettycoatt very richly laced.., so that 50 or 60 pounds [is] but an ordinary price. *c* 1760 CHALLONER in E. Burton *Life* (1909) II. xxiv. 28 We will spend our evenings..at our own lodgings, so that we may be found. 1820 SCOTT *Monast.* xiv, So that Mary Avenel..was regarded with a mysterious awe. 1886 STEVENSON *Kidnapped* xiv, The turf roof of it had fallen entirely in; so that the hut was of no use to me.

24. *So . . that*, in such a way, to such an extent, that: **a.** With adjs. and advs., or equivalent phrases.

a 900 CYNEWULF *Crist* 323 Hio..ece stondaþ..swa beclysed þæt nænig oþer..hy æfre ma eft onluceð. *a* 1240 *Ureisun* in *O. E. Hom.* I. 183 [Thou art] swo leoflic and swa lufsum þet te engles a biholdeþ þe. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 2207 Þe romeins beþ anud of hor trauail so sore ..þat hii nolleþ come here nanmore. *c* 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 324 Swilk men er ay swa unstedfast, þat na drede may with þam last. *c* 1450 *Merlin* ii. 37 The water maketh so grete bruyt that all that is made a-boven it moste nede falle. 1523 FITZHERB. *Husb.* § 151 Theyr cotes be so syde, that they be fayne to tucke them vp whan they ryde. 1574 HELLOWES *Gueuara's Fam. Ep.* (1584) 165 You aske me histories so straunge.., that my wits may not in anye wise but needes goe on Pilgrimage. 1625 PURCHAS *Pilgrims* II. 1138 The wind..came with so great gales, that it raised the sands of the coast very high. 1749 FIELDING *Tom Jones* VI. iii, The Squire was so delighted with this conduct of his daughter, that he scarce eat any dinner. 1802 MAR. EDGEWORTH *Moral Tales* (1816) I. iv. 21 So ill that she could hardly speak. 1862 MISS BRADDON *Lady Audley* viii, He sat so long in this attitude, that Robert turned round at last.

b. With verbs.

In verse (more rarely in prose) sometimes placed after the verb, and immediately followed by *that*, but separated from it by a pause.

(*a*) *c* 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* John iii. 16 Suæ..lufade god done middangeard þætte sunu his ancende ȝesalde [etc.]. *c* 1320 *Cast. of Love* 1523 God leeue vs here so ende, þat we ben worþi to heuene wende. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Prol.* 32 So hadde I spoken with hem..That I was of here felawschipe anon. 1411 *Rolls of Parlt.* III. 651/1 The same Loord the Roos schall so doon to hem, that they schall tellen hem wel payed. 1480 *Cov. Leet Bk.* 437 To so direct that your said Oratours haue all þat..shall accorde with right. *a* 1592 GREENE *Alphonsus* I. i, Now a days so irksome idless' sleights .. have witch'd each students mind, That death it is [etc.]. 1641 J. JACKSON *True Evang. T.* ii. 130 The example doth so suite the Text, that I could not pretermit it here. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* II. 719 So frownd the mighty Combatants, that Hell Grew darker. 1735 JOHNSON *Lobo's Abyssinia, Descr.* v. 75 This Answer and the Present so provok'd Mahomet..that [etc.]. 1883 *Harper's Mag.* Nov. 905/2 To so cut down his power..that he would be inclined [etc.].

(*b*) *a* 1175 *Cott. Hom.* in *O.E. Hom.* I. 231 þa be-fel hit swa þat him a þance befell. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 3503 Wurð ðin fader and moder so, ðat ðu hem drede and helpe do. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 7509, I..scok þam be þe berdes sua þat i þair chafftes raue in tua. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 12 Whil the lawe is reuled so That clerkes to the werre entende. 1535 COVERDALE 2 *Chron.* iv. 4 It stode so vpon the bullockes, that thre were turned towarde the north [etc.]. *c* 1600 SHAKS. *Sonn.* lxxi, I loue you so That I in your sweet thoughts would be forgot, If [etc.]. 1697 *Protestant Mercury* No. 189, A Porter's Wife..Beat her Husband so, that she forced him to leap over a Balconey.

† **c.** Expressing a contrast: Although ... yet.

1633 BP. HALL *Hard Texts, Isaiah* xliii. 2 Yet so shall he be gracious to the penitently dejected, that he shall not beare with the obstinate sinner.

d. With *but* (= that . . not).

1842 MACAULAY *Horatius* xviii, There was no heart so bold, But sore it ached.

25. With omission of *that*, = sense 24.

a 1310 in Wright *Spec. Lyric P.* 74 Thou art so god a mon, Thi love y 3yrne also y con. *c* 1330 *Arth. & Merl.* 3458 (Kölbing), A dint he 3af him so hard, þe launce ran þe brini þurch. *c* 1440 *Contin. Brut* II. 583 Caleis was so ferd of you, þey shitte neuer a gate. 15.. *Christ's Kirk* ii. in *Bann. MS.* 283 Thay wer so nyss..Thay squeilit lyk ony gaitis. 1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* II. vi, A plant, so unlike a Rose, it hath been mistaken..for Amomum. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* III. 308 He..treads so light, he scarcely prints the Plains. 1742 YOUNG *Nt. Th.* III. 135 So man is made, nought ministers delight But what his glowing passions can engage. 1818 BYRON *Mazeppa* xviii, Once so near me he alit, I could have smote. 1859 GEO. ELIOT *A. Bede* xiii, Hetty was blushing so, she didn't know whether she was happy or miserable.

b. With the *so*-clause placed after that stating the consequence or result.

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 222 He bihalt on oðre þet he ne mei nones weis makien vuele iðoncked, so luffui & so reouðful is hire heorte. *c* 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 2317 Out of witte þan þai shuld men flay, Swa orrible and swa foul er þai. *a* 1400 *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* xliii. 104 His herte þoru3-out his syde He 3iueþ vs, he is so fre! 14.. HOCCLEVE *Minor Poems* xvi. 4, I may nat deliure hem by no weye, So me werreyeth coynes scarsetee. *c* 1500 *Melusine* vi. 28 Raymondin..herd ne saw nought, so sore was hys wit troubled. 1535 COVERDALE 2 *Sam.* iii. 11 Then coulde he not answere him one worde agayne, he feared him so. 1626 SIR E. CECIL in *Y. Glanville's Voy. Cadiz* (Camden) p. xliii, The shipp had sunke in the sea, she proved so leakie. 1681 DRYDEN *Abs. & Achit.* 813 Friends he has few, so high the madness grows. 1787 BURNS *Halloween* iv, A runt was like a sow-tail, Sae bow't that night. 1822 SCOTT *Nigel* x, Habits..to young men are like threads of silk, so lightly are they worn, so soon broken. 1867 AUGUSTA WILSON *Vashti* xvii, The azure mantle.. seemed to melt in air, so dim were its graceful outlines.

26. *So* (*that*), in limiting sense: On condition that, provided that, so long as, if only. Cf. 30.

(*a*) *c* 1000 *Apollonius of Tyre* (Thorpe) 20 Nim nu lareow appolloni, swa hit þe ne mislicyȝe. *c* 1375 *Cursor M.* 5991 (Fairf.), To-morne þe fleys sal be þe fra, so þou be-gyle vs na mare. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *H. Fame* I. 423 He had y-swore to hire..That so she saved hym hys lyfe, He wolde haue take hir to hys wife. *c* 1460 *Towneley Myst.* xx. 587 All my couandys holden shall be, So I haue felyship me abowte. 1523 FITZHERB. *Husb.* § 43 Butter and swynes grease..are good, soo they be not salte. 1613 JACKSON *Creed* II. 453 The proofe were good, so it could be proued. 1658 SIR T. BROWNE *Hydriot.* § 2 (1736) 18 Ulysses cared not how meanly he lived, so he might find a noble Tomb after Death. 1710 STEELE *Tatler* No. 208 ¶ 4 It is no Matter how dirty a Bag it is conveyed to him in,..so the Money is good. 1750 JOHNSON *Rambler* No. 81 ¶ 2 Which duty ought to be most esteemed, we may continue to debate..; so all be diligently performed. 1812 CARY *Dante, Purg.* IX. 22 So but the suppliant at my feet implore. 1816 BYRON *Ch. Har.* I. xiii. *song*, I'll swiftly go..; Nor care what land thou bear'st me to, So not again to mine.

(*b*) *c* 1000 ÆLFRIC *Numb.* xxii. 20 Far mid him, swa þæt [L. *ita duntaxat ut*] þu do, þæt ic þe bebeode. *c* 1320 *Cast. Love* 1042 Al þis wyde world I chul ȝeuen þe, So þat þou bouwe and honoure me. 1362 LANGL. *P. Pl.* A. IV. 89, I forȝiue him þat gult..., So þat ȝe assented beo. *c* 1425 *Eng. Cong. Irel.* (1896) 8 Oft þe prince hym profred to delyuer hym out of prison, so þat he wold be his helppe to werry vpon þe kynge. *c* 1489 CAXTON *Blanchardyn* xlviii. 188 Yf nedes I shal dey, I were..wel content soo that it were in the absence of her. *a* 1533 LD. BERNERS *Huon* lviii. 202, I offer to make you amendes..so that ye wyl ayde me. 1583 STUBBES *Anat. Abus.* (1882) II. 85 You condemne not funerall sermons then, so that they be good. 1652 J. WRIGHT tr. *Camus' Nat. Paradox* IX. 211 Writing I am well contented to permit; So that I see your Letter. 1755 *Monitor* No. 8, Let us not regard by what name it shall be called, so that it be carried on vigorously. 1802 MAR. EDGEWORTH *Moral T.* (1816) I. xix. 154 To M. it was.. indifferent who was found guilty, so that he could recover his money. 1859 TENNYSON *Marriage Geraint* 304 So that ye do not serve me sparrow-hawks For supper, I will enter.

b. In the event that, in case that. *rare.*

c 1000 *Charter* in Thorpe *Dipl. Angl. Sax.* (1865) 202 He him þet land forbead, swa he æniges brucan wolde. 1872 TENNYSON *Gar. & Lyn.* 668 But, so thou dread to swear, Pass not beneath this gateway.

VI. †27. *So as*, although. *Obs.*

c 1300 *Havelok* 337 þat hire haued in sorwe brouth, So as sho ne misdede nouth!

28. *So..*, or *so . . as, so as*, followed by an infinitive denoting result or consequence.

The omission of *as* is now regarded as irregular.

(*a*) *c* 1395 *Plowman's Tale* I. 373 Peter was never so great a fole To leve his key with such a lorell. *c* 1407 LYDG. *Reson & Sens.* 943 The Ryvers..so myghty and so large To bere a gret ship or a barge. *c* 1450 *Merlin* i. 6 How shulde I be so hardy to do as ye telle me. 1526 TINDALE N. T. *Prol.*, Who ys so blynde to axe why lyght shulde be shewed to them that walke in derckenes. 1579 GOSSON *Sch. Abusé* (Arb.) 65, I am not so childishe to take euery bushe for a monster. 1658 ROWLEY, FORD, etc. *Witch of Edmonton* II. i, If you'll be so kind to ka me one good turn I'll be so courteous to kob you another. 1709 SWIFT *Vind. Bickerstaff* Wks. 1755 II. i. 171 He hath been indeed so wise to make no objections against the truth of my predictions. 1767 WILKES *Corr. w. Friends* (1805) III. 223 Be so good to continue to favour me with your letters. 1803 MARY CHARLTON *Wife & Mistress* IV. 161 She enquired if Mrs. Aubrey had been so kind to procure the child a new wardrobe.

(*b*) 1445 in *Anglia* XXVIII. 271 Nevir the[e] she so diseasyd as oonys..To folowe her wille. 1558 KENNEDY *Comp. Treat.* in *Misc. Wodrow Soc.* (1844) 97 That I..durst be sua baulde, as to attempt sua heych ane purpose. 1648 HEYLIN *Relat. & Observ.* I. 78 Whosoever shall dare to be so good a Patriot as to oppose their Tyranny. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* II. 747 A crop so plenteous, as the land to load. 1711 STEELE *Spect.* No. 53 ¶ 7, I hope you will not be so apparently partial to the Women, as to let them go wholly unobserved. 1779 *Mirror* No. 17, Our shop was so well frequented, as to require the constant attendance of both of us. 1828 DUPPA *Trav. Italy*, etc. 98 The others were so broken into small fragments as to be useless. 1885 *Law Times Rep.* LIII. 785/1 It is impossible to say that any one case is so in point as to carry this case.

(*c*) *c* 1680 BEVERIDGE *Serm.* (1729) II. 283 They all run, but not so as to obtain. 1736 *Gentl. Mag.* VI. 716/1, I think it impossible to amend it..so as to make it a Bill fit for being passed. 1853 *Zoologist* II. 3724 Dismounting and hobbling the horse so as to allow him to feed. 1896 *Law Times* C. 488/1 To repair the drain so as to abate the nuisance complained of.

b. With infinitive preceded by a sb. *rare.*

1709 SWIFT *Merlin's Prediction* Wks. 1755 II. i. 177 The river Thames frozen twice in one year, so as men to walk on it.

c. With pa. pples. (*to have* being omitted).

1790 BURNS *Tam o' Shanter* 17 Hadst thou but been sae wise, As ta'en thy ain wife Kate's advice! 1797 in C. Kegan Paul *W. Godwin* (1876) I. 237 You might have been so good as told me a few more particulars.

29. *So as*, in such a way that, so that. Now *dial.*

1523 LD. BERNERS tr. *Froissart* I. xiii. 13 The quene..dyd gyue great Jewelles to eche of them,..so as they all helde them selfe ryght well content. 1609 in *Buccleuch MSS.* (Hist. MSS. Comm.) 82, I understood of the infection lately come to some houses there adjoining, so as I forbear to go thither. *c* 1651 in Morris *Troubles Cath. Foref.* (1872) I. vi. 304 This summer we also whited the church and choir, ..so as our Monastery was made very handsome. 1751 R. PALTOCK *P. Wilkins* (1884) II. 217 So as the great and small shall be under mutual obligations to each other. 1817 H. T. COLEBROOKE *Algebra*, etc. Notes & Illustr. p. lxxvii, Then you desire to complete your square so as it shall amount to one whole square. 1905 *Longman's Mag.* Apr. 541 So as he could go and see his sweetheart.

b. *So . , as*, in similar use, with the subject of the second clause either expressed, or implied in the previous context.

(*a*) 1548 WISHART *Conf. Faith* in *Misc. Wodrow Soc.* (1844) 13 We attribute so free wyll to man as we,..wyllynge to do good, fele experience of euyll. 1581 SIDNEY *Apol. Poetrie* (Arb.) 50 The words..beeing so set, as one word cannot be lost. 1608 E. GRIMSTONE *Hist. France* 702 The Emperour..so terrifies the Pope, as hee abandons his vassall Octauio. 1654 *Burton's Diary* (1828) I. 42 This sounded so plausibly in every man's ear, as it was soon embraced. 1738 *Gentl. Mag.* VIII. 327/2 They had Guards so posted, as they were not to be surprized.

(*b*) 1611 Sir W. Mure *Wks.* (S.T.S.) I. 9 Greedie to behold So rair perfectioune as cannot be told. 1678 Walton *Life Sanderson* 11 Changes thos⁹ cares into so mutual joys, as makes them become [etc.]. 1779 Forrest *Voy. N. Guinea* 66 With so heavy rain, as penetrated the new roof of the vessel. 1784 Miss Carter *Lett. to Miss Talbot* IV. 341 My wretched head has been so thoroughly uncomfortable.., as rendered me quite unfit for writing.

c. *So..as that, so as that,* = prec. (*a*).

1583 Stocker *Civ. Warres Lowe C.* I. 1 b, The officers went so neere the consciences of men, as that they spared not to torment pore miserable soules. 1634 Milton *Comus* 366, I do not think my sister so to seek, Or so unprincipl'd in vertues book,..As that [etc.]. *a* 1700 Evelyn *Diary* 22 Mar. 1675, 2 distinct keeles ciampt together.., so as that a violent streame ran betweene. *a* 1774 Goldsm. *Surv. Exp. Philos.* (1776) I. 55 When both flames have approached so near as that they join. 1817 H. T. Colebrooke *Algebra,* etc. 258 Here the least square quantity must be so devised, as that the second may be an integer.

30. *So as,* provided that, etc. Cf. 26.

1585 T. Washington tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* IV. i. 114 b, To be preferred vnto the gouernment..., so as they had passed their time..without reprehension. 1598 Grenewey *Tacitus, Ann.* III. i. (1622) 64 Which was to him..honourable, so as there were a meane vsed. 1635 R. N. tr. *Camden's Hist. Eliz.* II. 136 Henry Percy offered..to free the Queene of Scots out of prison so as Grange and Carre..would receive her at the borders. 1807 E. S. Barrett *Rising Sun* I. 127, I care not how you come by them, so as they are ready to supply my wants. 1853 Dickens *Bleak Ho.* xxvi, He could play 'em a tune on any sort of pot you please, so as it was iron or block tin.

VII. In various phrases.

So to say: see Say *v.*¹ 11. *So to speak*: see Speak *v.*

† 31. Than so, than that. *Obs.*

a 1425 *Cursor M.* 23568 (Trin.), Mony þingis may we do þat better wenn vndone þen so. 1525 Ld. Berners tr. *Froissart* II. 754 Kyng Henry was more gentyll than so; for he had some pytie on hym. 1593 Shaks. 3 *Hen. VI,* III. iii. 104 Lord Aubrey Vere Was done to death, and more then so, my Father? 1677 W. Hughes *Man of Sin* II. v. 96 'Tis reasonable to suppose, that the Sacrament may be celebrating in more places than so, at once. *a* 1716 Blackall *Wks.* (1723) I. 213 If it be not more than so, it will not be such an Obedience as God will accept..

32. † a. And so, = next. *Obs. rare.*

a 1400–50 *Alexander* 1565 Sum with sensours & so with siluerȝn cheynes. *Ibid.* 2551 If þai were sary & so, na selly me thingke. 1602 [see 33 a].

b. And so on, used as an abbreviating phrase to avoid further description or the enumeration of further details.

And so forth: see Forth *adv.* 9 b. *And so forward*: see Forward *adv.* 1.

1724 Welsted *Epist.*, etc. 123 Till, in time, the English we now speak is become as obsolete and unintelligible as that of Chaucer, and so on. 1837 P. Keith *Bot. Lex.* 258 An incipient stem,..which in the following year is augmented in height as before, and so on in succession as long as the plant grows. 1847 *Howitt's Jrnl.* II. 201/2 While the East London Water Company is supplying an impure water at 5*d.* 12*s.*, and so on, per house. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 488 There may be high fever,..nausea, vomitings, smart diarrhœa and so on.

33. Or so: a. Or something of that kind; or the like.

1588 Shaks. *L. L. L.* II. 212 *Ber.* Is she wedded, or no? *Boy.* To her will sir, or so. 1602 — *Twel. N.* III. ii. 59 Some two thousand strong, or so. 1814 Scott *Diary* 17 Aug. in *Lockhart* (1837) III. vi. 207 A King's ship about eighteen guns or so. 1861 Hughes *Tom Brown at Oxf.* III. ii. 35 He returned in an hour or so. 1885 *Manch. Exam.* 10 July 5/3 A Sunday or so ago.

34. So or so, after this or that manner; this or that. Also with *many* (cf. 37 e).

c 1449 Pecock *Repr.* III. 350 For that so or so or so (and in noon other wise) it is writun in storie or cronicle. 1570 Googe *Pop. Kingd.* (1880) I. 3 b, For no man dare demaunde of him, why dost thou so or so. 1687 Settle *Refl. Dryden's Plays* 85 I'le die a thousand deaths before I'le do so or so. 1749 Richardson in Mrs. Barbauld *Corr.* (1804) IV. 291 From her air and..her face, he sets her down in his mind as *so* or *so.* 1784 *Phil. Trans.* LXXIV. 189 A clock, of such a construction, kept or altered its rate *so* or *so.* 1835 T. Mitchell *Aristoph. Acharn.* 307 *note,* Wine.. is said..to bear or admit so or so many portions of water.

† b. *Neither* (also *nothing*) *so nor so,* neither the one nor the other; neither this (way) nor that; not at all the fact or case. *Obs.*

1583 Stubbes *Anat. Abus.* (1882) II. 34 They persuade the buier it is good, and that it is woorth the money, whereas indeed it is nothing so, nor so. 1584 R. Scot *Discov. Witchcr.* VI. i. 90 Making you beleeve a thing which is neither so nor so. 1610 A. Cooke *Pope Joan* 12 As though that Temple had had a spire steeple like ours; which is neither so, nor so. 1611 Cotgr., *Rien rien,* no no, neither so nor so. 1682 T. Flatman *Heraclitus Ridens* No. 73 (1713) II. 198 *Earn.* Most of 'em are said to have either a Competency, or another Trade... *Jest.* This is neither so nor so.

VIII. With various adjs. and advs. of quantity, number, etc.

35. So far, in literal and transferred senses (see Far *adv.* 6 and Far-forth *adv.* 2): **a.** Without correlative word or clause.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 2253 Now we haue vs sped sa ferr, Vr wil may he noght vs merr. 1390 Gower *Conf.* II. 33 Yit so fer cowthe I nevere finde Man that..Me cowthe teche such an art. 1535 Coverdale *Ps.* cii. 12 Loke how wyde the east is from the west, so farre hath he set oure synnes from vs. 1611 Bible *Ps.* xxii. 1 Why art thou so far from helping me? 1696 *A. Telfair's New Confut. Sadd.* Pref. A 2 Having once gone so far, they will easily be induced to believe, that there's no Resurrection at all. 1754 Hume *Hist. Eng.* (1812) I. App. I. 198 He [the King] was even, so far, on a level with the people. *a* 1797 H. Howard in *3rd Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* 433/2 Every place given to an Englishman is so far a loss to the people. 1821 Scott *Kenilw.* xxvii, Will you so far trust me? 1832 Greville *Mem.* 27 Mar. (1874) II. 273, I have no doubt that all the ultras will be deeply mortified..at the success so far of 'the Waverers'. 1892 *Speaker* 3 Sept. 288/1 Nothing has, so far, been allowed to transpire as to its name and contents.

Comb. 1880 *Nature* XXI. 407 This so-far improved feature of temperature.

b. Followed by *as,* with various constructions. Examples of the literal sense are placed under (*b*).

(*a*) [*a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 16386 Sacles es he sa feir se sum i can (=so far as I can see).] 1485 *Sc. Acts, Jas. III* (1814) II. 172 þe Custumaris at þair comptis making..to be dischargit of safer as þai deliuer to þe said wardan & changeour. 1565 Stapleton tr. *Staphylus' Apol.* 148 Some are..courtly protestants, which admit Luther so farre as them list. 1723 Sir R. Blackmore *Hist. Conspiracy* Pref. A 8 b, Some..only advanced so far as to excite Popular Jealousies. 1742 Ld. Hardwicke in *Johnson's Debates* (1787) II. 161 The law..is however to be so far fixed, as that every man may know his own condition. 1779 *Mirror* No. 14, I had actually gone so far as to write three introductory sentences. 1801 *Farmer's Mag.* Jan. 39 So far as I can now recollect. 1859 Geo. Eliot *A. Bede* xviii, Who played the part of steward so far as it was not performed by old Mr. Donnithorne himself. 1876 Gladstone *Glean.* (1879) II. 313 So far as we can gather, a sober estimate prevails.

(*b*) 1513 Douglas *Æneid* vi. iii, 83 Sa fer before Achates and Enee As thai mycht weil behald thaim with thair E. 1675 in *Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* Var. Coll. IV. 247 Cleanseing the shallowes in the river so farre as Crane Bridge. 1806 Surr *Winter in Lond.* I. 76 Have you in your rambles, ever reached so far as the Park, Edward? 1898 E. P. Evans *Evol. Ethics* vi. 216 He sees clearly so far as his lantern casts its rays.

c. In the phrase *In so far as* (see In *prep.* 38).

1546 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* I. 31 In safer as concernis the said Williamys awine part. 1582 Burne in *Cath. Tractates* (S.T.S.) 140 In safar as thay confes Christ to be the sone of the leuing God. 1672 *Justiciary Rec.* (S.H.S.) 117 The complainer was no Magistrate in swa far as he had not taken the Declaration. 1780 *Mirror* No. 96, In so far as my improvement was concerned, they spared no expence. 1846 H. W. Torrens *Rem. Milit. Hist.* II The hieroglyphic inscriptions.., in so far as their characters have been deciphered. 1876 L. Stephen *Hist. Eng. Th. 18th C.* II. 418 Wesley..differs from Warburton and his like in so far as God is regarded as an active administrator.

d. Followed by *that.*

c 1489 Caxton *Sonnes of Aymon* ii. 60 Sith that it is soo ferre come that ye wyll not here vs, we shall kepe owr peas. 1542 Udall *Erasm. Apoph.* II. (1877) 259 One of the accusers..had gone so ferre, that he spake moche what these wordes folowing. 1711 Addison *Spect.* No. 5 ¶ 3 This strange Dialogue awakened my Curiosity so far, that I immediately bought the Opera. 1845 Stephen *Comm. Laws Eng.* II. 577 It is also so far a source of strength.. that it gives [etc.].

e. *So far from,* used to give emphasis to a different statement following. Also with *that.*

(*a*) 1547 *Homilies* (1859) 112 David was so far from rejoicing at these news, that..forthwith he rent his clothes. 1677 Miege *Dict.* II. s.v. *Far,* I am so far from loving her, that I hate her. 1736 Ainsworth *Eng.-Lat. Dict.* I. s.v., They were so far from selling, that they bought. 1868 J. H. Blunt *Ref. Ch. Eng.* I. 479 So far was it from doing so that it caused a rapid under-current of reaction.

(*b*) 1779 *Mirror* No. 33, Which, so far from being inconsistent.., is the most probable means of accomplishing it. 1813 Milner in *Suppl. Mem. Eng. Cath.* 305 As to..the Bible, the Catholic Church, so far from locking that up, requires her Pastors to study the whole of it. 1870 Ruskin *Arrows of the Chace* II. 225 So far from wishing to give votes to women, I would fain take them away from most men.

f. In the phr. *So far, so good,* used to express satisfaction with matters up to a certain point.

1809 Malkin *Gil Blas* VI. i. ¶ 11 So far, so good! said the worshipful commissioner; we have only to proceed in our examination. *a* 1843 Southey *Doctor* CCXXXIX. (1848) 650 So far so good, but this once influential writer makes an erroneous conclusion. 1875 Ruskin *Fors Clav.* lxi. 11 So far, so good, Nature and facts are beginning to assert themselves.

36. So long: (see Long *adv.* 1 b, 1 c).

37. So many. a. Such a (large) number (of).

attrib. *c* 888 K. Ælfred *Boeth.* xxxiii. § 2 þonne hi.. heora God on swa monize dælas todæleð, þonne [etc.]. *c* 1230 *Hali Meid.* 8 [It] deð hire in to drechunge,..& to se monie earmden. 13.. *St. Augustin* 1731 in Horstmann *Altengl. Leg.* (1878) 91 þer weore laft so mani Signes of wax, .. þat seint Austines chapel [etc.]. 1508 Dunbar *Poems* vii. 66 Thow suld be hye renownit, That did so mony victoryse opteyn. 1577 *St. Aug. Manual* (Longman) 110 How shall it be capable of so many and so great ioyes? 1639 Burton *Will* in *Anat. Mel.* (1893) I. p. xxx, Because there be soe many casualties to which our life is subjecte. *a* 1648 Ld. Herbert *Hen. VIII* (1683) 257 Peradventure lying among so many his Writings and old Letters. 1780 *Mirror* No. 104, It is..a melancholy circumstance..to find so many noble palaces deserted by their illustrious owners. 1820 Keats *St. Agnes* xxxviii, Here will I take my rest After so many hours of toil and quest. 1878 Swinburne *To Victor Hugo* xv, Hast thou seen time, who hast seen so many things?

absol. *c* 897 K. Ælfred tr. *Gregory's Past. C.* xxviii. 191 Buton he..sua monige ȝecierre sua he mæsō mæge. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* ii. (*Paul*) 162 þe folk..þat saw..he gerte but resone sa mony sla, Raisit in hym sedicione. *c* 1450 Holland *Howlat* 237 Confess cleir can I nocht..The maner, nor the multitud, so mony thar was. 1573 Tusser *Husb.* (1878) 8 Loiterers I kept so meanie, both Philip, Hob, and Cheanie. 1719 De Foe *Crusoe* II. (Globe) 360 We are not so many of us, here is Room enough for us all. 1812 Crabbe *Tales* ii. 142 Believe it..glorious to prevail, And stand in safety where so many fail.

b. *So* (or *as*) *many.., so many,* used to express equality in numbers. (See also How *adv.* 14 c.)

c 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Prol. Matt. 1 Swæ moniȝ aron bissena..swa monige boec. *a* 1548 Hall *Chron., Hen. IV,* 12 b, Verifiynge the olde Prouerbe, so many heades, so many wittes. *a* 1633 J. Austin *Medit.* (1635) 149 So many men, so many minds (saies the proverb): but here they were of one accord. 1718 Ozell tr. *Tournefort's Voy.* II. 181 When a Bassa is in march, so many robbers taken, so many heads off in an instant. 1735 Berkeley *Free-think. in Mathemat.* § 44 As many men, so many minds.

c. Followed by *as* († or the relative *that*).

1340–70 *Alisaunder* 441 þat by strength of her strife þei straught to foote All so many as his menne mighten areche. *c* 1400 *Brut* CCXXVII. 299 3et were þey threfold so meny of hem as of Englisshe men. 1489 *Acta Dom. Conc.* (1839) 131 Samony of the..cuschingis, weschale, and seruiotis, as aucht to be deliuerit. 1549 *Compl. Scotl.* 163 Sa mony of ȝou that ar defensabil men sal pas in propir person in battel. 1597 Jas. VI in *3rd Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* 422/2 Sa mony as are yet in hands sal be distributit. 1621 Bp. Mountagu *Diatribæ* 426 In this passage there are so many particulars obseruable concerning tithing, as there bee words in the same. 1685 *Caldwell P.* (Maitl. Cl.) I. 150 A man..gives notice..by so many windings of his horn as there are horsemen coming. 1735 Johnson *Lobo's Abyssinia, Descr.* x. 98 Every Man being allowed so many Wives as he hath hundreds of Cows. 1823 Scott *Talism.* xxviii, Had I not brought up unexpectedly so many Arabs as rendered the scheme abortive.

Comb. 1665 J. Webb *Stone-Heng* (1725) 15 To be a so-many-sided Figure as there are Segments wanting.

d. As many; an equal number (of). Freq. in vaguer sense, a number (pack, etc.) of..

(*a*) 1563–4 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* I. 263 Thai and samony of thair freindis being present. 1568 Grafton *Chron.* II. 43 Hauing with him onely ten horsemen, with so many Archers on horseback. 1613 Shaks. *Hen. VIII,* v. iv. 79 We are but men; and what so many may doe,..we haue done. 1678 Wanley *Wond. Lit. World* v. i. § 97, 468/1 In twenty eight Battels he became Master of so many Kingdoms.

(*b*) 1600 Pory tr. *Leo's Africa* IX. 348 The ostriches wander vp and downe..in orderly troupes, so that a far off a man would take them to be so many horsemen. 1631 Gouge *God's Arrows* V. § 11. 422 A few couragious men to great armies of cowards, are as so many Lyons to whole heards of deere. 1711 Addison *Spect.* No. 50 ¶ 3 Pillars that stand like the Trunks of so many Trees. 1839 Thackeray *Fatal Boots* Oct., The carriage, the house in town, the West India fortune, were only so many lies which I had blindly believed. 1885 *Manch. Exam.* 20 May 5/1 They turned upon him like so many curs let loose.

e. Used to denote an unspecified number.

1533 Gau *Richt Vay* 3 That thay..suld haiff sa mony thousand zeris of pardone. 1611 Cotgr. s.v. *Chete,* The ship is so many foot deepe in hold. 1631 Gouge *God's Arrows* I. § 29. 44 Papists..going barefoot so many miles. 1780 *Mirror* No. 87, Creeping on his knees up the steps of St. Peter's so many times a day.

38. So mickle, = next. (See also Insameikle.)

c 888 K. Ælfred *Boeth.* i, þa hit ða ȝelomp þæt se arwyrða wæs on swa micelre nearanesse. 971 *Blickl. Hom.* 25 Nu he ȝwa mycel for ure lufan ȝeþrowode. *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 31 Ne mahtiç ȝelden swa muchel swa ic habbe idon to herme. *a* 1200 *Moral Ode* 357 in *Trin. Coll. Hom.*, He haueð sswo muchel þat he ne bit no more. *c* 1340 Hampole *Pr. Consc.* 6013 Swa mykel folk com never togyder.. sythen þe werld bygan. 14.. *26 Pol. Poems* XXVI. 217 Hym was nat lefte so mekyll a clothe Hys naked body for to hele. 1503 in Littlejohn *Aberd. Sheriff Crt.* (1904) 48 The said corn was samekle of waile in tyme of the spoliacioun therof. 1581 Hamilton *Cath. Traictise* Ep. 2 Not samekle for the present calameteis.., as for [etc.]. 1609 [see Mickle B. 1 c]. 1820 Scott *Monast.* Introd. Ep., There were few folk kend sae muckle about the Abbey.

39. So much. (See also For-, Insomuch.)

adj.* **a. So great, extensive, or abundant; so large a quantity or number of, etc.

a 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 1345 Godes sune, þet se mucke godlec cudde us alle on eorðe. 13.. *K. Alis.* 1032 (W.), Alle the innes of the toun Haddyn litel foisoun,..So muche people with hire was. *c* 1380 Wyclif *Sel. Wks.* III. 431 Siche signes drawen fro love of Crist þo þat setten so meche trist in hem. *c* 1400 Love *Bonavent. Mirr.* (1908) 49 Thowh there was so moche nede, I fynde no mynde of furres or pilches. *a* 1529 Skelton *Sp. Parrot* 443 So myche newe makyng,.. So myche translacion in to Englyshe confused. 1613 Shaks. *Hen. VIII,* I. i. 167 This last costly Treaty.., That swallowed so much treasure. 1651 Howell *Venice* 31 Seeing the English buy so much Currans. 1780 *Mirror* No. 110, A performance, the reception of which was liable to so much uncertainty. 1812 Crabbe *Tales* v. 178 That so much beauty..Raised strong emotions in the poet's mind. 1884 W. S. B. McLaren *Spinning* (ed. 2) 28 Some soda is often put into..potash soaps just because it will hold so much water.

b. So largely possessed *of* something.

1509 Hawes *Past. Pleas.* III. (Percy Soc.) 15 The fayre tower so muche of ryches Was all about sexangled. 1549–62 Sternhold & H. *Ps.* lxxxvi. 10 For why? thou art so much of might.

c. An equal sum or amount of (something).

1557 in Marsden *Sel. Pl. Crt. Admiralty* (Selden Soc.) II. 72, I..do owe unto John Levytt..for so moche redy money of him resayved..the some of fyfty pownds. 1695 Telfair *New Confut. Sadd.* (1696) 3 He took up the Threshold, found the Tooth, and threw it into the Fire, where it burnt like so much Tallow. 1857 Ruskin *Pol. Econ. Art* ii. § 90 Whenever you buy a copy, you buy so much misunderstanding of the original. 1885 Mrs. Lynn Linton *C. Kirkland* I. 219 Even my languages..were merely so much literary furniture.

** *adv.* **d.** Followed by *the* and a comparative (and sometimes with *by* preceding): To that extent, in that degree.

a 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 413 And swa muche þe swiðere þet he bihet to medin ham mid swiðe heh mede. *c* 1425 *Eng. Conq. Irel.* (1896) 6 He..soiourned thar a whill; & so mych the blethelier, for þer com oft shippes theder. 1560 Daus tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 216 b, He was brent in a small fire, that hys torment might be so mutch the greater. 1579 Lyly *Euphues* (Arb.) 179 By how much the more thou excellest others in honours, by so much the more thou oughtest to exceed them in honestie. 1611 Bible *Mark* vii. 36 The more hee charged them, so much the more a great deale they published it. 1691 T. H[ale] *Acc. New Invent.* 95 It is so much the worse, by how much it deviates from Equality. 1741 Challoner *Mem. Missionary Priests* Pref. (1803) A 2 Which appeared.., by so much the more wanting, by how much the less [etc.]. 1796 H. Hunter tr. *St.-Pierre's Stud. Nat.* (1799) I. 574 Others frequently concur to this end so much the better, the more that they seem to deviate from it. 1908 R. Bagot *A. Cuthbert* vii. 77 If the lady remained at Syracuse for a day or two, so much the better.

e. To such an extent; in such a degree.

1388 Wyclif *Eccl.* ii. 13 And Y sig, that wisdom 3ede so mych bifor foli, as miche as liȝt is dyuerse fro derknessis. 1519 *Interlude Four Elements* in Hazlitt *Dodsley* I. 22, I marvel greatly, That ever ye would use the company So mich of such a knave. 1580 in Allen *Martyrdom Campion* (1908) 26 Rage man or devil never so much. 1692 *E. Walker's tr. Epictetus' Mor.* (1737) To Mr. E. W. on his Transl., Nor is your Author had in less esteem Than that great Man so much admir'd by him. 1742 Ld. Percival in *Johnson's Debates* (1787) II. 265 In so much a better manner than I thought myself able to do. 1768–74 A. Tucker *Lt. Nat.* (1834) I. 59 How much we desire an absent positive good, so much we are in pain for it. 1831 Scott *Cast. Dang.* ii, But wherefore..so much displeased but now at my young friend Charles? 1859 Geo. Eliot *A. Bede* xxxvi, Villages, and market-towns—all so much alike to her indifferent eyes.

Comb. 1664 Pepys *Diary* 1 Jan., Saw the so much cried-up play of 'Henry the Eighth'. 1734 tr. *Rollin's Anc. Hist.* I. II. vi. (1841) I. 45 These so-much-boasted politicians. 1848 Dickens *Dombey* xxxi, The so-much-to-be-astonished chicken. 1860 E. Falkener *Dædalus* Introd. 2 The so-much-talked-of trabeated ceilings of the ancients.

*** *sb.* **f.** An equal amount; as much.

c 1400 *Laud Troy Bk.* 3440 Thei prayed him alle that viage to take, To do so moche for her sake. *c* 1400 *Brut* civ. 105 If ȝe so miche..haue y-wonne, an C. tymes so miche..ȝe hauen loste. 1589 *Pappe w. Hatchet* in Lyly's Wks. 1902 III. 407 This is a good settled speech, a Diuine might haue seemd to haue said so much. *c* 1643 Ld. Herbert *Autobiog.* (1824) 32, I never saw him angry.., and have heard so much of him for many years before. *a* 1679 Hobbes *Rhet.* I. vii. 14 More, is so much, and somewhat besides. 1780 *Mirror* No. 94, I cannot say so much for his acquaintance C. D. 1810 Crabbe *Borough* ii. 55 *note*, I would answer, that I understand so much. 1848 Thackeray *Van. Fair* xxxi, He kissed her hand. Except when she was married, he had not done so much for years before.

g. A certain unspecified amount, sum, etc.

1382 Wyclif *Acts* v. 8 Womman, seye to me, if ȝe solden the feeld for so moche? And she seide, ȝhe, so moche. 1583 Stubbes *Anat. Abus.* (1882) II. 23 That such a thing cost them so much, and so much, and it is woorth this much and that much. 1656 Earl Monm. tr. *Boccalini's Pol. Touchstone* (1674) 269 This..behaviour..is as so much of the best Sugar for you Italians, and as so much of the bitterest Poyson for the Spanish Nation. 1696 *Caldwell P.* (Maitl. Cl.) I. 171 They have..soe much a day for their pocket money. 1737 *Gentl. Mag.* VII. 552/1 They have nothing to do but to work them off as fast as They can, at so much a thousand. 1844 Mrs. Browning *Cry of the Human* v, Each soul is worth so much on 'Change. 1884 W. C. Smith *Kildrostan* 88 Life is lost, By so much, when you lose a perfect sense.

h. Thus much, thus far. (Used to sum up or dismiss a matter.)

1588 Shaks. *L. L. L.* I. i. 240 So much for the time When. 1662 Stillingfl. *Orig. Sacræ* III. ii. § 10 And so much for this second Hypothesis. 1707 J. Stevens tr. *Quevedo's Com. Wks.* (1709) 350 So much for that; do you take me Sir. 1794 Scott *Let.* in *Lockhart* (1837) I. vii. 220 So much for public news. 1840 *P. Parley's Ann.* 364 So much for the love of slaughter! 1891 T. Hardy *Tess* (1900) 11/1 So much for Norman blood unaided by Victorian lucre.

i. Such an amount, quantity, etc.

See also Ever *adv.* 9 b, 9 c, and Never *adv.* 4.

1606 G. Woodcocke *Hist. Iustine* xxv. 93 There was so much of merit in him. 1711 Addison *Spect.* No. 120 ¶ 1 Sir Roger is very often merry with me upon my passing so much of my Time among his Poultry. 1732–8 Swift *Polite Conv.* 131 (Footman fills him a Bumper.) Why do you fill so much? 1816 Shelley *Mt. Blanc* 117 So much of life and joy is lost. 1850 Tennyson *In Mem.* lxxiii, So many worlds, so much to do, So little done.

40. So much as, that, etc. **a.** With *as* (or † *so*), in ordinary comparative use.

adj. c 1275 Lay. 25351 Folk þar com wel sone..,so moche so þar neuere hear [= ere] no man ne gadere[de]. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 1249 The multitude was so much as menys vs þe writtez. 1568 Grafton *Chron.* II. 18 Somuch grownd as might receyue..his poore Carkas. 1599 Shaks. *Much Ado* II. iii. 263 *Bene.* You take pleasure then in the message. *Beat.* Yea iust so much as you may take vpon a knives point. 1668 Wilkins *Real Char.* 339 The other Affix..is not of so much use or necessity as the rest. 1821 Scott *Kenilw.* xxxix, Take so much leisure as to peruse this letter. 1865 Ruskin *Sesame* ii. § 80 Of half so much importance as [etc.].

sb. a 1400–50 *Alexander* 3306, I..Has noȝt o maistri so meche as miȝt of my-selfe. *c* 1420 *Sir Amadace* (Camden) I, He wold gif hom..so muche..As any lord wold. *c* 1530 Ld. Berners *Arth. Lyt. Bryt.* 330 Often times it fortuned that a man can not attayne to do so muche as he would do. 1559 *Boke Presidentes* 9 That ye will do so muche as..to present A. B. to the same. 1613 Purchas *Pilgrimage* (1614) 18 Others account so much to Paradise as those foure Riuers doe water. 1678 Butler *Hud.* III. ii. 1214 'Tis most true None bring him in so much as you. 1875 M. Pattison *Casaubon* 522 Casaubon knew of his own age so much as the average of educated men know. 1886 C. E. Pascoe *London of To-day* i. (ed. 3) 24 The poorest memory..will retain so much as that.

adv. c 1425 *Eng. Conq. Irel.* (1896) 16 He hatede nothynge so mych as that me shold spek of his stalwardnes. *c* 1449 Pecock *Repr.* I. iii. 13 A man schulde loue..his neiȝbore as him silf, thou3 not so miche as him silf. 1530 Palsgr. 567/1, I gave hym counsayle to the contrarye so moche as lay in me. 1595 in *Cath. Rec. Soc. Publ.* V. 336 All the way he prayed,..so much as he might. 1634 Sir T. Hawkins *Pol. Observ.* 13 To these turmoyles, so much weighty as they were new, crosse omens of predictions were added. 1712 Steele *Spect.* No. 466 ¶ 3 With a Design to please no one so much as her Father. 1780 *Mirror* No. 79, Not so much by the class of people..as by the kind of sentiments. 1831 Scott *Ct. Rob.* xviii, Her attendant..kept herself modestly in the background, so much so as hardly to be distinguished.

b. Used to emphasize a negation.

a 1425 *Cursor M.* 16960 (Trin.), He þat neuer synne dud, ne so muche as hit þou3t. 1576 Fleming *Panopl. Epist.* 197 Not so muche as putting pen to paper. *c* 1643 Ld. Herbert *Autobiog.* (1824) 124 Without giving me so much as the least warning. 1697 Dampier *Voy.* I. 144 There was not so much as a Meal of Victuals left for them. 1713 Steele *Englishman* No. 40, I do not remember to have seen any small Birds, nor so much as a Crow or Magpye. 1782 Miss Burney *Cecilia* VIII. viii, I should not expect any lady would so much as look at him. 1854 Mrs. Oliphant *Magdalen Hepburn* II. 51 The priest's *benedicite* was not accompanied by so much as a glance. 1887 Birrell *Obiter Dicta* Ser. II. 151 [He] never so much as attained to a seat in the Cabinet.

c. With *that*, denoting result or consequence.

c 1412 Hoccleve *De Reg. Princ.* 1794 Lordes han for to done So myche for hem-self, þat my mateere Out of hir mynde slippith away soone. *c* 1489 Caxton *Sonnes of Aymon* iv. 119 Soo moche abode the foure sones of Aymon, that the nyghte came. 1595 in *Cath. Rec. Soc. Publ.* V. 290 He..was so muche greeved that..he went presently to Confession. *c* 1670 Wood *Life* (O. H. S.) I. 45 This yeare he had the small pox so much that he was for a time blinded with them. 1766 Goldsm. *Vicar* iii, My attention was so much taken up..that I scarce looked forward. 1811 Byron in R. C. Dallas *Corr. of Byron* (1825) II. 26, I feel myself so much a citizen of the world, that [etc.]. 1850 Thackeray *Pendennis* xvi, So much so, that one afternoon..she..shook hands with him.

d. Followed by infinitive without *as*.

1607 Tourneur *Rev. Trag.* I. i, I had so much wit to keepe my thoughts Vp in their built houses. 1874 Swinburne *Bothwell* II. ix, Though I have not so much grace To bind again this people fast to God.

So, var. Soe; obs. infin. and pa. t. pl. of See *v.*

So., abbrev. of South.

Soader, obs. f. Solder *sb.* and *v.*

Soak (sōuk), *sb.* Also 6–7, 9 *dial.*, soke. [f. the vb.]

1. a. The condition or process of being or becoming soaked; a spell of soaking. Chiefly in the phr. *in soak*: cf. A-soak *adv.*

1598 Florio, *Abombare*,..to steepe or lay in soke. 1687 Miége *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II. s. v. *Soke*, You need give it but one good Soke. 1771 Luckombe *Hist. Print.* 350 He also lays the Ball Leathers in soak *to supple them.* 1787 Jefferson *Writ.* (1859) II. 283, I am not without hopes that a good rod is in soak for Prussia. 1887 Brown *Doctor* 47 Fixin the die, very slow in the soak,..But takin the colour through and through!

b. A liquid used for maceration; a steep.

1850 Allen *Amer. Farm Book* ii. 48 As a soak or steep for seeds..there is no doubt of their possessing some value.

c. A vat in which hides are macerated.

1876 tr. *Schults' Leather Manuf.* 17 Before any portion is put into the soaks. 1897 C. T. Davis *Manuf. Leather* vi. 80 Dry salted hides, kips, etc.,..are generally put into a pit of water kept for the purpose, called a soak.

d. A heavy saturating rain.

1891 *Daily News* 20 Aug. 5/1 The long steady soak that finds out the weak spot..in canvas.

2. A percolation of water; water which has oozed through or out of the ground, strata, etc.

1707 Mortimer *Husb.* (1721) II. 191 In dry Ground that is not annoyed with any Spring or soak of Water. 1821 Cobbett *Rural Rides* (1885) I. 4 A sort of river;..the water proceeding from the soak of the higher ground on both sides. 1838 Simms *Public Wks. Gt. Brit.* 19 Springs, soaks, or streams of water. 1883 *Specif. Alnwick & Cornhill Rlwy.* 22 Wherever springs, soaks, or streams appear and issue from the face of the slopes.

b. *spec.* in Lincolnshire. (Cf. Sock *sb.*3 2.) Also *attrib.*

1799 [A. Young] *Agric. Linc.* 15 The sock or soak among the silt is sometimes brackish. *Ibid.* 235 Through all the fens of Lincolnshire we hear much of the soak,..the subterranean water which is found..usually but a very few feet below the surface. *c* 1818 Britton *Lincolnshire* 557 The sea water..,unable to pass by the drains, rises on the surface, and is known by the name of soak. 1851 *Trnl. R. Agric. Soc.* XII. i. 285 Upon digging down into the sharp silt the soak oozes from the side of the hole.

c. *dial.* A piece of marshy, swampy ground.

1839 Sir G. C. Lewis *Gloss. Heref.* s.v., A 'green soak', or 'a warm soak', is a small spot of marshy ground in which a spring rises. 1849 J. Lloyd *Eng. Country Gentleman* 6 Where the soak its emerald fringe displays. 1851 Sternberg *Northampt. Dial., Soke*, a patch of marshy land.

d. *Austr.* A depression holding moisture after rain; a damp spot where water may be obtained.

1894 *Westm. Gaz.* 30 Oct. 4/2 A prospecting party comes along to one of the clay-pans or soaks. 1899 *Times* 24 Feb. 13/1 The rock holes and soaks on which the lives of themselves and their animals depended.

3. A heavy drinker; a tippler.

1820 Clare *Poems Rural Life* (ed. 3) 93 And hearty soaks oft hand the bottle round. 1889 *Lisbon* (Dakota) *Star* 15 Feb. 2/5, I think I'll corral a lot of chronic old soaks,..and experiment with them.

4. A prolonged draught or drinking-bout.

1851 Sternberg *Northampt. Dial., Soke*,..a long draught. 'A good soke.' 1855 C. G. Parsons *Inside View Slavery* iv. 51 When the Southron intends to have a 'soak', he takes the bottle to his bed-side.

Soak (sōuk), *v.* Forms: 1 socian, 4–8 soke, 6–7 soake, 7– soak. Also *pa. pple.* 6–7 soken, 8–9 soaken. [OE. *socian*, f. the weak grade of the stem represented by *súcan* to Suck, = WFlem. *soken* and *zoken* (De Bo).

The following are examples of the strong pa. pple. (see also Soaken *ppl. a.*):—1586 Bright *Melanch.* xiv. 72 Whose braines are soken. 1597 J. King *On Jonas* (1618) 176 Dirt soken with blood. 1633 P. Fletcher *Poet. Misc.* Ps. cxxxvii, Our heart-strings broken, Throats drown'd, and soken With tears. 1793 Smeaton *Edystone L.* § 196 So that the pores might be thoroughly soaken with water. 1886 J. Ashby-Sterry *Lazy Minstrel* 126 Shiny is each mackintosh, Each hat and coat well soaken.]

I. *intr.* **1.** To lie immersed in a liquid for a considerable time, so as to be saturated or permeated with it; to become thoroughly wet or soft in this manner.

c 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* II. 240 Dweorge dwostlan weorp on weallende wætter, læt socian on lange. *Ibid.* 252 Asete þonne on hate sunnan..þæt hit sipige & socige.

c 1440 [see Soaking *vbl. sb.* 1]. 1674 Brevint *Saul at Endor* 314 The other water which did cure the Palsie, when the little Image of Montague..had soakt in it. 1687 Miége *Gt. Fr. Dict.* s.v., To lay a Thing a-soking. 1707 *Curios. in Husb. & Gard.* 313 The Sea, in which they soak every Tide. 1833 Rennie *Alph. Angling* 68 Before using them let them soak about half an hour in water. 1853 Soyer *Pantroph.* 160 As soon as the goose was killed, the liver was put to soak in milk and honey. 1889 *Science-Gossip* XXV. 234 A spoonful of water in which a clove of garlic has soaked for half an hour.

b. *transf.* and *fig.*

a 1510 Douglas *K. Hart* I. xx, Ryse, fresch Delyte, lat nocht this mater soke. 1687 Miége *Gt. Fr. Dict.* I. s. v. *Mitonner*, This Potage must be kept soaking upon a Chafing-dish, or the like. 1711 Addison *Spect.* No. 65 ¶ 8 Because it is Vulgar to Lye and Soak together, we have each of us our several Settle-Bed. *a* 1791 Wesley *Serm.* xcviii. (1825) II. 475 By *soaking* (as it is emphatically called) so long between warm sheets, the flesh..becomes soft and flabby. 1843 Holtzapffel *Turning* I. 241 The work..should be allowed ample time to get hot, or as it is called, to 'soak'. 1874 J. W. Long *Amer. Wild-fowl* viii. 142 Now, put these little hints 'to soak', as they say out here.

c. To allow moisture to percolate. *rare*—1.

1688 *Phil. Trans.* XVII. 981 It being Sandy Land, soaks and drains admirably well.

2. To percolate; to penetrate by saturation or infiltration; to ooze. Also with *in*, *through*, etc.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 463/2 Sokyn yn, as lycure yn dyuerse þyngys, or drynkyn yn. 1573 Tusser *Husb.* (1878) 47 For weede and the water so soketh and sucks, that [etc.]. 1587 Gascoigne *Flowers*, etc. Wks. 1907 I. 116 [Floods of tears] Whose fountaine..soketh so, that all my face is styll on flowe. 1607 Topsell *Four-f. Beasts* (1658) 188 When the rain descended, it filled the horns, and soked to the root of the Vine. 1657 Austen *Fruit Trees* I. 64 A Barrow full of Rotten Muck,..the fatnesse whereof will soke in among the roots. 1697 Dryden *Virg. Georg.* III. 677 If Sweat remains Unwash'd, and soaks into the empty Veins. 1726 Leoni *Alberti's Archit.* I. 74/2 The Structure..may..be rotted by the moisture lying continually soaking upon it. 1776 G. Semple *Building in Water* 42 The Pit..quite free from Water, except some small Quantity that soaked from the Bed of the River. 1815 Scott *Guy M.* xxiii, A narrow channel, through which soaked, rather than flowed, a small stagnant stream. 1884 *Law Times Rep.* LI. 229/2 The water..soaked under the wall and wetted the mud below it.

b. *fig.*

1583 Golding *Calvin on Deut.* xiii. 14 b, God will make them to soke away like water. 1599 Breton *Miseries of Mamillia* Wks. (Grosart) II. 36/2 Sorrow sokes long ere it slayes. 1642 D. Rogers *Naaman* 3 The grace of that spirit..might soke and sinke into the soules of men. 1675 J. Smith *Christian Religion's Appeal* II. 6 To repel the thought of future Judgment, from soaking into the Spirits. 1881 *Times* 21 May 11/4 The controversialists have separated to give time for them to soak into the minds..of nations.

† **c.** Of currents: To flow slowly. *Obs.*

1699 Dampier *Voy.* II. III. viii. 103 The Sea-Breezes and the Currents, that soak down between Africa and Brazil.

d. With cognate obj.: To make (way) by percolation.

1815 Scott *Guy M.* xxviii, The rivulet beneath..soaked its way obscurely through wreaths of snow. 1883 Stevenson *Treas. Isl.* xiv, The nearest of the little rivers soaked its way into the anchorage.

3. To drink immoderately; to saturate oneself with liquor.

1687 A. Lovell tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* I. 78 You keep soak-

ing in Taverns, and come and make such Complaints to me. 1766 GOLDSM. *Vicar* xxi, You do nothing but soak with the guests all day long, whereas..I never touch a drop. 1828 RUDDIMAN *Sc. Parish* (1889) 69 The sodger gentry..sit soaking and drinking. 1883 *19th Cent.* Oct. 594 The shambling and scrofulous shirk whom you may find any night soaking at the pothouse.

II. *trans.* **4.** Of liquid or moisture: To permeate thoroughly; to saturate with wet. Freq. in passive.

(*a*) *a* 1340, *c* 1440 [see *fig.* below]. 1544 PHAER *Bk. Childr.* (1553) S iij b, Stepe it in suffycyent rosewater, tyll it bee wel soked. 1577 HARRISON *England* II. vi. (1877) I. 156 The ..barleie..is steeped in a cesterne..vntill it be throughlie soked. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* I. 567 The ground standeth not drenched and soked with water. 1671 MILTON *Samson* 1726 Let us go find the body where it lies Sok't in his enemies blood. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* II. iv. 219 Several of her casks had rotted, and her bags were soaked through. 1796 H. HUNTER tr. *St.-Pierre's Stud. Nat.* (1799) II. 334 The herbage and the trees are soaked in water. 1876 BRISTOWE *Th. & Pract. Med.* (1878) 280 Not when the marshy ground is thoroughly soaked, but when, after it has been thus soaked [etc.].

(*b*) 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* IV. 187 Where..deep Galesus soaks the yellow Sands. 1784 COWPER *Task* I. 215 When Winter soaks the fields. 1800 tr. *Legrange's Chem.* II. 303 The quantity..should be sufficient to soak the grain. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 730 Hyperidrosis ..soaking the boots and stockings with a stinking material.

b. *fig.*

a 1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* iii. 5, I am soked in my synne. *c* 1440 *Generydes* 234 The kyng..was febyll and sokyd with sekenesse. 1600 BRETON *Daffodils & Primroses* Wks. (Grosart) I. 14/1 My tree of true delight is sokde with sorrow. 1630 J. PRESTON *Serm.* 30 Soaked and surfetted with pleasures. 1902 B. GRUNDY *Thames Camp* 88, I am literally soaked in sunshine.

5. To lay or place in, to wet with, a liquid so as to produce thorough saturation; to steep.

a 1425 tr. *Arderne's Treat. Fistula*, etc. 40 It availeþ mich þat þe yuel or sore be wele fomented or soked wiþ vinegre and watre. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 463/2 Sokyn yn lycure..to be made softe. 1558 WARDE tr. *Alexis' Secr.* 39 b, Beate the Saffron in poulder, stiepe, and soke it. 1652 J. MAINE tr. *Donne's Epigr.* 94 The ground..Her Temples now steept in sea-water sokes. 1659 H. MORE *Immort. Soul* III. vii. § 8 It is not unlikely, but that they soak their Vehicles in some vaporous or glutinous moisture or other. 1707 MORTIMER *Husb.* 52 If you put Wormwood into the Brine you soak your Corn in. 1771 LUCKOMBE *Hist. Print.* 350 The purpose of soaking them is only to supple them. 1831 DAVIES *Mat. Med.* 260 It is..covered over with lint, which is afterwards soaked with the same caustic liquid. 1892 *Photogr. Ann.* II. 443 It consists in soaking the positive or negative on glass in a special solution.

absol. 1892 *Photogr. Ann.* II. 49 If you must soak, be sure to go over the face of the plate with a wet pledget.

b. *fig.*

1648 G. DANIEL *Eclog* iii. 193 You soake your soules, and by too large a flood. 1879 GEO. ELIOT *Theo. Such* x. 183 We soak our children in habits of contempt. 1895 ZANGWILL *Master* 439 He must soak himself in Paris and forget her.

c. *refl.* with reference to excessive drinking.

1818 SCOTT *Rob Roy* xii, Habitual topers..acquire the power of soaking themselves with a quantity of liquor [etc.]. 1891 E. ROPER *By Track & Trail* xvii. 256 Even..where people can get what they choose to drink, they do not soak themselves in beer.

6. To bake (bread, etc.) thoroughly. Also *fig.*

1686 GOAD *Celest. Bodies* I. vi. 22 The One baketh, the Other as it were soketh (that I may use Pastery Terms) the Fruits of the Season. 1741 *Compl. Fam.-Piece* I. ii. 133 A Haunch of 12 Pounds Weight will take up three full Hours to be well soaked. *a* 1825 FORBY *Voc. E. Anglia, Soak*, to bake thoroughly. It is particularly applied to bread. 1872 DE VERE *Americanisms* 548 Bread..is said 'to be well soaked', if it is dry and thoroughly well baked.

7. *colloq.* or *slang.* **a.** *To soak one's clay* (or †*face*), to drink (heavily).

1704 in W. S. Perry *Hist. Coll. Am. Col. Ch.* I. 180 Sober and meek under disgrace,..Now he's advanced he soaks his face. 1770 *Gentl. Mag.* XL. 559 He is said to..[have] Soaked his face. 1837 BARHAM *Ingol. Leg.* Ser. I. *Look at the Clock* iv, Mr. David Pryce had been soaking his clay.

b. To ply with liquor. Also in passive.

1822 J. BANIM *O'Hara Tales, Peggy Nowlan*, Well? you pumped him? and soaked him? 1884 *Pall Mall G.* 1 Aug. 4/1 He was..so drunk he could not stand. His friend.. was also pretty well soaked.

c. To spend (money) in drink.

1903 *Daily Chron.* 31 Aug. 3/4 When you meet him give him sixpence...He will soak it, of course, but that is long past mending.

d. To put (something) in pawn.

1882 SALA *Amer. Revis.* (1885) 382 'Soak my gems,' and 'Walker my diamonds'.

e. *U.S. slang.* To punish, beat, pummel, strike hard, etc.

1896 *Columbus* (Ohio) *Dispatch* 29 July 1 Embezzlers Soaked. The Fines and Sentences Given the Pittsburgh Defaulters. 1904 LORIMER *Old Gorgon Graham* 18 The unspeakable Turk hadn't been soaked hard enough to suit him [*sc.* an Armenian].

III. 8. To draw *out*, cause to ooze *out*, by means of soaking.

c 1430 *Two Cookery-bks.* 25 Take howhys of Vele, & ley hem on water to soke out þe blode. 1725 *Fam. Dict.* s.v. *Clear-Starching*, Lay it in a dry Cloth to soak out the Sudds. 1733 W. ELLIS *Chiltern & Vale Farm.* 114 Put half the Planks into Water, two or three Weeks, to soak out their Sap. 1892 *Photogr. Ann.* II. 179 The bichromate of potash is next soaked out by immersion in water for about four hours.

b. To draw or suck *out*.

1577 B. GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* I. (1586) 22 b, Sowe it with lighter seede, that soketh out lesse the substance of the ground. 1626 BACON *Nat. Hist.* § 346 As well by Strengthning the Spirits, as by Soaking out the loose Moisture. 1846 LANDOR *Imag. Conv.* I. 88 The people you describe to me soak out all the juices of our dialect.

†c. To drain, exhaust, impoverish. Also *to soak dry* or *up*. *Obs.*

1577 tr. *Bullinger's Decades* (1592) 165 And sucks & sokes the marow bones vntill they feeble waxe. 1579 LYLY *Euphues* (Arb.) 35 Whereby they might..soake his pursse to reape commoditie. 1605 *1st Part Ieronimo* I. iii, His bounty amongst souldiers sokes him dry. 1626 BACON *Nat. Hist.* § 480 All Plants that doe draw much Nourishment from the Earth, and so soake the Earth, and exhaust it. 1661 *Sir Harry Vane's Politicks* 9 It fares with those.. as it doth with Gaming Houses, where the Box soaks the Gamesters. 1687 MIÈGE *Gl. Fr. Dict.* II, To soke (or drain) ones Pockets, *épuiser les Poches*. *Ibid.*, A Woman that sokes up a Man,..*qui épuise un Homme*.

d. To allow to drain or ooze *away*.

a 1764 LLOYD *Poet. Professors* Wks. 1774 I. 34 Fellows! who've soak'd away their knowledge, In sleepy residence at college.

9. To allow to sink in; to absorb; to take in by absorption.

1553 *Short Catech.* in *Lit. & Doc. Edw. VI* (1844) 518 He ought..[to] endeavour himself to hear and soak into his mind the word of the Lord. 1577–87 HOLINSHED *Chron.* I. 16/2 Rather we follow the spider in soking the poison, than in imitating the bee by sucking the honie. 1771 LUCKOMBE *Hist. Print.* 33 The paper..was sleeked..; and this kept it from soaking the ink. 1796 KIRWAN *Elem. Min.* (ed. 2) II. 33 Losing the water soaked by its Crystals.

b. With *up*.

c 1550 [? G. WALKER] *Detect. Dice-Play* D ij b, Sone after yᵗ this likor was..dried, & soked vp in the boies face. 1588 KYD *Househ. Phil.* 187 Wks. (1901) 244 They soke up the superfluous humours of the earth. 1663 BOYLE *Usef. Exp. Nat. Philos.* II. i. 22 Plants..dried..betwixt sheets of paper, which help to soak up the superfluous moisture. 1799 G. SMITH *Laboratory* I. 35 When dry, throw it into the composition,..and stir it about, till it has soaked it up. 1854 LOWELL *Fireside Trav.* (1864) 286 One great mountain that soaked up all the rose of sunset.

c. To drink, imbibe, esp. to excess.

1697 DAMPIER *Voy.* (1729) I. 419 The Men come home fat with soaking this Liquor. 1865 *Reader* No. 117. 339/3 The quantity of port soaked there.

†**10.** To cause to sink in. *Obs.*—1

1599 SANDYS *Europæ Spec.* (1632) 28 They cast about gently to soake and settle them in mens..consciences.

Soakage (sōu·kéǰ). [f. prec. + -AGE.]

1. Liquid which has filtered or oozed out.

1766 *Compl. Farmer* s.v. *Turnep* 7 P 3/2 Water which happens to be the soakage of a dung-yard. 1799 [A. YOUNG] *Agric. Linc.* 244 He could, by taking the whole soakage of the hill, produce a river capable of turning a considerable mill. 1847 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* VIII. I. 118 They have to throw out the great soakage of water from the rivers Welland and Glen. 1884 *Daily News* 24 Sept. 3/4 The water in it gets contaminated by soakage from the gutter.

attrib. 1799 [A. YOUNG] *Agric. Linc.* 284 A soakage drain on each side of it.

b. *Austr.* A soak, a waterhole.

1898 *Geogr. Jrnl.* XI. 261 A small pool of water, evidently a soakage from the surrounding country. 1898 MORRIS *Austral Eng.*, *Soak*, or *Soakage*, a Western and Central Australian term.

2. Liquid or moisture absorbed.

1830 M. DONOVAN *Dom. Econ.* I. 205 The original twenty gallons come off less by the soakage.

3. The process of percolating or soaking through.

1867 BAKER *Nile Trib.* V. 102 The escape of the rainfall was by simple soakage. 1888 MISS BRADDON *Fatal Three* I. v, I'm afraid there may have been soakage from that manure-heap into the well. 1904 A. ST. H. GIBBONS *Africa* I. ii. 25 In so thirsty a country as Africa evaporation and soakage must be very considerable.

4. The fact of lying in soak.

1855 OGILVIE *Suppl.*, *Soakage*, act of soaking; state of being soaked. 1863 *Possibilities of Creation* 188 His flesh, converted into a species of spermaceti..by long soakage in running water.

5. *Electr.* The residual charge of a cable or condenser (*Cent. Dict.* Suppl., citing Houston).

Soaked (sōu·kt), *ppl. a.* [f. SOAK *v.* + -ED[1].]

1. *transf.* Dull, lacking in animation.

1600 *Hosp. Incurable Fooles* 19 Melancholike persons of this kinde, haue pale faces, soaked and hollow eies.

2. Steeped, macerated; saturated, drenched. Also as second element in *rain-*, *water-soaked*, etc.

1829 *Chapters Phys. Sci.* 197 If there be brought into contact two wetted or soaked bodies. 1841 DICKENS *Barn. Rudge* viii, Is it soaked gunpowder, or blazing oil? 1879 PROCTOR *Pleas. Ways Sc.* xvii. 368 The soaked slopes of great hills give way.

† Soa·ken, *v. Obs.* In 6–7 **soken.** [f. SOAK *v.* + -EN 5.] *trans.* To soak.

1577 FRAMPTON *Joyful News* I. (1596) 20 They leaue it so vntill the water bee sokened into it. 1580—*Dial. Yron & Steele* 155 When it is well sokened. 1632 J. HAYWARD tr. *Biondi's Eromena* 36 The pith of bread sokened in Spanish wine.

Soaken (sōu·k'n), *ppl. a.* [f. SOAK *v.*] Soaked, saturated; intoxicated.

1651 MANTON *Exp. James* iv. 16 The soaken Adulterer [can boast] of so many acts of uncleanness. 1846 LANDOR *Exam. Shaks.* Wks. 1853 II. 299/2 He spake as bigly and fiercely as a soaken yeoman at an election feast. 1898 *Daily News* 10 Sept. 4/7 Bits of soaken drapery.

Soaker (sōu·kəɹ). Also 6–8 **soker** (6 **sooker**?). [f. SOAK *v.* + -ER 1.]

†**1.** A drainer, exhauster. *Obs.*

1577 B. GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* I. (1586) 40 It is a great soker of the grounde. 1610 FOLKINGHAM *Art Surv.* I. x. 31 Wheate, Barley, Woade,..are great impairers and soakers of the soyle. 1629 MASSINGER *Picture* III. iv, I found By sad experience there is no such soaker As a young spongy wife. 1641 DAY *Parliament of Bees* x, He's a male polecat; a mere heart-blood soaker.

2. An immoderate drinker; a drunkard. Cf. 3 b.

1593 *Bacchus Bountie* in *Harl. Misc.* (1809) II. 265 The greatest soakers shal be least controulde. 1652 *Charac. Low Countries* 60 The Dutchman would still be the perfectest soker. 1679 WOOD *Life* (O.H.S.) II. 460 The black pot men carried it for Perot, a thorough paced soaker. 1770 *Ann. Reg.* II. 240 'Tis Soakers like me..That enable you Brewers to ride in your Coaches. 1837 BARHAM *Ingol. Leg.* Ser. I. *Look at the Clock* iv, Amusing himself..With a couple more soakers, Thoroughbred smokers. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* II. 865 In the case of a soaker on the verge of delirium tremens.

fig. 1593 NASHE *Four Lett. Conf.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 242 A scholler in nothing but the scum of schollership, a stale soker at Tullies Offices. 1665 BRATHWAIT *Comment. Two Tales* (1901) 52, I know you for a notable Soaker; you cannot endure a Sharer. 1700 CONGREVE *Way of World* IV. ii, The sun's..an honest soaker; he has a cellar at your Antipodes.

3. *Old soaker*: **a.** An old hand at anything; an old stager.

Perh. originally with allusion to drinking (cf. b and 2), but this does not appear in the quotations.

1589 R. HARVEY *Plain Perc.* (1590) 9 An olde sooker, that caries such Pottical verses of the State of Flanders, in a linnen bag. 1593 G. HARVEY *Pierce's Super.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 295 He was an old soaker indeede: and had more witt in his hoary head, then six hundred of these floorishing greene heads. 1614 MERITON *Christian Mans Assuring-house* 35 A young sinner is easily converted; but olde soakers are hardly reclaimed. *c* 1670 NEWCOME *Diary* (1885) 142 These old soakers with their Record's Arithmetic.

b. An old hand at drinking; a regular toper.

1665 PEPYS *Diary* 15 Feb., A very good dinner among the old sokers. 1670 EACHARD *Cont. Clergy* 31 A task.. that would much better fit some old soker at Parnassus, than his sipping unexperienc'd bibbership! *a* 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew, An old Soker*, a true Pitcher-man. 1829 SCOTT *Anne of G.* xix, Some quiet old soakers, who were already beginning to think of the reckoning. 1863 *Mortons of Bardom* I. 177 Thus assailed, the old soaker was compelled to withdraw.

4. a. One who soaks something.

1611 COTGR., *Trempeur*, a dipper; wetter, moistener; soaker, steeper.

b. A drenching rain.

1839 HOOD *To St. Swithin* V, Mother of all the Family of Rainers! Saint of the Soakers! 1857 A. MAYHEW *Paved with Gold* II. V, The rain came down in streams of water... 'Here's a soaker!' thought the young Bohemian.

5. A sheet of lead used in roofing to keep out heavy rains.

1895 *Jrnl. R. Inst. Brit. Archit.* Mar. 351 Hips should have hip-tiles and not soakers.

Soak-hole. [f. SOAK *v.*] **a.** *Austr.* An enclosed place in a stream, used for sheep-washing. **b.** A hole into or from which water, etc., soaks or drains away.

1881 A. C. GRANT *Bush Life in Queensland* I. 82 Parallel poles..forming square soak-holes. *Ibid.*, A stage was built, from which the sheep could be allowed to slide easily into the water of the first soak-hole. 1883 *Almondbury Gloss.* 124 The holes where it [*sc.* liquid manure] collects in the yard are called *soak-hoils*.

Soaking (sōu·kiŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. SOAK *v.*]

1. The action of the vb. in various senses.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 463/2 Sokynge, or longe lyynge in lycure, *infusio, inbibitura*. 1576 FLEMING *Panopl. Epist.* 442 These beautifull shapes..not consuming by the soaking of sicknesse. 1611 COTGR., *Trempement*, a..steeping, soaking. 1683 TRYON *Way to Health* 288 This soaking so long in your Bed, weakens all the Members. 1722 DE FOE *Col. Jack* ii, If we were catched, we run the risk of being ducked or pumped, which we call soaking. 1770 H. ST. JOHN in Jesse *Selwyn & Contemp.* (1844) III. 3 The servants were half dead with the soaking and fatigue. 1810 *Sporting Mag.* XXXV. 307 The company got a complete soaking from the inclemency of the weather. 1881 ABNEY *Photogr.* 122 Long soaking of the..emulsion is greatly detrimental.

b. *pl.* Liquid which has soaked through.

1846 BAXTER *Libr. Pract. Agric.* (ed. 4) II. 39 By pumping back the soakings the soluble salts are preserved.

2. In iron-working: A special process by which the heat of an ingot is equally distributed through the mass, in order to fit it for rolling.

1884 GREENWOOD *Steel & Iron* 383 Comparatively little heat escapes during the process of soaking.

3. *attrib.*, as (sense 1) *soaking solution, tub, vat*; (sense 2) *soaking operation, pit*; †**soaking club,** a drinking club.

1690 LOCKE *Hum. Und.* II. xxi. § 35 The tickling of his palate with a glass of wine, or the idle chat of a soaking club. 1853 *Nicholson's Operat. Mech.* (ed. 4) 408 Other trays ..are to be piled or placed upon this,..until the soaking-tubs or boilers are sufficiently filled. 1882 GJERS in *Iron & Steel Institute* 568 During the soaking operation, a quantity of gas exudes from the ingot. *Ibid.*, Some of this heat ..is lost by radiation before the ingot enters into the soaking pit. 1886 C. SCOTT *Sheep-Farming* 134 For this purpose a soaking vat has to be put up. 1890 *Anthony's Photogr. Bulletin* III. 29 The second amendment relates to the soaking solution.

Soaking (sōu·kiŋ), *ppl. a.* [f. SOAK *v.*]

†**1.** Taking in moisture, absorbent; *fig.*, drawing to oneself, tending to drain or exhaust. *Obs.*

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 463/2 Sokynge grownde, as sondy grownde and other lyke. 1528 TINDALE *Obed. Chr. Man* 159 b, A sokynge consumcion, where in a man complayneth of feblenes and of fayntynes. 1575 CHURCHYARD *Chippes* (1817) 186 But loe my skill,..For soaking soores, a soueraigne salue could finde. 1593 Q. ELIZ. *Boeth.* II. metr. iv. 30 [He] Shuns soking Sandes. 1611 SHAKS. *Wint. T.* I. ii. 224 Thy Conceit is soaking, will draw in More then the common Blocks.

† b. *transf.* Of persons. *Obs.*

1565 COOPER, *Barathrum*,..a soking or wasting queane. 1584 LODGE *Alarum* B ij, They finde out..some olde soaking vndermining Solicitour.

† c. *Soaking doe*, 'a barren doe, that going over the year is fat, when other does have fawns' (Halliwell). *Obs.*

1588 *Presentment* in *Essex Rev.* XV. (1906) 64 A soaken doe found hurt cominge out of the Purliewe.

2. † a. Of a fire: Slow. *Obs.* (Cf. SOAK *v.* 6.)

c 1450 *Douce MS.* 55 fol. 129 Rost hym with sokynne fyre. *c* 1467 *Noble Bk. Cookry* (1882) 67 Rost hym long with a soking fyere. 1615 MARKHAM *Eng. Housew.* (1660) 73 Then spit it and rost it by a soaking fire.

b. *Printing.* (See quots.)

1683 MOXON *Mech. Exerc., Printing* xxiv. P 5 A long or a Soaking or Easie Pull, is when the Form feels the force of the Spindle by degrees, till the Bar comes almost to the hither Cheek of the Press. 1888 JACOBI *Printers' Vocab.* 128 *Soaking pull*, a long and easy pull over of the bar-handle of a printing press.

3. Percolating; sinking in; flowing slowly.

1577 HANMER *Anc. Eccl. Hist., Euseb.* I. iii, A certain soaking slumber of drunkenness. 1648 J. BEAUMONT *Psyche* xx. lx, The heav'nly Dew Into Earth's thirsty mouth drops soaking Joy. 1699 DAMPIER *Voy.* II. III. 102 To the East of Cape Roman..you meet only a soaking faint Current.

4. Drenching; wetting thoroughly.

1641 BEST *Farm. Bks.* (Surtees) 59 A good soakinge shower aboute the latter ende of September. 1664 EVELYN *Kal. Hort.* (1729) 193 Rub Moss off your Trees after a soaking Rain. 1753 *Scots Mag.* XV. 76/2 Though drench'd his..hide with soaking rain. 1806 J. BERESFORD *Miseries Hum. Life* II. xiv, A soaking torrent of rain. 1894 HALL CAINE *Manxman* V. vi, The rain was coming down in a soaking drizzle.

transf. 1863 W. C. BALDWIN *Afr. Hunting* I. 11 The..cause of many a miserable soaking night to myself and others.

5. Saturated, drenched.

1864 ABP. TAIT in *Reminisc. Lady Wake* (1909) xxiv. 280 It was voted dangerous for any one to fall asleep in our soaking state. 1879 ATCHERLEY *Trip to Boërland* 260, I..stripped off my soaking clothes. 1882 'OUIDA' *Maremma* I. 181 When the suns of August sucked up the venom from the emerald soaking swamp.

6. Quasi-*adv.*, in *soaking wet*.

1847 C. BRONTË *J. Eyre* v, All underfoot was still soaking wet with the floods of yesterday. 1863 W. C. BALDWIN *Afr. Hunting* iii. 94 Three miserable soaking-wet days.

Soakingly (sōu·kiŋli), *adv.* [f. prec.]

† **1.** Slowly, gently, gradually. *Obs.*

c 1386 CHAUCER *Melib.* P 51 Ye shul geten hem with-outen greet desir, by good leyser, sekyngly [*v.r.* sokyngly] and nat ouer hastily. 1434 MISYN *Mending Life* 119 þo all we may not gedir our hartis to-gidyr as we wold, 3it may we not leef, bot sokandly stody we to grawe, þat at þe last Ihesu criste may stabil vs. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 463/2 Sokyngly, *idem quod* esyly. 1542 UDALL *Erasm. Apoph.* (1877) 309 A mannes enemies in battaill, are to be ouercomed..sokingly one pece after an other. 1555 WATREMAN *Fardle Facions* I. ii. 30 The heate of thaier sokyngly warmeth the cold ground. 1683 MOXON *Mech. Exerc., Printing* xxiv. P 5 This is also call'd a Soft Pull; because it comes Soft and Soakingly and easily down.

† **b.** On or with a slow fire. *Obs.*

c 1450 *Two Cookery-bks.* 72 Lete hit boile sokingly on a faire charcole til hit be ynogh. *c* 1467 *Noble Bk. Cookry* (1882) 36 Rost it sokingly. 1530 PALSGR. 595/1 It is rosted sokyngly, *il est cuit*, or *rosty tout a loysir*. 1598 *Epulario* B iv, Let it bake sokingly in the ouen till it be throughly baked. 1638 SHIRLEY *Mart. Soldier* IV. ii, Oh! the Generall Belizarius for my money;..hee will roast soakingly within and without.

2. So as to saturate or drench.

In the 16th cent. quots. sense 1 may be implied.

1540 R. JONAS tr. *Roesslin's Byrth Mankynde* I. iv. 19 Then with a sponge or other cloth dypped in the foresayde bathe, let her sokyngly washe her feet. 1579 LANGHAM *Gard. Health* (1633) 521 The broth of Rapes is good for the same purpose, [the heels] being washed and bathed therein sokingly. 1842 DICKENS *Amer. Notes* (1850) 100/2 The driving rain, which now poured down more soakingly than ever.

b. *fig.* Deeply, profoundly.

1593 G. HARVEY *Pierce's Super.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 63 You..may closely sitt, or sokingly ly at your bookes. 1647 TRAPP *Comm. Jas.* iv. 9 Savouringly and soakingly, with a deep and down right sorrow.

Soak-mill, var. of *soke-mill*: see SOKE *sb.*[1] 4.

Soal(e, Soall, obs. forms of SOLE *sb.* and *v.*

Soam (sōum). *Sc.* and *north.* Forms: α. 5 soym(e, 5 somme, 6 so(l)me, 8– soam. β. 5–7 sowme, 6 soume, sovme, 8 sowm. [prob. a. OF. *some*, *somme*, *soume*, *saume* (med.L. *sauma*, *sagma*: see SEAM *sb.*[2]) pack-saddle, horse-load; but the difference in the sense is not accounted for by the existing evidence.]

1. A rope or chain, attaching a draught-horse or other animal to a wagon, plough, etc.; a trace-rope. Also *attrib.* in *soam-chain*.

α. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* X. 180 Hastyly He suld stryk with the ax in twa The hede-soyme. *Ibid.* 233 He..hewit in twa the soym in by. *c* 1459 *Reg. Aberbrothoc* (Bann. Cl.) II. 108 Owr bailye..straik the sommys in twa and hewyt the plwche. 1535 STEWART *Cron. Scot.* I. 171 Thair wapynis..[they] maid thame all in somes to thair pleuche. 1582 *Wills & Inv. N. C.* (Surtees, 1860) 46, ij plewes..with socke and culter, viij draught yokes, viij somes. 1765 A. DICKSON *Treat. Agric.* (ed. 2) 255 The soam of the pair immediately before the hindmost must be fixed..to the beam. 1799 J. ROBERTSON *Agric. Perth* 103 That inconvenience is prevented in the plough by using a long chain (provincially a soam). 1844 H. STEPHENS *Book of Farm* I. 626 The leading horses are thus yoked by a second set of common swingtrees to the end of the soam. *Ibid.*, The middle horse pulling by the soam-chain.

β. 1404 *Durh. Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 398, ij cultris,..iij plogherbandis, viij sowmes. 1451 *Durh. Depos.* (Surtees) 30, iij crokes, j sowme. 1513 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* IV. 513 For xx stane of towis to be soumes for the gunnys. 1572 *Wills & Inv. N. C.* (Surtees, 1835) 350, ix sowmes, iiij plewes, iij cowters. 1662 in Pitcairn *Crim. Trials* III. 603 Paddokis did draw the plewgh, as oxen; qwickens wer sowmes. 1752 *Rec. Elgin* (New Spalding Cl.) I. 465 Sowms, thramels, rigwoodies,..and all other..work of..straw, bent or rushes.

2. *Coal-mining.* (See quots.)

1789 BRAND *Hist. Newcastle* II. 681 In low seams, [the coals are drawn] on trams, pulled by two small cords, called soams, by a boy. 1851 GREENWELL *Coal-trade Terms, Northumb. & Durh.* 30 A little boy, who performs his part by pulling the tub by a couple of ropes or traces..called *soams*. 1883 GRESLEY *Glass. Coal-m.* 229 *Soams*, a pair of cords about three feet in length, by which foals and half marrows pull tubs along the roads.

Soa·ming, *ppl. a.*? error for *sowning*, sounding.

1642 H. MORE *Song of Soul* III. ii. 31 A dead glasse.. shapes as they passe As well may see; Lutes heare each soaming diapase.

So-and-so, *sb., a.*, and *adv.* Also so and so.

A. *sb.* An indefinite phrase (='such a thing, person, number,' etc.) used in place of a more lengthy statement, or as a substitute for an expression or name not exactly remembered or not requiring to be explicitly stated.

(*a*) 1596 SPENSER *F. Q.* IV. vii. 2 So whylome didst thou to faire Florimel; And so and so to noble Britomart. 1727 DE FOE *Syst. Magic* I. iv. (1840) 108 A deep sleep shall come upon you, and you shall dream so and so. 1740 CHEYNE *Regimen* 330 That..he must trust or believe..so and so, and do so and so in consequence. 1831 SCOTT *Ct. Robt.* xxix, If you persevere in your uncivil intention, I will do so and so. 1880 MUIRHEAD tr. *Rules of Ulpian* xxiv. § 18 To that man..let my heir give so-and-so.

(*b*) 1833 M. SCOTT *Tom Cringle* ii, What's his name of this, and so-and-so of t'other. 1855 THACKERAY *Newcomes* lviii, His London Agents were Messrs. So-and-so. 1883 'ANNIE THOMAS' *Mod. Housewife* 88 I've left most of them for the next time; but the So-and-so's..will be here.

(*c*) 1833 M. SCOTT *Tom Cringle* i, In the year one thousand eight hundred and so and so. 1861 T. A. TROLLOPE *La Beata* I. i. 2 Number so-and-so in such-and-such a street. 1866 RUSKIN *Crown Wild Olive* (1873) 46 Divine service will be 'performed'..at so-and-so o'clock.

B. *adj.* Paltry, worthless; indifferent; poor in health or circumstances; so-so. Now *dial.*

1655-6 DESBOROUGH in *Thurloe Papers* IV. 396, I..acquainted him that such of his brethren..were so and so, and desired him..to advise them tacitly to resign. 1756 TOLDERVY *Hist. 2 Orphans* I. 119 You see..that I am your best friend still, though to be sure you are but so and so. *Ibid.* 131 You know the Doctor died but so and so, as to circumstances. 1883 *Almondbury Gloss.* 124 *So and so*, used for so so, paltry, feeble.

C. *adv.* **1.** To a certain number or degree.

1631 GOUGE *God's Arrows* I. xxix. 44 Papists..mumbling over so and so many times the Creed.

2. In a certain manner or way.

1653 W. RAMESEY *Astrol. Restored* To Rdr. 12 Thinking he might have improved it so and so, much better. 1678 CUDWORTH *Intell. Syst.* 420 Vertue and Vice are nothing else but the Soul so and so affected or modified. 1726 BUTLER *Serm. Rolls Chap.* vii. 133 Things were so and so circumstantiated. 1736 — *Anal.* I. ii, Forewarning us..that if we act so and so, we shall have such enjoyments.

3. With only moderate prosperity, success, etc.

1844 BALLANTINE *Deanhaugh* ii. 41 'How's the coal trade gaun on?' 'Just so and so.'

Soap (sōup), *sb.* Forms: α. 1–2, 4–5 sape, *Sc.* 5–6, 9 saip, 9 saep; 5 sepe, 9 *north.* seeap, syep. β. 3–8 sope, 5 swope, shope, soope, 5, 7 soppe, 6 sopp, soopp, souppe. γ. 6–7 soape, 7– soap. [A word widely represented in the European languages. Within the Teutonic group the forms are OE. *sápe*, OFris. type **sêpe* (WFris. *sjippe*, EFris. *sêpe*, NFris. *stp*), MDu. *seepe* (Du. *zeep*), MLG. and LG. *sêpe* (hence Da. *sæbe*), OHG. *seifa*, *seipha* (MHG. *seiffe*, *saiffe*, etc., G. *seife*); the ON. and Icel. *sápa* (Norw. *saapa*, Sw. *såpa*) is app. from OE. The early Teut. **saipōn-* is the source on the one hand of Finnish *saip(p)io*, *saip(p)ua*, Lapp. *saipo*, and on the other of L. *sāpo* (first mentioned by Pliny), whence It. *sapone*, F. *savon*, Sp. *jabon*, Pg. *sabão*, Roum. *sapun*, *sapon*, etc. Whether the word is of purely Teut. origin is doubtful; its occurrence in some of the Tartar languages may indicate that it was introduced by early trade from the East.]

I. 1. A substance formed by the combination of certain oils and fats with alkaline bases, and used for washing or cleansing purposes.

α. *c* 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* II. 76 Meng wiþ sote, sealt, teoro, ..eald sape. *Ibid.* 124 Lybre mid sapan. *c* 1050 *Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 439 *Lumentum*, sape. 1372 in *York Minster Fabric Rolls* (Surtees) 9 Et in sape empto 6*d*. *c* 1400 *Pol. Poems* (Rolls) I. 265 Somme can with a pound of sape Gete him a kyrtelle and a cape. 1455 in *Charters*, etc. *Edinb.* (1871) 80 Wyne, sape, irne, lynnyn clayth. 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* liv. 9 Scho schynes lyk ony saip. 1552 ABP. HAMILTON *Catech.* (1884) 23 Suppoise thow wesche the self with saip. 1813 PICKEN *Poems* II. 79 Nor saip nor water e'er it fan'. 1876 ROBINSON *Whitby Gloss.* 165/1 *Seeap*, soap.

β. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 66 More noise he makeð to 3eien his sope, þen a riche mercer al his deorewurðe ware. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 143 Sope aboute couentre & ire at gloucestre. 1339–40 *Ely Sacr. Rolls* II. 92 In sope empt. pro lotura albarum. *c* 1449 PECOCK *Repr.* I. xx. 127 Of bathing and of waisching with oyl and swope. 1499 *Cov. Corpus Chr. Plays* (1902) 89 Paid for shope and gresse to the whyles j.d. 1515 *Sel. Cases Star Chamb.* (Selden) II. 99 He bought Soopp, Tarre, Irne,..and Retailled the same. 1561 T. NORTON *Calvin's Inst.* IV. 158 As though oyle coulde not be wyped awaye..with sope. 1600 PORY tr. *Leo's Africa* II. 47 They make no sope in all the countrey, but..use to wash with lee made of ashes. 1673 RAY *Journ. Low C.* 156 Heer is also made Sope not inferiour for goodness to that of Castile.

γ. 1687 A. LOVELL tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* II. 45 Most part of them would not take Money, but onely Soap, or Tobacco, and chiefly Soap. 1756–7 tr. *Keysler's Trav.* (1760) III. 249 Bologna is likewise celebrated for essences,..soap, and snuff. 1839 DICKENS *Nickleby* vii, You'll always find a little bit of soap in the kitchen window. 1884 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* Suppl. 827/1 The blocks of rough soap are first cut into thin shavings.

Prov. 1592 LODGE *Euphues Shadow* G 3, Who washeth the Asses eares, looseth both his Sope and his labour. 1860 HUGHES *Tom Brown at Oxf.* xxiii, 'Twas waste of soap to lather an ass.

b. *fig.*

c 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 53 Monie of þas wimmen..smuriеð heom mid blanchet þet is þes deofles sape. 1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. XIV. 6 With þe sope of sykenesse þat seketh wonder depe. 1725 BAILEY *Erasm. Colloq.* 370 Such as by the Lather of Tears, and Soap of Repentance,..have washed away their Pollutions. 1840 HOOD *Kilmansegg, Christening* x, Washing his hands with invisible soap, In imperceptible water.

c. In the slang phrase, *How are you off for soap?*

The early examples afford no clue as to the origin of the expression, and their date is against the view that the sense of 'money' (see below) was intended.

1834 MARRYAT *P. Simple* iv, A young lady..looked at me very hard and said, 'Well, Reefer, how are you off for soap?' 1837 THACKERAY *Ravenswing* viii. 1886 BARING-GOULD *Crt. Royal* I. ii. 20 They..put their heads into his shop, and asked how he was off for soap.

d. *slang.* Flattery. Cf. SOFT SOAP *sb.* 2.

1859 in *Slang Dict.* 98. 1876 DIPROSE *Laugh & Learn* (Farmer), Flattery is the confectionery of the world. In polite society it goes by the name of soap.

e. *U.S. slang.* Money; now esp. that used in bribery.

1860 M. O'CONNOR *Lines to Rich Young Lady* iii. (Funk & W.), If thy father hath 'the soap', Do not wash your hands of me. 1892 *Nation* 24 Nov. 385/3 This, combined with more or less 'soap', was undoubtedly instrumental in causing his defeat.

2. With distinguishing terms, denoting a particular make or kind of soap, as *alkaline*, *arsenical*, *ball*, *black*, *hard soap*, etc.; also *soap of Alicant*, *lime*, *soda*, etc.

See also CASTILE, SOFT SOAP, and *curd*, *lead*, *marine*, *resin* or *rosin*, *soda*, *Spanish soap*.

1703 *Art's Improv.* I. 49 You may mix with your Gluten, either Milk, or Soap of *Alicant. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 171/1 White soda soap..in a less pure state,..is called Alicant, Venice, or Spanish soap. 1786 *Phil. Trans.* LXXVI. 156 Then evaporating it, [I] obtained a true *alkaline soap. 1863 W. C. BALDWIN *Afr. Hunting* iii. 73, I..regretted much that I had no *arsenical soap to preserve the skin. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v., *Ball-Soap, commonly used in the North, is made with Lyes from Ashes, and Tallow. *c* 1425 tr. *Arderne's Treat. Fistula*, etc. 40 Ane oyntement made of *blakke sope and poudre of bole. 1618 BRETON *Courtier & Countryman* Wks. (Grosart) II. 14/2 Tell her we haue blacke Sope enough already. 1704 *Dict. Rust.*, etc. (1726) s.v., For black Soap, 'tis made with strong Lye ..and Whale or Fish-Oil, commonly called Train-Oil. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s.v. *Brick*, Some also mention.. *brick-soap, made in oblong pieces. 1888 FLOR. NIGHTINGALE in *Quain's Dict. Med.* 1046 Wash hands and nails carefully with *carbolic soap. 1704 *Dict. Rust.*, etc. (1726) s.v., Soft soap, such as are the *common soap, so called, and black soap. *c* 1840 *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) VIII. 434/1 Common soap is composed of any kind of oil..with fixed alkali. 1612 tr. *Benvenuto's Passenger* I. i. 23 *French sope to scouer my hands. 1611 BIBLE *Malachi* iii. 2 Like a refiners fire, and like *fullers sope. 1638 *Penit. Conf.* (1657) 346 Whose drosse..is so much..as no Fullers sope can cleanse. *c* 1840 *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) VIII. 435 [Soft] soap from oleaginous seeds, called *green soaps. 14.. in *Walter of Henley's Husb.* 49 Medell it with *harde sope or tarre. 1600 PORY tr. *Leo's Africa* III. 195 The inhabitants make great store of liquid sope, for they know not how to make hard sope. 1704 *Dict. Rust.*, etc. (1726) s.v., The other hard soap is made in the same manner. 1813 SIR H. DAVY *Agric. Chem.* (1814) 102 Fixed oil, in combination with soda, forms the finest kind of hard soap. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 1142 According to the practice of the United Kingdom, six or seven days are required to complete the formation of a pan of hard soap. 1884 W. S. B. MCLAREN *Spinning* (ed. 2) 28 The lime..unites with the oil and tallow, forming what is called an insoluble *lime soap. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 1143 Soda which contains sulphurets is preferred for making the *mottled or *marbled soap. 1704 *Dict. Rust.*, etc. (1726) s.v., That known by the name of *perfumed Soap. *c* 1865 LETHEBY in *Circ. Sci.* I. 329/2 The compounds of fatty acids with potash are called *potash-soaps. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 1149 The *scented soap..speedily consolidates. 1611–2 *Shuttleworths' Acc.* (Chetham Soc.) 198 Twoe pound of *swete

sope. *c* 1425 tr. *Arderne's Treat. Fistula*, etc. 76 Of which forseid [things] *white sope may euer more be necessary to a leche. 1539 Elyot *Castle Helthe* 58 They be somtyme made..of white sope. 1725 *Family Dict.* s.v., To make White Soap, take Two Hundred Pounds of Black Saltwort [etc.]. 1815 J. Smith *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 812 The finest white soap grated small. 1839 Ure *Dict. Arts* 1144 Of *yellow or rosin soap.

b. *Soap of glass*, or *glassmaker's soap* (see quots.).

1815 J. Smith *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 409 A mineral, called the soap of glass,..is the oxide of a peculiar metal called manganese. 1895 *Bloxam's Chem.* (ed. 8) 481 Manganese dioxide (glassmaker's soap) is often added as an oxidising agent.

c. *Rock soap*, a variety of bole.

1883 *Encycl. Brit.* XVI. 425 Magnesian Silicates... Bole. Earthy, in nests and veins...Stolpenite, Rock Soap, Plinthite..are varieties.

3. With *a* and pl. A kind of soap.

1562 Turner *Herbal* II. (1568) 113 The wild rape..serueth for scouring oyntmentes and sopes. 1661 Lovell *Hist. Anim. & Min.* 115 It's used also in powders, sopes,..and suffumigations. 1712 tr. *Pomet's Hist. Drugs* I. 158 This Soap is very scarce in France. 1744 Berkeley *Siris* § 58 Common soaps are compositions of lixivial salt and oil. 1806 *Culina* 175 The yolk of an egg..is a natural soap, and in all jaundice cases, no food is equal to it. 1811 A. T. Thomson *Lond. Disp.* (1818) p. lx, Soaps are hydrates, water being always present in them as a constituent. 1842 Bischoff *Wool Manuf.* II. 84 It would bring to this country the manufacture of fine soaps.

II. 4. *attrib.* **a.** In misc. use, as *soap bath*, *-bell* (Sc.), *business*, *-factory*, *-froth*, *-lather*, etc.

1843 R. J. Graves *Syst. Clin. Med.* xxvii. 339 *Soap baths ..always constituted the first steps of treatment in every form of eruption. 1720 Ramsay *Rise & Fall of Stocks* 24 As little bairns frae winnocks by Drap down *saip bells. 1862 G. Wilson *Religio Chem.* 19 A soap-bell sails through it with impunity. 1635 Laud *Diary* Wks. 1853 III. 223 The *soap business was..settled again upon the new corporation. 1861 *Eng. Cycl., Arts & Sci.* VII. 636 Some of the *soap-factories of the present day. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* III. v. iii, But Towns are not built of *soap-froth. 1832 — *Misc.* (1857) III. 48 With artificial fictitious *soap-lather. 1820 J. Cleland *Rise & Progr. Glasgow* 87 An Act was made for encouraging *Soap manufactories. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 170/1 The *Soap Manufacture is one of considerable importance. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 952/2 Saponine, a vegetable *soap-principle. 1880 J. Dunbar *Pract. Papermaker* 54 *Soap size, made and used in the interior of Russia. 1799 *Hull Advertiser* 28 Dec. 2/3 Ten casks *soap tallow. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 170 *Soap Trade. 1887 *Encycl. Brit.* XXII. 204/2 In England the soap trade did not exist till the 16th century. 1839 Ure *Dict. Arts* 577 The roasted *soap-waste was then withdrawn. 1558 Warde tr. *Alexis' Secr.* 41 Mingle it with the saied *Sope water. 1847 W. C. L. Martin *Ox* 155/1 Injections..of soap-water and oil.

b. In the names of apparatus used in making soap, as *soap-caldron*, *copper*, *kettle*, *mill*, etc.

1558 Warde tr. *Alexis' Secr.* 19 b, It shall be good to set the saied cawdron..as *Sope cawdrons be set. 1790 in *Essex Rev.* (1906) XV. 87 The sugar-houses and soap-cauldrons. 1863 in Richardson & Watts *Chem. Technol.* I. 680 Any alkali..which may be introduced into the *soap copper. 1873 Weale *Dict. Arch.* s. v., **Soap-engine*, a machine upon which the slabs of soap are piled to be cross-cut into bars. 1857 Miller *Elem. Chem., Org.* vi. § 1. 372 It is then cleansed or transferred to the *soap frames to cool. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 660/2 *Curb*,..an inclined circular plate around the margin of a *soap or salt kettle. 1839 Ure *Dict. Arts* 1145 The *soap-pans used in the United Kingdom are made of cast iron.

c. In the sense of 'used for holding soap', as *soap-box*, *-case*, *chest*, *dish*, *tray*.

1844 G. Dodd *Textile Manuf.* ii. 53 In all such machines, whether called 'dye-becks', '*soap-becks', or others. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 260/1 A soap-beck contains soap-suds. 1660 *Act* 12 *Chas. II*, c. 4 Sched. s.v. *Boxes*, *Soap-boxes the Shock, containing three-score boxes. 1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib., Brit.* II. No. 6130, Sponge tray, soap boxes, and brush trays. 1895 Meredith *Amazing Marriage* viii, He came back bearing his metal *soap-case. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* III. III. i, Likewise coffee-chests, *soap-chests. 1837 Dickens *Pickw.* xlii, An old cracked basin, ewer and *soap-dish. 1851 Mayhew *London Lab.* I. 368/1 A green and white chamber service.., with *soap trays and brush trays.

5. *Comb.* **a.** With nouns denoting persons, as *soap-grinder*, *-monger*, *-patentee*, *-projector*, *-seller*, etc., or in names of appliances, as *soap-cutter*, *-holder*. Also Soap-boiler, -maker.

(*a*) 14.. *Nom.* in Wr.-Wülcker 687 *Hic smigmator*, a sopseler. 1549 Bale in Cheeke *Hurt of Sedition* (1641) Pref. a iv b, Some they sold to the Grociers and Sope-sellers. 1646 (*title*), A Looking-Glasse for Sope-Patentees:..making discovery of a new Project..propounded (by the Sope-Projectors) to the Parliament. 1648 Gage *West Ind.* Table, The Sope-houses at Lambeth, with the Sope Patentee belonging to them. 1756 C. Lucas *Ess. Waters* III. 337 Let the sope-mongers learn not to counteract their boasted agent. 1815 J. Smith *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 456 Lime is used by the soap-manufacturer to render soda caustic. 1881 *Instr. Census Clerks* (1885) 77 Dry Soap Grinder. Soap Trimmer.

(*b*) 1833 Loudon *Encycl. Archit.* § 631 Space for soap-holders, brush-trays, &c. 1884 Knight *Dict. Mech.* Suppl. 827/1 *Soap Cutter*, an apparatus for caking or barring soap.

b. With vbl. sbs., as *soap-barring*, *-cutting*, etc. Chiefly in attrib. use.

1851 *Catal. Gt. Exhibition* p. c, Soap-cutting Machine. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2232/2 Soap Barring and Caking Machine. *Ibid.* 2233/1 Soap-crutching Machine. 1899 *Daily News* 23 May 10/2 Soap Stamping and Packing Departments.

c. Similative, as *soap-like* adj.

1858 Mayne *Expos. Lex.* 1169/1 The offensive soap-like substance. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 952/2 Trees..possessing soap-like properties.

6. Special combs.: **soap-ball**, a piece of soap formed as a ball, now esp. by the admixture of starch; **soap-cerate** (see quots.); †**soap-earth**, soapstone; **soap extract**, **-fat**, **-fish** (see quots.); **soap-house**, a soap-boiler's premises; **soap-lees**, spent soap-lye; **soap-liniment** (see quots.); **soap-lock** *U.S.*, a lock of hair made smooth by the application of soap; hence, one who wears such, a low fellow, a rough or rowdy; **soap-lye**, a caustic alkaline lye obtained by running water upon alternate layers of soda ash and quicklime, and used in soap-making; **soapman** *Sc.*, a soap-maker; **soap plaster**, a healing-plaster chiefly composed of soap; **soap powder** (see quot. s.v. *soap extract*); †**soap-scale**, a kind of clay (see quot.); **soap-test** (see quot.); **soap-work(s**, a soap-manufactory.

1601 Holland *Pliny* II. 420 Those *sope balls that are to polish the skin and to rid it from wrinkles. 1829 Scott *Doom of Devorgoil* III. ii, My soap-ball is of the mild alkali made. 1852 Royle *Man. Mat. Med.* (ed. 2) 540 *Ceratum Saponis Compositum*. Compound *Soap Cerate. *a* 1860 Wood & Bache *Dispensatory U. S.* (1865) 1044 Soap-cerate..is used in scrofulous swellings and other instances of chronic external inflammation. 1876 Harley *Royle's Man. Mat. Med.* (ed. 6) 243 *Soap Cerate Plaster*. This is a mixture of lead, soap, and the acetates of lead and soda. 1696 *Phil. Trans.* XIX. 228 There is a considerable natural curiosity in the Neighbourhood of Smyrna, called by the Franks *Soap-Earth. 1758 Borlase *Nat. Hist. Cornw.* 70 Near Smyrna there is a fine whitish soap-earth. 1887 *Encycl. Brit.* XXII. 204/1 'Soap powders' and '*soap extracts' are simply preparations of alkalis. 1879 Webster *Suppl.*, **Soap-fat*, the refuse of kitchens, used in making soap. 1876 Goode *Fishes of Bermudas* 60 A '*Soap-fish' also occurs, probably either *Rhypticus saponaceus*..or *Promicropterus maculatus*. 1648 Gage *West. Ind.* 5 Of the *Sope-houses at Lambeth. 1687 Miège *Gt. Fr. Dict.* I, *Savonnerie*,..a Sope-house, a Place where Soap is made. 1810 *Sporting Mag.* XXXV. 80 The corner of the soap house. 1854 *Hull Improv. Act* 33 Any candle-house..or soap-house. 1746 Langrish *Exper. upon Brutes* 19 Injecting too great a quantity of *Soap-lees. 1789 Buchan *Domest. Med.* (1790) 327 The caustic alkali, or soap-lees, is the medicine chiefly in vogue at present for the stone. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 169/1 The nuisance of soap-lees waggons passing through London. 1852 Royle *Man. Mat. Med.* (ed. 2) 540 *Linimentum Saponis*..*Soap Liniment... Stimulant Embrocation. A vehicle for Opium, &c. 1864 *Chambers's Encycl.* VI. 141/2 *Soap Liniment*, or *Opodeldoc*, the constituents of which are soap, camphor, and spirits of rosemary. 1848 Bartlett *Dict. Amer.* 319 **Soap-lock*, a lock of hair made to lie smooth by soaping it. Hence also ..a Rowdy or Loafer. 1854 Marion Harland *Alone* xvi, Shaking..at the prospect of,..the loss of your soap-locks. 1864 T. L. Nichols *40 Yrs. Amer. Life* I. 173 A German Jew, with..soaplocks that would have astonished the Bowery in the palmiest days of soaplockism. 1774 T. Percival *Ess.* (1776) III. 144 The *soap ley is so caustic.. that it can be taken only in the smallest quantity. 1857 Miller *Elem. Chem., Org.* viii. 547 It is digested in an imperfect soap ley. 1883 R. Haldane *Workshop Rec.* Ser. II. 311/1 The..production of crude glycerine from spent soap-lyes. 1813 Picken *Poems* II. 79 In vain was fill'd the *saipman's pan. 1789 *Med. Comment.* II. 344 The.. applications were changed for a *soap plaister. 1876 Harley *Royle's Man. Mat. Med.* (ed. 6) 243 Soap Plaster. 1704 *Dict. Rust.* (1726) s.v. *Clay*, Cowshot-Clay, or the *Soap-scale lying in Coal-mines. 1861 *Eng. Cycl., Arts & Sci.* VII. 637 **Soap-test*, a solution of white curd soap in proof spirit; it is used in ascertaining the amount of hardness of waters. 1649 *Sc. Acts, Chas. II* (1892) VI. II. 300/2 The preiudice whilk the decay of the *Sopeworks has occasioned to the kingdome. 1695 *Ibid., Will. III* (1822) IX. 491/2 The said Robert Douglas his Soap work. 1839 Ure *Dict. Arts* 1143 Great waste of alkali..in many soap-works.

b. Forming names of plants or trees, or their products: **soap-apple** (see quots.); **soap-bark**, a vegetable principle obtained from certain trees, as the *Quillaja Saponaria* of Chili, the common soapwort, *Saponaria officinalis*, and allied species, and used as a substitute for soap; saponin; **soap-bulb**, the soap-plant; **soap-fruit**, = Soapberry 1; **soap-gentian** *U.S.*, soapwort gentian; **soap-nut**, = Soapberry; also *attrib.*; **soap-plant** *U.S.*, an American liliaceous plant, *Chlorogalum pomeridianum*, used as a detersive; also, the soapberry; **soap-pod** (see quots.); **soap-root** (see quot. 1866); **soap-tree**, one or other of various species of trees or plants (see later quots.), of which the roots, leaves, or fruits yield a substitute for soap; also *attrib.*; **soap-weed**, †(*a*) the soapwort, *Saponaria officinalis*; (*b*) a North American plant (see quots. 1884, 1890); **soapwood**, the timber-tree or shrub *Clethra tinifolia*, native to the West Indies; also, a North American plant (see quot. 1771).

1760 J. Lee *Introd. Bot.* App. 327 *Soap Apple, *Sapindus*. 1864 Webster, *Soap-plant*, one of several plants used in the place of soap, as the *Phalangium pomeridianum*, a Californian plant...It is called also *soap-apple* and *soap-tree*. 1861 *Eng. Cycl., Arts & Sci.* VII. 636 A substance called **soap bark* was brought to Europe from some tropical country in 1859. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 952/2 Its bark, called Quillai or Soap-bark, is rough and dark coloured. 1883 R. Haldane *Workshop Rec.* Ser. II. 139/1 An article..is brushed with a cold decoction of soap-bark. 1874 *Treas. Bot.* Suppl 1279/2 *Chlorogalum pomeridianum*...The bulbous root, when rubbed in water, makes a lather..: hence it is known as the *Soap-bulb. 1666 J. Davies tr. *Rochefort's Caribby Isles* 48 One fruit.., about the bigness of a small Plumb..is commonly called the *Soap-fruit. 1845-50 Mrs. Lincoln *Lect. Bot.* App. 105 *Gentiana saponaria*,.. *Soap gentian. 1858 Simmonds *Dict. Trade*, **Soap-nut*, a name for the seed of the *Mimosa abstergens*. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 5/2 The pods of *Acacia concinna* are used in India like those of the soap-nut for washing the head. 1884 *Encycl. Brit.* XVII. 665/1 Soap nuts are the fruits of various species of *Sapindus*, especially *S. Saponaria*, natives of tropical regions. 1847 Ruxton *Adv. Mexico* xxv. 222 A barren rolling prairie..covered with the palmilla or *soap-plant. 1859 Bartlett *Dict. Amer.* (ed. 2) 425 Soap-plant (*Chlorogalum pomeridianum*), a plant common in California and New Mexico. 1891 *Cent. Dict.* s.v., *Indian soap-plant*,..the soapberry *Sapindus acuminatus*, and..the *Chlorogalum*. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1068/1 **Soap-pods*, the Chinese name of the pods of several species of *Cæsalpinia*. 1891 *Cent. Dict.*, *Soapnut*,..the fruit of..*Acacia concinna*...Also [called] *soap-pod*. 1846 Lindley *Veg. Kingd.* 497 *Vaccaria vulgaris*..contains Saponine, as also does the Egyptian *Soap-root. 1866 *Chambers's Encycl.* VIII. 793/1 The Egyptian Soap-root (*Gypsophila struthium*), and the Spanish Soap-root (*G. Hispanica*),..have been employed for washing from time immemorial. 1666 J. Davies tr. *Rochefort's Caribby Isles* 48 There are two sorts of Trees..called the *Soap-trees from the vertue they have to whiten clothes. 1756 P. Browne *Jamaica* 206 The Soap Tree [*Sapindus*]... The seed vessels of this plant are very detersive and acrid. 1859 *All Year Round* No. 32. 127 In Chili there is a soap-tree called *Quillaya saponaria*. 1607 Topsell *Four-f. Beasts* (1658) 503 New shorn wool which is very soft, and not trimmed with *sope-weed. 1884 *Encycl. Brit.* XVII. 401 *Yucca] filamentosa*, commonly called amole or soap-weed. 1890 Gunter *Miss Nobody* iv, Bare of everything..but gemma grasses, soap weed, and small cacti. 1732 *Phil. Trans.* XXXVII. 450 *Soap-wood. The Bark and Leaves of this Tree being bruised and mixed with Water produce a Lather. 1771 R. F. Forster *Flora Amer. Sept.* 17 Soapwood, *Rhexia virginica*. 1864 Grisebach *Flora Brit. W. Ind.* 787/2 Soapwood, *Clethra tinifolia*.

Soap (sōup), *v.* Also 7 sope, 9 *Sc.* saip, saep. [f. Soap *sb.* Cf. WFris. *sjipje*, Du. *zeepen*, G. *seifen*, Da. *sæbe*, Sw. *såpa*.]

1. *trans.* To rub, smear, lather, or treat in some special way with soap. Also with *up*.

1585 T. Washington tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* II. xxi. 58 b, After that hee hath well soaped and rubbed your bodie.. wyth a purse of Stammin,..he washeth you with very cleare water. 1611 Cotgr., *Savonné*, soped, or washed in sope. 1677 *Compl. Servant-Maid* 65 If there be any dirty places soap them a little, then take a little hard brush and soap it well [etc.]. 1725 *Fam. Dict.* s.v. *Clear-Starching*, Take your Lace and roll it.., and between every Roll soap it with Soap. 1771 Mrs. Haywood *New Present for Maid* 265 They [cambrics, etc.] should be..well soaped. *Ibid.*, Linen soaped as above..will be freed of all stains. 1802 Colman *Poor Gent.* I. i, Answer me,..Who have [=has] soap'd up and flower d your numskull after such a fashion? 1860 Rawlinson *Herodotus* IX. cx. IV. 473 This is the only day in all the year on which the king soaps his head. 1875 F. J. Bird *Dyer's Hand-bk.* 50 The pieces..are finally washed and soaped.

Comb. 1848 Dickens *Dombey* xxxi, By-the-bye, she'll soap-and-water that 'ere tablet presently. 1883 *Pall Mall G.* 27 Oct. 2/1 So soap-and-watering the infant Gargantua as to fit him for a Sunday school.

2. *slang.* To address with smooth or flattering words; to flatter.

1853 'C. Bede' *Verdant Green* I. x, The tailor and robe-maker..visibly 'soaped' our hero in what is understood to be the shop-sense of the word. 1865 Dickens *Dr. Marigold* i, These Dear Jacks soap the people shameful, but we Cheap Jacks don't.

b. With *over*: (see quot.).

1857 *Slang Dict.* 19 *Soaped him over*, humbugged him.

Soap, dial. form of Swop *v.*

†**Soap-ashes.** *Obs.* [Soap *sb.* Cf. Du. *zeepaschen*, G. *seifenasche*.] Ashes of certain kinds of wood used in forming a lye in soap-making.

c 1515 *Interlude of Four Elements* (Percy Soc.) 30 Pyche, and tarre, and sope asshys. 1557-71 A. Jenkinson *Voy. & Trav.* (Hakl. Soc.) II. 208 Sope ashes are not here in such request that they will acquite the Chardges. 1624 Capt. Smith *Virginia* II. 25 Of Ash and Elme they make sope Ashes. 1651 French *Distill.* vi. 194 Boyle it in a Lixivium made of sope-ashes. 1733 W. Ellis *Chiltern & Vale Farm.* 392 The great goodness there is in these Soap-ashes and all others. 1794 T. Davis *Agric. Wilts* 132 In the neighbourhood of towns, soap-ashes are frequently..used as a manure. 1837 R. Ellis *Laws & Regul. Customs* III. 401 Soap Ashes are synonymous with Wood Ashes.

Soapberry (sōu·pberi). Also soap-berry, soap berry. [Soap *sb.*]

1. The fruit or nut of various species of *Sapindus* (esp. *S. Saponaria*), or of *Acacia concinna*, used in certain countries as a substitute for soap; a soap-nut.

1693 *Phil. Trans.* XVII. 621 The Sope-Berry, which is properly a Plumm, or between Nut and Plumm. 1819 *Pantologia* X, *Saponaria nucula*,..soap berries. A spherical fruit, about the size of a cherry. 1858 Mayne *Expos. Lex.* 1118/2 *Bermuda Berry*, common name for the soap-nut, or soap-berry produced by the *Sapindus saponaria*.

2. One or other of the trees bearing this fruit.

1716 *Petiveriana* I. 222 Soap-berry,..*Arbor Saponaria*. 1760 J. Lee *Introd. Bot.* App. 327 Soap Berry, *Sapindus*. 1871 Kingsley *At Last* xi, There is a young one fruiting finely in the Botanic Garden at Port of Spain.., a cousin of the Matapalos and of the Soap-berries. 1874 Stewart & Brandis *Flora N. West India* 108 *S[apindus] Saponaria*, ..the West Indian Soapberry, is grown in the West Indies.

3. *attrib.*, as *soapberry family*, *tree*.

1725 Sloane *Jamaica* II. 132 Sope-berry Tree. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s. v. *Sapindus*, There is only one known species of this genus,..the soapberry tree. 1819

Pantologia X, *Sapindus rigidus*, ash-leaved soap-berry tree...A native of the West Indies and America. 1847 DARLINGTON *Amer. Weeds*, etc. (1860) 87 *Sapindaceæ*. Soap-berry Family...Fruit capsular or berry-like. 1866 VENESS *El Dorado* xi. 119 The root, bark, and seed covering of the huruwassa or soap berry tree is an admirable substitute for soap.

Soap-boiler. [SOAP *sb.* Cf. Du. *zeepzieder*, G. *seifensieder*.]

1. One who boils (the ingredients of) soap; a soap-maker, soap-manufacturer.

1594 PLAT *Jewell-ho.* 77 A wise, wealthie, and ancient Sopeboyler, dwelling without Algate. 1651 FRENCH *Distill.* iii. 80 Quench them in the strongest *Lixivium* that Sope-boylers use. 1661 EVELYN *Fumifugium* (1825) 220 Brewers, diers,..salt and sope-boylers, and some other private trades. 1712 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 488 P 1, I have a Letter from a Soap-boiler, who condoles with me [etc.]. 1752 FOOTE *Taste* II, A Bristol farthing, coin'd by a soap-boiler to pay his journeymen, in the scarcity of cash. 1838 LYTTON *Alice* VI. iv, The whisper spread among bankers and brewers and soap-boilers and other rich people. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* I. 331/2 There is an increasing demand for it [*sc.* caustic soda] on the part of bleachers and soap boilers.

transf. 1877 BAGEHOT *Biogr. Stud.* (1881) 316 Some of the middle-aged men of business, the 'soap-boilers', as the London world disrespectfully calls them.

b. In collocations (cf. SOAPER 1 c).

1707 MORTIMER *Husb.* (1721) I. 291 Take Soap-boylers Liquor or Lee which is very sharp and strong. 1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 451 The common bottle-glass is..made with..soap-boiler's waste ashes. 1834-6 *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) VIII. 475/2 Green Bottle Glass.. is commonly made of soap-boiler's waste and sand.

2. A pot used for boiling soap; a soap-pan.

1863 W. C. BALDWIN *Afr. Hunting* vi. 152 The only utensil we could hit upon..to cook him in was a soap-boiler. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2233/1 A soap-boiler having a large pipe which receives the vapors rising from the kettle.

Soap-boiling, *vbl. sb.* [SOAP *sb.*] The business, occupation, or process of boiling soap.

1634 in Rymer *Fœdera* (1732) XIX. 507 The said Trade of Soap-making or Soap-boiling. 1714 MANDEVILLE *Fab. Bees* (1733) II. 152 Soap-boiling, grain-dying, and other trades and mysteries. 1780 *Phil. Trans.* LXX. 351 Perhaps the addition of this caustic substance would increase its..value, when employed in soap-boiling and other arts. 1834-6 *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) VIII. 435/1 The first portion ..is of course the strongest, and is reserved for the last operation of soap-boiling. 1887 *Encycl. Brit.* XXII. 203/1 The process of soap-boiling is carried out in large iron boilers.

attrib. 1884 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* Suppl. 827/1 The interior of a soap boiling kettle.

Soap-bubble. [SOAP *sb.*] An iridescent bubble composed of a thin film of soap and water.

1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 351 By means of the bladder and pipe for filling soap-bubbles with hydrogen. 1830 HERSCHEL *Study Nat. Phil.* 252 Very thin films, either of a liquid (such as a soap-bubble), or of air. 1872 RUSKIN *Eagle's Nest* § 131 Can you explain the frame of a soap-bubble?

fig. 1828 EMERSON in *Life* (1888) II. 44 The talk has been mere soap-bubbles. 1861 BOYD *Recreat. Country Parson* Ser. II. 195, I have heard men, who spoke in large soap-bubbles.

Soaped (sōupt), *ppl. a.* [f. SOAP *sb.* or *v.*]

1. Impregnated with soap; soapy. *rare.*

1729 *Phil. Trans.* XXXVI. 12 Bubbles of soaped Water. *Ibid.* 13 The Tenacity of common Water is very small when compared to that of soaped Water.

2. Smeared, covered, washed, etc., with soap.

1805 *Med. Jrnl.* XIV. 139 The body was well rubbed with soaped flannel. 1825 SCOTT *Jrnl.* 8 Dec., Hunting a pig with a soap'd tail. 1850 CARLYLE *Latter-d. Pamph.* v. (1872) 161 If you can climb a soaped pole. 1890 CLARK RUSSELL *Marriage at Sea* xx, He looked highly soaped and polished.

Soa·pen, *v.* [f. SOAP *sb.* + -EN 5.] *trans.* To smear or rub with soap. Hence **Soa·pened** *ppl. a.*

1732 FIELDING *Cov. Garden Trag.* I ix, With my own hands I'll wash thy soapen'd shirt.

Soaper (sōu·pəɹ). Forms: 3, 5 **sopare, 4, 7 soper, 5 sopere, 6– soaper.** [f. SOAP *sb.* Cf. Du. *zeeper* soap-boiler.]

1. †a. One who sells soap. *Obs.* b. A soap-boiler, soap-maker. Now *Hist.*

c 1225 *Ancr. R.* 152 A sopare, þet ne bereð buten sope & nelden, remð & ȝeieð lude & heie þet he bereð. 1393 LANGL. *P. Pl. C.* VI. 72 Sopers and here sones for seluer han be knyghtes. 14.. *Lat.-Eng. Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 612 *Smigmator*, a sopere. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 465/1 Sopare, marchaunt.., *saponarius*. 1591 PERCIVALL *Sp. Dict.*, *Xabonero*, a soaper, *Saponarius*. 1632 in Rymer *Fœdera* (1732) XIX. 381 Divers Persons in..the Society of Sopers within the Citty of Westminster. 1641 *Short Relation conc. Soap-Business* 12 The white soape made by the Soapers of Westminster spoyled and burnt the Linnen. 1805 R. W. DICKSON *Pract. Agric.* I. 247 The waste of soapers..may be made use of in the same way. 1825 JAMIESON *Suppl.*, *Soaper*, a soap-boiler; Aberd[een]. 1828 D'ISRAELI *Chas. I*, II. i. 21 It was urged that barrels of the new soap had been sophisticated by the malice of the old soapers.

attrib. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 594 [For making] Green window glass, or broad glass...10 pounds of soaper salts [etc.].

c. In collocations, as *soaper's ashes, liquor, lye, waste.* (Cf. SOAP-BOILER 1 b.)

1725 *Family Dict.* s.v. *Blood-running Itch*, Others wash the Horse once or twice in Soaper's Liquor. 1766 *Museum Rusticum* VI. 309 To make a trial..betwixt these ashes.. and soapers waste. 1793 *Trans. Soc. Arts* V. 48 Seed steeped in Soaper's ashes. 1817-8 COBBETT *Resid. U. S.* (1822) 76, I see people go with their wagons five miles for soaper's ashes; that is to say, spent ashes. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* I. 331/2 The remaining liquor..is commonly called soaper's lye.

2. *techn.* (See quot.)

1909 *Cent. Dict.* Suppl., *Soaper*, in calico-printing, a machine in which the cloth is washed with soap.

Soapery (sōu·pəri). Also 7–8 **soaperie.** [f. SOAP *sb.* Cf. Du. *zeeperij*.] A soap manufactory.

1674 in J. Cleland *Rise & Progr. Glasgow* (1820) 88 [The premises, for the Soap manufacture, at that time termed the] Soaperie. 1721 WODROW *Hist. Suff. Ch. Scot.* (1830) II. 387/2 The soaperie there [at Glasgow] was guarded, and closely searched for arms and ammunition. 1775 ASH, *Soapery*, the place where soap is made. 1840 *Evid. Hull Docks Comm.* 15 A very large soapery and sugar-refinery. 1886 *Bradford Observer* 6 Mar., To assist..in Working a Soapery on the newest lines, with specialities.

Soa·pily, *adv.* [f. SOAPY *a.*] In a soft or easy manner; smoothly.

1833 M. SCOTT *Tom Cringle* xix, [The snake] continuing all the while..to glide soapily along.

Soa·pine. [f. SOAP *sb.* + -INE 6.] A kind of powder, used as a substitute for soap.

1883 R. HALDANE *Workshop Rec.* Ser. II. 33/1 Wash in clean water with 'soapine' in a bath of pottery or clay.

Soa·piness. [f. SOAPY *a.*] The quality of being soapy, or covered with soap.

1727 BAILEY (vol. II), *Sopiness*, a being dawbed with Sope. 1855 *Orr's Circ. Sci., Elem. Chem.* 424 Magnesian minerals are characterized by giving the impression of soapiness when touched.

Soa·ping, *vbl. sb.* [f. SOAP *v.*] The action or process of smearing, rubbing, or washing with soap. Also in fig. context.

1556 in *Shropsh. Parish Doc.* (1903) 57 For sopyng of clothys, vi[d]. 1706 STEVENS *Sp.-Eng. Dict.*, *Enxabonadúra*, sopeing of Linnen. 1823 J. BADCOCK *Domest. Amusem.* 150 'Bristol soap'..by its hardness enables the good wives..to perform the act of soaping more perseveringly. 1834 *Tait's Mag.* I. 726/1 Some spot where Pleasure's tail was free from soaping, And all might seize it fast who felt inclin'd. 1879 C. MARVIN *Our Public Offices* 23 A vast amount of soaping and towelling was then called into action to remove the grime.

attrib. 1646 *Looking-Glass for Sope-Patentees* (title-p.), A new Project..to monopolize the Soping-mystery. 1876 *Encycl. Brit.* IV. 688/2 After washing out of the dye-beck the goods [*sc.* calicoes] are passed into a soaping beck.

†**Soa·pish,** *a. Obs.*–° Somewhat soapy.

1648 HEXHAM II, *Zeepachtigh*, Soapish.

Soa·pist. [f. SOAP *sb.*] A soap-manufacturer.

1893 L. KILLEEN *Soldiers at Sea* 29 The eminent *soapists*, whose speciality may be unrivalled in fresh water.

Soapless (sōu·plės), *a.* [f. SOAP *sb.*] Lacking soap; *esp.* unwashed, dirty.

1825 T. HOOK *Sayings* Ser. II. *Passion & Princ.* vi, The washing-stand [was] soapless. 1828 LYTTON *Pelham* II. xii. 120 The offered hand of his new friend..was of a marvellous dingy and soapless aspect. 1858 GEO. ELIOT in Cross *Life* (1885) II. 16 Something more piteous almost than soapless poverty.

Soap-maker. [SOAP *sb.*] One who makes soap; a soap-boiler.

1483 *Cath. Angl.* 318/1 A Sape maker.., *saponarius*. 1558 WARDE tr. *Alexis' Secr.* 41 Take Sope makers water, and boyle it vntill it..become as it were an oyntment. 1597 A. M. tr. *Guillemeau's Fr. Chirurg.* 41 b/1 Take Sope-makers lye, two pounde, Vitriol three ownces. 1634 in Rymer *Fœdera* (1732) XIX. 506 That no Soap-maker whatsoever presume to put any Soap to sale, which shall not be so marked. 1652 (*title*), The Soapmakers Complaint for the Losse of their Trade by Reason of a double excise. 1780 *Westm. Mag.* Suppl. 730/1 John Shand, Coldbath-fields, soap-maker. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 1142 Three such boils may be given in..one day's work, by an active soap-maker. 1861 *Eng. Cycl., Arts & Sci.* VII. 636 The carbonic acid is driven off for the soap-maker's purposes.

So **Soap-making** *vbl. sb.*

1603 STOW *Surv.* 253, I haue not read or heard of Sope making in this Cittie till within this fourescore yeares. 1634 in Rymer *Fœdera* (1732) XIX. 507 Other persons.. who..have set up a Trade of Soap making as for themselves. 1857 MILLER *Elem. Chem., Org.* vi. § 1. 359 It is this [mucilaginous oil] which is chiefly employed in soap-making.

Soap-rock. *Min.* [SOAP *sb.*] Steatite; magnesian clay.

1746 HILL *Theophr.* (1774) 242 The Steatites of the Soap Rock of Cornwall. 1758 BORLASE *Nat. Hist. Cornw.* 66 The most curious of all our clays in Cornwall, is the steatites near the Lizherd, generally called the Soap-rock. 1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 465 Steatites, or soap-rock, is generally of a greenish colour. 1825 J. NICHOLSON *Operat. Mechanic* 456 The magnesia has obtained the name of soap-rock, and a marked variety of it steatite.

Soap-stone (sōu·pistōun). *Min.* Also **soap stone, soapstone.** [SOAP *sb.* Cf. G. *seif(en)-stein*.] A massive variety of talc, of which various kinds are found in several countries, having a smooth greasy feel, and used for various economical or ornamental purposes (occas. as a soap); soap-rock, steatite; also loosely applied to certain soft clays, etc.

1681 GREW *Musæum* III. I. vi. 321 Soap-Stone, *Steatites*; ..seeming like hard Suet, greasie to the touch. 1778 W. PRYCE *Min. Cornub.* 31 Steatites or Soap Stone, which is in such plenty. 1799 WELD *Trav. N. Amer.* 385 A stone of a very soft texture, called the soap stone, is very commonly found in the back parts of North America. 1837 DANA *Min.* 261 The soapstone..at Lizard Point, Cornwall, when first extracted, may be kneaded like dough. 1850 LYELL *2nd Visit U. S.* II. 50 At Centreport these unctuous marls or calcareous clays [of the chalk formation] are called by the people soap-stone. 1850 ANSTED *Elem. Geol., Min.*, etc. 195 *Saponite*, Piotine, Kerolite, Soapstone (not Steatite). 1851 *Catal. Gt. Exhib.* 1422/1 Chinese figures of soapstone. 1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-m.* 229 *Soapstone*, a variety of fireclay, sometimes applied to Bind.

attrib. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2201/1 Soapstone pencils, made from a peculiar stone found near Castleton, Vt. 1883 *Cent. Mag.* XXVI. 596/2 The hearth of an open soap-stone stove. 1884 *Pall Mall G.* 24 July 12/1 Works of art in Foochow soap-stone ware.

b. A slab or piece of this, fashioned for some special purpose.

1890 *Cent. Mag.* XL. 531 He..fished up a disused soap-stone..,put it on the stove.., and stood erect..till the soap-stone was warm.

Soap-sud. *rare.* [Back-formation from next.] = SOAP-SUDS. Chiefly in attrib. use.

1727 BOYER *Dict. Royal* I. s.v. *Eau*, *Eau de Savonnage*, soap-sud. *Ibid.* s.v. *Savonnage*, 1802 *Spirit Public Jrnls.* VI. 278 Your air-balloon sunk to soap-sud bubbles, when compared to it [*sc.* an eclipse]. 1823 J. BADCOCK *Dom. Amusem.* 74 The common soap-sud bubbles of children.

Hence **Soa·p-suddy** *a.*

1831 *Blackw. Mag.* XXIX. 1007 The soap-suddy waves in a wash-hand basin. 1850 S. LAING *Obs. Europ. People* xiii. 331 Its water is of a milky, greenish, or soap-suddy hue.

Soap-suds. Also **soapsuds.** [SOAP *sb.*] Water impregnated with dissolved soap, *esp.* water in which clothes have been washed.

1611 COTGR., *Savonné*,..frothie like sope-suds, or a lather of sope. 1616 SURFL. & MARKH. *Country Farme* 162 For the speedie growing of hearbes,..there is nothing in the world better..than Sope suds. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 15 Apr. 1652, It has been..spoil'd by washing it ignorantly with soap-suds. 1707 MORTIMER *Husb.* (1721) I. 120 The moistning of them [*sc.* dry ashes] with..Soap-suds will add mightily to their strength. 1771 MRS. HAYWOOD *New Present for Maid* 256 Silver-plate ought to be washed with soap-suds. 1848 DICKENS *Dombey* ix, A widow-lady, with her sleeves rolled up..and her arms frothy with soap-suds. 1884 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* Suppl. 879/2 Make a strong soapsuds, using hot water.

Hence **Soa·p-sudsy** *a.* (Cf. SOAP-SUDDY.)

1854 LOWELL *Jrnl. in Italy* Prose Wks. 1890 I. 215 A scanty rill of soapsudsy liquid.

Soapwort (sōu·pwŏɹt). Forms: 6 **sopewurt, -woort, 7 -worte (-worth), 6–8 -wort, 7– soap-wort.** [f. SOAP *sb.*, perh. after Du. *zeepkruid* or G. *seifenkraut*, in later G. also *seifenwurz*(*el*.)]

1. One or other of the herbaceous plants belonging to the genus *Saponaria*, which yield a saponaceous principle; esp. the common species, *S. officinalis*; also, the genus itself.

1548 TURNER *Names Herbes* 66 *Radicula*,..if we had it here,..myghte be called in english sopewurt or skowrwurt. 1597 GERARDE *Herbal* II. cviii. 359 The stalkes of Sope-woort are slipperie. 1629 PARKINSON *Parad.* 352 The ordinary Sopeworte or Bruiseworte with single flowers is often planted in Gardens. 1671 SALMON *Syn. Med.* III. xxii. 428 Soapwort..heals Cuts,..helps the Stone and Dropsie. *a* 1689 MRS. BEHN tr. *Cowley's Plants* C.'s Wks. 1711 III. 374 Soap-wort, tho' coarse thy Name, thou dost excel In Form and art enrich'd with fragrant Smell. 1731 MILLER *Gard. Dict.* s.v. *Lychnis*, The Double Sopewort is a Plant of no great Beauty. 1800 *Med. Jrnl.* III. 365 She was farther directed to apply clysters prepared with soap wort. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 952/2 Saponine, .. found likewise in plants belonging to the cloveworts, soapworts, and a few other orders.

b. As a moth-name (see quot.).

1832 J. RENNIE *Consp. Butterfl. & Moths* 69 The Soap Wort (*Hadena Saponariæ*..) appears the middle of July..; feeds on the Saponaria officinalis and other plants.

2. *U.S.* (See quots.)

1845-50 MRS. LINCOLN *Lect. Bot.* App. 162 *Saponaria vaccaria*, field soap-wort. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade*, *Soap-wort*, the root of *Vaccaria vulgaris*, which, like the aril of the soap-berry, contains saponine.

3. Any plant of the order *Sapindaceæ*.

1846 LINDLEY *Veg. Kingd.* 383 A very general character of the Soapworts is to have their embryo either curved, or twisted spirally. 1876 HARLEY *Royle's Mat. Med.* 707 Soapworts..are well illustrated in the horse-chestnut.

4. *attrib.*, as *soapwort family, order*; **soapwort gentian,** †(*a*) = sense 1; (*b*) *U.S.*, a variety of gentian.

1578 LYTE *Dodoens* III. 334 *Alismæ siue Saponaria*, Sopewort Gentian. 1846-50 A. WOOD *Class-bk. Bot.* 453 *Gentiana saponaria*, Soapwort Gentian. 1849 BALFOUR *Man. Bot.* 381 *Sapindaceæ*, the Soapwort Family. 1861 BENTLEY *Man. Bot.* 481 *Sapindaceæ*.—The Soapwort Order.

Soapy (sōu·pi), *a.* Also 7–8 **sopy,** 9 *Sc.* **saipy.** [f. SOAP *sb.* + -Y. Cf. WFris. *sjippich*, G. *seifig*.]

1. Smeared with soap; covered with soap-suds or lather.

1610 G. FLETCHER *Christ's Vict.* II. lix, Such watry orbicles young boyes doe blowe Out from their sopy shells. *a* 1635 RANDOLPH *Conceited Pedlar* Wks. 1875 I. 47 And were't not better to embrace this pretty shambles for beauty..than to tumble our soapy laundresses? 1747-96 MRS. GLASSE *Cookery* xiii. 188 Take great care the bag or cloth be very clean, not soapy. 1840 DICKENS *Old C. Shop* vii, The door was opened, but nothing came in except a soapy arm.

transf. 1778 PRYCE *Min. Cornub.* Gloss., *Soapy Heads*, the joints of stones, smeared with a saponaceous slippery soil.

2. Impregnated with soap; containing soap in solution.

1721 BAILEY, *Suds*, the soapy Liquor in which Clothes are washed. 1826 S. COOPER *First Lines Surg.* (ed. 5) 23 The caustic fixed alkalies, triturated with pus, combine with it

into a soapy fluid. 1882 *Garden* 21 Jan. 48/3 The leaves ought to be carefully sponged over with soapy water.

3. Of the nature of soap; having the soft or greasy feel of soap; soap-like.

a 1722 LISLE *Husb.* (1757) 26 Their chalk is of a fat soapy kind, and they call it marle. 1799 [A. YOUNG] *Agric. Linc.* 10 They have rich loams, soapy and tenacious. ' 1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 465 Talc..is soft and soapy to the touch. 1857 MILLER *Elem. Chem., Org.* xii. § 1. 686 Oleophosphoric Acid,..in combination with soda,.. forms a soapy compound.

4. Of appearance, feel, etc.: Resembling that of soap; suggestive of soap.

1732 ARBUTHNOT *Rules of Diet* in *Aliments* 301 Such Substances as are of a soapy Nature. 1803 *Med. Jrnl.* IX. 493 When boiled in it a long time it gives it a soapy appearance. 1838 T. THOMSON *Chem. Org. Bodies* 38 Most of them have a slightly soapy feel. 1843 *Penny Cycl.* XXVI. 261/1 Lustre soapy. Feel greasy. 1852 C. W. HOSKYNS *Talpa* i. (1854) 2 A suspicious kind of sound..which I may describe by the word 'soapy'.

b. Having a taste of soap.

1892 WALSH *Tea* 87 The lower grades are frequently 'soapy' or 'mousey' in flavor.

5. *slang.* **a.** Ingratiating, suave, unctuous.

1865 *Pall Mall G.* 28 Oct. 5 But why..do people call him [Bp. Wilberforce] Soapy Sam? 1910 *Blackw. Mag.* Feb. 182/2 He had once been famous for his soapy manners.

b. Of fits: Simulated by chewing soap.

1886 *Daily News* 13 Dec. 5/4 He is known professionally as the 'King of the Soapy Fits Trick'.

6. *Comb.*, as *soapy-looking, -mannered, -tailed.*

a 1845 BARHAM *Ingol. Leg.* Ser. III. *Wedding Day* (1905) 435 Don't interfere with their soapy-tail'd pigs. 1853 URE *Dict. Arts*, etc. (ed. 4) II. 458 Soapy-looking compounds with resins and wax. 1890 *Pall Mall G.* 8 Apr. 6/3 The solemn soapy-mannered 'dispenser'.

Soar, obs. form of SORE.

Soar (sōəɹ), *sb.* Also 7 soare. [f. SOAR *v.*, perh. partly after F. *essor*.]

In Beaum. & Fletcher's *Bonduca* IV. iv. the second folio (1679) has 'fearless of your bloody soars'; but the reading of the first folio (1647) is 'fears', evidently a misprint for 'sears', i. e. claws.

1. The altitude attained in soaring; range of flight upwards. Also *fig.*

1596 *Edw. III*, II. i. Fly it a pitch aboue the soare of praise. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* v. 270 Within soare Of towring Eagles. 1792 S. ROGERS *Pleas. Mem.* I. 361 That eye so finely wrought Beyond the search of sense, the soar of thought. 1804 J. GRAHAME *Sabbath* (1839) 22/1 A splendid cloud appeared..; then hovering, floats, High as the soar of eagle. 1892 *Pall Mall G.* 26 May 7/1 It requires the highest soar of fancy to imagine [etc.].

2. The act of soaring or rising high.

1817 COLERIDGE *Satyrane's Lett.* ii. in *Biog. Lit.* (1882) 252 A liberated bird..who now after his first soar of freedom poises himself in the upper air. 1820 SCOTT *Abbot* XV, It is ill whistling for a hawk when she is once on the soar. 1870 ROSSETTI *Poems, Ho. Life* iv, Just when at that swallow's soar Your neck turned so.

transf. 1825 BEDDOES *Poems, To Bryan Procter* 166 Wings upraise thee long In the unvacillating soar of song. 1854 LOWELL *Fireside Trav.* (1864) 321 There is none of the spring and soar which one may see even in the Lombard churches. 1890 SAINTSBURY *Elizab. Lit.* iv. 102 A little later we meet with that towering soar of verse which is also peculiar to the period.

Soar (sōəɹ), *v.* Forms: 4–5, 7 sore, 5–6 sowre, 5–7 soore (6 *Sc.* soir), 6–7 soare, 6– soar. [ad. F. *essorer* (=It. *sorare*) to fly up, to soar, repr. a pop. Lat. **exaurare*, f. *aura* air.]

I. *intr.* **1.** Of birds; To fly or mount upwards; to ascend to a towering height; also loosely, to sail or skim at a great height. Occas. with *up*.

c 1384 CHAUCER *Ho. Fame* I. 499 Faste be the sonne, as hye As kenne myght I with myn ye, Me thought I sawgh an Egle sore. *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (Roxb.) vii. 25 When þai see þat fewle sore in þe aer. 1486 *Bk. St. Albans, Hawking* b ij, Hit may happyn that she will sowre so hegh in to the Eyre, that ye shall Nether se hir nor fynde hir. 1530 PALSGR. 725/1, I soore, as an hauke dothe. 1587 *Mirr. Mag., Sabrina* vi, What birde can flye, and soare, if stormes doe rage. 1688 HOLME *Armory* II. xi. 229/2 He beareth Argent, an Eagle volant in bend, (soaring, or flying a loft). 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* I. 500 Watchful Herons ..mounting upward with erected Flight, Gain on the Skies, and soar above the Sight. 1788 V. KNOX *Winter Even.* XXV. (1790) I. 208 It is not till the wings have acquired strength and agility, that it..dares to soar undauntedly in the fields of air. 1830 HERSCHEL *Study Nat. Philos.* 84 A flight of Condors soaring in circles in a particular spot. 1867 LADY HERBERT *Cradle L.* viii. 217 Here and there eagles and hawks soared above their heads.

b. *transf.* Of persons, etc. Chiefly *poet.* or *rhet.*

c 1374 CHAUCER *Troylus* I. 670, I have no cause, I wote wele, to sore, As doth an hawk. ?1593 MARLOWE *Edw. II*, v. i, For such outragious passions cloye my soule, As..often am I sowring vp to heauen. 1602 MARSTON *Antonio's Rev.* III. i. 105 O, in what orbe thy mightie spirit soares. 1743 C. WESLEY *Hymn*, '*Christ the Lord*' v, Soar we now where Christ has led. 1792 S. ROGERS *Pleas. Mem.* I. 77 How oft ..We..Soar'd in the swing,..Thro' sister elms. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* vii. II. 265 It was said..that James had furnished the wings with which his brother had soared to a higher region. 1875 MANNING *Mission H. Ghost* xii. 343 We believe ourselves to have wings, and to be soaring into heights of the spiritual life.

c. In various *fig.* and *transf.* uses.

1605 *1st Pt. Jeronimo* II. vi, By that argument you firmly proue honor to sore aboue the pitch of loue. 1648 J. BEAUMONT *Psyche* XXIV. ccxii, Oft she resolved..to wait Heav'n's leisure, till her Heart might thither sore. *a* 1735 LD. LANSDOWNE *On Unnatural Flights in Poetry* 23 Rash hyperboles that soar so high. 1754 SHERLOCK *Disc.* (1759) I. i. 50 It soars above the reach of human Reason. 1820 SCOTT *Monast.* xiii, On the present occasion..the wrath of good Dame Elspeth soared higher than usual.

d. To fly *away*.

1581 PETTIE *Guazzo's Civ. Conv.* III. (1586) 136 Ther is no man such a Niasse, but that continuall..repulses wil make him soare away.

e. To hover *about* a place. Also, of fish: To remain at the surface of the water.

1592 KYD *Sol. & Pers.* II. ii, My ship shall be..blowne with sighs; So will I soare about the Turkish land, Vntill [etc.]. 1653 WALTON *Angler* 53 The Chubs..will presently rise up to the top again, and lie there soaring till some shadow affrights them again.

2. *fig.* To mount, ascend, or rise to a higher or more exalted level in some respect.

The separate groups of quotations illustrate the main variations of usage.

(*a*) 1593 SHAKS. *Rich. II*, I. i. 109 How high a pitch his resolution soares! 1647 COWLEY *Mistr., Vain Love*, Desires, which whilst so high they soar, Are Proud as that I lov'd before. 1811 SHELLEY *Love* 14 Each energy of soul surviving More vivid, soars above. 1863 MISS BRADDON *Eleanor's Victory* II. iii. 41, I don't believe that young lady's soul ever soars above laces and ribbons. 1891 E. PEACOCK *N. Brendon* I. 181 His ambition did not soar high.

(*b*) 1601 BARLOW *Serm. Paules Crosse* 30 He soared in his highest pitch of fauour with her Maiestie. 1622 in Foster *Eng. Factories Ind.* (1908) II. 147 They are nowe aloft and soare in pride. 1663 S. PATRICK *Parab. Pilgr.* (1687) 211 It will depress and thrust you down below others, while you seem to be..soaring to a pitch far above them. 1728 YOUNG *Love Fame* I. 157 When men of infamy to grandeur soar. 1757 JOHNSON *Idler* No. 33 ¶ 26 From whence they soared to the most elevated heights of literary fame. 1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Mid.* xlviii, The feeling of pique..at seeing Effie.. soar suddenly so high above her in life.

(*c*) 1615 BRATHWAIT *Strappado* (1878) 173, I should desire ..To take an Eagles wing and soare farre higher, Then hitherto my weake Muse could attaine. 1663 S. PATRICK *Parab. Pilgr.* (1687) 146 As they think him an Orator who mounts and soars aloft (as they call it) in high-flown words. 1732 POPE *Ess. Man* I. 91 Hope humbly then; with trembling pinions soar. 1784 COWPER *Task* V. 723 To be divinely free, To soar, and to anticipate the skies. 1816 SHELLEY *Dæmon* I. 206 Then has thy rapt imagination soared Where.. The temple of the mightiest Daemon stands. 1870 EMERSON *Soc. & Sol., Courage* Wks. (Bohn) III. 112 Poetry and eloquence catch the hint, and soar to a pitch unknown before.

3. Of inanimate objects: To ascend, rise up to a height. Also *transf.*

1697 DRYDEN *Æneid* VIII. 558 The boiling waters roar; And smoky flames through fuming tunnels soar. *a* 1721 SHEFFIELD (Dk. Buckhm.) *Wks.* (1753) I. 12 The sigh which sent forth that..word, Up tow'rds the heavens like a bright meteor soar'd. 1812 BYRON *Ch. Har.* II. iii, Till man shall learn Vainly his incense soars, his victim bleeds.

b. Of a mountain, building, etc.: To rise majestically or imposingly to a great altitude. Also with *up*.

1812 BYRON *Ch. Har.* I. lx, Oh, thou Parnassus! whom I now survey,..soaring snow-clad through thy native sky. 1858 LYTTON *What will He do?* I. iv, At the rear of the palace soars up the old Abbey. 1871 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* IV. xviii. 154 Soaring over the city and the intervening valley, rose the height of Penhow.

II. *trans.* **4.** To exalt. *rare.*

1595 BARNFIELD *Poems, Sonnet to T. T.* iv, So those rare Sonnets, where wits ripe doth lie,..doe soare thy fame to skie.

5. To perform or accomplish (a flight) by rising high. Freq. in fig. context.

1659 FULLER *App. Inj. Innoc.* I. 21 Here he soareth so high a flight I cannot follow him. 1745 ELIZA HEYWOOD *Female Spect.* (1748) IV. 71 A person of weak intellects, in attempting to soar too high a flight, not seldom shares the fate of Icarus. 1806 H. SIDDONS *Maid, Wife, & Widow* I. Pref. p. xvii, Here we behold the muse of satire soaring the flights of an eagle.

6. To attain or reach (a height) by upward flight; to fly up through (the air, etc.). Also *fig.*

1667 MILTON *P. L.* VII. 421 They summ'd thir Penns, and soaring th' air sublime With clang despis'd the ground. 1742 YOUNG *Nt. Th.* IV. 612 Of lavish love, stupendous heights to soar. 1765 BEATTIE *To Churchill* 34 He soars Pindaric heights, and sails the waste of Heaven.

Soarage, variant of SORAGE *Obs.*

Soarant, *a. Her.* = SOARING *ppl. a.* 2.

1828 BERRY *Encycl. Her., Soarant, Soaring*, or *Towering*, that is, flying aloft.

Soard, Soare, obs. forms of SWARD, SORE.

Soarer (sōəɹəɹ). [f. SOAR *v.*] One who or that which soars, in various senses.

1852 LYTTON *My Novel* XII. xii, Noiseless soarers into gloomy air out of Stygian deeps. 1895 *Advance* (Chicago) 19 Dec. 902/3 Though in eloquence a high soarer, in thought he digs deep.

Soaring (sōəɹiŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. SOAR *v.*]

1. The action of the verb SOAR. Also *transf.*

1575 TURBERV. *Faulconrie* 198 They [*sc.* hawks] flee up aloft upon pleasure which with us falconers is called soring. *c* 1630 *Roxb. Ball.* (1888) VI. 455 Holow! my Fancie, holow!..stay at home with me! leave off thy lofty soaring. 1651 DAVENANT *Gondibert* III. v. 26 Thy love's high soaring cannot be a crime. 1722–7 BOYER *Dict. Royal* I, *Essor*,.. flight, or soaring up. 1856 EMERSON *Eng. Traits, Literature* Wks. (Bohn) II. 105 The union of Saxon precision and oriental soaring, of which Shakespeare is the perfect example. 1880 JEFFERIES *Great Est.* 132 This soaring and wheeling [of jackdaws] is evidently done for recreation.

2. An instance of this. Also *fig.* and *transf.*

1611 COTGR., *Essort*,..a soaring, mounting,..high-rising. 1648 HEXHAM II, *Een Opstijginge*, an Ascention, a Mounting, or a Soaring up. 1762 D. WEBB *Beauties Poetry* 14 The soarings and stoops of the Eagle. 1786 PARR *Educ.* 2 (Todd), Proverbs were ambitiously seized by the lyric and by the epic muse in..their sublimest soarings. 1805 WORDSW. *Waggoner* IV. 80 As if the warbler lost in light Reproved his soarings of the night. 1890 CLARK RUSSELL *Ocean Tragedy* I. vi. 127 These irrational soarings of spirits.

Soaring (sōəɹiŋ), *ppl. a.* [f. SOAR *v.*]

1. *fig.* Rising to a great height, high pitch, etc.; egregious; ambitious, aspiring; sublime.

(*a*) 1607 SHAKS. *Cor.* II. i. 270 When his soaring Insolence Shall teach the People. 1665 BOYLE *Occas. Refl.* IV. xiii. (1848) 248 To make a Rise to their soaring flight of a Tower, whose Top should reach unto Heaven. 1687 tr. *Sallust* (1692) 33 Of soaring and egregious parts. 1814 SCOTT *Wav.* lix, The same soaring and ardent spirit, for whom the whole earth seemed too narrow. 1848 W. H. KELLY tr. *L. Blanc's Hist. Ten Y.* I. 552 A bold and soaring mind. 1879 STANLEY *Manzoni's Hymn for Whitsunday*, The New World's soaring wants. 1889 *Spectator* 9 Nov. 633/1 This soaring insolence of these Christian young men.

(*b*) 1695 J. EDWARDS *Perfect. H. Script.* 418 This Evangelist..is more sublime and soaring than the rest. 1847 EMERSON *Repres. Men, Montaigne* Wks. (Bohn) I. 351 In the heart of each maiden,..in the soul of the soaring saint, this chasm is found.

2. Rising high by means of actual flight; flying high in the air. Also *fig.* and *Her.*

This sense occurs earlier in the comb. *high-soaring.*

1683 TRYON *Way to Health* xix. (1697) 415 The soaring Wing of a Devout Meditation. 1828 [see SOARANT]. 1868 CUSSANS *Her.* (1893) 95 Soaring, or Volant: Flying. 1871 WHYTE MELVILLE *Sarchedon* I. 4 Those specks on the upper sky widened into huge soaring vultures. 1893 *Westm. Gaz.* 15 Sept. 7/2 The wing-area of soaring birds varies from one to above two square feet per pound of weight.

transf. 1891 *Science-Gossip* XXVII. 90 In reference to the soaring flight of birds.

3. Of imposing altitude; lofty, towering.

1687 tr. *Sallust* (1692) 71 They who being arriv'd to large Command, live in the soaring height of Greatness. 1818 BYRON *Ch. Har.* IV. lxxiii, I have seen the soaring Jungfrau rear Her never-trodden snow.

b. *Arch.* Rising lightly or gracefully to a considerable height; characterized by loftiness and gracefulness.

1849 RUSKIN *Seven Lamps* iii. § xxiv. 92 The soaring arches and kingly crowning of the gates of Abbeville. 1849 FREEMAN *Archit.* 6 The solemn massiveness of the Romanesque Cathedral, the soaring majesty of its Gothic successor. 1884 *Cent. Mag.* Mar. 682/1 For them no soaring nave and dimly lighted clearstory.

Hence **Soa·ringly** *adv.*

1817 BYRON *Manfred* I. i. 95 Their summits to heaven Shoot soaringly forth. 1844 *Blackw. Mag.* LV. 102 How gallantly the water-jets curve soaringly!

Soather, obs. form of SOLDER *sb.*

Sob (sɒb), *sb.* Also 4–6 sobbe, 8–9 *Sc.* sab. [f. SOB *v.*1]

1. An act of sobbing; a convulsive catching of the breath under the influence of grief.

c 1374 CHAUCER *Troylus* IV. 375 Among hise sobbes and his sykes sore. 1530 PALSGR. 272/1 Sobbe that cometh in wepynge, *sanglovt*. 1563 SACKVILLE *Induct. Mirr. Mag.* lxxiii, The syghes, the sobbes, the diepe and deadly groane. 1583 W. HUNNIS (*title*), Seuen Sobs of a Sorrowfull Soule for Sinne. 1621 T. WILLIAMSON tr. *Goulart's Wise Vieillard* 46 The rich mans reuenewes are serued in with bitter sops and sobs to. 1712–4 POPE *Rape Lock* iv. 84 There she collects the force of female lungs, Sighs, sobs, and passions. 1798 COLERIDGE *Anc. Mar.* VI. xv, And I with sobs did pray. 1821 SHELLEY *Ginevra* 181 Some melted into tears without a sob. 1863 GEO. ELIOT *Romola* x, Her eyes had been swelling with tears again, and she ended with a sob.

b. A similar act or sound expressive of pain or exertion; an utterance resembling a sob.

c 1480 HENRYSON *Pract. Medicyne* 55 Sevin sobbis of ane selche. 1784 COWPER *Task* III. 328 Detested sport,..That feeds upon the sobs..Of harmless nature. 1793 WORDSW. *Evening Walk* 443 The tremulous sob of the complaining owl. 1810 SCOTT *Lady of Lake* II. xxv, Right up Ben-Lomond could he press, And not a sob his toil confess.

†**c.** An act, on the part of a horse, of recovering its wind after exertion; an opportunity allowed to it of doing this; hence *fig.*, a rest or respite. Chiefly in the phr. *to give..a sob. Obs.*

1590 SHAKS. *Com. Err.* IV. iii. 25 The man sir, that when gentlemen are tired giues them a sob, and rests them. 1593 G. MARKHAM *Disc. Horsem.* iii. I, If your Horse..cannot runne long with a winde, but if he want staies or sobbes. 1607 — *Cavelarice* III. i. 8 These staies and recouerings of wind in the horse, my maisters, the northerne riders call Sobs. 1624 W. BROWNE *Brown's 50 Years' Practice* F 2, Euer yeeld willingly to your hand whensoeuer you see occasion to take him up to giue him a sobe, for that horse I hold to bee perfectly and truly mouthed. *a* 1658 CLEVELAND *To his Hermaphrodite* 44 But was he dead? Did not his Soul ..break up House, like an expensive Lord, That gives his Purse a Sob, and lives at Board?

2. *transf.* A sound resembling that of a sob.

1765 *Compl. Maltster & Brewer* 68 The first filling should not be until the sobs are quite down at the bung. 1820 HOGG *Sheph. Cal.* vii, Goodnight to a' younger brothers, puffings o' love vows, and sabs o' wind! 1881 *Grove's Dict. Music* III. 190 That species of musical sob produced by the repercussion of a prolonged note before the final cadence. 1897 WATTS-DUNTON *Coming of Love* (1899) 9 With sea-sobs warning of the awakened wind.

3. *Comb.*, as *sob-broken, -like* adjs.

1816 J. WILSON *City of Plague* Poems 1825 I. 197 Sob-broken words of prayer! *a* 1850 ROSSETTI *Dante & Circle* I. (1874) 72 A voice so sob-broken, So feeble with the agony of tears. 1857 DUFFERIN *Lett. High Lat.* (ed. 3) 93 Wilson's sob-like snores shook..the canvas walls. 1895 *Cent. Mag.* Aug. 571/2 It was..occasionally making a sob-like sound.

Sob (sɒb), *v.*[1] Forms: 2 sobben (5 sobbyn), 4-6 sobbe (4 sobbe), 5-7 *Sc.* sobe, 6- sob (7 sobb); 8-9 *Sc.* sab. [app. of imitative origin: cf. WFris. *sobje*, Du. dial. *sabben* to suck.]

1. *intr.* To catch the breath in a convulsive manner as the result of violent emotion, esp. grief; to weep in this fashion.

a 1200 *Vices & Virtues* 57 Đe gastliche mann..lihtliche wepð oðer sobbeð, oðerhwile mid bitere teares, oðerhwile mid wel swete teares. 1340 [see Sobbing *vbl. sb.*]. 1377 Langl. *P. Pl.* B. xiv. 326 He..Swowed and sobbed and syked ful ofte. 1390 Gower *Conf.* II. 319 Sche fond non amendement To syghen or to sobbe more. 1420–22 Lydg. *Thebes* iii. 3380 He can not but sighe, sobbe, and wepe. 1470–85 Malory *Arthur* xviii. ii. 726 She sobbed and wepte a grete whyle. 1530 Palsgr. 724/1 The poore boye sobbed, as his herte shulde brust. 1588 Shaks. *Tit. A.* iii. i. 137 See how my wretched sister sobs and weeps. 1599 — *Much Ado* ii. iii. 153 Then downe vpon her knees she falls, weepes, sobs, beates her heart. 1611 Cotgr., *Sanglotter*,..to sob often. 1648 Hexham ii, *Snoffen*,..to Sigh, or to Sob. 1727 Gay *Begg. Opera* i. xiii, *Polly.* The Boy thus, when his Sparrow's flown,..Whines, whimpers, sobs and cries. 1786 Burns *Tam Samson* ii, Kilmarnock lang may grunt an' grane, An' sigh an' sab [*v.r.* sob], an' greet her lane. 1820 W. Irving *Sketch Bk.* I. 225 He sank on his knees..and sobbed like a child. 1852 Thackeray *Esmond* I. ix, Both waved a farewell to him, and little Frank sobbed to leave him. 1891 E. Peacock *N. Brendon* II. 84 Narcissa sobbed with joy and love.

fig. 1821 Shelley *Adonais* xiv. 9 The wild Winds flew round, sobbing in their dismay.

b. To make a sound resembling sobbing.

1676 Mace *Musick's Mon.* 170 Cause Them to Sobb, by Slacking your Stopping Hand, so soon as They are Struck. 1721 Kelly *Scot. Prov.* 76 Saugh will sob [in burning] if it was sommer sawn. 1785 Burns *Halloween* x, In loving bleeze they sweetly join, Till white in ase they're sobbin. 1847 T. Brown *Modern Farriery* 410 If he dances about.., sobbing, and drawing his breath quickly, this will be found an indication of his being a whistler, or piper. 1852 *Zoologist* X. 3427 'Sobbing' up and down, as we say of sperm whales. 1879 Farrar *St. Paul* (1883) 49 The thunder..sobbing far away among the distant hills. 1893 *Tablet* 27 May 819 The great Soul Bell of St. Swithun's was sobbing in the winter wind for the death of the bishop.

2. a. To break or burst with sobbing.

1614 Earl Stirling *Domesday* I. Poems (1637) 100 Heaven (clad with darknesse) mourn'd, th' earth sob'd asunder.

b. *refl.* To bring (oneself) *into* a certain state, or *to sleep*, with sobbing.

1658 *Verney Mem.* (1907) II. 138 If you yourselfe were of such a humour that you should..sigh and sobb and pout yourselfe into a sicknesse.

1825 Scott *Betrothed* Concl., Eveline wept,..she prayed —and, finally, sobbed herself to sleep, like an infant. 1851 Mrs. Browning *Casa Guidi Wind.* II. 398 On starving homes! where many a lip Has sobbed itself asleep. 1877 Mrs. Forrester *Mignon* I. 191 The child could sob herself to sleep on her father's breast.

3. *trans.* **a.** To send *out*, bring *up*, etc., by sobbing or with sobs.

1718 Pope *Iliad* xvi. 419 He sobs his soul out in a gush of blood. 1748 Richardson *Clarissa* (1811) V. 209 He sobb'd up his grief. 1795 Southey *Joan of Arc* v. 162 Then did I..almost sob my very soul away. 1867 Augusta Wilson *Vashti* xiii, Here..you will live while there is breath in my body,—unless you wish to make me sob it out and die the sooner.

b. To utter with sobs. Usually with *out*.

1782 Miss Burney *Cecilia* v. x, It was not without the utmost difficulty that she could sob out the cause of this fresh sorrow. 1862 Miss Braddon *Lady Audley* xxxv, 'May God soften this blow for you,' sobbed the young man. 1879 Froude *Cæsar* xxii. 391 Sobbing out their entreaties on their knees.

Hence **Sobbed** *ppl. a.*; **So'bber**, one who sobs.

1894 A. Morrison *Mean Streets* 267 His bright, strenuous eyes were on the sobbers. 1895 W. Platt *Women* 98 Her sobbed thanks washed it as they fell upon it.

Sob, *v.*[2] Now *dial.* and *U.S.* [Of obscure origin.] *trans.* To soak, saturate, sop. (Usually in pa. pple.)

1625 Markham *Inrich. Weald Kent* 7 A purer flowre then that which is sobbed in wet. 1658 Evelyn *Fr. Gard.* (1675) 267 When the tree being sobb'd and wet, swells the wood, and loosens the fruit. 1679 — *Sylva* (ed. 3) 178 As the Rain sobs it too much. 1692 *Rector's Bk. Clayworth* (1910) 98 The meadows were so sobb'd, that it cost 15s to make the way..passable. 1725 *Family Dict.* s.v. *Sallet*, Let them be rather discreetly sprinkled, than over-much sobb'd with Spring-Water. 1854 Miss Baker *Northampt. Gloss., Sob*, to soak, to sop. *a* 1859 in Bartlett *Dict. Amer.* (ed. 2) 425 The high lands are sobbed and boggy. 1887 *Kentish Gloss.* 154 The cloth..is all sobbed with the wet.

Hence **Sobbed** *ppl. a.*; **So'bbing** *vbl. sb.* and *ppl. a.*

1664 Evelyn *Sylva* 69 Moss is to be rubb'd..off..with a piece of Hair-cloth after a sobbing Rain. 1670 *Ibid.* (ed. 2) 164 For which the best cure is, the plentiful sobbing it in water. 1690 Pepys *Mem. Royal Navy* 72 Rendred black by its long sobbing in water. 1693 Evelyn *De la Quint. Compl. Gard.* 31 Lest the Sob'd Leaves, shut up wet, should soon become foul and squalid.

†**Sob,** *v.*[3] *dial. Obs.* [Of obscure origin.] *trans.* To frighten, scare.

In Milton *Ref. Engl.* i. 20 the correct reading is *fob.*

1671 Skinner *Etymol. Ling. Angl.* s.v., To Sob one, (i. e.) *dialecto Linc. Perterrefacere, Confundere.*

Sobbing (sɒ·biŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. Sob *v.*[1] + -ing [1].] The action of giving vent to sobs; the sound produced by this. Also freq. in *pl.*

sing. *c* 1300 *Haveloh* 234 Þer was sobbing, siking, and sor. 1340 *Ayenb.* 211 Saint gregorie zaiþ þet zoþliche bidde god is biter zobbinge of uorþenchinge. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 3615 Þerfore sobbyng & sorow ses at þis tyme. *c* 1475 Henryson *Orpheus & Eurydice* (B) 151 Thar was na solace mycht his sobbing cess. 1526 Skelton *Magnyf.* 1877, I pray the, ..let be thy sobbynge. 1582 Stanyhurst *Æneis* II. (Arb.) 68 In vayne with sobbing was oft that od eccho repeated. 1603 Knolles *Hist. Turks* (1638) 46 Andronicus..comming vnto his presence..with sobbing and teares. 1697 Dryden *Virg. Georg.* iii. 755 He deeply groans With patient Sobbing. 1774 Goldsm. *Nat. Hist.* (1824) I. 211 Sobbing is the sigh still more invigorated. 1835 T. Mitchell *Aristoph. Acharn.* 629 *note*, The act of sobbing follows that of weeping and tearing the hair. 1876 M. Foster *Physiol.* II. ii. (1879) 356 In sobbing a series of..convulsive inspirations follow each other slowly, the glottis being closed earlier than in the case of hiccough.

transf. 1607 Topsell *Four-f. Beasts* (1658) 339 The sobbing in the stomach, called the 'hicket'.

pl. c 1440 *Jacob's Well* (1897) 12 He badde swyche sorwe, syȝhynges, & sobbynges in þe throte. 1630 Drumm. of Hawth. *Flowers of Sion* 26 The hoarse Sobbings of the widow'd Doue. 1711 Addison *Spect.* No. 164 ¶ 5 His Voice, which was broke with Sighs and Sobbings. 1760–72 H. Brooke *Fool of Qual.* (1809) II. 102, I heard the bitter sobbings of the servants. 1836 E. Howard *R. Reefer* x, I..felt all happiness amidst my sobbings.

Sobbing (sɒ·biŋ), *ppl. a.* [f. Sob *v.*[1] + -ing [2].]

1. Uttering, giving vent to, sobs. Also, of the voice: Broken by sobs.

a 1200 *Vices & Virtues* 85 Þohtes of soðe bereusinge, ðe makieð ðe herte sari and sobbiende. 1451 Capgrave *Life St. Aug.* 22 With ful sobbyng voys uttirryng all þese wordes. *a* 1586 Sidney *Ps.* vi. vii, God hath heard the weeping sobbing voice Of my complayning. 1600 Shaks. *A. Y. L.* II. i. 66 Weeping and commenting Vpon the sobbing Deere. 1820 Shelley *Prometh. Unb.* I. 455 Some struck and sobbing fawn. 1865 Dickens *Mut. Fr.* III. i, With a sobbing gaslight in the counting-house window. 1895 *Westm. Gaz.* 14 May 2/2 There were sobbing sides amongst the best when we reached the foot of the Pass.

2. Of the nature of a sob or sobs.

1871 *Standard* 23 Jan., She gave a sobbing sigh, and fell ..insensible. 1894 A. Robertson *Nuggets* 209 A low sobbing sound caught my ear.

Sobbingly (sɒ·biŋli), *adv.* [f. prec. + -ly [2].] In a sobbing manner; with sobs.

1565 Cooper *Thesaurus* s. v. *Interruptus*, To speake sobbingly. 1570 J. Phillip in Farr *Sel. Poet. Eliz.* II. 527 They..sobbingly did shewe by sighes Their straunge tormenting paynes. 1611 Speed *Hist. Grt. Brit.* ix. xxii. (1632) 1123 [He] sobbingly desired them to be content. 1831 *Blackw. Mag.* XXX. 717 He answered, sobbingly, 'My boy has only done his duty'. 1884 J. Parker *Apost. Life* III. 21 His heart arose to tell what it was then able only sobbingly to say.

Sobby (sɒ·bi), *a.* Now *dial.* and *U.S.* [f. Sob *v.*[2]] Soaked; saturated with moisture; soppy.

1611 Cotgr. s.v. *Evieux*, Sobbie earth, soyle full of springs. 1615 Crooke *Body of Man* 66 The sobby and waterish places of the body. 1720 Welton *Suffer. Son of God* II. xv. 398 Lying upon the cold and Sobby Ground. 1847 in *N. Amer. Rev.* Jan. 191 Sent in their wet and sobby condition to New York. 1854 Miss Baker *Northampt. Gloss.* s.v. *Sob*, The land is very sobby. 1887 *Scribner's Mag.* I. 416/2 The sobby earth of the graveyard.

So being, *conj.* Chiefly *Sc.* Also 6 sa beand, 9 saebein; 8 saebeins, 8–9 -biens, 9 -bins. [Elliptic for *it so being that*: see So *adv.* 3 d.]

1. = Sobeit 1.

1559 *Caldwell Papers* (Maitl. Cl.) I. 75 For ony occasione bygane or for to come, sa beand yᵉ samyn promoif nocht of hir self. 1637 Rutherford *Lett.* (1862) I. 226 We wᵈ all buy Christ, so being we might make price ourselves. 1870 J. K. Hunter *Life Studies Char.* 231 He would make her a lady, so-being she would join the teetotal society.

2. Seeing that; since.

1680 H. More *Apocal. Apoc.* 263 As the Dragon persecuted the Womans Seed,..so being he could not hinder her going into the Wilderness. 1725 Ramsay *Gentle Sheph.* I. i, Wha can help Misluck, Saebeins she be sic a thrawin-gabet Chuck? Yonder's a Craig. 1805 M'Indoe *Million of Potatoes* iv, But saebins this is auld term-day, The rent nae doubt ye'll gar us pay.

Sobeit (sōu·bĭ·it), *conj.* and *sb.* [Originally three words *so be it* (and still sometimes so written): see So *adv.* 3 d, and cf. Albeit, Howbeit.]

1. *conj.* Provided that; if; if only.

1583 Golding *Calvin on Deut.* cli. 38 b, Yet doeth hee not lay them to our Charge, sobeit that wee mislike of them. 1647 N. Bacon *Disc. Govt. Eng.* I. lix. (1739) 109 They might have anything, sobeit they would suffer him to enjoy his Crown. 1839 Longf. *Hyperion* II. ix, The heart of his friend cared little whither he went, so be it he were not too much alone.

2. *sb.* The exclamation 'So be it' (= let it be so).

1609 *Ev. Woman in Hum.* I. i. in Bullen *O. Pl.* IV, Thou answerest me an houre after..like to a Sexton with a Sobeit or Amen.

Sober (sōu·bəɹ), *a.* Forms: 4–6 sobre, sobur (6 *Sc.* sobor), 5 *Sc.* sobyre, -ire, 5–6 *Sc.* sobyr, -ir, 4– sober. [a. OF. *sobre* (so mod.F., = It., Sp., Pg. *sobrio*), ad. L. *sōbrius*, which expresses the opposite of *ēbrius* drunk: the ulterior etym. is doubtful. The French word is also the source of MDu. and Du., MLG. and LG. *sober.*]

Various senses of the word tend to pass into or involve each other, and it is frequently difficult to decide which of these was principally intended by the writer.

I. 1. Moderate, temperate, avoiding excess, in respect of the use of food and drink; not given to the indulgence of appetite.

1338 R. Brunne *Chron.* (1810) 311 Of Arthure men say.. he was..sobre & honest. 1340 *Ayenb.* 221 Sobre ine mete and ine drinke. 1390 Gower *Conf.* I. 11 Thurgh hem that thanne weren goode And sobre and chaste. *c* 1440 *Gesta Rom.* II. xxii. (Add. MS.), That we be sobre in mete and drynk, that we mowe come to everlastyng mede. 1530 Palsgr. 324/2 Sobre of mente and drinke, *sobre.* 1606 Chapman *Gentl. Usher* III, Shees as discreete a dame As any in these countries, and as sober, But for this onely humour of the cup. 1677 Horneck *Gt. Law Consid.* v. (1704) 246 How the sober nation many times conquers the more debauched and vicious.

b. Of diet, etc.: Moderate, temperate; characterized by the absence of excess or indulgence.

1382 Wyclif *Ecclus.* xxxi. 37 Helthe is of soule and of body, sobre drink. 1538 Starkey *England* II. ii. 179 You schal see veray few of sobur and temperat dyat, but they haue helthy and welthy bodys. 1551 T. Wilson *Logike* (1580) 35 Sober diet is good. 1629 Hinde *Y. Bruen* (1641) x. 33 And many other such naturall helpes may we use for our sober refreshing and delight. 1743 Francis tr. *Hor., Odes* I. xx. 4 The Vintage of the Sabine Grape, But yet in sober Cups, shall crown the Feast. 1797–1805 S. & Ht. Lee *Canterb. T.* I. 365 The sober cheer of which you have already partaken.

c. Similarly of conduct, inclination, etc.

1509 Fisher *Funeral Serm. C'tess Richmond* Wks. (1876) 293 Her sobre temperaunce in metes & drynkes. 1590 Spenser *F. Q.* II. ix. 1 Of all Gods workes..There is no one more faire and excellent Then is mans body,..Whiles it is kept in sober gouernment. 1746 Francis tr. *Hor., Sat.* II. iii. 8 When Saturn's jovial Feast Seem'd too luxuriant to your sober Taste, Hither you fled.

2. Not addicted to the use of strong drink; habitually temperate in, or abstaining from, the use of alcoholic liquor; abstemious.

1382 Wyclif *Titus* ii. 2 That olde men be sobre, chast. *c* 1386 Chaucer *Merch. T.* 1533 Men moste enquere.. Wher she be wys, or sobre, or dronkelewe. 1474 Caxton *Chesse* II. i. (1883) 21 That the dronken men shold be punysshyd And the sobre men preysed. 1706 E. Ward *Wooden World Diss.* (1708) 39 He reckons a sober Chaplain in the Navy, to be a down-right Nonconformist. 1729 Law *Serious Call* ii. (1732) 27 When she feels this intention she will find it as possible to act up to it, as to be strictly sober and chaste. 1815 Elphinstone *Acc. Caubul* (1842) II. 39 They are a sober people, and have none of the vices of the Eusofzyes. 1890 Besant *Demoniac* v. 50 A sober man himself, even a total abstainer.

transf. 1590 Sir J. Smyth *Disc. Conc. Weapons* Ded. 13 Archerie, which is the soberest exercise of all others to auoide drunkennes and other euills.

b. Of things: Not intoxicating.

a 1795 Cowper *Moralizer Corrected* 10 The sober cordial of sweet air.

3. Free from the influence of intoxicating liquor; not intoxicated; not drunk. Also *fig.*

1387 Trevisa *Higden* (Rolls) III. 443, I appele..from Alisaundre þe dronke to Alisaundre þe sobre. 1387–8 T. Usk *Test. Love* III. viii. (Skeat) I. 48 Right as whan any person taketh willing to be sobre, and throweth that away, willing to be dronke. 1560 Daus tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 339 Thou sobre [L. *sobrius*] hast medled not only with thy Nece, but also with thy Sister and daughter. 1596 Shaks. *Merch. V.* I. ii. 93 Very vildely in the morning when hee is sober, and most vildely in the afternoone when hee is drunke. *a* 1637 B. Jonson *Goodwife's Ale* in *Athenæum* (1904) 1 Oct., You easily may guesse I am not quite Growne sober yett by these poore lines I wright. 1691 Hartcliffe *Virtues* 73 They thought, their Counsels might want Vigour, when they were sober, as well as Caution, when they had drank. 1782 Miss Burney *Cecilia* VIII. i, 'What little dog, Sir?' cried Delville, who now began to conclude he was not sober. 1828 Scott *F. M. Perth* xv, He is as sober as sleep can make him, after a deep drink. 1885 *Christ. World* 15 Jan. 38/5 The Heathen Chinee..is generally civil and always sober.

fig. 1390 Gower *Conf.* III. 16 Than schalt thou have a lusti drauhte And waxe of lovedrunke sobre.

transf. 1548 Udall, etc. *Erasm. Par. Acts* ii. 10 This was the sobre fulnesse of swete wine. 1831 Scott *Cast. Dang.* v, The sober hours of the morning.

†**b.** Fasting. *Obs.*—[1]

1535 Coverdale *Dan.* vi. 18 The kynge wente in to his palace, and kepte him sober all night, so that there was no table spred before him.

II. 4. Of demeanour, speech, etc.: Grave, serious, solemn; indicating or implying a serious mind or purpose.

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* A. 532 He..sayde to hem with sobre soun, 'Wy stonde ȝe ydel þise dayez longe?' 1390 Gower *Conf.* III. 64 Sche him axeth..Fro whenne he cam, and what he wolde, And he with sobre wordes tolde. *c* 1400 *Pilgr. Sowle* v. x. (Caxton, 1483) 101 Pacyence come pryckyng with a sobre chere and hitte Ire in the helme. *c* 1450 in Aungier *Syon* (1840) 320 Ther songe schal be sadde, sober, ande symple withe out brekyng of notes, and gay relesynge. 1514 Barclay *Cyt. & Uplondyshman* (Percy Soc.) 16 Tell forthe thy sentence, And I shall here the with sobre pacyence. *a* 1548 Hall *Chron., Edw. IV*, 40 To do his message..bothe with a bolde countenaunce, and a sober demeanure. 1600 Shaks. *A. Y. L.* v. ii. 76 *Orl.* Speak'st thou in sober meanings? *Ros.* By my life I do. 1633 P. Fletcher *Purple Isl.* XI. ix, The Islands King with sober countenance Aggrates the Knights, who thus his right defended. 1697 Dryden *Æneid* I. 219 He sooths with sober words their angry mood.

b. In the phrases *in sober earnest* or †*sadness.*

Skelton *Magnyf.* 682 uses *Sober Sadnesse* as a name.

1593 [see Sadness 2 b]. 1615 Bedwell *Moham. Impost.* III. § 108, I say..in sober sadnes, that thou and all such.. ought to obserue it well. 1667 Poole *Dial. between Protest. & Papist* (1735) 181 In sober Sadness, it is enough to make any serious Christian abhor your Church. 1836 Pusey in Liddon *Life* (1893) I. xviii. 425 In sober earnest, I wish that we could have given you more time to think about it. 1865 Tylor *Early Hist. Man.* i. 8, I have been

startled by hearing it..urged in sober earnest very far outside the range of savage life.

5. Quiet or sedate in demeanour; of grave, dignified, or discreet deportment; serious or staid in character or conduct.

1362 LANGL. *P. Pl.* A. XI. 121 Þenne schaltou seo Sobre And Symple-of-speche. *c* 1393 CHAUCER *Gentilesse* 9 Truwe of his worde, sobur, pitous, and fre. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 3791 Ulexes..was..Sad of his semblaundes, sober of chere. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* III. 308 Perseys war trew,..Sobyr in pes, and cruell in battaill. 1509 HAWES *Past. Pleas.* XVI. (Percy Soc.) 75 Be ye pacyent and sobre in mode. 1553 T. WILSON *Rhet.* 66 A yonge chylde as sober as a man of fiftye yeres. 1596 SHAKS. *Merch. V.* III. ii. 78 What damned error, but some sober brow Will blesse it? 1632 MILTON *Penseroso* 32 Com pensive Nun, devout and pure, Sober, stedfast, and demure. 1693 tr. *Blancard's Phys. Dict.* (ed. 2), *Medicus*, a Physician, a Man highly skilful in the art of Physick, modest, sober and courteous. 1722 DE FOE *Relig. Courtsh.* I. ii. (1840) 43, I would have been the soberest, gravest, young fellow, that ever you saw in your life. 1833 HT. MARTINEAU *Brooke Farm* ix. 109 So sober in her manner, that no one set about guessing whom she would marry. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* vii. II. 253 Sober people predicted that a girl of so little..delicacy would not easily find a husband. 1860 WARTER *Sea-board* II. 446 Some of the sermon talk, a sober crowd.

b. Of bearing, movement, etc.: Showing no trace of haste, impatience, or the like.

c 1350 *Will. Palerne* 4988 Semblant made he sobur so as it him paide, but..in hert it liked him wel ille. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xix. (*Christopher*) 361 Cristofore þan of sobyre wil rase, & sad þame sone till: 'frendis, tell me quhat 3e seke!' 1597 SHAKS. *2 Hen. IV*, IV. iii. 86 Our Newes shall goe before vs,..And wee with sober speede will follow you. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* II. 380 Legions..move to meet their Foes with sober Pace. 1814 SCOTT *Lord of Isles* VI. xvi, Pacing back his sober way, Slowly he gain'd his own array.

6. Of natural forces (†animals), etc.: Quiet, gentle, peaceful.

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XVIII. xcix. (Bodl. MS.), Whan he is tyed to a fige tree he leueþ al his fersenes & is sodenlich sobre. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 2009 The se wex sober ..., Stormes were stille. *c* 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* I. 1031 A sobur brook amydde or ellis a welle. *c* 1500 *Lancelot* 2477 The soft dew one fra the hewyne doune valis..And throw the sobir and the mwst hwmouris Vp nurisit ar the erbis. 1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* II. 242 Thay sayled with a sober and safte wind. *a* 1605 MONTGOMERIE *Cherrie & Slae* 43 (Wreittoun), The aire was sober, soft and sweet. 1662 CHANDLER *Van Helmont's Oriat.* 117 Sober rains are great with young of dew. *a* 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew, Scotch nisi*, a sober, soaking Rain. 1821 CLARE *Vill. Minstr.* I. 14 As sober evening sweetly siles along.

b. Of actions: Free from harshness or violence.

1455 in *Charters*, etc. *Edinb.* (1871) 81 He salbe arrestit in sobir maner as said is. 1456 SIR G. HAYE *Law Arms* (S.T.S.) 185 He salbe content of thair sobir and gracious governaunce. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VIII*, 19 Thei by sobre meanes and gentle exhortation brought all the souldiers to the campe.

7. Of living, etc.: Characterized by temperance, moderation, or seriousness.

1552 *Bk. Com. Prayer, Gen. Conf.*, A godly, righteous, and sobre lyfe. 1565-6 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* I. 418 Sanctandrois, quhair he wes in sobir and quiet maner, belevand to haif levit at Goddis peace. *a* 1629 HINDE *S. Bruen* iii. 10 Sober and single dancing of men apart. 1726 DE FOE *Hist. Devil* I. ix. (1840) 102 He led a very religious and sober life. 1781 COWPER *Hope* 129 Men..Live to no sober purpose, and contend That their Creator had no serious end. 1810 CRABBE *Borough* xi. 186 A pious friend, who with the ancient dame At sober cribbage takes an evening game. 1825 SCOTT *Talism.* vii, The dog..looked as if he were ashamed that anything should have moved him to depart so far out of his sober self-control.

b. Of a book: Serious, moral.

1844 MRS. HOUSTON *Yacht Voy. Texas* I. 48 Reading their Prayer Books, or some sober book from the ship's library.

8. Of a temperate or moderate disposition; not readily excited or carried away; of a calm, dispassionate judgement.

1564 *Brief Exam.* 7* The sagest and sobrest in this common wealth..conceyue a better opinion of them. 1662 STILLINGFL. *Orig. Sacræ* III. iv. § 13 It is the constant acknowledgement of all sober inquirers into the original of the Greeks. 1685 WOOD *Life* 12 Aug., The phanatiques (nay, some sober men) thinke that this army..is to bring in popery. 1728 *Free-thinker* No. 77, His very Attempts..are sufficient to make sober Men dread the fatal Consequences. 1776 ADAM SMITH *W. N.* II. iv. (1869) I. 360 Sober people.., would not venture into the competition. 1834 H. MILLER *Scenes & Leg.* xi. (1857) 157 The many soberer dreamers who were led to interpret amiss a surer word of prophecy. 1860 FARRAR *Orig. Lang.* ii. 38 Some of the most profound and sober intellects in Europe. *a* 1862 BUCKLE *Civiliz.* (1873) III. v. 392 The sober and patient spirit of the English intellect.

b. Not desirous of great things or high estate; humble, unambitious.

1659 HAMMOND *On Ps.* xxxix. 7. 210 Fit to be the matter of a sober mans ambition. 1750 GRAY *Elegy* 74 Far from the madding crowd's ignoble strife, Their sober wishes never learn'd to stray. 1790 BURNS *Ballad Dumfries Election* 132 The Robin in the hedge descends, And sober chirps securely.

9. Of colour, dress, etc.: Subdued in tone; not glaring, gay, or showy; neutral-tinted.

1596 SHAKS. *Tam. Shr.* I. ii. 132 Now shal my friend.. offer me disguis'd in sober robes..as a schoole-master. 1603 KNOLLES *Hist. Turks* (1621) 832 Hungarians..attired in long sober garments of very fine purple cloth. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* IV. 599 Twilight gray Had in her sober Liverie all things clad. 1781 COWPER *Charity* 262 Ev'ning in her sober vest Drew the grey curtain of the fading west. 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* i, Till the shadows of twilight melted its various features into one tint of sober gray. 1856 STANLEY *Sinai & Pal.* ii. 139 This contrast between the brilliant colours of the flowers and the sober hue of the rest of the landscape. 1885 SWAINSON *Prov. Names Birds* 195 The sober tints of its feathers in winter. *transf.* 1814 *Sporting Mag.* XLIII. 258 His palet is sober and clean, his pencil animated.

b. Unexciting or uneventful; dull.

1838 PRESCOTT *Ferd. & Isab.* I. Pref. p. xiv, The many sober hours I have passed in wading through black-letter tomes. 1860 HAWTHORNE *Marble Faun* (1879) II. xii. 127 That life of sober week days.

10. Free from extravagance or excess.

1607 SHAKS. *Timon* III. v. 21 With such sober and vnnoted passion He did behooue his anger ere 'twas spent. 1794 BURKE *Duration of Parliaments* Wks. II. 484 So was Rome destroyed by the disorders of continual elections, though those of Rome were sober disorders. 1852 TENNYSON *Ode Wellington* 164 That sober freedom out of which there springs Our loyal passion for our temperate kings. 1856 MACAULAY *Goldsm., Misc. Writ.* (1882) 303/2 The mirth of the 'Goodnatured Man' was sober when compared with the rich drollery of 'She Stoops to Conquer'.

b. Moderate, sensible; free from exaggeration; not fanciful or imaginative.

1619 GORGES tr. *Bacon's De Sap. Vet.* 141 We must therefore with a sober and humble iudgement distinguish betweene humanitie and diuinitie. 1674 BREVINT *Saul at Endor* 115 They who will speak at a soberer rate, compare the Virgin to the Moon. 1771 FLETCHER *Checks* Wks. 1795 II. 260 An expression which may be used in a sober, gospel sense of the words. 1781 COWPER *Conversat.* 65 Ev'n when sober truth prevails throughout, They swear it, till affirmance breeds a doubt. 1845 HORNE *Introd. Script.* (ed. 5) II. App. VI. 788 The notes..give a *sober* but practical and evangelical exposition of the allegory. 1889 JESSOPP *Coming of Friars* iv. 169 How much or how little of sober fact there may be in those thrilling incidents..it is impossible to say.

11. Guided by sound reason; sane, rational:

†**a.** Of persons. *Obs.*

1638 R. BAKER tr. *Balzac's Lett.* (vol. II) 24 They have painted mee..a mad man amongst the sober. 1657 R. CARPENTER *Astrol.* Ded., In a Bedlam-house the mad People have their sober Keepers. 1690 LOCKE *Hum. Und.* II. XXVII. (1695) 186 Humane Laws not punishing the Mad Man for the Sober Man's Actions. 1786 BOSWELL *Jrnl. Tour Hebrides* (ed. 3) 213 Mad all his life, at least not sober,

b. Of the mind, discourse, etc.

1651 HOBBES *Leviath.* I. viii. 36 If some man in Bedlam should entertaine you with sober discourse. 1672 SIR T. BROWNE *Let. Friend* § 22 [They are] content to think they dye in good understanding, and in their sober senses. 1729 BUTLER *Serm.* Wks. 1874 II. 86 He was..in a state of mind sober enough to consider death and his last end. 1842 LOVER *Handy Andy* xliv, While the people in their sober senses..were taken in, the old lunatic..could look down and see [etc.].

III. 12. Of things: Small, insignificant, slight; paltry, trifling, poor. Chiefly *Sc.* ? *Obs.*

c 1440 *Alph. Tales* 228 He wrote vnto hym & said at he had done hym a litle sober trispas. 1523 *State Papers, Hen. VIII* (1836) IV. 24 To breke the Chauncellour..fro the Governour, whiche Your Grace think wold bee doone with a sober thing. *a* 1578 LINDESAY (Pitscottie) *Chron. Scot.* (S.T.S.) I. 35 Sober goodis and geir with peace and concord growis ay mair and mair to great substance. 1602 CAMPION *Art Eng. Poesie* 27 He..only makes Th' earth his sober Inne, but still heau'n his home. 1629 SIR W. MURE *True Crucifixe* 2340 His greatest wealth a sober seamelesse coate. 1643 MILTON *Divorce* II. xvi, When they cannot reap the sobrest ends of being together in any tolerable sort. 1796 *Statist. Acc. Scott.* XVII. 343 It requires the utmost exertion of his industry..to..afford a maintenance, *very sober indeed*, to his family.

†**b.** Moderate or few in number. *Obs.*

1513 MORE *Rich. III* (1883) 15 The Queenes frendes.. broughte the Kynge vppe..with a sober coumpanye. 1548 W. PATTEN *Exped. Scotl.* E vij, We..ar here now but with a sobre cumpenie. [*Margin.*] Sober, is the proper terme whearby the Scottes doo signifie smal, litle, easy, or slender. 1581 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* III. 420 Thair being sober nowmer of personis thairon.

13. *Sc.* Of persons: † **a.** Of low degree; humble, mean; of little importance or dignity. *Obs.*

1533 BELLENDEN *Livy* IV. xvi. (S.T.S.) II. 107, I am bot ane sobir knicht of romane armye. 1565 *Extr. Burgh Rec. Aberd.* (1844) I. 361 Of euery mariage, xviij d. of honest or reche folkis, and xij d. of sobir folkis. *a* 1578 LINDESAY (Pitscottie) *Chron. Scot.* (S.T.S.) I. 87 The iniurieis done to ony of them or the soberest of theme.

b. Of little use or worth.

1808 JAMIESON s.v., *A sober servant*, a very indifferent one.

c. In poor health; not very well.

1808 JAMIESON s.v., *Very sober*, ailing a good deal. 1888 in *Eng. Dial. Dict.*

IV. 14. *Comb.*, chiefly parasynthetic, as *sober-blooded, -clad, -disposed, -hued*, etc.; also *sober-like, -sad, -wise*.

1597 SHAKS. *2 Hen. IV*, IV. iii. 94 This same young *sober-blooded Boy doth not loue me. 1892 T. WRIGHT *Blue Firedrake* i, A replica of his own starched, sober-minded and *sober-clad self. 1775 S. J. PRATT *Liberal Opin.* xiv. (1783) I. 125 To the great annoyance of many *sober disposed people of the parish. 1867 AUGUSTA WILSON *Vashti* xxxiv, To-day all *sober-hued reflections were exorcised. 1592 WYRLEY *Armorie* 117 He..backe his fighters drue Full *soberlike rash perils to eschue. 1863 HAWTHORNE *Our Old Home* 77 A *sober-paced pedestrian. 1593 SHAKS. *Lucr.* 1542 So *sober-sad, so weary, and so mild. *c* 1614 SYLVESTER *Micro-cosm.* 374 If sober-sad, Merry Greeks mee Meacok call. 1647 CROMWELL in Stainer *Sp.* (1901) 44 Every *sober-spirited man. 1592 SHAKS. *Rom. & Jul.* III. ii. 11 Come ciuill night, Thou *sober suted Matron all in blacke. 1727-46 THOMSON *Summer* 746 The sober-suited songstress trills her lay. 1842 TENNYSON *You ask me why* 6 It is the land..That sober-suited Freedom chose. 1850 W. COLLINS *Antonina* iv, The *sober-tinted trees. *a* 1591 H. SMITH *Wks.* (1866) I. 471 He..teacheth them here not to be overwise, but *sober-wise. *a* 1618 SYLVESTER *Little Bartas* 1053 Wks. (Grosart) II. 94 Sound is the soule, which resteth (sober-wise) Content in Thee.

Sober (sōu·bəɹ), *v.* Forms: 4-6 **sobre**, 4- **sober** (5 **soberyn**), 4 **sobur** (5 **sobor**), 4-5 **sobir** (5 **sobyr**). [f. SOBER *a.* Cf. late L. *sōbriāre* to make sober, OF. *sobrier* to live soberly.]

I. *trans.* **1.** To reduce to a quiet or gentle condition; to appease, pacify.

c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* x. (*Matthew*) 443 [He] gat be-for þam þat ware wrathe, & sobryt þam. *c* 1430 LYDG. *Min. Poems* (Percy Soc.) 206 Sobre and appeese suche folk as falle in furye. *c* 1440 *Alph. Tales* 193 Sho sayd: 'Dere Son! Meng þi rightwusnes with mercie!'..And þan hur Son was soberd & sayd [etc.]. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 347/2 To *Sobyr, mitigare, placare*. 1535 STEWART *Cron. Scot.* II. 341 With Pecht and Saxone first he hes maid peice, All outwart weir to sober and gar ceiss.

b. To moderate, quieten (one's feelings), by the exercise of self-control. Also *refl.*

1390 GOWER *Conf.* III. 332 With that he sobreth his corage And put awey his hevy chiere. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 3379 Ses now of sorowe, sobur þi chere. *c* 1430 *Syr Gener.* (Roxb.) 7626 Sobre youre hert, ma dame, I you besech. 1530 PALSGR. 724/1, I sober my selfe, I asswage myn anger.

c. *refl.* To keep (oneself) temperate.

1530 PALSGR. 724/2 He can sober hym selfe in his dyete the best that ever I sawe.

2. To render grave or serious.

1726 POPE *Odyss.* XXI. 322 They..sent him sober'd home, with better wit. 1823 RUTTER *Fonthill* 40 Sobered almost into a religious feeling, by the oratory and its concomitants. 1854 THOREAU *Walden* XV. (1863) 299 Sobered into silence by the mystery. 1888 BRYCE *Amer. Commw.* III. lxxxvii. 161 Citizens who have been born to power..are sobered by their privileges.

b. To render less glaring or conspicuous.

1843 RUSKIN *Arrows of Chace* (1880) I. 6 Your critic has not allowed for the effect of time on its blues. They are now, indeed, sobered and brought down.

3. To make sober; to free from intoxication.

1709 POPE *Ess. Crit.* 218 Shallow draughts intoxicate the brain, And drinking largely sobers us again. 1743 FRANCIS tr. *Horace, Odes* I. XXXVII. 19 Her, with Egyptian Wine inspir'd,..Augustus sober'd into Tears. 1865 *Pall Mall G.* 23 Oct. 9 Bread and cheese and vinegar to sober A. B.

4. To bring *down* to a sober condition in some respect.

1838 T. MITCHELL *Aristoph. Clouds* 99 We shall not be surprised to find this fanciful system sobered down into the following observation. 1853 KANE *Grinnell Exp.* XXXIII. (1856) 284 Her light mingles so with the twilight of the sun that the stars are quite sobered down. 1877 O. W. HOLMES *How not to settle it* 18 At times when..solemn speeches sober down a dinner.

II. *intr.* **5.** To become sober, in various senses. Also with *off*.

1820 SCOTT *Monast.* iv, That was very natural;..but ye hae sobered since that. 1879 G. MACDONALD *P. Faber* II. i. 6 The colour sobered, but the glory grew. 1891 TUCKLEY *Under the Queen* 244 This gives the topers time to sober off after the heavy siege of the night before.

6. To settle or quieten *down* in some respect.

1825 SCOTT *Betrothed* Concl., The ecstasy of delight sobered down into a sort of tranquil wonder. 1844 DICKENS *Mart. Chuz.* viii, Merry is a little giddy, but she'll sober down in time. 1886 *Field* 4 Sept. 349/1 Many a horse who will sober down if struck severely once only, will get furious if the punishment is repeated.

Hence **So·bered** *ppl. a.*; **So·berer**; **So·bering** *vbl. sb.* and *ppl. a.*

1794 SOUTHEY *Botany Bay Ecl., Frederic* 60 The hollow howl..Comes with no terror to the *sober'd sense. 1843 RUSKIN *Mod. Paint.* I. 109 Such a sobered high light. 1883 *Harper's Mag.* July 212/2 Breathless hung the sobered throng On the magic of the song. *a* 1849 MANGAN *Poems* (1859) 80 Soother and *soberer of the spirit's fever. *a* 1510 DOUGLAS *K. Hart* 238 His wound to wesche, in *sobering of his sair. 1884 *Pall Mall G.* 1 Aug. 3/3 An enterprising American has initiated a new system of what is called.. 'sobering-up'. 1831 *Society* I. 286 The cogitations of the Countess had not been without their *sobering effect on her temper. 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xii. III. 146 Tidings of a very sobering nature had just reached him.

Soberize (sōu·bərəiz), *v.* [f. SOBER *a.* + -IZE.]

1. *trans.* To make sober, in various senses. Also *absol.*

1706 E. WARD *Hud. Rediv.* (1707) II. VII. 16 Nor is the Cant of Moderation Design'd to soberrize the Nation. 1748 RICHARDSON *Clarissa* (1811) IV. XXXVI. 245 The instant I beheld her I was soberized into awe and reverence. 1798 ANNA SEWARD *Lett.* (1811) V. 176 The ensuing stanza, though soberized, is very good. 1819 CRABBE *Tales of Hall* vi. 387, I was thankful for the moral sight, That soberized the vast and wild delight. 1867 *Morning Star* 12 Mar., Much soberised in mind, most of them have returned to Cork.

2. *intr.* To become sober.

1831 *Fraser's Mag.* III. 67 He..emptied his bottle,.. sowed his wild oats,..soberized.

Hence **So·berized**, **So·berizing** *ppl. adjs.*

1840 LADY BURY *Hist. of a Flirt* viii, A quiet soberized look. 1860 MISS F. R. HAVERGAL *Autobiogr.* in *Life* (1880) 88 A soberizing thoughtful time.

Soberly (sōu·bəɹli), *adv.* Also 4 **sobreliche**, **-lyche**, 5 **sobirliche**; 4-6 **soburly** (4 **-li**), **sobirly** (6 **-lie**), **soberlie** (6 **-lye**), etc. [f. SOBER *a.* + -LY 2. Cf. MDu. *soberlike* (Du. *-lijk*);

MLG. *soberliken*.] In a sober manner, in various senses of the adj.

1. Gravely, seriously, quietly; without any sign of excitement, impatience, or other strong feeling.

(*a*) 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* A. 256 Soberly after þenne con ho say. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Frankl. T.* 857 This Philosophre sobrely answerde. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 248 When Pelleus his proses hade..soburly said with a sad wille. *c* 1440 *Alph. Tales* 44 On þe morn..he com vnto þis Crasippus & tolde hym soberlie of his anger. 1535 STEWART *Cron. Scot.* I. 544 The man that had the hound in cuir..Than soberlie askit agane the hound. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Edw. IV*, 45 The kyng of England..aunswered to his wordes so soberly, so grauely, and so princely. 1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* III. 80 [He asked me] where was my money? to whom I soberly answered, I had no more then he saw.

(*b*) 1382 WYCLIF *Gen.* xxxii. 22 Whanne sobirly [L. *mature*] he was arysun. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Shipman's T.* 255 Daun Johan sobrely This chapman took on-part, and prively Sayd him thus. *c* 1425 LYDG. *Assembly of Gods* 802 With countenaunce demure he roode full soburly. 1456 SIR G. HAYE *Law Arms* (S.T.S.) 186 Thai maid offer to passe sobirly and curtaisly. 1508 DUNBAR *Gold. Targe* 130 Ladyes to dance full sobirly assayit. 1595 *Locrine* IV. ii, My wife soberly sate rocking my little babie. 1606 SHAKS. *Ant. & Cl.* I. v. 48 So he nodded, And soberly did mount an Arme-gaunt Steede. 1707 MORTIMER *Husb.* (1721) I. 206 By being acquainted with their Keeper, and being soberly handled, you may with ease remove them from one Pasture to another. 1820 KEATS *Isabella* xx, Then the tale Shall move on soberly, as it is meet. 1884 *Manch. Exam.* 21 Nov. 5/3 To keep the debate soberly within narrow channels.

(*c*) 1589 *Pappe w. Hatchet* (1844) 35 If thou wilt deale soberlie without scoffes, thou shalt be answered grauely without iests. 1594 T. B. *La Primaud. Fr. Acad.* II. 519 This is a matter then of which wee must speake very soberly, and with great reuerence of God. 1684 B. HALE *Pref. Contempl. State Man* p. iii, I have soberly consider'd these Holy and Devout Contemplations. 1689 LOCKE *Govt.* II. ii, As he soberly judges the case to require. 1781 COWPER *Conversat.* 667 That disease, when soberly defin'd, Is the false fire of an o'erheated mind. 1832 HT. MARTINEAU *Life in Wilds* i. 8 That they would deliberate soberly. 1841 *Nonconformist* I. 2 It becomes dissenters..soberly to set about it.

b. In all seriousness; with full conviction.

1579 W. WILKINSON *Confut. Fam. Love* 16, H N. affirmeth very soberly as it seemeth that the Elders of his broode are illuminated. 1695 KENNETT *Par. Antiq.* ix. 61 Agreeable to the faith of that age, miracles were soberly reported of him.

c. Without extravagance or excess.

1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* ii. I. 231 The cruelties of Mary's reign..which were neither accurately nor soberly related in the popular martyrologies. 1861 LD. BROUGHAM *Brit. Const.* ix. 119 But these rights [of public meeting] must be soberly and moderately exercised.

2. With moderation in respect of natural appetites; temperately.

1340 *Ayenb.* 248 Hire uor to wyne and habbe, me ssel libbe sobreliche ine þise wordle. *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (Roxb.) xxxii. 144 þai liffe so temperately and so soberly in meet and drink. *c* 1430 *Pilgr. Lyf Manhode* I. xix. (1869) 14 Ye muste ete and drinke more sobirliche than oother folk. 1538 STARKEY *England* I. ii. 33 Yf men wold gouerne themselfe soburly by temperat dyat, then physycyonys were not to be requyryd. 1600 NASHE *Summer's Last Will* 278 The silly beasts..will rather fall soberly to those thistles..then they will offer to breake their bounds. 1717 POPE *Iliad* IX. 290 Then each..His thirst and hunger soberly repress'd. 1882 *Med. Temp. Jrnl.* 146 They were..as soberly disposed a body of young men as one would wish to see.

3. In a poor, humble, or simple manner. ? *Obs.*

1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) IV. 79 þe childe..seide þat he coupe lyve soberliche, and þat lasse cost wolde doo his nede. 1533 BELLENDEN *Livy* Prol. (S.T.S.) I. 2, I will assay How sobirly begouth þe romane blude. ?*a* 1550 *Freiris Berwik* 226 in *Dunbar's Poems* (1893) 293 [That we] Sobirly our selffis dois sustene.

† 4. Quietly, gently, in respect of motion.

1477 NORTON *Ordin. Alch.* v. in Ashm. (1652) 85 Whereby Water maie soberly flowe, For violent Fluxes be perilous as nowe. 1660 F. BROOKE tr. *Le Blanc's Trav.* 251 This branch of Tacassin..towards Amina..runs soberly enough.

5. Not brightly or garishly.

1820 W. IRVING *Sketch Bk.* I. 263 It was soberly lighted by a row of Gothic windows.

Sober-minded, *a.* [SOBER *a.* 14.]

1. Of a sober mind; temperate; self-controlled; rational; sensible. Also *absol.*

1534 TINDALE *Titus* ii. 4 To make the younge wemen sobremynded. *Ibid.* 6 Yonge men lykwyse exhorte that they be sobre mynded. 1642 MILTON *Apol. Smect.* Wks. 1851 III. 279 To teach and convince the rationall and sober-minded. 1766 FORDYCE *Serm. Yng. Women* (1767) I. iii. 110 Women well-bred and sober-minded at the same time. 1838 *Penny Cycl.* XII. 306/1 The views of some of the modern and more sober-minded zoologists. 1876 BANCROFT *Hist. U. S.* III. xvi. 493 'We will die upon the place first,' declared even the sober-minded.

2. Characterized by soberness of mind.

1815 SCOTT *Guy M.* xlvii, Her words..were..too vehement and extravagant for sober-minded communication. 1870 L'ESTRANGE *Life Miss Mitford* I. v. 162 A purpose which, I think, was extremely sober minded and praiseworthy.

Hence **Sober-mindedness**, sobriety of mind; prudent self-control, moderation.

1767 PORTEUS *Serm. bef. Univ. Cambr.* 5 July 7 To induce habits of modesty, humility, temperance, frugality, obedience; in one word, *Sober-mindedness*. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* i. I. 137 A despotism, moderated only by.. the sobermindedness [1858 sobriety], and the magnanimity of the despot. 1875 FARRAR *Seekers after God* II. i. 198 Now sober-mindedness invites us.

† **Sobermood.** *Obs.* [f. SOBER *a.* + MOOD *sb.*] Sober-mindedness; sobriety of demeanour.

1553 GRIMALDE *Cicero's Offices* III. (1558) 165 b, Semelinesse, measurekeping, sobermode, stayednesse, and temperaunce. 1561 T. HOBY tr. *Castiglione's Courtyer* ii. (1900) 112 Fearcenesse seemeth the greater whan it is accompanied with sobermoode. 1593 G. HARVEY *Pierce's Super.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 295 He had..such a sober-moode, as might ripen the greenest witt.

Soberness (sōʊ·bəɹnės). [f. SOBER *a.* + -NESS.] The state or character of being sober; sobriety:

a. In respect of the appetites.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 27408 Gains glotory [is assigned] soburnes o mete. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Pars. T.* ¶ 834 Sobrenesse also, that restreyneth the outrage of drinke. 14.. *Tundale's Vis.* 1869 Thay..kepte hir bodyes ay fre From lechery in chastite, And thay loved soburnes ay. 1509 BARCLAY *Shyp of Folys* (1570) 258 By sobernes subduing their sensualitie. 1530 TINDALE *Answ. More* 8 The soberness and chastising of the members. 1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), *Sobriety* or *Soberness*, a Vertue by which one abstains from eating and drinking more than is requisite. 1780 *Mirror* No. 73, Habits of virtue and soberness. 1861 RUFFINI *Dr. Antonio* ii, Owing to the care and proverbial soberness of the postilions.

b. In respect of demeanour, actions, etc.

c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* x. (*Matthew*) 444 [He] sobryt þam ..vith softnes & vith sobrenes. 1382 WYCLIF *Rom.* xii. 3 To not sauere..more than it behoueth for to kunne, but for to kunne to sobrenesse. 1463 G. ASHBY *Prisoner's Refl.* 302 With humylyte and soburnes. *c* 1470 *Rauf Coilzear* 525 Lat se how we may disseuer with sobernes aneuch. 1528 MORE *Dyalogue* III. Wks. 233/2 Yᵉ hole byble was long before his dayes..with deuocion & sobrenes wel and reuerently red. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. V*, 1 Turnyng insolencie and wyldnes into grauitie and sobernes. 1648 FAIRFAX, etc. *Remonstrance* 6 In all humblenesse and sobernesse of minde. 1784 COWPER *Task* II. 480 He would not stoop To conquer those by jocular exploits, Whom truth and soberness assail'd in vain. 1825 COBBETT *Rural Rides* 232, I.. stood still,..looking, in silent soberness, into the window.

† **Sobersault.** *Obs.* In 6 soubersawte, 7 sobresault, sobersalt. [ad. F. *soubresaut*, †-*sault*, ad. Prov. *sobresaut*, = Sp. *sobresalto*, f. L. *suprā* above + *saltus* leap.] A somersault.

c 1530 LD. BERNERS *Arth. Lyt. Bryt.* (1814) 248 Than came forth juglers..& tomblers wyth theyr soubersawtes. 1611 COTGR., *Soubresault*, a Sobresault, or Summer sault. *a* 1625 FLETCHER *Woman's Prize* III. ii, What a sobersalt When the chaire fell she fetchd, with her heels upward.

Sobersides (sōʊ·bəɹsəi·dz). [f. SOBER *a.*] A sedate, serious-minded person. Also *transf.*

1705 HICKERINGILL *Priest-cr.* IV. Wks. 1716 III. 225 And he said—Nay; or, no, no, Sober-sides, no. 1824 MACTAGGART *Gallovid. Encycl.* 430 *Sobersides*, a creature of sober habits. 1846 MRS. GORE *Engl. Charac.* (1852) 85 The mamma naturally takes part with the Sobersides who has so much sympathy with her rheumatism. 1857 DUFFERIN *Lett. High Lat.* (ed. 3) 221 Innumerable sea-birds sat in the crevices..There was one old sober-sides with whom I passed a good ten minutes tête-à-tête. 1878 SPURGEON *Serm.* XXIV. 252 They say, 'Oh, you old sobersides, how grave you are!'

Hence **So·ber-sided** *a.*

1847 MRS. GORE *Castles in Air* x, After that sober-sided fellow..filled him with qualms that ruined his digestion.

† **So·berty.** *Obs.* Forms: 4 sobretee, 4–5 -te, sober-, sobirte (5 sobirtee) [a. OF. *sobreté*, *soberté*: see SOBER *a.* and -TY.] Sobriety.

1303 R. BRUNNE *Handl. Synne* 5972 þou..madest hym drunk,..And he solde hys þyng to þe More þan he wulde yn soberte. 1340 *Ayenb.* 248 Sobrete is a traw wel precious. 1377 LANGL. *P. Pl. B.* XIII. 217 þanne had pacience..Sobrete, and symple speche and sothfaste byleue. *c* 1430 *Pilgr. Lyf Manhode* I. CXX. (1869) 62 Sobirtee it hatteth in this cuntre, and also ouer see. 1483 CAXTON *Cato* b vj b, Thus sobrete chaseth the deuyl fro the man.

Sobole, Anglicized form of next. *rare*–°.

1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1068/1.

‖ **Soboles** (sɒ·bolīz). *Bot.* Also as pl. [L. *sobolēs*, *subolēs*, f. *sub* under + **olēre* to grow.]

† 1. A shoot, a sprout. *Obs.*

a 1722 LISLE *Husb.* (1757) 138, I..observed a new pearly brood of soboles at the root of the said winter-shoot. *Ibid.* 245 Through the center of which tufts the new soboles are formed, and issue out.

2. A creeping underground stem.

1832 LINDLEY *Introd. Bot.* 55 The Creeping stem..(*soboles*). [*Ibid.* 56 The term soboles is applied by Link and De Candolle to the sucker of trees and shrubs.] 1858 A. IRVINE *Handbk. Brit. Plants* 7 The soboles is entirely underground, producing roots at one end, and leaves at the other.

Soboli·ferous, *a. Bot.* [ad. mod.L. *soboliferus*: see prec. and -FEROUS.] Bearing shoots.

1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s.v. *Aloe*, The soboliferous American Aloe. 1857 A. GRAY *First Less. Bot.* 231 *Soboliferous*, bearing shoots from near the ground. 1879 — *Struct. Bot.* Gloss. 433 *Soboliferous*, bearing vigorous lithe shoots.

‖ **Sobralia** (sɒbrā·liă). *Bot.* [f. the name of the Spanish physician and botanist, F. M. *Sobral*.] A genus of orchids; a plant belonging to this genus.

1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1068/1 *Sobralia*, one of the genera of orchids of the tribe *Vanillidæ*. 1882 *Garden* 9 Dec. 508/3 The Sobralias are Central American Orchids.

‖ **Sobre-vest.** *rare.* [ad. Sp. *sobrevesta*.] An upper coat without sleeves.

1847 PRESCOTT *Peru* IV. ii. II. 107 The colour of the sobre-vest on his armour. *Ibid.* vi. 211 He had made himself conspicuous by a rich sobrevest of white velvet over his armour.

Sobriety (sɒbrəi·Ʌti). Also 5–7 sobrietie, 6 sobritie (?). [ad. F. *sobriété* (= It. *sobrietà*, Sp. *sobriedad*, Pg. *sobriedade*), or L. *sōbrietas*, f. *sōbrius* SOBER *a.*]

1. The quality of being sober or moderate in the indulgence of appetite; *spec.* moderation in the use of strong drink.

1401 *Pol. Poems* (Rolls) II. 32 The freer beleeveth.. chastitie, meeknesse, and sobrietie. 1531 ELYOT *Gov.* III. xxii. (1880) II. 336 The auncient temperaunce and moderation in diete, called sobrietie, or, in a more general terme, frugalite. 1553 T. WILSON *Rhet.* 19 b, Sobrietie is a bridelyng by discrecion the wilfulnesse of desire. 1607 ROWLANDS *Earl of Warw.* 69 Unto licentious life they teach us run, And with sobriety associate never. 1655 S. ASHE *Fun. Serm. Gataker* 32 Let the sad consequences of Noah his intemperance give caution for sobriety unto all ancient persons whatsoever. 1781 COWPER *Conversat.* 807 Sobriety, perhaps, may now be found, Where once intoxication press'd the ground. 1836 THIRLWALL *Greece* II. xiv. 205 Sobriety was not one of the Persian virtues. 1861 GEO. ELIOT *S. Marner* iii, The voice of the good angel, inviting to industry, sobriety, and peace.

2. Moderation in any respect; avoidance of excess or extravagance.

1582 N. T. (Rheims) *Romans* xii. 3 Not to be more wise then behoueth.., but to be wise vnto sobrietie. 1653 BINNING *Serm.* (1845) 646 There is also sobriety in the affections, when they are moderate. *a* 1716 BLACKALL *Wks.* (1723) I. 80 Thoughts evil in themselves, are such as..are contrary to Sobriety. 1779 *Mirror* No. 25, The sobriety of manners which home exhibited. 1794 SULLIVAN *View Nat.* II. 358 Some have imputed this to the sobriety and simplicity of living. 1852 THACKERAY *Esmond* I. ii, Misfortune had not taught those exiles sobriety of life. 1884 *19th Cent.* Mar. 406 Sobriety of dress must be enforced.

b. In *pl.* Sober qualities.

1826 LAMB *Elia* Ser. II. *Sanity true Genius*, The other to the wildest dreams gives the sobrieties of every-day occurrences.

3. Staidness, gravity, seriousness; soundness or saneness of judgement, etc.

a 1548 HALL *Chron., Rich. III*, 55 b, Of suche sobrietie that it coulde never be judged whyther he ware more dull then quicke in speakynge. 1589 GREENE *Menaphon* (Arb.) 46 Curteous country Swaines shake off this sobrietie. 1647 N. BACON *Disc. Govt. Eng.* I. i. (1739) 1 Others of more sobriety account them no better than Lords. 1675 BAXTER *Catholic Theol.* II. ii. 33 Now whether any man should deny all our Religion,..let sobriety be judge. 1774 REYNOLDS *Disc.* vi. (1876) 384 To bring us entirely to reason and sobriety, let it be observed [etc.]. 1790 BURKE *Fr. Rev.* 60 To secure any degree of sobriety in the propositions made by the leaders in any publick assembly. 1841 SPALDING *Italy & It. Isl.* II. 366 He was quite unapproached in that delicacy of feeling and sobriety of judgment, which he added to his learning and invention. 1879 GREEN *Readings fr. Eng. Hist.* x. 48 He could trust his good sense and wise sobriety of mind.

‖ **Sobriquet** (sōʊ·brikē, ‖ sobrīke), *sb.* See also SOUBRIQUET. [F., of uncertain origin.] An epithet, a nickname.

1646 BUCK *Rich. III*, I. 4 It is controverted amongst the Antiquaries and Heralds, which Earle of Anjou first bare the Sirname and Sobriquet of Plantagenest, or Plantagenet. 1655 FULLER *Ch. Hist.* III. xii. 30 This name was one of the Sobriquets, or penitential nick-names. 1757 STUKELEY *Acc. Rich. of Cirencester* 8 Most of the names then were what we call sobriquets, travelling names,..what we call nick-names. 1807 G. CHALMERS *Caledonia* I. II. vi. 298 The Chronicle..gives him the sobriquet of *Annuine*. 1860 ADLER *Prov. Poet.* xvi. 364 In his verses he never designated her but by a species of poetic sobriquet. 1875 W. MCILWRAITH *Guide Wigtownshire* 57 Because of this reprehensible state of the town, Whithorn got a not very complimentary sobriquet.

Hence **So·briquet** *v. trans.*, to nickname. Also **Sobriquetical** *a.*, of or pertaining to sobriquets.

1842 *Tait's Mag.* IX. 683 He has been sobriquetted by.. Tom Moore, as the Rev. Murtagh O'Mulligan. 1875 LOWER *Eng. Surnames* (ed. 4) II. 23 Surnames, geographical, topographical,..sobriquetical,..and historical.

Soc (sɒk). Now *Hist.* Also 3, 5–7 sok, 7 *Sc.* sock. [var. of SOKE [1].]

1. A right of local jurisdiction: (see SAC [1]).

1228 *Mem. Ripon* (Surtees) I. 52 Sok, sak, tol, tem. *a* 1272 *Rolls Parlt.* IV. 55/1 Entre diverses autres fraunchises, Sok & Sak, Thol & Theam. *c* 1450 *Godstow Reg.* 535 With tol and team, sok and sake,..and all other customes. *c* 1460 *Oseney Reg.* 9 Of sake and soc, tol and teme. 1609 SKENE *Reg. Maj.* 177 Power to hald their courts, with sock, sack, pitt, and gallous. *c* 1657 SIR W. MURE *Hist. Ho. Rowallane* Wks. (S.T.S.) II. 241 Holding in cheife of the crowne infeft cum furca et fossa, sock et sack [etc.]. 1671 F. PHILIPPS *Reg. Necess.* 175 All that had Soc a liberty of distributive Justice in their Lands or Territories, and Sac..a power to fine or punish such as were found guilty. 1749 *Hist. Windsor* 121 That they should enjoy all their lands with the liberties of Soc and Sac [etc.]. 1861 PEARSON *Early & Mid. Ages* 180 It may be questioned if this applied to any landowner who had soc of his own. 1874 STUBBS *Const. Hist.* I. v. 103 The hereditary owners of sac and soc in the territory.

2. = SOKE [1] 2. *rare.*

1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v., *Soc*,..the Shire, Circuit, or Territory wherein such Power is exercised by him indued with such Jurisdiction. 1824 MANDER Title-p., The Derbyshire Miner's Glossary; or Explanation of the Technical Terms of the Miners, used..within the Soc or Wapentake of Wirksworth.

Socade, variant of SUCCADE.

Socage (sɒ·kėdʒ). Now *Hist.* Also 4–6 sokage, 6 socadge, 6– soccage. [a. AF. *socage*, *sokage* (Anglo-Lat. *socagium*), f. *soc* SOC + -AGE.

By early writers (Bracton, etc.) supposed to be derived from *soc* plough: see Coke *Inst.* (1628) II. v. § 117. The view now generally accepted is that the original distinctive

feature of socage was attendance at the court held by the superior in virtue of his right of *soc.*]

1. The tenure of land by certain determinate services other than knight-service.

a. a 1325 *MS. Rawl. B. 520* lf. 41 Þoru suuche dede sokage is ibore out in to fre tenement. 1485 *Rolls of Parlt.* VI. 324/1 [She] entred into the same Meses, Lands and Tenements, in the right of the same David her Son, as his Gardyne in Socage. *a* 1500 *Brome Book* 155 Þan must 3e enquere be what seruyce he helde of this lordscheppe, whether he hylde be skwage or be sokage. 1596 SPENSER *St. Iret.* Wks. (Globe) 674/1 By what services be holdeth his land, whether in cheif or in socadge, or in knightes service. 1628 COKE *On Litt.* 86 Euery tenure which is not tenure in chiualrie is a tenure in socage. 1661 J. STEPHENS *Procurations* 47 As the Tenants in Socage after the said change paid their rents yearly to the Lord. 1766 BLACKSTONE *Comm.* II. 79 Socage, in it's most general and extensive signification, seems to denote a tenure by any certain and determinate service. 1845 POLSON *Eng. Law* in *Encycl. Metrop.* **II.** 824/1 The guardianship of a minor inheriting an estate in lands of the tenure of socage, devolves on the next of kin, on whom the inheritance cannot possibly descend. 1875 K. E. DIGBY *Real Prop.* i. ii. § 3. 47 There can be little doubt that tenure in socage is the successor of the alodial proprietorship of early times.

β. 1538 *Sel. Cases Star Chamber* (Selden Soc.) II. 67 Thomas Knyght..Surrenderyth into the lord hands in Soccage..a mese. 1562 *Richmond. Wills* (Surtees) 151 Hereditaments holden in soccage or of the nature of socage tenure. 1638 COTTON *Tower Rec.* 14 For no man will buy quillets but in soccage. 1700 TYRRELL *Hist. Eng.* II. 815 Nor will We have the Wardship..of the Fee-Faim, Soccage, or Burgage. 1761 HUME *Hist. Eng.* I. xi. 239 He also holds lands of the crown by soccage or any other tenure.

fig. 1658 CULPEPPER *Astrol. Judgem. Dis.* 190 Dame Nature..holds by tenure by Soccage of Almighty God. 1834 TAYLOR *Philip van Artevelde* II. v. ii, If he be not the devil's feudatory He holds in soccage of a fiend that is.

b. With distinguishing epithets, esp. *free* or *common* (also *free and common*) *socage*, the ordinary form of this tenure.

1570-6 LAMBARDE *Peramb. Kent* (1826) 486 There be two sortes of Socage, the one Free, the other Base..: the Free Socage descending to the eldest alone. 1609 SKENE *Reg. Maj.* 31 Als meikill of his lands, halden in frie soccage; as the samine sonne will get..be reason of succession. 1672 F. PHILIPPS *Reg. Necess.* 167 Before that late unhappy conversion of those Tenures into free and common socage. 1764 T. HUTCHINSON *Hist. Mass.* **v.** (1765) 447 They held their lands, as of the manor,..in free and common socage. 1796 MORSE *Amer. Geogr.* I. 148 All lands in Upper Canada are to be granted hereafter in free and common soccage. 1832 C. M. GOODRIDGE *Voy. S. Seas* 255 Land thus disposed of without purchase, is to be..held in fr|ee and common socage. 1874 GREEN *Short Hist.* ix. 607 The conversion of lands held till then in chivalry into lands held in common socage.

c. An estate held in socage. *rare.*

1464 *Rolls of Parlt.* V. 521/2 In the Maners,..Tounes, Wapentaches and Socage of Wyrkesworth. 1768 *Ann. Reg., Hist. Europe* 78*/2 At a certain small reserved rent.. viz. 30*l.* per ann. for the soccage of Carlisle.

d. A payment made to the superior by one holding land in socage. *rare.*

1859 C. BARKER *Associative Principle* i. 26 The rents and soccage of two mills were applied to the purchase of sheepskins. 1883 *Cent. Mag.* Aug. 545/1 The payment of free socage came, in time, to be attended with some ceremony.

2. *attrib.*, as *socage freehold, land, roll, service, tenant, tenure.*

1467 in *Eng. Gilds* (1870) 376 The charter of the seid cite, with the ij. Socage Rollez, shullen be putt in the comyn cofour. *a* 1500 *Brome Bk.* 155 And althow it be sokage lond, 3et þe eyur [=heir] schall pay a releffe and do his sewte. 1562 Socage tenure [see 1 β]. 1628 COKE *On Litt.* 121 He may deuise by his Will all his Socage Lands. *a* 1658 CLEVELAND *Rustic Rampant* Wks. (1687) 442 Considering the Incertainty of things under that Iron Socage Tenure. 1741 T. ROBINSON *Gavelkind* i. 3 Under this Term were comprehended all Socage Services. 1747 CARTE *Hist. Eng.* I. 423 The taillages that the king had it in his power to levy upon the soccage tenants in his own demesnes. 1818 HALLAM *Mid. Ages* (1872) I. 203 Many of them rather answer to our socage freeholds. 1890 *Athenæum* 4 Jan. 12/2 Owners of land held in England by socage tenure.

Socager (sǫ·kėdʒəɹ). Now· *Hist.* Also 7– soccager, 8 sockager. [f. prec.] One holding land by socage tenure.

1647 N. BACON *Disc. Govt. Eng.* I. lxx. (1739) 187 Of these Socagers did arise..the body of English Footmen in their Armies. 1653 *Customes of Soke of Kirton-in-Lindsey, Linc.* (MS.), Upon paine of every forreyner so intruding ten pounds, and every Soccager Five pounds. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Soc*, Liberty of holding a Court of his Sockmen or Sockagers, that is, his Tenants, whose Tenure is hence called Socage. 1812 G. CHALMERS *Dom. Econ. Gt. Brit.* 4 The barons, the free tenants, the free soccagers, together with the villains, and the slaves. 1874 STUBBS *Const. Hist.* I. vii. 193 He was easily tempted to become a socager, paying rent or gavel, instead of a free..man-at-arms.

So-called, *ppl. a.* Also so called.

1. In predicative use (properly without hyphen): Called or designated by that name.

1657 HOWELL *Londinop.* 304 This Company of the Haberdashers, or Hurrers, of old time so-called. 1696 PHILLIPS, *Rubrick*, a name given to a Book of the Civil Law, so called because the Heads of the Chapters were written in red Letters. 1753 CHALLONER *Cath. Chr. Instr.* 181 The Cluniacenses, so called from their first Abbey of Cluny in France. 1831 SCOTT *Ct. Robt.* xix, He would find him at the Philosopher's Gardens, so called, as belonging to the sage Agelastes. 1847 HALLIW., *Patrick's Purgatory*...Its entire history is to be found in Mr. Wright's work so called. 1863 A. C. RAMSAY *Phys. Geogr.* 69 The Coralline Crag, so-called because it contains a large number of corals.

b. Qualified by *properly.*

1665 GLANVIL *Scepsis Sci.* v, The Soul is the sole Percipient, which alone hath animadversion and sense properly so called. 1790 [see PROPERLY 2]. 1827 COLERIDGE *Table Talk* 24 June, I do not think there is any jealousy, properly so called, in the character of Othello. 1860 RUSKIN *Mod. Paint.* VI. vi. § 4 V. 43 A root, properly so called, is a fibre..which secretes certain elements from the earth.

2. In attributive use (hyphened): Called or designated by this name or term, but not properly entitled to it or correctly described by it.

Rarely used without implication of incorrectness, as in (*b*). Cf. Du. *zoogenaamd, -genoemd, -gezeid*, G. *sogenannt.*

(*a*) 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. I. ii, The Right Side..persists..in considering..all these so-called Decrees as mere temporary whims. 1862 MILLER *Elem. Chem., Org.* (ed. 2) i. § 2. 39 The so-called elementary bodies being really compounds of at least two atoms of the true element. 1884 PENNINGTON *Wiclif* vi. 193 Their so-called poverty is nothing else but a diabolical lie.

(*b*) 1886 C. E. PASCOE *Lond. of To-day* xl. (ed. 3) 341 The leading so-called linendrapers of the metropolis.

Soccated, obs. var. of SOCKETED. **Soccer,** var. of SOCKER. **Soccotrine,** var. of SOCOTRINE. **Soccour,** obs. f. SUCCOUR. **Socdollager,** var. of SOCKDOLAGER. **Soch(e,** obs. ff. SUCH *a.* **Sochete,** var. of SUGET *v.* (subject) *Obs.*

‖ **Socia.** *Obs. rare.* [L. *socia*, fem. of *socius* companion.] A female friend or companion.

1797 MRS. A. M. BENNETT *Beggar Girl* (1813) I. 25 The two socias went to the theatre. *Ibid.* IV. 52 Miss was now the most elegant entertainer, except only her socia, MIS. Bawsky.

Sociability (sōu·ʃəbi·lĭti). Also 5 ? **socibbilitee.** [f. next + -ITY. Cf. F. *sociabilité*, Sp. *sociabilidad*, Pg. *-idade.*] The character or quality of being sociable; friendly disposition or intercourse.

a 1475 ASHBY *Poems* (1899) ii. 270 He shall appere false and sedicious, Be al quaint socibbilitees and labour. 1581 MULCASTER *Positions* xxxvii. (1887) 152 Doth he not shew forth an euident sociabilitie and liklyhood, that he will be very well to be liued withall? 1594 PARSONS *Confer. Succes.* I. i. 3 Sociability or inclination to liue togeather in company. 1738 WARBURTON *Div. Legat.* II. vi. I. 275 Such then was the Root and Foundation of this Sociability of Religion in the ancient World, so much envied by our modern Infidels. 1786 MME. D'ARBLAY *Diary* 12 Aug., We were flung, by this means, into a style of sociability we might else never have arrived at. 1812 HENRY *Camp. agst. Quebec* 134 Civil wars which extinguish the sociabilities of mankind. 1880 FLO. MARRYAT *Fair-Haired Alda* II. v. 82 They were wofully disappointed by the results of their intended sociability.

Sociable (sōu·ʃəb'l), *a.* and *sb.* [a. F. *sociable* (=Sp. *sociable*, It. *-abile*, Pg. *-avel*), or ad. L. *sociābilis*, f. *sociāre* to unite, associate: see -ABLE.]

A. *adj.* **1.** Naturally inclined or disposed to be in company with others of the same species.

1553 T. WILSON *Rhet.* (1580) 56 Euery societie or companiyng together is delitfull,..for asmuche as Nature hath ordeined vs to be sociable, frendly, and louyng together. 1607 TOPSELL *Fourf. Beasts* (1658) 459 It is a very sociable creature, for they do live together in herds above a thousand in a flock. 1672 TEMPLE *Ess. Govt.* Wks. 1720 I. 99 What it is that makes some Creatures sociable, and others live and range more alone, or in smaller Companies. 1707 HOPE *New Method Fencing* 5 Man being a sociable Creature designed not only for himself, but for..the Community wherein he lives. 1711 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 9 ¶ 1 Man is said to be a Sociable Animal.

b. In names of birds (see quots. and cf. SOCIAL 6c).

1801 LATHAM *Syn.* Suppl. II. 192 Sociable Grosbeak.→ Size of a bulfinch;..general colour..rufous brown. 1829 GRIFFITH tr. *Cuvier* VI. 163 The Sociable Vulture, or Oricou. 1864-5 WOOD *Homes w. Hands* xxii. (1868) 416 Sociable Weaver Bird is a native of Southern Africa. 1875 *Encycl. Brit.* III. 772 The Sociable Grosbeak of South Africa. *c* 1880 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* III. 257 The Sociable Vulture (*Otogyps auricularis*). 1908 *Zoologist* Apr. 122 The Sociable Plovers and other rare birds which showed themselves in Kent.

2. Inclined to seek and enjoy the company of others; disposed to be friendly or affable in company; willing to converse in a pleasant manner.

1573 G. HARVEY *Letter-bk.* (Camden) 5 This is he that accuseth me of not being sociable, him self so sociable as you se. 1602 F. HERING *Anat.* 9 The true Phisition is sociable, and readie to communicate. 1656 DUCHESS NEWCASTLE *True Relation* in *Life* (1886) 287, I durst neither look up with my eyes, nor speak, nor be any way sociable. 1706 E. WARD *Wooden World Diss.* (1708) 91 He e'en.. turn'd a sociable Sot, like the rest of his Brethren. 1771 FRANKLIN *Autobiog.* Wks. 1840 I. 54 We had a sociable company in the cabin. 1824 SYD. SMITH *America* Wks. 1859 II. 47/1 The great inconvenience..is one which more sociable travellers must feel less acutely. 1893 K. L. BATES *Eng. Relig. Drama* 223 Pity, Contemplation, and Perseverance, sociable old worthies.

transf. and *fig.* 1638 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* (ed. 2) 181 Nicanor..made a vaine attempt to bring the Euxin and this sea into one, to make it sociable and navigable. *a* 1716 SOUTH *Serm.* (1744) XI. 8 This sociable evil [*sc.* the body], this treacherous Companion, is the enticer and betrayer to all sin. 1852 HAWTHORNE *Wonder-Bk.* (1868) 142 That sociablest of flowers, the little Houstonia.

b. Const. *to* a person or thing. *rare.*

1610 SHAKS. *Temp.* v. 63 Mine eyes ev'n sociable to the shew of thine Fall fellowly drops. 1751 EARL ORRERY *Remarks Swift* (1752) 3 He was sociable only to particular friends, and to them only at particular hours.

3. Characterized by, pertaining to, contact, intercourse, or companionship with others, esp. in a friendly or pleasant manner.

1573 G. HARVEY *Letter-bk.* (Camden) 8 These ar ther sociable and fellouli delings. 1594 T. B. *La Primaud. Fr. Acad.* II. 404 The ciuil and sociable nature, in which God hath created them. 1641 J. JACKSON *True Evang. T.* I. 6 Sweet and calme and sociable manners and conversation. 1661 A. BROME *Songs & Poems* 86 A sociable life and free. 1695 KENNETT *Par. Antiq.* ix. 56 This was a sociable practise of that age. 1781 COWPER *Let. to J. Hill* 9 Dec., Comfortably situated by a good fire, and just entering on a sociable conversation. 1841 ELPHINSTONE *Hist. Ind.* II. 99 He had often similar moments of enjoyment, thanks to his sociable habits. 1898 *Atlantic Monthly* Apr. 506/1 The harvesting of potatoes was a sociable toil.

†**b.** *Sociable coach*: (cf. SOCIABLE *sb.* 2 a). *Obs.*

1673 WYCHERLEY *Gentl. Dancing Master* v. i, I will have ..a large, sociable, well painted Coach. 1772 *Town & Co. Mag.* 17 In high spirits Maria stepped into Mrs. Benwell's sociable coach.

†**c.** Of or pertaining to society; social. *Obs.*

1680 C. NESSE *Church Hist.* 39 Peter explains his two sociable duties, Fear God, Honour the King. 1705 ATTERBURY *Serm.* (1726) I. x. 351 Pressing Men to exercise those Graces which adorn the Sociable State.

†**4. a.** Capable of being combined or joined together. *Obs.*

1594 HOOKER *Eccl. Pol.* (1676) I. 74 Another Law there is, which toucheth them as they are sociable parts united into one body. 1674 GREW *Anat. Pl., Disc. Mixture* (1682) 231 To render all Bodies Sociable or Mingleable. 1679 NEWTON in Rigaud *Corr. Sci. Men* II. 413 There is a certain secret principle in nature, by which liquors are sociable to some things and unsociable to others.

†**b.** Capable of being made a companion *for* others. *Obs.*

1608 BRETON *Divine Consid.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 22/1 God ..made him like vnto himselfe.., amiable in his sight, sociable for his Angells, and coheire with his blessed Sonne.

B. *sb.* †**1.** A social being. *Obs.*—1

a 1613 OVERBURY *A Wife*, etc. (1638) 103 One that Nature made a sociable,..and a crazed disposition hath altered.

2. a. An open, four-wheeled carriage having two seats facing each other and a box-seat for the driver. (Cf. SOCIABLE *a.* 3 b.)

1794 W. FELTON *Anc. & Mod. Carriages* (1801) II. 87 A Sociable is a phaeton with a double or treble body, and is so called from the number of persons it is meant to carry at one time. 1825-9 MRS. SHERWOOD *Lady of Manor* III. 122 The sociable and the travelling-carriage were driven up to the door. 1878 *Ref. Carriages Paris Exhib.* (ed. C. Saunderson, 1879) 8 This shape is becoming very fashionable in Paris, not only in Broughams, but also in Landaus, Victorias, and Sociables.

b. A tricycle having two seats side by side.

1882 *Knowledge* No. 19. 398/1 Great improvements have been made recently in double tricycles, or, as they are generally called, Sociables. 1888 *Pall Mall G.* 2 Feb. 5/1 For years..we ploughed along on sociables with a young lady at our side.

c. 'A kind of couch with a curved S-shaped back, for two persons who sit partially facing each other' (Knight *Dict. Mech.* 1875).

3. *U.S.* An informal evening party; *esp.* a social church meeting. (Cf. SOCIAL *sb.* 2.)

1826 LONGF. *Life* (1891) I. vi. 74, I..went with them to a little 'sociable' in the evening, where we had dancing. 1888 T. W. HIGGINSON *Women & Men* 31 She manages the book club and the church sociable. 1895 SARAH M. H. GARDNER *Quaker Idyls* vi. 129 Some of their friends had proposed to have a series of 'sociables'.

Hence **So·ciablist,** one who rides a double tricycle.

1883 *Cyclists Tour. Club Gaz.* Sept. 343/1 Two sociablists pedalling independently.

Sociableness (sōu·ʃəb'lnés). [f. prec. + -NESS.] The character or quality of being sociable, in the various senses of the word; sociability.

1592 MORYSON *Let. in Itin.* (1617) I. 36 To which custome gentlemen for sociablenes have submitted themselves. 1613 SIR A. SHERLEY *Trav. Persia* 116 Which will giue an entrance to a kind of sociablenesse, and that will proceed.. to a mutuall friendship. 1653 MORE *Antid. Ath.* II. iv. § 3 The two main Properties of Man being Contemplation and Sociableness or love of Converse. 1724 DE FOE *Tour Gt. Brit.* I. iii. 25 Abundance of Gentry being in the Neighbourhood, it adds to the Sociableness of the Place. 1727 [see SOCIALNESS]. 1825 COCKBURN *Mem.* (1856) 195 An absolute passion, indulgence in which gratified..his jovial sociableness. 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* vii. III. 50 But of this sociableness William was entirely destitute.

Sociably (sōu·ʃəbli), *adv.* [f. as prec.: see -LY 2.] In a sociable manner; with sociability.

1573 HARVEY *Lett.-bk.* (Camden) 6 How sociablely he hath delt bi me. 1605 BACON *Adv. Learn.* I. vii. § 2 Beasts and birds..stood all sociably together. 1651 HOBBES *Leviath.* II. xvii. 86 Certain living creatures, as Bees, and Ants, live sociably one with another. 1755 *World* (1772) III. 294 [They] spend their evenings very sociably together. 1878 GLADSTONE *Primer of Homer* 111 Wine was sociably enjoyed, but drunkenness was abhorred.

Social (sōu·ʃəl), *a.* and *sb.* Also 6 *Sc.* **sociale,** 7 **sociall.** [a. F. *social, -ale* (14th cent. in Godef.; =Sp., Pg. *social*, It. *sociale*), or ad. L. *socialis*, f. *socius* friend, companion, associate.]

A. *adj.* †**1.** Capable of being associated or united *to* others. *Obs.*—1

1562 WINJET *Last Blast Tromp.* Wks. (S.T.S.) I. 45 The proude schismatikis and obstinat heretikis, na wayis sociale to the companie of Christiane Catholiks.

†**2.** Associated, allied, combined. *Obs.*

1620 T. GRANGER *Div. Logike* 20 The former is called the Sole, solitary,..absolute Cause: the latter sociall Causes. 1645 HAMMOND *View Infallib.* 64 'Tis strange you should

couple them together as so sociall things which are so distant and separable. 1686 PLOT *Staffordsh.* ii. 80 There may be subjoyned another social cause that may contribute not a little to the elevating Water above its own Level.

3. Of war: Occurring or taking place between allies or confederates. *rare.*

1665 MANLEY *Grotius' Low C. Wars* 1, I Intend to Discourse the most famous Warre of our Times, and which may not improperly be called Sociall, or a Warre of Confederates. 1700 SOUTHERNE *Fate of Capua* I. i, Is there a worthier than a social war?

b. *spec.* (with *the*). In Roman Hist., the war between Rome and the Italian allies, 90–89 B.C. In Greek Hist., the war between the Athenians and their confederates, 357–355 B.C.

(*a*) 1765 BLACKSTONE *Comm.* I. 159 When, after the social war, all the burghers of Italy were admitted free citizens of Rome. 1842 W. C. TAYLOR *Anc. Hist.* xv. § 6 (ed. 3) 436 A much more dangerous war, called the Marsic, the Social, or the Italic, was provoked by the injustice with which the Romans treated their Italian allies.

(*b*) 1788 LEMPRIERE *Class. Dict., Chabrias*, an Athenian general,..killed in the Social war. 1808 MITFORD *Hist. Greece* IV. xxxvi. 267 The War between the Athenians and their Allies, called the Confederate or Social War. 1838 THIRLWALL *Greece* V. xliii. 259 Philip seems to have kept aloof from the Social War.

4. Marked or characterized by mutual intercourse, friendliness, or geniality; enjoyed, taken, spent, etc., in company with others, esp. with those of a similar class or kindred interests.

Social evening, an evening meeting of a club, society, etc., of the nature of an entertainment; an evening on which this is held.

1667 MILTON *P. L.* VIII. 429 Thou in thy secresie although alone, Best with thy self accompanied, seek'st not Social communication. 1746 FRANCIS tr. *Hor., Sat.* II. vi. 157 While thus we spend the social Night. 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* xxxvi, The spacious fire-places, where no mark of social cheer remained. 1810 SIR A. BOSWELL *Edinb.* Poems (1871) 50 When met to drink a social cup of tea. 1848 DICKENS *Dombey* v, Mrs. Chick and Miss Tox were enjoying a social evening. 1864 — *Lett.* (1880) II. 214 They want social rest and social recreation for themselves and their families.

† **b.** Expressive of or proceeding from sympathy; sympathetic. *Obs.*

1726 POPE *Odyss.* XVI. 236 The prince..Hung round his neck, while tears his cheek bedew; Nor less the father pour'd a social flood! 1745 COLLINS *Ode Death Col. Ross* x, Where'er from time thou court'st relief, The Muse shall still, with social grief, Her gentlest promise keep.

5. † **a.** United by some common tie. *Obs.*

1717 POPE *Iliad* XI. 339 The social shades the same dark journey go. 1718 *Ibid.* XVI. 1022 Patroclus yields to fear, Retires for succour to his social train.

b. Inclined or disposed to friendly intercourse or converse; sociable.

1729 POPE *On General Withers* 8 Withers, adieu! yet not with thee remove Thy Martial spirit, or thy Social love! 1776 PAINE *Com. Sense* (1791) 55 A few able and social sailors will soon instruct a sufficient number of active landmen in the common work of a ship. 1797–1805 S. & HT. LEE *Canterb. T.* II. 339 Sir Edward was wandering, without one social bosom to confide a thought to, through.. Sicily. 1816 JANE AUSTEN *Emma* ii, His own friendly and social disposition. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* ii. I. 168 Charles came forth from that school with social habits, with polite and engaging manners. 1878 MISS BRADDON *Eleanor's Victory* ii, He was very happy and social.

c. Consisting or composed of persons associated together in, or for the purpose of, friendly intercourse.

1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* vii. II. 234 The contest went on in both Houses of Parliament, in every constituent body, in every social circle. 1866 *Month* IV. 54 The social body at Balliol was strengthened between 1830 and 1840 by three important additions. 1892 *Photogr. Ann.* II. 652 The club is strictly a 'social' one.

6. Living, or disposed to live, in companies or communities; desirous of enjoying the society or companionship of others.

1722 WOLLASTON *Relig. Nat.* vii. 145 Man is a Social creature: that is, a single man, or family, cannot subsist, or not well, alone out of all Society. 1744 HARRIS *Three Treat.* (1841) 62 Let this then be remembered,..that man by nature is *truly* a social animal. 1853 TRENCH *Proverbs* 127 Man not being merely accidentally gregarious, but essentially social. 1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) IV. 279 In the use of the senses, as in his whole nature, man is a social being.

b. *Zool.* Living together in more or less organized communities; belonging to a community of this kind.

1831 *Insect Miscellanies* 412/1 Social leaf-mining caterpillars...Social wasps. 1840 tr. *Cuvier's Anim. Kingd.* 599 The Apiariæ are either solitary or social in their habits. *Ibid.* 602 The terminal subgenus of Social Bees. 1859 DARWIN *Orig. Spec.* IV. (1860) 87 In social animals it [i.e. natural selection] will adapt the structure of each individual for the benefit of the community. 1874 CARPENTER *Ment. Phys.* I. ii. (1879) 57 Bees, Wasps, Ants, and other Social Insects.

transf. 1864–5 WOOD *Homes w. Hands* XXI. (1879) 411 We now come to the Social Habitations and give precedence to those which are constructed by Mammalia.

c. In specific names (see quots. and cf. SOCIABLE *a.* 1 b).

1781 PENNANT *Quad.* II. 459 The Social Rat..inhabits the Caspian desert. 1801 SHAW *Gen. Zool.* II. I. 93 The Social Mouse is a native of the Caspian deserts. 1850 R. G. CUMMING *Hunter's Life S. Africa* (1902) 57/2 Many of them [trees] were inhabited by whole colonies of the social grosbeak. 1869 *Galaxy* Aug. 173 The social-sparrow, *alias* 'hair-bird',..is the smallest of the sparrows. 1884 GOODE *Nat. Hist. Aquat. Anim.* II *Globicephalus svineval*, ..also called Black Whale, Social Whale.

d. *Bot.* Of plants; Growing in a wild state in patches or masses with other members of the same species, esp. so as to cover a large area.

1834 MRS. SOMERVILLE *Connex. Physical Sci.* XXVII. 274 Very few social plants, such as grasses and heaths that cover large tracts of lands, are to be found between the tropics. 1855 MISS PRATT *Flower. Pl.* III. 268 One of the plants which the botanist terms *social* because never found growing singly, but always in numbers.

e. Of ascidians, etc.: Compound.

1860 *Chambers's Encycl.* I. 466/2 In some kinds (Social Ascidians), the peduncles of a number of individuals are connected by a tubular stem. 1877 HUXLEY *Anat. Inv. Anim.* x. 610 In the compound or social *Tunicata*, many ascidiozooids..are united by a common test.

7. Pertaining, relating, or due to, connected with, etc., society as a natural or ordinary condition of human life.

1729 BUTLER *Serm.* Wks. 1874 II. 16 The nature of man considered in his .. social capacity leads him to a right behaviour in society. 1751 JOHNSON *Rambler* No. 180 ₱ 5 He that devotes himself to retired study naturally sinks from omission to forgetfulness of social duties. 1796 H. HUNTER tr. *St.-Pierre's Stud. Nat.* (1799) II. 411 The social reason quickly recals him to personal interest. 1842 COMBE *Digestion* Pref. p. xviii, The degree to which its morbid derangements undermine health, happiness, and social usefulness. 1872 MORLEY *Voltaire* (1886) 10 Pale unshapen embryos of social sympathy.

b. Of life, conditions, institutions, etc.

Social contract, the mutual agreement which, according to Rousseau's *Contrat social* (1762), forms the basis of human society.

1736 BUTLER *Anal.* I. i. 28 When we go out of this World, we may pass into..a new State of Life and Action...And this new State may naturally be a social one. 1765 AKENSIDE *Pleas. Imag.* II. 82 Science herself: on whom the wants and cares Of social life depend. 1817 COBBETT *Wks.* XXXII. 109 The old charge, that we are seeking to produce riot and confusion, and to destroy 'Social Order'! 1849–50 ALISON *Hist. Europe* I. iii. § 90. 351 Rousseau's dreams on the social contract. 1861 MILL *Utilit.* iii. 46 The social state is..so natural, so necessary, and so habitual to man. 1868 T. ROGERS *Pol. Econ.* xiv. 183 The condition of social life is that different persons should be engaged in different pursuits.

c. Of rank, position, etc., or of persons in respect of these.

1849 LYELL *2nd Visit U.S.* II. 316 Enjoying..an equality of social rank. 1863 W. C. BALDWIN *Afr. Hunting* vii. 273 Albert Smith..says that the colonies are only refuges for destitute social suicides. 1869 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* III. 78 The rulers of other European states were ready to receive him as their social peer.

d. *Social evil*, prostitution. Also *attrib.* and *transf.* (quot. 1865).

1857 (*title*), Great Social Evil—Prostitution, the greatest of our Social Evils. 1863 *Sat. Rev.* 626/1 The nauseous category of social-evil literature. 1865 *Slang Dict.* 239 *Social evil*, a name beginning to be applied to street-walkers in consequence of the articles in the newspapers being so headed. 1901 *Contemp. Rev.* Mar. 323 Those slums have become a pandemonium of drunkenness and the social evil.

8. *Psychol.* (See quots.)

1785 REID *Intell. Powers* 73 The social as well as the solitary operations of the mind. 1788 — *Active Powers* V. vi. 664, I call those operations social which necessarily imply social intercourse.

9. Concerned with, interested in, the constitution of society and the problems presented by this: **a.** Of persons.

1841 C. BRAY *Philos. Necessity* II. 467 A thorough Social Reformer. 1851 MAYHEW *Lond. Lab.* II. 242/1 One of the most difficult topics that the social philosopher can deal with. 1898 *Daily News* 12 Oct. 4/4 The Church had always been social and humanitarian.

b. Of sciences, theories, etc.

1841 C. BRAY *Philos. Necessity* II. 404 Social Reform. 1845 POLSON *Eng. Law* in *Encycl. Metrop.* II. 802/1 Social Economy.—Laws which directly consult the health, wealth, convenience or comfort of the public, may properly be referred to this head. 1846 LEWES *Biogr. Hist. Philos.* IV. 249 The conception of a social science is due to M. Comte. 1874 SAYCE *Compar. Philol.* VI. 239 Our linguistic researches will be bounded by the limits of social science and social archæology.

10. *Social Democrat*, a member of a political party having socialistic views.

1877 *St. James's Gaz.* 7 Mar. (Cassell), This long period of activity has enabled the Social Democrats to found no fewer than twenty-five clubs in London. 1899 *Daily News* 19 July 5/5 The Clericals did not shrink from concluding a regular pact with the Social Democrats.

11. *Comb.* with other adjs., as *social-democratic, -political, -religious.*

1890 GROSS *Gild Merch.* I. 163 At Barnstaple..the Gild Merchant seems to have been transformed into a social-religious gild. 1893 W. C. ROBINSON tr. *Ten Brink's Hist. Eng. Lit.* II. IV. 24 Many influences..worked together to produce that social-democratic rising. 1899 *Daily News* 21 June 4/3 Parliament is at last tired of social-political experiments.

B. *sb.* † **1.** A companion, associate. *Obs. rare.*

1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* X. 426 O Socials! we're not ignorant of losses.

2. A social gathering or party, esp. one held by members of a club or association.

1876 E. W. CLARK *Life Japan* 124 The women..keep their tongues going as briskly during the tea-picking as their sisters of other climes .. do at their tea-drinking socials.

1893 *The Month* Aug. 157 The social given by the ladies of the Altar Society was a grand success.

Socialism (sōu·ʃăliz'm). [a. F. *socialisme* (1832), or independently f. SOCIAL *a.* + -ISM. See also next.

The early history of the word is somewhat obscure. The first use of F. *socialisme* appears to have been in the *Globe* of 13 Feb. 1832, where it was employed in contrast to *personnalité*. In its modern sense it is variously claimed for Leroux or Reybaud, writing within three or four years after this. A different account, assigning the priority of this use to England, is given in the *Encycl. Brit.* (1887) XXII. 295; according to this the word originated in 1835 in the discussions of a society founded by Robert Owen.]

1. A theory or policy of social organization which aims at or advocates the ownership and control of the means of production, capital, land, property, etc., by the community as a whole, and their administration or distribution in the interests of all.

Freq. with initial capital.

Christian socialism, a doctrine or theory, promulgated about 1850 by F. D. Maurice, C. Kingsley, T. Hughes, and others, advocating a form of socialism on a Christian basis.

1839 J. MATHER (*title*), Socialism Exposed; or 'The Book of the New Moral World' Examined. *Ibid.* App. 22 To explain and expose what Robert Owen's Socialism is. 1840 *Quart. Rev.* Dec. 180 The two great demons in morals and politics, Socialism and Chartism. 1863 FAWCETT *Polit. Econ.* II. i. 181 Socialism, as first propounded by Owen and Fourier, proposed that a society living together should share all the wealth produced. 1881 STEVENSON *Virg. Puerisque* 89, I do not greatly pride myself on having outlived my belief in the fairy tales of Socialism.

2. A state of society in which things are held or used in common.

1879 H. GEORGE *Progr. & Pov.* VI. i. (1881) 188 We have passed out of the socialism of the tribal state.

Socialist (sōu·ʃălist). [Cf. prec. and F. *socialiste* (Reybaud, 1835).]

1. One who advocates or believes in the theory of socialism; an adherent or supporter of socialism.

1833 *Poor Man's Guardian* 24 Aug. 275/2 [Letter signed] A Socialist. 1833 *The Crisis* 31 Aug. 276/1 The Socialist, who preaches of community of goods, abolition of crime, of punishment, of magistrates, and of marriage. 1853 W. JERDAN *Autobiog.* III. xix. 289 He was..a Socialist in the best sense of the term. 1889 SHAW *Fabian Ess. Socialism* 182 The young Socialist is apt to be catastrophic in his views.

2. *attrib.* or as *adj.* Of or pertaining to socialists; socialistic: **a.** Of persons.

1839 J. MATHER *Socialism Exposed* 23 A socialist lecturer expressed his ideas of God. 1856 GEO. ELIOT *Ess.* (1884) 114 The Socialist party. 1887 *St. James's Gaz.* 8 Feb. (Cassell), The torchlight Socialist procession.

b. Of ideas, theories, etc.

1848 W. E. FORSTER in Reid *Life* (1888) I. vii. 246 The worst of all Socialist plans I have seen is that all have within them..a damning desire to shirk work. 1850 MACAULAY in Trevelyan *Life* (1883) II. 284 The poem is to the last degree Jacobinical, indeed Socialist. 1861 *Illustr. Lond. N.* 17 Aug. 152/1 Working classes..declare their adhesion to the socialist idea.

Socialistic (sōuʃăli·stik), *a.* [f. prec. + -IC.]

1. Of or pertaining to, characteristic of, socialism; in accordance with the theory of socialism.

(*a*) 1848 *N. Y. Tribune* 25 Apr. (Bartlett *App.*), That we have..profoundly rejoiced in the Revolution itself, and more especially in its socialistic aspects and tendencies. 1863 H. SPENCER *Ess.* II. 238 And similarly with countless socialistic schemes. 1863 FAWCETT *Pol. Econ.* II. i. 104 Various socialistic experiments were made by Robert Owen.

(*b*) 1858 *Sat. Rev.* VI. 639 An elaborate system of socialistic order. 1882 FROUDE in *Fortn. Rev.* CCXXIX. 744 Socialistic equality is pretty and becoming in Utopia. 1894 *Forum* Mar. 101 In any socialistic state there will be one set of positions which will offer chances of wealth.

2. Advocating or favouring socialism.

1864 *Athenæum* 12 Mar. 366/2 Fernando Garrido..celebrated as a socialistic republican. 1880 MCCARTHY *Own Times* III. 233 Chevalier,..who from having been a member of the socialistic sect..had come to be a practical politician.

Hence **Socialistically** *adv.*

1887 *Co-operative News* July 657 An amount of saving which even socialistically disposed workmen ought not to disregard. 1892 *Pall Mall G.* 30 Mar. 6/2 The miners are ..in no wise socialistically inclined, he considered.

Sociality (sōuʃiæ·liti). [ad. F. *socialité* (It. *socialità*) or L. *sociālitas*: see SOCIAL *a.* and -ITY.]

1. The state or quality of being social; social intercourse or companionship with one's fellows, or the enjoyment of this.

a 1649 in *N. & Q.* Ser. I. X. 357 Socialitie becometh the person of the gravest man, soe as he neglect not the due consideration of time, place, and persons. 1658 PHILLIPS, *Sociality*, fellowship, company. 1748 HARTLEY *Observ. Man* I. iv. § I. 420 The Pleasures of Sociality and Mirth. 1775 MME. D'ARBLAY *Early Diary* (1889) II. 94 The Dean is a man of drollery, good humour, and sociality. 1823 SCOTT *Quentin D.* vii, The good Lord kissed the wine-cup by way of parenthesis, remarking, that sociality became Scottish gentlemen. *a* 1881 A. BARRATT *Phys. Metempiric* Pref. p. ix, It was thought that at Oxford he gave many hours to whist and innocent sociality.

b. With *pl.* A social act or function.

1825 LAMB *Elia* II. *Wedding*, In the participated socialities of the little community, I lay down for a brief while my solitary bachelorship. 1861 GEIKIE *Mem. E. Forbes* xiv, 498 Another winter passed pleasantly away. Not, however, without its socialities, its soirées and dinners. 1892 *Blackw. Mag.* CL. 358/2 The socialities of life..require for their satisfactory working a certain amount of ignorance.

c. Contrasted with *sociability*: Social intercourse in its formal or conventional aspect.

1871 Mrs. H. Wood *Red Court Farm* ix. 128 Conscious of his own deficiency on the score of sociality, (not sociability) and fashion. 1897 *Westm. Gaz.* 13 Feb. 2/3 She must be content with the 'sociality'. One hopes it will not degenerate into 'sociability'.

2. The action or fact on the part of individuals of forming a society or of associating together; the disposition, impulse, or tendency to do this.

(*a*) 1775 G. White *Selborne* lxvi, There is a wonderful spirit of sociality in the brute creation. 1834 McMurtrie *Cuvier's Anim. Kingd.* 429 This is precisely the case with the burrowing wasps..; their sociality is of no higher order than that which exists amongst the inhabitants of the same street.

(*b*) 1839 I. Taylor *Theory Another Life* (1847) II. 22 The basis of..communion or sociality among intelligent orders. 1847 Grote *Greece* II. ix. III. 16 That regulated sociality which required the control of individual passion from every one. 1899 Fiske *Through Nature to God* II. ix. 105 As soon as sociality became established, and Nature's supreme end became the maintenance of the clan organization.

3. Companionship or fellowship *in* or *with* some thing or person.

1806 J. Beresford *Miseries Hum. Life* I. 5 My only remaining solace,—that of sociality in sorrow and complaint. 1831 I. Taylor in Edwards *Freedom Will* Pref. p. xxxvii, Fatalism..takes its place along with the truths of other exact sciences and should maintain sociality with them. 1863 J. G. Murphy *Comm., Gen.* xxv. 1–11, Wedlock and the Sabbath, the fountain-heads of sociality with man and God.

Socialization (sōu·ʃăləizā·ʃən). [f. next.] The action or fact of socializing or establishing upon a socialistic basis.

1886 *Pall Mall G.* 22 Sept. 11/2 The socialization of the means and instruments for the creation of wealth by the workers. 1896 *Westm. Gaz.* 18 Sept. 2/2 No one could now be found to deny the possibility..of the socialisation of some services.

Socialize (sōu·ʃăləiz), *v.* [f. Social *a.* + -ize.]

1. *trans.* To render social; to make fit for living in society.

1828 [see Socializing *ppl. a.*]. 1836 Lytton *Athens* (1837) I. 382 Pisistratus refined the taste and socialized the habits of the citizens. 1846 Grote *Greece* (1862) II. 566 Socialising and improving the people. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 254 He [the wrongdoer] is imperfectly socialised.

2. To render socialistic in nature; to establish or develop according to the theories or principles of socialism.

1846 Worcester, *Socialize*,..to regulate or conform to the principles of the Socialists. 1889 Shaw *Fabian Ess. Socialism* 50 It is the municipalities who have done most to 'socialize' our industrial life. 1894 *Daily News* 4 June 7/1 They would 'socialise', as they term it, all the instruments of production, such as mines, factories, railways, and so forth.

Hence **So·cialized** *ppl. a.*; **So·cializing** *vbl. sb.*

1848 Hamilton *Sabbath* i. 11 Divine worship, among socialised men, requires social agreement. 1887 *Pall Mall G.* 17 Oct. 2/2 The second part..takes place several years later in a rural commune of Socialized England. 1904 *Sat. Rev.* 19 Mar. 353 The preliminary necessary to the complete socialising of the state.

So·cializing, *ppl. a.* [f. prec.] That socializes or renders social.

1828 *Q. Rev.* XXXVIII. 211 The socialising and humanising effects of a liberal commerce with other nations. 1841 *Tait's Mag.* VIII. 562 The socializing philosophist will change the congregation of battling devils..into a conclave of serenest gods. 1890 H. H. Ellis *Criminal* vi. 260 Whatever educative and socialising influences the prison may possess.

Socially (sōu·ʃăli), *adv.* [f. Social *a.*]

†**1.** *Sc.* In company. *Obs.*[−1]

1505 *Extr. Aberd. Reg.* (1844) I. 432 Thai sale..pass tua and ij togidr socialie.

†**2.** As a member of a body or society. (Opposed to *severally*.) *Obs. rare.*

1642 Bridge *Wound. Consc. Cured* 31 The subjects are considered two waies: Socially [and] Severally. 1647 Digges *Unlawf. Taking Arms* iv. 88 Which are the acts of them not as single men, but as united bodies, and considered ..socially, not severally.

3. In a social manner; sociably.

a 1763 Shenstone *Ess.* Wks. 1777 II. 215 If the selfish passion of the rest preponderate, it would be self-destructive in a few individuals to be over-socially disposed. 1810 J. Foster in *Life & Corr.* (1846) I. 421 We read socially a great deal. 1850 R. G. Cumming *Hunter's Life S. Africa* (1902) 57/2 These remarkable birds..construct their nests and live socially together under one common roof. 1891 E. Kinglake *Austral. at Home* 91 They are young barristers, doctors, or solicitors, sons of..socially minded stock and share brokers.

4. In respect of, with regard to, society.

1871 Smiles *Charac.* ii. (1876) 59 The result has been socially disastrous. 1876 *Encycl. Brit.* V. 696/2 The influence of Christianity was making itself felt morally, socially, and politically.

So·cialness. [f. Social *a.*] Social quality or character; = Sociality 1.

1727 Bailey (vol. II), *Sociableness, Socialness*, social Temper, Fitness for Conversation. 1843 *Proc. Berw. Nat. Club* II. 41 There is a certainty..that the disposition to society and socialness, innate to humanity,..will have fair play. 1901 *Expositor* June 426 Sin is selfishness, and morality is socialness.

So·cialry. *U.S.* [f. Social *a.* + -ry.] Social organization.

1902 *Science* 14 Feb. 249/1 In the analogy with primitive socialry,

So·cialty. *rare*[−1]. [f. Social *a.*] Sociality.

1848 Bailey *Festus* (ed. 3) 210 Others [held]..that war and socialty Were equal evils.

†**So·ciate,** *sb. Obs.* Also 5–7 sociat. [ad. L. *sociāt-us*: see next.] An associate or colleague; a companion or comrade. Also *transf.*

a. c 1450 *Hist. & Ant. Masonry* 130 The..Alderman of the Towne in wyche the congregacions ys holden schall be felaw and sociat to the master of the congregacions. 1582 Stanyhurst *Æneis* II. (Arb.) 56 Deere sociats,..Now let vs on forward. 1621 Brathwait *Nat. Embassie* (1877) 109 Wisdome will haue sociats to frequent her. 1638 — *Barnabees Jrnl.* I. (1818) 39 Night and day with sociats many Drunk I ale both thick and clammy.

β. 1523 *North Co. Wills* (Surtees) 116 To the two sociates with the prior of Horneby. 1588 Parke tr. *Mendoza's Hist. China* 53 He had two sociates for to helpe him. 1640 Yorke *Union Hon., Battles* 58 Wyat and his sociates being greatly encouraged by this new supply. 1706 De Foe *Jure Divino* XI. 260 At this One Blow, the mighty Sociates fell. 1719 — *Crusoe* II. (Globe) 376 The three new Sociates began, it seems, to be weary of the..life they led. 1788 Sir B. Boothby *Elegy* 7 in *Sorrows* (1796) 41 Beloved retreat..! Sociate of joy, when Love and Hope were young.

So·ciate, *pa. pple.* and *ppl. a. Obs.* exc. *arch.* Also 6 sociat, socyate. [ad. L. *sociāt-us*, pa. pple. of *sociāre*.]

1. *pa. pple.* Associated *with* or *to* some thing or person; joined or united *together*.

a. 1501 Douglas *Pal. Hon.* I. xvi, Tell me this wonder, How that 3e wretchit catiues..Ar sociat with this court souerane? 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 152 The actyue lyfe is ye lyfe wherby we be sociat and knytte in charite and loue to our neyghbour.

β. 1509 Barclay *Shyp of Folys* (1570) 127 In him is iustice with pitie sociate. 1534 Whittinton *Tullyes Offices* I. (1540) 70 Eloquence wynneth and accompanyeth those with whome we be famylier socyate. 1895 F. Thompson *Sister Songs* 60 But you must be Bound and sociate to me.

†**2.** *ppl. a.* Associated, joint. *Obs.*[−1]

1706 De Foe *Jure Divino* II. 11 Belus and Nimrod,..Who made the patriarchal power comply, And sociate Rule submit to Monarchy.

†**So·ciate,** *v. Obs.* [f. L. *sociāt-*, ppl. stem of *sociāre* to unite, combine, etc., f. *socius* companion.]

1. *trans.* To associate, join, or unite together; to form into a society or association.

a 1578 Lindesay (Pitscottie) *Chron. Scot.* (S.T.S.) I. 112 Of him quhome he persewit maist cruellie,..sociatit witht the commone enemeis of the realme. 1648–9 *Eikon Bas.* 90 That Government being necessary for the Churches well-being when multiplied and sociated. 1654 Gayton *Pleas. Notes* IV. viii. 220 O let thy loines so fruitfull be To sociate all Monarchy.

2. *intr.* To associate, mix, or keep company *with* others.

1635 Shelford *Five Disc.* ii. 58 One sort will not sociate with the rest of their neighbours in the house of God. 1684 Bunyan *Pilgr.* II. 44 They seem..above all others to desire to sociate with, and to be in their Company. 1719 De Foe *Crusoe* II. (Globe) 339 They would be very willing to assist and sociate with them.

b. To combine or league *together*. *rare.*

1688 Holme *Armoury* III. 203/2 A Gild or Fraternity of Brothers and Sisters..are a kind of Religious Laity that Societ [*sic*] together.

†**So·ciation.** *Obs. rare.* [ad. late L. *sociātio* (cf. older F. *sociation*), or f. Sociate *v.* after *association*.] Association, conjunction, union.

1681 H. More in Glanvil *Sadducismus* Postscr. I. (1726) 12 In vertue of either an express or implicit Sociation or Confederacy with some Evil Spirit. *a* 1716 South *Serm.* (1744) XI. 6 Upon the sociation of the soul with the body.

Sociative (sōu·ʃiĕtiv), *a. Gram.* [ad. F. *sociatif, -ive*: see Sociate *v.* and -ive.] Denoting or expressing association.

1871 Kennedy *Public Sch. Lat. Gram.* 437 From this habit of connexion by Relatives, appears to have arisen the use of *quod* before many Conjunctions as a merely Sociative Particle. 1888 — *Revised Lat. Primer* § 232 This [the Ablative of Association] includes the uses of an old case called the Sociative Case, expressing the circumstances associated with the Subject or the action of the Sentence.

absol. 1886 *Trans. Amer. Philol. Assoc.* XVII. 79 The pure dative, the locative, and the instrumental (including the sociative).

†**So·cie,** *v. Obs.* Also 5 socy-. [ad. OF. *socier*, ad. L. *sociāre*: see Sociate *v.*] *trans.* To associate, ally, or join (a person or persons) *to* (another or others), esp. for some common purpose.

1387 Trevisa *Higden* (Rolls) II. 267 Hym slowh Cyrus i-socied to his eme Darius. *Ibid.* VIII. 333 þere he [king Edward] socied to hym þe emperour Bevarrus. *c* 1425 *St. Mary of Oignies* II. vii. in *Anglia* VIII. 170/1 Vnwhile receyued worshypfully of þe senate of holy apostils, oþerewhile socyed to setes of aungels. 1447 Bokenham *Seyntys* (Roxb.) 98 To Coleyn ful fast he gan hym hye And socyid hym to that holy cumpanye.

b. To join or bind (things) *together*.

1398 Trevisa *Barth. De P. R.* XIX. cxxxi. (1495) 941 All the lymmes of the body ben socied togyder by vertue of Armenye.

Soci·etal, *a.* [f. Society + -al.] Societary; social.

1903 A. G. Keller *Queries in Ethnography* 55 The Societal System.

Societarian (sosəi,ĕtē·riăn), *a.* and *sb.* [f. Society, after other words in *-arian*. Cf. F. *sociétaire*.]

A. *adj.* Societary; socialistic.

1822 Lamb *Elia* I. *Compl. Decay of Beggars*, The all-sweeping besom of societarian reformation. *Ibid.*, The..caprice of any fellow-creature, or set of fellow-creatures, parochial or societarian. *a* 1849 H. Coleridge *Ess.* (1851) II. 19 He could have no sympathy with utilitarian liberaux or societarian philanthropists. 1900 *Speaker* 3 Feb. 476 The return to Greek societarian ideas is now a commonplace.

B. *sb.* **1.** One who believes in or advocates some form of socialism; a socialist.

1842 *Nonconformist* II. 809 Your communitarians, or societarians of modern days. *a* 1866 J. Grote *Exam. Utilit. Philos.* iv. (1870) 62, I should myself be inclined rather to call Mr. Mill a societarian, if we must have new and sectarian words, than an utilitarian.

2. One who moves in or is a member of fashionable society.

1891 *Boston* (Mass.) *Jrnl.* 2 Jan. 2/3 'Societarians' is a new term for the fashionable four hundred. 1893 *Cornh. Mag.* Sept. 246 Second to none in that varied knowledge required nowadays of the successful societarian.

Hence **Societa·rianism.**

a 1866 J. Grote *Exam. Utilit Philos.* iv. (1870) 71 What I have called his [Mill's] 'societarianism' would have been superfluous.

†**Soci·etary,** *sb. Obs.*[−1] [Cf. next.] An associate.

1652 Urquhart *Jewel* Wks. (1834) 258 These four eminent Scots I have put together, because they were societaries by the name of Jesus, vulgarly called Jesuits.

Societary (sosəi·ĕtări), *a.* [f. Society + -ary.] Of, pertaining to, concerned or dealing with, society or social conditions; social.

1847 *Tait's Mag.* XIV. 267 Small farms would also be a return to something like Patriarchalism, a past societary state. 1885 L. Oliphant *Sympneumata* 187 It should not be matter for surprise that just and truer order has so lately begun to show itself on the field of societary life. 1886 T. Frost *Country Journalist* v. (1888) 57 Men..disposed to study societary science.

Soci·etism. [f. Society + -ism.] Combination in a society or societies.

1894 *Daily News* 26 Dec. 3/6 It was a real grievance which hatched secret societism in Ireland. 1896 *Bibliotheca Sacra* July 545 As the perversion of individualism is anarchism, so would the perversion of societism appear to be socialism or collectivism.

Society (sosəi·ĕti). Also 6 societe(e, societye, 6–7 -tie, 7 socyetye, sosiety. [ad. OF. *societe* (mod.F. *société*, = It. *società*, Sp. *sociedad*, Pg. *sociedade*), ad. L. *societas*, f. *socius* companion, etc.]

I. 1. Association with one's fellow men, esp. in a friendly or intimate manner; companionship or fellowship. Also rarely of animals (quot. 1774).

1531 Elyot *Gov.* (1834) 173 Society, without which man's life is unpleasant and full of anguish. 1581 W. Stafford *Exam. Compl.* ii. (1876) 49 To the intent men may knowe that they haue neede one of anothers helpe, and thereby loue and societie to growe among all men the more. 1621 in Foster *Eng. Factories Ind.* (1906) 305 Till now wee have not had to doe with them in matter of moment, but in frendly sosiety. 1658 T. Wall *Charact. Enemies Ch.* 59 It is separation..that makes them void of Christian society, and common Morality. 1736 Butler *Anal.* I. v. 121 Want of everything of this kind..would render a man as uncapable of Society, as want of language would. 1774 Goldsm. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) V. 353 As Nature has formed the rapacious class for war, so she seems equally to have fitted these for peace, rest, and society. 1861 Mill *Utilit.* iii. 47 Society between equals can only exist on the understanding that the interests of all are to be regarded equally.

b. With possessive pronoun or genitive.

1588 Shaks. *L. L. L.* IV. ii. 166, I do dine to day at the fathers of a certaine Pupill of mine..I beseech your Societie. 1663 S. Patrick *Parab. Pilgr.* (1687) 35 It is a thousand to one but they will find the means..to insinuate themselves into their society again. 1779 *Mirror* No. 64, I had fancied that..the want of their society had deprived us of the ease and gaiety of discourse. 1828 Scott *F. M. Perth* xxxii, Forced on each other's society, the two desolate women became companions, if not friends. 1868 Freeman *Norm. Conq.* (1877) II. 473 A holy anchorite, who had been for forty years cut off from the society of men.

c. Association or intercourse *with* or *between* persons, etc. Also *fig.*

1563 Foxe *A. & M.* 973/2 The societie betwixt Christ & vs, is promised to them that take bread and wyne. *c* 1610 *Women Saints* 11 There was such friendship, societie, and familiarity betweene the Religious of that contrie and England, that [etc.]. 1662 Stillingfl. *Orig. Sacræ* III. ii. § 5 An Island, where he may have no society with mankind. 1690 Locke *Govt.* II. ii. Wks. 1727 II. 162 One of those wild savage Beasts, with whom Men can have no Society nor Security. 1803 M. Cutler in *Life*, etc. (1888) II. 119 The members who are there are not willing to acknowledge they have any society with him. 1831 Scott *Cast. Dang.* xvii, You will..best fulfil the intentions of those by whose orders you act, by holding no society with me whatever, otherwise than is necessary.

d. With *a* and pl. An instance of association or companionship with others. *rare.*

1598 Shaks. *Merry W.* III. iv. 9 Other barres he layes before me, My Riots past, my wilde Societies. 1780 *Mirror* No. 71, Renouncing a society in which the secret admonitions of his heart frequently told him he could not continue.

e. *concr.* Persons with whom one has, or may have, companionship or intercourse. Also *transf.* of plants. †In early use also with poss. pronouns or article.

In some instances the abstract sense is also implied.

1605 Shaks. *Mach.* III. iv. 3 Our selfe will mingle with Society, And play the humble Host. 1613 Purchas *Pilgrimage* (1614) 411 None are so readie to blame men therein as their Societie. 1696 *Caldwell P.* (Maitland Cl.)

I. 171, I lodged..att the 2 pigeons, where I had a most desyreable societie. 1719 De Foe *Crusoe* I. 292 Having now Society enough, and our Number being sufficient to put us out of Fear of the Savages. 1759 Mills tr. *Duhamel's Husb.* II. ii. (1762) 260 Wheat and other plants love society. 1816 Jane Austen *Emma* iii, Mr. Woodhouse was fond of society...He liked very much to have his friends come and see him. 1853 Reade *Chr. Johnstone* 256 They have plenty of society, real society. 1872 Ruskin *Fors Clav.* 14 For all society he had two friends.

2. The state or condition of living in association, company, or intercourse with others of the same species; the system or mode of life adopted by a body of individuals for the purpose of harmonious co-existence or for mutual benefit, defence, etc.: **a.** *In reference to man.*

1553 T. Wilson *Rhet.* (1580) A vj b, Long it was ere that manne knewe hymself,..so that all thynges waxed sauage, the yearth vntilled, societie neglected. 1599 *Mirrour of Policie* 120 Societie is an assemblie and consent of many in one. 1642 Charles I *Declaration* 12 Aug. 23 Against the Laws of Society and civill Conversation. 1650 Bulwer *Anthropomet* 172 A due reverence in the first place towards God..., then towards Society wherein we live. 1744 Harris *Three Treat.* (1841) 62 We are fitted with powers and dispositions which have only relation to society, and which, out of society, can nowhere else be exercised. 1782 V. Knox *Ess.* xvi. (1819) I. 93 Is not this system [Christianity], whether well or ill founded, friendly to society? 1835 I. Taylor *Spir. Despot.* ii. 58 The inestimable advantages of living in society are unavoidably burdened with some partial evils. *a* 1862 Buckle *Misc. Wks.* I. 5 In the earliest stages of society there are many arts, but no sciences.

b. In reference to certain animals, insects, etc.

1794 S. Williams *Hist. Vermont* (1809) I. 114 The society of beavers seems to be regulated and governed, altogether by natural dispositions, and laws. 1826 Samouelle *Direct. Collect. Insects & Crust.* 39 Wasps, like bees, live in society. 1834 M'Murtrie *Cuvier's Anim. Kingd.* 390 Its larvæ lives on the same trees, and frequently in society.

3. The aggregate of persons living together in a more or less ordered community.

1639 N. N. tr. *Du Bosq's Compl. Woman* I. 17 Where as then was no other sinne in society then lying, a genuine playnesse..were enough. 1678 Cudworth *Intell. Syst.* I. iv. 431 In doing one action after another, tending to a Common Good, or the good of Humane Society. 1749 Lady Luxborough *Let. to Shenstone* 24 June, You may be busied to the benefit of society without stirring from your seat. 1782 Priestley *Corrupt. Chr.* I. 5 In few cases has the peace of society been so much disturbed. 1841 *Nonconformist* I. 281 The principles by which the aristocracy have gained.. their Sindbad seat on the shoulders of society. 1873 Hamerton *Intell. Life* VI. i. 195 Society has only one law, and that is custom.

b. With defining or limiting adj.; esp. *good society* (cf. next).

1779 *Mirror* No. 13, The varied objects which present themselves in cultivated society. 1816 J. Scott *Vis. Paris* (ed. 5) 151 The wars of the period..repressed to a most deplorable degree, what is properly understood by *good society*. 1859 Thackeray *Virgin.* xliii, There were masquerades and ridottos frequented by all the fine Society. 1893 Kate Sanborn *Truthf. Woman S. California* 40 In regard to society, I find that the 'best society' is much the same all over the civilized world.

c. The aggregate of leisured, cultured, or fashionable persons regarded as forming a distinct class or body in a community; *esp.* those persons collectively who are recognized as taking part in fashionable life, social functions, entertainments, etc. Also with *a* and *the*.

(*a*) 1823 Byron *Juan* XIII. xcv, Society is now one polish'd horde, Form'd of two mighty tribes, the *Bores* and *Bored*. 1846 Mrs. Gore *Engl. Char.* 15 The press gossips for society, because society makes no secret of its love of gossiping. 1856 Merivale *Rom. Emp.* xli. (1871) V. 124 Ovid is eminently the poet of society. 1893 Grant Allen *Scallywag* I. 6 Who *is* Mr. Gascoyne, and who *is* Mr. Thistleton? ..Are they in society?

(*b*) 1840 Thackeray *Barber Cox* Feb., The paragraphs in the papers about Mr. Coxe Coxe..had an effect in a wonderfully short space of time, and we began to get a very pretty society about us. 1842 Lover *Handy Andy* xxi, Intelligence and courtesy in the one sex, and gentleness and natural grace in the other, making a society not to be ridiculed in the mass.

(*c*) 1848 Thackeray *Van. Fair* lxii, The performance over, the young fellows lounged about the lobbies, and we saw the society take its departure.

d. Personified.

1784 Cowper *Task* IV. 498 Till at last Society..Shakes her encumber'd lap, and casts them out. 1831 Carlyle *Sart. Res.* I. vi, A huge..Apron, wherein Society works (uneasily enough). 1877 'Rita' *Vivienne* I. i, Society shrugged its shoulders. 1879 *Daily Telegr.* 15 May, He sinks, smiling, into the arms of Society, and Society..eats him up.

II. †4. The fact or condition of taking part with others or another in some thing or action; participation. *Obs.*

1534 More *Treat. Passion* Wks. 1333/1 The societie of al saintes in the mistical body of Christ. 1560 Daus tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 126 For the kynges societie and conjunction..they yelde him harty thankes. *Ibid.* 218 Who hath perswaded the bisshop of Rome and the French king to the Societie of this war. 1613 Purchas *Pilgrimage* IV. iii. I. 298 Pacorus being received into Societie of the Kingdome with his father. 1758 *Ann. Reg.* 16 The Prussians,..inspired by a society of danger with their King,..totally defeated the Austrians.

†b. A sharing or use in common. *Obs.*—1

1699 Temple *Hist. Eng.* 14 One Custom there was among the Britains which seems peculiar to themselves,..which was a Society of Wives among certain numbers, and by common consent.

†5. The fact or condition of being connected or related; connexion, relationship; union or alliance; affinity. *Obs.*

a. Const. *with* or *between* (some thing or person).

(*a*) 1541 R. Copland *Galyen's Terap.* 2 B iv, The sayd indication hath no maner of societe with the cause prymytyfe. 1561 Daus *Bullinger on Apoc.* (1573) 193 He hath the number of the name of the beast, which hath a societie wyth the beast, which societie that number bewrayeth or sheweth. 1610 Barrough *Meth. Physick* III. xxv. (1639) 143 The veine in the right arme..having society with the veine which is called Vena cava. 1707 *Curios. in Husb. & Gard.* 237 The universal Spirit is Water,..the Society of the Water with the Sun produces Animals, Vegetables and Minerals.

(*b*) 1601 Holland *Pliny* I. 5 There is not..so great societie betweene heauen and vs, as [etc.]. 1620 Venner *Via Recta* 110 There is so great societie betwixt it and the heart.

†b. Const. *of* or *in* (something).

1562 Cooper *Answ. Priv. Masse* (1850) 130 You allege a perpetual society of the body and blood, which ye call *Concomitantiam*. 1610 Holland *Camden's Brit.* 16 If no writer had recorded, that we Englishmen are descended from Germanes,..the society of their tongues would easily confirme the same. 1646 Sir T. Browne *Pseud. Ep.* II. i. (1650) 43 This is a fallacy of Æquivocation, from a society in name inferring an Identity in nature. 1668 Culpepper & Cole *Barthol. Anat.* II. iii. 90 The Consent of Vicinity makes nothing to the purpose,..nor society in the same Office. 1771 *Ann. Reg.* II. 25/2 By long society in party, the sentiments of these men in politics had come to be the same.

†6. The state or condition of being politically confederated or allied; confederation. *Obs.*

a 1548 Hall *Chron., Hen. VII*, 25 b, To exhorte and requyre the kynge of Englande, to entre hys company and societee in armes. 1579 J. Stubbes *Gaping Gulf* B vij b, Absoluing our neyghbour kinges of any auncient leage or late oth of societie. 1623 Bingham *Hist. Xenophon* 87 You haue now an opportunitie presented vnto you..by entring into societie of war with vs, to be reuenged. 1665 Manley *Low C. Wars* 974 Many Kings, Princes, and Nations, began to respect the Society and Alliance of Holland.

†b. A political alliance, league, or compact.

1600 Holland *Livy* XXIII. 472 A league and societie was concluded betweene Philip the King of the Macedonians and Anniball. 1606—*Suetonius* 8 Hee entred likewise into a Societie with them both, vpon this contract, That [etc.].

†7. Partnership or combination in or with respect to business or some commercial transaction.

1569 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* I. 681 The said Johnne enterit in societie with the said abbot. 1574 *Ibid.* II. 513 Not keping societie in the furthering and furnissing of money..as the partinaris..sall appoint. 1592 West *1st Pt. Symbol.* § 26 Societie is a contract by consent about a thing to be had and used in common on both sides. 1650 *Bounds Publ. Obed.* (ed. 2) 10 Partner-ship or Society (as the Civill Law cals it).

†b. Co-operation; assistance. *Obs.*—1

1586 W. Webbe *Eng. Poetrie* (Arb.) 34 As for him which ..is addicted without society, by his continuall laboure, to profit this nation.

III. 8. A number of persons associated together by some common interest or purpose, united by a common vow, holding the same belief or opinion, following the same trade or profession, etc.; an association.

a 1548 Hall *Chron., Hen. VII*, 28 b, The societe of saynct George vulgarely called the order of the garter. 1581 Allen *Apol.* 29 b, The Seminarie of the Romane Clergie, and other Colleges of the most famous Societie of the name of Iesus. 1612 Woodall *Surg. Mate* Pref., Wks. (1653) 12 It hath divers wayes brought advantage and good to the whole Societie of Surgeons. 1637 *Decree of Star Chamb. conc. Printing* P 9 The Company or Society of Stationers. *a* 1720 Sewel *Hist. Quakers* (1795) I. p. xii, Others of the same Society have not looked upon this as a pattern to imitate. 1741 Wesley *Wks.* (1872) I. 301, I read over the names of the United Society. 1783 in Beatson *Pol. Index* (1788) II. 292 A Society or Brotherhood, to be called Knights of the illustrious Order of St. Patrick. 1832 Scott *Redgauntlet* let. vii. *note*, An old lady of the Society of Friends. 1867 Ruskin *Time & Tide* i. § 3 All bankers should be members of a great national body, answerable as a society for all deposits. 1877 Mozley *Univ. Serm.* iv. 77 The Church is undoubtedly in its design a spiritual society, but it is also a society of this world as well.

b. A corporate body of persons having a definite place of residence.

1588–9 *Act* 31 *Eliz.* c. 6 § 1 Colledges, Churches Collegiat, Churches Cathedrall, Scoles, Hospitalls, Halles, and other like Societies. 1647 Clarendon *Hist. Reb.* I. § 96 In the Society of the Inner Temple, his son made a notable progress. 1849 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* vi. II. 98 A society of Benedictine monks was lodged in Saint James's Palace. *Ibid.* viii. 285 The society consisted of a president, of forty fellows, of thirty scholars [etc.].

9. A collection of individuals composing a community or living under the same organization or government.

a 1577 Sir T. Smith *Commw. Eng.* I. x. (1584) 10 A common wealth is called a society or common doing of a multitude of free men. 1639 Heywood *London's Peaceable Est.* Wks. 1874 V. 358 Greeneland, Muscovy, and Turkey, of which three noble societies you are at this present governour. 1690 Locke *Govt.* II. vii. Wks. 1727 II. 182 No Political Society can be, nor subsist without having in itself the Power to preserve the Property..of all those of that Society. 1770 Langhorne *Plutarch* (1851) I. 395/2 Every society has more to apprehend from its needy members than from the rich. 1805 Wordsw. *Prelude* XI. 394 There is One great society alone on earth: The noble Living and the noble Dead. 1872 Morley *Voltaire* (1886) 3 The Calvinism which in so many important societies displaced it [Catholicism].

b. In more limited sense: A company; a small party. Now *rare* or *Obs.*

1590 Sir J. Smyth *Disc. Weapons* 16 b, Harquebuziers ..being..aduanced and retired with some societies, or *Cameradas* of loose shot, are of good effect. 1607 Shaks. *Timon* IV. iii. 21 Therefore be abhorr'd, All Feasts, Societies, and Throngs of men. 1637 Milton *Lycidas* 179 There entertain him all the Saints above, In solemn troops, and sweet Societies. 1662 J. Davies tr. *Olearius' Voy. Amb.* 203 We..entred into a little society among our selves, and.. went all together in a Company. 1725 De Foe *Voy. r. World* 50 This was not a Business that admitted giving them [i. e. mutineers] Time to club and Cabal together, and form other Societies or Combinations. 1777 W. Dalrymple *Trav. Spain & Portugal* xv, The company..making little societies of conversation till towards eleven o'clock.

fig. 1594 *Selimus* (Temple Cl.) 1984 We will have hog's cheek, and a dish of tripes, and a society of puddings..: a society of puddings? did you mark that well-used metaphor?

10. a. A number of persons united together for the purpose of promoting some branch of study or research by means of meetings, publications, etc.

1665 *Phil. Trans.* I. 16 Printed with Licence, By John Martyn, and James Allestry, Printers to the Royal Society. *a* 1680 Butler *Rem.* (1759) I. 1 A Learn'd Society of late.. Agree'd upon a Summer's Night To search the Moon by her own light. 1763 *Museum Rust.* I. 71 A Letter..from a Member of the Society for encouraging Arts, &c. 1766 H. Hunter tr. *St.-Pierre's Stud. Nat.* (1799) III. 731 A Society of intelligent Englishmen was formed at London.., the object of which was to prosecute scientific research. 1827 Scott *Chron. Canongate* ii, An edition, limited according to the rules of that erudite Society [*sc.* the Bannatyne Club]. 1844 Maitland *Dark Ages* 386 At the time when this suggestion was made, the English Historical Society was just being formed. 1900 L. Huxley *Life Huxley* (1903) II. i. 4 He became President of the Geological Society in 1872.

b. A number of persons meeting together, esp. for the purpose of discussion or debate, conviviality or sociability.

1673 *Humours Town* 52 You take a wrong notion of our Societies from them; here we have always a numerous Club. 1759 Johnson *Idler* No. 48 P 9 He always runs to a disputing society. 1777 Cowper *Lett.* Wks. (1876) 36 He did not belong to our Thursday society. 1848 Thackeray *Van. Fair* xlvi, He never would sit down before Sedley at the club even, nor would he have that gentleman's character abused by any member of the society. 1898 *Daily Telegr.* 6 Jan. 9/6 The association for debating all unforbidden subjects which..was known as 'The Society'.

c. *U.S.* = Congregation *sb.* 7.

1828–32 Webster s.v., In Connecticut, a number of families united and incorporated for the purpose of supporting public worship, is called an ecclesiastical society. 1889 Mary E. Wilkins *A Far-away Melody* (1891) 257 More people went into the Baptist Church, whose Society was much the larger of the two. 1898 *Westm. Gaz.* 4 Nov. 4/2 The unit of the sect [the Methodists] is 'the Society'—composed practically of the communicants attending a particular church.

d. A commercial company or association.

1890 *Daily News* 13 Nov. 7/1 The Investors Protection Society...The society was formed to protect investors and others by advising generally free of charge.

†11. A meeting or gathering. *Obs.*

1712 in W. S. Perry *Hist. Coll. Am. Col. Ch.* I. 192, I can't attend the Society as I would very gladly do. 1741–3 Wesley *Extr. Jrnl.* (1749) 18 At the society which follow'd, many cried after God.

IV. 12. *attrib.* and *Comb.* **a.** With reference to religious bodies, as *society-communion, meeting, men, people, -room*, etc.

1685 W. Smith in *Biogr. Presbyt.* (1827) II. 83 [They would] rejoice with all such as are joined in this Society-Communion. 1721 Wodrow *Hist. Suff. Ch. Scotl.* (1831) IV. 462/2 This year [1688], I find..that the society people made a large collection of money for the relief of several of their number. 1725 P. Walker in *Biogr. Presbyt.* (1827) I. 160 The..keeping up of Society-meetings for Prayer and Conference. 1744 Wesley *Wks.* (1872) VIII. 38 The enlarging the society-room to near thrice its first bigness. 1828 Irving *Last Days* 37 These texts of Scripture..will enable you to confute a whole platform of society orators. 1870 Burton *Hist. Scot.* VII. 529 The Sanctiharians took also the name of 'Society men', as being distributed in 'select societies united in general correspondence'.

b. With reference to cultured or fashionable society, as *society journal, lodging, man, paper*, etc.

1693 Wood *Life* 15 June, Peter Wood,..put aside, as 'twas then said, because he was too precise and religious and therefore not fit to make a societie man. 1722 De Foe *Col. Jack* I, He began to have clothes on his back, to leave the ash-hole, having gotten a society lodging. 1825 C. Westmacott *Eng. Spy* I. 106 Society Whigs and society Tories. 1848 Thackeray *Van. Fair* li, 'The best' foreigners (as the phrase is in our noble and admirable society slang). 1868 Sala *Lamb's Wks.* I. p. xlii, Hook, with whom society-seeking was a vocation and a passion. 1883 *Church Times* 12 June 151 As one of the 'Society' papers suggested in its disgraceful cartoon. 1886 *Fortn. Rev.* Apr. 501 If society-haunting afforded the necessary relaxation.

c. With reference to societies instituted for special purposes, as *society goods, man, membership, room, secretary*, etc.; **society hand, house** (see quots. 1888).

1765–8 Erskine *Inst. Law Scot.* III. iii. § 27 He is..intitled, upon the division of the society-goods, to..a share. 1861 Mayhew *Lond. Lab.* III. 221 The Cabinet-makers.. consist, like all other operatives, of two distinct classes, that is to say, of society and non-society men. 1888 Jacobi *Printers' Vocab.* 128 *Society hands*, those belonging to and working under the rules of a trade society. *Ibid.*, *Society houses*, establishments conforming to the rules and paying the recognized scale price for work. 1892 *Photogr. Ann.*

II. 809 Society rooms, available upon production of a society membership ticket, or an introduction from a society secretary.

Hence **Soci·etyish, Soci·etyless** *adjs.*

1788 Mme. D'Arblay *Diary* 23 Oct., Societyless, and bookless, and viewless as I am. 1863 Wilberforce *Sp. Missions* (1874) 4 The tendency of all that is to cultivate party feeling within the Church..and so by degrees to become one-sided, or what I may call societyish.

Socinian (sǫsi·niăn), *sb.* and *a.* [ad. mod.L. *Socinian-us*, f. *Socinus*, Latinized form of the Italian surname *Soz(z)ini*. Cf. F. *Socinien.*]

A. *sb.* One of a sect founded by Lælius and Faustus Socinus, two Italian theologians of the 16th century, who denied the divinity of Christ.

1645 E. Pagitt *Heresiogr.* Ep. Ded. (ed. 2) B 3, We have also Socinians, who teach that Christ dyed not to satisfie for our sins. 1651 Baxter *Inf. Bapt.* 177 The Socinians say that..the Doctrine of the Trinity is of Antichrist. 1673 Milton *True Relig.* Wks. 1851 V. 410 The Arian and Socinian are charg'd to dispute against the Trinity. 1733 Neal *Hist. Purit.* II. 99 He died a professed Socinian. 1810 Crabbe *Borough* iv. 258 True Independents: while they Calvin hate, They heed as little what Socinians state. 1866 Liddon *Bampton Lect.* i, (1875) 15 Socinians..assert that Jesus Christ is merely man.

Comb. 1698 F. B. *Free but Modest Censure* 31 It is very invidious to go a Socinian-hunting.

B. *adj.* Pertaining to the Socinians or their creed.

1694 (*title*), A Brief Account of the Socinian Trinity. *a* 1704 T. Brown *Dial. Dead* Wks. 1711 IV. 70 All the Socinian Treatises that stole into the World. 1794 Hurd *Life Bp. Warburton* 119 Next to infidels professed, there was no set of writers he treated with less ceremony, than the Socinian. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 119/2 This measure..was followed by the abolition of the two remaining Socinian schools. 1865 Pusey *Truth Ch. Eng.* 13 The infidel or Socinian press in England.

Soci·nianism. [f. prec. + -ism. So F. *Socinianisme.*] The doctrines or special views of the Socinians.

1643 F. Cheynell (*title*), Rise, Growth, and Danger of Socinianisme. 1645 E. Pagitt *Heresiogr.* (ed. 2) 123 For Socinianisme is a compound of many pernicious and antiquitated heresies. 1733 Neal *Hist. Purit.* II. 375 The Convocation..had condemned Socinianism in general. 1819 Belsham *Parr's Wks.* (1828) VIII. 155 It differed almost as much from Socinianism as it did from Athanasianism itself. 1865 Pusey *Truth Ch. Eng.* 11 The Rationalism in Germany, the Socinianism of Geneva.

Soci·niani·stic, *a.* [f. Socinian *sb.* or *a.*] Of a Socinian character.

1884 *Advance* (Chicago) 14 Feb., An icy Socinianistic form of theism.

Soci·nianize, *v.* [f. Socinian *sb.* or *a.*]

1. *intr.* To adopt or express Socinian views.

1671 Gumble *Life Monck* Pref. 7 He that doth not Socinianize in denying the Christian Religion.

2. *trans.* To imbue with Socinian doctrines; to make conformable to Socinianism.

1695 Locke *Vind. Reas. Christ* 13 He would no doubt have found them *all over Socinianized.* *a* 1704 T. Brown *Two Oxford Scholars* Wks. 1730 I. 4 If I am ever so little..Socinianis'd. 1797 *Monthly Rev.* XXIII. 560 Who are supposed to reject the Old and to socinianize the New Testament. 1842 *Blackw. Mag.* LI. 166 This made the clandestine plan to Socinianize the church more easy.

Hence **Soci·nianized, Soci·nianizing** *ppl. adjs.*

1652 Sparke *Prim. Devot.* (1663) 393 Socinianized grandchildren of Arrius. 1655 J. Owen *Vind. Evang.* Wks. 1853 XII. 194 The rest of the Socinianizing Arminians. 1793 *Monthly Rev.* XII. 82 The Socinianizing divines, who are the majority. 1851 W. H. Goold in *J. Owen's Wks.* II. 276 A confused mass of Socinianized Arminianism.

† **So·cinism.** *Obs.*—[1] = Socinianism.

1645 E. Pagitt *Heresiogr.* (ed. 2) 122 Socinisme or Socin[i]anisme hath its name from Lælius Socinus.

Socio- (sōu·ʃio), combining form (on Greek analogies) of L. *socius* companion, associate, etc.

† **1.** Denoting 'fellow-'. *Obs.*—[1]

1656 *New Almanac* (ed. 2) 7 His socio-forger.

2. Used as the first element in a number of hybrid formations (suggested by Sociology) having reference to the constitution, study, etc., of society, as **Socio·cracy,** government by society as a whole. **So·ciocrat,** one who believes in sociocracy. **Sociocra·tic** *a.*, pertaining to, of the nature of, sociocracy. **Socio·latry,** the service of society. **Socio·phagous** *a.*, preying upon society or certain parts of it. **Sociosta·tic** *a.*, tending to preserve a balance in society.

Various other formations, as *sociogenetic, -geny, -nomic, -nony*, have also been recently used or suggested.

1858 R. Congreve tr. *Comte's Catal. Pos. Relig.* xiii. 401 Feudalism combined both.., so as to constitute an anticipation of the final *sociocracy. 1887 *Pall Mall G.* 15 June 3 An idea which in its germ, sociocracy borrows from theocracy. 1887 *Women's Union Jrnl.* 15 Dec. 94 A School of *Sociocrats which held that Communism was impossible because gradations of rank were indestructible. 1887 *Macm. Mag.* Aug. 318 This method of succession, named by Comte *sociocratic heredity. 1858 *Brit. Quart. Rev.* LVI. 441 This is an essential feature of Positivist *sociolatry. 1867 *Contemp. Rev.* VI. 400 The system of sociolatry, which is..to furnish to later generations a complete and permanent religion. 1892 Spencer *Princ. Ethics* I. § 192. 472 In *sociophagous nations like ours, not much pleasure is caused by contemplating the cessation of conquests. 1895 *Atlantic Monthly* Feb. 195 In a society where the *sociostatic press is always at work.

3. Used in comb. with adjs., in the sense 'social and..', as *socio-official, -political, -religious*, etc.

1891 Kipling *City Dreadf. N.* 86 They are spared all *socio-official worry. 1884 *Pall Mall G.* 16 Feb. 2/1 The political or *socio-political questions of the day. 1889 *Spectator* 26 Oct., The *socio-religious life of Scotland.

Sociologic (sōu·ʃiolǫ·dʒik), *a.* [ad. F. *sociologique*: see prec. 2 and Sociology.] Of or pertaining to sociology; concerned or connected with the organization, condition, or study of society. So **Sociolo·gical** *a.*; hence **Sociolo·gically** *adv.* **Socio·logist,** a student of sociology; one who is interested in social problems. **Socio·logize** *v.*, to make a study of social questions. **So·ciologue,** a sociologist.

1861 *Westm. Rev.* Apr. 313 The discovery and verification of *sociologic laws. 1883 *Cent. Mag.* June 312/2 The antagonism felt toward the Indian seems to result..from his sociologic status which differs so widely from our own. 1885 F. Harrison *Choice of Bks.* (1886) 221 There is a..parallel between organic development in sociologic and in biologic types. 1865 Mill *Comte* 75 The peculiarly complicated nature of *sociological studies. 1867 Lewes *Hist. Philos.* (ed. 3) II. 594 It embraced cosmical, but excluded sociological speculations. 1881 *Athenæum* Mar. 363 To throw some light on early Hebrew life by treating it *sociologically. 1884 *Academy* 10 May 326/3 Sociologically he is right in insisting on this distinction. 1843 *Blackw. Mag.* LIII. 399 Presuming these to be decided in a manner favourable to the project of our *Sociologist. 1870 Lowell *Study Wind.* 59 But moralists, sociologists,..have slowly convinced me, that my beggarly sympathies were a sin against society. 1881 Stevenson *Virg. Puerisque* 242 We walk the streets to make romances and to *sociologise. 1892 *Sat. Rev.* 23 July 106/2 The peasant who has found his *sociologue has to wait yet for his observer.

Sociology (sōu·ʃiǫ·lŏdʒi). [ad. F. *sociologie* (Comte): see Socio- 2 and -logy.] The science or study of the origin, history, and constitution of human society; social science.

1843 *Blackw. Mag.* LIII. 397 These are to constitute a new science, to be called Social Ethics, or Sociology. 1851 *Fraser's Mag.* XLIV. 452 The new science of sociology, as it is barbarously termed. 1873 Spencer *Stud. Sociol.* iii. 59 Sociology has to recognize truths of social development, structure and function.

‖ **Socius** (sōu·ʃiŭs). [L.]

1. An associate or colleague.

1701 in *Cath. Rec. Soc. Publ.* VII. 106 We were invited to Mr. Ingram's Defension of his Philosophie, & were presented with *his & his Socius'* Thesis. 1877 J. Morris *Troubles Cath. Forefathers* 3rd Ser. 116 During this time he was Socius to Father Henry Garnet, Vice-Prefect of the English Mission.

2. A comrade, companion.

1859 Sala *Gaslight & D.* xxv. 294 General friend, socius, and adviser of the artists.

Sock (sǫk), *sb.*[1] Forms: 1 socc, 4–7 socke, 7– sock (7 socque); 4–6 sokke, 5–6 sok (5 soke). [OE. *socc*, ad. L. *soccus* a light low-heeled shoe or slipper: of the same origin are OHG. *soch, soc* (MHG. *soc, socke*, G. *socke, socken*), MLG. *socke*, MDu. *socke, soc* (Du. *zok*, WFris. *sok*), OIcel. *sokkr* (Icel. *sokkur*, Norw. *sokk*, Sw. *sock*, Da. *sokke*). Also F. *soque* (1611).]

1. A covering for the foot, of the nature of a light shoe, slipper, or pump. Now *rare* or *Obs.*

c 725 *Corpus Gloss.* S 394 *Soccus*, socc, slebescoh. *a* 1030 *Rule St. Benet* (Logeman) 92 *Pedules et caligas*, soccas & hosan. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 400/2 Pynsone, sokke, *pedipomita.* 1451 Capgrave *Life St. Gilbert* 99 A peyre of old sokkys, or pinsones, whech our maystir had often wered. 1565 Cooper *Thesaurus, Calcearium*, a shoe, pinson, or socke. *Ibid., Calceo*,..to put on shoes, sockes or pinsons. 1613 Purchas *Pilgrimage* (1614) 621 Not being permitted to weare shooes, but in stead thereof vse sockes made of Rushes. 1663 Waterhouse *Fortescutus Illustr.* 430 A Shooe like a slipper with an heel, which we call a Sock. 1687 A. Lovell tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* I. 30 Their Stockins are of Cloth the length of the leg, the feet whereof are socks of yellow or red Leather..sewed to the Stockins. 1799 *Monthly Rev.* XXX. 487 They have all very small feet, from inclosing them as tight as possible in socks of morocco leather. 1855 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* xiii. III. 360 The few [Highlanders] who were so luxurious as to wear rude socks of untanned hide.

† **b.** [After It. *zoccolo.*] A sandal, patten, or clog. *Obs. rare.*

1691 tr. *Emilianne's Frauds Rom. Monks* (ed. 3) 131 A large Convent of Religious,..called by the Italians, *Soccolanti*, because of the wooden Socks they were instead of Shoes. 1696 Phillips (ed. 5), *Socque*, a kind of Sandal, or wooden Patin for the Feet, worn by the begging Friers.

2. A short stocking covering the foot and usually reaching to the calf of the leg; half-hose.

1327 *Pol. Songs* (Camden) 330 Hii weren sockes in here shon, and felted botes above. *c* 1460 J. Russell *Bk. Nurture* 961 His shon, sokkis, & hosyn, to draw of be ye bolde. 1464 *Mann. & Househ. Exp.* (Roxb.) 481 Payd fore ij. payr shoes and ij. payr sokkes, xvj.d. 1531 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scotl.* (1905) VI. 19 Ane elne small canves to be the King ane pair of sokkis. 1599 A. M. tr. *Gabelhouer's Bk. Physicke* 192/2 You must..put on a clean payer of sockes. 1621 Burton *Anat. Mel.* I. iii. I. ii. (1651) 184 One pulled off his socks, another made ready his bed. 1682 Dryden *Medal* Ep. to Whigs, Even Protestant Socks are bought up among you, out of veneration to the name. 1753 Hanway *Trav.* III. I. (1762) I. 228 They use..socks of wool, which reach over the ankles. 1768 *Phil. Trans.* LX. 122 Two or three pair of woollen socks, which we have on our feet. 1842 Bischoff *Wool Manuf.* II. 311 The socks which the women there knit.

Phr. *c* 1520 Skelton *Magnyf.* 1362 Trymme at her tayle, or a man can turne a socke. 1538 Bale *Three Laws* iii, They may go turn a sock.

attrib. and *Comb.* 1883 *Daily News* 17 Sept. 2/3 In the sock department..there are complaints of want of business. 1899 *Ibid.* 27 Dec. 8/3 His tailoring and his sock-darning.

b. *White sock*, a white portion on the leg of a horse, extending half-way up to the knee.

1893 M. H. Hayes *Points of Horse* xx. (1897) 222 'White stocking'..might be reserved for one that comes up as high as the knee or hock; while that of a 'white sock' might be used to signify the marking when it is shorter.

3. *spec.* A light shoe worn by comic actors on the ancient Greek and Roman stage; hence used allusively to denote comedy or the comic muse. *Sock and buskin*, comedy and tragedy, the drama or theatrical profession as a whole.

1597 Bp. Hall *Sat.* I. i. 19 Trumpet,..and socks, and buskins fine, I them bequeath, whose statues [etc.]. 1626 Massinger *Roman Actor* I. i, The Greeks, to whom we owe the first invention Both of the buskined scene and humble sock. 1682 Dryden *Mac-Fl.* 80 Great Fletcher never treads in buskins here, Nor greater Jonson dares in socks appear. 1746 Collins *The Manners* iv, The Comick Sock that binds thy feet! 1783 Cowper *Valediction* 34 To live by buskin, sock, and raree-show. 1809 Malkin *Gil Blas* III. xi, P 1 Gentlemen of the sock and buskin are not on the best possible terms with the church. 1817 Byron *Beppo* xxxi, He was a critic upon operas, too, And knew all niceties of the sock and buskin.

† **4.** (See quot.) *Obs.*—[0]

1611 Cotgr., *Socque*, a Socke or sole of durt, or earth, cleauing to the bottome of the foot in a cloggie way, or in a moist & clayie soyle.

5. *techn.* (See quots.)

1851 *Mech. Mag.* 22 Mar. 239 A method of making the 'socks' or uppers of boots. *Ibid.*, The sock is made of knitted material, with an elastic band at top. 1851 *Catal. Gt. Exhib.* 520/1 Varieties of socks for shoes, of cork and gutta percha covered with lamb-skin. 1858 Simmonds *Dict. Trade, Sock*,..an inner warm sole for a shoe.

Sock (sǫk), *sb.*[2] *north.* and *Sc.* Forms: 5 sokk(e, 5–6 sok, 5–7 soke; 6 sucke, socke, 7– sock. [a. OF. *soc* (12th cent.; so mod.F.), commonly regarded as of Celtic origin.]

1. A ploughshare.

1404 *Durh. Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 398, ij aratra cum ij sokkis. 1405–6 *Ibid.* 222 Pro j sok et ploghschoue. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 348/2 A Sokk of a plughe,..*vomer vel vomis.* 1513 Douglas *Æneid* VII. xi. 79 Al instrumentis of pleuch graith,..As culturis, sokis, and the sovmis gret. 1559 *Wills & Inv. N.C.* (Surtees, 1835) I. 170 A kowter, a soke. 1570 Levins *Manip.* 185/1 Ye Sucke of a plow. 1691 Ray *N. C. Words* (ed. 2), A *Sock* or *Plough-sock*, a Plough-share. 1745 tr. *Columella's Husb.* II. i, When such leaves..are..turned over with the sock, and mixed with the lower ground. 1765 A. Dickson *Treat. Agric.* II. (ed. 2) 236 The plough thus set right by the way of fitting on the sock, will be heavy to draw. 1814 Scott *Diary* 6 August in *Lockhart*, An old-fashioned Zetland plough..had..a coulter, but no sock. 1844 H. Stephens *Book Farm* I. 411 The share or sock..is fitted upon a prolongation of the sole-bar of the body-frame. 1890 *Proc. Soc. Antiquaries* 9 Jan. 30 A lad, whilst ploughing,..found the bronze bell wedged on to the 'sock' of the plough.

b. *attrib.*, as *sock-guard, -iron, -plate.*

1371 *Fabric Rolls York Minster* (Surtees) 7 Et in..j sokeiren, j pari belowes,..emptis. 1844 H. Stephens *Book Farm* I. 415 The share is always formed from a plate forged for the express purpose at the iron-mills, and known in the trade by the term *sock-plate.* 1893 in *Eng. Dial. Dict.* s.v., These were wood plews,..an' hed a sock-guard to prevent t' sock comin' off.

2. *Sock and scythe*, used to denote ploughing and mowing. Also *attrib.* with *land.*

1597 Skene *De Verb. Sign.* M vj b, *Husbandland*, conteinis commonlie 6. aikers of sok & syith lande: That is of sik land as may be tilled by ane pleuch, or may be mawed with ane syith. 1824 Macfaggart *Gallovid. Encycl.* 36, I was fit for baith sock and sythe. *Ibid.* 412 At sock or scythe they hae nae match.

Sock, *sb.*[3] Now *dial.* Also 1 soc, 4 sok. [OE. *soc* (also *gesoc*), f. the weak grade of *sūcan* to suck, = MDu. *soc, zoc* suck (Kilian *sock*, WFris. *sok*, the suck of water in the wake of a ship).]

† **1.** Suck (given to a child). *Obs.*

c 1000 Ælfric *Gen.* xxi. 8 On þone dæg þe man bæt cild fram soce Sarra ateah. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* C. 391 Sesez childer of her sok. 1382 Wyclif *Isaiah* xi. 8 [The child] that shal be taken awei fro sok, or wenyd.

2. *dial.* Wet or moisture collecting in, or percolating through, soil. (Cf. Soak *sb.* 2 b.)

1799 [A. Young] *Agric. Lincoln.* 15 The sock or soak among the silt is sometimes brackish. *c* 1818 Britton *Lincolnshire* 560 Entering the fens,..it leaves a portion of its waters and sludge or sock. *a* 1825 Forby *Voc. E. Anglia, Sock*, the superficial moisture of land not properly drained off. 1851 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* XII. II. 293 Throughout all the marshes and many of the fens are found those subterranean currents called the soak or sock. *Ibid.* 305 A sock-dyke or drain.

b. The drainage of a dunghill; liquid manure.

1790 W. H. Marshall *Rur. Econ. Midl.* II. 442 *Sock*, the drainage of a farm yard: hence *Sock-pit*, the receptacle of such drainage. 1896 in *Eng. Dial. Dict.*, There was no sock above the outlet.

Sock (sǫk), *sb.*[4] *slang.* [Cf. Sock *v.*[2]] A blow; a beating. Chiefly in phr. *to give* (one) *sock(s*, to give a sound thrashing or beating.

a 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew* s.v. *Tip, Tip the Culls*

a Sock, for they are sawcy, Knock down the Men for resisting. 1864 *Slang Dict.* 240 'Give him Sock,' i.e. thrash him well. 1897 *Westm. Gaz.* 30 Nov. 2/2 Hope we give these brutes socks; they are plugging us all round now.

Sock, *sb.*[5] *Eton slang.* [Of obscure origin.] Eatables of various kinds, especially dainties.

1825 C. WESTMACOTT *Eng. Spy* I. 39 Then, after holidays, Tom..gives sock so graciously, that he is the very life of dame —'s party. 1866 *Routledge's Every Boy's Ann.* 310 Sellers of 'sock', that is, eatables,—sweet mixtures generally. 1881 in Pascoe *Every-day Life,* etc. 25 The consumption of 'sock' too in school was considerable.

attrib. 1866 *Routledge's Every Boy's Ann.* 194 There's my old sock-shop.

Sock, *sb.*[6] [? ellipt. for SOCK-LAMB.] A pet child or young animal.

1837 BARHAM *Ingol. Leg.* Ser. I. *Spectre of Tappington* (1905) 24 Master Neddy is 'grandpapa's darling', and Mary Anne mamma's particular 'Sock'. 1869 *N. & Q.* 4th Ser. III. 500 You know you are a little sock!

Sock, *sb.*[7] *slang.* [Of obscure origin: the senses have prob. no connexion with each other.]

†1. ? A small coin. (Cf. RAG *sb.*[1] 2 c.) *Obs.*—[1]

1688 SHADWELL *Sqr. Alsatia* I. i, I went up to the Gaming Ordinary and lost all my Ready; they left me not a rag or sock.

†2. A pocket. *Obs.*

a 1700 in B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew.*

3. Credit, 'tick'.

1874 *Slang Dict.* 301 He gets goods on sock, while I pay ready.

Sock, *sb.*[8] *rare*—[1]. Abbrev. of SOCKET *sb.*

1803 H. K. WHITE *Gondoline* lxv, The eyes were starting from their socks, The mouth it ghastly grinn'd.

†**Sock,** *v.*[1] *Obs.* [Of obscure origin.] *trans.* To sew (a corpse) *in* or *into* a shroud. Also with *up.*

1584 R. SCOT *Discov. Witchcr.* III. ii. (1886) 33 They which socke the corps. *Ibid.* VI. vii. 99 Needels wherewith dead bodies are sowne or sockt into their sheetes. *a* 1627 MIDDLETON *Witch* I. ii, The same needles..That sews and socks up dead men in their sheets. 1643 *Sussex Arch. Coll.* XX. 105 Paid more for a sheet to socke her in, *2s.* 8½*d.*, and for laying her forthe and socking of her, *2s.* 2½*d.*

Hence †**Socking-sheet,** a winding-sheet.

1691 WOOD *Ath. Oxon.* I. 60 It was his custom..every night to hang his shroud and socking or burial-sheet at his beds feet.

Sock, *v.*[2] *slang.* [Of obscure origin.]

1. *trans.* a. To beat, strike hard, hit.

a 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew, Sock,* to Beat... *I'll Sock ye,* I'll Drub ye tightly. 1890 KIPLING *Barrack-room Ball., Oonts* 15 We socks 'im with a stretcher-pole. 1896 NEWNHAM-DAVIS *Three Men & a God* 30 'Sock 'em, Blackie!' said W. Smith. 'Sock the swine!' echoed his brother.

b. *U.S.* (See quot.)

1848 BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.* 320 *To Sock,* to press by a hard blow a man's hat over his head and face. Used in Rhode Island.

c. To drive or strike *into* something; to 'give it' *to* one.

1892 KIPLING *Barrack-room Ball., Cells* 30 'Strewth, but I socked it them hard! 1898 *Westm. Gaz.* 19 Nov. 2/1, I wouldn't have had those fangs socked into me for all the gold mines in these United States. 1901 *Cent. Mag.* May 124 We shall sock it to them, we shall indeed.

2. *intr.* To strike out, deliver blows; to pitch *into* one.

1856 *Lyrics in War Time, Orphan's Song,* I scolded and I socked, But it minded not a whit. 1864 *Slang Dict.* 240 'Sock into him,' i.e. give him a good drubbing.

Sock, *v.*[3] *Eton slang.* [f. SOCK *sb.*[5]] a. *trans.* To treat (one) to sock; to present or give (something) to one. b. *intr.* To buy or consume sock.

1850 *N. & Q.* 1st Ser. II. 44/2 That a schoolfellow would 'sock him', i.e. treat him to sock at the pastry cooks. 1883 BRINSLEY-RICHARDS *Seven Years Eton* v. 38 We Eton fellows, great and small, 'socked' prodigiously. 1889 *Macm. Mag.* Nov. 65 My governor socked me a book.

Sock, *v.*[4] *south-w. dial.* [Imitative.] *intr.* To sigh.

1863 BARNES *Dorset Gl., Sock,* to sigh with a loudish sound. 1886 T. HARDY *Mayor Casterbr.* II. xviii. 243 She pined and pined, and socked and sighed.

Sock, *v.*[5] [f. SOCK *sb.*[1] 2.] *trans.* To provide with socks; to put socks on (one).

1897 GUNTER *Ballyho Bey* xx. 231 How beautifully Irene has socked my feet! 1902 BARRIE *Little White Bird* xi. 107 She had trouble in socking him every morning.

Sockdolager (sǫkdǫ·lădʒəɹ). *U.S. slang.* Also **slock-, slog-, sog-, soc-,** and **-dologer, -dollager.** [prob. a fanciful formation.]

1. A heavy or knock-down blow; a finisher. Also *fig.*

1836 HALIBURTON *Clockm.* I. xl, I'll give you a sockdologer in the ear with my foot. 1838 *Ibid.* II. xix, I felt my fingers itch to give him a slock-dolager under the ear. *a* 1859 in Bartlett *Dict. Amer.* (ed. 2) 425, I gave the fellow a socdolager over his head with the barrel of my gun. 1892 GUNTER *Miss Dividends* (1893) 36 'Yes,—I—reckon it will be a—sockdolager!' mutters her father's friend.

2. A form of fish-hook (see quot.).

1848 BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.* 319 *Socdolager,* a patent fish-hook, having two hooks which close upon each other by means of a spring as soon as the fish bites.

3. Something exceptional in any respect; esp. a large fish.

1869 LOWELL *To Mr. J. Bartlett* 5 Fit for..The Pope himself to see in dream Before his lenten vision gleam, He lies there, the sogdologer. 1884 'MARK TWAIN' *Huck. Finn* xx. 192 The thunder would go rumbling and grumbling away,..and then *rip* comes another flash and another sockdologer. 1894 *Blackw. Mag.* Feb. 229 The pleasant remembrance of the capture of a real socdologer.

Socked, *ppl. a.* [f. SOCK *sb.*[1]] Wearing socks. In quot. *fig.*

1788 *Trifler* No. 2. 21 The buskin'd and sock'd inhabitants of Drury-lane and Covent-garden.

Socker (sǫ·kəɹ). *colloq.* Also **soccer.** [f. *Assoc.,* short for *Association.* Cf. RUGGER[2].] The game of football as played under Association rules. Also *attrib.*

1891 *Lock to Lock Times* 24 Oct. 13/2 A sterling player, and has the best interest of the 'socker' game at heart. 1894 *Westm. Gaz.* 11 Jan. 7/1 The rival attractions of 'rugger' and 'socker'. 1895 *19th Cent.* Nov. 862 When the boat-race, sports, and 'soccer' are in most men's minds. 1899 *New Cent. Rev.* V. 118 A Methodist minister—who..doffed the Socker jersey.

Socket (sǫ·kĕt), *sb.* Forms: 4–6 **soket,** 5–6 **sokett(e,** 6 **sokkat, sowket;** 6 **sockat, -itte,** 6–7 **-ett(e,** 7 **soacket, socquet,** 6– **socket.** [a. AF. *soket,* dim. of *soc* ploughshare, SOCK *sb.*[2]]

†1. A lance- or spear-head having a form resembling that of a ploughshare. *Obs.*

[*a* 1260 MATTH. PARIS *Chron. Majora* (Rolls) V. 319 Ferrum remansit in vulnere; quod tamen excisum..inventum est in mucrone acutissimum instar pugionis,..et brevem formam habens vomeris, unde vulgariter vomerulus vocatur, Gallice soket.]

13.. *K. Alis.* 4415 (Laud MS.), He took in honde a rede pensel Wiþ a soket of broun stel. *c* 1330 *Arth. & Merl.* 7189 (Kölbing), Gaheriet mett þe douke Fannel Wiþ a launce, þe soket of stiel. *c* 1430 *Syr Gener.* (Roxb.) 9645 His tronchon stikked fast With the soket in mid the shelde. 1502 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* II. 352 To Henry, lorymar, for sockatis and dyamandis to the speris, xiiij *s.* 1535 STEWART *Cron. Scot.* II. 687 Than with the speir..He hit the king richt in at the e, The scharpe sokkat syne throw his heid is gone.

2. A hollow part or piece, usually of a cylindrical form, constructed to receive some part or thing fitting into it.

1448 in *Archæol. Jrnl.* LI. 121 Item .j. soket argenteum deauratum pro cruce argentea. *Ibid.* 122, .j. parvum soket. 1483 CAXTON *Gold. Leg.* 167 b/1 Another pyece wherin the sokette or morteys was maad that the body of the crosse stood in. 1523 FITZHERB. *Husb.* § 21 A wedynge-hoke with a socket set vpon a lyttel staffe of a yarde longe. 1585 T. WASHINGTON tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* III. iii. 73 b, A socket of siluer & guilt.., within the top of which socket they set.. plumes of feathers. 1667 *Phil. Trans.* II. 567 Into the Socket of that Iron is put a Staffe. 1699 DAMPIER *Voy.* II. II. 97 This Iron is fastned by a Socket to a Pole about 14 or 15 Foot long. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* III. v. 341 The heel of the yard is always lodged in one of the sockets. 1820 SCORESBY *Acc. Arctic Reg.* II. 223 The harpoon..consists of three conjoined parts, called the 'socket', 'shank', and 'mouth'. 1840 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* III. 349/1 The paddle-beams..pass the sides of the vessel through what may be called sockets. 1892 *Photogr. Ann.* II. 354 The camera is fitted with..sockets for use on a tripod.

fig. 1589 R. HARVEY *Pl. Perc.* (1590) 13 A vaine of lauish iangling, that hath made thy palate rise out of socket. 1602 DENT *Pathw. Heaven* 52 The most part [of men] run beyond their bounds, and leape quite out of their sockets.

b. *techn.* (See quots.)

1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-m.* 229 *Socket,* the innermost end of a shot hole not blown away after firing. 1884 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* Suppl. 827/1 *Socket,* a tool used in well boring to recover and lift rods out of the well.

3. The part of a candlestick or chandelier in which the candle is placed.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 463/1 Soket, of a candylstykke or oþer lyke, *alorica.* 1477–9 *Rec. St. Mary at Hill* (1905) 81 Payd to Thomas Goldsmyth for the mendyng of..the soket of a siluer candilstike. 1537 *N. Co. Wills* (Surtees) 146, iiij candelstickes with double sowkettes. 1552 HULOET s.v. *Candle beame,* Sockettes to set candels vpon. 1626 BACON *Sylva* § 31 Take a small Waxe Candle, and putt it in a Socket, of Brasse, or Iron. *a* 1701 MAUNDRELL *Journ. Jerus.* (1732) 27 A small lighted wax Taper, a hole in the Cake serving for a Socket. 1760–2 GOLDSM. *Cit. W.* xlvi, The candles were burnt to the socket. 1832 BREWSTER *Nat. Magic* xiii. 325 The candle was burned out in the socket of the candlestick, which stood by her. 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xv. III. 521 From dawn till the candles had burned down to their sockets.

b. *fig.* or in fig. context.

1589 *Pappe w. Hatchet* (1844) 36 With a wit worn into the socket, twinkling and pinking like the snuffe of a candle. 1633 LD. BROOKE *Cælica* lxxxvii. 235 When as mans life ..In soacket of his earthly lanthorne burnes. 1655 *Nicholas P.* (Camden) II. 323 My smale talent, being now burnt downe to the very socquet. 1756 *Pol. Ballads* (1860) II. 331 In thy arms let me die, And my glory burn clear in the socket. 1827 SCOTT *Chron. Canongate* i, The light of life.. was trembling in the socket. 1862 GOULBURN *Pers. Relig.* IV. xii. (1873) 354 Love began to burn a little low in the socket.

Comb. 1593 G. HARVEY *Pierce's Super.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 119 His socket-worne inuention.

4. †a. In allusive use. *Obs.*

c 1450 *Mankind* 140 in *Macro Plays,* Yf ȝe wyll putt yowur nose in hys wyffis sokett, ȝe xall haue xl[ty] days of pardon. 1638 BRATHWAIT *Barnabees Jrnl.* III. (1818) 109.

b. = Socket-money (see 7 c).

1818 R. JAMIESON in *Burt's Lett.* I. 194 *note,* [If they happen to see any kind of freedom between them,..they.. demand the *bulling-siller.*] This tax in England is called *socket.* 1889 MARCROFT *Ups & Downs* 10 At the same stir it was arranged for the footings and sockets to come in.

5. *Anat.* A hollow or cavity in which some part or articulation (as a tooth, eye, bone, etc.) is inserted.

(*a*) 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* XXV. xiii. I. 239 Both of them serve in a collution to strengthen and keepe them [teeth] fast in their sockets. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Teeth,* In Men, the ordinary Number of Teeth is 32,..all fix'd in peculiar Sockets. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) VI. 212 Its root enters into the socket above a foot and an half. In a skull..at Hamburgh there are two teeth. 1859 J. TOMES *Dental Surg.* 4 The sockets for the first temporary molars.

(*b*) 1615 CROOKE *Body of Man* 546 The Membrane of their eye is very hard, and beside they stand deepe in their sockets. 1668 CULPEPPER & COLE *Barthol. Anat.* IV. vi. 341 To constitute the upper part of the Eye-hole or Socket. 1782 MISS BURNEY *Cecilia* VII. iii, Fixed in mute wonder,..her eyes almost bursting from their sockets. 1843 ABDY *Water Cure* 26 The eyes deep in the socket and feeble. 1890 W. P. BALL *Are Effects of Use & Disuse inherited?* 72 In one species of ant..the sockets have disappeared as well as the eyes.

(*c*) 1664 POWER *Exp. Philos.* I. 27 Below the eyes was two crook'd horns, which..was fasten'd in two sockets at the roots. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) V. 20 The quill thus deprived continues in its socket for some months. 1826 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* III. xxxiii. 384 The socket..in which the leg is planted. 1837 DICKENS *Pickw.* v, His arms being nearly pulled out of their sockets. 1882 PITMAN *Mission Life Greece & Pal.* 212 The little knob on the end of the hip-bone, which works in a socket in the corresponding bone.

6. Applied to parts of plants.

1657 S. PURCHAS *Pol. Flying-Ins.* 68 Bees gather of all things that have flowers in a hose or socket. 1713 WARDER *True Amazon* 16 Many [flowers]..being kept in their Socket a long time, that should have blown. *a* 1722 LISLE *Husb.* (1757) 138 They, being grown thick and strong, open the socket of the said outward leaf. 1868 *U. S. Rep. Comm. Agric.* (1869) 262 The atocha grass..is not cut like ordinary grass, but is pulled up from its socket.

7. *attrib.* and *Comb.* a. Attrib. in sense 1, as *socket-bar, -bit, -castor, -chisel,* etc.

Many examples of this type occur in recent technical use, and are recorded in special dictionaries.

1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-m.* 229 **Socket Bar* [a hollow conical-headed iron rod for extricating boring rods from bore holes]. 1532 *Lett. & P. Hen. VIII,* V. 447 A ground auger made with a *socket bit steeled. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade,* **Socket-castor,* a metal castor which moves in a socket. 1679 MOXON *Mech. Exerc.* VII. 123 *Socket Chissels..have their Shank made with an hollow Socket at its top. 1842 GWILT *Archit.* Gloss., *Socket Chisel,* a strong tool used by carpenters for mortising, and worked with a mallet. 1895 *Model Steam Eng.* 38 The *socket end of the rod must have a screw formed on it. 1858 GREENER *Gunnery* 401 The price paid for the *socket joint alone. 1895 *Arnold & Sons' Catal. Surg. Instrum.* 789 *Socket Leg, for amputation above knee, with wooden socket. 1869 RANKINE *Machine & Hand-tools* Pl. O 3, The bearing plate of the jointed *socket-piece. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade,* **Socket-pipe,* a pipe worked in a socket. 1847 WEBSTER, **Socket-pole,* a pole armed with an iron socket, and used to propel boats, &c. 1893 *Spons' Mechanics' Own Book* (ed. 4) 80 The stems and handles of *socket spanners are made.. separate from the socket portions. 1887 J. R. ALLEN *Early Chr. Symbolism* 134 The head and part of the shaft..have been re-erected in the old *socket-stone. 1869 RANKINE *Machine & Hand-tools* Pl. N 1, The longitudinal liberty of the spindle..in its *socket tube.

b. In sense 5, as *socket-leaf, -leaved.*

c 1711 PETIVER *Gazophyl.* ix. § 85 Its Stalks red-spotted and socket-leaved. *Ibid.* § 86 Yellow Cape Dragon-Orchis, with broad, pointed Socket-leaves.

c. *Socket-money.* (See quots. and 3 b.) *slang.*

a 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew, Socket-money,* Demanded and Spent upon Marriage. 1772 T. BRYDGES *Homer Trav.* 127 We must likewise come upon ye, By way of costs, for socket-money. 1785 GROSE *Dict. Vulgar T., Socket money,* a whore's fee, or hire, also money paid for a treat, by a married man caught in an intrigue. 1865 *Slang Dict.* 240 *Socket-money,* money extorted by threats of exposure.

Hence **So·cketful; So·cketless** *a.*

1833 *Fraser's Mag.* VII. 720 The eyes have long been rayless, socketless. 1867 GILFILLAN *Night* III. 53 A socketless and fiercely blazing eye. 1872 B. STEWART *Physics* 30 Water exactly equal in bulk to the brass cylinder (that is to say, a socketful).

Socket, variant of SUCKET.

Socket (sǫ·kĕt), *v.* Also 7 **soccate.** [f. SOCKET *sb.*] *trans.* To place in, or fit with, a socket.

1533 *Lett. & P. Hen. VIII,* VI. 642 For mendyng and sockettyng newe Cressytts. 1665 J. WEBB *Stone-Heng* (1725) 214 A Pair of Shears composed of two Masts, socketed or mortaised into a Plank. 1761 *Phil. Trans.* LV. 248 They must be socketed before he can examine [etc.]. 1823 SIR C. BELL in *Phil. Trans.* CXIII. 173 In creatures where the eye is socketed in a cup of cartilage and cannot retract. 1869 RANKINE *Machine & Hand-tools* Pl. P 5, These dies..are ..socketed into the resisting head. 1888 *Athenæum* 16 June 764/3 Five stone bases socketed for wooden uprights.

Hence **So·cketing** *vbl. sb.*

1806 SIR C. BELL *Anat. & Phil. Expression* (1872) 41 The socketing of the long canine teeth. 1833 — *Hand* (1834) 88 The socketing of the teeth in the jaws.

Socketed (sǫ·kĕtĕd), *ppl. a.* [f. SOCKET *sb.* or *v.*] Fitted with or placed in a socket.

1649 in *Archaeol.* X. 404 Two whyte marble columns or pillers, soccated in two foote stepps of black marble. 1713 WARDER *True Amazons* 8 His Tongue being not long enough to reach the Honey out of the socketed Flowers. 1853 RUSKIN *Stones Ven.* III. App. x. 246 So that the socketed arrangement is not seen. 1871 *Archaeol.* XLIII. 446 Two celts, one at least socketed, were found at Hagbourn,..with a socketed spear-head of bronze. 1877 ROSENTHAL *Muscles & Nerves* 95 All these tensions must combine to press together the socketed parts.

Sockeye (sǫ·kəi). Also **sock-eye, suck-eye, sawkeye,** etc. [ad. Amer. Indian *sukai* 'fish of fishes', the native name on the Fraser River.] The blueback salmon or nerka.

1887 GOODE *Amer. Fishes* 481 On Frazer River, where

this species is the most important Salmon, it is known as the 'Suk-kegh', 'Saw-quai' or 'Suck-eye'. 1891 E. ROPER *By Track & Trail* xxi. 304 It was the 'Sock-eye' salmon which was running then. 1903 *Eng. Illustr. Mag.* XXVIII. 128 The sockeyes which only weigh from five to eight pounds apiece.

So·ck-lamb. [? f. SOCK *sb.*3] A lamb brought up by hand; a pet-lamb. Also *transf.*

1838 HOLLOWAY *Prov. Dict., A sock-lamb*, a lamb brought up by hand and domesticated. 1880 MRS. R. O'REILLY *Stories* III. 299 A sock lamb was nibbling the short grass. 1903 A. AUSTIN *Flodden Field* III, All Foyd hath, And all that is within it, save it be That sock-lamb, Margery.

Sockle, obs. form of SUCKLE.

Sockless (sǫ·klès), *a.* [f. SOCK *sb.*1 + -LESS.] Without socks; wearing no socks.

1607 BEAUM. & FL. *Woman Hater* I. iii, You shall see many legs too;..one pair, the feet of which, were in times past, sockless. 1651 *Loves of Hero & Leander*, etc. (1653) 53 Whose arm-pits, and whose socklesse toes, Are not as sweet as amber.

Socky (sǫ·ki), *a. dial.* [f. SOCK *sb.*3 2.] Wet, moist, soppy.

a 1825–66 in E. Anglian and Linc. glossaries.

Socle (sǫ·k'l, ‖ sǫ·kl'). Also 8 **zocle, soccle.** [a. F. *socle*, ad. It. *zoccolo* (also a clog or patten), repr. L. *socculus*, dim. of *soccus* SOCK *sb.*1 So G. *sockel* († *socle, zocle*).]

1. A low plain block or plinth serving as a pedestal to a statue, column, vase, etc.; also, a plain plinth forming a foundation for a wall.

1704 HARRIS *Lex. Techn.* I, *Zocle* is a square member in Architecture,..which serves to support a Pillar [etc.]. 1726 LEONI *Alberti's Archit.* I. 39/1 The first Groundwork of your Wall, and the Soccles, which are call'd Foundations too. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Pedestal*, In the Base are a Plinth for a Socle, over that a Tore carved. 1797 T. HOLCROFT tr. *Stolberg's Trav.* III. lxxxviii. (ed. 2) 455 The pillars stand upon socles. 1843 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* VI. 229/1 An order of square pillars..raised not on a stylobate but merely a socle. 1880 *Nature* XXI. 265 A high round pedestal formed by the foaming sea-water, like the socle of a monument.

2. 'One of the ridges or elevations which support the tentacles and sense-bodies of some worms' (*Cent. Dict.* 1891).

Soole, obs. form of SUCKLE *v.*

Socman (sǫ·kmæn). Also 6 **sok-, 7–9 sock-.** [ad. Anglo-Lat. *socmannus*, var. of *sokemannus* SOKEMAN.] One who holds land in socage.

a. 1579 *Termes de la Ley* 171 b, Sokmans are the tenants in auncient demesne, that held their lands in Socage. 1652 G. W. tr. *Cowel's Inst.* 94 These were stiled the Kings free Sockmans. 1738 *Hist. View Crt. Exchequer* ii. 19 These Demesne Lands belonging to the Sockmen or Plowmen. 1843 CARLYLE *Past & Pres.* I. ix, The very sockmen with their chubby infants.

β. 1670 T. BLOUNT *Law-Dict.* s.v., The Tenants in ancient Demean seem most properly to be called Socmans. 1747 CARTE *Hist. Eng.* I. 436 How many freemen, socmen, villains,..were in each town, and manor. 1761 HUME *Hist. Eng.* I. App. I. 97 The socmen, who were tenants that could not be removed at pleasure. 1865 KINGSLEY *Herew.* xx, 'You are our lord,' shouted the socmen or tenants.

Hence **So·cmanry,** = SOKEMANRY.

1818 in TODD.

† **Socome, socon(e,** irreg. ff. SOKEN. *Obs.*

1523 FITZHERB. *Bk. Surv.* 9 b, To the cornemilnes..belongeth Socone, that is to saye, custome of the tenauntes to grynde their corne at the lordes mylne...That maner of grynding is called loue Socone, and the lordes tenauntes be called bonde socon. 1607 J. NORDEN *Surv. Dial.* III. 109 The tenants..are bound to grind their corne at the Lords mill; and that kind of custome is called Socome. 1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.* s.v., There is Bond-socome,..and Love-Socome. [Hence in Phillips, Bailey, etc.]

† **Socord,** *sb.* and *a. Obs.*-° [ad. L. *socordia* and *socord-, socors.*] (See quots.)

1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.*, *Socord*, luskishness, slothfulness, negligence, idleness, sottishness. 1658 PHILLIPS, *Socord*, sluggish, idle, slothfull.

Socorour, obs. form of SUCCOURER.

Socotrine (sǫ·kǒtrin, sōu·kǒtrəin), *a.* Forms: *α.* 5–7 **cicotrine** (7 **cica-**), 6 **cycotryne.** *β.* 8 **succotrine,** 8–9 **succotrine, socotorine, soccotrine,** 9– **socotrine.** [f. *Socotra* or *Socotora*, the name of an island in the Indian Ocean, close to Africa and Arabia. The early forms represent med.L. *cic-, cycotrinus*, whence also obs. F. *cicotrin* (Cotgr.).]

1. *Socotrine aloes*, a drug prepared from the juice of the *Aloe socotrina* (or *perryi*), and originally obtained from the island of Socotra.

α. a 1425 tr. *Arderne's Treat. Fistula* 90 Medle puluis of aloes cicotrine, mirre, sanguis draconis. 1545 RAYNALD *Womans Bk.* 131 The powder of aloes cycotrine. 1579 LANGHAM *Gard. Health* (1633) 19 Mixe powder of Aloes Cicatrine with iuice of Colworts. 1602 DEKKER *Satirom.* I ij b, Tis not like thy Aloe Cicatrine tongue, bitter.

β. 1704 J. HARRIS *Lex. Techn.* I, *Succotrine Aloes*, is the finest sort that comes from the Island Succotra [etc.]. 1778 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 2) I. 263/2 Socotorine aloes. 1799 UNDERWOOD *Dis. Child.* (ed. 4) I. 57, I would rather advise a recourse to clysters..made of succotorine aloes. 1811 A. T. THOMSON *Lond. Disp.* (1818) 20 The real Socotrine aloes, which are now scarce in the market. *Ibid.*, The real Socotrine extract has a peculiar..odour. 1831 DAVIES *Mat. Med.* 356 The socotorine aloes is obtained by cutting the leaves at their base, and keeping them in a vase with the cut side downwards. 1871 GARROD *Mat. Med.* (ed. 3) 339 Socotrine Aloes occurs in reddish-brown masses, opaque or translucent at the edges.

2. *Socotrine aloe*, the plant yielding the drug.

1778 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 2) I. 262/2 The *vera* or socotorine aloe, hath long, narrow, succulent leaves. 1852 JOHNSON *Cottage Gard. Dict.* 26/2.

Socour, -owr(e, obs. ff. SUCCOUR *sb.* and *v.*

Socratic (sǫkræ·tik), *a.* and *sb.* Also 7 **-ick.** [ad. L. *Sōcraticus*, ad. Gr. Σωκρατικός, f. Σωκράτης Socrates. So F. *Socratique.*]

A. *adj.* Of or pertaining to, characteristic of, Socrates the Athenian philosopher, or his philosophy, methods, character, etc.

a 1637 B. JONSON *Horace, Art Paint.* 442 Thy matter first to know, Which the Socratic writings best can show. 1655 STANLEY *Hist. Philos.* (1687) III. 120 Simon..is reported the first that used the Socratick Discourses. 1741 WATTS *Improv. Mind* I. ix. § 19 By questions aptly proposed in the Socratic method. *Ibid.* x. § 14 But there are three sorts of disputation,..which are distinguished by these three names, namely, socratic, forensic, and academic. 1778 BURNABY in Sparks *Corr. Amer. Revol.* (1853) II. 103 As philosophical and Socratic as ever. 1847 EMERSON *Repres. Men, Plato* Wks. (Bohn) I. 307 Plato's fame does not stand on a syllogism, or on any masterpieces of the Socratic reasoning. 1874 MAHAFFY *Social Life Greece* x. 294 A marked feature in the Socratic society.

B. *sb.* A follower of Socrates.

1678 CUDWORTH *Intell. Syst.* 408 To Plato we might here joyn Xenophon, because he was his Equal, and a Socratick too. 1875 JEVONS *Money* 197 Aeschines the Socratic. 1886 *Athenæum* 21 Aug. 230/2 The practical agreement of Plato and Aristotle, the two Socratics, on the main problems of ethics.

Socra·tical, *a.* [f. L. *Sōcratic-us* (see prec.) + -AL.] = SOCRATIC *a.*

1581 MULCASTER *Positions* xiv. (1887) 67 Our children which be no Socraticall saintes. *c* 1618 MORYSON *Itin.* IV. 305 Yet envious readers more obserue the spotts of errours blotted out, then Socraticall sentences newely added. 1642 'SMECTYMNUUS' *Answ.* xvi. 207 And why doth he..like a Socraticall disputant put off the question with question? 1711 BUDGELL *Spect.* No. 197 ₱ 13 This has made some approve the Socratical Way of Reasoning. 1753 HANWAY *Trav.* II. xviii. (1762) I. 80 This old man was remarkable for his socratical look.

Hence **Socra·tically** *adv.*

1641 'SMECTYMNUUS' *Answ.* xiii. 154 This is to answer Socratically, and in answering not to answer. 1678 CUDWORTH *Intell. Syst.* 421 They disputed Socratically after this manner. 1686 GOODMAN *Wint. Ev. Conf.* III. (1705) 60 Treated Socratically and gentilely. 1751 HARRIS *Hermes* I. xi. (1765) 209 'Twas Socratically reasoned..; 'twas Demosthenically spoken. 1896 *Sunday Sch. Jrnl.* Mar. 140 He did this not by any statement of his own, but Socratically.

Socra·ticism. [f. SOCRATIC + -ISM.] The philosophy of Socrates or some aspect of this. Also **So·cratism** (Todd, 1818).

1878 *Encycl. Brit.* VIII. 579/1 The ultimate views of these two one-sided Socraticisms.

† **So·cratist.** *Obs. rare.* A Socratic.

1554 T. MARTIN *Marr. Priests* I j b, The socratistes said it was better..that al things shuld be in common. 1610 HEALEY *St. Aug. Citie of God* IX. iv. 324 He replied as Aristippus the Socratist did upon the like case. *Ibid.* 730 Both famous Socratists.

Socratize (sǫ·krătəiz), *v.* [See -IZE.] *intr.* To philosophize or live after the manner of Socrates.

1847 tr. *Cesare Cantù's Ref. Europe* I. 23 He passes the day in drinking, making love, and socratizing. 1875 BROWNING *Aristoph. Apol.* 352 Men used to let their hair grow long, To fast, be dirty, and just Socratize.

Socre, Socure, obs. forms of SUCCOUR *v.*

Sod (sǫd), *sb.*1 Also 5–6 **sodde,** 7–8 (9 *dial.*) **sodd.** [app. ad. MDu. *sode, soode* (Du. *zode*) or MLG. *sode* (*sade*; LG. *sode, sudde*), = OFris. *sâtha, sâda* (WFris. *sead, šaed, sâdde*), of doubtful origin.

Connexion with SEETHE *v.* has been conjectured, on the supposition that the word may orig. have denoted turf used as fuel, but there is no clear evidence of this.]

1. A piece or slice of earth together with the grass growing on it, usually square or oblong in shape and of moderate thickness, cut out or pared off from the surface of grass land; a turf. Also const. *of* (grass, turf, etc.).

c 1420 *Liber Cocorum* (1862) 6 Yf þy dysshe metes dere ben to salt, Kerve a grene sod..þou schalt, And kover þy pot with þo gresse done. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 348/1 A Sodde, *vbi* A turfe. 1497–8 *Durh. Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 100 Pro cariag. xxiiij plaustr. de lez Soddez..usque Westorchard. 1550 BALE *Eng. Votaries* II. 57 b, His owne clergye wold scarsely suffer hym to be buryed..vnder tyrfes or soddes of the grasse. 1577 HOLINSHED *Chron., Hist. Eng.* IV. x. I. 61 She..mounted vp into an high place raysed vp of turfe and soddes. *c* 1618 MORYSON *Itin.* IV. 335 Old writers witness that..for a monument they only raysed a turffe or greene Sodd of the earth. 1697 DRYDEN *Æneid* VIII. 237 On sods of turf he set the soldiers round. 1703 THORESBY *Let. to Ray* (E. D. S.) s.v., A turf is thin and round, or oval..; a sod, thick and square, or oblong mostly. 1817 WOLFE *Burial Sir J. Moore* ii, We buried him darkly at dead of night, The sods with our bayonets turning. 1865 SWINBURNE *Poems & Ball., Dolores* 350 Her temple of branches and sods. 1884 *Times* (weekly ed.) 12 Sept. 2/4 Yesterday the first sod was turned of the new school-room.

b. *collect.* as a material.

1826 HOOD *Irish Schoolm.* xii, His tears shall make his turfy seat More sodden, tho' already made of sod. 1827 SCOTT *Highl. Widow* i, The walls of sod, or *divot*, as the Scotch call it, were not four feet high.

c. *Sc.* A piece of turf used for fuel; a peat.

1825 JAMIESON *Suppl., Sod*, a species of earthen fuel, used for the back of a fire on the hearth. 1871 W. ALEXANDER *Johnny Gibb* (1873) 66 [They] had availed themselves of 'a het sod' to light their pipes. 1897 D. BUTLER *Church & Par. Abernethy* v. 78 A lighted sod from the priest's house.

d. *dial.* and *Mining.* (See quots.)

1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss., Sods*, square pieces of clay for draining, cut from ploughed land instead of turf. 1881 *Leic. Gloss., Sod*, a clod: not necessarily turf. 1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-m.* 229 *Sods*, clay beneath coal seams.

2. *Sc.* and *north.* In *pl.*, two pieces of turf used as a substitute for a saddle or pack-saddle. Hence, a rough kind of saddle made of cloth, canvas, etc., and stuffed with straw. Freq. *a pair of sods.*

a 1586 R. MAITLAND in Pinkerton *Anc. Sc. Poems* (1786) 322 For thai, that had gude hors and geir, Hes skantlie now ane crukit meir: And for thair sadils thai have soddis. 1681 S. COLVIL *Whigs Supplic.* (1751) 27 He had a lady Del To-Bose, Who never budged from his side; Upon a pair of sodds astride. 1707 LADY GRISELL BAILLIE *Househ. Bk.* (1911) 20 For a pair sods to Docter St Clairs lady, £1. 16. 0. 1787 GROSE *Prov. Gloss., Sods*, a canvas pack-saddle stuffed with straw. 1822 BEWICK *Mem.* 24, I buckled him [a dog] up in a pair of old 'sods' which covered him beyond both head and tail. 1886 W. BROCKIE *Leg. & Superst.* 39 (Heslop), To get her safely mounted behind him on a well girt pillion or sodds.

3. The surface of the ground, esp. when turfy or grass-covered; the sward. Freq. *poet.* or *rhet.*

(*a*) 1729 T. COOKE *Tales*, etc. 89 Here be my Dwelling on this native Sod. 1771 SMOLLETT *Humph. Cl.* (1815) 255 If I had but one fair trust with him upon the sod, I'd give him lave to brag all the rest of his life! 1797 GODWIN *Enquirer* I. xiv. 121 He bounds over the sod. 1820 SHELLEY *Question* 13 Tender bluebells, at whose birth The sod scarce heaved. 1833 TENNYSON *Pal. Art* 261 Mouldering with the dull earth's mouldering sod. 1878 *Masque of Poets* 12 A homely product of the common sod.

(*b*) 1745 *Season. Advice Protestants* 17 The strong Sod on the Earth, made so by various Composts. 1810 E. D. CLARKE *Trav. Russia* (1839) 42/1 A..desolate plain, covered only by a thin sod, on which herds of cattle were grazing. 1838 LD. CLEMENTS *Poverty Irel.* 25 It consists, simply, in taking one or two crops of potatoes from the ley, or grass sod.

† **b.** The Turf. *Obs.*

1755 *Mem. Capt. P. Drake* II. xvi. 265 She had run on the Sodd several Years, had won some Plates of small Value [etc.]. 1812 *Sporting Mag.* XL. 161 He flourished at the gaming-house, and blazed on the sod.

4. *dial.* **a.** The spot of ground on which one stands.

1691 RAY *N. C. Words* (ed. 2) 67, I will dye upon the Sod; *i.e.* in the place where I am. 1828 CARR *Craven Gloss.* s.v., I wish I may nivver stir of 't sod.

b. *The old sod*, one's native district or country.

1863 MRS. TOOGOOD *Spec. Yorks. Dial.* (MS.), He does not like to leave the old sod after having lived there so long. 1891 E. ROPER *By Track & Trail* ii. 25 And did ye see ould Ireland lately?..And how's the poor ould sod?

5. *attrib.* and *Comb.* **a.** Attrib., in the sense 'made, formed, built, or consisting of sods', as *sod bank, -drain, -house, -hut, -kiln*, etc.; also in other uses, as *sod-draining, -plough, spade*; **sod-worm** (see quot.).

1799 [A. YOUNG] *Agric. Lincoln.* 383 *Sod banks cost, thirty-five years ago, 1s. 2d.* a rood of seven yards. 1844 H. STEPHENS *Book Farm* I. 603 If the turf is tough, so much the better for the durability of the *sod-drain. *Ibid.*, An imperfect form of wedge-draining is practised in some parts of England on strong clay soils, under the name of *sod-draining. 1832 *Bubwith Inclosure Act* 38 A certain cottage or *sod-house. 1896 HOWELLS *Impress. & Exp.* 146 The dugouts or *sod-huts of the settlers on the great plains. 1806 FORSYTH *Beauties Scotl.* IV. 265 From these..*sod-kilns, perhaps, were copied the shallowness and width of the present stone-kilns. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2238/1 **Sod-plow*, a plow long in the share and mold-board, adapted to cut and overturn sod. 1843–52 R. BURN *Techn. Dict.* I, *Revêtement en gazons*,..*sod revetment. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* III. 120 Sod revetments form a neat-looking slope. 1793 WORDSW. *Descr. Sketches* 21 For him *sod-seats the cottage-door adorn. *a* 1835 HOGG *Tales, Wool-gatherer* (1866) 72 Jane had sat down on the sod-seat. 1619 S. ATKINSON *Gold Mynes Scotl.* (Bann. Cl.) 1 To use the arte of delving with the *sodd spade. 1649 W. G. *Surv. Newcastle upon Tine* 2 Picts, who brake downe the *Sodd Wall. 1776 LESLY in Young *Tour Irel.* (1780) I. *209 The sod walls, about 10 or 12 inches thick. 1834–47 J. S. MACAULAY *Field Fortif.* (1851) 225 The earth above the pebbles is to be retained by a revetment of *sod-work. 1892 *Cent. Dict.*, **Sod-worm*, the larva of certain pyralid moths, as *Crambus exsiccatus*, which destroys the roots of grass and corn.

b. Objective, with agent-nouns and vbl. sbs., as *sod-builder, -cutter; sod-burning, -cutting*, etc.

1796 W. H. MARSHALL *W. England* II. 32 Sodburning the more loamy soils..would be a ready means of meliorating the herbage. 1843–52 R. BURN *Techn. Dict.* I, *Trousse-pas*, sod-cutter's spade. *Ibid.* II. s.v., Sod-builder. *Ibid.* II. s.v., Sod-cutter, *écobue.* 1890 *Science-Gossip* XXVI. 99 If the grass and other sod-forming plants assert themselves. 1892 *Daily News* 7 Jan. 3/3 The sod-cutting ceremony of to-morrow.

c. With pa. ppples., as *sod-built, -roofed.*

1814 SCOTT *Lord of Isles* III. i, The rye-grass shakes not on the sod-built fold. 1891 E. ROPER *By Track & Trail* iii. 37 Groups of ruined shanties, sod-roofed, bark-roofed, covered anyhow.

Sod (sǫd), *pa. pple., ppl. a.*, and *sb.*2 Forms: 3–4 **i-sode,** 4–5 **sode,** 5–7 **sodde,** 6– **sod.** [Pa. pple. of SEETHE *v.* Cf. SODDEN *pa. pple.*, etc.]

†1. Of food, liquor, etc.: Boiled; prepared by boiling. *Obs.*

pred. 1297 R. Glouc. (Rolls) 9164 Þe bones hii bere Wel iselt & isode to þe abbeye of redinge. 13.. *Seuyn Sag.* 1574 (W.), Barli-water, that was i-sode. 1422 tr. *Secreta Secret., Priv. Priv.* 246 Flesh y-rostid, wych is more hottyr than..sode in watyr. 1588 Parke tr. *Mendoza's Hist. China* 309 Eating of those bodies which they had slaine, some sodde and some roasted. 1621 Burton *Anat. Mel.* I. ii. ii. i. (1651) 70 Beer, if it be..over strong, or not sod,.. frets and gauls.

attrib. *c* 1386 Chaucer *Parson's T.* ℣ 827 So thise shrewes ne holden hem nat apayed of roosted flessh and sode flessh. 1390 Gower *Conf.* II. 270 Sche let do sowe The lond with sode whete aboute. *c* 1430 *Two Cookery-bks.* 42 Nym sode Porke & chese. 1528 Paynell *Salerne's Regim.* Q iij, Sodde peres releue the stomake greued. 1598 Lodge *Looking Gl. for Lond. & Eng.* B iv, Whay, curds, creame, sod milke, raw-milke. 1611 Corvat *Crudities* 373 Rost and sodde meates. 1658 Rowland tr. *Moufet's Theat. Ins.* 898 Wool wet in sod or sweet wine.

†b. *Twice sod*, stale, unpalatable. *Obs.*

1598 B. Jonson *Ev. Man in Hum.* IV. x, Is meat twice sod to you, sir? 1608 Chapman *Byron's Consp.* IV. i. 114 You make all state before Vtterly obsolete; all to come, twice sod. 1610 [see Colewort 4]. 1641 J. Jackson *True Evang. T.* ii. 130 The example doth so suite the Text, that I could not pretermit it here, though it be mentioned before: neither is it 'coleworts twice sod'.

†c. Of persons: Sodden, soaked, or steeped *in* liquor. *Obs.*

1613 Beaum. & Fl. *Captain* IV. ii, All the rest..are in *Limbo patrum*, Where they lye sod in sack.

2. a. Of bread: Sodden.

1836 *Penny Cycl.* V. 373/1 So that no part of the dough may form a sod or ill-raised bread.

b. *Sod oil* (see quots.).

1883 R. Haldane *Workshop Rec.* Ser. II. 367/2 The oil pressed out of the fermented skins is known as 'sod oil'. 1885 A. Watt *Leather Manuf.* xxvii. 341 'Sod oil,' a greasy matter obtained in the treatment of sheep-skins.

†3. As *sb.* Boiled meat. *Obs.*

1548 Elyot, *Acapna thysia*,..spoken of a simple feast, wherin is neither bake, roste nor sodde. 1558 Warde tr. *Alexis' Secr.* 33 b, You maye gyue hym roste and sodde with pottage of *Amylum*. 1600 Rowland *Lett. Humours Blood* iii. 9 Not that hee'le cloy him there with rost or sod. *a* 1618 Sylvester *Maiden's Blush* 218 While hee is set-up with his Sod and Roast.

Sod (sɒd), *v.*1 [f. Sod *sb.*1 Cf. MDu. *soden, zoden*, LG. *soden, söden*, to make sods, lay with sods.] *trans.* To cover or build up, to provide or lay, with sods or turfs; to turf.

1653 Blithe *Eng. Improver Impr.* (ed. 3) 55 One good substantiall Dike, well turfed (or sodded, as the Fen-men call it). 1693 Evelyn *De la Quint. Compl. Gard.* I. 42 Those Terraces must be supported..by some Banks that shall be sodded on purpose, to make them the more solid and lasting. 1704 *Dict. Rust.* (1726) s.v. *Brick*, To sod, is to cover the Bricks. 1799 [A. Young] *Agric. Lincoln.* 159 Bind the femble into sheaves or beats. Cart it to dykes, sod it. 1839 Hood *Storm at Hastings* xxix, We snatch'd up the corse thus thrown, Intending, Christian-like, to sod and turf it. 1889 *Harper's Mag.* Sept. 558/2 The slope was sodded and terraced with rows of seats.

b. Const. *down, over, up.*

1763 *Museum Rust.* I. 368 A sorry mound of sods, with some bushes sodded down on top, to keep out sheep. 1821 Clare *Vill. Minstr.* II. 81 Made up of mud and stones and sodded o'er. 1870 *Daily News* 12 Nov., The..earthwork, so completely constructed as to have been sodded up with turf.

Sod, *v.*2 Now *dial.* [f. Sod *pa. pple.*]

1. *intr.* To become sodden or soaked; to stick *together* through wetness.

1642 D. Rogers *Naaman* 3 The tree which hath long lien sodding in the ditch. 1644 Plattes in *Hartlib's Legacy* (1655) 218 If Sand, whence comes its clamminess and aptness to sod together? *a* 1722 Lisle *Husb.* (1757) 246 If the hay made of it sods a little in the wet,..it becomes tasteless.

2. *trans.* To soak with wet.

1895 A. Patterson *Man & Nat. on the Broads* 125 Work on the land where wet grass an' rubbidge sod (soak) yer trowsers below.

Sod, obs. pa. t. of Seethe *v.*

Soda1 (sōʊ·dă). [a. med.L. *soda* (It. and Pg. *soda*, Sp. *sosa*, F. *soude*, † *soulde, soulte*), of unknown origin.]

1. An alkaline substance obtained originally from the ashes of certain marine or other salt-impregnated plants, esp. species of *Salsola*, and now manufactured artificially from common salt, or occurring in a mineral state as a deposit, esp. in certain lakes, or in solution in the water of such lakes (natron); used largely in commerce, esp. in the manufacture of glass and soap; soda-ash; sodium carbonate (Na_2CO_3).

Freq. used as a synonym of sodium in the names of various compounds of that element, as *muriate, nitrate, sulphate*, etc., *of soda*.

1558 Warde *Alexis' Secr.* I. iv. 78 Take an vnce of Soda (whiche is asshes made of grasse, whereof glassemakers doo vse to make their Cristall). 1678 R. R[ussell] tr. *Geber* IV. iv. 245 True Salt-Alkali is made of Zoza (or Soda) dissolved. 1693 tr. *Blancard's Phys. Dict.* (ed. 2), *Soda*, the Ashes of the Herb Kali Burnt, whereof Glass is made. 1767 *Phil. Trans.* LVII. 480 The fossil [alkali] or mineral, called likewise soda and natrum. 1796 Kirwan *Elem. Min.* (ed. 2) II. 19 Soda affects it but slightly. 1839 Ure *Dict. Arts* 1150 Carbonate of Soda.. is the soda of commerce in various states, either crystallized, in lumps, or in a crude powder called soda-ash. 1870 Yeats *Nat. Hist. Comm.* 249 A large proportion of the plants growing on sea-coasts contain soda, whilst inland plants contain potash.

fig. 1823 Byron *Juan* x. lxxiii, Half-solved into these sodas or magnesias, Which form that bitter draught, the human species.

b. Sodium bicarbonate, used largely for domestic purposes; baking or cooking soda.

1851–4 *Tomlinson's Cycl. Usef. Arts* I. 183/1 Mix the soda perfectly with the flour. 1893 *Westm. Gaz.* 21 Apr. 5/2 A half cwt. of soda could be bought for 3*s.*

c. *Caustic soda*, sodium hydroxide or hydrate (NaOH). Cf. Caustic *a.* 1 c.

1839 Ure *Dict. Arts* 132 A ley of caustic soda. *Ibid.*, Caustic soda ley. *Ibid.* 1150 Caustic soda is a white brittle mass,..having a most corrosive taste and action upon animal matters. 1871 Garrod *Mat. Med.* (ed. 3) 132 Liquor Sodæ, above described, contains caustic soda.

†2. The prickly saltwort, *Salsola kali*, = Kali 1. 1658 tr. *Porta's Nat. Magick* VI. i. 178 The herb Kali or Saltwort is commonly called Soda.

3. *Chem.* Sodium oxide (Na_2O).

1826 Henry *Elem. Chem.* I. 557 The next oxide of sodium is soda. 1856 Miller *Elem. Chem., Inorg.* 743 Oxide of Sodium, or Soda (NaO), forms the basis of the important series of salts of soda. 1868 Watts *Dict. Chem., Soda*: This term, in scientific language, is applied to the anhydrous protoxide of sodium (Na^2O).

4. Soda-water.

1842 Lover *Handy Andy* i, Bang went the bottle of soda. 1864 Sala *Quite Alone* I. xiv. 220 Keep him on his soda-and-B. That won't do him any harm. 1897 Surg.-Capt. Hughes *Medit. Fever* v. 210 An occasional whiskey with water or soda..is useful.

5. *attrib.* and *Comb.*

a. Misc., chiefly in sense 1, as *soda-bath, -compound, -crystals, -lime, -salt, soap*, etc.; *soda-carbonate, muriate, tartrate*; in *Photogr.* for hyposulphite of soda, as *soda developer, development, -pyro, -solution*, etc.; **soda-ash**, the sodium carbonate of commerce, = Soda1 1; **soda lake**, a natron lake; **soda-lye** (see quot. 1867); **soda-paper, -prairie, waste** (see quots.).

1839 *Soda-ash [see 1]. 1884 W. S. B. McLaren *Spinning* (ed. 2) 29 Soda crystals, or soda-ash,..are carbonates of soda. 1865 Princess Alice *Mem.* (1884) 99, I am taking warm *soda-baths in the morning. 1839 Ure *Dict. Arts* 1151 The crystals of *soda-carbonate..are now made altogether by the decomposition of sea salt. 1845 Day tr. *Simon's Anim. Chem.* I. 182 Hence the albumen in the blood cannot exist as a *soda-compound (albuminate of soda). 1839 Ure *Dict. Arts* 1155 Our commercial *soda crystals are composed of—1 atom of carbonic acid, 1 atom of soda, and 10 atoms of water. 1892 *Photogr. Ann.* II. 89 The *soda developer tends to give softer images. 1890 *Anthony's Photogr. Bulletin* III. 65 *Soda development is apt to give a yellow image. 1864 *Reader* 24 Sept. 387 Such a light is the monochromatic *soda-flame. 1839 Ure *Dict. Arts* 1155 There are several *soda lakes in Mexico. 1862 Miller *Elem. Chem., Org.* i. § 1 (ed. 2) 19 A portion of this alkalized lime, or *soda-lime as it is frequently termed. 1839 Ure *Dict. Arts* 132 Avoid lime,..but use it freely after one or two *soda leys. 1867 Bloxam *Chem.* 266 Soda lye, employed in the manufacture of hard soap, is a solution of hydrate of soda. *Ibid.* 572 A weak soda-ley. 1804 *Phil. Trans.* XCIV. 427 The *soda-muriate of palladium is a deliquescent salt. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2236/1 **Soda-paper*, a paper made by saturating filtering paper with carbonate of soda. 1793 T. Beddoes *Calculus* p. x, His experience of the good effects of *soda pills, in cases of biliary concretion. 1859 Bartlett *Dict. Amer.* (ed. 2) 426 **Soda-prairie*, a plain covered with an efflorescence of soda, elsewhere called natron. 1889 *Anthony's Photogr. Bulletin* II. 391, I worked always with *soda-pyro. 1836–41 Brande *Chem.* (ed. 5) 716 When magnesia is precipitated by excess of carbonate of soda, a portion of the triple *soda-salt is retained. 1834–6 *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) VIII. 434/1 Common salt..hardens and renders it equal to the *soda soaps. 1884 W. S. B. McLaren *Spinning* (ed. 2) 28 Soda soaps are hard, potash soaps are soft. 1809 *Phil. Trans.* XCIX. 327 These parts..certainly afforded no *soda-tartrate of potash. 1849 D. Campbell *Inorg. Chem.* 115 Water dissolves out the soda salts, leaving the insoluble oxisulphide of calcium, known as *soda waste.

b. Connected or dealing with sodium carbonate or its manufacture, as *soda-apparatus, -furnace, industry, -making, manufacture*, etc. Also with agent-nouns, as *soda-furnacer, maker*.

(*a*) 1839 Ure *Dict. Arts* 1151 Soda manufacture. *Ibid.* 1152 The draught of a soda-furnace must be very sharp. *Ibid.* 1153 In some soda-works, where the decomposing furnace is very large. 1853 *Ure's Dict. Arts* II. 683 The whole process of soda-making. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2234/1 Soda-apparatus. 1884 Gilmour *Mongols* 169 Particularly fatal is this rough road to the wooden axles of the soda carts.

(*b*) 1839 Ure *Dict. Arts* 1153 The dexterous management of this transposition characterizes a good soda-furnacer. 1853 *Ure's Dict. Arts* II. 682 Having..obtained a quantity of sulphate of soda, the soda maker now proceeds to his next operation.

c. With the names of minerals containing soda, as *soda alum, -chabazite, -copperas, -feldspar, -limefeldspar, -nitre, -saltpetre, -spodumene* (see quots.). Also *soda-granitic* adj.

Many of these terms are now obsolete.

1837 Dana *Min.* 170 Solfatarite, *alumen volcanicum*. *Soda Alum. 1876 Harley *Royle's Mat. Med.* 192 Soda alum and ammonia alum are formed by replacing the equivalent of potash with one of soda or ammonia. 1836 T. Thomson *Min., Geol.*, etc. I. 335 Combinations of the common calcareous-chabasite and the *soda-chabasite of Berzelius. 1844 Dana *Mineral.* 226 A *Soda Copperas has been analyzed by Scheerer. 1868 Watts *Dict. Chem., Soda copperas*, a sodio-ferric sulphate found in the alum-slate of Modum in Norway. 1863 Dana *Man. Geol.* 56 Albite or *Soda-feldspar. 1845 Darwin *Voy. Nat.* XV. 320 Mountain masses of a peculiar white *soda-granitic rock. 1867 *Ure's Dict. Arts* (ed. 6) II. 269 *Soda-lime-felspar (often containing potash); labradorite. 1896 Chester *Dict. Min.*, **Soda-nitre*, nitrate of sodium, found as a mineral. 1848 *Knapp's Chem. Technol.* I. 344 The more common salts of nitric acid ..are distinguished from each other by the addition of the name of the base as:..*soda-saltpetre (cubic nitre). 1850 Ansted *Elem. Geol., Min.*, etc. 193 *Oligoclase*, *Soda-spodumene, a mineral having the same relation to spodumene that albite has to true felspar.

6. Made with, or containing, sodium bicarbonate, as *soda-biscuit, -bread, -cake, -cracker, -scone*, etc.

1891 *Cent. Dict.*, **Soda-biscuit*, a biscuit raised with soda. 1884 Mrs. Riddell *Berna Boyle* xiii, The *soda bread was rising to a satisfactory thickness. 1894 Lyttle *Betsy Gray* iii. 22 Potato cake, pancakes, *soda-cake, and other manufactures. 1873 B. Harte *Fiddletown* 53 Like an enormous japanned *soda-cracker. 1891 *Cent. Dict.*, **Soda-mint*, a mixture containing sodium bicarbonate and spearmint. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* III. 741 Bismuth lozenges, soda-mint tablets. 1856 Mrs. Carlyle *Lett.* II. 291, I.. had taken a sip or two of tea and bitten into my *soda-scone.

7. Used for, or containing, soda-water, as *soda bottle, -fountain, tumbler*, etc.

1824 Byron *Juan* XVI. ix, Like a soda bottle when its spray Has sparkled. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2235/1 *Soda-fountain*, a vessel for containing soda-water or water charged with carbonic-acid gas under high pressure, and provided with pipes and valves for drawing it off as required.

†**Soda**2. *Obs.* [a. med.L. *soda*, ad. Arab. صداع *ṣodāʿ*, f. صدع *ṣadaʿ* to split.] Headache.

c 1540 Boorde *Boke for to Lerne* C iij b, The fallyng sycknes called..Appoplesia, Soda. 1590 Barrough *Meth. Physick* I. i. (1639) 1 That there are onely three sundry paines in the head: wherof the one is called of the Greeks κεφαλαλγία..; the barbarous sort of Physitians call it Soda. 1662 Lovell *Hist. Anim. & Min.* 97 It helpeth the soda (that is an old head ach)...With saffron and a little camphire it helps the cold soda. 1693 tr. *Blancard's Phys. Dict.* (ed. 2), *Soda*, the same with *Cephalalgia*.

‖ **Soda**3. *Obs. rare.* [mod.L. *soda*, ad. G. *sod* (*sode*), MLG. *sode*, Du. *zode*, Fris. *soad(e*, related to Seethe *v.*] A form of indigestion; heart-burn.

Never actually adopted in English use.

1693 tr. *Blancard's Phys. Dict.* (ed. 2), *Soda*, the same with *Ardor ventriculi* [= Heart-burning]. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl., *Soda*,..an uneasy and troublesome sensation of heat about the orifice of the stomach.

Sodace·tic, *a. Chem.* [f. Soda1 or Sod-ium + Acetic *a.*] (See quot.)

1867 Bloxam *Chem.* 569 A crystalline mass of sodacetic ether, or acetic ether in which one atom of the hydrogen has been displaced by sodium.

Sodaic (sōdē·ik), *a.* [f. Soda1 + -ic. So F. *sodaïque.*] Containing soda or sodium bicarbonate.

1834 Cooper *Good's Study Med.* (ed. 4) I. 248 The common sodaic powders, and the effervescing saline draught, are often relished by the patient. 1839 Ure *Dict. Arts* 424 The most familiar example [of effervescence] is afforded in the solution of sodaic powders. 1853 *Fraser's Mag.* XLVIII. 480 Some occasion in which he had suspended the use of its sodaic waters at table for champagne.

Sodain(e, -ly, obs. forms of Sudden, -ly.

Sodainty, variant of Suddenty.

†**Sodaite.** *Min. Obs.* [f. Soda1 + -ite1 2 b.] A variety of nephelite or wernerite.

c 1830 *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) VI. 489/2 *Elaolite.* Fettstein. Lythrodes. Sodaite. 1846 *Penny Cycl.* Suppl. II. 305/1 Ekebergite (Sodaite) does not occur crystallized.

Sodalist (sōʊ·dălist). [f. Sodal-ity: see -ist 4.] A member of a Roman Catholic sodality or religious fraternity.

1794 in *Mem. Stonyhurst Coll.* (1881) 40 No meeting of Sodalists. 1889 *Tablet* 14 Dec. 946 The handsome chapel where the Sodalists are now enabled to hold their services.

Sodalite (sōʊ·dălɔit). *Min.* [f. Soda1 + -lite.] A vitreous, transparent or translucent silicate of aluminium and sodium containing sodium chloride, usually of a greenish blue colour and occurring in certain igneous rocks.

1810 Thomson in *Roy. Soc. Edin.* (1812) VI. 387 A Chemical Analysis of Sodalite, a new Mineral from Greenland. *Ibid.*, The mineral to which I have given the name of Sodalite. 1837 Dana *Min.* 281 Sodalite includes the white and light green crystallized varieties of this species. 1888 Rutley *Rock-Forming Min.* 115 Sodalite mostly occurs in rocks of a syenitic character.

†**Sodali·tious,** *a. Obs.*—0 Also **-icious.** [f. L. *sodalicius.*] (See quots.)

1656 Blount *Glossogr.*, *Sodalicious*,..belonging to sodality or Fellowship. 1730 Bailey (fol.), *Sodalitious*, of, or pertaining to Society.

Sodality (sɔdæ·liti). [a. F. *sodalité* or ad. L. *sodālitas, -ītātem* fellowship, brotherhood, fraternity, f. *sodālis* mate, fellow, boon-companion.]

1. Association or confederation *with* others; brotherhood, companionship, fellowship.

1600 W. Watson *Decacordon* (1602) 168 A participation, ..combination, or sodalitie with the Iesuits to ouerthrow our countrie. 1609 Bible (Douay) *Eccl.* IV. *comm.*, If the Father, the Sonne, and the Holie Ghost come withal, this sodalitie is not soone broken. 1655–60 Stanley *Hist. Philos.* (1687) 389/1 Of Friendship there are four kinds: Sodality, Affinity, Hospitality, Erotick. 1865 *Reader* 7 Oct. 392/2 That literary social sodality by which France had been distinguished for nearly a century. 1888 *Chambers's Jrnl.* 7 Jan. 2 Massinger's claim to the sodality of the craft.. might perhaps be considered as of the genuine order.

2. In the Roman Catholic Church, a religious guild or brotherhood established for purposes of devotion or mutual help or action; the body of persons forming such a society.

(*a*) 1600 W. WATSON *Decacordon* (1602) 25 [The secular priests] sought no establishing of houses, Colledges, sodalities, societies, or corporations. 1629 WADSWORTH *Pilgr.* iii. 18 The priuiledge of this sodality is that they haue graces, rosaries,..and hallowed graines from his holinesse. 1664 H. MORE *Myst. Iniq.* xx. 76 By being incorporated into this or that holy Sodality or Fraternity. 1716 M. DAVIES *Athen. Brit.* I. 77 The Jansenistical-Romanists..have but very little to do with those little offices, or Sodalities, with their Indulgences. 1832 *Archaeol.* XXIV. 134 The monks of St. Swithin's..and those of New Minster had a sodality among themselves. 1893 J. FAHEY *Hist. Kilmacduagh* 443 The extension of religious sodalities in the several parishes of his diocese.

attrib. 1881 *Mem. Stonyhurst Coll.* 41 *note*, The body of the martyr..now lies under the altar of the Sodality Chapel.

(*b*) 1628 in Foley *Rec. Eng. Prov. S. J.* I. 1. 114 The Sodalitie of the Chapelet of Our Lady. 1667 in *Cath. Rec. Soc. Publ.* III. 63 He was admitted into the sodality of our B: Lady. 1846 J. MORRIS in Pollen *Life* (1896) ii. 45, I should like very much to be enrolled in your Sodality of the Living Rosary. 1889 *Tablet* 14 Dec. 946 The Sodality of the Immaculate Conception.

b. A chapel set apart for or used by a religious sodality.

1667 in *Cath. Rec. Soc. Publ.* III. 66 He [was] obserued when he thought himself to be alone in the sodality to sprinkle..water vppon the grauestones. 1679 *Trial of White, & other Jesuits* 11 To preach in the Sodality of the English Seminary. 1725 R. PLOWDEN in Foley *Rec. Eng. Prov. S. J.* VII. Introd. p. xl, With much ado, we saved the Church, the Sodality, and that wing where the kitchen is.

3. A society, association, or fraternity of any kind.

1633 *Parthenia Sacra* 180 Sodalities of al sorts & conditions whatsoeuer either Secular or Ecclesiastical. 1699 R. L'ESTRANGE *Erasm. Colloq.* (1725) 262 To see with what Tenderness the Seraphick Sodality wash'd the Body. 1737 L. CLARKE *Hist. Bible* VIII. 572 Others hold, that they were called Herodians, because they constituted a Sodality erected in the Honour of Herod. 1805 MURPHY *Tacitus* I. 184 To create this new sodality the names of the most eminent citizens..were drawn by lot. 1855 MOTLEY *Dutch Rep.* Introd. xiv. (1866) 46 There were also military sodalities of musketeers, crossbowmen, archers, swordsmen, in every town.

Sodamide (sōu·dăməid). *Chem.* [f. SOD-A[1] + AMIDE.] A substance, usually of a greenish colour, formed by treating sodium with gaseous ammonia (cf. quots.).

1838 T. THOMSON *Chem. Org. Bodies* 7 Sodamide and mercuramide are amidets of sodium and mercury. 1867 BLOXAM *Chem.* 551 When potassium and sodium were heated in gaseous ammonia, hydrogen was evolved, and potassamide and sodamide were produced.

Sodamite, obs. form of SODOMITE. **Sodan,** obs. f. SOLDAN. **Sodan(le, -ly,** etc., obs. ff. SUDDEN(LY. **Sodar,** obs. f. SOLDER *sb.*[1] **Sodary,** obs. f. SUDARY.

Soda-water. Also soda water. [f. SODA[1] + WATER *sb.*]

1. Water containing a solution of sodium bicarbonate, or, more generally, charged under pressure with carbon dioxide (carbonic acid gas), strongly effervescent, and used as a beverage or stimulant. Cf. SODA[1] 4.

1802 W. SAUNDERS in *Med. & Phys. Jrnl.* VIII. 492 The gaseous alkaline water commonly called soda water has long been used in this country. 1855 *Orr's Circ. Sci., Elem. Chem.* 385 Much of the so-called soda-water found in commerce is totally devoid of soda or other alkali. 1879 L. STEPHEN *Hours in Libr.* III. 194 The maudlin meditation of a fast young man over his morning's soda-water.

b. *attrib.*, as *soda-water apparatus, -bottle, fountain,* etc.

1825 T. HOOK *Sayings* Ser. ii. *Passion & Princ.* vi, Patent soda-water manufactories. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 1156 Improved soda-water apparatus. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade, Soda-water-bottle,* a strong oval-shaped glass bottle, the cork of which is secured by twine and wire to confine the aerated water. *Ibid., Soda-water manufacturer,* a maker and bottler of soda-water. 1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib., Brit.* II. No. 6246, Patent soda-water machines. 1884 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* Suppl. 828/1 Soda-water Fountain.

2. Water containing a solution of sodium carbonate for cooling or wetting metal-working tools.

1891 in *Cent. Dict.* 1895 in *Funk's Stand. Dict.*

Sodayne, -ly, etc., obs. ff. SUDDEN(LY.

Sodded (sɒ·dĕd), *ppl. a.*[1] [f. SOD *sb.*[1] or *v.*[1]] Covered or laid with, constructed or built of, sods.

1652 COTTERELL tr. *Calprenède's Cassandra* HI. II. (1676) 262 Roxana sat down upon a green sodded bank. 1816 COLERIDGE *Lay Serm.* Introd. p. xxii, Like an aged mourner on the sodded grave of an only one. 1871 *Daily News* 11 Sept., A sodded kitchen [=stove] built and used by a couple of officers..is quite a marvel of versatility.

So·dded, *ppl. a.*[2] *rare.* [Cf. SOD *ppl. a.* and *v.*[2]] Sodden, soaked.

1627 FELTHAM *Resolves* II. xxix, Moorish grounds..are usually boggy and rotten, or of so cold and sodded a temper; as [etc.].

Sodden (sɒ·d'n), *pa. pple., ppl. a.,* and *sb.* Forms: *α.* 4-5 **sopen** (4 **sopin, soipen**); 4-5 **sothen** (4 **soothen,** 5 **sothyn**). *β.* 4-5 **sodyn,** 5 **sodun, sooden,** 5-6 **soden** (5 **-one,** 6 **-yng,** *Sc.* **-in**); 5- **sodden** (*Sc.* 5-6 **soddyn,** 6 **-in**). [Strong pa. pple. of SEETHE *v.* Cf. SOD *pa. pple.*, etc.]

1. Boiled; cooked or prepared by boiling. Now *rare* or *Obs.*

pred. a 1300 *Cursor M.* 13373 Þe folk þat dai ful fair was fedd, O bred and flexs bath soþen and bredd. 1382 WYCLIF *Numb.* vi. 19 A shuldre sothen [*v.rr.* sodden, sooden, sodyn, soothen, 1388 sodun] of the wether. *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (1839) xix. 208 Thei bryngen..mete alle soden. 1483 CAXTON *Gold. Leg.* 67 Thenne abygail hyed her & toke..v weders sothen. 1570 H. LLOYD *Treas. Health* M v, Lay a hoole egge wel sodden and the shel pylled of. 1600 ROWLAND *Lett. Humours Blood* i. 7 Beere he protestes is sodden and refin'd. 1626 BACON *Sylva* § 385 It were good therefore to try it..with Milk Sodden.

attrib. 1382 WYCLIF 1 *Sam.* ii. 15, I shal not take..sothen [1388 sodun] flesh, but rawe. *c* 1400 *Three Kings Cologne* 94 Þis bawme is cleped rawe bawme and the toþer is callid soden bawme. 1513 *Bk. Keruynge* in *Babees Bk.* (1868) 274 On that daye he shall serue..soden egges with grene sauce. 1578 LYTE *Dodoens* 217 Dronken in sodden wine it preserveth from dronkennesse. 1645 PAGITT *Heresiogr.* (1662) 9 They were fain to eat Dogs, Cats, Rats, sodden Leather. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* IV. 386 Mix it with thicken'd Juice of sodden Wines. 1780 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 2) V. 3571/1 The snails were fed with bran and sodden wine. 1829 BROCKETT *N. C. Gloss.* (ed. 2), *Sodden-wheat,* furmety. 1846 BAXTER *Libr. Pract. Agric.* (ed. 4) I. 455 These, with bran mashes, sodden oats, and exercise, will generally effect a cure.

transf. 1606 SHAKS. *Tr. & Cr.* III. i. 44 *Pa.* My businesse seethes. *Ser.* Sodden businesse, there's a stewed phrase indeede.

†**b.** In the proverbial phrase *coleworts twice* (etc.) *sodden*: (see COLEWORT 4).

c 1568 [see COLEWORT 4]. 1579 W. WILKINSON *Confut. Fam. Love* 55 b, The fourth crime..is coalewortes more than tenne times sodden. 1608 HIERON *Answ. Popish Plot* (ed. 2) To Rdr., To redoe things once done, or to oppresse mens stomachs with twise sodden Coleworts, as the prouerb is. 1614 BRADSHAW *Unreasonableness Separation* 83 Some of his own cole-worts, not twice, but twenty times sodden.

2. Of persons, their features, etc.: Having the appearance of, or resembling, that which has been soaked or steeped in water; rendered dull, stupid, or expressionless, esp. owing to drunkenness or indulgence in intoxicants; pale and flaccid.

1599 B. JONSON *Cynthia's Rev.* IV. v, By Hercules, I scorne him, as I doe the sodden Nymph,..his mistris Arete. 1608 SHAKS. *Pericles* IV. ii. 21 The stuff we have, a strong wind will blow it to pieces, they are so pitifully sodden. 1612 BEAUM. & FL. *Knt. Burning Pestle* v. i, Now you with the sodden face, keep in there.

1841 LYTTON *Nt. & Morn.* I. vi, His complexion was pale and sodden. 1850 KINGSLEY *A. Locke* XXXV, Gaunt, ragged, sodden, blear-eyed, drivelling, the worn-out gin-drinker stood. 1896 HOWELLS *Impress. & Exp.* 74 The soddenest *habitué* of the place brightened.

b. Characterized by heaviness, dullness, or want of vivacity.

1851 RUSKIN *Stones Ven.* III. 86 The peculiar sodden and sensual cunning..séen so often in the countenances of the worst Romish priests. 1870 MORRIS *Earthly Par.* III. IV. 49 All Into dull sodden life did fall.

3. Of food: Heavy, doughy; spoiled through over-boiling or imperfect baking.

a 1800 PEGGE *Suppl. Grose, Sodden,* over-boiled. North. 1862 MILLER *Elem. Chem., Org.* (ed. 2) ii. § 5. 143 Bread prepared from such flour is sticky, heavy, and sodden.

4. Saturated or soaked with water or moisture.

1820 KEATS *Hyperion* I. 17 Upon the sodden ground His old right hand lay nerveless. 1856 DELAMER *Fl. Gard.* (1861) 164 Don't work the ground when it is sodden, muddy, or rendered sticky by a recent frost. 1873 G. C. DAVIES *Mount. & Mere* xvi. 137 The cold water was numbing his limbs and his sodden clothes were dragging him down. 1894 *Daily News* 5 June 3/5 The ground..was in such a terribly sodden condition that cricket was entirely out of the question.

b. Const. *in* or *with.* Also *fig.*

1833 I. TAYLOR *Fanat.* i. 6 Men..with hands sodden in blood. 1860 SMILES *Self-Help* xi. 285 Nothing can be more hurtful to a youth than to have his soul sodden with pleasure. 1870 F. R. WILSON *Ch. Lindisf.* 104 Fungi abound, and the pavement is sodden with damp. 1904 *Field* 6 Feb. 226/2 The ground was so sodden with wet that it was quite unfit to ride over.

5. *Comb.*, as *sodden-faced, -headed, -witted* adjs.

Also as second element in *brandy-, gin-, whisky-sodden,* etc.

1589 *Hay any Work* 25 You sodden headed Asse you, the most part of that law is abrogated. 1606 SHAKS. *Tr. & Cr.* II. i. 47 Thou sodden-witted Lord! thou hast no more braine then I haue in mine elbows. 1753 RICHARDSON *Grandison* (1781) I. 218 The sliest, sodden-faced creature I ever saw.

†**6.** As *sb.* Boiled meat. *Obs.*

c 1375 *Cursor M.* 13373 (Fairf.), Þat folk þat day fulle faire was fed wiþ soiben & roste & wilde bred. 1456 SIR G. HAVE *Law Arms* (S.T.S.) 78 The tane lufis soddyn, the tothir rost. *c* 1460 *Towneley Myst.* xii. 224, I haue here in my mayll, sothen and rost.

†**So·dden,** *a. Obs.*[1] [f. SOD *sb.*[1]] Built of sods.

1639 in *Crt. & Times Chas. I* (1848) II. 285 Belfort (nothing like the name either in strength or beauty, it being the most miserably beggarly sodden town, or town of sods, that ever was made in an afternoon of loam and sticks.

So·dden (sɒ·d'n), *v.* [f. SODDEN *ppl. a.*]

1. *trans.* To make sodden; to soak in, or saturate with, water.

1812 *Ann. Reg., Chron.* 502 The ground becomes compressed and soddened (to use an antiquated term) by the winter rains. 1844 DICKENS *Pict. fr. Italy* (1846) 147 Your pony soddening his girths in water. 1878 *Daily News* 12 June 5 The rains have soddened the earth.

b. To render (the faculties) dull or stupid; to deprive of vivacity or freshness.

1863 COWDEN CLARKE *Shaks. Char.* xvii. 431 His sensuality does not sodden and brutify his faculties, but it quickens their temper and edge. 1883 *Pall Mall G.* 28 Dec. 4/2 His soul has been deadened and soddened by ages of exclusive devotion to the question of bread and cider.

2. *intr.* **a.** To become soaked or saturated with water or moisture; to grow soft or rotten in this way.

1820 BYRON *Mar. Fal.* II. ii. 95 The block may soak their gore; Their heads may sodden in the sun. *a* 1861 WOOLNER *My Beautiful Lady, Tolling Bell* lviii, I wandered wearily..Through swamps that soddened under stagnant air.

b. Of a liquid: To soak *into* something.

1881 MISS ORMEROD *Injurious Insects* (1890) 345 Dressing ..of some kind which will not sodden into the tree in the heat of the sun.

Hence **So·ddened** *ppl. a.*; **So·ddening** *vbl. sb.* and *ppl. a.*

1845 HIRST *Poems* 18 We..laid them in the *soddened ground. 1883 *Knowledge* 3 Aug. 68/1 Soddened fruit enveloped in heavy indigestible pudding paste. 1852 WIGGINS *Embanking* 96 This *soddening, or stagnation of the soil in a watery state. 1890 HUXLEY in *Times* 1 Dec. 13/3 The prostitution of the mind, the soddening of the conscience. 1857 T. MOORE *Handbk. Brit. Ferns* (ed. 3) 28 A *soddening—continued *wetness,* as distinguished from mere dampness, of the soil.

Soddenness (sɒ·d'nˌnĕs). [f. SODDEN *ppl. a.*] Sodden state, quality, or condition.

1890 *Science* XV. 230/1 The soddenness of improperly boiled or fried foods. 1893 *Westm. Gaz.* 26 Apr. 4/2 The bottom of the uncultivated gardens, where the ground is kept in a chronic state of soddenness.

Sodder, obs. or dial. f. SOLDER *sb.*[1] and *v.*

Sodding (sɒ·dĭŋ), (*vbl.*) *sb.* [f. SOD *v.*[1]]

1. The action of covering, laying, or providing with sods.

1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 266/1 *Soding,* is the covering of little shourings and places of shade from Rain, with green Turfs or Grass Sods. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s.v., Sodding of brick. 1860 B. TAYLOR in *Life & Lett.* I. xv. 206 We have done something at clearing away rubbish, sodding, and making the surroundings fair to look upon. 1864 ATKINSON *Stanton Grange* III The sodding of the roof was beautifully managed.

2. Sods or turfs as a material for forming or strengthening embankments, etc.

1852 WIGGINS *Embanking* 18 But if banks of sand are attempted..the front or facing [should be] guarded with clay, turf, sodding, and stones. 1867 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* III. ii. 664 A good sodding..might be made from the marram.

3. *attrib.*, as *sodding-implement, -mallet, -spade.*

1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2237/2 *Sodding-implements,* tools for cutting sods and laying them down. 1891 *Cent. Dict.* s.v., Sodding-mallet. *Ibid.*, Sodding-spade.

Soddy (sɒ·di), *a.* and *sb.* [f. SOD *sb.*[1] + -Y.]

A. *adj.* Abounding in sods; consisting or composed of sods; of the nature of a sod.

1611 COTGR., *Motteux,* cloddie, turfie, soddie. 1778 [W. H. MARSHALL] *Minutes Agric., Observ.* 98 By burying the soddy edge of the Plit, they are now less grassy than the Leys were before plowing. 1846 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* VII. i. 168 Reduce the soddy texture of the soil.

B. *sb.* A sod-house. *U.S.*

1893 *Pilgrim Missionary* June 8/1 Brother T— has a large circuit of three churches, and lives in a 'soddy'.

Sodear, obs. f. SOLDIER. **Sodein, -eyn(e,** obs. ff. SUDDEN *a.* **Sodekene, -dene,** obs. ff. SUBDEACON, -DEAN. **Soden,** obs. f. SOLDAN, SUDDEN *a.* **Soder,** obs. f. SOLDER *sb.*[1] and *v.* **Sodewe,** obs. f. SUBDUE *v.* **Sodger,** obs. or dial. f. SOLDIER.

Sodic (sōu·dik), *a. Chem.* [f. SOD-IUM + -IC. Cf. F. *sodique.*] Of, containing, or composed of sodium.

1859 MAYNE *Expos. Lex.* 1170 The only combination known of sodium with sulphur, or—sodic sulphur. 1869 J. PHILLIPS *Vesuv.* iv. 121 Examining..these hollow canals, ..we find sublimed salts, especially ammoniac and sodic chlorides with free sulphur. 1878 HAMILTON *Nervous Dis.* 329 As regards the variety of bromide, I think the sodic is the most reliable and stable.

Sodier, obs. form of SOLDIER.

Sodio- (sōu·dio), comb. form of SODIUM, denoting the presence of that substance or its salts, as *sodio-aluminic, -aurous, -hydric, -platinic* adjs.; *sodio-salicylate.*

1868 WATTS *Dict. Chem.* s.v. *Sodium,* Sodium occurs as sodio-aluminic fluoride in cryolite. 1868 *Fownes' Chem.* (ed. 10) 421 A sodio-aurous hyposulphite..is prepared by mixing the concentrated solutions of auric chloride and sodium hyposulphite. *Ibid.* 347 A sodiohydric pyrophosphate has been obtained. 1876 HARLEY *Royle's Mat. Med.* 308 Sodio-platinic chloride..is soluble in water. 1898 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* V. 991 Theobromine, in the form of the sodio-salicylate (diuretin), may be substituted for caffein.

Sodioure, obs. form of SOLDIER.

Sodium (sōu·diŏm). *Chem.* [f. SOD-A[1] + -IUM. Named by Davy (1807).]

1. An elementary alkaline metal (isolated by Davy in 1807), forming the basis of SODA, closely resembling potassium in its appearance and properties, and occurring most commonly in the chloride (common salt). Symbol Na (for Natrium).

1807 DAVY in *Phil. Trans.* (1808) I. 32 Potassium and Sodium are the names by which I have ventured to call the two new substances. 1812 — *Chem. Philos.* 331, I discovered sodium a few days after I discovered potassium, in the year 1807. 1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 395 Sodium has a much higher point of fusion than potassium. 1858

MILLER *Elem. Chem., Inorg.* 743 Sodium has a bluish white colour; in appearance and properties it much resembles potassium, but is somewhat more volatile. 1879 PROCTOR *Pleas. Ways Sci.* i. 1 A certain double dark line in the solar spectrum is due to the vapour of sodium in the sun's atmosphere.

2. *attrib.* **a.** In the names of chemical compounds or groupings, as *sodium-alcohol, -amyl, bicarbonate, bromide, carbonate*, etc.

1857 MILLER *Elem. Chem., Org.* 150 If iodide of amyl be made to act upon the sodium-alcohol. 1862 *Ibid.* (ed. 2) 222 When sodium-ethyl is formed from zinc-ethyl by the action of sodium. *Ibid.* 225 Sodium-amyl would probably furnish caproate of soda. 1868 *Fownes' Chem.* (ed. 10) 337 Sodium Chloride, when pure, is not deliquescent in moderately-dry air. *Ibid.*, Sodium Hydrate, or Caustic Soda. *Ibid.* 338 Sodium Carbonates. *Ibid.* 345 Sodium Hyposulphite..is now used in considerable quantity for photographic purposes. 1873 RALFE *Phys. Chem.* 105 The potassium and sodium phosphates form three varieties of salts.

b. Misc., as *sodium-compound, -flame, -light*; **sodium-amalgam**, a compound of mercury and sodium; **sodium soap**, soda soap.

1862 MILLER *Elem. Chem., Org.* (ed. 2) 219 The potassium and sodium compounds are more energetic than those of zinc. 1866 W. ODLING *Anim. Chem.* 138 Uric acid, by deoxidation with sodium-amalgam, yields a mixture of xanthine and hypoxanthine. 1871 TYNDALL *Fragm. Sci.* (1879) I. xiv. 391 We send our beam of white light through a sodium flame. 1888 RUTLEY *Rock-forming Min.* 128 The refractive index of quartz..in sodium-light.

So·dless, *a.* [f. SOD *sb.*[1]] Devoid of, not covered by, sods.

a 1847 ELIZA COOK *Poor Man's Grave* i. 12 He..will not leave the sodless heap.

†**Sodlet.** *Obs.* Forms: 4 sowdel-; 4, 6 soud(e)let, 6 sodelet(t, sodlett. [? f. OF. *souder* to solder.] A saddle-bar for a window.

1332 in J. T. Smith *Antig. Westminster* (1807) 196 [Nine small bars of iron, called] soudlets, [to hold the glass in the said windows]. 1339-40 *Ely Sacr. Rolls* (1907) II. 96 Item in Sowdelibus faciendis per eundem de vj peciis ferri. *Ibid.* II. 97 In diuersis sowdelibus fact...pro fenestris superioris istoriæ Nouí Operis. *Ibid.*, Barris et sowdelibus reparand. 1532-3 in E. Law *Hist. Hampton Court Pal.* (1885) 349 For 295 sodlettes servyng the syde wyndows. *Ibid.* 350, 40 sodletts for the harnessyng of the Greatt Wyndow.

attrib. 1533 *MS. Rawl. D.* 776 fol. 175 For xxj Fott off sodlett barres. 1536 *MS. Rawl. D.* 780 fol. 59, xxxij[li] fote of sodelett barrs spent by the glasyers.

Sodom (*sɒ*·dəm). [The name of the early city beside the Dead Sea, the wickedness and destruction of which are recorded in Gen. xviii–xix.

The Hebrew form of the name is *S'dōm*; the Sept. has Σόδομα, the Vulg. *Sodoma*, neut. pl. and fem. sing.]

1. An extremely wicked or corrupt place.

1649 C. WALKER *Relat. & Obs.* II. 257 To the prejudice of our other New States-men, and their New erected Sodomes and Spintries at the Mulbury-garden at S. James's. *a* 1704 T. BROWN *Walk r. London, A Tavern* Wks. 1709 III. iii. 3 A Tavern is a little Sodom, where as many Vices are daily practic'd, as ever were known in the great one. 1782 J. BROWN *Nat. & Revealed Relig.* v. iv. 461 How could he dwell in a dead carcase, a Sodom of filthiness? 1899 *Westm. Gaz.* 11 Sept. 8/1 Two, even in this military Sodom, had the courage to proclaim Dreyfus innocent.

2. *Sodom apple.* **a.** Apple of Sodom (see APPLE *sb.* 3). So † *Sodom-fruit.* Also *U.S.*, the horse-nettle, *Solanum carolinense.*

1615 BRATHWAIT *Strappado* (1878) 48 See painted Sodom-apples faire to th' eye, But being tutcht they perish instantly. 1654 WHITLOCK *Zootomia* 237 They are Sodome Apples, enduring the Eye, not the Touch. 1706 in PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey). [1736 J. BANCKS *Young's Last Day* 22 Through life we chase, with fond pursuit, What mocks our hope, like Sodom's fruit.] 1738 M. GREEN *Spleen* 33 And Sodom-fruit our pains deceives. 1855 MRS. GASKELL *North & South* iv, The mocking way in which over-fond wishes are too often fulfilled—Sodom apples as they are. 1905 W. J. ROLFE *Shaks. Sonn.* 19 The ashes to which the Sodom-apples of illicit love are turned in the end.

†**b.** A variety of cider-apple. *Obs.*

1676 WORLIDGE *Cyder* (1691) 212 The Sodome-apple or Bloudy pippin is a fruit of more than ordinary dark colour.

3. *Sodom egg-plant* (see quot. and cf. 2 a).

1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 196/1 *Solanum Sodomeum*, Sodom egg-plant, or apple of Sodom.

†**Sodometrous,** *a. Obs. rare.* [f. *sodometry* SODOMITRY.] Sodomitical.

1550 BALE *Eng. Votaries* II. A ij, The Sodometrous vow of theyr simulate chastity. *Ibid.* E ij, His successours shuld se that hys sodometrouse chastyte were well maynteined.

So·domic, *a. rare.* [f. SODOM + -IC.] Of or pertaining to Sodom; sodomitic.

c 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 14414 He vsed þe synne Sodomyke. 1338 — *Chron.* (1810) 320 Usure & symonie, & synne sodomike [F. *sodomien*]. 1893 *The Voice* (N. Y.) 20 Apr., America is to have a revival of the Sodomic civilization under more favorable auspices.

So·domist. *rare*—°. [f. SODOM + -IST.] A sodomite. 1891 in *Cent. Dict.*

Sodomite (*sɒ*·dəməit). Forms: 4, 6– **sodomite,** 4–6 **sodomyt(e,** 5 **sodomit, -ighte, sodamite, sodam-, sodemyte.** [a. OF. *sodomite*, or ad. L. *Sodomīta* (Gr. Σοδομίτης), f. SODOM: see -ITE[1] 1 a. Sense 1 occurs also in OF.]

†**1.** Sodomy. *Obs. rare.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 27966 Vnkindli sin and sodomite, Austin cals al suilk delite, Þat es not tuix womman and man. *c* 1315 SHOREHAM iv. 399 And sodomyt hys senne Ayens kende y-do.

2. One who practises or commits sodomy.

c 1380 WYCLIF *Wks.* (1880) 55 Þat prelatis..ben gostly sodomytis worse þan bodily sodomytis of sodom and gomor. *a* 1400 *Apol. Loll.* 55 Are þei not..werr and abhominabler þan carnal sodomits? 1477 CAXTON *Dictes* 11 b, Bren the Sodomytes and punysshe the men taken in fornicacion. 1508 KENNEDIE *Flyting w. Dunbar* 527 Deuill, dampnit dog, sodomyte insatiable. 1579 TOMSON *Calvin's Serm. Tim.* 231/1 Whores as they are, yea..vile and shamefull Sodomites, committing suche heinous and abhominable actes, that it is horrible to thinke of. 1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* IX. 409 An open Sodomite, and horrible blasphemer. 1682 SHADWELL *Medal* 42 He boasts of Vice (which he did ne'r commit), Calls himself Whoremaster and Sodomite. 1705 HICKERINGILL *Priest-cr.* II. v. 49 An Adulterer, Simonist, Sodomite, Murtherer, Arrian.

b. *attrib.* Sodomitic, sodomitish. *rare.*

13.. *Seuyn Sages* 1564 (W.), Wimmen he louede swithe lite, And usede sinne sodomighte. 1707 J. STEVENS tr. *Quevedo's Com. Wks.* (1709) 510 That Sodomite Page.

3. An inhabitant of Sodom.

1474 CAXTON *Chesse* III. vi. (1883) 134 The..vnnaturell synne of lecherye of the sodamites. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 105 b, Thus lyued y[e] vertuous man Loth amonge the Sodomytes. *a* 1591 H. SMITH *Serm.* (1637) 212 When he fought against the Sodomites, the fire took his part. 1643 CARYL *Expos. Job* I. 1752 The Sodomites were surprized, when destroyed; they expected it not. 1737 WHISTON *Josephus, Antiq.* I. xi, About this time the Sodomites grew proud, on account of their riches and great wealth. 1865 R. MORRIS *Gen. & Ex.* 31 *marg.*, The wicked Sodomites beset Lot's house. 1876 B. MARTIN *Messiah's Kingdom* VI. iii. 331 The unnatural lust of the Sodomites.

Hence † **So·domiter,** a sodomite; † **So·domitess,** a woman sodomite. *Obs.*

1523 COVERDALE tr. *Dulichius' Of the Olde God* R, Arystotle the murtherer, Auerrois the sodomyter, Plato the traytour. 1611 BIBLE *Deut.* xxiii. 17 There shalbe no whore [*marg.* sodomitesse] of the daughters of Israel.

Sodomi·tic, *a. rare.* [ad. L. *Sodomītic-us.* Cf. F. *sodomitique.*] = next.

1630 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Wks.* III. 137/1 The Pope then caus'd all Priests to leaue their wiues, To leade foule Sodomiticke single liues. 1885 *Cyclop. Sci.* VI. 471 Men and women indulged in unnatural and sodomitic commerce.

Sodomitical (*sɒ*dəmi·tikăl), *a.* [f. L. *Sodomītic-us* (cf. prec.) + -AL.]

1. Of persons: Guilty of, committing, or practising sodomy.

1546 *Supplic. Poore Commons* (E.E.T.S.) 75 The outragiouse belowing of a sorte of sodomiticall buls. 1550 BALE *Eng. Votaries* I. (1560) 4 b That Sodomiticall swarme or brode of Antichrist. 1605 M. SUTCLIFFE *Brief Exam.* 53 Enemies to all lecherous and Sodomiticall Friars. 1667 *Termes de la Ley* 407 By the Common Law..sodomiticall persons, and hereticks, should be burnt. 1687 SHADWELL *Tenth Sat. Juvenal* 49 A filthy Sodomitical Schoolmaster.

†**b.** With whom sodomy is committed. *Obs.*

a 1555 BRADFORD *Hurt of Hearing Mass* (1558) D j b, So are the hartes of our popishe protestaunts..hardened..in that they looke, yea, go backe agayne to theyr sodomiticall minion. 1612 *Trav. Four Englishm.* 83 If they haue no beards at all, they call them (if they be yong)..Sodomiticall boyes. 1634 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* 87 Hither sometimes the King repaires, and sees the Sodomiticall Boyes and Wenches dance.

2. Of the nature of, characterized by, consisting in, or involving sodomy.

1550 BALE *Eng. Votaries* II. 21 b, Their sodomytycal chastyte agaynst Gods fre instytucyon. 1588 A. KING tr. *Canisius' Catech.* 149 Quhat is writtin of ye Sodomitcall sinne. 1629 L. O[WEN] *Spec. Jesuiticum* 26 Wherein hee shewed his Sodomiticall affection, and diabolicall desire. 1645 E. PAGITT *Heresiogr.* (1661) 225 Their Idolatries and Sodomitical uncleanness they will defend and maintain. 1700 T. BROWN tr. *Fresny's Amusem.* 31 To carry on a Sodomitical Intrigue. 1762 *Gentl. Mag.* 386 A clergyman..convicted for a Sodomitical attempt. 1864 tr. *Caspar's Forensic Med.* III. 336 *note*, In regard to the question whether such a sodomitical coitus could have taken place.

†**3.** Of places, institutions, etc.: Polluted or infected by sodomy. *Obs.*

1550 BALE *Apol.* 19 Than were they allowed for a spyrytuall religion in that Sodomiticall churche of Antichrist. 1572 R. T. *Discourse* 39 The Church of Christ is holy Hierusalem: The Popes is adulterous Babylon, and Sodomitical Rome. 1600 O. E. (M. SUTCLIFFE) *Repl. Libel* II. ii. 32 To creepe into a Sodomiticall cloister of monkes. 1632 W. LITHGOW *Trav.* II. 76 If all the Priests..were thus handled .., what a sea of Sodomiticall irreligious blood would ouerflow the halfe of Europe.

Hence **Sodomi·tically** *adv.*; **Sodomi·ticalness.**

1601 SIR A. SHERLEY *Trav.* (1863) 41 Which if he wanted hee would hire a boy sodomitically to use. 1677 W. HUGHES *Man of Sin* II. xii. 232 Two Noble youths..being Sodomitically abused by this Infernal Goat. 1718 PRIDEAUX *Connex. O. & N. T.* II. II. 74 Agathocles, being Sodomitically given, fell in love with a beautiful young Man. 1727 BAILEY (vol. II), *Sodomiticalness*, Guiltiness of Sodomy.

So·domitish, *a. rare.* [f. SODOMITE + -ISH, Cf. OE. *Sodomitisc.*] Sodomitical; of Sodom.

1535 COVERDALE 2 *Esdras* v, 7 The Sodomitysh see shal cast out his fish. 1546 BALE *Eng. Votaries* I. (1550) 53 Hym haue the Sodomytysh knaues dyffamed in the legende of Cuthbert. 1874 W. JONES *N. T. Illustr.* 181 This century of moral purity as compared with the Sodomitish iniquity that revelled there [*sc.* at Pompeii].

†**So·domitry.** *Obs.* Forms: *a.* 6–7 **sodomitrie, -itry,** 6 **-itrye, sodomytrie.** *β.* 6 **sodomytrye,** 6–7 **-etrie, -etry.** [f. SODOMITE + -RY, Cf. OF. *sodomiterie.*]

1. = SODOMY 1. (Common *c* 1540–*c* 1650.)

a. 1530 TINDALE *Answ. More* III. xiii, It..permitteth to abuse men's wives, and suffereth sodomitry. *a* 1533 FRITH *Answ. More* (1548) C vj b, The shamfull sodomitrye of the Trybe of Beniamin. 1577 VAUTROULLIER *Luther on Ep. Gal.* 229 Simonie,..voluptuousnes, whoredom, sodomitrie and such other infinite abominations. 1634 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* 196 The women are not ashamed here (the better to illure the men from Sodomitry) to goe naked. 1673 R. HEAD *Canting Acad.* K 7 The abominable vice of Sodomitry.

β. 1538 BALE *Three Lawes* Pref. 23 Corrupteth with ydolles, and stynkynge Sodometry. 1585 T. WASHINGTON tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* I. viii. 8 Whoredome, sodomitrie, theft, and all other..vices. 1614 BOYS *Wks.* (1630) 256 If there were no stewes, all the world would be full of adulterie, rape, Sodomitrie. 1655 FULLER *Ch. Hist.* III. 19 That the sin of Sodometry..should be punished with heavy Censures.

2. = SODOMY 2.

1592 TIMME *Eng. Lepers* D iij, All offences, even to murthers, incests, Sodomitries, were taxed. 1606 *Rep. Disc. Supreme Power* 49 The blasphemies, the adulteries, the Sodometries..of diuers other Bishops of Rome.

Sodomy (*sɒ*·dəmi). Forms: 3–5 **sodomye** (5 **zodomye**), 4, 6–7 **-ie,** 6 **-i,** 5– **sodomy.** [a. OF. (also mod.F.) *sodomie*: see SODOM and -Y.]

1. An unnatural form of sexual intercourse, esp. that of one male with another.

1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 9038 Mid þe vile sunne of sodomye vproued hii were echon. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) III. 5 Mempricius..forsook his wyf at þe laste, and vsede sodomye as a schrewe schulde. *c* 1440 *Jacob's Well* 162 þe xiiij. fote depth is sodomye, þat is, synne ayens kynde. 1536-40 *Pilgr. Tale* 407 The prophet..which knew before of there sodomi. 1577 tr. *Bullinger's Decades* (1592) 236 The abhominable sinne of Sodomie..is plainly forbidden. 1650 BULWER *Anthropomet.* 198 Wicked Sodomy, a sin so hateful to Nature it self that she abhors it. 1727 SWIFT *Poisoning E. Curll* Wks. 1755 III. I. 151 Heaven pardon me for publishing the Trials of sodomy. 1782 J. BROWN *Nat. & Revealed Relig.* I. i. 23 Polygamy must occasion..sodomy, bestiality, or the like. 1864 tr. *Caspar's Forensic Med.* III. 336 It is no secret that the unnatural connection of men with animals, sodomy in the restricted sense of the word, still sneaks about. *fig.* 1395 PURVEY *Remonstr.* (1851) 7 Symonie is gostli sodomie and eresie.

2. An act or instance of this.

1593 G. HARVEY *Pierce's Super.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 271 Agrippa detesteth his monstrous veneries, and execrable Sodomies. 1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* I. iii. II. iv. (1651) 205 Those rapes,..Sodomies, buggeries of Monkes and Friers.

Sodyak, obs. form of ZODIAC.

Sodyour, obs. form of SOLDIER.

Soe (*sōu*). Now *dial.* Forms: *a.* 4–5 **saa,** 5 **sa, saae,** 4–5, 9 **sae,** 8 **cea** (see also SAY *sb.*[3]), *β.* 4, 7–9 **so,** 5–6 **soo** (6 **swoo**), 5– **soe** (6 **sooe, sowe,** 8 **sow**), 7–8 **soa.** [a. ON. *sá-r*: see SAY *sb.*[3]] A large tub.

a. 1377–8 *Durh. Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 387 In uno sae empt. pro vitriario. *c* 1425 in Wr.-Wülcker 662 *Hec tina*, sa. 1459-60 *Durh. Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 152 Pro j saa pro aqua portanda. 1480-1 *Ibid.* 97, j sae;..ij saez. 1752 *Rec. Elgin* (1903) I. 446 All tubs, ceas,..and other cooper work. 1889 ELLIS *Pronunc.* v. 799 [In Orkney] *sae* is a pail or bucket.

β. c 1300 *Havelok* 933 He kam to þe welle, water up-drow, And filde þer a mechil so. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 462/1 Soo, or cowl, vessel, *tina.* 1459 in *Ripon Ch. Acts* (Surtees) 86 Tubbes, soes, alepoittes. 1541 *Hist. MSS. Commiss., Rutland MSS.* IV. 352 For one soo to the stable. 1578 *Richmond. Wills & Inv.* (Surtees) 282 A swoo with other smole tryfles. 1580-1 *Reg. St. Michael-le-Belfrey, York* (Surtees) I. 33 [A child] by misfortune drowned in a soo of water. 1611 COTGR., *Tine*, a Stand, open Tub, or Soe. 1679-80 *Fabric Rolls York Minster* (Surtees) 352 The child was drowned in a little water in ye bottom of a soa. 1691 RAY *N. C. Words* (ed. 2) 66 A *So* or *Soa*, a Tub with two Ears to carry on a stang. 1866- in Linc. glossaries.

b. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *soe-ful, -staff, -tree.* (See also SASTANGE.)

14.. *Nom.* in Wr.-Wülcker 725 *Hoc tinarium*, a so-tre. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 466/1 Soo tre, or cowl tre, *falanga.* 1611 COTGR., *Tinée*, a Stand-full, or Soe-full. 1613 F. ROBARTES *Revenue Gospel* 49 One cluster thereof is carried between two vpon a soa-staffe. 1653 H. MORE *Antid. Ath.* II. vi. § 2 For one Bason-full you may fetch up so many Soe-fulls.

Soeffre, obs. var. SUFFER *v.* **Soel(l,** obs. ff. SOLE *sb.*[2], *a.*, and *v.*[1] **Sœmeterie,** obs. f. CEMETERY. **Soerty,** obs. f. SURETY.

Soever (*sō*,*e*·vəɹ), *adv.* Also *poet.* **soe'er.** [See So *adv.* and EVER *adv.* 8 e.]

†**1.** Whenever. *Obs.*—[1]

1517 TORKINGTON *Pilgr.* (1884) 27 And so ever ony Sarazin comyth by that Sepulcre he cast a stonne ther att.

2. Used with generalizing or emphatic force after words or phrases preceded by *how, what, which, whose*, etc. (Cf. HOWSOEVER, etc.)

1557 NORTH *Gueuara's Diall Pr.* IV. xix. (1568) 170 How great a frend..so euer hee bee to them. 1580 CAMPION in Allen *Martyrdom* (1908) 23 The feare of what punishment temporal soever. 1595 SHAKS. *John* IV. iii. 91 Whose tongue so ere speakes false. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* (1637) 569 How great, or how faire soever it hath been. 1671 MILTON *Samson* 1015 Which way soever men refer it. 1701 SWIFT *Contests Nobles & Comm.* v, I conceive it far below the Dignity..of human Nature..to be engaged in any Party, the most plausible soever, upon such servile Conditions. 1779 *Mirror* No. 24 What pencil, how animated soever, can equal the glories of the sky at sun-set? 1835 J. H. NEWMAN *Par. Serm.* (1837) I. 267 To all who are perplexed in any way soever. 1885 R. BRIDGES *Eros & Psyche* Aug. xxvii, By which law all things soe'er Are..held.

Sofa (*sō*·fă). Also 7 **soffa,** 7–9 **sopha;** 8 **sophee, sophy,** 9 *vulg.* **sofy.** [= F. *sofa, sopha*, It., Sp., and Pg. *sofa*, ad. Arab. صُفَّة *ṣoffah.*]

1. In Eastern countries, a part of the floor raised a foot or two, covered with rich carpets and cushions, and used for sitting upon.

a. 1625 PURCHAS *Pilgrims* II. IX. 1581 A Sofa spread with very sumptuous Carpets of Gold,..vpon which the Grand Signior sitteth. 1682 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1683/3 The Grand Vizier came thither soon after, and sate down on a Stool placed on the Sofa. 1717 LADY M. W. MONTAGU *Lett.* (1893) I. 284 The next room is a very large one paved with marble, and all round it, raised, two sofas of marble, one above another. 1841 LANE *Arab. Nts.* I. 104 He..beheld ..a young man sitting on a sofa raised to the height of a cubit from the floor.

β. *c* 1637 SIR G. COURTHOP *Mem.* 124 A Sopha, which is a place raised from the floor about a foot to sit on. 1682 WHELER *Journ. Greece* v. 350 Making us sit upon a Sopha, and drink Coffee with him. 1808 PARSONS *Trav. Asia*, etc. ii. 22, I paid a visit to the pasha..and found him sitting on his sopha.

transf. 1768 STERNE *Sent. Journ., The Grace*, The old man and his wife..., placing me betwixt them, sat down upon a sopha of turf by the door.

2. A long, stuffed seat with a back and ends or end, used for reclining; a form of lounge or couch.

a. 1717 BERKELEY *Tour Italy* Wks. 1871 IV. 530 The bridegroom sits on a very low sort of seat not unlike an oriental sofa. 1784 COWPER *Task* I. 88 Convenience next suggested elbow-chairs, And luxury th' accomplish'd Sofa last. 1812 CRABBE *Tales* V. 530 The splendid sofa, which, though made for rest, He then had thought it freedom to have press'd. 1849 LYELL *2nd Visit U. S.* II. 47 Sofas, rocking chairs, tables, and a stove are placed in this room. 1877 MRS. FORRESTER *Mignon* I. 275 She makes him lie on a sofa near the open window.

transf. 1864 E. BURRITT *Walk* 313 A row of flower sofas reaching round the garden.

β. 1728 YOUNG *Love of Fame* V. 135 On her sophee she sits, Vouchsafing audience to contending wits. 1753–4 RICHARDSON *Grandison* (1781) V. xxiv. 146, I threw myself on a sopha. 1806 BERESFORD *Miseries Hum. Life* II. xxxiii, After having..diffused yourself on the sopha. 1832 *Country Houses* II. xii. 10 On a sopha in the green-room.

3. *attrib.*, as *sofa-corner, -cushion, -pillow*, etc.

1797–1805 S. & HT. LEE *Canterb. T.* III. 139 A circular pavilion, elegantly fitted up with cushions and sopha seats. 1825 T. HOOK *Sayings* Ser. II. *Doubts & F.* v, On the opposite side of the sofa table. 1840 THACKERAY *Shabby-genteel Story* vi, That well-known sofa-corner. 1848 — *Van. Fair* xxi, It was all I could do to prevent myself from throwing the sofa-cushion at her. *a* 1848 MARRYAT *Valerie* viii, The bottle..which I had..left under the sofa-pillow.

b. Objective, as *sofa-maker, -stuffer*.

1836 T. HOOK *G. Gurney* (1850) I. iii. 43 My friend, the sofa-maker, never troubled himself to inquire after me. 1859 J. C. ATKINSON *Walks & Talks* (1892) 4 A beard that would have been a small fortune to a sofa-stuffer.

4. Special combs., as **sofa-bed, -bedstead**, a piece of furniture so constructed as to form a sofa or bed as required; **sofa-carriage**, a carriage having the seat made like that of a sofa; **sofa-ridden**, confined to a sofa (*nonce-wd.*); † **sofa stall**, a seat in a hall or theatre made like a sofa.

1816 REPTON *Landsc. Gard., Fragm. on Theory* (1840) 585 To have dressing-rooms, in which *sofa-beds may..be used. 1823 DE QUINCEY *Incognito* Wks. 1862 X. 9 Down went the little sofa-bed in a closet. 1891 HARDY *Tess* xxxvii. (1900) 92 She induced him to lie down on his own sofa bed. 1833 LOUDON *Encycl. Archit.* § 650 We shall give some Designs..for *sofa-bedsteads. 1841 THACKERAY *Gt. Hoggarty Diam.* xi, A little dusky sofa-bedstead (woe betide him who has to sleep on it!). 1822–29 GOOD *Study Med.* III. 234 The use of his easy and convenient *sofa-carriage. 1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib., Brit.* II. No. 5686, Sofa carriages, especially constructed for spinal complaints. 1826 MISS MITFORD *Village* Ser. III. (1863) 496 There she sat, *sofa-ridden. 1862 *Notice Mason Jones' Oration on Garibaldi* 8 Apr., *Sofa Stalls. Four Shillings.

Hence **So'faed** *ppl. a.*, seated as on a sofa. **So'fane** *a.*, pertaining to a sofa (*nonce-wd.*).

1789 E. DARWIN *Bot. Gard.* II. (1791) 69 Sopha'd on silk, amid her charm-built towers,..In sullen apathy Papaver nods. 1860 DICKENS *Uncomm. Trav.* vi, A sofa, of incomprehensible form regarded from any sofane point of view.

Sofee, variant of SUFI.

Soferand, obs. form of SOVEREIGN *a.*

Sofett. *rare*⁻⁰. [f. SOF-A + -ETT(E.)] 'A small sofa' (Webster, 1828–32).

Soffit (sǫ·fit). *Arch.* Forms: *α.* 7–8 **soffita**, 8 **sofita**; 7 **soffeta**, 8 **sapheta**. *β.* 7 **suffito**, 7–8 **soffito, sofitto**; 8 **soffeto**. *γ.* 8 **schofeet, sopheit, suffete**, 8–9 **sofite, soffite**. *δ.* 8 **sofit**, 8– **soffit** (9 **soffet**); 8–9 **suffit**. [In the *α* and *β* forms directly a. It. *soffitta* fem. and *soffitto* masc., f. *sof-* (L. *sub*) under + pa. pple. of *figgere* to fix. The later forms are prob. after F. *soffite*.] The under horizontal face of an architrave or overhanging cornice; the under surface of a lintel, vault, or arch; a ceiling.

α. 1613–39 I. JONES in Leoni *Palladio's Archit.* (1742) I. 39 The Soffita of the Corona of the Cornice. *a* 1668 LASSELS *Voy. Italy* (1670) II. 103 The *Soffita* or roof of this Church most richly guilt. 1703 [R. NEVE] *City & C. Purchaser* 236 *Sapheta's*, the Boards over the tops of Windows, opposite to the Window-boards at the bottom. 1703 in *Jrnl. Derby. Archæol. Soc.* III. 33 For carving 16 roses in the Sofitas of the hanging square of the Capitalls.

β. 1664 EVELYN tr. *Freart's Archit.* v. 20 Those great Roses of the Sofitto or Eves of the Corona. 1710 J. HARRIS *Lex. Techn.* II, *Sofitto*, is the Italian Term in Architecture, for the Eaves of the Corona of the Capital of a Column. 1776 G. SEMPLE *Building in Water* 67 Five Feet from the Soffeto of the Center Arch. *Ibid.* 107.

γ. 1725 W. HALFPENNY *Sound Building* 13 To draw the two different Edges of a Twisted Schofeet. 1739 C. LABELYE *Piers Westm. Bridge* 77 The chamfered Joints in the Suffetes of the Arches. 1751 — *Westm. Br.* 77 Some of their Stones both in the Fronts and their Sopheits were split. 1755 T. H. CROKER *Orl. Fur.* XLII. LXXVII, The lofty columns.. Which the soffites with gems adorned upheld. 1823 RUTTER *Fonthill* 71 The lower part or soffite of the Oriel is exquisitely finished. 1842 GWILT *Encycl. Archit.* § 2285 Backs, elbows, and sofites to windows. *a* 1878 SIR G. SCOTT *Lect. Archit.* (1879) I. 280 A rib dropping down a little from the arched soffite.

δ. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl., Soffito*, or *Sofit*, in Architecture, any Plafond or Ceiling, form'd of cross Beams, or flying Cornices. 1751 J. STUART in *Lett. Lit. Men* (Camden) 389 The Suffit of the Architrave, and Base of the Pilasters. 1807 HUTTON *Course Math.* (ed. 5) II. 88 The window cills or seats, and the soffits above. 1823 P. NICHOLSON *Pract. Builder* 428 The section of the soffit..is some part of a circle. 1847 LD. LINDSAY *Christian Art* I. 124 The first cupola and the suffits of the two arches intervening between it and the second. 1883 *Specif. Alnwick & Cornhill Rlwy.* 3 In the arches the soffit is to be pointed with the best Portland cement.

attrib. 1833 LOUDON *Encycl. Archit.* § 755 The soffit boarding. 1851 RUSKIN *Stones Ven.* I. XXVIII. 326 We do not look for the soffit decoration.

Soffraunce, obs. f. SUFFERANCE. **Soffre, Soffri**, obs. ff. SUFFER *v.* **Soffym(e**, obs. ff. SOPHISM. **Sofi**, obs. var. SOPHY, SUFI. **Sofice**, obs. f. SUFFICE *v.* **Sofism**, var. of SUFISM.

So-forth. *rare*⁻¹. [See FORTH *adv.* 9 b.] Such and such a thing.

1611 SHAKS. *Wint. T.* I. ii. 218 They're here with me already; whisp'ring, rounding: Sicilia is a so-forth.

Sofre, Sofry, obs. forms of SUFFER *v.*

Soft (sǫft), *sb.* Also 3, 5 **softe**, 8–9 *Sc.* and *north.* **saft.** [f. the adj.]

1. That which is agreeable, pleasant, or easy; comfort, ease. *rare.*

c 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 3647 Þis folc is after softe toȝen, And hauen swinc in weiȝe droȝen. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 15564 Bot sal we elles suffre samen, bath soft and sare. *c* 1400 *Rom. Rose* 3446 For though thou love thus evermore, To me is neither softe ne sore. 1677 HORNECK *Gt. Law Consid.* iv. (1704) 112 They are afraid it..will discompose them in their golden dreams, drive them from their softs and ease.

2. That which is soft or yielding; the soft part *of* something; softness.

1593 R. BARNES *Parthenophil* III. 83 O Love's soft hills! ..How much, at your smooth soft, my sense amazed is! *Ibid.* 119, I might work miracles to change again The hard to soft! 1611 FLORIO, *Móllo*,..the soft or spunginesse of any thing as of crummes of bread. 1653 R. SANDERS *Physiogn.* 63 All this enclosed space is commonly called the soft of the Thumb. 1674 N. FAIRFAX *Bulk & Selv.* 130 His two forefeet, which he had thrust so into the soft of her sides, as to make two deep doaks there. 1784 COWPER *Task* III. 417 Nor does he spare the soft And succulent, that feeds its giant growth.

transf. 1871 R. ELLIS *Catullus* LXVIII. 120 Not to a grandsire old..., so lovely the grandson One dear daughter alone rears i' the soft of his years.

b. *Cant.* Bank notes.

1864 in *Slang Dict.*

c. *pl.* Soft coal; also, soft woollen rags.

1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-m.* 229 *Softs*, coals which easily break up. 1894 *Times* 17 Apr. 4/5 The best demand was for nuts,..but Barnsley softs were again to be had at from 7s. 6d. to 8s.

3. *Phonetics.* A soft or voiced consonant.

1846 M. WILLIAMS *Sanscr. Gram.* 10 The soft is changed to its unaspirated hard. 1871 ABBOTT & SEELEY *Eng. Lessons* 43 Aspirates and softs..are modified in a corresponding manner.

4. *U.S. political slang.* a. A member of a local party which advocated a 'soft money' or paper currency. b. A member of one or other party holding moderate views. Cf. SOFT-SHELL *sb.*

1847–54 in R. H. Thornton *American Gloss.* (1912) s.v. *Hard.* 1859 BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.* (ed. 2) 426 *Soft-shell democrats, Soft-shells*, or *Softs*, the less conservative division of the New York Democrats. 1888 BRYCE *Amer. Commw.* II. II. xlvi. 203 The Hunkers and Barnburners who divided the Democratic party forty years ago, and subsequently passed into the 'Hards' and the 'Softs'.

5. A soft, simple, or foolish person; a 'softy'. Chiefly *dial.* or *colloq.*

1854– in dial. glossaries and texts (Northampt., Linc., Lanc., Berks., etc.). 1859 GEO. ELIOT *A. Bede* ix, It'll do you no good to sit in a spring-cart o' your own, if you've got a soft to drive you. 1864 E. SARGENT *Peculiar* III. 72 If the world were in the hands of such softs the old machine would be smashed up in universal anarchy.

Soft (sǫft), *a.* Forms: *α.* 1–6 **softe** (4–5 **soffte**, 4 **zoffte**), 4– **soft**. *β.* *dial.* and *Sc.* 6–7 **safte**, 6– **saft** (9 *dial.* **zaft**). [OE. *sófte* or *sóft*, var. of the more usual *séfte*, which corresponds to WFris. *sêft, seaft*, OHG. *semfti* (*samfti*), *semfte*, MHG. *senfte*, obs. G. *senft*. The form without umlaut (probably due to the influence of the adv.) has parallels in MDu. *soft* (*zoft*), *saft*, and *sacht* (Du. *zacht*), MLG. and LG. *sacht*, MHG. and G. *sanft* (dial. *saft, sâft*). The relationships of the stem are doubtful.]

Many of the senses tend to involve or pass into each other, esp. in poetic use.

I. 1. Producing agreeable or pleasant sensations; characterized by ease and quiet enjoyment; of a calm or placid nature.

c 1000 ÆLFRIC *Hom.* (Thorpe) I. 566 Ic softum slæpe me ȝereste, swa swa ðu me forlete. *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 35 Hit walð me þunchen þet softeste beð [= bath] and þet wunsemeste þet ic efre ibad. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 2412 Pharaon bad him wurðen wel in softe reste and seli mel. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 312 It hath be sen and felt ful ofte, The harde time after the softe. *c* 1477 CAXTON *Jason* 45 b, Certes the time must be taken as hit cometh, is hit hard or softe. 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* XXXV. 9 For weirines on me ane slummer soft Come. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* I. ix. 13 Whiles euery sence the humour sweet embayd, And slombring soft my hart did steale away. 1606 SHAKS. *Ant. & Cl.* II. vii. 114 Till that the conquering Wine hath steep't our sense, In soft and delicate Lethe. 1634 MILTON *Comus* 1002 Where young Adonis oft reposes, Waxing well of his deep wound In slumber soft. 1746 FRANCIS tr. *Horace, Epist.* I. xvi. 21 This pleasing, this delicious soft Retreat In Safety guards me from September's Heat. 1812 BYRON *Ch. Har.* II. lxx, Many a joy could he from Night's soft presence glean. 1865 CONINGTON *Hor., Odes* IV. v. (ed. 3) 112 Sweet Peace, soft Plenty, swell the golden grain.

† b. Pleasing *in* (or *of*) taste; free from acidity or sharpness. Also of odour: Not pungent, strong, or heavy. *Obs.*

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* IV. vii. (W. de W. 1495) 89 Blood is swete and softe in taast and in towche. *Ibid.* XVI. xciv. (Bodl. MS.), In some place it is softe in sauoure, and in some place moste salt: and in some place moste bitter. *c* 1400 tr. *Secreta Secret., Gov. Lordsh.* 92 His seed ys reed, his odour softe, of good effect. *c* 1475 HENRYSON *Poems* (S.T.S.) III. 152 With ane brewing caldrun full of hait caill, For it wilbe þe softar and sweittar of þe smak. 1797 *London Art of Cookery* 216 Malt is a wholesome nutritious grain, containing a soft, balsamic, oleaginous essence. 1826 *Art Brewing* (ed. 2) 101 Preserving the sweet flavour of the malt..., and the soft richness.

c. Pleasing to the eye; free from ruggedness or asperity. Also of colour, or with reference to this: Not crude or glaring; quiet, subdued.

1702 POPE *Sappho* 15 Soft scenes of solitude no more can please. 1738 GRAY *Tasso* 67 There the soft emerald smiles of verdant hue. 1784 COWPER *Task* I. 766 We can spare The splendour of your lamps; they but eclipse Our softer satellite. 1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 770 This mode of engraving..., when carefully executed, has a soft and pleasing effect. 1845 BUDD *Dis. Liver* 228 The tissue of the liver is pale, and..of a soft buff colour. 1869 TOZER *Highl. Turkey* I. 201 Following its stream..through softer scenery. 1892 *Photogr. Ann.* II. 218 This [Bromide] Paper is very Rapid, and gives very soft and beautiful results.

2. Causing or involving little or no discomfort, hardship, or suffering; easily endured or borne.

c 1205 LAY. 16109 Soð ich habbe þe isæid, ah nis þe na þe softre. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 2057 Queðer-so it wurðe softe or strong, ðe reching wurð on god bi-long. *c* 1320 *Cast. Love* 957 Mi ȝok is softe i-nowh to weren. *c* 1380 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* III. 367 For Crist hymself ȝeys þat his ȝok is soffte, and his charge is light. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 41 b, He hydeth the ferefull scourge of greuous correccyon, and sheweth vs somtymes the softe rodde of his swete disciplyne. *a* 1661 FULLER *Worthies, Worc.* III. (1661) 169 After ten years soft durance in all plenty,..enjoying a great temporall Estate left him by his Father, He dyed 1569. 1672 SIR T. BROWNE *Let. Friend* § 24. 130 Besides his soft death, the incurable state of his disease might somewhat extenuate your sorrow. 1700 LAW *Council of Trade* (1751) 118 Altho' ..this act be a monopoly,..yet was it incomparably more soft and easy, than those barbarous monopolies of the Kings, James the V and VI.

b. Involving little or no exertion or effort; free from toil or labour. Now chiefly *colloq.*, easy, lazy, idle.

1639 FULLER *Holy War* II. xl. (1840) 104 They were bred in such soft employments, that they were presently foundered with any hard labour. 1655 *Nicholas Papers* (Camden) II. 267 Iff I did not know how much hee is devoted to his ease and a soft kinde of life. 1690 TEMPLE *Ess. Poetry* Wks. 1720 I. 249 Among the Romans, the last..Scipio passed the soft Hours of his Life in the Conversation of Terence. 1841 BROWNING *Pippa Passes* 146 A soft and easy life these ladies lead! 1858 CARLYLE *Fredk. Gt.* IX. vii. (1872) III. 128 He led a soft and tranquil life with his Regiment at Ruppin. 1889 *Daily News* 12 Oct. 5/1 People crowd into literature, as into other 'soft' professions, because it is genteel. 1894 *Ibid.* 2 Oct. 6/1 The popular idea that romance is 'a soft job'. 1905 VACHELL *The Hill* viii. 181 You have deliberately taken things easy, because you wanted a soft time of it during the summer term.

3. Of a sound, the voice, etc.: Low, quiet, subdued; not loud, harsh, or rough. Also, melodious, pleasing to the ear, sweet.

c 1250 *Owl & Night.* 6 þat playd wes stif & starc & strong, Sum hwile softe & lud among. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 1030 þar sune es soft and suet sang, Sune of sautes þat þar singes. 1362 LANGL. *P. Pl. A.* IX. 112 He was..to loken on ful symple,..Sad of his semblaunt and of softe speche. *c* 1385 CHAUCER *L. G. W.* 745 *Thisbe*, And with a soun as softe as ony shryfte, They lete here wordis thour the clifte pace. *c* 1400 LYDG. *Pilgr. Sowle* (Caxton) I. XXXVII. (1859) 41 Thenne held they a counceyl so softe and so stylle that I nomore herd for a good space. 1422 tr. *Secreta Secret., Priv. Priv.* 177 He lyght fro his hors and in softe laghynge sayde [etc.]. 1508 DUNBAR *Tua Mariit Wemen* 519 The soft souch of the swyr. 1581 MULCASTER *Positions* xii. (1887) 60 Of loude and soft reading. 1605 SHAKS. *Lear* v. iii. 273 Her voice was euer soft, Gentle, and low, an excellent thing in woman. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Past.* v. 128 The soft Whispers of the Southern Wind. 1738 GRAY *Propertius* iii. 2 Whence the soft strain and ever-melting verse? 1779 WARNER in Jesse *Selwyn & Contemp.* (1844) IV. 263, I dealt only in the softest inflexions of voice, though with you..I should have been angry. 1817 KEATS *I stood tip-toe* 95 The soft rustle of a maiden's gown. 1838 DICKENS *O. Twist* xii, There came a soft tap at the door. 1876 BRISTOWE *Th. & Pract. Med.* (1878) 602 A soft systolic murmur is frequently to be heard.

b. *spec.* in *Phonetics.* (Opposed to HARD *a.* 16.) Jonson and Ainsworth employ the term in the contrary sense to that now usual.

1636 B. JONSON *Eng. Gram.* iv. Wks. (Rtldg.) 772/2 The more general sound [of *f*] is the softest and expresseth the Greek φ. 1668 O. PRICE *Eng. Orthogr.* 24 Except..the soft, s, in concision, circumcision. *Ibid.*, But, th, makes a softer sound..in worthy, father. 1736 AINSWORTH *Dict.* II. s.v. *T*, *P* is only a softer *b*, and *b* an harder *p*,..the harder mute before a vowel passing into the softer before a consonant. 1775– [see HARD *a.* 16]. 1827 HEARD *Gram. Russian Lang.* 4 There are eleven vowels in the Russian alphabet, which are divided into hard and soft. 1845 *Proc. Philol. Soc.* II. 90, *S* is always hard, the soft sound of this letter being invariably represented by *z*. 1883 I. TAYLOR *Alphabet* II. 128 The Etruscan rejects the soft mutes *b*, *g*, *d*, and retains the aspirated mutes *th*, *kh*, *ph*.

c. Of musical instruments: Making or emitting a soft sound.

1561 T. HOBY tr. *Castiglione's Courtyer* i. (1900) 90 The Cretenses used harpes and other softe instrumentes. 1634 MILTON *Comus* 86 With his soft Pipe, and smooth-dittied Song. 1667 — *P. L.* I. 551 Anon they move..to the Dorian mood Of Flutes and soft Recorders. 1746 FRANCIS tr. *Horace, Epist.* II. ii. 82 Thee the softer Lyre Delights. 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* xv, Their voices accompanied by a few soft instruments.

4. Of weather, seasons, etc.: Free from storms or rough winds; genial, mild, balmy. (Cf. 26.)

c 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 3061 Ðis weder is softe, And ðis king hard. 1362 LANGL. *P. Pl.* A. VII. 181 Vppon softe sonenday ..Hungur hem helede wiþ an hot Cake. *c* 1375 *Cursor M.* 24837 (Fairf.), þe weder soft in somertide sone be-gan to rugg & ride. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 58/2 Calme or softe, wythe-owte wynde, *calmus*. *c* 1475 HENRYSON *Poems* (S.T.S.) III. 93 The nicht is soft and dry. *a* 1505 KINGSFORD *Chron. Lond.* (1905) 261 This yere was a wonderfull easy and soft wynter, without stormys or frostes. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* II. 457 In this soft Season,..In prime of all the Year, and Holy-days of Spring. 1705 ADDISON *Italy* 219 In a soft Air and a delicious Situation. 1822 [M. A. KELTY] *Osmond* III. 107 It was a soft, early summer's morning. 1851 CARLYLE *J. Sterling* I. ii, The climate of Bute is rainy, soft of temperature...In that soft rainy climate [etc.]. 1894 BLACKMORE *Perlycross* 401 It is such a soft spring-day.

b. Of the sun, rain, wind, etc.: Shining, falling, or blowing gently; not strong, violent, or boisterous.

1362 LANGL. *P. Pl.* A. Prol. 1 In a somer sesun whon softe was þe sonne. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 6066 Erly at Morne, When the sun vp soght with his softe beames. 1549 *Compl. Scotl.* vi. (1872) 61 The..southyn vynd..generis thondir, cluddis, and smal soft ranis. 1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* (S.T.S.) II. 238 [He] prosperouslie landes at Leith .. with a safte winde the xix day of maii. 1648 HEXHAM II, *Een soesinge*, a soft or a gentle Gale. 1781 COWPER *Charity* 127 Soft airs and gentle heavings of the wave Impel the fleet. 1823 F. CLISSOLD *Ascent Mt. Blanc* 22 A soft breath of wind spread its folds, and floated it gently in the air. 1843 MRS. CARLYLE *Lett.* I. 206 The beautifullest soft rain to make all fresh again. 1864 TENNYSON *Aylmer's F.* 454 The soft river-breeze, Which fann'd the gardens.

fig. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. III. vii, Wild burstings of affection were in this great heart; of fierce lightning, and soft dew of pity.

c. Of the sea, streams, etc.: Free from rough waves or turbulence; smooth, calm: running calmly or gently.

c 1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 626 Þe se was soft, þe wawes were stille. 1543 ASCHAM *Toxoph.* (Arb.) 153 There is no shippe better than Gallies be, in a softe and a caulme sea. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* 223 From thence with a soft streame, and gentle fall, Thone runneth by..Taunton. 1648 MILTON *Ps.* lxxxvii. 27 In thee fresh brooks, and soft streams glance. 1784 COWPER *Task* IV. 64 Rills of oily eloquence in soft Meanders. 1814 SCOTT *Diary* 2 Sept. in *Lockhart*, We here only feel them as a large but soft swell of the sea. 1863 *Smith's Dict. Bible* III. 1311/2 It [Siloah] is not now, nor was it in the days of Isaiah, anything but a very soft and gentle stream.

5. Of pace, progression, or movement: Leisurely, easy; slow; not hasty or hurried. Now *arch.*

The adverbial phrase (to go, ride, etc.) *a soft pace* appears very frequently from *c* 1370 to 1560.

c 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 297 He ne made no softe pas, Ake wende him þudere ful hastifliche. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 462/2 Softe, in mevynge, *lentus*. *Ibid.* 472/1 Stalkynge, or soft and sly goynge, *serptura*. 1511 *Guylforde's Pilgr.* (Camden) 77 We made sayle with right softe spede. 1604 E. G[RIMSTONE] *D'Acosta's Hist. Indies* VI. xxviii. 493 Circles..wherein the Auntients and Noblemen did sing and daunce with a softe and slowe motion. 1663 S. PATRICK *Parab. Pilgr.* xxvii. (1687) 313 A soft pace goes far. 1687 A. LOVELL tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* I. 164 The Dromedaries have ..a good soft trott, and will travel with ease forty Leagues a day. *a* 1704 T. BROWN *To Belinda* ii. Wks. 1711 IV. 100 Love is all Gentleness and Joy, Smooth are his Looks, and soft his Pace. *a* 1822 SHELLEY *Matilda* 5 With slow, soft steps leaving the mountain's steep. 1871 ROSSETTI *Poems, Dante at Verona* xxi, A lady..at a soft pace Riding the lists round to the dais.

b. Having a smooth easy motion. *rare.*

1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* X. xxviii. 458 Whanne he vnderstood that Kynge Marke had sente for hym, he mounted vpon a softe ambuler and rode to Kynge Marke. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* VIII. 165 The Earth..that spinning sleeps On her soft Axle, while she paces Eev'n.

†c. Of a journey: Performed leisurely. *Obs.*—[1]

1606 HOLLAND *Suetonius* 75 The journeyes that he made were soft and small; so that if hee went from Rome but to Tibur or Præneste, he would make two daies of it.

†6. Of a fire: Burning slowly or gently; moderate or gentle in heat or intensity; slow. *Obs.*

Common in the 16th and 17th centuries.

1400 tr. *Secreta Secret., Gov. Lordsh.* 85 After be it put vpon a softe fyr. *a* 1425 tr. *Arderne's Treat. Fistula*, etc. 31 Sebe þam on a softe fyre vnto þey be made oon body. 1527 ANDREW *Brunswyke's Distyll. Waters* H iij, The fyre must be very softe in the begynnyng. 1577 HARRISON *England* II. vi. (1877) I. 157 The more the barleie be dried (yet must it be doone with soft fire) the better the malt is. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* (1637) 453 Redde fillets of Saffron..are dried at a soft fire. 1689 LUTTRELL *Brief Rel.* (1857) I. 620 Some French incendiaries..were adjudg'd to be fastned to a stake, with a soft fire round them. 1718 BP. HUTCHINSON *Witchcraft* ii. (1720) 22 Some others roasted the King's Picture by a soft Fire. 1738 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Balsam of sulphur*, Boiling the two together over a soft fire the space of an hour.

Prov. *a* 1536 *Proverbs* in *Songs, Carols*, etc. (E.E.T.S.) 128 A softe fire makith swete malte. 1564 BULLEYN *Dram. Dial.* (E.E.T.S.) 6 Softe fire maketh swete Malte. 1663 BUTLER *Hud.* I. iii. 1251 Soft fire, they say, does make sweet Malt. Good Squire. *Festina lente*, not too fast.

7. Of a slope, ascent, etc.: Gentle, gradual.

1659 W. CHAMBERLAYNE *Pharonnida* II. 147 The stately Mount .. to meet the Vale stole down On soft descents. 1781 COWPER *Retirement* 333 Neither heathy wilds..Nor soft declivities with tufted hills. 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* xxxvi, The strain..rose, by soft degrees, till the high organ and the choral sounds swelled into full and solemn harmony. 1819 SCOTT *Ivanhoe* xliii, It occupied the brow of a soft and gentle eminence.

II. 8. Of persons: Gentle or mild in nature or character; inclined to be merciful, lenient, or considerate in dealing with others; free from harshness, severity, or rigour; compassionate, kind, tender-hearted.

Passing into, or not always clearly distinct from, sense 13.

a 1122 *O. E. Chron.* an. 1114 (Laud MS.), He wæs swiðe god & softe man & dyde mycel to gode. 1154 *Ibid.* an. 1137, He milde man was & softe & god. *c* 1200 ORMIN 667 Godess enngell iss full meoc, & milde, & soffte, & blipe. *c* 1205 LAY. 18775 Þa wes Vðer Pendragun Þa softer an his mode. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 304 Abuuen us [will be] þe eorre Demare, vor ase softe as he is her, ase herd he bið þer. *c* 1300 *Havelok* 991 Als he was strong, so was he softe. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 371 Thou schalt be soft in compaignie, Withoute Contek or Folhaste. *c* 1430 *Pilgr. Lyf Manhode* I. xv. (1869) 10 Softe he shulde be that hath it, For of to gret rudeshipe mys befalleth. 1533 BELLENDEN *Livy* I. xi. (S.T.S.) I. 68 Na pepill was sa gracius and soft in pvnissing of þare transgressouris or subdittis as þai wer. 1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* (S.T.S.) II. 223 This king..saw that as seueir punisment drewe vicious persounis frome vice; sa to be saft, and ouersie, prouokes thame daylie mair. 1612 T. TAYLOR *Comm. Titus* iii. 2 A soft man is..one that will not be so hard in his dealing, as sometime by strict lawe he might. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* IV. 776 The soft Napæan Race will soon relent Their Anger, and remit the Punishment. 1751 CHESTERF. *Lett.* ccxlv. (1792) III. 125 At the first impulse of passion be silent, till you can be soft. 1844 DICKENS *Mart. Chuz.* xxvii, The law being hard upon us, we're not exactly soft upon B. 1852 THACKERAY *Esmond* I. xiv, He..was very soft and gentle with the children. 1890 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Colonial Reformer* (1891) 314 They now began to consider that..Neuchamp had been considerate, or, in their phraseology, 'soft,' to an extent altogether unprecedented.

b. Of animals: Gentle, docile; lacking in spirit.

c 1200 ORMIN 1312 Forr lamb is soffte & stille deor, & meoc, & milde. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XVIII. c. (W. de W. 1495) 846 Whan he [a bull] is tyed vnder a fyg tree he lesyth and leueth all his fyersnesse and is sodenly sobre and softe. [*c* 1515 *Cocke Lorell's B.* 1 She is as softe as a lamme yf one do her meue.] 1891 *Pall Mall G.* 15 Sept. 2/3 An English jockey speaks with contempt of 'a soft brute'; when a toreador..speaks of a soft brute, he says it has 'drunk mud'.

c. Gentle *in* speech or looks.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 24078 (Edinb.), Fair he wes and fre,.. Soft in speche. 1400 tr. *Secreta Secret., Gov. Lordsh.* 117 þat man ys..wel dysposyd in kynde, þat..ys..softe yn lokynge. 1422 *Ibid., Priv. Priv.* 139 A kynge sholde be good of Speche and Softe in worde.

†d. Quiet; not making a noise. *Obs.*

a 1430 *Stans Puer* 55 in *Babees Bk.*, At mete & at soper kepe þee stille & softe. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 462/2 Softe, or esy wythe owte grete dene,...*tranquillus*. *a* 1536 *Proverbs* in *Songs, Carols*, etc. (E.E.T.S.) 130 Besy in stody be þou, child,..& at bedde, softe & sadde.

e. Not rigid or severe; lax, yielding. Cf. 11 b.

a 1715 BURNET *Own Time* (1734) II. 29 Lord Ancram said I might be what I pleased, if I would be a little softer in the points of religion. 1718 HICKES & NELSON *Kettlewell* III. l. 315 Some..think him herein too Rigid:..Others have censured him for being too Soft.

9. Of disposition, look, etc.: Gentle, mild; indicative of a mild or gentle character.

c 1200 ORMIN 1461 3iff þin herrte iss arefull, & milde, & soffte, & nesshe. 1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. VIII. 117 Sadde of his semblaunt and of soft chiere. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 83 For feigned semblant is so softe, Unethes love may be war. 1533 BELLENDEN *Livy* II. xi. (S.T.S.) I. 169 Seruilius.., ane man of mare soft Ingyne, said þe myndis of pepill mycht be mare eselie bowit þan brokin. 1818 SCOTT *Br. Lamm.* x, A flush of less soft expression..resumed predominance when he mentioned how meanly he was provided for the entertainment of his guests. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* v. I. 591 Those soft and pleasing features which had won so many hearts. 1880 'OUIDA' *Moths* 280 She found his soft, pensive eyes looking at her.

b. Of qualities, feelings, etc.: Characterized by gentleness or tenderness.

c 1200 ORMIN 2899 Swa þatt te millce nohht ne be To soffte, ne to nesshe. 1593 SHAKS. *Lucr.* 595 Soft pity enters at an iron gate. 1723 RAMSAY *Fair Assembly* x, Belinda..strikes with love and saft surprise, Where e'er she turns her een. 1746 HERVEY *Medit.* (1818) 147 A heart susceptible of the softest, most compassionate emotions. 1781 COWPER *Table-T.* 484 If human woes her soft attention claim.

10. Of words, language, etc.: **a.** Ingratiating, soothing, bland; tender, sentimental.

c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xlv. (*Christina*) 46 Þane hir fadire kissit hir ofte, & gluthryt hir with vordis softe. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 72 He with softe wordes milde Conforteth hire. 1535 COVERDALE *Prov.* v, 3 For the lippes of an harlot are a droppinge hony combe, and hir throte is softer then oyle. 1548 UDALL, etc. *Erasm. Par. Luke* 193 b, Is it not a woorde softer then honey, to saie haill maister? 1608 SHAKS. *Per.* IV. iv. 45 No visor does become black villany So well as soft and tender flattery. 1711 STEELE *Spect.* No. 118 ¶ 2 The Huntsman..whispered the softest Vows of Fidelity in her Ear, and cried [etc.]. 1773 GOLDSM. *Stoops to Conq.* II, What soft things are you saying to your cousin? 1782 MISS BURNEY *Cecilia* II. iii, Can you conjecture who was making these soft speeches? 1842 LOVER *Handy Andy* xxxiv, The coaxing tones of Bridget's voice, inviting Andy, in the softest words, to go to bed. 1865 TROLLOPE *Belton Est.* ix. 94 He was fond of saying soft things which were intended to have no meaning.

b. Free from roughness or harshness; tending to tone down or minimize something unpleasant.

1388 WYCLIF *Prov.* xv. 1 A soft answere brekith ire. *c* 1446 LYDG. *Two Nightingale Poems* 25 Whan he was brought to exampnacioun: A soft Aunswere without rebellioun. *c* 1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 350 þe bischope mode was all mesyd, þe whene with soft wordes he plesyd. 1660 WATERHOUSE *Arms & Arm.* 38 'Tis very convenient to use a soft Pen, and to offer probable truth with no dictator-like confidence. 1710 ADDISON *Whig Examiner* No. 5 ¶ 3 They have stated this case in the softest and most palatable terms it will bear. 1753–4 RICHARDSON *Grandison* III. xxvii. 286 You have soft words for hard meanings. 1838 THIRLWALL *Greece* IV. 161 Ambassadors were sent to Agis, to propose alliance with Sparta—a softer term for subjection. 1869 TROLLOPE *He Knew*, etc. xxxii. (1878) 183 If there was anything in what your wife did to offend you, a soft word from you would have put it all right.

c. Expressive of what is tender or peaceful. Also *transf.* of a writer.

a 1704 T. BROWN *Praise Drunkenness* Wks. 1730 I. 37 Anacreon was famous for a bottle, as he was soft and pleasing in his poetry. 1712 ADDISON *Spectator* No. 369 ¶ 9 Some Passages are beautiful by being Sublime, others by being Soft. 1743 FRANCIS tr. *Hor., Odes* I. xvi. 26 Shall the Muse again To softer Numbers tune her melting Strain.

11. Of actions, means, etc.: Gentle or moderate in character; carried on, performed, etc., without harshness, severity, or violence.

1495 *Act* 11 *Hen. VII*, c. 2 Preamble, Of his pitie intending to reduce theym therunto by softer meanes then by such extreme rigour. 1588 KYD *Househ. Phil.* Wks. (1901) 260 To aduise thee..not [to] bring them vp vnder so soft and easie discipline as they become..milke sops. 1607 SHAKS. *Cor.* III. ii. 82 Thou,..being bred in broyles, Hast not the soft way, which..Were fit for thee to vse. 1670 CLARENDON *Contempl. Ps.* Tracts (1727) 605 Since they will not entertain that soft approach of his grace towards their conversion, he hath a rougher remedy to apply. 1742 GRAY *Propertius* i. 3 Still may his Bard in softer fights engage. 1754 — *Progr. Poesy* 16 The..Frantic Passions hear thy soft controul. 1784 COWPER *Task* III. 520 When the temper'd heat..may afford Soft fomentation, and invite the seed. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. v. i, The two fly-wheels whirl in the softest manner. 1888 BRYCE *Amer. Commw.* III. lxxxvii. 161 They are disposed to try soft means at first.

b. In comparative use: Less rigid or strict.

1718 HICKES & NELSON *Kettlewell* III. lxxiv. 388 He had been prevailed upon..to take the New Oath according to the Softer Sense.

12. Of the hand, etc.: Touching lightly or gently. Sense 19 is also implied.

1650 R. STAPYLTON *Strada's Low-C. Wars* I. 24 An incision pains the less when made by a soft hand. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* IV. 471, I will bring thee where no shadow staies..thy soft imbraces. 1743 FRANCIS tr. *Hor., Odes* I. xxiv. 22 What though you can the Lyre command, And sweep its Tones with softer Hand Than Orpheus. 1820 SHELLEY *Hymn Merc.* xxv, Right through the temple.. He went with soft light feet. 1901 *N. Amer. Rev.* Feb. 162 The soft hand of the Americans is not as good as the mailed fist of the Germans.

III. 13. Yielding readily to emotions of a tender nature; easily affected or moved in this way; impressionable. Also *absol.* of persons.

c 1205 LAY. 24220 Þer custe uader þene sune,..suster custe suster; þa softere heom wes an heorten. *c* 1489 CAXTON *Sonnes of Aymon* iv. 127 His herte wexed softe, & began to wepe full sore. 1588 SHAKS. *L. L. L.* IV. iii. 337 Loues feeling is more soft and sensible, Then are the tender hornes of..Snayles. 1713 STEELE *Guardian* No. 17 ¶ 7 Concerning the Soft disposition and generosity of his master. 1747 *Gentl. Mag.* Apr. 194/1 The soft lamented, and the brave approv'd. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. II. i, The soft young heart adopts orphans. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* viii. II. 320 His graceful manners,..his soft heart, his open hand, were universally praised. 1880 MRS. L. B. WALFORD *Troublesome Daughters* I. ix. 187 He found himself quite soft on the subject.

b. In figurative expressions.

1679 ALSOP *Melius Inq.* II. viii. 361 A tender-Conscienced Person is one that has a Soft place in's Head. 1753 MISS COLLIER *Art Torment.* II. iii. (1811) 135 The man who has a soft place in his heart. 1885 *Cent. Mag.* XXX. 380/2 [He] had rather a soft spot in his heart for Violet. 1887 *Times* (weekly ed.) 30 Sept. 8/2 Cave..had got the softer side of some of the doorkeepers of the House of Commons.

c. *To be soft on* or *upon* (a person), to be in love with; to regard amorously or sentimentally.

1840 THACKERAY *Barber Cox* Jan., Orlando and my girl, who were mighty soft upon one another. 1860 — *Lovel* vi, I was not a little soft upon her myself, that's the truth. 1888 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Robbery under Arms* II. ix. 157, I always thought she was rather soft on Jim.

14. Easily influenced or swayed; having little

power of resistance to the influence of other persons or things; facile, compliant. Also *absol.* of persons.

c 1250 *Owl & Night.* 1350 Þah sum wif beo of nesche mode, For wummon beoþ of softe blode. 1535 COVERDALE *Job* xxiii. 16 For in so moch as he is God, he maketh my herte soft: and seynge that he is Allmightie, he putteth me in feare. 1558 KNOX *First Blast* (Arb.) 24 Womankinde is imprudent and soft, (or flexible),..because she is easelie bowed. 1639 SALTMARSH *Policy* 178 In a businesse of passion and affection be suspitious of yourselfe and company, for in such cases you are most open and soft to advantages. 1648–9 *Eikon Bas.* 116 Divines, (of so soft and servile tempers, as disposed them to so sudden acting and compliance). 1751 JOHNSON *Rambler* No. 162 ¶ 5 Many..who select for friendship and confidence not..the virtuous, but the soft, the civil, and compliant. 1813 SCOTT *Rokeby* I. xxiv, A heart too soft from early life To hold with fortune needful strife. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* v. I. 543 His soft mind had, as usual, taken an impress from the society which surrounded him.

b. Weak, effeminate, unmanly.

1593 SHAKS. 3 *Hen. VI*, II. ii. 57 Cheere vp your spirits, our foes are nye, And this soft courage makes your Followers faint. 1620 E. BLOUNT *Horæ Subsec.* 82 In women, and men of soft and effeminated affections. 1628 HOBBES *Thucydides* (1822) 94 The Lacedemonians..ever looked sourly on soft and loose behaviour. 1663 S. PATRICK *Parab. Pilgr.* (1687) 487 [To] keep our selves above the soft pleasures of the flesh into which we are apt to sink. 1716 POPE *Iliad* VI. 362 Sidonian maids..Whom from soft Sidon youthful Paris bore. 1776 GIBBON *Decl. & F.* xii. (1782) I. 413 He was soft yet cruel; devoted to pleasure, but destitute of taste. 1801 STRUTT *Sports & Past.* Introd. p. xi, Violent exercises ..grew out of fashion.., and the education..became proportionably more soft and delicate. 1872 *Routledge's Ev. Boy's Ann.* 455/1 It looks so soft to say you won't fight.

c. Refined, delicate. *rare.*

1601 SHAKS. *Twel. N.* v. i. 331 For your seruice done him,..So farre beneath your soft and tender breeding. 1604 — *Ham.* v. ii. 112 (Q.2), An absolute gentleman,.. of very soft society, and great showing. 1693 EVELYN *De la Quint. Compt. Gard.* I. 58 They say in a pretty popular manner, that..it is impossible to afford them too much Kindness, which is the soft and sparkish Expression they use in speaking of what we vulgarly call Dung.

†**15.** Lax or slack in duty. *Obs.*–1

c 1386 CHAUCER *Doctor's T.* 101 Under a schepherd softe and necligent, The wolf hath many a schep and lamb to-rent.

16. Of a weakly or delicate constitution; not strong or robust; incapable of much physical endurance or exertion.

[1596 SHAKS. *Tam. Shr.* v. ii. 165 Why are our bodies soft, and weake, and smooth, Vnapt to toyle and trouble.] 1661 LOVELL *Hist. Anim. & Min.* Isagoge c b, Soft and sedentary men must abstaine from it, it being fit only for porters, ploughmen, and mariners. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* I. 685 There Euphrates her soft Off-spring arms. 1781 COWPER *Anti-Thelyphth.* 177 She, regardless of her softer kind, Seiz'd fast the saddle. 1842 COMBE *Digestion* 294 If the individual..is of a soft, sluggish, lymphatic temperament, which stands in need of a healthy stimulus. 1850 MRS. JAMESON *Leg. Monast. Orders* (1863) 46 In those days the coasts of England were, to the soft Italians, a kind of Siberia for distance and desolation. 1888 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Robbery under Arms* I. xi. 135 Our horses had been doing nothing lately, and..had, of course, got fat, and were rather soft.

b. *colloq.* (See quot.)

1898 SIR G. ROBERTSON *Chitral* xxxii. 352 The conviction that our troops were broken in spirit—what in India is expressively called soft.

17. *The soft(er) sex*, the female sex.

1648 J. BEAUMONT *Psyche* XIV. l, The softer sex, attending Him And His still-growing woes with tenderer eyes. 1716 POPE *Iliad* v. 435 The king insults the goddess as she flies: .. 'Go, let thy own soft sex employ thy care'. 1724 SWIFT *Acc. Wood's Exec.* Misc. 1735 V. 317 Those of the softer Sex who attended the Ceremony. 1833 RITCHIE *Wand. by Loire* 128 That sex, which men call the softer, will dare the very devil, when occasion calls. 1838 LYTTON *Alice* 157 In addition to those qualities which please the softer sex, Legard was a good whist player.

18. More or less foolish, silly, or simple; lacking ordinary intelligence or common-sense; easily imposed upon or deceived. Also *dial.* or *colloq.*, mentally deficient, half-witted.

1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* I. ii. III. xv. (1651) 130 Your greatest Students are commonly no better, silly, soft fellows. *Ibid.* IV. iv. 149 He made soft fellows stark noddies, and such as were foolish quite mad. *a* 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew, Soft*, foolish. 1725 BAILEY *Erasm. Colloq.* 277 This is the only Thing that he's soft in; he's sharp as a Needle in anything else. 1775 MISS BURNEY *Early Diary* (1889) II. 124 He looks very soft, in the most extensive meaning of the word; *c'est à dire*, in temper, person, and head. 1835 MARRYAT *J. Faithful* XXV, A good sort of chap enough, but rather soft in the upper-works. 1867 TROLLOPE *Chron. Barset* I. 12 One of the Grantlys was, to say the least of it, very soft.

b. *dial.* Stupefied or muddled with drink.

1836– in dial. glossaries and texts (*Eng. Dial. Dict.*).

c. *colloq.* Foolishly kind, benevolent, considerate, etc.

1890 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Col. Reformer* (1891) 261 Helping other people along the road of life..a thundering soft thing it is, in a general way. *Ibid.* 315 He..did a soft thing in bringing these chaps here.

IV. 19. Presenting a yielding surface to the touch; not offering absolute resistance to pressure.

a 1240 *Ureisun* in *O. E. Hom.* I. 187 Hwet deþ þenne þi blod isched on þe rode, hwet deþ þenne þe large broc of þi softe side? *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 335 Ðanne is tis fruit wel swiðe good, fair on siȝðe and softe on hond. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 25491 Iesus, þat wald..suffer..Boffetes on þi soft chin. ? *a* 1366 CHAUCER *Rom. Rose* 556 Ther nis a fairer nekke, y-wis, To sele how smothe and softe it is. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 462/2 Softe and smothe, *lenis, planus.* 1508 DUNBAR *Tua Maritt Wemen* 28, I saw thre gay ladeis,..Quhyt seimlie, and soft, as the sweit lillies. 1599 SHAKS. *Hen. V*, II. iii. 61 Touch her soft mouth, and march. 1637 BP. HALL *Remedy Prophanenesse* ii. § 13. 178 The hand that was at the first soft, and tender, after it hath beene inured to worke, growes brawned, and impenetrable. 1700 DRYDEN *Ovid's Met., Acis, Polyph. & Galatea* 75 More sleek thy Skin,..And softer to the touch, than down of Swans. 1741–2 GRAY *Agrip.* 95 Knows his soft ear the trumpet's thrilling voice. 1847 TENNYSON *Princess* vii. 121 Softer all her shape And rounder seem'd. 1896 tr. *Boas' Text-bk. Zool.* 229 The legs arise..from the soft, lateral portions of the segment.

b. Of the pulse. (Cf. HARD *a.* 3.)

1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Pulse*, A hard Pulse signifies, 1. That the Membrane of the Artery is dryer than ordinary: ..3. That the Arteries are full [etc.]. A soft Pulse denotes the contrary to all these. 1834 *Good's Study Med.* (ed. 4) I. 545 If a pulse be small and soft together, then it must be considered as weak. 1843 R. J. GRAVES *Syst. Clin. Med.* x. 113 A soft slow pulse.

20. Of cloth, hair, or similar substances: Of a yielding texture, pleasant to the feel or touch; also, capable of being easily folded or put into a different form; flexible.

c 1205 LAY. 22763 Water me brohte.., seoðden claðes soften al of white seolke. 1382 WYCLIF *Matt.* xi. 8 Loo! thei that ben clothid with softe thingis [1388 softe clothis] ben in housis of kyngis. *c* 1385 CHAUCER *L. G. W.* 1721 *Lucretia*, This noble wif sat by hire beddys side..And softe wolle..she wroughte. 1450–80 tr. *Secreta Secret.* 39 And the heer be fulle and softe, that man is deboner. 1508 DUNBAR *Tua Maritt Wemen* 96 Soft and soupill as the silk. 1567 *Gude & Godlie Ball.* (S. T. S.) 196 Preistis, leif 3our pryde, 3our skarlet and 3our veluote soft. 1615 G. SANDYS *Trav.* 15 A white soft Bombast intermixed with seeds. 1725 *Fam. Dict.* s.v. *Hair*, If you would have the Hair grow long and soft. 1784 COWPER *Task* I. 11 Satin smooth, Or velvet soft, or plush with shaggy pile. 1788 — *Gratitude* 17 These carpets, so soft to the foot. 1879 F. POLLOK *Sport Brit. Burmah* I. 234 Leather..which must be kept soft by oil and elbow grease. 1887 LOWELL *Democracy* 34 [To] walk along Piccadilly at the height of the Season in a soft hat.

fig. 1780 COWPER *Progr. Err.* 313 Caught in a delicate soft silken net By some lewd earl.

b. *Soft wares*, or *goods*, woollen or cotton fabrics, such as cretonne, chintz, lace, muslin, velvet, etc., or articles made of these.

1851 MAYHEW *London Labour* I. 378 The most primitive kind of packmen, or hawkers of soft-wares. 1894 *Westm. Gaz.* 27 Sept. 8/2 Lectures intended for those engaged in the soft goods trade. 1898 *Daily News* 8 Jan. 7/3 A traveller in soft goods for an old-established London firm.

c. *U.S.* Of paper money. (Cf. HARD *a.* 2.) Also *attrib.*

1831 T. L. PEACOCK *Crotchet Castle* xi, The notes of Touchandgo and Company, soft cash, are now the exclusive currency of all this vicinity. 1878 *N. Amer. Rev.* CXXVII. 103 A Western Democrat on a soft-money platform. 1893 *Daily News* 16 June 2/3 Mr. Cleveland..found himself compelled to give the hot-headed partisans of 'soft' money a sharp lesson.

21. Of a bed, pillow, etc.: Readily yielding to the weight of the body; into or upon which one sinks or settles down comfortably.

c 1250 *Owl & Night.* 644 Mi nest is holeuh & rum amidde, So hit is softest myne bridde. *c* 1275 *Sinners Beware* 284 in *O. E. Misc.*, Ye me fedde..And leyden in softe bedde Þoic a-mong eu eode. 1340 *Ayenb.* 47 Þe zofte bed cloþes, ..and alle manyere eyse of bodye. 1588 KYD *Housch. Phil.* Wks. (1901) 284 There in a very soft bed I bequeathed my bones to rest. 1599 SHAKS. *Hen. V*, IV. i. 14 A good soft Pillow for that good white Head. ' 1607 — *Cor.* v. iii. 53 With no softer Cushion then the Flint I kneele before thee. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* IV. 334 As they sat recline On the soft downie Bank. 1781 COWPER *Table-T.* 678 He laid his head in luxury's soft lap. 1784 — *Task* I. 75 Ingenious fancy..devis'd The soft settee. 1830 TENNYSON *Merman* iii, Soft are the moss-beds under the sea. *c* 1885 ROSSETTI *Sick Child's Medit.* ii. Poems (1904) 263/2 Thou, O Lord, in pain, hadst no pillow soft.

transf. 1450–80 *Secreta Secret.* 29 Thingis that makith the body fatte,..as wyn that is dowsett,..and slepe aftir mete, soft liyng, and alle good odoures. 1784 COWPER *Task* I. 82 By soft recumbency of outstretch'd limbs. 1819 SCOTT *Ivanhoe* ii, If the reverend fathers..loved good cheer and soft lodging.

22. Of ground: **a.** Yielding agreeably to the feet.

c 1200 ORMIN 9656 Þær shall nu newenn greȝþedd þeon Full smeþe & soffte weȝȝe. ? *a* 1366 CHAUCER *Rom. Rose* 128 The medewe softe, swote, and grene, Beet right on the water-syde. 1815 SHELLEY *Alastor* 448 Soft mossy lawns Beneath these canopies extend their swells.

b. Insufficiently hard; allowing a vehicle, person, etc., to sink in, esp. through excess of wet.

1523 FITZHERB. *Husb.* § 5 On marreis ground and soft ground the other wheles be better. 1765 DICKSON *Treat. Agric.* (ed. 2) 73 The pasture of plants is enlarged, both in hard and soft land, by stirring and turning it over. *Ibid.* 74 Soft marshy land, by being frequently ploughed, becomes more firm and solid. 1812 *New Bot. Gard.* I. 98 In soft boggy situations. 1816 SCOTT *Bl. Dwarf* iii, The bog is no abune knee-deep, and better a saft road as bad company. 1872 'IPSTONE' [T. Pearce] *The Dog* vi. 58 When the track was plain upon mud or soft ground.

c. Of a fall: Made on a soft substance, or in such a way as to escape injury. In quots. *fig.*

1587 *Mirr. Mag., Rudacke* x, Who climeth so highe, his fall is not soft. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. III. viii, Remains only that the Court..shall make his fall soft.

23. Of a yielding consistency; composed of, or forming, a substance which may easily be moulded or compressed without disintegration.

c 1400 tr. *Secreta Secret., Gov. Lordsh.* 68 And whenne a body ys þicke and drye, softe metys and moyste er goode þerto. *a* 1425 tr. *Arderne's Treat. Fistula*, etc. 60 Blode is norischyng of al membrez, als wele of sadde as of softe. 1474 CAXTON *Chesse* III. v. (1883) 123 For the women ben likened vnto softe waxe or softe ayer. *a* 1536 *Proverbs in Songs, Carols*, etc. (E.E.T.S.) 132 Whote wortis make softe crustis. 1567 MAPLET *Gr. Forest* 100 b, Whose flesh so soft and morsell sweete in all feastes is the hed. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* I. 424 Spirits..Can either Sex assume, or both; so soft And uncompounded is their Essence pure. 1687 PRIOR & HALIFAX *Hind & Panth. Transv.* P.'s Wks. 1892 II. 321 A milk-white mouse.. Fed on soft cheese. 1710 J. CLARKE tr. *Rohault's Nat. Philos.* (1729) I. 123 A soft Body, which seems to be of a middle Nature betwixt a hard and a liquid Body. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) VI. 66 To suppose that they entered the rock while it was yet in a soft state. 1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 415 By exposure to heat, potass becomes soft, and..melts into a transparent glass. 1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* I. vii. 48 The snow..was *moist* and soft. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 581 For the scalp..a soft ointment.. answers well.

b. In more or less specific uses (see quots.).

Soft roe: see ROE[2] 1.

1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* I. 332 Those in the sea which we call Soft-fishes, although they haue no bloud at all, as namely the Pour-cuttles or Polypes. 1745 P. THOMAS *Jrnl. Anson's Voy.* 30 A Copper Oven..for baking Soft-Bread. *Ibid.* 145 The Officers had always soft Bread new baked, which was much better than the Biscuit. 1856 *N. Brit. Rev.* XXVI. 168 If these be the causes of hard and soft cataract. 1889 *Pall Mall. G.* 28 May 3/1 All 'soft meat birds' are observant. I mean by soft meat—which is a birdcatchers' term—the feeders on grubs and worms and flies, rather than on seeds. 1899 *Daily News* 7 Dec. 11/1 The foggy weather had an effect on the carcases in general, rendering them what is called 'soft'.

c. Of a semi-fluid consistency.

1703 MOXON *Mech. Exerc.* 262 In Summer time use your Morter as soft as you can, but in the Winter time pretty stiff or hard. 1791 *Phil. Trans.* LXXXI. 174 Workman keeps stirring and turning over the metal; in 3 m. it becomes soft and semi-fluid. 1898 BOLAS *Glass Blowing* 132 An iron rod called a punty.., on the end of which is a mass of soft glass, is now attached to the elongated bulb.

d. Of oil: (see quots.).

1885 *Encycl. Brit.* XVIII. 242 The several kinds of crude paraffin..are classed as 'hard scale' or 'soft scale', according to their fusing points and consequent degrees of hardness at ordinary temperatures. 1887 MOLONEY *Forestry W. Africa* 43 In the trade it [palm-oil] is called 'hard' when it contains a larger proportion of 'stearine', 'soft' when it contains a smaller proportion.

24. Relatively inferior or deficient in hardness.

1599 HAKLUYT *Voy.* II. i. 253 Where there is a great market kept of Diamants, Rubies, Saphires, and many other soft stones. 1670 PETTUS *Fodinæ Reg.* 5 And in these Veins of Metals and Minerals are often found Loadstones,..Rough pearl and Soft diamond. 1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* I. 4 But if heated and cooled gradually, it becomes nearly as soft as pure iron. 1830 LYELL *Princ. Geol.* I. 216 The carbonates of iron, lime, and manganese are so dissolved, that the rock is rendered soft. 1847 YEOWELL *Anc. Brit. Church* xii. 140 A head and face rudely carved in a soft stone. 1872 RAYMOND *Statist. Mines & Min.* 145 So far the mines have been easily worked, the gangue being as yet comparatively soft.

b. In specific uses, as *soft bast, brass, burr* (see BURR *sb.*[5] 3), *coal, iron, metal, paste, porcelain, steel, stuff.* (See also SOLDER *sb.*[1] 4.)

1875 BENNETT & DYER tr. *Sachs' Bot.* 101 These cell-formations (cambiform, latticed cells, sieve-tubes) may, in combination with the phloem-parenchyma in which they are imbedded,..be included in the term **Soft-bast*, in opposition to the true bast. 1888 JACOBI *Printers' Vocab.* 128 **Soft brass*, brass rule which can be easily manipulated, specially manufactured for fancy work. 1789 J. WILLIAMS *Min. Kingd.* I. 232 Sometimes you can judge pretty near the crop or surface whether it will be a hard or **soft* coal. 1855 J. PHILLIPS *Man. Geol.* 190 'Soft' coal, where the cleat fissures are numerous and broken by cross cleat. 1839 G. BIRD *Nat. Philos.* 259 If a bar of **soft* iron be bent in the shape of the letter U. 1873 J. C. MAXWELL *Electr. & Magn.* (1881) II. 44 If the magnetic properties of the iron depend entirely on the magnetic force of the field in which it is placed..it is called soft iron. 1869 RANKINE *Machine & Hand-tools* 63 **Soft metal*, for the bearings of shafts, consists of 30 parts of tin, 1 of copper, and 5 of antimony. 1884 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* Suppl. 828/2 **Soft Paste*, (Ceramics), a name applied to the material of porcelain, which is semi-hard only. 1859 R. HUNT *Guide Mus. Pract. Geol.* (ed. 2) 92 The English porcelain is, what is called, *soft porcelain, and is composed of three elements, Kaolin and Cornish China stone—with bone ashes. 1868 JOYNSON *Metals* 90 For *soft-steel, less than 1 per cent. [of charcoal] being required. 1827 FITTON in *Zool. Jrnl.* III. 416 The 'soft-stuff' [of the Stonesfield slate-beds], occupying about six inches, consists of yellowish very sandy clay, including thin courses of fibrous transparent gypsum.

25. a. Applied to water, such as rain or river water, which is more or less free from calcium and magnesium salts. (Opposed to HARD *a.* 14 a.)

1755 *Gentl. Mag.* XXV. 361 Keep this bason constantly filled with soft water. 1805 SAUNDERS *Min. Waters* 3 River Water..is in general much softer and more free from earthy salts. 1878 RAMSAY *Phys. Geogr.* XXXII. 553 The water from the Welsh mountains is also in great part soft.

b. *dial.* and *U.S.* Of beverages: Non-alcoholic, non-spirituous.

1880 in *Antrim & Down Gloss.* 95. 1894 *Outing* XXIV. 236/2 Each regiment had a 'canteen' of its own, where the men could buy..soft drinks, beer, cigars, pipes, etc.

26. Of the weather, a day, etc.: Rainy, wet. Chiefly *Sc.* and *north. dial.*

1812 SIR J. SINCLAIR *Syst. Husb. Scot.* I. Add. 11 If they [slugs] be attacked when on the surface of the ground,

where they are every soft morning in search of food. 1828- in many dial. glossaries, etc. 1829 Scott *Jrnl.* 12 July, The day excessively rainy, or, as we call it, soft. 1874 Mrs. Oliphant *For Love & Life* (1880) 68 The day was fine, notwithstanding the prophecy of 'saft weather'.

V. 27. Special collocations (see also 23 b, d, and 24 b):

Soft corn, plausible speech or language; flattery (Bartlett, 1859). *Soft-horn*, a simple or foolish person (*slang*). *Soft mouth*, a flatterer, smooth speaker. *Soft plank* (see quot.). *Soft pull*, in Printing (see quots.). *Soft snap*, an easy, pleasant job; a profitable business or undertaking (*colloq.* or *slang*). *Soft sugar*, moist sugar. *Soft tack*, among sailors, bread as distinct from ship's biscuit (see Tack *sb.*[2]). *Soft tommy* (see Tommy). *Soft vat*, *woodlands* (see quots.).

1837 Haliburton *Clockm.* I. xxxi, I allot..that the blue-noses are the most gullible folks on the face of the airth,—rigular *soft horns, that's a fact. 1865 *Slang Dict.* 240 *Soft-horn*, a simpleton, a donkey. 1882 Blackmore *Christowell* xxxi, Mrs. Tubbs liked them, because they were gentlemen; not such *soft-mouths as you see now. 1867 Smyth *Sailor's Word-bk.* s.v. *Soft-Plank*, Picking a *soft plank in the deck, is choosing an easy berth. 1683 Moxon *Mech. Exerc., Printing* § xxiv. P 5 A long or a Soaking or Easie Pull;..this is also call'd a *Soft Pull; because it comes Soft, and Soakingly and easily down. 1787 *Printer's Gram.* 328 That which causes a Soft Pull is putting in pieces of felt or pasteboard. 1888 Jacobi *Printers' Vocab.* 128 *Soft pull*, an easy pull over of the bar-handle of a printing press. 1887 Francis *Saddle & Mocassin* xii. 227 I've got a '*soft snap' on—can't miss it. 1818 Scott *Br. Lamm.* xxiii, A drap brandy to burn, and a wee pickle *saft sugar. 1839 Ure *Dict. Arts* 674 A *soft vat..is that which contains too much copperas. 1859 Bartlett *Dict. Amer.* (ed. 2) 427 *Soft woodlands*, a term applied, in the British Provinces, to the districts or intervals covered with various species of pine trees.

b. In the names of plants or trees, as *soft brome, grass, maple, rush* (see quots.).

1817 W. H. Marshall *Review* V. 489 The *soft brome, smooth stalked meadow, smaller fescue, and yellow oat, are partial to dry soils. 1785 Martyn *Rousseau's Bot.* xiii. (1794) 151 Several genera; of which the Holcus or *Soft grass is most likely to come under your observation. 1796 Withering *British Pl.* (ed. 3) II. 135 *Holcus lanatus*,.. Meadow Soft-grass...*H. mollis*,..Creeping Soft-grass. 1845 Lindley *Sch. Bot.* (ed. 2) 143 *Holcus lanatus* (Woolly Soft Grass). 1876 *Encycl. Brit.* IV. 264/2 The natives of Africa also make a beverage from the seed of the spiked or eared soft-grass (*Holcus spicatus*). 1855 J. Darby *Bot. S. States* 265 *A[cer] dasycarpum*,..*Soft Maple. 1891 E. Roper *By Track & Trail* xv. 220 Against this rose the giant cedars, pines and hemlocks, the soft and vine maples [etc.]. 1861 Miss Pratt *Flower. Pl.* V. 285 *Juncus effusus* (*Soft Rush) ..is a common Rush of marshy lands.

c. In the names of animals, esp. reptiles or fishes, as *soft-back, clam, crab, tortoise*, etc.

1872 De Vere *Americanisms* 388 Another tortoise of greater size and equal ferocity is the *Softback (*Trionyx ferox*). 1884 Goode *Nat. Hist. Aquat. Anim.* 707 The '*Soft Clam', 'Long Clam', or 'Nanninose' (*Mya arenaria*). 1859 Bartlett *Dict. Amer.* (ed. 2) 398 Shedder-crab, a crab which has recently cast its shell, also called a *Soft Crab. 1884 Goode *Nat. Hist. Aquat. Anim.* 776 The terms 'Soft Crab', 'Paper-shell', and 'Buckler' denote the different stages of consistency of the shell. 1896 Lydekker *Roy. Nat. Hist.* V. 376 Of these two unimportant families, the first is represented solely by the *soft-spines (*Malacanthus*). 1822 J. Parkinson *Outl. Oryctol.* 303 The *soft tortoise (*Trionyx*). *c* 1880 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* IV. 256 The Trionycides. The Mud or Soft Tortoises. 1896 Lydekker *Roy. Nat. Hist.* V. 98 The most striking peculiarity of the soft-tortoises is to be found in the nature of their shells.

28. a. Used with sbs. to form an attributive (or objective) comb., as *soft-bill, -coal, -foot*, etc.

1829 Griffith tr. *Cuvier* VIII. 617 *Soft-bill Duck,...*Anas Melanorhynchos*. 1884 Knight *Dict. Mech.* Suppl. 828/1 *Soft Center Steel*, a composition of iron and steel...Used for safes, plows, etc. 1885 W. D. Howells *Silas Lapham* (1891) II. 57 The *soft-coal fire in the grate. 1598 Marlowe & Chapman *Hero & Leander* v. 3 Sol, and the *soft-foote Howrs hung on his armes. 1868 *U. S. Rep. Munit. War* 165 A hooped, *soft-steel gun. 1860 *All Year Round* No. 49. 532 Of the *soft-water-drinking towns already named, Lancaster gets water..from millstone grit. 1893 *Pall Mall G.* 30 Jan. 7/3 The tallest people in Great Britain are to be met with in soft-water districts.

b. In comb. with adjs. *rare.*

1603 J. Davies (Heref.) *Microcosmos* Wks. (Grosart) I. 20/2 Yea, smoothlie iest at their soft-silken Happe. 1843 Holtzapffel *Turning* I. 450 The first solder is called by the pewterers hard-pale, the last soft-pale.

29. *Comb.* Forming parasynthetic adjs., as *soft-brained, -coated, conscienced, -fingered*, etc.

Only the more important or earlier examples of this type are here illustrated.

1687 Miége *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II. s.v., *Soft-brained, or Soft-pated, *qui est un peu fou*. 1859 Geo. Eliot *A. Bede* xxxvii, The luxurious nature of a round, *soft-coated pet animal. 1820 Keats *Ode to Psyche* 4 Pardon that thy secrets should be sung Even into thine own *soft-conched ear. 1607 Shaks. *Cor.* I. i. 37 Though *soft conscienc'd men can be content to say it was for his Countrey. 1828 P. Cunningham *N. S. Wales* (ed. 3) II. 190 Weavers, barbers, and such-like *soft-fingered gentry. 1611 Tourneur *Ath. Trag.* II. v, I do not like these phlegmatic smooth-skinned, *soft-fleshed fellows. 1886 C. Scott *Sheep-Farming* 195 Dogs..of every size and colour, rough and smooth-coated, *soft and hard haired. 1768–74 Tucker *Lt. Nat.* (1834) II. 277 *Soft-handed Hope, whose soothing touch makes the possessor easy in himself. 1820 Keats *Ode to Psyche* 18 Their lips touch'd not, but had not bade adieu, As if disjoined by soft-handed slumber. 1842 I. Williams *Baptistery* III. xvii. 224 Soft-handed Silence near stands looking calmly on. 1847 Disraeli *Tancred* v. ii, Amiable and brave, trustworthy and *soft-mannered. 1592 *Arden of Feversham* II. ii, Why, this would steale *soft metled cowardice. 1540 Coverdale *Fruitful Lessons* i, Quiet, mild, *soft-minded, tractable, and meek. 1648 Hexham II, *Weeck-zinnigh*, Soft-minded, or Enraged. 1564 Abp. Parker *Corr.* (Parker Soc.) 214 A good, *soft-natured gentleman. 1619 Fletcher *Wild-Goose Chase* I. ii, We'l provide thee some soft-natur'd wench. 1899 *Westm. Gaz.* 1 July 2/3, 200,000 rounds of ammunition, made up with *soft-nosed bullets. 1776 Mickle tr. *Camoens' Lusiad* IV. 6 The dawn..With *soft-paced ray dispels the shades obscene. 1857 Miss Winkworth *Tauler's Life & Serm.* 164 A soft-paced horse would be much easier for him to ride. 1680 C. Ness *Church Hist.* 179 Ahaziah..was a *soft-pated prince and low spirited. 1882 Jordan & Gilbert *Syn. Fishes N. Amer.* 94 *Physostomi*, (The *Soft-rayed Fishes). 1612 Chapman *Widdow's Tears* v, A Souldier and afraid of a dead man? A *soft-r'ode milk-sop? 1591 Sylvester *Du Bartas* I. iv. 807 Those, that..chase The *soft-skind Martens, for their precious Cace. 1596 Nashe *Saffron Walden* Wks. (Grosart) III. 111 Making loue to those soft skind soules & sweete Nymphes of Helicon. 1896 tr. *Boas' Text-bk. Zool.* 225 Thin plates separated by large soft-skinned interspaces. 1530 Palsgr. 324/2 *Softespyrited, *mødeste*. 1585–6 Leycester *Corr.* (Camden) 273 The audytors here be so soft-spryted men as I dowbt [etc.]. 1641 Milton *Animadv.* Wks. 1851 III. 186 Thus much..in favour of the softer spirited Christian. 1631 Chapman *Cæsar & Pompey* v. ii, My *soft-spleen'd seruants ouerrule and curb me. 1805 *Edin. Rev.* VII. 5 The eldest..seems to have been a very *soft-tempered youth. 1878 Joaquim Miller *Songs of Italy* 45 When the stars in the soft-tempered breeze Glowed red. 1820 Keats *Lamia* II. 261 'Lamia!' he cried—and no *soft-toned reply. *c* 1850 *Arab. Nts.* (Rtldg.) 488 A concert of soft-toned flutes, hautboys, lutes. *a* 1873 Lytton *Pausanias* 78 It goes hard with my pride..to make equals of this *soft-tongued race. 1847 Webster, *Soft-voiced*, having a soft voice. 1894 'J. S. Winter' *Red Coats* 63 The remembrance of a soft-eyed, soft-voiced little woman. 1842 Loudon *Suburban Hort.* 117 The singing-birds are the best for destroying *soft-winged insects such as moths and butterflies.

b. In the specific names of animals, birds, plants, etc.

1803 Shaw *Gen. Zool.* IV. II. 517 *Soft-backed Labrus, *Labrus Malapteronotus*. 1837 Swainson *Classif. Birds* III. iii. II. 16 The soft-backed shrikes, or *Malaconoti*. 1678 Ray tr. *Willughby's Ornith.* III. ii. § 1. 362 Wormius his Eider or *soft-feathered Duck. *c* 1711 Petiver *Gazophyl.* VI. § lviii, Soft-feathered Cape Coralline. 1833 *Proc. Berw. Nat. Club* I. 29 *Hieracium molle*—*Soft-leaved Hawkweed. 1840 Hodgson *Hist. Northumb.* III. II. 361/2 *Byrum carneum*, Soft-leaved Thread-moss. 1872 *Routledge's Ev. Boy's Ann.* June 417/2 The soft-leaved Rose (*Rosa mollis*). 1890 *Science-Gossip* XXVI. 136 The soft-leaved cranesbill (*Geranium molle*). 1801 Latham *Gen. Synop. Birds* Suppl. II. 224 *Soft-tailed Flycatcher.

30. With vbs., as *soft-board, -boil.*

1832 Gen. P. Thompson *Exerc.* (1842) II. 327 Now just reflect,—meditate for as long time as would soft-boil an egg. 1884 Knight *Dict. Mech.* Suppl. 828 *Soft-boarding*, boarding or bruising the leather on the flesh-side. 1897 C. T. Davis *Manuf. Leather* (ed. 2) xxvii. 417 Then the leather is taken down and soft-boarded and hung up to thoroughly dry.

Soft (sɔft), *adv.* Forms: 1, 3–6 softe (5 soffte, 6 safte), 4– soft. [OE. *sófte*, = OS. *sâfto*, OHG. *sanfto*, *samfto* (MHG. *sanfte*, *samfte*, G. *sanft*): see prec.] Softly, in various senses.

I. 1. In a quiet or peaceful state; in a comfortable or easy manner; on a soft bed, couch, etc.; †luxuriously. Now *poet.* or *arch.*, esp. in *to sleep soft.*

a 1000 *Genesis* 179 He..softe swæf. *c* 1000 *Saxon Leechd.* II. 292 Reste [he] hine softe. *c* 1205 Lay. 4004 Þer he tæi softe &..slepte. *Ibid.* 6346 He wes a wel god mon & softe he wolde libben. 13.. *Cursor M.* 3796 (Gött.), Wele was he gladid of þat sight, Soft him thoght he slep þat nyht. 1398 Trevisa *Barth. De P. R.* VII. lviii. (Bodl. MS.), Þis yuell bredeth in ham þat leue esilich and softe, and trauayleþ butte litel. *c* 1400 *Brut* lxvii. 63 Y shal ȝeue ȝow soche a medecyne þat ȝe shulle swete anone ryȝt, and softe slepe. 1601 Shaks. *All's W.* IV. iii. 368, I will..sleepe as soft As Captaine shall. 1607 — *Timon* IV. iii. 206 Thy Flatterers..drinke Wine, lye soft. 1667 Milton *P. L.* VIII. 254 Soft on the flourie herb I found me laid. 1781 Cowper *Anti-Thelyphth.* 8 Fancy ..laid her soft in Amaranthine flow'rs. 1827 Scott *Surg. Dau.* ix, The riches of the East expended that they might sleep soft and wake in magnificence. 1850 Mrs. Browning *The Sleep* iv, Sleep soft, beloved!

b. In soft wrappings, surroundings, etc.

a 1400–50 *Alexander* 2401 þat Iowell .. þat was full sekirly & soft all in silke falden. *c* 1440 *York Myst.* xviii. 196, I pray þe.., happe hym warme, And sette hym softe. 1579 Gosson *Sch. Abuse* (Arb.) 39 They were smoothly appareled, soft lodged, daintely feasted.

2. In a gentle manner; without harshness, roughness, severity, or violence.

a 1000 *Boeth. Metr.* xx. 7 Ðu..gesewenlicra softe wealdest scirra ȝesceafta. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 3874 An oðer siðe he went is ðoȝt Betre and softere. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 58 Wyt chaunce of ded,..þat soft began has endyng smart. 1377 Langl. *P. Pl.* B. xx. 311 Ther is a surgiene in þis sege þat softe can handle. *c* 1385 Chaucer *L. G. W.* 2708 *Hypermnestra*, And hym she roggith & a-wakyth softe. 14.. *Sir Beues* (M) 605 With drinke and salffe she helid hym softe.

b. Without much force, intensity, or vigour; lightly, gently.

c 1430 *Two Cookery-bks.* 17 Stere it soffter an soffter, tylle it come to-gedere; þan gader it to-geders with a ladelle or a Skymoure, softe, tille it be round to-gedere. *Ibid.* 22 Wrynge it soft þorw a strayn ouere. 1742 Young *Nt. Th.* II. 241 Silky-soft Favonius, breathe still softer, or be chid. 1757 Gray *Bard* 72 Fair laughs the Morn, and soft the Zephyr blows. 1793 Wordsw. *Descr. Sk.* 14 Nature loves to show'r Soft on his wounded heart her healing pow'r. 1833 Tennyson *Lotos-Eaters* Choric Song i, There is sweet music here that softer falls Than petals from blown roses on the grass. 1891 C. James *Rom. Rigmarole* 175 'I fall soft,' he said.

3. With gentle movement; unobtrusively; without (much) noise or sound; quietly.

c 1205 Lay. 26614 Þæs cnihtes siȝen þurh þene wude wunder ane softe. *c* 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 75 Þis holie Man wende forth a-mong heom alle wel softe. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 17288+127 For drede þai stynted oft For ferd of þe Iews, and sithen welk ful soft. *c* 1374 Chaucer *Troylus* III. 1535 He softe into his bed gan for to slynke To slepe longe. 1596 Spenser *F. Q.* IV. xi. 33 Him follow'd Yar, soft washing Norwitch wall. 1742 Collins *Passions* (1807) 141 [Runnels] Dashing soft from rocks around. 1820 Keats *St. Agnes* xxix, Then by the bed-side..soft he set A table.

b. With or at a slow or leisurely pace; not hastily or hurriedly.

1390 Gower *Conf.* I. 100 He set hire on his hors tofore And forth he takth his weie softe. *c* 1400 *Laud Troy Bk.* 2982 Polidonias Come afftirward with qwene Eleyne, Rydyng soffte vpon the pleyne. *c* 1460 *Towneley Myst.* XXI. 211 All soft may men go far. 1550 Crowley *Last Trump* 895 Thou hast forgotten to go soft, thou art so hasty on thy way. 1748 Thomson *Cast. Indol.* II. xxi, Or where old Cam soft-paces o'er the lea In pensive mood.

4. In a low voice or tone; with a soft, melodious, or pleasing sound; not loudly or harshly.

c 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 232 Þis Monekes beden seint Brendan, þat he softe speke. 1297 R. Glouc. (Rolls) 9769 Þis godeman sat adoun akne..& wel softe..sede þis orison. 1422 tr. *Secreta Secret., Priv. Priv.* 187 The wys man wenethe he Softe laghyth. 1470–85 Malory *Arthur* v. v. 167 She.. sayd Syre knyghte speke softe, for yonder is a deuyll. *a* 1536 *Songs, Carols*, etc. (E. E. T. S.) 118 Syng softe, I say, leste yowr nose blede. 1590 Spenser *F. Q.* II. xii. 71 The waters fall with difference discreet, Now soft, now loud. 1603 Shaks. *Meas. for M.* IV. i. 69 Little haue you to say When you depart from him, but soft and low, Remember now my brother. *a* 1763 Shenstone *Nancy of Vale* iii. Wks. 1777 I. 128 When from an hazle's artless bower Soft warbled Strephon's tongue. 1784 Cowper *Task* III. 779 And streams..Now murm'ring soft, now roaring in cascades. 1820 Keats *Lamia* II. 199 Soft went the music the soft air along. 1896 Housman *Shropshire Lad* lii, The wanderer ..Halts on the bridge to hearken How soft the poplars sigh.

†5. Sweetly, odorously. *Obs.*[–1]

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 9357 Sco smelles better þen piment, And wel softer [*Fairf.* soter] hir uestement þan ani recles þat es brent.

6. To a slight degree or extent; slightly. *rare.*

13.. *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* xlix. 371 For muche to bi-hote & ȝiue but softe, Makeþ mon to be chalanged ofte. 1812 *New Bot. Gard.* I. 46 The leaves are spear-shaped, soft waved and entire.

†7. *Soft and fair(ly)*, softly, gently, leisurely. *Obs.* (Cf. 8 b and Fair *adv.* 7.)

1390 Gower *Conf.* III. 194 Thus have I told thee softe and faire Mi feith. 1530 Palsgr. 842/1 Softe and fayre, *tout bellement*. 1535 Coverdale *Tobit* xi. 3 Let the husholde with thy wife and yͤ catell come soft & fayrly after vs. 1565 Cooper *Thes., Cunctanter*, slowly; safte and fayre; leasurely. 1625 Purchas *Pilgr.* II. 1104 That the Queen should follow soft and fair. 1638 Junius *Paint. Ancients* 29 The Arts..are in processe of time soft and faire forged by a continuall meditation.

Prov. 1681 T. Flatman *Heraclitus Ridens* No. 32 (1713) I. 208 Soft and fair goes far in a Day. *a* 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew* s.v. *Fair*, Soft and Fair goes far. 1736 Ainsworth I. s.v., Soft and fair goeth far, *festina lente*.

8. Used as an exclamation with imperative force, either to enjoin silence or deprecate haste. Freq. preceded by *but*, and sometimes followed by *you*. Now only *arch.*

(*a*) *c* 1550 Cheke *Matt.* xxvii. 49 And yͤ resideu said, Soft, let vs se whiyer helias com to save him or no. *c* 1590 Marlowe *Faustus* ix, Soft, sir; a word with you. 1601 Shaks. *Twel. N.* I. v. 312 Not too fast: soft, soft. 1611 — *Wint. T.* IV. iv. 402 Soft, Swaine, a-while, beseech you. *a* 1822 Shelley *''Tis midnight now'* 82 Soft, my dearest angel, stay. 1852 M. Arnold *Tristram & Iseult* I. 7 Soft —who is that stands by the dying fire?

(*b*) *a* 1566 R. Edwards *Damon & Pithias* in Dodsley *O. Pl.* (1754) I. 241 But soft, sirs, I pray you huysh. 1589 [? Lyly] *Pappe w. Hatchet* (1844) 22 But soft, I must now make a graue speach. 1639 N. N. tr. *Du Bosq's Compl. Woman* I. 8 But soft, wee take nothing from Pagans. *a* 1721 Sheffield (Dk. Buckhm.) *Wks.* (1753) I. 179 A night..All black, and terrible! but soft! stand close. 1782 Han. More *Moses* III. 14 No one sees me. But soft, does no one listen! 1820 Byron *Blues* II. 24 A rabble who know not—But soft, here they come!

(*c*) 1599 *George a Greene* Greene's Wks. (Rtldg.) 256 Nay, soft you, sir! you get no entrance here. 1602 Shaks. *Ham.* III. i. 88 Soft you now, The faire Ophelia! 1635 Mede *Wks.* (1672) 836 But soft you there, I like not that Method.

†b. So *soft and fair, soft and peace. Obs.*

1576 Gascoigne *Steele Glas* (Arb.) 69 Cruel? nay iust, (yea softe and peace good sir) For Iustice sleepes. 1599 Shaks. *Much Ado* v. iv. 72 Soft and faire Frier, which is Beatrice? 1611 Cotgr., *Tout beau*, take your leisure, soft and faire, not too fast. 1712 Arbuthnot *John Bull* (1727) 63 Soft and fair, gentlemen, quoth I; my mother's my mother.

II. *Comb.* **9.** With pres. pples. (or advs. from these), as *soft-brushing, -circling, -ebbing*, etc.

Similar examples, but unhyphened, are freq. in 18th cent. poetry.

1606 Sylvester *Du Bartas* II. iv. II. *Magnificence* 701 One, in the fresh shade of an Apple-Tree, Lets hang its Quiver, while soft-pantingly 'T exhales hot Vapour. 1667 Milton *P. L.* VII. 300 Wave rowling after Wave,..If steep, with torrent rapture, if through Plaine, Soft-ebbing. 1710 Philips *Pastorals* ii. 6 Their Notes soft-warb'ling to the gladsome Spring. 1726 Pope *Odyss.* XVII. 310 They heard, soft-circling in the sky, Sweet Airs ascend. 1743 Francis tr. *Hor., Odes* III. xi. 18 The Dog of Hell, Immense of Bulk, to Thee soft-soothing fell. 1820 Keats *Lamia* I. 43 The God..soft-brushing, in his speed, The taller grasses. 1875 Longf. *Hanging of Crane* iv. 22 Limpid as planets..Soft-shining through the summer night.

b. In attributive use.

Freq. in 18th cent. poetry; many examples are given by Jodrell.

1612 DRAYTON *Poly-olb.* III. 401 As some soft-sliding rill ..Extends itself at length unto a goodly stream. 1648 J. BEAUMONT *Psyche* IV. ccxlv, By the side Of some soft-murmuring Current. 1743 FRANCIS tr. *Hor., Odes* III. xix. 20 The soft-swelling Pipe, and the Hautboy sonorous. 1768–74 TUCKER *Lt. Nat.* (1834) II. 263 Benign, soft-shining goddess! [Hope]. 1791 COLERIDGE *Mathem. Problem* iii, The soft-flowing daughter of fright. 1816 J. WILSON *City of Plague* Poems 1825 I. 299 Sinking down As through soft-yielding waters murmuring round me. 1827 KEBLE *Chr. Year, Visitation Sick*, The light from those soft-smiling eyes. 1836 MRS. BROWNING *Poet's Vow* II. xiii, The silence left By that soft-throbbing speech. 1892 GUNTER *Miss Dividends* (1893) 13 Here a soft-treading waiter knocks upon the door.

10. With pa. ppples., as *soft-bedded, -extended, -roast(ed)*, etc.

1558 WARDE tr. *Alexis' Secr.* 26 b, A new laied Egge, soft roste. 1725 POPE *Odyss.* VII. 435 There, soft-extended,.. Ulysses sleeps profound! 1726 *Ibid.* XIX. 119 A seat soft spread with furry spoils prepare. 1742 YOUNG *Nt. Th.* IV. 654 Their distant strain,..Soft wafted on celestial pity's plume. 1831 CARLYLE *Sart. Res.* II. ix, Not sufficiently honoured,..soft-bedded, and lovingly cared-for.

b. In attributive use.

Other examples are given by Jodrell.

1597 A. M. tr. *Guillemeau's Fr. Chirurg.* 28/1 We must first let him suppe in a soft-dressed egge. 1648 J. BEAUMONT *Psyche* XX. ccxciii, Those lusty Thoughts which in a soft-lay'd Dream [etc.]. 1649 G. DANIEL *Trinarch., Hen. V*, ccxlviii, Spred the feild ore with Soft-Spun Carcasses. 1682 MRS. BEHN *City Heiress* 8 The stealths of Love, the soft-breath'd murmuring Passion. 1748 THOMSON *Castle Indol.* I. xx, The soft-embodied fays through airy portal stream. 1768 *Phil. Trans.* LX. 122 They have shoes of soft-tanned moose skin. 1825 J. NICHOLSON *Operat. Mech.* 481 This soft and soft-glazed pottery is easily scratched by a knife. *a* 1835 MRS. HEMANS *To the New Born* Poems (1875) 502 Bending o'er thy soft-seal'd eyes. 1893 *Outing* XXII. 123/1 The soft-finished, braided raw-silk line.

11. With adjs., as *soft-bright, -lucent, -slow.*

1593 SHAKS. *Lucrece* 1220 Her mistress she doth give demure good-morrow, With soft-slow tongue, true mark of modesty. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. I. iv, Light Apollo, so clear, soft-lucent. 1863 LD. HOUGHTON *Sel. fr. Wks.* 216 Disparted all those soft-bright diadems.

† **Soft,** *v. Obs.* [f. the adj.]

1. *trans.* To render (a person, the heart, etc.) less harsh, severe, or obdurate; to mollify, appease, pacify.

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 244 Eadie bonen softeð & paieð ure Louerd. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 318 Witt and resoun conseilen ofte That I myn herte scholde softe. *c* 1430 *Pilgr. Lyf Manhode* I. lii. (1869) 31 Whan it is fulfilled with olde sinne, and harded, j softe it, and make it weepe. *c* 1477 CAXTON *Jason* 47 b, Ther is no herte of lady so hard but by the vertu of youre requestes muste nedes be softed and molefied. 1533 BELLENDEN *Livy* V. xiii. (S.T.S.) II. 194 The distributioun of þir landis softit..þe myndis of small pepill. 1594 SPENSER *Amoretti* xxxii, Yet cannot all these flames..her hart more harde then yron soft awhit.

b. Const. *to* and inf.

c 1430 *Life St. Kath.* (1884) 90 But anoon porphyry softed þe kepers to consente.

2. To allay, abate, or assuage the heat, intensity, or pain of (an injury, sore, etc.). Also with double accusative.

(*a*) *a* 1200 *St. Marher.* 5 Lauerd loke to me, ant haue merci of me, softe me mi sar. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xxxviii. (*Adrian*) 295 With a faire cloth ȝcho clengit þare bilis, & softyt hurtis þat ware sare. 14.. *Siege Jerus.* (E.E.T.S.) 5 Canste þou any..craft vpon erþe To softe þe grete sore þat sitteþ on my cheke? *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 463/1 Softyn, or esyn of peyne,..*mitigo, allevio.* 1527 ANDREW *Brunswyke's Distyll. Waters* C iv, It softeth the goute podagra in the fete.

(*b*) *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 463/1 Softyn, or comfortyn yn sorowe and mornynge, *delinio.* *c* 1470 *Gol. & Gaw.* 1055 Wes nowthir solace nor sang thair sorow to soft.

3. To mitigate or moderate, to lower or reduce the intensity of (a passion, emotion, etc.).

c 1400 *Apol. Loll.* 112 Wat þat is offrid in felony in þe sacrifice of God it softiþ not, but steriþ his wraþe. *a* 1470 H. PARKER *Dives & P.* (W. de W. 1496) VI. x. 380 The lacke is softe & nesshe and by his softenesse..softeth & feynteth all strokes þat cometh there ayenst. 1533 BELLENDEN *Livy* I. iv. (S.T.S.) I. 30 Providing so þai wald soft þe indignacioun of þare myndis. *Ibid.* III. xi. 293 His collegis..set þame þe maist presand way þai mycht to soft his preiss.

4. To make (words) plausible or specious.

1382 WYCLIF *Ps.* liv. 22 Softiþ ben the woordis of hym vp on oile; and thei ben speris. — *Prov.* ii. 16 That thou be take awey fro an alien womman, and fro a straunge, that softeth [L. *mollit*] hir woordis.

5. To render physically soft. Also in fig. context.

a 1400 *Prymer* (1895) 60 Wheþer þou hast not softid me as mylk; and hast cruddid me to-gideres as chese? *c* 1430 *Life St. Kath.* (1884) 52 The erthe also is softed with wyth rayn and azeynward made hard wyth froost.

6. *refl.* To calm or restrain (oneself). *rare*—1.

c 1480 HENRYSON *Fables, Fox, Wolf & Husbandman* xxiii, Schir,..we ar at it almaist; Soft ȝow ane lytill, and ȝe sall se it sone.

7. *intr.* To become or grow soft in various senses.

c 1275 LAY. 12042 Þe wind gan a-legge an þat weder softi. *a* 1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* lxxxiii. 2 My hert softid in swetnes of luf.

Hence † **So·fting** *vbl. sb.* and *ppl. a.*

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XIX. xlvii. (W. de W. 1495) 890 Bi grete dryynesse they be made smothyng and softynge. 14.. *Siege Jerus.* (E. E. T. S.) 6 Þer is a warlich wif..þat haþ softyng & salue for eche sore out. 1611 COTGR., *Amollissement*, a softing, mollifying, making tender. *Ibid.*, *Amollissant*, softing, mollifying.

‖ **Softa** (*sɒ·ftă*). Also **sophta.** [Turk. سوفتہ *sōfta*, ad. Pers. سوختہ *sūhtah* lighted, set on fire (by the teacher, or by zeal for study).] In Turkey, a Moslem theological student; also generally, a pupil engaged in professional studies at a secondary school.

1613 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* (1614) 315 Thus haue we taken a leisurely view of the Turkish Hierarchy from the poore Softi to the courtly Cadilescher and pontifical Mufti. 1880 MENZIES *Turkey Old & New* II. 249 The Softas..were angry with the Government, and threatened the Sultan with deposition. 1895 *Westm. Gaz.* 3 Oct. 5/1 The Softas, or Mussulman theological students.

Soft-billed, *a. Ornith.* [SOFT *a.* 29.] Having a soft bill. Also in specific names.

a 1705 RAY *Synop. Avium* (1713) 68 In *Tenuirostras*, Soft Bil'd Birds..and *Crassirostras*, Hard Bil'd Birds. 1771 G. WHITE *Selborne* xlii, Many of our soft-billed summer birds of passage. 1785 LATHAM *Gen. Synop. Birds* III. II. 522 Soft-billed Duck..inhabits New Zealand. 1826 MISS MITFORD *Village* Ser. III. (1863) 97 A soft-billed bird, that requires as much care as a nightingale! 1871 DARWIN *Desc. Man* II. xvi. (1890) 490 Many of the soft-billed birds are songsters.

Soft-board(ing : see SOFT *a.* 30.

Soft-bodied, *a. Zool.* [SOFT *a.* 29.] Having soft bodies.

1782 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 2) IX. 6617/2 These tender and soft-bodied animals [*sc.* frogs]. 1826 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* III. xxxv. 655 In soft-bodied insects they [the legs] seem usually more firm and unbending. 1846 PATTERSON *Zool.* 27 The molluscous or soft-bodied animals, which are known as shell-fish. 1872 H. A. NICHOLSON *Palaeont.* 59 No trace of the past existence of which has yet been obtained, or, from their soft-bodied nature, is ever likely to be.

Soften (*sɒ·f'n*), *v.* Also 4–5 **softne,** 5 *Sc.* **softine,** 9 *Sc.* **safton.** [f. SOFT *a.* + -EN. Cf. SOFT *v.*]

I. *trans.* 1. To mitigate, assuage, or diminish; to render less painful or more easy to bear.

c 1385 CHAUCER *L. G. W.* Prol. 50 That blisful sight softneth al my sorwe. *c* 1415 HOCCLEVE *Min. Poems* 62 Let your hy worthynesse Oure indigences softne, & abate! 1708 POPE *Ode St. Cecilia's Day* VII, Music can soften pain to ease. *a* 1715 BURNET *Own Time* (1766) II. 13 It would very much soften those apprehensions. 1822 SCOTT *Peveril* xxxii, His lady, who..shared and softened his imprisonment. 1823 — *Quentin D.* x, All who had contributed to soften the term of his exile. 1842 LOVER *Handy Andy* xlix, After the lapse of a few days had softened the bitter grief.

absol. c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xlii. (*Agatha*) 149 Godis angele..vith dew of hewine ma softine sa, þat þi fyre sal me do na wa. *c* 1400 *Rom. Rose* 1925 It softned heere, and prikkith there.

b. Similarly with *off.*

1790 MME. D'ARBLAY *Diary* Jan., To soften off, by the air, a violent headache, I determined upon walking to Chelsea. 1849 FROUDE *Nemesis of Faith* 224 All that woman's care..could do to soften off her end was done.

† c. With personal object: To relieve from pain. *Obs.*—1

? *a* 1400 *Morte Arth.* 2691 This prissonere syr Priamus.. Sais that he has saluez salle softene vs bothene.

2. a. To render more impressionable or tender; to affect emotionally.

1435 MISYN *Fire of Love* 102 Þe saule softynand þer þou.. þi tempyll has ordand. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* XI. 120, I behold them soft'nd and with tears Bewailing thir excess. 1827 SCOTT *Jrnl.* 7 Nov., I..fairly softened myself like an old fool, with recalling old stories till I was fit for nothing but shedding tears. 1874 MOZLEY *Univ. Serm.* ix. (1877) 195 Misfortune, adversity, soften the human heart.

b. To enervate, weaken, render effeminate.

1582 SIDNEY *Apol. Poetrie* (Arb.) 51 Howe.., before Poets did soften vs, we were full of courage, giuen to martiall exercises. 1615 CHAPMAN *Odyss.* XII. 64 The Sirens will so soften with their song..His loose affections. 1670 COTTON *Espernon* I. III. 204 A negligent and voluptuous Prince, whose nature being softned, and unnerv'd by ease [etc.]. 1780 *Mirror* No. 94, Softening too much the mind of a young girl, who has to struggle with the difficulties of life. 1828–32 WEBSTER s.v., Troops softened by luxury.

c. To make more gentle, delicate, or refined. Also with *into.*

1709 STEELE *Tatler* No. 10 ¶ 2 Every Temper..is to be animated and softned by the Influence of Beauty. 1781 COWPER *Charity* 96 This genial intercourse..softens human rock-work into men. 1831 SINCLAIR *Corr.* II. 370 Attention to music..softens the temper. 1841 ELPHINSTONE *Hist. Ind.* II. 249 This mixture probably softened the manners of the people from the first. 1868 MORRIS *Earthly Par.* I. I. 112 Though some divine thought softened all her face.

3. To mollify or appease; to render less harsh or severe.

c 1450 *Mirour Saluacioun* (Roxb.) 128 Bot marie softnys his ire als oure best mediatrice. 1593 SHAKS. *Lucr.* 591 All which together..Beat at thy rocky..heart, To soften it. 1603 — *Meas. for M.* I. v. 70 All hope is gone, Vnlesse you haue the grace by your faire praier To soften Angelo. 1725 DE FOE *Voy. r. World* (1840) 342 To soften them a little, and in some measure to please them. 1780 *Mirror* No. 101, Nor was his resentment softened even by her husband's leaving the army. 1835 THIRLWALL *Greece* I. vi. 199 When the sacrifice was designed to soften the anger of an offended deity. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* V. I. 637 That good prelate used all his influence to soften the gaolers. 1864 BRYCE *Holy Rom. Emp.* XV. (1875) 243 It still appeared possible to soften, if not to overcome, their antagonism.

4. To make physically soft or softer; to lessen the hardness of (a substance).

1530 PALSGR. 724/2 It is harde yet, but I shall soften it well ynoughe. 1591 SHAKS. *Two Gentl.* III. ii. 79 Orpheus Lute,..Whose golden touch could soften steele and stones. 1604 — *Oth.* IV. iii. 47 Her salt teares fell from her, and softned the stones. 1656 *Verney Memoirs* (1907) II. 51, I see the same sunn that softens Wax, hardens clay. 1750 tr. *Leonardus' Mirr. Stones* 227 Sometimes deceivers will soften the amber and put into it some extraneous matter. 1796 H. HUNTER tr. *St.-Pierre's Stud. Nat.* (1799) I. 53 With Fire he..hardens clay, softens iron. 1853 SOYER *Pantroph.* 288 They were first softened in milk and honey.

absol. 1610 MARKHAM *Masterp.* II. clxxiii. 484 Armoniacke drieth, cooleth, softneth, and draweth.

b. To make (water) soft.

1771 MRS. HAYWOOD *New Present for Maid* 267 Hard water may be softened by laying chalk in the bottoms of the wells or ponds. 1867 BLOXAM *Chem.* 43 Clark's process for softening waters.

5. To modify or tone down; to render less pronounced or prominent.

In certain contexts there is implication of other senses.

(*a*) 1670–1 MARVELL *Corr.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 382 The clause that makes them riots is thrown out, and severall other clauses softned. 1712 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 399 ¶ 5 They ..do not see our Faults,..or soften them by their Representations. 1714 POPE *Lett.* Wks. 1736 V. 216, I know you will think fit to soften your expression when you see the passage. 1788 GIBBON *Decl. & F.* liii. V. 422 Their stern enthusiasm was softened by time and prosperity. 1812 CRABBE *Tales* xvii. 153, I in vain had tried To soften crime, that cannot be denied. 1856 FROUDE *Hist. Eng.* (1858) I. 463 The scarcely ambiguous answer was something softened the following day. 1879 — *Cæsar* xx. 346 Others proposed to send a deputation to soften the harshness of his removal.

(*b*) 1810 CRABBE *Borough* ii. 41 For time has soften'd what was harsh when new, And now the stains are all of sober hue. 1835 W. IRVING *Tour Prairies* 159 There was a smoky haze in the atmosphere.., softening the features of the landscape. 1884 *Manch. Exam.* 1 Sept. 5/4 An awning ..softened the light and hid the bare rafters.

b. Const. *into* or *to.*

1753 HOGARTH *Anal. Beauty* vi. 29 Horror is softened into reverence. 1784 COWPER *Task* I. 365 'Tis the primal curse, But soften'd into mercy. 1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 725 These shades, duly softened into each other, will give the idea of a round body. 1842 BARHAM *Ingol. Leg.* Ser. II. *Lay of St. Cuthbert* iii, And he utters— a word which we'll soften to 'Zooks!'

c. With *down* (or *away*).

1799–1805 WORDSW. *Prelude* XIV. 246 Thou didst soften down This over-sternness. 1809 MALKIN *Gil Blas* XI. iv. ¶ 3 Throughout my narrative I softened down the passages likely to give umbrage to my patron. 1866 MRS. GASKELL *Wives & Dau.* iv, Mrs. Hamley tried sometimes to..soften away opinions which she fancied were offensive to the doctor. 1869 TOZER *Highl. Turkey* II. 264 Inconsistencies ..are modified and softened down.

6. To make softer in sound.

For Ainsworth's use see the note to SOFT *a.* 3 b.

1736 AINSWORTH *Lat. Dict.* II. s.v. *D*, This letter..is a *t* hardned, as *t* is a *d* softned. 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* XXVI, He spoke to her in accents somewhat softened from their usual harshness. 1824 BYRON *Def. Transf.* I. ii, How the soldier's rough strain seems Soften'd by distance to a hymn-like cadence! 1890 *Science-Gossip* XXVI. 17 In our modern word *ditch* the final letter has been softened or weakened.

II. *intr.* 7. To become soft or softer in various non-physical senses; *esp.* to become more gentle, tender, or emotional; to grow fainter or less pronounced.

1611 SHAKS. *Wint. T.* II. ii. 40 We do not know How he may soften at the sight o' th' Childe. 1728–7 BOYER *Dict. Royal* I, *S'adoucir*,..to soften, to grow soft. 1791 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Rom. Forest* I, The terror of La Motte began to subside, and the grief of Adeline to soften. 1794 — *Myst. Udolpho* III, Its savage features gradually softened. 1838 T. MITCHELL *Aristoph. Clouds* 31 The scholar..gradually softens at this submission, and becomes sociable and communicative. 1865 CARLYLE *Fredk. Gt.* XXI. viii. (1872) X. 163 His eyes..softened finely in hearing, or telling, some trait of nobleness. 1877 MRS. OLIPHANT *Makers Flor.* viii. 212 Never was heart so hard but it softened before so much gentleness.

b. Const. *into.*

1730 THOMSON *Hymn* 25 Shade unperceived so softening into shade. 1771 *Junius' Lett.* liv. (1788) 296 By what gentle degrees the furious, persecuting zeal of Mr. Horne has softened into moderation. 1820 L. HUNT *Indicator, Deaths Little Children* 203 The pain that is in it softens into pleasure.

c. With *away, down,* or *off.*

1797 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Ital.* XII, The responses softened away in distance. 1833 RITCHIE *Wand. Loire* 122 The rocks soften down on the right, and the village of Bouchemain appears. 1840 DICKENS *Master Humphrey's Clock* (Tauchn.) III. 285 A crowd, which..softened off in a confused heap of faces. 1879 BROWNING *Halbert & Hob* 6 Most wildness by degrees Softens away!

8. To become physically soft.

1626 BACON *Sylva* § 840 Many of those Bodies, that will not Melt,..will notwithstanding Soften. 1727 BOYER *Dict. Royal* I, *S'amollir*,..(*perdre sa dureté*), to grow soft, tender or pliant, to soften. 1838 THOMSON *Chem. Org. Bodies* 182 When heated it softens at 302°. 1900 *Jrnl. Soc. Dyers* XVI. 7 The acetate..does not begin to soften below a temperature of 150° C.

Softened (*sɒ·f'nd*), *ppl. a.* [f. SOFTEN *v.*]

1. Made or rendered physically soft or yielding.

1600 SURFLET *Countrie Farme* 95 Mixing..the powder of a softned bricke in her meate. 1688 BOYLE *Final Causes* IV. 191 To..make a Second Attrition of their already much Softned Aliments. 1830 KNOX *Beclard's Anat.* 340 The softened nervous substance is sometimes at the point of being liquid. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 871 The softened central area of the tumour.

b. Characterized by softening or softness.

1839-47 *Todd's Cycl. Anat.* III. 720 B, The softened condition of the brain is doubtless due to a similar cause. 1843 R. J. GRAVES *Syst. Clin. Med.* xv. 183 Certain phenomena ..indicate a softened state of the heart.

2. Rendered soft or softer, in other senses.

1716 POPE *Iliad* VI. 622 The soften'd chief .. dried the falling drops, and thus pursued. 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* xxxii, Then .. her softened thoughts returned to Valancourt. *Ibid.* xxxviii, The softened music, floating at a distance, soothed her melancholy mind. 1829 SCOTT *Rob Roy* Introd., A softened account of this anecdote. 1852 MRS. STOWE *Uncle Tom's C.* xxvii, 'Get up, child,' said Miss Ophelia in a softened voice. 1873 SYMONDS *Greek Poets* xii. 404 Its pearly greys and softened greens. 1894 MRS. DYAN *Man's Keeping* (1899) 311 She .. saw that new softened look in his eyes.

Softener (sɔ́·fnəɹ). [f. as prec.]

1. One who or that which softens, in various senses; a mollifier. Also with *down*.

1608 HIERON *Wks.* I. 722/1 Whose blood is .. the principall softner of the heart. 1611 COTGR., *Mollifieur*, a mollifier, softener. 1668 CHARLETON & P. M. *Ephes. & Cinnm. Matrons* 72 You are .. the obstacles to honour; the softners of courage. 1743 FRANCIS tr. *Hor., Odes* I. xxxii. 20 Thou Softner of each anxious Care. 1839 DICKENS *Nickleby* viii, One of the best softeners of a hard bed. 1894 H. NESBIT *Bush Girl's Rom.* 27 A true helpmate and softener-down of the rough edges.

2. *spec.* A painting-brush of soft hair.

1843 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* VI. 305/1 Passing a dry brush, called a 'softener', lightly over it. 1873 E. SPON *Workshop Rec.* Ser. I. 6/2 For shading, camel or sable hair brushes, called Softeners, are generally used.

Softening, *vbl. sb.* Also 6 **soughtening**, 6, 8 **softning**. [f. as prec.]

1. The action of making soft, in various senses of the adj. Also with *a* and pl.

1568 TURNER *Herbal* III. 21 It purgeth .. gently by soughtening of the belly. 1580 HOLLYBAND *Treas. Fr. Tong, Mollification*, softning. 1611 COTGR., *Attendrissement*, a softening, mollifying. 1719 WATERLAND *Vind. Christ's Div.* 223 After the Disguises and Softenings, and Colourings had been carried on so long. 1744 H. BROOKE *Love & Vanity* 124 O such a pretty knack at painting! And all for soft'ning and for sainting! 1802 D. STEWART *Life & Writ. Robertson* I. 42 To unite in his portraits the truth of nature with the softenings of art. 1853 J. H. NEWMAN *Hist. Sk.* Ser. II. I. iii. 105 When their strength declines .. there is no softening, no misgiving. 1892 *Photogr. Ann.* II. 203 After this a general softening (that is to say, the graduating of light into shade).

b. *Path.*, esp. in *softening of the brain.*

1830 R. KNOX *Béclard's Anat.* 340 The softening is a very frequent alteration of a part of the central nervous mass. 1835 *Cycl. Pract. Med.* IV. 5/1 When softening of the brain is accompanied by an increase of bulk. 1843 GRAVES *Syst. Clin. Med.* xv. 184 Softening of the heart exists in typhus fever. 1845 BUDD *Dis. Liver* 74 This state of yellow softening. *Ibid.*, Red softening. 1854 JONES & SIEVEKING *Pathol. Anat.* 250 White softening .. is chiefly met with in the parts most remote from the grey matter.

2. *spec.* (See quots.)

1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl., Softening*, in Painting, the mixing and diluting of Colours with the Brush or Pencil. 1881 RAYMOND *Mining Gloss., Softening*, of lead, the removal of antimony and other impurities.

3. *attrib.*, as *softening disease, tool*; **softening iron**, in leather-working, an iron plate upon which the wetted hides of animals are stretched; **softening-machine** (see quot. 1875); **softening works**, works for softening drinking-water.

1834 COOPER *Good's Study Med.* (ed. 4) I. 368 *note*, In the *ramollissement*, or softening disease, the spleen never becomes so large as when it is indurated. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 767 They would not bear working upon the softening iron. *Ibid.*, The softening tool is an iron plate [etc.]. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2238/1 *Softening-machine*, (Leather,) a machine .. for beating the hides in water to saturate them. 1888 *Daily News* 7 June 6/7 A pumping station and softening works. *Ibid.*, The softening plant.

Softening, *ppl. a.* Also 7–8 **softning**, 8–9 *Sc.* **saftening**. [f. as prec.]

1. Causing to become soft, tender, etc.

(*a*) *c* 1400 *Lanfranc's Cirurg.* 353 Of mollificatif medicyns or softenyng. 1631 WIDDOWES *Nat. Philos.* 36 His oyle for hot and softning nature helpeth diseases of the brest. 1735 BRACKEN *Gentlem. Pocket Farr.* II *note*, You ought to keep the Foot .. covered with any softning Poultice. 1760–72 H. BROOKE *Fool of Qual.* (1809) II. 151, I got some softening cream, and spread it over the burn. 1861 PALEY *Æschylus* (ed. 2) *Prometh.* 388 *note*, Reducing a swelling by softening applications.

(*b*) 1643 MILTON *Divorce* viii. Wks. 1851 IV. 39 To unsettle our constancie with timerous and softning suggestions. 1668 DAVENANT *Man's the Master* v. i, [Do you] yet strive, with softning pity, to allay that courage? 1729 LAW *Serious Call* xvii. (1761) 293 We may deceive ourselves .. with vain and softening comments upon these words. 1794 E. WILLIAMS *Poems* II. 4 He .. blended with her glaring hues The soft'ning tints of Art. 1847 PRESCOTT *Peru* IV. iii. (1850) II. 300 When .. time had .. thrown its softening veil over the past. 1894 MRS. DYAN *Man's Keeping* II. 126 Under the softening shade of her parasol.

2. Becoming soft, gentle, tender, etc.

1730 THOMSON *Hymn* 5 Wide flush the fields; the softening air is balm. 1853 KANE *Grinnell Exped.* xviii. (1856) 140 With a gradually softening tint. 1865 DICKENS *Mut. Fr.* III. ii, 'I can believe that,' said Miss Abbey, with a softening glance at the little creature. 1898 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* V. 250 Occasionally the enlarged and softening glands adhere to a contiguous organ.

Soft-eyed, *a.* [SOFT *a.* 29.] Having soft or gentle eyes; tender-eyed.

1735 POPE *Prol. Sat.* 286 The verse .. That tends to .. Give .. Innocence a fear, Or from the soft-eyed Virgin steal a tear! 1777 POTTER *Æschylus, Supplicants* 109 Soft-ey'd Humanity dwells here. 1859 LD. LYTTON *Wanderer* (ed. 2) 239 She is meekness itself, my soft-eyed little cousin. 1897 MAMIE DICKENS *My Father as I recall him* 82 The latter, a soft-eyed, gentle, good-tempered St. Bernard.

Soft-finned, *a. Ichth.* [SOFT *a.* 29.] Having soft fins.

1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1824) III. 60 The fish .. that have soft or cartilaginous fins, are called Soft-finned Fish. 1851 GOSSE *Nat. Hist., Fishes* 200 The Soft-finned Fishes are, in general, inferior to the Spinous-finned in [etc.]. 1896 LYDEKKER *Roy. Nat. Hist.* V. 395 These spiny-finned eels are an exact analogue of the true soft-finned eels. *Ibid.* 430 The Soft-finned Fishes,—Suborder *Anacanthini*.

Soft-footed, *a.* [SOFT *a.* 29.] Having feet which tread softly. In early use *fig.*

1612 CHAPMAN *Rev. Bussy d'Ambois* v. iii, The black soft-footed hour is now on wing. 1656 COWLEY *Pindar. Odes, and Olympique* viii, Soft-footed Winds .. Dance through the persum'd Air. 1736 AINSWORTH I. s.v., Soft footed, *mollipes*. 1894 *Outing* XXIII. 346/2 The soft-footed maid had just left them.

Hence **Soft-footedly** *adv.*

1834 LYTTON *Pilgr. Rhine* xi. (1840) 139 He [the fox] walked very soft-footedly.

† **Softhead.** *Obs. rare.* In 4 **soft-**, **softhede**, 5 **softhed**. [f. SOFT *a.* + -HEAD.] Softness; gentleness; delicacy.

c 1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* cxliv. 7 Þe mynd of þe haboundaunce of þi softhede þai sall rift. 1340 *Ayenb.* 267 Of alle zofthede and nesshede. *c* 1440 *Jacob's Well* 238 In valeys of lownes be .. moysture, .. softhed & neschhed.

Soft-head. [f. SOFT *a.* + HEAD *sb.*] One who has a soft head; hence, in mod. use, a silly or stupid person; a simpleton. (Cf. next.)

1650 BULWER *Anthropomet.* 22 The Brasilians' Heads .. are as hard as the wood that growes in their Country, .. and when they will injure any white Man, they call him soft-head. *c* 1872 *Hartley's Yorks. Ditties* Ser. II. 64 Shoo must be a poor little softheead. 1892 MANNING *Pastime Papers* 86 To be treated as dreamers, enthusiasts or soft-heads.

Soft-headed, *a.* [SOFT *a.* 29.] Weak in intellect; foolish, silly, stupid.

1667 DRYDEN & DK. NEWCASTLE *Sir M. Mar-all* III. i, Adieu soft-headed Sir Martin. 1721 BAILEY, *Cully*, .. a Fool, a soft headed Fellow. 1782 MME. D'ARBLAY *Diary* 4 Nov., This young man is very .. good, and soft-hearted; but alas! he is also soft-headed. 1824 SCOTT *St. Ronan's* xxxii, He is a strange, soft-headed, sleepy sort of man. 1884 *Christian World* 21 Feb. 139/4 Large numbers of deluded women and soft-headed men.

Hence **Soft-headedness.**

1862 WHYTE MELVILLE *Inside Bar* iii, Probably he was making a mental computation of my soft-headedness.

Soft-hearted, *a.* [SOFT *a.* 29.] Having a soft or susceptible heart; tender-hearted.

1593 SHAKS. 2 *Hen. VI*, III. ii. 307 Fye Coward woman, and soft harted wretch. 1602 MARSTON *Ant. & Mel.* I. Wks. 1856 I. 17 Why weepes soft hearted Florisell? 1648 J. BEAUMONT *Psyche* XVIII. ix, Hear then, O all soft-hearted Turtles. 1782 MISS BURNEY *Cecilia* V. x, The soft-hearted Mr. Arnott. 1840 DICKENS *Old C. Shop* xiv, He was only a soft-hearted grateful fellow. 1881 JOWETT *Thucyd.* I. 195 Do not be soft-hearted at the sight of their distress.

Hence **Soft-heartedness.**

1580 HOLLYBAND *Treas. Fr. Tong, Mercy*, pitie, mercie, softhartednesse. 1808 *Edin. Rev.* XII. 273 A sort of soft-heartedness towards the sufferings of individuals. 1874 *Contemp. Rev.* Oct. 711 A reputation for soft-heartedness goes far with the crowd.

Softish (sɔ́·ftiʃ), *a.* [f. SOFT *a.* + -ISH.] Somewhat soft; rather tender.

Also *Sc.* and *north. dial.*, somewhat wet or rainy.

1589 FLEMING *Virg. Georg.* v. 14 To wind .. the limber speares about with softish leaues. 1656 W. DU GARD tr. *Comenius' Gate Lat. Unl.* 29 A round lump, softish, beneath chamfered. 1681 GREW *Museum* III. I. ii. 268 'Tis softish, and somewhat brown. 1766 J. BARTRAM *Jrnl.* 4 Feb. 60 A softish rock full of sea-shells. 1845 *Encycl. Metrop.* XXV. 309/1 A little hair softish and curling. 1878 HUXLEY *Physiogr.* xvi. 271 A bed of softish limestone.

transf. 1736 AINSWORTH I, Softish (silly), *ineptus, stupidus*.

Softling (sɔ́·ftliŋ), *sb.* Also 6 **saftlynge**. [f. SOFT *a.* + -LING 1.]

1. An effeminate or unmanly person; a weakling.

1547 *Homilies* I. *Agst. Adultery* (1559) Y j, Nor adulterers, nor saftlynges, nor sodomites. 1576 BP. WOOLTON *Chr. Man.* L 6 b, Effeminate men and softlings cause the stoute man to waxe tender. 1605 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. iii. IV. *Captaines* 983 Ador'd of Flatterers, Of Softlings, Wantons, Braves, and Loyterers. 1605 I. TAYLOR *Restoration of Belief* 40 This Emperor—no softling himself.

2. A soft little hand, mouse, etc.

1817 KEATS *Endym.* iv. 316 This cannot be thy hand, and yet it is; And this is sure thine other softling. 1855 BROWNING *Fra Lippo Lippi* 10 And nip each softling of a wee white mouse.

3. *attrib.* Of a soft nature.

1732 WEBSTED *Wks.* (1797) 198 A softling head! that spleeny whims devour. 1874 D. GRAY *Poet. Wks.* 137 With her softling finger tips She touched my hand.

Softly, *a.* Now *dial.* and *U.S.* [f. SOFT *a.*]

1. Of sound, etc.: Quiet, gentle, soft.

1576 FLEMING *Panopl. Ep.* 276 Out of the hill ranne a pleasant spring, which made a gentle and softly sounde. 1653 HOLCROFT *Procopius, Gothic Wars* IV. 141 They .. heare a softly voice calling them to the businesse. 1859 HAWTHORNE *Fr. & It. Note-bks.* (1872) II. 291 Their decorous and softly steps.

† **2.** Soft; yielding to pressure. *Obs.*

1589 FLEMING *Virg. Georg.* III. 39 The fole or colt .. laies down to rest his softly legs.

† **3.** Of pace: Easy, slow, gentle. *Obs.*

1572 LAVATER *Ghosts* 59 The image goeth before with a softely pase. 1596 SPENSER *F. Q.* VI. vi. 6 The gentle Prince .. they spyde, Ryding a softly pace. 1633 P. FLETCHER *Purple Isl.* VI. lxxvii, The stealing night with softly pace. 1647 TRAPP *Comm. Epist.* 671 When God came to punish Adam he came slowly, .. with a softly pace and still voice.

† **4.** Characterized by gentleness, weakness, simplicity, or effeminacy. *Obs.*

1606 G. W[OODCOCKE] *Lives Emperors* in *Hist. Iustine* H h 4 This was a prince of a softly wit. 1643 BAKER *Chron.* (1653) 46 The softly disposition of his son Robert. 1672 MARVELL *Reh. Transp.* I. 83 A Person, as he saith himself, of such a tame and softly humour. 1740–42 RICHARDSON *Pamela* IV. 258 The Viscount, whose softly Character, and his Lady's .. respectful Conduct to him, notwithstanding that, are both so well known.

5. Of persons: **a.** Slow in action; lacking in energy or enterprise.

1664 *Verney Memoirs* (1899) IV. 74 Many of them are very slow, and (as we call them) softly persons. 1687 MIÉGE *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II. s.v., A softly man, a Man that lacks to be stirring. 1770 J. ADAMS *Diary* 8 July Wks. 1850 II. 245 The softly people where I lodge .. are the opposites of every thing great, spirited, and enterprising. 1869 MRS. STOWE *Oldtown Folks* xxvii, All that softly shiftless class, who .. are never to be found with anything in hand at the moment that it is wanted.

b. Simple, foolish; soft-headed. Now *dial.*

1687 MIÉGE *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II. s.v., A softly Man, a Nidget, or Ninny. 1725 JANE BARKER *Exilius* I. 101 If woman did not moderate his Rule, He'd be a Tyrant, or a softly Fool. 1883 *Almondbury Gloss.* 124 *Softly*, soft-headed; foolish.

Softly (sɔ́·ftli), *adv.* Forms: *a.* 3–5 **softeliche** (4 **-lyche**), 4–5 **softliche** (4 **-lich**). *β.* 4 **softili**, 4–6 **softely** (5 **-lie**); 4 **softli**, 4– **softly** (5 **sofft-**, 6 **soughtly**), 5–6 **softlie** (6 **-lye**); 6 **saftlie, saftely**, 8– (*Sc.* and *dial.*) **saftly**. [f. SOFT *a.* + -LY 2. Cf. Du. *zachtelijk*, G. *sanftlich, sänftlich.*]

1. Gently, carefully, tenderly; in such a manner as to avoid causing pain or injury; without force or violence; with gentle action.

a. a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 368 Ne gropie hire non to softeliche. 13.. *Guy Warw.* (A) 1614 And so he dede sikerliche, & seþþe he was heled softliche. 1362 LANGL. *P. Pl.* A. v. 7, I sat Softeliche a-doun and seide my beo-leeue.

β. a 1300 *Cursor M.* 8043 Quen þe kyng come ner þaa tres, .. He drou þam softili vp i-nogh. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* II. 98 Into hire bedd myn herte goth, And softly takth hire in his arm. 1400 tr. *Secreta Secret., Gov. Lordsh.* 85 Sethe hem softly to þe half. *c* 1440 *Gesta Rom.* II. xxiii. (Addit. MS.), The Fadir .. had lever slee him softly than he shuld so rente hym self. 1545 RAYNALD *Byrth Mankynde* 65 Then must ye fayre and softely thrust it backe agayne. 1592 *Arden of Feversham* III. vi, Then softly drawes she foorth her handkercher. 1611 BIBLE *Transl. Pref.* ¶ 13 Who gladly would heale the soare .. softly and sleightly. — *Acts* xxvii. 13 And when the South wind blew softly, .. they sailed close by Creete. 1695 LD. PRESTON *Boeth.* III. 151 It is then the Sovereign Good which ruleth all things powerfully, and disposeth them softly. 1784 COWPER *Task* I. 762 The moon-beam, sliding softly in between The sleeping leaves. 1816 J. WILSON *City of Plague* II. ii. 219 How softly on the dreamer's head They lay their .. hands. 1841 JAMES *Brigand* xxiv, Meyrand will treat you tenderly and softly.

2. With a soft or subdued voice or utterance; in a low or gentle tone.

13.. *Cursor M.* 5140 (Gött.), Þer cam to him a messager, And tald him softli in his ere. 1362 LANGL. *P. Pl.* A. III. 38 Þenne com þer a Confessour .. And seide ful softely in schrift as hit weore. *c* 1430 *Pilgr. Lyf Manhode* I. lxxi. (1869) 41 Serteyn, quod I softeliche, ynowh me lakketh. 1544 *Litany* in *Priv. Prayers* (1851) 570 Such among the people as have books .. may read them quietly and softly to themself. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* III. ii. 5 Thereat she sighing softly, had no powre To speake a while. 1614 DONNE *Lett.* (1631) 196 One thing I must tell you, but so softly, that I am loath to hear myself. 1687 A. LOVELL tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* I. 49 They that are present say softly, or aloud, if they please [etc.]. 1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* II. (Globe) 447 Some [words] he spoke softly, and I could not well hear, others audibly. 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* xxxviii, Emily sighed softly, and bowed her thanks. 1829 LANDOR *Imag. Conv.* Wks. 1853 I. 574/1, I must come behind your chair and whisper softlier. 1894 H. GARDENER *Unoff. Patriot* 314 They shook hands over the situation and both fell to crying softly.

3. With a slow, easy, or gentle pace or motion.

1362 LANGL. *P. Pl.* A. II. 135 On a sysoures backe þat softly trotted. 1393 *Ibid.* C. XVI. 29 We reuerencede reson, and romed forth softeliche. *c* 1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 6088 On a staffe he leend, he went forthe softely. 1483 CAXTON *Gold. Leg.* 78 b/2 Late thy famylye come softly after with thy wif. 1531 ELYOT *Gov.* (1534) 92 b, As farre or nyghe the marke is his arowe whanne he goeth softly, as whan he renneth. 1560 BIBLE (Geneva) *Isaiah* viii. 6 This people hathe refused the waters of Shiloah that runne softely. 1603 KNOLLES *Hist. Turks* (1621) 268 Surcharged .. with the spoile, he was glad to march softlier. 1654 GAYTON *Pleas. Notes* IV. xxiv. 282 Jaques spurr'd and spurr'd, and switch'd, Jaques, shee beseech'd. 1721 SWIFT *Let. to Stella* 30 Apr., He could easily have overtaken me; for I walked softly on purpose. 1759 R. BROWN *Compl. Farmer* 13 Ride him half an hour softly. 1822 SHELLEY *Faust* I. 75 You give me full permission To lead him softly on my path.

† **b.** In a leisurely manner. *Obs. rare.*

c 1440 *Alph. Tales* 186 He began to syng þis antem, .. and sang it softlie vnto þe end. 1577 B. GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* (1586) 128 b, Looke besides that they be .. great feeders, but softly, and not ouerhastily.

c. *Fair and softly*: see FAIR *adv.* 7, and sense 10 below. (Cf. SOFT *adv.* 7.)

4. Quietly, silently, noiselessly; lightly.

c 1386 CHAUCER *Reeve's T.* 138 Out at the dore he gooth.., Whan þat he saugh his tyme, softely. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 698 He..Sylis softely him selfe þe cite with-outen. 1587 TURBERV. *Trag. Tales* (1837) 152 And up they thrust the same [*i.e.* the door], And softly entred in. 1610 SHAKS. *Temp.* IV. i. 194 Pray you tread softly, that the blinde Mole may not heare a foot fall. 1681 GLANVILL *Saduc. Triumph* Pref. F iv b, Therefore not to make much noise to disturb these infallible Huffers.., I softly step by them. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) III. 207 When the cat walks, it treads very softly, and without the least noise. 1865 MRS. CARLYLE *Lett.* III. 274 Coming down stairs very softly, for fear of waking me. 1902 R. HICHENS *Londoners* 5 She withdrew from the room as softly as a cat.

b. So as to avoid observation or notice; unobtrusively.

1781 COWPER *Conversat.* 389 We next inquire, but softly and by stealth. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. II. vi, Necker sees good..to withdraw softly, almost privily. 1889 *Macm. Mag.* Aug. 253/1, I lay stirless, softly sneaking my right hand to the pistol.

5. In ease or comfort; so as to be soft or comfortable; luxuriously.

a 1400 N. T. *Prol.* (Paues) 6 Bote he seiþ þat þis wysdom ne is noȝt y-founde in þe lond of men þat lyfeþ softelyche. *a* 1425 tr. *Arderne's Treat. Fistula*, etc. 58 Etyng and slepyng more swetely or softely. 1565 COOPER *Thesaurus*, *Recubare mollius*, to lie more softely. 1648 HEXHAM II, *Zachtelick slapen*, to sleepe Softly or Quietly. *a* 1715 BURNET *Own Time* (1766) I. 80 They endured great hardships; for those parts were not fit to entertain men that had been accustomed to live softly. 1825 SCOTT *Talism.* vii, His couch was trimmed more softly than his master's. 1871 R. ELLIS *Catullus* lxviii. 5 Whom nor softly to rest love's tender sanctity suffers. 1884 W. C. SMITH *Kildrostan* 75 When You make your nest here.., 'Twere well to feather it softly.

b. With or in soft surroundings.

1567 MAPLET *Greene Forest* 46 It groweth in waterie places and those softlye dighted and banked about. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. VII. vi, Beautiful all; softly embosomed; as if in sadness, in the dim moist weather!

†6. With quiet resignation. *Obs.*⁻¹

c 1400 *Rule St. Benet* (Prose) 45 Sho sal recaiue þe cumandement softelie and wid mekenes.

†7. In small quantity. *Obs. rare.*

c 1400 *Rule St. Benet* (Verse) 1610 Þarfor es wit..Wine or aile softly to tast.

8. Gradually; gently.

1784 COWPER *Task* III. 629 The shapely knoll, That, softly swell'd and gaily dress'd, appears A flow'ry island. 1835 LYTTON *Rienzi* VI. iii, A high but softly sloping and verdant hill. 1864 LOWELL *Fireside Trav.* 269 Hills which round softly upward to Monte Cavi.

9. In a subdued manner.

1817 SHELLEY *Pr. Athanase* I. 63 A cloud..Through which his soul..Shone, softly burning. 1882 SHARP *Rossetti* iii. 184 Behind..is a figure, also softly aureoled.

10. Used interjectionally: = SOFT *adv.* 8.

1596 SHAKS. *Tam. Shrew* I. ii. 238 Softly my Masters. 1611 — *Wint. T.* IV. iii. 76 Softly, deere sir: good sir, softly. 1671 MILTON *Samson* 115 Softly a while, Let us not break in upon him. 1797 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Italian* xvi, 'Fair and softly,' replied the officer. 1852 MRS. STOWE *Uncle Tom's C.* xvii, 'Softly, softly; don't thee snap and snarl, friend,' said Phineas.

11. *Comb.* a. With ppl. adjs., as *softly-hinted*, *-shadowed*, *-sprighted*, etc.

1598 SHAKS. *Merry W.* I. iv. 25 A softly-sprighted man, is he not? 1842 TENNYSON *Day-Dream* 89 Glows forth each softly-shadow'd arm. 1844 KINGLAKE *Eothen* xxiv, He sent me a softly-worded message. 1859 DICKENS *T. Two Cities* II. ix, His softly-slippered feet made no noise. 1876 'OUIDA' *Winter City* ix. 249 Making the trifle the medium of a softly-hinted tenderness.

b. With ppl. adjs. and pres. pples., as *softly-breathing*, *-gliding*, *stealing*, etc.

1681 DRYDEN *Span. Friar* V. i, I..listned to each softly-treading Step. 1703 ROWE *Fair Penit.* II. i, The sprightly String and softly-breathing Flute. 1725 POPE *Odyss.* XV. 390 The softly-stealing pace of Time. 1818 *Gentl. Mag.* LXXXVIII. 62/1 Thames does, by Oxford, softly-pacing, run. 1890 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Col. Reformer* (1891) 168 The softly-gliding magical motion.

c. With adjs., as *softly dark*, *-strong*, *sweet*.

1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* xv, A single note.. That, softly sweet, at distance dies. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. v. ii, Parliaments..which..were to follow in softly-strong indissoluble sequence. 1898 H. NEWBOLT *Admirals All* 31 The Norman arch, the chancel softly dark.

Softness (sǫ·ftnės). Forms: 1 **softnys(se**, 4 **softnis**; 2–7 **soft-**, 4–7 **softenesse**, 4, 6 **softe-**, 4–7 **softnes**, 7– **softness**; 6 **saft(e)nesse**, 8– *Sc.* **saftness**. [f. SOFT *a.* + -NESS.] The state or quality of being soft, in various senses.

I. 1. Ease, comfort; delicacy, luxury; easy or voluptuous living.

c 1000 ÆLFRIC in Assmann *Ags. Hom.* ii. 59 Under Moyses laȝe men moston lybban on maran softnysse..þonne nu. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 196 Þet flesch put propremen touward swetnesse & touward eise, & touward softnesse. *a* 1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* iv. 9, I sall slepe..with all softnes. 1451 CAPGRAVE *Life St. Gilbert* xvi. 86 To take hardnesse for softnesse, labour for ese. 1607 SHAKS. *Timon* V. i. 36 A Satyre against the softnesse of Prosperity. 1654 tr. *Scudery's Curia Pol.* 181 If he live in the softness of Plenty, and a peaceful Estate. 1704 HEARNE *Duct. Hist.* (1714) I. 389 He spent the next year in Softness and Luxury. 1766 *Ann. Reg.* II. 10 The French noblesse..spend their lives in indolence, softness, and dissipation.

2. Mildness, gentleness; tenderness of character or disposition.

a 1300 *E. E. Psalter* cxliv. 7 Minde of mighthed of þi softnesse Sal þai rift. 1382 WYCLIF *Ecclus.* xlv. 4 In feith and softenesse of hym [Moses], he made hym hoely. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 463/1 Softenesse, or myldenesse, *mansuetudo, benignitas*. 1526 TINDALE *Phil.* iv. 5 Lette youre softenes be knowen unto all men. 1563 BP. SANDYS in Strype *Ann. Ref.* (1709) xxxv. 356 My lenity and softness was such, that I was not willing to touch him. 1639 SALTMARSH *Policy* 239 As though it were more out of regard than your owne softnesse. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* IV. 298 For contemplation hee and valour formd, For softness shee and sweet attractive Grace. 1726 POPE *Odyss.* XXIII. 105 To softness lost, to spousal love unknown. 1779 *Mirror* No. 22, Sometimes..I have thought she breathed a softness of soul that tempted me to believe her generous. 1828 SCOTT *F. M. Perth* xviii, Are we to be slain in our own streets for the King's softness of heart? 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* III. I. i, With her softness and musical speech. 1867 TROLLOPE *Chron. Barset* II. lxii. 193, I found with him..a softness of heart for which I had not looked.

b. A display or instance of gentleness or tenderness; a soft word or speech.

1382 WYCLIF *Gen.* xxxiv. 3 And hir [*sc.* Dinah] sory he swagide with softnessis. *a* 1637 JONSON *Horace Art Poet.* 326 The free spectators..Were to be staid with softnesses. 1678 OTWAY *Friendship in F.* 10 Whispering his softnesses and making his vowes. 1719 YOUNG *Busiris* I. i, O how unlike the softnesses of love! 1882 MRS. OLIPHANT *Lit. Hist. Eng. 1790–1825*, I. 4 The rude and homely life, in which few softnesses existed.

3. Weakness of character or disposition, effeminacy; lack of firmness; timidity, pusillanimity.

1605 BACON *Adv. Learn.* I. ii. § 6 From some weakness of body or softness of spirit. 1651 C. CARTWRIGHT *Cert. Relig.* II. 27 By shunning death, he confesseth his weaknesse (or softnesse) of spirit. 1705 STANHOPE *Paraphr.* II. 247 One great Design is to break the softness of a Nature, too indulgent to Flesh and Blood. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* II. xiv. 288 The timidity and softness of our enemy. 1821 BYRON *Mar. Fal.* II. ii, In Bertram There is a hesitating softness, fatal To enterprise like ours. 1879 G. MACDONALD *Sir Gibbie* xxii, A certain gentle indifference she showed to things considered important, the neighbours attributed to weakness of character, and called *softness*.

II. 4. The state, quality, or property of being soft to the touch, of yielding to pressure, of lacking hardness, firmness, etc.

c 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 83 Olį haueð huppen him lihtnesse and softnesse and hele. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* V. xxvii. (Bodl. MS.), By smeþenes and softenes and nasschenes of grustel. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 463/1 Softenesse, or smothenesse, *lenitas*. *Ibid.*, Softenesse, yn towchynge, *mollicies, mollicia*. 1545 RAYNALD *Byrth Mankynde* 24 In saftnesse of skyn, and plumpnesse of the body fatter and rounder. 1577 B. GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* II. (1586) 67 b, The ripenesse whereof is deemed by..the softnesse of the berrie. 1602 MARSTON *Antonio's Rev.* II. ii, Those now lawne pillowes, on whose tender softnesse [etc.]. 1673–4 GREW *Anat. Pl., Anat. Trunks* (1682) 138 Its Softness, depending on the numerousness..of the Aer-Vessels. 1750 tr. *Leonardus' Mirr. Stones* 39 Hardness or softness in stones proceeds from two causes. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) III. 355 All that warmth and softness which are so much valued in the furs of the northern animals. 1851 CARPENTER *Man. Phys.* (ed. 2) 5 In Organized structures, softness (resulting from the large proportion of fluid components) may be considered the distinctive quality. 1863 BATES *Nat. Amazons* II. 56 One would mistake it..for a kitten, from..the softness of its fur.

transf. 1877 *Fortn. Rev.* Dec. 846 An adaptation to the hardness of their hearts, or..the softness of their brains.

†b. Smoothness, calmness. *Obs.*⁻¹

c 1205 LAY. 25549 For þere softnesse [of the sea] Ardur gon to slæpen.

c. *Softness of the pulse*, the state when the blood-tension is low, so that the artery feels soft and easily compressible.

a 1793 HUNTER *On Blood* II. iii. (1794) 318 Softness is not to be depended on as a mark of health. 1813 J. THOMSON *Lect. Inflam.* 73 A softness and fullness of the pulse. 1822–7 GOOD *Study Med.* (1829) II. 45 Hardness and softness of the pulse, together with..wiriness, are not quite so easily learnt as its fulness and smallness.

d. The property or quality (in water, etc.) of being soft.

1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 487 All these waters, however, possess the property called softness, that is, they will dissolve soap. 1826 *Art of Brewing* (ed. 2) 34 Beers..attenuated so low as to insure transparency and softness.

5. Freedom from harshness; mellowness.

1736 *Gentl. Mag.* VI. 351/1 To hear the softness of Italian song. 1772–84 *Cook's Voy.* III. xiii. II. 266 One sung a very agreeable air, with a degree of softness and melody which we could not have expected. 1840 *C. O. Müller's Hist. Lit. Greece* iv. § 5 That softness and flexibility [of Homer's language]. 1885 MISS BRADDON *Wyllard's Weird* i. I. 22 She pronounced the last word with peculiar softness.

6. Mildness, balminess.

1828 DUPPA *Trav. Italy*, etc. 181 The air, though cold, had somewhat of softness in its temperature. 1837 DISRAELI *Venetia* v. x, The softness and the splendour of the morn. 1851 DIXON *W. Penn* xxi. (1872) 182 The climate had the softness of the south of France.

7. Absence of hard or sharp outlines.

1855 *Orr's Circ. Sci., Inorg. Nat.* 186 The characteristic of this scenery will be softness of outline. 1892 *Photogr. Ann.* II. 711 In collotype work the especial aim..is to get softness with plenty of detail rather than hardness.

Soft-sawder (sǫ·ft,sǭ·dəɹ), *v. colloq.* [f. *soft sawder*; see SAWDER *sb.*] *trans.* and *absol.* To flatter; = SAWDER *v.*

1843 HALIBURTON *Attaché* ii. 46, I don't like to be left alone with a gall, it's plaguy apt to set me a soft sawderin' and a courtin'. 1853 HICKIE tr. *Aristoph.* (1887) I. 26 As often as any one soft-sawdered you. 1883 *Manch. Exam.* 26 Nov. 5 When the Irish electors were to be soft-sawdered.

Hence **Soft-saw·derer.**

1851 *Blackw. Mag.* Dec. 714 The highest law officer of the State..condescending to enact the part of a 'soft-sawderer'.

Soft-shell. Also **soft shell.** [f. SOFT *a.*]

1. *attrib.* In the specific names of animals: Provided with a soft shell; = SOFT-SHELLED 1.

1860 MAYNE REID *Hunter's Feast* xii, The 'soft-shell' crabs and small tortoises common in the American waters. 1884 GOODE *Nat. Hist. Aquat. Anim.* 152 The food of the Soft-shell Turtles consists of small fishes, snails, and other small animals. 1891 WEBSTER (1897), *Soft-shell clam*,..the long clam.

transf. 1883 GOODE *Fish. Indust. U.S.* 51 This Crab is eaten in both the hard and soft shell condition.

2. *attrib.* That adopts or advocates a moderate or temperate course or policy. *U.S.*

1859 BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.* (ed. 2) 426 *Soft-shell democrats*,..the less conservative division of the New York Democrats. 1865 *Pall Mall G.* 12 May 1 The type of what the Americans might call the 'soft-shell' Radicals. 1872 DE VERE *Americanisms* 241 Such are the Soft Shell Baptists, so called on account of their less stern manners and less rigid principles.

3. *ellipt.* a. = SOFT *sb.* 4 b. *U.S.*

1853 *N. Y. Tribune* 2 Apr. (Bartlett s.v. *Hard-shell*), The difference between a Hardshell and a Softshell. 1866 *Chambers's Encycl.* VIII. 201/1 The 'Soft Shells' were 'Free-soil' Democrats.

b. A soft-shelled lobster. *U.S.*

1884 GOODE *Nat. Hist. Aquat. Anim.* 783 'Black Lobster,' 'Soft-shell,' 'Berried Lobster.'

Soft-shelled, *a.* [SOFT *a.* 29.]

1. Having a soft shell. Chiefly in specific names of animals.

1611 COTGR., *Harde*, a soft-sheld egge. 1771 *Phil. Trans.* LXI. 267 We call it the soft shelled Turtle. *c* 1880 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* IV. 256 The other Soft-shelled Tortoise (*Trionyx ferox*)..is a voracious animal. 1883 GOODE in *Fisheries Exhib. Lit.* (1884) V. 15 Soft-shelled clam, *Mya arenaria*. 1884 — *Nat. Hist. Aquat. Anim.* 152 The species of Soft-shelled Tortoises, *Trionychidæ*. *Ibid.* 776 The common edible Crab or Blue Crab—*Callinectes hastatus*...These 'soft-shelled Crabs' are much esteemed by many.

2. *transf.* (Cf. SOFT-SHELL 2.)

1890 *Daily News* 4 Feb. 5/3 Dissentient Liberals of the soft-shelled species.

Soft soap, *sb.* Also **soft-soap.** [f. SOFT *a.*]

1. A smeary, semi-liquid soap, made with potash lye; potash soap.

1634 in Rymer *Fœdera* (1732) XIX. 567/1 That no soft Soap be sold..for above three pence the pound. 1641 *Short Relation conc. Soap-Business* 4 To make soft soape with Berilla. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Soap*, The Soft Soap..is either White or Green. 1812 SIR H. DAVY *Chem. Philos.* 331 Potassa enters into the composition of soft soap. 1883 *Specif. Alnwick & Cornhill Rlwy.* 11 In drilling the holes no oil is to be used, but only soft soap and water.

b. With pl. A make or kind of this.

1783 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 2) X. 8196/2 In soft or liquid soaps,..cheaper oils are employed. 1857 MILLER *Elem. Chem., Org.* vi. § 2. 371 The base..of the soft soaps is potash. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* I. 357/2 The hard, the soft, and the marine soaps.

2. *slang.* Flattery; blarney; 'soft sawder'.

1848 BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.* 320 *Soft soap*, flattery; blarney. A vulgar phrase, though much used. 1861 HUGHES *Tom Brown at Oxford* xxxiii, He and I are great chums, and a little soft soap will go a long way with him. 1901 DELANNOY *£19,000*, xxxix, 'You're the most sensible woman I've ever met.' 'None of your soft-soap, now!'

Soft-soap, *v.* Also **soft soap.** [f. prec.]

1. *trans.* To flatter, 'soft-sawder'. *slang.*

1840 [MRS. WHITCHER] *Widow Bedott Papers* xxv. (1883) 114 Ye don't ketch me a slanderin' folks behind ther backs and then soft-soapin' 'em to their faces. 1843 in Bartlett *Dict. Amer.* (1848) 320, I am tired of this system of placemen soft-soaping the people. 1883 A. K. GREEN (Mrs. Rohlfs) *Hand & Ring* xxv, I am not a clumsy fellow at softsoaping a girl.

2. To treat or coat with soft soap.

1900 *Daily News* 7 Aug. 3/4 Long poles..plentifully soft-soaped.

Hence **Soft-soaper; Soft-soaping** *vbl. sb.*

1841 J. T. HEWLETT *Parish Clerk* II. 7 Zach, therefore,.. set up in the soft-soaping and deceiving line of business. 1904 *Blackw. Mag.* May 619/2 There are some soft-soapers who never advance and never aspire.

Soft-solder, *v.* [f. *soft solder*: see SOLDER *sb.*[1] 4.] *trans.* To unite, mend, etc., with soft solder. Hence **Soft-soldered** *ppl. a.*

1843 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* I. 433 Copper, brass and iron are soft-soldered. *Ibid.* 444 It is very essential that all soft-soldered joints should be particularly clean. 1900 HASLUCK *Model Eng. Handybk.* 122 The flue and both ends of the boiler should be brazed in their places, not soft-soldered.

Soft-spoken, *a.* Also 9 *Sc.* saft-. [f. SOFT *adv.*]

1. Of persons: Having, or speaking with, a soft or gentle voice; plausible, affable.

1609 B. JONSON *Sil. Wom.* I. ii, One..who is exceedingly soft-spoken; thrifty of her speech. 1826 MISS MITFORD *Village* Ser. II. (1863) 375 George Gosseltine, a sleek, smooth, silky, soft-spoken person. 1840 DICKENS *Old C. Shop* xix, In gorgeous liveries as soft-spoken servants at gambling booths.

2. Of words: Spoken softly, gently, or affably; persuasive.

1887 Morris *Odyss.* x. 70 So I spake, and with words soft-spoken besought them thereunto.

Soft wood, soft-wood. [Soft *a.*]

1. Wood which is relatively soft or easily cut.

1832 *Planting* (L. U. K.) 77 The..discriminating characters of hard and of soft woods. 1857 Gray *First Less. Bot.* 147 In soft woods, such as White-Pine and Basswood. 1884 Bower & Scott *De Bary's Phaner.* 478 Of the forms of vessels,..the reticulately thickened are present exclusively or principally in succulent soft woods.

b. Sap-wood, alburnum.

1842 Loudon *Suburban Hort.* 21 In woody stems of several years' growth..the more recent exterior layers are known as soft wood or alburnum.

2. A species of the West Indian bully-tree.

1864 Grisebach *Flora Brit. W. Ind.* 787/2 Soft-wood, black, *Myrsine læta.*

Soft-wooded, *a.* [Cf. prec.] Having relatively soft wood.

1827 Steuart *Planter's G.* (1828) 41 The soft-wooded Trees, such as the Lime and the Horsechestnut. 1851 *B'ham & Midl. Gardeners' Mag.* Aug. 134 Every description of soft-wooded plant should be tied to sticks as they grow. 1897 Mary Kingsley *W. Africa* 91 A forest of soft-wooded plants and palms.

Softy (sǫ́fti). *dial.* or *colloq.* Also **softie,** *Sc.* **safty, saftie.** [f. Soft *a.*] A weak-minded or silly person; a simpleton, noodle, gull.

1863 Mrs. Gaskell *Sylvia's Lovers* II. 21 She were but a softy after all, for she left off doing her work in a proper manner. 1888 Mrs. H. Ward *R. Elsmere* 33 He is a kind of softie. 1897 P. Warung *Old Regime* 170 He was a softy then,..and being afraid of the rest of us, we put upon him.

† Soft-ȝern, *a. Obs.* [f. Soft *sb.* + Yearn *a.*] Desirous of ease or luxury. Also † **Soft-ȝerne,** love of ease. *Obs.*

c 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 75 Þe softȝerne fedeð hem seluen helle fur to honde and fote. *Ibid.,* Softȝerne and ednesse letteð þe mannes shrifte þe þincheð þat he ne mai þolen hunger ne þirst ne oðer pine.

Sofyme, Sofyr, Sofyster, -try, Sofysyn, obs. varr. Sophism, Suffer *v.*, Sophister, -try, Suffice *v.*

Sog (sǫg), *sb.*[1] Now *s.w. dial.* Also 6 **sogge,** 9 **zog.** [Related to Sog *v.*] A soft or marshy piece of ground; a swamp, bog, quagmire.

1538 Leland *Itin.* (1769) V. 86 The Pastures..rottith on the Ground, and maketh Sogges and Quikke More. 1805 W. H. Marshall *Rur. Econ. W. Eng.* (ed. 2) I. 398 *Sog,* a quagmire. *a* 1887 Jefferies *Field & Hedgerow* (1892) 275 The 'sog' or peaty place where the spring rises.

Sog (sǫg), *sb.*[2] *dial.* and *U.S.* Also **zog.** [Of obscure origin.] A drowsy or lethargic state; a sleep, doze, stupor.

1874 S. P. Fox *Kingsbridge* (ed. 2) 268 A bit of a zog. 1880 *W. Cornwall Gloss.* 53/1 She is in a sweet sog. 1887 *Scribner's Mag.* II. 738 Ezra..waved a limp hand warningly toward the bedroom-door. 'She's layin' in a sog,' he said.

Sog, *sb.*[3] *rare*[−1]. A large whale.

1850 Scoresby *Cheever's Whalem. Adv.* xii. 164 There she blows! Oh, she's a beauty! A regular old sog! A hundred-barreler!

Sog (sǫg), *v.* Now *dial.* Also 9 **zog.** [Of obscure origin: cf. Sog *sb.*[1] and Norw. dial. *soggjast, søggast,* in sense 1.

The *Promp. Parv.* has the comb. *water-soggon* 'aquosus'.]

1. *intr.* **a.** To become soaked, or saturated with wet.

1538 [see Sogging *ppl. a.*]. *a* 1722 Lisle *Husb.* (1757) 55 The sword of the ground being turned in when wet, lies there sogging. *Ibid.* 169 Nothing makes peas more subject to open the kids than lying sogging in the wet.

b. To sink or soak in. Also with *in.*

1854 Miss Baker *Northampt. Gloss.* II. 264 If you don't make the roof pretty steer for thatching, the wet will sog in. 1881 *Leic. Gloss.* 249 The summer wet doon't sog in deep.

2. *trans.* To steep, soak, or saturate.

1854 Miss Baker *Northampt. Gloss.* II. 264 Shoes are sogged, when they are soaked through with wet and mud. 1860 Gosse *Rom. Nat. Hist.* i. 15 The unwieldy caddis-worms are lazily dragging about their curiously-built houses over the sogged leaves. 1888 *Berks. Gloss.* 197 The clo-aths as I hung out to dry be all zogged wi' the raain.

Hence **Sogging** *vbl. sb.* and *ppl. a.*

1538 Leland *Itin.* (1769) V. 15 After the Trees wer cut doune sogging Yerth and Mosse over-coverid them. 1879 Miss Jackson *Shropsh. Word-Bk.* 397, I got a pretty sog-gen [in the thunder-storm]. 1910 M. Hewlett *Rest Harrow* III. iv, Through the sogging rains of Christmas.

‖ So·ga, *sb. Amer.* [Sp. (also Pg. and It.), of doubtful origin.] A rope of esparto grass or other material. Also *attrib.*

1860 Mayne Reid *Hunters' Feast* xvii, He is exposed..to the perils of..the creaking 'soga' bridge. 1910 *Blackw. Mag.* June 842/2 Gnawing through the sogas of the horses.

Hence **So·ga** *v.*, to tie *up* with a soga or sogas.

1902 Hesketh Prichard *Thro' Heart of Patagonia* xi. 161 The next morning we *sogaed* up the horses and set out.

† Sogate, *adv. Obs.* Forms: **α.** (*north.* and *Sc.*) **4 squagate, 4–5 suagat, 5 swa-, sagat. β. 4–6 sogate, 5 sogat** (**-get**). [f. So *adv.* + Gate *sb.*[2] Cf. Thus-gate *adv.*

In MSS. freq. written as two words, and sometimes hyphened in printed texts.]

In this or that manner; in such wise; so, thus.

α. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 2750 Sal þou þine auin sua-gat for-fare? *c* 1325 *Metr. Hom.* 146 Suagat spil mi corn ye maye. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* ix. (*Bartholomew*) 92 Quhene þe kynge..herd þat þe apostil sagat ferd.

β. 1338 R. Brunne *Chron.* (1810) 63 Þei said, þat..Edward ..had þam so gate awed. *a* 1352 Minot *Poems* (ed. Hall) viii. 96 God saue þam þat it so-gat wan. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 5207 A cite in the same lond so gat was cald. 1570 Levins *Manip.* 39 Sogate, thus, *sic ita, isto modo.*

† Sogates, *adv. Obs.* Also 5 **swagatis, swagates, sagates.** [f. as prec. + -s.] = prec.

13.. *Seuen Sages* 2855 (W.), When that thai had so-gates done. 1375 Barbour *Bruce* xix. 253 And swagatis furthward can thai fair. *a* 1400 *Isumbras* 250 Whenne that thay herde hym swa gates crye. *c* 1400 *Pol. Poems* (Rolls) I. 267 This is a quaynt custome..That frers shal..so gates selle ther song.

† Sogbote. *Obs.* (? Error for *cogbote,* Cog *sb.*[1] 3.) *c* 1475 *Pict. Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 805 *Hec facelus,* a sogbote.

Sogeare, Soger, -ing: see Soldier(ing. **Soget, -ette,** varr. Suget (subject) *Obs.* **Sogetly:** see Sugetly *Obs.* **Soggamore,** obs. f. Sagamore.

Soggarth (sǫ·gärtʰ). *Irish.* Also **sogarth, saggart.** [ad. Ir. *sagart,* OIr. *sacart, -ard,* ad. L. *sacerdōs*: see Sacerdotal *a.*] A priest.

1836 Carleton *Fardorougha* xvii. (1848) 246 What if you axe to see the Bodagh's son, the young sogarth. 1851 Borrow *Lavengro* x, To send me to school..that I might be made a saggart of. 1898 R. Buchanan *Father Anthony* xviii, Can't the soggarth visit a dying man without being followed and spied upon?

Soggy (sǫ·gi), *a.* Chiefly *dial.* and *U.S.* Also 9 *dial.* **zoggy.** [f. Sog *sb.*[1] or *v.*]

In B. Jonson *Ev. Man out of Hum.* III. ii. [viii.] ('this greene and soggie multitude') the correct reading is prob. 'foggie', a common word at that date.

1. Of land: Soaked with water or moisture; boggy, swampy, marshy.

a 1722 Lisle *Husb.* (1757) 49 If the ground falls small, then it may lie soggy and spungy. 1805 W. H. Marshall *Rur. Econ. W. Eng.* (ed. 2) I. 398 *Zoggy,* wet, boggy. 1869 B. Taylor *Byeways of Europe* I. 247 The soil..already looked soggy and drenched. 1896 *Godey's Mag.* Apr. 351/2 These country roads are..frost-laden and wet, and soft and soggy.

2. Of things: Saturated with wet; soppy, soaked.

1863 B. Taylor *H. Thurston* xii. 155 He looked out on..fields of soggy, soaked snow. 1886 *Harper's Mag.* Dec. 98 Crumbly, soggy timber. 1897 Kipling *Capt. Cour.* 19 All he brought up was a soggy packet of cigarettes.

b. Resulting from, caused by, moistness or wetness.

1876 Duhring *Dis. Skin* 126 The skin is observed to be of a whitish or yellowish color, and to have a soggy appearance. 1881 *Harper's Mag.* Oct. 650 Every footstep giving out a soggy wheeze from his old wet boots.

3. Of bread: Sodden, heavy.

1868 Whymper *Alaska* v. 61 We varied a diet of soggy bread with a kind of thin paste or soup. 1903 *T. P.'s Weekly* 4 Sept. 436/1 Bread is burnt and soggy.

4. Of persons: Dull, spiritless.

1896 *Advance* (Chicago) 16 July 88/1 The Slavs are a passive, gregarious, soggy race. 1911 Galsworthy *Patrician* II. xxi. 277 The passers-by..looked soft, soggy, without pride or will.

5. Moist, close, sultry.

1896 Baden-Powell *Matabele Campaign* xix, We rattled along through the bush,..all the time in deep, soggy heat. 1901 W. Churchill *The Crisis* II. xiv, The day had been soggy and warm.

Hence **So·gginess.**

1884 Bourke *Snake Dance of Moquis* xv. 173 The sogginess of the roads made slow marching necessary. 1900 *Westm. Gaz.* 16 Aug. 5/3 The sogginess of the ground.

Sogh, obs. 2nd sing. ind. pa. t. See *v.* **Soght,** obs. pa. t. and pa. pple. Seek *v.*; var. Sought *sb. Obs.* **Sogorner,** obs. f. Sojourner.

Soh (sōu), *int.* [var. of So *adv.* 5 c, or simply of exclamatory origin. Cf. Soho 2 and 3.]

1. An exclamation denoting anger, scorn, reproof, surprise, etc., on the part of the speaker.

a 1814 *Sixteen & Sixty* I. iv. in *New Brit. Theatre* IV. 391 Soh! niece, I am informed that even the presence of.. Violet is to be dispensed with. 1821 Scott *Kenilw.* xvi, 'Soh!' replied the Queen; 'and what was your right' [etc.]. 1831 — *Ct. Rob.* xxi, 'Soh!' thought the Emperor, 'this difficulty is over'. 1844 Mrs. Browning *Lady Geraldine's Courtship* Concl. ii, Soh! how still the lady standeth!

2. Used in soothing or quieting a restive horse, = Gently! Softly! Easy!

1820 Scott *Monast.* xv, Be quiet, Benedict, there is a good steed—soh, poor fellow! 1850 W. S. Mayo *Kaloolah* 12 [Saying] 'Soh! whow!' to his restive horses.

Soho (sou-hōu·), *int.* and *sb.* Forms: **α.** 4 **sohou,** 5 **sohowe, 5, 7 sohow; 5 so how(e, hoowe, 6 sa how, so-, soa hough. β. 4, 7– so ho** (5 **hoo**), 6–7 **sohoe, 7– so-ho, soho.** [An AF. hunting call, prob. of purely exclamatory origin.

In the *Master of Game* xxxiv. the simple *howe* also occurs, as well as *he howe, here howe,* and *howe here.* The early examples do not support the suggestion in quot. 14.. that the proper form would be *sa how.*]

1. A call used by huntsmen to direct the attention of the dogs or of other hunters to a hare which has been discovered or started, or to encourage them in the chase; hence used as a call to draw the attention of any person, announce a discovery, or the like.

α. 1307 in Bain *Calendar* (1884) II. 539 [On a seal, a hare in her form, with motto] Sohou, Sohou. *c* 1410 *Master of Game* xxxiv. (MS. Digby 182), And þenne he shall say thryes, so howe, and no more. 14.. *Venery de Twety* in *Reliq. Antiq.* I. 154 Sohow is moche to say as sahow, for because that it is short to say, we say al wey sohow. *c* 1485 *E. Eng. Misc.* (Warton Cl.) 44 The furst mane that me doth fynde, Anon he cryit,—So howe! So hoowe! Lo! he sayth, where sytt yt an haare! 1576 Turberv. *Venerie* 177 *Sa how* sayeth one, as soone as he me spies. 1591 Shaks. *Two Gentl.* III. i. 189 *Lau.* So-hough, Soa hough. *Pro.* What seest thou? *Lau.* Him we goe to finde.

β. 13.. *K. Alis.* 3712 (Laud MS.), So ho! so ho! We ben awroke of dogges two! *c* 1475 *Hunt. Hare* 133 (W.), The yomon rode and cryed: 'So hoo!' And putte the hare vp with his boo. 1486 *Bk. St. Albans* e v b, And then So ho so ho, thries and no mo. 1592 Shaks. *Rom. & Jul.* II. iv. 136 *Mer.* A baud. So ho. *Rom.* What hast thou found? *Mer.* No Hare sir. 1629 Massinger *Picture* v. i, *Hilario* (holds up a piece of bread). So ho! birds! 1684 Bunyan *Pilgr.* II. (1900) 279 Mr. Great-heart called after him, saying, Soho, Friend, let us have your Company. 1740–2 Richardson *Pamela* III. 312 He ran to the Window, and..said Hollo—So-ho—Groom—..Get me my Horse! 1811 *Sporting Mag.* XXXIX. 142 The hills shall re-echo—Soho! 1822 Shelley *Calderon's Mag. Prodig.* I. 48 Soho! Livia, I come; good sport, Livia, soho! 1859 Dickens *T. Two Cities* I. ii, 'So-ho,' the guard sang out, as loud as he could roar.

b. As *sb.*

a 1572 *Dk. Norfolk's Laws Coursing* in Markham *Country Contentm.* I. vii. (1664) 43 The hare-finder should give the hare three so-hows before he put her from her Lear. [Hence in Holme and later works.] *c* 1589 *Whip for an Ape* in *Lyly's Wks.* (1902) III. 418 Such sohoes, whoopes and hallowes. 1611 Cotgr., *Reclame,* a Sohoe, or Heylaw; a lowd calling, whooting, or whooping to make a Hawke stoope vnto the Lure. 1834 Thacker *Courser's Comp.* I. 167 The person who finds the hare sitting should give a clear so-ho.

2. = Soh *int.* 1.

1825 Scott *Talisman* ix, So ho! a goodly fellowship come to see Richard take his leap in the dark. 1885 Bompas *Frank Buckland's Life* 330 'So ho,' I said, 'my theories are right'.

3. = Soh *int.* 2. (See also quot. 1833.)

1832 Lytton *Eugene A.* III. iii, Soho, Jacobina, soho, gently, girl, gently. 1833 in Youatt *Dog* iii. (1845) 96 When the old dog makes a point, the master calls out, 'Down!' or 'Soho!' and holds up his hand.

Soho', *v.* Also **so-ho.** [f. prec.]

1. *intr.* To shout or cry 'soho!' Hence **Soho'-ing** *vbl. sb.*

1599 Porter *Angry Wom. Abingt.* IV. iii, Here's so-ho-ing with a plague! 1824 Miss Mitford *Village* Ser. I. (1863) 186 Even May, the most sagacious of greyhounds,..would as soon listen to Tom sohoing as to old Tray giving tongue.

2. *trans.* To announce the discovery or starting of (a hare) by this shout.

1834 Thacker *Courser's Comp.* I. 150 When a hare is found sitting, she ought to be so-ho'd. 1887 *Field* 5 Feb. 160/3 A third hare was sohoed near the river-side.

‖ Soi-disant (swadizañ), *a.* [F., f. *soi* one-self + *disant,* pres. pple. of *dire* to say.]

1. Of persons: Calling oneself; self-styled, would-be. (Usually with implication of pretence or deception.)

1752 Chesterf. *Lett.* ccxcii. (1792) II. 339 The pious Æneas, who, like many *soi disant* pious people, does the most flagrant injustice and violence. 1794 Scott *Let.* in *Lockhart* (1837) I. vii. 220 The *people*..seem to interest themselves very little in the fate of their *soi-disant friends.* 1818 *Art Pres. Feet* Pref. p. x, The difference between the ..skilful practitioner, and the soi-disant corn doctor. 1874 Ld. Lennox *Recoll.* I. 273 My *soi-disant* constituent administered a pretty strong dose of soft-sawder. 1884 *Contemp. Rev.* Oct. 545 Is there any society..where such a piece of snobbism could be represented as possible in a *soi-disant* gentleman?

2. Of things: Said or claimed to be such, without really being so; pretended.

1845 J. W. Croker *Ess. Fr. Rev.* I. (1857) 4 Circumstances which appear to have influenced his *soi-disant* historical labours. 1860 Ruskin *Unto this Last* i. § 1 The modern *soi-disant* science of political economy. 1867 Augusta Wilson *Vashti* xxii, A *soi-disant* 'resignation' that draws honeyed lips to the throne of grace.

Soiet(te, variants of Suget (subject) *Obs.*

Soietable: see Sugetable *Obs.*

Soife. [Local var. of Swarf *sb.*] (See quots.)

1866 J. Chamberlain in *Birmingham & Midl. Hardware Distr.* 608 The 'soife', or iron cuttings from the nicks and threads of the screws, average about four tons per day. *Ibid.,* This 'soife' is bought up and melted down with other iron.

† Soign, *sb. north. Obs.* In 4 **soigne,** soy(g)ne, **soyny.** [a. OF. *soigne, soine,* etc.: see Essoin *sb.* For Sc. examples see Sonyie *sb.*] Excuse, esp. for wrong-doing or the like.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 2266 For-þi þat tour hatt babilone, þat schending es wit-outen soyne. *Ibid.* 16395 Quen he [Pilate] sagh þat al his soigne þai tok it al to ill. *Ibid.* 26691 Þat þou sa wrei þin aun dede, þat [þou] na soigne [*Fairfax* soyny] be-for þe lede.

† Soign, *v. Obs.* Forms: 4 **soigne,** 4–5 **soyne** (4 **soyny,** 5 **soynyn**), 5 **sonyon.** [Cf. prec. and Essoin *v.*] *trans.* To excuse or exculpate for transgression, etc.; to essoin.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 26717 He þat nu him-seluen wreis þan, Vr lauerd-self sal soigne [*Fairfax* soyny] þat man. *Ibid.* 29437 Þof þou wit cursd man commun, þou sal be soyned wit resun. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 1464 He soyned him be his sorement þat sare him forthinkis. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 464/2 Sonyon, *idem quod* soynyn.

Hence **† Soi·gning** *vbl. sb. Obs.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 28123 Quen þat i to scriueyng yede, I wald oft songyng for my lede.

† Soigneous, *a. Obs. rare.* In 4 **soigneus, 5 soygneus, -ous.** [a. OF. *soigneus* (mod.F. *soigneux, -euse*), f. *soign* (mod.F. *soin*) care, heed.] Careful, heedful.

1340 *Ayenb.* 155 [Seneca says] þet of þe parties of þe liue ech þenche and is soigneus ac of al þe liue to ordayny non ne þenc þ ne studeþ.

Hence † **Soignously** *adv. Obs. rare.*

c 1477 CAXTON *Jason* 76 [Apollo] founde under his hede the bille afore said whiche he kepte soygneusly. 1481 — *Godfrey* cciv. 299 To kepe soygnously and defende the turkes fro thyse two Cytees.

Soik, obs. Sc. form of SUCK *v.*

Soil (soil), *sb.*[1] Forms: 4–8 **soyle** (5 **soylle**), 5, 7–8 **soyl** (6 *Sc.* **soyll**), 5–7 **soile,** 6– **soil.** [a. AF. *soil, soyl* in sense 2 b (1292–1305), app. representing L. *'solium* (whence also OF. *soil, suel*: see SOIL *sb.*[2]), taken in the sense of L. *solum* (F. *sol*) ground. For Sc. forms see also SULYIE.]

I. 1. The earth or ground; the face or surface of the earth.

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 1387 Vch a syde [of the city] vpon soyle helde seuen myle. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 1252 It was semand to sist as all þe soyle trymblid. 1412–20 LYDG. *Chron. Troy* I. 4383 Boþe tour & wal [was] with þe soil made pleyn. *a* 1547 SURREY *Æneid* II. C iv, I saw.. Neptunus town clene razed from the soil. 1588 SHAKS. *L. L. L.* IV. ii. 7 The face of *Terra*, the soyle, the land, the earth. 1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* VIII. 372 The Countrey voyd of Villages, Riuers, or Cultiuage: but the soyle rich in Bestiall. 1660 MILTON *Free Commw.* 18 With the Prophet ..to tell the verie soil it self what God hath determined of Coniah and his seed for ever. 1818 CRUISE *Digest* (ed. 2) V. 21 In cases of copyholds, a lord may have a right under the soil of the copyholder. *a* 1838 in Murray's *N. Germ.* 90 The precise spot where his foot first touched the soil. 1851 BORROW *Lavengro* LXXV, I flung myself on the soil, and kissed it.

† **b.** The lower ground, the plain. *Obs.*–[1]

1594 NASHE *Dido* III. iii. 976 Æneas, leaue these dumpes, and lets away, Some to the mountaines, some vnto the soyle, You to the valleys.

2. A piece or stretch of ground; a place or site. Now *rare* or *Obs.*

c 1400 *Destr. Troy* 2078 He þat set is full sad on a soile euyn, And pight has his place on a playn ground. 1430–40 LYDG. *Bochas* II. xiii. (1554) 51 b, A soyle she found ful delectable of sight. 1470 in Aungier *Syon Mon.* (1840) 72 A soyle and a grownde of wode callid Blakeley. 1547 in *Vicary's Anat.* (1888) App. III. i. 131 The Sightes or Soyles wheruppon the same ij churches Are..buyldyd. 1576 FLEMING *Panopl. Epist.* 205 Hauing forgotten the situation of the soyle where he was resident,..he fell into a ditche. 1647 HEXHAM I. (Hunting), The ground or soile where a Deere feeds. 1797 T. WRIGHT *Autobiog.* (1864) 89 If I could purchase a soil anywhere nigh..he would give me the stones..to build the house.

† **b.** With poss. pron. or genitive. *Obs.*

1464 *Rolls of Parlt.* V. 529/1 CC acres of wast of oure soile within the Forest. 1467 in *Eng. Gilds* (1870) 371 That euery man kepe his soyle clene and his pavyment hole. 1480 *Cov. Leet Bk.* 459 þe place of the seid weysshyng ys þe soyle of þe hospitall.

† **c.** An estate or property. *Obs. rare.*

1575 CHURCHYARD *Chippes* (1817) 138 They went towards Seatton,..where the lady of that soyle..presented the keyes ..to the generall.

3. A land or country; a region, province, or district. Now *Obs.* or *arch.*

a 1400–50 *Alexander* 3161 þe sceptoure & þe soile sesid am [I] of Persy. *a* 1513 FABYAN *Chron.* VII. CCXXXV. (1811) 271 Vᵉ kyng..gaue yᵉ moytie therof to yᵉ duke of Burgoyn, as chefe lorde of yᵗ soyle. 1577 *St. Augustine's Man.* 26 There the daysunne of righteousnesse .. inlighteneth all the Citizens of the heavenly soyle. 1604 E. G[RIMSTONE] *D'Acosta's Hist. Indies* IV. xiv. 250 There is towardes that place a soile which they call, the Land of Emeraldes. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* I. 242 Is this the Region, this the Soil, the Clime,..That we must change for Heav'n? 1727 GAY *Fables* I. x. 2 The man who with undaunted toils Sails unknown seas, to unknown soils. 1781 COWPER *Expost.* 192 Lords of the conquered soil,..In peace possessing what they won by war.

4. a. The place of one's nativity; one's (native) land or country.

a 1400–50 *Alexander* 1724 þe souerayne sire of my soyle þat sittis in my trone. 1553 T. WILSON *Rhet.* 51 His soyle also (where he was borne) geveth him to be an evill man. 1597 HOOKER *Eccl. Pol.* V. lxxviii. § 1 When hunger caused them to leaue their naturall soyle, and to seeke for sustenance in Egypt. 1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* I. 7, I choosed..to seclude my selfe from my soyle. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg., Past.* x. 70 You..To shun my sight, your Native Soil forego, And climb the frozen Alps. 1748 GRAY *Alliance* 87 The manners speak the idiom of their soil. 1822 SHELLEY *Chas. 1st* II. 211 Your Majesty has ever interposed, In lenity towards your native soil [etc.]. 1838 THIRLWALL *Greece* IV. 155 The outcasts whom the cruel policy..of the Athenians had at various times deprived of their native soils.

† **b.** One's domicile or place of residence. Freq. in *to change one's soil. Obs.*

1555 WATREMAN *Fardle Facions* I. vi. 91 Because thei cary great droues of catteill with them, they chaunge their soile often. 1577–87 HOLINSHED *Chron.* III. 1066/2 Such as could make shift..changed their soile. 1641 MILTON *Ch. Govt.* Wks. 1851 III. 96 Some of our Prelates in all haste meant to change their soile. 1643 BAKER *Chron., Eliz.* 50 His father,..being persecuted for a Protestant, changed his Soyl.

5. In phrases: **a.** *Lord of the soil,* the owner of an estate or domain.

1593 SHAKS. 2 *Hen. VI,* IV. x. 26 Heere's the Lord of the soile come to seize me for a stray. 1818 CRUISE *Digest* (ed. 2) I. 53 A class of people in a condition of downright servitude, belonging..to the lord of the soil.

b. *Child* (*son,* etc.) *of the soil,* a native of a place or country; also, one closely connected with or engaged in the cultivation of the ground.

1814 SOUTHEY *Roderick* I. 7 A yoke galled..the children of the soil. 1861 PEARSON *Early & Mid. Ages England* I. 1 The sons of the soil, whom invasion had dispossessed of their homes. 1882 KEARY *Outl. Prim. Belief* 105 Some have believed themselves *autochthonous,* or children of the soil! 1891 T. HARDY *Tess* (1900) 133/2 Don't, Angel, be so anxious about a mere child of the soil!

II. 6. The ground with respect to its composition, quality, etc., or as the source of vegetation.

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 1039 þe clay þat clenges þer-by arn corsyes strong,..& suche is alle þe soyle by þat se halues. *Ibid.* C. 443 þe whyle God of his grace ded growe of þat soyle þe fayrest bynde hym [*sc.* Jonah] abof þat euer burne wyste. 1412–20 LYDG. *Chron. Troy* I. 2606 þe bareyn soyl to clothen and amende. 1597 SHAKS. 2 *Hen. IV,* IV. iv. 54 Most subiect is the fattest Soyle to Weedes. 1604 E. G[RIMSTONE] *D'Acosta's Hist. Indies* IV. vi. 219 The ground and soile of this mountaine is drie, cold and very vnpleasant. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* I. 71 Goad him.. Till the bright Share is bury'd in the Soil. 1726 SWIFT *Gulliver* II. vi, I dwelt long upon the fertility of our soil and the temperature of our climate. 1748 GRAY *Alliance* 6 The soil, tho' fertile, will not teem in vain. 1806 *Gazetteer Scotl.* 101 The soil is excellent, being composed of clay and sand. 1882 GEIKIE *Text-bk. Geol.* II. II. vi. 154 Primarily the character of the soil is determined by that of the subsoil.

b. *transf.* and *fig.* (or in fig. context).

1575 G. W. in *Gascoigne's Wks.* (1907) I. 24 Whereof if some but simple seeme, consider well the soyle. They grew not all at home, some came from forreyne fieldes. *c* 1586 C'TESS PEMBROKE *Ps.* LII. viii, Gods house the soile shall bee My rootes to nourish. 1824 LAMB *Elia* II. *Blakesmoor in H—shire,* These were..the wholesome soil which I was planted in. 1869 TOZER *Highl. Turkey* II. 277 This popular literature is found over the whole face of Europe. Turn the soil where you will, and a plentiful crop at once springs up. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 858 These agents.. in some way make the soil [*sc.* the skin] unsuitable for the growth of the fungus.

7. Without article: Mould; earth.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 342/1 Moold, or soyle of erthe, *solum, humus.* 1530 PALSGR. 272/1 Soyle of grounde, *terrouer.* 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* III. vi. 31 It sited was in fruitfull soyle of old. 1648 MILTON *Psalm* LXXXI. 23 His hands from pots, and mirie soyle Deliver'd were by me. 1685 TEMPLE *Gardens* Wks. 1720 I. 183 Of all sorts of Soil, the best is that upon a Sandy Gravel. *a* 1701 MAUNDRELL *Journ. Jerus.* (1732) 65 Many beds of excellent soil. 1774 BRYANT *Mythol.* II. 214 When the birds were found to return with their feet stained with soil. 1855 DELAMER *Kitchen Gard.* 2 Though the Flemings have, mostly, everything that can be wished for as to soil. 1880 GEIKIE *Phys. Geog.* IV. 187 The layer of soil on which the plants grow.

8. With *a* and pl. A particular kind of mould or earth.

1560 BIBLE (Geneva) *Ezek.* XVII. 8 It was planted in a good soile by great waters, that it shulde..beare frute. 1596 SHAKS. 1 *Hen. IV,* I. i. 64 The variation of each soyle, Betwixt that Holmeden, and this Seat of ours. 1604 E. G[RIMSTONE] *D'Acosta's Hist. Indies* II. VIII. 99 The rest is a sandie and barren soile. 1626 B. JONSON *Staple of N.* II. iv. (1905) 46 But this is a hungry soile, And must be helpt. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* II. 154 Nor ev'ry plant on ev'ry soil will grow. 1726 LEONI *Alberti's Archit.* II. 109/1 There were as many different sorts of wines, as there were of different soyls wherein the vineyards were planted. 1767 A. YOUNG *Farmer's Lett. to People* 140 On three different soils (very light—rich—and very heavy). 1813 SIR H. DAVY *Agric. Chem.* i. (1814) 12 Soils in all cases consist of a mixture of finely divided earthy matters. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* I. 171/1 Sandy and peaty soils and marls are in general deficient in this alkali.

fig. 1631 BOLTON *Comf. Afft. Consc.* iv. (1635) 197 There is but one good soile, upon which the seed of the Word falls prosperously. 1781 COWPER *Truth* 363 No soil like poverty for growth divine. 1794 PALEY *Evid.* (1825) II. 352 Infidelity is the hardest soil which the propagators of a new religion can have to work upon. 1870 MAX MÜLLER *Sci. Relig.* (1873) 39 In no religion was there a soil so well prepared.

9. *attrib.* and *Comb.,* as *soil-breaker, -pulverizer; soil-draining, -supporting,* etc.

1840 J. BUEL *Farmer's Comp.* 101 What we term soil-draining, is most frequently resorted to in swamps and low lands. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2238/2 *Soil-pulverizer,* a machine for breaking clods. 1876 *Nature* 13 Jan. 215/2 Disintegrated rocks form soil-supporting vegetation. 1889 *Pall Mall G.* 25 June 3/1 The same may be said of harrows and soil-breakers.

10. Special combs.: **soil-bound** *a.,* (*a*) clagged, clodded (cf. *sole-bound* s.v. SOLE *sb.*[1] 9 b); (*b*) bound or attached to the soil; **soil-cap** *Geol.,* a layer of soil and detritus covering strata or bed-rock; **soil-creep,** the slow creeping or sliding movement of surface-soil down a slope; **soil-map** *U.S.,* a map showing the distribution of various kinds of soil; **soil-pipe** (see quot.).

1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 333/2 *Crust Clung* or **Soil Bound,* is an hard, sticking together of the Earth, that nothing will grow on it. 1814 BYRON *Lara* II. viii, That morning he had freed the soil-bound slaves. *c* 1875 WAUGH *Heather* II. 151 As I get owder, I get more soil-bund. 1882 GEIKIE *Text-bk. Geol.* IV. III. 511 Mere gravitation aided by the downward pressure of sliding detritus or '*soil-cap' suffices to bend over the edges of fissile strata. 1897 *Archæol. Jrnl.* Dec. 374 The *soil-creep is slow and the surface soils are of great antiquity. 1899 *Yearbook U. S. Dept. Agric.* 345 In 1892 the first *soil map, based upon the texture and physical properties of soils, was issued. *a* 1864 GESNER *Practical Treatise on Coal, Petrol.,* etc. (1865) 27 The driving of the *soil-pipe..is the first thing done. This pipe is four inches in diameter,..and driven by a heavy block of wood, as in pile driving.

† **Soil,** *sb.*[2] *Obs.* Also 6–7 **soyle.** [a. OF. *soil,* also *soel, suel, sueil* (mod.F. *seuil*) sill, threshold :—L. *solium* seat.]

1. = SILL *sb.*[1] 2, 3.

1447 *Will of Hen. VI,* in Carter *King's Coll. Chapel* 12 A closette..unther the soil of the yle windows. 1533 in Bayley *Hist. Tower* App. I. xvii, There ys wrought all the soyles and jawmes of twoo greate wyndowes. 1637 in Willis & Clark *Cambridge* (1886) I. 194 Raysing the 4 chappell windows..and putting in soyles of freestone. 1663 GERBIER *Counsel* 77 Door cases, the Post..being six and five Inches head and soyle. 1679 MOXON *Mech. Exerc.* ix. 172 Soils..are either Ground Sells..or Window Sells.

attrib. 1634 in *Archaeologia* XXXV. 197 In the kitchen.. two soyle bords for wyndowes.

2. A lintel of a door or window.

1519 HORMAN *Vulg.* 138, I hytte my heede ageynst the soyle or transumpt.

Soil (soil), *sb.*[3] Forms: *a.* 5–7 **soyle,** 6 **soyl**(l; 5–7 **soile,** 6– **soil,** 7– *dial.* **sile.** *β.* 5 **soule.** [Partly a. OF. **soille, souille* (mod.F. *souille,* also dial. *soille*) fem., or *soil, souil,* etc. (mod. dial. *souil, soui*) masc., verbal sbs. from *souiller* SOIL *v.*[1]; in part directly from the vb.]

I. † **1.** A miry or muddy place used by a wild boar for wallowing in. *Obs.*

So F. *souille*; the phrase 'to take soil' corresponds to F. *prendre souille.* The forms *soueil* and *seulg* occur in OF. in the same sense, and Cotgrave gives *soil, soeil, sueil.*

c 1410 *Master of Game* (MS. Digby 182) v, Whan men hunteth þe boore, communlich þei go to þe soyle and soileth hem in þe drytte. And if þei be hurte, þe soile is hir medicyne. 1576 TURBERV. *Venerie* 154 At his departure from the soyl, you may perceiue it where he hath gone..: for he goeth out of the soyle all myerie and dyrtie. 1600 SURFLET *Countrie Farme* VII. XXVII. 853 The soile of the wilde bore being long, large, and great, doth note and argue the bore to bee great. 1611 COTGR., *Se souiller* (of a swine) to take soyle, or wallow in the mire. *Ibid., Sueil,*..the soyle of a wild Bore; the mire wherein hee commonly walloweth.

2. A pool or stretch of water, used as a refuge by a hunted deer or other animal. Freq. in the phr. † *to go,* or *come, to soil*; *to take* († *the*) *soil.*

(*a*) *c* 1410 *Master of Game* (MS. Digby 182) XXXIII, When he..seeth þat betynge vppe þe ryueres and brokes,..nor goynge to soyle,..ne may not helpe. 1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* XVIII. XXI. 764 Whan the hynde came to the welle, for hete she wente to soyle. *c* 1535 FISHER *Wks.* (E.E.T.S.) 441 As an harte, whan he is chased,..coueteth to come vnto the soile. 1576 TURBERV. *Venerie* 241 When an Hart or any Deare is forced to the water, we say he goeth to the Soyle. 1861 H. KINGSLEY *Ravenshoe* XXVI, Looking round him as a buck or stag looks when run to soil.

(*b*) 1572 J. JONES *Bathes Buckstone* 1 b, It is not unlikely that the Stagges or buckes wounded, would take soyle ther. 1576 TURBERV. *Venerie* 148 There are some lustie yong houndes which will neuer giue ouer a Goate nor suffer him to take Soyle. 1613 W. BROWNE *Brit. Past.* I. iv, Fida went..to seeke the Hinde; And found her taking soyle within a flood. 1735 SOMERVILLE *Chase* III. 546 He..Then takes the Soil, and plunges in the Flood Precipitant. 1810 *Sporting Mag.* XXXV. 87 Previously to his taking soil, he lay down under the same tree. 1844 W. H. MAXWELL *Wanderings in Highl. & Isl.* I. iii. 97 Last Tuesday a fox took soil; I swam the river, got the brush [etc.]. 1885 *Field* 4 Apr. 427/1 The hounds working up to their deer, he..crossed..to the brook, where he took soil.

(*c*) 1486 *Bk. St. Albans* E vij b, At that oder side of the water iff he vp sterte, Then shall ye call hit the soule of the hert. 1600 FAIRFAX *Tasso* VI. cix, A chased hinde her course doth bend To seeke by soile to finde some ease or good. 1612 DRAYTON *Poly-olb.* XIII. 137 The noble, stately deer.. Doth beat the brooks and ponds for sweet refreshing soil. 1633 P. FLETCHER *Poet. Misc.* 86 As an hart with sweat and bloud embrued..thirsts in the soil to be. 1674 N. COX *Gentl. Recreat.* (1677) I. 78 The last Refuge of a Hart sorely hunted is the Water (which, according to Art, is termed the Soil).

† **b.** In fig. use. *Obs.*

1592 LYLY *Midas* IV. iii, There was a boy leasht on the single, because when he was imbost, he tooke soyle. 1614 B. JONSON *Bart. Fair* I. iii. (1904) 15 O Sir, ha' you tane soyle, here? it's well, a man may reach you, after 3 houres running, yet! 1647 N. BACON *Disc. Govt. Eng.* lix. (1651) 178 The King..singles out the Archbishop, and hunts him to soil at Rome.

II. 3. Staining or soiling; the fact of being soiled or stained; a stain or discolouring mark.

1501 *Bury Wills* (Camden) 83 A cloth bougth to saue the sayd tabernacle from soyle. 1572 in Feuillerat *Revels Q. Eliz.* (1908) 409 By the fowlnes bothe of the weye and wether and soyll of the wereres. 1602 MARSTON *Antonio's Rev.* I. ii, Twere best you..lay in private till the soile of griefe Were cleard your cheeke. 1679 C. NESSE *Antichrist* Ded., As a dark soil in a well drawn picture. 1726 LEONI *Alberti's Archit.* I. 35 That is always best which,..laid upon a white Cloth, makes the least Soil. 1793 SMEATON *Edystone L.* § 316 *note,* The burning of the lamps was found to produce a greater Soil upon the inside of the glasses, than candles. 1816 JANE TAYLOR *Contrib. by Q. Q.* (1855) III. 15 This dress is less liable to take a soil than any other material. 1885 *Harper's Mag.* Jan. 318/2 The very garments of a Quaker seem incapable of receiving a soil.

b. *spec.* (See quot.)

1843 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* I. 445 Lead works are first smeared or soiled around the intended joints, with a mixture of size and lamp-black, called soil.

4. *fig.* Moral stain or tarnish.

Frequent from *c* 1600 to 1650. An example of OF. *souille* in a similar use is given by Godefroy.

1597 SHAKS. 2 *Hen. IV,* IV. v. 190 For all the soyle of the

Atchieuement goes With me, into the Earth. 1602 MARSTON *Antonio's Rev.* II. iii, If the least soyle of lust smeers my pure love. 1641 MILTON *Reform.* II. Wks. 1851 III. 44 With him shee found the purest, and quietest retreat, as being most remote from soile, and disturbance. 1756 JOHNSON in *Boswell* (Oxf. ed.) I. 203 To wear off by meditation any worldly soil contracted in the week. 1770 FOOTE *Lame Lover* III. Wks. 1799 II. 91 There is not a soul..that can lay the least soil, the least spot, on my virtue. 1858 HAWTHORNE *Fr. & It. Note-bks.* II. 183 Disburdening herself of the soil of worldly frailties, and receiving absolution. 1888 MRS. OLIPHANT *Joyce* I. 174 He was good as an angel or a child—there was no soil in him.

III. † 5. Sexual intercourse. *Obs.*

In quot. 1603 perh. a misuse of SOIL *sb.*[4]: cf. Markham *Caval.* (1607) I. vi. 37 where 'soyle and couering' are mentioned together.

1555 WATREMAN *Fardle Facions* II. xi. 251 Specially, if he haue been late at the soile with a woman. 1603 FLORIO *Montaigne* II. xv. (1632) 346, I have..put forth an old stalion to soile [F. *au haras*], who before did no sooner see or smell a Mare [etc.].

IV. 6. Filth; dirty or refuse matter. Also *fig.*

1608 A. WILLET *Hexapla Exod.* 626 The lampes were.. clensed from the soile..gathered in the night. 1611 J. DAVIES (Heref.) *Wit's Pilgr.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 32/2 Wee should not then lie soaking in shames Soile. 1688 BUNYAN *Water of Life* Wks. 1855 III. 554 Whatever it be that this water of life washeth not, it is soil and given to the curse. 1691 RAY *N. C. Words, Sile*, filth. [Hence in Bailey, Grose, etc.] 1736 PEGGE *Alph. Kenticisms, Soil*, filth and dirt in corn; as, the seeds of several sorts of weeds, and the like.

7. Filth and other matter usually carried off by drains; sewage.

1601 R. JOHNSON *Kingd. & Commw.* (1603) 69 Strabo writeth that the Romans excelleth the Grecians in cleanlinesse of their cities by reason of their channels to conuay away the soyle. 1730 A. GORDON *Maffei's Amphith.* 360 The Use of these Conduits was..to receive and discharge the Urine and other Soil. 1778 *England's Gazetteer* (ed. 2) s.v. *Bristol*, Gutters that are made under ground for carrying off the soil into the rivers. 1842 GWILT *Encycl. Archit.* § 2215 Those [pipes]..for carrying away the soil from a water closet. 1868 A. DAWSON *Rambling Recoll.* 6 The domestic soil was discharged *via* the window.

8. Ordure, excrement; the dung of animals used as a compost; manure. Cf. also NIGHT-SOIL.

1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* 106 A good woodman must not stick to gather up the deers excrement or soil. *a* 1639 W. WHATELEY *Prototypes* I. iv. (1640) 30 The profitable sheep is..beneficial..also for her soyle. 1670 J. SMITH *Eng. Improv. Revivʼd* 12 Great Rains will wash down the Dung or soyl therefrom, and much enrich those grounds it runs into. 1799 J. ROBERTSON *Agric. Perth* 340 To extirpate the heath, by means of water and the droping soil of cattle, especially of sheep. 1817 [R. D. C. BROWN] *Lintoun Green* II. xli. 32 To his waist..'Midst muck and soil. 1823 E. MOOR *Suffolk Words* 350 *Sile*, soil, night soil. 1848 GAVIN *Sanitary Romb.* 12 The soil, itself, is removed from these [privy-] holes, and is dug into the ground to promote its fertility.

b. (See quots.)

1879 *Good Words* 740/1 Here are carts laden with sifted 'soil', so much like gunpowder...The fine dust or 'soil' is used for manure. 1883 *N. & Q.* 6th Ser. VII. 178/2 *Soil*: this term is used for the fine ashes screened out from the breeze.

9. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *soil-carrier, -hole, -man*; **soil-pipe**, a sewage or waste-water pipe; **soil-tank** (see quot. 1851).

1737 J. CHAMBERLAYNE *St. Gt. Brit.* II. 224 King's Privy-kitchen: Vincent Bene, Soil Carrier. 1810 *Hull Improv. Act* 50 No scavenger or dustman, soilman or other person. 1825 *Beverley Lighting Act* ii. 21 Regulations as to privies and soil-holes. 1833 LOUDON *Encycl. Archit.* § 490 A basin with a soil pipe. 1851 MAYHEW *Lond. Lab.* (1864) II. 495/2 'Soil-tanks' were the filth receptacles of the larger houses, and sometimes works of solid masonry. 1879 *St. George's Hosp. Rep.* IX. 602 She was living in a house where the soil-pipe of the water-closet was defective.

Soil (soil), *sb.*[4] Now *local.* Also 7 soyl(e, soile. [Cf. SOIL *v.*[4]]

† 1. The feeding of horses on cut green fodder, so as to cause purgation. *Obs.*

1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* (1658) 358 If the Horse go to soil in April, after five days..wash him all over with water. 1607 MARKHAM *Caval.* v. vii. 42 Of the soile, or scowring horses with grasse...I wold haue you onelie to put him to the soyle within the house: that is to say, you shal..feede your horse onely with grasse.

2. Fresh-cut meadow-grass or other green fodder.

1868 *N. & Q.* 4th Ser. II. 30/2 His [a horse's] rack was every morning filled with what was called *soil*, that is,.. fresh growing meadow-grass. *Ibid.* 308/2 To grow a crop for soil or soiling.

† Soil, *sb.*[5] In 6 soyle. [f. SOIL *v.*[2]] The solution of a problem.

c 1600 SHAKS. *Sonn.* lxix. 14 Why thy odor matcheth not thy show, The soyle is this, that thou doest common grow.

† Soil, *sb.*[6] *Obs.*[-1] In 6 soyle. (Obscure.)

Possibly an error for *spoyle*, although this is the rime-word in the second line of the stanza.

1596 SPENSER *F. Q.* IV. iii. 16 As when two Tygers..cruell battell twixt themselues doe make, Whiles neither lets the other touch the soyle.

Soil, dial. variant of SILE *sb.*[1]

1762 *Phil. Trans.* LII. 513 A round hole..was pierced through the carved oak,..and a piece of the main soil.. struck off. 1770 *Ibid.* LXI. 75 Upon this pillar rested a large oak soil. 1842 GWILT *Archit.* Gloss. 1033 *Soils*, a provincial term, chiefly..used in the north, signifying the principal rafters of a roof.

Soil, dial. variant of SILE *sb.*[3]

1847 HALLIW., *Soil*, the fry of the coal-fish. *Cumb.* 1881 DAY *Fishes Gt. Brit.* I. 295 The fry are called..soil, poodler, billets or billiards up to one year of age.

Soil (soil), *v.*[1] Forms: 3 suilen, 5 suyle, sule; 3–4 soilen, 4–7 soyle, 5–7 soile (5 sole); 6–7 soyl, 7– soil. [ad. OF. *suill(i)er, soill(i)er*, etc. (mod.F. *souiller*), = Prov. *sulhar*, app.:—pop. Lat. **suculāre*, f. L. *suculus* or *sucula*, dim. of *sus* pig.]

I. *trans.* **1.** To defile or pollute with sin or other moral stain. Also *absol.*

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 84 Oðer speche soileð & fuleð. *Ibid.* 158 Men þet suiled hore lippen mid misliche spechen. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 7209 Prustes..mid lechors mod Al isoyled. 1340–70 *Alex. & Dind.* 336 Alle manir þingus þat mihte vs soile wiþ sinne. 1426 LYDG. *De Guil. Pilgr.* 985 Thow art soyled..Off the synne orygynal. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* II. vii. 62 My soule was soyld with foule iniquitie. 1835 LYTTON *Rienzi* II. iv, The instruments he must use soil himself:..the times will corrupt the reformer. 1842 MANNING *Serm.* i. (1848) I. 5 The lusts of the flesh soiled his spiritual being.

2. To make foul or dirty, esp. on the surface; to begrime, stain, tarnish.

1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 8971 Warne he þi mouþ cusste þat so villiche isoiled is. *c* 1305 *St. Edmund* in *E. E. P.* (1862) 71 So drie þat no cloþ..noþing isoilled nas. 1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. XIII. 458 Thus haukyn þe actyf man hadde ysoiled his cote. *c* 1450 LOVELICH *Merlin* (E.E.T.S.) 11383 With his swerd on honde, that soyled hit was with hors blood & mennes. 1530 PALSGR. 724/2, I soyle, I fyle a thynge with wearyng so that the glosse of it dothe fade, *je salle*. 1593 SHAKS. *Rich. II*, I. iii. 125 That our kingdomes earth should not be soyld With that deere blood which it hath fostered. 1638 JUNIUS *Paint. Ancients* 229 Much handling soileth things and maketh them lose their brightnesse. 1687 MIÉGE *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II. s.v., To soil (or slur) his Clothes, *salir ses Habits*. 1784 COWPER *Task* IV. 555 The stain Appears a spot upon a vestal's robe, The worse for what it soils. 1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 360 Instead of it we have an earthy opaque powder which soils the hands. 1892 *Photogr. Ann.* II. 337 At any time the covering gets soiled or damaged, a fresh one can be attached.

absol. 1805–27 JAMESON *Char. Min.* 257 When a mineral taken between the fingers, or drawn across another body, leaves some particles, or a trace, it is said to soil or colour. 1821 — *Man. Min.* 85 It is composed of dull dusty particles, which are feebly cohering. Soils feebly.

b. *fig.* and in fig. context.

a 1623 PEMBLE *Grace & Faith* (1635) 48 This water was much soyled by them with the mudde of many idle fables. 1680 OTWAY *Orphan* II. iv, You have soyl'd this Gem, and taken from its value. 1746 FRANCIS tr. *Horace, Epist.* I. xx. 15 But soon as vulgar Hands thy Beauty soil, The Moth shall batten on the silent Spoil. 1805 SCOTT *Last Minstrel* V. xx, Foul treason's stain, Since he bore arms, ne'er soil'd his coat.

c. To treat by smearing.

1843 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* I. 445 Lead works are first smeared or soiled around the intended joints, with a mixture of size and lamp-black, called soil.

3. *fig.* To sully or tarnish; to bring disgrace or discredit upon (a person or thing).

1593 SHAKS. *Rich. II*, IV. i. 23 Either I must, or haue mine honor soyl'd With th' Attaindor of his sland'rous Lippes. 1596 *Sir T. More* (Malone Soc.) 1220 The good Emperour..will not soyle his honor with the theft of Englishe spoyle. 1602 MARSTON *Ant. & Mel.* V. Wks. 1856 I. 64, I am come To soyle thy house with an eternall blot. 1698 MARVELL *Corr.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 604 Angel hath so soiled you by representing some very late treating..that it will be difficult to wash off those suggestions. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. IV. iv, Black falsehood has ineffaceably soiled her name. 1891 *Spectator* 29 Aug., Subjects that have been much soiled and confused by the host of impostors.

† b. To charge (a person) falsely *with* something; to asperse. *Obs.*[-1]

1642 R. CARPENTER *Experience* I. xviii. 122 They brought in the arme of a dead man, with intention to soyle him with murther and sorcerie.

4. *intr.* To become dirty or stained; to take on a stain or tarnish.

1530 PALSGR. 724/2, I love to weare satten of Bruges, but it wyll soyle anone. 1579 GOSSON *Sch. Abuse* (Arb.) 35 To lifte the Gentlewomens roabes from the grounde, for soyling in the duste. 1882 *Imperial Dict.* IV. 127/2 Silver soils sooner than gold.

II. 5. *intr.* and † *refl.* Of a wild boar or deer: To roll or wallow in mud or water.

c 1410 *Master of Game* (MS. Digby 182) ii, þenne he will go into þe stanke and shalle soile hym þer. *Ibid.* v, Whan men hunteth þe boore, communlich þei go to þe soyle and soileth hem in þe drytte. 1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 214 To soyle as a sowe, *luto volutare*. 1884 JEFFERIES *Red Deer* vi. 102 A stag generally drinks before entering the cover, and afterwards 'soils', that is, lies down and rolls in the water.

6. Of a hunted stag: To take to water or marshy ground; † to swim *down*.

c 1410 *Master of Game* (MS. Digby 182) ii, Somtyme he shall soyle downe with þe water halfe a myle or more or he come to londe. *c* 1470 *Hors, Shepe & G.* (Roxb.) 29 Assone as he [a hart] taketh the Riuer, he suleth. *a* 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew, Soyl*, when any Deer is hard Hunted, and betakes himself to Swimming in any River. 1847 MARRYAT *Childr. N. Forest* viii, The stag made for a swampy ground..and stood at bay..'He has soiled,' said Edward. 1906 *Westm. Gaz.* 4 Oct. 4/3 The pack streamed away..to Chalk Water, where the stag soiled.

III. † 7. To cohabit *with*. (Cf. SOIL *sb.*[3] 5.) *Obs.*

1722 STEELE *Conscious Lovers* IV. ii, Such a Husband soils with his Wife for a Month perhaps—then Good b'w'y' Madam—the Show's over.

† Soil, *v.*[2] *Obs.* Forms: 4–7 soyle, 5–6 soylle, 6 soyl; 4–7 soile, 4–5 soill, 6 soil, *Sc.* soilȝe. [ad. OF. *soille* pres. subj. or *soil* pres. ind. of *soldre, soudre*:—L. *solvĕre* to release, loosen: see ASSOIL *v.*]

1. *trans.* To absolve (a person) from sin, etc.; = ASSOIL *v.* 1.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 29379 Þe man þat has þam for to yeme Mai soill þam and þair mendes deme. ?13.. *Incestuous Daughter* 127 in Herrig *Archiv* LXXIX. 422 Þe prest soyłyd hyme of his synnys. 13.. *K. Alis.* 7926 (W.), So God me soile, Thou schalt have Calabre and Poyle. *c* 1400 *Ploughman's T.* in *Pol. Poems* (Rolls) I. 333 Of the bishop he hath powere To soile men or els they been lore. 1530 PALSGR. 724/2, I soyle from synne, *je assouls*.

2. To set free *of*, release from, an obligation, etc. Cf. ASSOIL *v.* 3.

1382 WYCLIF 1 *Macc.* x. 33 Eche soule..Y leue wilfully with out money; that alle be soiled of her tributis. 1402 *J. Upland* 427 in *Skeat's Chaucer* VII. 203 Whan ye han assoiled me that I have said,..I shall soill thee of thyne order, and save thee to heven!

3. To resolve, clear up, expound, or explain; to answer (a question).

1382 WYCLIF *Judges* xiv. 12 Y shal purpose to 3ow a dowtous word, the which if 3e soylen to me [etc.]. 1491 CAXTON *Vitas Patr.* (W. de W. 1495) I. xciii. 127 b/2 Thy questyons ben lyghte to soylle, and lyghte to be answerde. 1533 BELLENDEN *Livy* III. xviii. (S.T.S.) II. 21 To soilȝe this questioun ane law was promulgate in comites centuriat. 1542 UDALL *Erasm. Apoph.* 309, I have not learned to soyle no riedles. 1603 HARSNET *Pop. Impost.* 77 Now a few questions I must soyle, and then I wil proceede to your holy geare. 1611 COTGR., *Souldre*, to..cleere, or soile, a doubt.

4. To refute (an argument or objection); to overcome by argument; = ASSOIL *v.* 7.

c 1380 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* III. 432 Herby Aristotle soylip an argument, bi whiche it myʒte seme to folis þat kynde failip to man. 1532 MORE *Confut. Tindale* Wks. 660/1 It is impossible..for Tyndall..to soyle the reason and anoyde it. 1567 JEWEL *Def. Apol.* IV. i. 359 To avouche and proue the Truthe: After that to soile the obiections brought againste the Truthe.

† Soil, *v.*[3] *Obs.* Also 6–7 soyle, 7 soile, soyl. [f. SOIL *sb.*[3] 9.] *trans.* To supply or treat (land) with dung or other fertilizing matter; to manure.

1593 NORDEN *Spec. Brit., M'sex & Herts.* II. 18 About the towne is a kinde of chalke,..a stonie Marle, more fit to make lime then to soyle the grounde. 1610 FOLKINGHAM *Art Surv.* I. x. 24 Brittle and fickle Mould..is best soyled with well rotted horse-dung. 1653 H. COGAN tr. *Pinto's Trav.* xxxi. 123 The distribution of this goodly commodity ..to manure their ground, which soyled with it, bears three crops in one year. 1692 SOUTH *Serm.* (1697) I. 395 Just as they Soyl their Ground, not that they love the Dirt, but that they expect a Crop.

Soil (soil), *v.*[4] [? f. SOIL *sb.*[3] 8.]

1. *trans.* To feed (horses, cattle, etc.) on fresh-cut green fodder, originally for the purpose of purging; † to feed up or fatten (fowls).

1605 [see SOILED *ppl. a.*[2]]. 1611 BEAUM. & FL. *Philaster* v. iii, I'le..send you Brawn and Bacon, and soil you every long vacation a brace of foremen, that at Michaelmas shall come up fat and kicking. 1725 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 5325/1 He designs..to stay about three Weeks at Perez..., to Soil his Cavalry according to the Customs of the Turks. 1736 PEGGE *Kenticisms* (E.D.S.) s.v., To *soil* horses, is to scour or purge 'em, by giving 'em green meat, as tares, green clover, and the like. 1776 A. YOUNG *Tour Irel.* (1780) I. 172 A few sow clover, which increases, to mow for soiling their cows. 1812 SIR J. SINCLAIR *Syst. Husb. Scot.* I. 352 Milch cows give more milk when soiled than when pastured. 1840 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 192/2 The great advantage of soiling cattle is the increase of manure of the best quality, which is thereby produced. 1868 *N. & Q.* 4th Ser. II. 308/2 To soil a horse with clover or vetches.

2. With *off*: To employ, make use of, as fodder for soiling cattle, etc. ? *Obs.*

1778 [W. H. MARSHALL] *Minutes Agric., Observ.* 30 This part was soiled-off or plowed-in. 1789 *Trans. Soc. Arts* I. 155 Vetches, which were soiled, or fed off, with sheep.

Soil, *v.*[5] [f. SOIL *sb.*[1] 7.] *trans.* To earth *up*.

1844 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* V. i. 92, I soiled the drills up again.

Soil, obs. var. SILE *v.*[2]

† Soilage. *Obs.* Also 6–7 soylage. [f. SOIL *sb.*[3] or *v.*[1] + -AGE.]

1. ? A charge or toll for depositing filth or refuse.

1593 NORDEN *Spec. Brit., Cornw.* (1728) 98 Salt-ashe,..a pretye market towne...It hath anchorage and soylage of all straunger ships, and the profit of a passage betwene it and Deuon. [Hence in later topographical works.]

2. Rubbish, dirt, filth; manure.

1598 STOW *Surv.* iii. (1603) 14 Casting of soylage into the streame. 1631 WEEVER *Anc. Funeral Mon.* 379 Moorish ground; in short space raised, by soilage of the Citie vpon them. 1658 tr. *Porta's Nat. Magic* III. xiv. 93 Apply the Pomegranate-tree roots with this kind of soilage or dunging. 1739 'R. BULL' tr. *Dedekindus' Grobianus* 49 Your proper Steps from Mire obscene defend; And leave the Dirt and Soilage to your Friend. 1758 BINNELL *Descr. Thames* 166 Where the common Rakers of the City use to repose and lay all their Soilage.

Soil-dish, variant of SILE-DISH, strainer.

1796 *Hull Advertiser* 24 Sept. 4/3 When the curd is come..take it out with a soil-dish altogether.

Soile (soil). *Cornish dial.* Also 7–9 soil, 7–8 soyle, 9 soyl. [? An irregular local variation of SEAL *sb.*[1]] The common seal.

1602 CAREW *Cornw.* I. 34 b, The Seale or Soyle, is in making and growth, not vnlike a Pigge, vgly faced, and footed like a Moldwarp. 1672 JOSSELYN *New Eng. Rarities*

34 The Soile or Sea Calf, a Creature that brings forth her young ones upon dry land. 1674 RAY *Coll. Words, Fishes* 107 On the Rocks near the Lands end they often find the *Phocæ* (which they call Soils) sleeping. *Ibid.*, They distinguish between Soils and Sieles: the Siele they affirm to be a Fish..much less then the soile, and not taken upon our Coasts. 1758 BORLASE *Nat. Hist. Cornw.* 284 Among the quadruped reptiles we may reckon the seal or sea-calf, vulgarly called in Cornwall the Soyle. *a* 1863 TREGELLAS *Cornish Tales* (1868) 61 Haling the soils up from the say. 1880 *W. Cornwall Gloss.* 53/1.

Soile, obs. Sc. form of SOLE *sb.*1

Soiled (soild), *ppl. a.*1 Forms: 3 **suiled**, 6–7 **soyled**, 7 **soild**, 6– **soiled**. [f. SOIL *v.*1] Defiled; stained, dirtied. Also *fig.*

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 158 Ich am a man mid suilede lippen. 1530 PALSGR. 324/2 Soyled, *ord.* 1588 KYD *Househ. Phil.* Wks. (1901) 272 In the Kitchin, or other soyled places which may spoile or ray her garments. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* II. i. 41 Vpon the soiled gras The dead corse of an armed knight was spred. 1671 MILTON *Samson* 123 In slavish habit, ill-fitted weeds O're worn and soild. 1693 DRYDEN, etc. *Juvenal* xv. (1697) 373 One..Licks the soil'd Earth,..While reeking with a mangled Ombite's Blood. 1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 425 It may be conveniently used for whitening soiled books and prints. 1883 THOMAS *Mod. Housewife* 22 That cracked mirror, spoiled carpet, and soiled sofa.

Comb. 1905 M. BARNES-GRUNDY *Vacill. Hazel* 59 A soiled-looking man turned the corner of the lane.

Soiled, *ppl. a.*2 *rare.* [f. SOIL *v.*4] Fed with fresh-cut green fodder.

1605 SHAKS. *Lear* IV. vi. 124 The Fitchew, nor the soyled Horse goes too't with a more riotous appetite. 1811 *Monthly Mag.* XXXIV. 393/1 The condition of the soiled cattle and milch cows, surprized even those most convinced of the advantage of the system.

Soiled, *a.* [f. SOIL *sb.*1] Having a particular or specified kind of soil.

c 1645 HOWELL *Lett.* I. II. xv. (1655) 89 The Province..is far greater, more populous, better soyld, and more stor'd with Gentry. 1799 [A. YOUNG] *Agric. Linc.* 9 This sinks again into another part of the various soiled vale to the Wolds. 1815 M. BIRKBECK *Journ. thro' France* 68 A surface..as fruitful as a well-soiled plain.

Soiler: see FREE-SOILER.

Soilie, variant of Sc. SULYIE *Obs.*

Soi·liness. *rare.* [f. SOILY *a.*1] The state or condition of being soiled; soiled or dirty matter.

a 1626 BACON *Physiol. Rem.* in *Baconiana* (1679) 98 To make proof of the Incorporation of Silver and Tin,..and to observe..whether it yield no soiliness more than Silver? 1650 FULLER *Pisgah* II. IV. iv. 70 Whether the Priests.. made use thereof [*sc.* a laver] to discover all soiliness in them before they washed.

† **Soiling,** *sb.* *Obs.*—0 [app. for *siling*, f. SILE *v.*1 2.] (See quot.)

1573–80 BARET *Alv.*, A *Soiling*, a great opening, or gaping of the earth, as it were a deepnesse without bottome.

Soiling (soi·liŋ), *vbl. sb.*1 [f. SOIL *v.*1]

1. The action of making or becoming dirty, tarnished, or stained. Also *fig.*

1580 HOLLYBAND *Treas. Fr. Tong, Salissure*, fouling, soyling. 1612 BRINSLEY *Lud. Lit.* iv. (1627) 29 To keepe their bookes from soyling, or marring under their hands. 1635–56 COWLEY *Davideis* I. 871 Thus Souls live cleanly, and no Soiling fear. 1643 MILTON *Divorce* II. xix, Which ..is rather a soiling then a fulfilling of mariage-rites. 1809 *Naval Chron.* XXII. 277 To remove any soiling it might have received. 1892 *Photogr. Ann.* II. 530 Thus avoiding soiling of the glass.

2. *spec.* (See SOIL *v.*1 5 and 6.) Also *attrib.*

1549 COVERDALE, etc. *Erasm. Par. 2 Peter* II. 19 The sowe hath washed..in vayne, if she by and by after she is washen, returne to the soylinges that she had gone from. 1856 'STONEHENGE' *Brit. Rur. Sports* 82/2 The deer's haunt is called his lair;..where he rolls, his soiling-pool. 1884 JEFFERIES *Red Deer* vi. 102 They have their regular 'soiling-pits'—watery places or shallow ponds. 1899 *Westm. Gaz.* 18 Aug. 3/1 'Soiling,' or taking water, less frequently results in throwing hounds off the scent.

† **Soi·ling,** *vbl. sb.*2 *Obs.* [f. SOIL *v.*2]

1. Assoilment, absolution.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 29535 Gain cursing gode all es be-warr, And if þou wat þou ert þair-in His soilling seke wit-vten blin. *c* 1380 WYCLIF *Wks.* (1880) 481 Whanne þer soyling & þer bynding acordide wiþ god in heuene. *c* 1400 *Apol. Loll.* 67 Þerfor þe causis are to be peysid, and þan power of bynding and soiling is to be vsid. 1529 MORE *Suppl. Souls* Wks. 290 Blessing and cursing, cyting, suspending and soyling.

2. Solution, explanation, answering.

c 1380 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* I. 386 Þanne he putte in dede soilyng of þis questioun. 1388 — *Dan.* iv. 3 Thei schulden schewe to me the soilyng of the dreem. *c* 1500 *Three Priests Peblis* in Pinkerton *Sc. Poems* (1792) I. 11 Desyrand for to wit the solyeing Of this questioun, this probleame, and this dout. *c* 1530 L. COX *Rhet.* (1899) 64. Confutacion is the soilynge of suche argumentes as maye be induced agaynste our purpose. 1548 GESTE *Priv. Masse* 113 The soylyng of these two last recited scryptures.

Soi·ling, *vbl. sb.*3 ? *Obs.* [f. SOIL *v.*3]

1. The action of treating land with manure or compost; manuring, dunging.

1607 NORDEN *Surv. Dial.* III. 112 Any Tin-mines,..Marle, or Chalke-pits, slimie or moorish earth, fit for soyling of land. 1665 *Voy. E. India* 362 Which..doth so enrich their Land, which they never force..by Soyling of it. 1696 J. CARY *Ess. Coyn* 28 Well manured Lands, whose plentiful Crops do soon repay the Charge of Soiling laid out on them.

2. Manure; droppings of animals.

1610 FOLKINGHAM *Art Surv.* I. x. 26 Plinie reports that Ashes are in such request for soylings neere vnto Po, that they burne their Horse-dung to make them. 1626 BACON *Natural Hist.* § 666 That Powdring [*sc.* dust], when a Shower commeth, maketh a kinde of Soyling to the Tree. 1789 *Trans. Soc. Arts* I. 148 All of these, together with the subsequent soilings of the sheep, left the land in admirable condition.

Soi·ling, *vbl. sb.*4 [f. SOIL *v.*4]

1. The action or practice of feeding horses, cows, etc., on fresh-cut green fodder, originally in order to cause purgation.

1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* 330 For this purgation is most necessary for Horsses, which is called soyling, and ought to continue ten daies together, without any other meat. 1770 PENNANT *Brit. Zool.* IV. 48 They [*sc.* Persian horses] are fed with chopped straw,..and instead of soiling, are fed with new-eared or green barley. 1799 WASHINGTON *Writ.* (1893) XIV. 225 For spring, summer, and autumn, it is expected, that soiling of them on green food..will enable them to perform their work. 1832 *Scoreby Farm Rep.* 27 in *Husb.* (L. U. K.) III, By the practice of soiling, an arable farm may be made to support as much live stock as a grazing one. 1893 *Times* 11 July 4/1 Oats put in [among rye] promptly would give food for soiling or cutting in the autumn.

attrib. 1840 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 193/1 Those countries where the soiling system is most universally adopted.

2. *dial.* (See quot.)

a 1825 FORBY *Voc. E. Anglia*, *Soiling*, the last fattening food given to fowls when they are taken up from the stack or barn-door, and cooped for a few days.

Soi·ling, *vbl. sb.*5 [f. SOIL *sb.*1] The action of covering with soil. Also *techn.* (quot. 1876).

1794 WEDGE *View Agric. Cheshire* 21 Soiling with the plough is thus performed:..the ground..is split, or turned both ways upon the young plants. 1876 *Encycl. Brit.* IV. 280/2 A thin layer of ashes..is spread over the surface [of the hardened malm in brick-making] (this process being technically called *soiling*).

Soiling (soi·liŋ), *ppl. a.*1 [f. SOIL *v.*1] That stains or soils; polluting, defiling.

1812 CARY *Dante, Purg.* xxx. 52 To save My undew'd cheeks from blur of soiling tears. 1820 CLARE *Poems Rural Life* (ed. 3) 120 From soiling dew the butter-cup Shuts his golden jewels up. 1876 GEO. ELIOT *Dan. Der.* lxvii, Dreading the soiling inferences of his mind.

† **Soiling,** *ppl. a.*2 *Obs.*—1 [f. SOIL *v.*2] Of the nature of a refutation; confuting.

c 1449 PECOCK *Repr.* II. xviii. 255 To make a cleer soiling answere to the xiij*e* argument.

Soill, obs. Sc. variant of SOLE *v.*1

† **Soillart.** *Obs.*—1 [f. SOIL *v.*1] A name given to the hare.

13.. *MS. Digby 86* fol. 168 b, He shal saien on oreisoun In þe worshipe of þe hare.., þe go-bi-dich, þe soillart.

Soille, obs. Sc. form of SOLE *sb.*1

Soilless (soi·l,lės), *a.*1 [f. SOIL *sb.*1] Destitute or devoid of soil or mould.

1828–32 in WEBSTER (citing Bigsby). 1853 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* XIV. I. 19 The steep, rugged, and nearly soilless sides and crags of the limestone. 1865 SPRATT *Crete* I. 20 A bared and almost soilless part of the mountain-face.

Soi·lless, *a.*2 [f. SOIL *sb.*3] Free from soil or stain.

1868 GEO. ELIOT *Spanish Gypsy* I. 61 As innocent as opening flowers,..soilless, beautiful.

† **Soi·lness,** var. of (or error for) SOILINESS.

a 1626 BACON *Physiol. Rem.* in *Baconiana* (1679) 95 It will be sweeter and cleaner than Brass alone, which yieldeth a smell or soilness.

Soil-pipe: see SOIL *sb.*1 10 and SOIL *sb.*3 9.

† **Soilth.** *Obs.*—1 [f. SOIL *v.*1 + -TH 1.] An act or instance of soiling or staining.

1581 MULCASTER *Posit.* xl. (1887) 225 At home spoiles, soilthes, twentie things, are nothing in the parentes..eye.

Soilure (soi·liŭr). Also 4, 7 **soylure.** [a. OF. *soilleure* (mod.F. *souillure*), f. *soillier* SOIL *v.*1]

The currency of the word in the 19th cent. is prob. altogether due to the instance in Shakspere.

1. Soiling, sullying, staining.

1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 8501 Þe bodies hii gaderede & vorbarnde hom echon,..so þat hii were Wiþoute soylure in clannesse al out maisters þere. 1859 TENNYSON *Elaine* 7 Elaine..Guarded the sacred shield.., Then fearing rust or soilure fashion'd for it A case of silk. 1893 J. K. INGRAM *De Imitatione* Pref. p. viii, The writing has..suffered from friction or soilure.

b. *fig.* (Common in recent literary use.)

1606 SHAKS. *Tr. & Cr.* IV. i. 56 He merits well to haue her, that doth seeke her, Not making any scruple of her soylure, With such a hell of paine. 1873 ALICE CARY *Last Poems* 114 Soilure of sin..Cannot harm thy hand so pure. 1888 G. GISSING *Life's Morning* I. iii. 110 With minds disengaged from anxiety of casual soilure. 1890 W. WATSON *Poems* (1906) I. 29 From soilure of ignoble touch Too grandly free.

2. A stain, blot, or blemish.

1829 LANDOR *Imag. Conv.* Wks. 1846 II. 235 He did not conduct him amid flowers and herbage, where a fall would have only been a soilure to our frail human nature. 1895 ZANGWILL *The Master* III. viii, Why had people besmirched the Creation with soilures of cynicism.

Soily (soi·li), *a.*1 Also 6 **soilly**, 7 **soylie.** [f. SOIL *sb.*3 or *v.*1]

† **1.** Apt to soil or stain. *Obs.*

1575 LANEHAM *Lett.* (1871) 40 A substauns..nether so.. brittl to manure az stone, nor yet so soily in vse. *Ibid.* 50 Fayr alleyz..with sand, not light or to soft, or soilly by dust, but..pleasaunt too walk on. 1605 WILLET *Hexapla in Gen.* 215 The goodly outward rine or skinne onely doeth keepe in the filthie soylie embers.

2. Of the nature or character of soil or tarnish.

1631 FULLER *Joseph's Coat, David's Sin* xxxii, So spots of sinne the writer's soule did staine, Whose soylie tincture did therein remaine. *Ibid.*, *David's Repentance* iv, I desire His soylie sinnes with deluges to scoure.

3. Soiled, stained, dirty.

1631 W. B. *Touchstone Gold & Silver Wares* 36 When your Touch-stone is..foul or soily, it may be taken off, by wetting it. 1748 RICHARDSON *Clarissa* VI. 151 Methinks ..you are a little soily, to what we have seen you. 1771 T. HULL *Sir W. Harrington* (1797) III. 214 White sprigg'd muslin,..now so soily, and hung in such a manner,..as made her indeed a strange figure. 1890 *Pall Mall G.* 13 Feb. 2/1 A case..in which are packed..three or four damp, hot, and soily figures.

Soily, *a.*2 Also 8 **soiley.** [f. SOIL *sb.*1] Of the nature of soil; like that of soil or mould.

1747 HOOSON *Miner's Dict.* Q 3, Veins Strick into this Rachill..in a confused manner, being throne into Joynts, but they are Soiley. 1878 *Scribner's Mag.* XVI. 684/2 Away they went, mare and man,..with a decided soily aroma following them.

Soilyie, variant of Sc. SULYIE *Obs.*

† **Soind,** obs. variant of SCHYND.

1774 G. GIFFORD in Low *Orkney* (1879) 143 Property transmitted by a Deed called a Soind bill. *Ibid.* 144 The disponer delivered the Soind bill to the purchaser.

Soiour, obs. f. SOLDIER. **Soiour(e, Soiowryn,** varr. SOJOUR *sb.* and *v.* *Obs.*

Soir, obs. Sc. f. SOAR *v.*, SORE *a.* and *adv.*

‖ **Soirée** (sware), *sb.* [F. *soirée* evening, evening party, f. *soir* evening:—L. *sērum* late hour, neut. of *sērus* late.] An evening party, gathering, or social meeting. (See also SWARRY.)

1820 LADY GRANVILLE *Lett.* (1894) I. 190, I had a soirée last night. 1836 in Col. Hawker *Diary* (1893) II. 107 We had a regular merry soirée on board, and did not leave till past nine. 1856 MRS. BROWNING *Aur. Leigh* III. 391 For exhibition in my drawing-rooms On zoologic soirées. 1892 *Photogr. Ann.* II. 621 Friends' Photographic Society...A *soirée* is held each winter.

Hence **Soirée** *v. trans.*, to entertain at an evening party or parties. Also **Soiréean** *a.*, **Soiréety** (*nonce-words*).

1826 LADY GRANVILLE *Lett.* (1894) I. 397 It has been hard work to dine and soirée all the people. 1834 JEKYLL *Corr.* (1894) 328 This bustle and the eternity of parliamentary sittings keep London in a state of interest and soiréety. 1853 JERDAN *Autobiogr.* IV. 71 To be in readiness for the reception of the soiréean guests.

Soirn, Soit, obs. Sc. ff. SORN *v.*, SUIT *sb.*

‖ **Soixantine.** *rare*—1. [ad. F. *soixantaine*, f. *soixante* sixty.] A period of sixty days.

1722 DE FOE *Hist. Plague* (1756) 235 Then a body may be capable to continue infected..not a Quarentine of Days only, but a Soixantine, not only 40 Days but 60 Days or longer.

Soize, dial. form of SIZE *sb.*1

Sojar, obs. Sc. variant of SOLDIER *sb.*

Sojer, dial. or colloq. form of SOLDIER *sb.* and *v.*

Sojett, variant of SUGET (subject) *Obs.*

† **Sojour,** *sb.* *Obs.* Also 4 **soiur**, 4–5 **soiour(e**; 5 **surioure.** [a. OF. *sojur*, *sujur*, etc. (later *sejor*, *sejour*, mod.F. *séjour* SEJOUR), shortened form of *sujurn* SOJOURN *sb.*] Sojourn.

13.. *Sir Beues* 3435 Þanne anon, wiþ oute sojur, A wente to þat emperur. 1338 R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (1810) 274 Þe Scottis þat were with inne..Þe Baliol suld þam wynne out of þat soioure. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xxix. (*Placidas*) 721 In þe sammyne toure, quhare his wif mad surioure. *c* 1400 *Rom. Rose* 4282 The which is shette there in the tour, Fulle longe to holde there sojour. *c* 1430 LYDG. *Min. Poems* (Percy Soc.) 246 Skarsly thre monethys he holdith heer sojour. *c* 1450 *Merlin* xxii. 398 The kynge Ban and the kynge Bohors were nothinge at soiour.

† **Sojour,** *v.* *Obs.* Also 4 **soioure, -en,** 5 **soi(o)wryn.** [ad. OF. *sojur-*, shortened stem of *sojurner* SOJOURN *v.*] *intr.* To sojourn.

c 1330 *Arth. & Merl.* 7269 (Kölbing), Lete we hem here soiouringe & speke of þe oþer kinge. *c* 1380 WYCLIF *Wks.* (1880) 129 But lordis, & ladies namely, schullen soiouren amongis hem many ȝeris. *a* 1400 *R. Brunne's Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 4183 (Petyt MS.), Long ne wald he soioure ne rest. 1593 BILSON *Govt. Christ's Ch.* 7 Isaac and Jacob sojoured as strangers and peregrines in the land of Canaan.

† **Sojourant.** *Obs.*—0 = SOJOURNANT.

1499 *Promp. Parv.* (Pynson) P ij b, Soioraunt.

Sojourn (sǫ·-, sǫ·-, sǒu·dʒəɹn), *sb.* Forms: *α.* 3 **surgerun, suriurn,** 3–4 **suriuren.** *β.* 4 **soiorn(e,** 4, 7 **soiourn(e,** 5 **soiurne, sojorne,** 7– **sojourn.** *γ. Sc.* 5 **su(d)iorne,** 6 **su(d)georne.** [a. OF. *surjurn*, *sujurn*, *sojorn*, etc. (= It. *soggiorno*, Pg. and obs. Sp. *sojorno*), vbl. sb. from *surjurner*, etc.: see SOJOURN *v.*

The stressing *sojou·rn* occasionally appears in poetry.]

1. A temporary stay at a place.

α. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 2696 Ðoȝ was him ðat surgerun ful loð. *Ibid.* 3308 He maden siðen, fro elim, Mani suriuren in ðe desert sin.

β. 13.. *Guy Warw.* (A.) 2770 Anon after þe tende day Of her soiourn..Gij is to þe douke y-go. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* VII. 385 That he to Carleill than vald ga, And a quhill tharin soiorn ma. *c* 1410 *Master of Game* (MS. Digby 182) xii, In longe soiourne þei leseth her clees and hir feet. 1459 *Rolls of Parlt.* V. 363/1 The seid Prince shuld be in sojorne with the Kyng. 1605 SHAKS. *Lear* I. i. 48 The Princes, France & Burgundy,..Long in our Court haue made their amorous soiourne. 1671 MILTON *P. R.* III. 235 Scarce view'd the Gallilean Towns, And once a year Jerusalem, few days Short sojourn. 1814 WORDSW. *Laodamia* 78 Meekly mourn When I depart, for brief is my sojourn. 1839 THIRLWALL *Greece* VI. lii. 276 Here..he made a sojourn of sixty days.

1867 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* (1877) I. 215 The Normans were tired of Lewis's prolonged sojourn.

fig. 1804 H. K. WHITE in *Rem.* (1825) 270 Your friend, and fellow-traveller in the Tearful sojourn of life.

γ. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* XX. 356 A-weill gret sudiorne thair he mad. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* I. (*Katherine*) 4 He..to þe cite was cumyne,..& suiorne mad. 1528 LYNDESAY *Dreme* 359 In tyll ane volt, abone that place of paine, Vnto the quhilk, but sudgeorne, we ascendit.

†b. A delay; a digression. *Obs.*

c 1330 *Arth. & Merl.* 6977 (Kölbing), Lete we now be þis soiourne & speke we of Oriens wroþ. 1508 DUNBAR *Tua Mariit Wemen* 176 Wes neuer sugeorne wer [=worse] set na on that snaill tyrit.

2. A place of temporary stay. Also *fig.*

c 1350 *Will. Palerne* 3155 He..wasteþ al my londes, saue onliche in þis cite where soiourne wot i neuer. *a* 1400 *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* xxviii. 23 Heil soiourne þat Godus sone to sent. 1423 JAS. I *Kingis Q.* cxiii, There as hir duelling is and hir soiurne. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* III. 15 Thee I re-visit now.., Escap't the Stygian Pool, though long detain'd In that obscure sojourn. 1768 BEATTIE *Minstr.* I. xxvi, Let those deplore their doom, Whose hope still grovels in this dark sojourn. 1810 SOUTHEY *Kehama* XXII. iv, This gloomy bourne, The dread sojourn Of Guilt and twin-born Punishment and Woe. 1858 RAWLINSON tr. *Herodotus* II. cxxxiii. II. 210 Visiting all the places that he had heard were agreeable sojourns.

Sojourn (sɒ·-, sǫ·-, sōu·dʒəɹn), *v.* Forms: *α.* 3 **soriourni, 6 sourgorne.** *β.* 3–4 **soiorni,** 4–6 **soi-, sojorne** (6 **-eorne**), **sui-, sujorn**(e; 3 **soiourny,** 3–7 **soi-, sojourne** (5 **souj-**), 4–5 **soiurne,** 4–**sojourn.** *γ.* 4 **suggeorne,** 5 **-eourne,** 5–6 **sogeourn**(e; 5 **suggourne, sugiorne**; 4 **sugerne,** 6 **suggerne.** *δ.* 5–6 **sudiorn**(e, 6 **sudjourne, sudgeorne**; 5–6 **sudgern**(e. [ad. OF. *surjurner, sorjorner*, and *sujurner, sojorner, -journer* (also *sejorner, -journer*, mod.F. *séjourner*) in the same sense. The forms in *su-, so-*, like It. *soggiornare*, represent a pop. L. **subdiurnāre* (cf. med.L. *subjornare, subjurnare*), f. *diurnum* daily, day; those in *sur-, sor-*, either represent a form with *super-* (cf. med.L. *superdiurnare*) or have been assimilated to other words with this prefix.]

1. *intr.* To make a temporary stay in a place; to remain or reside for a time.

α. c 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 147 To þe grete Abbeie to pountenie forto soriourni þere, he sende þis holi Man. 1513 FABYAN *Chron.* VI. cciv. (1811) 214 Whanne kynge Edmunde hadde a season sourgoyned [*sic*] at London, he than made towarde the Danys.

β. c 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 114 þe king wende in-to Normandie for-to soiorni þere. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 3771 Sco send him son in-til aran,..þar-to suiorn for his sake. *c* 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 1374 For als gestes we here soiourne Awhile, til we sal hethen tourne. *c* 1430 LYDG. *Min. Poems* (Percy Soc.) 156 Whan watry Phebus had his purpoos take For a sesoun to sojourne in Aquarye. 1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* IV. xix. 143 They soiourned there a vij nyghte. 1555 EDEN *Decades* (Arb.) 133 Valladoleto where we nowe suiorne. 1582 STANYHURST *Æneis* III. (Arb.) 81 There we dyd al soiourne two dayes. 1641 J. JACKSON *True Evang. T.* iii. 201 All the Papists which inhabited, or sojourned within the said limits. 1732 LEDIARD *Sethos* II. VII. 122 He desir'd leave to sojourn a month. 1781 COWPER *Conversat.* 530 The night, they said, is near, We must not now be parted, sojourn here. 1834 LYTTON *Pompeii* I. ii, Several months ago I was sojourning at Neapolis. 1865 TROLLOPE *Belton Est.* xiv, He was sojourning at an hotel in Bond Street.

refl. 1338 R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (1810) 3 The Englis kynges turned, þei mot do nomore, Bot soiorned þam a while in rest at Bangore.

γ. c 1325 *Orfeo* 47 Orpheo sugerneth in Crassens, That is a cyte of noble defens. *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (Roxb.) XXX. 136 Þare he suggeournes when him list. *c* 1440 *Generydes* 572 Lenger ther he thought not to sogeourne. 1530 RASTELL *Bk. Purgat.* II. XX. 4, I was in dyvers cytees..longe tyme abydyng and suggernyng. 1535 COVERDALE *Ezek.* xiv. 7 A straunger, that sogeourneth in Israel.

δ. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* XVI. 47 Thai sudiornyt thair dayis thre In gret myrth and in rialte. 1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* V. xii. 182 He..sudgerned there a tyme. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* XIII. xi. 80 Indigites, quhilk is als mekill to say As God induellar at thar sudiornis ay.

b. *transf.* or *fig.* of things.

c 1366 CHAUCER *A. B. C.* 160 Vn-to þat court þou me aiourne,..þer as þat merci euere shal soiourne. 1587 TURBERV. *Trag. Tales* (1837) 26 Thus divers thoughts did sojourne in his brest. 1593 DRAYTON *Ecl.* VI. 13 Mirth is farre away, Nor may it soiourne with sad discontent. 1796 KIRWAN *Elem. Min.* (ed. 2) I. 206 Iron in its metallic state, sojourning with water always extricates inflammable air.

†c. To be a lodger in another's house. *Obs.*

1573 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 19 Once charged with children, or likelie to bee, giue ouer to sudgerne, that thinkest to thee.

†**2.** To make stay; to tarry, delay. *Obs.*

1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. XVII. 83 Whan I seyȝ þis, I soiourned nouȝte but shope me to renne. 1412–20 LYDG. *Chron. Troy* I. 89, I wil no longer make digressioun, Nor in fables no more as now soiourne. *c* 1477 CAXTON *Jason* 36 b, Hit behoueth no lenger to soiourne, for ye muste go or sende unto him with alle diligence. 1594 *Dr. Faustus* in Thoms *E. Eng. Prose Rom.* (1858) III. 403 Because the matter was as strange as true I have sojourned a little too long in it.

†**3.** *trans.* To lodge; to rest or quarter (horses); to have as a lodger. Also *transf. Obs.*

1390 GOWER *Conf.* III. 41 Whan thei weren thus sojorned,..Nero..The men let come in his presence. *Ibid.* 94 And ek it [i.e. rain] may be so sojorned In sondri places up alofte, That into hail it torneth ofte. ?*a* 1400 *Morte Arth.* 153 For-thi salle thow lenge here,..This seuenyghte in solace, to suggourne 3our horses. 1424 *Sc. Acts, Jas. I* (1814) II. 4/1 þe kyng forbiddis þat ony cumpanyis..thig or soiorne hors..on kirkmen. 1631 *Archdeaconry of Essex Minute-bk.* fol. 199 b, Enterteyninge and soiourninge in his howse..a fellowe verie negligent in cominge to divine service. 1690 WOOD *Life* 30 April, [They] are sojourned there by one Thomson for 10*s.* a week each.

†**4.** *intr.* To travel, journey. *Obs.*—1

1608 SIR J. HARRINGTON in *Nugæ Ant.* (1804) I. 381, I did once relate to your Highnesse after what sorte his tacklinge was, wherewithe he did sojourn from my house at the Bathe to Greenwiche Palace.

Hence **So·journing** *ppl. a.*

1645 J. BOND *Occasus Occid.* 19 Sarah..the Patriarchesse, who willingly followed her sojourning husband up and downe in strange Countries. *a* 1684 LEIGHTON *Comm. 1 Peter* Wks. (1868) 50 It continues all the time of this sojourning life.

†**Sojournant,** *sb.* and *a. Obs.* Forms: 5 **sojournaunt**(e, **-nante, soiur-, sojornaunt,** 6 **sudjournente.** [a. OF. *sojournant*, etc., pres. pple. of *sojourner* SOJOURN *v.*]

A. *sb.* A sojourner; a visitor or guest.

c 1400 *Plowman's Tale* in *Pol. Poems* (Rolls) I. 327 Alas! the devill hath cleane hem blent, Soche one is Sathanas sojournaunt. 1477 *Rolls of Parlt.* VI. 186/2 The abiders and sojournantes of the same [town]. 1478 *Paston Lett.* III. 219 Your doughter of Sweynsthorpp and hyr sojornaunt E. Paston recomandyth hem to yow. 1536 in *Lett. Suppress. Monasteries* (Camden) 140 The gentlemens children and sudjournentes that ther doo lif.

B. *adj.* Sojourning; residing for a time.

1439 in Dugdale *Monasticon* (1823) IV. 553/2 Admitte noone sojournauntes wymment with owte lycence of us. 1546 BALE *Eng. Votaries* I. 63 The Chronycles all agre..that she was no nonne but a wenche soiornaunt in the nondrye.

Sojourner (sɒ·-, sǫ·-, sōu·dʒəɹnəɹ). Forms: 5 **sogorner,** 5–6 **soiorner,** 6–7 **soiourner,** 6– **sojourner,** 7 **sojourno(u)r.** [f. SOJOURN *v.* + -ER[1].]

1. One who sojourns; a temporary resident.

14.. *Nom.* in Wr.-Wülcker 689 *Hic perhendinator*, a sogorner. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 348/2 A soiorner, *perhendinator*. 1535 COVERDALE *Lev.* XXV. 40 As an hyred seruaunte and as a soiourner shal he be with the. 1539 BIBLE (Great) I *Chron.* XXIX. 15 We be but straungers before the, and sogeourners, as were all oure fathers. 1605 BACON *Adv. Learn.* II. To King § 1 Queene Elizabeth was a soiourner in the world in respect of her vnmarried life. 1662 *Act* 14 *Chas. II*, c. xii. § 1 A native Householder, Sojourner, Apprentice, or Servant. 1756–7 tr. *Keysler's Trav.* (1760) III. 113 Whoe'er thou art, a native, foreigner, or sojourner. 1836 LANE *Mod. Egypt.* I. vi. 193, I replied that, being merely a sojourner in Egypt, I did not like..to take a wife. 1870 R. ANDERSON *Missions Amer. Board* III. 422 They were residents and not sojourners.

transf. 1803 *Med. Jrnl.* IX. 157 The Scarlet Fever and Sore Throat, which has for some time been an unwelcome sojourner in our neighbourhood.

2. A guest or lodger; a visitor.

1608 SHAKS. *Per.* IV. ii. 149 Report what a sojourner we have. 1623 MIDDLETON *Women beware Women* II. ii. 176 We've no strangers, woman, None but my sojourners and I. 1660 BLOUNT *Boscobel* I. 25 Mr. John Huddleston (a sojourner at Mr. Thomas Whitgreaves).

†b. A boarder living in a house, school, or college, for the purpose of receiving instruction.

a 1629 HINDE *J. Bruen* XXXVI. (1641) 114 [He] was very desirous to place them both as sojourners for a season in this gentlemans house. *c* 1672 WOOD *Life* (O. H. S.) I. 108 Having..obtained a comfortable estate by the great pains he took in pedagogie, and by the many sojournours that he alwaies kept in his house. 1691 — *Ath. Oxon.* I. 13 He [Grocyn] became a Sojournor in Exeter Coll. 1785 *Gentl. Mag.* LV. I. 13 From thence to Oxford, where he [F. Nicholls] was admitted a commoner (or sojourner) of Exeter College [in 1714].

†**Sojourness.** *Obs. rare.* In 6 **sojornesse.** [f. as prec. + -ESS[1].] A female sojourner.

1587 TURBERV. *Trag. Tales* (1837) 120 That through three months, this Ladie hath been sojornesse with me.

†**Sojourney,** *v. Obs. rare.* [Alteration of SOJOURN *v.*, after *journey*.] *intr.* To sojourn.

1657 W. RAND tr. *Gassendi's Life Peiresc* II. 170 Both of us sojourneyed with him at that very time. 1674 MARSDEN in W. Wilson *Hist. Dissent. Ch.* (1808) II. 466 O my soul, what a sojourneying state hath thy life been.

Sojourning (sɒ·-, sǫ·-, sōu·dʒəɹniŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. SOJOURN *v.* + -ING[1].]

1. The action or fact of staying temporarily in a place.

c 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 151 Þare he bi-lefde in soiourninge al þe ȝwile þat he wolde. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* III. 386 He thocht he to Kyntyr wald ga, And swa lang soiowrnyng thar ma, Till wyntir weddir war away. *c* 1477 CAXTON *Jason* 9 b, Peleus on the morne callid Jason and sayd that their long sojournyng displaisid him. 1528 LYNDESAY *Dreme* 470 This Iupiter, withouttin sudgeornyng, Passis throw all the twelf planetis, full ewin, In ȝeris twelf. 1571 GOLDING *Calvin on Ps.* lxix. 35 Quiete continewance is matched ageinste soieorninge for a tyme. 1611 BIBLE *Gen.* XXVIII. 4 The lande wherein thou art a stranger [*marg.* of thy soiournings]. 1701 STANHOPE *St. Augustine's Medit.* III. iv. 251 Let my present sojourning tend ever to thee.

†b. A place of temporary stay. *Obs.*—1

13.. *K. Alis.* 5209 (Laud MS.), Þennes hij wenten wiþouten duellyng, And souȝten better soiournyng.

c. The time of temporary stay.

1611 BIBLE *Exod.* xii. 40 Now the soiourning of the children of Israel, who dwelt in Egypt, was foure hundred and thirtie yeeres. 1782 V. KNOX *Ess.* cxliv. (1819) III. 231 Unfortunate boy [Chatterton]! poorly wast thou accommodated during thy short sojourning among us. 1825 HORNE *Introd. Script.* (ed. 5) III. II. i. 80 During the sojourning of the Israelites in the wilderness, Moses established [etc.].

†**2.** Delay, respite. *Obs. rare.*

1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* I. 96 Haid ȝe tane keip how at that king Alwayis, for-owtyn soiournyng, Trawayllyt for to wyn senȝhory. *c* 1400 *Laud Troy Bk.* 6022 Gregeis were fayn of that grauntyng [of truce], For thei hadde nede of soiornyng.

Sojournment (sɒ·-, sǫ·-, sōu·dʒəɹnmĕnt). [ad. F. *séjournement* (OF. *sojorne-, sujurnement*), after SOJOURN *v.*] The action of sojourning; a temporary stay.

a 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 2 May 1644, Tours, where we were design'd for the rest of the time I had resolv'd to stay in France, the sojournment being so agreeable. 1756 AMORY *Buncle* (1770) I. 73 Was it possible for Abraham, during his temporary sojournments among them,..to persuade so many tribes to quit their dialect. 1819 *Metropolis* II. 239 After a sojournment of two months, she continued her route towards Paris. 1853 J. H. NEWMAN *Hist. Sk.* Ser. II. I. i. (1873) 7 A constant motive for them to seek out..places of sojournment elsewhere.

transf. 1756 C. LUCAS *Ess. Waters* III. 178 Mercury..makes a longer sojournment in the body than is generally judged. 1794 R. J. SULIVAN *View Nat.* II. 169 The sea announces every where, its different sojournments.

Sokare, obs. form of SUCKER.

Soke[1] (sōuk). Now chiefly *Hist.* Also 4 **sok,** 6–7 **soake,** 7–9 **soak.** [ad. med.L. *soca*, ad. OE. *sōcn* SOKEN.]

1. A right of local jurisdiction; = SOC 1, SOKEN 3. [*a* 1086 *Domesday Bk.* I. 225 b/2 Gitda tenuit cum saca & soca. *Ibid.* VI. 275/2 Abbas clamat socam huius ville. 1114–8 *Laws Hen. I*, IX. 11 (Liebermann), Soca..alia pertinet baronibus socam et sacam habentibus.]

1598 STOW *Surv.* 36, I..will and command, that they shall inioy the same well and quietly and honourably with sake and soke [etc.]. 1720 STRYPE *Stow's Surv.* II. 12 My [i.e. King Stephen's] Demains with Sake, and Soke, and Toll, and Theam. 1809 BAWDEN tr. *Domesday Bk.* 460 Half a carucate of land..with sac and soke. 1859 C. BARKER *Associative Principle* i. 27 Manorial privileges, such as soke, stallage, or tolls of markets and fairs.

2. A district under a particular jurisdiction; a local division of a minor character.

[*a* 1086 *Domesday Bk.* I. 324 Ad hoc manerium pertinet soca haec. 1147–50 *Reg. de Dunfermelyn* (Bann. Cl.) 8 Donauit..eidem capelle decimas dominiorum suorum in soca de Striuelin. 1200 *Rot. Chart.* (1837) 38/1 Do..decem libratis terre in soka nostra de Eyllesham.]

α. c 1350 in *Eng. Gilds* (1870) 350 To don here Offys al-so wel in þe sok as in þe Citee a-fore y-seyd. 1442 *Rolls of Parlt.* V. 58/2 The Maner of Snayth, and the Soke of Snayth, in the Schire of Yorke. 1482 *Ibid.* VI. 200/2 Within the said Cite, the Soke of the same, and the Shere of such or any of them. 1540 *Act* 32 *Hen. VIII*, c. 15 Dioceses..ben denided into seuerall riddinges, wapentakes, and sokes. 1627 SPEED *England* XXVIII. § 7 It [Somersham] is the head of those fiue Townes, of which the Soke is composed. 1679 BLOUNT *Anc. Tenures* 9 Coningsburg in Yorkshire..had twenty eight Towns and hamlets within its soke. 1766 ENTICK *London* IV. 305 Certain burgesses..gave to the..church..all the lands and soke, called..Knighten Guild. 1799 [A. YOUNG] *Agric. Lincoln.* 231 A difference in the rights between the Soke of Bolingbroke and Holland Town, have hitherto protracted the proceeding. 1833 *Rep. Comm. Municipal Corporations* 333 Is it the practice to charge the Soke of Grantham with the maintenance of prisoners? 1873 J. LEWIS *Census 1871*, 174 Lincolnshire..comprises 31 wapentakes, hundreds, liberties and sokes. 1884 *Encycl. Brit.* XVII. 556/2 The liberty or soke of Peterborough.

β. 1591 FLETCHER *Russe Commw.* (Hakl. Soc.) 50 An ordinarie rent of money imposed upon everie soake or hundred within the whole realme. 1613 in *Scott. Hist. Rev.* Oct. (1910) 12 Being about to take a lease of the soake of Horncastle. 1704 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4067/2 Your Majesty's ancient Borough and Soak of Doncaster.

3. (See quot. 1788 and SOKEN 2 b.)

1609 in *Act* 5 *Geo. III*, c. 26 Preamble, Suits, sokes, multures, and also all and singular profits. 1638 SLINGSBY *Diary* (1836) 22 Y^e Mills were worth a great deal more if they had had ye same soak, which..they had, but now ye soak is bought and sold. 1788 W. H. MARSHALL *Yorksh.* II. 354 *Soke* (vulg. *sooac*), an exclusive privilege claimed by a mill, for grinding all the corn which is used within the manor or township it stands in.

4. *attrib.*, as *soke-fee, -land, -mill, -reeve.*

c 1290 *Fleta* II. lv. (1647) 119 Quod fieri potest per Sokereves eorum in hustengo. 1741 T. ROBINSON *Gavelkind* v, 85 A Man seised of Land in Soke-Fee. 1858 HOGG *Skelley* II. x. 345 The proprietor of a large soke-mill. 1882 ELTON *Orig. Eng. Hist.* 192 In some places..there are two kinds of copyhold land, the one called 'Bond-land' and the other 'Soke-land'. 1893 BARING-GOULD *Cheap Jack Zita* II. 46 You send a sack of corn to the soak-mill, and you get back half a sack of flour.

†**Soke**[2]. *Obs.*—1 = SOCK *sb.*[2] 1.

The passage is translated from Littleton (II. v. § 119), who says above 'soca idem est quod caruca, s. vn soke ou vn charue': cf. the note on SOCAGE.

1661 J. STEPHENS *Procurations* 47 A great part of those Tenants which held of their Lords by Socage, did come with their Sokes (their Ploughs) certain dayes in the year to plough and sow the Demesnes of the Lord.

Soke, obs. form of SOAK *v.*, SUCK *v.*

Sokel, obs. form of SUCKLE.

Sokelyng(e, obs. forms of SUCKLING.

Sokeman (sōu·kmĕn). Now *Hist.* Also 6–7 *erron.* **-mayn, -main.** [a. AF. *sokeman* or ad. Anglo-Lat. *sokemannus* (also *sok-, socke-, sochemannus*), f. the OE. word represented by SOKE[1] and SOKEN + MAN *sb.*[1]] A tenant holding land in socage; a socman.

[*a* 1066 *Laws Edw. Confess.* xii. (Thorpe), Manbote in Danelaga, de vilano et socheman xii oras. *a* 1086 *Domesday Bk.* I. 273/2 Ibi apposuit Rex W. sex sochemanos per-

tinentes at Rapendune. 1235–59 BRACTON II. XXXV. (Rolls) I. 614 Tenentes, qui tenent sockagio, sockemanni dici poterunt. *Ibid.* IV. XXVIII. III. 378 Et hujusmodi villani sokmanni, proprie dicuntur glebæ ascriptitii. *c* 1290 BRITTON (1865) II. 13 Ceux sount proprement nos sokemans et privelegez en ceste manere. 1367 in Vinogradoff *Villainage in Eng.* (1892) 116 *note*, Teux services comme gents de petits sokemans fierent en auncien temps. *a* 1399 *Ibid.* 91 *note*, Item sokemanni predicti filias suas non possunt maritare sine licencia domini. 1413 14 *Hen. IV*, f 34 in *Year Book* (1605) Hhh vj, Et auxy il ad diuersitie parenter sokeman de franktenure, et sokeman de base tenure. 1567 FITZHERBERT *Nat. Brev.* 14 Quar les tenantz en auncien demesne sont appelles Sokemans, s. tenants del carue, anglice, le plough. 1581 KITCHIN *Court Leet* 87 b, Mes est diuersitie enter Sokemaynes de franke tenure, et sokemaines de base tenure.]

1603 STOW *Surv.* vii. 64 The said Robert [Fitzwalter] ought to haue a sokeman. 1607 NORDEN *Surv. Dial.* III. 100 There is also a copy-hold estate, called ancient demeisne, and the tenants, Sokemains. 1614 SELDEN *Titles Honor* 334 Sokemans were but Tenants in socage. 1749 POTE *Hist. Windsor Castle* 2 Together with fourteen sokemen and their lands. 1766 BLACKSTONE *Comm.* II. 87 The statute 28 Edw. I. c. 1. declares, that a free sokeman shall give no relief. 1839 *Penny Cycl.* XIII. 245/2 No one was to be distrained..on account of land which he held in manors of the antient demesne of the crown as a sokeman. 1897 MAITLAND *Domesday Bk.* 142 The sokeman's hide or virgate..is composed of many scattered strips.

b. *attrib.* in † *sokeman-mote.*

13.. *Rotuli Hundredorum* (1818) II. 143/1 Item dicunt quod Ermoldus de Boys..solebat facere sectam ad Boxford ad sockemanemot pro terra Ricardi Serle.

Sokemanry (sōu·kmănri). Now *Hist.* [ad. AF. *sokemanerie* or Anglo-Lat. *sokemanria*: see prec. and -RY.] The tenure of land by a sokeman; also, the sokemen collectively.

[*c* 1290 BRITTON (1865) II. 11 Sokemaneries sount terres et tenementz, qe ne sount mie tenuz par fee de chevaler, ne par graunt serjaunties, ne par petites, mes par simples services. *a* 1399 in Vinogradoff *Villainage in Eng.* (1892) 116 *note*, Quidam tenentes eiusdem manerii tenent terras et tenementa sua in sokemanria.] 1603 STOW *Surv.* vii. 64 What sokeman he will, so he be of the sokemanrie. 1679 BLOUNT *Anc. Tenures* 119 If any of the Sokemanry shall be impleaded. 1766 BLACKSTONE *Comm.* II. vi. 100 Britton also, from such their freedom, calls..their tenure sokemanries. 1865 NICHOLS *Britton* II. 5 *note*, Burgages and sokemanries are changed for such villenages into free tenure. 1896 PEARMAN *Manor of Bensington* 38 There were about forty four sokemanries.

Soken (sōu·k'n). Now *Hist.* Forms: 1 (9) socn, 3 socne, sockne, 6 socon(e; 4 so(o)kne, sokene, 5 sokyn, 5– soken. [OE. *sócn*, = ON. and Icel. *sókn* (Norw. *sokn*; Sw. *socken*, Da. *sogn* parish), Goth. *sōkns* search, enquiry (cf. OHG. *sôhni*), f. *sōk-* stem of OE. *sécan*, ON. *sækja*, etc., to SEEK. See also the comb. CHURCH-SOKEN.]

† **1.** An attack or assault. *Obs. rare.*

Beowulf 1777 Ic þære socne singales wæg modceare micle.

† **2.** Resort to, or visiting of, a place; habitual going or haunting. *Obs.*

c 1000 ÆLFRIC *Hom.* II. 508 Ða towende se biscop þæt weofod, and þa dwollican socne mid-ealle adwæscte. *a* 1023 WULFSTAN *Hom.* (1883) 134 We..ure synna..ȝeorne betan mid..ælmessan & mid ciriclicere socne. *c* 1205 LAY. 2365 Þat inne swiðe feire stude from socne þes folkes. *c* 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 261 Heo þouȝte, for heo was so i-knowe,.. Þe lasse sockne heo hadde [=would have] of hire folie. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 463/2 Sookne, or custome of hauntynge.., *frequentacio, concursus.*

† **b.** *spec.* Resort of tenants or others to a particular mill to have their corn ground; the right of the mill to such custom. (Cf. SOKE[1] 3.) *Obs.*

c 1386 CHAUCER *Reeve's T.* 67 Gret soken hath this meller, out of doute, With whete and malt, of al the lond aboute. 1523 FITZHERB. *Surv.* 9 b, That maner of grynding is called loue Socone, and the lordes tenauntes be called bonde socon. 1591 *Knaresborough Wills* (Surtees) I. 175 Dareley mylne, with the soken and suite there to belonginge.

† **3.** Right of prosecution, legal investigation, or jurisdiction. Cf. SOKE[1] 1. *Obs.*

a 1012 *Laws of Æthelred* III. xi, Nan man naȝe nane socne oðer cynges þeȝen buton cyng sylf. *a* 1066 in Kemble *Codex Dipl.* IV. 200 Swa ðæt nan scyrȝerefe oððe motȝerefe ðar habban æni socne oððe ȝemot buton ðes abbudes aȝen hæsse. [1114–8 *Laws Hen. I*, XIX. 2 (Liebermann), Omnium terrarum, quas rex in dominio suo habet, socnam pariter habet.] 1155 in *Anglia* VII. 220 Pæt ic hæbbe heom ȝeunnon..saca & socne..ofer heore aȝene men.

† **b.** (See quot.) *Obs.*[—1]

1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) II. 95 Soka, sute of court, and þerof comeþ Sokene, but Sokene oþerwhile is forto aske lawe in þe gretter court.

4. = SOKE[1] 2.

c 1030 in *Eng. Hist. Rev.* (1912) Jan. 15 Ðis is seo socn into Scyre-burna, mid folc-rihte. [*c* 1133–54 *Libertas Lond.* 4 Donec custos illius socne, in qua manserit, de recto tenendo uicecomiti defecerit.] 1362 LANGL. *P. Pl.* A. II. 78 Rondulf þe Reue of Rotelondes sokene. 1393 *Ibid.* C. III. 111 Bette þe budele of banneburies sokne. 1465 *Paston Lett.* II. 204 Yt ys told me that ȝong Heydon reysyth mych pepyl in the sokyn. 1485 *Rolls of Parlt.* VI. 284/1 The Castell, Mannor and Lordshipp of Kimbalton, with the Sokyn of the same. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* I. 535 About Venice and all that tract, the Willowes serue the turne and none else, by reason that the whole soken standeth so much vpon water. *a* 1670 in Blount *Law Dict.* s.v. *Rime*, In the Countrey hard was we That in our Soken shrews should be. 1861 HOOK *Lives Abps.* I. v. 245 By his right of lord of the socn he could try and execute thieves found upon any of his estates. 1874 STUBBS *Const. Hist.* (1875) I. v. 80 The lord of a soken and patron of hundreds of servants and followers.

Soken, obs. f. pa. pple. SOAK *v.*; var. SOAKEN *v. Obs.* **Soker,** obs. form of SOAKER. **Sokere, Sokerel,** obs. ff. SUCKER, SUCKEREL. **Soket,** obs. f. SOCKET *sb.*; var. SUCKET *Obs.* **Sokey:** see WATER SOKEY. **Sokil blome:** see SUCKLE-BLOOM. **Sokkat,** obs. f. SOCKET *sb.* **Sokket,** var. SUCKET *Obs.*

‖ **Soko** (sōu·kōu). [Native African name.] A species of anthropoid ape discovered by Livingstone near Lake Tanganyika.

1870 LIVINGSTONE *Last Jrnl.* 24 Aug., The soko, if large, would do well to stand for a picture of the Devil. 1875 *Zoologist* X. 4359 The soko is so cunning, and has such sharp eyes, that no one can stalk him in front without being seen. 1898 E. P. EVANS *Evol. Ethics* ix. 343 Some species of monkeys, like the chimpanzees and sokos, get up concerts of their own.

Sokour(e, obs. forms of SUCCOUR *sb.* and *v.*

Sol (sǫl), *sb.*[1] [L. *sōl* (for earlier **sāol*, **sāwol*), = Gr. ἥλιος (Homeric ἠέλιος, Cretan ἀβέλιος), Skr. *suvar*, Lith. *sáule*, Goth. *sauil*, ON. and Icel. *sól* (Norw., Sw., Da. *sol*), Welsh *haul.*]

1. The sun (personified).

Used without article and written with capital S.

c 1450 *Treat. Astrol.* (MS. Ashm. 337) 2 Sol is hote & dry but not as mars is. 1592 KYD *Span. Trag.* I. i. 23 Ere Sol had slept three nights in Thetis lap. 1593 PEELE *Poems* Wks. (Rtldg.) 601 More beautiful..Than Sol himself amid the Planets seven. 1609 *Ev. Woman in Hum.* II. in Bullen *O. Pl.* IV, His smile is like the Meridian Sol Discern'd a dauncing in the burbling brook. 1670 D. DENTON *Brief Desc. New York* (1845) 19 The Vines..doth shelter them from the scorching beams of Sols fiery influence. 1712–4 POPE *Rape Lock* I. 13 Sol thro' white curtains shot a tim'rous ray. 1792 COWPER *Retired Cat* 62 Till Sol, declining in the west, Shall call to supper. 1820 COMBE *Syntax, Consol.* V. (Chandos) 203 In bright Sol's diurnal round, No such delightful place was found. 1837 P. KEITH *Bot. Lex.* 277 Clytie, inconsolable for the loss of the affections of Sol,..is represented as brooding over her griefs in silence and in solitude.

† **2. a.** *Alch.* Gold. *Obs.*

a 1386 CHAUCER *Can. Yeom. Prol. & T.* 273 Sol gold is, and Luna silver we threpe. [1460–70 *Bk. Quintessence* I. (1866) 3 Good gold naturel..is clepid of philosophoris sol in latyn.] 1477 NORTON *Ordin. Alch.* iii. in Ashm. (1652) 41 Sol by it selfe, or Mercury alone, Or Sulphur with them. 1591 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* I. iv. 400 Pure goldy-locks, Sol, States'-friend, Honor-giver. 1599 T. M[OUFET] *Silkwormes* 45 Zeuxis his painted dogge shal barke and whine When Ioue they turne to Sol or Luna fine. 1606 J. DAVIES (Heref.) *Select Husband* Wks. (Grosart) II. 7/1 Though Beauty then seem Sol, at least as rich, It wil be found but Lune, on Tryalls touch. 1610 B. JONSON *Alch.* II. iii, Bright Sol is in his robe. 1651 [see SOLARY *a.* 2]. 1758 [see JUPITER 2 b].

† **b.** *Her.* (In blazoning by planets instead of metals) = OR *sb. Obs.*

1610 GUILLIM *Heraldry* 83 Hee beareth Luna, on a Chiefe Iupiter, a Cherub displaied, Sol. *a* 1646 J. GREGORY *Posthuma, Assyrian Monarchie* (1650) 235 Emperors and Kings ought to bear Gold in their Arms, and then it might bee thus; The Field is *Sol* a Dove volant proper. 1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), *Sol*..is taken..in Heraldry for the Gold Colour, in the Coats of Soveraign Princes. 1709 HEARNE *Collect.* 6 Nov., Canterbury bears a Staff in Pale Sol. [1880 *Encycl. Brit.* XI. 691/2 Or, Yellow, Topaz, Sol.]

† **c.** ? The topaz. *Obs.*

1567 MAPLET *Greene Forest* 21 Sol the Precious stone, is in colour like to the Sunne, and is called Sol, for that it giueth reflexions of Sunne beames.

Sol (sǫl, sōul), *sb.*[2] *Mus.* Also 6 **soule,** 7 **soll.** [The first syllable of L. *solve*: see GAMUT.] The fifth note of Guido's hexachords, and of the octave in modern solmization; the note G in the natural scale of C major.

c 1325 in *Rel. Ant.* I. 292 Sol and ut and la, And that froward file that men clepis fa. *a* 1529 SKELTON *Bouge of Court* 258 Wolde to God, it wolde please you some daye.. to..lerne me to synge, Re, my, fa, sol! 1565 *Kyng Daryus* 739 (Brandl), La, soule, soule, fa, my. 1596 SHAKS. *Tam. Shr.* III. i. 77 D sol re, one Cliffe, two notes haue I. 1626 MIDDLETON *Anything for Quiet Life* v. ii, You shall never talk your voice above the key sol, sol, sol. 1662 PLAYFORD *Skill Music* (1674) I Ut and Re are now changed into Sol and La. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Sol-fa-ing*, From *fa* to *sol* is a Tone; also from *sol* to *la*. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XII. 547/2 From the adjuncts of the mode, that is to say, the modes of its two fifths, which for *ut* are *fa* and *sol*, and *re* and *mi* for *la*. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 194/1. 1873 H. C. BANISTER *Music* 32 The lowest note, Sol, or G.

Hence **Sol** *v.* (in nonce-use).

1592 SHAKS. *Rom. & Jul.* IV. v. 121 (Q.[1]), Ile re you, Ile fa you, Ile sol you.

‖ **Sol** (sǫl), *sb.*[3] Now *Hist.* Also 6 **soul.** [Older F. *sol* (now *sou* SOU), = Prov. *sol*, Pg. and It. *soldo*, Sp. *sueldo* :—L. *solidum*, acc. of *solidus* (sc. *nummus*) a gold coin.] A former coin and money of account in France and some other countries, equal to the twentieth part of a livre, but varying in actual value at different times and places.

1583 STOCKER *Civ. Warres Lowe C.* III. 87 A pot of sweete mylke, a groat and an halfe, and a pounde of butter two souls. 1605 B. JONSON *Volpone* IV. ii, This fellow, For six sols more, would plead against his Maker. 1611 CORYAT *Crudities* 250 Every Chiquinie containing eleven Livers and twelve Sols: the Liver is nine pence, the Sol an halfe-penny. 1639 S. DU VERGER tr. *Camus' Admir. Events* 352 He put his hand into his pocket, and thinking to draw out a Sol, which is little more than an English penny,..gave it him. 1748 SMOLLETT *R. Random* xliv, My pay..amounted to five sols a day. 1789 BURKE *Corr.* (1844) III. 122 A new paper-currency..which is to bear an interest of one sol in the livre. 1809 A. HENRY *Trav.* 54 In this exchange, a pound of beaver-skin is reckoned at sixty sols. [1873 HALE *In His Name* i. 2 He would relax his hold on the odd sols and deniers as if he had never clung to them.]

† **Sol,** *sb.*[4] *Obs.* [Abbreviation of *solution*: see OB *sb.*[1]] The solution of a scholastic problem.

1588–1678 [see OB *sb.*[1]].

‖ **Sol** (sōul), *sb.*[5] Pl. **soles.** [Sp. *sol* sun: see SOL *sb.*[1]] A Spanish-American (now Peruvian) silver coin worth about two shillings.

1884 BEDFORD *Sailor's Handbk.* 126 Peruvian Gold: 20 Sol Piece, £3 18 6. *Ibid.*, Peruvian: Soles, £0 3 6. 1894 *Daily News* 20 Dec. 5/2 The United States dollar being substituted for the Central American silver dollar or sol as the standard of value. The value of the sol is about 50 cents. (U.S. currency).

† **Sol,** *a. Obs.* Also **sole.** [Related to SOLE *v.*[3] Cf. SOLWY *a.*] Soiled, dirty.

c 1200 *Trin. Hom.* 57 Sume bereð sole cloð to þe watere forto wasshen it clene. *Ibid.* 163 His alter cloð [is] great and sole, and hire chemise smal & hwit, & te albe sol, & hire smoc hwit. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 324 Wule a weob been..mid one watere wel ibleched, oðer a sol cloð hwit iwaschen?

‖ **Sola** (sōu·lă), *sb.* Also **solah,** and *erron.* SOLAR. [Urdū and Bengālī *solā* = Hindī *sholā*: see SHOLA.] A tall leguminous swamp-plant (*Æschynomena aspera* or *paludosa*) of India; the pith of this employed in making light hats. Used *attrib.* with *hat, helmet, topee.*

(*a*) 1848 tr. *Hoffmeister's Trav. Ceylon*, etc. vii. 248 With only a shirt and a '*solah*' hat. 1857 LADY CANNING in Hare *Two Noble Lives* (1893) II. 255 [The mounted volunteers] with sola helmets on their heads. 1901 *Daily Chron.* 27 May 4/5 Instead of the uncomfortable regulation helmet they are provided with Sola hats.

(*b*) 1845 STOCQUELER *Handbk. Brit. India* (1854) 92 It will be prudent to wear a sola topee, or hat composed of the soft pulp of a tree. 1872 E. BRADDON *Life India* II. 20 [Where the trees] pour down richly-scented blossoms upon his sola topee. 1900 *Blackw. Mag.* Apr. 516/1 A solah topi with a green-lined rim.

‖ **Sola** (sōu·lă), *a.* [L. *sōla*, fem. of *sōlus* SOLUS, and It. *sola*, fem. of *solo* SOLO.]

1. Of females: Sole, solitary, alone.

1753 RICHARDSON *Grandison* (1811) V. xxi. 137 Aunt Nell would not have descended *sola* into her greys, nor Cicely Badger neither, if they might have obtained the men of their choice. 1768 MISS BURNEY *Early Diary* (1889) I. 10, I should be content to love *Sola*—and let *Dueto* be reserved for those who have a proper sense of their superiority. 1825 T. HOOK *Sayings* Ser. II. *Sutherl.* I. 39 James..found the matron *sola*, and evidently prepared for a solemn discussion of the weighty affair.

2. *techn.* Of bills: (see quot.).

1866 CRUMP *Banking* v. 101 A 'sola' bill of exchange is a single bill, as distinguished from bills drawn in 'sets'.

† **Sola,** *int. Obs.* Also **sowla.** [Cf. SOHO *int.* and *hola* HOLLA.] A call or cry to attract attention or notice.

1588 SHAKS. *L. L. L.* IV. i. 151 Ah heauens, it is most patheticall nit. Sowla, sowla. 1596 — *Merch. V.* v. i. 43 *Loren.* Who calls? *Clo.* Sola, did you see M. Lorenzo?

† **So·lable,** *a. Obs.*—[0] [f. L. *sōlārī* to comfort.] 1623 COCKERAM I, *Solelable* [sic], which may be comforted.

Solace (sǫ·lĕs), *sb.*[1] Forms: *a.* 3–6 **solas,** 5–6 **solasse,** 6 *Sc.* **solaes, soles.** *β.* 4– **solace,** 4–6 **sollace.** (See also SOLANCE *sb.*) [a. OF. *solas*, later *soulas* (now dial.), = Prov. *solatz*, Sp. *solaz*, It. *sollazzo* :—L. *sōlācium, sōlātium*, f. the stem of *sōlārī* to comfort, console. Cf. MDu. and MLG. *solaes.*]

1. Comfort, consolation; alleviation of sorrow, distress, or discomfort.

a. c 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 220 Hidere þou come for ovre solas, and nouȝt suych deol to make. *c* 1300 *Life of Becket*, etc. (Percy Soc.) 138 Vourty dawes he was, In a chaumbre al one withoute eni Solas. *c* 1400 *Rom. Rose* 2789, I shalle yeve thee..Three other thingis, that gret solas Doith to hem that be in my las. *c* 1440 *Gesta Rom.* v. 13 (Harl. MS.), I pray þe, wepe not, but make me solas and comfort, and chere me. 1530 PALSGR. 272 Solasse, comforte, *solas, recomfort, solace.*

β. 1338 R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (1810) 252 His solace was alle reft, þat scho fro him was gon, Ne no sonne him left. 1382 WYCLIF *Heb.* xiii. 22 Forsothe, britheren, I preie ȝou, that ȝe suffre a word of solace. *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (Roxb.) Pref. 2 Peroff þai hafe grete solace and comforthe. 1483 CAXTON *Gold. Leg.* 203/2, I am with the and shalle gyue to the the solace of my seruaunt paule. 1575 *Mirr. Mag., Hen. VI*, xvii, The solace of my soule my chiefest pleasure was. 1593 SHAKS. 2 *Hen. VI*, II. iii. 21 Sorrow would [have] sollace, and mine Age would ease. 1611 HEYWOOD *Gold. Age* I. i, I'le warre with comfort, be at oddes with solace. 1677 MARVELL *Corr.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 560 You will..have the usual solace of those who goe to law, that your adversary hath been at no lesse charges. 1768–74 TUCKER *Lt. Nat.* (1834) II. 653, I want to lay in a stock of solace which shall not fail me in time of need. 1791 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Rom. Forest* iv, She wept also that she could no longer seek solace in the friendship of Adeline. 1839 JAMES *Louis XIV*, III. 143 Though the relief of reading was allowed as some solace to his overloaded heart. 1879 W. H. DIXON *Royal Windsor* II. xvii. 182 Time brought no solace to her widowed heart.

† **2.** Pleasure, enjoyment, delight; entertainment, recreation, amusement. *Obs.*

a. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 370 To honti & to winne is mete & to abbe solas & game. *a* 1320 *Sir Tristrem* 2856 Per was miche solas Of alle maner soun And gle. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Frankl. T.* 74 He goth to his cuntre,..Wher as he lyveth in

blisse and in solas. *c* 1430 LYDG. *Minor Poems* (Percy Soc.) 80 Thus thay songe..This melodious ympne withe grete solas. 1484 CAXTON *Fables of Poge* iv, [Hunting and hawking] ought not to be done ful ofte, but somtyme for to take disporte and solas. 1525 LD. BERNERS *Froiss.* II. clx. 178 b, For he kepte reuyll, daunsyng, and solas: and euery daye it was newe to begyn. 1551 R. ROBINSON tr. *More's Utopia* I. (1895) p. xciv, An yle..Ful fraight with worldly welth, with pleasure and solas.

β. a 1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* lxxvi. 3 He amonestis vs to pass fra erthly solace and 3ern anly delit of heuen. 1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. xviii. 217 God of his goodnesse..Sette hym in solace & in souereigne myrthe. *c* 1400 *Pilgr. Sowle* iv. i. (Caxton, 1483) 58 Hym nedeth of solace and disport wher with to appesen his herte. 1480 CAXTON *Myrr.* II. iii. 67 This is a place whiche is ful of solace, of playsances and of delices. 1519 *Interlude Four Elements* (Percy Soc.) 45 Let us go to the taverne agayn, And make some mery solace. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* II. vi. 3 And therein sate a Ladie fresh and faire, Making sweet solace to her selfe alone. 1615 G. SANDYS *Trav.* 176 Sundry smal turrets are dispersed about, which serue for solace as well as for safe-guard. *a* 1629 HINDE *J. Bruen* xxix. (1641) 90 O how great was his rejoycing, and solace, when..he might rejoyce the soules of Gods people. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* IX. 844 Great joy he promis'd to his thoughts, and new Solace in her return.

3. That which gives comfort or consolation, † brings pleasure or enjoyment, etc.

c 1290 *Beket* 178 in *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 111 For he scholde hire solas beo, and speke to hire with mouþe. *a* 1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* xxxvii. 11 In þere twa solaces man ioyes. *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (Roxb.) xix. 88 He hase forsaken..all þe ricches and solacez of þe werld. *c* 1450 tr. *De Imitatione* II. v. 45 God allone.. is þe solace of mannys soule & very gladnes of herte. 1597 HOOKER *Eccl. Pol.* v. lxxvi. § 8 All which solaces and comforts of this our vnquiet life it pleaseth God oftentimes to bestow. 1597 BACON *Ess., Of Honour & Reputation* (Arb.) 74 Fauorites, such as exceede not this scantling to bee sollace to the Soueraigne. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* IV. 486 To have thee by my side Henceforth an individual solace dear. 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* xxxiv, Tell your lady..that this [picture] has been my companion and only solace in all my misfortunes. 1849 ROBERTSON *Serm.* Ser. I. viii. 125 He had cut himself off from the solaces of life.

4. *Printing.* (See quot. 1683.)

1683 MOXON *Mech. Exerc., Printing* 357 The Penalty for the breach of..these Laws and Customs is in Printers Language called a Solace. 1683 [see SOLACE *v.* 4]. 1888 JACOBI *Printers' Vocab.* 128 *Solace*, a penalty imposed by the chapel for the infringement of any of its rules.

† **5.** *Rose of solace*, = ROSA SOLIS 2. *Obs.*—1

1604 *Meet. of Gallants at Ordinary* C j b, To the comforting of his poore heart, he powrde downe a leauen shillings in Rose of Solace.

† **Solace,** *sb.*2 *Obs.* Also 6 **sollace.** [Of obscure origin.] Some substance used for dressing cloth.

1552 *Act* 5 & 6 *Edw. VI*, c. 6 § xiv, Whether the same Clothe or Clothes be well and sufficiently dressed and pressed withe the colde presse, without puttinge therto flox, solace, chalke, flower, or any other deceiptfull thinge. *c* 1560 *Maldon Liber B.* fol. 56 (MS.), Without puttinge therto flocks, sollace, chalke, flower, heare, or any yearne made of lambes wooll. 1613 MAY *Decl. Est. Clothing* v. 29 Flox of the same coulour ..which they can sheare as small as dust, which mixt with solace, they spread vpon the musters, and where the cloth may bee seene.

Solace (sɒ·lĕs), *v.* Forms: 3-4 **solaci, -cy,** 3- **solace,** 4-5 **solas(e,** 5 **solais,** 6 **solles,** 8 **solless.** (See also SOLANCE *v.*) [ad. OF. *solacier, solasier*, etc., later *soulacier* (now arch.), f. *solas* SOLACE *sb.*1 Cf. Sp. *solazar*, It. *sollazzare*, med.L. *solatiari, -are*; MDu. *solasen, -acen.*]

1. *trans.* To cheer, comfort, console; † to entertain or recreate.

1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 11511 Sir simon de Mountfort out of warde nom Sir edward him to solaci. 13.. *Sir Beues* 711 So him solaste þat mai, þat al is care wente awai. *c* 1380 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* II. 226 Crist tauȝte men to suffre..and putte hem in hope þerfore to be solasid of God. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 1620 Mony gaumes were begonnen þe grete for to solas. *Ibid.* 13984 Myche solast hir the sight of hir sone þan, To se the lede vppon lyue, þat ho louet most. *c* 1475 *Harl. Contin. Higden* (Rolls) VIII. 456 Thei destroyede a newe maner made..by that prior..for to solace hym and his breþer þer. 1588 SHAKS. *L. L. L.* IV. iii. 377 We will with some strange pastime solace them. 1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), To *Solace*, to afford Solace or Comfort. 1790 COWPER *On My Mother's Picture* 4 Thy own sweet smiles I see, The same that oft in childhood solaced me. 1812 J. WILSON *Isle of Palms* I. 506 And it may be such dreams are given..To solace them that mourn. 1868 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* (1877) II. 86 They were often solaced by the company of wives and children.

absol. 1820 SHELLEY *Prometh. Unb.* III. iv. 32 Thy simple talk once solaced, now delights.

b. To make (a place) cheerful or pleasant.

1667 MILTON *P. L.* VII. 434 From Branch to Branch the smaller Birds with song Solac'd the Woods. 1746 J. HERVEY *Medit.* (1818) 186 Ye Birds..who wake the morn, and solace the groves with your artless lays. 1875 GRINDON *Life* I. 8 The walls of old castles and abbeys, which..ivy and the faithful wallflower alone have solaced.

c. To allay, alleviate, assuage, soothe.

1667 MILTON *P. L.* VIII. 419 The cause of his desire By conversation with his like to help, Or solace his defects. 1712 BLACKMORE *Creation* v. 60 A Cause Supream,..Who, when implor'd, might timely Succour give, Solace our Anguish, and our Wants relieve. 1797 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Italian* xvii, Paulo was contented to solace his conscience. 1819 SHELLEY *Cenci* III. i. 311 We sate sad together Solacing our despondency with tears. 1833 TENNYSON *Two Voices* 433 A little hint to solace woe.

2. *refl.* To give (oneself) comfort or consolation, † entertainment or amusement.

1340 *Ayenb.* 213 þer-huile þet ich me solâci an playe, iche ne þenche none manne kuead. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 1752 Siker were to sit and solas vs here. *c* 1470 *Gol. & Gaw.* 217 Thus thay solaist thame selvin, suthly to say. 1568 GRAFTON *Chron.* II. 107 Solacyng himselfe with Musicall instrumentes & songes. 1583 BABINGTON *Commandm.* (1590) 314 We dare solace our selues in soft beddes too long for our constitutions. 1639 FULLER *Holy War* III. xv, Henry king of Ierusalem, as he was walking in his palace to solace himself, fell down..and brake his neck. 1691 RAY *Creation* II. (1704) 464 With the Thoughts and Expectation whereof he solaces himself. 1746 J. HERVEY *Medit.* (1818) 21 He solaced himself with the prospect of a long, long series of earthly satisfactions. 1860 MOTLEY *Netherl.* (1868) I. v. 283 Duplessis-Mornay often solaced himself by distant communion with that kindred and sympathizing spirit. 1887 RUSKIN *Præterita* II. 231 He solaced himself by making a careful collection of all the Florentine wild-flowers for me.

† **3.** *intr.* To take comfort or consolation, recreation or enjoyment. *Obs.*

1340 *Ayenb.* 213 Huet kuead is hit yef ich guo playe and solaci. *c* 1475 *Harl. Contin. Higden* (Rolls) VIII. 447 Thei brente þeire faces with yrne that thei scholde not be knowen, and þat Ynglische men scholde not solace of þeire dethe. 1530 PALSGR. 724/2, I am werye of studyenge, I wyll go solace a lytell. 1592 TIMME *Ten Eng. Lepers* 63 Friends do solace and joy togither in honest and godly mirth. 1618 BOLTON *Florus* (1636) 313 He,..surprised with the love of Queen Cleopatra, solaced on her bosome. 1673 *Lady's Calling* I. iii. § 6 Let him stand naked and hungry, whilst they are solacing with that which would relieve him. 1728 VANBR. & CIBBER *Prov. Husb.* I, She herself is solacing in one continual round of cards and good company.

4. *trans.* Of printers: To punish (one) corporally for non-payment of a 'solace'. Also *transf.*

1683 MOXON *Mech. Exerc., Printing* 357 If the Delinquent ..would not pay his Solace..they Solac'd him. 1784 B. FRANKLIN in *Ann. Reg., Chron.* (1817) 385 This foolish letter is mere chit-chat between ourselves... If, therefore, you show it to any body,..I will positively solless you.

Hence **So·laced** *ppl. a.*, comforted, consoled.

1836 MRS. BROWNING *Poet's Vow* II. ii, The solaced friends.

Solaceful (sɒ·lĕsfŭl), *a. rare.* [f. SOLACE *sb.*1 + -FUL 1.] Full of solace; pleasant, agreeable.

a 1618 SYLVESTER *Job Triumphant* IV. 687 The Lord accepted Job, and staid His Thrall-full State,..And turned it to Solace-full, from sad. 1884 J. PAYNE *Tales fr. Arabic* I. 225 How joyous and how solaceful was life in them whilere!

Solacement (sɒ·lĕsmĕnt). [f. SOLACE *sb.*1 + -MENT. So OF. *sollace-, soulacement.*] Solace, solacing, consolation.

1721 R. KEITH tr. *T. à Kempis, Solil. Soul* xviii. 253 Being disappointed in thy outward Solacement. 1768–74 TUCKER *Lt. Nat.* (1834) II. 545 Discovering daily new sources of solacement we had not discerned before. 1824 SCOTT *Redgauntlet* (1830) II. xix. 214 That..was a solacement of his feelings which was not at the moment to be thought of. 1871 CARLYLE in *Mrs. Carlyle's Lett.* I. 370 Rather as in duty bound than with much hope of solacement.

Solacer (sɒ·lĕsəɹ). [f. SOLACE *v.* + -ER 1.] One who, or that which, solaces.

1611 COTGR., *Consolateur*, a consolator, solacer, comforter. 1803 LAMB *Let. to Coleridge* in *Final Mem.* IV. 225 A pipe and some generous Port, and King Lear..had their effect as solacers. 1873 MISS BRADDON *Lucius Davoren* I. Prol. i. 7 Tobacco, that sweet solacer of weary hours.

Solacing (sɒ·lĕsiŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. SOLACE *v.*] The action of the verb in various senses; † the fact of taking enjoyment or recreation.

13.. *K. Alis.* 6746 (W.), Now rideth Alisaunder,..with muche syngyng, In gret delit and solasyng. 1382 WYCLIF 1 *Cor.* xiv. 3 He..spekith to men, to edificacioun,..and comfortynge, or solasynge. 1540–1 ELYOT *Image Gov.* (1549) 81 In this solacyng he hunted the harte. *c* 1560 A. SCOTT *Poems* (S.T.S.) xviii. 43 Adew,..My mirth and sollesing Of erdly gloir. 1631 N. HUNT (*title*), New Recreations, or The Mindes release and solacing. 1683 MOXON *Mech. Exerc., Printing* 357 The manner of Solacing, thus.

So·lacing, *ppl. a.* [f. SOLACE *v.*] Conveying solace; consoling.

1721 R. KEITH tr. *T. à Kempis, Solil. Soul* x. 179 The solacing Joy of the Spirit. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. VII. vii, For wrath is contagious, and to pent Bodyguards is so solacing. 1862 H. SPENCER *First Princ.* I. v. § 32 (1875) 115 The beliefs..were highly solacing ones. 1890 *Pall Mall G.* 20 Jan. 6/3 Miss Fowler received these solacing remarks with quiet serenity.

† **Sola·cious,** *a. Obs.* Forms: 5-6 **solacius,** 5-7 **solacious**; 5 **solacyose,** 5-6 **-ous,** 6 **-ouse,** *Sc.* **-us**; 6-7 **solatious.** [a. OF. *solacieus* (*soulaceus*, etc.), f. *solas* SOLACE *sb.*1 So Sp. *solazoso.*] Affording or giving solace, in various senses of the sb. (Common *c* 1500–1650.)

1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* x. 290 In cumpany solacius He wes, and thar-with amorus. *c* 1450 tr. *De Imitatione* III. xxiii. 92 þou allone art hiest,..þou allone most swete & most solacious. 1451 CAPGR. *Life St. Gilbert* 70 He talked mor þan ete, and with solacious countenauns wold he glade his gestis. *a* 1470 H. PARKER *Dives & Pauper* (W. de W. 1496) III. xvii. 153/1 The holy daye hath ben solacyous..both for soule and bodye. 1503 HAWES *Examp. Virt.* II. xxvii, For they be so fayre and wounderous That theym to se it is solacyous. 1546 BALE *English Votaries* I. 18 b, Women greuouse and solacyouse. 1581 MARBECK *Bk. Notes* 1164 Delicious it is in aduersitie, & solatious in all weaknes. 1611 J. DAVIES (Heref.) *Sco. Folly* xliv, Fountaine of Conceits acute and solacious. 1641 SYMONDS *Serm. Ho. Comm.* P 3 What can be more solatious to a Christian Spirit? 1675 COCKER *Morals* 41 Old Friends to trust, old Gold to keep, old Wine To drink; are a solacious good old Trine. [1826 GALT *Lairds* xiii, Such solacious participation in the influences of the season, as he called it.]

Hence † **Sola·ciously** *adv. Obs.*

1526 SKELTON *Magnyf.* 2395 Prosperyte to hym is gyuen solacyusly to man.

† **Solacy.** *Obs.*—1 [ad. L. *solaci-um*: see SOLACE *sb.*1] Solace.

1533 tr. *Erasm. Comm. Crede* 13 That laboure..the spyryte doth make dulcete and swete with so many solacyes and coumfortes.

† **Solagement.** *Obs.*—1 [ad. F. *soulagement*, † *sollagement*, f. *soulager* to relieve.] Relief.

1609 J. DAVIES (Heref.) *Holy Rood* F b, That in the Lab'rinth of his Languishment We may..find solagement.

Solah, variant of SOLA *sb.*

† **Solaire,** var. (after OF. *solaire*) of *salaire*, obs. f. SALARY *sb.*

1491 CAXTON *Vitas Patr.* (W. de W. 1495) I. xxxvii. 48 b/2 He wold haue gyuen to the Maronner for his solaire a boke of the gospellis.

‖ **Solak.** *rare.* Also 6 **sola** (?), 7 **solach, solaque.** [a. Turkish صولاق *ṣōlāq.* So F. *solak.*] (See quots.)

The identity of the word in the first quot. is doubtful.

1520 *Caxton's Chron. Eng.* VII. 141 b/1 In yᵉ iiij yeare of kynge Henryes reygne came yᵉ Emperour of Constantynople with many greate solaes [*Brut and Caxton* lordes] & knyghtes. [1615 G. SANDYS *Trav.* I. 75 The Pretorian footmen called the *Solacchi*, whereof there be in number three hundred.] 1678 PHILLIPS, *Solachs*, those of the Grand Seigniors Foot-guard, who are about three hundred, attending upon him with Bows and Arrows. 1687 A. LOVELL tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* I. 69 The Solaques are also of the Infantry, and are the Grand Signior's..Life-guard, for they attend the Grand Signior when he goes abroad in the city. 1802 JAMES *Milit. Dict., Solaks*, bowmen or archers belonging to the personal guard of the grand signor.

Solan (sōu·lăn). Forms: *a.* 5– **soland** (7 **sorland**), 6 **solande, -end,** 7–8 **solund.** *β.* 6 **solane,** 7– **solan**; 8 **sollen.** [f. ON. and Icel. *súla* (also Icel. *hafsúla*, Norw. *havsula*) gannet; the second element may be ON. *ǫnd, and-* (Norw., Sw., Da. *and*) duck. Originally Sc., but known to English writers from the middle of the 17th cent.]

1. The gannet (*Sula bassana*), a large sea-fowl resembling a goose, which frequents a few rocks and small islands of Britain, the Færöes, Iceland, and Canada.

c 1450 HOLLAND *Howlat* 700 The Soland [as] stewart was sent; For he couth fro the firmament Fang the fische deid. 1749 COLLINS *On Popular Superstit.* x, Along the Atlantic rock, undreading climb, And of its eggs despoil the solan's nest. 1808 SCOTT *Marm.* III. iii, The rafters. Bore wealth of winter cheer; Of sea-fowl dried, and solands store. *a* 1851 MOIR *The Bass Rock* ii, At times the solan's wing..Brushed near us. 1873 BLACK *Pr. Thule* III. ix. 285 A white solan ..struck the water as he dived.

2. *attrib.* with *goose*, = sense 1.

a. 1536 BELLENDEN *Chron. Scot.* ix. (1541) B vj b, In it [the Bass Rock] ar incredible noumer of soland geis; ..And ar sene in na part of Albion, bot in this crag and Ailsay. 1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* (S.T.S.) I. 55 The neist Ile named Elza..abundes in Solend geis, and monie vthiris sey foulis. 1651 CLEVELAND *Poems* 37 A Scot, when from the Gallow-Tree got loose, Drops into Styx, and turns a Solund-Goose. 1678 BUTLER *Hud.* III. ii. 655 As Barnacles turn Soland-Geese In th' Islands of the Orcades. 1694 FALLE *Jersey* ii. 73 Here are to be seen the famous Sorland Geese, whose Equivocal Generation..is received by many amongst Us for Truth. 1710 SIBBALD *Hist. Fife* II. 45 The Fowls which most frequent the Bass, are the *Anseres Bassani* or Soland-Geese. 1768 PENNANT *Brit. Zool.* I. Pref. p. v, The clouds of Soland geese which breed on the Bass island. 1821 *Sporting Mag.* VII. 191 A Soland goose or gannet was shot by a fisherman of Southampton. 1843 YARRELL *Brit. Birds* III. 381 The Gannet, or Soland Goose.

β. 1583 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* III. 624 To draw and alluir the auld solane geise to the boittis. 1668 CHARLETON *Onomast.* 95 *Anser Bassanus*,..the Solan Goose. 1698 M. MARTIN *Voy. St. Kilda* (1749) 4 A prodigious number of Solan Geese hatching in their Nests. 1725 *Portland Papers* (Hist. MSS. Comm.) VI. 111 The Bass..I think has no inhabitants but the Solan geese which breed there. 1816 SCOTT *Antiq.* vi, There was the relishing Solan goose, whose smell is so powerful that he is never cooked within doors. 1863 *Intellect. Obs.* Sept. 118 The Solan Goose is not so numerous upon Ailsa as the puffin.

Solanaceous (sɒlănē·ʃəs), *a. Bot.* [f. mod.L. *Solanace-æ*, f. L. *sōlānum* nightshade.] Belonging to the *Solanaceæ*, an order of gamopetalous plants which includes the genera *Solanum, Capsicum, Atropa, Hyoscyamus*, etc.

1804 *Med. Jrnl.* XII. 519 The fruits of several solanaceous plants, as the pseudocapsicum, and the common capsicum. 1822–7 GOOD *Study Med.* (1829) III. 309 The remark will apply to most of the narcotics, whether of the umbellate or solanaceous order. 1875 *Athenæum* 24 July 123/3 The influence of poisonous solanaceous plants,—especially belladonna,—on certain rodents and marsupials.

Solanal (sō·lănal), *a.* and *sb. Bot.* [f. L. *sōlān-um.*] **a.** *adj.* Of or pertaining to, related to, *Solanum* and other genera according to Lindley's classification. **. b.** *sb.* A genus or plant related to *Solanum.*

1846 LINDLEY *Veg. Kingd.* 615 The Solanal Alliance... Natural Orders of Solanals. *Ibid.* 616 Solanal Exogens.

† **Solance,** *sb. Obs.* [Alteration of SOLACE *sb.*1, after forms in *-ance.*] Solace.

c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xxix. (*Placidas*) 728 As 3ung men wil do for solance, & als to mak þar acquintance. *c* 1400 *Melayne* 357 Ne hope ȝe noghte..þat ne we sall solance see. *Ibid.* 831 Thay crownnede þe Sowdane.., þat Solance was to seene.

So †**Solance** *v. Obs.*

13.. *Guy Warw.* 4293 Gij bileft in court atte mete, Him to play & solanci. *a* 1400 *Relig. Pieces fr. Thornton MS.* 9 Þe third es, to solance [*printed* solauce] thaym þat er sorowefull.

Solander (sŏlæ·ndəɹ). [From the name of the Swedish botanist D. C. *Solander* (1736–1782).] A box made in the form of a book, used for holding botanical specimens, papers, maps, etc.

1788 COWPER *Let. to Lady Hesketh* 5 July, I shall be as happy in the arrival of my Solander as he whose name it bears, was to arrive once more in England after his circumnavigation. 1877 W. JONES *Inaugural Address London Conference of Librarians* 15 Maps should be placed in Solander cases.

Solander, obs. form of SALLENDER.

Solandra (sŏlæ·ndră). [mod.L.: see SOLANDER.] A genus of tropical American shrubs belonging to the *Solanaceæ* (sub-order *Atropeæ*); also, a plant belonging to this genus.

1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XVII. 597/1 The genus was first named *Solandra*, in honour of Dr. Solander, by Murray in the 14th edition of the *Systema Vegetabilium*. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1179/2 Large tubular flowers, as those of *Bignonia*,.. *Solandra*, &c. 1901 *Blackw. Mag.* Feb. 226/1 A large solandra of great age bearing yellowish trumpet-shaped flowers.

Solania (sŏlē·niă). *Chem.* [f. SOLAN-UM + -IA.] An alkaloid found in the woody nightshade.

1830 LINDLEY *Nat. Syst. Bot.* 233 The active principle of Solanum Dulcamara is an alkali, called Solania. 1884 *Encycl. Brit.* XVII. 499/2 It [*S. Dulcamara*] owes its medicinal activity to a bitter principle yielding..the alkaloid 'solania'.

Solanicine (sŏlæ·nisin). *Chem.* [f. as prec. + -IC + -INE 5.] (See quot. 1868.)

1868 WATTS *Dict. Chem.*, *Solanicine*,..a base produced by the action of hydrochloric acid on solanine. *Ibid.* 345 Solanicine..may be obtained by slow evaporation of its ethereal solution. 1876 HARLEY *Royle's Mat. Med.* 500 Strong hydrochloric acid converts this into an amorphous basic substance, *solanicine*.

Solanidine (sŏlæ·nidin). *Chem.* [Cf. prec.] (See quots.)

1868 WATTS *Dict. Chem.*, *Solanidine*,..a base produced ..by the action of acids on solanine...Solanidine dissolves easily in alcohol and in ether. 1868 *Fownes' Chem.* (ed. 10) 682 It [solanine] is resolved by boiling with dilute acids into glucose and solanidine.

Solanine (sō·lănin). *Chem.* Also **solanina, solanin.** [a. F. *solanine* (Desfosses, 1821), f. SOLAN-UM + -INE 5.] A poisonous alkaloid, or a compound containing an alkaloid, found in various plants of the genus *Solanum*.

a. 1838 T. THOMSON *Chem. Org. Bodies* 264 Solanina was discovered by M. Desfosses in the berries of the *solanum nigrum*, and in the fruit of the common potatoe. *Ibid.*, Solanina is a white powder, having a pearly lustre. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 195/2 The hydrochlorate and acetate of solanina have a gummy appearance when evaporated to dryness.

β. 1838 T. THOMSON *Chem. Org. Bodies* 841 Baup informs us, that potatoes, after they begin to grow, contain a small quantity of solanin. 1859 FAIRHOLT *Tobacco* (1876) 2 The Potato fruit and leaves give us Solanine. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VII. 91 According to Grasset, solanine diminishes the amount of tremor.

‖ **Solano** (solā·no). [Sp.:—L. *sōlānus*, f. *sōl* sun.] In Spain, a hot south-easterly wind.

[1604 E. G[RIMSTONE] *D'Acosta's Hist. Indies* III. ii. 120 The Solanus or Easterne winde is commonly hote and troublesome in Spaine.] 1792 J. TOWNSEND *Journ. thro. Spain* II. 360 Whenever they have the Solano wind, that is, whenever the wind blows from Africa, they become liable to pleurisies. 1834 *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) XXII. 343 The heat in Summer is very great, and, when the Solano or South wind blows, nearly insupportable. 1881 *Standard* 14 July 5 'Ask no grace in the Solano.' So runs the Spanish proverb.

Solanoid (sō·lănoid), *a. Path.* [f. SOLAN-UM + -OID.] (See quot.)

1851 DUNGLISON *Dict. Med. Sci.* (ed. 4), *Solanoid*, resembling a potato... An epithet applied to a form of cancer, which appears to be intermediate between scirrhus and encephaloid.

‖ **Solanum** (sŏlē·nŏm). [L. *sōlānum* nightshade.] A plant of the nightshade family, or the genus of gamopetalous plants of which this is the type; some amount or preparation of the plant used for medical purposes. Also *fig.*

1578 LYTE *Dodoens* 447 This *solanum* cooleth .. more strongly than the Common Nightshade. 1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* II. v. i. vi, Simples, as poppy, nightshade or solanum. *a* 1652 J. SMITH *Sel. Disc.* i. 7 That venemous solanum, that deadly nightshade, that drives its cold poison into the understandings of men. 1768–74 TUCKER *Lt. Nat.* (1834) II. 145 Apothecaries, when dispensing a recipe wherein antimony, solanum, laudanum, or mercury is an ingredient, are extremely careful. 1816 TUCKEY *Narr. Exped. R. Zaire* i. (1818) 22 Some herbaceous plants, particularly a convolvulus,..a solanum, a lotus, an aloe, &c. 1880 C. R. MARKHAM *Peruv. Bark* 123 A dense growth of bright-yellow compositæ, and solanums with a purple flower. 1884 tr. *De Candolle's Orig. Cultivated Pl.* 49 The abundance of tuberous solanums growing in the temperate regions of America,..confirms the fact of an American origin.

attrib. 1842 BRANDE *Dict. Sci.*, etc. 1129/1 Some of the Solanum tribes. 1861 BENTLEY *Man. Bot.* 598 *Solanaceæ*.—The Solanum or Potato Order. 1884 tr. *De Candolle's Orig. Cultivated Pl.* 53 The sweet potato belongs to the Convolvulus family, the potato to the Solanum family.

Solar (sōu·lăɹ), *a.* and *sb.*[1] [ad. L. *sōlār-is*, f. *sōl* sun. Cf. F. *solaire*, Sp. *solar*, Pg. *solar*, It. *solare*.]

A. *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to the sun, its course, light, heat, etc.

c 1450 HOLLAND *Howlat* 31 Under the Cirkill solar thir sauoruss seidis War nurist be dame Natur. 1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.*, *Solar*, of or belonging to the Sun. 1685 DRYDEN *Thren. August.* xii, Our Isle..lay Out of the Solar walk and Heavens high way. 1732 POPE *Ess. Man* I. 102 His soul, proud Science never taught to stray Far as the solar walk, or milky way. 1754 GRAY *Progress Poesy* 54 In climes beyond the solar road. 1769 [see DISK 4]. 1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 331 In the solar spectrum.. heat and light are not present in correspondent degrees. 1863 NEALE *Anal. Th. & Nat.* 221 Our solar universe subsists, through the opposition of the light-and-heat-receiving circumference to the light-and-heat-imparting centre. 1878 STEWART & TAIT *Unseen Univ.* ii. § 73. 85 The spots were unmistakably solar phenomena.

b. Of time: Determined by the course of the sun; fixed by observation of the sun.

1594 BLUNDEVIL *Exerc.* III. i. xlv. (1636) 358 The Month Solar is that space of time which the Sunne spendeth in passing thorow any one of the twelve signes. 1662 STILLINGFL. *Orig. Sacræ* I. v. § 1 If years be sometimes Lunar, sometimes Solar. *Ibid.*, The Solar moneths were either naturall..or civill. 1704 J. HARRIS *Lex. Techn.* I. s.v., Solar Cycle. 1725 WATTS *Logic* (1736) 47 A Solar Year of three hundred sixty five Days. 1731–8 SWIFT *Polite Conv.* Introd. 44 To be daily delivered fresh, in every company, for twelve solar Months. 1816 PLAYFAIR *Nat. Phil.* II. 81 The mean interval of time between the sun's passing the meridian one day, and his passing it the next, is called a mean solar day. 1840 *Penny Cycl.* XVII. 450/1 The perpetuity of the solar cycle..is destroyed by the new style. 1855 LARDNER *Mus. Sci. & Art* V. 139 The time of 60 swings will be a mean solar minute, and the time of 3600 will be a mean solar hour. 1868 LOCKYER *Elem. Astron.* § 437 The period that elapses between two successive passages through the vernal equinox..is called the solar, or tropical year.

c. Indicating time in relation to, or by means of, the sun.

1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Dial*, To use a Solar, as a Lunar-Dial, *i.e.* to find the Hour of the Night by a Sun-Dial. 1829 W. PEARSON *Pract. Astron.* II. 314 Besides two good sidereal clocks, a well furnished observatory ought not to be without a good solar clock. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2238/2 *Solar Chronometer*, a sun-dial adapted to show mean instead of solar time. 1900 *Jrnl. Sch. Geog.* (U.S.) Apr. 138 Beginning with the Solar Calendar, which is the simpler.

d. Of mechanism, etc.: Operating by means of, or with the aid of, the light or heat of the sun.

1740 [see MICROSCOPE 1 b]. 1831 BREWSTER *Optics* xli. 346 The solar microscope is nothing more than a magic lantern, the light of the sun being used instead of that of a lamp. 1875 VOGEL *Chem. Light & Photogr.* x. 95 To produce photographic images life size, the magic lantern is not used, but the solar camera. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2239/1 Solar Engine. *Ibid.*, Solar Telegraph. 1877–81 VOYLE & STEVENSON *Milit. Dict.* Suppl. 36/2 During the late campaign in Affghanistan, Solar Telegraphy was much resorted to. 1884 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* Suppl. 828/2 *Solar Boiler*, an apparatus intended to utilize the heat of the sun's rays.

2. a. *Astrol.* Subject to the influence of the sun; having a nature or character determined by the sun.

1626 BACON *Sylva* § 493 They haue denominated some Herbs Solar and some Lunar. 1647 LILLY *Chr. Astrol.* lxxiv. 424 The benefit he expects..shall be by the King, a Magistrate,..or by a Solar man of noble disposition. 1700 DRYDEN *Fables, Cock & Fox* 652 The cock was pleas'd.., And proud beside, as solar people are. 1845 *The Theologian* II. 41 When well dignified, the solar man is..splendid and sumptuous. 1877 *Encycl. Brit.* VII. 294/1 The solar man is grand and generous, the lunar man unsteadfast.

b. Sacred to the sun; connected or associated with the worship of the sun.

1774 J. BRYANT *Mythol.* II. 66 It was at first only a mark of reference, and betokened a solar animal, specifying the particular Deity to whom it was sacred. 1820 W. TOOKE *Lucian* I. 554 The miracle..which Homer relates of the solar-oxen. 1877 W. R. COOPER *Egypt. Obelisks* ii. (1878) 6 In Ra, according to the solar litanies, were combined all the attributes of power and wisdom. 1906 LOCKYER *Stonehenge* v. 51 The assumption of Stonehenge having been a solar temple.

c. Representing or symbolizing the sun.

1807 J. BARLOW *Columb.* III. 531 Meantime the solar king collects from far His martial bands. 1816 G. S. FABER *Orig. Pagan Idol.* II. 106 The solari-tauric Mithras is therefore evidently the solar man-bull Taschter. 1889 I. TAYLOR *Orig. Aryans* vi. 311 Hence few mythologies are altogether free from the loves of solar heroes and dawn maidens.

d. Sprung or descended from the sun.

1788 SIR W. JONES in *Asiatic Researches* (1790) II. 136 The time, when the Solar and Lunar dynasties are believed to have become extinct. 1841 ELPHINSTONE *Hist. Ind.* I. 259 The lunar race has but forty-eight names in the same period, in which the solar has ninety-five.

†**3. a.** *Solar earth, metal*, gold. (Cf. SOL *sb.*[1] 2.)

b. *Solar metal*, a coloured metal. *Obs.*

1649 G. DANIEL *Trinarch., Hen. V*, cxxix, Wee..need not feare an Asse's Load Of Solar Earth can force the Gates vnshutt. 1666 J. SMITH *Solomon's Portraiture Old Age* (1752) 92 By the help of fire, and possibly some specific menstruum as a proper key for that solar metal. 1800 tr. *Lagrange's Chem.* I. 352 The alchemists gave the name of Solar Metals to those which are coloured; and that of Lunar to those which are white.

4. Of light, heat, etc.: Proceeding or emanating from the sun.

1698 FRYER *Acc. E. India & P.* 242 We had our Skins flead off of those Parts exposed to the Solar Rays. 1726 POPE *Odyss.* XIX. 515 Nor winter's boreal blast,..Nor solar ray, could pierce the shady bower. 1796 KIRWAN *Elem. Min.* (ed. 2) I. 125 By concentrated solar heat. 1829 *Chapters Phys. Sci.* 289 The light derived from such sources differs from the solar light in being accompanied by free radiant caloric. 1871 TYNDALL *Fragm. Sci.* (1879) I. ii. 41 The solution..offers a means of filtering the solar beam.

b. Warmed by the sun; sunny.

1821 BYRON *Sard.* I. ii. 127 Semiramis..led These our Assyrians to the solar shores Of Ganges.

5. Resembling that of the sun; comparable to the sun. Also *fig.*

1754 YOUNG *Centaur not Fabulous* Wks. 1762 IV. 260 They only have solar or self-born light who live up to the dignity of their nature. 1834 MRS. SOMERVILLE *Connex. Phys. Sci.* xxxvi. 402 Solid bodies of a solar nature. 1839–48 BAILEY *Festus* viii. 87, I saw,..Blazing aghast in solar solitude, A panting shadow. 1861 J. BROWN *Horæ Subs.* Ser. II. 62 He was in this respect a solar man: he drew after him his own firmament of planets.

6. In Arabic grammar, the epithet of the class of consonants before which the *l* of the article is assimilated; so called because including *sh*, the initial letter of *shems* 'sun'. Opposed to *lunar*.

1776 J. RICHARDSON *Arab. Gram.* iii. 8 The dentals and linguals are called solar letters. 1855 DAVIS & DAVIDSON *Arabic Reading Less.* p. xxxii, The influence the solar letters exercise upon the article. 1905 *N. & Q.* 30 Dec. 534/1 One of the fourteen solar letters.

7. Special collocations:

Solar apex, the point in space, situated in the constellation Lyra, toward which the sun is moving; the apex of the solar way; †**Solar comet** (see quot. 1704). **Solar compass,** (*a*) a magnetic instrument turning under the influence of the sun's rays; (*b*) an instrument used in surveying for easy determination of the meridian. **Solar constant** (see CONSTANT B, quots. 1869, 1890). **Solar eye,** *fig.* (see quot.). **Solar eye-piece,** a device used in observations of the sun to diminish the light and heat of this (Knight, 1875). **Solar ganglion,** = *solar plexus*. **Solar lamp,** (*a*) an argand lamp; (*b*) a grade of electric lamp. **Solar myth,** a myth resulting from a personification of the sun and describing its course or attributes as those of some god or hero. **Solar oil** (see quot. 1868). **Solar phosphorus,** a substance which emits light as the result of exposure to sunlight. **Solar plexus,** a complex of nerves situated at the pit of the stomach; the epigastric plexus. **Solar print,** a photograph made by sunlight. **Solar reflector** (see quot.). **Solar spot,** a sunspot. **Solar stearin,** a substance obtained from lard. **Solar system,** the sun together with all the planets and other bodies connected with it. **Solar tables,** tables by which the position of the sun may be ascertained. **Solar wheel,** a wheel in a clock serving to show the apparent daily motion of the sun.

1875 *Encycl. Brit.* II. 819 Whose various determinations of the *solar apex are shown in fig. 52. 1704 J. HARRIS *Lex. Techn.* I, *Argyrocomus*, a Silver-coloured Comet differing very little from the *Solar Comet, except that it is of a brighter Silver colour. 1833 T. BROWN *White's Selborne* 227 *note*, Mr. Mark Watt has invented a very..interesting instrument, which he calls the heliastron, or *solar compass. 1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* III. iv. I. i, We must,..as Ficinus aduiseth us, get vs *solar eyes, spectacles as they that looke on the Sunne. 1741 A. MONRO *Anat. Nerves* (ed. 3) 57 This great *Solar Ganglion. 1841 *Mechanics' Mag.* 16 Jan. 34 The invention of the '*Solar Lamp' is due to Mr. Jeremiah Bynner, of Birmingham, by whom it was patented in 1837. 1887 CAROLINE HAZARD *Mem. Y. L. Diman* iii. 54 A bright solar lamp shedding its rays around the room. 1870 G. W. COX *Myth. Aryan Nations* I. iv. 53 Of this vast mass of *solar myths, some have emerged into independent legends, others have furnished the groundwork of whole epics. 1864 *Intell. Obs.* IV. 91 The more volatile [portion] being set apart as *photogen, and the less as *solar oil. 1868 WATTS *Dict. Chem.*, *Solar Oil*, a name applied in commerce chiefly to the heavier portions of petroleum and shale-oil. 1800 HENRY *Epit. Chem.* (1808) 184 They yield a *solar phosphorus, called, from its discoverer, Homberg's phosphorus. 1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 331 The phenomena of the solar phosphori seem to militate against this idea. 1771 *Encycl. Brit.* I. 254/2 Branches of the *solar or cæliac plexus, formed by the eighth pair and intercostals. 1830 R. KNOX *Béclard's Anat.* 346 The union of the nervus vagus of the right side and the solar plexus. 1872 MIVART *Elem. Anat.* x. (1879) 404 The solar plexus..behind the stomach. 1889 *Anthony's Photogr. Bulletin* II. 281 The two first *solar prints that were made in New York in 1853 or 1854. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* II. 275 The *Solar Reflector..enables us to reflect the solar ray into any piece of apparatus or room, suitably situated. 1704 J. HARRIS *Lex. Techn.* I, **Solar Spots.* See *Spots of the Sun.* 1854 BREWSTER *More Worlds* v. 96 The solar spots, which are now universally admitted to be openings in the luminous stratum. 1882 *Encycl. Brit.* XIV. 312 A solid, glistening, and crystalline residue, known in commerce as '*solar stearin', which is useful in candle making. *a* 1704 LOCKE *Elem. Nat. Phil.* iii. (1754) 8 Our *solar system consists of the sun, and the planets, and comets moving about it. 1715 tr. *Gregory's Astron.* (1726) I. 132 The common Centre..of the Solar System. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 197/1 We are now to state the relative dimensions of the Solar System in a rough manner. 1812 WOODHOUSE *Astron.* viii. 55 The *Solar Tables give the Sun's longitude. 1819 *Rees's Cycl.* VIII. 3 U, The remedy we have proposed for the inaccuracy of Mr. Ferguson's *solar and lunar wheels.

8. *Comb.*, as *solar-diluvian, -form, -spotted* adjs.; *solar-microscope* vb.

1789 T. TAYLOR *Proclus* (1792) II. 271 When she proceeds from reason to the object of imagination, she naturally obtains a solar-form body. 1803 G. S. FABER *Cabiri* I. 249 Ogygi-San is equivalent to the solar-diluvian god. *a* 1849 POE *Mrs. Browning* Wks. 1864 III. 403 A nature..solar microscoped into poetry. 1881 *Nature* XVIII. 237 The curve of solar-spotted area.

B. *sb.*[1] *Photogr.* A solar print.

1889 *Anthony's Photogr. Bulletin* II. 281 Each unbeknown to the other was making life size solars for the American Institute Fair.

Solar, *sb.*[2] Alteration (after prec.) of SOLA *sb.*

1859 CORNWALLIS *New World* I. 332 A large Stock of Solar Hats, suitable for Port Curtis. 1859 J. LANG *Wand. India* 183 He was dressed in a pair of large jack-boots, corduroy breeches, a shooting-coat, and a solar helmet. 1879 MRS. A. E. JAMES *Ind. Househ. Managem.* 20 One solar topee pith hat.

Solar(e, variants of SOLLAR *sb.*[1]

Sola·ri-, combining form of L. *sōlāri-s* SOLAR *a.*

1803 G. S. FABER *Cabiri* I. 204 The solari-diluvian Noah. *Ibid.* II. 369 The solari-agricultural patriarch. 1816 — *Orig. Pagan Idol.* II. 106 The solari-tauric Mithras.

Solarism (sōu·lărĭz'm). [f. SOLAR *a.* + -ISM.] The theory of solar myths; excessive use of, or adherence to, this theory.

1885 GLADSTONE in *19th Cent.* XVIII. 700 Solarism—a system which prides itself above all things on its exhibiting the primitive state of things. 1885 — *Ibid.* XIX. 21 It is to this monopolising pretension that I seek to apply the name of solarism. 1889 MAX MÜLLER *Nat. Relig.* xiii. 349 Fetishism, totemism, animism, solarism, shumanism.

Solarist (sōu·lărist). [f. SOLAR *a.* + -IST.] One who holds the theory of solar myths, esp. to an excessive degree.

1885 *Standard* 30 Oct. 3/1 The use made by the solarists of far-fetched etymologies. 1895 MAX MÜLLER *Chips* IV. Pref. p. xiii, I have been represented again and again..as a Solarist, as teaching that the whole of mythology is solar.

‖ **Solarium** (sŏlēə·rĭŏm). Pl. **solaria.** [L. *sōlārium*, f. *sōl* sun. Cf. SOLLAR *sb.*[1]]

1. A sun-dial.

1842 *Smith's Dict. Gk. & Rom. Antiq.* 487/2 This solarium being made for a different meridian. *Ibid.*, The number of solaria which have been discovered .. in Italy. 1880 L. WALLACE *Ben-Hur* 142 Lifting his eyes from the solarium set under the aplustre for reference in keeping the course.

2. A terrace, balcony, or room exposed to the rays of the sun, now *spec.* one used for the purpose of treating illness by means of sun-baths. Also *fig.*

1891 E. EGGLESTON *Faith Doctor* xxvi. 289 My brother kept a health-lift a few years ago.., and then he had a blue-glass solarium. 1894 *The Voice* (N.Y.) 20 Sept., The solariums on the roofs of the houses of the ancient Greeks and Romans testify to the benefits obtained by them from sun baths. 1904 J. WELLS *Life J. H. Wilson* xvi. 139 The Church was a sort of spiritual solarium.

Solarization (sōu·lărəizā·ʃən). [f. SOLARIZE *v.* + -ATION.]

1. *Photogr.* The injurious effect produced by over-exposing a negative to the action of light, resulting in the reversal of the image; a similar effect produced by over-printing sensitized paper, etc.

1853 R. HUNT *Man. Photogr.* 149, I have been enabled to discover at what degree of intensity of light the effect called Solarization is produced. 1854 HADOW in *Jrnl. Photogr. Soc.* I. 191 My pictures were constantly liable to solarization (or darkening of those parts that ought to be whitish). 1889 *Anthony's Photogr. Bulletin* II. 267 Their entire freedom from halation or solarization.

2. (See quot.)

1882 *Nature* 13 July 246 On the instant after the exposure of the eye to strong light,..—solarisation I will call it.

Solarize (sōu·lărəiz), *v.* [f. SOLAR *a.* + -IZE. So F. *solariser.*]

1. *trans.* To affect or modify by the influence of the sun or the action of its rays; *spec.* in *Photogr.*, to injure by over-exposure to light.

1855 BAILEY *Mystic* 13 Then, solarized, he pressed onwards to the sun. 1892 *Photogr. Ann.* II. 74 An exposure to bright sunlight, sufficient to solarise the [film].

2. *intr.* To be affected by solarization.

1868 M. C. LEA *Photography* 137 (Cent. Dict.), It is a familiar fact that iodide of silver solarizes very easily. 1906 *Westm. Gaz.* 13 Oct. 14/2 There is a tendency on the part of the paper to solarise when printed by direct sunlight.

Hence **So·larized, So·larizing** *ppl. adjs.*

1870 *Eng. Mech.* 18 Mar. 661/2, I..find..more than one solarised place. 1882 *Nature* 13 July 246 Portions of the solarised eye that had escaped the solarising action. 1890 PULSFORD *Loyalty to Christ* I. 188 Much in the same way that the solarized atmosphere of our world becomes inbuilt ..in the trunk and branches of a tree.

†So·larly, *adv. Obs.*[−1] [Irreg. f. L. *sōl-us* alone.] By itself, without addition.

1657 TOMLINSON *Renou's Disp.* 392 The Succe of Liquorice is ..successfully assumed solarly for the affections of the lungs.

†So·lary, *a. Obs.* [ad. L. *sōlāri-s*: see -ARY[2] and cf. SOLAR *a.*]

The various senses of the sb. *solary* given by Blount *Glossogr.* (1656) are merely copied from Cooper's *Thesaurus* s.v. *Solarium* (two entries). In the second ed. of Sir T. Browne's *Pseud. Ep.* VI. xii. *solary* is a misprint for *salary.*

1. Of or belonging to, pertaining to, connected with, the sun.

1588 J. HARVEY *Disc. Probl.* 117 The euent of the said Solarie defect shal be but according to the quantity of the Eclipse it self. 1602 DOLMAN *La Primaud. Fr. Acad.* (1618) III. 721 So likewise doth the shadow of the earth hinder the moone of the solary illumination. 1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* 345 Beside the solary Iris which God shewed unto Noah, there is another Lunary. 1664 POWER *Exp. Phil.* Pref. 16 The Solary Atoms of light. 1716 M. DAVIES *Athen. Brit.* III. *Diss. Physic* 29 Their Statues were..adorn'd with Solary Rays, and crown'd at last with Celestial Beams.

b. Of time: = SOLAR *a.* 1 b.

1614 RALEIGH *Hist. World* II. iii. § 6. 255 Ve Adar was an intercalarie Moneth, added..to make the Solarie and Lunarie yeare agree. 1615 H. CROOKE *Body of Man* 336 That is called a Solarie moneth wherein the Sunne runneth through thirty degrees of the Zodiacke. 1697 PRIDEAUX *Life Mahomet* (1716) 73 The Mahometan Year falling eleven Days short of the Solary.

c. (See quot.)

1651 FRENCH *Distill.* vi. 189 There is found a certaine stone in Bononia, which some call a golden Marcasite, some a Solarie Magnes, that receives light from the sun in the day time, and gives it forth in the dark.

2. *Alch.* and *Astrol.* Of the nature of the sun; subject to the influence of the sun.

1605 TIMME *Quersit.* I. xi. 47 There are starres which haue their most colde and moyst spirites;..others, most hote and drie, as the Solarie, and Martialls. 1643 SIR T. BROWNE *Relig. Med.* I. 114 That mysticall mettle of gold, whose solary and celestiall nature I admire. 1651 FRENCH *Distill.* vi. 189 Crude gold ..is by them not only called Solary but Sol..it selfe. 1671 BLAGRAVE *Astrol. Pract. Phys.* 156, I do usually cause the patients to wear a select number of solary herbs gathered at the hour of the Sun.

3. Pre-eminent like the sun.

1651 FRENCH *Distill.* Ded. A iij b, This Art of Alchymie is that Solary art, which is more noble then all the other six arts, and sciences.

Solaster (sŏlæ·stəɹ). *Zool.* [mod.L., f. *sōl* sun + *aster*, Gr. ἀστήρ star.] A genus of star-fishes, typical of those having more than five rays; a member of this genus, a sun-star.

1841 E. FORBES *Brit. Star-fishes* 110 The Solasters are suns in the system of sea-stars. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXIII. 17/1 Those which have the body radiated,..comprising the genera *Solaster* and *Pentaster* of De Blainville. 1860 WRAXALL *Life in Sea* ix. 224 The Solasters, or Sun-stars, have only two rows of suckers in each furrow.

†Sola·tion. *Obs. rare.* [a. OF. *solacion, solation*, or ad. L. type **sōlātiō*, f. *sōlārī* to console.] **a.** Rejoicing, joy. **b.** Consolation.

1483 CAXTON *Gold. Leg.* 436/3 In thys tyme of pasque our moder holy chyrche..maketh Solacyon for the resurrexyon of Jhesu cryste. ? *a* 1500 *Chester Pl.* (E.E.T.S.) I. 21 Now sithe I am thus..set in my solation, a biglie blisse here will I builde. 1757 MRS. GRIFFITH *Lett. Henry & Frances* (1767) II. 10 There are pleasures and solations indulged by Providence to every stage of life.

‖ **Solatium** (sŏlē·ʃĭŏm). [L. *sōlātium, sōlācium*, related to *sōlārī* to console: cf. SOLACE *sb.*[1]]

1. A sum of money, or other compensation, given to a person to make up for loss or inconvenience.

1817 SCOTT *Fam. Lett.* 27 May, It was a *bonus* or *solatium* paid to them by the gentry, to prevent their rising and righting themselves at the expense of the aristocracy. 1853 W. JERDAN *Autobiog.* III. 81 A weekly solatium was arranged to the extent of the author's own suggestion. 1883 *Pall Mall G.* 1 Oct. 8/2 Another offered by way of a solatium in the hour of his disappointment the vacant trusteeship of a well-known charitable institution.

2. *spec.* in *Law.* A sum of money paid, over and above the actual damages, as a solace for injured feelings.

1832 AUSTIN *Jurispr.* (1879) I. xv. 397 The ground of action being not only indemnification for damage, but also solatium for bereavement. 1863 *Illustr. Lond. News* 1 Aug. 103 [A] traveller for a firm of Staffordshire china merchants obtained £500 damages and £300 solatium at a jury trial.

Solay, error for SPLAY *v.*

1726 *Gentl. Angler* 156 *Solayed*, a Technical Term for a Bream being cut up. 1787 BEST *Angling* (ed. 2) 169 *Solay a bream*, cut him up. 1853 BADHAM *Prose Halieut.* (1854) 343 He gobbets trout,..solays bream, and sides haddock.

‖ **Solazzi** (sola·tsi). [The name of the Italian maker.] *Solazzi juice*, a kind of liquorice.

1861 BENTLEY *Man. Bot.* 527 Various preparations of liquorice are commonly kept in the shops, and sold under the names of..extract of liquorice, Solazzi juice, &c. 1882 *Encycl. Brit.* XIV. 688/1 The quality best appreciated in the United Kingdom is made in Calabria, and sold under the names of Solazzi and Corigliano juice.

†Sold, *sb.*[1] *Obs.* Forms: α. 4–5 soude, sowde, 5 sood-, sowede; 4–5, *Sc.* 8–9 soud, sowd. β. 5 sawd(e. γ. 5–6 sould(e. δ. 5–7 sold, 6 solde. [a. OF. *soude, soulde* (more commonly *soudee, souldee*, etc.), = It. and Pg. *soldo*, Sp. *sueldo* :—L. *solidum*, acc. sing. of *solidus*: see SOL *sb.*[3] and SOU. (The mod.F. *solde* is due to Italian influence.) Cf. MDu., MLG., MHG. *solt*, Du., G., Da., Sw. *sold.*]

1. Pay (esp. of soldiers), wages, salary.

α. *c* 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 14234 Payen & Cristen knyght..at soud he held. *c* 1380 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* III. 146 Fle covetise of godis, and be payed wiþ 3oure sowdes. 1440 *Paston Lett.* I. 41 My Lord Tresorer graunted the seid vij. c. marc to my Lord of Norffolk, for the arrerag of hys sowde qwyl he was in Scotland. 1475 *Bk. Noblesse* (Roxb.) 31 That the said chieftein must pay his men of soude.. justly. *a* 1513 FABYAN *Chron.* (1811) 519 For the wage & sowde of the Nauaroys and Englyssheme.

β. 1402 *Pol. Poems* (Rolls) II. 94 These paroche preestes that ministren the sacramentis, for a certen sawd bi 3eer. *c* 1450 *King Ponthus & Fair Sidone* i. (1897) 1, I schal paye their sawde for thre yer.

γ. 1429 *Wills & Inv. N. C.* (Surtees, 1835) 79 Ilk preest hauyng for his sould by yeer viij mrc'. 1473 EDW. IV in *State P. Hen. VIII*, VI. 8 For contentation of a yerely soulde. 1542 PAGET *Ibid.* IX. 198 He mynydeth..to borowe the sould of 20000 men for a yere, if He cánne obteyne it. 1550 T. NYCOLLS *Thucidides* 216 To paye the soulde or wages of the sayd armye.

δ. 1438 *Bk. Alexander Gt.* (Bann. Cl.) 61 Serue 3our soldis of the King. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* II. 209 Thi worthi kyn may nocht the saiff for sold. 1544 HARVEL in *St. Papers Hen. VIII*, IX. 619 For lacke of payment of his solde. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* II. ix. 6 Were your will, her sold to entertaine, And numbred be mongst knights of Maydenhed. 1601 BP. W. BARLOW *Defence* 131 Lying in campe under sold and pay, fighting as souldiers. 1630 *R. Johnson's Kingd. & Commw.* 163 Lastly, there is the Sold, or pay of 50000 foot.

2. *Sc.* A sum or quantity (orig. of money or gold).

1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* III. i. 91 With a grete sold of gold fey Priamus Secretlie vmquhile send this Polidorus .. to Polymnestor. 1710 RUDDIMAN *Gloss. Douglas' Æneis* s.v. *Sold*, Scot. *Sowd*, as a sowd of money, *i.e.* a great sum. 1795 *Statist. Acc. Scotl.* XIV. 74 *note*, The tradesmen are paid..with a certain sum or quantity of victual annually agreed on, called *soud*. 1828 MOIR *Mansie Wauch* ii, A sowd of toddy was swallowed. 1845 STILL *Cottar's Sunday* 172 They wha grip Great souds o' hidden treasure.

†Sold, *sb.*[2] *Obs.*[−0] In 5 sowde. [? a. OF. **soude* (Pg. *solda*):—L. *solida*: cf. prec. and SOLD *v.*[2]] Solder.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 466/1 Sowde, metel, *consolidum solidarium.*

†Sold, *sb.*[3] *Obs.*[−1] In 6 soulde, 6–7 solde. [ad. It. *soldo*: cf. SOLD *sb.*[1] and SOL *sb.*[3]] A sol or small coin.

1547 BOORDE *Introd. Knowl.* xx. 171 They haue myttes, duccates, & soldes [in Hungary]. *Ibid.* xxxvii. 216 In syluer they haue [in Turkey] Aspers and Souldes; and ther be som Souldes that be brasse. 1599 HAKLUYT *Voy.* II. 108 Their horsemen haue onely sixe soldes Venetian a day.

†Sold, *v.*[1] *Obs.* Forms: α. 4–5 soud-, 5 sowd-, sawd-. β. 5–6 sould(e, 6 sowld-, sold-. [f. SOLD *sb.*[1]: cf. OF. *soud-, soldeier.* But perh. partly due to OF. *soudre, saudre, souldre, soldre* :—L. *solvĕre* to pay.]

1. *trans.* To pay; to enlist or retain for service by payment. Also *fig.*

α. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Prioress's T.* 128 O martir soudit to virginite. 1393 LANGL. *P. Pl. C.* XXII. 431 Imparfit is þe pope þat..soudeþ hem þat sleeþ suche as he sholde saue. 1456 SIR G. HAYE *Law Armes* (S.T.S.) 53 He fand.. grete quantitee of gold.., With the quhilk he sawdit grete nowmer of men of armys. *a* 1470 GREGORY *Chron.* in *Hist. Coll. Citizen Lond.* (Camden) 106 To have men sowdyd withe hym ayenst the Duke of Orleans.

β. 1418 in Riley *Lond. Mem.* (1868) 665 Normandye, þere to be soulded or waged wiþ þe Kyng. 1456 SIR G. HAYE *Law Armes* (S.T.S.) 143 [He sent] gold in Almayne for to soulde men of armes, for the space of ane 3ere. 1523 CROMWELL in Merriman *Life & Lett.* (1902) I. 37 The harmys whiche we ourselffes showld susteyn in sowldyng of so great an army. 1550 T. NYCOLLS *Thucidides* 221 b, Who..soulded or waged aboutes three houndred souldyars.

2. *intr.* To serve as a paid soldier or mercenary.

1564 HAWARD *Eutropius* I. 9 Virginius at that time soulded for honest wages..againste the Latines.

Hence **†So·lding** *vbl. sb.*[1] *Obs.*

1475 *Bk. Noblesse* 29 For lak of good provisions bothe of artillery and ordenaunce for the werre and soudeyng to be made in dew season. *Ibid.* 83 Whiche..were not usid of custom nothing to pay..to the souding of men of armes.

†Sold, *v.*[2] *Obs.* Forms: α. 4 soud-, 4–6 sowd-; 4–5 sawd-. β. 5 sould-, 5–6 sold-. [ad. OF. *souder, sauder, soulder*, = Prov. *soudar, soldar*, Sp. and Pg. *soldar*, It. *sodare*:—L. *solidāre* to make solid or firm, f. *solidus* SOLID *a.*]

1. *trans.* To solder; to fasten with solder; to unite (metal) by soldering († or welding).

c 1350 *Leg. Rood* (1871) 77 Dauid made A serkell al of siluer brade, And bad þat it suld sawded be All obout þe haly thre [= tree]. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XVI. xciii. (Tollem. MS.), Leed may not be sone sowdid to leed noþer to bras, noþer to yren with oute tyn. *c* 1425 *Seven Sages* (P.) 2023 Than thay sayen at the laste How the piler stode in bras, And with sowdyng sowdyt faste. 1485 CAXTON *Chas. Gt.* 103, xxx arches of marble,..whyche ben soulded wyth leed and cyment. 1506 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* III. 330 Item, to..ane man that sowdit ane gwn of the Kingis schip, xiiij s.

2. *transf.* To unite firmly or closely; *spec.* in medical use (see SOLDER *v.* 2).

1388 WYCLIF *Acts* iii. 7 And anoon hise leggis and hise feet weren sowdid togidere; and he lippide, and stood. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* VII. xxxi. (Bodl. MS.), The couʒe suffreþ not þe wounde to be closed and þsawded. *a* 1425 tr. *Arderne's Treat. Fistula* 45 She trowed..for to haue souded þe place of þe fynger in whiche þe bone..stode bifore. 1502 ARNOLDE *Chron.* (1811) 170 Som men late the roete end of the vyne be vncutt..til it be sowded with the chirl tree.

b. *intr.* To close or heal. (Cf. SOLDER *v.* 6.)

a 1425 tr. *Arderne's Treat. Fistula* 46, I putte-to vnguentum viride vpon stupes, and þe fynger bigan for to soude. *Ibid.* 84 þe sidez of þe wounde byganne for to soude or conglutinate.

Hence **†So·lding** *vbl. sb.*[2] *Obs.*

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XVI. xix. (Bodl. MS.), [Glue] haþ vertu of drawinge & sowding. *c* 1425 [see sense 1 above]. 1447–8 *Durh. Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 275 Pro..le sowdyng unius olle eree. 1508 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* IV. 137 Item, for solding..of the Kingis salt fat, ij s. 1533 *Dunmow Churchw. MSS.* fol. 17 b, To the makyng or sowdyng of the bell.

attrib. 1342–3 *Ely Sacr. Rolls* II. 117 In factura..soudinghirnes pro fabricacione vitri. 1399 *Fabric Rolls York Minster* (Surtees) 18 Item ij soudyngirens et j helme ferri.

Sold (sōuld), *ppl. a.* Also 6 solde, *Sc.* sauld. [pa. pple. of SELL *v.*]

1. Disposed of by sale. Also *fig.*

1535 COVERDALE *Deut.* xviii. 8 Besydes that which he

hath of the solde good of his fathers. **1591** *Exch. Rolls Scott.* XXII. 162 Thair is to be deducit the rest restand upoun the comptar at the fute of the sauld victuellis. **1637** Rutherford *Lett.* clxv. (1862) V. 384 Except that Christ's grace hath bought such a sold body, I know not what else any may think of me. **1652** in Miss Hickson *Ireland 17th Cent.* (1884) I. 298 As the examt.'s husband told her when he came home next day, and withal said we were 'a sold people'. **1722** De Foe *Col. Jack* xi, The very same low distressed condition as he was in, I mean a sold servant. **1853** Fairbairn *Typology Scripture* I. 339 The sold, hated, and crucified One. **1862** Thornbury *Life of Turner* I. 271 A volume of sketches of sold pictures.

2. Denoting a sale effected.

1862 *Parthenon* 16 Aug. 497/1 Those pictures which have 'sold' tickets. **1891** *Law Times* XCI. 193/1 There was no clause about arbitration on the sold note sent by the brokers to the plaintiffs.

†Soldad(e, Anglicized forms of next. *Obs.*

1634 Shirley *Example* III. i, He's marching up the stairs, with another soldade. *Ibid.* IV. i, I do not like this soldad's embassage. **1652** — *Doubtful Heir* v. E vij b, This 'tis to deal with Soldades.

‖ Soldado (sŏldā·dŏ). Also 6–7 **souldado,** 9 *erron.* **soldada.** [Sp. (and Pg.), = It. *soldato* (whence F. *soldat*), f. *soldo* (Sp. *sueldo*) military pay: see Sold *sb.*[1]]

1. A soldier. Also *attrib.*

1586 J. Hooker *Hist. Irel.* in *Holinshed* II. 105/2 This roisting Rutterkin wholie then standing on the soldado hoigh. **1592** Greene *Upst. Courtier* Wks. (Grosart) XI. 247 To be terrible like a warrior and a Soldado. **1612** Chapman *Widdowes T.* v. i, [Will] No bootie serue you sir Soldado But my poore sister? **1698** Fryer *Acc. E. India & P.* 142 Seizing it by Force with Three Files of Soldadoes. **1819** Scott *Leg. Montrose* ii, Neither Wallenstein nor Pappenheim..would likely listen to the objurgations of boors or burghers against any commander or soldado. **1840** Hor. Smith *Cromwell* I. 268 Sad-visaged and morose soldadoes in suits of buff tarnished and soiled by service. **1864** Burton *Scot Abr.* II. ii. 136 The otherwise single-minded and honourable soldado.

2. The South American heron.

1852 Th. Ross tr. *Humboldt's Trav.* II. xx. 255 On the summits of those [rocks] situated near the Orinoco, flamingos, soldados, and other fishing-birds perch.

3. The squirrel-fish (*Holocentrus ascensionis*) of the West Indies, etc. (*Webster's Suppl.* 1902.)

Soldan (sŏ·ldăn). Now *arch.* or *Hist.* Forms: α. 3–7, 9 **soudan** (4 -en, -on, 6 -ane), 4–6 **sowdan** (4 -ane, 5 -on, 6 -en, -own), 6 **sowdeyn,** 6–7 -**aine** (7 -ayne). β. 4, 6 **saudan** (4 -ayn, 6 -ant), 4 **sawden,** 5–6 **sawdon,** 6 -**ant,** -**an, sodan,** -**en.** γ. 4, 6–7 **souldan** (5 -one, 7 -en), 6 **sowldan,** 7 **sauldan, sauldan.** δ. 4– **soldan** (6 -ane, 7 -ian). [a. OF. *soudan, sodan, souldan, soldan* (also -*ain,* -*ant*), = Prov. *soudan, saudan,* Cat. *soldá,* Sp. *soldan,* Pg. *soldão,* It. *soldano* (med.L. *soldanus*), ad. Arab. *sulṭān*: see Sultan.]

1. The supreme ruler of one or other of the great Mohammedan powers or countries of the Middle Ages; *spec.* the Sultan of Egypt.

The *Soldan* is sometimes contrasted with the (*Great*) *Turk* and with the *Sophy* of Persia.

α. **1297** R. Glouc. (Rolls) 10901 Þe soudan somdel uor fere Triwes wiþ him nom. **1338** R. Brunne *Chron.* (1810) 140 Bode com..How þefals soudan destroied alle þe lond. *c* **1380** Wyclif *Sel. Wks.* III. 375 Þei harmen Cristen men more cruely þen þo Soudon of Sarazenes. *c* **1440** *Generydes* 3942 The Sowdon went aveyn to his disporte. **1470–85** Malory *Arthur* v. viii. 174 With hym he fond slayne the Sowdan of Surrey. **1513** More *Rich. III* (1883) 79 In a stage play all the people know right wel that he that playeth the sowdayne is percase a sowter. **1568** Grafton *Chron.* II. 87 Feare of treason..to be wrought betwene Saladine the Soudane and king Richard. **1832** tr. *Sismondi's Ital. Rep.* xi. 257 James, who, with the aid of the soudan of Egypt,.. seized the crown from his sister and the duke.

attrib. **15**.. *Droichis Part of Play* 5 in *Dunbar's Poems* (S.T.S.) 314 A sargeand out of Sowdoun land.

β. **13**.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 1323 Emperour of alle þe erþe & also þe saudan. **1432–50** tr. *Higden* (Rolls) VI. 43 The Sawden and duke of Turkes, the grete malle of Cristen peple. *c* **1500** *Melusine* 275 My right redoubted lordes the Sawdants of Barbarye & of Damaske. *c* **1511** *1st Eng. Bk. Amer.* (Arb.) Introd. 31/2 As the[y] wryte to the Sodan, than gyueth he them that they dyssyre.

γ. **1390** Gower *Conf.* I. 180 Thei gon to Barbarie ayein, And ther the Souldan for hem sente. **1475** *Bk. Noblesse* 11 The souldone of Babiloyne had waged hym to doo it. **1587** Greene *Penelope's Web* Wks. (Grosart) V. 181 That Saladyne the mighty Souldan of Ægipt. **1592** Warner *Alb. Eng.* VIII. xliii. 207 Richard..wonne Cyprus, Syria, and Ierusalem, debelling quite the Sowldan from his land. **1630** Brathwait *Eng. Gentlem.* (1641) 364 This is all that Souldan Saladine hath left of all his ensignes. **1632** Lithgow *Trav.* VII. 321 The Mamaluks..were the guard of the Suldans, as the Iannizaries are to the great Turke.

δ. **1390** Gower *Conf.* I. 245 The grete Soldan thanne of Perse. **1432–50** tr. *Higden* (Rolls) VI. 313 The Soldan of Babilony. **1562** Whitehorne *Ord. Souldiers* 38 The Turke by meanes of artillerie, againste the Sophi and the Soldan, hathe had victory. **1594** Greene *Selimus* 566 Wks. (Grosart) XIV. 216 We that haue..stript th' Egyptian soldan of his camp. **1614** Raleigh *Hist. World* II. 199 He plainely shewes, that the Soldans of Egypt were not Lords of the Countrie. **1667** Milton *P. L.* I. 764 Where Champions bold..at the Soldans chair Defi'd the best of Panim chivalry To mortal combat. **1708** J. Philips *Cyder* II. 83 The Soldan, as he fled, Oft call'd on Alla. **1742** Hume *Ess. & Treat* I. iv. (1777) I. 29 The soldan of Egypt, or the Emperor of Rome, might drive his harmless subjects..against their sentiments and inclination. **1849** J. A. Carlyle *Dante, Inf.* v, She held the land which the Soldan rules. **1864** Bryce *Holy Rom. Emp.* xii. (1889) 182 It [a letter] bids the Soldan withdraw at once from the dominions of Rome.

†b. The governor of a town. *Obs.*—[1]

1660 F. Brooke tr. *Le Blanc's Trav.* 16 A little turret.. where the treasure belonging to the Soudan or Governour of the Town is kept.

2. With *a* and pl. A Mohammedan ruler; one having the rank of sultan.

α. **13**.. *K. Alis.* 1781 (W.), Darie..holdith riche gestnyng, Of dukes, eorles, amiraylis, And of soudans. *c* **1380** Wyclif *Wks.* (1880) 98 More [harm] þan ony soudon or sarsyn or oþer men of wrong bileue. **1430–40** Lydg. *Bochas* IX. xxii. (1554) 29 Mightye princes Soudans twayne. *c* **1470** *Rauf Coilȝear* 898 Thow slane hes oft,..of my Counsingis, Soudanis and sib men. **1572** Bossewell *Armorie* II. 108 The malignitie and cruell attemptates of the deuelishe rablement, and wicked sowdanes.

γ. δ. **1390** Gower *Conf.* III. 145 A Soldan whilom was of Perce. **1483** *Cath. Angl.* 348/2 A Soldan, *soldanus.* **1598** Hakluyt *Voy.* I. 55 We saw in the Emperours court..many great Soldanes receiuing no due honour. **1601** R. Johnson *Kingd. & Commw.* 195 Who..made paiment to his soudans and soldiers. **1611** Cotgr., *Sultan,* a Sultan, or Souldan. **1795** Southey *Maid of Orleans* II. 337 Cæsars and Soldans, Emperors and Kings,..here they were all. **1840** Macaulay *Ess., Ranke's Hist.* (1851) II. 136 He could no longer hope to strike down gigantic soldans. **1884** Tennyson *Becket* IV. ii, I had it from an Arab soldan.

Soldanate. [ad. It. *soldanato* (med.L. *soldanatus*): see prec.] The power of the Sultan.

1878 tr. *Villari's Machiavelli* I. vii. II. 191 There is no longer any difference between the Papacy and the *Soldanate.*

†Soldanel, -ell, Anglicized forms of next.

1562 Turner *Herbal* (1568) 72 Brassica marima..may be called in englyshe, soldanell, or see folefot. **1760** J. Lee *Introd. Bot.* App. 327 Soldanel, *Soldanella. Ibid.,* Soldanel of the Shops, *Convolvulus.* **1786** J. Abercrombie *Arrangem.* in *Gard. Assist.* 54/2 *Convolvulus,* or bindweed.., (*Soldanella*) or sea soldanel minor.

‖ Soldanella (sŏldăne·lă). *Bot.* Also 9 *erron.* **soldinella.** [mod.L., a. It. *soldanella* of obscure origin; hence also Pg. *soldanella,* F. *soldanelle* (16th cent.). Cf. prec.]

†1. A species of convolvulus or bindweed, *Convolvulus soldanella. Obs.*

1579 Langham *Gard. Health* 607 Soldanella purgeth downe all kind of watrish humors. **1597** Gerarde *Herbal* II. ccxciii. 692 Soldanella hurteth the stomacke, and troubleth the weake and delicate bodies which do receiue it in powder. **1601** Holland *Pliny* II. 51 The sea Colewort (otherwise named Soldanella) of all others purgeth most forcibly. **1676** *Phil. Trans.* II. 629 On the Bay-side, Soldanella or Sea-Scurvygrass [grows] in great plenty. **1697** *Ibid.* XIX. 397 Two Purging Sea Bindweeds, call'd in our Shops Soldanella. **1712** tr. *Pomet's Hist. Drugs* I. 89 Soldanella..is a Species of Bindweed or a small Plant that sends forth slender, winding, reddish Stalks.

2. A primulaceous plant of the genus *Soldanella,* native in Alpine districts.

1629 [see Moonwort 5]. **1688** Holme *Armoury* II. 111/2 Mountain Soldanella is a bell-flower..of a fair blew. **1867** *Cornhill Mag.* Jan. 34 Masses of purple primulas, yellow pansies, and delicate little soldinella. **1882** *Garden* 3 June 385/3 Soldanellas in leaf soil..have grown well.

‖ Soldanelle. [Fr. *soldanelle.*] = prec. 2.

1887 Ruskin *Præterita* II. 190 The ledges of the Salève, all aglow with primrose and soldanelle.

†Soldaness. *Obs. rare.* In 4–5 **sowdones,** 7 **souldannesse.** [f. Soldan + -ess[1].] A sultaness.

c **1386** Chaucer *Man of Law's T.* 274 This sowdones, whom I thus blame and warry, Let pryvely hire counseil gon his way. **1621** Molle *Camerar. Liv. Lib.* IV. i. 222 The Souldannesse, wife to Amurath the third.

Soldanrie. *arch.* [f. Soldan + -rie, -ry, perh. after OF. *soudanerie.*] Sultanship.

1825 Scott *Talism.* xx, You might learn to lay aside this scorn of Soldanrie.

†Soldat. *Obs.* Also 7 **soldatt, soldate.** [a. F. *soldat*: see Soldado.] A soldier.

α. **1584** Hudson *Du Bartas' Judith* 452 Alarm, soldats, alarme. **1591** Jas. I *Lepanto* 664 There a Chieftaine shrillie cries, And Soldats doth command. **1638** Sir T. Herbert *Trav.* (ed. 2) 127 Within the Castle wall are raisd a hundred houses, stored with men, most part soldatts. **1668** R. L'Estrange *Vis. Quev.* v. (1702) 117 Every little Whore takes upon her to be a great Lady;..every Huff, to be a Soldat.

β. **1652** *Roxb. Ball.* (1891) VII. 479 A Soldate on a bench sleeping. **1662** J. Wilson *Cheats* IV. iv, By the faith of a Soldate, and a man of Arms, I will.

Soldatesque (sŏldătĕ·sk), *sb.* and *a.* [a. F. *soldatesque* (see prec. and -esque), ad. It. *soldatesco* military, *soldatesca* soldiery.]

†A. *sb.* The military. *Obs.*

a **1648** Ld. Herbert *Hen. VIII* (1683) 618 The legates in Trent (now free from the Soldatesque) advised how to delay the time. *Ibid.* 635 The Gentry and Soldatesque of the Kingdom.

B. *adj.* Of or pertaining to a soldier; soldier-like, soldierly.

1840 *Tait's Mag.* VII. 417 There was more fire and genuine soldatesque Burschicosity about this old cavalry officer than in any mad French conscript. **1861** Pearson *Early & Mid. Ages* 31 They were subject only to their own tribunals, and encouraged by these in a soldatesque license against civilians.

‖ Solde. *rare.* [F. *solde*: see Sold *sb.*[1]] Pay.

1852 *Tait's Mag.* XIX. 549 The Mansfeld is riding by wood and by wold And his troopers take service that's better than solde. **1879** G. Meredith *Egoist* xix, The fellow may well be a faithful soldier and stick to his post, if he receives promise of such a solde.

Solde (small coin): see Sold *sb.*[3]

Soldear, obs. form of Soldier *sb.*

Solder (sŏ·ldəɹ, sōu·dəɹ), *sb.*[1] Forms: α. 4–5 **soudur,** 5 **-ure, -our, sowdur, -owre;** 4–5 **soudre,** 5–6 **souder,** 5–7 (9 *dial.*) **sowder** (5 **-ere,** 6 **sowder**); 9 *dial.* **sowther.** β. 5 **sawdur, -yr,** 6 **-yer;** 5 **sawd(e)re,** 6 **sawder** (7 **-ter**), 6–7 **saudre,** 7 **sauder.** γ. 6–8 **soder** (7 **soader, sodar**), 7– **sodder;** 6 **sother,** 7 **soather.** δ. 5 **souldour,** 6–7 **soulder** (6 **sowl-**). ε. 7 **soldure,** 7– **solder.** [a. OF. *soud-, saud-, soldure* (cf. It. *saldatura*), f. *souder,* etc., Sold *v.*[2]

American dictionaries favour the pron. (sŏ·dəɹ). Smart (1836 and 1840) gives only (sŏ·dəɹ).]

1. A fusible metallic alloy used for uniting metal surfaces or parts.

Various kinds are distinguished by specific names, as *hard, soft* (see sense 4), *white, copper, gold, silver, pewterer's, plumber's solder.*

α. **1374** *Durh. Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 581 In stagno emp. pro soudur, vi. *s. c* **1400** *York Minster Fabric Rolls* (Surtees) 20 Et in iij dos' tyn emptis pro soudre, viii. *s.* viii. *d. c* **1485** *E. E. Misc.* (Warton Cl.) 82 To make sowder of tynne. **1513** Douglas *Æneid* VIII. vii. 140 Thai mydlit and thai mixt this feirful souder. **1547** in J. R. Boyle *Hedon* (1875) App. 137 To the plomer for xxx. lb. of soweder. **1603** *Vestry Bks.* (Surtees) 52 For five pounde and a half of sowder to mende the leads. **1829** Brockett *N. C. Gloss.* (ed. 2), *Sowther,* solder.

β. **1466** *Mann. & Househ. Exp.* (Roxb.) 323 Item, for ij. li. saw[d]ere, xij. d. **1492–3** *Rec. St. Mary at Hill* (1905) 187 For a ll. di. of sawdyr to sowdyr þe same pype, xij d. **1539–40** in *Devon N. & Q.* Oct. (1903) 238 Payed for xv. li. of sawdyer for the worke, v. *s.* **1566** in Peacock *Eng. Ch. Furniture* (1866) 141 An old crwet whearof was made sawder for the glass windowes. **1602** *Shuttleworths' Acc.* (Chetham) 143 To the plumber, for xx pound of pewter to be sawter,..x*s.* **1667** Primatt *City & C. Builder* 70 Sawder is about eight pence or nine pence a pound.

γ. **1575** Gascoigne *Wks.* (1587) 308 When cutlers..hide no crackes with soder nor deceit. **1576** *Act* 18 *Eliz.* c. 15, No Goldsmith..shall..use noe Sother..more then ys necessarie. **1612** Sturtevant *Metallica* (1854) 36 All compounded mettles of the same kind, as, Pewters, Belmettles, Sodars. **1637** in *Parish Bks. St. Julians, Shrewsbury* I. 27 (MS.), Received for 9 lbs. of Sodder, 3*s.* **1660** Boyle *New Exp. Phys. Mech.* xx. 146 We caus'd a skilful Pewterer..to close it up..with Soder. **1726** Leoni *Alberti's Archit.* II. 17 b, The cramps..must be fastened into the sheets with hot sodder. **1750** Blanckley *Naval Expos.* 155 Sodder, used by the Plumber for soddering of Pipes.

δ. **1428** *Engl. Misc.* (Surtees) 1 Þat nane of þat crafte wirke any lede amang other metaill, bot yf yt be in souldour. **1530** Palsgr. 725, I sowder a metall with sowlder, *je soulde.* **1574** in Feuillerat *Revels Q. Eliz.* (1908) 242 For Leade and sowlder with woorkmanshipp. **1611** Cotgr., *Souldure,* ..the knot of soulder which fastens the lead of a glasse window. **1685** Boyle *Effects of Motion* viii. 99 A gaping crack, which he was fain to fill up with soulder.

ε. **1724** Swift *Promethens* Wks. 1751 III. II. 150 Goldsmiths say, the coarsest stuff Will serve for solder well enough. **1756** Lucas *Exp. Waters* I. 50 He..assured himself by..closing it well with solder. **1812** Sir H. Davy *Chem. Philos.* 400 Lead is used as an ingredient in various solders. **1843** Holtzapffel *Turning* I. 432 The solders must be necessarily somewhat more fusible than the metals to be joined. **1873** E. Spon *Workshop Rec.* Ser. I. 364/2 The solder will run into the places which have been touched by the spirit of salt.

2. *transf.* Any binding or uniting substance. *rare.*

1582 Stanyhurst *Æneis,* etc. (Arb.) 136 Theare chariots doe trauayle..By reason of the riuer knit with a frostye soder. **1610** Holland *Camden's Brit.* I. 699 The limestone which is the very soader and binder of all morter.

3. *fig.* A quality, principle, etc., which unites in any way; a bond or means of union.

γ. **1599** Sandys *Europæ Spec.* (1632) 45 This [being] the end of strifes particular, this the soder of publike peace. **1638** Chillingw. *Relig. Prot.* I. iii. § 43. 151, I am at my wits end..to find some glue, or sodder,..to tye this antecedent and this consequent together. **1662** Hibbert *Body Divinity* II. 249 The ground or band of the union, the sodder that knit them together.

ε. **1611** Speed *Hist. Gt. Brit.* IX. xiv. § 38. 757/2 Money the Cement and soldure of all such actions,..vtterly fayles. **1649** G. Daniel *Trinarch., Hen. IV,* cccxviii, This Prodigie to Sence, when Elements (The Solder of the World) combat themselues. **1742** R. Blair *Grave* 89 Friendship!.. Sweetener of life, and solder of society! **1863** Tyndall *Heat* i. 8 Illustrating a principle which forms the very solder of Nature.

4. *Soft solder*: **a.** A common kind of solder, usually made from tin and lead.

1594 Plat *Jewell-ho.* III. 1 Sodered verie close with safte Soder. **1771** *Encycl. Brit.* III. 616/2 Take silver, five penny-weight; brass, four penny-weight; melt them together for soft solder, which runs soonest. **1823** P. Nicholson *Pract. Build.* 406 The solder generally made use of by the plumber is called soft solder. **1843** Holtzapffel *Turning* I. 434 The soft-solder mostly used, is 2 parts tin and 1 part lead. **1858** Greener *Gunnery* 207 More than five thousand pairs of barrels made and put together with soft solder only.

b. Flattery; = *Soft sawder* (see Sawder *sb.*).

1848 Lowell *Biglow P.* Ser. I. Wks. (1884) 226 The people [get] their annooal soft-sodder an' taxes. **1863** Reade *Very Hard Cash* xliii, She..sent in a note explaining who she was, with a bit of soft solder. **1869** *Pall Mall G.* 20 Sept. 3 It is so evident..that a square-jawed ruffian.., will yield like a cherub to soft-solder and coaxing.

5. [From the vb.] An act of soldering.

1733 Cheyne *Eng. Malady* I. x. (1734) 97 A Tinker can mend a Hole in a Brass Pot..by a Soder or Patch.

6. *attrib.* and *Comb.* (see quots.).

1858 Simmonds *Dict. Trade, Solder-manufacturer*, a maker of cement for metals. 1873 Richards *Operator's Handbk.* 123 For solder joints the silver solder of jewellers is convenient. 1875-84 Knight *Dict. Mech.* s.v., Solder-casting, -cutter, -cutting, -mold. 1895 *Daily News* 24 Dec. 7/1 A powerful solder-pounding machine.

† **Solder**, *sb.*[2] *Obs.*—[1]

Perh. for *soldier* in sense 4 of that word.

1603 Sir C. Heydon *Jud. Astrol.* vii. 187 That out of wheat there should spring vp darnell, solders, and smuttie geare.

Solder (sɒ·ldəɹ, sōʊ·dəɹ), *v.* Forms: *α.* 5–6 (9 *Sc.*) souder, 5–7 soudre; 5–6 (9 *Sc.*) sowder (5 -yr, 6 sowdr-); 8–9 *north.* and *Sc.* sowther, 9 souther. *β.* 6–7 sauder (6 savdr-), 6–7 (9) sawder (7 sawdr-). *γ.* 5–8 soder (7 sodr-), 7 (9 *dial.*) soader (7 soadr-), 7–8 (9 *dial.*) sodder (7 soddr-); 6–8 (9 *dial.*) sother. *δ.* 6–7 soulder. *ε.* 6– solder (6–7 soldr-). [f. Solder *sb.*[1] Cf. Sold *v.*[2]]

1. *trans.* To unite or fasten by means of a metallic solder. Also with *in, on, together, up,* etc.

α. c 1420 *Chron. Vilod.* 1447 And alle þe mynyssinges of þat nayle..Weron soudryd fast aʒayne without ony fayle. 1492–3 *Rec. St. Mary at Hill* (1905) 187 A ll. di. of sawdyr to sowdyr þe same pype, xiid. 1495 *Trevisa's Barth. De P. R.* xvi. xcii. (W. de W.) 584 Leed may not be sone soudryd to leed nother to brasse. 1530 Palsgr. 725/2, I wyll sowder this pipe of leede. 1551 Recorde *Cast. Knowl.* (1556) 59 These plates..shoulde haue bothe the endes soudred togither. 1613 M. Ridley *Magn. Bodies* 85 As though they were tied, glued, and soudred together. 1816 Scott *Antiq.* xxvii, It's best to say ye're an auld tinkler,..for maybe the gudewife will hae something to souther. 1829 Brockett *N. C. Gloss.* (ed. 2), *Sowther*, to solder. 1882 *Jamieson's Sc. Dict.* IV. 352/2 *To sowther, souther*, to solder.

β. 1511 [see the *vbl. sb.* 1]. 1560–1 in Willis & Clark *Cambridge* (1886) II. 628 For mendinge and sawderinge the cunditte pipe. 1570 Levins *Manip.* 78 To Sau[d]er, *conferruminare*. 1605 [see the *vbl. sb.* 1].

γ. 1561 Eden *Arte Navig.* II. xx. 41 b, A..wyre..made fast or sothered in it. 1601 Dolman *La Primaud. Fr. Acad.* 513 As tin doth soder and join togither broken copper. 1660 Boyle *New Exp. Phys. Mech.* Proem 11 There was soder'd on to the shank of the Cock..a Plate of Tin. 1684 R. Waller *Nat. Exp.* 51 When we had first put it through the Ring M, sodered to a small Iron Rod. 1743 in Willis & Clark *Cambridge* (1886) I. 296 To George the goldsmith ..for sothering on a pece of brass. 1769 *Phil. Trans.* LIX. 70, I then soddered the wires of each jar to the rod which connected them.

δ. 1535 Coverdale *Dan.* ii. 43 Like as yron wil not be souldered with a potsherde. 1565 Cooper *Thesaurus, Agglutino,*..to soulder together. 1659 Leak *Water-wks.* 7 Let the pipe DC be souldered to the bottom passing through it. 1687 A. Lovell tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* III. 39 Having most exactly bent the Ring, they Soulder the two ends of it together.

ε. 1594 Nashe *Unfort. Trav.* 59 Yᵉ tail of the siluer pipe stretcht it selfe into the mouth of a great paire of belowes, where it was close soldered. *a* 1700 Evelyn *Diary* 9 Sept. 1678, A plate of brasse soldered thereon. 1712 J. James tr. *Le Blond's Gardening* 200 To the Conduit-Pipe is soldered an upright Pipe,..and at the End of this Socket is likewise soldered the Brass-Nut. 1731 Miller *Gard. Dict., Lupulus* 4 G, This Bed is to be cover'd with large double Tin, solder'd together at each Joint. 1815 J. Smith *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 11 The end..of the stop-cock, is soldered or screwed into the end of the tube. 1858 Lardner *Handbk. Nat. Phil.* 307 In this hole is soldered the mouth of another tin bucket. 1895 *Daily Chron.* 15 Jan. 6/7 One of the difficulties in the use of aluminium has been the trouble of soldering it.

b. *transf.* To unite firmly or closely, to cause to adhere strongly, by means of some substance or device.

1601 Holland *Pliny* II. 594 The mortar..hath not that binding as it ought, and so the walls built therewith are not sodred accordingly. 1606 Shaks. *Ant. & Cl.* III. iv. 32 As if the world should cleaue, and that slaine men Should soader vp the Rift. 1664 Power *Exp. Phil.* I. 5 The Common Fly..can at pleasure..sodder and be-glew herself to the plain she walks on. 1839–47 *Todd's Cycl. Anat.* III. 243/2 Instances of the toes soldered together, as in the Horse. 1841 *Penny Cycl.* XXI. 158/1 The parietal bones are early soldered to the occipital.

† **2.** *Med.* To cause (wounds) to close up and become whole; to reunite (tissues or bones). *Obs.*

α. 1495 *Trevisa's Barth. De P. R.* xvi. xix. (Caxton) 559 Glewe hath vertue..to soudre [*Bodl. MS.* soude] woundes and blotches. 1597 A. M. tr. *Guillemeau's Fr. Chirurg.* 23 b/1 The foresayed suture is commonlye healed together the seaventh day, and soudered.

γ. 1577 Frampton *Joyful Newes* III. (1596) 94 Put into Sores, it healeth and sodereth them forthwith. 1639 T. de Gray *Expert Farrier* 341 The iuyce of salendine will conglutinat and sodder the tongue together being cut or wounded. 1656 Ridgley *Pract. Physick* 172 A Plaister of Ivy Gum sodders bones wonderfully. 1733 Cheyne *Eng. Malady* I. x. (1734) 98 The Fluids..to soder and repair their Wounds.

δ. 1600 Surflet *Countrie Farme* II. xlii. 262 The leaues thereof are good to conglutinate and soulder togither both outward and inward wounds. 1652 Culpepper *Eng. Physic.* 35 The juyce put into fresh or green wounds doth quickly 'soulder' up the lips of them together.

ε. 1628 Ford *Lover's Mel.* I. ii, As the one patches our tattered clothes, so the other solders our diseased flesh. 1769 *Phil. Trans.* LIX. 395 Inflammation solders up the mouths of these little vessels. *a* 1788 Pott *Chirurg. Wks.* II. 208 With a view to closing or soldering broken lymphatics.

3. *fig.* To unite, to cause to adhere, in a close, firm, or intimate manner.

γ. 1597 Hooker *Eccl. Pol.* V. lxxvi. § 9, I could easily declare, how all things which are of God, hee hath..sodered as it were together with the glue of mutuall assistance. 1601 Dent *Pathw. Heaven* 83 These carnall worldlings which are fast sodred to the earth! 1642 D. Rogers *Naaman* 133 Selfe soders matters of all sorts together. 1675 R. Burthogge *Causa Dei* 39 'Tis..Soul and Body Soder'd into one Compositum that sins. 1708 Swift *Sent. Ch. Eng. Man* Wks. 1751 IV. 66 The Presbyterians, Anabaptists, Independents, and other Sects did all..unite and sodder up their several schemes to join against the Church.

δ. 1607 Shaks. *Timon* IV. iii. 388 Thou visible God, That souldrest close Impossibilities, And mak'st them kisse. 1638 Drumm. of Hawth. *Irene* Wks. (1711) 166 That Power and Frame, which in a Monarchy hath been joined and souldered together many Ages.

ε. 1589 *Pappe w. Hatchet* E iij, To the foure & twentie orders of knaues, thou maist solder the foure and twentie orders of fooles. 1646 J. Hall *Horæ Vac.* 98 Friendship ..of equalls is ever best soldered. 1744 E. Moore *Fables for Ladies* xxii. 58 And, haply, use that precious metal To solder sexes, like a kettle. 1796 Burke *Corr.* (1844) IV. 383 We have abdicated the crown of Corsica, which had been newly soldered to the crown of Great Britain. 1827 *Gentl. Mag.* XCVII. II. 62 To permit his Royal Patronage to be soldered on to the Bible-Society. 1862 Lytton *Strange Story* I. 135, I clamped and soldered dogma to dogma in the links of my tinkered logic.

† **b.** To close or block *up* (the ear). *Obs.*—[1]

1648 J. Beaumont *Psyche* II. ii, No wretched Adder ever soder'd up His wilful ear with trustier cement.

† **c.** *absol.* To remain obdurately deaf. *Obs.*—[1]

1642 D. Rogers *Naaman* 865 That paddle and adoe which you have made to soder and play the Hypocrite.

4. *fig.* To bring or restore to a sound or unimpaired condition; to repair, mend, patch up again.

1607 Hieron *Wks.* I. 471 The more tender the loue, the more hard to be sodered, when it hath receiued a cracke. *c* 1640 J. Smyth *Lives Berkeleys* (1883) II. 161 This peace was not so soundly on each part sawdred, but that afterwards it leaked at certaine crannells. 1697 C. Leslie *Snake in Grass* (ed. 2) 179 Thou..seek'st to sodder their Leaky Infallibility, that thou may'st Inherit it. 1704 Swift *T. Tub* ix, An art to sodder and patch up the flaws and imperfections of nature. 1786 Burns *Twa Dogs* 216 The Men cast out in party-matches, Then sowther a' in deep debauches. 1818 Scott *Hrt. Midl.* xlvii, Under pretence that they have southered sin wi' marriage. 1857 Gen. P. Thompson *Audi Alt.* I. iii. 8 Fourteen thousand men are on their way to solder with slaughter what must have been the misdoings of somebody.

b. Similarly with *up.*

1594 Nashe *Terrors of Night* Ep. Ded., Pale penurious beautie, which giues dull Painters store of gold to solder vp their leane dints of deformity. 1607 Marston *What You Will* I. i, A rout of crased fortunes, whose crakt states Gape to be sodderd up. 1699 Garth *Dispensary* II. 20 And some would know the issue of their Cause, And whether Gold can sodder up its flaws. 1748 Richardson *Clarissa* (1811) IV. 58 She must therefore choose to be mine, for the sake of soldering up her reputation. 1816 Scott *Antig.* xxiv, But it was a' sowdered up again some gait, and the bairn was sent awa. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* II. v. i, The sad Varennes business has been soldered up.

5. *absol.* To perform the operation of uniting with solder.

1588 Purfoote (*title*), Howe to Gylde, Grane, Sowder, and Vernishe. 1639 T. de Gray *Expert Farrier* 35 Handy-worke is to heat the iron well, to sodder well. 1715 tr. *Pancirollus' Rerum Mem.* II. vii. 316 One kind of it [mineral] is called Borax, or Green Earth, which the Goldsmiths solder with. 1771 *Encycl. Brit.* III. 616/2 To solder upon silver, brass, or iron. 1850 Carlyle *Latter-d. Pamph.* IV. 4 Begin to hammer at it, solder at it,..it will fall to sherds, as sure as rust is rust. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 62/2 The Egyptians soldered with lead as long ago as the time of Thothmes.

† **b.** Of substances: To promote or cause close union; to serve as solder. *Obs.*

1495 *Trevisa's Barth. De P. R.* vii. lix. (Caxton) 275 Medycynes that close and soudre and brede good flesshe. 1612 J. Davies (Heref.) *Muse's Sacrifice* Wks. (Grosart) II. 69/1 Surgions Bands doe pinch, to solder so. 1645 Calamy *Indictment* 7 These are the glew that soders; these are the nerves and sinews that joyne a Kingdome together.

6. *intr.* To adhere, unite, grow together. Also *fig.*

1470–85 Malory *Arthur* xvii. iv. 695 He took the suerd and sette the pecys to gyders and they soudered as fayr as euer they were to fore. 1597 A. M. tr. *Guillemeau's Fr. Chirurg.* 12/1 They [bones] ioyne, and soulder (as it were) together agayne. *Ibid.* 23/1 If they [split lips] can not souder and ioyn, the one with the other. 1639 T. de Gray *Expert Farrier* 322 If the sinew or artery be broken,.. to cause it to soder or joyne againe. 1653 Blithe *Eng. Improver Impr.* 121 Nor [will] the Turf have fitting time to sodder and work together before the dry weather comes. 1737 Ramsay *Prov.* (1750) 126 Youth and eild never sowder well. 1776 G. White *Selborne* lxx, The tree in the suffering part was plastered with loam...If the parts coalesced and soldered together..the party was cured. 1897–1901 in *Eng. Dial. Dict.*

b. Const. *with* (a person or thing).

1641 Milton *Prel. Episc.* 22 Wee..take up there those cast principles which will soone cause us to soder up with them againe. 1647 N. Bacon *Disc. Govt. Eng.* xlvii. 125 The Tripple Crown could never solder with the English, nor it with that. *c* 1680 R. MacWard *Contend.* (1723) 4 Others also, with whom we must likewise souder, have been encouraged to repeat..the same disloyal Practises.

So·ldered, *ppl. a.* [f. Solder *v.* + -ed [1].]

1. Joined by means of solder. Also with *up.*

1599 B. Jonson *Cynthia's Rev.* II. ii, Hee will not depart with the waight of a sodred groat. 1725 *Fam. Dict.* s.v. *Reservatory*, Solder'd Pipes are no other than Sheets of Lead, which they bend and solder together at the Junctures. 1834–47 J. S. Macaulay *Field Fortif.* (1851) 210 In a well-soldered tin or iron case. 1843 Holtzapffel *Turning* I. 433 All soldered works should be kept under motionless restraint for a period. 1887 *Encycl. Brit.* XXII. 240/2 Secured in closely fitting soldered-up tinned-iron boxes.

2. *fig.* and *transf.* Patched up; closely united.

1623 Fletcher *Bloody Brother* II. i, A soder'd friendship Piec'd out with promises. 1667 Marvell *Poems* (Grosart) I. 218 He felt His alt'ring form and soder'd limbs to melt. 1859 Darwin *Orig. Spec.* xii. (1860) 392 The shrivelled wings under the soldered elytra of many insular beetles. 1887 G. Meredith *Ball. & Poems* 19 A rough ill-soldered scar..on his cheek-bone.

So·lderer. Also 6 soudrer. [f. Solder *v.* + -er [1].] One who solders.

1530 Palsgr. 273/1 Soudrer of metalles, *soudevr.* 1611 Cotgr., *Souldeur*, a Soulderer. 1881 *Instr. Census Clerks* (1885) 95 Smelter, Soldierer. 1896 *Daily News* 6 July 2/6 Strike of Sardine Box Solderers.

So·ldering, *vbl. sb.* [f. Solder *v.*]

1. The action of joining or mending with solder.

1466 *Paston Lett.* II. 268 To the glaser for takyn owte of ii. panys of the wyndows..and sowderyng new of the same, xxd. 1472–3 *Durh. Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 247 Pro sowderyng unius le gutter plumb. 1495 *Trevisa's Barth. De P. R.* xvi. xix. (Caxton) 559 Glewe hath vertue of drawynge and soudrynge. 1511 *Nottingham Rec.* III. 335 Peid to Thomas Illyngworth for sawderyng of a gutter. 1580 Frampton *Dial. Yron & Steele* 148 b, I doe not speake of the finenesse and delicatenesse that there is in sodering of it. 1605 in W. Kelly *Notices Illustr. Drama* (1865) 246 For sawderinge of other panes of glasse in the Halle. 1658 Manton *Expos. Jude* 2 Wks. 1871 V. 69 But our reconciliation with God, it is like the soldering of a vessel, which is strongest in the crack. 1728 Chambers *Cycl.* s.v., In the Soldering of all these Metals, they generally use Borax in Powder. 1807 T. Thomson *Chem.* (ed. 3) II. 566 Its great use is to facilitate the soldering of the more precious metals. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2240/1 Soldering was apparently unknown in Greece in the time of Homer.

b. With adjs., as *hard, soft.*

1832 Babbage *Econ. Manuf.* xv. (ed. 3) 143 Hard soldering gives a better coat of silver. 1843 Holtzapffel *Turning* I. 433 In soft-soldering, the binding wire is scarcely ever used. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* IV. 350 The one method is called *hard* and the other *soft* soldering.

2. The action of uniting or joining closely; an instance of this.

1550 Bale *Apol.* 17 All the unsounde sowderinges of Alyngtons sophistry, wyll not be found able workmanly to clowte up thys foule broken hole. 1603 Holland *Plutarch's Mor.* 226 The commixture and sodering (as it were) of good will and kinde affection. 1642 D. Rogers *Naaman* 835 All mixtures of selfe, and soderings against the Word. 1728 *Phil. Trans.* XXXV. 634 To steep them in Clay or Fuller's earth..before you heat them, to prevent their soldering with one another. 1857 Pusey *Doctr. Real Presence* (1869) i. 104, I assert a real union, yet it is not by conclusion or soldering, but Sacramental.

3. Solder; material used for soldering with.

1648 Hexham II, *Loot-metael*, Lead-mettall, or Saudering. *a* 1682 Sir T. Browne *Tracts* (1683) 4 Refining, Sodering, Dross, Nitre. 1880 *Daily News* 7 Oct. 6/7 A portion of the metal from the tin or from the soldering had become absorbed by the meat.

4. A soldered place or part.

1889 *Telegr. Jrnl.* XXV. 349 Even the delicate solderings of the ends of these wires to the copper clips were apparently the same as ever.

5. *attrib.*, chiefly in the names of tools or apparatus used in soldering, as *soldering iron.*

Descriptions of many of these are given by Knight *Dict. Mech.* (1875 and 1884).

1675 Baxter *Cath. The.* II. i. 280 A man that is set on a sodering design may palliate any Heresie in the world. 1688 Holme *Armoury* III. 307/1 These Sodering Irons are only used about Lead Workings. *Ibid.*, Other Soddering Irons there are used by other Trades. 1825 J. Nicholson *Operat. Mechanic* 633 It is smoothed and finished by rubbing it about with a red-hot soldering iron. 1843 Holtzapffel *Turning* I. 446 The soldering-tool *is* then thin and keen on the edge. 1873 E. Spon *Workshop Rec.* Ser. I. 366/1 See that the soldering iron..is well tinned. 1893 *Spons' Mech. Own Book* (ed. 4) 101 A soldering bit may be made by taking a piece of stout brass wire..about 6 in. long [etc.]. 1900 Hasluck *Mod. Eng. Handybk.* 139 For soft solders, the best flux is a soldering fluid which may be prepared by saturating hydrochloric acid with zinc.

So·ldering, *ppl. a.* [f. Solder *v.*] That solders or unites.

1599 Buttes *Dyets Drie Dinner* To Rdrs., Of a stiffening and soddering nature. 1652 Blithe *Engl. Improver Impr.* 110 There are some Lands, so Binding, so Tough a Soddering Clay.

† **Soldery.** *Obs.*—[1] In 6 souldery. [f. Sold *sb.*[1] + -ery: cf. OF. *souldoierie.*] Pay, payment.

1502 *Ord. Crysten Men* (W. de W. 1506) I. iii. 38 As it is wryten and regystred in yᵉ wages and souldery of yᵉ holy kynge of glory.

Soldier (sōʊ·ldʒəɹ), *sb.* Forms: *α.* 4 saud-, sawder, 5 sauldyer; 4 sawdour, sawgeoure, 5 saud-, sawdiour, 5–6 sawdyour (5 -yor). *β.* 4 souder, 5 sowder(e, 6 -eer; 5 soudyre, 5–6 sowdier, 6 soudyer; 5 sowdear, 6 -iar, -yare, soudiar; 4 soudior, 5 -eor, sowdior, -yor(e; 4 soudour, 4–5 soudyour(e, 4–6 soudeour, -iour (4 -ioure), 6 soudgour, 7 soujour; 4 sowedeur, 4–5 sowdeour, -iour, 4–6 -your (5 -yowre). *γ.* 4–5 souldeour, 4–6 -your, 4, 6–7 -iour (6 sowldiour, soulddour); 6 souldiar, -yar, -yer, 6–8 souldier (6 -iere), 7–8 souldjer, 7 soulder. *δ.* 5–6 soldiour, 6–7 soldior, 6 soldear, -iar, 6– soldier (6 soilder, 7 soldjere). *ε.* 4 sodiour, -your, 6 sodioure, -ear, -ier. *ζ.* 6 sogear, -eour, soygear, soi-, sojour, -ar, 7 sojor, 7– soger, sodger. [a. OF.

soud(i)er, saudier, sodyer, soldier (also with different ending *soldeier, -oier*, etc.), f. *soude* SOLD *sb.*1 (cf. med.L. *solidārius*). The obs. forms in *-eo(u)r, -io(u)r*, etc., correspond to the OF. variants *soudiour, souldiour, -eour, soldiour*, etc. Owing to the variation in both stem and termination, and the reduction of the *di* to *j* (*g*), the number of former spellings is unusually large.]

1. One who serves in an army for pay; one who takes part in military service or warfare; *spec.* one of the ordinary rank and file; a private.

Common soldier: see COMMON *a.* 12 b. *Private soldier*: see PRIVATE *a.* 2 b. *Foot-soldier*: see FOOT *sb.* 34 c. *Soldier of fortune*: see FORTUNE *sb.* 1 e.

a. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 24789 He gadird sauders her and þar, To strenth his castels. 13.. *K. Alis.* 1399 (Laud. MS.), And seuen & tuenty hundreþ sawders, Stronge in felde, vpon destrers. *c* 1440 *Contin. Brut* 538 Caleis..was þat tyme kept with saudiours. *c* 1460 *Towneley Myst.* XXX. 222 Thou art the best sawgeoure that euer had I any. 1465 *Paston Lett.* I. 133 The olde sawdyors of Normaundy. *c* 1489 CAXTON *Sonnes of Aymon* iii. 70, I am a sauldyer with Reynawde. [*c* 1500 *Melusine* 208 Your peple that be come hither to take your wages as sawdoyers.]

β. 13.. *Guy Warw.* 5329 Wiþ þat come anoþer knyt..: Douke Otus soudour was he. 1338 R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (1810) 109 Anowe with þer souders was alle biseged & set. *c* 1350 *Will. Palerne* 3954, I sette 3ou for no soudiour but for souerayn lord. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) IV. 255 In þe secounde fyve 3ere þey hadde silver for to paye knyztes and soudeours. 1421 *Rolls of Parlt.* IV. 159/2 The pore liege men and Soudeors in the Town. *c* 1450 *Merlin* xii. 174 Lete vs geder oure kyn and oure frendes and sowderes out of alle londes. 1503 *Act* 19 *Hen. VII*, c. 12 P 11 Callyng hymself a Sowedyer, Shipman, or Travelyngman. 1526 R. WHYTFORD *Martiloge* (1893) 2 Amonge soudyours that were under the capytane & prynce Licyne. 1535 COVERDALE 2 *Sam.* iv. 2 There were two men captaynes ouer the soudyers. 1538 STARKEY *England* I. i. 3 He was.. neuer gud capitayne that neuer was soudiar.

γ. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 358 How thei stonde of on acord, The Souldeour forth with the lord. *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (1839) v. 38 Als moche takethe the Amyralle be him allone, as alle the other Souldyours han-undre hym. 1474 CAXTON *Chesse* II. iv. (1883) 49 Whan the souldyours see that they [etc.]. 1530 PALSGR. 273/1 Souldier of a strange lande, *auxiliaire*. 1570–6 LAMBARDE *Peramb. Kent* (1826) 141 He maintained a great number of Souldiours within the Castle. 1623 TEKE *Holy Eucharist* A iij b, How that noble Worthy made them bee Destroyed of his souldjers presentlie. 1640–1 *Kirkcudbright War-Committee's Minute Bk.* (1855) 152 To mak present provisione..for clothes and schooes to thair awn souldiors. 1680 OTWAY *Orphan* II. iii, Young Souldier, you've not only study'd War.

δ. *c* 1450 HOLLAND *Howlat* 641 Soldiouris and sumptermen to thai sen3eouris. *a* 1547 SURREY *Æneid* II. 11 What Myrmidon:..What stern Ulysses waged soldiar? 1557 *Anc. Rec. Dubl.* (1889) 468 Every freman becomyng a soilder. 1590 SIR J. SMYTH *Disc. Weapons* Ded. 16 b, Such Officers.. cannot faile to make good soldiers. 1601 SHAKS. *Twel. N.* III. iv. 339 As he is a Gentleman and a Soldiour. 1628–9 DIGBY *Voy. Medit.* (Camden) 16 The gran Hogi (that is secretarie) paying the soldiors. 1728 YOUNG *Love Fame* IV. 254 Of boasting more than of a bomb afraid, A soldier should be modest as a maid. 1752 HUME *Ess. & Treat.* (1777) I. 275 A continual succession of wars makes every citizen a soldier. 1829 SCOTT *Anne of G.* XXXIV, The sight of your lordship..has waked the old soldier in myself. 1869 E. A. PARKES *Pract. Hygiene* (ed. 3) 623 The trade of the soldier is war.

ε. *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (Roxb.) vi. 20 Pure knyghtes and sodyours selles þaire hernays. 1489 *Barbour's Bruce* v. 205 (Edin.), It wes all to gret perill Sa ner thir sodiourys to ga. 1529 RASTELL *Pastyme* (1811) 108 And wyth new sodears..gave to Arthur anewe battell. 1556 *Chron. Grey Friars* (Camden) 16 The morrow after there ware sodiers arestyd & prisond. 1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 223 A sodioure, *miles, bellator*.

ζ. 1532 in W. M. Williams *Ann. Founders' Co.* (1867) 214 These be the charges for the fyrst Soygears. 1559 *Peebles Burgh Rec.* (1872) 253 The inqueist ordanis the sojarris and allegit men of weir to depas incontinent of the tovne. 1573 *Satir. Poems Reform.* XXXIX. 118 With certane Soiouris of the garysoun. 1640–1 *Kirkcudbright War-Committee's Minute Bk.* (1855) 9 The sogers, both the foote and horss. 1650 Z. BOYD in *Zion's Flowers* (1855) Introd. 48 Divers sojours did sing with us. 17.. RAMSAY *Soger Laddie* ii, My doughty laddie..can as a soger and lover behave. 1782 BURNS *I'll go and be a Sodger* 4 I'm twenty-three, and five-feet-nine,—I'll go and be a sodger! 1838 JAS. GRANT *Sk. London* 219 Hollering aloud that he had been a sodger before, but that he was a gentleman now. 1840 R. H. DANA *Bef. Mast* iv, You're neither man, boy, soger, nor sailor!

b. A man of military skill and experience.

1603 SHAKS. *Meas. for M.* III. ii. 155 Hee shall appeare to the enuious, a Scholler, a Statesman, and a Soldier. 1603 MOUNTJOY in Moryson *Itin.* (1617) II. 284 Howsoever he be no Souldier, yet is[he] well acquainted with the businesse of the warre. 1852 TENNYSON *Ode Dk. Wellington* 131 So great a soldier taught us there, What long-enduring hearts could do. 1862 CARLYLE *Fredk. Gt.* XII. ii. III. 181 There is Count von Roth, Silesian Lutheran, an excellent Soldier.

c. A small image of a soldier, intended as a child's toy.

1878 H. S. LEIGH *Town Garland* 56, I will treat her young brother, methinks, To a boxful of soldiers instead.

2. *fig.* (usually with ref. to spiritual service or warfare). Also const. *to* (a purpose, etc.).

1340 *Ayenb.* 146 We byeþ alle uelazes ine þe ost of oure lhorde and his knistes and his soudeurs. *c* 1500 *Melusine* 149 Pey name them self sawdyours of our lord Jeshu criste. 1549 *Bk. Common Prayer, Publ. Bapt.*, To continewe his faythfull soldiour and seruaunt unto thy lyfes ende. 1580 in Allen *Martyrdom Campion* (1908) 25 Very many..being restored to the Church, new souldiars geve up their names.

1608 SHAKS. *Per.* IV. i. 8 Nor let pity..melt thee, but be A soldier to thy purpose. 1611 — *Cymb.* III. iv. 186 This attempt, I am Souldier too. 1649 BP. REYNOLDS *Hosea* ii. 74 Such an oath have all Christ's Souldiers taken. 1737 CHALLONER *Cath. Chr. Instr.* (1753) 20 To make them Soldiers of Christ, and perfect Christians. 1810 SHELLEY *Tremble Kings* 5 We all are soldiers fit to fight. 1860 WARTER *Sea-board* II. 466 No mean soldier of the Church Militant here on earth.

b. *To come the old soldier over one*, to take one in, impose upon one. (See COME *v.* 28 b.)

1824 SCOTT *St. Ronan's* XVIII, I should think he was coming the old soldier over me, and keeping up his game. 1861 HUGHES *Tom Brown at Oxf.* II. XVII. 331 But you needn't try to come the old soldier over me. I'm not quite such a fool as that.

3. *transf.* Used as a name for various animals, fishes, etc.

†**a.** A turtle. *Obs.* **b.** The soldier-crab or hermit-crab. †**c.** = *soldier-insect* (see 8). †**d.** A Brazilian fish, of which the native name is *camboatá. Obs.* **e.** A fighting ant or termite; also *Austr.*, a species of large red ant. **f.** The red gurnard. **g.** *slang.* A red herring. **h.** A red spider; a small red beetle; a ladybird. **i.** *Austr.* (See quot.) **j.** *U.S.* (See quot.)

a. 1608 TOPSELL *Serpents* (1658) 798 This Sea-tortoise.., which the common fisher-men call 'the Soldier', because his back seemeth to be armed and covered with a shield and helmet.

b. 1666 J. DAVIES *Hist. Caribby Isles* 78 There is a kind of Snailes, called by the French *Soldats* that is *Souldiers*, because they have no shells proper and peculiar to themselves. 1697 DAMPIER *Voy.* (1699) 39 Under those Trees we found plenty of Soldiers, that live in Shells,..and have two great Claws like a Crab. 1725 SLOANE *Jamaica* II. 272 This small Lobster or Crab differs in very little from the European Souldjer or Hermit-Crab. 1782 P. H. BRUCE *Mem.* XII. 424 Their shell-fish are conques, perriwinkles, coneys, sogers, wilkes, etc. 1833 M. SCOTT *Tom Cringle* vi, The amphibious little creatures, half crab, half lobster, called soldiers.

c. 1699 WAFER *Voy.* 110 If these Soldiers eat of any of the Manchineel-Apples.., their Flesh becomes..infected with that virulent Juice.

d. 1703 DAMPIER *Voy.* (1729) III. I. 416 The River Souldier. It's mail'd somewhat like a Sturgeon, the Meat good; they say it gets on Land to seek for Water when the Rivers are near dry.

e. (*a*) 1781 *Phil. Trans.* LXXI. 145 Of every species there are three orders; first, the working insects,..next the fighting ones, or soldiers. 1871 KINGSLEY *At Last* viii, The workers and soldiers, I believe, without exception, are blind. 1898 E. P. EVANS *Evol. Ethics* vi. 210 The soldiers may be undeveloped males, although this is by no means certain. (*b*) 1854 G. H. HAYDON *Australian Emigrant* 59 It was a red ant, upwards of an inch in length—'that's a soldier, and he prods hard too'. 1881 *Chequered Career* 324, I was bitten once by a 'soldier', and for ten minutes was in frightful agony.

f. 1846 *Zoologist* IV. 1402 The Red Gurnard, *Trigla cuculus*. This species is frequently called 'soldier'. 1905 HASLOPE *Pract. Sea-Fishing* 97 Small Pollack sometimes acquire a bright red colour, and then are termed 'soldiers' in Cornwall.

g. 1811 *Lexicon-Balatronicum, Soldier*, a red herring. 1835 MARRYAT *J. Faithful* x, He returned, bringing half a dozen red herrings. 'Here, Tom, grill these sodgers.' 1883 DAY *Fishes Gt. Brit.* II. 210 A red herring..sailors usually designate..as a sodger, or soldier.

h. 1848 JOHNSTON in *Proc. Berw. Nat. Club* II. VI. 290 This insect is called a Tant in England...Our children call it the Soldier, from its scarlet colour. 1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss., Soldier*, the small beetle known to entomologists as the *Cantharis livida*. 1858 KINGSLEY *Misc.* (1859) I. 189 The soldier, the soft-winged reddish beetle which haunts the umbelliferous flowers. 1863 [see SAILOR 3 b].

i. 1898 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Rom. Canvas Town* 76 They rode on,..seeing nothing living save..four 'soldiers' or forest kangaroos.

j. 1904 P. FOUNTAIN *Great North-West* XIX. 224 A bird known locally [in Ohio] as 'the marshal', and sometimes 'the soldier'...It is a very gaudy woodpecker with a great deal of scarlet in the colour of its plumage.

4. *dial.* As a plant-name (see quot.).

See also *Fresh-water* and *Water soldier*.

1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss., Soldier*, another local name for the field poppy, *Papaver Rhæas*.

5. A disease of swine characterized by red patches on the skin. (Cf. *soldier-disease* in 8.)

1888 F. VACHER *Transmiss. Disease by Food* 4 Erysipelas is far from rare among cattle and swine; and passing under such names as..'soldier' is often counted but a trifling ailment. 1890 *Lancet* 2 Aug. 217/2 A disorder affecting pigs, called..in Ireland 'red soldier', from the red patches that appear on the skin in fatal cases.

6. A soldier-line (see 8).

1865 WILCOCKS *Sea-fisherman* (1875) 82 The tide now began to run considerably stronger, and more length on the lines was requisite: I therefore prepared to 'rig a soldier'.

7. *attrib.* and *Comb.* **a.** Appositive, as *soldier-colonist, -hero, -laddie, -man*, etc.

1852 MUNDY *Antipodes* (1857) 196 The attempt to make the *soldier-colonist a landed proprietor. *a* 1892 TENNYSON in *Q. Rev.* Oct. (1897) 524 Our great, simple *soldier-hero Gordon. 17.. RAMSAY *Soger Laddie* i, My *soger laddie is over the sea. [1786 *Har'st Rig* XCVIII, The Grey Breeks next, and then she'll try The Sodger Laddie. 1847 TENNYSON *Princ.* Prol. 86 While the twangling violin Struck up with Soldier-laddie.] 1802 R. L. & MAR. EDGEWORTH *Irish Bulls* (1803) 153 Some of his *soldiermen being of the company. 1893 STEVENSON *Catriona* XXX. 354, I went among soldier-men to their big dinners. 1894 H. SPEIGHT *Nidderdale* 187 The original house of the old *soldier-monks at Ribston. 1823 W. ROBINSON in J. A. Heraud *Voy. & Mem. Midshipman* VI. (1837) 101 In a race we had..against the *soldier-officers ..there was a capsize. 1808 MITFORD *Hist. Greece* XXVIII. § IX. III. 549 [Xenophon] the *soldier-philosopher-author. 1830 TENNYSON *To J. M. K.* 2 A latter Luther, and a *soldier-priest. 1852 MUNDY *Antipodes* (1857) 35 The old *soldier-robber remaining doggedly at bay. 1892 T. A. COOK *Old Touraine* I. 10 If there is one thing for which Tours is famous it is for its *soldier-saint. 1871 SWINBURNE *Songs bef. Sunrise, Blessed among Women* 11 A godlike *soldier-saviour. 1872 *Routledge's Ev. Boy's Ann.* 186/2 An awkward *soldier-servant.

b. Attributive, as *soldier-caste, -city, -class, -craft*, etc.

1847 MRS. KERR tr. *Ranke's Hist. Servia* 455 The immediate domination of the *soldier-caste. 1847 TENNYSON *Princ.* V. 7 Threading the *soldier-city. 1847 MRS. KERR tr. *Ranke's Hist. Servia* 160 There was no *soldier-class in Servia. 1855 S. PALMER in Gilchrist *Life Blake* I. 303 That we heard so much of priestcraft, and so little of *soldiercraft and lawyercraft. 1844 LEVER *T. Burke* II. 163 Even there, again, I but showed my *soldier education. 1814 SCOTT *Lord of Isles* III. V, Then do me but the *soldier grace, This glove upon thy helm to place. *a* 1835 MRS. HEMANS *Burial in the Desert* Poems (1875) 517 With a few brief words of *soldier-love. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. II. ii, How these things may act on the rude *soldier-mind. 1810 SCOTT *Lady of Lake* VI. ii, At dawn the towers of Stirling rang With *soldier-step and weapon-clang.

c. Miscellaneous, as *soldier-breeder*; *soldier-hearted, -mad* adjs.; *soldier-wise* adv.

1599 SHAKS. *Hen. V*, V. ii. 219 Thou must therefore needes proue a good Souldier-breeder. 1824 MEDWIN *Conversat. Byron* II. 206 Lord Byron..became, as one of the letters from the place..expresses it, soldier-mad. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. I. xi, They have shouldered, soldier-wise, their shovels and picks. 1848 *Blackw. Mag.* Mar. 353 They were buried soldier-fashion in the same grave. 1849 [W. M. W. CALL] *Reverb.* II. 5 Be thou wise and earnest, good and brave, Soldier-hearted.

8. Special combs., as **soldier-ant**, = sense 3 e; **soldier-beetle**, = sense 3 h; (**old**) **soldier bird**, an Australian bird, *Myzomela sanguinolenta*, with bright red plumage; **soldier-bush**, = *soldier-wood*; **soldier disease**, = sense 5; †**soldierfare**, military service or experience; **soldier-fish, -flies**, *U.S.* (see quots.); †**soldier-insect** (see quot.); **soldier-line** (see quot. and cf. sense 6); †**soldier money**, ? money spent in assisting poor soldiers; **soldier-moth, -orchis** (see quots.); **soldier palmer**, an artificial fly used in angling; **soldier-pink** *dial.*, a minnow; **soldier-plant, -thighed** *a.*, **-wood** (see quots.).

1857 LIVINGSTONE *Trav.* XXVII. 537, I observed many regiments of black *soldier-ants. 1855 OGILVIE *Suppl.*, **Soldier-beetle*, a name given to coleopterous insects of the genus Telephorus. 1883 W. SAUNDERS *Insects Inj. Fruits* 185 The larva of the soldier-beetle, *Chauliognathus Americanus*.., is also a useful agent in destroying the curculio. 1857 D. BUNCE *Australas. Rem.* 62 The notes peculiar to the..leather-head or old *soldier bird, added in no small degree to the novelties. 1881 *Encycl. Brit.* XII. 139 The males are recognizable by a gorgeous display of crimson or scarlet, which has caused one species..to be known as the Soldier-bird to Australian colonists. 1878 *Typhoid Fever Order* (Privy Council), Typhoid fever of Swine (otherwise called *Soldier disease or red disease). 1579–80 NORTH *Plutarch, Sertorius* (1612) 584 The first time of his *souldierfare was, when the Cimbres and Teutons inuaded Gavle. 1632 HOLLAND *Cyrupædia* 43 Whatsoever by their souldier-fare in this expedition, they shall win. 1882 JORDAN & GILBERT *Syn. Fishes N. Amer.* 517 *Pœcilechthys cæruleus*, Blue Darter; Rainbow Darter; *Soldier-fish. 1855 OGILVIE *Suppl.*, **Soldier-flies*, a name given in the United States to flies of the family Stratiomydæ. 1699 WAFER *Voy.* 110 There is a sort of Insect like a Snail in great plenty among the Samballoe's, which is call'd the *Soldier-Insect.., because of the Colour. 1865 WILCOCKS *Sea-fisherman* (1875) 82 A *soldier-line is one of two-stranded hemp twine, having for a sinker a two-pound Mackerel plummet, and is made fast to a strong flexible stick [etc.]. 1593 *Churchw. Acc. Pittington*, etc. (Surtees) 35 Item given to Roberte Morie for *Soldier monie (as he cald it) the xxiiij of November, xiij d. 1603 *Ibid.* 52 Item given to Thomas Kinge for Souldere monie the last day of March, viij s. viij d. 1882 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* VI. 67 The *Soldier Moth (*Euschema militaris*) is the commonest. 1863 PRIOR *Plant-n.*, **Soldier-orchis*, from a fancied resemblance in it to a soldier, *Orchis militaris*. 1839 T. C. HOFLAND *Brit. Angler's Man.* xi. (1841) 164 The house-fly and small *soldier palmer. 1867 F. FRANCIS *Angling* vi. (1880) 245 Soldier Palmer. A capital fly in warm weather. 1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss.*, **Soldier-pink*, the minnow, called by ichthyologists the *Cyprynus Proxinus*. 1864 GRISEBACH *Flora Brit. W. Ind.* 787/2 *Soldier-plant, *Calliandra purpurea*. 1825 JAMIESON *Suppl.*, **Sodger-thee'd*, having little or no money in one's pocket. [Cf. *soldier's thigh* in 9.] 1823 CRABB *Technol. Dict.* II, **Soldier-wood*, ..the *Mimosa purpurea* of Linnæus. 1824 LOUDON *Encycl. Gard.* (ed. 2) 1223/1 Soldier-wood, *inga purpurea*. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1071/2 Soldier-wood, *Calliandra purpurea*.

9. Possessive combs., as †**soldier's bottle**, a bottle of extra size; †**soldier's boy**, a camp-follower; †**soldier's cloth**, coarse cloth; **soldier's heart**, *Path.*, a diseased state of the heart, characterized by a throbbing sensation in the chest and a difficulty in breathing; †**soldier's mawnd**, *slang* (see quots.); **soldier's spots**, *Path.*, a variety of macula; **soldier's supper**, a smoke and a drink of water; **soldier's thigh**, *dial.* (see quot., and cf. *soldier-thighed* in 8); **soldier's wind**, a wind which serves either way.

a 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew*, **Soldier's-bottle*, a large one. 1731–8 SWIFT *Polite Conv.* 177, I hope, you'll give me a Soldier's Bottle. 1611 COTGR., *Goujat*, a *Souldiors boy. ..*Goujaterie*, Souldiors boyes, or the young rakehells that follow a Campe. 1753 HANWAY *Trav.* II. II. XXVI. 156 The advantage in favour of the British subjects in Russia..is

about one third part in the customs of *soldiers cloths. 1898 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* V. 851 **Soldier's heart.*—I venture to give this name to a disease well-known to physicians in the army. *a* 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew*, **Souldiers-Mawn'd*, a Counterfeit Sore or Wound in the Left Arm. 1785 Grose *Dict. Vulgar T., Soldiers mawnd*, a pretended soldier, begging with a counterfeit wound. 1873 *Dunglison's Dict. Med. Sci.*, *Soldier's spots, *Maculæ albæ*. 1893 J. A. Barry *Steve Brown's Bunyip* 31 A bite o' rotten bread for breakfus, ditto for dinner, an' a *soldier's supper. 1841 Hartshorne *Salop. Ant.* Gloss., **Soldier's thigh*, a slang term for an empty pocket. 1833 Marryat *P. Simple* xvi, The wind was what is called at sea a *soldier's wind, that is, blowing so that the ships could lie either way, so as to run out or into the harbour. 1893 H. M. Doughty *Wherry in Wendish Lands* 312 Thence down the Schwielow See, with a light soldier's wind, we crept contentedly to past the Gänse horn.

b. In various plant-names, as **soldier's cap, cullion, herb, tea, weed, woundwort, yarrow.**

1854 Miss Baker *Northampt. Gloss.*, **Soldier's caps*, the flowers of the monkshood. 1597 Gerarde *Herbal* I. ci. 166 *Souldiers Cullions hath many leaues spred vpon the ground, but lesser than the Souldiers Satyrion. 1760 J. Lee *Introd. Bot.* App. 327 Soldier's Cullions, *Orchis*. 1601 Holland *Pliny* II. 204 The herb which they cal Militaris [*marg.* The *soulders hearbe]. 1611 Florio, *Herba militare*, the souldiers hearbe. 1893 *Dunglison's Dict. Med. Sci., Matico,* *Soldier's tea or herb; South American herb, order Piperaceæ. 1851 Dunglison *Ibid.* (ed. 4), *Soldier's weed [1893 wood], *Matico*. 1866 *Sowerby's Eng. Bot.* V. 58 It [yarrow] was formerly esteemed as a vulnerary, and its old names of '*soldier's wound-wort' and 'knight's milfoil' bear witness to this. 1578 Lyte *Dodoens* 143 The second is called .. in English .. *Souldiers yerrow. 1597 Gerarde *Herbal* II. cclxxv. 677 *Militaris aquatica*, and *Militaris Aizoides*, or Soldiers Yarrow.

Soldier (sōu·ldʒəɹ), *v.* Also 7 **souldiour,** 8–9 *Sc.* and *dial.* **sodger,** 9 **soger, sojer.** [f. the sb.]

1. *intr.* To act or serve as a soldier. Also with *it*.

a. 1647 Gentilis tr. *Malvezzi's Chiefe Events* 187 If I souldiour it with so great a souldiour. 1815 *Ann. Reg., Chron.* App. 307, I will soldier it with anybody, but I will not go to school. 1825 in Col. Hawker *Diary* (1893) I. 287 Too busy soldiering to think of pheasant shooting. 1867 *Morning Star* 30 Jan., I have soldiered for six months at a stretch on a penny a day. 1889 *Sat. Rev.* 16 Mar. 319/1 They soldier as if their very lives depended on it.

β. 1818 Scott *Rob Roy* xviii, Thae papist cattle that hae been sodgering abroad. 1852 J. Fraser *King Jas. V*, III. ii, He..said he would sodger nae mair.

b. In phrase *to go* (*a-*) *soldiering*.

1756 H. Walpole *Lett.* (1846) III. 229 If you think of conveying them through Moreland, he is gone a soldiering. 1816 Scott *Old Mort.* vi, This comes o' letting ye gang a-sodgering for a day. 1845 James *Arrah Neil* vii, It does not do to go soldiering in these times without money in one's pocket. 1896 *Pall Mall Mag.* Dec. 458 It was my mother's name, and good to go soldiering with.

c. *dial.* To bully; to hector. (Halliwell, 1847.)

d. To feign illness, to malinger; to make a mere show of working, to shirk.

1840 R. H. Dana *Bef. Mast* iv, There is no time to be lost,—no 'sogering', or hanging back then. 1876 C. D. Warner *Winter on Nile* 248 They stretch out..so far that it needs an opera-glass to discover whether the leaders are pulling or only soldiering. 1890 Clark Russell *My Shipmate Louise* I. vi. 119 Finding fault with some fellow for 'sogering', as it is called.

e. *Mil. slang.* To furbish up accoutrements, etc.

1885 Mrs. J. H. Ewing *Story Short Life* 35, I was busy soldiering till too late; so I come in this morning.

2. *trans.* **a.** ? To drill or train.

1780 S. J. Pratt *Emma Corbett* (ed. 4) I. 107 Confess, that I am sufficiently soldier'd; for I can hold the pen, and impress the quiet-seeming sentiment.

b. To serve *out* one's time as a soldier.

1873 *Daily News* 21 May 5/6 A man may soldier out his term in the British cavalry [etc.].

c. *Austr. slang.* To make temporary use of (another man's horse). 1891 in *Cent. Dict.*

Hence **So·ldiering** *ppl. a.*

1607 Middleton *The Phœnix* I. ii, Enter the Captain with soldiering fellows. 1795 Burns '*Fy, let us a'*' x, The wild Scot o' Galloway, Sodgerin gunpowder Blair.

Soldier-crab. [Cf. Soldier *sb.* 3 b.] The hermit-crab.

1668 Charleton *Onomast.* 177 *Cancellus*,..the little Souldier-Crab. 1681 Grew *Musæum* I. v. iv. 121 The Naked-Shrimp, commonly called The Souldier-Crab. 1735 *Phil. Trans.* XXXIX. 115 Others call them Soldier-Crabs, resembling them to Soldiers in Centinels Boxes. 1774 Goldsm. *Nat. Hist.* (1790) VI. 370 The animal I mean is the Soldier Crab, which has some similitude to the lobster, if divested of its shell. 1819 Samouelle *Entomol. Compend.* 92 Termed indiscriminately Soldier-crabs and Hermit-crabs. 1882 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* VI. 204 The friendship..between Soldier Crabs and Sea Anemones is very remarkable.

So·ldierdom. [f. Soldier *sb.*] The quality or nature of a soldier.

1870 *Daily News* 27 Sept., Men whose soldierdom is neither spontaneous nor mercenary. 1888 *Our Corner* Feb. 68 At the base is soldierdom, pure and simple, the merely dominant and fighting man.

Soldieress (sōu·ldʒərès). [f. Soldier *sb.* + -ess.] A female soldier.

1612 *Two Noble K.* I. i, Honour'd Hypolita, Most dreaded Amazonian :..Soldieress. 1864 R. F. Burton *Dahome* II. 63 In Dahome the soldieresses have two titles.

So·ldierhood. [f. Soldier *sb.* + -hood.] The essential qualities of a soldier or soldiery; the condition of being a soldier.

1846 H. W. Torrens *Rem. Milit. Hist.* 314 A military power, which has passed from serfdom to national soldierhood. 1861 *Macm. Mag.* III. 325 It was hard indeed to be pre-eminent..amidst that flower of soldierhood. 1883 *Pall Mall G.* 9 Oct. 5/1 He will have come face to face with an almost ideal incarnation of Russian soldierhood.

Soldiering (sōu·ldʒəriŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. the vb.]

1. The action of serving as a soldier; the state of being a soldier; military service.

1697 J. Lewis *Mem. Dk. Glocester* (1789) 59 On a sudden he left off his soldiering, and must needs take to managing a wooden horse. 1722 De Foe *Col. Jack* (1840) 199 This was my second essay at the trade of soldiering. 1806 *Ann. Rev.* IV. 244 The resistance of the quakers to soldiering and to tythes. 1857 Sherard Osborn *Quedah* xvii. 227 He could handle a musket with all the innate love of soldiering of an Irishman. 1884 *Truth* 13 Mar. 372/1 His trade was soldiering, and..he has distinguished himself in his profession.

attrib. 1643 [Angier] *Lanc. Vall. Achor* 11 God kept up the Souldiering spirit, by Prayers and Psalms. 1884 *Pall Mall G.* 14 Aug. 4/2 Setting down his soldiering experiences with his old corps. 1888 Henty *Cornet of Horse* xvi. 161, I think this soldiering life makes one restless.

2. Malingering, shirking.

1894 *Forum* (N.Y.) June 504 There could be no 'sojering'. Inattention and neglect were at the expense of the worker.

Soldierize (sōu·ldʒərəiz), *v.* Also 6 **souldiour-,** 7 **souldierize,** 9 *Sc.* **sodgerise.** [f. Soldier *sb.* + -ize.]

1. *intr.* To serve as a soldier. Also with *it*.

1593 Nashe *Christ's T.* (1613) 93 What Gentleman hath been cast away at Sea, or disasterly souldiouriz'd it by Land, but they [usurers] haue enforst him thereunto. 1611 Cotgr., *Militer*, to warre, goe a warfaring..; to souldierize it. 1708 *Brit. Apollo* No. 77. 2/1 We do..think it lawful for you to Soldierize. 1836 J. Mayne *Siller Gun* iv, Marching wi' drums and fifes for ever—A' sodgerising!

2. *trans.* To make into a soldier.

1611 Cotgr., *Soldatisé*, souldierized, made a souldier. 1798 Anna Seward *Lett.* (1811) V. 143 The male youth and middle life of England are, you know, all soldierized and gone to camps and coasts. 1843 J. J. Gurney *Mem.* (1854) II. 369 All the male inhabitants are for a time soldierized when young.

3. To alter after the manner of soldiers.

1891 S. Mostyn *Curatica* 130 The dog, Fidèle by name—soldierized into the Fiddler—had come to my cousin from a brother officer.

So·ldierlike, *a.* and *adv.* Also 6 **souldiour-, -ior-,** 6–7 **-ier-, -yer-;** 6 **soldior-, -iar-,** 7 **-jere-.** [f. Soldier *sb.*]

A. *adj.* **1.** Having the character or bearing of a soldier. (Cf. Soldierly *a.* 2.)

1542 Udall *Apophthegms* (1877) 53 One of the passingers, a grosse carle, and soldiarlike feloe. *a* 1586 Sidney *Apol. Poet.* (Arb.) 46 Which that right Souldier-like Nation thinck the chiefest kindlers of braue courage. 1757 Washington *Writ.* (1889) I. 468 You are also to be vastly careful..to make them appear always neat and clean, and soldier-like. 1774 in Burke *Corr.* (1844) I. 513 Now every peasant..is erect and soldier-like in his air and gait. 1833 Ritchie *Waud. Loire* 22 A fine, frank, high-spirited, soldier-like, young fellow. 1884 *Manch. Exam.* 1 Nov. 5/6 They..looked quite soldierlike in their white tunics.

2. Appropriate to, worthy of, becoming or befitting, a soldier. (Cf. Soldierly *a.* 1.)

1553 Ascham *Disc. Germany* Wks. (1904) 147 His apparell is souldier like, better knowen by hys fearce doynges then by his gay goyng. 1590 Sir J. Smyth *Disc. Weapons* 25 Rather vpon fancie than vpon anie souldiourlyke reasons and experience. 1617 Collins *Def. Bp. Ely* II. ix. 359 To releeue a souldier..is an act of souldierie, because done for consideration of his souldierlike exploits. 1670 Covel in *Early Voy. Levant* (Hakl.) 136 Two of our seamen..who made a very soldjere-like retreat. 1711 Steele *Spect.* No. 136 ₱ 3 He was the Occasion that the Muscovites kept their Fire in so soldier-like a manner. 1779 *Mirror* No. 11, Officers of the most soldier-like appearance and address. 1813 Southey *Nelson* vii, A soldier-like and becoming answer. 1837 W. Irving *Capt. Bonneville* I. 123 As they rode along, they made their wills in soldierlike style. 1872 Cunynghame *Trav. Caucasus* 7 The dress of both officers and men was sensible and soldierlike.

B. *adv.* In a manner befitting a soldier.

1571 Golding *Calvin on Ps.* xviii. 38 Althowgh he seeme to speake to souldyerlyke, when he sayeth, he will make none end of slaughter. 1598 Barret *Theor. Warres* III. i. 35 Hauing done the which, to retire souldier-like, and charge againe. 1631 Gouge *God's Arrows* v. Ded. 406 Among Souldiers I endeavoured to speake Souldier-like. 1705 I. Robins *Hero of the Age* II. vii, How Martially they charge! how Soldier-like they ride! 1706 J. Gardiner *Rapin on Gardens* I. 36 Valiant Halesus..Soldier-like disclos'd his bolder Flame. 1825 Scott *Talism.* xxvii, Form yourselves around the ladies soldier-like and firmly. 1881 Swinburne *Mary Stuart* I. i. (1899) 29 Why, this rings right Well said, and soldierlike.

So·ldierliness. [f. next.] The quality of being soldierly.

1890 *Illustr. Lond. News* 13 Sept. 330/3 Of gentle birth and handsome soldierliness. 1892 Peyton *Memorabilia Jesus* xv. 418 The action, the chivalry, and the soldierliness of being is the man's.

Soldierly (sōu·ldʒəɹli), *a.* and *adv.* Also 6–7 **souldier-,** 7 **soldiour-,** 8 *Sc.* **sogerly.** [f. Soldier *sb.* + -ly.]

A. *adj.* **1.** Becoming or appropriate to, befitting, a soldier or soldiers. (Cf. Soldierlike *a.* 2.)

1577 B. Googe *Heresbach's Husb.* II. 50 Varro maketh mention of foure kindes of enclosure, the fyrst naturall, the second wylde, the thirde souldierly. [*Ibid.*, The third the Souldiers fortefying.] *a* 1586 Sidney *Arcadia* I. vi. ₱ 2 They had fought rather with beastly furie, then with any souldierly discipline. 1632 Chapman *Cæsar & Pompey* II. 1, Can I hope..to raise my fortunes By creeping up in soldierly degrees? 1665 Manley *Grotius' Low C. Wars* 724 They published an answer filled with many souldierly taunts. 1777 Robertson *Hist. Amer.* V. (1778) II. 4 The impetuosity of his temper..mellowed into a cordial soldierly frankness. 1809 Malkin *Gil Blas* V. i. ₱ 21 It is not soldierly to shrink from the perils of the field. 1874 Green *Short Hist.* iv. § 3. 196 The rough soldierly nobleness of his nature breaks out at Falkirk.

2. Having the qualities of a soldier. (Cf. Soldierlike *a.* 1.)

1620 Holland *Camden's Brit.* I. 450 Some of his kinde souldierly followers founded a Chanterie at Castle Heningham. 1675 Traherne *Chr. Ethics* 325 Little better then a souldierly ruffian. 1763 H. Walpole *Lett.* (1891) IV. 68 My nephew..is very soldierly and lively. 1770 Br. Forbes *Jrnl.* (1886) 288 In order to seige, or rather murder, the sogerly Shaw. 1847 C. Brontë *J. Eyre* xvii, Colonel Dent is a fine soldierly man.

3. *Comb.*, as *soldierly-like, -looking*.

1601 in *Sydney Papers* (1746) II. 240 My Lord smootheth over the vncivill Entertainment with..soldiourly-like excuses. 1823 Scott *Quentin D.* xvii, A tall, stout, soldierly-looking man.

B. *adv.* = Soldierlike *adv.*

1585 Sidney *Lett.* Misc. Wks. (1829) 309 The companies heer.., whome he had very well and souldierly gou[e]rned. 1611 Cotgr., *Soldatesquement*, souldierly, souldier-like. 1650 R. Stapylton *Strada's Low C. Wars* x. 8 Never without losse did any army fall off,..though never so skilfully and souldierly. 1886 *St. James' Gaz.* 16 Oct. (Cassell), His warlike daughter smites them hip and thigh, using her sword right soldierly.

Soldiership (sōu·ldʒəɹʃip). [f. Soldier *sb.* + -ship.] The state or condition of being a soldier; the qualities of a soldier; military experience or skill. Also *fig.* (quot. 1561).

Common *c* 1600 and in the 19th century.

1561 T. Norton *Calvin's Inst.* IV. 85 There is..most haynous wrong done..if forsakers of monasteries be chosen to the soldiorship of the clergie. 1596 Nashe *Saffron Walden* Wks. (Grosart) III. 153 What his Soldiourship is I cannot iudge. 1605 Shaks. *Mach.* v. iv. 16 Put we on Industrious Souldiership. 1658 *Domestic State Papers* 351 He fears his want of experience in soldiership. 1754 P. H. *Hiberniad* III. 24 A String of Absurdities, relative to the Soldiership of the Irish. 1813 *Examiner* 11 Jan. 17/1 We do not mean to under-value a true spirit of soldiership. 1887 *Spectator* 30 July 1023/2 Soldiership is effectively and systematically taught.

Soldiery (sōu·ldʒəri). Forms: *a.* 6 **souldiary,** 6–7 **-iarie**; 6–7 **souldiourie** (7 **-ioury, -iorie**); 6–7 **souldierie, -iery** (7 **soulgiery**), 7 **sould-(e)rie, -ery.** *β.* 6 **soldiorie, -iourie,** 6–7 **-iarie**; 7– **soldiery.** [f. Soldier *sb.* + -y, or ad. OF. *souderie, soud-, souldoierie*, etc.]

1. Soldiers collectively; the military; a military class or body.

1570 Levins *Manip.* 106/2 Souldiourie, *militia*. 1580 Sidney *Let. Q. Eliz.* Misc. Wks. (1829) 245 Of the most popular nation of the world, full of soldiery, and such as used to serve without pay. *a* 1625 Naunton *Fragm. Reg.* (Arb.) 54 The Souldiery..all flockt unto him. 1698 Wanley *Wond. Lit. World* V. ii. § 11. 469/2 Leo, a Thracian, elected [Emperor] by the joint consent of Senate and Souldiery. 1745 Wesley *Wks.* (1872) VIII. 173 Do the soldiery walk as those who see themselves on the brink of eternity? 1823 Scott *Quentin D.* xvii, These mercenaries were, of course, a fierce and rapacious soldiery. 1872 E. W. Robertson *Hist. Ess.* Introd. p. xix, The fighting men grew more and more into a soldiery, or a class following the profession of arms for pay.

2. Military training; knowledge or science of military matters.

1579 Digges *Stratiot.* 140 Sundry other principall poyntes of Souldiourie. 1590 Sir J. Smyth *Disc. Weapons* Ded. 13 Vnder the pretence of souldiorie, and warlike Discipline. 1620 J. Ford *Line Life* (1843) 56 That were..to read a Lecture of souldierie to Hannibal, the most cunningest warriour of his time. *a* 1687 Petty *Pol. Arith.* i. (1690) 17 For Training and Drilling is a small part of Soldiery, in respect of this last mentioned Qualification. 1738 *Gentl. Mag.* VIII. 204/1 If a Genius had attempted to write on such a Subject as Soldiery. 1902 'Linesman' *Words Eyewitness* iii. (1902) 53 Waiting in the truest spirit of soldiery.

3. *attrib.*, as *soldiery custom, discipline*, etc.

1598 Barret *Theor. Warres* II. i. 24 To bring our people to more perfection in soldiarie points. 1643 Trapp *Comm. Gen.* xxiv. 9 According to a Souldery custome in cases of extremity. 1658 Cokaine *Trappolin* I. i, I should never digest the souldiery life. 1682 Sir T. Browne *Chr. Mor.* I. § 36 The Heroical vein of Mankind runs much in the Souldiery, and couragious part of the World. 1798 W. Hutton *Family of Hutton* 98 Some soldiery jokes ensued, when our trooper dismounted, and cast a large stone with design to splash her.

Solding (iron) : see Sold *v.*[2]

‖ **So·ldo.** Pl. **soldi** (also 7 **souldyes**). [It. :—L. *solidum* : see Sol *sb.*[3]] An Italian coin and money of account, the twentieth part of a lira, now equal in value to an English halfpenny.

1599 Hakluyt *Voy.* II. I. 110 You may buy them for 10. *Carchies*, which coine are 4. to a Venetian *Soldo*, which is peny farthing the dozen. 1617 Morvson *Itin.* I. 256 A Pigion for 7 soldi;..one soldo contents a Porter for bringing your victuals from the market. 1636 *Recorde's Ground Arts* 133 A shilling, which is 2 Souldyes, and 20 Souldyes a Lieure of Venice, which is a pound sterling. 1787 Beckford *Italy*, etc. (1805) I. 124 Four soldi a day, when the Duomo was built, were equal to twenty at present. 1841 Browning *Pippa Passes* iv. Poems (1905) 187 Not one *soldo* shall escape me. 1883 tr. *Villari's Machiavelli* II. v. IV. 4 The crowd of Florentines..stripped him of every soldo.

Soldure, obs. form of SOLDER *sb.*[1]

Sole (sōul), *sb.*[1] Forms: 4– sole, 4–5 sool, 4–6 soole (6 solle), 6–7 *Sc.* soille, soile; 4 soul, 6 sowle, 6–7 soule; 6–7 soale, 7–8, 9 *dial.* soal. [a. OF. *sole* (mod.F. *sole* in special senses), =Prov. and Pg. *sola*, Sp. *suela* (cf. It. *soletta*):— pop. and med. L. *sola*, for L. *solea* (whence OF. *suele*, *seule*, etc.) sandal, shoe. The leading variations of sense appear in OF., and SOLE *sb.*[2] is properly the same word.

A trace of the word appears in OE. in the gloss '*Soleae*, solen' (? for 'solan'), but there is no evidence of continuity. In the other Germanic languages it also occurs in older glosses and later becomes common, as OS. *sola* (pl. *solun*), MLG. *sole*, *sale* (LG. *soal*, *saol*, *sâl*, etc.), MDu. *sole* (*zole*), *sool* (Du. *zool*, Fris. *soal*), OHG. *sola*, MHG. *sole*, *sol*, rarely *sule*, *sul* (G. *sohle*); also Da. *saale*, MSw. *sola*, *sula* (Sw. *såla*, *sula*), Norw. *sole*, Icel. *sóli*.]

I. 1. The under surface of the foot; that part of it which normally rests or is placed upon the ground in standing or walking; also, the mark made by this on the ground (quot. *c* 1410).

c 1325 *Gloss. W. de Bibbesw.* in Wright *Voc.* 149 *La plaunte*, sole. 1382 WYCLIF *Job* xviii. 9 His sole shal ben holde with a grene. — *Acts* iii. 7 The groundis and plauntis, or solis, of him ben saddid to gidere. *c* 1410 *Master of Game* (MS. Digby 182) xxiv, He knowth hym by þe traces and by his denne and by þe soole. *c* 1532 DU WES *Introd. Fr.* in *Palsgr.* 903 The soole, *la plante*. 1583 *Leg. Bp. St. Androis* 729 They bring thame farre on ambeling foiles, Bot send thame hame throw on thair soilles. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* I. x. 9 Most vertuous virgin,..That.. Hast wandred through the world now long a day; Yet ceasest not thy wearie soles to lead. 1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* (1658) 95 You would think one of them was the hoof of a Goat, and the other of a Hart, both of them hollow and without soals. 1697 DRYDEN *Æneid* XI. 1157 By thee protected, with our naked Soles, Thro' Flames unsing'd we march. 1830 R. KNOX *Béclard's Anat.* 146 An undulated layer which covers..the double furrowed lines of the dermis, on the palms and soles. 1842 TENNYSON *St. S. Stylites* 2 From scalp to sole one slough and crust. 1871 B. TAYLOR *Faust* (1875) I. xxii. 201 Our shoes are all danced out, we trow, We've but naked soles to run with.

b. Freq. with addition *of the* (or *his*, etc.) *foot*.

c 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 1493 Fra þe haterel oboven þe croun..tyl þe sole of þe fot doun. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) IV. 351 For greet knelynge his knees were as þe sooles of his feet. *c* 1440 *Gesta Rom.* xlix. 223 (Harl. MS.), For ther was on him noon helthe, from the toppe of his hede vnto the sole of his fote. 1535 COVERDALE 1 *Kings* v. 3 Vntyll the Lorde delyuered them vnder the soles of his fete. 1626 BACON *Sylva* § 96 Pigeons bleeding, applyed to the Soales of the Feet, ease the Head. 1686 tr. *Chardin's Coronat. Solyman* 89 For the affront thou hast done me receive a hundred drubs upon the soles of thy feet. 1706–7 FARQUHAR *Beaux' Strat.* III. i, A little of her Cephalick Plaister to put to the Soals of your Feet. 1809 MALKIN *Gil Blas* VII. ii, From the sole of my foot to the crown of my head. 1849 CLARIDGE *Cold Water Cure* 168 Take a shallow foot-bath (only to cover the soles of the foot) for seven to ten minutes.

c. *Farriery.* (See quots. 1805, 1831.)

1610 MARKHAM *Masterp.* II. C. 100 Raze both the quarters of the hoofe..from the cronet vnto the sole of the foote. 1735 BURDON *Pocket Farrier* 79 Never draw a Horse's Soals, on any Pretence whatever. 1798 J. LAWRENCE *Philos. & Pract. Treat. Horses* II. 233 Nothing to be cut from the soal, binders, or frog, but loose rotten scales. 1805 BOARDMAN *Dict. Veterinary Art* s.v., Sole of a horse, that plate of horn which, encompassing the fleshy sole, covers the whole bottom of the foot. 1831 YOUATT *Horse* 285 The Sole..is the under concave and elastic surface of the foot,.. extending from the crust to the bars and frog. 1876 VOYLE & STEVENSON *Milit. Dict.* 393/2.

d. *Zool.* The inner or under side of the claw of an animal (cf. quot.).

1896 tr. *Boas' Text-bk. Zool.* 469 Like Reptiles and Birds, Mammals have cap-shaped claws at the tips of the digits, and here also they are differentiated into two parts, a harder dorsal..wall, and a ventral horny sole,..of looser horn.

2. The bottom of a boot, shoe, etc.; that part of it upon which the wearer treads (freq. exclusive of the heel); one or other of the pieces of leather or other material of which this is composed (cf. INSOLE and OUT-SOLE). Also, a separate properly-shaped piece of felt or other material placed in the bottom of a boot, shoe, etc.

Also applied to the corresponding part of a stocking or sock: see *stocking-sole*.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 463/2 Sole, of a schoo, *solea*. 1530 PALSGR. 272/1 Sole of a shoo, *semelle*. 1548 *Act* 2 & 3 *Edw. VI*, c. 9 § 4 The inner soule of the saide double souled Shoes. 1573 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 98 A hope and a parer, like sole of a boote. 1602 SHAKS. *Ham.* II. ii. 234 On Fortunes Cap, we are not the very Button. *Ham.* Nor the Soales of her Shoo? 1661 LOVELL *Hist. Anim. & Min.* 34 The ashes..of an old shooe soale, helps gallings by the shooe. 1720 *Humourist* 84 The same Shoes, with Cork Soals, and square Toes. 1791 BELOE *Herodotus* I. I. 196 [The] sandals..consisted of one or of more soals, and were fastened with thongs above the foot. 1806 BERESFORD *Miseries Hum. Life* II. i, The sole of the shoe torn down in walking. 1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib., Brit.* II. § 4977 A hinge in the outer sole, to allow the foot to bend when walking. 1885 *Harper's Mag.* Jan. 280/1 The sole in a machine-made shoe would mean a sole, an inner sole, shank piece.

b. With punning allusion to SOUL *sb.*

See also Shaks. *Merch. V.* IV. i. 123; *Rom. & J.* I. iv. 15; II. iv. 67, etc.

1603 DEKKER *Wonderfull Yeare* Wks. (Grosart) I. 130 An honest cobler (if at least coblers can be honest that liue altogether amongest wicked soales). 1641 'SMECTYMNUUS' *Vind. Answ.* xiv. 179 You and they may turn *Fratres Mendicantes*, and go bare foot, if you part with these paire of soles.

†**c.** A sandal. *Obs. rare.*

1553 BRENDE *Q. Curtius* VIII. 53 When their soles [L. *solea*] be taken off, their feet be anointed with sweet odours.

†**d.** *transf.* A thin piece or leaf of iron produced in the manufacture of tin-plate. *Obs.*

1728 *Phil. Trans.* XXXV. 631 These Leaves are drawn from Bars of Iron, about an Inch square; which being made a little flat, they cut into thin Pieces or Soles (*semelles*).

II. 3. †**a.** The foundation of a building; the site of a city, etc. *Obs. rare.*

1417 *Eng. Misc.* (Surtees) 12 John Hesill sall ga lyne right fra the bak syde of hys post that standys in hys hall hend un to hys sole in thys house that he byggys. *Ibid.*, That Hesyll may hafe rowme thar to lay hys sole, and rayse thys house. *c* 1460 *Towneley Myst.* iii. 391 So wold mo..that I se on this sole of wifis that ar here. 1615 SANDYS *Trav.* 127 In the sole, a stone of Porphyr, whereon..she did set our Saviour. *Ibid.* 157 The sole where the New City stood ..is now left out of the walls of Jerusalem. 1634 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* 86 [The mosque is] round built with good white marble five yards high from the sole, the rest is dried bricks.

b. The bottom, floor, or hearth of an oven or furnace.

(*a*) 1615 MARKHAM *Eng. Housew.* II. ix, Large Ovens to bake in, the soales thereof, rather of one or two intire stones, than of many bricks. 1847 HALLIWELL, *Sole*, the floor of an oven. *Linc.* 1876 PAGE *Adv. Text-bk. Geol.* vii. 136 Leck-stones were largely used for the linings and soles of ovens.

(*b*) 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 579, *a* is the ash pit vaulted under the sole of the furnace. 1864 *Q. Jrnl. Sci.* I. 493 When it is required to make steel, the coverings of the sole..are omitted. 1884 C. G. W. LOCK *Workshop Rec.* Ser. III. 56/1 The sole of the furnace is usually 16 to 24 ft. square.

c. *Naut.* (See quots.)

c 1850 *Rudim. Navig.* (Weale) 149 *Sole*, a sort of lining to prevent wearing or tearing away the main part to which it may be attached; as to the rudder, bilgeways, &c. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.* s.v., The decks of the cabin and forecastle in some ships, respectively called the cabin and forecastle soles.

4. a. =SILL *sb.*[1] 1 and 2. Cf. WINDOW-SOLE. Now *rare*.

1419–20 *Mem. Ripon* (Surtees) III. 144 Et in ij liminibus de quarcu et ij soles de esch emt. pro ij sperys de novo faciendis in prædicta domo. 1433 *Fabric Rolls York Minster* (Surtees) 53, iij balkes, iiij stanzons, vij bandclogs, iij soles. 1541 in *Proc. Antig. Scotl.* (1860) III. 161 In heicht fra the sollis of the said queir duris..xxxij futtis. 1625 *Burgh Rec. Glasgow* I. 347 The soillis of thair windois being fywe futes abone the flure. 1669 STURMY *Mariner's Mag.* VII. xxix. 42 A Gally-pot of Fair-water.. will set it self level being placed upon the Sole of the Window. 1709 *Phil. Trans.* XXVI. 290 The Water, in some, was as high as the Soles of the Windows. 1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* I. 139 Generally a great number of small articles are thrown on the sole of a work-horse stable window. 1866 BROGDEN *Prov. Lincs.*, *Sole*,..the seat of a window. 1875 *Encycl. Brit.* II. 473/1 *Sill* or *Sole*.., the horizontal base of a door or window-frame.

b. *Naut.* and *Fortif.* (See quots.)

1769 FALCONER *Dict. Marine* (1780), *Sole*, a name sometimes given to the lower side of a gun-port, which however is more properly called the port-sell. 1859 F. A. GRIFFITHS *Artil. Man.* (1862) 248 The sole of the embrazure is the bottom, or space, between the cheeks, or sides. 1879 *Encycl. Brit.* IX. 432 The slope of the bottom of the embrasure, called the 'Sole'.

c. *Mining.* (See quots.)

1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 843 It may happen that the floor of the gallery shall not be sufficiently firm to afford a sure foundation to the standards; and it may be necessary to make them rest on a horizontal piece called the sole. 1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-m.* 229 *Sole*, a piece of timber set underneath a prop.

d. A flat tile used as a rest or support for a draining-tile or drain-pipe.

1843 *Mech. Mag.* XXXIX. 191 Flat tiles, or soles, are formed in nearly the same manner. 1847 DWYER *Pract. Hydraulic Eng.* 115 When the tiles and soles, or pipe tiles are used in minor drains, each tile should rest equally upon two soles. 1881 *Mechanic* 519 An excellent plan is to lay soles or flat tiles and in these to set half-pipes or bridge-pipes.

5. †**a.** The rim of a wheel. *Obs.*[—1]

1523 FITZHERB. *Husb.* § 5 On marreis ground and soft ground the other wheles be better, bycause they be broder on the soule.

b. The inner circle of a water-wheel (cf. quot. 1797).

1673–4 GREW *Anat. Pl., Trunks* (1682) 136 So also the Ladles and Soles of a Mill-wheel are always made of Elm. 1707 MORTIMER *Husb.* 332 Elm is a Timber..proper for Water-works, Mills, Soles of Wheels, Pipes, Aquaducts. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XVIII. 903/2 The inner circle..is called the Sole of the wheel, and usually consists of boards nailed to strong wooden rings of compass timber..firmly united with the arms or radii. 1825 J. NICHOLSON *Operat. Mechanic* 84 Burn's overshot-wheel..forms a large hollow cylinder by its buckets and sole.

c. The lower frame-timbers of a wagon, cart, etc. (cf. quots. and SILL *sb.*[1] 1 b).

1843 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* VI. 265/2 The timber framing which carries the hinge on which the body of the [railway] wagon turns in the act of tipping, is called the 'soles'. 1851 *Coal-Trade Terms Northumb. & Durh.* 49 *Sole*, the part of a chaldron waggon or coal-tub frame to which the bearances for the wheels are attached, and into which the sheths are inserted. 1876 ROBINSON *Mid-Yks. Gloss.* s.v., The soles of a cart are the middle supporting timbers of the body.

6. The lower part, bottom, or under surface of anything. Chiefly in more or less specific uses (cf. next).

1615 CROOKE *Body of Man* 629 In Fishes onely the very tippe of the tongue is loose, the rest is fastened downe vnto the Soale of the mouth. 1660 *Markham's Eng. Housew.* II. ii. 72 Put in the soal of a Manchet, a good quantity of sweet butter, and season it with Pepper [etc.]. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 289/1 The parts of a Shuttle are,..the Sole, is the Bottom of it, which is smooth shod with Iron Plate. 1769 FALCONER *Dict. Marine* (1780), *Fond d'affût*, the sole or bottom of a gun-carriage. 1791 *Selby Bridge Act* 4 The sole of the said bridge..shall not be less than three feet above the..top of the present artificial or flood banks. 1811 *Acc. Game Curling* 3 The under surface, or sole, as it is called, is polished as nicely as possible, that the stone may move easily along. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 649 The lower piece, or sole of the engine.., is screwed down.. to a strong board. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 1392/2 A block or tray with a flat sole. 1887 *Jamieson's Sc. Dict.* Suppl. 224/1 *Sole*,..the flat bottom of the head of a golf-club.

b. *esp.* The under part or surface of a plane-stock, plough, rudder, electrical instrument, etc.

(*a*) 1678 MOXON *Mech. Exerc.* iv. 64 The Iron .. will rise above the Sole into the Mouth of the Stock, and consequently not touch the Stuff. *Ibid.* vi. 113 The under-side of a Plain is called the Sole. 1823 P. NICHOLSON *Pract. Builder* 229 The edge of the iron of a plane is said to be rank-set when it projects considerably below the sole. 1846 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* II. 499 The sole of a long plane is in a great measure the test of the straightness of the work. 1875 *Carp. & Join.* 26 In the carpenter's plane the sole quickly deteriorates, and must then be planed off true again.

(*b*) 1766 *Museum Rust.* VI. 427 Keep but the sole of the plough level in the ground. 1831 *Sutherland Farm Rep.* 71 in *Husb.* (L. U. K.) III, The ploughing [is] so deep as to leave some of the lime visible below the plough sole. 1831 J. HOLLAND *Manuf. Metal* I. 156 In every plough, not only the parts above named, but the sole or under plate,.. are of iron or cast metal. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* I. 200.

(*c*) 1855 *Orr's Circ. Sci., Elem. Chem.* 217 One half of the instrument [i. e. the electrophorus]—to which the term '*sole*' has been given—is now prepared, and it only remains to form the cover. 1866 R. M. FERGUSON *Electr.* 190 The condenser is generally placed in the sole of the instrument [an induction coil], and does not meet the eye.

(*d*) 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.*, *Sole of the Rudder*, a piece of timber attached to its lower part to render it nearly level with the false keel.

c. A smooth or flat surface or side.

1711 W. SUTHERLAND *Shipbuild. Assist.* 164 *Sole of Planks*; the flat Side of them. 1879 *Encycl. Brit.* X. 367 The stones in the boulder-clay..have one or more flat sides or 'soles', are smoothed or polished [etc.].

7. †**a.** (See quot.) *Obs.*[—1]

1610 FOLKINGHAM *Art Surv.* I. iii. 5 The vpper Crust is the Soile or Soale of the Earth.

b. The under surface of land or soil; the subsoil. *rare.*

1683 in *Macfarlane's Geogr. Collect.* (S. H. S.) II. 139 This clay is not so good a sole as the other. 1796 in Robertson *Agric. Perth* (1799) 518 By this means I put the sole of the arable ground, or under surface, as far as I can from the upper surface. 1859 R. F. BURTON *Centr. Afr.* in *Jrnl. Geogr. Soc.* XXIX. 158 Its sole displays quartzose sand, with scatters of granite.

c. A (good, etc.) surface or bottom in a field, turf, etc.

1846 BROCKETT *N. C. Gloss.* (ed. 3) II. 146 If it be smooth and level it is said to have a good sole. 1893 W. FREAM *Youatt's Compl. Grazier* X. i. 898 Crested dogstail grass.. contributes materially to the production of a good 'sole' in the turf of pastures.

8. a. *Mining.* The bottom or floor of a vein, level, or working.

1653 MANLOVE *Customs Lead Mines* 274 Sole of the Rake, Smytham, and many more. 1667 PRIMATT *City & C. Builder* 5 They have the conveniency of driving a drift or sough, from the bottom of the hills to the sole of the Rake. 1747 HOOSON *Miner's Dict.* B iv, The Sole and Roofe, or Skirt. *Ibid.* S iv, When Doorsteds are used, and the Sole of the Drift so soft, that it will not bear the Forks. 1789 J. WILLIAMS *Min. Kingdom* I. 278 The soles of the string were nearly upon a level with the soles of the vein. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 981 *Pitcoal*, A platform about 3 feet high is left at the sole. 1886 HOLLAND *Chesh. Gloss.*, *Sole*. Salt-mining term. The bottom of the mine.

b. The bottom or lowest part *of* a valley, etc.

1880 V. L. CAMERON *Future Highway* II. xii. 257 Their tents were pitched as low down as possible, some in the very sole of the valley. 1886 R. F. BURTON *Arab. Nts.* (abr. ed.) III. 410 His men took to flight and fled along the sole of the Wady.

c. *dial.* The bottom of a furrow.

1877 in PEACOCK *N.W. Linc. Gloss.* 232/1.

III. 9. *attrib.* and *Comb.* **a.** Simple attrib., as *sole-bar*, *board(ing*, *channel*, *clout*, *cushion*, etc.

Various technical terms, such as *sole-bar*, *-piece*, *-plate*, are employed in several special applications.

1829 *Glover's Hist. Derby* I. 242 Needham, a London framework-knitter, placed the trucks on the *solebar. 1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* I. 414 The sloping edge *d m* represents the enlargement of the sole-bar, on which the share is fitted. 1909 *Cent. Dict.* Suppl., *Sole-bar*, an outside sill in a railway car. 1577 *Burgh Rec. Glasgow* I. 67 The said erle furnesand glasbandis, *soil-burdis, lyme, and sand. 1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* II. 326 On the inside of the shroud-plates are formed the grooves for securing the ends of the buckets and of the *sole-boarding. 1891 *Cent. Dict.*, **Sole-channel*, in a boot- or shoe-sole, a groove in which the sewing is sunk to protect it from wear. 1821 SCOTT *Pirate* xv, The sock, and the heel, and the *sole-clout of a real steady Scottish pleugh. 1825 JAMIESON *Suppl., Sole-clout*, a thick plate of cast metal attached to that part of the plough which runs on the ground. 1836 *Penny Cycl.* VI. 188/2 The pads or *sole-cushions of the

spreading feet [of the camel] are divided into two toes. 1417 in *Eng. Misc.* (Surtees) 11 Fra the *sole end of the frunt before in to the streteward. 1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* I. 414 The breadth of the *sole-flange [of a plough] is 2 inches. 1859 *Todd's Cycl. Anat.* V. 531/1 The remarkable dorsal hump, and..the cushion-like *sole-pad of the Dromedary. 1706 STEVENS *Span. Dict.* I, *Soléta*, the *Sole-part of a Stockin. 1869 Sir E. REED *Shipbuild.* iv. 60 In .. the screw ships of the Royal Navy.., the *sole-piece is very broad and shallow in wake of the aperture. 1901 BLACK *Scaffolding* 50 The next thing to do is to prepare a sole piece out of 11in. by 4in. which is laid on the firm ground so as to make a little less than a right angle with the inside of the outermost shore. 1741 *Phil. Trans.* XLI. 564 This *Sole-plate answers the Shape of the Foot. 1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* II. 310 The sole-plate on which the superstructure of the [crank-] engine is raised. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2244/2 *Sole-plate*, the back portion of a water-wheel bucket. 1434 in Rogers *Agric. & Pr.* III. 551/1 [Two] *soolshoon. 1808 JAMIESON, *Soleshoe*, a piece of iron, on what is called the head, or that part of a plough on which the sock, or share, is fixed. 1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* I. 408, H is the sole-shoe on which the plough has its principal support. 1593 *Rites & Mon. Ch. Durh.* (Surtees) 23 The said sockett [of a cross] was maid fast with iron and lead to the *sole stone. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 1248, f, the sole-stone [of a smelting-furnace], of granite, hewn out basin-shaped. 1884 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* Suppl., *Sole Tile*, a flat or bellying tile.., for the bottom of sewers, muffles, or other objects.

b. Misc., as *sole-bound, -shaped*; *sole-deep, -walking*.

1610 FOLKINGHAM *Art Surv.* I. viii. 19 Burnt, parched, soale-bound,..and wet spewing grounds. *Ibid.* x. 24 Crust-clung and Soale-bound soyles. 1870 ROLLESTON *Anim. Life* 48 The sole-shaped locomotor disc known as the 'foot'. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2243/2 A vertically moving sole-shaped die. 1891 HARDY *Tess* (1900) 105/1 The snow..lay sole-deep upon the floor. 1894 *Pop. Sci. Monthly* June 284 There still exists on this island a singular cat..which is plantigrade (sole-walking).

c. Objective, chiefly in names of implements or machines (see quots.).

1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2242–3 Sole-beating, -channeling, -cutting (etc.) Machine. *Ibid.* 2243 Sole-finishing Tool. *Ibid.* 2244 Sole-shaper. 1885 *Harper's Mag.* Jan. 279/2 The curved outline of the sole is cut by passing the strips beneath two curved sliding or revolving knives in a 'sole-cutting machine'. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* II. 933 In 'sole stitching' by American machinery the men are said to have become mercurialised by volatilisation of the metal.

Sole (sōul), *sb.*[2] Forms: *α.* 4– **sole** (5 **soel**). *β.* 7–8 **soal**(e, 8 **soall**. [a. OF. (also mod.F.) *sole* (=Sp. *suela*), of the same origin as prec., agreeing in sense with L. *solea* (whence Pg. *solha*, It. *sogliola*).]

1. A common British and European flat-fish (*Solea vulgaris* or *solea*), highly esteemed as food; one or other of the various fishes belonging to the widely-distributed genus *Solea*.

α. 1347 *Durh. Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 41 In playces, sperling', et soles emp., vj s. x d. 1372 in Riley *Mem. Lond.* (1868) 367 [Certain fish called] Soles. *c* 1450 *Two Cookery Bks.* 103 Sole, boiled, rost, or fryed. Take a sole, and do awey þe hede [etc.]. *c* 1480 *Cely Papers* (Camden) 189 Item whelkes, iiij d. Item iij solys, vij d. *c* 1520 L. ANDREW *Noble Lyfe* III. lxxxv, Solea is the sole, that is a swete fisshe and holsom for seke people. 1555 EDEN *Decades* (Arb.) 300 Dryed fysshe as soles, maydens, playces,..& such other. 1620 VENNER *Via Recta* iv. 72 The Sole verily is to be reckoned among the meats of primest note. 1653 H. COGAN tr. *Pinto's Trav.* xxviii. (1663) 108 It is not possible to deliver the store of fish that is taken in this river, chiefly Soles and Mullets. 1769 PENNANT *Brit. Zool.* III. 190 The sole is found on all our coasts. 1827 SOUTHEY *Devil's Walk* xlviii, Now soles are exceedingly cheap. 1840 *Cuvier's Anim. Kingd.* 324 All the Soles are excellent fishes, and may be had in good condition nearly all the year. 1870 YEATS *Nat. Hist. Comm.* 324 The sole is common on the British coasts, and in season from May to November.

β. 1630 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Wks.* I. 117/1 The pide-coat Mackrell, Pilchard, Sprat, and Soale. 1696 *Phil. Trans.* XIX. 350 Here are also good plenty of large Soals, taken in Troul-nets. 1714 GAY *Trivia* II. 294 The jointed Lobster, and unscaly Soale. 1758 JOHNSON *Idler* No. 33 P 7 Dined alone in my room on a soal. 1797 P. WAKEFIELD *Mental Improv.* (1801) I. 102 A small pectunculus or cockle, is the prey of the soal.

b. In collective singular. In quot. 1700 with punning allusion to SOUL *sb.*

1661 CHILDREY *Brit. Baconica* 18 Soale and Playce (both which follow the tide into the fresh rivers). 1700 T. BROWN tr. *Fresny's Amusem.* 21 An Old Burly Drab, that Screams out the Sale of her Maids and her Sole at the same Instant. 1781 COWPER *Conversat.* 336 Serve him with ven'son, and he chooses fish; With soal—that's just the sort he would not wish. 1899 *Daily News* 15 July 5/2 Sole is dear again, even more than usually so.

2. With distinguishing terms.

See also LEMON *sb.*[2]

1668 WILKINS *Real Char.* 141 Common Sole. Spotted Sole. 1839 YARRELL *Suppl. Brit. Fishes* 36 The Solenette, or Little Sole. 1840 tr. *Cuvier's Anim. Kingd.* 324 *S. vulgaris*, the Common Sole, is dark-brown on the upper part. 1840 *Penny Cycl.* XVIII. 263/2 Of the subgenus *Monochirus*, one species is found on the British coast, and is known by the names Variegated Sole, Red-backed Flounder, &c. (*M. linguatulus*).

3. In American and Australasian use: One or other of various fishes belonging to related genera (esp. *Achirus*) or to the family *Pleuronectidæ*.

1882 JORDAN & GILBERT *Syn. Fishes N. Amer.* 841 *Achirus*. Soles. 1884 GOODE *Nat. Hist. Aquat. Anim.* 175 The much-prized Sole of Europe, *Solea Vulgaris*, does not occur in the Western Atlantic... Its nearest representative, the American Sole, is found along our coast from Boston. *Ibid.* 182–188. 1898 MORRIS *Austral Eng.* 426. 1903 GOODE & GILL *Amer. Fishes* p. lxviii.

4. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *sole fillet, potage, -pritching, -skin*; *sole-like* adj.

1725 *Fam. Dict.* s.v. *Fish Potages*, To prepare a Sole Potage for Fish Days. *Ibid.* s.v. *Sole*, A Dish of Sole Fillets with a Lentil-Cullis. 1834 MEDWIN *Angler in Wales* II. 118 He dwelt with delight on sole-pritching, mackerel-fishing, and cod-fishing. 1859 SALA *Gaslight & D.* x. 120 Dried soleskins wherewith to clear the decoction of the Indian berry. 1881 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* V. 67 The second sub-order [of *Anacanthini*] consists of the Sole-like division, the Pleuronectoidei.

Sole (sōul), *sb.*[3] Now *dial.* Forms: 1 **sal**, 3 **sol**, 4, 6, 9 **sole**, 5 **soole**, 7 **soale**, 9 **soal**, etc. (See also SALE *sb.*[3]) [OE. *sál*, = OS. *sêl* (MLG. and LG. *sêl*, *seil*), MDu. *seel* (Du. *zeel*, Fris. *seel*), OHG. and G. *seil*, ON. *seil*, Goth. **sail* (cf. *insailjan* vb.). Cf. SEAL *sb.*[3] and *v.*[2]]

†1. A rope, cord, etc. *Obs.*

Beowulf 1906 Þa wæs be mæste..segl sale fæst. *c* 1000 *Gen.* 372 Me..rideð racentan sal. *c* 1275 *XI Pains of Hell* 162 in *O. E. Misc.* 151 Of heom hi token vnriht mol, For-þi hi drayeþ myd such sol. 1345–6 *Ely Sacr. Rolls* (1907) II. 139 In soles empt. pro dictis Bauderykk.

2. *spec.* A rope or cord for tethering or tying up cattle; a wooden collar or yoke used to fasten a cow, etc., in the stall.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 463 Soole, beestys teyynge, *trimembrale*,..*ligaculum*. 1530 PALSGR. 272/2 Sole, a bowe about a beestes necke. 1547 SALESBURY *Welsh Dict.*, *Aerwy*, sole. 1573 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 38 Soles, fetters, and shackles, with horselock and pad. 1647 HEXHAM I, A Sole to tye beasts. 1660 *Chirk Castle Acc.* (1908) 93, 3 dozen of soales to tye the cattle. 1826– in dial. glossaries and texts (N.Cy., Lancs., Chesh., Derby, Shrops., Heref.). 1890 *Glouc. Gloss.*, *Sole*, the noose or loop made of wood attached to one end of the foddering cord, in order to strain the cord up tight.

Sole, *sb.*[4] *Kent. dial.* ? *Obs.* [OE. *sol* mire, a muddy or miry place (freq. in place-names), = OHG. *sol* (MHG. *sol*, *söl*, G. dial. *sol*, *sohl*).] A pond or pool.

15.. in Pegge *Kenticisms* (E.D.S.) 48 Besyde the watteringe-sole in thende of Yckhame Streete. 1736 J. LEWIS *Hist. Thanet* (ed. 2) 38 *Soal*, a dirty Pond of standing Water. 1736 PEGGE *Kenticisms* (E.D.S.) 48 *Sole*, a pond, or pool.

Sole, obs. f. SOUL *sb.*; dial. var. SOWEL, stake.

Sole (sōul), *a.* Forms: 4–5 **soul**(e, 5 **sool**(l **sowle**, **soell**), 5–6 **soole**, 5– **sole**. [a. OF. *soul* (fem. *soule*), *sol* (fem. *sole*), also *sul*, *suel*, *seul* (mod.F. *seul*, *seule*), = Prov. *sol*, Pg. *só*, Sp. and It. *solo*:—L. *sōlum*, acc. sing. of *sōlus* alone. In later use prob. to some extent directly from Latin.]

1. Having no husband or wife; single, unmarried; †celibate. Chiefly in legal use and freq. of women. Now *rare* or *Obs.*

a. In predicative use.

The quotations in the first group illustrate the common phrase *to live sole*.

(*a*) *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Merch. T.* 836 Ne wold he that sche were love ne wyf, But ever lyve as wydow.., Soul as the turtil that lost hath hir make. *c* 1430 LYDG. *Min. Poems* (Percy Soc.) 134 And for it is an impossible To fynde ever suche a wyfe I wil live sowle duryng my lyfe. 1469 *Bury Wills* (Camden) 45 Yf she will leve sowle withowth an husbonde. 1541 BARNES *Wks.* (1573) 311/2, I doe not reprooue that Priestes doth lyue sole. 1570–6 LAMBARDE *Peramb. Kent* (1826) 95 King Edward the Confessor (being otherwise of himselfe disposed to haue liued sole) tooke vnto his wife Edgitha. 1655 FULLER *Ch. Hist.* IX. 163 Indeed Grindal, living, and dying sole, and single, could not be cockering to his own children.

(*b*) 1418 *E. E. Wills* (1882) 34 3if Ionet my wif kepe here soole, withoute husbonde, Twelf-monthe after my decese. 1464 *Rolls of Parlt.* V. 525/2 Eny Gyft or Graunte, by us to hir made while she was soule. 1520 in *Laing Charters* (1899) 82 As longe as she kepeth hirselve sole and wydow. 1548 SOMERSET *Epist. to Scots* B iij b, Yov wil not kepe her sole and vnmaried. 1596 BACON *Max. & Use Com. Law* ix. (1630) 36 The reason is, because shee was once sole. 1726 AYLIFFE *Parergon* 107 Some others are such as a Man cannot make his Wife, though he himself be sole and unmarry'd. 1827 JARMAN *Powell's Devises* II. 289 That her said daughter Martha should pay unto her daughter Mary 30*l.* yearly, while sole and unmarried.

b. Attrib., or placed immediately after the sb. *Woman sole*, = *feme-sole* S.V. FEME.

(*a*) 1464 *Rolls of Parlt.* V. 548/2 As if she..were woman soule. 1509–10 *Act 1 Hen. VIII*, c. 18 § 2 She [shall] be able..to sue in her owen name only as a Woman sole. 1628 COKE *On Litt.* 66 If a woman sole shall doe homage. 1642 tr. *Perkins' Prof. Bk.* i. § 47. 21 If a woman sole enfeoffe a stranger.

(*b*) 1464 *Rolls of Parlt.* V. 549/1 If she were or had been soule woman at the tyme. 1485 *Ibid.* VI. 285/2 The Countess shall hold..as anie other sole persone not covert of anie Husband. 1558 in Feuillerat *Revels Q. Eliz.* (1908) 7 Albeit he were a sole man without charge of wife or children. 1566 DRANT *Horace, Sat.* II. v. H iij b, Least some shoulde replye..That thou doest good to sole olde men. 1618 J. WILKINSON *Coroners & Sheriffes* II. 22 Where any..do make themselues to be beloved of any sole woman, as maide, or widow. 1753–4 RICHARDSON *Grandison* (1781) I. xiv. 84 To what evils..might not I, a sole, an independent young woman, have been exposed?

†**c.** Of life: Pertaining to or involving celibacy. Common from *c* 1550 to 1590.

1553 T. WILSON *Rhet.* (1580) 45 These lawes doe declare, how little it is for the common weales aduancement, that.. a Citee should be lesned for loue of sole life. 1579 W. FULKE *Ref. Rastel* 791 He which hath forsaken the profession of sole life, and fallen to..marriage. 1598 BARCKLEY *Felic. Man* v. (1603) 534 Some [men] like a sole life, others thinke it no life without a companion.

2. Without companions; apart from or unaccompanied by another or others; alone, solitary. Usually predicative.

Common *c* 1400–1450, and freq. with the addition *by himself* or *herself*.

c 1400 *Rom. Rose* 3023 He was not soole, for ther was moo; For with hym were other twoo. 1412–20 LYDG. *Chron. Troy* I. 29 The kyng..went allone In-to a wode for to make his mone, Sool by hym silfe. 1474 CAXTON *Chesse* IV. ii. (1883) 168 Whan the kynge hath goon so ferre that alle his men be lost, than he is sole. 1530 PALSGR. 324/2 Sole, alone or solytary, *seul*. 1591 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* I. i. 77 Shall valiant Scipio Thus himselfe esteem, Never less sole then when he sole doth seem? 1650 HOWELL *Fam. Lett.* II. 121, I am oft times sole, but seldom solitary. 1716 POPE *Iliad* VIII. 250 Sole should he sit, with scarce a God to friend. 1728–46 THOMSON *Spring* 722 All abandon'd to despair, she sings Her sorrows through the night; and on the bough, Sole-sitting [etc.]. 1817 BYRON *Manfred* II. ii. 10, I should be sole in this sweet solitude. 1857 ARNOLD *Rugby Chapel* Wks. (1890) 310 Sole they shall stray.

attrib. 1609 BIBLE (Douay) *Baruch* iv. 16 A wicked nation ..which..have led away the beloved of the widow, and made the sole woman [L. *unicam*] desolate of children. 1789 *Triumphs Fortitude* I. 136 As I have none to accuse but myself, so none but myself (sole being as I am) can be involved in its consequences.

†**b.** Separated *from* another. *Obs.*–[1]

c 1407 LYDG. *Reson & Sens.* 2703, I abood, Lefte al sool fro my maistresse.

c. Of places: Solitary, lonely; secluded.

1598 YONG *Diana* 43 When I behold The place so sorrowfull and sole. *a* 1618 J. DAVIES (Heref.) *Wit's Pilgr.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 42/1 No State so holie, nor no place so Sole.. but is full of Doubt. 1887 SWINBURNE *Locrine* I. ii. 190 There is a bower..still and sole As love could choose for harbourage.

3. Being, or consisting of, one person only.

Corporation sole: see CORPORATION 3.

1399 LANGL. *R. Redeles* I. 62 All was felawis and felawschepe,..No soule persone to punnyshe þe wrongis. 1616 R. C. *Times Whistle* (1871) 58 Although he had noe other company But his sole single selfe to satisfie. 1654 FULLER *Two Serm.* 6 No meere man by his sole selfe without Gods assistance. 1765 BLACKSTONE *Comm.* I. 469 These [two powers] are very unnecessary to a corporation sole. 1861 LD. BROUGHAM *Brit. Const.* xvii. 272 *n.*, Each chapter is a corporation aggregate, and each parson is a corporation sole.

†**b.** *One sole*, one and no more, one only, a single (person or thing). *Obs.*

c 1450 *Merlin* vii. 110 Eche of yow is but oon sole man. 1450–80 tr. *Secreta Secret.* xxvii. 20 Truste thou neuyr in oon sool ffisiciane. 1613 W. BROWNE *Brit. Past.* I. i, A jewell, which was never sent To be possest by one sole element. 1626 C. POTTER tr. *Sarpi's Hist. Quarrels* 352 The Ambassador had not..disbursed one sole denier. 1639 N. N. tr. *Du Bosq's Compl. Woman* I. F 4, Is there one sole word in all this worke, to..engender an evill thought?

†**4.** In predicative or quasi-advb. use: With no other person or persons; without participator, partner, sharer, etc., in something, esp. in rights, duties, or possessions. *Obs.*

c 1450 tr. *De Imitatione* II. viii. 49 Lete ihesu be sool þy derlyng and þy special. 1450 *Rolls of Parlt.* V. 190/1 Eny thyng by us to hym graunted soule, or by us graunted to hym and eny other person or persons joyntly with hym. 1477 *Ibid.* VI. 194/2 Every other persone to whose use the said Duke is sole seised in eny Castelles. 1642 tr. *Perkins' Prof. Bk.* iii. § 205. 92 One of the Chapter is sole seised in fee of his owne right of land. 1671 MILTON *P. R.* I. 100, I, when no other durst, sole undertook The dismal expedition.

†**b.** Standing alone; uncontrolled by others.

1748 RICHARDSON *Clarissa* xiii. I. 74 My father himself could not bear that I should be made Sole, as I may call it, and independent.

5. One and only: **a.** Of things.

1497 BP. ALCOCK *Mons Perfect.* C j/1 For ye sole ryght-wysnes is in him. 1592 *Sol. & Pers.* II. i, The murtherer will escape Without reueuge, sole salue for such a sore. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* II. 113 Sir Arthur Chichester had taken the sole Castle held in those parts..by Brian mac Art. 1696 WHISTON *The. Earth* II. (1722) 185 This is the sole way of bringing natural Knowledge to perfection. 1726 SWIFT *Gulliver* IV. xii, But as my sole intention was the public good, I cannot be altogether disappointed. 1798 FERRIAR *Varieties of Man* 223 Those who read for the sole purpose of talking. 1829 LYTTON *Devereux* I. iii, I believe my sole crime was candour. 1862 MILLER *Elem. Chem., Org.* (ed. 2) iii. § 3. 177 In this case water and the compound ether are the sole products. 1883 GILMOUR *Mongols* xxiii. 285 He was..the sole support of his father.

b. Of persons.

1513 BRADSHAW *St. Werburge* II. 1506 Athalia..Commaunded to slee the kynges children all That she myght regne sole princesse imperiall. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VI*, 167 b, Lady Alice, the only child and sole heire of Thomas Montacute. 1596 SPENSER *F. Q.* IV. xii. 30 For death t' adward I ween'd did appertaine To none, but to the seas sole Soueraine. 1647 in *Verney Mem.* (1907) I. 214 In that will my father was left sole executor. 1652 *Nicholas P.* (Camden) 321 L[d] Culpepper design'd by some both in France and Holland to be the K.'s great and sole minister in Holland. 1736 BUTLER *Anal.* II. vii. Wks. 1874 I. 351 The sole author of such a work. 1771 *Junius Lett.* xlviii. (1788) 264 You have..maintained, that the house of commons are the sole judges of their own privileges. 1836 THIRLWALL *Greece* III. 233 Laches, now sole commander, landed a body of the allied troops on the Sicilian coast. 1839 FR. A. KEMBLE *Resid. in Georgia* (1863) 74 The sole manager of these estates. 1892 *Photogr. Ann.* II. 399 Sent to me by Mr. Scholzig, who is their sole agent.

absol. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* V. 28 O Sole in whom my thoughts find all repose!

c. Singular, unique, unrivalled.

1398 Trevisa *Barth. De P. R.* xix. cxvi. (1495) 921 This vnyte [of the Trinity] muste be sole and synguler wythout pere. 1595 Shaks. *John* iv. iii. 52 This [murder] so sole, and so vnmatcheable. 1667 Milton *P. L.* v. 272 He seems A Phœnix, gaz'd by all, as that sole Bird When..to Ægyptian Theb's he flies. 1851 Mrs. Browning *Casa Guidi Wind.* ii. 487 The priestly ephod in sole glory swept, When Christ ascended. 1867 Howells *Ital. Journ.* 178 There is a lovely palm-tree, rare, if not sole in that latitude. 1870 Deutsch *Rem.* (1874) 193 God is sole of His kind.

†d. Placed before a sb., in the sense of 'alone' following it. *Obs. rare.*

c 1586 C'tess Pembroke *Ps.* cxix. iii, Since thy sole edicts containe it, Who search not them how can they gaine it? 1634 Sir T. Hawkins *Pol. Observ.* 3 That mountaine of fortune which is to be aimed at by sole vertue.

†6. Of things, qualities, etc.: Unaccompanied by other things or qualities; standing alone. *Obs.*

(*a*) 1542 Boorde *Dyetary* x. (1870) 252 Water is not holsome, sole by it selfe. 1562 J. Heywood *Prov. & Epigr.* (1906) 148 Wisdom and folly in thee Is as it were a thing by itself sool.

(*b*) 1590 Swinburne *Testaments* 148 When the testator doth not referre his disposition to the sole onelye will of another person,..but to the concreate will, or will ioyned with fact. 1592 West *1st Pt. Symbol.* § 21 c, Hereupon contracts by consent are defined [as] contracts hauing cause placed in sole consent. 1609 Bible (Douay) *Gen.* ii. 17 *comm.*, Neither could it..be better..signified how bad a thing sole disobedience is [etc.]. 1622 in *Buccleuch MSS.* (Hist. MSS. Comm.) I. 209 He seeks no other caution or security than the King's sole word.

7. Of things, rights, duties, etc.: Pertaining or due to, possessed or exercised by, vested in, etc., one person or corporate body to the exclusion of all others; exclusive.

1597 Hooker *Eccl. Pol.* v. lvi. § 5 Euery of them may haue their sole and seuerall possessions. 1611 Knolles *Hist. Turkes* (1638) 167 Vpon any ambitious conceit, or desire of the sole Gouernment. *a* 1661 Fuller *Worthies, Eng.* vi. (1662) 19 This power was sometime sole in a single person and sometimes equally in two together. 1766 Blackstone *Comm.* II. 216 The right of sole succession..was also established with respect to female dignities and titles of honour. 1788 Reid *Aristotle's Logic* iv. i. 67 A theory of which he claims the sole invention. 1818 Cruise *Digest* (ed. 2) I. 486 Where an estate is vested in trustees, for the sole and separate use of a married woman. 1867 Ruskin *Time & Tide* xxiii. § 154 Supreme judges..exercising sole authority in courts of final appeal. 1879 *Athenæum* 6 Sept. 304/3 The present postage system is the sole and undisputed invention of Sir Rowland Hill.

b. Similarly of actions.

1562 *Apol. Priv. Masse* (1850) 9 But you have the other signification of this term private: that is the sole receiving of the sacrament by the priest. 1621 in Elsing *Lords' Deb.* (Camden) App. 153 The priviledge of the sole printing of the Bible. 1651 Hobbes *Leviath.* II. xxii. 119 The End of their Incorporating, is to make their gaine the greater,..by sole buying, and sole selling, both at home, and abroad. 1825 Scott *Betrothed* xvii, A good housewife, who..willsometimes even condescend to dress a dish for her husband's sole eating.

8. Uniform or unvaried.

1845 Mrs. S. C. Hall *Whiteboy* v. 38 Land..at one time covered with the snowy blossoms of the wild-rush, and at others exhibiting a sole surface of dark brown peat. 1885 Miss Gatty *Juliana H. Ewing* iii. 57 He was required to distemper the walls of the drawing-room with a sole colour.

9. In quasi-advb. use: Solely.

1562 J. Heywood *Prov. & Epigr.* (1867) 203 To shew thy thrift soole. 1581 A. Hall *Iliad* ii. 31 The burden great, his brother then did beare Sole for his sake in these turmoyles. 1812 Cary *Dante, Parad.* v. 22 Liberty of will; the boon, wherewith All intellectual creatures, and them sole,..[God] hath endow'd. 1820 Byron *Morg. Mag.* xxv, Think not they lived on locusts sole. 1827 Pollok *Course T.* viii, Good and bad..distinguished sole the sons Of men.

10. *Comb.* a. With vbl. sbs. and pres. pples., as *sole-being, -speaking; sole-justifying, -lying, -reigning, -ruling*, etc.

1534 Whitinton *Tullyes Offices* I. (1540) 71 He wolde flye fro solytarynesse and soole beyng, and wolde seke out a felowe of his study. *c* 1586 C'tess Pembroke *Ps.* xlvii. i, God,..Who high and highlie feared stands, Of all the earth sole-ruling king. 1596 *Edw. III*, II. i, Your progenitour Sole ragning Adam. 1625 B. Jonson *Staple of N.* iii. iv, He has the monopoly of sole-speaking. Why, good Sir? you talke all. 1642 J. Eaton *Honey-c. Free Justif.* 427 The only soule-saving and sole-saving voice of Christ. 1811 J. P. Malcolm *Mann. & Cust. London* (ed. 2) II. ii. 20 The true nature of sole-justifying faith. 1831 Wordsw. *To B. R. Haydon* 8 The one Man that laboured to enslave The World, sole-standing high on the bare hill. 1859 G. Meredith *R. Feverel* xxi, Two swallows, mates in one nest,..who twittered..to the sole-lying beauty in her bed.

b. With pa. pples., etc., as *sole-begotten, -commissioned, -seated, -thoughted*; also *sole-happy, -selfly, -sufficient.*

1591 Sylvester *Du Bartas* I. iii. 1123 And Death..Comes very late to his sole-seated Lodge. 1605 *Ibid.* II. iii. I. *Vocation* 1114 Nor as inviron'd,..But rather, as sole-selfly limited, And joyn'd to place. 1606 *Ibid.* iv. II. *Magnificence* 987 Sole-happy Causes of this sumptuous Feast. 1631 *Eng. Primer of Our Lady* 30 Glorie to th' unbegotten Father, And to His sole begotten Son. 1656 R. Sibbs *Conf. Christ & Mary* 71 God is all-sufficient, self-sufficient, sole-sufficient. 1711 Shaftesb. *Charact.* (1737) III. 340 Is it true..that their excellencys of the present establishment are the sole-commission'd? 1820 Keats *Eve of St. Agnes* v, These let us wish away, And turn, sole-thoughted, to one Lady there.

c. Special combs., as †**sole-sale**, a monopoly; †**sole-talk**, a soliloquy; **sole-coloured** *a.*, of a single uniform colour; self-coloured.

1596 Bp. W. Barlow *Three Serm.* ii. 49 The intollerable licenses of Monopoles and Solesales. 1616 T. Rogers (*title*), Soliloquium Animæ; The sole-talke of the Soule. 1885 Miss Gatty *Juliana H. Ewing* iii. 57 The sole-coloured walls well covered with pictures.

Sole, variant of Sol *a.*, dirty. *Obs.*

Sole (sōul), *v.*[1] Also 7 soel, *Sc.* soill; 7–8 soal, *Sc.* soll. [f. Sole *sb.*[1], perh. through the vbl. sb., which is found earlier. Cf. MDu. *solen* (Du. *zolen*; Fris. *soalje*), LG. *solen, salen*, MHG. *solen* (G. *sohlen, besohlen*); also Sp. and Pg. *solar.*]

1. *trans.* To provide or furnish (a boot, shoe, stocking, etc.) with a sole.

(*a*) 1570 Levins *Manip.* 160 To sole, *solum adhibere.* 1580 Hollyband *Treas. Fr. Tong, Carreler*, to sole shoes. 1598 *Shuttleworths' Acc.* (Chetham Soc.) 112 Soleinge one pare of shoes, v[d]. 1607 Topsell *Four-f. Beasts* (1658) 175 The Scythians make them shooes, and soal them with the backs of Fox and Mise skins. *a* 1680 Butler *Rem.* (1759) I. 217 A peripatetic Cobler scorn'd to soal A pair of Shoes of any other School. 1726 Swift *Gulliver* iv. x, I soaled my shoes with wood. 1818 Scott *Hrt. Midl.* xxix, The deil flay the hide o' it to sole his brogues wi'! 1857 Miller *Elem. Chem., Org.* vii. § 2. 509 [Gutta percha] is employed as a substitute for leather in soling boots and shoes. 1906 Sherring *Western Tibet* iv. 65 Their shoes.. are soled with rope very ingeniously and finely plaited.

absol. 1824 Syd. Smith *Wks.* (1859) II. 45/1 He is at liberty to make a shoe anywhere;..he may sole on the Mississippi, —heel on the Missouri.

(*b*) 1578 in *Archæologia* XXV. 566 Given to a tailor for solinge a payre of stockinges. 1602 Segar *Honor, Milit. & Civ.* II. xi. 71 Two others shall put on his blacke nether-stockes soled with leather. 1664 in *Maitland Club Miscell.* (1840) II. 527 For solling his Lordships stockengis.

b. To cover with or as with a sole.

1681 Grew *Musæum* I. vii. ii. 167 The fore-feet are soled each with four little Tufts of Down or short Hair. *Ibid.* 170 His Feet soled with a treble Tuft of a close short..Down.

c. To fit the head of a golf-club with a sole.

1905 *Golf & How to Play it* 11.

2. *transf.* To form the base or bottom of.

a 1643 Cartwright *Ordinary* iv. i, My debt-books shall soal Pyes at young Andrew's wedding. 1714 Lady G. Baillie *Househ. Bk.* (S.H.S.) 247 For stones to soll the big oven.

3. *Golf.* To place the sole of a club on the ground in preparing for a stroke. Also *refl.* and *absol.*

1909 Vaile *Mod. Golf* 27 Nearly all professionals, when addressing their ball for the put, sole the putter in front of the ball. *Ibid.* 29 The professional soles in front of his ball because [etc.]. *Ibid.*, The driver is made so that it should sole itself when allowed to rest naturally on the ground.

†**Sole**, *v.*[2] *Obs.* Also 7 soyle, soal. [ad. OF. *soler, soller, souler*, var. of *chouler*, etc.: see Chulle *v.*] *trans.* To throw (a bowl). Also *intr.* of the bowl.

1638 Wentworth in Carte *Collect. Lett.* (1735) III. 25 The bowl that soyles faire is more probable to run with comeliness and certainty to the mark it is sent. 1658 Bramhall *Schism Guarded* Wks. (1677) 296 'It were strange if he should throw a good cast, who soals his Bowl upon an undersong,' alluding to that ordinary and elegant expression in our English Tongue, 'Soal your Bowl well', that is, be careful to begin your work well. 1679 Coles *Lat. Dict.* I, To sole a bowl, *probe et rite emittere globum.*

†**Sole**, *v.*[3] *Obs. rare.* [OE. *solian*,= MDu. and MLG. *solen*, OHG. *solôn* (MHG. *solen*): cf. Sol *a.*] *intr.* To become foul or dirty.

c 1000 *Reimlied* 67 Searo hwit solaþ, sumur hat colað. *c* 1250 *Owl & Night.* 1276 Nis noht so hot þat hit nacoleþ Ne noht so hwit þat hit ne soleþ.

Sole, obs. form of Sowl *v.*

‖ **Solea** (sōu·lĭă). *Eccl.* [Byz. Gr. σολέα, ad. Romanic **solea* (cf. It. *soglia*) threshold.] In churches (esp. those of the East), a raised part of the floor in front of a chapel or of the chancel.

1858 *Ecclesiologist* XIX. 315 The chancel arch [in Shottesbrook church]..is spanned by a high stone screen, outside of which..the prayer-desk stands upon a solea of the width of the screen. 1884 A. J. Butler *Coptic Ch. Egypt* I. iv. 214 In front of all three eastern chapels is a continuous narrow platform or solea.

†**So·leated**, *a. Obs.*—° [ad. L. *soleāt-us* wearing sandals.] (See quots.)

1623 Cockeram I, *Soleated*, shod like a horse, with Iron in his Shooes. 1656 Blount *Glossogr.*, *Soleated*, shod, as horses are, or what wears pattens.

†**Solebaiting**, *vbl. sb. Obs.* [Alteration of *surbaiting*, after Sole *sb.*[1] and F. *solbature.*] = Surbaiting *vbl. sb.*

1652 H. L'Estrange *Amer. no Jewes* 21 In hot countries people went bare-foot and used to wash their feet for refreshment after surbaiting, or solebaiting, and weariness of travaile.

Solecism (sŏ·lĕsiz'm). Forms: α. 6–8 solœcisme, 7–9 solœcism (7 solocism); 6–7 solæcism(e, 8 solaecism. β. 6–7 solecisme, 6–solecism (7 soll-). [ad. L. *solœcismus*, ad. Gr. σολοικισμός, f. σόλοικος speaking incorrectly, stated by ancient writers to refer to 'the corruption of the Attic dialect among the Athenian colonists at Σόλοι in Cilicia'. So F. *solécisme*, Sp. and It. *solecismo.* The transferred uses of the word also occur in Gr. and L.]

1. An impropriety or irregularity in speech or diction; a violation of the rules of grammar or syntax; properly, a faulty concord.

α. 1577 Hanmer *Anc. Eccl. Hist.* (1585) 138 They seeme farre from offending, in any barbarous terme, solœcisme, or ignorant error at all. 1593 Nashe *Foure Lett. Conf.* 70 Sucke out one solœcisme or mishapen English word if thou canst. 1609 Holland *Amm. Marcell.* c j b, A very Solœcisme and incongruitie of Syntaxis. 1699 Bentley *Phal.* 320 All these are gross Solœcisms, the last part of the Sentence not agreeing nor answering to the first; which is the proper definition of a Solœcism. 1702 *Burlesque L'Estrange's Vis. Quevedo* 242 State Aphorismes Cramn'd full with factious Solœcismes. 1839 Brougham *Statesmen Geo. III*, Ser. I. (ed. 2) 72 He certainly spared no pains to eradicate his northern accent, beside being exceedingly careful to avoid provincial solœcisms.

β. 1582 N. T. (Rhem.) Pref. b ij b, They easily take offense of the simple speaches or solecismes. 1588 *Marprel. Epist.* (Arb.) 4 If he did, then he oversaw many a foule solecisme, many a senceles period. 1660 Jer. Taylor *Ductor* II. iii. rule 14. § 34 Solecisms, impure words, and..rude expressions. 1672 Dryden *Defence Epil.* Ess. (ed. Ker) I. 165 Let any man..read diligently the works of Shakespeare and Fletcher, and I dare undertake, that he will find in every page either some solecism of speech, or some notorious flaw in sense. 1717 Wodrow *Corr.* (1843) II. 294, I question much if any of my friends are more sensible of the Scotticisms, yea, solecisms, in my style than I am. 1769 *Junius Lett.* xxvii. (1788) 146 There is something in it, which cannot be..expressed without a solecism in language. 1837 Hallam *Hist. Lit.* I. i. I. 20 We find even early proofs that solecisms of grammar, as well as barbarous phrases.., were very common in Rome itself. 1882 Farrar *Early Chr.* II. 156 The Greek of the Apocalypse is so ungrammatical and so full of solecisms as to be the worst in the entire Greek Testament.

b. Without article: Violation of the rules of concord in grammar or syntax; incorrect or ungrammatical speech or diction, or the use of this.

1583 Fulke *Def. Tr. Script.* i. 47 If the relatiue must alwaies be referred to the antecedent of the same case, to agree with it in case,..there is no Greeke auctor whose workes are extant, but he hath committed Solœcisme. 1603 Holland *Plutarch* Explan. Words, *Solæcisme*, Incongruity of speech, or defect in the purity thereof. 1677 Dryden *Apol. Heroic Poet.* Ess. (ed. Ker) I. 180 A wary man he is in grammar, very nice as to solecism or barbarism. 1699 Bentley *Phal.* 310 Attic, the beloved Dialect of the Sophists,..in which they affected to excell each other, even to Pedantry and Solœcism. 1872 A. Bain *Higher Eng. Gram.* 195 The words employed may be English, but they may be combined in a way that is not English. This is Solecism.

fig. 1637 Massinger *Guardian* I. i, Think upon 't, a close friend Or private Mistress, is Court-rhetorick; A Wife, meer rustick Solecism.

2. A breach or violation of good manners or etiquette; a blunder or impropriety *in* manners, etc.

(*a*) 1599 *Broughton's Lett.* vi. 19 [It] is surely a solæcisme in manners, and argueth great want of discretion. *a* 1641 Finett *For. Ambass.* (1656) 27 My Lord Walden leaving him at the Court gate and remaining that night (not perhaps without a Solecisme in ceremonie) at Theobalds. 1642 Fuller *Holy & Prof. St.* I. xii. 38 As if she be guilty of casuall incivilities, or solœcismes in manners occasioned by invincible ignorance. 1738 *Gentl. Mag.* VIII. 521/2, I observ'd Prior..whisper somewhat in his Ear, which I suppose was to desire him to rectify that Solecism in Dress. 1778 Miss Burney *Evelina* lxviii, You have committed an outrageous solecism in good manners. 1814 Scott *Wav.* iv, The idea of having committed the slightest solecism in politeness..was agony to him. *a* 1864 Hawthorne *Dr. Grimshawe* xvi. (1891) 208 The cold, unbelieving eye of the Englishman, expectant of solecisms in manners.

(*b*) 1639 Massinger *Unnatural Combat* iii. i, He ne'er observed you..take A say of venison or stale fowl by your nose, Which is a solecism at another's table. *a* 1645 Howell *Fam. Lett.* I. I. xl, I should commit a great Solecism, if..I should leave you unsaluted. 1685 in *Verney Mem.* (1904) II. 416, I looke upon it as an ill Omen, that you should committ such a grosse solecisme at your first entrance into the University against your Loving father. 1842 Lever *J. Hinton* v. 33 Who, in the slightest solecism of London manners, could find matter for sarcasm and raillery. 1884 E. Yates *Recoll.* I. 151 In those days smoking in the street was an unpardonable solecism.

b. Without article. *rare.*

1640 Fuller *Abel Rediv., Colet* (1867) I. 116 Solecism he accounted the worst point of slovenry; affecting neatness in his household stuff and clothes. 1642 *Naunton's Fragm. Reg.* 36 For his inside, it may be said, and without solœcisme [1641 offence], that he was his Fathers own sonne.

3. An error, incongruity, inconsistency, or impropriety of any kind.

α. 1599 B. Jonson *Cynthia's Rev.* v. ii. [iv], Forgive it now. It was the solæcisme of my starres. 1612 Bacon *Ess., Empire* (Arb.) 300 It is the Solœcisme of power, to thinke to command the ende, and yet not to endure the meane. 1662 Bp. E. Hopkins *Serm. Funerals Hon. A. Grevil* (1663) 18 'Tis as great a solœcisme to think of their graves, as of going to bed at noon day.

β. 1603 Bodley in *Buccleuch MSS.* (Hist. MSS. Comm.) 44 A match..between our Prince and the King of Spain's two years' daughter..is a motion so full of solecisms, as [etc.]. 1753 *De Foe's Tour Gt. Brit.* (ed. 5) I. 266 But tho' exceeding beautiful, yet, I think, to join Roman with Gothic Architecture, is a Solecism. 1792 A. Young *Trav. France* 483 Of all solecisms, none ever equalled Paris demanding that the transport of corn from province to province should be prohibited. 1838 Prescott *Ferd. & Is.* (1846) I. vii. 302 The idea of compelling belief in particular doctrines is a solecism. 1850 Mrs. Jameson *Leg. Monast. Ord.* (1863) 233 Where a fat jovial Franciscan would be a solecism. 1875 Gladstone *Gleanings* VI. xviii. 117 What age or country can match the practical solecisms exhibited in the following facts?

b. Const. *in* something.

α. 1616 B. Jonson *Epigr.* cxvi, A desperate solœcisme in truth and wit. 1659 C. Simpson *Division-Violist* I. 11 As for Thirds and Sixts,..two, three or more of them, rising or falling together, is no Solæcisme in Musick.

β. 1639 FULLER *Holy War* I. xvi. 23 The Emperours unfurnished their frontiers of garrisons, and laid them open to invasions; a notorious solecisme in policie. 1682 Sir T. BROWNE *Chr. Mor.* I. § 24 To beat down our Foes, and fall down to our Concupiscences, are Solecisms in Moral Schools. 1719 SWIFT *To Young Clergyman* Wks. 1755 II. II. 11 Stammering, which I take to be one of the worst solecisms in rhetorick. 1741 MIDDLETON *Cicero* II. VIII. 273 Cæsar..committed a dangerous solecism in politics. 1807 *European Mag.* LII. 382/1 To an English dairymaid, the preparation of milk by men would seem a solecism in housewifery. 1824 Miss MITFORD *Village* Ser. I. (1866) 68 A terrible solecism in political economy.

c. Without article. *rare.*

1649 LOVELACE *Poems* 78 Tis his first Play, twere Solecisme 't should goe. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* III. II. vi, Their conviction that Louis is a Prisoner of War; and cannot be put to death without injustice, solecism, peril.

Hence **Solecismical** *a. rare* —°.

1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.*, *Solecismical*, pertaining to a Solescism, incongruous.

Solecist (sɒ·lĕsist). *rare.* [ad. late L. *solœcista*, = Gr. σολοικιστής.] One who uses solecisms.

1725 BLACKWALL *Sacr. Class.* I. ii. § 8 Shall a noble writer..be call'd a solecist and barbarian, for giving a new turn to a word so agreeable to the analogy and genius of the Greek tongue?

Solecistic (sɒlĕsi·stik), *a.* Also **solœcistic**(k. [See prec. and -IC.] Of the nature of or involving solecism: a. In speech or diction.

1806 C. SYMMONS *Milton* 341 (Jod.), The earliest of these replies, the barbarous and solœcistick style of which [etc.]. 1849 *N. & Q.* I. 149/2 Is it too late to make an effectual stand against the solecistic expression 'Mutual friend'? 1856 W. H. THOMPSON in Archer Butler *Hist. Anc. Phil.* I. 389 The use of late words, and of solecistic and Latinizing constructions. 1882 FARRAR *Early Chr.* II. 296 His solœcistic Greek was sufficient to prove that the language was unfamiliar to him.

b. In thought or conduct.

1865 *Reader* 22 July 87/1 It is rarely that Miss Cobbe distresses fastidiousness by any solecistic ventures in matters of minor import. 1884 *19th Cent.* Jan. 138 Illustrations of the solecistic views which are entertained of those distant parts of the Empire.

Soleci·stical, *a.* Now *rare* or *Obs.* Also 7 **solœcisticall**, 8–9 **-al.** [See prec. and -ICAL.] Solecistic.

(*a*) 1654 GAYTON *Pleas. Notes* IV. xxi. 272 Some long narrative, which was the Apology for the solœcisticall appearances of children. 1837 *Foreign Q. Rev.* XIX. 78 The miserable solecistical conceit of making the chimney-shafts resemble small Doric columns.

(*b*) 1725 BLACKWALL *Sacr. Class.* (1727) 139 That saying of divine inspiration will be solecistical. 1778 TYRWHITT *Chaucer's C. Tales* V. 185 According to this hypothesis, the use of these combinations, with respect to the pronouns, is almost always solecistical. 1779 JOHNSON *L. P., Milton* Wks. 1781 I. 160 Milton..has enforced the charge of a solecism by an expression in itself grossly solecistical. 1818 HALLAM *Mid. Ages* II. 300 The nominative Trullo, though solœcistical, is used by ecclesiastical writers in English.

Hence **Soleci·stically** *adv.*

1722 WOLLASTON *Relig. Nat.* 6 A few scatterd papers, in which I had formerly for my own use set down some of them (briefly, and almost solecistically).

Solecize (sɒ·lĕsəiz), *v.* Now *rare* or *Obs.* Also 7, 9 **solecise**, 7 **solœcise**, **-cize**, **solæcize.** [ad. Gr. σολοικίζειν, f. σόλοικος: see SOLECISM. So F. *solœciser.*] *intr.* To make use of, or commit, solecisms in language, behaviour, conduct, etc.

(*a*) 1627 W. SCLATER *Exp. 2 Thess.* (1629) 225 Absurd fellowes..solecising continually in opinion, speech, action, whole life. 1662 HIBBERT *Body of Divinity* I. 207 Men compact of meer incongruities, solecising in all, opinion, speeches and actions.

(*b*) 1655 STANLEY *Hist. Philos.* (1687) 30/1 A City, called.. Soleis, whither he brought also some few Athenians, whose Language growing corrupt by that of the Country, they were said to solœcise. 1660 H. MORE *Myst. Godl.* I. ix. 26 To phansie the Holy Writers to solœcize in their language, when we do not like the sense. 1699 BENTLEY *Phal.* xii. 320 If these Examples be not sufficient to give Mr. B. some clearer apprehension, what it is to solœcize in the Attic way, it's to no use to add more.

Hence **So·lecizer, So·lecizing** *vbl. sb.*

1693 J. EDWARDS *Auth. O. & N. T.* 36 Those persons who dream of solecisms in Holy Scripture are the greatest solecisers themselves. 1895 H. CALLAN *From Clyde to Jordan* xxvii 283 There is..no solecising even in Soli.

Soled (sōuld), *ppl. a.* [f. SOLE *sb.*[1] or *v.*[1]] Having a sole or soles (of a specified kind). Chiefly as the second element in various parasynthetic combinations:

a. Of boots, shoes, etc. (Cf. SINGLE-SOLED *a.*)

1480 *Wardr. Acc. Edw. IV* (1830) 118 A pair of shoon double soled,..a pair of shoon single soled. 1541 in *Academy* (1883) 6 Oct. 231/3 For 6 payre of double sollyd showne, 4s 6d. 1611 COTGR., *Cothurne*, a fashion of high-soled buskin vsed by the auncient Tragedians. 1756 *Demi-Rep* 35 With twice-sol'd shoes they stamp'd it to the House. 1760 C. JOHNSTON *Chrysal* (1822) III. 154 He sallied out..in his thick-soled shoes. 1896 *Strand Mag.* XII. 349/1 [The diver's boots] are leaden-soled. 1899 ALICE WERNER *Captain of Locusts* 237 She put on her flat-soled stuff shoes.

b. Of persons or animals.

a 1740 TICKELL *Fragm. on Hunting* 74 Such be the dog ..thou mean'st to train,..Large leg'd, dry sol'd, and of protended claw.

c. Of a water-wheel.

1834-6 *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) VIII. 88/2 This wheel.. must..be close boarded, or technically close *soled* round its circumference. 1845 *Ibid.* Index 307/1 Soled wheel.

Sole-fish. Now *rare* or *Obs.* = SOLE *sb.*[2]

1538 ELYOT, *Squatina*, a sole fyshe with a rough skynne. 1591 R. PERCIVAL *Sp. Dict.*, *Azedia*, a sole fish, *Soleola.* 1613 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* VIII. iv. (1614) 753 The tayle skaled almost of the forme of a Sole-fish. 1708 WILSON *Petronius Arbiter* 78 After which came in a Hare and a Sole-Fish.

Sole-fluke. *Sc.* ? *Obs.* Also **-fleuk**, **-flook.** [See FLUKE *sb.*[1]] The common sole.

1684-92 SYMSON in *Macfarlane's Geogr. Collect.* II. (S.H.S.) 80 By this means, they catch Fleuks, sole fleuks, tarbets and severall other fish. *a* 1688 WALLACE *Descr. Orkney* (1693) 14 Turbot, Scate, Congir eells, Sole Fleuks. 1710 SIBBALD *Hist. Fife* 51 *Buglossus seu Solea*, the Sole flook.

‖ **Soleil.** [F. *soleil* sun.] A kind of repped woollen fabric.

1883 *Cassell's Family Mag.* Oct. 696/2, I will begin with the new woollens. There are decided novelties in these... Amazon Soleil is a plain coloured stuff which is repped. 1896 *Daily News* 27 Mar. 8/7 Orders have been placed for soleil and satin makes.

† **Solein,** *a.* and *sb. Obs.* Forms: 4, 6 **solein**(e, 4–6 **soleyn**(e, 6 **solleine**; 4 **soulein**, 5 **souleyn**; 5 **solain**, 6 **solaine**; 5 **sulayne**, 5–6 **solayn**(e. [app. a. AF. **solein*, **solain*, a derivative of *sol* SOLE *a.* Cf. OF. *soltain*, *soutain* (med.L. *solitaneus*). Now represented by SULLEN *a.* (see sense 5).]

A. *adj.* 1. Unique, singular. *rare.*

c 1369 CHAUCER *Dethe Blaunche* 982 Trewly she was to myn eye, The soleyn Fenix of Arabye, For there lyueth never but one. *c* 1460 *Wisdom* 579 in *Macro Plays*, Kynde nobyll of kynrede, me ioy yovyn hase, Ande þat makyt me soleyn. *c* 1475 *Partenay* 6104 So by hym was made and furged again Off Maillers the church, with fresh werke solain.

b. Singular, strange, unusual.

1390 GOWER *Conf.* II. 16 Therof a solein tale I rede, Which I schal telle in remembraunce Upon the sort of loves chaunce. *c* 1475 *Partenay* 5431 Where ye shall finde this solain auenture, Full strang vnto sight of ech creature.

2. One and no more; single, sole.

a 1400–50 *Alexander* 3805 þis solayne sope if I sup quethire sustene it may þe menbris of þe Messedones & of þe many Persens. 1422 tr. *Secreta Secret., Priv. Priv.* 134 Anothyr yewyth a vyse consail and Sauyth al a roialme, and so may noght do the Souleyn streynth of one man.

3. Of places: Lonely, solitary. *rare.*

1388 WYCLIF *Job* iii. 14 Consuls of erthe, that bilden to hem soleyn places [L. *solitudines*]. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* III. 6 Ofte, whanne I scholde pleie, It makth me drawe out of the weie In soulein place be miselve.

b. Of actions: Done in privacy or solitude.

c 1475 *Partenay* 4394 Noght-withstandying [he] went to se hir dedes solain.

4. Apart from or destitute of a companion or companions; unaccompanied by another or others; all alone; solitary.

c 1381 CHAUCER *Parl. Foules* 607 Lat eche of hem ben soleyn al here lyue. *Ibid.* 614 Leue thow soleyn. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 320 Thus fulofte there he sat To muse in his philosophie Solein withoute compaignie. ? *a* 1400 *Morte Arth.* 2592, I gyfe þe grace,..With-thy thowe say me sothe what thowe here sekes, Thus sengilly and sulayne alle þi-selfe one. ? *a* 1412 LYDG. *Two Merchants* 527 He weepith, wayleth soleyn and solitarye. *a* 1542 WYATT *Ps.* cii. 20 in *Anglia* XIX. 437 So made I me the solaine pelycane.

b. Of life: Spent in solitude.

c 1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 2723 His solayn lif he had begonn he vsed forth als he was wonn.

5. Averse to society; disinclined to be sociable or friendly; morose, sullen.

For the later history of this sense see SULLEN *a.*

1399 LANGL. *Rich. Redeles* IV. 66 And some were so soleyne and sad of her wittis, þat er they come to þe clos acombrid þey were. *a* 1400 *Rom. Rose* 3896 He hateth alle trechours, Soleyn folk and envyous. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 463 Soleyne, of maners, or he þat lovythe no cumpany, *solitarius.* *a* 1529 SKELTON *Sp. Parrot* 304 Addressyng your selfe, lyke a sadde messengere, To ower soleyne seigneour Sadoke. — *Agst. Comely Coystrowne* 51 It is a solemnpne syre and a solayne. 1597 J. KING *On Jonas* (1618) 282 Philo, mee thinketh, rightly expressed the qualities of these Saturnine, solleine, discontented men.

b. *transf.* Of bearing or demeanour.

1534 MORE *Conf. agst. Tribulacyon* II. Wks. 1200/1 An whole floud of all unhappy mischief, arrogant maner, high solayn solemne port. 1579 SPENSER *Sheph. Cal.* May 213 At last her solein silence she broke, And gan his newe budded beard to stroke.

6. Reserved, retiring, modest.

c 1450 *Mirour Saluacioun* (Roxb.) 27 Hire speche was lawe and soft, souleyn and fulle discrete.

B. *sb.* 1. A single or solitary person.

1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. XII. 205 He sit neither..wyth maydenes ne with martires, confessoures ne wydwes, But by hym-self as a soleyne, and serued on þe erthe.

2. A portion of food for one person.

Perhaps the same as OF. *solain* 'portio monachica' (Du Cange, s.v. *solatium*).

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 463 Soleyne, or a mees of mete for on a-lone, *solinum.*

Hence **Soleinty.** *Obs.*

c 1400 *Wycliffite Bible*, *Isaiah* xxiv. 12 Soleyntee (ether desolacioun) is left in the citee, and wretchidnesse schal oppresse the ȝatis. 1420–22 LYDG. *Thebes* I. 259 Thus ful ofte gendred is Envye In folkes hertes, of soleynte and pryde.

Sole-leather. Also 5 **sole-, soollether**, 7 **soule-**, 8 **soal-**, 9 **sole leather.** [f. SOLE *sb.*[1] 2 + LEATHER *sb.* Cf. Fris. *soallear*, Du. *zoolleder*, LG. *sol-, sûlledder*, G. *sohlleder.*]

1. Leather of a thick or strong kind used or suitable for the soles of boots, shoes, etc.

1408 *Litt. Red Bk. Bristol* (1900) II. 103 De faulx quyrs disloialment tannez ou correyez appelles *Soulether* et *ouerlether.* 1408 *Nottingham Rec.* II. 54, iij. pecias de soollether. 1647 N. WARD *Simp. Cobler* 32, I would..set on the best peece of Soule-leather I have. 1709 *Phil. Trans.* XXVII. 76 Of Substance not unlike to English Bend or Sole-Leather. 1777 *Ibid.* LXVIII. 117 The tanners of this country cannot make soal-leather in less time. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXIV. 39/2 The preparation of the thick hides used for sole-leather. 1885 *Harper's Mag.* Jan. 278/1 Sole-leather needs a heavier tannage than upper-leather.

b. *attrib.*, as *sole-leather brake*, *case*, *roller*, etc.

1884 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* Suppl. 831 Sole Leather Roller, Stripper. 1892 GREENER *Breech-Loader* 181 Sole-leather cases—that is to say, cases in which best leather is sewn to pine frames,..do well to carry guns in. 1897 *Outing* XXX. 264/2, I pressed down hard on the sole-leather brake, stopping the reel entirely.

2. *Bot.* (See quot.) Also *attrib.*

1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1071/2 *Sole-leather*, or *Sole-leather Kelp*, a name given to the thicker *Laminariæ*, as *L. digitata*, *bulbosa*, &c., without particular reference to any individual species.

Soleless (sōu·l,lès), *a.* Also **sole-less.** [f. SOLE *sb.*[1] + -LESS.] Of boots, shoes, etc.: Having no sole; without soles.

1790 A. WILSON *Poet. Wks.* (1876) II. 76 Rotten stockings. Soleless trampers. 1848 tr. *Hoffmeister's Trav. Ceylon*, etc. iv. 186 Here, one was limping on with a sole-less shoe. 1855 *Household Wds.* XII. 335 Their shoes are soleless. 1896 BADEN-POWELL *Matabele Campaign* xvi, Umtimi..has made sandals for me to wear over—or at least outside—my soleless shoes.

Solely (sōu·l,li), *adv.* Forms: *a.* 6 **sooly**, 6–7 **solye**, **solie**, 6–8 **soly** (7 **solly**, **soley**). *β.* 5– **solely.** [f. SOLE *a.* + -LY[2].]

1. As a single person (or thing); without any other as an associate, partner, sharer, etc.; alone; occas., without aid or assistance. (Cf. SOLE *a.* 4.)

a. 1539 ELYOT *Cast. Helthe* 71 That none of the foure complexions haue sooly.. dominion in one man. 1542–3 *Act* 34–35 *Hen. VIII*, c. 5 § 4 Any act or actes lawfully executed in his life by him self solye. 1591 LODGE *Catharos* B iij, Who meanes to sit solie on Olympus, must suffer no climers. 1606 G. W[OODCOCKE] *Lives Emperors* in *Hist. Iustine* Ll ij, The younger Andronicus gouerned solye. 1622 in Foster *Eng. Factories Ind.* (1908) II. 146 By the Persians turnd outt of all, and they left solly possessors. 1637 *Decree of Star Chamb.* in *Milton's Areop.* (Arb.) 13 Any Copy, book or books,..which the..Company of Stationers ..haue the right..soly to print.

β. 1495 *Act* 11 *Hen. VII*, c. 52 § 1 The landes and tenementis that be held solely or joyntly with other. 1599 SHAKS. *Hen. V*, II. Prol. 4 Now..Honors thought Reignes solely in the breast of euery man. 1611 KNOLLES *Hist. Turkes* (1638) 243 Solyman shall..be driuen to leaue Asia, to be again by you solely possessed. 1635 J. HAYWARD tr. *Biondi's Banish'd Virg.* 55 But grant, that they will defend themselves, tell me, will they doe it solely or joyntly? 1746 FRANCIS tr. *Hor., Sat.* I. i. 6 Broken with Toils,..The Soldier thinks the Merchant solely blest. 1806–31 A. KNOX *Rem.* (1844) I. 61 Those who..would think themselves solely qualified to mend the Established Church. 1860 MOZLEY *Univ. Serm.* vii. (1877) 151 Is it true that habit, solely and of itself, does produce positive inclination?

† b. Apart from or unaccompanied by others; solitarily. *Obs. rare.*

In quot. 1611 passing into adj.

1582 STANYHURST *Æneis* III. (Arb.) 93 Thus father Æneas soly..His long dryrye viadge..chaunted. 1611 SHAKS. *Wint. T.* II. iii. 17 Leaue me solely: goe, See how he fares.

2. Only, merely, exclusively; also (contextually), entirely, altogether.

a. 1588 KYD *Househ. Phil.* Wks. (1901) 261 It shall suffise me soly to aduise and counsell that [etc.]. 1594 — *Cornelia* I. i, Soly through desire of publique rule, Rome and the earth are waxen all as one. 1628 DOUGHTY *Serm. Church-Schismes* 13 Like hote furious spirits abroad, who delight soly in fights and vproares. 1663 SPENCER *Prodigies* (1665) 241 God's Miraculous Works never come forth (like a Jugler's tricks) soly to make men stare and wonder. 1695 WOODWARD *Nat. Hist. Earth* II. 84 The Deluge..was not soley levelled against Mankind, but principally against the Earth that then was. 1710 PRIDEAUX *Orig. Tithes* iii. 155 The setting out of Tithes, as well as the payment of them, was soly left to the Consciences of men.

β. 1750 tr. *Leonardus' Mirr. Stones* 37 This diversity proceeds solely from the diversity of the substance. 1792 BURKE *Corr.* (1844) III. 387, I cannot say it was written *solely* with a view to the service of that party. I hope its views were more general. 1823 J. MARSHALL *Const. Opin.* (1839) 264 Spain did not rest her title solely on the grant of the Pope. 1855 PRESCOTT *Philip II*, I. v. I. 62 In all his acts he relied solely on himself. 1885 *Manch. Exam.* 21 Feb. 5/3 The questions at issue do not relate solely to Egypt and the Soudan.

† **Solembury.** *Obs.*—° (See quot.)

1639 J. SMYTH *Lives Berkeleys* (1885) III. 25 Solemburies, i. e. service berries.

Solemn (sɒ·ləm), *a.* (*adv.* and *sb.*). Forms: 4–6 **solempne** (4 **soll-**), 6 **sol(l)empe**; 4–7 **solemne**, 7 **sollemn**(e, 6– **solemn**; 5 **solom**, 6 **sollem**, **soleme**, **sol-**, **sollom**(e, 6–7 **solem.** See also SOLEMNY *a.* and SOLEN *a.* [a. OF. *solempne*, *solemne* (= Sp. and Pg. *solemne*) or ad. L. *sōl-*, *sollemnis* (later also *sollempnis*), established, appointed, customary, festive, etc.

The formation of the L. word is doubtful; the common variant *sōl-*, *sollennis* (formerly explained as from *sōlus*, *sollus* whole, and *annus* year) is now believed to be due to assimilation, or to association with other adjs. in *-ennis*.]

1. Associated or connected with religious rites or observances; performed with due ceremony and reverence; having a religious character; sacred.

a 1340 Hampole *Psalter*, *Comm. Cant.* 499 We sall synge oure psalmys, þat is, we sall make solempn þi louyngis. 1340–70 *Alex. & Dind.* 735 ȝit may þer no man..Wiþ sole[m]pne sacrifice serue hem at onus. 1387 Trevisa *Higden* (Rolls) V. 299 Seint Mammertus.. ordeyned solempne letanyes þat beeþ i-cleped þe Rogaciouns. 1447 Bokenham *Seyntys* (Roxb.) 11 It was doon in ful solemne wyse And with many a cerymonye. 1528 Cromwell in Merriman *Life & Lett.* (1902) I. 319 The seruice daylie doon..so deuoute, solempne, and full of Armonye. 1599 Sandys *Europæ Spec.* (1632) 5 The solemnest divine honour which I see in those parts. 1613 Purchas *Pilgrimage* (1614) 808 Then came forth the sacrificers, who began the sacrifice of men..: for this was their solemnest festiuall. 1650 Fuller *Pisgah* I. vii. 17 It is answered, that seven was the compleat and solemne number, whereon God himself emphatically insists. 1667 Milton *P. L.* I. 390 [They] with cursed things His holy Rites, and solemn Feasts profan'd. 1830 Coleridge *Church & State* (ed. 2) 226 During the solemner Sabbaths of the Spirit. 1847 Tennyson *Princ.* II. 428 At last a solemn grace Concluded, and we sought the gardens.

b. *spec.* Of various ecclesiastical ceremonies or services of a special character (see quots.).

1338 R. Brunne *Chron.* (1810) 284 He giffes a solempne cursyng, Tille þo þat þer on liffes. *c* 1515 *Cocke Lorell's B.* 7 A solempne dyryge is songe there, With a grete drynkynge. 1546 *Supplic. Poore Commons* (E.E.T.S.) 69 To this daye, thei vse, on solempne feastes, to folow theyr olde ordinary. 1577 Harrison *Descr. Brit.* II. i, It happened..in a Rogation weeke that the clergy goyng in solemne procession [etc.]. 1699 in *Cath. Rec. Soc. Publ.* VII. 54 Father Rector of ye Colledge performed his Jubilee with a Solemn Mass. 1700 *Ibid.* 68 A Solemne Obsequie for Count Colonna of Bornhem. 1753 Challoner *Cath. Chr. Instr.* 93 In the high or solemn Mass the Gospel is sung by the Deacon. 1834 K. H. Digby *Mores Cath.* v. vii. 188 The festival of the circumcision became solemn in the sixth century. 1866 Lee *Direct. Angl.* (ed. 3) 360 *Solemn Service*, a choral celebration of the Holy Eucharist. 1908 *Ch. Times* 13 Mar. 347/2 Parishioners, friends, and relatives gathered from far and near for the Solemn Requiem.

2. Of days or seasons: Marked by the celebration of special observances or rites (esp. of a religious character); distinguished by, or set apart for, special ceremonies.

c 1325 *Prose Psalter* cxvii. 25 Stablis þe solempne daie. *c* 1350 *Will. Palerne* 1418 Þemperour erded stille in rome at þe ester tide, & for þat solempne sesoun [etc.]. 1387 Trevisa *Higden* (Rolls) VI. 29 He..forbeed hem mete and drynkenge of wyn but it were in certeyne solempne dayes in þe ȝere. *c* 1400 *Apol. Loll.* 50 Þat feyris nor markets had no place in þe kirk in solempne tymis. 1422 tr. *Secreta Secret.*, *Priv. Priv.* 194 In hey festis & solempne dayys. 1533 Frith *Mirror* (1829) 295 The Jews..were commanded to keep the seventh day solemn. 1611 Bible *Numb.* x. 10 Also in the day of your gladnesse, and in your solemne dayes. 1650 Trapp *Comm.*, *Exod.* xx. 17 Holie-daies were either quotidian or solemn. *a* 1700 Evelyn *Diary* 23 Apr. 1646, To this there joynes a spacious Hall for sollemn days to ballot in.

3. Performed with, accompanied by, due formality or ceremony; of a formal or ceremonious character.

c 1369 Chaucer *Dethe Blaunche* 302 Eueryche [bird] songe in his wyse The most solempne seruyse. *c* 1386 — *Squire's T.* 61 This Cambinskan..halt his feste, so solempne and so riche That in this world ne was ther noon it liche. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 464/1 Solempne, or feestfulle, *festivus*, *celeber*. *a* 1529 Skelton *E. Rummyng* 548 Now truly, to my thynkynge, This is a solempne drinkynge. 1583 Melbancke *Philotimus* Ff ij, To morrow next there is sollem hunting in the parke here adioyning. 1610 Holland *Camden's Brit.* 723 A solemne horse running, wherein the horse that outrunneth the rest hath for his prise a little golden bell. 1662 J. Davies tr. *Olearius' Voy. Amb.* A ij b, The Accompt of a Solemn Embassy, sent to two of the greatest Princes of Europe and Asia. *a* 1700 Evelyn *Diary* 15 Oct. 1685, Being the King's birth day, there was a solemne ball at Court. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* I. III. iii, Till at length,..in solemn final session, there bursts forth..an explosion of eloquence. 1853 J. H. Newman *Hist. Sk.* (1873) II. I. i. 30 They were invited to two solemn banquets.

†**b.** Formal; regular; uniform. *Obs.*

1639 Fuller *Holy War* IV. ix. (1840) 194 Since which time we find no solemn taking it [the city] by the Turks. *a* 1661 — *Worthies* (1840) II. 542 Castles..able to resist (though no solemn siege) a tumultuary incursion. 1668 Culpepper & Cole *Barthol. Anat.* I. xvii. 47 Any matter may easily repass..in the solemn Circulation of the Blood. 1704 *Dict. Rust.* (1726) s.v. *Hot-shoots*, Whereupon they'll continue a glowing, solemn, and constant Fire, for 7 or 8 hours.

†**c.** Customary; carefully observed. *Obs.*[−1]

1616 B. Jonson *Ev. Man in Humour* Ded. to Camden, So solemne a vice it is with them to vse the authoritie of their ignorance, to the crying downe of Poetry.

†**4. a.** Grand, imposing; sumptuous. *Obs.*

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 1171 He sete on Salamones solie, on solemne wyse. *c* 1386 Chaucer *Man of Lawe's T.* 387 Arryved ben this cristen folk to londe, In Surrie, with a greet solempne route. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 1630 Priam..a pales gert make Within the Cite full Solempne of a sete riall. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 142 b, Salomon buylded a solemne temple..of stones precyous & quadrat or squared. *c* 1586 C'tess Pembroke *Ps.* cx. ii, In solempne robes they glad shall goe. 1589 Puttenham *Eng. Poesie* I. xv. (Arb.) 49 For which purpose also the players garments were made more rich and costly and solemne.

†**b.** Of great dignity or importance. *Obs.*

c 1386 Chaucer *Prol.* 209 Ther was..A limitour, a ful solempne man. 1387 Trevisa *Higden* (Rolls) I. 3 After solempne and wise writeres of arte. *Ibid.* 95 Babylonia..was first so solempne þat it conteyned Assyria, Caldea, and Mesopotamia. *c* 1430 Lydg. in *Pol., Rel. & L. Poems* (1866) 28, I fond a lyknesse depict vpon a wal.., The hede of thre fulle solempne and roiall, Intellectus, Memorye, and Resoun. *a* 1513 Fabyan *Chron.* VI. (1811) 183 Ethilstanne ..mette with hym, and his people, at a place called Brymforde, where he had a great and solempne victory. 1596 Dalrymple tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* (S.T.S.) I. 230 Thrie Judgement saites to be seperate ane frome another in solemne places.

†**c.** Famous, renowned. *Obs.*

1387 Trevisa *Higden* (Rolls) II. 421 His temple is solempne in þe ilond Diomedia. 1596 Dalrymple tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* (S.T.S.) I. 22 Edinburgh.., quhilke was nocht litle celebrate and solemne.

5. Of a formal and serious or deliberate character: **a.** Of vows or oaths, *spec.* of those made under some religious sanction.

Solemn League and Covenant: see Covenant *sb.* 9 a.

c 1315 Shoreham I. 1785 Of chastete professioun Hys [=is] solempne by-heste. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* C. 239 With sacrafyse vp-set, & solempne vowes. *a* 1450 Myrc 1661 Hym þat brekeþ solempne vow, Or chawnge hyt wole, sende hym forþ now. *c* 1489 Caxton *Blanchardyn* xlvi. 177 Makyng a grete & a solempne oath. 1559 *Mirr. Mag.*, *Mowbrays Banishment* xi, We all agreed and sware a solempne oth. 1597 Hooker *Eccl. Pol.* v. lxv. § 9 The solemnest vow that wee euer made. 1643 Prynne *Sov. Power Parl.* I. (ed. 2) 54 Such faith is to be given to the solemnest Oathes of Kings. 1756–9 A. Butler *Lives of Saints*, *St. Frances*, The Oblates make no solemn vows, only a promise of obedience to the mother-president. 1885 *Month* Nov. 436 The Redemptoristines were approved with solemn vows and are therefore a Religious Order properly so called. 1894 *Ibid.* June 239 According to the Statutes the vows of the choir nuns should be those canonically called 'solemn'.

b. Of statements, compacts, documents, etc. Not always clearly distinct from sense 6.

1420 in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* Ser. I. I. 67 And aftirward with a solempne proposicion dennouncede vn to hym thys Pes. *c* 1449 Pecock *Repr.* I. vi. 31 Alle the trouthis of lawe of kinde..weren writen bifore in thilk solempnest inward book. 1533 More *Debell. Salem* v. Wks. 940/1 But then commeth he forthe vppon me..with a very foly & with a solempne lye. 1560 Daus tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 257 Therefore we protest..in solemnwyse that we are of this mynd. 1610 Holland *Camden's Brit.* 760 Thomas Musgrave..was by solemne writ of summons called to the Parliament. 1671 Marvell *Corr.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 385 Our House hath.. made a solemne vote, That aids given by the Commons ought not to be altered. 1702 Addison *Dial. Medals* i. Wks. 1766 III. 17 The solemn dissertations that have been made on these weighty subjects! 1741–2 Gray *Agrip.* I. i, Of mutter'd charms and solemn invocation. 1806 J. Beresford *Miseries Hum. Life* II. xviii, The most solemn assurances of the Barometer that there is nothing to fear. 1847 Mrs. A. Kerr tr. *Ranke's Hist. Servia* 263 A solemn agreement had been entered into; and Russia was entitled to demand its due execution. 1884 *Encycl. Brit.* XVII. 550/2 But neither in England nor in Sicily did official formalism acknowledge even French..as a fit tongue for solemn documents.

6. Of a serious, grave, or earnest character:

a. Of actions, feelings, etc.

c 1449 Pecock *Repr.* II. viii. 183 If bi the ymagis..schulde be maad eny quyk and feruent and solempne and miche deuout remembraunce. *a* 1548 Hall *Chron.*, *Edw. IV*, 234 He toke of hys cappe, and made a low and solempne obeysance. 1590 Greene *Never too Late* Wks. (Grosart) VIII. 77 With a solempne conge departing, he went about his busines. 1602 Shaks. *Ham.* I. ii. 201 A figure like your Father..with sollemne march Goes slow and stately. 1659 Hammond *On Ps.* xlviii. 12. 246 Nothing deserving our solemnest meditations. 1705 Stanhope *Paraphr.* II. 303 Therefore our Zeal, if sincere, will be solemn. 1763 J. Brown *Poet. & Music* xii. 214 Our parochial Music, in general, is solemn and devout. 1827 Scott *Chron. Canongate* i, I shall never forget the solemn tone of expression with which he summed up the incapacities of the paralytic. 1833 Tennyson *Dream Fair Wom.* lvii, I heard Him, for He spake, and grief became A solemn scorn of ills. 1868 Ffoulkes *Church's Creed or Crown's Creed?* 36 There is a solemn document before the world—I may say one of the solemnest.

b. Of persons. Also *transf.*

1580–3 Greene *Mamillia* Wks. (Grosart) II. 239 Be not too sad least he thinke thou art sollempe. 1599 Shaks. *Hen. V*, IV. i. 318 Where the sad and solemne Priests sing still. 1667 Milton *P. L.* IV. 648 Silent Night With this her solemn Bird. *Ibid.* XI. 236 Some great Potentate ..solemn and sublime, whom not to offend, With reverence I must meet. 1781 Cowper *Conversation* 299 A shallow brain behind a serious mask,..The solemn fop. 1842 Lover *Handy Andy* xxviii, They were again a reverent flock, and he once more a solemn pastor. 1867 F. H. Ludlow *Brace of Boys* 265 So confused among the wax-works that he pinched the solemnest showman's legs to see if he was real.

absol. 1871 R. Ellis *Catullus* xxvii. 6 But dull water, avaunt..; seek the sour, the solemn!

c. Of the features or looks.

1595 Shaks. *John* IV. ii. 90 Why do you bend such solemne browes on me? 1761 Gray *Odin* 76 What Virgins these.. That bend to earth their solemn brow. 1832 Brewster *Nat. Magic* iii. 43 Though the eyes were open, the features were solemn and rigid. 1899 Marg. Benson & Gourlay *Temple of Mut* i. 11 An Arab girl with solemn eyes.

7. Fitted to excite serious thoughts or reflections; impressive, awe-inspiring.

c 1400 *St. Alexius* (Laud MS.) 867 Þe þrid tyme com þe voice Fro hym þat was don on croice wiþ gret solempne liȝth. *c* 1425 *Abraham's Sacr.* 437 in *Bk. of Brome* 68 Lo!..now haue we schowyd Thys solom story to grete and smale. 1522 More *De quat. Noviss.* Wks. 84/1 The wind that puffeth vs vp in pride, vpon the solemne sight of worldly worship. 1590 Spenser *F. Q.* I. viii. 29 There raignd a solemne silence ouer all. 1642 H. More *Song Soul* I. III. lxv, In solem silency this vapour rose From this drad Dale. 1719 Tickell *On the Death of Addison* 15 What awe did the slow solemn knell inspire. 1757 Gray *Bard* 105 What solemn scenes on Snowdon's height. 1821 Shelley *Adonais* xlv, His solemn agony had not Yet faded from him. 1860 Tyndall *Glac.* I. xviii. 123 The solemn heights of Monte Rosa. 1880 J. F. Clarke *Self Culture* iii. 75 It becomes vastly more solemn than death.

†**b.** Gloomy, dark, sombre. *Obs.*

1602 Shaks. *Ham.* I. ii. 78 Customary suites of solemne Blacke. 1616 B. Jonson *Epigr.* I. lxxiii, Your partie-perpale picture, one halfe drawne In solemne cypres. 1625 Bacon *Ess.*, *Adversity* (Arb.) 505 Wee see in Needleworkes and Imbroideries, It is more pleasing, to haue a Liuely Worke, vpon a Sad and Solemne Grounde; then to haue a Darke and Melancholy Worke, vpon a Lightsome Ground.

8. As *adv.* Solemnly. *rare*[−1].

1743 Francis tr. *Hor.*, *Sec. Poem* 20 Let the solemn Numbers rise; Solemn sing the Queen of Night.

9. As *sb.* Solemnity. *rare*[−1].

1706 De Foe *Jure Divino* IV. 81 When subjects..Bind their dissembled homage to the Crown And bend the Solemns of Religion down.

10. *Comb.* **a.** Misc., as *solemn-breathing*, *-looking*, *-proud* adjs., *-slowly* adv.

1526 Skelton *Magnyf.* 1023 Somtyme I syt as I were solempe prowde. 1634 Milton *Comus* 555 A soft and solemn breathing sound. 1754 Gray *Progr. Poesy* 14 Parent of sweet and solemn-breathing airs. 1817 Lady Morgan *France* I. (1818) I. 53 A cold, solemn-looking English sergeant. 1871 G. Macdonald *Wks. of Fancy & Imag.* ii. 12 Let the bright sails all solemn-slowly pass.

b. Parasynthetic, or with pa. pples., as *solemn-browed*, *-measured*, *-shaded*, *-thoughted*, *-visaged*.

1777 Potter *Æschylus* (1779) I. 138 For this beneath the solemn-shaded grove Our raptur'd invocations rise. 1838 Ld. Houghton *Poems of Many Years* 11 Solemn-measured be your paces. 1842 Dickens *Amer. Notes* (1850) 151/1 In stiff-necked solemn-visaged piety. 1844 Mrs. Browning *Lady Geraldine's Courtship* xli, Wordsworth's solemn-thoughted idyl. 1852 Miss Mulock *Head of Family* vi, A long-limbed, solemn-browed follower of the sciences.

† **So·lemn,** *v.* *Obs.* In 5–6 solemne, 6 solemp(n)e. [f. prec., or ad. OF. *solem(p)ner*, *-nier*.] *trans.* To solemnize, celebrate.

1483 *Cath. Angl.* 348/2 To Solemne, *solennizare*, *celebrare*. ?*a* 1500 *Chester Pl.* (Shaks. Soc.) I. 23 To morowe the seventh daye I will solempe [*v.r.* blyn]. 1527 *Lanc. Wills* (Chetham Soc.) I. 34, I will yt Sir Iohn Walton occupye and solempne dyvine service at the forsaid Chapell. 1555 Eden *Decades*, etc. (Arb.) 302 They solemne marriages, and begynne the same with fyre and flynte.

† **Solemnacy.** *Obs.*[−1] In 6 solempnacie. [Cf. next and -acy.] Solemnization.

1591 Horsey *Trav.* (Hakl. Soc.) 158 The manner and solempnacie of this mariage was so streinge and heathenly.

† **Solemnation.** *Obs. rare.* [Cf. Solemn *v.*] Solemnization, celebration.

1470–85 Malory *Arthur* VII. xxxvi. 270 Whan this solemnacion was done, thenne came in the grene knyghte syr Pertylope with thyrtty knyghtes. 1656 Earl Monm. tr. *Boccalini's Advts. fr. Parnass.* 236 The daies solemnation of admittance of the litterati into Parnassus.

Solemncholy (sǫ·ləmkǫli), *a.* Also -coly. [Fancifully f. Solemn *a.*, after *melancholy*.] Excessively solemn or serious.

1855 Haliburton *Nat. & Hum. Nat.* I. ix. 285 Watch his face as he goes along, slowly and solemncoly through the street. 1863 Pycroft *Dragons' Teeth* I. 154 With sighs and groans, pale faces, and 'solemncholy' looks. 1894 Meldrum *Margredel* 67 He's a very solemncholy youth.

† **Solemned,** *a.* *Sc.* *Obs.* Forms: 5–6 solempt, -empnit, solemnit (6 -yt), 6 solemned. [? f. Solemn *v.* + -ed.] Solemn, in various senses.

1423 Jas. I *Kingis Q.* lxxix, Thir peple sawe I stand, With mony a solempt [*so MS.*] contenance. *c* 1450 *Maitl. Club Misc.* III. 203 Ane haly wattyr fat of siluer..for solemnit festis. 1513 Douglas *Æneid* v. ii. 24 Netheles suld I.. exequies, with solempt [*v.r.* solemnyt, solempnit] pomp and fair, Dewlie perform. 1564 Knox *Bk. Common Order* (1584) C vj, The cutting off..by publicke and solemned sentence, all obstinate and impenitent persons. 1567 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* I. 542, I faythfullie affirme be my solempnit ayth.

Hence † **Solemnedly** *adv.* *Obs.*

c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xvii. (*Martha*) 202 Al hyre covent ..hyre exequies dewotly did..& solempnitly. 1566 *Acts & Constit. Scotl.* To Rdr., [They] had thair statutis..inrollit, bukit, and solempnitlie red to all the pepill. 1572–3 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* II. 200 Oure Soverane Lordis Commissioneris..solempnitlie promeist and sweare [etc.].

† **Solemnel,** *a.* *Obs.* Also 5–6 solempnell(e. [a. OF. *solempnel*, *-nal* (F. *solennel*), ad. L. type **sōlemnālis*.] Solemn.

1471 Caxton *Recuyell* (Sommer) 426/11 Hercules..went to..Salamanque and..he wold make there a solempnell estudye. 1490 — *Eneydos* xv. 60 An assemble..of metes and of wynes for to kepe a solempnelle feste. 1556 *Aurelio & Isab.* (1608) B iv, The King her father kept her with solemnell keping inclosed. 1600 in *Cath. Tract.* (S.T.S.) 222, I dout not bot your Maiestie sal accomplis this solemnel promesse. 1647 in Hexham I. s.v.

Solemness (sǫ·ləmnės). Also solemnness. [f. Solemn *a.* + -ness.] The state or quality of being solemn; solemnity.

1530 Palsgr. 272/2 Solemnesse, *solempnité*. 1561 T. Hoby tr. *Castiglione's Courtyer* IV. (1577) T iv, Pride, wrath, solemnesse and such tiranical fashions as they haue within them. 1642 D. Rogers *Naaman* 130 When the closnesse, solemnesse,..and necessity of it, is presented to the soule. 1741 Richardson *Pamela* (1824) I. 74 He looked at me with such respect and solemness at parting. 1797–1803 Foster in J. E. Ryland *Life & Corr.* (1846) I. 211 Still shades, that dimmed in solemness the lower part of her orb. 1828–32 Webster s.v., The solemness of public worship.

1908 *Nation* Mar. 845/1 He has felt the greater solemnness of a Semitic tongue.

†Solemniation. *Obs. rare.* [f. L. *sōlemni-s*: cf. SOLEMNATION.] Solemnization.

1603 KNOLLES *Hist. Turks* (1638) 192 For solemniation of the marriage, [Amurath] prepared all things with great magnificence. 1638 CRESHALD *Legacy* 18 Ornaments of Solemniation of the Royall discent.

Solemni·fic, *a. nonce-wd.* [f. SOLEMN *a.* + -(I)FIC.] Affectedly solemn.

1823 BEDDOES *Poems* 225 This speech..begins too designedly in the established form of solemnific invocation.

Solemnify (sǫle·mnifəi), *v.* [f. as prec. + -(I)FY.] *trans.* To make solemn. Also *refl.*

1882 L. C. LILLIE *Prudence* 79 Solemnified by the silent hidden presences. 1885 G. MEREDITH *Diana* III. ix. 164 Mr. Sullivan Smith had solemnified himself to proffer a sober petition.

Sole·mniously, *adv. rare.* Also 6 **solempniouslie.** [f. SOLEMN *a.* + -IOUS: cf. OF. *solemnieus.*] Solemnly.

a 1578 LINDESAY (Pitscottie) *Chron. Scot.* (S.T.S.) II. 124 Thaireftir the mariaige was solempniouslie maid. 1910 *Blackw. Mag.* Apr. 607/1 'In the name ov God,' says the Pope, very solemniously, 'what *is* the maning ov all this?'

Solemnity (sǫle·mniti). Forms: 3–4 **solempnete,** 4–5 **-ite(e, -ytee,** 4–6 **-yte,** 4–7 **-itie** (6 **-ytye**); 4 **sollempnete, -ite,** 5 **-itee, -ytee**; 4–5 **solemnete, -ite(e,** 5–6 **-yte,** 6–7 **-itie,** 6– **solemnity.** [a. OF. *solempneté, -ité* (= Sp. *solemnidad*, Pg. *solemnidade*), ad. L. *sōl-, sollem(p)nitas* (post-classical), f. *sōl-, sollem(p)nis* SOLEMN *a.*: see -ITY. The ME. form *solem(p)nete* was app. sometimes stressed on the first syllable: cf. SOLEMNTY.]

1. Observance of ceremony or special formality on important occasions: **a.** In the phrases *with* or *in (great,* etc.) *solemnity.* Now *rare.*

c 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 169 Heo bureden þat holi bodi hasteliche þere biside With luyte solempnete i-nov3. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 1313 He sesed hem with solemnete, þe souerayn he praysed. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 352 With gret solempnete He was unto his dignete Received, and coroned king. *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (Roxb.) xxxiv. 153 Þai bere þe body to a hill with grete sollempnytee. 1479–85 MALORY *Arthur* VII. xxxvi. 270 The Bisshop of Caunterbury made the weddyng..with grete solempnyte. *a* 1557 MRS. M. BASSET tr. *More's Treat. Passion* M.'s Wks. 1398 My blessed Martyrs ..shal..with woondrefull solempnitie enter into heauen. 1590 SHAKS. *Mids. N.* IV. i. 182 Wee'll hold a feast in great solemnitie. 1611 BIBLE *Transl. Pref.* P 2 For bringing backe the Arke of God in solemnitie. 1719 YOUNG *Revenge* V. i, And then, with all the cool solemnity Of public justice, give her to the grave. 1759 ROBERTSON *Hist. Scotl.* Wks. 1813 I. 366 The conference, however, was opened with much solemnity. 1875 *Times* 9 May, The Emperor..was received with all the solemnity that befits so great a Potentate.

b. In general use.

c 1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* CXVII. 26 Makis solempnyte in 3oure saule. *c* 1380 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* II. 124 Þe Jewis calengiden..to have a man 3ovun to hem, for solempnite of þe feeste. *c* 1400 LOVE *Bonavent. Mirr.* (1908) 50 The solempnite and the worthynesse of this feste and this hi3e day. *c* 1420 *Brut* CCXLI. 349 Þe King..welcomed hir.., and made þere alle þe solempnite þat my3t be do. 1502 *Ord. Crysten Men* (W. de W. 1506) I. ii, Them that be ordeyned of god & of holy churche as well in case of necessyte as of solempnyte. 1553 EDEN *Treat. New Ind.* (Arb.) 14 The king hereof vseth great pride & solemnitie. 1613 PURCHAS *Pilgr.* (1614) 192 If a female child be borne, there is small solemnitie. 1653 MORE *Antid. Ath.* II. iii. § 5 Instead of all this Glory and Solemnity there had been nothing but howlings and shoutings. 1759 ROBERTSON *Hist. Scotl.* VII. Wks. 1813 I. 511 Elizabeth resolved that no circumstance of pomp or solemnity should be wanting. 1821 SHELLEY *Ginevra* 161 The marriage feast and its solemnity Was turned to funeral pomp.

2. An occasion of ceremony; an observance or celebration of special importance; a festival or other similar occasion.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 13874 Iesus went him forth.., Til it come a solempnite, He com a-gain in þat cite. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* III. 166 So myhte every man aboute The day of that solempnete His tale telle. *c* 1400 *Brut* Prol. 1 Dioclician þoughte maryen his Doughtres among all þo knyghtys þat tho were at that solempnite. *c* 1425 *Found. St. Bartholomew's* (E. E. T. S.) 47 This childe..was browght to the forsaid chirche yn the solempnyte of the glorious Apostle. *a* 1533 LD. BERNERS *Huon* lxii. 217 Then they went all with the pope to his palays, and there was made the solempnytes of ye maryage. 1570–6 LAMBARDE *Peramb. Kent* (1826) 259 King Edwarde the Seconde..held the solemnitie of a whole Christmasse in the house of this Manor. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* III. 219 Among other solemnities, they roasted an Oxe in the middest of the field for the people. 1673 TEMPLE *Ess. Irel.* Wks. 1720 I. 119 Many..may come, not only as to a publick kind of Solemnity, but as to a great Mart of the best Horses. 1710 PRIDEAUX *Orig. Tithes* ii. 113 Such a multitude of People were fed..during their continuance together at those Solemnities. 1763 J. BROWN *Poet. & Music* § 4. 41 Hymns or Odes would be composed, and Sung by their Composers at their festal Solemnities. 1834 K. H. DIGBY *Mores Cath.* V. vii. 218 Assisting on Easter day at the divine office of this great solemnity. 1867 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* (1877) I. 426 The king engaged in a remarkable solemnity on the spot which had witnessed his last battle.

†b. A ceremonial procession. *Obs.*

1636 STRODE *Floating Isl.* II. iv, Enter in the midst of the song Amorous ushering the solemnity. 1707 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4374/1 When the Solemnity came near St. Mark's-Place, the Norton Galley hoisted the Union Colours. 1731 *Gentl. Mag.* I. 441 A Representation of the Solemnity and Procession of the Lord Mayor of London thro' the City.

†3. Applied concretely (see quots.). *Obs.*

c 1435 *Torr. Portugal* 1591 My two dragons hast thou slan, My solempnite they were. 1449 *Churchw. Acc. St. George's, Stamford* in Nicholls (1797) 133, I bequethe to the seyd Chirch of Seynt George a solempnitie of array for the fest of Corpus Christi.

4. †**a.** Proper or regular performance. *Obs.*[1]

c 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* IV. 2 At Marches mone, in contrey that is colde, Putacioun hath his solempnite [L. *celebratur*].

b. *Law.* Necessary formality, such as is requisite to make an act or document valid.

1588 in T. Morris *Provosts of Methven* (1875) 72 The solempnitie of the law..[being] obseruit. 1590 SWINBURNE *Testaments* 6 The testament is imperfect in respect of solemnitie, wherein some of the Legall requisites..be wanting. 1665 *Caldwell P.* (Maitl. Cl.) I. 63 Not being sealled be the seall of the partie, quilk was ane essentiall solemnitie of contracts. 1669 CHAMBERLAYNE *Pres. St. Eng.* 158 If she be Plaintiff, the Summons in the Process need not have the solemnity of 15 dayes. 1871 MARKBY *Elem. Law* § 171 The contract..should be accompanied by certain solemnities as they are called. 1875 K. E. DIGBY *Real Prop.* x. § 1 (1876) 374 No solemnity short of a deed is regarded by our law as sufficient to create a right of this kind.

5. The state or character of being solemn or serious; impressiveness; gravity; a solemn utterance or statement.

1712 ADDISON *Spectator* No. 405 P 3 That Solemnity of Phrase, which may be drawn from the Sacred Writings. 1741 C. MIDDLETON *Cicero* I. I. 2 A writer, who loves to raise the solemnity of his story by the introduction of something miraculous. 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* xxvii, The solemnity of this silence..subdued her spirits. 1822–7 GOOD *Study Med.* (1829) II. 486 At present, from a knowledge of the circulation of the blood, we can smile at these nugatory solemnities. 1883 FROUDE *Short Stud.* IV. II. i. 164 Subjects which in our fathers' time were approached only with the deepest reverence and solemnity.

†Solemnizate, *v. Obs.* Forms: 6 **solempnisate, -zate,** *Sc.* **solem(p)nizat.** [f. ppl. stem of med.L. *solem(p)nizare.*] *trans.* To solemnize.

1538 CRANMER *Misc. Writ.* (Parker Soc.) II. 360 Marriage contracted and solemnisated in lawful age. 1548 UDALL, etc. *Erasm. Par. Matt.* xiv. 80 He dyd solempnisate the day of his birth. 1585 *Rec. Elgin* (Spald. Cl.) 4 That he sall solemnizat the band of matrimonie.

Solemnization (sǫ·ləmni-, -nəizē··ʃən). Forms: 5 **solempnysacion, 6 -yzacion, -izacion, -isacion**; 5 **solemnyzacyoun, 6 -izacion,** 6– **-isation, solemnization.** [a. OF. *solem(p)nisation, -ization,* or ad. med.L. *solempnizatio*: see SOLEMNIZE *v.* and -ATION.] The action of solemnizing or celebrating in a ceremonial manner.

1447 BOKENHAM *Seyntys* (Roxb.) 32 Wych tyme as shuld the solemnyzacyoun Been of that cherche. 1555 WATREMAN *Fardle of Facions* II. xii. 271 He goeth vp to the aultare,.. and so procedeth in the Solempnisacion of ye Masse. 1586 in *Cath. Rec. Soc. Publ.* (1911) IX. 167 For the solemnisation of which popish feast we thought these persons would assemble themselves together. 1631 in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* Ser. II. III. 267 On Friday my Lord of Essex..was present at the solemnization of his mothers funeral. 1651 BAXTER *Infant Bapt.* 295 The secondary .. Act, and Instrument, being but the Ceremonial solemnization. 1820 *Monthly Rev.* XCI. 501 A solemnization of this kind..would in my judgment.. have a happy influence. 1863 H. COX *Institt.* III. iii. 626 Coronation was but a..national solemnization of the descent.

b. *spec.* The celebration or performance *of* a marriage.

1497 BP. ALCOK *Mons Perf.* D iij, The solempnysacion of the maryage of the spouse of heuen. *c* 1535 in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* Ser. II. II. 89 For the solempnisacion of matrimonie betwene you. 1548–9 (Mar.) *Bk. Com. Prayer, Offices* 13 The forme of solemnizacion of matrimonie. 1625 in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* Ser. I. III. 190 The solemnization of the Nuptialls of our King and Queen and the Madam of France. 1748 RICHARDSON *Clarissa* (1811) III. 77 Out came, with great diffidence,..a proposal of speedy solemnization. 1797 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Italian* xiii, To urge an immediate solemnisation of their marriage. 1858 FROUDE *Hist. Eng.* III. xvii. 506 The solemnization of the marriage was extorted from his Majesty against his will.

†Solemnize, *sb. Obs.*[1] [f. the vb.] Solemnization; solemn rite.

1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* I. x. 4 Though spousd, yet wanting wedlocks solemnize.

Solemnize (sǫ·ləmnəiz), *v.* Forms: 4–6 **solempnise** (5 **-ese, -ish**), 5–6 **-yse, -yze,** 6–7 **solempnize**; 6– **solemnise** (6 **-yse**), **solemnize.** [ad. OF. *solem(p)niser, -izer* (= Sp. and Pg. *solemnizar*), or med.L. *solemnizare*: see SOLEMN *a.* and -IZE. In older verse the stressing *sole·mnize* occasionally appears.]

1. *trans.* To dignify or honour by ceremonies; to celebrate or commemorate by special observances or with special formality.

1382 WYCLIF 1 *Esdras* I. 20 There is not solempnisid such a pasch in Irael, fro the times of Samuel. 1460 CAPGR. *Chron.* (Rolls) 66 Hermes wrot a book that Estern day schuld evyr be solempnyzed on a Sunday. 1480 CAXTON *Myrr.* III. x. 155 To solempnise suche dayes as holy chyrche hath ordeyned. 1530 PALSGR. 724/2 The bouchers in London solempnyse saynte Lukes daye above all feestes in the yere. 1597 BEARD *Theatre God's Judgem.* (1612) 272 To the end the better to solemnize his entrie to the crowne, commaunded a sumptuous and pompous banket to be prepared. 1623 LISLE *Ælfric on O. & N. Test.*, Many thousands of Angels solemnised his birth with heavenly songs. 1652 LOVEDAY tr. *Calprenède's Cassandra* I. 22 These two enraged Princes solemniz'd their mutuall fury by the death of so many thousands. 1737 WHISTON *Josephus, Antiq.* XIX. vii. § 1 Agrippa was solemnizing his birth-day. 1787 BURNS *Ode Birthday Pr. Chas. Edward* 15 We solemnize this sorrowing natal day, To prove our loyal truth. 1838 THIRLWALL *Greece* xliii. V. 317 The king solemnized his triumph with great magnificence at Dium.

2. To celebrate (a marriage) with proper ceremonies and in due form; also, to perform the ceremony of (marriage).

1426 LYDG. in *Pol. Poems* (Rolls) II. 136 And there in Troys also was solempnesed The mariage, to conferme up the peas. 1491 *Act 7 Hen. VII*, c. 2 § 11 So that thoes espousels be solempnysed in Churche, Chapell, or Oratory. 1533–4 *Act 25 Hen. VIII*, c. 12 The mariage, whiche was solempnised betwene his maiestie and..the lady Catherine. 1588 GREENE *Perimedes* Wks. (Grosart) VII. 84 Bradamant ..with great pompe solempnised the Nuptials. 1615 G. SANDYS *Trav.* 66 They buy their wives of their parents, and record the contract before the Cadi, which they after solemnize in this manner. 1657 in *Verney Mem.* (1904) II. 120 The mariage of the Protector's daughter to Warwick's sonne, is forthwith to bee solempnized. 1713 *Guardian* No. 7 P 3 The immature marriages solemnized in our days. 1797 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Italian* xiii, He found a priest who would solemnize their nuptials. 1847 EMERSON *Poems, Musketaquid* Wks. (Bohn) I. 484 And wide around, the marriage of the plants Is sweetly solemnized. 1886 *Act 49 Vict.* c. 14 § 1 No person shall be subject to any proceedings in any court..for solemnizing matrimony between the aforesaid hours.

b. To wed ceremonially. *nonce-use.*

1592 BRETON *Pilgr. Parad.* Wks. (Grosart) I. 20/2 Where sacred mercy first did solempnize The spirite to the fleshe in mariage.

c. *absol.* To marry.

1748 RICHARDSON *Clarissa* (1811) IV. 168 Let the articles be drawn up, and engrossed; and solemnize upon them. 1804 EUGENIA DE ACTON *Tale without Title* I. 112, I am unalterably resolved never to marry any other woman: and ..should I solemnize upon her recovery [etc.].

3. To hold, observe, perform, †proclaim, etc., with some amount of ceremony or formality.

1483 CAXTON *Gold. Leg.* 233/2 Wherfore themperour estabiisshed .. that the counseyl shold be solempnysed at mylane. 1487–8 in *Prymer* (E.E.T.S.) 170 The Banys where solempnishyd & published betwixt Annes Skerne .. and Peres Courteys. 1548–9 (May) *Bk. Com. Prayer, Communion* 121 The Minister hauyng alwayes some to communicate with him, may accordingly solempnise so high and holy misteries, with al..due ordre. 1602 WARNER *Alb. Eng.* Prose Addit. 341 There..did [Æneas] solemnize an Anniuersarie at the Tombe of his father. 1603 in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* Ser. I. III. 72 To-morrow..wee doe solemnise the funerails..of her late Majesty. 1641 MILTON *Ch. Govt.* V. Wks. 1851 III. 117 To solemnize some religious monthly meeting different from the Sabbath. 1703 in *Cath. Rec. Soc. Publ.* VII. 149 The Anniversary Service for Henri 4 was Solemnized this Morn. 1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* XXXIII, The scene of solemnizing some high national festival. 1835 THIRLWALL *Greece* X. I. 427 The Megarian peasantry were compelled to solemnize the obsequies of every Bacchiad. 1897 G. ALLEN *Type-writer Girl* XVII. 189 Dinner solemnised, we withdrew to the comfortable divans of the balcony.

†4. To celebrate with praise or commendation; to laud or glorify. *Obs.*

1514 BARCLAY *Ecloges* iv. (1570) C v b/2 And to what vices that princes moste intende, Those dare these fooles solemnize and commende. *c* 1586 C'TESS PEMBROKE *Ps.* CVIII. i, My hart is bent..God's name to solemnize. *a* 1619 FOTHERBY *Atheom.* II. i. § 7 (1622) 184 Vnto the Sunne, whose glorious regiment All dayes solemnize. 1652 LOVEDAY tr. *Calprenède's Cassandra* I. 49 The bravery of the Course was solemnized with a generall Shout. 1687 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 2266/1 We cannot be satisfied..that what Your Majesty hath now done for them, should be more Solemnized, than what You have always done for us.

5. To make solemn; to render serious or grave.

1726 POPE *Odyss.* XVII. 245 Holy horrors solemnize the shade. 1760–72 H. BROOKE *Fool of Qual.* (1809) III. 140 Such an inward awe and veneration..as, for a while, sunk his spirits, and solemnized his features. 1802–12 BENTHAM *Ration. Judic. Evid.* (1827) II. 561 He solemnizes his tone ..and beholds in the air a host of difficulties. 1845 MARTINEAU *Misc.* (1852) 114 A religious ceremonial invested with every beauty that may touch and solemnize their hearts. 1871 MOZLEY *Univ. Serm.* vi. (1876) 131 That remarkable desire..seems to be innate in all,..the desire to be solemnised. People like being awed.

absol. 1865 MOZLEY *Miracles* vii. 133 A supernatural fact ..is a potent influence; it rouses, it solemnizes.

6. *intr.* To speak or meditate solemnly.

1836 *Fraser's Mag.* XIV. 733 [He] had sermonised and solemnised in sepulchral vaults and feudal towers.

Hence **So·lemnized** *ppl. a.*

1641 G. SANDYS *Paraphr. Song Solomon* III. iii. 13 At that solemniz'd Nuptiall Feast.

So·lemnizer. *rare.* [f. prec.] One who solemnizes or performs a solemn rite.

1577 HANMER *Anc. Eccl. Hist., Eusebius* X. iv, Setting before our mind the author and solemnizer of this present Feast. *a* 1634 R. CLERKE *Serm.* (1637) 518 The second regard is of the Solemnizer,..Christ himselfe, 1706 STEVENS *Span.-Eng. Dict.* I, *Solemnizador*, a Solemnizer.

So·lemnizing, *vbl. sb.* [f. as prec.] The action of celebrating solemnly or ceremoniously.

1565 STAPLETON tr. *Bede's Hist. Ch. England* 180 The catholike solemnising and dewe observation of the time of Christes resurrection. 1591 HORSEY *Trav.* (Hakl. Soc.) 171 Great feastings and trumps was at the solempnicinge of this mariage. 1634 BRERETON *Trav.* (Chetham Soc). 64 It was as long in solemnizing as our marriages. *a* 1714 SHARP *Imit. Christ* iii. Wks. 1754 V. 266 The feast of the dedication, for the solemnizing of which we find our Saviour making a journey to Jerusalem.

So·lemnizing, *ppl. a.* [f. as prec.] That solemnizes or renders solemn.

1614 SELDEN *Titles Honor* 137 The Dancers or Singers, and number of the solemnizing Sacrificers. 1807 C. SIMEON

in Carus *Life* (1847) 218 This had a sweetly solemnizing effect. 1859 Cornwallis *New World* I. 228 No solemnising associations seemed to connect themselves with the.. hallowed ground. 1871 Mozley *Univ. Serm.* v. (1876) 105 This judicial character of war..enables it to produce its solemnising type of character.

† **So·lemnly**, *a. Obs.*—[1] [-ly[1].] Of a solemn or sacred character.

1482 *Monk of Evesham* (Arb.) 106 Who ys he that wolde not ful gretly sorow to see so feire and so solemly a body to be caste under so grete iniuriis and sore peynys.

Solemnly (sɒ·ləmli), *adv.* Forms: α. 4 **solemplike, -liche**; 4–6 **solemply** (4 -lie, 5 -lye, **sollemply**); 4 **solemliche**, 6 **-ly**. β. 4 **soll-, solempneliche**; 4–6 **solempnely** (4 -lie, 5 -li), **solempnly** (6 -lie); 5–6 **sollempn(e)ly**. γ. 6 **solemnelie**, 6–7 **-ly**, 6– **solemnly**. [f. Solemn *a.* + -ly[2]. Cf. OF. *sollempnement*, L. *sollemniter*, MDu. *solem(p)nelic, -lijc.*] In a solemn manner, in various senses of the adj.; ceremoniously, formally; gravely, seriously, etc.

α. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 6097 In mining sal ye hald þis dai,.. Solemplike wit-in your lai. 1387 Trevisa *Higden* (Rolls) III. 391 To brenne noble bodies whanne þey were dede, and kepe þe askes solempliche in solempne place. *c* 1430 Lydg. *Min. Poems* (Percy Soc.) 19 Solemplye [they] gan him conveye in dede Up into the chirche. 1473 *Rental Bk. Cupar-Angus* (1879) I. 172 The forsad Robert and Thomas..swur sollemply vpon the haly wangelis. 1535 Coverdale *Judith* xvi. 26 The daye wherin this victory was gotten, was solemply holden. *a* 1548 Hall *Chron., Hen. IV*, 22 b, The kyng..was by the senate and magestrates solemply receyued. 1565 Cooper *Thes.* s.v. *Celebro*, To bryng solemly to buriynge.

β. *a* 1325 *MS. Rawl. B. 520* lf. 30 b, Þat te notes ant te fins..ben communeliche and sollempneliche i-radde. *c* 1330 R. Brunne *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 15401 He was byried ful solempnely. 1390 Gower *Conf.* III. 329 The hihe festes of Neptune..Sollempneliche thei besihe. *c* 1449 Pecock *Repr.* iv. iv. 445 To whom Poul wrote more in quantite and more solempneli and oftir. 1470–85 Malory *Arthur* viii. xxxvi. 328 They were wedded and solempnly held theyr maryage. 1513 More *Hist. Rich. III*, Wks. 60/1 She was solempnely sworne to say the trouth. 1587 Greene *Euphues* Wks. (Grosart) VI. 177 Being sollempnly set in a coole Arbour.

γ. 1556 Robinson *More's Utopia* II. (Arb.) 134 After that warre is ones solemnelie denounced. 1577 B. Googe *Heresbach's Husb.* IV. (1586) 170 b, I founde of late..an Owle sitting solemnly in the nest. 1646 Sir T. Browne *Pseud. Epid.* 239 Eve..was not solemnly begotten, but suddenly framed. 1671 Milton *Samson* 1731 To fetch him hence and solemnly attend With silent obsequie. 1716 Lady M. W. Montagu *Lett.* I. iii. 12 The thick shade of the trees..is solemnly delightful. 1766 Goldsm. *Vicar* i, I solemnly protest I had no hand in it. 1817 Shelley *Rev. Islam* v. xli, Solemnly and slow..the wind bore that tumult to and fro. 1855 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* xv. III. 507 The right of the people to resist oppression..had been solemnly recognised by the Estates of the realm. 1874 Green *Short Hist.* vi. § 5. 315 Luther's works were solemnly burnt in St. Paul's.

Solemnness, variant of Solemness.

† **Solemnty.** *Obs.* In 4–5 **solempte.** [prob. a reduced form of ME. *so·lempnetē.*] Solemnity.

1303 R. Brunne *Handl. Synne* 9632 As a-nouþer chyld shuld ha be þat hade receyuede the solempte. 1382 Wyclif *Lev.* xxiii. 41 And ȝe shulen halowe the solempte of hym seuen dayes.

† **Solemny**, *a.* and *adv. Obs.* In 5 **solempny, -ni.** [f. Solemn *a.*] **A.** *adj.* Solemn.

c 1420 *Chron. Vilod.* 1797 Bot a solempniere dedicacione for-sothe þer nas In Wylton neuer byfore þat day y-done. 1448–9 Metham *Wks.* (E.E.T.S.) 51 And euery man that he coude off myrth or pley Schuld schewe yt..this solempny day. *c* 1450 *Godstow Reg.* 489 That the fest of seynt Margarete myght be the more solempnyere and the more devoutly be halowed and honoured.

B. *adv.* Solemnly. (Cf. Solenny *adv.*)

c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xxvii. (*Machor*) 1207 Þare solempni with honoure þai grathit for it a sepulture. *a* 1470 *Contin. Brut* 493 And in euery town by þe way he had solempny his Dirige on þe evyn, & masse on þe morne.

† **Solen,** *a.* and *sb.*[1] *Obs.* Also 5 **solenne.** [a. OF. *solenne* (= It, *solenne*), ad. L. *sōl-, sollennis*, var. of *sollemnis* Solemn *a.*]

A. *adj.* Solemn, in various senses.

1432–50 tr. *Higden* (Rolls) III. 297 A feste of gandres was made solenne and kepede at Rome in the kalendes of Iune. *c* 1460 *Promp. Parv.* (W.) 421 Solenne, or festful, *festiuus.* 1530 Palsgr. 325/1 Solen, nat cherefull, *pencif.* 1535 Stewart *Cron. Scot.* I. 530 Syne grauit [he] wes in to his graif..with sacrifice solen Of Cristin wyis with mony nobill men. 1570 Levins *Manip.* 62 Solen, *solennis.*

B. *sb.* ? A formal residence.

1447 Bokenham *Seyntys* (Roxb.) 29 In this seyn cnerche was an abbeye, A solenne of munkys whil that it stood.

Solen (sōu·lĕn), *sb.*[2] [a. L. *sōlēn*, or Gr. σωλήν, channel, pipe, syringe, shell-fish, etc. So F. *solen.*]

1. *Zool.* The razor-fish, *Solen ensis* or *siliqua.*

1661 R. Lovell *Anim. & Min.* 240 Solen...The flesh is sweet; they may be eaten fryed or boiled. 1752 Hill *Hist. Anim.* 170 The large, brown, common Solen, called the Razor-shell and Sheath-shell. 1776 Mendes de Costa *Elem. Conchol.* 233 Shells with valves, that..are always open and gaping in some part; as chamæ, pinnæ, solens, etc. 1834 McMurtrie *Cuvier's Anim. Kingd.* 268 In the Solens, properly so called, the shell is cylindrically elongated. 1841–71 T. R. Jones *Anim. Kingd.* 538 The Solen excavates for itself a very deep hole in the sand.

Comb. 1839 *Penny Cycl.* XIV. 319 Solen-like Nymphidæ.

2. *Surg.* (See quots.)

1693 tr. *Blancard's Phys. Dict.* (ed. 2), *Solen*, an oblong Instrument which Surgeons use, to contain a broken Member. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2244/1 *Solen*,..(*a*) a cradle for a broken limb; (*b*) a tent or tilt of splits or wands to hold the bed-clothes from contact with a broken or sore limb.

Hence (from sense 1) **Solena·cean** *sb.* and *a.*; **Solena·ceous** *a.*

1842 Brande *Dict. Sci.*, etc. 1130/1 Solenaceans, *Solenacea*, ..the name of a family of Diniary Bivalve Mollusks, of which the razor shell (*Solen*) is the type. 1850 Ogilvie, *Solenaceous*, relating to the Solenaceans.

Solender, obs. form of Sallender.

Soleness (sōu·lnès). Now *rare.* [f. Sole *a.*]

† **1.** Solitude; solitariness. *Obs.*

c 1449 Pecock *Repr.* II. xv. 235 Forto haue quietnes and soolnes to preie to God or to a Seint. 1534 Whitinton *Tullyes Offices* I. (1540) 63 A large house is ofte a reproche to his master, if there be in it soolnesse and no recourse. 1612 J. Davies (Heref.) *Muse's Sacr.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 68/2 Solenesse, brings sadnesse; Company, but strife. *a* 1618 Sylvester *Monodia* 100 Her selfe to sadnesse and to solenesse taking.

2. The state or condition of being sole, alone, or apart.

1587 Golding *De Mornay* vi. 90 The first God..being afore the Beeër, and alone,.. yet.. abydeth still in the solenesse of his vnitie. 1631 R. Bolton *Comf. Affl. Consc.* xi. (1635) 274 He is much troubled with solenesse in suffering. *a* 1661 Fuller *Worthies* (1840) I. 39 The laurel importing conquest and sovereignty, and so by consequence soleness in that faculty. 1748 Chesterf. *Lett.* (1792) II. clx. 74 An advantage which France has;..which is (if I may use the expression) its sole-ness, continuity of riches and power within itself. 1889 *Macm. Mag.* Jan. 205/1 The Greek islander is never coarse, balanced, as he is, with curious soleness, between the barbarian and the gentleman.

Solenette (sōulne·t, sɒlĕne·t). [Irregularly f. Sole *sb.*[2] + -(n)ette.] The little sole, *Monochirus linguatulus* or *Solea minuta.*

1839 Yarrell *Suppl. Brit. Fishes* 36 The Solenette, or Little Sole. 1881 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* V. 73 The Solenette ..attains a length of five inches. 1892 *Chambers's Encycl.* IX. 559/2 The Solenette..is the smallest British species.

So·lenhofen. [See def.] *Solenhofen slate* or *stone*, a fine-grained variety of limestone, used esp. in lithographic printing, quarried in the upper beds of the Jurassic formation at Solenhofen in Bavaria. So *Solenhofen bed.*

1833–4 *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) VI. 634/1 Solenhofen beds. In the centre of the German Jura..occur beds of white fissile limestone, now universally employed in lithography. 1841 *Penny Cycl.* XXI. 256/1 The Jurassic limestone of Solenhofen, commonly called the Solenhofen slate. 1882 *Encycl. Brit.* XIV. 698/1 The Solenhofen stone, in its chemical decomposition, consists of lime and carbonic acid.

Sole·nial, *a.* [f. Solen-ium + -ial.] Of the nature of a canal or pipe.

1900 G. C. Bourne in *Trans. Linn. Soc., Zool.* VII. x. 532 Fresh solenial outgrowths of the chief members give rise to new lateral members.

So·lenite. [a. F. *solénite*: see Solen *sb.*[2] and -ite[1] 2 a.] A fossil razor-fish or solen.

1828–32 in Webster. 1849 Craig, *Solenite*, a fossil Solen, of which Lamarck describes five species as occurring in the neighbourhood of Paris. 1850 Ogilvie s.v., Fragments of solenites are found in the Essex cliffs.

‖ **Solenium** (sōlī·niŭm). Pl. **solenia.** [mod. L., ad. Gr. σωλήνιον, dim. of σωλήν Solen *sb.*[2]] (See first quot.)

1900 G. C. Bourne in *Trans. Linn. Soc., Zool.* VII. x. 522 The anastomosing canals lined by endoderm which place the zooid cavities in communication have been variously named 'stolons', 'nutritive-canals', 'cœnenchymal tubes', and so on. I propose to call them *solenia. Ibid.* 532 The anthostele sends up a solenium.

† **So·lenly,** *adv. Obs. rare.* [f. Solen *a.* + -ly[2].] Solemnly; ceremoniously.

1393 Langl. *P. Pl.* C. iv. 54 In masse and in matyns..we shulleþ synge Solenliche and sothliche as for a sustre of oure ordre. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 8738 There set was full solenly besyde the high aulter, A tabernacle.

† **Sole·nnial,** *a. Obs.*—[o] [f. L. *solenn-is*: see Solen *a.*] Also † **Sole·nnic** *a.* (See quots.)

1623 Cockeram I, *Solenniche*, vsuall once a yeere. 1656 Blount *Glossogr.*, *Solennial*, yearly, used or done every year at a certain time, publick, solemn, accustomed.

† **Sole·nnit,** var. *solemnit* Solemned *a. Obs.*

1562 Winjet *Wks.* (S.T.S.) I. 27 Ane notable cause of thir solennit dayis geuis the said renownit Father Augustine.

† **Sole·nnity.** *Obs.* Forms: 5 **solenite**, 5–6 **solennite**, 6 **-itye**, 7 **-ity.** [a. OF. *solennité* (= It. *solennità*), var. of *solemnité* Solemnity.] Solemnity, formal celebration, etc.

c 1400 *Laud Troy Bk.* 2753 He wente to that solennite, The temple and that ioye to se. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 9091 Priam prestly gert ordan A gret solenite. *Ibid.* 9094 With Sacrifice & solenite vnto sere goddes. *c* 1475 *Harl. Contin. Higden* (Rolls) VIII. 446 Within whiche solennite he made iiij erles. 1565 Stapleton tr. *Bede's Hist. Ch. Eng.* 182 The solennite whereof beginneth in the euening of the xiiij. daye. 1595 in *Cath. Rec. Soc. Publ.* V. 360 Within the Octaves & solennitye of St. Lawrence. 1647 J. Taylor *Lib. Proph.* ii. 51 That they should with so great pomp and solennities engage mens perswasions.

So † **Solenniza·tion** [F. *solennisation*], solemnization. † **So·lennize** *v.* [F. *solenniser*, It. *solennizzare*], to solemnize, to perform. † **Solenny** *adv.* [cf. Solemny *adv.*], solemnly. *Obs.*

c 1450 *Cov. Myst.* (Shaks. Soc.) 71 This is the hyest fest of oure *solennyzacion. c* 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* III. 345 And in this mone..Thy graffyng good hit is to *solennize. 1588 Greene *Perimedes* Wks. (Grosart) VII. 42 The marriage of the Gentlemen was sollenised the next weeke after. 1480 in *10th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. V. 315 A Masse of the Holi Goste *solenny sayde and song. 1485 *Ibid.* 319 The Maire..and commynes, bene sworne all and singlerly solenny on the bocke.

Soleno- (solī·no), combining form of Gr. σωλήν channel, pipe, etc., as **sole·nocyte**, one of the cells found in the nephridia of certain polychætan worms; **sole·nodon(t**, one or other of certain insectivorous mammalian rodents native to the West Indies and America, as the agouta, *S. paradoxus*, or the almiqui, *S. cubanus*; **soleno·gyne, soleneste·lic** *a., Bot.* (see quots.); **solenosto·matous** *a.*, of, belonging to, or resembling the genus *Solenostomus* of lophobranchiate fishes.

Various other examples, as *solenoconch, solenoglyph, solenopharynx, solenostome*, etc., are recorded in some recent Dicts.

1902 *Encycl. Brit.* XXXIII. 882 The blind branches are beset with peculiar cells, the *solenocytes. 1840 *Cuvier's Anim. Kingd.* 80 The *Solenodon..resembles a gigantic Shrew, but with coarse fur. 1871 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* I. 362 The existence of a *Solenodon* in some of the mountainous parts of the island of Cuba. 1896 Sclater in *Geog. Jrnl.* VII. 288 The affinities of which..seem on the whole to approach the Solenodonts. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1071/2 **Solenogyne*, a little Australian perennial herb of the *Compositæ*, now united with *Lagenophora* under the name *L. Solenogyne.* In aspect it is very like our own daisy. 1900 B. D. Jackson *Gloss. Bot. Terms* 243/1 **Solenostelic*,..having a tubular stele with internal and external phloëm (Jeffrey). 1855 J. Phillips *Man. Geol.* 60 According to the ordinary.. notion of their food, gasteropodous mollusca with shells may be ranked thus:—Holostomatous phytophaga,..*Solenostomatous zoophaga.

Solenoid (solī·noid, sōu·lĕnoid). [a. F. *solénoïde*, f. Gr. σωλήν: see Solen *sb.*[2]]

1. *Electr.* An electro-dynamical spiral, formed of a wire with the ends returned parallel to the axis; a series of elementary circuits arranged on this principle.

1832 *Handbk. Nat. Philos., Electro-Magnet.* xii. § 270 (L.U.K.) 83 Collecting together a great number of similar helices..and uniting them in one mass. Such an arrangement is called by Ampère an Electro-dynamic Solenoid. 1881 *Nature* XXV. 167 The main current is made to pass through a pair of concentric solenoids, and in the annular space between these is hung a solenoid. 1897 Curry *Theory Electr. & Magnetism* 254 A number of elementary circuits placed at equal distances apart along any line with their planes at right angles to that line is called a solenoid.

2. *Med.* A kind of cage for containing a patient during medical treatment.

1901 *Brit. Med. Jrnl.* No. 2092 Epit., Med. Lit. 19 The subject was seated in a large solenoid or cage, and expired through a gasometer. 1903 *Ibid.* No. 2203. 654 The successful treatment of diphtheria and tetanus within the solenoid.

Solenoidal (sɒlē·noi·dăl), *a.* [f. prec. + -al.] Of, pertaining or relating to, a solenoid; of the nature or having the properties of a solenoid.

1873 Maxwell *Electr. & Magn.* I. 21 The distribution of the vector quantity is said to be Solenoidal. 1883 *Encycl. Brit.* XV. 230/2 Solenoidal Magnets..[are] such that the vector I satisfies the solenoidal condition. 1897 Curry *Theory Electr. & Magnetism* 256 This solenoidal arrangement of the molecular currents.

Hence **Solenoi·dally** *adv.*

1883 *Encycl. Brit.* XV. 231/1 When a body is solenoidally magnetized. *Ibid.*, The magnetic action of a solenoidally magnetized body.

† **So·lent,** *a. Obs.*—[1] [? f. L. *sol-ēre* to be wont.] ? Usual, customary.

1658 Franck *North. Mem.* (1694) p. vi, There the Rocks and the Groves will be our solent Reception, and the Cities and Citadels supply us with Accommodation.

Solepers, obs. variant of Surplice.

Soler[1] (sōu·lə1). [f. Sole *v.* + -er[1].] One who soles boots or shoes.

1884 L. Gronlund *Co-oper. Commw.* viii. (1886) 173 The operatives in a shoe-factory:..the 'tappers', the 'solers', the 'finishers'. 1902 *Longm. Mag.* Dec. 150 Some were only eyelet-hole makers, others were sole-peggers, or tongue-sewers, or solers and heelers.

† **Soler**[2]. *Obs.*—[1] [a. OF. (**soler*) *solier*, f. L. *solium*, perh. by confusion with *soler* Sollar *sb.*[1]] A throne.

a 1340 Hampole *Ps., Comm. Cant.* 502 Þat he sytt wiþ pryncis and hald þe solere of ioy [L. *solium glorie*].

‖ **Solera** (solē·ra). [Sp.]

1. A blend of sherry wine.

1851 Redding *Mod. Wines* 396 The finest wines come thus into England in cases... Soleras, sixteen years in wood [etc.]. 1876 *From Vineyard to Decanter* 23 In the shippers bodega many soleras are kept, each contained in a given number of butts. 1888 *Encycl. Brit.* XXIV. 607/1 The wines..are reared for a number of years as *soleras.*

2. A wine-cask, usu. containing a double butt.

1863 T. G. Shaw *Wine* 136 Stocks are kept in casks of all sizes, generally double butts, called soleras. *Ibid.* 139 The bungs of the soleras are never driven home.

Soler(e, obs. forms of Sollar *sb.*[1]

So·leret. *rare.* [ad. med.L. *solarettum*, dim. of *solarium* Sollar *sb.*[1]] A small upper room.

1851 T. H. Turner *Dom. Archit.* I. v. 217 To make a certain soleret above the gateway there. *Ibid.* iii. 88.

Soleret(te, variants of Solleret.

† Solert, *a. Obs.* [ad. L. *sōlert-*, stem of *sōlers, sollers*, f. *sollus* whole, entire + *ars* art.] Clever, wise; characterized by cleverness.

1612 COTTA *Disc. Dang. Pract. Phys.* 3 An exact and exquisite disquisition of a sound and solert judgement. 1678 CUDWORTH *Intell. Syst.* I. v. 685 That Man was therefore the Wisest (or most Solert) of all Animals. *a* 1680 BUTLER *Rem.* (1759) I. 406 Nor is the diligent and solert Dr. less proper for this Administration.

So † **Sole·rtic** *a. Obs.* Also † **Sole·rtiousness, † Solerty** [L. *solertia*], cleverness, ingenuity.

1623 COCKERAM I, *Solesticke* [sic], craftie. *a* 1649 in *N. & Q.* Ser. I. X. 357 Solertiousnes must be added to the rest, else it will be too dull to meet with every occurrent. 1656 OUGHTRED in Rigaud *Corr. Sci. Men* (1841) I. 90 Which therefore I leave to the solerty of W. J. *a* 1670 HACKET *Abp. Williams* I. (1692) 22 The interpretation of his secret meaning; which abounded to the praise of Mr. Williams's solertiousness.

† Soleship. *Obs.* [f. SOLE *a.*] The state or fact of being sole or alone in the enjoyment or exercise of a privilege, power, etc.

1641 SIR E. DERING *Sp. on Relig.* ix. 32 This Bishop.. sublimes it self by assuming a soleship both in Orders and Censures. *Ibid.*, Unless you root out this soleship of Episcopacy. 1643 *Sober Sadnes* 37 The very name of Monarch implies a soleship of Government.

Soletary, obs. form of SOLITARY *a.*

Sole-tree. Also 6 soletre, 6–7 soletree, 7 soale-, 7, 9 sole tree. [f. SOLE *sb.*[1] + TREE.] A beam, plank, or piece of timber forming a support, base, or foundation to something.

1527–8 *Fabric Rolls York Minster* (Surtees) 101 Pro plumbo..in tegulis, in les fre stone, in evis bordes, severns et j soletre. *c* 1530 *Howden Roll, Ibid.* 354 Owtshotsparres, sarkynboordes et geists ac soletrees pro thakking. 1632 *Kirton-in-Lindsey Ch. Acc.* in Peacock *N. W. Linc. Gloss.* 232/1 For a peice of wood to make a soale-tree for the seates. 1671 in Holmes *Pontefract Bk. Entries* (1882) 103 Studs for pertitions, soletrees, nayles. 1789 J. WILLIAMS *Min. Kingd.* I. 310 Two door-cheeks, or side-posts,..a lintel and sole-tree. 1833 LOUDON *Encycl. Archit.* § 1206 The rise from the channel to the sole-tree..to be 4 inches. 1877 in Peacock *N. W. Linc. Gloss.* s.v., There'll hev to be a new sole-tree to th' crewyard pump.

b. *spec.* in *Mining* (see later quots.).

1653 MANLOVE *Customs Lead Mines* 258 Stoprice, Yokings, Soletrees, Roach and Ryder. 1747 HOOSON *Miner's Dict.* P iij b, They [small stoce] are composed of two Stoce-blades, two Sole-trees [etc.]..; the Sole-trees and Hang-benches are fastned together with Pins of Wood. 1860 *Eng. & For. Mining Gloss.* (ed. 2) 44 (Derby Terms), *Sole tree*, a piece of wood belonging to stowces to draw ore up from the mine.

‖ **Soleus** (sō·lī·ŭs, sōu·lī,ŭs). *Anat.* Also 8 solæus. [mod.L., f. L. *solea* SOLE *sb.*[1]] A muscle of the calf of the leg, situated between the gastrocnemius and the bone. Also *attrib.*

1676 J. COOKE *Marrow Surg.* 432 These [twin muscles] with *Soleus* are inserted and make the Heels great Tendon. 1704 J. HARRIS *Lex. Techn.* I, *Solæus*, is a Muscle that helps to extend the Foot. 1733 G. DOUGLAS tr. *Winslow's Anat. Expos. Human Body* III. xii. § 486 The fleshy Body of the Soleus seems to consist of two Planes of Fibres at least. 1846 BRITTAN tr. *Malgaigne's Man. Oper. Surg.* 145 Divide the attachments of the soleus..from the tibia. 1854 MAYNE *Expos. Lex.* 367/1 The *Soleus* muscle. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VII. 141 These movements are due to the gastrocnemius and soleus acting alternately with the antagonistic muscles.

Solewid, pa. pple. SOLWE *v. Obs.*

Soleyn(e, variants of SOLEIN *a. Obs.*

† Solf, *v. Obs.* Also 4–6 solfe (5 solfon), 5 solue, solph-, 6 solff, soulfe; 4 solfye, 5 solfy. See also SOWFF *v.* [ad. OF. (also mod.F.) *solfier* (cf. Sp. *solfear*), f. *sol fa* SOL-FA *sb.*]

1. *intr.* = SOL-FA *v.* 1. Also *fig.*

c 1330 in *Rel. Ant.* I. 292, I solfe, and singge after,..I horle at the notes. 1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. v. 423 3ete can I neither solfe ne synge ne seyntes lyues rede. *c* 1400 *Beryn* 396 He had nede to solue Long or it wer mydnyȝt. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 464/1 Solfon, *solfo*. *a* 1529 SKELTON *Agst. comely Coystrowne* 23 He solfyth to haute, hys trybyll is to hy. 1542 *St. Papers Hen. VIII* (1849) IX. 238 They are lyke to solfe for y[t]; for the King chargethe them ..with thinsurrection. 1570 FOXE *A. & M.* (ed. 2) I. 301/2 Their singyng was turned to scoldyng,..and if in stead of the Organes they had had a drumme, I doubt, but they would haue solfed [1596 solfaed] by the eares together.

2. *trans.* = SOL-FA *v.* 2. Also *fig.*

1525 BP. CLERK *Let. to Wolsey* (MS. Cott. Vit. B. VII. f. 127), To make the Venetians the more afrayd and to make them to solfe sumwhatt a highar notte. 1553 *Respublica* I. iv. 410 Come on; ye shall Learne to solfe Reformacion, Sing on nowe, Re. 1582 STANYHURST *Æneis* I. (Arb.) 21 [Æneas] This kyrye sad solfing, thee northern bluster aproching Thee sayls tears tag rag.

Hence † **So·lfing** *vbl. sb. Obs.*

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 464/1 Solfynge, *solfacio*. *c* 1500 in *Grose's Antiq. Rep.* (1809) IV. 409 For thy sophisticall solphynge,..take it forthe!

Sol-fa (sŏ·lˌfā, sōu·lˌfā), *sb. Mus.* Also 6 solle fa, 6–9 sol fa, 7–8 solfa. [From the syllables *sol* (SOL *sb.*[2]) and *fa* (FA) of the scale: see GAMUT.]

1. The set of syllables 'do (or ut), re, mi, fa, sol, la, si', sung to the respective notes of the major scale; the system of singing notes to these syllables; a musical scale or exercise thus sung. † Occas. in the phr. *to sing sol-fa. Tonic sol-fa*: see TONIC *a.*

1548 HOOPER *Declar. Commandm.* viii. 134 Souche as syng solle fa, and can do nothyng lesse then the thing that apertainithe to there offyce. 1580 LYLY *Euphues* (Arb.) 213 As froward as the Musition, who being entreated, will scarse sing sol fa, but not desired, straine aboue Ela. 1602 BRETON *Wonders Worth Hearing* Wks. (Grosart) II. 7/2 My Hostesse.. began with a note about Ela to sing them..a solfa. 1644 MILTON *Areop.* (Arb.) 64 A Harmony and a Catena..out of which, as out of an alphabet or sol fa,..a little book-craft ..might furnish him unspeakably. 1714 GAY *What d'ye call it* II. iv, I might have learnt Accounts, and sung Sol-fa. 1730 *Treat. Harmony* 63 We must give the same solfa to the Notes defining the Leaps. 1840 BARHAM *Ingol. Leg.* Ser. II. (1905) 353 We'll have nobody give us *sol fa* but He! 1887 DOWDEN *Life Shelley* II. vii. 309 Claire had her singing-master, and got on prosperously with her *sol fa's*.

fig. 1579 LYLY *Euphues* (Arb.) 93 If thou haddest learned ..the first noat of Descant, thou wouldest haue kept thy *Sol. Fa.* [=complaint] to thy selfe.

2. *attrib.*, as *sol-fa man, notation.*

1676 *Poor Robin's Intell.* 15–22 Aug. 1/1 He contracts with an able Sol-fa-man to teach him..the rudiments of song. 1890 W. J. GORDON *Foundry* 82 Hymns..in which the music is given in the sol-fa notation.

So † **Sol-fa-re.** *Obs.*—[1]

1600 DEKKER *Old Fortunatus* v. ii, There's more music in this, than all the gamut airs, and sol fa res in the world.

Sol-fa (sŏ·lˌfā, sōu·lˌfā), *v. Mus.* Also 6 solefay, 6–7 sol fa, 6–9 solfa. [See prec.]

1. *trans.* To sing (a tune, air, etc.) to the sol-fa syllables. Also *fig.*

1568 V. SKINNER tr. *Montanus' Inquisit.* 40 b, He..shall not be suffered to speake but in a very low note, whereof they themselues will apoint him the tune, and Solfa it before him. 1597 MORLEY *Mus.* III. 156 You shall not find a musicion.. able to *sol fa* it right. 1609 DOULAND *Ornith. Microl.* 15 He that will Solfa any Song, must aboue all things haue an eye to the Tone. 1730 *Treat. Harmony* 65 When we would solfa any Musick that is written in a Transposed key. 1767 *Ann. Reg., Ess.* 198/2, I sol-fa'd them exactly by note, without any ornament. 1833 A. CLARKE in J. B. B. Clarke *Life* I. 61 Each tune was at first sol-fa'd, till it was tolerably well learned. 1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib., Brit.* II. No. 5383, The teacher Sol-fas a short musical phrase while he points to the notes on the Modulator.

2. *intr.* To sing in this manner; to use the sol-fa syllables in singing.

1584 PEELE *Arraignm. Paris* v. i, Music sounds, and the Nymphs within sing or solfa with voices and instruments awhile. 1609 DOULAND *Ornith. Microl.* 14 To solfa..is to expresse the Syllables and names of the Voyces. 1623 MIDDLETON *More Dissemblers* v. i, Let whoso would *Sol Fa*, I'ld give them my part. 1730 *Treat. Harmony* 64 Solfaing from D to D, we shall find the Sillables to be the same. *Ibid.* 77 The Leading Part and the Answer to it must Solfa alike. 1809 MALKIN *Gil Blas* v. i. P 7 To all appearance you sol-fa with your whole heart and soul. 1838 W. GARDINER *Music & Friends* II. 807 In the singing-room they were solfaing in every kind of voice. 1881 *Grove's Dict. Music* III. 545.

† **b.** With *it. Obs.*—[1]

1692 L'ESTRANGE *Fables* I. cccxi, His Son follow'd the Corps, Singing. Why Sirrah, says the Father; You should Howle and Wring your Hands,..and not go Sol-Fa-ing it about like a Mad-man.

Hence **Sol-faer,** one who sol-fas; **Sol-faist,** an adherent of the (tonic) sol-fa system.

1609 J. DOULAND *Ornith. Microl.* 15 Euery Solfaer must needs looke, whether the song be regular, or no. 1882 *Athenæum* 24 June 806/2 We think that the Sol-faists have made out a most excellent case in the replies which Mr. Curwen has collected. 1883 *American* VI. 174 The sol-faists are now a power in the musical world.

Sol-faing, *vbl. sb.* [f. SOL-FA *v.* + -ING[1].] The action or practice of singing to the sol-fa syllables; solmization.

1549–62 STERNHOLD & H. *Ps.* To Rdr., The knowledge of perfect Solefaying. 1609 J. DOULAND *Ornith. Microl.* 14 Euery Song may be sung by Solfaing, which is for Nouices, that learne to sing. 1667 C. SIMPSON *Compend. Pract. Mus.* 6 That which we call the sol-fa-ing of a Song. 1730 *Treat. Harmony* 64 The Example of the Octave..to show how true and certain this method of solfaing is. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XII. 506 *note*, From which characters, except in sol-fa'ing, the notes in the diatonic series are generally named. 1818 *Blackw. Mag.* III. 269 The exercises in solmisation or solfaing, as it is more familiarly called. 1875 STAINER & BARRETT *Dict. Mus. Terms* s.v., In the modern method of Sol-faing no distinction is made between tones and semitones.

attrib. 1589 NASHE *Martin Marprelate* Wks. (Grosart) I. 151 Quaint Querristers..first entred with their Solfaing notes.

‖ **Solfatara** (sŏlfatā·ra). Also 8–9 solfatarra, 9 solfa-tara; 8–9 **solfaterra,** 8 solfa terra. [The name of a sulphurous volcano near Naples, f. It. *solfo* sulphur.] A volcanic vent, from which only sulphurous exhalations and aqueous vapours are emitted, incrusting the edge with sulphur and other minerals.

a. 1777 FORSTER *Voy. round World* II. 296 The earth which covered these solfatarras..had a greenish tinge. 1802 PINKERTON *Mod. Geogr.* (1811) 663 A kind of solfatara, or vast mass of sulphur, emitting continual smoke. 1843 *Penny Cycl.* XXVII. 748/2 There are several solfataras, or cones of pure sulphur, and mud volcanoes. 1899 E. J. CHAPMAN *Drama Two Lives* 19 Among them shone A solfatara's fiery cone.

attrib. 1882 GEIKIE *Text-Bk. Geol.* 209 The dormant or waning condition of a volcano..is sometimes called the Solfatara phase.

β. 1796 KIRWAN *Elem. Min.* (ed. 2) II. 2 The sulphureous acid exists..in various solfaterras. 1871 KINGSLEY *At Last* ii, In case of..any difficulty occurring in obtaining sulphur from Sicily, a supply..might be obtained from this and the other like Solfaterras of the British Antilles. 1886 GUILLEMARD *Cruise Marchesa* I. 23 Hot springs and solfaterras are found in the neighbourhood of Tamsui.

Hence **Solfata·ric** *a.*

1885 *Academy* 3 Oct. 225 A legacy of former vulcanicity —the lingering relics of solfataric action. 1895 *Physiographic Processes* (Nat. Geogr. Monographs) I. 18 This action of hot waters is known as solfataric action, and solfataric waters are quite common in volcanic regions.

† **Solfaterre,** var. *solfaterra*, SOLFATARA.

1764 GRAINGER *Sugar Cane* II. 392 *note*, Volcanoes are called sulphurs or solfaterres in the West Indies.

‖ **Solfeggio** (sŏlfe·dʒio), *sb.* Pl. **solfeggi, solfeggios.** [It., f. *sol-fa* SOL-FA.] An exercise for the voice, in which the sol-fa syllables are employed; † also *transf.*, an exercise for a musical instrument.

1774 'J. COLLIER' *Mus. Trav.* Ded. p. iv, Playing his new Solfeggi to the dying groans of the..Dantziggers. *Ibid.* 28 He was seated opposite to a glass practising some solfeggi on the flute. 1836 R. FURNESS *Astrol.* I. Wks. (1858) 138 For Thor loved music.., Taught the sol-feggio, Aretino's scale. 1844 CALKIN & BUDD *Mus. Catal.* 191 Solfeggios for the Voice, with an Accompaniment for the Piano Forte. 1873 MISS BRADDON *Str. & Pilgr.* I. vii. 83 You can't imagine I could spend half my existence in shrieking solfeggi.

attrib. 1867 *Chamb. Encycl.* IX. 480/1 The seven notes of the diatonic scale are represented by the Solfeggio syllables. 1896 HUTCHINSON tr. *Gounod's Reminisc.* 14, I easily held my place, even at that early age, in a Solfeggio class.

Hence **Solfe·ggio** *v. rare.*

1831 *Examiner* 708/2 The verses should be spoken, and then the music solfagioed [*sic*].

Solferino (sŏlfēri·no). [f. the place-name *Solferino* in Italy, because discovered shortly after the battle fought there in 1859.] The bright crimson dye-colour rosaniline. Also *attrib.*

c 1865 J. WYLDE *Circ. Sci.* I. 420 Aniline..is..used in.. dyeing establishments, for affording the colours..Magenta, Solferino. 1883 *Chamb. Jrnl.* 15 Dec. 797/2 The number of new names given to various varieties of colour, as mauve, magenta, solferino, &c. 1889 GUNTER *That Frenchman* v. 53 Most of these [dresses] are of..Solferino reds, or Pompadour greens.

Solfre, obs. form of SULPHUR.

‖ **Soli,** pl. of SOLO *sb.*

Soli- (sōu·li), comb. form of L. *sōlus* sole, alone, as in **solibi·blical** *a.*, that relies or depends on the Bible only; also **solibi·blicism, solibi·blist.**

1854 WATERWORTH *Orig. Anglicanism* 99 They maintain the solibiblical system. *Ibid.* 296 In what conclusions do the solibiblists agree? 1909 *Sat. Rev.* 17 Apr. 501/2 In his opposition to solibiblicism.

Solible, obs. variant of SOLUBLE *a.*

† **Soli·cit,** *sb. Obs. rare.* Also 7 **sollicite.** [f. the vb.] An entreaty or solicitation.

1611 SHAKS. *Cymb.* II. iii. 52 Frame your selfe To orderly solicits [*1st fol.* solicity], and be friended With aptnesse of the season. 1639 N. N. tr. *Du Bosq's Compl. Woman* II. 11 All his sollicites..not having force enough to shake the resolution of this Lady. *a* 1657 R. LOVEDAY *Lett.* (1663) 51, I remember your frequent sollicites gained a promise from me to compose you a prayer.

† **Soli·cit,** *a.* Chiefly *Sc. Obs.* Also 6 sol(l)yst, 6–7 **solist**(e, **solicite.** [ad. L. *sollicitus* (*sōlicitus*), f. *sollus* whole, entire, + *citus*, pa. pple. of *ciēre* to put in motion. So Sp. and Pg. *solícito*, It. *solli-, sollecito.*]

1. Characterized by solicitude or care.

1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* VIII. vii. 71, I the hecht All maner thing, wyth sollyst diligence. 1644 MAXWELL *Prerog. Chr. Kings* Ep. Ded. p. v, Episcopacie after the most exact and sollicite triall, is onely the crime [etc.].

2. Solicitous; anxious; careful. Also const. *for, to* (with inf.), etc.

a. 1533 BELLENDEN *Livy* II. i. (S.T.S.) I. 131 Brutus, seand þe pepill solist with þis suspiciouu, callit þame to ane concioun. 1549 *Compl. Scot.* vi. 43 Riche kyng amphion vas verray solist to keip his scheip. 1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* (S.T.S.) I. 253 He was verie soliste and kairful for his people. 1606 BIRNIE *Kirk-Buriall* (1833) 8 Why then..are ye solist what befall a senslesse carrion?

β. *c* 1535 FISHER *Wks.* (E.E.T.S.) II. 431 Saint Paule..is veray solicite and carefull, lest the flocke of Christe shalbe corrupted by theyr heresies. 1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* (S.T.S.) I. 307 The peple solicit and sair kairful for the state of the cuntrie. *a* 1614 J. MELVILL *Diary* (Wodrow Soc.) 634 We are not solicite neithir cairfull in this mater. 1644 MAXWELL *Prerog. Chr. Kings* 106 Who knoweth not how ambitious, factious, and discontented spirits, are most ingenious and solicite.

Hence † **Soli·citness.** *Sc. Obs.*

1549 *Compl. Scott.* v. 32, I beleue that oure solistnes ande vane opinione vald altir. *Ibid.* xiii. 112 That ȝe gar ȝour solistnes of the deffens of ȝour comont veil preffer the solistnes of ȝour particular veil.

Solicit (sŏli·sit), *v.* Forms: 5– **solicit,** 6 solycit (**solucyt**), **solysset,** 7 **solissit** (6–7 *Sc.* **solist**); 5–8 **solicite,** 6–7 **solycite**; 6–8 **sollicite** (6 **-ycite**), 7–8 **sollicit.** [ad. OF. *sol-, solliciter* (mod.F. *solliciter*, = Prov. *sollicitar*, Sp. and Pg. *solicitar*, It. *solli-, sollecitare*), or ad. L. *sollicitāre* (*sōl-*), f. *sollicitus*: see prec.]

I. *trans.* † **1.** To disturb, disquiet, trouble; to make anxious, fill with concern. *Obs.*

a 1450 tr. *De Imitatione* III. l. 121 If it were so wiþ me, mannys drede shuld not so solicite me, ner þe dartes of wordes shuld not meve me. *a* 1513 FABYAN *Chron.* v. (1811) 106 He solycited so the lordes of Burgoyne, that some of them abhorred the crudelitie of that woman. *c* 1611

CHAPMAN *Iliad* XVI. 10 Hath any ill solicited thine ears Befall'n my Myrmidons? 1637–8 in Willis & Clark *Cambridge* (1886) I. 119 They may enjoy all ye ground..in what manner they please; we desire no way to sollicite them. 1681 DRYDEN *Spaw. Friar* III. ii, But anxious Fears sollicit my weak Breast. 1719 YOUNG *Revenge* IV. i, How good in you, my lord, whom nations cares Solicit, and a world in arms obeys!

refl. *c* 1685 *Great Frost* 1683–4 17 Ye merchants, to Greenland now leave off your sailing, And for your train oyl yourselves never solicite. 1788 *New London Mag.* 533 They..consider him as one that..never solicits himself about them.

2. To entreat or petition (a person) for, or to do, something; *to* urge, importune; to ask earnestly or persistently.

1530 PALSGR. 725/1, I solycite one, I call upon him to remembre the seute I make to him, *je solicite*. 1548 GESTE *Pr. Masse* 116 He is reverenced and sollicited but as resident in heaven. 1612 in *Fortescue P.* (Camden) 7 *note*, Hee hath soe confirmed mee in the assurance of your..readie assistance uppon all occasions, that I neede not any more solicite you therein. 1655–60 STANLEY *Hist. Philos.* (1687) 3/2 In this privacy of life he was solicited and sent unto by many Princes, whose invitations..he refused. 1719 in Sir J. Picton *L'pool Rec.* (1886) II. 79 The charge of soliciting the Government for the moneys. 1769 ROBERTSON *Chas. V*, v. Wks. 1813 V. 445 Henry had been soliciting the pope for some time, in order to obtain a divorce from Catherine of Aragon, his queen. 1868 GLADSTONE *Juv. Mundi* ii. (1869) 63 The injured priest, Chruses, solicits all the Achaioi, and most of all the two Atridai. *Ibid.*, There is no sign that he solicited the army.

transf. 1626 BP. HALL *Contempl., O. T.* XXI. i, Lebanon is now anew solicited for cedar trees.

b. Const. *to* with inf., or with *that*.

1533 BELLENDEN *Livy* II. i. (S.T.S.) I. 129 Brutus solistit þe pepill to mak þare solemne aithis, neuer to suffir ony kingis regne abone þame. 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 302 The cities and townes of Germany are sollicited to accept the Interim. 1656 EARL MONM. tr. *Boccalini's Advts, fr. Parnass.* I. xiii. (1674) 16 [He] did much solicite his Majesty that he might be admitted. 1676 RAY *Corr.* (1848) 123, I have been lately solicited to reprint my Catalogue of English Plants. 1719 YOUNG *Revenge* I. i, Had I known this before,..I had not then solicited your father To add to my distress. 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xiv. III. 411 He had been solicited to accept indulgences which scarcely any other heretic could by any solicitation obtain.

† c. *spec.* To beg (an advocate) to attend to a case. *Obs.*[–1]

1536 in Strype *Mem. Cranmer* (1694) App. 32 A Proctor must take sufficient instructions of his Clients, and keep every Court-day..; solicite and instruct his Advocates [etc.].

3. To incite or move, to induce or persuade, to some act of lawlessness or insubordination. Freq. const. *to* (with sb. or inf.).

1565 COOPER *Thesaurus* s.v. *Solicito*, To solicite mens mindes and intice them with brybes. 1570–6 LAMBARDE *Peramb. Kent* (1826) 149 This done, he solliciteth to rebellion the Bishops, Nobilitie, and Commons of the Realme. 1600 HOLLAND *Livy* X. xxi. 366 The Vmbrians..were moued to revolt; and the Gaules also sollicited with great summes of mony. 1643 BAKER *Chron., Jas. I*, 134 With a purpose to solicite forreign Princes against the King. 1683 *Brit. Spec.* 102 Boadicea..sollicited the Britains..to a Revolt. 1809 CHRISTIAN *Blackstone's Comm.* IV. 221 One Higgins was indicted..for having incited and solicited a servant to steal his master's property. 1835 [see SOLICITATION 2 d].

4. To incite, draw on, allure, by some specious representation or argument. (Cf. 5 b.)

1591 SHAKS. 1 *Hen. VI*, v. iii. 190 Sollicite Henry with her wonderous praise. Bethinke thee on her Vertues [etc.]. 1592 KYD *Sp. Trag.* III. xv. 19 Though I sleepe, Yet is my mood soliciting their soules. 1609 BIBLE (Douay) *Deut.* xxiv. 7 If any man be taken soliciting his brother of the children of Israel, and selling him.., he shal be slaine. [1773 GRAY *Corr.* (1843) 153 The said Solicitor (who seems to have solicited the house out of their senses).]

b. To court or beg the favour of (a woman), *esp.* with immoral intention.

1591 SHAKS. *Two Gentl.* v. iv. 40 Therefore be gone, sollicit me no more. 1599 — *Much Ado* II. i. 70 Daughter, remember what I told you, if the Prince doe solicit you in that kinde, you know your answere. 1614 RICH *Homestie of Age* (1844) 48 Perceiving..the other [Julia] againe to be solicited with witlesse and wanton Roysters. 1632 *High Commiss. Cases* (Camden) 310 He sollicited Ellen Coalman the wife of Joseph Coleman to lye with her. 1712 STEELE *Spect.* No. 402 ¶ 2 That my Mother, the most mercenary of all Women, is gained by this false Friend of my Husband to sollicit me for him.

c. To make immoral attempts upon.

1645 *Ordin. concerning Suspention fr. Lord's Supper* 6 Any that shall solicite the chastity of any person. 1881 *Times* 2 May 6/5 It appeared that..he had attempted to take familiarities with their maid-servant and solicited her chastity.

d. Of women: To accost and importune (men) for immoral purposes.

1710 STEELE *Tatler* No. 201 ¶ 1 There are those [women] who betray the Innocent of their own Sex, and sollicit the Lewd of ours. 1869 E. A. PARKES *Pract. Hygiene* (ed. 3) 498 Means could easily be adopted to prevent soldiers being solicited by women. 1887 *Spectator* 9 July 919/2 She was arrested by a constable, accused of soliciting gentlemen.

5. Of things: **a.** To affect (a person or thing) by some form of physical influence or attraction. Now *rare*.

(*a*) 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* XXXI. vii, Not onely we men are sollicited and moved by salt more than by any thing else to our meat. 1668 CULPEPPER & COLE *Barthol. Anat.* I. ii. 26 That the Excrements may be the longer detained,..and that we may not every foot be sollicited to go to stool.

(*b*) 1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* II. v. (1686) 63 Glass commonly excoriates the parts through which it passeth and solicits them unto a continual expulsion. 1676 HOBBES *Iliad* I. 567 Then gently sleep sollicited each eye. 1690 LOCKE *Hum. Und.* II. i. (1695) 43 Sounds and some tangible Qualities fail not to sollicite their proper Senses, and force an entrance to the Mind. 1829 *Chapters Phys. Sci.* 17 Hardness is classed among the properties relative to certain forces soliciting or impelling bodies. 1852 H. ROGERS *Ecl. Faith* (1853) 285 All effects are the result of properties or susceptibilities in one thing, solicited by external contact with those of others.

b. To tempt, entice, allure; to attract or draw by enticement, etc. (Cf. 4.)

1663 S. PATRICK *Parab. Pilgr.* x. (1687) 52 Did they not perpetually ingross your thoughts, and solicite your desires. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* IX. 743 That Fruit, which with desire.. Sollicited her longing eye. 1759 JOHNSON *Idler* No. 89 ¶ 10 Innumerable delights sollicit our inclinations. 1780 COWPER *Progr. Err.* 39 The world around solicits his desire. 1817 CHALMERS *Astron. Disc.* ii. (1852) 49 He might have met with much to solicit his fancy, and tempt him to some devious speculation. 1868 GLADSTONE *Juv. Mundi* x. (1869) 403 His early youth is not solicited into vice by finding sensual excess in vogue.

† 6. To endeavour to draw out (a dart, etc.) by the use of gentle force. *Obs.*

1697 DRYDEN *Æneid* XII. 590 The fam'd physician.. hastens to the wound. With gentle touches he performs his part, This way and that, soliciting the dart. 1718 POPE *Iliad* XIII. 750 But good Agenor gently from the wound The spear sollicits. 1784 COWPER *Task* III. 115 With gentle force soliciting the darts, He drew them forth.

7. *Med.* To seek to draw, to induce or bring on, esp. by gentle means.

1732 ARBUTHNOT *Rules of Diet* in *Aliments*, etc. 376 One ought to solicit the Humours towards that Part. 1776 T. PERCIVAL *Ess.* III. 266 The same remedies are also employed to solicit the gout to the extremities. 1808 *Med. Jrnl.* XIX. 151 He supposed it owing to an inflammatory tendency conveyed..to the intestines; there 'soliciting excretions'. 1822–7 GOOD *Study Med.* (1829) I. 201 Such aperients..which act..by soliciting the peristaltic motion of the bowels. *Ibid.* IV. 380 But the action of the bowels must only be solicited, and by no means violently excited.

II. † 8. To conduct, manage, or attend to (business, affairs, etc.); to push forward or prosecute. *Obs.*

1429 [see SOLICITING *vbl. sb.*]. *c* 1477 CAXTON *Jason* 61 b, They cam where as argos the maister patrone solicited the werk..of the ship. 1518 *Sel. Pl. Star Chamb.* (Selden) II. 131 Wyllyam..went to..the Checker..to pay certeyn money and to solysset other materes that he had thear to doo. 1577 HANMER *Eccl. Hist., Eusebius* IX. ii, The author of all which mischiefe was Theotecnus, who solicited the cause, and egged them of Antioch forwards. 1627 *Lisander & Cal.* III. 47 She went unto Paris,..where she imployed a moneth more..in soliciting her husbands affaires. 1647 CLARENDON *Hist. Reb.* III. § 93 A Committee was come from the Parliament in Ireland, to sollicite Matters concerning that Kingdom. 1717 STEELE *Epist. Corr.* (1787) I. 186, I am going to Hampton-court, where the King now is, to solicit some matters relating to our commission. 1789 CHARLOTTE SMITH *Ethelinde* (1814) III. 75 To be employed in soliciting and managing the affairs of his son.

b. To conduct (a lawsuit, etc.) as a solicitor; to transact or negotiate in the capacity of a law-agent. ? *Obs.*

1606 *Act* 3 *Jas. I*, c. vii, That none be suffered to Solicite any Cause or Causes in any of the Courts..but only..men of sufficient and honest disposition. 1671 CLARENDON *Hist. Reb.* IX. § 55 One Brabant, an Atturney at Law, (who had heretofore sollicited the great Suit against Sr Richard in the Star-Chamber). 1761 *Ann. Reg.* II. 37 A law-suit, ..which he solicited so effectually that it was concluded greatly to the..advantage of the duke. 1839 *Morning Herald* 3 June, The attorney-at-law who solicited the suits.

† c. To stir up, instigate (rebellion, etc.). *Obs.*[–1]

1600 W. WATSON *Decacordon* (1602) 262 It is now plaine, that they had then plotted in their harts a shamefull rebellion, which they did sollicite.

† 9. a. To urge or plead (one's suit, cause, etc.).

a 1562 G. CAVENDISH *Wolsey* (1893) 188 Then began bothe noble men and other..to make earnest sewte to Mayster Cromwell for to solicite ther causes to my lord, to gett of hyme his confirmacions. 1577 in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* Ser. II. III. 75 Therfore as yow tender his healthe, I pray yow sollicite the matter to my Lord Treasourer. 1601 SHAKS. *Twel. N.* III. i. 120 But would you vndertake another suite I had rather heare you to solicit that Then Musicke from the spheares. *a* 1677 BARROW *Serm.* (1686) I. xxxi. 447 God and Nature therefore within us do solicite the poor-man's case. 1769 GOLDSM. *Hist. Rome* (1786) I. 424 It was in vain that this great man [Cicero] went up and down the city, soliciting his cause in the habit of a suppliant.

† b. To urge or press (a matter). *Obs.*

c 1610 KEYMOR *Obs. Dutch Fishing* (1664) 2 Since I sollicited this to have 200. Busses built for England, the Hollanders have made 800. new Busses more. *a* 1648 LD. HERBERT *Hen. VIII* (1683) 424 He seemed to receive some satisfaction,..and therefore forbore a while to solicite this point. 1704 HEARNE *Duct. Hist.* (1714) I. 116 Haggai earnestly exhorts the People of God, to the building of the Temple. *Ibid.*, Zechariah..also solicited the re-building of the Temple.

† c. To seek or follow diligently. *Obs.*[–1]

1658 FRANCK *North. Mem.* (1821) 29 All that sollicit thy paths of peace shall be found in their duty as by wisdom directed.

10. To request, petition, or sue for (some thing, favour, etc.); to desire or seek by petition.

1595 DANIEL *Civil Wars* I. lxxxvi, Who faile not to aduise the Duke with speed, Solliciting to what he soone agreed. 1644 MILTON *Areop.* (Arb.) 54 Who make so many journeys to sollicit their licence. 1676 WYCHERLEY *Pl. Dealer* v. i, *Free.* Give you a Ship! why, you will not solicit it. *Man.* If I have not solicited it by my services, I know no other way. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 27 Oct. 1675, To..solicite supplies from the Lord Treasurer. 1751 JOHNSON *Rambler* No. 157 ¶ 5 My acquaintance was solicited by innumerable invitations. 1797 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Italian* i, Even if she were not averse to his suit, how could he solicit her hand? 1844 THIRLWALL *Greece* VIII. 325 Nabis..sent Pythagoras to solicit an interview with Flamininus. 1855 BREWSTER *Newton* II. xix. 214 The object..seems to have been to solicit the favour of the Mogul to the English Company.

b. To seek after; to try to find, obtain, or acquire.

1717 POPE *Eloisa to Abelard* 186, I..Repent old pleasures, and solicit new. 1751 JOHNSON *Rambler* No. 149 ¶ 11 They never suffer her to appear with them in any place where they solicit notice. 1784 COWPER *Task* II. 635 There we.. Solicit pleasure, hopeless of success.

11. Of things: To call or ask for, to demand (action, attention, etc.).

1592 KYD *Sp. Trag.* IV. iv. 127 Neuer hath it left my bloody hart, Soliciting remembrance of my vow. 1613 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* (1614) 508 After our long perambulation of the Asian Continent, the sea inuironing doth sollicite our next endeuours. 1664 POWER *Exp. Philos.* III. 191 All which incomparable Inventions do not only solicite, but..should inflame our endevours to attempt even Impossibilities. 1817 JAS. MILL *Brit. India* v. vii. II. 613 The formation of a new government solicited his attention. *Ibid.* ix. 694 The affairs and government of India solicited the utmost exertions of their abilities.

III. *intr.* **12.** To make request or petition; to beg or entreat.

1509 in *Mem. Hen. VII* (Rolls) 432 Notwythstandeyng that I..have solucytyd unto the kynge and unto hys secretary Almasan..that the sayd ambassatur myȝhte be namyd. 1529 LYNDESAY *Compl.* 53 Had I solistit,..My rewarde had nocht bene to craif. 1608 SHAKS. *Per.* II. v. 69 Resolve your angry father, if my tongue Did e'er solicit. 1686 tr. *Chardin's Trav. Persia* 12 They could not then expect that the French should sollicite in their behalf as they had done before. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* III. ix. 395 Whilst they were thus solliciting. 1796 ELIZA HAMILTON *Lett. Hindoo Rajah* (1811) I. 247 Too modest to solicit, and too proud to bear the harshness of repulse. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. II. v, Now too behold..American Plenipotentiaries, here in person soliciting.

b. Const. *for*.

1592 KYD *Sp. Trag.* IV. i, All the Saintes doe sit soliciting For vengeance. 1604 SHAKS. *Oth.* v. ii. 28 If you bethinke your selfe of..Grace, Solicite for it straight. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 9 July 1665, I went to Hampton Court..to solicite for mony. 1769 GOLDSM. *Hist. Rome* (1786) I. 338 Metellus ..was obliged to solicit at Rome for a continuation of his command. 1802 MARIAN MOORE *Lascelles* II. 49 It was Lascelles' excessive delicacy..which made him not solicit for the purse from Serena. 1808 ELEANOR SLEATH *Bristol Heiress* III. 210 She received several messages from young Benson, soliciting for an interview.

c. Const. *to* with inf.

1654–66 EARL ORRERY *Parthen.* (1676) 794, I solicite to be the miserablest of men, to preserve you from being the unjustest. 1710 SWIFT *Lett.* (1767) III. 65, I was soliciting this day, to present the bishop of Clogher Vice-Chancellor. 1775 S. J. PRATT *Liberal Opin.* lvii. (1783) II. 174, I sat by his bed-side, and gently sollicited to learn the cause of this strange disaster. *c* 1800 R. CUMBERLAND *John De Lancaster* (1809) III. 85 Devereux himself solicits to go with me. 1832 SOUTHEY *Hist. Penins. War* III. 98 The accounts..represented Ferdinand as still soliciting to be adopted by marriage into the family of the tyrant.

13. To act or practise as a solicitor.

1596 NASHE *Saffron Walden* 83 His mother may haue su'd in *forma pauperis*, but he neuer sollicited in form of papers in the Arches in his life. 1681 *Trial of S. Colledge* 5 No body can solicit for any one that is under an Accusation of High-Treason, unless he be assigned so to do by the Court. 1714 *French Bk. Rates* 13 We have appointed a Person to receive all their Petitions, and solicite for them at our Expence. 1724 SWIFT *Drapier's Lett.* i. Wks. 1761 III. 20 We are at a great distance from the King's Court, and have no body there to solicit for us.

† 14. To petition *against*, to make intercession *for*, a person or thing. *Obs.*

1609 BIBLE (Douay) 1 *Macc.* x. 61 There assembled agaynst him pestilent men of Israel, wicked men soliciting against him. 1612 T. TAYLOR *Comm. Titus* ii. 12. 463 Though many things solicite for these lusts,..yet a Christian man must still stand out in the denial of them. 1697 COLLIER *Ess. Moral Subj.* II. To Rdr., Some Authors (I am sorry it may be said so) seem to solicit for Vice. 1742 MIDDLETON *Cicero* II. xi. 453 What your mother and sister are now solliciting against in favor of the children.

† Soli·citancy. *Obs. rare.* In 7 soll-. [See prec. and -ANCY.] Soliciting.

1665 BRATHWAIT *Comment Two Tales* 26 Yet, lest Absolon should be numbred among those weak wooers,..he rears his Battery, though with a more easie sollicitancy, than he did at first. *Ibid.* 154 At her Hands, from whose Sollicitancy he had received his Reprieve.

Solicitant (sŏlĭ·sĭtănt), *sb.* and *a.* [ad. L. *sōl-, sollicitant-*, pres. pple. stem of *sollicitāre* SOLICIT *v.*]

A. *sb.* One who solicits or requests earnestly.

1802–12 BENTHAM *Ration. Judic. Evid.* (1827) I. 603 To ..beg his vote and interest in favour of the solicitant or his friend. 1821 *New Monthly Mag.* II. 598 The sight of an English carriage..drew half a dozen fresh solicitants. 1881 *Academy* No. 459. 127 That wider circle to whom he was only known as a solicitant..for contributions to the paper.

B. *adj.* That solicits or begs earnestly; making petition or request.

1886 *Daily Telegr.* 8 Jan. (Cassell), The unemployed labour that is chronically solicitant of a job. 1897 WALSH *Hist. Oxford Movement* iv. (1898) 118 The Bulls of the Popes themselves against solicitant priests.

†Solicitate, *a. Obs.* Also 5–6 sollicitate, 6 *Sc.* solicitat. [ad. L. *sōl-, sollicitātus*, pa. pple. of *sollicitāre* SOLICIT *v.*] Solicitous, anxious, careful; characterized by care or solicitude.

1432–50 tr. *Higden* (Rolls) III. 403 The kynge of Macedony, sollicitate and besy for the succession of þat realme. 1548 WISHART *Conf. Faith* in *Misc. Wodr. Soc.* (1844) 22 A solicitat and thoughtfull charge of the poore. 1555 EDEN *Decades* (Arb.) 133 Nature was not sollicitate to brynge furthe suche greate fluds.

Hence **†Solicitateness.** *Obs.*—1

1560 WHITEHORNE *Arte Warre* 28 b, With greater industrie, & more sollicitatenesse.

†Solicitate, *v. Obs.* Also 6–7 solicitat, sollicitate. [f. ppl. stem of L. *sōl-, sollicitāre.*]

1. *trans.* To manage or conduct.

1547 BP. HOOPER *Declar. Christ* v. D iij, To solicitat and do all there affars as a faythfull Embassadour. 1560 WHITEHORNE *Arte Warre* 102 It is conuenient for thee, to sollicitate this worke in soche wise, that..the Diche maie be digged at least, fower or five yardes in depth.

2. To excite, stir up, or stimulate.

1568 C. W[ATSON] *Polybius* 50 b, He sent out his most actiue souldiers to solicitate and prouoke his aduersaries that they might come to the hands of the rest. *Ibid.* 87 He also solicitated the Numidians & Libians to rebellion. 1579 TWYNE *Phis. agst. Fortune* I. xxxviii, The tast of the wyne dooth not so much solicitate the appetite. 1650 EARL MONM. tr. *Senault's Man bec. Guilty* 54 She commits so many faults with delight, stays not for being solicitated by the senses.

3. To request, entreat, beseech.

1563 FOXE *A. & M.* 1171/1 The Byshop..dyd vrge & solicitate [him], according to his maner of wordes to recant. 1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* x. 430 They solicitat her..to restore them to their health. *a* 1656 USSHER *Ann.* VI. (1658) 176 Having often sollicitated the King..to pay for the Navy.

4. *intr.* To take action, make application.

1572 in Turner *Sel. Rec. Oxford* 347 The Towne Clarke shall go to London to solicitat towching the brewer charter.

Solicitation (sŏlisitē·ʃən). Forms: *α. Sc.* 5–6 solistatioun (6 -acioun), 6–7 -ation, 6 solyst-, sollistatioun. *β.* 6–7 sollicitac(i)on, 6–8 -ation (6 -atioun); 6 solicitacion, solyssetacion, 7 solissitation, 7– solicitation. [a. OF. *sol-, sollicitation* (mod.F. *sollicitation*, = Sp. *solicitacion*, Pg. *solicitação*, It. *solle-, sollicitazione*), or ad. L. *sōl-, sollicitātio*: see SOLICIT *v.* and -ATION.]

†1. Management, transaction, or pursuit of business, legal affairs, etc. *Obs.*

1492 *Acta Dom. Concilii* 250/1 þe Soume of fiftj merkis..auch to him..for solistatioun of thar errandis þe tyme he wes alderman of þe said toun. 1529 in Burnet *Hist. Ref.* I. II. Rec. xxii. (1679) 54 So as ye may be sure to have of him effectual concurrence and advice in the furtherance and sollicitation of your Charges. 1642 HARCOURT in *Macm. Mag.* XLV. 289, I presume you are now very bussee in the solissitation of my law bussines. 1722 in *Westm. Gaz.* (1906) 27 Aug. 2/3 To undertake the Sollicitation and Management of any Affairs which may come before either House.

2. The action of soliciting, or seeking to obtain by earnest request; entreaty, petition, diligent or importunate asking.

α. 1533 BELLENDEN *Livy* I. xv. (S.T.S.) I. 82 Numa havand na cognossance of Rome,..was chosin but ony his solistacioun, and maid king. 1561 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* I. 160 To the effect oure Soverane Lady be nocht molestit with importunite, solistatioun, and requeist. 1637–50 ROW *Hist. Kirk* (Wodrow Soc.) 221 He was upon great moyen and solistation inlarged, but verie shortlie after he departed this life.

β. 1533 BELLENDEN *Livy* V. vi. (S.T.S.) II. 167 þai þat war movit be requiest or sollicitatioun of tribunys militare. 1588 LAMBARDE *Eiren.* IV. vii. 514 At the sollicitation and by the meanes of some parties grieued. 1622 WILLIAMS in *Fortescue P.* (Camden) 173 By the sollicitacion of Sir Edw. Cooke I forbore..to doe any thing herein. 1697 LUTTRELL *Brief Relat.* (1857) IV. 296 Great sollicitation has been used for the two latter to change their sentence from death to transportation. 1751 JOHNSON *Rambler* No. 160 P 2 [Patrons] are sometimes corrupted by Avarice, and sometimes cheated by Credulity, sometimes overpowered by resistless Solicitation. 1780 *Mirror* No. 71, After two years solicitation..Antonio gave up all hopes of success. 1836 SIR H. TAYLOR *Statesman* xxiii. 167 A spirit of justice, ears shut against private solicitation, ought to be regarded as essential qualifications..for the office of private secretary. 1883 *Law Rep.* 23 Chanc. Div. 722 At her solicitation the trustee lent the fund to the husband and it was lost.

b. With *a* and pl. An instance of this.

1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* lvii. 2 Be dyuers..operatiounis Men makis in court thair solistationis. 1596 EARL ESSEX in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* 3rd Ser. IV. 131 His sollicitacons and guifts, offered to the rebells of Irland. 1625 in Foster *Eng. Factories Ind.* (1909) III. 59 Our owne peticions, sollicitations, and complaintes. 1671 MILTON *Samson* 488 Spare that proposal, Father, spare the trouble Of that sollicitation. 1769 *Junius Lett.* xxv. (1780) 140 Your solicitations .. were renewed under another administration. 1836 J. MARTIN *Discourses* iv. 121 Without one solicitation on the part of the conquered, peace is offered. 1874 GREEN *Short Hist.* ix. 689 In spite of his master's personal solicitations Churchill remained true to Protestantism.

c. The action of soliciting a person of the other sex (cf. SOLICIT *v.* 4 b and 4 d).

1604 SHAKS. *Oth.* IV. ii. 202 If she will returne me my Iewels, I will giue ouer my Suit, and repent my vnlawfull solicitation. *a* 1639 T. CAREW *Upon Sickness of E. S.* 19 Shee Who hath preserv'd her spotless chastity From all solicitation. 1681 OTWAY *Soldier's Fort.* III. i, She cannot be free from the insolent Sollicitations of such Fellows as you are, Sir. 1781 MRS. INCHBALD *I'll tell you what* III. ii, He had just seen the most beautiful girl his eyes ever beheld, to whom he had given a look of solicitation. 1848 DICKENS *Dombey* liv, From my marriage day I found myself exposed..to such solicitation and pursuit..from one mean villain. 1887 [see SOLICITER].

d. *Law.* (See quot. and SOLICIT *v.* 3.)

1835 TOMLINS *Law Dict., Solicitations.* It is an indictable offence to solicit and incite another to commit a felony.

3. The exertion or operation of a physically attracting influence or force.

1626 BACON *Sylva* § 836 By Excitation and Solicitation of the Body Putrified, and the Parts thereof, by the Body Ambient. 1833 HERSCHEL *Astron.* viii. 266 Be it pressure from without or the resultant of many pressures or sollicitations of unknown fluids. 1837 WHEWELL *Hist. Induct. Sci.* (1857) II. 67 The 'solicitations of gravity'. 1884 *N. Amer. Rev.* Aug. 115 The solicitations of Jupiter's attractive force are as urgent on a swiftly rushing body as on one at rest.

4. The action of some attractive, enticing, or alluring influence.

1676 HALE *Contempl.* II. *Medit. Lord's Prayer* 153 In these the Objects were innocent, and had in themselves no active solicitation to Evil. 1690 LOCKE *Hum. Und.* II. i. § 8 Children..are surrounded with a world of new things, which, by a constant Sollicitation of their Senses, draw the Mind constantly to them. 1712 ARBUTHNOT *John Bull* (1755) 32 She was..a common mercenary prostitute, and that without any sollicitation from nature. 1758 JOHNSON *Idler* No. 25 P 10 Vicious sollicitations of appetite, if not checked, will grow more importunate. *a* 1820 T. BROWN *Philos. Human Mind* xcviii. IV. 561 The duty that is exercised in resisting the solicitations of evils. 1884 SULLY *Outl. Psychol.* iv. 99 The power of sustained attention grows with the ability to resist distractions and solicitations.

†5. Anxiety; solicitude. *Obs.*

1697 CLAYTON *Acc. Virginia* in *Misc. Curiosa* (1708) III. 297 If..their Heards are stray'd from their Plantations, without more sollicitation they go directly to the Rivers to fetch them home again. *a* 1718 W. PENN in *Life* Wks. I. 135 Whom I ever served with a steady Sollicitation. 1725 *Fam. Dict.* s.v. *Water*, This comes so little..into our Diet ..that it is not worth much Sollicitation about it.

Hence **Solicita·tionism.**

1880 W. D. HOWELLS *Undiscovered Country* iii. 52 What I wish now to establish as the central principle of the spiritistic science is the principle of solicitationism.

Soli·cited, *ppl. a.* [f. SOLICIT *v.*] a. Approached with solicitation. b. Asked or begged for.

1833 J. H. NEWMAN *Arians* III. iv. (1876) 308 The proposed measure..fixed the attention of the solicited Churches rather upon the argument, than upon the Imperial command. 1856 KANE *Arctic Explor.* II. v. 66 Even the stoutest could hardly bear their once solicited allowance of raw meat.

Solicitee. *rare.* [f. SOLICIT *v.* + -EE[1].] One who is solicited.

1887 *Pall Mall G.* 25 July 4/2 No charge of solicitation is to be taken except when the solicitee is prepared to come forward and prosecute.

†Soliciter. *Obs.* Forms: *α.* 5 solyster, 6 solester; *Sc.* 6 sol(l)istar. *β.* 5 soluciter, 6 sollycyter, solyciter, 6–7 solliciter (6 *Sc.* -ar), 7– soliciter. [f. SOLICIT *v.* + -ER[1].]

1. One who conducts or manages affairs on behalf of another; *spec.* = SOLICITOR 3.

α. 1482 *Cely Papers* (Camden) 118 The bylles of xx*s* of the sarpler schall be sent ynto Inglond to the solyster schorttly. 1563 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* I. 239 For furnessing of procuratouris, sollistaris, and utheris doers for the saidis merchandis. 1585 *Exchequer Rolls Scot.* XXI. 613 The said James, Lord of Doun, comperand be George Mak, his solistar.

β. 1464 *Rolls of Parlt.* V. 530/1 Provided alwey, that this Acte extend not nor be prejudiciall to Richard Fowler, of or for the Office of oure Soluciter. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. IV*, 7 b, He by his priuie frendes and soliciters, caused to be enacted [etc.]. 1576 in Feuillerat *Revels Q. Eliz.* (1908) 415 Councellors, soliciters, and atturneies. 1616 R. C. *Times' Whistle* (1871) 46 A daw To a solliciter is now become Iustice of peace & coram. *c* 1630 RISDON *Surv. Devon* § 39 (1810) 40 Baldwin Mallet, soliciter unto King Henry the eighth.

2. One who takes charge *of*, or action *in*, some affair; a promoter or forwarder.

a 1530 WOLSEY in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* 1st Ser. II. 5 To be a sollycyter and setter forth of such thyngs as do and shall conserve my said ende. 1533 BELLENDEN *Livy* v. xiii. (S.T.S.) II. 191 The small pepill tuke purpoiss to continew þe same tribunys þat war solistaris of þare lawis. 1631 GOUGE *God's Arrows* v. 406 You who in the name of the rest were Solliciters in this business. 1664 H. MORE *Myst. Iniq.* 72 As if these were the most serious and earnest soliciters of Religion that one can hope to meet withall.

3. A petitioner; = SOLICITOR 4.

α. 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* lvii, Quod Dumbar aganis the solistaris in court. 1536 *Cal. Anc. Rec. Dublin* (1889) 498 [We] most umblye desyre youre grase to be owre solester to owre prynse. 1587 A. HUME *Epist. Moncreiff* 197 3it all sollistars cannot iustice haue.

β. 1537 *State Papers Hen. VIII*, XII. No. 883, Trustyng your mastershyppe wylbe a solyciter to hym for us. 1588 SHAKS. *L. L. L.* II. 29 In that behalfe..we single you, As our best mouing faire soliciter. 1628 WITHER *Brit. Rememb.* I. 1023 Thou wert Soliciter For King Manasses that Idolater. 1668 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 254/2 That the City of Vienna is much disgusted with the..Liberty given to the Jews, and are earnest solliciters for their Banishment.

b. *fig.* Of things.

c 1585 MONTGOMERIE *Sonn.* lv. 9 My secrete sighis, solisters for my sute. 1617 HIERON *Wks.* II. 114 Such a conscience ..will be a perpetuall solliciter, till it hath brought a man before the Lord. 1652 CRASHAW *Carmen Deo Nostro* Wks. (1904) 195 Cymballs of Heav'n, or Humane sphears, Solliciters of Soules or Eares.

†4. A suitor (to a woman). *Obs.*

c 1590 *Faire Em* IV. iii, Both which shaddowes of my irreuocable affections I haue not sparde to confirme before him ..and all other amorous soliciters.

Hence **†Soli·citership,** = SOLICITORSHIP 1. *Obs.*

1592 CHETTLE *Kind-harts Dr.* (1841) 49 Hauing scraped vp a few common places, and, by long solliciterships, got in to be an odd atturney.

Soliciting (sŏli·sitiŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. SOLICIT *v.*] The action of the vb., in various senses.

a. 1429 in Rymer *Fœdera* (1710) X. 420/2 My said Lord the Cardinal, that hath take upon him the Soliciting of the said Cause. 1530 PALSGR. 272/2 Solycityng, steryng, *sollicitation.* 1570 DEE *Math. Pref.* a j, He, with humble request, and instant Solliciting, got the best Rules..for ordring of all Companies..of men. 1625 in Foster *Eng. Factories Ind.* (1909) III. 58 His complaints and solicitings were utterlie rejected. 1662 MARVELL *Corr.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 85 To Mr. Cressel for his solliciting whole through the businesse. 1709 J. JOHNSON *Clergym. Vade M.* II. 6 By worldly or secular employs we are to understand soliciting in law-suits [etc.]. 1760–72 H. BROOKE *Fool of Qual.* (1809) IV. 134 The remaining time was spent in soliciting for me. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. I. ii, Not now by violence and murder, but by soliciting and finesse.

β. 1474 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* I, 48 To the solisting of the Kingis materis in the Court of Rome. 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* ix. 133 Of fals solisting ffor wrang deliuerance At Counsale, Sessioun, and at Parliament. 1678 SIR G. MACKENZIE *Crim. Laws Scot.* II. xxvi. § 7 (1699) 267 The being present at a Consultation with the Pursuer, or the solisting for him, are likewise Branches of partial Counsel.

Soli·citing, *ppl. a.* [f. as prec.] That solicits, in senses of the verb.

1605 SHAKS. *Lear* I. i. 234 A still soliciting eye, and such a tongue,..Hath lost me in your liking. 1704 J. NORRIS *Ideal World* II. vii. 355 The soliciting motion of adjacent or circumambient bodies. 1816 J. SCOTT *Vis. Paris* (ed. 5) 207 These soliciting females are not easily rebuffed. 1829 *Chapters Phys. Sci.* 17 Properties relative to soliciting forces. 1885 W. ROBERTS *Urin. & Renal Dis.* III. xiii. (ed. 4) 647 The column of liquid in the tube..exercising a soliciting force on the contents of the sac.

Soli·citive, *a. rare.* [f. as prec. Cf. OF. *sollicitif, -ive.*] Solicitant.

1865 *Times* 4 Feb. 5/4 Perambulating the thoroughfares with eyes shut, and hands extended, solicitive of alms.

Solicitor (sŏli·sitəɹ). Forms: 5–7 sollicitour, 6–7 -or; 5 solicy-, 5–6 solyci-, 6 solysy-, 5–7 solicitour (6 -oure), 6 solisitor, 6– solicitor. [ad. OF. *sol-, solliciteur* (mod.F. *solliciteur*), f. *solliciter* SOLICIT *v.*: see -OR.]

†1. One who urges, prompts, or instigates. *Obs.*

1412–20 LYDG. *Troy Book* I. 3797 And of þis Iourne chefe solicytour Was Hercules, þe worthi conquerour. 1540–1 ELYOT *Image Gov.* (1556) 56 Solicitours and furtherers of dishonest appetitis. *c* 1555 HARPSFIELD *Divorce Hen. VIII* (Camden) 254 One that was the chief incenser and solicitor of the first divorce. 1600 HOLLAND *Livy* XXIV. XXXV. 533 No bad sollicitor by word of mouth to further & follow the cause. 1722 WOLLASTON *Relig. Nat.* VI. 144 Promoters or instruments of..wickedness; such as..solicitors in vice.

†b. A thing serving to instigate, etc. *Obs.*

1594 T. B. *La Primaud. Fr. Acad.* II. 265 Ioy and hope ..were bestowed vpon him to bee spurres and sollicitours to induce him to seeke after God. 1607 *Scholast. Disc. agst. Antichrist* II. vi. 41 It hath been vsed from time to time, as an agent and a sollicitor to arme the people..against their lawfull Lordes. 1699 ATTERBURY *Serm.* vii. (1737) IV. 203 We usually blame the body to an high degree, as..the sollicitor to every evil act, all that defiles the man. 1752 *Affecting Narr. H. M. S. 'Wager'* 104 Extreme Hunger and Thirst which were our Sollicitors at this Time, will prompt one to the most desperate Undertakings.

†2. One who conducts, negotiates, or transacts matters on behalf of another or others; a representative, agent, or deputy. *Obs.*

c 1425 LYDG. *Assemb. Gods* 912 Hooly heremytes, goddes solycitours, Monasteriall monkes [etc.]. *a* 1513 FABYAN *Chron.* v. (1811) 73 The whiche Paterne had ben solicitour for yᵉ Frenshe Kyng in the foresayd matier. 1546 LANGLEY tr. *Pol. Verg. de Invent.* VIII. ii. 145 Pius the II...instituted the new College of Solicitors & Proctors by whose Counsaill and aduise all bulles and grauntes wer made. 1638 R. BAKER tr. *Balzac's Lett.* (vol. II) 35, I come not therefore as his Solicitour but as his bare witnesse. 1655 FULLER *Ch. Hist.* IX. 203 The principall pillars of the Presbyterian party..applied themselves by their secret solicitors to James King of Scotland. 1702 W. J. tr. *Bruyn's Voy. Levant* IV. 216 Next to him is the Father Sollicitor, who ought to be a Spaniard born. 1741 MIDDLETON *Cicero* (1742) I. v. 388 His principal Agents and Sollicitors at Rome were his Brother Quintus [etc.].

†b. *spec.* An official having charge of the King's or Queen's interests. *Obs.*

1460 *Rolls of Parlt.* V. 388/1 The Sollicitours for the Quene mad leve of C li. 1503 *Ibid.* VI. 536 Thomas Lucas, the Kyngs Solisitor. 1555 *N. C. Wills* (Surtees, 1908) 235 Mr...Cordall, our soveraign Ladie the Quenes Sollicitor. 1608 CHAPMAN *Dk. of Byron* V. ii, Where the King's chief Solicitor hath said There was in France no man that ever liv'd Whose parts were worth my imitation.

3. One properly qualified and formally admitted to practise as a law-agent in any court; formerly, one practising in a court of equity, as distinguished from an *attorney*.

The rise of solicitors as a class of legal practitioners, and the gradual recognition and definition of their status, are illustrated by the first group of quotations. For the Scottish usage see Bell *Dict. Law Scot.* s.v.

(*a*) *a* 1577 Sir T. Smith *Commw. Eng.* II. i. (1589) 44 Solicitors are such, as being learned in the lawes, and informed of their masters cause, doe informe and instruct the Counsellors in the same. 1598 Barckley *Felic. Man* (1631) 398 After that sollicitors were suffered in the middest of them all, to be as it were the skum gatherers of suites. 1653 [F. Philips] *Consid. touching Ct. Chancery* 18 Sollicitors (a race of people was not allowed or heard of in the Law about 100 years agoe). 1681 *Trial of S. Colledge* 6, I know not but he may be criminal that brought you those Papers: for we allow no Sollicitors in cases of Treason. 1729 *Act 2 Geo. II*, c. 23 § 3 (An Act for the better Regulation of Attornies and Solicitors). No Person..shall be permitted to act as a Solicitor..unless such Person..be admitted and inrolled..in such of the said Courts of Equity, where he shall act as Solicitor. 1765 Blackstone *Comm.* III. 26 To practice in the court of chancery it is also necessary to be admitted a solicitor therein. 1835 *Penny Cycl.* III. 66/1 A solicitor in any court of equity at Westminster may be sworn, admitted, and enrolled an attorney of his Majesty's courts of law. 1843 *Act* 6 & 7 *Vict.* c. 73 § 21 Be it enacted, That ..there shall be a Registrar of Attornies and Solicitors. 1873 [see Attorney *sb.*1 3].

(*b*) 1584 Lodge *Alarum* B ij, They finde out..some olde soaking vndermining Solicitour. 1654 Fuller *Two Serm.* 76 Let Diligent Attorneyes so faithfully solicite, let painefull Solicitours so honestly Agitate [etc.]. 1679 *Est. Test* 27, I have heard a..famous Lawyer say, he thought he was one of the ablest Solicitors in England. 1721 De Foe *Moll Flanders* (1722) 262 Had she employ'd a petty Fogging hedge Solicitor,..I should have brought it to but little. 1798 Charlotte Smith *Yng. Philos.* III. 58 Sir Appulby..found it convenient to suppose I was willing to await his reference to his solicitor. 1837 Dickens *Pickw.* ii, The solicitors' wives, and the wine-merchant's wife, headed another grade. 1858 Lytton *What will He do?* II. xii, I will direct my solicitor to take the right steps to do so. 1897 G. Allen *Type-writer Girl* ii. 25 He was..obviously wealthy, though 'twas a third-rate solicitor's.

fig. 1650 Bulwer *Anthropomet.* More fit for one who had deserved to be Attorney Generall to Nature, then for me, the meanest Sollicitor in her Court.

attrib. 1896 *Pall Mall G.* 23 Jan. 10/2 Solicitor and client costs will be enforced in all cases.

b. Solicitor-General, a law-officer (in England ranking next to the Attorney-General, in Scotland to the Lord-Advocate), who takes the part of the state or crown in suits affecting the public interest.

In the earliest example perhaps with less specific meaning (cf. 2 b above).

1533–4 *Act* 25 *Hen. VIII*, c. 16 § 2 The Kinges generall attorney, and generall Solicitour, which for the time is. 1647 Clarendon *Hist. Reb.* I. § 96 He was Recorder of London, Solicitor-General, and King's Attorney, before he was forty years of age. 1708 Chamberlayne *Pres. St. Gt. Brit.* (1710) 576 The Queen's Serjeants at Law...Solicitor-General, Robert Eyre, Esq. 1747 *Gentl. Mag.* XVII. 116/1 Upon this the sollicitor general was heard in reply. 1812 *Examiner* 14 Dec. 786/1 At which the Solicitor General expressed such anticipating alarm. 1848 W. H. Kelly tr. *L. Blanc's Hist. Ten Y.* II. 321 The solicitor-general, M. Martin du Nord, began to prepare an indictment. 1876 Bancroft *Hist. U.S.* IV. xlvi. 217 [He] leased his eloquence to the government for the office of solicitor-general.

4. One who entreats, requests, or petitions; one who solicits or begs favours; a pleader, intercessor, advocate.

1551 Robinson tr. *More's Utopia* (1895) 18 An euell tale well tolde nedeth none other sollicitour. 1635 Jackson *Creed* VIII. xiv. 165 That hee might bee a faithful Solicitor to his Almighty Father for aid and succour unto all that are beset with them. 1673 *True Notion Worship of God* 32 It demonstrates the greatest for God in those that are earnest Solicitours at his Throne. 1720 Swift *Fates of Clergymen* Wks. 1755 II. II. 26 His sister was..so good a sollicitor, that by her means he was admitted to read prayers in the family. 1752 Hume *Ess. & Treat.* (1777) II. 417 The Lacedemonians..put up their petitions very early in the morning, in order,..by being the first solicitors, to pre-engage the gods in their favour. 1860 Smiles *Self-Help* x. 279 The passion for salaries and Government employment..makes a whole people a mere crowd of servile solicitors for place. 1883 Ld. Rosebery *Speech at Edin.* 21 July, The brazen solicitor who will not take No for an answer.

transf. 1670 Eachard *Cont. Clergy* 110 Besides the devil, he shall have sollicitors enough.

b. With possessive pron., etc., denoting the person on whose behalf the solicitation is made.

1604 Shaks. *Oth.* III. iii. 27 Therefore be merry Cassio, For thy Solicitor shall rather dye, Then giue thy cause away. 1639 S. Du Verger tr. *Camus' Admir. Events* 86 When Ctesiphons wicked sollicitors saw their labour lost with Heraclee, they then addressed themselves to the mother. 1734 tr. *Rollin's Rom. Hist.* (1827) 218 Whenever the young lords had any favour to ask of the King, Cyrus was their solicitor.

c. *transf.* Of things.

1579 Harvey *Letter-bk.* (Camden) 61 Lett this ilfavorid letter suffize for a dutifull solicitor and remembrer in that behaulfe. 1608 D. T. *Ess. Pol. & Mor.* 48 b, The beautie and fairenesse of his eyes..were the principall, and chiefe Solicitors of her affections towards him. 1661 Morgan *Sph. Gentry* I. v. 56 Beauty, and Harmony.., being prevailing solicitors for the obteining love and affection.

†**5.** One who, or that which, draws on or entices. *Obs.*

1594 Hooker *Eccl. Pol.* I. vii. § 3 Appetite is the wills sollicitor, and the will is appetites controller. 1639 S. Du Verger tr. *Camus' Admir. Events* 22 This voyage, whereunto his owne courage was a sufficient sollicitor. 1655 R. Younge *Agst. Drunkards* 18 He that will be drawn to the Tavern or Alehouse by every idle solicitor..is a Drunkard in Solomon's esteem.

†**6.** ? A recruiting officer. *Obs.*—1

1698–9 in R. Steele *Tudor & Stuart Procl.* (1910) I. 508/2, 1st Regiment of Foot Guards:..2 quartermasters, a solicitor, a drum-major [etc.].

Soli·citorship. [f. prec. + -ship.]

1. The office, duty, or calling of a solicitor.

c 1596 Sir R. Cecil in Campbell *Lives Chancellors* (1856) II. xlvii. 315 To arm him with your observations (for the exercise of solicitorship). 1825 Ld. Cockburn *Mem.* (1856) 155 Blair..held to his comfortable solicitorship and to his own way steadily. 1837 *New Monthly Mag.* LI. 284 His sense of the crookedness or cruelty of the trade was added to his sickening of solicitorship.

2. The personality of a solicitor.

1633 Massinger *New Way* II. iii, And yet your good solicitorship, and rogue Wellborn, Were brought into her presence!

Solicitous (sŏlĭ·sitəs), *a.* Also 6–8 **sollicitous.** [f. L. *sōl-, sollicit-us* (see Solicit *a.*) + -ous. Cf. OF. *sol(l)icitoux, -eux.*]

†**1.** Full of care or concern; anxious, apprehensive, disquiet. *Obs.*

1621 Burton *Anat. Mel.* I. ii. III. v, Ever suspitious, anxious, sollicitous, they are childishly drooping without reason. 1658 in *Verney Mem.* (1907) II. 78 Good natures are sollicitous when a misapprehension befalls them. 1674 Milton *P. R.* II. 120 There without sign of boast, or sign of joy, Sollicitous and blank he thus began. 1706 Phillips (ed. Kersey), *Sollicitous*, full of Care and Fear, troubled or much concerned about a thing. 1741 Middleton *Cicero* I. III. 209 They began to be sollicitous.

2. Troubled, anxious, or deeply concerned, on some specified account. Const. with preps., as *about, for, of*, etc.

(*a*) 1570 Foxe *A. & M.* I. 159/2 He willeth him alwaies to be sollicitous for his soule. 1631 Gouge *God's Arrows* III. Ep. Ded. p. iv, Moses, when he tarried at home, was very sollicitous for his countrimen in the field. 1699 Bentley *Phal.* 422 For a bare Error of the Memory I shall not be solicitous. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* III. i. I. 302 The boat was sent away..; and we were not a little solicitous for her return. 1790 Burke *Fr. Rev.* 11 Sollicitous chiefly for the peace of my own country, but by no means unconcerned for yours. 1810 Bentham *Art of Packing* (1821) 50 The solicitor for the smuggler is solicitous for the smuggler, because, ..in being solicitous for his client, he is solicitous for himself. 1845 Sarah Austin tr. *Ranke's Hist. Ref.* II. 315 They deemed that such an one would be more solicitous for their welfare..than a stranger.

(*b*) 1647 N. Bacon *Govt. Eng.* II. xiii. (1739) 71 These foreign Engagements made the King less sollicitous of the point of Prerogative at home. 1706 E. Ward *Wooden World Diss.* (1708) 16 One so sollicitous of other Mens Healths, cannot be unmindful of his own. 1729 Butler *Serm.* Wks. 1874 II. 124 Scarce any shew themselves to advantage, who are over solicitous of doing so. 1828 Scott *F. M. Perth* xxx, Your Highness will not expect me to be very solicitous of Henry Smith's interest. 1841 Emerson *Ess.* I. *Prudence*, You are solicitous of the good-will of the meanest person, uneasy at his ill-will.

(*c*) 1658 Sir T. Browne *Hydriot.* Introd., The Persian Magi..being only solicitous about their Bones [etc.]. *a* 1683 Owen *Holy Spirit* (1693) 14 In this condition the best of Men are apt to be solicitous about their Answers. 1709–29 Mandey *Syst. Math., Astron.* 351 Concerning those, Astronomers are not Sollicitous, by reason of the Smallness. 1887 Ruskin *Præterita* II. 330 He was undiligent and effectless—chiefly solicitous about his trousers and gloves.

b. With dependent clause.

1639 Massinger *Unnatural Combat* III. ii, He found him Solicitous in what shape she should appear. 1647 H. More *Poems* Ded., I am not indeed much solicitous, how every particle of these Poems may please you. 1764 Goldsm. *Hist. Eng. in Lett.* (1772) I. 57 This weak monarch was in no way solicitous who succeeded. 1784 Cowper *Task* IV. 433 Much solicitous how best He may compensate for a day of sloth. 1836 J. Gilbert *Chr. Atouement* ix. (1852) 285 Why so solicitous that we should be reconciled? 1845 Sarah Austin *Ranke's Hist. Ref.* II. 529 The delegates of the States were chiefly solicitous lest they should be attacked by the remnant of the order in Germany.

3. Extremely or particularly careful or attentive; taking the utmost heed or care.

1609 Bible (Douay) *Micah* vi. 8 *comm.*, To love mercie, and to walke solicitous with thy God. 1682 Sir T. Browne *Chr. Mor.* I. § 33 Move circumspectly, not meticulously, and rather carefully sollicitous, than anxiously sollicitudinous. 1789 Bentham *Princ. Legisl.* vi. § 41 Under a solicitous and attentive government the ordinary preceptor..is but a deputy as it were to the magistrate.

4. Anxious, eager, desirous: **a.** With *to* and inf.

1647 Clarendon *Hist. Reb.* I. § 21 The Prince..was transported with the thought of it, and most impatiently sollicitous to bring it to pass. 1693 J. Edwards *Auth. O. & N. Test.* 384 Those learned and pious writers..were not solicitous to go any farther. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* II. ix. (ed. 4) 316 We were very solicitous to get some positive intelligence. 1779 *Mirror* No. 19, These peculiarities serve only..to make her more solicitous to prevent their effects. 1817 Jas. Mill *Brit. India* II. IV. viii. 284 Whose alliance Hyder was solicitous to gain. 1867 D. Duncan *Disc.* vii. 146 God is willing, nay, solicitous to confer these blessings.

b. With *in* (governing nouns of action).

1628 Le Grys *Barclay's Argenis* 274 To the most of them the Kings being so solicitous in this businesse was not pleasing. 1665 Walton *Life Hooker* 241 All this time he was solicitous in his study. 1774 Goldsm. *Nat. Hist.* I. xv. (1824) I. 101 While the merchant and the mariner are solicitous in describing currents and soundings.

5. Marked or characterized by anxiety, care, or concern: **a.** Of actions, study, etc.

1563 Foxe *A. & M.* 1260/1 Whose industrie was alwayes sollicitous, not onelye to them of hys owne companye, but also..for other prysoners. 1645 E. Reynolds *Serm. Hosea* vi. 64 A symbole, first, of vigilant care and most intent and sollicitous inspection and providence. 1678 Cudworth *Intell. Syst.* 443 The Government of some of them is toilsom and sollicitous. 1736 Butler *Anal.* II. vi, An attentive, solicitous, perhaps painful exercise of their understanding about it. 1829 I. Taylor *Enthus.* ii. (1867) 32 A solicitous dissection of the changing emotions of the religious life. 1863 H. Rogers *Life J. Howe* i. 14 It is not after the method of a severe logic or a too solicitous philosophy.

b. Of cares, thoughts, etc.

1650 Bulwer *Anthropomet.* 242 The sollicitous cares of his mind, which dry his very bones. *a* 1693 Urquhart *Rabelais* III. xvi. 133 He was in this sad quandary and sollicitous pensiveness. *a* 1703 Burkitt *On N. T.* Luke xii. 30 This vexatious care, and solicitous thoughtfulness. 1717 L. Howel *Desiderius* (ed. 3) 55 Being the less incumber'd with uneasy Cares and solicitous Vexations.

c. Of life or conditions.

1661 Gauden in C. Wordsworth *Documentary Suppl.* (1825) 19, I doe not desire to live long in this distracted and solicitous condition. 1673 Temple *United Prov.* Wks. 1720 I. 25 The Royal Servitude of a sollicitous Life.

6. Of features: Suggestive of solicitude or anxiety.

1868 Swinburne *Ess. & Studies* (1875) 362 The features resolute, solicitous, heroic. 1876 Geo. Eliot *Dan. Der.* xi, It was not possible for a human aspect to be freer from grimace or solicitous wrigglings.

Soli·citously, *adv.* [f. prec.] In a solicitous manner, in various senses of the adj.

1614 T. Adams *Semper Idem* Wks. (1629) 857 Many parents are solicitously perplexed, how their children shall doe when they are dead. 1674 Boyle *Excellency Theol.* I. ii. 66 It needs not be solicitously proved. 1733 Swift *Apol.* Wks. 1755 IV. I. 213 You..Do now solicitously shun The cooler air, and dazzling sun. 1799 *Monthly Rev.* XXX. 297 They solicitously shun all commerce with Europeans. 1817 J. Scott *Paris Revisit.* (ed. 4) 87 The finest faces hung solicitously over it. 1856 S. Davidson *Bibl. Criticism* xlv. 685 Many Slavic words are formed solicitously after the Greek.

Soli·citousness. [f. Solicitous *a.*] The state or quality of being solicitous; care, concern; anxiety, solicitude.

1636 *Divine Tragedie lately Acted* 41 Free your selves on that day..from worldly cares and sollicitousnesse. 1670 G. H. *Hist. of Cardinals* II. I. 123 To behold them with such passion and solicitousness endeavouring the good of Christianity. 1709 J. Clarke tr. *Grotius' Chr. Relig.* II. xiv. (1818) 122 Solicitousness in procuring and preserving riches. 1724 in *Biogr. Presbyt.* (1827) II. 146 He did run fast..in great Solicitousness of coming short of his Task. 1874 T. Hardy *Far fr. Mad. Crowd* xlvi, This spoliated effort of his new-born solicitousness.

Soli·citress. ? *Obs.* Also 7 **solicitresse,** 8 **sollicitress.** [Cf. next and -ess.]

1. A female who solicits or prefers requests.

1631 Mabbe *Celestina* x. 117, I know not..whether thou art now comming with that Solicitresse of my safety? 1654–66 Earl Orrery *Parthen.* (1676) 593 To disoblige his pretended Solicitress. 1788 Charlotte Smith *Emmeline* (1816) III. 116 She prepared to become a solicitress for favours to a statesman.

fig. 1710 Shaftesbury *Charact.* (1737) I. *Adv. Author* III. 312 They are very powerful Sollicitresses. They never seem to importune us; tho they are ever in our eye.

2. A female who entices to immorality.

1634 W. Tirwhyt tr. *Balzac's Lett.* (vol. I) 270 Yet am I credibly informed, that..she is turned Solicitresse to entice others to vice. *a* 1639 W. Whateley *Prototypes* III. xxxix. (1640) 9 If we consider..the person of his solicitresse,..how great a patterne is he of invincible purity.

Soli·citrix. ? *Obs.* Also **sollicitrix.** [f. Solicitor, after forms in *-trix.*]

1. = Solicitress 2.

1611 Cotgr., *Maquerelle*, a (woman) bawd; the solicitrix of lecherie.

2. A female solicitor; = Solicitress 1.

1637 Nabbes *Microcosm.* v, Bless me! who's this? one of the devil's she-lawyers?..Pray how long have you been a solicitrix? 1658 in *Verney Mem.* (1907) II. 77 You have a sollicitrix here,..which is my wife. 1700 T. Brown tr. *Fresny's Amusem.* 46 The first Motion he found in himself, was for the Charming Sollicitrix. 1747 *Mem. Nutrebian Crt.* I. 82 The bishop began with saying what an importunate sollicitrix the dutchess had been.

Solicitude (sŏlĭ·sitiud). Also 5–6 **sol-, 6 solicycytude, 6–8 sollicitude,** 6 **-ud.** [a. OF. *sol-, sollicitude* (mod.F. *sollicitude*, = Sp. *solicitud*, Pg. *solicitude*, It. *solli-, sollecitudine*), or ad. L. *sōl-, sollicitūdo*, f. *sollicitus* Solicit *a.*]

1. The state of being solicitous or uneasy in mind; disquietude, anxiety; care, concern.

? *a* 1418 Lydg. *Two Merchants* 580 So ar we travailed with solicitude. 1528 Paynell *Salerne's Regim.* (1617) 178 Sollicitude, feare, sadnesse, sleepe it drowneth in. *a* 1533 Ld. Berners *Gold. Bk. M. Aurel.* (1546) M vij b, Such as are of a delicate bloudde, haue not soo much sollicitude as the rustical people. *a* 1631 Donne *Select.* (1840) 169 Lazarus come forth..from your waters..of solicitude. 1684 *Contempl. State of Man* I. i. (1699) 4 What we desire with impatience, being possessed, brings Care and Solicitude. 1737 Whiston *Josephus, Hist.* III. i. § 1 Yet did the disturbance..in his soul plainly appear by the solicitude he was in. 1769 Robertson *Chas. V*, IV. Wks. 1813 V. 413 Bourbon, on his part, was far from being free from solicitude. 1833 I. Taylor *Fanaticism* v. 102 Free from solicitude, because free from wants. 1849 W. Irving *Mahomed* vii. (1853) 36 These, and other causes of solicitude, preyed upon his spirits.

2. Anxious, special, or particular care or attention.

a 1535 More *Treatise Sacr.* Wks. 1266 What diligence can here suffyse vs? What solicitude can we thynke here ynough? agaynste the cummyng of thys almightye king. 1603 Holland *Plutarch's Mor.* 185, I could wish that the sollicitude and care of the elder [brother] savoured rather of a companion..than of a father. 1750 Johnson *Rambler* No. 39 ¶ 4 That it is not to be envied for its happiness,

appears from the solicitude with which it is avoided. 1794 SULLIVAN *View Nat.* I. Pref. 7 He has endeavoured, with no small degree of solicitude, to engage their generous affections. 1847 DISRAELI *Tancred* I. ii, Never had such solicitude been lavished on human being. 1879 LOFTIE *Ride in Egypt* 173 The antiquities of Egypt have been made subjects of Government solicitude.

b. Const. *about, for,* or *to* (with inf.).

c 1475 HENRYSON *Poems* (S.T.S.) III. 60 The grete sollicitude..to wyn this warldis gud, Cessis furthwith. 1533 BELLENDEN *Livy* II. xxiv. (S.T.S.) I. 229 Þe pepill tuke na sollicitude bot alanerlie for sic thingis as mycht erast fortifie þis new law. 1660 R. COKE *Justice Vind.* 11 There is in every man a solicitude how to live, and so to live that his living be not a burden. 1736 BUTLER *Anal.* I. ii. Wks. 1874 I. 34 There is reason also for the most active thought and solicitude, to secure that interest. 1751 JOHNSON *Rambler* No. 174 ¶ 14 This alarm which they spread by their solicitude to escape me. 1837 LOCKHART *Scott* II. vii. 256 That lively solicitude about points of antiquarian detail. 1865 KINGSLEY *Herew.* x, They manifested affectionate solicitude for them.

† **c.** Const. *of. Obs.*

1490 CAXTON *Eneydos* xii. 43 Nor wyth hym remayneth nother..care ne solycytude of thy loue. 1540 *Act* 32 *Hen. VIII*, c. 26 His grace taketh the care and sollicitud therof. 1541 R. COPLAND *Galyen's Terap.* 2 D ij, He hath sollycytude of all the body. 1651 HOBBES *Leviath.* I. xii. 52 To be in a perpetuall solicitude of the time to come.

3. *pl.* Cares, troubles, anxieties, etc.

1490 CAXTON *Eneydos* xxvii. 98 Alle werkes & operacyions humayne, with their solicitudes. 1541 R. COPLAND *Guydon's Quest. Chirurg.* Q iij b, Aske yf he hath had great solycytudes, & chargeable thoughtes. 1664 H. MORE *Myst. Iniq.* I. xvi. 58 Those hard trialls and disquieting solicitudes that naturally will attempt them. 1750 tr. *Leonardus' Mirror of Stones* p. iv, You may refresh your mind, wearied with perpetual sollicitudes and labours. 1844 DICKENS *Mart. Chuz.* xxxii, Mrs. Todgers looked a little worn by cares of gravy and other such solicitudes. 1872 GEO. ELIOT *Middlem.* I, To her the destinies of mankind..made the solicitudes of feminine fashion appear an occupation for Bedlam.

† **4.** Solicitation; importunate petition. *Obs.*—[1]

1556 *Aurelio & Isab.* (1608) B iv, Isabell became verye sore in love with him, seing the verye greate sollicitude and requeste that he made unto her.

Hence † **Solicitudeness.** *Obs. rare.*

1547 BOORDE *Brev. Health* cclii. 85 b, It may come of solicitudenes or great study occupyenge the memory so much that it is fracted. *Ibid.* cccxxi. 104 Yf it come by great study and solicitudnes.

Solicitu·dinous, *a.* Also 7 soll-. [f. L. *sōl-, sollicitūdin-,* stem of *sollicitūdo* SOLICITUDE.]

1. Filled with anxiety, care, or concern. *rare.*

1682 SIR T. BROWNE *Chr. Morals* I. § 33 Move circumspectly..; and rather carefully sollicitous than anxiously sollicitudinous.

2. Characterized by solicitude or anxiety.

1829 LYTTON *Disowned* 19 Which he promised to prepare with the most solicitudinous dispatch. 1900 *Speaker* 7 Apr. 10/2 My enemies have given me this advice in a well-meaning, sneaking, solicitudinous kind of fashion.

Solid (sɒ·lid), *sb.*[1] Also 6–7 **solide.** [f. the adj., or ad. F. *solide,* L. *solidum.*]

1. *Geom.* A body or magnitude of three dimensions; one having length, breadth, and thickness.

Solid of revolution, one formed by the revolution of a plane figure.

1495 *Trevisa's De P. R.* XIX. CXXVII. (W. de W.) 928 The Cubus is properly the Solid ylyke longe, brode, and depe. 1570 BILLINGSLEY *Euclid* XI. def. I. 312 A solide or body is that which hath length, breadth, and thicknes. 1571 DIGGES *Pantom.* III. Q, Lyke solides are such as are encompassed with superficies that are lyke and of equall number. 1625 N. CARPENTER *Geogr. Del.* I. ii. (1635) 36 As wee esteeme of a circle described in a plaine surface, so must we iudge in solids of a Spheare. 1696 PHILLIPS (ed. 5) s.v., All Solids are either Spherical or Elliptical, which have no Sides or Angles; or Prisms, which are contain'd in Plains. 1725 WATTS *Logic* I. vi. § 8 Geometry divides its Objects into Lines, Surfaces and Solids. 1816 tr. *Lacroix's Diff. & Int. Calculus* 679 To find the differentials of the volumes and curve surfaces of solids of revolution. 1841 *Penny Cycl.* XIX. 364/2 We have thus the five regular solids, and have shown that there can be no others. 1878 GURNEY *Crystal.* 41 A solid cannot be bounded by fewer than four planes.

2. A solid substance or body.

1698 KEILL *Exam. Th. Earth* (1734) 195 For it is not so with solids as with fluids, where all range themselves according to their intensive gravities. *a* 1722 LISLE *Husb.* (1757) 7 Nor is it to be objected, that by fire these vegetative particles should be destroyed, seeing they are supposed to be solids. 1812 SIR H. DAVY *Chem. Philos.* 65 The first class consists of solids, which compose the great known part of the globe. 1844 G. BIRD *Urin. Deposits* 62 The quantity of solids in a fluid ounce of the urine. 1882 MINCHIN *Unipl. Kinematics* 137 Every one easily recognises a broad distinction between a Fluid and a Solid.

transf. 1727 BAILEY (vol. II), *Semi-vowels* .. are distinguished into Solids and Liquids. *Ibid., Solids,*..or solid Letters, are those which are never liquefied.

b. *Physiol.* A solid part or constituent of the body. Used in pl.

Freq. in the 18th cent.; now *Obs.* or *rare.*

1704 F. FULLER *Med. Gymn.* (1711) 26, I come now to shew after what manner [exercise] affects the solids. 1769 E. BANCROFT *Guiana* 324 Its use..is indispensably necessary in this climate, to corroborate the solids. 1805 *Med. Jrnl.* XIV. 325 Its influence upon the nervous system through.. the balance between the solids and fluids. [*a* 1862 BUCKLE *Civilis.* (1869) III. 420 All the solids in the human body are either simple or vital.]

c. *Building.* A solid mass of masonry or other construction, esp. that between windows or doors; a pier of a bridge.

1736 N. HAWKSMOOR *Hist. London Bridge* 9 There are also eighteen Solids or Piers of different Dimensions, from thirty-four to twenty-five Feet thick. 1793 SMEATON *Edystone L.* § 45 The whole therefore to the height of the store-room floor..having been made with all possible solidity, was denominated the solid. 1840 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* III. 84/1 To obtain the largest possible admission of light, with the smallest obstruction of solids or piers. 1842 GWILT *Archit.* § 2756 The investigation relative to the voids and solids of doors. *Ibid.* Gloss. s.v. *Pier,* A solid between the doors or windows of a building.

d. *Printing.* (See quot.)

1888 JACOBI *Printers' Vocab.* 128 *Solids,* the blacker or more solid parts of a woodcut or other illustration.

3. *The solid,* the unbroken mass, the main part or body, of something.

1776 SEMPLE *Building in Water* 148 The Tongues and Grooves to be put on with Spikes and stout Oak Pins, or made out of the Solid. 1840 BROWNING *Sordello* IV. 168 Her hero's car Clove dizzily the solid of the war. 1908 *Westm. Gaz.* 13 Feb. 4/2 The mechanically operated valves are..actuated by cams turned from the solid.

4. *ellipt.* in *pl.* in various senses: **a.** Solid or substantial dishes or food. **b.** *U.S.* Self-coloured cloths or garments. **c.** *Salt-making.* (See quot.) **d.** *Mining.* (See quot.) **e.** *Sc.* Solid qualities or character.

a. 1792 A. YOUNG *Trav. France* 217, I am very well served at dinner with many and good dishes, and some of them solids. **b.** 1883 *Evening Star* (Washington) 31 Oct. 3/6 Solids are all the go this season. Stripes and checks are very dull. **c.** 1886 HOLLAND *Cheshire Gloss., Solids,* the solid brickwork about the fires, on which the bars, bearers, and other ironwork rests. **d.** 1894 HESLOP *Northumbld. Gloss., Solids,* in mining, the solid rock as distinguished from soil, moss, drifts, etc. **e.** 1896 J. HORNE *Canny Countryside* xix. 212 That precentor was never again seen in Knockdry. He lacked 'solids'.

† **Solid,** *sb.*[2] *Obs.* Also **solide.** [ad. L. *solidus* SOLIDUS 1.] A weight or value equivalent to that of the Roman solidus.

1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* II. 36 The ordinarie dose is from half an obolus to a Solid.., according to the strength of the patient. 1609 BIBLE (Douay) 1 *Esdr.* viii. 27 Cuppes of gold twentie, which had a thousand solides.

Solid (sɒ·lid), *a.* Forms: 4–7 **solide** (6–7 solude, 7 solede, sollide); 5– **solid** (7 solyd, sollid). [a. OF. *solide* (mod.F. *solide,* = Sp., Pg., It. *solido*), or ad. L. *solidus.*]

1. Free from empty spaces, cavities, interstices, etc.; having the interior completely filled in or up. Opposed to *hollow.*

c 1391 CHAUCER *Astrol.* II. § 26 The excellence of the spere solide..shewyth Manifeste the diuerse assencioun of signes in diuerse places. 1594 T. B. *La Primaud. Fr. Acad.* II. 85 Hollow things are more fitte to receiue sounds, and to cause them to be heard better, then things that are solide and more thicke. 1604 R. CAWDREY *Table Alph., Solid,* not hollowe, sound, heavie. 1613 PURCHAS *Pilgr.* (1614) 567 This was hollow, the other solid. 1796 KIRWAN *Elem. Min.* (ed. 2) I. 106 That [piece] examined..was a solid rhomboid. 1842 LOUDON *Suburban Hort.* 180 In the construction of walls they are generally built solid; but when the wall is formed entirely of brick, a saving of material is obtained.. by building them hollow. 1863 P. BARRY *Dockyard Econ.* 277 Mr. Fawcett introduced the highly important improvement of casting the guns solid and boring them. 1881 *Grove's Dict. Music* III. 179 It was played with the hand,.. and had seven strings mounted in a solid wooden frame.

b. *spec.* in *Bot.* and *Ent.* (see quots.).

(*a*) 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl., *Solid root*..expresses the whole root to be one uniform lump of matter. 1776 J. LEE *Introd. Bot.* 378 *Solidus,* solid, without internal Pores. *c* 1789 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) III. 448/1 *Solid,* consisting of solid substance; as the tulip. 1796 WITHERING *Brit. Plants* (ed. 3) I. 82 *Solid Root*; fleshy and uniform, as that of a Turnep. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1072/1 *Solid,* not hollow or furnished with internal cavities of any kind.

(*b*) 1826 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* IV. 259 *Solid* (*Solida*). When the interior is full. *Ibid.* 323 *Solid Knob*... When the knob consists of a single joint, or if of more, exhibits very faint traces of their separation.

c. *Typog.* Having no leads between the lines; unleaded; (see also quot. 1888).

1808 STOWER *Printers' Gram.* 163 To a solid page, two leads make the usual white after the head. 1839 T. C. HANSARD *Print. & Type-Founding* (1841) 89 How many lines of the particular type used there would be in a page of the given size, supposing it were all solid type. 1888 JACOBI *Printers Vocab.* 128 *Solid matter,* type composed without leads; also applied to type with but few quadrats in.

d. Of a wall, etc.: Having no opening or window; unbroken, blank.

1865 J. FERGUSSON *Hist. Arch.* II. ii. II. I. 427 The apse, properly speaking, is a solid semi-cylinder, surmounted by a semi-dome, but always solid below, though generally broken by windows above.

2. *Math.* Of a body or figure: Having three dimensions.

c 1430 *Art Nombryng* 14 It is clepede a solide body that hathe þer-in..lengthe, brede, and thiknesse. 1704 J. HARRIS *Lex. Techn.* I. *Solid Angle,* is an Angle made by the meeting of three or more Planes, and those joining in a Point. 1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey) s.v. *Curve,* The Conchoid and the Solid Parabola. 1823 H. J. BROOKE *Introd. Crystallogr.* 111 Alternate solid angles replaced by tangent planes. 1841 BREWSTER *Martyrs Science* III. i. (1856) 172 What have plane figures to do with solid orbits? 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 206/1 The rules..for measuring different superficial or solid figures will be found under the several heads.

fig. 1830 CARLYLE *Misc.* (1857) II. 172 Narrative is linear, Action is solid.

† **b.** Of number or measure: = CUBIC *a. Obs.*

(*a*) *c* 1430 *Art Nombryng* 14 The solide nombre or cubike is þat þat comythe of double ledynge of nombre in nombre. 1570 BILLINGSLEY *Euclid* VII. def. 18. 187 When three numbers multiplyed together ye one into the other, produce any number, the number produced, is called a solide number. 1704 J. HARRIS *Lex. Techn.* I, *Solid Numbers,* are those which arise from the Multiplication of a Plain Number, by any other whatsoever.

(*b*) 1665 BOYLE *Occas. Reft.* IV. i. (1848) 50 Ten thousand millions of Cubick German Leagues, (and consequently above three-score times as many English miles of solid measure). 1667 PRIMATT *City & C. Builder* 165 A Foot solid measure hath seventeen hundred twenty eight square Inches. 1705 ARBUTHNOT *Coins,* etc. ix. (1727) 91 There are in a solid Foot 1728 solid Inches.

c. Of, relating, or pertaining to a geometrical solid or solids († or to cubic numbers).

1570 BILLINGSLEY *Euclid* I. prop. 12. 22 A solide perpendiculer line is, when the point, from whence the perpendiculer is drawne, is on high, and without the plaine superficies. 1571 DIGGES *Pantom.* II. xiv. O j, The thirde kynde of Geometrie, where you shall haue rules to measure, not onely the solide, but also the superficiall contents of all maner bodies. 1684 E. HALLEY (*title*), Discourse concerning the number of roots of solid and biquadratical equations. 1704 J. HARRIS *Lex. Techn.* I, *Solid Place*..is when the Point is in one of the Conick Sections. *Ibid., Solid Problem*..is one which can't be Geometrically solved, but by the Intersection of a Circle, and a Conick Section. 1733 H. GORE (*title*), Elements of Solid Geometry. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 206/1 Solid, superficial, and linear dimensions. 1885 WATSON & BURBURY *Electr. & Magn.* I. 59, *U,* instead of being a single spherical solid harmonic, may be an infinite series of such harmonics.

3. Of material substances: Of a dense or massive consistency; composed of particles which are firmly and continuously coherent; hard and compact.

c 1532 DU WES *Introd. Fr.* in *Palsgr.* 917 Solude, *massif.* 1567 MAPLET *Gr. Forest* 33 It is nothing solide or massie, but much porouse. 1602 SHAKS. *Ham.* I. ii. 129 Oh that this too too solid Flesh would melt, Thaw, and resolue it selfe into a Dew. 1634 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* (1638) 179 In place of solyd walls, it is ingirt with liquid moats or trenches. 1725 tr. *Gregory's Astron.* (1726) I. 170 We shall demonstrate..that each Planet, the nearer it is to the Sun, the solider or more dense it is. 1742 GRAY *Propertius* ii. 30 What wondrous force the solid earth can move. 1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 299 The separation of a fluid from the solid or undissolved particles which it contains. 1841 *Penny Cycl.* XXI. 177/2 These secretions are exceedingly numerous, and constitute the great bulk of the solid parts of the plant. 1895 *Naturalist* 26 A solid camphor.

transf. 1746 FRANCIS tr. *Horace, Epist.* II. i. 272 To think that Asses should in Judgement sit, In solid Deafness, on the Works of Wit. 1847 TENNYSON *Princ.* III. 110, I forced a way Thro' solid opposition crabb'd and gnarl'd. 1887 LECKY *Eng. in 18th C.* V. 338 There will no longer be any obstacle to a solid despotism.

b. Solidified; frozen.

1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* III. 561 With Axes first they cleave the Wine, and thence By Weight, the solid Portions they dispence. 1786 S. ROGERS *Ode Superstit.* I. iii, O'er solid seas, where Winter reigns. 1879 *Daily Telegr.* 28 June, Having the bowl of solid soup carefully enwrapped in a copy of the *Sunday Times.*

c. In the phr. *solid rock,* with reference to the cutting of steps or passages in it.

1779 J. MOORE *View Soc. Fr.* (1793) I. 231 We entered the largest saline by a passage cut out of the solid rock. 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* lii, We went through a long passage, and down other steps cut in the solid rock. 1838 *Penny Cycl.* XI. 215/1 Two excavations, wrought with extreme labour, in the solid rock, called galleries.

d. Of clouds, the atmosphere, etc.: Having the appearance of a solid or unbroken mass; dense, thick, compact. Chiefly *poet.*

1807 WORDSW. *Poems Indep. & Liberty* II. v, Clouds, lingering yet, extend in solid bars Through the grey west. 1819 SHELLEY *Ode to West Wind* 27 Thy congregated might Of vapours, from whose solid atmosphere Black rain, and fire, and hail will burst. 1841 BROWNING *Pippa Passes* I. 7 Of yonder gap in the solid gray Of the eastern cloud.

4. Of states, conditions, etc.: Characterized by solidity or compactness.

1597 SHAKS. 2 *Hen. IV*, III. i. 48 That one might..see..the Continent (Wearie of solide firmenesse) melt it selfe Into the Sea. 1665 BOYLE *Occas. Reft.* (1848) 64 The Leaves..are of a more solid Texture..than the Blossoms. 1824 SCOTT *Redgauntlet* ch. xix, A little surprised at the solid weight of the distressed fair one. 1868 LOCKYER *Elem. Astron.* § 66 Taking water and iron as instances: when both are in a solid state we get ice and hard iron.

5. Of rain, etc.: Steady, drenching; continuous. Also, of a day: Characterized by rain of this kind.

1621 in Foster *Eng. Factories Ind.* (1906) 354 There fell (in a sad and sollid shewer without intermission) soe much unexpected rayne. 1847 HELPS *Friends in C.* I. vi. I. 86 To be looking out on a good solid English wet day. 1868 in Huntley *Glouc. Gloss.* 63 A solid rain.

b. Of water: Coming in a compact mass.

1893 *Outing* XXII. 146/2 Her principal fault is that she is wet in a sea-way, though she rarely ships solid water.

6. Having the property of occupying a certain amount of space (cf. SOLIDITY 4).

1690 LOCKE *Hum. Und.* II. v. (1695) 53 Nor is an Adamant one jot more solid than Water. *Ibid.,* Yet it is not that the parts of the Diamond are more solid than those of Water, or resist more. 1794 SULLIVAN *View Nature* I. 125 Even a particle of water is solid. 1829 *Nat. Philos., Pneumatics* ii. (L.U.K.) 3 The quality in air which we have called impenetrability, is sometimes called solidity, and air is said to be solid.

II. 7. Of a strong, firm, or substantial nature or quality; not slight or flimsy: **a.** Of things (or persons), in figurative applications.

1586 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* IV. 61 Upon a gude and solide ordour for convocating of the ministerie to General Assembleis thaireftir. 1606 G. WOODCOCK *Hist. Ivstine* xv. 64 This temper had made them sollude, and fitte for anie foundation. 1665 BOYLE *Occas. Reft.* IV. xiii. (1848) 250 The Decrees of Providence are too solid and fixt to have Violence offered them. 1703 EVELYN *Diary* 11 July, All the points of good and solid architecture. 1746 CHESTERF. *Lett.* cv. (1792) I. 288 As he took so much pains for the graces of oratory only, I conclude he took still more for the more solid parts of it. *a* 1770 JORTIN *Serm.* (1771) I. 30 Faith is gone, having no solid support. 1812 *Examiner* 11 May 302/2 The colouring..is solid without heaviness. 1860 MOTLEY *Netherl.* iv. (1868) I. 101 There was another way of earning something solid. 1876 BANCROFT *Hist. U. S.* III. vi. 370 His desire was for solid and sure places.

b. Of structures, buildings, furniture, etc.

1644 MILTON *Areop.* (Arb.) 64 How goodly..were such an obedient unanimity as this...Doubtles a stanch and solid peece of framework, as any January could freeze together. 1687 A. LOVELL tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* II. 47 We saw on our right hand two very solid well built houses. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 2 June 1676, The furniture is very particular for..porcelain, and other solid and noble moveables. 1870 HOWSON *Metaph. St. Paul* ii. 72 The solid cities of the Greeks and Romans.

c. Of food or liquor.

a 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 27 Oct. 1685, There were all the dainties..of the season,..venison, plaine solid meate, fowle [etc.]. 1700 DRYDEN *Pref. Fables* Ess. (Ker) II. 258 Whole pyramids of sweetmeats for boys and women, but little of solid meat for men. 1711 STEELE *Spectator* No. 43 P 4 A Bottle or two of good solid Edifying Port, at honest George's, made a Night chearful, and threw off Reserve. 1822–7 GOOD *Study Med.* (1829) I. 210 One substantial meal of solid animal food daily.

d. Of cloth, garments, etc.

1859 *Habits of Gd. Society* iv. 177 For the country, the attire should be tasteful and solid and strong. 1903 *Sat. Rev.* 5 Dec. 697/2 Solid unbleached calico..wears well.

8. a. Combined; consolidated; united. *rare.*

1596 BACON *Max. & Use Com. Lavv* xxiv. (1630) 94 So if tenant for life the remainder in fee bee, and they ioine in graunting a rent, this is one solid rent out of both their estates. 1818 HALLAM *Mid. Ages* (1872) I. 204 The other acquired unlimited power over a solid kingdom.

b. Unanimous, undivided; united in approval or opposition. Orig. *U.S.*

1884 *Boston* (Mass.) *Jrnl.* 16 Aug., The vote of the solid South. 1890 HENTY *With Lee in Virginia* 84 The North can never hope to force the solid South back into the Union. 1892 *Boston* (Mass.) *Jrnl.* 8 Nov. 4/4 A solid New England vote for protection.

c. Of persons: Regular or steady in attendance, politics, voting, etc. Chiefly *U.S.*

1883 KEIGHLEY *Who are you* 90, I escorted her to Sunday School excursions, and was 'solid' at the picnics and bazaars. 1884 *American* IX. 180 He is, therefore, presumed to be solid as a Southern man. 1888 HOWELLS *Annie Kilburn* xviii, I'm solid for Mr. Peck every time.

d. *U.S.* Intimately or closely allied, on friendly terms, *with* another.

1888 *Cent. Mag.* Nov. 30 We thus succeeded in making ourselves 'solid with the administration' before we had been in a town or village forty-eight hours. 1895 *Outing* XXVI. 64, I wanted to get solid with him for a time while he lived.

9. † **a.** Of time: Continuous, consecutive. *rare.*

1662 STILLINGFL. *Orig. Sacra* I. v. § 8 The uncertainty of heathen chronology, when..implicite years are given out for solid. 1704 HEARNE *Duct. Hist.* (1714) I. 284 They took implicit Years for solid, and placed those Kings in a Succession which were Contemporary with one another.

b. Of a day, hour, etc.: Whole, entire, complete. Now *colloq.*

1718 PRIOR *Solomon* II. 729 Loose and undisciplin'd the Soldier lay; Or lost in Drink, and Game, the solid Day. 1884 *Boston* (Mass.) *Jrnl.* 16 Aug., The Queen kept her seven solid hours sitting on and trying the current fashions. 1890 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Col. Reformer* (1891) 420, I walked him up and down, with the rug on, for a solid hour.

10. Entirely of the same substance or material (as that specified); of (gold, etc.) and nothing else.

1710 STEELE *Tatler* No. 179 P 6 The Wall toward the North is of solid Stone. 1722–7 BOYER *Dict. Royal* II, Solid Gold, *de l'or massif.* 1844 THIRLWALL *Greece* VIII. 63 The assertion that the gilded statues..were of solid gold. 1847 YEOWELL *Anc. Brit. Church* x. 101 [Severus] determined to build a wall of solid stone. 1874 STUBBS *Const. Hist.* I. xi. 424 They were purchased with solid gold.

elliptical. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* IV. 308/1 What is termed 'solid', or gold jewellery of the better qualities.

b. Of colour: Of the same tone or shade throughout; uniform, self.

1883 *Evening Star* (Washington) 31 Oct. 3/6 These solid browns, blacks, greens, reds, and, in fact, all these solid colors, are popular. 1885 GOODALE *Physiol. Bot.* 19 Yellow and Orange dyes. Solid yellow. 1894 *Outing* XXIV. 181/1 The outside of the thighs down to the knees are in solid color.

c. *U.S.* Of liquor: Neat, undiluted.

1894 *Outing* XXIV. 49/1 He always took his liquor solid ..; he swallowed down two-thirds of a tumbler of raw Appleton rum.

11. Of persons, their constitution, etc.: Strong, healthy, sturdy.

1741 WATTS *Improv. Mind* I. xvi. (1801) 126 If persons of this make ever devote themselves to science, they should be well assured of a solid and strong constitution of body. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. IV. iv, He walks there, with solid step. 1893 COZENS-HARDY *Broad Norf.* 68 'Solid, bor, solid!' meaning in one's usual health.

III. 12. Of persons: **a.** Of sound scholarship or sober judgement in matters of learning or speculation.

1600 B. JONSON *Ev. Man out of Hum.* Q iij b, A right-eyd and solide Reader may perceiue it was not so great a part of the Heauen awry, as they would make it. 1624 GATAKER *Transubst.* 48 Like an ingenuous solide author. 1665 BUNYAN *Holy Citie* (1669) 259 It makes them grave, knowing, solid Guides, and Unfolders of the Mysteries of the Kingdom. 1709 STRYPE *Ann. Ref.* I. 84 This discourse of Guest shewing him to have been a solid and well-read man, I have transcribed from the original. 1847 L. HUNT *Men, Women, & B.* II. xi. 282 He has by this time become a solid student in Butler. 1875 T. HILL *True Order Stud.* 127 The two most solid thinkers upon these subjects.

b. Sober-minded, of reliable judgement, in practical matters; steady, sedate, staid.

1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* II. 71 The solid, and sad man, is not troubled with the floods and ebbes of Fortune. 1670 G. H. *Hist. Cardinals* III. iii. 302 He is an excellent person,..of a good judgement, and solid, but something too resolute. *a* 1692 FOX *Autobiogr.* in *Jrnl.* (ed. Newman) 280, I..therefore desired none but solid, weighty Friends might be about me. 1724 in Ramsay *Tea-t. Misc.* (1733) I. 36 O! as thou art bony, be solid and cany, And tent a true lover. 1760 J. WOOLMAN *Jrnl.* vii. (1898) 182 The hearts of some Solid Friends appeared to be united to discourage the practice amongst their members. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. III. i, Now nothing but a solid phlegmatic M. de Vergennes sits there. 1888 BRYCE *Amer. Commw.* III. xc. 247 Kearney throve because the solid classes despised him.

c. *Sc.* Fully possessed of the mental faculties; of sound mind, sane.

1606 *Sc. Acts, Jas. VI* (1816) IV. 317/1 Scho tuk occasioun be his infirmitie and waik Judgement, he being than nocht so solide as wes necessar for the weill of his estait. 1822 GALT *Provost* xxii, The heads of the town..no, may be, just so solid at the time as could have been wished. 1825 JAMIESON *Suppl., Solid*, sane..; used in a negative form, as, 'He's no very solid'.

d. *U.S.* and *dial.* Financially sound or reliable; possessing capital, property, or means; well-to-do.

1788 JEFFERSON *Writ* (1859) II. 443, I wish to see the beef-trade with America taken up by solid hands. 1799, 1863 in Thornton *Amer. Gloss.* *a* 1904 in *Eng. Dial. Dict.* s.v., She's not poor, she's a solid woman.

13. Of qualities: Well founded or established; of real value or importance; substantial.

Freq. in the 17th and 18th centuries.

a 1601 *Pasquil & Kath.* (1878) III. 99 The pressure of my haires..stands at the seruice of your sollide perfections. 1638 JUNIUS *Paint. Ancients* 122 The..solid joy conceived out of the absoluteneese of the worke. 1654 WHITLOCK *Zootomia* 234 We shall see it a Mint of Solid worth, the good it hath..being inestimable. 1709 STEELE *Tatler* No. 29 P 1 Having a very solid Respect for humane Nature. 1753 FIELDING *Amelia* III. xii, The cheerful, solid comfort which a fond couple enjoy in each other's conversation. 1843 R. J. GRAVES *Syst. Clin. Med.* xxii. 265 Many such portions may exist in the lungs together, without the least solid appearance of inflammation in the pulmonary substance. 1869 FREEMAN *Norm. Cong.* (1875) III. 229 He undoubtedly owed William a debt of solid gratitude.

b. Of learning or knowledge.

1668 CULPEPPER & COLE *Barthol. Anat.* 372 Those persons of solid Learning. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 6 Jan. 1692, He dilated on his..solid knowledge in theology. 1711 HEARNE *Collect.* (O.H.S.) III. 145 These two..are really Books of solid Learning. 1781 WARTON *Hist. Eng. Poetry* III. xxx. 211 She was entertained..with splendid banquets and much solid erudition. 1857 MILLER *Elem. Chem., Org.* i. § 1. 6 So essential to the reception and advancement of solid philosophical knowledge. 1882 J. H. BLUNT *Ref. Ch. Eng.* II. 125 He was a man of solid learning.

14. Of arguments, reasons, etc.: Having a sound or substantial foundation; based upon sound principles or indisputable facts.

1615 W. BEDWELL tr. *Moham. Impost.* II. § 87 He..will thus go on by way of solid demonstration. *a* 1661 FULLER *Worthies* (1840) III. 25 Having an excellent faculty in the clear and solid interpreting thereof. 1664 J. WEBB *Stone-Heng* (1725) 101 He can raise no solider an Argument against it. 1740 CHEYNE *Regimen* 305 There seems to be something solid, in one Observation Leibnitz makes. 1866 ROGERS *Agric. & Prices* I. xxiii. 603 Too little information ..is given of the price of copper .. for the purpose of attempting any solid inference as to the rise..in its value. 1894 *Solicitors' Jrnl.* XXXIX. 3/1 If there were no solid defence to the claim, the plaintiff would certainly obtain his order.

b. Similarly of writings, discourse, etc.

1676 GLANVILL *Ess. Philos.* v. 27 The Book and Method of Veronius was kindly .. approved by .. all the Gallick Clergy, as solid. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* (Chandos) 17 Of solid discourse, affable, humble, and in nothing affected. 1709 STRYPE *Ann. Ref.* I. Pref. p. i, For the Church of England..have been written solid Apologies and Vindications. 1734 *Rollin's Anc. Hist.* (1827) I. 60 A very solid treatise. 1881 *Nation* (N.Y.) XXXII. 459 Of the other papers in the number, which is a 'solid' one.

15. Marked by, or involving, serious study or intention; not light, frivolous, or merely amusing.

1647 CLARENDON *Hist. Reb.* I. § 186 Dr. Bancroft..disposed the clergy to a more solid course of study. 1648 J. BEAUMONT *Psyche* xx. cxl, Scorn light fond Accents, and reserve thine Ear For those which solid Musick's sweets distil. 1700 T. BROWN tr. *Fresny's Amusem.* v. Wks. 1709 III. i. 46 There's as much difference between their Rhimes and solid Verse, as [etc.]. 1736 *Gentl. Mag.* VI. 315/1 The most amiable Genius is That, which, embracing the most solid Arts, excludes not the Polite ones. 1827 SCOTT *Surg. Dau.* Pref., I doubt there is little solid in his studies—poetry and plays,..all nonsense. 1845 W. A. BUTLER in *Serm.* (1849) Mem. p. xxxvii, Romances debauch the taste for solid reading. 1888 BRYCE *Amer. Commw.* III. lxxx. 59 In other countries statesmen or philosophers do..the solid thinking for the bulk of the people.

16. Of judgement, etc.: Of a sober, sound, or practical character.

1662 J. DAVIES tr. *Mandelslo's Trav.* 95 The Queen, who was a woman of a solid judgement. 1683 D. A. *Art of Converse* 12 They shall never please solid judgments. 1718 POPE *Iliad* XV. 322 Not more in councils famed for solid sense, Than winning words and heavenly eloquence. 1805 A. KNOX *Rem.* (1834) I. 31 He who is apparently cold in affection may have solider judgment, and steadier resolution. 1825 SCOTT *Betrothed* Introd., The assistance of men of reading and of solid parts. 1868 MILMAN *St. Paul's* iv. 92 Hallam has said, with his usual solid wisdom [etc.].

17. Marked or characterized by a high degree of religious fervour or seriousness.

Used esp. by the Society of Friends.

1740 WHITEFIELD in *Life & Jrnls.* (1756) 436 Preached in the Afternoon to about two Thousand, and have not seen a more solid melting..since my Arrival. 1757 WOOLMAN *Jrnl.* iv. (1898) 123 At the twelfth hour the meeting for worship began, which was a solid meeting. 1769 *Ibid.* x. 259 We had some solid Conversation, under which I felt myself bowed in reverence before the Most High.

18. Thorough, downright, vigorous, etc. Used with intensive force and freq. strengthened by *good, right*, etc.

1830 GALT *Lawrie T.* III. ii. (1849) 87, I never..had a right solid sound sleep in one. 1873 BURTON *Hist. Scot.* V. lvi. 119 England was to strike the one solid blow that was necessary. 1888 STEVENSON *Black Arrow* 112 Swear your innocency with a good solid oath. 1897 MARY KINGSLEY *W. Africa* 294 Feeling sure that for good solid murderous rascality several of my old Fan acquaintances..would take a lot of beating.

IV. 19. Quasi-*adv.* **a.** Solidly, firmly, completely, etc.

A number of dial. uses are given in the *Eng. Dial. Dict.*

1651 DAVENANT *Gondibert* II. vi, Glory, too solid great to taste of pride. 1683 MOXON *Mech. Exerc., Printing* xxiv. P 19 White Pages..make the Heap lower in that place, because they clap solider together.

b. In a body or as a whole; unanimously. In phrases with reference to voting, esp. *to go solid* (*for* or *against* some thing or person).

Freq. in recent journalistic use.

(*a*) 1884 *Pall Mall G.* 9 July 3/1 The episcopal vote..was cast solid for the Government. 1884 *Sat. Rev.* 5 July 1/1 The Government majority has not been in the habit of voting solid with Mr. Goschen lately. 1893 *Times* 22 Apr., For a party to vote solid for a measure in which not 10 per cent. of its members believe.

(*b*) 1888 BRYCE *Amer. Commw.* I. x. 131 The party going solid for whomsoever the majority has approved. 1891 *Sat. Rev.* 24 Jan. 91/2 The fleet seems to have gone almost solid against him.

20. In special collocations:

Solid balsam, Balsam of Tolu. *Solid dig, key, rib, shoot, shot* (see quots). See also BASTION 1, NEWEL 1, SQUARE *sb.*

1836 *Pharm. R. Coll. Physicians* 5 Tolu Balsam, the *solid Balsam. 1888 JACOBI *Printers' Vocab.* 128 **Solid dig*, a lean or bad 'take' of copy. 1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib., Brit.* II. No. 6105, The key is what is called '*solid', that is, that the 'bits' or 'steps' are cut on the solid metal of the 'web'. 1782 MONRO *Compar. Anat.* (ed. 3) 167 The eight upper ribs were formerly classed into pairs, with particular names to each two, to wit, the crooked, the *solid [etc.]. 1842 GWILT *Archit.* Gloss. 1033 **Solid Shoot* [=*Square Shoot*, a wooden trough for discharging water from a building]. 1876 VOYLE & STEVENSON *Milit. Dict.* 393/2 **Solid Shot*, projectiles made of solid iron or steel.

21. *Comb.* **a.** Forming parasynthetic adjs., as *solid-billed, -browed, -coloured, -headed*, etc.

c 1611 CHAPMAN *Iliad* VIII. 323 When to the solid-ported depths of hell his sonne was sent. 1854 *Orr's Circle Sci., Org. Nat.* I. 239 The ruminants of the deer and elk tribes are those which have antlers, or are 'solid-horned'. 1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib., Brit.* II. No. 6112, Solid-headed pins. 1876 GEO. ELIOT *Dan. Der.* I. i. 13 A gentleman—solid-browed, stiff and German. 1890 *Cent. Mag.* May 50/1 The White and Black Leghorns are solid-colored birds. 1895 LYDEKKER *Roy. Nat. Hist.* IV. 68 The beak of the solid-billed hornbill (*Rhinoplax vigil*) has..a perfectly solid casque.

b. With pples., as *solid-looking, -seeming, -set.* Also *solid-full* adj.

1831 CARLYLE *Sart. Res.* I. viii, This so solid-seeming World. 1850 TENNYSON *In Mem.* Concl. iv, Like a statue solid-set, And moulded in colossal calm. 1877 E. R. CONDER *Basis of Faith* ii. 81 The solid-seeming rock is beheld as a flexible..collection of molecules. 1883 HUXLEY *Pract. Biol.* 23 A roundish more solid-looking particle. 1887 GOODE, etc. *Fisheries U.S.* V. II. 579 They hove their dredges, ..and when they hauled them in, found them solid-full of scallops.

c. With sbs., forming attributive compounds, as *solid-colour, -ink, -silver*, etc.

1883 *Stationer & Bookseller* 8 May 35 Solid-ink Fountain Pens. 1884 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* Suppl., *Solid Plate Saw*, a circular saw made of a single plate, as distinguished from a segment saw. 1891 *Cent. Dict.*, Solid-color porcelains. 1897 *Outing* XXX. 350/1 The club won a handsome solid-silver cup at Long Branch.

Solidago (sɒlidē·gō). [med.L. (but with different application: see the note to CONSOUDE).] **a.** A large genus of perennial plants of the N. O. *Compositæ*, the N. American species of which are especially numerous; golden-rod. **b.** A plant of this genus, esp. *S. virgaurea*, a European and British species, formerly in repute for its medicinal properties, now largely cultivated as a garden flower.

1771 *Encycl. Brit.* III. 617/1. 1858 A. IRVINE *Handbk.*

Brit. Plants 524 *Solidago*, .. Golden-Rod. A numerous genus, chiefly American, agreeing in habit, foliage, and flowers with *Aster*, only the flowers of the ray are not blue, ..but yellow, and sometimes white. 1883 *Cent. Mag.* Sept. 723/2 No one would have thought of painting pictures of solidagos on plush for a portière.

† **Solidare.** *Obs.*—[1] (An irreg. formation on L. *solid-us* SOLIDUS [1]; perh. an error.)

1607 SHAKS. *Timon* III. i. 46 Thou know'st well enough.. that this is no time to lend money... Here's three Solidares for thee.

Solida·ric, *a.* [f. SOLIDAR-ITY + -IC. Cf. F. *solidaire.*] Characterized by solidarity or community of interests. So **So·lidarism,** a theory of social organization based on solidarity of interests; **So·lidarist,** a believer in, or advocate of, this.

1874 LANGE *Comm. Zephaniah* 28 The *solidaric connection of the false Gods with the kingdom of Satan. 1894 *Thinker* VI. 72 The central position of Christ in regard to humanity, and His solidaric fellowship with it as its head. 1906 E. KELLY *Progr. Working Men* II. ii. 113 The main object to be secured will be described as Solidarity; those who want to secure it as Solidarists, and the doctrine itself as *Solidarism. 1884 C. POWER *Philistia* I. i. 4 The polyglot crowd of democratic *solidarists.

So·lidarily, *adv.* [f. SOLIDARY *a.* + -LY [2].] In a solidary manner; with solidarity.

1870 *Pall Mall G.* 25 Aug. 4 It would not be well to make the French living in Germany responsible for the misdeed, but France herself ought to be made to answer solidarily for it. 1892 *Temple Bar* June 156 It belongs to us..as a community, and we are collectively and—what is the word?—solidarily responsible for its use.

Solidarity (sɒlidæ·rĭti). [ad. F. *solidarité*, f. *solidaire* solid: see SOLIDARY *a.*]

1. The fact or quality, on the part of communities, etc., of being perfectly united or at one in some respect, esp. in interests, sympathies, or aspirations.

The French origin of the word is freq. referred to during the period of its introduction into English use.

1848 *People's Press* II. 161/2 Solidarity is a word of French origin, the naturalisation of which, in this country, is desirable. 1848 GALLENGA *Italy* 429 Actuated..by a feeling of national *solidarity*—to borrow a French word—which induced all of them to run the same risk. 1856 EMERSON *Eng. Traits* v. 103 One secret of their power is their mutual good understanding...They have solidarity, or responsibleness, and trust in each other. 1877 BROCKETT *Cross & Crescent* 157 Each is responsible to the Czar, but they have no sort of solidarity.

transf. 1876 FARRAR *Marlb. Serm.* xxxii. (1877) 321 Knowing..that there is a solidarity in the virtues as in the vices. 1881 *Nature* No. 617. 397 When we thus effect a re-classification of elementary bodies, the solidarity at once breaks down.

b. Const. *of* (mankind, a race, etc.).

1852 *Fraser's Mag.* Jan. 28 We have hived up one of his phrases..—the 'solidarity of the peoples!' 1853 TRENCH *Less. Prov.* 29 The 'solidarity' (to use a word which it is in vain to strive against) of all the nations of Christendom. 1884 S. E. DAWSON *Handbk. Canada* 107 The grand idea of the solidarity of England and the English race throughout the world.

transf. 1867 M. ARNOLD *Celtic Lit.* 68 The solidarity, to use that convenient French word, of Breton and Welsh poetry. 1876 L. STEPHEN *Hist. Eng. Th. 18th C.* I. 220 Disputing the solidarity of all the writers of Targums.

c. Const. *between* or *with* (others). Also *transf.*

(*a*) 1860 MARSH *Lect. Eng. Lang.* 284 The organs of speech act and react upon each other;..there is, to use a word, which if not now English soon will be, a certain solidarity between them all. 1875 STUBBS *Const. Hist.* xvi. II. 310 There was what is called, in modern phrase, solidarity between him and his people. 1898 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* V. 67 The solidarity existing between all parts of the lung.

(*b*) 1862 GRATTAN *Beaten Paths* II. 378 Would he not have found his best policy..[in] an alliance, if not quite a solidarity, with England? 1865 E. LUCAS in Manning *Ess. Relig. & Lit.* 374 To refuse any solidarity whatever with it. 1884 *L'pool Mercury* 18 Feb. 5/2 The member for Woodstock..here repudiates all solidarity with his leaders.

2. Community or perfect coincidence *of* (or *between*) interests.

1874 LADY HERBERT tr. *Hübner's Ramble* II. ii. (1878) 518 To establish a solidarity between their commercial interests. 1876 *Contemp. Rev.* June 138 The cry was raised as to the solidarity of the Conservative interests. 1890 GROSS *Gild Merch.* I. 97 A compact body emphatically characterized by fraternal solidarity of interests.

3. *Civil Law.* A form of obligation involving joint and several responsibilities or rights.

1875 POSTE *Gaius* III. 396 Correality and Solidarity agree in this, that in both of them every creditor is severally entitled to receive the whole object of the active obligation, and every debtor is bound to discharge the whole object of the passive obligation.

So·lidarize, *v. rare.* [ad. F. *solidariser*: see prec. and -IZE.] *trans.* or *refl.* To bring to solidarity. Hence **So·lidarizing** *ppl. a.*

1886 *Pictorial World* 8 Apr. 328 An arrangement of solid facts and figures to prove the..solidarising effects of American republican institutions over those of the Britisher. 1888 *Standard* 4 Feb. 5/6 Germany has, in a measure, solidarized herself with Austria, and that solidarity has its charges.

Solidary (sɒ·lidări), *a.* [ad. F. *solidaire*: see SOLID *a.* and -ARY.]

1. *Civil Law.* Joint and several.

1818 COLEBROOKE *Obligations* xiv. 149 The solidary obligation can hardly arise, without such an express provision. 1875 POSTE *Gaius* III. 398 Election to sue the principal debtor discharges a Correal surety.., but not a Solidary surety. 1895 *Law Times* XCIX. 465/1 Anyone who has grasped the difference between a correal and a solidary obligation.

2. Characterized by or having solidarity or community of interests.

1848 *Tait's Mag.* XV. 251 Regarding as solidary, or indissolubly connected together, all the members of the great human family. 1867 VISCT. STRANGFORD *Selection* (1869) II. 64 A struggling Christian population, solidary in sentiment and interest with all other Christian populations in Turkey.

Solidate (sɒ·lideit), *sb.* Now *Hist.* [ad. med. L. *solidāta* (*terræ*), f. *solid-us* SOLIDUS [1].] A piece of land of the annual value of a solidus or shilling.

1610 FOLKINGHAM *Art Surv.* II. vii. 58 There be also other quantities of Land taking their denominations from our vsual Coine; as..Obolates, Denariates, Solidates. *Ibid.* 59 Then must the Obolat be ½ Acre, the Denariat an Acre, the Solidat 12. acres. 1845 NICOLAS *Mem. Chaucer* in *C.'s Wks.* I. 31 On the 28th of December 1375 the King granted Chaucer the custody of five 'solidates' of rent in Solys in Kent. 1882 *Proc. Berwick. Nat. Club* IX. 469 Its master held a hundred solidates of land in pure alms.

† **Solidate,** *pa. pple. Obs.* [ad. L. *solidāt-us*, pa. pple. of *solidāre*: see next.] Solid, hard.

1542 BOORDE *Dyetary* xiii. (1870) 268 So be it that the fysshe be softe and not solydat. *Ibid.*

So·lidate, *v.* Now *rare.* [f. L. *solidāt-*, ppl. stem of *solidāre* to make solid.]

1. *trans.* To make solid or firm; to consolidate. Also *fig.*

1640 C. HARVEY *Synagogue, Church-Porch* viii, Remember that humility Must solidate and keep all close together. 1650 FULLER *Pisgah* IV. iv. 69 Many being much troubled.. how so brickle matter [looking-glasses] when broken could be made usefull, and solidated for this service. 1656 COWLEY *Pindar. Odes, Muse* 67 Wks. (Grosart) II. 18 This shining Piece of Ice Which melts so soon away With the Sun's Ray, Thy Verse does solidate and crystallize. 1894 G. M. FENN *In Alpine Valley* i. 65 On either hand it [i. e. snow] had been solidated by pressure.

† **2.** = CONSOLIDATE *v.* 4. *Obs.*

1657 TOMLINSON *Renon's Disp.* 31 That..which is effectuall in solidating broken bones. 1684 tr. *Bonet's Merc. Compit.* III. 77 It can..solidate the Bones, which we daily see in other fractures.

† **Solidation.** *Obs. rare.* [ad. L. *solidātiōn-em*, f. *solidāre*: see prec. Cf. OF. *solidation.*] Consolidation, strengthening, etc.

1547 BOORDE *Introd. Knowl.* i. (1870) 121 They stande many a hondred yeares, hauyng no reparacion nor no solidacion of morter. 1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr., Solidation*, a making whole or firm, a soldering.

† **Solidatively,** *adv. Obs.*—[1] [f. OF. *solidatif, -ive* + -LY [2].] Solidly.

1541 R. COPLAND *Guydon's Quest.* D ij b, They [i. e. bones] that haue neyther one nor other ben ioyned solidatiuely.

Solid-hoofed, *a.* [f. SOLID *a.* 21 a.] Having the hoof whole or undivided; solidungulate, soliped; *spec.* as the designation of certain swine.

1842 PRICHARD *Nat. Hist. Man* 32 There are breeds of solid-hoofed swine in some parts of England. 1848 BUCKLEY *Iliad* 87 Lest the son of Tydeus should drive away thy solid-hoofed steeds. 1864 BOWEN *Logic* vii. 203 Some herbivora are solid-hoofed. *c* 1880 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* II. 343 The Solid-hoofed Pigs..show a persistent variation from the even-toed type.

So **Solid-hooved** *a.*

1910 THOMPSON *Aristotle's Hist. Anim.* II. 1 There are in Illyria and in Paeonia and elsewhere solid-hooved swine.

Solidifiable (sɒli·difəi·ăb'l), *a.* [f. SOLIDIFY *v.* + -ABLE.] That may be solidified; capable of solidification.

1858 H. SPENCER *Ess.* I. 5 A..deposition of all solidifiable elements contained in the atmosphere. 1876 GROSS *Dis. Urinary Organs* 186 The manner in which a clot of blood ..detains the solidifiable ingredients.

Solidification (sɒli·difikā·ʃən). [f. SOLIDIFY *v.* (see -ATION), or a. F. *solidification.*]

1. The action or process of solidifying or becoming solid.

1811 A. T. THOMSON *Lond. Disp.* (1818) p. xxvii, The solidification of the water when it unites with the lime. 1843 R. J. GRAVES *Syst. Clin. Med.* xx. 242 The diseased lung, whose specific gravity has been much increased by solidification. 1880 C. R. MARKHAM *Peruv. Bark* 188 In the cooling and solidification of granite the quartz is the last mineral element to crystallise and become solid.

transf. 1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) IV. 273 Force [may be conceived] as the materializing or solidification of motion.

2. Consolidation, concentration.

1891 *Cycl. Temp. & Prohib.* 574/2 There was an increasing realization of the value of solidification and discipline.

Soli·dified, *ppl. a.* [f. SOLIDIFY *v.*] Rendered solid or compact; changed from a liquid to a solid state.

1831 R. KNOX *Cloquet's Anat.* 96 A very thick and solidified cranium, in which all the holes which commonly give passage to nerves were obliterated. 1848 CARPENTER *Anim. Phys.* 28 The greater part of the animal tissues seems composed of solidified fibrin. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade, Solidified milk*, concentrated or preserved milk for use at sea. 1889 WELCH *Text Bk. Naval Archit.* i. 7 The solidified water again becomes liquid.

Soli·difier. [f. as prec.] That which solidifies; a consolidator.

1863 DANA *Man. Geol.* 52 Acting as a general cement and solidifier. 1894 DRUMMOND *Ascent of Man* 269 [War] the purifier of societies, the solidifier of states.

Soli·diform. *nonce-word.* [f. SOLID *a.*] A solid body.

1849 POE *Wks.* (1865) II. 396 He informed us all..about æriforms, fluidiforms, and solidiforms.

Solidify (sɒli·difəi), *v.* [ad. F. *solidifier*: see SOLID *a.* and -(I)FY.]

1. *trans.* To render solid; to convert into a solid body; to make firm, hard, or compact.

1799 KIRWAN *Geol. Ess.* 125 In these cases the water seems to be solidified by a loss of great part of its specific heat. 1807 T. THOMSON *Chem.* (ed. 3) II. 625 This powder..absorbs water very rapidly, and solidifies it. 1854 RONALDS & RICHARDSON *Chem. Technol.* (ed. 2) I. 148 The pressing machine for solidifying the fuel. 1871 B. STEWART *Heat* § 84 Although we cannot as yet solidify alcohol.

fig. 1858 HAWTHORNE *Fr. & It. Note-bks.* (1872) II. 223 The difficulty of retaining it in the mind and solidifying it into a description. 1866 *Cornh. Mag.* Oct. 413 He could not solidify the prejudices of the mass. 1889 'MARK TWAIN' *Yankee at Crt. K. Arth.* viii, The tower episode solidified my power.

b. *transf.* To concentrate or consolidate.

1885 *Manch. Wkly. Times* 20 June 5/5 Disraeli..sought to solidify them into a party. 1885 *Pall Mall G.* 25 Feb. 10/2 Organizing and solidifying the Liberal vote in the new constituency.

2. *intr.* To become solid; to change or pass from a liquid or gaseous to a solid state.

1837 J. T. SMITH tr. *Vicat's Mortars* 40 In the condition of very stiff paste..they..solidify more quickly. 1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* II. xxxi. 409 If..molten [bismuth]..be poured into a bullet-mould it will expand on solidifying. 1878 HUXLEY *Physiogr.* 60 Water solidifies by reduction of temperature.

Hence **Soli·difying** *vbl. sb.* and *ppl. a.*

1850 GROVE *Corr. Phys. Forces* (ed. 2) 36 The freezing or solidifying point. 1856 *Orr's Circ. Sci., Pract. Chem.* 469 Oil of poppies retards the solidifying effect.

† **Soli·diousness.** *Obs.*—[1] [f. SOLID *a.*] Solidity.

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XVI. lxviii. (1495) 575 For coldnesse and solidiousnesse therof [marble].

† **Soli·dipede.** *Obs.*—[1] [ad. L. *solidipēs, -ped-is* whole-hoofed.] = SOLIPED *sb.*

1661 LOVELL *Hist. Anim. & Min.* Isagoge a iv, Four-footed beasts..are. 1. Solidipedes, having whole hoofes.

So † **Soli·dipedous** *a. Obs.*—[1] = SOLIPEDOUS *a.*

1712 J. MORTON *Nat. Hist. Northampt.* 454 The Solipidous [*errata* Solidipedous] or Whole-Hoof'd Kind.

So·lidish, *a.* [f. SOLID *a.*] Somewhat solid.

1852 CLOUGH *Poems*, etc. (1869) I. 178 We found our way to the house he used to occupy—a solidish red-brick place.

Solidism (sɒ·lidiz'm). *Med.* [f. SOLID *sb.* + -ISM: cf. F. *solidisme.*] The doctrine or theory which refers all diseases to the state of, or to morbid changes in, the solid parts of the body.

1832 *Edin. Rev.* LV. 468 Sometimes Humorism, sometimes Solidism seems to be favoured. *a* 1862 BUCKLE *Civiliz.* (1869) III. 419 Cullen..having built up that system of pathology which is known to medical writers as Solidism.

Solidist (sɒ·lidist). *Med.* [Cf. prec. and -IST. So F. *solidiste.*] One who believes in or holds the doctrine of solidism.

1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXIII. 400/1 The doctrines of the fluidists.., of the vitalists and solidists. 1876 tr. *Wagner's Gen. Pathol.* 5 Physicians have distinguished themselves as Humoralists or Solidists.

Hence **Solidi·stic** *a.*, of or pertaining to the solidists or their theory.

1876 tr. *Wagner's Gen. Pathol.* 517 We nearly always discover that diseases of tissues and organs cause anomalies of the blood (solidistic pathology as opposed to humoralistic pathology). 1889 *Lancet* 30 Nov. 1123 The 'solidistic' notion of the all-pervading influence of the nervous system.

Solidity (sɒli·dĭti). Also 6 **solidyte,** 6–7 **soliditie.** [ad. F. *solidité* (= It. *solidità*) or L. *soliditāt-em*, f. *solidus* SOLID: see -ITY.]

1. The quality of being solid or substantial, in various figurative or transferred senses.

1532 MORE *Confut. Tindale* Wks. 720/2 The trouth of Goddes woorde..hath his solidyte, substaunce and fastnesse of and in it selfe. *a* 1610 HEALEY *Cebes* (1636) 150 The genius bids them, never give credence unto her, never to imagine any solidity in her bounties. 1647 CLARENDON *Hist. Reb.* I. § 166 No Kingdom..in the solidity..of the Laws..was more Secure than England. 1788 JEFFERSON *Writ.* (1859) II. 542 Assure me of the solidity of your recovery. 1804 GOUV. MORRIS in Sparks *Life & Writ.* (1832) III. 223 Prussia has grown up so fast that there is a want of solidity. 1866 SEELEY *Ecce Homo* iv. (ed. 8) 36 Human relations gained a solidity and permanence which they had never before seemed to have. 1871 TYNDALL *Fragm. Sci.* (1879) II. ii. 39 That unsubstantial pageant of the imagination to which the solidity of science is opposed.

b. Of persons, in respect of learning, judgement, character, etc.

1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* (1658) 495 Now I know such is the solidity of divers Readers and people, that [etc.]. *a* 1661 FULLER *Worthies* (1840) II. 14 Men resembled him to one of the ships-royal..called the Swiftsure, such his celerity and solidity in all affairs. 1695 LD. PRESTON *Boethius* IV. pr. i. (1712) 176 These..things..may put an end to thy Complaints, and strengthen thee with all Firmness and Solidity. 1723 WODROW *Corr.* (1843) III. 33 The King expressed at that time an uncommon esteem of Mr. Henderson for his learning, piety, and solidity. 1756 MRS. CALDERWOOD in *Coltness Collect.* (Maitl. Cl.) 148 One must admire them for their solidity, industry, and pains-taking in every thing. 1821 RICH *Journ. Persepolis* 12 Sept. in *Babylon & P.* (1839) 268 The Persians are unthinking, perpetually joking, and deficient in solidity. 1869 M'LAREN *Serm.* Ser. II. vii. 130 Without that armour, there will not be solidity enough in our character.

c. Of argument, demonstration, etc.

1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* I. vi. (1686) 15 Establishing their assertions with great solidity. 1667 POOLE *Dial. betw. Protest. & Papist* (1735) 70 Not for any Solidity

of Argument (that had been pedantick). 1677 OWEN *On Justific.* xii. Wks. 1851 III. 263 Such niceties have more of philosophical subtlety than theological solidity in them. 1775 JOHNSON in *Boswell* (Oxf. ed.) I. 560 That the Colonists could with no solidity argue..that they should not now be taxed. 1826 KENT *Comm.* 19 In cases where the principal jurists agree, the presumption will be very great in favor of the solidity of their maxims. 1865 PUSEY *Truth Eng. Ch.* 136 A remarkable response, objecting to the decree with much solidity and clearness.

d. Of judgement.

1727 BAILEY (vol. II), *Soundness*,..Solidity of Judgment. 1774 REID *Aristotle's Logic* ii. § 2. 28 In proportion to the solidity and accuracy of a man's judgment. 1796 MORSE *Amer. Geogr.* I. 23 Good sense, perspicuity, accuracy, and solidity of judgment. 1882 HINSDALE *Garfield & Educ.* I. 116 Close observation, high analytical..ability, solidity of judgment.

2. The quality or condition of being materially solid; compactness and firmness of texture, structure, etc. Also *fig.*

1603 HOLLAND *Plutarch's Mor.* 1302 A land altogether barren and unfruitfull, by reason of hardnesse and stiffe soliditie. 1615 G. SANDYS *Trav.* 238 Tunnie;..in taste something resembling flesh, as in colour and soliditie. 1663 S. PATRICK *Parab. Pilgr.* (1687) 381 We may discern between hardness and softness, a middle temperament, which is called solidity and firmness. 1704 NORRIS *Ideal World* II. i. 46 Solidity, according to the vulgar and popular sense of it, wherein it is used for hardness. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) VI. 213 They have the solidity of the hardest bone. 1841 T. R. JONES *Anim. Kingd.* 446 A fibro-cartilaginous substance..fills the interior of each mandible, and thus gives it sufficient solidity for all required purposes. 1842 LOVER *Handy Andy* ix, When they came to take the hay-stack to pieces, the solidity of its centre rather astonished them.

b. Of buildings, edifices, etc.

1662 GERBIER *Principles* Title-p., The three chief Principles of Magnificent Building, *viz.* Solidity, Conveniency, and Ornament. 1790 BURKE *Fr. Rev.* 72 They load the edifice of society, by setting up in the air what the solidity of the structure requires to be on the ground. 1833 RITCHIE *Wand. Loire* 25 The château..strikes the spectator by its solidity and magnificence. 1867 EMERSON *Lett. & Soc. Aims* Wks. (Bohn) III. 227 Our..architecture [is] tent-like, when compared with the monumental solidity of mediæval.. remains in Europe and Asia.

3. a. *Geom.* The amount of space occupied by a solid body; volume, cubic or solid content.

1570 DEE *Math. Pref.* a iij b, To vnderstand the Soliditie, and content of any bodily thing. 1642 H. MORE *Song of Soul* II. i. ii. 42 [The soul] finds out Phæbus vast soliditie By his diametre. 1674 JEAKE *Arith.* (1696) 524 If a Right Cylinder have the Diameter 14, and the Height..as much; then shall the Area of each Base be 154,..and the Solidity 2156. 1743 EMERSON *Fluxions* 127 To find a Cone of the greatest Solidity under a given convex Surface and Base *b*. 1825 J. NICHOLSON *Operat. Mechanic* 551 Find the solidity of the trench in cubic feet, and divide it by 27. 1834–47 J. S. MACAULAY *Field Fortif.* (1851) 304 The solidity of the frustrum will be equal to the solidity of the whole cone.

b. Relative density or mass.

1698 KEILL *Exam. Th. Earth* (1734) 33 The surfaces of bodies not increasing in the same proportion with their solidities or weights. 1718 QUINCY *Compl. Disp.* 2 Attraction in all Bodies is *cæteris paribus* as their Solidities. 1740 CHEYNE *Regimen* 2 It is probable, that animated Bodies act according to their Solidities.

4. a. The property of occupying a certain amount of space.

1690 LOCKE *Hum. Und.* II. iv. (1695) 52 That which thus hinders the approach of two Bodies, when they are moving one towards another, I call Solidity. 1777 PRIESTLEY *Phil. Necess.* 177 A substance that has no properties besides extension and solidity. 1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* I. 270 The solidity of matter..expresses that property which every body possesses of not permitting any other body to occupy the same place with it at the same time. 1884 tr. *Lotze's Metaph.* 304 He mentions Lambert's account of Solidity as a necessary property of all material existence.

b. Extension in the three dimensions of space.

1855 BAIN *Senses & Int.* II. ii. § 5 It is this dissimilarity of the pictures that is the chief optical sign of solidity or of three dimensions. 1886 SULLY *Handbk. Psychol.* viii. 140 That the eye has little knowledge of solidity.

5. A solid thing or body. Also *fig.*

1602 SHAKS. *Ham.* III. iv. 49 Heauens face doth glow, Yea this solidity and compound masse..Is thorough-sicke. 1665 *Surv. Affaires of Netherlands* 195 Their Apparel was plain, and their Ambition onely upon Realities and Solidities. 1728 R. MORRIS *Ess. Anc. Archit.* 43 It has a greater Force to sustain the Solidity it supports. 1771 LUCKOMBE *Hist. Print.* 324 By convenience is meant a firm solidity to place the end of the Braces against. 1844 HOOD *The Turtles* 36 Fruits, victual, drink, solidities, or slops. 1866 GEO. ELIOT *F. Holt* ix, A man..owed a great deal more to himself as the mainstay of all those solidities, than to feelings..quite unsubstantial.

6. = SOLIDARITY 3.

1706 tr. *Dupin's Eccl. Hist. 16th C.* II. IV. ix. 431 *note*, Solidity in the French Law is a joint Obligation entred into by several Creditors, by which every one of the Obligees binds himself to pay what they all owe in Common, upon the default of the rest. 1818 COLEBROOKE *Obligations* xiv. 149 This solidity in respect of creditors is very rare: it is not to be confounded with indivisibility of obligation. *Ibid.*, The effects of solidity towards creditors, when it does occur, are as follow. Each of the creditors, being so for the whole, may consequently demand the whole [etc.].

Solidly (sɒ·lidli), *adv.* [f. SOLID *a.* + -LY 2.] In a solid manner.

1. So as to be fixed or firm; firmly, securely.

c 1611 CHAPMAN *Iliad* XIV. *comm.*, Hector..standing it so solidly; for without that consideration, the stone could neuer haue recoild so fiercely. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 20 Nov. 1644, The stone is..now cracked in many places, but solidly joyn'd. 1868 MORRIS *Earthly Par.* (1870) I. 1. 279 Who on the altar fixed it [an image] solidly Against the beating of the winds and waves. 1889 *Anthony's Photogr. Bulletin* II. 403 The hyposulphite of soda is held pretty solidly by the gelatine.

Comb. 1861 FLOR. NIGHTINGALE *Nursing* (ed. 2) 42 In the solidly built old houses.

b. *transf.* or *fig.* (esp. with *found, establish*).

1637–50 ROW *Hist. Kirk* (Wodrow Soc.) 332 Learned men finding Paræus's doctrine to be solidlie founded upon the trueth of God. 1673 S. C. *Art of Complaisance* vi. 54 This vertue..upon which all the commerce of this life might be very solidly establish'd. *a* 1797 WALPOLE *Mem. Geo. II* (1847) I. i. 3 His brother's jealousy was solidly grounded. 1813 SIR R. WILSON *Priv. Diary* (1862) II. 445 Now Switzerland can be solidly linked in the connection of independent nations. 1884 *Kendal Mercury & Times* 31 Oct. 4/7 All this..will serve only to weld the followers of Mr. Gladstone more solidly together.

2. With solid or valid arguments or reasons; on solid or good grounds.

Freq. in the 17th cent.

1625–8 tr. *Camden's Hist. Elizabeth* III. (1688) 289 Their Books were..solidly confuted by Learned men. 1651 BAXTER *Inf. Bapt.* 275 Determining it..most solidly and excellently. 1693 EVELYN *De la Quint. Compl. Gard.* II. 86 The Tast is the only and real Judge to whom it belongs to Judge Solidly, and without appeal, as well of the Maturity, as of the Goodness. 1720 WATERLAND *Eight Serm.* 275 This appears to be only a groundless surmise, as is largely and solidly proved by..Bp. Bull. 1756 BURKE *Subl. & B.* I. xvi, Aristotle has spoken so much and so solidly upon the force of imitation. 1853 M. KELLY tr. *Gosselin's Power Pope during Mid. Ages* II. 167 *note*, Muratori proves solidly..the antiquity of these copies. 1878 E. WHITE *Life in Christ* II. xiii. 151 [This] may be solidly inferred from the following premisses.

3. In a real as opposed to a superficial or apparent manner; really, thoroughly, truly.

1625 HART *Arraignm. Ur.* I. ii. 16 Hippocrates.., not superficially, but solidly learned. 1640 LD. DIGBY *Sp. conc. Trienn. Parl.* (1641) 12 Neither the people can be prosperous and secure, nor the King himselfe solidly happy. 1667 in *Cath. Rec. Soc. Publ.* III. 66 This most sweet childe was solidly vertuous. 1747 CHESTERF. *Lett.* (1792) I. cxix. 323, I..sacrificed a thousand real pleasures to it; and made myself solidly uneasy by it. 1823 JEFFERSON *Writ.* (1830) IV. 367 In this alliance, Louis, now avowedly, and George, secretly but solidly, were of the contracting parties. 1879 H. JAMES *Hawthorne* 32 Hawthorne's countrymen are solidly proud of him.

4. Seriously, solemnly; earnestly.

1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* X. 475 The two Iesuits..solidly protested, they were sorry from their heart. 1656 EARL MONM. tr. *Boccalini's Advts. fr. Parnass.* I. lxv. (1674) 83 He heard the Ottoman Emperor speak so solidly of the care which Princes ought to have. 1676 O. HEYWOOD *Diaries* (1883) III. 147 John Butterworth prayed solidly and tenderly. 1788 in T. W. Marsh *Friends in Surrey & Sussex* (1886) vi. 46 [The Friends having] solidly considered the same, are of opinion [etc.]. 1791 BOSWELL *Johnson* (Oxf. ed.) I. 48 He told me what he read *solidly* at Oxford was Greek.

5. In a quiet, sedate, or serious way or manner.

1799 in T. W. Marsh *Friends in Surrey & Sussex* (1886) ii. 18 After sitting solidly awhile he stood up and said [etc.]. 1865 *Daily Telegr.* 8 Nov. 4/4 The old complaints were inflammatory; folks lived slowly and solidly.

6. In a body; unanimously. Orig. *U.S.*

1865 BRIGHT in *Morn. Star* 14 Mar., I was told by a citizen of New York..that in the United States alone 100,000 Irish votes were given, as he expressed, solidly—that is in one mass—for General M'Clellan. 1868 GRANT DUFF *Pol. Surv.* 133 They [Congress] will vote solidly for repudiation in any form. 1886 *Manch. Exam.* 26 Feb. 5/5 The Roman Catholic and Nationalist elements..being solidly Tory.

So·lidness. [f. SOLID *a.*] The quality of being solid, in *lit.* and *fig.* senses; solidity.

(*a*) 1600 SURFLET *Countrie Farme* III. lxviii. 591 Grosse peeces [of gold] in respect of their solidnes consume but a verie little. 1620 I. JONES *Stone-Heng* (1725) 50 The Plainness and Solidness of the Tuscan Order. 1650 VENNER *Via Recta* 154 Peare-Wardens, in regard of the solidnesse of their substance, may be longest kept. 1730 BAILEY (fol.), *Substantiality*,..Solidness, Firmness. 1838 DICKENS *Nickleby* XXXIV, 'Here's flesh' cried Squeers, turning the boy about. ..'Here's firmness, here's solidness!'

(*b*) 1630 H. LORD *Banians* 95 To settle us in the solidnesse of our owne faith. 1668 H. MORE *Div. Dial.* II. vi. (1713) 108 The fulness and Solidness of the Cause we contend for. 1681 MANTON *Wks.* (1872) VIII. 23 When they excel you..for solidness and settledness in manners.

Solidu·ngular, *a. rare*⁻¹. = next.

1819 W. LAWRENCE *Nat. Hist. Man* II. i. 250 The great troop of solidungular quadrupeds.

Solidungulate (sɒlidʌ·ŋgiŭlĕt), *a.* and *sb.* [f. L. *solid-us* SOLID *a.* + *ungulātus*, f. *ungula* hoof. So F. *solidongulé*.] = SOLIPED *a.* and *sb.*

1839–47 *Todd's Cycl. Anat.* III. 237/1 The..solidungulate quadrupeds, as the Horse and Ass. 1842 BRANDE *Dict. Sci.*, etc. 1130/1 *Solidungulates*,..the name of a tribe of Mammals [etc.]. 1863 DANA *Man. Geol.* 529 Of the Solidungulate or Horse family. 1879 tr. *De Quatrefages' Hum. Spec.* 53 Instead of being cloven-footed,..the race becomes solidungulate.

transf. 1863 R. F. BURTON *Abeokuta* II. 120 They had been provided with ammunition-boots, but, not having become by habit solidungulate, they could not use them without risking broken legs.

Solidungulous (sɒlidʌ·ŋgiŭləs), *a.* [See prec. and -OUS.] = SOLIPED *a.*

1650 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* (ed. 2) 88 It is plainly set down by Aristotle, an Horse and all Solidungulous or whole hoofd animals have no gall. 1681 GREW *Musæum* I. II. ii. 33 The Hoof of a Solidungulous Animal. 1712 J. MORTON *Nat. Hist. Northampt.* 444 The Solidungulous, or whole-Hoofed, the Soles of whose Feet are undivided. 1828 STARK *Elem. Nat. Hist.* I. 139 There is a solidungulous variety [of pig], but in which traces of the hoofs may be observed. 1856 R. KNOX tr. *Edwards' Man. Zool.* § 397 In the solidungulous animals, the same happens with the fibula and tibia. 1902 *N. & Q.* Ser. IX. IX. 230/1 The cloven hoof may become solidungulous like that of the horse.

‖ Solidus[1] (sɒ·lidŏs). Pl. **solidi** (sɒ·lidəi); also 5–7 **solidos.** [L., a substantival use of *solidus* (sc. *nummus*) SOLID *a.* The form *solidos* is the L. acc. pl.]

1. a. A gold coin of the Roman empire, originally worth about 25 denarii. **† b.** A shilling.

1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) II. 313 Gentil men hadè rynges, and obere hadde solidy þat were hole and sownde. 1432–50 tr. *Higden* (Rolls) VII. 301 Kynge William toke this yere of every hyde of grownde in Ynglonde vj. solidos of silver. 1487 in *Paston Lett.* III. App. 463, I bequeith to the reparacion of the stepull of the said churche of Saint Albane xx. solidos. 1609 BIBLE (Douay) 1 *Chron.* xxix. 7 And they gaue..of gold, fiue thousand talentes, and ten thousand solidos. 1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), *Solidus*, an entire or whole piece of Gold-Coin, near the Value of our old Noble or Spur-Royal; but it is now taken for a Shilling. 1860 C. R. SMITH in *Archæol. Cant.* III. 38 The solidi of the Eastern Empire were commonly imitated in France under the Merovingian princes. 1885 *Athenæum* 24 Oct. 541/2 Mr. Webster exhibited..a gold solidus of Constantius.

2. A sloping line used to separate shillings from pence, as 12/6; a shilling-mark. Also *attrib.*

1891 in *Cent. Dict.* 1898 G. CHRYSTAL *Introd. Algebra* i. (1902) 3 The symbols / (solidus notation) and : (ratio notation) are equivalent to ÷. 1905 F. H. COLLINS *Author & Printer* s.v. 1909 *Athenæum* 27 Mar. 379/1 The last.. have been quick to adopt the use of the solidus or slanting line instead of the horizontal bar in writing fractions.

‖ So·lidus[2]. [L. *solidus* SOLID *a.*] A curve showing the temperatures at which a series of alloys are completely solid.

1903 *Proc. Royal Soc.* 16 June 284 As indicated by the liquidus and solidus curves approximating closely to one another. 1904 WHETHAM *Rec. Devel. Phys. Sci.* iii. 94 Below the curve *a d b*, or 'solidus', the alloy is entirely solid. *Ibid.* 97 Equilibrium curves lying below the solidus.

† Solie. *Obs.* Also **soly.** [ad. L. *solium.*] A seat, throne.

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 1171 He sete on Salamones solie, on solemne wyse. *Ibid.* 1678 Fro þe soly of his solempnete, his solace he leues.

Solie, obs. form of SOLELY *adv.*

† Solier. *Obs.* Also **solyer.** [a. OF. *solier*, = AF. *soler* SOLLAR *sb.*[1]] An upper room.

1483 CAXTON *Gold. Leg.* 28/1 In the solier where y^e soupper of Jhesu cryst and of his appostles was made. 1491 — *Vitas Patr.* (W. de W. 1495) I. xlvii. 87 b/2 She wente uppe in to a Solyer wyth her syster Julyan.

† Soli·fic, *a. Obs.*⁻¹ [ad. L. type **sōlific-us*, f. *sōl* sun: see -FIC.] Impregnated by the sun. So **† Soli·ficous** *a.* Also **† Soli·ficate** *v.*, **So·lify** *v.*, *trans.* to expose to the sun, to impregnate with solar qualities.

1559 MORWYNG *Evonym.* 98 To be solificate or made golden, is when we procure the vertue of the sunne; that is golde to be in it. *Ibid.* 99 You shall put it into the quintessence of wine, and set it forth to be solified and sonned in the spring. 1650 ASHMOLE *Chym. Collect.* 119 Let the powder be most subtile with two parts of Solificous Water. 1678 R. RUSSELL tr. *Geber* III. II. ii. xvi. 207 And convert it..into true Solifick and Lunifick, according to that for which the Medicine was prepared.

Solifidian (sōulifi·diăn), *sb.* and *a. Theol.* Also 7 **solyfidian, solifidean.** [f. L. *sōli-*, combining form of *sōl-us* alone + *fidēs* faith.]

A. *sb.* One who holds that faith alone, without works, is sufficient for justification.

The doctrine is based on Rom. iii. 28, where Luther rendered πίστει by 'allein durch den Glauben'.

1596 BELL *Surv. Popery* III. ix. 394 Good works, which you and your solifidians cannot abide. 1638 CHILLINGW. *Relig. Prot.* I. vii. § 33. 406, I never knew any Protestant such a soli-fidian, but that he did believe these divine truths. 1660 H. MORE *Myst. Godl.* To Rdr. 25 That all of the Reformed Churches are not Solifidians. 1742–3 *Observ. Methodists* 3 Very Civil indeed, O ye Solifidians. 1812–29 COLERIDGE in *Lit. Rem.* (1838) III. 122 The heroic Solifidian, Martin Luther himself. 1882 FARRAR *Early Chr.* II. 53 The Solifidian—the believer in the possibility of an abstract faith which can show no works as an evidence of its existence.

B. *adj.* **1.** Consisting of, pertaining to, the doctrine of justification by faith alone.

1605 A. WOTTON *Answ. late Popish Articles* 108 The which solifidian portion ouerthroweth flatly true repentance. 1670 C. GATAKER *Harmony Truth* 63 Who..have by Tongue and by Pen asserted the Solifidian and Fiduciary way of Justification. 1716 M. DAVIES *Athen. Brit.* II. 220 The same execrable Hypothesis..took in also the Solifidian Adiophorism of all Actions, good or bad. *a* 1773 ALBAN BUTLER *Moveable Feasts & F.* (1852) II. 223 He attacked the Solifidian and Antinomian doctrines. 1884 *Sat. Rev.* 3 Mar. 579 More seeking is needed to discover that theory within the sacred records than the solifidian one.

2. Of persons, etc.: Accepting or maintaining this doctrine.

1628 FELTHAM *Resolves* II. xlvii. (1677) 253 A Solifidean-Christian is a Nullifidean-Pagan, and confutes his tongue with his hand. 1871 J. MARTINEAU *Ess. & Addr.* (1891) IV. 152 We cannot join a Solifidian church.

Solifidianism. [f. prec. + -ISM.] The doctrine or tenet of justification by faith alone.

1628 Bp. Hall *Righteous Mammon* 728 To the conuiction of that lewd slander of solifidianisme. 1691–8 Norris *Pract. Disc.* (1711) III. 87 The absurd conceits of Antinomianism and Solifidianism. 1772 J. Fletcher *Logica Genev.* 31 So far is our Church from siding with Antinomian solifidianism,..that she rather leans to the other extreme. 1820 Southey *Wesley* II. 365 It is a course which enthusiasm naturally takes, wherever..solifidianism is preached. 1871 J. Martineau *Ess. & Addr.* (1891) IV. 149 Sacerdotalism and Solifidianism gaining nothing by their internecine war.

Soliform (sōu·lifɒm), *a.* [ad. L. type **sōliformis* (f. *sōl* sun), after Gr. ἡλοειδής.] Resembling the sun; sun-like. Also *absol.*

1678 Cudworth *Intell. Syst.* 204 Light, and Sight or the Seeing Faculty, may both of them rightly be said to be Soliform things, or of Kin to the Sun. 1806 Knox & Jebb *Corresp.* I. 301 Eye never yet beheld the sun, that was not soliform. 1898 G. Meredith *Odes Fr. Hist.* 22 That Soliform [*sc.* Napoleon] made featureless beside His brilliancy who neighboured.

† **Solifuge.** *Obs.*—° [ad. L. *solifūga*, var. of *sol(i)pūga* : see Solpuga.] (See quot.)

1658 Phillips, *Solifuge*, a certain venemous animal, found chiefly in the Silver Mines of Sardinia.

Solify, *v.* : see Solific *a.*

† **Soligene,** *a. Obs.*—° [ad. L. *sōligena*, f. *sōl* sun.] (See quot.) Also † **Soligenian** *a.*, † **Soligenous** *a.* (see quots.). *Obs.*

1623 Cockeram I, *Soligene*, begotten of the Sunne. 1634 Sir T. Herbert *Trav.* (1638) 305 Their yeare is Soli-genian. 1730 Bailey (fol.), *Soligenous*, begotten of the Sun.

Soligeniture. *rare*—1. [f. L. *sōli-*, combining form of *sōlus* alone.] = Unigeniture.

1818 G. S. Faber *Horæ Mosaicæ* I. 178 His only Son, who, from his Soligeniture, was in the Punic dialect called Jehud.

Soli-ipsism. *nonce-wd.* [f. L. *sōlī ipsī* (our-) selves alone. Cf. Solipsism.] Self-conceit.

1826 C. Butler *Vind. of Bk. Rom. Cath. Ch.* 80 All foreigners observe that England possesses her due share of soli-ipsism.

Soliloqua·cious, *a.* [f. Soliloquy *sb.*, after *loquacious.*] Prone to soliloquize.

1835 Moore *Mem.* (1856) VII. 70 My companion, according to his usual fashion, very soliloquacious, but saying much, of course, that was interesting to hear.

So·liloque. *rare.* [a. F. *soliloque* or ad. L. *soliloquium.*] = Soliloquy *sb.*

1697 Burghope *Disc. Relig. Assemb.* 157 Let the devout receiver turn the doctrine of this sacrament into practical soliloques, and spiritual exercises of the mind. 1710 'J. Distaff' *Char. Don Sacheverellio* 9 There is an absolute necessity that he should drop into the following Soliloque. 1864 Webster, *Soliloque*, that which is said in soliloquy; soliloquy.

Soli·loquent, *a. rare.* [f. Soliloquy *sb.*, after forms in *-loquent.*] Speaking in soliloquy. Also **Solilo·quial** *a.*, of the nature of soliloquy.

1836 *Fraser's Mag.* XIII. 346 They are so wrapped in their own soliloquial musings. 1892 *Fun* 14 Sept. 109/1 A tendency to be soliloquent.

Soliloquist (sŏli·lŏkwist). [f. Soliloquize *v.*: see -ist.] One who soliloquizes or talks to himself; a writer of soliloquies.

1804 *Miniature* (1806) I. 114, I sallied forth..to make my first appearance among this new species of Soliloquists. 1853 *Athenæum* 15 Oct. 1216 As an essayist and soliloquist, ..we find the Jew exceedingly prosy. 1890 Bowden tr. *Hettinger's Nat. Relig.* 285 *note*, We regard a soliloquist as slightly crazed.

‖ **Solilo·quium.** *Obs.* Also 6 *pl.* **soliloquyas.** [L.] = Soliloquy *sb.*

c 1597 Harington in *Nugæ Ant.* (1804) I. 189 Some of the elloquent and excellent soliloquyas of St. Awgustin. 1622 Mabbe tr. *Aleman's Guzman d'Alf.* 122, I making a large Soliloquium, and meditation to my selfe, went on a good while with the same. 1665 G. Wither (*title*), Three Private Meditations...The Third, Intituled *Nil Ultra*, is a Soliloquium. 1897 Gladstone *Later Gleanings* xiii. (1898) 384 Soliloquium and Postscript. *Ibid.* 395 *note*, The *Soliloquium* was not written until [etc.].

Soliloquize (sŏli·lŏkwəiz), *v.* [f. Soliloqu-y *sb.* + -ize.]

1. *intr.* To engage in soliloquy; to talk to oneself.

1759 J. G. Cooper *Ver-Vert* II. 29 He could..at a proper time and place Religiously soliloquise. 1820 Byron *Juan* III. xcvi, Leaving my people to proceed alone, While I soliloquize beyond expression. 1858 Baroness Bunsen in Hare *Life* (1879) II. iv. 235 He soliloquises in a manner in which you would tell a story to a child. 1873 Browning *Red Cott. Nt.-cap* 120 Thus, mutely might our friend soliloquize.

2. *trans.* a. To utter in soliloquy.

1805 Eugenia di Acton *Nuns of Desert* I. 172 Sometimes he..soliloquised a string of barbarous oaths. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* II. i. ix, No scenic individual, with knavish hypocritical views, will take the trouble to soliloquize a scene. 1854 *Fraser's Mag.* L. 72 Balder soliloquises his ambition.

b. To address or apostrophize in soliloquy.

1823 *New Monthly Mag.* VII. 332 When you are soliloquizing the moon.

Hence **Soli·loquizer,** one who soliloquizes. Also **Soli·loquising** *vbl. sb.* and *ppl. a.*; **Soli·loquisingly** *adv.*

1802 *Edin. Rev.* I. 118 Prosopopœia is more suited to the narrator of such a state, than to the *soliloquizer. 1884 *Pall Mall G.* 5 Mar. 5/1 One of those..soliloquisers of villainy who are specially favoured by the dramatist. *c* 1822 Campbell *Note to Byron's Heav. & Earth* iii. 931 Too much tedious *soliloquising. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* I. II. viii, If the soliloquizing Barber ask: 'What has your Lordship done to earn all this?' 1870 Miss Bridgman *R. Lynne* I. xii. 184 In a conversational mood, or, more properly speaking, a soliloquising one. 1840 *New Monthly Mag.* LX. 321 'Comforts?' said Tim, *soliloquizingly.

Soliloquy (sŏli·lŏkwi), *sb.* Also 7 **soliloquie.** [ad. L. *sōliloquium* (introduced by St. Augustine), f. *sōli-*, *sōlus* alone + *loqui* to speak.

In the following quot. the reference is to St. Augustine's *Liber Soliloquiorum* : *c* 1380 in Horstm. *Altengl. Leg.* (1878) 91 þat he dispised so riches, [in] þe bok Soliloquijs he bereþ witnes.]

1. An instance of talking to or conversing with oneself, or of uttering one's thoughts aloud without addressing any person.

In quot. 1629 stressed on the first and third syllables.

1604 R. Cawdrey *Table Alph.* (1613), *Soliloquie*, priuate talke. 1629 Quarles *Argalus & Parthenia* I. Wks. (Grosart) III. 254/1 His pining thoughts, and her projecting feares; His soliloquies, and her secret teares. 1699 Garth *Dispens.* IV. 53 He finds no respite from his anxious Grief, Then seeks from this Soliloquy relief. 1756–82 J. Warton *Ess. Pope* I. vi. 297 It is indeed no other than a passionate soliloquy. 1794 Mrs. Radcliffe *Myst. Udolpho* xxxv, This enthusiastic soliloquy was interrupted by a rustling noise in the hall. 1852 Mrs. Stowe *Uncle Tom's C.* xxxiv, She had hurried on through her story with a wild, passionate utterance;..sometimes speaking as in a soliloquy.

b. A literary production representing or imitating a discourse of this nature.

1641 J. S. (*title*), Soliloqvies Theologicall. 1649 Milton *Eikon.* Wks. 1851 III. 336 As to the Author of these Soliloquies [etc.]. *c* 1675 Rochester *Satyr agst. Mankind* 74 All this we know..From Patrick's Pilgrim, Sibbs Soliloquies. 1718 Prior *Solomon* Pref., Wks. 1892 II. 83 The whole poem is a soliloquy: Solomon is the person that speaks. 1770 (*title*), The Soliloquy: a poem, occasioned by a late decision. 1856 R. A. Vaughan *Mystics* (1860) II. 5 The mysticism of the West has produced..soliloquies, sermons, and treatises of divinity. 1873 Symonds *Grk. Poets* vi. 183 The soliloquies of Hamlet..must have been lost upon the groundlings of Elizabeth's days.

2. Without article: The act of talking to oneself; soliloquizing.

a 1668 Davenant *News from Plymouth* Wks. (1673) 7 You will find it Such a feast of Soliloquy,..As yet you never tasted. 1738 Mrs. Rowe (*title*), Devout Exercises of the Heart in Meditation and Soliloquy. 1839 H. Reeve in J. K. Laughton *Mem.* (1898) I. 104 He confounds soliloquy and colloquy.

Hence **Soli·loquy** *v.*, to address (oneself) in a soliloquy. *rare*—1.

1757 Mrs. Griffith *Lett. Henry & Frances* (1767) III. 106 Upon such an Occasion as this, one should naturally soliloquy themselves thus.

Soli-lunar (sōulilū·nar), *a.* [f. L. *sōli-*, *sōl* sun + Lunar *a.* Cf. Sol-lunar *a.*] Relating to, or connected with, both sun and moon.

1686 Goad *Celest. Bodies* II. i. 129 We find the same Effect 3 times in 4 years, which is not to be found in the Soli-Lunar Opposition. 1831 Brewster *Optics* XV. 135 The combination of the simple soli-lunar tides. 1880 *Church Times* XVIII. 855 A great point is made..about soli-lunar cycles.

Soling (sōu·liŋ), *vbl. sb.* Also 5 **solynge,** 6–7 **soll-,** 6 **sowling** ; 7 **sooling.** [f. Sole *sb.*[1] or *v.*]

1. The action of putting soles upon boots or shoes; freq. = resoling.

1416 *Maldon Court-Rolls* (Bundle 10, no. 6), Propter vampeyeyng et solynge de vn payre de botys, xiid. 1547 in J. H. Glover *Kingsthorpiana* (1883) 102 The same day for the solyng of my shoys, v *d.* 1573 in Feuillerat *Revels Q. Eliz.* (1908) 201 The making and solling of vi paier of startopps. 1653 Urquhart *Rabelais* I. viii, For the soling of them were made use of eleven hundred hides.

attrib. 1571 in Feuillerat *Revels Q. Eliz.* (1908) 142 For sowling lether. 1629 *Leather* 12 The..strongest, which might..serue both for sooling leather and vpper leather.

2. A sole or foundation laid down in the making of roads over boggy or marshy ground.

1838 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* I. 383/2 Upon this trunking is to be laid a soling, consisting of a mixed mass of prepared earth and gravel. 1843 *Ibid.* VI. 274/1 The soling should not be laid on, until one, and in some cases two seasons, after the grips have been opened.

3. *Golf.* (See Sole *v.*[1] 3.)

1909 Vaile *Mod. Golf* 27 Bad soling and ignorance of the principles of proper soling strike at the very root of the game.

† **Solino·mial,** *a. Obs.* [f. L. *sōli-*, *sōlus* alone, after Binomial, etc.] Consisting of one term.

1690 Leybourn *Curs. Math.* 347 Some other Solinomial Rectangle Parallelipipedon.

Soliped (sō·liped), **-pede** (-pīd), *sb.* and *a.* [ad. med. or mod.L. *sōliped-*, *sōlipēs*, f. *sōli-*, *sōlus* alone, only + *pēs* foot, or alteration of L. *solidipēs.* Cf. F. *solipède.* In the pl. the Latin form *solipedes* (sŏli·pĕdīz) has also been employed.]

A. *sb.* An animal having a whole or uncloven hoof.

a. 1646 Sir T. Browne *Pseud. Ep.* III. ii, It is plainly set downe by Aristotle, an Horse and all Solipeds have no gall. *Ibid.* VI. vi, Solipeds or firm-hooft animals as Horses, Asses, Mules, &c. 1835 Kirby *Hab. & Inst. Anim.* II. 499 The second Sub-order of the Pachyderms, the Solipeds, the well-known equine and asinine tribes. *a* 1843 *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) VII. 358* In the Ruminators, in the Solipeds, and most Predatory Beasts. 1882 *19th Cent.* No. 62. 477 Glanders, as every one knows, is a highly contagious disorder of solipeds.

β. 1833 Sir C. Bell *Hand* (1834) 52 There must be a wide difference in the bones of his upper extremity from those of the ruminant or solipede. 1880 Bastian *Brain* xvi. 263 In Solipedes, Ruminants, and Carnivores, the lateral lobes also begin to surpass the median in size.

B. *adj.* Having a whole hoof; solid-hoofed.

1656 Blount *Glossogr.*, *Soliped*, that hath a whole or sound foot, not cloven or broken; such is that of a Horse. 1835 Kirby *Hab. & Inst. Anim.* II. 198 A Family..to which he has given the ancient appellation of Soliped or whole hoofed. 1849 *Zoologist* VII. 2345 A hybrid between a soliped and a ruminant animal.

So **Soli·pedal, Soli·pedous** *adjs.*

1686 Plot *Staffordsh.* 266 The most memorable accidents I heard of in this County to have at any time befallen the Solipedous Animals. 1847 Webster, *Solipedous.* 1882 Ogilvie, *Solipedal.*

Soli·potence. *rare*—1. [f. L. *sōli-*, *sōlus* alone, after *omnipotence*, etc.] Sole power. So **Soli·potent** *a.*

1855 Miss Cobbe *Ess. Intuitive Morals* (1864) 97 *note*, The absolute unity and solipotence of God is a doctrine which even now is but little recognized. *Ibid.* 102 He is not only omnipotent, but solipotent.

Solipsism (sɒ·lipsiz'm). *Metaph.* [f. L. *sōl-us* alone + *ipse* self.] The view or theory that self is the only object of real knowledge or the only thing really existent.

a 1881 A. Barratt *Phys. Metempiric* (1883) 25 At any rate, Solipsism, if not inconceivable, is in the highest degree incredible. 1884 *Contemp. Rev.* Feb. 294 As long as we confine ourselves to the world given in experience..we must profess solipsism. 1895 *Month* May 27 Under pain of 'solipsism', of being shut up within our own subjectivity.

Hence **Solipsi·smal** *a.*

1892 G. M. McCrie *Miss Naden's World-Scheme* 28 The existence of 'other selves', being secondarily inferred, in no way touches the prime fact of solipsismal monism.

Solipsist (sɒ·lipsist). [f. as prec.] One who accepts the theory of solipsism.

1891 *Cent. Dict.*, *Solipsist*,..one who believes in his own existence only. 1898 *Q. Rev.* Jan. 65 A philosophy..in which, if consistent, we become subjective idealists and solipsists.

So **Solipsi·stic** *a.*

1891 in *Cent. Dict.* 1894 *The Forum* May 308 They should not be made self-centred and solipsistic at an age when altruism ought to have its golden day.

† **Solise·quious,** *a. Obs.* Also **solis(s)e·quous.** [f. L. *sōli-*, *sōl* sun + *sequi* to follow.] Following the sun; turning with the sun.

1650 Charleton tr. *Van Helmont's Paradoxes* 14 The Heliotropian or Solisequous Flowers are wheeled about after the Sun, by a certaine Magnetisme. 1651 Biggs *New Disp.* P 72 This solissequous perambulation. 1658 Sir T. Browne *Gard. Cyrus* iv, Large lists of solisequious and Sun-following plants.

Solisgise, obs. form of Syllogize *v.*

Solissit, obs. form of Solicit *v.*

† **So·list.** *Astrol. Obs.*—1 [f. L. *sōl* sun.] One born under the influence of the sun.

1569 J. Sanford tr. *Agrippa's Van. Artes* 50 b, She pronounceth..that man a Martialiste or Solist.

Solist(e, obs. Sc. variants of Solicit.

Solitaire (sɒ·litēə·ɪ, sɒlitēə·ɪ), *sb.* [a. F. *solitaire*, ad. L. *sōlitārius* Solitary *sb.* and *a.*]

1. A person who lives in seclusion, solitude, or retirement; a recluse.

1716 Pope *Lett.* (1735) I. 153 How often..one Evening of your Conversation has spoil'd me for a Solitaire! 1764 H. Walpole *Corr.* (1891) IV. 296 You see I am likely to totter into a solitaire at three-score. 1797 Mrs. A. M. Bennett *Beggar Girl* (1813) II. 111 The graceful solitaire there was already acquainted with the misfortune. 1826 Disraeli *V. Grey* II. x, Oh! you are here, Mr. Grey, acting the solitaire in the park! 1859 Capern *Ballads & Songs* 140 There I could dwell a studious solitaire.

2. A precious stone, usually a diamond, set by itself. Also *ellipt.*, a solitaire ring.

a 1727 Mrs. Delany *Life & Corr.* (1861) I. 71 To give me the solitaires, which are at last arrived. 1760 Foote *Minor* II, Many an aigrette and solitaire have I sold, to discharge a lady's play-debt. 1832 Marryat *N. Forster* liii, This diamond *solitaire* that's..upon my finger. 1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib., Brit.* II. No. 6181, Shirt studs, sleeve links, clasps, solitaires. 1886 R. F. Burton *Arab. Nts.* (abr. ed.) I. p. vii, I saw the evening star hanging like a solitaire from the pure front of the western firmament.

attrib. 1836 Marryat *Japhet* lviii, A diamond solitaire ring, which I had intended to have left with my other bijouterie. 1840 — *Olla Podr.* (Rtldg.) 239 The ring.. was a splendid solitaire diamond.

3. A game which can be played by one person: a. One of various kinds of card-games. b. A game played on a board with marbles or pegs, which have to be removed by jumping as in draughts.

1746 H. Walpole *Lett.* (1846) II. 165 Has Miss Harriet found out any more ways at solitaire? 1825 Bentham *Ration. Reward* 209 As the amusement of a minister of state,..a more suitable one might be found than a game at *solitaire.* 1850 *Bohn's Handbk. Games* (1867) 556 It is, in fact, a sort of *solitaire* for each player in turn. 1891 Gosse *Gossip Libr.* viii. 95 Like the boards on which people play the game of solitaire.

attrib. 1851 Mayhew *Lond. Lab.* II. 17, I am moreover told that in the same second-hand calling were boards known as 'solitaire-boards'. 1873 *Routledge's Young Gentl. Mag.* Jan. 118/2 A ball belonging to a solitaire-board.

4. A loose neck-tie of black silk or broad ribbon worn by men in the 18th century.

1731 *Gentl. Mag.* I. 321 We have brought home the French Coiffure, the *Robe de Chambre* of the Women, and *Toupé*

and *Solitaire* of the Men. 1768–74 TUCKER *Lt. Nat.* (1834) II. 596 The beau, almost throttled in a large solitaire,..was thought to appear most charming. 1805 W. COOKE *Foote* II. 6 He exhibited a full dress suit, bag wig and *solitaire*, sword, muff, rings, &c. *c* 1839 T. HOOK *Sayings* Ser. II. *Sutherl.* (Colburn) 15 A gentleman dressed in a peach-coloured velvet coat, with..a *solitaire* round his neck. [1882 GOSSE *Gray* 28 He ties a vast solitaire around his neck.]

5. *Ornith.* a. A large flightless bird (*Pezophaps solitarius*) formerly existing in the island of Rodriguez. Cf. SOLITARY *sb.* 3.

1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) VI. 20/1 The solitaire, or solitary dodo, is a large bird. 1863 DANA *Man. Geol.* 578 The Solitaire is another exterminated bird of the same island. 1896 NEWTON *Dict. Birds* 892 Perhaps no species has had its osteology examined on so great a scale as the Solitaire.

b. A Jamaican bird (*Myiodectes solitarius*).

1847 GOSSE *Birds Jamaica* 205 As far as I know, the food of the Solitaire is exclusively berries. 1860 — *Rom. Nat. Hist.* 18 The lengthened flute-like notes..of the solitaire.

6. A solitary beast of chase.

1900 POLLOK & THOM *Sports Burma* iii. 96 Sportsmen following up a wounded solitaire [*sc.* a gaur] have occasionally been killed.

7. *attrib.* Intended for one person only.

1885 *Pall Mall G.* 15 May 4/1 A variety of painted tea sets and solitaire breakfast sets.

†Solitaire, -are, *a. Obs.* Forms: *α.* 4 **solitare** (5 **sola-**); *Sc.* 5–7 **solitare** (6 **sole-**), 6 **solitar, soliter(e, solyter.** *β.* 4–5, 7 **solitaire,** 5 **solytayr,** 6 **solitair.** [a. OF. (also mod.F.) *solitaire* or ad. L. *sōlitārius*: see SOLITARY *a.*] Solitary, in various senses.

α. 1382 WYCLIF *Ps.* ci. 8, I..am maad as a spare solitare in the rof. *c* 1440 *Alph. Tales* 444 When þai hafe bene awhile in solatare place be þer ane. *c* 1475 HENRYSON *Poems* (S.T.S.) III. 33 Quhen he saw þis lady solitar. 1530 LYNDESAY *Test. Papyngo* 956 Quhow lang, traist 3e, those ladyis sall remane So solyter, in sic perfectioun? 1533 BELLENDEN *Livy* I. viii. (S.T.S.) I. 49 Numa frequentit oft tymes in þis wod, solitare and but ony cumpany. *c* 1614 SIR W. MURE *Dido & Æneas* I. 796 How coms't thir costs thow solitare dost range?

β. 1387 TREVISA tr. *Higden* VI. 109 An holy man þat was solitaire. *c* 1450 *Knt. de La Tour* 124 She made a chaumbre solitaire for this holy man. 1483 CAXTON *Gold. Leg.* 192/2 He no thynge desyred so moche as for to accomplysshe commaundementes solytayrs. 1549 *Compl. Scotl.* Prol. 9 He vas neiuyr les solitair as quhen he aperit to be solitair. 1569 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* II. 39 He to be solitair, the nobill men..being for the maist part absent. 1647 H. MORE *Song of Soul* II. App. 93 Ne further may my wary mind assent From one single experience solitaire.

†Solitaneous, *a. Obs.*—° [f. late L. *sōlitāneus*.] (See quot.)

1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.*, *Solitaneous*, solitary, single, alone, without company.

Solitarian (sɒlitēəˑriăn). *rare.* [f. L. *sōlitārius* solitary + -AN.] A recluse, a hermit. Also *transf.*

1655 MOUFET & BENNET *Health's Improv.* xviii. 150 There is never seen of them past one at once, which caused the Latins to call them *Merulas*, that is to say the Solitarians or Hermits. 1661 SIR R. TWYSDEN *Beginners Monast. Life* (1698) 8 This Man..gathered together all the dispersed Monks and other Solitarians of Italy.

†Solitariety. *Obs. rare.* [f. SOLITARY *a.*] Solitariness, soleness.

1678 CUDWORTH *Intell. Syst.* I. iv. § 11. 184 This idea of God..essentially includes unity and solitariety. *Ibid.* 336 Always remaining in the solitariety of His own unity.

Solitarily (sɒˑlitărili), *adv.* Forms: 5–6 **solytaryly, 6 solytarily, sol(l)itaryly, solitarilie**; 5– **solitarily.** [f. SOLITARY *a.* + -LY 2.] In a solitary manner.

1. In solitude; alone; without company.

1451 CAPGRAVE *Life St. Aug.* 23 Because þat al his desire was for to prey and study solitarily. 1483 CAXTON *Gold. Leg.* 423/2 For as moche that I desyre to lede my lyf solytaryly. 1555 EDEN *Decades* (Arb.) 215 A secte of men whiche liued solytarily in the desertes. 1588 GREENE *Perimedes* 35 As he sollemnly and sollitaryly walked. *c* 1630 RISDON *Surv. of Devon* § 329 (1810) 339 St. Ann's Chapel is solitarily situated. 1698 S. SEWALL *Diary* 9 Feb., Coach stood by the way here and there and mov'd solitarily. 1833 *Westm. Rev.* XVIII. 324 They drink as they smoke, solitarily, and without any reference to social enjoyment. 1863 BATES *Nat. Amazon* II. 33 Another nearly allied but much larger species..sometimes excavates its mine solitarily on sand-banks.

2. Apart or distinct from others; singly, solely.

a 1641 BP. MOUNTAGU *Acts & Mon.* (1642) 118 That it could not be David solitarily..appeareth to bee plaine. 1652 HOBBES *Leviath.* iv. xliv. 350 To understand..this text, we are not to consider it solitarily, but jointly with the words precedent, and subsequent. 1677 PLOT *Oxfordshire* 200 After what concerns women solitarily consider'd, ..come we next to treat of things..that concern women and men joyntly. 1875 WHITNEY *Life Lang.* viii. 151 Phonetic changes are especially likely to be thus general, instead of solitarily individual.

Solitariness (sɒˑlităriněs). Forms: 6 **solytaryness(se, solitarynesse,** 6–7 **-nes, solitarinesse,** 6– **solitariness** (7 **-nes**). [f. as prec.]

1. The state of being solitary or alone; the fact of being or dwelling apart from others.

Very common *c* 1575–1700, and in the 19th cent.

a 1533 LD. BERNERS *Golden Bk. M. Aurel.* (1546) Ddiv b, Yf thou bee a wydowe of solytarynesse. 1559 BERCHER *Nobylytye Wymen* (Roxb.) 129 He refusethe cumpanye, and desyrethe solytarynes. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* III. 228 Christian the Elector..was reputed..to affect solitarinesse, and little to be seene of the people. 1663 PATRICK *Parab. Pilgr.* xxix. (1665) 344 There is very great use of Solitariness, especially in the beginnings of a New Life. 1726 S. WILLARD *Body of Divinity* 892/2 Man is made for society; solitariness, or living alone, being a trespass against humane nature. 1801 MAR. EDGEWORTH *Angelina* I, With what soul-rending eloquence does my Angelina describe the.. solitariness she experiences in the crowded metropolis! 1894 BARING-GOULD *Kitty Alone* II. 106 Kate had felt acutely this solitariness in which she lived.

personif. 1601 SIR W. CORNWALLIS *Ess.* I. ix, Solitarinesse the mother of Contemplation.

2. The state or character of being unfrequented, retired, or secluded; absence of life or stir.

1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 159 b, But when..the Cardinals, whiche he had sent thither, aduertised him that there was great solitarinesse,..he deferreth the day of the Counsell till Easter folowyng. 1579 W. FULKE *Heskins' Parl.* 252 Taking the solitarinesse of the night,..shee fell downe..before the altare. 1609 W. M. *Man in Moone* (1849) 3 By the solitarinesse of the house I judged it a lodge in a forrest. 1694 FALLE *Jersey* i. 26 The solitariness of the Place, and the want of Necessaries,..causing many of them to desert. 1748 SMOLLETT *Rod. Rand.* xli, The solitariness of the field through which they passed. 1840 R. H. DANA *Bef. Mast* xviii. 52 A silence and solitariness which affected everything. Not a human being but ourselves for miles. 1886 W. J. TUCKER *E. Europe* 234 The solitariness of the almost deserted avenue, solitarinessonly occasionally broken in upon by a hired carriage.

personif. 1596 *Edw. III*, III. iii. 23 Leauing at our heeles A..beaten path For solitarines to progresse in. 1605 A. WARREN *Poor Man's Passions* liii, What Solitarines hath there assign'de For such, as her Inhabitants shall be.

†Solitariousness. *Obs.*—1 = prec.

1545 ASCHAM *Toxoph.* (Arb.) 52 Dysinge and cardynge haue ii. Tutours, the one named Solitariousenes, whyche lurketh in holes and corners, the other called Night.

†Solitarity. *Obs. rare.* [f. SOLITARY *a.* Cf. SOLITARIETY.]

1. Soleness, singleness.

1803 W. TAYLOR in *Monthly Mag.* XIV. 490 He may consequentially..maintain the solitarity of his own existence. 1813 — *Ibid.* XXXV. 427 Consequently, that the probability of success is increased by the solitarity of the candidate.

2. Solitude, want of society.

1811 W. TAYLOR in Robberds *Mem.* (1843) II. 351, I shall be abandoned at once to solitarity and penury.

†Solitarness. *Sc. Obs.*—1 [f. *solitar* SOLITAIRE *a.*] Solitariness.

a 1578 LINDESAY (Pitscottie) *Chron. Scot.* (S.T.S.) I. 163 He was ane that lowit sollitarnes.

Solitary (sɒˑlitări), *sb.* Also 5 **solitari(e, solytarye.** [Substantive use of the adj.]

1. a. One who retires into, or lives in, solitude from religious motives; a hermit or recluse.

1435 MISYN *Fire of Love* 32 The holy solitari forsoith,.. an excellent, goldy seet in heuyns he sall take emangis ordyrs of Aungels. *c* 1440 *Alph. Tales* 92, I went vnto a man þat hight Pachonius, þat dwelte in wyldernes a solitarie. 1652 tr. *De-las-Coveras' Don Fenise* 140 He told him..the course of her life untill the time she had retired her selfe into that solitude, at which the solitary much wondred. 1699 EVELYN *Acetaria* (1729) 166 Those ancient and truly pious Solitaries, who..were driven from their Countries and Repose by the Incursions of barbarous Nations. 1753 CHALLONER *Cath. Chr. Instr.* 178 From these Beginnings the Desarts of Egypt and of Thebais soon were peopled with innumerable Solitaries. 1813 EUSTACE *Class. Tour* (1821) III. iii. 69 An hermitage, that seems from its situation to be the cell of one of the holy solitaries of times of old. 1864 KINGSLEY *Rom. & Teut.* 239 The solitaries of the Thebaid found that they became selfish wild beasts, or went mad, if they remained alone. 1868 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* (1877) II. App. 599 Wythmann at last, after a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, died a solitary.

b. One who lives by himself in seclusion or retirement; one who avoids, or is deprived of, the society of others.

a 1763 SHENSTONE *Ess., Vision* (1868) 118 The first meditation of a solitary, is the behaviour of men in active life. 1795–1824 WORDSW. *Excursion* VI. 1062, I noted that the Solitary's cheek Confessed the power of nature. 1816 SCOTT *Bl. Dwarf* xvi, The door opened, and the Solitary stood before her. *a* 1854 H. REED *Lect. Brit. Poets* vi. (1857) 224 His [Milton's] life..as a student, as a statesman, and as a solitary. 1898 *Westm. Gaz.* 24 Mar. 4/1 Hardy pioneers, solitaries who had lived on far-off creeks.

†2. A solitude, lonely place. *Obs.*

1594 PEELE *Battle of Alcazar* II. iii, I will go hunt these cursed solitaries.

†3. = SOLITAIRE *sb.* 5 a. *Obs. rare.*

1708 tr. *F. Leguet's Voy. Rodrigues*, etc. (Hakl. Soc.) I. 64 We left the Dates for the Turtles and other Birds, particularly the Solitaries. *Ibid.* 77–80.

4. = SOLITAIRE *sb.* 3. Also *attrib.*

1798 M. & R. L. EDGEWORTH *Pract. Educ.* i. I. 20 At the solitary-board they must..fix their attention solely upon the figure and the pegs before them. 1806 J. BERESFORD *Miseries Hum. Life* XVI. (1807) 94 For want of better employment, playing at Solitary.

Solitary (sɒˑlitări), *a.* Also 4–6 **solytarie,** 5–6 **-ary(e**; 4–7 **solitarie,** 5 **-arye**; 6 **soletary.** [ad. L. *sōlitārius*, f. *sōlus* alone; hence also It., Sp., Pg. *solitario*, F. *solitaire* (see SOLITAIRE *a.*).]

1. Quite alone or unaccompanied; destitute or deprived of the society of others.

a 1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* ci. 8, I am made as sparow solitary in þe hous. 1382 WYCLIF *Esther* xiv. 3 My Lord, that art king alone, help me solitarie. ?*a* 1400 *Morte Arth.* 1576, I salle disseuere that sorte,..And sett theme fulle solytarie. *c* 1407 LYDG. *Reson & Sens.* 3060 So ful I am of discomfort, ..Fro day to day most ful of moone, Solytarye and allone. 1513 BRADSHAW *St. Werburge* I. 2780 Whan she was solytary, and no man there present. 1555 EDEN *Decades* (Arb.) 173 What one of these solytarie wanderers dyd. *c* 1645 HOWELL *Lett.* (1650) II. 121, I am ofttimes sole, but seldom solitary. 1770 GOLDSM. *Des. Vill.* 129 All but yon widow'd solitary thing [is fled]. 1797 WORDSW. *Old Cumberland Beggar* 44 He travels on, a solitary Man; His age has no companion. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* lii, He did not know how solitary he was until little Rawdon was gone. 1863 GEO. ELIOT *Romola* xiv, He foresaw himself wandering away solitary in pursuit of some unknown fortune.

absol. 1560 BIBLE (Geneva) *Psalm* lxviii. 6 God maketh the solitarie to dwell in families. 1872 O. W. HOLMES *Poet Breakf.-t.* ix, When the solitary, whose hearts are shrivelling, are not set in families!

b. Keeping apart or aloof from society; avoiding the company of others; living alone.

c 1386 CHAUCER *Knt.'s T.* 507 Solitary he was, and euer alone. 1393 LANGL. *P. Pl.* C. XVIII. 7 þer were suche eremites Solitarie by hem-self and in here selles lyueden. *c* 1420 LYDG. *Assembly of Gods* 923 Contemplatyf peple that desyre to be Solytary seruauntes vnto God alone. *c* 1440 *Alph. Tales* 477, I saw Saynt Theon sparrid in a cell, solitarie, as it was sayd, xxx^ti yere. 1557 NORTH *Gueudra's Diall Pr.* 384 There are sonie so solytary that woulde never be visited. 1592 T. NASHE *P. Penilesse* (ed. 2) 9 Some thinke to be counted rare Politicians and Statesmen, by beeing solitary. 1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* I. i. I. v. 16 We call any man Melancholy, that is dull,..ill-disposed, solitary. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* VII. 461 Those rare and solitarie, these in flocks Pasturing at once. 1784 COWPER *Task* VI. 948 The solitary saint Walks forth to meditate at even tide. 1875 WHITNEY *Life Lang.* xiv. 286 The solitary man is as speechless as the lower animals.

transf. 1727 BAILEY (vol. II), *Solitariness*,..a solitary Humour.

c. Standing alone or by itself; not accompanied or paralleled in any way.

a 1633 J. AUSTIN *Medit.* (1635) 263 All three are solitarie. The Guide is but one; the Traveller, one; the Way, one. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* VI. 139 Who..with solitarie hand.. Unaided could have finisht thee. 1750 JOHNSON *Rambler* No. 75 P 1 The result, not of solitary conjecture, but of practice and experience. 1806 BERESFORD *Miseries Hum. Life* I. Introd. 7 In disputation, the argument cumulative ..is admitted to be at least as pressing as the argument solitary. 1850 W. R. WILLIAMS *Relig. Progr.* (1854) ii. 40 Unbelief does not dwell alone, a solitary and sterile sin. 1856 EMERSON *Eng. Traits* iv, Any the least and solitariest fact in our natural history.

d. With *a, one*, etc.: Single; sole.

1742 GRAY *Spring* 44 Poor moralist! and what art thou? A solitary fly. 1769 *Junius Lett.* XXVII. (1788) 150 He gives but seven solitary lines to the only subject which can deserve his attention. 1802 GOUVR. MORRIS in Sparks *Life & Writ.* (1832) III. 160, I believe it is a solitary instance. 1830 CRUIKSHANK *Man in Black* I, Not a sous have I in the world besides that solitary five franc piece. 1890 *Science Gossip* XXVI. 49 With one solitary exception the nebular hypothesis explains all.

2. Of places: Marked by solitude; remote, unfrequented, secluded, lonely.

c 1374 CHAUCER *Boeth.* I. pr. iii. (1868) 10 Whi art þou comen in to þis solitarie place of myn exil. *c* 1393 — *Envoy to Scogan* 46, I am..Forgete in solitarie wildirnes. 1447 BOKENHAM *Seyntys* (Roxb.) 36 That neythyr I, ner Seynt Felycyte In solytarye place lengere lefth be. *a* 1533 LD. BERNERS *Huon* XXV. 72 She sawe my mother..in a soletary place. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Rich. III*, 22 He sodaynly turned into a solitary wood next adioyning. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* 269 On the north side whereof standeth solitarie a very faire Chappell. 1687 T. BROWN *Saints in Uproar* Wks. 1730 I. 81 We retir'd into a wood, and in this wood found out a most solitary cave. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) III. 87 They keep chiefly in the most solitary and inaccessible places. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* V. I. 534 They sent an embassy to a solitary retreat on the shores of Lake Leman. 1873 W. BLACK *Pr. Thule* 4 He drove down the hill to the solitary little inn.

3. Characterized by the absence of all companionship or society: **a.** Of actions.

1382 WYCLIF *Ps.* Heading, The boc begynneth of ympnes and solitarie spechis of the profete Dauyd, of Cryst. *c* 1645 HOWELL *Lett.* II. (1892) I. 443, I was upon point of going abroad to steal a solitary walk. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* II. 632 Satan..toward the Gates of Hell Explores his solitary flight. 1714 WHEATLEY *Bk. Com. Prayer* (ed. 2) vi. § 29 To prevent the Solitary Masses which had been introduc'd by the Church of Rome. 1785 REID *Intell. Powers* I. viii. 244 Some operations of our minds, from their very nature, are solitary. 1801 STRUTT *Sports & Past.* IV. ii. 281 The solitary game is so denominated because it is played by one person only. 1845 FORD *Handbk. Spain* I. 48 A long solitary ride is hardly to be recommended. 1896 BADEN-POWELL *Matabele Campaign* iv, The value of solitary scouting does not seem to be sufficiently realized among us nowadays.

b. Of life or conditions.

1451 CAPGRAVE *Life St. Aug.* 38 Foloweris of holy faderis whech lyued in solitarie lif. *c* 1491 *Chast. Goddes Chyld.* 42 Uneth there were ony that mighte abyde in solitarye liuynge. 1538 STARKEY *England* II. ii. 189 In the wych..they schold more profyt..then our monkys haue downe in grete processe of tyme in theyr solytary lyfe. 1600 SHAKS. *A. Y. L.* III. ii. 16 In respect that it is solitary, I like it verie well: but in respect that it is priuate, it is a very vild life. 1697 DRYDEN *Æneid* VI. 1038 Him fair Lavinia..Shall breed in groves, to lead a solitary life. 1736 BUTLER *Anal.* I. v. Wks. 1874 I. 95 Nothing which we at present see would lead us to the thought of a solitary unactive state hereafter. 1791 COWPER *Iliad* XI. 98 Seated in solitary pomp. 1817 SIR F. BURDETT in *Parl. Deb.* 1858 It was much worse to stand in hourly danger of solitary confinement at the caprice or malice of a Minister of State. 1845 MCCULLOCH *Acc. Brit. Empire* (1854) II. 501 The ideas which are generally attached to the term 'solitary confinement'.

Comb. 1828 CUNNINGHAM *N. S. Wales* II. 298 All jails have solitary-punishment cells.

c. *ellipt.* = Solitary confinement.

1854 DICKENS *Hard Times* v, A. B.,..committed for eighteen months' solitary.

4. *Zool.* In names of various insects, birds, etc., which live alone or in pairs only, as *solitary bee, cuckoo, dodo,* etc.

1830 *Insect Transformations* 50 A small *solitary bee, (*Chelostoma florisomne*?) not so large as the domestic fly. 1840 *Cuvier's Anim. Kingd.* 599 The Solitary Bees have never more than the two ordinary kinds of individuals, males and females. 1881 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* V. 367 The Solitary Bees..form the remainder of the family. 1815 STEPHENS in *Shaw's Gen. Zool.* IX. I. 84 *Solitary Cuckow. 1785 LATHAM *Gen. Synop. Birds* III. I. 3 *Solitary Dodo.. is a large bird. 1829 GRIFFITH tr. *Cuvier* VIII. 446 All those monstrous birds called..Dodo, Solitary Dodo, and Nazarene Dodo. 1810 A. WILSON *Amer. Ornith.* II. 143. *Solitary Flycatcher, *Muscicapa solitaria.* 1831 AUDUBON *Ornith. Biog.* I. 147 The Solitary Fly-catcher, or Vireo, *Vireo solitarius.* 1884 COUES *N. Amer. Birds* 333 *Vireo solitarius,..*Solitary Greenlet. 1787 LATHAM *Suppl. Gen. Syn. Birds* I. 65 *Solitary Parrot. Size of a Starling. 1813 A. WILSON *Amer. Ornith.* VII. 53 *Solitary Sandpiper, *Tringa solitaria.* 1839 AUDUBON *Ornith. Biog.* V. 583 Solitary Sandpiper, *Totanus Chlovopygius.* 1843 VARRELL *Brit. Birds* II. 597 *Scolopax major,* *Solitary Snipe. 1887 NEWTON in *Encycl. Brit.* XXII. 202/2 The Double or Solitary Snipe of English sportsmen,..a larger species. 1600 SURFLET *Countrie Farme* VII. lxii. 892 The *solitarie sparrow is by nature giuen to be melancholike. 1678 RAY tr. *Willughby's Ornith.* II. II. i. xviii. 191 The solitary Sparrow..is of the bigness of a Blackbird. 1743 EDWARDS *Nat. Hist. Birds* I. 18. 1872 COUES *N. Amer. Birds* 259 *Solitary Tattler,..a shy, quiet inhabitant of wet woods. 1884 *Ibid.* 639 *Rhyacophilus solitarius,* Solitary Tattler. 1783 LATHAM *Gen. Synop. Birds* II. I. 52 *Solitary Thrush ..frequents mountains and rocky places. 1813 MONTAGU *Ornith.* Suppl. s.v., Solitary Thrush, *Turdus solitarius.* [Cf. Rennie's ed. (1831) 56–58.] 1876–82 NEWTON *Yarrell's Brit. Birds* II. 242 *note,* The real 'Solitary Thrush', *Monticola cyanus.* 1831 AUDUBON *Ornith. Biog.* I. 147 The *Solitary..Vireo, *Vireo solitarius.* 1872 COUES *N. Amer. Birds* 121 Blue-headed, or Solitary Vireo. 1830 *Insect Transformations* 54 Their most formidable enemy is a *solitary wasp (*Cerceris ornata*). 1896 LYDEKKER *Roy. Nat. Hist.* VI. 40 Of the typical solitary wasps (*Masaridæ*) ..but little is known. 1730 BAILEY (fol.), **Solitary-Worm,* a Worm in the Intestines, or..in the *Pylorus.*

5. *Bot.* Of parts or of plants: Growing singly or separately; not forming clusters or masses.

(*a*) 1796 WITHERING *Brit. Pl.* I. 232 Seeds solitary, compressed. *Ibid.* III. 737 Flowers solitary, terminating. 1807 J. E. SMITH *Phys. Bot.* 420 Bearing..flowers in a peculiar spike, which is either solitary or double. 1837 P. KEITH *Bot. Lex.* 30 They [sc. the bracts] are solitary, or in pairs, or multiplicate. 1880 BESSEY *Botany* 428 Flowers solitary in the axils of the leaves—e.g., *Vinca,* Solitary Axillary. *Ibid.* 429 Solitary Terminal.

Comb. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 910/1 Solitary-flowered axillary peduncles.

(*b*) 1837 P. KEITH *Bot. Lex.* 159 The mushrooms are found solitary or in small patches. 1842 LOUDON *Suburban Hort.* 45 Plants of this kind are called solitary, while those which grow in immense masses are said to be social.

6. Of ascidians: Simple; not compound.

1843 *Penny Cycl.* XXV. 353/2 This metamorphosis was observed..both in a solitary and compound Ascidian.

7. *Anat.* Single, separate; not multiple.

1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VI. 796 The 'solitary bundle' or ascending vago-glosso-pharyngeal root. 1905 ROLLESTON *Dis. Liver* 124 Ten solitary abscesses of the liver.

Hence † **So·litary** *v.*, to seclude. *Obs.*

1581 G. PETTIE tr. *Guazzo's Civ. Conv.* I. (1586) 9 To reape the fruits of those labours, it behoueth him to solitarie himselfe from sinne.

Soliter(e, variants of SOLITAIRE *a. Obs.*

† **So·litous**, *a. Obs.*—[1] [irreg. f. L. *sōlit-ārius.*] Solitary, secluded, retired.

a 1656 USSHER *Annals* (1658) 802 This year Tiberius lived at Rhodes a banished man, under colour of leading a solitous life.

Solitude (*sɒ*·litiud). Also 6 **soll-**. [a. OF. *solitude* (also mod.F., = Sp. *solitud*, Pg. *solitude*, It. *solitudine*) or ad. L. *sōlitūdo*, f. *sōlus* alone. Not in common use in English until the 17th cent.]

In poetry, esp. of the 18th century, freq. more or less personified in senses 1 and 2, or in a blending of these.

1. The state of being or living alone; loneliness, seclusion, solitariness (of persons).

c 1374 CHAUCER *Compl. Mars* 65 She hath so grete compassion on her knyght, That dwelleth in solitude til she come. 1592 KYD *Sp. Trag.* I. iv, For sollitude best fits my cheereles mood. 1625 BACON *Ess., Friendship* (Arb.) 165 But little doe Men perceiue, what Solitude is, and how farre it extendeth. 1663 S. PATRICK *Parab. Pilgr.* xxix. (1687) 345 As the wise employ their Solitude in pious counsels. 1709 LADY M. W. MONTAGU *Let. to Miss A. Wortley* 8 Aug., Your letters..are the only pleasures of my solitude. 1764 R. BURN *Poor Laws* 199 There can be no more effectual means..than those of solitude and fasting. 1818 BYRON *Ch. Harold* IV. xxxiii, If from society we learn to live, 'Tis solitude should teach us how to die. 1856 VAUGHAN *Mystics* (1860) I. 53 Solitude brings no escape from spiritual danger. 1887 RUSKIN *Præterita* II. 237, I was not, as I used to suppose, born for solitude.

† **b.** The fact of being sole or unique. *Obs. rare.*

1642 H. MORE *Song of Soul* IV. 20 All the arguments that I have brought For to disprove the souls strange solitude. 1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* 133 Nor will the solitude of the Phœnix allow this denomination, for many there are of that species.

2. Loneliness (of places); remoteness from habitations; absence of life or stir.

1585 T. WASHINGTON tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* IV. x. 121 b, The desart is of greate compasse and Solitude. 1639 MASSINGER *Unnatural Combat* IV. ii, His doors are fast locked up, and solitude Dwells round about them. 1729 LAW *Serious Call* xxi. 419 The solitude of his little Parish is become matter of great comfort to him. 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* xxxi, During several hours, they travelled through regions of profound solitude. 1825 SCOTT *Betrothed* x, A bustle, equally different from the solitude of the early morning, and from the roar and fury of the subsequent engagement. 1849 JAMES *Woodman* i, Then all was stillness and solitude once more. 1873 HAMERTON *Intell. Life* IX. vi. 325 The solitude of the infinite sea.

3. A lonely, unfrequented, or uninhabited place.

1570–6 LAMBARDE *Peramb. Kent* (1826) 192 Being then a meere solitude, and on no part inhabited. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* III. 125 There be vast solitudes and untilled Desarts on all sides. 1660 F. BROOKE tr. *Le Blanc's Trav.* 184 High Mountaines, and inpenitrable forests, solitudes, and frightfull deserts. 1712 STEELE in *Pope's Wks.* (1757) VII. 180, I am at a solitude, an house between Hampstead and London. 1788 GIBBON *Decl. & F.* xliii. IV. 277 That busy scene was converted into a silent solitude. 1816 BYRON *Ch. Har.* III. cii, A populous solitude of bees and birds. 1854 MILMAN *Lat. Chr.* III. vi. II. 77 Their Solitudes ceased to be solitary. 1873 SYMONDS *Grk. Poets* x. 319 An Italian of the present day avoids ruinous places and solitudes however splendid.

fig. 1843 CARLYLE *Past & Pres.* III. xii, Peopling .. the unmeasured solitudes of Time!

4. A complete absence or lack. *rare.*

1605 BACON *Adv. Learn.* II. To the King § 8 Hence it proceedeth that Princes find a solitude, in regard of able men to serve them. 1821 LAMB *Elia* I. *Old Benchers Inner Temple,* Thomas Coventry.., who made a solitude of children wherever he came.

Solitudinarian. [f. L. *sōlitūdin-*, *sōlitūdo*: see prec.] One who seeks solitude; a recluse.

1691 tr. *Emilianne's Frauds Rom. Monks* (ed. 3) 229 Some very considerable Places, which formerly have been the Retreats of Solitudinarians. 1725 *Portland Papers* VI. (Hist. MSS. Comm.) 138 A situation..so private and retired from common observation, as the greatest solitudinarian can wish for. 1831 *Mirror* 2 July, XVIII. 2 Like all misanthropes and solitudinarians..he [Rousseau] could never bear to be long out of the general gaze. 1880 BERTHA THOMAS *Violin-Player* III. iv. 112 'There goes a solitudinarian,' said one. 'What is he thinking of that he fights so shy of his kind?'

So † **Solitu·dinary** *a.*, characterized by living alone; **Solitu·dinize** *v. trans.*, to render solitary; **Solitu·dinous** *a.*, characterized by solitude.

1647 N. BACON *Disc. Govt. Eng.* I. xxxiii. (1682) 49 Their Ancestors liked not to dwell in crowds... This *solitudinary custom could not be soon shaken off. 1834 *New Monthly Mag.* XLII. 22 It adorns, refreshes, and, above all else, *solitudinizes, these little lagoons. 1892 *Harper's Mag.* Feb. 425/1 So packed with people as to make Broadway look desolate and *solitudinous by comparison.

So·lity. *rare*—[1]. [ad. L. *sōlitās*, f. *sōlus* alone.] Soleness.

1882 CAVE & BANKS tr. *Dorner's Christian Doctrine* 201 The Solity, Unapproachableness, and Incognizability of God.

‖ **So·lium.** *rare.* [L.] **a.** A throne. (Cf. SOLIE.)

b. A tub or similar receptacle for water.

c 1806 H. K. WHITE *Christiad* I. xii. Wks. 1807 II. 179 High on a solium of the solid wave..He stood in silence. 1840 HODGSON *Hist. Northumb.* III. II. 319/2 Whether it had any..cistern or solium for hot water has not been ascertained.

Solivagant (sɒ̈li·văgănt), *a.* and *sb.* [f. L. *sōlivagus*, f. *sōlus* + *vagārī* to wander: see -ANT.]

A. *adj.* Wandering about alone; characterized by going alone.

1641 J. MEDE *Apostasy of Later Times* 142 All that crew of hypocrites, whether solivagant Hermites, or Anchorites, ..or Coenobites. 1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.*, *Solivagant*, .. that goes here and there alone, and flies company, wandering all alone, solitary. [Hence in Phillips, Bailey, etc.] 1842 *United Service Mag.* II. 5 The solivagant habit..is principally confined to intercourse with his peers, for he is usually attended by two or three..pilot-fish.

B. *sb.* One who wanders about alone.

1621 GRANGER *Eccl.* iv. 99 A Description of the impure drudge;..That is to say, a soliuagant, or solitary vagrant. 1690 C. NESS *Hist. & Myst. O. & N. Test.* I. 297 Jacob seems to be..a meer soli-vagant, or solitary vagrant. 1899 'MONKSHOOD' *Kipling* 160 Dick walks out..and plays the solivagant for about ten years.

So **Soli·vagous** *a. rare*—[0].

1727 BAILEY (vol. II), *Solivagous*, wandring alone, solitary. 1846 WORCESTER (citing *Gentl. Mag.*).

Solk, obs. form of SILK.

† **Soll**, *v. Sc. Obs.* [Cf. SOLWE *v.* and SOWL *v.*] *trans.* To make foul, defile.

c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xvi. (*Magdalene*) 276 Þu..tholis godis servandis spyll..& þu lyis solland þe in swet. *Ibid.* xix. (*Christopher*) 644 Owt of bordale he brocht twa..þat ..lange tyme lay sollit in syne. *Ibid.* xxxiv. 105.

Soll, variant of SOWL *v.*

Sollage, obs. form of SULLAGE.

Sollar (sɒ·lăr), *sb.*[1] Forms: α. 1 **solor**, (1) 4–7 **soler**, 4–5 (9) **solere**. β. 5– **solar**, 5–6 **solare**. γ. 6– **soller** (7 -or, 9 -ere), 8 **saller**. δ. 6– **sollar** (6 -are). [OE. *solor*, *soler-*, = OS. *soleri*, OHG. *solâri*, *solêri* (MHG. *solre*, *sölre*, etc., G. *söller*, † *soller*), MDu. *solre* (Du. *zolder*), MLG. *solder* (LG. *solder*, *soller*), ad. L. *sōlāri-um*, f. *sōl* sun. In ME., however, perh. readopted from AF. *soler*, *solair*, = OF. *solier*, Prov. *solier*, *solar*, Pg. *soalheiro*, It. *solaio.*]

1. An upper room or apartment in a house or other dwelling; in later use esp. a loft, attic, or garret (sometimes used as a granary or store-room). Now *arch.* or *dial.*

Originally one open to the sun or receiving much sunlight. In OE. only *transf.* and *fig.* The confusion with *cellar* which appears in quot. 13.. is found occasionally in other texts down to the 16th cent.

a. *c* 897 K. ÆLFRED tr. *Gregory's Past. C.* 23 Oððæt hio fæstlice ȝestonde on ðæm solore ðæs modes. *a* 1000 *Phœnix* 204 Þær se wilda fuȝel..ofer heanue beam hus ȝetimbreð.. & ȝewicað þær sylf in þam solere.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 15208 He þam lent..A celer [*Fairf.* soler] in at ete. 13.. *Sir Beues* 1532 Nas mete ne drinke before him leid,..Boute be a kord of a solere. 1388 WYCLIF *Gen.* vi. 16 Thou [Noah] shalt make soleris..in the schip. *c* 1400 *Laud Troy Bk.* 15374 Paris thanne & his comperes Come walkyng out of here soleres. 1463 *Bury Wills* (Camden) 32 The ij chambrys with the soler above. 1523 LD. BERNERS *Froissart* I. ccxxxii. 322 The women..entred into the houses, and went vp into the batylmentes and soliers, and cast downe..stones. 1603 STOW *Surv.* (ed. 2) 270 Sheds or shops, with solers ouer them.

β. *c* 1450 *Godstow Reg.* 404 The solare and tenement of the forsaid Laurence. 1542 UDALL *Erasm. Apoph.* 240 b, Must I bee fain to walke on yᵉ solares or loftes of my hous? 1598 STOW *Surv.* 237 Two shops, with solars, sellars, and other edifices. 1606 HOLLAND *Sueton.* 147 [He] slily crept forth and conveied himselfe up into a Solar [*marg.* a garret] next adioyning. *a* 1695 A. WOOD *Hist. Univ. Oxford* (1792) I. 359 Stone steps that led to the solar or chamber. 1789 SMYTH tr. *Aldrich's Archit.* (1818) 112 In the roof there are often rooms which we call solars. 1851 T. H. TURNER *Dom. Archit.* I. 86 The principal chamber after the hall was that called the lord's chamber, or sometimes the solar. 1868 FREEMAN in Stephens *Life* (1895) I. vi. 412 All..of this page has been written..in the solar of the manor-house. 1895 C. R. B. BARRETT *Surrey* iii. 88 The floor of this solar is sustained by massive oak beams.

γ. 1530 PALSGR. 272/2 Soller, a lofte, *garnier.* 1559 *Bury Wills* (Camden) 153 A hutche on the soller. 1580 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 129 Then dresse it and laie it in soller vp sweete. 1623 *Maldon Documents* (Bundle 167, no. 1), One litle shop with a soller over it. 1674 RAY *S. & E. C. Words* 77 *Soller*, or *Solar*, an upper Chamber or Loft. *a* 1825 FORBY *Voc. E. Anglia*, *Soller*, a loft. 1839 SIR G. C. LEWIS *Gloss. Heref.*, *Soller*, an upper floor.

δ. 1530 PALSGR. 272/2 Sollar, a chambre, *solier.* 1548 UDALL, etc. *Erasm. Par. Acts* xx. 68 There were manye candelles in the sollare where as we wer than assembled. 1577 HARRISON *Descr. Brit.* II. xviii, To such an Inne or sollar there I laie my corne. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* I. 433 If they be kept in borded sollors or garners, the oile will be..lesse in quantitie. 1638 RAWLEY tr. *Bacon's Life & Death* (1650) 5 The placing of Garners, on the Tops of Houses,..is very commodious. Some also make two Sollars; An Upper, and a Lower. And the upper Sollar hath an hole in it; thorow which the Graine continually descendeth. 1819 H. BUSK *Vestriad* III. 817 Drowsy cits, who in their sollars snore. 1886 J. PAYNE tr. *Boccaccio's Decameron* VIII. vii. III. 90 A little uninhabited tower..that the shepherds climb up..to a sollar at the top.

b. An elevated chamber or loft in a church, in later use *spec.* in a steeple or belfry.

c 1305 *St. Kenelm* 340 in *E. E. P.* (1862) 56 Heo sat in seint peteres churche biside þe abbey ȝate In a soler in þe est side, & lokede out þerate. 1516 *Churchw. Acc.* in *Nicholls* (1797) 156 A locke and a keye to the weste dore of the solare within the church. 1533 *Dunmow Churchw. MS.* fol. 18 b, For makyng of the dore in to the ryngyng soller, 3ˢ 8ᵈ. 1562 *Ludlow Churchw. Acc.* (Camden) 105 For ij fealde and a lader that serveth in the steple or soller. 1570 FOXE *A. & M.* (ed. 2) III. 2281/2 You are one of them that ..pulled downe the Rode seller [1596 sollar, 1684 sollor], and all the Saintes. 1754 T. GARDNER *Hist. Dunwich* 156 The Vice or Stairs do not exceed in Height the upper Soller where the Bells hung. *a* 1825 FORBY *Voc. E. Anglia* 315 A belfry..is sometimes called the bell-*soller*, sometimes simply the *soller*. 1875 *Encycl. Brit.* II. 473/1 *Solar*, *Soller*,..an elevated chamber in a church from which to watch the lamps burning before the altars. 1906 RAVEN *Bells* 51 The chamber called the solarium, a name still preserved by ringers in their word 'soller'.

† **c.** A story of a house. *Obs.*

1585 HIGINS tr. *Junius' Nomencl.* 181/2 *Tristega*,..an house of three sollers. *Ibid.* 211/2 *Contignatio*,..rearing of an house in sollers or stories. 1600 HOLLAND *Livy* 1379 Plinie calleth it Septisolium, or seven lofts or solars.

† **2.** A place exposed to the sun. *Obs.*

c 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* VI. 176 At Mayes eende a solar is to paue.

3. *Cornish mining.* **a.** A platform in a mine, *esp.* one supporting a ladder.

1778 PRYCE *Min. Cornub.* 326 A Saller, in a Mine, is a stage or gallery of boards for men to stand on and roll away broken stuff in wheel-barrows...In a footway Shaft, the Saller is the floor for a ladder to rest upon. 1855 J. R. LEIFCHILD *Cornwall* 156 At the foot of each ladder is a platform called a 'sollar', with an opening or man-hole leading to the next ladder beneath. 1896 J. HOCKING *Fields of Fair Renown* I. 8 We are working from the twenty-fathom sollar towards the old mine.

b. A raised floor under which air is admitted to a working.

1778 PRYCE *Min. Cornub.* 147 They lay boards on the bottom of the Adit,..by which contrivance, called a Saller, the boards being hollow underneath, air is conveyed to the workmen. 1875 J. H. COLLINS *Met. Mining* 116 A natural current may often be produced in a long level by means of an 'air-sollar'. To form an air-sollar, the floor of the level ..is laid about 6 inches above the actual bottom of the level.

4. *attrib.*, as *sollar-board*, *-chamber*, *-floor*, etc.

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XVII. clxii. (Bodl. MS.), Bordes and tables..whan þei beþ isette in soler flores and seruen alle men þat beþ þerin. 1648 HEXHAM II, *Een Zolderberdt*, a Sollar-plank or board. 1819 SCOTT *Ivanhoe* vi, I thought to have lodged him in the solere chamber.

Hence **So·llar** *v. trans.*, to furnish with a sollar or flooring. Also **So·llaring** (*vbl.*) *sb.*

1547 in J. R. Boyle *Hedon* (1875) App. 134 For mendynge the sollerynge over the hye altar, ij.d. 1648 HEXHAM II, *Een planckier*, a Sollering with Plankes. *Ibid.*, *Zolderen*, to Sollar, or to Lay with plankes or boards. 1778 PRYCE *Min. Cornub.* 147 To make these matters clear with regard to driving and Sallering an Adit.

So·llar, *sb.*[2], dial. var. of SALLOW *sb.* ? *Obs.*

1733 W. ELLIS *Chiltern & Vale Farm.* 157 At such Distances may be put in Sollar-sets, Ashen-keys, and Hazel-nuts. *Ibid.* 176 The old Saying, Be the Oak ne'er so stout, the Sollar red will wear it out.

Solle, obs. form of SOUL *sb.*

Solleret (*sɒ*·lərɛt). *Archæol.* Also soleret, solerette. [a. OF. *soll-*, *soleret*, dim. of *soll-*, *soler*, *souler* (mod.F. *soulier*) shoe.] A shoe composed of steel plates or scales, forming part of a knight's armour in the 14th and 15th centuries.

1826 Mrs. BRAY *De Foix* iii. 72 Upon his feet are seen the long-toed solerette, or pointed shoe (peculiar to the fourteenth century). 1834 PLANCHÉ *Brit. Costume* 138 With sollerets of over-lapping plates for the feet. 1884 *Athenæum* 16 Aug. 217/2 A fine effigy of a knight..with sollerets constructed of overlapping scales.

†Sollevate, *v. Obs. rare.* [f. It. *sollevare* (= Sp. and Pg. *solevar*, F. *soulever*):—L. *sublevāre* SUBLEVATE *v.*] *trans.* To raise in tumult.

a 1734 NORTH *Examen* I. ii. § 162 (1740) 114 Encouragement from the Magistrates..to sollevate the Rabble. *Ibid.* II. iv. § 85. 273 Fitzharris's [plot] was framed..to blast the King, arm the Faction, sollevate the Mob.

†Sollevation, *Obs.* [ad. It. *sollevazione* (= Sp. *solevacion*), f. *sollevare*: see prec.] Insurrection.

1646 J. HOWELL *Lustra Ludov.* 105 Some of the chiefest instruments of this sollevation were cut off by the sword of Justice. *Ibid.* 127 So this dangerous sollevation was quash'd by a high hand of Royall power. 1687 RYCAUT *Hist. Turks* II. 88 The bright Beams of Justice and Government having dissipated the Storms and Fury of popular Sollevations.

Sollicit, -ation, obs. ff. SOLICIT, -ATION.

Sollid(ly, obs. forms of SOLID(LY.

Sol-lunar, *a. Med.* [f. SOL *sb.*[1] + LUNAR *a.*] Due to the conjunction of sun and moon.

1790 F. BALFOUR (*title*), Treatise on putrid intestinal remitting fevers, in which the laws of the febrile state and sol-lunar influence explain the forms, crises, etc., of fevers. 1805 — in *Asiatick Researches* VIII. 10 Exacerbations of sol-lunar power in exciting and reiterating paroxysms.

Solly, variant of SELLY *a. Obs.*; obs. f. SOLELY *adv.*

Sollycytude, obs. form of SOLICITUDE.

Solme, obs. form of SOAM.

So·lmizate, *v. Mus.* [f. next, or F. *solmiser*.] a. *trans.* To express by solmization. b. *intr.* To employ solmization.

1891 *Cent. Dict.* s.v. *Tonic*, Chromatic tones are solmizated in the usual way.

Solmization (*sɒ*lmizē·ʃən). *Mus.* Also sol-misation. [ad. F. *solmisation*, f. *solmiser*, f. *sol* SOL[2] + *mi* MI.] The action or practice of solfaing.

1730 *Treat. Harmony* 59 The Notes, which..have in Solmisation different Syllables to express them. 1776 HAWKINS *Hist. Music* IV. iii. viii. 351 The best musicians..had found it expedient to reduce the six syllables used in solmisation to four. 1818 *Blackw. Mag.* III. 269 The exercises in solmisation or solfaing, as it is more familiarly called. 1879 *Grove's Dict. Music* I. 369 The solmization system of Guido d'Arrezo. *Ibid.* 734 So long as the compass of a single Hexachord is not exceeded, its Solmization remains immutable.

‖ Solo (sō·u-lo), *sb.* and *a.* Also 7 sola. Pl. **solos** (also **soli**). [It. *solo*:—L. *sōlum*, *sōlus* SOLE *a.* Cf. SOLUS *a.* and SOLA *a.*]

A. *sb.* **I. 1.** *Mus.* An instance of a song, melody, or other piece of music being rendered or performed by one singer or player; a piece of vocal or instrumental music performed, or intended for performance, by a single person.

1695 CONGREVE *Love for Love* II. vii, I don't much matter your Sola's or Sonata's, they give me the Spleen. 1710 *Tatler* No. 222 P12 There is not a labourer or handicraftman, that in the cool of the evening does not relieve himself with solo's and sonata's! 1742 POPE *Dunciad* IV. 324 With nothing but a Solo in his head. 1844 *Musical World* XIX. 87/3 There was a solo on the cornet-à-piston by König. 1879 *Grove's Dict. Music* I. 306 The word was used for vocal soli of some length. 1890 J. HATTON *By Order of Czar* II. II. xiv. 180 Walter..led off with the solo, and the chorus followed.

transf. 1755 J. HERVEY *Theron & Aspasio* dial. ix. II. 8 A spreading Cascade..soothed the Air with a Symphony of soft and gurgling sounds. .. This liquid Instrument still played its Solo: still pursued its busy Way. 1791 GILPIN *Forest Scenery* III. xi. II. 295 The rook has but two, or three notes; and when he attempts a solo, we cannot praise his song. 1860 O. W. HOLMES *E. Venner* iii, Solos on the slate-pencil (making it *screech* on the slate). 1900 F. F. MOORE *Nell Gwyn* viii, There came from the room..a loud peal of laughter—not a solo, but a duet.

b. *fig.* and in fig. context.

1749 FIELDING *Tom Jones* v. xi, Though the pedagogue chose rather to play *solos* on the human instrument. 1784 MME. D'ARBLAY *Diary* Oct., I went upstairs as usual, to treat myself with a solo of impatience for the post. 1849 E. FITZGERALD *Lett.* (1889) I. 195 The trees murmur a continuous soft 'chorus to the solo which my soul discourses within'.

2. Performance by one singer or player.

1779 *Mirror* No. 54 P11, In the solo or the song, no such deception as the theatrical is pretended. 1797 *Monthly Mag.* III. 466 We here find a trio introduced by four lines solo. 1834 [A. PRINSEP] *Baboo* II. vii. 124 He was obliged to play his flute-parts of the opera, in solo. 1866 ENGEL *Nat. Music* iii. 111 A very usual form of national songs is that in which Solo and Chorus alternate.

3. A dance by one person.

1794 Mrs. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* xxxviii, Behind stood a boy flourishing a tambourine, and dancing a solo. 1855 *Englishwoman in Russia* 18 Another peasant danced a solo in very good style. 1857 WILKINSON *Egypt. Time of Pharaohs* 28 Sometimes a man danced a *solo* to their sound, and to the clapping of hands.

4. *attrib.*, as *solo exhibition, part, -player.*

1776 BURNEY *Hist. Music* II. iii. (1789) I. 347 Pliny tells us that he was..the first solo-player. 1785 GROSE *Dict. Vulgar T.*, *Solo player*, a miserable performer on any instrument, who always plays alone, because no one will stay in the room to hear him. 1795 MASON *Ch. Music* I. 52 To perform a solo part in the Church Service. 1846 DICKENS *Cricket on Hearth* i, The kettle had had the last of its solo performance. 1859 *Habits of Gd. Society* v. 217 A bass [voice] should be prohibited, I think, from solo exhibitions, unless very good. 1868 *Athenæum* 29 Feb. 330/2 At Mr. H. Leslie's concert the *soli* parts were extremely well sung.

b. Special combs.: **solo organ,** a partial organ introduced into a larger one, for producing solo effects; **solo pitch** (see quot. 1875); **solo stop,** an organ stop of special quality or position for the performance of solos; **solo voice** (see quot. 1873).

1843 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* VI. 108/1 The fourth is the combination or solo organ, upon which..can be played any stop or stops out of the swell or choir, without interfering with their previous arrangement. 1868 *Athenæum* 11 Apr. 533/3 Another new composition for *solo* voices, chorus of men and orchestra. 1873 H. C. BANISTER *Music* 251 The principal voices in an Oratorio or Opera are termed the Solo voices, as distinguished from the chorus. 1875 STAINER & BARRETT *Dict. Mus. Terms*, *Solo pitch*, the tuning of an instrument a little higher than the ordinary pitch in order to obtain brilliancy of tone with a certain amount of ease to the player.

II. †5. A carriage accommodating only one person. *Obs.* (Cf. B. 2.)

1787 J. PUGH *Life J. Hanway* II. 120 His [Hanway's] carriage, which was a kind of Solo, from its holding but one person, was ornamented with his motto, 'never despair'.

III. 6. In card-playing (see quots.).

1878 H. GIBBS *Ombre* 38 Solo is an engagement on the part of the Ombre to win the game without discard. *Ibid.* 40 If one player has a hand so good as to enable him to venture a Solo. 1898 'HOFFMANN' *Hoyle's Games Modern.* 143 [In solo whist] he can call a *solo*, which is a declaration to make five of the thirteen tricks without having a partner.

b. *Solo whist*, *Heart solo* (see quots. 1898, 1907).

1892 ZANGWILL *Childr. Ghetto* I. 124 Solo-whist had not yet come in to drive everything else out. 1898 'HOFFMANN' *Hoyle's Games Modern.* 142 The objects of Solo Whist are—to make eight tricks out of the thirteen in conjunction with a partner; to make five or nine tricks out of your own hand against the other three players in combination; or to play your own hand so as to avoid taking a trick. 1907 *Hoyle's Games* 360 *Heart Solo.* This is solo for 3 players, reducing the pack to 24 cards by throwing out the 8 of hearts and all the diamonds but the 7.

B. *adj.* **1.** Alone; without a companion or partner. (Cf. SOLUS *a.* and SOLA *a.*)

1712 ARBUTHNOT *John Bull* I. xvii, How Lewis Baboon attempted to play a game solo in clubs. 1760–72 H. BROOKE *Fool of Qual.* (1809) I. 79 Madam .. would not be left solo. 1881 W. S. GILBERT *Foggerty's Fairy* III, Lately I've been dancing solo.

2. Made to accommodate one person. (Cf. A. 5.)

1774 H. FINLAY *Postal Jrnl.* (Brooklyn, 1867) 52, I was in a solo chair, Wills the guide was on horseback, leading a horse to relieve the chair horse.

3. Of musical instruments, or the players of these: Playing or taking the solo part.

1880 GROVE *Dict. Mus.* s. v. *Cornet*, The great organ Solo Cornet comprised either 5, 4, or 3 ranks of pipes. 1897 SHEDLOCK tr. *Riemann's Dict. Mus.* 745/1 Only one violinist (the solo violin, leader) is to play the passage. 1901 *Jedburgh Gazette* 9 Nov. 2 [He] was librarian [of the band] and solo euphonium.

†Solœ·cal, *a. Obs.*[−1] [f. L. **solœc-us*, ad. Gr. *σόλοικος*: see SOLECISM.] Provincially incorrect.

1716 M. DAVIES *Athen. Brit.* III. 31 That favours much of the old Saxon or even of the Solœcal Dialect.

‖Solœco·phanes, *Obs. rare.* [ad. Gr. *σολοικοφανής* like a solecism.] An apparent solecism.

1583 FULKE *Def. Tr. Script.* i. 37 It is either a plaine *solœcophanes*.., or a corruption crept out of the margent into the text. *Ibid.* 43 He which vseth *Solœcophanes* in Greeke committeth not a *solœcisme*. 1727 BAILEY (vol. II), *Solœcophanes*,..that which seemeth to be a Solœcism, (or Impropriety of Speech) and is not.

So·lograph. *rare*[−0]. [f. SOL *sb.*[1], after *photograph.*] (See quot.)

1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade*, *Solograph*, a name which has been given to some pictures on paper taken by the talbotype or calotype process.

Soloist (sō·u-lo,ist). [f. SOLO *sb.* + -IST.] One who sings or performs a solo or solos.

1864 *Realm* 20 Apr. 8 The soloist was Signor Sivori, who played Mendelssohn's violin concerto. 1879 *Sat. Mus. Rev.* 6 Sept. 567 The soloists acquitted themselves thoroughly well. 1890 J. HATTON *By Order of Czar* (1891) 328 Presently the soloist paused in his song.

Solomon (*sɒ*·lŏmŏn). Also 6–7 Salomon. [The name of the Jewish king *Solomon* (in older English usage *Salomon*), L. *Solomon*, *Salomon*, Gr. Σολομών, Σαλομών, Σαλωμών, ad. Heb. שלמה *Sh'lōmōh.*] One who resembles, or is comparable to, Solomon, esp. in respect of wisdom or justice; a profoundly wise person, a sage; also ironically, a wiseacre.

1554 MAYLAND in *Hawes' Past. Pleas.* *iij, The famous Prince and seconde Salomon, Kynge Henrye the Seuenth. 1557 *Tottel's Misc.* (Arb.) 168 In sober wit a Salomon. 1624 BEDELL *Lett.* v. 90 Let our Salomon [James I] be Iudge betweene them. 1656 EARL MONM. tr. *Boccalini's Advts. fr. Parnass.* II. lix. (1674) 212 Command, makes men seem wise Solomons..who..have no more Brains than a Goose. 1678 BUTLER *Hud.* III. *Lady's Answer to Knight* 195 If you all were Solomons, And Wise and Great as he was once. 1773 H. WALPOLE *Lett.* (1857) VI. 42 These Solomons delight to sit to a maker of wax-work. 1829 SCOTT *Anne of G.* xxx, But the old Swiss is a Solomon compared with him. 1889 *Science-Gossip* XXV. 244 It must imply that there was once an exceptionally wise Paramœcium...The existence of such an infusorial Solomon is at least improbable.

b. *British*, *English*, or *Scotch Solomon*, King James VI of Scotland and I of England.

*1814 W. WILSON *Hist. Dissent. Ch.* IV. 123 About the year 1621, our English Solomon then sitting on the throne. *c* 1830 COLERIDGE in *Lit. Rem.* (1838) III. 48 In the slavering times of our Scotch Solomon.

Solomon, variant of SALMON *sb.*[2] *Obs.*

†Solomon-gundy, perversion of SALMAGUNDI.

1764 [see SALMAGUNDI 1]. 1769 E. RAFFALD *Engl. Housekpr.* (1778) 281 To make a Solomon-Gundy. 1896 'Q.' (QUILLER COUCH) *Story of Sea* II. xxviii. 571 A savoury dish of solomon-gundy.

Solomonian (*sɒ*lŏmō·u-niăn), *a.* Also -ean. [f. SOLOMON + -IAN.] Of, pertaining or relating to, characteristic of, King Solomon; Solomonic.

1747 *Mem. Nutrebian Crt.* II. 121 Pleased with his Solomonean prudence, by this judicious way of discovering the guilty person. 1835 J. B. ROBERTSON tr. *Schlegel's Philos. Hist.* xviii. (1846) 456 The Solomonian traditions connected with the very foundation of the order of Templars. 1861 *Morn. Chron.* 3 Aug., The Colonel..dismissed the case by a Solomonian judgment. 1896 A. J. BUTLER tr. *Ratzel's Hist. Mankind* I. 134 In giving judgment, he needs no great abundance of Solomonian wisdom.

Solomonic (*sɒ*lŏmo·nik), *a.* Also 8 -ick. [f. as prec. + -IC.]

1. Ascribed to, originating with, Solomon.

1722 G. MACKENZIE *Writers Scots Nation* III. 517 This is a large Print...Upon the Top is the Blessed Virgin... Then follow Seven Columns...In the 5th Column are..the Solomonick; the Noachick Alphabets. 1873 *Our Work in Palestine* ix. (1874) 169 Solomon's Temple, then, was a rectangle...Wilson's Arch would, therefore, be Solomonic. 1883 A. ROBERTS *O. T. Revision* vi. 126 As..the book was written in Greek, the idea of its Solomonic authorship must at once be set aside.

2. Characteristic of Solomon; suggestive of the wisdom of Solomon.

1857 DICKENS *Dorrit* I. xiii, This sentiment, in itself almost Solomonic. 1861 *Sat. Rev.* 30 Nov. 563 That Solomonic wisdom which is better than..silver. 1876 *Tinsley's Mag.* XIX. 6 With a Solomonic shake of her head.

So **†Solomo·nical** *a. Obs.*

1530 LYNDESAY *Test. Papyngo* 2 Suppose I had..sapience more than Salamonicall, 157: BUCHANAN *Let.* in *Wks.* (S. T. S.) 57, I most neidis præfer the rude Scottis wyt of capitane Cocburne to your inglis solomonical sapience.

Solomon's seal. Also 6–7 Salomon's seal(e. [tr. med.L. *sigillum Solomōnis* (*Salo-*, *Salamōnis*).

The name has been variously explained as referring to the markings seen on a transverse section of the root-stock, or to the round scars left on this by the decay of the stems, or to the use of the root 'to seal and close up green wounds'.]

1. A plant, *Polygonatum multiflorum*, the stems of which bear on the upper part broad sessile leaves and drooping green and white flowers.

1543 TRAHERON tr. *Vigo's Chirurg.* 182 b/2 Of the rootes of salomons seale sodden after the same maner. 1578 LYTE *Dodoens* 102 White roote or Salomons seale is of two sortes. 1629 PARKINSON *Kitchen Garden* I. vii. 472 Salomon's seal, or (as some call it) Ladder to heauen. 1676 *Phil. Trans.* II. 629 There grow wild in the Woods, Plantane of all sorts, Yellow-Dock, .. Solomons-seal [etc.]. 1767 ABERCROMBIE *Ev. Man his own Gardener* (1803) 553 Now is also a proper time to..transplant the roots of..Solomon's seal. 1785 MARTYN *Rousseau's Bot.* xviii. (1794) 249 This species is distinguished from Solomon's-seal..by the flowers growing on a scape or naked stalk. 1826 Miss MITFORD *Village Ser.* II. (1863) 410 The pendent drops of the stately Solomon's seal, which hang like waxen tassels under the full and regular leaves. 1857 A. GRAY *First Lessons Bot.* (1866) 42 Some rootstocks are marked with large round scars of a different sort, like those of the Solomon's Seal. 1882 *Proc. Ber. Nat. Club* IX. 462 Celandine and Solomon's seal were cultivated alongside the houses that we passed.

2. Applied to various other plants (see quots.).

1760 J. LEE *Introd. Bot.* App. 327 Solomon's Seal, Pensylvanian, *Uvularia*. 1846–50 A. WOOD *Class-bk. Bot.* 552 *Majanthemum*...*Convallaria bifolia*. Two-leaved Solomon's Seal. *Ibid.*, *Smilacina*...*Convallaria trifoliata*. Three-leaved Solomon's Seal. 1856 A. GRAY *Man. Bot.* (1860) 467 *Smilacina*. False Solomon's Seal. 1898 MORRIS *Austral Eng.* 426 *Solomon's Seal*,..the Tasmanian name for *Drymophila cyanocarpa*,..also called Turquoise Berry.

Solon (sō·u-lŏn). [a. L. *Solōn*, Gr. Σόλων, the early Athenian legislator and one of the seven sages of Greece.] A sage; a wiseacre.

1625 B. JONSON *Staple of N.* II. iii, Your graue great Solons. 1820 SHELLEY *Œd. Tyr.* I. 64 Ask else your royal Solons. 1840 THACKERAY *Jolly Jack*, When village Solons cursed the Lords.

Solonette, variant of SOLENETTE.

1882 DAY *Fishes Gt. Brit.* II. 45 *Solea parva*...Solonette. 1883 — *Catal. Internat. Fish. Exhib.* 161 In some small forms, as the Solonette.

So long: see LONG *adv.* 1 c.

Solonian (sŏlō·niăn), *a.* [See SOLON.] Of, pertaining to, connected with, Solon.

1843 GROTE in *Class. Mus.* I. 8 The mina as weight..was required to weigh 138 Solonian standard drachmæ. *Ibid.*, The Solonian standard. 1846 — *Hist. Greece* I. xiv. I. 379 About the time of the Solonian legislation at Athens. 1885 G. W. Cox *Lives Gk. Statesmen* 27 *marg.*, Solonian law against neutrality in times of sedition. 1896 GREENRIDGE *Handbk. Gk. Const. Hist.* vi. 151 The permanence of these Solonian property-classes is remarkable.

So **Solo·nic** *a.*, Solon-like; Solonian; **So·lonist**, a wiseacre.

1607 T. WALKINGTON *Optic Glass* 126 Like pumpion headed Solonists they looke. 1796 *Mod. Gulliver's Trav.* 102 Instead of any Solonic observations, I wrote the following address. 1888 *Encycl. Brit.* XXIV. 488/2 The system [of weights]..called Attic or Solonic.

Solow, obs. form of SULLOW, plough.

Solp, variant of SOWP *v.*, SULP *v. Obs.*

‖ **Solpuga** (sŏlpiū·gă). Also 8 **Sal-**. [L. *solpūga* (*salpūga*), also *solipūga*, *solifūga*: see SOLIFUGE.]

1. A venomous ant or spider mentioned by classical authors.

1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* VIII. xxix. 212 In Æthyopia..there is a great countrey..dispeopled sometime by Scorpions, and a Kind of Pismires called Solpugae. 1627 MAY *Lucan* IX. 954 Who, small Solpuga, from thy hole would flee? Yet the three sisters giue their power to thee. 1718 ROWE tr. *Lucan* IX. 1418 Or cou'd we the Salpuga's anger dread?

2. *Ent.* A genus of tropical or semi-tropical spiders (belonging to the group *Solpugidæ* or *Solifugæ*); a weasel-spider.

1815 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* iv. (1818) I. 126 The bite of one of the centipedes..is less tremendous than that of the *Solpuga*. 1835 KIRBY *Habits & Inst. Anim.* II. xvi. 86 It seems, therefore, almost certain that the ancient and modern Solpuga are synonymous.

Solpugid (sŏlpiū·dgid). *Ent.* [See prec. and -ID³.] One of the *Solpugidæ*: (see prec. 2).

1875 *Encycl. Brit.* II. 281 The Muscular System of Solpugids appears to be very similar to that of other Arachnids. *Ibid.*, Several Solpugids entered the tent-door.

‖ **Sols.** *Obs.* Also **solz**. [older F. *sols*, var. of *sol* SOL *sb.*³] A sou.

a 1625 FLETCHER *Elder Brother* II. i, They shall not share a Solz of mine between them. 1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), *Sols* or *Sous*, a French coin that contains 12 Deniers.

† **Solsecle.** *Obs.* Also 5 **solceele, -sykelle, sausikel.** [a. OF. *solsecle* (*soucicle*, etc.), ad. L. *solsequium*: see next.] The marigold.

a 1310 in Wright *Lyric P.* xvi. 53 Heo is solsecle of suetnesse. *Ibid.* v. 26. *a* 1400 *Pistill of Susan* 110 Þe sauge, þe solsecle, so semeliche to siht. *c* 1450 *M. E. Med. Bk.* (Heinrich) 124 Take feþerfoye, matfeloun, mogwort, solcecle, scabyouse [etc.].

‖ **Solse·quium.** *Obs.* [L., f. *sōl* sun + *sequī* to follow.] = prec.

[*c* 1425 tr. *Arderne's Treat. Fistula*, etc. 52 Epithimated with þe iuyse of solsequi, i. marigold. *Ibid.*, Þe iuyse of solsiquii.] 1540 *Treas. Poore Men* 44 b, For the Palsey. Take..two handefull of hertestonge, two handefull of Solsequium. *a* 1568 MONTGOMERIE *Misc. Poems* xv. 2 Lyk as the dum Solsequium..Hings doun his head.

So † **Solsequy.** *Obs.*—¹

a 1680 T. BROOKS in Spurgeon *Treas. David* XXX. 7 (1871) II. 58 Bowing and inclining the head, as the solsequy and mallow-flowers.

† **Solstacion.** *Obs.*—¹ [ad. L. *sōlstitium*, after *station*: cf. SOLSTICION.] Solstice.

c 1400 *Destr. Troy* 10637 Sadmen of Syens, þat settyn hom þerto, Solstacion, for sothe, sayn hit to hat.

† **Solstead.** *Obs. rare.* [f. L. *sōl-* in *sōlstitium* (see next) + STEAD *sb.* Cf. SUNSTEAD.] Solstice.

1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* XXVI. v. 245 If it be gathered about the Summer solstead. 1653 W. RAMESEY *Astrol. Restored* 79 Winter [beginning] at the second Solstead.

Solstice (sŏ·lstis). Also 7 **solsticke, solstist.** [a. OF. *solstice* (also mod.F.), ad. L. *sōlstitium* SOLSTITIUM.]

1. One or other of the two times in the year, midway between the two equinoxes, when the sun, having reached the tropical points, is farthest from the equator and appears to stand still, i. e. about 21st June (the summer solstice) and 22nd December (the winter solstice).

c 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 150 Two ȝeuelengðes timen her, And two solstices in ðe ȝer. 1432–50 tr. *Higden* (Rolls) I. 201 There is a welle..whiche floethe ouer with watere abowte the solstice of somer. *Ibid.* III. 51 Whiche Olimpias began in the solstice of wynter, when men of Grece begynne theire yere. 1549 *Compl. Scotl.* vi. 50 The tropic of Cancer..is the solstice of symmyr...The circle of capricorne is callit the solstice of vyntir. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* III. 269 At Lucern twice each yeere they make election of Senators.., namely, about each Solstice of the yeere. 1660 R. COKE *Power & Subj.* 265 As we see in foxes about the brumal Solstice. 1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* I. 214 This being the southern Solstice, for Winter I cannot call it. 1794 R. J. SULIVAN *View Nat.* I. 410 It is at the solstices that we have the lowest tides in the year. 1834 MRS. SOMERVILLE *Connex. Phys. Sci.* xiii. 99 It is estimated from the winter solstice, the middle of the long annual night under the poles. 1847 LONGF. *Evang.* I. iv. 61 When the air is serene in the sultry solstice of summer.

b. *spec.* The summer solstice, or the heat of this.

1643 SIR T. BROWNE *Relig. Med.* I. § 32 So when thy absent beames begin t' impart Againe a Solstice on my frozen heart, My winter's ov'r. 1692 WASHINGTON *Milton's Def. People* i. M.'s Wks. 1851 VIII. 21 May the Gods and Goddesses, Damasippus, bless thee with an everlasting Solstice; that thou mayst always be warm. 1855 SINGLETON *Virgil* I. 48 The solstice from the flock Ward off.

2. A solstitial point.

1601 DOLMAN *La Primaud. Fr. Acad.* III. xx. 96 The Solstists or sun-steads and poles of the Zodiacke. 1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* 227 A temperate heat.., which by his approach unto the solstice he intendeth. 1678 HOBBES *Decameron* Wks. 1845 VII. 104 The distance between the equinoctial and the solstice, is not always the same. 1755 B. MARTIN *Mag. Arts & Sci.* 192/3 These two Points are called the Solstices. 1812 WOODHOUSE *Astron.* ix. 65 The interval of time..between two appearances of the Sun in the solstices. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 214/1 *Solstices*, the points of the ecliptic which are highest above the equator.

3. *fig.* A turning, culminating, or stopping point; a furthest limit; a crisis.

a 1631 DONNE *Select.* (1840) 105 A Christian hath no solstice..where he may stand still, and go no further. 1638 WILKINS *New World* xiv. (1707) 114 Arts are not yet come to their Solstice. 1663 HEATH *Flagellum* (1672) 158 This being the Solstice of his Fortunes. 1860 EMERSON *Conduct of Life, Culture* Wks. (Bohn) II. 370 There is in every constitution a certain solstice.

4. *transf.* A standing still (*of* the sun).

1643 SIR T. BROWNE *Relig. Med.* I. § 29 The Jewes that can beleeve the supernaturall solstice of the Sunne in the dayes of Joshua.

† **Solsticion.** *Obs.*—¹ [ad. L. *sōlstitium*: see prec. and cf. SOLSTATION.] Solstice.

c 1391 CHAUCER *Astrolabe* I. § 17 In this heued of cancer is the grettest declinacioun northward of the sonne, & ther-for is he cleped the Solsticioun of somer.

† **Solsticy.** *Obs.* Also 5–6 **solsticie.** [ad. L. *sōlstitium*.] Solstice. Also *fig.*

1570 DEE *Math. Pref.* d iij b, The fashion of the heauen, the Æquinox, the Solsticie, and the course of the Sterres. 1602 MARSTON *Antonio's Rev.* I. iii, You arrive euen in the solsticie And highest point of sun-shine happinesse. 1620 MIDDLETON & ROWLEY *World Tost at Tennis* Induct., When the high-heated year Is in her solsticy.

Solstitial (sŏlstĭ·ʃăl), *a.* and *sb.* Also 6–7 **-tiall, -ciall,** 7–9 **-cial.** [a. F. *solsticial*, † *solstitial*, or ad. L. *sōlstitiāl-is*, f. *sōlstitium*: see SOLSTICE.]

A. *adj.* **1.** Of or belonging to, connected with, a solstice or the solstices.

1559 W. CUNNINGHAM *Cosmogr. Glasse* 35 They are called Colures, of which th'one..is named th'equinoctiall Colure, and th'other..the solstitiall Colure. 1591 NASHE *Prognost.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 164 The Sunne..at his passage vnto the solsticiall estiuall signe Cancer. 1594 BLUNDEVIL *Exerc.* III. I. xxvii. (1636) 336 Now it is found to have passed that point so farre towards the Solsticiall point, as [etc.]. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* I. 8 The shadowes of them that dwell Northerly vnder the Solstitiall circle in Summer. 1634 PEACHAM *Compl. Gentl.* vii. 60 The other passeth thorow the Solstitiall points, and is called the Solstitiall Colure. 1755 B. MARTIN *Mag. Arts & Sci.* 192/3 What Distinction is made of these Solstitial Points? 1812–6 PLAYFAIR *Nat. Phil.* II. 121 From observations of the sun's solstitial altitudes. 1845 *Theologian* II. 36 Cancer..is a watery,.. solstitial, and exceedingly fruitful sign. 1894 R. A. GREGORY *Elem. Physiogr.* vii. (ed. 4) 141 Each of the solsticial points being midway between the equinoxes.

2. Occurring, taking place, etc., at the time of the solstice(s).

c 1610 SIR C. HEYDON *Astrol. Disc.* (1650) 14 These four causes are most evident upon the very solstitial days. 1695 *Phil. Trans.* XIX. 15 In order to determine the Proportion of the Gnomon to the Solstitial shade. 1796 PEGGE *Anonym.* (1809) 431 The solstitial rains are here in England extremely beneficial. 1845 *Peter Parley's Ann.* VI. 133 The setting in of the solstitial season. 1853 KANE *Grinnell Exped.* xxxi. (1856) 266 The solstitial day of greatest darkness. 1881 *Nature* XXIII. 609 The solstitial months, namely June and December.

3. Of heat, etc.: Characteristic of the summer solstice. Also as an epithet of the sun, etc., in this connexion.

1642 H. MORE *Song of Soul* II. II. vii, The glorious Sun ..such as he is in his solstitiall noon. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* x. 656 From the South to bring Solstitial summers heat. 1708 J. PHILIPS *Cyder* I. 13 Sirius parched with Heat Solstitial the green herb. 1795 *Gentl. Mag.* 540 Luxuriant foliage opposes the solstitial sun. 1829 WORDSW. *Th. on the Seasons* ii, Less fair is summer riding high In fierce solstitial power. 1868 KINGSLEY *Christmas Day* 37 That day Shall dawn in glory, and solstitial blaze Of full midsummer sun.

4. a. Of plants: Coming up at the summer solstice; growing or fading rapidly.

After *solstitialis herba* in Plautus *Pseud.* I. i. 36.

1654 WHITLOCK *Zootomia* 475 The short Duration of worldly Happinesse, how aptly called the Solstitiall Plant. 1657–61 HEYLIN *Hist. Reform.* Pref. p. i, So many Ordinances.. should be as short lived as Jonas' Gourd, or the solstitial herb in Plautus. 1783 *Phil. Trans.* LXXIV. 417 As the two last are solstitial, and rather delicate plants, I wondered the less at their sensibility.

b. Of insects, etc.: Appearing about the time of the summer solstice.

1812 SHAW *Gen. Zool.* VIII. II. 449 The Solstitial Parrakeet is twice described by Buffon, under different divisions of the genus. 1818 KIRBY & SP. *Introd. Entomol.* II. xxiii. 372 The solstitial and common cockchafer appear in the evening—the former generally coming forth at the summer solstice. 1835 KIRBY *Habits & Inst. Anim.* II. xx. 366 About the time of the summer solstice, the solstitial beetle may be seen and heard buzzing in vast numbers over the trees and hedges.

5. Connected with the observation of the solstices.

1834 *Hist. Astron.* (U. K. S.) vi. 32/1 The construction of the astrolabium..was rather more complicated than that of the solstitial or equatorial armillæ. 1883 *Bible Myths* (ed. 2) 439 An astronomical observatory containing..solstitial and equatorial armils,..and other apparatus. 1906 LOCKYER *Stonehenge* iii. 19 We have in Stonehenge a solstitial temple.

† **B.** *sb.* A solstice. *Obs. rare.*

1561 EDEN *Arte Nauig.* I. xv. 16 These Tropykes are descryued by the motion of the fyrst moueable with the points of the Solstitials. 1612 HOPTON *Concord. Yeares* (1615) 53 The Summer and Winter Solstitials.

Hence **Solsti·tially** *adv.*, towards the solstices.

1658 SIR T. BROWNE *Gard. Cyrus* iv. 166 That the Leaves of the Olive and some other trees solstitially turn..is scarce expectable in any Climate. 1894 *Athenæum* 21 Apr. 515/3 The temples were oriented solstitially or equinoctially.

Solstitian (sŏlstĭ·ʃăn), *a.* Also 7 **solstician.** [f. L. *sōlstiti-um* + -AN.] Solstitial.

1614 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Nipping Abuses* E 2 b, Sol.. High mounted in his chiefe solstician pride. 1845 *Theologian* II. 37 Capricornus..is an earthy,..moveable,..solstitian,..quadrupedal sign.

‖ **Solstitium** (sŏlstĭ·ʃĭŭm). Pl. **solstitia.** Also 6 **solsticium.** [L. *sōlstitium* (med.L. also *-sticium*), f. *sōl* sun (SOL *sb.*¹) + ppl. stem of *sistĕre* to stand still.] = SOLSTICE.

1515 A. BARCLAY *Egloges* (1570) C v/2 Then shall my songe be dom Like a Nightingale at the solstitium. 1562 TURNER *Herbal* II. (1568) 98 By that token the Husbandmen know that the Solstitium of Sommer is past. 1609 C. BUTLER *Fem. Mon.* (1634) 44 The Æquinoctia and Solstitia, in which the four quarters of the year..take their beginnings. 1630 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Wks.* 2 Aaa 6 b/2 Talkes of the Iewish Thalmud, and Cabals, Solstitiums and Equinoctialls. 1884 R. PATON *Scott. Ch.* x. 102 Christmas took the place of the Pagan Saturnalia and Solstitia.

Solubility (sŏlĭŭbĭ·lĭti). [f. next + -ITY. Cf. F. *solubilité*, It. *solubilità*, Sp. *solubilidad*.]

1. The quality or property of being soluble.

1677 GREW *Anat. Pl.* (1682) 297 Even the changes of the weather will somewhat alter the Solubility of the Salts. 1690 LOCKE *Hum. Und.* II. xxxiii. § 23 Its peculiar fixedness and solubility in *aqua regia*. 1771 *Phil. Trans.* LXI. 216 The solubility of water in air. 1794 G. ADAMS *Nat. & Exper. Phil.* I. x. 399 The solubility of salt in water. 1811 A. T. THOMSON *Lond. Disp.* (1818) p. xxiii, A compound of little solubility. 1844 G. BIRD *Urin. Deposits* (1857) 207 Sometimes the crystals form very slowly, owing to their solubility in the precipitant. 1898 *Rev. Brit. Pharm.* 28 Solubilities in alcohol, ammonia solution, and ether are given.

2. *Bot.* Capability of easy separation into parts.

1832 LINDLEY *Introd. Bot.* 165 Solubility arises from the presence of certain transverse contractions of a one-celled pericarpium, through which it finally separates into several closed portions. 1861 BENTLEY *Man. Bot.* 310 The separation taking place in these cases has been supposed to be effected by a process called *solubility*.

3. Capability of being solved or explained.

1882 in *Imperial Dict.*

Soluble (sŏ·lĭŭb'l), *a.* Also 5–6 **solyble, solible,** 6 **solubil.** [a. OF. (also mod.F.) *soluble*, = Sp. *soluble*, Pg. *soluvel*, It. *solubile*, ad. L. *solūbilis*, f. *solvĕre* to loosen, dissolve, etc.]

1. *Med.* **a.** Of the bowels, etc.: Free from constipation or costiveness; relaxed. Now *rare* or *Obs.*

c 1400 tr. *Secreta Secret.* 87 It [the medicine] shall make þe takere right noght solyble, or ellys ful litell. 1450–80 *Ibid.* 27 And it is good to travayle and to haue thi wombe soluble. 1539 ELYOT *Cast. Helthe* (1541) 25 Dry figges and old make the bodye soluble. 1563 T. GALE *Antidot.* II. 81 Prouided alwayes that the pacient bee kepte soluble. 1620 VENNER *Via Recta* i. 18 It..maketh the body soluble, and therefore sometimes good for such as are wont to be costiue. 1671 SALMON *Syn. Med.* II. lviii. 345 The Cholick if it be gentle, and the Belly soluble, it is easily cured. 1778 *Phil. Trans.* LXII. 457 The belly should be kept soluble with lenitive Electuary, or any other mild purgative. 1843 R. J. GRAVES *Syst. Clin. Med.* xvii. 196 The citrate of soda..tends to keep up a soluble state of the bowels.

† **b.** Laxative; causing looseness of the bowels.

1502 ARNOLDE *Chron.* (1811) 171 To take dryukes solyble for to purgen the bodi of euyll humors. 1582 HESTER *Secr. Phiorav.* II. xxvii. 104 Give the Pacient..our Potion of Lignum Sanctum, the whiche is soluble and driying, and purgeth the bloud. 1620 VENNER *Via Recta* (1650) 249 They are of an attenuating and soluble faculty. 1704 J. HARRIS *Lex. Techn.* I. s.v., This is the Soluble Tartar. 'Tis accounted a very good Aperitive Medicine.

2. Capable of being melted or dissolved.

1432–50 tr. *Higden* (Rolls) I. 310 In Scicille is white salte, ..whiche, beenge soluble [L. *solubilis*] in the fyre, brestethe and breketh in the water.

1764 REID *Inquiry* iii. 115 It is probable that everything that affects the taste is, in some degree, soluble in the saliva. 1794 R. J. SULIVAN *View Nat.* I. 306 There results a soap which is soluble in water. 1814 SIR H. DAVY *Agric. Chem.* 273 To make it afford as much soluble matter as possible to the roots of the plant. 1853 W. GREGORY *Inorg. Chem.* 160 Borates..are for the most part insoluble. The alkaline borates alone are soluble. 1878 HUXLEY *Physiogr.* 117 Whatever soluble constituents exist in the air will be absorbed by the rain.

b. As a specific epithet with names of substances.

1836–41 BRANDE *Chem.* (ed. 5) 595 Solution of chlorine, or of the soluble chlorides. *Ibid.*, The soluble nitrate of silver. 1843 R. J. GRAVES *Syst. Clin. Med.* xxv. 321 The soluble mercury of Hahnemann was chiefly employed. 1861 BENTLEY *Man. Bot.* 471 This forms common cocoa, rock cocoa, soluble cocoa, &c. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2244/2 For much that is valuable in the preparation and application of water-glass or soluble glass, we are indebted to Dr. Johann Fuchs of Munich. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VII. 684 Intramuscular injections of the soluble mercurial salts.

c. Dissolving, solvent. *rare.*

1846 G. E. Day tr. *Simon's Anim. Chem.* II. 358 It differs from it..in its power of resisting the soluble action of a cold solution of potash.

3. Capable of being untied or loosed. *rare.*

1613 T. Adams *Heaven & Earth Recon.* 22 If Balaams Asse hath but an audible voyce, and a soluble Purse. 1847 Tennyson *Princ.* v. 129 More soluble is this knot, By gentleness than war.

†**4.** Plastic, pliable. Also *fig.* *Obs.*

1650 Trapp *Comm. Deut.* ix. 22 Keep our souls humble, supple, and soluble. 1683 Moxon *Mech. Exerc., Printing* xi. ¶ 23 This Canvass (to make it more soluble) is wet in Water, and the Water well wrung out again.

5. Capable of being solved or explained; solvable.

c 1795 Br. Berkeley in Fraser *Life* (1871) 422 In physiques I have a vast view of things soluble hereby. 1850 Carlyle *Latter-d. Pamph.* i. 4 Questions not very soluble at present, were even sages and heroes set to solve them, began everywhere..to be asked. 1877 Sparrow *Serm.* xxi. 280, I refer now to those subjects, which..have more the appearance of soluble questions.

6. Capable of being resolved; reducible.

1826 Syd. Smith *Wks.* (1859) II. 98/1 A great deal of compliment to the wisdom of ancestors, and a great degree of alarm at the dreadful spirit of innovation, are soluble into mere jealousy and envy. 1858 O. W. Holmes *Aut. Breakf. Table* xi. 107 Love is sparingly soluble in the words of men.

So·lubleness. ? *Obs.* Also 6 soliblenesse, **solublenes**, 7 **solublenesse**. [f. prec. + -NESS.] The state, character, or property of being soluble.

1574 J. Jones *Nat. Beg. Growing & Living Things* 47 It causeth..Solublenes of the Wombe. 1579 — *Preserv. Body & Soul* I. xv. 27 Hir..soliblenesse and costiuenesse, must be meane. 1620 Venner *Via Recta* vii. 150 The onely property that they haue is to mollifie the belly, and procure solublenesse. 1655 Moufet & Bennet *Health's Improv.* (1746) 287 Warming their Stomachs,..procuring Solubleness and Urine.

Solucyt, obs. variant of Solicit *v.*

‖ **Solum** (sō·lŏm). [L. *solum* ground.] Soil, ground. (Chiefly *Sc. Law.*)

1829 in P. Shaw *Reports* VII. 363 A right of absolute..property in the *solum.* 1894 J. Macintosh *Ayrshire Nts.' Entert.* xi. 199 The solum of the old road having been assigned to the respective proprietors. 1905 *Proc. Antiq. Soc. Scotl.* XXXIX. 346 The Abertay Sands..bid fair by and by to enlarge..the solum of this tract of country.

‖ **Solus** (sō·lŭs), *a.* [L. *sōlus* alone.]

1. Of male persons: Alone, by oneself.

In older use esp. in stage-directions.

1599 Shaks. *Hen. V*, II. i. 48 Will you shogge off? I would haue you solus. 1605 *1st Pt. Jeronimo* III. ii, Enter Ieronimo solus. 1676 Shadwell *Libertine* II, Jacomo *solus.* 1711 Addison *Spectator* No. 29 ¶ 1 The Famous Blunder in an old Play of *Enter a King and two Fidlers Solus.* 1775 Sheridan *Rivals* III. ii, Julia's Dressing-room. Faulkland *solus.* 1829 Marryat *F. Mildmay* iii, My meals were sent to me, and I took them *solus* on my chest. 1852 Mundy *Antipodes* (1857) 35 A solvent looking gentleman, solus in a buggy. 1878 H. S. Leigh *Town Garland* 140 It is only when *solus*, away from the throng, That I've hypochondrical fits.

2. Of females: = Sola *a.* 1.

1749 Johnson *Irene* v. i. *stage-direct.*, Aspasia, solus. 1844 W. Irving *Life & Lett.* (1866) III. 353 This must be the hardest task, for so young a creature, to have to play the Queen *solus.* 1882 Mrs. B. M. Croker *Proper Pride* I. ii. 13 Mounted on her chestnut pony she would..scour *solus* round the fields.

Solute (sŏl'ū·t), *sb.* [ad. L. *solūt-um*, or substantival use of next. Cf. OF. *solut* payment.]

†**1.** A sum to be received in payment. *Obs.*—1

1622 Mabbe tr. *Aleman's Guzman d'Alf.* II. 149 His Masters..booke of remembrances, wherein hee sets downe his Solutes and his debts, what he is to receiue and what to pay.

2. The substance dissolved in a solution.

1904 Whetham *Rec. Develop. Phys. Sci.* iv. 115 The nature of the interaction which occurs between the solute and the solvent is unknown. 1908 *Athenæum* 25 July 102/1 The osmotic action which allows the solvent to pass through a semi-permeable wall while retaining the solute.

Solute (sŏl'ū·t), *ppl. a.* [ad. L. *solūt-us*, pa. pple. of *solvĕre* Solve *v.*]

†**1.** Of loose open texture or composition. *Obs.*

c 1440 tr. *Palladius on Husb.* I. 250 Eek cornys best wole thryue In opon lond, solute. *Ibid.* XIII. 33 In lond that is solute..Not depe hem sette. 1653 H. More *Antid. Ath.* App. (1662) 183 From the solute Arenosity (as I may so speak) of Air and Fire.

†**2.** Unmarried. *Obs. rare.*

1554 *MS. Cant. Cathedral Libr.* Reg. N, lf. 165 b, I haue maried one Agnes Staunton, a single or solute woman. *Ibid.* 167 b, One Anne Wescotte, a single and solute woman.

†**3.** Of discourse: Free, loose, discursive. *Obs.*

1605 Bacon *Adv. Learn.* II. xxv. § 10 The Interpretations of the Scriptures are of two sorts: Methodical, and Solute, or at large. 1680 MacWard *Contendings* (1723) 177 Some, whom you mind to hit right or wrong in a solute and lax discourse.

†**4.** Relaxed, free from care. *Obs.*—1

1742 Young *Nt. Th.* II. 585 God of joyous wit, A brow solute, and ever-laughing eye.

5. *Bot.* Not adhering; separate.

1760 J. Lee *Introd. Bot.* III. xvii. (1765) 210 *Solute*, free or loose, in most Plants. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1072/2 *Solute*, completely separate from neighbouring parts.

6. Dissolved; in a state of solution. Also *fig.*

1890 W. C. Wilkinson *Classic Fr. Course* v. 61 (Stand.), His maxims are like hard and sharp crystals,..blandly solute and dilute in Montaigne. 1904 Whetham *Rec. Develop. Phys. Sci.* iv. 115 A solution may be regarded as containing a number of little systems, each composed of a solute particle surrounded by an atmosphere of solvent.

†**Solu·te,** *v.* *Obs.* [f. L. *solūt-*, ppl. stem of *solvĕre* Solve *v.*]

1. *trans.* To solve, explain, clear up.

In common use *c* 1545–75.

1533 More *Answ. Poysoned Bk.* Wks. 1092/1 He myght ..haue soluted theyr question. 1551 T. Wilson *Logike* 64 b, Those that be good grammarians..can gaylie well solute such errours as be made by the mistaking of wordes. 1580 Fulke *Confut. Martial* iv. Wks. (Parker Soc.) II. 167 This question (he saith) is not soluted. 1654 [see the *vbl. sb.*].

b. To arrange, settle. *rare*—1.

1560 Daus tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 145 That if anye controuersie shall happen in this matter, he shall solute and appease the same.

2. To dissolve, nullify. *rare*—1.

1550 Edw. VI *Jrnl.*, etc. (Roxb.) 523 That the King of England .. with consent of 6 of the ordre may chaung, overthrow,..and solute any thing that is or shalbe made hereafter concerning this ordre.

Hence † **Solu·ting** *vbl. sb.*

1534 Cranmer *Misc. Writ.* (Parker Soc.) II. 277 As well for the defence of the nun's revelations, as for the soluting of my reasons. 1581 Marbeck *Bk. Notes* 172 This..serueth to the soluting of manie like kinde of cauillations. 1654 Z. Coke *Logick* 179 Of the loosing or soluting of Fallacies.

† **Solu·teness.** *Obs. rare.* [f. Solute *ppl. a.*] Want of solidity.

1653 H. More *Antid. Ath.* App. (1662) 183 That this soluteness makes those Aereal Compages incapable of Personality..and Sensation.

Solution (sŏl'ū·ʃən), *sb.* Forms: 4–5 **soluciou**n, **-tioun**, 4–6 **solucion**(e, 6 **solucyon**(e, **solyssion**, 6– **solution.** [a. OF. *solucion*, *-tion* (mod.F. *solution*, = Sp. *solucion*, It. *soluzione*) or ad. L. *solūtiōn-*, *solūtio*, f. ppl. stem of *solvĕre* Solve *v.*]

I. 1. The action or process of solving; the state, condition, or fact of being solved.

1375 Barbour *Bruce* I. 259, I leve all the solucioun Till thaim that ar off mar renoun. *c* 1420 Lydg. *Assembly of Gods* 2022 Yef hit had be nomore but for the solucion Of my demaunde and of thys straunge vysyon. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 255 The solution of a questyon moued of his sayd blessed deth. 1551 T. Wilson *Logike* (1580) 26 b, Thyne argument..needed then no solution at all. 1620 T. Granger *Div. Logike* 316 The answering and solution of all his obiections against vs. 1664 Power *Exp. Philos.* III. 191 The Solutions of all those former Difficulties are reserved for you..to gratifie Posterity withall. 1736 *Gentl. Mag.* VI. 476 The famous Mr. Leibnitz..own'd that the Solutions of such Problems as these..was a very difficult Task. 1784 Cowper *Task* II. 530 Knots worthy of solution, which alone A Deity could solve. 1838 De Morgan *Ess. Probab.* 93 The use of the tables at the end of this work, in the solution of complicated questions. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* IV. 91/1 A difficult problem of mixed law and fact for solution by the judges.

b. A particular instance or method of solving or settling; an explanation, answer, or decision.

1382 Wyclif *Dan.* ii. 25 A man..that shal telle to the kyng the solucioun. 1401 *Polit. Poems* (Rolls) II. 73 And so thes similitudes, with thes soluciones, ben not worthe the devellis dirt. 1432–50 tr. *Higden* (Rolls) III. 99 Daniel the prophete ȝafe a solucion of a vision to Nabugodonosor in Caldea. 1509 Hawes *Past. Pleas.* XXXII. (Percy Soc.) 157 Now haue I answered you your question, And I pray you of a lyke solucion. 1596 Bp. W. Barlow *Three Serm.* iii. 126 This may serue for a short solution. 1667 Pepys *Diary* 1 May, Expecting the solution of the Judges in this point. 1681 Hallywell *Melampronoea* Title-p., A Solution of the Chiefest Objections brought against the Being of Witches. 1711 Addison *Spect.* No. 21 ¶ 6 He might have found a better Solution for this Difficulty, than any of those he has made use of. 1774 Pennant *Tour Scotl. in 1772* 233 This solution of mine is absolutely denied. 1813 Sir H. Davy *Agric. Chem.* ii. (1814) 33 These facts afford a rational solution of this curious problem. 1854 Froude *Short Stud., Spinoza* (1867) 241 Undoubtedly it provides a solution for every difficulty. 1884 J. Quincy *Figures of Past* 376 These hard names furnish no solution to the problem he presents to us.

c. *Med.* The termination or crisis of a disease.

1851 Dunglison *Med. Lex., Solution*, means, also, with many, the termination of a disease:—..a termination accompanied by critical signs;—and with others, again, it is synonymous with crisis.

†**2.** The action of releasing or setting free; deliverance, release. *Obs.*

a 1513 Fabyan *Chron.* (1811) 407 He alonely opteyned nat solucion of his othe, but also..was declaryd kynge of Scicill. 1550 Bale *Eng. Votaries* II. 12 Immediately after thys solucyon or settynge at large of Sathan. 1655 Stanley *Hist. Philos.* (1687) 88/2 As death is the solution of the Soul from the Body. 1659 H. More *Immort. Soul* III. xviii, After this solution of the Souls or Spirits of Wicked Men and Dæmons from their Vehicles.

†**3.** The action of paying; a payment. *Obs.*

1489 *Sc. Acts, Jas. IV* (1814) II. 222/2 Anent the Recuperatioun..of annuale Rentis in burgh, in falt of Solutioun and payment of the annualis. 1526 *Ord. Househ.* (1790) 229 To the intent the decomptants..may take out the Solutions entred into the said Bookes whereby they may strike their Lydgers. 1563–4 *Sarum Churchw. Acc.* (Swayne, 1896) 109 Allowans for suche solucyones. 1623 Cockeram I, *Solution*, a payment. *a* 1722 Sir J. Lauder *Decisions* Suppl. (1826) III. 280 It neither being by solution, nor other transaction, importing the consent of the creditor thereto.

4. The action of discharging or fulfilling.

1869 *Austin's Lect. Jurispr.* lv. II. 915 The Roman Lawyers themselves talk of..the *solution* or the *redemption* of obligations.

II. 5. The action of dissolving, or changing from a solid or gaseous to a liquid state, by means of a fluid or solvent; the state or fact of being so dissolved.

1390 Gower *Conf.* II. 86 Ferst of the distillacion, Forth with the congelacion, Solucion, descencion [etc.]. 1471 Ripley *Comp. Alch.* II. i. in Ashm. *Theatr.* (1652) 135 Of Solucion now wyll I speke a word or two. 1612 Woodall *Surg. Mate* Wks. (1653) 274 *Solution*, a principal part of Chymical practice, whereby the incorporation of things coagulated, is dissolved and attenuated. *a* 1665 K. Digby *Chym. Secr.* II. 221 Repeat these solutions seven or eight times. 1791 W. Hamilton tr. *Berthollet's Dyeing* I. 5 The solution of indigo in the sulphuric (vitriolic) acid. 1800 Henry *Epit. Chem.* (1808) 15 Mechanical agitation facilitates solution. 1870 Tyndall *Lect. Electr.* 2 The effect in both cases is..the solution of the zinc, and the liberation of the hydrogen gas.

†**b.** The action of fusing, melting, or distilling by means of heat. *Obs. rare.*

a 1676 Hale *Prim. Orig. Man.* (1677) 9 They find by their solutions by Fire, some things which they call by these Names, to be that whereinto Bodies are dissolved. 1688 Holme *Armoury* III. 425/1 *Distillation*, or *Solution*, is an extracting of Liquors by force of heat.

c. *transf.* Fusion, combination.

1820 Keats *St. Agnes* XXXVI, The rose Blendeth its odour with the violet,—Solution sweet.

6. A more or less fluid substance produced by the process of solution (see 5); a liquid or semi-liquid preparation obtained by the combination of a solid with a solvent.

1594 Plat *Jewell-ho.* III. 60 A good solucion of salt in oile. 1677 Grew *Anat. Pl.* (1682) 297, I put to this Solution of Nitre, two Drachms of Sal Armoniac; which wholly and easily dissolved in the said Solution. 1705 Arbuthnot *Coins*, etc. (1727) 326 He commends..a Solution of Opium in Water to foment the Forehead. 1790 *Phil. Trans.* 359 *note*, I have therefore confined the word solution to express the substance dissolved together with its solvent. 1811 A. T. Thomson *Lond. Disp.* (1818) 469 A solution of lime should be put into the last bottle. 1855 *Orr's Circ. Sci., Elem. Chem.* 13 We..term the liquid which is obtained a solution of salt in water. 1875 Darwin *Insectiv. Plants* v. 80 Drops of a solution about as thick as milk.

fig. 1858 O. W. Holmes *Aut. Breakf.-t.* iii. 24 Society is a strong solution of books.

7. A dissolved state or condition. Freq. *state of solution.*

(*a*) 1802 Paley *Nat. Theol.* xxi. § 3 (1819) 333 Keeping things in a state of solution, that is to say, in a state of fluidity. 1837 P. Keith *Bot. Lex.* 90 Animal or vegetable substances in a state of solution. 1878 Huxley *Physiogr.* 115 Certain chemical compounds in a state of solution.

transf. 1859 *Habits Gd. Society* v. 211 Their partners appear in a most disagreeable condition of solution.

(*b*) 1802 Playfair *Illustr. Huttonian Th. Earth* 494 The volume of the water..necessary to hold in solution the materials of this shell. 1856 Ruskin *Mod. Paint.* IV. v. ix. § 4 As they congealed from their fluid state, whether of watery solution or fiery fusion. 1878 Huxley *Physiogr.* 202 The water generally holds silica in solution.

fig. 1870 Lowell *Among my Bks.* Ser. I. 297 His [*sc.* Lessing's] was a mind always in solution. 1877 Talmage *Serm.* 338 A tear..is agony in solution.

8. *attrib.*, as *solution jar, lake, -tub.*

1867 *Tomlinson's Cycl. Usef. Arts* App. 14/1 The mouth of the solution jar was again closed. 1877 Raymond *Statist. Mines & Min.* 393 The liquid which runs out of the solution-tubs runs into tanks. 1894 *Pop. Sci. Monthly* June 281 In lime-stone countries, solution lakes are not uncommon.

III. 9. *Solution of continuity*: a. *Med.* (Also *of connexion, of unity.*) The separation from each other of normally continuous parts of the body by external or internal causes.

1541 R. Copland *Galyen's Terap.* 2 A ij, We haue sayd that there is a kynde of dysease, that is called solution of contynuyte. *Ibid.*, There be other kyndes of solutions of continuite. 1625 Bacon *Ess., Of Vnity in Relig.* (Arb.) 423 As in the Naturall Body, a Wound or Solution of Continuity is worse then a Corrupt Humor. 1696 Ridgley *Pract. Physick* 44 This proceeds from solution of continuity of the Veins and Arteries. 1668 Culpepper & Cole *Barthol. Anat.* I. xxviii. 67 In which case also it is necessary that there be a Solution of the Connexion of the Neck. 1707 Flover *Physic. Pulse-Watch* 101 The organic Diseases, and the solution of Unity, must be known by the Signs of the particular Diseases. 1748 Hartley *Observ. Man* I. I. § 1. 36 In manifest Solutions of Continuity occasioned by Wounds, Burns, &c. 1818 E. Thompson *Cullen's Nosologia Meth.* (1820) 264 *Vulnus*, a recent, bloody solution of continuity in a soft part, by a hard body. 1835–6 *Todd's Cycl. Anat.* I. 794/1 The consequent solution of connection between the various parts of the body.

ellipt. 1580 Blundevil *Horsemanship* T iij b, If such solution or diuision be in a bone, then is it called a fracture. 1612 Woodall *Surg. Mate* Wks. (1653) 86 The solution of a Veine is known by blood of red colour and thick substance.

b. *transf.* and *fig.* A breach, break, or interruption.

1654 Bramhall *Just Vind.* ii. (1661) 14 Schisme is..a solution of continuity in the body Ecclesiastick. 1656 tr. *Hobbes' Elem. Philos.* (1839) 475 Even the hardest things are broken asunder..by solution of their continuity begun in the outermost superficies. 1707 *Curiosities Husb. & Gard.* 77 The Solution of Continuity may hinder the Juice from mounting. 1750 Franklin *Lett.* Wks. 1840 V. 243 If there be the least crack, the minutest solution of continuity in the glass. 1799 E. Du Bois *Piece Family Biog.* II. 201 Some there are..who, admitting no solution of continuity in their story, deny any place of rest to..the wearied reader. 1819 Scott *Leg. Montrose* xxiii, Rents, and open seams,..might presage a similar solution of continuity in your matrimonial happiness. 1863 Tyndall *Heat* xii. 408 Magnificent gradations of color, one fading into another without solution of continuity. 1886 *Manch. Exam.* 9 Jan.

5/3 There will be no solution of continuity in this important department of public affairs.

10. The action of breaking up or separating; dissolution; bringing to an end.

1655 VAUGHAN *Silex Scint.* L'Envoy, Frustrate those cancerous, close arts, Which cause solution in all parts, And strike them dumb. 1664 H. MORE *Myst. Iniq.* iii. 6 The Death of Christ upon the Cross was the solution of the Ceremonial Law of Moses. 1689 LOCKE *Civil Govt.* § 80 (1694) 225 Easie and frequent Solutions of Conjugal Society. 1899 *Westm. Gaz.* 30 Oct. 2/1 That Boer policy had not for its aim the solution of British supremacy in South Africa.

†**11.** The action of rendering loose or slack. *Obs.*

1681 tr. *Willis' Remaining Med. Wks.* Vocab., *Solution*, a loosning or weakning, as of the nerves or joynts.

Hence **Solu·tional** *a.*, pertaining to a solution.

1903 *Nature* 3 Dec. 103/2 The persistence of the solutional nucleus.

Solution (sŏlī·ū·ʃən), *v.* [f. the sb.] *trans.* To treat with, fasten or secure by, a solution.

1891 *Pall Mall G.* 15 Oct. 1/3 A further improvement.. will dispense with the need for solutioning the canvas. 1898 *Cycling* 63 They should preferably not be vulcanised but merely solutioned together.

†**Solu·tist.** *Obs.*—1 [f. as SOLUTE *v.* + -IST.] One who solves or finds solutions.

1708 *Brit. Apollo* No. 1. 2/2 Say bold Solutists, solve the Doubt.

†**Solutive,** *a.* and *sb. Obs.* Also 6–7 **solutiue,** 7 solitive. [ad. med.L. *solūtīv-us*, f. *solūt-*, ppl. stem of *solvĕre* SOLVE *v.* Cf. F. *solutif, -ive*, Sp., Pg., and It. *solutivo.*]

A. *adj.* **1.** Laxative, relaxing. (Common in 17th cent.)

1564–78 BULLEIN *Dial. agst. Pest.* (1886) 50 The sirup of Roses solutiue. 1576 G. BAKER tr. *Gesner's Jewell of Health* 112 This electuarie may be matched or myxed with any other solutive medicine. 1620 VENNER *Via Recta* vii. 148 Their iuyce is of an abstersiue and solutiue faculty. 1666 BOYLE *Orig. Forms & Qual.* 135 Yet the Seeds of this Solutive Cassia are Astringent. 1721 W. GIBSON *True Meth. Diet. Horses* xi. (1726) 175 Their first Diet must be.. solutive and opening. 1750 tr. *Leonardus' Mirror of Stones* 101 It has a solutive virtue, as skilful Physicians say.

2. Capable of releasing or setting free.

1649 EVELYN *Of Liberty & Servitude* iv. Misc. Writ. (1805) 27 This liberty..is so rare because of her solutive faculty from whatsoever..restrains our affections.

3. Capable of dissolving.

1732 *Hist. Litteraria* III. 372 Its solutive power..extends to the dissolving of all Salts.

B. *sb.* **1.** A laxative or purgative medicine.

1605 TIMME *Quersit.* I. xvi. 82 Out of many other such like things may be extracted both meane and violent solutiues. 1612 WOODALL *Surg. Mate* Wks. (1653) 351 Solutives forbidden in the cure of the Plague. 1674 R. GODFREY *Inj. & Ab. Physic* 203 To advise them to..be sure that the Solutive be safe.

2. A solvent.

1712 tr. *Pomet's Hist. Drugs* I. 177 The Mercury..becomes a Solutive for Minerals.

†**Solutory,** *sb.* and *a. Obs.* [See prec. and -ORY. So OF. *solutoire.*]

A. *sb.* = SOLUTIVE *sb.* 1.

1561 HOLLYBUSH *Hom. Apoth.* 26 b, If one..were so bounde in hys belly that he could have no sieges, then make him thys solutorye.

B. *adj.* Used for dissolving or melting.

1650 ASHMOLE *Arcanum* (ed. 3) 255 Dissolve it into Water in a solutory Vessell. 1678 R. RUSSELL *Geber* v. vi. 276 The Solutory or Dissolving Furnace.

Solutrian (sŏlī·ū·triăn), **Solutrean** (sŏlī·ū·trī·ăn), *a.* [f. the place-name *Solutré* in France (dep. Saône-et-Loire).] Of or belonging to, characterized by, the special type of flint implements found in a cave at Solutré; belonging to the same period as these.

1888 T. WILSON in *Smithsonian Rep. U.S. Nat. Museum* 615 It was in the working of the flint to make these objects that the best art of the Solutrian epoch is manifested. *Ibid.*, One of the fine, Solutrian, leaf-shaped implements. 1896 KEANE *Ethnology* 87 *margin*, Solutrian of Second Cave Age. 1904 WINDLE *Rem. Prehistoric Age Eng.* iii. 57 Solutrean objects underlie those of the Madelainean time at Laugerie Haute.

Solvability (sŏlvăbi·lĭti). [f. next + -ITY. Cf. F. *solvabilité.*]

1. Solvency.

1722–7 BOYER *Dict. Royal* I, *Solvabilité*, the being solvable or able to pay; solvability. 1861 J. H. BENNET *Shores of Medit.* I. vii. (1875) 200 Catastrophes..have latterly made all parties more careful as to solvability. 1885 *Illustr. Lond. News* 11 July 30/3 Confidential notes about the solvability of their customers.

2. Solubility.

1868 E. SEYD *Bullion & For. Exchanges* 82 The various degrees of Solvability..are determined by experience. 1891 *Cent. Dict.* s.v., The solvability of an equation.

Solvable (sŏ·lvăb'l), *a.* Also 7 **solvible, solveable.** [f. SOLVE *v.* + -ABLE, or a. F. *solvable.*]

†**1.** Able to pay; solvent. *Obs.*

1647 FULLER *Good Th. in Worse T.* Pref., Many sufficient merchants, though not solvable for the present, make use of the latter [method]. 1655 — *Ch. Hist.* IX. 131 Although imprisonment was imposed by law on persons not solvable. 1672 WYCHERLEY *Love in a Wood* III. iv, Widows are commonly so wise as to be sure their men are solvable before they trust 'em. 1773 *Ann. Reg.* 69 He immediately called an assembly of the deputies of the bank, from whom he obtained their consent to assist all the solvable houses.

†**2.** Payable. *Obs. rare.*

1655 FULLER *Ch. Hist.* VI. 326 Some of those Corrodies.. were solvable out of the Exchequer.

3. Capable of being solved.

a 1676 HALE *Orig. Man.* I. ii. (1677) 56, I do not inquire how or where, because it is not solvible. 1681 COLVIL *Whigs Supplic.* (1751) 48 Solve several questions he can, Scarce solvable by any man. 1710 *Brit. Apollo* No. 7. 2/2 You can answer all Questions solvable or not. 1785 FRANKLIN *Lett.* Wks. 1840 VI. 526, I have rarely met with a case of a smoky chimney, which has not been solvable on these principles. 1879 PROCTOR *Pleas. Ways Sci.* iii. 56 The problem of determining the sun's distance..had seemed fairly solvable in but one or two ways. 1896 CAYLEY *Coll. Math. Papers* XI. 402 A solvable case of the quintic equation.

4. Capable of being dissolved. Also *absol.*

1669 W. SIMPSON *Hydrol. Chym.* 13 The solvent and solvable are both one. 1794 G. ADAMS *Nat. & Exper. Phil.* I. xi. 460 From being insoluble in water, it is now not only solvable therein, but so greedy of moisture as [etc.].

5. Capable of being resolved *into* something.

1804–6 SYD. SMITH *Mor. Philos.* (1850) 368 The love of knowledge is solvable into some other passion at its origin.

Hence **So·lvableness.**

1727 BAILEY (vol. II), *Solvableness*, ability to pay.

Solve, *sb.* [f. next. Malone's alteration of *solye* = *soyle*: see SOIL *sb.*[5]] Solution.

1780 *Shakspere's Sonn.* (Malone) lxix. 14 The solve is this —that thou dost common grow.

Solve (sŏlv), *v.* Also 5 **solvyn,** 6–7 **solue.** [ad. L. *solvĕre* to loosen, dissolve. So Sp. and Pg. *solver*, It. *solvere.*]

†**1.** *trans.* To loosen; to break. *Obs.*

c 1440 *Alph. Tales* 254 And on þis maner þai war wunt.. for to solve þer faste. *c* 1450 LYDG. *Secrees* 1259 Afftir the sesouns Solve flewm brennyng or moysture.

†**2.** a. To unbind, untie. *Obs.*

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 464/1 Solvyn, *supra in* onbyyndyn. *c* 1460 *Ibid.* (Winch.) 322 Onbyyndyn, or solvyn, *solvo.* 1616 BULLOKAR *Eng. Exp.*, *Solue*, to vntie. 1658 PHILLIPS, *Solve*, to loosen, or undo.

† b. To absolve. *Obs.*—1

1550 BALE *Image Both Ch.* II. xiii. e iij, Without yᵉ blynd bussynges of a papiste, may no synne be solued.

3. To explain, clear up, resolve, answer.

a 1533 FRITH *Disput. Purgat.* (1829) 122 The second cause..is not solved of Rastell; but I had solved it before. 1541 R. COPLAND *Guydon's Quest. Chirurg.* M j, In the fyrste partycle is moued & solued certayne questyons. 1624 GATAKER *Transubst.* 69 Solving all objections gathered out of their obscurer sayings against Catholic doctrine. 1671 MILTON *P. R.* IV. 573 That Theban Monster that propos'd Her riddle, and him, who solv'd it not, devour'd. 1726 SWIFT *Gulliver* III. ii, He was then deep in a problem, and we attended at least an hour before he could solve it. 1777 PRIESTLEY *Matt. & Spir.* (1782) I. xxii. 284 This writer.. suggests another method of solving this difficulty. 1841 BORROW *Zincali* III. ii. II. 119 The following consideration will help to solve this point. 1885 TEMPLE *Relig. & Sci.* v. 147 It leaves questions to be solved some of which have not been solved yet.

refl. 1855 KINGSLEY *Lett.* (1878) I. 455 The problem of life..solves itself so very soon at best by death.

† b. = SALVE *v.*[2] 1. *Obs.*

1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* II. ii. III, He hath coyned 72 Homocentrickes, to solue all appe[a]rances. 1757 MRS. GRIFFITH *Lett. Henry & Frances* (1767) I. 200 On account of solving appearances to her nicety.

c. *Math.* To find the answer or solution to (a problem, etc.); to work out.

1737 *Gentl. Mag.* VII. 675 There must be found one Condition more to solve the Question, or to reduce it to only one unknown Quantity. 1806 HUTTON *Course Math.* I. 247 The general method of solving quadratic equations, is by what is called completing the square. 1828 MOORE *Pract. Navig.* 115 How to solve compound courses, or a traverse, has already been shown in Plane Sailing. 1878 GURNEY *Crystallog.* 119 Anyone who can solve a spherical triangle will have no difficulty.

4. To clear off; to pay or discharge.

1558 in Feuillerat *Revels Q. Eliz.* (1908) Table 1, The Bookes solved as the Dischardge thereof maye appeare in the saide Booke. 1624 WHITE *Reply to Fisher* 564 Summes of money..to be solued to the Publicans of the Ecclesiasticall Roman Tribute. 1866 J. B. ROSE tr. *Ovid's Met.* 219 Minos returned to his Curetan home, And solved his vows. 1874 *Contemp. Rev.* XXIV. 122 Estates in Hertfordshire..were able to pay £17,509..towards solving the debt.

5. To dissolve, put an end to, settle.

1667 MILTON *P. L.* VIII. 55 Hee..would..solve high dispute With conjugal Caresses. 1701 STEELE *Christian Hero* 91 An Army, whose Swords can make right in Power, and solve controversy in Belief. *a* 1763 SHENSTONE *Elegy* xv. 86 These the sounds that chase unholy strife! Solve envy's charm.

6. To dissolve; to melt.

1662 [see SOLVED]. 1794 G. ADAMS *Nat. & Exper. Phil.* I. x. 399 It will be easily solved in hot water. 1852 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* XIII. I. 170 The plant (grass) that takes up the material solved takes up the water also. 1880 *Paper & Printing Trades Jrnl.* XXXI. 4 Solve next a small quantity of bichromate of potassa in distilled water.

fig. 1839–52 BAILEY *Festus* 23 The electric touch solved both our souls together.

Hence **Solved** *ppl. a.*; **So·lving** *vbl. sb.* and *ppl. a.*

1662 J. CHANDLER *Van Helmont's Oriat.* 309 The solved flowre of Sulphur. *Ibid.*, The solved Body of Sulphur it self. 1706 STEVENS *Span.-Eng. Dict.* I, *Solucion*,..the Solving of a Question. 1756 C. LUCAS *Ess. Waters* II. 164 The solvent and solved both concur in producing these effects in the water. 1847 EMERSON *Poems, Threnody*, My servant Death, with solving rite, Pours finite into infinite. 1852 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* XIII. I. 170 As long as the water is kept in motion it carries its solved substances with it. 1883 FLEMING *Old Violins* 273 Its presence does not injure the solving power of the alcohol. 1895 *Athenæum* 25 May 665/2 The solving of the vexed questions that beset us.

Solvency (sŏ·lvĕnsi). [f. SOLVENT *a.*: see -ENCY.] The state of being solvent. Also *attrib.*

1727 BAILEY (vol. II), *Solvency*, paying. 1730 — (fol.), *Solvency*, a Paying or Capacity of paying Debts, &c. 1790 BURKE *Fr. Rev.* 338 The debtor prescribing..the medium of his solvency to the creditor. 1805 *Ann. Rev.* III. 293 The reputation for solvency of one institution. 1844 H. H. WILSON *Brit. India* I. 533 The bills of private merchants, of whose solvency they could not always feel secure. 1863 FAWCETT *Polit. Econ.* III. ii. 432 All those who place confidence in the solvency of a particular banker. 1891 *Pall Mall G.* 21 Sept. 6/2 The last Blue-book of the Friendly Societies..gives a solvency valuation of 17*s.* in the pound of the three leading temperance benefit societies.

So·lvend. ? *Obs.* [ad. L. *solvend-um*, neut. gerundive of *solvĕre* SOLVE *v.*] Something to be dissolved.

1738 *Phil. Trans.* XLI. 108 The Particles of the Solvend having imbibed the Particles of the Menstruum. 1799 KIRWAN *Geol. Ess.* 467 A fluid whose specific affinity to the particles of a solvend is greater than the integrant affinity of the ultimate particles of the solvend to each other. 1867 *Tomlinson's Cycl. Useful Arts* App. 229/2 A saturated solution..is one in which the adhesion of the solvent and the cohesion of the solvend mutually balance each other.

‖ **Solvendo.** Now *Sc.* [L., dative gerund of *solvĕre* SOLVE *v.*] Solvent.

Modified forms (as *silvendy*), with transference of meaning, also occur in Sc. dialect use.

a 1684 LEIGHTON *Expos. Ten Commandm.* Wks. (1868) 492 If God be solvendo, if he be a sufficient debtor. [1704 J. HARRIS *Lex. Techn.* I, *Solvendo esse*, a Term in Law, signifying that a Man hath wherewith to pay, or is a Person *solvent.*] 1825 JAMIESON *Suppl.*, *Solvendie*,.. sufficient to pay one's debts, solvent, Ang[us]...*Solvendo* is also used, Aberd[een].

Solvent (sŏ·lvĕnt), *a.* and *sb.* [ad. L. *solvent-*, *solvens*, pres. pple. of *solvĕre* SOLVE *v.*]

A. *adj.* **1.** Able to pay all one's debts or liabilities.

1653 H. COGAN tr. *Pinto's Trav.* lxxviii. 315 Certain Chineses, who were not men solvent, but became bankrupts. 1664 *Addit. to Life Mede* M.'s Wks. (1672) p. xxxvi, Mr. Mede began..to refuse.., and objected, How shall I be able to be solvent in convenient time? 1698 LUTTRELL *Brief Rel.* (1857) IV. 379 The commons read the bill..for discovery of solvent prisoners estates. 1812 CRABBE *Borough* xxiii. 49 They would be solvent, and deplore a debt. 1846 GROTE *Greece* (1862) II. 312 A solvent man capable of.. fulfilling a contract. 1885 *Law Times Rep.* LIII. 484/1 If the plaintiff in England had been solvent, no security would have been required.

transf. 1667 *Ormonde MSS.* in 10*th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. V. 45 Sir Daniel Bellingham..is..to issue such solvent assignments as they may receive speedy satisfaction. 1674 *Essex Papers* (Camden) I. 183 'Tis probable yᵗ most of yᵉ solvent Arrears are already gather'd.

Comb. 1852 MUNDY *Antipodes* (1857) 35 A solvent looking gentleman, solus in a buggy, is the very thing for a highwayman.

2. Dissolving; causing solution

1686 PLOT *Staffordsh.* 9 [Lightning] being of a very subtile nature..and solvent of the parts of bodies. 1792 J. JONES in Beddoes *On Calculus* (1793) 32 The extraordinary efficacy of the sal sodæ I had seen in the last case, induced me to try its solvent powers in this. 1807 *Phil. Trans.* XCVII. 146 The excretory ducts of the glands, which secrete the solvent liquor. 1832 BREWSTER *Nat. Magic* xii. 298 The disintegrating and solvent powers of chemical agents. 1878 HUXLEY *Physiogr.* 122 The comparative ease with which limestone yields to the solvent action of water.

fig. 1875 MAINE *Hist. Inst.* xi. 329 Among the most powerful solvent influences were certain philosophical theories.

3. Helping to solve or explain.

1872 TULLOCH *Rational Theol.* I. i. 34 The most significant and solvent of all the rational principles enunciated by Arminianism.

B. *sb.* **1.** A substance (usually a liquid) having the power of dissolving other substances.

1671 BOYLE *Usef. Nat. Philos.* II. II. 18 By a substitution of burnt Allom for Vitriol,..we made Solvents for Silver, as good as theirs. 1681 tr. *Willis' Rem. Med. Wks.* Vocab., *Solvent*, that which dissolveth or openeth the parts of the matter to be wrought upon. 1756 C. LUCAS *Ess. Waters* I. 159 Water..is found the most universal solvent of the food of man and other animals. 1782 *Phil. Trans.* LXXIII. 51 If formed by solution, they..retain a portion of their solvent or precipitant. 1827 FARADAY *Chem. Manip.* vi. 187 Some of the acids frequently act as mere solvents. 1871 TYNDALL *Fragm. Sci.* (1879) I. ii. 43 The solvent of the iodine is perfectly transparent.

b. *fig.* A dissolving or disintegrating influence.

1841 EMERSON *Ess., Intellect* Wks. (Bohn) I. 143 Silence is a solvent that destroys personality. 1870 E. PEACOCK *Ralf Skirl.* II. 5 Fine phrases which have acted as solvents upon..unreasoning Whiggism and Toryism. 1886 *Contemp. Rev.* July 72 The great solvent of Indian caste prejudice is Western thought.

2. Something which solves, explains, or settles.

1865 LECKY *Ration.* (1878) I. 292 Those who, perceiving.. yet undefined discoveries,..imagine that they will prove a universal solvent. 1871 R. H. HUTTON *Ess.* (1877) I. 43 How the absence of theistic faith tends..to make philosophy the universal solvent of fact. 1890 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Colonial Ref.* (1892) 317 He..was compelled to employ that only universal solvent, a cash payment.

3. A laxative; a loosener.

1815 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* (1818) I. 314 Had I addressed you a century ago,..I should have recommended the wood-

louse as a solvent and aperient. 1823 LAMB *Elia* Ser. II. Pref., He took it [tobacco], he would say, as a solvent of speech.

4. A person able to pay all his debts.

1825 COBBETT *Rur. Rides* (1853) 354 Every insolvent blames a solvent, that will not lend him money.

Hence **So·lventlY** *adv.*

1872 H. BUSHNELL *Serm. Living Subj.* 437 That personal life-giving spirit that will touch as it were solventlY, all the secret bonds and propagative chains of causes.

Solver (sɒ·lvəɹ). [f. SOLVE *v.* + -ER 1.] One who solves.

1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* I. (Globe) 222 A Casuist, or a Solver of Difficulties. 1864 *Athenæum* No. 1920. 217/2 Solver of problems. 1876 *Academy* 30 Sept. 331/1 The lynx-eyed public solvers often detect some simple second solution. 1898 *Month* Nov. 550 The solver of their doubts and difficulties.

† **Solwe,** *v. Obs.* Forms: *pa. pple.* (and *pa. t.*) 4 **solwid** (**sulwed**), **soluid, solewid,** 4–5 **solwyd, solowed**; 5 *inf.* **sol(o)wyn.** [Related to older Flem. *soluwen, seulewen,* MHG. *sulwen,* or to OHG. *solagôn, sologôn* (MHG. *solgen,* also *sulgen*): cf. SOL *a.* and SOLE *v.*3]

1. *trans.* To defile, soil, sully.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 10637 Vr lauerd wil him neuer bede To saul þat solewid es wit sinn. *Ibid.* 22491 Lauerd! how mai we þan þis thole, þat es sua sulwed in vr sin. *c* 1425 *Cast. Persev.* 3421 in *Macro Plays* 179 Man hathe..solwyd hes sovle with synnys seuene. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 464/1 Solwyn, or fowlyn (*P.* solowyn), *maculo, deturpo. Ibid.,* Solwynge (*P.* solowynge), *deturpacio, sordidacio.*

2. *intr.* To become soiled or dirty.

1303 R. BRUNNE *Handl. Synne* 9152 Heere ne nayles neuer grewe, Ne solowed clopes, ne turned hewe.

† **Solwy,** *a. Obs. rare.* [Related to prec.] Dirty.

c 1320 *Sir Tristr.* 1777 Smockes hadde sche and y, And hir was solwy to sen. *Ibid.* 1788. *c* 1325 *Gloss. W. de Bibbesw.* in Wright *Voc.* 171 [E si la nape seyt trop soyle; *glossed*] solwy.

Hence † **So·lwiness,** pollution. *Obs.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 10887 Wit-vten sin or sulwines Sal þou be maiden als þou es. *Ibid.* 29037.

Soly(e, obs. ff. SOLELY *adv.* **Solyhubbe,** obs. f. SILLABUB. **Solycit(e, Solycytude,** obs. ff. SOLICIT *v.*, SOLICITUDE.

Solydyne, obs. var. CELANDINE.

c 1425 *Eng. Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 644 *Hec selidonia,* solydyne.

Solyma·an, *a. rare.* [f. L. *Solyma* for *Hierosolyma* Jerusalem.] Of or belonging to Jerusalem.

1681 DRYDEN *Abs. & Achit.* 513 The Solymæan Rout.. Saw with Disdain an Ethnick Plot begun.

Solys(se)t, Solys(se)tacion, Solyster, obs. ff. SOLICIT *v.* and *a.*, SOLICITATION, SOLICITER.

‖ **Soma** 1 (sō·mă). [Skr. *sōma,* = Zend *haōma,* Pers. *hōm*: see HOM.]

1. An intoxicating drink holding a prominent place in Vedic ritual and religion.

The soma was prepared from the juice of a plant which is commonly supposed to have been *Asclepias acida* or *Sarcostemma viminale* (or *acidum*).

1827 [see sense 2]. 1843 *Penny Cycl.* XXVI. 174/2 The soma, when properly prepared, is a powerful spirit. 1869 T. C. BARKER *Aryan Civiliz.* I. (1871) 3 From the Hindoo he [the fire-god] has the fermented drink called *soma.* 1872 WHITTIER *Brewing of Soma* iv, From tent to tent The Soma's sacred madness went, A storm of drunken joy. 1876 *Encycl. Brit.* IV. 205/2 The soma..must have played an important part in the ancient worship, at least as early as the Indo-Persian period.

attrib. 1843 *Penny Cycl.* XXVI. 175/1 What else is this act of drinking the soma-juice but a kind of sacrament? 1874 L. J. TROTTER *Hist. India* I. i. 4 He [Indra] delights in drinking the sacred soma juice. 1876 *Encycl. Brit.* IV. 205 Among the Vaidik rites the soma-sacrifices are the most solemn and complicated. 1895 A. NUTT *Voy. Bran* I. 321 The immortality claimed by the soma devotee.

2. *Soma plant,* the plant yielding the soma-juice. Also *ellipt.*

1827 COLEBROOKE in *Trans. Royal Asiatic Soc.* I. 455 The presenting of expressed juice of the *sóma* plant. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* s.v. *Asclepias,* The bruised stem and leaves of the Soma plant yield a juice [etc.]. 1882 *Cornh. Mag.* June 720 The soma plant, by which Indra conquers Vritra.

‖ **Soma** 2 (sō·mă). *Phys.* [a. Gr. *σῶμα* body.] The body of an organism in contrast to the germ-cells. Also *attrib.* in *soma-plasm.*

1889 tr. *Weismann's Ess. Heredity,* etc. 122 It is necessary to distinguish between..the body in its narrower sense (*soma*) and the germ-cells. *Ibid.* 154 The perishable and vulnerable nature of the *soma.* 1902 *Encycl. Brit.* XXIX. 259/2 With Weismann, we suppose the germplasm to be different in kind from the general soma-plasm. 1904 *Brit. Med. Jrnl.* 15 Oct. 966 If the mother be addicted to drink, additional damage may be done to the soma during intra-uterine life.

Somal (sō·măl), *a.* [f. Gr. *σῶμα* body, SOMA 2.] Of or pertaining to the body.

1900 *Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond.* 20 Feb. 134 The slight difference in size between the dermal and somal chiasters.

† **Soma·ndric,** *a. Obs.*—1 [f. Gr. *σῶμα* body + *ἀνδρ-, ἀνήρ* man.] Relating to the human body.

1716 M. DAVIES *Athen. Brit.* III. *Diss. Physick* 21 The Cause, why Providence..also has absconded the great Psyc[h]andrick as well as Somandrick Secret of the Chymical Grand Elixir.

Somaschian (somæ·skiăn), *sb.* and *a.* [f. It. *Somaschi,* pl. of *Somasco* (cf. next), f. *Somasca,* a place lying north-west from Bergamo in Italy.] **a.** *sb.* A member of a religious order, chiefly engaged in charitable instruction, founded at Somasca by Gerolamo Emiliani about 1530. **b.** *adj.* Of or pertaining to this order.

1882–3 SCHAFF *Encycl. Rel. Knowl.* III. 2214 The order of the Somaschians..in the Roman-Catholic Church.

† **Somasque.** *Obs.* Also 7 **Somask.** [a. F. *Somasque,* ad. It. *Somasco,* f. *Somasca* (see prec.).] = SOMASCHIAN *sb.*

1686 tr. *Bouhours' St. Ignatius* v. 284 He had made the same Answer some Years before, in reference to the Somasques, and the Theatines. 1693 tr. *Emiliane's Monast. Orders* xviii. 188 The Fathers of the Christian Doctrin..petition'd to be united to the Somasks. 1706 tr. *Dupin's Eccl. Hist.* II. IV. xi. 450 Jerome Emiliani, a noble Venetian, in the year 1530 founded some Regular Clerks, called Somasques, from the name of the place where they lived.

Somatal (sō·mătăl), *a. Zool.* [f. Gr. *σῶμα, σώματ-* body.] Of or pertaining to the body.

1875 BLAKE *Zool.* 243 The animal is chiefly divided into a somatal and a pallial portion.

Somata·lgia. *rare.* [f. as prec. + Gr. *-αλγία,* f. *ἄλγος* pain.] Bodily pain or suffering.

1607 WALKINGTON *Opt. Glass* B j, *Somatalgia* and *Psychalgia,* the one the dyscrasie of the body, the other the malady and distemperature of the soule. 1908 G. S. HALL *Adolescence* I. 480 The readiness with which psychalgia passes to somatalgia.

Somatic (*s*omæ·tik), *a.* and *sb.* [ad. Gr. *σωματικός,* f. *σῶμα, σώματ-* body. So F. *somatique.*]

A. *adj.* 1. Of or pertaining to the (or a) body; bodily, corporeal, physical.

1775 ASH, *Somatic,* corporeal, belonging to a body. 1816 BENTHAM *Chrestomathia* Wks. 1843 VIII. 187 Somatic, or Somatological fictitious entities. 1859 *Sat. Rev.* 10 Dec. 709/1 Those in which somatic and psychical coefficients are manifestly intermingled. 1884 BLACKMORE *Tommy Upmore* I. iii. 23 Variant motions and emotions, both somatic and psychical.

b. *Anat.* and *Phys.* of parts of the body.

1859 HUXLEY *Oceanic Hydrozoa* 26 The diverticulum of the somatic cavity becomes pyriform. 1861 J. R. GREENE *Man. Anim. Kingd., Calent.* 6 The nutritive, or somatic, fluid occupying the general cavity of the body. 1881 *Jrnl. Microsc. Sci.* Jan. 73 The two layers of the mesoblast, somatic and splanchnic. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VI. 371 The termination of the somatic nerves derived from the segment of the cord.

c. *spec.* Pertaining to the soma in contrast to the germ.

1888 *Nature* 14 June 156/2 In the Metazoa, the germ-cells, instead of remaining single, give rise to the vast number of somatic cells which compose the adult structure. 1896 MRS. ROMANES *Life & Lett. Romanes* 35 It is demonstrated that the somatic tissues of the scion have exercised an effect on the germinal elements of the stock.

2. Affecting the body.

1835–6 J. A. SYMONDS in *Todd's Cycl. Anat.* I. 791 *note,* The writer is indebted to..Dr. Prichard for the suggestion of *somatic* [instead of *systemic*],..but he has not had the courage to introduce it into the text. 1839–47 CARPENTER *Ibid.* III. 757/2 Molecular death is not always an immediate consequence of somatic death. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 425 Hypnotism could do nothing in somatic affections.

B. *sb. pl.* Somatology.

1816 BENTHAM *Chrestomathia* Wks. 1843 VIII. 87 This branch of Art and Science is entitled to the appellation of Coenoscopic Anthropurgics, or Somatics. 1861 *Sat. Rev.* 15 June 621 The Germans retort by accusing their adversaries..of 'mechanical, soulless somatics (*somatik*)'.

So **Soma·tical** *a.*, 'corporeal, bodily, substantial' (Bailey, 1727); **Soma·tically** *adv.*

1847 tr. *Feuchtersleben's Med. Psychol.* 219 Somatically they [i.e. certain excitements] act at the expense of the brain. 1902 *Pop. Sci. Monthly* Mar. 421 But while the Seri Indians are so well developed somatically,..they have been no less notorious..for unparalleled laziness.

Soma·tico-, combining form of Gr. *σωματικός* SOMATIC *a.*, in *somatico-hedonistics* (see quot.).

1816 BENTHAM *Chrestomathia* Wks. 1843 VIII. 90 Under the name of Somatico-Hedonistics might be collected and comprehended those branches of art and science which, as above, have for their objects those modifications of pleasure, which have the body for their seat.

† **So·matism.** *Obs.*—1 [f. as next + -ISM.] Materialism.

? *c* 1720 ? DE FOE *Apparition* D.'s Wks. 1841 XIX. 267 To the prevailing of Somatism and the Hobbean principle in these times.

Somatist (sō·mătist). [f. Gr. *σῶμα, σώματ-* body, SOMA 2 + -IST.]

† **1.** A materialist. *Obs.*

1676 GLANVILL *Ess. Philos. & Relig.* IV. 33 The name and notion of such Somatists, as are for meer Matter and Motion, and exclude immaterial Beings. 1694 BURTHOGGE *Reason* 201 What will..[a] meer Somatist say to the Corps-Candles, or Dead Mens Lights, in Wales?

2. *attrib.* Pertaining to, connected with, the soma.

1908 *Outlook* 5 Sept. 298/1 The issue between the somatist or 'mnemic' theory, as presented by Mr. Darwin and the doctrines of Weismannism.

Somato- (sō·mătō), a. Gr. *σωματο-,* combining form of *σῶμα, σώματ-* body (see SOMA 2), used in a number of scientific terms, as **so·matocyst,** a sac forming the proximal end of the hydrosoma in oceanic hydrozoa; **somatogene·tic** *a.*, **somato·genic** *a.* (see quots.); † **somato·gnosy,** somatology; **so·matoplasm,** soma-plasm; **so·matopleure** (see quot. 1874); **somatopleu·ric** *a.*, of or belonging to the somatopleure; **somato·tomy,** anatomy.

Many similar compounds occur in special works or are recorded in recent dictionaries, as *somatoblast, -chrome, -derm, -graphy, -phyte, -phytic,* etc.

1859 HUXLEY *Oceanic Hydrozoa* 31 The *somatocyst is narrow and subcylindrical. 1870 H. A. NICHOLSON *Man. Zool.* 79 The proximal end of the hydrosoma is modified into a peculiar cavity called the somato-cyst. 1905 G. A. REID *Princip. Heredity* i. 6 Acquired characters take origin (as a rule) in the cell-descendants of the germ-cell; that is, they are *somatogenetic in origin. 1889 in *Rep. Brit. Assoc.* 767 He [Weismann] uses the term *somatogenic to express those characters which first appear in the body itself. 1811–31 BENTHAM *Logic* App. Wks. 1843 VIII. 284 Somatology, *somatognosy, or somatics. 1889 tr. *Weismann's Ess. Heredity,* etc. 104 If the germ-plasm and the substance of the body, the *somatoplasm, have always occupied different spheres. 1890 WEISMANN in *Nature* 6 Feb. 320/2 My germ-plasm or idioplasm of the first ontogenetic grade is not modified into the somatoplasm of Prof. Vines. 1874 FOSTER & BALFOUR *Elem. Embryol.* 38 The upper (or outer) leaf of the blastoderm, from its giving rise to the body-walls, is called the *somatopleure.' 1888 *Q. Jrnl. Microscopic Sci.* XXVIII. 111 The lower end lies outside the angle.., between the somatopleure and splanchnopleure. 1874 FOSTER & BALFOUR *Elem. Embryol.* 39 The *somatopleuric investment of the yolk sac. 1900 *Nature* 12 Apr. 560/2 Prior to the formation of the somatopleuric system represented by the cardinal veins, &c. 1851 DUNGLISON *Dict. Med. Sci.* 797/1 *Somatotomy.

Somatological (sō·mătŏlɒ·dʒikăl), *a.* [f. SOMATO- + -LOGICAL. Cf. F. *somatologique.*] Of or pertaining to somatology.

1816 BENTHAM *Chrestomathia* Wks. 1843 VIII. 149 Linnæus, the father, as he may be termed, of Somatological tactics. 1820 L. HUNT *Indicator* No. 54 (1822) II. 15 *Kubla Khan*..he calls 'a psychological curiosity'. It is so; but it is also and still more a somatological or bodily one. 1898 HADDON *Study of Man* 438 Instructions for making certain somatological observations.

Hence **So·matolo·gically** *adv.*

1888 *Science* 9 Nov. 227/2 Equal to denying that the Basques and the Fins belong somatologically to the white race. *Ibid.* 228/1.

Somato·logist. [See next and -LOGIST.] One who studies, or is skilled in, somatology.

1893 D. G. BRINTON in *Smithsonian Rep.* 594 The constant blending of extreme physical types which the somatologist discovers in the remains from the oldest cemeteries around that great interior sea.

Somatology (sō·mătɒ·lŏdʒi). [f. SOMATO- + -LOGY, or ad. mod.L. *somatologia* (O. Casmann, 1596). Cf. F. *somatologie* (1762).]

1. A treatise or science dealing with the properties of bodies.

1736 BAILEY (fol.) Pref., *Somatology,*..a Discourse of Matter or Substance in the General, the Natures and inseparable Properties of Bodies. 1813–21 BENTHAM *Ontology* Wks. 1843 VIII. 195/1 Somatology, the only branch of physics that comes under the cognisance of sense.

2. A treatise or science dealing with the human body in some respect.

1851 DUNGLISON *Dict. Med, Sci., Somatology,* a treatise on the human body. Anatomy. 1868 PORTER *Human Intellect* (1870) § 3. 7 Somatology signifies the science of the body only, and is subdivided into anatomy and physiology. 1898 D. G. BRINTON in Haddon *Study of Man* 491 Somatology.—Physical and Experimental Anthropology.

Somatome (sō·mătōm). [f. SOMA(TO)- + -TOME.] A section or segment of the body.

1896 GOODSIR in *Edinb. New Philos. Jrnl.* V. 121 To the constituent segment, with its diverging appendages, I apply the term Somatome...The constituent somatomes are invariably arranged in groups.

Hence **Somato·mic** *a.*

1882 *Trans. Linn. Soc.* II. III. 166 Only where the notochord lingers can any trace of somatomic division be seen.

Sombre (sɒ·mbəɹ), *a.* and *sb.* [a. F. *sombre,* of uncertain origin: cf. Sp. and Pg. *sombrio,* f. *sombra* shade. See also SOMBROUS *a.*]

A. *adj.* 1. Of inanimate natural objects and their attributes: Characterized by the presence of gloom or shadow; depressingly dark, dusky, or obscure.

1760 H. WALPOLE *Lett.* (1845) IV. 85 Painted ceilings, inlaid floors, and unpainted wainscots make every room sombre. 1777 W. DALRYMPLE *Trav. Sp. & Port.* CXXXII, This city.. had a sombre and poor appearance. 1792 A. YOUNG *Trav. France* 184 This coast..dark, gloomy, and silent;—a savage sombre air spread over the whole. 1816 SCOTT *Old Mort.* XIII, The first shoot..of the yet unbroken stream, and the deep and sombre abyss into which it was emptied. 1860 MAURY *Phys. Geog.* XV. § 674 The sombre skies and changeable weather of our latitudes. 1882 MISS BRADDON *Mt. Royal* VI, The dining-room was sombre and substantial.

2. Of persons, their appearance, etc.: Gloomy, lowering, dark and sullen or dejected.

a 1767 GRAINGER *Ode Solitude* 52 Late in Hagley you were seen, With blood-shed eyes, and sombre mien. 1823 BYRON *Island* III. VI, Till lifting up again his sombre eye, It glanced on Torquil. 1865 BARING-GOULD *Werewolves* VI. 75 The man..was a sombre ill-looking fellow.

b. Of thoughts, feelings, etc.: Melancholy, dismal, darksome.

1821 JOANNA BAILLIE *Met. Leg., Ghost Fadon* XXII, All Remain'd in sombre mood. 1832 DOWNES *Lett. Contin. Countr.* I. 390 The entire shore is lined with dilapidated edifices, which would, under other circumstances, have awakened sombre reflections. 1877 MRS. OLIPHANT *Makers Florence* XII. (1877) 297 No doubt it cast a gleam of sombre hope upon his confinement.

3. Conveying gloomy ideas or suggestions.

1768 STERNE *Sent. Journ., Hotel at Paris,* Beshrew the sombre pencil! said I vauntingly. *a* 1854 H. REED *Lect. Eng. Lit.* x. (1878) 334 Sombre as the poem at first appears, it works its way on to happy hopes. 1874 L. STEPHEN *Hours Libr.* (1892) II. ii. 56 Such sketches are a pleasant relief to his more sombre portraiture.

4. Of colours or colouring: Of a dark shade or tinge; dark, dull.

1805 WILKES *Mem.* II. 175 The olive-tree..is a sombre brown, when one expects a green. 1835 J. DUNCAN *Beetles* (Nat. Lib.) 186 Those [insects] that derive their nourishment from decomposed vegetables are usually of a sombre hue. 1866 ROGERS *Agric. & Prices* I. xxii. 577 Ecclesiastics and persons of gravity affected sombre colours.

b. Of things in respect of colour. (Cf. 1.)

1829 GRIFFITH tr. *Cuvier* VIII. 315 Sombre Plover, *Charadrius Fuscus.* 1839 G. BIRD *Nat. Philos.* 333 The chloride of silver..becomes of a deep slate colour in the violet, and in the sombre space beyond it. 1851 BRIMLEY *Ess.* 158 He had originally a fine sombre complexion. 1872 YEATS *Techn. Hist. Comm.* 152 A sombre garb was worn by the nuns, and coarse cowls by the friars.

5. *Comb.*, as *sombre-clad, -coloured, -minded, sombre-looking* adjs.

1850 LYNCH *Theoph. Trinal* v. 85 Dissatisfied, querulous, sombre-minded persons. 1872 JENKINSON *Guide English Lakes* (1879) 337 A wild and sombre-looking mass of rocks and precipices. 1889 S. J. HICKSON *Naturalist in N. Celebes* 214 The pious and sombre-clad Christian natives. 1899 MACKAIL *W. Morris* II. 191 The vast sombre-coloured crowd.

B. *sb.* Sombre character; sombreness. *rare.*

1795 H. M. WILLIAMS *Lett. France* I. 164 Fonfrede and Ducos relieved the sombre of the piece by the habitual liveliness of their characters. 1811 *Henry & Isabella* I. 285 A deep sombre spread itself over every thing.

Sombre (sǫ·mbəɹ), *v.* [f. SOMBRE *a.*]

1. *trans.* To make sombre.

1787 HILDITCH *Rosa* II. 52 Life, like..the iris bow, is beheld glowing in vivid charms, or sombred by gloom. 1807 SIR R. WILSON in *Life* (1862) II. vii. 208 Our entertainment was somewhat sombred by the intelligence. 1825 *Blackw. Mag.* XVII. 44 The midnight moon Looks sombred o'er the forests. 1873 MORLEY *Rousseau* I. 315 One..whose imagination, already sombred by the triumphant cruelty and superstition which raged around him, was suddenly struck with horror.

2. *intr.* To become or grow sombre.

1848 *Tait's Mag.* XV. 422 The picture sombred. 1893 *Temple Bar* XCIX. 43 Day again had sombred into night.

Hence **So·mbred, So·mbring** *ppl. adjs.*

1849 WHITTIER *Lakeside* 28 This lake..Walled round with sombering pines. 1873 MASSON *Drumm. of Hawth.* xx. 453 The russet and the yellow coming in patches amid the doubly sombred green.

So·mbreish, *a. rare*⁻¹. Somewhat sombre.

a 1845 BARHAM *Ingol. Leg.* Ser. III. *Knt. & the Lady* (1905) 471 Her thoughts having taken a sombre-ish train.

Sombrely (sǫ·mbəɹli), *adv.* [f. SOMBRE *a.* + -LY [2].] In a sombre manner.

1860 LD. LYTTON *Lucile* II. vi. § 4. 11 The brass-fronted,.. audible αυτος gone sombrely forth. 1868 GEO. ELIOT *Sp. Gipsy* 351 The boats Went sombrely upon the sombre waves. 1876 — *Dan. Der.* xxx, The place was sombrely in keeping with the black roads.

Sombreness (sǫ·mbəɹnės). [f. SOMBRE *a.* + -NESS.] The state of being sombre; gloominess; gloom; dullness.

1847 in WEBSTER. 1866 *Times* 13 June, Mourning so deep ..that not even a speck of white relieved its sombreness. 1866 GEO. ELIOT *F. Holt* (1868) 53 The general air of sombreness and privation. 1887 *Scribner's Mag.* II. 167/1 The sombreness of the bordering houses.

Sombrerite (sǫmbrīə·rəit). *Min.* [f. *Sombrero*, one of the Antilles islands + -ITE [1] 2 b.] A compound of phosphate of lime and phosphate of alumina, found on the island of Sombrero and other small islands in the West Indies.

1862 T. L. PHIPSON in *Jrnl. Chem. Soc.* XV. 277 Its composition and properties prove it to be a new species, to which I have given the name sombrerite.

‖ **Sombrero** (sǫmbrēə·ro). Also 7 **sumbrero, -briero,** 8 **somerera** (?). [Sp. *sombrero* (= Pg. *sombreiro*), f. *sombra* shade.]

† **1.** An Oriental umbrella or parasol. *Obs.*

Purchas and Herbert also use the fuller expression *sombrero de sol.*

1598 HAKLUYT *Voy.* II. 258 With a great Sombrero or shadow ouer their heads..as broad as a great cart wheele. 1638 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* (ed. 2) 316 Some..hold a Sumbrero or Umbrella in their hands to lenefie the flaming Sun. 1698 FRYER *Acc. E. India & P.* 51 We saw two Sumbrero's (a Mark for some of Quality) held up in the Boat-stern. 1727 A. HAMILTON *New Acc. E. Ind.* I. xxvii. 338 Some lusty Dutch Men to carry their Palenqueens and Somereras or Umbrellas.

2. A broad-brimmed hat, usually of felt or some soft material, of a type common in Spain and Spanish America.

1770 *Gentl. Mag.* XL. 530 A brown cap or silk net, with a large flatted hat called a *sombrero* over it. 1823 SCOTT *Quent. D.* xiv, A slouched overspreading hat, which resembled the sombrero of a Spanish peasant. 1855 THACKERAY *Newcomes* I. 280 In a velvet coat with a sombrero slouched over his face. 1885 LADY BRASSEY *The Trades* 177 It is sometimes called..the hat-palm, the young shoots making excellent sombreros or panamas.

attrib. 1891 E. ROPER *By Track & Trail* ix. 134 Their hats were of the sombrero order. 1900 *Times* 29 Jan. 10/3 Graceful Khaki-coloured sombrero hats.

Sombrous (sǫ·mbrəs), *a.* [f. F. *sombre* SOMBRE *a.* + -OUS. Cf. obs. F. *sombreux*, Sp. and Pg. *sombroso.*] Sombre; of a sombre character or aspect.

1. Of inanimate natural objects and their attributes. Cf. SOMBRE *a.* 1.

c 1730 BURT *Lett. N. Scotl.* (1822) I. 286 Their..horrid gloom, made yet more sombrous by the shades..they communicate one to another. 1787–9 WORDSW. *Evening Walk* 156 Where..the sombrous pine And yew-tree o'er the silver rocks recline. 1803 *Forest of Hohenelbe* I. 50 The long sombrous avenue that led to the front of the Castle. 1833 M. SCOTT *Tom Cringle* xiv, The fast falling shades of evening were deepened by the sombrous shadow of the immense tree overhead. 1889 P. H. EMERSON *Eng. Idyls* 47 Ghostly loomed the baleful wreck and sombrous beacons of the channel.

absol. 1862 D. G. F. MACDONALD *Brit. Columbia* 332 The whole territory..is endowed with savage beauty.., and extremely interesting to the lover of the sombrous.

2. a. Of persons, etc. Cf. SOMBRE *a.* 2.

1792 *Childr. Thespis* 49 When once in a moon Sombrous John condescends..to glad all his friends. 1799 MRS. J. WEST *Tale of Times* II. 36 Smothered discontent often made him meet..inquiries..with the sombrous brow of sorrow. 1802 — *Infidel Father* I. 136 Though the sombrous air of melancholy never after left his face. 1834 CAMPBELL *Mrs. Siddons* II. viii. 200 Kemble, [acting] on this occasion, was uncommonly sombrous.

b. Of thoughts, feelings, etc. Cf. SOMBRE *a.* 2 b.

1751 WARBURTON *Pope's Wks.* III. 190 A poor despicable superstition, a low sombrous passion. 1771–2 *Ess. fr. Batchelor* (1773) I. 239 His dull sombrous imagination rendered him incapable of varying his ideas on any subject. 1817 J. EVANS *Excurs. Windsor*, etc. 373 Under these sombrous feelings, even at this early period of life [etc.]. 1834 CAMPBELL *Mrs. Siddons* II. iii. 78 A serious temper, somewhat inclined to be sombrous.

3. Of abstract ideas, conditions, etc.

1750 WARBURTON *Doct. Grace* I. Wks. 1811 VIII. 293 A sparkling luxuriancy of thought, and a sombrous rankness of expression. 1778 WARTON *Hist. Eng. Poetry* III. xxvii. 150 A certain uniform strain of sombrous gravity. 1795 SOUTHEY *To Lycon*, The venom'd juice will..Lull reason's powers to sombrous sleep. 1820 *Ann. Reg.* II. 724 The future for Spain appears again under a sombrous and disturbed aspect.

4. Of colours or colouring. Also *transf.* Cf. SOMBRE *a.* 4.

1792 S. ROGERS *Pleasures of Mem.* II. 167 Time's sombrous touches soon correct the piece. 1797 T. PARK *Sonn.* 95 Let him in sombrous colours paint her lot. 1802 MRS. J. WEST *Infidel Father* I. p. iii, The episodical characters have a use besides relieving the sombrous hue of the principal personages.

b. = SOMBRE *a.* 4 b.

1799 MRS. J. WEST *Tale of Times* I. 212 The messenger.. found the castle attired in the most sombrous weeds of woe.

5. *Comb.*, as *sombrous-looking* adj.

1802 MRS. J. WEST *Infidel Father* II. 302 The Hymeneal Vulcan sometimes sees as sombrous looking suppliants approach his altar.

Hence **So·mbrously** *adv.*; **So·mbrousness.**

1796 *Mod. Gulliver's Trav.* 129 He looked very sombrously. 1847 WEBSTER, *Sombrously*, gloomily. *Sombrousness*, state of being sombrous.

Some (sʊm), *indef. pron., a.*[1], *adv.*, and *sb.*[1] Forms: 1–6, 9 *dial.* **sum** (9 *dial.* **zum**), 3–4 **summ,** 4–5, 6 *Sc.* **sume, summe**; 4 **soumme,** 5 **soume,** 5 (9 *dial.*) **soom**; 3–5, 7, 9 *dial.* **som** (4 **zom,** 7 *dial.* **z'om**), 5 **somm, somp**; 3–6 **somme,** 3– **some** (4, 9 *dial.* **zome**). [Common Teut.: OE. *sum*, = OFris. *sum* (NFris. *som*), MDu. *som, zom* (WFlem. *som, zom*), OS. *sum* (MLG. *sum, som*), OHG. and MHG. *sum* (G. dial. *sum, som, söm*), ON. *sumr* (Icel. *sumur*, Norw. *sum*; MSw. *sum, som*, Sw. *somt* neut., Da. *somme* pl.), Goth. *sums*; the stem is also found in Gr. ἀμο- (as ἀμόθεν from some place) and Skr. *sama* any, every. The word has had greater currency in English than in the other Teutonic languages, in some of which it is now restricted to dialect use, or represented only by derivatives or compounds, as WFris. *sommige, somlike*, Du. *sommige* (also *somtiids, somwijlen* sometimes), LG. *sömige* (G. dial. *summige*).]

A. *indef. pron.*

For *all and some, whole and some*, see ALL *a.* 12, WHOLE *a.*

I. In singular uses.

† **1.** One or other of a number of persons; someone, somebody. In later use also in phr. *some or other. Obs.*

(*a*) *Beowulf* 1432 Sumne Geata leod of flanbozan feores zetwæfde. *a* 1000 *Riddles* xv. 15 (Gr.), Þonne ic winde sceal sincfaz swelzan of sumes bosme. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 70 Summes kurteisie is noðeleas iturnd hire to vuele. *c* 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 131 In þis place sum is þat wolde telle þe kinge fore, and maken him mi fo. 1484 CAXTON *Fables of Æsop* v. x, Whan somme good cometh to somme, it ought not to be reffused. 1509 HAWES *Past. Pleas.* XXIII. (Percy Soc.) 107 Upon one hande some hath thombes twayne; And other also somtyme armes thre. *c* 1581 LODGE *Reply Gosson's Sch. Abuse* (Shaks. Soc.) 23, I feare me some will blushe that readeth this, if he be bitten. 1729 G. ADAMS tr. *Sophocl. Antig.* III. i. II. 39 Therefore..despise he [Antigone], and suffer the Girl to marry some among the Dead.

(*b*) 1631 HEYLIN *Hist. St. George* 113, I wonder some or other hath not resolu'd the doubt. 1664 D. FLEMING in *Extr. St. Papers rel. Friends* (1912) III. 213, I am halfe of opinion, that some or other hath abused him in this Letter. 1682 BUNYAN *Holy War* (1905) 208 Word, by some or other, could not but be carried to the good King Shaddai.

† **b.** Const. *of* (or gen. pl.). Also of things. *Obs.*

c 888 K. ÆLFRED *Boeth.* xviii. § 2 He cyðde on sumre his boca ðætte þa zet Romana nama ne come ofer þa muntas. *c* 1000 *Ags. Gosp.* Matt. xiii. 25 Þa com his feonda sum & ofer-seow hit mid coccele. *Ibid.* Mark viii. 28 Sume [secgað] sumne of þam witezum. *c* 1100 *Twelfth Cent. Hom.* 134 Ʒif nu eower sum,..smeað hwæt god beo. 1340 *Ayenb.* 15 Vor onneaþe yualþ þet me ne ualþ in-to þe þrote of zome of þe zeue heauedes. 1638 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* (ed. 2) 46 The Cutteries..have six and thirty Casts among themselves, from some of which none of them but is descended. 1656 SANDERSON *Serm.* (1689) 405 All such sins being easily reducible to some of the former three.

c. In the phr. *some of these* (..) *days*, some day soon; before very long.

1831 in Knapp *Life G. Borrow* (1899) I. 142 Young Simpson will be wanting an able assistant some of these days. 1848 NEWMAN *Loss & Gain* I. xiv, 'We shall have you a papist some of these fine days,' said he. 1851 BORROW *Lavengro* lxxiii, I should not be surprised if he were to come back some of these days.

† **2.** *Some..., some*, one..., another. (Cf. 7.)

c 888 K. ÆLFRED *Boeth.* xxxiii. § 2 Þonne lufað sum ðæt, sum elles hwæt. *c* 1000 *Ags. Gosp.* Matt. xxv. 15 He sealde.. sumum twa [pund], sumum an. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 6 Vor sum is strong, sum is unstrong. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 834 Sum was king, and sum kumeling. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Knt.'s T.* 2173 He mot ben deed,..Som in his bed, som in the depe see. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* III. 14 For som schal singe and som schal syke.

† **3.** With ordinal numbers: One of (or with) a specified number. *Obs.*

For the use of the ordinal cf. G. *selbdritte, -vierte*, etc. In OE. the gen. plur. of the cardinal was employed, as *syxa, eahta, twelfa sum*: for the later history of this see -SOME [2].

a 1225 *Juliana* 79 And te sea sencte him on his þrituðe sum ant þer to ȝet fowre. 13.. *Sir Beues* 203 Him self was boute þe ferþe some Toward þat ferd. *c* 1320 *Sir Tristrem* 817 He busked and made him ȝare Hi[m] fiftend som of kniȝt. *c* 1425 [see THIRDSOME].

4. A certain indeterminate part of something; a portion. († In early use freq. following a noun or pronoun, or predicative.) Also *some..., some.*

c 900 *O. E. Chron.* (Parker MS.) an. 877, Þa..zefor se here on Miercna lond, & hit zedældon sum, & sum Ceolwulfe saldon. *c* 1000 *Ags. Gosp.* Luke viii. 5 Þa he þæt seow, sum feoll wið þæne wez..And sum feoll ofer þæne stan. *c* 1275 *Prov. Hendyng* 98 Ʒef thou hauest bred & ale,..þou·del hit sum aboute. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 98 He hadde þer to Scropssire som & aluendel of warewik ssire. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) I. 151 Amazonia..is som in Asia, and som in Europa. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 484/1 Sum, or sumwhat, or a part of a nowmyr or a noþer thynge. 1572 in Feuillerat *Revels Q. Eliz.* (1908) 162 Sum in Bowltes and sum by lb. 1588 KYD *Househ. Phil.* Wks. (1901) 245 Some was roste, some was backt. 1597 SHAKS. *2 Hen. IV*, Epil., Bate me some, and I will pay you some. 1611 BIBLE *Luke* viii. 6 And some fell vpon a rocke, and.. it withered away. 1796 C. MARSHALL *Gardening* xix. (1813) 371 As it is a small flower, pot some.

b. Const. *of* (the thing specified).

c 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 133 Sum of þe sede feol an uppe þe stane. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 101 Som of gloucestressire & of warewikssire al so. 1560 BIBLE (Geneva) *Lev.* iv. 7 The Priest also shal put some of the blood.., vpon the hornes of yᵉ altar. 1600 SHAKS. *A. Y. L.* IV. iii. 96 Some of my shame, if you will know of me What man I am. 1639 J. SMYTH in *Glouc. Gloss.* (1890) 200 Ga'as zo'm of thuck bread. 1694 CONGREVE *Double Dealer* v. v, Snuff some of my spirit of hartshorn. 1834–6 *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) VIII. 762/1 In the act of drying, some of the lac is generally brought to the surface. 1872 MORLEY *Voltaire* (1886) 6 Some of it, much of it, has ceased to be alive for us now.

† **c.** (*By*) *some and some*, by little and little; by degrees; gradually. *Obs.* (Cf. 8 b.)

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XI. i. (Tollem. MS.), Vapoures, þat beþ gaderid sum and sum in þe erþe. *Ibid.* XVII. cxliii. (Bodl. MS.), Whan þe weþye is swiþe olde, þan he faileþ & roteþ somme and somme. 1602 J. RHODES *Answ. Romish Rhyme* 8 Your doctrine.., which did creepe Into the Church, by some and some.

† **d.** *Some and some*, something in return for something. *Obs.*

1573 GASCOIGNE *Herbes* Wks. 1907 I. 353 Recompence the lyke agayne: For some and some is honest playe. 1583 MELBANCKE *Philotimus* T j, Thinke some and some is honest play.

II. In plural senses.

5. An indefinite or unspecified (but not large) number of persons (or animals); certain persons not named or enumerated. Also *some or other.*

Beowulf 400 Sume þær bidon, heaðoreaf heoldon. *c* 888 K. ÆLFRED *Boeth.* xi. § 1 Sume beoð swiðe æþele & widcuðe on heora zebyrdum. *c* 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* John vii. 44 Sumo..uilnadon zegrioppa hine. 1154 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1137, Sume hi diden in crucethus. *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 3 Heo urnen on-ȝein him..and summe mid ufele þeonke. *c* 1205 LAY. 27376 Heo sculleð beon islaȝene and summe quic iulaȝene. *a* 1250 *Owl & Night.* 1648 Summe of þe scheules makeþ. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 14739 Amang þir men..War sume þat duues boght and sald. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* VI. 440 Thai ourtuk sum at the last, And thame forout mercy can sla. *c* 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* II. 283 Summe hem kepe Thre nyght in molten donge. 1450 *Paston Lett.* I. 125 Soom sey he wrotte moche [thing]. 1579 SPENSER *Sheph. Cal.* Sept. 152 Neuer was Woolfe seene, many nor some. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* I. 117 Some there be that think how it was first founded by Amphitus. 1675 H. MORE in R. Ward *Life* (1710) 361, I do not wonder that some or other are now and then so strangely assaulted. 1747 MRS. GLASSE *Cookery* ix. 88 Some love scalded Gooseberries with them. 1816 J. WILSON *City of Plague* II. i, Some, my son, Would bid thee trust in time. 1842 LOUDON *Suburban Hort.* 121 It feeds on worms..and

according to some, on roots. 1878 T. HARDY *Ret. Native* I. iii. (1890) 21, I shouldn't have cared about the man, though some may say he's good-looking.

b. Similarly of things.

c 975 *Rushw. Gosp.* Matt. xiii. 4 And þa he seow, sume gefeollun bi wæge & cuomun fuglas heofun & frætun. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 28 Uor þe ten hesten þet ich ibroken habbe, summe oðer alle. 1382 WYCLIF *Matt.* xiii. 4 And the while he soweth, sum felden byside the weye. *a* 1400-50 *Alexander* 568 It..raynes doune stanys,..And some as hoge as þi hede fra þe heuyn fallis. *c* 1449 PECOCK *Repr.* III. xiv. 371 And so forth of manye othere staryng gouernauncis, semyng summe wijlde woode. 1547 BOORDE *Brev. Health* Pref., Many obscure termes,..some & fewe beynge Araby wordes. 1588 LAMBARDE *Eirenarcha* IV. xix. 595 There be also certain matters..appropriated, some to any, and others to some one, of the generall Sessions. 1607 SIR J. HARINGTON in *Nugæ Ant.* (1804) I. 47 Manie bowlts were roved after him, and some spitefullie feather'd.

† **c.** With pronoun or sb. in apposition. (Cf. B. 7 b.) *Obs.*

c 900 tr. *Baeda's Hist.* IV. vii[i]. 282 Þa sumu [*v.r.* sume] woe nu gemdon geþeodan in þis user ciriclice stær. *c* 1000 *Ags. Gosp.* John vi. 64 Ac sume ge ne gelyfað. *a* 1122 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1101, Se cyng syððan scipa ut on sæ sende.., ac hi sume æft æt bære neode abruðon. *c* 1275 *Passion Our Lord* 43 in *O. E. Misc.* 38 Summe hi weren wyse, and duden al bi his rede. 1597 SHAKS. *Lover's Compl.* 148 Yet did I not, as some my equals did, Demaund of him. 1606 — *Tr. & Cr.* IV. v. 190 (Q.1), That I haue said to some my standers by.

d. In possessive form. Now *rare.*

1565 COOPER *Thesaurus* s.v. *Capio*, Sommes consciences beganne to pricke them. 1597 BEARD *Theatre God's Judgem.* (1612) 44 Somes lot it was to be torn in pieces. 1653 BP. WEBBE *Pract. Quiet.* 253 Nor may I condemn all..for somes unquietness. 1675 E. WILSON *Spadacr. Dunelm.* 67, I fear I have spoken Ænigmatically..to somes understanding. 1823 BYRON *Juan* XIII. XXX, Howsoe'er it shocks some's Self-love, there's safety in a crowd of coxcombs.

6. With *of* (persons or things).

c 875 in *O. E. Texts* 178 Dæt he spræc to his liornæra sumum. *c* 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Matt. xxviii. 11 Summe of ðæm haldendum cwomun in ða ceastra. *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 43 Summe of þan mounе sare wepeð. *c* 1200 ORMIN 6574 Sume off ure little flocc þatt lefeþþ uppo Criste. *c* 1275 LAY. 12001 Somme of þaie sipes wonde mid þan wedere. 1303 R. BRUNNE *Handl. Synne* 9997 Lo here a tale for of 3ou sum. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Can. Yeom. Prol.* 193 Somme of hem synke in to the ground. *c* 1449 PECOCK *Repr.* II. viii. 185 God wrouȝte tho myraclis in summe of tho placis more and ofter than in othere placis like. 1470-85 MALORY *Arthur* VIII. XXXIII. 323 Somme of them were sore hurte. 1537 *Thersytes* 99 in Pollard *Mir. Plays* (1890) 129 Some of the giauntes before Noes floud. 1588 KYD *Housch. Phil.* Wks. (1901) 267 A youth who..doth seme to write and mannedge some of their affaires. 1611 BIBLE *Rom.* xi. 17 If some of the branches bee broken off. 1664 PEPYS *Diary* 19 Mar., I spent the afternoon in paying some of the charges of the burial. 1748 HARTLEY *Observ. Man* I. i. 63 Some or other of those vibrations which are excited in it. 1779 *Mirror* No. 31, Some of our most celebrated historians have committed errors of the first sort. 1823 SCOTT *Quentin D.* XXXIII, Bring that rascal forward, some of you. 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xvi. III. 715 Some of those who opposed the bill. 1891 E. ROPER *By Track & Trail* xv. 217 Higher up..there are some of the most sublime scenes I have looked on anywhere.

7. *Some..., some,* = Some..., others. (Cf. 2.) † Formerly also in *some... than some, some and some.*

(*a*) *c* 888 K. ÆLFRED *Boeth.* XXXIII. § 5 Sume beorhtor sume unbyrhtor, swa swa steorran. *c* 1000 *Ags. Gosp.* Mark xii. 5 Sume hi beoton, sume hi of-slogon. 1154 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1140, Sume helden mid te king & sume mid þemperice. *c* 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 101 Sume sitteð and sume ligeð and sume we stondeð. *a* 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 37 Summe þurh muchele ȝeouen.., summe þurh fearlac. 13.. *K. Alis.* 2517 (W.), To divers castles he heom sent:..Some to Libye, some to Rome. *c* 1380 *Sir Ferumb.* 948 Of summe þay smyte of legges & armes, & of sum þe heuedes þay gerde. *a* 1400-50 *Alexander* 1330 All at he slayn fyndez, He makes to grave, some in grete, some in gray marbyll. *c* 1450 HOLLAND *Howlat* 64 Sum will me dulfully dicht, Sum dyng me to deid. 1523 SKELTON *Garl. Laurel* 250 Some whispred, some rownyd, some spake, and some cryde. 1568 GRAFTON *Chron.* II. 8 Some [fled] into Norway, and some into Denmarke, and some into one Countrie, and some into another. 1611 BIBLE *Psalms* XX. 7 Some trust in charets, and some in horses. 1685 TEMPLE *Misc.* II. *Gardens* (1690) 11 Like Rover Shots, some nearer and some further off, but all at great Distance from the Mark. 1750 tr. *Leonardus' Mirr. Stones* 130 For some are gold, some silver, others copper, and others iron. 1837 P. KEITH *Bot. Lex.* 122 Some are annular, some are reticulated, some are dotted, and some akin to spirals. 1855 KINGSLEY *Westw. Ho!* XXV, Some ran; some did not run.

(*b*) *c* 1491 *Chast. Goddes Chyld.* ii. 7 Our lorde withdraweth him fro some more than fro some. 1526 *Inv. Goods Dk. Richmond* in *Camden Misc.* (1855) 19 Item, Counterpoints of all sortes, some bygger than some. 1547 *Bk. of Marchauntes* c vj b, My marchants, of whome truely some be wilier than some. 1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* xli, Some are wiser than some,..and some are worse than some.

(*c*) 1522 SKELTON *Why not to Court?* 385 But there is some trauarse Bytwene some and some.

b. So *Some..., others* († *other*).

c 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Mark xii. 5 Sume ðurscun, oðero æc ofslogon. 1382 WYCLIF *Mark* xii. 5 Betynge summe, but sleynge othere. 1588 KYD *Housch. Phil.* Wks. (1901) 262 Some are naturally borne to commande, and others to obey. 1634 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* 189 Some have a smacke of Christ, others of Mahomet. 1696 in *13th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. VI. 41 By impowering some, and neglecting others. 1746 P. FRANCIS tr. *Horace, Art Poet.* 491 Some Charm when nigh, Others at Distance more delight your Eye. 1852 MISS YONGE *Cameos* (1877) III. iii. 21 The burghers hurried out, some with the straight cross of France, others with the saltire of Burgundy.

† **c.** Also *Some..., other some. Obs.*

1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* I. 52 For sum wald haiff þe Balleoll king;..And oþir sum nyt all þat cas. 1532 HERVET *Xenophon's Treat. Housch.* (1768) 74 For some haue gret plenty..and other some haue scantly so moche as they nede. 1585 T. WASHINGTON tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* II. xvi. 50 b, Cesternes.., supported some by vaultes, and othersom by.. pillars. 1611 [see OTHER SOME]. 1634 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* 141 Some place it in the circle of the Moone,..other some vnder the Circle of the Moone. 1700 S. L. tr. *Frykes' Voy. E. Ind.* 121 Some of 'em are far better than other some.

† **8. a.** *Some after some,* = next. *Obs.*—1

1598 GRENEWEY *Tacitus, Ann.* IV. xvi. (1622) 115 Comming some after some, and dropping in by companies.

† **b.** *Some and some,* a few at a time, gradually. *Obs.* (Cf. 4 c.)

1686 tr. *Chardin's Trav. Persia* 63 He put my Goods aboard, some and some, as he saw his Opportunity. 1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* II. (Globe) 501 They came dropping in, some and some, not in two Bodies, and in Form..., but all in Heaps. 1769 G. WHITE *Selborne* XXIII, Persons who assert that the swallow kind disappear some and some, gradually, as they come.

B. *adj.*

I. With singular nouns. (See also 9 c.)

† **1. a.** Of persons or places: A certain. *Obs.*

c 888 K. ÆLFRED *Boeth.* i, Þa wæs sum consul,. Boetius wæs gehaten. 971 *Blickl. Hom.* 15 Þa sæt þær sum blind þearfa be ðon wege. *c* 1000 *Ags. Gosp.* John xi. 1 Sum seoc man wæs genemned lazarus of bethania. 1382 WYCLIF *Luke* i. 5 Ther was sum prest, Zacharie by name, in the dayes of Eroude. *Ibid.* xviii. 2–3 Sum iuge was in sum citee...Forsothe sum widowe was in that citee. *a* 1578 LINDESAY (Pitscottie) *Chron. Scot.* (S.T.S.) II. 87 Sum godlie man [*sc.* John Knox] was in the castell.

† **b.** = ONE *pron.* 2 b. *Obs.*

1382 WYCLIF *Acts* XXV. 19 Thei hadden aȝens hym summe questiouns..of sum Jhesu deed, whom Poul affermyde for to lyue. 1760 T. HUTCHINSON *Hist. Mass.* I. 86 A *quo warranto* had been brought by some Sir John Banks, attorney-general [etc.].

2. One or other; an undetermined or unspecified.

c 888 K. ÆLFRED *Boeth.* XXXVII. § 2 Þæt mon hehð æenne heafodbeaȝ gyldenne æt sumes ærneweȝes ende. *c* 1000 ÆLFRIC *Saints' Lives* XXXI. 651 Martinus..wolde for sumere neode wið hine spræcan. *c* 1200 ORMIN 228 Þeȝȝ wisstenn þatt himm wass þatt daȝȝ Summ unncuþ sihhþe shæwedd. *a* 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 811 Scheoteð forð sum word, & let us onswerien. *c* 1250 *Owl & Night.* 1265 Naueþ mon no sikerhede þat he ne may..adrede þat sum vnhap neih him beo. *a* 1300 *Vox & Wolf* 125 in Hazl. *E. P. P.* I. 62 For he thoute, mid soumme ginne, Him self houp [=up] bringe. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) I. 101 Þat hul is ful hiȝe, so þat snowe lyeth all wey in som side of þat hille. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* II. 391 Thow Scot, abide, I trow thow be sum spy. 1528 TINDALE *Obed. Chr. Man* 89 This worde..representeth allwaye some promise of God. 1581 J. BELL *Haddon's Answ. Osorius* 360 b, They rest their handes upon some staffe shaking and tremblyng. 1634 MILTON *Comus* 485 Som neighbour Wood-man, or at worst, Som roaving Robber. 1663 S. PATRICK *Parab. Pilgr.* (1687) 171, I believe you are desirous to have some list of these Enemies. 1725 POPE *Odyss.* VIII. 180 Some mean sea-farer in pursuit of gain. 1780 *Mirror* No. 94, Miss Sophia R. therefore keeps me right..or covers my deviations with some apology. 1825 SCOTT *Talism.* ii, They had even their knights, or some rank analogous. 1867 TROLLOPE *Chron. Barset* I. xxi. 177, I am going to ask him to put his case into some lawyer's hands. 1876 'OUIDA' *Winter City* vi. 128 A triptych of some old fogey of a painter.

b. In adverbial expressions of time and place, with or without a preposition.

See also SOMETIME, -WHERE, -WHILE.

(*a*) *c* 893 K. ÆLFRED *Oros.* I. i. 17 He sæde þæt he æt sumum cirre wolde fandian [etc.]. *c* 1000 ÆLFRIC *Hom.* I. 62 Þa becom se apostol æt sumum sæle to þære byriȝ Þergamum. *c* 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 185 Ðos feawe word seide ure drihten..at sume sele. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 48 David..seide et sume time þat heo was etstert him. *c* 1250 *Owl & Night.* 293 At sum syþe herde i telle hw Alured seyde on his spelle. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 20981 He was sua stanid on sum dai, Vneths he bar lif a-way. 1382 WYCLIF *Heb.* ii. 6 Sum man witnesside in sum place. *a* 1400-50 *Alexander* 204 Suppos. and þaim in sum tyme for sothe to be knawen. *Ibid.* (MS. D.) 755* He..stighillys hym in som stede a stable by hym one. 1616 B. JONSON *Forest* xiii, No lady, but at some time loves her glass.

(*b*) *a* 900 *O. E. Chron.* (Parker MS.) an. 896, Þa sume dæȝe rad se cyng up be þære eæ. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 13185 Men mai yeitt se sum sted in france [etc.]. 13.. *Seuyn Sag.* (W.) 2936 Bot wele in hert he hoped ay Þat he sold hir se sum day. *a* 1425 *Cursor M.* 956 (Trin.), I hete to sende hit 3ou sum tide. 1550 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* I. 88 He hopis sum day to see his sone [etc.]. 1822 SHELLEY *Chas. 1st* II. 451 His Grace..expects to enter the New Jerusalem some Palm Sunday in triumph. 1845 BROWNING *Home Thoughts fr. Abroad* 4 And whoever wakes in England Sees, some morning, unaware [etc.]. 1865 RUSKIN *Sesame* i. § 13, I see it is true; or if I do not now, I hope I shall, some day.

c. With the indefiniteness emphasized by the addition of *or other* (cf. OTHER B. 5 a), *or another.*

1590 SHAKS. *Com. Err.* I. ii. 95 By some deuise or other, The villaine is ore-wrought of all my monie. 1615 W. BEDWELL *Arab. Trudg.* K iiij, How oft..shal you not meet with some exoticke and strange terme or other? 1697 DRYDEN *Dedic. Æneis* a iij b, Yet all this while I have been Sailing with some side-wind or other toward the Point I propos'd in the beginning. 1736 *Swift & Lett.* (1768) IV. 171, I received yours some day or other this week. *a* 1774 GOLDSM. *Surv. Exp. Philos.* (1776) II. 14 Certain it is that air is impregnated with salts of some kind or another. 1845 PATTISON *Ess.* (1889) I. 9 An impulse which will vent itself in some form or other. 1881 MRS. L. B. WALFORD *Dick Netherby* xii. 144 He must write some day or other.

d. With adjs. used absolutely. *rare.*

1579 SPENSER *Sheph. Cal.* Mar. 74 [I] Might see the mouing of some quicke, Whose shape appeared not. 1725 RAMSAY *Gentl. Sheph.* III. ii, The man's..possest With some nae good.

e. In suggestive or euphemistic use.

1725 RAMSAY *Gentl. Sheph.* v. iii, She's baith a slee and a revengfu' bitch, And that my some-place [=posteriors] finds.

† **3.** Used with an indefinite or generalizing force similar to that of the plural (sense 7). *Obs.*

c 888 K. ÆLFRED *Boeth.* XXXIV. § 10 Sumes wuda eard bið on dunum. *c* 1000 ÆLFRIC *Hom.* I. 322 Sumum men he forgifð wisdom and spræce, sumum god ingehyd, sumum micelne geleafan. 13.. *Cursor M.* 10226 (Gött.), For þan was sum man god dredand. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* II. 295 Sum man for eryness will trymbill, Quhen he assayit is sodanly. 1481 CAXTON *Reynard* XXVIII. (Arb.) 68 The ape ..is wyser in clergie than somme preest. 1535 COVERDALE *Ecclus.* vi. 9 And there is some frende that turneth to enemyte, and taketh parte agaynst the. *Ibid.* XX. 5 Some man kepeth sylence, and is founde wyse. 1565 COOPER *Thesaurus, Alburnum*, the fatte that is in some tree. 1638 JUNIUS *Paint. Ancients* 103 In some regard they tooke speciall notice of the difference of wits.

4. A certain (unspecified) amount, part, degree, or extent of (something), freq. implying 'not little, considerable'. † In OE. also with *the, his,* etc.

c 888 K. ÆLFRED *Boeth.* XXIV. § 4 Nis nan man þætte sumes eacan ne ðyrfe. *c* 893 — *Oros.* III. x. 140 He beæftan þebad mid sumum þæm fultume. *c* 920 *O. E. Chron.* an. 913, Sum his fultum worhte þa burg. *a* 1200 *Moral Ode* 25 in *O. E. Hom.* I. 161 Sende3 sum god bi-foren eow, þe hwile þet 3e muȝen, to houene. *c* 1275 *XI Pains of Hell* 290 in *O. E. Misc.* 220 Poul knelid adowne..And prayd..Fore þe soulis in hel sum ryst haue þer. 1375 in Horstmann *Altengl. Leg.* (1878) 125/1 Bote rys, & go we eft wiþ mod For to seken vs sum fod. 1393 LANGL. *P. Pl.* C. III. 128 Þat god wolde were ydo with-oute som deceite. ?*c* 1440 *Pol., Rel., & L. Poems* (1903) 246 Lord! sende me sum 'amor' sede. 1478 *Paston Lett.* III. 237 He prayethe yow to sende hym sum mony. 1562 *Child Marriages* 189 He came thither to get somme threde. 1590 SHAKS. *Mids. N.* I. i. 244 When this Haile some heat from Hermia felt. 1650 EARL MONM. tr. *Senault's Man bec. Guilty* 345 These wise men..mought have some cognizance of the truth. 1677 MARVELL *Season. Argum.*, etc. Wks. (1776) II. 562 Where he feathered his nest to some purpose. 1711 STEELE *Spect.* No. 100 P 1 He immediately calls for some Posset-drink for him. *Ibid.* No. 106 P 5 A Person of good Sense and some Learning. 1761-2 HUME *Hist. Eng.* (1806) IV. lxi. 589 Some state was upheld, but with little expense. 1831 SCOTT *Cast. Dang.* v, His master..had been a man of some reading. 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xviii. IV. 191 In the neighbourhood ..was some copsewood and some pasture land. 1890 *Law Times Rep.* LXIII. 767/1 There is some variation in the mode in which the custom is stated.

b. With partitive terms, as *part, degree,* etc.

See also SOMEDEAL, -PART, -WHAT.

c 1400 *Destr. Troy* 13553 Iff ye haue ferkit any fode to þis frith now,..ges me som part. *c* 1470 *Rauf Coilȝear* 56 For I trow..sum part salbe thyne. 1567 ALLEN *Def. Priesthood* 306 To geue pardon..is to release some parte, or all the enioyned penaunce. 1648 *Hamilton Papers* (Camden) 226 It is beliued that som parte of the caus is from Scotland. 1780 *Mirror* No. 82, But I can venture to assert, with some degree of confidence, that [etc.]. 1826 *Art of Brewing* (ed. 2) 2, I admit this to be correct advice, in some measure. 1870 J. E. T. ROGERS *Hist. Glean.* Ser. II. 7 Some part of its authority was due to its prestige.

c. With terms of time or space.

(*a*) *c* 900 tr. *Baeda's Hist.* V. xii. (1890) 432 Þa ic sume tid fram ðe gewat [etc.]. *c* 1060 *O. E. Chron.* (MS. C) an. 1055, Hig..wendan..ut on Wealas, & þær laȝon sume hwile. *a* 1200 *Moral Ode* 147 in *O. E. Hom.* I. 169 Hefð he ifonded [it] sumne stunde, he wolde al seggen oðer. *a* 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 8 Constantin ferde..in to Fronclonde, & wunede summe hwile þear. *c* 1275 in *O. E. Misc.* 89 Þo heo stod ful vaste, and seoþþe sume stunde. *c* 1400 *Pilgr. Sowle* (Caxton, 1483) III. viii. 55 Al be hit that for somtyme theyr lewd lyf displesid to them seluen. *c* 1643 LD. HERBERT *Autobiog.* (1824) 33 He that can forbear speaking for some while, will remit much of his passion. 1658 J. WEBB *Cleopatra* VIII. i. 147 [He] continued sometime in the designe. 1710 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 12 P 1 It was some time before I could settle my self in a House to my likeing. 1747 in E. H. Burton *Life Ep. Challoner* (1909) I. xiv. 223, I sent the lessons some time ago to Paris. 1838 *Proc. Berw. Nat. Club* I. 173 After lying some time among weedy rocks. 1845-6 TRENCH *Huls. Lect.* Ser. I. i. 13 No doubt for some while the Church did exist with a canon not full formed. 1891 E. PEACOCK *N. Brendon* I. 315 Basil hesitated for some time.

(*b*) 1594 PLAT *Jewell-ho.* 4 An earthern vessel of some receipte. 1610 SHAKS. *Temp.* II. i. 257 'Twixt which Regions There is some space. 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* XXXVI, At some distance among these woods stood a pavilion. 1820 MILNER *Suppl. Mem. Eng. Cath.* 313 These authors answered the challenge, each of them in a work of some length. 1867 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* (1877) I. App. 765 The old frontier lies some way to the north. 1869 TOZER *Highl. Turkey* I. 10 The town..is a place of some size.

d. With adjs., as *little, small, considerable,* etc.

1382 WYCLIF *Acts* XV. 33 Sothli sum litil tyme maad there, thei weren dismittid..with pees of bretheren. 1592 *Soliman & Pers.* II. i, I haue some little replie, if neede require. 1602 SHAKS. *Ham.* II. ii. 14 That you vouchsafe your rest heere in our Court Some little time. 1626 in *Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* Var. Coll. (1907) IV. 171 The necessitie of useing some small quantitie of bay salt therein. 1716 CHURCH *Philip's War* (1867) II. 53 Several of his men..was gone some considerable time. 1792 *Gentl. Mag.* 13/2 The bridge..is some little distance from the main street of Duffield. 1825 SCOTT *Betrothed* XXVIII, Suppose him returning some brief time hence. *a* 1834 COLERIDGE in *Lit. Rem.* (1836) II. 198 Perhaps, the influence of a princess..may be some little excuse for Albany's weakness. 1902 *Encycl. Brit.* XXVIII. 407/1 Fishes..which swim some little distance above the actual sea-bed.

e. *U.S.* In predicative use: Of some account; deserving of consideration.

With quot. 1848 cf. the U.S. colloq. phrase *some pumpkins* s.v. PUMPKIN 2 b.

1848 RUXTON *Life Far West* (1849) 60 She's 'some' now, that is a fact, and the biggest kind of punkin' at that. 1849 in Bartlett *Dict. Amer.* (1859) s.v., Which was admitted by the oldest inhabitant to be 'some' in the way of cold winters.

5. *Some other* (see OTHER *a.* 5 b).

c 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Luke xvii. 12 Mið-ðy innfoerde sum oðer werc. *c* 1000 ÆLFRIC *Saints' Lives* xxxi. 691 Se ylca sulpicius and sum oðer broðor. *c* 1200 ORMIN 7476 Þatt te33.. shulldenn..farenn ham till here land All wiþþ summ oþerr we33e. 1303 R. BRUNNE *Handl. Synne* 3470 As yn cherche to synge or rede, Or of sum oþer holy dede. 1362 LANGL. *P. Pl.* A. VIII. 34 Sette scolers to scole or to sum oþer craft. *c* 1449 PECOCK *Repr.* III. iv. 302 He which is ouerer..schulde louȝe him silf in sum other maner. 1560 WHITEHORNE *Ord. Souldiours* (1588) 6 The residue of the men..may be placed some other where. 1596 *Edw. III*, IV. vii, O, that I were some other countryman! 1611 [see OTHER *a.* 5 b]. 1640 tr. *Verdere's Rom. of Rom.* II. 193, I will take the power to love some otherwhere. 1699 R. L'ESTRANGE *Erasm. Colloq.* (1725) 200 He concluded to take some other Priest with him. 1732 [see OTHER *a.* 5 b]. *a* 1845 [see OTHERWHERE c]. 1858 HAWTHORNE *Ancestral Footstep* (1883) 514 The old Hospitaller must die in his bed, or some other how.

6. Followed by *certain* or *one* with limiting force (cf. ONE B. 7).

1561, 1591 [see CERTAIN *a.* 7 b]. 1565 COOPER *Thesaurus*, *Vnus aliquis*, some one man. 1655 STANLEY *Hist. Philos.* (1687) 62/1 Respiring Flames at some certain part. 1746 FRANCIS tr. *Horace, Epist.* II. i. 53 Some certain Point should finish the Debate. *Ibid.* 76 In some one Excellence their Merit lies. 1865 RUSKIN *Sesame* ii. § 72 She should..follow at least some one path of scientific attainment.

II. With plural nouns.

7. Certain (taken individually).

Also with limiting terms as *certain, other*: cf. 5 and 6.

c 888 K. ÆLFRED *Boeth.* XXV, Þæt ælc zesceaft bið healdon locen wið hire zecynde,..buton monnum & sumum englum. *a* 1122 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1119, Wæs mycel eorð-bifung on suman steodan her on lande. *c* 1200 ORMIN 11214 Affterr þatt sume wise menn O lare itt unnderrstanndenn. *c* 1250 *Owl & Night.* 879 Þeyh summe men beon þurhut gode. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 19550 Þof summen mai baptise Mai naman.. Conferming giue, bot biscop hand. 1340 *Ayenb.* 196 Zom uolk byeþ þet onworþeþ þe poure. 1422 tr. *Secreta Secret., Priv. Priv.* 132 Sum Pryncis ther bene, that..takyn atte har talent trew men goodis. *c* 1491 *Chast. Goddes Chyld.* 53 In somm outwarde signes the prophecye of the deuyll may be knowen. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 6 Some persones..wyll muse or-meruayle. 1562 WINȜET *Wks.* (S.T.S.) I. 23 The durris..wes calket also with sum notes of dishonour. 1596 SHAKS. *Rich. III*, I. iv. 125 Some certaine dregges of conscience are yet within mee. 1651 HOBBES *Leviath.* IV. xlvi. 374 Some..bodies sink naturally downwards. 1696 [C. LESLIE] *Snake in Grass* 88, I wou'd advise some Friends to go to the Dancing-School, and learn a more Gentle and Graceful Mien. 1723 DR. WHARTON *True Briton* No. 24. I. 208, I have heard some People very large in their Exclamations against Creeds and Forms of Faith. 1776 *Trial of Nundocomar* 23/1 Some days he has violent purgings, at other times he gets better. 1826 *Art of Brewing* (ed. 2) 15 Some gentlemen, however,..have studied the subject more particularly. 1855 J. PHILLIPS *Man. Geol.* 498 Oligoclase occurs in some granites. 1867 RUSKIN *Time & Tide* i. § 3 Every nation is fitted..for some particular employments or manufactures.

† b. With article or pronoun accompanying the noun. (Cf. A. 5 c.) *Obs.*

c 893 K. ÆLFRED *Oros.* I. i. 18 Þa teð hie brohton sume þæm cyninge. *c* 1000 ÆLFRIC *Hom.* II. 448 Ðe maȝon ȝehyran sume his ðeawes. *c* 1000 *Ags. Gosp.* Matt. ix. 3 Ða cwædon hiȝ sume þa boceras him betwynan. *c* 1120 *O. E. Chron.* an. 1119, Sume þa castelas he mid strengðe ȝenam. *c* 1205 LAY. 12001 Summe þe scipen wunden forð mid þan wederen. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 2718 So þat some þe messagers to kermerdin come.

c. *Some . . . (other) some*, some . . . other(s). † Also with *than*, and ellipt. for *sometimes*.

c 888 K. ÆLFRED *Boeth.* XXXIV. § 10 Sumra wyrta.. eard bið on dunum,..sumra on merscum, sumra on morum. *c* 1000 ÆLFRIC *Hom.* II. 48 Sume lareowas sindon beteran ðonne sume. 1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. XV. 95 Þere somme bowes ben leued and somme bereth none. 1430-40 LYDG. *Bochas* IX. XXXVIII. L'Envoi, Some folke appayre, some dothe amende. 1551 [see OTHER SOME]. 1611 SHAKS. *Wint. T.* III. iii. 20 Sometimes her head on one side, some another. 1651-1875 [see OTHER SOME].

8. A certain number of; a few at least.

a 1122 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1048, Ða he wæs sume mila oððe mare beheonan Dofran, þa dyde he on his byrnan.

1589 PUTTENHAM *Eng. Poesie* (Arb.) 235, I know..Your some sweete smiles, your some, but louely lowrs. 1610 SHAKS. *Tempest* I. ii. 145 They hurried vs a-boord a Barke, Bore vs some Leagues to Sea. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* I. 208 Some flaggons of rich wine, some very white bisket, some pruines and raisins. 1726 SHELVOCKE *Voy. r. World* 30 To dig a small garden to sow some Lettices, and other sort of sallading. 1785 [MRS. GRANT OF LAGGAN] *Lett.* (1807) II. 96 The house has no other inhabitant at present than an old Sybil..and some legions of rooks and daws. 1822 SCOTT *Nigel* x, It costs but..the journey of some brief days. 1842 LOUDON *Suburban Hort.* 95 The middle and hinder ones die after some weeks' struggle for existence. 1887 *Field* 12 Nov. 734/2 Displaying his science by some beautiful casts.

b. In adverbial expressions of time.

1382 WYCLIF *Acts* x. 48 Thanne thei preieden him, that he schulde dwelle with hem summe dayes.

1602 in MORRIS *Troubles Cath. Foref.* (1872) I. iv. 192 My abode..hath been for some years..in London. 1661 *12th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. V. 6 Gervise Lucas served ..as gentleman of his horse some years. 1709 MANLEY *Secr. Mem.* (1736) I. 175 A comical Adventure happened to her some Nights ago. 1712 STEELE *Spect.* No. 322 P 2 Some Years ago it happened that [etc.]. 1821 MOORE *Mem.* (1853) III. 273 Have not been very well these some days past. 1859 GEO. ELIOT *A. Bede* xxix, We shall meet with better feelings some months hence. 1891 E. PEACOCK *N. Brendon* I. 119 He has been here some years.

c. With addition of *few*.

1582 ALLEN *Martyrdom Campion* (1908) 36 This blessed man,..of whose life I thought good to set downe some few lines also. 1626 BACON *Sylva* § 470 If some few Pertusions be made in the Pot. 1665 BOYLE *Occas. Reft.* IV. xiv. (1848) 251 We..caught more in some few Minutes than we had taken in a whole hour before. 1820 KEATS *Isabella* XXXIV, For some few gasping moments. 1847 GROTE *Hist. Greece* (1862) III. XXV. 7 They had some few towns.

9. Used with numbers to indicate an approximate amount or estimate, and passing into an adv. with the sense 'about, nearly, approximately'.

c 888 K. ÆLFRED *Boeth.* XXXVIII. § 1 Þa wæron hi sume ten ȝear on þam ȝewinne. *c* 900 *O. E. Chron.* (Parker MS.) an. 896, Þær wurdon..sume feower cyninges þegnas ofslæȝene. *c* 1205 LAY. 28983 Þa wunede bi-ȝeonde þere Hunbre ..drenches sume sixe. 1567 MAPLET *Gr. Forest* 84 b, The floud Ganges hath Eles some 30 Foote long. 1582 in W. H. Turner *Select. Rec. Oxford* (1880) 424 Some three or fower acres of woode. 1632 MASSINGER *Fatal Dowry* II. ii, They skip into my lord's cast skins some twice a year. 1668 DRYDEN *Even. Love* II. i, I have some three hundred pistoles by me. 1787 BURNS *Auld Farmer's Salut.* iv, It's now some nine-an'-twenty year. 1836 MRS. CARLYLE *Lett.* I. 56 We expect John Carlyle in some ten days. 1865 RUSKIN *Sesame* i. § 33 This collection..would probably have been some thousand or twelve hundred pounds. 1892 *Photogr. Ann.* II. 648 The club consists of some 40 members.

b. With numerals denoting the time of day.

1596 SHAKS. *Tam. Shr.* IV. iii. 189, I thinke 'tis now some seuen a clocke. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* XXXII, At some ten o'clock the clinking of a sabre might have been heard.

c. Hence with singular nouns expressing time, distance, amount, etc.

(*a*) 1592 SHAKS. *Rom. & Jul.* V. iii. 257 When I came (some Minute ere the time Of her awaking). 1596 — *Merch. V.* III. ii. 9, I would detaine you here some month or two. 1822 SOUTHEY *Lett.* (1856) III. 348 A note from Murray some fortnight ago let me know [etc.]. 1875 B. MEADOWS *Clin. Obs.* 20 Face..not so free as some week or two back.

(*b*) 1595 *Drake's Voy.* (Hakl. Soc.) 7 We came to anchor some saker shott from a forte. 1601 R. JOHNSON *Kingd. & Commw.* (1603) 86 Distant from the towne some halfe mile. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* I. 191 Some halfe musket shot distance. 1857 HUGHES *Tom Brown* I. iii, Which was distant some mile or so from the school. 1883 C. J. WILLS *Mod. Persia* 203 Some mile and a half through the deserted streets.

(*c*) 1846 S. WILBERFORCE *Sp. Missions* (1874) 98 In order that the English people might buy that luxury some penny a pound cheaper.

III. 10. With *other, one, few*, etc., used absolutely in sing. or plur.

(*a*) *c* 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Matt. xiii. 4 Sum oðer ȝefeollon neh woeȝ. *Ibid.* Luke ix. 27 Sint sume oðera her stondað ðaðe [etc.]. 1484 CAXTON *Fables of Avian* v, The leche whiche wylle hele somme other, ought fyrste to hele hym self. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* VI. XV. 7 Sum wtheris better can thair causis pleid. 1592 *Soliman & Pers.* IV. ii, I would my maister had left some other to be his agent here. 1603 KNOLLES *Hist. Turks* (1621) 53 Some other in the meane time playing with his nose, and bobbing him in the face. 1760-2 GOLDSM. *Cit. W.* XIV. P 3 There is Seneca, and Bolingbroke, and some others.

(*b*) 1546 *Supplic. Poore Commons* (E.E.T.S.) 85 Perhappes some one of vs hathe hylded C. shepe. 1598-9 HAKLUYT *Voy.* II. I. 56 Most rich & precious stones, some one of which is of more value then a whole kingdome. 1886 C. E. PASCOE *Lond. of To-day* xliii. (ed. 3) 366 To admire and covet, if not to buy, some one of its treasures.

(*c*) 1582 ALLEN *Martyrdom Campion* (1908) 16 Meaning by the state..the welfare of some few..upholden by this new religion. 1621 BP. MOUNTAGU *Diatribæ* 526 Vnlesse *some few*, & *Many* in your language be all one. *a* 1648 LD. HERBERT *Hen. VIII* (1683) 426 The use that may be made of some few, as two or three in euery Shire. 1735 *Gentl. Mag.* Feb. 106/1 Some few were well dress'd. 1875 HELPS *Soc. Press.* ix. 124 We think—at least, some few of us do—that [etc.].

(*d*) 1601 SHAKS. *Jul. C.* I. iii. 122 Some certaine of the Noblest minded Romans. 1607 — *Cor.* II. iii. 59 Some certaine of your Brethren.

C. *adv.* (See also B. 9.)

1. With comparatives: A little; slightly; somewhat. Chiefly *Sc.* and *north.*

a 1560 ROLLAND *Crt. Venus* I. 662 Quhill time this corps be sum better applyit. 1636 RUTHERFORD *Lett.* (1862) I. 172 My Well-beloved is some kinder..than ordinary. 1667 O. HEYWOOD *Heart-Treas.* xvi. (1825) II. 219, I am rich still, as rich as ever I was, and some richer. 1741 A. MONRO *Anat.* (ed. 3) 207 The superior bulbous Part of this Bone forms some less than the inferior Half of that..Cavity. 1785 BURNS *To W. Simpson* Postscr. xiii, I hope we..ken some better. 1807 P. GASS *Jrnl.* 219 Yesterday we gave him an Indian sweat, and he is some better to day. 1892 HESLOP *Northumbld. Gloss.* 669 She's some better thi day.

2. With verbs: a. A certain amount; a little.

1699 O. HEYWOOD *Diaries* (1885) IV. 162 She bled some still. 1821 *Joseph the Book-Man* 17 Joe in his day had travell'd some. 1822 HOGG *Tales & Sk.* (1837) VI. 272 He spoke some to himself likewise, but it was only one short sentence. 1834 J. HALL *Kentucky* II. 40, I hunt some, and snake a little. 1842 DICKENS in Foster *Life* III. iv, He may walk some, perhaps—not much. 1909 *Lady's Realm* Feb. 468/2 He hunted some, and fished some.

b. *U.S.* To some extent; in some degree; somewhat.

The variations of American usage are very fully illustrated in Thornton's *Amer. Gloss.* (1912) 827-9.

1825 in Thornton *Amer. Gloss.* s.v., [You are] on the huffy order, some, to night. 1843 J. G. WHITTIER in Pickard *Life* (1894) I. 281, I think some of attending the great anti-slavery convention. 1863 DICEY *Federal St.* I. 225 It used to amuse me some..to find that the slaveholders wanted more territory [etc.]. 1889 *Anthony's Photogr. Bulletin* II. 206 Having been troubled some of late to get clear results.

c. *U.S.* In emphatic use: Very much, very well, etc.

1866 LOWELL *Biglow P.* Ser. II. *The Courtin'* xiii, Thet night, I tell ye, she looked *some!* 1894 'G. EGERTON' *Keynote* 9 'How you love young things!' she says. 'Some.'

3. *dial.* and *U.S.* With adjs. (rarely with advs.): Somewhat.

1817 in Thornton *Amer. Gloss.* s.v., His clothes were some bloody. 1839 MARRYAT *Diary Amer.* Ser. I. II. 226 'Are you cold, miss?' said I to a young lady... 'Some,' was the reply. 1851 STERNBERG *Northampt. Dial.* s.v., It war some wet. 1858-61 E. B. RAMSAY *Remin.* (1870) p. xxi, The heat has made your skin some tender.

D. *sb.*[1] An unspecified amount, person, thing, etc. *rare.*

1830 GALT *Lawrie Todd* II. v, I have myself obstinacious objections—a considerable some—against 'em here parley voos. 1850 L. HUNT *Autobiogr.* xxiv. 381 Some whim, some enjoyment,..with a thousand other somes and probabilities.

† **Some,** *sb.*[2] *Obs.* [OE. *sóm*, ablaut-variant of the stem *sam-*: see SAME *a.*] Agreement, concord, peace. Usu. coupled with *saught(ness)* or *sib.* (Cf. SOME *a.*[2])

c 1000 ÆLFRIC *Hom.* II. 198 Þam dom-bocum þe se Heofenlica Wealdend his folce ȝesette to some, and to sehtnysse. *a* 1011 *Laws Ethelred* vi. 25 (Liebermann), Beo eallum Cristenum mannum sibb and som ȝemæne, and ælc sacu totwæmed. *c* 1205 LAY. 4099 Heo speken þer to sæhte, to sibbe and to some. *c* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 426 Þis is o þing,.. þet is God leouest—seihnesse & some. *c* 1275 *Holy Chirch* 15 in *O. E. Misc.*, For hi heolden cristes men myd sib and myd some.

† **Some,** *sb.*[3] *Obs. rare.* [a. OF. *some* (mod. F. *-somme*) horse-load.] The number of twelve thousand (nails or needles).

The use survives in mod.F. (Littré s.v. *Somme*).

1539-40 in *Archaeol. Cant.* (1893) XX. 243, 2 'some' of 'spryȝg' 10s. 1545 *Rates of Customs* b viij b, Nidels, the some conteinynge xii M., *xs. Ibid.* c iij, Patten nayles the some, iis.

Some, obs. form of SOAM, SUM *sb.*

† **Some,** *a.*[2] *Obs.* [Reduced form of I-SOME *a.*]

1. United, reconciled; at peace, friendly. Chiefly in phr. *saught and some.* (Cf. SOME *sb.*[2])

c 1205 LAY. 9883 Þus heo weoren sahte & þus heo weoren some. *c* 1320 *Cast. Love* 520, I chul fleon and neuere come. Bote my sustren ben saust and some. *Ibid.* 552 Maken Ichulle .. Pees and Riht cussen and be saust and some. *a* 1400 *Chron. R. Glouc.* (Rolls) 52 Of þe folc of denemarch þat ȝuyt ne buþ nouȝt some.

2. Characterized by peacefulness or quiet.

c 1400 *Beryn* 3233 And eke of thy condicioune both sofft & some.

Some, obs. form of SAME *a.*

a 1400-50 *Alexander* (D.) 2063 Þe some [*v.r.* selfe] sendesman he in þe sale fyndez.

-some, *suffix*[1], representing OE. *-sum*, = OFris. *-sum*, related by ablaut to OS. and OHG. *-sam* (G. *-sam*, Du. *-zaam*), ON. *-samr* (Sw. *-sam*, Da. *-som*), Goth. *-sams*, used in OE. to form adjs. from nouns and adjs., as *friðsum* peaceful, *genyhtsum* abundant, *ánsum* whole, *langsum* lasting, rarely from verbs, as *hýrsum, héarsum* obedient. A few of the OE. formations survived in early ME., but only two or three are now in use, as *longsome, lovesome, winsome.* In ME. a number of new examples appear, some of which soon became obsolete, as *beisome, folȝsome, friendsome, lustsome, wlatsome*, while others (chiefly dating from the 14th century) have remained current, as *cumbersome, fulsome, gamesome, gladsome, handsome, lightsome, loathsome, noisome, wholesome.* The early ME. *buhsum, buxum* is now represented by *buxom*, in which the suffix is disguised. In the 16th century appear *awesome, brightsome, darksome, healthsome, heartsome, quarrelsome*, and the unusual formation *timorsome.* Of later date are *adventuresome, bothersome, fearsome, frightsome, lonesome, plaguesome*, etc., and various nonce-formations as *clipsome, cuddlesome, dabblesome, divertsome*, some of which have a passive, others an active, sense.

-some, *suffix*[2], representing OE. *sum* after numerals in the genitive plural: see SOME *indef. pron.* 3. In ME. the inflexion disappeared, and the pronoun was finally treated as a suffix to the numeral, chiefly with the simple numbers from two to ten; for the history of these see TWOSOME, THREESOME, etc. Other examples are rare, and the *some* may be written as a separate word.

In OS. and OFris. *sum* was similarly used with the gen. pl., as OS. *fahora sum* (one of a few), OFris. *twira-, thrira-, fiuwerasum*, etc.; the latter are still represented by WFris. *tware-, trijere-, fjouweresom*, etc.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 5233 Quen þai war gedir al to-gedir, Sex and sexti sum o liues þai war. *c* 1400 *Brut* 236 And also he commandede..þat þai shulde bene put in tuentysome and in hundredsome. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* IX. 440 Off Scottis men thai semblyt hastely Nyne hundyr sum off worthi chewalry.

-some, *suffix* 3, later var. of -SUM *suffix*, occurring in a few words, as WHATSOME, WHERESOME, WHOSOME. Cf. SOMEVER.

Somebody (sʌ·mbɒdi), *sb.* Also 6–8 some body. [f. SOME *a.*[1] 2 + BODY *sb.* 13.]

1. A person unknown, indeterminate, or unnamed; someone, some person.

1303 R. BRUNNE *Handl. Synne* 3785 Þou mayst be wroþe, sum body to chastyse, Þogh hate nat yn þy herte ryse. 1526 TINDALE *Luke* viii. 46 And Iesus sayd: Someboody touched me. 1592 *Ard. of Feversham* III. v, Soft, Ales, for here comes some body. 1623 in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* Ser. I. III. 149 If wee should goe away without leaving somboddie behynd us. 1710 ADDISON *Tatler* No. 155 P 2, I heard some body at a Distance hemming after me. 1779 *Mirror* No. 17, I cannot help expressing my suspicion, that Mrs. Rebecca Prune has got somebody to write her letter. 1841 BROWNING *Pippa Passes* Poems (1905) 173 Take the pipe out of his mouth, somebody. 1891 FREEMAN in W. R. W. Stephens *Life & Lett.* (1895) II. 428 That is just what I want somebody to do to me.

b. *Somebody else*, some other person.

The older form of the possessive, *somebody's else*, has now given way to *somebody else's* (see ELSE *adv.* 1 d).

1648 HEXHAM II, *Yemandt anders*, Some body else. 1655 OWEN *Vindic. Evang.* Wks. 1851 XII. 263 That blood was not Christ's, but somebody's else that He loved. 1716 M. DAVIES *Athen. Brit.* II. 21 The Author of such Legal Formularies, tho' they had been rough-drawn by his Clerk or some Body else. 1718 J. FOX *Wanderer* 86 To heighten their own Vanity, or some Body's else. 1825 J. NEAL *Bro. Jonathan* II. 27, A kind of shadow, which made me feel as if I had seen it, before,..or somebody else, very much like him. 1860 [see ELSE *adv.* 1 d]. 1892 ZANGWILL *Bow. Myst.* 109 All the seats were numbered, so that everybody might have the satisfaction of occupying somebody else's.

c. With article or pron.

1724 SWIFT *Drapier's Lett.* Wks. 1755 V. II. 74 Somebody in England empowered a second somebody to write to a third somebody here. 1786 MRS. A. M. BENNETT *Juvenile Indiscr.* V. 30 He was a somebody he was acquainted with. 1802–12 BENTHAM *Ration. Judic. Evid.* (1827) IV. 26 There is a somebody who is responsible for it, and that somebody is he. 1869 DUNKIN *Midn. Sky* p. ii, It has been the earnest desire of the author to be the 'somebody' of Carlyle. 1871 BROWNING *Balaustion* 308 There spoke up a brisk little somebody.

d. Used as a substitute for a personal name.

1825 COBBETT *Rur. Rides* (1853) 346 At Send, or Sutton,.. there is a Baron somebody, with a De before his name. 1842 LOVER *Handy Andy* xxxii, Up came an *aide-de-camp*.., telling him that General Somebody ordered him to bring up his guns. 1867 AUGUSTA WILSON *Vashti* xviii, My boy thinks that the opinion of this Professor Von Somebody is oracular in musical matters.

2. A person of some note, consequence, or importance. Freq. with depreciatory or sarcastic force.

a 1566 R. EDWARDS *Damon & Pithias* in Dodsley *O. Pl.* (1744) I. 229 Ere you came hyther, poore I was some body, The king delighted in me, now I am but a noddy. 1590 STOCKWOOD *Rules Constit.* 62 Schollers, which thinke themselues som bodie. 1678 MARVELL *Growth Popery* 33 That they may be thought Some-body. 1704 *Pennsylv. Hist. Soc. Mem.* IX. 345 A desire to be somebody..seems to be the rule of his life. 1755 *Mem. Capt. P. Drake* II. iii. 88, I..hired a handsome Horse and Furniture, that I might look like somebody. 1835 *Court Mag.* VI. 188/2 The woman who fancies herself *somebody*. 1856 EMERSON *Eng. Traits, Manners* Wks. (Bohn) II. 46 You must be somebody; then you may do this or that, as you will.

b. With *a* and pl.

1601 DENT *Pathw. Heaven* 163 We see many, that think themselues some bodies,..which yet will be taken with it. 1647 TRAPP *Expos. Luke* vii. 28 They are somebodies in heaven, whatever men make of them. *a* 1848 MARRYAT *Valerie* x. (1856) 159 People who are somebodies. 1880 MRS. LYNN LINTON *Rebel of Family* ii, Her dress was expensive, and she was evidently a Somebody. 1899 *Educat. Rev.* Oct. 222 Which exasperates somebodies who feel they are treated as nobodies.

3. A person whose name is intentionally suppressed; occas., the Devil.

1606 SHAKS. *Tr. & Cr.* I. i. 45, I would not (as they tearme it) praise it, but I wold some-body had heard her talke yesterday as I did. 1844 DICKENS *Mart. Chuz.* xxxviii, There is a deeper impression of Somebody's Hoof here.

†**Somechare,** *adv. Obs.* In 3 sumchere. [f. SOME *a.*[1] + CHARE *sb.*[1]] On one occasion; some time.

a 1225 *Juliana* 4 As he sumchere iseh hire utnume feir, ..he felde him iwundet. *c* 1230 *Hali Meid.* 11 Þah ha falewi sum chere mid misliche þohtes.

Somed, variant of SAMED *adv. Obs.*; obs. var. SUMMED *ppl. a.*

Somedeal (sʌ·mdīl), *sb., adv.*, and *a.* Now *arch.* or *dial.* Forms: 1 **sum dæl**, 2 **summ del**, 4 **sum del**(l, 6 *Sc.* **sum deill, deyll**; 1 (*adv.*) **sume daeli, dæle**, 3 **sume dale**, 4–5 **some dele** (5 **som dele, somme del**), 6–7 **some deale**, 6– **some deal**; 1, 3–5 **sumdel** (5 **summedel**, 5, 9 *dial.* **sumdell**), 3–4 **somdel** (4 **som-**), 5 **so(u)mdell**, 5, 9 *dial.* **somdell**, 4–5 **somedel** (6 **-deil**); 5–6 **sumdele** (6 **-deale**), *Sc.* **-deil**(l; 4 **somdiel**, 5 *Sc.* **-deill**, 5 **-deele**, 5–6 **-dele, -deale**; 4–6 **somedele**, 5–7 **-deale**, 6– **somedeal** (6 **-deall**). [f. OE. *sum* SOME *a.*[1] 4 b + *dæl* DEAL *sb.*[1] In advb. use partly representing the OE. instrumental forms *sume dæle.*]

A. *sb.* Some part or portion *of* some thing or things; some, somewhat.

a 900 *O. E. Chron.* (Parker MS.) an. 785, Iaenbryht ærcebisc. forlet sumne dæl his bisc'domes. 922 in Birch *Cartul. Sax.* II. 313 Ic sylle sumne dæl londes. *a* 1122 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) Pref., Scotta sum dæl ȝewat of Ybernian on Brittene. *c* 1200 ORMIN 1106 Nu habbe icc shæwedd ȝuw summ del Off þa Judisskenn lakess. *c* 1320 *Cast. Love* 1371 Sumdel ȝe habbeþ i-herd nou riht Of his strengþe and of his miht. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* v. 358 Thai..thaim defendit weill, Till of thair men war slane sumdeill. 1502 ATKYNSON tr. *De Imitatione* II. x. (1893) 188 All worldly & bodely plesurs be..mixte with somdele of vnclenes. 1553 GRIMALDE *Cicero's Offices* I. (1558) 10 Somdeale of our birth our contrey, somedeale our parentes,..do claime. 1593 G. HARVEY *Pierce's Super.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 81 Some deale of Selfeliking. 1896 CROCKETT *Grey Man* x, You have had some deal of that too.

b. *dial.* A considerable number *of* people.

1851 STERNBERG *Dial. & Folk-Lore Northants* 101 'Was there many people at your feast?' 'Ees, theer war somedeal o' folk.'

B. *adv.* In some degree or measure; to some extent; somewhat; partly: a. In general use.

c 725 *Corpus Gloss.* P 4 *Partim*, sumedaeli. 1154 *O. E. Chron.* an. 1137, Nu we willen sæȝen sumdel wat belamp on Stephnes kinges time. *c* 1205 LAY. 1183 Milc wes i þere scale, & win sume dale [*c* 1275 somdel]. *c* 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 118 A taillage it is, and sumdel with vnriȝte i-take. *c* 1340 *Ayenb.* 268 Þaȝ ich zomdel þis onderstonde. *c* 1380 *Sir Ferumb.* 4238 Hym semede þan it was a knyȝt,..And sumdel was agaste. *c* 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* XIII. 84 Lord,.. do me sumdel rise Thy self in hym to se. *a* 1533 FRITH *Answ. More* (1548) O viij b, I doubte not..but that it doth some deal vexe you. 1579 SPENSER *Sheph. Cal.* May 56 Thou lackest somedele their delight. 1650 T. B[AYLEY] *Worcester's Apoph.* Ep. Ded. 1 Some-deale a pretender unto gratitude. 1849 ROCK *Ch. of Fathers* II. 143 *note*, It would seem, that ornament..varied some deal in shape. 1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss., Som-dell*, in some measure, somewhat. 1896 BURGESS *Lowra Biglan* 45 They had got into a way of sitting by themselves some deal of late.

b. Qualifying a following adj., adv., or pa. pple.

a 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 669 Ha wes sumdel offruht & offearet. *c* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 20 ȝif hit is halidei, buweð sumdel duneward. *c* 1300 *Beket* 95 This Gilbert him huld Sumdel stille. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Prol.* 446 A good Wif was ther.., But sche was somdel deef. *c* 1440 *Partonope* 3120 Hit was nyght and somdele derk. *c* 1450 *Knt. de la Tour* cix. 148 By as moche as she was sumdel abaisshed. 1524 *State P. Hen. VIII* (1836) IV. 210 Her Grace was somedeall busyed to make us a good aunsuer. 1592 R. D. *Hypnerotomachia* 14 The vpper part of a womans head some deale bare. 1605 JONSON *Volpone* v. vi. [x.], I'le not iustifie The other, but he may be some-deale faulty. 1819 TENNANT *Papistry Storm'd* (1827) 69 Though somedeal auld, In spreit yet juvenil and bauld. 1828 SCOTT *F. M. Perth* xvii, Though we know he was somedeal hurt in that matter.

c. With comparatives.

c 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* I. 144 Seo [wyrt] hæfð sume dæle læssan leaf ðonne docce. *c* 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 3 Hit lasteð þre wuke fulle and sum del more. *c* 1300 *Havelok* 2950 The feste of his coruning Laste..Fourti dawes, and sumdel mo. ? *a* 1366 CHAUCER *Rom. Rose* 118 From an hille..Cam doun the streme.., And somedele lasse it was than Seyn. *c* 1374 — *Boeth.* I. pr. v. (1868) 25 For whiche we wile vsen somedel lyȝter medicines. *c* 1450 *Bk. Curtasye* 808 in *Babees Bk.*, I let hit here ouer passe, To make oure talkyng summedelasse. 1565 JEWEL *Reply Harding* Pref. (1611) 7 Yet am I now some deale the more satisfied by these your trauels. 1583 STUBBES *Anat. Abuses* I. (1879) 53 It were some deal more tollerable. 1830 MISS MITFORD *Village Ser.* IV. (1863) 298 The old red coat, some-deal the worse for wear.

†**C.** *adj.* With *a*: A little; some. *Obs.*—[1]

c 1340 HAMPOLE *Prose Tr.* (1866) 17 [He] perauenture hase getyn by grace a som-dele ryste and a clerete in concyence.

Hence †**Somedeally** *adv. Obs.*

c 1400 HYLTON *Scala Perf.* I. xlii. (W. de W. 1494), This trauеylle is somdelyche streyte & narrow.

So·megate, *adv. Sc.* and *north. dial.* Also some gate. [f. SOME *a.*[1] 2 + GATE *sb.*[2]]

1. In some place; somewhere.

1816 SCOTT *Old Mort.* v, Ye maun take shelter somegate for the night. *a* 1835 HOGG *Sound Morality* Tales (1866) 202/2 A great river.. that rises somegate i' the Heelands. 1891 BARRIE *Little Minister* ix, We ken they're some gait, but whaur?

2. In some way or manner; somehow.*

1816 SCOTT *Old Mort.* iv, They pay ane some gate or other. 1816 [see SOLDER *sb.* 4 b]. 1876 ROBINSON *Whitby Gloss.* 179/2 *Some-geeat*, in some way; somehow.

Somehow (sʌ·mhau), *adv.* Also 8 some how, some-how. [f. SOME *a.*[1] 2 + HOW *adv.*]

1. In some manner or by some means not understood or defined; one way or another; someway.

1740–2 RICHARDSON *Pamela* III. 237 A Hint that might some-how be improved. 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* xxvi, I trembled when I saw him, for I always was afraid of him, somehow. 1822 BYRON *Juan* VII. xxxv, Somewhere, somehow, there was a fault. 1861 THACKERAY *Four Georges* iii. (1862) 131 The Royal New York Gazette somehow ceased to be published. 1866 G. MACDONALD *Ann. Q. Neighb.* xxvi. (1878) 448 You're very different somehow from what you used to be.

2. In the phr. *Somehow or other, or another.*

(*a*) 1664 P. HENRY *Diaries & Lett.* (1882) 158 An Act.. was made ready, but somehow or other was missing. 1719 [see HOW *adv.* 16]. 1780 *Mirror* No. 78, But, somehow or other, our expectations have been always disappointed. 1809 MALKIN *Gil Blas* II. i. P 5 His hand shook, to be sure; but somehow or other it contrived to do its duty. 1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) I. 203 We contrived at last, somehow or other, to agree in a general conclusion.

(*b*) 1775 S. J. PRATT *Liberal Opin.* CXVI. (1783) IV. 91 Some how or another, Green chatted me into tolerable spirits. 1809 SYD. SMITH *Serm.* I. 75 It somehow or another happens, that the time..is that which would otherwise be appropriated to the duties of religion. 1863 READE *Hard Cash* III. 9 You have made a little palace of it, somehow or another. 1880 F. G. LEE *Ch. under Q. Eliz.* II. 143.

†**Somekin(s,** *a. Obs.* Forms: α. 3 **summes cunnes, kinnes**, 4 **som skenus**, 5 **skynnes, summe skynes**. β. 3 **sume kunnes**, 4 **sumkin(e)s**, 5 **som kynnes, somkennys, -kyns**. γ. 3 **somme kine**, 5 **som(m)e kynne, som kyn, somkyn**, 4–5 **sumkyn, -kin**. [f. SOME *a.*[1] 2 + KIN *sb.*[1] 6 b.] Some kind of; some; such.

α. *c* 1200 ORMIN 18702 Forr sumess kinness dedess. *c* 1205 LAY. 21765 Of summes cunnes leoden. 13.. *S. Eng. Leg.* (MS. Bodl. 779) in Herrig *Archiv* LXXXII. 323/592 Þat he amended here lif in som skenus matere. *c* 1400 *Laud Troy Bk.* 10766 With som qweyntyse, Or scleght, by som skynnes wyse.

β. *a* 1300 *Floriz & Bl.* 415 To fonde mid sume kunnes ginne Hu he miȝte hire awinne. 13.. *Cursor M.* 207 (Götт.), Þer suld ȝe here..Of þe tuelue apostlis sumkins ieste. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Man of Law's T.* 1137 (Ellesm.), Or Ire or talent or som kynnes affray. *c* 1460 *Towneley Myst.* xiii. 708 Thou grauntt vs somkyns gle.

γ. *c* 1275 LAY. 3949 Swiken him aþohte in somme kine wise. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 265 Þar sal ȝe find sumkyn dedis Þat iesus did. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* X. 519 To wyn the wall of the castell Throu sumkyn slicht. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 2259 (D.), Of some kynne gamez Off were or of wristylyng.

Somen, variant of SAMEN *adv. Obs.*

Somen : see SOMNE *v.*[1] and *v.*[2] *Obs.*

Somend, obs. form of SUMMON *v.*

Somenour, -owre, obs. forms of SUMMONER.

Somentale : see SAMENTALE.

Some one, someone (sʌ·mwʌn), *pron.* (and *sb.*). [f. SOME *a.*[1] 2 + ONE 24.] Some person, somebody.

a. c 1305 in *E. E. P.* (1862) 114 To a womman he com.. Þat heo scholde him to sum on teche. 1382 WYCLIF *Mark* ix. 37 We syȝen sum oon for to caste out fendis in thi name. 1430–40 LYDG. *Bochas* III. xvii. (1554) 90 Sum one, Parcas, shal them therof discharge. 1535 COVERDALE *Eccles.* iv. 14 Some one commeth out of preson, & is made a kynge; & another [etc.]. *a* 1586 *Answ. to Cartwright* 14 It is not peculiar to some one, or to some fewe alone. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* VI. 503 Some one intent on mischief. 1691 J. WILSON *Belphegor* IV. ii, Peradventure your own, or some ones else; who knows. 1706 STEVENS *Span. Dict.* I, *Alguno*, some body or some one. 1820 BYRON *Juan* IV. cx, As some one somewhere sings about the sky. 1858 M. ARNOLD *Merope* 876 To the guest-chamber lead him, some one! 1872 RUSKIN *Fors Clav.* xxii. 17 Properly a carver at some one else's feast.

β. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* xi, 'I have set my heart on Rawdon running away with someone.' 'A rich someone, or a poor someone?' 1872 CALVERLEY *Fly Leaves* (1903) 73 And I think thou wearest Someone-else's hair. 1896 BADEN-POWELL *Matabele Campaign* vii, As though someone had struck me with a hammer.

Somepart, *adv. Sc.* Also 5–6 **sumpart**, 6 **-pert**, 6, 9 **-pairt**. [f. SOME *a.*[1] 4 b + PART *sb.*] Somewhat; to some extent.

1456 SIR G. HAYE *Law Arms* (S.T.S.) 14 Suppos it be sum part subtile to understand, settis [= set ye] nocht by. 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* lxix. 47 It dois my spreit sum part confort. *c* 1550 ROLLAND *Crt. Venus* I. 38 The day was sumpart set with weit. 1581 N. BURNE *Disput.* To Rdr., As to my auin Ansueris.., I haue sumpairt amplifeit and inlargeit thame. 1898 LD. E. HAMILTON *Mawkin* vii. 91 'Twould make the road somepairt easier.

†**Somer.** *Obs.* Also 5 **soomeer, summer**, 5–7 **sommer**. [a. OF. *somer, sumer, somier, sommier* SOMMIER[1] (mod.F. *sommier*, = Prov. *saumier*, It. *somiere*) :—late L. *sagmārius* (*equus, caballus*), f. *sagma* horseload, whence OF. *some, somme* (see SEAM *sb.*[2]).]

1. A pack-horse; a sumpter-horse.

Freq. in the 15th cent.

a. 13.. *K. Alis.* 827 (Laud MS.), He hote hem charge seuen somers Wiþ riche rede itried golde. *c* 1380 *Sir Ferumb.* 3140, xxiiij. Vytaylers..By-fore hymen dryue þay somers. *c* 1430 *Pilgr. Lyf Manhode* I. cxlvii. (1869) 75 Thou hast..thin soomeer that after thee shal come bihynde, which shal bere thin armure. 1454 *Acts Privy Counc.* (1835) VI. 213 To the same Maistre Henry ij. karre horses, v. somers, and j. hak. 1523 LD. BERNERS *Froiss.* I. cxlv. 174 Some of the englysshmen..wanne somers, cartes, and caryages. 1577 HOLINSHED *Desc. Brit.* III. i, The ancient use of somers and sumpter horses is in a maner utterlie relinquished.

β. 1404 *Durh. Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 397 In Stabulo, ij. palafridi, j. sommer. *c* 1470 *Love's Bonavent. Mirr.* xiv. (Sherard MS.), Where bene 3oure..knyghtes,..horses and herneyes, charyotes and summeres. 1568 GRAFTON *Chron.* II. 283 Some of the Englishmen..wanne Sommers, Cartes and cariages. 1592 WYRLEY *Armorie, Ld. Chandos* 88 Foure vittailed sommers going vnto the same We met. 1601 F. TATE *Househ. Ord. Edw. II*, § 30 (1876) 19 A serjant herbergeour of sommers and cart horses.

b. In collective singular.

c 1330 *Arth. & Merl.* 4710 (Kölbing), Þai seiȝen hem com swiþe ner Seuen hundred charged somer, & seuen hundred cartes al so.

2. A pack or burden, esp. one which is carried by a pack-horse.

13.. *K. Alis.* 5109 (Laud MS.), Ten thousande mules the kynges tresours,..berande heuy somers. 1426 LYDG. *De Guil. Pilgr.* 8706, I pray yow..To ordeyne me a somer, Myn harneys ther-in for to karye. 1430–40 — *Bochas* IV. xxiii. (1554) 120 [To] stuffe their somers with outragious pillage. 1525 LD. BERNERS *Froiss.* II. xxiii. 24 b, I am content that ye bere with you as moche as ye may beare in males and somers.

3. *attrib.*, as *somer-horse, nag, -saddle.*

1384–5 *Durh. Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 133 In uno Somersadell

empt. pro hostilar. 1404 *Ibid.* 397, j. haknay sadyll, ij. somer-sadyll. *c* 1450 *Erle Tolous* 817 Somer-horsys he let go before, And charyettys stuffud wyth store. 1503 *Will of Etton* (Somerset Ho.), A somer bay nag. *a* 1513 FABYAN *Chron.* VII. (1811) 306 Kynge Ryehарde .. toke yᵉ kynges sommer horse, with parte of his tresoure.

Somer, obs. form of SUMMER *sb.* and *v.*

Somer castell : see SUMMER CASTLE.

Somersault (*sʊ·məɪsɒlt*), *sb.* Forms : *α.* 6– somersault (7 sommer-), *β.*6–7 -saut, 7 -salt. *β.* 7–9 summersault, 7 -saut, -salt. *γ.* 7 somber-salt, simber salt. [ad. OF. *sombresaut, -sault,* alteration of *sobresault* : see SOBERSAULT.] A leap or spring in which a person turns heels over head in the air and alights on his feet; esp. such a feat as performed by acrobats or tumblers; a pitchpoll. Hence, a turning over in this fashion; a complete overturn, upset, etc.

α. 1530 PALSGR. 272/2 Somersault, a lepe of a tombler, *sobersault.* 1591 HARINGTON *Orl. Fur.* XXXV. lxviii, With her goldelaunce, She made him the backe somersaut to daunce. [*marg.*] Somersaut is a leape that the tomblers vse to cast them selues forward their heeles ouer their head. 1613 BROWNE *Brit. Past.* I. iii, As when some boy, trying the Somersaut, Stands on his head and feet. 1675 COTTON *Burlesque upon B.* 99 And make thee from the Christal Vault Take such a dainty Somer-sault. 1801 STRUTT *Sports & P.* III. v. 207 Turning with the heels over the head in the air, which is called the Somersault. 1860 *All Year Round* No. 70. 480 It took off its hat and turned a somersault at Lambert's feet. 1878 M. FOSTER *Physiol.* III. vi. ii. 499 In yet another form the animal..tumbles head over heels in a series of somersaults.

fig. a 1680 BUTLER *Rem.* (1759) II. 200 He gives his Opinion the Somer-Salt, and turns the wrong Side of it outwards. 1874 WHITTIER *Anti-Slavery Convention* Prose Wks. 1889 III. 179 Dr. Lord..,then professedly in favor of emancipation, but who afterwards turned a moral somersault.

β. 1611 COTGR., *Soubresault,* a Sobresault, or Summer sault. 1612 DRAYTON *Poly-olb.* vi. 52 So doth the salmon vaut, And if at first he faile, his second Summersaut He instantlie assaies. 1630 — *Muses Elizium* (1892) 13 Ore each Hillock it will vault, And nimbly doe the Summer-sault. 1678 BUTLER *Hud.* III. iii. 699 For which, some do the Summer-sault And ore the Bar, like Tumblers, vault. 1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), *Summer-Sault,* a Gambol or Feat of Activity shew'd by a Tumbler. 1865 DICKENS *Mut. Fr.* I. vii, A Hindoo baby..curved up with his big head tucked under him, as though he would instantly throw a summersault.

fig. 1847 EMERSON *Repr. Men* i. *Uses of Gt. Men* Wks. (Bohn) I. 280 Foremost among these activities are the summersaults, spells, and resurrections, wrought by the imagination.

γ. 1612 DONNE *Progr. Soul* xlvii. (1633) 24 That could make love faces, or could doe The valters sombersalts. 1653 WALTON *Compl. Angler* 152 About which time of breeding the He and She frog are observed to use divers simber salts.

Hence **So·mersault** *v. intr.*, to make or turn a somersault; to turn over and over. **So·mersaulter,** one who performs a somersault.

1850 *Tait's Mag.* XVII. 378/1 Sometimes..the summersaulter..alights on the wrong element. 1858 R. S. SURTEES *Ask Mamma* lii. 235 A pair of white breeches are summersaulting in the air. 1887 JEFFERIES *Amaryllis* xiv, Nothing for the folk but Punch, brass bands, and somersaulters. 1887 W. RYE *Norfolk Broads* 69 A most hearty..kick under the jaw, which sent him [a dog] somersaulting into a rose-bush.

Somerset (*sʊ·məɪset*), *sb.*[1] Forms : *α.* 6–8 sommerset, 7– somerset. *β.* 6– summerset. [Alteration or corruption of *somersaut* : see prec.] = SOMERSAULT *sb.*

α. 1596 NASHE *Saffron Walden* To Rdr., Desiring him to inspire my pen with some of his nimblest Pomados and Sommersets. 1598 MARSTON *Sco. Villanie* III. xi. 228 His very intellect Is naught but a curuetting Sommerset. 1626 FLETCHER *Fair Maid of Inn* IV. i, Now I wil only make him break his neck in doing a sommerset. 1664 COTTON *Scarron.* I. 590 Dance, run, and leap, frisk, and curvett, Tumble, and do the Sommerset. 1727 GAY *Fables* I. xl, The tumbler whirls the flip-flap round, With somersets he shakes the ground. 1778 *Sketches for Tabernacle Frames* 26 He'll ..Throw Somersets, vault, caper, and curvet. 1806 BERESFORD *Miseries Hum. Life* VII. lxxix, Amusing the company with an involuntary somerset. 1833 RITCHIE *Wand. Loire* 233 One of those somersets—head over heels—which are common on the modern stage. 1874 J. S. BLACKIE *Self-Culture* 16 If there are..expert tumblers in the circus, let him not imagine that their supple somersets are mere idle tricks to amuse children.

fig. 1710 *Acc. Death T. Whigg* 2 He fancy'd the World turn'd round with him, and that the Revolution was just about doing the Somerset. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. IV. ii, Remark..what somersets and contortions a dead Catholicism is making. 1871 SPENCER *Princ. Psychol.* VII. vi. (1872) II. 372 After a considerable amount of practice in throwing intellectual somersets.

β. 1591 in *Lyly's Wks.* (1902) I. 442 Hee presently did cast himselfe downe, dooing a Summerset from the Ile into the water. 1670 EACHARD *Cont. Clergy* (1705) 21 As if they would turn over their heads, and shew you the double Summerset. 1675 [H. NEVILE] *Machiavelli's Marr. Belphegor* Wks. 527 He [the devil] only gave him the Summerset once or twice, and shewed him two or three jugling tricks, and vanish'd. 1762 STERNE *Tr. Shandy* V. XXIX, Springing into the air with a summerset, he turned him about like a windmill. 1816 SCOTT *Fam. Lett.* (1894) I. xii. 362 Authors come to be regarded as tumblers, who are expected to go to church in a summerset. 1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* I. XVI. 119 The summerset of this iceberg produced a commotion all over the lake. 1865 J. G. HOLLAND *Plain Talk* iii. 101 The boys of the street turning summersets.

Hence **So·merset** *v.* **a.** *intr.* To somersault. Also with *it.* **b.** *trans.* To cause (a person) to turn a somersault.

1599 NASHE *Lenten Stuffe* 37 Then the sly sheepe-biter issued into the midst, and summer setted and flipflapt it twenty times aboue ground, as light as a feather. 1812 *Sporting Mag.* XL. 132 Alexanders got his body on his hip, and somersetted him over his head. 1853 R. S. SURTEES *Sponge's Sp. Tour* liii. 303 A pair of white breeches summerseting in the air with a horse underneath. 1874 SAXE *One-Legged Dancers* iv, He almost somerseted off the door-steps.

fig. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. IV. ii, In such extraordinary manner does dead Catholicism somerset and caper, skilfully galvanized.

So·merset, *sb.*[2] Also summerset. [f. the name of Lord Fitzroy *Somerset,* Baron Raglan (1788–1855).] Used *attrib.* or *elliptically* to designate a form of saddle (see quot. 1875).

1851 *Catal. Grt. Exhib.* 521/2 A quilted summerset saddle. *Ibid.* 522/2 Somerset hunting saddle-tree. 1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib., Brit.* II. No. 4685, Ladies' saddle and Somerset saddle. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2245/1 *Somerset..,* a saddle padded before the knee and behind the thigh.

Somerse·tian, *a.* and *sb.* [f. the name of *Somerset,* one of the south-western counties of England.] **a.** *adj.* Of or belonging to the county of Somerset. **b.** *sb.* The dialect of this county.

1612 DRAYTON *Poly-olb.* iii. to The Sommersetian maids. 1825 JENNINGS *Obs. Dial. W. Eng.* 12 In another line..he calls the cows *kee* ; now this is not Somersetian.

Somervillite (*sʊ·mərvilɪt*). *Min.* [See quot. 1823.] A variety of melilite from Vesuvius.

1823 H. J. A. BROOKE in *Q. Jrnl. Sci.* XVI. 276 The next mineral I shall have to describe came to me with some other Vesuvian substances, from Dr. Somerville, from which circumstances I have named it Somervillite. 1837 DANA *Min.* 291 Somervillite accompanies black mica and other minerals, in the ancient scoria of Vesuvius. 1869 J. PHILLIPS *Vesuv.* x. 290 *Humboldtilite*—'Mellilite', 'Somervillite', 'Zurlite', &c.—occurs in gray micaceous lava of Somma, and ejected blocks.

†**Some-say.** *Obs.*[-1] [f. SOME *pron.* + SAY *sb.*[4]] A reported saying or statement.

1589 NASHE *M. Marprelate* Wks. (Grosart) I. 171 Martin Iunior..knoweth the truth.., yet loath to haue it published,..seeketh to shadowe it, with other some-saies.

Somet, Somet, varr. of SAMED *adv. Obs.*

Something (*sʊ·mpiŋ*), *sb.*, (*adj.*,) and *adv.* Forms : 1 sum þing(e), ðing, 2 sum ðinc, 3–5 sumping, 3–6 -thing ; 4 somping (som-), -þyng, 5 -thyng (6 -e), 7 somthing ; 6– something, 6 -thyng, 9 *dial.* somethin', etc. [f. SOME *a.*[1] 2 + THING *sb.*[1] 17. Orig., and freq. down to the end of the 16th cent., written as two words.]

A. *sb.* **1.** Some unspecified or indeterminate thing (material or immaterial).

For *something like* see LIKE *a.* 2 e, 2 f.

(*a*) *c* 1000 *Ags. Gosp.* Matt. xx. 20 Þa com to him zebedeis bearna modor..sum þinge fram him biddende. *c* 1200 ORMIN 3363 Her icc wile shæwenn ȝuw Summ þing to witerr takenn. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 11928 Þar Iesus did in his barnhide Sum-thing þat es of to rede. 1340 *Ayenb.* 33 Huanne ..me him hat zomþing þet him þingþ hard, he him excuseþ. 1382 WYCLIF *Luke* vii. 40 Symound, I haue sum thing for to seye to thee. 1503 DUNBAR *Thistle & Rose* 23 In my honour sum thing thow go wryt. 1594 T. B. *La Primaud. Fr. Acad.* II. 592 To doe some thing without cause. 1601 SHAKS. *All's Well* I. iii. 248 There's something in't More then my Fathers skill. 1638 R. BAKER tr. *Balzac's Lett.* (vol. II) 91 Yet something must be done for examples sake. 1681 DRYDEN *Span. Friar* IV. i, Nay, if you will complain, you shall for something. (*Beats him.*) 1779 *Mirror* No. 27, A slip of paper, with something written on it. 1823 SCOTT *Quentin D.* xxii, He read something in the looks of his soldiers, which even *he* was obliged to respect. 1863 A. BLOMFIELD *Mem. Bp. Blomfield* I. v. 123 His speeches were those of one who had something to say, not of one who had to say something. 1895 MRS. CROKER *Village Tales* (1896) 30 There, to the left, was *something* coming rapidly through the crops!

Prov. phr. 1562 J. HEYWOOD *Prov. & Epigr.* (1867) 132 Some thyng is better then nothyng. 1638 SANDERSON *Serm.* (1681) II. 97 Something, we say, hath some savour.

attrib. 1593 SHAKS. *Rich. II*, II. ii. 36 For nothing hath begot my something greefe.

b. Used as a substitute for a name or part of one, or other particular, which is not remembered or is immaterial, etc.

1764 G. WILLIAMS in Jesse *Selwyn & Contemp.* (1843) I. 295 Lady Something Grey is here. 1779 C'TESS UPPER OSSORY *Ibid.* IV. 75 Another man has sworn to shoot a Miss Something, *n'importe,* if she did not run away with him from the Opera. 1818 SCOTT *Br. Lamm.* xvi, 'His name is Craig—Craig—something, is it not?' 'Craigengelt is the fellow's name,' said the Master. 1862 BORROW *Wild Wales* xxxix, I passed by a place called Llan something. 1896 BADEN-POWELL *Matabele Campaign* i, I..just caught the five something train.

c. Some liquor, drink, or food ; esp. in phr. *to take something.*

1778 MISS BURNEY *Evelina* lxxxii, Lady Louisa..desired to *take something* before we began our rambles. 1779 *Mirror* No. 25, Come in and have a glass of something after your ride. 1857 HUGHES *Tom Brown* I. iv, I'll give you a drop of something to keep the cold out.

d. Used (with *between*) to denote an intermediate stage or grade.

1821–30 LD. COCKBURN *Mem.* ii. (1874) 105 He walked with a slow stealthy step—something between a walk and a hirple. 1823 SCOTT *Quentin D.* xviii, An officer, who, having taken Deacon's orders, held something between a secular and ecclesiastical character.

e. Used to denote an undefined or unknown occupation, or a person in respect of this.

1874 BURNARD *My Time* XV. 130 May I be prompter, or call-boy, or something? 1886 PASCOE *London of To-day* ii. (ed. 3) 37 The restless gentlemen who are 'something in the city', but no one knows what.

2. A certain part, portion, amount, or share (*of* some thing, quality, etc.) ; freq., a small part or amount, a slight trace.

c 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 157 Dele hit swo, þat ech nedi.. haue sum þing þer-of. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 9530 To quam ilkan he gaf sum-thing Of his might. 1388 WYCLIF *Joshua* vii. 1 Sum thing of the halewid thing. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* v. 482 Off Inglismen ȝhett sum thing spek I will. 1562 WINȝET *Wks.* (S.T.S.) I. 4 Albeit the time be schort, sumthing of ȝour prais man we speik. 1643 SIR T. BROWNE *Relig. Med.* I. § 12 A set of things that carry in their Front ..something of Divinity. 1677 YARRANTON *Eng. Improv.* 55, I hope..I may see something of the Improvement.. come to pass. 1710 *Tatler* No. 245 ₱ 2 Her voice loud and shrill,..and something of a Welch accent. 1780 *Mirror* No. 81, There was something of bustle, as well as of sorrow, all over the house. 1815 SCOTT *Guy M.* xliii, Something of the tone, and manners, and feeling of a gentleman. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* iii. I. 319 He has generally seen something of foreign countries. 1874 GREEN *Short Hist.* viii. § 5. 511 The two Fletchers,..in their unreadable allegories, still preserved something of their master's sweetness.

b. Const. *of* with adjective. *Obs.* or *arch.*

1654 DOROTHY OSBORNE *Lett.* (1888) 257 Love, which, sure, has something of divine in it. 1656 EARL MONM. tr. *Boccalini's Advts. fr. Parnass.* 293 As if something of unseemly, or misbecoming had been asked her.

c. *Something of a(n),* to a certain extent or degree a (person or thing of the kind specified).

1711 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 106 ₱ 6 Sir Roger, amidst all his good Qualities, is something of an Humourist. 1780 *Mirror* No. 70, As he was something of a sportsman, my guardians often permitted me to accompany him to the field. 1802 MAR. EDGEWORTH *Moral T.* (1816) I. 231, I am something of a judge of china myself. 1826 DISRAELI *V. Grey* II. xiii, Dormer, who was..something of an epicure, looked rather annoyed.

3. Followed by an adjective.

1382 WYCLIF *Acts* xxiii. 20 Thei ben to sekinge sum thing certeynere [L. *aliquid certius*]. 1598 SHAKS. *Merry W.* III. iii. 75 Ther's something extraordinary in thee. 1610 — *Temp.* III. iii. 94 I'th name of something holy, Sir, why stand you In this strange stare? 1663 S. PATRICK *Parab. Pilgr.* (1687) 81 The desire..of speaking something extraordinary on this occasion. 1737 *Gentl. Mag.* VII. 182/2 The Epigram..seems to have something Serious and Noble in the Turn. 1779 *Mirror* No. 61, The most eccentric of them all have something venerable about them. 1819 SCOTT *Leg. Montr.* xii, Something there was cold in his address, and sinister in his look. 1888 *Academy* 14 Apr. 253/3 Within an ace or so of being something very good indeed.

b. *Something damp* or *short,* a drink ; spirits. *slang* or *colloq.*

c 1831 HOOD in W. Jerdan *Autobiogr.* (1853) IV. 202, I shall never take 'something short' without dedicating it to the same toast. 1865 *Slang Dict.* 240 *Something damp,* a dram, a drink. *a* 1904 in *Eng. Dial. Dict.* s.v., She always had a drop of something short in her tea (Oxf.).

4. In more emphatic use : A thing, fact, person, etc., of some value, consideration, or regard.

Something in the wind : see WIND *sb.*

1582 N.T. (Rhemish) *Gal.* vi. 3 If any man esteeme him self to be something, whereas he is nothing. 1611 BEAUM. & FL. *King & No King* III. ii, To set him..in my rowle, the two hundred and thirteenth man, which is something. 1621 T. WILLIAMSON tr. *Goulart's Wise Vieillard* 103, I have so spent my dayes, that I account of my selfe, as one that hath serued for some vse, and for something in the world. 1705 STANHOPE *Paraphr.* II. 274 So we may not..falsely imagine we are Something, when in Truth we are Nothing. 1739–56 DODDRIDGE *Fam. Expositor* clxx. (1799) II. 419 *Now you say something,* signifies among us, You speak right. 1802 MAR. EDGEWORTH *Moral T.* (1816) I. xii. 100 If he could even recover five guineas of it, it would be something. 1865 WHEWELL in Mrs. S. Douglas *Life* (1881) 540, I shall have Kate's sweet dear face there; and that will be something. 1887 LOWELL *Democracy* 46 It is something that two great nations have looked at each other kindly through their tears.

b. In the phr. *There's something in it,* etc.

1681 *Roxb. Ball.* (1884) V. 255 Their being in Print signifies something in't. 1713 BERKELEY *Hylas & Phil.* II. Wks. 1871 I. 309 There is indeed something in what you say. 1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* II. (Globe) 363 There is something in it, I am persuaded from my own Experience. 1818 T. L. PEACOCK *Nightm. Abbey* xiv. (1891) 127 True, Raven, there is something in that. I will take your advice. 1847 TENNYSON *Princ.* V. 202 She can talk; And there is something in it, as you say.

c. *To make something of,* to make important or useful ; to improve or raise in some way ; to succeed in utilizing to some extent.

1778 MISS BURNEY *Evelina* xxvi, She told them that she had it in her head to make something of me. 1814 JANE AUSTEN *Mansf. Park* (1851) 85 If the part is trifling she will have more credit in making something of it. 1836 MRS. SHERWOOD *H. Milner* III. xvi. 310 His hopes of making something of the young man. 1870 ROGERS *Hist. Gleanings* Ser. II. 246 Calumny made something of his relations with William Tooke.

5. With article or demonstrative pronoun, or in plural (= sense 1) : **a.** With adj. preceding.

sing. 1577 HARRISON *England* II. vi. (1877) I. 163 A little something was allowed in the morning to young children. 1662 GLANVILL *Van. Dogm.* 145 A very slender something in a Fable. 1682 CREECH *Lucretius* III. 75 Then we must add a fourth to this frame, A fourth something, but without a name. 1778 MME. D'ARBLAY *Diary* 18 June, An inward something which I cannot account for, prepares me to expect a reverse. 1800 MRS. HERVEY *Mourtray Fam.* III. 165 An unaccountable *something* seemed always to prevent their getting further. 1856 FROUDE *Hist. Eng.* (1858) II.

vi. 91 Every monastery..had..its special something, to attract the interest of the people. 1864 Bowen *Logic* iv. 64 *It* is only an indeterminate something.

pl. 1642 H. More *Song Soul* II. i. iv. 2 Bringing hid Noughts into existencie, Or sleeping Somethings into wide day-light. 1728 Pope *Dunciad* I. 54 Here she beholds ye Chaos dark and deep, Where nameless Somethings in their causes sleep. 1894 *Pall Mall Mag.* Dec. 601 Whispering soft Somethings in Italian. 1897 *Atlantic Monthly* LXXIX. 139 The title of a group of miniature essays.. devoted to airy somethings.

b. Without prec. adj. Also with genitive (cf. 2).

In the 16–17th cent. *somethings* is occasionally found in the sense of *some things*.

sing. 1587 Golding *De Mornay* i. (1592) 4 Nowe betweene nothing and something, (how little so euer that something can bee) there is an infinite space. 1590 Shaks. *Com. Err.* II. ii. 52 Marry sir, for this something that you gaue me for nothing. 1776 Mickle tr. *Camoens' Lusiad* Dissert. 160/1 The opposition of it to the arch-angel Michael..carries in it a something which must displease. 1798 Coleridge *Anc. Mar.* III. i, I saw a something in the Sky, No bigger than my fist. 1807 T. Thomson *Chem.* (ed. 3) II. 37 Experiments..to discover what that *something* is. 1848 Thackeray *Vanity Fair* lvi, The young gentlemen..might learn a something of every known science. 1894 Parry *Stud. Grt. Composers* 224 They only wanted words at all as a something to excuse their using their voices.

pl. 1656 Hobbes *Six Lessons* Wks. 1845 VII. 301 You allow..your own nothings to be somethings. 1737 *Gentl. Mag.* VII. 560/1, I know Hands, in which a Parcel of Nothings would make a finer Appearance than other Peoples Somethings. 1789 Charlotte Smith *Ethelinde* (1814) II. 143 By having written certain somethings which he was assured by his friends were specimens of uncommon and original genius.

c. A certain amount of money.

1827 Scott *Chron. Canongate* vi, He..had enjoyed legacies, and laid by a something of his own, upon which he now enjoys ease with dignity.

6. a. *Something or other*, = sense 1 and 1 b.

(*a*) 1707 *Refl. upon Ridicule* 218 'Tis hard at long run not to drop something or other, that may notifie their Disposition of Mind. 1752 Foote *Taste* II. Wks. 1799 I. 20 A sort of Queen, or wife, or something or other to somebody. 1873 B. Harte *Fiddletown* 27 He was arrested on suspicion of being something or other. 1897 Flandrau *Harvard Episodes* 337 The piece was a Spanish something or other through which a tambourine shivered at intervals.

(*b*) 1858 Longf. *M. Standish* II, The battle of something-or-other. 1897 'H. S. Merriman' *In Kedar's Tents* vi, The guide, Antonio something-or-other.

b. *Something else*, in suggestive use.

1844 Dickens *M. Chuz.* xliii, More farewells, more something else's; a parting word from Martin.

c. *Comb.*, as *something-nothing*, etc.

1817 Coleridge *Biogr. Lit.* (Bohn) 58 In all these cases the real agent is a something-nothing-everything. 1884 Tennyson *Becket* III. i, *Henry.* What did you ask her? *Rosamund.* Some daily something-nothing.

7. As *adj.* Used euphemistically for 'damned' or other expletive.

1859 F. Francis *Newton Dogvane* (1888) 252 It's the somethingest robbery I ever saw in my life. 1888 Lees & Clutterbuck *B.C. 1887* xxxii, This is the somethinger somethingest railway I ever struck.

B. *adv.* In some degree; to some extent; somewhat; rather, a little.

Except as an archaism, this use chiefly survives in constructions which admit of the word being felt as a noun.

1. Qualifying a verb.

c 1275 *Wom. Samaria* 7 in *O. E. Misc.*, Al so he þiderward sumþing neyhleyhte, He sende his apostles by-voren. 1530 Baynton in Palsgr. *Introd.* 12 Our Englyshe tong hath some thyng altred theyr..terminations. 1585 T. Washington tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* I. xxii. 28 We something doubted the gallies of Genua. 1634 Sir T. Herbert *Trav.* 12 Conies..something resemble a wilde Cat. 1655 Fuller *Ch. Hist.* I. 40 Many are unsetled about him,..these may be something satisfied if [etc.]. 1785 Holcroft *Tales of Castle* I. 128, I shall be something relieved of a load of sorrow which oppressed me. 1802 W. Fowler *Corr.* (1907) 45, I think they may shrink something before they be put in use. 1856 Froude *Hist. Eng.* (1858) I. 463 The scarcely ambiguous answer was something softened the following day.

b. Qualifying a prepositional or adverbial expression of place, extent, distance, time, etc.

1530 Palsgr. 7 Than shall the *o* be sounded almost lyke this diphthonge *ou*, and some thyng in the noose. 1576 in *Reg. Mag. Sig. Scot.* (1886) 753/2 Ane merche stane set and put sumthing bewest the end of the said dyke. 1605 Shaks. *Macb.* III. i. 133 For 't must be done to Night, And something from the Pallace. 1611 — *Wint. T.* II. ii. 55 Please you come something neerer. 1677 Yarranton *Eng. Improv.* 55, I have been something long upon this Theme. 1697 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 3310/4 A brown Gelding something above 14 hands high,..and something thin footed before. 1719 De Foe *Crusoe* I. (Globe) 297 Our Guide being something before us. 1759 Sterne *Tr. Shandy* II. xvii, His left hand, raised something above his stomach. 1844 Disraeli *Coningsby* III. iii, He is a man something under thirty. 1849 Ruskin *Seven Lamps* v. § xxii. 158 The whole reaching *to something* above a man's height. 1896 Guy Boothby *Dr. Nikola* iv. 79 In something under a quarter of an hour we had reached the wharf.

2. a. Qualifying an adj.

Freq. in the 17th and 18th centuries. Now *rare* or *dial.* Also in dial. and colloq. use as an intensive with such adjs. as *cruel, frightful*, etc.

c 1510 Barclay *Mirr. Gd. Manners* (1570) B iiij, Thou seest diuers wayes oft leading to one place, Thone something open, thother close and shit. 1548 Turner *Names Herbes* (E.D.S.) 55 So hath a nauet a longe roote and somthynge yealowishe. 1617 Morvson *Itin.* I. 181 Who was of stature something tall, and corpulent. 1666 Marvel *Corr.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 194 There is one Bill orderd to be brought in of a something new nature. 1708 Swift *Sacram. Test* Wks. 1755 II. i. 124, I have the misfortune to be something singular in this belief. 1791 Mrs. Inchbald *Next-door Neighbours* III. ii, Sir George is something nervous. 1827 Cooper *Prairie* I. 30 They told us below, we should find settlers something thinnish hereaway. 1856 Froude *Hist. Eng.* I. 170 Indifferent to the obligations of gratitude, and something careless of the truth.

Comb. 1602 Shaks. *Ham.* III. i. 181 Haply the Seas..shall expell This something setled matter in his heart. 1608 Chapman *Byron's Consp.* III. ii, Others that with much strictness imitate The something-stooping carriage of my neck. 1842 Tennyson *Will Waterproof* 131 In a court he saw A something-pottle-bodied boy.

† **b.** With *a* or *an* inserted before the adj. *Obs.*

1588 J. Read tr. *Arcæus' Comp. Meth.* 77 b, Incorporate it so that it may become something an hard Emplaister. 1597 Shaks. 2 *Hen. IV*, I. ii. 215, I was borne with a white head, & somthing a round belly. 1615 G. Sandys *Trav.* 12 Having a secure hauen, yet with something a dangerous entrance. 1664 H. More *Myst. Iniq.* xiv. 163 These seem to have something an over-near affinity with..Heresie. 1770 Warburton in W. & Hurd *Lett.* (1809) 455, I have now had something a longer intermission from my pain. 1784 R. Bage *Barham Downs* I. 26 Will you..increase your sister's fortune to make her something a more suitable match?

c. Qualifying an adv. of manner.

1588 Greene *Pandosto* (1843) 27 She began to simper something sweetely. 1611 Shaks. *Wint. T.* IV. iv. 825 Being something gently consider'd, Ile bring you where he is aboord. 1707 *Curios. in Husb. & Gard.* 21 What he calls a Courtier he uses something roughly. 1713 Berkeley *Hylas & Phil.* I, The inferences sound something oddly. 1822 Scott *Nigel* xvii, 'I said Grahame, sir, not Grime,' said Nigel, something shortly. 1859 Dickens *Christmas Stories, Haunted House* i, 'O!' said I, something snappishly.

d. With a comparative adj. or adv

1592 *Soliman & Pers.* v. iv. 130 Yet some thing more contentedly I die For that [etc.]. 1615 G. Sandys *Trav.* 140 This place is something better then desert. 1669 Sturmy *Mariner's Mag.* v. xii. 57 The Stick being something more than the diam. at the Base Ring. 1713 S. Sewall *Diary* 2 Nov. (1879) II. 406 Sam. is something better, yet full of pain. 1735 Johnson *Lobo's Abyssinia, Voy.* ii. 11, I found him in a Straw-Hat something larger than those of his Subjects. 1821 Scott *Kenilw.* xxxi, You have done your duty something more than boldly. 1829 — *Anne of G.* xv, Because my thoughts came slower, may be, and something duller, than those of other folk. 1886 Stevenson *Kidnapped* x, Now this song..is something less than just to me.

e. Followed by *too* and adj. or adv. Now *arch.*

1610 Shaks. *Temp.* III. i. 58, I prattle Something too wildely. 1668 H. More *Div. Dial.* II. 38 Something too copious a digression. 1671 Shadwell *Humourist* v, It is something too sudden and temerarious. 1709 Mrs. Manley *Secr. Mem.* (1736) III. 46 Something too large a Head. 1720 De Foe *Capt. Singleton* i. (1840) 3 This fell out something too soon. 1821 Scott *Kenilw.* xii, I got something too deep into his secrets. 1831 — *Cast. Dang.* vi, We have had something too much of this.

† **f.** Followed by *with* and a superlative, = somewhat or rather (soon, often, etc.). *Obs. rare.*

1631 Massinger *Emperor East* II. i, Shall I become a votary to Hymen Before my youth hath sacrificed to Venus? 'Tis something with the soonest. 1697 South *Serm.* III. 282 Even that perhaps may be something with the oftenest.

3. In various miscellaneous constructions.

1691 Wood *Ath. Oxon.* II. 179 Say and Sele was..averse to the Court ways, something out of pertinaciousness. 1790 in J. Haggard *Rep. Consist. Crt.* (1822) I. 81 Her deposition ..is highly coloured and inflamed,..something in the style really of a French novel. 1842 Borrow *Bible in Spain* xxxvi, It was..built something in the Moorish taste. 1897 *Academy* 9 Jan. 48/1 Something a bore to many, by reason of talking like a book in coat and breeches.

Hence (chiefly as *nonce-words*) **So'mething** *v. trans.*, used colloq. in pa. pple. as a euphemism for 'damned' or other imprecation, esp. in the phr. *to see* (one) *somethinged first*. **Somethingean** *a.* (cf. *somethingth* below). † **So'methingish** *adv.*, somewhat. **So'methingth** *a.*, used to supply the place of a number, name, etc., which is not distinctly remembered or is immaterial (cf. quots. and Something A. 1 b).

1859 F. Francis *N. Dogvane* (1888) 108 As for paying for him, tell him I'll see him *somethinged first. 1867 H. Kingsley *Silcote of S.* xli, He said that he would be somethinged if he gave way. 1882 Miss Braddon *Mt. Royal* II. 92 'Self-will be — somethinged' growled Leonard. 1837 Dickens *Pickw.* xv, Four *something-ean singers in the costume of their country. 1777 *Vanbrugh's Prov. Wife* IV. iii, Why, she really has the air of a sort of a woman a little *somethingish out of the common. 1871 Meredith *H. Richmond* xli, He killed Harry's friend Seneca in the eighty-*somethingth year of his age. 1891 Duncan *Amer. Girl in London* 194 The wife of Colonel So-and-so, commanding the somethingth something. 1898 *Academy* 5 Feb. 149/1 There is a new novel from her pen—her fifty-somethingth, we believe.

So'methingness. [f. as prec. + -ness.] The fact or state of being something; real or material existence, entity.

1675 Duffett *Mock Tempest* v. i, The nothingness of the Mouse,..the somethingness, yea the fullness of it. 1760–2 Goldsm. *Cit. World* xiv, What an unusual share of *somethingness* in his whole appearance! 1839–48 Bailey *Festus* xix. 204 A star falls, and we track a cold dark mass Of trembling half-transparent somethingness. 1890 *Universal Rev.* 15 June 247 The stages..have invariably been from a nothingness of ignorant impotence to a little somethingness of highly self-conscious, arduous performance.

Sometime (sʌ·mtəim), *adv.* (and *a.*). Forms: 3–6 **sometyme**, 6– **sometime**, 4–6 **somtyme**, 4, 6 *Sc.* **-tym**, 4–5, 7 **-time**; 4–6 **sumtyme** (6 **summ-**), 4 **-time**, 5 **-tym**; 4 **sumetime**, 5 **-tyme**. [f. Some *a.*[1] + Time *sb.* Down to the 16th c. written either as one word or as two; even in later use the distinction between *sometime* and *some time* is not always clear (cf. Some *a.*[1] 4 c).]

1. At one time or another, with the possibility of recurrence or repetition; now and then; occasionally; = Sometimes 1.

Common in the 16th and 17th centuries; now *rare* or *Obs.*

1340 Hampole *Pr. Consc.* 5880 Parfor maysters som tyme uses þe wand þat has childer to lere. *c* 1375 *Cursor M.* 13185 (Fairf.), 3et fallis sum-time in fraunce wodemen atte saint Iones tide atte þe kirke bote to bide. 1400 tr. *Secreta Secret., Gov. Lordsh.* 81 But som-tyme þis Reubarb is venomous. *c* 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* I. 44 An hid defaut is sumtyme in nature. 1545 Raynald *Byrth Mankynde* 63 Lykewyse somtyme it commeth to passe that the syde of the chylde commeth forwarde. 1592 Timme *Ten Eng. Lepers* M j, They..grow verie impacient, and some time dispaire of release. 1622 Wither *Philarete* (1633) K 5 b, My heart is sometime heavy, when I smile. 1679 Puller *Moder. Ch. Eng.* (1843) 227 But sometime fear is the beginning of wisdom. 1700 S. L. tr. *Fryke's Voy. E. Ind.* A ij, I am apt to think, a Dedication sometime to be none of the least [troublesome]. 1809 Syd. Smith *Serm.* I. 286 The very name used to denote it, however unjustly it may be, sometime, applied.

† **b.** *Sometime . . . sometime*, used to introduce antithetical words, clauses, etc. Also with *sometimes* in the first or second place. *Obs.*

(*a*) 1297 R. Glouc. (Rolls) 3438 Þus were..þe saxons Some tyme aboue & some (tyme) binepe. 1390 Gower *Conf.* II. 28 Somtime nay, somtime yee, Somtime he cam, somtime noght. 1451 Capgr. *Life St. Gilbert* 102 He be-gan to pray, sumtyme loud, sumtyme soft, sumtyme saying, sumtyme singing. *c* 1537 De Benese *Meas. Lande* A j, Somtyme the sellers..somtyme yᵉ byers..be greatly deceyued by the meters thereof. 1582 N. Lichefield tr. *Castanheda's Conq. E. Ind.* I. iii. 10 Going in such sort, as sometime he kept the Sea, and sometime droue towards the lande. 1660 H. Bloome *Archit.* A j, *Gutta*, are drops sometime round, sometime in Triangle fashion. 1700 Wallis in *Collect.* (O.H.S.) I. 316 Dr. Keil sometime at Oxford and sometime at Cambridge alternately, hath..gone through a course of Anatomy.

(*b*) 1589 R. Harvey *Pl. Perc.* (1590) 2 Sometime these madcaps be at a fray: sometimes at a feast. 1621 Burton *Anat. Mel.* I. ii. v. iii. 226 This humor..is sometime in the substance of the Braine, sometimes contained in the Membranes.., sometimes in the passages [etc.].

(*c*) 1599 Shaks. *Much Ado* III. iii. 142 Sometimes fashioning them like Pharaoes souldiours.., sometime like god Bels priests.., sometime like the shauen Hercules. 1674 *Govt. Tongue* v. § 2. 120 Somtimes a man invents a perfect falsity of another; somtime he that do's not invent it, yet reports it. 1681 R. L'Estrange *Tully's Offices* 129 For sometimes Bodily Goods fall in Competition with the Goods of Fortune: sometime Outward Goods with Those of the Body: and sometime again [etc.].

c. With different correlatives.

a 1425 *Cursor M.* 7433 (Trin.), Oþerwhile wiþ harpe, sumtyme with song. 1526–1541 [see Otherwhiles 2]. 1586 [see Otherwhile 2]. 1593 Shaks. 3 *Hen. VI*, II. v. 9 Sometime, the Flood preuailes; and than the Winde. *a* 1654 Gataker *Parker* in Fuller *Abel Rediv.* (1867) II. 18 He forbare not frequently to preach,..sometime in his own cathedral church, and at other times in the towns and villages abroad. 1720 [see Otherwhile 2].

2. † **a.** At a certain time, on a particular occasion, in the past; once. *Obs.*

1297 R. Glouc. (Rolls) 8958 Some time as þis gode mold in to halle com. 1375 in Horstmann *Altengl. Leg.* (1878) 130/2 Y trowe wel þow desyre to ete sum del Of þe frut of paradys þat þow of ete som tyme. 1422 tr. *Secreta Secret., Priv. Priv.* 195 Well sholdiste thou remenber the þat Sum tym the Quen of Inde the send fair yeftis. 1484 Caxton *Fables of Avian* iv, This fable of an asse whiche somtyme fond the skynne of a lyon. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 3 b, As it was somtyme shewed to Noe in the tyme of the vniuersal flode. 1581 Pettie tr. *Guazzo's Civ. Conv.* III. (1586) 147 b, Like as the Crauish sometime did. Who [etc.]. 1620 *Frier Rush* 1 There was sometime beyond the Sea edified and founded a certaine house. 1653 Baxter *Saints' Rest* III. vi. (1662) 387 Let the power speak, which sometime said, 'Lazarus arise!' 1661 Ussher *Power of Princes* I. (1683) 50 The first Christian Emperour Constantine used this speech sometime unto his Bishops.

† **b.** At one time; in former times, formerly. *Obs.*

The quotations under (*b*) illustrate the usage with the substantive verb.

(*a*) *c* 1330 R. Brunne *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 6905 Whylom [*v.r.* som tyme] Bretons landes wonnen;..Now ar þey nought so mykel of myght. 1387–8 T. Usk *Test. Love* III. iii. (Skeat) I. 136 Somtyme, er it were white, it might have be nat white. 14.. *Guy Warw.* 4655 Some tyme þou were of grete honowre. *c* 1460 Fortescue *Abs. & Lim. Mon.* (1885) 131 The kyng off Ffraunce myght not sumtyme dyspende off his demaynes..so mich as myght tho the kynge off England. 1535 Coverdale *Wisd.* v. 3 These are they, whom we somtyme had in derision, & iested vpon. 1570–6 Lambarde *Peramb. Kent* (1826) 193 Farley..belonged sometime *to* the Monks of Christs church in Canterburie. 1600 J. Pory tr. *Leo's Africa* II. 66 It was sometime gouerned by a certaine tyrant. *a* 1700 Evelyn *Diary* 25 July 1678, A worthy ..gentleman, with whom my son was sometime bred in Arundel House. 1786–1805 Tooke *Purley* (1829) I. 404 The whole verb *Dure* was some time used commonly in our language.

(*b*) *a* 1400 Maundev. (1839) viii. 98 Also fro Bethanye to Jerico, was somtyme a litylle Cytee. *c* 1440 *Generydes* 2 Of Inde Somtyme ther was a nobyll kyng. 1484 Caxton *Fables of Alfonce* viii, Somtyme was a kynge whiche hadde a fabulatour. 1535 Coverdale 2 *Sam.* xx. 18 The comon sayenge was somtyme: Who so wyll axe, let him axe at Abel. 1570–6 Lambarde *Peramb. Kent* (1826) 283 Where was sometime an auncient Church erected by the Romanes.

†c. In descriptive clauses introduced by *that*.

1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) III. 129 Seleucus, þat was somtyme plegge and prisoner at Rome. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 1729 Our Cite for sothe, þat sum tyme was here, [þai] Brent. 1445 tr. *Claudian* in *Anglia* XXVIII. 269 Be thyn excytyng craftys lefte þat som tyme were wele knowe.

d. In similar use with omission or ellipse of relative and verb. Now *arch*.

a 1325 *MS. Rawl. B. 520* lf. 31 b, No3t with stondinde þe statut sume time at Westmunestre..i made. *c* 1375 *Cursor M.* 13563 (Fairf.), Þen ansquared he sum time blinde. 1423 *Cal. Letter-bk.* 'I' (1909) 288 Sir Edward, sumtyme Kyng of Ynglond. 1463 *Bury Wills* (Camden) 16 To Raffe Otle sumtyme my man. 1542 UDALL *Erasm. Apoph.* 210 b, Asia sometyme the..welthiest countree of the worlde, had.. been spoyled by Alexander. 1600 HOLLAND *Livy* XXXVIII. viii. 987 To have mercie and pitie of their nation sometime linked in amitie unto them. 1633 RUTHERFORD *Lett.* (1862) I. 103 The visage of our Nazarites, sometime whiter than snow, is now become blacker than a coal. 1771 *Antiq. Sarisb.* 109 His body lies .. under a large marble stone, sometime inlaid with brass. 1794 BLOOMFIELD *Rep.* 14 A Negro Woman, sometime the Property of H., became free. 1852 *Gentl. Mag.* Jan. 9 John Jewel, sometime Bishop of Salisbury.

†e. With *of* or genitive, denoting former ownership or proprietary rights. *Obs.*

1423 *Coventry Leet Bk.* 52 A house with gardyne sumtyme off John Askemare. 1486 *Rec. St. Mary at Hill* (1905) 1 The tenement sumtyme Rauf a Beryes. 1556 *Chron. Grey Friars* (Camden) 48 The church sumtyme the Gray freeres.

f. Preceded by a pronoun or article. Passing into *adj*.

1490 CAXTON *Eneydos* vi. 27 Alle the grete tresours..of hir sayd somtyme husbonde sichee. *c* 1585 MONTGOMERIE *Sonn.* iv. 9 Hou..that som tym peirles place..in furious flammis did burne. 1621 BP. MOUNTAGU *Diatribæ* 144 Agreeing with Tremellius, his sometime Colleague. 1637 RUTHERFORD *Lett.* (1862) I. 254, I wonder now of my sometime boldness to chide and quarrel Christ. 1756 *Connoisseur* No. 118 P 7 The sometime Professor of Astronomy at Gresham College. 1824 MISS MITFORD *Village* Ser. I. (1863) 235 Our sometime constable, the tipsiest..of men, is dead. 1889 SWINBURNE *Study B. Jonson* 103 A sometime student of the secular [poet].

†3. *At* or *in sometime*, = 2 b. *Obs.*

Cf. examples with *some time* under SOME *a.*[1] 2 b (*a*).

1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 765 Fone men may now fourty yhere pas, And foner fifty als in somtym was. 1552 ELYOT, *Aliquoties*, at sometime. 1579 W. FULKE *Conf. Sanders* 541 At somtime, no citie in Italie was so notable as Rome.

4. At some future time; on a future occasion. Also in phr. *sometime or other*.

c 1386 CHAUCER *Knt.'s T.* 385 For possible is,..That by som cas, syn fortune is chaungeable, Thow maist to thy desir som tyme atteyne. — *Man of Law's T.* 12 Parfay, seistow, somtyme he rekene shal. 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* xv. 42 Suppois the servand be lang vnquit, The lord sumtyme rewaird will it. 1545 ASCHAM *Toxoph.* II. (Arb.) 159, I must nedes somtyme tel you of myne owne experience. *a* 1654 GATAKER *Whitgift* in Fuller *Abel Rediv.* (1867) II. 199 His lectures..are said to remain yet under hope of seeing sometime further light. 1741 BERKELEY *Lett.* Wks. 1871 IV. 268 You may sometime or other come to Bath. 1839–52 BAILEY *Festus* 136 Thou too and all the stars.. Shall sometime range in bliss the spirit-pasturing skies. 1879 HOWELLS *L. Aroostook* (1883) I. 156 'Will you tell me?' 'Yes, sometime.'

b. In attrib. use, with preceding pron. or article.

a 1641 BP. MOUNTAGU *Acts & Mon.* (1642) 157 The meanes which he had appointed for their sometime happinesse to come. 1787 ANNA SEWARD *Lett.* (1811) I. 386 Materials whose sometime publication I meditate. 1805 *Ibid.* VI. 241 The sometime resurrection of the body.

5. At some indefinite or indeterminate point of time; at some time or other.

1590 SHAKS. *Mids. N.* II. i. 253 There sleepes Tytania, sometime of the night. [1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) I. 321/1 Some time in May, the rows must be evened.] 1828 COBBETT *Polit. Reg.* XXXIII. 432 This letter was sent off sometime in October. 1832 SOUTHEY *Hist. Penins. War* III. 279 It was sometime in the 11th century. 1864 TENNYSON *Aylmer's F.* 685 Where indeed The roof so lowly but that beam of Heaven Dawn'd sometime thro' the doorway? 1890 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Col. Reformer* (1891) 171 Grant made the light, sometime after nightfall.

†b. Just now; recently. *Obs.*

1779 SHERIDAN *St. Patrick's Day* II. ii, I was sometime taken with a sudden giddiness, and Humphrey..ran to my assistance.

6. a. With *since*, = some time ago. *rare*.

The use of the compound in place of the two separate words (*some time*) is evidently due to association with sense 5.

a 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 13 Apr. 1652, The letter which sometime since I sent to Deane Cosin's proselyted son. 1792 CHARLOTTE SMITH *Desmond* III. 244 The subject was sometime since exhausted between us. 1897 *Daily News* 13 Sept. 7/1 A sometime since completed [railway] line.

b. For some time. *rare*—[1].

1801 *Lusignan* IV. 177 She answered that she was very well, and had slept better than she had done sometime.

Sometimes (sʌ·mtəimz), *adv.* Forms: 6 **somtymes, 6–7 -times**; *Sc.* 6 **sum tymes**, 8 **-tyms**; 6 **sometymes**, 6– **sometimes**. [f. SOME *a.*[1] 7 + *times* pl. of TIME *sb.*]

1. On some occasions; at times; now and then. Cf. SOMETIME 1.

1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 41 b, He..sheweth vs somtymes the softe rodde of his swete disciplyne. 1578 GOSSON in *Sch. Abuse* (Arb.) 77 The Poet which sometimes hath trod awry. 1634 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* 87 Hither sometimes the King repaires. 1674 BREVINT *Saul at Endor* 213 Just as notable Rogues are hanged and quartered sometimes with their Pardons about their Necks. 1749 SMOLLETT *Gil Blas* XII. xi. (1782) IV. 262 Three famous physicians, who had the reputation of curing their patients sometimes. 1780 *Mirror* No. 105, I mean those little lectures on morality, sometimes known by the name of scandal. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* x. II. 565 Sometimes he spoke so haughtily that the rustics..were provoked into making insolent replies. 1884 R. W. CHURCH *Bacon* iii. 60 He liked..to generalise in shrewd and sometimes cynical epigrams.

b. With a correlative (see quots. and cf. SOMETIME 1 b and c).

(*a*) 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* II. vi. 3 Sometimes she sung, as loud as larke in aire, Sometimes she laught [etc.]. [1611 SHAKS. *Wint. T.* III. iii. 20 Sometimes her head on one side, some another.] 1634 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* 87 A streame of water, sometimes so broad as the Thames at London, but other sometimes neere dried vp. 1678 BUNYAN *Pilgr.* I. 42 Somtimes sighingly and somtimes comfortably. 1728 LAW *Serious Call* x. (1898) 129 To be sometimes chaste and modest, and sometimes not. 1776 *Trial of Nundocomar* 22/2 Sometimes he wrote the bonds himself in Nagree, sometimes in Bengal, but always signed them with his own hand. 1849 M. ARNOLD *Strayed Reveller* 265 Sometimes a wild-hair'd Mænad; Sometimes a Faun with torches; And sometimes..the divine, Belov'd Iacchus. 1901 *Cycl. Tour. Club Gaz.* Oct. 389 Running downhill, sometimes with, and sometimes without, a brake.

(*b*) 1600 J. PORY tr. *Leo's Africa* VII. 294 Sometimes he bringeth not home slaues enough to satisfie the merchants: and otherwhiles they are constrained to awaite there a whole yeere. 1674 RAY *Catal. Fishes* 107 Sometimes they kill them by striking them cross the snout with a pole, otherwhiles they shoot them. 1736 AINSWORTH I. s.v., They are sometimes of this opinion, and at other times of another. 1819 SHELLEY *Peter Bell 3rd* II. ii, Sometimes The Devil is a gentleman; At others a bard [etc.]. 1897 [see OTHERWHILES 2].

(*c*) 1602 B. JONSON *Poetaster* II. ii, Sometimes froward, and then frowning, Sometimes sickish, and then swowning. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* VI. 242 Somtimes on firm ground.., then soaring on main wing. 1815 SHELLEY *Alastor* 496 Sometimes it fell Among the moss...Now on the polished stones It danced.

†2. = SOMETIME 2 a and 2 b. *Obs.*

Freq. from *c* 1580 to *c* 1650.

1563 *Homilies* II. *Matrimony* Vvvv j b, And S. Peter saith in that same place.., that holy matrones dyd sometymes decke them selues, not with golde and syluer: but in puttynge theyr whole hope in God. 1576 GASCOIGNE *Philomene* Wks. 1910 II. 182 In Athens reignde somtimes, A king of worthy fame. 1627 HAKEWILL *Apol.* (1630) 374 There is at this day to be seene a board belonging sometimes to Tullius Cicero. 1642 D. ROGERS *Naaman* Ep. Ded. 3 The blessed lights of his ministers, who sometimes shined in our Sphere, but now in Glory. 1665 J. WEBB *Stone-Heng* (1725) 157 The Place where Habor..was sometimes betrayed, imprisoned, and executed.

†b. = SOMETIME 2 d. *Obs.*

Freq. from *c* 1600 to *c* 1650.

1577 HANMER *Anc. Eccl. Hist., Socrates, Schol.* v. xi, Probus, sometimes a Consul, was chief governour of Italy. 1592 in J. Morris *Troubles Cath. Forefathers* (1877) 37 John Thomas, sometimes Bishop Goldwell's man, died in the Counter. *a* 1619 FOTHERBY *Atheom.* II. vii. § 2 (1622) 262 Thebes in Ægypt, and Orchomenus, sometimes two rich and populous Cities, but now reduced. 1650 T. B[AYLEY] *Worcester's Apoph.* 26 An old ruinated, but sometimes a most famous monastery. 1709 STRYPE *Ann. Ref.* I. xxxiv. 340 One Games, sometimes School-Master of the Choristers in Magdalen College.

†c. = SOMETIME 2 e. *Obs.*[—1]

1610 B. JONSON *Alchemist* v. v, The goods, sometimes the Orphanes, that the Brethren Bought with their siluer pence.

†d. = SOMETIME 2 f. *Obs.*

1593 SHAKS. *Rich. II*, I. ii. 54 Farewell old Gaunt, thy sometimes brothers wife..must end her life. *Ibid.* v. v. 75 Leaue To looke vpon my (sometimes Royall) masters face. 1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* II. 70 Sparta, where that sometimes famous Citty of Lacedemon flourished. 1798 CHARLOTTE SMITH *Yng. Philos.* I. 72 Excelled only by her sometimes tutoress.

†3. *At sometimes*, = sense 1. *Obs.*

1548 ELYOT, *Aliquoties*, at sometymes. 1584 LODGE *Alarum* (Shaks. Soc.) 60 Manye gentlemen..who at sometimes, as well as yourselfe, were destitute of silver. 1626 T. H[AWKINS] tr. *Caussin's Holy Crt.* 384 One should not..omit at sometimes to eleuate his hart to God. 1682 BUNYAN *Holy War* (1905) 202 Yea, the Rascal crue, at sometimes would be for destroying of him. 1719 W. WOOD *Surv. Trade* 4 Those mighty Fleets, that have at sometimes, and when rightly governed, rendered her the Terror of the Ocean.

Sometour, obs. form of SUMPTER.

Somette, obs. form of SUMMIT.

†**Some·ver**, *adv. Obs.* Also 5 **som euer**, 6 **some ever**. [f. *som(e* SUM *conj.* + EVER *adv.* Cf. WHATSOMEVER, etc.] = SOEVER 2.

c 1440 *Alph. Tales* 58 Whatt howr som euer þat a synner forthynkis his syn. 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 60 b, The same can easely destroye you also, what power somever you have. *Ibid.* 418 b, What action some ever any man had. 1621 R. BOLTON *Stat. Irel.* 347 In whose hands or possession somever.

Someway (sʌ·mwe[1]), *adv.* Now *rare* exc. *dial.* Also **some way**. [f. SOME *a.*[1] + WAY *sb.*]

1. In some way or manner; by some means; somehow.

c 1450 *Cov. Myst.* (Shaks. Soc.) 40 God wyl be vengyd on us sum way. 1565 COOPER *Thesaurus*, *Aliqua*,..someway: by some meanes. 1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 197/4 Someway, *aliqua*. 1641 LD. BROOKE *Disc. Nat. Episc.* I. x. 57 b, All someway oppose the whole Law of Christ. 1674 PRIDEAUX *Lett.* (Camden) 19, I will not yet dispair of Williamson's provideing for you some way or other. 1736 *Gentl. Mag.* VI. 598/1 That his Lordship had a Right some-way to interest himself in Affairs of this Nature. 1798 EDGEWORTH *Pract. Educ.* I. 147 They are to..behave in company some way differently from what they behave every day in their own family. 1822–7 GOOD *Study Med.* (1829) I. 291 We shall have to contemplate..the bile as some way or other damaged in its secretion. 1890 *Advance* (Chicago) 27 Feb., We someway think that contentment is to feel no want.

2. At some distance. In quot. *transf.* of time. Usually, and more correctly, written as two words: cf. SOME *a.*[1] 4 c (*b*), quot. 1867.

1859 GEO. ELIOT *A. Bede* iv, But then came the days of sadness, when Adam was someway on in his teens.

Someways (sʌ·mwe[1]z), *adv.* Now chiefly *dial.* Also 5 **som-**, 7 **somewayes**. [f. as prec., with genitive or plural *-s*.] = prec. 1.

[*a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 354 Moni wolde sumes weis þolien vlesches herdschipes. *c* 1230 *Hali Meid.* 9 Hit is tah in wedlac summes weis to þolien as men schal after iheren.]

c 1440 *York Myst.* xx. 37 He is wente som wayes wrang. 1674 N. FAIRFAX *Bulk & Selv.* 2 It might somewayes also be helpful, to the setting right the thoughts of some others. 1895 *Atlantic Monthly* Mar. 362 The parson's got to get his initiation someways. 1905 MCCARTHY *Dryad* 203 He felt that he must obey; he felt that Esclaramonde had someways ensnared him.

Somewhat (sʌ·mhwɒt), *sb.* and *adv.* Forms: *a.* 3 **sumhwat, -whet** (*Orm.* **summwhatt**), 3–6 **sumwhat** (5 **-whate, -wat(t**, 6 **-whatt**); 4 **sumquat**, 5 **-qwat**, 6 *Sc.* **-quhat**; 3 **somȝwat**, 4–6 **-whatt**, 5–7 **-what**; 4 **somwat**, 5–6 **-watt**; 4– **somewhat**. *β. dial.* 8 **sumet**, 9 **summat, summut, zum'ot**, etc. [f. SOME *a.*[1] + WHAT *pron.* Down to the end of the 16th cent. written either as one word or as two.] = SOMETHING *sb.* and *adv.*

A. *sb.* **1.** A certain amount, esp. in the way of statement, information, etc. Freq. with *of* (= concerning). Now *arch*.

c 1200 ORMIN 958 Summwhatt icc habbe shæwedd 3uw Till 3ure sawle fode. *a* 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 506 Schaw sumwhet of ham, for hwi ha beon wurðe for to beon iwurðe. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 1496 Spek we sumquat of caym kyn. . *c* 1374 CHAUCER *Troylus* I. 672 To thi help yet sumwhat can I say. *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (Roxb.) vii. 27 Now hafe I schortly talde 3ow sum what of bawme. 1509 FISHER *Funeral Serm. C'tess Richmond* Wks. (1876) 293, I wold reherce somwhat of her demeanyng in this behalue. *a* 1586 SIDNEY *Ps.* XXXIV. ii, Joyne with me, Somwhat to speake of his due praise. 1625 BACON *Ess., Of Cunning* (Arb.) 441 It is strange, how long some Men will lie in wait, to speake somewhat, they desire to say. *a* 1715 BURNET *Own Time* (1753) I. 53, I will relate somewhat concerning the Earl of Antrim. 1801 STRUTT *Sports & Past.* IV. ii. 274 Exasperated at somewhat his antagonist had said. 1819 BYRON *Juan* I. vii, Narrating somewhat of Don Juan's father.

b. Some (material or immaterial) thing of unspecified nature, amount, etc. Now *arch.* or *dial.*

a. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 44 So doð euer sumhwat þet god muwe þerof awakenen. *c* 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 54 He it nolde bi-leue, 3wane ani pouere man him bede, bote he him som-3wat 3eue. 1350 *Will. Palerne* 3722 It bi-tokenes sum-what, treuli, god turne it to gode. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* II. 210 In ech of hem he fint somwhat That pleseth him. *c* 1400 *Pilgr. Sowle* (Caxton, 1483) I. xv. 14 Late myn estate with som what be amendyd. 1484 CAXTON *Æsop* III. xvi, I deye for honger; gyue me somwhat to ete. 1526 TINDALE 2 *Cor.* iv. 8 We are in povertie: but not utterly without somwhat. 1568 GRAFTON *Chron.* II. 340 Such as were wicked..made a shewe as though they would do somewhat. *a* 1627 MIDDLETON *Witch* III. i, Nothing lives But has a joy in somewhat. 1693 DRYDEN *Love Triumphant* II. i, I know not why, but somewhat prompts me To read this folded page. 1726 SWIFT *Gulliver* I. viii, I observed.. somewhat that looked like a boat overturned. 1797–1805 S. & HT. LEE *Cant. Tales* I. 13 He perceived somewhat glitter amid the grass. 1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* xi, The tools were worth somewhat. 1842 N. HAWTHORNE in *Longfellow's Life* (1891) I. 441, I have been looking to receive somewhat in the shape of a letter..from you. 1855 KINGSLEY *Westw. Ho!* xiv, Some folk say he's not right in his head; or turned miser, or somewhat.

Prov. 1542 J. HEYWOOD *Prov.* (1867) 24 Alwaie somwhat is better then nothyng. 1562 — *Prov. & Epigr.* 152 Boude wands serue for sumwhat.

β. 1790 MRS. WHEELER *Westmld. Dial.* 59 Yaurs may.. seaav sumet agayn they er aud. 1838 JAS. GRANT *Sk. Lond.* 39 There was no lack either of 'summut' to drink or 'summut' to eat. 1839 in Latham *Hdbk. Eng. Lang.* (1860) 148 Presently, zum 'ot..went dump! 1859 GEO. ELIOT *A. Bede* i, A man must learn summat beside Gospel to make them things.

c. Followed by an adjective.

1665 HOOKE *Microgr.* 74 Insteed of meeting with what I look'd for, I met with somewhat more admirable. 1681 HOBBES *Rhet.* Pref., May be presumed to contain somewhat excellent. 1721 BRADLEY *Philos. Acc. Wks. Nat.* 4 The parts..are bound together by somewhat Oleaginous. 1751 ELIZA HEYWOOD *Betsy Thoughtless* I. 3 Miss Betsy, who had..somewhat extremely engaging in her manner of behaviour. 1836 EMERSON *Nature, Spirit* Wks. (Bohn) II. 166 It is essential to a true theory of nature and of man, that it should contain somewhat progressive. 1850 ROBERTSON *Serm.* 3rd Ser. ix. § 1. 125 [They] mistook the sensation for somewhat half divine.

†d. *By somewhat*, by a certain (small) amount.

1653 RAMESEY *Astrol. Rest.* 61 Yet he is the swifter of the two by somewhat.

2. With dependent genitive: Some part, portion, amount, etc., *of* something.

1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 7587 So þat vewe contreies beþ in engelonde, þat monekes nabbeþ of normandie somwat in hor honde. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 4739 Len vs sumquat o þi sede, Was neuer ar sua mikel nede. 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (1810) 22 Þer..a noþer chapelle standes, & somwhat of þat tre, þei bond vntille his handes. *c* 1400 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) II. 69 (MS. *a*), In þis citee is somwhat of þat famous wal. *c* 1440 *Wycliffite Bible* Gen. xl. 4 Sumdel [*v.r.* sum whatt] of tyme passide. 1588 KYD *Househ. Phil.* Wks.

(1901) 267 It is thought there is somewhat of theyr dooings in his works. 1658 W. SANDERSON *Graphice* 33 Observe to hit the virtues of the Piece, and to refuse the Vices; for all Masters have somewhat of them both. *a* 1677 BARROW *Serm.* Wks. 1716 II. 71 Doth she not every where present spectacles of delight (somewhat of lively picture, somewhat of gay embroidery, somewhat of elegant symmetry). 1761 HUME *Hist. Eng.* III. liii. 147 By quitting somewhat of his royal prerogative. 1779 *Mirror* No. 10, By that too great niceness..they may mingle somewhat of disgust and uneasiness even in the highest and finest pleasures. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* lxvi, A conversation of which he could not help hearing somewhat. 1876 STEDMAN *Vict. Poets* vi. 232 It must be acknowledged that somewhat of this applies to Tennyson's variations upon Theocritus.

b. Const. *of* with a positive adj. Now *rare*.

1650 EARL MONM. tr. *Senault's Man bec. Guilty* 36 Tis the desire of seeing somewhat of new which draws us forth. 1669 DRYDEN *Tyrannic Love* I. i, Somewhat of mournful, sure, my ears does wound. 1751 ELIZA HEYWOOD *Betsy Thoughtless* I. 12 These words, as it proved, had somewhat of prophetic in them. 1870 N. HAWTHORNE *Eng. Note-bks.* (1879) I. 273 With somewhat of fantastic in the shape of the clock-tower.

c. = SOMETHING *sb.* 2 c.

1841 HELPS *Ess., On Treatment of Suitors* (1842) 110 You will naturally endeavour to give somewhat of a detailed explanation. 1863 MARY HOWITT tr. *F. Bremer's Greece & Greeks* II. 3 It was somewhat of a surprise to me. 1868 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* (1877) II. 88 He was also somewhat of a time-server.

3. With limiting word or particle, as *somewhat else, more, over*, etc.

(*a*) 1390 GOWER *Conf.* II. 96 As though I hadde lost a Ring Or somwhat elles. ?1580 LODGE *Reply Gosson's Sch. Abuse* Wks. (Grosart) I. 29 These things are not the chiefest poynts you shote at; thers somewhat els sticketh in your stomak. 1665 J. NORTH in *Extr. State P. rel. Friends* (1912) III. 235, I haue some-what els to ymparte vnto you. 1736 AINSWORTH s.v. *Some*, I must talk of somewhat else.

(*b*) 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XIX. CXXV. (1495) 925 The Superficularis nombre conteyneth in comparison alle the lesse nombre and somwhat ouer. 1626 B. JONSON *Staple of N.* III. ii, You are a Courtier, Sir, or somewhat more. *c* 1643 LD. HERBERT *Autobiog.* (1824) 16, I shall therefore only say somewhat more of my mother.

b. *Somewhat between*, = SOMETHING *sb.* 1 d.

1823 SCOTT *Quentin D.* xxii, His gesture..was noble, and at the same time resigned, somewhat between the bearing of a feudal noble and of a Christian martyr.

4. A thing, quality, etc., worth considering or regarding; a person of note or importance.

1382 WYCLIF *Gal.* ii. 6 Forsoth thei that weren seen for to be sumwhat, no thing to me 3auen to gidere. 1526 TINDALE *Gal.* vi. 3 Iff a man seme to hym silfe that he is somwhat when in dede he is nothynge. 1663 DRYDEN *Wild Gallant* IV. ii, Nay, the fool is a handsome fool, that's somewhat. 1838 LOWELL *Lett.* (1894) I. 32 It were a strange thing indeed if there were not somewhat in such men as Milton, Sidney [etc.]. 1842 TENNYSON *St. Simeon Stylites* 124 They think that I am somewhat...The silly people take me for a saint. 1859 MASSON *Milton* I. 721 The living society of a place is also somewhat.

† **b.** *Of somewhat*, for some purpose. *Obs.*—[1]

a 1400 *Sir Perc.* 854 It servede hym of somwhatt The wylde fyre that he gatt.

5. With *a, the*, etc., and pl. A certain undefined or unknown thing, quality, amount, etc.

1598 R. BERNARD tr. *Terence* (1607) 30 'In the meane season I hope some-what may be done.'..' That some-what will prove just nothing.' 1654 WHITLOCK *Zootomia* 210 Pretty Somewhats they would meane, but sure They understand not themselves any more than I do. 1685 *Gracian's Courtier's Orac.* 220 Several men would be great, if they wanted not a somewhat, without which they never attain to the height of perfection. 1795 *Jemima* I. 218 He has a somewhat in his voice..so pleasant. 1806 H. SIDDONS *Maid, Wife, & Widow* II. 247 A habit of delivering his sentiments with a somewhat of more than dictatorial petulance. 1857 J. RAINE *Mem. J. Hodgson* I. 126 Sending to Hodgson a somewhat which he had left behind him.

b. With preceding adj.

1685 *Gracian's Courtier's Orac.* 117 The secret charm, or the unexpressible somewhat; which the French call *Le Jene-sai-quoi*. 1710 BERKELEY *Princ. Hum. Knowl.* § 80 Matter is an unknown somewhat—neither substance nor accident. 1785 M. CUTLER in *Life*, etc. (1888) II. 229, I now believe, at least, that there is a certain somewhat, which produced a rotary motion in a sword. 1827 COLERIDGE *Table-t.* 30 Aug., Painting is the intermediate somewhat between a thought and a thing. 1855 BROWNING *One Word More* ix, Thus achievement lacks a gracious somewhat.

c. Const. *of* or with adj. following.

1817 KEATINGE *Trav.* I. 272 Still here attaches..a somewhat of disgraceful to the idea of intoxication. 1825 SCOTT *Fam. Lett.* II. 354 They require the atmosphere of a cigar and the amalgam of a *summat* comfortable. *a* 1858 R. A. VAUGHAN *Ess. & Rem.* (1858) I. 50 A somewhat of their spirit of love..he found ever afterwards indispensable to his heart.

B. *adv.* In a certain degree or measure; to some (slight or small) extent; slightly, a little; rather.

1. a. Qualifying a verb.

c 1200 ORMIN 16882 Þærþurrh wass sene þatt he þa Summwhatt bigunnenn hafde To lefenn o þe Laferrd Crist. *c* 1385 CHAUCER *L. G. W.* Prol. 71 (Fairf.), Ye be diligent To forthren me somwhat in my labour. *c* 1410 *Sir Cleges* 147 Jn with hyr he gan goo, And sumwatt mendyd hys chere. *c* 1440 *Partonope* 4915 To her suster dyd she spek And somwhat her hert to her breke. 1526 TINDALE *Acts* XXVI. 28 Sumwhatt thou bryngest me in mynde for to be come christen. 1577–82 BRETON *Flourish upon Fancie* Wks. (Grosart) I. 17/2 These Drugges,..though they sumwhat please the tast, yet make the bosom stinke. 1646 GAULE *Sel. Cas.* 56 Hereupon it hath been somwhat dissented. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 308/1 The short Graver, which turneth up somewhat at the end. 1780 *Mirror* No. 82, Sir George Rodney's success has somewhat lessened their force. 1812 CARY *Dante, Parad.* II. 53 She somewhat smiled. 1877 J. D. CHAMBERS *Divine Worship* 389 The Forms of these ejaculations varied somewhat.

b. Qualifying a preposition.

1492 HEN. VII *Let.* in G. Griffiths *Hist. Tong* (1894) 224 Desiring you that somwhat bifor the said tyme ye wol addresse you unto us. 1600 in Ingleby *Shaks. Cent. Praise* (Shaks. Soc.) 35 Somwhat before the play began. 1735 JOHNSON *Lobo's Abyssinia, Descr.* viii. 91 To drink somewhat beyond the bounds of exact Temperance. 1756 C. LUCAS *Ess. Waters* I. 10 Spirit of nitre consists of somewhat above one fourth of pure acid. 1819 BYRON *Juan* I. i, Sent to the devil somewhat ere his time.

c. *Somewhat as*, in much the same way, to some extent, as.

1872 MORLEY *Voltaire* (1886) 1 We may think of Voltairism in France, somewhat as we think of Catholicism. 1894 CROCKETT *Stickit Minister* 16 It ran or rather hirpled somewhat as follows.

2. Qualifying an adjective, adverb, or clause.

(*a*) *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 11054 Þat mensking þam bi-tuin, Was sum-quat diuers, als i wene. *c* 1384 CHAUCER *H. Fame* 1097 But for the ryme ys lyght and lewed Yit make hyt sumwhat agreable. *c* 1400 *Lanfranc's Cirurg.* 48 If þat ilke mater be not hard but sumwhat neische. 1466 *Mann. & Househ. Exp.* (Roxb.) 324 For a sadelle sumwhat worne, ij.s. viij.d. *a* 1533 LD. BERNERS *Huon* xliii. 144 His coloure was sum what pale. 1595 in *Cath. Rec. Soc. Publ.* V. 335 His vtterance was somwhat vnready. 1667 DRYDEN & DK. NEWCASTLE *Sir M. Mar-all* v. ii, Would I were hanged if it be not somewhat probable. 1750 tr. *Leonardus' Mirr. Stones* 92 [It] is a stone of a crystal colour, and somewhat obscure. 1780 *Mirror* No. 105, Somewhat a-kin to the lovers of detraction are the offence-takers. 1826 *Art of Brewing* (ed. 2) 15 Their practice is governed by principles somewhat different. 1885 *Manch. Exam.* 12 May 5/2 It would seem..that the struggle was somewhat indecisive.

(*b*) 1542 BOORDE *Dyetary* iv. (1870) 238 The seller vnder the pantry, sette somwhat abase. 1592 KYD *Murther. I. Brewen* Wks. (1901) 290 When it drew some what late. 1637 MILTON *Lycidas* 17 Begin, and somwhat loudly sweep the string. 1797–1805 S. & HT. LEE *Cant. T.* I. 195 One, who, having somewhat unexpectedly succeeded to the family title. 1851 MRS. BROWNING *Casa Guidi Wind.* II. 478 If..we Are counted somewhat deeply in their debt. 1869 RUSKIN *Q. of Air* i. § 32 Somewhat saucily.

(*c*) 1578 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* III. 35 Mony injurious wordis, sumquhat in contempt of our Soverane Lord. 1608 E. GRIMSTONE *Hist. France* (1611) 457 A cunning woman, and some-what of her fathers humor. 1678 BUNYAN *Pilgr.* I. 27 Now was Christian somwhat in a muse. 1818 SCOTT *Br. Lamm.* ix, The hounds and huntsmen seemed somewhat at a stand. 1828 LYTTON *Pelham* liii, Somewhat of a lugubrious nature. 1833 HT. MARTINEAU *Berkeley* I. iii. 49 Martin looked somewhat at a loss for an answer, till his wife supplied him with one.

b. With a comparative adj. or adv.

c 1400 MAUNDEV. (Roxb.) xi. 46 It es sumwhat hyer þan oþer placez of þe citee. 1484 CAXTON *Fables of Auian* XXII, I blowe in hit for to haue it somwhat more cold than hit is. 1514 BARCLAY *Cyt. & Uplondyshman* (Percy Soc.) 6 And somwhat wyser be they also than we. 1597 HOOKER *Eccl. Pol.* V. lv. § 5 Somewhat more plainly, to shew a true immediate reason.. we acknowledge [etc.]. 1600 PORY tr. *Leo's Africa* VI. 275 The men of this place are black, but the women are somewhat fairer. 1696 WHISTON *Th. Earth* IV. (1722) 317 The Lower Earthy Strata would be settling somewhat closer together. 1768 *Woman of Honor* III. 233 A range of thirteen chests rather somewhat larger than the common size. 1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 173 The pan being brought to somewhat more than a red heat. 1866 CARLYLE in *Mrs. C.'s Lett.* III. 255 She..went home somewhat better. 1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) I. 359 Tell me.., in somewhat plainer terms, what you mean!

c. With *of the* and a superlative adj. or adv.

1561 T. HOBY tr. *Castiglione's Courtyer* IV. (1577) Y vij b, Not to make wise to abhorre companie and talke, though somewhat of the wantonest. 1622 MABBE tr. *Aleman's Guzman d'Alf.* I. 30, I got mee (though somewhat of the latest) hungry. 1656 HEYLIN *Surv. France* 218 The revenues of this Archbishoprick are somewhat of the meanest. 1818 SCOTT *Br. Lamm.* xvi, Your morning-draught has been somewhat of the strongest.

d. With *a* or *an* inserted before the adj. (or sb.) qualified.

1588 J. READ *Compend. Method.* 69 b, Barriga..receaued a wounde in his brest, with somewhat a long sword. *a* 1646 GREGORY *Posthuma* (1650) 198 This was somwhat a tolerable impietie, for such great Astronomers to adore the Host of Heaven. 1680 R. L'ESTRANGE *Erasm. Colloq.* 79 [He] may vouchsafe his Assistance also unto us, who are somewhat a larger Congregation. 1779 JOHNSON *Drake* Wks. 1787 IV. 417 Being obliged by this accident to somewhat a longer residence among the Moors. 1817 WHEWELL in Mrs. S. Douglas *Life* (1881) 25, I must acknowledge myself somewhat an idle correspondent so far as writing goes. 1891 ANNE MOZLEY *Lett. J. H. Newman* I. iii. 103 There were certainly..definite points about him which made him somewhat a difficulty.

e. Preceded by an article or pron.

1779 *Mirror* No. 61, The contempt in which, to a somewhat unreasonable degree, he holds modern refinement. 1820 SCOTT *Monast.* XXI, The cooling my somewhat too much inflamed visage. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* ii. I. 180 Her admonitions were given in a somewhat perfunctory manner.

f. Used as *adj.*

1819 T. MOORE in *Mem.* (1853) II. 250 Lady Frances W. was to have come with them, but, to my somewhat disappointment, she had been called away.

† **3.** *Somewhat... somewhat*, partly... partly.

1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 2, I wolde..wryte a bok betwen the twein, Somewhat of lust, somewhat of lore. *c* 1400 *Pilgr. Sowle* (Caxton) I. XXX. (1859) 34 He is lettid by the wey somwhat by foly of hym self, somwhat by other. *a* 1425 tr. *Arderne's Treat. Fistula*, etc. 38 Þai may ete and drynk and go, and somwhat sitte and somwhat slepe. 1552 LATIMER *Serm.* (1607) 301 A king.., which was not their lawfull nor naturall king, but somewhat with craft and subtilty, and somewhat with power had gotten the Crowne.

† **4.** Followed by *with the* and a superlative, = SOMETHING *adv.* 2 f. *Obs. rare.*

1542 UDALL *Erasm. Apoph.* 252 b, [She] begoonne somewhat with the soonest to have whyte heares in hir hedde. 1583 GOLDING *Calvin on Deut.* Pref. Ep. 2 Such discourse which might peraduenture be somewhat with the longest. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* 215 A small towne this is, standing somewhat with the lowest.

5. *Somewhat like*, in various senses (see LIKE *a.* 2 e, f).

1593 G. HARVEY *Pierce's Super.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 229 Though she were a lustie bounsing rampe somewhat like Gallamilla. 1611 COTGR., *Bellastre*,..passable, so so, somewhat like. *a* 1620 DYKE *Serm.* (1640) 379 If a man will sell a commodity, hee will sell it somewhat like, or hee will keepe it. 1662 J. DAVIES tr. *Olearius' Voy. Amb.* 165 It was somewhat like a Sturgeon, but was much whiter. 1748 RICHARDSON *Clarissa* (1811) VI. 241 Why this is talking somewhat like. 1859 GEO. ELIOT *A. Bede* viii, It's summat-like to see such a man as that i' the desk of a Sunday! 1890 *Science-Gossip* XXVI. 194 This is somewhat like the one examined by Schrötter.

† **Somewhatly,** *adv. Obs. rare.* Also 5 **sumwhatly, svmqwatly.** [f. as prec. + -LY[2].] Somewhat; to some (slight) extent.

c 1425 *St. Elizabeth of Spalbeck* in *Anglia* VIII. 108 A whyte lynnen garnemente sumwhatly trailynge on þe erthe. *Ibid.* 115 Sumwhatly streight vp towarde the auter. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 371 Svmqwatly, *aliqualiter, vtrumque*. [*a* 1711 H. LAMP *Autobiog.* iii. (1895) 26, I staid there about six months, learning the English tongue somewhatly.]

Somewhen (sʌ·mhwen), *adv.* Also 4 **somwanne, sumwhan(ne.** [f. SOME *a.*[1] + WHEN *adv.*] At some (indefinite or unknown) time; sometime or other. Common in recent use, esp. coupled with *somewhere*.

1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 5212 Of þe batayles of denemarch þat abbeþ ybe in þis londe...Worst hii were, vor oþere somwanne adde ydo [etc.].

1863 KINGSLEY *Water-Bab.* 349 Some folks can't help hoping..that they may have another chance, to make things fair and even, somewhere, somewhen, somehow. 1875 WHITNEY *Life Lang.* ix. 174 Spoken somewhere and somewhen in the past. 1876 FREEMAN in W. R. W. Stephens *Life & Lett.* II. 134 To tarry with James Allen..till somewhen about next Wednesday.

So·mewhence, *adv. rare.* [f. SOME *a.*[1] + WHENCE *adv.*] From some (indefinite) place; from somewhere or other.

1564 Mrs. A. BACON tr. *Jewel's Apol.* L iiij, Fearing that the people shoulde..somwhence els seeke a surer meane of their saluation. 1905 *Daily Chron.* 11 Aug. 4/7 That little boy seems to live on his imaginary trudge—somewhence—somewhither!

Somewhere (sʌ·mhwēəɹ), *adv.* and *sb.* Forms: 3 (*Orm.*) **summhwær,** 4 **sumwhare, -whore, -wher(e,** 6 **-whear;** 4 **sumquar(e, -quer,** 5 **-qwhare;** 4 **sum-, somwar;** 4 **some-,** 5 **somwhare;** 4 **sommewhere,** 5–7 **somwhere,** 5– **somewhere.** [f. SOME *a.*[1] + WHERE *adv.* Down to the end of the 16th c. freq. written as two words.]

A. *adv.* **1.** In or at some place unspecified, indeterminate, or unknown.

c 1200 ORMIN 6929 Forr þatt he wass forrdredd tatt te33 Himm sholldenn summwhær hidenn. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 4344 King arþure was þer of ywar, & þo3te.. Wiþ al is poer bi þe wey somwar him kepe. *a* 1310 in Wright *Spec. Lyric P.* XXXIX. 110 He hath hewe sum wher a burthen of brere. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 371/2 Sumqwhare, *alicubi*. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 106 An holy sayntserued in many chirches, and some where here in Englande. 1638 JUNIUS *Paint. Ancients* 14 Others..wander up and downe to meet somewhere with a refreshing shade. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* IX. 256 What malicious Foe.. somwhere nigh at hand Watches. 1796 MME. D'ARBLAY *Camilla* IV. 390 A paper in her hand-writing, which she had somewhere lost. 1827 SCOTT *Chron. Canongate* Introd., As it was suspected that he was lurking somewhere on the property, his family were closely watched. 1859 GEO. ELIOT *A. Bede* xxii, Arthur must be somewhere in the back rooms. 1878 G. MACDONALD *Ann. Q. Neighb.* XXVI. 448 There's something wrong somewhere.

b. With correlative *somewhere* or *otherwhere*.

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XIII. iv. (Bodl. MS.), In coloure..somewhare he [a river] is clere and somewhare he is dymme. 1630 *R. Johnson's Kingd. & Commw.* 423 Many places lying waste, somewhere for want of water, somewhere for want of manurance, somewhere for abundance of light sand. 1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* X. 493 A Regall Commission..beeing some-where obeyed, and other-where suspended.

c. *Somewhere else*, in some other place, elsewhere.

c 1500 *Communycacyon* (W. de W.) C ij, Man thou must alwaye suffre payne Here for thy synnes or somwhere elles. 1530 PALSGR. 823/1 Some where els, *quelque aultre part*. 1588 SHAKS. *Tit. A.* IV. iii. 40 She is so imploy'd,..with Ione in heauen, or some where else: So that [etc.]. 1611 COTGR., *Ailleurs*, elsewhere, somewhere else. 1737 *Genti. Mag.* VII. 603/2 We must therefore look some where else for the Cause of our present Uneasiness.

d. *Somewhere or another* or *other*.

1791 CHARLOTTE SMITH *Celestina* (ed. 2) I. 129 Here Daniel, prythee take and stow it somewhere or another. 1799 E. DU BOIS *Piece Family Biog.* I. 59, 'I have heard somewhere or another,' said he, 'that' [etc.]. 1852 C. W.

Hoskyns *Talpa* i. (1854) 2 Somewhere or other in England there is a flat bleak high-lying district, which [etc.].

2. To some (unspecified or unknown) place. Usually with the verb *go*.

c 1403 Clanvowe *Cuckoo & Night.* 112 Now, gode Cukkow ! go som-where away. *a* 1548 Hall *Chron., Edw. V*, 9 Is it not likely that she wyll send him somwhere out of the realme? 1590 Shaks. *Com. Err.* II. i. 5 Perhaps.. from the Mart he's somewhere gone to dinner. 1592 Kyd *Sp. Trag.* III. x, To..carry you obscurely some where els. 1720 De Foe *Capt. Singleton* (1906) 37 We were upon a voyage and no voyage, we were bound somewhere and nowhere. 1780 Warner in Jesse *Selwyn & Contemp.* (1844) IV. 359 Charles is gone out of town somewhere to-day.

† **3.** In some places ; here and there. *Obs. rare.*

1563 Nowell in *Lett. Lit. Men* (Camden) 20 The coopie ..was interlined and sumwhear blotted. 1578 Lyte *Dodoens* v. xxxiii. 593 The Turnep loueth an open place, it is sowen somwhere in vineyardes, as at Huygarden and the Countrie thereaboutes.

4. In some part or passage of a book, etc. ; in some work or other.

1634 Sir T. Herbert *Trav.* 74 The Bashaw, in this Itenerary somewhere spoken of. 1732 Berkeley *Alciphr.* II. § 23 A fable, I somewhere met with in the writings of a Swiss philosopher. 1780 *Mirror* No. 102, Lord Chesterfield says somewhere, that, to..act with spirit, is to..act foolishly. 1820 Byron *Juan* IV. cx, As some one somewhere sings about the sky.

5. a. At some time *about* or *in* (a certain specified year, date, etc.).

1839 *Penny Cycl.* XIII. 168/1 He is said to have been born somewhere about A. D. 40. 1859 Ruskin *Two Paths* iii. § 91 An old English cottage,..perhaps built somewhere in the Charleses' times. 1891 C. James *Rom. Rigmarole* iv. 32, I woke up out of my nap somewhere about five o'clock.

b. *Somewhere about*, approximately.

1846 Ryland in *Life & Corr. Foster* II. 343 He kept his room somewhere about two months. 1876 Tait *Rec. Adv. Phys. Sci.* vi. 157 The sun's radiation is..somewhere about thirty-fold that of the same area of the furnace of a locomotive.

B. *sb.* Some unspecified or indefinite place.

1647 Cowley *Mistr.* (1669) 22 Then down I laid my Head ; and for a while was Dead, And my freed Soul to a strange Somewhere fled. 1718 D'Urfey *Grecian Heroine* v. i, I would fain think now, But that my Spirits, with my Blood, are posting To their new some-where. 1786 Mrs. A. M. Bennett *Juvenile Indiscr.* I. 54 It was a somewhere, a home.

So **So·mewheres** *adv.* (*dial.* or *vulg.*)

1859 Bartlett *Dict. Amer.* (ed. 2) 428 A hundred dollars, or somewheres there along. 1883 Stevenson *Treas. Isl.* xxviii, I know you've got that ship safe somewheres.

Somewhile (sʌ·mhwəil), *adv.* Now *rare.* Forms: 2–3 sum wile, 3 sum(e) hwile, 4 sumwhyle, 4–6 -while ; 4–5 sumquile, -quyle, 5 -qwile ; 5 somwhyle, 7 -while ; 5 some wile, somewhyle, 5–7, 9 somewhile. [f. Some *a.*[1] + While *sb.* ; cf. WFlem. *somwijl.* In early use freq. written as two words.]

1. † **a.** At or in some former time ; erewhile ; formerly. *Obs.*

1154 *O.E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1137, Sume ieden on ælmes þe waren sum wile rice-men. *c* 1230 *Hali Meid.* 5 Syon was sum hwile iclepet þe hehe tur of Ierusalem. 13.. *K. Alis.* 1527 (W.), Ther was sum while, over us, A kyng that hette Neptanabus. 13.. *Gaw. & Gr. Knt.* 625 Hit is a syngne þat Salamon set sum-quyle. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 2994 Þan was an ymage within..Of Sexeres þat sum-quyle þat cite had to welde. 1591 Spenser *Ruins of Rome* 242 These .. Pallaces .. were shepheards cottages somewhile. 1654 H. L'Estrange *Chas. I* (1655) 65 That shell which was some-while the continent of so vast treasures of knowledge.

† **b.** *Somewhile since*, some time ago. *Obs.*

1652 Needham tr. *Selden's Mare Cl.* 115 Nor must wee let it pass, that somwhile since, there were two Constitutions pretended to in France.

c. *attrib.*, passing into *adj.* Former, sometime.

1860 Ainsworth *Ovingdean Grange* 11 Highly dangerous to the spiritual welfare of his somewhile flock. 1888 *N. & Q.* 7th Ser. VI. 19/1 Richard Doyle, somewhile illustrator of *Punch*.

† **2.** On a certain occasion in the past; once ; at one time. *Obs. rare.*

c 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 43 We findeð on þe holie boc, þat ure helende..ferde sumwile mid mede ouere water. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 4751 Þe caf he cast o corn sumquile In þe flum þat hait þe nile. *c* 1586 C'tess Pembroke *Ps.* xciv. viii, For sinne they somewhile smarted. 1631 Gouge *God's Arrows* III. § 88. 349 The souldiers that came from New-haven that was somwhile besieged, and after taken by the enemy.

3. At some (unspecified) time ; at one time or other ; at times, sometimes. Also † *at somewhile.*

c 1250 *Owl & Night.* 6 Þat playd wes..starc & strong, Sum hwile softe & lud among. 1390 Gower *Conf.* I. 367, I have herd sein..That thei som while here cause ladden Be merci. 1426 Lydg. *De Guil. Pilgr.* 11427 What ys the cause..That a swerd burnysshed cler, Somwhyle rusteth ? *c* 1456 Pecock *Bk. of Faith* (1909) 252 Peraventure he schal have nede at sumwhile. 1559 *Mirr. Mag.* (1563) A iv, To serue kings in al pointes men must sum while breke rules. 1560 Whitehorne *Arte Warre* 9 b, Some while it hapned, that in one self time there were manie Emperours. 1579 Spenser *Sheph. Cal.* May 126 Tho vnder colour of shepeheards, somewhile There crept in Wolues, ful of fraude and guile. 1628 Gaule *Pract. The.* (1629) 109 An vniuersall King does not onely some-while fore-goe, but some-what resemble the King Eternall. 1629 in Bradford *Plymouth Plant.* (1856) 246 These now sente..must, some while, be chargable to you & us. 1855 J. Nichol in *Mem.* (1896) iii. 130 The 'beautiful vision' with which all lives worth living have been somewhile brightened.

b. With correlative *somewhile* or † *other whiles.*

a 1240 *Lofsong* in *O. E. Hom.* I. 205 Sumehwile to pleiful, to drupi oðer hwiles. 13.. *Cursor M.* 7433 (Gött.), Sumquile [*v.r.* operwhile] wid harpe, sumquile wid saug. *c* 1400 *Pilgr. Sowle* (Caxton) I. xx. (1859) 26 How ofte haue I warned the byfore, Som whyle aperte, som whyle pryuely. 1575 Vautrollier *Luther on Ep. Galat.* 161 In whom is found continually, somewhile the time of the law, and somewhile the time of grace. 1607 Hieron *Wks.* I. 399 It is tearmed some while, a blessing themselues ; some while an encouraging themselues in a wicked purpose.

4. For some time.

1864 Pusey *Daniel* (1876) 302 His grandfather himself must have been somewhile dead.

So·mewhiles, *adv.* Now *dial.* or *arch.* Forms : 3 sumehwules, 6 sumwhiles, somwhyles, somwhiles, somewhyles, 6–7, 9 somewhiles. [f. as prec. with genitive or plural *-s*. Cf. WFlem. *somwijls*, Du. *somwijlen.*]

† **1.** At some former time ; formerly. *Obs.*[-1]

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 276 Bihold, holie men þet weren sumehwules, hwu heo uesten, & hwu heo wakeden.

2. On some occasion(s) ; sometimes.

Freq. in the latter half of the 16th c.

1528 Tindale *Obed. Chr. Man* 150 b, The very Gods them selves which sell their pardone so good chepe or some whiles geve them frely for glory sake. 1559 *Mirr. Mag.* (1563) A iij, We let hang the true man somwhyles to saue a thefe. 1594 Carew *Huarte's Exam. Wits* x. (1596) 144 The profession of which they haue made choice (though somwhiles vnworthy). 1626 Fenner *Hidden Manna* (1652) B iij, For the Understanding and Will are somewhiles like Simeon and Levi. 1681 R. L'Estrange *Tully's Offices* 131 Without need some whiles of any other Company. *c* 1863 S. S. Jones *Northumbld.*, etc. 129 There was yen o' them it [= that] somewhiles did nae make things sae smooth as they might have been. 1890 D. G. Mitchell *English Lands* II. iii. 107 Among other writers..who went somewhiles to these suppers..was James Howell. 1901 A. J. Davies *Athirt Downs* II. iv. 72 Takes a deal of following somewhiles, that it do.

b. With correlatives, esp. *somewhiles . . ., somewhiles*, = Sometimes 1 b.

(*a*) 1547 J. Harrison *Exhort. Scottes* c vj b, Britayne was not always..vnder one Kyng.., but was gouerned somwhiles by one, and somwhiles by mo. 1606 G. W[oodcocke] *Hist. Ivstine* IV. 21 The wind..sendeth foorth in many places, some-whiles flashes of fyre, other some-whiles againe most..dangerous vapors. 1612 Davies *Why Ireland*, etc. (1747) 16 Some whiles one prevailing,..somewhiles the other. (*b*) *a* 1553 Udall *Royster D.* I. i, Sometime Lewis Loytrer biddeth me come neere ; Somewhyles Watkin Waster maketh vs good cheere. 1560 Whitehorne *Arte Warre* 42 b, Some whiles thei fought with the enemies horses, an other while, thei rescued the fotmen. 1565 Allen *Defence Purg.* xv. 272 One while by the praysies of the doctors and antiquitye, and sumwhiles by thabasing of theime ageine.

† **3.** At some time *before. Obs.*[-1]

1657 W. Rand tr. *Gassendi's Life Peiresc* II. 254 Having some whiles before procured [an]..Edition of his Divine Poems.

Somewhither (sʌ·mhwiðəɹ), *adv.* Forms : 5–6 somwhether, 6 -whyther, 7– somewhither. [f. Some *a.*[1] + Whither *adv.*]

1. In some direction.

1398 Trevisa *Barth. De P. R.* III. xvii. (W. de W.) 61 The syghte is made by lynes that passyth not awaye forth ryght, but blenchyth somwhether asyde of the strayte waye. 1858 Carlyle *Fredk. Gt.* x. i. (1872) II. 575 Twilight, with here and there a transient spark falling somewhither in it. 1905 *Daily News* 2 May 6 But the time comes when the fashion must change somewhither.

2. To some place, = Somewhere *adv.* 2.

1530 Palsgr. 823/1 Somwhyther, *quelque part.* ? *c* 1560 *Trag. Rich. II* (1870) 40 Prethee sweete king letts ride somwhether and it be but to showe ourselues. 1588 Shaks. *Tit. A.* IV. i. 11 Some whether would she haue thee goe with her. *c* 1645 Tullie *Siege of Carlisle* (1840) 13 Bidding her convey the money somewhither. 1779 Forrest *Voy. N. Guinea* 290, I found several persons who..seemed to imagine me bound some whither. 1845 Carlyle *Cromwell* (1857) II. 71 The poor young King is much at a loss ;—must go somewhither. 1877 W. Black *Green Past.* xxxiv, Like ghosts waiting for Charon to take them somewhither.

† **b.** *Somewhither else*, to some other place ; elsewhere. *Obs.*

1623 in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* Ser. I. III. 125 [They] would faine hope that he was gone somewhither else then to Spaine. 1658 Earl Monm. tr. *Paruta's Wars Cyprus* 24 The latter ..endeavoured, that the Fleet might go some-whither else. 1700 Bp. Lloyd in Aubrey *Brief Lives* (1813) I. 102 We must think of removing you some whither else where you may have a subsistence.

† **So·mewho.** *Obs.*[-1] In 4 somwho. [f. Some *a.*[1] + Who *pron.*] Some one ; somebody.

1390 Gower *Conf.* I. 15 Ofte is sen that mochel slowthe ..Doth mochel harm, whan fyr is uppe, Bot if somwho the flamme stanche.

Somewhy (sʌ·mhwəi), *adv. rare.* [f. Some *a.*[1] + Why *adv.*] For some reason or reasons.

1858 *Athenæum* 1 May 555 A buxom, shrill, mean, trouble-some woman ; yet somehow and somewhy not utterly detestable. 1864 Browning *Dram. Pers.* Wks. 1896 I. 610/1 You learn What some one was somewhere, somewhen, somewhy.

Somewise (sʌ·mwəiz), *adv.* Now *arch.* Also 5 somwyse, 6 sumwise. [f. Some *a.*[1] : see -wise.] In some way or manner ; to some extent. In recent use with *in*.

c 1440 *Alph. Tales* 293 Becauce he wold somwyse be occupyed ilka day. 1596 Dalrymple tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* II. 105 To cause his subiectis lyue in peace with him, or sumwise slokne that hett hatred and Jnuie betuene thame.

a 1677 Barrow *Serm. Upright Walking* Wks. 1687 I. 60 That nothing can be really profitable..to us, which..doth not somewise conduce to our spiritual interest.

1848 D. G. Rossetti *Last Confession* Poems (1870) 67 The father's, brother's love—was changed, I think, in somewise. 1865 Swinburne *Chastelard* II. i, I thought I was..lying by my lord, and knew In somewise he was well awake.

Somir, obs. form of Summer.

Somital (sōu·mităl), *a. Zool.* [f. next.] Of or pertaining to a somite ; somitic.

1890 in *Cent. Dict.* s.v. *Metameric.*

Somite (sōu·məit). *Zool.* [f. Gr. *σῶμα* body, Soma [2] + -ite.] One or other of the more or less distinct segments into which the bodies of many animals are divided.

1869 Huxley *Introd. Classif. Anim.* 77 The head of a Crustacean, an Arachnid, a Myriapod, or an Insect is composed of six somites. 1875 C. C. Blake *Zool.* 281 The number of segments or somites in the body of insects never exceeds twenty. 1888 Rolleston & Jackson *Anim. Life* 142 The abdomen..is made up of a number of distinct segments or *somites*.

Somitic (somi·tik), *a. Zool.* [f. prec. + -ic.] Of or pertaining to, having the form or character of, a somite.

1888 Huxley & Martin *Pract. Biol.* 243 These septa are metamerically arranged, one for each somitic constriction. *Ibid.* 244 A series of somitic compartments.

† **So·mmler.** *Obs.* Chiefly *Sc.* Also 6 summeleir, symleir, somme-, somlier, sommler, somlar, semlar. [a. F. *sommelier*, f. *somme* pack.] A butler.

1543 *St. Papers Hen. VIII*, IX. 325 To gyve commaundement that your sommelier at Bordeaulx might be suffred to departe with such wynes as he had provided for Your Majestie. 1566 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* I. 451 Leonard Baillie, summeleir to oure Soveranis. 1583 *Excheq. Rolls Scot.* XXI. 563 Threttie tunnis of full Burdehous wyne..at the cheis and contentment of his hienes somleris.

Somlich : see Seemly *a.*

† **Sommage.** *Obs. rare.* [a. OF. *sommage* (med. L. *summ-, sumagium*), f. *somme* pack.] Baggage ; baggage-animals.

c 1500 *Melusine* 143 And he made to abyde in the valey all the sommage. *Ibid.* 277 The next day..desloged the vanward, and after the grete batayll, & the sommage & syn the ryergarde. 1502 tr. *Charter Forest* in Arnolde *Chron.* 80 b, For an horse beryng sommage [L. *sumagium*].

Somme, obs. f. Soam, Sum *sb.* and *v.* **Sommed,** obs. var. Summed *ppl. a.* **Sommer,** var. Somer *Obs.* ; obs. f. Summer *sb.* and *v.*

† **Somme·rse,** *v. Obs.* [f. It. *sommerso*, pa. pple. of *sommergere* Submerge *v.*] *trans.* To submerge, overflow.

1632 Lithgow *Trav.* I. 14 This second Sodome should be sommerssed by water. *Ibid.* VI. 255 Many Citties, Mansions, and Stations, haue beene sommerssed with water.

† **Sommier** [1]. *Obs. rare.* In 5 sommyer. [a. F. *sommier.*] A pack-horse ; = Somer 1.

1485 Caxton *Chas. Gt.* 128 They sawe passe by the castel xx sommyers laden wyth vytayl. *Ibid.* 159 That euery man trusse hys gheer vpon the sommyers.

† **Sommier** [2]. *Obs.* Also **summier.** [a. F. *sommier*, or alteration of *sommer* Summer *sb.*[2] after this.] A bearing-beam in a building.

1623 T. Goad *Dolef. Euen Song* 11 By the breaking asunder of a maine Sommier or Dormer of that floare. 1625 Lisle *Du Bartas, Noe* 181 Mounting here and there ..Into the esparsed pipes o' th' Sommier thorow-bored. 1631 Gouge *God's Arrows* IV. § 15. 399 The maine Summier which crossed the garret was ten inches square.

† **So·mmite.** *Min. Obs.* [f. Mt. *Somma* near Naples + -ite [1] 2 b.] Nephelite.

1805 R. Jameson *Min.* II. 565 Sommite...Its colour is greyish-white. 1823 W. Phillips *Min.* (ed. 3) 125 The Sommite usually occurs in grains, or in small regular hexahedral prisms. 1837 Dana *Min.* 291 Nepheline, *Spatum hexagonum*...Sommite.

Sommitie, obs. form of Summity.

Sommon, obs. form of Summon *v.*

Sommonce, Sommon(e)s, obs. ff. Summons *sb.*

Sommonicion, var. of Summonition.

Somn-, combining form of L. *somnus*, used in words based on L. *ambulāre* to walk ; the oldest of these in English use are *somnambulation, somnambulism*, and *somnambulist.* (For variant, and in some cases earlier, terms see Noct-.) **Somna·mbulance,** sleep-walking, somnambulism. **Somna·mbulant** *a.*, walking in sleep, somnambulic ; *sb.*, a somnambulist. **Somna·mbular** *a.*, of or pertaining to sleep-walking ; also *erron.*, connected with, of the nature of, sleep. **Somna·mbulary** *a.*, = prec. **Somna·mbulate** *v. intr.*, to walk during sleep ; *trans.*, to walk along (a place) while asleep ; hence *somna·mbulating* ppl. a. **Somna·mbula·tion** [mod.L. *somnambulatio*], the action or fact of walking in sleep. **Somna·mbulator,** = next. **Somna·mbule** [a. F. *somnambule* (1690), Sp. and Pg. *somn-*, Sp. *sonámbulo*, mod.L. *somnambulus, -ambulo*], a somnambulist. **Somna·mbulency,** sleep-walking, or a fit of this ; also *fig.* **Somna·mbulic** *a.*, of the nature of, pertaining to, etc., somnambulism ; walking during sleep ; hence **Somna·mbulically** *adv.* **Somna·mbulism** [F. *somnambulisme*, Sp. *-ismo*, mod.

L. *somnambulismus*], the fact or habit of walking about and performing other actions while asleep; sleep-walking. **Somna·mbulist,** one who walks, etc., while asleep; also *attrib.* **Somna·mbuli·stic** *a.*, somnambulic; hence **Somna·mbuli·stically** *adv.* **Somna·mbulize** *v. intr.*, to walk in sleep; *trans.*, to imagine during sleep-walking; also, to put into a sleep-walking state. **Somna·mbulous** *a.*, somnambulic (Dunglison, 1873).

1885 *Science* VI. 78 Committees were appointed on.. hypnotism, clairvoyance, and *somnambulance. 1905 *Daily News* 21 Jan. 6 His old habit or infirmity of somnambulance came back to him. 1843 Mrs. Carlyle *Lett. & Mem.* (1883) I. 231 Four such nights might have made a *somnambulant of a much stronger woman than me. 1866 Blackmore *Cradock Nowell* xlix, He was listless, passive, somnolent,—somnambulant. 1887 *Sat. Rev.* 15 Jan. 80 To walk in her sleep and to poison herself while in a somnambulant condition. 1830 Lytton *Paul Clifford* xvi. (1874) 193 The pair..mounted the stairs, arm-in-arm, in search of *somnambular accommodations. 1860 Mrs. Browning *Napoleon III in Italy* v, While the palpitating peaks break out Ecstatic from somnambular repose. 1862 Lytton *Str. Story* 14 An ardent believer of the reality of somnambular clairvoyance. 1827 Sutherland *Tales Pilgr.* 369, I had become a sleep-walker; but whither my *somnambulary adventures had conducted me, was a riddle I had yet to solve. 1833 Carlyle *Misc.* (1872) V. 127 This inarticulate age which slumbers and *somnambulates. 1840 — *Diamond Necklace* xiv, His Eminence again somnambulates the Promenade de la Rose. 1873 M. Collins *Squire Silchester* II. xiv. 178 The latter, sometimes overeating themselves, somnambulate. 1876 *Contemp. Rev.* June 126 A *somnambulating philosophy. 1794-6 E. Darwin *Zoon.* (1801) I. 325 Though in its greatest degree it has been called *somnambulation or sleep-walking, it is totally different from that sleep. 1803 Beddoes *Hygëia* ix. 130 The lady, whose reverie or somnambulation is described. 1862 G. Macdonald *D. Elginbrod* III. xvii, The next day she had a bad head-ache. This with her always followed somnambulation. 1822 Prichard *Dis. Nervous Syst.* I. 404 Hoffmann cites the case of a *somnambulator, which [etc.]. 1837 J. F. Cooper *Europe* II. 288 A woman, who was subject to the magnetic influence, or who was what is commonly called a **somnambule.* 1850 J. Braid *Observ. Trance* 30 The same discretion ought also to be extended to the modes of testing somnambules. 1877 Symonds *Renaiss. It.* iii. 147 Walking..like a somnambule sustained by an internal dream. 1829 I. Taylor *Enthusiasm* i. (1850) 10 The enthusiast passes through life in a sort of happy *somnambulency. 1865 Carlyle *Fredk. Gt.* XVIII. iii. (1872) VII. 138 For nations have their somnambulencies. 1841 C. Mackay *Pop. Delusions* III. 366 The patient was thrown into the *somnambulic state. 1862 G. Macdonald *D. Elginbrod* II. xxxi, A reproduction of some previous somnambulic experience. 1880 Huth *Life & Writ. Buckle* I. 34 He..woke the landlady whose somnambulic figure.. had just frightened him. 1887 *Sat. Rev.* 11 June 848 When he wakes, he finds that he has *somnambulically made a pen-and-ink sketch. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XVII. 534/2 Subject to that singular affection or disease called **Somnambulism* or sleep-walking. 1820 Shelley *Witch Atl.* lxxv, The soldiers..Walked out of quarters in somnambulism. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 93 In somnambulism ..the secondary consciousness takes control of the whole individual. 1794 Mary Wollstonecr. *Hist. View Fr. Rev.* I. 275 It was dangerous to awaken a *somnambulist on the brink of a precipice. 1837 Barham *Ingol. Leg.* Ser. I. *Spectre of Tappington* (1905) 23 Never again was Lieutenant Seaforth known to act the part of a somnambulist. 1856 Froude *Hist. Eng.* I. 308 A revolution had been effected in Europe by a somnambulist peasant girl. 1887 *Encycl. Brit.* XXII. 158/1 Somnambulists have been observed to write letters or reports,..and play upon musical instruments. 1840 Dickens *Old C. Shop* (1867) 304 A *somnambulistic leave-taking and walking in her sleep. 1845 E. Warburton *Crescent & Cross* I. 216 A black little naked urchin sits on the splinter-bar, continually goading his somnambulistic team. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 167 Very rarely the patient may be also somnambulistic. 1845 E. Warburton *Crescent & Cross* II. 289 The slaves glided about silently and *somnambulistically, or stood with folded arms watching for a sign. *a* 1893 Symonds in H. F. Brown *Life* (1895) I. 71, I did not doubt that my spirit could somnambulistically travel from the place. 1832 *Figaro in London* 3 March 52/1 When he *somnambulizes upon the stage. *c* 1850 Whittier *Tales & Sk., Mag. & Witch Folk* Prose Wks. 1889 I. 400 A 'wise woman' dreamed, or somnambulized, that a large sum of money..lay buried in the centre of the great swamp.

† **Somna·ical,** *a. Obs.*—[1] [irreg. f. L. *somnus* or *somnium.*] Pertaining to sleep or dreams.

1655 Emmot *Northern Blast* 2 Many were the raptures which I dreamed to have, but all was but a Fancy or Somnaical.

† **Somne,** *v.*[1] *Obs.* Forms: 1 somnigean, somnian, 3 somnien (somni), somnen, sompnen, some(n). [OE. *sǫmnian*, var. of *samnian*: see Sam *v.*[1] and cf. Sumne *v.*] *trans.* To assemble, gather, collect, unite.

a. c 825 *Vesp. Psalter* cxxviii. 7 Of ðæm ne ȝefylleð.. his sceat se ðe reopan somnað. *a* 1000 *Phœnix* 193 Þa swetestan [he] somnað & gædrað wyrta wynsume. *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 135 In halie chirche þer alle cristene men aȝen to beon isomned to gedere. *c* 1205 Lay. 4152 He somenede færd. *Ibid.* 30628 Þer heo gunnen somnien scipen uniuoȝen. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 186 Wult tu to-dealen þet God haueð isompned? *a* 1250 *Prov. Ælfred* 34 in *O. E. Misc.*, He ou wolde wyssye..hw ye myhte..eure saule somnen to criste.

β. c 1205 Lay. 5122 Þa weoren al þas leoden at Lundene isomed. *c* 1275 *Ibid.* 18631 Þo hii to-gadere weren alle hi-somed.

† **Somne,** *v.*[2] *Obs.* Forms: *a.* 3 someni, 3–4 someny, 4–5 somene, 5–6 somen. *β.* 4 somne. [Variant of *somony*, etc., Summon *v.*, with weakening and subsequent elision of the second vowel. See also Sompne *v.* and Sumne *v.*] *trans.* To summon.

a. 1297 R. Glouc. (Rolls) 3764 Is poer he let someny þat ysprad was wel wyde. *Ibid.* 10379 Þe pope..alle þe bissops of engelond let someni to rome. *c* 1380 Wyclif *Wks.* (1880) 357 If þei somene symple men for þis accusing. 1393 Langl. *P. Pl.* C. xxii. 214 Grace..consailede hym and conscience the comune to someny. 1401 *Pol. Poems* (Rolls) II. 89 ȝe..somen men and threten hem, bot if thai ȝif ȝou gode.

β. c 1300 *Leg. Rood* (1871) 38 Þo þe giwes i-somned were, hi hadde schoȝtliche gret fere. *c* 1380 Wyclif *Wks.* (1880) 250 þei ben hurlid & somnyd fro day to day, fro fer place to ferþere. 1387 Trevisa *Higden* (Rolls) III. 201 Pictagoras..somnede hym to fore iuges.

Hence † **So·mning** *vbl. sb. Obs.*

1480 Caxton *Chron. Eng.* ccxii. 108 b, To warne the parties defendauntz thurgh somnyng ayene. 1529–30 *Rec. St. Mary at Hill* 349 Paid to a Somoner for Somenyng of Mr hiltons, preist, ij d.

† **So·mner.** *Obs.* Forms: *a.* 4 som(e)nour, 5 somenor, 6 sommenor. *β.* 4 somenere, 4, 6–7 somner. [f. *somene* Somne *v.*[2], or a. AF. *somnour.*] An official summoner. Also *transf.*

a. c 1320 *Pol. Songs* (Camden) 15; ȝet ther sitteth somenours syexe other sevene. 1377 Langl. *P. Pl.* B. xv. 128 Sectoures and sudenes, somnoures and her lemmannes. 1474 *Cal. Anc. Rec. Dublin* (1889) 350 Walter Wotlon somenor. 1570 *Wills & Inv. N. C.* (Surtees 1838) 342 John Roddh'm the sommenr.

β. 1393 Langl. *P. Pl.* C. iii. 59 Sysours and somners, shereyues and here clerkes. *Ibid.* x. 263 Hure salue ys of *supersedeas* in someneres boxes. 1521 *Coventry Leet-Bk.* 672 At suche tymes as they shal-be Reasonably warnyd by the somner. 1563 *Homilies* II. *Of Repentance* III, When the hyghest somner of all, whiche is death, shall come. 1585 T. Washington tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* III. xviii. 105 [They] haue like vnto Somners, as many brybes as they can carry away. 1608 Middleton *Trich to catch Old One* II. i, They may do anything there, and fear neither beadle nor somner.

Somni-, combining form of L. *somnus* sleep, occurring in a number of Latin compounds and English adaptations or imitations of these, as *somnifer* somniferous, *somnificus* somnific, etc. (see below).

Somnial (sǫ·mniăl), *a. rare.* [a. older F. *somnial*, or ad. L. *somniāl-is*, f. *somni-um* dream.] Of or relating to dreams.

a 1693 *Urquhart's Rabelais* III. xiv. 120 To presage or foretell an evil..in matter of Somnial Divinations. 1833 Coleridge in *Lit. Rem.* (1838) III. 397 The Somnial magic superinduced on..the active powers of the mind.

† **So·mniate,** *v. Obs.*—[1] [f. ppl. stem of L. *somniāre*, f. *somnium* dream.]

1. *trans.* To dream (something).

1657 Tomlinson *Renou's Disp.* 344 Who being too credulous have committed to presse what the imperite somniated.

2. To stupefy, make drowsy.

1719 De Foe *Vision of Angelic World* 23 More or less doz'd or somniated with the oppression of Vapours..which occasion sleep.

† **Somnia·tion.** *Obs. rare.* [See prec. and -ation.] A sleep; a dream.

1597 A. M. tr. *Guillemeau's Fr. Chirurg.* † iij, Beinge resuscitated..out of a profounde..somniation. 1599 — tr. *Gabelhouer's Bk. Physicke* 49/2 That expelleth all phantasticalle somniationes.

So·mniative, *a. rare*—[1]. [See Somniate *v.* and -ative.] Relating to, or producing, dreams.

1827 Coleridge in *Lit. Rem.* (1839) IV. 422 A very rare ..conjunction of the somniative faculty..with the voluntary and other powers of the waking state.

† **So·mniatory,** *a. Obs. rare.* [See Somniate *v.* and -ory.] Of or pertaining to dreams or dreaming.

a 1693 *Urquhart's Rabelais* III. xiii, For the..unfolding of these somniatory [F. *somniales*] Vaticinations. *Ibid.*, I will to-morrow break my fast betimes after my somniatory exercitations [F. *sougeailles*].

Somniculo·sity. *rare*—[0]. [Cf. next and -ity.] 'Sleepiness, drowsiness' (Bailey, 1721).

Somni·culous, *a. rare.* [ad. L. *somniculōsus*, f. *somnus* sleep. Cf. obs. F. *somniculeux.*] a. Drowsy, sleepy. b. Inducing sleep.

1656 Blount *Glossogr.*, *Somniculous*, negligent, sleepy, drowzy, sluggish; also that makes drowzy or sleepy. 1819 L. Hunt *Indicator* No. 11 (1822) I. 84 Leaving the somniculous squire propped up in the saddle. 1820 *Ibid.* No. 54 (1822) II. 11 The plain is also full of all sorts of somniculous plants.

Somnifa·cient, *a.* and *sb.* [f. Somni- + pres. pple. of *facĕre* to make.] a. *adj.* Somnific. b. *sb.* A soporific. (*Cent. Dict.* 1891.)

† **Somni·ferie.** *Obs.*—[1] [Cf. next and -io.] A soporific.

1694 Salmon *Bate's Dispens.* (1713) 262/2 It is a most certain Somniferick and Sudorifick.

Somniferous (sǫmni·fĕrəs), *a.* [f. L. *somnifer* (f. *somni-* Somni- + *-ferre* to bring) + -ous. Cf. F. *somnifère*, Sp. and Pg. *somnifero*, It. *sonnifero.*]

1. Inducing sleep; soporific.

1602 Dekker *Satirom.* Wks. 1873 I. 255 Twas I that ministred to her chaste bloud, A true somniferous potion, which did steale Her thoughts to sleepe. 1633 Brome *Antipodes* II. iv, You slept most part o' th' journey hitherward, The aire was so somniferous. 1663 Boyle *Usef. Exp. Nat. Philos.* II. App. 345 A safe and moderately somniferous medicine in feavers. 1754 Dodsley *Agric.* III. 215 The scarlet poppy..Bows his somniferous head, inviting soon To peaceful slumber the disorder'd mind. 1799 Underwood *Dis. Childr.* (ed. 4) I. 360 If it follow any somniferous disease. 1837 Dickens *Pickw.* ii, The wine had exerted its somniferous influence. 1876 Harley *Royle's Mat. Med.* 764 The effects..of the other somniferous constituents of opium.

2. Somnolent, sleepy.

1798 in *Spirit Public Jrnls.* (1799) II. 400 A most somniferous Earl gave violent symptoms of animation. 1809 Irving *Knickerb.* (1861) 153 Those fat, somniferous, respectable burghers.

Hence **Somni·ferously** *adv.*

1836 *New Monthly Mag.* XLVI. 13 His translations..were somniferously dull. *a* 1852 Moore *Corn & Catholics* ix. Poet. Wks. (1872) 392 A row Of Poppies..Stand forth, somniferously flaming! 1865 E. C. Clayton *Cruel Fortune* II. 110 By degrees the heat, and the silence,..operated somniferously on Val.

† **Somni·fery.** *Obs.*—[1] [f. as prec. + -y.] A place of sleep.

1600 Tourneur *Transf. Metam.* (1878) 202 Unlock the rustie latch That leades into the cave's somniferie.

Somnific (sǫmni·fik), *a.* [ad. L. *somnificus*: see Somni- and -fic.] Causing sleep; somniferous.

1721 Bailey, *Somnifick*, causing sleep. 1727 A. Hamilton *New Acc. E. Indies* I. xxiii. 278 Others again take somnifick Medicines, and stand by the Pile till they fall on it while asleep. 1775 S. J. Pratt *Liberal Opin.* cxxxvi. (1783) IV. 254 A somnific fit again overtook him,..and, in the next instant, he was snoring in his chair. 1819 Moore *Diary* VIII. 189, I agree with you that a great part of 'Lara' is very prosy and somnific. 1834 Southey *Doctor* (1848) 3 The voice, the manner, the matter,..were all alike somnific.

Somnificator. *rare*—[1]. [Cf. prec. and -ator.] One who induces sleep.

1806 Southey *Let.* in *Life* (1850) III. 33 The rector, a humdrum somnificator.

So·mnifuge. *rare*—[1]. [See Somni- and -fuge.] A means of driving away sleep.

1890 Lowell *Lett.* (1894) II. x. 460 He [the nightingale] has a bad character among you as a *somnifuge.*

Somni·fugous, *a. rare*—[0]. [Cf. prec.] 'Driving away sleep' (Bailey, 1721).

† **So·mnifying,** *ppl. a. Obs. rare.* [See Somni- and -fy.] Inducing sleep.

1634 Brereton *Trav.* (Chetham Soc.) 40 He also discoursed of..hemlock, which he said was of a most venomous, somnifying, stupifying, and intoxicating quality. 1770 Chatterton in Masson *Life* II. iii. (1874) 163 This somnifying liquor had made her voice so like the sweet echo of Miss Hill's that..I should absolutely have imagined it hers.

Somniloqua·cious, *a. rare*—[0]. [See Somni- and Loquacious *a.*] 'Talking or apt to talk in sleep' (Bailey, vol. II, 1731). Also **Somni·loquence,** = *somniloquy.* **Somni·loquent** *a.*, talking in sleep. **Somni·loquism,** = *somniloquy.* **Somni·loquist,** one who speaks or talks while asleep. **Somni·loquize** *v. intr.*, to talk in (or as in) sleep. **Somni·loquous** *a.*, 'apt to talk in sleep' (Webster, 1847). **Somni·loquy,** the act or habit of speaking during sleep.

1841 W. C. Dendy *Philos. Mystery* 306 True *somniloquence is often preceded by a cataleptic state. *Ibid.* 304. 1804 Coleridge in *Blackw. Mag.* (1882) CXXXI. 123 The Ideatæ are but *somniloquent Ideotæ. 1821 — *Ibid.* X. 244 The *somniloquism of the prophetesses under the coercion of the Scandinavian enchanters. 1833 — in *Lit. Rem.* (1838) III. 397 How often the pen becomes the tongue of a systematic dream,—a *somniloquist! 1866 *Cornh. Mag.* Aug. 231 We may even be prompted to the action of the somnambulist, or somniloquist, without waking. *a* 1901 Myers *Human Personality* (1903) II. 6 The somnambulist, or rather the somniloquist. 1827 Coleridge in *Blackw. Mag.* (1882) CXXXI. 119 Is it not melancholy to hear a man like Steffens *somniloquise in such a mystifying cant? 1847 Webster, **Somniloquy*, the talking of one in a state of somnipathy. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VII. 757 Sleep-talking or somniloquy, and sleep-walking or somnambulism, are states in which the whole brain is not asleep.

Somni·pathy. [See Somni- and -pathy.] 'Sleep from sympathy, or by the process of mesmerism' (Webster, 1847). Also **Somni·pathist,** 'a person in a state of somnipathy' (*Ibid.*).

Somnite, obs. form of Sunnite.

Somni·volency. *rare*—[1]. [f. Somni- + *-volency*, ad. L. *-volentia* will, desire.] An intended soporific. Also **Somni·volent,** one who desires to sleep.

1748 Richardson *Clarissa* (1811) V. 345 If these somnivolencies (I hate the word opiates on this occasion) have turned her head. 1885 G. Meredith *Diana* xvi, The irrational repetition ploughed the minds of those unhappy somnivolents.

Somnolence (sǫ·mnŏlĕns). Also 4–6 sompnolence. [a. OF. *sompnolence* (mod.F. *somnolence*, = Sp. *somnolencia*, Pg. *so(m)nolencia*, It. *sonnolenza*), or ad. L. *somnolentia* (med.L. *sompnolencia*), f. *somnolentus*: see Somnolent *a.*] Inclination to sleep; sleepiness, drowsiness.

c 1386 Chaucer *Pars. T.* P 705 Than comth Sompnolence, þat is sluggy slombryng. 1390 Gower *Conf.* II. 94 That I no Sompnolence have used. *c* 1425 *Orolog. Sapient.* iii. in *Anglia* X. 349/32 Wolte þou be ouerlayde with sompnolence and ydelnesse. *c* 1475 *Partenay* 4616 Ho-so do slepe ..in sompnolence there, Alway perpetuall there abide shall he. 1542 Boorde *Dyetary* xix. (1870) 279 Onyons doth prouoke a man..to sompnolence.

1721 in Bailey. 1841 W. C. Dendy *Philos. Mystery* 367 Somnolence.—Trance.—Catalepsy. 1862 Merivale *Rom. Emp.* lxvi. (1865) VIII. 237 The dignified somnolence of an old-fashioned city like Athens. 1866 G. Macdonald *Ann. Q. Neighb.* ii, The people had dined and the usual somnolence had followed.

personif. 1390 Gower *Conf.* II. 92 Ther is yit on of compaignie, And he is cleped Sompnolence.

So·mnolency. [See prec. and -ency.] = prec.

1623 Cockeram I, *Somnolencie*, sleepinesse. 1727 in Bailey. 1810 Bentham *Packing* (1821) 141 Symptoms of somnolency begin to discover themselves. 1859 R. F. Burton *Centr. Afr.* in *Jrnl. Geogr. Soc.* XXIX. 285 It affects the head, prevents somnolency. 1875 H. C. Wood *Therap.* (1879) 218 Prolonged nausea, and retching, interrupted only by intervals of dreamy delirious somnolency.

Somnolent (sɒ·mnŏlĕnt), *a.* and *sb.* Also 5–6 **sompnolent.** [a. OF. *sompnolent* (mod.F. *somnolent*), or ad. L. *somnolentus* (med.L. *sompno-*), f. *somnus* sleep.]

1. Tending to cause sleepiness or drowsiness; inclining to sleep.

c 1475 *Partenay* 5376 Where it behouith to wacche nightes thre Without any sompnolent slepe to be. 1615 G. Sandys *Trav.* 292 Takes age in ease and sleepe content? Then Baiæ what more somnolent? 1824 Dibdin *Libr. Comp.* 531 An effect which we seek in vain in the somnolent pages of Lediard. 1855 Dickens *Dorrit* xix, He was again painfully aware of a somnolent tendency in Frederick. 1882 De Windt *Equator* 75 The noise made by the stream..had a very pleasant and somnolent effect.

b. Marked by sleepiness or slowness.

1812 *Q. Rev.* VIII. 64 The translator restricts his somnolent interrogation to Codrus. 1877 Wallace *Russia* v. 76 And I must do Anton the justice to say that he served me well in his own somnolent fashion.

2. Of persons: Inclined to sleep; heavy with sleep; drowsy. Also *transf.*

1547 Boorde *Brev. Health* xiii. (1557) B iij b, If the sycke person do vomit & be sompnouent [*sic*] or sleping. 1623 Cockeram I, *Somnolent*, sleepie. 1625 Jackson *Creed* v. xvi. Wks. IV. 118 Deriding the somnolent and sluggish gods of the Epicures. 1721 in Bailey. 1819 Scott *Leg. Montrose* v, I am no whit somnolent; I always hear best with my eyes shut. 1837 Barham *Ingol. Leg.* Ser. I. *Grey Dolphin* (1905) 45 Fasting and watching had made him more than usually somnolent. 1891 Hardy *Tess* (1900) 15/2 When they had passed the little town of Stourcastle, dumbly somnolent under its thick brown thatch.

b. *sb.* A somnolent or sleepy person; one affected with somnolence.

1841 W. C. Dendy *Philos. Mystery* 373 Like many other somnolents, she was morose and irritable, especially previous to the sleeping-fit.

Hence **So·mnolently** *adv.*, in a somnolent manner; sleepily.

1615 Jackson *Creed* IV. II. ix. Wks. III. 378, I know none but may have hope to escape so they will not..somnolently put off the evil day. 1827 *Blackw. Mag.* XXII. 384 Alcibron could not possibly have been more somnolently inclined. 1875 M. Collins *Sweet & Twenty* II. vi, An inquisitive investigative youth was Charles, who never threw away his time somnolently.

Somnole·scence. [See next and -ence.] The state or condition of being sleepy; inclination to sleep.

1831 *Fraser's Mag.* III. 102 The power of inducing the pleasurable sensation of somnolescence. 1898 E. Young *Kingdom of Yellow Robe* vi. 116 Mosquitoes whose buzzing and stinging are effective preventatives of somnolescence.

Somnolescent (sɒmnŏle·sĕnt), *a.* [f. Somnolent *a.*: see -escent.] Drowsy, sleepy; inert.

1845 Ford *Handbk. Spain* II. 725 Somnolescent over business and awake only to intrigue. 1886 *Encycl. Brit.* XX. 201/1 The animal..lies there in a somnolescent state for perhaps hours.

So·mnolism. *rare.* [f. Somnol-ent *a.* + -ism.] The state of being in a mesmeric sleep.

1849 Haddock *Somnolism & Psycheism* 19 Other persons of greater susceptibility..proceed quickly into a state of profound sleep,—or, as I propose to call it, Somnolism.

So·mnolize, *v. rare* −1. [f. as prec. + -ize.] *trans.* To make drowsy or sleepy.

1831 *Fraser's Mag.* III. 451 The same sort of palaver with which the universities have thought fit to somnolize us.

Somno·pathy. *rare* −0. = Somnipathy.

1851 Dunglison *Dict. Med. Sci.*, *Somnopathy*, somnambulism, magnetic.

† **Somnori·ferous,** *a. Obs.* [Erroneous form of Somniferous, after *soporiferous.*] Soporific.

1590 Barrough *Meth. Physick* I. xv. (1639) 24 Water wherein..poppy seed hath been sodden, or some somnoriferous compound. *Ibid.* II. x. 88 Sirupes of Poppy, and other somnoriferous medicines.

So **Somnori·fic** *a.*

1865 'Annie Thomas' *On Guard* ii, The first scene opened on a somnorific, sultry summer afternoon in London. 1880 G. A. Townsend *Tales Chesapeake* 196 The somnorific air of the Springs.

† **So·mnorine,** *a. Obs.*−1 [irreg. f. L. *somnus.*] Seen during sleep.

1637 Venner *Treat. of Tobacco* in *Via Recta* 347 By reason of the somnorine visions which this fume doth greatly occasion.

Somnour, variant of Somner *Obs.*

Somnunge, variant of Samening *Obs.*

‖ **So·mnus.** [L. *somnus* sleep, also personified as a divinity.] The god of sleep.

a 1599 Peele *Sir Clyomon* xxi. Wks. (Rtldg.) 522/2, I creep out of my drowsy den when Somnus hath supprest The head of every valiant heart. 1710 tr. *Quilletus' Callipædia* III. 144 But as she mourn'd, kind *Somnus* gently stole To her soft Eyes, and lull'd her sinking Soul.

Somod, var. Samed *adv. Obs.* **Somonce,** obs. f. Summons *sb.* **Somonde, Somone, Somoni, -ony,** obs. varr. Summon *v.* **Somoniter,** obs. var. Summonitor. **Somoron,** obs. f. Summer *v.* **Somoun, -own,** obs. ff. Summon *sb.* and *v.* **Somounce,** obs. f. Summons *sb.* **Sompe,** obs. f. Sump.

† **Sompnary.** *Obs.*−1 [ad. med.L. *sompniaria* (sc. *ars*), f. *sompnium*, L. *somnium* dream.] Divination by dreams; oneiromancy.

a 1470 H. Parker *Dives & Pauper* (W. de W.) I. xxxiv. 73/1 To make ony dyuynynge..by songuary or sompnarye.

† **Sompne,** *v. Obs.* Also 5 **sompny.** [Variant of Somne *v.*[2], with insertion of *p* as in *nempne* Nemn *v.*] *trans.* To summon.

1362 Langl. *P. Pl. A.* II. 142 Þus sysoures ben sompned þe false to serue. *c* 1380 Wyclif *Wks.* (1880) 151 He schal be sompned, ponyschid & cursed. *c* 1386 Chaucer *Friar's T.* 49 (Harl.), Withoute maundement, a lewed man He couthe sompne. 14.. *Lat.-Eng. Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 573 *Cito*, to sompny. 1471 in *10th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. V. 309 The seriaunt shal sompne ony suche att his house.

Hence † **So·mpning** *vbl. sb. Obs.*

c 1400 *Plowman's Tale* in *Pol. Poems* (Rolls) I. 330 To speake they shull not be so bold, For sompning to the consistorye. *c* 1400 *Brut* Prol. 1 Dioclician anon lete make a sompnyng. 1490–1 [see Sompnour].

† **Sompnour.** *Obs.* Also 5–6 **sompner(e.** [Variant of *somnour* Somner: cf. prec.] An official summoner.

a. 1377 Langl. *P. Pl.* B. III. 33 Sisoures and sompnoures, suche men hir preiseth. *c* 1386 Chaucer *Prol.* 543 Ther was ..A sompnour and a pardoner also. *c* 1400 *Plowman's Tale* in *Pol. Poems* (Rolls) I. 313 They taken to ferme her sompnours. 1490–1 *Rec. St. Mary at Hill* 164 Paide to William Iames, Sompnour, for sompnyng of iij tenauntes that owed monye to the chyrch, x d. 1555 W. Watreman *Fardle of Facions* II. xi. 256 Thei haue also certaine spiefaultes ordinarilye appointed (muche like to our Sompnours).

β. 14.. *Lat.-Eng. Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 573 *Citator*, a Sompnere. *c* 1500 *God Speed the Plough* (Skt.) 65 Than cometh the Sompner to haue som rente. *a* 1535 *Frere & Boy* 478 in Hazl. *E. P. P.* III. 80 Thus they departed in that tyde, The offycyall and the sompnere.

Sompter, obs. form of Sumpter.

Somptious, obs. form of Sumptuous.

† **Somredness.** *Obs.*−1 [Related to OE. *samrád* harmonious, united.] Concord, unity.

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 254 Nimeð nu uorbisne hu god is onnesse of heorte, & somrednesse of luue þet halt þe gode somed.

† **Somrune.** *Obs.*−1 [f. OE. *som-*, *sam-* together + *rún* Roun.] Council, consultation.

c 1205 Lay. 5479 Belin & Brenne beie to-sone nomen heom to ræde & to som rune.

Somun, Somyn, variants of Samen *adv. Obs.* **Somundare,** obs. form of Summoner. **Somyr(e,** obs. forms of Summer.

Son (sʌn), *sb.* Forms: *a.* 1 **sunu,** 1–2 **suna,** (1) 2–5 **sune,** 4 **sunn(e,** 4–5 **sun,** 8 *Sc.* **sin.** *β.* 3–8 **sone** (4 **zone**), 4–5 **soone,** 4, 6 **soon,** 6 **soonne**; 5 **soun(e**; 4–7 **sonne,** 4– **son** (6 *dial.* **zon,** *Sc.* **schon,** 7 **sonn**). [Common Teut.: OE. *sunu* (gen. *suna*), = OFris. *sunu*, *sune*, *sone* (EFris. *sûnû*, WFris. *soan*, NFris. *sen*, *sên*, etc.), MDu. *sone*, *zone* (Du. *zoon*), OS. *sunu* (MLG. *sone*, LG. *sone*, *sön*, *sän*, etc.), OHG. *sunu*, *sun* (MHG. *sune*, *sun*, *son*, G. *sohn*), ON. *sunr*, *sonr* (Icel. *sonur*, Norw. and Sw. *son*, Da. *søn*), Goth. *sunus*. Outside of the Teutonic languages similar forms appear in Lith. *sûnus*, OSlav. *synŭ* (Russ. сынъ), Skr. *sūnu* (Zend. *hunu*). The root *su-* is also that of Gr. *υἱός*.

The declension in OE. is variable through confusion of the different cases and the introduction of new forms, as gen. sing. *sunes*, nom. pl. *sunan*, gen. pl. *sunena*. From early ME. the usual possessive and plural forms are those in *-es* or *-s*.

Senses 2–7 represent for the most part Biblical uses of the word, examples of which occur freely in all the English versions of the Scriptures.]

1. A male child or person in relation to either or to both of his parents. Sometimes said of animals. See also Mother's son.

a. Beowulf 645 Oþ þæt..sunu Healfdenes secean wolde æfenræste. *c* 888 K. Ælfred *Boeth.* xxxviii. § 1 Þa wæs þær Apollines dohtor Iobes suna. 971 *Blickl. Hom.* 7 Đu cennest sunu þone þu nemnest Hælend. *c* 1100 *O. E. Chron.* an. 1052 (MS. D), His sunan wæron eorlas & þæs cynges dyrlingas. *c* 1122 *Ibid.* an. 1121 (Laud MS.), Seo wæs Willelme þes cynges sune..to wife forgyfan. *c* 1200 Ormin 488 And ta twa prestess wærenn Aaroness suness baþe. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 2175 Alle we ben on faderes sunen. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 796 Of þat ilk appel bitt þair suns tethe ar eggeid yitt. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 298 He had þre þryuen sunez & þay þre wyuez. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 6567 Se ye not the sun of youre sure kyng..turnyt away? 1559 *Mirr. Mag., O. Glendour* vi, How would we mocke the burden bearing mule If he would brag he wer an horses sunne. 1786 Burns *Halloween* xvi, Our Stibble-rig was Rab M'Graen...His Sin gat Eppie Sim wi' wean.

β. a 1275 *Prov. Ælfred* 574 in *O. E. Misc.* 134 Sone min swo leue, site me nu bisides. *c* 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 21 Edwyne, is sone, was king i-maud. 1340 *Ayenb.* 48 Ne uorzakeþ nenne ne uader ne broþer ne zone. 1387 Trevisa *Higden* (Rolls) II. 385 Dedalus wiþ his sone Icarus. *c* 1412 Hoccleve *De. Reg. Princ.* 2736 A man þat sone was To a conseil, was take in þis trespas. 1473 *Rental Bk. Cupar-Angus* (1879) I. 191 Thome Sowtar forsaid and his thre sonys. 1529 Cromwell in Merriman *Life & Lett.* (1902) I. 57, I gyue and bequethe to my saide Soon Gregorye A Bason. 1596 Bacon *Max. & Use Com. Law* II. (1635) 48 During the minority of his eldest sonn. 1681 Dryden *Abs. & Achit.* I. 32 Indulgent David view'd His Youthful Image in his Son renew'd. 1741–2 Gray *Agrip.* 67 If the son reign, the mother perishes. 1764 Goldsm. *Hist. Eng. in Lett.* (1772) IV. 39 Lord Colchester, son to the earl of Rivers. 1812 Southey *Let.* in *Life* (1850) III. 325 His name is Shelley, son to the member for Shoreham. 1857 Borrow *Rom. Rye* xxxix, Soliman..after his death befriended his young son. 1871 Smiles *Charac.* ii. (1876) 46 To inspire her sons' minds with elevating thoughts.

fig. 1781 Cowper *Heroism* 59 Famine, and pestilence, her first-born son.

b. In the phrase *son and heir.* Also *fig.*

1297 R. Glouc. (Rolls) 9607 In is warde he let do Henri is eldoste sone & is eir al so. 1338 R. Brunne *Chron.* (1810) 5 Sorow & site he made..For his sonne & heyre. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 666, I schal .. sothely sende to sare a son & an hayre. 1430–40 Lydg. *Bochas* I. viii, Of Phœbus .. Poetes write that he was sonne and heire. 1481 *Cov. Leet Bk.* 475 The son & heir of hym that nowe pretendeth to be kyng. 1576 in *Exchcq. Rolls Scotl.* XX. 372 Jhone Dromond,..quhe is schon and air to his fader Jhone Dromond. 1604 Dekker *Honest Wh.* I. v, As clean as your sons-and-heirs when they ha' spent all. 1833 Tennyson *Death Old Year* 31 To see him die..His son and heir doth ride post-haste.

c. = Son-in-law.

1533 *Test. Ebor.* (Surtees) VI. 38 My said sone Briane Tunstall. 1596 Shaks. *Tam. Shr.* v. ii. 78 *Bap.* Sonne, Ile be your halfe, Bianca comes.

2. *Theol.* The second person of the Trinity. (Cf. 4 a.)

c 825 *Vesp. Hymns* viii. 21 Bledsien we feder & sunu & ðone halgan gast. *a* 900 *Halsunge* in *Durh. Rit.* (Surtees) 114 Ic eow halsize on fæder naman, and on suna naman. *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 85 Þe feder and þe sune and þe halie gast. 1340 *Ayenb.* 12 Þe oþer article belongeþ to þe zone aze to his godhede. 1382 Wyclif I *John* ii. 24 3e shulen dwelle in the sone and the fadir. *c* 1420 [see God 5 d]. 1500–20 Dunbar *Poems* xliv. 29 That Sone is Lord, that Sone is King of kingis. 1548 *Bk. Com. Prayer, Athanas. Creed*, The Father is God, the Son is God. *a* 1628 F. Grevil in Farr *S. P. Eliz.* (1845) I. 108 We seeme more inwardly to knowe the Sonne. 1671 Milton *P. R.* II. 260 It was the hour of night, when thus the Son Commun'd in silent walk. 1728 Chambers *Cycl.* s.v. *Trinity*, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. 1817 Shelley *Satan broke Loose* 5 The Father and the Son Knew that strife was now begun. 1858 Whittier *Trinitas* 56 Father, and Son, and Holy Call; This day thou hast denied them all!

3. One who is regarded as, or takes the place of, a son. † Also *spec.* at Cambridge, one presented for a degree by the 'father' of his college. † *White son*: see White *a.*

c 825 *Vesp. Psalter* ii. 7 Dryhten cwæð to me: Sunu min ðu eard; to dege ic cende ðec. *c* 1000 Ælfric *Exod.* ii. 10 And heo hine lufode, & hæfde for sunu hyre. *c* 1000 *Ags. Gosp.* John xix. 26 Þa cwæþ he to his meder: Wif, her ys þin sunu. *c* 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 19 Alle men ben godes children, for þat he hem alle shop, and ches hem to sunes and to dohtres. *a* 1400 *Relig. Pieces fr. Thornton MS.* 87 His mercy..That..me, a wreche, his sun walde make. 1567 *Gude & Godlie B.* (S.T.S.) 33 Quhome God ressaifis to his sone and air, Him will he scurge. 1574 M. Stokys in Peacock *Stat. Cambr.* (1841) App. A. p. x, The Father..shall call fourthe his eldest sone, & animate hym to dispute. 1665 in Wordsworth *Univ. Life 18th C.* (1874) 412 Then the Father calleth up the Answerer, and showeth him his sons. 1718 Prior *Solomon* III. 889 Let Thy command Restore, great Father, Thy instructed son. 1799 Wordsw. *The Fountain* 62 And, Matthew, for thy children dead I'll be a son to thee! 1877 Baring-Gould *Lives Saints* Oct. 305 The child afterwards lived and died in God's service at Ripon, and was called the bishop's son.

b. Used as a term of affectionate address to a man or boy by an older person or by one in a superior (esp. ecclesiastical) relation.

c 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Matt. ix. 2 La sunu forgefen biðon.. ðe synno ðina. 1390 Gower *Conf.* I. 108 Mi Sone, in alle maner wise, Surquiderie is to despise. *c* 1400 tr. *Secreta Secret., Gov. Lordsh.* 49 Soune most glorious, most rightful Emperour. *c* 1440 *Alph. Tales* 196 þe bisshop sayd; 'Nay, son,..here hase bene a noder emperour of long tyme'. 1534 More *Comf. agst. Trib.* II. Wks. 1183/2 The Foxe..charged hym to..lye styll and sleepe lyke a good sonne. 1603 Shaks. *Meas. for M.* III. i. 161 *Duke.* Son, I haue ouer-heard what hath past between you & your sister. 1820 Scott *Monast.* xxv, 'Prove thy strength, my son, in the name of God!' said the preacher. *Ibid.* xxxii, 'Even now, if thou wilt,' said the Sub-Prior,..'come hither, my son, and kneel down'.

4. *Son of God*: a. Jesus Christ. (Cf. 2.) Also † *God's son.* Hence *Son-of-godship.*

c 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Luke xxii. 70 Cuoedon ða alle, ðu.. arð sunu godes. *c* 1200 Ormin 267 Till þatt Godess Sune Crist Himm shollde onn eorþe shæwenn. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 403 And 3et sal godes dere sune In 3ure kin in werlde wunen. *c* 1340 Hampole *Pr. Consc.* 5044 In..archaungel steven, And in þe son of Goddes awen beme. *c* 1400 *Rule St. Benet* (Prose) vii. 12 Als tapostil saide of godis sune. *a* 1529 Skelton *Prayer to Second Person* 2 O benygne Jesu,..The only Sonne of God by filiacion. 1588 Kyd *Housch. Phil.* 449 Wks. (1901) 250 For our worlde was dignified with the presence of the true Sonne of God. 1667 Milton *P. L.* III. 138 Beyond compare the Son of God was seen Most glorious. 1728 Chambers *Cycl.* s.v., The Son of God Created the World; the Son of God was Incarnate. 1817 W. Taylor in *Monthly Mag.* XLIV. 315 This claim to the son-of-godship renders the facts irrefragably certain. 1884 Addis & Arnold *Cath. Dict.* (1897) 900/1 The ideas..are applied to Christ, and

united to the doctrine of his generation as the Son of God before the world was made.

b. A divine being; an angel.

1382 WYCLIF *Job* xxxvii. 7 Who dide doun the corner ston of it, whan..alle the sones of God shulden ioȝen? 1560 BIBLE (Geneva) *Job* i. 6 *marg.*, Meaning, the Angels which are called the sonnes of God. 1599 DAVIES *Immort. Soul* VII. ix. (1714) 47 The Angels, Sons of God are nam'd. 1643 CARYL *Expos. Job* I. 37 The Angels..are the Sons of God by temporal Creation. 1671 MILTON *P. R.* I. 368, I came among the Sons of God, when he Gave up unto my hands Uzzean Job. 1784 COWPER *Task* V. 821.

c. One spiritually attached to God.

c 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* John i. 12 [He] ȝesalde ðæm mæht suno godes wosa. 1382 WYCLIF *Rom.* viii. 14 Sothli who euere ben lad by the spirit of God, thes ben the sones of God. 1643 CARYL *Expos. Job* I. 1887 That priviledge is assured to the Sons of God (1 John 3. 2) 'We shall see him as he is'. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* XI. 617 That sober Race of Men, whose lives Religious titl'd them the Sons of God.

5. *Son of man*: a. One of the human race; a mortal. Also pl. *sons of men.*

c 825 *Vesp. Psalter* viii. 5 Hwet is..sunu monnes forðon ðu neosas hine? *c* 1000 *Ags. Ps.* lxxix. 16 Si þin seo swiðre hand..ofer mannes sunu. *a* 1300 *E. E. Psalter* iv. 3 Mennes sones, towhen of hert vnmeke? 1382 WYCLIF *Isaiah* li. 12 Who [art] thou, that thou drede of a deadly man, and of the sone of man. 1562 WINȜET *Wks.* (S.T.S.) I. 14 Thow sone of man, the house of Israell is turnit into drosse. *c* 1639 SIR W. MURE *Ps.* cxlvi. 3 Wks. (S.T.S.) II. 226 Trust not in princes, in the sone Of man who can not save. 1671 MILTON *P. R.* I. 237 The Eternal King, who rules All Heaven and Earth, Angels and Sons of men. 1718 PRIOR *Solomon* I. 1 Ye sons of men, with just regard attend. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. I. xii, Deciduous Forests that die and are born again, continually, like the sons of men.

b. *spec.* Jesus Christ.

c 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Matt. viii. 20 Sunu..monnes ne hæfis huer heafud..ȝebeȝes. *c* 1275 *Passion our Lord* 172 in *O. E. Misc.* 42 Monnes sune bið bi-tauht in sunuulle honde. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 19439 And man sun þare se i stand, Iesus, bi godd on his righthand. 1382 WYCLIF *Matt.* viii. 20 But mannes sone hath nat wher he reste his heued. 1575 GASCOIGNE *Posies* (1907) 56 The sunne [is like] the Sonne of man. 1865 RUSKIN *Sesame* ii. § 95 Shall the stones cry out against you, that they are the only pillows where the Son of Man can lay His head? 1891 FARRAR *Darkn. & Dawn* lv, Then, with hushed voices,..they spoke of the Days of the Son of Man.

6. A male descendant *of* some person or representative *of* some race.

c 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Matt. i. 1 Boc cneurise haelendes cristes dauides sunu abrahames sunu. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xxxvi. (*Baptist*) 63 Mony sonnis of israel..to god, þar lord, turne sal he. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Sec. Nun's T.* 62 Though that I, unworthy sone of Eve, Be synful. *c* 1450 HOLLAND *Howlat* 577 The Dowglass..Wan wichtly of weir ..Fra sonnis of the Saxonis. 1599 SHAKS. *Much Ado* II. i. 66 Adams sonnes are my brethren. 1781 COWPER *Expost.* 124 Such..People and priest, the sons of Israel were. 1830 SCOTT *Monast.* Introd., They have no share in the promise made to the sons of Adam.

b. One who inherits the spirit, or displays the character, *of* some person, etc.

c 1380 WYCLIF *Wks.* (1880) 268 þerfore seiþ austyn..þat þou art his soone whoos werkis þou dost. 1382 — *Judges* xix. 22 Camen men of that cytee, the sones of Belial. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Pars. T.* ¶ 896 Thay were the sones of Belial, that is, the devel. 1508 DUNBAR *Poems* vii. 12 Welcum the soun of Mars of moste curage. 1594 KYD *Cornelia* IV. i. 167 Braue Romaine Souldiers, sterne-borne sons of Mars. 1672 DRYDEN *Defence* Wks. 1883 IV. 240 They can tell a story of Ben Jonson, and, perhaps, have had fancy enough to give a supper in the Apollo, that they might be called his sons. *a* 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew*, *Son of Apollo*, a Scholar...[*Son of*] *Venus*, a Lover of Women. [*Son of*] *Mercury*, a Wit. *a* 1700–1785 [see MARS 1].

c. A member or adherent of a religious body or order, or a follower of the founder of one.

1416 *Munim. de Melros* (Bann. Cl.) 539 Alle þe Sonnys of oure hali modir þe kirk. 1590 in *Cath. Rec. Soc. Publ.* V. 189 To be ruled by you as an obedient son of the Society. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* (1637) 174 Young knights..professe themselves Sonnes of the Church. 1630, 1695 [see MOTHER *sb.*1 2 c]. 1757 in Morris *Troubles Cath. Foref.* (1872) I. iv. 206 A son of Ignatius, a Priest of the Society of Jesus. 1851 PUGIN *Chancel Screens* 83 More than a hundred sons of S. Benedict.

7. a. One who is characterized by the presence, possession, influence, use, etc., *of* some quality or thing.

c 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Luke x. 6 And ȝif ðer sie sunu sibbes, wunað ofer hia sibb iuera. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Pars. T.* ¶ 312 Forther ouer, it maketh hym þat whilom was a son of Ire to be son of grace. *Ibid.* ¶ 335 Therfore be we alle born sones of wratthe and of dampnacion perdurable. 1596 SHAKS. *1 Hen. IV*, II. iv. 191 They are villaines, and the sonnes of darknesse. 1604 E. G[RIMSTONE] *D'Acosta's Hist. Indies* v. i. 329 Amongst all the sonnes of pride, he is the king. 1648 PRYNNE *Plea for Lords* 5 They are the Sonnes of Conquest introduced by the Conquerour. 1700 T. BROWN tr. *Fresny's Amusem.* 42 Certain Sons of Parchment, call'd Solicitors and Barristers. 1748 JOHNSON *Van. Hum. Wishes* 250 The fierce Croatian, and the wild Hussar, With all the sons of ravage crowd the war. 1770 J. ADAMS *Diary* 1 July, Wks. 1850 II. 243 Came home and took a pipe after supper with landlord, who is a staunch, zealous son of liberty. 1803 VISCT. STRANGFORD *Poems of Camoens* Notes (1810) 127 Locks of auburn, and eyes of blue, have ever been dear to the sons of song. 1872 DE VERE *Americanisms* 313 *Sons of wax* is neither an uncommon nor an uncomplimentary name for them [boot and shoe makers].

b. A person regarded as the product or offspring *of* a certain country or place.

Son of the soil: see SOIL *sb.*1 5 b.

1595 SHAKS. *John* v. ii. 25 We, the sonnes and children of this Isle. 1628 MILTON *Vac. Exerc.* 91 Whether thou be the Son, Of utmost Tweed, or Oose, or gulphie Dun. 1667 — *P. L.* II. 692 Art thou hee, Who..Drew after him the third part of Heav'ns Sons? 1746 FRANCIS tr. *Horace, Ep.* I. i. 75 Ye Sons of Rome, let Money first be sought. 1764 GOLDSM. *Trav.* 112 Could Nature's bounty satisfy the breast, The sons of Italy were surely blest. 1807 P. GASS *Jrnl.* 235 These good hearted, hospitable..sons of the west. 1842 BORROW *Bible in Spain* xli, They have taught him their language, which he already speaks as well as if he were a son of the prison. 1871 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* (1876) IV. 55 The foreign spoiler..insensibly changed into the Son of the soil, into an Englishman.

transf. 1712 BLACKMORE *Creation* VI. 272 See, her tall Sons, the Cedar, Oak, and Pine, The fragrant Myrtle, and the juicy Vine.

c. In miscellaneous fig. uses.

1617 FLETCHER *Valentinian* v. ii. *song*, Easie, sweet,.. thou son of night, Pass by his troubled senses. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. VI. i, As an actually existing Son of Time, look..at what the Time did bring. 1872 MORLEY *Voltaire* (1886) 3 Man, who is a worm, and the son of a worm.

d. In terms of abuse or contempt.

See DUNGHILL *sb.* 2, GUN *sb.* 6 c, *sea-cook* SEA *sb.* 23, SHOEMAKER, WHORE.

8. a. *Son-before-the-father*, a name given to various plants, as the willow-herb, meadow-saffron, coltsfoot, etc., on account of the flowers appearing before the leaves or because of some other peculiarity.

See Britten & Holland *Dict. Engl. Plant-names* 442.

1578 LYTE *Dodoens* I. li. 74 The second [= red willow herb] is called of some..*Filius ante patrem*, that is to say, the sonne before the father. 1597 GERARDE *Herbal* I. lxxxii. 131 The Latins thought this a fit name for it *Filius ante Patrem*: and we accordingly may call it, the Sonne before the Father. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* II. 65/1 The *Son before the Father*, so called of some Herbalists. 1825 JAMIESON *Suppl.*, *Son-afore-the-father*, Common Coltsfoot. 1869 *N. & Q.* 4th Ser. III. 35/1. *Ibid.* 91/1.

b. *Son-of-the-sun*, the frigate-bird.

1895 LYDEKKER *Roy. Nat. Hist.* IV. 287 The frigate-bird, which has received the title of the Son-of-the-sun, is one of the most swift and active of all pelagic birds.

9. *attrib.*, as *son-spouse*, *-worship*.

1850 THACKERAY *Pendennis* XXXVI, Son-worship amongst mothers. 1897 *Q. Rev.* July 69 The Great Goddess of Asia, attended by her mystic Son-spouse.

Son, obs. form of SOUND *sb.*, SUN *sb.*

Son, *v.* *rare.* Also 3 **sunen**. [f. the sb.]

†1. *intr.* To conceive a son. *Obs.*

c 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 981 And seide ȝhe sulde sunen wel And timen, and clepen it [I]smael.

2. With *it*: To act or behave as a son.

1731 FIELDING *Covent Gard. Trag.* Proleg. Wks. 1882 IX. 170 If I mistake not, in the scene immediately preceding, Bilkum and she have mothered and soned it several times.

†**So·nable**, *a.* *Obs.*–° [ad. L. *sonābilis* (Ovid), f. *sonāre* to sound.] (See quots.)

1623 COCKERAM I, *Sonable*, sounding shrill. *1727* BAILEY (vol. II), *Sonable*, that will easily sound.

†**So·nage.** *Obs.*–1 In 7 **sonnage.** [f. SON *sb.* + -AGE.] The status of a son; sonship.

1605 BROUGHTON *Corrupt. Handl. Relig.* 51 Thus Kimchi ..noteth the Scriptures phrase..for sonnage in Kingdome.

Sonance (sōu·nănṣ). [f. L. *son-āre* to sound + -ANCE.] Sound; the quality of sounding.

1599 SHAKS. *Hen. V*, IV. ii. 35 Let the Trumpets sound The Tucket Sonuance [*sic*], and the Note to mount. 1608 HEYWOOD *Lucrece* (1638) 178 If he chance to endure our tongues so much, As but to heare their sonance.

1859 L. F. SIMPSON *Handbk. Dining* iv. 57 When a key-note is struck, a practised ear discerns one or more sonances. 1892 G. HAKE *Mem. & Yrs.* 220 He did not look to musical sonance in his metre and his choice of words.

Sonancy (sōu·nănsi). [f. as prec. + -ANCY.] The quality of being sonant.

1875 WHITNEY *Life Lang.* iv. 59 A column of air emitted by the lungs, impressed with sonancy and variety of pitch by the larynx. 1884 *Amer. Ann. Deaf & Dumb* Oct. 249 The sonants 'soft', or 'flat', or 'weak', especially when the element of sonancy is suppressed.

Sonant (sōu·nănt), *a.* and *sb.* [ad. L. *sonant-*, *sonans*, pres. pple. of *sonāre* to sound.]

A. *adj.* Uttered with voice or vocal sound; voiced.

1846 M. WILLIAMS *Sanscr. Gram.* 14 Final *a* is changed to *o* before all sonant consonants. 1875 WHITNEY *Life Lang.* iv. 57 The conversion of a surd into its corresponding sonant sound. 1894 *Nation* LIX. 180/3 Surd explosive sounds are largely in excess of sonant expletives.

B. *sb.* A sonant articulation or letter.

1875 WHITNEY *Life Lang.* iv. 46 We have changed the first þ into a different but closely kindred sound, its corresponding sonant *b*. 1880 *Athenæum* 2 Oct. 431/2 Why he should find it necessary to turn initial surd consonants wholesale into sonants, it is impossible to say.

Hence **Sona·ntic** *a.*, of a sonant character; **So·nantizing** *ppl. a.*, converting into a sonant.

1879 WHITNEY *Sanskr. Gram.* 37 Vowels and semivowels and nasals exercise a sonantizing influence. 1892 *Classical Rev.* May 189/2 The sonantic function of the..nasals.

Sonata (sonā·tă). [It., fem. pa. pple. of *sonare* to sound. Cf. F. *sonate.*]

1. †a. A musical composition for instruments as opposed to one for voices (a *cantata*). *Obs.*

b. An instrumental piece of music, usually for the pianoforte, in several (commonly three or four) movements. *Double sonata* (see quot. 1880).

1694 PURCELL *Playford's Skill Music* (ed. 12) 116 But if you Compose Sonata's, there one Treble has as much Predominancy as the other. 1713 *Guardian* No. 67, He has made use of Italian Tunes and Sonatas for promoting the Protestant Interest. 1766 ENTICK *London* IV. 447 Several ..songs are performed, with sonatas or concertos between each. 1801 BUSBY *Dict. Mus.* s.v., The Sonata, of whatever kind, generally opens with an Adagio; and..concludes with an Allegro, or a Presto. 1848 DICKENS *Dombey* liii, I have..gone accurately through the whole of Beethoven's Sonata in B. 1880 STAINER & BARRETT *Dict. Mus. Terms*, *Double sonata*, a sonata for two solo instruments, as pianoforte and violin, or two pianofortes.

transf. 1869 *Routledge's Ev. Boy's Ann.* 469 Morton had recommenced another sonata on his nasal organ.

2. Without article: The class of music represented by sonatas.

1883 *Grove's Dict. Music* III. 558/2 The domain of Sonata was for a long while almost monopolised by violinists and writers for the violin.

3. *attrib.*, as *sonata face, form, kind.*

1703 FARQUHAR *Inconstant* II. ii, I see you have a singing face; a heavy dull sonata face. 1873 H. C. BANISTER *Music* 209 In Concertos .. the Sonata form is extended. 1874 OUSELEY *Musical Form* 54 The modern binary form is often but inaccurately styled 'the sonata form'. 1883 *Grove's Dict. Music* III. 554/1 Abstract instrumental music of the Sonata kind.

Hence **Sona·tical** *a.* *rare*–1.

1797 *Monthly Mag.* III. 227 The symphony of the present day is perfectly sonatical.

Sonatina (sōunătī·nă). [It., dim. of SONATA.] A short, simple form of sonata.

[1724 *Short Explic. For. Wds. in Mus. Bks.* 75 *Suonatina*, a Little, Short, Plain, or Easy Sonata.] 1801 BUSBY *Dict. Mus.*, *Sonatina*, a short sonata. 1869 *Pall Mall G.* 1 Oct. 12 Three sonatinas for the pianoforte by Herr Carl Reinecke. 1883 *Grove's Dict. Music* III. 583 Sonatinas form one of the least satisfactory groups of musical products.

So **So·natine.** [Cf. F. *sonatine.*]

1875 OUSELEY *Musical Form* v. 38 In the overtures of Italian operas, and in the first movements of short easy sonatines.

Sonation (sonā·ʃən). *rare.* [f. L. *son-āre* to sound (see -ATION), or ad. med.L. *sonātio* (Albertus Magnus).] The action of sounding; the faculty of producing sound.

1655 STANLEY *Hist. Philos.* (1687) 382/1 The act of the object, and the act of the sense it self, as Sonation and Audition, are really the same. 1846 SIR W. HAMILTON *Reid's Wks.* Note D, 828 The actual hearing and the actual sounding...Of these the one may be called audition, the other sonation.

Sonce, Soncy, variants of Sc. SONSE, SONSY.

Sond, var. *shond* SHAND *sb.*; obs. f. SOUND *a.*

Sond(e, obs. forms of SAND *sb.*1 and *sb.*2

Sonda(we, -day(e, obs. forms of SUNDAY.

Sonder, obs. f. *sooner* (SOON *adv.*), and SUNDER.

Sonder-cloud. ? *Obs.* [app. f. G. *sonder* separate.] A cirro-cumulus cloud.

1827 T. FORSTER *Encycl. Nat. Phenomena* 13 Cirrocumulus or Sondercloud is a congeries of small roundish little clouds in close horizontal apposition. 1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* I. 246 Why the heap should be called the *stacken-cloud*,..the curled heap the *sonder-cloud*,..is by no means obvious. 1862 *Chambers's Encycl.* III. 86/1.

Sondere man: see SANDESMAN *Obs.*

Sonderlypes, var. of SUNDERLEPES *adv. Obs.*

Sondery, obs. form of SUNDRY.

Sondesman, variant of SANDESMAN *Obs.*

Sondir(e, Sondre, obs. forms of SUNDER.

Sondrey, -rie, -ry, obs. forms of SUNDRY.

†**Sone.** *Obs.*–1 [ad. L. *sonus.*] Sound.

1616 J. LANE *Contn. Sqr.'s T.* IV. p. 45 *note*, Thence bore vp mongst the spheares of musickes tones, whence are derived all harmonious sones:

Sone, var. SOIGN *v.*; obs. var. or f. SON, SOON, SOUND, SUN. **Sone(n)day**, obs. forms of SUNDAY.

Sonerila (sŏnĕrī·lă). *Bot.* [ad. Javanese *soneri-la.*] A genus of Eastern plants; a variety or plant belonging to this genus.

1846 LINDLEY *Veget. Kingd.* 732 The Memecylons are ribless, and so is Sonerila. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1072/2. 1880 C. R. MARKHAM *Peruv. Bark* 302 The *Osbeckias* and *Sonerilas* represent the melastomaceous plants. 1882 *Garden* 18 Nov. 442/1 The freely produced and really handsome flowers alone render Sonerilas worthy of a place in gardens.

†**Sonet.** *Obs. rare.* [a. OF. *sonet* (*sonnet*), = Prov. *sonet*, f. *son* sound.] Song, melody, music. Also *attrib.*

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 1516 Per was rynging on ryȝt of ryche metalles,..Clatering of conacles þat kesten þo burdes, As sonet out of sauteray songe als myry. *c* 1440 *Gesta Rom.* xvi. 55 (Harl. MS.), A nyghtingale sat vpon a tre, & made a passing swete sonet-song.

Sonet, Sonetteer, obs. forms of SONNET(TEER.

‖ **Sone·tto.** *Obs.*–1 [It. *sonetto.*] = SONNET.

1589 GREENE *Menaphon* (Arb.) 89 Thus Gentlemen haue you heard my verdite in this Sonetto.

Song (sŏŋ), *sb.* Forms: *α.* 1 **sanc**, 1– (latterly *Sc.* and *north. dial.*) **sang** (4 **zang**), 4–5 **sange**. *β.* 1– **song**, 3–6 **songe** (4 **zonge**), 6–7 **songue**. [Common Teut.: OE. *sang*, *sŋg*, = OFris. *sang*, *song* (WFris. *sang*, EFris. *song*, NFris. *sõng*), MDu. *sanc*, *zanc*, etc. (Du. *zang*), OS. (MLG, LG.) *sang*, OHG. *sanc*, *sang* (G. *sang*), ON. *sǫngr*, *sǫngv-* (Icel. *söngur*, Norw. *song*, Sw. *sång*, Da.

sang), Goth. *saggws* :—OTeut. *sangwaz*, f. the pret. stem of *singwan* SING *v.*¹]

1. The act or art of singing; the result or effect of this, vocal music; that which is sung (in general or collective sense); occas., poetry.

See also PLAIN-SONG.

a. Beowulf 1063 Þær wæs sang & swez samod ætgædere fore Healfdenes hildewisan. *c* 888 K. ÆLFRED *Boeth.* xxiv. § 1 Þa he þa þis leoð asungen hæfde, þa forlet he þone sang. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 1030 Þar sune es soft and suet sang. 1340 *Ayenb.* 60 Þe dyeules noriches þet..doþ ham slepe ine hare zenne be hare uayre zang. *c* 1400 *Laud Troy Bk.* 18127 Thei halpe hit in with mochel sang. *c* 1450 HOLLAND *Howlat* 943 Thar with dame Natur has to the hevin..Ascendit sone..with solace and sang. 1786 BURNS *Twa Dogs* 27 After some dog in Highland sang.

β. a 900 CYNEWULF *Crist* 1649 Dær is engla song, eadiga blis. *c* 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Luke xv. 25 Miððy..[he] ȝeneolecde to huse, ȝeherde huislung & þæt song. *c* 1205 LAY. 30617 Þer wes blisse & muche song. *c* 1275 *Moral Ode* 347 in *O. E. Misc.*, Þer is alre Murehþe mest myd englene songe. *c* 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 4025 Of song & of mynstrecye Alle men gaf hym þe maystrie. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 464/2 Songe, *cantus. Ibid.*, Songe, of a manne a-lone, *monodia.* 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 7 b, They shall..here theyr songe & melody. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VIII*, 214 b, And in the toppe was mervailous swete armony both of song and instrument. 1577–87 HOLINSHED *Chron.* I. 122/2 He..went about in Mercia to teach song. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* III. 29 Smit with the love of sacred song. *Ibid.* IX. 25 This Subject for Heroic Song Pleas'd me. 1791 COWPER *Judgm. Poets* 17 To poets of renown in song, The nymphs referr'd the cause. 1808 SCOTT *Marm.* I. Introd. 271 The mightiest chiefs of British song Scorn'd not such legends to prolong. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* i. I. 30 As eloquence exists before syntax, and song before prosody. 1878 *Masque Poets* 11 Sing! Sing of what? The world is full of song!

2. A metrical composition adapted for singing, esp. one in rime and having a regular verse-form; occas., a poem.

a. c 897 K. ÆLFRED tr. *Gregory's Past. C.* 409 Ða singað ðone sang ðe nan mon elles singan ne mæg. 971 *Blickl. Hom.* 45 Þa þe on heofenum syndon, hi þingiaþ for þa þe þyssum sange fylȝeaþ. *a* 1200 *Vices & Virtues* 15 Ða aingles of heuene..sunge ðane derewurðe sang, Gloria in exselsis deo. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 23 Sanges sere of selcuth rime, Inglis, frankys, and latine. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Reeve's T.* 250 Herdtow euere slyk a sang er now? *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 3474 Why fare ye thus now, With .. sanges of myrthe. *c* 1440 *York Myst.* XX. 43 Of sorowes sere schal be my sang. 1533 GAU *Richt Vay* 16 Thay that prouokis ony ewil desir ..with sangis or wordis or foul takine. 1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* I. 74 To sing sangs of joy and blythnes. 17.. RAMSAY *Address to Town Council* 6 Sweet Edie's funeral-sang. 1785 BURNS *1st Ep. to J. Lapraik* iii, There was ae sang, amang the rest, Aboon them a' it pleas'd me best.

β. c 825 *Vesp. Psalter* xxxii. 3 Singað him song neowne. *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 63 Godes songes beoð alle gode; to þere saule heo senden fode. *c* 1205 LAY. 7005 He cuðen al þeos songes, & þat gleo of ilcche londe. *a* 1250 *Owl & Night.* 722 Vor-þi me singþ in holi chirche, An clerkes ginneþ songes wirche. *c* 1320 *Sir Tristr.* 2654 Of ysonde he made a song. 1340 *Ayenb.* 68 Þe holi gost..makeþ his ychosene zinge ine hare herten þe zuete zonges of heuene. *c* 1425 *Cast. Persev.* 2336 in *Macro Plays* 147, iij mens songys to syngyn lowde. 1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* X. xxxi. 464 The harper had songe his songe to the ende. 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 238 b, Dyverse Songes beesydes accustomed in churches doe instructe us of the benefyte of Chryst. 1598 BARNFIELD *Pecunia* iii, And add some Musique to a merry Songue. 1649 F. ROBERTS *Clavis Bibl.* 384 Songs being choice succinct pieces gratefull to the eare, helpfull to the memory and delightful to the heart. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* I. 13 My adventrous Song. *Ibid.* III. 413 Thy Name Shall be the copious matter of my Song. 1718 *Free-thinker* No. 69. 100 Much of the same Nature with our Song of 'Britons strike Home' &c. 1776 GIBBON *Decl. & F.* x. I. 244 On the faith of ancient songs, the uncertain ..memorials of barbarians. 1820 SHELLEY *To a Skylark* 90 Our sweetest songs are those that tell of saddest thought. 1878 TRELAWNY *Records Shelley*, etc. ix. 109 Inspiring it towards songs and other poetry.

b. *The Song of Solomon, Song of Songs*, one of the books of the Old Testament.

1382 WYCLIF *Song Sol.* (heading), Heer gynneth the booc that is clepid Songus [*v.r.* Song] of Songis. 1568 *Bishop's Bible* (headline), The songue of Solomon. 1579 FULKE *Heskins' Parl.* 7 He nameth..the book of Psalmes,..and the Song of Salomon. 1611 BIBLE *Song Sol.* i. 1 The song of songs, which is Solomons. *Ibid.* (heading), Solomons song. 1781 WARTON *Hist. Eng. Poetry* III. xxxvi. 317 There were numerous versions of Solomon's Song before the year 1600. 1803 GOOD (*title*), Song of Songs: or, Sacred Idyls. Translated from The Original Hebrew. 1856 S. DAVIDSON *Bibl. Criticism* ii. 19 The song of Deborah exhibits such [dialectal] appearances. So does the Song of Solomon.

c. *Naut.* (See quot.)

1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.* 638 *Song*, the call of soundings by the leadsman in the channels.

d. *Mus.* A musical setting or composition adapted for singing or suggestive of a song.

1875 STAINER & BARRETT *Dict. Mus. Terms* s.v., The second subject of a sonata is sometimes called the 'Song'. 1883 *Grove's Dict. Mus.* III. 368/1 The Song, as we know it in his [Schubert's] hands,..set to no simple Volkslieder, but to long complex poems,..—such songs were his and his alone.

e. *transf.* A sound as of singing.

1822 SHELLEY *Triumph Life* 463 That falling stream's Lethean song. 1877 *Daily News* 3 Nov. 6 New troops without a military history, who have never heard the song of an enemy's bullets. 1895 SNAITH *Mistr. Marvin* xii, The song of metal filled the room.

3. The musical utterance of certain birds.

In OE. also used of the cry of the sea-gull and eagle.

a 1000 *Boeth. Metr.* xiii. 50 Fuȝelas..stunað eal geador welwinsum sanc. *c* 1200 ORMIN 7931 Wop wass uss bitacnedd wel þurrh cullfre & turrtle babe; Forr þe3re sang iss lic wibþ wop. *a* 1250 *Owl & Night.* 221 Þu miht mid þine songe afere Alle þat hereþ þine ibere. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Manciple's T.* 201 To the crowe he stert,..And made him blak, and raft him al his song. 1484 CAXTON *Fables of Æsop* IV. iv, The goddes..haue gyuen..to the nyghtyngale fayr & playsaunt songe. 1551 T. WILSON *Logike* (1580) 80 Self willed folke..vse ofte the Cuckowes song. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* II. vi. 13 No bird, but did her shrill notes sweetly sing; No song but did containe a louely dit. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* V. 41 The night-warbling Bird, that now awake Tunes sweetest his love-labor'd song. 1725 *Fam. Dict.* s.v. *Canary-Bird*, To make a right choice of this Bird, and to know when he has a good Song. 1773 *Phil. Trans.* LXIII. 290 What is called the song of the Canary bird. 1816 TUCKEY *Narr. Exped. R. Zaire* i. (1818) 31 A very small warbler, the only one that appeared to have any song. 1877 JEFFERIES *Gamekeeper at H.* vii. (1890) 169 All the birds whose song makes them valuable.

4. In various transf. or fig. uses.

The sense 'a subject or theme of song' occurs in several passages of the Wycliffite (see quot. 1382) and later versions of the Bible.

Beowulf 787 Þara þe..ȝehyrdon gryreleoð galan..sizeleasne sang. *Ibid.* 2447. 1382 WYCLIF *Job* XXX. 9 Now forsothe I am turned in to the song of hem. — *Lam.* iii. 14. 14.. *Sir Beues* (M.) 1232 For sone thy songe shall be: welawey! 1436 *Pol. Poems* (Rolls) II. 154 At the sowth-west corner Off gonnes he had a song; That anon he left that place. *c* 1440 *Jacob's Well* 155 Þe feend makyth his men to synge þe song of helle, þat is 'allas & welleaway'. 1548 UDALL, etc. *Erasm. Par. Mark* vii. 52 The foresayed songe was songen in vaine to the deafe Phariseis. 1576 FLEMING *Panopl. Epist.* 325 Sing this song to others. 1594 SHAKS. *Rich. III*, IV. iv. 509 Out on ye, Owles, nothing but Songs of Death. 1621 T. WILLIAMSON tr. *Goulart's Wise Vieillard* 76 The ordinarie burthen of their song is, that all the world is naught. 1653 BINNING *Serm.* (1845) 597 Many listen to the Song of Justification, but they will not abide to hear out all the Song. 1707 *Lockhart Papers* (1817) I. 223 He returned it to the clerk..with this despising and contemning remark, 'Now there's ane end of ane old song'. 1872 A. DE VERE *Legends St. Patrick* 124 Shall I lengthen out my days Toothless,..Some losel's song?

b. In phrases denoting continuance or change in statements, attitude, etc.

1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 260 Now schalt thou singe an other song. 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 393 b, It is the self same song, that hath now ben songen many Yeres. 1706 E. WARD *Wooden World Diss.* (1708) 97 It's the same old Song of Stark Love and Kindness, which they have pip'd to each other these many Years. 1786 BURNS *Earnest Cry & Prayer* xv, She'll teach you, wi' a reekan whittle, Anither sang. 1796 *Grose's Dict. Vulgar T.* (ed. 3) s.v., He changed his song; he altered his account or evidence. 1822 SCOTT *Nigel* ii, Let me catch ye in Barford's Park,..I could gar some of ye sing another sang.

c. A fuss or outcry *about* something.

1843 *Cracks about Kirk* II. 9 Thae convocation chiels that are makin' sic a sang aboot their sufferings. 1863 MRS. RIDDELL *World in Church* II. 157 She had foreborne likewise and no one made a song about it.

5. Used to denote a very small or trifling sum, amount, or value, or a thing of little worth or importance. Freq. *an old* (also *a mere*) *song*. **a.** In the phr. *for a(n old) song*, for a mere trifle, for little or nothing.

(*a*) 1601 SHAKS. *All's Well* III. ii. 9, I know a man that had this tricke of melancholy hold a goodly Mannor for a song. *a* 1639 W. WHATELEY *Prototypes* II. xxvi. (1640) 25 To have so little esteem of the outward means of salvation, as to part with them for a song as we say. 1707 *Reflex. upon Ridicule* 262 He retrenches the Number of his Servants or their Wages, and would have them serve, as they say, for a Song. 1751 H. WALPOLE *Lett.* (1846) II. 395 The whole-length Vandykes went for a song! 1808 PIKE *Sources Mississ.* I. App. 10 You will perceive that we have obtained about 100000 acres for a song. 1865 DICKENS *Mut. Fr.* III. xvii, I assure you, the things were going for a song. 1890 JESSOPP *Trials Co. Parson* iv. 173 A brief report was published, and may be purchased now for a song.

(*b*) 1650 H. MORE *Observ.* in *Enthus. Tri.* (1656) 78 Truth is not to be had of God Almighty for an old Song. 1658–9 *Burton's Diary* (1828) III. 239 Haply he compounded for an old song. 1705 *Phil. Trans.* XXIV. 1997 An old Book might be bought for an old Song, (as we say). 1796 *Grose's Dict. Vulgar T.* (ed. 3), It was bought for an old song, i. e. very cheap. 1824 BYRON *Juan* XVI. lix, The cost would be a trifle—an 'old song', Set to some thousands. 1889 T. A. TROLLOPE *What I remember* III. 32 They were acquired 'for an old song'.

b. In other uses.

1798 SOTHEBY tr. *Wieland's Oberon* (1826) I. 53 Oh, fly, Sir! or your life's not worth a song! 1854 MARION HARLAND *Alone* XXVI, Some care, some responsibility—that is a mere song, though. 1879 HESBA STRETTON *Needle's Eye* II. 208 It was a pretty place once, but now it's hardly worth an old song.

6. *attrib.* and *Comb.* **a.** Simple attrib., as *song-craft* [cf. OE. *sang-, songcræft*], *-cycle, -feast*, etc.

1855 LONGF. *Hiaw.* Introd. 109 A half-effaced inscription, Written with little skill of *song-craft*. 1880 W. WATSON *Prince's Quest* (1892) 60 Seeing his charmed songcraft of no might Him to ensnare. 1899 *Westm. Gaz.* 3 May 3/3 Two *song-cycles made up his programme yesterday. 1763 J. BROWN *Poetry & Music* IV. 36 While these..Savages continue in their present unlettered State.., no material Improvements in their *Song-Feasts can arise. 1881 *Blackw. Mag.* April 517 The bleak solitudes of the *Songland on the Border. 1884 *Harper's Mag.* March 537/2 Two pieces of *song-music. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 429/1 Audible sound, which may possess the distinctions of *song-notes (musical sounds). 1845 BROWNING *Lett.* (1899) I. 17 These scenes and *song-scraps are such mere escapes of my inner power. 1845 W. STEVENSON *Church Scotl. Pulpit* I. 84 It is only from the full..heart that a *song-stream of devotion can freely flow. 1884 JEFFERIES *Life of Fields* 60 The *song-talk of the finches rises and sinks like the tinkle of a waterfall. 1824 MRS. CAMERON *Marten & his Scholars* viii. 49 John..began presently to whistle a *song-tune. 1885 *Encycl. Brit.* XIX. 273/1 That true *song-warble which we get in the stornelli and rispetti of the Italian peasants.

b. Objective, with agent-nouns, as *song-enditer, -maker, -singer, -wright, -writer*, or with vbl. sbs. and ppl. adjs., as *song-singing, -writing*.

1723 ROWE *Jane Shore* Prol., Those venerable ancient *Song-Enditers Soar'd many a Pitch above our modern Writers. 1787 BURNS *Let. to W. Nicol* 1 June, It's true, she's as poor 's a *sang-maker. 1892 E. REEVES *Homeward Bound* 10 The rich..harmonies of later songmakers. 1733 *Weekly Reg.* 8 Dec., Clerks of kitchens, *song-singers, horse-racers, valets-de-chambre. 1743 FRANCIS tr. *Horace, Odes* III. x. 18 Thy Husband, who gives up his Heart for a Ditty To a *Song-singing Wench. 1839 D. BLACK *Hist. Brechin* vii. 157 Zealous song-singing ladies. 1888 R. BUCHANAN *Heir of Linne* ii, Peasants and fishermen enjoyed his gifts of conversation and song-singing. 1892 *Athenæum* 23 July 124/3 He places Herrick above Shakspeare as a *songwright. 1821 MRS. HEMANS in H. F. Chorley *Mem.* (1837) I. 83 This being my first appearance before the public as a *song-writer. 1885 *Encycl. Brit.* XIX. 273/1 His songs illustrate an infirmity which even the Scottish song-writers share with the English. 1810 J. AIKIN (*title*), Essays on *Song-Writing. 1885 *Encycl. Brit.* XIX. 273 Here, indeed, is the crowning difficulty of song-writing.

c. Miscellaneous, as *song-fraught, -like, -timed, -tuned, -worthy* adjs.

1855 BAILEY *Mystic* 32 *Song-fraught wavelets lipped with light. 1861 F. W. FABER *Hymn, Nativ. our Lady* i, *Songlike breezes ever blowing. *c* 1873 J. ADDIS *Elis. Echoes* (1879) 94 Circled with Mænads' *song-timed, dance-timed bounds. 1859 LD. LYTTON *Wanderer* (ed. 2) 205 Take from the wall now, my *song-tuned Lyre. 1855 PATMORE *Angel in Ho.* II. i. Prel. i, More *Song-worthy and heroic things Than..war.

7. Special combs.: **song-box**, the syrinx of a bird; **song-grosbeak**, one or other species of the American genus *Zamelodia*; **song-muscle** (see quot.); **song-tide**, time of divine service; **song-voice**, the voice as used in the act of singing.

1899 J. A. THOMSON *Sci. Life* 187 The bird's song is nothing to the morphologist, except in so far as the anatomy of the syrinx or *song-box is concerned. 1839 AUDUBON *Syn. Birds N. Amer.* 132 *Coccoborus*, *Song-Grosbeak. *Coccoborus cæruleus*, Blue Song-Grosbeak. 1884 COUES *N. Amer. Birds* 389 *Zamelodia ludoviciana*, Rose-breasted Song Grosbeak. *Zamelodia melanocephala*, Black-headed Song Grosbeak. 1885 NEWTON in *Encycl. Brit.* XVIII. 29 [As] by the action of the syringeal muscles..the sounds uttered by the Bird are modified, they are properly called the *Song-muscles. 1853 ROCK *Ch. of Fathers* III. II. 14 If wayfaring ..had hindered him from being with his brethren at public *song-tide in the house of God. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 431/2 The glottis must be disciplined.., and proceed gradually from the *song-voice to that of speech.

Song, obs. pa. t. and pa. pple. SING *v.*¹

Song-bird. [SONG *sb.*]

1. A bird having the power of song; a singing-bird. (Cf. SONGSTER 3.)

1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* IV. iii. (1824) II. 338 Of the nightingale and other soft-billed song birds. 1783 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 2) X. 8670/1 The deficiency of most other song-birds in that country. 1857 LIVINGSTONE *Trav.* xvii. 325 It is remarkable that so many song-birds abound where there is a general paucity of other animal life. 1873 SYMONDS *Grk. Poets* viii. 235 Like song-birds rejoicing in their flight.

2. *transf.* A superb (female) singer.

1886 C. E. PASCOE *London of To-day* x. (ed. 3) 106 The reigning queens of song..are hardly overpaid. Such songbirds are exceedingly rare. 1896 *Godey's Mag.* Apr. 412/2 The second of the noted Magyar song-birds within current recollection was Etelka Gerster.

Song-book. [SONG *sb.* Cf. MDu. *sanc-, zancboec*, MLG. *sankbôk*, Du. (*ge*)*zangboek*, G. *gesangbuch*, Sw. *sångbok*, ON. *söngbók*, etc.]

1. One of the service-books of the Anglo-Saxon church (see quots. 1853).

c 1000 *Canons of Ælfric* xxi. in Thorpe *Laws* II. 350 Þæt synd þa halȝan bec, saltere,..& mæsse boc, sang-boc, & hand boc. *c* 1000 in Kemble *Cod. Diplom.* IV. 375, II. fulle sangbec and .I. nihtsang. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 31 Aug. 1654, A vast old song book or service, and some faire manuscripts [at St. John's College, Cambridge]. 1853 ROCK *Ch. of Fathers* III. II. 18 Out of the Antiphoner..came forth the full song-book or whole service for the canonical hours. *Ibid.* 20 The song-book corresponded with the Salisbury portous and the Roman breviary.

2. A book of songs.

1489 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* I. 114 To Wiljeam Sangstare of Lythqow for a sang bwke he brocht to the King. *a* 1586 SIDNEY *Arcadia* (1622) 372 As if her eyes had beene his song-Booke, he did the message of his minde in singing these verses. 1656 EARL MONM. tr. *Boccalini's Advts. fr. Parnass.* II. xiv. (1674) 157 Apollo..received his Song-book with..extraordinary affection. 1683 W. LLOYD in *Lett. Lit. Men* (Camden) 187, I have besides a Welsh Song-book. 1848 DICKENS *Dombey* xlix, The little table where the Captain had arranged the telescope and song-book. 1851 MAYHEW *Lond. Lab.* I. 298/1 The sale of song-books in the streets..is smaller than it was two years ago.

† Songer. *Obs.* [OE. *sangere, spngere*, = OHG. *sangari* (MHG. *senger*, G. *sänger*), ON. *spngvari* (Sw. *sångare*, Da. *sanger*), MDu. *sanger* (Du. *zanger*), etc.] A church-singer; a psalm-writer.

c 900 tr. *Baeda's Hist.* IV. ii. (1890) 258 Buton Iacobe þæm songere bi þæm we beforan ær sægdon. 971 *Blickl. Hom.* 207 Se bisceop þa cær ȝesette gode sangeras & mæsse.

preostas. *c* 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 117 Alse þe holi songere seið on his loft songe.

Songewarie: see SONGUARY.

Songful (sɒ·ŋfŭl), *a.* [f. SONG *sb.* + -FUL.] Abounding in song; musical, melodious.

a 1400 *Prymer* (1891) 98 Songful weren to me thi riȝtwesnesses in stede of my pilgrimage. 1728 MALLET *Excursion* Wks. 1759 I. 76 So pass the songful hours. 1782 W. STEVENSON *Hymn to Deity* 14 The songful tenants of the air. 1836 *New Monthly Mag.* XLVIII. 150 Thou lov'st the little songful lyre. 1844 MRS. BROWNING *Mourning Mother* 55 Trees.. That rock to songful sound. 1885 S. COX *Exposit.* vii. 86 Why..should we not enter into it and dwell in a songful security?

Hence **So·ngfully** *adv.*; **So·ngfulness** *sb.*

1850 KINGSLEY *Misc.* (1859) I. 218 An earnest songfulness (to coin a word) which Wordsworth seldom attained. 1880 N. SMYTH *Old Faiths in New Light* vi. (1882) 218 All things give unto us,..birds of their songfulness; the moon of her silvery light. 1888 *Sat. Rev.* 28 July 108 They crowd into their boats,..and pull songfully towards the Rais.

So·ngish, *a.* *nonce-wd.* [f. SONG *sb.* + -ISH.] Of the nature of song or singing.

1685 DRYDEN *Pref. Alb. & Alban.* Ess. (Ker) I. 271 The other [part of the opera], which, for want of a proper English word, I must call the *songish part*.

Songle (sɒ·ŋg'l). *dial.* Also 7–9 **songal, -all**, 9 **songow, -o, -a**, etc. [Current only in the counties on the Welsh border, but app. corresponding to obs. or dial. G. *sangel, sängel*, dim. of OHG. *sanga* (MHG., MLG., and G. *sange*), MFlem. *sange, sanghe*, WFlem. *zange* (De Bo), in the same sense. The simpler form appears also in Devonshire and Cornwall *sang, zang*.] A handful of gleaned corn. Cf. SINGLE *sb.* 2.

1674 BLOUNT *Glossogr.* (ed. 4), *Songal*, or *Songle*, so the poor people in Herefordshire call a handful of corn gleaned or leazed. 1700 T. HYDE *Hist. Relig. Persarum* 391 Spicas ..in parvum Fasciculum seu Manipulum (*Angl.* a Songall) colligatas. 1820 WILBRAHAM *Chesh. Gloss.* 61 *Songow, Songal*, gleaned corn. 1850 COLLINS *Gower Dial.* in *Trans. Phil. Soc.* IV. 223 *Songalls*, gleanings: 'to gather songall' is to glean.

transf. 1889 *N. & Q.* 7th Ser. VIII. 363/2, I have just this last week obtained a goodly 'songle' of S. Staffordshire words.

Songless (sɒ·ŋlés), *a.* [f. SONG *sb.* + -LESS.]

1. Devoid of song; not singing.

c 1805 KIRKE WHITE *Nelsoni Mors* 13 The woods and storied haunts Of my not songless boyhood. 1832 J. BREE *St. Herbert's Isle* 83 The thrush sits songless on the mistletoe. 1866 MEREDITH *Vittoria* vii, Before he had quitted the court, he had sunk into songless gloom. 1882 'OUIDA' *Maremma* I. 192 The clear voices burst over the silence of the songless moor.

2. *Ornith.* Lacking the power of song.

1825 WATERTON *Wand. S. Amer.* (1882) 26 Chiefly in the dry Savannas, you see a songless yawariciri still lovelier than the last. *c* 1888 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* IV. 109 The Mesomyodi, or Songless Birds. 1895 *Atlantic Monthly* Aug. 277 In the cases of the so-called songless birds there is often no attempt.

Hence **So·nglessly** *adv.*

a 1849 MANGAN *Poems* (1859) 119 If the saunterer-by songlessly pass Through the long grass. 1856 RUSKIN *Mod. Paint.* IV. v. xix. § 6 All the while the veritable peasants are kneeling songlessly.

Songlet (sɒ·ŋlĕt). [f. SONG *sb.*] A little song.

1831 FR. A. KEMBLE *Rec. Girlhood* (1878) III. 104 Emily gave me two charming Italian songlets. 1861 D. COOK *Paul Foster's Daw.* I. 164 As they..coo out their gushing little songlets in delicate trills. 1886 *Illustr. Lond. News* 25 Dec. 716/2 In these songs and songlets..there is..the scent of flowers.

† **So·ngly**, *a.* *Obs.* [f. SONG *sb.* + -LY 1.] Capable of being sung or expressed in song.

a 1300 *E. E. Psalter* cxviii. 54 Sanglic [*v.r.* songlic, L. *cantabiles*] to me ware rightwisnesses þine. *c* 1325 *Prose Ps.* cxviii. 54 Þy riȝtinges were songelich to me. 1435 MISYN *Fire of Love* 50 Qwhils he treuly in songly ioy is gladinde. *Ibid.* 78 A songely þoȝt emonge heuenly citesens rynnys.

So·ngman. [SONG *sb.*]

1. A man accustomed to sing songs.

1603 CHETTLE *Eng. Mourn. Garment* Dij b, Thou sweetest song-man of all English swaines, Awake for shame! 1631 BRATHWAIT *Whimzies, Ballad-monger* 18 It would doe a mans heart good to see how twinne-like hee and his songman couple. 1890 BARING-GOULD *Old Country Life* 260 The old village bard or songman is rapidly becoming.. extinct.

2. A man who sings in a church choir.

1883 *Pall Mall G.* 18 Sept. 4/2 'The Senior Songman' ..is the story of a quiet cathedral singer. 1887 *Ch. Times* 11 Nov. 911/4 This great company of prelates and clergy, readers and songmen, was very striking.

So·ngo(w), *v.* *dial.* Also 9 **sangow, songa**, etc. [f. *songo(w)*, SONGLE *sb.*] *intr.* To glean.

1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 73/2 *Gleaning*, or *Leesing*, or *Songoing*, is gathering of the loose Ears of Corn, after Binding and Loading. 1820– in western dial. glossaries.

So·ng-school. Now *Hist.* [SONG *sb.* Cf. MHG. *sanc-schule*, Du. *zangschool*, Sw. *sångskola*.] A school specially devoted to the teaching of (ecclesiastical or secular) singing and music. (In early use chiefly *Sc.*) Also *attrib.*

a. 1537 *Reg. Aberdon.* (Maitl.) I. 412 Maister of þe sang schuyll of þe cathedrall kyrk. *c* 1550 ROLLAND *Crt. Venus* Prol. 203 To put this man to Sang Scule, or playing. 1579 *Acts Jas. VI*, F iij b, For Instructioun of the ȝouth in the Airt of Musick and singing..To erect and set vp ane sang Scule. 1612 *Extr. Aberd. Rec.* (1848) II. 314 Patrick Dauidsoun, maister of the sang schuill. 1621 in R. M. Fergusson *Alex. Hume* (1899) 220 Seattis..meit for the maister of the sang schooll and his bairnis to sit on.

β. 1593 *Rites of Durh.* (Surtees, 1903) 62 A song schoole buylded, for to teach vj children for to learne to singe. 1601 F. GODWIN *Bps. of Eng.* 393 Mending his liuing by teaching a song schoole, for he was a great and cunning Musitian. 1733 [HUNTER] *Durham Cathedral* 99 A convenient Room, wherein is established the Song-school. 1802 FOSBROOKE *Brit. Monachism* II. 201 *Song School.* 'This school,' says Davies, 'was built within the church'. 1903 A. F. LEACH *Mem. Beverley Minster* II. p. cv, The Master of the Choristers or Song-School Master.

So·ng-smith. [SONG *sb.*] A composer or maker of songs. Also as a book-title.

1795 DIBDIN (*title*), The Song Smith; or, Rigmarole Repository. 1854 EMERSON *Lett. & Soc. Aims, Poet. & Imag.* Wks. (Bohn) III. 165 He and his temple-gods were called song-smiths. 1865 SWINBURNE *Chastelard* I. ii. 35 These jangling song-smiths are keen love-mongers, They snap at all meats. 1899 *The Month* April 354 Arnaldo Daniello, the great song-smith of the vulgar tongue.

So·ng-sparrow. [SONG *sb.*] A common North American song-bird of the genus *Melospiza*, esp. *M. fasciata* (or *melodia*) and *cinerea*.

1810 A. WILSON *Amer. Ornith.* II. 126 The Song Sparrow builds in the ground, under a tuft of grass. 1860 GOSSE *Rom. Nat. Hist.* 7 The song-sparrow is the chief performer in this early concert. 1872 COUES *N. Amer. Birds* 139 The Eastern song sparrow is simply one variety of a bird distributed from Atlantic to Pacific. 1898 *Atlantic Monthly* LXXXII. 496/1 A song-sparrow singing from a dense swampy thicket.

Songster (sɒ·ŋstəɹ). Forms: 1 **sangystre, -estre**, 4 **sangester**, 5 *Sc.* **sangstere**, 6 *Sc.* **-(i)star**; 4, 7– **songster** (7 **-stare**). [See SONG *sb.* and -STER. So MDu. *sangster*, Du. *zangster*.]

1. One who sings, a singer; orig., a female singer, a songstress.

c 1000 ÆLFRIC *Gram.* ix. (Z.) 71 *Hic cantor*, þes sangere. *Haec cantrix*, þeos sangystre [*v.r.* sangestre]. *c* 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 4032 He was þe best..Of iogelours & of sangesters. 1382 WYCLIF *Ezek.* xxvi. 13 Y shal make the multitude of thi songsters for to reste. 1497 *Acc. L.d. High Treas. Scot.* I. 368 Hénrj of Hadingtoune the sangstere. 1534 *Ibid.* VI. 207 To George Contis, sangstar, to by him hois and doublet agane Pasche. 1624 BEDELL *Lett.* iii. 58 The fault of the Italians: though they thinke themselues the onely songsters in the world. *c* 1670 WOOD *Life* (O.H.S.) I. 274 Sylvanus Taylor,..fellow of Allsoules; and violist and songster. 1713 STEELE *Guardian* No. 23 ¶ 4 Thus..Corydon tells Alexis that he is the finest Songster of the Country. 1784 COWPER *Task* I. 498 The peasant too,..Himself a songster, is as gay as he. 1835 JAMES *Gipsy* xi, Will, you are a songster, let us hear your voice.

attrib. 1614 J. DAVIES (Heref.) *Ecl. Willy & Wernocke* G iij b, To feed the Songster-swaines with Arts soot-meats.

2. A poet; a writer of songs or verse.

1585 JAS. I *Ess. Poesie* (Arb.) 27 Homer, who a Songster bene, Albeit a beggar. *a* 1637 B. JONSON *Underwoods* lx. Wks. (Rtldg.) 706/2 Silk will draw some sneaking songster thither, It is a rhyming age, and verses swarm At every stall. 1743 *Pol. Ballads* (1860) II. 304 Each party's joke, Each trifling songster's sport. 1848 MARIOTTI *Italy* II. vi. 214 Giusti may be a rival, but no imitator of the French songster [Béranger]. 1872 SPURGEON *Treas. David* Ps. lix. 14 Here verse six is repeated, as if the songster defied his foes.

3. A bird that sings; a song-bird.

1700 DRYDEN *Flower & Leaf* 449 And either Songster holding out their Throats, And folding up their Wings renew'd their Notes. 1730–46 THOMSON *Autumn* 972 Haply some widow'd songster pours his plaint. 1837 M. DONOVAN *Dom. Econ.* II. 143 The Skylark, a superior songster, is much sought after in most countries where it abounds.

attrib. 1783 LATHAM *Gen. Synop. Birds* II. i. 59 Songster Thrush..has a fine song. 1829 GRIFFITH tr. *Cuvier* VI. 394 Songster Thrush,..*Turdus Cantor*.

Songstress (sɒ·ŋstrés). [Cf. prec. and -ESS.]

a. A female singer; a poetess. **b.** A female singing-bird.

1703 LUTTRELL *Brief Rel.* (1857) V. 303 A subscription..for Mrs. Seigniora, the Italian songstresse at the playhouses here. 1727–46 THOMSON *Summer* 746 Through the soft silence of the listening night, The sober-suited songstress trills her lay. 1801 WORDSW. *Cuckoo & Night.* xlvi, I make a vow, That all this May I will thy songstress be. 1834 LYTTON *Pompeii* I. ii, Either in compliment to the music or in compassion to the songstress. 1871 *Athenæum* 8 July 46 This sisterhood of songstresses is closed by..Joanna Baillie.

So·ng-thrush. [SONG *sb.* Cf. G. *sangdrossel*, Sw. *sångtrast*.] The common thrush (*Turdus musicus*).

1668 CHARLETON *Onomast.* 83 The Thrush, Song-Thrush, or Throssle, or Mavis. 1678 RAY *Willughby's Ornith.* 188 The Mavis, Throstle, or Song-thrush. 1770 G. WHITE *Selborne* xxxiii, The first that fall and die are the redwing fieldfares, and then the song-thrushes. 1826 *Sporting Mag.* XVII. 227 This species, however, is larger than the blackbird or song thrush. 1843 *Zoologist* I. 104 It chases the cock song-thrush. 1890 *Science-Gossip* XXVI. 45 The blackbird, songthrush and misselthrush.

† **Songuary.** *Obs.* Also 4 **songewarie.** [app. an error for *songnary, -arie*, a. AF. *soungnarie*, ad. med.L. **somniaria* (sc. *ars*); cf. med.L. *somniarius* interpreter of dreams.] Interpretation of dreams.

1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. VII. 148, I haue no sauoure in songewarie for I se it ofte faille. *Ibid.* 150 To sette sadnesse in songewarie. *a* 1470 H. PARKER *Dives & Pauper* (W. de W. 1496) I. xxxiv. d iij, To make ony dyuynynge therby or by songuary or sompnarye.

Songy (sɒ·ŋi), *a.* [f. SONG *sb.*] Having the qualities of a song.

1870 *Pall Mall G.* 24 Dec. 12 Perhaps the most 'songy' of the whole is one which the musician has left unset.

Sonhood (sɒ·nhud). [SON *sb.*] The condition or relation of being a son.

1602 J. DAVIES (Heref.) *Mirum in Modum* Wks. (Grosart) I. 17/1 Fatherhood, breathing, or Spiration, Son-hood, Procession. 1858 CARLYLE *Fredk. Gt.* II. VII. iv. 208 A Royal Young Man; who..must not, in the name of sonhood, resist. 1889 *Lux Mundi* App. I. 524 The ties which bind men in the relation of brotherhood and sonhood are the noblest.

‖ **Sonica**, *sb.* and *adv.* *rare.* [F., of obscure origin.] **a.** *sb.* In the game of basset, a card having an immediate effect on the game. **b.** *adv.* Promptly, at once.

1716 POPE *Basset-Table* 51 The Knave won *Sonica*, which I had chose. 1748 LD. CHESTERFIELD *Lett.* II. XXX. Misc. Wks. 1777 II. 330 My prophecy, as you observe, was fulfilled *sonica*.

Sonifaction (sōnifæ·kʃən). *Zool.* [f. L. *soni-* (see next) + -FACTION.] The production of sound, on the part of insects, by other means than the vocal organs.

1884–5 *Standard Nat. Hist.* II. 307 A mode of sonifaction ..similar to that where a boy runs along a fence pushing a stick against the pickets. *Ibid.* 366 Sonifaction is not confined to imagos.

Soniferous (sōni·fĕrəs), *a.* [f. L. *soni-*, combining form of *sonus* sound + -FEROUS.] Sound-bearing; conveying or producing sound.

1713 DERHAM *Phys.-Theol.* IV. iii. 131 The æthereal part thereof, or Soniferous Particles of Bodies. 1855 *Orr's Circ. Sci., Elem. Chem.* 177 The comparative soniferous properties of the gases.

Son-in-law (sɒ·nˌinˌlɔ̄). [SON *sb.* and LAW *sb.*1 3 c.]

1. A daughter's husband. Also † *son in the law, son by law.* (Cf. SON-LAW.)

a. 13.. *Cursor M.* 7650 (Göttt.), Dauid his sone-in-law for to sla. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* XVII. 219 Valter, Steward of Scotland, That..sone-in-law wes to the king. *c* 1425 *Eng. Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 672 *Hic gener*, sone-in-law. 1530 PALSGR. 272/2 Sonne in lawe, *gendre*. 1573 *Will T. Daye* (Somerset Ho.), My son in lawe Robert Dobledaie. 1600 PORY tr. *Leo's Africa* III. 144 The brides father..sendes great store of daintie dishes vnto his sonne in law. 1639 *Bury Wills* (Camden) 180, I give unto my sonne-in-law.. my second best gown. 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 13 Feb., She left my son-in-law..the mansion house of Adscomb. 1743 FRANCIS tr. *Horace, Odes* II. iv. 16 Her Parents..Shall not their Son-in-law disgrace. 1811 MISS MITFORD in L'Estrange *Life* (1870) I. v. 147 How should you like him for a son-in-law? 1813 SOUTHEY *Nelson* I. 87 Josiah, his son-in-law, went with him.

β. 1545 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* I. 12 Johne Buchquhannane son in the law to the said Lord Johne Levingstoun. [1582 STANYHURST *Æneis* II. (Arb.) 54 Soon to king Priamus by law.]

† **2.** ? A reputed son. *Obs.*

1591 LODGE *Catharos* B 4 b, How doth the father of your sonne in law?

† **3.** A stepson. *Obs.*

1618 BOLTON *Florus* IV. xii. (1636) 318 Cæsar throughly quietted all the nations of that tract..by his sonne in law whose mother hee had married, Claudius Drusus. 1731 FIELDING *Mod. Husb.* II. iii, I hope you will pardon an intercession, my dear, for a son-in-law, which I should not be guilty for a son of my own. 1738 tr. *Guazzo's Art Convers.* 21 The step-mother..can't discern the good qualities of her son-in-law.

Hence **Son-in-lawship.**

1886 HARDY *Woodlanders* (1887) II. ix. 163 It immersed him so deeply in son-in-lawship to Melbury.

‖ **Sonipes.** *rare*−1. [L. *sonipēs*, f. *soni-*, *sonus* sound + *pēs* foot.] A horse.

1639 in T. de Gray *Expert Farrier* Pref. Verses, I understood how first to use the reyne, And menage sonipes.

† **Sonizance.** *Obs.*−1 (Obscure: perh. an error.)

1589 PEELE *Eclogue Gratulatory* 27 Then give me leave sonizance to make For chivalry and lovely learning's sake!

Sonk, var. SUNK *sb.* seat, saddle. *Sc.*

So·nˌkin. *rare*−1. In 6 **sonnekyn.** [f. SON *sb.* + -KIN. Cf. MLG. *soneken* (LG. *söneken, sönke*), G. *söhnchen*.] A little son.

1542 UDALL *Erasm. Apoph.* 207 b, All haill my soonne [*marg.* sonnekyn, or litle soonne].

Sonkyn, obs. form of SUNKEN *ppl. a.*

† **Son-law.** *Obs.* = SON-IN-LAW 1.

1445 in *Anglia* XXVIII. 265 Happy thou art in such prynce which now thi son lawe is. 1509 *Bury Wills* (Camden) 110 John Femnale, my sonlawe. *Ibid.* 113 Thomas Tise my sonlaw.

Sonless (sɒ·nlés), *a.* Also 5 **soneles, 6 sonnelesse**, 7 **-less, sonlesse.** [f. SON *sb.* + -LESS.] Having no son; destitute of a son or sons.

1388 WYCLIF *Gen.* xxvii. 45 Whi schal Y be maad soneles of euer eithir sone in o dai? 1588 T. HUGHES *Misfort. Arthur* V. i. (1900) 118 The wofull Fathers hart, That sawe himselfe thus made a Sonnelesse Sire. 1602 MARSTON *Antonio's Rev.* III. i, A sonne, That..doth complot To make her sonlesse. 1610 HEYWOOD *Gold. Age* II. i, Thus melancholy Saturne hath suruiuing Three Noble sonnes.. And yet himselfe thinks sonneless. 1753–4 RICHARDSON *Grandison* (1781) I. 291 Many fatherless, brotherless, sonless families. 1832 *Blackw. Mag.* XXXI. 166 The good old king, whom he has made sonless. 1874 GREEN *Short Hist.* (1881) I. 150 No baron if he was sonless could give a husband to his daughter save with his lord's consent.

Sonlike (sɒ·nlaik), *a.* Also 6–7 **sonnelike.** [f. SON *sb.*] Resembling that of a son; filial.

1583 BABINGTON *Commandm.* 26 There are two kinds of feare of God, one a seruile feare,..another ioyned with loue of God, called a sonnelike feare. 1594 T. B. *La Primaud. Fr. Acad.* II. 503 They judged..that sonlike respect and love were good prickes to drive them forward. 1657 OWEN *Communion* II. x. Wks. 1851 II. 213 This..sonlike freedom of the Spirit in obedience. 1674 BUNYAN *Christ. Behaviour* Wks. 1855 II. 563 All humble and sonlike carriage.

Hence **So·nlikeness.**

1876 W. BATHGATE *Deep Things of God* vi. 145 This was sonlikeness without one unfilial flaw or frown.

So·nly, *a. rare.* Also 5–6 **sonnely.** [f. SON *sb.* Cf. MDu. *soon-, zoonlijc,* MLG. *sonelik,* MHG. *sunlîch* (G. *sohn-, söhnlich*).] Sonlike, filial.

c 1450 *Myrr. our Ladye* 247 That..sonne of god hauynge sonnely compassyon to hys mother. 1579 B. GOOGE tr. *Mendoza's Prov.* 64 b, The one is called a seruile feare, the other a sonnely feare...The sonnely feare, is a meddlie of feare and loue together. 1903 in *Life Bp. Westcott* I. Pref. p. x, It is an offering of real sonly devotion.

Sonnd, obs. f. SAND *sb.*[1] and *sb.*[2] **Sonne,** obs. f. SON, SUN. **Sonnee,** variant of SUNNI. **Sonner,** obs. comp. of SOON *adv.*

Sonnet (sɒ·nĕt), *sb.* Also 6–7 **sonet** (6 *pl.* **sonettes**). [a. F. *sonnet* (1543), or ad. It. *sonetto* (the source of the F. word), dim. of *suono* sound.]

1. A piece of verse (properly expressive of one main idea) consisting of fourteen decasyllabic lines, with rimes arranged according to one or other of certain definite schemes.

In the first quot. perh. including sense 2. In many instances between 1580 and 1650 it is not clear which sense is intended, as the looser use of the word would appear to have been very common.

1557 (*title*), Songes and Sonettes, written by the..late Earle of Surrey, and other. 1575 GASCOIGNE *Posies* (1907) 471, I can beste allowe to call those Sonets whiche are of fouretene lynes, every line conteyning tenne syllables. 1595 W. P. in *Spenser's Minor P.* (1910) 370 These sweete conceited Sonets, the deede of .. maister Edmond Spenser. 1609 (*title*), Shake-speares Sonnets. Neuer before Imprinted. *a* 1631 DONNE *Lett. to Persons of Hon.* (1651) 104 The Spanish proverb informes me, that he is a fool which cannot make one Sonnet, and he is mad which makes two. 1683 SOAME & DRYDEN tr. *Boileau's Art. Poet.* II. 319 A faultless Sonnet, finish'd thus, would be Worth tedious volumes of loose poetry. *a* 1771 GRAY *Metrum* Wks. 1843 V. 249 Sonnets of Fourteen, on Five Rhymes. [*Note.*] This, and the fourth kind, are the true Sonnet of the Italians. 1797 ANNA SEWARD *Lett.* (1811) IV. 326 My design of publishing, this spring, my centenary of sonnets. 1822 HAZLITT *Table-t.* II. ii. 19 The great object of the Sonnet seems to be to express in musical numbers,..with undivided breath, some occasional thought or personal feeling. 1841 D'ISRAELI *Amen. Lit.* (1867) 304 The Earl of Surrey composed the first sonnets in the English language. 1879 B. TAYLOR *Germ. Lit.* 174 Fischart first introduced the Italian sonnet into German literature.

2. A short poem or piece of verse; in early use esp. one of a lyrical and amatory character. Now *rare* or *Obs.*

1563 (*title*), Eglogs, Epytaphes, and Sonettes, newly written by Barnabe Googe. 1575 GASCOIGNE *Posies* (1907) 471 Some thinke that all Poemes (being short) may be called Sonets. *Ibid.* 472 There are Dyzaynes & Syxaines..which some English writers do also terme by the name of Sonettes. 1599 (*title*), Sonnets To sundry notes of Musicke. 1650 J. COTTON *Sing. Psalms* 19 Neither doe drunkards..usually invent Sonnets. *c* 1674 *Roxb. Ball.* (1886) VI. 274 In this Sonnet you may find A fancy that may please your mind. 1719 HAMILTON *Ep. Ramsay* I. 43 Sae I conclude, and end my sonnet. *c* 1820 G. BEATTIE *John of Arnha* (1826) 15 My dowie sonnet Upo' the Horner's guid braid bonnet.

3. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *sonnet-book, -fancier, -maker, -making, -wise* adv., *-writer, -writing.*

1657 COKAYNE *Obstinate Lady* Poems (1659) 312, I should then perhaps a had a *Sonnet-book ere this. 1824 MACAULAY *Misc. Writ.* (1860) I. 86 These *sonnet-fanciers would do well to reflect [etc.]. 1691 WOOD *Antiq.* I. *Fasti* 761 He was at this time a pastoral *Sonnet-maker. 1768–74 TUCKER *Lt. Nat.* (1834) II. 147 This thirst of glory..is to be found among fiddlers and sonnet-makers. 1875 TENNYSON *Q. Mary* II. i, No call for sonnet-sorting now, nor for *sonnet-making either. 1588 GREENE *Perimedes* Wks. (Grosart) VII. 88 The yoong Prince..writ him an answer *Sonnet-wise to this effect. *c* 1645 HOWELL *Lett.* I. v. xxii, I send you the inclos'd Verses Sonnet-wise. 1824 in *Spirit Public Jrnls.* (1825) 355 Verses written sonnet wise On London's learned Lord. 1781 WARTON *Hist. Eng. Poetry* III. 483 George Whetstone, a *sonnet-writer of some rank. 1887 *Encycl. Brit.* XXII. 263/1 The crowning difficulty..of the sonnet writer. 1899 MISS E. T. FOWLER *Double Thread* ii. 18 He would willingly have instructed Milton in *sonnet-writing.

Sonnet (sɒ·nĕt), *v.* [f. prec. Cf. It. *sonettare.*]

1. *intr.* To compose sonnets; to sonnetize.

1589 G. HARVEY *Pierce's Super.* I. (1593) 48 When Elderton began to ballat, Gascoine to sonnet, Turberuile to madrigal. 1597 BP. HALL *Sat.* I. i, Nor list I Sonnet of my Mistresse face. 1621 LADY M. WROTH *Urania* 467 Loue was such a Lord ouer me, as I..sonnetted when hee inspired mee with it. 1658 FRANCK *North. Mem.* (1821) p. xlviii, And in delightful tones sit sonneting. 1875 TENNYSON *Q. Mary* II. i, Come, now, you're sonnetting again.

2. *trans.* † **a.** To fill with sonnets. *Obs. rare.*

1594 NASHE *P. Penilesse* Wks. (Grosart) II. 27 Hee will.. sonnet a whole quire of paper in praise of Lady Swin-snout.

b. To celebrate in a sonnet or sonnets.

1598 MERES *Pallad. Tamia* 280 b, Daniel hath diuinely sonetted the matchlesse beauty of his Delia. 1887 *St. James's Gaz.* 14 Feb. (Cassell), They sonneted her. 1904 TALLENTYRE *Voltaire* I. vi. 83 He sonneted his hostess now.

c. With *out*: To utter in sonnets. *rare*[−1].

1610 G. FLETCHER *Christ's Vict.* II. lxii, The birds sweet notes, to sonnet out their joyes.

Sonnet: see SENNET 1.

Sonnetary (sɒ·nĕtări), *a.* [f. SONNET *sb.*] Relating to, expressed in, sonnets.

1877 *Scribner's Month. Mag.* XV. 211/2 Two of the ten violate Italian sonnetary laws. 1892 *Cent. Mag.* May 144/1 The sonnetary sorrows of a blighted lover!

Sonneteer (sɒnĕtī·ɹ), *sb.* Also 7 **sonnettier,** 8– **sonnetteer.** [ad. It. *sonettiere* (f. *sonetto* sonnet), or f. SONNET *sb.* + -EER.] A composer of sonnets; freq. in disparaging sense, a minor or indifferent poet.

a. 1665 DRYDEN *Indian Emp.* Epil., He first thinks fit no Sonnettier advance His censure, farther than the Song or Dance. 1678 — *All for Love* Pref. B ij b, Our little Sonnettiers who follow them, have too narrow Souls to judge of Poetry. 1753 *Gray's Inn Jrnl.* (1756) I. 307, I..was a Witness to the Mischief which was occasioned by the polite Sonnetteers. 1791 W. GIFFORD *Baviad* 45 And laugh to scorn th' eternal sonnetteer. 1839 HALLAM *Hist. Lit.* II. v. § 76 The English sonnetteers deal less in customary epithets. 1872 BLACKIE *Lays Highl.* Introd. 42 In this matter I am neither a speculative reasoner, nor a sentimental sonnetteer.

β. 1677 WYCHERLEY *Pl. Dealer* I. i, The Noble Sonneteer wou'd trouble thee no more with his Madrigals. 1711 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 160 P 1, I have heard many a little Sonneteer called a fine Genius. *a* 1763 SHENSTONE *Economy* III. 109 How shall I sing the various ill that waits The careful sonneteer? 1835 *Edin. Rev.* LX. 359 She is one of the best of the Italian *sonneteers.* 1877 MRS. OLIPHANT *Makers Flor.* i. 14 The elaborate sonnet put forth avowedly to a..company of answering sonneteers.

transf. 1824 MISS MITFORD *Village* Ser. I. (1863) 63 No cuckoos (that ever I should miss that rascally sonneteer!).

Hence **Sonnetee·ress.** *nonce-word.*

1822 *Blackw. Mag.* XII. 657 Our songstresses,..sonneteeresses, or other 'buildresses of the lofty rhyme'.

Sonneteer (sɒnĕtī·ɹ), *v.* Also **sonnetteer.** [f. SONNETEER *sb.*]

1. *refl.* To make (oneself) a sonneteer.

1822 *Blackw. Mag.* XI. 740 Shelley will henceforth rave only to the moon. Hunt will sonneteer himself.

2. *trans.* To celebrate in sonnets.

1825 *Blackw. Mag.* XVIII. 617 A prima donna..sonnetteered by half the..idlers from Vesuvius to the Alps.

3. *intr.* To compose sonnets.

1841 LEVER *C. O'Malley* xcvi, The man who has been the very veriest flirt with women—sighing, serenading, sonneteering. 1851 MRS. BROWNING *Casa Guidi Wind.* I. 148 Rimers sonneteering in their sleep. 1899 M. HEWLETT *Litt. Novels Italy, Master Cino & Coal* ii, To sonneteer is very well, but a lover..must live.

Sonnetee·ring, *vbl. sb.* [f. prec.] The composition of sonnets; the result of this.

1797–1805 S. & HT. LEE *Canterb. T.* V. 34, I knew that he had touched up some pretty melancholy love-songs and sonneteerings. 1855 KINGSLEY *Westw. Ho!* ii, He had talked over the art of sonneteering with Tasso. 1887 G. SAINTSBURY *Hist. Elizab. Lit.* iv. (1890) 107 The vast outburst of sonneteering which..distinguished the middle of the last decade of the sixteenth century.

attrib. 1841 E. FITZGERALD *Lett.* (1889) I. 72 Just when one's sonnetteering age is departing. 1885 *Athenæum* 6 June 722/1 William Shakspeare..wrote sonneteering addresses to a young man.

Sonnetee·ring, *ppl. a.* [f. as prec.] Composing or producing sonnets.

1809 BYRON *Bards & Rev.* 925 Let sonneteering Bowles his strains refine. 1824 MACAULAY *Misc. Writ.* (1860) I. 67 Blue-stocking ladies and sonneteering gentlemen. 1870 LOWELL *Among my Bks.* Ser. I. (1873) 368 In the very height of that divine sonneteering love of Laura.

So·nneter. *rare*[−1]. = SONNETEER *sb.*

1687 WINSTANLEY *Lives Eng. Poets* 99 A publish'd Collection of several Odes of the chief Sonneters of that Age.

Sonnetic (sɒne·tik), *a. rare.* [f. SONNET *sb.*] Characterized by, composed of, sonnets.

1884 *Blackw. Mag.* June 754 What may be called the sonnetic period in Shakespeare's life. *Ibid.* 757 Many of the ideas..found in his great sonnetic poem.

So·nneting, *vbl. sb.* [f. SONNET *sb.* or *v.*]

1. The composition of sonnets; the result of this.

1588 SHAKS. *L. L. L.* IV. iii. 158 None but Minstrels like of Sonnetting. 1597 BP. HALL *Sat.* I. vii, Then poures he forth in patched Sonettings His loue. 1622 WITHER *Philarete* (1633) K ij, Whilst Great Britaines Shepheards sing English in their Sonnetting. 1649 MILTON *Eikon.* 64 He ascribes all vertue to his Wife, in Straines that come almost to Sonnetting. 1885 *Blackw. Mag.* June 790 To the rage for sonneting, so prevalent in his time, Shakespeare makes frequent reference in his plays. 1889 LANG *Lett. Lit.* 151 The soldiers have quite forsworn sonneting.

2. Celebration in a sonnet or sonnets.

1642 MILTON *Apol. Smect.* Wks. 1851 III. 304 Two whole pages..that praise the Remonstrant even to the soneting of his fresh cheeks, quick eyes,..and nimble invention.

3. Singing, warbling.

a 1645 W. BROWNE *Thirsis' Praise* Wks. 1869 II. 282 Leavie Groves now mainely ring, With each sweet birds sonnetting.

So·nnetish, *a. rare*[−1]. [f. SONNET *sb.*] Suggestive of a sonnet or sonnets.

1856 *Titan Mag.* Aug. 124/1 There's a peculiar sonnetish appearance in the eyes of persons under such circumstances.

† **So·nnetist.** *Obs. rare*[−1]. [f. as prec.] A sonnetteer.

1597 BP. HALL *Sat.* I. viii, Great Salomon sings in the English Quire, And is become a newfound Sonetist.

Sonnetize (sɒ·nĕtəiz), *v.* [f. SONNET *sb.*]

1. *intr.* To compose a sonnet or sonnets.

1798 CHARLOTTE SMITH *Yng. Philos.* III. 74 Yours from Upwood..has tempted me to sonnetize myself. 1821 *New Monthly Mag.* I. 647 They must..scratch head, bite nail, and sonnettize. 1821 *Blackw. Mag.* VIII. 541 Let greensick ladies sonnetize with Bowles.

2. *trans.* To celebrate in, make the subject of, a sonnet or sonnets.

1799 SOUTHEY *Eng. Ecl.* Poet. Wks. III. 68 Bruin-Bear! Now could I sonnetize thy piteous plight. 1824 in *Spirit Public Jrnls.* (1825) 232 The Cocknies heretofore have devoted their time to sonnetizing each other.

Hence **So·nnetizing** *vbl. sb.*

1832 *Fraser's Mag.* VI. 630 [He] has a good ear for sonnetising.

Sonnetry (sɒ·nĕtri). [f. SONNET *sb.* + -RY.] Sonnet-making.

1594 *Zepheria* Ded., The sweete tun'd accents of your Delian sonnetrie. 1801 in *Spirit Public Jrnls.* V. 103 *note,* Coining is not felony by the law of sonnetry. 1904 *Westm. Gaz.* 15 June 4/2 This essay on Elizabethan sonnetry.

† **Sonnette.** *Obs. rare.* Also 4 **sonete,** 5 **sownette.** [a. OF. *sonete, sonnette, sonnet* (mod. F. *sonnette*), f. *son* sound.] A bell.

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 1415 Notes of pipes, Tymbres & tabornes,..Symbales & sonetez. 1491 CAXTON *Vitas Patr.* (W. de W. 1495) I. xlv. 77 b/2 By cause that they songe theyr seruyce, they myghte not here those sayde Camellis, ne theyr grete sownettes ne belles. 1494 in *Lett. Rich. III & Hen. VII* (Rolls) I. 394 Their hors richely trapped.., enramplised with sonnettes of siluer.

Sonnettoma·nia. *nonce-wd.* [See -MANIA.] Madness for sonnets. Also **Sonnettoma·niac.**

1821 *New Monthly Mag.* I. 644 Nothing..is on record as a specific for the sonnettomania. *Ibid.* 648 The sonnettomaniacs would have in me an historian equal to what the Abderites found in Lucian.

Sonnite, variant of SUNNITE.

Sonny (sɒ·ni). *colloq.* Also **sonnie.** [f. SON *sb.* + -Y.] A familiar term of address to a boy or to a man younger than the speaker.

1870 *Routledge's Ev. Boy's Ann.* 688 Yes, my dear sonny, that is exactly what I mean. 1883 STEVENSON *Treas. Isl.* ii, 'Come here, sonny,' says he. 1891 CLARK RUSSELL *Curatica* i, 'Oh!' said my mother, 'just the very thing! Listen, sonnie!'

Sonny, obs. form of SUNNY *a.*

Sonomaite (sɒ·nŏmă,əit). *Min.* [See quots.] 'Hydrous sulphate of aluminum and magnesium, closely allied to pickeringite' (Chester).

1876 *Proc. Nat. Sci. Acad. Philadelphia* 263 Mr. E. Goldsmith stated that he had found among other undetermined minerals collected by Prof. F.V. Hayden in Sonoma County, Cal., near the geysers, one for which he proposed the name Sonomaite. *Ibid.* 264 Sonomaite occurs in silky, colorless crystals. 1881 in WATTS 3*rd Suppl.*

Sonometer (sɒnɒ·mĭtəɹ). [f. *sono-* as combining form of L. *sonus* sound + -METER. In sense 1 perh. after F. *sonomètre.*]

1. An instrument for determining the number of vibrations made by a sonorous cord.

1808 *Edinburgh Encycl.* (1830) I. 128/1 Sonometers are instruments intended for determining the relation between the number of undulations which constitute the several notes of music. 1829 *Chapters Phys. Sci.* 273 In the experiments relative to this object, an instrument called a sonometer is made use of. 1873 W. LEES *Acoustics* I. iii. 23. 1889 BRINSMEAD *Hist. Pianoforte* 40 An extremely useful instrument called the monochord or sonometer.

2. An instrument for testing the sense of hearing, or the efficacy of treatment for deafness; an audiometer.

1849 *Pract. Mech. Jrnl.* Sept. 131 A most important instrument for the use of parties under treatment for deafness,..aptly named the sonometer. 1879 [see AUDIOMETER]. 1894 *Daily News* 14 June 6/4 Amongst the illustrations of applied science were an ingenious sonometer...It measures and tests the relative..perception of hearing.

3. *Electr.* A telephone attached to an apparatus for testing metals by means of an induction-coil.

1879 *Daily News* 31 Dec. 5/4 A difference which is at once indicated by a sound in a telephone attached, which is called the sonometer. 1881 *Nature* XXIII. 520 The sonometer is brought into the circuit.

† **Sonore,** *a. Obs.* Also 5 **sonowre,** 6 **sonour.** [ad. L. *sonōr-us* (see SONOROUS *a.*), or a. F. *sonore.*] Sonorous.

1486 *Bk. St. Albans* d iij, Looke also that thay [*sc.* the bells] be sonowre and well sowndyng and shil. *a* 1542 WYATT *Ps.* li. Prol. 9 On sonour cordes his fingers he extendes. 1657 TOMLINSON *Renou's Disp.* 427 It becomes tinalous, hard and sonore.

† **Sonore·ity.** *Obs.*[−1] [Cf. prec. and -ITY.] A sonorous word.

1665 SERGEANT in *Digby's Nat. Bodies* *2 An antick weed, patch't up as they shall please Of Vnions, Moods, and Sonoreities.

Sonore·scence. [f. L. *sonōr-us* SONOROUS *a.*] The conversion of intermittent radiations into sound.

1881 E. H. COOK in *Philos. Mag.* May 378 In the new phenomena we have again a change from more rapid into less rapid, which is very similar to that which occurs in fluorescence. To the change which takes place in this case, therefore, I venture to propose the term 'Sonorescence'. 1884 A. DANIELL *Princ. Physics* 512 It has been proposed to call the last-mentioned property of hard rubber the sonorescence of that substance.

Hence **Sonore·scent** *a.*

1881 E. H. Cook in *Philos. Mag.* May 378 A body such as hard rubber..would be called a *sonorescent* body, just as sulphate of quinine is a fluorescent body.

Sonori·ety. *rare*⁻¹. =Sonority.

1837 W. Stokes *Treatm. Dis. Chest* (1882) 278 The lung rapidly regains its sonoriety.

†**Sonori·ferous,** *a. Obs.*⁻¹ [f. L. *sonor, sonōris* sound + -(I)ferous.] Conveying sound; soniferous. Also †**Sonoriferously** *adv.*, resoundingly.

a 1693 *Urquhart's Rabelais* III. xxiii. 193 Mars..did raise his Voice—horrifically loud, and sonoriferously high. 1730 Chamberlayne *Relig. Philos.* I. xiii. § 3 When the Sonoriferous Air is come into the Cavity of the External Part of the Ear.

Sonori·fic, *a. rare.* [f. L. *sonor* sound + -(I)fic.] Producing sound; now *spec.* of insects, producing other than vocal sounds (*Cent. Dict.*).

1725 Watts *Logick* I. vi. § 3 If he should ask me, why a Clock strikes, and points to the Hour, and I should say, it is by an indicating Form and sonorific Quality. 1784 *Phil. Trans.* LXXIV. 215 It may move much faster than sound travels,..and carry on the sonorific vibrations with it.

Sonority (sŏnɒ·rĭti). [a. F. *sonorité*, or ad. L. *sonōritas*, f. *sonōr-us*: see -ity.] The quality of being sonorous: **a.** Of sounds.

1623 Cockeram I, *Sonoritie*, shrilnesse, loudnesse.

1864 *Reader* 16 Jan. 86/1 An amount of sonority..ten times as much as the ten first fiddles of the Brussels Conservatoire. 1874 Hullah *Speaking Voice* 2 We reduce to a minimum the sonority of our vowels. 1883 *Grove's Dict. Music* III. 426 This depression of the first string..is not unfavourable to sonority.

b. Of things or places.

1879 *Grove's Dict. Music* I. 10 The *salle* [of the theatre] is said to be deficient in sonority. 1883 *Harper's Mag.* Nov. 886/2 The sonority of this reservoir is expected materially to re-enforce the volume of tone. 1897 *Trans. Amer. Pediatric Soc.* IX. 19 The sonority of the chest, and the peculiar character of the respiration.

c. Of speech or diction.

1876 *Contemp. Rev.* XXVIII. 240 Milton's proficiency on the organ is hardly to be forgotten in considering the richness and sonority of his language. 1881 *Athenæum* No. 2811. 328/2 The great virtue of the regular sonnet..is a certain sonority. 1883 Ld. Lytton *Life Lytton* II. 100 The fine sonority of the verse in Tamberlain.

Sono·ro-, used as combining form of Sonorous *a.*, as in *sonoro-sibilant* adj.

1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* II. 241 Scanty sonoro-sibilant rhoncus..is all that can be heard with the stethoscope.

Sonoro·sity. *rare.* [f. next.] =Sonority.

1772 Nugent *Hist. Fr. Gerund* I. 175 This was the way to baptize a work with elegance and sonorosity. 1885 Emily Lawless *Millionaire's Cousin* v. 105 Such a desperate and, to all appearances, perennial flow of sonorosity.

Sonorous (sŏnō·rəs), *a.* [f. L. *sonōr-us*, f. *sonor, sonōris*, sound: see -ous.]

1. Of things: Giving out, or capable of giving out, a sound, esp. of a deep or ringing character.

1611 Cotgr., *Sonoreux*, sonorous, lowd, shrill, roring. 1656 Blount *Glossogr.*, *Sonorous*, loud; making a great noise, shril, roaring. 1667 Milton *P. L.* I. 540 Sonorous mettal blowing Martial sounds. 1725 Pope *Odyss.* VIII. 214 Sonorous thro' the shaded air it sings. 1748 Hartley *Observ. Man* I. iv. § 2. 425 The simple Sounds of all uniform sonorous Bodies. 1789 J. Williams *Min. Kingd.* I. 410 The steel ores are mostly very hard, the masses being frequently sonorous. 1823 Scoresby *Jrnl.* 44 Washed linen became hard and sonorous. 1864 Engel *Mus. Anc. Nat.* 11 Instruments consisting of a series of pieces of sonorous wood. 1881 A. G. Bell *Sound by Radiant Energy* 1 Substances which became sonorous in the condition of thin diaphragms.

b. Of places, etc.: Resounding, roaring, noisy.

1729 G. Adams tr. *Sophocl., Antig.* IV. ii. II. 64 Upon famous Parnassus, or the sonorous Shore. 1796 Owen *Trav. into Europe* II. 425 The river was extremely violent and sonorous. 1841 Thoreau *Lett.* (1865) 6 What with..the lowing of kine, and the crowing of cocks, our Concord life is sonorous enough.

2. Of sounds: Having a loud, deep, or resonant character.

1668 Wilkins *Real Char.* III. xii. 367 To the Sonorous letters of this kind, there are three Mutes of affinity. 1691 Ray *N. Co. Words* (ed. 2) 158 That these three last mentioned are simple Letters..appears in that the sound of them (for they are sonorous) may be continued. 1750 tr. *Leonardus' Mirr. Stones* 90 It..makes the voice sonorous. 1791 Cowper *Iliad* X. 162 Nestor, brave Gerenian, with a voice Sonorous. 1825 T. Hook *Sayings* Ser. II. *Man of Many Fr.* II. 56 Giving his niece one of those sonorous salutes, which..at least sound genuine. 1859 Geo. Eliot *A. Bede* ii, His own sonorous utterance of the responses. 1879 S. C. Bartlett *Egypt to Pal.* xi. 241 The first sound that welcomed us was his sonorous bray.

b. *Path.* Of sounds heard in auscultation.

1827 J. Forbes *Laennec's Dis. Chest* (1834) 109 The respiration was strong, and accompanied by a deep sonorous rhonchus. 1853 Markham *Skoda's Auscult.* 276 Bronchial respiration,..or the hissing and sonorous sounds, may be very distinct. 1876 Bristowe *Th. & Pract. Med.* (1878) 388 The deeper notes are usually termed 'sonorous', the acuter notes 'sibilant'.

c. *Physics.* Of vibrations or waves.

1839 G. Bird *Nat. Philos.* 293 In the same manner as sonorous vibrations convey the sensation of sound to the ear. 1863 Tyndall *Heat* x. 281 The condensation and rarefaction constitute what is called a sonorous pulse or wave. 1879 G. Prescott *Sp. Telephone* 13 The character of each tone depends not merely upon the number of sonorous vibrations, but upon their intensity or amplitude also.

3. Of language, diction, etc.: Having a full, rich sound; strong and harmonious.

1693 Dryden *Juvenal* Ded. (1726) p. lxxix, His Expressions are Sonorous and more Noble. 1705 Addison *Italy* 99 For this reason the Italian Opera..has something beautiful and sonorous in the Expression. 1791 Boswell *Johnson* (Oxford ed.) I. 180, I told him, I thought it a very sonorous hexameter. 1842 Prichard *Nat. Hist. Man* 374 They had a sonorous and harmonious language, distinct from all others. 1875 Jowett *Plato* (ed. 2) II. 121 The word has been lately altered and made sonorous.

b. Of persons: Having a full and rich style or voice.

1728 Pope *Dunc.* II. 247 But far o'er all, sonorous Blackmore's strain; Walls, steeples, skies, bray back to him again. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* I. v. vi, Santerre, the sonorous Brewer of the Suburb Saint-Antoine.

Sono·rously, *adv.* [f. prec. + -ly ².] In a sonorous manner.

1653 H. More *Antid. Ath.* III. ix. (1712) 117 Smacking and grunting very sonorously. 1670 G. H. *Hist. Cardinals* II. II. 173 That pure Evangelical River, that purles so sweetly and sonorously in the ears of the Faithful. 1822-7 Good *Study Med.* (1829) II. 410 The patient..breathed sonorously, but without stertor. 1865 Mrs. Whitney *Gayworthys* ix, The voice rang out once again—startlingly—sonorously.

Sono·rousness. [f. as prec. + -ness.] The character or quality of being sonorous.

a 1691 Boyle *Ess. Intestine Motions of Solids* vii. Wks. 1772 I. 450 Of what age..such instruments..ought to be, to attain their full and best seasoning for sonorousness. 1777 G. Forster *Voy. round World* I. 478 We did not find that sonorousness in the Tonga-Tabboo dialect, which is prevalent in that of Taheitee. 1778 W. Pryce *Min. Cornub.* 46 A small portion of Bismuth increases the brightness, hardness, and sonorousness of Tin. 1835-6 *Todd's Cycl. Anat.* I. 503/1 The peculiar sonorousness which percussion frequently elicits over the left hypochondrium. 1865 Grote *Plato* I. i. 73 The colour, sonorousness,..&c., of the bodies around us. 1881 *Nature* XXIV. 42 Sonorousness, under the influence of intermittent light, is a property common to all matter.

†**Sonous,** *a. Obs.*⁻¹ [ad. med.L. *sonōsus*, f. L. *sonus* sound.] Sonorous.

c 1450 *Mirour Saluacioun* (Roxb.) 119 Above thaire hovse Was herde a voice of a wynde whilk was fulle hoegely sonovse.

Sonse (sɒns). *Sc.* (and *Ir.*). Also 5-6 **sons,** 6- **sonce.** [ad. Gael. *sonas* good fortune, prosperity, etc.] Abundance, plentifulness, plenty; prosperity.

c 1300 in *Wyntoun's Orig. Cron.* VII. x. 3623 Qwhen Alexander our kynge was dede,..Away was sons of alle and brede. 1500-20 Dunbar *Poems* xxv. 61 God and Sanct Jeill heir 3ow convoy..To sonce and seill, solace and joy. 1535 Stewart *Cron. Scot.* III. 229 Of fugitouris fra sindrie landis fled, Quhilk lytill sons or nane at hame hes hed, Forlane lownis without riches or micht. *a* 1689 Cleland *Poems* (1697) 59 There's als much vertue, sonce, and pith In Annan, or the Water of Nith,..Als any water in all Greece. 1830 Carleton *Traits Irish Peas.* (1843) I. 195 Bad manners to me,..if sonse or grace can ever come of it. 1892 *Ballymena Obs.* (E. D. D.), Something of good size and value would be said to have some sonce with it.

b. In the phr. *Sonse fa'...*, expressing a wish for one's prosperity. (Misused by Ramsay.)

1719 Ramsay *1st Answ. Hamilton* i, Sonse fa me, witty, wanton Willy, Gin blyth I was na as a filly [etc.]. 1788 Picken *Poems* 157 Sonce fa' yer apen, honest heart Whar double guile ne'er hauntet. 1806 R. Jamieson *Pop. Ballads* I. 352 Sonse fa' Bobbin John; Want an' wae gae by him.

Sonship (sɒ·nʃip). Also 6-7 **sonneship.** [f. Son *sb.* + -ship. Cf. Du. *zoonschap*, G. *sohnschaft.*] The position, state, or relation of a son; sonhood.

1587 Golding *De Mornay* v. (1592) 52 His begetting or Sonneship (if I may so tearme it) is more inward than all the breedings or begettings which we commonly see. 1612 T. Taylor *Comm. Titus* iii. 7 All our right of sonneship is by Christ. 1646 Fuller *Wounded Consc.* (1841) 321 To disclaim our sonship in God. 1670 G. H. *Hist. Cardinals* I. III. 97 The poor Cloyster of which they boast themselves to be Sons, which Son-ship, is oftentimes purchas'd notwithstanding. 1706 Stanhope *Paraphr.* III. 294 That Sonship was imparted by Adoption. 1719 Waterland *Vind. Christ's Div.* 162 All the Christian Writers speak unanimously of a higher, antecedent Sonship. 1850 F. W. Robertson *Serm.* Ser. III. v. (1853) 73 As in baptism he seals the universal Sonship on the individual by name. 1871 H. B. Forman *Our Living Poets* 328 The anguish of the father and the exquisite sonship of the youth.

So·nsily, *adv. Sc.* [f. Sonsy *a.*] In a sonsy or substantial manner.

1730 in Marshall *Hist. Scenes Perthshire* (1880) 199 A big dog appeared to me..betwixt the Hilltown and Knowhead of Mause,..and in passing by touched me sonsily on the thigh at my haunch bane.

Sonsonate (sɒnsɒnā·te). [The name of a city in San Salvador.] In *attrib.* use: (see quots.).

1858 Simmonds *Dict. Trade, Sonsonate Balsam*, a name given to two species of balsam of Peru, a black and a white. 1861 Bentley *Man. Bot.* 529 Balsam of Peru is known in commerce under the names of Sonsonate or St. Salvador Black Balsam.

Sonsy (sɒ·nsi), *a.* Orig. *Sc., Ir.*, and *north. dial.* Also 6 **sonse,** 7- **sonsie,** 9 **sonzy**; 8- **soncy,** 9 **soncie**; 9 **saunsey, -cy.** [f. Sonse.

The opposite term is *donsy* Donsie *a.* (f. **donse*, ad. Gael. *donas* bad luck, misfortune).]

1. Bringing luck or good fortune; lucky, fortunate.

1533 Bellenden *Livy* I. xiv. (S. T. S.) I. 80 Þis wounder apperit be þe Erne,..discending fra þe maist sonsy parte of hevin, on þe left hand. 1536 — *Cron. Scot.* (1821) I. 16 To give them the more esperance of permanent and sonse weird. 1575 *St. Andrews Kirk-Sess. Reg.* (1889) 416 Pay desyrit hir gude-man to pas to the coles witht Dauid Robertson, becaus he was ane sonsy man. 1597 Jas. I *Daemonologie* III. ii. 65 Some were so blinded, as to beleeue that their house was all the sonsier, as they called it, that such spirites resorted there. 1633 *Orkney Witch Trial* in *Abbotsford Club Miscell.* 152 The said Marrion..said that scho had ane sonsie hand. 1681 *Aberd. Sess. Min.* in W. Ross *Aberdour & Inchcolme* xi. (1885) 332 She said that Elspeth was 'not sonsie'. 1721 Kelly *Sc. Prov.* Introd., It is no Sonsie to meet a bare Foot in the Morning. 1726 in Macfarlane *Geog. Coll.* (S. H. S.) I. 212 They say the river is not sonsy nor yet the loch. 1824 Mactaggart *Gallovid. Encycl.* 384 A bean podd, that holds five beans, and a pea podd, which contains nine peas, are considered to be sonsy. 1880 *Antrim & Down Gloss.* 95 It's not sonsy to do that.

Comb. 1684 Renwick *Serm.* v. (1776) 72 It is never a sonsy-like manifestation that makes proud.

b. Sound, sensible; shrewd. *rare.*

a 1689 Cleland *Poems* (1697) 105 It is a good old sonsie saying, That little wit makes meikle straying. 1720 Ramsay *Wealth* 15 Sonsy sauls wha first contriv'd the way, With project deep our charges to defray.

2. Having a thriving, agreeable, or attractive appearance; plump, buxom, comely and pleasant; comfortable-looking, etc.

The various shades of meaning are fully illustrated in the *Eng. Dial. Dict.*

a. Of women or girls.

1725 Ramsay *Gentle Sheph.* III. ii, I've twa sonsy lasses, young and fair. 1786 Burns *Inventory* 54 My sonsie, smirking, dear-bought Bess. 1818 Scott *Hrt. Midl.* xxxix, Is she a pretty girl?..her sister does not get beyond a good comely sonsy lass. 1865 *Cornh. Mag.* Mar. 298 A sonsy, blond-haired young Flemish maiden sat there. 1876 Mrs. Whitney *Sights & Ins.* II. ii. 356 Mother and three daughters, all so fair and sonsy and merry together.

transf. 1830 Galt *Lawrie T.* VII. IV. (1849) 320 Her neck and all about her is of that sonsy comeliness which is most to the taste of a man of my age.

b. Of the face.

1786 Burns *Twa Dogs* 31 His honest, sonsie, baws'nt face Ay gat him friends in ilka place. 1855 [J. D. Burn] *Beggar Boy* (1859) 125 The amiability of his mind was happily reflected in his broad *soncy* face. 1863 Trollope *Rachel Ray* I. 253, I love to look on a young fellow with a sonsy face.

c. Of things.

1816 Scott *Antiq.* V, A weel-favoured, sonsy, decent periwig. 1870 *Gd. Words* Feb. 133/2 The men are dressed..in a warm blouse and trousers of sonsy grey homespun. 1891 V. C. Cotes *Two Girls on a Barge* 140 The long wide streets and the sonsy air of the place.

3. Of animals: Tractable, manageable.

1786 Burns *Auld Farmer's Salut. Mare* V, Ye ne'er was donsie; But hamely, tawie, quiet an' cannie, An' unco sonsie. 1808 Jamieson s.v., *A sonsie horse*, one that is peaceable.

Sont, obs. form of Saint.

†**So·ntic,** *a. Obs.*⁻⁰ (See quot.)

1656 Blount *Glossogr.*, *Sontick*, noysom, hurtful. *Ibid.*, The *Sontick disease*,..a continual and extream sickness [etc., copying Cooper *Thes.* s.v. *Sonticus*].

Sonties: see Santy *Obs.*

Sony, obs. Sc. variant of Sunny *a.*

†**Sonyie,** *sb. Sc. Obs.* Also 5-6 **sonȝe,** 6 **sounȝie, sunȝie.** [var. Soign *sb.*]

1. Excuse; plea.

1438 *Bk. Alexander Grt.* (Bann. Club) 24 Quhan he sawe that na man wald ga, In the message bot sonȝe ma. *c* 1480 Henryson *Fables, Wolf & Fox* vii, All thy sonȝeis sall not auaill the. 1500-20 Dunbar *Poems* lxxix. 3 My coumpt, I sall it mak 3ow cleir, But ony circumstance or sonȝie. *a* 1585 Polwart *Flyting w. Montgomerie* 796 Thou will hing but a sunȝie. *c* 1685 R. MacWard *Contend.* (1723) 93 But I knew, your last sonzie and shift will be, that they admitted..non-indulged to preach in the pulpits.

2. Hesitation; delay.

c 1470 Henry *Wallace* II. 97 Bot for his tre litill sonȝhe he maid. 1500-20 Dunbar *Poems* xxvi. 72 Mony slute daw and slepy duddroun, Him serwit ay with sounȝie.

†**Sonyie,** *v. Sc. Obs.* In 5-6 **sonȝe, 6 soinȝe, sounȝe, sonye, swnye, sunyie.** [var. Soign *v.*] *intr.* To hesitate, delay, refuse. Also *refl.*

c 1470 Henry *Wallace* III. 110 Than graithit thai thaim till harnes hastely, Thar sonȝeit nane of that gud chewalrye. *c* 1500 Kennedie *Passion of Christ* 1526 He sonȝeit him, or he wald forthir pas. 1508 Dunbar *Poems* vii. 31 Withe us to liue,..Quhilk never sall swnye for thy saik to bleid. 1536 Bellenden *Cron. Scot.* (1821) II. 242 Quhy sonye ye, maist vailyeant campionis? quhy pas ye nocht forthwart with gret spreit? 1573 *Satir. Poems Reform.* xxxix. 368 He soinȝeit not to ga him self and se.

Soo, north. dial. and Sc. var. Sow *sb.* and *v.*

Sooar, obs. f. Sowar.

Soobah: see Subah.

Soobahdar, -dary, variants of Subahdar(ry.

Soocey: see Soosy.

†**Sood**[1], ? irreg. variant of Soot *sb.*[1]

c 1430 *Pol., Rel., & L. Poems* (1903) 211 Al suche sacrificis y forsake, For þei ben to me as sour as sood.

†**Sood**[2], Anglicized form of Soda [2]. *Obs.*⁻¹

1547 Boorde *Brev. Health* lvii. 26 In the head may be many infirmities, as the Apoplexi,..the Megrym, the Sood.

Sooder, variant of Suder *Anglo-Ind.*

Soo·dle, *v. dial.* [Of obscure origin.] *intr.* To walk in a slow or leisurely manner; to stroll, saunter.

1821 Clare *Vill. Minstr.* I. 19 To go so soodling up and down the street. *Ibid.* II. 93 While I as unconcern'd went soodling on. 1854- in dial. (chiefly midland) glossaries.

Hence **Soo·dly** *a.*, leisurely, slow. *dial.*

1821 CLARE *Vill. Minstr.* II. 67 The horse-boy, with a soodly gait, Slow climbs the stile.

Soofee(ism : see SUFI(ISM.

‖ **Soojee** (sū·dʒī). Also **soojy, -ie, s(o)ujee.** [Hindī *sūjī*.] A flour obtained by grinding Indian wheat; a nutritious food prepared from this.

1810 T. WILLIAMSON *E. Ind. Vade-mecum* II. 136 *Soojy*, (the basis of the bread,) is frequently boiled into 'stir-about' for breakfast. 1843 PEREIRA *Food & Diet* 307 Semolina, Soujee, and Mannacroup, are granular preparations of wheat, deprived of bran. 1844–1853 [see SEMOLETTA]. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade, Soojee*, Indian wheat, ground but not pulverized; a kind of semolino.

attrib. 1878 *Life in the Mofussil* I. 213 Sujee flour, ground coarse.

Sook, obs. or Sc. var. SUCK *sb.* and *v.*

† **Sooke,** obs. variant of SOKE [1].

1716 M. DAVIES *Athen. Brit.* II. 72 His two tenements in the Sooke in the Town of Lynn in Norfolk.

Sool, obs. f. SOLE *sb.*[1] and *a.*, SOUL *sb.*; dial. var. SOWEL; var. SOWL *v.* **Soold,** obs. pa. t. of SELL *v.* **Soole,** obs. f. SOLE *sb.*[1], etc.; dial. var. SOWEL. **Sooly,** obs. f. SOLELY *adv.*

† **Sooly,** *a. Obs.*—[1] ? Close, sultry.

Perh. an error for *sooltry*, but cf. Du. *zoel*, † *soel*.

1570 FOXE *A. & M.* (ed. 2) II. 1071/2 The soolye heat of y[e] prison, to me is coldnes: the colde wynter to me is a freshe sprynge tyme in the Lord.

Soom, north. and Sc. var. SWIM. **Soome,** obs. var. SUM. **Soom(n)ed,** obs. varr. SUMMED *ppl. a.*

Soon (sūn), *adv.* Forms: (see below). [OE. *sōna*, = OS. *sâno, sôna*, commonly *sân* (MLG. *sân*), OFris. *sôn, sân*, OHG. (and MHG.) *sân*, MFlem. *saen* (WFlem. *zaen, .zaan*); not represented in Scand., and now obs. in most of the Continental dialects.

As OE. *sōna* had the sense of 'at once, immediately', it did not readily admit of comparison, and no comparative or superlative forms are recorded. The appearance of these in early ME. is due to the more extended sense which the word had by that time acquired.]

A. Forms.

1. 1 **sona,** 2–6 (7 *Sc.*) **sone** (4 **zone**), 4–7 **soone**; 3–4 **son,** 5 **sonne**; 5– **soon** (9 *dial.* **suon, sooin, zoon**).

[For illustration see senses 1–9.]

2. *north.* and *Sc. a.* 4–5 **soyn,** 4–5, 8 **soyne,** 6 **shoin.**

13.. *Cursor M.* 16762+20 (Cott.), He..sayd þis word ful soyn. *Ibid.* 17288+82 Þe thrid day after soyne. 1434 MISYN *Mending Life* 124 [It] soyne is cast bak. 1489 *Barbour's Bruce* IV. 367 In-to Kentyre soyn cumin ar thai. 1572 *Mem.* in *Buccleuch MSS.* (Hist. MSS. Comm.) I. 23 How shoin perceaved [etc.]. *c* 1746 J. COLLIER (Tim Bobbin) *View Lanc. Dial.* (1860) 3 So soyne this Morning.

β. 4 **sun,** 4, 8– **sune,** 5 **swne,** 6 **suin,** 9 **suen, seun.**

13.. *Cursor M.* 987 (Cott.), Þai brak þe forbot als sun. *Ibid.* 1388 Seth..sune com til his fader again. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* V. 1090 Thai sall swne tyne ma. 1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* II. 416 How suin he [it]..ressauet had. 1792 BURNS '*I do confess thou art sae fair*' 15 Yet sune thou shalt be thrown aside. 1832 W. STEPHENSON *Gateshead Local Poems* 100 This..pair Will suen myek ye knock under. 1894 R. REID *Kirkbride* i, This..body maun sune be dust.

γ. 5 **soune, sovne,** 6 **soun, sown, schowne.**

14.. *Sc. Leg. Saints* xii. (*Matthias*) 228 Þat sovne þu ga. *Ibid.* xl. (*Ninian*) 1198 Furth on sown can he fare. 1489 *Barbour's Bruce* I. 566 The endentur..soune schawyt the iniquite. *a* 1578 LINDESAY (Pitscottie) *Chron. Scot.* (S.T.S.) I. 8 Schowne thair fell ane gret varience.

δ. 7 **seaun,** 8 **sean,** 9 **seean, seen.**

1684 *Yorks. Dial.* 3 (E. D. S.), Seaun, seaun,..bring my Skeel. 1790 MRS. WHEELER *Westmld. Dial.* 86 Awr Courtship wod sean hae been at an end. 1871 W. ALEXANDER *Johnny Gibb* xxi. 159 They'll seen get their sairin' o' him an's mither tee. 1876 ROBINSON *Whitby Gloss.* 165/1 It may as weel come seean as syne.

3. *Compar.* 3 **sonre,** 4 **sonnere,** 4–5 **sonner** (5 **sonder, sonnare**); 4 **sennere,** 5 **sannere, -ur, -yr** (see also SANDER *adv.*); 4 **sun(n)ere,** 4–5 **sunner,** 5 **sunnar,** 6 *Sc.* **schunar, suiner,** 8– *Sc.* **suner**; 4 **sonir, -ere,** 4–6 **soner,** 5 **sonare, -yre,** 6 **sonar, -yr**; 6 **soonner,** 6– **sooner.**

[For illustration see senses 10–13. The form *sounere* which appears in some of the quotations should prob. be *sonner(e.*]

4. *Superl.* 3 **sonest,** 5 **-yst,** 6 **-ast**; 4 **sennest, sannest, sunnest,** 4–5 **sonnest**; 6– **soonest.**

[For illustration see senses 14–16.]

B. Signification.

I. 1. Within a short time (after a particular point of time specified or implied), before long, quickly; † (in early use) without delay, forthwith, straightway: **a.** With reference to a definite past or future time.

c 825 *Vesp. Psalter* lxix. 4 Sien forcerred sona [L. *statim*] & scomiende. *c* 897 K. ÆLFRED tr. *Gregory's Past. C.* 196 Ac he him sona ondwyrde, & him swiðe stiernlice stierde. 971 *Blickl. Hom.* 15 He þa sona instæpes ȝeseh, & þa sona wæs Drihtne fylgende. *c* 1030 *Rule St. Benet* (Logeman) 40 Þane þonne ongind, sona [L. *mox*] ealle mid arwurðnessa arison. 1154 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1135, Ȝæenes him risen sona þa ricemen þe wæron swikes. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 1221 Abraham rapede him sone in sped for to fulfillen godes reed. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 2995 He did to cal habraham son, And said, 'qui has þou þusgat don?' 1340 *Ayenb.* 173 Efterward þe dyaþ..him ssel sterie zone him to ssrive. 1362 LANGL. *P. Pl.* A. III. 48 Þene he asoylede hire soone, and siþ to hire seide [etc.]. *c* 1400 tr. *Secreta Secret., Gov. Lordsh.* 57 Alexander, couеyte noght þinges coruptibles.. þat þou most sone forsake. *c* 1475 *Rauf Coilȝear* 142 Sone was the Supper dicht, and the fyre bet. 1513 MORE *Edw. V* (1641) 8 Whose life he looked that ill dyet would soone shorten. 1567 *Satir. Poems Reform.* viii. 31 Cum, sweir þe saikles sone. 1665 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* (1677) 176 We found..that the King's good will became soon diverted. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* IV. 776 The soft Napæan Race will soon repent Their Anger. 1766 GOLDSM. *Vicar* iii, The day soon arrived on which we were to disperse. 1796 H. HUNTER tr. *St.-Pierre's Stud. Nat.* (1799) II. 552 We shall soon have..the exhibition of a museum at the Tuilleries. 1831 SCOTT *Ct. Rob.* xxxii, With..eyes dimmed by the powerful idea of soon parting with the light of day. 1841 *Penny Cycl.* XXI. 173/1 The rout soon became general. 1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) I. 495 The voice of fate calls. Soon I must drink the poison.

b. In general statements, in which the time reckoned from is indefinite.

c 825 *Vesp. Psalter* xxxvi. 20 Feond..dryhtnes sona [L. *mox*] ȝearade & upahefene biað. 971 *Blickl. Hom.* 21 Ne he hine na ne onstyreþ, syþþan seo unȝesynelice sawl him of biþ; ac sona he molsnaþ. *a* 1200 *Vices & Virt.* 99 Ȝif hie cumeð fram dieule, prudencia hes icnauð sone. *a* 1275 *Prov. Ælfred* 630 in *O. E. Misc.* 136 Buch þe from þi sete, & bide him sone þer-to. *c* 1300 *Havelok* 78 Wo so dede hem wrong or lath,..He dede hem sone to hauen ricth. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 109 So that it proeveth wel therfore, The strengthe of man is sone lore. 1445 in *Anglia* XXVIII. 271 Wherfore thou preventist tyme, and soon thi bowntee shewist. 1450–80 tr. *Secreta Secret.* iv. 7 His Rewme may not stonde longe in prosperite but sone come to distruccioun. 1538 STARKEY *England* I. ii. 47 The body, yf hyt be not strong, sone..ys oppressyd & ouerthrowne. 1593 SHAKS. *Lucr.* 647 Small lights are soon blown out, huge fires abide. 1633 P. FLETCHER *Purple Isl.* IV. xxxii, Fitting his operation, For swallowing soon to fall, and rise for inspiration. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) V. 286 This species soon takes to build in artificial cavities. 1812 *New Botanic Gard.* I. 44 They very soon take root. 1855 *Orr's Circ. Sci., Geol.*, etc. 240 This gas..soon mixes with the air around. *Prov.* 1530 PALSGR. 885/1 Sone hotte sone colde. 1546–[see RIPE *a.* 1c]. *c* 1580 JEFFERIE *Bugbears* IV. v. 58 Lyttle sayd, sone amended. 1670 RAY *Prov.* 285 Little said, soon mendit. 1861 MAYHEW *Lond. Lab.* III. 391 Soon got, soon gone.

† **c.** *Till soon,* for a short time. *Obs.*

1526 SKELTON *Magnyf.* 322 Fare you well tyll sone. 1533 J. HEYWOOD *Pardoner & Frere* Plays (1905) 17 Canst not tarry and abide till soon, And read them then when preaching is done? 1592 KYD *Sp. Trag.* IV. i. 192 Farewell till soone.

2. a. Followed by *after* (adv.) or *afterwards* († also *eft, efter, thereafter, sithen*).

In OE. also *eftor*) *sōna*: see EFTER-, EFTSOON(S.

c 900 *O. E. Chron.* an. 797 (Parker MS.), And þa sona eft..he meahte ȝeseon & sprecan. *c* 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Mark xiv. 72 And sona efter se hona ȝesang. *a* 1122 *O. E. Chron.* an. 1101, And þa sona þæræfter wurdon þa heafodmen.. wiðer-ræden toȝeanes þam cynge. *c* 1200 ORMIN 7256 And sone siþþenn sennde he forþ þatt Kalldewisshe ȝenge. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 8277 Ȝut sone þer after an oþer com al so. *c* 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 68 Als yhe sal here afturward sone. *c* 1450 *Myrr. our Ladye* 30 They shulde..often fynde themselfe better at ease sone after. *c* 1450 *Brut* CCXLII. 359 Sone aftirward rist þere he made his ende. 1577 HARRISON *Descr. Brit.* I. xi, Soone after also it taketh in a rillet called the Bure. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 21 Oct. 1632, I was soone afterwards sent for into Surrey. 1796 MME. D'ARBLAY *Camilla* I. 182 Soon after, Lionel, galloping across the park, hastily dismounted. 1845 NICOLAS *Mem. Chaucer* in *C.'s Wks.* I. 32 Soon after, he was twice paid 40*s*...for his half yearly Robes. 1875 *Encycl. Brit.* III. 305/1 Soon afterwards a direct charge of plagiarism was made against Balzac.

b. Followed by *after* (prep.) with simple object or clause.

c 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Matt. xxiv. 29 Sona..æfter costunge dazana ðara. *a* 1000 *Cædmon's Satan* 630 Sona æfter þæm wordum. *c* 1200 ORMIN 3332 Sone anan affterr þatt he Wass borenn þær to manne. *c* 1400 *Rom. Rose* 3777 Aftir the calme the trouble soune Mote folowe. *c* 1500 *Melusine* v. (1890) 27 And soone afsir that he had kyssed hym, he..lepe vpon his hors. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* II. x. 66 Soone after which, three hundred Lordes he slew Of British bloud. 1779 *Mirror* No. 65, Soon after he returned to his native country, he married Lady C——. 1837 LOCKHART *Scott* I. viii. 247 The young kinsman was introduced to her soon after her arrival at Mertoun. 1879 R. MORRIS *Chaucer's Prol.*, etc. (ed. 6) p. xii, Perhaps now, or perhaps soon after the loss of his office.

3. Early, betimes; before the time specified or referred to is much advanced.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 3045 Sun on þe morn, quen it was dai. ? *a* 1366 CHAUCER *Rom. Rose* 23, I went soon To bedde, *c* 1385 — *L. G. W.* 1637 *Hypsipyle*, To come sone at nyght Vn-to hire chambir. 1598 SHAKS. *Merry W.* I. iv. 8 We'll haue a posset for 't soone at night. 1616 B. JONSON *Devil an Ass* I. i, As you make your soone at nights relation. 1697 tr. *Trav. C'tess D'Anois* (1706) 45, I rose in effect very soon next Morning. *c* 1746 [see A. 2 a]. 1807 WORDSW. '*The world is too much with us*' 1 Late and soon, Getting and spending, we lay waste our powers. 1859 BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.* (ed. 2) 428 *Soon*, at the South this word is frequently used by all classes as a substitute for early... 'I shall be there soon in the evening.'

† **b.** Early in the evening. *Obs.*

Prob. by ellipse for *soon at night*: see prec.

1619 A. GIL *Logon. Angl.* (1621) 34 *Quikli* citò, *sûner* ..citius, *sûnest*..citissimè; nam *sûn* hodie apud *plurimos* significat *ad primam vesperam*, olim *citò*. 1674 RAY *N. C. Words* 44 *Soon*, the Evening: *a soon*, at Even. [Hence in later glossaries.]

c. At an early stage, date, period, etc.

1615 W. LAWSON *Country Housew. Gard.* (1626) 37 Soone crookes the tree that good Camrell must bee. 1664 PEPYS *Diary* 31 Aug., My wife has got me some pretty good oysters, which is very soon and the soonest, I think, I ever eat any. 1771 LUCKOMBE *Hist. Printing* 125 The Abby of St. Albans had printing there very soon. 1876 GLADSTONE *Glean.* (1879) II. 300 For his own eye, the ornaments of his Essay on Milton were so soon as in 1843 gaudy and ungraceful.

4. In various phrases denoting 'At the very time or moment when, whenever': † **a.** *Soon so.* Also with *sum*, and ellipt. without connecting particle.

The reduced forms *son se, sons*, occur in the Ormulum. In OE. *sōna þæs* (*þe*) is also found.

(*a*) *c* 897 K. ÆLFRED tr. *Gregory's Past. C.* 431 Sona swa ic anwoc, swa wilnode ic eft wines. 971 *Blickl. Hom.* 37 Sona swa þu ȝeseo nacodne wædlan, þonne ȝeȝyre þu hine. *a* 1122 *O. E. Chron.* an. 1100, Sona swa se eorl Rotbert into Normandiȝ com. *c* 1200 ORMIN 6450 Sone swa þatt steorrne stod þa kingess wel itt sæȝhenn. *a* 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 476 Sone se ich seh þe leome of þe soðe lare. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 5897 He baptised þis aeldred sone so he was ybore. 1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. x. 226 Was neuere gome..Fairer vnder-fongen..þan my-self sothly sone so he wist.

(*b*) *c* 1200 ORMIN 821 Sone summ he cuþe ben Himm ane bi himm sellfenn. 13.. *Cursor M.* 11015 (Gött.), Sone sum vr leuedi was mett wid þe angel.

(*c*) *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 329 Sone ȝe it ðor-of hauen eten, Al ȝe it sulen witent. *c* 1300 *Havelok* 1354 Sone it was day, sone he him cladde.

† **b.** *So soon so. Obs.*

c 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 53 Swa sone se hi beoð iturnd awey from heom? *c* 1250 *Owl & Night.* 518 So sone so þu sittest abrode, þu forleost al þine wise. 13.. *Guy Warw.* (A.) 4173 Amorwe, so sone so it was day. 1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. XVII. 63 So sone so þe samaritan hadde siȝte of þis lede.

c. *As soon as.* (Now the ordinary use.) Also † *as soon so.*

From the end of the 15th to the middle of the 18th cent. the *as* and *soon* were commonly written together (*assone, assoone, asoone, assoon*). In ME. *alson(e) as* also occurs: see ALSOON *adv.* 1.

c 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 225 As sone as we were ymaked, oure maister was so prout. 1393 LANGL. *P. Pl.* C. XX. 63 Ac as sone so þe samaritan hadde sighte of þat syke, He alyghte a-non. *a* 1400 *Theophilus* XXXI, As sone as he herde of þat tiding, He rapede hym wel swithe. 1445 in *Anglia* XXVIII. 277 Thei wrey thin enemyes to þe as sone as þei the see banke touche. 1484 CAXTON *Fables of Æsop* II. xvii, Assone as the wynter shalle come thow shalt deye. 1548 UDALL, etc. *Erasm. Par. Mark* i. (1552) 121 Assone as Jesus was aduertised thereof. 1577 GOOGE tr. *Heresbach's Husb.* § 41 As soone as your Rape seede is of,..you may sowe..Branke as they call it. 1607 HIERON *Wks.* I. 259 Andrew, who assoone as hee had found Christ, went to call Peter. 1642 D. ROGERS *Naaman* 90 Assoone as they feele their need. 1654–66 EARL ORRERY *Parthen.* (1676) 629 As soon as ever I understood.. I made him humble retributions. 1710 PRIDEAUX *Orig. Tithes* v. 282 This Law..fell into disuse assoon as made. 1764 T. HUTCHINSON *Hist. Mass.* I. (1765) 58 Assoon as they knew the terms. 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* XXVIII, 'Madame Montoni is now dying, sir,' said Emily, as soon as she saw him. 1861 M. PATTISON *Ess.* (1889) I. 42 As soon as the French trade was again opened.

d. *So soon as.* In early use sometimes † *at so, also soon as.*

c 1330 *Assump. Virg.* (B.M. MS.) 157 So sone as sche hadde doun, Newe clopes sche dide hure apoun. *c* 1380 WYCLIF *Wks.* (1880) 43 Þe same freris ben holden to renne to hem also sone as þei may. 1465 *Paston Lett.* I. 132 Al so sone as I come to the Blakheth, the capteyn made the comens to take me. 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 166 b, The Frenche kyng, so sone as he heard therof, kepte a solempne funerall. 1588 PARKE tr. *Mendoza's Hist. China* 359 So soone as their inditement was read, and iudgement giuen. 1637 *3rd Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* 75/1 The Dunkirkers, so soon as they made out what I was, took in their flag. 1700 TYRRELL *Hist. Eng.* II. 823 So soon as the Death of King John was..known. 1751 R. PALTOCK *P. Wilkins* (1884) II. 243 So soon as he was without the territory of the palace. 1818 COLEBROOKE *Obligations* 14 The article..is sold so soon as the parties have consented. 1882 J. H. BLUNT *Ref. Ch. Eng.* II. 8 So soon as the formal consent of Edward had been obtained.

e. *Soon as.* Now *poet.*

c 1375 *Cursor M.* 8167 (Fairf.), Sone as he þe king had knawen, welcome he saide. 1640 HABINGTON *Edw. IV*, 24 She was repulst by the inhabitants soone as she landed. 1658 DRYDEN *Cromwell* vii, Nor was his Vertue poison'd, soon as born. 1746 FRANCIS tr. *Horace, Epist.* I. xix. 13 Soon as I spoke, our rival Bards engage. 1801 *Lusignan* II. 85 [She] had hitherto communicated every thought soon as it had birth. 1885–94 R. BRIDGES *Eros & Psyche* Aug. XXX, The which she knew, soon as she heard the name.

f. *How soon (as). Sc. Obs.*

1557 *Peebles Burgh Rec.* (1872) 236 To be deliuerit.. quhowsone he be requirit thairto. 1563 WINȜET *Wks.* (S.T.S.) I. 124 Quhow sone as a sinnar is resauit..to mercy. 1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* I. 25 Bot how sone thay begin to bigg thair nestis, the grettest gun..will nocht scar thame. 1754 [see How *adv.* 14 b].

5. *So soon,* so quickly, so early. Also followed by *as.*

(*a*) *c* 1320 *Sir Tristr.* 86 Þurch min hert..Ywounded haþ he me So sone. 1382 WYCLIF *Gal.* i. 6, I wondre, that thus so soone ȝe ben born ouer fro him. 1535 COVERDALE *Exod.* ii. 18 How came ye so soone to daie? 1610 SHAKS. *Temp.* II. i. 191 What, all so soone asleepe? 1664 BUTLER *Hud.* II. iii. 1131 Which way came I Through so immense a space so soon? 1772 *Hist. Rochester* 27 Too large a work to be compleated so soon. 1828 LYTTON *Pelham* III. iii, If you are going so soon, honour me by accepting my arm.

(*b*) 1671 MILTON *P. R.* IV. 332 Where so soon As in our native Language can I find That solace?

† **b.** *Not so soon . . . (that)* or *but (that)*, = no sooner . . . than (see 13 b). *Obs.*

1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 171 This word was noght so sone spoke, That his on yhe anon was loke. *c* 1477 CAXTON *Jason* 71 b, Appollo had not so sone finysshid these wordes but that alle they..cryed [etc.]. 1549 CHEKE *Hurt Sedit.* (1641) 60 The husbandman had not so soone throwne seed in his ground, but steppeth up the enimy. 1585 T. WASHINGTON tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* I. vii, Wee were not so soone on land, the knight..did instantly request me [etc.]. *Ibid.* xx, They were not so soone issued, but were cleane spoyled..of the enimies. 1605 CAMDEN *Rem.* (1623) 217 But hee had not so soone spoken the word, but the surging waue dashed him.

6. a. Preceded by *over* or *too*.

c 1400 *Rom. Rose* 3842 For Shame to longe hath be thee froo; Over soone she was agoo. *c* 1513 SKELTON *Agst. Scottes* 130 Vnto the castell of Norram..to sone ye came. 1599 SHAKS., etc. *Pass. Pilgr.* 134 Fair creature, kill'd too soon by death's sharp sting! 1617 SIR W. MURE *Misc. Poems* xviii. Wks. (S. T. S.) I. 38 Too sone, (alace!)..Thy pairt is acted on this wordlie stage. 1720 DE FOE *Capt. Singleton* i. (1840) 3 This fell out something too soon. 1821 SHELLEY *Adonais* xxvii, Why didst thou leave the trodden paths of men Too soon? 1870 E. PEACOCK *Ralf Skirl.* II. 205 It was not a moment too soon. 1902 SKEAT *Havelok* p. xvii, A curious instance of *anticipation*, i. e. the too soon writing down of a coming letter.

b. Followed by *enough*.

1545 ASCHAM *Toxoph.* II. (Arb.) 114 Not layinge before theyr eyes, thys wyse prouerbe: Sone ynough, if wel ynough. 1685 *Gracian's Courtier's Orac.* 56 Soon enough, if well enough, said a Wise Man. 1784 COWPER *Task* II. 622 A man o' th' town dines late, but soon enough, With reasonable forecast and dispatch T' ensure a side-box station at half price.

7. a. *As soon* (*as*), as quickly, as early (as).

a 1548 HALL *Chron., Edw. IV*, E j b, He and his folowed so quickly after, that they were almost at ye gates as sone as the Ambassadors. 1594 DAVIES *Orchestra* xli, The Moon.. ends her Pavin thirteen times as soon as doth her brother. 1634 MILTON *Comus* 1016 From thence [I] can soar as soon To the corners of the Moon. 1667 — *P. L.* IV. 464, I soon returnd;..it returnd as soon with answering looks. 1691 NORRIS *Pract. Disc.* 81 But alas, the Mystery of Iniquity began to work assoon as the Mystery of Godliness.

†**b.** *As soon*, at once, forthwith. *Obs.* (Cf. ALSOON *adv.* 2.)

1585 JAS. I *Ess. Poesie* (Arb.) 23 He stays assone, and in his mynde doeth cast What way to take.

†**c.** *As soon . . ., as soon*, at one time . . ., at another; now . . ., again. *Obs.*

1582 PETTIE tr. *Guazzo's Civ. Conv.* II. (1586) 78 b, As soone with Gentlemen, as soone with the baser sorte, now and then with Princes, now and then with priuate persons. 1647 TRAPP *Marrow Gd. Authors* in *Comm. Ep.* 715 Erasmus..was as soon with Protestants, and as soon with Papists, and so was well thought of on neither side.

8. *As soon* (*as*): **a.** As readily; as willingly. Also *so soon as*.

1590 SHAKS. *Mids. N.* III. ii. 52 Ile beleeue as soone This whole earth may be bord. 1601 — *Jul. C.* I. ii. 201 Yet ..I do not know the man I should auoyd So soone as that spare Cassius. 1702 VANBRUGH *False Friend* II. i, I'd as soon undertake to keep Portocarero honest. 1775 SHERIDAN *St. Patr. Day* II. iv, I had as soon recover, notwithstanding. 1777 — *Sch. Scand.* I. i, For he'll abuse a stranger just as soon as his best friend. 1816 WHEWELL in Mrs. S. Douglas *Life* (1881) 22, I had as soon be beaten by him as by anybody else. 1825 SCOTT *Talism.* x, They would march under the banner of Satan as soon.

b. With as much reason or probability.

1591 SHAKS. *Two Gentl.* II. vii. 19 Thou wouldst as soone goe kindle fire with snow As seeke to quench the fire of Loue with words. 1670 EACHARD *Cont. Clergy* 86 They may assoon expect..consolation from him that lies rack'd with the gout.., as from a divine thus broken..in his fortunes. 1815 SHELLEY *Alastor* 509 Measureless ocean may declare as soon..as the universe Tell [etc.].

c. Used to suggest denial of a statement.

1590 SHAKS. *Com. Err.* IV. i. 98 *Ant. E.* I sent thee for a rope...*Dro. S.* You sent me for a ropes end as soone.

9. *Comb.* With ppl. adjs. (and ppples.), as *soon-believing, -descending, -drying*, etc.; *soon-choked, -clad, -contented*, etc.

a. 1582 SIDNEY *Apol. Poetrie* (Arb.) 34 The soone repenting pride of Agamemnon. 1592 SHAKS. *Rom. & Jul.* V. i. 60 A dram of poyson, such soone speeding geare. 1593 — *Rich. II*, I. i. 101 His soone beleeuing aduersaries. 1616 DRUMM. OF HAWTH. *Poems, Thirsis in Dispraise of Beauty* i, Soone-fading Beautie, which of Hues doth rise. 1617 HIERON *Wks.* II. 192 These shallow and soone-drying streames of outward ioy. 1786–46 THOMSON *Winter* 50 The sun.., soon-descending, to the long dark night..the prostrate world resigns.

b. *c* 1611 CHAPMAN *Iliad* II. 590 These soon-monied wares We drave into Neleius' town. 1611 COTGR. s.v *Coupe-queue*, Two short, and soone-done-words. *Ibid., Messe de chasseur*, a short, or soone-said Masse. 1727–46 THOMSON *Summer* 63 Rous'd by the cock, the soon clad shepherd leaves His mossy cottage. 1768–74 TUCKER *Lt. Nat.* (1834) II. 103 That unaspiring humility, that soon-contented moderation. 1852 M. ARNOLD *Absence* 10 Each day brings its petty dust Our soon-chok'd souls to fill. 1866 HOWELLS *Venetian Life* xvi. 257 Soon-sated curiosity slides willingly away.

II. In the comparative form *sooner*.

10. Within a shorter time; more quickly; with less delay; at an earlier time or date.

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 266 Þreatеð þet ȝe wulleð ȝelden up þene castel bute ȝif he sende ou þe sonre help. ? *a* 1366 CHAUCER *Rom. Rose* 969 For he may sonner have gladnesse, Hir langour ought to be the lesse. 1382 WYCLIF *Isaiah* lviii. 8 Thin helthe sunnere shal springe. 1432 *Rolls of Parlt.* IV. 405/2 In cas that covenable remedie ne be not sunner purveyde. 1587 Q. ELIZABETH in Scoones *Four C. Eng. Lett.* (1880) 31 Excuse my not writing sonar. 1678 CUDWORTH *Intell. Syst.* I. v. 887 The Question, Why the World ..was no sooner, but so lately made? 1686 W. HOPKINS tr. *Ratramnus* Diss. i. (1688) 20 Written by him, as some guess, about the Year 850. or perhaps sooner. 1780 *Mirror* No. 105, Sometimes it returns a little sooner by royal proclamation. 1818 CRUISE *Digest* (ed. 2) I. 481 Sometimes it is to be done sooner, sometimes later. 1886 C. E. PASCOE *Lond. of To-day* xxx. (ed. 3) 271 The House..sits till six, if the 'Orders of the Day' are not sooner disposed of.

b. Followed by *than*.

c 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 240 Wel sonere..hom huy come þane huy outward wende. 1362 LANGL. *P. Pl. A.* XI. 274 Sonnere hadde he saluacion þanne seint Ion þe baptist. 1382 WYCLIF *John* xx. 4 Thilke other disciple ran bifore sunner than Petre. *c* 1450 *Merlin* 43 Yef I wolde, I sholde fynde hym moche sonner than ye. *c* 1489 CAXTON *Sonnes of Aymon* xvii. 396 Charlemagn seketh his dommage; and he shall have it soner than he weneth. 1566 PAINTER *Pal. Pleas.* I. 47 You went soner awaye then love coulde have time to fasten uppon you. 1581 PETTIE tr. *Guazzo's Civ. Conv.* III. (1586) 175 b, I pray you come sooner then you did to daie. ? *a* 1639 CAREW *Perswasion to Love* Poems (1651) 3 Tis sooner past, tis sooner done Than Summers rain, or Winters Sun. 1718 *Entertainer* No. 40, 275 Judgment may overtake him sooner than he thinks for. 1880 GEIKIE *Phys. Geog.* ii. 61 Land gets sooner heated by the sun's rays than the sea.

c. *Sooner or later*, at some time or other.

Usu. with reference to the future, and implying the certain happening of the event referred to.

1577 B. GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* I. (1586) 44 b, The stones, stickes, and suche baggage..are to be throwen out sooner or later. 1660–67 [see LATER *adv.*]. 1712 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 289 P 4 The dying Man is one whom, sooner or later, we shall certainly resemble. 1797–1805 S. & HT. LEE *Canterb. T.* II. 427 To keep up..a correspondence in Italy, would sooner or later betray them. 1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* li, I have observed, that, sooner or later, they come to an evil end.

11. More readily or easily. Chiefly with *than*.

(*a*) *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 58 Al ȝet þat falleð to hire,..þurh hwat muhte sonre ful luue of aquiken. 1603 SHAKS. *Meas. for M.* V. i. 277, I thinke, if you handled her priuately She would sooner confesse. 1606 — *Tr. & Cr.* II. i. 17, I shal sooner rayle thee into wit and holinesse. 1664 J. WILSON *A. Commenius* I. i, You may sooner hold An angry Lyon, with a clew of thread. 1842 LOVER *Handy Andy* ix, If you had a child.., no one should have the majority sooner.

(*b*) 1303 R. BRUNNE *Handl. Synne* 789 Sunner he takyth for here veniaunce þan for any oþer chaunce. *c* 1380 WYCLIF *Contr. Tracts* Sel. Wks. III. 291 ȝif þei weren opyn trewe men ..þei schulden sunere gete pursuyng..þan fatte benefices. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Edw. IV*, I v, He thought the Sunne would soner haue fallen from his circle, then that kyng Lewes..would haue dissimuled. 1553 T. WILSON *Rhet.* (1580) 202 Sir Thomas More..can soner bee remembred of me, then worthely praised of any. 1634 MILTON *Comus* 323 Courtesie, Which oft is sooner found in lowly sheds.., then in tapstry Halls. 1678 MOXON *Mech. Exerc.* v. § 25. 92 Stuff which may be sooner Hewn than Sawn. 1817 SHELLEY *Lines to Critic* iii, Thy love will move that bigot cold Sooner than me, thy hate.

b. More readily as a matter of choice; preferably, rather.

1457 HARDYNG *Chron.* i. in *Eng. Hist. Rev.* Oct. (1912) 743 Your Fadir..souner wolde suche thre as Gedyngton Hafe youe [= given] than so forgone that euydence. 1474 CAXTON *Chesse* IV. viii. (1883) 184 Certes thou oughtest sonner wille to dye..than [etc.]. 1699 T. BROWN in R. L'Estrange *Erasm. Collog.* (1725) 333, I would sooner swop her to a Tobacco plantation. 1749 FIELDING *Tom Jones* II. iii, I would sooner starve than take any reward for betraying your Ladyship. 1801 ELIZ. HELME *St. Marg. Cave* I. 236, I would sooner bear my father's name..rather than be lady of this domain. 1885 ANSTEY *Tinted Venus* 171 Why, I'd sooner stay in prison all my life!

12. *The sooner*, the more quickly, speedily, or early.

1303 R. BRUNNE *Handl. Synne* 386 But þerof to haue mochyl affyaunce þe may betyde þe sunner a chaunce. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) VII. 121 Bot it be þe sonner opned, it bryngeþ yn deth. *c* 1440 *Generydes* 3101 His entent the souner myght prevayle. *c* 1440 *Gesta Rom.* lxvi. 382 (Add. MS.), That here payne..myght be released the sonyre for his prayere. 1538 STARKEY *England* I. i. 26 That your deuyse..may the sonar optayne hys frute & effect. 1591 SHAKS. 1 *Hen. VI*, V. i. 15 The sooner to effect, And surer binde this knot of amitie. 1653 in *Verney Memoirs* (1907) I. 461, I rose one hour the sooner. 1719 LONDON & WISE *Compl. Gard.* xxii, Hereby they will the sooner answer the design propos'd. 1831 SCOTT *Ct. Rob.* iv, The soldiers joyfully mended their pace in order to meet the sooner with the supplies.

b. With co-ordinate clause or phrase containing another comparative.

c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xxx. (*Theodora*) 261 þe sonare þis be done, þe cause sal be þe les. 1387–8 T. USK *Test. Love* II. xiv. (Skeat) I. 61 Ever the deper thou somtyme wadest, the soner thou it founde. *c* 1475 *Mankind* 254 in *Macro Plays* 10 þe sonner þe leuer, & yt be ewyn a-non! 1477 *Paston Lett.* III. 194 The soner the better, in eschewyng of worsse. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 6 b, The hyer it ascendeth, the sooner it vanysseth awaye. 1562 PILKINGTON *Expos. Abdyas* Pref. 9 The faster a man runnes, the sooner he is wery. 1671 MILTON *P. R.* III. 179 The happier raign the sooner it begins. 1732 MILLER *Gard. Dict.* s.v. *Fagus*, The sooner they are sown the better, after they are fully ripe. 1824 SCOTT *Pev.* xlvii, The sooner, then, the root feels the axe, the stroke is more welcome. 1837 P. KEITH *Bot. Lex.* 169 The sooner a remedy is applied to it the better. 1855 KINGSLEY *Westw. Ho!* iv, The less said e sooner mended.

c. Followed by *as* or *that*.

In quot. 1763 the sense is 'all the more'.

1763 *Museum Rust.* I. 206 We think..that two pounds at least should be sown, and this the sooner, as it is a cheap seed. 1825 SCOTT *Talism.* xvii, He shall die, the rather and the sooner that thou dost entreat for him.

13. *No sooner*, not earlier.

1408 in Rymer *Fœdera* (1709) VIII. 539/1 Aftir the Entree, or the Deth of the forsaid Erle of Douglas,..and no sounere. 1482 *Cely Papers* (Camden) 123 Here was noon passage no sooner, the wynd was so contrary. 1603 SHAKS. *Meas. for M.* III. i. 32 For thine owne bowels..Do curse the Gowt.. and the Rheume For ending thee no sooner.

b. *No sooner . . ., but, than*, or *when*, = as soon as; immediately that. (Cf. 5 b.)

(*a*) 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 465 b, He had no soner said so, but he was had thence. 1597 BEARD *Theatre God's Judgem.* (1612) 146 Which was no sooner in hand, but the chamber began afresh to shake. 1639 LD. DIGBY *Lett. conc. Relig.* (1651) 45 St. John no sooner saw him, but he stept back. 1711 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 123 P 5 Florio was no sooner arrived at the great House.., but Eudoxus took him by the Hand. *a* 1774 GOLDSM. tr. *Scarron's Com. Romance* (1775) I. 57 She had no sooner made an end of her speech, but she withdrew. 1825 SCOTT *Talism.* xxi, There has no sooner any one done me good service, but.. he cancels his interest in me by some deep injury.

(*b*) 1594 KYD *Cornelia* II. 76 Like poyson that..No sooner tutcheth then it taints the blood. 1658 DRYDEN *Stanzas O. Cromwell* xxiii, No sooner was the French-Man's Cause embrac'd, Than the light Monsieur the grave Don outweigh'd. 1723 DR. WHARTON *True Briton* No. 48, But he had no sooner labour'd himself into a tolerable knowledge of the Affairs of it, than he rode triumphant. 1807 CRABBE *Par. Reg.* III. 553 No sooner he began To round and redden, than away he ran. 1850 BROWNING *Christmas-Eve* xiii, No sooner said than out in the night!

(*c*) 1697 DRYDEN *Æneid* IX. 143 No sooner had the goddess ceas'd to speak, When, lo! th' obedient ships their halsers break. 1764 GOLDSM. *Hist. Eng. in Lett.* (1772) I. 68 No sooner was his back turned, when a new conspiracy was set on foot.

III. In the superlative form *soonest*.

14. Most quickly, readily, etc.

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 392 Al so is..þet crucifix iset ine chirche, ine swuche stude þet me hit sonest iseo. *c* 1380 WYCLIF *Wks.* (1880) 23 For who so may most gold brynge sunnest schal be sped to grete benefices. 1393 LANGL. *P. Pl.* C. XIII. 223 þat þat rapest rypeþ, roteþ most sannest [*v.rr.* sonnest, sennest]. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 1155 So may we sonyst the souerain distrye. *a* 1425 *Cursor M.* 16049 (Trin.), Þei biþouȝte hem..with what þing þei sonnest shulde do him þenne to dye. 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* lxvii. 18 Quha maist it servis sall sonast repent. 1584 COGAN *Haven Health* 133 Pertrich of all foules is most soonest digested. 1601 SIR W. CORNWALLIS *Disc. Seneca* (1631) 72 The most profitable and soonest digested knowledge. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* IV. 893 Where thou mightst hope..soonest [to] recompence Dole with delight. 1771 *Encycl. Brit.* III. 626/2 Melt them together for soft solder, which runs soonest. 1777 R. WATSON *Philip II* (1839) 255 Such troops as could be soonest drawn together, were immediately sent off. 1813 SHELLEY *Q. Mab* I. 183 The spirit..may know How soonest to accomplish the great end.

b. Preceded by *the*.

1471 *Chron. White Rose* (1845) 92 They dispersed..the soonest they could. 1599 SHAKS. *Hen. V*, III. vi. 120 The gentler Gamester is the soonest winner. 1760 R. BROWN *Compl. Farmer* II. 72 It is a grain that will grow in the ear the soonest of any, if wet.

15. *With the soonest*: †**a.** Rather, or very, early. *Obs.* †**b.** As soon as possible. *Obs.* **c.** *dial.* Too soon.

1542 UDALL *Erasm. Apoph.* 252 b, The same Julia begoonne somewhat with the soonest to have whyte heares in hir hedde. *a* 1600 HOOKER *Eccl. Pol.* VII. xiii. § 2 His admirable virtues caused him to be bishop with the soonest. 1631 [see SOMETHING *adv.* 2 f]. 1662 J. DAVIES tr. *Olearius' Voy. Amb.* 114 That he would, with the soonest, suppress all monopolies. 1709 MRS. MANLEY *Secret Mem.* (1736) II. 179 Then she would be glad to marry him with the soonest. 1828 CARR *Craven Gloss.* s.v., 'Wi' t' *soonest*,' too soon.

16. *At* (*the*) *soonest*, at the earliest.

1751 R. PALTOCK *P. Wilkins* (1884) II. 270, I asked him then how long he should be..; he said, 'Three days at soonest'. 1768 WARBURTON in Hurd *Lett.* (1809) 410 At soonest, it will not begin, till after the next long vacation. 1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) I. 190 This Dialogue could not have been composed before 390 at the soonest.

Soon (sūn), *a.* [Attributive use of prec.]

1. Taking place, coming about, happening, etc., soon or quickly; early, speedy.

a 1400 *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* XXV. 49 Heil, sone boote þer bale is neih. *a* 1425 tr. *Arderne's Treat. Fistula*, etc. 70, I haue proued þis ful oft tymez for to be most sone helpyng. *a* 1470 *Dives & Pauper* (W. de W. 1496) IX. iv. 352/1 Soone byleuynge of lesynges bryngeth people to moche folye. 1546 LANGLEY tr. *Pol. Verg. de Invent.* II. 105 The olde proverbe is true; that as soone sowing sometime deceaveth, so late sowing is alway naught. 1592 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* I. vii. 247 His hardned heart Smoothed the passage for their soon-depart. 1622 QUARLES *Div. Poems, Esther* iv, The proiect pleas'd the King, who made an Act To second what was said with soone effect. 1692 T. H[ALE] *Acc. New Invent.* 79 The soon decay I cannot impute to the Lead-sheathing. 1771 LUCKOMBE *Hist. Printing* 350 Having too much wooll in them..will subject them to soon hardening. 1838 HOLLOWAY *Prov. Dict., Soon*,..the soon or early part of the night. 1891 MISS DOWIE *Girl in Karp.* 287 A white mist, thick, in the soon-twilight to be impenetrable.

2. In comparative: **a.** Earlier; more speedy or expeditious, etc.

c 1380 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* I. 235 But Crist tolde hem of sounere perils, þat was betere hem to knowe. 1559 *Mirr. Mag.* (1563) D viij, Which that I myght bryng to the sooner ende, To the byshop of Yorke I dyd the mater breake. 1607 in M. H. Peacock *Hist. Wakefield Gram. Sch.* (1892) 67 Unless in the mean tyme..a sooner daie of meetinge be appointed. 1665 J. WEBB *Stone-Heng* (1725) 90 For the sooner Dispatch, and saving of Cost. 1677 PLOT *Oxfordsh.* 110 There are no signs amongst them of sooner or later production. 1771 *Ann. Reg., Chron.* 173/1 From the death,

or any sooner determination of the interest therein, of John York, Esq. 1889 STEVENSON *Master Ballantrae* iii, Which would give us safety for the present, and a sooner hope of deliverance.

† **b.** Former, previous. *Obs.*—[1]

1495 *Trevisa's Barth. De P. R.* XIV. xxxiv. 480 There growe vines and..apples of palmes as token of the sooner [*MS.* raþer] plente.

3. In superlative: **a.** Earliest. Also *absol.*

1591 PARSONS in *Imp. Consid.* (1675) 79 He..cannot.. refuse at the soonest opportunity to attempt it. 1631 MASSINGER *Emperor East* I. i, And we, in private, with our soonest leisure Will give them hearing. 1692 BENTLEY *Boyle Lect.* vi. 27 If they think that there may be a Soonest Instant of possible Creation. 1760–72 H. BROOKE *Fool of Qual.* (1809) III. 92, I was therefore up among the soonest.

b. Speediest; quickest. Now *dial.*

1591 *Troub. Raigne K. John* II. (1611) 73 The King entreats your soonest speed To visit him. 1592 KYD *Sp. Trag.* IV. iv. 110 With soonest speed I hasted to the noise. 1606 SHAKS. *Ant. & Cl.* III. iv. 27 Make your soonest hast, So your desires are yours. 1825 JAMIESON *Suppl.* s.v., *The soonest gait*, the nearest road. 1897 in *Eng. Dial. Dict.* s.v., I said that would be [the] safest..or soonest road for us to go.

Soon, dial. var. of SOUND *sb.* (swoon). **Soond,** dial. f. SOUND *sb.* and *a.* **Soond(e,** obs. varr. SAND *sb.*

S'oonds, dial. var. SWOUNDS, ZOUNDS.

Cf. *Gud soons* s.v. GUD.

1884 *St. James's Gaz.* 20 June 6/1 The farmers [near Ludlow, Shropshire]..use as common exclamations 'Dear Sores' and 'S'oonds'.

Soonee, variant of SUNNI.

Sooner (sūˑnəɹ). *U.S. slang.* [f. SOON *adv.*] One who acts prematurely; *esp.* one who endeavours to get into Government territory in the West before the time appointed for its settlement.

1890 in *Columbus* (Ohio) *Dispatch* 7 May, Governor Campbell..thinks it altogether too soon to talk of 1892...The Governor is quite right in declining to be regarded as a sooner 1892 *Law Times* XCIII. 413/1 The settler that gets in surreptitiously..is called a 'Sooner', because he gets there sooner than the rest 1893 *Philadelphia Daily Inquirer* 21 Aug., The intention and attempt to keep the Sooners off the Cherokee strip..have come to grief.

Sooney, obs. form of SUNNI.

Soonish (sūˑniʃ), *adv.* Chiefly *colloq.* or *dial.* [f. SOON *adv.* + -ISH.] Somewhat soon.

1894 *N. & Q.* Ser. VIII. V. 143/1 Napoleon seems to have got off soonish from the field.

Soo·nly, *adv.* Also 5 **sonly.** [f. SOON *adv.* + -LY [2].] Soon; quickly; speedily.

In the passage cited by Johnson from H. More the correct reading is *so only* (=if only).

c 1475 *Partenay* 4078 By me sonly distroed shall he be. 1654 E. JOHNSON *Wonder-working Provid.* 9 All people, Nations and Languages, who are soonly to submit to Christs Kingdome. 1829 W. TAYLOR *Hist. Surv. Germ. Poet.* II. 70 Hasten, my daughter, she said,..Coffee is soonly enough.

Soonness (sūˑnˌnės). [f. SOON *adv.* + -NESS.] The condition or quality of being soon; speediness, earliness.

1668 WILKINS *Real Char.* II. xii. § 2. 289 The next pair, *soonness* and *lateness*, doth relate to time future. 1727 BAILEY (vol. II), *Earliness*,..soonness in Time. 1864 *N. Brit. Daily Mail* 6 Dec, We went across the Clyde Street ferry, just for soonness. 1869 EADIE *Galatians* Introd. p. xli, What surprised the apostle was the soonness of the defection.

Soons: see GUD, and cf. S'OONDS.

Soop (sūp), *v. Sc.* and *north. dial.* Forms: 6 swowp-, suowp-, swop-, sowp, 6, 9 soup, 6, 9– soop, 9 supe. [a. ON. *sópa* (Icel. *sópa*, Norw. and Sw. *sopa*), for earlier **swópan*, related to OE. *swápan*: see SWEEP *v.*]

1. *trans.* To sweep (a house, etc.).

c 1480 [see the *vbl. sb.*]. 1533 BELLENDEN *Livy* III. iii. (S.T.S.) I. 252 The soroufull moderis fell..to þe ground, sowpand þe temples with þare hare. 1538 LYNDESAY *Supplic. Contempt. Syde Taillis* 30 Quhare euer thay go, it may be sene, How kirk and calsay thay soup clene. 17.. RAMSAY *Wyfe of Auchtermuchty* x, To soup the house he syne began. 1824 SCOTT *St. Ronan's* xxxii, They that had their bread to won wi' ae arm..had mair to do than to soop houses. 1861 E. B. RAMSAY *Remin.* Ser. II. 44, 'I soupit the poupit,' was John's expressive reply.

absol. 1862 HISLOP *Prov. Scot.* 136 Let ilka ane soop before their ain door.

2. To remove, clear away, by sweeping.

c 1480 HENRYSON *Fables, Cock & Jewel* 76 Iowellis ar tynt ..apone þe fluyr, & swoppyt furth anone.

3. With *up*: To assist the progress of (a curling-stone) by sweeping the ice in front of it.

1805 MCINDOE *Poems* 56 Supe, supe him up, another says. 1832–53 *Whistle-binkie* Ser. III. 39 He's weel laid on, soop him up, soop him up. 1891 H. JOHNSTON *Kilmallie* II. 110 The second and third players were 'sooping up', or 'giving heels' to laggard stones.

Hence **Soo·ping** *vbl. sb.*

c 1480 HENRYSON *Fables, Cock & Jewel* 70 He fand a ioly iasp..wes cassyn out in swopyng of þe hous. 1824 SCOTT *St. Ronan's* xxxii, Wi' their sossings and their soopings.

Soop, obs. f. SOUP *sb.*; obs. or dial. var. SUP *sb.* and *v.*[1]; obs. pa. t. SUP *v.*[1]; obs. var. SWOOP.

Sooparee, variant of SUPARI.

Soope, obs. var. SUP *sb.* and *v.*[1], SWOOP *sb.*

Soople, var. SOUPLE *sb.*; dial. var. SUPPLE *a.*

Soor (sūəɹ). *Med.* [Of obscure origin.] A disease of the mouth, = THRUSH [2] 1. Also *attrib.*

1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* III. 337 Parasitic Stomatitis (Mycotic stomatitis; Thrush, Soor, Muguet). 1905 *Jrnl. Exper. Med.* 4 Feb. 396 The soor fungus appeared in the cultures made from both kidneys.

Soor, obs. form of SORE *sb.* and *a.*

‖ **Sooranjee** (sūəɹænˌdʒī). Also **-gie.** [ad. Skr. *surangī*.] The root of *Morinda citrifolia*; a dye obtained from this; morindin.

1848 ANDERSON in *Trans. Roy. Soc. Edin.* (1849) XVI. 438 The colouring matter of sooranjee, to which I give the name of Morindine. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 286/1 A dye called Soorangie is procured from the root of *Morinda citrifolia*. 1874 CROOKES *Pract. Handbk. Dyeing & Calico-Printing* 392 Cotton..placed in a bath of the ground-up sooranjee.

Soore, obs. var. SOAR *v.*, SORE *sb.*, *a.*, and *adv.*

Soorma, variant of SURMA *Anglo-Ind.*

Soort, obs. f. SORT *sb.*; dial. f. SORT *v.*

‖ **Soo·sy.** ? *Obs.* Also 7 **sussy,** 7–8 **soosey,** 8 **sooza,** 9 **sooçey.** [Urdū (Pers.) سوسی *sūsī*.] (See quot. 1858.)

1621 in Foster *Eng. Fact. India* (1906) 338 The 'sussies' are in good forwardness. 1696 OVINGTON *Voy. Surratt* 218 Rich Silks, such as Atlasses, Cuttanees, Sooseys, Culgars. 1724 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 6253/3 A large Parcel of fine Green Teas,..and a few Soozaes. 1725 *Ibid.* No. 6363/2 Pelongs, Ginghams, Sooseys. 1784 in Seton-Karr *Sel. Calcutta Gaz.* (1864) I. 42 Fine cassimeres of different colours; Patna dimty, and striped sooseys. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade, Soocey*, a mixed striped fabric of silk and cotton in India.

Soot (sut), *sb.*[1] Forms: *α.* 1, 4 sot (2 soth), 4–6 sote, 5 swot, 6 swote; 1, 4– soot (1 sooth, 5 soeth), 5–7 soote. *β.* 6 sooute, sout(e, sowte, 7 sutt, 7, 9 sut; *Sc.* 6 suit, 6, 8– sute, 9 shute; 9 *dial.* seut, seeat. [OE. *sót*, = MDu. *soet*, *zoet* (Du. dial. *zoet*), NFris. *sött*, *sutt*, ON. and Icel. *sót* (Norw. and Sw. *sot*, Da. *sod*), related to Lith. *sódis* (usually in pl. *sódžei* or *sódžiei*).

The pron. (sʊt), formerly common, is mentioned by Smart in 1836 as no longer used 'by the best speakers'. American dicts. give (sūt) as well as (sut).]

1. A black carbonaceous substance or deposit consisting of fine particles formed by the combustion of coal, wood, oil, or other fuel.

a. c 725 *Corpus Gloss.* F 427 *Fuligine*, sooth. *c* 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* I. 356 Meng ðærto sot & sealt & sand. *a* 1200 *Sidonius Gl.* in *Anecd. Oxon.* Ser. I. v. 36/8 *Fuligo*, soth. *c* 1302 *Pol. Songs* (Camden) 195 Hit falleth the Kyng of Fraunce bittrore then the sote. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) VII. 379 Whan al þe chirche was on fuyre, þer fil.. noþer sparcle noþer soot uppon Wolston his grave. *c* 1420 LYDG. *Assembly of Gods* 618 Hard as any horn, blakker fer then soot. *c* 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* I. 849 Oildreggis fresh for gnattis and for snaylis, Or chamber soot is good to kest aboute. 1530 PALSGR. 273/1 Sote of a chymney, *suye*. 1568 WITHALS *Dict.* 46 a/1 Swote, *fuligo*. 1582 BENTLEY *Mon. Matrones* iii. 342 For the time was, when you..liued solitarie, sitting at home among the soote of pots. 1615 CROOKE *Body of Man* 66 Euen as in chimneyes we see by the continuall ascent of soote, long strings of it are gathered as it were into a chaine. 1685 BOYLE *Enq. Notion Nat.* vi. 190 When in a foul chimney, a lump of soot falls into the hearth. 1765 A. DICKSON *Treat. Agric.* (ed. 2) 52 Soot is found to be a very rich manure. 1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 612 Soot remarkably increases the produce of soils abounding with vegetable matter. 1874 tr. *Lommel's Light* 3 The carbon in fine powder will be deposited upon it, forming a layer of soot.

fig. 1387–8 T. USK *Test. Love* II. ix. (Skeat) I. 38 Al sugre and hony, al minstralsy and melody ben but soot and galle in comparison. 1586 BRIGHT *Melanch.* xxi. 123 Natural actions..are weaker, and as it were smothered with this soote of melancholie.

β. 1541 R. COPLAND *Guydon's Form.* U iij, Some put therto to alter the coloure sute of the chymney. *a* 1585 MONTGOMERIE *Flyting* 292 Weil swyld in a swynes skin and smerit ouer with suit. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* II. vii. 3 His head and beard with sout were ill bedight. 1648 GAGE *West Ind.* 142 The smoak..filleth the thatch and the rafters ..with sut. 1685 in *Verney Mem.* (1907) II. 405 Tis soe foul with sutt, smoke, and Dust. 1729 *Dampier's Voy.* IV. II. 34 The Hodmandods..make themselves Black with Sut [1697 soot]. 1865 DICKENS *Mut. Fr.* I. vi, Distress is for ever a going about, like sut in the air.

† **b.** (See quots. and cf. NILL *sb.*[1]) *Obs.*

[1565 COOPER *Thesaurus*, *Spodium*, a maner of soute rysyng of the trying of brasse.] 1611 COTGR., *Spode*, the heauier foile, soot, or oare of Brasse. 1668 CHARLETON *Onomast.* 300 *Spodos Subterranea*, .. Soot of Brass. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 149/2.

2. With *a* and pl. **a.** A particular kind of soot.

1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* II. 324 This is a soueraigne soot to hinder the growth again of haires. 1671 GREW *Anat. Pl.* I. 17 Turpentine,..upon Vstion, sheweth nothing but a black Soot. 1733 CHEYNE *Eng. Malady* II. iii. § 4 (1734) 141 The Soots of some..Woods are..of the same Nature and Efficacy. 1796 KIRWAN *Elem. Min.* (ed. 2) II. 43 When burned, it affords a soot and leaves a small quantity of a coaly residuum.

b. A flake of soot; a smut.

1906 *Daily News* 28 May 6 An air unsullied by the soots and scents of London.

3. A substance of a sooty appearance or nature.

1597 MIDDLETON *Wisd. Solomon* xii. 11 Too much seed doth turn to too much soot. 1690 TEMPLE *Ess.* II. *Gardens of Epicurus*, I found my Vines..apt for several years to a Soot or Smuttiness upon their leaves.

4. *transf.* Blackness, darkness.

1789 WOLCOT (P. Pindar) *Subj. for Painters* Wks. 1812 VII. 157 'Tis what the Prince of Soot hath often done.

5. *attrib.* and *Comb.* **a.** Attrib., as *soot-ashes*, *-bag*, *-black*, *-colour*, *-door*, *-dressing*, etc.

1664 EVELYN *Kal. Hort.* (1729) 199 *Soot-Ashes..prevent Pis-mires..from invading the Fruit. 1798 *Hull Advert.* 18 Aug. 3/3 A chimney-sweeper put the troublesome gentleman into a *soot-bag. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) V. 156/2 Lamp-black..is the finest of what are called the *soot-blacks. 1611 COTGR. s.v. *Minimes, Couleur de minimes*, a light *soot colour, hauing an eye of a gray in it. 1639 T. DE GRAY *Expert Farrier* 58 Mouse-dunne and such like rusty and sut-colours. 1670 *Caveat to Conventiclers* 2 Clad in a duskish Soot-colouve sort of Shamoy. 1781 LATHAM *Gen. Syn.* I. I. 134 Cinereous Owl...The whole bird appears as if soiled with light soot-colour. 1834 MCMURTRIE *Cuvier's Anim. Kingd.* 360 Blackish-bronze or soot-colour and silky above. 1833 LOUDON *Encycl. Archit.* § 593 In that case *soot doors would be necessary in the chimney breast. 1854 RONALDS & RICHARDSON *Chem. Technol.* (ed. 2) I. 214 The soot or flue doors, introduced into chimneys for the purposes of cleansing. 1766 *Complete Farmer* s.v. *Lucern*, The preference ought to be given to *soot-dressings. 1722 RAMSAY *Three Bonnets* III. 19 *Soot-draps hang frae his roof and kipples. 1890 *Pall Mall G.* 28 Oct. 1/3 The extremely heavy *sootfall peculiar to the neighbourhood. 1839–52 BAILEY *Festus* 56 Like the *soot-flake upon a burning bar. 1733 W. ELLIS *Chiltern & Vale Farm.* 399 As for Example, if a Person was to dress..his Sauds or Gravels in Summer with *Soot-lime, or Pigeons-dung. 1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* III. 1249 The operations of the *soot-machine are effected thus [etc.]. 1843 CARLYLE *Past & Pr.* III. xv, To that dingy fuliginous Operative, emerging from his *soot-mill. 1898 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* V. 3 The *soot-particles lie in the perilobular and interlobular tissue. *a* 1722 LISLE *Husb.* (1757) 234 The seed being soaked in *soot-water. 1755 H. WALPOLE *Lett.* (1846) III. 139 Have you no Indian ink, no soot-water? 1882 *The Garden* 22 July 73/2 Soot water is found to be exceedingly beneficial to Pine-apple plants.

b. Similative, as *soot-black*, *-brown*, *-dark*, † *-red* [cf. Olcel. *sótrauðr*], *soot-like* adjs.

1715 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 5375/4 Lost.., two Geldings, the one a *Soote black. 1821 CLARE *Vill. Minstr.* I. 80 The boys through fear in soot-black corners push. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. v. iv, Your dark-yellow Mulattoes? And your Slaves soot-black? *c* 1843 — *Hist. Sk. Yas. I* (1898) 244 All soiled *soot-brown, illegible as the letter-press. 1853 C. BRONTË *Villette* xxix, His *soot-dark paletôt. 1789 J. WILLIAMS *Min. Kingd.* I. 211 If you discover a quantity of soft, black, *soot-like matter, you should dig in it. 1837 P. KEITH *Bot. Lex.* 327 The farina of the grain..is converted into a black soot-like powder. *a* 1400 *Octouian* 1045 The launce was *swot red and croked.

c. With ppl. adjs., as *soot-bespeckled*, *-bleared*, *-grimed*, etc.

1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. I. ii, In that soot-bleared figure, most earnest of created things. 1839 DICKENS *Nickleby* xvi, A soot-bespeckled prospect of tiles and chimney-pots. 1871 KINGSLEY *At Last* xi, Here and there some huge tree had burnt as it stood, and rose like a soot-grimed tower.

d. Objective, as *soot-sowing.*

1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* III. 1247 The soot-sowing machine.

6. Special combs.: **soot-bag,** a reticule (*Slang Dict.* 1864); **soot-cancer, -dew, -wart** (see quots.).

1878 WALSHAM *Surg. Pathol.* xiii. 369 From the great frequency with which it occurs in chimney-sweepers, cancer of the scrotum is generally designated the *soot- or sweeps-cancer. 1891 *Cent. Dict.*, **Soot-dew*,..a black, fuliginous coating covering parts of living plants. ?1810 P. POTT *Obs. Chimney Sweeper's Cancer* 4 It is a disease which always makes its first attack on..the inferior part of the scrotum ..: the trade calls it the *soot-wart. 1869 TANNER *Pract. Med.* (ed. 6) I. 126 Since the Act of Parliament made the use of machinery imperative, the soot-wart has been less frequently seen.

Soot, variant of SWOTE 'sweat' *Obs.*

† **Soot,** *a.* and *sb.*[2] *Obs.* Forms: *α.* 1 suot, 1–2 swot, 2–5 swote, 3–5 suote, 5 swoote, 7 swoot. *β.* 4–6 sote. *γ.* 4–7 soot, 5–6 soote, 6–7 sout(e. [OE. *swót*, var. of *swéte* SWEET *a.*, influenced by *swóte* SOOT *adv.*]

A. *adj.* **1.** Sweet to the smell or taste; sweet-smelling, fragrant.

a. c 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* John xii. 3 Þæt hus ȝefylled uæs of suot stenc ðæs smirinese. *a* 1000 *Passio St. Margaretæ* in Cockayne *Narrat.* 49 Mid swotum wyrtum. *a* 1100 in Napier *O. E. Glosses* 226/2 *Odoramentis*, swotum bræðum. *a* 1200 *St. Marher.* 4 He is..swotest to smeallen; ne his swote sauur..mei neauer littlin. *c* 1275 *Passion our Lord* 561 in *O. E. Misc.*, Þo seyh heo þer twey engles myd hwite clopes and swote. *c* 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 8 A suote smul þare cam of heom. 1362 LANGL. *P. Pl.* A. x. 119 Riht as þe Rose þat red is and swote. ? *a* 1366 CHAUCER *Rom. Rose* 60 The erth wexith proude..For swote dewes that on it falle. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* II. 176 With swote drinkes and with softe. *c* 1430 *Life St. Kath.* 12 As þe fayre and swoote rose spryngeth amonge þe thornes. *c* 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* XI. 147 Yf me make a knotte on euery roote, They wole be frogh ynough & tender swoote.

β. ? *a* 1366 CHAUCER *Rom. Rose* 1425 Thorough moisture of the welle wete Sprong up the sote grene gras. *c* 1386 — *Miller's T.* 19 (Cambr. MS.), A chambre had he..Ful fetously i-dight with erbis sote. 1412–20 LYDG. *Chron. Troy* (1555) I. vi, And them [*sc.* branches]..With sote blosmes freshly to repayre. *c* 1420 *Chron. Vilod.* 2083 A sote sauore þe lafte styll þere.

γ. c 1386 CHAUCER *2nd Nun's T.* 229 Ne never moo ne schul they roten be, Ne leese here soote savour. 1426 LYDG. *De Guil. Pilgr.* 10881 The mor that þer be flourys fayre, Lusty, soote, & fressh off hewe. *a* 1450 tr. *De Imitatione* III. lvii. 135 Swetter þan eny soot encence. 1492 RYMAN *Poems* XXXV. 4 in *Archiv Stud. neu. Spr.* LXXXIX. 202 O Iesse rote moost swete and soote. 1555 W. WATREMAN *Fardle Facions* I. v. 78 Wine..wherin are enfused many soote odours and drugges. 1567 GOLDING *Ovid's Met.* VIII. (1593) 114 A roote Of Radish, and a iolly lump of Butter fresh and soote. 1600 FAIRFAX *Tasso* XV. xlvi, The height was greene with herbes and flowrets sout. 1611 COTGR., *Soëf*, sweet,..delicious, delicate, soote.

2. Of persons, qualities, etc.: Pleasant, agreeable, gentle, mild, gracious.

a. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 102 þes cos, leoue sustren, is..so unimete swote & swete. *c* 1250 *Hymn* in *Trin. Coll. Hom.* App. 256 Leuedi milde, softe & swote, ic crie þe merci. *c* 1275 in *O. E. Misc.* 89 For his swete moder luue þat is so veyr and swote. *c* 1310 in Wright *Lyric P.* xviii. 57 In myn huerte þou sete a rote Of thi love, that is so swote. *c* 1400 *Rom. Rose* 5412 Unto men more profit doth The froward Fortune and contraire, Than the swote and debonaire. *c* 1425 *Castle Persev.* 2057 in *Macro Plays*, þerfor, vij systeris swote, lete oure vertus reyne on rote!

β. *c* 1374 CHAUCER *Troylus* III. 1194 To whom this tale Sugre be or Sote. *c* 1385 — *L. G. W.* 1077 *Dido*, To sum folk ofte newe thyng is sote. *c* 1403 LYDG. *Temple Glas* 1264 And so to 3ow more sote and agreable Shal loue be found. 1477 *Paston Lett.* III. 181 Lest the French Kyng..shuld in eny wise distourbe yow of yowr soft, sote, and sewre slepys. 1503 HAWES *Examp. Virt.* v. 66 With helpe of vertue so swete and sote. 1558 G. CAVENDISH *Poems* (1825) II. 67 Onles that grace have on the rewthe, To plant in the some vertue sote.

b. Of sounds: Melodious; harmonious.

c 1385 CHAUCER *L. G. W.* 752 *Thisbe*, And on that othir side stod Thesbe The sote soun of othir to resseyue. 1426 LYDG. *De Guil. Pilgr.* 14693 With ther soote mellodye. 1593 BARNES *Parthen.* Sonn. xl, With thy notes harmonious and songs soot. 1614 J. DAVIES (Heref.) *Eclogues* Wks. (Grosart) II. 19 As swoot as Swans thy straines make Thames to ring. *Ibid.* 20 But now ne recke they of soot carrolling.

B. *sb.* That which is sweet; a person of sweet disposition.

c 1430 *Hymns Virgin* (1867) 29 Me þinkeþ myn herte wole al to-breke Whanne y þinke on þat soote. 1620 BRATHWAIT *Fiue Senses* in *Archaica* (1815) II. 29 For even by the smell..do we apprehend all varieties of flowers, sootes, sweets. 1638 — *Spiritual Spicerie* 227 Nor bee these Soots lesse redolent in odour Which grow by Tiber.

b. In wine-making: (see first quot.).

1682 *Art & Myst. Vintners* (1703) 52 Take 30 gallons of Soot, which is Wine boyled to a Consumption of half, to a Butt of Wine. *Ibid.*, Some instead of Soot make of Sugar Molosses and Honey.

† Soot, *adv.* *Obs.* Forms: 1–4 swote, 4–5 sote, 4–6 soote. [OE. *swóte*, = MDu. *soete, zoete*, OHG. *suozo, suazo* (MHG. *suoze*), the adv. corresponding to the adj. *swéte* SWEET.] Sweetly, in various senses.

c 1000 ÆLFRIC *Gram.* xxxvii. 220 *Oleo*,..ic stince swote. *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 53 He..bret hine [the cheese] for þon þet he scolde swote smelle. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 238 Forði þet tu sleptest swote. *a* 1300 *Leg. Rood* (1871) 24 Of ech maner frut þat he sei þat smolde also swote. *c* 1385 CHAUCER *L. G. W.* 2612 *Hypermnestra*, Thensens out of the fuyr out rekyth sote. 1426 LYDG. *De Guil. Pilgr.* 3459 Spyce & greyn I make to enspyre soote. *c* 1450 *Merlin* ix. 133 So swote sauoured..that fer men shulde fele the odour. 1579 SPENSER *Sheph. Cal.* Apr. 111 They dauncen deffly, and singen soote, in their meriment.

Comb. *c* 1425 *St. Mary of Oignies* II. ix. in *Anglia* VIII. 175 þe sote-sauourynge clopes of þis spouse of Cryste.

Soot (sut), *v.* [f. SOOT *sb.*[1] Cf. Norw. *sota.*]

1. *trans.* To smear, smudge, or foul with soot; to cover with or as with soot.

1602 MARSTON *Antonio's Rev.* II. ii, The black filth of sinne That soots thy heart. 1634 W. WOOD *New Eng. Prosp.* II. xx. (1865) 108 The young Infant being greased and sooted, wrapt in a Beaver skin [etc.]. 1655 FULLER *Ch. Hist.* 107 The smoake thereof would have sooted his Green suit. 1706 STEVENS *Spanish Dict.* I, *Hollindr*, to soot, to daub with Soot. 1796 WITHERING *Brit. Plants* (ed. 3) I. 82 *Sooty*,..dark and dirty as if sooted, as are some of the Lichens. *a* 1859 DE QUINCEY *Posth. Wks.* (1891) I. 34 He paints himself histrionically; he soots his face.

2. To sprinkle or manure with soot.

1707 MORTIMER *Husb.* (1721) I. 325 Whether it was because the other Land was sooted before, I could never yet find. 1733 W. ELLIS *Chiltern & Vale Farm.* 28 He.. harrowed in his Barly and sooted it on the top. 1778 [W. MARSHALL] *Minutes Agric.* 16 Aug. 1776, Part was dunged; part, sooted; and part, undressed.

Hence **Soo·ting** *vbl. sb.* Also *spec.* (quot. 1903).

1706 STEVENS *Span. Dict.* I, *Tizнadúra*, Smutting, Sooting, Blacking, Smearing. 1903 *Cassell's Suppl.* Add., *Sooting*,..the impregnation of the sparking plug with soot, due to combustion of the explosive mixture when carbureting is bad.

Soote, obs. form of SUIT *sb.*

Soo·ted, *ppl. a.* Also 6 sotyd. [f. SOOT *v.* or *sb.*] Manured, begrimed, covered, etc., with soot.

1530 [implied in SOOTEDNESS]. 1778 [W. MARSHALL] *Minutes Agric.* 16 Aug. 1776, The dunged [wheat] looked best in winter; the sooted never shewed itself. 1892 *Athenæum* 4 June 739/3 We have no dishonouring business of a sooted leg of mutton—none of those pantomimic tricks.

Hence **† Sootedness,** = SOOTINESS. *Obs.*—[0]

1530 PALSGR. 273/1 Sotydnesse, *suyerie.*

Sooterkin (sū·təɹkin). Now *rare.* Forms: 6 suterkyn, 8 -kin; 7 soutterkine, souterkine, soutri-, 8 souterkin; 7– sooterkin. [In sense 1 app. ad. older Du. or Flem. **soetekijn* (cf. Kilian, '*soetken*, dulcis amica, glycerium'), f. *soet* sweet. In sense 2 perh. f. SOOT *sb.*[1]; there is app. no similar term in Dutch.]

† 1. Sweetheart, mistress. *Obs.*—[1]

1530 *Songs* in *Anglia* XII. 593 This mynyon ys A rutterkyn; non lyke to hym but only Trym hys owne suterkyn.

2. An imaginary kind of afterbirth formerly attributed to Dutch women (see first quot.).

a 1658 CLEVELAND *Char. Diurn. Maker* (1677) 103 There goes a Report of the Holland Women, that together with their Children, they are delivered of a Sooterkin, not unlike to a Rat, which some imagine to be the Off-spring of the Stoves. 1678 BUTLER *Hud.* III. ii. 146 Knaves and Fools b'ing near of Kin, As Dutch-Boors are t' a Sooterkin. 1727 SWIFT *To Delany* Wks. 1755 III. II. 232 There follow'd at his lying-in For after-birth a Sooterkin. 1742 MRS. E. MONTAGU *Lett.* II. 180, I am glad there was a child, but pray was there not a little souterkin for the joy of the Lady's relations. 1748 MARY LEAPOR *Poems* 92 But turn your back,..Alcidas with a Grin Will vow you're ugly as a Sooterkin. 1862 DRAPER *Intell. Devel. Europe* xviii. (1865) 412 The housewives of Holland no longer bring forth sooterkins by sitting over the lighted chauffers.

b. *transf.* Chiefly applied to persons in allusive senses; sometimes = Dutchman. Also *attrib.*

1680 BETTERTON *The Revenge* III. i, Good morrow, my little Sooterkin; how is't, my prettie Life? 1696 in Maidment *Scottish Pasquils* (1868) 307 For if the Devil assumed thy corpes, And travelled through the Holand Dorps, Thou would terrify the Souterkines. *a* 1704 T. BROWN *Dial. Dead* Wks. 1711 IV. 33 Whilst I was getting Money,..my Wife made it fly like Suterkins at home. 1719 D'URFEY *Pills* II. 219 Ye Jacobites as sharp as Pins, Ye Mounsieurs, and ye Sooterkins, I'll teach you all the Dance. 1746 *Brit. Mag.* 7 Smiling between Anger and Pleasure upon the sniveling Sooterkin. 1795 *Sporting Mag.* V. 136 The highwayman pushed poor Sooterkin [=chimney-sweep] out of the way. 1821 *Blackw. Mag.* IX. 60 Here is the sugar beside, which the hands of the sooterkin negro Reared [etc.].

c. Applied to literary compositions, etc., of a supplementary or imperfect character.

1668 T. ST. SERFE *Tarugo's Wiles* Epil., Besides the Authors true birth [=his play], the Audience will not be satisfied without a Soutterkine. 1728 POPE *Dunc.* I. 126 Fruits of dull Heat, and Sooterkins of Wit. 1777 R. W. COX in C. F. Hardy *Benenden Lett.* (1901) 152 You can show you are a clever fellow, while poor I..must have my cherubims suffocated, and sooterkins put in the cradle. 1817 CARLYLE *Early Letters* (1886) I. 94 After considerable flourishing, he ventured to produce this child of the Doctor's brain—and truly it seemed a very Sooterkin. 1866 — *Remin.* (1881) II. 240 It was by her address and invention that I got my sooterkin of a 'study' improved out of its worst blotches.

Sooth (sūþ), *sb.* Now *arch.* Forms: 1–2 soð, 1, 3–5 soþ (3 soh, seoþ, 4 soip, soop), 4–6 soth (4 sotht), 5–sooth; 3 soðe, 4–5 soþe, 4–6 sothe, southe, 5–6 soothe; *Sc.* (and *north.*) 4–8 suth (6 swth), 5–7 suith (6 soyt, soith, suythe, suitht, 7 suithe). [OE. *sóð* neut., = OS. *sôð* (cf. ON. *sannr, sannr* masc.), f. the adj.: see next.]

In common use down to the first half of the 17th cent.; after this app. obsolete (except perh. in sense 4 c) until revived as a literary archaism, chiefly by Scott and contemporary writers.

I. Without article.

1. Truth, verity. (Cf. SOOTH *a.* 2 a.) Also *personif.*

Beowulf 1700 Se þe soð and riht freméð on folce. *c* 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Matt., Int. 1/13 Ðif..soð [L. *veritas*] is to soeccenna of monigum. *a* 1000 *Elene* 307 (Gr.), Swa ge modblinde mengan ongunnon lige wið soðe. *a* 1122 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1091, Se eorl..litel soðes..of heora forewarde onfand. *c* 1200 ORMIN 14208 To flittenn Fra woh till rihht, fra læs till soþ. *a* 1250 *Owl & Night.* 950 þe heorte..so uorleost al his lyht þat ho ne syhþ soþ ne riht. *c* 1300 *Havelok* 36 He louede god..And holi kirke, and soth, ant richt. *a* 1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* v. 11 Vndire colour of soth bryngand in falshed. *a* 1400 *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* II. 577 Wraþþedestruyeþ monnes wit, Whon soþ may not beo seiȝene. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 188 Hit was said oft sythes and for sothe holden. 1593 NASHE *Christ's Tears* To Rdr., Wks. (Grosart) IV. 8 They shall be prouided for sumptuously, when sooth and verity may walke melancholy in Marke Lane. 1620 HEYWOOD *Gold. Age* II. i, Simplenesse and sooth, The harmlesse Chace, and strict Virginity Is all our practise. ? 1875 TENNYSON *Holy Grail* 709 Was there sooth in Arthur's prophecy?

b. Used as object to the verbs *say, speak*, or *tell*; freq. in the parenthetic phrases *sooth to say*, etc. (Cf. 5 b.)

(*a*) *a* 900 CYNEWULF *Crist* 1306 Hwæþer..mon soð þe lyge sæcaþ on hine sylfne. *c* 1055 *Byrhtferth's Handboc* in *Anglia* VIII. 300 Ac we heom seggað soð tosoðe. *a* 1200 *Vices & Virtues* 9 Me ne net me noht te forswerien, ac soð te seggen of ðan ðe ic am bicleped. *a* 1250 *Owl & Night.* 217, Vle, heo seyde, seye me soþ, hwi dostu þat vnwihtes doþ. *c* 1300 *Havelok* 2008 Quoth Ubbe, 'Bernard, seyst þou soth?' 1390 GOWER *Conf.* II. 285 Tell me soth And sei the trouthe, if [etc.]. *c* 1450 *Merlin* i. 7 Ye seyde me soth that my suster set but lytill prise of me. 1484 CAXTON *Fables of Æsop* v. xii, My broder, thow sayst soothe, wherfore I thanke the moche. 1594 GREENE & LODGE *Looking Gl.* G.'s Wks. (Rtldg.) 132 Say sooth in secret, Radagon, Is this thy father? 1625 MILTON *On Death Infant* 51 Or wert thou that just Maid who once before Forsook the hated earth, O tell me sooth. 1642 JER. TAYLOR *Episc.* (1647) 196, I am sure I have said sooth, but whether or no it will be thought so, I cannot tell. 1819 SCOTT *Ivanhoe* xxviii, 'Thou art speaking but sooth, Rebecca,' said Isaac. 1897 VOYNICH *Gadfly* (1904) 51/1 So long as I keep to the particular set.., I may speak sooth if the fancy takes me.

(*b*) *c* 1320 *Sir Tristr.* 2206 Tristrem lepe, ywis, þritti fete, soþ to say. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Wife's Prol.* 601 He was, I trowe, a twenty wynter oold, And I was fourty, if I shal seye sooth. 1508 DUNBAR *Gold. Targe* 198 The salt was all the sarar, suth to sayn. 1577 tr. *Bullinger's Decades* (1592) 653 And to saie sooth, they doe not worship God at all. 1626 R. HARRIS *Hezekiah's Recovery* (1630) 6 To speake sooth, most of us have small reason to glorie in our prayers. 1808 SCOTT *Marm.* I. xxvi, And, sooth to tell, He murmur'd on till morn. 1813 HOGG *Queen's Wake* 24 The wine was served, and, sooth to say, Insensibly it stole away. 1855 H. ROGERS *Ess.* (1874) II. vii. 323 Sooth to tell, the narrative of the achievements here and there draws largely on our faith.

† c. *To come to sooth*, to come true, be fulfilled.

1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 4831 After seint austines day to soþe come al þis [prophecy]. *Ibid.* 6740 Al to soþe it is icome þat sein dunston gan telle.

† 2. Used adverbially in the genitive singular *sooths*: Of a truth, truly. *Obs.*

c 1000 *Ags. Gosp.* Matt. v. 26 Soþes ic secge þe [etc.]. *a* 1240 *Ureisun* in *O. E. Hom.* I. 185 Nis nan blisse soþes i nan þing þet is uteuið þet ne beo to bitter aboht. *Ibid.*, 3e soþes. *Ibid.* 187 Nai soþes, nai. Ne wene hit neuer no mon.

3. In prepositional phrases or constructions having an adverbial force: In truth, truly, really. (See also FORSOOTH *adv.*)

† a. *To* (..) *sooth. Obs.*

Beowulf 51 (Gr.), Men ne cunnon secgan to soðe..hwa þæm hlæste onfeng! *c* 1000 *Ags. Ps.* (Thorpe) cxviii. 144 Syle me ða to soðe, and ic syþþan lifige. *c* 1200 ORMIN 10900 Þatt wass, witt tu to fulle soþ, Fullfremedd herrsummnesse. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 190 Wute 3e þet to soðe þet [etc.]. *c* 1305 *St. Kenelm* 277 in *E. E. P.* (1862) 55 Þo þe pope to soþe wiste what was þe tokninge [etc.].

† b. *Mid* or *with* (..) *sooth. Obs.*

c 888 K. ÆLFRED *Boeth.* x, Ne meaht þu no mid soðe getælan þine wyrd. 971 *Blickl. Hom.* 17 He him gehet his æriste, swa he þa mid soðe gefylde. *c* 1205 LAY. 2181 To gædere comen mid soðe..Locrin & Camber. *a* 1250 *Owl & Night.* 264 Lust hw ich con me bitelle Mid rihte soþe wiþ vte spelle.

c. *In sooth.*

1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 315 The Mirour scheweth..As he hadde al the world withinne, And is in soth nothing therinne. 1592 LODGE *Euphues Shadow* C 1 b, Who so thou be that vertue wilt ensew, More sweete in sooth then show in true releefe. 1670 *Moral State Eng.* 62 b, And to shew this is in sooth, I bite this green wax with my Tooth. 1812 BYRON *Ch. Har.* II. lxiii, So sings the Teian, and he sings in sooth.

4. In phrases used expletively or parenthetically to strengthen or emphasize an assertion.

a. *In* (or **†** *to*) *sooth.*

c 1300 *Beket* 2118 'To Sothe,' quath this holi man, 'prest ich am therto'. *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (1839) xxiii. 251 And in soothe, o man allone in this Contree wil ete more in a day, than [etc.]. *a* 1450 *Pol., Rel., & L. Poems* (1903) 78 In sothe too me the matire queynte is; For as too hem i toke none hede. 1586 A. DAY *Eng. Secretary* II. (1625) 61 To deliuer..what hee saw meetest to the purpose, and that in sooth with so deliberate..resolution, as [etc.]. 1596 SHAKS. *1 Hen. IV*, III. i. 259. 1605 CAMDEN *Rem.* 190 But if I haue any skill in South-saying, (as in sooth I haue none). *a* 1652 BROME *Damoiselle* II. i, *Ver*[*mine*]. What canst thou be? *Phil*[*lis*]. Insooth a Gentlewoman. 1771 BEATTIE *Minstr.* I. XXVIII, In sooth t'was almost all the shepherd knew. 1808 SCOTT *Marm.* I. xv, Or was the gentle page, in sooth, A gentle paramour? 1871 B. TAYLOR *Faust* (1875) II. II. 141 I've never seen their like, in sooth.

b. *In good* or *very sooth.* Also with ellipsis of *in.*

1577 HARRISON *England* II. v. (1877) I. 132 In good sooth I cannot tell. 1586 B. YOUNG tr. *Guazzo's Civ. Conv.* IV. 220 b, Know thou my good gossip, how in good sooth this night my hog is stolen awaie. 1590 SHAKS. *Mids. N.* II. ii. 129 Good troth you do me wrong (good-sooth you do). 1656 SANDERSON *Serm.* (1689) 92 Say now I beseech you in good sooth..at whose door lieth the Superstition? 1808 SCOTT *Marm.* I. xx, 'Now, in good sooth,' Lord Marmion cried. *a* 1839 PRAED *Poems* (1864) I. 6 Or the Dragon had been, in very sooth, No insignificant charmer. 1849 JAMES *Woodman* xi, Good sooth, I know nothing of life. 1872 LONGF. *Wayside Inn* III. *Emma & Eginhard* 73 In good sooth, Its mystery is love.

c. *By my, your*, etc. (*good*) *sooth.* Also with ellipsis of *by.*

a 1400–50 *Alexander* 2286 'Sirres, by my sothe,' quod þe segge, 'Sitiles I hiȝt'. 1526 SKELTON *Magnyf.* 354 *Fan.* I trowe, by our lady, I had ben slayne... *Magn.* By your soth? 1596 HARINGTON *Metam. Ajax* (1814) 125 By my good sooth. *a* 1779 D. GRAHAM *Young Coalman's Courtship* ii. (1787) 14 Be me suth it will be the last thing I'll part wi'. 1786 BURNS *To a Louse* v, My sooth! right bauld ye set your nose out. 1789 — *Willie brew'd* iii, But, by my sooth, she'll wait a wee! 1822 SCOTT *Nigel* xiv, My sooth, they will jump at them in Edinburgh like a cock at a grosart.

II. With article (or pronoun).

5. a. *The sooth*, the truth; the real or actual facts, circumstances, etc.

Common from *c* 1300 to *c* 1560; now *arch.*

c 897 K. ÆLFRED tr. *Gregory's Past. C.* xlvi. 347 Ne flitaþ mid eowrum leasungum wið ðæm soðe. *a* 1000 *Sal. & Sat.* 182 (Gr.), Wyrs deð se ðe..ðæs soðes ansæced! *c* 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 71 We shule..no þing seien þere þat les beo and no þing of þe soðe forlete. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 2036 Ðe wite is hise, ðe right is hire, God al-migtin ðe soðe shire. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 777 Þe south fra 3ow wil I noght hide. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Wife's T.* 75 He goth ful neigh the soth. *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. *Trav.* (1839) xxi. 224 Natheles the Sothe is this, that [etc.]. *c* 1450 *Merlin* ii. 37, I will knowe the soth, what-so-euer it coste. 1562 J. HEYWOOD *Prov. & Epigr.* (1867) 72 It is yll iestyng on the soothe. *a* 1592 GREENE *Jas. IV*, III. iii, Mark the sooth and listen the intent. 1616 W. HAIG in J. Russell *Haigs* (1881) vii. 163 How far my accuser is from the sooth in charging me with this imputation. 1868 MORRIS *Earthly Par.* (1870) I. I. 235 In his face the sooth they might behold.

b. With the verbs *say, speak, tell*, etc.; freq. in parenthetic phrases. (Cf. 1 b.)

(*a*) *a* 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 153 Sone se hire sonde com azein, & seide hire þe soðe, heo [etc.]. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 3855 Sir, þe soth i wil be tell. 13.. *Meditations Lord's Supper* 95 The soþe to 3ou y seye, One of 3ow shal me betraye. *c* 1440 *Generydes* 507 Telle me the sothe. *c* 1475 *Rauf Coilȝear* 52 Sen thow speiris, I the tell All the suith hale. *a* 1568 COVERDALE *Ghostly Psalms* Wks. (Parker Soc.) II. 587 Though God make the to saye the soth. 1609 SKENE *Reg. Maj., Treat.* 74 The assisours sal sweir..that they sall the suth say, and na suth conceill.

(*b*) **1338** R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (1810) 28 He ligges at Wynchestre, þe soth it is to seie. ?*a* **1366** CHAUCER *Rom. Rose* 1463 Spryngyng in a marble stone Had nature set, the sothe to telle, Under that pyn tree a welle. *c* **1400** *Sowdone Bab.* 897 This day haue we a ful ille afraye, To saie the south and not to lye. **1513** BRADSHAW *St. Werburge* Prol. 40 Some in contemplacyon, the sothe to say, Some in abstynence [etc.]. **1542** UDALL *Erasm. Apoph.* 166 To bee a thyng out of perauentures hard to dooe, yea and (the south to saye) vtterly vnpossible. **1599** SHAKS. *Hen. V*, III. vi. 151 To say the sooth,..My people are with sicknesse much enfeebled. **1805** SCOTT *Last Minstrel* I. Introd. 57 He thought even yet, the sooth to speak, That, if [etc.].

c. Const. *of* something.

1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 75 Sche tolde unto hir housebonde The sothe of al the hole tale. **1423** JAS. I *Kingis Q.* 137 The warld..is so double and inconstant, Off quhich the suth is kid be mony assayes. *a* **1500** *Lancelot* 1213 Ther the suth may we Knaw of this thing. *c* **1550** ROLLAND *Crt. Venus* III. 358 Schaw me the suith of this now gif ȝe can. *a* **1592** GREENE *Jas. IV*, I. i. 359 To scorne the sooth of science with contempt. **1870** MORRIS *Earthly Par.* III. IV. 202 The old man doubted not the sooth Of what he said.

†**6.** A true thing or saying; a truth. *Obs.*

sing. *c* **1200** ORMIN 13706 Forr þatt he wollde winnenn Off Cristess muþ summ openn soþ Off hiss goddcunnde mahhte. *c* **1305** *St. Andrew* 39 in *E. E. P.* (1862) 99 If þu woldest þat soþe ihure, and if þu riȝt vnderstode. *c* **1386** CHAUCER *Sqr.'s T.* 166 This is a verray sooth withouten glose. *c* **1430** *Pilgr. Lyf Manhode* I. xliv. (1869) 26 Jrous folk..mown not discerne cleerliche a sooth for here trowblede vnderstondinge. **1603** HARSNET *Pop. Impost.* 112 The hunting of the Witch heere [is] no fabulous apprehension but a good Catholique Sooth. **1609** SKENE *Reg. Maj., Burrow Lawes* 136 That they sall suth..say, and na suth conceill. **1640–1** *Kirkcudbr. War-Comm. Min. Bk.* (1855) 141 That ilk ane of thame shall the right suithe say and nae suithe conceal.

plur. **13..** *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* lv. xxv. 1 Whon alle soþes ben souht and seene. *c* **1386** CHAUCER *Melib.* ¶ 211 Thou schalt rather..flee fro the swete wordes of flaterers, then fro the egre wordes of thy frend that saith the thi sothes. *a* **1450** *Knt. de la Tour* (1868) 124 To telle hym his sothes & trouthe withoute flaterie.

†**b.** A certainty *of* a matter. *Obs. rare.*

c **1374** CHAUCER *Troylus* V. 1295 Thorugh whiche thow shalt wel bryngen it aboute To knowe a soth of that thow ert in doute. *Ibid.* 1309.

†**c.** A proverb or adage. *Obs.*[-1]

1655 VAUGHAN *Silex Scint.* II. 179 'Hedges have ears,' saith the old sooth.

†**7.** Soothsaying; prognostication. *Obs.*

1579 SPENSER *Sheph. Cal.* Dec. 87 Tryed time yet taught me greater thinges..: The soothe of byrds by beating of their wings. **1582** STANYHURST *Æneis* III. (Arb.) 85 Post to this prophetesse, let her help and sooth be required.

III. †**8.** Associated with senses of the verb SOOTHE: Blandishment, flattery; a smooth or plausible word or speech. Also *personif.* *Obs.*

1593 SHAKS. *Rich. II*, III. iii. 136 That ere this tongue of mine, That layd the Sentence of dread Banishment On yond prowd man, should take it off againe With words of sooth. **1608** — *Pericles* I. ii. 44 When *signior* sooth here does proclaime peace, He flatters you, makes warre vpon your life. **1609** B. JONSON *Sil. Woman* V. ii, With a sooth or two more I had effected it.

Sooth (sūþ), *a.* Now *arch.* Forms: 1–3 **soð** (2 **sod**), 1, 3–5 **soþ** (3 **soh**, 4 **soiþ**, **zoþ**), 5 **sooþ**; 3–5 **soth**, 4–7, 9– **sooth** (5 **south**); 3 **soþe** (**seohðe**, 4 **zoþe**), 4–6 **sothe**; *Sc.* and *north.* 4–6 **suth(e**, 5–6 **suith** (6 **soith**), **suythe**, 6 **swth.** [OE. *sóð*, *sóþ*, = OS. *sóð*, ON. *sannr*, *saðr* (Sw. *sann*, Da. *sand*):—**sonþ-*, *sanþ-* (pre-Teut. *sont-*), related by ablaut to Goth. *sunjis* true, *sunja* truth, and Skr. *satyas* true, real.]

After the first half of the 17th cent. only as a literary archaism, chiefly introduced by Scott and his contemporaries (cf. the note to SOOTH *sb.*).

†**1.** True, veritable, real, genuine: **a.** Of things or qualities. *Obs.*

c **888** K. ÆLFRED *Boeth.* vii. § 3 Ælc soþ wela and soþ weorþscipe sindan mine aȝne þeowas. **971** *Blickl. Hom.* 25 Mid ælmes-weorcum, & mid soþre hreowe. *c* **1000** *Sax. Leechd.* (Rolls) I. 376 Þis is soð læcæcræft. *c* **1200** *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 191 Swo doð þe werse, þenne he auint mannes heorte emti of rihte bileue and of soðere luue. *c* **1275** *Moral Ode* 362 in *O. E. Misc.*, He is soþ sunne and briht and day bute nyhte. **1297** R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 1264 Vor siker þis is þe soþe wei wiþ oute eni mis-wrenche. **1340** *Ayenb.* 12 In zoþ & guode byleaue. *Ibid.* 126 He his to-delþ..be uour þinges þet zoþ loue makeþ.

†**b.** Of persons, esp. of the Deity. *Obs.*

c **950** *Lindisf. Gosp.* John vii. 40 [Hia] cuoedon ðes is soð uitȝa. *Ibid.* xvii. 3 Ðas..is uutudlice ece lif þætte onȝeattað ðec enne soð god. **971** *Blickl. Hom.* 33 He wæs soþ man,..swylce he wæs soþ God. *a* **1200** *Vices & Virtues* 25 Fader & sune & hali gast is an soþ almihti godd. *c* **1320** *Cast. Love* 648 Ysayȝe..clepede him wonderful for þon, Þat he is soþ God and soþ mon.

2. True; in accordance with truth; not false or fictitious: **a.** In predicative use.

Not always clearly distinguishable from SOOTH *sb.* 1.

c **825** *Vesp. Psalter* xviii. 10 Domas godes [sind] soðe. *c* **888** K. ÆLFRED *Boeth.* xxxviii. § 2 Ic eom ȝeþafa þæt þæt is soð þæt ðu ær sædest. **971** *Blickl. Hom.* 53 Soþ is þæt ic eow secgge. *c* **1100** *O. E. Chron.* (MS. F) an. 995, Ealla þa wisuste menn..þa cuðan þat soðuste seggan [etc.]. *c* **1175** *Lamb. Hom.* 55 Þet is al soð ful iwis. *c* **1250** *Gen. & Ex.* 2842 He nam so forð, soð it is. *c* **1290** *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 3 Louerd, he seide, ȝif it is soth þat þou man and god beo. **13..** *E. E. Allit. P.* A. 482 Ȝyf hyt be soth þat þou conez saye. *c* **1385** CHAUCER *L. G. W.* Prol. 14 For, god wot, thing is neuer the lasse sooth, Thogh euery wight ne may it nat y-see. *c* **1450** *Bk. Curtasye* 211 in *Babees Book*, A schort worde is comynly sothe Þat fyrst slydes fro monnes tothe. ?*a* **1500** *Chester Pl.* XI. 70 Therfore, as it was a-misse, I haue written that souther is. *c* **1550** ROLLAND *Crt. Venus* I. 564 Thay ar richt suith and ar of sentence fow. **1605** SHAKS. *Macb.* V. v. 40 If thy speech be sooth. **1642** JER. TAYLOR *Episc.* (1647) 260 Wee shall find all this to be sooth, and full of order. **1813** BYRON *Br. Abydos* II. x, I have a tale thou hast not dream'd, If sooth—its truth must others rue. **1840** MISS STRICKLAND *Queens Eng.* (1864) I. 160 The kings knew her words to be sooth. **1879** BUTCHER & LANG *Odyssey* 59 The ancient one of the sea, whose speech is sooth.

phr. **13..** *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* xxiii. 796 To seke men is ȝiue þorwh þe An hele, soþ as gospelle. *c* **1386** CHAUCER *Merch. T.* 23 As soth as God is king. *c* **1440** *Partonope* 153 And that hit were as sothe as gospell.

b. In attributive use.

c **1205** LAY. 4652 Sonden commen bi-twenen, Þe soðe word me seiden. *c* **1250** *Gen. & Ex.* 17 Cristene men oȝen ben so faȝen..ðan man hem telled soðe tale. **13..** *Cursor M.* 12146 (Gött.), Quarfor þan wil ȝe noght trow, Sother þinges þat i tell ȝu? **1375** BARBOUR *Bruce* I. 9 And suth thyngis that ar likand Tyll mannys heryng, ar plesand. *c* **1400** *Destr. Troy* 11 Sothe stories ben stoken vp, & straught out of mind. **1456** SIR G. HAYE *Law Arms* (S.T.S.) 126 The contrair is the suth opynioun. **1530** PALSGR. 325/1 Sothe, trewe, *veritable*. **1847** MARY HOWITT *Ballads* 238 This book which I had from thee contains the soothest lore. *a* **1869** C. SPENCE *Poems* (1898) 137 The following tale Shall stand a witness, sooth and leal.

prov. **1562** J. HEYWOOD *Prov. & Epigr.* (1867) 72 Sooth bourd is no bourd, in ought that mirth doothe. **1591** HARINGTON *Orl. Fur.* Apol. Poet. P vj, As the old saying is, (sooth boord is no boord). **1721** KELLY *Scot. Prov.* 3.

3. Of persons, etc.: Telling or speaking the truth; truthful. Also const. *in* (speech, etc.), *of* (one's word).

For the ME. phr. *soð cnawes beon* see KNOW *sb.*[1]

a **1250** *Owl & Night.* 698 Vor Alured seyde þat wel cuþe, Euer he spak mid soþe muþe. *a* **1300** *Cursor M.* 24078 Fair he was and fre, mi child, Soth in speche, in maner mild. *c* **1386** CHAUCER *Sqr.'s T.* 13 Pitous and Iust, and ever-more y-liche, Sooth of his word, benigne and honurable. *a* **1568** MONTGOMERIE *Misc. Poems* i. 13, I haif hard oft-tymis suith men say. **1634** MILTON *Comus* 823 Melibœus.., The soothest Shepherd that ere pip't on plains. **1757** DYER *Fleece* I. 630 Hoar-headed Damon.., soothest shepherd of the flow'ry vale. **1810** SCOTT *Lady of L.* I. xxiv, Announced by prophet sooth and old. **1894** *Blackw. Mag.* July 14, I ken a sooth face from a leeing ane.

4. *poet.* Soothing, soft; smooth.

1819 KEATS *To Sleep* 5 O soothest Sleep! if so it please thee, close In midst of this thine hymn my willing eyes. **1820** — *Eve St. Agnes* xxx, A heap Of candied apple.., With jellies soother than the creamy curd.

Sooth (sūþ), *adv.* Now *arch.* and *rare.* Forms: 1 **soðe**, **soþe**, 5 **sothe**; 3–4 **soþ**, 4 **soth**, 5 **sooþ**, *Sc.* **suth**, 6–7, 9 **sooth.** [OE. *sóðe*, *sóþe*, f. the adj.: see prec.] Truly; truthfully; in truth.

Beowulf 524 Beot eal wið þe sunu Beanstanes soðe ȝelæste. *c* **1000** *Ags. Ps.* (Thorpe) cxviii. 15 Swa ic þine soðfæstnysse soðe ȝetreowe. *c* **1200** ORMIN 18591 Uss wrat & seȝȝde sikerr soþ Johan þe Goddspellwrihhte, Þat [etc.]. *Ibid.* 19729 Forrþi seȝȝdenn þeȝȝ full soþ Þatt Crist [etc.]. *a* **1300** *Cursor M.* 14529 Cayphas spak þus in his spa,..And said wel sother þan he wist. *c* **1386** CHAUCER *Pard. T.* 174 Thou schalt say soth thin othes, and not lye. *c* **1470** HENRY *Wallace* II. 293 And so he told..Quhilk hapnyt suth in mony diuers cace.

b. Used interjectionally.

a **1300** *Cursor M.* 7739 'Es þat,' he said, 'mi sun daui?' 'Ya, soth,' said dauid, 'it es i'. **1470–85** MALORY *Arthur* XVII. xvi. 712 Sothe, sayd he, I am hole of body, thanked be our lord. **1590** SPENSER *F. Q.* III. iii. 13 And sooth, men say that he was not the sonne Of mortall Syre. **1601** SHAKS. *Twel. N.* II. i. 11 *An.* Let me yet know of you, whither you are bound. *Seb.* No sooth sir. **1604** — *Oth.* III. iii. 52 *Oth.* Went he hence now? *Des.* I [= Ay] sooth. **1834** WHITTIER *Mogg Megone* I. 400 And sooth, 'T were Christian mercy to finish him. **1872** K. H. DIGBY *Ouranogaia* I. xii. 264 And, sooth, the company that take this way No man or woman can for aye admire.

†**Sooth-**, representing the adj. or sb. in various obsolete combs., as **soothhead**, truth, verity; **soothquide**, a true word or saying, a truth; a proverb; **soothright(s** *adv.*, truly, verily; **soothsaȝel** *a.*, truthful, veracious; **soothship**, truth; **soothsinger** (see quot.); **soothtell** *a.*, soothsaying.

1340 *Ayenb.* 105 Þet uerste word ous sseweþ þe langnesse of his eurebleuinge;..þe þridde: þe dyepnesse of his *zoþhede. *c* **888** K. ÆLFRED *Boeth.* v. § 3 Sona swa hit forlæt *soðcwidas, swa folȝaþ hit leasspellunga. *c* **950** *Lindisf. Gosp.* John x. 6 Ðis soðcuido *vel* ȝedd cuæð ðæm se hælend. *c* **1205** LAY. 9524 Þa cnihtes..cudden him soð quides from Claudien þæm kæisere. *c* **1275** *Ibid.* 13470 Ich wolle telle ou *soþrihtes. *Ibid.* 19068 Nas þar na more sohriht bote þat hit was day-liht. *c* **900** tr. *Baeda's Hist.* III. xvii. (1890) 206 Ic, swa swa *soðsaȝal stærwritere [etc.]. *c* **1200** *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 131 Un-liȝel man selde liȝeð, and soðsaȝel man seið ofte soð. *c* **1320** *Cast. Love* 1020 Ȝif he lyueþ in loue and in boxumnesse, In *soþschupe and inrihtwysnes. **1652** GAULE *Magastrom.* 24 Who is an Inchanter? A *soothsinger, by canting numbers; or a soothsayer, by calculating numbers. **1582** STANYHURST *Æneis* IV. (Arb.) 108 Now *sothtel Apollo..A menacing message..vttred.

Soothe (sūð), *v.* Forms: 1 **soðian**, 3 **soðien**, 4, 6 **sothe**, 6 **soth**, **south**, 6–9 **sooth**, 6– **soothe.** [OE. *sóðian* (also *gesóðian* I-SOTHE *v.*), f. *sóð* SOOTH *a.* Cf. ON. (Icel., Norw., Sw.) *sanna* (Da. *sande*).]

†**1.** *trans.* To prove or show (a fact, statement, etc.) to be true; to verify, demonstrate. Also const. *on* (a person). *Obs.*

c **950** *Lindisf. Gosp.* Matt., Int. 7 Ðas..fewer godspelles.. ðæs witȝes boc ec soðeð *vel* fæstnaȝið. *c* **1205** LAY. 8491 Þas weord ich wulle þe treosien,..þat ich hit wulle soðien. *a* **1240** *Sawles Warde* in *O. E. Hom.* I. 261 Þe prophetes þe ..seoð nu al þat isoðet, þat ha hefden longe ear icwiddet of ure lauerd. *c* **1275** LAY. 8315 Ich hit wolle soþi bi mine god treuwe. **1387–8** T. USK *Test. Love* I. v. (Skeat) l. 110 Looke than..thou persever in my service,..that thilke scorn in thyn enemyes mowe this on thy person be not sothed. **1588** N. TROTTE *Introd. to Hughes' Misfort. Arthur* (1900) 111 They hold the grounds which time & vse hath sooth'd (Though shallow sense conceiue them as conceits).

†**2.** To declare (a statement) to be true; to uphold as the truth; to corroborate, support. *Obs.*

a **1553** UDALL *Royster D.* I. ii. (Arb.) 12 Then must I sooth it, what euer it is: For what he sayth or doth can not be amisse, Holde vp his yea and nay [etc.]. **1571** CAMPION *Hist. Irel.* (1809) 57 Verily, being inquisitive of these matters, I could finde no one of them soothed by such persons upon whose relation I am disposed to venture. **1580** LUPTON *Sivquila* 75 For every worde that the riche speaketh is soothed and counted for an Oracle. **1600** *Wisd. Dr. Dodypoll* II. iii. in Bullen *O. Pl.* (1884) III. 118 Do thou but soothe What I my selfe will presently devise. **1616** J. LANE *Contn. Sqr.'s T.* IX. 75 Soothinge his cause, that brave thinges ill begunn Standes recompensd, if held out till rewonn.

†**b.** To maintain or put forward (a lie or untruth) as being true. *Obs.*

1591 SAVILE *Tacitus, Hist.* I. xxxv. 20 Galba yielding to an vntruth so generally soothed, puts on a brest-plate. **1596** WARNER *Alb. Eng.* XII. lxxi. (1602) 297 Vpon my Tongue shall mine Opinion dye, Though should I say to it..Amen, I sooth'd no Lye. **1610** A. COOKE *Pope Joan* 43, *Protestant.* Why may it not be true though it be deliuered with *vt asseritur*? *Papist.* Why? Because lies are commonly so soothed. **1616** J. LANE *Contn. Sqr.'s T.* VII. 170 For o, but putt this word (truith) in theire mowth, And laughe for aye, to heere what lies they soothe.

†**3.** To support, or back *up*, (a person) in a statement or assertion. *Obs.*

1544 *St. Papers Hen. VIII*, X. 185 Grandvela wold have denyed the French King to have been taken prysoner by meane of Your Majestie, but Mons[r] de Praet wold not sothe him in it. **1592** KYD *Sp. Trag.* III. x. 19 Deale cunningly; Salue all suspitions, onely sooth me vp. **1610** HEYWOOD *Gold. Age* IV. i, If we get entrance sooth me vp in all things. **1623** MASSINGER *Dk. Milan* V. ii, Sooth me in all I say; There's a main end in it.

†**4.** To confirm, encourage, or humour (a person) *in* something by expressing assent or approval.

1568 GRAFTON *Chron.* II. 395 No man durst..aduise hym in any thing, but must sothe him in whatsoeuer he sayd, or did. **1579** LYLY *Euphues* (Arb.) 149 These be they that sooth young youths in al their sayings, that vphold them in al their doings. **1613–8** DANIEL *Coll. Hist. Eng.* (1621) 146 [Princes] are apter to learne to know their greatnesse, then themselues; being euer soothed in all whatsoeuer they doe. **1643** MILTON *Divorce* II. iii. Wks. 1851 IV. 66 If a private friend admonish not,..but if he sooth him, and allow him in his faults [etc.].

refl. **1631** GOUGE *God's Arrows* III. § 45. 266 Yet are we not hereupon to sooth our selves too much in our weaknesses.

†**b.** Similarly with *up*. *Obs.*

1573 G. HARVEY *Letter-bk.* (Camden) 9 If a man feed not there humor, nor sooth them up in there saiings. **1621** BURTON *Anat. Mel.* I. ii. IV. ii. 193 They will not let them bee corrected or controled, but still soothed vp in every thing they doe. **1676** ETHEREDGE *Man of Mode* III. ii, Do not you fall on him, Medley, and snub him. Sooth him up in his extravagance? **1705** STANHOPE *Paraphr.* II. 238 Rendring it an Argument for Presumption to sooth us up in Impenitence and Sloth.

refl. **1588** J. UDALL *Diotrephes* (Arb.) 21 Wel, sooth vp your selfe in your own perswasion, and brag of the multitude of subscribers. **1600** HOOKER *Serm.* ii. 38 Wks. 1888 III. 544, I am not ignorant how ready men are to feed and soothe up themselves in evil. **1622** T. SCOTT *Belg. Pismire* 11 He hateth to be reformed, and doth sooth up him selfe in folly.

†**5.** To blandish, cajole, or please (a person) by agreement or assent; to flatter in this way; to humour. *Obs.*

1573 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 26 She..sets open the chest, for such as can sooth hir and all away wrest. **1589** PUTTENHAM *Eng. Poesie* III. xv. (Arb.) 183 The yeoman thinking it good manner to soothe his Sergeant, said [etc.]. **1613** PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* (1614) 598 The Cyrenæans to sooth this proud King, which would needs be taken for the sonne of Ammon, stamped his shape in their coynes, with two hornes of a Ram. *a* **1649** DRUMM. OF HAWTH. *Fam. Ep.* Wks. (1711) 152, I can neither love nor sooth any other, be they never so powerful. **1680** OTWAY *Orphan* II. i, The grave dull fellow of small business sooths The Humorist and will needs admire his Wit.

absol. **1583** BABINGTON *Commandm.* (1590) 427 We must smooth it, & sooth it, & carrie two faces vnder one hoode. **1796** LAUDERDALE *Poems* 84 Now-a-days ane canna' phraise, An' sooth, an' lie, an' sweeten.

†**b.** Similarly with *up*. *Obs.*

1616 *Pasquil & Kath.* V. 80, I thought he was mad in putting me To such an enterprise; and therefore sooth'd him vp With I sir, yes sir, and so sir, at each word. **1652** GAULE *Magastrom.* 22 O ye Hypocrites! that..flatter and sooth up others to a doating presumption [etc.]. **1729** G. ADAMS tr. *Sophocl., Antig.* V. ii. II. 67 Why should I sooth you up with those Tales, wherein at least I shall appear a Liar. *a* **1734** NORTH *Lives* (1826) I. 178 The game lay by soothing up the King, and pushing him on in designs of advancing his prerogative. **1814** NICHOLSON *Poet. Wks.* (1897) 57 A wily, spruce, and nipping blade, Wha..soothed the lasses up wi' baubles.

refl. **1613** DAY *Dyall* IV. (1613) 74 Least upon the hearing thus of sins forgiven, the wicked should soothe up themselves. **1621** BURTON *Anat. Mel.* I. ii. II. vi, They may.. sooth vp themselues with phantasticall humors.

†**c.** Followed by *that* and clause. *Obs.*

1593 NASHE *Christ's T.* 14 b, Hee sootheth him vp, that if God would not haue had him sinne, hee woulde neuer haue giuen him..the meanes to sinne with. 1613 DAY *Dyall* viii. (1614) 169 Let no man sooth up himselfe that he hath a pure and immaculate heart. 1643 MILTON *Divorce* Wks. 1851 IV. 19 Yet I may erre perhaps in soothing my selfe that this present truth [etc.]. *a* 1661 FULLER *Worthies* (1840) II. 359 When soothed up by the servants, 'that not John but some other of his brothers did cry'.

†**d.** With impersonal object. *Obs.*

1592 SHAKS. *Ven. & Ad.* 850 Like shrill-tongued tapsters answering every call, Soothing the humour of fantastic wits. *a* 1656 BP. HALL *Rem. Wks.* (1660) 150 [There are] those that humour, and sooth up corrupt nature. 1669 STURMY *Mariner's Mag.* C iij, [He] commendeth even those things..which in his heart he doth detest, to the end that he may sooth up the Humour of the Party.

†**6.** To smooth or gloss over (an offence, etc.); to render less objectionable or offensive. *Obs.*

1587 GOLDING *De Mornay* i. 11 Some..haue striued to perswade themselues by soothing their owne sinnes, that they haue no Soule at all. 1593 SHAKS. 3 *Hen. VI*, III. iii. 175 What? has your King married the Lady Grey? And now to sooth your Forgery, and his, Sends me a Paper to perswade me Patience? 1606 CHAPMAN *Gent. Usher* v. iv. 66 His grosse dotage rather loath'd then sooth'd. *c* 1645 HOWELL *Lett.* I. v. xi, I am of the number of those that had rather commend the Virtue of an Enemy, than sooth the Vices of a Friend.

Comb. a 1618 SYLVESTER *Paradox agst. Libertie* 1110 Wks. (Grosart) II. 65 False sooth-sin flatteries, and idle Fairy dreames.

†**b.** Similarly with *up*. *Obs.*

1592 GREENE *Def. Conny Catching* Wks. (Grosart) XI. 81 Who..to aduaunce his yonger brother..was content to lie, cog, and flatter, and to take any seruile paines, to sooth vp the matter. 1603 FLORIO *Montaigne* III. vii. (1894) 469 We authorize their defects and sooth-up their vices. *a* 1641 BP. MOUNTAGU *Acts & Mon.* (1642) 519 Can wee religiously think the holy Ghost would doe anything to sooth up or countenance a popular error.

7. To render (an animal, a person, the feelings) calm or quiet; to restore to a normally peaceful or tranquil condition; to mollify or appease.

1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* III. 293 If to the Warlike Steed thy Studies bend,.. Sooth him with Praise, and make him understand The loud Applauses of his Master's Hand. 1717 POPE *Iliad* IX. 249 With this he sooths his angry Soul. 1777 WATSON *Philip II* XVII. (1839) 351 He may humble himself so far as to soothe us with the hopes of a more mild administration. 1814 JANE AUSTEN *Mansf. Park* (1851) 86 Was he only trying to soothe and pacify her, to make her overlook the previous affront? *a* 1859 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xxiii. V. 22 It was particularly important to soothe Wharton, who had been exasperated [etc.]. 1864 BRYCE *Holy Rom. Emp.* iii. (1875) 14 Ariovistus had been soothed by the title of Friend of the Roman People.

transf. 1710 T. FULLER *Pharm. Extemp.* 146 It [*sc.* the emulsion] sooths up and composeth to quiet, the mad, raging Spirits. 1822 SHELLEY *Fragm. Unf. Drama* 106 Calming me as the loveliness of heaven Soothes the unquiet sea.

b. Const. *to*. Also, to induce *to* do something.

1746 FRANCIS tr. *Horace, Sat.* I. i. 27 As Masters fondly sooth their Boys to read With Cakes and Sweetmeats. 1823 SCOTT *Quentin D.* x, When I walk boldly up to a surly mastiff, and caress him, it is ten to one I soothe him to good temper.

8. To bring to a calm or composed condition; to affect in a tranquillizing and agreeable manner.

1742 GRAY *Eton* 18 My weary soul they seem to sooth. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) V. 26 The male sits near his mate upon some tree, and sooths her by his singing. 1818 KEATS *Endym.* I. 783 Fold A rose leaf round thy finger's taperness, And soothe thy lips. 1869 BROWNING *Ring & Bk.* X. 1645 A cloud may soothe the eye made blind by blaze. 1891 E. PEACOCK *N. Brendon* I. 255 Poetry of a certain kind soothed him.

transf. 1780 COWPER *Progr. Err.* 66 Sweet harmony, that sooths the midnight hour!

b. Const. *to* (a certain state).

1819 BYRON *Juan* II. cxiii, The soft warm hand of youth ..bathing his chill temples, tried to soothe Each pulse to animation. 1870 E. PEACOCK *Ralf Skirl.* III. 82 This monotony soothed her to sleep.

9. To reduce the force or intensity of (a passion, pain, etc.); to render less painful or violent; to allay, assuage, mitigate, etc.

1711 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 170 ¶ 7 An intimate Friend that will..condole their Sufferings, and endeavour to sooth and asswage their secret Resentments. 1742 YOUNG *Nt. Th.* IX. 16 Song soothes our pains; and age has pains to soothe. 1786 BURNS *Vision* II. xvi, Th' adored Name, I taught thee how to pour in song, To soothe thy flame. 1807–8 W. IRVING *Salmag.* (1824) 334 As if anxious to sooth the last moments of his master. 1868 J. H. BLUNT *Ref. Ch. Eng.* I. 402 Soothing agitation or putting an end to discord. 1880 L. STEPHEN *Pope* IV. 92 He was constantly wanting coffee, which seems to have soothed his headaches.

b. To drive *away*, to dispel, by soothing.

1746 FRANCIS tr. *Horace, Epist.* I. ii. 46 Who..with melting Airs Of empty Music sooth away our Cares. 1853 MRS. GASKELL *Ruth* (1855) 208 The deep sense of penitence ..he mistook for earthly shame, which he imagined he could soon soothe away.

c. To soften, tone down, render less harsh or prominent.

1860 HAWTHORNE *Marb. Faun* XVI, Artificial fantasies, which the calm moonlight soothed into better taste than was native to them.

10. *absol.* To have or exercise a soothing or tranquillizing influence.

1728 YOUNG *Love Fame* VI. 194 Ladies supreme among amusements reign; By nature born to sooth, and entertain.

1797 JANE AUSTEN *Sense & Sens.* (1849) 260 Elinor, impatient to soothe, though too honest to flatter. 1809 BYRON *To Florence* xi, 'Twill soothe to be where thou hast been. 1850 TENNYSON *In Mem.* lvi, O for thy voice to soothe and bless! 1871 GARROD *Mat. Med.* (ed. 3) 171 The decoction..is employed as an external application to allay pain and soothe.

Hence **Soothed** (sūðd) *ppl. a.*

1599 B. JONSON *Cynthia's Rev.* v. vi, Like an envious wretch, That glitters onely to his soothed selfe. 16.. *The Distracted Emperor* in Bullen *O. P.* III. 184 What will not soothed prynces? 1820 KEATS *St. Agnes* xxvii, The poppied warmth of sleep oppress'd Her soothed limbs. 1839–52 BAILEY *Festus* 379 A rainbow of sweet sounds, Just spanning the soothed sense. 1845 DISRAELI *Sybil* (1863) 241 A warmth which expressed her sense of his kindness and her own soothed feelings.

Soother (sū·ðəɹ), *sb.* Also 6 souther. [f. SOOTHE *v.*]

†**1.** One who assents or agrees with another; a flatterer. *Obs.*

1553 T. WILSON *Rhet.* 106 b, This worlde..hath ouer many such as neuer honest man was, *that is to saie*, flatterers, fawners, and southers of mennes saiynges. 1593 ABP. BANCROFT *Daungerous Positions* IV. i. 135 An Innkeeper, (a receiver of all, and a soother of euery man for his gaine). 1612 DRAYTON *Poly-olb.* xvi. 89 But soothers find the way preferment most to win. *a* 1661 HOLYDAY *Juvenal* (1673) 189 Wife, children, and themselves they do distress, They'd tire the soother Cossus.

2. One who or that which soothes, calms, comforts, etc.

1780 S. J. PRATT *Emma Corbett* (ed. 4) III. 137 Dear friend—author of many a comfort—soother of many a care. *c* 1811 MRS. OPIE in A. J. C. Hare *Gurneys of Earlham* (1895) I. 239 Thou goest, sweet soother, every wound to heal. 1824 SCOTT *Ess. on Romance* Misc. Wks. 1870 VI. 164 The professional poet..becomes the companion and soother only of idle and convivial hours. 1865 C. STANFORD *Symb. Christ* vii. 191 Finding in Him the hero of your proud romance, and the soother of your indolence.

3. A soothing thing or influence.

In recent use *spec.* an artificial teat, ring, etc., given to a baby to suck in order to quiet it.

1794 R. J. SULIVAN *View Nat.* I. 19 The warm..affections are in every instance the soothers of melancholy. 1803 JANE PORTER *Thaddeus* (1826) III. xv. 326 Those gentle amiabilities which are the soothers and sweeteners of life. 1841 LYTTON *Nt. & Morn.* I. vi, A pipe is a great soother.

Soother, *v. Ir.* Also **soodher**. [f. SOOTHE *v.*] *trans.* To blandish, cajole, flatter, etc.

1842 LOVER *Handy Andy* i, 'How can you help it?' 'I'll soother him' [*sc.* a horse]. 1896 F. MATHEW *Wood of Brambles* 183 If they are wantin' to soother you.

Soothfast (sū·þfast), *a.* and *adv.* Now *arch.* [OE. *sōð-, sōþfæst*: see SOOTH *sb.* and FAST *a.*] Except in Sc. legal use, the word appears to have been obsolete from the beginning of the 17th cent. until its revival by Scott.

A. *adj.* **1.** Of persons: Speaking or adhering to the truth; veracious, truthful; true, faithful, loyal.

c 825 *Vesp. Psalter* lxxxv. 15 Swiðe mildheort & soðfest. *a* 900 CYNEWULF *Crist* 302 Eac we þæt ȝefruȝnon, þæt ȝefyrn bi þe soðfæst sæȝde sum woðbora. 971 *Blickl. Hom.* 187 Þes man is soþfæst & soþsecgende. *c* 1100 *O. E. Chron.* (MS. D) an. 1065, Her Eadward cing..sende soðfeste saule to Kriste. 1124 *Ibid.* (Laud MS.) an. 1124, Fela soðfeste men sæidon þæt þær wæron manege..gespilde. *c* 1205 LAY. 6535 He wes swiðe soðfest [*v.r.* sohfast] and swiðe wel iðæwed. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 10189 Was neuer.. nan tholmoder in chastite,..Ne nan soth-faster þan was he. 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 135 Whar-for ilk man..Suld.. knaw..How rightwes God es, and how sothefast. *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (Roxb.) xv. 69 Ȝe schuld..be symple, meke and sothfast. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 465/2 Sothefast mann or womann, *verax*. 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* XXXV. 43 Quhill I hard tell be mony suthfast wy, Fle wald ane abbot vp in to the sky. 1577 *Test. 12 Patriarchs* (1604) 102 Love ye one another with soothfast heart. 1581 MARBECK *Bk. of Notes* 1109 Christ..is called true or soothfast, because he only teacheth vs true, certeine,.. & infallible things. 1612 J. DAVIES (Heref.) *Muse's Sacrifice* Wks. (Grosart) II. 36/2, I ..weepe for what I want; that is, thy Grace, and Loue, Then, as thou art still soothfast, grant them me. 1816 SCOTT *Antiq.* XXV, Edie was ken'd to me..for a true, loyal, and soothfast man. 1857 EMERSON *Poems* 79 Here am I, here will I abide Forever to myself sooth-fast.

absol. *c* 825 *Lorica Prayer* in *O. E. Texts* 174 Ðec alle soðfeste fore-ðingiað. *a* 1425 *Cursor M.* 17459 (Trin.), And soþfaste whenne fals is fled Holdeþ forþ his owne sted. 1876 MORRIS *Sigurd* I. 29 Thou shalt know indeed..why the liar gains in a day what the soothfast strives for late.

†**b.** Const. *in* or *of* (word, etc.). *Obs.*

c 1400 tr. *Secreta Secret., Gov. Lordsh.* 103 þat he be sothfast of wordes. 1422 *Ibid., Priv. Priv.* 211 He sholde bene Sothefaste in worde and dedd. 1559 *Mirr. Mag.* (1563) Bj, Abandon all affray, be soothfast in your sawes. 1577 *St. Aug. Manual* (Longman) 70, I know..that he [God] is Soothfast of promise.

2. In accordance or conformity with the truth; true, veracious; †just, equitable.

c 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* John v. 30 Dom min soðfæst is. *c* 1000 *Ags. Ps.* (Thorpe) lxviii. 28 Hi on þin soðfæst weorc [L. *in justitiam tuam*] syþþan ne gangan. *c* 1205 LAY. 60 Nu bidded Laȝamon alcne æðele mon..þat he þeos soðfeste word segge to sumne. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* I. 3 Than suld storys that suthfast wer .. Hawe doubill plesance in heryng. *c* 1400 *Pilgr. Sowle* (Caxton, 1483) IV. xxxiii. 82 Shewynge by quyck reson that theyr seynge is sad and sothfast. 1481 in *Eng. Misc.* (Surtees) 39 In defawte of soothfast knowlage. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* VI. i. 174 Scho wes constrenit to schaw all suthfast thingis. 1559 *Mirr. Mag.* (1562) B b j, It was a southfast sentence long ago That hastye men shal never lacke much woe. 1567 TURBERV. *Epit.*, etc. 57 b, Thus many yeares were spent with good and soothfast life. 1818 SCOTT *Br. Lamm.* xxii, Soothfast tidings had assured him that this nobleman was..to honour his castle at one in the afternoon. 1829 A. CUNNINGHAM *Magic Bridle, Anniv.* 136 I'll tell a tale. List, ye who glory In truth, and love a soothfast story.

b. Of an oath or evidence. Chiefly *Sc.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 6848 *Bi* fals godds suer yee nan, Athes noiþer sothfast ne man. 1481 *Certificate* in *Eng. Misc.* (Surtees) 39 It is meritable to bere wittenes and suthfast record in any cause. 1502 *Mackintosh Muniments* (1903) 8 Meritable it is to beir leill and suithfast witnessing to the merite. 1561 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* I. 198 To beir leill and suithfast witnessing in sa fer as thai knaw or shalbe sperit at thame. 1666 *Proclamation* in Wodrow *Hist. Suff. Ch. Scot.* (1830) II. 6 To bear leel and soothfast witnessing, in so far as they know, or shall be spiered at them. 1732 J. LOUTHIAN *Form of Process* (1752) 42 [as in prec.]. 1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* xv, Why do not you step forward, and bear leal and soothfast evidence in her behalf?

†**c.** Reliable, certain, sure. *Obs.*

a 1400 *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* XXXII. 388 Þen schaltou haue soþfast knowyng, To knowe þi lord in whom is al. *a* 1400 HYLTON *Scala Perf.* II. xlii. (W. de W. 1494) This is a syker felynge & a sothfast. 1593 LODGE *Compl. Elstred* I 2 b, So wiser heads that knew the scourge of warre, Sought sooth-fast meanes to mittigate the iarre.

†**3.** Truly or actually that which the name implies; true, real, veritable, very. Said esp. of God or of the persons of the Trinity. *Obs.*

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 26 Almihti God, Feder, & Sune, & soðfest Holi Gost. *c* 1250 in *O. E. Misc.* 27 Be þet hi offrede gold, þet is cuuenable yefte to kinge, seawede þet he was sothfast kink. *c* 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 8656 For als he es, þai salle him se þan, Sothfast God, and sothfast man. *c* 1374 CHAUCER *Troylus* V. 25 She that was sothfaste croppe, and moore, Of al his lust or joyes here tofore. *c* 1430 *Hymns Virgin* (1867) 47 In þe soopfast sunne closid it was. 1456 SIR G. HAYE *Law Arms* (S.T.S.) 22 Mony was in that tyme callit papis, and was nocht suthfast. *c* 1470 *Gol. & Gaw.* 1045, I swere be suthfast God, that settis all on sevin!

†**b.** Of qualities, etc. *Obs.*

c 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 57 Mid al þis haue þu charite, and soðfeste leaue and trowðe lef. *c* 1200 ORMIN 1572 Forr soþfasst lufe bærneþþ 233. *Ibid.* 2659 þatt wass wiss soþfasst metleȝȝc. 1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. XIII. 217 Sobrete, and symple speche and sothfaste byleue.

B. *adv.* Soothfastly.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 22926 All þe flexs þat was o þe man Sothfast sal be raised þan. *c* 1375 *Ibid.* 26961 (Fair.), Þe xv. point hit is þe laste þat þi shrift be made soþ-faste. 1867 EMERSON *May-Day* 26, I care not if the pomps you show Be what they soothfast appear.

Soothfastly, *adv.* Now *arch.* [f. prec.] In a soothfast manner; truthfully, truly, veritably, etc.

a 890 *Charter* in *O. E. Texts* 452 Ic .. wille þæt hio sion soðfestliche .. ȝetrymed me & minum erfeweardum. *c* 1200 ORMIN 2995 Forr uss birrþ unnderrstanndenn wel & soþfasstlike trowwenn, þatt [etc.]. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 9746, I sal on me..O thral tak clething sothfastli. *a* 1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* X. 6 He anly demes sothfastly of þaire consciens. *a* 1400 HYLTON *Scala Perf.* I. lxviii. (W. de W. 1494), He that is perfytly and sothfastly meke. 1456 SIR G. HAYE *Law Arms* (S.T.S.) 26 The exposicioun of the visioun was suthfastly approvit. *c* 1500 *Lancelot* 1397 Suthfastly I will ȝour ordynans in euery thing fulfyll. *a* 1555 PHILPOT *Exam. & Writ.* (Parker Soc.) 423 Whiles soothfastly they do confess Christ to be the saviour. 1818 SCOTT *Rob Roy* xxiii, But, if I were to come, wad ye really and soothfastly pay me the siller?

Soothfastness. Now *arch.* [f. SOOTHFAST *a.* + -NESS.]

1. The fact, condition, or quality of being soothfast in various senses; truth; truthfulness or veracity. †*In soothfastness*, in sooth.

c 825 *Vesp. Psalter* v. 10 Nis in muðe heara soðfestnis. *c* 888 K. ÆLFRED *Boeth.* XXXV. § 1 Þeah bið simle corn þære soðfæstnesse sæd on þære sawle wunigende. 971 *Blickl. Hom.* 17 Dribten sylfa cwæþ, 'Ic eom weȝ soðfæstnesse'. *c* 1200 ORMIN 12920 And tiss iss soþfasstnessess hord þatt all manntin birrþ sekenn. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 2339 Ai luued he sothfastnes and right. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Clerk's T.* 740 But now know I in verray sothfastnesse, That in gret lordschip..Ther is gret servitude. *c* 1412 HOCCLEVE *De Reg. Princ.* 1199 Salamon yafe counseille, men shulden prey Two thynges unto God, in sothefastnesse. 1483 CAXTON *Gold. Leg.* 393/1 Sende thou in to us..the ghoost of sothfastnesse. *c* 1567 PARKER *Ps.* K ij, For as the Lorde is just in worde, so loveth he sothfastnes. 1590 LODGE *Euphues Gold. Leg.* K 3 b, These..are of power no more, Where beautie leanes to wit and soothfastnesse. 1607 WALKINGTON *Opt. Glass* 141 True and full of soothfastnesse. 1881 ROSSETTI *Ball. & Sonn.* 121 For here sit I..In full surrender and soothfastness.

2. With *the*. Also const. *of* (a person, statement, etc.).

c 888 K. ÆLFRED *Boeth.* XXXV. § 6 Ne fo we no..on ða bispel for ðara leasena spella lufan, ac forðæmðe we woldon mid ȝebecnan þa soðfæstnesse. 971 *Blickl. Hom.* 55 Se mon se þa soþfæstnesse mid his muþe sprecþ. *c* 1055 *Byrhtferth's Handboc* in *Anglia* VIII. 335 Æfter þære soðfæstnysse þe þa iudeisce witan heoldon. *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 115 Ðes kingges .. sodfestnesse istaþaleð þes folkes stere. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* I. 7 The fyrst plesance is the carpyng, And the tothir the suthfastnes, That schawys the thing rycht as it wes. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Melib.* P 209 To telle yow the sothfastnesse of thinges. *c* 1440 *Registr. Aberdon.* (Maitl. Cl.) I. 249 þe bischap..askis þat he be distreignyt to schawe his charter for þe suthfastnes to be knawin. 1535 STEWART *Cron. Scot.* II. 558 The suithfastnes thairof rycht sone was schawin. 1571 GOLDING *Calvin on Ps.* ii. 6 The soothfastnesse of the Prophesye was shewed there by the ceremony of solemne consecration. 1830 CHAMBERS *Life Jas. I*, II. x. 278 The question seemed to hinge on the soothfastness of a chamber maid.

3. Personified.

c 897 K. ÆLFRED *Gregory's Past. C.* 409 Ðehieren eac ða

..hwæt sio Soðfæsðnes ðurh hie selfe cwæð. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 9545 Þe first o þam was cald merci, Þe toþer was hatten sothfastnes. 1377 Langl. *P. Pl.* B. xvi. 186 Þe secounde of þat sire is sothfastnesse, *filius*. *c* 1400 Love *Bonavent. Mirr.* (1908) 17 This dou3ter sothfastnesse seith that sche perissheth.

Soothful (sū·þfůl), *a.*[1] *Obs.* or *arch.* Also 4 sothfol, zoþuol; 9 *Sc.* soothfow. [f. Sooth *a.* + -ful.] True; truthful, veracious.

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* A. 498 In sothfol gospel of god almy3t. 1587 Fleming *Contn. Holinshed* III. 1339/1 Gods heavenlie grace, and soothful skill reviving Antwerpe newe. 1813 Scott *Triern.* III. xxxiii, Nay, soothful bards have said [etc.]. 1825 Jamieson *Suppl., A soothfow servant*, one who is not an eye-servant. Loth[ian].

Hence † **Soo·thfully** *adv.*, truly, really. *Obs.*[-1]

1340 *Ayenb.* 133 Al þet he hedde..he yaf uor þet he wes zoþuolliche poure.

Soothful (sū·ðfůl), *a.*[2] [f. Soothe *v.* Cf. Sooth *a.* 4.] Soothing; restful.

1886 J. Ashby-Sterry *Lazy Minstrel* (1892) 163 Sweet are the zephyrs, hay-scented and soothful. 1896 — *Tale Thames* iv. (1903) 28 A picture..agreeable to the eye and soothful to the mind. *Ibid.* 36 There was an indescribably soothful feeling about the place.

Soothing (sū·ðiŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. Soothe *v.*] The action of the verb, in various senses.

a 1400 *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* xlix. 185 For 3if þou woldest hit putte to soþing þat he seyde ouur ni3t vppon þe morwening. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 11495 Thus sotelly with sothyn he set hom a cas, What fortune might falle. *a* 1592 Greene *Jas. IV*, 1131 Whilst cloking craft with soothing climbes so high. 1607 Hieron *Wks.* I. 430 Secret soothing and flattering of the heart. 1651 Hobbes *Leviath.* II. xxx. 184 The soothing of the people in their unreasonable, or irremediable grievances. 1702 Rowe *Tamerl.* I. i, Away, Deceiver; I will not hear thy Soothing. 1813 Scott *Rokeby* IV. x, 'Twas long ere soothing might prevail Upon the child to end the tale. 1847 Helps *Friends in C.* I. iii. 40 This [trouble] appears..unworthy of having any remedy, or soothing, thought out for it.

b. *pl.* (In first quot. = soothsayings.)

1582 Stanyhurst *Æneis* III. (Arb.) 78 Gods, quod he, this messadge turne you to a prosperus omen. Cancel theese menacing soothings, thee godlye reseruing. 1601 Dent *Pathw. Heaven* 372 Whether it bee more meet that I should beleeue the Scriptures, or your soothings iudge you. 1745 W. Thompson *Sickness* v. 135 Ideal sounds Soft-wafted on the Zephyr's fancy'd wing, Steal tuneful soothings on the easy ear. 1797 Mrs. Radcliffe *Italian* xxv, The soothings of sympathy and the delicate arts of benevolence.

Soothing (sū·ðiŋ), *ppl. a.* [f. as prec.]

† **1.** Flattering, blandishing; specious, plausible.

1599 Shaks., etc. *Pass. Pilgr.* i, O, love's best habit is a soothing tongue. 1603 Daniel *Lady Anne Clifford* 76 The tongues of praise, And troopes of soothing people, that collaud All that we doe. 1644 Milton *Bucer on Div.* Wks. 1851 IV. 338 Under a false and soothing title of Marriage. 1671 — *P. R.* III. 6 At length collecting all his Serpent wiles, [he] With soothing words renew'd, him thus accosts.

2. That soothes, calms, quietens, etc.; pacifying, mollifying.

1746 Francis tr. *Horace, Epist.* I. i. 49 The Power of Words, and soothing Sounds appease The raging Pain. 1766 Fordyce *Serm. Yng. Wm.* (1767) II. xiii. 249 From an agreeable young woman..it is incredibly soothing. 1801 Southey *Thalaba* VI. ix, Lull'd by the soothing and incessant sound, The flow of many waters. 1849 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* I. I. 92 Had the King been wise, he would have pursued a cautious and soothing policy towards Scotland. 1872 Black *Adv. Phaeton* xii. 160 The soothing influences of dinner had departed.

b. *spec.* Of medical applications, drugs, etc.

1896 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* I. 422 Infants who are being drugged by unscrupulous nurses with 'soothing syrups' or other opiates. 1899 *Ibid.* VIII. 597 The affection..disappears in a few weeks under an iron tonic and a soothing application.

Soo·thingly, *adv.* [f. prec. + -ly[2].] In a soothing (†plausible, or flattering) manner; so as to soothe, quieten, tranquillize, etc.

1612 Shelton *Quix.* I. 386 Herewithall Anselmo rested the most soothingly and contentedly deceiued, that could be found in the world. 1648 Hexham II, *Smeeckelick*, Flatteringly, Soothingly. 1794 Mrs. Radcliffe *Myst. Udolpho* xxxi, So soothingly beautiful was the scene around her [etc.]. 1817 Shelley *Rev. Islam* I. lviii. 4 An eye of blue Looked into mine, like moonlight, soothingly. 1832 Lytton *Eugene A.* I. vi, 'You do not suffer bodily pain, I trust,' asked Walter, soothingly. 1880 Ruskin *Fors Clav.* lxxxviii. 108 What vexed..me, or returned soothingly to my memory.

Soo·thingness. *rare.* [f. as prec. + -ness.] The quality or character of being soothing; a soothing property or feature.

1818 Coleridge *Lett.* (1895) II. 692 She is goodnatured, lively, innocent, but without a soothingness, or something I do not know what that is tender. 1876 Lowell *Among my Bks.* Ser. II. 179 In all this there is soothingness indeed, but no slumberous monotony.

Soo·thless, *a. rare*[-1]. [f. Sooth *sb.* + -less.] Untruthful; false.

1802 Campbell *Lochiel's Warn.* 78 Down, soothless insulter! I trust not the tale.

† **Soo·thly,** *a. Obs. rare.* [f. Sooth *a.* + -ly[1].] Soothful, truthful; true, real, etc.

c 888 K. Ælfred *Boeth.* xxxviii. § 5 Ne þincð me næfre nanwuht swa soðlic swa me þincað þine spell. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 13443 Bot iohn was sothlist in saus. *a* 1400 *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* xlv. 2 Soþeli sawes I wol 3ou telle Of gentyl Ihesu. 1777 Mickle *Syr Martyn* I. xlvi, Dear was the kindlie love which Kathrin bore This crooked Ronion, for in soothly guise She was her genius and her counsellor.

Soothly (sū·þli), *adv.* (and *conj.*). Now *arch.* [f. Sooth *a.* + -ly[2].]

1. In or with sooth or truth; truly, verily; as a matter of fact; assuredly, certainly, really; indeed. Freq. in OE. and ME.; from *c* 1450 to *c* 1600 chiefly *Sc.* Very rare in the 17th and 18th centuries.

a. c 825 *Vesp. Psalter* lvii. 2 ðif soðlice [L. *vere*]..rehtwisnisse spreocað. *c* 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Mark xv. 39 Soðlice monn ðes sunu godes wæs. 971 *Blickl. Hom.* 59 Swyþe soþlice we magon gefencan þæt hit biþ deaþes ylding. *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 15 Soðliche me þunched..þet al þas wrake is icumen ouer alle þeode. *c* 1200 Ormin 6445 Þær wass sene þatt þho wass Soþlike Godess moderr. *c* 1275 *Sinners Beware* 175 in *O. E. Misc.*, Soþliche betere heom were, þat heo ibore nere. *c* 1300 *Havelok* 276 Soþlike, in a lite[l] þrawe, Al Engelond of him stod awe. 1340 *Ayenb.* 74 Vor huo hier him demþ zoþliche, him ne worþ non hede to by uorlore. 1393 in *Collectanea Topogr.* (1836) III. 256 We..were confessed sotheliche in dede sesyd in the Manere of Slaptone. *c* 1430 *Pilgr. Lyf Manhode* I. lxxvi. (1869) 45 Soothliche litel thei wolden preysen my seyinge. 1590 Spenser *F. Q.* III. ii. 14 Ne soothlich it is easie for to read, Where now on earth, or how he may be found.

β. a 1300 *Cursor M.* 2552 Our lauerd steuen Sothli till him spak in sueuen. *c* 1384 Chaucer *H. Fame* 364 She wiste sothely he Was forthe vnto his shippes agoon. *c* 1400 Maundev. (Roxb.) vii. 27 Sothely it es noȝt likly þat þai schold be graues. *c* 1449 Pecock *Repr.* I. xi. 53 Sotheli if eny man vnknowith, he schal be vnknowun. 1513 Bradshaw *St. Werburge* 177 Secular prestes expulsed sothely were From diuers monasteries. 1596 Spenser *F. Q.* V. x. 8 For soothly he was one of matchlesse might. 1599 *Broughton's Let.* vi. 20 And soothly so you meant. 1721 Ramsay *To R. H. B.* iii, It soothly shaws them they can spare A rowth to spend. 1826 Hood *Irish Schoolm.* xxvii, So soothly kind is Erin to her own! 1850 Blackie *Æschylus* II. 186 Soothly a worthy deed, a pleasant tale For future years to tell! 1881 Swinburne *Mary Stuart* IV. iii, I would know soothly if your mind be changed.

γ. 1375 Barbour *Bruce* VI. 32 Quhen the Gallowais vist suthly, That he wes with a few menȝhe. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 1962 Suthely þou knawes, And wete þou wele [etc.]. *c* 1470 Henry *Wallace* VIII. 877 Yhe may nocht wyn ws suthlie, thocht ye bid. *c* 1550 Rolland *Crt. Venus* Prol. 13 The thrid clepit is Colerike suithlie. 1588 A. King tr. *Cantsius' Catech.* 105 Quhilk office suthlie can na maner of vayis appertein to wemen.

b. With *say, tell*, etc.

a 1000 *Elene* 317 (Gr.), Weras .. þa me soðlice secgan cunnon. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 108 Leorne hit ȝeorne of him þet tu hit kunne, ant muwe soðliche siggen. *c* 1275 Lay. 26210 Ne may no man mid mouþe soþliche segge of haluendeal þan folke. 13.. *Cursor M.* 2398 (Gött.), I can noght say þe sothlier. *c* 1340 Hampole *Pr. Consc.* 6175 Suthly I say yhou, swa yhe wroght. *c* 1386 Chaucer *Knt.'s T.* 341 Whan that oon was deed, sothly to telle, His felawe wente and sought him doun in helle. 1426 Audelay *Poems* 19 Thus sayth Marke sothely. *c* 1480 Henryson *Reas. Death & Man* 18 Thay call me deid, Suthly I the declair. 1564 Lady A. Bacon tr. *Jewel's Apol.* v. i. § 3 Soothely to saie, no man..woulde thinke the Jewes lawes..to be newe. 1582 Stanyhurst *Æneis* II. (Arb.) 46 King: mi faith I plight heere, to relate thee veritye soothlye. 1619 H. Hutton *Follie's Anat.* (Percy Soc.) 3 Of this same point I cannot soothly say. *a* 1656 Hales *Gold. Rem.* (1673) 48 He was fain..to crave aid of his Equivocating Sophistry, and soothly to tell them, I have seen your face as the face of God. 1805 Scott *Last Minstrel* II. i, Then..home returning, soothly swear Was never scene so sad and fair! 1871 Rossetti *Poems, Love's Nocturn* viii, Master, is it soothly said That [etc.]?

† **2.** Used to render L. *autem, enim, ergo*, etc. *Obs.*

c 825 *Vesp. Psalter* ii. 6 Ic soðlice ȝeseted..eam cyning. *c* 975 *Rushw. Gosp.* Matt. i. 19 Ioseph soþlice hire wer..ne walde [etc.]. *a* 1050 *Liber Scintill.* (1889) 2 Þænne soþlice [L. *tunc enim*] mann fulfremed ys. *a* 1300 *E. E. Psalter* xxxvi. 35 Lauerd soth-like noght lete sal he Him in his hende to be. 1382 Wyclif *Matt.* xii. 15 Sothely Jhesus witynge, wente awey thennes. *c* 1460 *Eng. Reg. Oseney Abbey* (1907) 89 To þe which sothly entente þe forsaide Executours stryue, saying [etc.].

Soo·thment. *rare*[-1]. [f. Soothe *v.*] A soothing influence.

1900 *Academy* 28 Apr. 362/1 Oh, the placidity, the soft soul-soothment of living in the country!

† **Soo·thness.** *Obs.* [f. Sooth *a.* + -ness.]

1. The fact, quality, or condition of being true (in various senses); truth or verity; fidelity, faithfulness; reality, fact: **a.** Without article.

c 1275 *Passion our Lord* 365 in *O. E. Misc.*, Þo seyde pilates him to, hwat is soþnesse. 1297 R. Glouc. (Rolls) 988 Vor me mai bet soþnesse of þe moder þan of þe fader iwite. 1387 Trevisa *Higden* (Rolls) I. 71 Fame þat is false.. fallip out of mynde, oþer is despreued by soþenesse i-knowe. *c* 1440 *Eng. Conq. Ireland* 102 He was..of mych speche, & lytel sothnesse. 1530 Palsgr. 273/1 Sothenesse, *verité*. 1587 Golding *De Mornay* iv. (1592) 43 Verely the most in effect that we can knowe concerning his being,..whether we terme it Soothnesse, or Wisedome,..or Godhead,..it cannot fit him.

personif. 1362 Langl. *P. Pl.* A. II. 163 Soþnesse sauh hem wel and seide bote luyte.

b. *In soothness*, in truth, reality, etc.

c 1386 Chaucer *Sec. Nun's T.* 261 Sayst thou thus to me In sothenes, or in drem I herkne this? *c* 1400 *Apol. Lollf.* 27 Wan he is þus iugid & rettid of men, þow he be not so in soþnes. 1412–20 Lydg. *Chron. Troy* I. 330 For in sothnesse of al þer was noon That lyue myȝt by that fatal lawe.

2. With *the.* The truth.

1297 R. Glouc. (Rolls) 7236 Hii wepe & made deol ynou vor hii seye þe soþnesse. 1340 *Ayenb.* 44 Hede þe zoþnesse of þe þinge þet me wyle zelle. *c* 1374 Chaucer *Boeth.* I. pr. vi. (1868) 26 Ne neuer nas ȝit day þat myȝte putte me oute of þe soþenesse of þat sentence.

† **Soothsaid,** *ppl. a. Obs.*[-1] [Cf. Soothsay *v.*] Prophesied, prognosticated.

1582 Stanyhurst *Æneis* I. (Arb.) 18 But this her hole meaning a southsayd mysterie letted That from thee Troians should branch a lineal ofspring.

† **Soo·thsaw.** *Obs.* Also sooth saw. Forms: 1 soðsagu, -sage, 2 soð-, 3 soþ-, sothsaȝe, 4 soþsagh, 5 sothesaugh; 3–4 soþ-, 4 soth-, 4–5 sothesawe, 6 sothsaw; 4 sooþ-, 5 soothsawe, 6 -saw. [OE. *sóðsagu*: see Sooth *a.* and Saw *sb.*[2] In later use sometimes not a comb., but a simple collocation of adj. and sb.]

1. The or an act of speaking the truth; (one's) truthfulness, truth.

c 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Matt., Int. 7/2 Soðspell *vel* soðsaga [= *historia*]. *a* 1023 Wulfstan *Hom.* x. (1883) 74 On manna ȝehwylces mode and muðe soðsagu stande. *c* 1380 Wyclif *Treat.* Sel. Wks. III. 6 Ayein hem þat in blindenes of malice pursuen me for my soopsawe. *c* 1400 *Rom. Rose* 6125 Though that thou shuldist for thi sothe-sawe Ben al to-beten and todrawe. *c* 1440 *Gesta Rom.* xlv. 175 (Harl. MS.), My felowe for his sothe sawe, hathe loste his lyf. *c* 1483 Caxton *Epil. Chaucer's H. Fame* d v, This noble man Gefferey Chaucer fynysshyd at the sayd conclusion of the metyng of lesyng and sothsawe.

2. A true saying, statement, or account; a truth.

a. a 1250 *Owl & Night.* 1038 Hit was iseid in olde laȝe, An ȝet ilast þilke soþsaȝe [etc.]. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 8911 For þe loue o þis soth-sagh. 1362 Langl. *P. Pl.* A. xi. 16 Al þe soþ sawes þat Salamon seide euere. *c* 1384 Chaucer *H. Fame* 2089 A lesynge & a sad soth-sawe. *c* 1430 *Wycliffite Bible* Pref. Ep. ix, For it is an old sothsawe, to the auarouse man as wel lackith the good that he hath, as that he hath not.

β. c 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 14 Ut of latin ðis song is draȝen on engleis speche, on soðe saȝen. *c* 1330 R. Brunne *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 2298 Sey me þe soþe sawe: How mykel louestou me wyþ wylle? *c* 1384 Chaucer *H. Fame* 676 Thou shalt here..moo tydynges, Bothe sothe sawes and leysinges. 1519 *Interl. Four Elem.* (Percy Soc.) 17, I.. gyve the absolucion For thy soth saws; stande up, Jackdaw! *c* 1530 *Hickscorner* (1905) 129, I came..to preach and teach of God's sooth saws Ayenst vice.

Soothsay (sū·þsēi), *sb.* Forms: 6 sothsay, 6–7 southsaye, 6, 9 soothsay, 6 -saye. [Back-formation from Soothsayer or Soothsaying *vbl. sb.*: cf. prec. Also written as two words and occas. with hyphen.]

† **1.** A true or wise saying; a proverb, saw. *Obs.*[-1]

1549 Latimer *Sev. Serm. bef. Edw. VI* (Arb.) 97 An old soth say, but thoughe the sayinge be none of the newist I feare me yet is it one of the trwest.

2. A prediction, prognostication, or prophecy; an omen or portent.

1582 Stanyhurst *Æneis* IV. (Arb.) 96 O the superstitions of beldam trumperye sooth says. 1590 Spenser *F. Q.* II. ix. 51 Shewes, visions, sooth-sayes, and prophesies. 1634 Sir T. Herbert *Trav.* 219 Those foretelling Southsayes..which without question were knowne unto this Madoc. 1641 Brightman *Predict.* 2 Merlin,..whose South-saies (for so they called them in old time) have proved true even to these latter dayes. 1870 Rossetti *Poems, House of Life* vii, They told me she was sad that day, (Though wherefore tell what love's soothsay, Sooner than they, did register?).

b. Without article. (Good) omen; soothsaying, prognostication. *rare.*

1590 Spenser *F. Q.* III. viii. 50 Aye me,..the signes be sad, And but God turne the same to good soothsay, That Ladies safetie is sore to be drad. 1831 tr. *Tieck's Old Man of Mountain*, etc. 246 Do not you seem to know everything, or else to have learnt it by soothsay?

Soo·thsay, *v. rare.* Also 7 southsay. [Back-formation from Soothsayer or Soothsaying *vbl. sb.* Cf. OE. *sóðsegan* to say or speak truly.] *intr.* To make predictions, to foretell future events; to predict, prophesy. Also with *it.*

1606 Shaks. *Ant. & Cl.* I. ii. 52 Go you wilde Bedfellow, you cannot Soothsay. 1611 Cotgr., *Diviner*, to diuine, presage, soothsay it. 1652 Gaule *Magastrom.* 226 Wherefore suffumigations are wont to be used to them that are about to southsay, for to affect their fancy. 1736 Ainsworth *Lat. Dict.* II, *Vero*,..to soothsay, as wisards, and wise women do. 1850 Blackie *Æschylus* II. 160 Even he soothsaying sings that the Argive camp Holds midnight council to attack the city. 1877 *Daily News* 19 Oct. 6/3 The next fortnight may therefore be pregnant with news, good or evil to the Turkish cause—who will soothsay?

Soothsayer (sū·þsēiəɹ). Forms: *a.* 4 soþ siggere, sothsegger(e, 4 soþ-, sothseyere, -seiere, 5 -seyer, 5–6 -sayer, 6 sothe-, soythsayer, 6 soothsaier, 7– soothsayer. *β.* 6 southeseyer, 6–7 southsaier, 6–8 -sayer. [f. Sooth *sb.* or *a.* + Sayer *sb.*]

† **1.** One who speaks the truth; a truthful or veracious person. *Obs.*

1340 *Ayenb.* 256 Senekes zayþ þet þer ne þackeþ to greate lhordes bote zoþ ziggeres. Vor hi habbeþ lyeȝeres and vlatours to greate cheape and veawe zoþ ziggeres. 1390 Gower *Conf.* III. 164 The Sothseiere tho was lief, Which wolde noght the trouthe spare. *c* 1400 in Herrig *Archiv* CIV. 306 Bettre is chidyng of a soþ-seyere þen deceyuyng of a losyngere. 1642 Milton *Apol. Smect.* Wks. 1851 III. 306 In that which followes, he does not play the Soothsayer but the diabolick slanderer of prayers.

2. One who claims or pretends to the power of foretelling future events; a predictor, prognosticator.

a. 1381 *Rolls of Parl.* III. 113/ Johannes Say, Sothseggere. 14.. *Lat.-Eng. Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 595 *Mastromaticus*, a sothseyer. *c* 1491 *Chast. Goddes Chyld.* 53 Some sheew prophecye in the spyrite of deuil as ben thise men and wymen whiche men calle dyuynours or sothsayers. 1535 Coverdale *Isaiah* viii. 19 Yf they saye vnto you: aske

councel at the soythsayers, witches, charmers and conjurers. 1599 B. JONSON *Cynthia's Rev.* II. v, Sow-gelders, and Sooth-saiers. Gipsies and laylers. 1606 SHAKS. *Ant. & Cl.* I. ii. 2 Where's the Soothsayer that you prais'd so to th' Queene? 1665 MANLEY *Grotius' Low C. Wars* 965 While their Sooth-sayers..draw the Peoples minds changable by Superstition, now this way, now that way. 1732 LEDIARD *Sethos* II. VII. 36 We are guided here by priests and soothsayers. 1791 COWPER *Iliad* II. 1015 Merops, expert in the sooth-sayer's art. 1821 BYRON *Sardanap.* II. i, Now were I a soothsayer, I would have boded so much to myself. 1878 J. H. GRAY *China* II. xvii. 3 Blind soothsayers are to be met with in all parts of the empire.

β. 1503 *Churchw. Acc. St. Marg., Westm.* (Nichols, 1797) 4 Recieved of the Southeseyer for iv Tapers. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VI*, 27 Jone the Puzel, whom he vsed as an oracle and a southsaier. 1596 LODGE *Divel Coniured* G iij, Some be shepheards, some southsaiers, and so of other crafts and trades. 1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* I. ii. III. ii. 125 Some Southsayer, wise-man, fortune-teller, or Physition. 1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* (1650) 12 On this foundation were built the conclusions of Southsayers in their Anguriall and Tripudiary divinations. 1727 DE FOE *Syst. Magic* I. i. (1840) 20 By this study they obtained the name of southsayers and astrologers, added to that of magicians.

3. *transf.* An insect of the family *Mantidæ*; a mantis (cf. quot. 1855).

1855 DALLAS in *Orr's Circ. Sci., Org. Nat.* II. 359 Another prevalent superstition regarding these creatures is, that if they be asked the way to a place they will immediately indicate the right road by holding one of their legs in that direction,—hence the name of *Soothsayers*, often applied to these insects. *c* 1884 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* VI. 13 The Mantidæ, Praying Insects, or Soothsayers.

Hence **Soo·thsayeress**, a female soothsayer. **Soo·thsayership**, prediction, soothsaying, or skill in this.

1648 HEXHAM II, *Een Waerseggeresse, ofte waersegghster*, a Shee-divine, or a Soothsayeresse. 1828 MISS MITFORD *Village* Ser. III. (1863) 118 He had the good fortune to foretell..the downfal of Napoleon Buonaparte—a piece of soothsayership which has established his reputation. 1875 STEVENSON in Colvin *Lett.* (1901) II. 92 'Yes, my dear,' replied the soothsayeress.

Soothsaying (sū·þsē·iŋ), (*vbl.*) *sb.* Also 6 **soythsayenge**, 6–8 **southsaying**. [f. SOOTH *sb.* or *a.* + SAYING (*vbl.*) *sb.*[1]]

1. The practice of foretelling the future or the course of future events; prediction, prognostication.

1535 COVERDALE *Ecclus.* xxxiv. 5 Soythsayenge, witchcraft, sorcery, and dreaminge is but vanyte. *a* 1591 H. SMITH *Wks.* (1867) II. 412 He used soothsaying and divination. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* 652 Wonderfull skilfull in Sooth-saying by the Inspection of Beasts inwards. 1652–62 HEYLIN *Cosmogr.* III. (1682) 22 Famous for Southsaying, and accounted the first Interpreters of dreams. 1727 DE FOE *Syst. Magic* I. iii. (1840) 61 If the wise men ..did not daily produce some new discoveries, it was evident the price and rate of southsaying would come down to nothing. 1850 MAURICE *Mor. & Met. Philos.* (ed. 2) 8 They practise magic and soothsaying: they are the advisers of the king. 1906 J. ORR *Problem of O. T.* xii. 454 Such a view puts prophecy on a level with 'soothsaying'.

2. An instance of this; a prediction or prophecy.

1535 COVERDALE *Micah* v. 12 All witchcraftes will I rote out of thyne hande, there shall no mo soythsayenges be within the. 1585 T. WASHINGTON tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* IV. xix. 134 The art magick, and all other sorts of southsayings. 1629 GAULE *Holy Madn.* 120 At length [he] is content to yield to others Sooth-sayings before the Testimony of his owne Conscience. 1653 HOLCROFT *Procopius, Pers. War* I. 30 Hearkning to impious South-sayings, vainly foretelling to him the Imperiall dignity. 1864 SWINBURNE *Atalanta* 2009 Also for visions that were, And soothsayings spoken in sleep.

So **Soo·thsaying** *ppl. a.*, that acts the part of soothsayer; of the nature of, or characterized by, soothsaying. Now *rare*.

1550 W. LYNNE *Carion's Cron.* 24 Sibylla..signifieth..a prophetisse or southsayenge woman. 1634 MILTON *Comus* 874 By scaly Tritons winding shell, And old sooth-saying Glaucus spell. 1652 GAULE *Magastrom.* 280 It was a soothsaying divination that provoked to doe the deed. 1727 DE FOE *Syst. Magic* I. iv. (1840) 114 How much were it to be wished, that some of our southsaying wits, who are neither wise men or southsayers [etc]. 1911 W. W. FOWLER *Relig. Exper. Rom. People* xiii. 296 We hear..a great deal of wandering soothsayers, soothsaying families, and oracles.

Soo·tily, *adv.* [f. SOOTY *a.* + -LY 2.] In a sooty manner.

1888 LOWELL *Lett.* (1894) II. x. 405 Silently and sootily pervasive as the fog.

Soo·timan. *nonce-wd.* [f. SOOT *sb.*[1] or SOOTY *a.*] A chimney-sweep.

1810 SIR A. BOSWELL *Edinb.* Poet. Wks. (1871) 49 Reckless of the bright Lochaber axe, The sable *sootiman* would dust his sacks.

Soo·tiness. [f. SOOTY *a.* + -NESS.] The condition or property of being sooty; dirtiness or blackness from, or as from, soot.

1611 COTGR., *Fuligine*, soot, sootinesse; smoakinesse. *c* 1628 DONNE *Serm.* lv. (1640) 557 There growes a blacknesse, a sootinesse upon the soule, by custome in sin. 1727 in BAILEY (vol. II). 1866 *Spectator* 1 Dec. 1339 Every new addition..is successively hailed..., and then passes into deserved contempt and sootiness. 1892 *Photogr. Ann.* II. 711 That dense sootiness which so frequently spoils collotype work.

Soo·tish, *a. rare.* [f. SOOT *sb.*[1]] Sooty.

1582 STANYHURST *Æneis* IV. (Arb.) 111 The wyne, in powring, lyke blood black sootish apeered. 1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* 334 Things become blacke by a sootish and fuliginous matter proceeding from the sulphur of bodies torrified.

Soo·tless, *a.* [f. SOOT *sb.*[1]] Free from soot.

1890 *Nature* 8 May 25 There is nothing to prevent even such towns..from having atmospheres at least as sootless as that of London.

† **Soo·tly**, *adv. Obs. rare.* Forms: 2 **swotlice**, 3 **swoteliche**, **-luche**, 7 **swootly**. [f. *swōt* SOOT *a.* + -LY 2.] In a sweet or pleasant manner; sweetly.

a 1125 in Napier *Contrib. O. E. Lex.* 60 Heo byð swa swotlice ȝefostrede. *a* 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 1392 Ah heo ham onswerede, & swoteliche seide [etc.]. *c* 1230 *Hali Meid.* 41 He vnderfeð bliðeliche, & biclupped swoteluche, þe alre laðlukest. 1614 J. DAVIES *Willy & Wernocke* Wks. (Grosart) II. 20 Chaplets..To crowne their scalpes that couth most swootly sing.

† **Soot-meat.** *Obs.*[−1] [f. SOOT *a.* Cf. OE. *swótmettas.*] A sweetmeat.

1614 J. DAVIES (Heref.) *Eclogue* 20 Wks. (Grosart) II. 19/1 For, fro thy Makings, milke, and mellie, flowes To feed the Songster-swaines with Arts soot-meats.

† **Soo·tness.** *Obs.* Forms: 1 **suotnis(se**, **swotnysse**, 3–4 **swot-**, 4 **swote-**, **suotnesse**; 4 **sootnes**. [f. SOOT *a.* + -NESS.] The character or quality of being sweet; sweetness.

c 1000 in Cockayne *Shrine* 16 Mycel swotnysse stænc. *c*1000 *Rituale Eccl. Dunelm.* (Surtees) 88 In stencg svotnisses, *in odore suavitatis.* *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 92 Efter þet me iveleð his swete swotnesse,—efter þet me luueð hine more oðer lesse. *a* 1300 *Leg. Rood* (1871) 28 Þe suotnesse þat þer-of com, velde al þat lond. 1382 WYCLIF *Numb.* xv. 3 Brennynge smelle of swetnes [*v.r.* sootnes] to the Lord. — *Ecclus.* xxiv. 23, I as a vyne frutede swotnesse of smel.

Sooty (su·ti), *a.* Forms: 3 **soti**, 3, 5 **soty**, 4– **sooty**, 6–8 **sootie**; 5 **soyty**, **sutty**, 6 **swuttie**. [f. SOOT *a.* + -Y. Cf. ON. and Icel. *sótigr*, *sótugr*, MSw. *sotogher*, Sw. *sotig*.

It is difficult to regard the early south-western *suti* SUTY *a.* as a mere variant of this.]

1. Foul or dirty with soot; covered or smeared with soot; full of soot.

a 1250 *Owl & Night.* 578 Þu art dim, an of fule howe, An þinchest a lutel soti [*v.r.* soty] clowe. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Nun's Pr. T.* 12 Ful sooty was hir bour, and eek hir halle. *a* 1400 *Octavian* 800 Clement broghte forthe schelde and spere,.. Soyty [*v.r.* sutty] and alle vnclene. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 465/2 Soty, or fowlyd wythe soot, *fuliginosus.* 1530 PALSGR. 325/1 Sooty, full of sowte as a chymnay is, *suyeux.* 1599 NASHE *Lenten Stuff* Wks. (Grosart) V. 275 Hee.. hung the residue..in the sooty roofe of his shad a drying. 1625 K. LONG tr. *Barclay's Argenis* II. xxii. 143 They are still smokie and sootie and in all their colour shew they come from the fire. 1675 HOBBES *Odyssey* (1677) 301 Till from above In thunder Jove his sooty bolt down threw. 1700 T. BROWN tr. *Fresny's Amusem.* 21 Here a Sooty Chimney-Sweeper takes the Wall of a Grave Alderman. 1773 J. BERRIDGE *Wks.* (1864) 96 His own sooty cap is full as good as your rusty bonnet. 1818 SCOTT *Br. Lamm.* xviii, He found that faithful servitor in his sooty and ruinous den. 1895 MEREDITH *Amazing Marriage* viii, When the wind puffs down a sooty chimney the air is filled with little blacks.

transf. 1740 SOMERVILLE *Hobbinol* II. (1749) 133 The furious God In sooty Triumph rides dreadful. 1872 TENNYSON *Gareth & Lynette* 469 So Gareth..underwent The sooty yoke of kitchen vassalage. 1878 HARE *Walks in Lond.* I. iv. 128 St. Paul's Cathedral..has a peculiar sooty dignity all its own.

b. Of the soul: Foul with sin.

1655 FULLER *Serm., Best Act Obliv.* 5 How could David's soule in his youth be sooty with sinne? 1680 C. NESSE *Church Hist.* 254 The sooty souls of those nobles,.under their white garments.

c. Of grain: Affected by smut; blackened.

1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Past.* X. 113 Unwholsome Dews.. That blast the sooty Corn.

2. Resembling soot in colour; dusky or brownish black.

1593 NASHE *Christ's T.* 61 b, The blacke swuttie visage of the night. 1602 MARSTON *Antonio's Rev.* III. v, Yee sootie coursers of the night. 1640 QUARLES *Sighs* ii. Wks. (Grosart) III. 39 Do'st thou think To glorifie thy Skill In Sooty Characters of Inke? 1766 STERNE in Scoones *Four C. Eng. Lett.* (1880) 249 From the fairest face about St. James's to the sootiest complexion in Africa. 1776 *Addison's Spect.* No. 412 P 5 The black-bird hence selects her sooty spouse. 1817 BYRON *Beppo* xviii, Not like that sooty devil of Othello's. 1839 LINDLEY *Introd. Bot.* (ed. 3) 478 *Sooty*.., dirty brown, verging upon black. 1845 GOSSE *Ocean* iv. (1849) 164 Their sooty wings horizontally extended.

b. *fig.* or in fig context. Black, dismal.

1657 R. LIGON *Barbadoes* (1673) 118, I give the Reader but a Sooty Relation of my Maladies. 1659 W. CHAMBERLAYNE *Pharonnida* v. 204 Strook such a terror as if shadow'd by Death's sooty vail. 1673 O. WALKER *Educ.* ix. 78 Better for them to chide even without reason, then store up this sooty humour.

c. In the names of birds, etc., as *sooty albatross, owl, petrel, tern*, etc.

1777 G. FORSTER *Voy. round World* I. 91 We likewise saw the two before mentioned species of albatrosses.., together with a third,..which we named the *sooty. 1829 GRIFFITH tr. *Cuvier* VIII. 573 Sooty Albatros. *Diomedea Fuliginosa.* 1872 COUES *N. Amer. Birds* 326 Sooty Albatross. Fuliginous brown, nearly uniform. 1884 *Ibid.* 580 *Canace obscura fuliginosa*, *Sooty Grouse. 1872 *Ibid.* 345 *Sooty Guillemot. 1879 *Sooty mangabey [see MANGABEY]. 1785 PENNANT *Arct. Zool.* II. 232 *Sooty Owl. Cinereous Owl. 1785 LATHAM *Gen. Synop. Birds* III. II. 409 *Sooty Petrel..inhabits Otaheite. 1802 [see PETREL]. 1891 *Boston* (Mass.) *Jrnl.* 21 Feb. 5/3 These birds were sooty petrels. 1872 COUES *N. Amer. Birds* 331 *Sooty Shearwater. Dark sooty brown. 1785 PENNANT *Arct. Zool.* II. 523 *Sooty Tern,..crown, hind part of the head and neck, back, and wings, of a sooty blackness. 1870 GILLMORE tr. *Figuier's Reptiles & Birds* 281 The Sooty Tern (*Sterna fuliginosa*) inhabits the bays and gulfs of the Mediterranean. 1891 LATHAM *Gen. Synop. Birds* Suppl. II. 185 *Sooty Thrush...The general colour of the plumage is dark greenish brown. 1783 — *Gen. Synop. Birds* II. I. 451 *Sooty Warbler, *Motacilla fulicata.* *c* 1880 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* III. 114 The *Sooty Water Mouse (*Hydromys fuliginosus*) is an inhabitant of Western Australia.

d. *absol.* as a moth-name.

Also *Old Sooty*, the Devil. *dial.*

1832 J. RENNIE *Consp. Butterfl. & M.* 98 The Sooty (*Acosmetia caliginosa*) appears in June.

3. Of colours: Having a dark, dusky, blackish, or dirty tinge.

(*a*) 1597 BP. HALL *Sat.* I. vii, Be shee all sootie-black, or bery-browne, Shee's white as morrows milk. 1730–46 THOMSON *Autumn* 952 Of every hue, from wan declining green To sooty dark. 1796 WITHERING *Brit. Plants* (ed. 3) IV. 296 Gills sooty grey, that is, powdered with black. 1828 STARK *Elem. Nat. Hist.* I. 112 Fur sooty brown above, grayish below. 1855 SMEDLEY *Occult Sciences* 54 Sooty-red was also the colour of Typhon. 1887 W. PHILLIPS *Brit. Discomycetes* 406 The cups are seated on a sooty-black space.

(*b*) 1635 SWAN *Spec. M.* v. § 2 (1643) 121 The things which it [lightning] striketh do use to look black, or of a sootie colour. 1658 R. WHITE tr. *Digby's Powd. Symp.* (1660) 39 All the white flowers are sullied with a sooty blackness. 1763 JOHNSON in *Boswell* 25 June (Oxf. ed.) I. 268 By the heat of the sun the skin is scorched, and so acquires a sooty hue. 1785 [see *sooty tern* in 2 c]. 1884 NEWTON in *Encycl. Brit.* XVII. 531/1 The plumage [of the noddy] is of a uniform sooty hue.

4. Consisting of soot; of the nature of soot.

1651 CHARLETON & P. M. *Ephes. & Cimm. Matrons* (1668) 49 Gross and sooty Exhalations, such as arise from ardors of the Body. 1683 SNAPE *Anat. Horse* v. ii. (1686) 199 To be vents of the Brain, through which the impure and sooty excrements might exhale or evaporate. 1784 COWPER *Task* IV. 292 The sooty films that play upon the bars, Pendulous. 1789 J. WILLIAMS *Min. Kingd.* I. 211 A quantity of black sooty stuff being thrown up by the spade or the plough. 1846 GREENER *Sci. Gunnery* 179 The barrels must be passed ..through that flame..until the whole are covered with a black sooty covering. 1902 A. C. HARMSWORTH *Motors & Motor Driving* 140 The interior of the tube becoming blackened by sooty deposit.

5. *Comb.*, as *sooty-faced, -like, -mouthed, -plumed* adjs.

1684 OTWAY *Atheist* III. i, One of those Sooty-fae'd Harlots. 1789 J. WILLIAMS *Min. Kingd.* I. 28 A soft, sooty-like substance. 1806 J. GRAHAME *Birds of Scot.* 58 The sooty-plum'd hedge-sparrow. 1826 *Blackw. Mag.* XX. 512 Let not our readers imagine that this sooty-mouthed Libeller is poor and ignorant.

Hence **Soo·tied** *pa. pple.*, made sooty, blackened.

1615 CHAPMAN *Odyss.* XIII. 635 Shirt and coat, all rent Tann'd, and all sootied with noisome smoke.

Sooza, obs. form of SOOSY.

Sop (sɒp), *sb.*[1] Also 1,·7 **sopp**, 4 (9 *dial.*) **zop**, 4–5, 7 **sope**, 4–7 **soppe**; 8– *Sc.* (*pl.*) **saps**. [OE. *sopp*, *sop-*, app. f. the weak grade of *sūpan* SUP *v.*[1] In ME. prob. reinforced by the synonymous OF. *sope*, *soupe* (see SOUP *sb.*), and in later senses partly from SOP *v.*

The exact relationship of the OE. to the OF. word is not clear. Cf. also MDu. *soppe*, *zoppe* (W Flem. *zoppe*), *sop*, ON. *soppa* (a foreign word), in the same sense.]

1. A piece of bread or the like dipped or steeped in water, wine, etc., before being eaten or cooked.

a 1100 in Napier *O.E. Glosses* lvi. 10 *Offulam*, sopp. 1340 *Ayenb.* 107 Ase is a zop of hot bryead huanne me hit zoteþ in-to wyn. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* iii. (*Andrew*) 375 Þane gaf he ilkane a sope with his hand of his awne cope. *c* 1420 *Liber Cocorum* (1862) 53 Ȝet sugurt soppes I nyl forȝete, Þou tost shyves of gode manchete [etc.]. *c* 1450 *Two Cookery Bks.* 90 Then cast the same licour vppon þe Soppes, and serue hit forthe fore a good potage. 1484 CAXTON *Fables of Æsop* v. xii, Euery daye the sayd dogge hadde soppes of brede, and of drye breed he hadde ynough. 1520 *Calisto & Melib.* in Hazl. *Dodsley* I. 79 With a toast in wine by the fire I could sit With two dozen sops the colic to quell. 1589 R. HARVEY *Pl. Perc.* (1860) 9 Go to then, and take salt to your soppes, lest sorrow attaint them. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* III. 117 The fairest Weomen will dine with the same [wine], and a sop of bread dipped in it. *a* 1632 T. TAYLOR *God's Judgem.* II. v. (1642) 68 He would set before his guests onely..two sops and a few apples. 1697 DRYDEN *Æneid* VI. 567 The prudent Sibyl had before prepar'd A sop, in honey steep'd. 1801 SOUTHEY *St. Patrick's Purgatory* ii, Three sops were brought of bread and wine. 1825 BROCKETT *N. C. Gloss., Sop*, a piece of bread soaked in dripping under the roast. 1862 C. C. ROBINSON *Dial. Leeds* 416 *Sops*, bread broken preparatory to being added to any liquid, or when so added.

attrib. *a* 1000 in Thorpe *Dipl. Angl. Sax.* (1865) 527 Anæ soppcuppan an þrym pundan. 1012 *Ibid.* 553 Ic ann minæn cinæhlafordæ..anræ sopcuppan.

fig. 1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. xv. 175 If he soupeth, ette but a soppe of *spera-in-deo*. 1631 MASSINGER *Believe as You List* IV. iii, Yf there bee a Cerberus, yf I serve not To make three sopps for his three heads,..The cur is divelishe hungrie.

† **b.** *To eat* (or *take*) *a sop*, to make a slight repast. *Obs.*

c 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 7547 Preyenge.. þat he wolde..herberwe him wyþ, A day to ete a sop, & drynke, & se his werk. 13.. *Gaw. & Gr. Knt.* 1135 Þe leue lorde..Ete a sop hastyly, when he hade herde masse. *c* 1400 *Laud Troy Bk.* 7932 Than thei ȝede and toke a sop, Thei ete a sop, and afftir dranke. *c* 1440 *Gesta Rom.* xii. 39 (Harl. MS.), If þat ȝe woll voche-safe to take a soppe with me.

c. Const. *in* (or † *of*) the liquid in which the bread, etc., is dipped or steeped.

c 1386 CHAUCER *Prol.* 334 (Harl.), Wel loved he in the

morn a sop of [*v.r.* in] wyn. — *Merch. T.* 631 Thanne he taketh a sope in fyne clarree. *a* 1450 *Knt. de la Tour* (1868) 28 She made euery day dresse..for hem disshes withe soppes of mylke. *c* 1491 *Chast. Goddes Chyld.* 13 Hit is nede that he take a soppe in ale or in wine before mete. *c* 1530 Ld. Berners *Arth. Lyt. Bryt.* (1814) 363 Suche as wold, toke a sop in wine. *a* 1533 — *Huon* xiv. 38 They toke a soppe of wyne. 1605 Sylvester *Du Bartas* II. iii. III. *Law* 899 Preferring far, Red-Herrings, Rashers, and (some) sops in Tar. 1832 W. Stephenson *Gateshead Local Poems* 95 When at the fire they're roasting, We're all to have sops in the grease.

d. *Sop in the pan*, a piece of bread soaked in the dripping from roasting meat. Also *fig.*

1621 Fletcher *Pilgrim* III. vi, You shall have no more sops i' th' pan else, nor no Porridge. 1786 Mrs. A. M. Bennett *Juvenile Indiscr.* I. 61 A plate of toast and grease, vulgarly called sop in the pan. 1814 Scott *Wav.* xxv, This he considered as a mere sop in the pan to stay the appetite of Edward's curiosity.

e. A dish composed of soaked bread.

1845 Youatt *Dog* ii. 36 Milk at first, and afterwards milk and sop alternately, may be used. 1892 P. H. Emerson *Son of Fens* xxxii. 334 'What are you going to ha' for breakfast this morning?' mother ax him. 'A baisin of sop.'

2. *transf.* and *fig.* †**a.** Used to denote something of small value. *Obs.*

1377 Langl. *P. Pl.* B. xiii. 124 [He] hath..sette alle sciences at a soppe saue loue one. 1526 Skelton *Magnyf.* 2261 Tushe, these maters that ye moue are but soppys in ale.

†**b.** Used of persons in respect of some pervading quality or property. *Obs.*

c 1480 Henryson *Test. Cres.* 407 O sop of sorrow, sonken into cair! O Catiue Creisseid! *c* 1550 Kolland *Crt. Venus* II. 104 Thair was the sop of science, I suppois: Thair was the flour of fairheid [etc.]. 1605 Shaks. *Lear* II. ii. 35 For though it be night, yet the Moone shines, Ile make a sop oth' Moonshine of you.

c. A dull or foolish fellow; a milksop.

a 1625 Fletcher & Mass. *Elder Brother* IV. i, Ye have no more spirit than three sleepy sops. 1859 *Slang Dict.* 58 *Sop*, a soft or foolish man.

d. A person or thing thoroughly soaked or steeped in some way.

1594 Shaks. *Rich. III*, I. iv. 162 Throw him into the Malmesey-Butte in the next roome...O excellent deuice; and make a sop of him. 1606 — *Tr. & Cr.* I. iii. 113 The bounded Waters Should..make a soppe of all this solid Globe. 1768–74 Tucker *Lt. Nat.* (1834) II. 361 Away he goes to make..a sop in the briny broth of Ocean.

e. Something given to appease or pacify the recipient; a bribe.

An allusion to the sop given to Cerberus by Æneas: see Cerberus.

1665 Howard *Committee* IV. i, Do you want some Fees? I'le perish in a dungeon before I'le consume with throwing Sops to such Curs. 1725 Swift *Corr.* Wks. 1841 II. 576, I had lately a letter without a name, telling me that I have got a sop to hold my tongue. 1845 Bright *Sp., Irel.* 16 Apr. (1876) 150 This bill..is a sop given to the priests. 1873 Spencer *Stud. Sociol.* xi. 288, I do not want these sops and gratuities. 1894 *Times* (weekly ed.) 31 Aug. 691/3 This lavish expenditure..is intended as a sop to the disaffected.

3. A tuft of wet green grass amongst hay.

1641 Best *Farm. Bks.* (Surtees) 33 The many greene soppes that are in it will bee a meanes to make it..moulde in the cocke. *a* 1743 Relph *Misc. Poems* (1747) 13 A finer hay-day seer was never seen; The greenish sops already luik less green. 1828– in dial. glossaries (Cumbld., Yks., Lancs., etc.). 1863 Mrs. Toogood *Spec. Yorksh. Dial.* (MS.), The hay is not in very good order; there are sops in it.

4. A copious collection or accumulation of some liquid; soppy or soaked state or condition.

1700 *Rector's Bk. Clayworth* (1910) 132 Jan. 20th, a great sop of wett on ye ground. 1856 Hawthorne *Eng. Note-bks.* (1879) II. 38 A great pool and sop of blood.

b. A thorough wetting or soaking.

1729 *Dulcinead* 5 One rainy Day t' avoid a Sop, In Church young J——s his Head did pop.

5. In the names of certain fruits: (see Sour-, Sugar-, and Sweet-sop). Also *attrib.*

c 1711 Petiver *Gazophyl.* VII. lxii, It grows on a sort of Jack or Sop Tree call'd in Luzone Rhymay.

6. A sopper or dipper. *rare*$^{-1}$.

1796 Morse *Amer. Geogr.* I. 281 The English word that conveys the proper meaning of Tunkers is Sops or Dippers.

Sop, *sb.*^{2} Now only *north. dial.* Also 5 **sope,** 5–6 **soppe.** [perh. a. ON. *sopp-r* ball.]

†**1.** A compact body, troop, or company, esp. of fighting men. *Obs.*

1375 Barbour *Bruce* III. 47 Samyn in-till a sop held thai. *Ibid.* VII. 567 Sa did thai all..., Syne in a sop assemblit ar. ?*a* 1400 *Morte Arth.* 1493 Sodanly in a soppe they sette in att ones. *c* 1420 *Master of Game* (MS. Digby 182) ii, After ..þei put hem in herdes and in soppes with þe rascaile. *c* 1450 *Merlin* xiv. 218 Than thei lepe to horse, and gedered to-geder on a soppe. 1513 Douglas *Æneid* X. vii. 31 Quhar 3ondir sop of men thikkis in a rout.

2. †**a.** A cloud *of* mist or smoke. *Obs.*

1513 Douglas *Æneid* I. vi. 176 Venus with ane sop of mist baith tway, And with ane dirk clud closit round about. *Ibid.* V. xii. 5 Thai..gan behald The fyre sparkis wp fleand thik fald In'a blak sop of reik.

b. *dial.* (See quot. 1828.)

1828 Carr *Craven Gloss., Sops*, small, detached clouds hanging on the sides of a mountain, which prognosticate rain. 1866 Mrs. Lynn Linton *Lizzie Lorton* I. xii.

3. A lump or mass of blacklead in the ground.

1794 Hutchinson *Hist. Cumb.* II. 220 [Blacklead] is sometimes found in *sops* or floats, in a body without branches. 1855 Ht. Martineau *Engl. Lakes* 155 'Nests' or 'sops' or 'bellies' of black lead are found in the greenstone.

†**Sop,** *sb.*^{3} *Sc. Obs.* [Cf. MDu. and WFris. *sop*, WFlem. *zop*.] Sap.

1513 Douglas *Æneid* IV. ix. 85 Springand herbis..War socht, and with brasin hukis cuttit sone, To get ther mylky sop and vennom blak. 1595 Duncan *App. Etym.* (E.D.S.), *Vligo*, the natural sop.

Sop (sɒp), *v.* Also 6 **soppy, soppe.** [OE. *soppian*, f. *sopp* Sop *sb.*^{1} Cf. WFris. *sopje*, MDu. and Du. *soppen* (WFlem. *zoppen*) in sense 1; also WFlem. *zoppen*, Da. dial. *soppe*, in sense 2 a.]

1. *trans.* To dip, soak, or steep (bread, etc.) in some liquid. Also *absol.*

c 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* II. 228 Ðenim hláf, geseoð on gate meolce, soppige on suþerne. *a* 1529 Skelton *E. Rummyng* 558 This ale, sayde she, is noppy, Let vs syppe and soppy, And not spyll a droppy. 1570 Levins *Manip.* 169/20 To soppe, *offam intingere*. 1597 A. M. tr. *Guillemeau's Fr. Chirurg.* 28/1 We must first let him suppe in a soft dressed egge, or a morsell of breade sopped in wyne. 1610 G. Fletcher *Christ's Vict.* II. xi, His cheekes as snowie apples, sop't in wine, Had their red roses quencht with lilies white. 1629 Massinger *Picture* v. i, For a mess of porridge Well sopped with a bunch of radish and a carrot, I would sell my barony. 1719 De Foe *Crusoe* I. (Globe) 209, I..let him see me..sop my Bread in it. *a* 1834 Lamb *Months* Misc. Wks. (1871) 399 Everything ..is sopped in claret. 1843 James *Forest Days* ii, The peasant sat at the table, sopping his bread in the contents of his jug. 1887 Ruskin *Præterita* II. 174 One might almost as hopelessly have sopped the Matterhorn as the loaf.

b. To drench with moisture; to soak; also *fig.*, to intoxicate.

1682 D'Urfey *Butler's Ghost* 141 Like Country Vicar,.. at a Wedding, or a Fair, Is sooner sopt than any there. 1683 Moxon *Mech. Exerc., Printing* 391 When a Pressman has taken too much Inck, he is said to Sop the Balls. 1725 *Fam. Dict.* s.v. *June*, The Water is to be supply'd as you find convenient, and no longer, lest it sop your Stem too much. 1788 Marshall *Yorksh.* I. 310 The covering moist and feeble, and the sod sopt with wet, fall heavy and flat to the ground. 1820 Clare *Poems Rural Life* (ed. 3) 127 The dews, brush'd off from grass and flowers, Bemoistening sop his harden'd shoes. 1847 Emerson *Repr. Men, Montaigne* Wks. (Bohn) I. 348 We have been sopped and drugged with the air, with food [etc.].

c. To carry *away* by soaking.

1853 Dickens *Bleak Ho.* ii, An arch of the bridge in the park has been sapped and sopped away.

2. *intr.* **a.** To be, or become, soaking wet.

1831 Miss Mitford in *The Remembrance* 40 Strawberries lay sopping in their beds.

b. Of moisture: To soak *in* or *through*.

1844 Dickens *Mart. Chuz.* xlvii, Sopping and soaking in among the leaves that formed its pillow; oozing down into the boggy ground,..went a dark, dark stain. 1894 'Tom Cobbleigh' (W. Raymond) *Sam & Sabina* I, The water just sops through the turf.

3. [From Sop *sb.*^{1}] **a.** *intr.* To collect sops.

1755 Smollett *Quix.* (1803) II. 139 His necessity is not so great, but that he eats,..though he may feed upon the leavings of the rich, or..go a-sopping, as they term it.

b. *trans.* To propitiate; to bribe.

1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* II. v. v, Danton and needy corruptible Patriots are sopped with presents of cash.

Sop, obs. pa. t. Sup *v.*^{1}

Sopar, obs. variant of Supper.

Sope (sōup). *Obs.* exc. *north. dial.* Forms: 1 **sopa,** 3– **sope,** 6–7 **soape,** 8 **swoap,** 9 **swope.** [OE. *sopa* (f. weak grade of *súpan* Sup *v.*^{1}), = ON. and Icel. *sopi* (MSw. *sopi*, Norw. dial. *sope*), MLG. *sope*, MDu. *sope* (*zope*), *soop* (Du. *zoop*), older Flem. *sope, seupe* (WFlem. *sope, zeupe*).] A draught; a small amount of drink, etc.; a sup.

c 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* II. 134 On wearmum wætre drince betonican tyn sopan. *c* 1275 *XI Pains of Hell* 169 in *O. E. Misc.*, Ne moten heo biden neuer o sope. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 108 Þyse ilk renkez..Schul neuer sitte in my sale my soper to fele, Ne suppe on sope of my seve. *c* 1400 tr. *Secreta Secret., Gov. Lordsh.* 71 Drynke cler watir with a sope of vynegre. *c* 1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 3301 He asked, may I drynk a sope? 1547 Boorde *Introd. Knowl.* i. (1870) 123 There ale is..smoky and ropye, and neuer a good sope. 1583 Stubbes *Anat. Abus.* (1877) 111 We ought neuer to take morsell of bread, nor sope of drinke, without humble thankes to the Lord. 1673 Mrs. Behn *Dutch Lover* III. ii, But come, t'other turn, and t'other sope, and then for Donna Euphemia. 1684 *Yorks. Dial.* 630 (E.D.S.), I sall send you back by her a soape. 1790 Mrs. Wheeler *Westmld. Dial.* 17 She gav a conny swoap oa Milk. 1818 Wilbraham *Chesh. Gloss., Sope*, a sup; a sope of rain is a great deal of rain. 1828– in northern glossaries, etc.

Sope, obs. var. Soap *sb.*; var. Sowp *v. Obs.*

Sopeer, Soper(e, obs. forms of Supper.

Soph (sɒf). *colloq.* [Abbreviation of Sophister and Sophomore.]

1. = Sophister 3. (In early use also at Oxford.)

1661 K. W. *Conf. Charac., College Butler* (1860) 68 Did you but see him dominere over a freshman,..when they come to be sophs the pump is his reward for his insolencies. 1684 Wilding in *Collect.* (O.H.S.) I. 260 For being created Sen. Soph,..00 00 06. 1692 Mrs. D'Anvers *Academia* 6 These kindly hug young Soph,..And of his Cash t' a Farthing ease him. 1713 Byrom *Rem.* (1854) I. i. 20 There is one Law, a M.A., and Fellow of Emmanuel, has this last week been degraded to a Soph, that is, the Year below a Bachelor. 1740 Gray in W. Mason *Mem.* I. 266 The furniture much like that of a Soph at Cambridge for convenience and neatness. 1794 *Gentl. Mag.* Dec. 1084 One was a Harry Soph; another a fellow-commoner and senior soph. 1841 Peacock *Stat. Cambr.* 146 The exercises in the Sophs' schools for the degree of bachelor of arts have been altogether abandoned. 1871 'M. Legrand' *Cambr. Freshm.* xix. 322 No longer a Freshman proper, but in all the budding dignity of a Junior Soph.

transf. 1860 Gen. P. Thompson *Audi Alt.* clxxvii. 111. 214 The Romans, senior sophs in their day, ever put their veterans in third line.

2. *U.S.* = Sophomore 1 b.

1778 Stiles *Diary* (1901) II. 277, I appointed Stevens a Soph. Waiter in the Hall. 1860 *Macm. Mag.* July 224 These sophomores, or sophimores, or sophs,..have the traditional reputation of being the chief actors in such.. larking as goes on at Yale. 1890 Gunter *Miss Nobody* i. (1891) 8 They have come from Yale by train, singing that old-time glee with which the Sophs used to taunt the Freshes.

Sopha, obs. form of Sofa.

Sopham, Sophem(e, obs. varr. Sophism.

Sophena, Sophene, obs. forms of Saphena.

Sopheric (sɒfe·rik), *a.* [f. Heb. *sōphēr* scribe (see Scribe *sb.*^{1} 1) + -ic.] Of or pertaining to the Jewish scribes or their teaching. Also **So·pherism,** the existence or authority of scribes as a learned class.

1888 *Encycl. Brit.* XXIII. 37/2 A vast amount of Sopheric literature not to be found in the canonical Mishnah. 1890 P. H. Hunter *After the Exile* II. xii. 241 Sopherism was still a comparatively new phenomenon.

Sophester, obs. form of Sophister.

†**So·phi.** *Obs.* Also **sophy.** [L. *sophī*, pl. of *sophus, sophos*, a. Gr. *σοφός*.] *pl.* Wise men, sages.

1598 Marston *Sco. Villanie* I. iii. 181 Now Sophi Ringoes eate, Candi'd Potatoes are Athenians meate. *Ibid.* II. v. 194 Some Sophy say, the Gods sell all for paine.

Sophi: see Sophy.

‖ **Sophia**[1] (sɒ·fiă). [L. *sophia*, a. Gr. *σοφία*, f. *σοφός* wise. Cf. Sophy [2].]

1. Wisdom, knowledge; *spec.* the Divine Wisdom. (Freq. personified.)

1649 J. Ellistone *Behmen's Ep.* Pref. (1886) 5 This knowledge,..this garland, and crown of virgin Sophia. *Ibid.* 117 The fair and noble Sophia..which now at present standeth at the doore of your soule. [1788 Gibbon *Decl. & F.* xl. IV. 91 The principal church, which was dedicated by the founder of Constantinople to saint Sophia, or the eternal wisdom.] 1840 Milman *Hist. Christ.* II. 124 The great mother Sophia, would at length be admitted into the Pleroma or intellectual sphere. 1865 tr. *Hugo's Notre Dame* II. vii. 95 Hermetics, that sophia of all sophias.

2. Used *attrib.* to designate the type of Jewish literature represented by the Wisdom of Solomon, Ecclesiasticus, etc. Hence **So·phian** *a.*[1]

1904 *Expositor* Aug. 117 The influence of the Sophia-literature in S. Luke's Gospel is distinctly marked. *Ibid.*, Undoubtedly a Sophian word from the Apocrypha.

†**Sophia**[2], obs. variant of Sophy [1].

1711 *Fingall MSS.* in *10th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. V. 118 The grand Signior, or the Sophia of Persia, or the Czar of Russia.

So·phian, *a.*[2] *rare*$^{-1}$. [f. *sophi* Sophy [1] + -an.] Of or pertaining to the Sophy of Persia.

1638 Sir T. Herbert *Trav.* (ed. 2) 261 Praying for the prosperitie of their King, of the Sophian pedegree.

Sophian, obs. form of Sufian *a.*

Sophic (sɒ·fik), *a.* [ad. Gr. *σοφικός*, f. *σοφία* wisdom, *σοφός* wise.]

†**1.** Obtained by some secret process. *Obs.*

1709 *True Light of Alchemy* (heading), The Method and Materials..composing the Sophick Mercury and Transmuting Elixir.

2. Conveying, or full of, wisdom; learned.

a 1773 J. Cunningham *On Death Geo. II*, xxiv. Poems (1810) 461 He'll drop the sword, or shut the sophic page And pensive pay the tributary tear.

3. Pertaining to knowledge or speculation.

1898 J. W. Powell *19th Ann. Rep. Bureau Amer. Ethnol.* p. xlv, The sophic activities so highly developed among the tribes of the arid pueblo region.

So **So·phical** *a.*; **So·phically** *adv.*

1601 Dolman *La Primaud. Fr. Acad.* III. 66 It is most certaine, that that which..is in those [regions] aboue, is seene also in this [world] of farre woorse condition, and as it were of a bastard and sophicall nature. 1739 Harris *53rd Ch. Isaiah* 256 (T.), All those books which are called sophical, such as the Wisdom of Sirach, etc. 1888 (*title*), Thesaurus incantatus. The enchanted treasure; or, the Spagyric Quest of Beroaldus Cosmopolita, in which is sophically and mystagorically declared the first matter of the stone.

Sophie, obs. form of Sophy.

Sophio·logy. [f. Gr. *σοφία*.] (See quot. 1899.)

1898 J.W. Powell *19th Ann. Rep. Bureau Amer. Ethnol.* p. xii, The sciences of esthetology, technology, sociology, philology, and sophiology. 1899 — *Ibid., 20th Ann. Rep.* p. clxxi, Sophiology, or the science of activities designed to give instruction.

Sophio·meter. [f. as prec.] (See quot.)

1810 J. Stewart (*title*), The Sophiometer or Regulator of Mental Power, forming the nucleus of the Moral World.

Sophism (sɒ·fiz'm). Forms: *α.* 4–5 **soffym(e,** 5 **sofyme**; 4 **sophim(e,** 4–6 **sophym(e,** 5 **-ymme.** *β.* 4–6 **sopheme** (6 **-em,** 5 **soffem-**), 5–6 **sopham,** 7 **sophome.** *γ.* 6–7 **sophisme** (6 **-ysme**), 6– **sophism.** [a. OF. *soff-, sophime, sof-, sophisme* (mod.F. *sophisme*), or ad. L. *sophisma* (Sp. and It. *sofisma*, It. *soff-, sofismo*), a. Gr. *σόφισμα* a clever device, trick, argument, etc., f. *σοφίζεσθαι* to devise, f. *σοφός* wise, clever.]

1. A specious but fallacious argument, either used deliberately in order to deceive or mislead, or employed as a means of displaying ingenuity in reasoning.

α. *c* 1350 *Conmem. Dead* 218 in Horstm. *Altengl. Leg.* (1881) 149 All þir resons þat þou here sese War my sophims and sotiltese. *c* 1380 WYCLIF *Serm.* Sel. Wks. II. 288 Crist and his apostlis weren not moved bi þese sophymes. *Ibid.* III. 227 Þis is a foul soffyme, a foul and a sotil disceit. *c* 1440 CAPGRAVE *Life St. Kath.* II. 817 Late be youre sophym! your termes arn' but sour! 1474 CAXTON *Chesse* III. iv. (1883) 119 The conclusions and the sophyms of logyque. 1509 HAWES *Past. Pleas.* XI. (Percy Soc.) 42 Seven sophyms full hard and fallacyous. 1530 PALSGR. 173 *Sophisme*, a sophyme.

β. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Sqr.'s T.* 547 Ne couthe man by twenty thousand part Contrefete the sophemes of his art. *c* 1400 *Rom. Rose* 7471 For men may finde alway sopheme The consequence to enveneme. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* VIII. 1509 Wallace he herd the sophammis euiredeill. 1529 MORE *Dyalogue* III. Wks. 216/2 Setting wilkin alone with Simkin disputyng theyr sophem themself. *a* 1570 [see 1 b]. *a* 1603 T. CARTWRIGHT *Confut. Rhem. N. T.* (1618) 578 The Apostle had taken the measure of these words from their brawling and bawling Sophomes. 1642 JER. TAYLOR *Episc.* (1647) 378 Those few pigmy objections..are but like Sophoms to prove that two and two are not foure.

γ. 1532 MORE *Confut. Tindale* Wks. 541/1 To tourne their earnest godly sentence into friuolouse cauillacions, & sophismes. 1576 FLEMING *Panopl. Epist.* 286 They stand in contention with their sophismes and captious conclusions. 1615 CROOKE *Body of Man* 57 A captious Sophisme, made to intrap the ignorant. 1654 WHITLOCK *Zootomia* 157 How easie to impose Sophismes on one that knoweth no kind of Logick, or form of Reasoning! 1678 GALE *Crt. Gentiles* IV. III. 199 Here is in this objection a poor sophisme which they cal 'no-cause for a cause'. 1753 JOHNSON *Adventurer* No. 85 ¶ 17 To fix the thoughts by writing..is the best method of enabling the mind to detect its own sophisms. 1785 REID *Intell. Powers* II. x. 281 Others thought that the argument from revelation was a mere sophism. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* v. I. 568 But no sophism is too gross to delude minds distempered by party-spirit. 1875 MAINE *Hist. Inst.* xiii. 399 The proposition that men are by nature equal he expressly denounced as an anarchical sophism.

† **b.** *spec.* An argument of this kind serving as a University exercise. Also *attrib.* *Obs.*

1566 in Fowler *Hist. Corp. Chr. Coll.* (O.H.S.) 112 Item, he harde no sophisme. *a* 1570 R. MORICE in Strype *Eccl. Mem.* XXVIII. (1721) III. 233 [Latimer] came into the *Sopham* School, among the Youth, there gathered together of Daily Custom to keep their *Sophams* and Disputations. 1579 FULKE *Heskins' Parl.* 475 Euery boy in Cambridge, that hath but once kept sophisme, would hisse at him for this assertion.

c. Without article: Sophistry.

1768–74 TUCKER *Lt. Nat.* (1834) I. 37 Stripping it of all that sophism and equivocation wherewith it has been artfully overclouded. 1830 HERSCHEL *Study Nat. Phil.* II. iii. 106 To defend their dogmas..: by every art of sophism or appeal to passion. 1869 *Pall Mall G.* 16 July 10 Until excess of philosophy, sophism, and theorizing turned every Frenchman into an argumentative lunatic.

† **2.** A device; a scheme. *Obs.*—1

1657 G. THORNLEY *Daphnis & Chloe* 113 Daphnis, who was of a more projecting wit then she, devised this Sophism to see her.

Sophist (sɒ·fist). [ad. L. *sophista*, *sophistēs*, ad. Gr. σοφιστής, f. σοφίζεσθαι to become wise or learned. Hence also Sp. and It. *sofista*, F. *sophiste*.]

1. In ancient Greece, one specially engaged in the pursuit or communication of knowledge; *esp.* one who undertook to give instruction in intellectual and ethical matters in return for payment.

In the latter sense contrasted with *philosopher*, and freq. used as a term of disparagement.

1542 UDALL *Erasm. Apophthegms* 14 b, *Sophistes* at the fyrst begynnyng wer men that professed to bee teachers of wisedome and eloquence, and the name of *Sophistes* was had in honoure and price. 1547 BALDWIN *Mor. Philos.* 1 b, The Grecians.. naming it first 'sophia', & such as therein were skilled, *sophistes* or wisards. 1605 BACON *Adv. Learning* II. 54 b, Not onely in the persons of the Sophists, but euen in Socrates himselfe. 1638 JUNIUS *Paint. Ancients* 98 As well sculptors and painters.., as Sophists and Rhetoricians. 1699 BENTLEY *Phal.* Introd. 6 The very Sophists themselves..have declar'd him no Sophist, but a Philosopher. 1763 J. BROWN *Poetry & Music* vi. 137 In later Times it became a common Practice for Sophists and Rhetoricians to contend in Prose, at the Olympic Games, for the Crown of Glory. 1835 T. MITCHELL *Acharn. of Aristoph.* 717 *note*, Socrates having ironically addressed the two boasting and ridiculous sophists..as gods. *a* 1842 ARNOLD *Later Hist. Rome* (1846) II. xii. 451 The profession of a Sophist was a legal exemption from the duties of a juryman. 1864 BOWEN *Logic* ix. 267 The great use of disputation by the ancient sophists and the Schoolmen, as a logical exercise and a means of education.

2. One who is distinguished for learning; a wise or learned man.

1614 SYLVESTER *Bethulia's Rescue* II. 320 Whose prudent Problems, touching every Theam, Draw thousand Sophists to Jerusalem. 1645 BP. HALL *Treat. Content.* 88 Those Indian sophists who took their name from their nakednesse. 1727 N. LARDNER *Wks.* (1838) I. 131 There were in the city two sophists..(or rabbies) who were reckoned exceedingly skilful in the laws of their country. 1794 T. TAYLOR *Pausanias' Descr. Greece* III. 321 For this god is a sophist, who purifies souls after death. 1812 BYRON *Ch. Har.* II. vi, Can all saint, sage, or sophist ever writ, People this lonely tower, this tenement refit? *a* 1857 R. A. VAUGHAN *Ess. & Rem.* (1858) I. 46 If we may credit some of our sophists, it [religion] descended from heaven like some of the deified stones of antiquity.

3. One who makes use of fallacious arguments; a specious reasoner.

1581 PETTIE tr. *Guazzo's Civ. Conv.* I. (1586) 34 You knowe also that we naturallie hate cauillers and Sophists, who at euerie word will ouerthwart us. 1771 BEATTIE *Minstr.* I. xli, Hence! ye, who snare and stupify the mind, Sophists, of beauty, virtue, joy, the bane! 1774 REID *Aristotle's Logic* i. § 1 (1788) 5 The pride and vanity of the sophist appear too much in his writings. 1820 L. HUNT *Indicator* No. 26 (1822) I. 201 It is only for sophists to pretend that we, whose eyes contain the fountains of tears, need never give way to them. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* vi. II. 7 Nor, it was said, had the speculations of this odious school of sophists [Roman Catholic casuists] been barren of results. 1871 B. TAYLOR *Faust* (1875) I. xi. 136 Thou art and thou remain'st a sophist, liar.

fig. 1828 LYTTON *Pelham* III. ix, Our passions are terrible sophists!

b. *attrib.* or in appositive use.

c 1730 SAVAGE *Character* Wks. 1775 II. 209 Whose savage mind wants sophist-art to draw O'er murder'd virtue specious veils of law. 1847 EMERSON *Poems, Good-bye* Wks. (Bohn) I. 416, I laugh..At the sophist schools. 1852 M. ARNOLD *Empedocles* II. 29 Before the Sophist brood hath overlaid The last spark of man's consciousness with words. 1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) III. 43 The style gets the better of the thought in the Sophist-poet Euripides.

Sophister (sɒ·fistəɹ), *sb.* Forms: 4 sofistre, 5 sofister, sof-, sovyster; 4 sophistre, 6 sophystre, -istere, *Sc.* -istar, 6–7 sophyster, 4–sophister. [a. OF. *sophistre*, ad. L. *sophista* SOPHIST.]

† **1.** = SOPHIST 1. *Obs.*

1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) V. 175 Whanne fendes hadde i-hote hym þe victorie of the Pers, his sophister axede [etc.]. *c* 1440 *Alph. Tales* 26 Þer was a yong man þat feste hym at þe scule with Pictagoras, for to be a sophister. 1565 COOPER *Thesaurus* s.v. *Deffuo*, Al this came from the fountaines of the sophisters. 1591 HARINGTON *Orl. Fur.* Pref. ¶ ij b, The learned Plutarch..tels of a Sophister that made a long and tedious Oration in praise of Hercules. 1609 HOLLAND *Amm. Marcell.* XVI. ii. 56 Hippias Elëus that most quicke and eagre Sophister. 1697 POTTER *Antiq. Greece* IV. xi. (1715) 295 There is a story of the Sophister Hermocrates relating to this. 1710 NORRIS *Chr. Prud.* ii. 93 At first all Artists, and even Philosophers themselves, were call'd Sophisters.

2. = SOPHIST 3.

c 1380 WYCLIF *Serm.* Sel. Wks. II. 156 Alsif a sofistre wolde graunte þat þei lyven wiþouten ende. 1393 LANGL. *P. Pl.* C. XVIII. 311 A sophistre of sorcerie and *pseudo-propheta*. *c* 1425 *St. Mary of Oignies* I. ix. in *Anglia* VIII. 143/19 In maner of a sofister amonge sum trewe þat traytour enforced hym to medil false. *c* 1430 *Pilgr. Lyf Manhode* I. LXXVI. (1869) 45 Thei wolden..skorne me, and holde me for a sophistre. 1532 MORE *Confut. Tindale* Wks. 475/2 As though a sophyster woulde with a fonde argumente, proue..that two egges wer thre. 1549 *Compl. Scot.* XX. 183 Thir freuole sophistaris that marthirs and sklandirs the text of aristotel, deseruis punitione. 1579 W. WILKINSON *Confut. Fam. Love* 39 The Deuill beyng a subtill Sophister beguiled and blynded our graundmother Eue. 1609 C. BUTLER *Fem. Mon.* (1634) 64 Let no nimble-tongued Sophisters gather a false conclusion from these true premisses. 1650 BAXTER *Saints' R.* II. x. (1662) 284 The ordinary sort of Christians, that are not able to deal with a Sophister. 1703 D. PHILLIPS *Vind. Verit.* iv. 242 The Truth..may easily be defended against the most powerful Batteries of the acutest Sophister. 1764 REID *Inquiry* i. § 8 Let scholastic sophisters entangle themselves in their own cobwebs. 1830 MACKINTOSH *Progr. Eth. Philos.* Wks. 1846 I. 70 Not to mention Mandeville, the buffoon and sophister of the alehouse. 1892 A. BIRRELL *Res Iudic.* v. 144 The wordy sophister with his oven full of half baked thoughts.

attrib. 1653 URQUHART *Rabelais* I. xiv, Presently they appointed him a great Sophister-Doctor..who taught him his A B C.

b. In the phr. *to play the sophister.*

1550 BALE *Apol.* 122 For now is he dryven to hys uttermost shyfte..to play Jacke Sophystre altogether. 1593 MARLOWE *Edw. II*, I. iv. [552] But nephew, do not play the sophister. 1640 FULLER *Abel Rediv., Life Luther* (1867) I. 46 On this point eight days were spent by his playing the sophister. *a* 1659 BP. BROWNING *Serm.* (1674) I. xiii. 163 He will play the Sophister, and endeavour..to beguil us with subtilties. 1725 [see SOPHISTRESS].

3. At Cambridge, a student in his second or third year. (Cf. SOPH 1.) Now *Hist.*

Also in use at Oxford in the latter part of the 17th cent.; cf. SOPH 1 (quots. 1684 and 1692).

1574 STOKYS in Peacock *Stat. Cambr.* (1841) App. A. p. xi, A Sophister provided by the Proctour shall knele before the Responsall sett. 1577 HARRISON *England* II. iii, The first degree, is that of the generall sophisters, from whence..they ascend higher unto the estate of batchelers of art. 1608 TOPSELL *Serpents* (1658) 778 A number which the meanest Sophister in Cambridge can resolve. 1641 R. BROOKE *Eng. Episc.* I. vii. 38 They have practised little, but to wrangle down a Sophister, or to delude a Proctor, in the Vniversity. 1675 COVEL in *Early Voy. Levant* (Hakluyt Soc.) 196 They are made like our sophisters' gown, without a cape. 1688 [see SOPHOMORE 1]. 1730 in Willis & Clark *Cambr.* (1886) III. 74 The Schools appointed for Batchelors and Sophisters.

b. With distinguishing epithet *junior* or *senior*.

1685 WOOD *Life* (O.H.S.) III. 132 This fellow had the impudence before last Act to answer Generalls without a Bachelor or Senior Sophister. 1689 POPPLE tr. *Locke's 3rd Let. Toleration* L.'s Wks. 1727 II. 396 A Senior Sophister would be laugh'd at for such Logick.

c. Similarly at Harvard and Dartmouth, U.S.A.

1650 in Quincy *Hist. Harvard Univ.* (1840) I. 518 In case any of the sophisters..fail in the premises required at their hands. 1708 S. SEWALL *Diary* 27 Sept., He was a Senior Sophister. 1766 in B. Peirce *Hist. Harvard* (1833) 246 That the Senior Sophisters shall attend the Tutor A on Mondays. 1792 J. BELKNAP *Hist. New Hampsh.* III. 296 The junior sophisters, beside the languages, enter on natural and moral philosophy and composition.

4. At Trinity College, Dublin, a student in his third or fourth year. Also *transf.* and *attrib.*

1841 LEVER *C. O'Malley* CV. 510 The columns of attack will be formed by the senior sophisters of the old guard. 1845 W. B. S. TAYLOR *Univ. Dublin* iv. 147 The science taught..in the third, or junior sophister year, [is] Astronomy and Physics; in the fourth, or senior sophister year, Ethics. *Ibid.*, Junior sophisters are examined in the science taught from the beginning of the second or senior freshman year.

5. *Comb.*, as *sophister-like* adv.

1608 *Sec. Pt. Def. Minist. Reas. Refusal Sub.* 170 [He] changeth the state of the question sophisterlike. 1647 TRAPP *Matt.* vii. 24 Putting paralogisms.., tricks and fallacies (sophister-like) upon your own souls.

Hence † **So·phistered** *ppl. a.*, sophisticated. *Obs.*

1567 MAPLET *Gr. Forest* 9 It hath bene seene that in stead of a Smaragde some haue had sophistred and counterfayted Glasse.

Sophistic (sɒfi·stik), *a.* and *sb.* Also 6–8 **sophistick**, 7 **-icke.** [ad. L. *sophistic-us*, ad. Gr. σοφιστικός, f. σοφιστής SOPHIST. Hence also Sp. *sofistico*, It. *soff-*, *sofistico*, F. *sophistique*.]

A. *adj.* **1.** Of persons: Given to the use or exercise of sophistry.

1549 *Compl. Scot.* XV. 137, I exort the..rather that thou accuse my tua sophistic brethir. 1711 SHAFTESB. *Charac.* (1737) III. 79 The schools of the antient philosophers..came now to be dissolv'd, and their sophistick teachers became ecclesiastical instructers. 1790 BURKE *Fr. Rev.* Wks. 1808 V. 201 The sophistic tyrants of Paris are loud in their declamations against the departed regal tyrants. 1874 K. H. DIGBY *Temple Memory* (1875) 329 As when sophistic sceptics would cry down Great Anaxagoras.

† **b.** Engaged in speculation. *Obs.*—1

1549 *Compl. Scot.* XVII. 145 At that tyme thai lay al to gydthir in ane cauerne, as dois presently the sophistic egiptiens.

2. Of or pertaining to sophistry or sophists; of the nature of sophistry or specious reasoning.

1591 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* I. i. 390 The sandy grounds of their Sophistick brawling. 1612 WEBSTER *White Devil* II. ii. 7 Some there are, Which by sophisticke tricks, aspire that name..of nigromancer. 1673 MILTON *True Relig.* 7 A mystery indeed in their Sophistic Subtilties, but in Scripture a plain Doctrin. *a* 1734 NORTH *Examen* III. vi. § 23 (1740) 439 But he,..by his sophistic Terms, declares the latter only to bear the Bell. 1807 ANNA SEWARD *Lett.* (1811) VI. 348 He who rendered his rare eloquence the sophistic engine to infatuate his country. 1871 H. B. FORMAN *Our Living Poets* 119 [He] justifies himself to himself with sophistic satisfaction.

b. Pertaining to, characteristic of, the ancient Sophists.

1835 T. MITCHELL *Acharn. of Aristoph.* 392 *note*, λεπτὰ, a sophistic word, expressive of whatever is most subtle, ingenious, and acute in mental operation. 1874 MAHAFFY *Soc. Life Greece* xi. 339 The outburst of the sophistic scepticism. 1885 PATER *Marius the Epicurean* I. 219 The undisputed occupant of the sophistic throne.

B. *sb.* **1.** Sophistic argument or speculation as a subject of instruction. Also in pl. form.

1862 MERIVALE *Rom. Emp.* lxvi. (1865) VII. 223 Of the three principal chairs,..that of Sophistics took the first rank. 1865 GROTE *Plato* II. xxii. 96 Sophistic is the shadow or counterfeit of law-giving. 1881 MAHAFFY *Old Greek Educ.* xi. 143 Lecturers in sophistic and rhetoric.

2. Sophistry, deceptiveness.

1868 M. PATTISON *Academ. Org.* v. 222, I reject this as.. reproducing the sophistic of 'Testimonials' in another form.

Sophistical (sɒfi·stikăl), *a.* Also 5–6 **sophystycal**(1, 6 **-ystically**, 6–7 **sophisticall.** [See prec. and -AL.]

1. = SOPHISTIC *a.* 2.

1483 CAXTON *Gold. Leg.* 390/1 Logyke is deuyded..in demonstratyf, in probable, and in sophystycal. *a* 1513 FABYAN *Chron.* VII. (1811) 649 Whereunto a sophystycall answere was made by the kyng. 1550 BALE *Eng. Votaries* II. 116 b, Wherfore they sought firste of all to bring them vndre by sophistycall sorceryes. 1643 SIR T. BROWNE *Relig. Med.* I. § 60 They enforce the condition of God, and in a more sophisticall way doe seeme to challenge Heaven. 1655–87 H. MORE *App. Antid.* (1712) 192 That this perfect Being doth exist, is false and sophistical. 1771 *Junius Lett.* lxi. (1788) 328 The sophistical distinction you attempt to draw between the person injured, and the person injuring. 1825 MCCULLOCH *Pol. Econ.* II. ii. 125 At first sight, this sophistical and delusive statement appears sufficiently conclusive. 1864 BOWEN *Logic* ix. 271 We..take into view all cases of defective and sophistical argumentation.

2. = SOPHISTIC *a.* 1.

1535 COVERDALE *Bible* Prol., All the gloses of oure sophisticall doctours. 1838 THIRLWALL *Greece* IV. XXXII. 259 Aristophanes..regarded the sophistical circles with abhorrence. 1863 COWDEN CLARKE *Shaks. Char.* XVIII. 468 He is fluent and sophistical,—a sure token of feeble wisdom and lack of sound argument. 1884 *Daily News* 24 July 4/6 The question..is one which..the most sophistical cannot obscure.

† **3. a.** Employed for the purpose of adulteration or deception. *Obs.*

1558 WARDE tr. *Alexis' Secr.* I. VI. (1580) 110 b, If the woorke bee of Copper, made white by any Sophisticall substaunce. *c* 1645 HOWELL *Lett.* I. vi. 41 There be some that commit Fornication in Chymistry, by heterogeneous and sophistical Citrinations. 1680 C. NESSE *Church Hist.* 272 Not setting out her beauty with sophistical paint.

† **b.** Adulterated; sophisticated. *Obs.*—1

1613 T. GODWYN *Rom. Antiq.* (1658) 189 He that had sold any corrupt or sophistical wares.

Hence † **Sophi·sticalness.** *Obs.*

1661 in *Phœnix* (1721) I. 68 Having so plainly demonstrated the Sophisticalness of Origen's Arguments. 1727 BAILEY (vol. II), *Sophisticalness*, Captiousness, Deceitfulness; sophistical Quality.

Sophistically (sɒfi·stikăli), *adv.* Also 4 **sofistically**, 4–5 **-ali**, 5 **-aly**; 5 **sophisticali**, 5–6 **sophystycally**, 7 **sophystically.** [f. prec. +

-LY 2.] In a sophistical manner; fallaciously; with deceptive subtlety.

1382 WYCLIF *Ecclus.* xxxvii. 23 Who sofistically speketh, is hateful. 1471 RIPLEY *Comp. Alch.* VI. ix. in Ashm. (1652) 163 The Mater ys alterate..substancyally, And not.. sophystycally. 1523 FITZHERB. *Husb.* § 68 Me semethe, that those men that holde that opinyon, speke sophystycallye. 1584 FENNER *Def. Minist.* (1587) 11 That whiche by our wordes he can not gather, he sophisticallie inferreth vpon them. 1638 CHILLINGW. *Relig. Prot.* I. iv. § 66. 228 You abuse D. Potter.., by taking sophistically without limitation, that which is delivered with limitation. 1697 G. KEITH *2nd Narr. Proc. Turners' Hall* 5 He Defends himself most Sophistically. 1790 BURKE *Fr. Rev.* Wks. V. 92 By these theorists the right of the people is almost always sophistically confounded with their power. 1855 PUSEY *Doctr. Real Presence* iii. (1869) 333 Calvin was far too acute, not to have been conscious, that he was arguing sophistically in both these instances. 1892 *Times* 7 Dec. 9/5 Those who praise the codes of France .. often talk loosely and sophistically and unjustly.

Sophisticate (sŏfi·stikĕt), *ppl. a.* [ad. med. L. *sophisticāt-us*, pa. pple. of *sophisticāre*: see next.]

†**1.** = SOPHISTICATED *ppl. a.* 1. *Obs.*

c 1400 MAUNDEV. (1839) v. 51 3if it be thykke or reed or blak, it is sophisticate, that is to seyne, contrefeted and made lyke it, for disceyt. 1477 NORTON *Ordin. Alch.* v. in Ashm. (1652) 60 Joyne trewe kindes not sophisticate. 1544 PHAER *Pestilence* (1553) M vij, Bole armonyake,..not to brittle, nor to hye coloured, for suche is commonly sophisticate. 1586 LUPTON *1000 Notable Things* (1675) 18 You shall know good and pure Azure from sophisticate and naughty Azure, if[etc.]. 1625 HART *Anat. Ur.* I. i. 11 The countrey..findeth..good and sufficient stuffe, neither fustie nor sophisticate. 1671 MAYNWARING *Anc. & Mod. Pract. Physick* 66 Yet this cheap sophisticate Medicine..will cost you six times so much.

2. = SOPHISTICATED *ppl. a.* 2.

1599 B. JONSON *Cynthia's Rev.* I. iv, O heaven ! that any thing..should suffer these rackt extremities, for the uttering of his sophisticate good parts. 1616 *Pasquil & Kath.* v. 12 O, this Sophisticate friendship, that dissolues With euery heate of Fancie. 1695 LD. PRESTON *Boeth.* III. 127 Thou hast now then the Form and Causes of that adulterate sophisticate Felicity. 1812 CRABBE *Tales* i. 200 'Tis the savage state Is only good, and ours sophisticate ! 1850 L. HUNT *Autobiogr.* I. ii. 74 The feeling was true, though the expression was sophisticate and a fashion.

†**3.** = SOPHISTICATED *ppl. a.* 3. *Obs.*

1531 ELYOT *Gov.* III. xi. (1880) II. 279 By the diligent studye of very philosophie (nat that whiche is sophisticate, and consisteth in sophismes). 1629 H. BURTON *Truth's Triumph* 169 Such is his sophisticate sophistry, and frothy wit. 1678 R. R[USSELL] tr. *Geber* II. I. II. iii. 45 They by another Reason thus argue and strengthen their own Sophisticate Opinion.

Sophisticate (sŏfi·stikeit), *v.* Also 6 sofysticat. [f. the ppl. stem of med.L. *sophisticāre*, f. *sophisticus* SOPHISTIC *a.* Cf. It. *sofisticare*, Sp. *sofisticar*, F. *sophistiquer*.]

1. *trans.* To mix (commodities) with some foreign or inferior substance; to render impure in this way; to adulterate. Now somewhat *rare*.

c 1400 MAUNDEV. (Roxb.) xviii. 84 It fallez oft tyme þat marchands sophisticatez peper. 1523 SKELTON *Garl. Laurel* 110 Sophisticatid craftely is many a confecture. 1542 BOORDE *Dyetary* x. (1870) 256 They the which do put any other thynge to ale..doth sofysticat theyr ale. 1610 B. JONSON *Alch.* I. iii, He lets me haue good tabacco, and he do's not Sophisticate it, with sack-lees, or oyle. 1662 CHARLETON & P. M. *Myst. Vintners* (1675) 206 Muskadel is sophisticated with the Laggs of Sack, or Malmsey thus. 1756 *Gentl. Mag.* XXVI. 33 It is now..common to sophisticate well known medicines. 1807 T. THOMSON *Chem.* (ed. 3) II. 410 A method of ascertaining whether ether be sophisticated with alcohol. 1853 URE *Dict. Arts* (ed. 4) I. 119 If sophisticated with castor oil, the mixture soon becomes nearly colourless like white honey.

fig. 1591 LAMBARDE *Archeion* (1635) To Rdr., That sweet Odour hee hath left, cannot by their false ingredients be so sophisticated, but may by the judicious bee easily smelt out. 1663 COWLEY *Verses & Ess.* (1669) 100 Our Senses are here feasted with the clear and genuine taste of their Objects; which are all sophisticated there.

b. To deal with in some artificial way.

1611 CORYAT *Crudities* 263 Hauing a looking-glasse before them they sophisticate and dye their haire with the foresaid drugs. 1831 TRELAWNY *Adv. Vouager Son* III. 328 His hair, never sophisticated by a comb,..resembled dark sea-weed.

c. To render artificial, to deprive of simplicity, in respect of manners or ideas; to convert *into* something artificial.

1796 MME. D'ARBLAY *Camilla* III. 270 [They were] less sedulously sought by those whom the manners and maxims of the common world had sophisticated. 1820 HAZLITT *Lect. Dram. Lit.* 2 They were not at all sophisticated. The mind of their country was great in them and it prevailed. 1874 LISLE CARR *J. Gwynne* I. vii. 201 They spoke out their thoughts with a rude freedom which..proved that they had not been sophisticated into prigs. 1879 MISS BRADDON *Cloven Foot* iii, Christened plain Sarah or Mary, to be sophisticated later into Celestine or Mariette.

2. To corrupt or spoil by admixture of some baser principle or quality; to render less genuine or honest.

1604 T. WRIGHT *Passions* III. iv. 99 The facultie of eloquence..is sophisticated by many, who couer stincking matters with fragrant flowers. *a* 1626 BP. ANDREWES *Serm.* (1856) 381 It is the manner of the world..to sophisticate ever the best things with hypocrisy. 1692 BENTLEY *Boyle Lect.* v. 155 Lest it should tinge and sophisticate the Light that it lets in by a natural Jaundice. 1845 R. W. HAMILTON *Pop. Educ.* x. (ed. 2) 324 Is not the inference strong, that that party feels..the fallacy of its creed, and must sophisticate it? 1873 M. ARNOLD *Lit. & Dogma* (1876) 242 Those who sophisticate a very simple thing, religion.

3. To corrupt, pervert, mislead (a person, the understanding, etc.).

1597 HOOKER *Eccl. Pol.* v. lxxvii. § 14 It alwaies behoueth men to take good heede, lest affection..sophisticate the true and sincere iudgement. 1700 CONGREVE *Way of World* v. ii, Why, have you not been naught? have you not been sophisticated? 1829 SOUTHEY *Sir T. More* (1831) II. 30 Books of casuistry, which sophisticate the understanding and defile the heart. 1847 R. W. HAMILTON *Rewards & Punishm.* viii. (1853) 396 What is it that sophisticates our hopeful youth? 1882 FARRAR *Early Chr.* I. 540 Those who.. sophisticated St. Paul's feeble converts.

refl. 1798 LD. JEFFREY in Cockburn *Life* (1852) I. 101 As it is, I believe I shall go on sophisticating and perverting myself till I become absolutely good for nothing.

4. To falsify by mis-statement or by unauthorized alteration.

1598 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. ii. 1. *Ark* 173 And thou.. shalt testifie..What now thy shame-lesse lips sophisticate. 1630 PRYNNE *Anti-Armin.* 194 And with all sophisticates and corrupts both the words and meaning of this sacred Text. 1715 BENTLEY *Serm.* x. 338 Not adulterating, not sophisticating the Word. 1774 J. BRYANT *Mythol.* I. 421 The term Trachon seems to have been still farther sophisticated by the Greeks. 1873 F. HALL *Mod. Eng.* 298 As to *demarcation*,..they take the liberty of sophisticating Burke, in making him write *demarkation*.

5. *intr.* To practise sophistication.

1664 OWEN *Vindic. Animad. Fiat Lux* XV, In your following discourse you double and sophisticate. 1791 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Rom. Forest* x, The benevolence of her heart taught her, in this instance, to sophisticate. 1841 MIALL in *Nonconf.* I. 337 Sophisticate and mystify as we will. 1863 COWDEN CLARKE *Shaks. Char.* xiii. 320 We next see him paltering and sophisticating with the truth.

Hence **Sophis·ticating** *vbl. sb.* and *ppl. a.*

1611 COTGR., *Sofistication*, a sophistication, or sophisticating. 1624 CAPT. SMITH *Virginia* IV. 126 There are so many sofisticating Tobacco-mungers in England. 1651 FRENCH *Distill.* Pref. *4 b, Their sophisticating of Chymical oils with spirit of Turpentine. 1821 LAMB *Elia* I. *Old & New Schoolm.*, The sophisticating medium of moral uses. 1853 URE *Dict. Arts* (ed. 4) I. 378 Leaving the starchy matter, as well as most other sophisticating substances.

Sophisticated (sŏfi·stikeitĕd), *ppl. a.* [f. prec.]

1. Mixed with some foreign substance; adulterated; not pure or genuine.

1607 DEKKER *Wh. Babylon* Wks. 1873 II. 256 The drinke ..they sweare Is wine sophisticated, that does runne Low on the lees of error. 1651 FRENCH *Distill.* Pref. *4 b, They ..have brought a great Odium upon it by carrying about and vending..their sophisticated oils, and salts. 1687 MONTAGU & PRIOR *Hind & Panth. Transv.* 27 To give sophisticated Brewings vent. 1800 HENRY *Epit. Chem.* (1808) 390 The fraud is detected by adding alcohol to the sophisticated spirit. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* IV. 371 It is essential that water should be introduced, either pure or sophisticated.

2. Altered from, deprived of, primitive simplicity or naturalness.

1603 FLORIO *Montaigne* (1632) 301 And truly, Philosophy is nothing else but a sophisticated poesie. 1638 JUNIUS *Paint. Ancients* 119 The sophisticated Art..drew still the eyes and minds of unadvised spectators. 1684 BURNET tr. *More's Utopia* (1716) 118 Among those who pursue these sophisticated Pleasures, they reckon those .. who think themselves really the better for having fine Clothes. 1782 V. KNOX *Ess.* vii. 33 He is..pursuing all the sophisticated joys, which succeed to supply the place where Nature is relinquished. 1825 SCOTT *Talism.* x, All this internal chain of feudal dependence is artificial and sophisticated. 1871 L. STEPHEN *Playgr. Eur.* (1894) i. 7 The mountains..are a standing protest against the sophisticated modern taste.

transf. *a* 1652 BROME *Queen & Concubine* III. iii, Where the swoln Courts sophisticated Breath Did but disease my Blood.

3. Falsified in a greater or less degree; not plain, honest, or straightforward.

1672 DRYDEN *Assignation* v. iv, I love not a sophisticated truth, With an allay of lye in't. *a* 1806 HORSLEY *Serm.* (1811) 105 Who resist the truth by argument, or..explain it away by sophisticated interpretations. 1835 I. TAYLOR *Spir. Despot.* vii. 329 After ingenious and sophisticated criticism has done its utmost. 1861 HOLLAND *Lessons in Life* v. 69 Our truths are half truths, or exaggerated truths or sophisticated truths.

Sophistication (sŏfistikā·ʃən). Also 5 -icacio(i)oun, -ycacyon, 5–7 -icacion. [a. OF. *sophistication*, or ad. med.L. *sophisticātio*, *-ācio*, f. *sophisticāre* SOPHISTICATE *v.*]

1. The use or employment of sophistry; the process of investing with specious fallacies or of misleading by means of these; falsification.

c 1400 *Apol. Loll.* 7 And, sin sophisticacoun fallip ofte in þis matir, feiþful men askyn..þis witnes. 1451 CAPGRAVE *Life St. Aug.* 10 Þe woman..coude not be led oute fro hir trewe beleue with no sophisticacion þat hir son coude make. *c* 1530 MORE *Answ. Frith* Wks. 835/1 For such kind of sophisticacion in arguing, was the very cauillacion and shift that the wicked Arrians vsed. 1597 HOOKER *Eccl. Pol.* v. lxxxi. § 2 Bending therevnto their whole endeuour without eyther fraud, sophistication or guyle. 1678 NORRIS *Misc.* (1699) 182 The Law of Nature he only restored and rescued from the Sophistications of ill Principles. 1791 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Rom. Forest* iii, Hers were the arts of cunning practised upon fear, not those of sophistication upon reason. 1846 RUSKIN *Mod. Paint.* II. III. § 1. vi. § 8 Happily ignorant of the sophistications of theories and the proprieties of composition. 1882 MISS BRADDON *Mt. Royal* I. i. 29 If you asked her opinion upon any subject you got it without sophistication.

b. A sophism, a quibble, a fallacious argument.

1491 CAXTON *Vitas Patr.* (W. de W. 1495) II. 176 b/2, The dyuyne scyence Requyreth not to be fulfylled with sophistycacyons nor proposycyons ornate or polyshed. 1548 UDALL, etc. *Erasm. Par. Luke* v. 55 The subtiltees of the Philosophiers sophisticacions. 1581 J. BELL *Haddon's Answ. Osor.* 503 b, The Argument..is worthely rejected in the Logicians Schoole, and is called a meere Sophistication. 1635 SWAN *Spec. M.* i. § 1 (1643) 2 Whose reasons some have called vain sophistications to obscure the truth. *a* 1676 HALE *Prim. Orig. Man.* II. xii. (1677) 244 These Traditions have been admirably dressed by Sophistications and Superadditions. 1783 W. F. MARTYN *Geogr. Mag.* I. 186 Replete with sophistications and interpolations. 1819 L. HUNT *Indicator* No. 6 (1822) I. 46 But they are both as rank sophistications as can be; mere beggings of the question. 1892 W. S. LILLY *Gt. Enigma* 141 If we put aside sophisms and sophistications.

fig. 1618 STUKELEY *Petition* 2 This mans whole life was a meere sophistication. 1630 *Tincker of Turvey, Gentl. T.* 80 He..thought schollers..could deuise many sophistications to make a man a cuckold.

2. Disingenuous alteration or perversion *of* something; conversion into some less genuine form.

1564 *Brief Exam.* * iij b, The sophistication of the arguments of that discourse. 1647 N. WARD *Simple Cobler* 58 The sophistication of Religion and Policie in your time. 1672 DRYDEN *Conq. Granada* Def. Epil. 168 That is a Sophistication of Language, not an improvement of it. 1860 HAWTHORNE *Marble Faun* (1879) II. ii. 25 Before the sophistication of the human intellect formed what we now call language. 1892 T. K. CHEYNE in *Expositor* 217 The sophistication of our native good sense.

b. Deceptive modification.

1664 EVELYN tr. *Freart's Archit.* II. viii. 108 This Colossean Structure..had need of some Sophistications from the optiques.

c. (See SOPHISTICATE *v.* 1 c.)

1850 L. HUNT *Autobiog.* III. xix. 49 A people who..preserve in the very midst of their sophistication a frankness distinct from it. 1884 *St. James's Gas.* 9 Sept. 6/2 No more simple and guileless folk can well be found, in these days of sophistication.

3. a. An adulterated article; a fraudulently mixed form of something. b. A substance used in adulteration.

c 1400 MAUNDEV. (Roxb.) vii. 26 Þe Sarezenes makes swilke sophisticaciouns for to dessayfe Cristen men withall...Marchandes also and apothecaries puttes þerto oþer sophisticaciouns. 1620 MELTON *Astrolog.* 7 As meere a Mountebanke, as euer sold Sophistications in Italy or the Low-Countries. 1670 PETTUS *Fodinæ Reg.* 45 They might see and inspect those Impostures and Sophistications so destructive to Commutative Justice. 1683 — *Fleta Min.* II. 4 Which really are not pure, but mixt with other sophistications. 1875 *Encycl. Brit.* I. 172/1 The chief sophistications of ginger powder are sago-meal, ground rice, and turmeric. 1886 *Daily Telegr.* 20 Mar. (Cassell), The sophistications of or substitutes for butter sold in the metropolitan and urban markets.

4. Adulteration (of commodities, etc.).

1540–1 ELYOT *Image Gov.* 74 To haue alway all necessary drougges..without sophistication or other deceite. 1567 MAPLET *Gr. Forest* 9 In this kinde as in al others we must take heed of Sophistication. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* II. 86 Nothing is so subject to sophistication as Saffron. 1654 T. WHITAKER *Blood of Grape* (ed. 2) 107 The principal difficulty wilbe in obteining pure wine with out sophistication. 1707 SLOANE *Jamaica* I. 223 Drugsters usually adulterate musk with these, which sophistication is known by its small continuance. 1789 *India Officer's Pocket-Guide Purch. Drugs* (ed. 2) 55 Few drugs are more liable to sophistication than musk. 1823 J. BADCOCK *Dom. Amusem.* 98 Tobacco..is rendered still more pungent by the sophistications..of the manufacturers. 1853 URE *Dict. Arts* (ed. 4) I. 263 The sophistication is easily detected by the microscope. 1871 G. H. NAPHEYS *Prevent. & Cure Dis.* I. ii. 70 Food free from sophistication.

fig. 1593 G. HARVEY *New Lett. Notable Contents* A iij, Publique medicines will admit no sophistication.

b. Const. *of* (an article, etc.).

1562 BULLEIN *Bulwarke, Bk. Simples* 72 b, But there is muche craft and sophistication of the Camphor. 1662 CHARLETON & P. M. *Myst. Vintners* (1675) 203 In the close of his chapter touching the Sophistication of wines. 1820 F. ACCUM *Treat. Adult. Food* (title-p.), The Fraudulent Sophistications of Bread, Beer,..and other Articles. 1880 *Daily Telegr.* 24 June, An unscrupulous dealer whose sophistication of silver plate was more ingenious..than the mere forgery of a hall-mark.

Sophi·sticative, *a. rare* −1. [f. SOPHISTICATE *v.*] Characterized by sophistication.

1861 I. TAYLOR *Spir. Hebrew Poet.* 247 A cumbrous, circuitous, and often a sophisticative mode of commenting upon the Prophets.

Sophi·sticator. [f. SOPHISTICATE *v.*, on Latin types.] One who sophisticates or adulterates.

1605 TIMME *Quersit.* Pref. p. vi, Some readers..are notable sophysticators. 1654 T. WHITAKER *Blood of Grape* (ed. 2) 107, I can cordially commend..that the Sophisticators of wine, may suffer punishment above any ordinary theef. 1680 *Spirit of Popery* Pref. p. vi, I cannot but exhort you ..to endeavour to find out this particular Sophisticator. 1720 S. PARKER *Bibliotheca Biblica* I. i. 306 Great Depravers and Sophisticators of Antiquity.

†**So·phistress.** *Obs.* [f. SOPHIST or SOPHISTER: see -ESS.] A female sophist.

1631 MABBE *Celestina* iv. 45 Like a prevaricating Sophistresse..playing the traitour on both sides. 1671 H. M. tr. *Erasm. Colloq.* 243, I think thou art some sophistress thou pratest so wittily. 1725 BAILEY *Erasm. Colloq.* (1878) I. 213 *Ma.* But may I play the Sophister with you now? *Pa.* The Sophistress.

Sophistry (sǫ·fistri), *sb.* Forms: 4 **sophestrie**, 4–7 **sophistrie** (5 -tri), 5–6 **sophystrye** (6 -trie), 5– **sophistry**; 5 **safistre, soffistre, sof-**

ystry. [a. OF. *sophistrie* (mod.F. *sophisterie*, = Sp., It. *sofisteria*), or ad. med.L. *sophistria*: see SOPHIST and -RY.]

1. Specious but fallacious reasoning; employment of arguments which are intentionally deceptive.

1340 *Ayenb.* 65 Ine huyche manyere þet me zuereþ, oþer openliche, oþer stilleliche be art, oþer be sophistrie. 1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. XIX. 343 Confessioun & contricioun.. Shal be coloured so queyntly and keuered vnder owre sophistrie. 1426 LYDG. *De Guil. Pilgr.* 5767 Tel on, as yt lyth in thy thouht, Wer yt deceyt or sophystrye. 1531 TINDALE *Exp. 1 John* (1537) 8 Can ye..persuade us, thynke ye, with your sophistry? 1582 BENTLEY *Mon. Matrones* 71 Stopping the mouthes of the vnlearned with subtile..persuasions of.. Sophistrie. 1639 HABINGTON *Castara* II. (Arb.) 78 Who will with silent piety confute Atheisticke Sophistry, and by the fruite Approve Religions tree? 1684 BUNYAN *Pilgr.* II. 108 This Maule did use to spoyl young Pilgrims with Sophistry. *c* 1710 POPE *On Silence* 40 The parson's cant, the lawyer's sophistry, Lord's quibble, critic's jest; all end in thee. 1777 PRIESTLEY *Phil. Necess.* 186, I do not profess myself to be master of any uncommon art of detecting sophistry. 1825 LYTTON *Falkland* 65, I feel too well the sophistry of his arguments. 1871 R. H. HUTTON *Ess.* II. 226 Nothing can exceed the tortuous sophistry of this admirable special pleading.

Comb. 1859 HELPS *Friends in C.* Ser. II. II. ii. 25 His wearisome round of..dexterous sophistry-weaving.

b. An instance of this; a sophism.

1673 CAVE *Prim. Chr.* I. i. 9 By their villanies, sophistries, and arts of terrour. 1770 *Junius Lett.* XXXVIII. (1788) 209 Perplexed by sophistries, their honest eloquence rises into action. 1856 MISS MULOCK *J. Halifax* II. viii. 195 No sophistries of French philosophy on your part. 1876 FARRAR *Marlb. Serm.* XXXI. 311 To disentangle the soul from the fatal and subtle sophistries of sin.

2. The use or practice of specious reasoning as an art or dialectic exercise.

a 1400–50 *Alexander* 4364 Ne foloze we na ficesyens ne philisophour scolis, As sophistri & slik thing to sott with þe pepill. *c* 1474 *Paston Lett.* III. 408 Item, iij. bokes of soffistre. 1538 BALE *Thre Lawes* 1167 We must haue sophystrye, Phylosophye and Logyck, as scyence necessarye. 1599 B. JONSON *Cynthia's Rev.* V. iv, Though I..do want (as they say) logicke and sophistrie, and good words, to tell you why it is so. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* III. 51 The Milanesi are said to excell in the study of the Civill Law..those of Pavia in Sophistrie. 1677 GALE *Crt. Gentiles* III. 29 Aristotle..rendred his followers more skilful in hatching..wrangling sophistrie, than true solid Philosophie. 1864 BOWEN *Logic* ix. 267 The great use of disputation by the ancient sophists and the Schoolmen..tended to create a special art of sophistry.

† **3.** Cunning, trickery, craft. *Obs.*

c 1385 CHAUCER *L. G. W.* Prol. 125 The foule cherl [*sc.* the fowler] that for his coueytyse, Hadde hem betrayed with his sophistrye. 1657 G. THORNLEY *Daphnis & Chloe* 110 Others, with all their sophistry, made gins and traps for birds.

4. The type of learning characteristic of the ancient Sophists; the profession of a Sophist.

1837 J. W. DONALDSON *Theat. Grks.* (1849) 97 Euripides was nursed in the lap of sophistry. 1869 A. W. WARD tr. *Curtius' Hist. Greece* II. III. iii. 434 Sophistry became a profitable trade.

Hence † **So·phistry** *v. trans.*, to maintain or argue sophistically. *Obs.*—[1]

1563 FOXE *A. & M.* 268/2 Unto whome the Lorde Cobham thus aunswered, it is well sophistried of you forsoth.

Sophoclean (sɒfŏklī·ăn), *a.* [f. L. *Sophoclē-us*, ad. Gr. Σοφόκλειος, f. Σοφοκλῆς, -κλέης (see def.). Cf. F. *Sophocléen.*] Of or pertaining to, characteristic of, Sophocles, the Athenian tragic poet, or his works, style, etc.

1649 QUARLES *Virgin Widow* III. Wks. (Grosart) III. 303/2 Then shall the learned Bayes..Immortalize the Sophoclean Stage. 1746 FRANCIS tr. *Horace, Epist.* II. i. 220 How Æschylus and Thespis form'd the Stage, And what improv'd the Sophoclean Page. 1870 LOWELL *Among my Bks.* Ser. I. (1873) 182 But this is to measure him by a Sophoclean scale. 1880 SWINBURNE *Stud. Shaks.* 46 Rather an Ovidian than a Sophoclean grace of bearing and speech.

Sophom(e, obs. forms of SOPHISM.

† **So·phoming,** *ppl. a. Obs.*—[1] [f. *sophom* SOPHISM. Cf. SOPHUMER.] Taking part in dialectal exercises.

a 1618 W. BRADSHAW *Unreason. Separ.* (1640) 105 If so be the Syllogisme be true, as every Sophoming boy in the universitie knoweth.

Sophomore (sɒ·fŏmōə). Now *U.S.* Also 7 sophy moore, 8– sophimore (8 soph mor). [app. f. *sophom* SOPHISM + -OR. Cf. SOPHUMER.]

1. A student of the second year: † **a.** At Cambridge. *Obs.*

1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 199/1 The several degrees of persons in the University Colledges... Fresh Men, Sophy Moores, Junior Soph, or Sophester. And lastly Senior Soph. 1795 *Gentl. Mag.* Oct. 818 The Freshman's year being expired, the next distinctive appellation conferred is A Soph Mor.

b. In American universities and colleges. Also *transf.* (quot. 1807).

a. 1726 in J. Quincy *Hist. Harvard* (1840) I. 441 The Sophomores recite Burgersdicius's Logic..in the mornings and forenoons. 1766 in B. Peirce *Hist. Harvard* (1833) 246 That the Sophomores shall attend..on Mondays. 1792 BELKNAP *Hist. New Hampsh.* III. 296 The sophomores [at Dartmouth] attend to the languages, geography, logic and mathematics. 1807 W. IRVING *Salmagundi* (1811) II. 41 Three different orders of shavers in New York—those who shave pigs. N.B. Freshmen and Sophomores. 1826 MOTLEY *Corr.* (1889) I. 6 Mr. Cogswell says he should think I might enter Sophomore [at Harvard]. 1865 MRS. WHITNEY *Gayworthys* I. 243 He would have been nearly through a college year by this time; and he had been ready to enter as sophomore. 1892 *Nation* (N.Y.) 22 Sept. 217 Under this system the 'academic' students, *i.e.*, the freshmen and sophomores, work off their required subjects two at a time.

β. *c* 1764 *Freshman Laws* in Woolsey *Hist. Disc. Yale Coll.* (1850) 55 A Senior may take a Freshman from a Sophimore, a Bachelor from a Junior. 1778 STILES *Diary* 15 July (1901) II. 285 [List of] Sophimores. 1804 FESSENDEN *Democracy Unveiled* (1806) II. 42 With all his sophimore's rotundity, With all his semblance of profundity.

2. *attrib.*, passing into adj., as *sophomore class, society, year*, etc.

1778 STILES *Diary* 25 June (1901) II. 276 Disciplined Cowles & examined & admitted him into the Sophimore Class. 1852 BRISTED *Five Yrs. Eng. Univ.* (ed. 2) 381 Two prizes for problems during the Freshman and Sophomore years. 1883 *Cent. Mag.* XXV. 517/1 Helen was in the Sophomore year of the class..when Robert came home from his first cruise. 1897 FLANDRAU *Harvard Episodes* 95 This fact is..of greater significance than any one.. is likely to attach to the sophomore society.

Sophomoric (sɒfŏmɒ·rik), *a.* Chiefly *U.S.* [f. SOPHOMORE + -IC.] Of or pertaining to, befitting or resembling, characteristic of, a sophomore; hence, pretentious, bombastic, inflated in style or manner; immature, crude, superficial.

1837 *Harvardiana* IV. 22 Better to face the prowling panther's path Than meet the storm of sophomoric wrath! 1852 T. PARKER *Ten Serm. Relig.* iv. (1863) 68 Our poor pedant, with his sophomoric wit. 1889 W. M. THAYER *Life A. Lincoln* XXIV. 313 It is quite common for an actor to come upon the stage, and, in a sophomoric style, to begin with a flourish.

b. Of persons.

1891 E. FIELD *Truth about Horace, West. Verse* 22 To students sophomoric They'd present as metaphoric What old Horace meant for facts. 1900 *Speaker* 29 Dec. 346/2 A mere sophomoric wordmonger.

Sophomo·rical, *a. U.S.* [f. as prec. + -ICAL.] = prec. Hence **Sophomo·rically** *adv.*

1847 WELLS & DAVIS *Sketches Williams Coll.* 74 (Thornton), The Professor told me it was rather Sophomorical. Wonder what was intended by that epithet. 1859 BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.* (ed. 2) 429 *Sophomorical*, a term applied to speeches and writings containing high-sounding words and but little sense. 1883 *Science* II. 113/2 The paper is decidedly sophomorical. 1889 *Literary World* (Boston) 21 Dec. 485/2 The question of public worship is discussed rather sophomorically by Rev. D. S. Clark, and more thoughtfully and soberly by an unnamed 'pastor'.

Sophora (sɒfō·rā). *Bot.* [mod.L. (Linnæus, 1737).] A genus of leguminous trees, shrubs, or plants, characterized by having odd-pinnate leaves and racemose or paniculate flowers, many species of which are cultivated for their ornamental properties; a tree of this genus.

1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl., *Sophora*,..the name given by Linnæus to a genus of plants called by Dillenius..*ervi species.* 1826–7 *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) XVIII. 398/2 This genus [*Edwardsia*] of elegant shrubs has been divided from *Sophora*, from which it is distinguished by its four-winged seed-vessel. 1868 *Rep. U. S. Commissioner Agric.* (1869) 201 The Japan sophora (*Sophora Japonica*), yellow locust (*Robinia pseudacacia*) [etc.]..may be placed in the list of pinnate-foliaged plants. 1883 *Harper's Mag.* Apr. 726/2 The most striking of these is the weeping-sophora, a most graceful..feathery tree, not unlike the locust in form and color of leaf.

Hence **Sopho·ria, Sopho·rine** *Chem.* (see quot. 1881).

1878 *Pharmac. Jrnl.* 29 June 1047 Note on the Alkaloid Sophoria. *Ibid.*, In the present state in which it was obtained sophoria is a transparent liquid having a highly alkaline reaction. 1881 WATTS *Dict. Chem.* 3rd Suppl., *Sophorine*, an alkaloid obtained from the pods of *Sophora speciosa.* It is liquid, and forms a stable chloride.

Sopho-spagyric, *a.* [f. Gr. σοφός wise + SPAGYRIC *a.*] Alchemistic.

1893 (*title*), The Hermetic Museum, Restored and Enlarged: most faithfully Instructing all Disciples of the Sopho-spagyric Art, how..the Philosopher's Stone may be found.

So·phronist. *rare*—[1]. [ad. Gr. σωφρονιστής: see next.] One who seeks to regulate or control.

1904 G. S. HALL *Adolescence* II. 412 Iconoclasm is never better directed than against the literalist, formalist, and sophronist.

So·phronize, *v. rare*—[1]. [ad. Gr. σωφρονίζειν, f. σωφρον-, σώφρων prudent, self-controlled, etc.] *trans.* To imbue with self-control or sound moral principles.

1827 ARNOLD in Stanley *Life & Corr.* (1844) I. 38 Lest I should get the sons of very great people as my pupils whom it is almost impossible to sophronize.

† **So·phumer.** *Obs.*—[1] [f. *sophum* SOPHISM. Cf. SOPHOMING.] = SOPHOMORE 1 a.

1653 GATAKER *Vind. Annot. Jer.* 131 Your Argument..is so sillie, as that not some exq[u]isite Sophister, but any punie Sophumer may at first sight discover the feebleness of it.

Sophy[1] (sō·fi). Now *Hist.* or *arch.* Also 6–7 sophie, 6–9 sophi (7 sofi). [ad. Pers. صفی *çafī* (also صفوی *çafawī*), the surname of the ruling dynasty of Persia from *c* 1500 to 1736, derived from the Arabic epithet *çafī-ud-dīn* 'purity of religion', given to an ancestor of Ismail Safi, the founder of the dynasty. Not related to SUFI, with which it has freq. been associated.]

1. A former title or designation of the supreme ruler of Persia; the Shah. Also *Grand Sophy.*

a. 1539 CROMWELL in Merriman *Life & Lett.* (1902) II. 218 His declaracion was..that the Sophy King of Perse had an oratour with the Turke. 1547 BOORDE *Introd. Knowl.* XXXVII. (1870) 214 The great Turke..hath obtayned the Sophyes lond. 1601 SHAKS. *Twel. N.* II. v. 197, I will not giue my part of this sport for a pension of thousands to be paid from the Sophy. 1667 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 209/2 The Grand Sophy of Persia having observed the Grand Sultan to have his hands fully employed in the Siege of Candia. 1686 tr. *Chardin's Coronat. Solyman* 49–51, I cannot but laugh when I find in their writings the Grand Sophy, the Sophy of Persia, and the Sovereign Sophy. For the Kings of Persia are neither called Sophies in general, nor in particular. 1707 *Curios. in Husb. & Gard.* 216 Revenues, which that Commerce brings into the Treasury of the Sophy. 1762–71 WALPOLE *Vertue's Anecd. Paint.* (1786) II. 113 The Sophy of Persia and his court were extremely surprized at the art of engraving so hard a jewel. 1899 R. WHITEING *5 John St.* 299 The great tent..suggests a State pavilion of the Sophy.

transf. 1865 KINGSLEY *Herew.* ii, Marry the Sophy of Egypt's daughter?

β. 1549 W. THOMAS *Hist. Italie* 108 b, Vsnucassan kyng of Persia (whose successour is nowe called Sophie). 1555 EDEN *Decades* (Arb.) 311 Ismael the Sophi and kynge of Persia. 1600 E. BLOUNT tr. *Conestaggio* 24 The Turke against the Sophi, and the King against the Rebels in Flaunders. 1698 FRYER *Acc. E. India & P.* 301 At Cormoot we met a Lion and a Spotted Deer carrying up as Presents to the Sophi from the Mogul. 1769 ROBERTSON *Chas. V*, XI. Wks. 1851 IV. 456 He had discovered a negociation which had been carried on with the sophi of Persia. 1818 RANKEN *Hist. France* V. II. ii. 285 That ambitious warrior had.. defeated the sophi of Persia. 1837 M. DONOVAN *Dom. Econ.* II. 13 The sophi of Persia, his lords, and some ambassadors.

2. With *a* and pl. A Persian monarch or king.

1606 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. iv. II. *Magnificence* 106 Wert thou a Sophy; yet with Vertue's luster Thou ought'st (at least) thy Greatnesse to illuster. 1636 R. GRIFFIN in *Ann. Dubrensia* (1877) 53 Grave as a Persian Sophie. 1753 *Scots Mag.* Jan. 2/1 The last of the ancient race of Sophys who wore the Persian crown. 1761 *Ann. Reg.* 147 Erivan, the ancient seat of the sophis. 1823 BYRON *Juan* IX. XXXIII, Like Nadir Shah, that costive sophy.

b. *transf.* A ruler; a great person.

1599 NASHE *Lenten Stuffe* (1871) 31 Our redoubtable sophy, of the floating kingdom of Pisces. 1606 DEKKER *News fr. Hell* Wks. (Grosart) II. 95 None but fooles therefore will maruell, how I and this Grand Sophy of the whore of Babylon came to bee so familiar together.

Sophy[2] (sō·fi). Also 5–6 **sophie.** [In sense 1 ad. L. *sophia* SOPHIA[1]. In sense 2 from the second element in *philosophy, theosophy*, etc.]

† **1.** Wisdom, knowledge. *Obs.*

c 1440 CAPGRAVE *Life St. Kath.* V. 1020 It had ben beter to haue kepte the same sophie Whiche þat youre maysteris lerned you first in scole! 1557 GRIMALD in *Tottel's Misc.* (Arb.) 121 Coom fight with mee,..that, in my shield, The seuenfold sophie of Minerue contein. 1588 J. HARVEY *Disc. Probl.* 10 Who knoweth not the difference betweene..semblance, and assurance; docosophy, and sophy?

2. One or other of the various sciences, departments of study, etc.

a 1843 SOUTHEY *Comm.-pl. Bk.* (1851) IV. 578 The various sophy's—cosmosophy, kerdosophy. 1869 *Contemp. Rev.* XI. 456 Moyen..would sometimes utter himself in their particular sophy.

† **So·phy**[3]. *Obs.* [Orig. in pl. *sophies*, f. L. *sophi* SOPHI.] A wise or learned man; a sage.

1587 GOLDING *De Mornay* Pref. (1592) p. viii, Some small sparkes of..wisdome,..the which they haue afterward taught vnto others, and for so doing haue bene called Sophies and Philosophers. 1596 H. CLAPHAM *Briefe Bible* II. 127 These Sophies finde with the Babe Iesus, onely Marie. 1610 G. FLETCHER *Christ's Vict.* I. LXXXII, To see their King, the Kingly Sophies come. 1654 WHITLOCK *Zootomia* 47 It were to be wisht their Ideas..were undisputable among the Sophies themselves in Physick. 1678 BUTLER *Hud.* III. i. 1423 Sir, (quoth the Voice) y'are no such Sophy As you would have the World judge of ye.

b. With the epithet *grand* (after SOPHY[1]).

a 1635 RANDOLPH *Poems* (1652) 3 You that nothing have Like Schollars but a Beard and Gowne, for me May pass for good grand Sophies. 1638 SANDERSON *Serm.* (1681) II. 127 Whereof Plato and Aristotle and all the other grand sophies among them were ignorant. 1688 W. BATES *Harmony Div. Attrib.* (ed. 3) V. 96 The grand Sophies of the World esteemed it absurd and unreasonable [etc.].

c. In disparaging or sarcastic use.

1649 COL. LE STRANGE in *Plume MSS.* (Maldon, Essex), And like those sophies who would drown a fish I am condemn'd to suffer what I wish.

Sopi, obs. variant of SUP *v.*[2]

‖ **So·pie.** [ad. Du. *soopje* (or a. Cape Du. *sopie*) dram, sip, dim. of *zope* (now dial.) SOPE *sb.*] A drink of spirits; a dram.

1696 W. MOUNTAGU *Holland* 38 The common Dutch are satisfied with a sopie of Brandy-Wine. 1810 *Barrington's Voy. N.S.W.* I. 179 He never forgoes the luxury of smoking except to give him time to swallow his sopie, or a glass of strong ardent spirit. 1834 PRINGLE *Afr. Sk.* II. 143 They produced their provisions for supper,..which they seasoned with a moderate sopie, or dram.

Sopient (sō·ʷpiĕnt), *a.* and *sb. Med.* [f. L. *sōpient-*, *sōpiens*, pres. pple. of *sōpīre* SOPITE *v.*] **a.** *adj.* Having a dulling or deadening effect. **b.** *sb.* A soporific (*Cent. Dict.* 1891).

1804 *Med. Jrnl.* XII. 523 By the use of sopient mucilaginous potions..the symptoms greatly diminished.

† **So·pit,** *pa. pple. Sc. Obs.* Also **sopeit.** [app. ad. L. *sōpīt-us*, pa. pple. of *sōpīre* SOPITE *v.*, but

see also SOWP *v.*] Rendered dull or sluggish; sunk *in* sleep, sorrow, etc.

1528 LYNDESAY *Dreme* 998 My hart was wounder sarye, Quhen comoun weill so sopit was in sorrow. 1535 STEWART *Cron. Scot.* II. 228 The Britis all..War sopit so with sensualitie, With gluttony and lichorus appetyte. 1549 *Compl. Scot.* vi. 68, I beand in this sad solitar soune sopit in sleipe. *Ibid.* vii. 68 In my dullit dreyme ande sopit visione.

Sopite (sōupəi·t), *v.* Now *rare.* Also 6 sopyte. [f. L. *sōpīt-*, ppl. stem of *sōpīre* to deprive of sense, render unconscious, put to sleep, etc.]

1. *trans.* To put or lull to sleep; to render drowsy, dull, or inactive. Also *transf.* (with reference to the mental or moral faculties).

1542 BOORDE *Dyetary* ix. (1870) 250 Dyuers tymes some be so sopytyd, that the malt worme playeth the deuyll so fast in the heade [etc.]. 1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.*, *Sopited*, laid to sleep, being at rest. 1697 tr. *Burgersdicius' Logic* II. xxii. 105 You may demonstrate that an animal sleeps because the common sense is sopited or drown'd by vapours. 1740 CHEYNE *Regimen* II These Natural Powers may be sopited,..as we see they are in sound Sleep. 1864 A. LEIGHTON *Myst. Leg. Edinb.* (1886) 203 They could not be heard by reason of their having been 'clean gane', or at least sopited in sweet slumber. 1871 BLACKIE *Four Phases Mor.* i. 58 His knowing faculty was blinded and sopited, dosed and drugged by his passions.

2. To put an end to, to settle (a dispute, question, etc.) in some way. Also, to pass over or suppress (something discreditable).

1628 in Birch *Crt. & Times Chas. I* (1848) I. 451 On Friday last there was a meeting of the bishops..about sopiting, as they term it, the controversies of this present time. 1659 FULLER *Appeal Injured Innoc.* I. 49 Being loath to enlarge on so odious a difference, sopited in good measure. 1722 WODROW *Corr.* (1843) II. 675 It grieves me to hear that the differences betwixt Subscribers and Non-subscribers are, after they seemed to be sopited, breaking out again. 1746 TURNBULL *Justinian* XII. xiii, Certainly there was treason in the case, the infamy of which was sopited by his successors. 1818 SCOTT *Br. Lamm.* xv, If such a union would sopite the heavier part of his unadjusted claims. 1849–50 ALISON *Hist. Europe* (1859) VIII. 14 If any disputes did occur they were in general sopited by a bribe to the Mandarins.

Hence **So·pited** *ppl. a.*, **So·piting** *vbl. sb.*

1646 R. BAILLIE *Anabaptism* (1647) 139 Among many more exploded and sopited errors. 1659 H. L'ESTRANGE *Alliance Div. Off.* 23 A conference should shortly be had for the sopiting and quieting of those disputes. 1818 SCOTT *Br. Lamm.* xviii, The sopiting of a very dangerous claim.

Sopite (sōupəi·t), *pa. pple. rare.* [f. as prec. Cf. SOPIT *pa. pple.*] Put to rest or sleep; settled.

c 1460 *Reg. Oseney* (1907) 205 All playntys and stryfys.. bitwene the foresaide parties..for ever frendely ben i-cesyd or sospite [*sic*].

1784 *Irvine Presbyt. Records* in Dobie *Mem. W. Wilson of Crummock* (1896) 57 [Mr. Gemmel craved his wife might be absolved from her scandal,] seeing it is of ane old date and almost sopite. 1877 BLACKIE *Wise Men* 293 Loveliest flowers, whose seeds long summers there Lay sunless and sopite. 1883 R. W. DIXON *Mano* IV. vi. 153 But when, cut off from sense, in sleep sopite, The soul..takes her own instruments.

† **Sopition.** *Obs. rare.* [f. L. *sōpīt-*, ppl. stem of *sōpīre*: see SOPITE *v.*] The action of putting to sleep, rendering inactive, etc.

1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* V. xxii. 270 But as for dementation, sopition of reason, and the diviner particle from drinke,..Christian morality and the Doctrine of Christ will not allow.

† **Sopitive,** *a. Obs.*—° [ad. med.L. *sōpītīvus.*] 'Causing sleep' (Bailey, 1727, vol. II).

† **So·pless,** *a. Obs. rare*—¹. In 7 **sopelesse.** [f. SOP *sb.*3] Sapless.

1651 SIR W. MURE *Ps.* XXII. xv. Wks. (S.T.S.) II. 88 My moisture as a sopelesse sheard Is quite consum'd and ceast.

Sopor (sōu·pǫr). Also 7 **sopour.** [a. L. *sopor* deep sleep, lethargy, related to *somnus* sleep.]

1. A deep, lethargic, or unnatural sleep or state of sleep. In later use *Path.*

1675 R. BURTHOGGE *Causa Dei* 22 Having drunk there their Fill, Benummed with a Mortal Sopor, and consequently Irrecoverably losing and forgetting All they did. 1681 H. MORE *Exp. Dan.* iii. 77 My Spirits retiring as in those that are in a deep Sopor, as if they were half dead. 1707 FLOYER *Physic. Pulse-Watch* 107 When the Pulse becomes more frequent, it turns to a..Sincope; when more rare, to a Sopor or Convulsion. 1720 DE FOE *D. Campbell* 274 Sennertus, in his *Institutio Medica*, writes of the Daemoniacal Sopor of Witches. 1803 *Med. Jrnl.* X. 437 Violent gripings, lassitude, stupor and sopor, which continued a whole day. 1843 R. J. GRAVES *Syst. Clin. Med.* v. 71 The patient was in such a profound sopor, that apparently nothing but warmth remained to indicate that life had not already become extinct. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VII. 282 The sopor deepened until the death of the patient.

† 2. *fig.* A state of mental or moral lethargy or deadness. *Obs.*

1658 BP. REYNOLDS *Van. Creat.* Wks. (1677) 45, I found that that was but a sopor, a benumb'dness, which was in my apprehension a death of sin. 1681 H. MORE *Exp. Dan.* App. III. 311 Into how deep a sopor therefore or lethargy is their wit and judgment cast? 1693 R. FLEMING *Fulfilling Script.* (1801) App. I. 439 That spiritual sopor and stupidity which hath seized on others.

† **So·poral,** *a. Obs. rare.* [f. L. *sopor* SOPOR.] 1. = CABOTID *a.* 1. (Cf. SOPORIFIC *a.* 1 d.)

1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), *Soporal Arteries*,..the Carotid Arteries, so call'd because if they be tied, they immediately incline the Person to Sleep. (Copying Blancard *Phys. Dict.* (1693) s.v. *Carotidis.*]

2. Of or pertaining to sleep.

1719 BAYNARD *Health* (1740) 27 When all the faculties of th' mind Are to their (soporal) cells confin'd.

† **So·porate,** *v. Obs.* [f. L. *sopōrāt-*, ppl. stem of *sopōrāre* to put asleep, lull, stupefy, etc., f. *sopor* sleep.] *trans.* To put to sleep; to dull, stupefy.

1623 COCKERAM I, *Soporate*, to bring asleepe. 1657 TOMLINSON *Renou's Disp.* 199 [Frontals] indeed are very expetible which..gently soporate the senses, and roborate the brain. 1678 CUDWORTH *Intell. Syst.* 795 The Soul seeming not to be Thoroughly Awake here, but as it were Soporated, with the..Opiatick Vapours of this gross Body.

Hence **So·porated** *ppl. a.*

1684 tr. *Bonet's Merc. Compit.* VI. 199 And especially soporated Patients awake upon taking a Vomit.

† **Sopora·tion.** *Obs. rare.* [ad. late L. *sopōrātiōn-em*, noun of action f. *sopōrāre.*] A putting or lulling to sleep.

?*a* 1500 *Creacion of Eve* 12 in *Non-Cycle Myst. Plays* (1909) 8 To assyst us..A slepe in to man be soporacion to sende. 1658 in PHILLIPS.

† **Soporative,** *a.* and *sb. Obs.* [f. L. *sopōrāt-*, ppl. stem of *sopōrāre* to SOPORATE. Cf. F. *soporatif, -ive* (Godef.).] = SOPORIFIC *a.* and *sb.*

1628 GAULE *Pract. The.* (1629) 294 Such Potions (whether inebriatiue, soporatiue, or stupefying) may be..administred. 1707 *Curios. in Husb. & Gard.* 256 A Narcotick and Soporative Virtue. 1770 LANGHORNE *Plutarch* (1879) I. 275/2 The debauch threw him into violent pain; to allay which, he asked for a soporative.

Soporiferous (sōupŏri·fĕrəs, sǫp-), *a.* Now *rare.* [f. L. *sopōrifer* (f. *sopor* sleep + *-fer* bearing): see -FEROUS. Cf. F. *soporifère*, Sp., Pg., It. *soporifero.*]

† 1. Of a disease, morbid state, etc.: Characterized by unnatural or excessive sleep; soporose; lethargic. *Obs.*

1590 BARROUGH *Meth. Physick* I. xvii. (1639) 26 Losse of memory..is caused of the Lethargy and other soporiferous diseases. 1597 A. M. tr. *Guillemeau's Fr. Chirurg.* 35 b/1 Shee is as if she hadde the soporiferouse dissease, without all strength, clene layed a-longe. 1681 H. MORE *Exp. Dan.* V. 141 It made him fall down into a soporiferous swound.

† b. Affected with numbness or 'sleep'. *Obs.*—1

1599 A. M. tr. *Gabelhouer's Bk. Physicke* 209 Bath beerwith oftentimes the soporiferous loyncte.

2. a. = SOPORIFIC *a.* 1 a.

1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* II. 113 That venomous creature, which by a soporiferous power that it hath..casteth a man into a deadly sleep. 1657 FULLER *Comm. Jonah* (1868) 202 Supposing there was some opium or soporiferous virtue therein. 1710 T. FULLER *Pharm. Extemp.* 408 The whole Body of Physicians hath..attributed to this Plant [*sc.* hounds-tongue] a soporiferous Quality. 1767 J. PENN *Sleepy Serm.* 7 The preacher who delivers himself in such a spiritless, soporiferous manner. 1803 in *Spirit Public Jrnls.* VII. 360 The soporiferous and sudorific properties of this truly inestimable opiate. 1825 SCOTT *Talism.* viii, The invalid,..resisting no longer the soporiferous operation of the elixir, sunk down in a gentle sleep.

b. = SOPORIFIC *a.* 1 b. ? *Obs.* (Common in the 17th c.)

1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* II. 112 Halicacabus..is more soporiferous than Opium, and sooner casteth a man into a dead sleepe. 1626 BACON *Sylva* § 96 Soporiferous Medecines applyed unto them, provoke sleep. 1678 GALE *Crt. Gentiles* IV. III. 91 Some soporiferous stupifying wine, or potion, or medicine, which being given to a man, or sprinkled on him, casts him into a deep sleep. 1732 ARBUTHNOT *Rules of Diet in Aliments*, etc. 315 The Air perfum'd with the Smell of Soporiferous Plants, as Poppies. 1785 ARNOT *Crim. Trials* 143 They also applied to Kennedy for intoxicating or soporiferous draughts.

fig. 1664 H. MORE *Myst. Iniq.* XX. 75 A lusty draught of that Soporiferous potion that will make him repose himself wholly on the faith of his Priest. 1711 *Vind. Sacheverell* 17 Soporiferous Draughts of Moderation.

c. = SOPORIFIC *a.* 1 c.

1694 MOTTEUX *Rabelais* V. (1737) Prol. p. lvii, Books.. dull, soporiferous.

† 3. = SOPORIFIC *a.* 3.

1602 MIDDLETON *Phœnix* III. i. 7 Hark, you sluggish soporiferous villains! 1624 R. SKYNNER in *Ussher's Lett.* (1686) 349 Awake you sleepers from your sleep, and ye soporiferous sluggards, arise from your drowsiness.

Hence **Sopori·ferously** *adv.* (Webster, 1847); **Sopori·ferousness,** the state or quality of being soporiferous; sleepy or lethargic condition.

1597 A. M. tr. *Guillemeau's Fr. Chirurg.* 29 b/1 This vayne is opened agaynst the soporiferousnes and payne in the foreheade. 1727 BAILEY (vol. II), *Soporiferousness*, Sleep-causing Quality. 1838 *Blackw. Mag.* XLIV. 639 A sort of soporiferousness laid hold of me. 1888 *Harper's Mag.* Aug. 343 The very air seems inimical to thought; it is heavy with soporiferousness.

Soporific (sōupŏri·fik, sǫp-), *a.* and *sb.* [f. L. type **sopōrific-us* (f. *sopor* sleep: see -FIC), = F. *soporifique* (1687), Sp., Pg., It. *soporifico.*]

A. *adj.* 1. Inducing or tending to induce sleep; causing a person to sleep or slumber.

a. Of qualities, etc. (Cf. SOPORIFEROUS *a.* 2 a.)

1690 LOCKE *Hum. Underst.* II. xxiii. § 8 The colour and taste of opium,..as well as its soporific or anodyne virtues. 1763 C. JOHNSTON *Reverie* II. II. i. 149 A phlegm,..which here seemed to have extended its soporifick influence over all present. 1765 GOLDSM. *New Simile* 38 Its soporific virtue's such, Though ne'er so much awake before, That quickly they begin to snore. 1848 DICKENS *Dombey* xi, Coaxed to sleep by the soporific agency of sweetbreads. 1879 MCCARTHY *Own Times* XXVII. II. 297 Most of those who tried to listen found the soporific influence irresistible.

b. Of medicaments, drugs, etc. (Cf. SOPORIFEROUS *a.* 2 b.)

1775 ADAIR *Amer. Ind.* 173 *note*, He acquiesced because of the soporific dose I gave him. 1828 SCOTT *F. M. Perth* XV, He began to experience the incipient effects of his soporific draught. 1832 BREWSTER *Nat. Magic* i. 3 The influence of drugs and soporific embrocations on the human frame. 1883 *Law Reports* 11 Q. B. D. 588 Charged..with having unlawfully administered soporific drugs to the plaintiff's servants.

c. Of books, writings, talk, etc., or of persons in respect of these.

1727 SOMERVILLE *Fortune Hunter* iv. Poems (1810) 222 Hibernian matrons thus of old, Their soporific stories told. 1760 FOOTE *Minor* I. i, The soporific twang of the tabernacle of Tottenham court road. 1822 BYRON *Juan* VIII. lxxxix, To quote Too much of one sort would be soporific. 1856 R. A. VAUGHAN *Mystics* (1860) I. 108 Dionysius in the East, then, is soporific. 1870 R. W. DALE *Week-day Serm.* viii. 155 Soporific talk begins to flow.

d. In other contexts.

With quot. 1822–7 cf. SOPORAL *a.* 1.

1822–7 GOOD *Study Med.* (1829) I. 546 Hence the name of carotids, or soporific vessels,..was given to the arteries, whose ligature was supposed to produce this very singular result. 1834 SOUTHEY *Doctor* I, I thought of all sleepy sounds, and all soporific things. 1856 R. A. VAUGHAN *Mystics* (1860) I. 69 She lifts the lid, and there steals out a soporific vapour.

2. Of the nature of, characterized by, belonging to, sleep or sleepiness.

1754 *Gray's Inn Jrnl.* No. 76, That soporific Awe, with which they behold Personages of this Cast. 1755 H. WALPOLE *Lett.* (1846) III. 136, I must own I see no blame in thinking an active age more agreeable to live in, than a soporific one. 1896 J. LAMB *Ann. West Kilbride* vi. 161 The soporific tendencies of..a portion of the congregation.

3. Of persons: Drowsy, sleepy, somnolent; = SOPORIFEROUS 3.

1841 CAROLINE FOX *Old Friends* (1882) 64 In vain did the soporific Transcendentalist demand the reason; he was to dress first and know after.

B. *sb.* 1. A substance, esp. a medicament, which induces sleep.

1722–7 BOYER *Dict. Royal* I, *Un soporatif*, a soporifick. *a* 1746 HOLDSWORTH *Rem. Virgil* (1768) 47 A strong medicine; and, in particular, a strong soporific. 1752 HUME *Ess. & Treat.* (1777) II. 63 Nor has rhubarb always proved a purge, or opium a soporific. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 259 Soporifics (Anodynes; Narcotics). 1896 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* I. 242 The use of soporifics is limited by the extent of their other pharmacological effects.

transf. and *fig.* 1811 MISS L. M. HAWKINS *C'tess & Gertr.* I. Introd., That soporific of houshold care, called 'board-wages'. 1821 LAMB *Elia* Ser. I. *Imperf. Sympathies*, The question operated as a soporific on my moral feeling.

2. A sleepy or somnolent person. *rare.*

1808 W. WILSON *Hist. Diss. Ch.* II. 92 This zealous writer forgot that every charge which he brought against Mr. Pike and his five soporifics, falls with additional weight on himself.

Hence **Sopori·fical** *a.*, **Sopori·fically** *adv.*

1807–8 W. IRVING *Salmag.* (1824) 138 Another gentleman ..proses away most soporifically. 1837 *New Monthly Mag.* LI. 365 We are becoming anatomical and soporifical.

Soporose (sōu·pŏrōu·s, sǫp-), *a. Med.* [f. L. *sopor* sleep + -OSE 1.] Of diseases, states, etc.: Marked or characterized by morbid sleep or stupor.

1710 T. FULLER *Pharm. Extemp.* 39 The Spirits being oppress'd grow Stupid and Sluggish, as in Soporose Cases. *Ibid.* 352 Shave the Head, and apply it all over in Soporose Distempers. 1825 *Ann. Reg.* 242* She lay in a soporose state, deprived of all sense and power of motion. 1822–7 GOOD *Study Med.* (1829) II. 129 It is chiefly to be found united with syncopal and soporose affections. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VII. 282 Soporose hysteria might have been diagnosed.

So·porous, *a.* Now *rare.* [f. as prec. + -OUS, or ad. F. *soporeux, -euse.* Cf. also L. *sopōrus.*]

1. = SOPOROSE *a.* ? *Obs.*

1684 tr. *Bonet's Merc. Compit.* I. 23 It is an excellent tart Water, much to be desired in all..Soporous cases. *a* 1691 BAXTER in *Reliq. B.* (1696) I. II. 199, I was then under.. Soporous or Scotomatical Illness of my Head. 1707 FLOYER *Physic. Pulse-Watch* 193 In Apoplexies, Palsies, and soporous Affections, the Spirits are oppress'd. 1730 *Phil. Trans.* XXXVI. 352 Soporous and cataleptick Diseases. 1762 *Ibid.* LII. 454, I..found him in the same soporous, apoplectic state.

2. Soporific; sleep-bringing.

1866 [SHANKS] *Elgin* 55 They may now resign themselves to the soporous sheets without a shudder.

Sopose, obs. form of SUPPOSE *v.*

Sopped (sǫpt), *ppl. a.* [f. SOP *v.* + -ED 1.] Soaked or steeped in some liquid; saturated or drenched with water or rain.

1822–7 GOOD *Study Med.* (1829) I. 187 A single morsel of sopped biscuit. 1824 MISS MITFORD *Village* Ser. I. (1863) 178 Talking alternately..of lost matches and sopped hay. 1897 MARY KINGSLEY *W. Africa* 81 The captain offered him suits of his own clothes to change his sopped ones for.

So·pper. *rare.* [f. SOP *v.*] One who sops.

1611 COTGR., *Souppier*, a sopper, or browis-belly; one that is euer dipping his bread in the beefe-pot. 1648 HEXHAM II, *Een Zopper*..., a Sopper. 1755 JOHNSON, *Sopper*, one that steeps any thing in liquor.

Sopper, obs. variant of SUPPER.

So·ppet. *rare*—¹. In 7 **soppitt.** [Diminutive of SOP *sb.*1] A little sop; a sippet.

1664 in *Maitl. Cl. Misc.* (1840) II. 520 For bread at dinner to be soppittis.

Soppiness (sǫ·pinės). [f. SOPPY *a.*] The state or condition of being soppy; wetness.

1895 *Daily News* 25 Feb. 6/7 The heavy frosts and gradual thaw had brought the grounds to a condition of absolute soppiness. 1899 *Played on* 38, I thought you would like to order the carriage at once, and get out of all this soppiness.

Sopping (sǫ·pĭŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. Sop *v.*] The action of the vb. in various senses; a thorough soaking or wetting.

1532 More *Confut. Tindale* Wks. 687/2 By bibbing, & sipping, & sopping, & quaffing. 1633 W. Ames *Fresh Suite* II. 37 Sopping of bread in wine..was no signe instituted as an instrument of grace. 1675 H. Woolley *Gentlew. Compan.* 71 Be not over-forward in dipping or sopping in the dish. 1824 Miss Mitford *Village* Ser. I. (1863) 159 The whole story of the sopping, the drying, the clothes-spoiling. 1888 H. R. Reynolds in *Life* xvii. (1898) 414 The delightful rambles and soppings and jolly evening symposia.

So·pping, *ppl. a.* [f. as prec.] Soaking; drenched; saturated with water or rain.

1877 W. S. Gilbert *Foggerty's Fairy* (1892) 182 Two sopping females have quartered themselves on two dry bachelors. 1886 J. Ashby-Sterry *Lazy Minstrel* (1892) 78 The sopping sky is leaden grey.

b. Quasi-*adv.*, as *sopping sad, wet.*

Freq. in recent use: cf. WFlem. *soppende nat.*

1866 R. R. Bealey *Poems, Mally* 30 An' then turn'd soppin sad. 1897 Mrs. C. Carr *Cottage Folk* 144 Why's your feet soppin' wet?

Soppy (sǫ·pi), *a.* [f. Sop *sb.*[1] or *v.* + -y.]

†**1.** Full of or containing sops. *Obs.*–°

1611 Cotgr., *Offeux*, ..Soppie; or full of lumpes, or gobbets.

2. Soaked or saturated with water or rain; soft or thoroughly wet with moisture; drenched, sodden.

a. Of land, grass, etc.

1823 E. Moor *Suffolk Words, Soppy*, wet, boggy, swampy; applied to land. 1850 Dickens *Dav. Copp.* iii, It [Yarmouth] looked rather spongey and soppy, I thought, as I carried my eye over the great dull waste. 1889 Jessopp *Coming of Friars* v. 211 The level of the street..is in some cases five or six feet below the soppy sod..within the old enclosures.

b. Of things.

1859 R. F. Burton *Centr. Afr.* in *Jrnl. Geogr. Soc.* XXIX. 78 Clothes feel limp and damp, paper—soft and soppy by the loss of glazing—acts as a blotter. 1892 'Merriman' *Slave of Lamp* xix, His..dress-clothes were clinging to him with a soppy hindrance.

3. Of the season or weather: Very wet or rainy.

1872 R. Heath in *Golden Hours* 22 May be..; as it 's been so soppy, there'll be some [trout] catched to-day. 1891 *Cent. Dict.* s.v., A soppy day.

4. Sloppy, slovenly.

1899 *Daily News* 12 Jan. 2/1 They may learn the fact, not in any of your foolish, soppy, theoretical ways, but in a hard, practical manner.

Soppy, obs. form of Sop *v.*

†**Sopraguard.** *Obs. rare.* [ad. It. *sopraguardia*, f. *sopra* above + *guardia* guard.] The chief guard of a camp, army, etc., or a member of this.

1591 *Garrard's Art Warre* 76 When the sopraguardes be many and of sundrie nations.

Sopranist (sǫprā·nist). [f. Sopran-o + -ist.] A soprano singer. Also *attrib.*

1864 *Reader* 6 Feb. 179/3 A French paper mentions a M. Bollaert, a sopranist, as singing at a concert in Paris. 1883 *Grove's Dict. Mus.* III. 461 One of the most famous of the *sopranist* singers who flourished in the last century.

Soprano (sǫprā·no), *sb.* (and *a.*). *Mus.* Pl. **sopranos,** also **soprani.** [a. It. *soprano*, f. *sopra* above.]

1. The highest singing voice in women and boys, having a compass from about middle C to two octaves above it; the quality or range of this voice.

1730 [see 3]. 1774 'J. Collier' *Mus. Trav.* (1776) 32 He could not sing only bass and treble,..and soprano to admiration; but also squeak like a pig. 1854 *Orr's Circ. Sci., Org. Nat.* I. 132 It is not yet clearly understood what is the cause of the different qualities of voice, as exhibited in the tenor and bass, and the contralto and soprano. 1899 E. E. Hale *Lowell & His Friends* vi. 76 Then a clear soprano or tenor would be heard.

b. A part for or sung by such a voice.

1801 Busby *Dict. Mus., Soprano*, the treble or higher voice part, or parts.

2. A singer having a soprano voice; one who sings the soprano part.

1738 Chesterf. in *Misc. Wks.* (1777) I. 81 *Sopranos* being the objects of the attention, and raptures of the ladies. 1817 Byron *Beppo* xxxii, Soprano, basso, even the contra-alto, Wish'd him five fathom under the Rialto. 1834 Beckford *Italy* II. 31 Little madam whisks about the Botanic Garden with..a troop of sopranos. 1883 *Grove's Dict. Mus.* III. 635 Many mezzo-soprani can sing higher notes than many soprani. 1892 E. Reeves *Homeward Bound* 187 He..is a dark-haired, stout, youthful-looking male soprano.

3. *attrib.* or as *adj.* **a.** Of persons: Having a soprano voice; singing a soprano part.

1730 Owen Swiny in Colmon *Posth. Lett.* (1820) 25 We must provide a Soprano Man and a Contrealt Woman. 1854 *Orr's Circ. Sci., Org. Nat.* I. 132 The contralto not unfrequently sings the high notes like soprano singers. 1873 H. C. Banister *Music* 217 Solo Tenor and Soprano singers will exceed the altitude here specified.

b. *transf.* Of certain musical instruments, as *soprano cornet, trombone:*

1856 Berlioz *Instrum.* 151 The Soprano Trombone..exists still in some parts of Germany.

4. Of or belonging to the soprano.

Soprano clef, the C-clef upon the first line of the treble stave.

1801 Busby *Dict. Mus.* Introd. p. xxiii, The Soprano-cliff is used for the second class of the higher species of voice. 1833 Wiseman in W. Ward *Life* I. v, Possessing a strong soprano voice up to A, and sometimes C. 1845 E. Holmes *Mozart* 166 The soprano solo was doubtless intended for the Weber. 1883 *Grove's Dict. Mus.* III. 635 That part of the scale upon which even a limited soprano part is written. 1883 *Harper's Mag.* Mar. 551/1 The far-off soprano strains ..become triumphant.

‖ **Sopra-vest.** *rare*–[1]. [ad. It. *sopravesta* or *-veste*, = Sp. *sobrevesta.*] = Sobre-vest.

1838 Prescott *Ferd. & Is.* I. xi, A sopra-vest of the same materials concealed his cuirass.

Sops-in-wine. Also 8 **sopsy-wine,** 9 **sops of wine.** [See Sop *sb.*[1] 1 c. Cf. F. *soupe en vin*, a reddish colour; † the plant lucerne (Cotgr.).]

†**1.** The clove-pink or gillyflower. *Obs.*

1573 Tusser *Husb.* (1878) 96 Herbes, branches, and flowers for windowes and pots...Sops in wine. 1579 Spenser *Sheph. Cal.* May 14 With Hawthorne buds, and swete Eglantine, And girlonds of roses and Sopps in wine. 1594 Barnfield *Affect. Sheph.* (Arb.) 10 The Rose, and speckled flowre cald Sops in wine. 1605 Sylvester *Du Bartas* II. iii. 1. *Vocation* 18 Som July-flowr, or som sweet Sops-in-wine. 1625 B. Jonson *Pan's Anniv.*, Pinks, goulands, king-cups, and sweet sops-in-wine.

2. A variety of apple.

1764 *Museum Rust.* II. x. 37 An apple of very deep red, by some called sopsy-wine, *quasi* sopped in wine. 1860 R. Hogg *Fruit Manual* 25 Sops in Wine... Skin crimson in the shade, stained and striped with purplish crimson next the sun. 1879 Burroughs *Locusts & Wild Honey* 11 Bees.. will suck themselves tipsy upon varieties like the sops-of-wine.

Sopun, obs. pa. pple. Sup *v.*[1]

Sopy, obs. form of Soapy *a.*

Sora (sō·rä). Also 8 **saurer,** 8–9 **soree.** [prob. a native name.] The Carolina rail (*Porzana carolina*). Also *attrib.* with *gallinule, rail.*

a. 1705 R. Beverley *Virginia* II. vi. (1722) 135 Cranes, Curlews, Herons, Snipes, Woodcocks, Saurers, Ox-eyes, Plover, Larks. 1731 *Phil. Trans.* XXXVII. 175 The Soreè. This Bird is in Virginia as much in Request for the Delicacy of its Flesh, as the Ortulan in Europe. 1785 Latham *Gen. Synop. Birds* III. I. 262 Soree Gallinule, *Rallus Carolinus.* 1824 Stephens in *Shaw's Gen. Zool.* XII. I. 208 Soree Rail.

β. 1809 A. Wilson in *Poems & Lit. Prose* (1876) I. 172 The Sora was in multitudes at Detroit. 1812 — *Amer. Ornith.* VI. 28 The Rail or Sora belongs to a genus of birds of which about thirty different species are enumerated by naturalists. 1839 Audubon *Ornith. Biog.* V. 572 Sora Rail, *Rallus Carolinus.* 1872 Coues *N. Amer. Birds* 273 *Porzana.* Carolina Rail. Common Rail. Sora. 'Ortolan.'

Sorabe: see next and Sorb [2].

Sorabian (sŏrē·biăn), *a.* and *sb.* [f. med.L. *Sorabi*: see Sorb [2].] **a.** *adj.* Of or belonging to the Slavonic race formerly dominant in Saxony; Sorbian. **b.** *sb.* A Sorb; the Sorbian language.

1788 Gibbon *Decl. & F.* lv. V. 544 *note*, Sclavonian captives, not of the Bohemian.., but of Sorabian race. 1851 J. Kennedy *Nat. Hist. Man* I. 39 The western stem of the Slavonians is composed of the Bohemians, the Poles, the Slovaks, and the Sorabians. 1862 Latham *Compar. Philol.* 629 The Sorb, Serb, or Sorabian of Lusatia,..intermediate to the Bohemian and the Polish.

So·rage. *Obs.* exc. *arch.* Also 5 **sore aage,** 7 **soreage;** 6– **soarage.** [a. OF. *sorage* (Godefroy; mod.F. *saurage*), f. *sore* Sore *a.*[2] + -age (in some instances taken as Age *sb.*).] The first year of a hawk. Also *attrib.*

?*a* 1400 in Harting *Perfect Bk. Keping of Sparhawkes* (1886) Introd. p. ix, Carry your hauk much, especially in her sorage. 1486 *Bk. St. Albans* a vij b, A Goshawke nor a tercell in thare sore aage haue nott thare mayles named. *Ibid.* b j b, That first yere is calde hir sore aage. 1575 Turberv. *Faulconrie* 64 There are sundrie of them good in their soarage but beyng once mewed prove nothing worthe. 1620 Quarles *Feast of Wormes* (1638) 4 Expect no lofty Hagard,..If in her downy Soreage, she but ruffe So strong a Dove, may it be thought enough. 1684 R. H. *Sch. of Recreat.* 78 And as the Age of these Hawks is, so we name them, as, The first year a Soarage. 1688 Holme *Armoury* II. 236/2 A Soar Hawk..is called also a Sorage Hawk. [1852 R. F. Burton *Falconry Valley Indus* iv. 41 *note*, It becomes..a 'soar-hawk,' or 'soarage' when it has begun to prey for itself.]

Soral (sō·răl), *a. Bot.* [f. Sor-us + -al.] Of or pertaining to the sori of ferns.

1892 *Athenæum* 12 Nov. 667/3 Showing development of prothalli by soral apospory.

†**Sorance.** *Obs.* Also 6 **soraunce,** 7–8 **sorrance,** 7 **soarrance.** [f. Sore *a.*[1] + -ance, prob. after Grievance 4.] A sore, or a morbid state producing a sore, in an animal, esp. in a horse.

1523 Fitzherb. *Husb.* § 6 If any sorance come to the horse..than he is lyttell worthe. *Ibid.* § 89 The hawe is a sorance in a horse eye. 1577 B. Googe *Heresbach's Husb.* III. (1586) 123 A soraunce breeding about the ioyntes. 1610 Markham *Masterp.* (title-p.), The curing of all maner of diseases or sorrances in horses. *Ibid.* II. cviii. 390 The maltlong..is a cankerous soarrance aboue the hoofe. 1655 Thetford *Perf. Horseman* 15 Incurable deformities, gross sorrances, as Spavens, Ringbones,..or the like. *c* 1720 W. Gibson *Farrier's Guide* II. xxi. (1738) 69 When the Sorance is but in one Eye, it [*sc.* the bandage] ought to reach to the Middle of his Nose. 1749 W. Ellis *Shep. Guide* 328 These things will afflict them with the nauseous Sorrance.

b. Used with reference to persons. *rare.*

1592 West *1st Pt. Symbol.* § 102 Al maner of diseases, griefes and sorances wherewith the said H is now infected. 1601 Holland *Pliny* I. 155 Seldome or neuer complaine they of any sorance in other parts of the body.

c. *fig.* A painful matter; a grievance.

1608 Heywood tr. *Sallust* 35 Their prestinat prerogatives brought passed sorances to remembrance.

Sorb [1] (sǭrb). [a. F. *sorbe*, or ad. L. *sorbum* service-berry, *sorbus* service-tree. Cf. Serve *sb.*[1] So Du. and Flem. *sorbe*, obs. G. *sorbe, sorb.*]

1. The fruit of the service-tree (*Pyrus domestica*); a service-berry.

1530 Palsgr. 272/2 Sorbe, a kynde of frute, *sorbe.* 1555 Eden *Decades* II. I. (Arb.) 110 A certeyne sweetnes myxt with a gentell sharpnes as haue the frutes cauled Sorbes. 1658 Phillips, *Sorb*, a kinde of fruit, called a Service. 1853 Soyer *Pantropheon* 305 Several other kinds of fruits, such as sorbs, medlars, and mulberries. 1889 *Edin. Rev.* Apr. 472 Her native fruits were merely nuts and poor berries, masts, sorbs, and crabs.

2. a. The service-tree (*Pyrus domestica*).

1555 Eden *Decades* II. I. (Arb.) 110 *note*, Sorbes are cauled in french cormier; they grow not in Englande. 1707 Mortimer *Husb.* 357 The Quick Beam or wild Sorb, by some called the Irish Ash. 1796 Withering *Brit. Plants* (ed. 3) II. 460 True Service, or Sorb. 1845 Browning *Englishman in Italy* 138 [To] strip from the sorbs A treasure so rosy and wondrous, Of hairy gold orbs!

b. = Service [2] 3, Service-tree 2.

1777 Jacob *Cat. Plants* 69 *Cratægus torminalis*, the common or wild Service-tree, or Sorb. 1796 Withering *Brit. Plants* (ed. 3) II. 458 Wild Service-tree, or Sorb.

c. The rowan-tree; = Service-tree 3.

1796 W. H. Marshall *W. England* II. 30 The Birch, the Mountain Sorb, and the Larch, if judiciously propagated, would flourish..on the bleakest exposures. 1799 W. Nicol *Pract. Planter* 18 The Mountain Ash, or Sorb, would exuberate here, and assist in nursing the Oak [etc.].

3. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *sorb-leaved* adj., *sorb-tree.*

1548 Turner *Names Herbes* 75 Thys tree maye be called in englishe a sorb tree; and the fruite a sorb Appel. 1789 J. Pilkington *View Derbysh.* I. 405 *Sorbus domestica.* True Service, or Sorb-tree. 1845 *Florist Jrnl.* 156 The sorb-leaved spirea is well known as an inhabitant of shrubberies. 1849 J. A. Carlyle tr. *Dante's Inf.* xv, Amongst the tart sorb-trees, it befits not the sweet fig to fructify.

Sorb [2] (sǭrb). Also **Sorbe.** [ad. G. *Sorbe*, var. of *Serbe*, representing the national designation *Serb* (pl. *Serbjo*): cf. Serb.

The *o* may be due to the influence of med.L. *Sorabi*: see Sorabian.]

1. A member of the Slavonic race inhabiting Lusatia in the east of Saxony; a Wend.

1843 *Penny Cycl.* XXVI. 206/1 Sorbes or Sorabes, between the rivers Saale and Elbe. 1883 Morfill *Slavonic Lit.* x. 248 The term is still applied to the Sorbs and the Slovenes. 1886 *Encycl. Brit.* XXI. 353/1 The Sorbs had been reduced to a condition of miserable serfdom.

2. The language spoken by this race.

1862 [see Sorabian]. 1887 *Encycl. Brit.* XXII. 147/2 Thus Chekh, Polish, Lower Sorb, *ten*; Upper Sorbish, *ton.*

Sorb-apple. [ad. G. *sorbapfel* (older LG. and Flem. *sorbappel*): see Sorb [1].] The fruit of the service-tree, or the tree itself.

1548 [see Sorb [1] 3]. 1562 Turner *Herbal* II. 143 The sorb appel is very pleasant to be eaten vntill it be rotten. 1578 Lyte *Dodoens* 727 Sorbe Apples or Service beries are much lyke to Medlers. 1611 Cotgr., *Corme*, the Seruice, or Sorb-apple. 1666 J. Davies tr. *Rochefort's Caribby Isles* 35 It tastes like a Sorb-apple. 1725 *Fam. Dict.* s.v. *Service*, There are also two sorts of Sorb-Apples. 1796 H. Hunter *St.-Pierre's Stud. Nat.* (1799) I. 243 The scarlet clusters of the sorb-apple. 1796 C. Marshall *Gardening* xvii. (1813) 287 Service, (sweet) or sorb apple, is rarely cultivated for fruit.

attrib. 1578 Lyte *Dodoens* 727 The tree wherupon this fruite groweth is called..in Englishe, Sorbe Apple tree. 1611 Cotgr., *Cormier*, the Seruice tree, Sorb-apple tree.

Sorbate (sǭ·ibēt). *Chem.* [See Sorbic *a.* and -ate [1] c.] (See quot. 1823.)

1823 Crabb *Technol. Dict., Sorbate*, a salt formed by the union of sorbic acid with some base. 1860 Hofmann in *Q. Jrnl. Chem. Soc.* XII. 47 Sorbate of silver. 1862 Miller *Elem. Chem., Org.* (ed. 2) v. § 4. 411 The sorbates of potash and soda are very soluble, and crystallize with difficulty. 1868 Watts *Dict. Chem.* V. 352 Sorbate of Ammonium crystallises in long needles.

Sorbefacient (sǭibfē·ʃĕnt), *a.* and *sb.* [f. L. *sorbē-re* to absorb + -facient.] **a.** *adj.* Causing or promoting absorption. **b.** *sb.* A substance or preparation causing absorption.

1847 in Webster. 1866 A. Flint *Princ. Med.* (1880) 138 Remedies which have been supposed to act as sorbefacients are mercury and iodine.

Sorbet (sǭ·ibĕt). Also 8 **sorbette.** [a. F. *sorbet* (Sp. *sorbete*, Pg. *sorvete*), ad. It. *sorbetto*, ad. Turk. *sherbet* (see Sherbet), perh. influenced by It. *sorbire* to imbibe. So Du. and Flem. *sorbet*, G. *sorbet*(*t*.]

1. = Sherbet.

1585 T. Washington tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* III. x, Of the beurage which they do cal Sorbet, they do much vse to drinke in the sommer. [1613 *Haga at Constantinople* 5 Each of the Bassas, and the Ambassadour dranke Sorbetta, ..which is a kinde of drinke made of Water, Suger, and iuyce of Lemonds, mixed with Amber and Muske.] 1682 Wheler *Journ. Greece* II. 204 Their most ordinary Drink is Water; next, a Sorbet made of Raisins steeped in Water. 1766 Smollett *Trav.* xix. I. 308 Among the refreshments of these warm countries, I ought not to forget mentioning the sorbettes. 1805 *Ann. Rev.* III. 61 Coffee, chocolate, ices, and sorbets are offered beneath the pavilions of the terras,

1834 BECKFORD *Italy* I. 117 They resorted to drink coffee and sorbet, with laughter and merriment. 1844 tr. *M. T. Asmar's Mem. Babylonian Princ.* II. 27 After some moments spent in mutual civilities, sorbets were served.

2. A variety of sweetmeat or ice.

1864 *Daily Telegr.* 27 Sept., The *menu*..meandered gracefully through fish, flesh, fowl, and truffles, and finally melted away into sorbets. 1885 MABEL COLLINS *Prettiest Woman* v, The sorbets are delicious sweets of almonds, pistachio, chocolate, or coffee.

Sorbian (sɔ̄·ɪbiăn), *a.* and *sb.* [f. SORB [2].] = SORABIAN *a.* and *sb.*

1836 *Popular Encycl.* VI. I. 138/1 The Sorbians, after 640, settled in the territory deserted by the Hermunduri. *Ibid.* 140/1 The Sorbians, or Wends, in Lusatia.

Sorbic (sɔ̄·ɪbik), *a. Chem.* [f. SORB [1] + -IC.] Contained in, derived from, the berries of the mountain-ash, *Sorbus* (now *Pyrus*) *aucuparia*. Chiefly in *sorbic acid*.

1815 DONOVAN in *Phil. Trans.* I. 243 Until a better name be devised, I have called it the Sorbic Acid. 1819 CHILDREN *Chem. Anal.* 278 Sorbic acid exists in the *sorbus aucuparia*; it is a transparent, colourless, inodorous fluid. 1860 HOFMANN in *Q. Jrnl. Chem. Soc.* XII. 43, I propose to designate this beautiful body by the name of sorbic acid, reviving thus a name once used for malic acid. 1862 MILLER *Elem. Chem., Org.* (ed. 2) v. § 4. 410 The general formula..of the sorbic group. *Ibid.* 411 The substance..becomes crystallized as sorbic acid. 1868 WATTS *Dict. Chem.* V. 352 Ethylic Sorbate or Sorbic ether.

† Sorbicle. *Obs.*—[1] [f. L. *sorb-ēre* to imbibe.] A preparation which may be drunk.

1657 TOMLINSON *Renou's Disp.* 163* Of their cremour may be made a certain sorbicle. [1657 *Physical Dict., Sorbicle*, broth, suppings.]

Sorbile (sɔ̄·ɪbil), *a.* [ad. L. *sorbilis*, f. *sorbēre* to drink. Cf. obs. F. *sorbile*.] That may be drunk or supped; liquid.

1620 VENNER *Via Recta* viii. 181 Moist and sorbile meats ..are most profitable. 1661 LOVELL *Hist. Anim. & Min.* 139 A sorbile egge clarifieth the voice. 1808 JAMIESON s.v. *Sop*, This most probably refers to sorbile food, what is vulgarly called spoon-meat.

b. That may be absorbed. *rare* —[1].

1799 W. TAYLOR in Robberds *Mem.* (1843) I. 289 The phænomena of combustion, respiration, &c. can with equal probability be accounted for..by the hypothesis..of a sorbile principle, or oxygen.

† Sorbillate, *v. Obs.*—[0] [f. L. *sorbillāre*.]

1623 COCKERAM I, *Sorbillate*, to bib or sup often.

Sorbin. *Chem.* [f. SORB [1].] = SORBITOL.

1854 *Fownes' Chem.* (ed. 5) 404 Sorbin is, however, no sugar; it is not capable of fermenting. 1857 MILLER *Elem. Chem., Org.* ii. § 2. 72 Sorbin,..from berries of mountain ash.

Hence **Sorbinose** *sb.* (See quot.)

1894 *Watts' Dict. Chem.* IV. 497/1 *Sorbinose*,..an unfermentable sugar obtained from the fermented juice of mountain-ash berries.

Sorbish (sɔ̄·ɪbiʃ), *a.* [f. SORB [2], after G. *Sorbisch, Serbisch*. The native form is *Ser(b)ski*.] The language spoken by the Sorbs.

1883 MORFILL *Slavonic Lit.* ix. 242 In the year 1706 Michael Brancel..published a translation of the New Testament into Sorbish. *Ibid.*, This, however, was not the first time that any Sorbish words had been in print.

Sorbite [1] (sɔ̄·ɪbəit). *Chem.* [f. SORB [1] + -ITE.] = SORBITOL.

1867 *Chambers's Encycl.* IX. 187/2 Sorbin, or Sorbite.., may be obtained in colourless transparent rhombic octahedra. 1868 *Fownes' Chem.* (ed. 10) 638 Sorbin, or Sorbite, is a crystallisable sugar existing in the juice of ripe mountain-ash berries.

Hence **Sorbitic** *a.*[1] (See quot.)

1868 WATTS *Dict. Chem.* V. 353 Sorbite when heated gives off acid water, and is converted after some time..into a dark-red mass consisting of sorbitic acid.

Sorbite [2] (sɔ̄·ɪbəit). [f. the name of Dr. H. C. *Sorby* (1826–1908).] A transitional constituent of steel. Hence **Sorbitic** *a.*[2]

1902 *Encycl. Brit.* XXIX. 572/2 *Austenite, troostite, sorbite*, and other constituents [of iron] have also been described. 1904 *Electrochem. Industry* Feb. 51 (Cent.), Stead and Richards in a paper on sorbitic steel rails give a simple method for the production of sorbite in steel.

† Sorbition. *Obs.* [a. obs. F. *sorbition* or ad. L. *sorbitio*, f. *sorbēre* to imbibe.] The action of imbibing; also, something which may be imbibed.

1623 COCKERAM I, *Sorbition*, a sipping often. 1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr., Sorbition*, a supping, as of broth or pottage. 1684 tr. *Bonet's Merc. Compit.* VI. 234 Chicken broth, tempered with cooling herbs, and sorbitions of the same.

Sorbitol (sɔ̄·ɪbitɒl). *Chem.* [f. SORBITE [1] + -OL.] An unfermentable saccharine principle found in the berries of the mountain-ash.

1895 *Naturalist* 24 The unripe berries have much malic acid,..also amygdalin, emulsin, sorbitol. 1898 *Ibid.* 187 Mannite and another alcoholic sugar called sorbitol.

† Sorbonical, *a. Obs.* [f. SORBONNE. Cf. F. *sorbonique* (16th cent.).] Belonging to, connected with, the Sorbonne.

1543 BALE *Yet a Course Romish Fox* 36 Great bellyed braggers or sorbonycall masters in Parys. 1561 T. NORTON *Calvin's Inst.* III. xv. (1634) 383 The Sorbonicall schooles, the mothers of all errours. 1603 FLORIO *Montaigne* III. xiii. 660 The Sorbonicall or theologicall wine, and their feasts or gaudy dayes, are now come to be proverbially jested-at.

Sorbonist (sɔ̄·ɪbŏnist). Also 6 **Sorbonest**, 7–9 **Sorbonnist.** [ad. mod.L. *Sorbonista* or F. *Sorboniste*: see SORBONNE.] A doctor or student at the Sorbonne.

a. 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 28 The Sorbonistes condempne Luthers bokes. 1579 FULKE *Conf. Sanders* 674 Claudius de Sanctis, that brauling Sorbonist, woulde proue ..the saide liturgie to be his. 1592 MARLOWE *Massacre Paris* I. ix. 416 Because the blockish Sorbonests Attribute as much vnto their workes As to the seruice of the eternall God. 1631 WEEVER *Anc. Funeral Mon.* 369 He disputed with the Sorbonists in Paris. 1670 G. H. *Hist. Cardinals* I. I. 29 Those censures were made by the Sorbonists. 1751 *Hist. & Crit. Acc. of Hugh Peters* (1818) 27 *note*, The same Sorbonists decreed all those..to be in a mortal Sin. 1820 MILNER *Suppl. Mem. Eng. Cath.* 34 The decision of certain Sorbonists, respecting the lawfulness of the oath. 1886 J. GILLOW *Lit. & Biog. Hist. Eng. Cath.* II. 508 The Sorbonists still stuck to their opinion.

attrib. 1886 *Encycl. Brit.* XX. 105/2 Rabelais had indeed again made for himself protectors whom no clerical or Sorbonist jealousy could touch.

β. 1611 COTGR. s.v. *Ordinaire*, Certaine disputations held among Sorbonnists before they commence Doctors. 1683 *Apol. Prot. France* vi. 78 And upon the return of the Jesuites,..they communicated to the Sorbonnists the Popes Answer. 1757 HUME *Nat. Hist. Religion* 76 'How can you worship leeks and onions?' we shall suppose a Sorbonnist to say to a priest of Sais. 1820 T. MITCHELL *Aristoph.* (1822) II. 22 The Sorbonnists of Paris..in like manner affected to unite peculiar slovenliness and dirtiness with peculiar learning.

b. *transf.* A person of great learning.

1607 R. C[AREW] tr. *Estienne's World Wond.* 340 The grand Negro of all Necromancers (who is also the great Sorbonist of Sorcerers, and maister of Magicians).

Sorbonne (sɔ̄ibɒ·n). Also 6–7 **Sorbone.** [F. *Sorbonne*, f. the place-name *Sorbon* (see def.) in the Ardennes.]

1. A theological college at Paris founded by Robert de Sorbon early in the 13th century; the faculty of theology in the old University of Paris, of great importance down to the 17th century.

The Sorbonne is now the seat of the *Académie* of Paris and of the faculties of theology, science, and literature.

1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 270 b, What tyme for the same cause the divines of Sorbone procured him some daunger, he shewed no constancie. 1638 R. BAKER tr. *Balzac's Lett.* (vol. II) 141 Concerning the condition of superiour things, I referre myself to the Sorbone. 1682 *News fr. France* 38 Thus you see how firm the Sorbonne is in this matter. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v., There are Lodgings in it for 36 Doctors, who are said to be of the Society of the Sorbonne. 1886 *Encycl. Brit.* XX. 195/2 Up to this time Rabelais, despite the condemnation of the Sorbonne,..had experienced nothing like persecution or difficulty.

† 2. A Sorbonist. *Obs.*—[1]

1631 WEEVER *Anc. Funeral Mon.* 751 He had studied a long time in Oxford, and at Paris amongst the Sorbons.

Hence **Sorbonnic** *a.* (Cf. SORBONICAL *a.*)

1893 A. LANG *St. Andrews* iv. 105 A writer of the particularly unclassic Latin called Sorbonnic.

‖ **Sorbus** (sɔ̄·ɪbŏs). [L. Cf. SORB [1].] A Linnæan genus (now placed under *Pyrus*) including the service-tree, mountain-ash, etc.; a tree belonging to this genus. Also *attrib.*

1706 in PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey). 1751 J. HILL *Hist. Plants* 456 The pinnated smooth-leaved Sorbus. 1823 CRABB *Technol. Dict., Sorbus domestica*, seu *Pyrus*, Sorbus Tree, Service, or Sorb.

Sorcell, obs. variant of SARCELLE.

† Sorcer. *Obs. rare.* Also 4, 6 **sorser**, 6 **sorsyer.** [ad. OF. *sorcier* (cf. It. *sortiere*, Sp. *sortero*) :—pop. L. **sortiarius*, f. *sort-*, *sors* lot, SORT *sb.*[1]] = next.

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 1579 Wychez & walkyries wonnen þat sale,..Sorsers & exorsismus & fele such clerkes. 1502 *Ord. Crysten Men* (W. de W. 1506) IV. ix, The fyfth is of sorcyers and..deuyns. 1549 *Compl. Scot.* XX. 168 Sum sorseris and vytchis, quhilkis ar instramentis of the ald eneme of mankynd.

Sorcerer (sɔ̄·ɪsərəɹ). Also 6 **sorserer**, **-ar**, **sosserer**, *Sc.* **socerar.** [f. prec. + -ER.] One who practises sorcery; a wizard, a magician.

a. 1526 TINDALE *Acts* xiii. 6 They founde a certayne sorserer. *Ibid.* 8 The sorserar Elemas..withstode them. 1535 COVERDALE *Isaiah* ii. 6 Whether it be in Sorcerers ..or in calkers of mens byrthes, wherof ye haue to many. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Edw. IV*, D iiij, Her frendes on the other syde sayd, that she was kept away, and her iorney empeched by Sorcerers and Necromanciers. 1610 SHAKS. *Temp.* III. ii. 49, I am subiect to a Tirant, A Sorcerer, that by his cunning hath cheated me Of the Island. 1651 HOBBES *Leviath.* III. xxxii. 197 The works of the Egyptian Sorcerers..were great miracles. 1727 DE FOE *Syst. Magic* I. i. (1840) 6 Certainly then they did not take those magicians to be..dealers with the Devil, and sorcerers. 1769 BLACKSTONE *Comm.* IV. iv. 60 The civil law punishes with death not only the sorcerers themselves, but also those who consult them. 1816 SINGER *Hist. Cards* 55 The Gipsies.. exercised the craft of sorcerers. 1848 GALLENGA *Italy* (1851) 415 The sway exercised by a sorcerer over the demon to whom he has bartered his soul. 1865 J. H. INGRAHAM *Pillar of Fire* (1872) 403 This was the place where the sorcerers and soothsayers held their mystic and fearful rites.

attrib. 1888 MISS RAGOZIN *Media, Babylon, & Persia* x. § 8 (1891) 269 The Shamans or sorcerer-priests of many Turanian tribes.

β. 1552 ABP. HAMILTON *Catech.* (1884) 50 Quhen saevir thow..seikis for ony help at ony wytche, socerar, cowngerar. 1596 R. H. tr. *Lavaterus's Ghosties & Spir.* 28 There have bene many Magiciens, Sosserers, and Conjurers..who would easily counterfeit visions.

Sorceress (sɔ̄·ɪsərès). Also 6–7 **sorceres.** [a. AF. *sorceresse*, *-esce*: see SORCER and -ESS [1].]

1. A female sorcerer; a witch.

c 1384 CHAUCER *H. Fame* III. 1262 Ther saugh I..charmeresses, Olde wrecches, Sorceresses, That vse exorsisacions. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* III. 49 Thes queenes were as tuo goddesses Of Art magique Sorceresses. 1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* VI. iv. 187 Sore I am of these quenes sorceresses aferd. 1509 HAWES *Past. Pleas.* XXXVI. (Percy Soc.) 188 The sorceresse, the false roote of doloure, All of golde..Of the best made the head serpentyne. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VI*, 112 Jhon duke of Alaunson and his sorceresse Jone (called the mayde, sent from God). 1638 JUNIUS *Paint. Ancients* 173 Diogenes..witnesseth Medea to have been not a sorceresse, but a woman of knowne wisdome. 1671 MILTON *Samson* 819 How cunningly the sorceress displays Her own transgressions, to upbraid me mine! *a* 1740 WATERLAND *Wks.* (1823) IX. 413 How unlikely is it that God should make use of this sorceress as a prophetess, and should give her the honour of revealing his counsels. 1832 W. IRVING *Alhambra* I. 242 This may be one of those Northern sorceresses of whom we have heard. 1885 PATER *Marius the Epicurean* I. v. 62 In one very remote village lives the sorceress Pamphile.

transf. *a* 1700 KEN *Hymnotheo* Poet. Wks. 1721 III. 95 Much more mysterious is my indred Lust; In no one thing I can the Sorc'ress trust.

attrib. 1841 W. SPALDING *Italy & It. Isl.* II. 319 Armida, the sorceress-niece of the Sultan of Damascus. 1877 'RITA' *Vivienne* III. vi, Blanche repaid him with sorceress smiles and false kisses.

b. In playful or familiar use.

c 1800 H. K. WHITE *Lett.* (1837) 282 Sorceress! I cannot burst thy bonds! 1859 GEO. ELIOT *A. Bede* v, Ah! you witch-mother, you sorceress! How is a Christian man to win a game off you?

† Sorcering, *vbl. sb. Obs.*—[1] [f. SORCER-ER or SORCER-Y + -ING [1].] The exercise of sorcery.

1614 BP. HALL *Contempt., O. T.* VII. 324 His trade of sorcering had so inured him to receiue voyces from his familiars, in shape of beasts, that this euent seemed not strange to him.

† Sorcering, *ppl. a. Obs.* [f. as prec. + -ING [2].] Practising or exercising sorcery.

1583 MELBANCKE *Philotimus* S iv, The sorcering Syrens, who are merrie in tempestes, and heauie in faire weather. 1607 R. C[AREW] tr. *Estienne's World Wond.* 340 This sorcering priest. 1609 HEYWOOD *Brit. Troy* V. lxxxviii, The black spels of this Sorcering witch.

† Sorcerist. *Obs.*—[1] [f. as prec. + -IST.] One who practises sorcery; a sorcerer.

1624 HEYWOOD *Gunaik.* II. 77 Moyses made a law that all such as repayred to these jugling sorcerists should be stoned to death.

Sorcerize, *v. rare* —[1]. [f. as prec. + -IZE.] *trans.* To transform by sorcery.

1866 FURNIVALL in *Pol., Rel., & L. Poems* 26 *marg.*, A Lombard was sorcerized into a goose.

Sorcerous (sɔ̄·ɪsərəs), *a.* [f. as prec. + -OUS.]

1. Of the nature of, pertaining to or connected with, sorcery.

1546 BALE *Eng. Votaries* I. 24 He wolde in no wyse commen with them..least they shuld after any sorcerous sort bywytche hym. 1577 HARRISON *England* II. ix. (1877) 178 By sundrie sorcerous and artificiall practises whereby the working of the said elements were restreined. 1605 CHAPMAN *Byron's Trag.* IV. ii, O that in mine Eyes Were all the Sorcerous poyson of my woes. 1646 GAULE *Cases Cons.* 41 Lord! how many are the sorcerous superstitions of the Many? 1698 FRYER *Acc. E. India & P.* 277 Lest an Evil Tongue should have a Sorcerous effect. 1835 J. HARRIS *Gt. Teacher* (1837) 284 In the face of this sorcerous and powerful delusion. 1880 SWINBURNE *Birthday Ode* 207 From fairy-footed fields..And sorcerous woods of Rhineland.

2. Dealing in or exercising sorcery.

1550 BALE *Eng. Votaries* II. 11 Theophylactus..whych after .xv. yeares solde the Papacy to Johan Gracyan hys sorcerouse companyon. 1633 D. R[OGERS] *Treatise of Sacr.* i. 123 Which words..our Saviour did not (as a Sorcerous Priest) murmour over the Bread and Wine.

Hence **Sorcerously** *adv.*, in a sorcerous manner, by means of sorcery.

1646 GAULE *Cases of Consc.* 128 What Act or Instrument of Man..that..may not be sorcerously abused? 1652 — *Magastrom.* 193 Divination is temptingly and sorcerously sought for.

Sorcery (sɔ̄·ɪsəri). Forms: α. 4 **sorceri**, 4–7 **sorcerie**, 4, 6 **sorcerye**, 4– **sorcery**; 4 **sorsory(e**, 4–6 **sorserye**, 5 **sors(s)ery**, **sorsry**, **-rie**. β. 5 **socerye**, 5–6 **socery**, 6 **sossery**, **-rie**. [a. OF. *sorcerie* (f. *sorcier* SORCER), or ad. med.L. *sorceria*. So MDu. *sorcerie*, *sorserie*.]

1. The use of magic or enchantment; the practice of magic arts; witchcraft.

α. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 29255 Crists enemy, þat wiche-craft or sorceri Dos wit ani halud thing. 13.. *K. Alis.* 478 (Laud MS.), þat ilk niȝth, Neptenabus Made so stronge sorceryе. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Pars. T.* P 340 If he were al refreynit by siknes, or by malefice of sorserye. 1422 tr. *Secreta Secret., Priv. Priv.* 199 He..beleuyd swenys and sorsrie. 1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* II. iii. 79 By enchauntement and sorssery she hath ben the destroyer of many good knyghtes. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Edw. IV*, I ij b, A seruaunte of the Dukes was sodainly accused..of poysonyng, sorcery, or enchauntment. 1591 SHAKS. 1 *Hen. VI*, II. i. 15 To quittance their deceite, Contriu'd by Art, and balefull Sorcerie. 1628 COKE *On Litt.* III. vi, A man was taken in Southwark..with a Book of Sorcery in his Male and was brought into the Kings-Bench. 1844 EMERSON *Misc. P., Tantalus* Wks. (Bohn) III. 322 Alas! the same sorcery has spoiled his skill; no syllable can he shape on his lips. 1878 STUBBS *Const. Hist.* III. xviii. 90 The queen dowager was accused ..of an attempt to destroy the king by sorcery.

β. *c* 1460 *Towneley Myst.* XXVI. 129 That may be done thrugh socery. 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* I. 6 His mother was ane Farie Queyne. Gottin be sossery. 1511–2 *Act* 3

Hen. VIII, c. 11 Curis..in the which they..use socery and which crafte. 1568 LAUDER *Lam. Pure* 33 Now mony vsis Sosserie.

b. *pl.* Separate forms or instances of this.

1357 *Lay Folks Catech.* (1901) 34 Al mawmetries, Al fals enchaunmentez, and al sorceries. 1542-3 *Act* 34 & 35 *Hen. VIII*, c. 8 The advoyding of sorceryes, witchecrafte, and other inconveniencies. 1584 R. SCOT *Discov. Witchcr.* (1886) 267 Thereby Ulysses escaped Circes hir sorceries and inchantments. 1648 WILKINS *Math. Magic* II. vii. 201 Simon Magus was eminent for miraculous sorceries. 1671 in *Verney Mem.* (1907) II. 279 Whether she uses any manner of charmes, sorceries, or magic whatever. 1741-2 GRAY *Agrip.* 171 Sorceries, Assassinations, poisonings.

2. *transf.* and *fig.*

1576 FLEMING *Panopl. Epist.* 156, I am not surprised with the incantations and sorceries of vaine glorie. 1592 NASHE *P. Penilesse* 12 b, What drugs, what sorceries, what oiles,..doe our curious Dames vse to inlarge our withered beauties? 1667 MILTON *P. L.* II. 566 Vain wisdom all, and false Philosophie: Yet with a pleasing sorcerie could charm Pain for a while. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. III. vi, It is possible, the greatness of this man.. might, with most legitimate sorcery, fascinate the volatile Queen. 1880 'OUIDA' *Moths* III. 262 Personal beauty is a rare sorcery.

Sorche, obs. form of SEARCH *v.* **Sorcot**, obs. form of SURCOAT. **Sorcyer**: see SORCER.

Sord, *sb.* *Obs.* exc. *arch.* Forms: 5 **soorde**, **sorde**, 5–6 **sourd(e**, 9 **sord**. [f. SORD *v.*] A flight or flock *of* mallards.

Orig. perhaps the act of taking to wing, but only recorded in the lists of 'proper terms'; in some late copies of these erroneously given as *sore*.

14.. *Harl. MS. 541* fol. 225 in *Phil. Soc. Trans.* (1909) 55 A Soorde of malardes, A Doppyng of herles. *c* 1470 *Hors, Shepe & G.* (ROXB.), A Spryng of teeles, A Sourd of malardes. 1486 *Bk. St. Albans, Hawking* d ij, When ther be in a stobull tyme Sordes of mallardes in the felde. 1801 STRUTT *Sports & Past.* I. ii. 28 A sord or sute of mallards. 1856 'STONEHENGE' *Brit. Rural Sports* I. ix. 78/1 The following Terms are in Use among Wildfowl-shooters:—A flock of wigeon is termed 'a company'..; of mallards, 'a sord'.

Sord, obs. or dial. form of SWARD *sb.*

†**Sord**, *v.* *Obs.*[−1] [ad. OF. *sordre*, *sourdre*, etc. :—L. *surgĕre* to rise. Cf. SORD *sb.*] *intr.* To rise or soar *up* in flight.

14.. *Harl. MS. 2340* fol. 49 b. in *Phil. Soc. Trans.* (1909) 28 It spryngyth or sordyth vp sodenly be hym.

Sordavalite (sɔ̄ɹdăvælәit). *Min.* Also **sordawal(l)ite**. [ad. Sw. *sordawalit* (Nordenskiöld, 1820), f. *Sordawala*, *-vala*, in Finland, its locality.] A vitreous mineral substance found in diabase.

1823 W. PHILLIPS *Min.* (ed. 3) 210 Sordawalite..is described as being nearly black. 1850 ANSTED *Elem. Geol., Min.*, etc. 191 *Sordawalite*, silicate of alumina and magnesia with phosphate of magnesia. 1868 WATTS *Dict. Chem., Sordawallite*, a mineral resembling pit-coal in appearance, forming three layers in trap near Sordawala in Finland. 1882 *Imperial Dict.* (Annandale), *Sordavalite*. [So in later Dicts.]

Sorde, obs. form of SWORD.

‖ **Sordes** (sɔ̄ɹdīz). [L. *sordēs* (pl., rare and defective in sing.), filth, uncleanness, etc., related to *sordēre* to be dirty or foul. Cf. SORDS.]

Construed either as singular or plural.

1. Dirt, filth; foul or feculent matter; refuse or rubbish removed or separated by or during the treatment, manufacture, or working of something.

1640 BP. REYNOLDS *Passions* xv. 139 A Sink by an house makes all the house the cleaner, because the Sordes are cast into that. 1657 J. WATTS *A Scribe & his Let. Answ.* Pref. Ep. p. x, You have your eares stuffed and opplete with Kitchin-stuffe and such soyl and sordes. 1758 BORLASE *Nat. Hist. Cornw.* 179 The sordes, which settles above the tin, is skimmed off. 1766 SMOLLETT *Trav.* I. 352 The sordes or dirt falls to the bottom, the oil swims a-top. *c* 1800 *State Leslie of Powis* (Jam.), The filth, sordes, dregs, or refuse of a distillery or manufactory. 1837 WHITTOCK *Bk. Trades* (1842) 435 (Tallow-chandler), The prepared tallow, freed by straining from its 'sordes'; its adventitious particles and membranaceous envelopment.

fig. 1660 TRAPP *Comm. O. T.* III. 515 Such persons chuse to remain in the *sordes* of their sins. 1780 BENTHAM *Princ. Legist.* ii. § 6 To cleanse itself from the sordes of its impure original it was necessary it should change its name.

2. Filthy or feculent matter attaching to, or collecting on or in, the bodies of persons or animals.

1670 E. BORLASE *Lathom Spaw* 33 In facilitating the passage of the stone and gravel, and abstersing its sordes and minera, I find it very successful. 1790 *Phil. Trans.* LXXX. 391 In the cancerous, as well as in other malignant ulcers, we frequently meet with a white sordes, which closely adheres to the surface of the sore. 1798 W. BLAIR *Soldier's Friend* 51 The copious perspirations..must tend to accumulate filth and sordes upon the skin. 1835 KIRBY *Hab. & Inst. Anim.* II. xx. 316 The bird-louse is probably useful to birds in devouring the sordes which must accumulate at the root of their plumes. 1843 R. J. GRAVES *Syst. Clin. Med.* x. 107 An emetic clears the stomach of offending matters or sordes.

b. Impure matter collecting about the teeth, gums, etc.; *spec.* in *Path.*, the foul crusts formed upon the teeth and lips in typhoid or other fevers.

1746 R. JAMES *Introd.* in *Mouffet's Health's Improv.* 48 Putrid Sordes upon the Lips, Teeth, Tongue, Palate, and Fauces. 1811 *Self Instructor* 533 By washing out the gums and natural sordes. 1822-7 GOOD *Study Med.* (1829) II. 242 The lips are furred with a black tenacious sordes. 1876 BRISTOWE *Th. & Pract. Med.* (1878) 109 His lips are dry, black, and probably fissured, his teeth loaded with sordes.

Sordet, variant of SOURDET.

Sordid (sɔ̄ɹdid), *a.* Also 6–7 **sordide**, 7 **sorded**. [a. F. *sordide* (16th c. in Godefroy; = Sp., Pg., It. *sórdido*), or ad. L. *sordid-us* dirty, foul, base, mean, etc., f. *sord-ēre* to be dirty: cf. SORDES.]

1. *Path.* **a.** Of suppurations, etc.: Corrupt, foul, repulsive; of the nature of sordes.

1597 LOWE *Chirurg.* L iij b, The vlcers [are] inequal, sordides [*sic*],..euill fauoured, by reason of the humor, which is most sordide and stinking. 1822-7 GOOD *Study Med.* (1829) II. 163 The skin parched, or soaked with sordid, fetid sweat. *Ibid.* II. 627 There is a dejection of sordid pus in considerable abundance. 1883 J. M. DUNCAN *Lect. Dis. Women* (ed. 2) xvi. 161 An old grey-white accumulation of sordid epithelial detritus.

b. Of an ulcer, wound, etc.: Yielding or discharging matter of this kind.

1597 [see prec.]. 1676 WISEMAN *Surg. Treat.* II. i. 165 There is a second sort of Matter affecting Ulcers that is thick, generated of abundance of gross tough Humours, and rendering the Ulcer foul; whence it is called a *Sordid Ulcer*. 1696 *Phil. Trans.* XIX. 291 The Wound was very sordid; and the inside as well as the outside beset with Slime. 1769 E. BANCROFT *Guiana* 384 The disease corrodes the fingers and toes with a dry, sordid, scabby, and gangrenous ulcer. 1801 *Med. Jrnl.* V. 163 The incision on the left arm, which ..had degenerated into a sordid ulcer. 1822-7 GOOD *Study Med.* (1829) V. 556 In several sordid cutaneous eruptions.

2. Dirty, foul, filthy; repellent through want of cleanness or tidiness; in later use, mean and squalid.

1611 COTGR., *Sordide*, sordide, foule, filthie, corrupt. 1627 DONNE *Serm.* xxii. (1640) 223 Sordid, senselesse, namelesse dust. 1655 CULPEPPER, etc. *Riverius* IV. vii. 116 The choller and flegm which is more..impure, swims at the top, and so the blood seems impure and sordid. 1680 OTWAY *Orphan* I. iv, [I will] rather..live on sordid scraps at proud Men's Doors. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* I. 118 [They] sprinkle sordid Ashes all around. 1727-46 THOMSON *Summer* 386 The trout is banish'd by the sordid stream. 1836 EMERSON *Nature, Beauty* Wks. (Bohn) II. 147 In private places, among sordid objects, an act of truth or heroism seems at once to draw to itself the sky as its temple.

b. Of places, houses, etc.

1628 DONNE *Serm.* lxxv. (1640) 762 To finde a languishing wretch in a sordid corner. 1634 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* 149 Their houses..within are poore and sordid. 1669 *Phil. Trans.* IV. 1136 The sweepings of the house, any kind of ashes, shovelings of any sordid place. 1821 SHELLEY *Adonais* xxxviii, Whilst thy cold embers choke the sordid hearth of shame. 1864 BURTON *Scot Abr.* I. iii. 122 Stately edifices..were doomed to fall into decay and be succeeded by sordid hovels. 1880 MRS. FORRESTER *Roy & V.* I. 56 She has escaped from her sordid surroundings.

c. Of life, conditions, etc.

1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* I. ii. II. v, Through their owne nastinesse & sluttishnesse, & immund sordid maner of life, suffer their aire to putrifie. 1687 A. LOVELL tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* II. 108 The sordid and nasty way that the Ambassadour and all his train lived in. 1691 RAY *Creation* I. (1704) 110 What a Kind of barbarous and sordid Life we must necessarily have lived. 1764 HARMER *Observ.* ii. § 13. 70 We.. may have imagined..that Abraham lived in a sordid plenty. 1797 GODWIN *Enquirer* II. iv. 206 He can procure a sordid meal. 1850 MRS. JAMESON *Leg. Monast. Ord.* (1863) 253 With tattered raiment and all the outward signs of sordid misery. 1891 KIPLING *Light that Failed* vii. (1900) 112 Dick's experience of the sordid misery of want.

d. Of garments or clothing.

1655 STANLEY *Hist. Philos.* (1687) 136/1 [They] wear the same garment in Winter as in Summer, and that sordid. 1673 W. CAVE *Prim. Christ.* III. v. 366 In a sordid and squalid Habit. 1752 FIELDING *Amelia* (1775) X. 8 The magistrate had too great an honour for truth to suspect that she ever appeared in sordid apparel. 1788 GIBBON *Decl. & Fall* xli. IV. 149 Sordid and scanty were their garments. 1851 TRENCH *Poems* (1862) 183 They put the sordid grave clothes off.

†**3.** Of persons (or animals): Dirty or sluttish in habits or appearance. *Obs.*

1613 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* (1614) 232 They abstaine from swines flesh: neither will that sweete aire of Arabia breath life to that sordide and stinking creature. 1664 H. MORE *Apology* 517 Provided we be not course and sordid, but reverent and comely in our public worship. 1712 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 464 ¶ 5 The Person he chanced to see was to Appearance an old sordid blind Man.

b. *Zool.* In the names of a few fishes or birds, in allusion to their dirty-looking colour, as *sordid chætodon, dragonet, scarus, thrush.*

1803 SHAW *Gen. Zool.* IV. II. 370 * Sordid Chætodon... Dusky-grey Chætodon; native of the Arabian seas. 1769 PENNANT *Brit. Zool.* (1776) III. 147 The * Sordid Dragonet, *Draconculus*. 1836 YARRELL *Brit. Fishes* I. 266 The Sordid Dragonet..generally occurs of small size. 1881 DAY *Fishes Gt. Brit.* I. 176 Sordid dragonet, dusky skulpin. 1803 SHAW *Gen. Zool.* IV. II. 400 *Sordid Scarus...Brown-ferruginous Scarus. 1801 LATHAM *Gen. Synop. Birds, Suppl.* II. 186 *Sordid Thrush...The plumage in general is greenish ash.

II. †**4.** Of a coarse, gross, or inferior character or nature; befitting or appertaining to a mean person or thing; menial. *Obs.*

1596 SPENSER *F. Q.* V. v. 23 She..in his hand a distaffe to him gaue, That he thereon should spin both flax and tow; A sordid office for a mind so braue. 1605 BACON *Adv. Learn.* II. I. § 5 He did thinke much to dispute with any that did alleage such base and sordide instances. *a* 1619 FOTHERBY *Atheom.* II. i. § 8 (1686) 195 Not onely in liberall and ingenious Arts, but also in sordide and ignoble. 1655 STANLEY *Hist. Philos.* (1687) 195/2 Modesty teacheth us to decline sordid things. *a* 1701 MAUNDRELL *Journ. Jerus.* 8 Apr. (1707) 107 By which means it was redeem'd from that sordid use. 1751 JOHNSON *Rambler* No. 168 ¶ 6 The long habit of connecting a knife with sordid offices.

5. Of actions, habits, etc.: Of a low, mean, or despicable character; marked by or proceeding from ignoble motives, esp. of self-interest or monetary gain.

1611 COTGR., *Taquinerie*, sordide miserie,..base pinching. 1639 in *Verney Mem.* (1907) I. 106 His sordide and base dissembling. 1682 BURNET *Rights Princes* ii. 35 The Clergy using all the basest and sordidest Arts possible to draw Legacies from Rich Widows. 1753 RICHARDSON *Grandison* V. ii. 19 We see, in the behaviour, and sordid acquiescence with insults, of these three men, that offensive spirits cannot be true ones. 1781 COWPER *Truth* 76 What is all righteousness that men devise? What—but a sordid bargain for the skies? 1818 BENTHAM *Parl. Reform* 50 That they should sell the attachment of their friends..for dry and sordid gain. 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xviii. IV. 162 His courage, his abilities,..had made him, in spite of his sordid vices, a favourite with his brethren in arms. 1873 DIXON *Two Queens* XVI. ii. III. 193 Though he got her money, he had never ceased repenting of his sordid act.

b. Lacking in refinement; low, coarse, rough.

1668 *Extr. State P. rel. Friends* (1912) III. 278 Edward Wivel..permits their sordid Conventicls to be..kept ther. 1744 AKENSIDE *Pleas. Imag.* II. 15 Long immured In noontide darkness by the glimmering lamp, Each Muse and each fair Science pined away The sordid hours. 1751 JOHNSON *Rambler* No. 168 ¶ 3 To him who has passed most of his hours with the delicate and polite, many expressions will seem sordid.

c. *absol.* That which is sordid or mean.

1863 W. MORRIS in Mackail *Life* (1899) I. 21 Whatever there was of sordid about the story had slipped off him. 1902 J. BUCHAN *Watcher by Threshold* 189 Frankly, I hate the sordid and unpleasant.

6. Of persons, their character, etc.: Inclined to what is low, mean, or ignoble; *esp.* moved by selfish or mercenary motives; influenced only by material considerations.

1636 [FREEMAN] tr. *Seneca's Shortn. Life* (1663) 34 He sordid is, who catch'd with rude applause, Grown old, dies wrangling in a worthlesse cause. 1650 BULWER *Anthropomet.* 171 These Nations.., that are so unpolitick, may justly be called wild men, and of a sordid disposition. 1687 WOOD *Life* (O.H.S.) III. 241 He is sordid still, and nothing will change his base humour. 1727 GAY *Fables* I. xix, A Lion-cub of sordid mind, Avoided all the lion kind. 1789 BELSHAM *Ess.* II. xli. 561 They are inveighed against as a base and sordid people. 1808 SCOTT *Marm.* II. xxii, Her comrade was a sordid soul. 1840 MISS MITFORD in L'Estrange *Life* (1870) III. vii. 108 The land..will probably be purchased by some sordid person upon the speculation of making us pay an inordinate rent. 1875 MANNING *Mission H. Ghost* viii. 203 All men of the world are sordid, and the more worldly the more sordid.

absol. 1762 COWPER *To Miss Macartney* 54 Thus grief itself has comforts dear, The sordid never know.

7. *Comb.*, as *sordid-base.*

1598 B. JONSON *Ev. Man in Hum.* II. iii, To think a fellow of thy outward presence, Should, in the frame and fashion of his mind, Be so degenerate, and sordid-base.

†**So·rdidate**, *v.* *Obs.*[−0] [f. L. *sordidāt-us.*] (See quots.) So **So·rdidated** *ppl. a.*

1604 R. CAWDREY *Table Alph.* (1613), *Sordidated*, defiled, sluttish. 1623 COCKERAM I, *Sordidate*, to make foule. 1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.*, *Sordidate*, to array sluttishly and filthily.

†**Sordi·dity.** *Obs.* [f. SORDID *a.*, or a. F. *sordidité* (1573).] Sordidness. **a.** Meanness, miserliness, baseness.

1584 *Leycester's Commonw.* 197 As for valeur, he hath as much as hath a mouse: his magnanimity is base sordiditie. 1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* I. ii. III. xii, That greediness in getting, tenacity in keeping, sordidity in spending. 1649 EVELYN *Liberty & Serv.* v. Misc. Writ. (1805) 30 The like Sordidityes, which it were a shame to report. 1654 VILVAIN *Theorem. Theol.* vii. 194 So great glory cannot sort or sute with such sordidity.

b. Dirtiness, filthiness; dirty or foul matter.

1600 ABBOT *Jonah* 401 The backe shall be disguised with sordidity of sackcloth. 1657 TOMLINSON *Renou's Disp.* 396 A dense gumme conspurcated with no sordidity.

Sordidly (sɔ̄ɹdidli), *adv.* [f. SORDID *a.* + -LY[2].] In a sordid manner; basely, meanly; mercenarily.

(*a*) *c* 1645 HOWELL *Lett.* (1650) I. 148 This Osman was a man..of excess of courage, but sordidly covetous. 1682 BURNET *Rights Princes* iv. 123 Some came sordidly with the Price or Present in their hands to buy the Bishoprick. 1847 L. HUNT *Men, Women, & B.* I. vii. 127 The most sordidly ridiculous anecdote we remember of a bed-chamber. 1856 *N. Brit. Rev.* XXVI. 237 That Cockburn was sordidly selfish for the promotion of any interests of his.

Comb. 1681 GLANVILL *Sadducismus* II. (1726) 471 A church all over besmear'd with Sordidly-gainful Superstitions.

(*b*) 1656 EARL MONM. tr. *Boccalini's Advts. fr. Parnass.* II. xiv. (1674) 162 A Poet..sordidly apparelled; with his Cloaths all tattered. 1660 R. BLOME *Fanatick Hist.* i. 5 He made holiness to consist in speaking little, and living homely and sordidly.

Sordidness (sɔ̄ɹdidnės). [f. as prec. + -NESS.] The state or quality of being sordid.

1. Dirtiness, filthiness; unclean or soiled character; squalor.

1637 SANDERSON *Serm.* (1681) II. 63 To it [*sc.* money]..hath the very name of sordidness been appropriated of old. 1665 NEEDHAM *Med. Medicinæ* 66 Carelessness, Sordidness in neglecting their own Bodies. 1691 RAY *Creation* II. (1704) 357 To deter Men and Women from Sluttishness and Sordidness. 1819 L. HUNT *Indicator* No. 8 (1822) I. 64 He sat looking at his old beard and the wilful sordidness of his hands. 1833 HT. MARTINEAU *Charmed Sea* i. 2 At the first glance the men looked all alike; their heads being shaved, and their dress uniform in its sordidness.

b. Lack of refinement or elegance; coarseness or roughness. *rare.*

1670 CLARENDON *Hist. Reb.* XII. § 121 Nor did she prefer the glory of the Church of England before the sordidness of the Kirk of Scotland. 1873 BURTON *Hist. Scot.* VI. lxv. 24 They were offended at the sordidness of the food offered to them.

2. Baseness or meanness; esp. low, mean, or mercenary character or motives; selfish regard for material gain in place of higher interests.

1656 EARL MONM. tr. *Boccalini's Advts. fr. Parnass.* I. xcix. (1674) 133 Keeping continually..hid within the husk of their interest..with so much sordidness and obstinacy never to come out. 1674 tr. *Scheffer's Lapland* ix. 34 Their Priests who..vilify their doctrine by the sordidness of their lives. 1702 ECHARD *Eccl. Hist.* (1710) 403 His chiefest advice to them about him was to abhor all rapine and sordidness. 1746 FRANCIS tr. *Horace, Sat.* I. vi. 90 If none with avarice justly brand my fame, With sordidness, or deeds too vile to name. 1771 FOOTE *Maid of Bath* III. Wks. 1799 II. 236 The sordidness of your mind and manners. 1850 L. HUNT *Autobiog.* I. iii. 106, I blush to remember this ..on account of the sordidness of the custom. *Ibid.* II. xi. 55 An extraordinary mixture of..fearlessness with sordidness. 1870 *Pall Mall G.* 24 Dec. 2 The result is but a just retribution on our sordidness and Pharisaism.

†**So·rdidous,** *a. Obs.* [f. L. *sordid-us* dirty, abject, base: see -OUS.] Sordid, in various senses.

1602 F. HERING *Anatomyes* 3 The abiect and sordidous scumme, and refuse of the people. 1610 G. CARLETON *Jurisdiction* 217 Those sordidous censures to punish sinne with pecuniary mulcts.

Comb. 1608 TOPSELL *Serpents* (1658) 813 This pusillanimous and sordidous minded man Harpalion.

b. Of an ulcer: = SORDID *a.* 1 b.

1608 TOPSELL *Serpents* 311 The ashes of Earth-Wormes duely prepared, cleanseth Sordi[d]ous, stinking, and rotten Vlcers.

Sordine (sɔ̄·rdīn), *sb.* and *a.* Also 6 surdine. [ad. It. *sordina, -dino* (= Sp. *sordina*, Pg. *surdina*), or a. F. **sordine* SOURDINE, f. L. *surd-us* deaf, mute: see SURD *a.*]

A. *sb.* †**1.** A small pipe or mouthpiece placed in a trumpet or bugle in order to muffle or reduce the sound; a trumpet fitted with this. *Obs.*

1591 *Garrard's Art Warre* 343 Lette him make it [*sc.* the alarm] secretly and without striking vp the Drums, or sounding Trompets, but rather vse Drum stickes and Surdines. 1611 COTGR., *Sourdine*, a Sordine, or a kind of hoarse, or low-sounding Trumpet.

2. *Mus.* = MUTE *sb.*[1] 4 a.

The Ital. form *sordino* is entered in Busby *Dict. Mus.* (1801) and some recent Dicts.

1776 BURNEY *Hist. Mus.* (1789) III. i. 16 The several parts are so thick..that it [the poliphant] has not more tone than a mute or violin with a sordine. 1856 BERLIOZ *Instrument.* 16 The custom is when employing sordines to cause them to be used by all the band of stringed instruments. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2246/1 *Sordine*, a little implement placed on the bridge of a stringed instrument, in order to deaden the sonorousness and give it a mournful sound.

B. *adj.* †**1.** *Sordine trumpet* (see A. 1). *Obs.*[-1]

1635 J. HAYWARD tr. *Biondi's Banish'd Virg.* 106 Unbraced drummes, sordine trumpets,..and mournefull musick.

2. Muffled, subdued. *rare*[-1].

1894 'G. EGERTON' *Keynotes* 127 Mutter, mutter—a sordine epic of Hades.

†**So·rditude.** *Obs. rare.* [ad. L. *sorditūdo*, f. *sordes.*] Sordidness.

1623 COCKERAM I, *Sorditude*, filthinesse. 1657 FARINDON *Serm.* 162 To flee from one sin to another, from prodigality to sorditude. 1657 TOMLINSON *Renou's Disp.* 104 That whatever of sorditude is therein may cleave to the cloth.

Sordor (sɔ̄·rdɔi). [a. Latin type **sordor*, corresponding to *sordidus* as *squālor* to *squālidus*, etc.] Physical or moral sordidness.

1823 BYRON *Island* II. iv, The sordor of civilisation, mix'd With all the savage which man's fall hath fix'd. 1836 EMERSON *Nature, Prospects* Wks. (Bohn) II. 173 The sordor and filths of nature. 1874 M. CREIGHTON *Hist. Ess.* i. (1902) 41 The awful background of eternal destiny,..where things lose at once the sordor of common life.

Sords. *Obs.* or *dial.* [Anglicizing of L. *sordēs* SORDES.] Dirt, filth; filthiness.

1653 GAUDEN *Hierasp.* 61 There is nothing more delicate and abhorring all sinful sords, than the Ermine of Christian Religion. *Ibid.* 219 Their raggs, sords, and beggery, sufficiently confutes their rare skill. *a* 1825 FORBY *Voc. E. Anglia* 316 *Sords*, filth; washings off-scourings.

Sore (sō·ɔi), *sb.*[1] Forms: *a.* 1–3 **sar** (2–3 **seer**), *north.* and *Sc.* 4 **sar**, 4–6, 9 **sare**, 6– **sair.** *β.* 3–5 **sor** (3 **seor**), 4–5 **soor**(e (5 **soure**), 6–7 **soare**, 7 **soar**, 4– **sore.** [OE. *sár* str. neut., = OFris. *sêr* (WFris. *sear*, NFris. *siar*), MDu. *seer, zeer* (Du. *zeer*), OS. *sêr* (MLG. *sêr-e*, LG. *ser, seer*), OHG., MHG. *sêr* (early mod.G. *sehr*, also masc.), ON. and Icel. *sár* (Sw. *sår*, Da. *saar*), Goth. *sair*: see SORE *a.*

Feminine forms occur in some of the continental langs.: MLG. *sêre*, MHG. *sêre* (early mod.G. *sehre*).]

†**1.** Bodily pain or suffering. *Obs.*

c 825 *Vesp. Psalter* XXX. 11 Asprong in sare lif min. *c* 900 *Baeda's Hist.* IV. xix. (1890) 320 Þy þriddan dæge heo wæs eft hefigad mid þæm ærrum sarum. 971 *Blickl. Hom.* 59 On synne he bið geeacnod, & on his modor sare he bið acenned. *c* 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* I. 280 Þysse sylfan wyrte syde þæra toþa sar geliðigað. *c* 1205 LAY. 12511 We beoð ofte hider ifaren mid wandreðe & mid sare. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 628 Vte of his side..Wit-oten sare a rib he tok. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* V. XXX. (Bodl. MS.), Þe touche of senewes haþ no feling of soore and of smerte. *a* 1450 *Le Morte Arth.* 3405 The doughty kynge..For sore myght not hym-self weld. 1484 CAXTON *Fables of Æsop* IV. xiii, My broder and my frend, where aboute is thy sore? 1583 *Leg. Bp. St. Androis* 341 Suppoise the devill maid that graith,..At that tyme, to asswage my sair, I wald have tane it.

†**2.** Sickness, disease; in particularized use, a disease, ailment, or bodily affliction. *Obs.*

a 900 CYNEWULF *Crist* 1356 Þa þe on sare seoce laȝun. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 3027 Do wex vn-selðe on hem wel hard, dolc, sor, and blein on erue and man. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 14147 Þe sare him sekes fra hede to fote. 1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. XX. 96 Kynde come after with many kene sores, As pokkes and pestilences. 1604 SHAKS. *Oth.* IV. ii. 49 Had they rain'd All kind of Sores, and Shames on my bare-head. 1611 BIBLE 2 *Chron.* vi. 28 Whatsoeuer sore, or whatsoeuer sicknesse there be. 1648 HEXHAM II, *Roose, ofte de Kole*, S. Anthonies Sore, called the Rose.

3. A bodily injury; a wound. *Obs.* exc. *dial.*

a 1000 *Guthlac* 676 Mec dryhten heht snude ȝesecgan þæt ȝe him sara ȝehwylc hondum ȝehælde. *a* 1200 *12th Cent. Hom.* (1909) 114 Ac þa synfulle men sceolen iseon þa wundæn & þa sar on ure Drihtne. *c* 1380 *Sir Ferumb.* 503 'Me þynkþ þou hast a wonde þere..in þy syde.'..Olyuer ..turnd him þat sor to hyde. *c* 1400 *Laud Troy Bk.* 5843 He ȝaff Ector an hidous sore. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* XI. xv. 115 The scharp steill heid fixt to the rybbis remanys, In a full deip wound and a grewous sair. 1599 SHAKS., etc. *Pass. Pilgr.* 128 'See, in my thigh,' quoth she, 'here was the sore'. 1785 R. FORBES *Scots Poems Buchan Dial.* 31 He'll suck the poison frae the sair, An' be a noble leech. 1876 *Mid-Yks. Gloss.* 131 *Sore* has the meaning of bruise, or wound, occasionally.

4. A place in an animal body where the skin or flesh is diseased or injured so as to be painfully tender or raw; a sore place, such as that caused by an ulcer.

See *bed-sore* (BED *sb.* 19), *saddle-sore* (SADDLE *sb.* 10).

c 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* I. 134 Wið wunda & wið cancor genim þas ilcan wyrte,..leȝe to þam sare. Ne ȝefaþaþ heo þæt sar furður wexe. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 14012 Þar sco fand ani breck or sare, Wit hir smerl sco smerd þare. *c* 1400 *Lanfranc's Cirurg.* 87 Þe quantite of medicyns þat schulden be leid to þe soor..mai not wiþ lettris be writen. 1474 CAXTON *Chesse* II. v. (1883) 66 And many flyes satte vpon the soores. 1523 FITZHERB. *Husb.* § 42 Shede the wolf by and by, and laye a lyttell terre therv̄ppon, tyll thou passe the sore. 1592 SHAKS. *Ven. & Ad.* 916 Another [hound] licking of his wound, 'Gainst venom'd sores the only sovereign plaster. 1603 DEKKER *Wonderfull Yeare* Wks. (Grosart) I. 118 Some haue had 18. sores at one time running vpon them. 1682 K. DIGBY *Chymical Secrets* II. 232 Dip a Straw or Feather in it, and touch all round about the borders of the Sore with it. 1755 JOHNSON s.v., To be a sore, there must be an excoriation; a tumour or bruise is not called a sore before some disruption happen. 1784 COWPER *Task* I. 582 They..vex their flesh with artificial sores. 1826 S. COOPER *First Lines Surg.* (ed. 5) 170 Bruises of the shin so frequently cause sloughing and troublesome sores. 1889 *Science-Gossip* XXV. 193/2 Matter discharged from leprous sores.

5. In fig. and allusive uses, with retention of literal phraseology; esp. coupled with *salve* (see SALVE *sb.*[1] 2 and *v.*[1] 1 c).

The sense becomes often coincident with 6 or 7.

c 1350 *Will. Palerne* 598 Ful wel can ich..help ȝow hasteli at al ȝoure hele to gete, ȝif ȝe saie me ȝoure sores. *c* 1374 CHAUCER *Anel. & Arc.* 242 Noon othir helpeþe my soores for to sounde. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* II. 223 Of covoitise if ther be more In love, agropeth out the sore. 1410 in 26 *Pol. Poems* ix. 178 Now sumwhat y haue ȝow sayd What is salue to ȝoure sore. 1538 STARKEY *England* II. i. 143 Conuenyent remedys..to be applyd to such sorys and dyseasys in our polytyke body. 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 304 b, The matter was taken up, yet the sore brake out agayne. 1587 GREENE *Euphues* Wks. (Grosart) VI. 181 That infectious soare of iealowsie. 1610 SHAKS. *Temp.* II. i. 138 You rub the sore, When you should bring the plaister. 1647 N. BACON *Disc. Govt. Eng.* I. lxiv. (1739) 134 The sore between him and his Subjects was not fully cured. 1727 *De Foe's Eng. Tradesman* I. xii. 147 He had got a salve for that sore. 1828 SCOTT *F. M. Perth* vii, It is not for me to put my finger on the sore. 1842 TENNYSON *Walking to Mail* 71 The same old sore breaks out from age to age.

Prov. 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 64 And as the common saiyng is, increase the flamme with oyle, and be as sharpe nayle in the sore. 1562 J. HEYWOOD *Prov. & Epigr.* (1867) 71 It is ill healyng of an olde sore.

†**6.** Mental suffering, pain, or trouble; grief, sorrow, anxiety, or the cause of this. *Obs.*

c 888 K. ÆLFRED *Boeth.* vii. § 2 Mið ðæm mæstan sare his modes. *a* 1122 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1120, Ðysra deað wæs heora freondan twyfealdlic sar. *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 121 Lokiað hweðer enies monnes sar beo iliche mine sare. *c* 1205 LAY. 7998 Þer wes Julius Cezar, an heorte he hafde sorȝe & sar. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 733 Teres gliden for hertes sor fro loth, and abram, and nachor. *c* 1300 *Havelok* 234 Þer was sobbing, siking, and sor, Handes wringing. *c* 1350 *Will. Palerne* 894 Sikende ful sadly for sor at his hert. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Knt.'s T.* 596 Who feeleth double soor and heuynesse But Palamon? 1423 JAS. I *Kingis Q.* clxxxii, Euery wicht his awin suete or sore Has maist In mynde. 1523 LD. BERNERS *Froiss.* (1812) I. clxii. 199 Gette vs to the french kynges batayle, for ther lyeth all the sore of the mater [orig. *tout le fort de la besoigne*]. 1575 GASCOIGNE *Glasse Governm.* Wks. 1910 II. 66 Store is no sore, as the proverbe saith.

†**7.** Grievous state; affliction, misery. *Obs.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 9103 Þat sare, þat scam, þat martiring, Was neuer sene on suilk a king! *c* 1400 *Pride of Life* 406 in *Non-Cycle Myst. Plays* (E.E.T.S.) 101 To sauy þi soul fre sor. 14.. *Tundale's Vis.* 724 Now goo we to a delfull stedde...Who schall delyver me from that sore? *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* XI. 303 To wyn out off bondage Scotland agayn fra payn and felloun sor.

Sore (sō·ɔi), *sb.*[2] Also 4 **sower**, 4–6 **sowre**, 6 **soor**, 6–7 **soare**, 9 **sor.** [Subst. use of SORE *a.*[2]]

†**1.** *Venery.* A buck in its fourth year. *Obs.*

c 1369 CHAUCER *Dethe Blaunche* 429 Of fawnes, sowers [*v. r.* sowres], buckes, does Was ful the wodde. 1486 *Bk. St. Albans* e iv, A sowre at the .iiij. yere. 1523 *North Country Wills* (Surtees) 116 The prior and covent..clayme of me.. a buck or a soor agaynst Mary Magdaleyn day yerely. 1573 TWYNE *Æneid* x. Ff iij b, If he a rowebuck swift.., Or els a sore may find, whose tender hornes begin to ryse. 1588 SHAKS. *L. L. L.* IV. ii. 59. 1633 NABBES *Totenham Court* I. v, A longing Lady in the Strand had a pricket. Then I sent a soare to Barber-Surgeons Hall. 1741 *Compl. Fam.-Piece* II. i. 310 If any Deer come out that is not weighty, or a Deer of Antlier, which is Buck, Sore, or Sorel. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* II. v. (1862) I. 329. 1865 [see SORREL *sb.*[3] 2].

attrib. 1577 in *Middlesex County Rec.* (1886) I. 109 Duos coreos vocatos soreskynnes.

2. *Falconry.* A hawk in its second year. Also *transf.* (quot. *a* 1613).

1600 [see SORE *sb.*[4]]. *a* 1613 OVERBURY *Characters, Whore* Wks. (1856) 82 The first yeere of her trade she is an eyesse, ..the second a soare. *a* 1682 SIR T. BROWNE *Tracts* (1683) 118 Nor must you expect from high Antiquity the distinctions of Eyess and Ramage Hawks, of Sores and Entermewers, of Hawks of the Lure and the Fist.

Sore (sō·ɔi), *sb.*[3] *dial.* Forms: 5 **sour**, **sowr**(e, **soore**, 7, 9 **saur**, 9 **soar**, **sore.** [a. ON. *saur-r* (Icel. and Norw. *saur*, MSw. *sör*) mud, dirt, excrement.] Mud; now (in Cheshire and Yorkshire) black mud, liquid manure, drainage.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 460/1 Sloor, or sowr, *cenum, limus. Ibid.* 465/1 Soore, fylthe or sovr (*S., P.* sowre, filthe),.. *lutum.* 1674 RAY *Coll. Words, Saur-pool*, a stinking puddle. 1828 CARR *Craven Gloss.* 98 *Saur*, urine from the cow-house, &c. 1879– in dial. glossaries, etc. (Chesh., Yks.).

†**Sore,** *sb.*[4] *Obs.*[-1] [a. older Flem. *sore* 'droogen haerinck, rooden haerinck' (Kilian), a. OF. (*harenc*) *sor(e*, now *saur(e*: see SORE *a.*[2]] A red herring.

1600 SURFLET *Countrie Farme* VII. xliii. 871 Their colour doth diuerslie change according to their mues, which cause them to be called Hagards or Sores, all one with that which is vsuallie done by dryed herings which are called Sores or red herings.

Sore, error for SORD *sb.*, obs. var. SIR *sb.*

Sore (sō·ɔi), *a.*[1] Forms: *α.* 1, 3 **sar** (2–3 **seer**, 3 **ser**); *north.* and *Sc.* 4–5 **sar**, 4–6, 8 **sare** (6 **sear**, **seir**); 4–5 **sayre**, 5–6 **sayr**, 5– **sair** (6 **saire**). *β.* 3, 5 **sor**, 5 **soor**, 5–6 **soore**, 6 *Sc.* **soir**, 4– **sore** (9 *dial.* **soor**, **sooar**). *Compar.* 1 **sarra**, 3–5 **sarre**, 5 **sarrar**; 3 **sarure**, **sarer**, 6 **sarar**, **sairar**, 6, 9 **sairer**; 4 **sorrore**, 5– **sorer.** *Superl.* 1 **sarost**, 4 **sarrest**, 6, 9 **sairest**, 6– **sorest.** [Common Teut.: OE. *sár*, = OFris. **sêr* (WFris. *sear*, NFris. *siar, str*), MDu. *seer* (Du. *zeer*), OS. and MLG. *sêr* (LG. *sêr, seer*, etc.), OHG. and MHG. *sêr* (obs. and dial. G. *seer, sehr*), ON. *sárr* (Icel. *sár*, Norw. *saar*; MSw. *sär, saar*) :–OTeut. **sairaz* (whence Finnish *sairas* sick, ill). Cf. SORE *sb.*[1]]

Senses 1–8 are now mainly *arch.* or *dial.*

I. 1. Causing or involving bodily pain; painful, grievous; distressing or severe in this respect: **a.** Of wounds, hurts, ailments, or similar causes of physical suffering.

c 897 K. ÆLFRED *Gregory's Past. C.* XXXVIII. (1871) 272 We wieton ðæt sio diegle wund bið sarre ðonne sio opene. *c* 1000 in Thorpe *Laws* II. 278 Se læca þe sceal sare wunda wel ȝehælan, he mot habban gode sealfe þærto. *c* 1205 LAY. 10423, I þan þridden dæie he sarne dæd þolede. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 112 Euer so þet flesch is cwickure, so þe pine þerof & þet hurt is more & sarre. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 3478 Hir breding was ful selcut sare, Bot hir childting was mikel mare. *c* 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 1775 Þe payn of dede here es bitter and sare. *c* 1400 *Pety Job* 293 in 26 *Pol. Poems* 130 A man..With hote and colde, and hungor sore, Turmented ys. 1422 tr. *Secreta Secret., Priv. Priv.* 205 Hit makyth a full heuy and a full Soore wounde. 1539 BIBLE (Great) *Ps.* XXXVIII. 7 My loins are filled with a sore disease. 1593 SHAKS. *Lucr.* 1568 'Fool, fool!' quoth she, 'his wounds will not be sore'. *a* 1629 HINDE *Y. Bruen* lxvi. (1641) 219 His weaknesse increased, by reason of a sore stopping in his breast and throate. 1655 CULPEPPER, etc. *Riverius* XV. iii. 409 The same may also happen after sore labor in child-birth. 1831 J. WILSON *Noctes Ambr.* Wks. 1856 III. 186 You've been suffering under a sair hoast, I hear.

b. Of a blow, bite, weapon, etc.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 25543 Suet iesu..sufferd..dintes sare and smert. *c* 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 6972 Þai salle.. fele of vermyn bytyng sare. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 1259 Castor ..suet vnto Sedar with a sore wepyn. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* III. 215 Thai band thaim fast with wedeis sad and sar. 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* lxxii. 21 Thai..gaif him mony buffat sair. 1607 SHAKS. *Cor.* II. i. 268 Cammels.., who haue their Prouand Onely for bearing Burthens, and sore blowes For sinking vnder them. 1611 BIBLE *Isaiah* XXVII. 1 The Lord with his sore and great and strong sworde.

transf. *c* 1400 *Apol. Loll.* 38 For ai þe heiar degre, þe sarrar is þe falle.

c. Of sickness.

Passing into the merely intensive sense of 'severe'.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 8061 In sekenes sar he fand him stad. *c* 1400 *Brut* 201 Þai .. woxen made, or sore sikenesse þai had. 1509 HAWES *Past. Pleas.* XXIX. (Percy Soc.) 137 For to have remedy of his sore sekenes. 1611 BIBLE *Deut.* XXVIII. 59 Sore sicknesses, and of long continuance. 1808 JAMIESON s.v. *Sair*, Sair sickness, a sair fever.

2. Causing or involving, accompanied by, mental pain, trouble, or distress.

Deor's Compl. 9 Beadohilde ne wæs hyre broþra deaþ

on sefan swa sar swa hyre sylfre þing. *a* 1000 *Cædmon's Gen.* 425 Þæt me is on mode minum swa sar,..þæt hie heofonrice agan to aldre. *c* 1205 LAY. 7418 Þider com tiðende þat him wæs sær [*c* 1275 sor]. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 6443 Þis ilk folk.. þat moyses had vnder hand, þai did him selcuth sore trauail. *c* 1500 *Three Kings' Sons* 44 But ther is o sore point, they that shalle go, knowe not the way. 1568 GRAFTON *Chron.* II. 765 The tidyngs of this matter came hastily to the Queene .., and that in the sorest wise. 1833 TENNYSON *Lotos-Eaters* Choric Song vi, Sore task to hearts worn out by many wars.

b. Of sorrow, repentance, or other feelings.

a 900 CYNEWULF *Crist* 209 Nu þu ealle forlæt sare sorgceare. *a* 1000 *Cædmon's Gen.* 2029 Abraham..cwæð, þæt him wære weorce on mode, sorga sarost, þæt [etc.]. *a* 1200 *Vices & Virtues* 21 Mid oðre loke of sare birewnesse. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 9088 For sar it es mi repentance. *c* 1421 *26 Pol. Poems* xx. 106 Haue mynde of my sorwe sore! *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* v. 714 The sayr grewans ramaynyt in his entent. 1871 B. TAYLOR *Faust* (1875) I. x. 130 Besides his penitence was very sore.

c. Of manifestations of grief: Bitter, painful.

c 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 83 He ne fecheð noht þe sore siches onneðerward his heorte. 13.. *Cursor M.* 4969 (Gött.), Ioseph herd þair murning sare. *c* 1400 *Anturs of Arth.* vii, Withe siking sare. 1535 JOYE *Apol. Tindale* (Arb.) 41 Paule loked with sore sighes. 1611 BIBLE *Gen.* l. 10 They mourned with a great and very sore lamentation.

3. Involving great hardships, painful exertion, unusual difficulty, etc.

a 900 CYNEWULF *Crist* 1418 Ða mec ongon hreowan, þæt ..moncynnes tuddor..sceolde uncuðne eard cunnian, sare siþas. *a* 1200 *Moral Ode* 36 Monies monnes sare iswinc habbeð oft unholde. *c* 1420 *Sir Amadace* (Camden) xxi, God gif him a sore grace, And alle suche waisters as he wasse. *c* 1475 *Rauf Coilyear* 637, I haue oft tymes swet in seruice full sair. 1508 FISHER *7 Penit. Ps.* cii. Wks. (1876) 182 Poule ..gate his lyuynge with his owne sore labour. 1605 SHAKS. *Macb.* II. ii. 38 Sleepe,..The death of each dayes Life, sore Labors Bath. *a* 1629 HINDE *Y. Bruen* xxxii. (1641) 101 His painfulnesse in taking many long and sore journies. 1786 *Har'st Rig* cxiv, In idle dreams they ne'er abound That ha'e sair wark. 1824 SCOTT *Redgauntlet* let. xi, Sair wark he had to get the siller.

absol. *a* 1375 *Joseph Arim.* 620 Þorw his swete grace þe sarrest is passed. *c* 1400 *Rom. Rose* 5519 Thei wolen.. chaunge for softe ne for sore.

b. Of battle or other conflicts: Severe, fierce, hot.

c 1400 *Destr. Troy* 5897 The assembly was sorer o þe se banke. 1422 tr. *Secreta Secret., Priv. Priv.* 182 Aftyr many Sore battaillis,..he flow ouer the See. 1508 DUNBAR *Gold. Targe* 198 The salt was all the sarar. 1523 LD. BERNERS *Froiss.* I. 180 There was a sore fray, and slayne and drowned mo than sixe hundred frenchmen. 1605 SHAKS. *Lear* III. v. 24 Though the conflict be sore betweene that, and my blood. 1671 MILTON *Samson* 287 In that sore battel when so many dy'd. *c* 1780 BURNS *'Aht woe is me'* i, For sair contention I maun bear. 1816 SCOTT *Old Mort.* xiii, He has had sair and frequent combats to sustain against the Evil One.

4. Pressing hardly upon one; oppressively heavy or severe; difficult to bear or support.

1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* xlix. 30 God schawis the richt With soir vengence. 1535 COVERDALE 1 *Kings* xii. 14 My father made youre yock sore, but I wyll make it yet sorer vpon you. 1605 SHAKS. *Macb.* II. iv. 3, I haue seene..things strange: but this sore Night Hath trifled former knowings. 1611 BIBLE *Ezek.* xiv. 21 How much more when I send my foure sore iudgements vpon Ierusalem. 1714 PRIOR *Viceroy* xii, On all provisions..He laid a tax full hard and sore. 1766 GOLDSMITH *Vicar* xxviii, The hand of Heaven is sore upon us. 1786 BURNS *Dream* vi, Your sair taxation does her fleece. 1860 GEO. ELIOT *Mill on Fl.* III. v, It's been a sore chance for you, young man, hasn't it?

b. Of troubles, afflictions, evils, etc.

1563 WINJET *Wks.* (S.T.S.) I. 101 *marg.*, A dum pastour or a wicious, is a sair scurge on the peple. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* III. vi. 53 And for his dearest sake endured sore, Sore trouble of an hainous enimy. 1602 SHAKS. *Ham.* v. ii. 241 You must needs haue heard how I am punisht With sore distraction? 1679 C. NESSE *Antichrist* 198 The nature of affliction which is usually sorest at last. 1742 YOUNG *Nt. Th.* III. 218 Man is to man the sorest, surest ill. 1799 A. YOUNG *Agric. Lincoln.* 341 From 30 to 40 of this stock run in the fen, but to sore loss. 1819 SHELLEY *Ode West Wind* 52, I would ne'er have striven As thus with thee in prayer in my sore need. 1835 T. MITCHELL *Acharn. of Aristoph.* 32 *note*, Those glaring contrasts, which form the sorest ill of poverty. 1871 PALGRAVE *Lyr. Poems* 101 This is the sorest evil Of evils under the sky.

c. Of trials or temptations.

1572 *Satir. Poems Reform.* xxxi. 78 Now thay cum in freindis clais, Quhilk is ane sairer sey. 1709 WATTS *Hymn*, *'With Joy we meditate the Grace'* ii, He knows what sore Temptations mean. 1892 *Photogr. Ann.* II. 893 Each of these advantages must prove a sore temptation to the hand-camera worker.

d. In intensive use: Very great or serious.

1555 in Bonner *Homilies* 5* We shall sone perceyue the offence not lyght, but verye sore and heynous. 1576 FLEMING *Panopl. Epist.* 71 The same wil redound to my great blame and sore discredit. 1611 SHAKS. *Cymb.* III. vi. 13 To lapse in Fulnesse Is sorer, then to lye for Neede. 1825 SCOTT *Talism.* iii, Committing what would have been a sore blot in his shield of arms. 1875 STUBBS *Const. Hist.* II. xiv. 53 Henry was now in sore want of money. 1886 *S. W. Linc. Gloss.* 137 It's a sore shame.

5. Severe, stern, hard, or harsh: † **a.** Of language, commands, etc. *Obs.*

1526 TINDALE *2 Cor.* x. 10 The pistles (sayth he) are sore and strong: but his bodyly presence is weake. 1549 LATIMER *Ploughers* (Arb.) 21 A soore word for them that are neglygent. 1610 SHAKS. *Temp.* III. i. 11, I must remoue Some thousands of these Logs, and pile them vp, Vpon a sore iniunction.

b. Of persons. Now *dial.* (Common in 16th c.)

1534 MORE *Comf. agst. Trib.* II. Wks. 1171/1, I dare not be so sore as vtterly to forbid it. 1553 T. WILSON *Rhet.* (1580) 123; I call him that is a cruell or mercilesse man, somwhat sore in iudgement. 1567 MAPLET *Gr. Forest* 87 b, She is verie extreme and sore towards hir yong. 1901 G. DOUGLAS *House with Green Shutters* 324 Maybe the Lord Jesus Christ 'll no' be owre sair on me.

6. Of a strong, severe, or violent character in respect of operation or effect: **a.** Of feelings.

c 1449 PECOCK *Repr.* III. iv. 295 His..ouer soor inclinacioun of loue anentis hem. 1611 BIBLE *Psalm* ii. 5 Then shall hee .. vexe them in his sore displeasure. 1810 CRABBE *Borough* iv. 11 Some, when converted, sigh in sore amaze.

b. Of storms, weather, etc.

1535 COVERDALE *Ps.* xvii. 14 He cast sore lighteninges, & destroyed them. 1556 *Chron. Gr. Friars* (Camden) 28 Soch a sore snowe & a frost. 1593 MARLOWE *Edw. II*, IV. vi, With awkward windes and sore tempests driuen, To fall on shoare. 1866 NEALE *Sequences & Hymns* 36 Brought her through the sorest tempest.

c. Of persons or other agents.

1565 COOPER *Thesaurus*, *Aduersarius acerrimus*, a very sore and earnest [adversary]. 1592 TIMME *Ten Eng. Lepers* B ij, Nimri was a sore driver. 1602 SHAKS. *Ham.* v. i. 188 Your water is a sore Decayer of your horson dead body. 1656 EARL MONM. tr. *Boccalini's Advis. fr. Parnass.* I. lxvii. (1674) 85 Princes meet with no sorer enemies, than male-contents. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* II. 122/2 Cattle, Horses, &c. are sore hurts both to Gardens & Orchards.

d. Of actions. *rare*—[1].

1563 *Homilies* II. *Whitsunday* ii, The byshops of Rome haue for a long time made a sore chalenge therunto.

† **7.** Strong, weighty, valid. *Obs.*

1530 RASTELL *Bk. Purgat.* III. vii, That is a very sore obieccyon that thou hast now put and aledged. 1551 T. WILSON *Logike* (1580) 83 b, To persuade hym the better, he vsed this sore reason.

8. *dial.* = SORRY *a.* (See quots.)

In *Destr. Troy* 10445 *sore* appears to have this sense, but may be an error for *sori* SORRY *a.*

a 1825 FORBY *Voc. E. Anglia* (1830) 316 *Sore*, sorry; vile; worthless..'He made a sore hand of it!' 1839 SIR G. C. LEWIS *Gloss. Heref.* s.v., 'A sore fellow' means a rogue, a rascal. 'A sore time' means a sad time. 1866 BROGDEN *Prov. Lincs.*, *Sore*, bad, sorry. He's made a sore job of it. 1880 *Antrim & Down Gloss.* 96 *Sore*,..pitiful or contemptible. 'He's a sore fool.'

II. 9. Of parts of the body: In pain; painful, aching. Now *spec.*, having the skin broken or raw.

a 1000 *Riddles* XIV. 6 (Gr.), Ne wæs hyra æneum þy wyrs ne side þy sarre. *c* 1000–1150 *Sax. Leechd.* III. 108 Wið mannes ceola þe byð sær. Þisne læce cræft man sceal ðon manne þe byð þe ceola sar. *c* 1205 LAY. 19501 Me scal lacnien his leomes þat beoð sare. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 15101 O þair fete þat semed sare. *a* 1352 MINOT *Poems* (ed. Hall) i. 15 Þai turned ogayn with sides sare. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) I. 51 As a sore membre..[is parted] from membres þat beeþ hole..and in good poynt. 1489 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* I. 149, vij elne of quhyte to be logouris to the King, the tyme his leg wes sayre. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W.) 220 b, No parte of our body can be sore or in payne, but al the other partes in maner feleth the same. 1542–3 *Act* 34 & 35 *Hen. VIII*, c. 8 § 1 Suche as ben peined with customable diseases: as womens brestes being sore. 1639 in *Verney Mem.* (1907) I. 104 His gummes are soe sore, he will not yet suffer his nurse to looke into his mouth. 1695 *New Light of Chirurg. put out* 30 The Parts so stiff and sore, as if they never would be well. 1704 F. FULLER *Med. Gymn.* (1711) 57 I'm tyr'd, my Bones are sore. 1774 BURKE *Sp. Amer. Tax.* Sel. Wks. I. 112 Your ministerial directors ..then went mumping with a sore leg in America, canting and whining. 1824 SCOTT *St. Ronan's* xviii, What signifies healing a sore foot when there will be a broken heart in the case? 1847 MARRYAT *Childr. New Forest* iv, My shoulder is quite sore with the rope. 1881 *Trans. Obstet. Soc. Lond.* XXII. 14 There was no spot sore to touch.

fig. 1725 POPE *Odyss.* III. 252 Who while my soul is sore Of fresh affronts, are meditating more.

b. Of the eyes, throat, etc.: Painful through inflammation or other morbid condition.

(*a*) *a* 1400 *Stockholm Med. MS.* fol. 128 For sore eyne..it is preuyd. 1565 J. HALLE *Hist. Expost.* (Percy Soc.) 17 Well, ..seyng that you can heale sore eyes, what is an eye? 1606 SHAKS. *Tr. & Cr.* v. i. 36 Thou greene Sarcenet flap for a sore eye. *c* 1680 BEVERIDGE *Serm.* (1729) I. 28 Being troubled with sore eyes. 1765 GRAY *Shakespeare Verses* iii, But may not honey's self be turn'd to gall By residence, by marriage, and sore eyes?

fig. 1673 CAVE *Prim. Chr.* III. i. 220 The brightness of his conversation offended the sore eyes of other men.

(*b*) 1686 in *Verney Mem.* (1907) II. 423, I have a cold and a sore Throat. 1719 QUINCY *Phys. Dict.* (1722) 13 As they [tonsils] are subject to Inflammation, they frequently are the Occasion of what the common People call a sore Throat. 1787 J. COLLINS in *Med. Comm.* II. 364 Putrid sore-throat, or angina maligna. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* li, The professional personages..would leave off their sore throats in order to sing at her parties. 1898 *Syd. Soc. Lex.* s.v., *Sore-throat, clergyman's*, chronic follicular pharyngitis.

(*c*) 1853 MAYNE *Expos. Lex.* 73/1 *Aphtha*,..the disease of infancy, otherwise called thrush, or sore mouth.

c. *Sc.* Of the head: Aching. *A sore* (Sc. *sair*) *head*, a headache.

1549 *Compl. Scot.* vi. 67 The decoctione of it is remeid for ane sair hede. 1643 *Orkney Witch Trial* in *Abbotsford Club Miscell.* I. 177 Ze said also that Bessie Spence hes ay ane sore head, it is ay pained. 1739 A. NICOL *Poems* 52 (Jam.), Syne supperless I go to bed; The morn I wake with a sare head. 1785 BURNS *Death & Dr. Hornbook* xxvi, Tippence-worth to mend her head, When it was sair. 1824 MACTAGGART *Gallovid. Encycl.* 324 A confounded *sair head*, proceeding from the effects of taking the *wee drap*. 1880 *Antrim & Down Gloss.* 96 *Sore head*, a headache.

d. *A bear with a sore head*, used allusively for a type of sullen irritability, peevishness, or sensitiveness. Cf. SORE-HEAD, -HEADED.

1840 MARRYAT *Poor Jack* xxxviii, As sulky as a bear with a sore head.

10. Of persons: Suffering pain (from wounds, disease, or other cause). Freq. in alliteration with *sick*. Also *absol.*

1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 6229 In such solas, As folc mizte þat vorwounded & sor & wery was. *c* 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 1461 Now er we hale, now seke and sare. *c* 1400 *26 Pol. Poems* xxvi. 109 After he felle foule and sore For luste of wemen that was hym nygh. 1542–3 *Act* 34 & 35 *Hen. VIII*, c. 8 § 1 In case they [surgeons] wolde minister their cunninge to sore people vnrewarded. 1590 SHAKS. *Com. Err.* III. i. 65 If you went in paine Master, this knaue wold goe sore. 1611 BIBLE *Gen.* xxxiv. 25 On the thirde day when they were sore [after circumcision]. *a* 1700 DRYDEN (J.), While sore of battle, while our wounds are green. 1837 MAJ. RICHARDSON *Brit. Leg.* (ed. 2) II. 291 He was exceedingly sore and faint with the bruises he had received.

11. Afflicted with sorrow or grief; pained, distressed: **a.** Of the heart, etc.

c 1205 LAY. 149 For he nefde nenne sune þe sarure was his heorte. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 4044 Manie tiding quad balaam ðor, ðe made balakes herte sor. *c* 1320 *Sir Tristr.* 2141 Markes hert was sare. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 2074 With hoge harmes to haue, & his hert sarre. 1523 LD. BERNERS *Froiss.* I. cccv. 704 His mynde was so sore therof, that no man coude set hym therfro. *c* 1560 A. SCOTT *Poems* (S.T.S.) xviii. 4, I most departe Frome hir..With hairt full soir. 1721 RAMSAY *Prospect of Plenty* 11 'Till .. wi' a heart right sair, He sees the bites grow bein, as he grows bare. 1785 BURNS *Halloween* viii, An' Jean had e'en a sair heart To see't that night. 1834 PRINGLE *Afr. Sk.* xiv. 435 They were brothers—until the herds of the Amakosa increased so as to make the hearts of the Boors sore. 1871 C. GIBBON *Lack of Gold* iii, I think I have made both your hearts sorer than they were before. 1891 FARRAR *Darkn. & Dawn* vii, With a sore conscience [he] was constantly driven to do what he disapproved.

b. Of persons. Now *dial.*

c 1205 LAY. 638 Þe king wes on mode sar; þet wes for his monne lure. 13.. R. GLOUC. (1724) 7051 Þeruore þe kyng vor hys deþ þe sorrore was. 13.. *Gaw. & Gr. Kn.* 1087 Vche segge as sore, to seuer with hym þere, As þay hade wonde worþyly with þat wlonk euer. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 349/1 Sore, *dolens*. 1525 LD. BERNERS *Froiss.* II. lxi. [lxiii.] 203 The foresayd knyght helde hymselfe sore of the informacyon of his wyfe. 1876 [ROBINSON] *Whitby Gloss.* 159 'I's varry sair for 't,' sorry for it.

12. **a.** Of persons or their feelings: Inclined to be irritated or grieved; irritable, sensitive.

a 1694 TILLOTSON (J.), Malice and hatred are very fretting and vexatious, and apt to make our minds sore and uneasy. 1738 POPE *Epil. Sat.* I. 55 Laugh at your friends, and, if your Friends are sore, So much the better, you may laugh the more. 1815 SCOTT *Guy M.* v, One of the few subjects on which he felt sore. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* ii. I. 233 The public mind was so sore and excitable that these lies readily found credit.

b. *Sore place, point, spot*, a point or matter in respect of which one is easily vexed or irritated.

1690 W. WALKER *Idiomat. Anglo-Lat.* 426 It is a sore place; i.e. a thing that being touched upon will gall or grieve. 1863 *Bradford Advertiser* 18 July 5/2 Some specially sore point to which you can direct your attack.

c. Similarly with *subject*, etc.

1833 HT. MARTINEAU *Berkeley the Banker* I. viii. 167 It was indeed a sore subject in every house in Haleham. 1871 MEREDITH *H. Richmond* xlviii, There lies the evil of a sore subject among persons of one household. 1886 W. J. TUCKER *E. Europe* 251 Now that they are Christians, the thought of having three of their children interred in a Jewish cemetery is a very sore one with them.

13. *Comb.*, as *sore-foot, -hearted, -toed* adjs.; **sore-eyed** *a.*, having sore eyes; also applied to sheath-billed pigeons, which have reddish caruncles round the eyes.

1570 *Satir. Poems Reform.* x. 394 Quhilk sycht to se.. maid me sair hartit. *a* 1733 in *Prior's Poems* (1733) III. 110 He's dropsical, she is sore-ey'd. 1756 C. SMART tr. *Horace, Epist.* I. ii. (1826) II. 191 To him, that is a slave to desire or to fear, house and estate do just as much good as paintings to a sore-eyed person. 1874 W. CORY *Lett. & Jrnls.* (1897) 364 Men who are a little too sore-toed for marching. 1911 *Blackw. Mag.* Nov. 579/1 We see him arriving sorefoot at the Three Pigeons in Brentford.

Sore, *a.*[2] *Obs.* exc. *Hist.* Also 5 **sor, soore,** 5–6 **sowre,** 6–7 **soare,** 7 **sorre,** 7–9 **soar**; *Sc.* 5–6 **soyr,** 6 **soir.** [a. AF. (1086 in Domesday Bk.) and OF. *sor*, mod.F. *saur(e*, = Prov. *saur*, *sor*, Sp. *soro*, It. *sauro*, med.L. *saurus*, *sorus*, *sorius*, of undetermined origin. Cf. SORE *sb.*[2]]

1. *Falconry.* Applied to a hawk of the first year that has not moulted and still has its red plumage (now called a *red hawk*); hence applied to the plumage itself; occas. extended to other birds of prey, as the kite and eagle.

c 1450 *Godstow Register* 259 A sperehawke sowre. *c* 1481 *Cely Papers* (Camden) 81 The fayreste sor hawke..within aull Yngelond. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* VII. Prol. 125 The soir gled quhislis loud wyth mony ane pew. 1575 TURBERV. *Faulconrie* 69 That hawke that is mewed and hath cast his soare feathers. 1596 SPENSER *Hymn Heav. Beauty* 26 Of the soare faulcon so I learne to fly. 1614 LATHAM *Falconry* 37 The passenger soare-Faulcon is a more choice and tender hawke. 1641 MILTON *Animadv.* Wks. 1851 III. 188 A Soar-Eagle would not stoope at a flye. 1677 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1180/4 Lost upon Hunslow Heath,..a Sore Tassel Gentle, with the Kings Varvels. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s.v. *Falco*, The third [name] is the soar hawk, so called in September, October, and November. 1779 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 2) IV. 2901/2 If it be a soar-falcon,..she will indeed be harder to reclaim. 1852 [see SORAGE].

fig. 1614 TOMKIS *Albumazar* III. iv, Fully mued From brown

soar feathers of dull yeomanry, To th' glorious bloom of gentry.

†2. Of a horse: Of a reddish-brown colour. *Obs.* Cf. SORREL *a.* a.

a 1400 *Sir Degrev.* 76 Fayer stedes in the stallus, Lyard and soore. *c* 1480 HENRYSON *Test. Cress.* 211 (Charteris), Four 3okkit steidis. .. The first was soyr, with Mane als reid as Rois. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* XII. Prol. 27 Eous the steid..Abuf the seyis lyftis furth his heid, Of cullour soyr. 1564 in Raine *Richmondshire Wills* (Surtees) 171, ij fylles, a dappell graye and a sowre baye. 1679 CLAVERHOUSE in *Lauderdale Papers* (1885) III. xcv. 165 With a pitch fork they made..an opening in my sorre horses belly.

Sore (sōəɹ), *v.*[1] Also *north.* and *Sc.* 4–6 sare, 5–6 sair. [f. SORE *a.*[1] Cf. OFris. *sêria*, OS. *sêrian* (MLG. *sêren*), MDu. *seeren* (Du. *zeeren*), OHG., MHG. *sêren* (mod.G. *versehren*), ON. and Icel. *særa* (Sw. *såra*, Da. *saare*). OE. had *sârian* to be pained or grieved.] *trans.* To make sore, in various senses; to give (physical or mental) pain to; † to wound.

13.. *Cursor M.* 14147 (Gött.), Al if þai soght fand þai na bote, Þe seke him saris fra heued to fote. *c* 1475 *Rauf Coilȝear* 656 He socht in sa sadly, quhill sum of thame he saird. *c* 1489 CAXTON *Sonnes of Aymon* XXVI. 566, I fere to sore the kyng. 1536 BELLENDEN *Cron. Scot.* (1821) II. 109 Ane wolf..quhen scho was sarit with the houndis. [1583 FULKE *Def. Tr. Script.* i. 56 If wee had a participle in Englishe to say, sored or botched, we woulde vse it.] 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* III. xii. 38 Her bleeding brest.. Was closed vp, as it had not bene sor'd [1596 bor'd]. 1847 H. BUSHNELL *Christian Nurture* iii. (1861) 46 Religion itself, pressed down upon them till they are fatally sored by its impossible claims, becomes [etc.]. 1894 *Harper's Mag.* Feb. 356/1 Some..are on foot, from soring their horses' backs.

†**Sore,** *v.*[2] *Venery. Obs.* [Of obscure origin: cf. RESORE.] *intr.* Of the hare: To traverse open ground.

1486 *Bk. St. Albans* e viij b, In the feeldes where he [the hare] gooth no ways beene, Ther he sorth when he steppyth and hit may not be seene. 1576 TURBERV. *Venerie* 239 When a Hare is in playne fieldes, she Soreth. 1602 *2nd Pt. Return fr. Parnass.* II. v. 937 By and by I might see him sore and resore, prick and reprick. 1704 *Dict. Rust.* (1726), *Soring*, the Footing of a Hare in open Field; for then the Huntsmen say, *She Sores.*

Sore, obs. variant of SOAR *v.*

Sore (sōəɹ), *adv.* Now chiefly *arch.* and *dial.* Forms: *a.* 1–3 sare (3 sære); *north.* and *Sc.* 4–5 sar(e, sayre, 4–5, 7 sayr, 4– sair; 8–9 sear. *β.* 3– sore (3 seore), 4–5 sor, 5–6 soore, 6 *Sc.* soir. *Compar.* 3–5 sarre, 4–5 sarrer, 4 sarare, -er, 5 -arre; 4 sorere, zorer, 6– sorer. *Superl.* 3–4 sarrest, 5 sarest, 3– sorest. [OE. *sâre* (f. *sâr* SORE *a.*[1]), = OFris. *sêr, seer*, MDu. *seer* (Du. *zeer*), OS. and OHG. *sêro* (MHG. *sêre*, G. *sehr*), MSw. *sära, sâre*, Da. *saare.*]

1. Of striking, wounding, etc.: So as to cause considerable physical pain or bodily injury; violently or severely in this respect.

a. c 1000 *Ags. Ps.* (Thorpe) lxxvii. 33 Þonne he hi sare sloh, Þonne hi sohton hine. *c* 1205 LAY. 27692 Gecron..his spere grap anan and smat Leir þene eorl sære. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 292 Þe neiles weren so dulte þet heo..breken þe bones, more þen þurleden, uorte pinen him sarre. *a* 1352 MINOT *Poems* v. 12 It sowed him sare; Sare it þam smerted. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* II. 351 Feyle men dede, and woundyt sar. *a* 1450 MYRC 1416 Þe herre þat a mon ys in degre, Þe sarrer forsope falleþ he. 1508 DUNBAR *Tua mariit wemen* 223 Hald abak, and handill me nought sair.

β. c 1205 LAY. 27908 Kæi wes forwunded seore. 13.. *Sir Beues* (A.) 407, I schel him smite swiþe sore Upon is hat. 1340 *Ayenb.* 238 Huo þet heȝest ualþ þe zorer he him bleche þ. 1470–85 MALORY *Arth.* X. iii. 416 And fyrst he smote doune my felawe syre Bleoberys & sore wounded hym. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Edw. IV*, 200 b, Thei were sore beaten, wounded, and very evil intreated. 1562 J. HEYWOOD *Prov. & Epigr.* (1867) 61 An olde dog byteth sore. But..tholde bitche biteth sorer. 1653 H. COGAN tr. *Pinto's Trav.* xiv. 44 Seeing ourselves all sore hurt. *a* 1720 SEWEL *Hist. Quakers* (1795) I. II. 130, I did beat you very sore. 1842 LOVER *Handy Andy* I, She..said 'they hurt her sore', and she was 'bleeding a power'.

b. Of sickness or other physical suffering: Severely, dangerously, seriously.

c 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 231 Longue wenden þis gode men..' Þat huy weren of-hongred sore. 1338 R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (1725) 53 Þat tyme at Westmynstir Harald sore seke lay. *c* 1350 *Will. Palerne* 593 Seiȝth me al 3our seknesse & what so sore 3ow greuis. 1422 tr. *Secreta Secret., Priv. Priv.* 236 A man..that soore seke is. *c* 1450 *Merlin* xiv. 207 Many ther were throwen to grounde sore bledynge with stroke of speres. 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* xliv. 16 Grit pane and wo..Into thair birth thay suffir sair for ws. 1609 ROWLANDS *Dr. Merrie-man* (Hunterian Cl.) 18 An aged Gentleman sore sicke did lie. 1721 RAMSAY *Prospect of Plenty* 73 Peghing fou sair beneath a lade of fears. 1842 MACAULAY *Horatius* lxi, Fast his blood was flowing; And he was sore in pain. 1878 SPURGEON *Treas. David* Ps. cxviii. 19 Our hero had also in all probability been sore sick.

†2. With much suffering; dearly. *Obs.*

Beowulf 1251 Sigon þa to slæpe: sum sare anȝeald æfenræste. *c* 1205 LAY. 8158 Þu me smite bi þon rugge, ah sare þu hit salt a-buggen. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 1070 Caym..Vntil his broþer nith he bare, Allas, þat boght þe sacrilages sare. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* XVIII. 514 War it nocht that he war Sic a catiff, he sulde by sair His wourdis. ? 1402a in *Yorksh. Arch. Jrnl.* XX. (1908) 46 Wykked lyf maath [=maketh] a man tabye ful sore.

3. With verbs of grieving, annoying, etc.: So as to cause mental pain or irritation; deeply, intensely.

a. a 1000 *Cædmon's Gen.* 1257 (Gr.), Me þæt cynn hafað sare abolgen. *c* 1205 LAY. 4598 Þus seide Goðlac, sære him gromede. *c* 1350 *Will. Palerne* 2025 Sche told me a-noþer tale þat me tened sarre. *c* 1400 in *26 Pol. Poems* x. 39 3oure gyltes greued god so sare. 1814 SCOTT *Waverley* lxv, But sair, sair angry and affronted wad she hae been.

β. c 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 173 Hie ben sore ofgramede, and wiþ hem seluen alre sorest. *c* 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 10286 Þan ys þy peryl mykel þe more, þat þou wraþest Crist so sore. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Sompn. T.* 481 Ne grevith me no thing so sore, As that this elde cherl..Blasphemed hath our holy covent eeke. 1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* II. vi. 82 The whiche sorowe greued Balyn passyngly sore. 1568 GRAFTON *Chron.* II. 8 For these, and for other sterne and cruell deedes done by hym, the sayde Nobles were sore moued against him. 1671 MILTON *P. R.* IV. 196 Be not so sore offended, Son of God. 1782 COWPER *Gilpin* 54 Although it griev'd him sore. 1870 BRYANT *Iliad* IV. I. 105 Minerva held her peace,..sore displeased with father Jove.

b. Used to intensify the idea of dislike or reluctance, esp. with *against one's will.*

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 56 Vor þet ec þet he dude hire was iðe frumðe sore hire unðonckes. 1530 PALSGR. 842/1 Sore agaynst my wyll, *..moult enuys.* 1567 *Satir. Poems Reform.* iii. 232 Sa we departit soir againis our will. 1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* X. 449 Then vnhappily came I a shoare..sore agaynst the Generals will. 1782 COWPER *Gilpin* 158 Away went Gilpin,..sore against his will.

4. With great grief, distress, or perturbation of mind; in such a manner or to such an extent as to involve or manifest this. (Passing into a mere intensive.)

a. With verbs of weeping, lamenting, etc.

a. a 900 CYNEWULF *Crist* 1572 (Gr.), Hu þa womsceaþan hyra ealdȝestreon..sare greten. *a* 1000 *Ags. Ps.* (Thorpe) cxxxvi. 1 Ofer Babilone bradum streame, þær we sittað & sare wepað. *c* 1200 ORMIN 7924 Forr iwhillc mann birrþ wepenn her, & sikenn sare. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 9045 Wit bath his eien sar he grett. *a* 1352 MINOT *Poems* (ed. Hall) viii. 60 Þe knightes..Come to sir Edward sare wepeand. *a* 1400 *Pistill of Susan* 222 Whon we þat semblaunt seiȝ, we siked wel sare. *c* 1470 *Gol. & Gaw.* 1128 The king..Sair murnand in mude. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* II. xii. 15 The 3ing childring..Stude all on raw,..About the tresour quhymperand woundir sair. 1567 *Satir. Poems Reform.* iv. 65 Scho come to me.. Lamentand sair my greit calamitie. 1778– in northern and Sc. dialect use.

β. c 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 169 Iob..befde..his honden to his breste, and sore sihte. *a* 1250 *Owl & Night.* 885 Vor oþer men hi wepeþ sore. 13.. *Sir Beues* (A.) 1111 Ȝhe fel adoun and wep riȝt sore. 1423 JAS. I *Kingis Q.* lxxi, So sore thus sighit I with my-self allone. 1485 CAXTON *Chas. Gt.* 78 Olyuer had so moche compassyon of hym..that he sore wepte. 1535 COVERDALE 1 *Macc.* ii. 39 When Matathias and his frendes herde this, they mourned for them right sore. 1567 *Satir. Poems Reform.* iii. 3 Ane bony boy was soir makand his mone. 1611 BIBLE *Judges* xxi. 2 And the people..lift vp their voices, and wept sore. *a* 1649 DRUMM. OF HAWTH. *Poems* Wks. (1711) 42 He who did cause her Ill Sore-wailing stood. 1868 MORRIS *Earthly Par.* (1870) I. I. 394 She turned away lamenting very sore.

b. With verbs of repenting, rueing, etc.

a. a 1000 *Doomsday* 83 (Gr.), Þam þe his synna nu sare ȝeþenceþ. *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 149 Þet him sare roweþ. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 25996 Sua sar þin sakes to for-thingk Þat soru thoru þin hert sink. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* IX. 469, I trow..that him sair repent sall he. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* I. 72 Quhar throuch Scotland rapentyt syne full sar. 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* ix. 87 In thir pointis, quhair I offendit, sair I rew. 1570 *Satir. Poems Reform.* x. 292 As efterwart thay did repent full sair.

β. a 1200 *Moral Ode* 354 It him mai reuwe sore. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 1166 So sore him reu of ðat bale. *c* 1290 [see REPENT *v.* 1]. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 290 Sore hit me rwez Þat euer I made hem myself. *c* 1412 HOCCLEVE *De Reg. Princ.* 663, I now repente wonder sore. 1535 [see FORTHINK *v.* 5 b]. *c* 1560 A. SCOTT *Poems* (S.T.S.) iv. 20 Syne..[she] Perchance sall soir repent. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* III. viii. 47 That all the noble knights..may sore repent with me. 1838 *Wilson's Tales Borders* (1839) V. 15/2 Sore, sore you have rued..that night.

c. With verbs denoting fear, dejection, doubt, etc.

a. c 1200 ORMIN 3809 Acc a33 þe33 sinndenn..sare offdredde Off domess daȝess starrke dom. *c* 1230 *Hali Meid.* 15 Beo sarre offearet to fallen. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 22629 Sair þai sal do for to grise. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* I. 440 He dred sayr his felouny. *c* 1475 *Rauf Coilȝear* 710, I dreid me sair I be begylit. *c* 1560 A. SCOTT *Poems* (S.T.S.) ii. 124 Full sair he dred for blame. 1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* I. 77 Thay feired nocht litle, bot verie sair, that..al sulde succeid verie ill. 1820 SCOTT *Monast.* iv, Sair, sair my mind misgave me.

β. c 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 3223 Sore he gunen for-dredde ben. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 575 Þe king kwakede & is men, so sore hii were agaste. *c* 1320 *Cast. Love* (Halliw.) 1580 Fulle sore mowe heo then dreden. 1393 LANGL. *P. Pl. C.* XXI. 314 'That is soþ,' seide satan, 'bote ich me sore doute'. *c* 1425 *Eng. Cong. Irel.* vii. 20 (Dubl. MS.), Macmorgh.. be-held his men, and saw ham sor amayed. 1484 CAXTON *Fables of Æsop* II. v, Whanne the folke sawe that the erthe beganne thus to shake, they were sore aferd. 1508 DUNBAR *Gold. Targe* 159 Full sore thay dred to done a violence. *a* 1591 H. SMITH *Wks.* (1867) II. 5 Indeed, this news frighted him sorest. 1611 BIBLE 1 *Sam.* xxviii. 15 Saul answered, I am sore distressed. 1690 W. WALKER *Idiomat. Anglo-Lat.* 426, I was sore afraid, you had been gone. 1768–74 TUCKER *Lt. Nat.* (1834) II. 636 We are trained up to dread thee sorer by the..customs of the world around us. 1858 MANSEL *Bampton Lect.* vii. (1859) 150 In our hearts we believe, yet our thoughts at times are sore troubled.

d. With verbs denoting astonishment or embarrassment.

c 1450 *Merlin* ii. 30 And thei herden hym thus sey, thei were sore a-merveyled. 1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* I. iii. 38 Thenne she sore abasshed to yeue ansuer. *a* 1533 LD. BERNERS *Huon* xci. 292 He was stryken fro his horse to the erth sore astonyed, so that he wyst not where he was. 1592 TIMME *Ten Eng. Lepers* Ij, They would not wonder so sore at the punishment. 1620 *Frier Rush* 24 At the which they were sore astonished. 1742 YOUNG *Nt. Th.* II. 398 We, sore amaz'd, from out earth's ruins crawl. 1787 BURNS *J. Barleycorn* iii, John Barleycorn got up again, And sore surpris'd them all.

5. So as to cause suffering, hardship, or great straits; to a painful or distressing degree; severely, grievously, oppressively.

a. Beowulf 2311 Swa hyt lungre wearð on hyra sincgifan sare ȝeendod. *a* 1000 *Genesis* 2415 Þæt sceal wrecan swefyl & sweart liȝ, sare & grimme. *a* 1122 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1116, Ðis land & þas leodon wurdon ..oftrædlice sare ȝeswencte. *c* 1230 *Hali Meid.* 7 Þu.. schalt beo sare iderued under hire, as hire þral. *c* 1440 *York Myst.* xi. 160, I sall send vengeaunce ix. or x., To sewe hym sararre, or I sesse.

β. c 1305 *Mir. St. James* 67 in *E. E. P.* (1862) 59 Þe deuel ȝeode awey, & huld him a-gyled sore. *c* 1380 WYCLIF *Wks.* (1880) 38 Þei ponysche men sorere for breken of here owen lawis þan for brekynge of goddis lawe. *a* 1400 *Sir Perc.* 349 The lady was never more sore bygone. 1535 COVERDALE 1 *Macc.* ii. 30 The tyranny increaced so sore vpon them. 1595 G. MARKHAM *Sir R. Grinuile* (Arb.) 85 For his own sake, Whom desperate hazard might indamage sore. 1634 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* 197 They hate and punish Adultery very sore. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* I. 298 The torrid Clime Smote on him sore besides. 1786 BURNS *The Lament* viii, Sore-harass'd out, with care and grief. 1806 SURR *Winter in Lond.* III. 7 Unhappy stranger, you have been sore afflicted. 1865 KINGSLEY *Herew.* vii, The archers shot sore at him from the wall. 1870 BURTON *Hist. Scot.* lxviii. VI. 418 His enemies, too, in their hour of triumph, harassed him sore and showed him little mercy.

† b. *To sit* (or *set*) *one sore* (see SIT *v.* 15). *Obs.*

c 1420 *Sir Amadace* (Camden) xxi, I see a sitte I thenke on ȝete, That sittus me nowe fulle sore. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* I. 439 Sone, thir tythings sytts me sor. *c* 1560 A. SCOTT *Poems* (S.T.S.) xx. 20 Quhat kin thing wes lufe, Quhilk now settis the so sair.

6. To a grievous or serious extent; greatly.

a 1300 *X Commandm.* 38 in *E. E. P.* (1862) 16 Sore and bitter þe soule [it] sal der. 1489 CAXTON *Faytes of A.* II. XXXV. 151 Oure lorde sent suche a grete showre of rayne that theyre harneys was sore charged with watre. 1513 in C. Rogers *Coldstream Chartul.* (1879) Pref. 21 Soo soore abewsed with the faire promyses of Frauuce. 1567 *Gude & Godlie B.* (S.T.S.) 37, I knaw that I haif sinnit soir. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* IX. 1124 High Passions, Anger, Hate,..shook sore Thir inward State of Mind. 1683 *Yorkshire Dial.* 5 Thur Yowes are Clowclagg'd, they skitter sayr.

b. With reference to physical deterioration.

1523 FITZHERB. *Husb.* § 14 All these maner of otes weare the grounde very sore. 1570–6 LAMBARDE *Peramb. Kent* (1826) 133 This Towne was so sore wasted with fire,..that it was wholly..consumed. 1603 KNOLLES *Hist. Turks* (1621) 429 The Turkes continuing the batterie had sore shaken the aforesaid tower. *a* 1668 LASSELS *Voy. Italy* (1670) II. 135 Half of it is..sore battered with the aire.

7. With great exertion or effort; laboriously, toilsomely, hard.

a 1300 *Body & Soul* 67 in *Map's Poems* 341 Never ne thoustest thow..ho therfore sarrest swonk. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* A. 550 Þe fyrst by-gonne to pleny & sayden þat þay hade trauayled sore. *c* 1550 CHEKE *Lett.* 11, J..labor as sore that ye mai thinke [etc.]. 1567 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* I. 517 Laubourand and travelland sair for his leving. 1620 *Frier Rush* 27 Me thinks you take great paines to worke so sore your selfe. 1795 MACNEILL *Will & Jean* 1, Will wrought sair, but aye wi' pleasure. 1838 CARLYLE *Misc.* (1857) IV. 178 Long and sore had this man thought. 1843 — *Past & Pr.* III. xiii, To work sore, and yet gain nothing.

b. With great force or vigour; strongly.

(*a*) *c* 1400 *Laud Troy Bk.* 8681 Thei rode to-gedur wel sare, Many a stalworthe knyȝt thare. 1464 *Paston Lett.* II. 144 The plee by twene Ogan and yow was sore argued. 1523 LD. BERNERS *Froiss.* I. CXX. 144 Some of theym..drewe it to them so sore, that they brake the chenes of yron y^t helde the bridge. 1527 ANDREW *Brunswyke's Distyll. Waters* M ij b, The membre well and sore rubbed therwith.

(*b*) 1542 UDALL *Erasm. Apoph.* 199 On a tyme when it thoundreed veray sore. 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 94 The wynde blewe sore against the streame. 1656 BRADFORD *Plymouth Plant.* I. X. (1856) 87 Though it was very darke, and rained sore.

c. With severity or strictness; severely.

1483 CAXTON *G. de la Tour* D viij, He had repreued them so sore that they had..grete shame. *c* 1500 *Lancelot* 1660 Bot schortly thei sall be sar accusit. 1533 MORE *Answ. Poysoned Bk.* Wks. 1036/2 Of suche bookes, as sore as they bee forbodden, yet are there manye boughte. *c* 1586 SIDNEY *Arcadia* II. (1590) 224 Thou heardst even now a young man sneb me sore.

8. Eagerly, earnestly; with great desire or intensity. Chiefly with verbs of longing.

(*a*) 1297 R. GLOUC. *Chron.* (Rolls) I. 356/117 Hym longede after veneson þer after longe sore. *a* 1400–50 *Wars Alex.* 385 Þen kisses he kenely þe quene.., Langis sare to þe layke. *c* 1420 LYDG. *Assembly of Gods* 1045 He callyd soore for bowes and bade hem shote faste. *a* 1533 LD. BERNERS *Huon* lxi. 211 Ye shall se Huon, whose presence ye so sore desyre. 1575 GASCOIGNE *Glasse of Governm.* Wks. 1910 II. 78, I long sore to have answere of my letters. 1611 BIBLE *Gen.* xxxi. 30 Because thou sore longedst after thy fathers house.

(*b*) *a* 1533 LD. BERNERS *Huon* xliii. 143 Then the Admyrall soore [1601 earnestly, Fr. *mout fort*] beheld Huon. 1545 ASCHAM *Toxoph.* (Arb.) 25 You studie to sore Toxophile. 1611 BIBLE *Judges* xiv. 17 He tolde her, because shee lay sore vpon him. 1894 CROCKETT *Raiders* (ed. 3) 284, I urged her sore.

† 9. Closely, tightly. *Obs.*

Perh. only a contextual variation of sense 10.

1377 LANGL. *P. Pl. B.* XI. 219, I conseille alle crystene cleue nouȝte þer-on to sore. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 58 That other Ere als faste He stoppeth with his tail so sore, That

he the wordes..ne hiereth. 1426 LYDG. *De Guil. Pilgr.* 8797 Sche kepeth hem..Sore shet wyth lok & keye. *a* 1483 *Liber Niger* in *Househ. Ord.* (1790) 69 Not to boult it soe sore vpon the gurgeones. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 29 b, It shetteth it self so sore..that..it is not so opened agayne. 1545 ASCHAM *Toxoph.* (Arb.) 111 The string.. beynge sore twined must nedes knap in sunder.

10. To a great extent; greatly, very much.

Chiefly in contexts suggestive of sense 6, but sometimes merely intensive.

c 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* I. 90 Ne picche hit not to[o] soore into the vale. 1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* IV. vi. 126 And anone they felle on slepe, and slepte merueillously sore all the nyght. *a* 1533 LD. BERNERS *Gold. Bk. M. Aurel.* (1546) C ij b, There was a lawe soore vsed and accustomed, and well kepte in the Romayne polycie. 1561 HOLLYBUSH *Hom. Apoth.* 34 Seth the Turtel wyth water, salt her not to sore. 1606 G. WOODCOCK *Hist. Iustine* XXXV. 113 So sore hated was Demetrius among all men. 1611 SHAKS. *Cymb.* IV. ii. 225 Oh bill sore shaming Those rich-left-heyres. 1784 COWPER *Task* IV. 343 The wain goes heavily, impeded sore By..loads adhering close To the clogg'd wheels. 1812 BYRON *Ch. Har.* I. ii, A shameless wight, Sore given to revel and ungodly glee.

11. With adjs. and advs.: Very, extremely, exceedingly. *Obs.* exc. *dial.*

1474 CAXTON *Chesse* III. vii. (1883) 141 The kynge denys had a broder whom he louyd sore well. *c* 1489 — *Sonnes of Aymon* iii. 112 That I assaylled theym, it hath cost me sore dere. 1530 *Comp. Old Treat.* in Roy *Rede me* (Arb.) 171 The new testament..set forthe by Master William Tyndale, which they falsely pretende to be sore corrupte. 1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* I, 98 Scheiphouses ..of quhais burning thay ar nocht sair solist. 1638 BRATHWAIT *Barnabee's Jrnl.* II. (1818) 61 Where growne surfoot and sore weary, I repos'd. 1860 GEO. ELIOT *Mill on Fl.* III. ix, She was sore fond of us children.

12. *Comb.*, as *sore-holding*; *sore-dreaded, -meant, -pressed, -wearied, -won, -worn* adjs.

c 1450 *Merlin* xiv. 222 The haubrekes, that were stronge and sore-holdynge. 1567 *Satir. Poems Reform.* iv. 66 My langsum lyfe and sair tormentit Spirite. 1616 J. LANE *Contn. Sqr.'s T.* x. 330 Ann apparition, which seemd at first to bee some sore ment vision. 1638 BRATHWAIT *Barnabee's Jrnl.* III. 121 Thence to Ferrybrig, sore-wearied Surfoot, but in spirit cheer'd. 1785 BURNS *Cotter's Sat. Nt.* iv, To..deposite her sair-won penny-fee. 1787 *Minor* 28 That bedlam,..bedizened in sore-worn flounces. 1843 BETHUNE *Scottish Fireside Stor.* 279 It was that day.. Which brings to sair worn toil a time Of needful peace. 1866 G. MACDONALD *Ann. Q. Neighb.* XXVIII. (1878) 479 The sore-pressed garrison which had retreated to its last defence. 1870 J. BRUCE *Life of Gideon* XVIII. 335 Nigh to the spot on which those harnessed and sore-dreaded dreamers lay.

Sored, *a.* Chiefly *north.* Also 5 **soredе**, 5–6 **sorde**, 6 **sowerde**, 9 *Sc.* **sorit**. [f. SORE *a.*[2]]

1. Of horses, etc.: = SORREL *a.* a. ? *Obs.*

1420 *E. E. Wills* (1882) 53 A sorede horse þat was bought off Henuden. *Ibid.*, þe sorde hors. 1545 *Richmond Wills* (Surtees) 57 Item a sored horse, price xiij s. iiij d. 1587 *Knaresb. Wills* (Surtees) I. 158 A sowerde mare and a fole. 1825 JAMIESON *Suppl., Sorit*, of a sorrel colour; as, 'a sorit horse', Clydes[dale].

† **2.** Of colour: = SORREL *a.* c. *Obs.*

1587 *Wills & Inv. N. C.* (Surtees, 1860) 288 One stud mare, of colour bawson sored.

Sored, *ppl. a. rare.* [f. SORE *v.*[1]] Pained; troubled.

a 1542 WYATT in *Tottel's Misc.* (Arb.) 73 One onely hope hath stayed my life, apart; Which doth perswade such wordes vnto my sored minde.

Soredi- (sōrī·di), comb. form of SOREDI-UM, used in a few terms, as **Sore·dial** *a.*, of the nature of, pertaining to, a soredium; **Sore·diate** *a.*, bearing or characterized by the prevalence of soredia; **Soredi(i)·ferous** *a.*, bearing soredia; caused by producing soredia; **Sore·diform** *a.*, = next; **Sore·dioid** *a.*, having the appearance, form, or character of a soredium or soredia.

1882 VINES tr. *Sachs' Bot.* 328 *Soredial branches, as they are termed, are thus produced. 1881 *Jrnl. Bot.* X. 115 The *sorediate form of *Pertusaria velata*. 1829 LOUDON *Encycl. Plants* (1836) 949 *Ramalina*. Plant cartilaginous,.. somewhat shrubby, mostly *sorediferous. 1856 LINDSAY *Pop. Hist. Brit. Lichens* 42 The disc of an apothecium is sometimes rendered abortive by sorediiferous degradation. 1859 MAYNE *Expos. Lex.* 1174/2 *Sorediformis*, having the appearance of *soredia* ..; *sorediform. 1857 BERKELEY *Cryptog. Botany* § 459. 418 Many other forms are assumed by the crusts of Lichens;..the *soredioid from the protrusion of groups of gonidia.

‖ **Soredium** (sōrī·diŏm). *Bot.* Pl. **soredia**. [mod.L., f. Gr. *σωρός* a heap. Cf. F. *sorédion.*] A thallus-bud or cell in lichens. Usu. in pl.

1829 LOUDON *Encycl. Plants* (1836) 949 *Soredia* are little heaps of free, pulverulent bodies, mostly of a whitish color, placed on various parts of the frond. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 867/2 The soredia predominating over the crust it assumes the name of *Lepraria*. 1882 VINES tr. *Sachs' Bot.* 327, *A* a simple soredium, consisting of a gonidium covered with a web of hyphæ;..*C* a group of simple soredia.

Sorefull, obs. variant of SORROWFUL.

So·re-head, *a.* and *sb.* [See SORE *a.*[1] 9.]

A. *adj.* Irritable or out of temper 'like a bear with a sore head'; discontented, dissatisfied.

1862 *Major Jack Downing* vii. (1867) 61 [He] sed it done very well for some sore-hed Dimmycrat. 1902 *Academy* 22 Mar. 291/1 This is sore-head philosophy.

B. *sb. U.S. political slang.* A dissatisfied or disappointed politician.

1862 *Rocky Mountain News* (Denver) 16 Oct. (Thornton), What will the 'sore-heads' say now? 1878 *N. Amer. Rev.* CXXVI. 402 Each led by a little faction of sore-heads, desperate and reckless. 1888 BRYCE *Amer. Commw.* III. lxiii. II. 458 Some discontented magnate objects and threatens to withdraw...If such a 'sore-head' persists, a schism may follow.

So **Sore-headed** *a.*, = SORE-HEAD *a.*; hence **Sore·hea·dedly** *adv.*, **Sore·hea·dedness.**

1844 HOOD *Tale of Temper* 53 No bear, *sore-headed, could be more cantankerous. 1888 *Pall Mall G.* 19 Dec. 2/1 The men are dissatisfied and 'sore-headed'. 1883 *Ibid.* 8 Jan. 3 *Soreheadedly punctilious about the proper respect paid them. 1885 W. CORY *Lett. & Jrnls.* (1897) 515 The gossip and the pecking and the *sore-headedness of country towns.

† **Sorely,** *a. Obs.* In 1, 3 **sarlic**, 3 **sorlich**. [OE. *sárlíc* (f. *sár* SORE *a.*[1]), = obs. Flem. *seerlick* (Kilian), OHG. *sêrlîh*; cf. ON. *sárlig-r*, MSw. *sårligh.*] Painful, sorrowful; sad.

Beowulf 842 No his lifgedal sarlic þuhte secga ænegum. *c* 888 K. ÆLFRED *Boeth.* xi. § 2 Manegra sarlicra wita hi gewilnodon wið þæm ecan life. 971 *Blickl. Hom.* 123 Se sarlica cwide..þe ure Drihten..to þæm ærestan men cwæþ. *c* 1000 ÆLFRIC *Saints' Lives* II. 140 He..cwæð him to sona mid sarlicre stemne. *c* 1205 LAY. 28457 Þa quene læi inne Eouwerwic, næs heo næuere swa sarlic [*v.r.* sorlich].

Sorely (sōə·rli), *adv.* Forms: *a.* 1 **sarlice**, 3 **særliche**, 5 **sarely**; *Sc.* 6 **sairlye**, **-lie**, 6– **sairly**. *β.* 4 **sorly**, 5 **soreli(e**, 5– **sorely**. [OE. *sárlice* (f. *sár* SORE *a.*[1]), = OFris. *sêrlike*, MSw. *sårlika* (*-liga*): cf. ON. *sárliga.*]

In most senses tending to become a mere intensive.

1. In a manner expressive of great pain, grief, or distress.

c 888 K. ÆLFRED *Boeth.* xxvi. § 2 Ða onsac se Wisdom sarlice & cwæð [etc.]. 971 *Blickl. Hom.* 225 Þa wæron hie ealle sona unrote, & sarlice gebærdon. *c* 1000 ÆLFRIC *Gen.* xxi. 16 Heo..sæt hire feorran sarlice wepende. *c* 1055 *Byrhtferth's Handboc* in *Anglia* VIII. 309 Oft seo brodige henn, þeah heo sarlice cloccige, heo..þa briddas gewyrmð. 1748 THOMSON *Cast. Indol.* I. xxi, They cannot fly, But often each way look, and often sorely sigh. 1841 LONGF. *Childr. Lord's Supper* 348 Each bowed him, weeping full sorely.

2. In such a manner as to cause great pain or bodily injury; severely. Also *fig.*

a 900 CYNEWULF *Juliana* 571 [He] sohte..hu he sarlicast þurh þa wyrrestan witu meahte feorhcwale findan. *a* 1000 *Soul & Body* 73 Þe sculon her..slitan sarlice swearte wihta. 1553 *Douglas's Æneid* II. (1710) 52/36 Baith hir tendir handes War strenzeit sairly boundin hard with bandes. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* III. ix. 29 The wicked engine..secretly did glyde Into his hart, which it did sorely gryde. 1611 SHAKS. *Wint. T.* v. i. 18, I did so: but thou strik'st me Sorely, to say I did. 1650 B. *Discollimitium* 32 Had it once left sucking the Mothers breasts so sorely. 1695 LD. PRESTON *Boeth.* III. 119 Like that angry Insect..they sorely wound th' Enjoyer too. 1870 BRYANT *Iliad* V. I. 173 Wilt thou be angry with me if I drive Mars, sorely wounded, from the battle-field? *Ibid.* XIV. II. 68 These Bore him to Ilium sorely suffering.

b. In a manner involving mental pain, distress, or dissatisfaction.

In OE. the sense 'regrettably, lamentably', occurs.

c 1450 *Godstow Reg.* 633 Hit is vn-semeli..þat contrauersi ..lawfully endid sholde be soreli I-meuid ageine. 1567 *Gude & Godlie B.* (S.T.S.) 61 Rycht sorelie musing in my mynde. 1567 *Satir. Poems Reform.* iv. 157, I speik not but pruife, quhilk I may sairlie rew. 1722 DE FOE *Plague* 75 Sorely I repented of my rashness. 1828 SCOTT *F. M. Perth* xxix, I know my failing, and..so sorely dread that I cannot conquer it. 1865 TROLLOPE *Belton Est.* XXXI. 376 She sorrowed to think that he should want such a thing so sorely. 1870 J. E. T. ROGERS *Hist. Glean.* Ser. II. 134 Sorely against his will, Walpole was at last driven into war.

3. In such a manner as to press hardly or severely upon a person or thing.

c 1205 LAY. 6805 Særliche heo feohte, & fælden heore cnihtes. *c* 1400 *Melayne* 265 Þe Sarazene semblede so Sarely þat þay felde faste of oure cheualrye. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 3692 Sodenly þo sailes were sorely bestad. 1606 SHAKS. *Ant. & Cl.* IV. vi. 19, I haue done ill, Of which I do accuse my selfe so sorely, That I will ioy no more. 1613 — *Hen. VIII*, IV. ii. 14 [He] brought him forward As a man sorely tainted, to his Answer. 1665 MANLEY *Grotius' Low C. Wars* 750 They begirt the Castle, and the sixth day after recovered it, being sorely assaulted and withall wanting of provision. 1725 DE FOE *Voy. round World* (1840) 253, I would be sorely put to it for lodging. 1779 WARNER in Jesse *Selwyn & Contemp.* (1844) IV. 259, I called upon the old duchess, who is 'sorely badly', as they say in Lincolnshire, with her old complaint. 1820 SCOTT *Monast.* XXXVI, Of these most were mounted on steeds which had been sorely jaded. 1846 BROWNING *Soul's Trag.* Wks. 1863 II. 460 The very measures of precaution, which pressed soreliest on himself. 1853 KANE *Grinnell Exp.* xlix. (1856) 465 It is an amorphous mass, so worn that it must have been sorely wrought before its release from the glacier.

4. To a great extent; in a high degree.

1562 WINJET *Wks.* (S.T.S.) I. 5 Hes not mony..in thair perfite beleif..sairlye stummerit? 1605 SHAKS. *Lear* II. iv. 304 Alacke the night comes on, and the high windes Do sorely ruffle. 1704 SWIFT *Batt. Bks.* Misc. (1711) 239 Who had tore off his Title-Page, sorely defac'd one half his Leaves [etc.]. 1786 BURNS *To a Louse* i, Your impudence protects you sairly. 1831 SCOTT *Ct. Rob.* vii, 'Thou objectest sorely to my complexion,' said the negro. 1855 DICKENS *Lett.* (1880) I. 399 The Association is sorely in want of able men. 1891 FARRAR *Darkn. & Dawn* lv, To stay among them meant death, and his life was sorely needed by the Church of God.

5. *Comb.*, as *sorely-tempted, -worn* adjs.

1870 C. J. VAUGHAN *Earnest Words* (1878) 154 The sorely-tempted soul. 1891 KIPLING *Light that Failed* ii. (1900) 16 A pair of sorely-worn riding-breeches.

† **Sorement,** variant of SERMENT 'oath' *Obs.*

a 1400–50 *Alexander* 1464 (MS. A.), When he..soyned him be his sorement þat sare him forthinkis.

Soreness (sōə·nės). Forms: *a.* 1 **sarnys, -nis**, 3 **særnes**, 4–5 **sarnes**, 4 **sarenes**, 6, 8– *Sc.* **sairness**. *β.* 4, 6 **sorenes**, 6 **sornes**, **soare-**, 6–7 **sorenesse**, 7– **soreness**. [OE. *sárnys* (f. *sár* SORE *a.*[1]), = OFris. *sêrnesse*, MHG. *sêrnisse.*]

1. The condition of being physically sore, in pain, or painful; pain, painfulness.

c 1000 ÆLFRIC *Gen.* iii. 16 On sarnysse þu acenst cild. *c* 1000 — *Hom.* I. 122 Ure sarnyssa he sylf abær. 13.. in *Leg. Rood* (1871) 85 All for noght þou feynes þe, All þi sarenes will we se. *c* 1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 4236 Þe sarnes sone it was astaynt. *c* 1480 HENRYSON *Sum Pract. Med.* 19 Nowdir fevir,..Seiknes nor sairnes. 1495 *Trevisa's Barth. De P. R.* (W. de W.) v. lviii. 175 The marowe heelyth..the sorenes of the throte and of the breestes. 1562 (*title*), Bullein's Bulwarke of defence againste all Sicknes, Sornes, and woundes. 1660 BLOUNT *Boscobel* 42 Which.. serv'd to encrease rather then asswage the sorenesse of his feet. 1722–7 BOYER *Dict. Royal* II. s.v., Soreness of the Eyes, *Mal des yeux.* 1808 *Med. Jrnl.* XIX. 21 He complained of soreness in his mouth. 1876 BRISTOWE *Th. & Pract. Med.* (1878) 159 The soreness and inflammation of the throat subside.

2. Mental pain, distress, or irritation; irritability, touchiness.

c 1000 ÆLFRIC *Gen.* vi. 6 He..wæs gehrepod mid heortan sarnisse wið innan. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 26377 Teres falland on þin ei Þe sarnes o þin hert to wrei. 1667 *Decay Chr. Piety* vii. 153 Whilest the soreness of his late pangs of conscience remains. 1721 RAMSAY *Keitha* 8 His face speaks out the sairness of his heart. 1796 NELSON 15 July in Nicolas *Disp.* (1845) II. 211, I congratulate you on the soreness which the French feel for your strict blockade of the Port of Toulon. 1832 LYTTON *Eugene A.* I. x, I leave you with more soreness at my late haste than I will acknowledge. 1889 *Law Times* LXXXII. 243/1 The soreness incident to separation has disappeared.

† **3.** Distress, trouble, misfortune. *Obs.*

c 1205 LAY. 13639 Ich eow wulle telle..of muche særnesse þe isiȝen is to londe.

4. Severe or serious character.

a 1586 SIDNEY *Arcadia* IV. (1598) 392 For with the sorenesse of the fall, if she had not had breath giuen her, she had deliuered a foolish soule to Pluto.

‖ **Sorex.** *rare.* Also *pl.* **sorices.** [L. *sōrex* (*sōricis*) and *sorex*, related to Gr. *ὕραξ*.] A shrew-mouse, a shrew. Also *transf.*

1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* (1658) 424 Lycinius the Emperor..called them..moths and sorices of the court. 1801 SHAW *Gen. Zool.* II. I. 65 Soricine Mouse..has the general appearance of a Sorex or Shrew.

Sorfait, obs. form of SURFEIT *sb.* **Sorfeten,** obs. form of SURFEIT *v.* **Sorfol, -ful,** obs. varr. SORROWFUL *a.* **Sorgeon,** obs. f. SURGEON.

Sorgho (sɔ̄·rgo). Also 8 **sorgo**. [a. F. *sorgho* or It. *sorgo*, also *surgo*, med.L. *surgum, surcum, suricum* (12–13th cent.), of unknown origin.] = SORGHUM (esp. 1 b).

1760 J. LEE *Introd. Bot.* App. 327 Sorgo, *Holcus*. 1862 ANSTED *Channel Isl.* IV. xx. 476 It may be worth stating that the sugar grass, or sorgho, has been cultivated with success as an experimental crop. 1868 WATTS s.v., The glumes..and stems of sorgho contain red colouring-matters. 1893 WATT *Dict. Econ. Prod. Ind.* VI. III. 277 The Sorgho, which is mainly cultivated on account of sugar.

attrib. 1862 MILLER *Elem. Chem., Org.* (ed. 2) II. § 1. 74 Cane Sugar..is also contained in..the ripe sorgho grass.

b. *Sweet sorgho*, = SORGHUM 1 b.

1861 BENTLEY *Man. Bot.* 697 *Holcus saccharatus*.. is called the North China Sugar-cane or Sweet Sorgho.

Sorghum (sɔ̄·rgŏm). Also 8 **sorgum**. [mod. L., f. It. *sorgo*: see prec.]

1. a. The cereal plant known as Indian millet, Guinea-corn, durra, etc. (*Andropogon sorghum*, also called *Holcus sorghum* and *Sorghum vulgare*).

1597 GERARDE *Herbal* I. v. 7 At the top..groweth a tuft or eare..like Sorghum. 1673 RAY *Journ. Low C.* 147 We had little other bread than what was made of Sorghum. 1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), *Sorgum*, a sort of Millet-grain. 1780 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 2) V. 3694/2 The most remarkable of the foreign species [of *Holcus*] is the sorghum, or Guinea-corn. 1866 LIVINGSTONE *Last Jrnls.* I. (1874) I. 17 Some sorghum, sem-sem seed, gum-copal, and orchilla weed, constitute the commerce of the port. 1879 LUBBOCK *Addr. Pol. & Educ.* x. 193 Maize and sorghum, a fine tall cereal, which in the distance looks very like maize. 1883 R. HALDANE *Workshop Rec.* Ser. II. 11/1 Rice, maize, wheat, sorghum, and rye are most largely used [for obtaining grain alcohol].

b. The Chinese sugar-cane (*Andropogon saccharatus*, also called *Holcus saccharatus* and *Sorghum saccharatum*). Usually *Sweet sorghum.*

1859 *All Year Round* No. 32. 126 The extensive cultivation of the sorghum, or Chinese sugar-cane, would give a fortune to the cultivator. 1867 A. GRAY *Man. Bot.* (1874) 652 The Sweet Sorghum, and other cultivated races. 1884 tr. *De Candolle's Orig. Cultivated Pl.* 382 Sweet Sorghum ..taller than the common sorghum and with a loose panicle.

c. With distinctive names denoting other plants belonging to this genus (see quots.).

1860 *Darlington's Amer. Weeds*, etc. 411 *Sorghum nutans*, ..Nodding Sorghum. Wood Grass. *Ibid.* 412 *S. cernuum*, ..Drooping Sorghum. Guinea Corn.

2. A genus or group of grasses belonging to the tribe *Andropogoneæ* and including the species mentioned above; also, with *a* and pl., a species or variety belonging to this genus.

1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 266 *Sorghum*, a genus of grasses.

.. The species form tall grasses with succulent stems. 1884 tr. *De Candolle's Orig. Cultivated Pl.* 380 Botanists are not agreed as to the distinction of several of the species of sorghum. *Ibid.*, A good monograph on the sorghums is needed. 1895-6 *Cal. Univ. Nebraska* 186 New crops, particularly forage crops, and the non-saccharine sorghums.

3. *U.S.* A kind of molasses made from sorghum-juice.

1883 *Chamb. Jrnl.* Apr. 269/1 Maple-sugar and sorghum are unequal to the demand. 1892 *Atlantic Monthly* May 664/2 Jars of lard and jugs of the inevitable 'sorghum' (home-made molasses) were securely tied up and buried in the woods.

4. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *sorghum-crop, -head, -seed, sugar*, etc.

Also *sorghum-pulling, -tugging* (De Vere *Americanisms* 287), *sorghum-evaporator, -knife, -mill, -stripper* (Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2246), *sorghum-blight, -midge, -smut*, etc.

1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s.v. *Juncus*, The sharp or pointed Rush, with sorghum heads. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 443/2 The necessities of the sorghum culture in the United States. 1883 *Times* 30 May 13 A sorghum crop.. which yielded over 2,200 gallons. 1883 *Science* I. 234/1 Others bearing, in all but size, a most striking resemblance to sorghum-seed. 1887 *Encycl. Brit.* XXII. 628/1 The cultivation of sorghum sugar.

b. In the sense 'made of or obtained from sorghum', as *sorghum beer, flour, molasses, syrup*.

1864 T. D. WELLS *Our Burden* 38 Sorghum molasses, which was not known to this country in 1850. 1865 *Home News* 19 Dec. 5/1 A sample of sorghum flour made of Chinese cane. 1868 *Rep. U.S. Commissioner Agric.* (1869) 401 Strong vinegar can be made from sorghum sirup.

Sorgien, -gon, obs. ff. SURGEON. **Sorh(ful,** obs. varr. SORROW(FUL. **Sori,** pl. of SORUS.

Soricine (sǫ·risin), *a.* [ad. L. *sōricīn-us*, f. *sōrex* SOREX.] Resembling a shrew-mouse. Freq. in specific names of animals.

1781 PENNANT *Hist. Quadrup.* II. 453 The Soricine Rat ..inhabits the neighborhood of Strasbourg. 1801 SHAW *Gen. Zool.* II. I. 65 Soricine Mouse. *Mus Soricinus*...This is an extremely small species. 1827 GRIFFITH tr. *Cuvier* V. 72 *Vampyrus Soricinus* (Soricine Vampyre of Spix). *c* 1878 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* I. 333 The Soricine Bat,..*Glossophaga soricina*...[It] is a small bat.

Sorie, obs. form of SORRY

Sori·ferous, *a. Bot. rare.* [f. SOR-US + -(I)FEROUS.] Bearing sori.

1859 T. MOORE *Brit. Ferns* (1864) 20 Ferns, the margin of whose frond is soriferous.

† **Soring,** *a. Obs.* In 5 **sowring.** [irreg. f. *sowre* SORE *a.*[2]] = SORE *a.*[2]

c 1450 *Godstow Reg.* 256 Yeldyng therof euery yere to hym..a spere-hawke sowryng [L. *unum speruarium sorum*] at lammas. *Ibid.* 257 And to the heires of ser Alisaundir of Swereford..a sowring sperehawke at lammasse.

† **Sorite,** Anglicized f. next. *Obs.*[—1]

1656 HOBBES *Liberty, Necess. & Chance* xxiv. 259 To pass by all the other great imperfections, which are to be found in this Sorite [etc.].

‖ **Sorites** (sŏrəi·tīz). [L. *sōrītēs*, ad. Gr. *σωρείτης*, f. *σωρ-ός* a heap.]

1. *Logic.* 'A series of propositions, in which the predicate of each is the subject of the next, the conclusion being formed of the first subject and the last predicate' (Mansel).

In the GOCLENIAN form, 'the subject of each proposition is the predicate of the next, the conclusion being formed of the last subject and the first predicate'.

1551 T. WILSON *Logike* H iij, We ioyne many causes, and many effectes together, wherof is made an argument, called *Sorites*. 1588 FRAUNCE *Lawiers Log.* II. ix. 99 As of many graynes is made a heape of corne, so of many degrees an argument called Sorites by this enthymematicall progression. 1654 *Z.* COKE *Logick* 148 Sorites is an imperfect Syllogism [etc.]. 1693 DRYDEN *Persius* VI. (1697) 296 *note*, Chrysippus the Stoick invented a kind of Argument, consisting of more than three Propositions; which is call'd *Sorites*, or a Heap. 1838 SIR W. HAMILTON *Logic* xix. (1866) I. 369 The Sorites can be resolved into as many simple syllogisms as there are middle terms between the subject and predicate of the conclusion. 1870 JEVONS *Elem. Logic* xviii. 156 The chain of syllogisms commonly called the Sorites.

b. An instance of this type of syllogism. Also as *pl.* (quot. 1798).

1581 J. BELL *Haddon's Answ. Osor.* 223 b, The Logicians that have described the fourme of a Sorites. 1588 FRAUNCE *Lawiers Log.* II. ix. 99 A sorites [is] but enthymematicall progression by certain degrees. 1620 T. GRANGER *Div. Logike* 285 A Syllogisme many wayes cryptike, is a Dilemma, and a Sorites. 1643 SIR T. BROWNE *Relig. Med.* I. § 18 An easie Logick may..with lesse than a Sorites resolve all things into God. 1725 WATTS *Logic* III. ii. § 6 A Sorites is when several middle terms are chosen to connect one another successively [etc.]. 1798 EDGEWORTH *Pract. Educ.* (1811) II. 361 We have seen syllogisms, crocodiles, enthimemas, sorites, &c. explained and tried upon a boy of nine. 1860 H. ROGERS *Ess.* III. 277 An ingenious sorites, by which we may at any time dispense with the positive testimony of an historian. 1870 K. H. DIGBY *Halcyon Hours* 261 No horn'd soritès here would I employ, No captious argument that would annoy.

c. In allusive use.

1711 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 239 ¶ 10 These Disputants convince their Adversaries with a *Sorites*, commonly called a Pile of Faggots.

2. *transf.* A series, chain, or accumulation *of* some thing or things.

1664 POWER *Exp. Philos.* III. 191 Though Democritus his pit be never so deep, yet by a long Sorites of Observations, and chain of Deductions, we may at last fathom it. *a* 1670 HACKET *Abp. Williams* I. xiii. (1693) 11 Such a long Sorites of Sciences and Tongues. 1875 M. COLLINS in F. Collins *Lett. & Friendsh.* (1877) II. 24 Note this significant fact or sorites of facts.

b. *Math.* (See quots.)

1880 J. J. SYLVESTER in *Coll. Math. Papers* (1909) III. 440 Any such determinate representation of a fractional quantity I shall term a sorites. *Ibid.*, The elements of a sorites are analogous to the partial quotients of a regular continued fraction.

3. A sophistical argument turning on the definition of a 'heap'.

1768-74 TUCKER *Lt. Nat.* (1834) II. 140 The like attack as was made of old by the Academics and Sceptics against the judgment of the senses, with their sophism of the *sorites*, or argument of the 'heap'

4. A heap, pile.

1871 M. COLLINS *Marg. & Merch.* III. ix. 230 Such sorites of flaming anthracite may possibly cause cephalalgia.

Hence **Sori·tic** *a.* [cf. Gr. *σωρειτικός*], **Sori·tical.**

1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.*, *Soritical*, pertaining to such an Argument [*sc.* Sorites]. *a* 1693 *Urquhart's Rabelais* III. xxxviii. 320 Soritick fool. 1877 BLACKMORE *Cripps* II. v. 73 Nebules of logic, dialectic fogs, and .. the pelting of soritic hail.

† **Sorlaque,** obs. variant of *solaque*, SOLAK.

1696 tr. *Du Mont's Voy. Levant* xiv. 175 After 'em came the Sorlaques, or Foot-Guards of the Body.

Sorn (sɒ̃n), *v. Sc.* Also 6 **soirn.** [f. SORREN.]

† **1.** *trans.* To trouble or harass by exacting free quarters and maintenance; to live upon. *Obs.*

1563 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* I. 248 The Clangregour.. birnis and slayis the pouer liegis of this realme,..takis thair gudis, sornis and oppressis thame. 1563-4 *Ibid.* 271 That ..nane of thame sould sorne or oppres our Soverane Ladiis liegis dwelland within the boundis of Stratherne. 1588-9 *Ibid.* IV. 342 Eftir thay had soirned, wracked, and spoilled the saidis haill Illis, thay..rased fyre.

2. *intr.* To take up free quarters or exact maintenance unjustifiably; to sponge *upon* others for food or lodging.

c 1575 *Balfour's Practicks* (1754) 24 That na persounis heireftter ludge nor sorne in housis or granges pertening to religious or ecclesiasticall men. 1638 H. ADAMSON *Muses Threnodie* (1774) I. 96 The Baliol proud, With English forces.., arrived at Kinghorne, And through the country mightily did sorne. 1725 RAMSAY *Gentle Sheph.* III. iv, He gangs about sornan frae place to place. 1799 J. ROBERTSON *Agric. Perth* 385 Why send the person..to corrupt, to pilfer and sorn upon your neighbours? 1816 SCOTT *Old Mort.* vi, You pretend to gie entertainments, that canna come by a dinner except by sorning on a carefu' man like me? 1876 EADIE *Thessalonians* 314 The idlers..had no right to 'sorn' on their friends or burden the funds of the church.

Sorname, obs. form of SURNAME.

Sorne, obs. f. *sworn*, pa. pple. of SWEAR *v.*

Sornee. *nonce-wd.* [f. SORN *v.*] One who is sorned upon; a victim of sorning.

1797 SCOTT *Lett.* (1894) I. 10 As from being a sorner I am becoming a sornee [etc.].

Sorner (sɒ̃·mər). *Sc.* Also 5 **sornour,** 6 (9) **sornar,** 7 **soroner.** [f. SORN *v.*] One who sorns; one who quarters himself upon others; a sponger.

1449 *Sc. Acts, Jas. II* (1814) II. 36/1 The away putting of sorneris, ourlyaris, & masterful beggaris. 1455 *Ibid.* 43/1 Item quhar euer sornoures be ourtane in tyme to cum, þat þai be deliueryt to þe kingis scheriffis. 1506 *Exch. Rolls Scotl.* XII. 704 The names of all thevis, pikaris, and sornars that oppress the cuntre. 1575 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* II. 450 Certane sornaris, vagaboundis and utheris oppressouris of the cuntre. 1609 in Burt *Lett. N. Scotl.* (1818) II. 243 Eating up by sorners (*sturdy beggers*) and idle bellies. 1699 *Records of Elgin* (1903) I. 361 The counsell ordains notorious soroners, wagabonds and strangers to be instantly banished the burgh. 1797 [see SORNEE]. 1821 SCOTT *Pirate* v, This is the house of his Lordship's factor, and no place of reset for thiggers or sorners. 1881 MASSON *De Quincey* ix. 104 The prince of almoners for sorners and beggars.

So·rning, *vbl. sb. Sc.* [f. SORN *v.*] The action or practice of exacting free quarters and maintenance, or of living at the expense of others.

1506 *Exch. Rolls Scotl.* XII. 704 That ye hald courtis ..for stanching of slauchtir, sornyng and oppression. 1563-4 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* I. 271 Colin Campbell.. sall ansuer him self for the samyn crymes, sornyngis, oppressionis, and offencis. 1669 in *Macfarlane's Geneal. Coll.* (S.H.S.) I. 63 The Outragious Sornings of Glengairrie's Followers. 1678 SIR G. MACKENZIE *Crim. Laws Scot.* I. xxxiv. § iii. (1699) 161 An habitual, and constant trade of Robbing, and sorning, is libelled. 1753 *Scots Mag.* Sept. 468/2 John Gun, for theft and sorning, was sentenced to be hanged. 1754 ERSKINE *Princ. Sc. Law* (1809) 514 Under which class may be included sorning, or the taking of meat and drink by force, without paying for it. 1829 SCOTT *Antiq.* Advert., All laws against sorning, masterful beggary, and every other species of mendicity, being suspended in favour of this privileged class. 1900 R. J. DRUMMOND *Relat. Apost. Teaching* i. 15 Faith was made a plea for indolence and sorning.

So **So·rning** *ppl. a.*

1824 SCOTT *St. Ronan's* viii, A poaching, sorning sort of fallow. 1893 AGNEW *Hered. Sheriffs Galloway* II. xxxi. 65 This sorning band, who had lived for days at free quarters.

Soro, obs. form of SORROW.

Soroal (sŏrō·răl), *a.* [f. L. *soror* sister + -AL. Cf. F. *sororal.*]

1. By one's sister; on a sister's side. *rare*[—1].

1654 VILVAIN *Theorem. Theol.* viii. 212 Master John Down a..sororal Nephew to Bishop Juel.

2. That is a sister. *rare.*

1819 LAMB *Lett.* (1837) II. 55 How do you all do, amanuenses both—marital and sororal?

3. Of or pertaining to, characteristic of, a sister or sisters; sisterly.

1858 *Chambers's Jrnl.* IX. 239 Independent of either mother or sister—bound by no authority to either, except ..filial and sororal affection. 1869 MISS MULOCK *Woman's Kingd.* III. 146 To see into what the sororal bond can degenerate, under given circumstances. 1838 SIR W. R. HAMILTON in R. P. Graves *Life* (1885) II. 270 And Ladies, ..With love maternal, or sororal, view Thy gentleness.

Sororial (sŏrō·rĭăl), *a.* [f. L. *sorōri-us* sisterly + -AL. Cf. F. *sororial.*] = prec. 3.

1836 T. HOOK *G. Gurney* (1850) III. iii. 352 'Her brother' ..permitted his approbation of her sororial affection to produce a sort of fraternal acknowledgment. 1877 *World* VII. 7 The gauntlet of sororial criticism which he finds himself compelled to run.

Hence **Soro·rially** *adv.*, in a sisterly manner.

1825 T. HOOK *Sayings* Ser. II. I. 23 Taking her *sororially* by the hand, she led her forth from the oak parlour.

† **Soro·riant,** *a. Obs.*[—0] [f. L. *sorōriant-*, *sorōrians*, app. f. *soror* sister.] (See quot.)

1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.*, *Sororiant Virgin*, a yong maid, whose Brests began to be embossed and round, or set out for shew.

So **Sororia·tion.** *rare.* (See quots.)

1658 PHILLIPS, *Sororiation*, a swelling, or becoming round, and embossed like a young Virgin's breasts. 1859 MAYNE *Expos. Lex.* 1175/1 *Sororiatio*,..the equally progressing development of the *mammæ* in the young female: sororiation.

Sororicide[1] (sŏrō·risəid). [ad. L. *sorōricīda*, f. *soror* sister + *-cīdĕre*: see -CIDE I. Cf. F. *sororicide.*] One who kills his (or her) sister.

1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.*, *Sororicide*, a murderer of his own sister. 1721 in BAILEY; and in later Dicts. 1881 *Philadel. Record* No. 3411. 2 Intending sororicides will do well to get this formula fastened in their memories. 1892 BESANT *Ivory Gate* (1893) 195 If the envious man..denounces a man of reputation as..a patricide, a sororicide, amicocide.

Sororicide[2] (sŏrō·risəid). [ad. late L. *sorōricīdium*, f. *soror* + *-cīdĕre*: see -CIDE 2. Cf. F. *sororicide.*] The action of killing one's sister.

1727 BAILEY (vol. II), *Sororicide*, the Killing of a Sister. 1875 J. HUNTER *Man. Bee-keeping* (1876) 115 The Workers prevent this sororicide by setting a guard over the unhatched Queens. 1889 *East. Morn. News* 10 Apr. 3/2 Supposed shocking sororicide.

Hence **Sororici·dal** *a.*

1878 FR. A. KEMBLE *Rec. Girlhood* I. iii. 70 A quite unpremeditated inspiration..—to run away—probably alarmed my parents more than my sororicidal projects.

Sorority (sŏrɒ·riti). [ad. med.L. *sororitas*, or f. L. *soror* sister + -ITY, after *fraternity*. Cf. obs. F. *sororité* (Cotgr. 1611).]

1. A body or company of women united for some common object, esp. for devotional purposes; † *U.S.*, the female section of a church congregation.

1532 MORE *Confut. Barnes* VIII. Wks. 761/1 This would he say for the comfort of ye whole fraternitie and sororiti in general. 1645 PAGITT *Heresiogr.* (1647) 86 The Synod of New-England maketh not only the fraternity but (as they speak) the sorority to be the subject of the..power of the keyes. 1657 J. WATTS *Dipper Sprinkled* 101 [The care] of the fraternity and sorority within their limits.

2. *U.S.* A women's society in a college or university. Also *attrib.*

1900 *Harper's Mag.* Sept. 490 One saw many of those neat little sorority pins the American girl proudly brings home from boarding-school or college. 1908 G. E. CODY (*title*), Jacquette: a Sorority Girl. 1909 C. W. ELIOT *Univ. Administr.* 223 Sororities have, in general, the same merits and advantages as fraternities.

So·rorize, *v.* Somewhat *rare.* [f. L. *soror* sister + -IZE, after *fraternize.*] *intr.* To associate *with* a person or persons as a sister or sisters; to form a sisterly friendship.

1875 *Temple Bar* Mar. 533 If there be a baby attached to either party, a general sororising is as inevitable as death. *a* 1876 M. COLLINS *Th. in Garden* (1880) II. i. 3 The beautiful girls..sororising with the rustic maidenhood of their parishes.

† **So·rory.** *Obs.*[—1] [f. L. *soror* sister + -Y.] A sisterhood; a sorority.

1600 TOURNEUR *Transf. Metam.* lxviii, The ninefold Sorory themselves exiled, Euen from their natiue home to art's annoy.

Sorose, *a. Bot.* = SORIFEROUS *a.*

1891 in *Cent. Dict.*

‖ **Sorosis** (sŏrō·sis). [mod.L., f. Gr. *σωρός* a heap.]

1. *Bot.* (See quot. 1831.)

1831 LINDLEY *Introd. Bot.* I. ii. 180 *Sorosis*,..a spike or raceme converted into a fleshy fruit by the cohesion in a single mass of the ovaria and floral envelopes. 1845 *Encycl. Metrop.* VI. 122*/1 The fruit [*sc.* mulberry], called a sorosis by botanists, has a peculiar aromatic flavour. 1849 BALFOUR *Man. Bot.* § 557 Other instances of a sorosis are the Bread-fruit and Jack-fruit.

2. *U.S.* A women's society or club.

An arbitrary use of the botanical term, adopted as the name of the first club of the kind, founded in 1868.

1879 in WEBSTER *Suppl.*

Soro·trochous, *a. Zool.* [f. Gr. *σωρός* heap: cf. MONOTROCHOUS *a.*] Of rotifers: (see quot.).

a 1843 *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) VII. 266/1 The Wheel Organs are either *Monotrochous*,..or the ring is divided or manifold, as in the *Sorotrochous* Infusories. *Ibid.*, Two subdivisions of the Sorotrochous are also observed.

†Sorous, *a. Obs. rare.* Also 4 **sorus.** [f. SORE *a.*[1] + -OUS.] **a.** Sorrowful, sad. **b.** Grievous, distressing.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 16762 + 105 Al creatures for his ded made doil & pite, And þou þat he deed fore cannot sorus be. **1502** ARNOLDE *Chron.* (1811) 129 The most greuous sorous losses, imprisonment, and troubles.

‖ Sorpego, obs. variant of SERPIGO.

1631 T. POWELL *Tom of All Trades* 49 Some of your Clarkly men complaine the moysture of their palmes. Others the Sorpego in their wrists.

Sorplers, obs. variant of SURPLICE *sb.*

† Sorporr, *v. Obs.*—° [f. *sor-* SUR- + PORR *v.* 3.] *trans.* To surfeit. Hence **Sorporring** *vbl. sb.*

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 8/2 Agrotonyd, or sorporryd wyth mete or drynke, *ingurgitatus. Ibid.*, Agrotonynge, or sorporrynge, *ingurgitacio.*

Sorra, dial. or colloq. f SORROW *sb.*

Sorrance, variant of SORANCE.

† Sorré. *Cookery. Obs.* Also **sore, sorry, surre.** [app. a. OF. *soré*, pa. pple. of *sorer* to redden, f. *sore* SORE *a.*[2]] A dish made with chopped eels (or other fish, etc.) spiced and coloured. *White sorré* = *blanch-de-sore* (see BLAUNDSORE).

c 1430 *Two Cookery-bks.* 25 Sore Sengle.—Take Elys or Gurnard, .. take Safroun, & caste þer-to, .. take poudere Gyngere, Canelle [etc.]. *c* 1440 *Anc. Cookery* in *Househ. Ord.* (1790) 446 Eles in Sorry. Take eles and cut hom on culpons, ..colour hit withe saunders. *Ibid.* 467 Eles in Surre. *a* 1450 *Tourn. Tottenham* The Feest vii. (Hazlitt *E. P. P.* III. 95), Blobsterdis in white sorre, Was of a nobull curry.

Sorrel (sŏ·rĕl), *sb.*[1] *Bot.* Forms: 4, 6–7 sorell, 5–6 sorel, 6–7 sorrell (6 sowrell), 6– sorrel. [a. OF. *surele* (12th cent.), *sorele, surelle* (mod.F. *surelle*), f. OF. *sur* adj., an adoption of the Germanic *sûr* SOUR *a.*]

1. One or other of certain small perennial plants belonging to the genus *Rumex*, characterized by a sour taste, and to some extent cultivated for culinary purposes; esp. the common wild species, *R. acetosa.*

Earlier botanical names are *Acedula* (also *Acidula*), *Acetosa*, and *Oxalis.*

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 465/1 Sorel, herbe, *surella.* **1530** PALSGR. 272/2 Sorell an herbe, *oseille.* **1548** TURNER *Names Herbes* (E.D.S.) 69 Oxalis, in barbarus latin Acetosa or Acidula, in englishe Sorel or sourdocke. **1578** LYTE *Dodoens* 558 Sorrel is commonly sowen in gardens, and is to be found also growing wylde. **1600** SURFLET *Countrie Farme* II. xv. 222 Sorrell & burnet .. may be sowen in fine ground, and well manured, in the spring time, especially the sorrell. **1653** H. COGAN *Pinto's Trav.* xlvi. 180 Going into the woods we sustained ourselves with a certain herb like unto Sorrell. **1732** ARBUTHNOT *Rules of Diet* in *Aliments*, etc. I. 259 Several Plants known by their Taste, as Sorrel. **1763** MILLS *Pract. Husb.* IV. 131 The seeds of the annual sorts of sorrel should be sown about the latter end of March. **1816** KEATS *'I stood tip-toe'* 98 Her nimble toes Patting against the sorrel as she goes. **1868** *Rep. U.S. Commissioner Agric.* (1869) 394 'Acid' soils, ..indicated by the growth of sorrel .. and other sour plants. **1889** A. R. WALLACE *Darwinism* (1890) 29 The sorrel .. covers hundreds of acres with a sheet of red.

b. With distinguishing epithets, denoting various species of the genus *Rumex.*

For *Sheep's, Tree, Welsh sorrel* see these words.

1611 COTGR., *Oseille petite*, .. *barren Sorrell. **1731** MILLER *Gard. Dict.* s.v. *Acetosa*, The Northern barren Sorrel. **1797** *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XVII. 610/1 By means of the common *broad-leaved sorrel an excellent black colour is .. given to woollen stuffs. **1855** DELAMER *Kitchen Garden* (1861) 93 The best .. is the Broad-leaved sorrel, of which a marked sub-variety, the Golden Sorrel, is almost exclusively cultivated in the environs of Dunkirk. *c* **1710** PETIVER *Cat. Ray's Eng. Herbal* Tab. iii, *Common Sorrel. **1763** MILLS *Pract. Husb.* IV. 130 The common sorrel, which grows naturally in pasture lands in most parts of England. **1785** MARTYN *Rousseau's Bot.* xviii. (1794) 253 Common .. Sorrel, .. growing in meadows and pastures. **1597** GERARDE *Herbal* II. lxxx. 320 *Oxalis Crispa*, *Curled Sorrell. **1858** A. IRVINE *Handbk. Brit. Plants* 379 *Rumex*, .. *Dock Sorrel. **1886** [see DOCK *sb.*[1] 4]. **1846–50** A. WOOD *Class-bk. Bot.* 477 *Rumex acetosella*, *Field Sorrel. **1681** in *Thanes of Cawdor* (Spald. Club) 352 *French sorrell. **1731** MILLER *Gard. Dict.* s. v. *Acetosa*, The Round-leav'd or French Sorrel. **1819** *Pantologia* s. v. *Rumex, R. sentatus*, French sorrel. **1829** [see FRENCH *a.* 5]. **1601** CHESTER *Love's Mart.* lviii, Sage, Scorpiades; and the *garden sorrell. **1855** *Golden sorrel [see *Broad-leaved sorrel* above]. **1578** LYTE *Dodoens* v. ix. 559 The fifth kind, which groweth in ditches, is called .. in Englishe, *Great Sorrel, Water Sorrel, and *Horse Sorrel. **1597** GERARDE *Herbal* II. lxxx. 319 *Oxalis tuberosa*, *Knobbed Sorrell. **1731** MILLER *Gard. Dict.* s.v. *Acetosa*, The Common or *Meadow Sorrel. **1753** *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s.v., The great *mountain-sorrel. **1611** COTGR., *Petite salette*, *Pettie Sorrell, sallet Sorrell. **1578** LYTE *Dodoens* v. ix. 558 *Oxalis Romana*, Tours Sorrel or *Romayne Sorrel. **1764** MILLS *Pract. Husb.* IV. 130 The round-leafed garden, or Roman sorrel. **1796** [see ROMAN *a.* 14 b]. **1597** GERARDE *Herbal* II. lxxx. 320 *Oxalis Franca seu Romana*, *Round Sorrell. **1712** tr. *Pomet's Hist. Drugs* I. 25 Others will have the Leaf like round Sorrel. **1731** MILLER *Gard. Dict.* s.v. *Acetosa*, The *Round-leav'd (or French) Sorrel. **1753** *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s.v., The round-leaved garden-sorrel. **1855** DELAMER *Kitchen Garden* (1861) 93 The Round-leaved sorrel .. is not the kind to cultivate, except for variety. **1611** *Salad sorrel [see *Petty sorrel* above]. **1597** GERARDE *Herbal* II. lxxx. 321 *Oxalis minor*, *Small Sorrell. **1611** COTGR., *Oseille sauvage*, .. *sowre Sorrell, the sowre Docke. **1578** *Tours sorrel, *Water sorrel [see *Roman sorrel* and *Great sorrel* above]. **1565** COOPER *Thesaurus, Cantherinum lapathum*, *wilde sorell. **1580** HOLLYBAND *Treas. Fr. Tong, Oseille sauvage*, wild sorrell.

2. The leaves of species of *Rumex* (see sense 1) used in cookery or medicine, or as a salad; a decoction or drink made from one or other of these plants.

a 1400 in *Rel. Ant.* I. 51 Drynk sorell, plantayne, and chekyn-mete. *c* 1420 *Liber Cocorum* (1862) 54 With gynger þo pigge eton shalle be, And sorel with þo moton. **1539** ELYOT *Cast. Helthe* 24 Sorell. Being sodden, it louseth the bealy. **1575** GASCOIGNE *Posies* Ep. Yng. Gent., Wks. 1907 I. 12 If the Chirurgian which should seeke Sorrell to rypen an Ulcer, will take Rewe [etc.]. **1620** VENNER *Via Recta* vii. 145 Sorell is good in hot seasons .. for the cholericke. **1696** FLOYER *On the Humours* vi. 68 Cyder, French and Rhenish Wines, Vinegar, Sorrel, Verjuice, Limons. **1746** FRANCIS tr. *Horace, Sat.* II. iv. 37 Sorrel and White-Wine, if you costive prove, And Muscles, all Obstructions shall remove. **1747–96** MRS. GLASSE *Cookery* v. 78 Take two handfuls of sorrel, pound it in a mortar.

3. † a. *Sorrel de boys*, = WOOD-SORREL. *Obs.*

a 1400 *Stockholm Med. MS.* fol. 95 Alla .i. sorell de boye. **1548** ELYOT, *Acidula*, .. an herbe called sorrell de boys. **1552** HULOET, *Alleluya* herbe, otherwise called *Sorrell de Boys.* **1647** HEXHAM I. (Herbs), Sorell de boyes, or Cuckoes Sorell, *Kockocks Suyringh.*

b. With distinguishing epithets, denoting various species of *Oxalis* (wood-sorrel).

1647 [see prec.]. **1706** PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), *Alleluja*, .. an Herb otherwise call'd Wood-sorrel, or French Sorrel. *Ibid.*, *Oxalis*, wild Sorrel or Wood-Sorrel, an Herb. **1889** MAIDEN *Usef. Plants* 50 *Oxalis corniculata*, .. 'Clover Sorrel', or 'Sour Grass'. **1909** *Cent. Dict.* Suppl. s.v., Ladies' sorrel, *Oxalis stricta.*

4. With distinguishing epithet: One or other of various plants of other genera in some way resembling sorrel (see quots.).

1864 GRISEBACH *Flora Brit. W. Ind.* 787/2 *Climbing Sorrel, *Begonia scandens.* **1697** *Phil. Trans.* XIX. 375 *Acetosa* (a Plant of the Family with Rhubarb, which will be called The *Indian Sorrel, or Sower Docken). **1753** *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. *App.* s.v., *Indian Sorrel*, a name sometimes given to *ketmia.* **1760** J. LEE *Introd. Bot.* App. 327 Sorrel, Indian Red, *Hibiscus. *Ibid.*, Sorrel, Indian White, *Hibiscus.* **1864** GRISEBACH *Flora Brit. W. Ind.* 787/2 Sorrel, Indian or red, *Hibiscus Sabdariffa.* **1843** BABINGTON *Brit. Bot.* (1847) 273 *Oxyria reniformis*, .. *Mountain Sorrel. **1889** MAIDEN *Usef. Plants* 35 *Hibiscus heterophyllus*, .. *'Queensland Sorrel'. **1829** LOUDON *Encycl. Plants* 586 *note*, H[ibiscus] Sabdariffa .. in the West Indies is called *Red Sorrel. **1864** GRISEBACH *Flora Brit. W. Ind.* 787/2 *Switch Sorrel, *Dodonæa viscosa.* **1887** MOLONEY *Forestry W. Africa* 303 Switch Sorrel of Jamaica .. Shrub or small tree.

5. *pl.* Species of sorrel; sorrel plants.

1596 in *Analecta Scotica* II. 13 The seid of .. sorrelis or sourochis. **1725** *Fam. Dict.* s.v.; Alleluya .. has all the same Qualities and the same Taste as the other Sorrels. **1841** *Penny Cycl.* XX. 221/2 Well known as troublesome weeds to the agriculturist, under the name of docks and sorrels. **1866** *Treas. Bot.* 998/2 The Sorrels are considered of great importance in French cookery.

6. *Salt of sorrel*, binoxalate of potash.

1800 tr. *Lagrange's Chem.* II. 209 Oxalic Acidulum, the Salt of Sorrel of the Shops. **1839** URE *Dict. Arts* 192 Two drams of sal-ammoniac, and half a dram of salt of sorrel. **1887** BENTLEY *Man. Bot.* (ed. 5) 654 A potassium salt of oxalic acid, commonly termed salt of sorrel.

7. *attrib.*, as *sorrel-flower, genus, leaf, seed.*

1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s.v., Sorrel seeds .. are esteemed astringent. **1811** A. T. THOMSON *Lond. Disp.* (1818) 350 Sorrel leaves are inodorous, and have a grateful .. acidulous taste. **1845** S. JUDD *Margaret* I. xvii, The snowfields seemed to bloom with glowing sorrel-flowers. **1857** HENFREY *Bot.* 359 *Polygonaceæ.* The Sorrel Order. **1866** *Treas. Bot.* 998/1 *Rumex*, the Dock and Sorrel genus.

b. In the sense 'made from sorrel', as *sorrel drink, jam, sauce, sops, soup, water.*

1558 WARDE tr. *Alexis' Secr.* 40 b, Thre vnces of endiue water, or sorell water. **1589** in H. Hall *Soc. Eliz. Age* (1887) 213 For rostinge the mutton and chickens and sorell soppes for the chickens. **1611** COTGR., *Vinaigrette*, sorrell sawce. **1634** HEYWOOD & BROME *Lanc. Witches* III. H.'s Wks. 1874 IV. 214 Here comes the payre of boyld Lovers in Sorrell sops. **1771** MRS. HAYWOOD *New Present for Maid* 155 Lay it in a dish with some sorrel sauce. **1855** DELAMER *Kitchen Garden* (1861) 93 It is used .. principally for sorrel-soup. **1862** in Veness *El Dorado* (1866) App. 122 Sorrel jelly, .. sorrel jam, preserved papaws [etc.]. **1863** *Chambers's Encycl.* V. 359/1 *Hibiscus Sabdariffa*, affords a refreshing beverage, well known in the West Indies as Sorrel Cool Drink.

c. In the names of various plants, etc., as **sorrel-thorn, -vine, -wood** (see quots.). Also SORREL-TREE.

1799 *Med. Jrnl.* II. 80 The irritability inherent in the stamina of the flowers of the sorrel-thorn (*Epine-vinette*). **1864** GRISEBACH *Flora Brit. W. Ind.* 787/2 Sorrel-vine, *Cissus acida.* **1874** *Treas. Bot.* Suppl. 1343/2 Sorrelwood (N[ew] Zeal[and]), *Oxalis magellanica.*

Sorrel (sŏ·rĕl), *a.* and *sb.*[2] Forms: 5–8 (9 *arch.*) sorel, 5 sorelle, sowrell, 5–8 sorell, 6–7 soril; 6–7 sorrell, 7 -ill, 6– sorrel. [a. OF. *sorel* (*soreal, -eaul, -iel*), f. *sore* SORE *a.*[2] Hence also med.L. *sorellus.*]

A. *adj.* Of a bright chestnut colour; reddish brown: **a.** Of horses (or other animals).

1469 in *Somerset Med. Wills* (1901) 216, I will that my seruant William Wilson have a sorelle hackney of mine. **1543** *Test. Ebor.* (Surtees) VI. 175 A sorell geldinge. **1570** *Bury Wills* (Camden) 156 My sorrell meare coult. **1634–5** BRERETON *Trav.* (Chetham Soc.) 39 Here, in their stable, four dainty sorrel pied horses. **1680** *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1520/4 A Sorrel, or Bright Chesnut Mare, about 14 Hands and a half high. **1704** SWIFT *Batt. Bks.* Misc. (1711) 252 A sorrel Gelding of a monstrous Size. **1706** *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4190/4 A sorrel chesnut Nag, a little crack winded. **1823** E. MOOR *Suffolk Words, Sorrel*, chestnut-coloured, as applied to a horse. **1852** MRS. STOWE *Uncle Tom's C.* iv. 23 How Mas'r Shelby was thinking of buying a new sorrel colt. **1884** BIBLE *Zech.* i. 8 Behind him there were horses, red, sorrel, and white.

b. Of hair or persons.

1600 BRETON *Pasquils Fooles-cap* xxv, Shee, in a glasse, that sees her Sorrell haire, And straight will put it to the Painters die [etc.]. **1602** — *Mother's Blessing* lxxv, A sorrell foretop, and a sowish feature. **1634** MASSINGER *Very Woman* III. i, My sorrel slaves are of a lower price, Because the colour's faint. **1664** BUTLER *Hud.* II. i. 696 A Roan-Gelding .., a Lock on's hoof, A sorrel-mane. *a* **1700** B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew, Sorrel-pate*, red Hair'd. **1708** *Brit. Apollo* No. 36. 2/2 Red Hair'd People, or Carrotty, Sandy, Sorrel, or what you will call them.

c. Of colour or hue.

1534 in *Wells Wills* (1890) 41 Oon mayre of sorell color. **1599** T. M[OUFET] *Silkwormes* 72 How they color change, From blacke to browne, from browne to sorrel bay. **1611** COTGR., *Saurir*, to .. turne into a Sorrell colour. *Ibid.*, Vntill they [*sc.* herrings] haue gotten their Sorrell hue.

B. *sb.* **1.** A horse of a bright chestnut or reddish brown colour; also as the name of a horse. (So OF. *Sorel.*)

c 1430 LYDG. *Min. Poems* (Percy Soc.) 202 But on them she wyl have a bonde, As weel of bayard as of brende, And yit for sorelle she wyl stonde. **1482** in *Cely Papers* (Camden) 109 Grett sorell ys in good plyght. **1599** HALL *Sat.* VI. i. 223 Saint Georges Sorrel, or his crosse of blood. **1600** J. M. *New Metamorphosis* (Nares, 1859), Noe holla Jacke, nor Sorrell, hola boye, Will make them stay. **1708** *Brit. Apollo* No. 90. 3/1 O'er Hill and Dale on Sorrel, Noble Steed. **1748** SMOLLETT *R. Random* ix, Sure my Lord's Sorrel is not resty. *Ibid.*, Sorrel, disdaining the rein; sprung forward. **1783–9** T. DAY *Sandford & Merton* (1851) 442, I can assure you they are the true Suffolk sorrels, the first breed of working horses in the kingdom. **1842** BORROW *Bible in Spain* lvi, The horse was small but beautiful, a sorrel with long mane and tail. **1894** *Outing* XXIV. 383/2 At the easy, comfortable pace with which old sorrel jogs him to town on court days.

transf. **1803** J. DAVIS *Trav. Amer.* 378, I am no half-and-half breed; no chesnut-sorrel of a mulatto.

b. In allusive use: (see quot. 1710).

1705 HICKERINGILL *Priest-cr.* II. viii. 82 Those that (Profanely if not Traiterously) Drink a Health to Sorrel. **1710** *Answ. to Sacheverell's Serm.* 15 The King [William III] having .. a fall from his Horse (called Sorrel), .. which was thought to be the cause of his Death, they rejoyced at it, and did usually drink a Health to Sorrel.

2. A buck in its third year. Now *Obs.* or *arch.*

1486 *Bk. St. Albans, Hunting* e iv, And ye speke of the Bucke, the fyrst yere he is A fawne, .. The secunde yere a preket, the iii. yere a sowrell. **1530** PALSGR. 272/2 Sorell, a yonge bucke. **1588** SHAKS. *L. L. L.* IV. ii. 60 The Dogges did yell, .. then Sorell iumps from thicket. **1616** *N. Riding Rec.* II. 122 John Turner presented for breaking the chase of the R^t Hon. Lord Burghley and shooting a sorell there. *a* **1700** EVELYN *Diary* 27 July 1654, I went to the hunting of a sorel deere. **1741** *Compl. Fam.-Piece* II. i. 310 If any Deer come out that is not weighty, or a Deer of Anther, which is Buck, Sore, or Sorel. **1865** G. F. BERKELEY *Life & Recoll.* II. 256 Doe or buck, pricket, sor or sorel, my orders from the Crown were that every one should be destroyed.

transf. **1612** *Christian turned Turk* (T.), I am but a mere sorell; my head's not hardened yet!

3. A sorrel or reddish-brown colour. Freq. with reference to horses.

1530 PALSGR. 272/2 Sorrell, colour of an horse, *sorrel. *a* **1586** SIDNEY *Arcadia* (1622) 273 His horse was of a fiery sorrell, with blacke feete. **1611** COTGR., *Alezan toustade*, a darke reddish colour, as of mettall burnt in the fire; a burnt sorrell. **1688** HOLME *Armoury*, II. 155/1 *Sorrel*, is more lighter than a light Bay, inclining to a Yellow. **1706** STEVENS *Span. Dict.* 1, *Alazán dorádo*, betwixt Roan and Sorrel. **1787** BEST *Angling* (ed. 2) 11 The best colours for lines are sorell, white, and grey. **1828** CARR *Craven Gloss.*, *Sorrel*, a colour between a chestnut and a red. **1860** O. W. HOLMES *Elsie V.* (1887) 111 She was of the shade we call sorrel, or, as an Englishman would perhaps say, chestnut.

† Sorrelled, *a. Obs.* Forms: 5 sorelt, 5–6 soreld, 6 sorelyd, sorellyd, -ed, 7 sorreld. [f. SORREL *a.* + -ED. Cf. SORED *a.*] Of horses: = SORREL *a.* a.

1403 *Nottingham Rec.* II. 22 Item, j. equum sorelt, xij s. **1465** in *Mann. & Househ. Exp. Eng.* (Roxb.) 180 A man that browte the Kynge a fole soreld cowser. **1506** *Paston Lett.* III. 404 My Lord Harry of Stafforth .. rydyng apon a sorellyd courser. **1553** *N. Country Wills* (Surtees) 231 To my cosyn .. my soreld bald geldinge. **1613** *Liber Deposit. Archid. Colcest.* fol. 24, One sorreld mare with a white face.

Sorrel-tree. [SORREL *sb.*[1]] The sourwood or elk-tree of North America, *Oxydendrum arboreum* (*Andromeda arborea*).

1687 *Phil. Trans.* XLI. 152 The Sorrel-tree bears a Leaf something like a Laurel. **1717** *Petiveriana* III. 247 Sorrel or Sowre-tree. Because its Leaves have that Taste; some are a Foot diameter. **1760** J. LEE *Introd. Bot.* App. 327 Sorrel-tree, *Andromeda.* **1821** W. P. C. BARTON *Flora N. Amer.* I. 107 The sorrel tree itself, however, degenerates into a shrub. **1866** *Treas. Bot.* 472/1 The leaves of *Eubotrys arborea* have an acid flavour, whence the name of Sorrel-tree.

Sorren. *Sc.* and *Ir.* Now *Hist.* Forms: 3–4 sorthyn, sorchyn, 4 sorryn, sorem, 6 sorehim, sorehon, soren, 7 sorehin, soreine, 9 sorren. [ad. obs. Irish *sorthan*, explained as synonymous with *coinneamh, coinmheadh* (see COYNYE), 'free quarters, living at free expense'. The Latinized form *sornagium* occurs in the 15th cent. Cf. SORN

v.] A service formerly required of vassals in Scotland and Ireland, consisting in giving hospitality to the superior or his men; a sum of money or other contribution given in lieu of this.

1289–1308 *Charter* in *Adv. Lib. MS.34.3.25*, p. 194 Volo ..quod dictus dominus Adam, heredes sui vel assignati,.. sint quieti de Sorthyn et Tascal. *Ibid.*, Et volo etiam quod..habeant sorchyn fascal. *c* 1320 *Reg. Mag. Sig. Scot.* (1912) 533 *note*, Concessimus eidem quod dictas terras habeat..quiete de Sorem et Freelache. 1364 *Ibid.* 57/1 Quod dicta baronia est libera de sorryn et fathalos.

1596 SPENSER *State Irel.* (1633) 25 Cuddy, Coshery, Bonnaght, Shrah, Sorehin, and such others; the which (I thinke) were customes at first brought in by the English upon the Irish. *Ibid.* 104 They..exact upon them..all those kinde of services, yea and the very wilde exactions, Coignie, Livery, Sorehon[etc.]. 1600 DYMMOK *Ireland* (1843) 8 Soren is a kind of allowance over and above the bonaght, which the Galloglass exact upon the poor people,..viz. 2s. 3d. for a day and a night. 1621 R. BOLTON *Statutes Ireland* 429 If any person or persons..doe give any Scot or Scots..being men of warre, any wages, bonaghts, soreine, or any other intertainment. 1856 *Ulster Arch. Jrnl.* IV. 243 He rendered the chief-rents in victual, called *sorren*, to McCarthy More. *Ibid.* 246 The first usage, that of giving *sorren*, grew in course of time into the formal payment of rent.

attrib. 1856 *Ulster Arch. Jrnl.* IV. 243 Land modernly held by *sorren* tenure. *Ibid.* 246 'Sorren land,' probably for most part arable.

Sorre·nto. The name of an Italian town in the province of Naples, used attrib. in *Sorrento edge*, *edging*, *lace*, *orange*, *work* (see quots.).

1856 MRS. PULLAN *Lady's Dict. Needlework* 25 Sorrento Edge [in Point Lace]. *Ibid.* 28 Sorrento Lace. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2246/2 *Sorrento-work*, fret carving, done by a jig-saw. 1882 CAULFEILD & SAWARD *Dict. Needlework* 453/1 Sorrento edging, used in modern Point Lace. 1896 *Daily News* 24 Dec. 3/2 The Neapolitan, or Sorrento orange,..is not smooth, but rather rough and unprepossessing, and its skin thick.

† **So·rrily,** *a. Obs.*⁻¹ In 3 sorilich. [f. SORRY *a.* + -LY 1.] Sorrowful, sad.

c 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 185 Sorehful is ure hider cume, and sorilich ure henen sið.

Sorrily (sǫ·rili), *adv.* Forms: α. 2–3 sari-, 3 særiliche, 4 sarili, 4–5 -ly. β. 2, 4 soriliche, 5 soryly, 5–7 sorily, 7– sorrily. [f. SORRY *a.* + -LY 2. Cf. MHG. *sêrichliken.*]

† **1.** In a sorrowful manner; sadly, sorrowfully.

α. *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 39 Þu scalt bi-wepen þine sunne.. and ȝeoten þine teres swiðe sariliche. *c* 1205 LAY. 13626 Swiðe he gon to wepen & særiliche siken. *c* 1230 *Hali Meid.* 5 Nis ha þenne sariliche..akast, & in-to þewdom idrahen. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 14252 To fete sco fele him sarili. *c* 1400 *Ywaine & Gaw.* 1791 He luked up ful sarily.

β. *c* 1175 in *Fragm. Ælfric's Gloss.*, etc. (1838) 6 Ȝet sæiþ þeo sowle soriliche to þen licame [etc.]. 1387–8 T. USK *Test. Love* II. iii. (Skeat) l. 60 [To] blobere and wepe til hem list stint, and sorily her mishap complayne. *c* 1400 *Rowland & O.* 459 And all þe lethirs þat þare ware þay assembled soryly. *c* 1450 LOVELICH *Merlin* 2460 Goth forth,.. and axeth the modyr the cause why, why that hire husbond wepeth so soryly. 1606 J. CARPENTER *Solomon's Solace* i. 6 He..mingled his drinke with his teares,..sighed sorily, and lamented wofully.

†**2.** So as to cause sorrow; grievously; lamentably, pitiably. *Obs.*

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 224 Swuðe ofte þer biuoren he hefde iseid him euer soð, uorte biswiken him soriliche on ende. *c* 1330 *Arth. & Merl.* 4810 (Kölbing), What Sarrazin so he mett, Wel soriliche he hem grett. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 754 Þai solast hom samyn..With venus werkes..þat sorily dessauis, & men to sorow bringes. *c* 1440 *Jacob's Well* 116 Ȝe be soryly deed wyth þe poysoun of þe feend.

3. In a poor, wretched, or deplorable manner; miserably, wretchedly.

a 1586 SIDNEY *Arcadia* (1622) 73 Thy pipe, O Pan, shall helpe, though I sing sorily. 1586 T. B. *La Primaud. Fr. Acad.* I. (1594) 335 All his possession was but a little farme in the countrie sorily built. *a* 1625 FLETCHER *Nice Valour* II. i, Yet goodness, whose inclosure is but flesh, Holds out oft times but sorrily. 1688 BUNYAN *Jerus. Sinner Saved* (1886) 46 Churches would do but sorrily, if Christ Jesus did not put such converts among them. 1709 J. JOHNSON *Clergym. Vade M.* II. p. xlvi, 'Tis so sorrily related, and by one who lived so many hundred years after. 1768 JOHNSON *Lett.* (1788) I. 10 You serve me very sorrily. 1815 SCOTT *Let.* in *Lockhart* (1837) III. xi. 360 The Brunswickers and Hanoverians behaved very well; the Belgians but sorrily enough. 1856 DORAN *Knights & their Days* xvi. 243 Rough games, that suited but sorrily with their calling. 1875 KINGLAKE *Crimea* (1877) VI. xi. 445 Thus sorrily lagged the males in their undesigned trial of speed.

Comb. 1824 DIBDIN *Libr. Comp.* 607 In the sorrily-printed pages of the original London Post.

So·rriness. Now *rare.* Forms: α. 1 sariȝnys, 2 -nesse, 1–3 sarinesse, 4–5 sarynes; 3 særinesse, -næsse. β. 3–4 sorinisse, 3–6 sori-, sorynesse, 4 sorinysche, 6 -nes; 6, 8– sorriness, 7–8 sorryness. [f. SORRY *a.* + -NESS.]

† **1.** The state of being sorry; sorrow, grief, sadness; = SORROWFULNESS. *Obs.*

α. *c* 1000 ÆLFRIC *Saints' Lives* xxiii. 102 Hwæt mæȝ beon wop oððe sariȝnys, ȝyf þæt næs se mæsta æȝðres? *c* 1100 *O. E. Chron.* (MS. F) an. 616, Far þare sarinesse ðe he hæfðe far þes cinges unȝeleauon. *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 103 Þe fifte sunne is *Tristicia*, þet is þissere worlde sarinesse. *c* 1205 LAY. 27560 Þer wes sarinesse, sorreȝen inoȝe. *a* 1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* iv. 1 Fra anguys and sarynes þou has broght me. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 318/2 A Sarynes, *tristicia*.

β. *c* 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 35 Hwile mid sorinesse, hwile mid werinesse. *c* 1275 LAY. 13639 Ich ȝou telle rouþliche spelles of mochele sorinesse. 13.. *Guy Warw.* (A.) 372 Þe heuinisse, þe sorwe, and þe sorinisse, þat me is on. 1387–8 T. USK *Test. Love* II. xiv. (Skeat) l. 57 Trewly, this is the sorinesse of fayned love. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 465/1 Sorynesse, or hevynesse, *tristicia*. 1548 R. HUTTEN *Sum Divin.* G ij b, It is feare and sorines of conscience which perceiveth yᵗ god is angry with syn. 1571 GOLDING *Calvin on Ps.* li. 11 So as the sorynesse may settle itself deep in our harts. 1683 CROWNE *City Politiques* II. i, Sorry? what does your sorryness signifie?

† **b.** With *a* and pl. An instance of being sorry.

c 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 105 Þet þe mon on god blissie bitwuxe þa sorinessen þissere sterke worlde. *c* 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 71 Alse fele sorinesses swo ich haue on min herte for mine sinnes. *c* 1275 *Sinners Beware* 125 in *O. E. Misc.*, In eche sorinesse His saule he may brynge. 1587 GOLDING *De Mornay* xxix. 464 For the verie repentance of the best men, is but a sorinesse that they cannot be sorie enough.

2. The state or quality of being mean, poor, or paltry; poorness, meanness.

1668 WILKINS *Real Char.* II. i. 32 Indifferency,..Excellency,..Sorriness. 1727 BAILEY (vol. II), *Sorryness*,..Paltriness, Meanness, Lowness of Value. 1891 T. HARDY *Tess* xxxix, The figure near at hand suffers..because it shows up its sorriness without shade.

Sorrip, obs. form of SYRUP.

Sorrow (sǫ·rou), *sb.* Forms: α. 1 sorh, sorhȝ, 2–3 sorhe (2 sorhȝe, 3 seorhe); 1 sorȝ, 2–4 sorȝe (3 sorge, seorȝe, 4 zorȝe, sorghe); 3 soreȝe (-ege), 5 soroȝe, sorugh(e. β. 3 serrȝhe, sareȝe; 3–4 serewe, 4–5 serwe, sarow(e; 9 *dial.* sarrow, sarra(h. γ. 3 sorw, sorwȝe, seor(u)we, 3–5 sorwe, sorewe. δ. 4–5 soru, sorou (4 sorouu), 5 soro, 6 sourou; 3–6 sorow(e, 5– sorrow, 6–7 sorrowe; 8–9 *Sc.* sorro', 9 sorra. [Common Teut.: OE. *sorh, sorȝ*, = OFris. **sorge* (WFris. *soarch*, EFris. *sôargh*, *sûrghe*, NFris. *sörrig*, *surreg*, etc.), OLFrank. *sorga* (MDu. *sorghe*, Du. *zorg*), OS. *sorga*, *soraga*, *soroga* (MLG. *sorge*, *sorch-*, LG. *sorge*, *sörge*), OHG. *sorga* (MHG. and G. *sorge*), ON. (Icel., Norw., Sw., Da.) *sorg*, Goth. *saurga* (= **sorga*). Relationship to forms outside of Teutonic is uncertain.]

1. Distress of mind caused by loss, suffering, disappointment, etc.; grief, deep sadness or regret; also, that which causes grief or melancholy; affliction, trouble.

In OE. freq. in weaker sense, 'care, anxiety'.

α. *Beowulf* 1322 Ne frin þu æfter sælum; sorh is ȝeniwod Deniȝea leodum. *c* 888 K. ÆLFRED *Boeth.* vii. § 2 Ða ilcan [ðing]..ðe næfre nanne mon buton sorȝe ne forlætað. 971 *Blickl. Hom.* 103 Ne biþ þær sar ne ȝewinn,..ne sorȝ ne wop. *c* 1100 *O. E. Chron.* (MS. F) an. 870, Ealne his timan was ȝewinn & sorhȝe ofer England. *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 63 Þe saule of him is forloren and þe sorȝe is him biforen. *c* 1230 *Hali Meid.* 27 Weorldes uanite, þat wurðeð al to sorhe & to care. *c* 1250 *Orison of our Lady* 22 in *O. E. Misc.* 160 Al þis world schal ago Wið seorhe and wið sore. 1340 *Ayenb.* 71 Oþer ine zorȝe oþer ine blisse wyþoute endynge. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* II. 144 His echedaies fantasie Of sorghe is evere aliche grene. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 249 Wheþire it be sele or soroȝe. *c* 1450 *Knt. de la Tour* (1868) 1 Fulle of sorughe and gladnesse, as mani lovers ben.

β. *c* 1200 *Moral Ode* 378 (Trin. Coll. MS.), Nis þar sareȝe ne sor non. *c* 1200 ORMIN 4852 Þiss..drifeþþ fra þin herrte, All flæshliȝ care & serrȝhe & sit. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 354 Ine sor & ine seoruw. *a* 1250 *Owl & Night.* 884 Hi ne seoþ her nowiht bute serewe. *a* 1300 *Body & Soul* in *Map's Poems* (Camden) 344 To synne and serwe was thi drauȝt. *a* 1400 *Pist. Susan* 145, I am with serwe biset on eueriche side. *c* 1400 *Apol. Loll.* 108 His trauel schal be-gynne in sarow.

γ. *a* 1200 *Vices & Virtues* 19 Ðar is sorwȝe and sarinesse for ðare muchele ortrewnesse. *a* 1250 *Owl & Night.* 431 Hwanne snouh liþ þikke & wide, & alle wihtes habbeþ sorewe. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 5044 Þe king him let ek in sorwe & in siknesse lede. *c* 1320 *Sir Tristr.* 578 Ouer londes he gan fare Wiþ sorwe and reweful chere. *c* 1440 *Jacob's Well* 66 Þou muste haue..full sorwe in þin herte for þi synne. 1473 WARKW. *Chron.* (Camden) 26 Suche goodes as were gaderide with synne, were loste with sorwe.

δ. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 24635 Seke i was and sar for soruu. *a* 1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* cxxvi. 3 Ȝe þat ete þe bred of sorow, þat is, ȝe þat make sorow in ȝoure pilgrimage. *c* 1375 *Cursor M.* 754 (Fairf.), To saue þaire self..or ellis in sorou for to lende. *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (Roxb.) iv. 13 Scho began to crie, as a thing þat had mykill sorowe. *c* 1420 *Chron. Vilod.* 1437 [They] weron in soro & penaunce alle þat nyȝt. 1508 DUNBAR *Flyting* 21 Incres of sorrow, sklander, and evill name. 1559 *Mirr. Mag., Hen. VI*, iv, A silly soule with woe and sorowe souste. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* I. vii. 23 For earthly sight can nought but sorrow breed. 1602 SHAKS. *Ham.* I. ii. 232 *Ham.* What, lookt he frowningly? *Hor.* A countenance more in sorrow then in anger. 1690 LOCKE *Hum. Und.* II. xx. (1695) 122 Sorrow is uneasiness in the Mind, upon the thought of a Good lost,..or the Sense of a present Evil. 1742 GRAY *Adversity* 15 What sorrow was, thou bad'st her know. 1784 COWPER *Task* VI. 46 Sorrow has..subdu'd and tam'd The playful humour. 1841 HELPS *Ess., Aids Contentm.* (1842) 17 And we may remember that sorrow is at once, the lot, the trial, and the privilege of man. 1891 FARRAR *Darkn. & Dawn* xlii, His face wore a look of sorrow and alarm.

b. In more or less personified use.

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 1080 Þer was solace & songe wher sorȝ has ay cryed. *c* 1400 *Rom. Rose* 4995 Labour and Travaile Logged ben with Sorwe and Woo, That never out of hir court goo. 1554–9 *Songs & Ball. Philip & Mary* (Roxb.) 1 Sorrowe hath caught me in her sner. 1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* I. ii. III. iv, Sorrow,..the mother and daughter of melancholy. 1757 GRAY *Bard* 62 And sorrow's faded form, and solitude behind. 1812 BYRON *Ch. Har.* II. xcvi, How selfish Sorrow ponders on the past. 1850 TENNYSON *In Mem.* lix, O Sorrow, wilt thou live with me?

c. In proverbs and phrases.

c 1420 *Sir Amadace* (Camden) iii, Bettur sayd soro thenne sene! 1788 *Grose's Dict. Vulg. T.* (ed. 2), Sorrow shall be his sops, he shall repent this. *Ibid.*, Sorrow go by me; a common expletive used by the presbyterians in Ireland.

2. With *a* and pl. An instance or cause of grief or sadness; an affliction or trouble.

α. *Beowulf* 149 Torn ȝeþolode wine Scyldinga, weana ȝehwelcne, sidra sorȝa. *a* 900 CYNEWULF *Crist* 86 Swa eal manna bearn sorȝum sawað, swa eft ripað. 971 *Blickl. Hom.* 5 Þæt æȝhwylc man sceolde..her on sorhȝum beon. *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 71 Þet lif and saule beon iborȝen and baðe ilesed ut of sorȝen. *c* 1205 LAY. 12332 Ah sone þer æfter sorȝen heom weoren ȝiueðen. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 68 Pride..made ilc sorge, and euerilc bale. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 563 Quen þe swemande sorȝe soȝt to his hert.

β. *a* 1300 *Harrow. Hell* (Digby) 28 Harde gates haui gon, Serewes soffred moni hon. *a* 1310 in Wright *Lyric P.* xxx. 89 Nis ther no leche so fyn, oure serewes to bete. *a* 1400 *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* liv. 96 Ȝif eny serwe beo lyk to myn.

γ. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 3742 Moyses told hem al ðis answere, And he ben smiten in sorwes dere. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 5923 Þe þridde ȝer..of aildredes kinedom, þe biginning of þis sorwe to engelonde verst com. *c* 1320 *Sir Tristr.* 368 Her sorwen and her care þai witt þat frely fode. 1382 WYCLIF *Ecclus.* xxxviii. 7 In these thingus he..shal swage sorewen. *c* 1400 *Secreta Secret., Gov. Lordsh.* 60 [It] brynges ynward sorwys to mannys hertys.

δ. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 9641 Sua þou wald his sorus slak. 1338 R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (1810) 7 Now of fiue sorowes.. Henry in his writyng telles what þei ware. *c* 1440 *York Myst.* xii. 7 And sithen what sorouse sor warre sene. 1477 EARL RIVERS (Caxton) *Dictes* 8 The wiese men bere their greues & sorowes as they were swete vnto them. 1557 NORTH *Guevara's Diall Pr.* (1568) 300 There is great difference from the cares and sorrowes of weomen to that of men. 1602 SHAKS. *Ham.* IV. v. 78 When sorrowes come, they come not single spies, But in Battaliaes. 1697 DRYDEN *Æneid* I. 307 The day, but not their sorrows, ended thus. 1713 JOHNSON *Guardian* No. 1 ℙ 5 All sorrows which can arrive at me are comprehended in the sense of guilt and pain. 1746 FRANCIS tr. *Horace, Epist.* I. ii. 68 Nor House, nor Lands,..Can..drive one Sorrow from his anxious Breast. 1827 POLLOK *Course T.* I. (1860) 17 Sorrows remembered sweeten present joy. 1892 WESTCOTT *Gospel of Life* 270 Every sorrow and pain is an element of discipline.

b. *The Man of Sorrows*, Jesus Christ. (After Isaiah liii. 3.)

a 1853 F. W. ROBERTSON *Serm.* Ser. v. (1890) i. 1 The Human Race typified by the Man of Sorrows. 1857 J. HAMILTON *Less. fr. Gt. Biogr.* 170 The Man of Sorrows was not the man who would upbraid a breaking heart.

c. Applied to persons.

1637 MILTON *Lycidas* 166 Weep no more, For Lycidas your sorrow is not dead. 1821 SHELLEY *Adonais* x, Our love, our hope, our sorrow, is not dead; See, on the silken fringe of his faint eyes [etc.].

3. Used as a term of imprecation, or of mere emphasis, in various phrases and constructions. In later use *Sc.* and *Ir.*, and freq. with *the* = the mischief, the devil.

a. In the phrase *Sorrow on* (a person or thing).

1325 *Poem Times Edw. II*, 178 in *Pol. Songs* (Camden) 331 Sorwe on that o frere that kepeth come there. 13.. *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* xxxvii. 931 Serwe on heore hedes, but þei wel do! *c* 1440 *York Myst.* xxxii. 362 Now sorowe on such socoure as I haue soght. 1596 SHAKS. *Tam. Shr.* IV. iii. 33 Sorrow on thee, and all the packe of you. 1823 SCOTT *Quentin D.* xvi, To deal with William de la Marck, on whose name be sorrow! 1862 CARLYLE *Fredk. Gt.* XIII. ix. (1872) V. 96 The Duchess Dowager of Würtemburg also came, sorrow on her; a foolish talking woman.

b. In other phrases of imprecation.

13.. *Gaw. & Gr. Knt.* 2383 Of trecherye & vn-trawþe boþe bityde sorȝe & care! *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Wife's Prol.* 308 But tel me wherfor hydestow with sorwe The keyes of thy chist away fro me? *c* 1400 *Gamelyn* 881 Sorwe have that rekke! 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 140 b, Yf than the porter wold come..& bydde vs walke forth vnthryftes with sorowe. *c* 1560 T. INGELEND *Disobedient Child* C j, God guye the sorow. 1776 BURNS '*O Tibbie, I hae seen the day*' iii, But sorrow tak him that's sae mean. 1831 MISS FERRIER *Destiny* II. xxvi. 352 Aye, that you will, or sorrow take me! 1855 TENNYSON *Maud* I. IV. ii, But sorrow seize me if ever that light be my leading star! 1896 P. A. GRAHAM *Red Scaur* xvii. 258 Sorrow take the chance brought me among you!

c. As an emphatic negative. Chiefly with *a.*

1573 *Satir. Poems Reform.* xxxix. 87 Persauing that, sorrow mair thay socht it. 1583 *Leg. Bp. St. Androis* 791 But sorrow mair the men mycht gett. 17.. RAMSAY *Wyfe of Auchtermuchty* xi, The sorrow crap of butter he gat. 1738 *Scotch Presbyt. Eloquence* 111 The Sorrow a Bit of your Dog will I be. 1818 SCOTT *Br. Lamm.* xxiv, Sorra a bit, if I were him. 1825 CROKER *Fairy Leg. Irel.* I. 152 'Sorrow a know I know,' said Leary. 1865 LEVER *Luttrell of Arran* xviii, The sorrow a word ever crossed your lips.

d. Inserted after *what, where,* etc., in impatient questions.

a 1631 BRUCE *Upon Affair of Gowrie* in *Serm.* (1843) 193 The Earl..said—'What sorrow means all this haste?' *a* 1779 D. GRAHAM *Yng. Coalman's Courtsh.* III. (1787) 22 What a sorrow ails you? 1796 *Twa Cuckolds & Tint Quey* 16 What the sorro' way? D'ye think that I can watch her aye? 1861 R. LEIGHTON *Rhymes & Poems* (ed. 2) 89 'Guidwife,' quoth John, 'did ye see that moose? Whar sorra was the cat?'

e. In miscellaneous uses with *the.*

1756 MRS. CALDERWOOD in *Coltness Collect.* (Maitl. Club) 178 The holydays play the sorrow with the poor people. 1819 THOMSON *Poems* 131 (E.D.D.), The sorry's i' the cutty. 1839 CARLETON *Fardorougha* iii, Her people's as proud as the very sarra. *Ibid.* v, Tut! go to the sarra. 1887 SERVICE *Life Dr. Duguid* II. viii. 219 She should been brunt, the auld limb o' the sorrow!

A NEW ENGLISH DICTIONARY ON HISTORICAL PRINCIPLES.

(VOLUME IX. FIRST HALF. SI.—ST.)

SORROW—SPEECH.

BY

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PREFATORY NOTE.

THIS section of the Dictionary contains 1249 Main words, 258 Special Combinations explained under these, 741 Obvious Combinations, and 394 Subordinate entries of obsolete or variant forms; in all 2642 words. Of the Main words, 314 are marked † as obsolete, and 52 are marked ‖ as alien or not fully naturalized.

Comparison with Johnson's and some recent Dictionaries gives the following results:—

	Johnson.	Cassell's 'Encyclopædic'.	'Century' Dict.	Funk's 'Standard'.	Here.
Words recorded	203	824	998	997	2642
Words illustrated by quotations	174	310	357	119	2251
Number of quotations	657	510	977	157	15,285

In the corresponding portion of Richardson the quotations number 586.

This portion of S contains the remainder of the words beginning with So- and the first instalment of those with initial SP-. In the former group the prominent words are mainly of native origin, as *sorry*, *so* *so*, *sough* sb.[1] and v.[1], *soul*, *sound* a., *sour*, *south* (with many derivatives and compounds), *sow* sb.[1], *sow* v.[1]; *souter* (cobbler) is a very early adoption from Latin. Those which have come from other Teutonic languages are few and unimportant, with the exception of *sound* sb.[1], which appears to be partly of Scandinavian origin. A few common words are adoptions from older French, as *sort*, *sot*, *sound* sb.[3], v.[1], and v.[2], *source*, *souse*, and *sovereign* (with a remarkable variety of spellings); of later introduction from the same language are *sortie*, *soubrette*, *soufflé*, *soup*, *soupçon*, *soulerrain*, *souvenir*, and some others. Italian has contributed the musical terms *sostenente* and *sostenuto* and the phrase *sotto voce*, as well as the spelling *sovran* introduced by Milton. Greek is slightly represented by *Sotadic*, *Sothiac* or *Sothic*, and some derivatives from *sōtēr* 'saviour'. The only Oriental words of special interest are *souchong*, *sowar*, and *soy* or *soya*.

In the words beginning with SP- the native element is also large and important, including *spade*, *span* sb.[1], *spare*, *spark*, *sparrow*, *speak* (which with its derivatives occupies 17 columns), *spear*, and *speck* sb.[1] A considerable number of words have obviously or probably been adopted from Dutch or Low German at different times, as *span* sb.[2] and v.[2], *spancel*, *spang* sb.[1] (whence *spangle*), *spar*, *spath*[1], *spatter*, *spean*, *speck* (fat), *speckle*, and the whaling term *specksioneer*, which has not been fully explained in previous Dictionaries. Of Scandinavian words the chief are *spae*, *span-new*, and *sparth* (the weapon of the Irish galloglasses).

The Romanic element in SPA- is for the most part directly from French, as *space*, *Spaniard*, *spaniel*, *sparple* (with several variant forms), *sparver*, *spauld*, *spavin*, *spawn*, *spay*, and probably *spandrel*. In SPE- there is an extensive group of words based on the Latin root *spec-*, as *special* (with *specialism*, *-ist*, *-ity*, etc.), *specie*, *species*, *specific*, *specify*, *specimen*, *specious*, *spectacle*, etc., occupying in all about 50 columns. An interesting set of words is ultimately derived from Gr. *spathē*, and comprises *spatha*, *spathe*, *spatula*, *spatulate*, *spatule* (with a number of Anglicized or corrupted forms), together with *spade* sb.[2] and *spadille*. Other words taken more or less directly from Greek are *spadix*, *Spartan*, *spasm*, *spasmodic*, and *spastic*.

In addition to the words enumerated above, the following present various points of interest: *Spa*, *spagyric*, *Spanish*, *spank*, *spanking*, *sparrowgrass*, *sparse* a., *spatch-cock*, *spate*, *spatterdash*, *spayard*, *speaker*, and *spec*.

KEY TO THE PRONUNCIATION.

I. CONSONANTS.

b, d, f, k, l, m, n, p, t, v, z *have their usual values.*

g as in *go* (go͝u).
h ... *ho!* (hō͝u).
r ... *run* (rʌn), *terrier* (te·riəɹ).
ɹ ... *her* (həɹ), *farther* (fā·ɹðəɹ).
s ... *see* (sī), *cess* (ses).
w ... *wen* (wen).
hw ... *when* (hwen).
y ... *yes* (yes).

þ as in *thin* (þin), *bath* (baþ).
ð ... *then* (ðen), *bathe* (bē͡ɪð).
ʃ ... *shop* (ʃɒp), *dish* (diʃ).
tʃ ... *chop* (tʃɒp), *ditch* (ditʃ).
ʒ ... *vision* (vi·ʒən), *déjeuner* (deʒöne).
dʒ ... *judge* (dʒʌdʒ).
ŋ ... *singing* (si·ŋiŋ), *think* (þiŋk).
ŋg ... *finger* (fiŋgəɹ).

(FOREIGN.)
ṅ as in *French nasal, environ* (aṅviroṅ).
lʸ ... It. *seraglio* (serā·lʸo).
nʸ ... It. *signore* (siⁿʸō·ɹe).
χ ... Ger. *ach* (aχ), Sc. *loch* (loχ, loχʷ).
χʸ ... Ger. *ich* (iχʸ), Sc. *nicht* (nèχʸt).
ɣ ... Ger. *sagen* (zā·ɣĕn).
ɣʸ ... Ger. *legen, regnen* (lē·ɣʸĕn, ɹē·ɣʸnĕn).

II. VOWELS.

ORDINARY.

a as in Fr. *à la mode* (a la mod').
ai ... *aye=yes* (ai), *Isaiah* (əizai·ă).
æ ... *man* (mæn).
ɑ ... *pass* (pɑs), *chant* (tʃɑnt).
au ... *loud* (laud), *now* (nau).
ʌ ... *cut* (kʌt), *son* (sʌn).
e ... *yet* (yet), *ten* (ten).
e ... *survey sb.* (sə·ɹve), Fr. *attaché* (ataʃe).
‖ɐ ... Fr. *chef* (ʃɐf).
ə ... *ever* (evəɹ), *nation* (nē͡ɪ·ʃən).
əi ... *I, eye,* (əi), *bind* (bəind).
‖ə ... Fr. *eau de vie* (ō də vī·).
i ... *sit* (sit), *mystic* (mistik).
i ... *Psyche* (səi·ki), *react* (ri,æ·kt).
o ... *achor* (ē͡ɪ·koɹ), *morality* (moræ·liti).
oi ... *oil* (oil), *boy* (boi).
o ... *hero* (hī͡ə·ro), *zoology* (zo,ɒlŏdʒi).
ɒ ... *what* (hwɒt), *watch* (wɒtʃ).
ɒ, ɒ́* ... *got* (gɒt), *soft* (sɒft).
‖ö ... Ger. *Köln* (köln).
‖ø ... Fr. *peu* (pø).
u ... *full* (ful), *book* (buk).
iu ... *duration* (diuə͡ɪ·ʃən).
u ... *unto* (ʌ·ntu), *frugality* (fru-).
iu ... *Matthew* (mæ·þiu), *virtue* (və·ɹtiu).
‖ü ... Ger. *Müller* (mü·lĕɹ).
‖*ü* ... Fr. *dune* (dün).

ə (see ī͡ə, ē͡ə, ō͡ə, ū͡ə) } see Vol. I, p. xxiv, note 3.
ᵻ, ᵾ (see ə͡ɪ, ʊ͡u) }
ʳ as in *able* (ē͡ɪb'l), *eaten* (ī͡t'n) = voice-glide.

LONG.

ā as in *alms* (āmz), *bar* (bāɹ).

ʊ̄ ... *curl* (kʊ̄ɹl), *fur* (fʊ̄ɹ).
ē (ē͡ə)... *there* (ðē͡əɹ), *pear, pare* (pē͡əɹ).
ə̄ (ə͡ɪ)... *rein, rain* (rə͡ɪn), *they* (ðə͡ɪ).
ɐ̄ ... Fr. *faire* (fɐ̄ɹ').
ə̄ ... *fir* (fə̄ɹ), *fern* (fə̄ɹn), *earth* (ə̄ɹþ).

ī (ī͡ə)... *bier* (bī͡əɹ), *clear* (klī͡əɹ).
ī ... *thief* (þīf), *see* (sī).
ō (ō͡ə)... *boar, bore* (bō͡əɹ), *glory* (glō͡ə·ri).

ʊ̄ (ʊ̄u)... *so, sow* (sʊ̄u), *soul* (sʊ̄ul).
ɒ̄ ... *walk* (wɒ̄k), *wart* (wɒ̄ɹt).
ɒ̄ ... *short* (ʃɒ̄ɹt), *thorn* (þɒ̄ɹn).
‖ɔ̄ ... Fr. *coeur* (kɔ̄ɹ).
‖ø̄ ... Ger. *Göthe* (gø̄tĕ), Fr. *jeûne* (zø̄n).
ū (ū͡ə) .. *poor* (pū͡əɹ), *moorish* (mū͡ə·riʃ).
iū, ⁱū ... *pure* (piū͡əɹ), *lure* (lⁱū͡əɹ).
ū ... *two moons* (tū mūnz).
iū, ⁱū ... *few* (fiū), *lute* (lⁱūt).

‖*ǖ* ... Ger. *grün* (grǖn), Fr. *jus* (zǖ).

OBSCURE.

ă as in *amœba* (ămᵻ·bă).

ă̈ ... *accept* (ă̈kse·pt), *maniac* (mᵻ̆ə·niă̈k).

ŏ ... *datum* (dᵻ̆ə·tŏm).
ĕ ... *moment* (mŏu·mĕnt), *several* (se·vĕrăl).
ĕ ... *separate* (*adj.*) (se·părĕt).

ė ... *added* (æ·dėd), *estate* (ėstᵻ̆ə·t).

ĭ ... *vanity* (væ·nĭti).
ĭ ... *remain* (rĭmᵻ̆ə·n), *believe* (bĭlĭ·v).
ŏ ... *theory* (þĭ·ŏri).

ŏ ... *violet* (vəĭ·ŏlĕt), *parody* (pæ·rŏdi).
ǫ̆ ... *authority* (ǫ̆þo·rĭti).
ǫ̆ ... *connect* (kǫ̆ne·kt), *amazon* (æ·măzǫ̆n).

ĭŭ, ⁱŭ verd*ure* (və·ɹdiŭɹ), mea*sure* (me·ʒⁱŭɹ).
ŭ ... *altogether* (ǫ̆ltŭge·ðəɹ).
iŭ ... *circular* (sə·ɹkiŭlăɹ).

* *ɒ́* the *o* in *soft*, of medial or doubtful length.

‖ Only in foreign (or earlier English) words.

In the ETYMOLOGY,

OE. *e, o,* representing an earlier *a,* are distinguished as *ę, ǫ* (having the phonetic value of *ę* and *ǫ*, or ǫ, above); as in *ęnde* from *andi* (OHG. *anti*, Goth. *andei-s*), *mǫnn* from *mann*, *ǫn* from *an*.

4. The outward expression of grief; lamentation, mourning; *poet.*, tears. †In early use esp. *to make sorrow.*

(*a*) *c* 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 3218 Grete dole þay mak, somtyme, and sarowe, For þai may nathyng begg ne borowe. 1362 LANGL. *P. Pl.* A. III. 16 Mourne þou not, Meede, ne make þou no serwe. *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (Roxb.) x. 38 Þe mounkes made mykill sorowe at his dying. 1484 CAXTON *Fables of Æsop* I. xviii, [The lion] beganne to crye and make sorowe. 1523 LD. BERNERS *Froiss.* I. cxlv. 174 Whane they within Calays sawe their kynge depart, thay made great sorowe. 1588 SHAKS. *Tit. A.* III. i. 119 Witnes the sorrow that their sister makes.

(*b*) *a* 1425 *Cursor M.* 10496 (Trin.), Whil she mened þus hir mone Wiþ wepe & sorwes mony one. 1490 CAXTON *Eneydos* lii. 146 Thus lasted the sorowe thre dayes and thre nyghtes, that they neuer dyde ceasse. 1592 SHAKS. *Ven. & Ad.* 963 Where they view'd each other's sorrow, Sorrow that friendly sighs sought still to dry. 1717 POPE *Iliad* IX. 559 Down his white beard a stream of sorrow flows. 1746 FRANCIS tr. *Horace, Sat.* I. v. 106 Where from green wood the smothering flames arise, And with a smoky sorrow fill our eyes. 1820 KEATS *Lamia* II. 67 She nothing said, but, pale and meek, Arose and knelt before him, wept a rain Of sorrows at his words.

†5. a. Physical pain or suffering. *Obs.*

1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. XX. 42 He seyde in his sorwe on þe selue Rode, 'Bothe fox & foule [etc.]'. 1382 WYCLIF *Gen.* xxxiv. 25 The thridde day, whanne the sorwe of the woundes is moost greuous. 1388 — *Rev.* xvi. 11 Thei blasfemyden God of heuene, for sorewis of her woundis. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XVI. XXX. (Tollem. MS.), Þe reed [celidony] helpeþ..aȝens woodnesse and aȝens olde sorowe.

†b. Mischief; harm, hurt, damage. *Obs.*

c 1430 *Syr Gener.* (Roxb.) 8592 Allas I traied we bene Of the ring bi my modre the Quene..; Som sorow she wirketh, wel wot I. 1599 HAKLUYT *Voy.* II. I. 95 Who yet notwithstanding as he was downe, mangled their feete and legges, and did the Saracens much sorrow.

6. As a term of abuse, reproof, or depreciation applied to persons. Chiefly *north.* and *Sc.*

a 1400–50 *Alexander* 1735 þou hase sampned..a sellich nowmbre..Off laddez & of losyngers & of lityll thefez, Siche sary sorowez as þi-self.

1816 SCOTT *Antig.* XXVI, Get out o' the gate, ye little sorrow! 1818 — *Hrt. Midl.* xvi, 'Ye're a leeing auld sorrow then,' replied the fair one. 1839 HOOD *Lost Heir* 53 I'm as hoarse as a crow, with screaming for ye, you young sorrow! 1896 'L. KEITH' *Indian Uncle* V. 78 'That wee sorra' of a baker's boy with the dinner-rolls.'

†7. Used in place of SORRY *a. Obs.*—1

a 1470 H. PARKER *Dives & Pauper* (W. de W. 1496) I. liii. 93/2 Iudas was sorowe therof & grutched.

8. *attrib.*, as *sorrow-cloud, -mate,* †*-sithe, -smart.*

A number of attributive compounds occur in OE.

c 1205 LAY. 11109 Monie..menden to him heore sær & heore sorh-siðes. 1602 MARSTON *Antonio's Rev.* IV. v, Helpe me, good sorrow-mates, to give him grave. 1838 ELIZA COOK *The World* ii, We murmur and droop should a sorrow-cloud stay. 1856 R. A. VAUGHAN *Mystics* (1860) I. 153 Therefore shalt thou..know no sorrow-smart.

9. *Comb.* a. Instrumental, with pa. ppples., as *sorrow-beaten, -blinded, -bound, -closed,* etc.

1594 *Selimus* in Greene's Wks. (Grosart) XIV. 263 Into whose calmie port My *sorrow-beaten soule ioyes to ariue. 1855 LYNCH *Rivulet* XVI. i, Come, O *sorrow-blinded man. 1842 FABER *Styrian Lake* 39 Why stand ye thus *sorrow-bound. *a* 1586 SIDNEY *Arcadia* (1622) 274 When her breath..had by sobs gotten into her *sorow-closed breast. *a* 1618 SYLVESTER *Monodia* 79 With sigh-swoln heart and *sorrow-clouded eyes. 1849 M. ARNOLD *Forsaken Merman* 103 And anon there drops a tear From a sorrow-clouded eye. 1598 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. ii. 1. *Ark* 71 So, the care-charming hony..re-advanceth *sorrow-daunted hearts. 1603 J. DAVIES (Heref.) *Microcosmos* Pref., Wks. (Grosart) I. 12/1 With stil-sweating *sorrow-furrowed Browes. 1849 M. ARNOLD *Forsaken Merman* 104 A heart *sorrow-laden. 1645 QUARLES *Sol. Recant.* V. 17 Nor let thy *sorrow-melted heart bemone Thy banisht bondslave. *c* 1595 J. DICKENSON *Sheph. Compl.* (1878) 9 These *sorrow-seasond lines should firme abide. 1647 FULLER *Good Th. in Worse T.* (1841) 156 How many have been *sorrow-shot to their heart! 1812 CRABBE *Tales* V. 628 With *sorrow-shrunken face and hair upright. 1819 J. H. PAYNE *Brutus* V. i. 45 Look upon this *sorrow-stricken form. 1844 LEVER *T. Burke* I. 9 Their grief is low and *sorrow-struck. 1600 *Wisd. Dr. Dodypoll* IV. iii. in Bullen *Old Pl.* (1884) III. 142 Where shall I rest my *sorrow-tired limmes. 1608 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. iv. *Decay* 725 *Sorrow-torn, thus (to himselfe) he cries. 1645 QUARLES *Sol. Recant.* I. 23 To what hopefull end Droyle we our crazy bodies, and expend Our *sorrow-wasted spirits? 1842 CDL. WISEMAN *Prayer & Pr.-Bks.* Ess. 1853 I. 379 The innermost caverns of a hollow, *sorrow-worn breast. ?1638 WALLER *Lady Rich's Death* 126 Your Tears and *Sorrow-wounded Soul. 1736 *Gentl. Mag.* VI. 615/2 To heal the sorrow-wounded heart! 1588 SHAKS. *Tit. A.* III. ii. 4 Marcus vnknit that *sorrow-wreathen knot.

b. Objective, with pres. ppples. and vbl. sbs., as *sorrow-breathing, bringing, -ceasing, -making,* etc.

1825 D. L. RICHARDSON *Sonnets* 97 Thy lay's sweet flow Of *sorrow-breathing music. 1598 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. i. III. *Furies* 176 The dropsie-breeding, *sorrow-bringing Psylly. 1627 DRAYTON *Agincourt* 32 *Sorrow-ceasing sleepe..Vpon his Eye-lids stealingly doth creepe. 1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* XXI. xi. 857* Ye dysplese god with suche maner of *sorow makyng. 1820 CLARE *Poems Rural Life* (ed. 3) 142 That sad *sorrow-ripening name—a Man. 1603 DRAYTON *Bar. Wars* VI. xciii. 157 She curs'd her *sorrow-seeing eye. 1601 WEEVER *Mirr. Mart.* (Roxb.) 217 In a *sorrow-sighing extasie. 1596 FITZ-GEFFREY *Sir F. Drake* (1881) 96 The *sorrow-sobbing sighes of extasie. 1720 POPE *Iliad* XXIV. 981 So spoke the fair, with *sorrow-streaming eye.

Sorrow (*sɒ·rou*), *v.* Forms: *α.* 1 sorȝian, sorhȝian, 2–3 sorȝen (3 sorgen, sorhen, -in); 4 sorȝe, 5 soroȝe. *β.* 3 serrȝhenn; 4 sarwin, serewe, 5 serwe. *γ.* 3 seoruwen, sorewi, 4–5 sorewe; 3–5 sorwe, 4 sorwy, 4–5 sorwyn. *δ.* 4 soru(u, 4–5 sorou, 4–6 sorow(e, 6 sorrowe, 6– sorrow. [OE. *sorgian* (f. *sorg, sorh* SORROW *sb.*), = OFris. **sorgia* (WFris. *soargje*, NFris. *sörrige, surrege*, etc.), OLFrank. *sorgôn* (MDu. *sorghen*, Du. *zorgen*), OS. *sorg-, sorag-, sorogôn* (MLG. and LG. *sorgen*), OHG. *sorgôn*, usually *sorgên* (MHG. and G. *sorgen*); of different formation are Goth. *saurgan* and ON. *syrgja* (Icel. and Norw. *syrgja*, Sw. *sörja*, Da. *sørge*).]

1. *intr.* To feel sorrow or sadness; to regret or grieve; also, to exhibit signs of grief, to mourn.

In OE. freq. 'to feel care or anxiety, to be anxious'.

α. Beowulf 1384 Ne sorga, snotor guma! *c* 888 K. ÆLFRED *Boeth.* vii. § 3 Þa woruldare..þe þu nu sorȝiende anforlete. 971 *Blickl. Hom.* 97 Þeah hwæþere he sceal winnan & sorȝian, hwonne se dæg cume. *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 103 Þissere worlde sarinesse þenne þe mon sorȝeð alles to swiðe for his hehte lure. *c* 1205 LAY. 5078 Brennes þat isæh & sorȝeden on his heorte. *c* 1230 *Hali Meid.* 27 Moni þing schal ham..makie to carien, &..sorhen & siken. 1340 *Ayenb.* 71 [He] non ine helle wepeþ and gredeþ, yelleþ and zorzeþ. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 4051 Quen he þaire simpilnes sees he soroȝes in his hert.

β. c 1200 ORMIN 8950 Whatt wass ȝuw swa to serrȝhenn? *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 23511 (Edinb.), Ne suld þou nauþir scham ne sarwin. *a* 1400 *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* xxiii. 44 Bi-hold þe wrecchednesse so rif Of soule þat is serwyng.

γ. a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 308 Uour þinges..muwen makien him to seoruwen, & bittren his heorte. *c* 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 2439 Þenne bygan Leyr to sorewe, & ment his mone euen & morwe. *c* 1350 *Will. Palerne* 691 But when he wist it was wast.., he gan to sike & sorwe. *c* 1450 LOVELICH *Merlin* 11704 (E.E.T.S.), Thus ryden they Sorewenge, bothe knyht & page.

δ. a 1300 *Cursor M.* 23511 Ne sal þou noþer scam ne soruu, Bot haf gret ioi. *Ibid.* 24437, I sagh him dei, i sorud ai. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* XX. 484 Lang quhile our hym thai sorowit swa. *c* 1400 *Pilgr. Sowle* (Caxton, 1483) IV. xix. 64 Thenne byganne this fayre tree to wepen and to sorowen. 1474 CAXTON *Chesse* II. v. (1883) 70 They..sorowe more that wilful pouerte is lost in rome. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 86 b, In all euyll thou mayst fynde cause to mourne and sorowe. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* I. ix. 15, I sorrowed all so much, as earst I ioyd. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* XI. 117, I shall..So send them forth, though sorrowing, yet in peace. 1720 POPE *Iliad* XIX. 134 Stung to the soul, he sorrow'd, and he raged. 1838 LYTTON *Alice* 15 They who have sorrowed may well be reluctant to sadden..those to whom sorrow is yet unknown. 1883 'OUIDA' *Wanda* I. 34 You have sorrowed and tarried in seclusion long enough.

Prov. 1639 J. CLARKE *Paræmiologia* 220 He that goes a borrowing goes a sorrowing. 1707 MORTIMER *Husb.* (1721) I. 366 Lest, according to the old Saying it proves, 'That he that goes a borrowing goes a sorrowing'.

b. Const. *at, for, over.*

Examples with *for* and *ymbe* also occur in OE.

1530 PALSGR. 725/1 He soroweth for his fathers deth. 1551 BIBLE *Acts* XX. 38 Sorowing moste of all for the wordes whiche he spake. 1606 SHAKS. *Ant. & Cl.* IV. xv. 52 The miserable change now at my end, Lament nor sorrow at. 1622 R. HAWKINS *Voy. S. Sea* XXX. 69 This I haue sorrowed for many times since. 1671 MILTON *Samson* 1603, I sorrow'd at his captive state. 1797–1805 S. & HT. LEE *Canterb. T.* II. 273 His nature was unequal to sorrowing for more than one object. 1850 TENNYSON *In Mem.* xiv, He should sorrow o'er my state. 1867 'OUIDA' *G. Castlemaine's Gage* (1879) 17 Sorrowing..for her ruined cause and exiled king. 1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) I. 496, I would not have him sorrow at my hard lot.

†c. With *for*: To have charge of, look after, provide for. *Obs.*

1481 CAXTON *Reynard* (Arb.) 25 He that sorowed for malperduys was goon his way. And the hows not pourueyed ne vitaylled. 1545 BRINKLOW *Lament.* (1874) 90 Yf ye wolde redresse these thinges,..and sorowe [1542 prouyde] for the poore, so shulde ye be without the clamor of them.

2. *trans.* To think of with sorrow; to feel sorrow on account of; to lament.

a 1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* iv. 5 ȝe..in ȝoure dennes ere stongen sorowand ȝoure synnes. *Ibid.* xxiv. 17 [The] anlepy is mare lufid, [the] pore is mare sorowid. *c* 1450 *Myrr. our Ladye* 256 The redde rose waxed then pale when the vyrgyn sorowed the dethe of her sonne. 1508 FISHER *7 Penit. Ps.* CXXX. Wks. (1876) 232 Shall not I sorowe the destruccion of .xx. C.M. soules. 1547 J. HARRISON *Exhort. Scottes* a iiij, This miserie is muche to be sorowed. 1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* VII. 304 Their time was come, which mortality might sorrow, but..not preuent.

b. With subordinate clause.

Examples with *hwæðer, hwylc, þæt,* occur in OE.

c 1450 *Myrr. our Ladye* 308 Thy sonne.., whome thou sorowedyst to suffer dethe. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 290 It is..moche to be sorowed, that [etc.]. 1535 COVERDALE *Judith* iv. 2 They sorowed he shulde do vnto the cite of Ierusalem..as he had done to other cities. 1608 CAPT. SMITH *True Relat.* Wks. (Arb.) 30 Her Father..much sorrowed he could not see me. 1859 TENNYSON *Elaine* 728 She,..sorrowing Lancelot should have stoop'd so low, Marr'd her friend's aim. 1897 HOWELLS *Landl. Lion's Head* 418 He sorrowed that he could not attend a service there.

3. To give pain to; to grieve, make sorrowful.

a 1310 in Wright *Lyric P.* xv. 50 Nou hit sereweth him ful sore, ant bringeth him to grounde. *c* 1394 *P. Pl. Crede* 688 Þat sorweþ myn herte How þei ben cloþed in clob. *a* 1425 tr. *Arderne's Treat. Fistula*, etc. 7 ȝif ȝoure soule or mynd couaite þat deliteþ, drinke þe first þat soroweþ or akeþ. 1574 HELLOWES *Gueuara's Fam. Ep.* (1577) 189 The ague that held you, sorroweth me. 1637 HEYWOOD *Royall King* II. iv, It sorrows me that you misprize my love. 1840 *Fraser's Mag.* XXI. 23 The only member of the gentler sex whose name sorrows our obituary, is—Miss Landon. 1890 JEAN MIDDLEMASS *Two False Moves* II. xii. 183 The bitterness of her tone sorrowed him.

Hence **Sorrowed** *ppl. a.*

1607 SHAKS. *Timon* V. i. 152 The publike Body..send forth vs, to make their sorrowed render. 1807 J. BARLOW *Columb.* I. 165 Now raise thy sorrow'd soul to views more bright.

Sorrower (*sɒ·rouəɹ*). [f. SORROW *v.* + -ER.1] One who sorrows; a mourner.

1727 *Collect. Epigr.* cdlxii, Take the soft sorrower at her word, and try How deeply rooted woman's vows can lie. 1788 MME. D'ARBLAY *Diary* 19 Nov., My account..was most meekly received by the most patient of sorrowers. 1850 LYNCH *Theogh. Trinal* ii. 29 His wines, that make him for an hour less a sorrower. 1873 MAURICE *Serm. in Co. Churches* 249 We shall ask that..the Comforter may visit us and all the sorrowers of the earth.

Sorrowful (*sɒ·rouful*), *a.* Forms: *α.* 1–3 sorhful(l, 3 soreh-, seor(u)hful, sorþfolle; 1 sorg-, 3 sorȝ-, 4 sorghful(l, sorȝuol(le; 3–4 sorful, -fol, 4–uol, soruol-, 5 sorefull(e, soyrefull. *β.* 3 serrh-, serehful; 4 serwȝful, 5 serwh-, sereuh-, ser(e)u-, serwful. *γ.* 3–4 soreuful, 3–5 sorw(e)-ful(le. *δ.* 3–5 soru-, 4–6 soroful(l, 5 sorrofull; 3–6 sorow-, 4–6 sorouful(l, 5– sorrowful (5–7 -full); 6 *Sc.* sorro(w)fow. [OE. *sorh-, sorgful* (f. *sorh, sorg* SORROW *sb.*), = OHG. *sorgful* (G. *sorgvoll*, usually *sorgenvoll*); ON. *sorgfullr* (Norw. and Sw. *sorgfull*, Da. *-fuld*) and *sørgafullr*, LG. *sörg(e)ful.*]

1. Full of, oppressed by, sorrow or grief; unhappy, sad, regretful.

α. Beowulf 2119 Grendeles modor siðode sorhfull. *c* 897 K. ÆLFRED *Gregory's Past. C.* XXVI. 183, Se weleza bið eaðmod & sorȝfull. *c* 1000 ÆLFRIC *Judg.* x. 10 Oð þæt hig ..heora synna andetton mid sorhfullum mode. *a* 1200 *Vices & Virtues* 83 Sari and sorhfull am ic. *c* 1205 LAY. 1477 Þe king wes swiðe særi & seorhful on mode. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 2326 He..nam ðo breðere euerilk on, And ledde hem sorful a-gon. *c* 1275 LAY. 15489 Þo was sori þe king and sorþfolle þorh alle þing. *c* 1300 *Havelok* 151 Alle þat the writes herden Sorful an sori til him ferden. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 203 This sorghfull king was so bestad, That he schal nevermor be glad. 1422 tr. *Secreta Secret., Priv. Priv.* 199 He became mournynge and Sorefull.

β. c 1200 ORMIN 7153 He wass forrdredd & serrhfull inn hiss herrte. *a* 1400 *Pistill of Susan* 144 Þen Susan was serwful, and seide in hire þoust. *a* 1400 *Vernon MS.* in *Herrig's Archiv* LVII. 250/1 So sereuhful was þis Bisschope, þat almost he fel in wonhope.

γ. c 1300 *Havelok* 1248 Sory and sorwful was she ay. *c* 1385 CHAUCER *L. G. W.* Prol. 390 If so be he may hym nat ascuse [He] axith mercy with a sorweful herte.

δ. c 1205 LAY. 167 Þa wes Turnus sari, & soruful on his mode. *a* 1325 *Prose Psalter* l. 18 Þou, God, ne shal nouȝt despisen þe hert sorowful and meke. *a* 1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* cxlvi. 3 Þai þat offirs til him þe sacrifice of sorouful gast. *c* 1400 *Pilgr. Sowle* (Caxton) I. xxxix. (1859) 43 Ful sorrowful was this Sathanas when he sawe [etc.]. 1495 *Act* 11 *Hen. VII*, c. 57 Preamble, Your seid Suppliaunt is as sorrowfull and repentant as any creature may be. 1535 COVERDALE 1 *Esdras* viii. 71, I rent my holy garmentes, and..sat me downe soroufull & heuy. 1560 ROLLAND *Seven Sages* 113 Quhairfoir thay war all seuin richt sorrofow. 1579 NORTHBROOKE *Dicing* (1843) 37 Your greate commendation of this sermon maketh me sorrowfull that I had not beene at it. 1676 HALE *Contempl.* II. 107 Whatsoever I love, makes me ..Sorrowful in the loss or deprivation of it. 1796 H. HUNTER tr. *St.-Pierre's Stud. Nat.* (1799) II. 365 If I am in a sorrowful mood. 1810 SCOTT *Lady of L.* II. XXIX, While, sorrowful, but undismay'd, The Douglas thus his counsel said. 1882 'OUIDA' *Maremma* I. 13 They were all sorrowful.

b. *absol.* (Chiefly *pl.*)

c 897 K. ÆLFRED *Gregory's Past. C.* 183 Dætte ða sorgfullan ongieten dæt him becumað ða welan. ?*a* 1400 *Morte Arth.* 953 He saluȝede that sorowfulle with sittande wordez. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 213 b, How they haue comforted the heuy & sorrowfull. 1556 *Aurelio & Isab.* (1608) M v, Ha poore sorrowfull. 1869 TOZER *Highl. Turkey* II. 324 [Death] coming with a friendly aspect to relieve the sorrowful.

c. *Sorrowful tree*, the night-jasmine of India.

1597 GERARDE *Herbal* III. CXXXVIII. 1342 *Arbor tristis*, the sad or sorrowfull tree waxeth as bigge as an Oliue tree. *Ibid.* 1343 It is called..in English the Sad or Sorrowfull tree, or the Indian Mourner. 1760 J. LEE *Introd. Bot.* App. 327 Sorrowful-tree, *Nyctanthes.*

2. Indicative or expressive of sorrow or grief.

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 284 ȝif eni is þet naueð nout þe heorte þus afeited, mid seoruhfule sikes. *c* 1275 LAY. 3410 He mornede swiþe and þeos word seide mid sorfol speche. *c* 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 303 Al er we born gretand, And makand a sorowful semblands. *a* 1400 *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* liv. 182 Heo caste me mony a serwful loke. 1450 W. LOMNER in *Paston Lett.* I. 124, I..am right sory of that I shalle sey, and have soo wesshe this litel bille with sorwfulle terys, that [etc.]. 1565 COOPER *Thesaurus* s.v. *Foeditas*, Sorowfull blacke apparell. 1576 GASCOIGNE *Philomene* Ded., I had begonne an Elegye or sorrowefull song, called the Complainte of Philomene.. 1588 SHAKS. *Tit. A.* III. i. 147 His Napkin..Can do no seruice on her sorrowfull cheekes. 1606 — *Ant. & Cl.* I. iii. 64 Where be the Sacred Violles thou should'st fill With sorrowfull water? 1819 SCOTT *Ivanhoe* XXXII, Her lovely brow, though sorrowful, bore on it a cast of reviving hope. 1877 MRS. FORRESTER *Mignon* I. 225 The poor mother smiles the.. sorrowfulest smile that ever hovered on a woman's lips.

3. Characterized by, involving or inducing, sorrow or grief; distressing, lamentable, doleful.

α, β. Beowulf 1278 His modor þa ȝyt..ȝegan wolde sorhfulne sið. *a* 1000 *Phœnix* 417 Þæt hi feor þonan.. drohtað sohton, sorȝfulran ȝesetu. *a* 1122 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1112, Hit wæs swiðe hefiȝ tyme & sorhfull þurh ormætne mancwealm. *c* 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 179 Serehful is ure burde for eues gulte. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls)

823 þis king adde iwend aboute in such sórуol cas. 1340 *Ayenb.* 34 Efter alle þise zorȝuolle poyns of sleuþe him yeſþ þe dyeuel. 1370–80 *Visions of St. Paul* 173 in *O. E. Misc.* 228 þen sauȝ poul a serwȝful siht. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 329 Me is levere forto deie Than live after this sorghful day.

γ, δ. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 2785 þat soruful sin on þam þai thoght..to haue don. *Ibid.* 7861 Saul es slan, þat soroful king. *c* 1400 tr. *Secreta Secret., Gov. Lordsh.* 105, I dye for hunger and sorwfull threst. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* v. xii. 124 In Tartarus, the sorofull hellis pit. 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 123 Fearyng lest this dissention in Religion should come to some sorowfull ende. 1588 SHAKS. *Tit. A.* v. iii. 142 Goe into old Titus sorowfull house. 1611 BIBLE *Job* vi. 7 The things that my soule refused to touch, are as my sorrowfull meat. 1753 CHALLONER *Cath. Chr. Instr.* 240 The five next are called the dolorous or sorrowful Mysteries. 1788 COWPER *Morning Dream* 32 He..stood looking out for his prey From Africa's sorrowful shore. 1818 SHELLEY *Invoc. Misery* vi, Sounds and odours, sorrowful Because they once were sweet. 1871 ALABASTER *Buddhism* 245 In order that he might teach men how to escape from sorrowful existence.

4. quasi-*adv.* =next.

c 1374 CHAUCER *Anel. & Arc.* 207 Vppon A day full sorouſull wepynge. 1871 R. ELLIS tr. *Catullus* lxiv. 202 When from an anguish'd heart these words stream'd sorrowful upwards.

Sorrowfully (sɒ·rəufuli), *adv.* Forms: (see quots. and prec.). [ME. *sorh-, sorȝfulliche*: see prec. and **-LY** 2.] In a sorrowful manner; to a distressing extent; sadly, pitiably, etc.

α. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 400 Uorto beon þer deoſles hore, schendfulliche & seoruhfulliche world wiðuten ende. *c* 1230 *Hali Meid.* 17 Þe engles..þat seoð hare suster swa sorhfulliche afallet. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 20896 (*Edinb.*), Þurȝ saint Petiris orisune Sorfullic þan fel he dune. 1340 *Ayenb.* 90 Hou ssel ich zygge þet hi doþ guod þanne he ssel by þe more zoruollaker ydamned. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 161, I am sorghfully bestad Of that I se an other glad With hire.

β. *a* 1400 *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* xxix. v. 57 Wiþ wepe and wringyng serufoly, To Marie he made his pleynt. γ. 13.. *Guy Warw.* (A.) 415 Wel sorwefuliche went Gij In to his chaumber al drerf. *c* 1350 *Will. Palerne* 2971 Sorwfuliche sche siȝt last out schold it lett. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Franklt. T.* 846 'No, no,' quod he, and sorwfully he siketh. *c* 1430 *Pilgr. Lyf Manhode* III. viii. (1869) 140 Wundringe him and compleyninge him sorwefulliche.

δ. *c* 1375 *Cursor M.* 15355 (Fairf.), Soroufulli þai come togeder. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 349/1 Sorowfully, *vbi* Sory. 1565 COOPER *Thesaurus* s.v. *Flebiliter*, To singe sorowfully, or as if he wepte. 1580 HOLLYBAND *Treas. Fr. Tong, Envy*, sorowfully, against my will. *a* 1648 LD. HERBERT *Hen. VIII* (1649) 471 The matter..he hath sorrowfully lamented. 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* i, The flattering portrait of mankind which..his experience had too sorrowfully corrected. 1839 DICKENS *Nickleby* xii, 'I don't know,' said Smike, shaking his head sorrowfully. 1856 KANE *Arct. Explor.* II. xvi. 175 This was a work..sorrowfully exhausting to the poor fellows.

Sorrowfulness (sɒ·rəufulnés). Forms: (see quots. and the adj.). [f. SORROWFUL *a.* + **-NESS**.] The state of feeling sorrowful; grief, sadness, melancholy.

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 110 Seoruhfulnesse made him siken sore. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 22560 Þan behoves all folk to dei, Thoru sorfulnes þat þai sal drei. 13.. in *Rel. Ant.* II. 226 The day of rykenyng..ys day of wreythe, of wo, of soroufolnesse. 1382 WYCLIF 2 *Macc.* iii. 17 Forsothe sum sorewfulnesse was shed about to the man. 1422 tr. *Secreta Secret., Priv. Priv.* 218 In frenesy, in Dreddys, in Soroufulnesse. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 277 That we dispose ourselfe in sorowfulnesse of herte to receyue his grace. *a* 1608 DEE *Relat. Spir.* I. (1659) 234 In token of hearty sorrowfulnesse for his fault. 1648 HEXHAM II, *Bedroefiheyt*, Greefe,.. Sorrowfullnesse. 1727 BAILEY (vol. II), *Mournfulness*, sorrowfulness. 1832 L. HUNT *Poems* Pref. p. lv, All are the one common story of sorrowfulness.

Sorrowing (sɒ·rəuiŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. SORROW *v.*] The action of the verb; mourning, lamentation.

a 1023 WULFSTAN *Hom.* 114 Dær is sorȝung & sarȝung and æ singal heof. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 1269, I haue liued so mani a yere Ai in strif and soruuing stad. *a* 1310 in Wright *Lyric P.* xvi. 53 Sykyng, sorewyng, ant thoht, Tho thre me han in bale broht. 1370–80 *Vis. St. Paul* 223 in *O. E. Misc.* 229 Of heore serwyng was muche wondur. 1482 *Monk of Evesham* (Arb.) 59 Their voycys of wepyng and sorowyng was exaltyd and lyfte vppe. 1530 PALSGR. 273/1 Sorowing or wayling, *deploration*. 1596 SPENSER *F. Q.* VI. iii. 5 They.. bring vs bale and bitter sorrowings. 1613 W. BROWNE *Brit. Past.* I. i, Her beauty was the sting, That caused all that instant sorrowing. 1721 WATERLAND *Serm. bef. Sons of Clergy* (1722) 36 Amidst our Sorrowings for the Ravages made by Avarice at Home. 1807 WORDSW. *White Doe* VII. 125 This lovely chronicler of things Long past, delights and sorrowings. 1876 GEO. ELIOT *Dan. Der.* II. xxxi. 278 Sorrowing is your sauce; you can take nothing without it.

Sorrowing (sɒ·rəuiŋ), *ppl. a.* [f. as prec. + **-ING** 2.] That sorrows or mourns; mournful.

c 1615 SIR W. MURE *Misc. Poems* xii. 3 My sorowing sighes..do not dispyse. 1705 STANHOPE *Paraphr.* II. 296 The condition of all sorrowing Penitents. 1787 BURNS *Ode Birthday Pr. Chas. Edward* 15 We solemnize this sorrowing natal day, To prove our loyal truth. 1817 SHELLEY *Rev. Islam* II. x, The sorrowing gale Waked in those ruins gray its everlasting wail! 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* III. v. ii, Known by and by as *Girondins*, to the sorrowing wonder of the world. 1888 MISS BRADDON *Fatal Three* I. vi, He had not the nerve to go into the cottage and face that sorrowing widow.

Hence **Sorrowingly** *adv.*

1865 *Athenæum* 8 July 43/1 The great admiral then sorrowingly alludes to the difficulty of discharging the ships.

Sorrowless (sɒ·rəulés), *a.* Also 1 **sorh-, sorȝleas**, 5 **sorweles**, 6 **sorowlesse**. [f. SORROW *sb.* + **-LESS**. Cf. MDu. *sorghelos* (Du. *zorgeloos*), MHG. *sorgelôs* (G. *sorglos, sorgenlos*), ON. *sorg(a)lauss* (Sw. *sorglös*, Da. *sorgles*).] Free from sorrow.

Beowulf 1672 Þæt þu on Heorote most sorhleas swefan mid þinra secga ȝedryht. *a* 900 CYNEWULF *Christ* 346 Þær we sorȝlease siþþan motan wunizan in wuldre. *c* 1000 *Ags. Gosp.* Matt. xxviii. 14 We lærað hyne, & ȝedoð eow sorhlease. 1412–20 LYDG. *Chron. Troy* IV. 3695 ȝit can þei feyne and salte teris fynde,.. And sorweles mornen and compleyne. 1545 JOYE *Exp. Dan.* v. H viij, Taking theyr pleasures in banketting..and playinge so sorowlesse. 1658 HEWYT *Serm., Repentance & Conv.* 23 If their repentance be sorrowless, 'twill prove but a sorry one. 1881 J. RUSSELL *Haigs* xiii. 390 The mourner and the mourned are equally silent and sorrowless.

† **So·rrowly,** *adv. Obs. rare.* [f. OE. *sorh, sorg* SORROW *sb.* + *-líce* **-LY** 2.] Sorrowfully.

c 1000 *St. Veronica* in *Cambr. Antiq. Soc.* (1851) 34 He swa sorhlice hys lyf ȝeendode. *c* 1150 *Fragm. Ælfric's Gram.* (1838) 5 Þonne bið þæt soule hus seoruhliche bereaued. *c* 1205 LAY. 21883 Sorhliche heo gunnen clupien to Arðure þan kinge.

† **So·rrowness.** *Obs. rare.* Sorrowfulness.

13.. *Floris & Bl.* (A.) 735 Beth non so fair in here gladnesse, Als thai ware in hire sorewenesse. 13.. *Guy Warw.* (A.) 422 Vnder heuen nas þat it ne miȝt haue rewþe Of his sorwenes & of his trewþe.

Sorrowy (sɒ·rəui), *a.* Also 4 **sorewi, -y.** [f. SORROW *sb.*] Sorrowful.

1382 WYCLIF *Ecclus.* xiv. 10 In sorewi slouthe he shal be vp on his bord. — *Isaiah* xxix. 2, I shal besette aboute Ariel, and it shal be dreri and sorewy. 1850 S. DOBELL *Roman* vii. Poet. Wks. (1875) 144 With thy most sorrowy soul, my harp, remember! 1856 — *Eng. in Time of War* 198 The sorrowy signal for return.

Sorry (sɒ·ri), *a.* Forms: *α.* 1 **sariȝ, sarȝ-**, 1–3 **sari**, 3 **sserȝ-, særi, seri**; *north.* and *Sc.* 4–5 **sari**, 4–6, 8 **sarie, sary**, 8–9 **sairy**, 6, 9 **sairie**. *β.* 3–5 **sori**, 3–7 **sorie, sory**, 6 **sorye, soarye**; 5– **sorry**, 6–7 **sorrie**. [OE. *sárig* (f. *sár* SORE *sb.*[1]), = OS. *sêrag* (MLG. *sêrich*, LG. *sêrig*), OHG. *sêrag* (MHG. *sêrec*, G. dial. *sêrich*, etc.), WFris. *searich*, sore, pained, sensitive, etc. In English the change of *ā* to *ō* and subsequent shortening have given the word an apparent connexion with SORROW *sb.*]

1. Pained at heart; distressed, sad; full of grief or sorrow.

In later use freq. in weakened sense, and often employed in the phrase 'I'm sorry' to express mere sympathy or apology.

α. *c* 888 K. ÆLFRED *Boeth.* XXXV. § 7 Ða sceolde se hearpere weorðan swa sarig þæt he ne meahte onȝemong oðrum monnum bion. *c* 1000 ÆLFRIC *Gen.* xlviii. 17 Þa Iosep ȝeseah [etc.],..he wearð swiðe sari. *a* 1122 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1114, Þa wæron hi swa sari swa hi næfre ær ne wæron. *a* 1200 *Vices & Virtues* 69 Dies ȝunge mann ȝiede a-wei sari. *c* 1205 LAY. 28459 Wenhauer þa quene, særȝest wimmonne. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 408 Swilc tiding ðhugte adam god, And sumdel quemeð it his seri mood. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 20378 Sai now broþer, suet iohan, Qui ertu sa sari man? *a* 1352 MINOT *Poems* (ed. Hall) vii. 88 Ful sari was sir Philip þen. *c* 1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 570 Þe childe was sary and þerfore grett. 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* xxiv. 37 Lat ws in hairt nevir moir be sary. *a* 1585 MONTGOMERY *Flyting* 474 Seuin ȝeir, it sat, baith singed and sairie.

β. *c* 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 117 He forbed his apostles.. þat hie neren noht sorie. *c* 1275 *Passion our Lord* 147 in *O. E. Misc.*, Þo hi hedden al þis iherd heo were ful sori. *c* 1320 *Sir Tristr.* 2161 Al sori mark gan go Til he miȝt tristrem kisse. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Pars. T.* P 458 Ay the more strong that the fleisch is, the sorier may the soule be. *c* 1430 *Syr Gener.* (Roxb.) 6746 No soryer man in erth may dwel Than I. 1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* XVII. xvii. 714* Thenne was not he a lytel sory, for launcelot loued hym. 1535 COVERDALE 2 *Esdras* xiii. 13 There came moch people vnto him: some were glad, some were sory. 1582 STANYHURST *Æneis* II. (Arb.) 60 In sight of thee soarye parents hee fel to the groundward. *a* 1628 F. GREVIL *Cœlica* lxxiv, Sadly clad for Sorrowe's glory, Making ioy glad to be sorie. 1780 BURKE *Corr.* (1844) II. 379 As to the party, I do not wonder that they are sorry. 1820 BYRON *Blues* II. I Was there ever a man who was married so sorry? 1870 DICKENS *E. Drood* iii, You seem to be sorry, Rosa.

Prov. 14.. *Lat. & Eng. Prov.* (MS. Douce 52) fol. 20 b, As long leuyth a mery man as a sory.

b. *absol.* in sing. or pl.

a 900 CYNEWULF *Christ* 1510 Sarge ȝe ne sohton. *c* 1000 *Ags. Psalter* (Thorpe) liv. 1 Ne forseoh æfre sariges bene. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 24861 Þaa sori loked ai sua for-suonken. 1362 LANGL. *P. Pl.* A. XI. 190 Þus bed þe Do-bet,..Sike with þe sory, singe with þe glade.

c. In association with *sick.*

1393 LANGL. *P. Pl.* C. XX. 326 For þer ne is syk ne sory ..þat he ne may [etc.]. 1405 *Lay Folks Mass Bk.* 65 For al that er sek and sary. *c* 1440 *York Myst.* xlviii. 333 Whanne I was seke and soriest. 1529 FRITH *Antithesis* 303 So that they go away sorrier and sicker in soul and in purse than they were before. 1876 T. HARDY *Ethelberta* (1890) 372 Looking as sick and sorry as a lily with a slug in its stalk.

2. With various constructions:

a. With *at, for,* † *of,* = on account of, by reason of; also with *for,* = on behalf of, in sympathy with.

(*a*) *c* 888 K. ÆLFRED *Boeth.* x, Se is swiðe sarig for ðinum earfoðum. *c* 1000 ÆLFRIC *Saints' Lives* xxxii. 136 Þæt land-folc .. wurdon swiðe sarige for his slege on mode. *c* 1205 LAY. 13989 Bruttes weoren særi [*v.r.* sori] for swulchere isihðe. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 7051 Þer uore þe king uor is deþ þe soriore was. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* II. 65 He wes off his eschap sary. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Pars. T.* P 488 Envye..is sory of alle the bountees of his neighbor. *c* 1430 *Syr Gener.* (Roxb.) 2068 The pouer wer sory of that dooyng. *c* 1489 CAXTON *Sonnes of Aymon* xxiv. 515 Moche sori was thadmyrall for the dethe of margaris. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Edw. IV*, 49 b, Yf any man wer sory of the duke of Burgoyns death. 1585 T. WASHINGTON tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* I. v. 4 The captaines..being very sorie for it had restored vnto him that which was taken. 1654–66 EARL ORRERY *Parthen.* (1676) 776, I was sorry at his Death. 1806 *Ann. Rev.* IV. 202 We are sorry at observing references to Bryant. 1879 GLADSTONE *Glean.* II. iii. 168 Much more I am sorrier for my good knight's loss.

(*b*) *c* 1375 *Cursor M.* 12433 (Fairf.), Ioseph..was ful sary for þe childe. 1484 CAXTON *Fables of Poge* xi, Allas, sayd the mayde, I am sory for yow. 1592 KYD *Span. Trag.* III. v, I am in a sorte sorie for thee. 1675 J. OWEN *Indwelling Sin* xvii. (1732) 229 He considering his Condition, tells him, Alas! I am sorry for you. 1715 DE FOE *Fam. Instruct.* I. iv. (1841) I. 86 Well Sister, I am sorry for you. 1827 SCOTT *Chron. Canongate* iv, The house was old and dilapidated, and looked sorry for itself. 1882 MISS BRADDON *Mt. Royal* I. vi. 157, I think we all feel sorrier for him than for many a better man.

b. With substantive clause.

c 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 222 Þis monekes..sori were & wrope ynouȝ, þat we hadde so longe ibeo. 13.. *K. Alis.* 6140 (Laud MS.), Þe kyng was sory..þat he ne miȝth ȝiue hem batalle. *c* 1385 CHAUCER *L. G. W.* 1082 *Dido*, [She] seyde.. that sche sory was That he hath had swych peryl. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 665, I am sary..at þi fourme is lickenand on na lym..to my selfe. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. V*, 47 b, I am somwhat sory that kyng Henries seruantes of the seller made not maister Enguerant drinke. 1567–8 ABP. PARKER *Corr.* (Parker Soc.) 310 But I am sorry he can so soon conceive displeasantly against me. 1663 S. PATRICK *Parab. Pilgr.* xxxi. (1687) 371 Very sorry they were that it was not possible for them always to accompany him. 1673 DRYDEN *Marr. à la Mode* IV. i, I am sorry we shall not have one course together at the herd. 1797 MRS. A. M. BENNETT *Beggar Girl* (1813) II. 101 She was..sorry Dr. Cameron objected to her maternal arrangements. 1891 FARRAR *Darkn. & Dawn* lviii, I am sorry..that the Emperor's commands admit of no such delay.

c. With infinitive.

1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 353 Of this aventure..Min herte is sory forto hiere. 1535 STARKEY *Let.* in *England* (1878) p. xix, For sory hys hyghnes wold be to see you not to reche vn-to so manyfest a truthe. 1555 EDEN *Decades* (Arb.) 53 They are sory to occupie the whyppe yf thou mightest otherwyse bee brought to obedience. 1670 LADY M. BERTIE in *12th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. V. 21, I am very sorry to heare that the small pox increase. 1769 *Junius Lett.* iii. (1788) 47, I am sorry to tell you..that, in this article, your first fact is false. 1782 MISS BURNEY *Cecilia* VIII. ii, I shall not be sorry to hear it. *c* 1835 SYD. SMITH *Let. on Sir J. Mackintosh* Wks. 1859 II. 302/1, I am sorry to say I have none to send you. 1861 J. PYCROFT *Agony Point* (1862) 419 There were not a few little ways and snuggeries that they felt sorry to be about to leave.

† **3.** Expressive or suggestive of distress or sorrow.

Beowulf 2447 Þonne he ȝyd wrece, sariȝne sang. *c* 1000 *Ags. Psalter* (Thorpe) lv. 7 Ic..sette on ðinre ȝesyhðe sariȝe tearas. 13.. *Cursor M.* 15169 (Gött.), Mani sari sigh ..sank tille his herte. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Pars. T.* P 315 Yf he ne hade pitee of mannes soule, a sory song we myght all synge. 1388 WYCLIF *Gen.* xl. 7 Whi is ȝoure face soriere to dai than it ys wont? 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 115 With sobbinge and with sory teres This lord goth thanne an humble pas. 1561 NORTON & SACKV. *Gorboduc* IV. ii, But what doth meane The sory chere of her that here doth come? 1567 *Gude & Godlie B.* (S.T.S.) 89 Quhen sall my hart ceis of this sorie sang?

† **4.** Causing distress or sorrow; painful, grievous, dismal. *Obs.*

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 110 Þe stiche of sori & seoruhful pine. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 1974 Ðo iacob sa3 dat sori writ, He gret. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 7296 Þere hii smite to gadere, & made a sori pley. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 2922 þat sari sight was on to se. *c* 1350 *Will. Palerne* 3696 So þroli a sori þoust þirled min hert. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* II. 47 Thus was the hors in sori plit. *a* 1400 *King & Hermit* 191, I ne hade neuer so sory a dey, That i ne had a mery nyȝt. *c* 1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 6754 Halfdene kyng of danmarke Made in Ingland sary warke. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* III. iv. 13 The fluid of Stix, that sory place. 1575 GASCOIGNE *Herbes* Wks. (1587) 163, I must indite A wofull case, a chip of sorie chance. 1605 SHAKS. *Mach.* II. ii. 19 This is a sorry sight. *Lady.* A foolish thought, to say a sorry sight.

5. Vile, wretched, worthless, mean, poor; of little account or value? **a.** Of persons, (*a*) in general character or (*b*) in some special respect.

(*a*) *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 1074 Ðo sori wrecches of yuel blod wulden him ðor gret strengðe don. *c* 1325 *Body & Soul* 96 in *Map's Poems* (Camden) 348 Hy shal..tholien harde pinen wyth that sory Judas. *c* 1380 *Sir Ferumb.* 1252 'Rest,' quaþ sche, 'þow sory wyȝt, god ȝyue yuele chaunce!' *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 4417 Loo, sary sottis, slike a sowme of synnars ȝe lute! *c* 1500 *Birched Sch.-boy* in *Babees Bk.* (1868) 404 My master lokith as he were maddē: 'wher hast thou be, thow sory ladde?' 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 38 What a shame it were..to swarve from that religion..at the motion of a sory Frere. 1579 FULKE *Heskins' Parl.* 445 There is..one sorie boy, that helpeth yᵉ priest to Masse. 1624 GATAKER *Transubst.* 102 Whom they themselves account to be but a sorry obscure fellow. 1673 CAVE *Prim. Chr.* I. iii. 49 The Christians were such a sorry inconsiderable people. 1748 RICHARDSON *Clarissa* (1811) III. 66 Continue Esquire. It is a respectable addition, although every sorry fellow assumes it! 1856 EMERSON *Eng. Traits, Aristocracy* Wks. (Bohn) II. 85 The baron..grew fat and wanton, and a sorry brute. 1886 *Athenæum* 30 Oct. 562/2 His hero is a sorry knave, without principle or rectitude.

(*b*) *a* 1425 *Cursor M.* 19199 (Trin.), Seruauntis elles be we sory. *c* 1555 HARPSFIELD *Divorce Hen. VIII* (Camden) 170 A dialogue between a sorry doting divine and a sorry lewd lawyer. 1597 GERARDE *Herbal* II. clxxxvii. § 2. 501 A poore sorie Barbar, who had no more skill than he had learned by tradition. 1652–62 HEYLYN *Cosmogr.* II. (1682) 104 A sorry Gainer by the undertaking. 1680 W. ALLEN *Peace & Unity* 81 We know what sorry Saints many of them appear to be. 1706 E. WARD *Wooden World Diss.* (1708) 10 Tho' he's but a very sorry Horse-man, yet he's mightily given to the Chase. 1835 MARRYAT *J. Faithful* xxi, I shall prove but a

sorry sweetheart, for I never made love in my life. 1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) I. 155, I am a sorry physician, and do but aggravate a disorder which I am seeking to cure.

b. Of things.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 807 þe find..said within his sari thoght, 'Ic haue him don to suinc for noght'. 1396–7 in *Eng. Hist. Rev.* (1907) XXII. 296 Pride with his sori genealogie of dedly synnes. *c* 1450 LOVELICH *Grail* lv. 326 For ho-so entreth in to this place, he may ben siker of sory grace *c* 1450 *Knt. de la Tour* (1868) 33 Sori loue haue she that tellithe nȯt the name of hym that last praied her. 1530 PALSGR. 209 Cosshe, a sorie house, *cauerne*. 1565 STAPLETON *Fortr. Faith* 90 It is not inough to make a few sory surmises. 1621 in Foster *Eng. Factories Ind.* (1906) I. 339 A sorrie some for a Governour to borrowe. 1656 JEANES *Mixt. Schol. Div.* 8 Thus, you see, that the feare of men hath..a poore, a sorry, and contemptible object. 1716–8 LADY M. W. MONTAGU *Lett.* I. xviii. 58 It is very good luck to get one sorry room in a miserable tavern. 1771 MACKENZIE *Man Feel.* xiv, I was forced to beg my bread; and a sorry trade I found it. 1825 WATERTON *Wand. S. Amer.* (1882) 163 It makes the historian cut a sorry figure. 1849 MISS MULOCK *Ogilvies* iii, That she now wrote the sorriest hand imaginable. 1889 GRETTON *Memory's Harkback* 153 You can put up with a sorry lodging for yourself, but beware of a bad stable for your steed.

c. Of animals, esp. horses.

c 1480 HENRYSON *Fables, Lion & Mouse* xiii, Unhailsum meit is of ane sarie Mous. 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* lv. 18 Sum..Ar now maid tame lyk ony lammis, And settin down lyk sarye crockis. 1523 FITZHERB. *Husb.* § 38 Than mayst thou take thy sory weyke ewe awaye, and put her in an other place. 1547 SALESBURY, *Oenyn*, a sory lambe. 1673 CAVE *Prim. Chr.* I. i. 12 Trampled on by the sorriest Creatures, Mice, Swallows, &c. 1742 HUME *Ess.* (1870) xxiii. 158 One man, with a couple of sorry horses. 1760 STERNE *Tr. Shandy* I. x, Mounted..upon a lean, sorry, jack-ass of a horse. 1802 MAR. EDGEWORTH *Moral T.* (1816) I. xi. 92 Sir P. staked his handsome horse against A.'s sorry poney. 1849 E. E. NAPIER *Excur. S. Africa* I. 290 Mounted on very sorry hacks. 1875 COMTE DE PARIS *Civil War Amer.* I. 295 The sorrier the horses the greater the consumption.

6. As *sb.* An exclamation of '(I am) sorry'.

1834 MAR. EDGEWORTH *Helen* xxxv, A too fast hazarded broadside of questions and answers—glads and sorrys in chain-shots that did no execution.

7. *Comb.*, as *sorry-flowered, -hearted, -looking.*

1382 WYCLIF *Prov.* vii. 7, I beholde the sori hertid iunge man. *Ibid.* ix. 17 And to the sory hertid she spac [etc.]. 1786 ABERCROMBIE *Arr.* 51 in *Gard. Assist.*, Miserable, or sorry-flowered [aster]. 1844 LD. HOUGHTON *Poems of Many Years* 242 Without a wish for rest or friends, a sorry-hearted man. 1903 *Daily Chron.* 10 June 9/3 A mangy and altogether sorry-looking object.

† **So'rry,** *v. Obs.* [f. prec. Cf. OE. *sárgian.*] *intr.* To grieve, to sorrow; to provide *for*.

1545 ASCHAM *Toxoph.* (Arb.) 42 If he complayne, they sory with hym. 1553 T. WILSON *Rhet.* 71 b, We rejoyce, we sorie, or we pitie an other mannes happe. 1601 J. WHEELER *Treat Comm.* 57 That those who are traders may be equally and indifferently cared and soried for. 1606 FORD *Fame's Memorial* G iij b, We mourne his death and sorry for his sake.

So'rryish, *a.* [f. SORRY *a.*] Somewhat sorry.

1793 ANNA SEWARD *Lett.* (1811) III. 330 You would be sorryish to hear, that poor Moll Cobb..is gone to her long home. 1853 G. J. CAYLEY *Las Alforjas* I. 241 The bridegroom..was a sorryish looking individual. 1863 READE *Hard Cash* III. 27 To be sure their idols were sorryish clay, to begin.

† **Sorry-mood,** *a. Obs.* [OE. *sárigmód*, = OS. *sêragmôd*: see SORRY *a.* and MOOD *sb.*1] Sorrowful, sad.

Beowulf 2942 Frofor eft ȝelamp sariȝmodum. *a* 1023 WULFSTAN *Hom.* (1883) 133 Sorhful and sariȝmod ȝeomriȝendum mode. *c* 1205 LAY. 29791 Þa wes he sari-mod and sorhful an heorten. *c* 1275 *Passion our Lord* 298 in *O. E. Misc.*, [When] Peter..vnder-stod Hwat his louerd hedde iseyd, he wes sori-mod.

† **Sort,** *sb.*1 *Obs.* Also 4–5 soort, 5–6 sorte. [a. OF. *sort* (mod.F. *sort*, = It. and Pg. *sorte*, Sp. *suerte*), or ad. L. *sort-, sors* lot, share, fortune, condition, etc. Cf. next.]

1. a. With possessive pronoun: The fate or lot of a particular person or persons.

c 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 1186 Abimalech..sente after abraham.., And bi-taȝte him his wif a-non, And his yuel sort was ouergon. *c* 1374 CHAUCER *Troylus* 1754 O lord, right now renneth my sort Fully to dye, or han anoon comfort. 1412–20 LYDG. *Chron. Troy* v. 2643 Ageyn my sort me list not maligne. *c* 1450 *Merlin* ii. 36 Ye thought to sle hym, be the whiche ye sholde be brought to the deth as be youre sorte. *c* 1500 *Lancelot* 26 So be such meine fatit was my sort.

b. In more general sense: Destiny, hap, fate, fortune.

c 1386 CHAUCER *Prol.* 844 Anon to drawen every wight began,..Were it by aventure, or sort, or cas, The soth is this, the cut fil to the knight. *c* 1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 5915 It fell aftir be happe and sort. 1581 MARBECK *Bk. of Notes* 880 That the sorts & lots which appeare most subject to fortune goe so forth by his providence.

2. = LOT *sb.* 1.

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* C. 193 Sone haf þay her sortes sette & serelych deled, & ay þe lotе..lymped on Ionas. 1606 SHAKS. *Tr. & Cr.* I. iii. 376 Make a Lott'ry, And by deuice let blockish Aiax draw The sort to fight with Hector.

b. The casting or drawing of lots; divination by this means. Chiefly in phr. *by sort*, = LOT *sb.* 1 b.

c 1386 CHAUCER *Pars. T.* 605 What seye we of hem that bilieven on divinailes, as by flight or by nois of briddes.., or by sort, by geomancie [etc.]? *a* 1470 HARDING *Chron.* CXVII. ii, Engist and Horsus,..By sort sent out all voyde of Saxonye. 1483 CAXTON *Cato* F j, Thou oughtest not to enquyre by sorte or wytche crafte of that that god wyl doo. *c* 1500 *Melusine* 110 Ne also sort or enchauntment of art Magique..shul not lette ne greve you. 1525 LD. BERNERS *Froiss.* II. 651 A generall fame..ran vpon her, that all the infyrmitеis the kyng had..came all by hir sortes and artes.

c. The choice resulting from such a casting of lots, = LOT *sb.* 1 c. *rare.*

1382 WYCLIF *Ezek.* xxiv. 6 Woo to the citee of blodis..; soort, or lot, felle not vpon it. — *Luke* i. 5 Ther was sum prest, Zacharie by name,..of the sort of Abia. 1563–7 BUCHANAN *Reform. St. Andros* Wks. (S. T. S.) 10 That God..wald send the sort apon hym that war habliast to exerce that estat to hys glore.

3. That which is allotted or assigned; a share or portion. *rare.*

1382 WYCLIF *Josh.* xvii. 18 Thow shalt not haue o soort, but thow shalt passe to the hil. — *Acts* viii. 21 Part is not to thee, nethir sort, in this word. 1483 CAXTON *Gold. Leg.* 284 b/2 The men took wyues of theyr lignage only, that was by cause the distribucion of the sortes shold not be confounded.

Sort (sɔ̄t), *sb.*2 Also 4–6 soort, 5 soorte, 5–7 sorte, 5 sortt, sorth. [a. OF. *sorte* (mod. F. *sorte*, = It. *sorta*) :—pop. L. **sorta*, alteration of L. *sort-, sors*: see prec. Cf. MLG. and G. *sorte*, WFris. *soarte*, Du. *soort*, Da. and Sw. *sort.*]

I. A kind, species, variety, or description of persons or things.

**Preceded by 'of'.*

1. *Of a* (certain) *sort*, of a certain kind, etc.

c 1380 WYCLIF *Serm.* Sel. Wks. I. 392 Al þe folk of þis soort is a world þat shal be dampned. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 64 Ther ben lovers of such a sort, That feignen hem an humble port. *c* 1420 LYDG. *Assembly of Gods* 672 What pepyll they were that came to that dysport I shall yow declare of many a sondry sort. 1482 in *Eng. Hist. Rev.* XXV. 122 For every quayre of yᵉ secounde soorte..he shalle haue viij d. 1545 *Rates of Custome House* b ij b, Fysche of the smalliste sorte. 1574 tr. *Marlorat's Apocalips* 113 The things that are red euery where in the Psalmes and prophets: of which sorte bee these sayings. *a* 1628 PRESTON *New Cov.* (1634) 133 They be not all of one sort, but of divers sorts, some of one sort, some of another sort, but they are all vessels of glory. 1681 DRYDEN *Abs. & Achit.* 682 Surrounded thus with friends of every sort, Deluded Absalom forsakes the court. 1722 DE FOE *Relig. Courtsh.* I. i. (1840) 13, I hope your girls are not of that sort. 1787 MME. D'ARBLAY *Diary* 16 Aug., The moment a topic of that solemn sort is started. 1816 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 284 It gives a considerable shock, but has little power of any other sort. 1841 THACKERAY *Gt. Hoggarty Diam.* xiii, Both your son and your daughter-in-law..are of that uncommon sort. 1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) V. 8 He should have a fear of the right sort, as well as a courage of the right sort.

b. *Of* (various) *sorts.* (With numerals, etc.)

1459 *Paston Lett.* I. 472, ij. quartelettes, of dyvers sortes. 1482 in *Eng. Hist. Rev.* XXV. 122 Which Bookes bene of iiij. dyuerse manere of soortes. 1519 *Registr. Aberdon.* (Maitl. Cl.) II. 175 Item iiij cusseins of nedyll werk of þre syndry sortis. 1548 TURNER *Names Herbes* (E.D.S.) 24 Centaurium is of two sortes. 1582 HAKLUYT *Divers Voy.* G ij b, An innumerable sort of wilde foule of all sortes. 1651 HOBBES *Leviath.* II. xxiii. 125 Controversies are of two sorts, namely, of Fact and of Law. 1711 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 92 ᵖ 6 Plays of all Sorts have their several Advocates. 1765 *Ann. Reg.* 158 He had..33 pegging-awls, 37 awls of other sorts. 1811 WORDSW. in *Mem.* (1851) I. 410 Physical enginery of all sorts. 1843 *Penny Cycl.* XXV. 424/2 The rosettes are of two sorts, fixed and shifting.

2. Used of persons, with special reference to character, disposition, or rank. (Cf. 11 b.)

c 1386 CHAUCER *Cook's T.* 17 [He] gadred him a meyne of his sort, To hoppe and synge. *a* 1533 LD. BERNERS *Huon* li. 170 A companyon of your owne sort haue yᵉ founde. 1581 PETTIE tr. *Guazzo's Civ. Conv.* I. (1586) 4 These are for the most part men of good calling, and not of the common sort. 1590 SHAKS. *Mids. N.* III. ii. 159 None of nobler sort Would so offend a Virgin. 1621 ELSING *Debates Ho. Lords* (Camden) 63 For that he hathe made so clere and ingenuous confession, which men of his sorte doe not. 1635 R. N. tr. *Camden's Hist. Eliz.* IV. 409 This Hacket was a man of vulgar sort. 1722 DE FOE *Plague* (1754) 46 Persons of good Sort and Credit. 1749 CHESTERF. *Lett.* ccvii. (1792) II. 289 Worse dressed than people of your sort are. 1781 COWPER *Retirem.* 716 The mind..Should turn to writers of an abler sort. 1822 SHELLEY *Faust* II. 222 They are too mad for people of my sort.

†**b.** Hence *Of sort*, of (high) quality or rank.

1603 SHAKS. *Meas. for M.* IV. iv. 20 Giue notice to such men of sort and suite as are to meete him. 1606 WARNER *Alb. Eng.* XVI. ci. (1612) 401 For things in some vnseemly are not such to some of Sort. 1624 CAPT. SMITH *Virginia* (1629) 106 His Lordship arrived.., accompanied with Sir Ferdinando Waynman..and divers other gentlemen of sort.

3. a. *Of a sort*, of the same kind or description. Now *dial.* (also *of sort*).

1463 *Bury Wills* (Camden) 23, ij lowe candylstikkez of a sorth. 1672 TEMPLE *Ess., Governm.* Wks. 1720 I. 95 The same Countries have generally in all times been used to Forms of Government much of a sort. *a* 1715 BURNET *Own Time* (1766) I. 46 They were men all of a sort. 1839 SIR G. C. LEWIS *Gloss. Heref.* s.v., 'A thing of sort' means a corresponding thing. 1876 BOUND *Prov. Shropsh.*

b. In suggestive use: *A word of a sort*, a sharp or angry word or reproof. *rare.*

1796 MRS. M. ROBINSON *Angelina* II. 39, I should have given him a word of a sort, I promise you. 1839 SIR G. C. LEWIS *Gloss. Heref.* s.v., 'Words of a sort' means a quarrel.

4. *Of sorts*: **a.** Of different or various kinds. Now *rare.*

1597 in P. H. Hore *Hist. Wexford* (1900) I. 282, 6 yards Canikin, 18 hatts of sorts. 1599 SHAKS. *Hen. V*, I. ii. 190 They [*sc.* bees] haue a King, and Officers of sorts. 1825 T. HOOK *Sayings* Ser. II. *Passion & Princ.* xi. III. 249 At this moment cheeses of sorts were paraded. *c* 1850 *Rudim. Navig.* (Weale) 135 *Nails of sorts* are 4, 6, 8, 10, 24, 30, and 40-penny nails, all of different lengths..for nailing board, &c.

b. *colloq.* In disparaging use: Of a kind which is not very satisfactory; rather poor.

1902 *Daily Chron.* 20 May 4/6 In the old days Spain provided an outlet of sorts. 1903 MCNEILL *Egregious English* 91 Up to this time you have been an orator of sorts.

5. *Something of the sort*, something similar to that previously indicated, mentioned, or specified. *Nothing of the sort*, no such thing.

1839 FR. A. KEMBLE *Resid. in Georgia* (1863) 91 Something of the sort must be done. 1869 MARTINEAU *Ess.* II. 120 Spinoza does nothing of the sort. 1895 *Law Times Rep.* LXXIII. 692/1 With regard to the..estate in England I disclaim, but I do nothing of the sort as regards the.. estate in America.

***Followed by 'of'.*

6. A particular kind, etc., *of* thing(s) or person(s). *sing.* 1529 MORE *Suppl. Souls* Wks. 329/1 Let vs now see whether sort of these twayn might take most harme. 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 63, I knowe that sorte of men ryght well. 1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* III. 102 These Cloysters haue a brauer life..than any sort of Friers can elsewhere find. 1671 MILTON *Samson* 1323 Have they not .. ev'ry sort Of Gymnic Artists, Wrestlers, Riders, Runners? 1737 BRACKEN *Farriery Impr.* (1757) II. 99 Hay well laid in is the only sort of Fodder for our Horses. 1779 *Mirror* No. 61, From the same sort of feeling has the idea of Home its attraction. 1818 CRUISE *Digest* (ed. 2) III. 478 The second sort of prescription is that which arises from the several statutes of limitation. 1865 TROLLOPE *Belton Est.* xvi. 189 A fair specimen of the sort of letter they ought not to write. 1885 *Truth* 28 May 854/2 He does not appear to be the sort of horse to stand much knocking about.

pl. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 24 b, These two sortes of the chyldren of Israel. 1590 SIR J. SMYTH *Disc. Weapons* 7 That those sorts of weapons..may be more readilie .. drawne out. 1656 HAMMOND *Leah & Rachel* (1844) 13 The rivers afford innumerable sortes of choyce fish. 1670 LADY M. BERTIE in *12th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. V. 21 The under pettycoatt very richly laced with two or three sorts of lace. 1725 *Fam. Dict.* s.v. *Aristolochy*, There are four sorts of Aristolochies. 1825 T. HOOK *Sayings* Ser. II. *Passion & Princ.* vi, He..did an infinity of those sorts of things which were not professionally required of him.

b. *All sorts of* (things or persons), = 'things or persons of all kinds or descriptions'. (Cf. 7 c.)

1558 WARDE tr. *Alexis' Secr.* 33 b, Take of..al sortes of Mirabolanes. 1584 R. SCOT *Discov. Witchcr.* II. x. (1886) 27 All sorts of writers,..learned and unlearned. 1603 *Reg. Mag. Sig. Scot.* 514/1 Ilk hors laid of fische, flesche, cornis and all sortis of viveris. 1687 A. LOVELL tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* I. 143 All sorts of things are sold in this street. 1700 DRYDEN tr. *Ovid's Metam.* XIII. *Acis, Pol. & Gal.* 136 All sorts of Ven'son; and of Birds the best. 1781 T. GILBERT *Plan for Relief Poor* 6 Workhouses are generally inhabited by all Sorts of Persons. 1860 HOLLAND *Miss Gilberts Career* i. 9 They answered..to all sorts of questions in geography. 1891 H. HERMAN *His Angel* 238 I've been buying frocks and all sorts of things these days past.

ellipt. 1597 J. KING *On Jonas* (1618) Ep. Ded., Let it receiue fauovrable interpretation with all sorts men.

c. With distinguishing adjs. or attrib. phrases.

1590 SIR J. SMYTH *Disc. Weapons* Ded., Others of the most dispost and lustie sort of people of our Nation. 1615 G. SANDYS *Trav.* 120 A number of sheepe; which..they distribute vnto their slaues and poorer sort of people. 1676 GLANVILL *Ess. Philos. & Relig.* IV. 12 By leaving this whole unintelligible sort of beings out of its accounts. 1705 HEARNE *Collect.* 16 Aug. (O.H.S.) I. 30 Mr. Rymer..is a very good sort of Man. 1798 CHARLOTTE SMITH *Yng. Philos.* I. 207, I have been tired of such John Trott sort of prosing ever since I was ten years old. 1836 *Backwoods of Canada* 123 We begin to get reconciled to our Robinson Crusoe sort of life. 1861 M. PATTISON *Ess.* (1889) I. 45 A vine or two and some of the finer sorts of fruit. 1885 G. ALLEN *Babylon* XXXVIII, Cecca was really not a bad sort of girl.

7. Used collectively: **a.** With *these* or *those.*

1551 RECORDE *Cast. Knowl.* (1556) 86 These sort of people are named of the greke Cosmographers..Heteroscij. 1563 GOLDING *Cæsar* 76 A great multitude..of those sorte of rascals whom hope of spoile..had wythdrawen from husbandrye. 1671 PHILLIPS (ed. 3), *Inchoatives*, in Grammar are those sort of Verbs which express a gradual proceeding in any action. 1691 W. NICHOLS *Answ. Naked Gospel* 15, I do not think we are so much credulous, as these sort of Gentlemen are saucy. 1718 *Entertainer* No. 14. 94 These sort of Mortals are generally..prepossess'd with a good opinion of themselves. 1798 CHARLOTTE SMITH *Yng. Philos.* II. 29 These sort of details gave my poor father great delight.. 1814 SYD. SMITH in Lady Holland *Mem.* (1855) II. 113, I rather suppose it is too far from town for these sort of engagements. 1857 TROLLOPE *Barchester T.* xxxiv, 'Those sort of rules are all gone by now,' said Mr. Arabin. 1872 RUSKIN *Fors Clav.* xxi. 19 What?..do those sort of people know what love is?

b. With plural verbs or pronouns. Now *rare.*

1568 GRAFTON *Chron.* II. 99 The yonger sort of yᵉ Monkes there gathered themselues together at midnight. 1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* V. 206 The best sort of Mahometans..call themselues Musilmans. 1647 F. BLAND *Souldiers March* 36 There are yet another sort of Enemies [etc.]. *c* 1671 LOCKE in Ld. King *Life* (1830) II. 284 There are a sort of propositions, passing under the title of maxims. 1704 N. N. tr. *Boccalini's Advts. fr. Parnass.* III. 227 They thought such sort of Shewes were not fit to be seen. 1769 BURKE *Obs. late State Nation* 119 There are a sort of middle tints and shades between the two extremes. 1804–6 SYD. SMITH *Mor. Philos.* (1850) 110 Such sort of questions..are not merely innocent subtleties.

c. With *all.* (Cf. 6 b.) Now *rare* or *Obs.*

1594 R. ASHLEY tr. *Loys de Roy* 10 b, The countrie..aboundeth with all sort of corne, flesh, and fruit. 1603 *Reg. Mag. Sig. Scot.* 514/2 For mettage of all sort of victuall sauld or mett within the said burgh. 1641 TOMBES *Leaven Phar. Wil-worship* (1643) 14 Al sort of erroneous teachers, and licentious livers, were tolerated. 1709 MRS.

MANLEY *Secret Mem.* (1720) III. 121 With all Sort of Address, and artful seeming Sincerity. 1771 T. HULL *Sir W. Harrington* (1797) I. 42 The earl..has thought fit to drop all sort of correspondence with me. 1804 ANNA SEWARD *Mem. Darwin* 5 He..supplied their necessities by food, and all sort of charitable assistance.

† **d.** With numerals or partitives. *Obs.*

1594 NASHE *Dido* 1381 Wks. (Grosart) VI. 62 A garden where are .. Musk-roses, and a thousand sort of flowers. 1732 ARBUTHNOT *Rules of Diet* in *Aliments*, etc. (1735) 261 The Nature of most sort of animal Diet may be discovered by Taste and other sensible Qualities.

8. In the phr. *A sort of...*, denoting that some thing, person, quality, etc., is, or may be, included in the specified class, although not typical of it or possessing all its characteristics; = 'something in the nature of'. Cf. KIND *sb.* 14 c.

1703 DE FOE in *15th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. IV. 62 Fleeing from her Majesty's justice is a sort of making war against her. 1726 SWIFT *Gulliver* Introd. Let., They use a sort of jabber, and do not go naked. 1780 *Mirror* No. 110, There is a sort of classic privilege in the very names of places in London. 1819 SCOTT *Ivanhoe* i, His legs were cased in a sort of gaiters. 1845 M. PATTISON *Ess.* (1889) I. 14 A moral power..forcing from them a sort of recognition of its claims. 1884 W. C. SMITH *Kildrostan* 69 We are grown To be a sort of dandies in religion.

b. So *A* (or *some*) *sort of a....*

1720 SHADWELL *Hasty Wedding* II. iv, I do think him but a sort of a, kind of a,..sort of a Gentleman. 1766 C. BEATTY *Tour* (1768) 28 We..put up at some sort of a public house. 1823 SCOTT *Quentin D.* xxxi, The richest heiress in Burgundy has confessed a sort of a—what was I going to say? 1846–9 S. R. MAITLAND *Ess.*, etc. 47 Bishop Burnet is even kind enough to make a sort of an excuse for Sir Thomas More.

c. (*A*) *sort of, o', a, sorter*, used adverbially: In a way or manner; to some extent or degree, somewhat; in some way, somehow. Chiefly *dial.* and *colloq.*

(*a*) 1790 MRS. WHEELER *Westmld. Dial.* (1821) 63 Its a fine ewnin but its a sort a caad. 1839 MARRYAT *Diary Amer.* Ser. I. II. 218, I bees a sorter courted, and a sorter not; reekon more a sorter yes than a sorter no. 1858 PIRIE *Inq. Hum. Mind* i. 10 One is a sort of bewildered in attempting to discover what it really is which constitutes the obligation.

(*b*) 1833 J. HALL *Legends West* 50 It sort o' stirs one up to hear about old times. 1858 HUGHES *Scour. White Horse* ii. 34 He was sort of proud of them. 1870 B. HARTE *Luck of Roaring Camp* 11 The rosewood cradle..had, in Stumpy's way of putting it, 'sorter killed the rest of the furniture'.

d. *In a sort of way*, imperfectly; not exactly, absolutely, or properly.

1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) I. 36 The impossibility of a man knowing in a sort of way that which he does not know at all. 1892 T. HARDY *Well-Beloved* I. viii, 'I advised you to go back, Marcie.' '*In a sort of way*: not in the right tone.'

9. *No sort of..*, used as an emphatic negative phrase to denote the complete absence of anything of the kind specified.

1736 BUTLER *Anal.* I. ii. Wks. 1874 I. 46 There is no sort of ground for being thus presumptuous. 1770 LANGHORNE *Plutarch* (1879) II. 634/2 No sort of harmony could exist between them. 1852 THACKERAY *Esmond* III. xii, The great majority had no sort of inkling of the transaction pending. 1884 *Manch. Exam.* 25 Feb. 4/7 On the part of many, the inclination to work bears no sort of proportion to the inclination to talk.

10. *That* or *this sort of thing*, used to denote in a general way a thing, quality, etc., of a like or similar nature to that specified.

1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* lxv, She is very unhappy, and —and that sort of thing. *Ibid.* lxvi, 'Pooh! damn; don't let us have this sort of thing!' Jos cried out,..anxious to get rid of a scene. 1889 JEROME *Three Men in Boat* 103, I would ..lead a blameless, beautiful life,..and all that sort of thing.

*** *In elliptic or absolute use.*

11. A particular class, order, or rank of persons.

1529 MORE *Dyalogue* IV. Wks. 287/2 That man..that would rather send his soule with such a sort as these be, than with all those holy saintes. 1572 J. JONES *Bathes of Bathes Ayde* Ep. Ded. a ij, Hieronymus Montuus..affirmeth that of all sortes, Phisike is to bee embraced. 1608 DOD & CLEAVER *Expos. Prov.* xi–xii. 128 The one sort are led by the worde and spirit of God,..the other are led by the flesh, and Sathan. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* VI. 376 The other sort in might though wondrous.., Nameless in dark oblivion let them dwell. 1812 MISS MITFORD in L'Estrange *Life* (1870) I. 172 The first sort cannot go upon a water-party but you must read an account of it in three full sheets. 1871 LEGRAND *Cambr. Freshm.* 295 His lordship added,..they weren't his sort, and he should not have anything to do with 'em. 1878 BROWNING *Poets Croisic* 44 All sorts and conditions that stood by., bore witness to the prophecy.

b. With defining or distinguishing adj. (usu. in the comparative).

Freq. from *c* 1550 to *c* 1650; now somewhat *rare*.

1548 TURNER *Names Herbes* (E.D.S.) 33 Daphnoides, called of the commune sort Laureola. 1549 ALLEN *Par. Revel. St. John* 11 The spirituall sort, which haue their lyuynge of the gospel, wherunto they are the most extreme enemyes, ..a thousande partes more than the secular and laye sorte. 1576 GASCOIGNE *Steele Gl.* (Arb.) 82 The yonger sorte, come pyping on apace,..The elder sorte, go stately stalking on. 1611 BIBLE *Transl. Pref.* ¶ 2 This is the lot and portion of the meaner sort onely. 1655 STANLEY *Hist. Philos.* I. (1687) 26/1 Laws are like Cobwebs which entangle the lesser sort, the greater break through. *a* 1715 BURNET *Own Time* (1766) I. 295 Sometimes they were fined and the younger sort whipped about the streets. 1760–2 GOLDSM. *Cit. W.* xv, The better sort here pretend to the utmost compassion for animals of every kind. 1842 MRS. GORE *Fascination* 15 You are one of the right sort. 1853 HICKIE tr. *Aristoph.* (1872) II. 691 The better sort do not ask for money. 1883 *Daily News* 11 Sept. 3/1 A little knot of those formerly called emphatically 'the right sort'.

c. So *A* (*bad, good*, etc.) *sort*, applied to a single person. *colloq.*

1882 J. STURGIS *Dick's Wandering* III. iv. xlii. 82 They cursed and said that Dick was a good sort. 1891 C. ROBERTS *Adrift Amer.* 165 On the whole he was not a bad sort.

12. A kind, variety, etc., of thing(s).

1523 FITZHERB. *Husb.* § 134 Than sorte the trees, the polles by them-selfe, the myddel sorte by them-selfe. 1567 MAPLET *Gr. Forest* 2 One of those sortes that is easie to engraue in. 1577 B. GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* II. (1586) 49 Whereas the Hearbes and Trees are seuered euery sort in their due place. 1633 *Gerarde's Herbal* III. xcv. 1448 These fiue sorts; the common, the long,..and the early aprecocke. 1690 LOCKE *Hum. Und.* III. iii. (1695) 231 Things are ranked under Names into Sorts or Species, only as they agree to certain abstract Ideas, to which we have annexed those Names. 1776 COWPER *Let.* 12 Nov., One to whom fish is so welcome.. can have no great occasion to distinguish the sorts. 1842 LOUDON *Suburban Hort.* 643 According to the richness of the soil and the vigour of the sort. 1861 DICKENS *Gt. Expect.* v, May you live a thousand years, and never be a worse judge of the right sort.

b. *All sorts*, in colloquial or idiomatic uses.

1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* xxxi, There they were, all drinking Tuscany wine and all sorts. 1839 HOOD *Our Village* 23 There's a shop of all sorts, that sells every thing. 1863 MRS. HAWTHORNE in *N. Hawthorne & Wife* (1885) II. 331, I hope to hear about papa's visit to Rockport, and 'all sorts', as dear Mrs. Browning used to say. 1900 *Westm. Gaz.* 14 Mar. 1/3 Asking how it was possible to have complete transport in stock for an Empire of 'all sorts' like this.

13. † **a.** *pl.* Spices. *Obs.*[–1]

1530 in Whitaker *Hist. Craven* (1812) 306 Item 2 pounds of sorts of Portugal.

b. *Typog.* One or other of the characters or letters in a fount of type. Usu. in *pl.*

1668–9 in *Cent. Typogr. Univ. Press, Oxford* (1900) 156 Then you will perceiue what sorts your worke runns most vpon and so you must cast ouer such sorts. 1683 MOXON *Mech. Exerc., Printing* 391 The Letters..in every Box of the Case are..called Sorts in Printers and Founders Language; Thus a is a Sort, b is a Sort. 1771 LUCKOMBE *Hist. Print.* 248 For example, c, i, m, p, q, u, being Latin Sorts, might be more sparingly cast. 1784 FRANKLIN in Bigelow *Life* (1887) III. 256 The founts, too, must be very scanty, or strangely out of sorts. 1808 STOWER *Printers' Gram.* 54 The expense .. in casting a fount of letter with such a number of heavy sorts will be considerable. *Ibid.* 60 The upper case sorts... The lower case sorts. 1839 HANSARD *Print. & Type-founding* (1841) 82 Capital letters, figures, accented letters, particular sorts, &c. 1888 JACOBI *Printers' Vocab.* 128 *Sorts*, the general term applied to any particular letter or letters as distinguished from a complete fount.

14. *Out of sorts*: **a.** Not in the usual or normal condition of good health or spirits; in a low-spirited, irritable, or peevish state, esp. through physical discomfort; slightly unwell.

1621 S. WARD *Life of Faith* 46, I wonder..to see one.. that knowes all must worke for the best, to be at any time out of tune, or out of sorts. 1642 D. ROGERS *Naaman* 98 But now..being defeated, he is out of sorts, and chuseth rather..to goe away, than to be cured thereby. 1702 S. PARKER tr. *Cicero's De Finibus* App. 360 When our Affairs are discouraging,..we must be at least proportionably Unhappy, and out of Sorts. 1775 BURNEY *Early Diary* (1889) II. 42 He was extremely out of sorts because there was some company in the room who did not please him. 1801 LD. CORNWALLIS in Ld. Stanhope *Life Pitt* (1862) III. xxxi. 354, I am myself out of sorts, low spirited, and tired of everything. 1857 DICKENS *Dorrit* II. xiii, I am weary and out of sorts to-night. 1871 NAPHEYS *Prev. & Cure Dis.* II. i. 356 The child which is only out of sorts frets itself.

transf. 1815 SCOTT *Guy M.* xliv, One of the bed-posts.. was broken down, so that the tester and curtains hung forward into the middle of the narrow chamber..'Never mind that being out o' sorts, Captain.' 1873 BROWNING *Red Cott. Nt.-Cap* 711 A sense that something is amiss, Something is out of sorts in the display.

b. In literal sense: Out of or without certain kinds of articles or goods. Also *transf.*

1670 RAY *Prov.* 225 Many a man..coming home from far voyages, may chance to land here, and being out of sorts, is unable for the present time .. to recruit himself with clothes. 1675 V. ALSOP *Anti-sozzo* 278 Their unhappiness is, they have not so vast a Stock to set up with, and sometimes may be out of Sorts. *Ibid.* 520 He may upon these principles, coyn as many several sorts..of justifying Faith, as he can possibly spend in seven years time; and as he grows out of sorts, he may stamp as many more.

† **15.** Without article: **a.** Rank, class. *Obs.*

1671 MILTON *Samson* 1608 With seats where all the Lords and each degree Of sort, might sit in order to behold.

† **b.** *In sort*, in various kinds; in variety. *Obs.*

1756 MRS. CALDERWOOD in *Coltness Collect.* (Maitland Club) 225 As for timber things and kitchen things in sort, smith and wright work were all to sell ready made.

16. *That's your sort* (also dial. *sorts*), as a term of approbation. *slang.*

1792 HOLCROFT *Road to Ruin* v. i, That's your sort! 1793 *European Mag.* XXIII. 307 A sly old dame, long used to scenes of sport, Cocks her one eye, and snuffles, 'That's your sort'. 1825 JAMIESON *Suppl.* s.v., *That's your sorts!* an exclamation used when one is highly pleased with an action or thing. Aberd[een]. 1865 *Slang Dict.* 240 Pitch it into him; that's your sort.

II. † **17.** A number of persons associated together in some way; a band, company, group, or set of persons (or animals). *Obs.*

In this and the next group not always clearly distinct from senses 6 and 11–12.

c 1400 *Destr. Troy* 3713 The Dukes were drounet, & oþer dere folke. All the sort þat hom suet sunkyn to ground. 1489 SKELTON *Death Earl Northumbld.* 212 The heuenly yerarchy, With all the hole sorte of that glorious place. 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* lxxvii. 46 That seimlie sort, in ordour weill besein, Did meit the quein. *a* 1547 SURREY *Æneid* IV. 276 Paris now with his unmanly sorte. 1583 STOCKER *Civ. Warres Lowe C.* I. 2 One sorte of them was burnt, another sort hanged, the thirde drowned, and the fourth sorte had no more hurt but their heades cut off. 1612 W. SCLATER *Sick Soul's Salve* 3 An other sort there are, and they as heavily complaine.

† **b.** *In sort, on a sort*, in a body or company. *In sort with*, in common with. *Obs.*

c 1400 *Destr. Troy* 4326 Nawther cercumsiset sothely in sort with the Jewes, Ne comyn with cristenmen. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 1555 All þe cite in sorte felowis him eftir. *a* 1536 *Songs, Carols*, etc. (E.E.T.S.) 106, I shall you tell a full good sport, How gossippis gader them on a sort. 1590 SHAKS. *Mids. N.* III. ii. 21 As..russet-pated choughes, many in sort.., Seuer themselues.

c. Const. *of* (persons or animals).

Common from *c* 1520 to 1650; now *arch.*

1509 HAWES *Past. Pleasure* XXVII. (Percy Soc.) 129 To beholde so fayre and good a sorte Of goodly knyghtes. 1542 UDALL *Erasm. Apoph.* 106 A sorte of young striepleynges standing about Diogenes. 1598 B. JONSON *Ev. Man in Hum.* I. v, I was requested to supper, last night, by a sort of gallants. *c* 1611 CHAPMAN *Iliad* IV. 460 The Trojans, like a sort of ewes penn'd in a rich man's fold. 1676 *Life Father Sarpi* in *Brent's Counc. Trent* 28 In the Merchants Street there used to meet a sort of gallant and vertuous Gentlemen to recount their Intelligences, one with another. 1687 DRYDEN *Hind & P.* III. 946 A sort of Doves were housed too near their hall.

1828 SCOTT *F. M. Perth* iv, Here are a sort of knaves breaking peace within burgh. 1865 SWINBURNE *Chast.* I. i. (1894) 7 What a sort of men Crowd all about the squares! 1880 WEBB *Goethe's Faust* I. ii. 57 A soldier, with a sort of gallants round him.

† **d.** *All the sort of* (you, etc.), every one. *Obs.*

1535 COVERDALE *Job* xvi. 1 Miserable geuers of comforte are ye, all the sorte of you. 1549 COVERDALE, etc. *Erasm. Par. 1 John* 42 Traunsgressions..doone awaye all the sorte of them by the precious blood of his sonne. 1561 T. HOBY tr. *Castiglione's Courtyer* III. (1577) R vj b, Ye are all the sort of you too great Clearkes in loue.

† **e.** A collection, parcel, set, etc., *of* things.

1563 *Homilies* II. *Agst. Parell Idol.* III. T t iij, By the space of a sort of hundreth yeares. 1584 PEELE *Arraignm. Paris* I. ii, Thou hast a sort of pretty tales in store, Dare say no nymph in Ida woods hath more. 1606 CHAPMAN *Gent. Usher* I. i. 173, I hope youle then stand like a sort of blocks.

18. A (great, good, etc.) number or lot of persons or things; a considerable body or quantity; a multitude.

Common from *c* 1530 to 1600; now *dial.*

c 1475 *Mankind* 257 in *Macro Plays* 10 We xall cum euery-chon, Mo þen a goode sorte. ? 1530 TINDALE *Exp. Matt.* Prol. 5 b, A great sorte are so feable þat they can nether go forwarde in theyr profession & purpose, nor yet stande. 1551 TURNER *Herbal* I. I ij b, If one be set alone..their wil a great sorte within a shorte space growe of that same roote. 1600 HOLLAND *Livy* XXVIII. xi. 676 A great sort were compelled..to repaire againe into their country habitations. 1630 STAPYLTON *Strada's Low C. Wars* v. 117 A great sort were drawn in, with the tunes set to the Psalmes, translated.. into French meeter. 1796 W. H. MARSHALL *Yorksh.* (ed. 2) II. 346 *Sort*, many; 'a good soort', a great many. 1855 [ROBINSON] *Whitby Gloss.* s.v., There was a good soort there.

† **b.** Const. *of* (persons or things). *Obs.*

Common *c* 1550–1630, esp. of persons.

1529 MORE *Dyalogue* I. Wks. 106/2 Of which two thinges I coulde out of..holy saintes workes gether a good sorte. 1535 COVERDALE *Jer.* xliv. 15 All the men.. & a greate sorte off wyues that stode there. 1578 TIMME *Calvin on Gen.* 60 The Lord had..enriched him with an innumerable sorte of benefits. 1600 ABBOT *Jonah* 617 Young and old, male and female of reasonable creatures, to a very great sort of thousands. 1637 R. ASHLEY tr. *Malvezzi's David Persecuted* 257 A great sort of men offend their God in their prosperity, and pray unto him in their adversity. 1681 W. ROBERTSON *Phraseol. Gen.* s.v., A great sort of Ships came from all parts.

19. In the same sense as prec. without qualifying adjective. Now *dial.*

1548 in Strype *Ann. Ref.* (1824) VI. 315 If the world shal turn, A sort of you shal burn. 1564 BECON *Wks.* I. Pref. A v b, Your wisedomes see, what a sort of vnmete men labour dayly to runne hedlong vnto the ministery. 1597 MIDDLETON *Wisd. Solomon* xiv. 26 See what a sort of rebels are in arms. 1823 E. MOOR *Suffolk Words*, A sort of loads. 1825 BROCKETT *N. C. Gloss.*, *Sort*, a lot, a parcel, a number.

† **20.** A (great, etc.) part or portion *of* a number of persons or things. *Obs.*

1566 PAINTER *Pal. Pleas.* II. 55 But the greatest soart of the litle infants were slaine out of hand. 1600 HOLLAND *Livy* V. i, He tooke from them the very-plaiers and actors, whereof a great sort were his own servants. 1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* II. 70 The greater sort of her mercenary sexe. 1669 STURMY *Mariner's Mag., Penalties* 7 If any..Person.. shall permit any sort of the Package therein to be opened, imbezeled, or altered.

† **b.** *By a great sort*, by a great deal; by much. *Obs.*[–1]

1579 J. STUBBES *Gaping Gulf* C vij, More loanes of hundred powndes, forty pounds, twenty pounds,..then were euer payd agayn by a great sort.

III. Manner, method, or way.

21. In phrases with *in*: **a.** Qualified by demonstratives or similar words, as *in this, that, such, (the) like, what*, etc., *sort*. Now *arch.*

Most of these are common from *c* 1550.

1533 BELLENDEN *Livy* II. xi. (S.T.S.) I. 169 Thir tithingis

movit þe faderis & commouns in diuers maner and sortis. 1560 Daus tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 350 b, They can fynde none that wyll go in that sorte. 1577 B. Googe *Heresbach's Husb.* I. (1586) 10, I thought in the like sort the wheele of a mill myght be turned. 1601 J. Wheeler *Treat. Comm.* 75 In what sort can her Maiesty..tolerate or suffer that [etc.]? 1670 Dryden *Conq. Granada* I. i. i, If we treat gallant strangers in this sort, Mankind will shun thé inhospitable court. 1713 *Guardian* No. 1 ¶ 1 Not without some hope of having my Vanity..indulged in the sort abovementioned. 1782 Cowper *Gilpin* 93 His horse, who never in that sort Had handled been before. 1800 Wordsw. *Michael* 207 While in this sort the simple household lived From day to day. 1866 Neale *Sequences & Hymns* 11 But in other sort, that midnight round their watch-fires' blaze they feast. 1871 Freeman *Norm. Conq.* IV. xviii. 287 Stores of corn..men brought together and destroyed in the like sort.

b. With distinguishing adj., as *in good, honest*, etc., *sort*. Now *rare*. † Sometimes with *a, any, some, this*, etc.

(*a*) 1548 Geste *Pr. Masse* 81 Yf the signe be counterfayt and fayned, then nedes must the thing be in semblable sorte whyche is betokened. 1585 T. Washington tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* II. v. 35, I haue not seen..a nation..which studieth more in all honest sorte to obtayne the fauour of straungers. 1600 Hakluyt *Voy.* (1810) III. 568 Wherein is showed in what good sort we liued with our masters. 1634 Sir T. Herbert *Trav.* 79 Hee speedily affronted the Georgians, who receiued him in warlike sort. 1657 Sparrow *Bk. Com. Prayer* (1661) 42 He which prays in due sort, is..made the more attentive. 1713 Swift *Faggot* Wks. 1755 IV. I. 8 Stewards..who in solemn sort Appear with slender wands at court. 1784 Cowper *Task* VI. 377 Each animal..growl'd defiance in such angry sort, As taught him, too, to tremble in his turn. 1813 Scott *Trierm.* II. xviii, The champions, arm'd in martial sort. 1863 Patmore *Angel in Ho.* II. I. x, According to such nuptial sort As may subsist in the holy court.

(*b*) 1592 Kyd *Sp. Trag.* II. i. 100 Giue me notice in some secret sort. 1594 Marlowe & Nashe *Dido* I. i, To wear Their bow and quiver in this modest sort. 1642 D. Rogers *Naaman* 29 Jehoram,..who sent a cursed messenger before him..(met in a holy sort before God in the judgement of famine). *a* 1704 T. Brown *Two Oxford Scholars* (1730) I. 9 He did not know how to maintain himself and his family in any tolerable sort.

c. *In some sort*, in a certain undefined or unknown way; to some extent or degree. Freq. in parenthetic use.

1556 *Aurelio & Isab.* (1608) H iij, The ladies leaste experimentede and wittey be in some sorte the chasteste. 1597 Morley *Introd. Mus.* Ded., To notifie vnto your selfe in some sort the entire loue..which I beare vnto you. 1615 W. Lawson *Country Housew. Gard.* (1626) 7 The Sunne (in some sort) is the life of the world. 1683 H. More *Antid. Ath.* Pref., For it is the same Numen in us that moves all things in some sort or other. 1711 Steele *Spect.* No. 52 ¶ 3 Our personal Deformities in some sort by you recorded to all Posterity. 1780 *Mirror* No. 97, Having seen Paris,.. she thinks that she is authorised, and, in some sort, obliged to speak French. 1865 Dickens *Mut. Fr.* I. vi, She was named after, or in some sort related to, the Abbey at Westminster. 1894 J. T. Fowler *Adamnan* Introd. 17 The Christian hierarchy..in some sort succeeded to the Druids and the Brehons.

d. *In a sort*, in some sort or manner (see prec.); occas. with implication of inefficiency or inadequacy. † Also *in sort*.

1585 in *Eng. Hist. Rev.* Jan. (1913) 55 *note*, So many reasons..did in a sort work in me a confirmation [etc.]. 1592 Kyd *Sp. Trag.* III. v. 17, I am in a sorte sorie for thee. *a* 1619 Fotherby *Atheom.* II. xi. § 5 (1622) 319 Which carried him vp, in a sorte, into Heauen. *c* 1643 Ld. Herbert *Autobiog.* (1824) 62 In Law also the Judge is in a sort superior to his King. 1710 Steele *Tatler* No. 14 ¶ 2 The Criminal..was always sure he stood before his Country, and in a Sort before a Parent of it. 1788 *Pict. Tour thro' Pts. Europe* 3 A garden..wherein the enchantments of that of Armida seem in sort to be realized. 1825 Scott *Jrnl.* 6 Dec., H.M...shoots and fishes in a sort even to this day. 1874 Blackie *Self-Cult.* 72 Our only chance of becoming great in a sort is by participation in the greatness of the universe.

† **e.** *In no sort*, in no way, to no extent, not at all. *Obs.*

1570-6 Lambarde *Peramb. Kent* (1826) 215 They are in no sorte to be hearde, seeing that by no means they may iustly claime any manner of right in that lande. *a* 1625 Jas. I *Ps.* xxiii. 4 Yea, though I through death's shadow walke, Yet feare I in no sort. 1676 Hale *Contempl.* I. 5 The consideration of our latter end doth in no sort make our lives the shorter. 1708 Swift *Sacram. Test* Wks. 1755 II. I. 131 These are, in no sort, a number to carry any point. 1756 C. Lucas *Ess. Waters* III. 70 They will in no sort mix.

† **f.** *In sort*, followed by *as* or *that*. *Obs.*

1548 Geste *Pr. Masse* 83 Gelasius..impugneth the sayd transubstanciation as..uncredyble in sorte as followeth. 1594 Carew *Huarte's Exam. Wits* VI. (1596) 84 To remaine ..affixed, in sort as the sparrowes are attached to birdlime. 1605 Bacon *Adv. Learn.* II. 91 In all causes the first tale possesseth much, in sorte, that the preiudice thereby wrought will bee hardly remooued.

† **g.** *In all sorts*, altogether, completely. *Obs.*—1

1559 in Tytler *Hist. Scot.* (1864) III. 395 Your good mind, ..which as it is in all sorts undeserved on my side, so am I the more affected unto you therefor. 1611 Cotgr., *Totalement*, totally,..throughly, in all sorts, altogether.

22. *After this, what*, etc., *sort, after a* (...) *sort*, in the preceding senses.

(*a*) 1551 Robinson tr. *More's Utopia* I. (1895) 61 After what sorte hooredome..maye be lawfull. 1569 J. Sanford tr. *Agrippa's Van. Artes* 15 b, After this sorte the Greeke Historiographers..would attribute al thinges to themselves. 1577 B. Googe *Heresbach's Husb.* II. (1586) 57 b, The ordering of them is after one sort. 1604 E. G[rimstone] *D'Acosta's Hist. Indies* IV. iv. 212 They drawe golde in those partes, after three sorts.

(*b*) 1551 Robinson tr. *More's Utopia* II. (1895) 132 But nowe the houses be curiously builded, after a gorgiouse and gallaunt sort. 1577 Hanmer *Anc. Eccl. Hist., Euseb.* I. vi. (1663) 7 It remaineth that we begin after a compendious sort from the coming of our Saviour Christ in the Flesh. 1592 Timme *Ten Eng. Lepers* A iij, The generall good.. hath moved me, though after a plaine and rude sort, to publish the same. 1857 Susanna Winkworth tr. *Life Tauler* 67 The Master..received him after a most friendly sort. *a* 1894 Christina Rossetti *Venus' Looking-glass* Poems (1904) 289 Around whose head white doves rose.. and cooed after their tender sort.

(*c*) 1557 N. T. (Geneva) *Heb.* xi. 19 Death: from whence he receaued him also after a sort. 1581 E. Campion in *Conf.* III. (1584) Z, Man is also the offerer, after a sort. 1610 Holland *Camden's Brit.* (1637) 632 After a sort he surrendered up his Crowne vnto him. 1671 H. M. tr. *Erasm. Colloq.* 7 Not so well as I desire; truly I am well after a sort. 1724 A. Collins *Gr. Chr. Relig.* 153 The first place of Jeremiah was quoted,..and is still extant after a sort. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* II. II. ii, Captain Dampmartin,..who loves the Reign of Liberty, after a sort. 1879 S. C. Bartlett *Egypt to Pal.* xii. 267 Into which the hand, with shut fingers, will fit after a sort.

† **23. a.** *Of this sort*, in this way or manner. *Sc. Obs. rare.*

1549 *Compl. Scot.* vi. 38 Of this sort i did spaceir vp ande doune but sleipe. *Ibid.* ix. 79 Of this sort god turnit the hazard of fortoune.

† **b.** So *On such* (*a*) *sort, on this sort*. *Obs.*

1557 *Tottel's Misc.* (Arb.) 136 Happy is he, that liues on such a sort: That nedes not feare such tonges of false report. 1585-6 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* Ser. I. IV. 50 The saidis personis..on sic sorte persewis the saidis complenaris as thay dar not remane at thair awne duelling houssis. 1597 Beard *Theatre God's Judgem.* (1612) 191 Permitting him to plague him on this sort, for his amendment. *a* 1632 T. Taylor *God's Judgem.* I. II. iv. (1642) 170 But to come to the fact, it was on this sort.

† **c.** *At all sorts*, at all points. *Obs.*—1

1612 W. Shute tr. *Fougasses' Venice* IV. vii. II. 13 A thousand Archers from Candy, and another thousand armed at all sortes from the Country of Albania.

† **Sort,** *sb.*[3] *Obs. rare.* Also **sortt, soortt.** [Perh. identical with prec.] Some measure or weight of figs and raisins.

By Rogers (*Agric. & Prices* IV. 668-9) considered to be equivalent to three frails.

1438-9 *Durham Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 70 It. in ij Sortez ficuum et racemorum. *Ibid.* 77 Summa rec., ij Sortez et xx lb. 1453-4 *Ibid.* 289 In j soortt ficuum. 1481-90 *Howard Househ. Bks.* (Roxb.) 351 Item, for a sort of fygges, xij. s.

Sort (sɔ̄t), *v.*[1] Also 5 **soortyn,** 5-7 **sorte,** 6 **sourt,** 9 *dial.* **soort,** etc. [Partly ad. L. *sortīrī* to divide or obtain by lot, or OF. *sortir* (mod. F. *sortir*, = It. *sortire*, Pg. *sortir*; cf. Pg. and Sp. *sortear*) :—pop. L. **sortīre*, f. L. *sors, sort-* lot: see Sort *sb.*[1] In most senses, however, closely related to Sort *sb.*[2], and perh. partly repr. F. *assortir* Assort *v.*]

I. †**1.** *trans.* To allot, apportion, or assign. Usu. const. *to, for*, or with dat. of person. *Obs.*

c 1374 Chaucer *Troylus* v. 1827 And forth he wente, shortly for to telle, Ther as Mercurie sorted him to dwelle. 1412-20 Lydg. *Chron. Troy* III. 440 Of our expleit þe troupe to reporte, For whiche part Mars list þe feld to sorte. 1561 Norton & Sackv. *Gorboduc* IV. ii, What cruell destenie, What frowarde fate hath sorted vs this chaunce? 1583 Melbancke *Philotimus* K j, How many sporting houres were sorted to the Astronomer C. Gallus. 1599 B. Jonson *Cynthia's Rev.* v. iii. [xi], How well Diana can distinguish times? And sort her censures? keeping to herself The doom of gods, leaving the rest to us!

† **b.** To dispose, ordain, order (events). Also *absol. Obs. rare.*

1592 Wyrley *Armorie* 108 Thus coy fortune sourts, Some now aloft and then cast downe we see. 1594 Shaks. *Rich. III*, II. iii. 36 All may be well; but if God sort it so, 'Tis more then we deserue or I expect. 1596 — *Merch. V.* V. 132 But God sort all.

† **2.** *intr.* To exercise or perform divination. *Obs.*—1

c 1450 *Merlin* ii. 39 Bringe hethir thy counsell, and the clerkes that sorted of this toure.

† **3.** *trans.* To distribute by lot. *Obs. rare.*

1513 Douglas *Æneid* III. viii. 7 We sort our airis, and chesis rowaris ilk deill. 1582 Stanyhurst *Æneis* I. (Arb.) 34 Shee..toyls too pioners by drawcut lotterye sorteth.

† **4.** To obtain as one's lot; to share in, partake of. *Obs. rare.*

1474 Caxton *Chesse* IV. ii, Thus as in going out first into four poyntes he sorteth the nature of knyghtes. 1483 — *Gold. Leg.* 209/2 He hath ronne thrououte alle the world and with his prechyng hath purged it and yet he hath not sorted [L. *sortitus est*] heuen.

† **5.** To arrive at, attain to, result in, or reach (an effect, end, etc.). Cf. sense 7 a. *Obs.*

a 1548 Hall *Chron., Edw. IV*, 214 It was almost incredible to se what effect this new imaginacion..sorted and toke. 1593 Peele *Edw. I*, VI. vi, When the war of rebels sorts an end, None might be prince..But such a one as was their countryman. 1612 Shelton *Quix.* I. III. xiii. (1620) I. 255 Bidding her to hope firmly, that our good iust Desires would sort a wish'd and happy End. 1656 W. Coles *Art Simpl.* 4 Their Medicines oft-times sort not their wished, but sometimes contrary effects.

† **6.** *intr.* Of events, etc.: To come about, to fall or turn out, in a certain way or with a certain result. *Obs.*

c 1477 Caxton *Jason* 113 Sorceries..and..enchantements, wherof thauenture of the shippe sorted as sayd is. 1589 Greene *Tullies Love* Wks. (Grosart) VII. 193 Promising all shoulde sort according vnto Lentulus minde. 1598 Grenewey *Tacitus, Ann.* XV. vi. (1622) 230 That to the Romans many things had sorted luckily, and some to the Parthians. 1609 Dekker *Ravens Almanack* Wks. (Grosart) IV. 241 Which sorted according to their expectations. 1626 Bacon *Sylva* § 317 The Experiment sorted in this Manner. 1653 H. Cogan tr. *Pinto's Trav.* XXVII. 106 We had recourse to Mercy, which sorted well for us.

† **b.** Similarly with *out*. *Obs.*

1581 Rich *Farew.* (1846) 130 Seyng the matter sorted out as she looked for. 1593 Marlowe *Edw. II*, II. i, If all things sort out, as I hope they will. *a* 1637 N. Ferrar tr. *Valdes' 110 Consid.* (1638) 15 Having seen that..my determinations sorted out contrary to that which I determined. *a* 1656 Ussher *Ann.* (1658) 158 If things sorted out in this war, as he hoped they would.

† **c.** To come to effect; to be successful. *Obs.*

1613 Purchas *Pilgrimage* II. x. I. 137 Intending a plague to the men,..if their working had sorted. 1626 Bacon *Sylva* § 351 It was tried in a Blowne Bladder..and it sorted not. *Ibid.* § 380 Which is a thing of great profit, if it would sort: But vpon Triall..there followed no Effect.

† **7. a.** To come or attain *to* an end, conclusion, effect, etc. *Obs.* (Common *c* 1575–1650.)

1543-4 *Act* 35 *Hen. VIII*, c. 10 Whiche good and profitable purpose can not sorte to conclusion, nor take good effecte, without the ayde..of parliament. *a* 1548 Hall *Chron., Hen. VII* (1809) 498 The third request..never sorted to any effect or conclusion. 1582 N. Lichefield tr. *Castanheda's Conq. E. Ind.* I. 16 b, Their mischeuous enterprise, which had bene likely to haue..sorted to a sorrowful hap and euent. 1618 *Weakest goeth to Wall* I iij, I will forbeare my knowledge 'till I see To what effect this cause will sort unto. 1659 H. Thorndike *Wks.* (1846) II. 540 If there were nothing to help the tenor of such instruments, things contracted would hardly sort to effect.

† **b.** To end in coming or leading *to* a specified result. *Obs.*

1586 A. Day *Eng. Secretary* II. (1625) 91 Here is head, wit, mind and discretion, all sorting to one thing. 1598 Florio To Rdr. b ij, Let..the reapers of the fruites iudge betwixt vs whose paines hath sorted to best perfection. 1620 E. Blount *Horæ Subs.* 216 Euery mans own Method commonly sorteth best to his owne profit. 1624 Bp. Mountagu *Immed. Addr.* 51 Were our desires granted vs,..it would sort vnto our hurt and vtter vndoing.

† **c.** To turn out so as to answer or be agreeable *to* one's wish, desire, etc. *Obs.*

1592 *Soliman & Pers.* II. i. 238 Gentlemen, each thing hath sorted to our wish. 1606 G. Woodcock *Hist. Iustine* I. 5 Thinking that..the thing would so come to passe, as..afterward sorted to their desired wish. 1650 Vaughan *Anthroposophia* 2 These Indeavours sorting not to my purpose, I quitted this Booke-businesse.

† **d.** To fall *to* a person as a right or duty. *Obs.*

1622 Drayton *Poly-olb.* xxii. 634 To Salsbury it sorts the palm away to bear. *a* 1677 Barrow *Serm.* (1687) I. 142 The duties which upon that occasion are signified to concern people then, do no less now sort to us.

8. *trans.* To answer or correspond to, to befit or suit. Now *rare.*

1587 Golding *De Mornay* Ep. Ded., Well sorting your high place and dignitie. 1603 Knolles *Hist. Turks* (1621) 360 Which not sorting his desire, the matter was again brought to parle. 1615 Brathwait *Strappado* (1878) 126 To imitate all formes, shapes, habits, tyres Suting the Court, and sorting his desires. 1882 H. S. Holland *Logic & Life* (1885) 12 Certain phenomena..which no other name suits or sorts.

II. 9. *trans.* To arrange (things, etc.) according to kind or quality, or after some settled order or system; to separate and put into different sorts or classes; to classify; to assort.

c 1338 [see Sorting *vbl. sb.*]. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 465/1 Soortyn, or settyn yn a soorte, *sortior.* 1482 *Rolls of Parlt.* VI. 221/2 That the Samon shuld be wele and truly pakked and sorted in the same vessells. 1483 *Act* 1 *Ric. III*, c. 8 Preamble, Greate quantite of Wolles..which ben sorted the better from the worse, barbed and clakked. 1523 Fitzherb. *Husb.* § 134 Than sorte the trees, the polles by them-selfe, the myddel sorte by them-selfe. 1581 Mulcaster *Positions* xxxvii. (1887) 155 The maister..is no absolute potentate.. to sorte mens children, as he liketh best. 1605 Heywood *Know not me* Wks. 1874 I. 285 Past eight a clock, and neither ware sorted, Nor shop swept. 1684 in *3rd Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* 427/1 Wee have sorted what papers I could at present find. 1718 *Free-thinker* No. 11. 71 Letters of every Kind come..which I sort according to their different Complexions. 1765 *Phil. Trans.* LV. 206 Mr. Rouse..made a machine for sorting woollen thread upon the same principle with this. 1840 Marryat *Poor Jack* xlv, I found her..busy sorting a lot of old bottles. 1888 F. Hume *Mme. Midas* I. ii, When the office was empty, Sliver would go on sorting the scrip on his table.

absol. 1625 B. Jonson *Staple of N.* I. ii, They mannage all at home, and sort, and file, And seale the newes, and issue them. 1847 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* VIII. I. 7 The breed..was left to chance or the management of shepherds, with whom it could not be a matter of interest to sort or improve.

b. Const. with advs. or preps., as *asunder, in* or *into* (sets or classes, etc.), etc.

1530 Palsgr. 725, I sorte a sonder the good from the badde, *je esplusche.* 1533 More *Answ. Poysoned Bk.* Wks. 1087/2 Al whych things I wil sort into theyr places. 1608 Willet *Hexapla Exod.* 604 The other two curtains were sorted fiue and sixe together. 1644 Milton *Areop.* (Arb.) 45 Those confused seeds which were impos'd on Psyche as an incessant labour to cull out, and sort asunder. 1688 *Lett. conc. Present State Italy* 99 The People are sorted in several Fraternities. 1885 *Manch. Exam.* 16 Mar. 5/2 A power of analysis..which would equip a mathematician is requisite to sort the material into order.

† **c.** To separate or distinguish (*from* something else). *Obs. rare.*

1551 T. Wilson *Logike* (1580) 61 b, We open the doubtfulnesse..of some woorde or sentence, by makyng a distinction ..and seuerally sortyng suche thynges, as then were thought to be euill set together. 1587 Fleming *Contn. Holinshed* III. 1349/2, I meane so as physicke is now taken separatelie from surgerie, and that part which onelie vseth the hand as it is sorted from the apothecarie. 1599 Shaks. *Hen. V*, IV. vii. 77 That we may wander ore this bloody field,..To sort our Nobles from our common men.

10. To place in a class or sort; to give a place to; to classify. Also const. *after*, *among*, *as*, *together*.

1486 *Bk. St. Albans*, *Hawking* d iij, Thay [bells] be passing goode, for thay be wele sortid, well sownded. 1523 Skelton *Gard. Laurel* 1280 Why shulde she take shame That her goodly name..Shulde be set and sortyd, To be matriculate With ladyes of astate? 1581 Mulcaster *Positions* xxxvi. (1887) 135 That wittes well sorted be most ciuill. 1595 *Locrine* I. i. 136 If thou follow sacred virtue's lore Thou shalt be..Sorted among the glorious happy ones. 1613 Chapman *Maske Inns Crt.* Plays 1873 III. 92 After them were sorted two Cars Triumphall. 1626 Bacon *Sylva* § 340 Mosse..may be better sorted as a Rudiment of Germination. 1687 Tillotson *Barrow's Wks.* I. Pref., The eight following Sermons are likewise sorted together. 1768–74 Tucker *Lt. Nat.* (1834) I. 124 Sorting them together in a manner not done before.

b. Const. *with*.

1599 Davies *Immort. Soul* I. iii. (1714) 20 When she sorts Things present with Things past. 1607 *Scholast. Disc. agst. Antichrist* I. i. 50 The Crosse sorteth vs with the Papists, as much as the Garland sorted the Christians with the Pagans. 1669 Sturmy *Mariner's Mag.* VII. iv. 8 This Dial..should be sorted rather with the Æquinoctial Dials, than with the Horizontal. *a* 1703 Burkitt *On N. T.* Mark xv. 37 It had been a sufficient disparagement to our Blessed Saviour to have been sorted with the best of men. 1876 Geo. Eliot *Dan. Der.* I, A bony, yellow, crab-like hand.., a hand easy to sort with the square gaunt face.

11. With *out*. To take *out*, remove, or separate (certain sorts from others).

1534 More *Comf. agst. Trib.* II. Wks. 1177/2 The tother kynde is thys whych I rehersed second, and sorttyng out the tother twayne, haue kepte it for the last. 1602 Dent *Pathw. Heaven* 259 Thirdly, let there be sorted out all Hypocrites ..and cold Christians. 1728 Chambers *Cycl.* s.v. *Herring*, These..are carefully sorted out. 1790 Burke *Fr. Rev.* 187 They will sort out the good from the evil. 1868 Lockyer *Guillemin's Heavens* (ed. 3) 393 There has not yet been time to sort out the real from the apparent nebulæ.

b. To choose or select in this way. Now *rare* or *Obs.*

1553 Bale *Vocacyon* in *Harl. Misc.* (Malh.) I. 330 God sorted me out, and appointed me from my mothers wombe. 1576 Fleming *Panopl. Epist.* 441 You shall viewe..comely shapes,..suche as be chosen, picked, and sorted out for the nonce. 1606 Day *Ile Gulls* I. iii, Sort out but fit time and opportunity. 1818 Scott *Hrt. Midl.* xxi, Few folk but mysell could hae sorted ye out a seat like this.

c. To divide or separate *into* smaller parts, etc. *Obs. rare.*

1546 Bale *Eng. Votaries* I. (1560) 12 For of [= by] them.. were the Iles of the Gentiles sorted out into regions. *c* 1582 T. Digges in *Archaeol.* XI. 230 That waste vnder the castle, which beinge sorted out into convenient streetes [etc.].

d. To arrange according to sort.

1713 *Guardian* No. 120 (1756) II. 143 Her faculties are employed in shuffling, cutting, dealing, and sorting out a pack of cards. 1852 Mrs. Stowe *Uncle Tom's C.* xii. 103 The other lady, sorting out some worsteds on her lap. 1862 Spencer *First Princ.* II. xxi. § 165 (1875) 468 The waves are ever sorting-out and separating the mixed materials against which they break.

12. *refl.* a. To form sets or groups by some process of combination or separation.

1570–6 Lambarde *Peramb. Kent* (1826) 338 A Torneament ..in which the English men, of a set purpose,..sorted themselves against the strangers. 1601 Holland *Pliny* II. 238 For the most part they sort themselues by couples like man and wife. 1692 R. L'Estrange *Josephus, Antiq.* II. v. (1733) 34 They had their times of talking, and sorting themselves together. 1726 De Foe *Hist. Devil* I. x. (1840) 132 The people necessarily sorted themselves into families and tribes after the confusion of languages. 1760–72 H. Brooke *Fool of Qual.* (1809) IV. 55 The crowd had sorted themselves, the principals..into one groupe, the young men into another, and the fair maidens into another.

b. To associate or consort *with* another or others. (Cf. 19.) Also with *among(st)*. Now *dial.* (freq. in 17th cent.).

1579 Tomson *Calvin's Serm. Tim.* 1051/1 We see that S. Pauls meaning was by this word Common faith, to sort himself quietly with the rest. 1592 *Conspir. for Pretended Reform.* 1 They..willingly sorted themselues in familiaritie with such. 1642 D. Rogers *Naaman* 36 Shall I..sort my selfe with such as are enemies? 1691 Wood *Ath. Oxon.* I. 23 He found out Will. Tyndale in Germany, with whom for a time he sorted himself. *a* 1713 Ellwood *Autobiog.* (1714) 7, I always sorted myself with Persons of Ingenuity, Temperance, and Sobriety. 1877 in Peacock *Manley Gloss.*

13. To adapt, to fit, to make conformable *to* or *with* some thing or person. Now *rare* or *Obs.*

(*a*) 1561 in Tytler *Hist. Scot.* (1864) III. 147 In sorting your entertainment to every person. 1595 Goodwine *Contin. Blanchardyn* (1890) 216 It hath pleased God to sorte our haps to our harts contentments. 1619 W. Sclater *Exp. 1 Thess.* (1629) 509 Gods precepts..must be sorted to their seasons. 1822 Ainslie *Land of Burns* 235 My auld crazy voice is better sorted to hammeart lilts than sic fine springs.

(*b*) 1591 Shaks. *Two Gent.* I. iii. 63 My will is something sorted with his wish. 1607 Dekker & Webster *Sir T. Wyatt* D ij b, My lookes (my loue) is sorted with my heart. 1640 tr. *Verdere's Rom. of Rom.* II. 167 If I were at any time to bow unto the affection of a mortall wight, I should never chuse any other to sort my greatnesse withall.

† **b.** To bring *to* an end, effect, etc. *Obs.*

1591 *Troub. Raigne K. John* (1611) 38 Now euery thing is sorted to this end, Let's in. 1597 *Certain Prayers* in *Liturg. Serv. Eliz.* (1847) 677 Lord,..who by thy mighty power sortest to what effect thou wilt the counsels and actions of all men. 1632 Lithgow *Trav.* III. 117 The diuine Maiestie doth swey the moments of things, and sorteth them in peremptory manner to..vnlooked for effects.

† **14.** To choose, or select (time, opportunity, etc.) as fitting or suitable. *Obs.*

Freq. passing into the sense of 'to arrange, contrive, find, etc.'

1591 Shaks. 1 *Hen. VI*, II. iii. 27 I'll sort some other time to visit you. 1592 Kyd *Sp. Trag.* IV. iv. 103 They had sorted leasure, To take aduantage..Upon my Sonne. 1624 Heywood *Gunaik.* iv. 193 The young man's father, who sorted opportunitie to talke with his sonne. 1634 — & Brome *Lanc. Witches* II. H.'s Wks. 1874 IV. 192 What times hath she sorted for these journeyes?

† **b.** To choose (a thing or person) from others.

1591 Shaks. *Two Gent.* III. ii. 92 Let vs into the City presently To sort some Gentlemen, well skil'd in Musicke. 1592 — *Rom. & Jul.* IV. ii. 34 To helpe me sort such needfull ornaments, As you thinke fit to furnish me. 1638 Ford *Lady's Trial* I. i, Ere now You might have sorted me in your resolves, Companion of your fortunes.

15. To furnish, provide, or supply (a person, etc.) *with* (or *of*) something. In later use only *Sc.*

1598 Barrett *Theor. Warres* I. i. 4 The strength of the Battaile is the armed Pike, so they be equally sorted with Harquebuze and Musket. *Ibid.* II. i. 26 How would you haue a Companie sorted with weapons? 1600 Dymmok *Ireland* (1843) 14 It is well sorted with woodes and playnes. 1774 Keith *Farmer's Ha'* xxvii, He tells them he's weel sorted now Of a' thing gude, and cheap, and new. 1825 Jamieson *Suppl.* s.v., I can sort ye wi' a knife. 1898 Ld. E. Hamilton *Mawkin* xv. 200, I warrant we'll sort you with another, and as good a yin too.

16. *Sc.* and *north.* a. (Also with *up*.) To arrange or put in order; to put to rights in some respect.

The leading variations of sense are more fully illustrated in the *Eng. Dial. Dict.*

(*a*) 1827 Carlyle *Germ. Rom.* IV. 45 Mine host has already in my presence begun sorting the apartment as if I were gone. 1833 Loudon *Encycl. Archit.* § 81 The whole [roofing] to be laid with a sufficient lap, and to be carefully sorted in courses (laid so as that the joints may form regular lines). 1876 Robinson *Whitby Gloss.* s.v., 'Get all your things soorted up,' collected together.

absol. 1891 N. Dickson *Kirk Beadle* 109 The preacher returned to the church and found the beadle busy 'sorting up'.

(*b*) 1816 Scott *Antiq.* xliii, The provost's gar'd the beacon light on the Halket-head be sorted up (that suld hae been sorted half a year syne). 1876 Whitehead *Daft Davie*, etc. 121 The wick needed sorting, and the oil was low. 1877 Fraser *Wigtown* 62 Belsher..was once engaged sorting the lock of a cell in the Prison.

(*c*) 1816 Scott *Antiq.* xv, The powny hasna gane abune thirty mile the day;—Jock was sorting him up as I came ower by. 1816 — *Old Mort.* xxxvii, 'Ye may rely on your naig being weel sorted,' said Cuddie; 'I ken weel what belangs to suppering a horse'. 1868 Verney *Stone Edge* vii, Lydia was out in the farmyard 'sorting' the cows herself.

(*d*) 1817 *Lintoun Green* 166 Nor he is here tae sort me right. 1866 Miss Mulock *Noble Life* iv. 61 She lifted up the poor child, tenderly and carefully—shook his pillows and 'sorted' him. 1890 Nisbet *Bail up!* xxviii, Let me sort you up a little.

b. To deal effectively with (a person) by way of punishment, repression, etc.

1815 Scott *Guy M.* xxxiii, Bid them bring up the prisoner —I trow I'll sort him. 1835– in Sc. and north. dial. glossaries and texts. 1878 A. R. Hope *My Schoolboy Fr.* 265 'I will sort this Ghost,' said Kennedy.

17. In commercial use: To bring *up* to the usual stock or quantity.

1880 *Daily News* 15 Nov. 3/5 The orders..are merely to enable them to sort up sizes.

III. 18. *intr.* To suit, fit, or agree; to be in harmony or conformity. Const. *with*, † *to*, or † *together*. Now *arch.*

(*a*) 1590 Shaks. *Mids. N.* v. i. 55 That is some Satire keene and criticall, Not sorting with a nuptiall ceremonie. 1599 — *Hen. V*, IV. i. 63 My name is Pistol call'd. *King.* It sorts well with your fiercenesse. 1610 W. Folkingham *Art of Survey* I. x. 33 Dry Marle sortes with moist Soiles. *a* 1652 Brome *Queenes Exch.* I. i. Wks. 1873 III. 460 Their Petulances sort not with this place. 1699 Pepys in *Diary & Corr.* (1879) VI. 215 Of which book it would greatly sort with my Collection that I had a copy. 1709 Pope *Ess. Crit.* 322 For diff'rent styles with diff'rent subjects sort. 1780 Cowper *Progr. Error* 446 The text that sorts not with his darling whim, Though plain to others, is obscure to him. 1827 Hare *Guesses* (1859) 4 The vastness and awfulness of a mere sea-view would ill sort with the other parts of the..prospect. 1858 H. Bushnell *Nature & Supernat.* xi. (1864) 333 The miracles sort with the person of Christ and his mission. 1891 R. W. Church *Oxford Movem.* xi. 178 However ill it might sort with the current language of Protestant controversy.

(*b*) 1590 Greene *Orl. Fur.* Wks. (Rtldg.) 92 Mine emblem sorteth to another sense. 1604 Bp. W. Barlow *Sum Conf. Hampton Crt.* 27 They appeared before his Maiestie, in Turky gownes, not in their Scholastical habites, sorting to their degrees. 1652 *Sir W. Rawleigh's Ghost* Pref., A careless and pleasurable life, best sorting to our own desires and sensuality. 1709 Mrs. Manley *Secret Mem.* (1720) II. 248 Yet sorting to his Humour, we will not ask thee to give him too diffusive a Brightness.

(*c*) 1600 Holland *Livy* xliv. xxiv. 1185 A free citie and a King were,.. by nature, enemies that possibly could not sort together. 1641 Milton *Reform.* II. Wks. 1851 III. 58 Wee see that our Ecclesiall and Politicall choyses may consent and sort as well together..as Christians, and Freeholders.

† **b.** Without const. To be fitting; to accord; to be in place, to exist. *Obs.*

1593 Shaks. 3 *Hen. VI*, II. i. 209 The Queene is comming with a puissant Hoast..*War.* Why then it sorts, braue Warriors, let's away. 1606 — *Tr. & Cr.* I. i. 110 *Æne.*..Wherefore not a field? *Troy.* Because not there; this womans answer sorts. For womanish it is to be from thence. 1633 Ford *Broken H.* I. i, Some one, he is assur'd, may now or then (If opportunity but sort) preuaile. 1667 Milton *P. L.* VIII. 384 Among unequals what societie Can sort, what harmonie or true delight?

c. *Sc.* To come to an agreement or settlement; to come to terms (*on* something).

1685 Peden in Walker *Life* (1827) 95 If ye be pleased with the Wares,..he and ye will soon sort on the Price. 1814 Scott *Wav.* xviii, I cannot tell you precisely how they sorted; but they agreed sae right that [etc.].

19. To associate, consort, go in company *with* others or *together*. (Cf. 12 b.) Also with *among* and without const. Now *rare* or *dial.*

(*a*) 1592 Shaks. *Ven. & Ad.* 689 Sometime he runs among a flock of sheep..,And sometime sorteth with a herd of deer. 1612 Bacon *Ess., Par. & Childr.* (Arb.) 274 The illiberality of Parents..towards their children..makes them sort with meane companie. 1685 Burnet tr. *More's Utopia* 37 If I should sort with another kind of Ministers. 1720 De Foe *Capt. Singleton* xiii. (1840) 228 He went over to Captain Avery, and sorted with his people. 1784 Cowper *Tiroc.* 114 Too careless often as our years proceed, What friends we sort with, or what books we read. 1805–6 Cary *Dante, Inf.* xv. 120 A company, with whom I may not sort, Approaches. 1886 Elworthy *W. Somerset Word-bk.* 695, I never don't try vor to sort wi' my betters.

transf. 1695 Woodward *Nat. Hist. Earth* IV. (1723) 193 Nor do Metalls only sort and herd with Metalls in the Earth.

(*b*) 1601 Holland *Pliny* I. 233 That willingly these little creatures will not sort together vnlesse they were countrimen as it were. *Ibid.* 278 What fowles soeuer haue crooked clawes sort not together in flocks. 1672 Eachard *Hobbs' State Nat.* 40 Men are apt to sort, to herd. 1709 Mrs. Manley *Secret Mem.* (1720) II. 253 Thus adorn'd,.. what genteel..Company would suffer him to sort among them? 1819 W. Tennant *Papistry Storm'd* (1827) 77 He did dislike baith Pape and Deil; (Thir twa fhegither sortit weil).

† **Sort,** *v.*[2] *Sc. Obs.* [ad. F. *sortir*, of doubtful origin.] *intr.* To sally out; to make a sortie.

1572 Bannatyne *Jrnl.* (1806) 248 They of Edinburgh cvme furth hors and fute..; and they of Leyth also sorted. 1584 Hudson *Du Bartas' Judith* vi. (1608) 93 The warriours strong, That kept the towne, now sorted forth in throng. *a* 1600 *Hist. Jas. Sext* (Bannatyne Club) 25 Thay sortit from Hammilton upon the 13 day of Maij to pas towart Dumbartan. *Ibid.* 98 The same was so notifeit to the people of Edinburgh, that thair horsemen sortit.

So·rtable, *a. Obs.* exc. *dial.* Also 6 sortible, 9 *dial.* soortable. [a. F. *sortable* (15th cent.), or f. Sort *v.*[1] + -able.]

† **1.** Suitable, appropriate; fit or befitting. Usu. const. *to* (or *unto*). *Obs.*

1586 Ferne *Blaz. Gentrie* 339 To serue him in anye seruice or office,..suche as be sortible to his degree. 1603 Holland *Plutarch's Mor.* 1329 The Moone; which they seeing to be so subject to growing and decreasing,..thought ..to be sortable unto the mutability of the Dæmons kinde. 1621 Sanderson *Serm.* I. 196 There are generous and ingenuous and liberal employments, sortable to the greatest births and educations. *a* 1663 Sir K. Digby *Priv. Mem.* (1827) 17 Recreations..sortable to their age. 1818 Scott *Rob Roy* xxxiv, It's a pity his Excellency is a thought eldern. The like o' yourself, or my son Hamish, wad be mair sortable in point of years.

2. *north. dial.* Capable of going together.

1641 Best *Farm. Bks.* (Surtees) 110 In the choise of good deales,..that they bee sortable, i. e. all of one length, all of one breadth, and all of one thicknesse. 1876 Robinson *Whitby Gloss.* 180/1 *Soortable*, accordant or companionable.

† **3.** Of a cargo: Properly assorted; composed of suitable sorts. *Obs.*

1727 De Foe *Tour Gt. Brit., Scotl.* 90 The Scots Merchants are at no Loss how to make up sortable Cargoes to send with their Ships to the Plantations. 1729 — *Eng. Tradesm.* viii. (1732) I. 84 When merchants send adventures to our British colonies, 'tis usual with them to make up to each factor what they call a *sortable cargo*. 1818 Scott *Rob Roy* xxvi, The facilities which Glasgow possessed of making up *sortable* cargoes for that market.

Hence † **So·rtably** *adv. Obs.*

1607 in Plomer *Abstr. fr. Wills Eng. Printers* (1903) 42 If..Nicholas Bourne shall..take so manie books..sorteablie thorough out all my warehouses as they shall arise. 1608 Hieron *Defence* III. 7 Shall not he who is a coheir with Christ at his table carry himselfe sortably to the said person of coheir? 1611 Cotgr., *Sortablement*, sortably, fitly.

† **So·rtal,** *a. Obs.*[–1] [f. Sort *sb.*[2] + -al.] Of or belonging to a particular sort or kind.

1690 Locke *Hum. Und.* III. iii. (1695) 231 That abstract Idea, which the General, or *Sortal* (if I may have leave so to call it from *Sort*, as I do *General* from *Genus*) Name stands for.

† **Sortance.** *Obs.*[–1] [f. Sort *v.*[1] + -ance.] Agreement, correspondence.

1597 Shaks. 2 *Hen. IV*, IV. i. 51 Here doth hee wish his Person, with such Powers As might hold sortance with his Qualitie, The which hee could not leuie.

‖ **Sortant,** *a. rare*–[0]. [F., pr. pple. of *sortir* Sort *v.*[2]] Of an angle: = Salient *a.* 4.

1842 Gwilt *Archit.* Gloss., *Sortant Angle*, the same as *Salient Angle*.

Sortation (sɔrtēi·ʃən). [f. Sort *v.*[1]: see -ation.] The action or process of arranging or sorting; arrangement, classification.

1844 *5th Rep. Dep. Kpr. Rec.* 6 The sortation of them has been begun. 1885 J. W. Hyde *Royal Mail* xi. 164 Thus it

will be seen that the sortation of letters is no mere mechanical process.

attrib. 1899 J. A. HARVIE-BROWN (*title*), On a Correct Colour Code or Sortation Code in Colours.

Sorte, obs. form of SHORT *a.*

Sortebrand, obs. form of SURTURBRAND.

Sorted (sɔ̄·ɹtĕd), *ppl. a.* [f. SORT *v.*[1] Cf. ILL-SORTED *a.*]

1. Picked, chosen, selected.

1547 *Cal. Pat. Rolls Irel.* I. (1861) 154 A convenient number of sorted men for the relief of the Lord Deputy. 1632 HEYWOOD *2nd Pt. Iron Age* Ded., If you persist in the same opinion, when you shall spare some sorted houres to heare it read. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 812 The pure ore, or at least the very rich portion, called the *sorted mine.* 1844 MRS. BROWNING *Vis. Poets* CXCV, A company came up the aisle With measured step and sorted smile.

2. Assorted; arranged, classified.

1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Past.* Pref. (1721) I. 93 A curious Parterre of sorted Flowers. 1722 DE FOE *Col. Jack* (1840) 167 A sorted cargo of goods. 1784 COWPER *Task* III. 634 Grateful mixture of well-match'd And sorted hues. 1891 *Daily News* 2 Mar. 2/2 The sorted papers are thrown into different hoppers.

Sortely, obs. form of SHORTLY *adv.*

Sorter (sɔ̄·ɹtəɹ). [f. SORT *v.*[1] + -ER.]

1. One who sorts, arranges, selects, or classifies; *esp.* a wool-sorter. Also *transf.*

1554 *Act* 1 *Mary* c. 7 § 1 Forcers of Wolles..and Sorters of Wolles. 1562 J. HEYWOOD *Prov. & Epigr.* (1867) 201 The tounge is assinde, of woordes to be sorter. 1758 JORTIN *Life Erasmus* I. 488 It is plain More wrote it not—and.. he was he was a sorter of that book. 1776 ADAM SMITH *W. N.* I. i. (1869) I. 12 The shepherd, the sorter of the wool, the wool-comber, or carder. 1844 G. DODD *Textile Manuf.* iii. 96 The fingers of the sorter acquire by practice an extraordinary degree of sensitiveness. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* IV. 339/2 Wool..is..divided into 'sorts' or qualities by experienced sorters or staplers.

b. *spec.* A letter-sorter.

a 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew*, *Sorter*, (at the Post Office) that puts or Digests the Letters into Order or Method. 1737 J. CHAMBERLAYNE *St. Gt. Brit.* II. *List Offices* [in G.P.O.] 690 Sorters 16, of which 14 have 50l. per An. and the two last 40l. 1861 WYNTER *Soc. Bees* 3 Others again..carry the letters for the general delivery to the tables of the sorters. 1895 *Forum* (U.S.) Oct. 196 A sorter at the post-office..may accidentally sort one letter of his own out of a million.

2. With advs., as *out.*

1599 *Life More* in C. Wordsworth *Eccl. Biog.* (1817) II. 169, I was onlie a sorter out and placer of principall matters in the same [book] contained. 1881 *Instr. Census Clerks* (1885) 65/3 Worsted Manufacture:..Sorter-out, Spinner.

Hence **So·rtership**, the office or position of a letter-sorter.

1886 *Guide Civil Service* 293 Competitive Examination for Female Sorterships in the General Post Office, London.

Sorter, dial. or vulgar f. *sort of*: SORT *sb.*[2] 8 c.

†**So·rtfully**, *adv. Obs.*[−1] [f. SORT *sb.*[2]] In a suitable or appropriate manner.

1606 CHAPMAN *Gent. Usher* Plays 1873 I. 281 Euery thing About your house so sortfully disposde That..One vice assists another.

†**So·rtiary.** *Obs. rare.* [ad. med.L. *sortiarius*, *-a*, f. L. *sors*, *sort-* SORT *sb.*[1]]

1. One who practises sortilege.

1652 GAULE *Magastrom.* 333 Numa Pompilius, a Magician or Sortiary not inferior to any. *Ibid.* 342 In France, the magicians, astrologers, sortiaries, sorcerers, wizzards, and witches were so numerous [etc.].

2. = SORTILEGE[1] 1.

1653 GATAKER *Vind. Annot. Jer.* 3 No more then it is reqisite for one to be over-much seen in geomancie, palmistrie, sortiarie, auspicie, or aruspicie.

‖ **Sortie** (sɔ̄·ɹtĭ), *sb.* Also 7 sorti. [F. *sortie* a going out, etc., f. *sortir* SORT *v.*[2]]

†1. (See quot. 1699.) *Obs.*

1690 ? EVELYN *Mundus Muliebris* 20 *Sorti*, a little Knot of small Ribbon, peeping out between the Pinner and Bonnet. *c* 1692 *Songs & Poems Costume* (Percy Soc.) 200 Her shabbarons next I'll show, Her sortie, and patches of black.

2. A dash or sally by a besieged garrison upon an investing force. Freq. in phr. *to make a sortie.*

1795 SEWARD *Anecd.* II. 217 If the enemy..thought fit to make any sortie from the town. 1811 WELLINGTON in Gurw. *Desp.* (1837) VII. 285 In case your *sortie* should succeed (which will place the war on its legs again in the best manner). 1843 PRESCOTT *Mexico* VI. vi. (1864) 386 To repel the sorties, made..by the militia of the capital. 1874 GREEN *Short Hist.* viii. § 9 A sortie from Dublin had already broken up Ormond's siege of the capital.

transf. 1827 SCOTT *Jrnl.* 2 Jan., The rheumatism, exasperated by my sortie of yesterday, has seized on my..knee. 1831 GREVILLE *Mem.* (1875) II. xiii. 119 She was mighty glorious about her *sortie* upon Lambton. 1859 *Once a Week* I. 455 He made a sortie from the box like a lion rushing into the circus.

b. Without article.

1845 D. COSTELLO *Tour Valley Meuse* 156 Subterraneous passages..used for sortie and retreat by the garrison of the castle.

c. *attrib.*, as *sortie corvette, party.*

1887 *Pall Mall G.* 11 Jan. 2/1, I am not..aware that Germany..proposes to employ 'sortie corvettes' in the absence of guns or submarine mines. 1896 MORRISON *Child Jago* iv, The defeated sortie-party from Jago Court.

3. a. A sally-port. b. An outlet (of a river).

1848 LYTTON *Harold* XII. vii, Three sorties, whence the defenders might sally. 1879 *19th Cent.* XXII. The Kalamas has its sortie opposite Corfu.

‖ **So·rtie**, *v.* Also **sorty-**. [f. prec.] *intr.* To make a sortie; to sally. Hence **Sortieing** *ppl. a.*

1871 *Standard* 27 Jan., Pressing on, the sortying party advanced up the heights. 1899 *Westm. Gaz.* 23 Nov. 7/2 Unsuccessful attempts to sortie are supposed to have been made. 1904 *Daily Chron.* 23 May 5/1 To cover the movements of the sortieing force.

Sortilege[1] (sɔ̄·ɹtĭlĕdʒ). Also 5 **sortylege**. [a. OF. *sortilège*, = It., Sp., Pg. *sortilegio*), or ad. med.L. *sortilegium*, f. L. *sortilegus*: see next.]

1. The practice of casting lots in order to decide something or to forecast the future; divination based on this procedure or performed in some other way; † sorcery, magic, witchcraft.

1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) II. 43 In þat ilond is sortilege and wicchecraft i-vsed. For wommen þere sellip schipmen wynde. 1430–40 LYDG. *Bochas* VI. iv. (1554) 142 He delited most..In sortilege and in sorcerye. 1483 CAXTON *Cato* F ij, This cursyd synne of sortylege haboundeth more in wymmen than in men. 1546 BALE *Eng. Votaries* I. 35 b, He sett vp a great scole at Caunterburye..and taught them..the art Magyck, Sortilege, Physnomye. 1584 R. SCOT *Discov. Witchcr.* XI. x. (1886) 159 The cousening art of sortilege or lotarie. 1730 BAILEY (fol.), *Sortilege*, a Soothsaying or Divination by Lots; also an Electing by casting of Lots. 1830 SCOTT *Demonol.* ii. 66 They endeavoured by sortilege..to find as it were a byroad to the secrets of futurity. 1850 MERIVALE *Rom. Emp.* vi. (1865) I. 275 Three times, he related, had lots been drawn;..each time he had owed his life to the chance of sortilege. 1881 STANLEY *Christ. Instit.* v. 87 Signs of what most Christians now would regard as mere remnants of sortilege and sorcery.

2. An act or instance of divining, choosing, or deciding by the drawing or casting of lots.

1600 HOLLAND *Livy* XLIV. XXII. 1183 As the gods in favour have directed this sortilege, so they will bee present and propitious unto mee. 1795 WYTHE *Decis.* 104 Another lottery, according to which the destiny of every ticket ought to have been decided by a single sortilege. 1819 SCOTT *Ivanhoe* XXXVII, A woman infamous for sortileges and for witcheries. 1842 *Blackw. Mag.* LI. 282 All treasonable assumptions..commenced in the hopes inspired by auguries, prophecies, or sortileges. 1868 MILMAN *St. Paul's* ii. 20 All sortileges, auspices, divinations, and other works of the devil, were forbidden.

Sortilege[2]. *rare.* [ad. L. *sortileg-us* diviner, fortune-teller, f. *sort-*, *sors* lot + *legĕre* to choose. Cf. obs. F. *sortilegue*, It., Sp., Pg. *sortilego.*] One who practises divination or sorcery.

1483 CAXTON *Cato* Contents iv b, Ageynst them that ben sortileges of herbes and of wrytynges for to hele men or horses. *Ibid.* F j b, To the ende that none sette feythe to sortyleges ne to deuyners. 1855 MILMAN *Lat. Chr.* V. XI. ix. 253 He is a sortilege, and consults diviners and fortune-tellers.

Sortileger. Now *rare.* Also 5 **sortyloger**, **-leger**. [See prec. and -ER. The form in *-loger* is based upon the med.L. *sortilogus* for *sortilegus.*] One who divines, chooses, or settles by drawing lots or otherwise; a diviner, fortune-teller.

c 1400 *Apol. Loll.* 54 Fraudars, misdoars, sortylogers. *Ibid.* 97 Sortilegeris, and oþer þat are put in þe general sentens and cursing of þe kirk. 1483 CAXTON *Cato* F ij, Often God permytteth and suffreth that, that the sortylegers and devynours maken to come. 1635 HEYWOOD *Hierarchy* I. Comm. 47 We read of three sorts of these Sortilegers or Fortune-tellers. *Ibid.* VII. Comm. 473 Now to speake of those Sortilegers and the effects of their Art. 1864 A. LEIGHTON *Myst. Leg. Edinb.* (1886) 224 All which signs seemed only the opportunity of the devout sortileger, who put her hand upon the Bible.

Sortile·gic, *a. rare.* [f. SORTILEGE[1] + -IC.] Dependent upon divination or sortilege.

1896 *17th Ann. Rep. Bureau Amer. Ethnol.* I. 259 The warfare of the Seri is largely sortilegic.

Sortile·gious, *a.* ? *Obs.* [f. SORTILEGE[1] or SORTILEGY.] Of the nature of, relating to or connected with, sortilege.

1603 SIR C. HEYDON *Jud. Astrol.* i. 12 Diuinations that were meerely superstitious, sortilegious, and diuellish. 1652 GAULE *Magastrom.* 29 But were all they of Babylon solely and wholly trained up to this sortilegious trade? *a* 1717 DAUBREZ *Rev.* (Lancaster, 1730) 46 Horace..makes their [*sc.* frogs] Blood an Ingredient in sortilegious Charms.

Sortilegist. *rare*[−1]. [f. SORTILEGE[1] + -IST.] One who arranges the drawing of lots.

1865 *Reader* 25 Nov. 598/1 This college sortilegist pretended to be much annoyed at the result he had taken such pains to procure.

‖ **Sortile·gium.** *rare.* = SORTILEGY 2.

1858 BAILEY *Age* 65 Suppose we try a sortilegium, eh?

Sortilegy (sɔ̄·ɹtĭlĕdʒi, sɔ̄·ɹtĭlĕdʒi). Also 4–5 **sortelegye**, **-legie** (**-logie**), 6 **sortilegie**, 7 **-ligie**. [ad. med.L. *sortilegi-um*: see SORTILEGE[1].]

1. Divination by the casting or drawing of lots or otherwise; = SORTILEGE[1] 1.

1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) I. 411 Oft gyled was this brood,..For Merlyns prophecie, And ofte for sortelogie [*v.r.* sortelegie]. 1584 R. SCOT *Discov. Witchcr.* XIII. XXIX. (1886) 278 The Aegyptians juggling witchcraft or Sortilegie. 1680 C. NESSE *Ch. Hist.* 269 He had by his sortilegy, or rather sorcery, found out his lucky day. 1839 DE QUINCEY *Mod. Superst.* Wks. 1853 III. 307 That mode of sortilegy which is conducted by throwing open priviledged books at random. 1883 J. PAYN *Thicker than Water* XXVIII, Miss Blithers the elder, who believed in sortilegy, presented her with a tract, drawn at random from a whole sheaf of them.

2. An act or instance of this; = SORTILEGE[1] 2.

1643 SIR T. BROWNE *Relig. Med.* I. § 18, 39 Even in sortilegies and matters of greatest uncertainty, there is a setled and preordered course of effects. 1656 S. HOLLAND *Zara* (1719) 28 When that venerable Quack sold his Brethrens lives (by a Sortilige) to save his own.

Sorting (sɔ̄·ɹtĭŋ), *vbl. sb.* Also 4–5 **sortyng**, 5 *Sc.* **-en**, 6 **soorting**. [f. SORT *v.*[1] + -ING[1].]

1. The action of the vb., in various senses; arrangement, classification.

c 1358 *Durham Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 561 Will'o Randman pro pylyng et sortyng lane. 1485 *Act* 1 *Hen. VII*, c. 10 § 7 The same Wolle shuld be..clene wounde, withoute any sortyng, barbyng or clakkyng. 1494 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* I. 248 Giffyne for sorten of the tymmyr in the 3ard, iij s. iij d. 1554 *Act* 1 *Mary* c. 7 § 1 The..principall grouse of Clothmaking ys the true sorting of Wolles. 1599 B. JONSON *Cynthia's Rev.* v. iv, It is the sorting, and the dividing,..and the decocting, that makes the fumigation. 1625 MARKHAM *Souldier's Accid.* 1 For the Sorting of Armes, it is a good proportion to haue a Companie equally compounded of Armed men and Shot. 1690 LOCKE *Hum. Und.* III. iii. (1695) 230 The Essences of the sorts of Things, and consequently the sorting of Things, is the Workmanship of the Understanding. 1711 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 10 P 6 The sorting of a Suit of Ribbons. 1765 *Phil. Trans.* LV. 205 In sorting, the skain to be examined is put upon the hook. 1856 DE QUINCEY in 'H. A. Page' *Life* (1877) II. xvii. 51 The separation and sorting of such innumerable papers. 1892 *Athenæum* 23 Apr. 530/1 We have..a little too much mere sorting of the varied intellectual material.

2. With *a* and pl. An instance of this.

1611 COTGR., *Assortissement*,..a sorting, or suiting of things together. 1764 *Museum Rust.* II. 38, I divide my fruit into three several sorts..; from these three sortings I have ..six several kinds of cyder. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 812 The substances..undergo another *sorting*, with greater or less care. 1871 CARLYLE in *Mrs. C.'s Lett.* (1883) II. 362 He did for me all manner of..summaries, copyings, sortings.

b. *Sc.* An assortment, supply, stock.

a 1779 D. GRAHAM *Leper the Taylor* I. Writ. 1883 II. 116 Poor Sandy went home with a skinful of terror, and a sorting of sore bones.

3. With advs., as *out*, *up.*

1890 W. J. GORDON *Foundry* 76 Then came a sorting out of the juniors from the seniors. 1890 *Daily News* 16 Dec. 6/4 The higher prices..have caused a little more sorting up

4. *attrib.*, as *sorting-action*; **sorting-boom**, † **-cloth**, † **kersey**, **-machine** (see quots.).

Also, in recent use, with advs., as *sorting-out influence, sorting-up business, order, trade*, etc.

1897 *Geogr. Jrnl.* IX. 278 One of the most remarkable phenomena attending the distribution of earthy materials by wind (or water) is the *sorting action exercised by the fluid. 1877 *Lumberman's Gaz.* 8 Dec. 362 There is a system of '*sorting booms' by which the logs, each bearing a distinguishing mark, are distributed to their several ownerships. 1593 *3rd Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* 7/1 Woollen cloths..called vesses,..park cloths, or *sorting cloths made in Somersetshire. 1674 JEAKE *Arith.* (1696) 68 One Sack of Wooll..is accompted to make 4. Standard Clothes of clean Wooll called sorting Clothes. 1847 HALLIW., *Sorting-cloths*, a kind of short cloths, with a blue selvage on both sides of the lists, made in the Eastern counties. 1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), **Sorting-Kersies*, a sort of Cloth so call'd. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2246/2 *Sorting-machine ..for gaging leather strips as they are cut from the hide to certain regulated sizes.

b. In the sense 'in, at, or 'on which sorting is done', as *sorting-board, house, office, siding*, etc.

1766 ENTICK *London* IV. 191 In which is one of the sorting houses, under the comptrolment of the general penny-post. 1852 J. MILNE *Autobiog.* iv. 109 Aberdeen has become what is termed a sorting office. 1885 BOWMAN *Struct. Wool Fibre* 358 Sorting-board, the table on which wool is sorted. 1899 *Daily News* 4 Mar. 3/2 At Woodford there are extensive sorting sidings.

So·rting, *ppl. a.* [f. SORT *v.*[1] + -ING[2].]

1. That corresponds, agrees, or suits (with others of the same class or kind).

1535 *Wardr. Kath. Arragon* 24 in *Camden Misc.* III, Item, fyve pecis of hanginges of tapistrye soorting. 1547 *Harl. MS.* 1419 *A*, lf. 38 Nyne peces sorting.., every of theym lyned with Canvas.

2. That sorts, arranges, or classifies.

1912 *Civil Service Year Bk.* 61 The..pay of a Sorting Clerk and Telegraphist.

† **Sortise**, *v. Obs.*[−1] [f. OF. *sortiss-*, lengthened stem of *sortir* SORT *v.*[1]] *trans.* To acquire, obtain.

1474 CAXTON *Chesse* IV. ii, But whan he is ones meuyd fro his propre place,..than he sortiseth the nature of the comyn peple, and thus by good right he hath in hym self the nature of al.

Sortition (sɔ̄ɹti·ʃən). [ad. L. *sortītio*, f. *sortīri* to cast or draw lots.]

1. The casting or drawing of lots; selection, choice, or determination by lot.

1597 J. KING *On Jonas* (1618) 120 For so doth Tully define Sortition, that it is nothing else but hap-hazard. 1608 — *Serm.* 24 Mar. 11 Some reigne by vsurpation,..some by acquisition,..some by sortition or auguric. 1659 HAMMOND *On Ps.* xvi. 5 The old way of sortition was by staves or rods. 1790 BURKE *Fr. Rev.* 74 No mode of election operating in the spirit of sortition or rotation. 1849 GROTE *Greece* II. xliv. V. 371 The principle of sortition or choice by lot was never applied..to all offices at Athens. 1886 *Q. Rev.* July 12 In a certain Arcadian state sortition superseded election.

2. With *a* and pl. An act or instance of determining by lot.

1634 BP. HALL *Contempl., N. T.* IV. 273 The souldiers have ..cast lots upon thy seamlesse coat (those poore spoiles cannot so much inrich them, as glorifie thee; whose Scriptures are fulfilled by their barbarous sortitions). 1634 in *4th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* 127 Whether the advowsons of benefices..be not passed by balls or sortitions to private residentiaryes. 1830 W. TAYLOR *Hist. Surv. Germ. Poetry* I.

275 The scourging, the crowning with thorns, and the sortition of the garments. 1887 Miss Betham-Edwards *Next of Kin Wanted* I. xiv. 190 The transfer of the property, by a distribution, sortition, or otherwise.

† 3. An allotted share or portion. *Obs.*

1671 [R. MacWard] *True Nonconf.* 90 The Lords People .., whether..termed..lots, in order to their respective Pastors, whose sortitions, and divisions they are, or as being Gods heritage.

Sortli, obs. form of Shortly *adv.*

† **Sortly,** *a. Obs. rare.* [f. Sort *sb.*2 + -ly 1.] 1. Of articles: That correspond or form a set.

1459 *Paston Lett.* I. 474, iiij. platers, parcell of ix. platers not sortely. *Ibid.*, v. platers, not sortely.

2. Appropriate; suitable.

1570 *Wit & Science* (1848) 46 Whereby I trust by my good Endeyer To that good Ladye, so sweete and so sortlye, A maryage betwene them ye shall see shortlye.

† **Sortly,** *adv. Obs. rare.* [f. Sort *sb.*2 + -ly 2.] So as to agree or correspond; correspondingly, equally.

c 1557 Abp. Parker *Ps.* cxix. Pref., Here letters all so sortely bound do shew in mysterie Eternall health may sure be found in scripture totally. 1566 — *Corr.* (Parker Soc.) 278 They be counted sortly learned with the best of them.

† **Sortment.** *Obs.* [f. Sort *v.*1 + -ment. Cf. It. *sortimento.*]

1. The action or process of sorting, separating, or arranging; sortation, classification.

1598 Barret *Theor. Warres* 69 The due sortement and matching of these weapons to offend, and defend. 1622 F. Markham *Bk. War* v. iii. 170 The iust number of the Army, together with the true sortment and division of euery weapon. 1755 in Johnson. 1778 Pryce *Min. Cornub.* 233 When it comes to grass they make a sortment of the larger stones from the smaller.

2. A collection of assorted goods or articles; a sorted set or lot; an assortment.

1621 in Foster *Eng. Factories Ind.* (1906) I. 326 To write the bymarke of the sortement of every chest. 1657 in *Thurloe's St. Papers* (1742) VI. 56 In March we expected most of our chiefe merchants to come out for their easter sortment, against which tyme I desired you would be pleased to give orders at Freshford. 1719 W. Wood *Survey Trade* 246 Manufacturing and making up proper Sortments of Goods. 1766 T. Brooks *Coins E. Indies* 67 The finest Hysons, and all other Sortments of the Green-Teas.

b. *transf.* A set or number of persons.

1710 Milbourne *Meas. Resist.* 4 When a sortment of priests, as he with a peculiar elegance, expresses it, endeavour to bully us into slavery. 1760–72 H. Brooke *Fool of Qual.* (1809) II. 39 A hundred and fifty visits,..and through such a sortment too, as your mercers say.

c. A kind or class of things.

1718 Quincy *Compl. Disp.* 8 The Lightness of this Sortment of Matter. 1720 — in *Phil. Trans.* XXXI. 76 Thus for all cutaneous Foulnesses..the Cinnabar, the Æthiops, and all of that Sortment are in readiness.

Sorty (sɔ̄·ɹti), *a. colloq.* [f. Sort *sb.*2 + -y. Cf. WFris. *soartich* of a good sort.]

1. Of one kind or sort; similar, alike.

1885 *Field* 12 Dec. 845/1 Mr. W. Wheeler's cup pigs were ..not quite sorty as to hair, but otherwise a good lot.

2. Consisting of various sorts; mixed.

1899 *Daily News* 3 July 9/7 Phipps,..usually driving blacks, has got together a very 'sorty' team composed of a skewbald, a chestnut, and bays. *a* 1904 in *Eng. Dial. Dict.* s.v., The water is very sorty this morning—it is much colder at the bottom than on the top.

‖ **Sorus** 1 (sɔ̄·rŭs). Pl. **sori** (sɔ̄·rəi). [mod.L., ad. Gr. *σωρός* heap.]

1. *Bot.* A cluster of capsules or spore-cases on the under surface of fern-leaves.

1832 Lindley *Introd. Bot.* I. iii. 196 In a third tribe the sori occupy the whole of the under surface of the frond. 1857 T. Moore *Handbk. Brit. Ferns* (ed. 3) 8 The part of the vein on which the sorus is seated. 1876 Harley *Royle's Mat. Med.* 360 *Sori* elliptical, imbedded in the substance of the thallus, concave on one side.

2. A similar formation in algæ, lichens, or fungi.

1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 266/2 The term sorus is sometimes applied to mere collections of spores or granules, as seen in many Algæ, of which *Delesseria alata* and *D. sinuosa* are examples. 1874 Cooke *Fungi* 38 The pustules, or sori, break through the cuticle in a similar manner.

† **Sorus** 2, obs. variant of Sora.

1775 A. Burnaby *Trav.* 25 They went out into an adjoining marsh to catch soruses...The sorus is not known to be in Virginia, except for about six weeks from the latter end of September.

‖ **Sory,** *sb. Obs.* [L. *sōry*, ad. Gr. *σῶρυ*. Cf. Sp. and It. *sori.*] A kind of mineral ore yielding vitriol; one or other kind of vitriol.

1601 Holland *Pliny* II. 510 As for Sory, that which is brought out of Ægypt is counted best, and farre better than the Cyprian, Spanish, or African. 1657 Tomlinson *Renou's Disp.* xiii. 27 Many efficacious Poysons also are drawn from Minerals,..as Quick-silver, red Lead, Parget, Vitriol, Sory, Sandarach [etc.]. [1728 Bailey, *Sory*, a kind of Mineral, a sort of Vitriol made of Chalcitis or Cadmia. 1828–32 in Webster. Hence in later Dicts.]

† **Sory,** *a. Obs. rare.* Also soory, sowry. [f. Sore *sb.*3 + -y, or ad. ON. *saurigr* (MSw. *sörogh*).] Filthy, dirty.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 465/1 Soory, or defowlyd yn sowr or fylthe.., *cenosus, cenulentus. Ibid.* 466/2 Sowry, or defowlyd wythe fylthe.

† **Soryful,** obs. var. Sorrowful *a.*

Prob. due to confusion with *sory* Sorry *a.*

c 1550 H. Lloyd *Treas. Health* c ij, Soryful syghes in sharpe agewes be to be fearyd. 1596 Dalrymple tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* (S.T.S.) II. 239 Quhilke maid the king sa soryfull..that [etc.].

Soryp, obs. form of Syrup.

Sose, obs. form of Suss *sb.*

† **Sosh.** *Obs.*–1 [Imitative. Cf. Soss *sb.*2] A dull, heavy sound; a thud; = Soss *sb.*2

1687 A. Lovell tr. *Bergerac's Com. Hist.* 8, I fell with a sosh in the Valley below.

Soskin, variant of Suskin.

So so, so-so (sōu,sōu), *adv.* and *a.* (*sb.*). Also 6 soe soo, soso, 6–9 so, so, 9 *Sc.* saesae. [So *adv.* Cf. G. *so so*, Du. *zoo zoo*, WFris. *sa sa*, in similar use.]

For *so, so*, as a mere exclamation, see So *adv.* 5 c.

A. *adv.* In an indifferent, mediocre, or passable manner or degree; indifferently, not quite satisfactorily: a. With verbs.

1530 Palsgr. 842/1 So so, *tellement quellement.* 1548 Udall, etc. *Erasm. Par. Luke* vi. 73 b, This thyng, the pharisees could soso awaie withall, because it was a thyng.. of the common vsage. 1553 *Respublica* 647 My ladie, howe doe youe? *Respub.* Even so so, people. 1598 Grenewey *Tacitus, Ann.* XII. x. (1622) 173 His wife..endured the first flight so so, for feare of the enemy and loue of hir husband. 1675 Wood *Life* (O.H.S.) II. 318 Villerius Bathurst e Coll. Trin. [spoke] well, Philippus Clarke e Coll. Magd. so so. 1872 *Routledge's Ev. Boy's Ann.* 579/1 'And you have succeeded fairly?' 'So-so,' he answered. 1877 H. James *American* vii. 120 'And are you enjoying it?'..'Oh, so-so,' he answered.

b. With pa. pples., ppl. adjs., and adjs.

1532 *St. Papers Hen. VIII*, VII. 396 The said old Abbot of Ferfa, reconcyled soo soo to the Pope, hath been of late at Rome. 1548 Udall, etc. *Erasm. Par. Luke* v. 65 Seeyng the place to be so-so commodious for one to preache the ghospel in. 1600 Shaks. *A. Y. L.* v. i. 29 *Clo.* Art rich? *Will.* Faith sir, so, so. 1828 Scott *Jrnl.* 30 Jan, Am I satisfied with my exertions? So so. 1861 Whyte Melville *Market Harb.* 41 'I suppose you are very well mounted yourself?' 'So-so,' was the reply.

c. With *but.*

1578 Timme *Calvin on Gen.* 276 Seeing the Canaanites maintained their life but so so. *a* 1656 Ussher *Ann.* (1658) 151 To see the stipend duly paid.., which yet was but so so performed by him. 1720 C. Shadwell *Sham Prince* v. i, And so we stitch up one another, and do but so so at the best. 1762 *Crazy Tales* 110 They pass their summers but so so, Drinking as long as they are able. 1820 Hogg *Bridal of Polmood* xvi, The king asked..how he had passed the night—he thanked his majesty, and said he had been but so so.

B. *adj.* Indifferent, mediocre, of middling quality; neither very good nor very bad, but usu. inclining towards bad. Freq. with *but.*

1. Of things: a. In predicative use.

(*a*) 1542 Udall *Erasm. Apoph.* 313 b, The maister of the feaste had sette upon the table wyne that was but easie and soso. 1576 Fleming *Panopl. Epist.* 120 If our fortune bee but so so, indifferent (I meane). 1616 R. C. *Times' Whistle* (1871) 63 Your white or Clarret Is but so so; he cares not greatly for it. 1682 D'Urfey *Butler's Ghost* 135 Doubting their luck would be but so-so, And that it would disgrace them all [etc.]. 1827 De Quincey *Murder* Wks. 1854 IV. 9 It is no disparagement to say, that his performance was but so-so.

(*b*) 1591 Sparry tr. *Cattan's Geomancie* 128 It is so-so for the ayre, for it will raine often times. 1611 Cotgr., *Bellastre*,..fairish, reasonably faire, passable, so so. 1654 Whitlock *Zootomia* 260 These Elements to Books Composure go, Some good, some bad, and some So, So. 1712 Swift *Jrnl. to Stella* 18 Nov., I dined there t'other day,.. and our meat and drink was very so so. 1771 Goldsm. *Haunch of Venison* 9 As in some Irish houses, where things are so so, One gammon of bacon hangs up for a show. 1820 Byron *Blues* II. 77 The taste of the actors at best is so so. 1862 Thackeray *Philip* xvi, Her pianoforte playing is very so-so indeed. 1871 B. Taylor *Faust* (1875) I. v. 90 My wish is great, my power is only so-so.

b. Used attributively.

1767 *Woman of Fashion* II. 48 You will, I fear, make but a so so Figure, as that domestic Animal, a Husband. 1788 Wolcot (P. Pindar) *Peter's Pension* Wks. 1812 II. 18 Your man-traps..have had but so-so luck. 1837 Barham *Ingol. Leg.* Ser. I. *Grey Dolphin*, After leading but a so-so life. 1862 Burgon *Letters from Rome* 260 Acres of so-so statues, and nameless busts. 1899 A. Werner *Capt. Locusts* 279 Having got together some very so-so writing materials. *Comb.* 1824 Miss Ferrier *Inher.* xviii, Very so-so looking strawberries.

2. Of persons: a. In respect of ability, character, position, appearance, etc.

1608 Bp. Andrewes *Serm.* (1841) II. 224 They that have not greatly gone astray, are but even so so. 1663 Killigrew *Parson's Wedding* I. ii, Ay marry,..this is a husband,.. and none of your so-so husbands. 1675 Cotton *Burlesque upon B.* 110 They pretty passable are though (Thank Jove) the Children are so so. 1775 Mme. D'Arblay *Early Diary* (1889) II. 57 Mrs. Harris—a so-so sort of woman. 1823 Byron *Juan* xiii. lxxxii, I've seen..a so-so matron boldly fight Her way back to the world. 1864 *Realm* 22 June 2 No one can deny that among the clergy there is more than a fair percentage of very so-so people.

b. In respect of health or physical condition.

a 1592 Greene *Jas. IV*, Wks. (Rtldg.) 194 Our king is well, our queen so-so. 1662 J. Wilson *Cheats* I. v, *M. D.* I am afraid you are not well Sir. *Sc.* Yes—I am so, so. 1731 *Gentl. Mag.* I. 349 Howe'er it is, I scarcely know, I find myself but just so so. ?1800 W. B. Rhodes *Bomb. Fur.* i. (1830) 7 We are but middling—that is but so so. 1838 Dickens *O. Twist* xvii, 'Hoping you find yourself well, sir!' 'So-so, Mrs. Mann,' replied the beadle. 1857 Hughes *Tom Brown* II. v, 'How 's he?'..'So, so; rather done, I think, since his last fall.'

c. In respect of soberness.

1809 Malkin *Gil Blas* II. iv. F 4 We drank hard, and returned..in a pretty pickle, that is to say, so-so in the upper story. 1818 Keats *Lett.* Wks. 1889 III. 158 Rice may begin to crow, for he got a little so-so at a party of his, and was none the worse for it the next morning.

3. Marked by the excessive use of 'so' in writings or speech.

a 1800 Pegge *Anecd. Eng. Lang.* (1814) 217 Our Cockney, however, may be supported in this his *so-so* language by respectable Historians.

Hence **So-so-so** *a.* (*nonce-use.*)

1768 Mme. D'Arblay *Early Diary* (1889) I. 21 We had a large party to the Assembly on Monday, which was *so-so-so.*

So-soish, *a.* Also so-so-ish. [f. So-so.] Somewhat so-so; rather indifferent.

1835 *Tait's Mag.* II. 475 An imitation of..an old Scotch ballad—very so-so-ish. 1847 *Illustr. Lond. News* 4 Sept. 158/2 The jumping was only so-so-ish. 1888 Farjeon *Miser Farebrother* xiii, I like him, just a little, in a so-soish way.

Hence **So-soishly** *adv.*

1842 *Civil Engr. & Arch. Jrnl.* V. 236/2 Many..views being uninteresting in subject,.. and but very *so-soishly* engraved.

† **Sospire.** *Obs.*–1 [prob. ad. It. *sospiro*: see Suspire *sb.*] A sigh.

1575 Laneham *Lett.* (1871) 60 With my spanish sospires, my french heighes.

† **Sospital,** *a. Obs.*–0 [ad. L. *sospitālis*, f. *sospit-*, *sospes* safe, unhurt.] (See quot.) Also † **Sospitation** (cf. next).

1656 Blount *Glossogr.*, *Sospital*,..that is cause of health; medicinable, wholsom, safe, free from danger. 1658 Phillips, *Sospitation*, a keeping safe, and in health, a preserving from danger.

† **Sospitator.** *Obs.*–1 [a. L. *sospitātor*, f. *sospitāre* to save: see prec.] A saviour, deliverer.

1643 Trapp *Comm. Gen.* xl. 20 In honour of God, our Sospitator, for his mercy in our creation.

Soss, *sb.*1 Now *dial.* Also 5 sos, soos, 6 sose, 6–7 sosse. [? Imitative of the sound of lapping.]

1. † a. (See quots.) *Obs. rare.*

In many English dialects *soss* is used as a call to dogs and pigs at feeding-time.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 465 Sos, howndysmete,..*cantabrum.* 1530 Palsgr. 273/1 Sosse or a rewarde for houndes, whan they have taken their game, *hwuee.*

b. *Sc.* and *dial.* A sloppy mess or mixture; a dish of food having this character.

1691 Ray *N. Co. Words* (ed. 2) 66 A *Soss*, a mucky Puddle. *a* 1728 *Kennett MSS.* (Halliw.), Of any one that mixes several slops, or makes any place wet and dirty, we say in Kent, he makes a soss. 1802 Sibbald *Chron. S. P.* IV. Gloss., *Soss*, a large dish of flummery. 1842 J. Aiton *Domest. Econ.* (1857) 128 Tea sosses ought not to be endured in the manse kitchen..: porridge is infinitely preferable. 1847 Chambers *Tradit. Edinb.* 164 Lucky could furnish forth a soss—that is stew. 1886 *S. W. Linc. Gloss.* 137 You mak such sosses, for all the world like pigs.

2. A sloven, slut, or slattern.

1611 Cotgr., *Halebreda*,..a luske, a slouch; a sosse. 1901 in *Eng. Dial. Dict.* s.v., A bonny soss o' a wife Nancy Taylor 'ud mak'!

Soss (sɒs), *sb.*2 Chiefly *dial.* [Imitative: cf. Soss *v.*2 and Sosh.]

1. The sound made by a heavy, soft body falling upon or otherwise coming in contact with a surface; a heavy, awkward fall. Chiefly in the phr. *with a soss.*

1718 Ramsay *Christ's Kirk Gr.* III. iii, And wi' a soss aboon the claiths, Ilk ane their gifts down flang. 1796 W. H. Marshall *Yorksh.* (ed. 2) II. 346 'To fall with a soss,' to fall plumb. 1802 Sibbald *Chron. S. P.* IV. Gloss., *Soss*, noise made by the fall of something heavy and soft. 1825– in northern glossaries, etc. 1901 A. Trotter *Earl Galloway Sk.* 59/2 Sandy came and sat down with a 'soss' on a chest by her bedside.

2. The sound made by impact upon water.

1885 *Pall Mall G.* 5 May 4/1 The soss, soss of her bows as she 'punches' the waves asunder.

Soss, variant of Sasse *Obs.*

Soss, *v.*1 Now *north. dial.* and *Sc.* [f. Soss *sb.*1]

1. *trans.* To make foul or dirty.

1557 Tusser *100 Points Husb.* lxxii, Their milke slapt in corners, their creame al to sost. 1573 — *Husb.* (1878) 106 Her milke pan and creame pot, so slabbered and sost.

b. ? To drench, soak.

1587 *Mirr. Mag., Brennus* ix, The cause why so God Neptune did me tosse: Why boyling Seas with surges so me sosse.

2. *intr.* To splash in mud or dirt.

Also *Sc.*, to make or use sloppy food or other messes.

1575 *Gamm. Gurton* I. iv. 26 Cham faine a-brode to dyg and delue, in water, myre and claye, Sossing and possing in the durte. 1876 C. C. Robinson *Mid-Yks. Gloss.* 131/2 *Soss*, to..tread heavily—implying a forceful yielding to pressure, as when..the feet plash through it [*sc.* mud].

3. *trans.* To lap or lick up. Also with *up.*

1598 R. Bernard tr. *Terence, Eunuch* v. iv, They will slabber & sosse up browne bread in pottage. 1703 Thoresby *Let. to Ray, Sosse, v.*, [a word] proper to dogs. 1781– in northern dial. glossaries. 1892 M. C. F. Morris *Yorksh. Folk-Talk* 375 T' dog 's sossin all t' cat milk.

Hence **So·ssing** *vbl. sb.*

1824 Scott *St. Ronan's* xxxii, A wheen cork-headed, barmy-brained gowks! that wunna let puir folk sae muckle as die in quiet, wi' their sossings and their soopings.

Soss, *v.*2 Now *dial.* and *Sc.* [Cf. Soss *sb.*2]

† 1. *trans.* To put *up* so as to rest softly. *Obs.*

1711 Swift *Jrnl. to Stella* 10 March, I went to-day into the City, but in a coach, and sossed up my leg on the seat.

†**2.** *intr.* To move gently; to lounge lazily. *Obs.*
1711 SWIFT *Jrnl. to Stella* 7 June, Yes, yes, I remember Berested's bridge; the coach sosses up and down as one goes that way. 1723 — *Stella at Wood Park* Misc. 1735 V. 209 Poor Stella must pack off to Town :..From wholesome Exercise and Air, To sossing in an easy Chair.

3. To fall with a thud or heavy impact. Also *spec.* in *Mining*.
1789 DAVIDSON *Seasons* 100 Providence oft gets into one scale, To keep the proper poise, when easfu' bliss, Into the other, sosses, overpond'rous. 1825 JAMIESON *Suppl., To Soss*, to fall down as a dead weight, to come to the ground as it were all in a piece. 1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-m.* 230 *Sos*, to sink into the floor under great pressure from overlying strata. 1898 C. HYNE *Capt. Kettle* 294 Looks like as if they were going to soss down slap on top of us.

b. To sit *down* heavily.
c 1790 A. WILSON in *Poems & Lit. Prose* (1876) II. 100 We'll hotch awa'..And soss down on yon sinny stane. 1879 MISS JACKSON *Shropsh. Word-Bk.* 399 'Er sossed down i' the cheer all at wunst.

4. *trans.* To cast or throw heavily.
1855– in dialect glossaries, etc.

Soss, *adv.* Now *dial.* [Cf. Soss *sb.*[2] and *v.*[2]] With a heavy fall or dull thud.
1760 STERNE *Tr. Shandy* III. xxiv, Mrs. Bridget..fell backwards soss against the bridge. 1862– in northern glossaries.

Soss-, the stem of Soss *sb.*[1] used attributively in a few combs., with the sense 'fat, dirty, slatternly, etc.', as †*soss-bangle*, †*-belly* (see quots.).
1554 BALE *Declar. Bonner's Articles* XXIX. 113 b, What is thy idolatrous mas and lowsye Latine seruice, thou sosbelly swilbol, but the very draf of Antichriste. 1691 RAY *S. & E. Co. Words* 115 A *Sosse-bangle*, a sluttish, slattering, lazy Wench; a Rustic word, only used by the vulgar. [Hence *soss-brangle* in Grose (1788).]

Sossage, -ige: see SAUSAGE.

Sossel, -le, *dial.*: see SOZZLE *v.*

So·ssle, *v. rare.* [? f. Soss *sb.*[1]] *intr.* To go *about* in an aimless idle manner.
1837 MISS SEDGWICK *Live & Let Live* iii. 31 Your children get such shocking habits sosling about, and doing nothing, and living all in a clutter.

Sosteine, Sostenaunse, obs. ff. SUSTAIN *v.*, SUSTENANCE.

‖ **Sostenente.** Also **sostinente.** [It., pres. pple. of *sostenere* SUSTAIN *v.*] A device or contrivance attached to a pianoforte for the purpose of producing sustained notes like an organ. Also *attrib.*
1840 *Penny Cycl.* XVIII. 142/2 Mr. Mott's *sostinente* was an application of a cylinder and silk loops to an upright piano-forte. The..tones came forth somewhat like the tones of the seraphine. 1881 *Morning Post* 2 June, Messrs. Brinsmead have patented..the sostenente sounding board, capable of sustaining sound for 60 seconds. 1885 *Encycl Brit.* XIX. 76/1 *note*, Mott..attracted much attention by a piano with sostenente effect..in 1817. *Ibid.*, But a sostenente piano..is no longer a true piano.

‖ **Sostenuto** (sɒstɛnū·to), *a.* and *sb.* Abbrev. **sost.** Also 8 **sustinuto.** [It., pa. pple. of *sostenere* SUSTAIN *v.*]

A. *adj.* **1.** Of music: To be sung or played in a sustained manner. (Cf. quot. 1801.)
1724 *Short Explic. For. Wds. in Mus. Bks.* 1801 BUSBY *Dict. Mus., Sostenuto*, a word implying that the notes of the movement, or passage against which it is placed, are to be sustained or held on to the extremity of their lengths. 1875 in STAINER & BARRETT *Dict. Mus. Terms.*

2. Marked or characterized by being sustained or held on.
1835 *Court Mag.* VI. 220/2 A kind of Sostenuto or bow effect. 1887 MISS R. H. BUSK *Folksongs Italy* 20 There is probably a sostenuto note in its air.

B. *sb.* A sustained sound or note. *rare*—[1].
1757 FOOTE *Author* Epil., Wks. 1799 I. 129 Divine Mingotti! what a swell has she! O! such a sustinuto upon B!

Soster(hode, obs. variants of SISTER(HOOD.

So-styled, *ppl. a.* [So *adv.* 6 a.] Styled or designated by this term or name, but not properly entitled to or correctly described by it; so-called, so-termed.
1844 tr. *M. T. Asmar's Mem. Babylonian Princ.* II. 92 The so-styled civilized daughters of Europe. 1852 THACKERAY *Esmond* II. x, The (so-styled) legitimate representatives of the Viscount Castlewood. 1888 CHILD *Eng. & Sc. Ballads* III. 104/1 *note*, The so-styled Robber Songs of the Russians.

Sot (sɒt), *sb.*[1] and *a.* Forms: 1– **sot,** 1–2, 6–7 **sott,** 2–7 **sotte,** 3, 5 **sote,** 6 **soote.** [a. OF. *sot* masc., *sote* fem. (med.F. *sot, sotte*), of unknown origin; the med.L. *sottus* is recorded from *c* 800. Hence also MDu. *sot* (*sod*), *zot* (*zod*; Du. *zot*), MLG. and LG. *sot, sott*, MHG. *sot.*]

A. *sb.* †**1.** A foolish or stupid person; a fool, blockhead, dolt. *Obs.*
c 1000 ÆLFRIC *Saints' Lives* xiii. 132 Ne bið se na wita þe unwislice leofað, ac bið open sott [*v.r.* sot]. *c* 1095 *Byrhtferth's Handboc* in *Anglia* VIII. 313 Seðe his agene spræce awyrt he wyrcð *barbarismus*. Swylce he cweðe þu sot, þær he sceolde cweðan þu sott. *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 29 Þa iuguleres and þa oðer sottes..habbeð an þonc. *a* 1250 *Prov. of Alfred* 412 Ne gabbe þu,..ne chid þu wyþ none sotte. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 2457 Þan said abram, þat was na sot, formast til his neueu loth. 1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. x. 8 She..badde hym be stylle, With suche wise wordes to wissen any sottes. 1422 tr. *Secreta Secret., Priv. Priv.* 157 Whoso nothynge thynkyth of thyngis y-passet. a sote and a fole he shall be callid. *a* 1500 *Flower & Leaf* 101 (Skeat), So sodainly that, as it were a sot, I stood astonied. 1509 BARCLAY *Shyp of Folys* (1570) 85 Into the Church then comes another sotte. 1546 J. HEYWOOD *Dial. Wit & Folly* (Percy Soc.) 14 No more dysernythe the sott, at yeres thre score, Then th' ynosent borne within yeres thre before. 1602 J. DAVIES (Heref.) *Mirum in Modum* Wks. (Grosart) I. 25/2 Why hath a wise man, to his Sonne a Sotte? 1641 MILTON *Animadv.* Wks. 1851 III. 235 The one is ever..a sot, an ideot for any use that mankind can make of him. 1712 STEELE *Spect.* No. 492 P 1 The Men are such unthinking Sots, that they do not prefer her who restrains all her Passions and Affections [etc.]. *c* 1745 FIELDING *Lucy in Town* Wks. 1784 I. 438 That I should be such a sot as to suffer you!

Prov. a 1250 *Prov. Alfred* 421 Sottes bolt is sone i-scohte. *c* 1300 *Prov. Hendyng* in *Rel. Ant.* I. 111 Sottes bolt is sone shote.

Comb. 1610 HEALEY *St. Aug. Citie of God* XX. XXX. 833 Their..apparelling him [i.e. Christ] with sot-like habites, crowning him with thorne, striking him on the head, with reedes,..was nothing but a continuate insultation.

2. One who dulls or stupefies himself with drinking; one who commonly or habitually drinks to excess; a soaker.
1592 NASHE *Pierce Penilesse* Wks. (Grosart) II. 43 The Danes are bursten-bellied sots, that are to be confuted with nothing but Tankards or quart pots. 1616 R. C. *Times' Whistle* (1871) 63, I graunt you then a drunken sot may goe For one that is innocuous. 1654 WHITLOCK *Zootomia* 3 He that..drinketh not all his Wine before the Salt is taken away, and only for Digestion: Such a one is a Drunkard, a Sot, &c. 1693 PRIDEAUX *Lett.* (1875) 160 We are here at a miserable passe with this horrid sot we have got for our Dean. He cannot sleep at night till dosed with drink. 1721 SHAFTESB. *Charac.* (1737) II. 127 One, who abuses himself in this way, is often call'd a sot, but never a debauchee. 1750 BERKELEY *Patriotism* § 10 Wks. 1871 III. 455 A sot, a beast, benumbed and stupefied by excess. 1818 SCOTT *Rob Roy* vi, They form a happy compound of sot, gamekeeper, bully, horse-jockey, and fool. 1856 EMERSON *Eng. Traits, Ability* Wks. (Bohn) II. 34 Even the pleasure-hunters and sots of England are of a tougher texture. 1870 THORNBURY *Tour rd. Eng.* II. xxii. 112 A poor, clever, worn-out sot.

3. *attrib.*, or in genitive combs., as †**sot-bay, sot's-hof, -hole,** a resort of drinkers; †**sot's cap,** a variety of sea-shell; †**sot-weed,** tobacco.
(*a*) 1532 MORE *Confut. Tindale* Wks. 711/1 A very cold consent of my goffe, that he found and tooke vp at sottes hoffe. 1706 E. WARD *Wooden World Diss.* (1708) 87 His Cruise is over, and he comes to an Anchor in Sot-Bay. 1755 *Gentl. Mag.* XXV. 208 It would not have cost me above four-pence half-penny to have spent my evening at Sots Hole. 1827 HONE *Every-day Bk.* 21 Dec. II. 1626 Some 'good fellow', who is good no where but in 'sot's-hole'.

(*b*) 1702 T. BROWN, etc. *Lett. fr. Dead* II. Wks. 1707 II. 81 We had every one ramm'd a full charge of Sot-weed into our infernal Guns. 1747 *Scheme Equip. Men of War* 35 To add a small Composition of high-flavoured Sot-Weed. 1785 in GROSE *Dict. Vulgar T.*

(*c*) 1713 PETIVER *Aquat. Anim. Amboinæ* Tab. 16/28 *Pectunculus rostratus*,..Sots-cap.

†**B.** *adj.* Foolish, stupid. *Obs.*
c 1050 *Suppl. Ælfric's Gloss.* in Wr.-Wülcker 172/32 *Hebes*, dwæs, *uel* sott. *a* 1100 *Voc.* Ibid. 316/7 *Stultus*, stunt. *Sottus*, sot. *c* 1200 *Vices & Virtues* 67 'Ȝif ȝeure ani,' he seiđ, 'is ihealden for wis on ðare woreld, becume sott, and swa he mai bien wis'. *a* 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 107 Luuede heo nane lihte plohen ne nane sotte songes. *c* 1250 *Orison our Lady* 37 in *O. E. Misc.*, And alle mine sot dede Ich ◆idde hire to me bi-seo. 1648 HEXHAM II, *De Alder-sotste*, the Most foolish, or the Sottest.

†**Sot,** *sb.*[2] *Obs.*—[1] [ad. Sp. *azote.*] A scourge.
1588 PARKE tr. *Mendoza's Hist. China* 261 They began to whippe them vpon the calues of their legges with a sot made of canes.

Sot (sɒt), *v.* Also 5–6 **sott,** 6 **sotte.** [f. Sot *sb.*[1] (cf. MDu. *sotten, zotten* to be foolish), or aphetic for Assot *v.*]

1. *trans.* †**a.** To render foolish or doltish; to stupefy, to besot. *Obs.*
a 1400–50 *Wars Alex.* 4364 Ne foloȝe we na ficesyens ne philisophour scolis, As sophistri & slik thing to sott with þe pepill. 1554 PHILPOT *Exam. & Writ.* (Parker Soc.) 322 The cup of the Whore of Babylon, wherewith she hath sotted and made drunk the most part of Christendom. 1571 GOLDING *Calvin on Ps.* v. 11 He sotteth them with the spirit of drowsynesse and giddynesse. 1600 F. THYNNE *Epig.* (1876) 53 Crisopeia,..whoe sotts him soe with her bewitchinge sight. 1626 BRETON *Fantastickes* Wks. (Grosart) II. 5/2 Loue..crosseth wisdome, serueth Beautie, and sotteth folly. *a* 1700 KEN *Edmund* Poet. Wks. 1721 II. 297 Of Wine and Spirits..They..should Cellars drain, Which..should sot the Dane.

†**b.** To blurt *out* stupidly. *Obs.*—[1]
1608 H. CLAPHAM *Errour Right Hand* 44 He beginnes to puffe,..and then sotted out this question.

c. With *away.* To waste or squander by sottish conduct.
1746 CHESTERF. *Lett.* cxii. (1792) I. 304, I must..have destroyed my health and faculties by sotting away the evenings. 1782 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 2) IX. 6908/1 Brandy-shops, in which the inhabitants used to sot away their time in drinking strong liquors and smoking tobacco. 1850 *Blackw. Mag.* Nov. 510 The elder son of the forementioned squire had muddled and sotted away much of his share in the Leslie property.

2. *intr.* To play the sot; to drink to excess; to soak. Also with *it.*
1633 MARMION *Antiq.* II. i. (1875) 217 You have been sotting on't all night with wine. 1711 E. WARD *Vulgus Brit.* IX. 99 Where day by day they us'd to sot, At All-fours, Cribidge, or at Put. *a* 1716 SOUTH *Twelve Serm.* (1717) VI. 399 Those, who should have been watching the Motion of the Enemy, were sotting it at their Cups. 1815 W. H. IRELAND *Scribbleomania* 9 Periodical Writers that sot over beer. 1837 DICKENS *Pickw.* vi, Beyond the few..reckless vagabonds with whom he..sotted in the alehouse, he had not a single friend.

Sot, obs. and dial. pa. t. and pa. pple. of SET *v.*; obs. f. SOOT *sb.*; var. SWOTE (sweat) *Obs.*

Sotadean (sōtădī·ăn), *a.* and *sb.* [f. L. *Sōtadē-us*, f. *Sōtadēs*: see next.] = SOTADIC *a.*
1774 J. PATSALL tr. *Quintilian's Inst.* IX. iv. II. 144 *note*, Sotadean verses consisted sometimes of iambics, sometimes of trochaics, sometimes of dactyls, and sometimes of anapæstics, which being read backwards made another kind of verse. 1830 SEAGER tr. *Hermann's Elem. Doctr. Metres* 96 Among the verses adduced by Hephaestion there are, besides the Sotadean, only two which appear to be really Ionic *à majori.*

Sotadic (sotæ·dik), *a.* and *sb.* Also 8 **Sotadick.** [ad. L. *Sōtadic-us*, f. *Sōtadēs*, Gr. Σωτάδης: see def.]

A. *sb.* **1.** A satire after the manner of Sotades, an ancient Greek poet noted for the coarseness and scurrility of his writings.
1645 MILTON *Colast.* Wks. 1851 IV. 378 Perhaps, as the provocation may bee, I may bee driv'n to curle up this gliding prose into a rough *Sotadic.* 1836 *Fraser's Mag.* XIII. 742 Neither would the keenest bit of satire be a legitimate 'sotadic', without that dash of turbulence in it, and sweeping denunciation.

2. *Pros.* A catalectic tetrameter composed of Ionics *a majore.*
1830 SEAGER tr. *Hermann's Elem. Doctr. Metres* 97 [Plautus] has Sotadics in Aul. ii, 1, 30. sq. iii, 2. Amph. i, 1, 14. sq.

B. *adj.* **1.** Characterized by a coarseness or scurrility like that of Sotades.
1716 M. DAVIES *Athen. Brit.* II. To Rdr. p. xlv, Which favour was..deservedly refus'd to most Necromantick Sotadick and Arian Libels, by the common consent of all Christians.

2. Capable of being read in reverse order; palindromic.
? *a* 1814 T. BROWN in Welsh *Life* vii. (1825) 350 The second syllable is..the sound reversed, like the reading of a Sotadic line. 1862 WHEATLEY *Anagrams* 9 Palindromic verses are also sometimes called Sotadic verses.

3. *Pros.* (See quot. and A. 2.)
1830 SEAGER tr. *Hermann's Elem. Doctr. Metres* 96 The most noted of Ionic verses *à majori* is the Sotadic, constructed for recitation only.

So **Sota·dical** *a. rare.*
1610 HEALEY *St. Aug. Citie of God* 642 Sotadicall verses: that is verses backward and forwards.

‖ **Sota·na.** [Sp. *sotana.*] A gown or cassock.
1622 MABBE tr. *Aleman's Guzman d'Alf.* II. ii. vii. 161, I had furnished my selfe in Milan, with as much rich silke Grogram, as would serue to make mee a Cloake, and a Sotana. *a* 1678 MARVELL *Misc. Poems* (1681) 56 Thus armed underneath, he over all Does make a primitive Sotana fall.

†**Sotane.** *Obs.*—[1] [ad. It. *sottana.*] = SOUTANE.
1652 HOWELL *Giraffi's Rev. Naples* II. 70 A company of Priests appeared, who went with their Sotanes raised up.

Sote, obs. f. SOOT *sb.*; var. SOOT *a.* (sweet), SWOTE (sweat). **Sotel(e, -ell(e, Sotelnes, -te(e, -y(che,** obs. ff. SUBTLE *a.*, SUBTLENESS, etc.

Soterial (sōti·riăl), *a. Theol.* [f. Gr. σωτηρία salvation.] Pertaining to salvation.
1879 H. CROSBY *Christian Preacher* ii, The soterial pith of the Gospel is simple and soon exhibited.

†**Soteria·logy.** *Obs. rare.* = SOTERIOLOGY.
1768–74 TUCKER *Lt. Nat.* (1834) II. 421 He established a plan of soterialogy for the restoration and perfection of human nature. *Ibid.* 466, I would call this soterialogy or the plan of salvation.

†**Sote·rian,** *a. Obs.*—[0] [f. as prec. or f. Gr. σωτήρ saviour.] (See quot.)
1623 COCKERAM I, *Soterian day*, Good-friday.

Soteriological (sōtĭ·rĭolɒ·dʒikăl), *a. Theol.* [ad. G. *soteriologisch*: see next.] Of or pertaining to soteriology or salvation. Also *Comb.*
1879 FARRAR *St. Paul* II. 412 *note*, Lange classes the Epistles as 1. Eschatological. 2. Soteriological [etc.]. 1882–3 SCHAFF *Encycl. Relig. Knowl.* III. 2396/1 Whenever they undertook to remodel..a doctrine, they attached themselves to its anthropological or soteriological bearings. 1890 *Athenæum* 5 July 34/1 The tendency which..may be called the soteriological-Biblical.

Soteriology (sōtĭərĭɒ·lŏdʒi). [f. Gr. σωτηρία preservation, salvation, or ad. G. *soteriologie*, F. *soteriologie.* Cf. SOTERIALOGY.]

1. (See quot.) *rare*—[0].
1847 WEBSTER, *Soteriology*, a discourse on health, or the science of promoting and preserving health. [Hence in later Dicts.]

2. *Theol.* The doctrine of salvation.
1864 SHEDD *Hist. Chr. Doctr.* II. 204 It was reserved for the Protestant church..to bring the doctrines of Soteriology to a correspondent degree of expansion. *a* 1880 W. L. M^cFARLAN in *Scotch Serm.* 237 The whole of the eschatology of the schoolmen,..like their soteriology and their ontology, seems to the modern theologian..untenable.

So-termed, *a.* [So *adv.* 6 a.] So-called.
1843 R. J. GRAVES *Syst. Clin. Med.* xxvii. 344 They all get well under the (so-termed) antiphlogistic regimen. 1894 H. NISBET *Bush Girl's Rom.* 118 It is only the so-termed freeman who is valueless.

Soterology (sōtərɒ·lŏdʒi). *Theol.* [ad. G. *soterologie*, f. Gr. σωτήρ saviour, f. σω-, stem of σώ{ειν to save.] (See quot.)
1882–3 *Schaff's Encycl. Relig. Knowl.* III. 2216 [Soterio-

logy] is to be carefully distinguished from soterology, or christology, which treats solely of the person of the Redeemer.

Soth(e, obs. ff. SOOT *sb.*[1], SOOTH *sb.*, *a.*, SOOTHE *v.*

Sothe, obs. pa. t. and pa. pple. SEETHE *v.*

†So·thead. *Obs.* Forms: 3 sothade, 3–4 -hede, 4 -hed, 7 -head; 4 sotthede, -hed(d, soithede (sopede, 5 sophede). [f. SOT *a.* + -HEAD. Cf. LG. *sottheit*, Du. *zotheid.*] Folly, foolishness, stupidity; a foolish act.

a 1200 *Vices & Virtues* 67 Đe wise woreld-mann, he halt michel sothade ðat mann forlate..hus and ham. *a* 1250 *Owl & Night.* 1375 Þah heo beo god, me hine may mysfonge, & drawe hine to sothede. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 18235 Bot nu þi sothed wel es kydd. *Ibid.* 19194 And sua yee sceu all yur sotthedis. 14.. *Lat.-Eng. Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 567 *Baburra*, Sothede. 1690 *Andros Tracts* II. 35 A charge which their most Violent accusers had never yet sothead enough to alledge against them.

Sother, obs. f. SOLDER *sb.*[1] **Sothern,** obs. f. SOUTHERN *a.* **Sothero(u)n,** obs. ff. SOUTHRON.

†So·thery, *a. Obs.*[—1] (Meaning uncertain.) Perh. the old form of *Surrey* (Skeat).

1540 J. HEYWOOD *Four PP.* 879 Theyr taylles well kempt, and..With sothery butter theyr bodyes anoynted.

Sothfast(nes, obs. ff. SOOTHFAST(NESS.

Sothiac (sō·ʉ·þiăk), *a.* [ad. F. *sothiaque*: see SOTHIC *a.* and -AC.]

1. = SOTHIC *a.* 1.

1834 MRS. SOMERVILLE *Connex. Phys. Sci.* xiii. 100 The Egyptians..lost one year in every 1460*1* [*sic*],—their Sothiac period. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 267/1 It is obvious that 1461 years of 365 days each, make 1460 years of 365¼ days. This period of 1460 Julian years was the Sothiac period. 1870 EMERSON *Soc. & Solit.* vii. (1883) 151 The..scholar.. who can unearth for me the buried dynasties of Sesostris and Ptolemy, the Sothiac era [etc.].

2. = SOTHIC *a.* 2.

1877 R. S. POOLE in *Encycl. Brit.* VII. 729/2 Consisting of 1460 Sothiac and 1461 vague years. 1887 MAHAFFY & GILMAN *Alexander's Empire* xv. (1890) 158 *note*, This attempted reform of the calendar, by introducing the Sothiac year of 365 days and a quarter, is very interesting.

So **Sothi·acal** *a.* [F. *sothiacal.*]

1795 T. MAURICE *Hindostan* (1820) I. i. iii. 101 This cycle of 1461 was called in Egypt the great Canicular year, or Sothiacal period. 1813 PRITCHARD *Phys. Hist. Man* viii. § 5. 451 *note*, The cycle of Nabonassar or the Sothiacal year. *Ibid.*, More than the whole Sothiacal period.

Sothic (sǫ·þik, sō·ʉ·þik), *a.* [f. Gr. Σῶθις, an Egyptian name of Sirius, the dog-star.]

1. *Sothic cycle* or *period*, a period of 1460 full years, containing 1461 of the ancient Egyptian ordinary years.

1828 WILKINSON *Materia Hierog.* App. i. p. ii, This period is called 'the Sothic period'. 1860 R. S. POOLE in W. Smith *Dict. Bible* I. 506/1 *Egypt*, The Egyptians are known to have used two great cycles, the Sothic Cycle and the Tropical Cycle. 1892 S. LAING *Human Origins* (1893) 117 They had invented a sothic cycle for the odd quarter of a day.

2. *Sothic year*, a year of 365¼ days, in contrast to the ordinary Egyptian year of 365 days.

1828 WILKINSON *Materia Hierog.* App. i. p. i, As the Egyptian Solar year, in every four years, loses a day of the Sothic. 1860 R. S. POOLE in W. Smith *Dict. Bible* I. 505/2 *Egypt*, There appear to have been at least three years in use with the Egyptians.., the Vague Year, the Tropical Year, and the Sothic Year.

Sothly, -ness, -saw, obs. ff. SOOTHLY, etc.

Sothrenwood, obs. f. SOUTHERNWOOD.

Sothro(u)n, obs. ff. SOUTHRON.

‖ Sotie[1] (sǫti). Also 4 sotye, 5 sottye, 9 sottie. [OF. *sotie, sottie* (mod.F. *sotie* in sense 2), f. *sot* SOT *a.*]

†1. Foolishness, folly. *Obs.*

1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 60 Than haddest thou the gates stoke Fro such Sotie as comth to winne Thin hertes wit. *Ibid.* II. 209 The grete covoitise Of sotie and of fol emprise. 1483 CAXTON *Gold. Leg.* 360/1 Whan he was yonge he was full of many sottyes and folyes.

2. A species of broad satirical farce, current in France in the 15th and 16th centuries.

1791–1823 D'ISRAELI *Cur. Lit.* (1866) 133 The sotties were more farcical than farce. 1837 *Penny Cycl.* IX. 417/2 Their most celebrated sotie, entitled 'The Abuse of the World',.. is attributed to the historian Bouchet. 1879 *Encycl. Brit.* IX. 645/1 These performances..were soon rivalled by the more profane performances of the moralities, the farces, and the sotie.

†Sotie[2]. *Obs.*[—1] [ad. Sp. *azotea*, Pg. *açotea.*] A terrace or flat roof.

1648 GAGE *West Ind.* 47 Cortez desired Montezuma to goe up into the Sotie of his house..and to command his subjects to cease from their heat and fury.

Sotil(e, -ill(e, obs. ff. SUBTLE *a.* and *v.* **Sotile,** var. CITOLE *Obs.* **Sotilliche, -ly, -nes, -te(e,** obs. ff. SUBTLY, etc.

†So·tly, *adv.* and *a.* In 2 sotlice, 3 -liche. [f. SOT *sb.*[1] or *a.* Cf. MDu. *sotte-, zottelike* (Du. *zottelijk*).] **a.** *adv.* Foolishly. **b.** *adj.* Foolish.

1154 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1137, He todeld it & scatered sotlice. *c* 1205 LAY. 1970 Heo clepeden hit Cornwaile þurh heora sotliche cure. *a* 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 359 Alle ich iseo þine sahen sotliche isette.

‖ Sotnia (sǫ·tniă). [Russ. СОТНЯ *sotnya* hundred, f. *sot-*, related to Skr. *śatam*, L. *centum*, etc.] A squadron of Cossack cavalry.

1863 KINGLAKE *Crimea* II. 212 He had..a brigade of regular cavalry, and nine sotnias of Cossacks. 1878 *N. Amer. Rev.* CXXVI. 150 On the 11th a party of Cossacks reached Pescherna..; one sotnia turned northward.

‖ So·tnik. Also Ssotnik, Sodnick. [Russ. СОТНИКЪ *sotnik'*, f. *sotnya*: see prec.] A local official among the Cossacks; also, a commander of a sotnia.

1799 W. TOOKE *View Russian Emp.* I. 426 Every stanitza..has..officers, the atamans, its sotnik [etc.]. 1814 tr. *Klaproth's Trav. Cauc.* 73 In the hundred-towns the Ssotniks..transacted the business. 1854 R. G. LATHAM *Native Races Russian Emp.* 56 Instead of the..Sodnick or head of a certain number of villages—these would have been the native nobles.

Sotraccion, obs. form of SUBTRACTION.

†So·tship. *Obs.* Forms: 1–3 sotscipe, 3 sothscipe, sotschipe, 4 shotshipe. [f. SOT *sb.*[1]] Foolishness, folly.

c 1050 *Suppl. Ælfric's Gloss.* in Wr.-Wülcker 171/33 *Hebetudo*, dwæsnys, *uel* sotscipe. *c* 1131 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud. MS.) an. 1131, Þet hi heafdon forloron S' Iohannes mynstre..þurh his mycele sotscipe. *c* 1205 LAY. 3024 Þa 3et nolde þe leod-king his sothscipe bi-læuen. *a* 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 1961 Swa þet Katerine..swike hire sotschipes, & ure wil wurche. *c* 1300 *Havelok* 2099 Hweþer he sitten nou, and wesseylen, Or of ani shotshipe to-deyle.

†So·ttage. *Obs. rare.* [f. SOT *sb.*[1]] Foolishness, folly, stupidity.

1569 NEWTON *Cicero's De Senectute* ib, Suche is the.. foolishe sottage and peruerse ouerthwartnes of waywarde people. 1596 FITZ-GEFFREY *Sir F. Drake* (1881) 29 Hard yron-ages death-declining sottage.

Sotted (sǫ·tĕd), *ppl. a.* [f. SOT *v.*, or aphetic form of *assotted.*] Rendered sottish or stupid; besotted.

c 1386 CHAUCER *Can. Yeom. Prol. & T.* 788 This sotted prest, who was gladder þan he? 1387–8 T. USK *Test. Love* I. x. (Skeat) I. 18 He..is holde for a foole, and sayd, his wit is but sotted. 1426 LYDG. *De Guil. Pilgr.* 3650 For ouht that I kan se, Ye be sottyd..Off newe. 1574 tr. *Marlorat's Apocalips* 49 The vngodly, being sotted in prosperitie, sleepe a dead sleepe. *c* 1585 [R. BROWNE] *Answ. Cartwright* 71 It is not a sotted not wilfull ignorance. 1612 *Two Noble K.* IV. ii. 45, I am sotted, Vtterly lost: My Virgins faith has fled me. *a* 1637 T. CAREW *Poems, To B. Jonson* (1870) 84 Thy just chastizing hand Hath fixt upon the sotted age a brand. 1693 DRYDEN *Juvenal* vi. 798 The potion..turns his brains... The sotted moon-calf gapes. 1826 W. ELLIOTT *The Nun* 101 The dark confines of each sotted breast. 1898 *Daily News* 21 Feb. 3/4 It tried the sotted drunkard to reclaim.

b. Const. *with* (or †*of*).

c 1460 SIR R. ROS *La Belle Dame* 326 So dulle of wyte, so sotyd of folye. 1563 BLUNDESTON *Pref.* in *Googe's Eglogs* (Arb.) 29 Yf the Muse Be sotted so with this graue Study. 1588 GREENE *Pandosto* (1843) 18 Having her sences so sotted with care. 1609 BIBLE (Douay) *Ecclus.* xxiii. 19 Lest..being sotted with thy daily custom, thou suffer reproch. 1681 DRYDEN *Span. Friar* IV. ii. Had I not been sotted with my zeal, I might have found it sooner.

†c. Const. *of, on,* or *upon. Obs.*

1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* x. lvi. 508, I merueylle..what eyleth them to be soo mad and soo soted vpon wymmen. 1551 WARWICK in Froude *Hist. Eng.* (1860) V. 354 *note*, These men..be so sotted of their wives and children. 1591 LYLY *Endym.* I. i, I hope you be not sotted upon the man in the Moone. 1691 J. WILSON *Belphegor* III. iv, So sotted on her, he's not himself.

Sottely, obs. form of SUBTLY.

So·tter, *v. Sc.* and *north. dial.* [Cf. G. dial. *sottern* (also *suttern*) in the same sense.] *intr.* To boil slowly, or with a dull sound.

1781 J. HUTTON *Tour to Caves* (ed. 2) Gloss. 96 *Sotter*, to make a noise in boiling as any thick substance does. 1808 in JAMIESON. 1819 W. TENNANT *Papistry Storm'd* (1827) 39 The broo boils up wi' sotterin' sound.

†So·tteran, *a. Obs.*[—1] [ad. It. *sotterrano*, f. *sot-* under + *terra* earth.] Subterranean.

1648 J. RAYMOND *Il Merc. Ital.* 152 The old Poets cald it Aerius, because of the many Sotteran Caves in it.

†So·ttery. *Obs.* [ad. older (now dial.) F. *sotterie, soterie*, f. *sot* SOT *sb.*[1] Hence also MDu. *sotterie* (usually *sotternie*).] A piece of foolishness or folly.

1598 FLORIO, *Mattarie*, fooleries, madde tricks, sotteries. *a* 1603 T. CARTWRIGHT *Confut. Rhem. N.T.* (1618) 564 The reason..is a palpable sottery. 1663 S. PATRICK *Parab. Pilgrim* (1687) 437 To accuse the fraud of the first beginners of these Stories, and the folly of them that follow their Sotteries. 1731 MEDLEY *Kolben's Cape G. Hope* II. 46 The Governour..took an infinite pleasure in imposing all the fictions and sotteries he could upon every one.

Sotting (sǫ·tiŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. SOT *v.* + -ING[1].] The fact or practice of playing the sot, or of indulging in sottish conduct.

1583 BABINGTON *Commandm.* (1590) 176 An example of vnmeasurable sotting in bed. 1603 BRETON *Packet Mad Lett.* I. xxviii, Now for sotting and slauery and for courting in knauery, be perswaded that time will imploy my purse to better purpose. 1707 HEARNE *Collect.* (O.H.S.) II. 49 Which Faculty..he..lost by his Idleness and Sotting. 1760 *Cautions & Advices to Officers of Army* 88 Perpetual Sotting cannot fail of blunting your Faculties. 1820 HAZLITT *Table-T. Ser.* II. xvii. (1869) 358 Nothing could overcome this propensity to low society and sotting. 1869 H. KINGSLEY *Stretton* II. 206 She was a perfect and absolute mistress of the art of sotting.

‖ Sottise (sǫtīz). [F., f. *sot* SOT *a.*] A silly remark or saying; a foolish action.

1673 DRYDEN *Marr. à la Mode* III. i, That's an excellent word to begin withal; as, for example, he or she said a thousand sottises to me. *a* 1734 NORTH *Examen* I. iii. § 14 (1740) 131 Which is a Sottise past all Belief. *Ibid.* § 23. 136 A Sottise of the lowest Form of Secretaryship.

Sottish (sǫ·tiʃ), *a.* Also 6 shottishe. [f. SOT *sb.*[1] + -ISH.]

†1. Foolish, doltish, stupid: **a.** Of persons, or their faculties. *Obs.*

1566 DRANT *Horace, Sat.* II. iii. F viij, Ye shottishe, dotishe, doultishe dawes. 1583 GREENE *Mamillia* Wks. (Grosart) II. 292, I meane not to be so..sottish as with free consent to crosse my selfe with perpetuall calamitie. 1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* I. ii. iii. xiv. (1651) 126 Such are many sottish Princes, brought into a fools Paradise by their parasites. 1678 R. L'ESTRANGE *Seneca's Mor.* I. xi. (1696) 47 The sottish Extract of an ancient Nobility may be preferr'd before a better Man. 1708 SWIFT *Predict. for 1708* Wks. 1755 II. I. 150 How ignorant those sottish pretenders to astrology are in their own concerns. 1737 WHISTON *Josephus, Antiq.* IX. xii. § 3 This king was so sottish and thoughtless of what was for his own good, that he would not leave off worshipping the Syrian gods when he was beaten by them.

†b. Of things or actions. *Obs.*

1586 A. DAY *Eng. Secretary* II. (1625) 87 What is it that this blinde and sottish love draweth not a man headlong into? 1614 RALEIGH *Hist. World* I. 181 It were sottish to conceive, that he would permit the Divell..to raise a Prophet from the dead in Saul's respect. 1641 MILTON *Ch. Govt.* II. ii. Wks. 1851 III. 155 O but..the sottish absurdity of this excuse! 1692 BENTLEY *Boyle Lect.* ii. 62 It's altogether as reasonable as this sottish opinion of the Atheists. 1755 B. MARTIN *Mag. Arts & Sci.* 169 'Tis sottish to imagine that they were made to answer no End, but Man's Luxury, Diversion, or Use. 1796 BP. WATSON *Apol. Bible* 207 A style of extreme arrogance, and sottish self-sufficiency.

2. Given or addicted to, characterized or affected by, excessive drinking or coarse self-indulgence. Also *absol.*

1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* III. 92 A right name for so sottish a fellow, for..I neuer saw him..truely sober. 1642 D. ROGERS *Naaman* 4 Implunged into a life of sence and sottish sensuality. *a* 1721 SHEFFIELD (Dk. Buckhm.) *Wks.* (1753) II. 160 What else are..the sottish debauches..of Alexander the Great? 1785 PALEY *Mor. Philos.* III. iii. ix, I would make choice of..a town-life, for the mercenary and sottish. 1811 A. T. THOMSON *Lond. Disp.* (1818) 292 The effects of opium..are..loss of appetite and a sottish appearance. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* iv. I. 453 People who saw him only over his bottle would have supposed him to be a man gross indeed, sottish, and addicted to low company. 1871 C. GIBBON *Lack of Gold* xii, His face was sallow and sottish.

Comb. 1856 R. A. VAUGHAN *Mystics* (1860) I. 150 A slipshod, sottish-looking tailor.

Sottishly (sǫ·tiʃli), *adv.* [f. prec. + -LY[2].] In a sottish manner.

1566 DRANT *Horace, Sat.* II. i. E viij, They say that I am subiecte vnto drinke, And shotishely vppon excesse, laye out what so I thynke. 1589 G. HARVEY *Pierce's Super.* I. Wks. (Grosart) II. 7, I am none of those, that..sottishly hugge theire owne babyes. 1629 MASSINGER *Picture* III. v, I am not So sottishly credulous to believe the devil Hath that way power. 1691 HARTCLIFFE *Virtues* p. xviii, He breaths short Sighs often, sleeps seldom, till he dyes as sottishly, as he lived. 1702 *Eng. Theophrastus* 274 A man of parts may love indiscreetly but not sottishly. 1828–32 WEBSTER, *Stupidly*, with extreme dullness;..sottishly.

Sottishness (sǫ·tiʃnĕs). [f. as prec. + -NESS.]

†1. Foolishness, folly, stupidity. *Obs.*

Very common in the 17th century.

1589 FLEMING *Virg. Georg.* IV. 74 When as a sudden sottishnesse or follie had surprizd And caught th' unwary louer fast. 1604 T. WRIGHT *Passions* IV. i. 108 Silence may proceed sometimes of sottishnesse, because a man knowes not how to reason. 1653 HOLCROFT *Procopius, Goth. Wars* I. 27 He laughed at their sottishnesse, in hoping to bring their Oxen to their Enemies walls so unadvisedly. 1691 T. H[ALE] *Acc. New Invent.* p. xxiii, The idle conceit of the Fish Remora, which mens sottishness hath made a vulgar one. *a* 1758 J. EDWARDS in Spurgeon *Treas. David* IV. 301 The sottishness of their being insensible of God's all-seeing eye.

2. Condition or conduct typical of a sot: *esp.* indulgence in drinking to excess.

1648 G. DANIEL *Eclog* iii. 315 In time depart [thou] From the bewitching Sottishnes of Sin. 1660 INGELO *Bentiv. & Ur.* II. (1682) 161 They naturally sink themselves into an unspeakable Sottishness. 1706 STANHOPE *Paraphr.* III. 222 The Sottishness of a debauched Understanding. 1785 PALEY *Mor. Philos.* IV. ii. (1841) 180 That solitary sottishness which waits neither for company nor invitation. 1855 MAURICE *Learning & Working* 322, I cannot conceive how a people, fallen..into feebleness, strife and sottishness, could have escaped the severest punishments. 1860 PUSEY *Min. Proph.* 29 The stupid sottishness of the confirmed voluptuary.

Sottle, obs. form of SUBTLE *a.*

‖ Sotto voce (sǫ·to vō·tʃe), *adv., a.,* and *sb.* [It. *sotto* under + *voce* voice.]

1. In a subdued or low voice: **a.** Of speech.

1737 CHESTERF. in *Common Sense* 10 Sept. (1738) 226 And in a half Voice, or *Sotto voce*, discusses her solid Trifles in his Ear. 1828 LYTTON *Pelham* II. iii, A whole host of hangers-on, who were disputing, by no means *sotto voce*, whether Lady Gander was mad or not? 1853 'C. BEDE' *Verdant Green* II. vi, 'As though they were bursting with envy—not to say with laughter,' added Mr. Bouncer, *sotto voce.* 1891 FARRAR *Darkn. & Dawn* xii, 'Even proverbs warn me against him.' He quoted two, *sotto voce*, to Titus.

b. Of singing (or playing).

1775 *Ann. Reg.* II. 65 Gabrieli..sung all her airs in what they call *sotto voce*, that is, so low, that they can scarcely be heard. 1780 *Mirror* No. 89, That sort of singing below the full powers of the performer's voice, which the Italians call singing *sotto-voce.* 1801 BUSBY *Dict. Mus., Sotto Voce*, an expression implying that the movement, or the passage,

over which it is written is to be played or sung moderately loud. 1872 C. KING *Sierra Nevada* x. 218 Then *sotto voce*, for we were very near, he sang again.

2. *fig.* Quietly, privately.

1819 SCOTT *Let.* in *Lockhart* (1837) IV. vii. 226 Will you make these enquiries for me *sotto voce*?

3. As *adj.* Uttered, etc., in an undertone.

1809 MALKIN *Gil Blas* IV. viii. P 6 There was not a *sotto voce* passage during the whole visit. 1818 SCOTT *Rob Roy* viii, 'God forbid!' said the Justice, in a tone of *sotto-voce* deprecation. 1859 GEO. ELIOT *A. Bede* liii, David's *sotto voce* performance of 'My love's a rose without a thorn'. 1885 *L'pool Daily Post* 7 May 5/3 There was a suggestion of..joviality in his *sotto voce* sallies.

4. As *sb.* A remark made in an undertone.

1868 H. A. STERN *Captive Missionary* viii. 185, I only heard from two an ironical *sotto voce*, 'Well, will you walk again?'

Sotule, Sotyl(e, Sotyly, etc., obs. ff. SUBTLE *a.*, SUBTLY *adv.*

‖ **Sou** (sŭ). [F., earlier *soul, sol* SOL *sb.*[3] For earlier examples of the pl. *sous*, see SOUSE *sb.*[4]] A French coin, formerly the twentieth part of a livre, now used to designate the five-centime piece.

1814 *Sporting Mag.* XLIV. 60 We gave the postillions ten sous per post extra, to stimulate them to speed. 1823 BYRON *Juan* XI. lxxv, They are young, but know not youth,..rich without a sou. 1866 *Cornh. Mag.* Nov. 532 Imagine..that I have been paying thirty-eight sous a pound. 1882 'OUIDA' *Under Two Flags* (1890) 272 He had scarcely a sou in his pocket.

Sou, obs. form of SEW *v.*, SHOW *v.*, SOW *sb.*[1]

Souant, variant of SUANT *a. Obs.*

Souari, variant of SAOUARI.

1849 BALFOUR *Man. Bot.* § 808 *Rhizobolaceæ*, the Souarinut Family. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1074/2 *Souari-wood*, a durable timber of Demerara. 1885 LADY BRASSEY *The Trades* 112 The souari or butter-nuts..contain even more oleaginous matter.

Soubadaree, -y, obs. varr. of SUBAHDARRY.

Soubah, -dar, -ship: see SUBAH, etc.

Soubget, -git, obs. forms of SUBJECT.

‖ **Soubise** (*subiz*). [From the name of the French general and courtier Charles de Rohan *Soubise* (1715–1787).]

†**1.** A kind of cravat. *Obs.*

1776 ANSTEY *Election Ball.* (1808) 229 With a shoe like a sauce boat and steeple-clock'd hose And a silken soubise that bob'd up to his nose.

2. A kind of onion-sauce.

Usually *Soubise sauce*, or in F. form *Sauce Soubise*.

1822 UDE *French Cook* (ed. 7) 18 Purée of Onion, or Soubise. 1846 SOYER *Syst. Cookery* 22 *Sauce Soubise*. Peel six large onions [etc.]. 1861 ELIZA ACTON *Mod. Cookery* 126 Soubise. (English Receipt.)...Soubise. (French Receipt.) 1880 *B'ham Weekly Post* 6 Nov. 1/7 Mutton cutlets, dressed with Soubise sauce, are quite a different thing from mutton cutlets plainly fried.

‖ **Soubresaut** (*subrəsō*). [F.: see SOMERSAULT *sb.*] (See quot. 1849.)

1849 R. V. DIXON *Heat* 147 The phenomenon called 'soubresaut', or jumping motion, sometimes observed in liquids when in a state of ebullition. 1863 GROVE *Contrib. to Sci.* 420 Boiling like sulphuric acid with soubresauts.

‖ **Soubrette** (*subret*). [F., ad. Prov. *soubreto*, fem. of *soubret* coy, reserved, f. *soubra* to set aside.]

1. *Theat.* A maid-servant or lady's maid as a character in a play or opera, usually one of a pert, coquettish, or intriguing character; an actress or singer taking such a part.

1753 H. WALPOLE *Lett.* (1840) III. 33 There is a soubrette, called the Niccolina. 1774 *Ibid.* V. 391 A fat woman, rather elderly, who sometimes acted the *soubrette*. *c* 1820 S. ROGERS *Italy* (1839) 57 He prompts the young Soubrette, conning her part. 1839 HALLAM *Hist. Lit.* IV. vi. § 52 Congreve has made more use of the all-important soubrette, on whom so much depends in French comedy. 1871 *All Year Round* 24 June 91/1 Tragedy queens and comic soubrettes were alike to her, and she did not present them very differently to her audience.

attrib. 1887 *The Lady* 20 Jan. 38/2 Miss Sergisson played the small part of Maid with ease and grace, and wore a very becoming *soubrette* toilette of pink and grey cotton.

2. A lady's maid; a maid-servant.

1824 MISS MITFORD *Village* Ser. I. (1863) 131 She united the pleasant and amusing qualities of a French soubrette, with the solid excellence of an Englishwoman of the old school. 1848 M. W. SAVAGE *Bachelor of the Albany* (1854) 65 The Soubrette leading the way by stating the name of her mistress. 1880 RUSKIN *Bible of Amiens* I. (1884) 4 The little white-capped Amienoise soubrette.

Hence **Soubre'ttish** *a.*

1891 E. FIELD *Bk. Western Verse* 198 Soubrettish ways these latter days Invite my praise, but never get it.

‖ **Soubriquet** (*sū'brikā*, ‖ *subrikę*), *sb.* [a. older F. *soubriquet*.] = SOBRIQUET.

1818 LADY MORGAN *Autobiog.* (1859) 95 That *soubriquet* was given me long after by Mirabeau. 1835 T. MITCHELL *Acharn. of Aristoph.* 121 *note*, The soubriquet of *gapers* appears to have been attached to the citizens of Athens. 1867 TROLLOPE *Chron. Barset* II. xlix. 57 Her name was Susan, but he had always called her Posy, having himself invented for her that soubriquet.

Hence **Sou'briquet** *v. trans.*, to nickname.

1880 GORDON *Bk. Chron. Keith* 110 James Henry, soubriqueted the Grammarian from his pedantry.

Soubtilite, obs. variant of SUBTILITY.

‖ **Soucar** (*sau'kāi*). Also 8 saucar, 9 sahoukar, soukar, sowcar. [ad. Urdū (Hindī) ساہوکار *sāhūkār* great merchant, etc.] A Hindoo banker or money-lender.

1785 BURKE *Sp. on Nabob of Arcot's Debts* Wks. VI. 289 When a *saucar*, that is a money dealer, becomes security for any native prince [etc.]. 1799 WELLINGTON *Suppl. Desp.* (1858) I. 378 A debt due by him to a soucar, by name of Rugobah. 1858 J. B. NORTON *Topics* 180 When these new tenants are wealthy soucars..they will not cultivate the soil themselves. 1875 J. WILSON in G. Smith *Life* App. (1878) 633 Money which he had borrowed from Soukars and bankers. 1883 *Madras Mail* 5 Dec. 2/2 The Indian Sowcar has come to possess a notoriety hardly surpassed by that of the European Jew.

attrib. 1785 BURKE *Sp. on Nabob of Arcot's Debts* Wks. VI. 237 The right honourable gentleman's favourite soucar cavalry.

Hence **Sou'caring,** money-lending.

1785 BURKE *Sp. on Nabob of Arcot's Debts* Wks. VI. 237 The whole art and mystery..of the profession of soucaring.

Souccour, obs. f. SUCCOUR *sb.*

† **Souce**[1]. *Obs.*[-1] (Meaning uncertain.)

a 1450 *Fysshynge w. Angle* (1883) 3 With mysfedyng þen schall sche [*sc.* the hawk] haue the frounce, þe Rey, þe Cray, and mony oþer seknes þat brynget hur to þe souce [1496 sowse].

† **Souce**[2]. *Obs.*[-0] (See quot.)

1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 271/2 A kind of a Drinking Cup..is by some Gentlemens Buttlers termed a Souce, Goglet, or Goblet.

Souce, obs. f. SOUSE *sb.* and *v.* **Souch,** var. SOUGH *sb.* and *v.*; obs. form of SUCH *a.*

† **Souche,** *v. Obs.* In 4 souchy, souche(n), scouche, schoche, 4–5 sowche. [ad. OF. *souchier* (also *sos-, susc(h)er*) :–L. *suspicārī* to suspect.]

1. *trans.* To suspect, have suspicion of (a thing).

c 1325 *Lay le Freine* 269 Yif ich com hir to More than ichaue y-do, The abbesse wil souchy gile. *c* 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 788 He souches and trowes sone a thyng, Bot ful late he turnes fra þat trowyng. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 225 If so be myn herte soucheth That oght unto my ladi toucheth [etc.].

2. *intr.* To be suspicious (*of* something). *Obs.*

13.. *Seuyn Sag.* (W.) 1438 He saide nowt,..But euer he souchede him of gile. 1338 R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (1810) 259 Werfore our kyng Edward in þouht fulle wele has souched. *c* 1400 *Laud Troy Bk.* 12596 With foule venym—as alle men souched—His bowe was bent.

Souchet: see WATER-SOUCHET.

Souchong (*sūʃɔ·ŋ*). [ad. Chinese *siao-chung* (Cantonese *siu-chung*) small sort.] One of the finer varieties of black tea. Also *attrib.*

1760 *Ann. Reg.* 132 The East-India ships..have brought.. 62,900 [lb.] of souchong. 1777 ABIGAIL ADAMS in *Fam. Lett.* (1876) 313, I feel as contented when I have breakfasted upon milk as ever I did with Hyson or Souchong. 1803 *Phil. Trans.* XCIII. 268 An ounce of Souchong tea produced 48 grains of tannin. 1850 E. FITZGERALD *Lett.* (1889) I. 208 Now, animated by some very inferior Souchong from the village shop, I continue my letter. 1870 DICKENS *E. Drood* vi, He finished his breakfast as if the flavour of the Superior Family Souchong..were a little on the wane.

Soucht, obs. Sc. pa. t. of SEEK *v.*

Soucie: see SUSSY *sb.*

† **Soucy.** *Obs.*[-1] [a. older F. *soucie* (mod.F. *souci*), ultimately repr. L. *solsequium*.] = SOLSECLE.

1549 *Compl. Scot.* vi. 57 Ther is ane eirb callit helytropium, the quhilk the vulgaris callis soucye.

Soucy: see SUSSY *v.* **Soud(e,** varr. of SOLD *sb.*[1], *v.*[1], *v.*[2]; Sc. varr. *should*, SHALL *v.* **Soudainly,** obs. f. SUDDENLY.

Soudan (*sūdā'n*). Also **Sudan.** [Arab. سودان *sūdān*, pl. of *sūdā* black.] The part of Africa lying between the Sahara and the Equator. Hence **Soudane'se** *sb.*, an inhabitant of the Soudan (also as *pl.*); *adj.*, of or pertaining to the Soudan. **Sou'danize** *v. trans.* (see quot. 1884).

1875 GORDON in *G. in Central Africa* (1881) 77 Cowardly, lying, effeminate brutes these Arabs and Soudanese! 1884 *Pall Mall G.* 5 May 11/2 Let it be supposed that the Soudan ..is tranquillized, its administration 'Soudanized'; native Mudirs appointed [etc.]. 1887 *Encycl. Brit.* XXII. 277/2 The well-watered and arable Soudanese lands.

Soudan(e, obs. ff. SOLDAN. **Soudanly,** obs. f. SUDDENLY. **Soude,** var. SOLD *sb.*[1], etc.; obs. pa. pple. SEW *v.*[1]

† **Soudee.** *Obs.*[-1] [a. OF. *soudee, soldee*:–med.L. *solidāta*.] A solidate.

c 1450 *Godstow Reg.* 158, ij. soudees of rent.

Souden, obs. f. SOLDAN. **Souder,** obs. f. SOLDER, SOLDIER. **Soudeo(u)r, Soudgour, Soudiar, -dior, -dioure,** obs. ff. SOLDIER. **Soudly**: see SUDDLY *a.* **Soudon,** obs. form of SOLDAN. **Soudour,** obs. f. SOLDER. **Soudra,** var. SUDRA. **Soudre, Soudur(e,** obs. ff. SOLDER. **Soudyer, -your(e, -yre,** obs. f. SOLDIER.

Soue(n), obs. ff. SEVEN. **Souel,** obs. f. SOWL. **Souenyht,** obs. f. SEVEN-NIGHT. **Soueran(e,** etc., obs. ff. SOVEREIGN, etc. **Souepe,** obs. f. SEVENTH. **Soufee,** obs. f. SUFI. **Souff,** var. SOWFF *Sc.* **Souffis(s)ance, -ant,** varr. SUFFICANCE, -ANT *Obs.*

‖ **Souffle** (*sufl'*). *Path.* [F.] A murmuring or breathing sound.

1879 WEBSTER *Suppl.* s.v., The uterine *souffle*, a sound heard over the pregnant uterus. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* IV. 274 On auscultation, a systolic souffle transmitted from the adjacent aorta is sometimes heard. 1900 *Lancet* 20 Jan. 164/1 The absence of the fœtal heart-sounds and of the uterine souffle is very important.

‖ **Soufflé** (*sū·flē*, ‖ *sufle*), *sb.* and *a.* Also 9 souflet, soufflée. [F., pa. pple. of *souffler*:–L. *sufflāre*, f. *sub* under + *flāre* to blow.

The use of the fem. form *soufflée* is prob. due to its occurrence in *omelette soufflée*.]

A: *sb.* A light dish, either sweet or savoury, made by mixing materials with white of egg beaten up to a froth, and heating the mixture in an oven until it puffs up.

a. 1813 UDE *French Cook* 195 Soufflé of young Partridges. 1846 SOYER *Cookery* 575 Soufflés when well-made are excellent removes for the winter season. 1847 DISRAELI *Tancred* I. i, I entrusted the soufflées to him. 1883 'ANNIE THOMAS' *Mod. Housewife* 14 Ducklings and roast pigeons followed, then some pastry and a well-made *soufflé*.

fig. 1891 MEREDITH *One of our Conq.* XX, Our soufflé of sentiment will be seen subsiding under a breath.

β. 1832 *Society* I. 84 Take my plate..for some of the sweets near Miss Bradford. Not the souflet. 1836 B. HALL *Schloss Hainfeld* vii. 104 Last of all, a souflet worthy of Very's or Beauvilliers'.

b. *attrib.*, as *soufflé-case, -dish*, etc.

1846 SOYER *Cookery* 329 In a common pie-dish or silver soufflée-dish. *Ibid.* 564 A cover large enough for the soufflé-case. 1888 *Athenæum* 22 Sept. 377/3 Mere whipped-egg *soufflé* work of the most artistic kind.

B. *adj.* Of ceramic ware: Having liquid colour applied by means of blowing.

1878 MISS J. J. YOUNG *Ceramic Art* 152 The soufflé decoration is characteristic.

† **Sou·fflement.** *Obs.*[-1] [a. F. *soufflement*, f. *souffler*: see prec.] Breathing, blowing.

1483 CAXTON *Cato* c ij, Platon perceyued..that the pestylence came by the wnystelyng and soufflement of the sayd dragons.

† **Souffler.** *Obs.*[-1] [ad. F. *souffleur*, f. *souffler* to blow.] (See quot. and cf. BLOWER[1] 2.)

1674 J. JOSSELYN *Two Voy.* 4 Two mighty Whales we now saw, the one..making a great noise with puffing and blowing; the Seamen called her a Soufler.

Souffraunce, obs. f. SUFFERANCE. **Soufre,** obs. form of SULPHUR. **Soufrecan,** obs. form of SUFFRAGAN. **Sougan,** variant of SUGGAN.

Sough (sŏf, sau, *Sc.* suχ), *sb.*[1] Forms: 4–5 swogh(e, swough(e, 6 swouch, 6– souch, 7– sough. (8 zough), 8– sugh (9 seugh, soogh, sooch, etc.); 4 swowh, 4–5 swow(e, 5 sow, 9 soo. [ME. type **swōh, swōȝ*, from the verb *swōȝen*: see SOUGH *v.*[1] From the 16th cent. almost exclusively Sc. and north. dial. until adopted in general literary use in the 19th.

The pron. (sŏf) is given by Smart (1836) and Ogilvie (1850).]

1. A rushing or murmuring sound as of wind, water, or the like, esp. one of a gentle or soothing nature.

c 1382 CHAUCER *Parl. Foules* 247 Of sykys hoote as fuyr I herde a swow that gan a-boute renne. *c* 1384 — *H. Fame* 1031 Herestow not the grete swogh? *?a* 1400 *Morte Arth.* 759 With þe swoghe of þe see in swefnynge he felle. 1508 DUNBAR *Tua Mariit Wemen* 519 The soft souch of the swyr..Myght confort ony creatur of the kyn of Adam. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* II. xi. 81 Ilk swouch of wynd, and every quhisper..affrayit [me]. 1785 BURNS *Cotter's Sat. Nt.* ii, November chill blaws loud wi' angry sugh. 1792 WORDSW. *Descript. Sketches* 359 Faint wail of eagle.., and pine-wood's steady sugh. 1816 SCOTT *Old Mort.* xxxiii, It is the sough of the wind among the bracken. 1847 C. BRONTË *J. Eyre* xii, That evening calm betrayed alike the tinkle of the nearest streams, the sough of the most remote. 1862 CARLYLE *Fredk. Gt.* XIII. vi. (1872) 73 Whereupon solemn waving of hats; indistinct sough of loyal murmur. 1879 MISS BIRD *Rocky Mount.* 101 The strange sough of gusts moving among the pine tops.

b. *Sc.* A canting or whining manner of speaking, especially in preaching or praying.

1723 MESTON *Knight Poems* (1767) 15 Give them the sough, they can dispense, With either scant or want of sense. *c* 1730 BURT *Lett. N. Scott.* (1818) I. 171 The prayers are often more like narrations to the Almighty than petitions..; and the sough as it is called (the whine) is unmanly. 1816 SCOTT *Old Mort.* xiv, Never stir, if my auld mither is na at the preaching again! I ken the sough o' her texts. 1894 'IAN MACLAREN' *Brier Bush* ii. 60 He's a speeritually minded man, Maister Cosh, and has the richt sough.

2. A deep sigh or breath. Also *transf.*

c 1386 CHAUCER *Miller's T.* 433 He siketh, with ful many a sory swough. *a* 1400 *Isumbras* 89 His hirde-mene mett he everylkone With a fulle drery swoghe. 14.. *Chaucer's Troylus* IV. 375 (Cambr. MS.), Among his sobbis & his sowis sore. 1616 B. JONSON *Epigrams* cxxxiii, The well-greas'd wherry now had got betweene, And bad her fare-well sough, vnto the lurden. 1[illegible] *Voc. Bargie* in *Trans. R. Irish Acad.* II. 35 *Zough*, a sigh. 1790 BURNS *Battle of Sherra-Moor* i, My heart, for fear, gae sough for sough. 1885 *Field* 12 Dec. 832/1 From the loch would come the sough of a porpoise or the wild cry of a loon. 1901 G. DOUGLAS *House with Green Shutters* 298 It was hours ere he slept, but at last a heavy sough told her he had found oblivion.

3. A rumour; a report.

1716 WODROW *Corr.* (1843) II. 172 By the souch of members I imagine the Duke of Argyle will be named. 1816 SCOTT *Antiq.* xxix, There was a sough in the country about it, but it was hushed up. 1821 GALT *Annals of Parish* xii, I found..a sough of something extraordinar going on. 1900 STRAIN *Elmslie's Drag-net* 35, I had heard some sough o' a byre at Kelso that had been smitten.

4. *To keep a calm* (or *quiet*) *sough*, to keep quiet, to say little or nothing. *Sc.*

1808 JAMIESON, *Keep a calm souch*, be silent. 1816 SCOTT *Old Mort.* xx, I'se aye keep a calm sough. 1863 MRS. GASKELL *Sylvia's Lovers* (1874) 232 Not that I iver let on to them.., so keep a calm sough, my lad. 1880 MRS. LYNN LINTON *Rebel Family* xiii, So that, on the whole, keeping a calm sough was the best wisdom.

Hence **Sou·ghfully** *adv.*, with a soughing sound; **Sou·ghless** *a.*, silent, noiseless.

1851 W. HAY *Lintie o' Moray* 41 Gentle stream, Wi' soughless waters onward stealin'. 1890 MRS. BARR *Friend Olivia* xx, The trees..talked soughfully among themselves.

Sough (sɔf), *sb.*[2] Forms: 4 **sogh**, **sohw**, 5 **swowȝe**, **swoughe**, 5– **sough** (6 **soughe**, *Sc.* **souch**), 7 **sowgh**, **saugh**, 9 *dial.* **sugh**; 8– **suff**, 9 **surf**, *dial.* **souffe**, **soof**. See also SHEUGH. [Of obscure origin. Cf. Antwerp dial. *zoeg* a small ditch in a meadow.]

1. A boggy or swampy place; a small pool.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 2501 Þai fled and fell vntill a sogh [*Gött.* sohw], And þar þair faas þam foluand slogh. *a* 1450 *Le Morte Arth.* 875 (Roxb.), In a foreste by a swoughe. 1515 *Scottish Field* 440 in *Chetham Misc.* (1856), On a soughe us beside, there seene we our enemies, Were moving over the mountains. 1612 DRAYTON *Poly-olb.* iv. 168 Then Dulas and Cledaugh, By Morgany doe drive her through her wat'ry saugh. 1869 'OUIDA' *Puck* vii, The road..went through a shallow 'sough' of water. 1876– in dial. glossaries (Cumb., Yks., Heref.).

2. A small gutter for draining off water; a drain, a sewer, a trench.

c 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* I. 515 The length [of the ox-stall is] as from the horn into the sough. 1523 FITZHERB. *Surv.* xxxv. 49 If this maner of dichynge wyll nat make the marres grounde drie, than must you make a sough vnderneth therthe as men do to gette cole. *c* 1570 *Diurn. Occurr.* (Bann. Cl.) 100 The said erle slipit ower ane souch, and tomblit doun the same. 1667 PRIMATT *City & C. Builder* 5 The charge of driving such Soughs or Trenches. 1681 *Rec. Burg. Sheffield* (1897) 217 For making a sough to the pinfold. 1763 *Ann. Reg.* II. 100/1 At proper distances, soughs are formed near the top of the canal, which prevents it from overflowing during immoderate rains. 1780 *Phil. Trans.* LXX. 346, I shall lay a sough of brick, which will convey it from the pump to the boiler. 1805 R. W. DICKSON *Pract. Agric.* I. 301 The most difficult part of the business consists in laying the sough when in running sands. 1833 *Act* 3 & 4 *Will. IV*, c. 46 § 116 Any water pipe, sough, or watercourse already laid down..in..any of the streets. 1885 *Law Times' Rep.* LII. 356/2 Various old stone soughs, which ..received the sewage of a number of houses.

attrib. 1892 EMINSON *Epid. Pneumonia at Scotter* 18 The out-door premises..drained off through some common sough pipes.

3. A subterranean drain to carry off the water in a mine; an adit of a mine.

1619 ATKINSON *Gold Mynes Scotl.* (Bann. Cl.) 15 To frame or make a long sowgh, or scowring place, into which they bringe the streame water. 1653 MANLOVE *Customes Lead Mines* 260 (E.D.S.), Main Rakes, Cross Rakes, Brownhenns, Budles and Soughs. 1686 PLOT *Staffordsh.* 137 This sort of damp..is that they commonly meet with in long Soughs for conveyance of water from the coale. 1747 HOOSON *Miner's Dict.* Tij b, These Addits or Soughs if they prove soft, destroy a great deal of Timber, especially in Sand. 1778 W. PRYCE *Min. Cornub.* 81 The Sough or Adit being one hundred fathoms below the surface. 1851 *Act* 14 & 15 *Vict.* c. 94 § 26 If any Person shall, by virtue of any Sough Engine or other Means, unwater or give Relief to any Mine or Vein which may be under Water. 1882 R. L. GALLOWAY *Coal Mining* 25 The drainage of the mines was effected by means of the horizontal tunnels.., which were variously termed adits, watergates, soughs, surfs.

† **Sough,** *sb.*[3] *Obs. rare.* Also 5 **sugh.** [repr. OE. *sulh* plough: see SULL *sb.*] A ploughshare.

1432–50 tr. *Higden* (Rolls) VII. 165 Sche..passede by fulle stappes the ix. cultres or sughes with owte eny hurte. 1598 FLORIO, *Vómere*,..the sough or ploughshare or culter. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 333/2 The Sough..[of a plough] is that as Plows into the Ground.

Sough, obs. f. pa. t. SEE *v.*; obs. f. SOW *sb.*[1]

Sough (sɔf, sɑu, *Sc.* suχ), *v.*[1] Forms: 1 **swogan**, 5 **swoghe** (squoe), 6 *Sc.* **swouch**, **suowch**, **swoch**; 4 **souȝe**, 6 (9) **sowgh**, **sogh**, 6– **sugh**, 8– **sough** (9 *dial.* **suff**); *Sc.* 6 **sowch**, 6, 8– **souch**, 9 **sooch**; 5 **swowe**, 8 **swoo**, 9 *dial.* **sow**, **sou(e**, **soo.** [OE. *swógan*, = OS. *swôgan* to move with a rushing sound; related to Goth. *ufswōgjan* (cf. OE. *swégan* to sound, etc.; Norw. dial. *segja* to murmur, rustle) and *swōgatjan* to sigh. Cf. also WFris. *swoegje* to pant.]

1. *intr.* To make a rushing, rustling, or murmuring sound.

a 900 CYNEWULF *Crist* 950 On seofon healfa swogað windas. *a* 1000 *Genesis* 1375 Drihten..let..egorstreamas swearte swogan. 13.. *E. Allit. P.* C. 140 Þe see souȝed ful sore, gret selly to here. *c* 1400 *Anturs of Arth.* 55 By þe stremys so strange, þat swyftly swoghes [*v.r.* squytherly squoes]. *c* 1450 HOLLAND *Howlat* 171 Swannis suowchand full swyth, swetest of swar. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* I. vi. 155 Ther wyngis swochand jolely. *Ibid.* v. iii. 76 The fludis ..souchand quhair thai fair, In sondir slydis. 1724 RAMSAY *Royal Archers Shooting* iv, The feather'd arrows drive All soughing thro' the sky. 1728 — *Robt., Ricky, & Sandy* 56 Torn frae its roots adown it souchan fell. 1815 G. BEATTIE *John o' Arnha'* (1826) 25 The wind sough'd mournfu' throw the trees. 1857 THOREAU *Maine W.* i. (1864) 3 The white-pine tree..—its branches soughing with the four winds. 1884 MRS. C. PRAED *Zéro* iv, The wind soughed through the budding branches overhead in long monotonous swell.

b. *trans.* To utter in this manner.

1821 CLARE *Vill. Minstr.* I. 29 Each rude-risen tempest ..Sughing its vengeance through the yellow trees.

2. *intr.* To draw the breath heavily or noisily; to sigh deeply.

c 1475 *Partenay* 1944 There gan he to sigh and sowghid for wo. *Ibid.* 2890 He sighed, soghed, wepte with teres many. 1806 R. JAMIESON *Pop. Ballads* II. 338, I hear your mither souch and snore. 1847 H. BUSHNELL *Chr. Nurture* II. iii. (1861) 273 Dosing, all together, and sughing in dull dreams.

b. With *away*: To breathe one's last; to die.

1816 SCOTT *Old Mort.* xxxix, His uncle, poor gentleman, just sough'd awa wi' it in his mouth. 1886 WILLOCK *Rosetty Ends* vi. (1887) 46 He muttered 'Puir Gyp', an' then he soughed awa.

3. *trans.* **a.** To hum (a tune). Also *fig.*

1711 RAMSAY *On Maggy Johnstoun* x, I took a nap, And soucht a' night balillilow, As sound 's a tap. 1721 — *Elegy on Patie Birnie* iv, His face could mak' you fain, When he did sough, 'O wiltu, wiltu do 't again!' 1805 J. NICOL *Poems* II. 133 (Jam.), I, 'mang many merry fouk, Can.. sough a tune, an' crack a jock.

b. To utter in a sighing or whining tone.

1816 SCOTT *Antig.* xxvii, He hears ane o' the king's Presbyterian chaplains sough out a sermon. 1818 — *Br. Lamm.* xviii, I hae soughed thae dark words ower to mysell.

Sough (sɔf), *v.*[2] [f. SOUGH *sb.*[2]]

1. *trans.* **a.** To face or build up (a ditch) *with* stone, etc. **b.** To make drains in (land); to drain by constructing proper channels. Also *absol.*

1688 *Norris Papers* (Chetham Soc.) 175 That all ditches which convey the water crosse the highway be soughed with wall stone, and well covered throughout. 1797 *Trans. Soc. Arts* XV. 209 This lot of land, considered as enclosed, but not soughed. 1836 *Hull & Selby Rlwy. Act* 6 To bore, dig, cut, embank and sough. 1868 C. W. HATFIELD *Hist. Notices Doncaster* II. 285 Silver-street and French-gate were soughed in 1837–8.

2. *intr.* To reach, or get into, a sough.

1898 *Daily News* 19 Feb. 9/2 Lang Syne again raced by, and was a meritorious winner as the hare soughed.

Sou·ghing, *vbl. sb.*[1] [f. SOUGH *v.*[1]] The action of the verb; a rushing or murmuring sound.

? *a* 1400 *Morte Arth.* 931 Swowynge of watyr, and syngynge of byrdez. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 1061 Swoghyng of swete ayre, Swalyng of briddes. 1582 STANYHURST *Æneis* II. (Arb.) 63 The tre..with sowghing yt grunts, as wounded in hacking. 1713 DERHAM *Phys.-Theol.* IV. iii. 119 Which causeth a confusion in the Hearing, with a certain Murmur or Swooing like the fall of Waters. 1817 *Blackw. Mag.* I. 57 Carefully noticing the formation of the clouds..and the *soughing* of the winds. 1859 MISS MULOCK *Romantic T.* 74 In the soughing of the solemn trees. 1879 SALA *Paris Herself Again* xvii, Then come the distant wailing and soughing of a sea of martial music.

Sou·ghing, *vbl. sb.*[2] [f. SOUGH *v.*[2]] The operation of draining or making drains. Also *attrib.*, as *soughing-tile, tool.*

1807 VANCOUVER *Agric. Devon* (1813) 133 Tunnelling, or soughing under the gateways, will be in proportion to..the facility of procuring soughing-tiles. 1840 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* III. 140/1 Improvements in the manufacture of cofered spades and shovels, soughing and grafting tools. 1868 LADY VERNEY *Stone Edge* xxi, I can't afford to lose back-rent, and present rent, and arrears for soughing.

Sou·ghing, *ppl. a.* [f. SOUGH *v.*[1]] Rushing, rustling, murmuring, etc.

Beowulf 3145 Wudurec astah.., swogende lęg. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* VI. xi. 51 A wod with sowchand bewis schene. *Ibid.* VII. Prol. 74 Every lynde Quhyslyt and brayt of the swouchand wynde. 1806 J. GRAHAME *Birds of Scot.* 18 The dismal soughing wing, the doleful cry. 1859 MRS. GASKELL *Round the Sofa* II. 111 The soughing November wind came with long sweeps over the fells. 1880 *Daily Tel.* 29 Oct., The nearly naked branches crackle and moan with the soughing, storm-presaging wind.

Sought (saut), *sb. north. dial.* Forms: 4 **soght**, 5 **souȝt**, 7 **sought**, 9 **sowt**, **soot.** [a. ON. **soht* (later *sótt*, Icel. and Fær. *sótt*, Norw. *sott*, Sw. and Da. *sot*), = Goth. *sauhts*, OS. *suht* (hence once in OE.), OHG. and MHG. *suht* (G. *sucht*), Du. *zucht*: cf. also OEFris. *secht*, OWFris. *siochte*. The stem *suh-*, *suk-* is an ablaut-variant of *seuk-*: see SICK *a.*] Sickness, illness, disease. In later use *spec.* a disease of sheep or other animals.

See also the combs. GULESOUGHT and LUNGSOUGHT.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 14157 Wel þai trud þat he moght þair broþer sauue of al his soght. 14.. *MS. Sloane* 7, fol. 73 (H.), For the ȝalow souȝt, that men callin the jaundys. 1621 BRATHWAIT *Nat. Embassie* (1877) 242 Scab, sought, the rot or any kind of murren. 1847 HALLIWELL, *Sowt*, the rot in sheep. *Westm.* 1876 RICHARDSON *Cumbld. Talk* Ser. II. 150 Ye'r sheep dee i' t' seekness or t' sowt. 1878 *Cumbld. Gloss.* 91 *Sowt*, the joint-ill in lambs and calves.

Sought (sɔt), *ppl. a.* [pa. pple. of SEEK *v.*] That is, or has been, searched for, desired, etc.

See also *long-sought* s.v. LONG *adv.* 9 a.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 3254 To mesopotany suith come he, And son he fand þe soght cite. 1382 WYCLIF *Isaiah* lxii. 12 Thou..shalt be clepid a soȝt cite, and not forsaken. 1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* III. 77 Now Creta comes..To my sought view. 1710 BERKELEY *Princ. Hum. Knowl.* § 121 Having found the sought figures. 1725 W. HALFPENNY *Sound Building* 21 Then..you will describe the sought Arches *v z t* and *w t*. *Ibid.* 22. 1883 'ANNIE THOMAS' *Mod. Housewife* 149 The cleverness which makes her a sought woman in every *coterie*.

b. With *-after* or *-for.*

1605 B. JONSON *Volpone* IV. ii, When he mist His sought-for father. 1778 *The Refutation* 13 The sought-for bribe I doubt you'll never see. 1829 BENTHAM *Justice & Cod. Petit.* 12 Such supposed facts as..may be styled unknown or sought-for facts. 1881 *Trans. Obstet. Soc. Lond.* XXII. 66 He was the fashionable and most sought-after accoucheur.

Soughthistle, obs. f. SOW-THISTLE. **Soujour,** obs. f. SOLDIER *sb.* **Souk(e,** obs. varr. SUCK. **Soukar,** obs. Sc. f. SUGAR; variant of SOUCAR. **Souker,** obs. var. SUCKER.

Soul (sōul), *sb.* Forms: *a.* 1 **sawol**, **-al**, 1–2 **sawul**, 1, 4 **sawel** (1 **sauwel**, 4 **saw-**, **sauwil**), 1, 4–6 **sawl** (5–6 **sawll**, 9 *dial.* **sawl**, **seawl**, **zawl**, etc.), 2–6 **sawle**; 1, 4 **sauel** (4 **-il**), 3–7 (9 *dial.*) **saule** (3 **sæule**, 4 **zaule**, 5 **savle**); 1, 4–5, 6–9 *Sc.* and *north.* **saul**, 5–7 *Sc.* and *north.* **saull**; 5 **sal**, **saal**, 5–6 **sale**, 5–6 (9 *dial.*) **sall** (6 **salle**). *β.* 2–7 **sowle**, 5 **sowel**, 5–6 **sowylle**, 6 **sowll**, 8 *Ir.* **showl**, 9 *dial.* **sowl**; 3–7 **soule** (6 **zoule**, **soulle**), 5– **soul** (8 *dial.* **saoul**); 5 **sool** (6 **sooll**), 5–6 **solle**, 6–8 (9 *dial.*) **sole**, 7 **sol.** [Common Teut.: OE. *sáwol*, *sáwel*, *sáwl*, etc., = Goth. *saiwala*; the forms in the other languages show various degrees of contraction, as OHG. *sêula*, *sêla* (MHG. *sêle*, G. *seele*), OS. *sêola* (*siola*; MLG. *sêle*, LG. *seele*, *seel*), OLFrank. *sêla*, *sîla* (MDu. *siel-e*, *ziel-e*, Du. *ziel*), OFris. *sêle* (*siele*; WFris. *siel*, NFris. *seel*, *sial*, etc.); ON. *sála*, *sál* (Icel. *sál*, Norw. dial. *saal*), MSw. *sial*, *siäl*, *siel* (Sw. *själ*, Da. *sjæl*), whence Finn. *sielu*, Lapp. *siellu*, etc. The ultimate etymology is uncertain.

For examples of the older genitive form without *-s*, see 18.]

I. † **1.** The principle of life in man or animals; animate existence. *Obs.* (freq. in OE. in Scriptural passages).

Beowulf 2820 Him of hreðre ȝewat sawol secean soðfæstra dom. *c* 825 *Vesp. Psalter* lxxvii. 50 [He ne] spearede from deaðe sawlum heara. *c* 1000 *Ags. Ps.* (Thorpe) xxxii. 16 Forþam þæt he ȝefriðie heora sawla fram deaðe, and hi fede on hungres tide. 1382 WYCLIF *Jonah* i. 14 Lord, we bisechen, that we perishe not in the soule of this man. *a* 1450 tr. *De Imitatione* I. xviii. 20 For þei hated her soules, þat is to say, her bodely lyues, þat þei mist kepe hem in to lif euerlasting. 1535 COVERDALE *Judg.* xii. 3 Whan I sawe yt there was no helper, I put my soule in my honde, and wente agaynst the children of Ammon. 1611 BIBLE *Gen.* xxxv. 18 As her soule was in departing, (for she died). [1651 HOBBES *Leviath.* III. xxxviii. 241 Soule and Life in the Scripture, do usually signifie the same thing.] 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* III. 744 The thriven Calves..render their sweet Souls before the plenteous Rack.

2. The principle of thought and action in man, commonly regarded as an entity distinct from the body; the spiritual part of man in contrast to the purely physical. Also occas., the corresponding or analogous principle in animals. Freq. in connexion with, or in contrast to, *body*.

Sometimes personified, as in the common mediæval dialogues between the soul and the body.

a. *c* 888 K. ÆLFRED *Boeth.* xxxiv. § 6 To þære saule & to þæm lichoman, belimpað ealle þas þæs monnes good ȝe gastlicu ȝe lichomlicu. 971 *Blickl. Hom.* 21 Eal swa hwæt swa se ȝesenelica lichama deþ oþþe wyrceþ, eal þæt deþ seo unȝesynelice sawl þurh þone lichoman. *c* 1000 ÆLFRIC *Hom.* I. 16 Se man is ece on anum dæle, þæt is on ðære sawle. *c* 1200 ORMIN 11498 Swa þatt te manness bodiȝ beo Buhsumm forþ wiþþ þe sawle. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 21757 (Edin.), Þe Sawil it hauis of strenþis þrin. 1340 *Ayenb.* 105 Þri þinges þet byeþ ine þe zaule, beþenchinge, onderstondynge, and wyl. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 4429 All þe sauour of ȝoure sauls is sattlid in ȝour mouthis. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 319 A Savle, *anima*. 1599 ALEX. HUME *Hymns* i. 21 My sensis, and my saull I saw, Debait a deadly strife. 1737 *Gentl. Mag.* VII. 50 The coward lurks in Jockey's saul.

β. c 1175 in *Fragm. Ælfric's Gloss.*, etc. (1838) 6 Ȝet sæiþ þeo sowle sorilíche to þen licame [etc.]. 12.. *Moral Ode* 394 To þere blisse us bringe god..þenne he vre soule vn-bint of licames bende. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Prol.* 656 But if [=unless] a mannes soule were in his purs. 1422 tr. *Secreta Secret., Priv. Priv.* 218 Here is i-prowid that the Sowle sueth the condycionys of the bodyes. *c* 1440 *Jacob's Well* 258 As þi soule is lyif of þi body, so is god lyif of þi soule. *a* 1547 SURREY *Eccl.* iii. Poems (1810) 355 Who can tell yf that the sowle of man ascende, Or with the body of it dye? 1596 SHAKS. *Merch. V.* IV. i. 132 To hold opinion ..That soules of Animals infuse themselues Into the trunkes of men. 1621 HAKEWILL *David's Vow* 120 It is..vanity, to thinke that all passions either may be or should be utterly rooted out of the soule. 1681 FLAVEL *Meth. Grace* v. 111 If there be spiritual sense in your souls, there is spiritual life in them. 1716–8 LADY M. W. MONTAGU *Lett.* I. xxxix. 159 Our vulgar notion that they do not own women to have any souls, is a mistake. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) II. 207 It must be dreadful,..since it is sufficient to separate the soul from the body. 1841 DICKENS *Barn. Rudge* iii, The absence of the soul is far more terrible in a living man than in a dead one. 1868 HELPS *Realmah* ix. (1876) 247, I mean that there should be a double soul, taking the word 'soul' to include all powers, both of thought and feeling. 1897 MARY KINGSLEY *W. Africa* 441, I know many people have doubts as to the existence of souls in small boys of this class.

fig. 1829 CARLYLE *Misc.* (1857) II. 106 Thus is the Body-politic, more than ever worshipped and tendered; but the Soul-politic less than ever.

b. Without article.

c 1000 ÆLFRIC *Hom.* I. 276 Fixas and fuȝelas he ȝesceop on flæsce butan sawle. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 290 Al schal doun & þe ded & dryuen out of erþe, þat euer I sette saule inne. *c* 1374 CHAUCER *Troilus* II. 1734, I coniure..On his half, which that sowle us alle sende. *c* 1430 *Hymns Virgin*

(1867) 102 In soule oonli þou wente to helle. 1535 COVERDALE *Wisd.* xiv. 29 Idols (which haue nether sole ner vnderstondinge). 1692 BENTLEY *Boyle Lect.* i. 13 That all their Thoughts, and the whole of what they call Soul, are only various Action and Repercussion of small particles of Matter. 1727-46 THOMSON *Summer* 774 There on the breezy summit ..let me draw Ethereal soul. 1813 BYRON *Giaour* 93 So coldly sweet, so deadly fair, We start, for soul is wanting there. 1884 BROWNING *Ferishtah, Eagle* 47 God is soul, souls I and thou.

c. Coupled with *body* or *life*. (Without article.)

c 888 K. ÆLFRED *Boeth.* xxxiv § 9 Ic wat þæt hit bið sawl & lichoma. *a* 1175 *Cott. Hom.* 221 He warð þa man ȝesceapen on sawle and on lichame. *c* 1200 ORMIN 2544 To wurrþenn filledd..1 bodi; & i sawle Off Godess Gastess hallȝhe mahht. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 23003 (Edin.), Lif and sawel I yeld hir til. *c* 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 129 How wake man es in saul and body. *c* 1450 HOLLAND *Howlat* 739 Bot all committis to the, Saull and lyf, ladye! 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 25 Whan man offreth hymselfe hole to almyghty god, bothe soule & body. 1567 *Gude & Godlie B.* (S.T.S.) 10 Baith Saule and body to defend. 1753 MISS COLLIER *Art Torment.* II, ii. (1811) 127 By never letting him see you swallow half enough to keep body and soul together. 1831 SCOTT *Cast. Dang.* ix, I can hardly get so much for mine as will hold soul and body together.

Comb. 1817 COLERIDGE *Biog. Lit.* (Bohn) viii. 64 To fall back into the common rank of soul-and-bodyists.

3. a. The seat of the emotions, feelings, or sentiments; the emotional part of man's nature.

For the phr. *heart and soul*, see HEART *sb.* 52.

c 825 *Vesp. Psalter* vi. 4 Ȝedroefed sindun all ban min, & sawl min ȝedroefed is swiðe. *c* 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Matt. xxvi. 38 Unrot is sauel min..oð deaðe. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* C. 325 When þacces of anguych was hid in my sawle. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 10768 Hit wold haue persit with pyte any pure sawle..hor torfer to se. *c* 1420 in 26 *Pol. Poems* 108 My soul of my self anoyed isse. 1553 GRIMALDE *Cicero's Offices* (1600) A iij, Of the soule, or life endued with sences, pleasures is the ende that it would enioy. 1599 SHAKS. *Much Ado* II. iii. 60 Now is his soule rauisht, is it not strange that sheepes guts should hale soules out of mens bodies? 1667 MILTON *P. L.* II. 556 For Eloquence the Soul, Song charms the Sense. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Past.* VIII. 113 Such let the Soul of cruel Daphnis be; Hard to the rest of Women; soft to me. 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* xlviii, Valancourt seemed to be annihilated, and her soul sickened at the blank that remained. 1805 SCOTT *Last Minstrel* VI. i, Breathes there the man, with soul so dead, Who never to himself hath said [etc.]. 1857 MAURICE *Epist. St. John* ii. 24 We say sometimes of a speech which strikes us as very sincere and very powerful, 'The speaker threw his whole soul into it'. 1874 M. CREIGHTON *Hist. Ess.* i. (1902) 2 Shakespeare..became in soul one with the mighty prince as with the lowly peasant.

b. Intellectual or spiritual power; high development of the mental faculties.

1604 SHAKS. *Oth.* I. i. 54 These Fellowes haue some soule. 1702 POPE *Wife of Bath* 299 The mouse that always trusts to one poor hole, Can never be a mouse of any soul. 1748 RICHARDSON *Clarissa* VI. 169, I never saw so much soul in a lady's eyes, as in hers. 1828 LYTTON *Pelham* xvi, The women love soul, Monsieur—something intellectual and spiritual always attracts them. 1873 M. ARNOLD *Lit. & Dogma* (1876) 49 What man of soul..but would prefer to say [etc.]. 1888 PATER *Appreciations, Style* (1889) 22 As a quality of style,..soul is a fact.

4. In various phrases (see quots.).

a. *c* 1400 *Beryn* 2682 A doubter, þat he lovid right as his owne saal. 1600 SHAKS. *A. Y. L.* I. ii. 247 My Father lou'd Sir Roland as his soule.

b. 1535 STEWART *Cron. Scot.* II. 109 [They] Skantlie durst say thair saull wes thair awin. *c* 1712 W. KING *Old Cheese* 8 Wks. 1776 III 144 Slouch could hardly call his Soul his own. 1768-74 TUCKER *Lt. Nat.* (1834) II. 124 He dares not say his soul is his own. 1889 CORBETT *Monk* xi. 155 From that moment he could not call his soul his own.

c. 1594 NASHE *Unfort. Trav.* Wks. (Grosart) V. 168 They basted him with a mixture of Aqua fortis [etc.],..which smarted to the very soule of him. 1602 SHAKS. *Ham.* III. ii. 10 O it offends mee to the Soule, to see [etc.]. 1604 — *Oth.* I. iii. 196, I am glad at soule, I haue no other Child. 1663 DRYDEN *Rival Ladies* IV. iii, She's an infamous, lewd prostitute; I loathe her at my soul.

d. 1599 SHAKS. *Hen. V*, III. vi. 8 A man that I loue and honour with my soule and my heart. 1687 MIÉGE *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II. s.v., With all my Soul, *de toute mon Ame*. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 6 Feb. 1685, I cannot..but deplore his losse, which..I do with all my soul. 1736 *Gentl. Mag.* VI. 459/2 Here 'tis with all my Soul. 1828 LYTTON *Pelham* II. xxi, 'I pledge you, with all my soul,' said I, filling my glass to the brim.

e. 1588 SHAKS. *Titus A.* v. iii. 190, I do repent it from my very Soule. 1613 — *Hen. VIII*, II. iv. 81, I..from my Soule Refuse you for my Iudge. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 18 Aug. 1688, I wish from my soul..her husband..was as worthy of her. 1768 STERNE *Sent. Journ., Temptation*, I could not from my soul but fasten the buckle in return.

5. *Metaph.* The vital, sensitive, or rational principle in plants, animals, or human beings. Freq. with distinguishing adjs., as *vegetative, sensible* or *sensitive, rational* or *reasonable*. (Cf. these words.)

(*a*) 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* III. vii. (1495) 53 In dyuers bodyes ben thre manere soules; vegetabilis, that yeuyth lyfe and noo felinge, as in plantes and rootes; Sensibilis, that yeuyth lyfe and felynge and not reason in vnskyfull beestes; Racionalis, that yeuyth lyf, felyng and reeson in men. *c* 1400 tr. *Secreta Secret., Gov. Lordsh.* 91 þe kendly sowel [of things vegetable] gedyrs to-gedyr all þes propertes. 1587 GOLDING *De Mornay* i. 11 Thou beleeuest that the Plants haue a kinde of Soule, that is to say, a certeine inward power or vertue which maketh them to shoote foorth in their season. 1634 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* 209 A soft pith, in which consists the soule and vegetative vertue of that tree. 1707 *Curios. in Husb. & Gard.* 27 A Plant ..contains within itself a Principle of Life, which we may call Soul; from whence proceed the Operations of each Plant. 1725 WATTS *Logic* I. vi. § 3 Our elder Philosophers have generally made use of the Word *Soul* to signify that Principle whereby a Plant grows, and they called it the vegetative Soul.

(*b*) 1398 [see prec.]. *a* 1400– [see SENSITIVE *a.* 1]. 1587 GOLDING *De Mornay* i. 11 Thou beleeuest that..the Beasties also haue one other kinde of Soule, which maketh them to mooue. 1620 T. GRANGER *Div. Logike* 43 The Brutall soule or spirit is not a power or facultie of the reasonable soule. *a* 1676 HALE *Prim. Orig. Man.* (1677) 33 The sensible Soul of a vast Whale exerciseth its regiment to every part of that huge structure with the same efficacy and facility as the Soul of a Fly or a Mite doth. 1725 WATTS *Logic* I. vi. § 3 The Principle of the animal Motion of a Brute has been likewise call'd a Soul, and we have been taught to name it the sensitive Soul. 1775 HARRIS *Philos. Arrangem.* Wks. (1841) 373 The soul perceives those goods which it is conscious that the animal wants. 1875 BOULTBEE *Theol. Ch. Eng.* 36 The animal soul was present; for he ate before the disciples. 1880 LD. REAY *Social Democ. Germany* 8 The soul with which it [*sc.* a plastidule] is endowed, is called protoplastic soul.

(*c*) *a* 1325 *Prose Psalter* 195 As resonable soule & flesshe is o man. 1390– [see REASONABLE *a.* 1 b]. 1398 [see (*a*)]. 1587 GOLDING *De Mornay* xv. 238 Auerrhoes, and..Alexander of Aphrodise,.. vpholde that there is but one vniuersall reasonable Soule or minde, which worketh all our discourses in vs. 1597 MORLEY *Introd. Musicke* Ded., Our maisters,..by whose directions the faculties of the reasonable soule be stirred vp to enter into contemplation. 1610 HEALEY *St. Aug. Citie of God* v. xi. (1620) 202 Hee that gaue the vnreasonable soule sense, memorie, and appetite; the reasonable besides these, phantasie, vnderstanding and will. 1615 [see RATIONAL *a.* 1]. 1725 WATTS *Logic* I. vi. § 3 They distinguish this by the honourable Title of the rational Soul. 1875 BOULTBEE *Theol. Ch. Eng.* 36 The rational soul was there; he reasoned with them out of the Scriptures.

b. Hence *three souls*, in allusion to the above as combined in human beings.

1601 B. JONSON *Poetaster* v. iii. 160 What? will I turne sharke, vpon my friends?..I scorne it with my three soules. 1601 SHAKS. *Twel. N.* II. iii. 61 Shall wee rowze the night-Owle in a Catch, that will drawe three soules out of one Weauer? [*c* 1645 HOWELL *Lett.* I. iii. 30 The Embryo is animated with three Souls;..and these three in Man are like *Trigonus* in *Tetragono*.]

6. *fig.* Applied to persons: **a.** As a term of endearment or adoration.

1581 PETTIE tr. *Guazzo's Civ. Conv.* I. (1586) 33 b, Politike louers, who..tearme her..sometime the heart of their life, sometime their soule. 1590 SHAKS. *Mids. N.* III. ii. 246 My loue, my life, my soule, faire Helena. 1611 — *Cymb.* v. v. 263 Hang there like fruite, my soule, Till the Tree dye. 1654 GAYTON *Pleas. Notes* III. xiii. 165 O persevere (soule of my soule) And act according to thy word. 1832 TENNYSON *Œnone* 69 My own Œnone,..my own soul, Behold this fruit. 1864 BROWNING *Dram. Pers., Prospice*, O thou soul of my soul! I shall clasp thee again.

b. The personification *of* some quality.

1605 *1st Pt. Jeronimo* III. ii. 40 Prince Balthezer,..The very soule of true nobility. 1607 SHAKS. *Timon* I. ii. 215 O he's the very soule of Bounty. 1766 GOLDSM. *Vicar* XXXI, My brother indeed was the soul of honour.

c. The inspirer or leader *of* some business, cause, movement, etc.; the chief agent, prime mover, or leading spirit.

1662 J. DAVIES tr. *Olearius' Voy. Amb.* 366 The Chancellor, who was the President of the King's Council, the Soul of Affairs. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 123/2 The Master Printer..is the Soul of Printing. 1724 DE FOE *Mem. Cavalier* (1840) 122 The soul of the war was dead. 1769 ROBERTSON *Chas. V*, IX. III. 131 Francis.., whom he considered as the soul and mover of any confederacy. 1808 SCOTT *Marm.* VI. XXXVIII, Unnam'd by Hollinshed or Hall, He was the living soul of all. 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xi. III. 15 He was the author and the soul of the European coalition. 1882 SERGT. BALLANTINE *Exper.* xvii. 171 As long as he remained..he was the soul of the table.

7. *fig.* Of things: **a.** The essential, fundamental, or animating part, element, or feature *of* something. Also rarely without article.

(*a*) 1596 SHAKS. 1 *Hen. IV*, IV. i. 50 Therein should we reade The very Bottome, and the Soule of Hope. 1602 — *Ham.* II. ii. 90 Breuitie is the Soule of Wit. 1632 MILTON *L'Allegro* 144 The hidden soul of harmony. *c* 1670 HOBBES *Dial. Com. Laws* (1681) 2 Reason is the Soul of the Law. 1712 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 409 P 10, I could wish there were Authors.. who..would enter into the very Spirit and Soul of fine Writing. 1775 SCHUYLER in Sparks *Corr. Amer. Rev.* (1853) I. 14 That proper spirit of discipline and subordination, which is the very soul of an army. 1807 J. BARLOW *Columb.* III. 564 Thro' the ranks he breathes the soul of war. 1818 HAZLITT *Eng. Poets* ii. (1870) 38 Nature is the soul of art. 1892 WESTCOTT *Gospel of Life* 100 The religious history of the world is the very soul of history.

(*b*) 1610 FLETCHER *Faithf. Sheph.* IV. iv, I have been woo'd by many with no less Soul of affection. 1634 FORD *Perk. Warbeck* III. i, Money gives soule to action.

b. An element, principle, or trace *of* something.

1599 SHAKS. *Hen. V*, IV. i. 4 There is some soule of goodnesse in things euill. 1862 SPENCER *First Princ.* I. i. § 1 (1875) 3 [There is] a soul of truth in things erroneous.

c. *The soul of the world* [after L. *anima mundi*, Gr. ψυχὴ τοῦ κόσμου], the animating principle of the world, according to early philosophers.

c 1600 SHAKS. *Sonn.* cvii, The prophetick soule Of the wide world, dreaming on things to come. 1678 CUDWORTH *Intell. Syst.* I. iv. 215 In like manner he resolved that the Soul of the World..was not made by God out of Nothing neither. 1785 REID *Intell. Powers* I. i. 23 A tract of Timæus the Locrian..concerning the soul of the world, in which we find the substance of Plato's doctrine concerning ideas.

d. The essential part or quality *of* some material thing.

1658 tr. *Porta's Nat. Magic* VII. ii. 192 A Loadstone wrapt up in burning coles..lost its quality of its soul that was gone, namely, its attractive vertue. 1662 J. DAVIES tr. *Mandelslo's Trav.* 32 This excellent scent..may be called the soul of all Perfume. 1704 POPE *Windsor For.* 244 He ..With chymic art exalts the min'ral pow'rs, And draws the aromatic souls of flow'rs. 1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* i, Your Spaniard is too wise a man to send you the very soul of the grape. 1855 TENNYSON *Maud* I, XXII. vi, The soul of the rose went into my blood. 1890 W. J. GORDON *Foundry* 71 But 'the soul of a ship is her engines'.

II. 8. The spiritual part of man considered in its moral aspect or in relation to God and His precepts.

Freq. with implicit reference to the fate of the soul after death, and so partly belonging to sense 9. *Cure of souls*, see CURE *sb.*[1] 4.

a. *c* 825 *Vesp. Psalter* xviii. 8 Æew dryhtnes [is] untelwirðe, ȝecerrende sawle. *c* 830 in Sweet *O. E. Texts* 446 Suilc man sue hit aweȝe, ðonne se hit on his sawale. *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 71 þet lif and saule beon iborȝen. *c* 1200 ORMIN 2921 Swa þatt itt Drihhtin cweme be, & halsumm till hiss sawle. *c* 1230 *Hali Meid.* 15 Ne harmeð hit te nawiht, ne suleð þi sawle. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 1568 Al þair luf þai gaue to lust, þai did þair sauls all to rust. 1393 LANGL. *P. Pl.* C. VI. 199 Sechep seint treuthe in sauacion of ȝoure saules. 1456 SIR G. HAYE *Law Arms* (S.T.S.) 16 The wrang errouris, the quhilkis tynis mony a saule. *c* 1485 *Digby Myst.* (1882) IV. 296 Thou knew ther were no remedy to redeym syn, But a bath of þi blude to bath mans saule in. *a* 1509 HEN. VII in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* Ser. I. I. 44 In all other thyngs that I may knowe should be to youre honour & plesure & weale of youre salle. *c* 1560 A. SCOTT *Poems* XXXVI. 9 Wesche me, and mak my sawle serene Frome all iniquite. *c* 1615 SIR W. MURE *Misc. Poems* xii. 4 Awalk, my sillie saul, in sin quhich too securely lyes. 1786 BURNS *Twa Dogs* 148 Thrang a parliamentin, For Britain's guid his saul indentin.

β. *c* 1220 *Bestiary* 118 Leren he sal his nede;..and..tilen him so ðe sowles fode. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 4156 Bi-seke we nu godes miȝt, ðat he make ure sowles briȝt. *c* 1300 *Havelok* 1422 But Grim was wis,..Wolde he nouth his soule shende. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 19 Thei prechen ous in audience That noman schal his soule empeire. 1450–80 tr. *Secreta Secret.* 9 Vndirstondyng is cheef of the governaunce of man and helthe of thi sowle. 1473–5 in *Cal. Proc. Chanc. Q. Eliz.* II. (1830) Pref. 59 That he stode in grete perell of his sowle lyke to be dampned. 1508 FISHER *7 Penit. Ps.* Wks. (1876) I. 7 Makynge this holy psalme wherby he..was restored to his soules helth. 1582 CDL. ALLEN *Martyrdom Campion* (1908) 35 His going..was only for his soule's health, to learn to save his soule. 1603 SHAKS. *Meas. for M.* II. iv. 65 Ile take it as a perill to my soule, It is no sinne at all. 1665 PEPYS *Diary* 26 July, I begin to think of setting things in order, which I pray God enable me to put both as to soul and body. 1758 S. HAYWARD *Serm.* Introd. p. xv, Success..crowning our imperfect labours in the conversion of souls. 1760–79 [see SIN-SICK *a.*]. 1818 SCOTT *Br. Lamm.* xi, To hazard my soul in telling lees. 1871 MEREDITH *H. Richmond* xii, Labour you will in my vessel, for your soul's health.

9. The spiritual part of man regarded as surviving after death and as susceptible of happiness or misery in a future state.

c 825 *Charter* in Sweet *O. E. Texts* 444 Dæt mon ȝedele to aelmessan aet ðere tide fore mine sawle & Osuulfes. 863 *Ibid.* 440 Ic..iow fer godes lufe bidde þet ȝe hit minre sawle nyt ȝedeo. *a* 1067 in Kemble *Cod. Diplom.* IV. 206 Ich hit..Gode ȝeuðe mine saule to helpene. *a* 1122 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 675, Ic wile on min dæi hit æcon for here sawle & for minre sawle. *a* 1250 *Owl & Night.* 1092 Ihesus his soule do mercy. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 7591 An abbeye he let rere..uor hor soulen þat þere aslawe were. *a* 1352 MINOT *Poems* (ed. Hall) v. 88 God assoyle þaire sawls; sais all, Amen. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* XX. 346 To pass..On goddis fais, that his travale Micht eftir till his saull avale. 1418 *E. E. Wills* (1882) 33 Masses to be songe for my saule & for the saules aforsaide. 1488 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* I. 90 To pay..a prest to sing for the Qwenis sawle. 1536 WRIOTHESLEY *Chron.* (Camden) I. 42 Beseechinge him to have mercye on my sowle. 1606 DEKKER *Newes fr. Hell* Wks. (Grosart) II. 142 The soule sees deathes Barge tarrying for her, she begins to be sorrie for her ante-acted euils.

b. In phrases implying the death of a person. See also BETAKE *v.* 2, and cf. COMMEND *v.* 1 b.

a 1122 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1012 And his þa halizan sawle to Godes rice asende. *c* 1275 *Passion our Lord* 482 in *O. E. Misc.* 51 Vader ich myne soule biteche in þyne honde. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 210 How our leuedi endid and yald Hir sely saul. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* x. (*Matthew*) 312 Eglippus in til gud elde, to god of hewyne, þe sawle can ȝeld. *a* 1400 *Isumbras* 733 My saule I wyte into thy hande, For I kepe to lyffe no mare! *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* II. 175 All weildand God, resawe My petows spreit and sawle. 1516 *Test. Ebor.* (Surtees) VI. 1, I bequeath my soull to the holie Trinitie. 1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* II. 130 King Henrie..his saul commendis to God, and his body to the clay. 1819 [see RESIGN *v.*[1] 1 d].

10. Used in various asseverative phrases or as an exclamation, as *by, for, on* or *upon* (one's) *soul*, etc. The *Eng. Dial. Dict.* gives a number of similar examples.

a. 1362 LANGL. *P. Pl.* A. VIII. 23 For þei sworen bi heore soule—' so God hem moste helpe!' *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Prol.* 781 Now, by my fadres soule, that is deed. 1579 SPENSER *Sheph. Cal.* Sept. 248 Now by my soule Diggon, I lament The haplesse mischief, that has thee hent. 1586 FERNE *Blaz. Gentrie* 22 By my Vather's Zoule they semen most of churles not of gentle blood. *a* 1704 T. BROWN *Dial. Dead* Wks. 1711 IV. 47 Be mee Shoul, and bee Chreest and St. Patrick. 1762 FOOTE *Orator* II. Wks. 1799 I. 216 By my shoul but I will spake. 1800 COLERIDGE *Christabel* II. XXVIII, By my mother's soul do I entreat That thou this woman send away! 1825 SCOTT *Talism.* xvii, Now, by King Henry's soul! [etc.].

b. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Reeve's T.* 343 Thou, John, thou swynesheed, awak For cristes saule. 1728 RAMSAY *Monk & Miller's Wife* 243 Whate'er you see be nought surpriz'd,

But for your saul move not your tongue. 1807 Syd. Smith *Lett. Catholics* Wks. 1859 II. 153/1, I cannot for the soul of me conceive whence this man has gained his notions of Christianity. 1826 Disraeli *V. Grey* VI. i, For the soul of ye you wouldn't know it from the greenest Tokay. 1894 'J. S. Winter' *Red Coats* 63 But for the life and soul of him he could not help thinking about her.

c. *c* 1450 Lovelich *Graal* liii, 116 Sire, .. vppon Oure sowles þe sothe we scholen 3ow seyne. 1482 *Cely Papers* (Camden) 106 Thay sayd howr mother schulld go on preschesyon on Corpys Kyrste day..and a my sowyll howr mother whent at that day. *a* 1510 Douglas *K. Hart* II. 100 Now, on my saule, 3e ar bot lurdanis all! 1604 Shaks. *Oth.* v. ii. 181 Vpon my Soule, a Lye; a wicked Lye. 1693 Congreve *Old Bach.* II. iii, What ever the Matter is, O my Sol, I'm afraid you'l follow evil Courses. 1749 Fielding *Tom Jones* XIV. vii, Should any fatal Accident follow, as upon my Soul I am afraid will. 1824 Scott *St. Ronan's* xxxvi, 'On my soul,' said Mowbray, 'you must mean Solmes!' 1842 Lover *Handy Andy* ix, But, 'pon my sowl, the next time I go buy hay, I'll take care that Saint Pether hasn't any hand in it. 1878 H. Smart *Play or Pay* viii, 'Upon my soul,' rejoined the Hussar, 'I think' [etc.].

d. 1613 Shaks. *Hen. VIII*, IV. i. 44 Sir, as I haue a Soule, she is an Angell. 1760-1 Smollett *Launcelot Greaves* I. v, As I'm a precious saoul, a looks as if a saw something.

e. 1796 Gall *Elegy on Pudding Lizzie* viii, Saul I how it sharpen'd ilka ane. 1818 Scott *Br. Lamm.* iii, Saul, your honour, and that I am. 1845 Disraeli *Sybil* (1863) 72 Soul alive, but those..are rotten, snickey, bad yarns. 1896 'Ian Maclaren' *Kate Carnegie* 282 But sall, she focht her battle weel.

III. 11. The disembodied spirit of a (deceased) person, regarded as a separate entity, and as invested with some amount of form and personality:

a. With poss. pron. or gen., or implying this.

971 *Blickl. Hom.* 211 Uton nu biddan Sanctus Michael.. þæt he ure saula ȝelæde on ȝefean. *c* 1050 *O. E. Chron.* (MS. C) an. 1036, Syððan hine man byriȝde,..on þam suð portice, seo saul is mid Criste. *c* 1205 Lay. 29634 Heofne is þe al 3aru, þider scal þi saulen uaren. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 4136 His bodi was buried wið angeles hond,..In to lef reste his sowle wond. *c* 1300 *Havelok* 245 þat God self shulde his soule leden Into heuene. *c* 1385 Chaucer *L. G. W.* 2493 *Phyllis*, The deuyl sette here soules bothe a fere. *c* 1420 in *26 Pol. Poems* 108 Contrary to godis hest þou purchasest þy saule helle prisoun. 1474 Caxton *Chesse* II. iv. (1883) 52 They lyue in her sowles gloriously that ben slain..for the comyn wele. 1560 Daus tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 115 b, It was beleved certenly that dead mens soules dyd walke after they were buried. 1599 Alex. Hume *Hymns* i. 131 Then sall my singing saull reioyce, And flee aboue the skie. 1615 G. Sandys *Trav.* 266 Saint German ..here found the soule of Pascasus tormented with heate. 1833 Tennyson *May Queen* III. xi, I know The blessed music went that way my soul will have to go. 1875 Jowett *Plato* (ed. 2) I. 343 Another world in which the souls of the dead are gathered together.

b. With *a*, *the*, and in pl.

971 *Blickl. Hom.* 67 Myceine bite Drihten dyde on helle þa he þyder astaȝ,..& þa halȝan sauwla þonon alædde. *Ibid.* 209 On ðæm clife hangodan..manize swearte saula be heora handum ȝebundne. *c* 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 115 Þo folȝede ure helende michel feord of englen and of holie soules. *c* 1275 *Passion our Lord* 682 in *O. E. Misc.* 56 Þe veond of helle hedde muchel onde Vor hi by-nomen him saulen. *c* 1330 R. Brunne *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 9184 Payens & Cristen, many were slawen, & many a sowle fro body drawen. *c* 1386 Chaucer *Prol.* 510 A chaunterie for soules. *c* 1430 *Compend. Old Treat.* in Roy *Rede me* (Arb.) 180 They be cowntable of as many sowlys as dyen in thys default. 1470–85 Malory *Arthur* XVI. xiii. 681 Thenne oure lord Ihesus Cryste shewed hym vnto yow in the lykenes of a sowle that suffred grete anguysshe. 1513 Douglas *Æneid* VI. xi. 3 Sawlis..quhilkis wer for to wend To mydle erd, and thair in bodeis ascend. 1596 R. H. tr. *Lavaterus's Ghostes & Spir.* 61 With whome the same soule meeting as it did before, lamented very much. 1616 J. Lane *Contn. Sqr.'s T.* IV. 46 *note*, And in her glasse, white soles ascendinge, spied the narrowe waie to theire Lord glorified. 1683 Norris *Plato's Two Cupids* iv. Misc. (1687) 88 So Devils and damned Souls in hell Fry in the fire with which they dwell. 1750 Gray *Elegy* 89 On some fond breast the parting soul relies. 1812 Byron *Ch. Har.* II. viii, If..there be A land of souls beyond that sable shore. 1899 *Daily News* 17 Apr. 4/3 The idea was that the soul was a little bloodless, fleshless thing.

c. *local.* (See quots., and cf. *ghost-moth.*)

1851 *N. & Q.* 1st Ser. III. 220 The country-people used to in my youth..call night-flying white moths, especially the *Hepialus humuli*,..'souls'. 1861 *All Year Round* 1 June 234 To this day, in the north and west of England, the moths that fly into candles are called Saules.

12. A person, an individual; †a living thing. Chiefly in enumeration, or with *every*.

[*c* 1000 Ælfric *Gen.* ii. 7 And se man wæs ȝeworht on libbendre sawle.]

c 1320 *Cast. Love* 448 Nis þer nout in world..þat nis destrued..But eiȝte soulen þt weren i-ȝemed In þe schup. *c* 1381 Chaucer *Parl. Foules* 33 Erthe and soulis that thereon dwelle. 1535 Coverdale *Lev.* xi. 46 All maner of soules yt crepe vpon earth. *c* 1550 [?G. Walker] *Detect. Dice-Play* D iv, He wilbe your cuntry man at least, & peraduenture either of kinne or aly, or some soule sib vnto you. 1632 Lithgow *Trav.* II. 52 Below the middle part, there was but one body, and aboue the middle there was two liuing soules, each one separated from another. 1672 Petty *Pol. Anat.* (1691) 18 The number of British slain in 11 years was 112 thousand Souls. 1724 *Briton* No. 24. 104 We have now pretty accurately ascertain'd the Number of Souls..existing in England. 1776 Earl Carlisle in Jesse *Selwyn & Contemp.* (1844) III. 158 Not the worse for having levanted every soul at Newmarket. 1819 Byron *Juan* II. lxi, Nine souls more went in her: the long-boat still Kept above water. 1861 M. Pattison *Ess.* (1889) I. 38 The frail craft capsized, and Hartmann, with nearly every soul on board, went down in her. 1894 Wolseley *Marlb.* I. 245 There were about three hundred souls on board.

b. In negative phrases, esp. *not a soul.*

1610 Shaks. *Temp.* I. ii. 209 Not a soule But felt a Feauer. 1759 Sterne *Tr. Shandy* II. v, When you are predetermined to take no one soul's advice. 1775 Mme. D'Arblay *Early Diary, Let.* 10 June, We had not a soul beyond our own family. 1811 Shelley in Hogg *Life* (1858) I. 391, I am what the sailors call 'banyaning'. I do not see a soul. 1857 W. Collins *Dead Secret* III. i, He allowed no living soul..to enter the house. 1897 A. Morrison *Dorrington Deed-box* i, I shall be all alone, without a soul to say a word to.

c. *dial.* Used in the pl. as a form of address: Friends, fellows.

1874 T. Hardy *Far fr. Mad. Crowd* lvii, Come in, souls, and have something to eat and drink. 1892 'Q.' (Quiller Couch) *Three Ships* ii, Well, souls, we was a bit tiddly-winky last Michaelmas.

13. Used with defining adj. to denote a person of a particular character or in respect of some quality; freq. with a touch of contempt, compassion, or familiarity.

Common in the 16th and 17th centuries.

1519 *North Co. Wills* (Surtees) 105 Euery yere..to give xd. to x poore soulles. *a* 1548 Hall *Chron., Hen. V*, 60 b, Innumerable sely solles dayly died and hourely starued. 1602 Marston *Antonio's Rev.* v. v, Call Julio hither. Where's the little sowle? I sawe him not to-day. 1665 *Extr. Sel. P. rel. Friends* (1912) III. 247 The honest Soules ..ar much afflicted to be reuiled..by the bold faction. 1806 J. Beresford *Miseries Hum. Life* VII. xix, Paying a long visit at the retired house of a well meaning Soul. 1833 Hr. Martineau *Loom & Lugger* I. v, It was very well the poor soul had not had a long illness. 1874 Burnand *My Time* i. 3 Nurse Davis, the kindest soul in the world, and very fond of my mother.

b. Used parenthetically, or with *like.*

1572 *Satir. Poems Reform.* xxxi. 112 Sillie saulis, thay ar sa daft. 1594 Kyd *Cornelia* v. 63 He made his Pyoners (poore weary soules)..to dig..new Trenches. 1663 S. Patrick *Parab. Pilgr.* xx. (1687) 200 Poor Soul! who puts us upon doing..but knows not what it is to believe. 1782 Cowper *Gilpin* 65 Now mistress Gilpin (careful soul!) Had two stone bottles found. 1811 C. K. Sharpe *Let.* Corr. 1888 I. 493 For his errors, poor soul! were venial. 1850 Kingsley *A. Locke* (1876) I. 7 She would have stuffed my ears with cotton, kind careful soul. 1870 Dickens *E. Drood* i, Ye'll remember like a good soul.

c. With more distinct implication of sense 2 or 3.

1635 Quarles *Embl.* II. v, What mean dull souls, in this high measure, To haberdash In earth's base wares. 1685 *Gracian's Courtier's Orac.* 154 The least atome of baseness is inconsistent with the generosity of great Souls. 1721 Ramsay *Prospect of Plenty* 129 Active sauls a stagnant life despise. 1741–2 Gray *Agrip.* 126 Rough, stubborn souls, That struggle with the yoke. 1841–4 Emerson *Ess., History* Wks. (Bohn) I. 7 It has been said, that 'common souls pay with what they do—nobler souls with that which they are'. 1871 Morley *Carlyle* in *Crit. Misc.* Ser. I. 215 It was not science for headlong and impatient souls.

14. In pregnant use: †**a.** (See quot.) *Obs.*—0

a 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew, He is a Soul*, or loves Brandy.

b. One in whom the spiritual or intellectual qualities predominate. *rare.*

1814 Byron *Diary* 19 Feb., Just returned from seeing Kean in Richard. By Jove, he is a soul! 1895 *Daily News* 9 Dec. 7/1 Brought up by such a mother, the Lady Marcella naturally became something of a Soul.

IV. In various special or technical uses.

15. (See later quots.) Now *dial.*

1530 Palsgr. 273/1 Soule of a capon or gose, *ame.* 1591 Percivall *Sp. Dict.*, *Molleja*, the tender parte in any birde, which in a goose we call the soule, *Præcordia.* 1774 Goldsm. *Nat. Hist.* (1862) II. I. i. 5 Their lungs, which are commonly called the sole, stick fast to the sides of the ribs and back. 1876 Mrs. G. L. Banks *Manch. Man* xliv, One of his favourite tid-bits was that spongy lining of a goose's frame known as the *soul.*

†16. The bore of a cannon (see quot. 1571).

So F. *l'âme d'un canon.*

1571 Digges *Pantom.* (1591) 176 Forasmuch as by the direction of the hollowe Cylinder..of the Peece, the violence of all shot of great Artillerye is not onely directed but also increased, I call that hollowe Cylinder of the Peece her Soule. 1626 Capt. Smith *Accid. Yng. Seamen* 32 Particuler..tearmes for great Ordnances, as the concaue, trunke, cylinder, the soule or bore of a peece. 1669 Sturmy *Mariner's Mag.* v. xii. 62, I find..the soule or bore to be 1 inch out of his place.

17. The sound-post of a violin.

1838 *Penny Mag.* 30 June 246/2 This peg is called the *sounding-post*, or, as the French term it, the *soul* of the violin. 1854 Brewer *Sound* 145 The object of this prop, called the sound-post or 'soul' of the violin, is..to make the face and back vibrate in exact unison. 1868 Airy *Sound* 167.

V. *attrib.* and *Comb.*

18. Genitive combs.: †**a.** With forms representing the OE. gen. sing. *sáwle*, as *soul-boot, -food, -leech*, etc. See also Soul-heal, -health.

Also with gen. pl. *saulene* for OE. *sáwla.*

c 1200 Ormin 10194 Hefennlike mahhte, þatt mihhte turrnenn swillke menn To sekenn *sawlebote. *c* 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 27 Godes word þat is þe *sowle fode. *c* 1275 *Serving Christ* 41 in *O. E. Misc.* 91 We wyþ sunnes geteþ saulene fode. *a* 1340 Hampole *Psalter* cvi. 10 In nede of saule fode. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 182 Þus is sicnesse *soule leche. 1375 in Horstmann *Altengl. Leg.* (1878) 138/2 Praye we..þat god..Be his soule leche. 1411 *26 Pol. Poems* 42, I..Bycom a man to be 3oure soule leche. *c* 1200 Ormin 12622 To lokenn whatt itt tæcheþþ uss Off ure *sawle nede. 13.. *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* xxxvii. 733 He..seiþ hit is þe *soule note þat þe prest seiþ and doþ. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* vi. (*Thomas*) 490 Ve suld set our maste delyte In goddis vord fore *sawle profyte. *c* 1470 *Gol. & Gaw.* 269 Be the pilgramage compleit I pas for *saull prow. *c* 1412 Hoccleve *De Reg. Princ.* 4440 His lordes *soule salue he from hym hydith. *c* 1200 Ormin Pref. 102 Icc wile shæwenn 3uw Hu mikell *sawle sellþe..unnderrfoþ.. all þatt lede. 13.. *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* xxxvii. 781 Al þat þe bodi lykeþ wel Is aȝeyn þe *soule wille.

b. With the form *soul's*, as *soul's-city, -darling, friend.*

1593 Nashe *Christ's Tears* Wks. (Grosart) IV. 157 He..cannot chuse but haue his soules-cittie soone raced. 1605 *1st Pt. Jeronimo* I. ii. 65 Adew, soules friend. 1874 Lisle Carr *J. Gwynne* I. vi. 182 An always erring and very faulty soul's-darling.

19. Simple attrib., as *soul-affair, -blood,* †*-case, concern(ment*, etc.

The number of attributive uses is very large, and in this and the following groups only a few of the older or more important are illustrated.

1672 O. Heywood *Diaries* (1883) III. 198 He..was very stupid about *soul-affaires. 1629 Donne *Serm.* cix. Wks. 1839 IV. 492 Adam is but..red earth, earth dyed red in blood, in *soul-blood. 1848 Bailey *Festus* (ed. 3) 41 Corruption..is in Your soul-blood and your soul-bones. 1699 O. Heywood *Diaries* (1885) IV. 195 Elizabeth Sonier came to discourse with me in *soul-cases. 1654 Whitlock *Zootomia* 393 The Cures (attempted) by a..ranckerous Spirit, are wounds in this *Soule-chirurgery. 1742–3 *Observ. upon Methodists* 23, I hear some are under *Soul concern. 1675 O. Heywood *Diaries* (1883) III. 265, I talk with them about *soul-concernments. 1619 W. Y. *To Rdr.* in *Hieron's Wks.* II. 424 Gods gracious preseruing from *soule-destruction. 1617 Hieron *Ibid.* 191 One fit of *soule-disturbance will make all those kinds of gladnesse to flee away like a dreame. 1645 Rutherford *Tryal & Tri. Faith* (1845) 93 Christ promiseth *Soul-ease. 1646 Jenkyn *Remora* 13 Are your heartiest, your *soul-endeavours set upon Reformation? 1726 Wodrow *Corr.* (1843) III. 239 Besides much spiritual *soul exercise, it contained many valuable hints at facts. 1816 Scott *Old Mort.* xlii, The Cameronians.. boasted frequently of Burley's soul-exercises. *a* 1638 Mede *Wks.* (1672) 631 This order of Dæmons, or *Soul-gods, as I may call them. 1654 Gataker *Disc. Apol.* 75 Because he would not dissolv the *soul-harmonie of weak persons. 1645 Rutherford *Tryal & Tri. Faith* (1845) 260 That death, that *soul-hell in the want of Christ. *a* 1618 Sylvester *Paradox agst. Libertie* 1089 Wks. (Grosart) II. 65 In *soule idlenesse, to spend so large a time. 1677 J. Elliot in Birch *Life of Boyle* Wks. 1772 I. p. xxvi, The Lord's work of *soul-instruction and edification. 1662 Hibbert *Body Divinity* I. 127 *Soul-light is not enough to make us truly wise. *c* 1620 J. Davies (Heref.) *Commendatory Poems, Sylvester* Wks. (Grosart) II. 15/1 Here is stor'd such sweet *Soule-ravishments. 1689 *Mem. Rokeby* (Surtees) 12 A sister that..has rec[eive]d..much *soule-refreshment. 1581 Allen *Apologie* 9 b, *Soul rightes (without which men perish doubtlesse euerlastingly). 1657 F. Cockin *Div. Blossomes* 12 That which unto *Soul-safety much doth tend. 1648 Gage *West Ind.* iv. 14 That occasion of some *soul-sanctification. 1641 Ld. Brooke *On Episc.* 97 They have come to cutting off Eares, Cheeks, and have yet struck deeper, and essayed many *Soule-Schismes. 1646 Trapp *Comm. John* xiii. 25 John.., who knew Christ's *soul-secrets. 1883 Jefferies *Story of my Heart* 49 The circumambient ether..is full of soul-secrets. 1656 E. Reyner *Rules Govt. Tongue* 269 Some..have drunk very deep of the cup of *soul-troubles. 1690 C. Nesse *Hist. O. & N. Test.* I. 142 Idolizing the Virgin Mary.., equalling her milk unto Christs blood for *soul vertue. *a* 1618 Sylvester *Mem. Mortalitie* lxxxi. Wks. (Grosart) II. 227 Mock-Saints, whose *Soul-weal on your Works you lay. 1668 R. Steele *Husbandm. Call.* v. (1672) 85 *Soul-work never goes on, unless we have a mind to work. 1834 K. H. Digby *Mores Cath.* v. iv. 109 It was the reflection of God. It was the invisible world, the *soul world. 1600 W. Watson *Decacordon* (1602) 268 Respecting the danger of *soule-wracke.

20. With the names of persons, etc. (chiefly agent-nouns), as *soul brother, carrier, -curer*, etc.

1742–3 *Observ. upon Methodists* 18 Our glorious *Soul brother had it revealed to him in Spirit [etc.]. 1553 Becon *Jewel of Joy* Pref., The mumbling masses of those lasy *soule cariers. 1598 Shaks. *Merry. W.* III. i. 100 *Soule-Curer, and Body-Curer. 1825 Cobbett *Rur. Rides* (1885) II. 88 There is no parsonage house for a soul-curer to stay in. 1785 Grose *Dict. Vulgar T.*, **Soul doctor*,..a parson. 1880 W. Newton in *Serm. Boys & Girls* (1881) 148 The Pharisees called themselves teachers or soul-doctors. *a* 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew*, **Soul-driver*, a Parson. 1682 Bunyan *Gtness. of Soul* Wks. (Offor) I. 142 This is a *soul-fool, a fool of the biggest size. 1656 E. Reyner *Rules Govt. Tongue* 203 Receive Reprovers as the Angels of God, as our *soul-friends. 1382 Wyclif *Gen.* iii. 14 Thow shalt be cursid among alle the *soule hauers and beestis of the erthe. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xxvii. (*Machor*) 1457 All þe folk of þat cyte..to sanct morise but mare ar went, & hyme as fadire & *saule-hyrd Resauit sone. 1682 Bunyan *Gtness. of Soul* Wks. (Offor) I. 140 Every mouth shall be stopped, and all the world (of *soul losers) become guilty before God. 1822 Coleridge *Lett., Convers.*, etc. II. 89 You must have a *Soulmate as well as a House or Yoke-mate. 1812 Colman *Br. Grins, Two Parsons* xiv, Great Britain's principal *Soul-mender Liveth at Lambeth Palace. 1650 Trapp *Comm. Deut.* xxiv. 7 Of which sort of *soul-merchants, there are now-a-dayes found not a few. 1530 Tindale *Wks.* (Parker Soc.) 437 If he minister it not truly and freely unto us,..he is a thief and a *soul-murderer. 1825 Scott *Talism.* xxviii, 'Oh, procrastination!' exclaimed the Hermit, 'thou art a soul-murderer!' 1854 Faber *Growth in Holiness* (1872) xxii. 430 The Church is a living *soul-saver. 1540 Coverdale *Fruitful Less.* iii. Wks. (Parker Soc.) I. 357 Therefore are many curates and *soul-shepherds so faint and cold to preach..Christ. 1682 Bunyan *Gtness. of Soul* Wks. (Offor) I. 143 Choose for thyself good *soul-shepherds. 1593 Nashe *Christ's Tears* Wks. (Grosart) IV. 210, I deale more searchingly then common *soule-surgions accustome.

21. With vbl. sbs., as *soul-craving, -feasting, humbling*, etc.

1602 J. DAVIES (Heref.) *Mirum in Modum* Wks. (Grosart) I. 11/1 The Spirit of Man..Should not, to such Soule-swillings base decline. *c* 1670 O. HEYWOOD *Diaries* (1881) II. 341 This fasting is soul-feasting. 1685 *Ibid.* (1885) IV. 113 How many sweet sabboths,..how many soul-humblings. 1818 BENTHAM *Church-of-Englandism* 329 The..maintenance of this corrupt system..on pretence of souls-saving. 1875 M^cLEAN *Gospel in Psalms* 203 The wonder should not deprive us of..the soul-heartening. 1891 *The Tablet* 7 Nov. 743 Christ by a few words of teaching filled the soul-craving of multitudes.

22. With pres. pples. forming objective combs., as *soul-adorning, -amazing, -boiling*, etc., adjs.

The number of these is very great, esp. in the works of John Davies of Hereford and J. Beaumont, who have *soul-afflicting, -attracting, -blinding, -catching, -cheering, -commanding, -conquering*, etc.

a 1618 SYLVESTER *Panaretus* 839 Of all *Soule-adorning Giftes divine,..the Monarchie is Mine. 1688 BUNYAN *Heavenly Footman* (1886) 139 What a *soul-amazing word will that be. 1606 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. iv. II. *Magnificence* 19 Here in Sonnets, there in Epigrams, Evaporate your sweet *Soule-boyling Flames. 1612 J. DAVIES (Heref.) *Muse's Sacrifice* Ep. Ded., Shapers, and Soules of all *Soule-charming Rimes! 1600 TOURNEUR *Transf. Metam.* x. 68 T'enrich her coffers with *soule-choaking dust. 1591 SHAKS. *Two Gentl.* II. vi. 16 Twenty thousand *soule-confirming oathes. 1601 G. MARKHAM *Mary Magd. Lam.* Pref. 19 Yea, *soule-confounding sinne so far hath crept. 1609 J. DAVIES (Heref.) *Holy Rood* Wks. (Grosart) I. 9/2 T'was time to turne His *Soule-conuerting Eies To thee peruerted Peter. 1868 J. H. NEWMAN *Verses Var. Occas.* 125 So we her flame must trim, Around His soul-converting sign. 1659 PELL *Impr. Sea* 76 *note*, *Soul-corrupting discourse. 1837 SYD. SMITH *Serm. Duties Queen* Wks. 1859 II. 253/1 For all the soul-corrupting homage with which she is met. *a* 1708 BEVERIDGE *Thes. Theol.* (1711) III. 347 Drunkenness..is a *soul-damning sin. *a* 1626 J. DAVIES (Heref.) *Sonn. Sir E. Dyer* Wks. (Grosart) I. 100/1 Minerua and the Muse ioyes my Soule's sence, Sith *Soule-delighting lines they multiplie. 1677 GALE *Crt. Gentiles* III. 64 The Devil, their great Apollo or *Soul-destroying God. 1865 TYLOR *Early Hist. Man.* vii. 159 Graving on a folded tablet many soul-destroying things. 1642-4 VICARS *God in Mount* 45 The *soul-devouring corruptions of these Clergy-caterpillers. 1898 W. GRAHAM *Last Links* 116 Eyes fixed with an earnest, soul-devouring gaze upon his companion. 1748 THOMSON *Cast. Indol.* I. xxxix, Aerial music..breathed such *soul-dissolving airs, As did [etc.]. 1603 J. DAVIES (Heref.) *Microcosmos* Pref., O that I had a *Soule-enchanting Tongue. 1680 REYNER *Serm. Funeral Ld. Holles* 20 He was careful therefore to store his mind with all *soul-ennobling vertues. 1868 J. H. NEWMAN *Verses Var. Occas.* 37 This their soul-ennobling gain. 1647 TRAPP *Comm. 1 Cor.* vii. 5 Fasting-days are *soul-fatting days. 1595 SHAKS. *John* II. i. 383 Their *soule-fearing clamours haue braul'd downe The flintie ribbes of this contemptuous Citie. 1600 TOURNEUR *Transf. Metam.* viii. 54 *Soule-frighting horrors. 1648 J. BEAUMONT *Psyche* VIII. cxiii, *Soule-knawing Worms. 1848 BUCKLEY *Iliad* 127 To fight with the strength of soul-gnawing strife. 1748 RICHARDSON *Clarissa* VI. 165 Thy *soul-harrowing intelligence. 1593 NASHE *Christ's Tears* Wks. (Grosart) IV. 225 A *soule imitating deuill. 1590 SHAKS. *Com. Err.* I. ii. 100 *Soule-killing Witches, that deforme the bodie. 1866 S. B. JAMES *Duty & Doctrine* (1871) 94 This habit is so enervating, so soul-killing. 1690 C. NESSE *Hist. O. & N. Test.* I. 24 Man should be..a life-loving creature,..also a *soul-loving creature. *a* 1721 SHEFFIELD (Dk. Buckhm.) *Wks.* (1753) I. 87 No writing lifts exalted man so high, As sacred and *soul-moving poesy. 1816 WORDSW. *'Imagination—ne'er before content'* 68 The deep soul-moving sense Of religious eloquence. 1690 C. NESSE *Hist. O. & N. Test.* I. 137, I shall one day perish by the hand of those *soul-murthering Sauls. 1648 J. BEAUMONT *Psyche* VIII. xxxvi, This noble Face; by whose *soul-piercing raies The Gentiles..Admonish'd are to..tread the open paths of highnoon Light. 1870 J. H. NEWMAN *Grammar of Assent* II. x. 386 That fearful antagonism brought out with such soul-piercing reality by Lucretius. 1601 WEEVER *Mirr. Mart.* (Roxb.) 208 My crownd, *soule-pleasing, sweet joy, mirth and plesure. 1697 CONGREVE *Mourn. Bride* III. vi, That *soul-racking Thought. 1809-10 SHELLEY *'Oh I take the pure gem'* 18 Long visions of soul-racking pain. 1650 BAXTER *Saints' R.* 716 These spiritual, excellent, *soul-raising duties. 1613-6 W. BROWNE *Brit. Past.* II. lii, All-loved Draiton in *soul-raping straines, A genuine noat..Began to tune. *a* 1618 SYLVESTER *Tetrastica* lxxii, The Charm Of those *soule-rapting Impes of Acheloes. 1603 J. DAVIES (Heref.) *An Extasie* Wks. (Grosart) I. 94/1 Maie-bowes..Where out shal breath *soule-ravishing perfume. 1673 HICKERINGILL *Greg. F. Greyb.* 264 Those soul-ravishing opportunities. 1782 tr. *Mme. de Gomez's Belle A.* II. 195 With what *soul-rending Agonies was it that [etc.]. 1657 F. COCKIN *Div. Blossomes* 48 So sweet, so clean, So *Soul-reviving. 1833 H. BLUNT *Lect. Hist. St. Paul* II. 55 Those waters of life..so soul-reviving and soul-strengthening. *a* 1708 BEVERIDGE *Thes. Theol.* (1711) III. 7 Rejoice in Him..as a *soul-satisfying God in Himself. 1731 A. HILL *Advice to Poets* xi, *Soul-shaking Sovereigns of the Passions. 1688 BUNYAN *Jerus. Sinner Saved* (1886) 124 Unreasonable and *soul-sinking doubts. 1609 J. DAVIES (Heref.) *Holy Rood* Wks. (Grosart) I. 10/1 *Soule-slaying Schismaticke, nor God, nor Man. 1834 *Tait's Mag.* I. 173/2 Honest, upright, amiable, patriotic,..and *soul-stirring David! 1648 J. BEAUMONT *Psyche* XVIII. cxl, Whilst yet with Charis's *soulsubduing heat Her melted and convicted heart did beat. 1892 W. S. LILLY *Gt. Enigma* 303 That heart-bewildering soul-subduing problem of evil. 1591 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* I. vii. 333 Th' ill humours That vex his most-Saints with *soul-tainting tumours. 1616 DRUMM. OF HAWTH. *Flowers of Sion* (1630) 29 A Sanctuarie from *Soule-thralling Snares. 1598 J. DICKENSON *Greene in Conc.* (1878) 104 A sequell of many sorrowes, a Centurie of *sowltyring passions. *a* 1634 CHAPMAN *Rev. for Honour* II. i. 268 To feed the irregular flames of false suspicions And *soul-tormenting jealousies. 1606 J. DAVIES (Heref.) *Speculum Proditori* Wks. (Grosart) II. 20/1 None but *soule-wounding words for it are meete. 1703 QUICK *Serious Inquiry* 27 These Heart-cutting, Soul-wounding Accidents.

23. With pa. pples., as *soul-benumbed, -blinded, -born, -felt*, etc.

1593 NASHE *Christ's Tears* Wks. (Grosart) IV. 173 Others there be of these *soule-benummed Atheists. 1612 DRAYTON *Poly-olb.* vi. 303 *Soul-blinded sots that creep In dirt. 1797 T. PARK *Sonn.* 47 Every *soul-born rapture..That flows from love sincere. *a* 1635 SIBBES *Confer. Christ & Mary* Pref. (1656) 3 A discourse..between a *soul-burthened sinner, and a burthen-removing Saviour. 1617 SIR W. MURE *Misc. Poems* xxi. 25 Whome snakie hatred, *soule conceav'd disdaine,..Did long in long antipathie detaine. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* I. x. 24 Patience..comming to that *soule-diseased knight, Could hardly him intreat, to tell his griefe. 1798 SOTHEBY tr. *Wieland's Oberon* (1826) II. 62 A *soul-felt glance of heavenly joy. 1764 CHURCHILL *Candidate* 144 Let no..*soul-gall'd Bishop damn me with a note. 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* i, Ah, paint her form, her *soul-illumined eyes. 1593 NASHE *Christ's Tears* Ep. Ded., Were it effectually recured, in my *soule-infused lines. 1603 J. DAVIES (Heref.) *Microcosmos* Wks. (Grosart) I. 14/2 Ladies, and Lords, purse-pinched, and *Soule-pain'd. 1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* x. 435 The *soule-sunke sorrow of godlesse Epicures and Hypocrites. 1611 SHAKS. *Wint. T.* v. i. 58 One worse [wife]..would make her Sainted Spirit Againe possesse her Corps, and on this Stage .. appeare *Soule-vext. *a* 1618 SYLVESTER *Little Bartas* 960 Wks. (Grosart) II. 93 How many sin-sick did hee inly cure; And deep *soule-wounded binde-up, and assure!

24. With adjs., as *soul-blind, -deep, -hydroptic*, etc.

1600 TOURNEUR *Transf. Metam.* xxxviii. 261 Th' exordium of ech soule-sweet argument. 1616 R. NICCOLS *Overbury's Vision* (Hunterian Club) 51 Those soule-blind men, whom they doe most betray. *a* 1618 SYLVESTER *Paradox agst. Libertie* Wks. (Grosart) II. 56/1 That good..wch soul-wise man must seek. 1704 NORRIS *Ideal World* II. xii. 479 It hence follows that this..immutable truth be the only soul-perfective truth. 1842 CDL. WISEMAN *Prayer & Prayer-Bks.* Ess. 1853 I. 379 Everything is heart-felt, soul-deep. 1855 BROWNING *Grammar. Funeral* 95 He (soul-hydroptic with a sacred thirst). 1888 R. BUCHANAN *City of Dream* VIII. 161 Then die! soul-sure thou hast not lived in vain.

25. Special combs., as **† soul-ale**, an ale-drinking at the funeral of a person; a dirge ale; **soul-cake**, a specially prepared cake or bun distributed in various northern or north-midland counties on All Souls' Day, esp. to parties of children who go 'souling'; **soul-candle**, ? one of several candles placed about the coffin at a funeral service; **† soul-case** *slang*, the body; **† soul chaplain**, = *soul-priest*; **† soul-charm** *a.*, soul-charming; **soul-friend** (see quots.); **soul-house**, a model or representation of a house placed by the ancient Egyptians in a tomb to receive the soul of a dead person; **soul-pence, -pennies**, money subscribed by the members of a guild to pay for soul-masses; **† soul-priest**, a priest having the special function of praying for the souls of the dead; **soul-silver**, = SOUL-SCOT; **† soul-sleeper**, one who holds the doctrine of psychopannychism; a psychopannychite.

1577 HARRISON *Descr. Eng.* II. i. (1877) I. 32 The superfluous numbers of idle wakes,..church-ales, helpe-ales, and *soule-ales, called also dirge-ales,..are well diminished. 1686-7 AUBREY *Remains* (1881) 23 There is an old Rhythm or saying, A *Soule-cake, a Soule-cake, Have mercy on all Christen soules for a Soule-cake. 1896 P. H. DITCHFIELD *Old Eng. Customs* 167 On All Souls' Day..it is still customary for children to go 'a-souling', and soul-cakes are still offered and eaten in Shropshire on this day. 1389 in *Eng. Gilds* (1870) 184 [Four] *saulecandels [shall be found, and used in the burial services]. 1796 *Grose's Dict. Vulgar T.* (ed. 3) s.v., 'He made a hole in his *soul case,' he wounded him. 1550 BALE *Eng. Votaries* II. C iv g, In a winter night a *soule chaplaine of the court laye with her. 1598 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. ii. II. *Babylon* 560 The *soule-charm Image of sweet Eloquence. 1891 *The Month* LXXIII. 221 He was the Generalissimo's..'*soul-friend', as a confessor is called in Irish [=Ir. *anam-chara*]. 1896 *Westm. Gaz.* 5 Mar. 3/2 An old priest..tried..to play the 'soul-friend' to the bandit. 1907 PETRIE *Gizeh & Rifeh* vi. 14/2 The depth of grave below the *soul-house is inversely as the height of soil above it. 1870 TOULMIN SMITH *Eng. Gilds* 181 That *soul-pence will be paid by the bretheren. *Ibid.*, For collecting the *soul-pennies from the bretheren. 1484 CAXTON *Fables of Poge* xii, Are ye here a *sowle preest or a paryssh preste? 1577 FULKE *Confut. Purg.* 172 The dead arose.., threatning him, that he should dye for it, if he did not restore them their *soulepriest. 1606 *Reg. Mag. Sig. Scot.* 646/2 Advocationem..capellaniarum vulgo *lie Saull-preistis* .. infra ecclesiam collegiatam de Dumbar. 1355-6 *Abingdon Rolls* (Camden) 5 De *soule-seluer vjs. viijd. 1645 PAGITT *Heresiogr.* (ed. 2) 139 **Soule-Sleepers*. That the soule dyeth with the body is an old and despicable Heresie. 1727 DE FOE *Hist. Appar.* v. (1840) 45, I am none of the sect of soul-sleepers.

Hence **Soul'lhood, Soul'lship**, the condition or state of being a soul; soulful quality.

1882 H. C. MERIVALE *Faucit of B.* II. I. xix. 40 Many of these leaden caskets may carry yet, locked within them, some rough gem of Christian soulhood.. 1893 *Advance* (Chicago) 15 June, Of the modification of the sinless perfection of Christ, of his ethical soulship.

Soul, obs. f. SOLE *sb.*[1] and *a.*, SOWEL (stake); variant of SOWL *sb.*

Soul (sōul), *v.* Also 5, 9 *dial.* **sowl.** [f. the sb. Cf. OE. *sáwlian* (=ON. and Icel. *sálask*, MSw. *själas*) to die, whence SOULING *vbl. sb.* 1.]

1. *trans.* **† a.** To endow or endue with a soul. Also *fig.* *Obs. *rare.*

c 1386 CHAUCER *Sec. Nun's T.* 329 The goost that fro the fader gan procede Hath sowled hem with outen any drede,

1646 N. LOCKYER *Serm.* 4 All that was said is resum'd and souled, as I may say.

b. To inspire or animate. *rare*[−1].

1891 C. DAWSON *Avonmore* 50 Joy souled the day, and love was seen In winter's storms.

2. *intr.* To go about collecting doles, properly on the eve of All Souls' Day. Chiefly in the phr. *to go (a-)souling.*

a 1779 TOLLET in *Brand's Pop. Antiq.* (1813) I. 309 On All Saints Day, the poor people..go from parish to parish *a Souling*, as they call it. 1820 WILBRAHAM *Cheshire Gloss.* App. s.v., To go a souling, is to go about as boys do, repeating certain rigmarole verses, and begging cakes or money, in commutation for them, the Eve of All Souls' Day. 1883 MISS BURNE *Shrops. Folk-lore* 381 Up to the present time in many places, poor children, and sometimes men, go out 'souling'.

3. To capture or catch souls. *rare*[−1].

1825 J. WILSON *Noct. Ambr.* (1855) I. 3 Fiends ride forth a-souling For the dogs of havoc are yelping and yowling.

Soul, obs. or dial. form of SOWL *v.*

† Soulack, obs. variant of SOLAK.

1636 H. B[LOUNT] *Voy. Levant* 92 There was a Soulack, who is an Officer very eminent about the Emperours person. [Hence in Blount *Glossogr.*]

Sou'lar, *a. rare*[−1]. [f. SOUL *sb.*] Of or pertaining to the soul.

1825 *Sporting Mag.* XVI. 404 They should be merged indiscriminately in the great soular or spiritual mass.

† Sou'lary, *a.* and *sb. Obs. rare.* [f. SOUL *sb.* + -ARY[1].] **a.** *adj.* Of or pertaining to the theory of the separate existence of the soul after the death of the body. **b.** *sb.* One who holds this theory.

1643 R. O. *Man's Mortality* ii. 7 This Soulary fancy of present reward of beatitude after this life. *Ibid.* v. 39 From this place the Resurrection of the body before the day of Judgment .. may better be proved, then such a present soularie enterance into Heaven or Hell. *Ibid.* vi. 53 All this while we have had to doe with this immortall Soule, [which] we cannot find, or the Soularies tell what it is.

Soul bell, soul-bell. [f. SOUL *sb.*] The passing-bell. Also *fig.*

1599 NASHE *Lenten Stuff* Wks. (Grosart) V. 214 The..Bishop of Norwich..meant not to forsake them till the soule Bell towld them thence. *a* 1603 T. CARTWRIGHT *Confut. Rhem. N. T.* (1618) 394 It is as it were the soule-bell of your Priestly and un-virginly virginity. 1610 BP. HALL *Apol. Brownists* xliv. 107 We call them soule-bels, for that they signifie the Departure of the soule. 1725 BOURNE in Brand *Pop. Antiq.* (1777) I. 1 Of the Soul-Bell, its Antiquity, the Reason of its Institution. 1777 BRAND *Ibid.* 18 Distinction of Rank is preserved here in the tolling of the Soul-Bell. 1893 *Tablet* 27 May 819 The great Soul Bell of St. Swithun's was sobbing in the winter wind for the death of the bishop. 1906 RAVEN *Bells* 112, Persons recovered after their soul bell had sounded.

Soul-cake: see SOUL *sb.* 25. **Sould** (e, obs. or dial. pa. t. and pa. pple. of SELL *v.*; Sc. and north. pa. t. of SHALL *v.*; obs. ff. SOLD *sb.*[1] and *sb.*[2], *v.*[1] and *v.*[2] **Souldan, -en,** obs. ff. SOLDAN. **Souldeour,** obs. f. SOLDIER *sb.* **Souldier,** obs. f. SOLDER *sb.*[1] and *v.* **Souldiar,** obs. f. SOLDIER *sb.*

† Souldie. *Obs. rare.* Also 5 souldye. [ad. OF. *souldee, soldee*, etc. (f. *solde* SOLD *sb.*[1]), or MDu. *souldie, soudie.*] Pay, salary, wages.

1474 CAXTON *Chesse* III. iv. (1481) G j, To answer for hym to the knyghtes and to other persones for theyr wages and souldyes. 1482 — *Reynard* (Arb.) 39 He wolde paye them their souldye or wagis to fore. 1555 W. WATREMAN *Fardle Facions* II. x. 221 Thei haue no wages for their souldie, yet are thei prest, and ready in all affayres.

Soule, obs. f. SOIL *sb.*[3], SOLE *sb.*[1] and *a.*, SOWEL (stake), SOWL, SULL (plough).

† Soulé, variant of SAULEE *Obs.*

1450-80 tr. *Secreta Secret.* 31 Than mayst thou ete a good soule aftir as thyn appetit takith the.

Souled (sōuld), *ppl. a.* [f. SOUL *sb.* or *v.*]

† 1. ? Conferred upon the soul. *Obs.*[−1]

1387-8 T. USK *Test. Love* III. i. (Skeat) I. 15 Who-so can wel understande is shapen to be saved in souled blisse.

2. Endowed with a soul. *rare*[−1].

c 1400 *Apol. Loll.* 10 Þe maker of man kynd takyng a soulid body of þe virgyn.

3. With qualifying terms: Endowed with a soul of a specified kind.

See also *great-, high-, large-, mean-*, NARROW-SOULED.

1602 MARSTON *Antonio's Rev.* IV. ii, He that's a vilaine, or but meanely sowl'd, Must..cling to routes of fooles. 1667 DRYDEN *Maiden Queen* I. iii, Matchless in virtue, And largely souled where'er her bounty gives. 1781 MME. D'ARBLAY *Diary* Aug., Dr. Johnson..is as great a soulad man as a bodied one. 1828 LYTTON *Pelham* II. xii, You whey-faced,..sleepy-souled Arismanes of bad spirits. *Ibid.* xxvi, I have my refuge and my comforter in the golden-souled and dreaming Plato. 1894 MRS. DYAN *Man's Keeping* (1899) 193 What would they tell that faithful-souled Afghan chief?

† Soulement, *adv. Obs. rare.* Also 3 sulement. [a. AF. *sule-, soulement* (OF. *sole-, seulement*), f. *sul, soul* SOLE *a.*] Solely, only.

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 282 Sulement luue his god. *c* 1290 *St. Brandan* 202 in *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 225 We fulle also a-doun ..soulement forto schewe oure louerdes suete miȝt.

Souler (sōu·lə1), *dial.* [f. SOUL *sb.* or *v.*] One who goes 'souling'.

1813 H. ELLIS in *Brand's Pop. Antiq.* I. 310 The Souler's Song in Staffordshire is different from that which Mr. Peck mentions. 1887 *S. Cheshire Gloss.* s.v. *Soul*, Parties of soulers go together to all the larger houses in the neighbourhood singing a souling-song.

†Soulet. *Obs. rare.* Also sowlet. [app. f. SOUL *sb.*] (See quot.)

c 1530 tr. *Godfridus' Bk. Knowl. Thynges* H iv b, Of euerye mans bodye, be iiij pryncypall lymbes, that is to saye, soulet lymbes, small lymbes and norycshande lymbes, and gendrynge lymbes. Sowlet lymbes, be the braynes, and all that are there aboute, downe to the wesande.

Sou·lful, *sb. rare.* [f. SOUL *sb.* + -FUL 2.] As much as a soul can hold or contain.

1649 in *Select Biogr.* (Wodrow Soc.) I. 406 He did so long (as he said) for his soulful of the well of life 1902 A. B. DAVIDSON *Called of God* x. 268 Except a man be washed, and have a whole soulful of spiritual faculties awake within him, he cannot see the Kingdom of God.

Soulful (sōu·lful), *a.* Also soul-full. [f. SOUL *sb.* + -FUL 1.]

1. Full of soul or feeling; of a highly emotional, spiritual, or æsthetic nature or character, or marked by this.

Common in recent use and frequently having the sense of 'affectedly or unduly æsthetic or emotional'.

1863 GILCHRIST *Blake* xxii, Very striking and soulful is the general effect [of an engraving]. 1882 L. C. LILLIE *Prudence* 48 Who can be soulful and an athlete? 1882 B. HARTE *Flip* iii, The poetic, soulful side of his mission was delicately indicated by a pale blue necktie. 1897 *Naturalist* 84 For all who live by it will be manful, soulful, honest, and without fear.

transf. 1869 W. CORY *Lett. & Jrnls.* (1897) 263 This bit of the earth's expression, this soul-full bit of the earth, the quiet bay.

2. Expressive or indicative of deep feeling or emotion.

1868 TUCKERMAN *Collector* 312 The soulful glow of expression in the inspired countenance of the Apollo. 1869 MRS. WHITNEY *We Girls* xix, Mother and Madam Pennington looked at each other with soulful eyes. 1878 *The Choir* 16 Nov. 730 One of those soulful tunes which cannot fail to engage attention.

Hence **Sou·lfully** *adv.*, **Sou·lfulness.**

1880 W. S. GILBERT *Patience* I. II, I am soulfully intense. 1882 *Advance* (Chicago) 20 Apr. 249 She..carried the audience by her dignity, earnestness and soulfulness. 1893 *Nation* 9 Feb. LVI. 110/2 Languages vary, as do individuals, in genius or soulfulness.

†Soul-heal. *Obs.* [f. SOUL *sb.* 18 + HEAL *sb.* Cf. WFris. *sieleheil*, Flem. *zieleheil*, G. *seelenheil*, †*seelheil.*] = next. **a.** With possessive pronoun.

[*c* 825 in *O. E. Texts* 443 Fore uncerra saula hela & uncerra bearna.] *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 25168 For vr praier es vnlele And askes gains vr saul hele. 1362 LANGL. *P. Pl.* A. VI. 22, I haue..souht goode seyntes for my soule hele. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xxxiii. (*George*) 378 For dout of dede, ful fele reneyt god & þare saule-hele. 1418 in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* Ser. I. I. 4 3e desire principaly vertuous lyvyng and 3our sowle heele. *c* 1440 *Alph. Tales* 146, I trow ye be in dispayr of my sawle heale. 1560 ROLLAND *Seven Sages* 74 Gif 3e pleis ony thing for to deill, Into Almus, for my weill and Saull heill.

b. In general sense.

[*a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 182 (MS. C.) Þus is sicnesse saulene heale.] 13.. *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* xxxvii. 355 Þou spekest of wraþþe in þi tale And seist hit is a3eyn soulehale. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xviii. (*Egiptian*) 323 Lowyt mot our lorde be þat purchesis þus saule-hele! 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 29 Adrian..preith the grete Charlemeine, For Cristes sake and Soule hele [etc.]. 1429 *Acts Privy Council* III. 331 If ony man wol oonly of devocion and for soule heele goo overe in þe said expedicion. *c* 1440 *Jacob's Well* 156 3if men teche hem soule-hele, þei scornyn hem. *c* 1550 COPLAND *Hye Way to Spyttel Ho.* 284 Methynk it is a great soule-heale To help them.

†Soul-health. *Obs.* [f. SOUL *sb.* + HEALTH *sb.* Cf. prec.] The health of the soul; moral or spiritual well-being; salvation.

a. With possessive pronoun or genitive.

1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 39 So may he winne worldes welthe And afterward his soule helthe. 1432–50 tr. *Higden* (Rolls) I. 365 His preiers for the sawle healethe of his childe. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 10 b, Whiche is moost necessary for thy soule helthe. 1587 GOLDING *De Mornay* xxiv. 357 The setting downe of rules for Religion and for mans Soulehealth.

b. Without article.

1432–50 tr. *Higden* (Rolls) I. 371 Seynte Patrik..studiede to..brynge to the weye of sawle healethe the sawles of the bestialle peple. *Ibid.* V. 127 Take cownesayle of sawlehealethe. 1556 OLDE *Antichrist* 81 The Germaines wolde not..ther seke soule helth. 1574 tr. *Marlorat's Apocalips* 14 God will gather togither the remnantes of that forlorne and desperate nation, vnto soulehealth. 1603 J. DAVIES (Heref.) *Microcosmos* Wks. (Grosart) I. 36/2 Affliction's water cooles the heate of sinne, And brings soule-health. *a* 1618 SYLVESTER *Paradox agst. Libertie* 587 Wks. (Grosart) II. 60 Sith, if hee use the same, soule-health it hurteth not.

Soulical (sōu·likăl), *a.* [irreg. f. SOUL *sb.*] = PSYCHICAL *a.* 2, SOULISH *a.* 1.

1845 BAILEY *Festus* (ed. 2) 215 Some of these bodies whom I speak of are Pure spirits, others bodies soulical. 1872 HANNA *Resur. Dead* 121 It is a soulish or soulical body. 1875 E. WHITE *Life in Christ* III. XX. (1876) 306 The mortal condition of the unregenerate or 'soulical' man.

†Sou·lify, *v. Obs. rare.* [f. SOUL *sb.* + -(I)FY.] *trans.* To endow with a soul. So **Sou·lified** *ppl. a.*

1662 J. CHANDLER *Van Helmont's Oriat.* 30 Therefore the Seeds of things that are not soulified, are indeed propagated no otherwise than as light taken from light. *Ibid.* 155 Mineralls indeed, have not a seed, with the Image of their Predecessor, after the manner of soulified things.

Sou·ling, *vbl. sb.* Now *dial.* [See SOUL *v.*]

†1. The giving up of the soul; dying, death, decease. *Obs. rare.*

c 900 in Cockayne *Shrine* 106 Cwæþ sum halig biscop ða he wæs on sawlenga [etc.]. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 466/1 Sowlynge, or dyynge, *obitus, vel exalacio.*

2. *dial.* The action of going round soliciting doles on or about All Souls' Day. Also attrib., as *souling-children, -song.*

1851 *N. & Q.* 1st Ser. IV. 506/1 The custom of 'souling'..is carried on with great zeal..in this neighbourhood [i.e. Cheshire]. 1878 *Ibid.* 5th Ser. X. 426, I am reminded of her just now by the children who are singing their 'Souling Song' under my window. 1883 MISS BURNE *Shrops. Folk-Lore* 382 Soul-cakes..to give away to the souling-children.

Souliote, variant of SULIOTE.

Soulish (sōu·liʃ), *a.* Also 6 soulisch, sowlish. [f. SOUL *sb.* + -ISH.]

1. Of or pertaining to, characterized or distinguished by, the soul, esp. in its lower or less spiritual aspects (= PSYCHICAL *a.* 2).

c 1550 CHEKE *Matt.* xii. 17 Calling yᵉ principal part bi yᵉ name of yᵉ hoole, which Saint Poul to yᵉ Corinthes called yᵉ soulisch man, which can not perceiue thinges belonging to god. ?1554 COVERDALE *Hope of Faithful* xvi. (1574) 133 Thus Paule calleth 'Animale corpus' the soulish body, which is interpreted ye natural body. 1649 J. ELLISTONE tr. *Warning fr. J. Boehme* § 29. 19 The Highest Tongue, ..which through the wisedome doth..reveale to every one, in his eternal soulish Constelation, according to the..measure as he pleaseth. 1662 SPARROW tr. *Boehme's Rem. Wks., Apol. conc. Perf.* 138 This soulish property hath the Name Jesus receiv'd to it selfe. 1752 W. LAW *Spirit of Love* I. (1816) 52 The entrance of the Deity into the properties of your own soulish life. 1786 A. MACLEAN *Comm. Christ* II. (1847) 111 Such are termed..soulish, animal, or sensual. 1865 MAURICE *Conflict Good & Evil* 33 He will understand St. Paul's contempt for the mere soulish man, his sympathy with the spiritual man. 1886 J. PULSFORD *Divine Genius in Nature & Man* 27 The soulish body..begins more rapidly to be purified from all the remains of its fleshly defilement.

2. Of the nature of the soul; soul-like. *rare.*

1581 MULCASTER *Positions* vi. (1887) 48 A part of mans bodie..which breedeth a sowlish, and life spirite. 1662 SPARROW tr. *Boehme's Rem. Wks., Complex.* 4 The Complexion in the Souls Fire becometh Soulish, or like the Soul.

†Soul-knell. *Obs.* [f. SOUL *sb.* + KNELL *sb.*] The knell rung or tolled at or after the death of a person. Also *fig.*

a 1300 *Vox & Wolf* 251 in Hazl. *E. P. P.* I. 66 Thi soul-cnul ich wile do ringe, And masse for thine soule singe. *c* 1400 *Laud Troy Bk.* 5796 Thei myȝt haue rongen here soule-knylle...Thei hadde dyed for-sothe both, Ne hadde y-come Ayax. 1515 *Scottish Field* 409 in *Percy's Folio MS.* I. 232 The King of his kindnesse..saith, 'I will sing him a sowle knell with the sound of my gunnes'. 1575 GASCOIGNE *Posies* Ep. Yng. Gent., Wks. 1907 I. 11 That the Soulknill of M. Edwards was also written in extremitie of sicknesse.

So **† Soul-knoll.** *Obs.*—[1]

c 1500 *Ripon Ch. Acts* (Surtees) 377 The sawll knoll, vj *d.*

Soulless (sōu·llès), *a.* [f. SOUL *sb.* + -LESS. Cf. OE. *sáwol-, sáwel-, sáwlléas*, MDu. *sielloos* (Du. *zielloos*), MHG. *sêl(e)lôs* (G. *seellos, seelenlos*), Sw. *själlös.*]

1. Having no soul; from whom or which the soul has departed. Also *fig.*

1553 *Short Catech.* in *Lit. & Doc. Edw. VI* (1844) 523 That this godly knowledge decay not in thee, nor lie soulless and dead, as it were, in a tomb. 1599 SANDYS *Europæ Spec.* (1632) 225 In sume their holinesse is the very outword work it selfe, being a brainlesse head and a soule-lesse body. 1652 BP. HALL *Height of Eloquence* p. XXV, Like soulelesse carkasses they fall down dead. 1678 CUDWORTH *Intell. Syst.* 215 He resolved that the Soul of the World..was not made by God..out of any thing Inanimate and Soulless Preexisting. *c* 1801 C. K. SHARPE in Allardyce *Corr.*, etc. (1888) I. 25 Sage Paine,..Eager to prove..Mankind deluded fools and soulless beasts. 1860 PUSEY *Min. Proph.* 137 Apollinarians..held the Godhead to have been united to a soulless, and so a brute, nature. 1897 MARY KINGSLEY *W. Africa* 178, I verily believe that if I were left alone long enough with such a scene as this..I should be found soulless and dead.

transf. 1841 BREWSTER *Mart. Sci.* ii. (1856) 24 A vast unblest desert senseless, voiceless and soulless. 1876 'OUIDA' *Winter City* vi, Monotonous parapets of cast-iron, the heaviest, most soulless thing that is manufactured.

2. Of persons: Destitute of or wanting in the noble qualities of the soul; lacking spirit, courage, or elevation of mind or feeling.

1587 MONTGOMERIE *Sonn.* xxiv. 3 A saulles suinger, seuintie tymes mensuorne. 1594 PEELE *Battle of Alcazar* II. iii, He on whose glorie all thy ioy should stay, Is soulelesse, glorylesse, and desperate. 1613 MARSTON *Insat. C'tess* IV. Wks. 1856 III. 163 That man is soulelesse that ne'er sinnes on earth. 1702 DE FOE *Mock Mourners* 13 Trembling, and Soul-less half the Nation stood. 1728 RAMSAY *Last Sp. Miser* xvi, They ca'd me slave to usury..And sauleless wretch. 1812 CRABBE *Tales* vi. 263 Nor shall a formal, rigid, soul-less boy My manners alter. 1847 C. BRONTË *J. Eyre* xxiii, Do you think, because I am poor,.. I am soulless and heartless? 1856 HAWTHORNE *Eng. Notebks.* (1879) I. 25 They did not appear wicked,..but only soulless.

absol. 1844 MRS. BROWNING *Drama of Exile* 1271 Sinning against the province of the Soul To rule the soulless.

b. Of the eyes: Lacking animation or expression; dull.

1835 BROWNING *Paracelsus* III. Poems (1905) 458 Having lain long with blank and soulless eyes, He sat up suddenly.

3. Of things, qualities, etc.: Characterized by a lack of animation, ardour, or vivacity; dull, insipid, uninteresting.

1632 I. M. S. in *Shaks. Sec. Folio*, What story coldly tells, ..and picture without braine Senselesse and soullesse showes. *a* 1652 J. SMITH *Sel. Disc.* vii. 327 It was nothing else but a soulless and lifeless form of external performances. 1656 W. MOUNTAGUE *Accompl. Woman* 119 Modesty is a powerfull charme, without it beauty is soul-lesse. 1833 HT. MARTINEAU *Charmed Sea* iii. 37, I see things as they are, bleak and bare, and soulless. 1864 PUSEY *Lect. Daniel* (1876) 555 Content with its outward soulless round of observances. 1870 MOZLEY *Univ. Serm.* iii. (1877) 49 There is nothing which so little interests us as soulless earnestness, ardour without faith.

b. Of writings, art, etc.: Devoid of inspiration or feeling.

1856 SMYTH *Roman Family Coins* Introd. p. xxix, Too many of our best recent specimens of art are soulless. 1860 PUSEY *Min. Proph.* 204 Giddy, thoughtless, heartless, soulless versifying. 1887 *St. James's Gaz.* 10 Feb. 7/1 Students find its literature, and above all its poetry, soulless and uninspired.

Hence **Sou·llessly** *adv.*, **Sou·llessness.**

1870 *Contemp. Rev.* XIII. 12 A reference to the proverbial soullessness of boards. 1871 TYLOR *Prim. Cult.* II. 325 Those to whom religion means..religious feeling, may say ..that I have written soullessly of the soul. 1891 *Athenæum* 7 Nov. 614/1 Its characters exhibit..peculiar soullessness.

Soul-like, *a.* and *adv.* [f. SOUL *sb.* + -LIKE.]

A. *adj.* Like or resembling a soul or that of a soul; suggestive of a or the soul.

1654 WHITLOCK *Zootomia* 259, I look not for any Soule-like Composure, among the works of men. 1838 MARG. FULLER *Wom. 19th C.* (1862) 351 The pine-trees sigh with their soul-like sounds for June. 1845 BAILEY *Festus* (ed. 2) 219 The soul-like moon, In passive beauty and receptive light. 1899 A. E. GARVIE *Ritschlian Theol.* ii. 43 He considers himself warranted in making the metaphysical inference..that things must be soul-like beings.

B. *adv.* After or in the manner of a soul.

1845 BAILEY *Festus* (ed. 2) 223 The temple yet to be rebuilt in Zion..shall soul-like yet re-rise from ruin.

Soul-mass. Now *Hist.* or *dial.* Also 5–6 *Sc.* sawle mess, saul(e) mes(se, etc., 6 *north.* sall messe, sawmos, 9 sawmas, saumas, etc.; 5 sowlemas(se, 8 solmus, 9 soulmas(s. [f. SOUL *sb.* + MASS *sb.*[1] Cf. MDu. *siel-, zielmisse* (Du. *zielmis*), MLG. *sêlemisse*, MHG. *sêl(e)messe* (G. *seel-, seelenmesse*), ON. *sálumessa*, Sw. *själamessa*, Da. *sjælemesse.*]

1. A mass for the soul of a dead person.

In early use *Sc.* and *north.*

1488 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* I. 89 To the King to offir at the Qwenis sawle mess. 1496 *Ibid.* 278 To the Kingis offerand at the Kingis saulmes. 1537 *Registr. Aberdon.* (Maitland) I. 414 To þe viccaris of þe queir.. 3eirlie in þe day of his decese for derege and sawilmess. *a* 1578 LINDESAY (Pitscottie) *Chron. Scot.* (S.T.S.) I. 369 All thair great blythnes and ioy of hir comming..war all turnit in saul messes and deriegies. 1675 BROOKS *Gold. Key* Wks. 1867 V. 216 The papists..who..for the obtaining of pardon, &c., have appointed penances and pilgrimages, and self-scourgings and soul-masses. 1681 BURNET *Hist. Ref.* II. 25 The use and lawfulness of soul-masses and obits. 1828 SCOTT *F. M. Perth* xxx, Bid the grey monk his soul mass mutter. 1853 ROCK *Ch. of Fathers* IV. xii. 176 The mass for the dead or soul-mass, as our fathers called it, had ritual peculiarities.

2. *Soul-mass Day*, All Souls' Day, 2 Nov. Also *ellipt.* Now *dial.*

c 1450 *Mirk's Festial* 269 þe morow aftyr All-halow-day ys euermor Sowlemasse-day. 1461 *Paston Lett.* II. 64 Wretyn in hast, on Sowlemas Daye. 1533 *Test. Ebor.* (Surtees) V. 262 To poor people of All-halowe day and Sawmos day. 1876 ROBINSON *Mid-Yks. Gloss., Saumas,..* the feast of All Souls, November 2.

3. *attrib.* In a number of dial. uses, as **Soul-mass cake, -loaf** (see quots.); **Soul-mass hiring,** a hiring-fair held on or about All Souls' Day.

1661 BLOUNT *Glossogr.* (ed. 2), *Soul-masse-Cakes*, are certain oaten cakes, which some of the wealthier sort of persons in Lancashire [1674 *adds* Herefordshire, &c.] use still to give the poor on All-Souls day. *a* 1800 PEGGE *Suppl., Grose, Solmus-loaf*, bread given away on All Souls day. North. 1827 G. YOUNG *Hist. Whitby* II. 882 A lady in Whitby has a soul mass loaf about 100 years old. 1837 THORNBER *Hist. Blackpool* 92 The beggar at the door craving an awmas, or saumas cake, (soulmass cake). 1884 *North Star* 7 Nov., Ripon Hirings. The Soulmas hirings were held yesterday.

Hence **† Sou·l-ma·ssing** *vbl. sb.*, the action or practice of saying masses for the dead. *Obs.*—[1]

c 1555 ? BRADFORD *Carrying Christ's Cross* vii. 90 So doeth it cast down al their soule massing and foolish foundacions for such, as be dead.

Soul-priest: see SOUL *sb.* 25.

Soulsage, obs. form of SAUSAGE *sb.*

Sou·l-saving, *ppl. a.* [f. SOUL *sb.* 22.] That saves the soul.

1609 J. DAVIES (Heref.) *Holy Rood* Wks. (Grosart) I. 7/1 This kinde, most kinde, Soule-sauing Emperick—His owne blood broacheth so our Soules to saue. 1642–4 VICARS *God in Mount* (1844) 45 Preaching on deep points of soul-saving grace. 1755 WESLEY *Wks.* (1872) XIII. 209 Soul-damning clergymen lay me under more difficulties than soul-saving laymen! 1833 H. BLUNT *Lect. Hist. St. Paul* II. 34 A real soul-saving conversion. 1885 *Minutes of Wesleyan Conf.* 20 His ministry was marked..by evangelical fervour and soul-saving power.

Hence **† Soul-savingness.** *Obs.*—[1]

1673 [R. LEIGH] *Transp. Reh.* 134, I shall only point at some of the nesses..of the peoples coinage:..soul-saving-ness.

Soul-scot. *Hist.* Forms: 7 sawl-scot, 7–9 soul-scot; also 9 soul-scat. [f. SOUL *sb.* + SCOT

*sb.*2, after OE. *sáwlsceat* (see SCAT *sb.*1) or *sáwul(ge)sceot.*] A due paid on behalf of a deceased person to the church of the parish to which he belonged; a mortuary.

[1664 *Spelman's Gloss.* 501/1 *Saulscot*, .. Animæ symbolum.] 1670 BLOUNT *Glossogr.* (ed. 3), *Soul-scot* (Sax.), money paid to the parish Priest at the opening the grave, for the good and behoof of the deceased's Soul. 1766 BLACKSTONE *Comm.* II. xxviii. 425 The second best chattel was reserved to the church as a mortuary: .. And therefore in the laws of king Canute this mortuary is called soul-scot .. or *symbolum animae.* 1819 SCOTT *Ivanhoe* xlii, For this service a splendid *soul-scat* was paid to the convent of Saint Edmund's by the mother of the deceased. 1874 STUBBS *Const. Hist.* I. viii. 229 The clergy received .. church-scot; and .. soul-scot or mortuary-dues. 1892 J. C. BLOMFIELD *Hist. Heyford* 84 Mortuaries, 'soul-scot' or 'corse-presents', which are a kind of ecclesiastical heriot.

Soul-searching, *ppl. a.* [f. SOUL *sb.* 22.] That searches, examines vigorously or severely, penetrates, etc., the soul.

1612 J. DAVIES (Heref.) *Muse's Sacrifice* Wks. (Grosart) II. 12/1 Soule-searching Lord, and sole selfe-searching God. 1657 J. WATTS *Vind. of Ch. Eng.* 210 Discreet Soul-searching and examining discourses. 1663 *Aron-bimn.* 66 This Kingdom .. hath need of such a faithful, soul-searching Ministry as this is. 1807 J. BARLOW *Columb.* IV. 489 Soul-searching Freedom! here assume thy stand. *a* 1831 POE *To the River* ii. Poet. Wks. (1853) 134 The beam Of her soul-searching eyes. 1886 W. J. TUCKER *E. Europe* 147 His large dark hazel eyes had a penetrating, soul-searching look in them.

Soul-shot. *Hist.* Also 9 **sawlshot.** [f. SOUL *sb.* + SHOT *sb.*] = SOUL-SCOT.

1647 N. BACON *Disc. Govt. Eng.* I. xi. (1739) 20 Next comes a Fee at the death of the party, which was commonly called Soul-shot, and paid (before the dead body was buried) unto that Church where the dead party's dwelling was. 1726 AYLIFFE *Parergon* 379 There was a Duty paid at Funerals by our Saxon Ancestors, which was call'd the Saxon Soul-shot. 1838 SOAMES *Anglo-Sax. Ch.* (ed. 2) 269 One of their objects also was to provide soul-shot on the death of every member. 1844 LINGARD *Anglo-Sax. Ch.* (1858) II. 46 The body was deposited in the grave; the sawlshot paid. 1896 A. AUSTIN *England's Darling* II. iii. 52 Whoever falls Fighting for England, soul-shot sure shall be,

Soul-sick, *a.* [f. SOUL *sb.* 24.]

1. Of persons: **a.** Suffering from spiritual indisposition or depression.

1598 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. i. III. *Furies* 759 Soule-sick Patients care not to be heal'd. 1601 DENT *Pathw. Heaven* (1831) 27 No doubt .. they be shrewd signs that a man is extremely soul-sick and in a very dangerous case. 1641 L. F. *Index Ch. Codex* (title-p.), A speedy Remedy and Speciall Spirituall Receipt for a Soul-Sicke Sainte and Sonne. 1903 *Dublin Rev.* July 185 The masses made blind and soul-sick by materialism and agnosticism.

absol. 1623 H. SYDENHAM *Serm. Sol. Occ.* (1637) 25 To the weake and soule-sicke, the still voice.

b. Sick at heart; deeply dejected or depressed.

1609 MARKHAM *Famous Wh.* (1868) 32 Soule-sick to see my goods and riches waste. 1611 BEAUM. & FL. *Maid's Trag.* IV. i, I am soul-sick .. Till I have got your pardon.

2. Characterized by dejection of spirit.

1880 SWINBURNE *Songs of Spring-t., Thalassius* 30 Death spirit-stricken of soul-sick days. 1899 *Westm. Gaz.* 27 June 3 A soul-sick longing comes over us for the silent heather hill.

So **Soul-sickness.**

1662 in *Verney Mem.* (1907) II. 187 Truly souch thowts cause soul-sickness. 1865 SWINBURNE *Chastelard* v. ii. 191, I would have given you mine own blood to drink If that could heal you of your soul-sickness. 1876 GEO. ELIOT *Dan. Der.* viii, This is the sort of faith we live by in our soul-sicknesses.

Soul-sickening, *ppl. a.* [f. SOUL *sb.* 22.] Extremely depressing or dejecting.

1825 J. WILSON *Poems* ii. 11 One soul-sickening moment of despair. 1854 GREENWOOD *Haps & Mishaps* 89 All was squalor and tatters, soul-sickening and disgusting. 1891 KIPLING *City Dreadf. Nt.* 5 For diffused, soul-sickening expansiveness, the reek of Calcutta beats both Benares and Peshawur.

Soul-silver: see SOUL *sb.* 25 and SOWL *sb.*

Soul-sleeper: see SOUL *sb.* 25.

Soulter, Soultring, Soultry, obs. ff. SULTER *v.*, SULTERING *ppl. a.*, SULTRY *a.*

‖Soulx, soulz. *Obs.* Also 7 **soulxe.** [OF. *soulx, soulz*, pl. of *soul, sol* SOL *sb.*3: see also SOUSE *sb.*4] A sou. Also as pl.

1542 RECORDE *Gr. Artes* (1575) 199 Firste of Fraunce: .. their soulx (commonly called sowses) go 9 to our shilling. 1613 TAPP *Pathw. Knowl.* 51 The question is how many Soulxes his 234 pounds comes to, euerie 5 Soulxe French valewing 6 pence sterling. *a* 1625 FLETCHER *Bloody Brother* I. i, If The debtor may be won for a French Crown, To pay a Soulz. 1662 PETTY *Taxes* 77 Base money is therefore such as Dutch shillings, stivers, French soulz.

† Soul-ly, *a. Obs.* Also 5 **sawly.** [f. SOUL *sb.* + -Y 1.]

1. Of or pertaining to the soul.

c 1400 tr. *Secreta Secret., Gov. Lordsh.* 96 If þe sawle be þanne perfyt and fulfillyd byfore his departynge fro þe body, it shall þanne be ressayued of all sawly vertu. 1633 W. STRUTHER *True Happines* 132 The sonnes of God, in whom this souly love burneth. 1727 ASGILL *Metam. of Man* I.v. 71 That Souly Part of him .. which is thought to survive the Body, and to take its Flight to Heaven.

2. = PSYCHICAL *a.* 2. (Cf. SOULISH *a.* 1.)

1639 H. AINSWORTH *Annot. Pentateuch* 10 This animalitie, or souly state, shall be changed into spirituality. As for the terme of this our souly or naturall life, it dureth while our breath is in us. 1660 NEWTON *Comm. John* xvii. (Nichol, 1867) 371 The animal man, the souly man .. perceives not these things.

† Soum, *sb.*1 *Sc. Obs.* In 5 **sowme,** 5–6 **sowm,** 6 **soume.** [a. OF. *soume*, var. of *some, somme*: see SEAM *sb.*2 and cf. SOME *sb.*3] A horse-load; a pack. Also *attrib.* in *soum saddle.*

c 1470 HENRY *Wallace* IV. 24 Wallace .. Our tuk the child Schyr Ranaldis sowme couth leid. 1497 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* I. 345 For ane hors to bere the Kingis sowme. 1505 *Ibid.* III. 160 For floting of the pannell of the sowm sadill. 1512 *Ibid.* IV. 308 Stoppein, taggein, and mending of ane soume sadill. *c* 1575 *Balfour's Practicks* (1754) 87 Ane horse sowme of the said fish, or dry hering.

Soum (sum), *sb.*2 *Sc.* Now chiefly *Hist.* Forms: 6, 8–9 **soume,** 6–8 **sowm(e;** 7 **summe,** 8 **soom,** 8– **soum.** [app. the same as *soum* SUM *sb.* Hence Gael. *suim* in sense 2.]

1. The amount of pasturage which will support one cow or a proportional number of sheep or other stock.

1500 *Reg. Mag. Sig. Scot.* 542/1 Concessit .. pratum vulgariter nuncupatum le Grymys Medow, cum communi pastura unius equi et 4 de le sowmoys [*sic*] in dicta villa. 1524 *Ibid.* 222/2 Vendiderunt 2 acras terrarum cum tofta et crofta, .. cum 6 le sowmys in pastura. 1606 *Sc. Acts, Jas. VI* (1816) IV. 285/2 Extending in the haill to sextene sowmes for the said four akeris. *c* 1730 BURT *Lett. N. Scotl.* (1818) II. 57 If the tenant is to hire his grazing in the hills he takes it by soumes. 1754 ERSKINE *Princ. Sc. Law* (1809) 57 A glebe, which comprehends four acres of arable land, or sixteen sowms of pasture ground. 1799 J. ROBERTSON *Agric. Perth* 72 Moors and sheep-walks are more frequently rented by the soum, than by the acre.

2. The number of sheep or cattle that can be maintained on a certain amount of pasture. *A soum of sheep,* a number varying in different places from four to ten.

1508 in Pitcairn *Crim. Trials* I. 58* Of shutting up her 'gudis'—viz. sixty-five 'soumes' furth of her said third part. 1594 *Reg. Mag. Sig. Scot.* 34 *note,* Pasturage of 20 sowmes yeild-guidis, profits of each sowm 20s. 1610 *Ibid.* 202/2 Togidder with the pasture of sax sowmes of nolt .. upoun the ground of my landis of Grenelaw. 1700 *Minutes Baron Crt. Stitchill* (S.H.S.) 146 Wher any possessed but one Soum in the Mayns that Soum shall absolutely be a Kow or Oxe and not a sheip. *a* 1724 in *Ramsay's Tea-t. Misc.* (1729) 17 A Kilnfu' of Corn I'll gi'e to thee, Three Soums of Sheep, twa good Milk Ky. 1794 *Statist. Acc. Scotl.* XII. 396 A privilege of pasturage for 72 soums of sheep upon the common, 5 sheep being reckoned to a soum. 1884 *Rep. Crofters' Commission* App. A. 468 In Lews and Harris .. a man is entitled to send so many soums to the grazings of his townland.

b. In the phr. *soum's* (or *soums'*) *grass.*

1574 *Reg. Mag. Sig. Scot.* V. 12/1 Cum pastura 6 animalium lie sex sowmes gers. 1582 *Cal. Laing Charters* (1899) 259 The saidis millaris multraris hes ane certaine land of ws for his soumis girse. 1610 *Reg. Mag. Sig. Scot.* 114/1 Cum pasturagio unius summe lie sowmes-gras. 1621 *Sc. Acts, Jas. VI* (1816) IV. 612/2 Act declairing summes Grasse .. to be teyndfrie. 1793 *Statist. Acc. Scotl.* VIII. 104 The glebe .. is supposed to be legal as to extent, with 4 soums grass, in common with the cattle of the farm.

Soum (sum), *v. Sc. Law.* Also 7–8 **sowm.** [f. prec.] *trans.* To estimate the amount of (pasture) in terms of the 'soums' it can support.

1679 STAIR *Decisions* 23 Jan. (Dunlop) II. 679 Where divers heritors have a common pasturage in one commontie, no part whereof is ever plowed, the said common pasturage may be Soumed and Roumed. 1793 *Statist. Acc. Scot.* VI. 93 Where there are several small tenants upon one farm, the farm is (what they call) soumed. 1838 W. BELL *Dict. Law Scot.* 932 Strictly speaking, to *sowm* the common, is to ascertain the several *sowms* it may hold; and to *rowm* it, is to portion it out amongst the dominant proprietors.

Hence **Sou·ming** *vbl. sb.*

Chiefly in the phr. *souming and rouming*: see ROOM *v.*2 1 b. Also *concr.*, the amount of stock which one person may send to a common pasture.

1681 STAIR *Instit.* II. vii. § 14 (1693) 289 It is accustomed in some places, to regulat common Pasturage by Souming and Rouming, which is the determining of the several Soums it may hold by particular Proportion of every Room of the Dominant Tenement. 1754 ERSKINE *Princ. Sc. Law* (1809) 221 Which proportions may be fixed by an action of souming and rouming. 1799 J. ROBERTSON *Agric. Perth* 524 The souming of cattle is not so much attended to as it ought to be. *a* 1896 OUTRAM *Lyrics* (1874) 43 She sune made her fu' purse a toom ane, By raising a Process o' Soumin' an' Roumin'. 1884 *Spectator* 17 May 642 The constable and another man .. see that only the proper souming has been brought to the grazing. 1889 *Scott. Leader* 17 May 5 His clients had sufficient stock, according to their present souming, to stock the land applied for.

Soum(e, obs. ff. SUM *sb.* and *v.*; Sc. var. SWIM.

† Soumer. *Obs. rare.* [var. of SOMER. Cf. SOUM *sb.*1] A sumpter-horse.

c 1470 HENRY *Wallace* IV. 53 Thar tyryt sowmir so left thai in to playne.

Soun, obs. form of SON, SOON, SOUND, SUN.

Sound (sound), *sb.*1 Forms: α. 1, 3–4 **sund** (4–5 **sonde**), 5–6 **sownd(e, sounde,** 4– **sound.** β. 5, 7 **sown,** 6–7 **sowne,** 8 *Sc.* **soun.** [Partly OE. *sund* swimming, water, sea, and partly a. ON. *sund* swimming, strait (Norw. *sund* swimming, swim-bladder, strait, ferry; Sw. and Da. *sund* strait; G. *sund* is a late adoption). The stem *sunda-* represents an early *sumda-*, pre-Teutonic *swm-tó-*, f. the stem of SWIM *v.*]

I. † **1.** The action or power of swimming. *Obs.*

Beowulf 507 Eart þu se Beowulf, se þe wið Brecan wunne, on sidne sæ ymb sund flite. *c* 893 K. ÆLFRED *Oros.* II. iv. 72 Þa gebeotode an his ðegna þæt he mid sunde þa ea oferfaran wolde. *c* 1000 ÆLFRIC *Hom.* (Th.) I. 16 Of wætere he gesceop fixas and fuglas, and sealde ðam fixum sund, and ðam fuglum fliht. *c* 1205 LAY. 21326 He .. bi-haldeð hu ligeð i þan stræme stelene fisces, mid sweorde bi-georede, heore sund is awemmed. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 621 Fiss on sund, and fouxl on flight. *Ibid.* 1841 Þat was na creatur in liue .. Bot it war fisse þat flett on sund.

2. The swimming bladder of certain fish, esp. of cod or sturgeon.

So Norw. *sund*, also *sundmage* (Icel. *sundmagi*), f. *mage* stomach (maw).

α. 1323–4 *Ely Sacr. Rolls* II. 43 In sound. empt. pro pictore, 4*d.* 1341–2 *Ibid.* 117 In .. soundes pisc., 4*d.* 14.. in *Rel. Ant.* I. 163 For to make boke-glewe.—Take the sowndys of stok-fysch. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 466 Sounde, of a fysche .., *ventigina.* 1530 PALSGR. 273/1 Sounde of a fysshe, *cannon.* 1661 PEPYS *Diary* 16 Oct., This day dined .. upon a fin of ling and some sounds. 1672 JOSSELYN *New Eng. Rarities* 32 The Sturgeon, of whose Sounds are made Isinglass. 1761 FRANKLIN in *J. Adams's Wks.* (1850) II. 82 *note,* This fish-glue is nothing more than the sounds of cod or other fish, extended and dried in the sun. 1769 MRS. RAFFALD *Eng. Housekpr.* (1778) 23 To dress Cod Sounds. Steep your sounds as you do the salt cod. 1822–7 GOOD *Study Med.* (1829) V. 443 All fishes, possessing a sound or air-bladder, are equally capable of supplying this organ with air. 1859 *Habits of Gd. Society* v. 223 Cod is cut crossways, and a small piece of the sound sent with each helping. 1882 *Knowledge* No. 10. 195 In a herring .. the 'sound' may be seen as a silvery, glistening bag, which is removable along with the other organs of the fish when it is 'gutted'.

β. *c* 1475 *Promp. Parv.* 466 (MS. K.), Sown. 1655 MOUFET & BENNET *Health's Improv.* xviii. 148 Cods .. have also a thick and gluish substance at the end of their stomach called a sowne. 1701 *Housek.-bk. of Lady G. Baillie* (S. H. S.) Introd. p. xxxix, Two barrils of souns and gullits.

† **3.** *Hunting.* A spring or pool of water. *Obs.*

1581 MARBECK *Bk. of Notes* 474 Our Hunters (I trowe) tearme it not to call it the water Springs, but they call it the Sound. The Stagge saie they, got him to the Sound.

II. 4. A relatively narrow channel or stretch of water, esp. one between the mainland and an island, or connecting two large bodies of water; a strait. Also, an inlet of the sea.

The first quot. may represent the OE. *sund* 'sea, water', but the later use appears to be clearly of Scand. origin. Some writers, associating the word with SOUND *v.*2, have attempted to limit the application to channels capable of being easily sounded.

a 1300 *K. Horn* 628 (Harl. MS.), Y fond a ship rowen in þe sound byflowen [*v.r.* Mid watere al by flowe]. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* I. iv. 15 In ane braid sownd sovir frome al wyndis blawis, Flowis the schoir deip. *c* 1572 GASCOIGNE *Fruites Warre* cvii, The haste so hoate that (eare they sinke the sowne) They came on ground. 1595 *Drake's Voy.* (Hakl. Soc.) 9 We passed a sounde, though, by our mariners, never passed by fleet afore. 1612 DRAYTON *Polyolb.* i. 164 Her haven angled so about her harb'rous sound, That in her quiet Bay a hundred ships may ride. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* VII. 399 Forthwith the Sounds and Seas, each Creek & Bay With Frie innumerable swarme. 1725 POPE *Odyss.* I. 93 The bright increase Of Phorcys, dreaded in the sounds and seas. 1774 PENNANT *Tour Scotl. in 1772*, 215 Several little isles, divided by narrow and dangerous sounds. 1820 SCORESBY *Acc. Arctic Reg.* I. 88 Steering then along shore, they opened another large sound. 1847 H. MILLER *First Impr. Eng.* xi. (1857) 176 This region of central England was once a broad ocean sound .. : there rose land on both sides of it. 1894 J. T. FOWLER *Adamnan* Introd. 66 [Iona] is separated from the Ross of Mull by a sound or strait about a mile across.

transf. 1721 SWIFT *South Sea* Wks. 1755 III. II. 136 There is a gulph where thousands fell; A narrow sound, though deep as hell.

b. In the names of particular straits or inlets.

14.. *Sailing Directions* (Hakl. Soc.) 18 The sow[n]de of blaskay. *Ibid.* 19 The sounde of Ranseynes. *c* 1595 CAPT. WYATT *Dudley's Voy.* (Hakl. Soc.) 5 Wee .. safelie arived in the Sownde of Plimworth on the xix th day. 1600 HOLLAND *Livy* XXII. xi. 438 Certaine ships .. were .. taken about the sound or haven of Cossa. 1670 J. SMITH *Eng. Improv. Reviv'd* VI. 253 The best and chiefest Sound in Shotland is Brace-sound or Broad-sound. 1814 SCOTT *Lord of Isles* I. vii, To where a turret's airy head .. O'erlook'd, dark Mull! thy mighty Sound, 1865 *Reader* 4 Feb. 125/3 Near the entrance of Smith's Sound. 1907 *Trans. Devon Assoc.* 52 The Hamoaze and Plymouth Sound.

c. *The Sound,* the strait between Denmark and Sweden which connects the Cattegat with the Baltic Sea. Also *attrib.*

1633 SIR J. BURROUGHS *Sov. Brit. Seas* (1651) 83 The King of Denmarke at his Wardhouse in the Sound. *a* 1646 J. GREGORY *Posthuma, Maps & Charts* (1650) 328 It is called by the Danish Sond or Sund: by us the Sound. 1846 A. YOUNG *Naut. Dict.* 289 The strait called the Sound, which connects the North Sea with the Baltic. *Ibid., Sound-dues,* a toll or tribute levied by the King of Denmark on all merchant vessels passing the strait called the Sound. 1852 tr. *Ida Pfeiffer's Journ. Iceland* 40 The blue glistening Sound stretching out of sight between the coasts of Denmark and Sweden.

† **Sound,** *sb.*2 *Obs.* Forms: 3 **sunde,** 4–5 **sound(e,** 5 **sonde.** [f. *sund* SOUND *a.* Cf. MLG. *sunt* (also *gesunt*, G. *gesund*), MSw. *sund.*] Health or soundness; safety or security. In prep. phr. *in* or *on, mid* or *with sound.*

c 1205 LAY. 4967 He ferde mid sunde in to þisse londe. *Ibid.* 19703 Lauerd, beo þu on sunde. *c* 1325 *Lai le Freine* 52 Is his leuedi deliuerd with sounde? 13.. *Gaw. & Gr. Kn.* 2489 Þus he commes to þe court, knyȝt al in sounde. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 546 [To] put you in plite your purpos to wyn, In sound for to saile home & your sute all.

Sound (sound), *sb.*[3] Forms: α. 4 sun(e, 4-5 son(e, 4-5, 6 *Sc.* sovne, 4-6 soun(e, sownn(e, 5-6 sown(e, 6 *Sc.* sounn. β. 5-6 sownd(e, 6 sounde, 5- sound. [a. AF. *soun*, OF. *son* (= Prov. *son*, *so*, Sp. *son*, Pg. *som*, It. *suono*) :—L. *sonum*, acc. of *sonus* sound. Cf. OE. *són*, ON. *sónn*, MDu. *son*, *soen*, from Latin or early OF.

The form with excrescent *d* finally established itself in the 16th cent., but is condemned by Stanyhurst as late as 1582 (*Æneid* To Reader, p. 11).]

1. The sensation produced in the organs of hearing when the surrounding air is set in vibration in such a way as to affect these; also, that which is or may be heard; the external object of audition, or the property of bodies by which this is produced.

α. *a* 1300–1400 *Cursor M.* 17288+101 When þat our lord vp-rose þe erthe quoke & made sown. *a* 1330 *Roland & V.* 708 As þe harp has þre þinges, Wode & soun & strenges. *c* 1384 Chaucer *H. Fame* 765 (Fairf.), Sovne ys noght but eyre ybroken. *c* 1400 *Rom. Rose* 4241 His instrumentis wolde he dight, For to blowe and make sowne. *c* 1449 Pecock *Repr.* II. viii. 187 That is to seie, that speche and soun be mad in the' ymage bi an aungel of God. 1513 Douglas *Æneid* I. ii. 4 Ane brudy land of furious stormy sownn.

β. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 466/1 Sownde, or dyne, *sonitus, sonus.* *c* 1450 in Aungier *Syon* (1840) 379 Whan they haue any nottes..they schal open them softly..and beware of sownde. 1530 Palsgr. 273/1 Sounde, noyse, *son.* 1590 Spenser *F. Q.* I. viii. 11 He loudly brayd with beastly yelling sound. 1604 E. G[rimstone] *D'Acosta's Hist. Indies* IV. v. 216 It [silver] passeth golde in brightnesse, beauty and sound, the which is cleere, and agreeable. 1697 Dryden *Virg. Georg.* III. 522 Linnets fill the Woods with tuneful Sound. 1744 Harris *Three Treat.* Wks. (1841) 30 In music, the fittest subjects of imitation are all such things and incidents as are most eminently characterized by motion and sound. 1815 J. Smith *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 64 Over the surface of smooth water, sound is conveyed admirably well. 1874 Bedford *Sailor's Pocket Bk.* v. 142 Sound travels at the rate of 1090 feet in a second of time, when the air is at freezing point.

† **b.** Music, melody. *Obs.*

c 1320 *Sir Tristr.* 2857 Alle maner soun And gle Of minestrals vp and doun Bifor þe folk so fre. 1501 Douglas *Pal. Hon.* II. xi, Terpsichore the fyft with humbill soun, Makis on psalteris modulatioun. 1559 *Mirr. Mag., Jas. I* ix, In liberall artes, in instrumentale sowne.

2. The particular auditory effect produced by a special cause.

α. 1297 R. Glouc. (Rolls) 5750 A voys sede as him þo3te þes wordes þoru þe soun. *c* 1340 Hampole *Pr. Consc.* 4971 Fra þe tyme þat þai þe son sal here. 1390 Gower *Conf.* I. 294 So lowde his belle is runge, That of the noise and of the soun Men feeren hem in al the toun. *c* 1400 *Sowdone Bab.* 437 Through the Cite wente the sowne, So lowde than gan he yelle. *c* 1500 *Lancelot* 1035 To warnnyng them vp goith the bludy sown. 1542 Udall *Erasm. Apoph.* 108 By the..plashyng or soune that it gave in the falle.

β. *c* 1480 Henryson *Orpheus & Eurydice* 140 Throu suetenes of the sound, The dog slepit and fell vnto the ground. *c* 1580 J. Hooker *Life Sir P. Carew* in *Archæologia* XXVIII. 144 The trumpeter, clothed in blacke, soundinge the deade sounde. 1609 Dekker *Gull's Horn Bk.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 253 Throw the cards..round about the Stage, iust vpon the third sound, as though you had lost. 1697 Dryden *Virg. Georg.* III. 78 From Hills and Dales the chearful Cries rebound: For Echo hunts along, and propagates the Sound. 1774 Goldsm. *Nat. Hist.* VIII. i. (1862) II. 243 It is rather the vibrations of the sound that affect the water by which they are excited, than any sounds that they hear. 1821 Scott *Kenilw.* xi, Let us hasten on, for the sound will collect the country to the spot. 1839 G. Bird *Nat. Philos.* 127 The intensity of sound is modified..by the original direction of the sound.

b. Const. *of*, or with possessives. (Cf. 3 b.)

α. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 12195 Als a chim or brasin bell, þat noþer can vnderstand ne tell Wat takens þair aun sune. *c* 1300 *St. Brandan* 383 (Percy Soc.), The Soun of him [*v.r.* of his wyngen] Murie was. *c* 1384 Chaucer *H. Fame* 1642 This foule trumpes soun. *c* 1460 Sir R. Ros *La Belle Dame* 123 Lyke as þe sownne of birdis doth expres whanne thei synge lowde. 1483 Caxton *Gold. Leg.* 221 b/2, He was said the sone of thondre by cause of the soune of his predycacion. 1542 Udall *Erasm. Apoph.* 81 b, A potte..well tryed by ye tynclyng and soune thereof. 1590 Spenser *F. Q.* I. i. 41 The sowne Of swarming Bees.

β. 1480 *Robt. Devyll* 456 in Hazl. *E. P. P.* I. 236 Of theyr prayers to heauen wente the sowndе. 1560 Daus tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 120 If they here the sound of the bel, they runne thither streight. 1585 T. Washington tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* IV. xxvi. 145 Their countenance [is] furious, and the sound of their voyce fearefull. 1617 Moryson *Itin.* II. 84, I sensibly heard..the sound of the vollies of shot in that skirmish. 1669 Dryden *Tyrannic Love* I. i, Like the hoarse murmurs of a trumpet's sound. 1794 Mrs. Radcliffe *Myst. Udolpho* I, In a low..tone, as if the sound of his own voice frightened him. 1815 Scott *Guy M.* xiv, He listened to every noise in the street.., and endeavoured to distinguish in it the sound of hoofs or wheels. 1849 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* iii. I. 379 But with boasts like these was mingled the sound of complaint and invective. 1866 G. Macdonald *Ann. Quiet Neighb.* xxvii. (1878) 466 As soon as I ceased to hear the sound of their progress.

c. Similarly with omission of *the*.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 1031 Þar..es..Sune of santes þat þar singes. *c* 1385 Chaucer *L. G. W.* 2615 *Hypermnestra*, Ful is the place of soun of menstralsye. 14.. *Lat.-Eng. Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 578 *Diaphosia*,..soun of voys. 1500–20 Dunbar *Poems* xxxiii. 50 Vnto no mess pressit this prelat, For sound of sacring bell nor skellat. *a* 1700 Evelyn *Diary* 10 Feb. 1685, After sound of trumpets and silence made. 1707 *Curios. in Husb. & Gard.* Pref. p. iii, Things, which.. they ought rather to publish at sound of Trumpet. 1823 Scott *Quentin D.* xxvii, With sound of bugles, broaching of barrels, and all the freedom of a silvan meal. 1842 Tennyson *Godiva* 36 She sent a herald forth, And bade him cry, with sound of trumpet, all The hard condition.

d. The distance or range over which the sound of something is heard. In phr. *in* or *within the sound of* (something).

1617 Minsheu *Ductor* s.v. *Cockney*, One borne within the sound of Bow-bell. 1712–4 Pope *Rape Lock* IV. 118 Sooner shall grass in Hyde-park Circus grow, And wits take lodgings in the sound of Bow. 1852 M. Arnold *The Future* 16 Whether he first sees light Where the river..winds through the plain: Whether in sound of the swallowing sea.

3. A particular cause of auditory effect; an instance of the sensation resulting from this.

α. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 18320 All þai sang þus, wit a sun. 13.. *K. Alis.* 1183 (W.), He blowith smert and loude sones. 1422 tr. *Secreta Secret., Priv. Priv.* 215 Thou shalte hane many rynnynge engyns to make horribill Sownes to gasten thyn enemys. 1484 Caxton *Fables of Æsop* II. i, He casted to them a grete pyece of wood, whiche maade a grete sowne and noyse in the water. 1565 Cooper *Thesaurus* s.v. *Sonus*, To heare sownes or noyses. 1590 Spenser *F. Q.* II. v. 30 A gentle streame, whose murmuring waue..made a sowne, To lull him soft a sleepe.

β. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 349/2 A Sownde, *crepitaculum, crepitus, crepor.* 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 78 He shall gyue a swete syluer sounde. 1562 Winjet *Wks.* (S.T.S.) I. 37 Thre sindry soundis blawin almast at ane tyme. 1609 Dekker *Gull's Horn-bk.* iii. 15 The eares are two Musique roomes into which as well good sounds as bad, descend. 1690 Locke *Hum. Und.* II. xiii. (1695) 85 To feign a Knowledge..by making a noise with Sounds, without clear and distinct Significations. 1709 *Tatler* No. 81 P 2 There was heard..a Sound like that of a Trumpet. 1754 Gray *Progr. Poesy* 76 Ev'ry shade and hallow'd Fountain Murmur'd deep a solemn sound. 1815 Byron '*My soul is dark*' i, If in this heart a hope be dear, That sound shall charm it forth again. 1851 Carpenter *Man. Phys.* (ed. 2) 341 Concurrently with the impulse of the heart against the chest, a dull and prolonged sound is heard. 1885 J. Payn *Talk of Town* I. 156 Mr. Erin muttered an articulate sound such as a bumble-bee makes when imprisoned between two panes of glass.

b. Const. *of*, or with possessives. (Cf. 2 b.)

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 23303 Þan sal þai here þe sunes O nedders bath and of draguns. *c* 1320 *Sir Tristr.* 1874 Ich here a menstrel, to say, Of tristrem he haþ a soun. *c* 1430 Lydg. *Min. Poems* (Percy Soc.) 51 With a clere sowne of plate and of coyngnage. 1474 Caxton *Chesse* III. vii. (1883) 141 He herde the sownes of musique right melodious. *c* 1500 *Lancelot* 772 The trumpetis..blawen furth ther sownis. 1705 Addison *Italy* 3 Oft in the Winds is heard a plaintive Sound Of melancholy Ghosts. 1832 W. Irving *Alhambra* I. 68 A murmuring sound of water now and then rises from the valley. 1869 Tozer *Highl. Turkey* II. 283 Popular tales..are the lingering sounds of world-old myths.

† **c.** A musical tone. *Obs.*—1

1662 Playford *Music* 9 Making them half a tone or sound lower than they were before.

4. In restricted sense: The auditory effect produced by the operation of the human voice; utterance, speech, or one of the separate articulations of which this is composed.

(*a*) *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 11685 Vnnethe had he said þe sune [=the words], Quen þe tre it boghed dune. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* A. 532 He..sayde to hem with sobre soun; 'Wy stonde ȝe ydel þise dayez longe?' 1385 Trevisa *Higden* (Rolls) II. 161 Hit semeþ a greet wonder how..her owne langage and tonge is so dyuerse of sown in þis oon ilond. *c* 1420 *Pol., Rel., & L. Poems* (1903) 240 ȝet þei answerid with dollefulle sone. 1575 Gascoigne *Certayne Notes* Wks. 1907 I. 467 Remembre to place every worde in his natural *Emphasis* or sound. *a* 1586 Sidney *Ps.* XVII. iii, Then by thee, [I] was guiltlesse found From ill word, and ill meaning sound. 1667 Milton *P. L.* IX. 557 Deni'd To Beasts, whom God on thir Creation-Day Created mute to all articulat sound. 1709 Pope *Ess. Crit.* 365 'Tis not enough no harshness gives offence, The sound must seem an Echo to the sense. 1746 Francis tr. *Horace, Epist.* II. i. 171 He forms the Infant's Tongue to firmer Sound. *c* 1825 Whately in *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) I. 279/1 The Choice of words, with a view to their Imitative, or otherwise, Appropriate sound. 1867 *Trans. Philol. Soc.* 82 On the sound of initial *th* in English. *Ibid.*, The..two varieties of sound, which we now represent..by the digraph *th*.

(*b*) 1593 Shaks. *Lucr.* 1017 Idle words, .. Unprofitable sounds. 1663 S. Patrick *Parab. Pilgrim* IV. (1687) 13 But when he speaks, his words are more than sounds, and have a sting in them which pierces the very heart. 1815 Scott *Guy M.* xli, The remnants of an old prophecy, or song, or rhyme;..it is a strange jingle of sounds. 1867 *Trans. Philol. Soc.* Suppl. 1 On Palaeotype, or the representation of spoken sounds..by means of the ancient types. 1894 W. Lindsay *Latin Lang.* 1 If an alphabet is to express the sounds of a language properly, each nation must construct one for itself.

b. The audible articulation(s) corresponding to a letter, word, name, etc.

c 1400 Maundev. (Roxb.) vii. 27 Þe letters and þaire sounes and þaire names. 1530 Palsgr. 3 *E* in frenche hath never suche a sownde as we use to gyve hym in these wordes [etc.]. *c* 1620 A. Hume *Brit. Tongue* (1865) 7 Quhat was the right roman sound of them [the vowels] is hard to judge. 1779 *Mirror* No. 64, My ears were now familiarized with the sounds of *Duke, Marquis, Earl.* 1825 Scott *Talism.* xxv, The very sound of the name of a royal maiden. 1892 Stevenson *Across the Plains* I. 11 None can care for literature in itself who do not take a special pleasure in the sound of names.

c. Used with implication of richness, euphony, or harmony.

1553 T. Wilson *Rhet.* (1580) 116 Woordes that fill the mouthe and haue a sound with them, set forthe a matter verie well. 1614 Brerewood *Lang. & Relig.* 131 The last letter of the first word cut off in the Greek pronunciation for sounds sake. 1780 *Mirror* No. 110, Blackfriars-wynd can never vie with Drury-lane in point of sound. 1781 Cowper *Table-T.* 516 If sentiment were sacrific'd to sound, And truth cut short to make a period round.

† **d.** Import, sense, significance. *Obs.*

In modern use there is an approach to this sense in phrases which indicate the mental impression produced by a statement, as in Sound *v.*[1] 4.

a 1614 Donne-Biaβavaτος (1644) 165 A private man in a just warre, may not onely kill, contrary to the sound of this Commandement, but hee may kill his Father, contrary to another. *a* 1656 Hales *Gold. Rem.* I. (1673) 56, I have heard a proverb to this sound [etc.]. *a* 1700 Evelyn *Diary* 18 Aug. 1673, [He said] 'No, Mr. E..., I will never see this place, this Citty or Court againe', or words of this sound. 1719 De Foe *Crusoe* I. (Globe) 95 As for being deliver'd, the Word had no Sound, as I may say, to me.

e. Mere audible effect, without significance or real importance.

1605 Shaks. *Mach.* V. v. 27 A Tale Told by an Ideot, full of sound and fury, Signifying nothing. *a* 1704 Locke (J.), Let us consider this proposition as to its meaning; for it is the sense and not sound that must be the principle. 1775 Johnson *Tax. no Tyr.* 33 That a free man is governed by himself..is a position of mighty sound; but every man that utters it..feels it to be false. 1806 *Med. Jrnl.* XV. 55 The reason..might in *sound* be plausible enough, but it certainly was of no benefit.

5. Fame or knowledge, report or rumour, news or tidings (*of* some thing or person). *Obs.* exc. *arch.*

1413 *26 Pol. Poems* xii. 86 Of noblay þey han lore þe sown. 1436 *Pol. Poems* (Rolls) II. 164 They have also ransonned toune by toune, That into the regnes of bost have ronne here soune. 1545 Joye *Exp. Dan.* ii. D vij, When the sowne of the gospell shall be blowne abroade into every lande. 1586 A. Day *Eng. Secretary* II. (1625) 26 Such odde kinde of reports,..the least whereof would make you storme to the gale, if a man should but ouer-slip himselfe in giuing any manner of sound of you. 1781 Cowper *Hope* 454 God gives the word—the preachers..spread the glorious sound. 1808 Scott *Marm.* VI. vii, Fame of my fate made various sound. 1817 Shelley *Rev. Islam* II. xiii, Until the mighty sound Of your career shall scatter in its gust The thrones of the oppressor.

b. *dial.* With *a*: A rumour.

1899 Raymond *No Soul above Money* II. i. 180 He had a-heard a sound that there wasn't enough stock on the farm.

6. *attrib.* and *Comb.* **a.** Simple attrib., as *sound-alarm, -change, distinction, -element*, etc.

Freq. in reference to vocal sound.

1843 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* VI. 146/2 Improvements in breakwaters, beacons, and *sound-alarms. 1866 G. Stephens *Runic Mon.* I. p. xxxvii, The law of *sound-change in certain given dialects or languages at certain given periods. 1884 Sweet in *Philol. Soc. Trans.* 59 The imperfect *sound-distinctions of Saxon Germans. 188 *Cent. Mag.* XXVII. 819 The highest art in the *sound element of poetry. 1881 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* V. 298 The existence of *sound-organs..implies a corresponding development of the sense of hearing. 1888 Clodd *Story Creation* xi. 215 Tribes whose stock of *sound-signs is so limited that they cannot understand each other in the dark. 1871 Tyndall *Fragm. Sci.* (1879) I. x. 307 The necessity of employing *sound-signals in dense fogs. 1884 Sweet in *Philol. Soc. Trans.* 599 The richness of our *sound-system. 1867 Tyndall *Sound* i. 19 The *sound-waves, travelling through a homogeneous atmosphere, reached the ear, undiminished by reflection.

b. With agent-nouns, vbl. sbs., and pres. ppples. as *sound-carrier, concentrator*; *sound-conducting -exulting, -making, -producing*, etc.

1888 E. Clodd *Story Creation* xi. 216 The..languages of civilised races, the *sound-carriers..of the lofty conceptions which are enshrined in prose and poetry. 1884 Knight *Dict. Mech.* Suppl. 832/1 *Sound Concentrator and Projector. 1853 Markham *Skoda's Auscult.* 93 In consequence of the *sound-conducting power of the tissue being increased by its condensation. 1820 Shelley *Prometh. Unb.* IV. 333 My cloven fire-crags, *sound-exulting fountains Laugh with a vast and inextinguishable laughter. 1875 Whitney *Life Lang.* ii. 10 By imitation of the *sound-making persons around him. 1871 Darwin *Desc. Man* II. xi. (1890) 327 In two families of the Homoptera..the males alone possess *sound-producing organs in an efficient state. 1894 *Times* (weekly ed.) 2 Feb. 99/2 The adoption of *sound-reading in the English telegraph offices. 1892 Wright *Gothic Primer* § 109 The first *sound-shifting, popularly called Grimm's Law. 1876 Douse *Grimm's L.* 151, *K* pure must have been ..the original single parent sound from which the impure *K*'s were derived—one by ordinary *sound-weakening, and the other by Reflex Dissimilation.

7. Special combs.: **sound-bar** *Mus.* (see quot.); **sound-body** *Mus.*, the hollow part of a stringed instrument which strengthens its sound; **sound-bow**, the thickest part of a bell, against which the hammer strikes; **sound-box**, sound-body; also in a gramophone, the box which carries the reproducing or recording stylus; **sound-hand**, a system of shorthand based on a phonetic representation of speech-sounds; **sound-house** (see quot.); **sound-lore**, the science of phonology; **sound-proof** *a.*, preventing the passage of loud or disturbing sound or noise; hence *sound-proofing* vbl. sb.

1884 Hawkes *My Musical Life* I. 225 The *sound-bar is a strip of pine wood running obliquely under the left foot of the bridge [of the violin]. 1875 Stainer & Barrett *Dict. Mus. Terms*, *Sound-body. 1688 Holme *Armoury* III. 462/1 The *Sound Bow, the inner part of the Bell, from the lower ring to the top. 1857 in J. Timbs *Year-bk. Facts* 109 A bell of the usual proportions, in which the thickness of the upper or thin part is one-third of the sound-bow or thickest part. 1875 Stainer & Barrett *Dict. Mus. Terms*, *Sound-box. 1906 Scripture *Exper. Phonetics* 16 Experiments made on gramophone sound boxes indicate the necessity of changing the

prevalent view of such vibrating diaphragms. 1837 PITMAN (*title*), Stenographic *sound-hand. 1884 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* Suppl. 832/2 **Sound-house*, a marine alarm station from which audible alarms or signals are given in foggy weather. 1871 KENNEDY *Public Sch. Lat. Gram.* 4 *Soundlore treats of the sounds and relations of Letters and Syllables. 1884 *Health Exhib. Catal.* 46/1 Movable *Sound-proof Partitions for dwelling-houses, schools, &c. 1894 *Daily News* 2 May 3/3 Each of the class rooms .. is made as far as possible sound proof. 1884 *Health Exhib. Catal.* 83/2 Models showing application of 'Silicate Cotton' for fire-proofing and *soundproofing.

Sound (sound), *sb.*[4] Now *dial.* Forms: α. 5–7 sown(e, 7 soune, sounn. β. 6 sounde, soonde, 6–7 sownd, 5– sound. [var. *swoun(d* SWOON *sb.*]

1. A swoon or fainting-fit. Usually with preps. *in* or *into*. Very common *c* 1530–1650, esp. in *to fall in a sound.*

α. *c* 1400 *Laud Troy Bk.* 10254 By-fore his feet fel sche doun For sorwe & care In a ded sowne. 1480 *Robt. Devyll* 139 in Hazl. *E. P.P.* I. 245 So for dreade thys lady laye in a sowne. 1525 LD. BERNERS *Froiss.* II. cxcii. [clxxxviii.] 590 She fell in a sowne, and knightes and ladyes came and comforted her. 1591 GREENE *Conny Catching* II. Wks. (Grosart) X. 115 Alas honest man helpe me, I am not well: and with that [he] suncke downe suddenly in a sowne. 1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* I. ii. IV. iii. 195 Augusta..fell down dead in a sown. 1678 WOOD *Life* (O.H.S.) II. 424 She fell in a soune and there layd.

fig. 1655 FULLER *Ch. Hist.* v. 278 For they beheld him, rather in a Sown, then as yet Dead in the Kings favour.

β. 1471 RIPLEY *Comp. Alch.* v. vi. in Ashm. (1652) 149 The Woman..Which oftyn for fayntnes wyll fall in a sound. 1509 HAWES *Past. Pleas.* XXXVI. (Percy Soc.) 187 Prostrate we fell ..And sodaynly we were cast in a sounde. 1559 *Mirr. Mag.* (1563) V iij, From a sigh he falles into a sounde, And from a sounde lyeth ragyng on the grounde. 1596 H. CLAPHAM *Briefe Bible* I. 77 A man in a foming sounde, is not fit for our Table. *a* 1629 HINDE *Y. Bruen* xlvii. (1641) 151 All his men were affraid, and one of them fell into a sownd. 1698 *Phil. Trans.* XX. 247 And so [they] came out of the Convulsive-like Motions, lying as it had been in a Sound. 1766 GOLDSM. *Vicar* xi, My Lady fell into a *sound*, but Sir Tomkyn drawing his sword, swore he was hers to the last drop of his blood. 1828– in Sc., Yks., Leic., and Cornw. glossaries.

fig. a 1569 KINGESMYLL *Man's Est.* ix. (1574) C vij, Lying still in the sounde of sinne and buried vp in death. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* I. 413 When England..breft.. of vitall breath was readie through Civill Warre to sinke downe and fall in a Sound.

b. Without article.

1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* VII. vi. *heading*, Juno, persavand the Troianis byg ane town, For greif and dolour lik to suelt in sown. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* III. v. Argt., Belphebe finds him almost dead, and reareth out of sownd. 1621 QUARLES *Div. Poems, Esther* (1717) 28 Tymissa (new awak'd from sound) replies, Our Castle is begirt with enemies. 1661 WOOD *Life* (O.H.S.) I. 379 He, striving too much that his voice might be heard, fell in sounn.

2. *dial.* A deep or sound sleep.

1867 P. KENNEDY *Banks Boro* xix. 108 We got into a heavy sound towards morning, when we ought to be thinking about getting up.

Sound (sound), *sb.*[5] Also 6 **sounde.** [f. SOUND *v.*[2], or ad. F. *sonde* (Sp. and Pg. *sonda*) in the same senses, app. f. OE. or ON. *sund* SOUND *sb.*[1] Cf. OE. *sund-gyrd, -line, -rāp*, sounding-pole, -line, -rope.]

1. a. An act of sounding with the lead; also *fig.*, power of sounding or investigating. *rare.*

1584 B. R. tr. *Herodotus* II. 70 b, At euery sounde with the plummet, you shall bringe vppe great store of mud [etc.]. *a* 1624 BP. M. SMITH *Serm.* (1632) 168 Man hath but a shallow sound, and a short reach, and dealeth onely by probabilities and likely-hoods.

b. A sounding-line or -lead.

It is possible that *sonde* in *Chaucer's Dreme* 1149 is to be taken in this sense.

c 1620 Z. BOYD *Zion's Flowers* (1855) 19 Ho! Pilot, cause cast out the sound.., And try how deepe wee draw.

† **2.** A hole or excavation. *Obs.*—[1]

1603 KNOLLES *Hist. Turks* (1621) 581 The Rhodians.. sunke divers deepe sounds in many places of the citie neere unto the wals, to discover the enemies mines.

3. *Surg.* An instrument for probing parts of the body, usually long and slender and having a slightly enlarged end.

1797 M. BAILLIE *Morb. Anat.* (1807) 319 The disease may be ascertained by the introduction of the sound into the urethra. 1809 S. COOPER *Dict. Pract. Surg.* 453/1 Having previously introduced a metallic instrument, called a sound, into the bladder, and plainly felt the stone. 1846 BRITTAN tr. *Malgaigne's Man. Oper. Surg.* 71 Of Cauterization...Heat in the candle a finely-pointed metallic sound. 1895 *Arnold & Sons' Catal. Surg. Instrum.* 444 Uterine Sound and Syringe, combined. *Ibid.* 629 Lithotomy Sound .., auscultatory, with India-rubber tubing and ear mount.

4. *Sound-line*, 'the tow-line carried down by a whale when sounding' (*Cent. Dict.*).

† **Sound,** *sb.*[6] *Obs.*—[0] [Of obscure origin; perh. an error for *squid.*] A cuttle-fish.

1611 COTGR., *Seche*, the sound, or Cuttle-fish. [Hence in later Dicts.]

Sound, obs. form of SAND *sb.*[1] and *sb.*[2]

Sound (sound), *a.* Forms: 3–4 **sund(e,** 4–5 **sond(e,** 6 **soende;** 3–6 **sounde,** 4–6 **sownd(e** (5 **sowunde**); 3– **sound** (5 **sount**), 9 *dial.* **soun', sound, soun', soond, soon'.** [ME. *sund*, representing OE. *gesund* I-SOUND *a.* The prefix has also disappeared in some of the Continental languages, as WFris. *soun* (*sûn, sûnd*), NFris. *sünn* (*sünj*), MDu. (eastern) *sunt, sont, sond-*, MLG. *sunt, sund-* (LG. *sund*; hence Da. and Sw. *sund*), but remains in Du. *gezond*, G. *gesund.*]

I. 1. Of persons, animals, etc.: Free from disease, infirmity, or injury; having or enjoying bodily health; healthy, robust. Usu. predicative.

In ME. the prominent sense was 'unhurt, uninjured, unwounded'. The first group illustrates the frequent usage with another adj. (or adv.): see also SAFE *a.* 1 b, c, and WHOLE *a.*

(*a*) *c* 1200 ORMIN 14818 Godess follc all hal & sund Comm wel þurrh Godd to lande. *c* 1220 *Bestiary* 518 Þis fis wunedȝ wiþ ðe se grund, and liueþ ðer eure heil and sund. *a* 1310 in Wright *Lyric P.* xxx. 89 Withoute gold other eny tresor he [man] mai be sound ant sete. *c* 1374 CHAUCER *Troylus* III. 1526 God us graunte sounde and sone to mete! *c* 1400 *Laud Troy Bk.* 16534 He bad god..Brynge hem thedir sound & sone. *c* 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* I. 55 Yf thou se the puple sounde and fair. 1557 TUSSER *100 Points Husb.* lvi, A kow good of milk, big of bulke, hayle and sounde. 1573 — *Husb.* (1878) 115 Then shall thy cattel be lustie and sound.

(*b*) *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 4350 Þi luue me has broght to grund, þat i mai neuer mar be sund. 13.. *Sir Beues* (A.) 231 A stalword man and hardi, While he was sounde. *c* 1450 *Mirk's Festial* 13 Aron he com to hom,..and holpe hom soo, þat þay comen sonde to hauen. 1508 DUNBAR *Poems* iv. 10 The stait of man dois change & vary, Now sound, now seik, now blyth, now sary. 1596 HARINGTON *Metam. Ajax* (1814) 47 If your hawk's casting be all black, you shall see and smell she is not sound. 1605 SHAKS. *Lear* II. iv. 113 To take the indispos'd and sickly fit, For the sound man. 1660 F. BROOKE tr. *Le Blanc's Trav.* 129 A slave of a high price, of thirty yeares age, beautiful, sound, and jolly. 1722 DE FOE *Plague* 150 They were known to be all sound and in good health. 1791 'G. GAMBADO' *Ann. Horsem.* x. (1809) 108, I have bought a grey gelding lately, ..they assured me he was sound. 1849 CLARIDGE *Cold Water Cure* 84 The sound man has purer tastes, independent of his greater self-command. 1853 *Chambers's Jrnl.* Oct., Here is a very fine boy, seven years of age, warranted sound. 1898 WATTS-DUNTON *Aylwin* II. iv, A bird with a broken wing would be always more to you than a sound one!

absol. 1597 HOOKER *Eccl. Pol.* v. lxviii. (1611) 368 Sound and sicke remaining both of the same body. 1601 SHAKS. *All's Well* IV. iii. 189 The muster file, rotten and sound, vppon my life amounts not to fifteene thousand pole. 1670 BAXTER *Cure Ch. Div.* Pref. 1 There are the wise and the foolish, the sound and the sick. 1722 DE FOE *Plague* 184 The apothecaries and surgeons knew not how to discover the sick from the sound. 1817 SHELLEY *Rev. Islam* x. xxii, Some, ere life was spent, Sought..to shed Contagion on the sound.

fig. 1765 FRANCIS tr. *Horace, Odes* (ed. 7) II. iv. 27 Heart-hold [*sic*] and sound I laud her Charms.

b. Const. *of* or *in* (the limbs, mind, etc.).

Sound of all four: cf. FOUR *a.* 2 d.

1471 in *Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* Var. Coll. IV. 182 Sownde of mynde, sore wowndede, dredyng the parel of dethe. 1577 B. GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* III. (1586) 114 b, The Horse that is not sounde of his Feete. 1599 SHAKS. *Hen. V*, III. vi. 27 Bardolph, a Souldier firme and sound of heart. 1636 MASSINGER *Bashful Lover* IV. i, She's sound of mind and limb. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* III. 120 The Colt..Of able Body, sound of Limb and Wind. 1807 CRABBE *Par. Reg.* I. 109 Safe from all want, and sound in every limb. 1889 *Horse & Hound* 24 Aug. 516/2 Horses described as 'good hunters' must not only be sound in 'wind and eyes', but must have been hunted. 1890 DOYLE *White Company* x, I am still long of breath and sound in limb.

c. In the phr. *as sound as a bell.* Also *fig.* of the heart.

See also ROACH *sb.*[1] 1 b and TROUT *sb.*

1676 NEWTON *Lemnie's Complex.* (1633) 175 They be people commonly healthy, and as sound as a Bell. 1599 SHAKS. *Much Ado* III. ii. 13 He hath a heart as sound as a bell. 1608 TOPSELL *Serpents* (1658) 621 From that time forwards, he remained well and lusty, and as sound as a Bell. 1623 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *New Discov.* A v, Blinde Fortune did so happily contriue, That we (as sound as bells) did safe ariue At Douer. 1865 *Sketches fr. Cambr.* 26 As for you, however, you are as sound as a bell. 1898 *Pall Mall Mag.* July 306 A single man..with prospects, an' as sound as a bell, ..is not to be had every day.

d. Said of appetite, health, etc.

1591 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* I. iv, When wilfully his tasteless Taste delights In things unsavory to sound appetites. 1605 SHAKS. *Macb.* V. iii. 52 Finde her Disease, And purge it to a sound and pristine Health. 1856 KANE *Arct. Expl.* I. xvi. 191 In spite of all my efforts to keep up an example of sound bearing I fainted twice on the snow.

2. Of parts of the body, the constitution, etc.: Not affected by disease, decay, or injury.

Also † *to make* (a wound) *sound*, to heal or cure.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 26925 And quils þat neunes es in wonde Es plaster nan mai mak it sond. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* II. 266 Sche tok..Of herbes al the beste jus, And poured it into his wounde; That made his veynes fulle and sounde. 1560 BIBLE (Geneva) *Prov.* xiv. 30 A sound heart is the life of the flesh: but enuie is the rotting of the bones. 1577 B. GOOGE tr. *Heresbach's Husb.* III. 155 You may geue them.. the bones them selues broosed, which wyll make theyr teeth the sounder. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* III. xii. 38 The wyde wound .. Was closed vp, .. And euery part to safety full sound, As she were neuer hurt, was soone restor'd. 1621 T. WILLIAMSON tr. *Goulart's Wise Vieillard* 9 Thou art quick of hearing, thy teeth are sound. 1630 *R. Johnson's Kingd. & Commw.* 116 Of stature they are tall, of a sound constitution. 1750 tr. *Leonardus' Mirr. Stones* 83 Coral makes sound the wasted gums. 1779 *Mirror* No. 67, I wished to change it while I had a sound constitution, which I owed to Nature. 1803 *Med. Jrnl.* X. 370 When a broken fragment of bone is driven beneath the sound contiguous part of the cranium. 1843 R. J. GRAVES *Syst. Clin. Med.* xi. 122 The brain is found to be perfectly sound and normal. 1898 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* V. 74 Inability to lie on the sound side.

b. Of the mind, heart, etc., with reference to intellectual or moral qualities.

Freq. in citations or echoes of Juvenal *Sat.* x. 356 *Mens sana in corpore sano.*

1531 TINDALE *Exp.* 1 *John* (1537) 97 It is the moost felicite that can be to haue a sounde mynde in a sounde body. 1577 HARRISON *England* II. xii. (1877) I. 239 They haue noted three things within their sound remembrance. 1598 ROWLANDS *Betraying of Christ* 15 Sound conscience well is said like wall of brasse; Corrupted, fit compar'd to broken glasse. 1652 EVELYN *State France* Misc. Writ. (1805) 56 A prince of weak fabric and constitution, but sound intellectuals. 1675 OWEN *Indwelling Sin* ix, (1732) 111 To endeavour after a sound and stedfast Mind. 1729 LAW *Serious C.* xi. 163 The solid enjoyments, and real happiness of a sound mind. 1780 *Mirror* No. 86, Since a sound mind, according to the well-known apophthegm, is in natural alliance with a sound body. 1820 SCOTT *Monast.* xxi, I must trust to good sword, strong arm, and sound heart. 1876 TREVELYAN *Life & Lett. Ld. Macaulay* II. ix. 122 The promptings of a sound manly heart.

c. Of a place: Morally healthy.

1876 MISS YONGE *Womankind* xxiii. 195 Servants who have once, as young girls, been landed in a kind, sound place, where they are well cared for.

3. Free from damage, decay, or special defect; unimpaired, uninjured; in good condition or repair.

c 1290 *St. Dominic* 220 in *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 284 Þe holie manness bokes it weren.., Also sounde huy weren and druye ase huy euer er were. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XVI. vii. (Bodl. MS.), Quyke siluer .. is ful longe ikepte i colde uessels and sownde. *c* 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* XII. 357 Ther cannes styke; on hem sarmentis plie, With grapes faire & sounde aparty hie. 1555 EDEN *Decades* II. II. (Arb.) 111 Of theyr soundeste plankes..they framed a newe carauel. 1594 SHAKS. *Rich. III*, v. iii. 65 Look that my Staues be sound, & not too heauy. 1653 RAMESEY *Astrol. Restored* 147 The Trees are tall, sound, fruitfull, and good. 1687 A. LOVELL tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* I. 113 All the Walls are so sound, that they seem as if they had been but lately built. 1725 DE FOE *Voy. round World* (1840) 94 Our men healthy, and our ships sound. 1791 'G. GAMBADO' *Ann. Horsem.* vi. (1809) 91 If the gate or stile happens to be in a sound state. 1826 *Art Brewing* (ed. 2) 92 You can use good sound barleys for that purpose, and reject blown, or otherwise injured, goods. 1857 MILLER *Elem. Chem., Org.* I. 13 By means of a sound elastic cork. 1887 JEFFERIES *Amaryllis* xiii, They were all dressed better than her, and without a doubt had sound boots on their feet.

fig. 1588 SHAKS. *L. L. L.* v. ii. 415 My loue to thee is sound, *sans* cracke or flaw. 1596 SPENSER *State Irel.* Wks. (Globe) 612/2 They reserved theyr titles, tenures, and signioryes whole and sound to themselves. 1607 TOURNEUR *Rev. Trag.* II. iv, Before his eyes He would ha' seen the execution sound Without corrupted favour. 1618 FLETCHER *Women Pleased* I. iii, 'Tis but a Proverb sound, and a neck broken.

b. Of air, liquor, or food: Not spoiled or vitiated in any way; hence, wholesome, good and strong. Also in fig. context.

c 1460 *Play Sacram.* 41 And sythe thay toke yt blysed brede so sownde And in a cawdron they ded hym boyle. 1584 COGAN *Haven Health* (1636) 300 Neither is the ayre to bee iudged sound as soon as the Plague ceaseth. 1594 PLAT *Jewell-ho.* I. 9, I haue also heard it verie credible reported, that a side of venison hath byn kept sound and sweet one whole month together. 1604 E. G[RIMSTONE] tr. *D'Acosta's Hist. Indies* II. xiv. 114 There is nothing more agreeable, then to inioy a heaven [=air] that is sound, sweet and pleasant. 1635 SWAN *Spec. M.* (1643) 381 The Trout is admirable: for this is so sound in nourishment, that [etc.]. 1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* xxviii, MRS. Bickerton ..drank some sound old ale, and a glass of stiff negus. 1821 — *Kenilw.* i, Having a cellar of sound liquor, a ready wit, and a pretty daughter. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 748 Sound wine in moderation.

c. Financially solid or safe.

1601 R. JOHNSON *Kingd. & Commw.* (1603) 17 Francis the 1..left his credite sound with the marchants, and readie money to his sonne. 1833 HT. MARTINEAU *Berkeley the Banker* I. i. 17 In my country, Scotland, the banks are particularly sound. 1879 FROUDE *Cæsar* ix. 91 He lent his money..with sound securities and at usurious interest. 1883 *Daily Tel.* 10 Nov. 5/4 The finances of the colony were in a sound condition.

d. In proper condition for the purpose.

1883 *Cassell's Fam. Mag.* IX. 760/1 The heat may then ..be reduced a little, still the oven must be 'sound', and kept as near as possible at a uniform temperature.

4. a. Of things or substances: Solid, massive, compact. † Of a wood: Dense.

c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xvii. (*Martha*) 16 Sa thik & sownd was þe wod Be-twene Arle and Avynone. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) IV. 453 Also þe Est gate.., þat was so hevy of sound bras þat twenty men were besy i-now for to tende it, ..opened by hymself. 1551 RECORDE *Cast. Knowl.* (1556) 17 A sphere is a round and sound body. 1577 B. GOOGE tr. *Heresbach's Husb.* 20 Hereunto you may cast ashes,..dust and other thinges raked togeather, but in the middest you must lay some sounde matter. 1825 SCOTT *Talism.* iv, A small Gothic chapel, hewn..out of the sound and solid rock. 1855 *Orr's Circ. Sci., Inorg. Nat.* 212 The line.. should have a naturally sound foundation of rock, well drained, and not liable to destruction from mere exposure.

b. Of land: Dry in subsoil; not boggy or marshy. Now *dial.*

1523 FITZHERB. *Husb.* § 18 Lette theym [*sc.* sheep] out of the folde, and dryue theym to the soundest place of the felde. *Ibid.* § 39 He that hath noo seuerall and sounde pasture, to put his lambes vnto. 1789 T. WRIGHT *Meth. Watering Meadows* (1790) 9 Its [*sc.* land] herbage, if coarse, is fined; its soil, if swampy, becomes sound. 1873 *N. & Q.* 4th Ser. XI. 57 It is a good sound heaf, with plenty of heather, and good herbage.

† **5.** Safe, secure; free from danger. *Obs.*

1535 STEWART *Cron. Scot.* II. 492 Suppois the se was

neuir so soft and sound: In that passage this ilk Edmund wes dround.

6. Of sleep, etc.: Deep, heavy, profound; unbroken or undisturbed.

1548 ELYOT s.v. *Arctus, Arctior somnus*, sounde slepe. 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 232 He was caste into a marvelous depe and sounde slepe. 1597 SHAKS. 2 *Hen. IV*, IV. v. 35 This sleepe is sound indeede. 1639 N. N. tr. *Du Bosq's Compl. Woman* II. 19 These slaves seeing their pretended Husbands layd in a sound sleepe, most subtilly stole away their Armes. 1673 *Humours Town* (1693) 2, I could scarce get one sound nap. 1709 ADDISON *Tatler* No. 97 ¶ 7 Their Slumbers are sound, and their Wakings chearful. 1804 ABERNETHY *Surg. Obs.* 176 His sleep was sound and undisturbed. 1833 T. HOOK *Parson's Dau.* II. xi, [He] went into a sound nap. 1893 FORBES-MITCHELL *Remin. Gt. Mutiny* 126, I..had a sound refreshing sleep.

transf. 1616 *Pasquil & Kath.* v. 133 Once more a blessed chance Hath fetcht againe my spirit from the sownd And languishing despaire of happinesse.

b. Hence with *sleeper*. Also as a moth-name.

For *sound*='sound asleep', see SOUND *adv.* 2 b.

1877 *Reports Prov.* 139 (E.D.D.), Pointing to brown moth, 'tis a sound-sleeper. 1898 WATTS-DUNTON *Aylwin* XV. i, I was always a sound sleeper.

7. Of a solid, substantial, ample, or thorough nature or character.

1565 COOPER *Thesaurus* s.v. *Solidus*, With a name of more glorious shew, then sounde value. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* I. 567 The soile..vnderneath..drinks in much moisture..; for many a sound showre .. passeth and runneth through it. 1618 BOLTON *Florus* (1636) 132 Metellus .. tooke a most sound revenge for the losse of Iuventius. *a* 1676 HALE *Prim. Orig. Man.* I. i. (1677) 25 It gives every considering man a sound and full conviction that [etc.]. 1784 COWPER *Tiroc.* 437 School-friendships are not always found..permanent and sound. 1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 593 A light, sandy loam, whose sound dryness is acknowledged. 1863 A. K. H. BOYD *Graver Thoughts Country P.* 209 The greedy farmer will tell many lies to get a sound price for a lame horse. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* III. 913 When..the attack passes off the patient makes a sound recovery.

b. Of blows, a beating, etc.: Dealt or given with force or severity.

1607 BREWER *Lingua* III. i, I looked for a sound rap on the pate. 1681 DRYDEN *Span. Friar* III. ii, Just as when a fellow has got a sound Knock upon the head, they say he's settled. 1728 RAMSAY *Mouk & Miller's Wife* 246 Be sure to lend him a sound rout. 1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* XXX, The porter..started up with his club, and dealt a sound douse or two on each side of him. 1852 MISS YONGE *Cameos* I. iv. 27 He will give you a sound beating. 1887 HALL CAINE *Life Coleridge* i. 22 He proceeded to exterminate Voltaire by force of a flogging, which Coleridge feelingly described as sound if not salutary.

II. 8. In full accordance with fact, reason, or good sense; founded on true or well-established grounds; free from error, fallacy, or logical defect; good, strong, valid.

The several groups of quotations illustrate some of the principal varieties of context.

(*a*) *c* 1440 CAPGRAVE *Life St. Kath.* v. 1183 Youre counseyll in this is neyther saue ne sounde. 1576 GASCOIGNE *Steele Gl.* (Arb.) 52 And sound advice might ease hir wearie thoughtes. 1596 *Edw. III*, I. i. 101 The soundest counsell I can giue his grace, Is to surrender ere he be constraynd. 1697 DRYDEN *Æneid* XII. 42 Sound Advice, proceeding from a heart Sincerely yours.

(*b*) 15.. *Syr Peny* 117 in Hazl. *E. P. P.* I. 166 He makyth the fals to be soende, And ryght puttys to the grounde. 1596 SHAKS. *Merch. V.* IV. i. 238 You know the Law, your exposition Hath beene most sound. 1600 — *A. Y. L.* III. ii. 62 Shallow agen: a more sounder instance, come. 1622 GATAKER *Spirituall Watch* (ed. 2) 118 To passe by this, which I take to bee not all out so sound. 1653 RAMESEY *Astrol. Restored* 36, I would fain see them pass any sound word or Argument against it. 1711 G. HICKES *Two Treat. Chr. Priesth.* (1847) II. 363 This rigorously exercised supremacy, which our princes have since explained into a sounder sense. 1781 BURKE in *Corr.* (1844) II. 445 Mr. Laurens' remarks are as sound as they are acute and ingenious. 1818 CRUISE *Digest* (ed. 2) III. 305 There seems to have been no sound reason for this distinction. 1841 MACAULAY *Let.* in Trevelyan *Life* (1876) II. ix. 118 Your objection to the lines is quite sound. 1849 — *Hist. Eng.* x. II. 609 Their old theory, sound or unsound, was at least complete and coherent.

(*c*) 1598 MERES in Ingleby *Shaks. Cent. Praise* 24 The cleanest wit and soundest wisedome. 1706 E. WARD *Wooden World Diss.* (1708) 14 Bubling he says is the Result of sound Reasoning. 1780 HARRIS *Philol. Enq.* Wks. (1841) 450 Strictly conformable to the rules of sound and ancient criticism. 1802 MAR. EDGEWORTH *Moral T.* (1816) I. viii. 48 Consistent with sound philosophy. 1855 J. PHILLIPS *Man. Geol.* II As a basis of true and sound geology. 1865 TYLOR *Early Hist. Man.* i. 2 The growth of sound knowledge. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 840 The patient instead of adopting the counsel of sound surgery, betakes himself to the perilous resources of quackery.

(*d*) 1697 DRYDEN *Virgil, Life* (1721) I. 72 He has solv'd more Phænomena of Nature upon sound Principles, than Aristotle in his Physics. 1836 THIRLWALL *Hist. Greece* II. 225 It does indeed indicate..larger views, and sounder principles of policy. 1855 *Orr's Circ. Sci., Inorg. Nat.* 127 Without sound general views there can be no safe practical use of any science. 1888 BRYCE *Amer. Commw.* xvii. I. 244 Without expressing any opinion as to whether the policy of Protection be or be not sound.

b. Theologically correct; orthodox.

1575 GASCOIGNE *Glasse Governm.* Wks. 1910 II. 66 All this I confesse also to be good & sound doctrine. 1594 HOOKER *Eccl. Pol.* IV. ii. § 1 It is out of doubt that..in the prime of Christian religion faith was soundest. 1609 BIBLE (Douay) *Exod.* XXVIII. *comm.*, Bishopes and Priestes must have special vertues,..sound doctrin, and band of union. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 30 Jan. 1653, He ordinarily preach'd sound doctrine. 1784 COWPER *Tiroc.* 198 [Being] taught..sound religion sparingly enough. 1837 PUSEY in Liddon *Life* (1893) II. i. 16 We have too much to do to keep sound doctrine..to be able to go into the question about dresses. 1858 W. ARNOT *Laws fr. Heaven* II. xi. 95 A sound creed will not save a careless liver in the great day. 1870 J. BRUCE *Life Gideon* xii. 218 The indissoluble connection between a sound faith and a sincere conscience.

† **c.** Of a book or writing: Accurate, correct.

1599 THYNNE *Animadv.* (1875) 61 The printe must be corrected after those written copies (whiche I yet holde for sounde till I maye disprove them). 1611 BIBLE *Transl. Pref.* ¶ 6 That Translation was not so sound and so perfect, but that it needed in many places correction. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 20 Feb. 1676, A famous..treatise against the corruption in the Clergie, but not sound as to its quotations.

9. Of judgement, sense, etc.: Based on or characterized by well-grounded principles or good practical knowledge.

1577 B. GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* (1586) 7 Those that are of sounder iudgement, account the husbandmen most happy. 1613 HARCOURT *Voy. Guiana* 37 As others also of sound iudgement, and great experience doe hold opinion. 1620 T. GRANGER *Div. Logike* 2 Instituted or framed according to sound reason. 1718 *Free-thinker* No. 75. 137 It is a Maxim of the soundest Sense. 1790 BURKE *Fr. Rev.* 303 The learning which could make judicial discretion.. deserving the appellation of a sound discretion. 1830 SCOTT *Monast.* Introd., By a transcendent flight, beyond sound reason and common sense. 1847 W. C. L. MARTIN *The Ox* 166/2 A skilful practitioner, whose knowledge of anatomy will enable him to act with promptness and sound judgment. 1857 LIVINGSTONE *Trav.* ii. 38 A most convincing proof of our sound sense.

10. Of persons, disposition, principles, etc.: **a.** Morally good; honest, straightforward.

1580 LYLY *Euphues* (Arb.) 461 Knowing that there is nothing that smelleth sweeter to the Lorde, then a sounde spirite. *a* 1586 SIDNEY *Ps.* XVIII. vii, I walk'd his waies,.. Sound and upright with him, to wickednes not bent. 1687 MIÉGE *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II. s.v., To have sound (honest, or good) Principles. 1695 CONGREVE *Love for L.* III. iv, *Mrs. Fore.* ..You are such an universal Jugler,—that I'm afraid you have a great many Confederates. *Scan.* Faith, I'm sound.

b. Sincere, true; not doubtful or disaffected in any way; trusty, loyal.

1581 J. BELL *Haddon's Answ. Osor.* 194, I dare scarsely thinke you to be in any respect a sownde frende thereunto. 1613 SHAKS. *Hen. VIII*, III. ii. 274, I..That in the way of Loyaltie, and Truth, Toward the King .. Dare mate a sounder man then Surrie can be. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* II. 299 Little to bee feared, if the English-Irish there had sound hearts to the State. 1781 COWPER *Friendship* 15 The requisites that form a friend, A real and a sound one. 1817 *Evans's Parl. Deb.* I. 586 The great body of the labourers ..in that part of the kingdom, he believed to be sound.

c. Having a healthy national or moral tone.

1822 GEN. STEWART (of Garth) *Sk. Highlanders*, etc. II. 257 The mass of the population may, on occasions of trial, be reckoned on as sound and trust-worthy. *a* 1862 BUCKLE *Civiliz.* (1869) III. iii. 130 As long as the people are sound, there is life. 1879 M. ARNOLD *Mixed Ess., Democracy* 5 One..beneficial influence,..the administration of a vigorous and high-minded aristocracy is calculated to exert upon a robust and sound people. 1902 *Daily Chron.* 15 Apr. 3/6 The American, too, is a 'sound' man, jolly good company, and no end of fun.

11. Of persons: Holding accepted, approved, solid, or well-grounded opinions or views, esp. in regard to religious belief; orthodox.

pred. 1526 TINDALE *Titus* i. 13 Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they maye be sounde [Gr. ὑγιαίνωσιν] in the fayth. 1613 SHAKS. *Hen. VIII*, v. iii. 81 *Gard.* Doe not I know you for a Fauourer Of this new Sect? Ye are not sound. *Crom.* Not sound? 1704 SWIFT *T. Tub* Concl., A temptation of being witty, upon occasions where I could be neither wise, nor sound, nor anything to the matter in hand. 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xiv. III. 477 The King, too, it was said, was not sound. 1874 *Contemp. Rev.* Oct. 708 He came from Scotland sound as a bell on the five points of Calvinism.

absol. 1682 *2nd Plea for Nonconf.* Ded. A iij b, Distinguish between Preacher and Preacher, between the sound and the unsound.

attrib. 1594 HOOKER *Eccl. Pol.* III. viii. 3 The will of God .. no sound divine in the world ever denied to be [etc.]. 1626 in *Cath. Rec. Soc. Publ.* I. 96 Testifying that he was a sound catholique, & had done them faithful service. 1685 BAXTER *Paraphr. N. T.* Mark iv. 20 All sound Christians are not equally fruitful. 1714 POPE *Wife Bath* 55 For so said Paul, and Paul's a sound divine. 1764 WESLEY *Let. to T. Rankin* Wks. 1830 XII. 305, I hope John Cattermole (a sound man) will come and help you. 1820 SCOTT *Monast.* Introd. Ep., It would ill become me, a sound Protestant, and a servant of government.., to implicate myself [etc.]. 1882 R. G. WILBERFORCE *Life W. Wilberforce* III. vi. 169 'Well, but my Lord, after all, he is a very sound man!' 'He is indeed with a vengeance,' said the Bishop, 'if you mean *vox et præterea nihil*'.

b. Hence *To be sound on* (something). Orig. *U.S.* and chiefly *colloq.*

1856 *Knickerbocker Mag.* XLVIII. 287 A slight German accent did not prevent him from being sound, as he said, 'on ter coose question'. 1859 BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.* (ed. 2) 430 *Sound on the goose*, a phrase originating in the Kansas troubles, and signifying true to the cause of slavery. 1872 DE VERE *Americanisms* 267 Now, sound on the goose means simply to be stanch on the party question, whatever that may be for the moment. 1893 F. F. MOORE *I Forbid Banns* (1899) 119 That he was sound even on a seven hours' question.

c. *U.S.* (See quot.)

1872 DE VERE *Americanisms* 266 If he has been in political life before, his record is carefully searched to find out if he is sound, that is, if he has always voted strictly with his party.

12. Of sober or solid judgement; well-grounded in principles or knowledge; thoroughly versed and reliable.

1615 G. SANDYS *Trav.* 218 As sound *in* iudgement as ripe in experience. 1654 tr. *Scudery's Curia Pol.* 61 It was very difficult to be a sick Patient, and a sound Polititian, to govern the people, being personally weak. 1852 BRISTED *Five Yrs. Eng. Univ.* (ed. 2) 274 Good sound scholars, but not remarkably showy or striking. 1872 RUSKIN *Eagle's N.* i. 3 The least part of the work of any sound art-teacher must be his talking. 1891 E. PEACOCK *N. Brendon* I. 62 You are a sound judge of poetry.

13. *Comb.*, as *sound-headed, -hearted, -minded*, etc. Also *sound-heartedness* and *sound-sweet* adj.

1808 SCOTT *Let.* in *Lockhart* (1837) II. vi. 205 He is judicious..and uncommonly *sound-headed. 1856 *N. Brit. Rev.* XXVI. 87 Henry and his Parliament, though still doctrinal Romanists, were sound-headed practical Englishmen. 1608 DOD & CLEAVER *Expos. Prov.* 84 Who thus testifie of themselues, and of all other *sound hearted Christians. 1841 MIALL in *Nonconf.* I. 241 A sound-hearted patriot. *a* 1853 ROBERTSON *Lect.* ii. (1858) 53 The *sound-heartedness and right feeling of the great majority. 1826 E. IRVING *Babylon* II. I. 140 It became a fixed and settled principle with all *sound-minded men. 1856 *N. Brit. Rev.* XXVI. 63 This is enough..to screen this sound-minded Calvinist from all criticism or remark. *1863 COWDEN CLARKE *Shaks. Char.* viii. 208 The most *sound-sensed man of the group. 1591 SYLVESTER *Ivry* 459 Wks. (Grosart) II. 251 Their Leach that fain would cure their harm Applying many *sound-sweet Med'cines fit. 1589 R. HARVEY *Pl. Perc.* (1590) 8 They..were the *soundest winded subiects. 1561 T. NORTON *Calvin's Inst.* IV. 86 To peynt out..what maner of thyng the profession of monkes was..: so as the *soundwitted reders may iudge by the comparison.

Sound (sound), *adv.* Also 5 sounde, sownde, 6 sownd. [f. SOUND *a.*]

† **1.** Without harm or injury; in safety or security; safely. *Obs.*

a 1400–50 *Alexander* 5532 How he mi3t seke doun sounde in-to þe see bothom. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 652 So may ye surely & sounde to myselfe come. *c* 1450 HOLLAND *Howlat* 774 He gart thaim se..Sound saland on the se schippis of towr.

2. *To sleep sound*, to enjoy deep, unbroken, or undisturbed sleep; to be in a profound sleep.

a 1400 *Octavian* 72 When y am to bedd broght, Y slepe but selden sownde. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* VII. Prol. 111 On slummyr I slaid full sad, and slepit sownd. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* I. i. 42 So sound he slept, that nought mought him awake. 1722 DE FOE *Col. Jack* i, Among the coal-ashes where I slept..as sound, and as comfortably as ever I did since. 1770 LANGHORNE *Plutarch* V. 224 Fulvius slept so sound after his wine, that [etc.]. 1852 THACKERAY *Esmond* II. v, Some night he begins to sleep sound.

phr. 1711 RAMSAY *On Maggy Johnstoun* x, I trow I took a nap,..As sound's a tap. 1727 GAY *New Song of New Similes* vi, But she, insensible of that, Sound as a top can sleep.

b. *Sound asleep*, sunk in sleep; fast asleep. Also with ellipse of *asleep*.

1592 SHAKS. *Rom. & Jul.* IV. v. 8 How sound is she a sleepe? I must needs wake her. 1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* i, He may be found sound asleep on his feather-bed. 1839 DICKENS *Nickleby* xxiii, Asleep she did fall, sound as a church. 1844 W. H. MAXWELL *Sports & Adv. Scot.* vii. (1855) 81 'Sound as a watchman,' [he] hears nothing. 1891 A. GORDON *Gargleu* ii. 54 How can you say all this, when you were sound as a trooper?

3. In a sound manner; heartily, soundly.

1598 SHAKS. *Merry W.* IV. iv. 61 Let the supposed Fairies pinch him, sound, And burne him with their Tapers.

b. In various combs., as *sound-judging, -thinking; sound-set, -stated*, etc.

1598 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. i. 1. *Eden* 302 Man (having yet spirit sound-stated) Should dwel elswhere, then where he was created. 1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* VIII. 342 The sound set man..still keepeth his way. 1817 SCOTT *Let.* in *Lockhart* (1837) IV. ii. 72 A set of quiet, unpretending, but sound-judging country gentlemen. 1838 DICKENS *O. Twist* xii, Laws which certain profound and sound-judging philosophers have laid down. 1873 LD. DUFFERIN in A. Lyall *Life* (1905) I. vii. 227 My real sympathies were..with the sound-thinking portion of the nation.

Sound (sound), *v.*[1] Forms: *α.* 4 sune, 4–5 sone, sovne, 4–6 soun(e, sown(e. *β.* 5–6 sounde, 5–7 sownd(e, 5– sound. [ad. OF. *suner, soner* (mod. F. *sonner*), = Prov. and Sp. *sonar*, Pg. *soar*, It. *sonare* :—L. *sonāre*, f. *sonus* sound.]

I. *intr.* **1.** Of things: To make or emit a sound. Frequently with adverbial or adjectival complement.

α. a 1325 *Prose Psalter* xlv[ij]. 3 þe waters souned, and ben trubled. 1362 LANGL. *P. Pl. A.* Prol. 10 As I..lokede on þe watres, I slumberde in a slepyng, hit sownede so murie. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) VII. 73 Water organs þat sowneþ by ayer and water. *c* 1450 *Merlin* x. 154 Where as thei herde the trompe sowne. 1486 *Bk. St. Albans* d iij, And thay be brokyn thay wyll sowne full dulli. *a* 1533 LD. BERNERS *Huon* liii. 181 Trompettes & taboures began to sowne. 1565 COOPER *Thesaurus* s.v. *Lituus, Strepunt litui*, the trumpettes sowne.

β. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 350/1 To sownde, *strepere*. 1530 PALSGR. 726/1 This bell soundeth a mys. *Ibid.*, This horne sowndeth meryly. 1579 *Poore Knights Palace* E iij, Whose harpe did sound almost the silent night. 1662 J. DAVIES tr. *Olearius' Voy. Amb.* 33 The Trumpet alwaies sounding when the meat was carried up. 1749 GRAY *Installat. Ode* 35 But hark! the portals sound. 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* xxxiii, Presently the castle-clock struck twelve, and then a trumpet sounded. 1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* iii. *note*, No other drum but theirs was allowed to sound on the High Street. 1845 J. COULTER *Adv. in Pacific* xiv. 193 In still weather, you will hear them (*war-conches*] for miles, they sound so loudly. 1877 FROUDE *Short Stud.* (1883) IV.

1. x. 120 From the cathedral tower the vesper bell was beginning to sound.

b. To resound (*to*, *with*, or † *of* something); to be filled with sound.

13.. *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* xxiii. 515 Of whos herying sounen .. Heuene, Erþe and See. *c* 1475 *Partenay* 4718 A meruelus cry vp he cast þat stound, All the toure souned when he fill to ground. 1577 Hanmer *Anc. Eccl. Hist.* (1619) 177 All sounded of lamentation throughout every narrow lane. 1822 Scott *Kenilw.* xxxi, The great hall of the Castle..sounding to strains of soft and delicious music. *a* 1854 H. Reed *Lect. Eng. Lit.* iii. (1878) 117 It is one of the noblest languages that the earth has ever sounded with. 1896 Housman *Shropshire Lad* xxii, The street sounds to the soldiers' tread.

c. Of instruments: To give a call or summons *to* arms, battle, etc. Also without subject.

1705 J. Robins *Hero of Age* II. ii. 3 Now first is beat the General Alarm, Now sounds to Horse. 1724 De Foe *Mem. Cavalier* (1840) 68 The trumpets sounded to horse. 1825 Scott *Talism.* vii, When the trumpet sounds to arms, my foot is in the stirrup as soon as any. 1855 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* xiv. III. 419 The peal of a trumpet sounding to battle.

2. Of persons: **a.** To make a sound by blowing, or playing upon, some instrument.

1382 Wyclif *Lev.* xxv. 9 Thow shalt sowne with trompe the seuenthe moneth. 1485 Caxton *Paris & V.* (1868) 4 The mynstrellys..that sowned at the feste. 1576 Gascoigne *Kenelw. Castle* Wks. 1910 II. 92 Sixe Trumpetters..who had ..Trumpettes counterfetted, wherein they seemed to sound. 1585 T. Washington tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* III. i. 69 b, They doe sound vpon a thing very like vnto a Cittern. 1609 Bible (Douay) 1 *Chron.* ii. 55 The kinredes also of the scribes..singing and sounding [L. *resonantes*]. 1687 Wood *Life* 2 Nov., Soldiers and trumpeters..drinking healths, and every health they sounded. 1706 Phillips (ed. Kersey), *Sitiicines*,..those who sounded upon a sort of Trumpet..at their Funeral Solemnities. 1819 Scott *Ivanhoe* xl, 'What! sound for aid,' exclaimed the Knight, 'against a score of such *rascaille* as these'. 1859 Tennyson *Geraint & Enid* 382 Enid..thought she heard the wild Earl..Sound on a dreadful trumpet.

fig. 1567 Maplet *Gr. Forest* Introd. A iij b, The verie Instrument which I nowe sound of, is not as I would it were.

† **b.** To utter vocal sounds; to speak, cry, or sing. *Obs.*

c 1340 Hampole *Psalter* lxxvi. 16 Many men þat first sownyd, gaynsaiand til goed lare, sithen ware broght till soth-fastnes. *c* 1500 *Lancelot* 1811 'Welcum be he!' and so the puple soundith. 1577 Hanmer *Anc. Eccl. Hist.* (1619) 185 Let us honour him (sounding continually with mouth and mind). 1595 Spenser *Col. Clout* 20 Sith thy Muse..Was heard to sound as she was wont on hye.

3. To strike the ears, to be heard, as a sound. Also with *in* (one's) *ears* and with adjs. or advs.

a. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 1670 Er þenne þe souerayn saze souned in his eres. 1387 Trevisa *Higden* (Rolls) III. 275 'What have I to doo þerwiþ,' quod he, 'wheþer þis noyse sowne upward oþer dounward'. *a* 1450 tr. *De Imitatione* III. i. 64 Pleinly þo eres are blessid, þat takiþ non hede to þe voice sounyng outwarde. 1485 *St. Wenefryde* (Caxton) 9 A voys from heuen souned in his eres. 1548 Elyot, *Assono*, ..to sowne..agayn lyke to an Ecco. 1568 *Interl. Jacob & Esau* iv. ix, The voice of Jacob sowneth in mine eare.

β. 1530 Palsgr. 726/1 Harke howe her voyce sowndeth scyrle in the ayer. 1586 Ferne *Blaz. Gentrie* 229 Names consisting vpon two or three sillables (especially sounding vpon the french) be most honourable. 1632 Milton *Il Pens.* 74, I hear the far-off Curfeu sound. 1640 in *Verney Mem.* (1907) I. 109 This is the newes that sounds merrily in our eares. 1818 Scott *Br. Lamm.* xii, A din, proceeding from the revels.., sounded half-way down the street. 1823 — *Quentin D.* xxx, As if the words of an oracle sounded in his ears. 1862 Miss Braddon *Lady Audley* i, The strange passion..making her voice sound shrill and piercing.

b. To issue *out* as, or with, a sound.

1526 Tindale 1 *Thess.* i. 8 From you sounded out the worde of the lorde. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* I. iv. ii, For always, as it sounds out 'at the market-cross', accompanied with trumpet-blast.

c. To be mentioned or spoken of.

1635 J. Hayward tr. *Biondi's Banish'd Virg.* 7 Now the daily newes of the future bridegroome began to sound. 1832 Disraeli *Cont. Flem.* I. vii. (1853) 26 Wherever I went my name sounded, whatever was done my opinion was quoted. 1842 Borrow *Bible in Spain* xxxiv, The name of Flinter had long sounded amongst the Carlist ranks.

4. To convey a certain impression or idea by the sound; to appear to have a certain signification when heard (or read).

a. c 1374 Chaucer *Troylus* v. 678 In non other place.. Feele I no wynde that souneth so lyke peyne; Ey seith 'Allas! why twynned be we tweyne?' *c* 1449 Pecock *Repr.* I. v. 27 My feeling in thilk mater is other wise than the speche sowneth. *c* 1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 1554 þai ..red þe text als it sounes. 1533 Tindale *Supper of the Lord* D iij b, They so vnderstode hym, and he so ment as his wordes sowned. 1538 Starkey *England* I. ii. 63 Hyt sounyth veray yl..to gyue such powar to blynd fortune in mannys felycyte.

β. 1445 in *Anglia* XXVIII. 273 Of ripe thyngis which sounde sadly thou techist men right aged. † 1530 Tindale *Exp. Matt. v.* 43 To turne ye other cheke is a maner of spekynge and not to be vnderstand as the words sound. 1590 Shaks. *Com. Err.* iv. iv. 7, I tell you 'twill sound harshly in her eares. 1639 Fuller *Holy War* I. ix. (1840) 14 Whose entreaties in this case sounded commands in the ears of such as were piously disposed. 1651 Hobbes *Leviath.* III. xxxviii. 239 Which soundeth as if they had said, he should come down [etc.]. 1678 Cudworth *Intell. Syst.* 314 This may the better be believed..because Diodorus himself hath some Passages sounding that way. 1789 T. Twining *Aristotle's Treatise on Poetry* 216 To call them a *slip*, would indeed sound strangely. 1815 Scott *Guy M.* ix That sounds like nonsense, my dear. 1825 — *Betrothed* xiv, Their very names sound pagan and diabolical. 1851 Landor *Popery* 47 This sounds oddly to unmitred ears; but much may depend upon the sounding-board. 1874 Blackie *Self-Cult.* 71 That sort of talk sounds big, but is in fact puerile.

b. To have a sound suggestive *of* something.

1646 Fuller *Good Th. in Worse T.* Pref., Controversial writings (sounding somewhat of drums and trumpets).

† **5.** To have a suggestion or touch of, a tendency towards, some connexion or association with, a specified thing. *Obs.* Used with a variety of constructions: **a.** With *in* (see also 6), *into*, *to* (or *unto*), *towards*, etc.

The use with *to* is very common in the 15–16th centuries.

(*a*) *c* 1340 Hampole *Pr. Consc.* 6079 þat day, sal na man be excused Of nathyng..þat sounes in ille on any manere. *c* 1386 Chaucer *Prol.* 307 Sownynge in moral vertu was his speche. 1399 *Rolls of Parlt.* III. 451/2 The Answers of thes Lordes..souned in her entent in excusation of hem.

(*b*) *c* 1374 Chaucer *Troylus* I. 1036 Me were lever to dy, Than she of me oght ellis understode, But that that myghte sownyn into good. *c* 1380 Wyclif *Serm.* Sel. Wks. II. 226 Whatever þei speken or don it sunneþ in to pees and charite. *c* 1412 Hoccleve *De Reg. Princ.* 1947 Write him no thyng þat sowneth in-to vice. *c* 1456 Pecock *Bk. of Faith* (1909) 137 Bi a meene sownyng into this, that God never revelid thilk article.

(*c*) *c* 1380 Wyclif *Wks.* (1880) 306 Gabbyngis & other lapis þat sounen not to charite. 1393 Langl. *P. Pl.* C. x. 216 To meschief hit souneþ. 1440 in *Wars English in France* (Rolls) II. 452 He ne hath nought so doen..without notable causes sownyng to the wele of him and of his people. 1452 Capgrave *Life St. Gilbert* 96 All þat he spak was soundyng on-to grete profit of vertuous gouernauns. 1530 Palsgr. 726/1, I promise you that this matter sowndeth moche to your dishonour. 1558 G. Cavendish *Poems* (1825) II. 5 Most men have no pleasour or delight In any history, without it sownd to vice. 1589 Puttenham *Eng. Poesie* III. vi. (Arb.) 164 The meane matters..which sound neither to matters of state nor of warre. 1602 Fulbecke *1st Pt. Parall.* 75 When the action soundeth to disceit. *a* 1662 Fuller *Worthies, Chester* (1662) 291 If the Testators Will were not justly performed, it soundeth to the shame and blame of his Executors.

(*d*) 1513 Douglas *Æneid* XI. Prol. 49 The first soundis towart virteu sum deyll. 1535 in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* Ser. III. II. 343 Certayne words..sowndinge towards thavaunce-ment of the Bysshoppe of Rome. 1614 Brerewood *Lang. & Relig.* 65 In all the Hebrew writings of the Bible, that countrey is never termed by any name sounding toward Phœnicia, but in the Greek only. *a* 1643 Ld. Falkland, etc. *Infallibility* (1646) 90 This surely sounds somewhat toward a testimony of Apostolick Tradition.

(*e*) 1597 Hooker *Eccl. Pol.* v. ii. § 1 It is their endeavour to banish..from their cogitation whatsoever may sound that way.

† **b.** With simple objective, or *of*. *Obs.*

(*a*) *c* 1380 Wyclif *Wks.* (1880) 353 þis sownes not charite but luciferes pride. *c* 1386 Chaucer *Prol.* 275 Hise resons he spak ful solempnely, Sownynge alway thencrees of his wynnyng. 1482 *Monk of Evesham* xxxi. (Arb.) 74 They that spake wordis of reboudye the whiche sounned onclenesse.

(*b*) 1393 Langl. *P. Pl.* C. xii. 79 Is no wit worth now bote hit of wynnynge soune. *a* 1548 Hall *Chron., Hen. VI*, 13 Odious billes and language, .. sounyng of insurreccion and rebellion against the kinges peace.

† **c.** With *against*, *with*, or *for*. *Obs.*

(*a*) *c* 1449 Pecock *Repr.* I. xiii. 71 Therfore it is no nede me forto..encerche the writingis of Doctouris sownyng azens mi present entent. 1471 Sir J. Fortescue in *Wks.* (1869) 531 It sownyth gretly ayen the kinges old title to his roialme of Fraunce. 1502 Arnolde *Chron.* (1811) 88 Examyne all such thingis as sowne wyth or ayenst the comon wele. 1581 Lambarde *Eiren.* II. ii. (1602) 112 Not meerelie a spiritual offence, but mixed, and sounding somewhat against the Peace of the lande.

(*b*) 1502 [see prec.]. 1578 Banister *Hist. Man* I. 24 He alloweth this to sound with truth. 1639 Ld. Digby *Lett. conc. Relig.* (1651) 36 How this will sound with that place of St. Austin upon the 98. Psalm.

(*c*) 1563 *Homilies* II. *Agst. Idol.* II. ii. 56 No sentence in the old doctours and fathers soundyng for Images, ought to be of any auctoritie. 1578–9 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* Ser. I. III. 84 A new consait, not altogidder sounding for the necessitie of the caus.

6. *To sound in damages*, in legal use, to be concerned only with damages.

1780 M. Madan *Thelyphthora* II. 153 There is not one [change] which does not sound in damages, as our lawyers speak. 1798 *Bay's Reports* (1809) I. 16 The discount law only extended to liquidated accounts and not to matters sounding in damages. 1885 *Law Rep.*, 30 Chanc. Div. 21 This covenant did not create a specifically ascertained debt, but only a claim which sounded in damages.

transf. 1865 *Pall Mall G.* 16 May 1 His conclusion seems to us..to 'sound in' morality. 1865 *Fraser's Mag.* Nov. 539 It is that the whole book 'sounds', as the lawyer would say, in persuasion, not in conviction.

II. *trans.* **7.** To cause (an instrument, etc.) to make a sound; to blow, strike, or play on.

a 1300 *K. Horn* 209 (C.), Horn þu lude sune Bi dales & bi dune. *c* 1386 Chaucer *Prol.* 565 A baggepipe wel koude he blowe and sowne. *c* 1440 *Partonope* 3755 The mynstrallys here Trumpes gan sowne. 1474 Caxton *Chesse* II. iv. (1883) 53 Therfore Joab ordeyned whan absalon was slayn he sowned a trompette. *a* 1533 Ld. Berners *Huon* xciii. 299 He sowned the watch belle. 1554 in *Vicary's Anat.* (1888) App. III. 176 That no maner of person..sounde eny drume for the gatheringe of eny people within the said Citie. 1585 T. Washington tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* III. xv. 99 b, [They] afterwardes doe sounde all their belles togeather. 1586 Marlowe *1st Pt. Tamburl.* I. i, Sound vp the trumpets then. *c* 1614 Sir W. Mure *Dido & Æneas* I. 184 Mariners..Their chearful whisles meryly do sownd. 1741–2 Gray *Agrip.* 121 Or say we sound The trump of liberty. 1794 *A. Russell's Aleppo* (ed. 2) II. ii. I. 155 Very few of the performers [on the syrinx] can sound it tolerably well. 1806 Wordsw. *Horn Egremont Castle* 112 A long posterity..Sounded the Horn which they alone could sound. 1862 Ansted *Channel Isl.* I. ii. 33 A bell is sounded in foggy weather. 1896 *Law Times Rep.* LXXIII. 615/1 The driver of the approaching train began to sound his whistle.

transf. 1590 Spenser *F. Q.* I. xii. 5 Whom farre before did march a goodly band Of tall young men, all hable armes to sownd.

8. To utter in an audible tone; to pronounce or repeat. Sometimes implying loudness of voice. Also with *forth* or *out*.

a. a 1300 *Cursor M.* 22485 Na word þai sal þo queþer sune, Til þat þai be all fallen dune. *c* 1374 Chaucer *Troylus* II. 573 To yow rehercyn al his speche, Or alle his woful wordis for to sowne. *c* 1407 Lydg. *Reson & Sens.* 4413 Wher hys fate was..openly to him declaryd, In greke and hebrew tonge sovnyd. *c* 1477 Caxton *Jason* 38 b, Alle the maronners tremblid for drede in suche wyse that they durste not sowne a worde. 1542 Udall *Erasm. Apoph.* 250 b, She could soune the salutacion so often recited unto hir. 1593 Nashe *Christ's T.* 89 Hearing these tearmes of hell and eternall, so often souned in our eares.

β. c 1450 tr. *De Imitatione* III. xv. 83 Lorde, þou sowndyst [L. *intonas*] thi domes upon me. 1509 Barclay *Shyp of Folys* (1570) 69 This man malicious..Nought els soundeth but the hoorse letter R. 1570 Foxe *A. & M.* (ed. 2) I. 9/1 He commaundeth all bishops and priestes to sounde out their seruice..with a loud voice. 1579 Lyly *Euphues* (Arb.) 185 Thou giuest as it were a sigh, which all thy companions..seeme by thee to sounde also. 1684 *Contempl. St. Man* II. v. (1699) 173 Those Millions of Angels, which will be sounding forth their Hallelujahs. 1823 Scott *Quentin D.* xx, Hearken..to one note of reason, ere it is sounded into your ear by the death-shot of ruin.

b. To reproduce or express in words. *rare.*

c 1386 Chaucer *Squire's T.* 105 Al be that I kan nat sowne his stile. 1592 Shaks. *Rom. & Jul.* III. ii. 126 No words can that woe sound.

c. To utter or pronounce in a certain way.

1542 Recorde *Gr. Artes* B iv b, Augrym for Algorisme, as Arabians sound it. 1611 Cotgr. Appendix, *E*, when it is thus accented, *é*,..is called *é* Masculine, and sounded out, as in the Latine word *docére*. 1634 Sir T. Herbert *Trav.* 16 Their words are sounded rather like that of Apes, then men, whereby it's very hard to sound their Dialect. 1736 Ainsworth *Latin Dict.* II. s.v. *C*, Neither ought it [the letter *c*] to be sounded with an aspirate, as the modern Italians do. 1844 Kinglake *Eothen* vii, I suppose it is scarcely now to be doubted that they were so sounded in ancient times.

9. To give intimation of, a signal or order for, (something) by the sound of a trumpet or other instrument; to announce, order, or direct by such means. Also *fig.* or in fig. context.

1568 Grafton *Chron.* II. 326 The watchmen..perceyued well howe that the Castell was scaled and betrayed, and so sowned in a Trumpet Trahey, Trahey. 1582 Stanyhurst *Æneis* III. (Arb.) 77 With shril brasse trumpet Misenus sowned alarum. 1632 Gouge *God's Arrows* III. § 56. 288 They at their discretion cause alarms or retraits to be sounded. 1673 *S'too him Bayes* II All this is but hanging forth a picture and sounding a call. 1697 Dryden *Dedic. Æneid* Ess. (Ker) II. 237 Our author seems to sound a charge, and begins like the clangour of a trumpet. 1734 tr. *Rollin's Anc. Hist.* I. 392 The besieged sounded a retreat. 1789 J. Williams *Min. Kingd.* I. 160, I feel in myself a strong reluctance against sounding the alarm to my country in a matter of so much importance. 1825 J. Neal *Bro. Jonathan* I. 90 As if he were sounding a charge with a tin whistle. 1853 Kingsley *Hypatia* xxii, The trumpets sounded the attack. 1893 Forbes-Mitchell *Remin. Gt. Mutiny* 260 Bugles were sounding the assembly.

b. To blow (a blast).

1806 Wordsw. *Horn Egremont Castle* 16 The blast, Which good Sir Eustace sounded, was the last. 1817 Shelley *Pr. Athanase* 186 When winter's roar Sounded o'er earth and sea its blast of war.

10. To declare, announce, proclaim; to make known or famous; to celebrate.

1412–20 Lydg. *Chron. Troy* I. 2815 Whan þat þe cok..þe mydnyȝt hour..Be-gan to sowne. *c* 1449 Pecock *Repr.* III. iv. 295 Also this present processe sowneth..that Crist here clepid this song man into apostilhode. 1576 Gascoigne *Kenelw. Castle* Wks. 1910 II. 115 O Muses sound the praise of Jove his mighty name. 1590 Greene *Orl. Fur.* Wks. (Rldg.) 90 Swift fame hath sounded to our western seas The matchless beauty of Angelica. 1611 Speed *Hist. Gt. Brit.* IX. vii. (1623) 531 In pulpits and priuate conferences, sounding nothing but the Crosse and Passion of Christ. 1659 Hammond *On Ps.* 2 But David..sounds Christ upon the harp. 1709 Pope *Ess. Crit.* 193 Nations unborn your mighty names shall sound. 1725 — *Odyss.* IX. 20 Earth sounds my wisdom, and high heav'n my fame. 1777 Johnson *Let. to Mrs. Thrale* 27 Oct., Of this great truth; sounded by the knowing to the ignorant,..what evidence have you now before you. 1804 J. Grahame *Sabbath* 306 To him The Sabbath bell sounds peace. 1849 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* II. I. 155 The Tories still continued..to sound the praise of a national militia.

† **11.** Of words: To signify or mean; to import or imply. *Obs.*

c 1391 Chaucer *Astrol.* I. § 21 *Zodia* in langage of grek sownyth 'bestes' in latyn tonge. 1422 Capgrave in *Life S. Aug.*, etc. 147 The vij son of Iacob,..hite Simeon, whech soundith in our tonge heuynesse or pencifnesse. 1432–50 tr. *Higden* (Rolls) II. 63 For caer, after the langage of Britones, sowndethe *a cite*. *a* 1470 H. Parker *Dives & Pauper* (W. de W. 1496) VII. lxvi. 283 Stelynge sowneth comonly theeft and robbery, and somtyme it sowneth preuely takynge without wyttynge of the lorde. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 279 b, For *sapere* in latyn tonge, soundeth as moche in englysshe as to sauour taste or fele. 1542 Udall *Erasm. Apoph.* 32 b, *Lenocinium*, whiche souneth in englishe enticyng & alluryng. 1627 W. Sclater *Exp. 2 Thess.* (1629) 134 *Mysterium* commonly sounds a Religious secret. 1654 tr. *Martini's Conq. China* 106 The Surname of *Pingsi*, which sounds as much as 'Pacifier

of the Western world'. 1671 H. M. tr. *Erasm. Colloq.* 200 Among the Latines *discere* to learn, sounds not as much as *doctrinam accipere*, to receive learning.

12. To examine (a person, etc.) by auscultation; to subject to medical examination.

1887 in *Cassell's Encycl. Dict.*

Sound (saund), *v.*[2] Also 5–6 **sownd(e, sounde**; 5 **sone, soune**, 6 **sowne.** [ad. OF. *sonder* (Sp. and Pg. *sondar*), f. *sonde* SOUND *sb.*[5]]

† 1. *intr.* To sink in, penetrate, pierce. *Obs.*

13.. *Coer de L.* 405 He smote hym on hys basinet A grete dente withouten let; It sounded to hys cheke bone; *c* 1374 CHAUCER *Troylus* II. 533 So sore hath she me woundid..That to myn hertis botme it is ysounded. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 495 With a Sykyng vnsounde, þat sonet to hir hert. *Ibid.* 5284 Hit sothely with sorow sounys to my hert.

2. *Naut.* To employ the line and lead, or other appropriate means, in order to ascertain the depth of the sea, a channel, etc., or the nature of the bottom. Also *fig.* (quot. 1663).

c 1485 *Digby Myst.* (1882) III. 1397 Her is a fayer haven to se! connyngly In, loke þat ye sownd. 1530 PALSGR. 726/1 Sownde, mariner, let us se what water we have to spare. 1555 EDEN *Decades* I. IX. (Arb.) 97 Soundinge with theyr plummet they founde it to bee .xvi. fathames deepe. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* I. 60 There sounding with our plummet, sand of Amber stuck thereto. 1663 BUTLER *Hud.* I. i. 505 To make them dip themselves, and sound For Christendom in dirty Pond. 1725 DE FOE *Voy. round World* (1840) 331 Men went overboard with poles in their hands, sounding, as we call it, for deeper water. 1836 MARRYAT *Midsh. Easy* XXX, A man leaped into the chains, and lowering down the lead, sounded in seven fathoms. 1856 KANE *Arct. Expl.* II. xxiv. 236 We were compelled..to sound ahead with the boat-hook.

transf. 1649 LOVELACE *The Scrutinie* iii, Like skilfull Minerallists that sound For Treasure in un-plow'd-up ground. 1828 P. CUNNINGHAM *N. S. Wales* (ed. 3) II. 25, I sounded with the ramrod, and finding the charge still in the barrel, forthwith complied with Ben's request.

b. *fig.* To make inquiry or investigation.

1793 JEFFERSON *Writ.* (1859) IV. 23 They have sent commissioners to England to sound for peace. 1825 T. HOOK *Sayings* Ser. II. *Sutherl.* I. 33, I have sounded carefully, and happen to know that I am correct in my information. 1825 CARLYLE *Life Schiller* I. (1845) 16 His thoughts..had sounded into the depths of his own nature.

3. a. Of the lead: To go down; to touch bottom.

1610 SHAKS. *Temp.* v. i. 56 And deeper then did euer Plummet sound Ile drowne my booke. 1837 MARRYAT *P. Keene* XXXVIII, When sixteen fathoms were out the lead sounded.

b. Of a whale: To go deep under water; to dive.

1839 BEALE *Nat. Hist. Sperm Whale* (ed. 2) 164 The whale suddenly disappears; he has 'sounded'. 1845 J. COULTER *Adv. in Pacific* vii. 86 The whale did not, as usual, sound, but after the breach, made off. 1887 GOODE *Fisheries U. S.* 265 If the whale sounds, the crew lay by awaiting its reappearance upon the surface for respiration.

transf. 1895 *Outing* XXVII. 223/2 Away sped my salmon, ..and again sounded to the bottom and sulked.

4. *trans.* To investigate (water, etc.) by the use of the line and lead or other means, in order to ascertain the depth or the quality of the bottom; to measure or examine in some way resembling this.

c 1460 *Towneley Myst.* iii. 438 Now the water will I sownd. 1557 BURROUGH in Hakluyt *Voy.* (1589) 327 Sunday I sounded the barre of Zolatitsa, which the Russes tolde me was a good harborow, but in the best of it I found but 4. foote water. 1584 B. R. tr. *Herodotus* II. 76 Psammetichus ..sounding the waters with a rope of many miles in length, was vnable to feele any ground or bottome. 1604 E. G[RIMSTONE] *D'Acosta's Hist. Indies* III. xiii. 159 It is so deepe in some places that it cannot be sounded. 1685 TRAVESTIN *Acc. Siege Newheusel* 33 August the third, we sounded the Ditch, and found on the East side four foot of water yet left. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* II. xi. 258 Our boats.. were ordered out..to sound the harbour and its entrance. 1762 FALCONER *Shipwr.* II. 249 They sound the well, and.. Along the line four wetted feet appear. 1836 *Penny Cycl.* V. 266/1 Persons..whose regular business is to sound the bed of the river. 1863 [W. F. CAMPBELL] *Life in Normandy* I. 110 He..found a muddy man sounding a hole with the butt end of a driving whip.

transf. 1581 A. HALL *Iliad* IX. 171 The wine they weakly sounde, On earth the rest they throwe. 1639 N. N. tr. *Du Bosq's Compl. Woman* I. 56 Laocoon who tooke his Lance in his hand to sound this Machine, was punished for his Curiositie.

b. To measure (depth) in this way.

1628–9 DIGBY *Voy. Medit.* (Camden) 89 We haled out fore sailes vpon the backestayes and sounded the depth of the water. 1682 W. ROBERTSON *Phraseol. Gen.* 1151 To sound the depth with a sounding line. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Sounding*, Dr. Hook has invented a manner of Sounding the Depth of the deepest Sea, without any Line.

c. With *out*: To survey by means of soundings.

1860 MAURY *Phys. Geogr.* 3 To organize and set on foot.. a plan for 'sounding out' the ocean with the plummet.

5. In fig. contexts: To measure, or ascertain, as by sounding.

1589 NASHE *Anat. Absurdity* Wks. (Grosart) I. 70 Beginning to sound the infinite depth of these misteries. *a* 1601 *Pasquil & Kath.* (1878) I. 319 If you haue any weight of judgement, you may easily sound what depth of wits they draw. 1642 FULLER *Holy & Prof. St.* V. xiv. 412 His wealth is so deep a gulf, no riot can ever sound the bottome of it. 1681 DRYDEN *Abs. & Achit.* 467 And who can sound the depth of David's Soul? 1739 WESLEY *Hymn*, '*And can it be*' ii, In vain the first-born seraph tries To sound the depths of Love Divine. 1824 W. IRVING *T. Trav.* I. 318 He soon sounded the depth of my character. 1847 TENNYSON *Princ.* II. 159 Two plummets dropt for one to sound the abyss Of science. 1863 COWDEN CLARKE *Shaks. Char.* xi. 276 His mind intellectual plumb hath never yet sounded.

refl. 1802 WORDSW. *Sonn. Liberty* v. 13 Happy is he, who ..can sound himself to know The destiny of Man.

6. To approach (a person) with conversation or inquiries intended to elicit his opinion or feeling on some matter; to examine or question in an indirect manner.

1575 FENTON *Gold. Epist.* (1582) 233 Sounding them, she remayned iudge of their wittes and opinions. 1598 BACON *Ess., Of Negotiating* (Arb.) 90 It is better to sound a person ..a farre off, then to fal vppon the pointe at first. 1619 VISCT. DONCASTER in *England & Germany* (Camden) 118 According to the Comandement I receyved from your Mtie I have endevored to sound this Prince your sone. 1645 MILTON *Tetrach.* Wks. 1851 IV. 205 Another time about the punishment of adultery they came to sound him. 1713 ADDISON *Cato* I. iii, I've sounded my Numidians, man by man, And find 'em ripe for a revolt. 1755 WASHINGTON *Lett.* Writ. 1889 I. 216, I wish you would sound him on this head. 1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* li, He sounded Butler on this subject, asking what he would think of an English living. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* ix. II. 402 Russell opened the design to Shrewsbury. Sidney sounded Halifax. 1885 *Manch. Exam.* 21 July 4/6 Foreign financial agents ..have been privately and unofficially sounded on the subject.

b. To investigate, to search into, to seek to ascertain (a matter, a person's views, etc.), esp. by cautious or indirect questioning; to make trial of in this way. Also with *out*.

1579 TOMSON *Calvin's Serm. Tim.* 281/1 We must beare with many faultes,..and not sounde out matters of most rigorous sorte. 1596 DRAYTON *Legends* ii. 128 Yet sought he then the King's intent to sound. 1650 R. STAPYLTON *Strada's Low C. Wars* IV. 92 By his Letters sounding the inclination of the Duke and Dutchess. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* v. 700 The false Arch-Angel..casts between Ambiguous words .. to sound Or taint integritie. 1734 tr. *Rollin's Anc. Hist.* (1827) VII. XVII. 141 He therefore thought it prudent to despatch an embassy in order to sound their dispositions. 1755 WASHINGTON *Lett.* Writ. 1889 I. 159, I should be glad if you could sound their pulse upon the occasion. 1823 LAMB *Elia* II. *Old Margate Hoy*, He was none of your hesitating, half story-tellers .. who go on sounding your belief. 1858 FROUDE *Hist. Eng.* III. xii. 4 Cardinal Granvelle was instructed to sound the disposition of Francis.

c. To find *out* by investigation. *rare* —[1].

1596 LODGE *Wits Miserie & World's Madn.* N iiij, Yet as subtill as they [*sc.* fiends] are, I haue sounded them out, and..know them.

† 7. To understand; to fathom. *Obs.*

1592 KYD *Sp. Trag.* I. v. 24, I sound not well the misterie. 1631 HEYWOOD *Fair Maid of West* I. III. i, *Besse.* Captaine she is thine owne. *Goodl.* I sound it not. 1655 *Nicholas Papers* (Camden) II. 173 The fleete is said to be gone to sea, but wee cannot sound the designe.

8. *Surg.* To examine by means of a sound, esp. for the stone; † to probe.

1597 [see SOUNDING *vbl. sb.*[2] 4]. 1640 FULLER *Joseph's Coat, David Repent.* xvii. (1867) 224 Nathan, than whom was none more skilled..with a searching tent To sound the sore. 1738 *Phil. Trans.* XL. 372 But the Night following the Pains return'd, which made him resolve to come to Lisle, to be nearer at Hand to be sounded. 1830 S. COOPER *Dict. Pract. Surg.* (ed. 6) 814 The patient being sounded after the fourth [operation] by one of the most dextrous lithotomists in Paris. 1891 MOULLIN *Surg.* 1209 In sounding a bladder a definite plan should be followed.

† Sound, *v.*[3] *Obs.* [f. SOUND *a.*]

1. *trans.* To make sound or whole; to heal.

c 1374 CHAUCER *Anel. & Arc.* 242 Noon othir helpeþe my soores for to sounde. 1412–20 LYDG. *Chron. Troy* IV. 2705 So mortally, þat þer may no salue Her sores sounde. *c* 1430 *Pilgr. Lyf Manhode* I. cxli. (1869) 73 Thee ngedeth ..a Surgien to sounde and counfort ayen the senewes that ben brused.

2. *intr.* To become sound; to be healed or cured.

c 1402 LYDG. *Compl. Bl. Knt.* xlii, Through-girt with many a wounde That lykly are neer for to sounde. ?*a* 1412 — *Two Merchants* 227 My bollyng festrith, that it may nat sounde.

Sound (saund), *v.*[4] Now *dial.* Forms: *a.* 4 **sounye** (9 **soony**), 4–6 **soune, 6 soun,** 9 **soon**; 5 **sownyn,** 5–6 **sowne,** 6–7 **sown.** *β.* 6 **sownde,** 6–7 **sounde,** 6– **sound** (6 **sund,** 8 *dial.* **soond**). [var. of *swoune* SWOON *v.* Cf. SOUND *sb.*[4]] *intr.* To swoon, to faint.

a. 1393 LANGL. *P. Pl.* C. XXI. 58 'Consummatum est,' quaþ Crist and comsede for to sounye. *Ibid.* XXIII. 105 Many a louely lady..Sounede and swelte for sorwe of deþes dyntes. 1430–40 LYDG. *Bochas* I. ix. (1554) 19 b, Full oft in the day Jocasta gan to sowne. 1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* VI. XVI. 209 Thenne she souned as though she wold dye. 1545 RAYNALD *Byrth Mankynde* 73 If in this meane whyle the woman faynte or sowne by reason of greate payne. 1591 GREENE *Conny Catching* II. Wks. (Grosart) X. 116 The gentleman euen now .. sownd here. 1642 H. MORE *Song of Soul* III. iii. 49 This accursed earth; Whose dull suffusions make her often sown, Orecome with cold. 1681 W. ROBERTSON *Phraseol. Gen.* (1693) 1152 To sown or swoon, or to fall in a swoon. 1888– in dialect glossaries, etc.

β. 1480 *Robt. Devyll* 232 in Hazl. *E. P. P.* I. 228 Many olde folkes he caused to sounde. 1530 PALSGR. 726/1 Let me nat be by whan you let hym blodde, for I shall sownde than. 1579 LYLY *Euphues* (Arb.) 72 Euphues was surprised with such incredible ioye..that he had almost sounded. 1624 LD. KPR. WILLIAMS in *Fortescue Papers* (Camden) 204, I am still ready to sound at the very thought of any meate. 1678 MRS. BEHN *Sir Patient Fancy* II. ii, Oh I I shall sound with the apprehension on't. 1706 ESTCOURT *Fair Example* I. i, Cards and Dice are her perpetual Diversion, tho' she knows I sound at the very sight o'em. 1755 *Mem. Capt. P. Drake* I. xv. 150 At this my poor Brother, who was close to the Bar, sounded away, and fell down motionless. 1797 MRS. A. M. BENNETT *Beggar Girl* (1813) V. 252, *I* thoft as she would have a sounded at that. 1828– in dialect glossaries (Yorks., Northampt.).

† Sou·ndable, *a.*[1] *Obs.*—[1] [f. SOUND *v.*[1]] Capable of sounding.

1567 MAPLET *Gr. Forest* 4 Of all other Metalles, this [*sc.* brass] is most soundable for his shrill and harde noise.

Soundable (sau·ndăb'l), *a.*[2] *rare.* [f. SOUND *v.*[2]] Of the sea: Capable of being sounded.

1667 *Phil. Trans.* III. 496 The Sea was there soundable, whereas before it was not so.

† Sou·ndage. *Obs.*—[1] In 6 sownage. [f. SOUND *v.*[2] + -AGE.] A due paid for the taking of soundings.

1562 in R. G. Marsden *Sel. Pl. Crt. Adm.* (Selden) II. 64 Towage, sownage, and petye lodemanshippe, with all other accustomed averages.

Sounday, obs. form of SUNDAY.

Sound-board. Also 6 **sownd-borde, sownde-bord,** 7 **sound-boord.** [SOUND *sb.*[3]]

1. A thin board or piece of wood forming part of a musical instrument and placed in such a position as to strengthen or increase its sound.

15.. *Proverbis* in *Antiq. Rep.* (1809) IV. 406 But whoso in that instrumente [*sc.* the harp] hathe no speculacion, What restithe withyn the sownde-bord hath but smale relacion. 1504 in Herrig's *Archiv* CXX. 425 Of þe monacorde ..I assayde þe musykes..but none wold speke; þe sownd-borde was to hy. 1611 COTGR., *Trembloer*, the Sound-boord of a Musicall Instrument. 1626 BACON *Sylva* § 222 You may try it, without any Sound-board along, but onely Harp-wise, at one end of the strings. 1838 G. F. GRAHAM *The. & Pract. Mus. Comp.* Introd. p. v, In both of these harps the sound-board seems to have been large and sonorous. 1874 TYNDALL *Fragm. Sci.* (1879) II. xi. 244 All are..shaken forth into the air by a second sound-board [in a piano].

attrib. 1889 BRINSMEAD *Hist. Pianoforte* 171 Materially elongating the sound-board bridges.

2. a. In an organ (see quot. 1881).

1611 COTGR., *Canon*,..the sound-boord of an Organ. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* I. 709 As in an Organ from one blast of wind To many a row of Pipes the sound-board breaths. 1733 TULL *Horse-Hoeing Husb.* XXII. 320 The Manner of fastning the Organ-Tongue to its Mortise, is by Parchment and Leather glu'd to its Surface, and also to the Sound-Board. 1781 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 2) VIII. 5747 The sound-board..is composed of two parts, the upper board or cover H H H, and the under board H I. 1852 SEIDEL *Organ* 47 The great sound-board and wind-chest are of equal length. 1881 W. E. DICKSON *Pract. Organ-Building* iii. 29 The sound-board is a shallow box, divided internally into as many transverse grooves or channels as there are notes on the key-board.

b. In a harmonium (see quot.).

1879 *Grove's Dict. Music* I. 668/1 Above the bellows-board is the 'pan', sometimes erroneously called the sound-board, a board of graduated thickness in which are the channels.. determining..the different *timbres*.

3. = SOUNDING-BOARD 1.

1766 ENTICK *London* IV. 278 The sound-board is pendant from the roof of the church. 1842 GWILT *Archit.* Gloss., *Sound-board*, the same as a canopy or type over a pulpit, to reverberate the voice of the speaker.

transf. 1856 LEVER *Martins of Cro' M.* 165 These thin partitions are only soundboards for the voice.

4. Sound-boarding.

1875 in KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2247/2.

Sound-boarding. *Carp.* [SOUND *sb.*[3]] (See quot. 1842.)

1799 [A. YOUNG] *Agric. Linc.* 30 Sound-boarding, at *16s. 6d.* 1842 GWILT *Archit.* Gloss., *Sound-boarding*, in floors, consists of short boards placed transversely between the joists, and supported by fillets fixed to the sides of the latter for holding pugging, which is any substance that will prevent the transmission of sound from one story to another. [Hence in Knight *Dict. Mech.*, etc.]

Sou·nded, *ppl. a. rare.* [f. SOUND *sb.*[3] or *v.*[1]]

† 1. Having a (good or sweet) sound. *Obs. rare.*

c 1450 *Godstow Reg.* 23 Now, Syent Bruce! helpe with þy sownded lute. 1486 *Bk. St. Albans, Hawking* d iij, Thay [*sc.* bells] be wele sortid well sownded, sonowre of Ryngyng in shines and passing well lasting.

2. Proclaimed, expressed, etc., by sound.

a 1717 PARNELL *Battle Frogs & Mice* III. 6 The sounded Charge remurmurs o'er the Ground.

Sounder[1] (sau·ndəɹ). Forms: 5 **sundyr, sondyr, s(o)undre,** 6 **sovneder, sowndir,** 7 **soundor,** 7, 9 **sownder,** 4– **sounder.** [a. OF. *sundre, sonre* (mod. dial. *sonre*), of Germanic origin: cf. OE. *sunor, suner*, ON. *sonar-* (in *sonarblót, -goltr*), Lombard *sonor-* (in *sonorpair* boar), OHG. and MHG. *swaner* (OHG. *swanering*, MHG. *swânre*, boar).]

1. A herd of wild swine.

13.. *Gaw. & Gr. Knt.* 1440 On þe sellokest swyn swenged out þere, Long sythen for þe sounder þat wi3t for-olde. *c* 1410 *Master of Game* (MS. Digby 182) v, þat men calle a trippe of tame swyne and of wylde swyne it is called a soundre, þat is to say, if þer be passed .v. or vi. togydres. *Ibid.* xxiv, When þei be not of iii. yere, men calleth hem swyne of soundre. 1486 *Bk. St. Albans* e ij b, Twelfe make a Sounder of the wylde swyne, xvi. a medyll Sounder what place thay be inne, A grete sounder of swyne, xx. ye shall call. 1576 TURBERV. *Venerie* 100 Of a bore, when he forsaketh the Sounder and feedeth alone he shall be called a Sanglier. 1582 STANYHURST *Æneis* IV. (Arb.) 100 A sounder of hogsteers, Or thee brownye lion too stalck fro the mounten he wissheth. 1598 MANWOOD *Lawes Forest* iv. 25 b, The first yeere he [i. e. the wild boar] is, a Pigg of the sounder. [1616– in BULLOKAR *Eng. Exp.* and later Dicts. 1632

Guillim's Heraldry III. xiv. (ed. 3) 177 Skilfull Foresters and good Woodmen Doe vse to say, a Sounder of Swyne [etc.]. 1824 McCULLOCH *Highlands Scot.* III. 407, I have never spoken of a sownder of swine or a sculk of foxes.] 1840 E. E. NAPIER *Scenes & Sports For. Lands* I. iv. 115 The noble sight of a fine sounder..breaking covert and scouring along the plain. 1880 THARP *Sword of Damocles* II. 219 Almost directly afterwards the whole sounder, of ten or a dozen, emerged into the open.

¶ 2. *erron.* a. The lair of a wild boar. *rare*—1.

1725 POPE *Odyss.* XIX. 519 Rous'd by the hounds and hunters..cries, The savage from his leafy sounder flies.

b. (See quots.)

1823 SCOTT *Quentin D.* ix, It had so happened that a sounder (*i. e.* in the language of the period, a boar of only two years old) had crossed the track of the proper object of the chase. 1891 C. WISE *Rockingham Castle* vii. 153 A wild Boar of the first year was a 'Sounder'.

Sounder[2] (sau·ndəɹ). [f. SOUND *v.*[1]]

1. One who makes or utters a sound or sounds; one who causes something, esp. an instrument, to sound.

1591 PERCIVALL *Sp. Dict., Tañedor*, a plaier or sounder of any instrument, *cantor*. 1648 HEXHAM II, *Een Luyder, ofte Luyer*, a Ringer, a Sounder. 1809 W. IRVING *Knickerb.* IV. iv. (1849) 216 This sounder of brass..was a lusty bachelor. 1831 SCOTT *Ct. Rob.* xiii, In the front..stood the sounder of the sacred trumpet. 1859 DICKENS *T. Two Cities* II. i, The sounders of three-fourths of the notes in the whole gamut of Crime were put to Death.

2. A telegraphic device which enables the communications or signals to be read by sound.

1860 G. PRESCOTT *Electr. Telegr.* 91 Since the adoption of the method of reading by sound, another apparatus has taken the place of the register, or recording apparatus, called the *sounder*. 1872 POPE *Telegraph* iv. 32 The Sounder consists simply of the electro-magnet, armature and lever fixed upon a base. 1876 PREECE & SIVEWRIGHT *Telegraphy* 246 The Sounder, on account of the extreme simplicity of its mechanism, is less liable to faults than any of the other forms of instruments which are employed.

attrib. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2247/2 *Sounder-magnet*, the magnet which operates the sounder in the receiving apparatus.

b. A telegraphist who operates or has experience with this.

1887 *Daily News* 2 May 7/3 Telegraphist (sounder) desires engagement.

3. A device or instrument which gives a signal, etc., by sounding; also, the signal so given.

1884 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* Suppl. 832/1 *Sounder*, an alarm or call, made by closing an electric circuit. 1891 *Pall Mall G.* 1 June 7/1 An electric sounder, too, is so arranged that it commences to ring if everything is correct, directly the gun is loaded and in the firing position.

Sounder[3] (sau·ndəɹ). [f. SOUND *v.*[2]]

1. a. One who sounds the depth of water, etc.

1575 GASCOIGNE *Posies* Wks. 1907 I. 356 And whyles I hearken what the Saylers saye, The sowndar sings, fadame two full no more. *a* 1668 DAVENANT *Philosopher's Disquisition* v. Wks. (1673) 326 It is a Plummet to so short a Line, As sounds no deeper then the sounders Eies.

b. One who sounds the intentions, opinions, etc., of a person or persons. *rare*—1.

1587 FLEMING *Contn. Holinshed* III. 1371/1 For that himselfe would not be seene to be a sounder of men, least he might..indanger himselfe and the enterprise.

2. An apparatus for sounding the sea.

1811 *Naval Chron.* XXV. 221 This sounder shews..the ..depth of water. 1884 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* Suppl. 832 *Sounder*, Sir William Thomson's apparatus for deep-sea sounding while the ship is in motion. 1896 *Westm. Gaz.* 2 Dec. 3/1 Whilst sounding on this ledge the sounder struck ground at 550 fathoms.

3. A surgical sound.

1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 1926/1 Sims's uterine repositor consists of a short metallic sounder, rotatable on a long shaft.

Soundery, obs. form of SUNDRY.

Soundful (sau·ndfŭl), *a.* [f. SOUND *sb.*[3] + -FUL.] Full of sound; †tuneful.

1615 CHAPMAN *Odyss.* VIII. 86 The herald on a pin above his head His soundful harp hung. 1891 *Pall Mall G.* 14 Sept. 3/1 The crowd is as dense and as busy and as soundful as ever.

†**Sou·ndful**, *v. Obs.*—1 [ad. OE. (*ge*)*sundfullian*, f. *gesundful* sound, prosperous.] *intr.* To prosper. Also †**Sou·ndful** *adv.* [OE. *gesundfullice*], prosperously. *Obs.*

a 1300 *E. E. Psalter* i. 4 What swa he does sal soundefulle al. *Ibid.* xliv: 5 Soundful [L. *prospere*] ga forth:

Sound-hole. [SOUND *sb.*[3]]

1. *Mus.* (See quots. 1883, 1888.)

1611 COTGR., *Les ouyes d'vne Violle*, the sound-holes of the Violl.

1874 CHAPPELL *Hist. Music* xii. 298 The bridge, the tail-piece, and the sound-holes, are ancient Egyptian. 1883 *Grove's Dict. Music* III. 640 *Soundholes* or *f-Holes*, two curvilinear openings in the belly of a stringed instrument, one on each side of the bridge. 1888 *Encycl. Brit.* XXIV. 246/1 Such sound-holes..have the property of immediately letting out the vibrations of the small mass of air which lies directly under the bridge;

2. *Arch.* (See quot. 1848.)

1848 RICKMAN *Styles Archit.* 152 The openings [in belfries] filled with tracery, but not glazed, which are found in some districts, especially in Norfolk, and there commonly called sound-holes. 1905 *Athenæum* 23 Sept. 408/1 Wrentham has a singularly fine tower, with good 'sound-holes', ..uncommon in Suffolk.

Sounding (sau·ndiŋ), *vbl. sb.*[1] [f. SOUND *v.*[1]]

1. The fact of emitting or giving out a sound or sounds, or the power of doing this; the sound produced or given out by something, esp. a bell or trumpet.

α. 1388 WYCLIF *Exod.* XIX. 16 The sownyng of a clarioun made noise ful greetli. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XVI. XXXVI. (Bodl. MS.), Bras accordeþ moste to trumpes and taboures for sownynge and longe duringe þerof. *c* 1450 LOVELICH *Grail* lv. 292 That was the Noyse Of here Sownenge. 1482 *Monk of Evesham* lvii. (Arb.) 110 As al the bellys yn the worlde or what sumeuer ys of sownyng had be rongyn to gedyr at onys. 1540–1 ELYOT *Image Gov.* (1549) 68 Harpes, lutes, organes softe in sownyng. 1557 *Tottel's Misc.* (Arb.) 202 A blast so hye, That made an eckow in the ayer and sowning through the sky.

β. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 466/1 Soundynge, *sonatus*. *c* 1450 *Bk. Curtasye* 69 in *Babees Bk.*, Ne suppe not with grete sowndynge. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 350/1 A Sowndynge, *sonoritas*. 1530 PALSGR. 273/1 Soundyng, *sonnerie*. *c* 1595 CAPT. WYATT *Dudley's Voy.* (Hakl. Soc.) 46 The cause that made thease people flie from us..was the soundinge of our trumpetts. 1662 PLAYFORD *Skill Mus.* 72 A beginner.. shall by this way use only one Sounding, *viz.* an Unison. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* July 1645, The fillings up..'twixt the walls were of urnes and earthen pots for the better sounding. 1706 A. BEDFORD *Temple Mus.* ix. 196 The Trumpets sounded their Soundings. 1799 *Instr. & Reg. Cavalry* (1813) 284 These soundings are exactly the same as those of the trumpet. 1821 CLARE *Vill. Minstr.* II. 104 The rustic's ear at leisure dwells On the soft soundings of his village bells. 1882 CHRISTINA ROSSETTI *Poems* (1904) 262/2 The irresponsive sounding of the sea.

fig. a 1711 KEN *Christophil* Poet. Wks. 1721 I. 504 For thou Omniscient art, To know the Wants and Soundings of my Heart.

b. With advs., as *again*, *on*.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 466/2 Soundynge a-3ene (or rebowndynge), *resonatus*, *reboacio*. 1560 BIBLE (Geneva) *Ezek.* vii. 7 The sounding againe of the mountaines. 1578 LYTE *Dodoens* 172 The braying or sounding againe of the Asse. 1852 SEIDEL *Organ* 45 The so-called howling or sounding-on of certain pipes when their respective keys are not pressed down.

2. Vocal utterance or pronunciation; resonant or sonorous quality of this.

1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) II. 163 For men of þe est wiþ men of þe west..accordeþ more in sownynge of speche. 1398 — *Barth. De P. R.* V. XXI. (1495) 128 It faryth in children that they spylle and hurte many letters and maye not haue sownyng. *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (1839) xiv. 152 The Langage of that Contree is more gret in sownynge, than it is in other parties beȝonde the See. 1599 MINSHEU *Sp. Gram.* 6, G..hath two maner of soundings according to the vowels which follow it.

3. The (or an) act of causing a trumpet, bell, etc., to sound; the blowing *of* a bugle or trumpet, esp. as a signal.

1523 LD. BERNERS *Froiss.* I. xviii. 8 b, Euery man was warned to be redy at the fyrst soundyng of the trumpette. 1529 *Registr. Aberdon.* (Maitland) I. 396 Be conuocatioun of our said communitie be þe swndyng of þe bell usit in þis part. 1616 B. JONSON *Poetaster* (Init.), After the second sounding. 1811 *Regul. & Orders Army* 281 Whether perfect in the different Soundings of the Trumpet, and in the Beats of the Drum. 1879 *Scribner's Mag.* XIX. 518/2 Only at the sounding of the second bell did Louisiana escape..to prepare for dinner.

†4. = RINGING *vbl. sb.*[2] 3. *Obs.*—1

1600 SURFLET *Countrie Farme* I. xii. 61 Against the noise and sounding of the eare.

5. The action of examining by percussion; *spec.* auscultation; an instance of this.

1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-m.* 230 *Sounding*, knocking on the roof, etc., to ascertain if it is sound or safe to work under. 1898 *Syd. Soc. Lex.*, *Sounding*, the operation of examining the chest; auscultation. 1900 E. WALLACE *Writ in Barracks* 72 Didn't mind the Doctor's soundin's.

6. *Comb.*, as *sounding-bar*, *-machine*, *-rod*, *-string*; **sounding bow**, **-box** (see SOUND *sb.*[3] 7); **sounding-post**, = SOUND-POST.

1756 *Dict. Arts & Sci.* s.v. *Bell*, The parts of a Bell are (1) The sounding bow, or the inferior circle, which terminates it, growing thinner and thinner. 1838 *Penny Mag.* 30 June 246/2 This peg is called the *sounding-post*..of the violin. 1847 TODD & BOWMAN *Phys. Anat.* II. 97 Müller..could by means of a sounding-rod..ascertain the relative intensity of the sonorous vibrations. 1853 HERSCHEL *Pop. Lect. Sci.* vii. § 58 (1873) 275 The vibrations which reach the ear from a sounding-string. 1875 WHITNEY *Life Lang.* iv. 59 Above the vibrating reed-apparatus is set, after the fashion of a sounding-box, the cavity of the pharynx. 1881 W. E. DICKSON *Pract. Organ-Building* v. 64 A long screw..biting well in one of the sounding-bars.

Sounding (sau·ndiŋ), *vbl. sb.*[2] [f. SOUND *v.*[2]]

1. The action or process of sounding or ascertaining the depth of water by means of the line and lead; an instance of this.

1336 [implied in SOUNDING-LINE]. 1352 *Exchq. Acc. Q. R.* 20 No. 27 (Pub. Rec. Office), De ijs. iij*d.* pro cordis emptis minutis per vices, Anglice lyne pro soundings et toppeline pro eadem. 1485– [implied in SOUNDING-LEAD]. 1631 MARKHAM *Country Contentm.* I. xi. (ed. 4) 76 That in the sounding of Lakes or Riuers, he may know how many foot or inches each..contayneth. 1699 DAMPIER *Voy.* II. II. 50 Taking your Sounding from Beef-Island shore. 1704 J. HARRIS *Lex. Techn.* I. s.v., When the Seamen try the Depth of the Water with a Line and Plummet, they call it Sounding. 1769 FALCONER *Dict. Marine* (1780) s.v., Sounding with the hand-lead..is generally performed by a man who stands in the main-chains to windward. 1860 MAURY *Phys. Geog.* (Low) 4 Nor have any reliable soundings yet been made in water over five miles deep. 1880 *19th Cent.* No. 38. 594 At each of the observing stations a sounding was taken for the determination of the exact depth.

transf. 1891 A. M. CLERKE in *Ann. Rep. Smithsonian Instit.* 106 M. Celoria..obtained for a 'mean sounding', at the north pole of the milky way, almost identically the same number [of stars] given by Herschel's great reflector.

b. *fig.* Investigation. *To take soundings*, to try to find out quietly how matters stand.

1592 SHAKS. *Rom. & Jul.* I. i. 156 To himselfe so secret and so close, So farre from sounding and discouery, As is the bud bit with an enuious worme. 1856 LEVER *Martins of Cro' M.* 217 Old Dan bears you no malice, I'd lay fifty pounds on it! But, if you like, I'll just step in and take soundings. 1898 *Westm. Gaz.* 9 Nov. 4/1 The Liverymen afterwards decide the selection. Soundings may have been taken beforehand.

2. A place or position at sea where it is possible to reach the bottom with the ordinary deep-sea lead (see quot. 1867). Chiefly *pl.* a. In prepositional phrases, as *in* or *into*, *off* (*the*) *soundings*.

The form *sowdyng* of the earliest examples also occurs in 1495 under SOUNDING-LEAD.

sing. 14.. *Sailing Directions* (Hakl. Soc. 1889) 21 And ye gesse you ij. parties ovir the see..ye must north and by est till ye come into Sowdyng. *Ibid.*, Than go north till ye come into sowdyng of woyse [=ooze].

pl. 1626 CAPT. SMITH *Accid. Yng. Seamen* 18 A shallow water, deepe water, soundings, fadome by the marke. 1694 NARBOROUGH *Voy.* I. 18 The Sea-Water is changed whiter than the usual colour, whence I conjecture, I must be in Soundings. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* III. vi. 347 We frequently brought to, to try if we were in soundings. 1790 BEATSON *Nav. & Mil. Mem.* I. 174 At this time a French squadron was cruizing in the soundings. 1840 MARRYAT *Poor Jack* xxii, We were soon out of soundings, and well into the Bay of Biscay. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.* s.v., To be in soundings..is limited in common parlance to parts not far from the shore, and where the depth is about 80 or 100 fathoms.

b. In other uses. *To strike soundings* (see quot. 1863).

1701 PENN in *Pennsylv. Hist. Soc. Mem.* IX. 69 We were but twenty-six days from land to soundings. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* I. vi. (ed. 4) 83 We had soundings all along the coast of Patagonia. 1802 SCHOMBERG *Naval Chronology* I. 132 He..sailed with the rest for England. On the 23d of October the admiral struck soundings in 90 fathoms. 1840 MARRYAT *Poor Jack* xxvi, A large homeward-bound Indiaman, which had just struck soundings. 1863 A. YOUNG *Naut. Dict.* 359 *To strike soundings*, is to find bottom with the deep-sea-lead on coming in from sea. A vessel is then in soundings.

c. *spec.* with *the*. Such places in the mouth of the English Channel. ? *Obs.*

1666 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 39/1 A little off the Soundings she met with ill weather. 1693 LUTTRELL *Brief Rel.* (1857) III. 51 Alymer, after seen the Streights fleet past the soundings, goes on some other design. 1722 DE FOE *Col. Jack* xi, We had tolerable weather..till we came into the soundings, so they call the mouth of the British Channel. [1897 LAUGHTON in *Dict. Nat. Biog.* LII. 160/2 On 22 Oct. the fleet came into the soundings.]

d. *U.S.* (See quot.) *rare*—1.

1804 C. B. BROWN tr. *Volney's View Soil U.S.* 174 On each side, it forms eddies or counter-currents, which, aided by the depositions of the rivers, forms the muddy stratum or deposit, termed soundings.

3. *pl.* The depths of water in the sea, esp. along the coast, in a harbour, road, etc., or (rarely) in a river, ascertained by sounding with the line and lead; also, the entries in a log-book, etc., giving these, together with particulars relating to the nature of the bottom reached by the lead.

1570 DEE *Math. Pref.* a iiij b, The Soundinges..ought the Hydrographer..to haue certainly knowen. *c* 1595 CAPT. WYATT *Dudley's Voy.* (Hakl. Soc.) 38, I must confess that the Captaine did not make anie publike declaracion how hee founde the sowndings. 1661 E. HICKERINGILL (*title*), Jamaica Viewed, with all the Ports, Harbours, and their several Soundings. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* II. viii. 216 A plan of the road..where the soundings are laid down. 1774 M. MACKENZIE *Maritime Surv.* 79 The Survey of the Coast.. and the Soundings near it. 1841 CAPT. B. HALL *Patchwork* II. i. 4 The leadsman..singing out the soundings to the anxious pilot. 1869 TOZER *Highl. Turkey* II. 341 From the state of the soundings at the present day,..the river in Strabo's time must have entered the sea [etc.].

4. *Surg.* The action of examining with a sound or probe. Also *attrib.*, as †*sounding-iron*.

1597 A. M. tr. *Guillemeau's Fr. Chirurg.* 13/1 The soundinge Iron..is verye conveniente to sound and serche for bullettes in a wounde. 1695 *New Light Chirurgery put out* 36 He will not allow Sounding by Probe. 1830 S. COOPER *Dict. Pract. Surg.* (ed. 6) 816 The manner of searching for the stone, or as it is now more commonly expressed of sounding.

5. *attrib.*, chiefly in sense 1, as *sounding-machine*, *-plumb*, *-plummet*, *-rod*, *-ship*, *-twine*.

Also *sounding-apparatus*, *-bottle*, etc. (1875– in Knight *Dict. Mech.* and later Dicts.).

1555 EDEN *Decades* III. VI. (Arb.) 163 He coulde at no tyme touche the grounde with his soundynge plummet. 1575 GASCOIGNE *Posies* Wks. 1907 I. 355 (The sounding plumbe) in haste poste hast must raunge, To tryve the depth and goodnesse of our gate. 1611 COTGR., *Sonde*, a Mariners sounding plummet. 1776 G. SEMPLE *Building in Water* 18 A sounding Rod..marked out in Feet and Inches painted. 1832 DARWIN in *Life & Lett.* (1887) I. 232 It is quite a new thing for a 'sounding ship' to beat a regular man-of-war. 1838 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* I. 148/2 A sounding-rod of iron..was dropped into it, which rebounding several feet, proved that the solid rock had been reached. 1846 A. YOUNG *Naut. Dict.* 289 Massey's Patent Sounding-Machine is an instrument which ascertains the depth of water, and registers it by means of an index. *Ibid.*, *Sounding rod*, a slight bar of iron marked with a scale of feet and inches, used to ascertain the depth of water that may happen to be in a vessel's hold. 1856 KANE *Arct. Expl.* II. vi. 71 A five-sinnet line of Maury's sounding-twine. 1894 *Times* 18 Sept. 10/4 Sir William Thomson's sounding machine was on the vessel aft, but witness used the deep sea lead.

†Sou·nding, *vbl. sb.*3 *Obs.* [f. SOUND *v.*4]

1. Swooning, fainting.

c 1380 *Sir Ferumb.* 1134 Wan þe Amyral haþ iherd þe kyng, in sowenyng gan he falle; Ac wan he awok of his soȝnyng, loude he gan to calle. *c* 1435 *Torr. Portugal* 1400 Thries in sownyng fell she thare. 1547 BOORDE *Brev. Health* CCXVI. 74 There be many sodein sickenesses, as the pestilence, .. the palsey, and soundynge. 1590 BARROUGH *Meth. Physick* II. xiv. (1639) 94 If sounding be caused through paine, you must diligently enquire the cause. 1620 VENNER *Via Recta* (1650) 143 A water of singular efficacie against sowning.

2. A swoon; a fainting-fit.

1580 FRAMPTON *Bezaar Stone* in *Joyf. News* (1596) 119 The bone of the hart..is of great vertue against venom and soundings of the heart. 1595 LODGE *Fig for Momus* G 4, It causeth sownings, passions of the hart. *a* 1657 SIR J. BALFOUR *Ann. Scot.* Wks. 1825 II. 104 Falling into maney soundinges and paines, and violent fluxes of the belley. *c* 1670 WOOD *Life* (O.H.S.) I. 388 Yet he could hardly keep himself from a second sowning.

3. *attrib.*, as *sounding ecstasy, fit, trance.*

Freq. in the 17th century.

? 1565 LADY HUNGERFORD in H. Hall *Eliz. Soc.* (1886) 255 Your man..founde me in suche sounding fitts and wekenys. 1582 T. WATSON *Centurie of Love* xi, Sone after into howe sorrowfull a dumpe, or sounden [*sic*] extasie he fell. 1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* X. 467, I fell twice in a sounding trance. 1681 H. MORE *Exp. Dan.* 78 A sounding fit that took him at the hearing the voice of the Angel. 1720 MRS. MANLEY *Power of Love* (1741) 49 An immediate Suffocation..might be improved into an appearance of sounding Fits.

Sounding (sau·ndiŋ), *ppl. a.*1 [f. SOUND *v.*1]

1. Having a sound; causing, emitting, producing, a sound or sounds, esp. of a loud character; resonant, sonorous; reverberant.

Freq. in 18th cent. poetry.

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* A. 883 Þat nwe songe þay songen ful cler, In sounande notez a gentyl carpe. *c* 1374 CHAUCER *Boeth.* I. pr. ii. (1868) 8 Þe causes whennes þe sounyng wyndes moeuen and bisien þe smoþe water of þe see. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 350/1 Sowndynge, *argutus, sonorus.* 1526 TINDALE 1 *Cor.* xiii. 1, I were even as soundynge brasse. 1560 BIBLE (Geneva) 2 *Chron.* xiii. 12 And beholde, this God is with vs,..& his Priests with the sounding trumpets. 1594 MARLOWE & NASHE *Dido* I. 1, Both barking Scilla, and the sounding Rocks. 1636 B. JONSON *Eng. Gram.* iii. Wks. (Rtldg.) 770/2 When it [the letter *v*] followeth a sounding vowel. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Past.* v. 130 Murm'ring Billows on the sounding Shore. 1710 J. CLARKE tr. *Rohault's Nat. Philos.* (1729) I. I. ii. 7 Mankind..are apt to think, that the Sound..is in the Air, or in the sounding Body as they call it. 1798 WORDSW. *'Five years have past'* 76 The sounding cataract Haunted me like a passion. 1825 T. HOOK *Sayings* Ser. II. *Man of Many Fr.* I. 319 As the sounding horn foretels the coming-mail. 1883 STEVENSON *Treas. Isl.* xxvii, He went in with a sounding plunge.

b. Preceded by an adj. or adv., as *clear, deep, loud sounding*, etc.

c 1325 *Prose Ps.* cl. 5 Herieþ hym in cymbals wele sounand. 1486 *Bk. St. Albans* d iij, Looke also that thay be sonowre and well sowndyng and shil. 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* lxxxviii. 44 Blith be thy churches, wele sownyng be thy bellis. 1560– [see HIGH-SOUNDING *a.*]. 1585 T. WASHINGTON tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* III. xv. 99 b, Cimbals of..cleare sounding mettall. 1598 *Arden of Feversham* III. iii. 16 With that he blew an euill sounding horne. 1606 W. S. *Serm. before King*, With the loud sounding trumpet to rouse and araise them. 1693 [see ILL- 6]. 1781 COWPER *Hope* 554 Beneath well-sounding Greek I slur a name a poet must not speak. 1801 *Lusignan* IV. 28 The shores of the deep sounding main. 1845 [see FINE *a.* D. 2 a]. 1882 FLOYER *Unexpl. Baluchistan* 75 The Divine formulas of Islam are merely fine hearty-sounding words to swear in.

†c. Having a sound similar *to* something. *Obs.*–1

1563 FOXE *A. & M.* 559/1 The booke..is nother English, Laten, Greke, nor Hebrue, nor Douche, but somewhat soundinge to oure English.

2. Of language, names, titles, etc.: Having a full, rich, or imposing sound; high-sounding, pompous, bombastic, etc. Also *transf.* of writers.

1683 SOAME & DRYDEN tr. *Boileau's Art Poet.* I. 182 Keep to your subject close in all you say; Nor for a sounding sentence ever stray. 1693 DRYDEN *Juvenal* Dedication (1697) p. lxxxix, We make our Authour at least appear in a Poetique Dress. We have actually made him more Sounding, and more Elegant, than he was before in English. 1711 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 26 ¶ 1 Several Persons mentioned in the Battles of Heroic Poems, who have sounding Names given them. 1775 JOHNSON *Tax. no Tyr.* 11 Before they quit the comforts of a warm home for the sounding something which they think better. 1805 N. NICHOLLS in *Corr. w. Gray* (1843) 36 Milton, who, he said, in parts of his poem, rolls on in sounding words that have but little meaning. 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xix. IV. 321 There was a society..which assumed the sounding name of the Royal Academies Company. 1888 BRYCE *Amer. Commw.* lxii. II. 594 The orator has been apt to evade them or to deal in sounding commonplaces.

b. Of persons: Loudly demonstrative.

1828 LYTTON *Pelham* III. ix, The disinterested kindness and delicacy..contrasted so deeply with the hollowness of friends more sounding, alike in their profession and their creeds.

†Sou·nding, *ppl. a.*2 *Obs.*–1 [f. SOUND *v.*4]

That swoons; swooning.

1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* II. III. iii, For all their Physitians and medicines inforcing Nature, a souning wife, families complaints, friends teares,..he..goes to hell with a guilty conscience.

Sounding-board1. [SOUNDING *vbl. sb.*1]

1. A board or screen placed over or behind a pulpit or similar structure in such a manner as to reflect the speaker's voice towards the audience; = SOUND-BOARD 2.

1766 ENTICK *London* IV. 18 A carved pulpit, a veneered sounding-board. 1784 COWPER *Task* III. 21 Since pulpits fail, and sounding-boards reflect Most part an empty ineffectual sound. 1816 *Gentl. Mag.* LXXXVI. I. 500 The sounding-board and back are much carved; the front of the former bears the date '1634'. 1879 J. C. Cox *Ch. Derbysh.* IV. 20 The sounding board of the pulpit, when in its old position, spoilt one of the capitals.

transf. and *fig.* 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* III. VI. vi, So sings the prophetic voice; into its Convention sounding-board. 1876 'OUIDA' *Winter City* ix. 261 The more fanciful feeling which makes Nature a sounding-board to echo all the cries of men. 1890 B. L. GILDERSLEEVE *Ess. & Stud.* 370 A super-elegant sounding-board of a man.

2. *Mus.* = SOUND-BOARD 1.

1776 BURNEY *Hist. Music* I. 219 The lower part of the base of the sounding board [of the lyre]. 1801 BUSBY *Dict. Mus., Sounding-Board*, in a harpsichord or piano-forte, a broad, thin board, horizontally situated, and over which the strings are distended. 1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib., Brit.* II. No. 3437, Pianoforte with patent tubular sounding-board. *c* 1880 *Oxford Helps Study Bible* 134 [The] 'dulcimer' being an instrument formed of strings tightly stretched ..over a rectangular sounding-board or box.

Sounding-board2. *rare*–1. [SOUNDING *vbl. sb.*2]

A board used to ascertain the depth of water.

1776 G. SEMPLE *Building in Water* 19 Sounding Boards ..of Inch Plank 12 or 14 Inches broad, divided into Feet and Inches.

Sounding-lead. *Naut.* [SOUNDING *vbl. sb.*2]

The lead or plummet attached to the sounding-line.

1485 *Naval Acc. Hen. VII* (1896) 51 Leede lynes, j; Sounding leeds, j. 1495 *Ibid.* 193 Sowdyng ledes, ij. 1530 PALSGR. 709/2, I serche the see with a sowndyng leade to knowe howe depe it is. 1584 B. R. tr. *Herodotus* II. 76 Which..would not suffer the line with the sounding leade to sinke to the bottome. 1639 in Picton *L'pool Munic. Rec.* (1883) I. 226 Two compasses, one sounding lead & one barrell of meale. 1669 STURMY *Mariner's Mag.* IV. 137 Common Navigation requireth the Use of no Instruments but the Compass and Sounding-Lead. 1711 *Milit. & Sea Dict.* s.v., The Sounding-Lead is as the Deep-Sea-Lead for Sounding; but it is commonly only seven Pounds Weight, and about 12 Inches long. 1802 A. DUNCAN *Marin. Chron.* (1805) III. 215 Upon..sounding, the strap of the sounding-lead broke; an accident which very rarely happens. 1888 GOODE *Amer. Fishes* 75 These grounds are found by the use of the sounding-lead.

Sounding-line. *Naut.* [SOUNDING *vbl. sb.*2]

A line used in sounding the depth of water; also, line or other material forming this.

In early use distinguished from the deep sea line: see DEEP SEA.

1336 *Acc. Exch. K. R.* 19/31 m. 4, In .j. petra cordis de canabo..pro vno soundynglyne inde faciendo. 1627 CAPT. SMITH *Seaman's Gram.* ix. 44 Fetch the Sounding line, this is bigger than the Dipsie line. [Hence in Phillips, etc.] 1777 ROBERTSON *Hist. Amer.* II. (1783) I. 104 As his course lay through seas which had not formerly been visited, the sounding-line, or instruments for observation, were continually in his hands. 1845 GOSSE *Ocean* Introd. (1849) 6 In many places no length of sounding line has yet been able to reach the bottom. 1860 MAURY *Phys. Geog.* (Low) xiii. § 567 His sounding-line was an iron wire more than eleven miles in length.

Soundingly (sau·ndiŋli), *adv.* [f. SOUNDING *ppl. a.*1 + -LY 2.] In a sounding manner; so as to emit or cause a sound, esp. a loud sound or noise; sonorously, imposingly.

1697 J. SERGEANT *Solid Philos.* 70 Those which by the smart motion of the Ayr, do come in thro' the Drum of the Ear,..do affect it with a kind of vibration, or (as we may say) Soundingly. 1844 DICKENS *Mart. Chuz.* xiii, Ye Pharisees, ..who soundingly appeal to human nature. 1865 — *Mut. Fr.* xvi, No attendant to slap him soundingly. 1884 J. T. TROWBRIDGE *Farnell's Folly* I. xiii. 141 The said library, so soundingly alluded to, was entirely imaginary.

Sou·ndingness. *rare.* [f. as prec. + -NESS.]

The quality or character of being sonorous.

1727 BAILEY (vol. II), *Sonorousness*, Soundingness, Loudness. 1799 W. TAYLOR in Robberds *Mem.* (1843) I. 311 They do not often attain a certain majesty of Soundingness, which is frequent in the Latin hexameter. 1839 DARLEY *Beaum. & Fletcher's Wks.* I. Introd. p. xxxviii, To ensure music, lines must be full of sound, or soundingness.

†Sou·ndish, *a. Obs.*–0 [f. SOUND *sb.*3] Somewhat sounding or sonorous.

1530 PALSGR. 325/1 Sowndysshe or sowndynge, *sonoreux.*

Soundless (sau·ndlés), *a.*1 [f. SOUND *v.*2]

Of water, the sea, etc.: That cannot be sounded; unfathomable. Freq. *fig.* or in fig. context.

c 1586 C'TESS PEMBROKE *Ps.* CXLVIII. iv, When heav'n hath prais'd, praise earth anew:..Then soundlesse deepes, and what in you Residing low, or moves, or rests. *c* 1600 SHAKS. *Sonn.* LXXX. 10 Your shallowest helpe will hold me vp a floate, Whilst he vpon your soundlesse deepe doth ride. 1647 HERRICK *Noble Numbers, Hell*, Hell is no other, but a soundlesse pit. 1731 A. HILL *Advice to Poets* XV, In Wit's cold Shallows, wade..no more, Her soundless Ocean tempts you from the Shore. 1823 BYRON *Island* IV. iii, The crag's steep inexorable face, With nought but soundless waters for its base. *a* 1861 T. WOOLNER *My Beautiful Lady, Tolling Bell* XXVI, My lost soul sank adown in soundless seas. 1884 W. H. WHITE *Mark Rutherford's Deliverance* iv, When we consider that we live surrounded by the soundless depths in which the stars repose.

transf. 1614 C. BROOKE *Ghost Rich. III*, Poems (1872) 79 Nor wits, nor chronicles could ere containe, The hell-deepe reaches of my soundlesse braine.

Soundless (sau·ndlés), *a.*2 [f. SOUND *sb.*3]

1. Having, making, emitting, etc., no sound; devoid of sound; quiet, silent.

Freq. in the 19th cent.

1601 SHAKS. *Jul. C.* v. i. 36 Your words..rob the Hibla Bees, And leane them Hony-lesse,..and soundlesse too: For you haue stolne their buzzing, Antony. 1663 BOYLE *Usef. Exp. Nat. Philos.* I. ii. 49 They celebrate his praises, though with a soundless voice. 1797 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Italian* vi, She glided forward with soundless step. 1826 DISRAELI *V. Grey* v. xv, Once more the attentive ear listening for the soundless breath. 1855 LYNCH *Rivulet* XCIII. ii, Soundless as chariots on the snow. 1883 *Standard* 7 Sept. 5/6 The soundless progress of the apparently animated car.

b. In quasi-adv. use: Soundlessly.

1844 MRS. BROWNING *Drama of Exile* 522 My lips prayed, soundless, to myself. 1879 G. MACDONALD *Sir Gibbie* III. i. 14 The moment the sound of them had ceased, he darted soundless after him.

2. In which no sound is heard; still.

1816 WORDSW. *Sonn. Liberty* II. XXXIV. 38 A soundless waste, a trackless vacancy! 1818 MILMAN *Samor* 63 Vast Germany..Deserts to silence and the beasts of game Her long and soundless forests. 1881 *Macm. Mag.* XLIV. 191 She lingered in the soundless drawing-room long after the fire had gone out.

3. Of the ear: Hearing no sound. *rare*–1.

1890 TALMAGE *From Manger to Throne* 297 The world has never seen but one surgeon who could..reconstruct the drum of a soundless ear.

Hence **Sou·ndlessly** *adv.*, **Sou·ndlessness.**

1837 *Blackw. Mag.* XLI. 608 Insinuating its way into the bottom of her pocket, and *soundlessly relieving it of the notes and shillings. 1865 WHITNEY *Gayworthys* XXVI, Skylie clapped her hands again, soundlessly. 1889 *Harper's Mag.* Dec. 117/2 Soundlessly you will tread those shadowy pavements. 1834 *Fraser's Mag.* X. 663 Then comes a sort of moonlight dimness, and a dulled *soundlessness. 1881 H. JAMES *Portr. Lady* XXXIX, The soundlessness of her step. 1897 HINDE *Congo Arabs* 77 The same monotony of colour and of soundlessness was above us as in the depths below.

Soundly (sau·ndli), *adv.* Also 5–6 sowndely(e, 5 soundely. [f. SOUND *a.* + -LY 2.]

1. a. In or with safety; safely. *Obs.* exc. *arch.*

c 1400 *Destr. Troy* 1826 Antenor..fast vppon fote ferkyt to shippe,..Sailit on soundly as hym selfe lyket. *c* 1440 *York Myst.* XXXII. 358 3is, certis, we schall saue þame full soundely. 1888 STEVENSON *Black Arrow* II. i. 100 'How ye are to cross Till I know not'...'I can swim,' returned Throgmorton: 'I will come soundly, fear not.'

b. In a sound or healthy manner. *rare*–0.

1611 COTGR., *Sainement*, healthfully, soundly.

c. Securely, closely. *rare*–1.

1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* I. 4 Sweete Ambrosian Nectar, soundly wrapt In my lock'd closet.

2. With reference to sleep, etc.: Deeply, profoundly; without disturbance or interruption.

c 1400 *Destr. Troy* 6057 Sore men & seke [he made] soundly to rest. *c* 1400 *Melayne* 1524 Sowndely neuer sall þay slepe. 1548 ELYOT s.v. *Somnus*, I slepte more soundely then I was wont. 1576 TURBERV. *Venerie* 150 They sleepe soundlyer in those two moneths than at any other tyme. 1581 A. HALL *Iliad* IX. 171 Where Phœnix doth alone right soundly sleepe. 1624 HEYWOOD *Gunaik.* IV. 185 You watch the time when he is soundliest asleepe. *c* 1717 PRIOR *Epitaph* 11 They soundly slept the Night away. 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* XIV, 'He sleeps soundly then,' said the count. 1820 R. POLLOK *Course T.* V, And all the winds slept soundly. 1847 C. BRONTE *Jane Eyre* xi, At once weary and content, I slept soon and soundly.

3. In an ample, complete, or thorough manner; thoroughly, properly, to the full.

1577 B. GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* II. (1586) 85 For that which is cut being greene and tender, dooth the sooner and the soundlier recouer himselfe. 1581 A. HALL *Iliad* X. 188 These two so valiant Greeks, through toile who soundly swet. 1597 A. M. tr. *Guillemeau's Fr. Chirurg.* 7 b/2 The peeces of bones beinge therein verye sowndelye healed. 1602 MARSTON *Ant. & Mel.* V. Wks. 1856 I. 56 Flatter her soundly. 1642–4 VICARS *God in Mount* (1844) 160 Ours played soundly from Gosport with our Ordnance. 1678 BUNYAN *Pilgr.* I. 87 He was soundly bedabled with that kind of dirt. 1827 CARLYLE *Germ. Rom.* I. 161 The messengers had in the meantime been soundly galloped. 1829 SCOTT *Anne of G.* XXXVI, Having disabled the cannon, and filled the German gunners soundly drunk. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 843 The wound, aided by skin-grafting, heals over soundly.

b. With verbs of beating, striking, defeating, reproving, etc.: Smartly, strongly, severely.

(*a*) 1596 SHAKS. *Tam. Shr.* I. ii. 31 He bid me knocke him, & rap him soundly sir. 1599 — *Hen. V*, IV. vii. 136 If I can see my Glouc in his cappe,..I wil strike it out soundly. 1613 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* (1614) 483 The Prince caused him to be apprehended, and (being soundly whipped) to be banished. 1679 WOOD *Life* (O.H.S.) II. 473 John Dryeden the poet..was about 8 at night soundly cudgell'd by 3 men. 1726 SWIFT *Gulliver* II. iii, The dwarf was soundly whipped. 1847 C. BRONTE *Jane Eyre* iv, She shook me most soundly, she boxed both my ears. 1868 *Smith's Dict. Gr. & Rom. Biog.* II. 1086/2 Sallust the historian was soundly scourged by Milo.

(*b*) 1647 DIGGES *Unlawf. Taking Arms* § 2. 54 You need not doubt but your enemies wil be soundly worsted. 1728 SWIFT *Left-handed Letter* 17 So the French, when our generals soundly did pay 'em, Went triumphant to church, and sang stoutly *Te Deum.* 1851 DICKENS *Hist. Eng.* I. 19 He beat them twice; though not so soundly. 1884 *Daily News* 2 Aug. 5/3 The Players were among the very few teams which defeated them, and that soundly.

(*c*) 1692 E. WALKER tr. *Epictetus' Mor.* liv, Lecture him soundly for it. 1828 CARR *Craven Gloss.* s.v., 'I gav it him soundly,' i. e. I severely reprobated his conduct. 1863 COWDEN CLARKE *Shaks. Char.* viii. 200 She rates Sir Toby, and soundly, about his late hours. 1885 *Manch. Exam.* 17 Mar. 5/4 Lord Salisbury..rated them soundly on the subject of their desertion of Sir S. Northcote.

c. Dearly, heavily, in respect of payment, etc.

1610 SHAKS. *Temp.* II. ii. 81 Hee shall pay for him that hath him, and that soundly. 1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* I. 38 We had payd soundly for his Leachery. 1642 FULLER *Holy*

& *Prof. St.* III. xxv. 232 Let them soundly suffer for it themselves. 1706 E. WARD *Wooden-World Diss.* (1708) 15 Except he pay him soundly for a license.

†**4.** In accordance with the principles of true religion; with sound or orthodox views. *Obs.*

1574 WHITGIFT *Def. Aunsw.* i. 74 If we say that in those poyntes whiche we holde from them, that wee thinke soundlyer than they doe, we are readie to proue it. 1581 R. GOADE in *Conf.* II. (1584) N iij, Shall euery particular point of errour in doctrine depriue a man of saluation, holding soundly ye foundation Christ? 1608 DOWNAME in *Eng. Hist. Rev.* (1909) Apr. 245 This Church of England..did hold..all substantiall points of diuinity as soundly as any church in the world. 1676 HALE *Contempl.* I. 171 These be some of those Principal Objects of that Faith that overcometh the world, being soundly received, and digested.

5. With sound judgement or good practical common-sense; according to sound or well-founded principles; without fallacy or error.

1594 HOOKER *Eccl. Pol.* I. xvi. § 2 Soundly to judge of a law. 1621 T. WILLIAMSON tr. *Goulart's Wise Vieillard* 197 Let posteritie iudge more soundly then wee of what wee doe want. 1668 DAVENANT *Man's the Master* I. i, I never found my self so much inclin'd to reasoning, and, if you please, let's consult soundly. 1818 SCOTT *Rob Roy* x, More learned than soundly wise. 1858 STANLEY *Life Arnold* II. ix. 146 The power of seeing truth and judging soundly. 1875 E. WHITE *Life in Christ* II. xiii. (1878) 152 From this it may be soundly inferred that the belief..was of primeval antiquity. 1884 *Law Rep.* 13 Q. B. D. 448 The discretion of the learned judge was soundly exercised with reference to the question.

Soundness (sau·ndnės). [f. SOUND *a.*]

1. The quality or state of being sound or free from disease; sound or healthy condition; healthiness.

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* VI. vi. (Bodl. MS.), Puella is a name of age, of soundenes without wem, and also of honestee. 1571 GOLDING *Calvin on Ps.* xli. 13 Soundnesse may be referred too the body as to the mynd in this wyse. 1601 SHAKS. *All's Well* I. ii. 24, I would I had that corporall soundnesse now. *a* 1610 HEALEY *Cebes* (1616) 134 The Physician..corroborates the vitals; and finally confirmeth the body in perfect soundnesse. 1701 STANHOPE *Augustine's Medit.* II. xviii. (1720) 167 There shall be in us all imaginable Soundness and Vigour, without any sort of Disease or Decay. 1768 TUCKER *Lt. Nat.* I. II. 322 Though a man would wish in the first place to enjoy vigour of limbs and soundness of constitution. 1830 R. KNOX *Béclard's Anat.* 372 These tissues resemble the tissues of the human body in a state of soundness. 1866 J. G. MURPHY *Comm., Exod.* xix. 9 The hand changed from soundness to leprosy and again to soundness.

fig. 1643 MILTON *Divorce* Introd., Wks. 1851 IV. 3 A certain big face of pretended learning, mistaken..for the wholsome habit of soundnesse and good constitution.

b. Of the mind, etc.: (see SOUND *a.* 2 b).

1548 ELYOT, *Sanitas*, helth,..soundenesse of memorie. 1602 J. DAVIES (Heref.) *Mirum in Modum* Wks. (Grosart) I. 15/1 The Soule can not her soundnesse more bewray, Then when she doth Temptations strong resist. 1639 J. SEDGWICK (*title*), The Bearing and Burden of the Spirit, wherein the Sicknesse and Soundnesse of the Mans Spirit is opened. 1678 (*title*), The Temperate Man or the Right Way of Preserving Life and Health, together with Soundness of the Senses, Judgment, and Memory unto extream Old Age. 1818 CRUISE *Digest* (ed. 2) V. 537 Conclusive evidence of the capacity of such vouchee, as to the soundness of his mind. 1860 PUSEY *Min. Proph.* 36 The minds of the wicked..lose their soundness as it were without knowing it.

c. Firmness, solidity; freedom from weakness, defect, or damage; goodness of condition or repair. Also *fig.*

1548 ELYOT, *Soliditas*,..soundenesse. 1565 COOPER *Thes.* s.v. *Firmitas*, The hardenes or soundeness of the matter. 1663 S. PATRICK *Parab. Pilgrim* (1687) 414 He considers not that a crazy state of things cannot be so soon amended and restored to entire soundness. 1685 BAXTER *Paraphr. N. T.* 1 John ii. 5–6 It is they that keep his Word, in whom the Love of God doth shew its soundness and perfection. 1827 FARADAY *Chem. Manip.* xviii. (1842) 484 That rigidity which was so dangerous to the apparatus and fatal to its soundness. 1859 *Act* 22–23 *Vict.* c. 66 § 13 The [gas] Meter shall be tested for Soundness or Leakage only. 1875 MANNING *Mission H. Ghost* xii. 332 If you..saw before you a bridge the soundness of which was doubtful.

2. Orthodoxy in respect of religious belief, political views, or other opinions.

1583 STUBBES *Anat. Abus.* II. (1882) 91 Persons..whose soundnesse in religion..they are not ignorant of. 1631 GOUGE *God's Arrows* III. § 30. 236 Cause is given for their prayers to be suspected in regard of the soundnesse of them. 1682 *Sec. Plea for Nonconf.* 2 The Worthiness of their Persons,..Soundness of their Faith, Exemplary Morals. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 10 Mar. 1687, The Church of England, whose doctrine for Catholic and soundness he preferr'd to all the Communities..of Christians in the world. 1872 DE VERE *Americanisms* 266 Often it is not enough to ascertain the soundness of the candidate.

3. The quality or fact of being in harmony with solid or well-established principles or facts: **a.** Of judgement, reasoning, etc.

a 1600 HOOKER *Eccles. Pol.* (J.), It may stand then very well with strength and soundness of reason, even thus to answer. 1631 GOUGE *God's Arrows* v. § 6. 416 Soundnesse of judgement, Sharpenesse of wit, Quicknesse of conceit. 1782 MISS BURNEY *Cecilia* v. iv, The soundness of her judgment had hitherto guarded her both from error and blame. 1799 J. ROBERTSON *Agric. Perth* 552 They have a soundness of understanding equal to the task. 1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* xxxiv, The soundness of thinking which she had displayed in conversation. 1885 *Manch. Exam.* 28 Feb. 3/2 In critical soundness and penetration, he is infinitely superior to Johnson.

b. Of views, acts, principles, etc.

1739 WATERLAND *Sacram. Pt. Eucharist Expl.* 18, I will not answer for the Acuteness, much less for the Soundness of his Distinction. 1832 HT. MARTINEAU *Ella of Gar.* vii. 81, I always doubt the soundness of a plea which is urged in such a hurry. 1837 P. KEITH *Bot. Lex.* 275 The soundness of the principle on which the Linnæan nomenclature is founded. 1885 *Law Times* LXXIX. 131/2 The soundness of this decision seems to us beyond doubt.

4. Thoroughness, completeness.

1853 LYNCH *Lett. Scattered* (1872) 357 If he wait long enough, he will be flogged with most efficient soundness.

Sound-post. [f. SOUND *sb.*3 + POST *sb.*1] A small peg of wood fixed beneath the bridge of a violin or similar instrument, serving as a support for the belly and as a connecting part between this and the back.

[1592 SHAKS. *Rom. & Jul.* IV. v. 138 What say you, Iames Sound-Post?] 1687 MIÉGE *Gt. Fr. Dict.* s.v. *Ame*, The sound-posts that stand up within the body of a musical Instrument. 1762 STERNE *Tr. Shandy* V. xv, The bridge is a mile too high, and the sound-post absolutely down. 1833 T. FARDELY tr. *Otto's Treat. Violin* 4 The belly, the bass bar, the sound post, and the six blocks, [are] of Tyrolese deal. 1848 J. BISHOP tr. *Otto's Violin* (1875) 78 The chief function of the sound-post is to render normal the vibrations of the back and belly. 1884 HAWEIS *My Musical Life* I. 95 The sound-post—i. e. the little peg which bears the strain on the belly and back.

Soundrie, obs. form of SUNDRY.

Soune, obs. var. SON, SOON, SOUND *sb.* and *v.*

Soup (sūp), *sb.* Also 7–8 **soupe, soop.** [ad. F. *soupe* (OF. also *souppe, sope*) sop, broth, = Prov., Sp., Pg. *sopa* (It. *zuppa*): see SOP *sb.*1 Hence also WFlem. *soepe, soupe*, Du. *soep*. The relationship of other Teut. forms is less clear: cf. MHG. (G. and Da.) *suppe* with OHG. *sopha, soffa* (MHG. *sophe*), MLG. *sope, soppe* (LG. *soppe*; Sw. and Norw. *soppa*), MDu. *sop, zop* (Du. and Fris. *sop*).]

1. A liquid food prepared by boiling, usually consisting of an extract of meat with other ingredients and seasoning.

Freq. with defining words, as *fish, giblet, gravy, hare, ox-tail, pea, turtle soup*; *clear, thick soup*; etc.

a. 1653 URQUHART *Rabelais* I. li, Then made they ready store of Carbonadoes..and good fat soupes or brewis with sippets. *a* 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew*, *Soupe*, Broth, Porridge. 1716 GAY *Trivia* III. 204 And in the Soupe the slimy Snail is drown'd.

β. 1687 MIÉGE *Gt. Fr. Dict.* I, *Soupe*,..pottage, or soop. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 84/2 *Soops*, a kind of sweet pleasant Broth, made rich with Fruit and Spices. 1691 *Satyr agst. the French* 16 With Dishes which few Mankind knew beside; With Soops and Fricasies, Ragou's, Pottage. 1730 SWIFT *Panegyrick on Dean* Wks. 1755 IV. I. 242 Instead of wholsome bread and cheese, To dress their soops and fricassees. 1760–72 tr. *Juan & Ulloa's Voy.* (ed. 3) I. 78 To make it an ingredient in their soop.

γ. 1677 MIÉGE *Fr. Dict.* II, Soup, or French pottage. 1729 SWIFT *Direct. Serv.* (1745) 20 Let the Cook daub the Back of his new Livery; or when he is going up with a Dish of Soup, let her follow him softly with a Ladle-full. 1758 JOHNSON *Idler* No. 19 ¶ 8 He..has only time to taste the soup. 1807 *Med. Jrnl.* XVII. 220 The patient..indicated a desire for a little soup, of which he got over a few spoonfuls. 1837 P. KEITH *Bot. Lex.* 181 The Truffle is much esteemed for the rich and delicate flavour which it imparts to soups and sauces. 1859 *Habits of Gd. Society* xi. 310 A light soup is better than a thick one, which clogs the appetite.

fig. 1859 LEVER *Dav. Dunn* xlvi, Cranberry must have got his soup pretty hot, for he has come abroad.

2. *colloq.* or *slang.* **a.** Briefs for prosecutions given to members of the Bar at Quarter Sessions or other courts; the fees attaching to such briefs. Also in pl.

1856 *Law Times* XXVII. 122 But will soup so ladled out, to use the well-known phrase, support a barrister in the criminal courts? 1889 B. C. ROBINSON *Bench & Bar* 160 The brief consisted merely of the depositions, and the important honorarium attached to it was called 'soup'. 1892 *Pall Mall G.* 17 Sept. 5/2 A crowd of unemployed barristers.., waiting to secure these [briefs] which are known in Bar slang as 'soups'.

attrib. 1894 *Daily Tel.* 23 Nov. 5/4 The great 'soup' question is again agitating the minds of barristers at the Old Bailey.

b. *In the soup*, in a difficulty. *U.S.*

1889 *Lisbon* (Dakota) *Star* 26 Apr. 4/2 After collecting a good deal of money, the scoundrels suddenly left town, leaving many persons in the soup. 1898 *Pall Mall Mag.* Nov. 420 Of course he knows we're in the soup—beastly ill luck.

c. In miscellaneous uses: (see quots.).

1891 *Cent. Dict.*, *Soup*, a kind of picnic in which a great pot of soup is the principal feature. 1901 *Scotsman* 6 Nov. 10/6 Then the 'soup' [= fog] begins to get thick. Particles of smoke..remain suspended. 1905 *Strand Mag.* XXX. 702/1 That's got enough soup [= nitro-glycerine] in it to blow the whole court-house into the sky. 1911 *Webster's Dict.*, *Soup*, any material injected into a horse with a view to changing its speed or temperament.

3. *attrib.*, chiefly with names of utensils, as *soup-bowl, -dish, -kettle, -ladle*, etc.

1858 T. W. ATKINSON *Oriental & West. Siberia* iii. 41 Take my broth with my two friends from the *same* *soup-bowl I could not. 1755 *Gentl. Mag.* XXV. 416 Vessels like *soup-dishes, supported on three feet. 1852 THACKERAY *Esmond* II. xii, The poor devils had even fled without their *soup-kettles. 1716 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 5437/4, 18 Forks, a *Soup-Ladle. 1847 EMERSON *Repr. Men, Plato* Wks. (Bohn) I. 295 Drawing all his illustrations..from pitchers and soup-ladles. 1827 FARADAY *Chem. Manip.* xii. (1842) 276 The litmus solution should be poured into a dish or *soup-plate. 1900 *Daily News* 2 June 6/7 Some thirty years ago, when soup-plate bonnets and round-brimmed hats were in vogue. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. VII. xi, An enormous tricolor; large as a *soup-platter, or sun-flower. 1866 LADY ST.-CLAIR-ERSKINE *Dainty Dishes* (ed. 2) 5 Put into a *soup-pot twelve lbs...of beef. 1705 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4163/3, 5 *Soop Spoons. 1840 T. A. TROLLOPE *Summer in Brittany* I. 298 An immense *soup-tureen full of boiled milk.

b. In combination with other sbs., as *soup-and-blanket, soup-and-bully, soup-and-patty.*

1829 SYD. SMITH *Let.* in Lady Holland *Memoir* (1855) II. 299 He had not his usual soup-and-pattie look. 1862 DICKENS *Somebody's Luggage* 26 She'd have no more chance again the ice, than a chaney cup again a soup-and-bully tin. 1900 *Westm. Gaz.* 26 Sept. 8/1 Making ground with his electors through the medium of the 'soup and blanket brigade'.

4. Special combs., as **soup-house, soup-kitchen,** an establishment for preparing soup and supplying it to the poor or unemployed, either free or at a very low charge; **soup-meat,** meat used for making soup; **soup-shop,** (*a*) a shop where soup is distributed free; (*b*) a house where burglars dispose of silver and gold plate; **soup-stock,** stock used in making soup; **soup-ticket,** a ticket given to poor people enabling them to receive soup from a soup-kitchen.

1861 CLINGTON *Frank O'Donnell* 196 These various sums ..were spent..in building *Soup-houses, and erecting boilers. 1851 MAYHEW *Lond. Lab.* II. 259/1 The National Philanthropic Association, with its eleemosynary *soup-kitchens, &c. 1841 THACKERAY *Gt. Hoggarty Diam.* ix, Tell her on no account to pay more than..4½*d.* for *soup-meat. 1817 COBBETT *Pol. Reg.* XXXII. 83 Reduced to such a state as to be fed at *Soup Shops by Subscription! 1854 *London Jrnl.* XIX. 322 By the term soup-shops, the speaker meant those convenient houses where burglars and thieves dispose of any silver or gold plate which may fall into their hands. In such establishments the melting-pots are always kept ready. 1861 DICKENS *Gt. Expect.* XXXIII, The air of this chamber, in its strong combination of stable with *soup-stock. 1841 MARRYAT *Poacher* xii, They took like *soup-tickets. 1870 LOWELL *Among my Bks.* Ser. I. (1873) 300 This soup-ticket to a ladleful of fame.

Soup, obs. or dial. variant of SUP *sb.*

Soup (sūp), *v.* [f. SOUP *sb.*] *trans.* To provide with soup. Hence **Sou·ping** *ppl. a.* (cf. SOUPER).

1857 READE *Box Tunnel* in *Scrap-Bk.* (1906) Mar. 133 He handed them out—he souped them—he tough-chickened them. 1891 *Daily News* 20 Jan. 6/4 The hypocritical cry raised by a gang of souping parsons. 1902 *Edin. Rev.* July 135 Luke found himself accused of countenancing the 'souping' proselytiser.

Soup, obs. variant of SUP *v.*, SWOOP *v.*

‖ **Soupçon** (sūpsŏn). [F., repr. OF. *soupeçon, souspeçon*:—pop.L. *suspectiōn-, suspectio* for *suspicio* SUSPICION *sb.*] A suspicion, a suggestion, a very small quantity or slight trace, *of* something.

1766 H. WALPOLE *Lett.* (1857) V. 16 Wesley is a lean elderly man, fresh-coloured, his hair smoothly combed, but with a *soupçon* of curl at the ends. 1838 MISS MAITLAND *Let. Madras* (1843) 235 We are now writing dialogues for the natives..on different subjects, just to give them a *soupçon* of sense. 1849 [EASTWICK] *Dry Leaves* 170 Any one who has the smallest *soupçon* of justice in his composition. 1884 SIR H. HAWKINS in *Law Times Rep.* L. 814/1 Nobody would suppose there was even a *soupçon* of a gambling character about the establishment.

Soupe, obs. form of SUP *v.*1 and *v.*2 **Soupen,** obs. pa. pple. SUP *v.*1 **Souper,** obs. f. SUPPER.

Souper (sū·pəɹ). [f. SOUP *sb.* or *v.*]

1. In Ireland, a Protestant clergyman seeking to make proselytes by means of dispensing soup in charity. Also *attrib.*

1861 CLINGTON *Frank O'Donnell* 205 On this account they were called souper-schools and their ministers soupers. 1890 *Cath. News* 29 Nov. 3/4 Our readers are no doubt aware of the usual falsehoods employed by Soupers for this purpose.

2. One converted to Protestantism by the receipt of soup or other charity.

1871 FROUDE *Short Stud.* II. 369 In a village below the lake is a congregation of Soupers—Protestant converts. 1896 *Daily News* 20 Jan. 6/4 They cannot believe in any Catholic honestly becoming a Protestant. The convert must be a souper.

Hence **Sou·pering, Sou·perism**

1861 E. G. K. BROWNE *Ann. Tract. Movem.* (ed. 3) 241 Who has lately..distinguished himself as a partizan of 'Souperism' at Belmullet. 1896 *Cath. News* 18 Jan. 4/5 He has thought of Irish Church 'missions', and believes that the system of soupering is carried on at Barmouth.

Sou·pify, *v.* [f. SOUP *sb.*] *trans.* To convert into soup.

1831 TRELAWNY *Adv. Younger Son* ii, I passed on, ordering him instantly to come on board, or the Maratti would soupify him.

‖ **Soupii,** variant of SOPIE.

1863 W. C. BALDWIN *Afr. Hunting* vi. 163 There being lots of visitors every day, and a soupii, or a glass of Cape brandy, for every one.

Soupil(l, obs. varr. SUPPLE. **Soupit** (obs. Sc.): see SOWP *v.* **Souple,** Sc. and dial. f. SUPPLE.

‖ **Souple.** [F. *souple* SUPPLE *a.*] A fabric made of silk which has been freed from gum by a simple boiling-off.

1887 *Encycl. Brit.* XXII. 62/2 For..making of gauzes, crapes, flour-bolting cloth, and for what is termed 'souples'—the silk is not scoured.

Sou·pless, *a.* [f. SOUP *sb.*] Having no soup.

1821 *Blackw. Mag.* X. 562 Breakfastless, milkless, tealess, soupless, punchless.

Soup maigre (sūpˌmēˑgəɹ). [ad. F. *soupe maigre*: see Soup *sb.* and Maigre *a.*] Thin soup, made chiefly from vegetables or fish.

1754 *Connoisseur* No. 19 ⁋ 9 But what, alas! are the weak endeavours of a few to oppose the daily inroads of fricassees and soup maigres? 1766 Miss M. Townshend in Jesse *Selwyn & Contemp.* (1843) II. 52 If you could persuade them of the wholesomeness of *soup maigre* and barley bread, it might be of great use to them. 1806 A. Hunter *Culina* (ed. 3) 67 Its bad effects may in a great measure be taken off by a dinner of mutton broth, or soup maigre, on the following day. 1840 J. B. Fraser *Koordistan* I. xv. 366 A sort of *soup maigre* is poured upon it.

attrib. 1779 Warner in Jesse *Selwyn & Contemp.* (1844) IV. 30 Such a number of pinch-bellied, woebegone, skin-and-grief, lanthorn-jawed, soup-maigre subjects. 1794 Wolcot (P. Pindar) *Lousiad* I. Wks. I. 210, I hate each pale *soupe maigre* [1812 soup-maigre] thief.

So **Soup-meagre.** Now *rare* or *Obs.*

1737 Fielding *Miser* III. iii, Let there be two great dishes of soup-meagre, a good large suet pudding,..and a dish of artichokes. 1799 in *Spirit Public Jrnls.* III. 322 Soup-meagre in the van, and snuff; roast-beef behind. 1833 Sands *Poems* 53 (E. D. D.), Soup-meagre, kickshaws, or plain calf's-foot jelly. 1842 Barham *Ingol. Leg.* Ser. II. *Lay St. Cuthbert*, Here was Morbleu (a French devil) supping soup-meagre.

Souppar, -er, obs. forms of Supper.

Soupy (sūˑpi), *a.* [f. Soup *sb.*] Like soup; having the appearance or consistency of soup.

1872 Jean Ingelow *Off Skelligs* xiv, We had a very thick fog..directly after the thunderstorm—a soupy fog. 1888 Jacobi *Printers' Vocab.* 128 *Soupy*, a term of disparagement applied to thin or poor ink. 1890 *Temple Bar* Aug. 449 Sybilla is eating or drinking something of a soupy nature. 1895 Meredith *Amazing Marr.* xxxviii, Stir us to the depths, it will be found that we are poor soupy stuff.

Sour (sauᵊɹ), *a.* and *sb.*[1] Forms: 1–4 **sur** (5 **sur-**), 3–4 **sure**, 4–8 **soure** (4 **zoure**), 4– **sour**; 4–8 **sowr(e, sower** (5 **sowyr**, 7 **shoowre**), 9 *Sc.* **soor.** [Common Teut.: OE. *súr*, = OFris. *sûr* (mod. Fris. *sûr*, *sür*), MDu. *suur*, *suer*, *soer* (Du. *zuur*), OS. (MLG., LG.), OHG. (MHG.) *sûr* (G. *sauer*), ON. *súrr* (Norw., Sw., Da. *sur*), related to Lett. *súrs* bitter, saltish, unpleasant, Lith. *súras* saltish, OSlav. *syrŭ* (Russ. сырой) moist, raw (Russ. суровый raw, coarse): the ultimate origin is uncertain. The Germanic word is the source of F. *sur* (12th cent.), whence *surelle* Sorrel *sb.*[1]

The leading senses of the English word are also prominent in most of the cognate languages.]

A. *adj.* **I. 1.** Having a tart or acid taste, such as that which is characteristic of unripe fruits and vinegar. Also said of taste. (Opposed to *sweet*, and distinguished from *bitter.*)

*c*1000 *Sax. Leechd.* II. 132 Ȝenim surne æppel..& leȝe on. *Ibid.* III. 212 Winberian sure ȝeseon, sace ȝetacnað. *c*1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 129 Þet ðet weter of egypte wes liðe and swete þan folce of israel þe wes sur and bitere..þon monnen of þan londe. *a*1310 in Wright *Lyric P.* xlii. 114 Ase fele sythe..As sterres beth in welkne, ant grases sour ant suete. 1340 *Ayenb.* 82 More hi uynt smak in ane zoure epple þanne ine ane huetene lhoue. 1377 Langl. *P. Pl.* B. xvi. 72 Þanne bereth þe croppe kynde fruite,..swete with-oute swellyng, soure worth it neuere. *c*1460 *Promp. Parv.* (Winch.), Eggyde, as teth ffor sowr ffrute. 1484 Caxton *Fables of Æsop* iv. i, [The fox] sayd these raysyns ben sowre. *a*1529 Skelton *P. Sparowe* 82 The smokes sowre Of Proserpinas bowre. 1558 Bp. Watson *Sev. Sacram.* xi. 64 They also dyd eate the lambe with wylde and sowre lettes. 1577 B. Googe *Heresbach's Husb.* ii. (1586) 57 The wylde sortes are both sowrer in taste, and smaller in leafe. 1612 Woodall *Surg. Mate* Wks. (1653) 306 Add some few drops of oyl Vitriol, to make it some what sower in tast. 1666 Boyle *Orig. Forms & Qual.* 314 Each of them far more salt then Brine, or more sowr then the strongest Vinegar. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* III. ii. 305 The woods produced sweet and sower oranges. 1799 W. Tooke *View Russian Emp.* I. 288 Of proper sour waters which are applied to medicinal purposes. 1811 A. T. Thomson *Lond. Disp.* (1818) 423 These are substances which have a sour taste. 1836–41 Brande *Chem.* (ed. 5) 370 Chloric acid is a sour liquid.

b. *transf.* Producing tart or acid fruit.

*a*1000 in Birch *Cartul. Sax.* I. 229 A dune on stream of ða suran apældran. 1393 Langl. *P. Pl.* C. xi. 207 Shal neuere good appel þorw no sotel science on sour stock growe. 1560 Pilkington *Expos. Aggeus* (1562) 297 The soure crabtree makes the crabbes bitter, and not the crabbes make the tree evyll. 1687 [see next (*b*)].

c. In figurative or allusive uses; freq. in connexion with *sauce* (cf. Sauce *sb.* 1 b).

(*a*) 1377 Langl. *P. Pl.* B. xiii. 43 Ac her sauce was ouer soure & vnsauourely grounde, In a morter..of many bitter peyne. 1500–20 Dunbar *Poems* lxvii. 19 Off quhais subchettis sour is the sals. *a*1548 Hall *Chron., Edw. IV*, 20 These soure sauces he tasted as a penaunce for his wanton liuyng. 1626 Peeke *Three to One* C j, Thus farre, my Voyage for Oranges sped well, but in the end, prooued sower Sawce to me. *a*1660 *Contemp. Hist. Irel.* (Ir. Archæol. Soc.) II. 42 Witty speeches loose theire rellish when they are ouerseasoned with the sowre sawce of reprehension. 1687 Miége *Gt. Fr. Dict.* ii. s.v. *Sweet*, He has given me sweet Meat, but sowr Sauce, (Prov.).

(*b*) 1415 Hoccleve *Sir J. Oldcastle* 292 Thogh it seeme sour To the taast of your detestable errour. 1525 Tindale *Expos.* (Parker Soc.) 234 Nothing is so sweet that they make not sour with their traditions. *c*1625 Davenport *K. John & Matilda* iii. ii, The sower sweetnesse of a deluded minute. *a*1652 J. Smith *Sel. Disc.* i. 15 Their doctrines may taste too sour of the cask they come through. 1687 Miége *Gt. Fr. Dict.* ii, To be tied to the sowr Apple-tree, for to have an ill Husband. 1720 Ramsay *Wealth* 142 If not, fox-like, I'll..ca' your hundred thousand a sour plum. 1721 Kelly *Sc. Prov.* 186 It is a soure Reek, where the good Wife dings the good Man. 1785 Burns *Twa Herds* v, Nae poisoned sour Arminian stank He let them taste.

2. Rendered acid by fermentation or similar processes; fermented; affected or spoiled in this way by being kept or exposed too long.

*c*1000 *Sax. Leechd.* II. 34 Ȝenim þa readan hofan, awyl on surum swatum oþþe on surum ealað. *c*1000 Ælfric *Gloss.* in Wr.-Wülcker 129 *Oxygala*, sur meolc. 1390 Gower *Conf.* I. 167 And thus of that thei brewe soure I drinke swete. *c*1425 *Eng. Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 659 *Seruicia acerba*, sowre ale. *c*1440 *Promp. Parv.* 466/2 Sowre, as dowe, *fermentatus*. *c*1480 Henryson *Test. Cres.* 441 For waillit Wyne and Meitis thou had tho, Tak mowlit Breid, Peirrie, and Ceder sour. 1508 Dunbar *Poems* v. 30 To get hir ane fresche drink, þe aill of hevin wes sour. 1561 T. Norton *Calvin's Inst.* iv. xviii. (1634) 713 As with leaven scattered among it, the whole lumpe of dough waxeth sower. 1669 Boyle *Contn. New Exp.* ii. (1682) 168 This Experiment seems to teach us, that Liquors may grow sowre, though no spirits have evaporated from them. 1691 Ray *N.C. Words* (ed. 2) 137 *Sower-milk*, Butter-milk. Sower from its long standing. 1764 *Ann. Reg.* ii. 11 They throw the fresh caviar into it, and leave it there to grow sour. 1826 *Art of Brewing* (ed. 2) 32 It cannot recover itself, but remains sickly, and becomes sour. 1884 *Girl's Own Paper* 4 Oct. 4/2 The great duty..of the girls..in Mongolia is to milk the cattle..and work up the milk into..sour-cheese, butter, and whisky.

Comb. 1661 *Extr. Rec. Glasgow* (Burgh Recs.) 465 The sour milk mercat, quhilk is now keeped at the croce.

b. *fig.* or in fig. context.

*a*1340 Hampole *Psalter* Prol., O wondirful suetnes, þe whilk waxis noght soure thurgh þe corupciouns of þis warld. 1611 Bible *Hosea* iv. 18 Ephraim is ioyned to idoles:.. Their drinke is sowre. 1641 [see Leaven *sb.* 2 a]. 1686 tr. *Lemery's Course Chem.* (ed. 2) Ep. Ded., The sowre Leaven of Intestine Rebellion. 1799 [see Leaven *sb.* 2 a]. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* ii. iv. ii, General Dumouriez..finds all in sour heat of darkness.

c. Of smell. Also *fig.*

*c*1340 Hampole *Pr. Consc.* 657 Of herbes and tres comes swete savour, And of þe comes wlatsome stynk, and sour. 1530 Palsgr. 325/1 Sower of smellyng, *sur*. 1843 Sir C. Scudamore *Med. Visit Grafenberg* 48 A strong sour smell, like mellow apples. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* III. 12 Of the sour smell about rheumatic patients there can be no doubt.

d. Of breath, eructations, etc.

1578 Lyte *Dodoens* 239 The wambling of the stomacke, and the sower belkes whiche come from the same. 1591 Shaks. *Two Gentl.* iii. i. 331 That makes amends for her soure breath. 1607 [? Brewer] *Lingua* iv. iv, Sweet ointment for sowre teeth. 1619 Fletcher, etc. *Knt. Malta* iii. ii, Whose husband Tax'd for his sowre breath by his enemy, Condemn'd his wife, for not acquainting him With his infirmity.

3. a. Of land, etc.: Cold and wet; uncongenial through retaining stagnant moisture.

1532 Hervet tr. *Xenophon's Treat. Househ.* (1768) 76 What remedy is there, if the grounde be to weete to sowe in it, or to soure to set trees in it? 1573 Tusser *Husb.* (1878) 84 Some breaking vp laie soweth otes to begin, to suck out the moisture so sower therein. 1605 Sylvester *Du Bartas* ii. iii. i. *Vocation* 107 Like some rare Fruit-Tree over-topt with spight Of Briers and Bushes which it sore oppresse With the sowr shadow of their thorny tresse. 1677 Plot *Oxfordsh.* 241 There is another sort of ground in this County which they call Sour-land. 1707 Mortimer *Husb.* 63 In Oxfordshire..they give their sour Land a tilt, according to the State and Condition of their Lands. 1759 Mills tr. *Duhamel's Husb.* i. viii. (1762) 45 The ground underneath must be of a most cold and sour nature. 1815 J. Smith *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 613 Salt..sweetens sour pastures. 1858 Glenny *Everyday Bk.* 189/2 The sour soil that they have been growing in. 1897 Mary Kingsley *W. Africa* 641 Other vast tracts of it are miserably poor sour, sandy clay.

fig. 1638 Sanderson *Serm.* (1681) 109 The heart of man is a sowre piece of clay.

transf. 1859 Meredith *R. Feverel* ii, In a country of sour pools, yellow brooks, rank pasturage, desolate heath.

b. Of pasture: Having a harsh, unpleasant taste; coarse, rank. Now *dial.*

1654 in *Verney Mem.* (1907) I. 535 The grass must be mown if it be too sour and long for them. 1673 Ray *Journ. Low Co.* 148 The very Grass which grows under the Trees is sowr and crude. 1828 Carr *Craven Gloss.*, *Sour*, coarse, harsh, applied to grass, which grows on wet land. 1881 Evans *Leicestersh. Words*, *Sour*,..as applied to herbage, rank and bitter.

c. Of wood, etc.: Green. Now *local.*

*c*1475 *Rauf Coilȝear* 910 Sall neuer of sa sour ane brand ane bricht fyre be brocht. 1866 Brogden *Prov. Lincs.*, *Sour*, green. The hay is too sour to lead.

II. 4. Extremely distasteful or disagreeable; bitter, unpleasant.

*c*1200 Ormin 15208 Forr þine iss sur & biteþþ wiþþ & cwennkeþþ erþliȝ kinde. *a*1250 *Owl & Night.* 866 Þat him beo sur þat er was swete, Þar to ich helpe, god hit wot. *c*1315 Shoreham iv. 422 And her-by þou myȝt, man, y-seo hou here ende hys sour. 1377 Langl. *P. Pl.* B. xi. 250 Al though it be soure to suffre, þere cometh swete after. *Ibid.* xx. 46, I mote nede abyde, And suffre sorwes ful sowre þat shal to ioye tourne. 1509 Hawes *Past. Pleas.* xxx. (Percy Soc.) 148 To have release of your great paynes sower. 1576 Pettie *Petite Pallace* (1908) I. 45 This life hath been most loathsome and sour vnto me. 1630 *R. Johnson's Kingd. & Commw.* 439 These prosperous beginnings brought forth sowre ends. 1651 Hobbes *Leviath.* ii. xxv. 133 When they are for Execution of soure labour. 1701 Collier *M. Aurel.* (1726) 302 If so, he has given himself a sour box on the ear. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* ii. iii. i, That sweet Federation was of last year; this sour Divulsion is the selfsame substance. 1870 Emerson *Soc. & Solit.* Wks. (Bohn) III. 3 Michael Angelo had a sad, sour time of it.

5. Having a harsh, morose, or peevish disposition; sullen, austere; gloomy, discontented, embittered.

*a*1225 *Ancr. R.* 114 Grucchunge of bitter & of sur heorte. 1530 Palsgr. 325/1 Sower, cursed or shrewde as a woman is that lowreth, *malgracieux*. 1592 Fleming *Contn. of Holinshed* III. 1360 The one of nature affable, the other altogither sowre. 1633 G. Herbert *Temple, Ephes. iv. 30* 2 And art thou grieved..When I am sowre, And crosse thy love? 1663 S. Patrick *Parab. Pilgrim* (1687) 478 Do not follow your Saviour with a sowre heart, dejected looks, and faln wings. 1709 Steele *Tatler* No. 89 ⁋ 8 Don't think me a sour Man, for I love Conversation and my Friends. 1779 *Mirror* No. 61, It is not the melancholy of a sour, unsocial being. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* ii. vi. iii, Men's humour is of the sourest. 1849 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* ii. I. 172 His temper was sour, arrogant, and impatient of opposition. 1874 Mahaffy *Soc. Life Greece* iii. 65 We might almost imagine that some sour Attic editor had expunged the advice.

absol. 1871 R. Ellis tr. *Catullus* xxvii. 6 But dull water, avaunt... Seek the sour, the solemn!

b. Const. *upon* (a person). *rare*⁻¹.

1621–31 Laud *Serm.* (1847) 179 'Keep unity,' then, and be sour..upon any that shall endeavour to break it.

6. Displaying, expressing, or implying displeasure or discontent; peevish, cross: **a.** Of looks, etc.

*c*1440 *Alph. Tales* 1 With a sowr cowntenance and a froward luke. 1530 Palsgr. 225/2 Glumme, a sower loke. 1598 Marston *Sco. Villanie* iii. ix. 217 Grim-fac't Reproofe,.. Bend thy sower browes in my tart poesie. 1642 Fuller *Holy & Prof. State* iv. xix. 339 His little eyes can cast a soure glance. 1720 Hearne *Collect.* (O.H.S.) VII. 186 He ..from his sower Looks is commonly called Vinegar Jones. 1750 Gray *Long Story* 106 Sour visages, enough to scare ye. 1807 J. Barlow *Columb.* i. 103 Dissembling friends..Now pass my cell with smiles of sour disdain. 1833 Ht. Martineau *Brooke Farm* iii. 29 The sour looks with which the strangers were regarded. 1869 Tozer *Highl. Turkey* II. 73 A woman with a sour countenance but rather handsome features.

b. Of words, discourse, opinions, etc.

*a*1557 Mrs. M. Basset tr. *More's Treat. Passion* M.'s Wks. 1384/1 With sweete and sower wordes to laboure..to make good men of badde. 1594 J. Dickenson *Arisbas* (1878) 28 To shield me..from the sowre censures of the ouer-curious Moralists of our age. 1614 Raleigh *Hist. World* iii. (1634) 81 Nicias and his companions had a sowre message to deliver at Sparta. 1663 J. Spencer *Prodigies* (1665) 17 That Historian, whom we shall easily perceive not more leavened in mind or writing with this kind of sowrer Superstition. 1709 Steele *Tatler* No. 54 ⁋ 1 He said a sour Thing to Laura at Dinner the other Day; upon which she burst into Tears. 1761 Hume *Hist. Eng.* lx. (1806) IV. 513 The fanaticism which prevailed, being so full of sour and angry principles. 1851 Helps *Comp. Solit.* iii. 31 In delivering a sour discourse on the wickedness of the others. 1871 Morley *Crit. Misc., Carlyle* 235 A system which has raised monstrous floods of sour cant round about us.

c. Of actions.

1659 T. Pecke tr. *Owen's Epigr.* xiii, Sowre is the exit.. of the salacious Cyprian Emperess. 1697 Dryden *Æneid* xii. 10 He makes a sour retreat, nor mends his pace. 1725 Pope *Odyss.* xi. 693 Touch'd at his sour retreat,..Through hell's black bounds I had pursued his flight. *a*1740 Waterland *Serm.* iii. (1742) I. 81 God..chuses rather an easy and chearful, than an austere and sower Obedience.

d. Wry; distorted.

1611 Cotgr., *Morgueur*, a maker of strange mouthes, or soure faces. 1822 Lamb *Elia* i. *Dissert. on Roast Pig*, Make what sour mouths he would for a pretence.

7. Of weather, etc.: Cold and wet; inclement.

1582 Stanyhurst *Æneis* iv. (Arb.) 105 In a winters soure storme must nauye be launched? 1599 B. Jonson *Ev. Man out of Hum.* ii. iv, Is now thy walk too sweet? Thou said'st of late, it had sowr airs about it. 1687 A. Lovell tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* i. 272 The same day [we] had sower gusts of Wind and Rain. 1722 De Foe *Col. Jack* xi, We had a very sour and rough voyage for the first fortnight. 1773 Fergusson *Poems* (1789) II. 56 Simmer's showery blinks and winter's sour. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* iii. i. vii, The Earth..weeps and blears itself, in sour rain, and worse. 1895 'Setoun' *Sunshine* 28 It was a 'cauld sour day', nothing but drizzle.

8. Of animals: Heavy, coarse, gross.

1713 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 5148/12 A strong, sower Horse of 6 l. Price. 1854 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* XV. i. 228 They [sheep] are apt to run hairy in the wool, big in the bone, and sour in the head. 1881 Evans *Leicestersh. Words*, *Sour*, as applied to animals, coarse and gross. 1886 in Peacock *N.W. Linc. Gloss.* s.v., Two..sour, fine-looking mares.

III. 9. *Comb.* **a.** Parasynthetic, as *sour-blooded, -breathed, -faced, -featured, -hearted, -looked,* etc.

1862 Thornbury *Turner* II. 136 Turner was no *sour-blooded recluse. *a*1586 Sidney *Arcadia* iii. xiii. (1622) 276 Dametas..had fetched many a *sower-breathed sigh. 1653 Walton *Angler* To Rdr. A v b, If thou be a severe, *sowr complexioned man. 1610 Shaks. *Temp.* iv. i. 20 Barraine hate, *Sower-ey'd disdaine, and discord. *a*1697 Aubrey *Lives* (1813) 511 He had a most remarkable aspect,..long-faced, and *sour eielidded, a kind of pigge-eie. 1589 *Marprel. Epit.* (1843) 28 A *sourfaced knaue. 1883 J. Mackenzie *Day-dawn in Dark Places* 78 Not even Hendrik was sour-faced a day after. 1830 Scott *Doom Devorgoil* ii. ii, With *sour-featured Whigs the Grass-market was cramm'd. 1679 *Poor Robin's Intelligence* in *Sporting Mag.* XXXIX. 61 *Sour headed, saddle backed, goose rumped. 1697 Dryden *Virg. Georg.* iii. 88 The Mother Cow must wear a low'ring Look, Sour-headed, strongly-neck'd. 1673 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 834/4 A *sowr lookt and plain Horse. 1727 Bailey (vol. II), *Torvity*, *sour Lookedness. *c*1460 *Towneley Myst.* xiii. 102 She is browyd lyke a brystyll, with a *sowre loten chere. *Ibid.* xxi. 123 He is sowre lottyn. 1591 Shaks. *Two Gentl.* ii. iii. 6, I thinke Crab my dog be the *sowrest natured dogge that liues. 1890 'R. Boldrewood' *Col. Reformer* (1891) 203 A *sour-tempered Skye terrier. 1746 Francis tr. *Horace, Sat.* i. vii. 44 The *sour-tongu'd Mungrel the Dispute renew'd. 1821 Scott *Kenilw.* iii, An aged *sour-visaged domestic.

b. With pres. pples., as *sour-looking, -smelling.*
1611 COTGR., *Rechignard*, a..soure-looking, or grimme fellow. 1799 CAMPBELL *Poems, The Harper* iii, When the sour-looking folk sent me heartless away. 1838 T. THOMSON *Chem. Org. Bodies* 544 When copal is kept melted till a sour smelling aromatic odour has ceased to proceed from it. 1855 LEIFCHILD *Cornwall* 21 A lean, sour-looking man.

c. With sbs., forming attributive combs.
1836-48 B. D. WALSH *Aristoph., Acharnians* II. ii, 'Tis really terrible for men to have Such sour-grape tempers. 1881 *Academy* No. 492. 271 Of the sour-zealot order. 1898 *Daily News* 24 Mar. 2/5 A private conviction of the sour grapes order.

10. Special collocations (frequently hyphened), as †**sour bread**, leavened bread; **sour cake**, an oat- or rye-cake made of fermented dough; †**sour cheer**, bitter feeling; **sour cherry**, the common cherry; **sour gourd**, (the fruit of) the Baobab, *Adansonia digitata*, or the related species *A. gregorii*; †**sour greme**, bitter grief or anger; **sour gum** (*U.S.*), **kettle**, **plum** (see quots.); †**sour swig**, sour liquor or drink (*fig.*); **sour tree**, = *sour wood*; **sour water**, water soured by fermentation, esp. in the process of starch-making; **sour wood** *U.S.*, the sorrel-tree.

A number of others in dial. use are given in the *Eng. Dial. Dict.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 6166 And neuer mar þat dai til ete Na *surbred ne napoþer mete. *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (Roxb.) xiii. 59 Þai..makes þe sacrement of þe awter of soure bred as þe Grekes duse. 1597 HOOKER *Eccl. Pol.* v. lxxi. § 2 There is no Jewish paschal solemnity nor abstinence from sour bread now required at our hands. 1793 D. URE *Hist. Rutherglen* 94 Another ancient custom, for the observance of which Rutherglen has long been famous, is the baking of *sour cakes. 1859 GEO. ELIOT *A. Bede* viii, They..look as if they'd never tasted nothing better than bacon-sword and sour-cake i' their lives. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 9127 With remyng, & rauthe, & myche rife sorow, Sobbyng & *sourcher soght fro þere herttes. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 466/2 Sowre chere, *acrimonia*. 1884 tr. *De Candolle's Orig. Cultivated Pl.* 207 *Sour Cherry—*Prunus cerasus*. 1640 PARKINSON *Theat. Bot.* 1632 The Ethiopian *sowre Gourde..groweth in Mozambique..on a faire great tree. 1760 J. LEE *Introd. Bot.* App. 327 Sour Gourd, Æthiopian, *Adansonia*. 1857 HENFREY *Bot.* 247 The fruit of the Baobab, the Monkey-bread or Ethiopian Sour-gourd, has an agreeable acid pulp. 1887 BENTLEY *Man. Bot.* 481 *A[dansonia] Gregorii*... A native of North Australia, where it is known as Sour-gourd and Cream-of-tartar tree. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 2053 Soche a sorow & a *sourgreme sanke in his hert. *Ibid.* 9042 For sorow & sorgrym of his sonnys dethe. 1814 PURSH *Flora Amer. Sept.* I. 177 *Nyssa villosa*... This tree is known by the name of *Sour-gum. 1880 BESSEY *Botany* 519 The wood of *Nyssa multiflora*, the Sour Gum, Tupelo, or Peppridge tree of the Eastern United States. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2250/1 **Sour-kettle*, a vessel used in souring bleached cloth. 1874 *Treas. Bot.* Suppl. 1324/2 *Owenia venosa* is known by the name of the *Sour Plum amongst the colonists. 1889 MAIDEN *Usef. Plants* 49 *Owenia acidula*, .. 'Sour Plum', 'Native Peach or Nectarine'. 1898 MORRIS *Austral Eng.* 427 *Sour-Plum*, the Emu-apple. 1548 UDALL, etc. *Erasm. Par. Luke* vi. 74 Hauing been long accustomed to the olde *soureswyg of Moses lawe. 1717 *Petiveriana* III. 247 Sorrel or *Sowre-tree. Because its Leaves have that Taste. 1816 SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 554 Water in which the bran has been allowed to become sour, and which is called *sours*, or **sour water*. 1836-41 BRANDE *Chem.* (ed. 5) 1084 The starch suspended in a very foul acid liquor, called *sour water*. 1856 A. GRAY *Man. Bot.* 254 *Oxydendrum*, Sorrel-tree. *Sour-wood. 1889 BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.* (ed. 2) 430 Sour wood (*Andromeda arborea*), a beautiful tree, which..is sometimes called Sorrel tree. 1880 *New Virgin.* II. 171 There were quantities of the pretty, graceful sourwood—the *Oxydendrum arboreum*.

B. *sb.*[1] **1.** That which is sour, in lit. or fig. senses. Used without article, or with *the*, *a*, etc.

(*a*) *c* 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* II. 56 Sele drincan midde[l]dagum, & forga sur & sealtes gehwæt. *c* 1400 *Rom. Rose* 5059 He is a wrecche..That loved such one, for swete or soure. *c* 1420 *26 Pol. Poems* xvii. 131 For oure swete, he drank ful soure. *c* 1560 A. SCOTT *Poems* (S.T.S.) i. 107 As waspis ressauis of þe same bot soure, So reprobatis Christis buke dois rebute. 1580 LYLY *Euphues* (Arb.) 242 You haue bene a Traueiler and tasted nothing but sowre. 1612 J. DAVIES (Heref.) *Muse's Sacrifice* Wks. (Grosart) II. 12/2 Melleſluous Sweetnesse .. Sweeten my Sowre. 1657 J. TRAPP *Comm. Neh.* i. 8 Sower and sweet maketh best sawce. 1881 D. THOMSON *Musings among Heather* 191 We likewise find Our sour gey often mix'd wi' sweet.

(*b*) *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 23979 He dranc þe sure and i þe suete. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* III. 12 Tuo tonnes fulle of love drinke,..of the soure or of the swete. 1448-9 J. METHAM *Wks.* (E.E.T.S.) 52, I be myn one schal bothe the sqweete and the soure For yow endure. 1553 T. WILSON *Rhet.* (1580) 4 Hym cunne I thanke, that bothe can and will, once mingle sweet emong the sower. 1584-7 GREENE *Carde of Fancie* Wks. (Grosart) IV. 110 By the sweete (quoth hee) how should we know the sower? 1656 EARL MONM. tr. *Boccalini's Advts. fr. Parnass.* I. lxix. (1674) 86 The Sower of obeying, and Sweet of commanding. 1684 tr. *Bonet's Merc. Compit.* VI. 177 Many People give their Patients.. Conserves of the sowre of Citron. 1724 RAMSAY *Tea-Table Misc.* Ded. vi, Their sangs may ward ye frae the sour, And gaily vacant minutes pass,

(*c*) 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 820 Wyth no sour ne no salt seruez hym neuer. ?1402 in *Yorks. Arch. Jrnl.* XX. 47 Thus did God dele, For swete, a sour. 1592 BRETON *C'tess Pembroke's Love* Wks. (Grosart) I. 24/1 Sowing the sweete, that killeth euery sower. 1593 SHAKS. *Lucr.* 867 The sweets we wish for, turne to lothed sowrs. 1634 MASSINGER *Very Woman* IV. ii, We have not an hour of life In which our pleasures relish not some pain, Our sours some sweetness. 1714 MANDEVILLE *Fab. Bees* (1733) I. 107 Loaf sugar ..prevents the injuries which a gnawing sower might do to the bowels. 1816 L. HUNT *Rimini* III. 64 He kept no reckoning with his sweets and sours. 1900 WEYMAN *Sophia* xv, The only sour in his cup..arose from his costume.

2. In bleaching and tanning, a bath or steep of an acid character.

1756 F. HOME *Exper. Bleaching* 28 Sours made with bran, or rye meal, and water, are often used instead of milk. 1778 *Phil. Trans.* LXVIII. 125 The bleachers of linen make use of a sour prepared by diluting the strong spirit of vitriol. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 137 They are thence removed to the sours. 1860 TOMLINSON *Usef. Arts, Leather Manuf.* 12 The skins are..immersed for twelve hours in a very weak solution of sulphuric acid, called *sours*. 1873 SPON *Workshop Rec.* Ser. I. 30/2 After being cleaned or scalded, discharge in a hot vitriol sour.

3. *U.S.* An acid drink, usually whisky or other spirit with lemon added.

1885 *Pall Mall G.* 10 Feb. 2/2, I prefer..'swapping stories' to sipping 'whisky sours'. 1889 *Ibid.* 20 June 3/2 Sours are made principally with whisky or brandy, or Santa Cruz rum.

Sour (sɑuəɹ), *sb.*[2] [f. SOUR *v.*] An act of souring, *spec.* in bleaching (see prec. B. 2).

1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 135 If the goods be strong, they will require another boil, steep, and sour.

Sour (sɑuəɹ), *adv.* Also 4-5 **sure**, **soure**, 6-7 **sowre**. [ME. *sūre*, f. *sūr* SOUR *a.* Cf. MDu. *sure*, *zure*.]

†**1.** Bitterly, dearly; severely. *Obs.*

c 1300 *Havelok* 2005 Þus wolde þe theues me haue reft But God-þank, he hauenet sure keft. 1377 LANGL. *P. Pl. B.* x. 361 It shal bisitten vs ful soure þe siluer þat we kepen. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Sir Thopas* 111 And yit I hope.. That thou schalt with this launcegay Abyen it ful soure. *a* 1400-50 *Alexander* 2313 Þai said, soure suld him sowe bot he þe clte 3eld.

2. Disagreeably, unpleasantly; crossly, gloomily, unfavourably. Chiefly in phr. to *look sour*.

In some cases perh. the adj. used predicatively.

1500-20 DUNBAR *Poems* liii. 37 God waitt gif that scho lourkit sour! 1531 TINDALE *Expos. 1 John* (1537) 33 God hath no rodde in his hande, nor loketh sowre. 1557 N. T. (Geneva) *Matt.* vi. 16 When ye fast, loke not sowre as the hypocrites do. 1629 MAXWELL tr. *Herodian* 49 The Roman Citizens being thus surrounded with direfull Mis-haps,.. began to looke sowre vpon Commodus. 1693 LOCKE *Educ.* 58 When the Father or Mother looks sowre on the Child. 1833 HT. MARTINEAU *Brooke Farm* vi. 73 If anything ever did make him look sour, it was his dinner not being ready. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. VI. v, Nor has public speaking declined, though Lafayette and his Patrols look sour on it.

Sour (sɑuəɹ), *v.* Forms: 4-7 **soure** (4 **zoure**), 4-8 **sowr(e**, 6-8 **sower**, 7- **sour.** [f. SOUR *a.* Cf. WFris. *sûrje*, MDu. *suren* (Du. *zuren*), LG. *sûren*, OHG. *sûrên* (MHG. *sûren*, G. *sauern*) to become sour; also MHG. *siuren* (G. *säuern*), LG. *süren*, NFris. *sürre*, MSw. and Sw. *syra* to make sour.]

1. *intr.* To become sour; to acquire a sour taste.

13.. [see b]. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 82 Fulofte and thus the swete soureth, Whan it is knowe to the tast. 1442 *Lett. Marg. Anjou & Bp. Beckington* (Camden) 80 Youre wynes shall nother soure nor stande base, for defaulte of drynkers. 1530 PALSGR. 640/1, I do some good in the house, I keep breed from moldyng and drinke from sowryng. 1577 B. GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* III. (1586) 147 Made of two sorts of milke,..it soone sowreth. 1600 SURFLET *Countrie Farme* III. xlix. 532 The cyder made of sweete apples, hauing a soft and tender flesh, is more apt to sowre. 1662 R. MATHEW *Unl. Alch.* 255 Neither will the Oyl sowre so soon. 1732 ARBUTHNOT *Rules of Diet* in *Aliments*, etc. I. 268 Milk when it sours on the Stomach. 1776 JOHNSON in *Boswell* 12 Apr. (Oxf. ed.) II. 28 He cannot find in his heart to pour out a bottle of wine; but he would not much care if it should sour. 1825 J. NICHOLSON *Operat. Mechanic* 608 It is absolutely necessary that the lime..be allowed to remain a considerable time macerating or *souring* in water. 1881 SHELDON *Dairy Farming* 314 Used in milk it has the effect of preventing the faintest approach of souring, for at least a week, in the hottest of weather.

fig. 1602 *2nd Pt. Return fr. Parnass.* I. ii. 165 Such barmy heads wil alwaies be working, when as sad vineger wittes sit souring at the bottome of a barrell. 1657 REEVE *God's Plea* 2 This it is..to lye sowring in the leaven of discontent.

b. *fig.* To change or turn *to* a bitter feeling. Also without const.

13.. *K. Alis.* 7002 (Laud MS.), Hote loue often after wil soure. 1678 DRYDEN *All for Love* II. i, Love once past, is, at the best, forgotten; But oftner sours to Hate. 1742 YOUNG *Nt. Th.* I. 338 Like bosom friendships to resentment sour'd. 1885-94 R. BRIDGES *Eros & Psyche* May xxx, Thy sisters' love, seeing thee honour'd so, Will sour to envy.

c. To become embittered, morose, or peevish.

1748 THOMSON *Cast. Indol.* I. xvii, They hate to mingle in the filthy fray, Where the soul sours, and gradual rancour grows. 1754 RICHARDSON *Grandison* VII. xlii. 202 A single woman..remains solitary and unheeded, in a busy bustling world; perhaps soured to it by her unconnected state. 1842 TENNYSON *Walking to Mail* 53 She sour'd To what she is; a nature never kind! 1893 *Daily News* 29 Sept. 3/1 They sour and degenerate, grow cynical and misanthropic.

d. *To sour on*, to take a dislike or distaste to (a person or thing). Orig. *U.S.*

1862 in THORNTON *Amer. Gloss.* s.v., Guess the M.P. will 'sour' on William C., when he has seen him for about fifteen minutes. 1872 DE VERE *Americanisms* 205 The curious expression of *souring* on an unpleasant task or occupation. 1900 *Daily News* 13 Nov. 9/3 Dan soured on Castlereagh boys..forthwith.

2. *trans.* Of leaven: To cause fermentation in (dough, etc.).

1340 *Ayenb.* 205 Ase þe leuayne zoureþ þet do3 and hit draþþ to smac. 1382 WYCLIF *Exod.* xii. 34 Thanne the puple tok sprengid meel, or it were sowrid. 1526 TINDALE 1 *Cor.* v. 6 A lytell leven sowereth the whole lompe of dowe. 1642 J. BALL *Answ. to Can* ii. 34 A little leaven sowreth the whole masse. 1872 J. G. MURPHY *Comm. Lev.* ii. 11 Leaven is a portion of sour dough, which, when mingled with the fresh mass, sours it also.

b. *fig.* or in fig. context.

1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 294 He is the levein of the bred, Which soureth al the past aboute. 1611 BIBLE *Transl. Pref.* ¶ 9 Such as are, if not frozen in the dregs, yet sowred with the leauen of their superstition. 1647 *Hist. Anabaptists* 17 Seducing many, and sowring the new Lump of the Church with the Leaven of his perverse doctrine. *c* 1730 SWIFT *Serm.* vii. Wks. 1841 II. 156/2 The smallest mixture of that leaven will sour the whole lump.

3. To make sour or acid; *esp.* to cause to have a tart or sour taste; to spoil in this way.

c 1460 *Promp. Parv.* (Winch.) 461 Sowryn, or make sowre, *aceo*. 1594 NASHE *Unfort. Trav.* Wks. (Grosart) V. 161 To sowre all the wines in Rome, and turne them to vineger. 1632 SANDERSON *Serm.* 467 A nasty vessell sowreth all that is put into it. *c* 1685 DK. BUCKINGHAM *Conf.* Wks. 1705 II. 45 He..Sours our Palm Wine, spoils our Victuals. 1715 ADDISON *Drummer* I. i, He'll sour all the beer in my barrels. 1746 FRANCIS tr. *Horace, Epist.* I. ii. 77 For tainted Vessels sour what they contain. 1818 SCOTT *Br. Lamm.* xii, In case the thunner should hae soured ours at the castle. 1825 J. NICHOLSON *Operat. Mechanic* 608 Allowing no more lime..than is just sufficient to macerate or *sour* it with the water. 1903 *Daily Chron.* 12 Jan. 7/1 A germ that was souring each brew of beer in a large brewery.

fig. 1599 B. JONSON *Cynthia's Rev.* V. xi, We not intend to sowre your late delights With harsh expostulation. 1611 SHAKS. *Wint. T.* I. ii. 102 Three crabbed Moneths had sowr'd themselues to death. 1645 QUARLES *Sol. Recant.* v, This sowers all thy sweets, sads all thy Rest. 1682 SIR T. BROWNE *Chr. Mor.* 10 To have other by-ends in good actions sowers laudable performances. 1720 OZELL tr. *Vertot's Rom. Rep.* I. I. 47 Appius..could not help sowering the Usefulness of his Counsels with the Austerity of his Character. 1826 LAMB *Elia* II. *Wedding*, The awful eye of the parson..souring my incipient jest to the tristful severities of a funeral. 1859 J. MARSHALL *Hist. Scottish Affairs* x. 218 Education in him had not sweetened nature, but nature had soured education.

b. To make (land) cold and wet.

1842 J. AITON *Domest. Econ.* (1857) 185 It is drenched, soured, and turned into mire through the winter. 1880 C. R. MARKHAM *Peruv. Bark* 262 To allow any excess of water to drain off into a place where it cannot *sour* the soil.

c. *Bleaching.* To subject to the action of diluted acids. Also with *off*.

1756 F. HOME *Exper. Bleaching* 80 In a bleachfield, when they were drawing a parcel of coarse cloth soured in this manner. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 136 After which, they are completely rinsed in pure spring water, and then soured. 1873 SPON *Workshop Rec.* Ser. I. 15/1 Then sour the whole in a bath of sulphuric acid. 1875 F. J. BIRD *Dyer's Hand-bk.* 52 After cleaning goods should be soured off.

4. To render sour, gloomy, or morose; to embitter (the mind, temper, etc.).

1599 JONSON *Ev. Man out of Hum.* Introd., This protraction is able to sour the best settled patience in the theatre. 1709 STRYPE *Ann. Ref.* I. lii. 522 To sowre the Minds of the Subjects against the Queen. *a* 1770 JORTIN *Serm.* (1771) I. v. 91 Their piety is of that sort which sours the temper. 1788 GIBBON *Decl. & F.* xxxix. IV. 32 His mind was soured by indignation. 1838 LYTTON *Alice* 133 Whose heart his schemes had prematurely soured. 1856 MACAULAY *Misc. Writ.* (1882) 314 Continued adversity had soured Johnson's temper. 1882 J. H. BLUNT *Ref. Ch. Eng.* II. 261 Physical and mental misery, which soured her disposition.

b. With personal object.

1669 TEMPLE *Lett.* (1700) II. 127 The Suedish Court, sowered by the ill Treatment..of their Ministers, will [etc.]. 1701 W. WOTTON *Hist. Rome* 220 These Losses did exceedingly sowre the People. 1769 ROBERTSON *Chas. V*, x. Wks. 1813 III. 208 Philip, sowered by his disappointment, was sent back to Spain. 1832 HT. MARTINEAU *Homes Abroad* I. 12 What sours..him more than to work and work from year to year in vain? 1878 STUBBS *Const. Hist.* III. xviii. 9 He seems to us a man..whose conscience..had soured him. 1897 *Badminton Mag.* IV. 389 The filly, soured by our recent encounter, reared.

†**c.** To invest with a sour expression. *Obs. rare.*

1592 SHAKS. *Ven. & Ad.* 185 Adonis..Souring his cheeks cries 'Fie, no more of love!' 1593 — *Rich. II*, II. i. 169.

Souray, obs. form of SERAI[2].

Source (sɔəɹs), *sb.* Forms: 4-5 **sours**, 5-6 **surs**, 5-7 **sourse**; 4- **source** (6 **sowrce**). [a. OF. *sors*, **surs*, **sours* masc., and *surse*, *sourse*, *source* (mod.F. *source*) fem., substantival uses of the pa. pple. of *sourdre* to rise or spring: see SOURD *v.*]

†**1.** 'A support or underprop' (Gwilt). *Obs.*

1346 in J. T. Smith *Antiq. Westm.* (1807) 209 [In the works of the said chapel for sources to the images under the tabernacles... The columns placed..under the aforesaid sources.] 1359-60 *Ely Sacr. Rolls* II. 194 In stipend. Roberti Burwelle facientis Garguyles et ymagines pro sources ad le blakrode.

†**2.** a. *Hawking.* The act of rising on the wing, on the part of a hawk or other bird. *Obs.*

c 1384 CHAUCER *H. Fame* 544 Me fleynge in a swappe he hente, And with hys sours a-yene vp went. *c* 1386 — *Sompn. T.* 230 Right as an hauk upon a sours Upspringeth into thaer, right so prayeres..Maken her sours to Goddis eeres tuo. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* V. v. 21 [Ganymede] Quham, with a surs, swiftlie Jovis squyer Caucht in his clukis, and bair up in the air. 1575 TURBERV. *Faulconrie* 127 The Sparowhawkes do vse to kill the fowle at the Sowrce or Souse as the Goshawkes do. 1612 SELDEN *Illustr. Drayton's Polyolb.* v. D.'s Wks. 1876 I. 145 But the Goshawk, taken at the source by the Falcon, soon fell down at the King's foot.

†**b.** The rising *of* the sun. *Obs.*

?*a* 1400 *Morte Arth.* 1978 In-to Sessoyne he soughte.. And at the surs of the sonne disseuerez his knyghttez.

† **c.** An assault or attack. *Obs.*

1616 J. LANE *Contn. Sqr.'s T.* IX. 179 He gallantlie receaving bothe theire sourse, and theie as resolutelie quittinge force.

3. The fountain-head or origin of a river or stream; the spring or place from which a flow of water takes its beginning.

c 1386 CHAUCER *Clerk's Prol.* 49 Wher as the Poo out of a welle smal Takith his firste springyng and his sours. 1426 LYDG. *De Guil. Pilg.* 21838 Ryht as a welle hath hys sours Vpward, with water quyk and cler. 1579 SPENSER *Sheph. Cal.* Nov. 126 The flouds do gaspe, for dryed is theyr sourse. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* XXXI. iii. 408 The head or source therof ariseth at the foot of the utmost mountains of the Pelignians. 1673 TEMPLE *Obs. United Prov.* Wks. 1720 I. 7 He that would know the Nature of the Water,..must find out its Source, and observe with what Strength it rises. 1687 A. LOVELL tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* II. 46 That River..takes its source about four days Journey from Mardin. 1738 GRAY *Tasso* 51 Of many a flood they view'd the secret source. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1824) I. 86 All rivers have their source either in mountains or elevated lakes. 1808 PIKE *Sources Mississ.* III. App. 6 The river..may be about 1000 miles in length, from its sources to its discharges. 1846 MCCULLOCH *Acc. Brit. Empire* (1854) I. 9 Near the sources of the South Tyne and the Tees. 1878 HUXLEY *Physiogr.* 20 The streams and springs from which a river is popularly said to take its rise are..only its proximate sources.

transf. 1605 SHAKS. *Macb.* II. iii. 104 The Spring, the Head, the Fountaine of your Blood Is stopt, the very Source of it is stopt. 1810 SCOTT *Lady of L.* III. ix, The billow.. That far to seaward finds his source.

attrib. 1881 *Rep. Geol. Explor. New Zealand* 135 The middle part of the Buckler Burn, before breaking up into its source-branches. 1899 *Athenæum* 28 Oct. 585/1 To control the source-region of the Nile.

b. With *a* and pl. A spring; a fountain.

c 1477 CAXTON *Jason* 102 b, Hit semed that hit had ben a sourse or sprynge rennyng oute of his body. 1596 DRAYTON *Legends* iii. 451 Like those that strive to stop some swelling Sourse. 1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* VI. 292 A source or standing Well. *Ibid.* VIII. 373 Their Bestiall are watered with sources. 1662 J. DAVIES tr. *Mandelslo's Trav.* 199 There is, among others, a source of hot-water which hath the taste of Tin, and issues out of a Cave. 1735 SOMERVILLE *Chase* II. 24 Where trickling Streams distil From some penurious Source. 1820 BYRON *Juan* IV. lvi, Though sleeping like a lion near a source. 1855 TENNYSON *The Letters* v, Like torrents from a mountain source. 1856 MERIVALE *Rom. Emp.* xl. (1871) V. 19 In the time of Augustus seven aqueducts brought water from distant sources to Rome.

transf. 1589 GREENE *Menaphon* Wks. (Grosart) VI. 43 Yet kissing the pretie infant, shee lightened out smiles from those cheekes that were furrowed with continual sources of teares.

c. In fig. contexts.

1581 T. HOWELL *Deuises* (1879) 205 Whose strayned hart in sowrce of sorrowe swymmes. 1609 DRAYTON *Legend Cromwell* 21 This was to me that ouerflowing sourse, From whence his bounties plentifully spring. 1647 CLARENDON *Hist. Reb.* I. § 6 No man can shew me a source from whence these waters of bitterness..have more probably flowed. 1754 GRAY *Pleasure* 54 Near the source whence Pleasure flows. 1754 — *Progr. Poesy* 94 This can..ope the sacred source of sympathetic Tears. 1835 T. MITCHELL *Acharn. of Aristoph.* 479 *note*, The foundation of Megara was in itself a source of hostile feeling, which was never likely to be wholly dried up.

4. *fig.* The chief or prime cause *of* something of a non-material or abstract character; the quarter whence something of this kind originates.

c 1374 CHAUCER *Troylus* v. 1591 O sword of knighthod, sours of gentilesse! 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 46 Sche that is the Source and Welle Of wel or wo. 1412–20 LYDG. *Chron. Troy* III. 5469 Of kny3thod grounde, of manhod sours & wel. 1613 TAPP *Pathw. Knowledge* 322 This Characrter √ signifieth the source, roote or beginning of any number or quantity whatsoeuer. 1690 LOCKE *Hum. Und.* II. i. § 4 This source of ideas, every man has wholly in himself. 1760–2 GOLDSM. *Cit. W.* iv, Pride seems the source not only of their national vices, but of their national virtues also. 1770 *Junius Lett.* XXXIX. (1788) 220 The free election of our representatives.. is the source and security of every right and privilege. 1831 SCOTT *Cast. Dang.* viii, It is my duty..to leave no stone unturned by which this business may be traced to the source. 1857 MILLER *Elem. Chem., Org.* ii. § 3. 77 Gases of an offensive odour, which are the source of annoyance to the neighbourhood. 1875 MANNING *Mission H. Ghost* xii. 223 This intellectual perversion is the source of a systematic immorality.

b. With *a*, *this*, etc., or pl.

1642 H. MORE *Song of Soul* I. ii. 147 All strength and livelyhood is from this sourse. 1718 PRIOR *Knowledge* 413 She is oblig'd and forced to see A First, a Source, a Life, a Deity. 1759 ROBERTSON *Hist. Scot.* III. Wks. 1813 I. 197 The sixth article remained the only source of contest and difficulty. 1824 R. STUART *Hist. Steam Engine* 195 The many sources of consolation which were afforded by the circumstances. 1848 DICKENS *Dombey* vii, Something or somebody had superseded him as a source of interest. 1861 BUCKLE *Civiliz.* (1873) II. viii. 559 One source of danger to which they had long been exposed was considerably lessened.

c. The origin, or original stock, *of* a person, family, etc.

1669 DRYDEN *Tyrannic Love* IV. i, And, thy full Term expir'd, without all Pain, Dissolve into thy Astral Source again. 1738 GRAY *Propertius* iii. 58 [To] trace Back to its Source divine the Julian Race. 1748 — *Alliance* 74 Conscious of the source from whence she springs. 1818 BYRON *Juan* I. ix, He traced his source Through the most Gothic gentlemen of Spain.

d. The originating cause or substance *of* some material thing or physical agency.

1803 *Med. Jrnl.* IX. 257 He enquires into the source of the liquor amnii, and he explains..why this water is accumulated. 1827 FARADAY *Chem. Manip.* xii. (1842) 285 Some of the impure sources of potash and soda used in the arts. 1862 MILLER *Elem. Chem., Org.* (ed. 2) ix. 639 It is largely used in lamps as a source of light.

e. A work, etc., supplying information or evidence (esp. of an original or primary character) as to some fact, event, or series of these.

1788 ROBERTSON *Hist. Amer.* Pref., The sources from which I have derived such intelligence. 1828 R. BURNS *Dissert.* in *Wodrow's Hist. Suff.* I. p. ix, The testimony of historians.., and other published sources of evidence. 1848 WORNUM *Lect. Painting* 114 *note*, This celebrated work is said, though not upon very authentic sources, to have been carried to Constantinople. 1882–3 SCHAFF *Encycl. Relig. Knowl.* I. 501 The principal source to his life is Gregory of Tours.

attrib. 1900 *Univ. Corresp.* 10 Feb. 93/1 We are very deficient in accessible source-books on this side of the Atlantic.

5. *Physics.* A point or centre from which a fluid or current flows.

1878 W. K. CLIFFORD *Elem. Dynamic, Kinem.* 214 The point *s* is called a *source* of strength μ when the fluid streams out in all directions; when μ is negative, so that the fluid streams inwards, it is called a *sink*. 1882 MINCHIN *Unipl. Kinemat.* 258 If a source or a vortex exist at *P'*, there will be a source or a vortex of equal strength at *P*. 1885 WATSON & BURBURY *Electr. & Magn.* I. 216 The given equipotential regions are in such a case generally termed *electrodes*, and sometimes *sources* or *sinks* of electricity, according to the direction of the current flow from or towards them.

† **Source,** *v.*[1] *Obs.* Also 6–7 sourse. [f. prec. or OF. *sours-*, pret. stem of *sourdre* SOURD *v.*]

1. *intr.* Of a bird of prey: To rise after seizing its quarry.

1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* XI. xiv. 74 Evir the sarar this ern strenis his gryp,..Sammyn wyth hys wyngis soursand in the sky.

2. To rise, surge, or boil up.

1594 NASHE *Terrors of Night* Wks. (Grosart) III. 257 Anie ouerboyling humour which sourseth hiest in our stomackes.

3. To spring or take rise *from* something.

1599 NASHE *Lenten Stuff* Wks. (Grosart) V. 249 They.. neuer leaue roaring it out..of the freedomes and immunities soursing from him. 1611 COTGR., *Sourcé*, sourced, sprung or begun from. 1666 G. HARVEY *Morb. Angl.* viii. 70 [Consumption] sourceth from an Ulcer in the Lungs.

Hence † **Sourcing** *ppl. a. Obs.*

a 1660 *Contemp. Hist. Irel.* (Ir. Archæol. Soc.) II. 117 Like a bankroute or shipe lost on the continent by the furie of sourcinge waves.

† **Source,** *v.*[2] *Obs.*—[1] [Alteration of SOUSE *v.*[1]] *trans.* To submerge, plunge, souse.

1616 R. C. *Times' Whistle* (1871) 113 Apollo..Taking his dayly..course, His fiery head in Thetis watry brest, Three hundred sixty & five times doth source.

Sourceless (sō·ɹslés), *a.* [f. SOURCE *sb.*] Having no source.

1848 BAILEY *Festus* (ed. 3) 109 The sourceless circular river of Thy love.

Sourcesse, obs. form of SUBCEASE *v.*

Sour crout, sour-crout. Also 7 sower crawt, 9 sourcrout; 8 sour-krout, 8– sour krout, 9 sour kraut. [Anglicized form of SAUERKRAUT.] A fermented preparation of cabbage.

a. 1617 [see SAUERKRAUT]. 1775 *Ann. Reg.* I. 190 Cabbages, made into sour-crout, a kind of pickle, but used, in lieu of common food, in some parts of Germany. 1796 T. TWINING *Trav. India*, etc. (1893) 3 The American captains have the reputation of keeping rather an indifferent table—living, it is said, principally on salt beef and sour-crout. 1802 BEDDOES *Hygëia* VIII. 19 Particular things as sour crout gave the person..uneasiness. 1834 T. MEDWIN *Angler in Wales* II. 286 Either are to me as bad as a double dose of sour crout. 1865 tr. *Erckmann-Chatrian's Waterloo* (1870) 60 He set a good dish of sour-crout beside the soup-tureen.

attrib. 1778 HAN. MORE *Let.* in W. Roberts *Mem.* (1834) I. 132, I dined yesterday at Garrick's, with the sour crout party.

β. 1776 [see SAUERKRAUT]. 1777 FORSTER *Voy. round World* I. 53 The captain had for some weeks past ordered sour-krout (or cabbage sliced and fermented) to be regularly served to the crew. 1857 HUGHES *Tom Brown* I. i, You have seen men and cities, no doubt,..and know the taste of sour krout. 1884 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* Suppl. 834/1 *Sour Kraut Cutter*, a machine for cutting cabbage for kraut.

Hence **Sour-croutish** *a.*

c 1780 BECKFORD *Italy* (1834) I. 62 An execrable sour-croutish supper was served up to my majesty. 1862 MISS M. B. EDWARDS *John & I* xv. (1872) 121 The whole atmosphere is rather beery, sour-krautish, and cigarish.

† **Sour crud(e.** [ad. obs. Du. *zuurkruid*: see SAUERKRAUT.] =prec.

1708 *Caldwell Papers* (Maitl. Cl.) I. 209 Breath perfumed with garlick and sour crude, (a stinking kind of kail). 1713 ARBUTHNOT *John Bull* II. iii, His Children don't eat a bit of good Victuals from one Year's end to the other, but live upon Salt Herring, sowr Crud, and Bore-cole.

† **Sourd,** *a. Obs.*—[o] [a. F. *sourd*, in the same sense:—L. *surd-us* SURD *a.*] Dim or dull.

1659 HOWELL *Vocab. Terms, Arts & Sci.* § XXVI, A sourd, or deaf Emerald, which hath a deadish lustre.

† **Sourd,** *v. Obs.* Also 4–6 sourde. [ad. OF. *sourdre* (also mod.F.), *sordre, surdre*, = Pg. *sordir, surdir, surgir*, Sp. *surgir*, Prov. *sorger, sorser*, It. *sorgere*:—L. *surgĕre* to rise. Cf. SOURDRE *v.*]

1. *intr.* Of conditions, events, etc.: To arise, take rise, spring or issue.

c 1386 CHAUCER *Pars. T.* ¶ 450 Now myghte men axe, wher-of that pride sourdeth and spryngeth. *Ibid.* ¶ 505 Somtyme grucchyng sourdeth of Enuye. 1399 LANGL. *R. Redeles* Prol. 5 Sodeynly þer sourdid selcouþe þingis. *c* 1430 *Pilgr. Lyf Manhode* I. xcix. (1869) 53 But *j* telle thee that many erroures sourdeden sithe, and many harmes. 1474 CAXTON *Chesse* 30 For this cause sourden batailles and discordes. 1483 — *Gold. Leg.* 41/1 Rumour and grutchyng began to sourde and ryse betwene the herdmen of abram. 1531 ELYOT *Gov.* I. ii, Wherby at the last should haue sourded dissencion amonge the people. 1567 DRANT *Horace, Ep. Arte Poet.* A ij, And nouell words..shall better credit bringe, If sparinglye..they sourde from greekishe springe.

2. Of fountains, etc.: To spring up, to issue from the ground.

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XIV. xii. (1495) 473 Welle stremes sourden and moysten this hylle. 1480 CAXTON *Myrr.* I. vi. 30 As a fontayn that contynuelly sourdeth and spryngeth. 1483 — *Gold. Leg.* 96 b/1 A fontayne of water sourded and sprange up and quenchid it alle. 1606 WARNER *Alb. England* XV. xcvii. (1612) 386 Is it probable his Staffe should make three furlongs flight Of selfe accord..and where as it did light Should sourd a plentious wel, not seen or heard of ere that night?

transf. 1596 NASHE *Saffron Walden* Wks. (Grosart) III. 95 Were the Nectar of his eloquence a thousand times more superabundant incessant sourding.

3. Of persons: To be roused, to become angry. Hence † **Sou·rding** *vbl. sb. Obs.*

c 1400 *Destr. Troy* 1000 But a Sourdyng with sourgrem sanke in his hert. *Ibid.* 1816 Sodenly he sourdit into soure greme. *Ibid.* 5051 While I se you in certain I sourde full of yre, And bolne at þe brest.

Sourd(e, obs. forms of SORD, SWARD.

† **Sourdet.** *Obs.* (See quot. and next.)

1611 COTGR., *Sourdine*, a Sourdet; the little pipe, or tenon put into the mouth of a Trumpet, to make it sound low. [Hence *sordet* in Blount *Glossogr.* s.v. *Sordine.*]

Sourdine (su·ɹdī·n), *sb.* and *a. rare.* [a. F. *sourdine*, f. *sourd* deaf, dull: cf. SORDINE.]

A. *sb.* A muted trumpet.

a 1678 MARVELL *Upon Appleton House* lii. Misc. Poems (1681) 90 Death-Trumpets creak in such a Note, And 'tis the *Sourdine* in their Throat.

B. *adj.* Muffled, subdued. Also *fig.*

1898 *N. Y. Times* 2 July (Cent.), The art of making a commonplace event striking by telling it in hints, as in the sourdine little tragedy of 'A Modern Melodrama'. 1904 *Windsor Mag.* Dec. 166/2 A singular little tune, half sourdine, half pizzicato.

Sour dock, sour-dock. Now *dial.* [SOUR *a.* and DOCK *sb.*[1]] Common sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*).

c 1325 *Gloss. W. de Bibbesw.* in Wright *Voc.* 162 [Pour sauce vaut la surele, *glossed*] sour-dokke. *a* 1387 *Sinon. Barthol.* (Anecd. Oxon.) 33 *Oxilapacium, acedula*, soure-dock. 1387–8 T. USK *Test. Love* III. vi. (Skeat) I. 7 The frute of the soure docke. *c* 1450 *M. E. Med. Bk.* (Heinrich) 88 Tak a rostede oynen, þe lilie rote, & sowredokkes. 1530 PALSGR. 273/1 Sowerdocke, an herbe. 1548 TURNER *Names Herbes* (E.D.S.) 69 *Oxalis*,..in englishe Sorel or sourdocke. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* II. 255 They vse to seeth it after the maner of Soure-docke. 1647 HEXHAM I. (Herbs), Sorell, or sower docke, *Surcher, ofte Suyringh.* 1825– in many dialect glossaries. 1896 SNOWDEN *Web of Weaver* 6 Getting stuff to eat—pignuts, sour docks.

So **Sour docken.** Now *north. dial.*

1697 *Phil. Trans.* XIX. 375 *Acetosa* (a Plant..which may well be called The Indian Sorrel, or Sower Docken). 1788 W. H. MARSHALL *Yorksh.* II. 354 Sourdocken; *rumex acetosa*; sorrel. 1825– in northern glossaries.

Sour-dough (sau·ɹ,dō), *sb.* Forms: (see SOUR *a.* and DOUGH *sb.*). [Corresponds in sense 1 to WFris. *sûrdaei*, older Flem. *suerdeech*, *-deegh* (Du. and Flem. *zuurdeeg*), MLG. *sûrdêch*, MHG. *sûrteich* (G. *sauerteig*), MSw. *surdegher* (Sw. *surdeg*), Da. *surdeig.*]

1. Leaven. Now *dial.* and *rare.*

a. 1303 R. BRUNNE *Handl. Synne* 10099 þe paste..ne ogh Be made of any maner of soure dogh. 1382 WYCLIF *Exod.* XXIII. 18 Thow shalt not offer vpon sour dowȝ the blood of thi sacrifice. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XVII. lxviii. (Bodl. MS.), Sowr dowe rereþ paste and brede þt is medled þerwiþ. 14.. *Nom.* in Wr.-Wülcker 725 *Hoc fermentum*, surdowght. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 466/2 Sowre Dowe, *fermentum*. *a* 1529 SKELTON *E. Rummyng* 288 Som bryngeth her husbandes hood..: And some brought sowre dowe. 1535 COVERDALE *Exod.* XIII. 7 Therfore shalt thou eate vnleuended bred seuen dayes, that there be no sowre dowe, ner sowred bred sene in all thy quarters. 1869 *Lonsdale Gloss.* 78/2 *Sour dough* or *doff*, leaven. 1876 *Mid-Yorks. Gloss.* 132/1 *Sour-dough*, the more homely equivalent of *leaven.*

β. c 1425 *Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 663 *Hoc fermentum*, surdagh. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 350/1 Sowre daghe, *fermentum, zima*. *c* 1520 M. NISBET *Matt.* xiii. 33 The kingdom of heuenis is like to sourdauche.

b. *fig.* of qualities, etc.

c 1380 WYCLIF *Wks.* (1880) 2 Crist comandiþ to his disciplis ..to vndirstonde & flee þe sowrdow of pharisees. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* IX. xxxi. (Bodl. MS.), Ifedde not with olde souredowe of malice but with pure mete of swetenes. *a* 1400 *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* xxiii. 404 Of þe olde wrecchednesse Holdyng doun sourdouh. *c* 1450 *Myrr. our Ladye* 300 Be made free from the olde sowre dowgh, that ys to say, from synne.

2. *Amer.* One who has spent one or more winters in Alaska.

In allusion to the use of a piece of sour dough for raising the bread baked during the winter.

1902 *Daily Chron.* 13 Nov. 5/6 He is what is called a 'sour dough' in the parlance of the Yukon, which means that he..has spent a winter in the frozen North. 1904 E. ROBINS *Magnetic North* viii. 154 You don't get an old Sour-dough like Dillon to travel at forty degrees [of frost].

Hence (from sense 1) † **Sour-dough** *v. trans.*, to leaven. *Obs.*

1382 WYCLIF *Hosea* vii. 4 The citee restide a litil in

mengyng to ȝydre of soure dowe, til it were sourdowid all. — *Amos* iv. 5 Sacrifie ȝe herying of sour dowid [L. *de fermentato*]. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 466/2 Sowyr dowyn, or menge paste wythe sowyr dowe, *fermento*.

† Sourdre, *sb. Obs.*[-1] [OF. *sourdre* inf. (cf. next) used as sb.] Source.

c 1477 CAXTON *Jason* 29 That he was the veray sourdre and welle of noblesse.

† Sourdre, *v. Obs.* [a. OF. *sourdre*: see SOURD *v.*] *intr.* To arise or spring.

14.. *Chaucer's Pars. T.* P 448 (Hengwrt MS.), The especes that sourdren of pride, soothely whan they sourdren of malice [etc.]. 1474 CAXTON *Chesse* II. iv. (1883) 57 For as moche as..rebellion..might sourdre and aryse in oon partye or other. *c* 1477 — *Jason* 111 b, How wele that shold sourdre therof to me a new sorowe. *c* 1500 *Melusine* 50 The fontayne also whiche sourdred & sprang ther haboundauntly.

Soured (sau·id), *ppl. a.* [f. SOUR *v.*]

1. Rendered sour or acid; fermented, leavened.

1382 WYCLIF *Exod.* xii. 15 Who so euer etith sowred breed. 1535 COVERDALE *Exod.* xiii. 7 That there be no.. sowred bred sene in all thy quarters. 1659 GAUDEN *Serm.* (1660) 120 As sowred vinegar is made of the sweetest wine. 1670 COVEL in *Early Voy. Levant* (Hakluyt Soc.) 120 With leaven of salt and sower'd honey and oil. 1721 R. KEITH tr. *T. à Kempis, Solil. Soul* x. 177, I am like a soured Vessel and wholly unworthy of the Inpouring of thy good Spirit. 1873 TRISTRAM *Moab* xiii. 238 A bowl of soured milk—a most delicious draught on a broiling day.

2. Of persons: Embittered, crabbed.

1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* I, Miss Clapp..is declared by the soured old lady to be an unbearable and impudent little minx. 1857 W. COLLINS *Dead Secret* III. i, He returned to his father's house, a soured man at the outset of life. 1885 MISS BRADDON *Wyllard's Weird* II. i. 24 Even a soured old maid such as I could but yield to her charm.

Hence **Sou·redness.**

1858 GILFILLAN in *Wyatt's Poet. Wks.* p. xvi, In his Satires we find what we may call a mellowed souredness of spirit.

Sou·ren, *v. north. dial.* [f. SOUR *a.*] *intr.* To become sour.

1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 82 To sowerne, *acescere*. 1878 in *Cumberld. Gloss.*

Sou·rer. *rare*[-1]. [f. SOUR *v.*] One who sours or causes sourness.

1737 *Gentl. Mag.* VII. 293/1 There is at least a Pair of them; one a Sweetener, the other a Sourer.

† Sou·rfulness. *Obs.*[-1] Sourness.

1590 BARROUGH *Meth. Physick* III. i. (1639) 100 The meats may be perceived to be changed into the savour of rosting or sowerfulnesse.

Sourge, obs. form of SURGE *sb.* and *v.*

Sour grass. Also **sour-grass.** [SOUR *a.*]

1. A tropical grass of the genus *Paspalum*.

1756 P. BROWNE *Jamaica* 365 Sour Grass. The roots and leaves of this plant..cure sores and ulcers. 1864 GRISEBACH *Flora Brit. W. Ind.* 787 Sour-grass, *Paspalum conjugatum*.

2. One or other variety of sorrel (*Rumex* or *Oxalis*). Also *attrib.*

1866 BROGDEN *Prov. Lincs., Sour-grass, Sour-sauce*, the ground sorrel, *Oxalis pratense*. 1888 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Robbery under Arms* xx, The long sour-grass..was dripping with the night dew. 1889 MAIDEN *Usef. Plants* 50 *Oxalis corniculata*,..'Clover Sorrel', or 'Sour Grass'. 1890 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Col. Reformer* (1891) 311 Bred in a 'sour grass' country, far inferior for fattening purposes.

† Sou·rhead. *Obs.*[-1] Sourness.

a 1400 *Stockholm Med. MS.* ii. 827 in *Anglia* XVIII. 327 Sowr[h]ed of ale it wyl abate.

Souring (sau·riŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. SOUR *v.* Cf. Du. *zuring* souring, sorrel, G. *säuer-, säurung* souring, N Fris. *süring* leaven.]

1. A substance which renders sour or acid; *spec.* leaven, lemon-juice, or vinegar. Also *fig.* Now chiefly *dial.*

14.. *Wycliffite Bible* 1 Cor. v. 7 As ȝe ben therf, or without soure thing [*v.r.* sowryng]. 1751 SMOLLETT *Per. Pic.* xci. (1779) IV. 91 A double proportion of sowering was visible in his aspect. 1777 — *Humph. Cl.* 13 July (1815) 239 Looking at me with a double squeeze of souring in his aspect. 1814 SCOTT *Wav.* xxix, Mine host..infused a double portion of souring into the pharisaical leaven of his countenance. 1849 HUNTER *Hallamshire Gloss.* 84 *Souring*, dough left in the tub from one baking of oat-cakes to another. 1856 HALIBURTON *Clockm.* Ser. II. ix, There's another lemon left, squire, spose we mix a little more sourin' afore we turn in. 1841 HARTSHORNE *Salop. Ant.* Gloss., *Souring*, vinegar.

b. A preparation used in bleaching and tanning.

1777 *Phil. Trans.* LXVIII. 124 In the old method, the tanners made use of sourings brewed generally from rye, or some other grain.

2. The process or fact of becoming or making sour.

1579 FULKE *Refut. Rastel* 76 He wil haue no wine for feare of sowering. 1662 MERRET in Charleton *Myst. Vintners* (1675) 222 To prevent souring of French Wines. 1673 BOYLE *Ess. Effluviums* II. 30 Talking with her about the remedies of the Sowring of Beer and other drinks by Thunder. 1743 *Lond. & Country Brewer* IV. (ed. 2) 280 Though Yeast naturally tends to the sowering of all Drink it is beat into. 1830 M. DONOVAN *Dom. Econ.* I. 167 That commencement of acetification or souring called *foxing*. 1886 C. H. FAGGE *Princ. & Pract. Med.* I. 21 The lactic acid fermentation or souring of milk.

b. *fig.* with reference to character or temper.

1874 L. STEPHEN *Hours in Library* (1892) II. iii. 89 Hazlitt's cynicism is the souring of a generous nature. 1902 *Contemp. Rev.* Mar. 453 The well-nigh inevitable souring of the dishoused peasant into guerilla or brigand.

3. *spec.* The process of subjecting cloth, wool, skins, etc., to the action of diluted acids.

1756 F. HOME *Exper. Bleaching* 37 The general process of bleaching divides itself into these different parts. 1. Steeping and milling. 2. Bucking and boiling... 4. Souring. 1844 G. DODD *Textile Manuf.* ii. 51 The process of 'grey souring', in which the cloth passes through a machine..containing very dilute sulphuric acid. 1882 CROOKES *Dyeing* 7 Next follows souring, known as the 'lime-sour', or 'grey-sour'.

attrib. 1756 F. HOME *Exper. Bleaching* 77 The souring process had been going on for two days. *Ibid.*, In the souring vat. 1875 *Encycl. Brit.* III. 820/1 A souring-well under the souring-box is now filled with water and sulphuric acid.

4. A sourish variety of apple; *dial.* a crab-apple.

1846 J. BAXTER *Libr. Pract. Agric.* (ed. 4) I. 59 Fearn's pippin,..Hanwell souring. 1860 R. HOGG *Fruit Manual* II Hanwell Souring...Flesh firm, crisp, and briskly acid. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1075/1 *Souring*, a country name for the Crab apple. 1896 *Warwicksh. Word-bk.* 221 *Souring*, an apple for winter use.

Sou·ring, *ppl. a.* [f. SOUR *v.*] That becomes or makes sour.

1710 M. HENRY *Christianity No Sect* Wks. 1857 II. 445/1 The leaven of the Pharisees which is both souring and swelling. 1859 DICKENS *T. Two Cities* II. xv, A sour wine, or a souring, for its influence on the mood of those who drank it was to make them gloomy. 1883 GRANT WHITE *Washington Adams* 33 Pleasing and picturesque, and yet souring and doughing.

Sourish (sau·riʃ), *a.* Also 4–5 **sourische, 5 -isshe, -yssh̃e, 7–8 sowrish** (7 **-ishe**), **sowerish.** [f. SOUR *a.* + -ISH.] Somewhat sour, in various senses: **a.** Of things, taste, or smell.

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XVII. xii. (Bodl. MS.), Wormod is ful scharpe herbe, hote and druye, ful sourische & bitter. 1477 NORTON *Ord. Alch.* v. in Ashm. (1652) 74 And so is Sowerish tast called Sapor Pontick. 1598 BP. HALL *Sat.* v. ii, When pleasing Bourdeaux falls unto his lot, Some sourish Rochelle cuts thy thirsting throat. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* III. 82 They have a kind of bread brownish and sowrish, and made with aniseeds. 1693 EVELYN *De la Quint. Compl. Gard.* I. 142 The bad Qualities of Plums, are..to have their Pulp tough, mealy, and doughy,..or sharp and sowrish. 1725 *Fam. Dict.* s.v. *Cider*, If it be only a little sowerish. 1807 T. THOMSON *Chem.* (ed. 3) II. 268 Muriatic acid is to be added, with constant stirring,.. till the mass tastes a little sourish. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 30/1 The sap above referred to is of a sourish taste. 1884 J. BURROUGHS *Pepacton* 173 Not so dry, and having a sourish smell.

fig. 1647 TRAPP *Comm. Rev.* xii. 12 Grosse, troubled, brackish, and sowrish doctrine.

b. Of persons (or animals), temper, etc.

1688 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 2328/4 A Dapple grey Gelding,..a sowrish Head, a little hollow backt. 1792 in *Ld. Auckland's Corr.* (1861) II. 450 His own sourish disposition being naturally much heightened by such horrid doings. 1889 JOHNSTON *Glenbuckie* xii. 145 A worthy, albeit a sourish person. 1897 *Daily News* 19 Oct. 6/1 A lovable fellow in contrast with the narrow, sourish northerner.

Comb. 1859 GEO. ELIOT *A. Bede* xvii, I believe he meant right at bottom; but..he was sourish-tempered.

Hence **Sou·rishly** *adv.*; **Sou·rishness.**

1670 W. SIMPSON *Hydrol. Ess.* 81, I haue tasted one near Chesterfield in Derbyshire, which hath a very strong sowrishness. 1719 LONDON & WISE *Compl. Gard.* 66 'Tis very juicy, and has a smack of Sowrishness. 1846 LANDOR *Exam. Shaks.* Wks. II. 266 Master Silas..looked sourishly, and cried aloud.

† Sou·rkit. *Sc. Obs.*[-1] [f. SOUR *a.* + (?) KIT *sb.*[1]] Some form of sour milk or cream.

1549 *Compl. Scot.* vi. 43 Thai maid grit cheir of..curdis and quhaye, sourkittis, fresche buttir ande salt buttir.

† Sou·rling. *Obs.*[-1] [f. SOUR *a.*] A person of a sour disposition.

1784 *Unfortunate Sensibility* I. Ded. p. ix, In spite of all such sourlings and grim-faced monsters,..I must, and will, subscribe [etc.].

Sourly (sau·rli), *adv.* Also 6–8 **sowerly,** 6–7 **sowr(e)ly(e,** 6 **sour(e)lie,** 7 **sourely.** [f. SOUR *a.* Cf. MDu. *suur-, zuurlike*, MSw. *surliga*.]

1. In a sour, peevish, or disagreeable manner:

a. With intransitive verbs, esp. *to look.*

1533 FRITH *Judgem. Tracy* (1829) 249 Why look you so sourly, good brethren? 1535 COVERDALE *Ecclus.* xxii. 22 Yf he speake sowerly, feare not. 1598 BARCKLEY *Felic. Man* (1631) 660 Who seemed to grind his teeth and to looke sowrely upon him. 1607 SHAKS. *Cor.* v. iii. 13 Though I shew'd sowerly to him. 1675 BROOKS *Gold. Key* Wks. 1867 V. 196 This truth looks very sourly and frowningly upon all such as deny the godhead of Christ. 1700 DRYDEN *Pal. & Arc.* II. 303 To this reply'd the stern Athenian Prince, And sow'rly smild. 1726 POPE *Odyss.* xx. 183 Two dogs of chase..Behind him sourly stalk'd. 1835 LYTTON *Rienzi* v. vii, The Cardinal smiled sourly. 1881 MISS BRADDON *Asphodel* III. 279 'At eighteen I was not a fool,' replied Mrs. Ferrers sourly.

b. With transitive verbs.

1548 UDALL, etc. *Erasm. Par. Matt.* v. 42 Waye not sowrelye nor extremely whiche is more in faulte. 1583 MELBANCKE *Philotimus* T ij, I..being sourelie rebuked for fawning on thee, am yet as fruitfull in thy loue. 1642 H. MORE *Song of Soul* IV. iv, It did much displease, That any should so sourely him outface. 1697 DRYDEN *Æneid* IX. 52 They keep the strict command, And sourly wait in arms the hostile band. 1847 EMERSON *Poems, Threnody* Wks. (Bohn) I. 491 O richest fortune sourly crossed! Born for the future, to the future lost!

c. With adjectives.

1847 C. BRONTE *Jane Eyre* xviii, Her face grew momently ..more sourly expressive of disappointment. 1884 BROWNING *Ferishtah* Poet. Wks. 1907 XVI. 80 The sourly-Sage, for whom life's best was death.

2. With great dislike or distaste.

a 1548 HALL *Chron., Edw. IV*, 39 b, All the Constables promises were..swetely spoken, and soweryly performed. 1579 TWYNE *Phis. agst. Fortune* II. Ep. Ded. 161 What contention haue children with their bookes and learning, most sowerly sowing that, which they shall reape most sweetlie.

3. With sourness or acidity.

1574 HYLL *Bees* xiii, [One] not breathing sourly or of a stinking breath. 1881 *Standard* 29 Oct. 1/2 I'd try their sourness, if I knew Where those gooseberries sourly grew.

Sourmouncie: see SURMOUNCY.

Sourness (sau·nés). Also 1 **surnes,** 5–6 **sowrenes,** 5–7 **-ness(e,** 6 **sowernes(se,** 5 **sour-,** 6 **sourenes,** 6–7 **-nesse,** etc. [f. SOUR *a.*]

1. The quality of being physically sour; acidity, tartness.

c 1050 in WR.-WÜLCKER 347 *Acredinis*, surnesse. *c* 1400 *Lanfranc's Cirurg.* 195 An oynement maad of armoniac & with þe sournes of citri. 14.. *Contin. Brut* CCXXIV. 292 þe fruyte of þe erþe..were turned into more saltnes & sournes of sauour. 1532 TINDALE *Exp. Matt. v–vii.* (1550) 67 As thou couldest not se leuen though thou breakest vp a loffe, excepte thou smelledest and tastedeste the sourenesse. 1551 TURNER *Herbal* II. 58 Unrype mulberries besyde theyr tartnes they haue also a sournes. 1605 TIMME *Quersit.* I. iv. 19 Sulphur..doth contemper the sharpness or sowerness of mercurie. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* IV. 215 He knew to.. tame to Plumbs, the Sourness of the Sloes. 1731 MILLER *Gard. Dict.* s.v. *Malt-dust*, Where the Grounds..have contracted a Sourness and Austerity. 1765 *Universal Mag.* XXXVII. 371/2 Any little sournesses [of stomach] they may have. 1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 441 It has a slightly saltish taste, but no sourness. 1837 P. KEITH *Bot. Lex.* 6 They excite in the palate the sensation of sourness. 1864 *Hardwich's Phot. Chem.* (ed. 7) 12 The characteristics of acids may be stated to be, intense sourness and corrosiveness.

2. The quality of being sour in temper, disposition, or looks.

1482 *Monk of Evesham* XXX. (Arb.) 72 In thys that sche ..in her herte hylde rancour and sowernes agenste hem, sche gretely offendyd. 1548 ELYOT, *Tetricitas*, sowernesse.. of countinaunce. 1608 DOD & CLEAVER *Expos. Prov. ix–x.* 120 Let not our sourenesse and discontentment..be any meanes of their discouragement. 1641 J. JACKSON *True Evang. T.* I. 69 The Millenaries..expect..that all sowernesse amongst Christians shall be absorpt of Charity. 1711 STEELE *Spect.* No. 2 P 1 This Humour creates him no Enemies, for he does nothing with Sourness or Obstinacy. 1779 COWPER *Let.* 31 Oct., Some sourness in his temper. 1821 LAMB *Elia.* I. *Old Benchers Inner T.*, His look was uninviting, resembling (but without his sourness) that of our great philanthropist. 1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) V. 44 Drink..will mellow the sourness of age.

Sourock (sū·rək). *Sc.* Forms: 5 **sowrok,** 6 **-ak,** 7 **-ock**; 6 **sourak, -och,** 8– **sourock** (8 **-uck,** 9 **-ack, -ick, sourrock, surrock, soorock**). [f. SOUR *a.* Cf. MDu. *zuric* (Kilian *suerick*), MLG. *sureke* (LG. *sürken, sürk*), WFris. *surk.*] The common sorrel, *Rumex acetosa*; also, sheep's sorrel, *R. acetosella.*

c 1480 HENRYSON *Sum Pract. Med.* 29 Ane medecyne for þe maw,..with sueit satlingis and sowrokis. 1549 *Compl. Scot.* vi. 67, I sau..sourakkis, that vas gude for the blac gulset. 1596 in *Analecta Scotica* II. 23 The seid of.. sorrelis or sourochis. 1673 WEDDERBURN *Voc.* 18 (Jam.), *Acetosa*, sowrocks. 1777 LIGHTFOOT *Flora Scotica* II. 1131 *Rumex acetosa*. The Sowruck. *Rumex acetosella*. Sheep's Sowruck. 1823 GALT *Entail* xxxiii, Ye hae been eating sourrocks instead o' lang-kail. *a* 1879 T. ORMOND in Edwards *Modern Sc. Poets* 2nd Ser. (1881) 360 Winnelstraes an' souricks grew On oor lumheid.

attrib. 1568 SKEYNE *Pest* (1860) 37 Mixt with thrid port of water or with rose, or sowrak vatteris. 1865 JANET HAMILTON *Poems* 222 A bunch o' surrock seed in his haun'.

b. *fig.* A sour-tempered person.

1723 RAMSAY *Fair Assembly* xvi, Ye sourocks, hafflines fool, ha'f knave! Wha hate a dance or sang.

Sourquidous, variant of SURQUIDOUS *a.*

Soursaut, variant of SURSAUT *Obs.*

† Sourse deorse, *adv. Obs.*[-1] [ad. L. *sursus deorsus* or *sursum deorsum.*] Up and down.

1616 J. LANE *Contn. Sqr.'s T.* IV. 290 Behold, amidd the aier, the brazen horse Came in his mayne carryer, of sourse deorse.

Sour-sop. *Bot.* Also **sour sop, soursop.** [f. SOUR *a.* + SOP *sb.*[1]]

1. The fruit of the West Indian tree, *Anona muricata.*

1667 *Phil. Trans.* II. 501 The Sower-sop, a pleasant fruit there, hath a flower with three leaves. 1683 TRYON *Way to Health* 570 Sweet Oranges and Lemmons, Plantans, Coco-Nuts, Sower-Sops, &c. 1703 DAMPIER *Voy.* III! I. 67 The Sour-sop (as we call it) is a large Fruit as big as a Man's Head,..and of a green Colour. 1740 *New Hist. Jamaica* 51 Fruits grow in great Plenty,..Mamies, sour Sops, Papas,.. and several Kind of Berries. *c* 1825 CHOYCE *Log Jack Tar* (1891) 22 We..got plenty and abundance of fruit, such as oranges, limes,..pears, soursops, &c. 1849 BALFOUR *Man. Bot.* § 745 The Custard-apples, Sweetsops, and Soursops, of the East and West Indies, are furnished by various species of Anona. 1871 KINGSLEY *At Last* ii, It is the cousin of the prickly sour-sop.

2. The tree bearing this fruit.

1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. *App., Soure-sop*, or *Sowre-sop*, in botany, a distinct genus of plants, called by botanists *guanabanus* and *anona*. 1764 GRAINGER *Sugar Cane* I. 598 A neighbouring dell, (Which nature to the Soursop had resign'd). 1824 LOUDON *Encycl. Gard.* (ed. 2) § 6732 The following are some of the most remarkable of the economical tropical plants...Sour-sop (*Annona muricata*). 1880 BESSEY *Botany* 561 *A. squamosa*, Sweet Sop, and *A. muricata*, Sour sop,..produce edible fruits.

3. *attrib.*, as *sour-sop bird, tree.*

1696 SLOANE *Catal. Plantarum Jamaica* 204 The Sowre-sop Tree. 1756 P. BROWNE *Jamaica* 255 The Soursop Tree. This..is one of the most common plants in every Savanna. 1834 *Penny Cycl.* II. 54/2 The following spirited sketch..of the appearance of the sour sop tree. 1895 *Funk's Stand. Dict.* s.v., *Sour-sop bird*,..tanager (*Calliste versicolor*).

Sour-sweet, *a.* and *sb.* [f. the adjs.]

A. *adj.* Sweet with an admixture or aftertaste of sourness. Also *fig.*

1591 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* I. v. 279 The Scolopendra have suckt-in The sowr-sweet morsell with the barded Pin. 1601 MARKHAM *Mary Magd. Lament.* Pref. 18 They cannot sigh..With contrite minds such soure-sweete throbs to stain. 1633 G. HERBERT *Temple, Bitter-sweet* ii, All my sowre-sweet dayes I will lament, and love. 1859 MEREDITH *R. Feverel* xxxviii, 'A choice of evils,' said Mrs. Doria's sour-sweet face and shake of the head. 1871 KINGSLEY *At Last* x, He..peels carefully off the skin,..and eats the sour-sweet refreshing pulp.

B. *sb.* Something which is sour-sweet; *spec.* an acid sweetmeat.

1603 J. DAVIES (Heref.) *Microcosmos* Wks. (Grosart) I. 42/2 Sinne's sowre-Sweetes do fleete To make the Mind abhorre her former lust. 1612 — *Muse's Sacrifice* Ibid. II. 83/1 My Proheme is a Feast, Whereat my Muse doth surfet with sowre-sweetes. 1896 ACKWORTH *Clog Shop Chron.* 227 When Ben had taken his seat, and given a sour-sweet to each of the children.

Sourtout, variant of SURTOUT.

† Sou·ry, *a.* *Obs.*[-1] [f. SOUR *a.*] Sourish.

1647 CLARENDON *State Papers* II. 367 If I had a mind to be so sowery as to make comparisons with you.

‖ Sous- (sū, sūz), *prefix*, representing OF. and mod.F. *sous* (:—L. *subtus*) 'under', 'sub-', in a few words directly adopted from French, as the ME. **† sous-prior** [OF. *souspriour*, mod.F. *-prieur*], subprior; **† sous-cellarer** [OF. *souscelleriere* fem.], under-cellarer; and the later or modern **sous-basha, -lieutenant, -ministre, -officier, -prefect** [F. *sous-préfet*].

(*a*) 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 10144 Þe sousprior of hor hous þe monekes chose echon. 1426 LYDG. *De Guil. Pilgr.* 22237, I am Sowcelerere Off this place, and Pytauncere.

(*b*) 1687 A. LOVELL tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* I. 279 The Officer whom in Turky they call the *Sous-basha. 1841 LEVER *C. O'Malley* I. 267, I was two days ago, *chasseur à cheval*, a *sous-lieutenant in the regiment of my father. 1855 *Chamb. Jrnl.* 24 Feb. 113/1 This Lord Milton was the acting *sous-ministre* for Scotland in the administration of Walpole. 1826 H. D. BESTE *Four Yrs. France* 318 He engaged a *sous-officier to come daily to the house to teach him the manual exercise. 1889 GUNTER *That Frenchman* xvii. 215 The imperial guardsman and *sous-prefect of the secret police.

† Sou·sant, *a.* *Obs.*[-1] A mock-heraldic term f. SOUSE *v.*[1]

1595 *Enq. Tripe-wife* in Grosart *Eliz. Eng.* (1881) 172 A Chitterling rampant in a field sowsant, two haggas puddings for the supporters.

Souse (saus), *sb.*[1] Now *dial.* and *U.S.* Forms: 4 sows, 5–9 sowse (5 sowsse), sowce; 5–8 souce, 5 sovse, 6– souse. [a. OF. *sous* (*souz, soulz, soult*, = Prov. *soutz, sols*), or *souce*, ad. OHG. *sulza*, OS. *sulta*, or directly f. the Germanic stem *sult-* (see SALT *v.*[1] and SILT *sb.*), whence also It. *solcio* pickle, condiment.

The OF. forms, partly given by Godefroy under *soult*, are specially illustrated and discussed by A. Thomas in *Romania* (1909), pp. 579–582.

1. Various parts of a pig or other animal, esp. the feet and ears, prepared or preserved for food by means of pickling.

1391 *Durham Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 50 In uno dolio emp. pro le sows, ijs. ijd. 14.. *Lat.-Eng. Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 614 *Succidium*, Sovse. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 466/1 Sowce, mete, *succidium*. *c* 1460 J. RUSSELL *Bk. Nurture* 360 in *Babees Bk.* (1868) 139 Salt, sowre, and sowse, alle suche bow set a-side. *a* 1529 SKELTON *Agst. Garnesche* iii. 32 Ye slvfferd vp sowse In my lady Brewsys howse. 1595 *Enq. Tripe-wife* in Grosart *Eliz. Eng.* (1881) 149 Thy tripes were yong, thy neates feete fat and faire, Thy sowse was sweete. *a* 1625 FLETCHER *Woman's Prize* I. iv, I'll tell you in a word, I am sent to lay An Imposition upon Souse and Puddings, Pasties, and penny Custards. 1675 HANNAH WOOLLEY *Gentlew. Comp.* 154 Soust Veal, Lamb, [etc.]:..boil it close covered, that the souse may look white. 1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), *Sousce*,..a kind of Jelly, made of Hogs-Ears and Feet boil'd in Water, and afterwards cut into small Pieces, to be stew'd in Vinegar and Sugar. 1725 *Fam. Dict.* s.v., To make an Intermess of Souse, let Hogs Ears and Feet be boil'd after the usual manner [etc.]. 1829 BROCKETT *N. C. Gloss.* (ed. 2), *Souse*, a dish composed of pig's ears, etc. fried. 1854 H. H. RILEY *Puddleford* 147 [I] can give you mush, souse, slap-jacks, briled pork. 1872 DE VERE *Americanisms* 549 *Souse*..means in Pennsylvania more generally pigs' feet.

b. *transf.* The ears; also in *sing.*, an ear.

a 1658 CLEVELAND *Model New Rel.* 33 How Quops the Spirit? In what Garb or Air? With Souse erect, or Pendent, Winks, or Haws? 1673 MRS. BEHN *Dutch Lover* III. ii, A slink, greasie Hair..through which a pair of large thin souses appear'd. 1708 *Brit. Apollo* No. 57. 2/2 The Dog their large Sowces soon bit. 1787 GROSE *Prov. Gloss.*, *Souse*, the ear, most properly that of a hog, from its being frequently pickled or sowsed. 1825 JENNINGS *Obs. Dial. W. Eng.* 71 *Souse*,..the ear. *Pigs sousen*, pigs ears. 1895 *Dial. Notes* (Amer. Dial. Soc.) I. 383 'Bounder your souse well'=wash your ears well.

2. A liquid employed as a pickle.

1502 ARNOLDE *Chron.* (1811) 189 Take..fenell sede broken and bounde in a clothe and ley it in the same souse for oon day. 1523 FITZHERB. *Husb.* § 121 Ready at all tymes to eate in the wynter season, and to be layde in souse. 1620 VENNER *Via Recta* iii. 70 The feete of a Bullocke or Heifer,..tenderly sodden, and layed in sowce. 1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), *Souce*, a sort of Pickle for a Collar of Brawn, Pork, &c. 1801 *The Port-Folio* I. 352 (Thornton), Thy ears and feet in Souse shall lie. 1883 'ANNIE THOMAS' *Mod. Housewife* 102 The savoury 'souses' of vinegar, bay-leaves, and spices into which we plunged the other [fish] when baked.

fig. 1619 FLETCHER, etc. *Knt. Malta* II. i, I am in souce I thank ye; thanke your beauty. 1650 T. B[AYLEY] *Worcester's Apoph.* 101 As a thing newly taken out of the sowse of so many friends blood. 1675 HOBBES *Odyssey* VIII. 331 After he had left Calypso's house Warm and sweet water he had never seen, But roll'd by Neptune always was in souse.

† b. *To sell souse* : (see quot.). *Obs.*

1611 COTGR. s.v. *Groin, Faire le groin*, to powt, lowre, frowne, be sullen, or surlie; to hang the lip, or sell sowce.

3. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *souse-ale, -drink, -fish, -kit, -seller, -tub, -wife, -woman.*

In some cases perhaps the verbal stem.

1444 *Compota Domest.* (Abbotsford Club) 25 Liberantur Roberto Cooke pro *sowceale..C lagene (bere). 1653 *Bibliotheca Parl.* 3 A Garden of sweet flowers, or a Senator in *Souce-drink, by Alderman Atkins. 1676 *Phil. Trans.* XI. 600 They were put..in souse-drink, or pickle. 1704 *Dict. Rust.* s.v. *Brawn*, Put them into Souce-drink made of Oatmeal..and bran boyled in fair Water. 1695 WOOD *Life* (O.H.S.) III. 495 All sorts of *souse fish (lobsters, crayfish). 1565 *Richmond Wills* (Surtees) 179 In the larder..j *sowse-kytt, and j bread grater. 1578 *Knaresborough Wills* (Surtees) I. 133 Two sousekittes. 1648 HEXHAM I, A Sowse seller. 1561 *Entert. Temple* in Nichols *Progr. Q. Eliz.* I. 137 The Clerk of the Kitchen..and the Clark of the *Sowce-tub. 1630 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Gt. Eater Kent* 10 Eighteene yards of blacke puddings..haue suddenly been imprisoned in his sowse-tub. 1706 J. DUNTON in *Life & Errors* (1818) II. 451 His brains are in a perpetual souce-tub: the pickle..is only changed from Ale to Wine. 1887 PARISH & SHAW *Kentish Gloss.* 156 Sowse-tub. 1592 GREENE *Upst. Courtier* Wks. (Grosart) XI. 284 He knoweth..what the *sowse wiues are able to make of the inwards. 1622 FLETCHER *Prophetess* I. iii, Ye may be an honest butcher or allied to an honest family of sowse-wives. 1620 MARKHAM *Farew. Husb.* (1668) 46 You shall then deal with Butchers, *Sowse-women, Slaughter-men, scullions and the like.

Souse (saus), *sb.*[2] Now *dial.* Forms: 5–7 sowce, 6 souce; 5, 7, 9 sowse, 6– souse, 8 souse (9 *dial.* soose, etc.). [Of obscure origin, perh. imitative; cf. MHG. and MLG. *sûs* (G. *saus*, Du. *gesuis*, etc.), noise, din.]

1. A heavy blow; a thump.

1480 *Robt. Devyll* 228 in Hazl. *E. P. P.* I. 228 Pryuelye behynde them woulde he steale, And geue them a sowce with hys hande. 1567 GOLDING *Ovid's Met.* V. (1593) 108 To Petales he lendeth such a souse Full in the noddle of the necke. 1596 SPENSER *F. Q.* IV. viii. 44 His murdrous mace he vp did reare, That seemed nought the souse thereof could beare. 1638 HEYWOOD *Wise Wom.* II. i, Now what did I? but spying the Watch, went and hit the Constable a good sowse on the Eare. 1653 URQUHART *Rabelais* I. xxvii, To some with a smart souse on the Epigaster he would make their midriff swag. 1778 MISS BURNEY *Evelina* xxi, I desire he'll give you such another souse as he did before. 1809 T. DONALDSON *Poems* 13 I'd daud or gie him weel his souses. 1825– in many dialect glossaries. 1893 COZENS-HARDY *Brd. Norf.* 5 One boy will give another a clip o' the head or a sowse o' the skull.

b. *Souse for souse*, blow for blow.

1575 TURBERV. *Faulconrie* 55 The hobby..dares encounter the crowe, and to giue souse for souse and blowe for blowe with him in the ayre. 1581 RICH *Farew.* (1846) 208 There was betweene them souse for souse, and boxe for boxe, that it was harde to judge who should have the victorie.

2. A heavy fall. (Cf. Soss *sb.*[2])

1774 D. GRAHAM *Hist. Rebellion* (ed. 3) 70 He first fell on a thatched house, Next on a midden with a *souse*. *c* 1890 LYTTLE *Robin Gordon* 79 (E.D.D.), A wud wauken up wi' the souse she cum doon on the grun.'

† Souse, *sb.*[3] *Hawking. Obs.* Forms: 5–6 souce, 6–7 sowce, souse, 7 sowse. [Alteration of SOURCE *sb.* 2 a.]

1. The act, on the part of a bird, of rising from the ground, as giving the hawk an opportunity to strike. Only in phr. *at (the) souse.*

1486 *Bk. St. Albans, Hawking* d j b, Iff youre hawke nym the fowle a lofte: ye shall say she toke it at the mounte or at the souce. 1575 TURBERV. *Faulconrie* 127 The Sparowhawkes do vse to kill the fowle at the Sowrce or Souse, as the Goshawkes do, whiche nature hathe taught them. *c* 1595 CAPT. WYATT *Dudley's Voy.* (Hakl. Soc.) 20 The fowle noe soener is putt of from the ryver for the servinge of her, but præsentlie shee falleth and killeth her praie at sowce. 1618 LATHAM *Falconry* (1633) 49 That will cause her to..master them, as it were, at the sowce, within a short space, being no way able in that season to make wing, to hold out before such a Hawke. 1620 FLETCHER *Chances* IV. i, Her feares creeping upon her, Dead as a fowle at souse, she'll sinke.

fig. 1600 W. WATSON *Decacordon* (1602) 145 They [Jesuits] haue, like great fawcons or hawkes of the Tower, firmely seazed vpon the pray, kild, at randon, wing, or souce.

2. The act, on the part of a hawk, of swooping down upon a bird. Also *fig.*

Perh. partly due to confusion with *sb.*[2]

1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* II. xi. 36 As a Faulcon faire That once hath failed of her souse full neare. *a* 1618 SYLVESTER *Maiden's Blush* 342 The stout Ger-Faulcon stoopeth at the Herne, With sudden Souse, that many scarce discerne. 1638 FORD *Fancies* III. ii, I presume she is a wanton, And therefore mean to give the sowse whenever I find the game on wing.

† Souse, *sb.*[4] *Obs.* Forms: (see below). [a. OF. *sous* (also *soux, souz*), pl. of *sout, solt*, later *sol* SOL *sb.*[3] and *sou* SOU. See also SOULX.

Instances in rime show that the usual pron. was (saus): cf. Smart (1836) 'in plain vulgar English we say *a sowse*'.]

1. A French coin and money of account, equal to the twentieth part of a livre; a sol or sou.

α. *pl.* α. 6 souss, 6–8 sous, 7 soues. β. 6 sowse (sowsse), 6–7 sowse, 6, 8 sowce, 7 sowce.

For 19th cent. examples of *sous* see SOU.

α. 1502 ARNOLDE *Chron.* (1811) 190 Item xv. sousz of Burdeux makithe a franke whiche is ij. s. *a* 1513 FABYAN *Chron.* VII. CCXXXV. (1516) 158 They shuld paye to the sayd Abbot & Couent lx. M. Sous. 1600 SURFLET *Countrie Farme* I. xxi. 120 The men of old..sold them in the time of the Romaines for ten Sous a peece. 1633 in *Northern N. & Q.* I. 93 My fencin and dansin extendes monthli to 25 lib. 10 soues. 1707 in *Sewall's Diary* (1879) II. 37* Shot.. was Sold at 13 Sous per Pound.

β. 1512 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* IV. 294 Aucht hundreth foure skoire three frankis xj sowse, spendit be the said Johne Balzard. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. V*, 45 b, A greate part of the women and children he expelled the toune, geving to every poore creature five sowse. 1586 T. B. *La Primaud. Fr. Acad.* I. 426 A bill..wherein is set downe 20. souse for two new sleeves to his old dublet. 1600 HAKLUYT *Voy.* (1810) III. 258, I thinke all that they had together..was not worth five souce. *a* 1618 RALEIGH *Obs.* in *Remains* (1661) 200 The King hath raised his silver four Sowce in the Crown. 1690 STRUTTON *Relat. Cruelties of French* 27 Here our grand Driver..gave us five Souse a Man. 1759 B. MARTIN *Nat. Hist.* I. 128 The Plaintiff must allow him five Souce per day.

b. *sing.* α. 6–9 sous. β. 6–7, 9 sowse, 7 sowce; 6–9 souse.

α. *a* 1513 FABYAN *Chron.* VII. CCXXXV. (1516) 158 A sous is in value after starlyng money 1. d. ob. 1568 *Satir. Poems Reform.* xlvi. 38 Quhair scho findis a fallow fyne, He wilbe frawcht-fre for a sous. 1611 COTGR., *Sol*, a Sous, or the French shilling. 1675 H. NEVILE tr. *Machiavelli's Wks., State France* 262 A sous or penny a day for their Chamber. 1808 *Sporting Mag.* XXXII. 63 Such a potful, indeed, costs only one sous. 1823 in J. A. Heraud *Voy. & Mem. Midshipman* viii. (1837) 137 Grapes are a sous a pound, and peaches twelve for a sous, which is a halfpenny.

β. 1528 SIR R. WESTON in Dillon *Calais & Pale* (1892) 92 Of every cowe or oxe j souse frenche. 1547 BOORDE *Introd. Knowl.* xxvii. (1870) 191 A sowse is worth .xii. bras pens. 1624 HEYWOOD *Captives* V. iii. in Bullen *O. Pl.* IV, Tush, offer me a sowse but not in th' eare. 1655 tr. *Sorel's Com. Hist. Francion* V. 20 The Shewes at the Fair of St. Germans, which he had seen not long before for a Souse. *a* 1658 CLEVELAND *Model New Rel.* 21 For Sprats are rose an Omer for a Souse.

c. *pl.* 6 souces, sowces, *Sc.* soussis, sowsis, 6–7 sowses, 7 souses, souzes.

1523 LD. BERNERS *Froiss.* I. clv. 187 Labourers and workemen..shall pay x. souces. 1550 *Records of Elgin* (New Spald. Cl.) I. 103 Ordanit that na persoun..rafuse..sowsis that pass nocht throch the ring and mesour. 1577 in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* Ser. III. IV. 25 The Frenche Kinge hathe coyned newe sowces. 1612 SPEED *Hist. Gt. Brit.* IX. XV. 94 A fat Mutton was solde for sixe Souses of Paris money. 1655 tr. *Sorel's Com. Hist. Francion* VIII. 28, I have consented to give six Souses for that which is worth but four.

2. Taken as a type of a small coin or amount, with an expressed or implied negative.

α. 1570 *Satir. Poems Reform.* XX. 78 The murther..thay do deny, And countis 30w not ane sous. 1677 OTWAY *Cheats of Scapin* II. i, Not a Sous, damn'd Rascal, let him turn Foot-Soldier and be hang'd. 1709 E. WARD *Rambling Fuddle-Caps* 13 But, Nouns, if the Rake-hell continues thus loose, In Revenge, I'll not leave the young Rebel a Sous. 1761 CHURCHILL *Rosciad* 212 Next came the treasurer of either house; One with full purse, t'other with not a sous. 1805 R. ANDERSON *Cumbld. Ball.* 31 Silly Tom Linton left nit worth a sous.

β. 1676 D'URFEY *Mme. Fickle* I. i, He has no Money now, not a souse—I know it. 1694 ECHARD *Plautus* 199 By George, you shan't be a Sowce the better for what's in it. 1708 MRS. CENTLIVRE *Busie Body* I. i, *Sir Geo.* How cam'st thou by such a liberal Education? *Cha.* Not a Souse out of his Pocket, I assure you. 1782 MISS BURNEY *Cecilia* VIII. viii, There was your friend,..that shot out his brains without paying any body a souse. 1812 COLMAN *Br. Grins, Elder Bro.* (1819) 113 To lounge, and chat, not minding time a souse. 1815 W. H. IRELAND *Scribbleomania* 157 The first, though at times having scarcely a souse, Talks loudly, forsooth, of her Old Manor House.

Souse (saus), *sb.*[5] Also 8 souze. [f. SOUSE *v.*[1]]

1. An act of sousing; a plunge into, immersion in, or drenching with, water; *dial.*, a wash.

1741 LADY M. W. MONTAGU *Corr.* (1906) I. 88, I have sent for my bathing Cloaths, and on Sunday night shall take a souze. 1793 *Minstrel* I. 185, I was a little unsensed by my sudden souse into the stream. 1820 SCOTT *Monast.* V, Still keeping her hand on his collar, she gave him two or three good souses in the watery fluid. 1864 DK. MANCH. *Court & Society* I. 192 A sack and a souse in the river not suiting his tastes. 1889 GRETTON *Memory's Harkback* 107, I was once saved from a souse in Milford Haven by the coachman's presence of mind.

2. A sound as of water surging against something.

1883 F. M. CRAWFORD *Mr. Isaacs* X. 212 His voice was again drowned in the swish and souse of the water.

Souse, *sb.*[6] *Arch.* [AF. *souse* (1395 in Rymer *Fœd.* VII. 794), app. a later form of SOURCE *sb.* 1.] (See quots. and SOURCE *sb.* 1.)

1836 PARKER *Gloss. Archit.* (1850) I. 431 *Souse*, an old term for a corbel, now become obsolete. 1842 GWILT *Archit.* Gloss., *Souse* or *Source*, a support or under-prop.

Souse (saus), *v.*[1] Forms: 4– souse, 4–8 sowse (6 sawse, sewse), 7 souze, 7–8 sowze, 9 *dial.* soose; 5–7 sowce, 6–7, 9 souce. [f. SOUSE *sb.*[1], or ad. OF. **souser.*]

I. *trans.* **1.** To prepare or preserve (meat, fish, etc.) by steeping in some kind of pickle, esp. one made with vinegar or other tart liquor.

1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) VII. 217 Pere Tostius hakked his broþer servantes, and sowsede here lemes, and sente word to þe kyng þat..he schulde have salt mete i-now. *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (1839) xxiii. 251 Thei sleen hem alle, and kutten of hire Eres, and sowcen hem in Vynegre. *c* 1430 *Two Cookery-bks.* 12 An 3if it sowsyd be, lete it stepe a whyle in hot water tyl it be tendere. ? *a* 1500 *Chester Pl.* (Shaks. Soc.) I. 123 Loe ! heares a sheepes heade sawsed in ale. 1530 PALSGR. 725/2, I souce meate, I laye it in some tarte thynge, as they do brawne or suche lyke. 1597 BRETON *Wit's Trenchmour* Wks. (Grosart) II. 11/1 A Tench sowsed, a Smelt fried, and a Shrimp new sodden, are serued in their best kindes. 1641 W. CARTWRIGHT *Lady-Errant* v. i, If they catch the Amazons, They sowce 'em straight, as we do pig, by quarters, Or else do pickle 'em up for winter sallads. 1697 *Phil. Trans.* XIX. 618 An excellently well tasted fish, especially when soused. 1771 MRS. HAYWOOD *New Present for Maid* 268 To souce a Capon. 1782 MISS BURNEY *Cecilia* v. ix, Got a lobster, and two crabs;..stink already; ..forced to souse 'em in vinegar. 1859 TROLLOPE *West Indies* iii. 44 No Horace will teach us..how best to souse our living poultry, so that their fibres when cooked may not offend our teeth.

fig. 1625 B. JONSON *Staple of N.* IV. iv. (1905) 95 Fine Songs, Which we will haue at dinner, steept in claret, And against supper, sowc't in sacke. *a* 1704 T. BROWN *Contin. Quaker's Serm.* Wks. 1709 III. II. 4 Sowse us therefore in the Powdering-Tub of thy Mercy, that we may be Tripes fit for the Heavenly Table.

b. *transf.* To steep or soak *in* honey, oil, etc.

1636 DAVENANT *Wits* (1673) 206 You talk'd too of fat Snails..Sous'd in Luca Oyl. 1658 tr. *Porta's Nat. Magic* IV. ix. 129 Quinces..to be smeared over with wax, and then to be sowsed in honey.

2. To plunge or immerse (a person, etc.) deeply or thoroughly *in* or *into* water, etc. Also with other preps. and without const.

(*a*) 1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* IX, XIX. 366 He sousyd sire Dagonet in that welle. 1530 PALSGR. 725/2 He souced him in the water over heed and eares. 1570 B. GOOGE *Pop. Kingd.* III. (1880) 31 But such as..vnbeliefuers be, No pardon haue though ten times in the fludde they sowsed be. 1600 SURFLET *Countrie Farme* I. XXVIII. 170 To souse him euery day..in sea water, three or fower times a day. 1669 R. COKE *Power & Subj.* 158 To be sousèd over head and ears in cold water. 1703 STEELE *Tender Husb.* III. iii, When I like thee, may I be soused over head and ears in a horse-pond ! 1836 SIR G. HEAD *Home Tour* 418 Twice during the passage, one horse..as narrowly as possible escaped being soused in the canal. 1865 *M.* ARNOLD *Ess. Crit.* viii. 267 A blazing caldron in which Beelzebub is sousing the damned.

(*b*) 1616 SURFL. & MARKH. *Country Farme* I. IXVII. 328 You shall gently take the Hiue from the stone, and sowse it into a sowe of water. 1709 STEELE *Tatler* No. 15 P 2 He sous'd me Head and Ears into a Pail of Water. 1720 *Pol. Ballads* (1860) II. 203 For now the contrivers are tipt with a fee If they souse the subscribers into the South Sea. 1793 *Regal Rambler* 64 He..overturned Master Tommy..and soused him into a deep ditch. 1807–8 W. IRVING *Salmag.* (1824) 328 To ascertain the fact by sousing him into a kettle of hot water.

(*c*) 1596 NASHE *Saffron Walden* 4 Like a horse plunging through the myre in the deep of winter, now soust vp to the saddle, and straight aloft on his tiptoes. 1663 J. HEATH *Flagellum* 13 The said Master of Mis-rule perceiving the matter, caused him..to be thrown into a Pond adjoyning to the House, and there to be sous'd over head and ears. 1736 FIELDING *Pasquin* IV. Wks. 1784 III. 282 One..tumbled down, And he and all his briefs were sous'd together. 1806 J. NEILD in Pettigrew *Mem. Lettsom* (1817) II. 197 On this [chair] the woman was placed, and soused three times under water.

b. In pa. pple. with implication of sense 3.

1508 FISHER 7 *Penit. Ps.* cxlii. Wks. (1876) 244 The synner is lyke vnto a sowe sowsed in dyrte & myre. 1580 BLUNDEVIL *Horsemanship* IV. XXXVI. 17 b, Take a peece of Sponge sowsed well in strong Vineger. 1633 P. FLETCHER *Purple Isl.* VII. lxxiii, His soul quite sowced lay in grapie bloud. 1712 ARBUTHNOT *John Bull* (1727) 109 Like Ulysses upon his plank after he had been well soused in salt-water. 1747 RICHARDSON *Clarissa* (1811) II. xxiii. 149 To send her home well soused in..our deepest horse-pond. 1845 DARWIN *Voy. Nat.* iv. (1879) 76 My animal fell, and I was well soused in black mire.

c. *fig.* or in fig. context.

1567 *Satir. Poems Reform.* IV. 100 Quhat toung..in silence suir can rest? To se ane saule in sorow sowsit. 1583 GREENE *Mamillia* Wks. (Grosart) II. 117 This new betrothed couple ..are..soused in the seas of sorrow. 1646 G. DANIEL *Poems* Wks. (Grosart) II. 4 Some souce in bitter Inke, The venome which they thinke, To taxe the Times. 1680 OTWAY *Catus Marius* IV. i, Let us to yon adjacent Village, and sowse our selves in good Falernium. *a* 1734 NORTH *Examen* I. i. § 21 (1740) 25 Then comes the Treaty and we know not which way to turn, till the Author souces us down in Intrigue. 1781 C. JOHNSTON *Hist. J. Juniper* II. 236 The poverty I had lately been soused in, sweetened my present affluence. 1897 MARY KINGSLEY *W. Africa* 146 But the planter tells him all, sousing him in torrents of words.

3. To drench or soak with water, etc.

a 1542 WYATT *Mean & Sure Estate* Poems (1810) 385 The stormy blastes her caue so sore did sowse;..That..She must lye colde, and wet. 1555 BRADFORD in *Coverdale's Lett. Martyrs* (1564) 281 The showres that ye nowe feele and are soused in. 1594 *Merry Knack to know a Knave* in Hazl. *Dodsley* VI. 565 Sous'd with the surge of Neptune's wat'ry main. 1630 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Discov. by Sea* Wks. II. 22/1 We were enclosed with most dangerous sands. There were we sowsd & slabber'd, wash'd & dash'd. 1786 MME. D'ARBLAY *Diary* 6 Oct., After being wet through over head, and soused through under feet,..what lives we do lead ! 1810 E. D. CLARKE *Trav. Russia* (1839) 34/1, I descended a second time, and was again soused with vessels of water. 1822 MISS MITFORD in L'Estrange *Life* (1870) II. vii. 153, I am afraid [he] got soused in the thunder-storm, owing to his gallantry. 1871 MEREDITH *H. Richmond* xi, Then the engines arrived and soused the burning houses.

b. *fig.* in various senses. † In 18th cent., to impose upon, to swindle, etc.

1545 *Primer Henry VIII* (Parker Soc.) 99 We have now suffered much punishment, being soused with so many wars. 1548 UDALL, etc. *Erasm. Par. John* viii. 59 Inwardly in their hertes soused and washed with much more enormious sin. 1608 MIDDLETON *Trick to catch Old One* I. iv. 68, I soused 'em with bills of charges. 1678 OTWAY *Friendship in F.* IV. i, Death, and the Devil! how that puny Rogue Valentine has souced me? 1778 FOOTE *Trip Calais* I. Wks. 1799 II. 341, I reckon, your lordships were swingingly sous'd on the road? 1832 COBBETT *Rur. Rides* (1885) II. 383 The Dean and Chapter of Durham .. souse him so often with their fines. 1901 *Daily News* 2 Mar. 3/4 When the guns and pom-poms came into action at a gallop and soused the kopjes with shells.

c. Of rain or water: To drown *out* (a fire).

1891 BARING-GOULD *In Troubadour-Land* viii. 110, I found that rain and wind had blown and soused out their little fire.

† **4.** With *up*: ? To bring to extremities. *Obs.*

1534 MORE *Conf. agst. Trib.* I. Wks. 1163/1 Let hym go to no leache craft, nor any maner phisick,..for sirops shold sowce him vp. *c* 1557 *How a Serjeaunt* 20 in Hazl. *E. P. P.* III. 120 An olde trotte..With hir phisicke will keepe one sicke, till she haue sowsed him vp.

5. To dash or pour (a quantity of water or something containing this). Const. *into*, *on*, etc.

1859 GEO. ELIOT *A. Bede* XXVIII, 'Dip my cravat in and souse it on my head'. The water seemed to do him some good. 1901 BUCHANAN *Poems* 44 (E.D.D.), A pail o' cauld water..was soosed into my face.

II. *intr.* **6.** To soak; to be or become soaked or drenched; to fall with a plunge; to go plunging or sinking in water, etc.

c 1400 MAUNDEV. (Roxb.) XXVI. 123 Þai..layes þam in vynegre for to sowce. 1584–7 GREENE *Carde of Fancie* Wks. (Grosart) IV. 81 Iupiter himselfe,..if I had sowsed in the roaring Seas,..would haue prouided some happie Dolphin. 1593 NASHE *Christ's T.* (Grosart) IV. 54 All the sinnes of the first World now welter, souse, and beate vnquietly in the Sea. 1678 SHIPMAN *Hen. III of France* II. ii, Through the lowest Region I flew, Sousing through falling Bogs of Dew. 1679 ALSOP *Melius Inq.* II. iii. 236 Men of parts..are necessitated to sowze over head and ears into Compliance at first Dash. 1781 MME. D'ARBLAY *Let. to Mrs. Thrale* 6 Feb., How shall I keep from stepping into a post-chaise, and sousing through Gascoyne Lane to look after you? 1840 THACKERAY *Barber Cox* Sept., The vessel rode off a little, the board slipped, and down I soused into the water. 1898 M. HEWLETT *Forest Lovers* vi, It's a pity to disturb this baby of mine. Saracen and I had better souse.

b. *dial.* To have a thorough wash.

1895 *Dial. Notes* (Amer. Dial. Soc.) I. 400 I'll go and souse. 1897 JANE *Lordship* xvii. 201 Sousing down to the waist every Sabbath morning.

† **7.** To flow or fall in copious streams. *Obs.*

1591 DRAYTON *Harmony of the Church* (Percy Soc.) 14 The surging seas came sousing in againe. 1648 J. BEAUMONT *Psyche* I. xix, Three times he spew'd Fell sulphur upward: which on his face It soused back, foul Blasphemy ensu'd. *Ibid.* XIV. clix, That storm in full carreer Broke down and sous'd directly on His Head.

Souse (saus), *v.*[2] Now *dial.* Forms: 6 sowse, 6– souse (8 *dial.* sawse, 9 *Sc.* soose); 6, 8 souce, 7 sowce. [Related to SOUSE *sb.*[2]]

1. To strike, smite, or beat severely or heavily.

15.. *Parl. Byrdes* 128 in Hazl. *E. P. P.* III. 173 Than prayed all the common house, That some myght the hauke souse. [*Cf.* 136 To distroy the Hauke and all his blood.] 1575 *Gamm. Gurton* III. iii. 46 Hoyse her, souse her, bounce her, trounce her, pull out her throte-boule. 1596 SPENSER *F. Q.* IV. iv. 30 So sore he sowst him on the compast creast. ? *c* 1630 TRIPLET in Aubrey *Brief Lives* (1898) I. 264 He took up the pillion Of his bouncing maid Jillian, And sowc't her like a baggage. 1703 THORESBY *Lett., Souse,* or *Sawse,* on the ears, *v.* to box. 1725 *New Cant. Dict., To Souse,* to fall upon, to beat cruelly; also to plunder or kill. *a* 1743 RELPH *Misc. Poems* (1747) 4 Up flew her hand to souse the cowren lad. 1787 W. TAYLOR *Scottish Poems* 112 For soundly did he souse my pate. 1809– in dial. glossaries, etc.

b. With advs. or preps.: To dash *against*, knock or cast *down*, etc., with or by a heavy blow or impact.

a 1593 MARLOWE tr. *1st Bk. Lucan* 296 Souse downe the wals, and make a passage forth. 1789 MRS. PIOZZI *Journ. France* I. 399 The people..always take delight to souce an Englishman's hat upon his head. *a* 1813 A. WILSON *Foresters* Poet. Wks. (Belfast ed.) 263 Musk-rats and 'possums in each hand he bore;..And as he soused them down with surly gloom [etc.]. 1828 MOIR *Mansie Wauch* XV. 221 The de'il..soosing her doun frae the lift, she landit in that hole.

† **2.** *absol.* To deliver heavy blows. *Obs.*

1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* I. v. 8 As when a Gryfon..A Dragon fiers encountreth in his flight,..With hideous horrour both together smight, And souce so sore, that they the heauens affray. 1596 *Ibid.* IV. iii. 25 He stroke, he soust, he foynd, he hewd, he lasht.

3. *intr.* To fall heavily or with some weight.

1596 SPENSER *F. Q.* IV. v. 36 About the Andvile standing.. With huge great hammers, that did neuer rest From heaping stroakes, which thereon soused sore. *a* 1600 *Floddan F.* vii. (1664) 72 Them Tennis-balls he sousing sent. 1701 CIBBER *Love makes Man* I. i, About eight o'Clock..flap they all sous'd upon their Knees. 1812 W. TENNANT *Anster F.* IV. XXX. 84 Successively they souse and roll along, Till ..the carcase-cumber'd soil Is strewn with havock of the jumping throng. 1825 BROCKETT *N. C. Gloss., Souse,..*to fall with violence. 1858 R. S. SURTEES *Ask Mamma* xxix. 116 He drew a duplicate chair to the fire,..and, sousing down in it, prepared for a..chat.

Souse (saus), *v.*[3] Now *arch.* Forms: 6– souse, 6–8 sowse (7 sowsse), 7 sowze, sowce. [f. SOUSE *sb.*[3] 2.]

1. *intr.* Of a hawk, etc.: To swoop down; to descend with speed and force. Freq. const. *on* or *upon* (a bird, etc.), and sometimes with *down*.

1589 WARNER *Albion's Eng.* II. xxxi. 139 Kind killing Hawkes but wagge the wing, and worke to sowse anon. 1591 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* I. v. 1087 But suddenly..Down soust the Eagle on the blazing wood. 1626 T. H[AWKINS] *Caussin's Holy Crt.* 63 If the dogges spring some little bird, she [the hobby] sowceth vpon it. 1693 DRYDEN, etc. *Juvenal* xiv. (1697) 343 The Generous Eaglet, who is taught ..to fly at Hares, and sowse on Kids. 1720 POPE *Iliad* XVII. 765 The sacred eagle..sousing on the quivering hare. 1762 BEATTIE *Pigm. & Cranes* 162 A fowl enormous, sousing from above, The gallant chieftain clutch'd. 1806 J. GRAHAME *Birds of Scot.* 70 Now up she rises, and, with arrowed pinions, Impetuous souses.

b. *transf.* and *fig.* of persons or things.

1583 T. WATSON *Poems* (Arb.) 103 For when he first espyde my raunging Heart, He Falcon like came sowsing from aloofe. 1590 LODGE *Euphues Gold. Leg.* H iv, Be blythe and frolicke man, Loue soweth as low as she soareth high. 1668 DRYDEN *Even. Love* IV. i, I love to stoop to my prey, and to have it in my power to souse at, when I please. 1670 — *2nd Pt. Almanzor & Alm.* v, As some huge Rock ..So I—Would sowze upon thy Guards, and dash 'em wide. 1729 SHELVOCKE *Artillery* v. 351 Mounted on a winged Steed..and sowsing directly upon the Monster. 1738 POPE *Epil. Satires* II. 15 Come on then, Satire! gen'ral, unconfin'd, Spread thy broad wing, and souse on all the kind. 1769 BURKE *Corr.* (1844) I. 206 In the style of Lord Chatham's politics, to keep hovering in the air, over all parties, and to souse down where the prey may prove best. 1808 SCOTT in *Lockhart* (1839) I. 65, I was not permitted to open my lips without one or two old ladies..being ready at once to souse upon me.

2. *trans.* **a.** To strike *down* (a bird) by a powerful swoop. *rare*—[1].

1594 *1st Pt. Contention* II. i, How hie your Hawke did sore? And on a sodaine sonst the Partridge downe.

b. To swoop or pounce upon (something) in a hostile manner.

1595 SHAKS. *John* v. ii. 150 The gallant Monarch..like an Eagle, o're his ayerie towres, To sowsse annoyance that comes neere his Nest. 1616 B. JONSON *Devil an Ass* IV. vii, He did fly her home To mine own window: but I think I sou[s]'t him, And rauish'd her away, out of his pownces. [1898 J. A. GIBBS *Cotswold Vill.* xii. 274 Ere the falcon 'souses' her prey.]

Souse (saus), *adv.*[1] Now chiefly *dial.* Also 7–8 souce, 8 sowse. [f. SOUSE *sb.*[3] or *v.*[3]]

1. Suddenly; without warning.

1680 *Vind. Conform. Clergy* (ed. 2) 32 He dares not so much as lift up a Finger;..if he doth, souce, he hath him in the Chops immediately. 1728 VANBR. & CIB. *Prov. Husb.* I. i, Then sowse ! we are all set fast in a Slough.

2. With a direct and rapid course.

1690 DRYDEN *Amphitryon* I. i, He's coming down souse upon us, and hears as far as he can see too. 1755 SMOLLETT *Quix.* II. III. ix. (1803) IV. 27 We shall come souse upon the kingdom of Candaya, as a saker or jerfaulcon darts down upon a heron.

3. With strong or violent impact; heavily.

1694 MOTTEUX *Rabelais* IV. lxvii. (1737) 276 Vinet lent him..a swinging stoater with the Pitch-fork souce between the Neck and the Collar. 1730 YOUNG *1st Ep. to Pope* Wks. 1757 I. 186 They,..looking full on every man they meet, Run souse against his chaps. 1789 WOLCOT (P. Pindar) *Expost. Odes* IX. 29 Our world..Would rather see a fellow ..from the attic story of a house Fall down souce Upon a set of cursed iron spikes. 1818 SCOTT *Br. Lamm.* XX, I hoped it would have fallen souse on your heads before you were aware of it. 1858 CARLYLE *Fredk. Gt.* V. VII. II. 128 Gundling comes souse upon the ice with his sitting-part.

Souse (saus), *adv.*[2] Also 8 souce, 9 sowse. [f. SOUSE *sb.*[1] or *v.*[1]] With a sudden or deep plunge.

1706–7 FARQUHAR *Beaux' Strat.* V. iii, Now..all our fair Machine goes souse into the Sea like the Edistone. 1838 BARHAM *Ingol. Leg.* Ser. I, *Hand of Glory,* Into Tappington mill-dam souse she goes. 1856 R. A. VAUGHAN *Mystics* (1860) I. VI. viii. 261 As he flounders about, out tumbles the book; he lets go his staff, and makes after it; and souse he goes, over head and ears in a twinkling. 1882 SERJT. BALLANTINE *Exper.* XXXIII, Just as he was stepping on board, souse he went into the sea.

fig. 1749 CLELAND *Mem. Woman Pleasure* (1894) 2, I go souce into my personal history. 1760 STERNE *Tr. Shandy* II. xii. 51 Here have you got us..souse into that old subject again. 1824 in *Spirit Pub. Jrnls.* (1825) 129 Into all sorts of subjects, both known and unknown, Mr. Hume goes what one may call souse. 1872 BROWNING *Fifine* LXV, Foiled by the very effort, sowse, Underneath ducks the soul!

† **Souse-crown.** *Obs.*—[0] (See quot.)

a 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew, Sowse-crown,* a Fool.

Soused (saust), *ppl. a.* [f. SOUSE *v.*[1]]

1. Steeped in pickle; pickled.

? *a* 1550 *Freiris Berwik* 260 in *Dunbar's Poems* (1893) 294 Ane sowsit nolt fute, and scheipheid. 1584 POWEL *Lloyd's Cambria* 104 He should want no maner of Powdered and Sowsed meats. 1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* I. ii. II. i. (1651) 68 Dryed, sowced, indurate fish, as Ling,..Red-herrings. 1676 SHADWELL *Libertine* III, If I serve you not in your kind, then am I a sows'd sturgeon. 1677 WYCHERLEY *Pl. Dealer* III. i, Go, dear Rogue, and succeed; and I'll invite thee, ere it be long, to more souz'd Venison. 1790 SHIRREFS *Poems* 210 A' their een were chiefly fixt Upo' soust feet. 1842 COMBE *Digestion* 137 At nine o'clock A. M. he breakfasted on soused tripe, pig's feet, bread and coffee.

fig. 1622 FLETCHER *Beggar's Bush* IV. i, You shall not sink, for ne'r a sowst Flap-dragon, For ne'r a pickl'd Pilcher of 'em all, Sir.

2. Soaked in liquor.

1613 BEAUM. & FL. *Captain* I. ii, I am of that opinion, and will dye in't, There is no understanding, nor can be In a soust Souldier.

Souser (sau·səɹ). *dial.* Also **soozer.** [f. SOUSE *v.*[1]] A thorough drenching or soaking.

1862 C. C. ROBINSON *Dial. Leeds* 416. 1896 MORDAUNT & VERNEY *Ann. Warw. Hunt* I. 323 The bank broke, and he got a regular souser.

Sousing (sau·siŋ), *vbl. sb.*[1] Also 6 **sows(s)ing,** 7 **sowcing.** [f. SOUSE *v.*[1]]

1. The action or process of pickling. Also *attrib.* in *sousing-drink, -tub.* Now *Obs.* or *dial.*

1551–60 *Invent. Sir H. Parker* in Hall *Eliz. Soc.* (1887) 150 A sowssing Tubb for brawne. 1577 HARRISON *Descr. Engl.* 110/1 Changing the sowsing drincke least it should waxe soure. 1601 YARINGTON *Two Lament. Trag.* III. ii. in Bullen *O. Pl.* IV, Chop of my head to make a Sowsing-tub. 1611 COTGR., *Solloüoir,* a salting, or sowcing tub. 1617 J. MURRELL *Bk. Cookerie* (title-p.), The most commendable fashion of Dressing, or Sowcing, either Flesh, Fish, or Fowle.

2. A drenching; a thorough wetting.

1697 J. LEWIS *Mem. Dk. Glocester* (1789) 57 Indeed it proved a good sousing, as he was handsomely wetted from the crown to his feet. 1764 FOOTE *Mayor of G.* II. Wks. 1799 I. 186 After all his marchings, his sousings, his sweatings. 1832 MISS MITFORD *Village* Ser. v. (1863) 499 The satisfactory conclusion of the sousing. 1853 KANE *Grinnell Exp.* xxvii. (1856) 224 After..some uncomfortable sousings in the snow-dust. 1887 *Pall Mall G.* 12 July 13 This continual sousing..actually rots the hair and leads to baldness.

Sou·sing, *vbl. sb.*[2] *rare.* [f. SOUSE *v.*[2]] The action of beating severely.

c 1580 [JEFFERIES] *Bugbears* II. iv. 6 (Bond), With sowcynges, with rowsynges, with bownsynges, with trownsynges. 1788 *Hist. of Schoolboy* 46 Talboy declared it his firm intention to have bestowed upon him..an effectual sousing.

Sousing (sau·siŋ), *ppl. a.*[1] Also 6 **sowsing,** 7 **sowcing.** [f. SOUSE *v.*[1]]

1. Of ears: Suitable for sousing; unusually large.

1567 TURBERV. *Epit.*, etc. 14 b, Hee had a paire of sowsing eares to shilde him from the raine. 1673 HICKERINGILL *Greg. F. Greyb.* 302 A dismal monster,..sowcing great luggs and a mouth greater.

2. Drenching, soaking.

1596 DRAYTON *Legend Pierce Gaveston* iv. Poems (1619) 353 By many a low Ebbe, many a lustie Tide, Many a smooth Calme, many a sowsing Showre. 1648 J. BEAUMONT *Psyche* XVII. cxxi, The gravid Vapor breaks..and pours the sousing weather Down through the gloomy air. 1830 SCOTT *Jrnl.* 7 July, I returned after two, with a sousing shower for companion. 1876 T. HARDY *Ethelberta* xliv. (1890) 353 The windy, sousing, thwacking..corner called St. Lucas' Leap.

b. Splashing in water.

1891 T. HARDY *Tess* (1900) 55/2 They disappeared round the curve of the road, and only his sousing footsteps..told where they were.

3. Strong, vigorous, 'powerful'. Now *dial.*

In later examples perh. from SOUSE *v.*[2]

1735 BOLINGBROKE *On Parties* 10 The arch Slyness of G—*on*, the dogmatical Dryness of H——e, or the soucing Prostitution of Sh—k. 1764 FOOTE *Patron* I. Wks. 1799 I. 335 A good sousing satire now, well powder'd with personal pepper. 1780 *West's Guide Lakes* (E.D.D.), A sousing blow. 1876 ROBINSON *Mid-Yks. Gloss.* 132/1 A great sousing fellow. *Ibid.*, A sousing lot.

Sou·sing, *ppl. a.*[2] [f. SOUSE *v.*[3]] Swooping.

1700 DRYDEN *Theodore & Hon.* 318 They close their trembling Troop; and all attend On whom the sowsing Eagle will descend.

Souslik, var. SUSLIK. **Sousou,** var. SUSU.

† **Souspirable,** *a.* *Obs.*[−1] [f. older F. *souspirer* (mod.F. *soupirer*) to sigh.] Lamentable.

1594 KYD *Cornelia* V. 287 Incessantly lamenting th' extreame losse, And souspirable death of so braue souldiers.

† **Soussie.** *Obs.*[−1] [a. OF. *soussie,* var. of *soucie*: see SOUCY.] Marigold.

c 1410 *Master of Game* (MS. Digby 182) xii, And also it is gode forto put þer in of þe soussie, of þe whiche men fyndeth ynogh at þe potycaryes, for þe same sekenesse.

Sousteine, obs. form of SUSTAIN *v.*

† **Sout,** *v.* *Obs.*[−0] [Back-formation from SOUTER.] *trans.* To mend or patch (shoes).

1598 FLORIO, *Sanattare,* to cobble, to mend, or sout old shoes. *Ibid.*, *Tacconare,* to cobble,..to soute, to piece. 1611 — *Taberciatiua árte,* the arte of patching..or souting.

‖ **Soutache** (sutaʃ). [F., corruptly ad. Hungarian *szuszak* a pendant curl of hair, etc.] A narrow flat ornamental braid of wool, silk, or the like, usually sewn upon fabrics in fanciful designs.

1856 MRS. PULLAN *Lady's Dict. Needlework* 52 *Soutache.* A French name for very pretty ornamental braids. 1859 *Ladies' Cabinet* Dec. 335/2 When trimmed with gold or silver *soutache,*..the *Zouave* is eminently graceful and coquettish. 1879 *Sylvia's Embroidery Bk.* 253 The blue medallion is outlined with soutache.

attrib. 1882 CAULFEILD & SAWARD *Dict. Needlew.* 453/2 Soutache Braids..are very narrow silk braids,..having an openwork centre.

Hence **Sou·tached** *a.*, fancifully braided.

1860 *Ladies' Gaz. Fashion* Mar. 22/3 Zouave jackets of cloth soutached with silk.

† **Soutage.** *Obs.* Also 6 **sowltwyche, soultwhiche, -witch,** 7 **-wich;** 7 **soultage, sowtage, -ege.** [Of obscure origin.] Coarse cloth or canvas used esp. for packing or as a material for bags.

a. 1532–3 in E. Law *Hampton Crt. Palace* (1885) 351 Paid..for 2 pecys of sowltwyche, every pece conteynyng 33 ellys. 1545 *Rates of Custom House* c iiij b, Soult-whiche the hundreth elles,..xxx. s. 1657 *Acts of Interregn.* (1911) II. 1215 Linnen Cloth called..Soultwich, the hundred Els.

β. 1573 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 136 Some close them vp drie in a hogshed or fat, yet canuas or soutage is better than that. 1591 *Acts Privy Council* (N.S.) XXII. 169 Duche canvas or counterfaicte borrace, harfordes, soutage or sowtwell and guttings are not sold to make sailes for ships. *c* 1611 CHAPMAN *Iliad* XIV. Comm., That which they call our fustian, their plain writing being stuff nothing so substantial but such gross sowtege, or hairpatch, as every goose may eat oats through. 1631 MABBE *Celestina* Ep. Ded. (1894) 5, I see no reason why they should..loath silke, because it is lapt in soultage. 1669 WORLIDGE *Syst. Agric.* 276 *Soutage,* course Cloath, or Bagging for Hops, or such like.

attrib. 1622 MABBE tr. *Aleman's Guzman d'Alf.* II. 215 She hath..silken words, but sowtage deeds.

‖ **Soutane** (sutan). [F. *soutane* († *sotane, sottane*), ad. It. *sottana* (med.L. *sutana, subtana*), f. *sotto* :—L. *subtus* under. Cf. SOTANA, -ANE.]

1. A long buttoned gown or frock, with sleeves, forming the ordinary outer garment of Roman Catholic ecclesiastics, and worn under the vestments in religious services; a cassock.

In quot. 1838 erroneously applied to the COTTA.

1838 MISS PARDOE *River & Desert* II. 149 The officiating priests were gorgeous in their crimson robes and point-lace soutanes. 1855 KINGSLEY *Westw. Ho!* xi, A man of middle age, in the long soutane of a Romish priest. 1876 M. DAVIES *Unorth. Lond.* 335 The preacher..was clad in the conventional Hindoo coat, long as a Ritualist's soutane.

2. *transf.* A wearer of the soutane; a priest.

1890 *Times* 19 Dec. 7/2 A confederacy of soutanes and petticoats may do much.

Soute, obs. form of SUIT *sb.* and *v.*

Soutel, obs. form of SUBTLE *a.*

Souter (sū·təɹ). Now *Sc.* and *north. dial.* Forms: *α.* 1 **sutere,** 3 **sutare,** 4–5, 8–9 **sutor** (5 **sutore**), 6 **sutour,** 8 **suter;** 4, 9 **sutter.** *β.* 4 **soutere** (**zout-**), 4– **souter** (6, 9 **soutter,** 9 **sooter**); 5 **soutare,** 5– **soutar** (9 **sootar**); 9 **soutor.** *γ.* 4–5 **sowtere,** 4– **sowter** (6 **sowtter**); 5 **sowtare,** 5–6 **sowtar** (6 **sowttar**). [OE. *sútere*, ad. L. *sūtor* shoemaker, f. *suĕre* to sew, stitch. Of the same origin are OHG. *sûtâri* (MHG. *sûter*), ON. *sútari* (MSw. *sutare,* MDa. *sutæræ*), NFris. *süter, sütjer.*]

1. A maker or mender of shoes; a shoemaker or cobbler.

Also *spec.* 'one who makes brogues or shoes of horse-leather' (Jamieson, 1808). In the 16th and 17th cent. the word is freq. used with depreciatory force, esp. to denote a type of workman of little or no education.

α. *c* 1000 ÆLFRIC *Saints' Lives* XV. 23 Sum sutere siwode þæs halȝan weres sceos. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 324 A wummon þet haueð forloren hire nelde, oðer a sutare his el. 1379 *Poll-tax W. Riding* in *Yorks. Archæol. Jrnl.* V. 17 Adam Wild' Sutter. 1474 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* I. 38 Item gevin to Hud sutor, for the Quenis schoune. *a* 1682 SEMPILL *Blythsome Wedding* 13 And there will be Sandie the sutor. 1725 *Fam. Dict.* s.v. *Lithotomy,* This we in England call Cutting upon the Gripe, and is the Method our Suters always cut by. 1808 J. MAYNE *Siller Gun* II. xxiii, Jock Willison, a sutor bred. 1817 *Lintoun Green* 6 The Selkirk Sutors aff their stools..In dirt haste raise.

β. 1340 *Ayenb.* 66 More zuyfter þanne arwe ulyinde and more boryinde þanne zouteres eles. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) VII. 518 Som men seide that this Harold Harefote was a souters sone. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 1585 Sadlers, souters, Semsteris fyn. 1456 SIR G. HAYE *Law Arms* (S.T.S.) 208 A soutare, or a skynnare, or a tailloure. *c* 1566 *Merie Tales of Skelton* S.'s Wks. 1843 I. p. lxv, In the parysshe of Dys..there dwelled a cobler, beyng halfe a souter. 1584–7 GREENE *Carde of Fancie* Wks. (Grosart) IV. 102 If Appelles..suffer the greasie Souter to take a view of his curious worke. *a* 1641 BP. MOUNTAGU *Acts & Mon.* (1642) 488 How can it but be a maine absurdity, that a Cooke, a Currier, a Souter, a Potter..should therefore be accounted noble? 1791 BURNS *Tam o' Shanter* 41 And at his elbow, Souter Johnny. *Ibid.* 49 The Souter tauld his queerest stories. 1829 SCOTT *Jrnl.* II. 217, I..tugged as hard as ever did soutar to make ends meet. 1880 J. F. S. GORDON *Chron. Keith* 74 Coopers, Sooters, Sweetie-Wives, and Buckie Dulse-Wives, &c.

γ. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Reeve's Prol.* 50 The devyl made..of a sowter, schipman or a leche. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) IV. 307 A poore sowtere fondede to teche a chouȝh to.. seie þe same salutacioun. *a* 1400 in *Eng. Gilds* (1870) 359 Euerych sowtere þat makeþ shon of newe roþer leþer. 1454 *Paston Lett.* I. 292 They took a man of Stratford, a sowter, and hys name ys Persoun. 1491 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* I. 182 Til a sowtar that sewyt halk hwdis to the King. 1513 MORE *Rich. III* (1883) 79 And in a stage play all the people know right wel that he that playeth the sowdayne is percase a sowter. 1570 B. GOOGE *Pop. Kingd.* III. (1880) 33 Masse brings in dayly gaine, as doth the Sowters arte at neede. 1602 CAREW *Cornwall* 86 b, While an ignorant fellow of a sowter becomes a magistrate. 1646 GATAKER *Mistake Removed* 22 We have, with Lucian's sowter, dreamed of a great feast. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 193/1 St. Crispin ..the Patron of Sowters, Cordwiners and Shoe-makers Journey-Men. 1855 [ROBINSON] *Whitby Gloss.* s.v., He grins like an aud sowter.

transf. 1593 G. HARVEY *Pierce's Super.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 43 Lauinius against Terence; Cratena against Euripides; Zoilus against Homer, [were] but ranke sowters.

† **b.** Employed as a term of abuse. *Obs.*

1478 *Maldon* (Essex) *Crt. Rolls* Bundle 50, No. 8, Willelmus Cotyngham vocavit Johannem Baker horsoned souter contra statutum hujus burgi et dixit 'Vos, horsoned suters, bere a rewle'. 1575 in W. H. Turner *Select. Rec. Oxford* 361 [They] came to the howse of..a cordwayner,..and.. called him sowter, and..gave him..opprobrious words. *a* 1585 POLWART *Flyting w. Montgomerie* 747 Creishie soutter, shoe cloutter, minch moutter!

2. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *souter-craft, -like* adj.

c 1400 MAUNDEV. (Roxb.) xxvi. 122 Þai do all maner of craftez, þat es to say talyour craft and sowter craft and swilk oþer. 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* xxvii. 46 Full sowttar lyk he wes of laitis.

b. Special combs.: **souter's brandy,** buttermilk; **souter's clod,** a roll of coarse bread; **souter's end,** a piece of resined twine.

1773 *Edinb. Wkly. Mag.* 9 Dec. 335 A souter's clod,..if not a second mess of porridge for dinner. 1790 SHIRREFS *Poems* 245 Could he get clods and souter's brandy. 1824 SCOTT *Redgauntlet* ch. xx, Ye will maybe have nae whey then, nor buttermilk, nor ye couldna exhibit a souter's clod? 1832 VEDDER *Orc. Sketches* 110 A clarionet, beautifully enamelled with a kind of twine, called by the vulgar 'Sutor's ends'.

Hence † **Sou·teress.** *Obs.*[−1]

1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. v. 315 Cesse þe souteresse [1362 þe souters wyf] sat on þe benche.

Soutering, obs. form of SUITORING.

† **Sou·terly,** *a.* *Obs.* Also 6–7 **sowterly.** [f. SOUTER + -LY [1].]

1. Resembling a souter; of a common or vulgar type.

1534 MORE *Treat. Passion* Wks. 1296/2 The special bassawes of that proude souterly Sowdan. 1568 FULWELL *Like will to Like* B iij, You souterly knaues shew you all your maners at once. 1603 FLORIO *Montaigne* III. v. (1632) 483 The burden bearing porter, souterly cobbler, and toilefull labourer. 1617 COLLINS *Def. Bp. Ely* II. vii. 252 What should one stand tugging with such a sowterly fellow?

2. Appropriate to, characteristic of, a souter.

1589 ? LYLY *Pappe w. Hatchet* E ij, Hee runnes ouer his fooleries with a knaues gallop, ripping vp the souterlie seames of his Epistle. 1593 NASHE *Strange News* Wks. (Grosart) II. 187 The Doctors proceedings haue thrust vpon mee this sowterly Metaphor. 1609 PAULE *Life of Archbp. Whitgift* 40 A cobler, a choise broker for such souterly wares. 1626 R. BERNARD *Isle of Man* (1627) 277 They blasphemously publish, that the Scriptures are..a dead Letter, sowterly Inke, dumbe Iudges.

Souterrain (sū·terēⁱn). [a. F. *souterrain,* f. *sous* under + *terre* earth, after L. *subterrāneus.*] An underground chamber, store-room, passage, etc.

a 1735 ARBUTHNOT (J.), Defences against extremities of heat, as shade, grottoes, or souterrains, are necessary preservatives of health. 1775 R. CHANDLER *Trav. Asia M.* (1825) I. 151 By the highest of them is the entrance of a souterrain. 1806 J. DALLAWAY *Observ. Eng. Archit.* 89 In the souterrain of vaulted stone, the military engines and stores were deposited. 1840 VYSE *Oper. Pyramids Gizeh* II. 76 The general direction of the souterrain, near the Second Pyramid. 1899 R. MUNRO *Prehist. Scot.* ix. 352 In Ireland underground chambers, generally known as 'souterrains' or 'coves', are to be found all over the country.

transf. 1882 *Times* 5 Feb. 4 Hamilton Park having a souterrain of vast mineral wealth.

South (sauþ), *adv.*, *prep.*, *sb.*, and *a.* Forms: 1, 3 **suð, suþ,** 3 **suþe,** 4–5 **suthe,** 4, 6 **suth** (6 *Sc.* **sutht**); 3 **soþ,** 4 **soth,** 6 *north.* **soyth;** 3–5 **souþ** (4 **zouþ**), 4–5 **souþe,** 4 **sowþe;** 3– **south** (4 **souht,** 5 *Sc.* **soucht**), 4–6 **southe** (5 *Sc.* **souythe**), 5–6 **sowth(e.** [Common Teut.: OE. *súð*, = OFris. *sûth* (WFris. *súd*, NFris. *süd*), OS. *sûth* (MLG. *sût*, LG. *sud*), OHG. *sund-, sunt-* (MHG. *sund*), ON. (with *r-* suffix) *suðr* (:—**sunþr*; cf. the compar. *sunnar* :—**sunþar*): the relationship of the stem is uncertain. One or other of these forms (perh. the ON.) is the source of OF. *sur, sud, su* (F. *sud*), Sp. *sur, sud,* Pg. *sul.*

MDu. *suut* (*zuut*), *suyt* (Du. *zuid*) and G. *süd* are not the native forms (which would have been respectively **zond* and **sund*), but are due to Fris., LG., or F. influence. In the Scand. languages there is considerable variety in the later forms, as MSw. *sudher, södher,* Sw. *söder,* Norw. *sør, sud, syd, sunn, synn,* Da. *syd.*

In some senses (as B. 2–4) usually with a capital, in others usually with a small letter, but the practice is not uniform.]

A. *adv.* **1.** Towards, or in the direction of, that part of the earth or heavens which is directly opposite to the north. Also with modifying additions, as *south by west,* etc.

a. With reference to movement, extent, or direction.

c 900 *O. E. Chron.* (Parker MS.) an. 894, Þa þe suð ymbutan foron, ymb-sæton Exancester. *a* 1122 *Ibid.* (Laud MS.) an. 1092, Se cyng Willelm..ferde norð to Cardeol,..& syððan hider suð ȝewænde. *c* 1205 LAY. 2133 Locrines mær eode suð & east forð. *c* 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 234 So longe huy wenden euene south, þat [etc.]. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* XVI. 265 Syne thai..sowth till Lwnyk held thair way. ? *a* 1400 *Morte Arth.* 1039 Bot thow moste seke more southe, sydlyngs a lyttille. 1539 *Reg. Mag. Sig. Scot.* 454 Fra the said croce rycht south to the Mercat-gait. *a* 1670 SPALDING *Troub. Chas. I* (1850) I. 27 Mynding to lodge thair all nicht be the get going south. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 22 Mar. 1652, For more than an hundred yards South. *c* 1743 WOODROOFE in Hanway *Trav.* IV. lix. (1762) I. 276 Steering south and south by west. 1816 SCOTT *Bl. Dwarf* viii, As if the devil was blawing us south. 1855 *Orr's Circ. Sci., Inorg. Nat.* 147 The inclination is sometimes north, and sometimes south. 1880 RUSKIN *Bible of Amiens* i. (1884) 32 Clovis' march south against the Visigoths.

b. With reference to place or location. Also † *south-by,* in the south (*Sc.*).

Down South: see DOWN *adv.* 29.

Beowulf 858 Moniȝ oft ȝecwæð, þætte suð ne norð..oþer

nænig..selra nære. *c* 805 *Charter* in *O. E. Texts* 442 Ȝif hiora oðrum oðde bæm suð forzelimpe. *a* 1000 *Boeth. Metr.* x. 24 Pæt eow suð oðde norð þa ytmestan eorðbuende ..miclum herien. *c* 1200 ORMIN 12125 Þa fowwre daless alle þatt Æst, & Wesst, & Suþ, & Norrþ þiss middellærd bilukenn. *c* 1310 in Wright *Lyric P.* xviii. 59 Whether y be south other west. *c* 1391 CHAUCER *Astrol.* I. § 17 Tak kep of thise latitudes north and sowth. 1591 [see SOUTHEASTWARD *adv.*]. 1594 SHAKS. *Rich. III*, v. iii. 38 His Regiment lies halfe a Mile..South, from the mighty Power of the King. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* XI. 401 The Realme Of Congo, and Angola fardest South. *a* 1670 SPALDING *Troub. Chas. I* (1850) I. 27 The Erll..wes at this tym south. 1762 BP. FORBES *Jrnl.* (1886) 216 He asked me how the not-swearing clergy lived now South-by. 1769 FALCONER *Dict. Marine* (1780) s.v. *Wind*, Coming to the latitude of four degrees south. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 210/2 The plant..is found..from latitude 40° to 44° south.

c. In the phr. *south and north.* (See also NORTH *adv.* 1 c.)

c 900 tr. *Baeda's Hist.* I. iii. (1890) 30 Pæt is..twelf mila brad suð & norð. 1596 *Reg. Mag. Sig. Scot.* 194/1 Be the grund of ane auld dyk lyand south and north. 1612 DRAYTON *Poly-olb.* xiii. 315 The second [way runs] South and North, from Michael's utmost Mount, To Cathnesse. 1838 *Penny Cycl.* XI. 439/2 A large island..which..extends about 80 miles south and north.

d. Followed by *of.*

1707 J. CHAMBERLAYNE *Pres. St. Gt. Brit.* (1710) 344 Rum lies 4 Leagues South of Sky. 1771 *Encycl. Brit.* III. 942/1 Williamstat [is]..fourteen miles south of Rotterdam. 1868 *Rep. U. S. Commissioner Agric.* (1869) 71 The value of marling south of New Jersey.

2. From the south.

1626 BACON *Sylva* § 626 In a Faire and Dry Day,..And when the Wind bloweth not South. 1762 FALCONER *Shipwr.* II. 242 South and by west the threatening demon blew.

3. With a south aspect.

1693 EVELYN *De la Quint. Compl. Gard.* I. 30 When we say that a Garden lyes full South, it is when the Sun shines upon it all the day.

4. quasi-*sb.* = B. 1. Freq. with *from* or *to.* †Also *at south*, from the south.

c 1200 ORMIN 11258 All þiss middellærd iss eç O fowwre daless dæledd, Onn Æst, o Wesst, o Suþ, o Norrþ. 1338 R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (1810) 19 Þe kynges..cleymed him for þer chefe..Of North & of South..Fro Kent vntille Berwik. *c* 1391–*c* 1425 [see NORTH *adv.* 2]. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* XI. 777 Fra south and north mony off Scotland fled. 1592 *Soliman & Pers.* III. iv, Monarch and mightie Emperor of the world, From East to West, from South to Septentrion. 1625 CARPENTER *Geogr. Del.* I. vi. (1635) 135 The Meridians are drawne directly from North to South. 1671 MILTON *P. R.* III. 273 To South the Persian Bay. 1725 DE FOE *Voy. round World* (1840) 128 The wind came off shore, for it blew at south. 1748– [see NORTH *adv.* 2]. 1821–2 SHELLEY *Chas. I*, II. 419 The rainbow hung over the city.. from north to south. 1842 BROWNING *Pied Piper* xiii, He turned from South to West, And to Koppelberg Hill his steps addressed.

†**b.** *By south*, in the south; on the south side.

c 1205 LAY. 30214 Þis iherde Cadwalan, þe king wes bi suðden. *c* 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 236 Þe feorþe dai heo i-seizen ane yle albi souþe on heiz. 1393 LANGL. *P. Pl.* C. II. 117 Hit is sykerer by southe þer þe sonne regneth. *c* 1420 *Avow. Arth.* xlvii, He sayd, he was knoun and couthe, And was comun fro bi-southe. *a* 1425 [see NORTH *adv.* 2 b]. 1596 SHAKS. 1 *Hen. IV*, III. i. 75 England, from Trent, and Seuerne, hitherto By South and East is to my part assign'd. 1600 NASHE *Summers Last Will* 869 Wks. (Grosart) VI. 120 Haruest..by south and south-east, shewe thy selfe like a beast.

c. *By south*: (see BY *prep.* 9 b).

c 1391 CHAUCER *Astrol.* II. § 31 Than is it deuided in smale partiez of Azymutz, as est, and est by sowthe. 14.. [see SOUTH-EAST *adv.* 1]. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 466/2 Sowthely, or sum what be sowthe, *australis*. 1682 WHELER *Journ. Greece* VI. 481, I observed Corinth to lie South-East by South off us. *a* 1701 MAUNDRELL *Journ. Jerus.* (1721) Add. 8 With a Course..South East and by South we arrived at Jan-Bolads. 1713, 1725 [see EAST D. 3]. 1772–84 [see SOUTH-EAST *adv.* 1]. 1837 *Fraser's Mag.* XL. 666 Cape Trafalgar bore east by south.

5. *ellipt.* as *prep.* **a.** Southwards along.

1598 *Reg. Mag. Sig. Scot.* 387/1 Passand south the said balk to the laitch or strype.

b. At, in, or to the south of.

Cf. *a-south* prep., in Henry *Wallace* x. 529.

1607 SHAKS. *Cor.* I. x. 31 Tis South the City Mils. 1611 — *Cymb.* II. iv. 81 The Chimney Is South the Chamber. 1787 BURNS *Winter Nt.* i, When Phœbus gies a short-liv'd glow'r Far south the lift. 1891 KIPLING *Light that Failed* xi. (1900) 185 In the gray wilderness of South-the-water.

B. *sb.* (Usually with *the.*)

1. That one of the four cardinal points which is opposite to the north.

c 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 345 Abouten eiȝte hondret mile Engelond long is Fram þe South into þe North. *a* 1325 *Prose Psalter* lxxvii. 30 He bare ouer þe wynde of þe souþe fram þe heuen. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* III. 30 As the wyndes of the South Ben most of alle debonaire. 1422 tr. *Secreta Secret., Priv. Priv.* 221 Tho whyche dwellyth towarde the Sowthe..as thay of Ethiopy. *c* 1440 *Alph. Tales* 62, iij wyndows, ane at þe suthe, a noder at þe este, & þe iij at þe weste. 1577 B. GOOGE tr. *Heresbach's Husb.* § 120 Therfore your stable must stand toward the south. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* (1637) 244 Another brook from the South runneth into him. 1726–46 THOMSON *Winter* 989 The winds at eve..Blow, hollow-blustering from the south. 1837 P. KEITH *Bot. Lex.* 277 The whole mass of ears nodding, as if with one consent, to the south. 1875 GLADSTONE *Glean.* (1879) VI. 149 If standing at the north end of the holy Table, he faces towards the south.

b. Followed by *of.*

1382 WYCLIF *Ezek.* xlvii. 1 To the south of the auter. 1778 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 2) II. 1222/1 A town..to the south of mount Atlas. 1834 *Picture L'pool* 83 To the south of George's Pierhead.

2. The southern part of a country or region; *spec.* **a.** of England (below the Wash), Great Britain, Scotland, or Ireland; the south country.

1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 172 Fram þe souþ tilþ to þe norþ erninge stret. *c* 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 2382 Þe Duk of Cornewaille Al þe souþ tyl hym gan tayllе. *c* 1400 *Brut* xxii. (1906) 26 Anopere [way] fram þe North into þe South, þat was callede Ikenyle strete. 1543 *Richmond Wills* (Surtees) 50 My Lord Daykar of the soyth. 1631 WEEVER *Anc. Funeral Mon.* 436 Baron Dacres of the South. 1691 RAY *N. Co. Words* s.v. *Goulans*, In the South we usually call marygolds simply *golds*. 1707 CHAMBERLAYNE *Pres. St. Gt. Brit.* (1710) 307 From the Mull of Galloway in the South to Dungsbay Head..in the North. 1837 LOCKHART *Scott* lii. (1845) 451/2 Letters..which Scott at this time addressed to his friends in the South. 1886 KINGTON OLIPHANT *New English* I. 222 This is still used as a Positive in Scotland, though we of the South can say only 'most likely'.

b. The southern lands of Europe, etc.

Freq. in and after Biblical use with reference to southern Palestine.

c 1374 CHAUCER *Boeth.* II. met. vi. (1868) 55 Þat is to seyne, alle þe poeples in þe souþe. 1382 WYCLIF *Joshua* xii. 8 In the south was Ethee, and Ammorree. 1535 COVERDALE *Gen.* xiii. 1 So Abram departed out of Egipte..towarde ye south. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* I. 354 When her barbarous Sons Came like a Deluge on the South. 1817 SHELLEY *Rev. Islam* x. iv, In the scorched pastures of the South. 1890 DOYLE *White Company* xxiii, Here rode dark-browed cavaliers from the sunny south.

Comb. 1852 MAYNE REID *Scalp Hunters* xix. 131 The scenes through which we were passing, here soft and south-like, there wild, barren.

c. The southern States of America (cf. NORTH *sb.* 2 c). Orig. *U.S.*

1779 STORER in Jesse *Selwyn & Contemp.* (1844) IV. 268 A ship..brings advice that Clinton is not going to the South as he first intended. 1857 A. GRAY *First Lessons Bot.* (1866) 19 Behind it is a Yucca (called Spanish Bayonet at the South). 1872 DE VERE *Americanisms* 120 Certain features of the landscape in the South and West.

3. The southern part *of* a particular country, etc.

1382 WYCLIF 2 *Sam.* xxiv. 7 Þei camen into the sowth of Juda. 1422 tr. *Secreta Secret., Priv. Priv.* 185 The Prynces of the Southe of Irland. 1671 MILTON *P. R.* III. 320 From Atropatia..and the South Of Susiana to Balsara's hav'n. 1773 G. WHITE *Selborne* liii, A species of them is familiar to horsemen in the south of England. 1811 A. T. THOMSON *Lond. Disp.* (1818) 350 Rue is..a native of the South of Europe. 1855 *Orr's Circ. Sci., Inorg. Nat.* 152 The chalk of the South of England.

4. *transf.* The inhabitants of a southern region or district.

c 1300 *Havelok* 434 Waried wrthe he of norþ and suth. 1382 WYCLIF 1 *Sam.* xxvii. 10 In whom felle thou on to dai? Dauid answerde, Aȝens the south of Jude, and aȝens the south of Yranyel. *c* 1620 A. HUME *Brit. Tongue* (1865) 20 Nurice, from nutrix, quhilk the south calles nurse. 1748 GRAY *Alliance* 52 The prostrate South to the Destroyer yields. 1837 W. E. CHANNING *Annex. Texas* Wks. (1884) 541/2 Strange, that the South should think of securing its 'peculiar institutions' by violent means. 1861 LD. R. MONTAGU *Mirr. Amer.* 91 Between the North and South there will be feelings of implacable hatred.

5. The south wind. Chiefly *poet.*

a 1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* cxxv. 5 Þe south blawand, frosyn strandis lesis and rennys. 1382 WYCLIF *Luke* xii. 55 Whanne ȝe seen the south blowynge, ȝe seyen, For heete schal be. 1587 D. FENNER *Song of Songs* iv. 16 Wake North, and com O South, and on my garden blowe. 1697 DRYDEN *Æneid* I. 756 The South, with mighty roar, Dispers'd and dash'd the rest upon the rocky shore. 1757 W. WILKIE *Epigoniad* III. 69 When the north and stormy south engage. 1819 BYRON *Juan* II. clxviii, Breathing all gently.., As o'er a bed of roses the sweet south. 1871 R. ELLIS tr. *Catullus* xxvi. 2 'Tis not showery south, nor airy wester.

b. A south wind; *esp.* one of the southern gales which occur in the West Indies.

1699 DAMPIER *Voy.* II. III. 60 In the West Indies there are three sorts [of storms], viz. Norths, Souths, and Hurricanes. 1707 SLOANE *Jamaica* I. p. lix, Its being liable to be wash'd off by the violent sea-breezes or Souths. 1841 CLOUGH *Poems* (1892) 18 My wind is turned to bitter north, That was so soft a south before.

C. *adj.* (In early use the stem in combination.)

1. With proper names: **a.** Denoting the southern division of a race, nation, or people.

c 900 tr. *Baeda's Hist.* (1890) 4 Fela he me sæde ymbe Suðseaxe & embe Westseaxe. *c* 1100 *O. E. Chron.* (MS. C.) an. 1052, He ȝespeon him to..þæne East-ende, & Suð-Sexan, & Suðrizan. *c* 1205 LAY. 7449 Guærtatet þe mode mid þon Suð Walscen. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) VI. 153 In þe fiȝting of þe Souþ Saxons aȝenst Cedwalla. 1577–87 HOLINSHED *Chron.* I. 118/2 The countrie of the Southmercies,..separated from the Northmercies by the riuer Trent. 1643 R. BAKER *Chron.* (1653) 7 The second Kingdome of the Heptarchy, was of the South Saxons. 1862 BORROW *Wales* lxvii, The old chap who disliked South Welshmen. *Ibid.*, The enemy of the South Welsh.

b. Denoting the southern part of a country, land, or region, or the more southerly of two places having the same name.

962 in Birch *Cartul. Saxon.* III. 325 Æt Suðhamtune. *c* 1100 *O. E. Chron.* (MS. D) an. 1023, [They] feredon on scype his þone halzan lichaman..to Suðgeweorke. *c* 1205 LAY. 29925 Of Suð Wales [was] Margadud, monen alre uæȝerest. *c* 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 4355 Of South Walys com kyng Ignarcet. *c* 1425 *Eng. Cong. Ireland* 6 He went hym thennes in-to south walys. 1577 EDEN & WILLES *Hist. Trav.* 230 b, Betwyxt the West Indie or South America, and the South continent. 1600 PORY tr. *Leo's Africa* III. 168 What time they were lordes of Granada in south Spaine. 1718 [see BRITAIN *sb.* 1]. 1776 ADAM SMITH *W. N.* V. i. iii. (1904) II. 370 From the port of Sallee, in South Barbary, to Cape Rouge. 1816 SCOTT *Bl. Dwarf* i, What news from the south hielands? 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 211/1 *Camptosema rubicundum* [is] a native of South Brazil. *Ibid.* 1044/2 Natives of South Africa.

c. With sbs. and adjs. derived from the names of countries, districts, or peoples.

(*a*) 1612 DRAYTON *Poly-olb.* xi. 215 The high descent of that South-Saxon King. 1775 ADAIR *Amer. Ind.* 199 The simple native South-Americans. 1808 JAMIESON *Diss.* in *Sc. Dict.* I. 21 The Romans..conquered the South-Britains. 1862 BORROW *Wales* lxvii, Anybody may know you are South Welsh by your English.

(*b*) 1833 *Penny Cycl.* I. 448 The empire of Brazil..is the principal South American state washed by the Atlantic. 1844 LADY DUFF-GORDON tr. *Meinhold's Amber Witch* Introd., His South-German language betrays a foreign origin. 1894 LYDEKKER *Roy. Nat. Hist.* II. 70 The pretty little South-African weasel (*Poecilogale albinucha*).

(*c*) 1862 BORROW *Wales* lxvii, The people speak neither English nor Welsh, not even South Welsh as you do.

2. With common nouns: Lying towards the south; situated on the side next the south.

Also *transf.* of a magnet pole: see POLE *sb.*[2] 5.

c 893 K. ÆLFRED *Oros.* I. i. § 8 Hiera suþgemæro licgeað to þæm Readan Sæ. 971 *Blickling Hom.* 201 Dær wæs seo suðduru hwæt hwega hade mare. *a* 1124 EADMER in Rock *Ch. of our Fathers* (1903) I. 178 *note*, Principale hostium ecclesiæ, quod antiquitus ab Anglis et nunc usque Suthdure dicitur. *c* 1205 LAY. 27932 Biburied he wes þere..wið uten þan suð sæte. 1382 WYCLIF *Ezek.* xlvi. 9 He that entrith by the waye of the south ȝate. 14.. *Sailing Directions* (Hakluyt Soc., 1889) 14 A south moone makith high watir. 1473 *Rolls of Parlt.* VI. 85/1, xv acres of arable Lond,.. liyng in the southfeldes of the seid Cite. 1560 GARGRAVE in J. J. Cartwright *Chapters Hist. Yks.* (1872) 10 At Shefeld, wyche was the sowthyst parte of his commyssyon. 1644 in *Scottish Jrnl. Topog.* (1847) I. 73 The Rebells..are betwixt vs and ye Path of Droone on ye south hand. 1738 *Gentl. Mag.* VIII. 577/1 By taking her Meridian Altitudes, both North and South. 1792 MORSE *Amer. Geog.* (ed. 2) 253 The fort near the south end of the city. 1801 *Farmer's Mag.* Aug. 290 Elgin..situated on the south bank of the Lossie. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXIII. 217/1 Off the shore are the North and South roads.

Comb. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* VIII. 747 Abowne the toune, apon the southpart sid. 1862 ANSTED *Channel Isl.* I. i. 5 A south-central group, including Jersey. 1880 *Sat. Rev.* 2 Oct. 424/1 Brighton and other South-coast watering-places.

b. *South Crown, Fish, Triangle*: (see quots. and SOUTHERN *a.* 3 b).

1594 BLUNDEVIL *Exerc.* IV. xix. (1636) 473 Foure other Images towards the South Pole, as the Crosse.., the South Triangle [etc.]. 1638 CHILMEAD tr. *Hues' Treat. Globes* II. vi, The foureteenth [constellation] is Corona Australis, or South Crowne...The fifteenth is Piscis Austrinus, the South Fish. 1674 MOXON *Tutor Astron.* I. iii. § 10 (ed. 3) 19 Constellations..added by Frederico Houtmanno,..who..named them as follows:..7 The Camelion, 8 The South Triangle. 1771 *Encycl. Brit.* I. 487/1 The new Southern Constellations [include]..Triangulum Australis, The South Triangle.

3. Of the wind: Blowing from the south.

Cf. OE. *sūðan wind* and SOUTHEN *a.*

c 725 *Corpus Gloss.* (Hessels) A 951 *Auster*, suðuuind. *c* 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Luke xii. 55 Miððy [ȝie ȝeseað] suð wind, ȝie cuoeðas þætte wind bið. *c* 1340 *Nominale* (Skeat) 567 *Vent mouent et vent galerne*, Southwynde, westwynde. 1388 WYCLIF *Ps.* lxxvii. 26 He turnede ouere the south wynde fro heuene. 14.. *Lat.-Eng. Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 596 *Ventus meridialis*, Southwynde. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* III. vi. 4 The south wyndis blast Our piggeis and our pinsalis wavit fast. *a* 1593 MARLOWE *Ovid's Elegies* II. viii. 19 Thou Goddesse doest command a warme South-blast. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* XI. 734 Meanwhile the Southwind rose,.. with black wings Wide hovering. 1734 POPE tr. *Hor., Sat.* II. ii. 27 Oh blast it, South-winds! till a stench exhale. 1820 SHELLEY *Orpheus* 88, I have seen A fierce south blast tear through the darkened sky. 1847 HELPS *Friends in C.* I. i. 4 The clang of an anvil..came faintly up to us when the wind was south.

transf. 1611 SHAKS. *Cymb.* II. iii. 136 The South-Fog rot him.

4. Of or pertaining to the south; belonging or native to the south.

Cf. OE. *sūðfolc, -mægð, -mann.*

c 1470 HENRY *Wallace* XI. 779 The South byschop..Till London past, and tald Eduuard him sell. 1616 *Barbour's Bruce* (Hart) XVII. 843 For the South men wald that he made Arest there. 1719 W. WOOD *Surv. Trade* 281 The Assiento Contract has excluded all the Subjects of Great Britain from Trading to New-Spain, but..the South-Company. 1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* i, For what says the south proverb.

5. Facing the south. Also *Comb.*

1527–8 *Rec. St. Mary at Hill* 343 A pane in oon of the sowth windowse. 1642 FULLER *Holy & Prof. State* III. vii. 167 A South-window in summer is a chimny with a fire in't. 1706 LONDON & WISE *Retir'd Gard.* I. i. xii. 53 A South-aspected Wall in Sussex, or about London. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) V. 30/2 A south wall..is proper for training them as wall-trees. 1842 LOUDON *Suburban Hort.* 177 Walls having a south aspect. 1867 AUGUSTA WILSON *Vashti* xx, Carnations and mignonette blooming in the south window.

6. Tending towards the south.

1839 *Penny Cycl.* XIV. 141/1 The south declination of the sun. 1886 C. E. PASCOE *Lond. of To-day* xxxiv. (ed. 3) 303 Within a few steps of Hanover Square, in a south direction.

7. *Oxf. Univ. slang.* (See quot.)

1823 EGAN *Grose's Dict. Vulgar T., South Jeopardy*, terrors of insolvency.

South (sauþ), *v.* [f. SOUTH *adv.* or *sb.*]

1. *intr.* To cross the meridian of a place.

1659– [see SOUTHING *vbl. sb.* 1 a]. 1828 MOORE *Pract. Navig.* 140 The minutes after noon when she [*sc.* the moon]

souths. 1883 R. A. Proctor *Great Pyramid* iii. 125 [The star] must have been visible to the naked eye, even when southing in full daylight.

2. To veer, move, or turn towards the south; to blow more from the south.

1725 De Foe *Voy. round World* (1840) 173, I took the occasion..to keep still on southing. 1864 in Webster. 1898 J. M. Falkner *Moonfleet* xi, About sun-down the wind southed a point or two.

South, obs. f. Sooth *a.*, Soothe *v.*; var. Sowth.

South-[1] (saup), combining form representing South *sb.* or *adv.*, occurring, with the sense 'to or towards, in or on, the south', in participial combinations, as *south-falling*, *-following*, *-going*, *running*, etc.; *south-bounded*, *-turned*, etc.

(*a*) 1632 Lithgow *Trav.* vi. 281 The devalling side of the *South-falling Syon. 1784 *Phil. Trans.* LXXV. 90 The sextuple or *south following set. 1896 *Westm. Gaz.* 2 May 5/2 The *south-going Irish boat express. 1788 *Phil. Trans.* LXXVIII. 372, 13° 17′ from *south-preceding to north-following the meridian. 1819 Scott *Let.* in *Lockhart* (1837) IV. viii. 244 My Highland piper,..who spent a whole Sunday in selecting twelve stones from twelve *south-running streams. 1876 'Ouida' *Winter City* vii, The *south-wintering northern swallows.

(*b*) 1598 Sylvester *Du Bartas* II. ii. III. *Colonies* 83 Those Realms *South-bounded round with Sun-burnt Guinne. 1870 Morris *Earthly Par.* III. iv. 296 Exceeding good Its sunny *south-turned slopes are.

†South-[2], *prefix*, ad. AF. *suth-*, alteration of OF. *suz-*, *sus-*, *sous-* Sous-, occurring in a few words, as *south-bailie*, a sub-bailiff; *southbarbs*, = Suburb(s; *south-bois* (see quot.); *southcellarer*, *-deacon*, *-dean*, = Subcellarer, -deacon, -dean; *south-lace*, *-lase*, a beam of wood (cf. Lace *sb.* 4) acting as a support for something. *Obs.*

The AF. *suthbaillif* occurs in 1306 in *Rolls of Parlt.* I. 209/2, and *suthvicar* about 1400 in Higden (Rolls) IX. 234.

c 1325 *Poem temp. Edw. II* (Percy) lxvi, Baylys & *southbailys Under the shireves. *c* 1450 *Brut* 353 Euery strete & lane yn London & yn þe *sowthbarbez. 1541 *St. Papers Hen. VIII* (1834) III. 322 The late suppressed house of Blak Friers in the southe barbis of the said citie. 1706 Phillips (ed. Kersey) s.v. *Vert*, *Nether-vert*..denotes Under-Woods, and is otherwise call'd **South-bois*, or *Sub-bois*. 14.. *Nom.* in Wr.-Wülcker 681 *Hic succellerarius*, a *sowthselerer. *c* 1400 *Three Kings Cologne* (1886) 152 þe preest and þe dekene and þe *southdekene þei mete togeder on thre partyes. 1563 Foxe *A. & M.* 65/2 The wise man Pandolph the Popes Southdeacon. 1393 Langl. *P. Pl.* C. III. 187 Somenours and *southdenes þat *supersedeas* takeþ. 1374 in Willis & Clark *Cambridge* (1886) I. 238 Wyndbems, *suchlates [*? read* suthlaces], Asthelers, Corbels. 1448 *Ibid.* II. 8 The sowthelases and the asshelers shull accord in brede with the sparres. 1449 *Ibid.* 10 All the sowtlases, asshalers, walplatz and jopees.

Southard (sʊ·ðəɹd), *adv.* and *sb.* Forms: (see quots.). [Reduced form of Southward.] = Southward *adv.* and *sb.*

In first quot. perhaps a mere misprint.

1470–85 Malory *Arthur* IV. xxv. 153 Now torne we vnto syr Marhaus that rode with the damoysel..southard. 1624 in Foster *Eng. Factories Ind.* (1909) III. 14 To the southerd of Tegnapatan some three leages. 1849 *Bentley's Misc.* XXV. 38, I mounted 'Hildebrand', bent on a fortnight's excursion to the south'ard. 1883 Stevenson *Treas. Isl.* xvii, A strong rippling current running..south'ard.

†Southboard. *Obs.*[−1] [See Sooth *a.* 2 b and Bourd *sb.*] A repartee.

c 1800 A. Carlyle *Autobiog.* (1861) 267 Lindsay was a hussar in raillery, who had no mercy...Monteath was more than his match, for he..[gave] him such southboards as silenced him for the whole evening.

Southco·ttian, *sb.* and *a.* Also **-cotian.** [See def.]

A. *sb.* A believer in the claims or teaching of Joanna Southcott (1750–1814), who announced herself as the woman spoken of in Revelation xii.

1842 Brande *Dict. Sci.*, etc. 1136/1 Southcottians. 1855 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* xvii. IV. 28 It would be most unjust to rank the sect which regards him as its founder with the Muggletonians or the Southcotians. 1899 *Dict. Nat. Biogr.* LIX. 322 The Southcottians would not receive him [John Ward].

B. *adj.* Of or pertaining to Joanna Southcott or her followers.

1843 W. B. Harrison (title), Correspondence of the Southcottian Church. 1850 P. Crook *War of Hats* 36 Southcottian dupes—the crazed of unknown tongues.

South country. [South *a.* 2.] The southern part of any country; the district or region towards the south; *spec.* of Great Britain (south of the Tweed), of England (south of the Wash), or of Scotland (south of the Forth).

1375 Barbour *Bruce* XVI. 77 He schupe for till ta His way toward the south cuntre. *c* 1400 *Brut* CCXXVIII. 301 In þe same 3ere aboute þe Sowthcuntreys..þere fell..much reyne. 14.. *Sir Beues* (C.) 366 To an erle y schall sende the..In to the sowthe cuntre. 1562 Turner *Herbal* II. (1568) 71 The tre whiche we call..in the South countre a quikbeme. 1611 Bible *Joshua* xi. 16 Ioshua tooke all that land..and all the South countrey. *a* 1784 *Dick o' the Cow* xli. in Child *Ball.* III. 466/1 Johnē Armstrong, The prettiest man in the south countrey. 1862 Borrow *Wales* xxvi, I took you for a Cumro of the south country.

b. *attrib.* (Frequently hyphened.)

1674 Ray *Coll. Eng. Words* 57 South and East Countrey Words. 1801 *Farmer's Mag.* Nov. 419 Some South-country farmers have lately settled in the neighbourhood. 1884 *Rep. Crofters' Commission* II. 1230 Crossing Shetland cattle with south country cattle.

†Southdeal. *Obs.* In 1 suðdæl, 3 supdalo. [See South *adv.* and Deal *sb.*[1]] The southern part or district (*of* a place).

c 825 *Vesp. Psalter* CXXV. 4 Swe swe burnan in suðdæle. *c* 1000 Ælfric in Assmann *Ags. Hom.* vii. 111 Affrica *on* suðdælæ ðes chames cynnes. *c* 1200 Ormin 16418 Supdale off all þiss werelld iss Mysimmbrion 3ehatenn.

Southdown (sau·pdaun). Also **South Down, South-down.** [See def.]

1. One of a breed of sheep, noted for its short, fine wool and for the good quality of its mutton, originally reared on the South Downs of Sussex and Hampshire. Chiefly in pl.

1787 *Young's Ann. Agric.* VIII. 199 The South Downs.. are, for that point, the best short-woolled sheep which I know in England. 1844 H. Stephens *Bk. Farm* II. 99 The Leicester and Southdowns afford the best mutton chops. 1883 *Science* 1. 314/1 An experiment with two mature sheep, a southdown and a merino.

2. This breed of sheep. Chiefly with *the*.

1827 Griffith tr. *Cuvier* IV. 340 The South Down have gray faces and legs, fine bones, long small necks. 1844 H. Stephens *Bk. Farm* II. 99 When the piece is large, as of Southdown or Cheviot. 1885 Bowman *Struct. Wool Fibre* 85 The Shropshire Speckle-faced Sheep is a cross breed between the original horned sheep and the Southdown.

3. *ellipt.* Mutton from this breed of sheep.

1859 Lever *Davenport Dunn* xxxvi, His curdiest salmon declined, his wonderful 'south-down' sent away scarcely tasted.

4. *attrib.*, as *Southdown breed, ewe, sheep, wether, wool.*

(*a*) 1822 Cobbett *Pol. Reg.* II May 336 Offered 17 shillings instead of 37 shillings a-head for his South Down Ewes. 1841 *Penny Cycl.* XXI. 357/2 The average dead-weight of the South Down wether varies from 8 to 11 stones. 1846 J. Baxter *Libr. Pract. Agric.* (ed. 4) II. p. xxvi, The hardiness of the Southdown breed. 1861 *Times* 11 July, Webb's celebrated flock of Southdown sheep.

(*b*) 1828 in Bischoff *Woollen Manuf.* (1842) II. 106 The low-priced foreign wools do sell at about the same rate as South Down wool. 1885 Bowman *Struct. Wool Fibre* 251 A fair illustration of pure Southdown wool.

Hence **South-downer.**

1841 J. T. J. Hewlett *Parish Clerk* II. 226, I prefer a chop to any thing,..Particularly a real south-downer.

South-east (sauþī·st), *adv.*, *sb.*, and *a.* [OE. *súðéast* (see South *adv.* and East *adv.*), = WFris. *súdeast*, MDu. *suut-* (*zuud-*), *suytoost* (Du. *zuidoost*), OS. *súthôst* (MLG. *sûtôst*), OHG. *sund-*, *suntôst-* (G. *südost*), Da. *sydost*, Norw. *sudaust.* Cf. also OF. *suest*, F. *sud-est*, Sp. *sudeste*, Pg. *sueste.*]

A. *adv.* **1.** In the direction lying midway between south and east. Also with modifications, as *by east, by south.*

c 893 K. Ælfred *Oros.* I. i. 22 Donua muða þære ea scyt suðeast ut on ðone sæ Euxinus. *a* 1122 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1097, Se leoma..wæs swiðe lang ʒeþuht suðeast scinende. 13.. *K. Alis.* 5225 (Laud MS.), Al þat niȝth Hij riden south est riȝth. 14.. *Sailing Directions* (Hakluyt Soc., 1889) 11 Fro Houndeclif fote to Humbre the cours is south est and be south. *c* 1470 Henry *Wallace* IX. 62 Sowthest he saw..Saxten salis arayit all on raw. 1577 *Reg. Mag. Sig. Scot.* 733/2 Passand southeist as the commoun gait gangis. 1682, *a* 1701 [see South *adv.* 4 c]. 1725 De Foe *Voy. round World* (1840) 145 We..stood off to sea, steering still south-east. 1772–84 *Cook's Voy.* (1790) I. 151 We saw the same land south-east by south four leagues distant. 1849 Cupples *Green Hand* xiv. (1856) 143, I held south-east-by-east to the mark.

b. Followed by *of.*

1548 Patten *Exped. Scotl.* E iij, Vpon this Fauxsyd Bray..aboute halfe a myle southeast of them. 1771 *Encycl. Brit.* I. 577/1 Bobbio, a town..about twenty-eight miles south-east of Pavia. 1834–6 *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) VIII. 414/2 About four miles South-East of Callington. 1896 Baden-Powell *Matabele Campaign* x, The district east and south-east of Charter.

2. quasi-*sb.* With preps., as *at, by, from, to.*

1297 R. Glouc. (Rolls) 175 Fram douere in to chestre tilleþ watelinge stret, Fram soubest to þe norþwest. 1600 [see South *adv.* 4 b]. 1707 J. Chamberlayne *Pres. St. Gt. Brit.* (1710) 345 It is faced all round with a steep Rock, except a Bay at South-East. 1789 J. Williams *Min. Kingd.* I. 102 The bearing of course must be in a line from north-west to south-east. 1868 *Chambers's Encycl.* X. 214/1 Similarly, in the southern tropic, the wind will blow from south-east to north-west. 1879 Geikie in *Encycl. Brit.* X. 352/2 The variations in thickness from north-west to south-east.

B. *sb.* **1.** The direction or point of the horizon lying between south and east.

1387 Trevisa *Higden* (Rolls) I. 173 A þartie þerof hatte Bulgaria, and haþ in þe est side Mesia, in þe soup est Histria. 1432–50 tr. *Higden* (Rolls) II. 47 Watlingestreete goenge..from the sowthe este in to the northeweste. 1555 Eden *Decades* (Arb.) 259 They..folowed the South easte nere vnto a cape of the Iland of Buthuan. 1604 E. G[rimstone] *D'Acosta's Hist. Indies* III. v. 134 They call the North *Tramontana*..; Southeast is by them named *Xirocque.* 1725 De Foe *Voy. round World* (1840) 315 They should have turned off to the south-east. 1806 A. Duncan *Nelson* 61 He made the signal..to..steer to the south-east. 1840 R. H. Dana *Bef. Mast* xviii, The shore is rocky, and directly exposed to the southeast.

†b. *At the south-east*, from the south-east quarter. *Obs.*[−1]

1725 De Foe *Voy. round World* (1840) 212 We met with some very bad weather.., the wind blowing very hard at the south-east.

c. Followed by *of.*

1778 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 2) II. 1275/1 Bornholm, an island ..to the south-east of the province of Schonen. 1861 Paley *Æschylus* (ed. 2) *Supplices* 280 *note*, A tract lying somewhere to the south or south-east of Europe. 1896 Baden-Powell *Matabele Campaign* xiii, About a hundred miles to the south-east of this.

2. The south-east wind.

1725 Pope *Odyss.* XII. 388 The south-east blust'ring with a dreadful sound.

3. The south-eastern part of a country.

1778 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 2) II. 1274/2 The south-east [of Borneo], for many leagues together, is a stinking morass. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* III. I. i, Gloomy tidings..of Sardinia rising to invade the Southeast.

C. *adj.* **1.** Lying or situated in or towards, directed to, the south-east.

Cf. the OE. comb. *súðéastende.*

a 1548 Patten *Exped. Scotl.* L viij, We pyght our fyeld a prik shot on this syde the toun: being on the southest half. 1577 in W. H. Turner *Select. Rec. Oxford* (1880) 395 In the Sowest warde, Mr. Ewen; in the Sowthwest warde, Mr. William Barton. 1626 Bacon *Sylva* § 405 The Planting of Trees warme vpon a Wall, against the South, or South-East Sunne. 1728 Chambers *Cycl.* s.v. *Compass*, What [has been said] of South-East Amplitudes, holds of North-West Amplitudes. 1820 Belzoni *Egypt & Nubia* III. 307 Mr. Beechey and myself went in a south-east direction. 1855 J. Phillips *Man. Geol.* 115 Other ramifications run both on the south-east and north-west sides of Snowdonia.

2. Of the wind, currents, etc.: Blowing or running from the south-east.

Cf. OE. *súðanéastanwind.*

1398 Trevisa *Barth. De P. R.* XL iii. (1495) 387 That one is Eestwarde and hyghte Nothus the Southeest winde. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 350/2 þe Sowthe est wynde, *euriaster*, *nothus*. 1565 Cooper *Thesaurus*, *Euronotus*, a south east wynde. 1611 Cotgr., *Stroch*, a South-east wind. *Ibid.*, *Suest*, the Southeast wind. 1728 Chambers *Cycl.* s.v. *Wind*, The North-West Winds succeed the South-East, when the Sun draws near the Tropic of Capricorn. 1868 *Rep. U.S. Commissioner Agric.* (1869) 153 Prevailing winds southeast, northwest, and northeast. 1898 *Jrnl. Sch. Geog.* (U.S.) Oct. 298 The strong southeast swell produced by the southeast trade.

South-ea·ster. [f. prec. + -er[1].] A wind or gale blowing from the south-east.

1836 Irving *Astoria* I. 261 They were wafted steadily up the stream by a strong southeaster. 1847 Sir G. Simpson *Round the World* I. 372 The south-easter's usual accompaniment of thick and rainy weather. 1884 Bedford *Sailor's Handbk.* 221 Simon's Bay is a safe anchorage.., for vessels ride safely with heavy south-easters.

attrib. 1840 R. H. Dana *Bef. Mast* ix, During the south-easter season. *Ibid.* xxiv, With slip-ropes on our cables, in the old southeaster style of last winter.

South-ea·sterly, *a.* and *adv.* [f. South + Easterly.]

A. *adj.* **a.** Lying, etc., in the direction of south-east. **b.** Blowing or running from the south-east.

1708 Sewel *Du. Dict.* II, *Zuydoostelyk*, south-easterly. 1716 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 5478/3 The Wind continues South-Easterly. 1846 Worcester (citing Hildreth), *South-easterly*, *a.*, being between the south and east. 1884 Bedford *Sailor's Handbk.* 192 From October to May..a south-easterly current is experienced.

B. *adv.* Towards the south-east.

1884 *Encycl. Brit.* XVII. 275/2 The course should be east,..then south-easterly across the north-east trade. 1890 *Cent. Mag.* Feb. 590/1 The route..led him Southeasterly along the river.

South-ea·stern, *a.* [f. South + Eastern. Cf. OE. *súðéasterne*, OHG. *sund-*, *suntôstrôni.*]

1. Lying on the south-east side; situated in the south-east.

1577 Eden & Willes *Hist. Trav.* 230 b, The South-eastern way róunde about Affrike by the cape of Good hope. 1618 in Foster *Eng. Factories India* (1906) I. 11 Those southerne and south-easterne countries. 1632 Lithgow *Trav.* III. 105 These South-easterne Iles in Summer are extreame hot. 1694 [see Portuguese *sb.* 1]. 1814 Scott *Diary* 9 Aug., The extreme south-eastern point of Zetland. 1875 Whitney *Life Lang.* viii. 143 Certain communities in southeastern Europe.

b. Of or pertaining to the south-east of England.

1886 Kington Oliphant *New English* I. 151 [In Trevisa's Chronicle] the South-Eastern form *ie* replaces *ea3* in *die* (tingere).

2. Of the wind: Blowing from the south-east.

Cf. OE. *súðéasterne*, *súþanéasterne wind.*

1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 286/2 During the south-eastern wind, which is called the *solano*, the thermometer frequently rises to 90°. 1855 Kingsley *Westw. Ho!* i, Far below, upon the soft south-eastern breeze, the stately ships go sliding out to sea.

South-ea·sternmost, *a.* [f. prec. + -most.] Lying furthest to the south-east.

1837 *Penny Cycl.* VIII. 398/1 A range of hills..runs from the north-easternmost point to the south-easternmost at Svenborg. 1845 J. Coulter *Adv. in Pacific* xvii. 278 The south-easternmost part of Tahiti.

South-ea·stward, *adv.*, *sb.*, and *a.* [f. South-east + -ward.]

A. *adv.* In a south-easterly direction; towards the south-east.

1528 in Froude *Hist. Eng.* (1856) II. 63 Master Garret..fled in a tawny coat south-eastward. 1591 G. Fletcher *Russ. Commw.* 65 b, The Chrim Tartar..that lieth South, and Southeastward from Russia. 1725 De Foe *Voy. round World* (1840) 230 Most of those rivers ran rather south-eastward than northward. 1845 *Encycl. Metrop.* VI. 584 The strata sink with a very regular inclination Eastward or South-Eastward. 1896 Baden-Powell *Matabele Campaign* xiv, Making its own way, south-eastward towards the Belingwe district.

B. *sb.* The south-east quarter or direction.

1555 EDEN *Decades* (Arb.) 381 To the Southeastwarde, lyeth a hed lande. *Ibid.*, To the southeastwarde of that rocke. 1820 SCORESBY *Acc. Arc. Reg.* II. 345 They had rowed many hours to the south-eastward. 1860 *Merc. Marine Mag.* VII. 172 Some others to the south-eastward are quite out of the way. 1884 BEDFORD *Sailor's Handbk.* 146 Vessels..would do well to stand boldly to the south-eastward with these winds.

C. *adj.* Situated towards or leading to the south-east.

1766 ENTICK *London* IV. 60 The arms of London [are] on the south-eastward pillar. 1796 MORSE *Amer. Geog.* (ed. 3) I. 550 In a southeastward direction.

So **South-ea·stwards** *adv.*

1879 GEIKIE in *Encycl. Brit.* X. 366/1 They [*sc.* striæ] run..eastwards or south-eastwards across the lower grounds of Sweden. 1897 MARY KINGSLEY *W. Africa* 407 The Ogowé's chief affluent..cuts through it again from Samba south-eastwards.

South-ea·stwardly, *adv.* [f. SOUTH-EASTWARD + -LY 2.] Towards the south-east; on the south-east side.

1792 MORSE *Amer. Geog.* 194 Bounded..south-eastwardly by the Atlantic Ocean. 1861 *Rep. Miss. River* 56 The Big Horn..flows southeastwardly..through a narrow bottom land. 1890 TALMAGE *From Manger to Throne* 401 Jesus ..traveled southeastwardly along the Lebanon mountains.

†Southen, *a. Obs.* Forms: 1–3 **suðen,** 5 **sopen**; 4 **southen,** 5, 6 *Sc.*, **southyn.** [f. SOUTH *adv.* + -EN 4, or repr. OE. *súðan* adv. (= MDu. and MLG. *suden*, OHG. *sundan*, ON. *sunnan*) 'from the south', in the comb. *súðanwind.*] Of the wind: South, southerly.

c 1000 ÆLFRIC *Voc.* in WR.-WÜLCKER 143 *Auster, uel nothus*, suðen wind. *c* 1150 *Canterbury Ps.* lxxvii. 26 And he æwehte suðenwind [*Vesp. Ps.* suðanwind] of heofonum. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 3084 A suðen wind is flist up-wond, And blew ðat day. *a* 1300 *E. E. Psalter* lxxvii. 30 He forthbrogt southenwind fra heuen. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XVII. lxi. (Bodl. MS.) The norþen winde greueth þe fige tree more þan þe sopen winde. 14.. in Hartshorne *Anc. Met. Tales* 128 Southyn wyndys that som tyme blowe, Makyn mastys to bowen. 1549 *Compl. Scotl.* vi. 61 Auster or meridional vynd, quhilk the vulgaris callis southyn vynd.

†Sou·then, *adv. Obs.*[−1] In 3 **suðen.** [Misuse of OE. *súðan*, or error for *suð.*] Southwards.

c 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 1167 Suðen he wente & wunede in geratis.

†South-end. *Obs.* [ME. *súðende* (cf. OE. *norðende*), = MDu. *suut-, zuutende*, MLG. *sûtende.*] The south of England.

c 1205 LAY. 3372 Forhd þe king wende in to þan suð ende. 1338 R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (1810) 32 Alle þe North ende was in his kepyng, & alle þe South ende tille Edmunde þei drouh.

Souther (sau·þəɹ), *sb.* [f. SOUTH *a.* + -ER 1.] A south wind or gale.

1862 HOPKINS *Hawaii* 10 In the roadstead..there is excellent anchorage except during a Souther or 'Kona'. 1884 J. BURROUGHS *Locusts & Wild H.* 120 A north-easter in one place may be..a souther in some other locality.

†Sou·ther, *a. Obs.* Forms: 1 **syþera, suþera, suðra,** 3 **souþere,** 5 **southir,** 6–7 **souther.** [OE. *sýþera, súðera* (f. *súð* SOUTH *adv.*), = MDu. and MLG. *süder*, ON. *syðri* (MSw. *sypre, södhre*, Sw. *södre*) and *synnri* (MSw. *sundre*, Da. *sønder*-). Cf. also the combining forms OS. *súðar-*, Du. *zuider-*, MHG. *süder-* (G. *süder-*); OHG. *sundar-* (MHG. *sunder-*).] The more southerly of two things or places; situated or lying to the south.

c 900 in Birch *Cartul. Saxon.* II. 242 On þone syþeran step. 931 *Ibid.* II. 371 Andlang þæs suþeran weges. *c* 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* III. 270 Þone suðran steorran we ne ʒeseoð næfre. *c* 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 442 In þe oþur half of þe churche, al in þe souþere side. 14.. *Sailing Directions* (Hakluyt Soc. 1889) 16 The groundes on the southir side lyen ferr oute. 1594 R. ASHLEY tr. *Loys le Roy* 12 b, For the inhabitants of our land situated in an aquilonarie quadrant, which are subiect to Souther parellels. 1622 R. HAWKINS *Voy. S. Sea* (1847) 40 The chiefe towne..is on the souther side of the Madera.

Souther (sɹ·ðəɹ), *v.* [f. SOUTH *adv.* + -ER 5.] *intr.* To shift, turn, or fly to the south; of the wind, to south or southern.

1628–9 DIGBY *Voyage Medit.* (Camden) 89 The wind..towards night..did souther a litle. *c* 1800 H. K. WHITE *Clift Gr.* 237 When the wild duck, southering, hither rides. 1886 *Field* 25 Sept. 452/1 On chance of the wind southering.

Hence **Sou·thering** *ppl. a.*

1868 MORRIS *Earthly Par.* (1870) II. III. 278 The well-fenced vine, Whose clusters hung upon the southering side Of the fair hill. 1893 *Leisure Hour* Sept. 706 The long fair grass-tufts which the sun In southering glory looked upon.

Souther, dial. variant of SOLDER *v.*

Sou·therling. *rare*−1. [f. SOUTH. Cf. EASTERLING.] A native or inhabitant of the south.

1609 J. DOWLAND *Ornithop. Microl.* 80 They thinke he [God] is gone to the South-side of heauen, and therefore cannot so easily heare both the Easterlings and the Southerlings.

Southerly (sɹ·ðəɹli), *a.* [f. SOUTH; cf. *northerly, easterly.*]

1. Situated in or towards the south; southern.

1551 RECORDE *Cast. Knowl.* (1556) 263 The one sorte are called Northerlye constellations, the other sorte Southerly constellations. 1577 B. GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* II. (1586) 58 b, In hote and Southerlie Countreis. 1613 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* (1614) 691 The Southerliest Nations of Africa. 1635 PAGITT *Christianogr.* 35 In the more Southerly part of the great Promontory. 1768 G. WHITE *Selborne* xiii, On account of my living in the most southerly county. 1814 SCOTT *Diary* 22 Aug. in *Lockhart*, The southerly line of what is called the Long Island. 1865 W. G. PALGRAVE *Journ. thro' Arabia* II. 79 We found the southerly plateau more.. uneven than the northern. 1869 DUNKIN *Midn. Sky* 32 Regulus is the most southerly.

2. Of the wind: Blowing from the south. *Southerly buster* (see BUSTER 3).

1602 SHAKS. *Ham.* II. ii. 397 When the Winde is Southerly, I know a Hawke from a Handsaw. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* II. 141 They were enforced to stay by a contrary wind, being Southerly. 1721 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 5966/1 The Southerly and Westerly Winds keep the Fleets still at Elsenab. 1769 FALCONER *Dict. Marine* (1780) s.v. *Wind*, Along the coast of Guinea,..the southerly and south-west winds blow perpetually. *a* 1822 SHELLEY *On an Icicle* i, Where southerly breezes Waft repose to some bosom as faithful as fair. 1878 HUXLEY *Physiogr.* 47 In the greater part of Europe the southerly and westerly winds bring rain.

3. Of distance: Extending southwards.

1669 STURMY *Mariner's Mag.* IV. iii. 153 The Southerly Distance is 172..Leagues.

4. Tending or facing southwards.

1789 J. WILLIAMS *Min. Kingd.* I. 136 They are turned from the south-west to a southerly direction. 1857 GRINDON *Life: its Nature* (ed. 2) iii. 31 No dwellings are so pleasant ..as those which have a southerly aspect. 1869 TOZER *Highl. Turkey* I. 243 We mounted on the other side of the valley in a southerly direction.

Hence **Sou·therliness,** 'the being on or toward the South' (Bailey, 1727, vol. II).

Southerly (sə·ðəɹli), *adv.* [Cf. prec. and -LY 2.]

1. To the southward; in or towards the south; on the south side.

1577 EDEN & WILLES *Hist. Trav.* 233 b, The..streict.. openeth southerly more and more, vntyll it come vnder the tropike of Cancer. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* II. xcvii. 43 When she is Northerly, and retired higher and farther from the earth, the tides are more gentle, than when shee is gone Southerly. 1669 STURMY *Mariner's Mag.* IV. iii. 148 You have altered the Latitude, that is..you are more Southerly or Northerly. 1725 DE FOE *Voy. round World* (1840) 145 Then we steered away more southerly for six or eight days. 1756 P. BROWNE *Jamaica* 27 The place, where it is observed, is a pleasant vale situated southerly. 1832 DE LA BECHE *Geol. Man.* 95 A strong current sets from the Polar Seas..southerly down the coast of America. 1885 *Manch. Exam.* 10 Feb. 5/2 Crossing the hills.., he made his way southerly to Bangkok.

2. From the direction of the south.

a 1642 SIR W. MONSON *Naval Tracts* II. (1704) 260/1 The Wind chop'd up Southerly. 1725 DE FOE *Voy. round World* (1840) 175 The wind still holding southerly,..we could easily perceive the climate to change. 1769 FALCONER *Dict. Marine* (1780) s.v. *Wind*, Along the coasts of Cambodia and China..the Monsoons blow northerly and southerly.

Sou·thermost, *a.* Now *rare.* [f. SOUTHER *a.* Cf. SOUTHMOST *a.*] Most southerly; southernmost.

1555 EDEN *Decades* (Arb.) 381 The southermost [is] lyke vnto a iebet. 1626 VAUGHAN *Gold. Fleece* (title-p.), The Southermost Part of the Iland, commonly called the Newfovndland. 1653 W. RAMESEY *Astrol. Restored* 94 The southermost of the 2 hindermost stars in the brest of the Whale. 1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* I. (Globe) 254 The Southermost End of the Island. 1761 *Phil. Trans.* LII. 174 The consequent and southermost limb of the sun. 1814 SCOTT *Diary* 31 Aug. in *Lockhart*, United to the continent by a key..built along the southermost channel. *c* 1850 *Rudim. Nav.* (Weale) 78 The southermost vessel..will have the wind veering.

Southern (sə·ðəm), *a.* and *sb.* Forms: 1, 3 **suðerne,** 1 **suþerne,** 4 **sopern, sotherin,** 5 **sothryn, -(e)ren, soperen, -erne**; 4 **souþerne, -erin, -eren,** 4–7 **southerne** (5 **sow-**), 5–**southern**; 5–6 **southrene,** 5–7 **southren,** 7 **-rine.** [OE. *súðerne* (f. *súð* SOUTH *adv.* + -ERN), = ON. *suðrænn*, OHG. *sundrôni.* See also SOUTHRON.]

A. *adj.* **1.** Of persons: Living or originating in, coming from, the south, esp. of Great Britain (= English), of England, or of Europe.

c 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Matt., Int. 19 Ðy cwoen suðerne ʒemyndʒade. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Parson's Prol.* 42 But trusteth wel, I am a southren man. 1620 [see NORTHERN *a.* 1]. 1646 J. HALL *Poems* I. 10 As feathers on a Southern-hacneys head. 1802 G. ELLIS *Let.* in Lockhart *Scott* (1837) I. x. 346 In the only situation which can enable a Southern reader to estimate their merits. 1871 SKEAT in *Joseph of Arimathie* p. xi, The southern forms in the poem being due to a southern scribe.

b. *U.S.* Belonging to the Southern States.

1839 W. E. CHANNING *Wks.* (1884) 553/1 Congress must be an arena in which Northern and Southern parties will be arrayed against each other. 1849 [see NORTHERN *a.* 1 b]. 1888 GUNTER *Mr. Potter* xii. 144 The most desperate charge ever made in the war by Southern troops.

2. Of the wind: Blowing from the south.

c 888 K. ÆLFRED *Boeth.* vi, Swa eac se suðerna wind hwilum mid miclum storme ʒedrefeð þa sæ. *c* 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* III. 276 Ealne ðone cwyld ðe se suðerna wind auster acænð. *c* 1205 LAY. 32038 Com þe wind suðerne, þa sæt an heore wille. *c* 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 232 Þo cam sone a souþerne wynd, þat norþþe-ward drof heom faste. 1382 WYCLIF *Ps.* lxxvii. 26 He..broʒte in his vertue the southerne wynd. *c* 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* I. 1104 The southern wynd is best, as wist Is wel. 1548 ELYOT, *Notus*, the southerne wynde. 1565 COOPER *Thesaurus* s.v. *Notus*, The southerne windes puffe vp the sayles. 1626 BACON *Sylva* § 217 The Thinner or Drier Aire, carrieth not the Sound so well, as the more Dense: As appeareth..in moist Weather, and Southern Winds. 1697 DRYDEN *Æneid* III. 96 But southern gales invite us to the main. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* II. i. 116 The southern winds..blow off the land in violent gusts.., which seems to be owing to the obstruction of the southern gale, by the hills in the neighbourhood. 1835 *Penny Cycl.* III. 27/1 The southern trade-wind..always preserves its direction.

3. Situated or lying to the southward or in the south; having a position relatively south.

c 1000 ÆLFRIC *Hom.* II. 584 Heo..com fram ðam suðernum ʒemærum to Salomone binnon Hierusalem. 1594 [see SOUTHERNLY *adv.* 1]. 1604 E. G[RIMSTONE] *D'Acosta's Hist. Indies* I. ii. 5 The other Antarticke or Southerne Pole. 1658 DRYDEN *Stanzas O. Cromwell* xxxi, We boldly cross'd the Line, And bravely fought where Southern Stars arise. 1713 POPE *Windsor Forest* 391 Under southern skies. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) IV. 49 The Agouti..is found in great abundance in the southern parts of America. 1841 ELPHINSTONE *Hist. Ind.* I. 475 The disappearance of the Greeks after the overthrow of their southern kingdom. 1868 *Rep. U. S. Commissioner Agric.* (1869) 21 A large proportion of this advance was in the southern States.

Comb. 1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* I. (Globe) 193 The Current.. did not so hurry me as the Southern Side Current had done.

b. *Astr.* In the names of constellations, as *Southern Cross, Crown, Fish, Triangle.*

1594 BLUNDEVIL *Exerc.* IV. xix. (1597) 223 b, The Southerne Crowne, called Corona Australis. *Ibid.* 224 The hinder part of the Southerne fish hauing diuers starres without name. 1700– [see CROSS *sb.* 12]. 1771 *Encycl. Brit.* I. 487 The ancient Constellations [include]..Corona Australis, The Southern Crown,..[and] Piscis Australis, The Southern Fish. 1845 GOSSE *Ocean* iv. (1849) 178 Of all the constellations that stud the sky of the southern hemisphere, there is none that more strikes a stranger than the Southern Cross. 1875 *Encycl. Brit.* II. 817/1 The constellations added by Hevelius [include]..Sextans, The Sextant;..Triangulum Australe, The Southern Triangle.

4. Of things: Pertaining or belonging to, produced by, found in, characteristic of, the south.

c 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* II. 224 Þæt is suþerne læcedom. *c* 1000 ÆLFRIC *Hom.* II. 584 And hire olfendas bæron suðerne wyrta, and deorwurðe gymstanas. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 20061 In a writt þis ilk i fand...In sotherin englis was it draun. 1387 [see B. 1]. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 467/1 Southerne, *idem quod* sowthely. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VI*, 101 Meanynge to haue..a southerne byl, to conteruayle a Northren bastard. 1591 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* I. v. 877 To seek adventure In Southren Climates for a milder Winter. 1622 in Foster *Eng. Factories Ind.* (1908) II. 43 Which..brings them quantetyes of southrine commodities. 1709 POPE *Ess. Crit.* 400 That sun..not alone the southern wit sublimes, But ripens spirits in cold northern climes. 1748 [see NORTHERN *a.* 3]. 1801 *Farmer's Mag.* Jan. 108 The great demand for the southern markets in the Autumn. 1886 KINGTON OLIPHANT *New English* I. 68 A curious medley of Northern and Southern pronouns.

b. *Southern lights,* the Aurora Australis.

1775 *Phil. Trans.* LXVIII. 409 Some Southern lights, very rare and motionless. 1777 G. FORSTER *Voy. round World* I. 116 The stars were sometimes hid by..these southern lights (*aurora australis*). 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.* 62 Cook was the first navigator who recorded the southern lights.

5. a. In the specific names of animals, birds, or fishes: (see quots. and the sbs.).

Other examples occur in *Shaw's Gen. Zool.* (1800–24) and in Lydekker's *Roy. Nat. Hist.* (1894–96).

1813 SHAW *Nat. Misc.* XXIV. 1058 The *Southern Apteryx. 1690 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 2614/4 A Pack of *Southern Beagles to be sold. 1781 LATHAM *Gen. Synop. Birds* I. i. 264 *Southern Brown Parrot...Inhabits New Zealand. *c* 1880 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* III. 264 The *Southern Caracaras (*Ibycter australis*) are said to run with extreme quickness. *Ibid.* 144 The *Southern Cavy (*Cavia australis*) ..inhabits Patagonia. 1890 *Cent. Dict., Microperus...* Bass of this genus are variously known as..white-trout, *southern or Roanoke chub [etc.]. 1790 J. WHITE *Jrnl. Voy. N. S. Wales* 266 *Southern Cottus, *Cottus Australis*. ..This fish did not exceed four inches in length. *c* 1880 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* III. 116 The little *Southern Field Vole (*Arvicola arvalis*). 1843 *Penny Cycl.* XXVII. 283/1 The bifid cæcum in the *Southern Manatee. 1882 JORDAN & GILBERT *Syn. Fishes N. Amer.* 929 *Argyrops chrysops*, *Southern Porgee. 1785 LATHAM *Gen. Synop. Birds* III. i. 187 *Southern Sandpiper..inhabits Cayenne. *Ibid.* II. 365 *Southern Tern..inhabits Christmas Island. 1823 — *Gen. Hist. Birds* VI. 322 *Southern Wagtail...Inhabits New-Holland, and has the air and manners of our Common Wagtail. 1868 *Chambers's Encycl.* X. 151/2 The *Southern or Cape Whale (*Balæna australis*) is now regarded as a distinct species.

b. In the specific names of plants.

Cf. OE. *súðerne popiʒ, rædic, wermód.*

1856 A. GRAY *Man. Bot.* (1860) 267 *Bumelia lycioides*... *Southern Buckthorn...Moist ground, S[outh] Kentucky and southward. *Ibid.* 78 *Vitis vulpina.* Muscadine or *Southern Fox-Grape. 1845–50 MRS. LINCOLN *Lect. Bot.* App. 121/1 *Lilium catesbæi*, *Southern lily. 1607 MARKHAM *Cavelarie* III. 17 Not like your *southerne Oates light and emptie, which in the north wee call skeggs. 1840 *Penny Cycl.* XVIII. 171/2 The *southern Pine (*Pinus australis* or *P. palustris*)...A native of Virginia and the neighbouring states of America. 1856 A. GRAY *Man. Bot.* (1860) 470 *Lilium Catesbæi*, *Southern Red Lily.

6. Facing or directed towards the south.

1706 LONDON & WISE *Retir'd Gardner* 19 What fruit best agrees with a Southern Wall. *Ibid.* 20 The Southern Exposition. 1781 COWPER *Retirem.* 494 There, prison'd in a parlour snug and small, Like bottled wasps upon a southern wall. 1900 BP. W. HOW *Lighter Moments* 37 A very good garden with a southern slope.

7. Performed or done in the south.

1748 *Anson's Voy.* I. ix. 92 This..would render all that southern navigation infinitely securer than at present.

8. As *adv.* Towards the south.

1678 DRYDEN *All for Love* I. i, All Southern, from yon Hills, the Roman Camp Hangs o'er us black and threatning.

9. *Comb.*, as *southern-headed, -tinted.*

1678 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1308/4 A broad squot white beagle Bitch, .. southern-headed. 1890 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Col. Reformer* (1891) 341 The nut-brown maid, blushing through her southern-tinted skin in a very visible manner.

B. *sb.* **1.** Southern men. *rare.*

1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) II. 163 Men of myddel Engelond..vnderstondeþ bettre þe side langages, norþerne and souþerne, þan norþerne and souþerne vnderstondeþ eiþer oþer. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* IV. 609 Ane awfull salt the Sothren son began. *Ibid.* 665 Thocht Sotheren had it suorn. 1622 DRAYTON *Poly-olb.* xxii. 903 The Southern on this side, for Yorke 'a Warwicke 'cry. *Ibid.* 1127 The Southern expert were, in all to war belong. 1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* viii, A sturdy Scotsman, with all sort of prejudices against the southern, and the spawn of the southern.

2. A native of the south: **a.** Of Great Britain, or of parts of the United Kingdom.

1721 RAMSAY *Prospect of Plenty* 82 The Southerns will with pith your project bauk. 1814 SCOTT *Lord Isles* VI. xxvi, Both Southern fierce and hardy Scot. *a* 1849 H. COLERIDGE *Ess.* (1851) I. 190 The Southerns, and some of you Northerns too, have a strange idea of the lakes. 1874 S. WILBERFORCE *Ess.* I. 26 Poor stay-at-home Southerns whose nerves were not being braced by the invigorating air of the eastern Highlands.

b. Of Europe.

1830 H. N. COLERIDGE *Greek Poets* 18 That the old Greek and Roman poets were..Southerns, or Inhabitants of the South of Europe. 1856 *N. Brit. Rev.* XXVI. 127 Vegetable oil in lamps lights the Southerns now as in old classical days. 1870 Miss L. TOULMIN SMITH *Eng. Gilds* Introd. p. lxxiii, When..these Southerns brought Christianity into the North.

c. In general use.

1846 G. WARBURTON *Hochelaga* II. 314 There were Hamburg Jews, Spaniards from the Havannah, Northerns and Southerns, Westerns, English, Canadians, and a few who had no country in particular. 1885 SIR H. TAYLOR *Autobiog.* I. 353 The trading interests of the Southerns [of China] were identical with our own.

Hence **Sou'thern** *v.*, to become more southerly.

1870 *Daily News* 12 May, At 7.30 a.m. the wind was S.E., but southerning fast. 1894 *Times* 6 Aug. 5/2 The breeze southerned and came fresher.

Southerner (sʌ'ðəɹnəɹ). [f. SOUTHERN *a.*]

1. An inhabitant or native of the south, or of the southern part of any country; freq., a native of southern England.

1833 NEWMAN *Lett.* (1891) I. 394, I have letters of introduction to Messina, Catania...Have I told you of the inconsistencies of these Southerners? 1886 KINGTON OLIPHANT *New English* I. 74 The Southerner, on entering Leeds, still reads the old Northern names of Kirkgate and Briggate on two great thoroughfares.

2. One belonging to the southern States of America.

1836 HALIBURTON *Clockm.* Ser. I. xiii, There's so many rich southerners and strangers there that have more money than wit. 1862 J. SPENCE *Amer. Union* 261 From his youth, the Southerner is habituated to command others. 1875 *N. Amer. Rev.* CXX. 65 The Southerners had every guaranty they could desire that they should not be interfered with at home.

Sou'thernism. [f. SOUTHERN *a.* + -ISM.]

1. An idiom, expression, or word peculiar to the southern States of America. Orig. *U.S.*

1882 *Amer. Mission.* Apr. 108 Aside from African features .., and some Southernisms in voice and expression. 1886 *Academy* 11 Sept. 174/3 Among words classed as Southernisms, or as having peculiar Southern uses.

2. The quality of being southern in character.

1911 *Q. Reg. Panpresbyt. Ch.* Nov. 479 New Orleans has its solid *Southernism* before, during, and since the war.

Southernize (sʌ'ðəɹnəiz), *v.* [f. SOUTHERN *a.*]

1. *trans.* To make southern in respect of language, form, character, etc.

1867 *Hymns Virgin* Pref. p. x, Some of the poems bear traces of having been southernized from a Northern original. 1887 *Athenæum* 15 Jan. 92/3 A copy, partially southernized in language, of a work originally written in pure northern dialect.

2. *intr.* To become southern in respect of quality or character (*Cent. Dict.* 1891).

Hence **Sou'thernized, Sou'thernizing** *ppl. adjs.*

1871 SKEAT in *Joseph of Arimathie* p. xi, The southernizing tendencies of the scribe. 1873 *Athenæum* 23 Aug. 243/2 A slightly more southernized copy of the Trinity MS. 1890 GURNHILL *Monogr. Gainsborough Par. Reg.* 26 'Churchmaster' is a southernized form of Kirk-master.

Southernly (sʌ'ðəɹnli), *a.* [f. SOUTHERN *a.* + -LY 1.] = SOUTHERLY *a.*

1594 BLUNDEVIL *Exerc.* III. II. viii. (1597) 186 If the declination..be Southernly. 1620 E. BLOUNT *Horæ Subs.* 136 More Sowthernly people..vpon extraordinarie businesses driuen to the towne.. 1655 CULPEPPER, etc. *Riverius* IX. lxxviii. 265 The External Causes, are..Southernly weather, or infectious Air. 1658 W. BURTON *Comment. Itin. Antoninus* 218 The Town from the Southernly situation is at this day Southanton. 1803 VISCT. STRANGFORD *Poems of Camoens* (1810) 68 Thy branches still wave to the southernly sigh. 1865 CARLYLE *Fredk. Gt.* XVIII. xiii. (1872) VIII. 48 Wind a mere lull, but southernly if any.

Hence **Sou'thernliness**, the 'state of being southernly' (Ogilvie, 1850).

† Sou'thernly, *adv. Obs.* [f. as prec. + -LY 2.] = SOUTHERLY *adv.*

1594 BLUNDEVIL *Exerc.* VI. XXX. (1597) 310 Euery degree of any of the southerne signes riseth Southernly. 1613 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* (1614) 60 These Northernely are seene, which they attribute to the liuing: those Southernely are hidden. 1636 H. B[LOUNT] *Voy. Levant* 72 Winds which in those parts..in Summer, sit Northernly, and in Winter Southernly. 1658 W. BURTON *Comment. Itin. Antoninus* 120 The Military Port way hence tending somewhat more Southernly.

Sou'thernmost, *a.* [f. as prec. + -MOST.] Most southerly; furthest south.

1725 DE FOE *Voy. round World* (1840) 91 The southernmost point of the isthmus of Malacca. 1758 BORLASE *Nat. Hist. Cornw.* 11 Our latitude..is the southernmost of all England. *c* 1850 *Rudim. Navig.* (Weale) 78 The southernmost vessel..will have the wind veering. 1882 DE WINDT *Equator* 24 Along the south-west coast of Borneo from its southernmost boundary, Cape Datu.

Sou'thernness. *rare.* [f. as prec. + -NESS.] The property or quality of being southern in character.

1891 *Harper's Mag.* Sept. 640/2 It is all very Southern, and nicely differentiated in its Kentucky Southernness from ..Louisianian life. 1903 *Westm. Gaz.* 11 Feb. 2/1, I understood the Southernness of Brive..in this characteristic.

Southernwood (sʌ'ðəɹnwud). *Bot.* Forms: (see SOUTHERN *a.* and WOOD *sb.*); also 3 **southren-**, 5 **sothren-**, **sutherne-**, 5–6 **sothern-**, 7 **soothern-**, **south-hern-**. β. 2 **super-**, 5 **soþer-**, **sother-**. [OE. *súðerne* SOUTHERN *a.* 5 b, and *wudu* WOOD *sb.*]

1. A hardy deciduous shrub or plant, *Artemisia Abrotanum*, having a fragrant aromatic smell and a sour taste, orig. native to the south of Europe, and formerly much cultivated for medicinal purposes. Also, the genus of *Compositæ* of which this is the type.

α. *c* 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* I. 250 Deos wyrt þe man abrotanum, & oðrum naman suðerne wuda nemneþ, ys twezea cynna. *a* 1387 *Sinon. Barthol.* (Anecd. Oxon.) 12 *Averoyn*, southrenwode. *a* 1400 *Stockh. Med. MS.* i. 12 in *Anglia* XVIII. 295 Aueroyne he take..Queche is callyd soþernwode also. 14.. *Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 571 *Caruca*, suthernewode. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 467/1 Sowtherne woode, herbe,..*abrotonum*. 1548 TURNER *Names Herbes* 7 Sothernwod is hote and dry in the thirde degree. *c* 1550 H. LLOYD *Treas. Health* X iij, Sothernewood & freshe grece,..do drawe oute spriges, thornes, and other thinges. 1614 GORGES *Lucan* IX. 406 That which Southernwood we call, Whose smoake the serpents so distast. 1671 J. WEBSTER *Metallogr.* XV. 221 Resembling the shrub Southernwood, thick set with little twigs leaning one to another. 1718 QUINCY *Compl. Disp.* 121 Southern-wood..is now almost out of use in Medicine. 1785 MARTYN *Rousseau's Bot.* xxvi. (1794) 386 Southernwood is shrubby, erect, and has setaceous leaves very much branched. 1833 TENNYSON *Mariana in South* Poems 20 Not a breath ..moved the dusty southernwood. 1867 H. MACMILLAN *Bible Teach.* vii. (1870) 144 Some leaves consist of little more than veins, as in..fennel and southernwood.

β. *c* 1150 *Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 544 *Abrotanum*, suþerwude. *a* 1400 *Sqr. lowe Degre* 33 The sother-wood, and sykamoure. *c* 1460 *Promp. Parv.* (Winch. MS.) 426 Sotherwode, herbe, *abrotanum*.

b. With distinguishing epithets, denoting various species of *Artemisia*, or plants resembling these (see quots.).

1577 B. GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* II. (1586) 66 b, Some call it *Santonia*, and female Southernewood. 1578 LYTE *Dodoens* I There be two sortes of Sothrenwood (as Dioscorides sayth) the one called female Sothrenwood, or the great Sothrenwood, the other is the male kinde. *c* 1710 PETIVER *Cat. Ray's Eng. Herbal* Tab. xx, Wild Southernwood. 1731 MILLER *Gard. Dict.* s.v. *Abrotanum*, The Lesser and Narrower-leav'd Southernwood. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl., *Santolina*, female southernwood. *Ibid.* s.v. *Santolina*, The male southernwood. 1771 *Encycl. Brit.* I. 428/1 There are 23 species of artemisia, only 4 of which are natives of Britain, *viz.* the campestris, or field-southernwood [etc.]. 1796 WITHERING *Brit. Plants* (ed. 3) III. 709 *Artemisia maritima*. Sea Southernwood. Sea Wormwood. 1853 MAYNE *Expos. Lex.* 89/1 *Artemisia Santonica*,..the Tartarian southern-wood, or wormwood, or the worm-seed plant. 1857 HENFREY *Bot.* 320 *Artemisia Abrotanum* is Garden Southern-wood.

2. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *southernwood-leaved, twig.*

1822 *Hortus Anglicus* II. 389 *S. Abrotanifolius*. Southernwood-leaved Groundsel. 1849 *Diss. Silk Manuf.* (Shanghae) 10 The southern-wood twigs are of a cooling nature. 1887 D. C. MURRAY & HERMAN *Traveller Returns* vii. 98 In each bowl a bound bunch of southernwood twigs.

So **† Sou'thernwort.** *Obs.*

1510 STANBRIDGE *Vocabula* (W. de W.) D ij b, *Abrotinum*, sotherne worte. 1530 PALSGR. 273/2 Southernewortbe. 1610 MARKHAM *Masterp.* II. clxxiii. 482 *Abrotanum*, which we cal in English southernwort.

† South-half. *Obs.* [OE. *súðhealf* (see SOUTH *adv.* and HALF *sb.*), = MDu. *suuthalf*, ON. *suðrhálfa*, OHG. *sund(ar)halba.*] The south side or part; the south. In later use ellipt. as *prep.*

c 893 K. ÆLFRED *Oros.* I. i, Þara landa norþgemæro sindon æt ðæm beorgum Caucasus, & on suþhealfe se Reada Sæ. *a* 1122 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1016, [Hie] dulfon þa ane mycele dic on ða suðhealfe. *c* 1205 LAY. 15937 Þe an [dragon] is a norð half, þe oðer a suð half. *c* 1290 *St. Edmund* 381 in *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 442 In þe southhalf þoru3 al þe heize strete it [*sc.* rain] leide on for wod. 1439 *Charters*, etc. *of Edinb.* (1871) 64 Lyande in the toune off Leicht..on Soucht halfe the vatir. 1473 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* I. 43 Passande with lettres on Southalue for the ditte and the garde. 1474 *Ibid.* 50 Ane vthir currour passande on southalue Forth. 1524 *Ibid.* V. 236, xj lettres..direct to all the Shereffis on south half Forth.

Southing (sau'þiŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. SOUTH *adv.*, or *v.* + -ING 1.]

1. Of heavenly bodies: The action of crossing or approaching the meridian of a place.

1659 J. MOXON *Globes* II. liv. (1674) 105 The Time of her Rising, Southing, Setting, and Shining. 1697 DRYDEN *Æneid* v. 33 If I observ'd aright The southing of the Stars and Polar Light. 1786–7 BONNYCASTLE *Astron.* 435 *Southing* of the stars, the time when they culminate or come to the meridian. 1834 KEITH *Globes* (1843) Cont. p. xxiii, To find the time of the Moon's southing..on any given day of the month. 1859 R. F. BURTON *Centr. Afr.* in *Jrnl. Geog. Soc.* XXIX. 207 The gradual refrigeration of the ground, and the southing of the sun, produce..the north-east monsoon. 1890 *Science-Gossip* XXVI. 39 Rising, Southing, and Setting of the Principal Planets, at intervals of Seven Days, for February.

2. Progress, movement, or deviation towards the south made in sailing, travelling, etc.; difference in latitude due to moving southward. Chiefly in *Navigation.*

1669 STURMY *Mariner's Mag.* IV. xvii. 203 In the..tenth and eleventh Columns, set down the Northing, Southing, Easting, and Westing. 1696 LEYBOURN *Curs. Math.* 641 Subtract the Lesser Northing or Southing from the Greater. 1712 E. COOKE *Voy..S. Sea* 30 A strong Current..oblig'd us to correct our Southing considerably. 1771 *Encycl. Brit.* III. 370/2 Then they sum up all the northings, and all the southings. 1857 LIVINGSTONE *Trav.* v. 95 The prevailing winds..are easterly, with a little southing. 1868 *Contemp. Rev.* Apr. 600 In 1486 Diaz found the final southing of the protracted African coast-line.

b. Freq. in the phr. *to make* (..) *southing.*

1803 NELSON 23 May in Nicolas *Disp.* (1845) V. 74 He would certainly make Southing with his Westing. 1844 KINGLAKE *Eothen* ii, After Adrianople I had made more southing than I knew for. 1899 F. T. BULLEN *Log Seawaif* 178 We had always managed to make some Southing each day.

Sou'thing, *ppl. a. rare.* [f. as prec.] Moving or tending towards the south.

1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* IV. 577 When next the Southing Sun inflames the Day.

Southistel, obs. form of SOW-THISTLE.

Sou'thland. Now *arch.* or *poet.* Also **south land, south-land.** [OE. *súðland* (see SOUTH *adv.* and LAND *sb.*), = ON. *suðrland*, Du. *zuidland*, G. *südland.*]

1. A land lying in or towards the south.

c 1000 ÆLFRIC *Gen.* xxiv. 62 He eardode soðlice on þam suðlandum. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XIV. ii. (Bodl. MS.), Men of souþe londes beþ contrarye to men of norþe londes in stature. 1535 COVERDALE *Judg.* i. 15 Thou hast geuen me a south & drye londe. 1611 BIBLE *Josh.* xv. 19 Thou hast giuen mee a South-land, giue me also springs of water. 1868 MORRIS *Earthly Par.* (1870) II. III. 335 In a strange land and barren, far removed From southlands and their bliss. 1890 DOYLE *White Company* viii, Yet the king hath given me a living here in the southlands.

2. The southern part of a country or district; the South; † the southern bank.

c 1100 *O. E. Chron.* (MS. D) an. 1052, **Hy**..heoldan þurh þa brycge aa bi þæm suþlande. *c* 1205 LAY. 2111 Þat suð lond þat æfter him Locres wes icleped. *Ibid.* 3741 Scottlondes kinge..hehte þane duc stronge herizen in suð londe. 1382 WYCLIF *Josh.* xi. 16 So Josue took al..the south loond, and Gosen. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* IX. 1308 Till the south land with glaid hartis thai socht. *a* 1578 LINDESAY (Pitscottie) *Chron. Scot.* (S. T. S.) II. 21 Mony wither wastland men and clans of the southtland. 1872 TENNYSON *Gar. & Lynette* 1161 Baken meats and good red wine Of Southland. 1899 MACKAIL *W. Morris* I. 261 To get back into the Southland without again traversing the wilderness.

3. *attrib.* or as *adj.*

c 1470 HENRY *Wallace* I. 442 Thir Southland hors latt se gif I can ride. *a* 1578 LINDESAY (Pitscottie) *Chron. Scot.* (S.T.S.) I. 348 Money southland men..appeillit wther in barras to fight in singular battell. *a* 1670 SPALDING *Troub. Chas. I* (1850) II. 337 Quhilk wold give the Southland men aneuche ado. *a* 1724 in Ramsay *Tea-t. Misc.* (1876) I. 192 A Southland Jenny..Had for a suitor norland Jonny. 1813 HOGG *Queen's Wake, Introd.* (1814) 9 Her ringlets pale Wide waving in the southland gale. 1819 SCOTT *Leg. Montrose* iv, Southland though they be, they'll scarce eat up all the cattle. 1873 MORRIS *Love is enough* 61 Of many such tales..the Southland folk told us.

Hence **Sou'thlander,** a southerner.

1823 SCORESBY *Jrnl.* p. xxxi, A Southlander..wintered at the colony in the year 1757. 1827 SCOTT *Two Drovers* ii, 'May good betide us,' said the Southlander. 1860 (*title*), The Southlanders, an account of an expedition to the interior of New Holland.

† Sou'thly, *a. Obs.* [f. SOUTH + -LY 1. Cf. MDu. *zude-, zuydelic*, Du. *zuidelijk*, WFris. *súdlik*, G. *südlich*, Da. *sydlig.*] Southern, southerly.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 466/2 Sowthely, or sum what be sowthe, *australis*. 1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 100 Southly, *australis*. ? 1579 *Sheldon Tapestry Map* (in Bodl. Libr.), This sowthly part which hear below towards Glocester fall.

† Sou'thly, *adv. Obs.* [f. SOUTH + -LY 2. So Du. *zuidelijk*, G. *südlich.*] Towards or in the south; facing or from the south.

1538 LELAND *Itin.* (1768) II. 38 The Closis..that lyeSouthly on the Toun. 1573 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 40 Place hiue in good ayer, set southly and warme. 1590 MASCALL *Bk. Fishing* 4 When the winde bloweth southly from the South or West.

Southly, obs. form of SOOTHLY *adv.*

Southmost (sau·þməst, -məust), *a.* Also 1 **suðmest**, *Sc.* 5 **southmaist**, 6 **-mest.** [f. SOUTH *adv.*: see -MOST.] Most southerly; southernmost.

c 893 K. ÆLFRED *Oros.* I. vii. 40 Ða suðmestan Æthiopian hæfdon bryne for ðære hæte. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* VIII. 1091 The southmaist part off Ingland we sall se. 1535 STEWART *Cron. Scot.* II. 626 The southmest part la narrest France that tyde, This ilk Canutus gat. 1623 WHITBOURNE *Newfoundland* 4 It lies the Southmost of any Harbor. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* I. 408 From Aroer to Nebo, and the wild Of Southmost Abarim. 1756 J. WILLME *Sepherah*

Shelosh 201 His Nativity happened in the Southmost middle Part of Lancashire. 1789 J. WILLIAMS *Min. Kingd.* I. 123 The greatest number of the edge-seams decline much about the angle forty-five, though some of the southmost of the coals are higher. 1855 BAILEY *Mystic*, etc. 116 To hills of heaven, and southmost shores Unbroken, of peninsular Malay. 1896 G. A. SMITH *Bk. Twelve Prophets* I. 312 Hermon, the southmost..summits of Anti-Lebanon.

Sou'thness. [f. SOUTH + -NESS.] The quality of indicating the south; the state of being relatively south.

1854 *Orr's Circ. Sci., Chem.* 397 The functions of northness and southness in magnetic..relations.

† **Southright,** *adv. Obs.* [OE. *súþryhte*, f. SOUTH *adv.* + -RIGHT.] Due south.

c 1205 LAY. 20608 Hit was to þere middel-niht; þe mone scæn scan suð riht [*v.r.* souþriht].

Southron (sʊ·ðŏrŏn), *a.* and *sb.* Orig. *Sc.* (and *north.*). Forms: 5 **sothroun, -ron,** 8 **suthron,** 9 **southron**; 6 **su-, sotheroun,** 6–7 **southeroun,** 6, 9 **sotheron,** 8–9 **southeron**; 6 **sudroun, suddroun, -rone,** 8 **soudron.** [Alteration of *southren* SOUTHERN *a.*; the ending was probably modified on the analogy of *Briton, Saxon.*]

Freq., and now usually, with initial capital.

A. *adj.* **1.** Belonging to or dwelling in the south, esp. of Britain; southern; *esp.* English as distinguished from Scottish. Chiefly *Sc.*

c 1470 HENRY *Wallace* IV. 494 Or Sothron men suld sege him in that place. *Ibid.* X. 664 Then ferdly fled full mony Sotheroun syr. 1785 BURNS *To W. S[imps]n* x, Where glorious Wallace Aft bure the gree..Frae Suthron billies. 1810 JANE PORTER *Sc. Chiefs* xxxvii, When the Southron lords delegate a messenger to me. 1892 *Athenæum* 8 Oct. 475/1 Church politics..still possess an interest for Scotland which is perfectly amazing to the Southron observer,

2. Of or pertaining to, characteristic of, the south; situated in or on the south: **a.** In or after Scottish use (= English).

c 1470 HENRY *Wallace* II. 10 To se thaim sched the byrn-and Sothroun blude. 1570 *Henry's Wallace* V. 930 On Sutheroun syde full greit slauchter þai maid. 1571 *Satir. Poems Reform.* XXV. 48 By slicht & suddrone bloud. 1807 BYRON *The Adieu* iii, Why did I quit my Highland cave ..To seek a Sotheron home! 1858 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* vii. II. 183 The French monarchy was to him..what the Southron [*earlier edd.* southern] domination was to Wallace. 1891 BARRIE *Little Minister* XXV, A southron mode of speech.

b. In other uses.

1845 FORD *Handbk. Spain* 773 The wants and wishes of a credulous southron people. 1891 *Cent. Dict., Southron*, pertaining or belonging to the southern United States.

B. *sb.* **1.** A native of the south of Great Britain; an Englishman.

c 1470 HENRY *Wallace* II. 304 Bot othir a Scott wald do a Sothroun teyne, Or he till him. 1771 J. MACPHERSON *Introd. Hist. Grt. Brit.* 129 The appellation of Southerons and Norlands are not hitherto totally extinguished among the Scots. 1810 JANE PORTER *Sc. Chiefs* ii, The Southrons are at the gates and we shall be lost. 1879 HUXLEY *Hume* 40 These same Southrons added a passionate admiration for Lord Chatham.

b. In pl. sense, = Englishmen. Freq. with *the.*

c 1470 HENRY *Wallace* I. 188 He saw the Sothroun multipliand mayr. *Ibid.* III. 270 Sothroun to sla he thinkis it na syne. *a* 1795 *Outlaw Murray* xxii. in Child *Ballads* V. 192/1 Frae Soudron I this forest wan. 1820 SCOTT *Monast.* iv, But wha is to haud back the Southron, then? 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* vi. (ed. 5) II. 130 In Ireland Scot and Southron were strongly bound together by their common Saxon origin.

† **c.** *Sc.* The English tongue or language. *Obs.*

1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* I. Prol. 111 Kepand na sudroun bot our awin langage, And speikis as I lernit quhen I was page. 1563 WINJET *Wks.* (S. T. S.) I. 138, I am nocht acquyntit with 3our Southeroun. 1581 HAMILTON in *Cath. Tract.* (S. T. S.) 105 James the fyft..hering ane of his subiectis knap suddrone, declarit him ane traiteur.

2. A native or inhabitant of the south of England, of Europe, etc.

1857 MRS. GASKELL *C. Bronte* (1860) 253 Those nearer to the spot..were sure, from the..accuracy of the writing, that the writer was no Southron. 1868 MILMAN *St. Paul's* 48 The Southron [*sc.* an Italian legate] was to spend his winter in cold London. 1891 J. WINSOR *Columbus* 658 The wisdom in their employment of the aborigines was as eminent as with the Southrons [*sc.* Spaniards] it was lacking.

b. *U.S.* = SOUTHERNER 2.

1848 in Bartlett *Dict. Amer.* 410 He will prevent the nomination of Gen. Butler, or any other Southron. 1878 *N. Amer. Rev.* CXXVI. 84 The Southron was a better fighter than the Northerner.

Hence **Sou'throny,** the English. *pseudo-arch.*

a 1795 *Outlaw Murray* xxxiii. in Child *Ballads* V. 192/2 He says yon forest is his ain, He wan it from the Soudronie. *c* 1802 J. MARRIOTT *Feast of Spurs* xiii. in Scott *Minstrelsy*, Intull your saddles, scour awa', And ranshakle the Southronie.

South Sea. [Cf. MDu. *suutsee, zuutzee*, the Mediterranean; Du. *zuidzee*, G. *südsee* the Pacific.]

† **1. a.** The sea to the south of Europe; the Mediterranean. *Obs.*

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XIV. ii. (Bodl. MS.), Hote vapoure and moiste comeþ oute of þe souþe see.

† **b.** The English Channel. *Obs.*

[1432–50 tr. *Higden* (Rolls) II. 37 The side of the sowthe see of Briteyne.] 1478 *Itin. Will. de Worcestre* (Nasmith, 1778) 90 Branston, per 8 miliaria de Axmynster, et per 4 miliaria de le south-see.

2. *pl.* The seas of the southern hemisphere; *esp.* the South Pacific Ocean.

c 1528 R. THORNE *Let. Hen. VIII* in *Hakluyt* (1589) 251 Vntill they come to the..South Seas of the Indies Occidentall. 1601– [see NORTH SEA 3]. 1622 DRAYTON *Poly-olb.* xix. 365 Brave Candish..through the South Seas pass'd, about this earthly ball. 1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* II. (Globe) 544 To sail from the Philippine Islands, away to the South-Seas. 1745 P. THOMAS (*title*), A Voyage to the South Seas ..in H.M.S. Centurion. 1802 PINKERTON *Mod. Geogr.* II. 506 The Grecian..forms, given by artists..to the people of the South seas,..are totally false. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1119/1 Arrowroot..is a favourite ingredient for puddings and cakes in the South Seas.

3. The South Pacific Ocean; † the Pacific Ocean as a whole (*obs.*).

1555 EDEN *Decades* III. iii. (Arb.) 251 The Spanyardes thought that by this ryuer they might haue passed into the south sea. 1638 J. CHILMEAD tr. *Hues' Treat. Globes* III. i. (Hakl. Soc.) 79 America..is terminated..on the West with ..the South Sea. 1771 *Encycl. Brit.* III. 449/1 [The] Pacific ..was called south-sea, because the Spaniards crossed the isthmus of Darien from north to south, when they first discovered it. 1840 *Penny Cycl.* XVII. 116/2 The Pacific.. is also called the South Sea, because vessels sailing from Europe can only enter it after a long southerly course. *Ibid.* 117/1 The name of South Sea has been limited in later times to the southern portion of the Pacific. 1845 DARWIN *Voy. Nat.* (1901) 510 The introduction of Christianity throughout the South Sea.

fig. 1600 SHAKS. *A. Y. L.* III. ii. 207 One inch of delay more, is a South-sea of discouerie. 1721 SWIFT *Ess. Eng. Bubbles*, The ambitious citizens..plunged deep in the wealthy whirlpool of the South Sea.

b. *ellipt.* for 'South Sea bonds, scheme', etc.

1717 MRS. CENTLIVRE *Bold Stroke for Wife* IV. i, 1 *Stock.* South Sea at seven eighths; who buys? 1721 SWIFT *South Sea Project* Wks. 1841 I. 622/1 The nation then too late will find..Directors' promises but wind, South Sea, at best, a mighty bubble. 1856 BAGEHOT *Lit. Studies* II. 1 The real founder was the grandfather of the historian [Gibbon], who lived in the times of the 'South Sea'.

† **4.** *Cant.* (See quots.) Also *attrib. Obs.*—°

1725 *New Cant. Dict., South-Sea*, a strong distill'd Liquor, so called by the Inhabitants and Clients of Newgate, &c. *Ibid., South-Sea Mountain*, Geneva.

5. *attrib.* **South Sea bubble,** = *South Sea scheme*; **South Sea Company,** a company incorporated in 1711 for the purpose of exclusive trade with the South Seas, and of taking up the unfunded National Debt; **South Sea scheme,** a stock-jobbing scheme which was inaugurated by this Company in 1720 for taking up the whole National Debt, but collapsed in the same year. Also *South Sea bonds, dream, fund, stock*, etc.

1711 (*title*), A View of the Coasts, Countries and Islands Within the Limits of the South-Sea-Company. 1711 *View Coasts*, etc., *of South-Sea-Coy.* 207 Of the..Countries and Islands within the Limits of the South-Sea-Act. 1720 A. HUTCHESON (*title*), A Collection of Calculations and Remarks relating to the South Sea Scheme & Stock. 1721 AMHERST *Terræ Fil.* No. 12 (1726) 60, I conceive the sum of the charge against the South-sea directors to be this. 1742 YOUNG *Nt. Th.* IV. 76 As wealthy as a South-sea dream. 1771 *Encycl. Brit.* III. 632/2 Things were in this situation, when..the South Sea bubble was projected. 1809 R. LANGFORD *Introd. Trade* 57 South sea stock 89 means, that 89*l.* will purchase 100*l.* of this stock. 1857 GEO. ELIOT *Ess.* (1884) 54 South-Sea dreams and illegal percentage.

b. In specific names, etc. (see quots.).

1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1119/1 The..tubers [of *Tacca pinnatifida*]..contain a great deal of starch known as *South-sea Arrowroot. 1884 MILLER *Plant-n.* 254/1 *Tacca pinnatifida*, Otaheita Salep-plant, Pi-plant, South-Sea-Arrow-root-plant. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) V. 407/1 Having..been furnished with *South Sea cloth from the ship, he equipped himself with great quickness. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. *App.* s.v. *Rose*, **South-Sea Rose*, a name sometimes given to the *Nerion* of botanists. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 991 South Sea rose, of Jamaica, *Nerium Oleander.* 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl., Paraguay*, or *Paragoue*,..a celebrated Plant,..better known, of late, among us, under the Denomination of *South-Sea Tea. 1760 J. LEE *Introd. Bot.* App. 327 Southsea Thea, *Ilex.* 1872 DE VERE *Americanisms* 396 South-sea tea or Yopon (Ilex vomitoria) occurs North and South.

c. In miscellaneous uses.

1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) V. 391/1 While Mr. Cook proceeded to visit others of the South Sea Islands. 1813 PRICHARD *Phys. Hist. Man* vi. § 6. 312 He [Cook] regarded their dialect as a branch of the South Sea language. 1847 TENNYSON *Princess* III. 261 Cramp'd under worse than South-sea-isle taboo. 1897 FLORA SHAW *Story Australia* iii. 22 A delicacy..altogether wanting in other South Sea tribes.

Hence **South-seaman,** a vessel trading in the South Seas.

1805 *Naval Chron.* XIV. 169 One Store-ship, and a captured English South Seaman. 1839 T. BEALE *Nat. Hist. Sperm Whale* 293 Those very people have massacred nearly the whole of the crew of a South-seaman. 1898 F. T. BULLEN *Cruise Cachalot* vi. 51 The clear and sweet oil.. landed from a south-seaman.

South-side. [Originally repr. ME. *sūðsīde*, = MDu. *suutside, zuutzide* (Du. *zuidzijde*), MLG. *sûtsîde*, G. *südseite*, Da. *sydside*. In later use felt merely as a collocation of SOUTH *a.* and SIDE *sb.*[1]] The side situated in or lying towards the south.

1338 R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (1810) 59 Toward þe South side turned þei þar flete. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) V. 297 Andresleg is a greet wode on þe souþ side of Kent. 1417 *E. E. Wills* 27 As men goth ouer in-to þe church at þe South Syde. 1480 [see CHOIR *sb.* 2]. 1535 COVERDALE *Numb.* ii. 10 On the South side shall lye the pauylions..of Ruben. 1560 BIBLE (Genev.) *Numb.* iii. 29 The families of the sonnes of Kohath shal pitch on the Southside of the Tabernacle. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* (1637) 633 On the South side a great part of the Wall standeth. 1670–1 NARBOROUGH *Jrnl.* in *Acc. Sev. Late Voy.* I. (1694) 39, I went a-shore on the South-side to the peeked Rock. 1707 J. CHAMBERLAYNE *Pres. St. Gt. Brit.* (1710) 460 On the South-side [of Holyrood Palace] lies the Queen's Park. 1808 SCOTT in *Lockhart* (1837) I. i. 12 A pond, or old quarry-hole,..on the south side of the square. 1896 BADEN-POWELL *Matabele Campaign* xvii, Lord Grey's party shot to northward of the road, and the south side was our preserve.

† **b.** In const. without *of.* Also as *adv.*, on the south part; southward. *Obs.*

1489 *Acc. L.d. High Treas. Scot.* I. 125 To pas on the suthsyd the watter. 1726 in W. Wing *Ann. Steeple Aston* (1875) 54 The land heretofore of William Wing southside, and John Bates northward.

South-south-east, *adv.*, etc. [Cf. older Flem. *suydsuydoost* (Kilian), Du. *zuidzuidoost*, G. *südsüdost.*] In or from the direction lying midway between south and south-east. Also as *sb.* and *adj.*

14.. *Sailing Directions* (Hakl. Soc. 1889) 11 Fro Leyrnes to the Hedelonde the cours is north northwest and south south est. 1555 EDEN *Decades* (Arb.) 380 And to the south southeaste [lay] a lowe longe lande. 1598 W. PHILLIP tr. *Linschoten* 165 We held our course south south East. 1638 CHILMEAD tr. *Hues' Treat. Globes* V. (Hakl. Soc.) 140, I finde it to be the North norwest, and South southeast Rumbe. *a* 1691 BOYLE *Hist. Air* (1692) 192 A little island, which bare off us south-south-east some four leagues. 1725 DE FOE *Voy. round World* (1840) 264 [The valley] went winding away..to the south-east, and so to south-south-east. 1839 DE LA BECHE *Rep. Geol. Cornwall*, etc. i. 5 About eight miles in a..south-south-east direction. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXIII. 216/2 One principal street, running from south-south-east to north-north-west. 1893 *Times* 8 July 14/2 The wind had southerned a little..and was about south-south-east.

Hence **South-south-ea'sterly, -ea'stward** *advs.* and *adjs.*

1784 *Phil. Trans.* LXXIV. 203, 30° or 20° south-south-eastward. 1796 MORSE *Amer. Geog.* (ed. 3) I. 711 The bank and highland..ranges nearly northerly and south-southeasterly. *Ibid.* 714 The high lands lie northeastward and south southeastward.

South-sou'therly. *Amer.* [Imitative: see first quot.] The long-tailed duck, *Harelda glacialis.*

1814 A. WILSON *Amer. Ornith.* VIII. 93 Known along the shores of the Chesapeake Bay by the name of South Southerly, from the singularity of its cry, something imitative of the sound of those words. 1872 COUES *N. Amer. Birds* 291. 1878 A. M. ROSS *Catal. Mammals Canada* 8/1.

South-south-west, *adv.*, etc. [Cf. MLG. *sûtsûdwest*, older Flem. *suydsuydwest*, Du. *zuidzuidwest*, G. *südsüdwest.*] In or from the direction situated midway between south and south-west. Also as *sb.* and *adj.*

1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* Wks. 1874 II. 284 And Affricus is takin for plat west wynd, that is bot sowth sowthwest. 1555 EDEN *Decades* III. iii. (Arb.) 260 [It] runneth to the quarter of south southwest and north northeast. 1638 CHILMEAD tr. *Hues' Treat. Globes* V. (Hakl. Soc.) 141 You must saile..to the Canary Islands by the South South-west Rumbe. *a* 1701 MAUNDRELL *Journ. Jerus.* (1721) Add. 6 Its Course is South South West. 1772–84 *Cook's Voy.* (1790) I. 151 We discovered land from the mast head, bearing south-south-west. 1827 J. HOLMES *Hist. United Brethren* ii. (ed. 2) 101 The coast..now turned to the south-south-west. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXIII. 215/2, 18 miles south-south-west from Bury. 1900 *Westm. Gaz.* 22 Aug. 10/1 The south-south-west of Natal.

Hence **South-south-we'sterly, -we'stern** *adjs.*

1837 *Penny Cycl.* VIII. 204/2 Always with south-south-westerly winds. 1840 *Ibid.* XVI. 325/1 Flowing..in a south-south-western direction. 1850 ANSTED *Elem. Geol., Min.*, etc. § 124 A south-south-westerly wind.

Souðden, variant of SITHEN *Obs.*

South thystell, obs. form of SOW-THISTLE.

Southu'mbrian, *sb.* and *a. Hist.* [repr. OE. *Súð(an)hymbre*: cf. NORTHUMBRIAN.]

A. *sb.* A native or inhabitant of the northern part of the early English kingdom of Mercia.

1823 INGRAM tr. *Saxon Chron.* 37/2 Oswald..was slain by Penda, king of the Southumbrians [in 642]. 1853 C. D. YONGE tr. *Matt. Westminster* I. 333 The Mercians, who are also called the Southumbrians, that is to say, that part of the Mercians..north of the river Trent. 1899 PLUMMER *Sax. Chron.* II. 440/2 Penda a Southumbrian.

B. *adj.* Of or pertaining to northern Mercia.

1887 *Dict. Nat. Biogr.* XI. 213 A reaction against the Southumbrian party. 1899 PLUMMER *Sax. Chron.* II. 35 Extent of the Southumbrian kingdom.

Southward (sɑu·þwəɹd, *naut.* sɒ·ðəɹd), *adv.*, *sb.*, and *a.* Forms: 1 **suþ-, suðweard,** 3 **suþ-, suð-,** 4– **southward,** 5–6 **-warde,** *Sc.* 5–7 **-wart,** 4, 7 **sowthward.** See also SOUTHARD. [OE. *súðweard*, f. SOUTH *adv.* + -WARD. Cf. MDu. *suut-, sude-, zuytwaert*, MLG. *sûdwart, -wert.*]

A. *adv.* **1.** Towards the south; in a southern direction: **a.** Of motion or direction.

c 893 K. ÆLFRED *Oros.* I. i. § 10 Þær of þæm beorgum wilþ seo ea suþweard Eufrates. *c* 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* III. 250 Heo [*sc.* the sun] cyrð ðær ongean eft suðweard. *a* 1122 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1095, Þa het he makian ænne castel,..& syððan suðweard for. *c* 1205 LAY. 29543 Swa he droh suð-ward, þat he com to Dorchestre. *c* 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 234 Þo tornede þe wynd in-to þe North, and drof heom south-ward faste. *c* 1391 CHAUCER *Astrol.* I. § 17 His Moeuyng is clepid sowth-ward as fro the equinoxial. *c* 1450 *Contin. Brut* 533 Whan he had taried a while in þe Northe ..he retorned Southwarde. 1535 COVERDALE *Numb.* xiii. 17 Go vp southwarde..and loke vpon the londe how it is.

1598 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. ii. IV. *Columnes* 391 Then South-ward Sol doth retrograde. 1603 *Reg. Mag. Sig. Scot.* 506/1 Passand ovir the streit..southwart to the loch. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* III. 437 They take their Flight; ..Nor Southward to the Rainy Regions run, But boring to the West. 1726-46 THOMSON *Winter* 920 Life..from the dreary months Flies conscious southward. 1841 W. SPALDING *Italy & It. Isl.* II. 32 The apostle..fled from Rome southward. 1872 TENNYSON *Gar. & Lynette* 179 Southward they set their faces.

b. Of relative position.

1390 GOWER *Conf.* III. 127 After hem [*sc.* constellations] I finde thus, Southward from Alisandre forth Tho Signes [etc.]. 1412-20 LYDG. *Chron. Troy* I. 1518 Phebus southward was reised in his arke. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* (1637) 631 Beneath Brecknock and Hereford-shire Southward, lyeth the County of Monmouth. 1669 STURMY *Mariner's Mag.* VII. xvi. 25 Those that live 90 deg. from us Northward or Southward. 1726 in W. Wing *Ann. Steeple Aston* (1875) 54 The land..of Mr. Belcher, lying northward, and of Brazenose College southward.

c. Followed by *of*.

1630 CAPT. SMITH *Wks.* (Arb.) 953 The best Countries.. of the world, both Northward and Southward of the line. 1649 DAVENANT *Love & Hon.* II. i. 701 In a cloud, Southward of yonder star. 1738 *Gentl. Mag.* VIII. 164/1, 20 Leagues Southward of Porto Rico. 1772 *Encycl. Brit.* III. 379/1 Because Port-Royal is southward of the Lizard. 1814 SCOTT *Diary* 26 Aug. in *Lockhart*, Southward of both lies Muick, or Muck. 1896 BADEN-POWELL *Matabele Campaign* ii, Half a mile southward of the town lies a bush-covered rising ground.

d. *Comb.*, as *southward-facing, -looking*, etc.

1853 M. ARNOLD *Scholar Gypsy* xxiv, The fringes of a southward-facing brow. 1871 MORRIS *Earthly Par.* IV. 88 The southward-looking hill. 1885-94 R. BRIDGES *Eros & Psyche* March 23 The southward stretching margin of a bay.

2. quasi-*sb.* = next.

1842 MACAULAY *Regillus* xxiii, So came he far to southward. 1884 BEDFORD *Sailor's Handbk.* 101 The land wind comes off moderately from southward.

B. *sb.* That direction or part which lies to the south of a place, etc.

1555 EDEN *Decades* (Arb.) 382 Wee had the wynde more easterly to the southwarde then before. 1618 in Foster *Eng. Factories India* (1906) I. 3 Some new way to have a ship from the sowthward. 1707 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4386/2 Several other light Colliers..are this Day come hither from the Southward. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* I. vi. 66 The wild cattle .. have spread .. from Buenos Ayres towards the southward. 1820 SCORESBY *Acc. Arctic Reg.* II. 210 Any situation in a lower latitude than 78°, is called the 'southward'. 1840 R. H. DANA *Bef. Mast* x, It looked black at the southward and eastward. 1883 STEVENSON *Treas. Isl.* xxiii, I made sure she also was wheeling to the southward.

b. Const. *of* (a place, thing, etc.).

1624 *Capt. Smith's Wks.* (Arb.) 762 To trade to the Southward of Cape Cod. 1650 BULWER *Anthropomet.* xi. (1653) 179 The people on the southward of Tinda. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* II. i. 116 The highlands on the southward of the bay. 1801 SIR H. PARKER in A. Duncan *Nelson* (1806) 140 The wind veered ..to the southward of the west. 1854 W. OSBURN *Mon. Hist. Egypt* II. ii. 54 A little to the southward of Melawi.

C. *adj.* That has a southerly situation or direction; lying, facing, moving, etc., towards the south.

1611 SHAKS. *Wint. T.* IV. iv. 819 The Sunne looking with a South-ward eye vpon him. 1638 CHILMEAD tr. *Hues' Treat. Globes* I. ii. (Hakl. Soc.) 31 The bright Starre..in the end of the taile (which is also the most Southward of all). 1736 AINSWORTH II, *Australis*, adj., southward, southern. 1820 SCORESBY *Acc. Arctic Reg.* II. 211 A number have been taken in the southward fishing stations. 1864 KERR *Gentlem. Ho.* 290 A southward aspect is..advantageous. 1882 SWINBURNE *Tristr.* (1899) 237 With the southward swallow.

Southwardly, *adv.* and *a.* [f. prec. + -LY 2.]

A. *adv.* **1.** From the south.

1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* (S. T. S.) I. 25 This guse 3eirlie in the spring tyme returnes to ws: quhairfra can na man tell: bot southwardlie. 1704 S. SEWALL *Diary* 25 Aug., The wind was Southwardly.

2. In a southward direction; to or towards the south.

1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* x. 443 A large prospect Southwardly towards the Evenise mountaines. 1667 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 189/1 A Fleet of 36 laden Colliers put to Sea from this place Southwardly bound. 1738 G. WHITEFIELD in *Life & Jrnls.* (1756) 90 A Town situated southwardly above an hundred Miles from Savannah. 1796 MORSE *Amer. Geog.* (ed. 3) I. 215 Few of them winter there on their return southwardly. 1810 VINCE *Astron.* xx. 191 The star passed still more southwardly. 1880 L. WALLACE *Ben-Hur* 173 It curved southwardly out of view.

B. *adj.* Situated in or directed towards the south; of the wind, blowing from the south.

c 1682 J. COLLINS *Salt & Fishery* 103 Fit for Exportation to Spain or other Southwardly Countries. 1704 *Phil. Trans.* XXV. 1657 The morning serene.., with small Southwardly Breezes. 1805 *Ibid.* XCVI. 244 The southwardly wind blew fresh. 1858 *Merc. Marine Mag.* V. 208 A southwardly course..would be a proper course.

Southwards, *adv.*, *sb.*, and *a.* Also 1 **suðweardes,** 5 *Sc.* **southwardis,** 6 **-wardys,** 7 **sowards.** [OE. *súðweardes*: see SOUTH *adv.* and -WARDS. So MDu. *sutwarts, zuytwerts*, Du. *zuidwaarts*, G. *südwärts.*]

A. *adv.* = SOUTHWARD *adv.* Also quasi-*sb.*

a 1000 *Boeth. Metr.* i. 4 Setton suðweardes sixeþeoda twa. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* XIV. 250 And thai southwardis thair wais raid. 1517 TORKINGTON *Pilgr.* (1884) 38 The londe .. marcheth .. Southwardys to the londe of Egipte. 1619 in Foster *Eng. Factories Ind.* (1906) I. 55 They usually have had good quantety..from sowards. 1687 MIÉGE *Gl. Fr. Dict.* I, *Du côté du Midi*, southwards. 1707 J. CHAMBERLAYNE *Pres. St. Gt. Brit.* (1710) 342 All those Islands lie in a Row Southwards one of the other. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XVIII. 861/1 Bending gradually, as we advance southwards, .. to the south-west. 1837 LOCKHART *Scott* I. viii. 265 Proceeding southwards, the tourists visited Carlisle. 1875 CROLL *Climate & T.* xiv. 230 Deflected southwards into the Antarctic Sea.

fig. 1857 GRINDON *Life: its Nature* (ed. 2) iii. 31 That the heart should look southwards.

B. *sb.* = SOUTHWARD *sb.*

1618 in Foster *Eng. Factories Ind.* (1906) I. 31, I symployed the Fraunces..to the southwards the better to discover the coast. 1669 STURMY *Mariner's Mag.* IV. iii. 148 The Ship is to the Southwards of the Place she departed [from]. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Wind*, In South Latitudes to the Southwards thereof [*sc.* the equator].

C. *adj.* Directed towards the south. *rare* —1.

1842 WHEWELL in Mrs. S. Douglas *Life* (1881) 262 The next time that you make your southwards move.

South-west (sauþwe·st), *adv.*, *sb.*, and *a.* [OE. *súðwest* (see SOUTH and WEST), = WFris. *súdwest*, MDu. *suut-, suytwest* (Du. *zuidwest*), OS. *súthwuest* (MLG. *sûtwest*), OHG. *suntwest* (G. *südwest*), Da. *sydvest*. Cf. OF. *suroest*, F. *sud-ouest*, Sp. *sudoeste*, Pg. *sudueste.*]

A. *adv.* **1.** In the direction situated midway between south and west. Also followed by *of*.

c 893 K. ÆLFRED *Oros.* I. i. 24 An ðæra garena lið suðwest ongean þæt iland þe Gades hatte. *a* 1122 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1097, Đa..ætywde an selcuð steorra, ..He wæs gesewen suðweast. 14.. *Sailing Directions* (Hakl. Soc. 1889) 12 Fro Orfordnesse to Orwell waynys the cours is southwest. *c* 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* II. 164 Yf they do, turne hem southwest or west. 1574 in *Reg. Mag. Sig. Scot.* 263/1 Passand linialie southwest thruch the mos. 1610 SANDYS *Relat. Journ.* (1637) 22 Foure miles south-west from the foresaid place. 1633 T. JAMES *Voy.* 24 Wee stood South-west. 1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* II. (Globe) 466 His Comrades..came on Southward, and South-West. 1772 *Encycl. Brit.* III. 942/1 Winchester [is]..sixty-five miles south-west of London. 1849 CUPPLES *Green Hand* ii. (1856) 16 'How does she head just now, Jacobs?' 'Sou'-west-and-by-south, sir.' 1870 MORRIS *Earthly Par.* III. IV. 88 The rook still flies South-west before the wind.

b. From this direction.

1725 DE FOE *Voy. round World* (1840) 306 The little wind that blew being south-west-by-south.

2. quasi-*sb* **a.** *At south-west*, = prec. **b.** = next.

1555 EDEN *Decades* (Arb.) 258 Directynge theyr course towarde Southewest, they came to an other Ilande. 1591 RALEIGH *Last Fight Revenge* (Arb.) 32 They came into the height of 35. degrees,..where they found the winde at Southwest. 1638 CHILMEAD tr. *Hues' Treat. Globes* fv. iii. (Hakl. Soc.) 100 Betwixt South west and by west. 1671 MILTON *P. R.* IV. 237 Look once more e're we leave this specular Mount Westward, much nearer by Southwest, behold Where [etc.]. 1777 G. WHITE *Selborne* lxxviii, The wind at south-west, and the thermometer at 58½. 1865 KINGSLEY *Herew.* xxxviii, The vast forest which ringed London round from north-east to south-west. 1884 BEDFORD *Sailor's Handbk.* 192 The current runs to the north-west with winds south of south-west.

B. *sb.* **1.** The direction, district, or region situated between south and west.

a 1122 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1106, Se steorra ætywde innon þæt suðwest. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) I. 173 Mesia..ioyneþ in þe..south west to Dalmatia. 1517 TORKINGTON *Pilgr.* (1884) 61 The wynde Rose in the Suthweste. 1577 HARRISON *Descr. Brit.* xii. in *Holinshed*, Erin riseth of sundrie heads, and..peninsulateth Seleseie towne on the southwest. 1611 BIBLE *Acts* xxvii. 12 Phenice.. lieth toward the Southwest. 1731 MILLER *Gard. Dict.* s.v. *Wind*, The Wind..is like to be in the South or Southwest. 1789 J. WILLIAMS *Min. Kingd.* I. 102 You advance ..with your face towards the southwest. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. v. iii, Such is the combustion of Avignon and the South-west. 1855 *Orr's Circ. Sci., Inorg. Nat.* 117 Represented by soft sands..in the south-west of France.

2. The (or a) south-west wind.

1610 SHAKS. *Temp.* I. ii. 323 A Southwest blow on yee, And blister you all ore. 1725 POPE *Odyss.* XII. 343 Should the fierce south-west..toss with rising storms the watery way. 1859 TENNYSON *Geraint & Enid* 935 As the south-west that blowing Bala lake Fills all the sacred Dee.

C. *adj.* **1.** Of the wind: Blowing from the south-west.

1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. v. 14 þe southwest wynde ..Was pertliche for pure pryde, and for no poynt elles. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 350/2 þe Sowthe west wynde, *fauonius, affricus.* 1526 TINDALE *Acts* xxvii. 12 Whych haven..servith to the soughwest and northwest wynde. 1597 A. M. tr. *Guillemeau's Fr. Chirurg.* 51 b/1 A south-west wind, with warmishe showres of rayne. 1608 SHAKS. *Pericles* IV. i. 51 Is this wind westerly that blows? *Leon.* South-west. 1731 MILLER *Gard. Dict.* s.v. *Barometer*, A long continu'd Storm of South-west Wind. 1829 *Chapters Phys. Sci.* 428 The great rains which deluge the whole of India during the south-west monsoon. 1884 BEDFORD *Sailor's Handbk.* 146 From that latitude .., much south-west wind is experienced.

2. Lying in or situated to the south-west.

c 1440 *Astron. Cal.* (MS. Ashm. 391), A sowþe weste moone and a norþe Est moone maken an high flode at london brigge. 1540 *Test. Ebor.* (Surtees) VI. 120 To be buried in the churche yerde..in the southe weste corner. 1573 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 117 The sunne southwest for hopyard is best. 1663 BUTLER *Hud.* I. i. 68 He could..divide A Hair 'twixt South and South-West side. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Compass*, What has been said of North-East Amplitudes, holds also of South-West Amplitudes. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) II. 624 The south-west side of the island. 1837 P. KEITH *Bot. Lex.* 14 The south-west and south-east coasts [of North America] .. being .. the more flat. 1886 STEVENSON *Kidnapped* xiii, The reef..was close in under the south-west end of Mull.

3. Directed towards the south-west.

1756 F. HOME *Exper. Bleaching* 67, I exposed, in a south-west window, half an oz. of Castile soap. 1812 *New Botanic Gard.* I. 61 A wall which had a south-west aspect. 1825 *Greenhouse Comp.* I. 11 A green-house with a west or even south-west aspect.

South-we·ster, *sb.* Also southwester. [f. prec. + -ER 1. Cf. SOU'-WESTER.]

1. A wind or gale blowing from the south-west.

1833 T. HOOK *Parson's Dau.* III. xi, He felt a longing hope that he might fall in with the Dolly in the Channel, although the prevalence of the south-westers rendered it improbable. 1855 KINGSLEY *Westw. Ho!* viii, The southwester freshened, and blew three parts of a gale dead into the bay. 1868 *Rep. U. S. Commissioner Agric.* (1869) 176 Logs of all sizes lie..where they are thrown upon the shore by the October southwesters.

2. A large oilskin or waterproof hat or cap worn by seamen to protect the head and neck during rough or wet weather.

So Du. *zuidwester*, G. *südwester*.

1840 R. H. DANA *Bef. Mast* iv, We were glad to..put on our thick clothing, boots, and southwesters. 1845 DISRAELI *Sybil* II. xiv, [He] was shaking the wet off an oilskin hat known by the name of a 'south-wester'. 1883 *Cent. Mag.* XXVI. 947 The six oil-jackets and south-westers.

b. *attrib.* with *cap, hat.*

1831 *Ann. Reg.* 113 He wore a smock frock..and a southwester cap. 1840 R. H. DANA *Bef. Mast* x, We had on oil-cloth suits and southwester caps.

South-we·ster, *v.* *rare* —1. [f. SOUTH-WEST *adv.*] *intr.* To move towards the south-west.

a 1861 A. H. CLOUGH *Poems* (1888) 95 [The sun] Southwestering now, thro' windows plainly glassed, On the inside face his radiance keen hath cast.

South-we·sterly, *a.* and *adv.* [f. SOUTH-WEST, after WESTERLY.]

A. *adj.* **a.** Of the wind: Blowing from the south-west. **b.** Tending south-westward.

1708 SEWEL *Du. Dict.* II, *Zuydwestelyk*, south-westerly. 1731 MILLER *Gard. Dict.* s.v. *Wind*, The North-East Trade Wind below will be attended with a South-Westerly above. 1840 R. H. DANA *Bef. Mast* vii, A steady though light southwesterly wind. 1869 DUNKIN *Midn. Sky* 59 A south-westerly direction.

transf. 1883 *Harper's Mag.* Aug. 441/2 One murky south-westerly Saturday night.

B. *adv.* South-westwardly.

1792 MORSE *Amer. Geog.* 50 These mountains extend north-easterly and south-westerly. 1883 *American* VII. 168 The party now headed southwesterly for the Siberian coast.

South-we·stern, *a.* and *sb.* [OE. *súðwesterne* (see SOUTH *adv.* and WESTERN *a.*), = OHG. *sundwestrôni.*]

A. *adj.* **1.** Of the wind: Blowing from the south-west.

c 1000 *Apollonius of Tyre* (Thorpe) 11 Se angrislica suðwesterna wind him onzean stod. 1362 LANGL. *P. Pl.* A. v. 14 þis souþ-Westerne wynt on a Seterday at euen. 1835 MRS. SOMERVILLE *Connex. Phys. Sci.* xv. (ed. 2) 147 The western and south-western gales, so prevalent in our latitudes. 1894 GLADSTONE *Horace, Odes* I. xiv. 19 Seest not? thy mast How rent by stiff southwestern blast?

2. Situated or extending towards the south-west; of or pertaining to the south-west.

1828-32 WEBSTER s.v., To sail a southwestern course. 1839 *Penny Cycl.* XV. 345/1 The south-western coast of the island of Sumatra. 1863 W. BARNES *Dorset Gloss.* 9 The main marks of south-western English. 1888 MISS BRADDON *Fatal Three* I. v, It is too warm in this south-western country.

B. *sb.* A wave from the south-west. *rare* —1.

1872 TENNYSON *Gar. & Lynette* 1117 Gareth..could not wholly bring him under, more Than loud Southwesterns, rolling ridge on ridge, The buoy that rides at sea.

Hence **South-we·sterner,** one belonging to the south-west (of the United States, etc.). Also **South-we·sternmost** *adv.*

1862 ANSTED *Channel Isl.* I. iii. 49 The south-westernmost angle. 1888 *Encycl. Brit.* XXIII. 799/1 The south-westernmost portion of the region. 1888 *Cent. Mag.* Feb. 502/2 The bulk of the cowboys..are South-westerners.

South-we·stward, *adv.*, *sb.*, and *a.* [f. SOUTH-WEST + -WARD. So MDu. *suytwestwaart.*]

A. *adv.* = SOUTH-WEST *adv.*

1548 PATTEN *Exped. Scott.* M vj, Thear stode southwestward about a quarter of a mile from our campe, a monasterie. 1553 EDEN *Treat. New Ind.* (Arb.) 28 He sayled by the costes of the Ilande Southweste warde. 1612 DRAYTON *Poly-olb.* viii. 3 Clear Sabrine..South-westward casts her course. 1792 MORSE *Amer. Geog.* 48 The .. mountains which run south-westward through Pennsylvania. 1820 KEATS *Lamia* I. 179 That other ridge..Stretches..South-westward to Cleone. 1876 MEREDITH *Beauch. Career* xxxv, Save where a quarry south-westward gaped at the evening sun. 1884 BEDFORD *Sailor's Handbk.* 441 The anchorage for large vessels is south-westward of Little Sea Hill.

B. *sb.* = SOUTH-WEST *sb.*

1775 *Phil. Trans.* LXVIII. 392 When the ship's head was to the Southwestward. 1831 SCOTT *Cast. Dang.* i, Coming from the south-westward. 1884 BEDFORD *Sailor's Handbk.* 411 [The currents] often run with great velocity to the south-westward.

C. *adj.* Tending towards the south-west.

1796 MORSE *Amer. Geog.* (ed. 3) I. 384 The river Kennebeck takes a southwestward course.

So **South-we·stwards** *adv.*

1745 tr. *Egede's Descr. Greenland* 39 The Current..running along the Shore, South-Westwards. 1879 GEIKIE in *Encycl. Brit.* X. 339/2 From the mouth of the St. Lawrence south-westwards into Alabama.

South-we·stwardly, *adv.* and *a.* [f. SOUTH-WESTWARD.] = SOUTH-WESTWARD *adv.* and *a.*

1796 *Phil. Trans.* LXXXVI. 350 Under which it is to be extended south-westwardly by a subterraneous cut or tunnel. 1807 VANCOUVER *Agric. Devon* (1813) 43 Sand-hills extend south-westwardly from the mouth of the river Axe. 1858 MAURY *Phys. Geog.* i. § 53 We find the current..taking a southwestwardly direction.

†Southwort. *Obs. rare*$^{-1}$. In 3 supewurt. = SOUTHERNWORT.

c 1265 *Voc. Plants* in Wr.-Wülcker 554 *Abrotanum*,.. supewurt.

Soutilete, obs. variant of SUBTILITY.

‖ Souvenir (sŭvĕnī·r). [F. *souvenir* memory, keepsake, subst. use of the inf. *souvenir*:—L. *subvenīre* to come into the mind.]

1. A remembrance, a memory.

1775 H. WALPOLE *Lett.* (1857) VI. 284 You have always been so good to me, Madam, and I am so grateful that if my *souvenirs* were marked with cups, there would be many more than mile-stones from hence to Ampthill. 1777 C'TESS UPPER OSSORY in Jesse *Selwyn & Contemp.* (1844) III. 188 These are the words of our friend the Quaker, and the substantial proofs of this *souvenir* you will soon receive.

b. A slight trace *of* something. *rare*$^{-1}$.

1883 *Harper's Mag.* Nov. 971/1, I would recommend this lavender Ducape, with only just a souvenir of sorrow in it.

2. A token of remembrance; something (usually a small article of some value bestowed as a gift) which reminds one of some person, place, or event; a keepsake.

1782 J. DOUGLAS *Trav. Anecd.* (1786) 41 The youngest of the two girls..asked if she was certain, that the little *souvenir* she gave her was safe in her pocket. 1803 MAR. EDGEWORTH *E. de Coulanges* (1832) 217 She intended to offer souvenirs to her English friends. 1838 STEPHEN *Trav. Russia* 75/1 He gave me his last painting..as a souvenir for his sister. 1885 R. BUCHANAN *Annan Water* xxiii, She saw the gentle old pastor counting his souvenirs within.

b. As the title of a work intended as a gift-book, *spec.* of an illustrated annual publication (see first quot.).

1825 (*title*), The Literary Souvenir, or Cabinet of Poetry and Romance. 1835 HOOD *Poetry, Prose, & Worse* xxxvii, How sweet if the bill..But enrich'd, as a copy of verses, The Gem, or a new Souvenir! 1840 — *Kilmansegg, Educ.* x, Her 'Early Lessons' of every sort, Looked like Souvenirs.

3. *attrib.*, as *souvenir card, spoon.*

1893 *Outing* XXII. 160 When the souvenir spoon became a fad, As a gift to be highly prized. 1900 *Daily News* 15 Nov. 5/2 The presentation of a silver trophy to each corps and of a souvenir card to each Volunteer.

Souwarrow, obs. form of SAOUARI. **Souwe,** obs. form of SEW *v.* **Sou'-west**: see SOUTH-WEST.

Sou'-we'ster. Also sou'wester, sou-wester. [Reduced f. SOUTH-WESTER *sb.*]

1. = SOUTH-WESTER *sb.* 1.

1838 COL. HAWKER *Diary* (1893) II. 157 Frost ended in a set in of dirty sou'-wester, with a constant batch of wind and rain. 1894 W. E. NORRIS *St. Ann's* I. 180 One of those steady, relentless sou'-westers, accompanied by sheets of rain.

2. = SOUTH-WESTER *sb.* 2.

1837 COL. HAWKER *Diary* (1893) II. 130, I shipped my sou-wester and went fishing. 1848 DICKENS *Dombey* xxxii, He also provided Rob with a species of hat,..which is usually termed a sou'wester. 1870 THORNBURY *Tour rd. Eng.* II. xxviii. 239 [The] men have their shiny-yellow sou'-westers pulled down over their brows.

b. *attrib.*, = SOUTH-WESTER *sb.* 2 b.

1842 DICKENS *Amer. Notes* (1850) 13/1 When the captain comes down again, in a sou'-wester hat tied under his chin, and a pilot-coat. 1860 C. A. COLLINS *Eyewitness* 120 It is a neighbourhood of canvas trousers and sou'-wester hats.

3. *Naut.* (See quot., and cf. NOR'-WESTER 2.)

1848 B. D. WALSH *Aristoph.* 40 *note*, Half-and-half was equivalent to what seamen call a sou'-wester, that is to say, half rum and the rest rum-and-water.

Hence **Sou'-we'stered** *a.*, wearing a sou'-wester.

1891 *Harper's Mag.* July 179/1 That unseasonably sou'-westered man at the wheel.

Souze, variant of SOUSE *sb.* and *v.*

Sov (sɒv), colloq. abbrev. of SOVEREIGN *sb.*

1850 *New Monthly Mag.* XC. 310 As to the purse, there wern't above three or four sovs in it. 1857 HUGHES *Tom Brown* I. v, She gave me half-a-sov this half. 1883 *Harper's Mag.* Mar. 647/2, I slipped a sov. in the paw of the major-general.

Sove(n, obs. forms of SEVEN.

†Sovenance. *Obs.* Forms: 5 sou(u)enaunce, 6–7 souv-, souenance. [a. OF. *sov-, souvenance* (F. *souvenance*, It. *sovvenenza*), f. *so(u)venir*: see SOUVENIR.] Remembrance; memory.

c 1477 CAXTON *Jason* 19 The souenaunce of his lady presented her into his memorie. 1483 — *Gold. Leg.* 363/2 As she hadde alwey souuenaunce and mynde of Jhesu Cryst. *c* 1550 ROLLAND *Crt. Venus* II. 1026 3e haifand of vs the souenance, With hand we may not make hir resistance. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* II. vi. 8 Of his way he had no souenaunce, Nor care of vow'd reuenge. 1614 J. DAVIES (Heref.) *Eclogue* 116 Whan wee wenden till an other place, Our souenance may here ay-gayly wonne. 1625 LISLE *Du Bartas, Noe* 100 Like a forrest wide where..the learned Souvenance Itself entangled is.

Soveniht, -niȝt, -nyȝt, obs. ff. SENNIGHT.

†Sover, *a.* and *adv. Sc. Obs.* Also 4 souar (5 suffer), 5–6 souir, 6 souer, sovir, sowir, seuver. [ad. OF. *soüir*, var. of *seüir* (mod.F. *sûr*) SURE *a.*, with intrusive *v.*]

A. *adj.* Sure, secure, safe, sound.

1396 in *Scott. Antiq.* XIV. 218 Gif yt sal happyn the.. erle til pay the forsaid soume othirways in ony souar maner. 1429 *Sc. Acts, Jas. I* (1814) II. 18 Þe ȝeman..sall haif a gude souer hat for his hede, & a doublat of fence. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* III. 84 Gude souir weide dayly on him he wour. *Ibid.* VI. 484 He..said he was baith suffer [*v.r.* sober], wys and trew. *c* 1520 *Reg. Aberdon.* (Maitland Cl.) I. 385 As your Lordship may geit sowir informacion. 1533 BELLENDEN *Livy* II. xiv. (S.T.S.) I. 183 The pepill..garnist þare tentis with maist sovir trinschis & fowseis. 1568 *Satir. Poems Reform.* xlviii. 59 ȝit is my claith seuver for sadillis to ceuver, Suppois the sessioun raid thamesell.

B. *adv.* Surely, securely.

c 1550 ROLLAND *Crt. Venus* I. 92 With precious Perle, and gold was souer set. *Ibid.* II. 698 Weill souer set with diuers christall stane.

†Sover, *v. Sc. Obs.* In 5–6 souer, 5 suffer. [Cf. prec. and SURE *v.*, ASSURE *v.*]

1. *intr.* To trust *in* something.

c 1470 *Gol. & Gaw.* 1105 Ane wounder peralous poynt.. To souer in thi gentrice, but signete or sele.

2. *trans.* To render safe from attack or injury, esp. by a formal pledge.

c 1470 HENRY *Wallace* VII. 1188 The hardy Scottis..Set on the laiff with strakis sad and sar, Off thaim thar our as than souerit thai war. *Ibid.* IX. 277 Thai..rasauit him in the toun, And sufferyt [*v.r.* souerit] thaim, for all that he had brocht. *a* 1557 *Diurn. Occurr.* (Bann. Cl.) 26 George Dowglas was souerit to come and speak with the Governour.

†Soverance. *Sc. Obs.* Also 5–6 souerance, 6 souerans(e, souuirance. [Cf. prec. and SURANCE *sb.*] Assurance; safe-conduct; truce.

c 1470 HENRY *Wallace* XI. 881 Bot..souerance he wald nocht grant, Thocht thai ȝoldin wald cum as recreant. *c* 1475 *Rauf Coilȝear* 880 Thy self maid me neuer sa affraid, That I for souerance wald haue praid. 1525 EARL OF ANGUS in *St. Papers Hen. VIII* (1836) IV. 378 Richtsa the soverance, takin in Parliament betuix Hir Grace and me,..I have observit and kepit in all poyntis. 1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* II. 13 With Ingland thay take nocht a Souerans abone four ȝeiris.

Soverance, obs. Sc. f. SUFFERANCE.

Sovereign (sɒ·vrĕn), *sb.* and *a.* Forms: (see below). [a. OF. *soverain, souverein*, etc. (mod. F. *souverain*), = It. *sovrano* (see SOVRAN), Sp. and Pg. *soberano*:—pop.L. **superānus*, f. *super* above. Cf. MDu. *sov(e)rein, souverein, soferein.*]

I. Forms.

1. *a.* 3–5 souerein (4 -eine, 6, 8 sov-), 3–6 souereyn(e, 5 souereeyne, souureyn), 4–6 sovereyn(e, 4 sovreyn); 4–6 sou-, 4–7 soverain(e, 4 souorain), 4–6 sou-, soverayn(e, 5 souereayn).

β. 4–7 souereign(e, 4 soeuereigne, 5 soueriign, -ygne), 4–7 sovereigne, 4– sovereign; 4–6 soueraigne (4 souuer-), 5–6 soueraygne (6 sov-), 6–7 soveraigne, 6–8 soveraign (6 sovar-, 7 -aing).

γ. (Chiefly *Sc.*) 4–7 soueran(e, 4 sowu-, 5 sow-), 5–6 soveran(e.

[For examples of these forms see the senses below.]

δ. 4–5 soueryn, 5 soueren, -eng, -yng(e, 6 -eyng; 5 souerant-, soveraynt-, 6 soverand(e.

1390–1440 *R. Gloucester's Chron.* 5183 (Harl. MS.), þat folc..vnderuonge þere Kyng Egbryȝt to her souereyn. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 11459 In faith of þo faire souerȝn. 1421 *Cov. Leet Bk.* 36 Masturs & souerens of this wurthy Cite. *c* 1460 FORTESCUE *Abs. & Lim. Mon.* (1714) 61 More Richesse than his Soveryng Lord. 1535 BOORDE *Let.* in *Introd. Knowl.* (1870) 53 Our most..gracyose souereyng lord the Kynge. 1537 in *Lett. Suppress. Monast.* (Camden) 153 Our soverand lord kyng Henrie. 1548 *Act* 2 & 3 *Edw. VI*, c. 38 § 4 The King or Soverande Lorde.

2. *a.* 4 sufrayn, 5 suffrayn, -ein, 6 -ayne, 6–7 -ain; 5–6 sufferayne, 6 -ayn, -aine, -ein, -aigne, -eigne; 5 sofferayn, sofereyn, 6 -ayne, 5 sofreyn.

a 1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* 514 Ask..þi sufrayns. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 5055 Diamede..said to þat suffrayn. *c* 1440 *York Myst.* xiv. 46 He is sufferayne of all thyng. 1452 *Cal. Anc. Rec. Dublin* (1889) 277 Our sofferayn lorde the Kyng. 1528 *Star Chamber Cases* (Selden) II. 168 In the xixth yere of our sofreyn lord kyng henry the viijth. 1534 in Peacock *Eng. Ch. Furniture* (1866) 191 With a sufferayn of golde thereto nailed. 1551 TURNER *Herbal* II. 123 A soferayne medicine. 1567 MAPLET *Gr. Forest* (title-p.), The most sufferaigne Vertues in all the whole kinde of Stones & Mettals. 1596 DAWSON *Good Hus-wifes Iewell* 50 A sufferaine ointment for shrunken sinewes.

β. 5 soferan, 5 suffirane, 5–6 sufferan, suffran, *Sc.* -ane; 5 suffren, 6 suffren, sufferyn.

c 1400 *Destr. Troy* 4817 Plenty of Setis..in a serkyll þe soferan before. *c* 1426 *Abraham's Sacrifice* 273 in *Non-Cycle Myst. Plays* (1909) 33 A, sufferen lord, þi wille be fulfilled. 1515 A. WILLIAMSON in *Douglas's Wks.* (1874) I. Introd. p. xxii, The Quene my mastres and suffrane. 1540 *North Co. Wills* (Surtees) 172 To Mr. John Danyell..oon sufferyn. 1553 BALE *Vocacyon* 5 b, The good suffren of kylkennie..brought me thyder in the night.

γ. 5 soferand, sufferande, suffraynd; 5–6 sufferante (6 *pl.* -aunce), sufferent(e.

1432 in Burton & Raine *Hemingbrough* (1888) 383 To my sufferante lorde Prior of Durham. *c* 1440 *York Myst.* x. 263 Gude god oure suffraynd syre. *c* 1460 *Towneley Myst.* viii. 22 Take tent to me, youre soferand syre. *a* 1500–34 *Cov. Corpus Chr. Plays* (1902) 2 Loo! sufferentis, now ma you be glad. 1553 *Request true harted Englysheman* 12 All our olde angelles..and our newe sufferantes. 1562 BULLEIN *Bulwarke, Bk. Simples* 7 Sufferente against all hote diseases.

δ. 6 suffaryng, suffering.

1538 *Lichfield Gild Ord.* (E.E.T.S.) 15 Our suffaryng lorde kyng henry the viijth. 1594 DEE *Priv. Diary* (Camden) 50 The Archbishop gave me a payre of sufferings to drinke.

II. Signification.

A. *sb.* **1.** One who has supremacy or rank above, or authority over, others; a superior; a ruler, governor, lord, or master (*of* persons, etc.). Freq. applied to the Deity in relation to created things. In later use suggestive of sense 2 a.

a. c 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 74 For, sire king, þou art mi souerein, and þe erchebischop al-so. *c* 1315 SHOREHAM IV. 262 Who yst þat neuer nas rebel Aȝeins hys souerayn? *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Pars. T.* P 506 Murmuryng eek is ofte among servauntz, that grucchen whan here soverayns bidden hem to doon leeful thinges. *c* 1449 *Paston Lett.* I. 78 To my Sovereyn, John Paston. *a* 1470 H. PARKER *Dives & Pauper* (W. de W. 1496) clxxxvi. 181, I suppose that my lege lorde the kynge bydde me do a thynge, and my mayster or my souerayn bydde me do the contrarye. 1559 *Mirr. Mag., Edw. IV*, v. 83 b, For I am departed vntill doomes day: But love you that lord that is soveraine of all.

β. 1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. XII. 200 þo þat seten atte syde table or with þe soueregnes of þe halle. 1400 in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* Ser. II. I. 4, But God that is our elder sovereigne gife you long lyve. 1496 *Act* 12 *Hen. VII*, c. vii, If any laie persone hereaftir purpensidly murder their Lord Maister or Sovereign immediate that they be not admytted to their Clergie. 1588 KYD *Househ. Phil.* 897 Wks. (1901) 262 This distinction of Soueraigne, Ruler, Gouernour, or Maister, is first founded vpon Nature. 1596 SHAKS. *Tam. Shr.* V. ii. 147 Thy husband is thy Lord, thy life, thy keeper, Thy head, thy soueraigne. 16.. MIDDLETON, etc. *Old Law* V. i, The Duke! As he is my sovereign, I do give him two crowns for it. 1673 CAVE *Prim. Chr.* I. i. 15 The Sovereign of the whole Creation. 1734 tr. *Rollin's Anc. Hist.* (1827) I. Pref. 7 Those haughty merchants, who thought themselves Kings of the sea, and sovereigns over crowned heads. 1775 JOHNSON *Lett.* (1788) I. 293 Lucy says I must not go this week...The Lady at Stowhill says, how comes Lucy to be such a sovereign? 1820 BYRON *Mar. Fal.* I. ii, Why, that's my uncle! The leader, and the statesman, and the chief Of commonwealths, and sovereign of himself! 1859 MILL *Liberty* I. 22 Over himself, over his own body and mind, the individual is Sovereign.

γ. c 1450 HOLLAND *Howlat* 7 So soft was the sessoun our Souerane dovne sent. 1567 *Gude & Godlie B.* (S.T.S.) 79 Christ our cheif and Souerane.

†b. A husband in relation to his wife. *Obs.*

1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 71 The Prestes tho gon hom ayein, And sche goth to hire sovereign. *a* 1400 *Pistill of Susan* 223 We silked wel sore, For sert of hire sonereyn and for hire owne sake. *c* 1450 LOVELICH *Merlin* 6336 To hire lord & souerayn seide sche than: 'My sovereyn,' sche seide, 'ȝowre owne am I'.

c. A person or thing which excels or surpasses others of the kind. Now *rare.*

1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* xlviii. 130 Haill, of all flouris quene and souerane. 1523 LD. BERNERS *Froiss.* I. ii. 2 They in all theyr dedis were so valyant that they ought to be reputed as soueraignes in all chyualry. 1635 A. STAFFORD *Fem. Glory* (1869) 75 This Soveraigne of her Sexe. 1695 LD. PRESTON *Boeth.* III. 96 We have already defined Happiness to be the Soveraign of Goods.

2. *spec.* **a.** The recognized supreme ruler of a people or country under monarchical government; a monarch; a king or queen.

a. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 5183 þat folc of estangle vnderuenge þere King egbriȝt to hor souereyn. *a* 1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* lxviii. 28 Sugetis þat ere folouers of þaire soueraynes. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 1669 For the souerayn hym selfe was a sete rioll. *c* 1440 *Generydes* 94 In Surre.., Where my fader is kyng and souerayne. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* II. x. 58 Who after long debate..Was of the Britons first crowned Soueraine. 1741 C. MIDDLETON *Cicero* I. v. 380 Clodius.. granted this Priesthood to one Brogitarus, a petty Soverein in those parts, to whom he had before given the title of King.

β. c 1400 *Anturs of Arth.* vi, Thus with solance þay semelede,..And sew to þe soueraygne. 1584 POWEL *Lloyd's Cambria* 11 Inas King of Wessex to be their soueregine. 1594 BARNFIELD *Sheph. Cont.* (Arb.) 26 When bad subiects gainst their Soueraigne..vnnaturally rebell. *a* 1652 BROME *Queenes Exch.* I. Wks. 1873 III. 459 How darst thou thus oppose thy Soveraignes will. 1665 BOYLE *Occas. Refl.* IV. xii. (1848) 243 'Tis the only thing wherein Subjects can punish their Soveraigns. 1710 ADDISON *Whig Exam.* No. 5 P 3 The relation between the soveraign and the subject. 1780 *Mirror* No. 82, The Sovereign may be misinformed as to the deservings of those whom he is pleased to honour. 1835 THIRLWALL *Greece* V. I. 131 The Attic king Erechtheus and the Thracian Eumolpus, who had become sovereign of Eleusis. 1865 KINGSLEY *Herew.* ix, They brought down on themselves the wrath of their nominal sovereigns.

transf. 1787 J. ADAMS *Def. Constit. Gov. U.S.A.* (1794) I. 26 The sovereign is the whole country. 1794 *Brookes' Gazetteer* (ed. 8) s.v. *Lucern*, The former [council] is the nominal sovereign.

γ. a 1400–50 *Alexander* 2774 A noble prince, þat certified his souerane þir sayes in a pistill. 1456 SIR G. HAYE *Law Arms* (S.T.S.) 110 Thare suld na subject obey till his soverane to werrey agaynis his God. 1562 WINJET *Wks.* (S.T.S.) I. 2 The maist excellent and gracius Souerane, Marie Quene of Scottis. 1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* I. 296 Maist illustre and bountifull souerane.

b. In fig. applications.

1588 SHAKS. *L. L. L.* III. i. 184 Don Cupid, Regent of Louerimes,..Th' annointed soueraigne of sighes and groanes. 1592 KYD *Sp. Trag.* III. xiv, Come, Bel-imperia,..My sorrowes ease and soueraigne of my blisse. 1616 T. SCOT *Philomythie* II. B v b, The knight..they crown The Soueraigne of glory and renowne. 1821 SHELLEY *Epipsych.* 592 Weak Verses, go, kneel at your Sovereign's feet.

†3. a. A mayor or provost of a town, in later use esp. in Ireland. *Obs.*

a 1325 *MS. Rawl. B.* 520 fol. 32 þat..anquestes..ben imad

in tounes þoru him þat is souerein of þe toune. 1399 LANGL. *Rich. Redeles* IV. 32 Whanne it drowe to þe day..þat souereynes were semblid, and þe schire-knyȝtis. *c* 1450 *Cal. Lett. Bk.* 'D' *Lond.* 205 Diligent execucioun of all that ye shall be chargid of be your sovereynys of this Cite, ye shall performe. 1538 in P. H. Hore *Hist. Wexford* (1900) I. 237 When the Suffrain herde herof he soghte for the said Watkyne..who..bade the Suffrayne take the offendors. 1587 GOLDING *De Mornay* ii. 18 If any man tell of many Magistrates; wee will by and by inquire for the soueraigne. 1627 MORYSON *Itin.* II. 287 The 26 day his Lordship wrote to the Soveraigne of Wexford. 1696 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 3178/4 The Association of the Soveraign, Burgesses, and Commonalty of the Borough of Carlingford in Ireland. 1713 in P. H. Hore *Hist. Wexford* (1900) I. 104 John Ivory, the present Sovereign of the town of New Ross, and his Successors Sovereigns of the said Town. 1762 WESLEY *Wks.* (1872) III. 90 A dancing-master was busily employed in the..market house [at Belfast]; till at twelve the sovereign put him out, by holding his court there.

†**b.** The Superior of a monastery or other conventual establishment. *Obs.*

14.. *Rule Syon Monast.* liii. in *Collect. Topogr.* (1834) I. 31 The sovereyne..owethe to se that none have more than nedethe nor lasse. *c* 1450 *Myrr. our Ladye* 2 Obedyence to the byddynges of god, and of youre reule, and of youre soueraynes. 1534 *Act* 26 *Hen. VIII*, c. 3 § 8 At the..pleasures of their masters & soueraines of the monasteries and priories. 1544 tr. *Littleton's Tenures* (1574) 42 b, So may the lorde haue an action agaynste the soueraigne of the house that taketh and admitteth his villeine to be professed.

4. a. A gold coin minted in England from the time of Henry VII to Charles I, originally of the value of 22*s.* 6*d.* but latterly worth only 10*s.* or 11*s.*

There were also *double* and *treble sovereigns*. The first group of quotations exhibits some of the enactments relative to the coin, or indications of its value at different dates. See also HALF-SOVEREIGN.

(*a*) 1503–4 *Act* 19 *Hen. VII*, c. 5 § 1 All maner of Gold of the Coynes of a Sovereyn, Halfe Sovereyn, Riall, half Ryall..shall go and be curraunt in payment through all this..Realme. 1526 *Lett. & P. Hen. VIII*, IV. II. 1149 [The King intends..to order by proclamation that the angel..shall be current for 7s. 6d.,..the sovereign 22s. 6d., the demy-sovereign 11s. 3d.] 1542 RECORDE *Gr. Artes* K ij b, A Souerayn is the greatest englishe coyne, and conteyneth ..4 crownes and an halfe, that is to say 22s. 6d. 1551 in Strype *Eccl. Mem.* (1822) III. 45 The old sovereign of fine gold which shall be current for thirty shillings of lawful money of England...A whole sovereign of crown gold which shall be current for twenty shillings. 1591 *Wills & Inv. N. C.* (Surtees, 1860) 190 To Mr. Doctor Colmore a trible severignt, beinge thirtie shilling peyce. 1611 in Birch *Crt. & Times Jas. I* (1848) I. 147 Raising..the angel and sovereign to eleven shillings, and the Jacobite piece to two and twenty. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 29/1 The Soveraign, Coined by Henry the Eighth, Edward the Sixth, Queen Elizabeth, King James,..passed for eleven shillings. 1726–31 TINDAL *Rapin's Hist. Eng.* (1743) II. XVII. 157 By an Indenture of 2d. of Elizabeth, a pound weight of Gold..was coined..into 24 Sovereigns, at thirty Shillings a piece. *Ibid.*, A pound weight of Crown Gold of 22 Carats fine, and 2 Carats alloy, was coined into..33 Sovereigns at twenty Shillings a piece. 1853 HUMPHREYS *Coin-coll. Man.* II. 446 To distinguish it from the previous rial, it was determined to call it a 'sovereign'. *Ibid.* 449 [etc.].

(*b*) 1514 *Visit. Dioc. Norwich* (Camden) 120 Johannes Smythe ostendit in camera..iij soveryns. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VIII*, 238 The Merchantes of the Staple..presented her with an .C. sovereyns of golde in a ryche purse. 1599 B. JONSON *Ev. Man out of Hum.* v. x. 172, I gaue him some souraignes for his paines. 1607 DEKKER & WEBSTER *Westw. Hoe* I. ii. D.'s Wks. 1873 II. 289 And you will stay till to morrow you shall haue it all in new souraignes. 1615 J. STEPHENS *Satyr. Ess.* (1857) 233 She hath old harry soveraignes, that saw no sunne in fiftie yeares.

transf. 1660 in J. Simon *Ess. Irish Coins* (1749) 126 The Spanish Suffrain of gold, the Spanish Half-suffrain.

b. A current British gold coin of the value of twenty shillings.

1817 *Royal Proclam.* 1 July, That certain pieces of gold money should be coined, which should be called 'sovereigns or twenty shilling pieces'. 1828 P. CUNNINGHAM *N. S. Wales* (ed. 3) II. 156 Sovereigns are the next most advisable articles, and lastly dollars. 1840 HOOD *Up Rhine* 26 I'd give a guinea, that's to say a sovereign, to know what it is. 1882 J. PARKER *Apost. Life* I. 142 What a 'wonder' it would be for some of us to ever give a sovereign to any good cause upon earth!

attrib. 1859 F. S. COOPER *Ironmongers' Catal.* 140 Sovereign Scales, Mint Weights, 1/6 extra.

†**5.** A variety of pear. *Obs.*[-1]

1664 EVELYN *Kal. Hort.* (1729) 213 Pears. Windsor, Sovereign, Orange, Bergamot [etc.].

B. *adj.* †**1.** Of persons: Standing out above others or excelling in some respect. *Obs.*

c 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 13214 Soureyne knyghtes þey were, hit seys. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Man of Law's T.* 991 To him that is so soverayn of honour. 1402 *Pol. Poems* (Rolls) II. 60 Seraphin be is the sovereynest, in charite he brennith. *c* 1491 *Chast. Goddes Chyld.* 44 It is yeuen and sende us fro our louyng fader and fro our souereeyne leche. 1547 *Bk. Marchauntes* c vj, He [*sc.* a cardinal] is alredy in the way and nygh to be hymself the great hatmaker, or souerayn haberdasher. 1576 GASCOIGNE *Kenelw. Cast.* Wks. 1910 II. 104 And that the maide released be, by soveraigne maidens might. 1688 COLLIER *Several Disc.* (1725) 243 As there is one Being sovereign to all the rest, and upon whom they all depend.

2. Of things, qualities, etc.: Supreme, paramount; principal, greatest, or most notable.

a. c 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 7860 Bot þe mast soverayne ioy of alle Es þe syght of Godes bryght face. *c* 1383 in *Eng. Hist. Rev.* Oct. (1911) 748 Prestis owen to make þe sacramentis of holi chirche wiþ souerayn deuocioun. 1450–80 tr. *Secreta Secret.* xx. 17 The souereyne wisdome of god hath ordeynyd the coldes and the hetis. 1485 CAXTON *Paris & V.* (1868) 30 Of whose comyng messyr Jaques had Souerayn playsyr. *a* 1533 LD. BERNERS *Gold. Bk. M. Aurel.* (1546) Ee b, Me think it shulde be a souerayn foly. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* II. vii. 16 The antique world..The guifts of soueraine bounty did embrace. 1648 J. BEAUMONT *Psyche* VI. xliii, A Realm..Where every Ejulation, every Pain Alas, is too too truly Soverain.

β. 1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. XVIII. 217 For-þi god of his goodnesse þe fyrste gome Adam, Sette hym in solace & in soureigne myrthe. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) VII. 111 þe kyng hadde Englisshemen in soveregne worschippe. *a* 1513 FABYAN *Chron.* III. (1811) 38 When this Coitus had reygned in Souerayne peace, by the terme of liiii. yeres. 1576 FLEMING *Panopl. Epist.* 19 Whose substance..may be to my person a singular ornament, and a soureigne safegarde. 1605 BACON *Adv. Learn.* I. i. § 3 This corrective spice, the mixture whereof maketh knowledge so soveraigne. 1642 ROGERS *Naaman* 9 Free and soveraigne mercy and compassion might only be ascribed to God. 1683 *Brit. Spec.* 25 It is but just, that Man should pay a Soveraign Adoration and Respect to this bounteous Creator. 1706 E. WARD *Wooden World Diss.* (1708) 99 This is his sovereign Charm against Fear in an Engagement. 1829 I. TAYLOR *Enthus.* ix. 223 The good of his soul, is the sovereign object of his cares. 1892 BARING-GOULD *In Troub. Land* viii. 111 They laughed over their troubles as though it were a sovereign joke.

γ. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* x. 274 Of so souerane gret bounte. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 1125 Iff it be worship & wit wisdom to shewe, Hit is sothely more soueran to see it in werke. 1508 DUNBAR *Tua Mariit Wemen* 507 Tha..said, thai suld exampill tak of her souerane teching.

b. Qualifying *good*. (Freq. = *summum bonum*.)

a 1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* iv. 8 A soureyn goed þai may noght se. *c* 1380 *Antecrist* in Todd *Three Treat. Wyclif* (1851) 118 In þe first boke of soureynest good. 1474 CAXTON *Chesse* III. ii. (1883) 86 Fayth is a souerayn good and cometh of the good wyll of the herte. 1594 T. B. *La Primaud. Fr. Acad.* II. 5 All things belonging to the saluation and soueraigne good of men. 1625 BACON *Ess., Of Truth* (Arb.) 500 The knowledge of Truth..is the Soueraigne Good of humane Nature. 1692 DRYDEN *St. Euremont's Ess.* 333 Of all the Opinions of Philosophers concerning the Sovereign Good. 1744 HARRIS *Three Treat.* Wks. (1841) 45 The sovereign good is that, the possession of which renders us happy. *a* 1871 GROTE *Eth. Fragm.* v. (1876) 137 To promote the accomplishment of his supreme purpose—the Sovereign Good of the Community.

c. Of contempt: Supreme, unmitigated.

1749 FIELDING *Tom Jones* II. vii, Which at last ended, on the part of the Lady, in a sovereign contempt for her husband. 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* XXX, You hold in sovereign contempt these common failings of your sex. 1825 T. HOOK *Sayings* Ser. II. I. 125 The respect..turned into the most sovereign contempt for his meanness. 1876 F. HARRISON *Choice Bks.* iv. (1886) 88 The great books..are treated by collectors and librarians with sovereign contempt.

3. Of remedies, etc.: Efficacious or potent in a superlative degree. Freq. in fig. use.

α. 1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. XX. 370 þe soureynest salue for alkyn synnes. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* III. 231 Of Planteine He hath his herbe sovereine. 1422 tr. *Secreta Secret., Priv. Priv.* 197 Oryson is Souerayn remedy in euery trybulacion. *c* 1491 *Chast. Goddes Chyld.* 13 And this is a souerayn medicyn to al temptacions. 1549 E. ALLEN *Par. Rev. John* 37 The leaves, frute and sappe of these holy trees, were very holesome and soveraine. 1588 GREENE *Perimedes* Wks. (Grosart) VII. 20 A soueraine simple against disquiet and feare. 1633 BP. HALL *Hard Texts, N. T.* 327 But how soveraine soever it [the Gospel] was of it selfe, yet it was not at all available to the good of many of them. 1662 J. DAVIES tr. *Olearius' Voy. Amb.* 200 There is also in this Province a Drug very soverain against the Worms.

β. 1578 LYTE *Dodoens* II. xx. 172 Belfloure..is soveraigne to cure the payne..of the necke. 1596 SHAKS. 1 *Hen. IV*, I. iii. 57 Telling me, the Soueraign'st thing on earth Was Parmacity, for an inward bruise. 1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* III. 97 The soueraigne minerall against infections. 1679 *Phil. Trans.* XIX. 729 This Giben is..a soveraign Remedy for Coughs and Green Wounds. 1744 BERKELEY *Siris* § 83, I have found it of sovereign use as well during the small-pox as before it. 1793 COWPER *Let.* Wks. 1836 VII. 330, I conclude that it..may therefore be sovereign in cases where the eyelids are ulcerated. 1839 *Morning Post* 17 Oct., The sovereignest thing on earth for rendering the people wise. 1888 BESANT *Eulogy R. Jeffries* 85 That kind of belief..is sovereign against low spirits, carelessness, and inactivity.

γ. 1600 HOLLAND *Livy* VIII. xviii. 294 Souerane medicines and holsome for the bodie of man.

†**4.** In literal sense: Lofty. *Obs.*[-1]

1388 WYCLIF *Prov.* viii. 2 Whether wisdom crieth not ofte ..In soueryneste and hiȝ coppis.

5. Of persons: Having superior or supreme rank or power; *spec.* holding the position of a ruler or monarch.

a. 1340 *Ayenb.* 189 þanne ssel he keste his greate manzinge as þe heȝe bissop an souerayn pope. 1340–70 *Alex. & Dind.* 811 þus dindimus .. god by-seche þ to saue þe soueraine prinse. *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (Roxb.) xiii. 56 þai schall com.. before Godd þe soueraynę Iugge. 1472–3 *Rolls of Parlt.* VI. 5/2 The soverayn Ruler or Keper of such Castell, Towne,..or other place. 1563 *Homilies* II. *Of Repentance* ii, Our sauiour Jesus Christ..beynge our soueraynę Byshop. 1598 YONG *Diana* 456 O soueraine God! that once I might but knowe Greefe without hope to sease vpon thy soule.

β. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 9 As he which is king sovereign Of al the worldes governaunce. *Ibid.* II. 52 To thee, which art god sovereign. 1600 HOLLAND *Livy* III. 109 The twelve knitches of rods were born by the Lictors before the soveraigne iudge. 1611 COTGR., *Sultane*,..a Sultannesse; or soueraigne Princesse. 1678 SIR G. MACKENZIE *Crim. Laws Scot.* II. xv. § ii. (1699) 212 The Justice-Court of old, was the only Soveraing Court of the Nation. 1711 SHAFTESB. *Charac.* (1737) I. 327 The prince..abhor'd the profanation offer'd to his sovereign-empress. *a* 1763 W. KING *Lit. & Polit. Anecd.* (1819) 132 He..hath been introduced to most of the sovereign princes. 1825 BENTHAM *Ration. Reward* 16 Partly because, being members of the sovereign body, they would have it so. 1839 THIRLWALL *Greece* VI. 123 Evagoras..claimed to be treated as a sovereign prince, the great king's equal in rank and title. 1877 NORTHCOTE *Rom. Catacombs* II. vi. 109 To the Sovereign Pontiffs..we are principally indebted for whatever fragments have been preserved.

γ. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* vi. (*Thomas*) 155 For chastite is souerane quene of al vertuise euir bedene. 1456 SIR G. HAYE *Law Armes* (S.T.S.) 109 The pape is soverane to the Emperour, and the Emperour subject to the pape. 1508 DUNBAR *Flyting Kennedie* 104 Sen thow with wirschep wald sa fane be styld, Haill, souerane senȝeour!

b. Freq. as a qualification of *lord* or *lady*.

a. c 1350 *Will. Palerne* 3954, I sette ȝou for no soudiour but for souerayn lord, to lede al þis lordschip as ȝou likes euer. *c* 1374 CHAUCER *Anel. & Arc.* 252 Me þat ye callid your mastresse, Youre soveraynę ladye. 1414 *Rolls of Parlt.* IV. 22 Oure soverain Lord, youre humble and trewe lieges [etc.]. 1459 *Ibid.* V. 369/2 The seid Lord had sent his servaunt to oure Soverayne Lady the Quene. 1530 PALSGR. 478/2 She hath ben his soverayne lady. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* II. x. 14 Locrine was left the soueraine Lord of all.

β. c 1430 LYDG. *Min. Poems* (Percy Soc.) 10 Sovereigne lord, welcome to youre citee! 1474 *Cov. Leet Bk.* 405 Oure Souerygne lady, the Quene. 1558 in Strype *Ann. Ref.* I. II. App. i. 399 She beinge our sovraigne lord and ladie, other kinges..ought to paye tribute unto her. 1614 SELDEN *Titles Honor* 125 What now is one of our particular Notes of Maiestie, not giuen to any but the supreme, I mean Soueraign Lord or Lady. 1678 BUNYAN *Pilgr.* I. (1862) 78 Shall I entertain thee against my soveraign Lord? 1727 GAY *Fables* I. XXXVI. 34 When heaven the world with creatures stor'd, Man was ordain'd their sovereign lord. 1820 SCOTT *Monast.* XXXVI, There rides a faithful servant of his most beautiful and Sovereign Lady. 1832 [see LADY *sb.* 2].

γ. 1482 *Eng. Misc.* (Surtees) 41 Ye xxj yer of our soveran lorde kyng Edward the fourth. 1529 *Registr. Aberdon.* (Maitland) I. 295 For commond weill of owre soweranę lordis legis. 1581 J. HAMILTON in *Cath. Tract.* (S.T.S.) 73 To..my seuerane ladye Marie the Quenis maiestie of Scotland.

c. Of states, communities, etc.

1595 SHAKS. *John* v. ii. 82, I am too high-borne to be..Instrument To any Soueraigne State throughout the world. 1682 A. MUDIE *Pres. St. Scotl.* ii. 23 The King is..a free Prince of a Soveraign Power. 1771 *Ann. Reg.* I. 67 The Baron..has been condemned by the sovereign courts to be kept 15 days in prison. 1819 J. MARSHALL *Const. Opin.* (1839) 160 The defendant, a sovereign state, denies the obligation of a law enacted by the legislature of the union [etc.]. 1835 T. MITCHELL *Acharn. of Aristoph.* 448 *note*, Athens had still its law of libel, by which the majesty of the sovereign people was protected. 1868 COOLEY *Const. Lim.* i, A State is called a *sovereign State* when this supreme power resides within itself.

6. Of power, authority, etc.: Supreme.

c 1532 DU WES *Introd. Fr.* in *Palsgr.* 1019 Most redouted imperiall myght, and soverayne majesty. 1595 MARKHAM *Sir R. Grinuile* lii, Shee giues him soueraigne rule, and publique right. 1643 PRYNNE *Sov. Power Parl.* I. (ed. 2) 101 That the Soveraignest power and jurisdiction..resides in the whole Kingdom and Parliament. 1676 DRYDEN *Aurengz.* I. i. 60 In change of Government, The Rabble..Do Sovereign Justice. 1759 ROBERTSON *Hist. Scotl.* III. Wks. 1813 I. 181 The sovereign authority was by this treaty transferred wholly into the hands of the congregation. 1851 DIXON *W. Penn* XXII. (1872) 193 The sovereign power resides in the governor and freemen of the province. 1878 STEWART & TAIT *Unseen Univ.* Introd. 14 This sovereign and paramount influence.

7. Of or belonging to, characteristic of, supremacy or superiority.

c 1600 SHAKS. *Sonn.* XXXIII, Full many a glorious morning haue I seene, Flatter the mountaine tops with soueraine eie. 1725 POPE *Odyss.* I. 171 He led the goddess to the sovereign seat. 1850 L. HUNT *Autobiog.* II. xiv. 141 Disobedience ..was an offence doubly irritating to his nature on account of his sovereign habits as a jailer. 1870 LOWELL *Among my Bks.* Ser. I. (1873) 324 He really sees things with their sovereign eye.

†**So'vereign,** *v. Obs.*[-1] [f. prec.] *trans.* To deal with as a sovereign.

1585 R. WILLIAMS in Motley *Netherl.* (1860) I. 333 Unless her Majesty do sovereign them presently.

†**So'vereigness.** *Obs.* Also 6 soueraignesse, 7 sou-, soveraign-, sovereignesse. [f. SOVEREIGN *sb.* + -ESS.] A female sovereign.

1600 DEKKER *Fortunatus* Wks. 1873 I. 90 Most pow'rfull Queene of chaunce, dread soueraignnesse. 1630 BRATHWAIT *Eng. Gentlem.* (1641) 67 Whence it grew that the Roman empire became absolute Soveraignesse of many other ample Dominions. 1686 tr. *Chardin's Coronat. Solyman* 83 There remained another sister of Habas II..who in the Kings absence was as it were Sovereigness of the Place.

†**So'vereignful,** *a. Obs.*[-1] In 5 souerane-full. [f. SOVEREIGN *sb.*] Noble.

c 1470 *Gol. & Gaw.* 1304 This is ane soueranefull thing, be Ihesu! think I.

†**Sovereignity.** *Obs.* Forms: 6 souer-, 6–7 soveraignitie; 6–7 souer-, 7–8 soveraignity, -eignity; 6 soueranitie, -enitie, 7 soveranitie. [f. SOVEREIGN *a.* + -ITY. Cf. OF. *suvrenitet*, It. *sovranità.*] = SOVEREIGNTY.

c 1560 A. SCOTT *Poems* (S.T.S.) vi. 22 As prowd princely luve express Is to haif souerenitie. 1584 D. FENNER *Def. Ministers* (1587) 73 Her iust and holy Soueraignitie. 1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* Dedic., A homely and familiar Stile; no wayes fit for Soueraignity to peruse. 1671 [R. MACWARD] *True Nonconf.* 28 The Soveraignity of Christian Princes cannot give them a contrary privilege. 1722 DE FOE *Plague* (1884) 21 My Maker had an undisputed Right of Soveraignity. 1784 D. HERD *Let.* in *Songs* (1904) 50, I am sorry you are already tir'd of the sovereignity.

†**So'vereignize,** *v. Obs.* Also 7 soueraignise, -ize, soveraignize, -eignize; souer-, soveranize, -ise. [f. SOVEREIGN *sb.* + -IZE. Cf. Pg.

soberanizar.] *intr.* To exercise supreme power; to rule as a sovereign. (Common in 17th cent.)

1601 CHESTER *Love's Mart.*, etc. (1878) 3 Her princely eyes..That ore the day and night do soueraignize. 1661 *Sir A. Hasterig's Last Will & Test.* 1 O Bishoprick, where in my Regality I so much Soveraigniz'd, or, as some will have it, Tyranniz'd. 1680 MORDEN *Geog. Rect., Arabia* (1685) 369 Nimrod Sovereignizing at Babylon.

b. Similarly with *it.*

1656 S. H. *Gold. Law* 39 Every several Sect, Church, and Faction are in Arms..to Rule and Soveraignize it if they can.

Hence † **So·vereignizing** *ppl. a. Obs.*

1621 LADY M. WROTH *Urania* 463 Intreated by the soueraignizing Queen to make relation of her end. 1630 BRATHWAIT *Eng. Gentlew.* (1641) 363 Soveraignizing Saladin.. called his Chiefetaine or Generall before him.

So·vereignly, *a. rare*$^{-1}$. [f. SOVEREIGN *sb.*] Befitting a sovereign.

1884 J. PARKER *Apost. Life* III. 298 He quietly, with sovereignly tone, says, 'Not now'.

Sovereignly (sɒ·vrènli), *adv.* Forms: (see SOVEREIGN *sb.* and *a.*). [f. SOVEREIGN *a.* + -LY 2.] In a sovereign manner.

1. In a supreme degree; in a surpassing or pre-eminent manner.

a. c 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 8777 And þat land es ealdsoveraynly þe kyngdom of God alle-myghty. 1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. xi. 176 [Christ] comaundeth eche creature..hym to louye, And soureynelyche pore poeple. *c* 1400 tr. *Secreta Secret., Gov. Lordsh.* 99 þe kynde of þe þinges abown shall drawe hym soureaynly to þe craft þat accordes to hem. 1447 BOKENHAM *Seyntys* (Roxb.) 9 Many spyrtys it counfortyth soureyenly. *a* 1536 *Songs, Carols*, etc. (E.E.T.S.) 2 Soureaynly in mynd she is with me. 1577 *St. Aug. Manual* (Longman) 5 Thou art good without qualitie, and therefore..sovereinly good.

β. c 1430 *Syr Gener.* (Roxb.) 457 Al his hert..To loue hir was sett souereignelie. 1525 LD. BERNERS *Froiss.* II. clxxxi. [clxxvii.] 549 Soueraygnely there ought none to enterprise any mater there. 1586 WARNER *Alb. Eng.* II. viii. (1592) 31 But soueraignlie the Sonne of Ioue bestird him in the presse. 1611 SHAKS. *Wint. T.* I. ii. 323, I cannot Beleeue this Crack to be in my dread Mistresse (So soueraignely being Honorable). 1648 BOYLE *Seraph. Love* ii. (1700) 15 He was Soveraignly Lovely in Himself. 1715 ASH *Serm. for S. P. G.* 9 The other more exalted charity..sovereignly heals all the maladies and infirmities of a corrupt nature. 1768 *Woman of Honor* II. 38 She possesses sovereignly the talent of declining offers without offence. 1834 MAR. EDGEWORTH *Helen* III. xii, An expression which had sovereignly taken her fancy. 1856 DORAN *Knights & their Days* 182 Alien knights who were expected to render obedience, and could not sovereignly exert it. 1891 MEREDITH *One of our Conq.* xxxviii, She was a girl sovereignly pure, angelically tender.

γ. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* x. 299 He, for his dedis worthy, Suld weill be prisit soueranly. *c* 1400 LOVE *Bonavent. Mirr.* (1908) 91 The whiche clennes we oweth souerenly to desire. 1432 *Test. Ebor.* (Surtees) II. 19 þat it may be pleasauns and louyng to hym soueranly.

δ. 1389 in *Eng. Gilds* (1870) 45 In þe worchep..souerengly of þe Noble confessour seynt Antony. 1422 tr. *Secreta Secret., Priv. Priv.* 135 Therfor good rennoune is Souerantly to be desyrid. ?*a* 1500 *Chester Pl.* I. 57 Wee thanke the lorde, full soveraynlie that us hath formed so cleane and cleare.

2. With supremacy or supreme power; royally; as a sovereign.

c 1375 *Leg. Rood* (1871) 124 A nobill king..Was gouernowre of grete empire Souerainly als lord and syre. 1412–20 LYDG. *Chron. Troy* II. 1064 Wher I hym leue in his royal sete Souereynly regnynge in quiete. 1471 FORTESCUE *Wks.* (1869) 533, I wrote how that me semyd no woman ought soverainly or suppremely to reynge vpon man. 1611 COTGR. s.v. *Presidial*, Courts of Iustice..wherein ciuill causes..are heard, and adiudged, Soueraignely, and without Appeales. 1643 *Case Affairs Law, Relig.*, etc. 12 The superiority that is but subordinately in them is soveraignely in the Parliament. 1692 S. PATRICK *Answ. Touchstone* 96 None but God can absolutely and sovereignly forgive sin. 1738 WARBURTON *Div. Legat.* II. 410 A King who should determine sovereignly and command their armies. 1793 HOLCROFT tr. *Lavater's Physiog.* xxxiv. 176 [Women] often rule more effectually, more sovreignly than man. 1883 *Mem. Vol. Rev. Alex. Maclean* 231 How sovereignly the Lord of Misrule sways his sceptre.

† **So·vereignness.** *Obs.* [f. SOVEREIGN *a.*] The state or condition of being sovereign.

1387–8 T. USK *Test. Love* II. ii. (Skeat) I. 85 But soverainnesse ayenward shulde thinke in this wyse: 'I am servaunt of these creatures to me delivered'. 1615 BRATHWAIT *Strappado* (1878) 190 The body is the couer, and in it The minds internall soueraignnesse doth sit As a great Princesse. *a* 1661 FULLER *Worthies, Warwicksh.* III. (1662) 115, I confess its far short in Sovereignness against Serpents of the Italian Ash.

So·vereignship. *rare.* [f. SOVEREIGN *sb.*] **a.** The personality of a sovereign. **b.** Sovereignty.

a 1668 DAVENANT *Play-ho. to Let* Wks. (1673) 74 Tell him, the Wise are not at leisure now To hear his Sov'raignship. 1817 JAS. MILL *Brit. India* I. II. x. 438 The idea of the universal sovereignship of India.

† **So·vereigntess.** *Obs.* Forms: 6 **souerainteſſe**, 7 **-tesse**; 6 **sourantesse, -entisse**, 7 **soufrentesse.** [f. SOVEREIGN *sb.* The intrusive *t* is probably due to the influence of *sovereignty.*] = SOVEREIGNESS.

1586 WARNER *Alb. Eng.* III. xviii. (1592) 76 One seemed to haue passed Stix, and entring Plutos gate, Saw Hecat new canonized the Sourantisse of hell. 1591 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* I. iv. 718 Sea's Soueraintess, Sleep-bringer, Pilgrim's guide. 1592 WARNER *Alb. Eng.* VII. xxxvi. 154 Anatomize my braine, And ore my senses see your selfe the Sourentesse [1612 Soufrentesse] to raigne. 1613 HEYWOOD *Silver Age* I. i, To lay the least grosse imputation Upon the Queene, my beauteous Soueraintesse.

Sovereignty (sɒ·vrènti). Forms: (see SOVEREIGN *sb.* and *a.*). [a. AF. *sovereyneté, soverentee*, = OF. *souveraineté* (mod. F. *souveraineté*): see SOVEREIGN and -TY.] The quality or condition of being sovereign.

1. Supremacy or pre-eminence in respect of excellence or efficacy.

c 1340 HAMPOLE *Prose Tr.* 14 þe ende and þe soueraynte of perfeccione standes in a verray anehede of Godd. *c* 1403 LYDG. *Curia Sap.* (Caxton) a ij, I symple shall extoll theyr soueraynte And my rudenes shall shewe theyr subtylyte. 1430–40 — *Bochas* IV. Prol., Which..dyd excel In Rethorike by suffreinte of style. 1567 MAPLET *Gr. Forest* 4 b, His sufferaigntie is, that being..borne aboute a man, [it] keepeth him safe. 1588 SHAKS. *L. L. L.* IV. iii. 234 Of all complexions the cul'd soueraignty, Doe meet as at a faire in her faire cheeke. 1601 — *All's Well* I. iii. 230 Some prescriptions Of rare and prou'd effects, such as his reading..had collected For generall soueraigntie. 1610 GUILLIM *Heraldry* II. iii. (1660) 53 By the soveraignty of these partitions being interposed between them.

2. Supremacy in respect of power, domination, or rank; supreme dominion, authority, or rule.

a. c 1374 CHAUCER *Troylus* III. 171 Ye shul no more have sovereynte Of my love, than right in this cas is. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 104 Till I hadde wonne The love and sovereinete Of what knyht that..Alle othre passeth. *c* 1430 LYDG. *Min. Poems* (Percy Soc.) 46 Crafft may shewe a foreyn apparence; But nature ay must have the sovereynte. 1475 *Bk. Noblesse* (Roxb.) 51 God hathe gyve that souvereynte in mannys soule. 1530 PALSGR. 273/2 Soveraynte that a lorde or a superiour hath, *souverainté.* 1570–6 LAMBARDE *Peramb. Kent* (1826) 143 The Pryor of Christes Church pretended to have..a Soverainty over St. Martines.

β. c 1550 H. RHODES *Bk. Nurture* in *Babees Book* (1868) 97 Prease not thy selfe, if thou be wyse, to haue the soueraygntye. 1579 E. K. *Gloss. to Spenser's Sheph. Cal.* Apr. 122 The chiefedome and soueraigntye of al flowres. 1607 SHAKS. *Cor.* IV. vii. 35 As is the Aspray to the Fish, who takes it By Soueraignty of Nature. 1639 T. DE GRAY *Compl. Horsem.* 355 Which causeth choller to have soveraignty and dominion over the other humours. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* II. 398 Jove's own Tree, That holds the Woods in awful Sov'raignty. 1718 *Free-thinker* No. 60. 33 The Romans..had acquired the Sovereignty of the Sea. 1754 EDWARDS *Freedom Will* IV. vii. 233 The Sovereignty of God is his Ability and Authority to do whatever pleases him. 1821 SHELLEY *Hellas* 159 The sage..May have attained to sovereignty and science Over those strong and secret things. 1860 EMERSON *Cond. Life, Power* Wks. (Bohn) II. 334 As long as our people quote English standards, they will miss the sovereignty of power.

γ. 14.. in *Tundale's Vis.* (1903) 200 Where neest thi son thou hast souerente. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 466/1 Soverente, *superioritas.* 1447 BOKENHAM *Seyntys* (Roxb.) 51 O lorde almyhte which hast overe al Soverente.

δ. 1460 *Pol., Rel., & L. Poems* (1903) 200 More-ouer I yave the suffraunte that alle Bestis shoulde bowe þe vntyll. 1486 *Eng. Misc.* (Surtees) 54 Unto whome..all other floures shall lowte, and evidently yeve suffranti. 1513 BRADSHAW *St. Werburge* I. 2165 Bycause that Werburge in order was senyoure, Her mother Ermenylde gaue her the sufferaynte.

3. *spec.* The position, rank, or power of a supreme ruler or monarch; royal authority or dominion.

a. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) VIII. 279 þe Scottes seide þat þey knewe non suche sovereynte þat longed to þe kyng of Engelond. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 1859 So sadly in soueraynete he set neuire his hope. 1457 HARDYNG *Chron.* i. in *Eng. Hist. Rev.* Oct. (1912) 741 Youre Fadir gafe me in commaundement In Scotlonde ryde..To seke his ryght thar for his soureynte. 1530 PALSGR. 273/2 Soverayntc of a kyng, *regalité.* 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* II. x. 48 Had not Androgeus,..enuious of Vncles soueraintie, Betrayd his contrey. 1601 SIR W. CORNWALLIS *Disc. Seneca* (1631) 2 Then must Soveraignty nourish feare in subjection.

β. a 1548 HALL *Chron., Edw. V*, 4 Manye princes by a longe continued soueraingtee, decline to a proud porte and behaueour. 1598 BARKCLEY *Felic. Man* (1631) 143 Semiramis..desired the King her husband that she might raigne with Soveraignty one onely day. 1625 CARPENTER *Geogr. Del.* II. xiv. (1635) 238 Hee wanne the soueraignty not meerely by the sword. *c* 1670 HOBBES *Dial. Com. Laws* (1681) 39 This Doctrine concerning the rights of soveraignty ..is the Antient Common-Law. 1727 DE FOE *Syst. Magic* I. ii. (1840) 38 Yet this diminutive rank of sovereignty remained many ages in the world. 1777 R. WATSON *Philip II*, IX. (1839) 173 To grant him the title and dignity of the king of Tunis, in compensation for the sovereignty of Greece. 1791 PAINE *Rights of Man* (ed. 4) 168 Monarchical sovereignty, the enemy of mankind, and the source of misery, is abolished. 1878 LECKY *Eng. in 18th C.* I. i. 71 It placed the sovereignty entirely apart from the category of mere human institutions. *fig.* 1884 *Pall Mall G.* 16 Oct. 1/1 He taught Democracy the sovereignty of Duty.

b. *transf.* The supreme controlling power in communities not under monarchical government; absolute and independent authority.

1860 MILL *Repr. Govt.* (1865) 21/2 That [form of government] in which the sovereignty, or supreme controlling power in the last resort, is vested in the entire aggregate of the community. 1861 *Morn. Post* 27 Nov., The 'sovereignty' of every State was subsequently acknowledged in express terms, and is a favourite doctrine of every American writer. 1872 DE VERE *Americanisms* 265 Popular sovereignty is naturally the fundamental doctrine of the republic.

4. A territory under the rule of a sovereign, or existing as an independent state.

1715 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 5345/3 On pretence of their being situate in the Soveraignty of Alsace. 1748 HARTLEY *Observ. Man* II. ii. 115 There were many petty Sovereignties in the Neighbourhood of Canada. 1849 COBDEN *Speeches* 72 The United States, with thirty governors, for thirty independent sovereignties. 1867 FREEMAN *Norm. Cong.* (1877) I. iii. 123 Divided among three quite distinct sovereignties.

† **So·vereigntyship.** *Obs.*$^{-1}$ = SOVEREIGNSHIP a.

1575 G. HARVEY *Letter-bk.* (Camden) 92 It doth my harte good..to use your soveraynetieshippes gaye and newfashionid words.

† **So·verly,** *adv. Sc. Obs.* [f. SOVER *a.*] Surely; securely.

1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* II. x. 107, I sal be with the sovirlie and full quoye. 1535 STEWART *Cron. Scot.* III. 159 Quhair tha war keipit in ane presoun strang Richt souerlie.

† **So·verty.** *Sc. Obs.* Also 5–6 **souerte**, 6 **-tee, -tie, souirte**, 6–7 **sovertie.** [Cf. SOVER *a.* and SURETY.]

1. Surety.

c 1470 HENRY *Wallace* III. 414 A herald..chargyt him tak souerte of Wallas, [that] He suld him kepe fra merket toune or fair. 1501 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* II. 116 Giffin to Ternway pursewant passand with lettrez to tak souertee of the Lord Cathkerth,..xiiij s. 1552 LYNDESAY *Monarche* 4731 Thare it moste remane ane quhyle, Tyll thay gett sufficient souerte For thare kirk rycht and dewite. 1651 D. CALDERWOOD *Hist. Kirk* (1843) II. 230 Patrik Cranstoun and Andrew Armestrang were summouned to find sovertie to underly the law. 1678 SIR G. MACKENZIE *Crim. Laws Scot.* II. (1699) 235 Six days being by-past, and the Soverty not being found. 1752 J. LOUTHIAN *Form of Process* (ed. 2) 86 That he come and find the said Caution and Soverty, acted in Manner foresaid.

2. A person who becomes surety.

1517 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* V. 98 Item,..to Eicht, messinger, to ryd agane to Coldinghame, Duns, and Laudar, to cers and sek George Howme with souerties undir payne of hornyng. 1566 MARY Q. SCOTS in *6th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* 609/2 The souirties ye knaw mon be Lawland men and not of the gretast of our nobilitie. 1580 *Excheq. Rolls Scot.* XXI. 543 Mathow Stewart..as cautioner and sovertie for Johne Cuninghame.

Sovethe, obs. f. SEVENTH. **Sovly:** see SOWLY *a.*

Sovnday, obs. Sc. variant of SUNDAY.

Sovran (sɒ·vrăn), *a.* and *sb.* Chiefly *poet.* Also 7 **soveran.** [Milton's spelling of SOVEREIGN, after It. *sovrano.*]

A. *adj.* = SOVEREIGN *a.*

1634 MILTON *Comus* 41 By quick command from Soveran Jove I was dispatcht for their defence. 1648 — *Tenure Kings* 10 The titles of Sovran Lord, naturall Lord, and the like. 1751 G. WEST *Educ.* xxxix, While Senates, Priests and Kings his sovran Sceptre own. *Ibid.* liii, His sovran Sway. 1794 COLERIDGE *Relig. Musings* 19 Nor high grove, ..Nor the starred azure, nor the sovran sun. 1802 — *Hymn Sunrise Chamouni* 3 So long he seems to pause On thy bald awful head, O sovran Blanc! *a* 1834 LAMB *Misc. Poems, Lines on Picture by Leonardo da Vinci*, He..had read all the sovran schemes and divine riddles there. 1887 MAHAFFY & GILMAN *Alexander's Empire* xxxii. (1890) 300 When circumstances, as it were, thrust upon them sovran authority.

B. *sb.* = SOVEREIGN *sb.*

1648 MILTON *Tenure Kings* 20 Yet Eglon by the Jewes had bin acknowledgd as thir Sovran. 1667 — *P. L.* I. 246 Since hee Who now is Sovran can dispose and bid What shall be right. 1802 COLERIDGE *Hymn Sunrise Chamouni* 29 Thou first and chief, sole Sovran of the Vale! 1824 LANDOR *Imag. Conv.* Wks. 1853 I. 2/1 The scrip across my saddlebow contains a full receipt for the discharge of my sovran. 1887 MAHAFFY & GILMAN *Alexander's Empire* vi. (1890) 57 By armed interference, which was not unfrequent under these sovrans.

Hence **So·vranly** *adv.*

1833 TENNYSON *Œnone* Poems 56 The imperial Olympian With archèd eyebrow smiling sovranly. 1880 W. WATSON *Prince's Quest* 14 To see that royal maiden..Unto her palace riding sovranly.

Sovranty (sɒ·vrănti). Chiefly *poet.* [f. SOVRAN *a.* + -TY.] Sovereignty.

1667 MILTON *P. L.* II. 446, I should ill become this Throne ..And this Imperial Sov'ranty. 1830 TENNYSON *Poems* 119 Bitter grief Doth hold the other half in sovranty. 1859 FITZGERALD *Omar* xii, 'How sweet is mortal Sovranty!'— think some. 1894 MAHAFFY in *19th Cent.* May 856 A priestly despotism, a condottiere sovranty.

Sow (sau), *sb.*[1] Forms: *a.* 1 **suzu, suza**, 3 **suze-**, 4 **soze**, 5 **sogh(e, sowhe**, 5, 7, 9 **sough.** *β.* 2 **suwa**, 3 **suwe**, 3–4 **souwe**, 4–6 **soowe**, 4–7 **sowe**, 4–**sow**, 6, 9 *Sc.* **sou.** *γ. north. dial.* 5–7, 9 **sew.** *δ.* 6, 9 *dial.* **soo.** [OE. *sugu*, = WFris. *sûch*, NFris. *sögg, su*, MDu. *soge, seuge* (Du. *zeug*) and *soch, such* (Du. *zog*), MLG. *soge, suge* (LG. *soge*), related to OHG. and MHG. *sû* (G. *sau*) and ON. *sý-r* (acc. *sú*; MSw., Sw., and Da. *so*), also L. *sūs*, Gr. *ὗς*, Zend *hu.* The stem *su-*, of doubtful origin, also appears in SWINE.]

1. The female of swine; an adult or full-grown female pig, esp. a domestic one used for breeding.

a. c 725 *Corpus Gloss.* (Hessels) S 172 *Scroffa*, suzu. *c* 897 K. ÆLFRED *Gregory's Past. C.* liv. 419 Sio suzu hi wille sylian on hire sole æfterdæmðe hio aðwæzen bið. 1340 *Ayenb.* 61 Hy byeþ anlicned to þe zoze huanne hi heþ yuarzed. 1426 LYDG. *De Guil. Pilgr.* 13358, I logge..As a sowhe, in donge and clay. *c* 1460 *Towneley Myst.* XII. 274 And it were for a sogh Ther is drynk enogh.

β. c 1150 *Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 543 *Scroffa*, suwa. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 204 þe Suwe of þiuernesse, þet is, Glutunie, haueð pigges þus inemned. *c* 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 62 A-mong alle bestes..A-corsed þou beo, lupere souwe. *c* 1340 *Nominale* (Skeat) 731 *Sengler, troie, et suel*, Bor, sowe, and gilte. *c* 1374 CHAUCER *Boeth.* IV. pr. iii. (1868) 122 He is wiþholden in þe foule delices of þe foule soowe. 14.. *Sir Beues* (C.) 2509 Hys heere was as þe brystels of a sowe. *a* 1450 *Knt. de la Tour* (1868) 43 In the pathe he saw a gret blacke swyne and a sowe. 1523 FITZHERB. *Husb.* § 121 Let them be bores and sowes all, and no hogges. 1573 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 74 Good faring sow holds profit with cow. 1605 SHAKS. *Macb.* IV. i. 64 Powre in Sowes blood, that hath eaten Her nine

Farrow. 1661 Lovell *Hist. Anim. & Min.* 117 The large sided sow is best. 1764 *Museum Rust.* I. 476 When I have a parcel of young pigs in winter, I find these sows will fat them better. 1820 Shelley *Œd. Tyr.* II. i. 36 The lean Sows and Boars collect about her. 1847 Tennyson *Princ.* I. 191 All the swine were sows. 1871 B. Taylor *Faust* (1875) I. xxi. 183 A tough old sow, and the mother thereon, Then follow the witches every one.

γ. *c* 1440 *Alph. Tales* 187 On a tyme þer was a man þat stale his neghbur sew. 1557 *Richmond Wills* (Surtees) 101 Hoggs, v sewes and one boore. 1684 [cf. sense 2]. 1807 R. Anderson *Cumbld. Ball.* (*c* 1850) 151 Twee braid-backt tips, an' a bonny sew. 1883 *Almondbury Gloss., Sew, Soo,* or *Seoo,* a sow.

δ. 1561 Hollybush *Hom. Apoth.* 35 Geue him the milke of a Soo. 1883 [see γ].

† b. *My sow's pigged,* a former card-game. *Obs.*

Some other dial. uses are given in the *Eng. Dial. Dict.*

1621 J. Taylor (Water P.) *Motto* D iv, At Primefisto, Post and payre, Primero,..he's a lib'rall Hero; At My-Sow-pigg'd, and (Reader neuer doubt ye, He's skil'd in all games, except) Looke about ye. 1642 *Tom Nash His Ghost* A iv, For your Religions you may (many of you) cast Crosse and Pile, and for your iust dealing you may play at my Sow ha's Pigg'd. 1734 *Poor Robin's Almanack* C vj, The Lawyers play at Beggar my Neighbour; the School-masters play at Questions and Commands; the Farmers play at My Sow's pigg'd. 1883 *Almondbury Gloss.* 115 'My sow's pigg'd' was a game at cards played in this neighbourhood some forty-five years ago.

2. Applied to persons (male or female) as a term of abuse, opprobrium, or reproach, esp. to a fat, clumsy, or slovenly woman.

1508 Kennedie *Flyting w. Dunbar* 321 Insensuat sow, cesse fals Eustase air! *a* 1585 Polwart *Flyting w. Montgomerie* 743 Sweir sow, doyld kow, ay fow, foull fall thy banes! 1630 *Cosin's Corresp.* (Surtees) I. 174 You tore her sleeve, with these reprochfull words, 'Can ye not stand, ye lazie sowes?' 1684 *Yorks. Dial.* 13 (E. D. S.), Ise ding thy Harnes out, thou base mucky Sew. 1696 Phillips (ed. 5), *Sow,..*a term of Reproach given many times to a fat, lazy, rank, big breasted Woman. 1725 Bailey *Erasm. Colloq.* (1878) I. 387 The Wife [has been called] Sow, Fool, dirty Drab. 1785 Grose *Dict. Vulgar T., Sow,* a fat woman. 1803 Boswell *Songs* 5 Ye're a sow, auld man, Ye get fou, auld man. 1825 Brockett *N. C. Gloss., Sow,* an inelegant female, a dirty wench.

3. In various phrases or proverbial uses: **a.** *To get, have,* or *take the* (or † *a*) *wrong* (or *right*) *sow by the ear,* or variants of this: To get hold of, hit upon, the wrong (or right) person or thing; to take an incorrect (or correct) view; to arrive at a wrong (or right) conclusion, solution, etc.

1562 J. Heywood *Prov. & Epigr.* (1867) 75 Ye may see, ye tooke The wrong way to wood, and the wrong sow by theare. 1570 Foxe *A. & M.* (ed. 2) 2034/1, I perceiue..that that man hath the sow by the right eare. 1630 J. Taylor (Water P.) *Wit & Mirth* Wks. II. 180/2, I knew when he first medled with your Ladyship, that hee had a wrong Sow by the eare. 1697 Vanbrugh *Æsop* II, He that goes to a courtier in hope to get fairly rid of 'em may be said, in our country-dialect, to take the wrong sow by the ear. 1761 *Brit. Mag.* II. 463 Crabshaw..told her he believed she had got the right sow by the ear. 1841 Hood *T. of Trumpet* 681 The sow that ought By the ear is caught—And the sin to the sinful door is brought. 1852 De Quincey *Schlosser's Lit. Hist.* Wks. 1858 VIII. 60 When he finds that he has not only got the wrong sow by the ear, but actually sold the sow to a bookseller.

b. In other allusive phrases.

See also Silk *sb.* 6 and Still *a.*

1546 J. Heywood *Prov.* (1867) 24 Littell knoweth the fat sow, what the leane dooth meane. *Ibid.* 32 What should we (quoth I) grease the fat sow in thars. 1562 — *Prov. & Epigr.* 64 God haue mercy hors, a pyg of mine owne sow. 1567 Maplet *Gr. Forest* Pref., Not to teach or shew the learned, howe in this point Nature hath wrought (for that were as the prouerb is, ye Sow to Minerua). 1607 Topsell *Four-f. Beasts* (1658) 523 In Latin they say *Sus Minervam,* when an unlearned dunce goeth about to teach his better or a more learned man,..or as we say in English, the foul Sow teach the fair Lady to spin.

c. In comparative phrases, esp. *as drunk as David's sow* or *as a sow* (cf. quots.).

1562 J. Heywood *Prov. & Epigr.* (1867) 43 As meete as a sowe to beare a saddle. *c* 1590 Greene *Fr. Bacon* (1630) E iv b, I am as seruiceable at a table, as a Sow is vnder an Apple tree. 1727 Gay *New Song of New Similes* ii, For, though as drunk as David's sow, I love her still the better. 1816 *Sporting Mag.* XLVIII. 39 A man is said to be.. when he cannot see, 'as drunk as a sow'. 1877 E. Peacock *N. W. Linc. Gloss.* 233 'As happy as a sow i' muck,' or 'in a muck-hill'; a phrase setting forth the contented state of those who live for sensual pleasure. *Ibid.,* 'As drunk as David's sow' is a simile conveying the idea of the deepest state of intoxication.

4. *Mil.* A movable structure having a strong roof, used to cover men advancing to the walls of a besieged town or fortress, and to protect them while engaged in sapping and mining or other operations. Now *Hist.*

[*c* 1125 William of Malmesb. *De Gestis Reg.* IV. (Rolls) II. 426 Unum fuit machinamentum quod nostri suem, veteres vineam vocant; quod machina..protegit in se subsidentes, qui, quasi more suis, ad murorum suffodienda penetrant fundamenta.]

1297 R. Glouc. (Rolls) 8480 A gyn þat me sowe clupeþ hii made ek wel strong, Muche folc inne vor to be boþe wid & long. 1375 Barbour *Bruce* XVII. 597 Of gret gestis ane sow thai maid, That stalward heling owth it had, With armyt men enew thar-in. 1412–20 Lydg. *Chron. Troy* II. 6434 What with gynnys..And gonnys grete, for to caste stonys.., And large sowis lowe for to myne. 1486 *Excheq. Rolls Scot.* IX. 434 Willelmo Andirson, carpentario, pro factura unius instrumenti bellici vocati le sow. 1535 Stewart *Cron. Scot.* III. 342 Than pik and tar, talloun and brynt stane,..Vpoun that sow richt suddantlie leit fall, Quhilk..scaldit hes richt mony than to deid Within the sow. 1610 W. Folkingham *Art of Survey* I. xiii. 45 Engines.. Militarie; as Battering-Rams, Sowes, Horses, Tortuses. 1633 T. Stafford *Pac. Hib.* I. x. 68 The Castle therefore they besiege, and placed an Engine (well knowen in this Countrey), called a Sow (to the Wals thereof) to supp [*sic*] the same. 1694 Motteux *Rabelais* IV. xl. (1737) 159 The Engineers..fitted up the great Sow. 1788 Grose *Milit. Antiq.* II. 307 Two machines, the one called the boar, the other the sow, were employed by the parliamentarians in the siege of Corfe castle. 1828–43 Tytler *Hist. Scot.* (1864) I. 137 It was determined to undermine the walls; and for this purpose a huge machine was constructed.. From its shape and covering, this formidable engine was called a sow. 1866 Kingsley *Herew.* XXVIII, They made a floating-sow, and thrust it on before them as they worked across the stream. 1893 H. J. Moule *Old Dorset* 211 The Parliamentarians took the trouble to bring this ponderous affair, called a 'sow', close to the Castle.

b. *U.S.* 'A movable shed used as a protection by miners' (1895 *Funk's Stand. Dict.*).

5. a. A wood-louse or sow-bug. Now chiefly *dial.*

14.. in *Rel. Antiq.* I. 204 Geve hym of these sowes that crepe with many fete, and falle oute of howce rovys. 1558 Warde tr. *Alexis' Secr.* 23 b, Then take twelue or fiftene of these litle beastes called Monkes peason or sowes. 1572 Mascall *Planting & Grafting* 50 There be little beastes called Sowes, which haue many legs. 1600 Surflet *Countrie Farme* I. viii. 39 If wals be full of sowes and such other like vermine. 1668 Charleton *Onomast.* 50 *Asellus,* the Tylers Lowse, or, Sow. 1725 *Fam. Dict.* s.v. *Ulcer,* For Ulcers.., Take Millepedes, call'd by some in English Wood-Lice, and by others Sows. *a* 1825– in dial. glossaries (E. Anglia, Linc., Leic., Northants, Nottingham, etc.). 1877 F. P. Pascoe *Zool. Class.* 62 Some of the Oniscidæ are land animals, and are known as hog-lice, sows, &c.

b. *Sea-sow*: see Sea *sb.* 23 d.

6. *techn.* A large oblong mass of solidified metal as obtained from the blast- or smelting-furnace:

a. Of lead. Now *Obs.* or *rare.*

So MDu. *soge* in a document of 1445.

1481–90 *Howard Househ. Bks.* (Roxb.) 311 My Lord paied to Geffrey Blower for ij. sowes lede..weying..xvj. c. iij. quarters and xiiij. lb. *a* 1529 Skelton *E. Rummyng* 72 With clothes vpon her hed That wey a sowe of led. 1546 in W. H. Turner *Select. Rec. Oxford* (1880) 182 For meltyng of the leade.., and castyng into sowes. 1610 Holland *Camden's Brit.* (1637) 611 Twenty sowes of lead long in forme, but foure square. 1668 *Phil. Trans.* III. 770 It is cast into Sand, and runs into those Sowes (as they call them) which they sell. 1688 Holme *Armoury* III. 260/2 A Pig or Sow of Lead, is generally about three hundred pounds apiece. 1700 J. Brome *Trav.* i. (1707) 34 The [Lead] Ore ..being..afterwards melted down into Pigs and Sows, as they are there call'd.

b. Of iron. (See note to Pig *sb.*[1] 7 and quots.)

1539 in *Hist. Sussex* (Victoria Co. Hist.) II. 245/2 To melt the Sowes in ij forges or Fynories ther must be iiij persones. 1612 S. Sturtevant *Metallica* (1854) 113 The second kind of Metallar is the Sowe of iron. 1645–52 Boate *Ireland's Nat. Hist.* (1860) 113 The molten Iron..turning into a hard and stiff mass, which masses are called Sowes by the workmen. 1676 Hobbes *Iliad* XXIII. 817 And then of Iron he brought out a Sough Such as at first it from the Fornace came. *a* 1744 Lucas in *Trans. Cumb. & Westm. Archaeol. Soc.* (N.S.) VIII. 38 They break the Sow and Pigs off from one another, and the Sow into the same Lengths with the Piggs. 1837 Whittock *Bk. Trades* (1842) 408 (*Smith*), The price of iron, in bars, pigs, and 'sows', has been upon the advance. 1894 *Harper's Mag.* Jan. 418 When the metal cools, the larger masses are called 'sows', and the smaller 'pigs'.

c. In general use: A bar or mass of metal; an ingot. Now *Obs.* or *rare.*

1570–6 Lambarde *Peramb. Kent* (1826) p. v, By fire to trie out the Metall and to cast it into certeine rude lumps, which they call Sowze. 1590 Webbe *Trav.* (Arb.) 23 A place..where they had great store of Treasure and Sowes of Silver. *a* 1656 Ussher *Ann.* (1658) 225 Diodorus reckons upward of 400 thousand talents of silver, and gold in sowes and wedges. 1702 C. Mather *Magn. Chr.* II. App. (1852) 172 Upon further diving the Indian fetcht up a sow, as they stiled it, or a lump of silver.

d. *fig.* or in fig. context.

1570–6 Lambarde *Peramb. Kent* (1826) 474 If any man shall like to take this mettall, drawen by me out of a fewe Sowes into many sheetes. 1599 Nashe *Lenten Stuffe* Wks. (Grosart) V. 293 This vnciuill Norman hotpotch, this sow of lead, that hath neuer a ring at the end to lift it vp by.

e. One of the larger channels, or the main channel, in the hearth of an iron-smelting furnace, serving as a feeder to the smaller channels or 'pigs' (see quots.).

1843 Holtzapffel *Turning* I. 371 The metal is led from the furnace, through a gutter lined with sand, into a large trough or sow, the end of which is closed with a shuttle. 1884 W. H. Greenwood *Steel & Iron* 129 These feeders or sows are themselves put in connection with a common main channel, *d,* leading from the tap-hole to the lower end of the sand- or pig-bed.

f. (See quot.)

1871 *Trans. Amer. Inst. Mining Eng.* I. 112 Metallic iron, not finding heat enough in a lead-furnace to keep it sufficiently fluid to run out with the slag, congeals in the hearth, and forms what smelters term 'sows', 'bears', 'horses', or 'salamanders'.

7. *Sc.* and *north.* A large oblong-shaped rick or stack, esp. of hay.

1659 A. Hay *Diary* (S.H.S.) 155 My whole hey was a great ruck of the Lawes meadow, and 3 litle rucks,..all which I did put in one sow in the yaird. 1756 Mrs. Calderwood in *Coltness Collect.* (Maitl. Club) 166 Severall great sows of hay were on the cannall..; it looked very odd to see a hay sow, perhaps fifty or sixty foot long,..sailing along.

1799 J. Robertson *Agric. Perth* 220 The stack is frequently made in an oblong form, which is vulgarly called a sow. 1833 J. S. Sands *Poems* 168 (E.D.D.), Like the donkey wi' the sous Of hay. 1871 C. Gibbon *Lack of Gold* viii, Behind was the farm-yard, and well-stocked with fat stacks of grain and hay 'sows'.

8. *attrib.* and *Comb.* (chiefly in sense 1), as *sow-hair, -herd, -pap, -skin, -sticking, -tail, -teat,* etc.; *sow-like* adv.; **sow-drunk** *a.* (see sense 3 c); † **sow-guard,** = sense 4; **sow-libber** *Sc.,* a sow-gelder; **sow-louse,** a wood-louse, sow-bug (now *dial.*). See also Sow-gelder, -iron, -metal.

1509 Barclay *Shyp Folys* (1570) 33 Some *sowe dronke, swalowing meate without measure, Some maudlayne dronke, mourning loudly and hye. 1532 More *De quat. Noviss.* Wks. 82/2 Yet shal ye find moy^t drink themself sow drunk of pride to be called good felowes, than for luste of the drink self. 1880 Tennyson *Northern Cobbler* iv, Soa sow-droonk that tha doesn not touch thy 'at to the Squire. 1582 Stanyhurst *Æneis* II. (Arb.) 58 They clinge thee scalinges too wals, and vnder a *sowgard They clymb. 1597 Deloney *Gentle Craft* I. iv, The Aule steele and tackes, the *Sow-haires beside. 1565 Cooper *Thesaurus, Scrofipascus,..*a *sow hearde. *a* 1682 Sempill *Blythsome Wedding* 22 There will be *Sow-libber Peatie. 1603 J. Davies (Heref.) *Microcosmos* Wks. (Grosart) I. 65/1 For, to dismount from true loue's loftie pitch..Is, *Sow-like, to lie mired in the ditch Of lowest Hell. 1658 Rowland tr. *Mouffet's Theat. Ins.* 932 Flyes, Gnats, *Sowlice, Fleas, that do much hurt and do no good. 1866 Brogden *Prov. Lincs., Sow-louse,* the wood-louse. *c* 1440 *Alph. Tales* 437 Þan he garte caste it emang swyne at þai mott devowr it; and þer it was nurisshid on a *sew papp. 1611 Shaks. *Wint. T.* IV. iii. 20 If Tinkers may haue leaue to liue, and beare the *Sow-skin Bowget. 1823 *Spirit Public Jrnls.* 459 He instantly crammed it back again into the sow-skin purse from which he had taken it. 1883 *Longman's Mag.* Apr. 649 At the *sow-sticking..the neighbours lend helping hands. 1787 Burns *Halloween* iv, A runt was like a *sow-tail, Sae bow't that night. *a* 1661 Holyday *Juvenal* (1673) 216 Trypherus the learned, who Carves large *sow-teats.

b. In plant-names, as † **sowbane,** goosefoot (*Chenopodium*); † **sow-fennel,** sulphur-wort; **sow-tit,** the wood-strawberry; **sow-wort,** = Sow-bread. See also Sow-thistle.

Some others are current in dialects or *U. S.*

1657 W. Coles *Adam in Eden* cccix. 577 Goose-foot or *Sowbane. 1796 Withering *Brit. Plants* (ed. 3) II. 271 Red Goosefoot. Sowbane. 1578 Lyte *Dodoens* 298 It is called..in Englishe also Peucedanum, Horestrong,..*Sowe fenill, and of some Sulphurwurt. 1611 Cotgr., *Fenouil de porceau,* Sow-fennell, Hogs-fennell. 1788 M. Cutler in *Life,* etc. (1888) I. 410 It is on a plain..covered with trees—a white oak four feet in diameter near the summit—cavity in the middle covered with *sow-tits. 1838 T. Thomson *Chem. Org. Bodies* 708 M. Saladin found in the root of the *Cyclamen Europeum,* or *sow wort, a peculiar bitter principle.

c. With the names of animals, etc., in the sense of 'female', as *sow-cat* (also *transf.*), † *-child, -hog, -swine*; **sow-wasp** *dial.,* a queen wasp. See also Sow-pig.

1676 *Phil. Trans.* XI. 592 A Chat Pard (supposed to be engendred by a Leopard and a *Sow-catt). 1689 N. Lee *Princ. Cleves* III. i, *St. A.* For there's two ravenous Sow-Cats will Eat you. *El.* Your Wives you mean. 1875 Parish *Dict. Sussex Dial.* 108 I'll give that old sow-cat a yourn a sock aside the head. *a* 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew,* **Sow-child,* a Female Child. 1648 Hexham II, *Een Zoch,* a *Sowe-hogge. 1822 Shelley *Faust* II. 154 Upon a *sow-swine, whose farrows were nine, Old Baubo rideth alone. 1875 Parish *Dict. Sussex Dial.* 110 In some parts of the county a reward of sixpence is offered for each *sow-waps killed in the spring.

d. Genitival combs., as **sow's-baby,** *slang* and *Cant* (see quots.); **sow's-back,** *local* (see quot. 1789); † **sow's bread,** = Sow-bread; † **sow's thistle,** = Sow-thistle.

a 1400 *Stockholm Med. MS.* fol. 198 Sowesthystyl, *Iatrum.* 1558 Warde tr. *Alexis' Secrets* (1562) 13 Take an herbe called..in Englishe sowes breade. *a* 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew, Sow's baby,* a Pig. 1785 Grose *Dict. Vulgar T., Sow's baby,* a sucking pig. 1789 J. Williams *Min. Kingd.* I. 107 We..bring up a level mine under the pavement of the coal, quite through the ridge, in order to level the coal upon the other side of it. Some of the Scots colliers call this a ridge, others of them call it a hirst, and some of them call it a sow's-back. 1859 *Slang Dict.* 98 *Sow's baby,* ..sixpence.

Sow (sau), *sb.*[2] Now *dial.* Also sowe (9 *dial.* sou, saa). [app. distinct from Sough *sb.*[2], and perh. identical with Flem. dial. *zou* († *souwe, soeuwe*' in Plantin and Kilian) drain.] A drain; a channel or run of water.

1316 in *Rep. MSS. Ld. Middleton* (1911) 88 Predicti Adam et socii sui gutturam, que dicitur 'le sowe',..reparabunt. 1669 W. Simpson *Hydrol. Chym.* 359 A kind of ocre..falls to the bottom of the chanels of all..mineral springs, whether sowes or others. 1670 — *Hydrol. Ess.* 133 All spaws, whether vitrioline from sowes or aluminous. 1709 Thoresby *Diary* (1830) II. 50 Both days entirely spent with labourers, directing and overseering the sows to drain water. *c* 1800 Stagg *Bridewain* ix. Misc. Poems (1808) 5 Owr hill an' knowe, thro' seugh an' sowe, Comes tiftan many o' couple. 1824– in Yorkshire and Cumberld. glossaries.

Sow, *sb.*[3] *rare.* In 4 sau, saw. [f. Sow *v.*[1]] An act of sowing.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 6378 He þam ledd..And fand þam fode in þair nede, Wit-vten ani sau [*v.r.* saw] o sede.

Sow (sau), *sb.*[4] *Obs.* exc. *dial.* Also 4 **sowe.** [Of obscure origin.] A blow or stroke.

a 1400 *Sir Eglamour* 317 Syr Egyllamowre hys swerde owt drowe, And to the yeant he gafe a sowe, And blyndyd

hym in that tyde 1869– in dial. glossaries (Cheshire, Lanc., and Westmld.).

Sow, *sb.*[5] *Sc. rare.* [Of obscure origin.]

1. A bride's outfit of clothes; a trousseau.

1768, in Morison *Decis. Cr. Sess.* 10436 Andrew Littlejohn pursues the Duchess of Monmouth her curator for payment of a taylor's account taken off by the Duchess for her marriage sow. 1887 *Jamieson's Suppl.* Add., *Sou, sowe,* a bride's outfit or braws...This term is now used only by the fisher-folk of the N.E. of Scot. from Nairn to Buckie.

2. A burial garment; a shroud.

1763 'INSULANUS' *Second Sight* 18 The same girl died of a fever, and as there was no linen in the place but what was unbleached, it was made use of for her sowe.

† **Sow,** obs. variant of or error for SOLE *sb.*[3] 2.

1688 HOLME *Armoury* II. 173/2 The Sow, is the Yoke, which is put about the Cow or Ox-Neck to tye him to the Boosey. *Ibid.* III. 327/2.

Sow, obs. variant of SOE, tub.

Sow (sǫu), *v.*[1] Pa. t. **sowed,** Pa. pple. **sowed, sown.** Forms: (see below). [Common Teut., but presenting considerable variation in form, and changes of conjugation; the chief forms are OE. *sāwan,* OFris. **siā* (NFris. *sīn, se,* EFris. *sēi*), MDu. *saeyen, zaeyen* (Du. *zaaien*), OS. *sāian* (MLG. *seien, seigen, segen,* LG. *seien, saien*), OHG. *sāen, sāhen, sāan* (MHG. *sæjen, sæhen, sæn,* G. *säen*) and *sāwen* (MHG. *sæwen, sêwen*), ON. and Icel. *sá* (Norw. and Da. *saa,* Sw. *så*), Goth. *saian.* The Teut. root **sē-* (cf. SEED *sb.*) has counterparts in Lith. *sėti,* OSlav. *sejati,* L. *serĕre* (perf. *sēvī*) to sow, and perh. in Gr. ἵημι.

The original reduplicating conjugation is retained in the Goth. pa. t. *saisō,* ON. pa. t. *sera,* pa. pple. *sáinn* (MSw. *sāin*), OE. pa. t. *sēow,* pa. pple. *gesāwen,* OS. pa. t. *sēu* (once), OFris. pa. pple. *sēn.* Transference to the weak conjugation has taken place in all the continental languages (as OHG. *sāta,* OS. *sāida,* late ON. *sāða*); in English the pa. t. has become weak, the pa. pple. still commonly retains the strong form.]

A. Illustration of forms.

1. *Inf.* (and Pres. stem). *α.* 1–2 **sawan** (2 **sæwæn**), 2–3 **sawen** (**sewen**), 4 **zawen**; 2, 4–6 **sawe,** 4, 6 *Sc.* **sau,** 5– *Sc.* (and *north.*) **saw** (5 *Sc.* **say**); also 5 *Sc.* **schau, schaw(e.**

c 825– [see examples in B]. *c* 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 147 Hie hiden wepende and sewende. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 6839 Your land yee sal sau seuen yeir. 1340 *Ayenb.* 214 Huo þanne ssolde erye and zawe. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xxvii. (*Machor*) 906 Prechand & sawand godis sed. *Ibid.* xl. (*Ninian*) 133 To schau his seiyde. *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (Roxb.) xxxii. 147 Þe folk..sawez na land. *c* 1440 *Registr. Aberdon.* (Maitl. Cl.) I. 250 Alsmekill land as a celdr of atis will schawe. *c* 1480 HENRYSON *Aganis Haisty Credence* 41 O wicket tung, sawand dissentioun. 1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 45 To Sawe corne, *seminare.* 1581 J. HAMILTON *Cath. Traict.* in *Cath. Tract.* (S.T.S.) 74 To sau..pernicious heresie. *c* 1639 SIR W. MURE *Ps.* cvii. 37 The feilds they saw. 1785 BURNS *Halloween* xviii, Hemp-seed I saw thee. 1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* viii, They..might be for sawing the craft wi' aits.

β. 3–4 **sowen** (3 **souin**), 4 **souwen,** 5 **sowyn**; 3–7 **sowe,** 4 **soghe,** 6 **soue,** 6– **sow** (8 **sew**).

c 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 155 To sowen þe holie sed. *a* 1250 *Prov. Ælfred* in *O.E. Misc.* 108 His sedes to sowen [*v.r.* souin]. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 10259 Ne þat bailif.. ne soffrede hom nower come, To sowe. 13.. *E.E. Allit. P.* C. 67 In þat cete my sayes soghe alle aboute. 1362 LANGL. *P. Pl.* A. VII. 59, I wol souwen hit my-self. 1382 WYCLIF *Matt.* xiii. 3 He that sowith, goth out to sowe his seed. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 466/1 Sowyn corne or oþer sedys, *semino, sero.* 1530 PALSGR. 725/2, I sowe corne. 1532 *Galway Arch.* in *10th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. V. 405 Whatsoever man..shall..soue any varyaunce. 1635 R. N. tr. *Camden's Hist. Eliz.* I. 21 To sow Religion. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* I, 2 When to sowe the Corn.

2. *Past Tense.* **a.** *Strong.* 1–2 **seow** (1 **seawu**), 1, 3–7, 8 *dial.* **sew** (3 **siew,** 5 **seow**), 4–5, 7 **sewe** (9 *Sc.* **shewe**), 3–4 **seuȝ** (4 **seeuȝh, segh**), 3–4, 6 **seu,** 4 **sue**; *pl.* 1 **seowun, -on, -an, sewon,** 3 **seowen, sowen,** 3–5 **sewen**; 3 **seowe, sew,** 4–7 **sewe.**

c 825 [see B. 2]. *c* 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Matt. xiii. 39 Ðe fiond,..seðe sawes *vel* seawu, ða is diowl. 971 *Blickl. Hom.* 3 Se Halga Gast seow þæt clæne sæd. *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 133 A riche mon ferde ut and seow. *c* 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 151 [He] siew þo on wowe. *Ibid.,* þe sed þat he sew. *c* 1250 *Hymn* Ibid. 256 þe holi gost hire on þe seuȝ. *c* 1275 *Moral Ode* 23 in *O.E. Misc.* 59 Hwenne alle men repen schule þat heo ear seowe. *c* 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 8048 Hym þat þis child on me sew. *c* 1380 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* I. 259 God repiþ many þingis þat he sue not. *c* 1430 *Pilgr. Lyf Manhode* I. lxxiv. (1869) 43 She brouhte the greyn..and seew it. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* XII. ix. 47 His fader eyrit and sew ane peice of feild. 1565 *Wills & Inv. N.C.* (Surtees, 1835) 244 Because I seu no winter corne ther. 1641 BEST *Farm. Bks.* (Surtees) 56 Wee sewe nothing but onely our In-field. *a* 1800 PEGGE *Anecd. Eng. Lang.* (1803) 105, I sew..my corn.

b. *Weak.* *α.* 4 **sceued,** 4, 9 *Sc.* **sawed,** 4 **sawit.**

[*c* 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Matt. xiii. 25 Ofer-ȝeseawu *vel* ȝeseawde. — *Luke* xix. 21 þæt ðu ne ȝesaudesd.] *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 21226 O godds word he sceued þe sede. *c* 1375 *Ibid.* 12323 (Fairf.), þe quete..at ihesus sawed. 1820 SCOTT *Monast.* xiii, About the last barley ye sawed.

β. 4 **sowid(e,** 6– **sowed,** 7 **sowd.**

1382 WYCLIF *Gen.* xxvi. 12 Isaac forsothe sowide in that loond. 1535 COVERDALE *Deut.* xi. 10 Where thou sowedest thy sede. 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 91 The Arrians ..sowed abroade their opinions. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* VII. 358 He..sowd with Starrs the Heav'n.

3. *Past Participle.* **a.** *Strong.* *α.* 1 **ȝesauen, ȝi-,** 1–2 **ȝesawen,** 4 **y-zawe**; 1, 4–6 **sawen,** 3 **sauen** (**saȝin**), 4 **sau(u)n,** 4, 6 *Sc.* **sawin,** 5 *Sc.* **sawyn(e, -ing,** 5, 9 *Sc.* and *north.* **sawn,** 6–7 *Sc.* **sawne**; 4 **sewe,** 6 *Sc.* **saw.**

c 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Mark iv. 15 Seðe ymb woeȝ ðer bið ȝesauen [*Rushw.* ȝisawen] word. 971 *Blickl. Hom.* 133 Þa wæs heora lar sawen. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 28174 O strif oft haue i sauun þe sede. 1340 *Ayenb.* 255 Yef hit ys hol oþer aboue y-zawe [= F. *sursemée*]. *c* 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 445 Vile sede of man with syn sawen. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xl. (*Ninian*) 203 Þare he saw sawyne il seide. *c* 1440 *Alph. Tales* 420 A man þat had lande to be sawen. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* XI. 1226 Feill off that kyn, in Scotland than was sawyn. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* IV. Prol. 8 In fragill flesche 3our fekill seid is saw. 1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 62 Sawen, *satus.* *c* 1629 SIR W. MURE *Sonn.* iv. Wks. (S.T.S.) I. 302 If once the seed of true Repentance sawne. 1876 ROBINSON *Whitby Gloss.* s.v., *Sawn,* sown as grain.

β. 3–4 **i-, 4–5 y-sowe,** 4–5 **sowe**; 3 **i-,** 4–5 **y-sowen,** 3–7 **sowen,** 5 **sowun,** 5–7 **sowne,** 4, 6– **sown.**

a 1250 *Owl & Night.* 1129 Þar newe sedes beoþ isowe. *c* 1330 *Arth. & Merl.* 4537 (Kölbing), No corn no was ysowe. 1382 WYCLIF *Lev.* xxvii. 16 If..the feelde is sowun. *c* 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* I. 165 Rie of whete ysowen wul vp growe. ?*c* 1450 *Songs, Carols,* etc. (1907) 81 The sede of synne so thyke ys sowe. 1523 FITZHERB. *Husb.* § 10 That ..styffe ground..wolde be sowen with bigge stuffe. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* I. ix. 16 True Loues are often sown. 1608 DOD & CLEAVER *Expos. Prov. ix–x.* 29 Some is sowne before others,..some is sowen after others. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* Ess., The Precepts..are sown so very thick. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) VII. 353 A furrow which has been newly sown. 1837 P. KEITH *Bot. Lex.* 23 Wheat sown in the spring lives but six months.

b. *Weak.* 4 **i-sowed,** 5 **sowid,** 5, 7– **sowed,** 6 **sowd,** 7–8 **sow'd.**

1362 LANGL. *P. Pl.* A. VI. 34, I haue..I-sowed his seed. 1382 WYCLIF *Num.* XX. 5 This worst place, that may not be sowid. 1596 SPENSER *Hymn Heav. Beauty* 53 The house of blessed Gods,..All sowd with glistring stars. 1656 A. WRIGHT *Five Serm.* 126 The seed sowed in good ground. 1759 R. BROWN *Compl. Farmer* 119 Your corn should be sowed on broad ridges. 1844 S. WILBERFORCE *Hist. Prot. Episc. Ch. Amer.* (1846) 63 It was ploughed up and sowed.

B. Signification.

1. *intr.* or *absol.* To perform the action of scattering or depositing seed on or in the ground so that it may grow. Also *fig.* and in fig. context.

c 825 *Vesp. Psalter* CXXV. 5 Ða sawað in tearum, in ȝefian hie reopað. *c* 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Matt. XXV. 24 Ðu hripes ðer ðu ne sawes. *c* 1000 *Ags. Gosp.* Matt. vi. 26 Behealdað heofonan fuglas, forþam þe hiȝ ne sawað ne hiȝ ne ripað. *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 131 Þe ðe saweð on blescunge he scal mawen of blescunge. *c* 1205 LAY. 10032 Heo tileden, heo seowen, heo repen, heo meowen. *a* 1250 *Owl & Night.* 1039 Hit wes isayd..þat mon schal eryen & sowe, þar he weneþ after god mowe. 1362 LANGL. *P. Pl.* A. VIII. 6 Al þat euere hulpen him to heren or to sowen. *c* 1460 *Towneley Myst.* ii. 124 When I shuld saw, & wantyd seyde. *c* 1500 *God speed the Plough* (Skeat) 2 As I me walked ouer feldis wide When men began to Ere and to Sowe. 1579 LYLY *Euphues* (Arb.) 92 As thou hast reaped where an other hath sowen. 1591 HARINGTON *Orl. Fur.* Pref. P ix b, For as men vse to sow with the hand and not with the whole sacke. 1663 S. PATRICK *Parab. Pilgr.* xxxiii. (1687) 404 The birds..who neither sow nor reap. 1687 AYRES *Lyric Poems* (1906) 306, [I] Plough water, sow on rocks, and reap the wind. 1785 BURNS *Death & Dr. Hornbook* viii, Hae ye been mawin, When ither folk are busy sawin? 1842 LOUDON *Suburban Hort.* 623 For a late summer and autumn crop, sow in the end of February. 1865 RUSKIN *Sesame* ii. § 95 The path-sides where He has sown.

2. *trans.* To scatter seed on or upon (land, etc.) in order that it may grow; to supply with seed.

c 825 *Vesp. Psalter* cvi. 37 [Hie] seowun lond, *c* 888 K. ÆLFRED *Boeth.* xxiii, Swa hwa swa wille sawan westmbære land. *c* 1000 ÆLFRIC *Lev.* xix. 19 Ne saw þu þinne æcyr mid gemengedum sæde. *a* 1250 *Prov. Ælfred* 123 Þey o mon ahte huntseuenti Acres, and he hi hadde isowen alle myd reade golde. And þat gold greowe [etc.], 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 10195 Þe king þo..vorbed þat me ne ssolde non of is lond sowe. *a* 1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* cvi. 37 Þai sew feldis and þai plantid vyners. 1382 WYCLIF *Gen.* xlvii. 23 Takith seedis, and sowith feeldis, that ȝe mowen han lyuelodis. 1456–70 in *Acts Parlt. Scot.* (1875) XII. 26/2 The lardis of Meldrum has gart eyre and saw owr said landis of Canty. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 23 After that he tempereth it with dong, than eareth it, soweth it, and haroweth it. 1577 B. GOOGE tr. *Heresbach's Husb.* 45 When you meane to let your ground lye againe for Meddowe or Pasture, your best is to sowe it with Oates. 1660 in *Verney Mem.* (1907) II. 158, I shall want a little hay dust to sow the holes in the parsnage yard. 1735 JOHNSON *Lobo's Abyssinia* Descr. i. 47 They neither Sow their Lands, nor improve them by any kind of Culture. 1801 *Farmer's Mag.* Aug. 298 Cost and Profit of Clearing and Sowing with Wheat 10 Acres of Intervale Land. 1846 J. BAXTER *Libr. Pract. Agric.* (ed. 4) I. 177 In a field of eleven acres,..the whole was sowed with barley.

transf. and *fig.* *c* 1420 LYDG. *Assembly of Gods* 1023 Sensualyte..sewe the felde with hys vnkynde seede That causyd Vertu aftyr mykyll woo to feele. 1607 SHAKS. *Timon* IV. i. 29 Itches, Blaines, Sowe all th' Athenian bosomes. 1615 W. BEDWELL tr. *Moham. Impost.* II. § 70 Euery man doth sow his wife. 1819 SHELLEY *Mask of Anarchy* lxix, The daily strife..Which sows the human heart with tares.

b. To strew or sprinkle (land, etc.) *with* something as in the sowing of seed. Also *fig.*

1611 BIBLE *Judges* ix. 45 And Abimelech..beat downe the citie and sowed it with salt. 1759 R. BROWN *Compl. Farmer* 113 If once in four or five years you sow it with soot, it will increase it very much. 1831 SCOTT *Ct. Rob.* xxi, The whole mad crew..will return with fire and sword to burn down Constantinople, and sow with salt the place where it stood. 1838 LYTTON *Alice* x. iii, He urged on the horses—he sowed the road with gold.

c. Of seed: To be sufficient for (a certain area).

c 1440 [see A. 1]. 1685 W. PENN *Furth. Acc. Pennsylv.* 7 The Land requires less seed: Three Pecks of Wheat sow an Acre. 1761 *Descr. of S. Carolina* 70 About a Gallon of Indian Corn sows an Acre.

3. To cover or strew (a place, etc.) thickly *with* (also † *of*) something. Chiefly in pa. pple.: Thickly strewn or dotted *with* something.

(*a*) *c* 1400 *Pilgr. Sowle* v. v. (1859) 75 This corowne is ful sowen of precious stones. 1426 LYDG. *De. Guil. Pilgr.* 18284 Withe lesynges, (who lyst know,) vp and downe it is y-sowe. *c* 1500 *Melusine* xxxvi. 288 They thenne departed,..& fond in theire way the feldes sowen with sarasyns deed. *c* 1611 CHAPMAN *Iliad* VI. (1887) 92 When..he leaves the conquered field Sown with his slaughters. 1658 DRYDEN *Cromwell* xiv, Thick as the Galaxy with Stars is sown. 1687 A. LOVELL tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* II. 132 Beyond that, there is hardly any thing to be found but Desarts sowed with stones. 1759 *Ann. Reg.* 52 All this sea is sown thick with sands and shoals. 1847 TENNYSON *Princ.* Prol. 55 For all the sloping pasture murmur'd, sown With happy faces and with holiday. 1864 — *Aylmer's Field* 158 A close-set robe of jasmine sown with stars.

(*b*) 1613 DONNE *Poems* (1633) 124 [It] sowes the Court with starres. 1700 S. L. tr. *Fryke's Voy. E. Ind.* 88 We..made the place so hot for 'em, and sowed the ground so thick with their dead Bodies. 1850 TENNYSON *In Mem.* lxxii, Whirl the ungarner'd sheaf afar, And sow the sky with flying boughs.

4. To scatter or deposit (seed) on or in the ground, etc., for growth, usually by the action of the hand; to place or put (seed) in the ground; to plant (a crop) in this way.

To sow one's wild oats: see OAT *sb.* 4.

c 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* II. 22 Ȝenim tuncersan sio þe self weaxeð & mon ne sæwð. *a* 1100 *Gerefa* in *Anglia* IX. 262 Beana sawan. *a* 1250 *Prov. Ælfred* 93 Þat..þe cheorl beo in fryþ his sedes to sowen. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 12325 O quete a littel sede, Apon þe feld he-self it seu. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) VIII. 139 Sedes þat were i-sowe fordried in þe erþe. *c* 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* XIII. 15 The letuse in this moone is so to sowe. 1523 FITZHERB. *Husb.* § 12 It is necessarye to declare, howe all maner of corne shuld be sowen. 1573 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 31 Cleane rie that sowes, the better crop mowes. 1604 E. G[RIMSTONE] *D'Acosta's Hist. Indies* III. xx. 186 The want they have of bread, is countervailed with the rootes they sowe. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* I. 2 When to turn The fruitful Soil, and when to sowe the Corn. 1750 W. ELLIS *Mod. Husbandm.* I. ii. 50 They sow [horse-beans] first broad-cast over the ground, and then plow them in: this, as we call it, being sown under furrow. 1816 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 681 Sow spinach; earth up celery and broccoli. 1850 M^COSH *Div. Govt.* II. ii. (1874) 200 He is a husbandman and about to sow the crops which are to be his sustenance. 1908 [MISS FOWLER] *Betw. Trent & Ancholme* 21 We sowed and planted Wall-flowers and Stone-crop upon it.

refl. 1842 TENNYSON *Gardener's Dau.* 65 A crowd of hopes, That sought to sow themselves like winged seeds.

b. *transf.* with reference to fish, bacilli, etc.

1854 BADHAM *Halieut.* 42 See..how gluttony, and a desire to please a dainty tooth, have devised means to *sow fish,* and to stock the sea with strange bread. 1861 HULME tr. *Moquin-Tandon* II. III. 169 As far back as the time of Rondelet the art of 'sowing' these molluscs [*sc.* oysters] was known. 1898 P. MANSON *Trop. Diseases* viii. 148 When [the plague bacillus is] sown on blood serum.., an abundant, moist, yellowish-grey growth is formed.

5. **a.** Used with *seed* (and some other terms) in transf. and fig. senses.

(*a*) 971 *Blickl. Hom.* 3 Se Halga Gast seow þæt clæne sæd on þone unbesmitenan innoþ. *c* 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 445 He was geten..Of vile sede of man with syn sawen. 1567 *Gude & Godlie B.* (S.T.S.) 189 Than suld.. nocht sa mekle bastard seid [be] Throw out this cuntrie sawin.

(*b*) *c* 1000 ÆLFRIC *Hom.* II. 534 Ðif we eow þa gastlican sæd sawaþ, hwonlic biþ þæt we eowere flæsclican þing ripon. *c* 1200 ORMIN 5071 Þatt dæþess laþe sed þatt deofless æfre sawenn..Inn ure sawless wille. *a* 1225 *Juliana* 74 Ant reope we of þat ripe sed þat we seowen. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 21226 In all þe stedes quar he yede, O godds word he sceued þe sede. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xl. (*Ninian*) 203 Þare he saw sawyne il seide, to distroy it he cane hyme spede. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 4404 To sawe emang þir simpill men sedis of debate. *c* 1480 HENRYSON *Test. Cress.* 137 The seede of loue was sowen on my face. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 23 b, To haue great profyte and encrease of our sede, that we haue so sowen for his loue. 1576 FLEMING *Panopl. Epist.* 194, I am in belief (I may peraduenture sowe my seede in the sande) that [etc.]. 1648 *Hunting Fox* 14 The tares of sedition which these envious men had sowen. 1813 W. COXE *Mem. Kings of Spain* I. *29 This celebrated act..sowed the germ of future wars. 1868 FREEMAN *Norm. Cong.* (1877) II. vii. 30 In all this the seeds of the Conquest were sowing.

b. Contrasted with *reap* in fig. uses.

See also quots. *c* 1000 and *a* 1225 above. The usage (as in sense 1) is derived from various Biblical passages, e. g. *Hos.* viii. 7, *Galat.* vi. 7. For similar examples with *mow,* see MOW *v.* 1 b.

1382 WYCLIF *Pref. Ep. St. Jerome* vii. 71/1 Aggeus,.. the whiche sewe in teres that he repe in ioy. *c* 1421 *26 Fol. Poems* 100 Eche dedly synne is a dedly knyf; For he shal repe þat he sewe. *Ibid.* 113 Man..Makeþ moche of hym-self, sayþe al is oures, And repeth þat he neuere ne sewe. 1588 A. KING tr. *Canisius' Catech.* 185 Quhat so euer a man saues the same sal he raipe, for quha sawes in his flesh he sal sheer corruption of the flesh. 1593 SHAKS. *2 Hen. VI,* III. i. 382 Why then from Ireland come I with my strength, And reape the Haruest which that Rascall sow'd. 1823 LAMB *Elia* II. Pref., He sowed doubtful specches, and reaped plain, unequivocal hatred. 1878 B. TAYLOR *Deukalion* II. iii. 74 What Darkness sowed the Light shall reap.

6. *fig.* To disseminate or spread; to endeavour to propagate or extend. In various contexts.

(*a*) *c* 888 K. Ælfred *Boeth.* xxvii, Se eorðlica anweald næfre ne sæwð þa cræftas, ac..gadrað unðeawas. *c* 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 155 Ure helend saweð his holie word hwile þurh his haȝen muð hwile þurh his apostles. 13.. *Know Thyself* 58 in *E. E. Poems* (1862) 131 His grace is so wide isowe. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xi. (*Simon & Jude*) 404 Quhen þe apostolis had al-quhare In þat land sawyne goddis lare. 1552 Abp. Hamilton *Catech.* (1884) 26 The word that is plantit or sawin amongis yow. 1573 *Satir. Poems Reform.* xlii. 898 þe richt meanis..Ouir all to haue the Gospell sawin. 1607 Hieron *Wks.* I. 157 Light is sowen for the righteous, and ioy for the vpright in heart. 1839 tr. *Lamartine's Trav.* 72/1 Their voyage to Greece and Italy, to sow the Gospel.

(*b*) *c* 897 K. Ælfred *Gregory's Past. C.* 356 Aworpen mon..on ælce tid saweð wrohte. *c* 1386 Chaucer *Pars. T.* ¶ 642 þe synne of hem þat sowen and maken discord. *c* 1450 *Mirour Saluacioun* (Roxb.) 91 Whilk amanges neghburghs discordes to sawe makes hym bisy. 1526 Skelton *Magnyf.* 189 Measure and I wyll neuer be deuydyd For no dyscorde than any man can sawe. 1562 Winȝet *Wks.* (S.T.S.) I. 77 *note*, The seditious personis sawis schisme and diuisioun. 1581 *Satir. Poems Reform.* xliv. 83 Sathan ..To rais his kingdome tentation did sau Into þe hairtis of men in all degrie. 1663 S. Patrick *Parab. Pilgr.* xxxvii. (1687) 493 Let not the evil one..sow this jealousie in your heart. 1720 Ozell tr. *Vertot's Rom. Rep.* II. xiv. 327 A Counsel which would sow Division in the contrary Party. *a* 1770 Jortin *Serm.* (1771) I. iii. 49 Those who teach false doctrines to sew dissension amongst them. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* II. i. xi, Between the best of Peoples and the best of Restorer Kings they would sow grudges. 1878 Stubbs *Const. Hist.* III. xviii. 106 He..attempted to sow discord in his brother's Council.

(*c*) 1523 Ld. Berners *Froiss.* I. cxv. 137 Also there were wordes sowen through all the towne, howe [etc.]. 1560 J. Daus tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 5 Martin Luther.., who soweth newe opinions in Germany. 1628–9 Digby *Voy. Medit.* (Camden) 30 Some ill-disposed persons..tooke occasion to sowe mutinous discourses. 1859 Tennyson *Marriage of Geraint* 450 He sow'd a slander in the common ear. 1877 — *Harold* IV. i, Who sow'd this fancy here among the people?

(*d*) 1531 Elyot *Gov.* (1580) 57 The necessities, which fortune soweth among menne that be mortall. 1613 Shaks. *Hen. VIII*, III. i. 158 We are to cure such sorrowes, not to sowe 'em. 1823 Lamb *Elia* II. *Tombs in Abbey*, The antiquarian spirit..may have been sown in you among those wrecks of splendid mortality. 1849 *Blackw. Mag.* LXVI. 627 Can you believe..that the word of the Third Witch, 'thou shalt be King Hereafter,' sows the murder in Macbeth's heart?

†7. To beget (a child). *Obs. rare.*

c 1250 *Long Life* 33 in *O. E. Misc.* 158 Of fole fulþe þu art isowe, Wormes fode þu schald beo. *c* 1330 R. Brunne *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 8048, Y ne sey..Hym þat þis child on me sew. *a* 1425 *Cursor M.* 3424 (Trin.), þe gode childre geten of grace..whenne þei coom, wel is knowe þat þei of goddes grace are sowe.

8. To scatter after the manner of seed; to sprinkle, throw or spread about, in this way.

1387 Trevisa *Higden* (Rolls) I. 125 Abymelech..destroyed þat place..and sewe salt þerynne, for þe lond schulde na more bere fruit and corne. *Ibid.* 339 Also powder of erþe of þat lond i-sowe in oþer londes vseþ awey wormes. *c* 1400 *Laud Troy Bk.* 12920 Many a knyȝt was ouer-throwen, Her bodies lay thik sawen. 1430–40 Lydg. *Bochas* I. viii. (1554) 11 b, His child dismembred and abrode ysowe. 1509 Hawes *Past. Pleas.* xi. (Percy Soc.) 38 What avayleth evermore to sowe The precyous stones amonge gruntynge hogges? 1513 Douglas *Æneid* VII. x. 28 Armouris, suerdis, speris and scheildis, I sall do saw and strow our all the feyldis. 1668 Culpepper & Cole *Barthol. Anat.* I. xv. 38 The Gall-bladder hath received very many small Passages, furnished with sundry little twigs, sowed up and down in the Liver. 1726 Shelvocke *Voy. round World* 373 They were astonish'd to see my people so thin sown, our scanty number not making any manner of show. 1837 Marryat *Dog Fiend* i, With lank hair very thinly sown upon a head which [etc.]. 1864 Tennyson *Aylmer's F.* 171 Not sowing hedge-row texts and passing by, Nor dealing goodly counsel from a height.

b. To distribute or disperse. *Obs. rare.*

c 1350 *Leg. Rood* (1871) 90 And sethin als wide als þai er saun Has no iew hous of his awyn. 1375 Barbour *Bruce* IV. 685 Bot thai prophetis so thyn ar sawin, That thair in erd now nane is knawin. 1382 Wyclif *Zech.* x. 9, Y shal sowe hem in peplis. 1535 Coverdale *Ibid.*, I wil sowe them amonge the people.

†9. *Sc.* To shed (blood). *Obs.*—1

1535 Stewart *Cron. Scot.* I. 303 Wemen..sall nocht..draw abak quhair mekill blude is sawin.

Hence **Sowed** (sōud), **Sow·ing** *ppl. adjs.*

1382 Wyclif *Matt.* xiii. 18 Therfore heere ȝe the parable of the sowynge man. 1733 W. Ellis *Chiltern & Vale Farm.* 205 This Mischief happens oftner to the latter sowed Wheat. 1876 Meredith *Beauch. Career* xxix, Moveless do they seem to you? Why, so is the earth to the sowing husbandman.

Sow, *v.*[2] *north.* and *Sc.* Also 5 sowe, 8–9 *dial.* soo, 9 soue. [Of obscure origin.]

1. *trans.* To affect (a person) with pain; to pain or grieve sorely. Usu. with *sore.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 6568 Mikel i haf trauaild for yow..þat suilk a godd all honurs now þat will yow her-after sare sow. *a* 1352 Minot *Poems* (ed. Hall) v. 12 When he sailed in þe Swin it sowed him sare. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xxxvii. (*Vincent*) 292 Thinkand he mycht na payne mare do til hyme to sow hyme sare. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 2313 And þai said, soure suld him sowe bot he þe cite ȝeld.

2. *intr.* To be painful; to thrill or tingle with pain or exertion.

c 1425 Wyntoun *Chron.* VIII. 6224 Qwhen he a qwhile had prekyt þar, And sum of þaim he gert sow sare. 1438 *Bk. Alexander Grt.* (Bann.) 87 The sydis of sum may sowe full sair. 1535 Stewart *Cron. Scot.* II. 258 Thair scharp schutting maid sydis for till sow. *a* 1586 in Pinkerton *Anc. Sc. Poems* (1786) 201 Scho gars me murne,..And with sair straiks scho gars me sow. 1885 Gordon *Pyotshaw* 297 If that bit race hisna set my lugs a' sooin'.

3. *absol.* To produce a tingling sensation.

1796 W. H. Marshall *Yorksh.* (ed. 2) II. 346 To *Soo*, to pain the hand, in striking with a hammer or beetle: to *jar*. 1876 Robinson *Whitby Gloss.* s.v. *Soo*, It soues up my arm.

Sow, obs. 1st and 3rd sing. ind. pa. t. See *v.*

Sow, obs. form of Sew *v.*, Sue *v.*

Sowable (sōu·ăb'l), *a.* [f. Sow *v.*[1] + -able.] That can be sowed; fit for sowing.

1706 Stevens *Span. Dict.* I, *Semental*, sowable, or fit to be sow'd. 1893 *Black & White* 20 May 505/1 Winter beans a failure, peas not sowable.

Sowans, variant of Sowens.

‖ **Sowar** (sə(u)wā·ɪ). *Anglo-Indian.* Forms: α. sowar. β. sooar, suwar, sewar. [Urdū (Pers.) سوار *sawār* horseman.] A native horseman or mounted orderly, policeman, etc.; a native trooper, esp. one belonging to the irregular cavalry.

α. 1802 in James *Milit. Dict.* 1827 Scott *Surg. Dan.* xiii, The lighted match of the Sowar, or horseman, who rode before him. 1859 J. Lang *Wand. India* 336 When a palanquin is escorted by a sowar, the sowar..rides on and gives notice that a lady, or gentleman,..is coming. 1883 F. M. Crawford *Mr. Isaacs* v. 92 The verandah, however, was crowded with servants and sowars.

β. 1819 *Sporting Mag.* IV. 172 A wild hog, which ran as hard as it could, away from us, pursued by a Sooar. 1834 [Prinsep] *Baboo* I. viii. 125 My practised ear immediately knew that it was a single Suwar. 1844 *New Monthly Mag.* Mar. 435 A troop of sewars is generally placed under the orders of the collector of each district, for the purpose of carrying despatches, escort duty, &c.

Sowarry (sə(u)wā·ri). *Anglo-Indian.* Also 8 sewarry, 9 sewary, sawarry, suwarree, sowarree, etc. [Urdū (Pers.) سواری *sawārī*, f. prec.] The mounted attendants of a person of high rank, state official, etc.; a number of these forming a cavalcade.

1776 *Trial Nundocomar* 43/2 Bollakey Doss went with his sewarry before us. 1803 Wellington in Gurw. *Desp.* (1835) II. 362 They must have tents, Elephants and other sewary. *Ibid.* (1844) I. 789 Which measure would..put an end to the use of the Company's sepoys as sowarry. 1813 J. Forbes *Oriental Mem.* III. 420, I was..often reprimanded..for leaving the suwarree, or state attendants, at the outer gate of the city. 1827 Scott *Surg. Dan.* xiv, Orders were given that on the next day all should be in readiness for the *Sowarree*, a grand procession, when the Prince was to receive the Begum.

Sow-back. Chiefly *Sc.* Also **sowback.** [f. Sow *sb.*[1] Cf. *sow's-back* s.v. Sow *sb.*[1] 8 d.]

1. A woman's cap or head-dress having a raised ridge or fold running from front to back.

1808 Jamieson, *Frowdie*, a cap for the head; ..also called a *sow-back*. 1835 Monteath *Dunblane* (1887) 113 Auld Wives o' Dunblane..Wi' their cloaks an' their sowbacks. 1886 S. Carment *Mem. Y. Carment* iii. 79 The aged women with their white soo-backs.

attrib. 1897 J. Wright *Sc. Life* 18 Attired in a white 'sooback mutch' and in short-gown and drugget coat.

2. *Geol.* A ridge of glacial origin suggestive of the back of a sow.

1874 J. Geikie *Gt. Ice Age* ii. 17 The long parallel ridges, or 'sowbacks' and 'drums', as they are termed,..invariably coincide in direction with the valleys or straths in which they lie. *Ibid.* vii. 97 'Sowbacks' being the glacial counterparts of those broad banks of silt and sand that form here and there upon the beds of rivers.

Sow-backed, *a.* [f. Sow *sb.*[1]] Having a back like that of a sow; resembling the back of a sow in shape or formation; ridged like a sow's back. *Sow-backed mutch*, = Sow-back 1.

(*a*) 1728 Bailey, *Sow Back'd Horses* (among Farriers), such as have straight Ribs, but good Backs. 1883 *Sunday, Mag.* 689 Farther back still is the sow-backed and higher ridge known as the Silla del Moro.

(*b*) 1857 Stewart *Sketches Sc. Character* 18 A sow-backit mutch and an auld-fashioned gown. 1895 Ochiltree *Redburn* ii, Her hair..was seldom seen from under her long, 'sow-backed mutch'.

Sowbpowaylle, variant of Suppowal *Obs.*

Sow-bread. Also **sowbread.** [f. Sow *sb.*[1] + Bread *sb.*, after med.L. *panis porcinus*, or G. *saubrot*, †*säubrot*, †*sewbrot* (Gesner, 1542), older Flem. *seugenbrood* (Kilian).] A plant of the genus *Cyclamen*, esp. *C. europæum*, the fleshy tuberous root-stocks of which are eaten by swine.

c 1550 H. Lloyd *Treas. Health* B vj b, Let the rote of Rape Vyolet or Sowbread be sodden. 1578 Lyte *Dodoens* 330 Sowbread in moyst and stony shadowy places, underneath trees. 1597 Gerarde *Herbal* II. ccxcvi. 694 The common kinde of Sowbread..hath many greene and round leaues. 1651 French *Distill.* ii. 47 Adde..Sowbread, Wormwood. 1660 Sharrock *Vegetables* 27 The seeds of divers sowbreads. *a* 1687 Mrs. Behn tr. *Cowley's Plants* C.'s Wks. 1711 III. 377 The Sow-Bread does afford rich Food for Swine, Physick for Man, and Garlands for the Shrine. 1731 Miller *Gard. Dict.* s.v. *Cyclamen*, It is call'd Sow-bread, because the Root is round like a Loaf, and the Sows eat it. 1830 Lindley *Nat. Syst. Bot.* 226 The root of the Cyclamen is famous for its acridity; yet this is the principal food of the wild boars of Sicily, whence its common name of Sowbread. 1861 Bentley *Man. Bot.* 605 The Cyclamens are commonly known under the name of Sow-breads.

attrib. 1639 O. Wood *Alph. Bk. Secrets* 227 Sowbread root..with honied water, purgeth grosse phlegme and filthy humours.

b. With defining terms, as *common, ivy-leaved, round, round-leaved sow-bread.*

1578 Lyte *Dodoens* 330 Cyclaminon which we may cal round Sowbread. 1629 Parkinson *Parad.* xxiv. 198 The Common Sowebread is called by most writers in Latine, *Panis Porcinus*, and by that name it is known in the Apothecaries shops. 1712 tr. *Pomet's Hist. Drugs* I. 51 The Root spreads..after the Nature of round Sowbread. 1731 Miller *Gard. Dict.* s.v. *Cyclamen*, Round-leav'd Sow-bread, with Leaves of a purplish Colour underneath. 1858 A. Irvine *Brit. Plants* 408 *Cyclamen hederæfolium*,..Ivy-leaved Sow-bread.

Sow-bug. [f. Sow *sb.*[1] 5 a.] a. A wood-louse of the genus *Oniscus*, esp. *O. asellus*. b. *U.S.* A small marine crustacean of the genus *Idotea.*

1750 W. Ellis *Country Housew. Comp.* 157 Sow-bug or Wood-louse. 1815 Kirby & Sp. *Entomol.* iv. (1818) I. 141 He recommends to his credulous patient to take a certain number of sow-bugs per diem. 1851 *Beck's Florist* 41 One of the pits, that was full of sow-bugs. 1883 *Harper's Mag.* Jan. 186/1 The common sow-bug (idotæa) often illumines the crevices and sea-weeds along our shores.

Sowcar, variant of Soucar. **Sowce,** variant of Souse *sb.* and *v.* **Sowcer,** obs. f. Saucer. **Sowd, Sowd-:** see Sold *sb.*[1], *v.*[1], *v.*[2] **Sowdaine, -an(e, -ayne,** etc., obs. ff. Soldan. **Sowdan,** obs. var. Sudden *a.* **Sowde,** var. Sold *sb.*[2] *Obs.* **Sowdear, -eer, -eour,** etc., obs. ff. Soldier *sb.* **Sowder(e, -oure,** obs. or dial. ff. Solder *sb.* and *v.*

Sowdy (sdu·di). *Sc.* Also 7 soudy, 9 sou-, sow-, soodie. [Of uncertain origin. Cf. Powsowdy.] A species of broth or hotch-potch. Also *transf.* (quot. *c* 1700).

c 1700 *Bannocks of Bear-Meal* in Hogg *Jacob: Rel.* (1819) I. 20 Where shall ye see such, or find such a soudy? Bannocks of bear meal, cakes of croudy. 1807 Tannahill *Poems* (1815) 204 They got naething for crowdy, but runts boil'd to sowdie.

Sowdyare, -o(u)r(e, obs. ff. Soldier *sb.* **Sowe,** obs. f. Sew *v.*[1], Sue *v.* **Sowed,** obs. pa. t. and pa. pple. Sew *v.* **Sowede,** var. Sold *sb.*[1] *Obs.* **Soweder,** obs. f. Solder *sb.* **Sowedeur,** obs. f. Soldier *sb.*

Sowel. Now *dial.* Forms: 1 sagol, sahel, 3 saȝel; 2, 9 sowel, 4–5 soul(e, 9 sole, zooul. [OE. *ságol*, = MHG. (now Swiss dial.) *seigel* rung of a ladder. Cf. Sail *sb.*[4]]

†1. A stout stick or staff; a pole, cudgel, etc. *Obs.*

c 893 K. Ælfred *Oros.* II. vi. 88 Ealle þa consulas.. Claudium þone ænne mid saȝlum ofbeotan. *c* 1000 *Ags. Gosp.* Matt. xxvi. 47 Þa com iudas an of þam twelfum & micel folk mid hym mid swurdum & sahlum [*Hatton Gosp.* mid ſahlen]. *c* 1150 *Semi-Sax. Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 549 *Fustis*, sowel. *c* 1205 Lay. 12280 And ælc bær an honde ænne saȝel [*c* 1275 staf] stronge.

2. A stake sharpened at the end, esp. one used in the construction of a hedge or fence; in later use, a hurdle-stake (cf. quots.).

c 900 Wærferth *Gregory's Dial.* 24 His oðer fot wearð fæst on anum saȝle [*v.rr.* sahle, hęȝesahle] þæs ȝeardes. 13.. *Guy Warw.* (A.) 3616 In ich half y-sett arawe, Scharpe soules doun of þe hulle y-drawe. 1398 Trevisa *Barth. De P. R.* XVII. cliv. (Bodl. MS.), Soules & stakes beþ iclensed ere þei be ipiȝt in þe grounde. 1844 Barnes *Poems Rur. Life* (1848) 387 *Sowel*, or *Sole*,..a shore or stake, such as is driven into ground to fasten up hurdles to. 1881 *I. of Wight Words, Zooul*, a stake to fasten sheep-hurdles. 1890 *Glouc. Gloss.*, *Sole*, a stake driven into the ground to fasten up hurdles.

Sowel, var. Sowl *sb.*, food, etc. **Sowen,** comb. form of Sowens; obs. pa. pple. Sew *v.*[1] and Sow *v.*[1] **Sowenge,** obs. f. Sewing *vbl. sb.*[1]

Sowens (sōu·ĕnz, sū·-), *sb. pl. Sc.* (and *Ir.*). Forms: 6 sowannis, 7 sownis, 7–9 sowins, 8–sowens, -ings, sewings, sooins, so'ns, 9 sowans, sooans, -ens, sones; sweens, swins, etc. [app. ad. Gael. *súghan, súbhan*, the liquid used in preparing 'sowens' (= Ir. *súghán, subhán* sap, juice), f. *súgh, súbh* sap.]

1. An article of diet formerly in common use in Scotland (and some parts of Ireland), consisting of farinaceous matter extracted from the bran or husks of oats by steeping in water, allowed to ferment slightly, and prepared by boiling.

A number of phrases and idiomatic uses are illustrated in the *Eng. Dial. Dict.*

α. 1582 *Records of Elgin* (New Spald. Cl.) I. 168 Scho wald leiff to sie his bairnis beg thair meit; he culd cun sowannis better nor aill. 1625 *Sc. Acts, Chas. I* (1870) V. 182/2 Actis maid anent the pryceis of sownis and englishe beir. 1677 Nicolson in *Trans. R. Soc. Lit.* (1870) IX. 319 *Sowins*, outshellings. 1698 M. Martin *Voy St. Kilda* iii. 114 These Sowens (*i. e.* Flummery) being blended together, produce good Yest. 1728 Swift *Past. Dial.* Wks. 1755 III. II. 264 See, where Norah with the sowins comes. 1771 Smollett *Humph. Cl.* 15 Sept., At night they sup on sowens or flummery of oatmeal. 1785 Burns *Halloween* xxviii, Till butter'd So'ns, wi' fragrant lunt, Set a' their gabs a steerin. 1818 Scott *Br. Lamm.* xix, I was bred a plain man at my father's frugal table, and I should like well would my..family permit me to return to my sowens. 1855 [J. D. Burn] *Autobiogr. Beggar Boy* (1859) 49, I had.. an excellent supper of sowans with milk, and bread and cheese. 1885 W. Ross *Aberdour & Inchcolme* II. 26 He found the goodwife busy preparing sowans.

fig. 1818 Scott *Hrt. Midl.* xlii, The Christian souls..who

were hungering for spiritual manna, having been fed but upon sour Hieland sowens by..the last minister.

β. 1776 J. Pringle *Disc. Health Mariners* 18 *note*, This rural food, in the North, is called *sooins*. 1778 *Phil. Trans.* LXVIII. 632 What is called sooins in Scotland, and much used by the common people there. 1827 J. Wilson *Noct. Ambr.* Wks. 1855 I. 334 Extendin your notes, as they ca't, ower your sooens and sma' beer. 1899 Spence *Shetl. Folk-Lore* 174 Groats, and *ootsiftins*, from the last of which that delicious food called *sooans*..are made.

2. *attrib.*, as *sowen-cog*, *-kit*, *-mug*, *-porridge*, etc. Also **sowens-say**, a sieve for sowens.

1722 Ramsay *Three Bonnets* II. 1 The supper sowin-cogs and bannocks. 1724 — *Tea-table Misc.* (1876) I. 174 A milsie, and a sowen-pale. 1725 in Herd *Sc. Songs* (1776) II. 143 A spurtle and a sowen mug. 1729 in Paterson *Hist. Musselburgh* (1857) 164 Although the sowin pot should cool. 1776 *Herd's Sc. Songs* II. 139 'Tis fa'en in the sowen kit. 1793 Fullarton *View Agric. Ayr.* 114 The spence in which were stored the meal-chest, sowen-tubs, besoms, and saddles. 1808 Jamieson, *Sowens-porridge*, a dish of pottage, made of..cold sowens, by mixing meal with the sowens, while on the fire. 1822 Galt *Sir A. Wylie* xciv, Something about a sowan-cog. 1825 Jamieson *Suppl.* s.v. *Say*, The sowens-say is supported by two bars laid across the tub. 1900 *Daily Mail* 2 May 5/3 Sowan porridge, our new delicacy, made from fermented oats.

Sower (sōu·ər). Forms: 1–2, 4–6 **sawere**, 2 **sæwere**, 4 **sauer**, 4–6, 9 *Sc.* **sawer**, 6 *Sc.* **sawar**; 3–4 **sowere**, 4– **sower**. [f. Sow *v.*[1] + -er. Cf. MDu. *saeyer*, *sayer*, etc. (Du. *zaaier*), MLG. and LG. *seiger*, *seier* (*saier*), OHG. *sâhari*, *sâri* (MHG. *sejer*, *seher*, *sewer*, etc., G. *säer*).]

1. One who sows seed.

c 1000 *Ags. Gosp.* Matt. xiii. 3 Soþlice, ut-eode se sædere [*v.r.* sawere, *Hatton* sæwere] hys sæd to sawenne. *c* 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 155 Þo beden þe holi apostles seien hem wat þe sowere bitocneð. 1393 Langl. *P. Pl.* C. xviii. 103 Now failleþ þis folke boþe sowers and shupmen. *c* 1400 *Cursor M.* 28839 (Cotton Galba), Þaire sede to þe feld bus husbandes bere, Bot þis feld cumes to þe sawere. 1532–3 *Act 24 Hen. VIII*, c. 10 All tillers, husbandes, and sowers of the erth within the same. 1573 Tusser *Husb* (1878) 37 Good seede and good sower. 1611 Bible *Isaiah* lv. 10 That it may giue seed to the sower. 1762 Mills *Syst. Pract. Husb.* I. 321 The inequality of the handfuls which different sowers grasp. 1822 A. Cunningham *Traditt. Tales, Mother's Dream* (1887) 119 A humble sower of seed-corn. 1842 Borrow *Bible in Spain* xxiv, I..read to them the parable of the Sower.

b. *fig.* or in fig. context.

c 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 133 Godes word is sed and crist is þe sawere. 1526 Tindale *Mark* iv. 14 The sower soweth the worde. 1779 Cowper *The Sower* 3 The Sower is gone forth to sow, And scatter blessings round. 1821 Shelley *Hellas* 576 The Greek has reaped The costly harvest his own blood matured, Not the sower, Ali. 1874 W. St. H. Bourne *Hymn*, '*The sower went forth sowing*' iv. (A. & M.), One day the heavenly Sower Shall reap where He hath sown.

c. A machine or apparatus for sowing seed; a sowing-machine.

1728 Chambers *Cycl.* s.v. *Sembrador*, To remedy this Inconvenience, the *Sembrador* or *Sower*, is invented, which being fastened to the Plough, the whole Business..is done at once. 1844 H. Stephens *Bk. Farm* III. 788 A simpler implement than even this has been employed—the hand-flask sower. 1868 *Rep. U. S. Comm. Agric.* (1869) 417 Field No. 1..sown with broadcast sower and cultivator combined.

2. *transf.* One who spreads abroad or disseminates something, esp. what is obnoxious or objectionable; a promoter or propagator *of* discord, sedition, etc.

1380 *Lay Folks Catech.* (Lamb. MS.) 734 Bakbyters and sowers of fals lesynggys. *c* 1386 Chaucer *Sec. Nun's T.* 192 Almyghty Lord,..Sower of chaste counseil, herde of us alle. *c* 1450 in *Trevisa's Higden* (Rolls) VIII. 469 The myrroure of ypocrites, the sawer of discorde,..maister Iohn Wiclif. 1533 Bellenden *Livy* III. vii. (S.T.S.) I. 271 Ane cumpany of..seditious lymmaris, sawaris of discorde. 1583 Melbancke *Philotimus* T iv b, Mars the God of discord and sower of all Sedition. 1639 Drumm. of Hawth. *Mem. State* Wks. (1711) 130 Clouis..caused extirpate that sower of impostures, & all his race. 1855 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* xviii. IV. 160 The favourite theme of the sowers of sedition.

Sower, obs. f. Sewer *sb.*[3], Sore *sb.*[2] and *sb.*[3]

Sower(ed, etc., obs. forms of Soub(ed, etc.

Sowff (sauf), *v. Sc.* Also 8–9 **sowf**, 9 **souf**(f. [Later Sc. form of Solf *v.* See also Sowth *v.*] *trans.* To sing, hum, or whistle (a tune) softly.

1719 Ramsay *To Arbuckle* 20, [I] Bang'd up my..whistle, To sowf ye o'er a short epistle. 1728 — *Friends in Ireland* 13 Sowfing Sonnets on the Lasses. 1819 R. Gall *Poems* 48 The Scotian Muse..Wad lead you..Wi her upo' the knowe to lean An' souf a sang. 1850 W. Jamie *Stray Effusions* 194 To..sowff aloud some merry air. 1871 W. Alexander *Johnny Gibb* (1873) 20 [He] began..to 'sowff' over 'My love she's but a lassie yet'.

Sow-gelder. Also 9 **-gilder.** [f. Sow *sb.*[1]] One whose business it is to geld or spay sows.

c 1515 *Cocke Lorell's B.* 4 Here is gylys Iogeler of ayebery, And hym sougelder of lothe bery. 1530 Palsgr. 273/1 Sowe geldre, *chastreux de troyes*. 1596 Nashe *Saffron Walden* Wks. (Grosart) III. 169 Vpon euerie stage hee hath beene brought for a Sicophant and a Sow-gelder. *c* 1614 Fletcher, etc. *Wit at Sev. Weapons* IV. ii, Why thou sawcy issue of some travelling Sow-gelder, What makes love in thy mouth? 1654 Whitlock *Zootomia* 131 They never use any of this stuff to their Sow-gelder, or Farrier. *a* 1722 Lisle *Husb.* (1757) 407 A sow-gelder that had cut for me, cut four pigs for a neighbouring farmer. 1749 Fielding *Tom Jones* IV. viii, Old Echepôle, the sowgelder. 1820 Shelley *Œd. Tyr.* I. 70 Call in..Moses the sow-gelder. 1887 Borrow *Romany Rye* xvii, Two respectable-looking individuals, whether farmers or sow-gelders, I know not.

b. In references to the horn blown by the gelder to announce his arrival at a place.

1604 Middleton *Father Hubburd's T.* Wks. (Bullen) VIII. 73 Winding his pipe like a horn..which must needs make him look like a sow-gelder. 1621 Burton *Anat. Mel.* III. ii. III. iii. (1651) 472 There needs no more..but a cryer to go before them..or for defect a Sowgelder to blow. 1673 [R. Leigh] *Transp. Reh.* 135 You are disturb'd with the tooting of a sow-gelders horn. 1711 Addison *Spect.* No. 251 ¶ 4 The Sowgelder's Horn has indeed something musical in it, but this is seldom heard within the Liberties.

Hence **Sow-geldering** *vbl. sb.*

1664 Butler *Hud.* II. i. 718 Semiramis..Who..laid foundation Of Sow-geldering operation.

Sowing (sōu·iŋ), *vbl. sb.*[1] [f. Sow *v.*[1]]

1. The action of scattering seed.

13.. *Cursor M.* 6378 (Gött.), Moyses..fand þaim fode in þair nede, widuten sauing of ani sede. 1362 Langl. *P. Pl.* A. viii. 102, 'I schal sese of my sowynge,' quod pers, 'and swynke not so harde'. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 466 Sowynge, of corne and oþer sedys, *sacio*,..*seminacio*. 1473 *Rental Bk. Cupar-Angus* (1879) I. 164 In sauyng of quhet, pess, ry and benys. 1523 Fitzherb. *Husb.* § 14 Whether it be for the vnseasonablenes of the wether, or for thyn sowynge. 1585 T. Washington tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* IV. xxxii. 154 b, The sowing of corne was brought in .. by Triptolemus. 1634 Sir T. Herbert *Travels* 183 The Ananas..growes nor from Tree nor sowing, but of a root. 1697 Dryden *Virg. Georg.* I. 319 Nor cease your sowing till Mid-winter ends. 1767 A. Young *Farmer's Lett. to People* 310 He should attend the culture of the lands, the sowing and harvest. 1841 Browning *Pippa Passes* Poems (1905) 185 June reared that bunch of flowers you carry, From seeds of April's sowing. 1896 Baden-Powell *Matabele Campaign* viii, The rebels..are getting tired of war, as it prevents the sowing of next year's crop.

b. In figurative or transf. use.

c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xxxii. (*Justin*) 337 Woman..suld man haf hyre make to be, for þe sawyng of þare sede. *c* 1440 *Jacob's Well* 83 Jn þis cornere of wose in þe mowth is sowyng of dyscorde. 1529 More *Dyalogue* Pref. A j b, The soweynge & settyng forth of Luthers pestilent heresies in this realme. 1577 Hanmer *Anc. Eccl. Hist.* (1619) 538 By sowing of strange doctrine.

2. An instance or occasion of this.

1577 B. Googe *Heresbach's Husb.* 42 The grounde must out of hand be plowed..to make it the meeter for the next sowyng. 1719 London & Wise *Compl. Gard.* 201 The Seeds of the first sowing are generally three Weeks coming up. 1763 Mills *Pract. Husb.* II. 251 On the eleventh of August I suspended the sowings. 1842 Loudon *Suburban Hort.* 521 By successive sowings in the open air and on heat. 1899 *Speaker* 25 Nov. 191/2 There can be no cold weather sowings.

fig. and *transf.* 1643 J. Caryl *Expos. Job* I. 287 There is a sowing, which is the work of charity. 1844 Thirlwall *Greece* lxiv. VIII. 320 So ended the Macedonian war; with a plentiful sowing of the dragon's teeth.

3. That which is sown; the quantity of seed sown at one time.

Not always clearly distinct from sense 2.

1733 W. Ellis *Chiltern & Vale Farm.* 257 The Salts of the first..are most agreeable to such late Sowings. 1786 Abercrombie *Gard. Assist.* 334 The earlier sowings are cut off by the frost. 1842 Loudon *Suburban Hort.* 656 These sowings will come into use in November. 1888 *Cent. Mag.* Oct. 815/1 You could not keep the birds out of the garden. ..They had most of the sowings up.

4. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *sowing-harvest*, *-season*, *-time*, etc.

1382 Wyclif *Lev.* xxvi. 5 The vyndage shal occupie the sowynge tyme. 1532 Hervet *Xenoph. Househ.* 50 b, Whanne..a man hath chosen his sowynge tyme. 1577 B. Googe *Heresbach's Husb.* I. (1586) 23 b, To..prepare it for the sowing season. *c* 1613 *Social Cond. People Anglesey* (1860) 17 The men go in sowing harvest abroad to begg graine and seed. 1681 *Rector's Bk. Clayworth* (1910) 52 Barley found dry in 3 Fields, having lain so, ever since sowing time. *a* 1722 Lisle *Husb.* (1757) 154 They used not generally to buy their seed-barley, nor seed-oats, but just before sowing-time. 1815 J. Smith *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 639 March or April is the sowing season.

b. With the names of seed, in the sense 'suitable or used for sowing', as *sowing mustard*, *seed*, *peas*. Hence *Comm.* in *sowing orders*, *requirements*.

1604–5 *Shuttleworths' Acc.* (Chetham Soc.) 160 Towe mettes of sowinge pesen iiij[s] x[d]. 1611 Bible *Lev.* xi. 37 Any sowing seed which is to be sowen. 1648 Hexham II, *Zaet-goedt*, Sowing Seed. 1883 *Daily News* 6 Sept. 2/7 There is a good inquiry for sowing mustard. 1893 *Ibid.* 4 May 7/2 Numerous sowing orders still come to hand.

c. With the names of implements, etc., used in sowing, as *sowing-gear*, *-machine*, *-plough*, *-sheet*.

1765 *Museum Rust.* IV. 78 A wheat two-wheeled sowing-plough. 1812 Sir J. Sinclair *Syst. Husb. Scot.* I. 323 The seed to be deposited by a sowing-machine. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 278 The idea..was followed up..in the sowing-barrow, an instrument still extensively used for sowing grass-seeds. 1844 H. Stephens *Bk. Farm* II. 507 The most convenient form of sowing-sheet. *Ibid.* 535 The sowing-geer of the machine.

† **Sowing,** *vbl. sb.*[2] *Sc. Obs.* [f. Sow *v.*[2]] Sharp or severe pain.

1375 Barbour *Bruce* XVI. 628 Thai that, at the first metyng Of speris, feld so sair sowing.

Sowing(e, obs. forms of Sewing *vbl. sb.*[1]

† **Sow-iron.** *Obs.* [f. Sow *sb.*[1] 6.] Sow-metal. Cf. Pig-iron.

1608 H. Wright in *Lismore Papers* Ser. II. (1887) I. 127 For the remainder of sowe iron nowe Restinge, there is litle or noe barre Iron made thereof. 1645–52 Boate *Ireland's Nat. Hist.* (1860) 115 One Tun whereof [*sc.* of merchants-iron] is usually made out of a Tun and a half of Sow-Iron. 1677 Yarranton *Eng. Impr.* 57 There is yet a most great benefit to the Kingdom in general by the Sow Iron made of the Iron Stone and Roman Cinders in the Forest of Dean. 1709 Hearne *Collect.* 15 Feb. (O.H.S.) II. 170 The sow Iron [is] the best in the..world.

Sow·ish, *a. Obs.* [f. Sow *sb.*[1] + -ish.] Like or resembling (that of) a sow; of a coarse or gross nature.

1570 Levins *Manip.* 145 Sowish, *suillus*. 1574 *Life Abp. Canterbury* Pref., To Chr. Rdr., Lest therfore the sowishe papiste off England might walter him wantonly in.. his mirie popishe trumperie. 1602 Breton *Mother's Blessing* lxxv, A minde that treads good manners vnder feete, A sorrell foretop, and a sowish feature. 1661 Griffin *Doctr. Asse* 7 Perhaps thy sowish Soul hath been a thousand times in the Mire.

Sowk(e, obs. variants of Suck.

Sowklar, obs. Sc. variant of Suckler.

Sowl, *sb.* Now *dial.* Forms: *α.* 1 **sufel**, **-ol**, **-ul**, 3 **suuel**, 4 **sou(u)el**, 5 **sowvel**, **-uel**, **-ffel**. *β.* 4–5 **sowel**, 5 **-il**, 4–5 **sowyl(le**, 5–6 **sowell**. *γ.* 3–6, 9 *dial.*, **soule**, 4, 6, 9 *dial.*, **soul**, 5 **sowlle**, 5– **sowle**, **sowl**, 6 **sole**, 7–9 *dial.* **sool(e**, 8–9 **sawl**, **se(a)wl**, etc. [OE. *sufel*, *sufol*, = MDu. *suvel*, *zuvel* (Du. *zuivel*), MLG. *suvel*, OHG. *sufil(i* neut., *sufila* fem., ON. *sufl* (Norw. *suvl*, *sovl*, *sul*, etc.; MSw. *suf*, *sofl*, etc., Sw. *sofvel*, Da. *sul*), of uncertain origin.]

1. Any kind of food eaten with bread, as meat, cheese, etc.; relishing or tasty matter added to liquid or semi-liquid food, or the dish so composed. Also *fig.*

α. *c* 960 *Rule St. Benet* (Schröer) 63 We ȝelyfað þæt ȝenoh sy to dæȝhwamlicum ȝereorde twa ȝesodene sufel for misenlicra manna untrumnesse. *c* 1000 *Ags. Gosp.* John xxi. 5 Cnapan, cweðe ȝe, hæbbe ȝe sufol? *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 192 Ne þerf þet meiden sechen nouðer bread, ne suuel, fur þene et his halle. *a* 1300 *Moral Ode* 46 in *E. E. P.* (1862) 23 Þider we sended suuel [*sic*] & bred to litel & to selde. *a* 1380 *St. Paula* 38 in Horstm. *Altengl. Leg.* (1878) 4 Oþur souuel vsede heo non But oyle wiþ hire bred alon. *c* 1380 Wyclif *Sel. Wks.* II. 137 'Children, han ȝe ony sowvel?' þat is, mete to make potage, and to medle among potage. 1382 — 2 *Sam.* xiii. 5 That she ȝyue to me meet, and make sowil [*v.r.* sowfful].

β. *c* 1300 *Havelok* 1143, I ne haue neyþer bred ne sowel. 1382 Wyclif *Gen.* xxv. 34 So breed takun and the sowil of potage [Esau] ete and dronk and ȝede forth. 14.. *Lat.-Eng. Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 579 *Edulia*, sowell. *c* 1475 *Pict. Voc.* Ibid. 788 *Hoc edulium*, sowylle. 1562 Turner *Herbal* II. (1568) 169 The fyrste grene leaves are sodden for kichin or sowell as other eatable herbes be.

γ. 14.. Langl. *P. Pl.* B. [xv.] xvi. 11 (MS. Rawl. Poet. 38), To haae my fille of þat fruit [I would] forsake alle other soule. *c* 1425 *Eng. Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 661 *Hoc edulium*, sowle. *c* 1440 *Alph. Tales* 201 He had no mor money lefte to by hym with soule vnto his bread bod a peny. 1562 Turner *Herbal* II. 64 They may be eaten with brede..for soul or kitchyn. *Ibid.* 66 The most part vse Basil and eate it with oyl & gare sauce for a sowle or kitchen. 1599 T. M[ouffet] *Silkwormes* 54 Feede them therewith (no other soule they craue). 1674 Ray *N. Co. Words* 44 *Sool* or *Sowle*, any thing eaten with bread. 1684 *Yorks. Dial.* 213 (E. D. S.), Here'st Dubler broken, and nowther sowl nor breau. 1775 J. Collier (Tim Bobbin) *Misc. Wks.* Introd., Whot wofo Times ar' theese! Pot-baws ar scant, an dear is Seawl and Cheese! 1847– in dial. glossaries (Pemb., Glamorgan, Derby, Lanc., Yks., etc.).

2. *attrib.* in † *sowl-pennies*, *-silver*, money given for the purchase of, or in place of, sowl.

? 1292 *Durham Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 492 Item servientibus domus pro Soulepen'. 1310–1 *Ibid.* 509 Tribus servientibus ecclesie pro eorum souuelp(enys). 1373–4 *Ibid.* 579 In solucione facta Camerario pro soulesilver servientium suorum. 1460–1 *Ibid.* 90 Johanni Stele,..pro suo soulesilver. 1522–3 *Ibid.* 255 Pro le metcorn, sowlsilver, et aliis necessariis. 1536–7 *Ibid.* 702 Viginti servientibus infra abbathiam in diebus piscium pro eorum soulsylver.

Sowl, obs. or dial. form of Soul *sb.* and *v.*

† **Sowl,** *v.*[1] *Obs. rare.* Also 5 **soul-**. [Of obscure origin. Cf. W Flem. *sowelen*, *suwelen* (De Bo), and Sole *v.*[3], Soll *v.*, Solwe *v.*] *trans.* To make foul or dirty; to soil. Hence † **Sowling** *vbl. sb.*

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 466/1 Sowlynge, or solwynge,..*maculacio*. *a* 1450 *Langland's P. Pl.* B. xiv. 2 (MS. Bodl. 814), Þouȝ hit [a suit] be soulid and foul y slepe þerynne on nyȝtis. *Ibid.* 13 Þat y ne soulid hit wiþ siȝte or sum ydil speche.

† **Sowl,** *v.*[2] *Obs.*[–1] In 6 **soul.** [f. Sowl *sb.*] *intr.* To form or serve as a relish.

1589 Warner *Alb. Eng.* IV. xx. 85, I haue..a peece of Cheese, as good as tooth may chaw, And bread, and Wildings souling wel.

Sowl, *v.*[3] Now *dial.* Forms: 7, 9 **sole**, 8 **sol(l**, 8–9 **sowl(e**, **soul**, 9 **soal**, **s'ool**, **sool(e**, **zowl**, etc. [Of obscure origin. It is doubtful how far various dialect uses of *soal*, *soul*, *sowl*, etc., represent the same word.]

1. *trans.* To pull, seize roughly, etc., *by* the ear or ears. In later use esp. of dogs: To seize (a pig) by the ears.

1607 Shaks. *Cor.* IV. v. 212 Hee'l go, he sayes, and sole the Porter of Rome Gates by th' eares. 1636 Heywood *Love's Mistress* IV. i, Venus will sole mee by the eares for this. 1671 Skinner *Etymol. Ling. Angl.*, *To Sowl one by the ears*, vox agro Linc. usitatissima (i.e.) aures summâ vi vellere. [Hence in Ray, Bailey, etc.] 1787– in dial. glossaries and texts. 1890 Mrs. C. Praed *Romance of Station* I. iv. 71 S'ool him, Bleuey! 1892 M. C. F. Morris *Yorks. Folk-T.* 115–6 An irate father threatening to sowle his refractory son 'like a dog sowlin' a pig'.

2. To pull or lug (the ears).

1654 Vilvain *Epit. Ess.* Pref. a v b, Cynthia bids stay,

Lest she should sole my Ears away. 1886 *S. W. Linc. Gloss.* s.v., I'll sowle your ears well for you.

Sowld, obs. Sc. var. *should* SHALL *v.* **Sowldan,** obs. f. SOLDAN. **Sowlde,** obs. f. SOLD *v.*[1] **Sowlder,** obs. f. SOLDER *sb.* **Sowldiour,** obs. f. SOLDIER *sb.* **Sowle,** obs. f. SOLE *sb.*[1] and *a.*, SOUL *sb.*, SOWL *sb.* **Sowltwyche,** obs. f. SOUTAGE.

†**Sowly,** *a. Obs.*—[1] In 4 sovly. [Cf. SOWL *v.*[1] and SOLWY *a.*] Dirty, foul, unclean.

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 1111 Hov schulde þou com to his kyth bot if þou clene were? Nov ar we sore & synful & sovly vch one.

Sowm, var. of SOUM *v.* **Sowm(e,** obs. varr. SOUM *sb.*[1] and *sb.*[2]; obs. Sc. varr. SUM *sb.*, SWIM *v.*

Sow-metal. [f. Sow *sb.*[1] 6. Cf. SOW-IRON.] Cast iron in sows or large ingots as it comes from the blasting- or smelting-furnace.

1674 *Phil. Trans.* XVII. 696 They have of late made it much better than heretofore, by melting the Sow-metal over again. 1746 *Brit. Mag.* 96 The *Nucleus Ferri*, Sow-metal or liquid Iron. 1761 *Ann. Reg.* I. 73/2 His new-invented method of making malleable iron from pig or sow metal. 1839 *Penny Cycl.* XIII. 33/2 The names of *sow-metal* and *pig-metal*, which..signify..the blocks of iron which are formed in the large main channels, and..the smaller blocks which are formed in smaller side channels.

attrib. 1676 in *Jrnl. Friends' Hist. Soc.* V. 14 The officers took one mare, and his stithy, and sowmettell pot. 1888 R. LEADER in Addy *Sheffield Gloss.* s.v., The very commonest knives made of it are called sow-metal gudgeons.

Sowmir, *Sc.*: see SOUMER *Obs.*

Sown (sōun), *ppl. a.* Also 6–7 **sowen.** [Pa. pple. of Sow *v.*[1]]

1. Of 'seed, etc.: That has been sown, freq. as distinguished from that which has grown of itself.

1578 LYTE *Dodoens* 68 Garden or sowen Woad, brused, is good to be layde upon woundes. 1733 TULL *Horse-Hoeing Husb.* xiv. 196 (Dublin ed.); Poor Slate Land, when it has borne sown St. Foin for six or seven Years,..produces Three Crops of Corn. 1795 BURKE *Th. on Scarcity* Wks. VII. 408 Neither of the sown or natural grass was there..any remainder. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. VII. i, Fires, fevers, sown seeds, chemical mixtures. 1872 C. INNES *Lect. Scot. Legal Antiq.* vi. 242 You will observe that made a late hay harvest compare with our sown grass.

b. With limiting term preceding.

See also *new-sown* s.v. NEW *adv.* 3 a.

1771 *Encycl. Brit.* I. 62/2 The early sown pease have the best chance to produce a crop of corn, and the late sown to produce a crop of straw. 1801 *Farmer's Mag.* Apr. 232 Some of the late sown clover wheats have been attacked by the grub. *Ibid.* Aug. 354 The wheat and rye (Autumn sown crops) are good every where. 1890 *Science-Gossip* XXVI. 167 Our native lark,..busy upon some newly sown grass seed.

2. Of land: Furnished with seed. Also *absol.*

1647 HEXHAM I, Sowne fields, *gezaeyde acheren.* 1670 PETTUS *Fodinæ Reg.* 87 His fenced Parks, Medows, and sowen Fields. 1801 *Farmer's Mag.* Jan. 94 The later sown fields are only putting forth a braird. *Ibid.* Apr. 228 Some of the sown lands were then but half harrowed. 1859 FITZGERALD *Omar* x, With me along some Strip of Herbage strown That just divides the desert from the sown.

Sown, obs. f. SOON *adv.* and SOUND; obs. Sc. var. SUN. **Sownage:** see SOUNDAGE. **Sownd,** obs. f. SOUND. **Sownday,** obs. Sc. var. SUNDAY. **Sownde,** obs. f. SAND *sb.*[1] and SOUND. **Sownder, -ir,** obs. ff. SOUNDER; obs. Sc. ff. SUNDER. **Sowne,** obs. f. SOUND *sb.* and *v.*; obs. Sc. var. SUN *sb.*

†**Sowne,** *v. Obs.*—[0] [perh. = *sowne*, var. of SOUND *v.*[1]] *intr.* (See quot.)

1607 COWELL *Interpreter, Sowne*, is a verb neuter, properly belonging to the Exchequer, as a word of their art, signifying so much, as to be leuiable, or possible to be gathered or collected. For example, estreats that sowne not, are such as the Shyreeue by his industry cannot get, and estreats that sowne, are such as he can gather. [Hence in Phillips, Harris, etc.]

†**Sowner.** *Obs.*—[1] [app. f. *sowne* SOUND *v.*[4]] ? One who lies in a swoon.

c 1430 *Pilgr. Lyf Manhode* II. xci. (1869) 109 þat oon hatteth Negligence; þat ooþer is werynesse and letargie þe sownere.

Sowp (saup), *sb.*[1] *Sc.* and *north. dial.* Also 9 **soup, saup.** [a. ON. *saup* (cf. Norw. *saup* whey, buttermilk, Icel. *saup* soup), related to *súpa* to sup or sip.] A sup, sip; a small quantity *of* liquor; a drink.

1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* xl. 27 Off wyne owt of ane choppyne stowp, They drank twa quartis, sowp and sowp. 1721 RAMSAY *Elegy on Patie Birnie* vi, After ilk tune he took a sowp. 1785 BURNS *Earnest Cry & Prayer* xxiv, Wi' sowps o' kail and brats o' claise. 1865 M. R. L[AHEE] *Betty-o'-Yep's Laughable T.* 12 Aw'd a saup o' tea an toast just afore aw seet off. 1873 STANDING *Echoes fr. Lanc. Vale* 22 He were a reg'lar brick for a sowp o' drink. 1877 FRASER *Wigtown* 355 Cud ee spare me a wee sowp o' milk for an unweel wean?

†**Sowp,** *sb.*[2], early Sc. variant of SOUP *sb.*

a 1568 in *Bannatyne MS.* (Hunter. Club) 342/14 He..saw the wyf..sittand at ane fyre..With ane fat sowp, as I hard say.

†**Sowp,** *v.*[1] *Sc. Obs.* Forms: 5–6 **solp,** 6 **so(u)p, sowp(e.** [Of obscure origin: cf. SOPIT *pa. pple.*]

1. *intr.* To weary, to tire; to become exhausted or worn out.

c 1450 HOLLAND *Howlat* 957 He solpit, he sorowit, in sighingis seir. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* XII. xi. 6 Sum deill or than walxis dolf this syre, Seand his horssis begyn to sowpe and tyre. *c* 1586 *My ladyis pulcritud* 32 in *Montgomerie's Poems* (S.T.S.) 279 For no sair Nor sorrow can I soup.

2. In *pa. pple.* Sunk *in* sorrow, sleep, indolence, etc.; exhausted *with* trouble, travel, etc.; worn out with fatigue or weariness.

(*a*) *c* 1450 HOLLAND *Howlat* 42, I herd ane petuoss appele, with ane pur mane, Solpit in sorowe. *c* 1500 KENNEDIE *Passion of Christ* 1011 My hert is now sowpit in site. 1533 BELLENDEN *Livy* (S.T.S.) II. 7 Icelius, sowpit with hevy teris, went amang the pepil. 1567 *Gude & Godlie B.* (S.T.S.) 118 Thay..hes vs left all solpit in to cair. 1585 JAS. I *Ess. Poesie* (Arb.) 49 Then fra thir newis, in sorrows soped haill.

(*b*) 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* VI. vii. 1 Thus quhill the portar in sleip sowpit lyis. 1533 BELLENDEN *Livy* I. xii. (S.T.S.) I. 72 Pai war solpit at hame in sleuth and Idilnes. *Ibid.* v. xx. II. 217 Nakit bodyis sowpit full of slepe slane.

(*c*) 1515 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* V. 39 Thair awne hors sum wes slane, sum wes bursyn, sum crukkit, sum soppit. 1533 BELLENDEN *Livy* I. iii. (S.T.S.) I. 22 Becaus he was sowpit with lang travel, he lay doun in ane..plentuus gerss.

Sowp, *v.*[2] *Obs.* exc. *dial.* [app. related to SOWP *sb.*[1]] *trans.* To soak or saturate. Hence **Sow·ping** *ppl. a.*, drenching, soaking.

1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* VII. Prol. 35 The soill ysowpit into wattir wak. 1807 J. STAGG *Poems* 19 Fast the patt'ring hail was fa'ing, And the sowping rain as thick. 1855 [ROBINSON] *Whitby Gloss.* s.v., They got fairly sowp'd through.

Sowp(e, obs. ff. SUP *v.*[1] and *v.*[2] **Sowper,** obs. f. SUPPER. **Sowpewaile,** var. SUPPOWAL *Obs.*

Sow-pig. [f. Sow *sb.*[1] 8 c.] A young female pig, esp. one which has been spayed; a sow.

1548 ELYOT, *Scrofula*,..a littell sow pigge. 1573 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 82 One bore pig and sow pig, that sucketh before. 1611 COTGR., *Cochonniere*, a Sow; or Sow-pigge. 1628 FORD *Lover's Mel.* I. ii, There is within a mile or two, a Sow-pig Hath suckt a Brach, and now hunts the Deere ..Aswell as any Hound in Cyprus. *a* 1722 LISLE *Husb.* (1752) 289 A sow-pig will eat well at a month old, but a boar-pig at that age will eat strong. 1760 *Phil. Trans.* LII. 36 The four..soldiers touching with their swords..a sow-pig, held by an herald. 1838 JAMES *Robber* vi, With a cut in his neck, which has made him bleed like an old sow-pig. 1883 W. G. BLACK *Folk Med.* xii. 198 There the sow-pigs were reared.

Sowpil, -le, obs. Sc. var. SUPPLE *a.* and *v.* **Sowpowayle,** var. SUPPOWAL *Obs.* **Sowr,** obs. f. SOUR.

†**Sowr,** *v. Cant. Obs.*—[1] (See quot.)

1725 *New Cant. Dict., Sowr*, to beat violently.

Sowre, obs. f. SOAR, SORE *sb.*, SOUR. **Sowse,** obs. f. SOUCE *sb.* **Sowser,** obs. f. SAUCER *sb.*

†**Sow-stang,** var. of SASTANGE.

1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), *Sow*, a large Tub with two Ears, carry'd on Mens Shoulders by a Pole or long Stick, call'd a Sow-Stang.

Sowter, obs. form of SOUTER.

†**Sowth,** *sb. Obs.*—[1] [a. ON. *sauð-r* (Icel. *sauður*, Norw. *saud*, *sau*; MSw. *södh*, *söd*, Sw. dial. *sau*, *sö*).] A sheep.

c 1200 ORMIN 15565 Crist..draf hemm alle samenn ut, & nowwt & sowwþess alle.

Sowth (sauþ), *v. Sc.* Also 8 **south,** 9 **sooth.** [Alteration of SOWFF *v.*] *trans.* = SOWFF *v.*

? 1784 BURNS in *Wks.* (Globe) 298 To 'south the tune', as our Scotch phrase is, over and over, is the readiest way to catch the inspiration. 1785 — *Ep. Davie* iv, On braes when we please then, We'll sit and sowth a tune. 1843 *Whistle Binkie* Ser. v. 48 Aye whoo ye, whoo, whoo ye, sowth'd Whistlin' Tam.

Sowth, obs. pa. pple. of SEEK *v.* **Sowthelase:** see *south-lace*, SOUTH-[2]. **Sowther,** obs. f. SOLDER *sb.* and *v.*

Sow-thistle (sau,þi·s'l). Also **sowthistle, sow thistle.** Forms: (see Sow *sb.*[1] and THISTLE *sb.*). [Early ME. *sugeþistel*, perh. an alteration of the earlier *þuge-, þúþistel* (see THOW-THISTLE), but cf. also OHG. *sûdistel*, MLG. *sudistel*, *sögedistel*, G. *saudistel*, as the name of various plants. Down to the 17th c. usually written as one word.]

1. One or other of the species of *Sonchus*; a plant belonging to this genus, esp. *S. oleraceus* and *S. asper*, common European weeds characterized by their sharply-toothed thistle-like leaves and milky juice.

a 1250 *MS. Bodley* 130 lf. 37 b, *Cardun*, sugeþithstel. *a* 1387 *Sinon. Barthol.* (Anecd. Oxon.) 37 *Rostrum porcinum*, sowethistel. 14.. *Medical MS.* in *Anglia* XIX. 84 Take þe sow-thystill & late hym sethyn in whyt wyn. *c* 1450 *Alphita* (Anecd. Oxon.) 89 *Labrum ueneris*, .. sough thistil. *c* 1475 *MS. Bodley* 536 lf. 16 b, *Labrum veneris*, sowthestell, when yᵉ [stalk ?] is broke he droppes mylke. And he beris 30wlo floure. 1539 ELYOT *Cast. Helthe* (1541) 28 b, I suppose that Southistel and Dentdelyon, be of like qualities [to cichory]. 1577 B. GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* I. (1586) 44 The other that be Sommer Weedes, as Sowthystell, and all other Thystels. 1639 O. WOOD *Alph. Bk. Secrets* 70 Sorrell, Succory, Dandelion, and Sowthistle. 1653 BLITHE *Eng. Improver Impr.* 110 When any of these Rich Lands shall..Over-grow with Weeds, Nettles, Hemlocks, Sow-Thistles, &c. *c* 1721 PETIVER *Gazophyl.* VIII. LXXX, A Sowthistle with purple Flowers. 1770 G. WHITE *Selborne* XXXVIII, Milky plants, such as lettuces, dandelions, sow-thistles, are its favourite dish. 1845–50 MRS. LINCOLN *Lect. Bot.* 208 This is very observable in the sowthistle, *Sonchus arvensis*. 1855 DELAMER *Kitchen Garden* (1861) 106 Even although we may be inclined to refuse the sowthistle [as a salad-plant].

fig. 1644 MILTON *Educ.* (1738) 136 We have now to hale and drag our choicest and hopefullest wits to that asinine feast of sowthistles and brambles, which is commonly set before them.

attrib. and *Comb.* 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s.v. *Thistle*, The purple-flowered field-Cirsium, with..sow-thistle leaves. *Ibid.*, The..sow-thistle-leaved field-Cirsium.

b. Applied to species of the allied genera *Lactuca* and *Prenanthes*. ? *Obs.*

a 1387 *Sinon. Barthol.* (Anecd. Oxon.) 27 *Lactucella*,.. sowethistel. 1760 J. LEE *Introd. Bot.* App. 327 Sow Thistle, *Prenanthes*.

2. With distinguishing or descriptive terms, as *blue, common, corn, marsh, prickly* (etc.) *sow-thistle*; *broad-, round-, spiny-leaved, blue-, small-, white-flowered sow-thistle* (see quots.).

1796 WITHERING *Brit. Plants* (ed. 3) III. 674 *Sonchus canadensis.* *Blue Sowthistle. 1597 GERARDE *Herbal* II. XXXI. 231 *Sonchus flore cæruleo.* *Blew flowred Sowthistle. *Ibid.* 230 *Sonchus lævis latifolius.* *Broad leafed Sow-thistle. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s.v. *Sonchus*, The*common sowthistle is..recommended..as a refrigerant. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 240/2 The most common species is the *Sonchus oleraceus*, the common sow-thistle. 1796 WITHERING *Brit. Plants* (ed. 3) III. 674 *Sonchus arvensis.* *Corn, or Tree Sowthistle. 1855 MISS PRATT *Flower. Plants* III. 200 Corn Sow-thistle, Milk-thistle. 1771 *Encycl. Brit.* III. 617/2 The [sonchus] palustris, or *marsh sow-thistle. 1889 *Science-Gossip* XXV. 45/2, I found the marsh sow-thistle growing abundantly in this district. 1597 GERARDE *Herbal* II. XXXI. 229 *Sonchus asper.* *Prickly Sowthistle. 1725 *Fam. Dict., Sow-Thistle*,..a Plant of which there are two sorts, *viz.* the Hare's-Thistle and prickly Sow-Thistle. 1846–50 A. WOOD *Class-bk. Bot.* 363 *Sonchus asper.* *Rough Sow Thistle. *c* 1710 PETIVER *Cat. Ray's Eng. Herbal* Tab. xiv, *Round leav'd Sowthistle. 1863 MISS PRATT *Flower. Pl.* II. 34 The *Small-flowered Sow-Thistle (*Sonchus Floridanus*). 1597 GERARDE *Herbal* 229 Hares lettuce or *smooth Sow-thistle. 1725 *Fam. Dict.* s.v., The smooth Sow-Thistle has the same Properties as the other. 1758 *Phil. Trans.* L. 513 Smooth or unprickly Sowthistle, Hares Lettuce. 1597 GERARDE *Herbal* II. XXXI. 231 *Sonchus flore niveo.* *Snowe white Sowthistle. 1847 DARLINGTON *Amer. Weeds* (1860) 206 The *Spiny-leaved Sow-thistle (*S. asper*). 1597 GERARDE *Herbal* II. XXXI. 231 *Sonchus arborescens.* *Tree Sowthistle. 1766 *Museum Rust.* VI. 444 Tree Sowthistle [*S. arvensis*]. The root is very creeping, full of milk, and with difficulty eradicated. 1597 GERARDE *Herbal* II. XXXI. 230 *Sonchus lævis flore albo.* *White flowred Sowthistle. *Ibid.* 231 *Sonchus sylvaticus.* *Wood Sowthistle.

b. *Downy, Tangier sow-thistle* (see quots.).

1760 J. LEE *Introd. Bot.* App. 327 Tangier Sow Thistle, *Scorzonera*. *Ibid.* 329 Downy Sow Thistle, *Andryala*.

Sowtlase, var. *south-lace*, see SOUTH-[2].

Sowtwell: see SOUTAGE (quot. 1591).

Soy[1] (soi). Also 7 **souy.** [a. Japanese *soy* (also *shoy*), colloquial form of *shô-yu* or *siyau-yu*, ad. Chinese *shi-yu, shi-yau*, etc., f. *shi* salted beans, or the like, used as condiments + *yu* oil. The Japanese form is also the source of Malay *soi*, Du. *soya, soja.*]

1. A sauce prepared chiefly in Japan, China, and India, from the beans of *Soja hispida* (*Dolichos soja*), and eaten with fish, etc.

A full account of the method of preparation is given by Ure *Dict. Arts* (1839) 1158.

1696 J. OVINGTON *Voy. Suratt* 397 Souy the choicest of all Sawces. 1699 DAMPIER *Voy.* (1729) II. I. 28, I have been told that Soy is made partly with a fishy Composition ..., tho' a Gentleman..told me that it was made only with Wheat, and a Sort of Beans mixt with Water and Salt. 1747–96 MRS. GLASSE *Cookery* x. 174 Dish them up with plain butter and soy. 1779 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 2) IV. 2511/2 This legumen..serves for the preparation of..a pickle celebrated among them [*sc.* the Japanese] under the name of *sooju* or soy. 1817 BYRON *Beppo* vii, From travellers accustom'd from a boy To eat their salmon, at the least, with soy. 1853 *Blackw. Mag.* March 280 She put soy instead of sherry into the soda water compound she was mixing. 1870 YEATS *Nat. Hist. Comm.* II. (1872) 191 A sauce or catsup, as thick as treacle and of a clear black colour, called Soy, which is much esteemed.

2. *Bot.* The soy-bean, *Soja hispida.*

1880 BESSEY *Botany* 532 Many more species [of food-plants] are now cultivated in India, such as Chowlee, Black Grain, Soy,..etc. 1884 tr. *De Candolle's Orig. Cultivated Pl.* 330 Soy is also grown in the Malay Archipelago.

3. *attrib.*, as *soy biscuit, flour, -sauce*; **soy-bean,** = sense 2.

1802 PINKERTON *Mod. Geogr.* II. 170 The ginger, the soy bean,..are cultivated here [*sc.* in Japan]. 1818 TODD (trans. Thunberg), *Soy-sauce* is prepared from soy-beans (*dolichos soja*) and salt, mixed with barley or wheat. 1882 *Garden* 29 July 93/1 Soy Beans..vary considerably in size, shape, and colour. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* III. 225 'Soy' flour.. contains about 24 per cent. [of carbo-hydrates],..while some soy biscuits..contain twice as much.

†**Soy**[2]. *Sc. Obs. rare.* [a. obs. F. *soy* (F. *soie*) silk.] *Silken soy*, silk.

1776 *Gilderoy* in Herd *Sc. Songs* I. 73 His stockings were of silken soy, Wi' garters hanging down. 1783 J. MAYNE *Glasgow* 10 Ev'n little maids..clip, wi' care, the silken soy For Ladies' braws.

Soya (soi·ă). Also 7 **saio,** 9 **sooja, soja.** [a. Du. *soya, soja*: see SOY[1].] = SOY[1] 1, 2.

In recent use also *attrib.*, as *soya-bean, -oil, -plant.*

1679 J. LOCKE *Jrnl.* in Ld. King *Life* (1830) I. 249 Mango and saio are two sorts of sauces brought from the East Indies. 1771 J. R. FORSTER tr. *Osbeck's Voy.* I. 253 The Japan Soya is better and dearer than the Chinese. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 194/1 The Japanese..likewise prepare with them [seeds of *Soja hispida*] the sauce termed *Soaja*, which has been corrupted into *Soy*. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 537/1 The Sooja of the Japanese, *Glycine*) *Soja*, the only erect species of the genus, a dwarf annual hairy plant.

Soygear, obs. f. SOLDIER *sb.* **Soygne,** var. of SOIGN *sb.* **Soygneusly, -ously,** varr. SOIGNOUSLY *adv. Obs.* **Soyite, Soyittour,** obs. Sc. varr. SUIT *sb.*, SUITOR. **Soyle,** obs. var. SOLE *v.*[2]; obs. f. SOIL(E. **Soyne,** var. of SOIGN *sb.*; obs. Sc. f. SOON *adv.* **Soyny,** var. of SOIGN *sb.* and *v.* **Soyt(e,** obs. Sc. varr. SUIT *sb.* **Soytour,** obs. Sc. var. SUITOR.

Soz- (sōuz), **Sozo-** (sōu·zo), combining forms from Gr. σώζειν, employed in a few recent terms, esp. names given to substances having an antiseptic or preservative character, as *sozal, sozin, sozol; sozogen* (hence *-genetic*), *-iodol, -iodolate,* etc.

Sozzle (sǫ·z'l), *sb. dial.* and *U.S.* Also **sawzle, sorzle.** [Cf. SOSS *sb.*[1]]

1. *dial.* A sloppy spoon-meat or medicine.

1823 E. MOOR *Suffolk Words* 330 *Sawzles,* slops or drinks, given injudiciously to sick persons.. 1892 in *Eng. Dial. Dict.* s.v. *Sossle,* How can she be well? She is always taking one sorzle or other.

2. *U.S.* A slattern; a state of sluttish confusion or disorder.

1854 H. H. RILEY *Puddleford* 119 (Thornton), Mrs. Bird, who was a great sozzle about home. 1867 MRS. WHITNEY *L. Goldthwaite* vii, The woman who..had always hated.. anything like what she called a 'sozzle'.

Sozzle (sǫ·z'l), *v. dial.* and *U.S.* Also **sossel.** [Cf. SOSS *v.*[1]]

1. *trans.* To mix or mingle in a sloppy manner.

1836 W. COOPER *Sussex Gloss.* 31 *Sossle,..*to make a slop. 1876 ROBINSON *Whitby Gloss.* 180/2 *Sozzled up,* mingled as mince meats in a mess.

2. *U.S.* a. To splash; to wash by splashing.

1845 S. JUDD *Margaret* I. ii, Margaret..sat down and sozzled her feet in the foam. 1892 *Cent. Mag.* Apr. 914 Preparatory to sozzling his face at the sink.

b. (See quot.) Also *intr.*

1848 BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.* 321 *To Sozzle,* to loll; to lounge; to go lazily or sluttishly about the house... 'This woman sozzles up her work.' 1878 ROSE T. COOKE *Happy Dodd* xxxiii. (Thornton), A great lazy sozzlin' girl.

Spa (spā, spǭ), *sb.* Also 6, 8 **Spau,** 6–9 **Spaw,** 7 **Spawe.** [A place-name (see sense 1).]

1. With capital. The name of a watering-place in the province of Liège, Belgium, celebrated for the curative properties of its mineral springs. †In early use *the Spa.*

1565 in Burgon *Life Gresham* (1839) II. 93 And now do I the more feare the danger of this winter, for that I have now lost the comodity..of going to the Spa for this yere. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* I. xi. 30 Both Silo this, and Iordan did excell, And th'English Bath, and eke the german Spau. 1619 in *Eng. & Germ.* (Camden) 200 For my health to goe drinke the waters of the Spaw for the few dayes yet remayning of their season. 1665 *Verney Mem.* (1907) II. 243 The first inst. we arrived att the nasty Spaw, and have now began to drinke the horid sulfer watter. *c*1723 ARBUTHNOT in *Swift's Lett.* (1766) II. 31, I have of late sent several patients in that case to the Spa, to drink there of the Geronster water, which will not carry from the spot. 1733 COOTE *Ibid.* (1768) IV. 59 A walking-stick, the manufacture of Spa, where she had it made for you. 1780 J. ADAMS *Wks.* (1854) IX. 509, I have received your favour, written after your return from Spa. 1835 *Cycl. Pract. Med.* IV. 475/2 The Geronstere is the most celebrated fountain at Spa after the Pouhon.

b. In generalized sense.

1610 BEAUM. & FL. *Scornf. Lady* III. i, He has yet past cure of Physick, spaw, or any diet, a primitive pox in his bones.

2. A medicinal or mineral spring or well.

1626 E. DEANE *Eng. Spaw-Fountain* 9 Doctor Timothy Bright..first gave the name of the *English Spaw* vnto this Fountaine about thirty yeares since, or more. 1652 FRENCH *Yorksh. Spaw* vii. 67 For the better understanding of the nature of this Spaw, I made divers experiments thereof. 1727 W. MATHER *Yng. Man's Comp.* 390 The abundance of Medicinal-Waters.., particularly those of the Spaws in Yorkshire. 1778 W. PRYCE *Mineralog. Cornub.* 8 The migration and egress of Metals and Minerals, is obvious enough in the investigation of Mineral Spaws or Springs. 1843 R. J. GRAVES *Syst. Clin. Med.* xx. 234 Sulphureous waters, such as the Lucan and Harrowgate Spas. 1901 BESANT *Lady of Lynn* vi, The town found itself the possessor of a Spa—and such a Spa!

3. A town, locality, or resort possessing a mineral spring or springs; a watering-place of this kind.

1777 SHERIDAN *Trip Scarb.* I. ii, Even the boors of this northern spa have learned the respect due to a title. 1807 J. BERESFORD *Miseries Hum. Life* xiv. 33 The inland Spa is not a jot behind the Fishing-town in the article of tortures. 1856 MERIVALE *Rom. Emp.* xl. (1865) V. 17 Baiae, the most fashionable of the Roman spas, presented another and more lively spectacle. 1879 T. H. S. ESCOTT *England* I. 175 Bath..continues..to hold its own as one of the great inland spas of the kingdom.

4. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *spa-diet, -drinker, -fountain, -house,* etc. See also SPA-WATER.

1626 E. DEANE *Eng. Spaw-Fountain* 26 The most proper season to vndertake this our English *Spaw dyet. 1652 FRENCH *Yorksh. Spaw* 100 Of the Dyet to be observed by *Spaw-drinkers. 1626 E. DEANE (*title*), Spadacrene Anglica, or, The English *Spaw-Fovntaine. 1630 HAKEWILL *Apol.* (ed. 2) Z z, Who may perhaps with more benefit..pertake of this our English Spaw-fountaine. 1812 BIGLAND in *Beaut. Eng. & Wales* XVI. 355 The *spaw-house is situated on the sea-shore. 1808 PIKE *Sources Mississ.* (1810) II. 137 On the west side of said ridge we found *spa springs. 1896 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* I. 330 The good effects produced by *spa treatment. 1652 FRENCH *Yorksh. Spaw* 65 The *Spaw-well near Knares-borow. 1778 *Eng. Gazetteer* (ed. 2) s.v. *Scarborough,* The Spaw-well, as it is improperly called, is a spring a quarter of a mile S. of the town. 1815 SCOTT *Guy M.* xxxix, At the spaw-well below the craig at Gilsland. 1652 FRENCH *Yorksh. Spaw* ix. 83 Giving them such directions for the drinking the waters as the very *Spaw-women themselves laugh at.

Hence **Spa** (also **spaa**), *v.* a. *trans.* To subject to spa-treatment. b. *intr.* To frequent or visit a spa or spas.

1832 in Medwin *Angler in Wales* (1834) II. 280 Here I am, after being '*spaed*' for a week at Cheltenham. 1847 W. E. FORSTER in Reid *Life* (1888) I. 206, I have been spaaing in this distinguished company now for three days. I joined them at Matlock on Friday morning.

Spa, obs. form of SPAE.

†**Spaad.** *Min. Obs.* Also 6–7 **spawd(e,** 7 **spaud.** [ad. obs. G. *spad, spade,* varr. of *spat* SPATH 1.] A variety of talc, gypsum, or spar, or a powder prepared from one or other of these, mainly used to form moulds for casting metal objects.

1594 PLAT *Jewel-ho.* IV. 44, I haue seene oftentimes many good patternes of mettall, cast off very sharpely in spawde alone, but..you must sprincle the spawd with some moisture. 1651 FRENCH *Distill.* v. 172 He that casts them [*sc.* antimony cups] must be skilfull in making his spawde. 1686 PLOT *Staffordsh.* 154 [A sand] is sent for by Artists living at a great distance, and used by them as a spaud to cast Metalls with. *a* 1728 WOODWARD *Fossils* 14 English Talc, of which the coarser Sort is call'd Plaister, or Parget, the finer, Spaad, [or] Earth-Flax. 1738 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v., The various kinds of spaad are found pretty frequently in England and Germany;..they are all soft, and easily pulverized.

Space (spēs), *sb.*[1] Also 5 **sspace,** 5–6 **spase;** *Sc.* 5 **spas,** 6 **spais, spaice, spece,** 7 **speace.** [ad. OF. *espace* (*aspace, espasse, spaze,* etc., F. *espace,* = Prov. *espaci, espazi,* Pg. *espaço,* Sp. *espacio,* It. *spazio*), ad. L. *spatium* (med.L. also *spacium*).]

I. Denoting time or duration.

1. Without article: Lapse or extent of time between two definite points, events, etc. Chiefly with adjs., as *little, long, short, small.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 6980 Þair faith lasted littel space. 1338 R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (1810) 213 Grace God gaf him here, þis lond to kepe long space. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* XI. 9 And quhen he herd..at sic space he had Till purvay hym, he ves rycht glad. *c* 1450 HOLLAND *Howlat* 34 All thar names to nevyn..war prolixt and lang, and lenthing of space. 1471 RIPLEY *Comp. Alch.* I. vi. in Ashm. (1652) 130 A yere we take or more for our respyte: For in lesse space our Calxe wyll not be made. *c* 1549 *Registr. Aberdon.* (Maitland) II. 307 With intervale and space necessare of þe law vsit. 1634 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* 18 They become whole and frolicke, in small space. 1700 DRYDEN *Sigismunda & Guiscardo* 27 To her Father's Court in little space Restor'd anew. 1782 COWPER *Gilpin* 242 The turnpike gates again Flew open in short space. 1812 CARY *Dante, Parad.* XXIII. 16 Short space ensued; I was not held..Long in expectance. 1835 T. MITCHELL *Acharn. of Aristoph.* 178 A ten years' truce, in short, was..little more than space allowed for making new preparations for war. 1871 ROSSETTI *Poems, Staff & Scrip* XXX, O changed in little space!..O pale that was so red!

†b. Delay, deferment. *Obs. rare.*

c 1385 CHAUCER *L. G. W.* 440 *Prol.*, [I] al for-ȝeue with oute lengere space. 1540–54 CROKE *13 Ps.* (Percy Soc.) 19 Without abode or space Bowe downe thyne ears.

†c. *In space,* after a time or while. *Obs.*

c 1400 *Destr. Troy* 2811 Tyll þai comyn of the cost of Caucleda in spase. 1474 CAXTON *Chesse* III. viii. (1883) 148 In space and succession of tyme he departed to them alle his goodes temporell. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 114 Take muddy water..& set it alone,..& in space it wyll waxe clere. 1546–*a* 1553 [see GRACE *sb.* 15]. *a* 1592 H. SMITH *Serm.* (1866) I. 22 In space cometh grace.

†2. Time, leisure, or opportunity for doing something. Chiefly in *to have* (or *give*) *space. Obs.*

a. Const. *to* (usually with inf.) or *of.*

13.. *Guy Warw.* (1891) p. 556 Berard on þe helme he smot: To stond hadde he no space. *c* 1385 *Body & Soul* in *Map's Poems* (Camden Soc.) 346 A! Ihesu, that us alle hast wrouȝt,..Of amendement ȝef us space. 1362 LANGL. *P. Pl.* A. III. 164 Þenne mornede Meede, and menede hire to þe kyng To haue space to speken, spede ȝif heo mihte. 1445 tr. *Claudian* in *Anglia* XXVIII. 277 The doome of heven also yiveth space to mannys favour in the. 1483 CAXTON *Gold. Leg.* 215 b/1 Thenne she prayed..that she myght haue space to praye. 1508 KENNEDIE *Flyting w. Dunbar* 373 To eit thy flesch the doggis sall haue na space. 1565 COOPER *Thesaurus* s.v. *Spatium,* They had tyme or space to take aduisement. *a* 1637 B. JONSON *Queen & Huntress,* Give unto the flying hart Space to breathe how short soever. 1675 R. BURTHOGGE *Causa Dei* 102 That very space to Repent..but confirmeth and emboldens the stubborn and wicked.

b. Without const.

1338 R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (1810) 86 He may, tille he has space, gif it withouten synnes. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* II. 256 Thogh thei hadden litel space, Yit thei acorden in that place. *c* 1430 *How the Good Wijf* in *Babees Bk.* (1868) 42 To compelle a dede to be doon & þere be no space, It is but tyrannye. *c* 1510 MORE *Picus* Wks. 26 Happly thou shouldest not liue an houre more Thy sinne to clense, and though thou hadst space, Yet paraduenture shouldst thou lacke the grace. 1581 H. WALPOLE in Allen *Martyrdom Campion* (1908) 46 God graunt they may amend the same while here they have the space. 1601 SHAKS. *All's W.* IV. i. 98 Come on, thou art granted space.

c. Coupled with other sbs. denoting time, ability, etc.; esp. in *time and space, space and time.*

(*a*) *a* 1300 *Assump. Virg.* 172 Þat þu..ȝef hem boþe wille and space, Hem to amendy er hy beo ded. 1303 R. BRUNNE *Handl. Synne* 11292, Y þanke þe..þat hast lent me wyt and space, Þys yn Englys for to drawe. *a* 1330 *Roland & V.* 127 He bisouȝt ihesu..To sende him miȝt & space, For to wite þe soþe þere. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Parson's Prol.* 64 For to yeue hym space and audience. *c* 1450 *Godstow Reg.* 18, I cry vn-to ȝow.., That ȝe gete to us repentaunce and space. *c* 1480 *Childe of Bristowe* in Hazl. *E. P. P.* I. 121 And y shal laboure..to bring your soule in better way, yf y have lyf and space. *c* 1550 ROLLAND *Crt. Venus* III. 153 Thow sall not aill, and I haif life and space.

(*b*) *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Prol.* 35 Whil I haue tyme and space. *c* 1400 *Pilgr. Sowle* (Caxton, 1483) I. xvi. 14 He had space and suffysaunt leyser ynow for to haue enstablysshed procuratours. 1484 CAXTON *Fables of Alfonce* iii, Whanne the poure man was before the Juge, he demaunded terme and space for to answere. 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* xv. 32 Asking wald haif..Convenient tyme, lasar, and space. [1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* xxxii, 'By my faith, time and space fitting, this were a good tale to tell,' said Leicester.]

3. With *the* (*that,* etc.): a. The amount or extent of time comprised or contained in a specified period. Const. *of,* or with preceding genitive.

(*a*) *c* 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 3933 Þe space of alle ane hale yhere. 1340–70 *Alex. & Dind.* 885 Þe space of hure liuus. *a* 1425 tr. *Arderne's Treat. Fistula,* etc. 91 Late it stande stille without mouyng by þe space of a 'pater noster'. 1484 CAXTON *Fables of Alfonce* i, [He] festyed hym by the space of xiiij dayes. 1515 *Sel. Cases Star Chamb.* (Selden) II. 98 He bought the space of xx[ti] yere Irne..and Retailled the same. 1578 LYTE *Dodoens* 28 The leaues..dronken in wine by the space of seuen dayes healeth the Jaundes. 1604 E. G[RIMSTONE] *D'Acosta's Hist. Indies* III. xvii. 174 In the water whereof, you cannot indure to hold your hand, the space of an *Ave Maria.* 1638 JUNIUS *Paint. Ancients* 99 For the space of many generations it hath been a shop of Arts and Artists. 1726 SWIFT *Gulliver* III. iii. 197 The former revolves in the space of ten hours. 1793 SMEATON *Edystone L.* § 344 In the space of a tide, the salt water has not time to..return. 1832 BREWSTER *Nat. Magic* xii. 311 In the space of twenty minutes the eggs were roasted quite hard. 1837 P. KEITH *Bot. Lex.* 128 He found that sprigs ..became quite dead in the space of a day.

(*b*) *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Man of Law's T.* 916 Duryng the metes space, The child stood lokyng in the kynges face. *c* 1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 3617 Before many ȝere space. 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* xxiii. 26 Thow seis thir wrechis sett..To gaddir gudis in all thair lyvis space. 1576 FLEMING *Panopl. Epist.* 27 Who in seuen dayes space lost two sonnes. 1625 in Foster *Eng. Factories India* (1909) III. 101 Within an howers space shee was burnt to the water. *a* 1648 LD. HERBERT *Hen. VIII* (1683) 45 He had but a Winter's Space; for the War was to begin the next Spring. 1820 KEATS *St. Agnes* xvii, In a moment's space. 1825 SCOTT *Betrothed* xxxi, There was more than three hours' space to the time of rendezvous.

b. The amount of time already specified or indicated, or otherwise determined.

1338 R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (1810) 305 Bituex prime & none alle voide was þe place. Þe bataile slayn & done alle within þat space. 1382 WYCLIF *Eccl.* iii. 1 Alle thingus han time, and in ther spaces passen alle thingus vnder the sunne. *c* 1430 LYDG. *Min. Poems* (Percy Soc.) 142 Al the space the masse was seyeng. 1545 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* I. 16 For payment of the saidis horsemen during the said space. 1586 A. DAY *Eng. Secretary* II. (1625) 27, I thought..I might in this space haue found a season conuenient. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 221 Their [*sc.* Jews] Custome is before Marriage to be contracted and after some space to be Married. 1712 W. FLEETWOOD *Four Serm.* Pref. p. viii, That precious Life, had it pleased God to have prolonged it to the usual Space. 1737 *Gentl. Mag.* VII. 690/2 The Expence of the Fleet within the same Space, exceeded 270,000*l.* 1823 SCOTT *Quentin D.* xxiv, In less than the space we have mentioned, the Count..came back to the verge of the forest. 1851 LONGF. *Gold. Leg.* ii. Poems (1910) 467 Forty years..Have I been Prior.., But for that space Never have I beheld thy face!

†c. *In the mean space,* meantime, meanwhile. *Obs.* (Cf. MEAN *a.*[2] 2.)

1538 ELYOT, *Interim,* in the mean space or time, in the mean season. 1585 T. WASHINGTON tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* I. xx. 26 In the mean space..we went to see the towne. 1612 SHELTON *Quix.* I. I. vi, In the mean Space, Gossip, you may keep them at your House. *a* 1656 USSHER *Ann.* vii. (1658) 815 In the mean space Piso went about in vain, to assaile the Navy. 1760–72 H. BROOKE *Fool of Qual.* (1809) IV. 70 God was pleased, in the mean space, to cut off all debate. *ellipt.* 1600–6 [see MEAN *a.*[2] 2]. 1637 HEYWOOD *Pleas. Dial.* i. Wks. 1874 VI. 99 Meane space, What did the passengers? 1675 HOBBES *Odyssey* x. 537 Mean space Circe a Ram and black Ewe there had ty'd.

4. With *a* and pl.: A period or interval of time.

When used without adj. usually implying a period of short duration.

13.. *Coer de L.* 6123 Withinne a lytyl space..The castel become on a fyr al. *c* 1374 CHAUCER *Troylus* I. 505 But whan he had a space left frome his care, Thus to hymsilf full ofte he ganne complaine. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 10131 A space for his spilt men spedely to graue. *c* 1450 HOLLAND *Howlat* 112 To schape me a schand bird in a schort space. *c* 1475 *Rauf Coilȝear* 334 He kneillit doun in the place, Thankand God ane greit space. 1526 TINDALE *Acts* XV. 33 After they hadde taryed there a certayne space. 1568 GRAFTON *Chron.* II. 259 He and his defended themselues.. a long space. 1633 *Verney Mem.* (1907) I. 77 God hath afflicted you with many sad crosses within a short space. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* III. 117 Like Diligence requires the Courser's Race; In early Choice; and for a longer Space. 1719 in W. S. Perry *Hist. Coll. Amer. Col. Ch.* I. 219 For a considerable space no one could be heard. 1779 *Mirror* No. 8, After a space, I tired of walking by the Red Sea. 1833 *Act 3 & 4 Will. IV,* c. 46 § 80 For any space not exceeding thirty days. 1852 MRS. STOWE *Uncle Tom's C.* ix, When she found a space to say something to her husband. 1873 HAMERTON *Intell. Life* I. v. 28 The incompatibility..is often very marked if you look at small spaces

of time only; but if you consider broader spaces, such as a lifetime, then the incompatibility is not so marked.

b. With *of*. (Freq. *a space of time.*)

c 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 436 þer þre partes er þre spaces talde Of þe lyf of ilk man. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Clerk's T.* 47, I dar the better ask of yow a space Of audience. *c* 1500 *Melusine* 335 Nerbonne where he rested hym a lytel space of tyme. 1565 COOPER *Thesaurus* s.v. *Intercapedo*, After a space of time. 1602 PATERICKE tr. *Gentillet's Disc.* 90 In this contestation..remained their affaires by a long and great space of yeares. 1657 SPARROW *Bk. Com. Prayer* (1661) 244 A good space of time to do it in. 1708 SWIFT *Proc. Bickerstaff* Wks. 1755 II. I. 166 After a competent space of staring at me. 1818 SCOTT *Br. Lamm.* x, The intervention of an unusual space of sobriety. 1831 — *Cast. Dang.* ix, An intermediate space of punishment. 1880 SAYCE *Introd. Sci. Lang.* I. 230 The number of the vibrations in any given space of time.

c. In the advb. phr. (*for*) *a space.*

(*a*) *c* 1440 *York Myst.* xiv. 97 A starne to be schynyng a space. 1515 BARCLAY *Egloges* iii. (1570) B vj/2 Els must he rise and walke him selfe a space. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VIII*, 238 b, She with all the Ladyes entered the tentes, and there warmed them a space. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* II. 717 Hov'ring a space, till Winds the signal blow. 1720 POPE *Iliad* XVIII. 389 Yet a space I stay, Then swift pursue thee on the darksome way. 1814 SCOTT *Lord of Isles* v. XXXIII, He paused a space, his brow he cross'd. 1883 *Longman's Mag.* July 270 Knights!..leave him lying here a space.

(*b*) 1575 *Mirr. Mag., Q. Cordila* XXV, If I departed for a space withall. ? 1690 T. WATSON in Spurgeon *Treas. Dav.* Ps. CXXXVII. 1 The other leaves..for a space hang down their heads. 1818 KEATS *Lett.* Wks. 1889 III. 142, I have had one or two intimations of your going to Hampstead for a space. 1877 'H. A. PAGE' *De Quincy* I. ii. 26 Meantime deep peace fell for a space on the family.

† **d.** A period of delay. *Obs.*—1

1430–40 LYDG. *Bochas* I. ii. (1554) 56 They departed made no lengar spaces,..And gan to chose them new dwellyng places.

† **e.** A spell of writing or narration. *Obs.*—1

c 1440 *Ipomydon* 528 Of chyld Ipomydon here is a space.

II. Denoting area or extension.

**Without article, in generalized sense.*

5. Linear distance; interval between two or more points or objects.

Freq. with more or less suggestion of sense 6.

1390 GOWER *Conf.* III. 107 Astronomie..makth a man have knowlechinge Of Sterres..And what betwen hem is of space. 1534 MORE *Comf. agst. Trib.* I. (1553) A ij, Neyther one fynger breadth of space, nor one minute of tyme from you. 1565 COOPER *Thesaurus* s.v. *Spatium, Aequali spatio distare*, to be like space asunder. 1606 SHAKS. *Ant. & Cl.* II. iii. 23 Therefore Make space enough betweene you. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* VI. 104 'Twixt Host and Host but narrow space was left, A dreadful interval. 1690 LOCKE *Hum. Und.* II. xiii. § 3 This Space, considered barely in length between any two beings, without considering anything else between them, is called distance. 1751 HARRIS *Hermes* Wks. (1841) 145 Between London and Salisbury there is the extension of space. 1808 STOWER *Printer's Gram.* 161 Less space is required after a sloping letter than a perpendicular one. 1876 VOYLE & STEVENSON *Milit. Dict.* 394/1 *Space*, ..the interval between troops when drawn up in line or column. 1892 A. OLDFIELD *Man. Typog.* iii, When space is required, a mark similar to a sharp in music should be made.

† **b.** Proper place or relationship. *Obs.*—1

1390 GOWER *Conf.* II. 24 Min herte..Som time of hire is sore adrad, And som time it is overglad, Al out of reule and out of space.

6. Superficial extent or area; also, extent in three dimensions.

1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) I. 51 Also Affrica in his kynde haþ lasse space. *c* 1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 8130 Also Crayke þai him gaue, With thre myle space aboute to haue. 1451 CAPGRAVE *Life St. Aug.* 3 Asia..conteyneth as mech in space as do þe othir too parties. 1602 SHAKS. *Ham.* II. ii. 261, I could..count my selfe a King of infinite space; were it not that I haue bad dreames. 1687 A. LOVELL tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* II. 78 Large Houses..which take up a great deal of space because of the spaciousness of the Gardens. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl., Space*, in Geometry, is the Area of any Figure. 1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 42 The more it is heated, the more space it takes up. 1845 STODDART *Gram.* in *Encycl. Metrop.* I. 7/1 We are so constituted, that we cannot conceive certain objects otherwise than as occupying space.

b. Extent or area sufficient for some purpose; room. Also const. *to* with inf.

c 1374 CHAUCER *Troylus* I. 714 Certeynly nò more hard grace May sit on me, for why? there is no space. *c* 1385 — *L. G. W.* 1999 *Ariadne*, [He] hath Rovme and eke space To welde an axe or swerde. 1573–80 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 91 Leaue space and roome, to hillock to coome. 1610 SHAKS. *Temp.* I. ii. 492 Might I but through my prison once a day Behold this Mayd:..space enough Haue I in such a prison. 1671 MILTON *P. R.* II. 339 Our Saviour..beheld In ample space under the broadest shade A Table richly spred. 1842 TENNYSON *'You ask me why'* iv, Where..The strength of some diffusive thought Hath time and space to work and spread. 1869 J. G. HOLLAND *Kathrina, Childhood & Youth* 49 The foul demon who would drive my soul To crime that leaves no space for penitence!

c. Extent or room in a letter, periodical, book, etc., available for, or occupied by, written or printed matter.

c 1530 *Pol., Rel., & L. Poems* (1866) 40, I write no more to you, for lacke of space. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* IV. 218 But streighten'd in my Space, I must forsake This Task. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) II. 298 With a studied brevity, his system comprehends the greatest variety, in the smallest space. 1866 *Chambers's Encycl.* VIII. 7/2 Various expressive adjectives,..into the consideration of which our space will not permit us to enter. 1885 *Encycl. Brit.* XVIII. 165/1 In the marginal glosses, where it was an object to save space. 1892 *Photogr. Ann.* II. 279 Nothing has been omitted on the score of space.

d. *On space*, paid according to the extent occupied by accepted contributions. *U.S.*

1902 ELIZ. BANKS *Newspaper Girl* 202 The woman.. if she is 'on space' will soon find the editors with 'no work on hand to-day—sorry—hope something will turn up to-morrow' attitudes.

7. *Metaph.* Continuous, unbounded, or unlimited extension in every direction, regarded as void of matter, or without reference to this. Freq. coupled with *time*.

1656 tr. *Hobbes' Elem. Philos.* (1839) 94 Space is the phantasm of a thing existing without the mind simply. 1734 J. KIRKBY tr. *Barrow's Math. Lect.* x. 176 Space is nothing else but the mere Power, Capacity, Ponibility, or..Interponibility of Magnitude. 1799 *Med. Jrnl.* I. 369 The necessary condition of our intuitive knowledge, i.e. that of space and time. 1892 WESTCOTT *Gospel of Life* 184 All our conceptions are defined by conditions of time and space.

8. *Astr.*, etc. The immeasurable expanse in which the solar and stellar systems, nebulæ, etc., are situated; the stellar depths.

1667 MILTON *P. L.* I. 650 Space may produce new Worlds. *Ibid.* VII. 89 This which yeelds or fills All space. 1816 SHELLEY *Daemon* I. 251 Each [orb] with undeviating aim ..through the depths of space Pursued its wondrous way. 1829 *Chapters Phys. Sci.* 411 They recede so far from us, as to be lost in the immensity of space. 1870 PROCTOR *Other Worlds than Ours* ii. 36 Our earth is as a minute island placed within the ocean of space.

b. In the phrase *into space*. Also *fig.*

1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. I, I, All Dubarrydom rushes off, with tumult, into infinite Space. 1873 HELPS *Anim. & Mast.* i. (1875) 6 The pamphlet has vanished into space. 1892 *Spectator* 2 Apr. 451/2 He broke away,..and plunged, with a few followers, apparently into space!

c. In more limited sense: Extension in all directions, esp. from a given point.

1827 FARADAY *Chem. Manip.* XXIII. (1842) 586 It is with equal difficulty that they throw off their heat by radiation into space or to other bodies. 1854 TOMLINSON *Arago's Astron.* 95 Suppose the body A is projected..into free space. 1885 LEUDESDORF *Cremona's Proj. Geom.* 33 In the above the geometric forms are supposed to lie in space.

***In particularized or limited senses.*

9. A certain stretch, extent, or area of ground, surface, sky, etc.; an expanse.

13.. *K. Alis.* 7146 (Laud MS.), On a pleyne he chesep a place, þat biclippeþ a mychel space. 1382 WYCLIF *Josh.* xvii. 18 But thow shalt passe to the hil,..and purge spacis to dwelle. 1432–50 tr. *Higden* (Rolls) I. 51 þerfore men..folowede not the measures of spaces but reasones of diuision. 1565 COOPER *Thesaurus* s.v. *Spatium*, Great and large spaces in wide roomes. 1577 B. GOOGE tr. *Heresbach's Husb.* 42 Though the Corne be laide..in the floores, yet let there be a space left in the middest. 1600 J. PORY tr. *Leo's Africa* App. 368 In which space is comprehended the fairest, fruitfullest, ..and most ciuill part of all Africk. 1651 HOBBES *Leviath.* II. xxi. 107 The water..that otherwise would spread it selfe into a larger space. 1713 tr. *Gregory's Astron.* (1726) I. 154 The Stars.., if they were ever more than seventeen in this Space, pass'd away into Comets. 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* I, The space around the building was silent, and apparently forsaken. 1812 BYRON *Ch. Har.* I. lxxii, The lists are oped, the spacious area clear'd,..No vacant space for lated wight is found. 1841 *Penny Cycl.* XXI. 171/1 A general change of temperature in the earth itself, or communicated from the planetary spaces around it. 1878 BROWNING *La Saisiaz* 6 No blue space in its outspread.. challenged my emerging head.

fig. 1592 TIMME *Ten Eng. Lepers* C ij, In religion there is both a centre and a space. 1727 BOLINGBROKE in *Occasional Writer* II. 28 Thus Avarice and Prodigality are at an immense distance; but there is a Space marked out by Virtue between them, where Frugality and Generosity reside together. 1856 *N. Brit. Rev.* XXVI. 57 These free spaces are found as well within the Established Church, as among the dissident bodies.

b. Const. *of* (ground, sea, etc.).

1565 COOPER *Thesaurus, Raucus tractus*, a long space of the sea makynge an hoarse noyse. 1665 MANLEY *Grotius' Low-C. Wars* 797 Taking into their Works..a great space of Ground without the Town. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* III. 531 So vast a Space Of Wilds unknown..Allures their Eyes. 1708 J. PHILIPS *Cyder* I. 459 Sailing the Spaces of the boundless Deep. 1746 FRANCIS tr. *Horace, Sat.* II. vi. 204 And now the Night, elaps'd Eleven, Possess'd the middle Space of Heaven. 1815 SHELLEY *Alastor* 405 A little space of green expanse. 1833 TENNYSON *Lady of Shalott* I. ii, Four gray towers Overlook a space of flowers. 1891 FARRAR *Darkn. & Dawn* XXXVII, The *graffito* scrawled upon every blank space of wall in Rome.

fig. 1601 SHAKS. *Jul. C.* IV. iii. 25 Shall we..sell the mighty space of our large Honors For so much trash. 1605 — *Lear* IV. vi. 278 Oh indistinguish'd space of Womans will. 1818 SHELLEY *Rosalind* 952 And then I sunk in his embrace, Enclosing there a mighty space Of love. *a* 1854 H. REED *Lect. Brit. Poets* XV. (1857) 355 The vast spaces of our English poetry.

† **c.** With poss. pron. The place where one takes up a position, residence, etc. *Obs. rare.*

c 1460 *Play Sacram.* 461 Yea goo we to than & take owr space & looke owr daggaris be sharpe & kene. 1606 SHAKS. *Ant. & Cl.* I. i. 34 Let..the wide Arch Of the raing'd Empire fall: Heere is my space.

d. *elliptt.* in pl. (Cf. sense 8.)

1821 SHELLEY *Hellas* Prol. 75 The senate of the Gods is met, Each in his rank and station set; There is silence in the spaces. 1871 B. TAYLOR *Faust* (1875) II. 6 But if there burst from these eternal spaces A flood of flame, we stand confounded ever.

10. A more or less limited area or extent; a small portion of space (in sense 6 or 8 c).

c 1380 *Sir Ferumb.* 2247 Neymes..3yf him a strok ounride wiþ-inne þe neckes space. *c* 1391 CHAUCER *Astrol.* I. § 2 This ring rennyth..in so Rowm a space þat hit desturbith nat the instrument. 14.. *Nom.* in Wr.-Wülcker 675 *Hoc intercilium*, the space betwene the eyn. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 351/1 þe Space be-twene sculders, *interscapulum*. 1530 PALSGR. 273/2 Space bytwene the eyes, *entroeil.* 1577 B. GOOGE tr. *Heresbach's Husb.* 42 Leauing open a space for twoo doores. 1594 T. B. *La Primaud. Fr. Acad.* II. 150 That there might bee a more free and easie space for the motion of the animal spirite. 1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey) *Vacuum Disseminatum*, or *Interspersum, i.e.* small void Spaces spread about between the Particles of Bodies. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Area*, The Elliptic Space P S D being drawn equal to the other A S B. 1827 FARADAY *Chem. Manip.* VI. (1842) 179 Even the space left open round the neck may be closed when desirable. 1845 LINDLEY *Sch. Bot.* (1854) 16 A viscid secreting space called the stigma. 1879 HARLAN *Eyesight* iii. 37 The most sensitive portion is a small space directly in the line of vision, called the yellow spot.

b. A part or portion marked off in some way; a division, section.

c 1391 CHAUCER *Astrol.* I. § 20 Next thise azymutz..ben ther 12 deuysiouns embelif,..þat shewen the spaces of the howres of planetes. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* VIII. XVI. (1495) 322 As the cercle that hyghte Zodiacus is dystyngued in xii spaces,..so the cercle of the sonne is distyngued in xii spaces. 1474 CAXTON *Chesse* IV. ii. (1883) 166 He may not meue but in to one space or poynt. 1625 N. CARPENTER *Geogr. Delin.* I. ix. (1635) 202 Spaces are portions in the Spheare bounded by the Parallel circles. 1669 STURMY *Mariner's Mag.* VII. XXIX. 44 Take a short space of a Ruler or Transom, and saw in one side of it a Notch. 1825 J. NICHOLSON *Operat. Mechanic* 129 Set those six spaces off upon a straight line for a base..; set off three spaces upon the perpendicular.

c. A void or empty place or part.

1837 P. KEITH *Bot. Lex.* 95 The..rudiment of the future seed, not yet inclosing a space. 1850 H. REED *Lect. Eng. Lit.* iv. (1855) 140 His human heart had large spaces to hold his fellow-beings in. 1888 ROLLESTON & JACKSON *Anim. Life* 131 The cilia..cause the currents of water to flow..into the interlamellar spaces.

11. An interval; a length of way; a distance.

1382 WYCLIF *Gen.* XXXII. 16 Goo 3e bifore me, and be there a space bitwixe flok and flok. 14.. *Sir Beues* (M.) 1130 And Beues rode forth swith harde Towarde the cite of Damas, That was a full feyre space. 1481–90 *Howard Househ. Bks.* (Roxb.) 200 The space to be a fote and halffe betwene the stodes. *a* 1533 LD. BERNERS *Huon* lviii. 198 He was a grete space before all his company. 1585 T. WASHINGTON tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* III. viii. 82 [They] go backwarde a certeine space. 1604 E. G[RIMSTONE] *D'Acosta's Hist. Indies* I. vi. 20 The firme land runnes an infinite space. 1634 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* 29 The space from one Boa [buoy] to another, is an hundred paces or more. 1743 W. EMERSON *Fluxions* 109 That is, the Space is always as the Square of the Time. 1807 WORDSW. *White Doe* VI. 161 Apart, some little space, was made The grave where Francis must be laid. 1810 SCOTT *Let. in Lockhart* (1837) II. viii. 304 It corresponds..very commonly with the proper and usual space between comma and comma. 1842 THORNTON *Mod. Cabinet Arts* 159 An appreciable difference in the space which separates the stars.

b. Const. *of* (the precise distance).

1382 WYCLIF *Gen.* XXX. 36 He..putte a space of thre daies weye bitwix hem and his dowʒtir husboond. *c* 1440 *Ipomydon* 1466 He had not slepyd..Not the space of a myle [etc.]. 1483 *Sc. Acts, Jas. III* (1875) XII. 32/2 He sal nocht cum..to þe space of sex myle neir þe place. 1526 TINDALE *Rev.* XIV. 20 Bloud cam out..by the space off a thowsande and iiij scoire furlongs. 1627 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* Ser. II. VIII. 402 He wes caryed doun in the streame thairof abone ane pair of buttis space.

c. *From space to space*, at (regular) intervals.

1763 MILLS *Pract. Husb.* IV. 368 To hang upon the vines, from space to space (the nearer the better), phials half filled with sugared water. 1814 SCOTT *Wav.* ix, A heavy balustrade, ornamented from space to space with huge grotesque figures of animals. 1831 — *Ct. Rob.* xvii, A long,..arched passage, well supplied with air from space to space.

d. A short distance.

1813 SCOTT *Rokeby* I. vii, Now Oswald stood a space aside. 1836 J. H. NEWMAN *Par. Serm.* III. vii. 105 He did not merely approach a space, and then stand as a coward.

† **12.** Course, custom, procedure. *Obs. rare.*

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 755, I schal my þro steke, & spare spakly of spyt in space of my þewez. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Prol.* 176 This ilke monk leet olde thinges pace, And helde after the newe world the space.

13. The dimensional extent occupied by a body or lying within certain limits.

1530 PALSGR. 273/2 Space of ones body, *corpsage*. 1675 R. BURTHOGGE *Causa Dei* 28 Some of the Platonists.. affirmed that the Place of Hell was all that space between the Moon..and This. 1678 HOBBES *Decam.* Wks. 1845 VII. 91 They cannot be parted except the air..can enter and fill the space made by their diremption. 1715 tr. *Gregory's Astron.* (1726) II. 702 That all the Air..is compress'd into the Space *A B Z X*. 1823 LAMB *Elia* II. *Old Margate Hoy*, The things do not fill up that space, which the idea of them seemed to take up in his mind. 1842 LOUDON *Suburban Hort.* 193 If we..take the space rendered opaque by the wood at 21 per cent.

14. *Mus.* One or other of the degrees or intervals between the lines of a staff.

1597 MORLEY *Introd. Mus.* 4 You must then recken downe from the Cliefe,..assigning to euerie space and rule a seuerall Keye. 1662 PLAYFORD *Skill Mus.* I. i. 3 The Gam-ut is drawn upon fourteen Rules, and their Spaces. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Staff*, Each Line and Space he [Guido Aretino] mark'd at the beginning of the Staff with Gregory's Seven Letters. 1782 MISS BURNEY *Cecilia* X. x, All that torment of first and second position, and E upon the first line, and F upon the first space! 1848 RIMBAULT *Pianoforte* 15 The additional lines and spaces above and

below the staff. 1883 *Grove's Dict. Mus.* III. 647/2 The spaces in the treble stave make the word *face*.

15. An interval or blank between words, or lines, in printed or written matter.

1676 J. MOXON *Print Lett.* 7 The Distance between one word and another is called a Space. 1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), *A Blank*, a void space in Writing. 1791 BOSWELL *Johnson* an. 1748 (Oxf. ed.) I. 128 The words..having been first written down with spaces left between them, he delivered in writing their etymologies [etc.]. 1849 CRAIG, *Leads*..[do] not make any impression in printing, but leave a white space where placed. 1908 [MISS FOWLER] *Betw. Trent & Ancholme* 21 Leaving a space for his own name.

b. *Typog.* One or other of certain small pieces of cast-metal, of various thicknesses and shorter than a type, used to separate words (or letters in a word), and also to justify the line.

1676 MOXON *Print Lett.* 11 You must indent your Line four Spaces at least. 1683 — *Mech. Exerc., Printing* xxii. ¶ 4 Thin-spaces being..Cast only that the Compositer may Justifie his Lines the Truer. 1771 LUCKOMBE *Hist. Print.* 278 We may count four sorts of Spaces for composing,.. besides Spaces for justifying, called Hair Spaces. 1808 STOWER *Printer's Gram.* 161 Spaces are cast to such a regular gradation, that no excuse can be offered..for irregular spacing. 1892 A. OLDFIELD *Man. Typog.* ii, There are five kinds of spaces: the en quadrat; thick space..; middle or 4-em spaces..; thin or 5-em spaces..; and hair spaces.

16. In specific uses (see quots.).

For *half-*, *quarter-space* see HALF- II. n, QUARTER *sb.* 30.

1846 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* VII. 207 (Short-horns), The part commonly called 'the space' from the hip to the rib is generally recommended to be short. 1883 M. P. BALE *Saw-Mills* 336 *Space*, the space is the distance from one saw tooth to another, measured at the points. 1884 COUES *N. Amer. Birds* 87 The former places [on a bird's skin] are called tracts or pterylæ.., the latter, spaces or apteria. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VI. 10 In some cases a distinct pulsation may also be felt in the second left [intercostal] space.

III. *attrib.* and *Comb.*

17. Simple attrib. **a.** In the sense of 'used for spacing (in printing, etc.)', as *space-key*, *-line*, *-rule*; also 'used for holding spaces', as *space-barge*, *-box*, *-paper*.

1771 LUCKOMBE *Hist. Print.* 282 Care should be taken by a Founder to cast Space rules to a true Straight-line. 1798 THORNE *Spec. Printing Types*, Space lines, 4 to english and 4 to pica. 1825 HANSARD *Typographia* Index, Leads or metal space lines. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade*, *Space-lines*, printers' leads for justifying, or filling up lines or words, made from 4 to 12 in pica. *Ibid.*, *Space-rule*, a thin piece of metal, type-height, of different lengths, used by compositors for making a delicate line in algebraic and other formulæ. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2677/1 By holding the space-key [of a type-writer] down while an 'I' and 'S' are struck. 1888 JACOBI *Printers' Vocab.* 129.

b. Relating to space as a general concept or relation, as *space-consciousness*, *-effect*, *-element*, *-image*, etc.

1862 SPENCER *First Princ.* II. v. § 59 (1875) 189 We can mentally diminish the velocity or space-element of motion. 1871 — *Princ. Psychol.* (1872) II. VI. xiv. 194 The various structures fitting the infant for apprehensions of space-relations. *Ibid.* 196 Some space-consciousness accompanies the sensation of taste. 1872 GREEN *Lett.* (1901) 338 The most wonderful church in point of space-effect (if I may coin the word) I ever saw. 1884 tr. *Lotze's Metaph.* 286 It is essential that the directions..should be unmistakably distinguished in the space-image. 1893 *Month* Apr. 483 It is contrary to all our experience of space-occupancy.

c. In applied mathematics, as *space-centrode*, *-integral*, *-locus*, *-path*, *-point*, etc.

1873 J. C. MAXWELL *Electr. & Magnetism* II. 187 The work done by the force $\mathcal{F}$ 1 during the impulse is the space integral of the force. 1881 *Ibid.* (ed. 2) I. 16, I shall call the vector $\mathcal{F}$ the space-variation of the scalar function ψ. 1882 MINCHIN *Unipl. Kinemat.* 41 Notation for Space-Points and for Body-Points. *Ibid.* 87 The rolling of the Body Centrode on the Space Centrode.

d. *U.S.* In the sense 'paid by or calculated upon the extent of space occupied', as *space-artist*, *-man*, *-writer*; *space-bill*, *rate*, *writing*.

1887 *Westm. Rev.* Oct. 858 The general substitution of 'space writing' for the work of salaried reporters. 1892 HOWELLS *Mercy* 116 He felt that as a space-man..his duty to his family required him to use every means for making copy. 1895 S. R. HOLE *Tour Amer.* 190 News editors, copy-readers, and space-writers. 1902 ELIZ. BANKS *Newspaper Girl* 233 Space artists get paid two dollars a single-column cut.

18. *Comb.* **a.** With adjs. and ppl. adjs., as *space-cramped*, *-embosomed*, *-spread*, *-thick*.

1683 MOXON *Mech. Exerc., Printing* xiii. ¶ 1 *Space thick*; that is, one quarter so thick as the Body is high. 1845 BAILEY *Festus* (ed. 2) 207 Visiting The spirits in their space-embosomed homes. *Ibid.* 217 The shade Of Death's dark valley And his space-spread wings. 1891 *Pall Mall G.* 26 Jan. 3/1 Our extracts, space-cramped as they necessarily are.

b. With ppl. adjs., as *space-filling*, *-occupying*, *-penetrating*, etc.

1799 *Phil. Trans.* XC. 81 The space-penetrating power is no higher than what will suffice for the purpose. 1817 COLERIDGE *Biogr. Lit.* (Bohn) 62 The soul was a thinking substance, and the body a space-filling substance. 1839 BAILEY *Festus* 326 Space-pervading, oh! ye must be, Spirit-like, infinite. 1848 *Ibid.* (ed. 3) 222 Space-piercing shadow alighting on the face Of some fair planet. 1862 SPENCER *First Princ.* II. vi. § 60 (1875) 191 The space-occupying kind of force. 1871 FRASER *Life Berkeley* x. 392 The presumed ontological antithesis between what is conscious and what is space-occupying.

19. Special combs.: **† space-government**, an interim government, interregnum; **space-lattice**, an open-work arrangement representing the internal structure of a crystal; **space-nerve** (see quot.); **space-telegrapher**, one concerned or connected with space-telegraphy; **space-telegraphy**, wireless telegraphy; **space-washer**, a washer serving to keep parts of machinery, etc., at a fixed distance apart.

1600 E. BLOUNT tr. *Conestaggio* 261 Knowing there was a *space-gouernement, with likelihood of warre. 1895 *Funk's Stand. Dict.*, **Space-nerve*, the portion of the auditory nerve that supplies the semicircular canals of the inner ear. 1899 *Nature* 12 Jan. 249 The problem is now fair game for the *space-telegraphers. 1898 *Engineering Mag.* XVI. 118/1 The methods of *space-telegraphy.

† Space, *sb.*[2] *Sc. Obs. rare.* [ad. F. *espèce*: see SPECE.] A species or kind (*of* money, etc.).

1591 *Sc. Acts, Jas. VI* (1814) III. 526/1 The diuersitie and chois of sindry space of money current within the same [*sc.* realm]. *Ibid.*, In ressauing and geving furth..all spaces of gold and siluer. *Ibid.*, Ane siluer space of money.

Space (spēs), *v.* Also 6 **spase**. [f. SPACE *sb.*[1], or ad. F. *espacer* († *espacier*, *espatier*) to space, etc., = Sp. *espaciar*, Pg. *espaçar*, It. *spaziare*, L. *spatiārī* to walk, to extend.]

† 1. *trans.* ? To pave or lay. *Obs.*—[1]

1538 LELAND *Itin.* (1769) VII. 71 Ther is a very large Courte buildyd about with Tymbar and spacyd withe Brike.

2. To limit or bound in respect of space; to make of a certain extent.

1548 GESTE *Pr. Massé* 86 Not placely as ther placed, spaced, and mesured, but ghostly as ther unplaced, unspaced, and not measured. 1578 *Gorg. Gallery Gallant Inv.* I, Her forehead seemely spaste, wherin doo shine her eyes. *a* 1628 F. GREVIL *Cælica* Prol. 2 A place there is..Deepe vnder depthes..; darke, infinitely spaced; Pluto the King. 1835 *Fraser's Mag.* XII. 416 In so far as Lamarck has defined nature to be motion,..space, and time, without reference to a being moving or moved,..or being timed and spaced.

3. † a. To divide into spaces or sections. Also const. *by* or *with*. *Obs. rare.*

1578 LYTE *Dodoens* 333 Dwarf Gentian hath rounde stalkes ..spaced with certayne knottie ioyntes. *Ibid.* 564 The stalke is crested, holowe within, spaced by ioyntes or knobbes. 1578 WHETSTONE *Promos & Cass.* II. I. iv, So space your roomes, as the nyne worthyes may Be so instauld, as best may please the eye.

b. *dial.* To measure (ground, etc.) by pacing.

1808 in JAMIESON. 1823– in dial. glossaries, etc.

4. To set or place, to arrange or put, at determinate intervals or distances.

1703 T. N. *City & C. Purchaser* 186 All Rafters are not spaced alike. 1715 LEONI *Palladio's Archit.* (1742) I. 16 This manner of spacing the Columns, is..call'd *Diastylos*. 1776 G. SEMPLE *Building in Water* 115 The flooring Joists ..are to be..spaced at 18 Inches asunder. 1891 *Pall Mall G.* 23 Oct. 5/1 Each spar was spaced 8 ft. apart.

absol. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 299/2 Some of the [blind-stile] machines space as well as bore or mortise.

b. Similarly with *out*.

1712 J. JAMES tr. *Le Blond's Gardening* 156 You space out and range all the others by them. *Ibid.* 160 The Plants are spaced out..at three Foot Distances. 1896 H. WOODWARD *Guide Fossil Reptiles Brit. Mus.* 119 *Sparnodus*.. is an extinct genus [of fish]..., having the teeth somewhat 'spaced out'. 1899 *Daily News* 19 Dec. 5/1 Ice..must..be thicker than that if it is to support a body of troops, or the men must be properly spaced out.

c. *refl.* (Also with *out*.)

1700 J. MONRO *Let.* in *Misc. Curiosa* (1708) III. 399 There is provided a noble and a vast convenience full of variety for the others, to space themselves freely and with pleasure in. 1896 C. K. PAUL tr. *Huysman's En Route* II. iv. 219 Mortifications space themselves out, fatigues are distributed over years and, on the whole, are easily borne.

5. *Typog.* **a.** With *out*: To extend to a required length by inserting additional space between the words (or lines).

1683 MOXON *Mech. Exerc., Printing* xxii. ¶ 8 He intends to Space-out the rest if it were not too Wide Set at first. *Ibid.*, Unless his Matter was..so Wide Set that he can Space out no more. 1816 SINGER *Hist. Cards* 132 The improved method of spacing out the lines. 1892 A. OLDFIELD *Man. Typog.* ii. 25 [It is advisable] to read copy whilst spacing out the line.

b. To separate (words, letters, or lines) by means of a space or spaces; occas. = prec.

In recent use also with ref. to type-writing.

1771 LUCKOMBE *Hist. Printing* 249 The care the Compositor took in spacing his matter. *Ibid.* 251 Small Capitals are generally Spaced, as well as Large Capitals. 1808 STOWER *Printer's Gram.* vi. 160 Where a line is even spaced, and yet requires justification. 1875 LIGHTFOOT *Comm. Col.* 231/1 This idea is..expressed..in the words which are spaced.

absol. 1771 LUCKOMBE *Hist. Printing* 398 To space open and wide, is no advantage to a Compositor.

† 6. *intr.* To walk, ramble, or roam. *Obs.*

a 1572 KNOX *Hist. Reform.* Wks. 1846 I. 137 The said Maister George spaced up and doune behynd the hie altar more then half ane houre. 1596 SPENSER *F. Q.* IV. viii. 54 That he sometimes may space And walke about her gardens of delight. *a* 1599 *Ibid.* VII. vi. 55 That Wolues, where she was wont to space, Should harbour'd be.

Spaced (spēst), *ppl. a.* [f. SPACE *sb.*[1] or *v.*]

1. *Typog.* Having the words separated by (a specified mode of) spacing.

1808 STOWER *Printer's Gram.* vi. 160 Not in a greater degree than a middling and thin space to a thick spaced line. 1892 A. OLDFIELD *Man. Typog.* ii. 20 Thin spaces.. are very useful in a close-spaced line.

2. Set at intervals or distances; *fig.* measured, regulated.

1873 F. JENKIN *Electr. & Magn.* xxii. § 12 Uniformly spaced central holes serve to move the paper on at a constant speed. 1898 *Westm. Gaz.* 1 Apr. 2/1 Between strangers.., a spaced, even a distant, courtesy is essential to develop lasting friendship.

3. Of braid, etc.: Woven or worked in spaces or divisions.

1882 CAULFEILD & SAWARD *Dict. Needlew.* 454/1 *Spaced Braid*...The spaces or divisions into which the two patterns are severally woven are alternately thick, or close and narrow, and comparatively wide and open. *Ibid.*, *Spaced Braid Work*, a variety of Modern Point Lace, but made without fancy stitches and with braids outlined with cord.

Spaceful (spē'sfŭl), *a. rare.* [f. SPACE *sb.*[1] + -FUL.] Spacious, commodious; wide, extensive.

1621 G. SANDYS *Ovid's Met.* III. (1626) 63 The ship in those profound And spacefull Seas, so stuck as on drie ground. 1906 MRS. HARKER *Paul & Fiammetta* xi, 'It's so spaceful, Janey,' she said.

Spacelate, obs. form of SPHACELATE *v.*

Spaceless (spē'slĕs), *a.* [f. SPACE *sb.*[1] + -LESS.]

1. That is not subject to or limited by space; infinite, boundless. Freq. coupled with *timeless*.

1606 J. DAVIES (Heref.) *Sir T. Overbury* Concl., Wks. (Grosart) II. 20/1 They can giue no grace Beyond the span of life: Poore spacelesse-space! *a* 1618 SYLVESTER *Little Bartas* 564 Wks. (Grosart) II. 90 Nor may wee aske, What th' eviternall-One, That space-lesse Space could find to doe alone. 1819 *Blackw. Mag.* V. 323 There timeless, spaceless, dwells the Eternal One. 1874 *Contemp. Rev.* XXIII. 403 The timeless and spaceless Essence. 1880 H. DRUMMOND *Ideal Life*, etc. (1897) 69 By going away He was in a spaceless land and in a timeless eternity.

2. Occupying no space.

1825 COLERIDGE *Aids Refl.* (1858) I. 394 If we exclude space.., the time remains as a spaceless point. 1874 GEO. ELIOT *Coll. Breakf.-P.* 116 A need That spaceless stays where sharp analysis Has shown a plenum filled without it.

Spacer (spē'sər). [f. SPACE *v.* + -ER[1].]

1. A device or piece of mechanism for spacing words; a piece of metal, etc., for making a space, interval, or division.

1884 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* Suppl. 911/2 By touching now the justifying-key, he caused the spacer to draw the line into another part of the [type-composing] machine to be justified. 1904 in *Cent. Dict. Suppl.* s.v., These ventilating spaces are obtained by means of metal spacers.

2. One who or that which spaces, or allows space, in a particular manner.

1888 *Encycl. Brit.* XXIV. 698/2 It [the cylindrical type-writing machine] is a variable spacer, giving more space to ..m and w than to..i, t, and l.

Spachi, obs. form of SPAHI.

Spacial(ity, -ly, varr. of SPATIAL(ITY, -LY.

† Spacie. *Obs. rare.* [ad. med.L. *spaci-um*, L. *spatium*: see SPACE *sb.*[1]] = SPACE *sb.*[1] 3 a.

1540 *Test. Ebor.* (Surtees) VI. 125 By the spacie of viij[th] yeres. 1541 *Ibid.* 135 To burne the spacie of xij days.

† Spacier, *v. Sc. Obs.* [ad. OF. *espacier*: see SPACE *v.* and cf. MDu. *spaceren*, *-ieren*, MHG. and G. *spazieren*.] *intr.* To walk or stroll.

1549 *Compl. Scotl.* vi. (1801) 58 Of this sort I did spaceir vp and doune but sleipe. [1819 W. TENNANT *Papistry Storm'd* (1827) 109 They spacier'd back and fore in bands.]

Spacing (spē'sĭŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. SPACE *v.*]

1. The action of the verb, in various senses, or the result of this action. Also with *out*. **a.** In printing or writing.

1683 MOXON *Mech. Exerc., Printing* xxii. ¶ 8 With too great Spacing-out or too Close Setting, he..may save himself a great deal of Labour. 1771 LUCKOMBE *Hist. Printing* 396 Spacing consists in putting a proper distance between words. *Ibid.*, In common Roman Matter, a moderate equal distance between word and word, is counted True Spacing. 1808 STOWER *Printer's Gram.* vi. 159 Close spacing is as unpleasant to the sight as wide spacing. 1862 *Macm. Mag.* Nov. 15 Where the printer can help by means of large letters and spacing. 1871 *Spectator* 22 Apr. 474 The difference between huddling and spacing out is one which depends partly on character.., very few men..spacing out their letters exactly alike.

b. In general use.

1874 THEARLE *Naval Archit.* 129 The sizes and spacing of the rivets must be regulated accordingly. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* IV. 31/2 The spacing of the beams depends largely upon the positions of the hatchways. 1895 *Jrnl. R. Inst. Brit. Archit.* 14 Mar. 349 There are other points of difference between the spacing out of the pictures.

attrib. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2251 *Spacing and Boring Machine*, (Wood-working,) a machine for boring blind-stiles, sashes, etc., at accurately equal distances. 1882 CAULFEILD & SAWARD *Dict. Needlew.* 442/2 *Spacing Lace*..does not intimate a particular kind of lace, but lace used for a certain purpose.

2. *Med.* Period of time, esp. between the attacks of malarial fever.

1898 P. MANSON *Trop. Diseases* ii. 48 The fever.., except in the matter of the spacing, which is one of forty-eight hours, resembles that caused by the quartan parasite. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 207 The intervals between words —the spacing or order in time of utterance—may be irregular.

3. Breadth of treatment; spaciousness.

1877 MORLEY *Crit. Misc.* Ser. II. 257 If we are now and then conscious in the book of a certain want of spacing,.. a sense of being too narrowly enclosed.

† Spaciosity. *Obs. rare.* Also 7 **spat-.** [ad. F. *spaciosité* (also † *spatiosité*, = It. *spaziosità*, Sp. *espaciosidad*) or late L. *spatiōsitas*, f. *spatiōsus*

SPACIOUS *a.*] **a.** A hollow or cavity. **b.** Spaciousness; extensiveness.

1541 R. COPLAND *Guydon's Quest. Chirurg.* L iv b, In depe woundes that haue nede to be serched for the lycour that assembleth in the botome of the spaciosite. 1620 SHELTON *Quix.* II. IV. xvi. 204 That you may behold..the Knitting of the Muscles, and the Spaciosity and Breadth of the Veins. 1694 R. BURTHOGGE *Reason* v. § 1. 108 Of spatiosity or extension..I shall have occasion to discourse hereafter, when I come to speak of quantity.

Spacious (spē·ʃəs), *a.* Also 4–5 **spaciouse**, 5 **-yous**, 6–7 **spatious**. [ad. L. *spatiōsus* (med. L. *spaciōsus*), f. *spatium* SPACE *sb.*1, or OF. *spacios*, *spacieux* (F. *spacieux*, = It. *spazioso*, Sp. and Pg. *espacioso*).]

1. Of lands, etc.: Of vast, large, or indefinite superficial extent or area; wide, widely extended, extensive.

1382 WYCLIF *Isaiah* xxii. 18 He shal sende thee in to a brod lond and spacious. *Ibid.* xxviii. 2 Sent out vp on the spaciouse erthe. 1480 CAXTON *Myrr.* III. xx. 179 The firmamente..is so spacyous, so noble and so large. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* III. i. 20 But faire before the gate a spatious plaine, Mantled with greene, it selfe did spredden wyde. 1602 MARSTON *Antonio's Rev.* I. v, That's a large lye, as vast as spatious hell. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* II. 571 Commend the large Excess Of spacious Vineyards; cultivate the less. 1748 GRAY *Alliance* 22 This spacious animated scene survey. 1784 COWPER *Task* I. 164 Ouse, slow winding through a level plain Of spacious meads. 1884 *Marshall's Tennis Cuts* 171 The spacious grounds were looking lovely.

transf. and *fig.* 1602 SHAKS. *Ham.* v. ii. 90 He hath much Land, and fertile:..'tis a Chowgh; but as I saw spacious in the possession of dirt. 1606 — *Tr. & Cr.* II. iii. 261 Thy wisdome, Which..confines Thy spacious and dilated parts. 1821 SHELLEY *Adonais* xlvii, Dart thy spirit's light.., until its spacious might Satiate the void circumference.

b. Covering a considerable distance.

1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* (1658) 242 It is better to qualifie their rage in long and spacious direct journies then in often windings and turnings. 1638 JUNIUS *Paint. Ancients* 226 Mettled horses are best knowne by a spacious race. 1695 LD. PRESTON *Boeth.* IV. 162 And when this spatious Course is run, She to the outmost Sphere doth come.

†**c.** Wide-spread; widely spoken. *Obs.*

c 1645 HOWELL *Lett.* II. lvi. (1892) 463 The High-Dutch or Teutonic Tongue is one of the prime and most spacious maternal Languages of Europe. *Ibid.* lx. 477 The most spacious Dialect of the Hebrew is the Syriac.

2. Of dwellings, rooms, etc.: Having or affording ample space or room; large, roomy, commodious.

1382 WYCLIF *Jer.* xxii. 14, I shal bilde vp to me a large hous, and spacious souping places. 1597 HOOKER *Eccl. Pol.* V. xv. § 3 The former buildings which were but of mean and small estate contented them not, spacious and ample churches they erected throughout every city. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* (1637) 294* King Stephen erected a spacious Castle. 1687 MIÉGE *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II. s.v., A spacious Building...A spacious Room. 1770 LANGHORNE *Plutarch* (1851) II. 587/1 [He] hid himself in a spacious cave there. 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* xiii, They presently entered a spacious and ancient chamber. 1832 LYTTON *Eugene A.* I. v. 26 Though it was summer.., the log burnt on the spacious hearth. 1844 H. H. WILSON *Brit. India* I. 117 Spacious barracks were severally appropriated to the use of the European and native troops. 1880 MISS BRADDON *Just as I am* vii, The drawing-room was a spacious and lofty room.

b. Similarly of roads, streets, courts, etc.

1588 SHAKS. *Titus A.* II. i. 114 The Forrest walkes are wide and spacious. 1607 DEKKER *Knt.'s Conjur.* (1842) 22 The wayes are delicate, euen, spatious, and very faire. 1673 RAY *Journ. Low C.* 21 Middleburgh is the capital City of Zealand,..having spatious Streets. 1767 LADY M. W. MONTAGU *Lett.* II. xlvi. 33 The court leading into it is very spacious. 1796 MORSE *Amer. Geog.* I. 155 The streets are spacious and regular. 1809–10 COLERIDGE *Friend* (1865) 18 The spacious outer court was crowded with men and women.

c. quasi-*adv.* Spaciously.

1667 MILTON *P. L.* VIII. 102 Let it speak The Makers high magnificence, who built So spacious.

3. Of things: Presenting, having, or covering a comparatively wide surface; large, ample, expansive.

1631 WEEVER *Anc. Funeral Mon.* 743 Where this spatious Grauestone lies couched. 1663 BUTLER *Hud.* I. iii. 1303 Or that his snout and spacious Ears Do hold proportion with a Bear's. 1727 SWIFT *Market Hill Thorn* Wks. 1755 IV. I. 87 There stood..A spacious thorn before the gate. 1819 SHELLEY *Peter Bell 3rd* IV. xv, Then Peter..smoothed his spacious forehead down With his broad palm. 1847 C. BRONTË *Jane Eyre* i, Thick lineaments in a spacious visage, heavy limbs and large extremities.

b. Of large size; bulky.

1655 VAUGHAN *Silex Scint.* II. 153 The comely, spacious whale. 1867 F. H. LUDLOW *Little Brother* 44 After sundry hustlings, from hurrying men, spacious lounging ladies and busy workmen.

c. Roomy, capacious.

1819 BYRON *Juan* II. clx, They furnish'd him..With a clean shirt, and very spacious breeches.

4. Great, extensive, ample.

1595–7 DANIEL *Civ. Wars* IV. xviii, They, being so mightie, and so popular, And their command so spacious as it was, Might..forget [etc.]. 1605 SHAKS. *Mach.* IV. iii. 71 You may Conuey your pleasures in a spacious plenty, And yet seeme cold. 1607 MIDDLETON *Michaelmas Term* II. i. 101 It seems..your credit [is] very spacious here i' th' city. 1651 tr. *De-las-Coueras' Don Fenise* 280 Charitie was altogether charmed with these spatious consolations. 1704 SWIFT *Tale Tub* Introd., Being a type, a sign,..bearing analogy to the spacious Commonwealth of writers. 1870 LOWELL *Among my Bks.* Ser. I. (1873) 253 What a subject would that have been for a person of Mr. Masson's spacious predilections!

†**b.** That is such on a large scale. *Obs.*—1

1599 B. JONSON *Ev. Man out of Hum.* I. iii, Is't possible that such a spacious villaine should live, and not be plagu'd?

5. Characterized by greatness, breadth, or comprehensiveness of views or sympathies.

c 1600 SHAKS. *Sonn.* CXXXV, Thou whose will is large and spatious. 1635 SHIRLEY *Lady of Pleasure* v. i, They have souls more spacious than Kings. 1697 W. MOLYNEUX in *Locke's Lett.* (1708) 214 Your chapter concerning the conduct of the understanding must needs be very sublime and spacious. 1833 TENNYSON *Dream Fair Women* ii, Those melodious bursts that fill The spacious times of great Elizabeth With sounds that echo still. 1875 LOWELL *Spenser* Prose Wks. 1890 IV. 307 In this eclogue he gives hints of that spacious style which was to distinguish him. 1894 *Macm. Mag.* June 160/2 Of the few great men I have known..Kossuth's [was] the most spacious nature.

6. Prolonged; occupying a considerable time.

1642 MILTON *Apol. Smect.* Wks. 1851 III. 254 Neglecting the maine bulk of all that spacious antiquity, which might stunne children, but not men. 1647 HEXHAM I, A spacious time, *een langen tijdt*.

Spaciously (spē·ʃəsli), *adv.* Also 7 **spatiously**. [f. prec. + -LY 2.]

1. In a spacious house or place.

1382 WYCLIF *Isaiah* xxx, 23 Ther shul be fed in thi possessioun in that day the lomb spaciously [L. *spatiose*]. 1651 DAVENANT *Gondibert* I. vi. 38 Most spaciously we dwell. 1726 LEONI *Alberti's Archit.* I. 98/2 He can.. receive strangers handsomely and spaciously.

2. Amply; largely.

1608 MIDDLETON *Mad World* II. i, Your honour is most spaciously welcome. *a* 1668 DAVENANT *Distresses* IV. i, Though not spaciously Possess'd of Lands, his Honor.. May equal any Mans.

3. At great length; with great fulness.

1605 CAMDEN *Rem.* (1623) 12 Good Lord, how spaciously might a learned pen walke in this argument? 1652 NEEDHAM tr. *Selden's Mare Cl.* 29 So spaciously did Chizzola dilate in speaking of the opinion of the Lawyers. 1715 M. DAVIES *Athen. Brit.* I. 8 Those News-mongers were oblig'd to write spaciously, or a great deal.

4. So as to comprehend or cover much space; extensively.

1603 KNOLLES *Hist. Turks* (1638) 2 A rough and desart country..spaciously extended euen as far as vnto the Arympheians. 1687 MIÉGE *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II. s.v., A Thing that spreads spaciously. 1846 DANA *Zoöph.* (1848) 625 Membranaceous and internally spatiously cellular.

5. With largeness of manner.

1865 DICKENS *Mut. Fr.* I. xi, 'How Do You Like London? ..You find it Very Large?' said Mr. Podsnap, spaciously.

Spaciousness (spē·ʃəsnés). Also 7 **spatiousness**(e. [f. as prec. + -NESS.]

1. The state or quality of being wide, spacious, or commodious; extensiveness of area or dimensions; roominess.

1601 R. JOHNSON *Kingd. & Commw.* (1603) 168 Numbers which may be imagined by the spaciousnes of his dominions. 1631 GOUGE *God's Arrows* v. § 15. 427 How farre do they exceed in spaciousnesse the Kingdome of Jehosaphat. 1715 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 5336/2 The Apartments of the States of Brabant..are the finest..for their Spaciousness. 1759 JOHNSON *Rasselas* I. xiii. 95 Yonder palace was raised by single stones, yet you see its height and spaciousness. 1798 *Monthly Rev.* XXVI. 248 A profuse employment of columns gives to his original model an inviting spaciousness. 1864 KERR *Gentlem. House* 83 Somewhat opposed to spaciousness..is the exquisite quality of compactness. 1885 *Manch. Exam.* 8 Apr. 5/1 The spaciousness and stately sweep of Sackville-street.

transf. 1841 MYERS *Cath. Th.* IV. § 34. 352 A certain roundness of numbers, and spaciousness of margin.

2. Largeness or breadth of mind, views, etc.

1657 W. COLES *Adam in Eden* To Rdr., So great was that spatiousnesse of mind that God had bestowed on him.

Spack, *a.* and *adv.* *Obs.* exc. *dial.* Also 3–4 **spac**, 4 **spak**, **spake**; 7 **spackt**, 9 **spact**. [a. ON. *spak-r* (MSw. *spaker*, Norw. and Sw. *spak*, Da. *spag*) quiet, gentle, wise, clever.]

A. *adj.* **1.** Of persons: Quick, prompt, ready; intelligent, clever. Now *dial.*

c 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 183 To gode þu ware slau and let, and to euele spac and hwat. *a* 1240 *Lofsong* in *O. E. Hom.* I. 205 Ich habbe..inumen mis, and mis etholden ofte, tovel spac, and slow to Godd. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* C. 169 Þenne bispeke þe spakest dispayred wel nere. 1674 RAY *N. C. Words* 44 A *Spackt* Lad or Wench: apt to learn, ingenious. 1818– in dial. glossaries (Chesh., Derby, Leics., etc.). *a* 1904 in *Eng. Dial. Dict.* s.v., [In Bedfordshire] a child is said to be 'not very spack'.

†**2.** Gentle, quiet, tame. *Obs. rare.*

1303 R. BRUNNE *Handl. Synne* 319 Y sagh hyt [*sc.* the Spirit] so mylde and spake, Þat with my hande y myght hyt take. *Ibid.* 7486 For hyt [*sc.* the bird] sate by hym so spake [*gloss.* tame].

†**B.** *adv.* Quickly, promptly, speedily. *Obs.*

13.. *Orfeo* 305 (Auchinleck MS.), His sclauain he dede on, al so spac, And henge his harp opon his bac. *c* 1330 *King of Tars* 774 The soudan com in that was so blak, The child heo schewed him also spak. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* C. 104 [The sailors] sprude spak to þe sprete þe spare bawe-lyne.

†**Spackly,** *adv.* *Obs.* Forms: 4 **spacli**, 5 **-ly**, 4 **spakli** (**-liy**), 4–5 **-ly**, 5 **spakely**; 4 **spaclyche**, **spaklich**(e. [f. SPACK *a.* Cf. ON. *spakliga*, MSw. *spaklika*.]

1. Speedily, quickly; actively.

Freq. in 14th cent. poetry; in some examples the sense is not quite clear.

c 1310 in Wright *Lyric P.* x. 37 Such reed me myhte spaclyche reowe. *c* 1350 *Will. Palerne* 5456 þe king of spayne spacli spedde him þan to horse. 1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. XVII. 81 And spes spaklich hym spedde, spede if he myzte, To ouertake hym. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 2975 With þat he ..Sparis out spacly as sparke out of gledes.

2. Prudently, knowingly, wisely.

c 1350 *Will. Palerne* 19 þe child..was..breme of his age, For spakly speke it coupe tho, & spedeliche to-wawe. *c* 1400 *Sege Jerus.* 784 Or y wende fro þis walle, ȝe schul wordes schewe & efte spakloker speke.

Spackyll, Spacle, obs. varr. SPECKLE *v.*

Spacy (spē·si), *a.* [f. SPACE *sb.*1 + -Y.] Large, roomy, spacious. Hence **Spa·ciness.**

1885 *Art Jrnl.* 189/2 A sense of spaciness in the picture. 1891 C. JAMES *Rom. Rigmarole* vii. 62 My study lamp.. throwing a mellow light upon my desk, [and] my spacy blotting-pad.

†**Spa·ddle.** *Obs.*—1 [Alteration of PADDLE *sb.*1 1, after SPADE *sb.*1 Cf. SPATTLE *sb.*] A small spade.

1669 WORLIDGE *Syst. Agric.* 193 Others destroy them [*sc.* moles] very expeditiously by a Spaddle, waiting in the mornings when they usually stir.

Spade (spēd), *sb.*1 Also 4, 7 **spad**; *Sc.* 6–7 **sped**, 6–7 **spaid**. [OE. *spadu*, *spædu* fem., and *spade* fem. or *spada* masc., = OFris. *spada* (EFris. *spâde*, NFris. *spade*, *spâ*, *spaar*), MDu. *spade* (Du. *spade*, *spa*), OS. *spado* masc. (MLG. *spade*, LG. *spade-n*, *spâ*), G. *spaten* (†*spate*, *spat*; not recorded in OHG. or MHG., and perh. from LG., which is the source of MDa. *spade*, *spaade*, MSw. *spadhe*, Da., Sw., Norw. *spade*, Icel. *spaði*). Closely related to Gr. σπάθη wooden blade, paddle, sword, etc., whence L. *spatha*: see SPADE *sb.*2 and SPATHE.]

1. A tool for digging, paring, or cutting ground, turf, etc., now usually consisting of a flattish rectangular iron blade socketed on a wooden handle which has a grip or cross-piece at the upper end, the whole being adapted for grasping with both hands while the blade is pressed into the ground with the foot.

In more primitive forms, or for special purposes, the blade also may be wholly or partly made of wood, and its lower extremity is sometimes rounded or pointed.

c 725 *Corpus Gloss.* U 13 *Uangas*, spadan. *c* 1000 ÆLFRIC *Saints' Lives* II. 50 Ic nat mid hwi ic delfe, nu me swa wana is æȝþer ȝe spadu ȝe mattuc. *a* 1100 *Gerefa* in *Anglia* IX. 263 Side, sicol, weodhoc, spade, scofle. *c* 1150 *Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 550 *Uangæ, uel fossorium*, spade. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 384 ȝif eax ne kurue, ne þe spade ne dulue, ne þe suluh ne erede, hwo kepte ham uorte holden? *c* 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 270 þe eorþe was hard,..and none spade he nadde. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 1239 For-wroght wit his hak and spad Of him-self he wex al sad. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* II. 128 So that in stede of schovele and spade The scharpe sword was take on honde. *c* 1440 *Alph. Tales* cxix. 84 With a spade he smate hur in sonder. 1474 CAXTON *Chesse* III. i. (1883) 76 The spade or shouell is for to delue & labour therwith the erthe. 1523 FITZHERB. *Husb.* § 17 He wyll with a shouell, or a spade, caste out all that is fallen in the rygge. 1591 SPENSER *Virg. Gnat* 653 His yron headed spade tho making cleene, To dig vp sods out of the flowrie grasse. 1630 *R. Johnson's Kingd. & Commw.* 33 The gunne hath brought all weapons to an equality...Nothing resists it but the spade. 1671 MILTON *P. R.* III. 331 Of labouring Pioners A multitude with Spades and Axes arm'd. 1729 SWIFT *Corr.* Wks. 1841 II. 626, I knew an old lord..who amused himself with mending pitchforks and spades for his tenants *gratis*. 1784 COWPER *Task* III. 636 Strength may wield the pond'rous spade. 1842 LOUDON *Suburban Hort.* 315 They were so tender as to be much injured by the spade in the process of lifting. 1866 ROGERS *Agric. & Prices* I. xxi. 540 The spade of the Middle Ages was generally a wooden frame tipped with iron.

fig. 1340 *Ayenb.* 108 Þanne nymþ he his pic and his spade and beginþ to delue and to myny, and geþ in-to his herte. 1594 *Selimus* Greene's Wks. (Grosart) XIV. 203 Good sir, your wisedomes ouerflowing wit, Digs deepe with learnings wonder-working spade. 1890 R. BRIDGES *Shorter Poems* III. 13 The heartless spade of death.

b. The depth of a spade-blade; a spit.

1674 N. FAIRFAX *Bulk & Selv.* 186 You cannot dig many spades in mold or growthsom earth, before you come at a dead soyl. 1764 *Museum Rust.* II. 377 After I have got through the surface, which is about a spade and half deep. 1786 ABERCROMBIE *Gard. Assist.* 13 Let borders for wall-trees..be well trenched, two spades deep. 1812 SIR J. SINCLAIR *Syst. Husb. Scot.* I. Add. 8 Beginning at one end of the place where the earth is to be taken, and..taking off a spade deep (about eight inches).

c. The length of a spade with its handle.

1825 CROKER *Trad. S. Ireland* 250 'Tis about ten spades from this to the cross. 1827 STEUART *Planter's G.* (1828) 193 The dimensions are then to be marked out..at two 'Spades' and a half distant from the stake, or about eighteen feet diameter.

2. Phr. *To call a spade a spade*, to call things by their real names, without any euphemism or mincing of matters; to use plain or blunt language; to be straightforward to the verge of rudeness.

In the ultimate source of the first quotation, Plutarch's *Apophthegmata* 178 B, the Greek words are τὴν σκάφην σκάφην λέγοντας. There is no evidence that σκάφη (a trough, basin, bowl, boat, etc.) had the sense of 'spade'; in rendering it by *ligo* Erasmus evidently confused it with σκαφεῖον or other derivatives from the stem of σκάπτειν to dig. Lucian *De Hist. Consor.* 41 gives a fuller form of the phrase, τὰ σῦκα σῦκα, τὴν σκάφην δὲ σκάφην ὀνομάσων.

1542 UDALL *Erasm. Apoph.* 167 Philippus aunswered, that the Macedonians wer feloes of no fyne witte in their termes,

but altogether grosse, clubbyshe, and rusticall, as they whiche had not the witte to calle a spade by any other name then a spade. 1580 GIFFORD *Posie of Gilloflowers* Wks. (Grosart) 101, I cannot say the crow is white, But needes must call a spade a spade. 1589 *Marprel. Epit.* A ij, I am plaine, I must needs call a Spade a Spade. 1630 *Pathomachia* IV. ii. 34, I am a plaine Macedonian, I must need call a Spade, a Spade. 1647 TRAPP *Marrow Gd. Authors in Comm. Ep.* 641 Gods people shall not spare to call a spade a spade, a niggard a niggard. 1706 E. WARD *Hud. Rediv.* I. vii. 11 This is not Time of Day For Truth to be so obvious made, We must not call a Spade, a Spade. 1732-8 SWIFT *Polite Conv.* 199, I am old Tell-Truth; I love to call a Spade a Spade. 1837 W. IRVING *Capt. Bonneville III.* 115 They are the most unsavory vagabonds in their ordinary colloquies; they make no hesitation to call a spade a spade. 1884 *Punch* 15 Nov. 229/2 If it is absolutely necessary to call a spade a spade then it must be done in a whisper.

b. In allusions to the above phrase.

1677 W. HUGHES *Man of Sin* III. iii. 57 As surely as a Spade is a Spade, and ought so to be called. 1728-31 *Lett. from Fog's Frnl.* (1732) I. 258 A Spade with me was always a Spade, and Coscia a blundering Knave. 1816 J. W. CROKER in *C. Papers* (1884) I. iii. 98 Everything goes by its proper name; a spade is a spade; and a bayonet a bayonet. 1859 TROLLOPE *West Indies* ix. 123 A spade is a spade, and it is worse than useless to say that it is something else.

3. An implement resembling a spade in form or use: **a.** One or other of various spade-like knives used by whalers, esp. one employed in flensing a whale; a blubber-spade.

1820 SCORESBY *Acc. Arctic Reg.* II. 511 Wood for harpoon and lance-stocks; handles of knives, spades, prickers [etc.]. 1845 J. COULTER *Adv. in Pacific* vii. 75 They each have long spades, and cut the blubber the proper breadth spirally from the base of the head to the flukes. 1887 GOODE *Fisheries U.S.* 264 The officer of the boat..would thrust the sharp-edged spade into the 'small'.

b. A tool used in seal-engraving to remove irregularities of surface.

1850 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* III. 1368 A tool called a spade, consisting of a piece of soft iron about 3 or 4 inches long, the end of which is filed at an angle of 45 degrees, and charged with diamond powder. The spade is held in the fingers like a pencil.

c. A spade-like attachment serving to increase the grip of a wheel, retard the motion of a conical pendulum, check the recoil of a gun-carriage, etc.

1862 *London Rev.* 23 Aug. 176 Up to this time the plain surface of the wheels only had been in use, and now..the engine-driver brought in the auxiliary power of the spades, and protruding them a short distance through the wheels, at once doubled the powers of the engine. 1884 F. J. BRITTEN *Watch & Clockm.* 67 In a conical pendulum there is generally a spade attached to and revolving with the pendulum bob, so arranged that..the spade dips deeper into a vessel containing glycerine. 1898 E. S. MAY *Field Artillery* 294 The first round fired forces the spade into the ground. *Ibid.* 328 A spade..is attached to the end of the trail and checks the recoil of the lower carriage.

4. *attrib.* and *Comb.* **a.** With sbs., in attrib. or other relations, as *spade attachment, -carrier, -cultivation, cutting*, etc.

1899 *Westm. Gaz.* 29 Dec. 5/2 The quick-firing *spade attachment..fitted to all our gun carriages in South Africa. 1895 *Daily News* 15 Feb. 6/4 He speaks casually of seeing the *spade-carriers erecting some earthworks to shelter the outlying Circassians. 1846 MCCULLOCH *Acc. Brit. Empire* (1854) I. 381 *Spade cultivation general. 1859 CORNWALLIS *New World* I. 105 We passed several gangs of men levelling it by *spade-cutting. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 702/2 Fig. 1654 represents one kind [of digging-machine] in which the *spade-handles pass through guide-slots in an upper bar. 1832 HT. MARTINEAU *Homes Abroad* ii. 27 The soil shall be improved to the utmost by *spade-husbandry. 1771 in *Monthly Messenger* July (1906) 192/1 Richard Lumley, *spademaker in Swalwell. 1843 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* I. 210 Much heavier hammers..are used by the spade-makers for planishing. 1885 S. LANE-POOL *Coins & Medals* 202 Of the *tch'ang*, or adze or *spade-pattern, we know..that some were cast specially for the purpose of currency. 1832 *Planting* 37 (L. U. K.), *Spade planting applies to land prepared for the reception of the plants by trenching. 1868 *Rep. U.S. Commissioner Agric.* (1869) 252 A mode of setting Osage thorn quicks, known as *spade-setting, consists in opening a line of slits in the surface soil..with a long, narrow spade. 1542 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* VIII. 132 Item, for vj *spaid schaftis deliverit to Johnne Drummond. 1778 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 2) I. 145/1 An iron plough..drawn by a horse..will save much *spade-work. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. i. xi, He that has four limbs and a French heart can do spadework. 1901 LD. ROSEBERY *Nat. Policy* (1902) *note on cover*, Political energy must work and entrench. I want some of this spadework on behalf of this policy.

b. With adjs. and pa. ppples., as *spade-cut, -deep, -dug, -like*, etc. Also *spade-wise* adv.

1891 S. C. SCRIVENER *Our Fields & Cities* 138 A section of the exposed *spade-cut surface. 1823 J. BADCOCK *Dom. Amusem.* 29 A *spade-deep excision for the planks..to rest upon. 1842 LANCE *Cottage Farmer* 11 Other corn crops..if *spade dug, dibbled, and hoed, will be equally profitable. 1891 *Cent. Dict.* s.v. *Scaphiopodinæ*, A sub-family..containing the American *spade-footed toads. 1901 GADOW *Amphibia & Reptiles* 162 The 'Spade-footed Toad', which occurs throughout the whole of Central Europe. 1898 *Westm. Gaz.* 1 Sept. 3/2 The oft so-called *spade-fronted sort of Eton coatie. 1611 COTGR., *Louchet*, a..*spade-like instrument, halfe headed with yron. 1850 E. CLARK *Britannia & Conway Bridges* II. 597 The flat spade-like portion of the bolt. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* IV. 472 The condition of the hands..has been aptly described as spade-like by Sir William Gull. 1783 BARBUT *Gen. Vermium* 93/1 The *Spade-shaped Sea Urchin. 1876 J. H. KIDDER *Kerguelen Isl.* II. 74 (Smithsonian Misc. Collect.), Mouth shields broad, spade-shaped. 1891 *Daily News* 15 Sept. 3/1 One acre of *spade trenched land of average quality. 1646 J. HALL *Poems* I. 5 Whether he Did cut his beard *spadwise or like a T. 1655 MARQ. WORCESTER *Cent. Inv.* 92 The bottom made of Iron-plate Spade-wise.

5. Special combs.: **spade-arm**, the arm used in holding the hand-grip of a spade; **spade-bayonet** (see quot.); **spade-bit** *dial.*, a spit of earth; **spade-bolt**, a form of bolt used in iron-work; **spade-chisel**, a chisel having a broad spade-shaped end; **spade-coin**, = *spade money*; **spade-farm**, a farm cultivated by manual labour with the spade; hence *spade-farming*; **spade-fish**, a fish resembling a spade in form; now *spec.* the moon-fish, *Chætodipterus faber*; **spade-foot**, (*a*) the foot used in pressing a spade into the ground; (*b*) an enlargement on a chair-leg, etc., resembling a spade; (*c*) a toad having a foot specially adapted for digging; also *attrib.*; **spade-guinea**, a guinea coined from 1787 to 1799, on which the shield bearing the arms has the form of a pointed spade; **spade-hind** (see quot.); **spade-money**, early Chinese bronze money made in the form of spades; †**spade-peak**, a spade-beard; **spade-peat** (see quot.); **spade-press**, *Austr.* a wool-press in which fleeces are compressed by means of a spade; †**spade-silver**, *Sc.* payment for spade-work; †**spade-staff**, a plough-staff, a pattle; †**spade-stale, spade-tree** (now *dial.*), a spade-handle; **spade-trench** *v.*, to dig deeply with a spade; **spade-wheel**, the wheel in a digging machine which carries the spades.

1801 MAR. EDGEWORTH *Contract* (1832) 157, I should not well be able to manage it with the rheumatism in my *spade-arm. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2252/1 **Spade-bayonet*, a broad-bladed bayonet, which may be used in digging shelter-holes or rifle-pits. 1790 W. H. MARSHALL *Rur. Econ. Midl.* II. 442 **Spade-bit*, the quantity of soil raised by one effort of the spade. 1850 E. CLARK *Britannia & Conway Bridges* II. 597 These bolts are 3 inches in diameter, and have been technically called '*spade-bolts'; they are attached..by means of the flat spade-like portion of the bolt. 1895 E. ROWE *Chip Carving* 29 The simplest way..is to use the *spade chisel. 1892 TERRIEN DE LACOUPERIE *Catal. Chinese Coins* Introd. p. xxxviii, The classification and identification of these *spade-coins. 1851 KINGSLEY *Yeast* vi, Among..*spade farms, and model smell-traps. 1871 — *At Last* xvi, He has not..handiness enough for the more delicate work of a little spade-farm. *Ibid.*, Garden-tillage and *spade-farming are not learnt in a day. 1704 T. POCOCK in *Torrington Mem.* (Camden) 184 We took up this morning a *spade fish...The spade-fish was fry'd. 1805 T. M. HARRIS *State of Ohio* 116 (Thornton), There is a curious fish called the Spade-Fish,..with a bony weapon projecting from the nose..like a narrow shovel. 1884 GOODE *Nat. Hist. Aquat. Anim.* 445 The Moon-fish, *Chætodipterus faber*...In the northern parts of the Gulf of Mexico it is called the 'Spade-fish'. 1891 SIR D. WILSON *Right Hand* 170, I believe every boy will hop on his *spade foot. 1897 K. W. CLOUSTON *Chippendale Period in Eng. Furn.* 154 By using the 'spade foot', as the square excrescence at the thin end of the leg is called. 1899 *Proc. Zool. Soc.* 790 On the American Spade-foot (*Scaphiopus solitarius*). 1901 GADOW *Amphibia & Reptiles* 163 *Pelobates cultripes*, this is the Spade-foot of the whole of Spain and Portugal and of the southern and western parts of France. *Ibid.* 164 *Pelobates cultripes*, Spade-foot Toad. 1853 H. N. HUMPHREYS *Coin Collector's Man.* II. 496 In 1787, a new gold coinage took place, and the guineas, known as *spade guineas, appeared. 1887 JEFFERIES *Amaryllis* viii, It was understood that there were twenty thousand spade guineas in an iron box under his bed. 1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* I. 224 The hedger, the *spade-hind, the spadesman, as he is indifferently called, is a useful servant on a farm. 1892 TERRIEN DE LACOUPERIE *Catal. Chinese Coins* Introd. p. xiii, *Spade-money of two sizes form chiefly the currency outside Ts'i and Tchou. They consist of little spades with hollow handles, weighing 20 to the higher standard unit of weight. 1592 NASHE *Pierce Penilesse* Wks. (Grosart) II. 27 His *spade peake is as sharpe as if he had been a Pioner before the walles of Roan. 1801 *Farmer's Mag.* Jan. 6 The cutting up of turf, or *spade-peats, from the clay or earthen surfaces of the pasturage, is surely no matter of necessity. 1890 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Col. Reformer* xvii. (1891) 202 We devoted the next few days..to fixing the *spade-press—that friendly adjunct to the pioneer-squatter's humble woolshed. 1606 *Reg. Mag. Sig. Scot.* 634/1 Cum lie *spaid-silver pro effossione petarum. 1612 *Ibid.* 238/1 Cum lie spaid-silver pro lucrando lie turvis et devottis.* 1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), *Sull-Paddle*, a small *Spade-staff, or Tool to cleanse the Plough from the Clods of Earth. 1653 BLITHE *Eng. Improver Impr.* 67 A piece of the best tough Willow, about the bigness of a *Spade-Stayle. 1411 *Nottingham Rec.* II. 86, j. *spadetree, jd. 1490 *Churchw. Acc. St. Dunstan's, Canterb.*, Item payde for a spade tre, jd ob. 1534 *MS. Acc. St. John's Hosp., Canterb.*, For a spade tre, jd. 1893 *S.E. Worc. Gloss.* 37 *Spade-tree*, the wooden shaft of a spade. 1840 *Penny Cycl.* XVIII. 467/1 The lazy-bed practice repeated for three years will completely *spade-trench the entire land. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 703 In the rotary machine (Fig. 1655) the ground-wheel *b* drives the *spade-wheel L[1] through the intervention of gearing.

Spade (spēd), *sb.*[2] [ad. It. *spade*, pl. of *spada* (Sp. and Pg. *espada*) sword (see SPADO [2]), used as a mark on playing-cards. Cf. G. *spadi* from the same source.

In British and other cards ultimately of French origin the mark has a form resembling that of a pointed spade, so that there is a natural association with SPADE *sb.*[1] Cf. G. dial. *spaten*, Da. and Sw. *spader* (pl.).]

1. One or other of the black spade-shaped marks by which one of the four suits in a pack of playing-cards is distinguished; hence *pl.*, the cards belonging to or forming this suit.

1598 FLORIO, *Cáppari*,..those markes vpon the playing cards called spades. 1651 *Pleas. Hist. Miller Mansfield* 19 With Ladies and their Maids like to the Queene of Spades. 1680 COTTON *Compl. Gamester* (ed. 2) 107 The Ace of Spades. 1712-4 POPE *Rape Lock* III. 46 'Let Spades be trumps!' she said. 1784 COWPER *Task* IV. 219 Ensanguin'd hearts, clubs typical of strife, And spades, the emblem of untimely graves. 1850 *Bohn's Hand-bk. Games* (1867) 220 You are to discard..the knave, nine, and seven of spades.

2. A card belonging to the spade-suit.

1745 HOYLE *Quadrille* (1746) 13 One small Club, Knave and two small Spades. 1828 PRAED *Arr. at Watering-pl.* i. Poems 1864 II. 188, I play a spade. 1879 'CAVENDISH' *Card Ess.*, etc. 109 Alcippe again plays badly in throwing the ace of hearts to the last spade.

Spade (spēd), *sb.*[3] Now *dial.* [OE. *sped*, of unknown origin.] The gummy or wax-like matter secreted at the corner of the eye.

c 725 *Corpus Gloss.* P 375 *Petuita*, sped. *a* 1100 in Napier *O. E. Glosses* I. 1728 *Glaucoma*, sped. 1656 W. DU GARD tr. *Comenius' Gate Lat. Unl.* § 204. 57 The eyes—whose corners often times sweat tears, every day spade or filth. 1825 BRITTON *Beauties Wilts* III. 378 *Spade*, the congealed gum of the eye. 1888-93 in Berks, Wilts, and Glouc. glossaries.

†**Spade,** *sb.*[4] *Obs.*—[1] [ad. L. *spado* SPADO [1].] A eunuch.

Spade in Blount *Glossogr.* (1656) and hence in Phillips and some later Dicts., properly belongs to SPAYED *ppl. a.*

1680 C. NESSE *Church Hist.* 497 Till pimp, or punk, or jade or spade, I do resolve to be.

Spade, variant of SPAYD *Obs.*

Spade (spēd), *v.*[1] [f. SPADE *sb.*[1] Cf. MDu. (Du.) and MLG. (LG.) *spaden* (LG. also *spâen*), Da. *spade*, Sw. dial. *spa(da)*, G. *spaten, -spâten*.]

1. *trans.* To cut in the form of a spade. *rare*—[1].

1594 NASHE *Terrors of Night* Ep. Ded., Wks. (Grosart) III. 214 To let some vnskilfull pen-man or Nouerint-maker startch his ruffe & new spade his beard with the benefite he made of them.

2. To dig up, to remove, with a spade.

1647 HEXHAM I, To Spade and delve, *spaden ende delven*. 1755 J. ISMAY in *Yorks. N. & Q.* I. 208 Some sour marshy ground is made arable by spading the turf from the surface and then burning it in heaps. 1795 *Trans. Soc. Arts* XIII. 136, I was advised..to get it [*sc.* the land] dug or spaded. 1807 J. BARLOW *Columb.* II. 632 They form to different arts the hand of toil, To whirl the spindle and to spade the soil. 1844 EMERSON *Lect. New Eng. Ref.* Wks. (Bohn) I. 259 The hundred acres of the farm must be spaded. 1889 *Harper's Mag.* Sept. 570/2 Spading the garden faithfully every spring.

b. To dig *up*, lift *out*, take *off*, with the spade.

1817-8 COBBETT *Resid. U.S.* (1822) 6 Spaded up a corner of ground. 1836 MRS. BRAY *Descr. Tamar & Tavy* I. xx. 348 The slight layer of turf which is spaded off the land. 1854 THOREAU *Walden* i. (1886) 54, I spaded up all the land which I required. 1877 C. TAIT *Let.* in Benham *Cath. & C. Tait* (1879) 557 The grain is spaded out of trucks.

3. To cut or flense with a whaling-spade.

1887 GOODE *Fisheries U.S.* 265 Spading flukes is one of the lost arts of fishery.

4. *intr.* To work with a spade; to dig.

1869 BLACKMORE *Lorna D.* v, Young men would not spade or plough by reason of noble lineage.

Hence **Spa·ded** *ppl. a.*[1]

1807 VANCOUVER *Agric. Devon* (1813) 140 The manure [being] thus applied upon the spaded land, the field is next ploughed. 1877 BLACKMORE *Cripps* iii, The patches of spaded mould.

†**Spade,** *v.*[2] *Obs.* [f. *spaid, spayed*, pa. pple. of SPAY *v.*, perh. associated with L. *spado*: see SPADE *sb.*[4]] *trans.* To spay.

1611 CHAPMAN *Widowes T.* Wks. 1873 III. 83 I'll have all young widows spaded for marrying again. 1650 BULWER *Anthropomet.* 208 The women of Egypt were sometimes spaded. 1710 *London's Med. Informer* 32 Women may be Spaded by Sow-Gelders.

Hence † **Spa·ded** *ppl. a.*[2]; **Spa·der**; **Spa·ding** *vbl. sb. Obs.*

1648 HEXHAM II, *Gelte*,..a spaded Hogge, a barrow Hogge, or a Sowe. *Ibid.*, *Een Lubber*, a Gelder, or a Spader. *Een Lubbinge*, a Gelding or a Spading. 1655 MOUFET & BENNET *Health's Improv.* (1746) 143 If some shall..object, that gelding and spading be unnatural Actions. *Ibid.* 148 Concerning Pork and Hog's Flesh made of a spaded Sow, or a Hog gelded. 1816 *Sporting Mag.* XLVII. 204 Those spaded bitches appeared to have been *grunes* or greyhounds.

Spade-beard. [f. SPADE *sb.*[1] + BEARD *sb.*] A spade-shaped beard; a beard cut or trimmed to the shape of a (pointed or broad) spade-blade.

1598 E. GUILPIN *Skial.* D, He with a spade-beard can full mannerly Leade the olde measures. 1679 *Answ. to Appeal fr. Country to City* 31 An Old fellow with a bald pate, and a spade-beard. 1693 DRYDEN, etc. *Juvenal* xvi. (1697) 387 With their long Spade-Beards, and matted Hair. 1858 CARLYLE *Fredk. Gt.* III. vi. I. 180 A man with high bald brow; magnificent spade-beard.

Spade-bone. Chiefly *dial.* [app. f. SPADE *sb.*[1], but perh. for *spaude-* or *spalde-bone*: see SPAULD.] The shoulder-blade.

1612 DRAYTON *Poly-olb.* v. 266 A diuination strange.., By th' shoulder of a Ram,..Which vsuallie they boile, the spade-boane beeing bar'd. 1671 SKINNER *Etymol. Ling. Angl., Spade-bone*, vox agro Lincoln. usitatissima. 1790 W. H. MARSHALL *Rur. Econ. Midl.* II. 443 *Spade-bone*, the shoulder bone; the blade bone. 1823- in dial. glossaries (chiefly northern and eastern). 1844 BORROW in Knapp *Life* (1899) I. 394 Mahomet,..it is said, wrote his Coran on mutton spade bones.

Spadeful (spē·dful). Also **-full.** [f. SPADE *sb.*[1] + -FUL.] A quantity that fills a spade; as much as a spade can hold or take up at one time.

1643 TRAPP *Comm. Gen.* xxx. 27 His mouth shall be filled with a spade-ful of mould. 1720 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 5865/2 His Excellency was to raise the first Spadeful of Earth at the opening of the Dyke. 1796 MORSE *Amer. Geog.* II. 311 Five or six spadefuls of snow. 1826 W. A. MILES *Deverel Barrow* 18 Every spadeful of earth presented a mixture of pottery, charcoal, and flints. 1890 *Science-Gossip* XXVI. 161 When we had dug out one or two spadefuls of soil.

fig. 1886 STEVENSON *Lett.* (1899) II. 13 It is painful, yet very pleasant to dig into the past of a dead friend, and find him, at every spadeful, shine brighter.

Spade-graft. Also 3 **-graf**, 6 **-graffe**, 7– **spade's graft.** [f. SPADE *sb.*[1] + GRAFT *sb.*[3]]

1. A spade's depth; a spit.

α. 1252 *Cart. de Rameseia* (Rolls) I. 299 Unam perticam fossati..habentis profunditatem duorum spadegrafs. 1523 FITZHERB. *Husb.* § 124 Dygge vp the muldes a spade-graffe depe. 1671 J. WEBSTER *Metallogr.* iii. 45 They usually leave one depth of Spade-graft of that Earth. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* II. 115/1 Delfe, or Spadegraft, [is] a digging into the Earth as deep as a spade can go at once. 1765 *Museum Rust.* III. 11 He takes the earth..two spade-grafts deep. 1837 HOWITT *Rur. Life* v. iv. (1862) 390 Every spadegraft of your cultivation annihilates the habitats .. of animals, insects, and plants. 1891 ATKINSON *Moorland Par.* 214 Half a spade-graft of mould.

β. 1620 [see GRAFT *sb.*[3] 1]. 1653 BLITHE *Eng. Improver Impr.* 117 The depth may be two Spades graft or more. 1660 SHARROCK *Vegetables* 95 Thou must goe half one spades graft deep. 1792 [see GRAFT *sb.*[3] 1]. 1844 *Proc. Soc. Antiq* I. 30 They were discovered in 1827 near Guisborough, at a depth of about a 'spade's graft' beneath the surface.

¶ **2.** The handle of a spade. *Obs.*

Evelyn is copied or followed by the *Dict. Rusticum* (1704), Mortimer *Husb.* (1721) II. 27, etc.

1664 EVELYN *Sylva* v. 21 The Beech serves for various Uses of the House-wife;..likewise for the Wheeler,..for the Bellows-maker, and Husbandman his Shovel and Spade-graffs.

Spade-iron. Now *rare.* Also 4 **spadierne, -yrin**, 5 **-yrne**, 6 **spadeierne**, *Sc.* **spaid irne.** [SPADE *sb.*[1]] The iron part, the blade or shoeing, of a spade.

1356 in Riley *Mem. Lond.* (1868) 283 [One] spadierne, [and 2 iron] auugeres. 1383–4 *Durham Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 390 It. in uno spadyrin empt. 1472 *Fabric Rolls York Minster* (Surtees) 78, iij dos. hespes et vj spadyrnes et iij dos. snekes. 1502–3 *Durham Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 102 Pro iiij spadeiernys, vjd. 1545 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* VIII. 360 Item, for foure spaid irnis. 1825–7 BERRY *Encycl. Her., Spade-Iron*, or the shoeing of a spade.

Spademan (spē·dmăn). Also **spadesman.** [SPADE *sb.*[1]] One who uses a spade; a labourer accustomed to work with a spade.

α. 1559 LD. COBHAM in Boys *Sandwich* (1792) 738 Over every x spade men muste be one clercke. 1647 HEXHAM I, A spade-man or spader, *een spader, spitter ofte delver.* 1812 SIR J. SINCLAIR *Syst. Husb. Scot.* I. 49 It is necessary also to employ spade-men..to clear out the small drains. 1854 W. R. WILLIAMS *Relig. Progr.* iii. 59 The spademan who digs the canal. 1864 *Realm* 17 Feb. 7 From his bowels the armed spademen keep issuing evermore.

β. 1826 SCOTT *Woodst.* xxxiii, We are wretched spadesmen enough. 1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* I. 224 The spades-man..is a useful servant on a farm. 1865 *Pall Mall G.* 15 Dec. 3 In Sardinia they can obtain no spadesmen, the Sards having a distaste for performing the continuous work of navvies.

Spader (spē·dəɹ). [f. SPADE *v.*[1] + -ER [1].] One who works with a spade; an implement which digs, etc., by means of spades; also *dial.*, a breast-plough.

1647 HEXHAM I, A spade-man or spader. 1867 WHITMAN in *Galaxy* IV. 608 The rotary spader did its work well. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 703 Other forms of spaders have blades thrust out and retracted as the machine advances. 1903 J. H. BRIDGE *Hist. Carnegie Steel Co.* vii. 114 Idly watching the spaders and waterers and trimmers.

Spades graft, -man: see SPADE-GRAFT, -MAN.

Spadger (spæ·dʒəɹ). *dial.* or *colloq.* [Fanciful alteration of SPARROW.] A sparrow. Also *attrib.*

1862 C. C. ROBINSON *Dial. Leeds* 417 'Spadger-pie' is an article of diet occasionally. 1892 'SON OF MARSHES' *Within Hour of Lond.* 59 The sparrow, or 'spadger', is a friend to the farmer.

† **Spadiard.** *Obs.* Also 7 **spador**, 8 **spadier.** [Explained by Holland (*Camden's Brit.* 185) as f. SPADE *sb.*[1], but perh. an error for SPALLIARD.] A labourer in the Cornish tin-mines.

1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* To Rdr. 3 A Spadiard that worketh in mines, who while he..followeth the maine vaines, seeth not the hidden small fillets. *c* 1630 RISDON *Surv. Devon* (1811) 11 There are also labourers, that serve for daily wages, whereof be two sorts: the one is called a spadiard, a daily labourer in tin works. 1630 T. WESTCOTE *View Devon.* I. xi. (1845) 53 Of these last are two sorts; one named a spador or searcher for tin. [1661 BLOUNT *Glossogr.* (ed. 2), *Spadiards*, Laborers in the Tin-mines of Cornwall. 1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), *Spadiers*, Labourers that dig in the Mines in Cornwall.]

Spadiceous (spădi·ʃəs), *a.* Now *Bot.* [ad. mod.L. *spadiceus*, f. L. *spādīc-*, *spādīx* SPADIX.]

1. Of a reddish or brownish colour.

Applied to various shades by different writers.

1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* 167 Of those five [horns] which Scaliger beheld, though one spadiceous, or of a light red, and two inclining to red. 1678 RAY *Willughby's Ornith.* III. ii. § 16. 371 The Wings are of a dark spadiceous colour. 1683 SALMON *Doron Med.* II. 350 An oyl..of..a spadicious [*sic*] or light red colour. 1871 W. A. LEIGHTON *Lichen-Flora* 124 Under-surface black or spadiceous towards the margins. 1887 W. PHILLIPS *Brit. Discomycetes* 376 Hymenium milk-white, farinose, becoming spadiceous.

2. Having the nature or form of a spadix.

1760 J. LEE *Introd. Bot.* I. xix. (1765) 52 A Spadiceous aggregate Flower is, when there is a Receptacle common to many Florets placed within a Spatha or Sheathe. 1793 MARTYN *Lang. Bot.* s.v. *Spadix*, A spadiceous flower. A sort of aggregate flower [etc.]. 1830 LINDLEY *Nat. Syst. Bot.* 252 As many of them are arranged in a spadix, and as most of them have a distinct tendency to that kind of inflorescence, the form is called *Spadiceous.* 1858 A. IRVINE *Handbk. Brit. Pl.* 289 The following Orders..have the common character of spadiceous, and generally spathaceous inflorescence.

Spadici- (spădəi·si-), combining form of SPADIX, used in a few terms of *Bot.*, as *spadiciflo·ral*, *-flo·rous*, *-form* adjs.

1857 HENFREY *Bot.* 391 The spadiciform peduncle does not represent this structure very clearly. *Ibid.* 397 The inflorescence is moreover hardly spadiciflorous. 1872 OLIVER *Elem. Bot.* I. v. 58 Monocotyledons have their flowers.. arranged upon a spadix, hence called Spadicifloral.

Spadicose, *a. Bot. rare.* [f. L. *spādīc-* SPADIX.] = SPADICEOUS *a.* 2.

1847 *Nat. Encycl.* I. 125 A small natural order of spadicose Endogens.

‖ **Spadille** (spădi·l). Also 8 **spadil.** [F. *spadille*, ad. Sp. *espadilla* (Pg. *espadilha*, It. *spadiglia*), dim. of *espada* sword, SPADE *sb.*[2]: cf. next.] The ace of spades in ombre and quadrille.

1728 YOUNG *Love Fame* VI. 516 Imaginary ruin charms her still; Her happy lord is cuckol'd by spadil. 1773 GOLDSM. *Stoops to Conq.* Epil., She sits all night at cards, and ogles at spadille. 1794 *Sporting Mag.* IV. 201 The ace of spades, called spadille, is always highest trump. 1816 SCOTT *Bl. Dwarf* v, Love and its absurdities in youth—spadille and basto in age. 1851 THACKERAY *Eng. Hum.* iv, About as much time as ladies of that age spent over spadille and manille. 1900 F. F. MOORE *Nell Gwyn* v, What brings you down here from the midst of your routs..and your spadille tables?

‖ **Spadi·llo.** *Obs.* Also 8 **spadillio.** [ad. Sp. *espadilla*: see prec.] = SPADILLE.

1680 COTTON *Compl. Gamester* (ed. 2) 71 There are two suits, Black and Red; of the Black there is first the *Spadillo*, or Ace of Spades. 1712–4 POPE *Rape Lock* III. 49 Spadillio first, unconquerable Lord! Led off two captive trumps, and swept the board. 1728 SWIFT *Jrnl. Mod. Lady* Wks. 1755 III. II. 190 She slipt spadillo in her breast.

Spading (spē·diŋ), *vbl. sb.*[1] [f. SPADE *v.*[1]] The action of digging, working, striking, etc., with a spade; the quantity of earth that may be lifted with a spade; a spade's depth *of* earth.

1647 HEXHAM I, A spading, *een spittinge ofte delvinge.* 1793 FULLARTON *View Agric. Ayr* (1891) 111 To half trench an acre, with one spading and a shoveling. 1796 W. H. MARSHALL *Rur. Econ. West Eng.* I. 143 The price for 'spading' is about three halfpence, a square perch. 1801 *Farmer's Mag.* Aug. 279 To allow of the removal of perhaps a spading of earth all along. 1842 J. AITON *Domest. Econ.* (1857) 161 The first spading being rich soil taken from the trench, should be buried in the centre of the dike. 1888 *Daily News* 21 Nov. 5/7 Had the League anything to do with the spading and shooting of Colletty? 1891 MALDEN *Tillage* 82 Another method of planting potatoes which is carried out very successfully is known as spading in.

attrib. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 702/2 A spading-machine for loosening and turning the soil.

Spading, *vbl. sb.*[2]: see under SPADE *v.*[2]

‖ **Spadix** (spē·diks). Pl. **spadices** (spēdəi·sīz) and **spa·dixes.** [L. *spādix*, a. Gr. σπάδιξ palm-branch, palm-coloured. Cf. F. *spadice.*]

1. *Bot.* A form of inflorescence consisting of a thick fleshy spike, closely set with flowers, and enclosed in a spathe; a succulent spike, whether enclosed in a spathe or not.

1760 J. LEE *Introd. Bot.* I. viii. (1765) 18 *Spadix* is the Receptacle of a Palm produced within a Spatha, or Sheath, on the Branches that bear Fruit. 1785 MARTYN *Lett. on Bot.* x. (1794) 107 All..growing upon a spadix. [*Note.*] The spadix is the receptacle in this tribe, and has no English name. 1793 — *Lang. Bot.* s.v. *Spatha*, The calyx of a spadix. *Ibid.*, Some flowers which have no spadix. 1830 LINDLEY *Nat. Syst. Bot.* 285 Flowers unisexual, arranged upon a naked spadix. 1847 W. E. STEELE *Field Bot.* 204 Sterile and fertile spadices cylindrical. 1871 KINGSLEY *At Last* vii, Round our feet are Arums, with snow-white spadixes and hoods. 1897 J. C. WILLIS *Flower. Plants & Ferns* II. 17 They are often so deceived as to lay their eggs on the spadix.

2. *Zool.* A part in cephalopods and hydrozoans having some analogy to a spadix in plants.

1871 ALLMAN *Monogr. Gymnoblastic Hydroids* I. p. xv, *Spadix*,..the hollow body which projects from the floor of the sporosac into its cavity, and round which the generative elements are developed. 1877 HUXLEY *Anat. Inv. Anim.* viii. 534 On the left side, the four tentacles of the posterior division..are converted into a peculiar organ termed the *spadix.* 1883 *Encycl. Brit.* XVI. 674/2 The spadix is in fact the hectocotylized portion of the fore-foot of the male Nautilus. 1888 ROLLESTON & JACKSON *Anim. Life* 762 The term 'spadix' is applied to the central closed endodermic structure representing the manubrial cavity in a gonophore or sporosac.

‖ **Spado** [1]. [Lat. *spado*, ad. Gr. σπάδων eunuch. Cf. SPADE *sb.*[4]] A eunuch; a castrated person.

c 1430 LYDG. *Min. Poems* (Percy Soc.) 166 Whan that spado lovithe paramouris. 1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* 124 They live longest in every kinde that exercise it not at all, and this is true not onely in Eunuches by nature, but spadoes by Art. 1650 BULWER *Anthropomet.* 207 Castrated animals in any kind & Spado's by Art, live longer then they that retain their Virilities.

‖ **Spado** [2]. *Obs.* [ad. It. *spada* or Sp. *espada*:—L. *spatha*, ad. Gr. σπάθη: see SPADE *sb.*[1] and *sb.*[2]] A cut-and-thrust sword.

1711 E. WARD *Quix.* I. 105 Drawing forth his Trusty Spado Which was a Rusty old Toledo. 1751 *Narr. of H.M.S. 'Wager'* 9 Every Fellow has his Spado or Dagger that he struts about with. 1785 G. A. BELLAMY *Apology* (ed. 3) II. 9 The Spaniard..seemed glad to have an opportunity of laying by his long spado for some hours every day.

Spadroo·n. *Obs.* exc. *Hist.* [ad. Genevan dial. *espadron*, = F. *espadon* ESPADON.] 'A sword much lighter than a broadsword, and made both to cut and thrust' (James). Also *attrib.*

1798 C. ROWORTH (*title*), The Art of Defence on foot with the broad sword and sabre...To which are added remarks on the spadroon. 1802 JAMES *Milit. Dict.*, *Spadroon Guard*, a guard sometimes used with the cut and thrust sword, and also with the broad sword. 1826 SCOTT *Woodst.* xxiii, Poniard, back-sword, spadroon.

† **Spady,** *a. Obs.*[–1] [ad. obs. G. **spadig*, var. of *spathig*, *spatig*: see SPAAD and SPATH [1].] Of the nature of or containing spar.

1683 PETTUS *Fleta Min.* I. III. i. 230 There appertains to the harsh flowing copper Oars,..and what is splendy, mispickly, glimery or spady [etc.].

Spae (spē), *sb. rare.* Also 4 *north.* **spa**, 6 *Sc.* **spe.** [a. ON. *spá*: cf. next.] Prediction, prophecy; augury, omen.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 14526 Cayphas spak þus in his spa, Wordes suilk and oþer maa. 1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* (S.T.S.) II. 5 This victorie with the scotis was estemet as a spe or gud tukne of happie succes to follow. 1863 BARING-GOULD *Iceland* 136 The Finns' spae is come true, so here we shall settle.

Spae (spē), *v.* Orig. *north.* and *Sc.* Also 4 **spa**, 6 **spai, spay.** [a. ON. *spá* (Icel. *spá*, Norw. *spaa*; MSw. *spā*, Sw. *spå*, Da. *spaa*, † *spo*; also NFris. *spoai*, *spuai*, *spui* from Danish), of uncertain origin.] To foretell, to prophesy. Chiefly *trans.* with direct object or with *that.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 18988 O propheci..sal þai speke,..And o mi gast I sal a streme To suain and womman gife alsua, At cum wit propheci to spa. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* II. iv. 89 Thocht scho spayit the suithf, and maid na bourd. *Ibid.* III. vi. 28 The Harpy Celeno Spais onto ws a feirfull takin of wo. 1721 RAMSAY *Prospect of Plenty* 76 Does Tam the Rhimer spae oughtlins of this? *a* 1774 FERGUSSON *Farmer's Ingle* Poems (1845) 36 Fu' hale and healthy wad they pass the day;..Nor doctor need their weary life to spae. 1785 BURNS *Halloween* xiv, [To] seek the foul Thief onie place, For him to spae your fortune. 1815 SCOTT *Guy M.* iii, Tell me the very minute o' the hour the wean's born, and I'll spae its fortune. 1841 BORROW *Zincali* I. iv. 78 A Gypsy sibyl..spaed the good fortune to his daughters. 1863 BARING-GOULD *Iceland* 136 Ingimund left Norway because some Finns had spaed that he should settle in Iceland. 1876 A. LAING *Lindores Abbey* xxvi. 382 The spaewife might now spae in vain.

Hence **Spae·ing** *vbl. sb.* (also *attrib.*) and *ppl. a.*; **Spaer,** one who foretells.

c 1480 HENRYSON *Orph. & Euryd.* 588 Wichcraft, Spaying, and sorsery. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* I. vi. 148 Les than [= unless] my parentis taucht me spaying craft fals. 1725 RAMSAY *Gentle Sheph.* III. ii, May your spaeing happen soon and weel. 1790 SHIRREFS *Poems* 122 And sae it is with a' the spaeing crew. *Ibid.* 123 Before they enter on the spaeing part. 1820 *Blackw. Mag.* May 161 A seller o' horn spoons, and a spaer o' poor folks' fortunes.

Spae-, the verbal stem in comb. (cf. SPAEMAN), as **spae-book, -craft, -woman, -work, -wright.**

1802 LEYDEN *Lord Soulis* lvi, The black *spae-book from his breast he took. 1724 RAMSAY *Evergreen* (1761) I. 135 Suthe I forsie, if *Spae-craft had [= hold], Frae Hethir, Muirs sall ryse a lad. 1889 H. JOHNSTON *Chron. Glenbuckie* 11 Whether the recipient..was a believer in spae-craft or not. 1828 MOIR *Mansie Wauch* xx, Beds at twopence a-night to..dumb *spaewomen. 1815 SCOTT *Guy M.* xi, There was some *spae-wark gaed on—I aye heard that. 1876 MORRIS *Sigurd* I. 16 In peace will I go to his bidding, let the *spae-wrights ban or bless.

Spae·dom. [f. SPAE *sb.* or *v.* Cf. ON. and Icel. *spádómr*, MSw. *spādom*, Sw. *spådom*, Da. *spaadom.*] Prophecy.

1862 WINGATE *Poems, Spae Craft* ix, Oh, never again.. The dark, sinfu' regions o' spaedom I'll dare. 1891 ATKINSON *Last of Giant-killers* 115 The old prophecy or spaedom I have mentioned.

Spae·man. *Sc.* Also 5–6 **spay-, spaman.** [a. ON. *spámann* (nom. *-maðr*; MSw. *spāmann*, Sw. *spåman*, Norw. *spaamann*, Da. *-mand*), f. *spá* SPAE *v.*] A prophet, soothsayer, fortune-teller, wizard.

c 1480 HENRYSON *Orph. & Euryd.* 436 This Theseus..sett his entencion To fynd the craft of diuinacion, And lerit it vnto the spamen all. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* IV. ii. 29 O walaway! of spamen and diuinis The blind mynadis. 1536 BELLENDEN *Cron. Scot.* (1821) I. 121 The spaymen said, thir prodigies signifyit gret damage appering to Romanis. 1725 RAMSAY *Gentle Sheph.* III. ii, Spae-men! the truth of a' their saws I doubt. 1790 SHIRREFS *Poems* 124, I never, a' my days, Had meikle faith in spaemen, or their says. 1830 SCOTT *Demonol.* ix. 315 Pretending..to possess the power of a spaeman. 1867 PEARSON *Hist. Eng.* I. 32 *note*, Either the 'spae man' of the district or the priest of an imported religion.

attrib. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* VI. iii. 77 Praying thus, eftir the spamen werd.

Spae·wife. *Sc.* [f. SPAE- + WIFE *sb.* Cf. ON. and Icel. *spákona*, Da. *spaakone*, Sw. *spåqvinna*; NFris. *spuaiwüf.*] A female fortune-teller; a sybil; a witch.

a 1774 FERGUSSON *Hallow-Fair* iv. Poems (1789) II. 27 What cairds and tinklers come,..An' spae-wives fenzying to be dumb. 1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* li, Many remembered that Annaple Bailzou wandered through the country as a beggar and fortune-teller, or spae-wife. 1872 KINGSLEY *Poems, Little Baltung* xxvi, Oh a spae-wife laid a doom on me. 1876 A. LAING *Lindores Abbey* xxvi. 382 He was going to consult a spaewife in the neighbourhood.

Spagnel, obs. form of SPANIEL.

†**Spagnolet.** *Obs.*—[1] [ad. F. *espagnolette*, f. *espagnol*(*e* Spanish.] 'A kind of narrow-sleeved gown, a la Spagnole' (*Fop Dict.* 1690).

1690 ?EVELYN *Mundus Muliebris* 2 Nor demy Sultane, Spagnolet, Nor Fringe to sweep the Mall forget.

Spagnolize(d, obs. f. SPANIOLIZE(D.

Spagyric (spădʒi·rik), *sb.* and *a.* *Obs.* exc. *Hist.* Forms: *α.* 6 **spagirique, 7- spagiric** (7 **-ick**); 6–7 **spagericke, 7 spargerick.** *β.* 7–8 **spagyrick, 7- spagyric.** [ad. early mod.L. *spagiricus* (used, and prob. invented, by Paracelsus), whence also F. *spagirique* († *spargirique* Cotgr.), It. *spargirico, -ica*, Sp. and Pg. *espagirico, -ica.*]

A. *sb.* †**1.** The science of alchemy or chemistry.

1593 G. HARVEY *Pierce's Super.* 29 Yet who such monarches for Phisique, Chirurgery, Spagirique,..as some of these arrant impostors? 1605 TIMME *Quersit.* III. 183 Alchymie or Spagyrick..is the inuenter and schoolmistresse of distillation.

2. An alchemist.

1593 G. HARVEY *Pierce's Super.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 251 The greatest Empiriques, Spagiriques, Cabalists,..and occult Philosophers. 1613 DRUMM. OF HAWTH. *Cypress Grove* Wks. (1711) 127 Can the spagyrick by his art restore, for a Space, to the dry and withered Rose, the natural Purple and Blush. 1645 BP. HALL *Discontentm.* § 4. 14 Like to some cunning Spagirick, that can intend or remit the heat of his furnace according to occasion. 1867 *Cornh. Mag.* Mar. 369 A traveller who saw the celebrated spagyric at the Hague, represents him as still adhering to his old spiritual tricks.

B. *adj.* Pertaining to alchemy; alchemical.

α. 1596 J. HESTER tr. *Paracelsus' Exper. & Cures* F, The Spagericke Antidotarie of the preparation and making of medicines against Goonshot. 1605 TIMME *Quersit.* III. 153 They which are but meanely seene in the spargerick art, and haue been chymists a very short time. 1656 W. DU GARD tr. *Comenius' Gate Lat. Unl.* § 706. 227 At this day Spagirick (or Hermetick) Physic is in request. 1681 tr. *Willis' Rem. Med. Wks.* Vocab., *Spagiric*, belonging to alchymie, or to the chymical art. 1737 BRACKEN *Farriery Impr.* (1757) II. 280 Skilful in the Spagiric Art, as well as the Art of Medicine. 1833 CARLYLE *Misc. Ess.* (1872) V. 106 He is distributing spagiric food, medicine for the poor. 1856 R. A. VAUGHAN *Mystics* (1860) II. 103 Medical practitioners of the old school, who denounced the spagiric method. 1891 *Q. Rev.* Oct. 408 The pretension to 'spagiric' immortality of Cagliostro.

β. c 1643 LD. HERBERT *Autobiog.* (1824) 49 As for the Chymic or Spagyric Medicines, I cannot commend them to the use of my posterity. 1660 J. H[ARDING] *Basil. Valent. Chariot Antim.* 67 Antimony..being by Spagyrick Art transmuted, becomes medicinal. 1716 M. DAVIES *Athen. Brit.* II. 395 Medicinally Charitable to the Publick by his Spagyrick Repositary. 1844 HECKER *Epid. Middle Ages* 273 The severe metallic remedies of the Spagyric school. 1899 *Literature* 18 Feb. 181 The sages, those who practised the true spagyric art.

Spagy·rical, *a.* Also 6–7 **spagirical(l,** 7 **spagericall.** [f. as prec. + -AL.]

1. Of or pertaining to alchemy.

α. 1594 PLAT *Jewell-ho.* II. 20 The perfecting of this branch of the spagirical art. *Ibid.* III. 89 An infinite number of spagiricall experiments. 1651 WITTIE tr. *Primrose's Pop. Err.* IV. i. 204 It is certaine, that by this spagiricall art, the most unruly medicaments are made serviceable. 1654 GAYTON *Pleas. Notes* Pref. Verses, Which..was done With a Spagericall discretion.

β. 1627 HAKEWILL *Apol.* III. vii. § 5 The use of Hermeticall, Spagyricall, or Chymicall physicke. 1651 FRENCH *Distill.* v. 118 The matter will be turned into a spagyricall bloud, and flesh, like an Embryo. 1698 FRYER *Acc. E. India & P.* 306 These Waters of Genoe, as far as I could gather by Spagyrical Solutions, have to their Sulphur an Addition both of Antimony and Nitre. 1747 T. BIRCH *Serm. bef. Coll. Phys.* 22 To discern them may require no mean skill in spagyrical principles and operations.

2. Of persons: Given to the study or practice of alchemy; believing in alchemy.

1652 (*title*), A Hermeticall Banqvet drest by a Spagiricall Cook, for the better preservation of the Microcosme. 1661 BOYLE *Scept. Chem.* I. 56 So justly did the Spagyricall Poet somewhere exclaim [etc.]. 1667 — *Orig. Forms & Qual.* (ed. 2) 338 If a Spagyrical Physician were Judge.

Spagy·rically, *adv.* Also **spagirically.** [f. prec.] In a spagyric manner; in accordance with spagyric principles.

1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* II. v. I. v, If you will have them spagirically prefaced look in Oswaldus Crollius. 1662 MERRETT tr. *Neri's Art of Glass* xxxi, The manner of making Vitriol of Venus, without corrosives, Spagirically. 1670 G. TONSTALL (*title*), Scarbrough Spaw Spagyrically Anatomized. 1694 SALMON *Bate's Dispens.* (1713) 640/2 If such are the Vertues of the gross Flesh, what would it be if it was Spagyrically prepar'd?

Spa·gyrist. Also 7–8 **spagirist.** [ad. mod. L. *spagirista* (F. *spagiriste*): see SPAGYRIC *a.*] An alchemist.

α. 1652 J. WRIGHT tr. *Camus' Nat. Paradox* XI. 280 The Spagirists in seeking the Union of Essences have..found out the dissolving of all naturall Bodies. 1660 J. H[ARDING] *Basil. Valent. Chariot Antim.* 1 A brief admonition concerning some *Præcognita*, which a Spagirist..ought to be acquainted with. 1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey).

β. 1661 BOYLE (*title*), The Sceptical Chymist: or Chymico-Physical Doubts & Paradoxes, Touching the Spagyrists' Principles Commonly call'd Hypostatical. 1675 *Phil. Trans.* X. 516 Those Spagyrists that possess or aspire to the nobler Arcana of Gold and Mercury. 1756 AMORY *J. Buncle* (1825) I. 266 A man of great skill in the labours and operations of spagyrists.

So **Spa·gyrite.** *rare.*

1666 BOYLE *Orig. Forms & Qual.* 58 Other things which Spagyrites obtaine from mixt Bodies. 1697 EVELYN *Numismata* ix. 328 A troop of Spagirits.

‖ **Spahi** (spā·hī). Forms: 6–7 **spachi, 7 spahei,** 7–8 **spahy,** 7–9 **spahee,** 7– **spahi.** [ad. Turkish (Persian) *sipāhī*: see SEPOY.]

1. A horseman forming one of a body of cavalry which formerly constituted an important part of the Turkish army and was to some extent organized on a feudal basis. Now *Hist.*

1562 J. SHUTE tr. *Cambini's Turk. Wars* 53 The Spachi, and other ordres of horsemen. 1585 T. WASHINGTON tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* II. xix. 53 Hys Spachis, or other officers. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* I. 217 It happened that a Spachi (or Horse-man under the great Turkes pay)..suddenly turned towards us. 1634 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* 71 The Great Turke..gaue..treasure there, to the Ianizaries and Spaheis. 1728 ELIZA HEYWOOD tr. *Mme. de Gomez's Belle A.* (1732) II. 255 A large Body of Janizaries, with other Infantry, join'd to a considerable Number of *Spahi's*, which are reputed the best Cavalry in the Empire. 1773 *Gentl. Mag.* XLIII. 457 When the Russian columns advanced..they were furiously assailed by the Spahis that were in ambuscades. 1816 BYRON *Siege Corinth* xxii, Tartar, and Spahi, and Turcoman, Strike your tents, and throng to the van. *c* 1828 LANDOR *Imag. Conv.* Wks. 1876 VI. 150 Every sort of dress that janisary and spahi..ought to put on in gala. 1854 CHURCH *Misc. Writ.* (1891) I. 352 The Spahis of the house of Othman reared that blood-red banner.

2. A native Algerian horseman serving under the French government.

1863 KINGLAKE *Crimea* II. xvi. 270 In the morning he had ridden forward, escorted by a few Spahis, to reconnoitre the ground. 1864 J. ORMSBY *Rambles N. Africa* 214 The Spahis, on the other hand, are a highly-organised and efficient body. 1882 'OUIDA' *Under Two Flags* (1890) 231 His height rose far above the French soldiers, and above most even of the lofty-statured Spahis.

Spaid, var. SPAYD *Obs.*; obs. f. SPAYED *ppl. a.* **Spaier,** var. SPARE *sb.*[2] **Spaight,** dial. f. SPATE *sb.* **Spaignarde, -nell,** obs. ff. SPANIARD, SPANIEL. **Spaik,** Sc. f. SPOKE *sb.* **Spail,** var. SPALE *sb.*[2]

Spain (spēn). Forms: *α.* 3–7 **Spaine, Spayne,** 4 **Spaigne,** 5 **Speyne,** 6 **Espayne,** 6– **Spain**; 5–6 *Sc.* **Spane.** *β. Sc.* 5 **Spanȝhe,** 5–6 **Spanȝe,** 6 **-ȝie, Spaneȝe, Spangyie,** 9 **Spainyie**; 5–6 **Spenȝe,** 6 **-ȝee, -ȝie, Speinȝie,** 9 **Spengyie.** [ad. AF. *Espayne, Espaigne* (mod.F. *Espagne*, = Sp. *España*, Pg. *Hespanha*, It. *Spagna*) :—late L. *Spānia* (Gr. Σπανία) for earlier *Hispānia* (*Ispānia*). The usual form in OE. is *Ispania*, but in the dat. plur. the aphetic forms *Spenum* and *Spaneum* occur. The dropping of the initial vowel of OF. *Espaigne* is in accordance with English usage: cf. MDu. *Spaengen, -gien* (Du. *Spanje*), MHG. *Spanje, Spangen-* (G. *Spanien*), ON. *Spánn* (and *Spánland*). The later Sc. forms show the usual change of *nȝ* into *ngy* or *ng*.]

1. The country which together with Portugal occupies the south-western peninsula of Europe.

α. c 1205 LAY. 1394 Heo ferden from Spaine riht toward Brutaine. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 3915 Þer nas bituene Þis & spayne no prince..Þat nas at Þis rounde table. *c* 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 1482 Whan þeyr fflote.. Turnede fro þe lond of Spaigne. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) I. 299 But þere beeþ tweye Spaynes; þe hyder..þe ȝonder Spayne. 1436 *Libel Eng. Policy* 99 The wolle of Spayne hit cometh not to preffe, But if it be..menged welle Amonges Englysshe wolle. 1486 *Bk. St. Albans, Hawking* b vi b, Take Oyle of spayne and tempere it with clere wyne. 1501 DOUGLAS *Pal. Hon.* II. xxxv, Now in the realme of Trace, and now in Spane. 1547 BOORDE *Introd. Knowl.* xxx. (1870) 198 Spayne is a very poore countrey. 1550 J. COKE *Eng. & Fr. Heralds* § 208 Commodities of Espayne and not of Fraunce. 1605 CAMDEN *Rem.* (1623) 2 Asia serueth thee with silke and purple,..Spaine with Gold, and Germanie with Siluer. 1706 STEVENS *Sp. & Eng. Dict.* Pref., The long continuance of the Moors in Spain. 1838 PRESCOTT *Ferd. & Isabella* I. ii. (1854) I. 93 The combined forces of France and Spain.

β. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* III. 688 The..strait off Marrok in-to Spanȝe. *c* 1425 WYNTOUN *Cron.* III. ix. 1050 Wipe-in þe kynrik of Spanȝhe hail. 1561 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* I. 177 All writtin in the language of Spangyie.

b. *New Spain*, the region including Mexico and Central America. Now *Hist.*

1719 W. WOOD *Surv. Trade* 281 The Assiento Contract has excluded..Great Britain from Trading to New Spain. 1777 ROBERTSON *Hist. Amer.* III. (1851) I. 231 Grijalva.. called it New Spain, the name which still distinguishes this extensive and opulent province of the Spanish empire in America. 1843 PRESCOTT *Mexico* VII. ii. (1850) III. 215 Vera Cruz..has remained ever since the great commercial capital of New Spain. *a* 1845 *Encycl. Metrop.* XIII. 716/2 Of these disturbances, that of New Spain seemed to threaten the worst consequences.

c. *The Spains*, Spain in Europe and New Spain in America.

1847 DE QUINCEY *Sp. Mil. Nun* Wks. 1862 III. 64 The King of the Spains and the Indies.

d. *fig.* A quantity such as Spain can produce.

1866 HOWELLS *Venetian Life* xvii. 256 Whole Hollands of cabbage, and Spains of onions.

2. *attrib.* in Sc. use: = SPANISH *a.*

Also ellipt. *Spainyie, Spengyie*, Spanish cane.

1494 *Acc. Ld. High Treas, Scot.* I. 250 A wall of Spenȝe erne. 1502 *Ibid.* II. 270 For vj waw of Spanȝe irne to the werk in Halyrudhous. *a* 1520 DUNBAR *Poems* lv. 30 Quhill that thai gatt the Spanȝie pockis. 1546 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* IX. 42 Tua ellis and ane half Spanȝe freis. 1550 *Ibid.* 399 Thre fyne Spanȝe skynnis. 1565 in Hay Fleming *Reform. Scotl.* (1910) 611 Twa breistis of Spenȝee cattis and twa mantillingis of Spenȝie cattis. *a* 1585 MONTGOMERIE *Flyting* 314 The feavers, the fearcie, with the speinȝie flees. 1825 JAMIESON *Suppl., Spainyie Flees*,..cantharides.

Spain, variant of SPANE *v.*, to wean.

†**Spai·nol.** *Obs.* In 4–5 **Spaynol,** 5 **-al.** [ad. AF. type **Espaynol*, = OF. *Espaignol* (see SPANIEL[2]), Sp. *Español*, Pg. *Hespanhol*, It. *Spagnuolo*:—Romanic **Spaniolus*, f. *Spania* SPAIN.] A Spaniard.

c 1350 *Will. Palerne* 3399 Þe spaynoles speiȝed he was slayne. *Ibid.* 3529 Of þe spaynolus wol I speke. 14.. *Trevisa's Higden* (Rolls) IV. 419 Of Spaynols and of Gailes. *c* 1425 WYNTOUN *Cron.* II. ix. 782 Thare schyppys he fand thretty Wythe off Spaynalys a cumpany. *c* 1450 LYDG. *Secrees* 605 He..Was callyd Iohn, And of nacyoun A spaynol born. 1482 CAXTON *Trevisa's Higden* II. vii. 80 b, Men of the West breketh her Wordes bitwene the teth as spaynols and Romayns.

Spair, obs. Sc. f. SPARE *v.*; obs. f. SPEAR *sb.*1

Spairge, Sc. variant of SPARGE *sb.* and *v.*

Spait, Spaive, variants of SPATE, SPAVE.

Spak, obs. or Sc. f. pa. t. of SPEAK *v.*

†**Spake,** *v. Obs. rare.* In 3 spakie, 5 spak-. [f. *spak-* SPACK *a.* Cf. ON. and Icel. *spekja*, Norw. dial. *spekkja, spækje*, MSw. *späkia*, Da. *spæge* to quieten, tame, etc.]

1. *intr.* To hasten (*to* do something).

12.. *Prayer to our Lady* 14 in *O. E. Misc.*, Hwo se understant wel his ende-dai wel ȝeorne he mot spakie to donde sunne awei fram him, and fele almesse makie.

2. *refl.* To calm oneself, become calm.

a 1400–50 *Alexander* 237 Þat myld..hire spakid with his speche & spird of him wordis.

Spake, obs. var. SPACK *a.*; obs., poet., or arch. f. pa. t. of SPEAK *v.*; Sc. f. SPOKE *sb.*

†**Spaked,** *ppl. a. Obs.* Also 5 *Sc.* **spakit.** [ad. LG. *spaket*, pa. pple. of *spaken* (also *verspaken*) to mould, decay, etc.] Moulded, blemished, decayed, rotten.

1438 *Extr. Burgh Rec. Edinb.* (1869) I. 5 The frauchtis-men sall specifie in the frauchting of the schip and in the chartour pairtie that thair be na gude woll nor skynnis spakit no schorne, na hyddis kippit to be schorne vp. 1584 B. R. tr. *Herodotus* II. 106 A man..may clearly perceiue, that their hands fel off for very age, by reason that the wood through long continuance of time was spaked and perished. 1615 T. ADAMS *Leaven* 128 What cares a good market-man how fayre the fleece or the flesh looke, if the liver be spak'd. 1688 BUNYAN *Saints' Priv. & Profit* Wks. 1855 I. 662 They looking upon it..do find it spaked and defective.

Spakely, variant of SPACKLY *adv.*

Spakle, etc., obs. variants of SPECKLE *v.*

†**Spa·ky,** *a. Obs.*—[1] In 6 **spakey.** [ad. LG. *spakig* (NFris. *spaakig*): see SPAKED *ppl. a.*] Mouldy.

1589 R. HARVEY *Pl. Perc.* 19 One spakey Apple will make the whole hourd smel.

Spal, obs. form of SPAWL *v.*, to spit.

†**Spalch,** *v. Obs. rare.* [ad. OF. *espelucher, esplucher* (mod.F. *éplucher*), f. *pelucher* of uncertain origin.] *refl.* Of a hawk: To clean (itself) with the beak.

c 1450 *Bk. Hawking* in *Rel. Ant.* I. 298 Put her oute a-gayn to prowne and spalch herself. 1486 *Bk. St. Albans, Hawking* b vii b, When she begynnyth to penne, and plumyth, and spalchith and pikith her selfe.

Spald, var. SPAULD, shoulder; SPAWL, spittle.

Spald, *v. north.* and *Sc.* Forms: *α.* 5, 9 **spald,** 9 **spauld.** *β.* 5 **spawde,** 9 **spaud, spaad, spoad.** [ad. MLG. *spalden*, = obs. WFris. *spâlde*, MDu. *spouden* (Du. *spouwen*; WFris. *spoude, spouwe*), OHG. *spaltan* (MHG. and G. *spalten*), to split. A different grade of the stem is represented by Goth. *spilda*, ON. *speld, spjald*, tablet, OE. *speld*, MHG. and G. dial. *spelte* splinter.

Eng. dialects have also the sb. *spald, spaud*, corresponding to MLG. *spalde* and *spald* (G. *spalte, spalt*), and the derivative verb *spalder, spauder* (cf. SPALDERLING), = MLG. *spalderen.*]

a. *trans.* To splinter, split, break up, lay open or flat. **b.** *intr.* To go apart, to splay out.

?*a* 1400 *Morte Arth.* 3699 Be thane speris whare [= were] sproungene, spalddyd [? in] chippys. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 12692 Þer were spaudit [*printed* spandit] & spilt in a spase litill, Two hundreth hede schippis in a hond qwile. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 352/1 To Spawde, *dissoluere. Ibid.*, Spawdyd as a schep (*A.* Spawdit as a shippe), *dissolutus.* 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* XI. ii. 73 [He] oft down fallis spaldit on the erd. *Ibid.* XII. v. 204 On the erd he spaldit him all flat. 1828– in northern glossaries.

Hence **Spa·lding,** a split and dried fish, a spelding; **Spalding-knife,** a knife for splitting fish.

1354 in *Priory of Finchale* (Surtees) p. xxxvii, Item j

spaldyngknyf. 1776 *Sempill's Blythsome Bridal* in Herd *Sc. Songs* II. 25 And there will be partens and buckies, And whytens and spaldings enew. 1790 WOLCOT (P. Pindar) *Compl. Ep. to Bruce* Ep. Ded. p. ii, Spaldings (*alias* dried whitings). 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk., Spaldings*, a north-country name for whitings and other small fish, split and dried. *Ibid., Spalding-knife*, a knife used for splitting fish in Newfoundland.

† **Spa·lderling.** *Obs.* [f. *spalder* to split (see SPALD *v.*) + -LING. Cf. G. *spälterling* a split piece of wood.] A split and dried fish.

c 1340 *Durh. Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 38 In viij spalderlyngg' empt. prec. ij*d.* q*a*. 1366 *Ibid.* 45 In lx spaldirlinges empt. *Ibid.*, In xviij spalderlenges. 1403 *Ibid.* 51.

† **Spale,** *sb.*[1] *Obs.*[-1] [OE. *spala* substitute: see SPELE *v.*] Sparing; respite or rest.

a 1250 *Owl & Night.* 258 Þu mihtest bet hote galegale, Vor þu hauest to monye tale. Let þine tunge habbe spale.

Spale (spēl), *sb.*[2] *Sc.* and *north.* Forms: 5–6, 9 **spale,** 5–6, 8–9 **spail,** 6 **spaile, spaill,** 8–9 **speal,** 9 *north.* **spial, spyel.** [Of uncertain origin: cf. SPALL *sb.*[1] and SPEEL *sb.*

There is resemblance in form to ON. *spal-, spǫlr* bar, rod, short piece, MHG. (and G. dial.) *spale* rung of a ladder, G. dial. *spale, spal* wooden spit, wedge; but real connexion with these is doubtful.]

1. A splinter or chip, a thin piece or strip, of wood.

c 1470 *Gol. & Gaw.* 629 The spalis and the sparkis spedely out sprang. *Ibid.* 983 Half ane span at ane spail..He hewit attanis. *a* 1500 *Ratis Raving* 57 With stikis, and with spalys small, To byge vp chalmer, spens & hall. 1535 STEWART *Cron. Scot.* II. 283 Quhill speris brak, and all in spalis sprang Aboue thair heid. 1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 17 A spale, chip, *assula.* *a* 1578 LINDESAY (Pitscottie) *Chron. Scot.* (S.T.S.) II. 161 The king of France was ewill hurt in the face with the spaill of ane speir. 1710 RUDDIMAN *Gloss. Douglas' Æneis* s.v. *Spalis*, We use .. *speals* for chips of wood, or small splinters. 1781 J. HUTTON *Tour to Caves* (ed. 2) Gloss. 96 *Speals*, chips, or small split sticks. 1786 BURNS *Address of Beelzebub* 39 But smash them I crash them a' to spails! 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 472 This multiplication of tools becomes unnecessary, by laying against the cutting part of the bit, slips of wood, called spales. 1854 H. MILLER *Sch. & Schm.* (1858) 14 The poor Friendship lies in spales on the bar of Findhorn. 1865 G. MACDONALD *A. Forbes* 50 The floor was covered with shavings or spales, as they are called by northern consent.

b. In proverbial phrases.

1535 STEWART *Cron. Scot.* I. 654 To huif ouir hie, Quhill that the spaill fell into thair ee. *a* 1585 MONTGOMERIE *Cherry & Slae* 184 To late I knaw, quha hewis to hie, The spail sall fall into his eie. 1670 RAY *Prov.* (1678) 369 He that hews over hie, the spail will fall into his eye. 1862 HISLOP *Prov. Scot.* 88 He's no the best wright that casts maist spails. 1894 P. H. HUNTER *J. Inwick* iv. 48 Hew abüne your heid, an' ye'll get a spale in your ee.

2. *transf.* (See quot. 1824.)

1824 MACTAGGART *Gallovid. Encycl.* 432 *Spales o' the cannle*, little curls of tallow, which sometimes appear on a burning candle. 1897 RAMPINI *Hist. Moray & Nairn* vi. 333 A 'spale' or 'waste' on a burning candle indicates an approaching death.

3. *attrib.*, as *spale-basket, -board, -box.*

1830 J. WILSON *Noct. Ambr.* Wks. 1856 III. 19 Has the dowg swallowed the spale-box o' pills? 1857 MRS. CARLYLE *Lett.* II. 316 In a little oval spale-box. 1897 FRASER *Wigtown* 304 To..have nothing but a bit of a spale-board between him an' etarnity. 1894 HESLOP *Northumb. Gloss.* 681 *Spyel-basket*, a basket made of wooden *spails*, oak preferred, for carrying food to cattle on a farm.

Spale, *sb.*[3] [Cf. SPALL *sb.*[3]] (See quot. and CROSS-SPALE.)

1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk., Spales*, in naval architecture, internal strengthening by cross artificial beams.

Spale (spēl), *v. Cornish dial.* [Of obscure origin.] *trans.* To fine for absence, lateness, or breach of rules.

1854 *N. & Q.* 1st Ser. X. 419/2 *Spile*, which miners pronounce *spaël*; to inflict a fine or penalty for late attendance at work. 1865 R. HUNT *Pop. Rom. W. Eng.* Ser. II. 125 It isn't worth while to be spaled for any such foolishness.

Spale, dial. variant of SPELE *v.*

Spa·ling, *vbl. sb.* (See quot. 1846.)

1805 *Shipwright's Vade-M.* 238 Upon the cross-spales is marked the middle line and the breadth of the ship at the place of spaling. 1846 A. YOUNG *Naut. Dict.* 289 *Spaling*, or *Baulking*, in shipbuilding, means keeping the frames to their proper breadths by cross-spales or baulks, which should so remain till some of the deck beam knees are bolted.

Spall (spōl), *sb.*[1] Also 5 **spalle, spolle,** 8– **spawl.** [Of doubtful origin: perh. related to G. *spellen* to split, but cf. SPALE *sb.*[2]] A chip or splinter, esp. of stone or ore.

a. c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 467/1 Spalle, or chyppe (*K.* spolle), *quisquilia, assula.* 1585 HIGINS tr. *Junius' Nomencl.* 411/2 *Segmenta*, the spalls or broken peeces of marble comming off in grauing and hewing. 1611 COTGR., *Retailles*, the spalls, or shards; the peeces which flie from stone in the hewing thereof. 1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), *Spalls*, Chips of Wood. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2252/1 *Spall*, a chip of stone, removed by the hammer. 1892 *Daily News* 22 Oct. 5/4 A stock of granite spalls could be had in.

β. 1793 SMEATON *Edystone L.* § 35 The great tendency of the Laminæ whereof the rock is composed, to rise in spawls. *Ibid.* § 112 *note*, Observing how soon the quarrymen would cut half a ton of Spawls from an unformed block. 1897 T. HARDY *Well-Beloved* 8 Like all the gardens in the isle it was surrounded by a wall of dry-jointed spawls.

Spall, *sb.*[2] *rare.* [ad. It. *spalla*, or (in quot. 1827) var. of Sc. *spaul* SPAULD.] Shoulder.

1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* II. vi. 29 Their mightie strokes their haberieons dismayld, And naked made each others manly spalles. 1827 CARLYLE *Germ. Rom.* I. 60, [I] catch the noodle by the spall,..and pack him out of doors.

Spall (spōl), *sb.*[3] Also **spawl.** [Of obscure origin: cf. SPALE *sb.*[3]] A cross-spall; a cross-piece used in staging.

1895 *Whitby Gaz.* 12 July 4/1 Boys frequently went up the spawls instead of the gangway because it was a shorter way on to the ship. 1898 *Westm. Gaz.* 23 June 5/2 These were fixed together at the top by spalls, and strengthened by struts.

Spall (spōl), *v.*[1] Also 8 **spal,** 9 **spaul, spawl.** [Related to SPALL *sb.*[1]]

1. *trans.* **a.** *Mining.* To break (ore) into smaller pieces.

1758 [see SPALLING *vbl. sb.* 1]. 1778 PRYCE *Min. Cornub.* 215 Tin-stuff..is first spalled or broken to the size of a man's fist or less. *Ibid.* 233 They..spal or break them [*sc.* the larger stones] to a less size. 1855 [J. R. LEIFCHILD] *Cornwall* 52 The ore..is..drawn up, after being 'spalled' or broken. 1875 J. H. COLLINS *Met. Mining* 106 The ores, if in large masses, are first 'spalled', or broken up by means of heavy 'spalling hammers'.

absol. 1855 [J. R. LEIFCHILD] *Cornwall* 164 There they sit, 'spalling, jigging,' 'buddling and trunking,' and doing all manner of mining mysteries.

b. To dress (stones) roughly with a hammer.

1793– [see SPALLED *ppl. a.*].

2. To split or chip. Also with *off.*

1841 HARTSHORNE *Salop. Ant.* Gloss., *Spauled*, split, cleft, as wood. 1846 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* II. 501 Should the fibres have been split, or spalled off in shooting the ends, the removal of the edge *b*..would correct the evil.

3. *intr.* To break *off* in fragments or chips.

1853 KANE *Grinnell Exp.* xl. (1856) 363 Spawling off under the axe in dangerous little chips. 1881 YOUNG *Every Man his own Mechanic* § 423 If this precaution is not taken the corners will 'spawl' off.

Spall (spōl), *v.*[2] [Related to SPALL *sb.*[3]] *trans.* To fix (ship-frames) at the proper breadth by means of cross-spalls.

c 1850 *Rudim. Navig.* (Weale) 112 The main and top-timber breadths are the heights mostly taken for spalling the frames.

Spall, obs. form of SPAWL, to spit.

Spallard, dial. form of ESPALIER.

Spalled (spōld), *ppl. a.* Also **spauled, spawled.** [f. SPALL *v.*[1]]

1. Dressed or broken with the hammer.

1793 SMEATON *Edystone L.* 194 The spawled parts, parallel to the grain of the Rock. 1867 *Ure's Dict. Arts* II. 66 In the process of cobbing either ragged or spalled work, the greatest care..should be given [etc.].

2. *Spalled rubble* (see quot. 1839).

1839 *Sat. Mag.* 16 Feb. 58/1 That kind of careful masonry, called [in Ireland] *Spauled Rubble*; in which small stones shaped by the hammer..are placed in every interstice of the larger stones. 1888 STOKES *Celtic Ch.* 233 The tower is externally of ashlar or spawled rubble work.

Spaller (spō·lər). [f. SPALL *v.*[1]]

1. A person employed in spalling.

1843 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* I. 171 The spallers employ heavy axe-formed or muckle-hammers, for spalling or scaling off smaller flakes. 1884 C. G. W. LOCK *Workshop Receipts* Ser. III. 51/2 The poor ore of the spallers is subjected to the cobbling process. 1894 *Labour Commission* Gloss., *Spallers*, women who, with a mallet, break the tin-ore as it comes from the mine-shaft into small pieces.

2. A spalling-machine.

1877 RAYMOND *Statist. Mines & Mining* 37 The quartz can be delivered at the 'spaller' for less than $2 per ton.

† **Spa·lliard.** *Obs. rare.* Also 7 **spaliard,** 9 **spallier.** [Of obscure origin: cf. SPADIARD.] A labourer engaged in tin-mining.

1625 *Laws Stannaries* xii. (1808) 21 A labouring tinner, a blower, owner of blowing-houses, a spalliard, or adventurer. 1630 DODRIDGE *Dutchy of Cornewall* 93 The laborious search for Tynne in those dayes, euen as it is vsed by the Spaliard at this day with great industrie and paines. [1836 R. POLWHELE *Hist. Cornw.* Gloss. 91/2 *Spallier*, a labourer in tin-works. See Acts of the Stannary Parliaments.]

Spalliard, dial. form of ESPALIER.

Spalling (spō·liŋ), *vbl. sb.* Also **spauling, spawling.** [f. SPALL *v.*[1]]

1. The action of breaking ore into small pieces, or of dressing stones, etc., with the hammer.

1758 BORLASE *Nat. Hist. Cornw.* 203 The best is broken small with hammers, which they call Spalling. 1778 PRYCE *Min. Cornub.* 193 Raising, spaling, and dividing, o. s. o. 1855 [J. R. LEIFCHILD] *Cornwall* 268 The whole processes of spalling, buddling, jigging. 1875 BRASH *Eccl. Arch. Ireland* 79 The masonry is..of large-sized blocks, fitted without spawling. 1884 C. G. W. LOCK *Workshop Receipts* Ser. III. 50/1 Cleaning is commenced by separating the large from the small stuff, for 'spalling'.

attrib. 1871 MORGANS *Man. Min. Tools* 67 The 'spalling hammer' is used for breaking up lumps of orey mineral for sorting before crushing and stamping. 1875 J. H. COLLINS *Met. Mining* 107 The result of the spalling process is the production of a pile of best ore, a pile of seconds,..and a pile of 'deads'.

2. The process of chipping or splitting *off.*

1842 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* V. 363/1, I noticed a splintering, or spalling off, of the stones supporting the feet of some of the arches. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 370/2 In order to prevent the brick from *spalling.*

Spalme, obs. erron. form of PSALM.

Spalpeen (spælpī·n). *Irish.* [a. Ir. *spailpín*, f. *spailp-* of uncertain origin and meaning + *-ín* dim. suffix. The etym. given in quot. 1780 is fanciful.]

1. A common workman or labourer; a farm-worker or harvester.

1780 A. YOUNG *Tour Irel.* 57 Connaught labourers; they are called spalpeens: *spal*, in Irish, is a scythe, and *peen* a penny; that is, a mower for a penny a day. *Ibid.* 333 Spalpeens going from hence decline much. 1807 HOARE *Tour in Ireland* 318, I have heard these boys [i.e. peasant's sons] called Spalpeens. 1818 LADY MORGAN *Fl. Macarthy* (1819) II. 3 Surrounded by petitioning, whining, wretched cotters, spalpeans, road makers, and labourers. 1837 *Boston Advert.* 17 Jan. 4/4 Peter Murphy, late spalpeen in Kerry.

2. Used contemptuously: A low or mean fellow; a scamp, a rascal.

1815 MAR. EDGEWORTH *Love & Law* I. iv, The spalpeen! turned into a buckeen, that would be a squireen,—but can't. 1856 LEVER *Martins of Cro' M.* xv, The dirty, mean spalpeens. 1857 KINGSLEY *Two Y. Ago* xix, I've brought away the poor spalpeen of a priest.

3. A youngster, a boy.

1891 B. STOKER *Snake's Pass* v, I remimber it..a lot higher up the mountain whin I was a spalpeen. 1901 JANE BARLOW *Land Shamrock* 206 If her brother Patrick was a couple of year or so oulder,..but he's only a spalpeen yet.

† **Spalt,** *sb.*[1] *Obs. rare.* [Of obscure origin.] A silly or foolish person.

1639 N. N. tr. *Du Bosq's Compl. Woman* I. 26, I can no wayes excuse those Gossips..who are rapt in the companie of certaine Spalts [F. *impertinés*], so they have good clothes, or talk but of the Queene or Princesse. *Ibid.* II. 59 What they only do of purpose to take some Spalt [F. *insensé*].

† **Spalt,** *sb.*[2] *Obs.*[-0] [a. G. *spalt*: see SPALD *v.*] (See quots.)

1668 WILKINS *Real Char.* II. iii. § 3. 66 Metal[s]..used for ..Making of Soder, being like Tinn, but more hard and brittle: Spelter, Zink, Spalt. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.*, *Spalt* or *Spelt*, a white, scaly, shining Stone, frequently used to promote the Fusion of Metals...The English Spalt is generally very hard. [Hence in Bailey, etc.]

Spalt, *a.* Now *dial.* Also 8– **spolt, spoult.** [Related to SPALT *v.*] Of wood: Brittle, short-grained; breaking easily through dryness or decay.

In some dialects also applied to other things.

1567 GOLDING *Ovid's Met.* x. 100 Nor hazle spalt, nor ash whereof the shafts of speares made bee. 1577 HARRISON *England* II. xxii. (1877) I. 341 The parke oke is the softest, and far more spalt and brickle than the hedge oke. 1733 W. ELLIS *Chiltern & Vale Farm.* 113 The Beech is more spalt and short in it self than many others be. *Ibid.* 154 The Wind's Damage, that is often fatal to some of the Arms of this spalt, brittle Wood. 1787 GROSE *Prov. Gloss.* s.v. *Spolt*, The rafters of the church of Norwich are said to be spolt. 1787– in East Anglian glossaries (in form *spoult*). 1875 PARISH *Sussex Dial.* 110.

Spalt (spōlt), *v. dial.* Also 8 **spault.** [prob. ad. Du. and Flem. *spalte* (WFris. *spjalte*), = G. *spalten*, related to SPALD *v.*] *intr.* and *trans.* To split, tear, splinter, etc. Hence **Spa·lting** *vbl. sb.*

1733 TULL *Horse-Hoeing Husb.* xx. 291 It *Spaults* up from below the Staple. *Ibid.* 296 The Danger of tearing (or spaulting) up of the Under-Stratum along with the Staple. 1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss.*, *Spalt*,..to chip, to splint. *Ibid.*, *Spaltings*, branches of trees that are broken off, or riven by the wind. 1876 *Surrey Gloss.* s.v., I must get a mattick,..and spalt they old stubs off.

† **Spaltam.** *Obs. rare.* Also 8 **'spaltham.** [ad. med.L. *aspaltum*, var. *asphaltum.*] Asphalt or bitumen used as a varnish. Also *attrib.*

1532 in E. Law *Hampton Crt. Pat.* (1885) I. 363 Payd to Henry Burd, groser of London, for 12 lb. of white lead, ..2 lb. of spaltain [*sic*]. 1777 FOOTE *Taste* I. i, By the addition of your lumber-room dirt, and the salutary application of the 'spaltham pot, it became a Guido.

Spalter (spō·ltəɹ), *v. dial.* [f. prec. + -ER[5]. Cf. *spalder* s.v. SPALD *v.*] (See quots.)

1844 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* VII. 429/2 A hard frost often causes glazed tiles or pots, when exposed to the weather, to chip or spalter. 1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss.*, *Spaltered*, split off.

Spalter, obs. erron. form of PSALTER.

Span (spæn), *sb.*[1] Forms: 1 **span(n, spon(n;** 4 **sponne,** 4–7 **spanne,** 4–5 **spane** (5 **spayn**); 4– **span,** 6 **spann,** 8 **spand.** [OE. *span(n, spon(n*, = WFris. *span*, EFris. *sponne*, MDu. (and Du.) *spanne*, MLG. *spen(ne*, OHG. *spanna* (MHG. and G. *spanne, spann*), ON. *spann-, sponn* (Icel. *spönn*, Norw. dial. *spann, sponn*; Sw. *spann*, Da. *spand*), app. related to *spannan* SPAN *v.*[2]

The Germanic word is the source of med.L. *spannus* and *spanna* (*spanga, spana*), It. *spanna*, OF. *espanne, espane*, and *espan* (mod.F. *empan*). In OE. the word is very scantily recorded, and its currency after 1300 may be partly due to OF. influence. The form *spayn*, which also occurs in the vb., is abnormal, unless it represents an OF. *espain* which occurs as a variant of *espan.*]

1. The distance from the tip of the thumb to the tip of the little finger, or sometimes to the tip of the forefinger, when the hand is fully extended; the space equivalent to this taken as a measure of length, averaging nine inches.

Freq. followed by a positive or comparative adj.

c 900 tr. *Bæda's Hist.* IV. xi. (1890) 296 Þa wæs se lichoma sponne [*v.r.* spanne] lengra þære þryh. *c* 1000 ÆLFRIC *Gloss.* in Wr.-Wülcker 158 *Palmus*, span *uel* handbred. *a* 1310 in Wright *Lyric P.* ix. 35 Swannes swyre swythe wel y-sette, A sponne lengore then y-mette. *c* 1380 *Sir Ferumb.* 1607 Þe swerd..clef him þanne, Til it hadde in-to is bodi i-soȝt by-nythe is brest a spanne. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Prol.* 155 Sche hadde a fair forheed. It was almost a spanne

brood, I trowe. 14.. *Sir Beues* (S.) 2509 A spañ long þey [i.e. bristles] were, wel rowe. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 467/1 Spanne, mesure of the hand, *palmus*,..*palmata*. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 351 A Spayn (*A.* Spane), *palmus*. –1535 COVERDALE *Judges* iii. 16 Ehud made him a two edged dagger of a spanne longe. 1577–87 HOLINSHED *Chron.* I. 92/1 The space of his forehead betwixt his two eies was a span broad. 1660 BOYLE *New Exp. Phys. Mech.* ix. (1682) 39 There happen'd in the great Receiver a crack of about a Span long. 1671 J. WEBSTER *Metallogr.* xi. 158 They go no deeper than a span or two. 1718 *Free-thinker* No. 47. 343 Pharao..was a Dwarf, but seven Spans high. 1756–7 tr. *Keysler's Trav.* (1760) II. 276 The diameter..is twelve common spans, or near eight feet. 1811 A. T. THOMSON *Lond. Disp.* (1818) 36 The stems trailing, about a span in length. 1862 DRAPER *Intell. Devel. Europe* xiii. (1865) 303 In which there are walking about men, a span long.

fig. *a* 1350 *Geburt Jesu* 40 in Horstm. *Altengl. Leg.* (1875) 66 Þe tyme hem þoȝte longe Inou3, ech vnche hem þouȝte a sponne. *a* 1586 SIDNEY *Ps.* xxxix. iii, Lo, thou a spanns length mad'st my living line. 1672 SIR T. BROWNE *Let. Friend* § 28 If we reckon up only those days which God hath accepted of our lives, a life of good years will hardly be a span long.

† **b.** In collective sing. with numerals. *Obs.*

a 1300–1400 *Cursor M.* 17288+138 So heghe be thre spane no nother graf þer is. *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (Roxb.) xi 43 Þai had cherubyn of gold xii. span lang. *c* 1440 *Jacob's Well* 194 Þis handle muste be iiij. spanne in lengthe.

c. Const. *of* (the hand) or with possessive.

1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* (1658) 186 The ears of it are large and broad,..being at the least as broad as a mans span. 1649 JER. TAYLOR *Gt. Exemp.* III. Disc. 15. 34 So must we take the measures of eternity by the span of a mans hand. 1855 BAIN *Senses & Int.* II. ii. § 12, I can appreciate a distance of six or eight inches by stretching the thumb away from the fingers, as in the span of the hand.

d. *fig.* Capability of spanning or grasping.

c 1800 H. K. WHITE *Lett.* (1837) 284 Below the span of my auditory nerve.

2. The hand with the thumb and fingers extended, esp. as a means of measuring. *Obs.* exc. *arch.*

1535 COVERDALE *Isaiah* xl. 12 Who hath measured heauen with his spanne, and hath comprehended all the earth of ye worlde in thre fyngers? 1867 LONGF. *Dante, Inf.* vi. 25 My Conductor, with his spans extended, Took of the earth.

3. A thing, piece, etc., of the length of a span; a very small extent or space.

13.. *Sir Beues* 815 A spanne of þe groin be-forn Wiþ is swerd he haþ of schoren. 1633 G. HERBERT *Temple, Pulley* i, Let the worlds riches, which dispersed lie, Contract into a span. 1635 QUARLES *Embl.* II. xiv. (1718) 118 Lord, what a nothing is this little span We call a Man! 1738 POPE *Universal Prayer* vi, Yet not to Earth's contracted Span Thy Goodness let me bound. 1746 HERVEY *Medit.* (1818) 217 The landscape, large and spacious,..shrinks into a span. 1798 FERRIAR *Certain Var. Man* 198 It was not enough.. to shorten a whole nation to three spans. 1841 ELPHINSTONE *Hist. Ind.* II. 242 There was not a span free from cultivation. 1850 TENNYSON *In Mem.* cxvii, Every grain of sand that runs, And every span of shade that steals.

4. A short space of time, esp. as the duration of human life; the (short) time during which a person lives.

Cf. Coverdale *Ps.* xxxviii. 6 Thou hast made my dayes a spanne longe.

1599 DAVIES *Immort. Soul* Introd. xlv. (1742) 12, I know my Life's a Pain, and but a Span. 1607 SHAKS. *Timon* v. iii. 3 Tymon is dead, who hath out-stretcht his span. 1613 — *Hen. VIII*, III. ii. 140 You haue scarse time To steale from Spirituall leysure a briefe span. 1728 YOUNG *Ode to King* xvii, Jove mark'd for man A scanty span. 1742 — *Nt. Th.* II. 115–6 We censure nature for a span too short; That span too short, we tax as tedious too. 1788 BURNS *Written in Friars-Carse Hermitage* 37 Did many talents gild thy span? 1812 BYRON *Ch. Har.* II. lxiii, Through their mortal span, In bloodier acts conclude those who with blood began. 1850 ROBERTSON *Serm.* Ser. III. xiv. (1853) 176 The span granted to the butterfly the child of a single Summer, may be long. 1870 MORRIS *Earthly Par.* (1890) 307/1 So strangely shift men's lives in little span.

b. Const. *of* life, etc.

1633 G. HERBERT *Temple, Ch. Porch* lxxvii, Lifes poore span Make not an ell, by trifling in thy wo. 1683 KENNETT tr. *Erasm. on Folly* 81 In so short a space, as the small Span of Life. 1771 BEATTIE *Minstr.* I. xxv, Nor lessen of his life the little span! 1840 MRS. SOMERVILLE *Connex. Phys. Sci.* (ed. 5) xii. 101 In the short span of human life. 1867 FREEMAN *Norm. Cong.* (1877) I. iv. 255 Whose lives were really prolonged beyond the common span of human existence.

5. The distance or space between the abutments of an arch, the supports of a beam, the piers of a bridge, the walls carrying a roof, etc.; the stretch or extent of this.

a. 1725 W. HALFPENNY *Sound Building* Pref., For want of knowing, when the Arch of either Spand being given, what must be the Arch of the other. *Ibid.* 20 Set off the Spand of the Intersecting Arch from *v.* to *t.* 1751 — *New Designs Chinese Bridges* 1.7 A double truss'd Timber Bridge, whose Spand between the top of the Butment is 45 Feet.

β. 1736 HAWKSMOOR *London Bridge* 35 The five Arches are in their Span as followeth. *Ibid.* 42 The two Bridges are very large in their Span. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s.v. *Bridge*, The span of the next arch is 56 feet. 1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* I. 248 The Trustees..having used it for beams in a new warehouse at Liverpool, of more than thirty feet clear span. 1832 G. DOWNES *Lett. Cont. Countries* I. 484 Owing to its height, the great span of the arch is not so perceptible. 1869 RANKINE *Machine & Hand-tools* Pl. F 12, The span between the standards, A, A, being 16 feet. 1874 MICKLETHWAITE *Mod. Par. Churches* 128 York Minster, with its choir of fifty feet span.

transf. 1853 SIR H. DOUGLAS *Milit. Bridges* (ed. 3) 288 The Russians resorted to..difficult applications of carpentry to repair this breach, which, being of considerable span [etc.].

1887 RUSKIN *Præterita* II. 59 About the span of an English lane that would allow two carts to pass.

fig. 1858 O. W. HOLMES *Aut. Breakf.-t.* (1891) 14 The great minds are those with a wide span, which couple truths related to, but far removed from, each other. 1889 *Spectator* 5 Oct., Congresses might be dismissed on the ground that it is impossible they can do anything to widen the span of knowledge.

b. (See first quot.) *rare.*

1856 'STONEHENGE' *Brit. Rural Sports* I. I. x. § 1. 82 The three first [antlers] are termed the *rights*;..the horn itself, the *beam*; the width, the *span*. 1873 BLACK *Pr. Thule* xxv. 414 You will discourse..of the span and the pearls, of the antlers and the crockets.

6. An arch of a bridge; a section between two piers. Also *transf.*, the vault of the sky.

a 1806 H. K. WHITE *Sonn.* ix, In the drear silence of the polar span Dost thou repose? 1862 *Rep. Direct. E. Midl. Railway Cy.* 18 Six spans of the Keeul Bridge are erected since I last reported on the subject. 1891 LOVETT *U. S. Pictures* 39 The total weight of the whole central span is 6,740 tons.

b. *Naut.* (See quot.)

1846 A. YOUNG *Naut. Dict.* 289 *A Span of Rigging*, implies the length of shrouds from the dead-eyes on one side, over the mast-head, to the dead-eyes on the other side of the ship.

c. A stretch, line, or extent *of* something.

1894 *Outing* XXIII. 374/1 The cocoa-nuts hanging from the long, almost unbroken span of cocoa palms that line the beach.

7. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *span-breadth, -extent, -girth, -length, -line*; *span-broad, -lived* adjs.

1604 E. G[RIMSTONE] *D'Acosta's Hist. Indies* IV. viii. 228 In the largest place they have six foote, and in the narrowest a *spanne bredth. 1599 NASHE *Lenten Stuff* Wks. (Grosart) V. 226 In the correlatiue analagie of the *spanbroad rowse running betwixt. 1655 VAUGHAN *Silex Scint.* I. *Resurr. & Immort.* (1858) 26 At last..She wing'd away, And, proud with life and sence Esteem'd..of two whole Elements As meane, and *span-extents. 1807 CRABBE *Par. Reg.* III. 937 No more his *span-girth shanks and quiv'ring thighs Upheld a body of the smaller size. *c* 1440 *Jacob's Well* 170 Þe secunde *spanne lengthe of þe handyll. 1756 NUGENT *Gr. Tour, Germany* II. 335 They make steel chains so prodigious fine of a span length, that [etc.]. 1838 *Penny Cycl.* XI. 325/2 The shorter radii describing the two quadrants at the spring of the arch, are upon the *span-line itself. 1846 PROWETT *Prometh. Bound* 26 Can that *span-lived race avail To succour thee in this distress?

Span (spæn), *sb.*[2] Also 8–9 spann. [a. Du. and LG. *span* (also MDu. and MLG.; G. *spann*, dial. *spân*), f. *spannen* to unite, fasten, etc. Cf. OE. *gespan*(*n*, *gespon*(*n* in related senses.]

1. *Naut.* One or other of various ropes or chains used as fastenings or means of connexion (see quots.).

1769 FALCONER *Dict. Marine* (1780), *Span*, a small line.., the middle of which is usually attached to a stay, from whence the two ends branch outwards to the right and left, and having either a block or thimble attached to their extremities. 1794 *Rigging & Seamanship* 281 Each of these chains has..a large iron ring, to which is fastened a chain, called an up-and-down span. 1841 DANA *Seaman's Man.* 124 *Span*, a rope with both ends made fast, for a purchase to be hooked to its bight. 1846 A. YOUNG *Naut. Dict.* 289 *Span*,..a double rope with thimbles seized betwixt the two parts, stretched across the rigging as a fair-leader for ropes. *c* 1860 H. STUART *Seaman's Catech.* 8 What tackles are used for hoisting the launch in and out? The stays (fitted with a span) between the fore and main mast. *Ibid.* 55 A chain span is shackled to the bolts, and the slips are rove round the span and shackled to the cable. 1894 *Labour Commission* Gloss. 76 *Span*, a length of chain or wire rope used for suspending 'derricks'..to the masts of ships.

2. *U.S.* and *Canada.* A pair of horses harnessed and driven together, *esp.* a pair as nearly alike in colour and size as possible.

1769 *Boston Gaz.* 2 Oct. (Thornton), Wanted, a Spann of good Horses for a Curricle. 1828 P. CUNNINGHAM *N. S. Wales* (ed. 3) II. 54 A span (pair) of horses is a common expression through all the state of New York, and even as far as Upper Canada. 1840 HALIBURTON *Clockm.* Ser. III. xviii. 248 If any man will show me a hoss that can keep it up as he has done.., I'll give him old Clay for nothin', as a span for him. 1841 CATLIN *N. Amer. Ind.* xlv. (1844) II. 81 A snug span of little horses. 1883 *Harper's Mag.* Mar. 572/1 She had her open landau and her span for summer driving.

transf. 1860 O. W. HOLMES *Prof. Breakf.-t.* vii, I'd as lief undertake to keep a span of elephants.

fig. 1884 *Athenæum* 20 Sept. 364/1 Thus ran this span of printing-houses, driven by Barker, neck and neck.

3. *S. Africa.* A team of oxen or other draught animals consisting of two or more yokes.

1812 A. PLUMTRE *Lichtenstein's S. Africa* I. 192 They could not get on the rest of the way without a double Spann. 1850 R. G. CUMMING *Hunter's Life S. Afr.* (1902) 124/2 My large waggon stuck fast, but was extricated with the help of another span. 1893 SELOUS *Trav. S. E. Africa* 13 The fine span of oxen that had belonged to Mr. Collinson.

4. A fetter or shackle. (Cf. SPAN *v.*[2] 1 b.)

1856 WHITTIER *Panorama* 322 To them the Law is but the iron span That girds the ankles of imbruted man.

Span, *sb.*[3] *dial.* and *Hist.* [ad. ON. *spann* (Norw. and Sw. *spann*, Da. *spand*), = MLG. and LG. *spann, span* pail, measure.] A certain measure *of* butter (in Orkney and the north of Scotland).

1502 in A. Peterkin *Rentals Orkney* (1820) 4 In butter scat j span. *Ibid.*, In butter scat uther half span. 1861 C. INNES *Sk. Early Scotch Hist.* 77 It was the established usage of Caithness, that for every score of cows a span of butter should be paid to the bishop. 1872 A. P. FORBES *Kalend. Sc. Saints* 262 The usage was to take a span of butter for every twenty cows.

Span (spæn), *v.*[1] Also 5 *Sc.* spayn, 7 spanne. [f. SPAN *sb.*[1] Cf. OE. *ymbspannan* and *spanning*; G. *spannen* (rare), Icel., Norw., Sw. *spanna*, ON. *spenna*, OF. *espaner*, in similar senses. The form *spayn* is peculiar: see note to SPAN *sb.*[1]]

I. *trans.* † **1.** To grasp, lay hold of, seize. *Obs.*

1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* III. 582 And newys..That wont to spayn gret speris war, Swa spaynyt aris, that [etc.]. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XVIII. xxxviii. (Bodl. MS.), [The dragon] lurkeþ in weies where þe Elephaunte goþ and bindeþ and spanneþ his legges and sleeþ hym and strangeleþ hym. *c* 1420 *Avow. Arth.* xiii, Thenne the kinge spanos his spere, Opon that bore for to bere. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* III. iii. 111 Doun fallis sailis, the airis sone we span.

2. To measure by means of the outstretched hand; to cover with the hand in this way.

† *To span farthings*, to play at span-farthing.

1560 BIBLE (Geneva) *Isaiah* xlviii. 13 My right hand hathe spanned the heauens. 1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 20 To span, *palmare*. 1621 T. WILLIAMSON tr. *Goulart's Wise V.* 185 That we should take vpon vs to spanne with our fingers, and measure with our arme the miracles of God. 1688 PENTON *Guardian's Instruction* (1897) 50 His main design is to.. go home again to spanning farthings. 1706 STEVENS *Span. Dict.* I, *Xéme*, half a Foot, or as much as a Man can span with his Thumb and Fore-finger. 1818 KEATS *Endym.* I. 499 For still, with Delphic emphasis, she spann'd The quick invisible strings (of the lute). 1866 BROGDEN *Prov. Lincs.*, *Span*, to measure a distance by flattening the hand and stretching the thumb and middle finger. 1899 *N. & Q.* 9th Ser. III. 185/1 So that he could span the distance by the fingers of the hand.

† **b.** To measure in any way. *Obs.*

1641 MILTON *Ch. Govt.* i. Wks. 1851 III. 99 To comprehend the hidden causes of things, and span in his thoughts all the various effects that passion..can worke in mans nature. 1648 — *Sonn. To H. Lawes*, Harry, whose tuneful and well measur'd Song First taught our English Musick how to span Words with just note and accent. 1717 T. TICKELL *Ep. fr. Lady* 3 Oft on the well-known Spot I fix my Eyes, And Span the Distance that between us lies.

† **c.** To measure out; to set a limit or bound to (life, etc.). *Obs.*

1613 SHAKS. *Hen. VIII*, I. i. 223 My life is spand already: I am the shadow of poore Buckingham. 1633 G. HERBERT *Temple, Bunch of Grapes* ii, For as the Jews of old by God's command Travell'd, and saw no town; So now each Christian hath his journeys spann'd. 1657 BP. H. KING *Elegy on G. Adolphus* Poems (1843) 71 Death hath spann'd thee.

d. To encircle or encompass (the waist, wrist, etc.) with the hand or hands.

1781 COWPER *Truth* 155 She recollects her youth, And tells, not always with an eye to truth, Who spann'd her waist. 1797–1809 COLERIDGE *Three Graves* IV. xi, And oft she said, I'm not grown thin! And then her wrist she spanned. 1830 MARRYAT *King's Own* xxiv, 'If I ever am in your list, I presume it will be for a case of plethora,' replied Jerry, spanning his thin waist. 1841 BROWNING *Pippa Passes* iii. Poet. Wks. 1863 II. 54 How your plump arms.. have dropped away! Why, I can span them!

3. Of the rainbow, a bridge, etc.: To form an arch across or over (the sky, a river, etc.); to stretch or extend over in the form of an arch; to cross from side to side. Also *transf.* or *fig.*

(*a*) 1633 G. HERBERT *Temple, Content* v, This soul doth span the world, and hang content From either pole unto the centre. 1742 YOUNG *Nt. Th.* IV. 418 He looks down On all that soars; and spans immensity. 1781 COWPER *Table-T.* 702 Fancy, that from the bow that spans the sky Brings colours. 1816 SHELLEY *To Peacock* 12 July, A rainbow spanned the lake. 1866 NEALE *Seq. & Hymns* 123 O, sweet Rainbow,..That some day, One Onely Church shall span. *a* 1881 ROSSETTI *House of Life* xii, Two souls softly spann'd With one o'erarching heaven of smiles and sighs.

(*b*) 1736 N. HAWKSMOOR *London Bridge* 40 The Bridge at Rochester..spans a noble and deep River, 550 Feet wide. 1833 L. RITCHIE *Wand. by Loire* 7 The bridge..spans the stream with nine wide arches. 1853 SIR H. DOUGLAS *Milit. Bridges* (ed. 3) 177 The width [of the river] here was 700 feet, and twenty-seven boats were required to span it. 1869 TOZER *Highl. Turkey* I. 201 Its waters are spanned by a fine stone bridge.

b. *transf.* To reach or extend over (space or time).

1624 DONNE *Devot.* (ed. 2) 63 Our thoughts,..that doe not only bestride all the Sea, & Land, but span the Sun and Firmament at once. 1872 LIDDON *Some Elem. Relig.* ii. 39 His thought spans the intervening desert. 1879 A. W. WARD *Chaucer* i. 5 Chaucer's life..spans rather more than the latter half of the fourteenth century.

4. a. To stretch *out* (the thumb) as in spanning.

1676 MACE *Musick's Mon.* 74 Bring up your Left-Hand from the Table, bended, just like the Talents of a Hawk; All, excepting your Thumb, which must stand Strait; and Span'd out.

b. To throw as an arch or bridge.

a 1861 T. WOOLNER *My Beautiful Lady, Day Dream* 30 Clutching at rainbows spanned across the sky!

5. To throw a bridge across (a river, etc.); to bridge over.

1861 SMILES *Engineers* II. 176 Telford spanned both these straits with suspension road bridges. 1876 ROUTLEDGE *Discoveries* 1 Science has spanned great rivers and estuaries with bridges of form unknown to our fathers.

transf. 1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) II. 54 He is the mediator who spans the chasm which divides them. 1876 BLACKIE *Songs Relig.*, etc. 233 Not in vain God with lavish blooms of beauty Spanned the slope, and sowed the plain.

b. To cross (a bridge). *rare*[–1].

1894 H. GARDENER *Unoff. Patriot* 121 The Long Bridge was spanned and the strange party drove down Pennsylvania Avenue.

II. *absol.* **6.** To make a span *over* something; to reach with or as with a span; to stretch or range *from* one place or point *to* another. Chiefly *fig.*

1535 COVERDALE *Isaiah* xlviii. 13 My honde is the foundacion of the earth, & my right honde spanneth ouer the heauens. 1592 LYLY *Midas* v. iii. 104 Though my hande bee golde, yet I must not thinke to span ouer the maine Ocean. *a* 1652 J. SMITH *Sel. Disc.* VI. xiii. (1821) 300 The prophetical spirit..is most quick, spanning as it were from the centre to the circumference. 1657 BP. H. KING *Elegy on G. Adolphus* Poems (1843) 71 Thou might'st Vienna reach, and after span From Mulda to the Baltick Ocean. 1899 *N. & Q.* 9th Ser. III. 185/1 If he..spanned accordingly, the button of the first player became his.

7. *Whaling.* (See quot.)

1888 *Encycl. Brit.* XXIV. 526/2 If the whale is 'spanning', i.e., swimming in a decided direction and appearing at the surface at intervals more or less regular.

Span (spæn), *v.*[2] [ad. Flem., Du., or LG. (also MDu. and MLG.) *spannen*, = OHG. *spannan* (G. *spannen*), OFris. *spanna*, *sponna*, OE. *spannan* to fix or fasten, to join, to draw tight, etc. Cf. also It. *spannare*, from Germanic.]

1. *trans.* To harness or yoke (oxen, horses, etc.); to attach to a vehicle. Also with *in* and *out*: see INSPAN *v.* and OUTSPAN *v.*[1] (Cf. SPANG *v.*[3])

In later use chiefly from S. African Dutch.

1550 COVERDALE *Spir. Perle* vi. (1588) 70 He spanneth hys oxen, and goeth to the field. 1644 [WALSINGHAM] *Effigies True Fortitude* 15 Whil'st horses were span'd in to draw off the peices. 1656 DAVENANT *Siege of Rhodes* Wks. (1672) 23 Those Horses to that Carriage span! Drive, drive!

1836 A. F. GARDINER *Journ. Zoolu Country* 303 We left Berea, and spanned out on the flat. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade, Span*,..to attach draught cattle to a wagon. 1894 *Westm. Gaz.* 11 Sept. 8/1 So one day he spanned-in his mules..and leisurely trekked to the widow's homestead.

b. *dial.* To fetter or shackle (a horse).

1847 in HALLIWELL. 1865 R. HUNT *Pop. Rom. W. Eng.* (1871) Ser. I. 118 There, by the roadside, stood an old, bony white horse, spanned with its halter. 1880– in dial. glossaries (Cornw., Sussex, Kent).

c. *transf.* To enclose or confine.

1844 LOWELL *Fatherland* i, Doth not the yearning spirit scorn In such scant borders to be spanned?

2. To stretch, extend, make taut or tight; to draw (a bow). Now *arch.*

The sense appears earlier under SPANNING *vbl. sb.*[2]

1597 A. M. tr. *Guillemeau's Fr. Chirurg.* 20/1 Where as the inferior parte of the bellye is full of windes, and stiflye stretched out and spanned. *Ibid.* 45 b/1 The Ligature wil in one place be loosened, and in another spanned. 1658 A. Fox *Würtz' Surg.* I. vii. 28 The stitches [in a wound] are so pull'd and spann'd, that they tear out. *Ibid.* II. xxv. 155 With both hands keep it asunder, that the skin be spanned asunder. 1878 B. TAYLOR *Deukalion* III. i. 99 New bows I span, new arrows fill my quiver.

b. *fig.* with *up.*

1655 VAUGHAN *Silex Scint.* I. 53 Be there before the shadows stretch And span up night. *Ibid.* 76 Faith spans up blisse.

3. †**a.** To wind up the wheel-lock of (a pistol or musket) by means of a spanner. *Obs.*

1639 R. WARD *Animadv. Warre* I. 296 In Marching or Trooping through a Towne forget not to have your Peeces spand. *Ibid.* 299 *Span your Pistoll*—This is performed by sinking the Pistoll into his Bridle hand, and taking the Spanner in his right hand, to put it upon the axeltree, and winding about the wheele till it sticke. 1649 C. WALKER *Hist. Independ.* II. 249 A party of Horse..with Swords drawne and their pistols spanned. *c* 1672 *Verney Mem.* (1907) II. 345 Having Pistols before me, I drew one and held it in my hand, so that I could span it in a moment for ffear of a surprise.

b. To screw tight with a spanner.

1859 F. A. GRIFFITHS *Artill. Man.* (ed. 8) 209, 5. Gives shot and wad to 3, runs out, trains, and spans the breeching.

4. *Naut.* To fix, attach, fasten, or draw tight in some way. Also with *in.*

1781 ARCHER in *Naval Chron.* XI. 287 Spaned the booms; saw the boats all made fast. 1820 SCORESBY *Arc. Regions* II. 231 A harpoon thus prepared with foreganger and stock, is said to be 'spanned in'. 1852 BURN *Naval & Mil. Dict.* II. s.v., To span in the rigging. *Ibid.*, To span the runners. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.* 640 *Spanning a harpoon*, fixing the line which connects the harpoon and its staff. *Ibid.*, *To span in the rigging*, to draw the upper parts of the shrouds together by tackles, in order to seize on the cat-harping legs.

5. *intr.* Of horses: To form a span or pair; to match in colour and size. *U.S.*

1828 WEBSTER s.v., The horses span well. (New England.)

†**Span,** *v.*[3] *Obs.*[–1] [repr. OE. *spanan*, = OS. and OHG. *spanan*, MDu. and MLG. *spanen*, etc. Cf. FORSPAN *v.*] *trans.* To allure, entice, or draw away (a person).

a 1250 *Owl & Night.* 1490 To mysdo one gode manne & his ibedde from him spanne.

Span, *a.*: see SPICK AND SPAN.

Span-, the stem of SPAN *v.*[1] and SPAN *v.*[2], used in a number of special combs., chiefly of a technical character, as **span-beam, -block, -dog, -gutter, -lashing, -piece, -saw** [cf. Du. *spanzaag*, G. *spannsäge*, Sw. *-såg*], **-shackle** (see quots.); **span-waist,** a slender waist; **span-wire, -worm** *U.S.* (see quots.).

1847 HALLIWELL, **Span-beam*, the great beam..in a barn. 1860 *Eng. & For. Mining Gloss.* (ed. 2) 23 *Span beam*, the horizontal beam passing over the whim in which the upper pivot of the perpendicular axis moves. 1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-m.* 230 *Span-beam*, a long wooden beam supporting the head pivot of the drum axle of a gin, and resting at the extremities upon inclined legs. 1860 H. STUART *Seaman's Catech.* 23 Reeve it..through the *span block on the top-mast cap. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.* 640 *Span-blocks*, blocks seized into each bight of a strap, long enough to go across a cap, and allow the blocks to hang clear on each side. *Ibid.* 255 **Span-dogs*. Used to lift timber. A pair of dogs linked together, and being hooked at an extended angle, press home with greater strain. 1841 HARTSHORNE *Salop. Ant.* Gloss., **Span-gutter*, a drain in a coal mine, formed by one brick being placed flat, and one at either end to keep the soil from falling in. 1891 *Cent. Dict.*, **Span-lashing*, a lashing used to secure together two ropes or spars a short distance apart. 1836 PARKER *Gloss. Archit.* (1850) I. 431 **Span-piece*, the name given to the Cellar-beam of a roof in Lincolnshire, Wiltshire, and other districts. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2253/2 **Span-saw*, a frame-saw. 1750 BLANCKLEY *Nav. Expos.* 155 **Spanshakle* is a large Clasp of Iron, which goes round the End of the Davit upon the Fore-Castle, having a large Bolt, which goes through a Fore-Castle Beam. 1846 A. YOUNG *Naut. Dict.* 290 *Span-shackle*, a large bolt with a triangular ring attached to it for lashing anchors or spars thereto. 1871 *Figure-Training* 56 A fashionable *span waist ought not to exceed fourteen inches round. 1897 *Pall Mall G.* 30 Oct. 6/2 The current..passes out to the main conductor, or overhead wire, which is supported over the centre of the track by insulators attached to *span wires extending from uprights placed on either side of the roadway. 1852 T. W. HARRIS *Treat. Ins. New Eng.* (1862) 458 The caterpillars of the *Geometræ* of Linnæus,..or geometers, *span-worms, and loopers, have received these several names from their peculiar manner of moving. 1885 H. C. MCCOOK *Tenants of Old Farm* 104 A very familiar race of caterpillars, the Geometers, or span-worms.

‖ **Spanæmia** (spænī·miă). *Path.* Also **-emia.** [mod.L., f. Gr. *σπανο-*, comb. form of *σπανός* (usually *σπάν-ιος*) scarce, scanty + *-αιμία* (as in *ἀναιμία* ANÆMIA), f. *αἷμα* blood. Cf. F. *spanémie.*] A morbid condition of the blood characterized by a deficiency of red corpuscles; poorness of the blood.

1845 G. E. DAY tr. *Simon's Anim. Chem.* I. 306 The hypinosis speedily merges into spanæmia. [*Footnote*] We prefer this term to anæmia, because the latter is used to represent a morbid condition of the blood subordinate to spanæmia. 1853 MARKHAM *Skoda's Auscult.* xvi, It does not appear to be a sign of anaemia or spanaemia. 1897 *Hutchinson's Arch. Surg.* VIII. 199 There was no evidence of spanæmia.

Hence **Spanæ·mic** *a.*, of or relating to, inducing spanæmia; also *sb.*, a medicine inducing spanæmia.

1882 in *Ogilvie's Imp. Dict.*

Spancel (spæ·nsĕl), *sb.* Also 7 **spanciall,** 8 **spancill,** 9 *dial.* **spenchil, -shel,** etc. [ad. Flem., Du., or LG. *spansel* (in Kilian *spanssel*), f. *spannen* SPAN *v.*[2] Cf. SPANNEL, and ON. *spennsl* (Norw. *spensl*, MSw. *spenszel*) clasp, tie.] A rope or fetter for hobbling cattle, horses, etc.; *esp.* a short, noosed rope used for fettering the hind legs of a cow during milking. Also *transf.*

1610 [implied in SPANCEL *v.*]. 1674 RAY *N. Co. Words* 44 A *Spancel*, a Rope to tye a Cows hinder Legs. [Hence in Grose and later glossaries.] 1689 *Irish Hudibras* 84 See'st thou that Monster with the Tail, That ugly Monaghan Spanci-all [*marg.* Fetterd] The worst of all the Devils? 1784 SMYTH *Tour in U. S.* I. 172 The horses are turned loose in the woods, only with leather spancills or fetters on two of their legs. 1841 MRS. S. C. HALL *Ireland* I. 114 Upon the neighbouring bushes and wooden crosses hang fragments of clothes, or halters and spancels. 1882 *Blackw. Mag.* LI. 253 He snatched up a spancel that hung at the dairy window.

Spancel (spæ·nsĕl), *v.* Also 9 **spansel, spencill.** [f. prec.]

1. *trans.* To fetter or hobble with a spancel or spancels.

1610 GUILLIM *Heraldry* III. xxvi. 184 He beareth Sable a Horse passant Argent, Spanceled on both legs of the neerer side. *Ibid.*, Albeit this Horse be now Spanceled as you see. 1820 J. OXLEY *Jrnls. Two Exped. into Australia* 47 The animals [horses] were all spencilled, but such is the scarcity of both water and grass, that they will wander in search of each. 1825 CROKER *Fairy Leg. Irel.* I. 333 Neither could his neighbours' cattle have been guilty of the trespass, for they were spancelled. 1882 MRS. HECKFORD *Lady Trader in Transvaal* 260 It is the fashion in Africa to spancel a horse by tying its head to one of its legs.

fig. 1844 SIR C. NAPIER *Let. to H. Napier* in *Life* (1862) III. 153 Gough himself is all right, only spancelled by his staff; they wanted to tie my legs too, but I kicked the pail over, and spoiled the milking.

2. *transf.* (See quot.) *U.S.*

1859 BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.* (ed. 2) 431 *To spancel*,..to prevent a crab from biting, by sticking the point of a leg into the base of each movable claw.

Hence **Spa·ncelled** *ppl. a.*

1835 *Fraser's Mag.* XI. 142 We should be about as much in a fit state..as..a spancelled pig to run a race with a greyhound. 1899 SOMERVILLE & MARTIN *Irish R. M.* 267 Driving two brace of coupled and spancelled goats.

†**Span-counter.** *Obs.* [f. SPAN *sb.*[1] or *v.*[1] and COUNTER *sb.*[3] Cf. SPAN-FARTHING.] A game in which the object of one player was to throw his counters so close to those of his opponent that the distance between them could be spanned with the hand.

Common in the early part of the 17th c.

1566 DRANT *Horace, Sat.* III. G vj, A man that..is gladde To playe at quoytes, or spancounter. 1593 SHAKS. 2 *Hen. VI*, IV. ii. 166 Henry the fift, (in whose time boyes went to Span-counter for French Crownes). 1600 NASHE *Summer's Last Will* 1589 Wks. (Grosart) VI. 149, I was close vnder a hedge, or vnder a barne wall, playing at spanne Counter, or lacke in a boxe. 1647 PEACHAM *Worth of a Penny* 32, I would wish them to venture at Span-counter and Dust-point with schole-boyes. 1675 COTTON *Burlesque upon B.* 50 To play at Cat, Trap, Span-counter. [1815 SCOTT *Guy M.* xii, Rich enough to play at span-counter with moidores.]

Spander-new, *a. phr.* Now *dial.* Also **span-ther-new.** [Alteration of SPAN-NEW.]

1706 E. WARD *Wooden World Dis.* (1708) 19 A first Rate Taylor, when his spander new Fashion takes at St. James's. [1855 Cf. *Brandspandernew* s.v. BRAND-NEW *a.*] 1876 ROBINSON *Mid-Yks. Gloss.*, Spanther-new or Spander-new.

Spandrel (spæ·ndril). *Arch.* Forms: *α.* 5 **spaundrell,** 6 **splandrell,** 7, 9 **spandrell,** 8– **spandrel.** *β.* 8–9 **spandril.** [app. a diminutive of AF. *spaundre, -dere* (1395), of doubtful origin; perh. identical with (*e*)*spandre* to expand, extend.]

1. The triangular space between the outer curve of an arch and the rectangle formed by the mouldings enclosing it, frequently filled in with ornamental work; any similar space between an arch and a straight-sided figure bounding it; also, the space included between the shoulders of two contiguous arches and the moulding or string-course above them.

α. 1477–8 *MS. Exch. K. R. Acc.* 496 No. 17 Pro mandacione et embosyng xviij Spaundrell'. 1532 in Bayley *Hist. Tower Lond.* I. App. p. xxxii, A portall w[t] panells of drapery worke, w[t] ij. dores, w[t] a crest of antyk upon the hed, and ij. splandrellys for the caryng of the dore. 1634 in Willis & Clark *Cambridge* (1886) II. 699 For carving the spandrells of the doores. 1712 J. JAMES tr. *Le Blond's Gardening* 73 A great Arch, with a..Pedament over it..sustain'd at the Ends by Spandrels and Scrolls. 1739 LABELYE *Piers Westm. Bridge* 78 As to the Spandrels of the Arches,..they should be filled with..Rubble. 1837 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* I. 14/2 Every time a load passed over the bridge, the vibration was transferred through the loose rubbish to the spandrel. 1847 LEITCH tr. *C. O. Müller's Anc. Art* § 276. 266 The Ionic capitals..with a honeysuckle in the spandrel between the spirals of the volute. *a* 1878 SIR G. SCOTT *Lect. Archit.* (1879) II. 52 There are plain windows again over their spandrels.

β. 1750 WREN *Parentalia* 357 It is evident that the Spandrils, or loading of the diagonal Cross-arches, where two cylindrical Vaults meet, must be an inverted Pyramid. 1833 LOUDON *Encycl. Archit.* § 237 The steps and the coping of the spandril..together with the coping of the piers..of the stairs..to be of York quarry stone. 1843 *Ecclesiologist* II. 57 The wall pieces, spandrils and hammer-beams are plain. 1897 F. J. BURGOYNE *Library Construction* 233 Greek honeysuckle ornaments in the spandrils.

b. *transf.* The support of a set of steps; the material with which the space between a stair and the floor is filled in.

1833 LOUDON *Encycl. Archit.* § 79 To build nine-inch brick spandrils and steps to the front door...(The..spandrils for door steps are the arches, or the walls, which support the ends of the steps.) *Ibid.* § 239 To put..one inch and a quarter square framed spandril to enclose the cellar stairs.

2. 'An inner frame or border for a picture' (Knight *Dict. Mech.* Suppl.).

1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib., Brit.* II. No. 5696, Gilt picture frames, with spandril and an oval frame.

3. *attrib.*, as *spandrel bracketing, -conoid, decoration, space, wall,* etc.

1830 WHEWELL *Archit. Notes German Ch.* p. xxxi, This space I will call the spandrel-conoid. 1838 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* I. 127/1 The spaces between the arches were crossed by spandrell walls. 1840 *Ibid.* III. 133/2 In winter the arch contracting descended and the spandril joints opened. 1842 GWILT *Archit.* Gloss., *Spandrel Bracketing*, a cradling of brackets fixed between one or more curves, each in a vertical plane. 1850 T. INKERSLEY *Inq. Rom. & Pointed Arch. France* 311 The spandrel spaces are occupied by a trefoil. 1851 RUSKIN *Stones Ven.* I. xxvi. § ix, One of the spandril decorations of Bayeux Cathedral.

Hence **Spa·ndrelled** *a.*, having or provided with spandrels.

1838 in *Gentl. Mag. Libr., Eng. Topogr.* (1901) XIII. 266 It had an amply spandrelled fireplace on the northern side. 1890 *Archaeol. Jrnl.* XLVII. 93 The latter beam having curved and spandrelled braces at the ends.

Spa·ndy, *a. U.S. rare.* [? var. of *spander* in SPANDER-NEW.] Very good or fine; smart. Also *spandy-clean,* quite clean.

1848 BARTLETT *Dict. Amer., Spandy-clean*, very clean; perfectly clean. 1863 MISS ALCOTT *Hospital Sk.* 319 (Cent. Dict.), Thirty gentlemen with spandy clean faces and hands. 1868 — *Little Women* ix, My silk stockings and two pairs of spandy gloves are my comfort.

Spane, *sb.* [a. ON. *spán-n*, Du. *spaan*, or G. *span* (†*spane*), = OE. *spón* chip: see SPOON *sb.*] A chip or slip of wood.

1602 *Shuttleworths' Acc.* (Chetham Soc.) 146 Spygotts and fawset and for wood spanes, iij[d]. 1891 BARING-GOULD *Urith* I. vii. 105 At the fire-breast burnt, what was called a 'spane', that is, a slip of deal steeped in resin, which lighted the housewife at her operations at the fire.

Spane (spēn), *v. north.* and *Sc.* Also 4 **spone,** 5–7 **spayn,** 6, 8–9 **spain,** 9 **spaan, spaun.** See also SPEAN *v.* [ad. OF. *espanir* or MDu. and MLG. *spanen* (MLG. also *sponen*), app. related to OE. *spana, spona*, G. dial. *span*, teat: cf. SPEAN *sb.*]

1. *trans.* To wean (an infant, lamb, etc.). Also *fig.* and in fig. context.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 3018 Quen he [Isaac] was spaned [*Fairf.* sponed] fra þe pap, His fader..made a fest. *a* 1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* CXXX. 4 As a childe þat has nede to be on his modur kne and fostird wiþ hur mylke perisch if he be wenyd [*v.r.* spaned] & takyn fro mylke. *c* 1440 *Alph. Tales* 107 A womman when sho will spane hur child. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 351/1 To Spayn (*A.* Spane), *ablactare*. 1509 in *Mem. Fountains* (Surtees) 235, xl yews with their lames to [=until] they be spaned. 1549 D. MONRO in *Macfarlane's Geogr. Collect.* (S.H.S.) III. 293 The Lambes of that end of the countrey uses to be fed, and spained fra the ȝowes. 1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 19 To spane, weane, *ablactare, depellere*. 1653 in Laing *Lindores Abbey* (1876) 224 Their after the chyld was spayned. 1674 RAY *N. Co. Words* 44 To *Spane* a Child; to wean it. [Hence in Bailey and later Dicts.] 1781– in various northern and Sc. dial. glossaries and texts. 1819 W. TENNANT *Papistry Storm'd* (1827) 12 The sinfu' bodies o' the Elie Were spain'd frae image-worship hailly. 1896 *Pall Mall Mag.* Apr. 515 To help the old shepherd in 'spaning' the lambs.

† **b.** *Sc.* To suspend, as a punishment. *Obs.*

1516 [see the *vbl. sb.*]. 1529 *Extr. Burgh Rec. Edinb.* (1871) 5 To..spane thaime fra the operatione for yer and day.

2. *intr.* Of corn: To begin to take root and cast off the seed.

Cf. WFlem. *spanen, spenen, spennen*, to set (of fruit).

[1828 CARR *Craven Gloss.*, Corn is said to be in spane or spaan, when it just begins to shoot its roots or to detach itself from the parent grain.] 1843 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* IV. I. 186 That state of transition, in which it cannot be said whether it derives its food from the seed, the soil, or the atmosphere (the state in which it is commonly said to be 'spaining'). 1863 MRS. TOOGOOD *Yorksh. Dial.* (MS.), The corn is looking yellow; it is just beginning to spane.

Hence **Spa'ned** *ppl. a.* Also † **Spa'neling**, a weaned pig or other animal.

1500-20 DUNBAR *Poems* lxxv. 24 My new spanit howffing fra the sowk. 1560 *Knaresb. Wills* (Surtees) I. 86 A spaned calf. 1563 *Wills & Inv. N. C.* (Surtees, 1835) 210, xiij spaned calves. 1577 *Ibid.* 417, ij sues, iiij^or spainlings, & one boare. 1894 P. H. HUNTER *J. Inwick* xx. 251 I'll sune hae to stay my stamack wi' sappy meat, like a spained wean.

Spane, obs. Sc. pa. t. SPIN *v.*

† **Span-farthing.** *Obs.* [f. SPAN *sb.*[1] or *v.*[1] and FARTHING *sb.*] A game played with farthings after the same manner as span-counter.

1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. xvi. (Roxb.) 82/1 Playes with Instruments...Span Farthing. 1693 LOCKE *Educ.* Wks. 1727 III. 25 Learning to wrangle at Trap, or rook at Span-farthing. 1720 SWIFT *Mod. Educ.* Wks. 1755 II. II. 36 His chief solace is to steal down, and play at span-farthing with the page, or young black-a-moor. 1764 BP. HURD *Dial. Uses For. Trav.* 70 You might as well..advance him directly to the boy's top and span-farthing, as [etc.]. 1777 *Gamblers* 6 Span-farthing, Hustle-cap, their joy and sport.

Spang, *sb.*[1] Also 5–6 **spange.** [Probably ad. MDu. *spange* (*spaenge*, Du. *spang*), = OHG. *spanga* (MHG. and G. *spange*), OS. **spanga* (see sense 3), OFris. **spange* (NFris. *spung, spông*), ON. *spang-, spong* (Norw. *spong*; MSw. and MDa. *spang*) clasp, buckle, brooch, spangle, etc.]

† **1.** A small glittering ornament; a spangle. *Obs.*

1423 JAS. I *Kingis Q.* xlvii, A chaplet fresch of hewe, Off plumys..Full of quaking spangis brycht as gold. 1480 *Wardr. Acc. Edw. IV* (1830) 115, vj coursour harneis..embrowdered and wroght with..spanges of silver and gilt. *c* 1534 in Lewis *Life Fisher* (1855) II. 297 A swett of vestments of rede clothe of gold with spangs and crossys in the myddyst. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VIII*, 76 The same horse Harneis were sette full of tremblyng spanges. 1602 MARSTON *Ant. & Mel.* III. Wks. 1856 I. 34 The other glistering copper spangs That glisten in the tyer of the Court. 1616 DRUMM. OF HAWTH. *Poems, Urania* iii, To spreade the azure Canopie of Heauen, And make it twinckle all with Spanges of Gold. 1625 BACON *Ess., Masques & Triumphs* (Arb.) 540 And Oes, or Spangs, as they are of no great Cost, so they are of most Glory.

2. *techn.* A stain. (See quot.)

1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 136 The stains which come out upon maddered goods, in consequence of defective bleaching, are called in this country *spangs*.

3. *arch.* A clasp or buckle.

After OE. *spang*, occurring once in the OS. part of *Genesis* (l. 445).

1892 BROOKE *Early Eng. Lit.* II. xxii. 106 [He] Set on's head a hollow helm, and..Spanned it down with spangs.

Spang (spæŋ), *sb.*[2] Chiefly *Sc.* and *north.* [Cf. SPANG *v.*[2] In 1 b perh. purely imitative.]

1. A jerk; a sudden and violent movement of a thing. Also in phr. *to play spang.*

1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* v. ix. 59 Acestes..Schawand his craft and his big bowis mycht, That lowsit of the takil with a spang. *Ibid.* VII. ix. 50 The flayne flaw fast wyth ane spang fra the string. *a* 1657 SIR W. MURE *Hist. Ho. Rowallane* Wks. (S.T.S.) II. 253 The king..., as he offered swa to doe, dang out his eye with the spang of ane Cockle-shell. 1826 J. WILSON *Noct. Ambr.* Wks. 1855 I. 134, I wadna grudge geein a jug o' toddy to see ane play spang upon you frae a distance o' twenty yards.

b. A sound resulting from such movement.

1883 G. C. DAVIES *Norfolk Broads* xxiii. 160 We heard aloud *spang* behind us, and on turning round saw a large mullet floundering in the jolly.

† **2.** A fillip; a smart rap. *Obs. rare.*

1595 DUNCAN *App. Etym.* (E.D.S.), *Talitrum*, a spang, a chicknawd. 1710 RUDDIMAN *Gloss. Douglas' Æneis* s.v.

3. a. A spring, a bound, a leap.

1818 SCOTT *Rob Roy* xxviii, Set roasted beef and pudding on the opposite side o' the pit o' Tophet, and an Englishman will mak a spang at it. 1842 J. WILSON *Chr. North* (1857) I. 26 See, see how Tickler clears that twenty-feet moss-hag at a single spang like a bird. 1894 CROCKETT *Raiders* iv. 39 Jerry..came up the hill in great spangs.

b. A strong kick.

1863 READE *Hard Cash* xli, He went swinging by the rope back to the main stem of the tree, gave it a fierce spang with his feet, and..got an inch nearer the window. 1867 P. KENNEDY *Banks Boro* xl. 307 You're like our *miel* cow that gives a pail full of milk, and then spills all with a *spang* of her foot.

4. The spring-pole of a centre lathe. ? *Obs.*

1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XVIII. 608/1 The two ends of the cord, both that which is fixed to the spang and to the foot-board.

† **Spang,** *sb.*[3] *Obs.* [Of doubtful origin: cf. ON. *spang-, spong* (Norw. *spong*; MSw. *spang*, Sw. *spång*) narrow bridge, perh. identical with SPANG *sb.*[1]] A narrow strip (*of* land or ground).

1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* II. 220 The West part of it joyneth to the East side by a very small spange of land. 1747 in *Rep. Comm. Inq. Charities* (1830) XXVIII. 145 A small spang of ground.

† **Spang,** *v.*[1] *Obs.* [f. SPANG *sb.*[1] Cf. G. *spängen*, MHG. *spengen*, ON. *spengja*, to stud, etc.] *trans.* To spangle; to ornament as with spangles.

1552 in Money *Par. Ch. Goods Berks.* (1879) 8 Redd veluett spanged with gould. 1590 R. WILSON *Three Lords Lond.* G iij, Queene Iunoe's Bird, Whose traine is spangd with Argus hundred eies. 1595 BARNFIELD *Cassandra* D iij b, A Hunters hat, Of crimson veluet, spangd with stars of gold. 1621 SANDYS *Ovid's Met.* II. (1626) 224 Night spangs the skie with starres.

Spang (spæŋ), *v.*[2] *Sc.* and *north.* [Of obscure origin.]

1. *intr.* To spring, leap, bound; to move rapidly. Also with cognate object (quot. 1684).

1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* v. ix. 29 Ȝoung Hippocaon..A quhidderand arrow leit spang fra the string. 1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* I. 145 Ouir dykes and dubis ..they sould spang and leip. *Ibid.* 163 King Gald selfe..spangis vpe on horse back. 1684 *Yorks. Dial.* 39 (E.D.S.), Lett's spang our geates [=ways], for it is varra snithe. 17.. RAMSAY *To R. Yarde* 97 But when they spang o'er reason's fence, We smart for 't at our ain expence. *a* 1779 D. GRAHAM *Hist. Buck-Haven* III. (1782) 21 Rob spang'd and jump'd over the boat several times. 1816 SCOTT *Old Mort.* vii, An I could but hae gotten some decent claes in, I wad hae spanged out o' bed. 1833 J. RENNIE *Alph. Angling* p. xiv, The trout slipped off, spanged down the bank, and in an instant..was lost.

2. *trans.* To cast, throw, jerk, bang. Also const. *about, down, up.*

1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* XII. vi. 76 His swyft stedis hovis..Spangit vp the bludy sparkis our the bent. 1662 in Pitcairn *Crim. Trials* III. 607 We haw no bow to shoot with, but spang them from of the naillis of our thowmbes. 1678 J. BROWN *Life of Faith* (1824) I. vii. 134 If the enemy did but spang his fingers end on you, as we say, it struck a knell to his heart. 1856 READE *Never too Late* lxv, She came up to the table with a fantastic spring and spanged down the sparkling mass on it. 1864– in Yorks. and Linc. dial. use.

3. In combs., as **spang-oockle, -toad.**

1824 MACTAGGART *Gallovid. Encycl.* 432 *Spang-tade*, a deadly trick played on the poor toad. 1828 SCOTT *F. M. Perth* xi, 'Can you play at spang-cockle, my lord?' said the Prince, placing a nut on the second joint of his forefinger, and spinning it off by a smart application of the thumb.

Hence **Spanging-tree,** = SPANG *sb.*[2] 4.

1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XVIII. 607/2 One of the most simple kinds of lathe,..in which *a* is the footstool,..*f* the spanging-tree.

† **Spang,** *v.*[3] *Obs. rare.* [app. an alteration of SPAN *v.*[2]] *trans.* To attach or yoke (horses).

1580 HOLLYBAND *Treas. Fr. Tong, Atteler les chevaux*, to spang horses, or fasten them to the chariote. 1600 SURFLET *Countrie Farme* v. x. 674 There are required.. three horses to a plough,..but not so coupled and spanged as..where they vse to plow with mares. 1625 WODROEPHE *Marrow Fr. Tongue* 174 Haue you spanged (or yoaked) my horses to the chariot?

Spang, *adv. U.S.* [Cf. SPANG *v.*[2]] With a sudden spring or impetus; slap, smack. *Right spang*, entirely, quite; exactly, fair.

1843–8 in Thornton *Amer. Gloss.* s.v. 1884 J. C. HARRIS *Nights Uncle Remus* 196 He drapt right spang in de middle er de fier. 1901 *Munsey's Mag.* XXIV. 806/2 Crack went the trigger, and spang went the ball.

Spanged, *ppl. a. north. dial.* [f. SPANG *v.*[1]] Spangled, flecked, variegated, etc. Usu. of cattle.

1582 *Durham Wills* (Surtees) II. 65, I gyue to Roland Sympson one spangit whye. 1583 *Wills & Inv. N. C.* (Surtees, 1860) 75 To my sonne William a spangde cowe. 1621 *Shuttleworths' Acc.* (Chetham Soc.) 249 For an odde oxe that was spanged. *Ibid.*, For a yolke of oxen called Little Spanged Oxe and his felowe. 1828– in dial. glossaries (Yks., Lanc., Cumbld., etc.).

Spangel(l, obs. forms of SPANGLE, SPANIEL.

Spanghew (spæ·ŋhiū), *v. dial.* Also **spang-whew, -hue.** [f. SPANG *v.*[2], with obscure second element.] *trans.* To throw or jerk violently; *spec.* to cause (a toad or frog) to fly into the air.

1781 J. HUTTON *Tour to Caves* (ed. 2) Gloss. 96 *Spang-whew*, to throw up into the air. 1811 WILLAN in *Archæologia* XVII. 158 *Spangwhew*, to toss with violence. 1853 R. S. SURTEES *Sponge's Sp. Tour* (1893) 18 Hercules had 'spang-hewed' so many triers, 1862– in northern and Sc. use.

Spangle (spæ·ŋg'l), *sb.*[1] Also 5 **spangele, -yll,** 5–6 **spangell(e,** 6 **spangel, spangill(e.** [f. SPANG *sb.*[1] + -LE. Cf. G. *spängel.*]

1. A small round thin piece of glittering metal (usually brass) with a hole in the centre to pass a thread through, used for the decoration of textile fabrics and other materials of various sorts.

c 1420 LYDG. *Assembly of Gods* 277 Of goldsmythes werke with spanglys wrought be-dene. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 467/1 Spangele, or losange..*lorale*. 1485 *Mat. ill. Reign Hen. VII* (Rolls) II. 17 Item, xi^xx vnces in spangell for vii. gownes and plackardes for the henxmen. 1535 *Wardr. Kath. Arragon* 35 in *Camden Misc.* III, Garnysshid..withe spangilles of silver and gilte. *a* 1586 SIDNEY *Arcadia* III. xviii. (1912) 462 His attiring..all cutte in starres, which made of cloath of silver, and silver spangles, each way seemed to cast many aspects. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* III. 168 Many of the said Virgines have their neckbands set with spangles, such as some children with us weare. 1693 *Phil. Trans.* XVII. 862 As thin, as the thinnest Spangle you ever saw. 1726 SWIFT *Gulliver* I. vi, Their greatest gold coin, about the bigness of a spangle. 1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* xxxi, A tawdry scarf of yellow silk, trimmed with tinsel and spangles. 1870 ROCK *Text, Fab.* Introd. p. civ, Silver-gilt spangles wrought to figure six-petalled flowers.

fig. 1647 TRAPP *Comm., Rom.* viii. 28 God changeth our grisly wounds into spangles of beauty. 1652 N. CULVERWEL *Lt. Nature* I. xi. (1661) 84 Are not many Souls guilty, defiled, miserable Beings? and are they all this while spangles of a Deity? *Ibid.* xvi. 145 The least Spangle of Happiness is better, then a Globe of Temporals. *a* 1667 COWLEY *Hymn to Light* ix. Poems (1905) 445 Nor..dost thou scorn The humble Glow-worms to adorn, And with those living spangles gild..the Bushes of the Field.

b. *transf.* A star.

1591 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* I. i. 603 Those bright spangles that the heav'ns adorn. 1614 — *Bethulia's Rescue* I. 351 Twinkling Spangles nightly brightly roule On sabled Circles of the whirling Pole. 1652 CRASHAW *Mary Magdalene* Wks. (1904) 259 They but seem to fall, As Heavn's other spangles doe. 1728 POPE *Dunc.* III. 61 See round the Poles where keener spangles shine. 1825 SCOTT *Betrothed* viii, The thousand spangles that deck the firmament.

c. A glitter as of spangles. *rare.*

1830 TENNYSON *Sea-Fairies* 24 The spangle dances in bight and bay.

1893 *Cornh. Mag.* Nov. 484 Not a breath of air was stirring; everywhere overhead was the spangle of the stars.

2. A condensed particle reflecting light, as of hoar-frost, snow, or dew.

1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* I. x. 48 As hoarie frost with spangles doth attire The mossy braunches of an Oke halfe ded. *a* 1691 BOYLE *Hist. Air* (1692) 193 We took notice of the icy spangles in the air, flying about like atoms in the sun's beams. 1776 MICKLE tr. *Camoens' Lusiad* III. 88 On the rude cliffs with frosty spangles grey, Weak as the twilight gleams the solar ray. 1862 TYNDALL *Mountaineer.* viii. 67 The wintry clouds, as you know, drop spangles on the mountains. 1863 — *Heat* v. § 181 (1870) 146, I have also seen snow flakes descending so softly, as not to hurt the fragile spangles of which they were composed.

b. A glittering point or speck of light.

1821 CLARE *Vill. Minstr.* II. 75 The sun now sinks behind the woodland green, And twittering spangles glow the leaves between. 1841 CAPT. B. HALL *Patchwork* II. viii. 146 The moon..scattering along the surface of the sea a bright..chain of spangles.

3. A small or minute glittering particle, esp. of a mineral substance.

1611 COTGR., *Pailles*,..the flakes, or spangles that flie from hammered, and red-hot yron, &c. 1624 CAPT. SMITH *Virginia* III. v. 58 We saw it was a claie sand so mingled with yeallow spangles as if [etc.]. 1796 KIRWAN *Elem. Min.* (ed. 2) II. 93 Found either in compact masses, or in spangles. 1806 J. BERESFORD *Miseries Hum. Life* II. xxiii, Liquid spangles of powder and pomatum. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 606 It occurs there principally in spangles among the alluvial earths. 1877 RAYMOND *Statist. Mines & Mining* 388 Spangles are formed which scintillate and sparkle.

4. A scale, spot, marking, etc., suggestive of a spangle.

1796 WITHERING *Brit. Plants* (ed. 3) II. 271 No shining spangles upon them or the calyx. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) III. 441/2 A bractea, spangle, or floral leaf, differing in its appearance from the other leaves of the plant. 1854 MEALL *Moubray's Poultry* 157 These spangles,..in true-feathered birds, are formed perfectly whole and clearly defined. 1867 DK. ARGYLL *Reign of Law* v. (1871) 236 A species of *Lophornis* with a tippet of emerald spangles.

b. An oak-spangle. (See OAK 9.)

1842 SELBY *Brit. Forest Trees* 288 Those beautiful little excrescences so common upon the under side of the leaves of the oak and known by the name of spangles. 1873 TEGETMEIER *Pheasants* 5 Among the more singular articles of food that form part of the pheasants' very varied dietary may be mentioned the spangles of the oak leaf.

5. *Cant.* A seven-shilling piece.

1811 *Lexicon-Balatronicum.* 1823 EGAN *Grose's Dict. Vulg. T.*

6. *U.S.* (See quot.)

1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2252/2 The clasps or spangles by which the wires and tapes of hoop-skirts are secured together.

7. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *spangle embroidery, gold, -maker, -stone, -work*; † **spangle-baby,** a fop or dandy; **spangle-gall,** = sense 4 b; † **spangle-wort,** a species of sea-weed.

1602 DEKKER *Satirom.* Wks. 1873 I. 212 We must haue false fiers to amaze these spangle babies, these true heires of Ma. Justice Shallow. 1611 COTGR., *Or de paillole*, spangle gold; or gold thinne-beaten for spangles. *Ibid.*, *Pailleteur*, a Spangle-maker. 1648 HERRICK *Hesp., Temple* 65 The Fringe..Is Spangle-work of trembling dew. 1681 GREW *Museum* II. § v. ii. 247 Flat Coralline, as it may be called, or Spangle-Wort. 1708 MOTTEUX *Rabelais* v. (1737) 216 Trash-mongers and Spangle-makers. 1803 SARRETT *New Pict. Lond.* 114 A great variety of Micæ or spangle stones. 1864–5 J. G. WOOD *Homes without H.* XXV. (1868) 493 The curious little galls..which are appropriately called Spangle-galls, because they are as circular and nearly as

flat as metallic spangles. 1874 H. H. Cole *Catal. Ind. Art S. Kens. Mus.* 251 The black ground is covered with gold lace and spangle embroidery.

Spa·ngle, *sb.*[2] *Sc.* and *Ir.* ? *Obs.* [Of obscure origin.] A measure of yarn.

1705 Spreull *Acc. Current betw. Scot. & Eng.* Misc. Writ. (1882) 12 Out of a Pound weight of Lint that grew at home, there was six Spangle of fine Yarn Spun or got out of it. 1780 A. Young *Tour Irel.* I. 166 The 8 lb. [of flax] will spin into..20 hanks or 5 spangles fit for a ten hundred cloth. 1865 *Irel. & her Staple Manuf.* (E.D.D.), Every hank contained a dozen cuts,..and four hanks were counted as a spangle.

Spangle (spæ·ŋg'l), *v.* [f. Spangle *sb.*[1] Cf. G. *spängeln,* † *spengeln.*]

1. *trans.* To decorate (a garment or the like) with spangles.

a 1548 Hall *Chron., Hen. VIII,* 16 Russet satyn, spangled with spangels of fine gold. 1572 in Feuillerat *Revels Q. Eliz.* (1908) 180 To John Bettes and his wyfe for one daye and one nighte spangling of the headpeeces. 1611 Cotgr., *Pailleter,* to spangle, to bespangle, to trimme, or decke, with spangles. 1784 *Ann. Reg., Chron.* 183/2 They were all five in Spanish dresses..of white crape spangled with gold. 1807–8 W. Irving *Salmag.* (1824) 355 The young ladies are industriously spangling muslins. 1874 H. H. Cole *Catal. Ind. Art S. Kens. Mus.* 269 The muslin..has a very gay appearance, as if spangled. 1904 Mrs. Alec Tweedie *Behind Footlights* xi. 210 Women .. trimming headgear, others spangling ribbon.

fig. 1607 Shaks. *Timon* III. vi. 101 This is Timons last Who stucke and spangled with your Flatteries, Washes it off.

b. To adorn as with spangles; to cause to glitter as if so decorated. Const. *with.*

1591 Sylvester *Du Bartas* I. iv. 79 He th' Azure Tester trimm'd with golden marks, And richly spangled with bright glistring-sparks. *a* 1649 Drumm. of Hawth. *Poems* (1656) 63 To spread the Azure Canopy of Heaven, And Spangle it all with Sparkes of burning Gold. 1814 Scott *Lord of Isles* I, xxiii, A hundred torches play'd, Spangling the wave with lights. 1839 Bailey *Festus* 253 The finger of that hand Which spangled o'er infinity with suns. 1883 Symonds *Ital. Byways* i. 1 There had been a hard frost, spangling the meadows with rime-crystals.

fig. 1647 N. Ward *Simple Cobler* (1843) 89 It is in fashion with you to spangle your speeches with new quodled words. 1748 Richardson *Clarissa* (1811) VIII. 327 They spangle over their productions with metaphors.

2. Of things: To dot or cover (something) after the manner of spangles.

1596 Shaks. *Tam. Shr.* IV. v. 31 What stars do spangle heauen with such beautie? 1667 Milton *P. L.* VII. 384 With thousand thousand Starres, that then appeer'd Spangling the Hemisphere. 1795 Coleridge *To Author of Poems* 36 With stars, unseen before, spangling her robe of night! 1831 Trelawny *Adv. Younger Son* CXVII, The Sunda islands, which spangle the eastern ocean. 1860 Tyndall *Glac.* I. iv. 34 Innumerable plates of mica spangled the fine sand.

3. In passive: To present an appearance as if decorated with spangles; to be dotted or spotted *with* something suggestive of spangles.

1667 Milton *P. L.* XI. 130 Four faces each Had..; all thir shape Spangl'd with eyes. 1756 C. Lucas *Ess. Waters* II. 136 This lawn is..in the season spangled with autumnal colchicum. 1775 Sheridan *The Duenna* II. i, Her skin..being spangled here and there with a golden freckle. 1840 Thackeray *George Cruikshank* (1869) 305 The pew..wadded, and stuffed, and spangled over with brass nails. 1849 Kingsley *Misc.* (1859) II. 299 These bright grey granite rocks, spangled with black glittering mica and golden lichens. 1874 Symonds *Sk. Italy & Greece* (1898) I. 13 The meadows, spangled with yellow flowers.

b. In fig. applications.

1589 Nashe *Martin Marprelate* Wks. (Grosart) I. 95 That worke shall come out of the Presse like a bride from her chamber, spangled and trapt. 1828 Duppa *Trav. Italy,* etc. 84 Rich and varied scenery, spangled at once with the comforts and refinements of life. 1893 McCarthy *Dictator* I. 79 Long letters spangled with stirring allusions to the Empire.

c. To be dotted or scattered *about,* like spangles.

1740 Richardson *Pamela* xliv. (1824) I. 368 The villages that lie spangled about this vast circumference.

4. *intr.* To glitter or sparkle with, or in the manner of, spangles.

1639 Mayne *City Match* To Rdr., Masquers..spangle, & glitter for the time, but tis through tinsell. 1665 Bunyan *Holy Citie* 177 All these things will spangle in the New Jerusalem. *a* 1770 Chatterton *Bristowe Tragedy* lxvii, Tassils spanglynge ynne the sunne, Muche glorious to beholde. 1854 *Fraser's Mag.* L. 47 A contrast to all the other objects which spangle in the starry vault. 1857 S. Wilberforce *Sp. Missions* (1874) 315 Just as..you see the sparks flashing and spangling.

Spangled (spæ·ŋg'ld), *ppl. a.* [f. prec. + -ed [1].]

1. Adorned or covered with or as with spangles.

1584 Lodge *Alarum* (Shaks. Soc.) 52 Spangled hobbie horses are for children. 1599 B. Jonson *Cynthia's Rev.* III. iv, Here stalkes me by a proud, and spangled sir. 1624 Capt. Smith *Virginia* III. v. 58 Diuers places where the waters had..left a tinctured spangled skurfe. 1698 Fryer *Acc. E. India & P.* 330 No Green Meadows or spangled Fields are here expected. 1743 Francis tr. *Hor., Epodes* xvii. 54 Or shall I..Teach Thee, a golden Star, to rise, And deathless walk the spangled Skies? 1769 Sir W. Jones *Palace Fortune* Poems (1777) 9 Straight the gay birds display'd their spangled train. 1824 W. Irving *T. Trav.* I. 280 A majestic plume towered from an old spangled black bonnet. 1886 W. J. Tucker *E. Europe* 52 In the fantastic, spangled costume of the Wallachian maidens.

fig. 1695 J. Edwards *Perfect. Script.* 23 Epictetus and Seneca with all their spangled sayings.

2. Speckled.

1586 Marlowe *1st Pt. Tamburl.* IV. i, On his siluer crest, A snowy Feather spangled white he beares. 1600 *Knaresb. Wills* (Surtees) I. 223 One spangled cowe with a broken horne. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s.v. *Red,* A peculiarly coloured china ware of a spangled red. 1849 Browne *Amer. Poultry Yard* (1855) 58 The spangled Hamburghs may be comprised under two varieties. 1859 [see Spangling *vbl. sb.*]. 1868 Darwin *Anim. & Pl.* I. 244 *Spangled* feathers have a dark mark, properly crescent-shaped, on their tips; whilst *pencilled* feathers have several transverse bars.

Spangler (spæ·ŋglə1). [f. as prec. + -er [1].] One who or that which spangles; † one adorned with spangles.

1638 Mayne *Lucian* (1664) 10, I remember he told a story of one of those spanglers, and glittering men, who come to Athens..variously apparelled. 1817 Keats *I stood tip-toe* 118 Spangler of clouds, halo of crystal rivers. 1901 *Daily Chron.* 6 May 9/4 Bonnets.—Good spanglers and fitters.

Spanglet (spæ·ŋglèt). [f. Spangle *sb.*[1] + -et.] A little spangle.

1610 G. Fletcher *Christ's Vict.* II. x, The watry picture of his beautie proude, Throwes all abroad his sparkling spangelets. 1633 P. Fletcher *Purple Isl.* XII. lxix, Frozen snow, Whose silver spanglets sparkle 'gainst the day. *a* 1806 H. K. White *Christiad* xiv, To tear the spanglets from yon gaudy plain. 1811 Shelley *To a Star* 3 Sweet star,.. Spanglet of light on evening's shadowy veil.

Spangling (spæ·ŋgliŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. Spangle *v.* + -ing [1].] The action of the vb. in various senses. Also *attrib.,* as *spangling-machine* (Knight, 1875).

1576 in Feuillerat *Revels Q. Eliz.* (1908) 276 For the mending and spangling of 4 fethers. *a* 1591 H. Smith *Wks.* (1867) II. 61 If the proud would leave,..their excess in spangling, their fantastical feathers. 1896 Ruskin *Mod. Paint.* IV. v. xvi. § 17. 245 One of those little flakes of mica-sand, hurried in tremulous spangling along the bottom of the ancient river. 1859 B. P. Brent *Pigeon Bk.* 62 The Suabian Spangled Pigeon...This Pigeon derives its name from the beautiful and peculiar spotting or spangling of its plumage.

Spangling (spæ·ŋgliŋ), *ppl. a.* [f. as prec. + -ing [2].] That spangle(s); sparkling, glistening.

1665 Bunyan *Holy Citie* 25 O the Grace, the Light and Glory, that will strike with spangling Beams from this City. 1712 J. Morton *Nat. Hist. Northampt.* 294 The Powder.. exhibited a few Spangling Particles, tho' we cou'd not discern any such in it at the first. 1792 S. Rogers *Pleas. Mem., Ep. to Friend* 153 His spangling shower when Frost the Wizard flings. 1817 Shelley *Rev. Islam* IV. i, Upon whose floor the spangling sands were strown. 1843 Le Fevre *Life Trav. Phys.* II. II. vi. 241 The surface of the ground is one white spangling carpet.

Spangly (spæ·ŋgli), *a.* [f. Spangle *sb.*[1] + -y [1].] Resembling spangles; covered with spangles.

1818 Keats *Endym.* I. 569 Visions all about my sight Of colours, wings, and bursts of spangly light. 1844 A. Park *Silent Love* in *Harp Renfrewsh.* Ser. II. (1873) 205 The spangly dew that on the violet lies. 1883 *Nature* XXVII. 351 Black spangly particles.

Spang-new *dial.*: see Span-new.

Spang-whew, variant of Spanghew.

Spaniard (spæ·nyărd), *sb.* (and *a.*). Forms: *α.* 5 **Spaignarde, Spaynard(e, -erde, Spaynnarde,** 6 **Spaynerd**; 5 **Spayneyarde,** 6 **Spaynyard** (*Sc.* **-ard**), **Spainierd** (*Sc.* **-erd, -eard**). *β.* 5 *Sc.* **Spanzeart,** 6 **Spanyard**(e, *Sc.* **-ard**), 6–7 **Spanyard,** 6– **Spaniard.** [ad. OF. *Espaignart, Espaniard,* f. *Espaigne* Spain: see -ard. So MHG. *Span(n)igerd.*]

1. A native of Spain; a member of the Spanish race. Sometimes (with *the*) in collective sing. = the Spanish nation or people.

α. c 1400 *Brut* CXCVII. 220 þe grete lordes..were mellede wiþ oþere nacions,..somme Frenchemen, somme Normans, somme Spaignardes. *c* 1420 *Contin. Brut* CCXXXV. 325 In þis comyng oppon of þe Spaynardes, all þe Englissh men.. were take or slayn. 1484 Caxton *Fables of Alfonce* ii, The spaynard was wonderly wrothe. 1596 Dalrymple tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* I. 73 That maist ancient toung of the alde Spaynzards. *Ibid.* II. 130 Against the spaynerds of portugal.

β. 1491 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* I. 179 To the Spanzeartis that dansyt before the Kyng. 1522 Skelton *Why not to Court?* 921 Our nobles are gone Amonge the Burgonyons, And Spanyardes onyons. 1592 G. Harvey *Four Lett.* Wks. (Grosart) I. 175 The Spanyard..will bee aduised before he entangle himselfe with more warres attonce. 1617 Morysson *Itin.* II. 164 Who entertained a very hot skirmish with the Spaniards. 1649 Bp. Hall *Cases Consc.* III. viii. (1654) 247 The poor Indians..profest they would not goe to heaven if any Spanyards were there. 1713 Addison *Count Tariff* § 22 He found him a true Spaniard, nothing but show and beggary. 1777 R. Watson *Philip II,* I. (1812) I. 14 He was too much a Spaniard to relish anything that was not Spanish. 1832 Macaulay *Armada* 39 Far on the deep the Spaniard saw..those twinkling points of fire. 1891 Skeat *Princ. Eng. Etymol.* Ser. II. 317 The real place of meeting between the Englishman and the Spaniard was in the western world and on the open sea.

2. A Spanish ship or vessel.

1537 *Adm. Crt. Exempl.* I. No. 174 Seeing a ship coming somewhat rome with theym,..Mr. Payne toke it ffor a Spanyard. 1689 in *Cal. Treas., P.* I. Pref. 37 The French has taken 5 Dutch West Indiamen..; also a very rich Spaniard that came from Portabello. 1710 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4710/3 This Day sailed a Spaniard for Amsterdam. 1761 *Ann. Reg., Chron.* 157/1 Near the Spaniard below the Nore. 1806 A. Duncan *Nelson* 36 The Spaniard's mizen-mast fell. 1908 *Pall Mall G.* 20 Apr. 1/3 To be told at breakfast..that 'a Spaniard' was on the rocks.

3. a. The New Zealand plant *Aciphylla Colensoi,* characterized by its long prickly grass-like leaves; New Zealand bayonet- or spear-grass.

1851 in R. B. Paul *Lett. fr. Canterb.* (1857) 108 The country through which I have passed has been most savage, one mass of Spaniards and spear grass. 1882 Potts *Out in the Open* 287 (Morris), Carefully avoiding contact with the long-armed leaves of Spaniards.

b. A species of sallow or willow (see quots.).

1871 W. Scaling *Salix or Willow* (ed. 2) Descr. Cat. 5 *Salix Legustriana,* known as Common Spaniard. 1875 *Encycl. Brit.* III. 422/1 In the third class, which are known in the trade as 'Spaniards' or Spanish willows, are included about thirty varieties which are classed under *Salix amygdalina. Ibid.,* The 'Spaniards' comprise some of the most useful basket-willows.

c. The jack-spaniard (see Jack *sb.*[1] 37).

1909 in *Cent. Dict.* Suppl.

4. *attrib.* (or as *adj.*) and *Comb.,* as *Spaniard governor, ship*; *Spaniard-aping, -hunting*; *Spaniard-like* adv.; **Spaniard's beard,** Spanish beard.

1485 *Naval Acc. Hen. VII* (1896) 27 Paid..to the Boteswayne of a Spaynard ship. 1488 *Ibid.* 79, iij Spaynard Shippes. 1583 Melbancke *Philotimus* X j, Spanyerdlike [she] was as careles as he. 1611 Cotgr., *Espagnolé,*..made Spanish, or Spaniard-like. 1719 De Foe *Crusoe* II. (Globe) 373 When the Spaniard Governour heard this, he calls to William Atkins. 1855 Kingsley *Westw. Ho!* XXV, He asked them whether they would go Spaniard-hunting with him. 1892 Stevenson *Across the Plains* 79 Long aisles of pine-trees hung with Spaniard's Beard.

Hence (chiefly in recent journalistic use) **Spa·niardism,** Spanish methods or practice; **Spa·niardiza·tion,** the making of a place or thing Spanish; **Spa·niardize** *v. trans.,* to make Spanish; hence *Spa·niardizing* vbl. sb. and ppl. a.; **Spa·niardship,** used as a mock title in speaking of a Spaniard.

1733 Fielding *Quix. in Eng.* I. i, If your master does not pay me, I shall lay his Spaniardship fast in a place, which [etc.]. 1880 *Daily News* 6 May 5/8 We combat..that Spaniardism he has ushered in. 1886 Symonds *Renaiss. It., Cath. React.* (1898) VII. xi. 183 Italian society..beneath the shadow of a score of Spaniardising princelings. 1899 *Westm. Gaz.* 29 Sept. 2/3 Signs of the Spaniardisation of Sloane-street.

† **Spaniardo.** *Obs.*—[1] A Spaniard.

1598 Chapman *Blinde Beg. Alexandria* Plays 1873 I. 14, I am signeor Braggadino the Martiall Spaniardo, the aide of Ægypt in her present wars.

Spaniel (spæ·nyĕl), *sb.*[1] (and *a.*). Forms: *α.* 4–5 **spaynel,** 5–6 **-ell** (5 **-yel,** 6 **-iel**). *β.* 5 **spanzelle, -zeall,** 6 **-zell, -zeoll**; 5–6 **spanyel**(l, 6 **-yelle, spannyell, -iell,** 7 **-iel,** 6–7 **spaniell,** 7 **spaniele, spani'el,** 6– **spaniel.** *γ.* 5 **spayngyel, spanegeole, spangel,** 6–7 **-gell.** *δ.* 5 **speygn-, spaygn-, spaignol,** 6 **spaignell,** 7 **spagnel.** *ε.* 6 **span(n)el,** 7 **span(n)ell,** 9 *dial.* or *vulgar* **spanil.** [ad. OF. *espaignol, espaigneul* (mod.F. *épagneul*) 'Spanish dog': see next. So MDu. *spanjoel, -goel, spaelgoen,* etc.]

1. A variety of dog characterized by large drooping ears, long silky hair, keen scent, and affectionate nature, some breeds of which are used for sporting purposes, esp. for starting and retrieving game, while others are favourite pet- or toy-dogs.

α. c 1386 Chaucer *Wife's Prol.* 267 For, as a spaynel, she wol on hym lepe. *c* 1410 *Master of Game* (MS. Digby 182) xvi, A goode spaynel shulde not be to rough, but his taile shulde be rough. 1425 *Rolls of Parlt.* IV. 298/1 By þe Rees of a Spaynell, þere was on a nyght taken..a man. 1484 Caxton *Fables of Poge* iv, A fayr yong man..whiche..had with hym two fayre spaynels.

β. c 1450 *Bk. Hawking* in *Rel. Ant.* I. 297 Lete the spanyell flusch up the covey. 1489 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* I. 112 Joly Johne..that brocht ij spanzeallis to the King. 1519 *Presentm. Juries* in *Surtees Misc.* (1890) 32 That no man kepe no hown, grewand, nor spanzell. 1557 R. Edgeworth *Serm.* vi. 56 It is natural..to a spaniel to be gentle & familiar. 1589 ? Lyly *Pappe w. Hatchet* E ij, There is not a better Spanniell in England to spring a coule. 1621 Burton *Anat. Mel.* Democr. to Rdr. 4 Like a ranging Spaniel that barkes at euery bird hee sees. 1675 Cocker *Morals* (1694) 5 Beware of that sly Sycophant's Dogg-Tricks, Who, like a Spanniel flatters, fawns, and licks. 1704 Pope *Windsor For.* 99 Before his lord the ready spaniel bounds. 1789 Wolcot (P. Pindar) *Expost. Ode* xi. Wks. 1812 II. 239 Like crouching Spaniels, down black Lords must lie, Whene'er admitted to the Royal eye. 1840 Blaine *Encycl. Rural Sports* § 2550 The varieties of the spaniel are numerous...A popular distinction made between them by many writers is into springers, cockers, and water spaniels. 1877 *Encycl. Brit.* VII. 328 The Spaniel is the favourite of the sportsman.

γ. c 1410 *Master of Game* (MS. Digby 182) Prol., First y will begynn at Racches..and after at Spayngyels. *c* 1425 *Seven Sages* (P.) 1448, I hadde a spangel good of plyght. 1533 *Presentm. Juries* in *Surtees Misc.* (1890) 33 Neither hownde, spangell, ne grewend.

δ. 14.. *Master of Game* (MS. Royal 17. B. xli) xvi, Off Houndes that men calle Spaygnell. 1553 [see 1 c]. 1607 Topsell *Four-f. Beasts* (1658) 107 Some are smaller which are called Hounds, .. House-curs, Spagnels both for the Water and Land.

ε. 1575 Turberv. *Faulconrie* Prol., The calling Spanels quest. 1589 *Gold. Mirr.* (1851) 51, I calde my Spannels, and to the field I went. 1616 Surfl. & Markham *Countrey Farme* 679 When you make choice of any spannell, you shall chuse him by his shape, beautie, mettall, and cunning hunting. 1624 Capt. Smith *Virginia* VI. 232 Hauing a mastiue Bitch and a Spanell with them. 1640 Gent *Knave in Gr.* I. i. B iv, I think I am little kin to a Spannell, the more I am beaten, the better I affect.

b. With distinguishing terms to denote different varieties or breeds, as *Alpine, Blenheim, English, King Charles, Norfolk* (etc.) *spaniel.* Also † *spaniel gentle* (see first quot.).

See also *land-spaniel* Land *sb.* 11 b, Water-spaniel.

1576 Fleming tr. *Caius' Dogs* (1880) 14 Of the delicate,

neate, and pretty kind of dogges called the Spaniel gentle, or the comforter, in Latine *Melitæus*. 1778 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 2) III. 1618/2 They [*Canis Hispaniolus*] are still distinguished by the name of English Spaniels. 1833 W. H. MAXWELL *Field Bk.* 497 King Charles's spaniel, *Can[is] brevipilis*, *Ibid.*, The hunting spaniel or cocker.., *Can[is] index*. *Ibid.*, The Alpine spaniel. 1845 YOUATT *Dog* 44 The King Charles's Spaniel, so called from the fondness of Charles II for it,..belongs likewise to the cockers. *Ibid.* 45 The Norfolk Spaniel. *Ibid.*, The Blenheim Spaniel. *Ibid.* 51 The Alpine Spaniel, or Bernardine Dog, is a breed almost peculiar to the Alps. 1894 *Daily News* 11 Apr. 6/4 There are the usual number of King Charles, ruby spaniels, and Italian greyhounds.

†c. In allusive use. *Obs.*

1553 *Respublica* (Brandl) I. iii. 187 *Adu[acio]*. Doe but whistle for me, and I comme foorth with all... *Ava[icia]*. Yᵗ is myne owne good spaignell Rigg. *a* 1553 UDALL *Royster D.* II. iii. (Arb.) 36 Ye shall see hir glide and swimme, Not lumperdee clumperdee like our spaniell Rig. 1599 T. NASHE *Lenten Stuffe* 43 Fate is a spaniel that you cannot beate from you. 1605 *1st Pt. Jeronimo* I. iii. 1 Come, my soules spaniell, my lifes ietty substance, Whats thy name? 1613 SHAKS. *Hen. VIII*, v. iii. 126 You play the Spaniell, And thinke with wagging of your tongue to win me.

2. *fig.* a. One who pries into, or searches out, something.

1562 PILKINGTON *Expos. Abdyas* 56 The papistes..be diligent spayniels to seek al wayes possible to set up that vyle podell of idolatrie. 1646 QUARLES *Sheph. Oracles* Egl. iv. Wks. (Grosart) III. 214/1 These are the generous Spaniels that retrive Imperiall Crownes, and swallow Kings alive. 1647 CLEVELAND *Char. Lond.-Diurn.* 2 Suteable to their plots are their Informers; Skippers and Taylours; Spaniells both for the Land and the Water.

b. A submissive, cringing, or fawning person.

1592 *Nobody & Someb.* in Simpson *Sch. Shaks.* (1878) I. 315 Time was, base spaniell, thou didst fawne as much On me, as now thou strivest to flatter her. 1598 BARNFIELD *Compl. Poetrie* Poems (Arb.) 102 And herein happie, I areade the poore; No flattring Spanyels fawne on them for meate. 1600 HEYWOOD *1st Pt. Edw. IV*, I. i, I, I, you are the Spaniels of the court. 1848 DICKENS *Dombey* xlvi, Have you nothing, Spaniel, to complain of in him? 1852 WHITTIER *Astræa* iii, Perish shall all which makes A spaniel of the man!

3. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *spaniel bitch, dog, group*, etc.; *spaniel-like* adj. and adv.; **spaniel-ship**, a state of mean or fawning submission.

1687 MIÉGE *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II, A *Spaniel-bitch. 1818 SCOTT *Rob Roy* xxxvii, A black spaniel bitch. *c* 1620 Z. BOYD *Zion's Flowers* (1855) 25 The *spaniel dog he loves his Masters eye. 1694 *Acc. Sev. Late Voy.* (1711) I. 17 They were as big as an ordinary Spaniel-dog. 1828 SCOTT *F. M. Perth* xi, A little French spaniel dog sat beside them. 1852 THACKERAY *Esmond* I. viii, Little Beatrix..sat at the farther end of the room..playing with a spaniel dog. 1840 BLAINE *Encycl. Rural Sports* § 2538 The *spaniel group includes the setter, the common spaniel, the Newfoundland dog, and the retriever. *c* 1410 *Master of Game* (MS. Digby 182) xvi, Of the *Spaynell Houndes. 1591 SHAKS. *Two Gentl.* IV. ii. 14 Yet (*Spaniel-like) the more she spurnes my loue, The more it..fawneth on her still. 1834 *Tait's Mag.* I. 385/2 The mere spaniel-like instinct of obedience. 1833 W. H. MAXWELL *Field Bk.* 497 The name of the *spaniel race. 1832 CARLYLE *Misc.* (1872) IV. 77 His devout Discipleship seemed nothing more than a mean *Spanielship.

b. Passing into *adj.* in the sense 'meanly submissive, cringing, fawning', etc.

1602 SHAKS. *Jul. C.* III. i. 43 Low-crooked-curtsies, and base Spaniell fawning. 1606 DEKKER *Double P. P.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 172 He..can Creepe into credit,..And (by his Spaniell-fawning) saue his neck. 1681 DRYDEN *Epil. to Lee's P'cess Cleves* 13 The Spaniel Lover, like a sneaking Fop, Lies at our Feet. 1796 SOUTHEY *Hymn to Penates* Poet. Wks. 1837 II. 277 A spaniel race That lick the hand that beats them, or tear all Alike in frenzy. 1875 TENNYSON *Q. Mary* III. iii, These spaniel-Spaniard English of the time.

†Spaniel, *sb.*[2] *Obs.* Forms: 4–5 **Spaynyel(l, 5 Spayn(h)ell,** *Sc.* **Spanzell.** [ad. OF. *Espaignol* (cf. prec. and SPAINOL).] A Spaniard.

1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) IV. 419 Galba Servius regnede aftir Nero..i-chose of Spaynyellus and of Galles. *Ibid.* V. 235 Þe Spaynelles, Galles, and Romayns. *c* 1425 WYNTOUN *Cron.* II. ix. 778 (Cott.), Þar schippis he fande thretty Wiþe of Spanzellis in company.

Spaniel (spæ·nyĕl), *v. rare.* [f. SPANIEL *sb.*[1]] a. *intr.* (also with *it*). To act like a spaniel; to be meanly submissive or subservient. b. *trans.* To follow, or fawn upon, like a spaniel.

1599 PORTER *Angry Wom. Abingt.* (Percy Soc.) 101 How he would spaniell it, and shake himselfe when he comes out of the pond! 1606 SHAKS. *Ant. & Cl.* IV. xii. 21 The hearts That pannelled [*Hanmer* (1743–4) *emend.* spaniel'd] me at heeles, to whom I gaue Their wishes. 1763 CHURCHILL *Conference* 4 Let Fortune change, and Prudence changes too, Supple and pliant a new system feels, Throws up her Cap, and spaniels at his heels. 1812 W. TENNANT *Anster F.* (1814) I. xvi. 4 By such a pack of men, in am'rous quest, Fawningly spaniel'd to bestow her hand.

Spa·nieless. [f. SPANIEL *sb.*[1]] A female spaniel.

1853 C. BRONTE *Villette* xxxviii, He spoke no more to the pupils,..but gave many an endearing word to a small spanieless (if one may coin a word).

Spa·nielize, *v. rare.* Also 7 **spanniolize.** [f. SPANIEL *sb.*[1]] *intr.* (also with *it*). To act like a spaniel; to be submissive or fawning.

1641 *Wits Recreations* § 498, I cannot spanniolize it week by week, Or wait a moneth to kisse your hand or cheek. 1687 MIÉGE *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II, To Spanielize, or fawn like a Spaniel, *caresser*, *comme font les Epagneux*.

†Spa·nify, *v. Obs.* [f. *Span-* (as in SPANIARD, etc.) + -(I)FY.] *trans.* To make Spanish; to Spaniolize. Hence †**Spa·nified** *ppl. a.*

1599 in *Archpriest Controv.* (Camden) I. 214 The ruine of our poore country whiche we greately feared by that Spanified league. 1600 W. WATSON *Decacordon* (1602) 350 Those honors they meane of, are throughly spanified. 1601 — *Import. Consid.* (1831) 15 Utterly refusing to applaud to Parson's Spanified Title. 1602 in *Archpriest Controv.* (Camden) II. 184 Some greate persons are Spanified.

Spa·ning, *vbl. sb. north.* and *Sc.* [f. SPANE *v.*] The action of weaning, suspending, etc.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 467/1 Spanynge, or wenynge of chylder, *ablactatio*. *c* 1440 *Alph. Tales* 23 When þe childe was att spanyng, þis brewster doghter broght it vnto hym & lefte it with hym. 1516 *Burgh Rec. Edinburgh* (1869) I. 164 Vnder the payne of spayning fra the occupatioun for yeir and day. 1529 *Ibid.* (1871) II. 6 [For] the thrid falt, spanyng of thar operatione. 1565 J. KNOX *Sermon* 24 b, This weaning (or spaning as we terme it) from worldly pleasure, is a thing straunge to the flesh. 1653 in Laing *Lindores Abbey* (1876) 224 Took as weill wᵗ the spaining.. as any bairne could doe. 1898 LD. E. HAMILTON *Mawkin* ix. 107 The spaning of the lambs was by with.

b. *attrib.*, as *spaning-lamb*, *-time*; **spaning brash,** weaning-brash; also *transf.*, a disease which attacks corn in the early stages of its growth.

1416–7 *Durham Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 317 Pro spanyng lambes. 1447 *Ibid.* 319 Cum ij spanynglamez et j Antonlam. 1549 *York Wills* (Surtees) VI. 296 To..my servaunte, one spaninge quie calf. 1562 *Will of Benson* (Somerset Ho.), A lamb at spanyng tyme. 1582 *Durham Wills* (Surtees) II. 58, xx lambes, to be delivered the next spaninge tyme after my deathe. 1721 RAMSAY *Richy & Sandy* 40 At spaining time, or at our Lambmass feast. 1828 MOIR *Mansie Wauch* xxiii, All the dunts and tumbles of infancy—to say nothing of the spaining-brash and the teeth-cutting.

Spaniolate (spæ·niŏlēit), *v. rare.* Also 6 **Spanyol-.** [f. *Spaniol-* Spanish (see SPAINOL) + -ATE[3]. Cf. obs. F. *espagnoler*, Sp. *españolar*, and HISPANIOLATE *v.*] *trans.* To Spaniolize. Hence **Spa·niolated** *ppl. a.*

1577 SIDNEY *Lett.* Misc. Wks. (1829) 302 His Brother Earnest, muche lyke him in disposition...Bothe extreemely Spaniolated. 1583 STOCKER *Civ. Warres Lowe C.* III. 109 b *note*, Other letters sent from the Spaniolated Hollanders to Leyden. *Ibid.* 110 *note*, The Spanyolated John le Hutter. 1855 KINGSLEY *Westw. Ho!* xxvii, As Cary said to him once, using a cant phrase of Sidney's,..all heaven and earth were 'spaniolated' to him. 1907 *Athenæum* 25 May 635/3 The poor Spaniolated prince then holding the title.

Spaniolize (spæ·niŏləiz), *v.* Now *rare.* Also 7 **Spagn(i)ol-.** [f. as prec. + -IZE. Cf. obs. F. *espagnoliser*, and ESPANOLIZE *v.*, HISPANIOLIZE *v.*] *trans.* To make Spanish; to imbue with Spanish notions or tendencies; to cause to follow Spanish fashions. (Chiefly in pa. pple.)

1598 DALLINGTON *Meth. Trav.* F iv, Like Traitors falsly hearted, or Frenchmen truly Spaniolized. 1625 PURCHAS *Pilgrims* IV. 1485 Their phrase was much mixt with Spanish, for now they are all Spaniolized. 1662 J. BARGRAVE *Pope Alex. VII* (1867) 73 He himself seemeth to be neutral; yet most think that upon occasion he would prove Spaniolized. *a* 1743 OZELL tr. *Brantome's Sp. Rhodom.* (1744) 16 He was a Gascon but perfectly Spanioliz'd.

Hence **Spa·niolized, Spa·niolizing** *ppl. adjs.*

1600 O. E. *Repl. Libel* Pref. p. iv, The trecherie of Spaniolized papistes. 1603 FLORIO *Montaigne* (1634) 133 To become slender in wast, and to have a straight spagnolized body. 1627 H. BURTON *Baiting of Pope's Bull* To Reader 3 A fawning spanolizing Spaniell, silenced with a fat morsell, or a little spettle. 1641 MILTON *Ch. Govt.* II. Wks. 1851 III. 47 A Tympany of Spanioliz'd Bishops swaggering in the fore-top of the State. 1670 G. H. *Hist. Cardinals* II. II. 157 He makes himself notorious by his defending the interest of Spain, he being one of the most Spanioliz'd Cardinals of them all. 1888 *Sat. Rev.* 20 Oct. 1 The stronger but ruder stock of the already Spaniolized Hapsburgs.

Spanish (spæ·nĭʃ), *a.* (*adv.*) and *sb.*[1] Forms: *a.* 3 **Spainisce,** 5 **Spaynessh(e, -ysshe, -ish, Spainysshe,** 6 **Spaynisshe, -ysch, Spaynes,** *Sc.* **Spaines,** 9 *Sc.* **Spainish.** *β.* 5–6 **Spanyshe,** 6 **-yssh(e, -ische, -issh, -ys, Spenyes, Spannishe,** *Sc.* **Spanes,** 8 **Spannish,** 6– **Spanish.** [f. SPAIN + -ISH, with later shortening of the first element. Cf. OE. *Speonisc* (Ælfric), M.Du. *Spaensch*, *Spaens*, Du. *Spaansch*), G. *Spanisch*, Da. and Sw. *Spansk*.]

A. *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to Spain or its people; inhabiting, native to, characteristic of, Spain.

c 1205 LAY. 30703 Heo hahten hine Kinebord ut of Spainisce [*v.r.* Spaynes] ard. 1382 *Wyclifite Bible* Pref. Epp. ix. (1850) I. 76 Spanyshe songes upon deed men [L. *Hiberas nænias*]. *c* 1400 *Brut* CCXXIX. (1908) 304 When þe Spaynesshe vessellis & nauey were closid yn al about. *a* 1533 LD. BERNERS *Huon* CXVII. 415 He coude very wel speke the spanysshe languag. 1585 T. WASHINGTON tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* I. ii. 2 b, [We] sailed through the Spanish Seas towards the Iles Baleares. 1642 HOWELL *For. Trav.* (Arb.) 64 The Spanish Traveller, who was so habituated to hyperbolize,..that he became ridiculous in all companies. 1684 BUNYAN *Pilgr.* II. 18 All the Gold in the Spanish Mines. 1723 CHAMBERS tr. *Le Clerc's Archit.* I. 56 The Spanish Order..is more elegant than the Roman. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) II. 344 Even those [wild horses] which are found in America are of a Spanish breed. 1796 H. HUNTER tr. *St.-Pierre's Stud. Nat.* (1799) III. 537 In 1566, it constrained the Dutch to shake off the Spanish yoke. 1812 BYRON *Ch. Har.* I. lxxxi, Who late so free as Spanish girls were seen? 1871 EARLE *Philol. Eng. Tongue* 304 Round by the Spanish peninsula have also come to us those English..nouns which are derived from Arabic.

b. *Spanish Main*, the mainland of America adjacent to the Caribbean Sea, esp. that portion of the coast stretching from the Isthmus of Panama to the mouth of the Orinoco; in later use also, the sea contiguous to this, or the route traversed by the Spanish register ships. Now *Hist.*

1725 SLOANE *Jamaica* II. 297 This is brought from the Spanish Main, or Continent of America. 1765 *Phil. Trans.* LV. 50 The portrait of a child born of negro parents upon the Spanish main. 1803 J. BURNEY *Disc. in South Sea* I. i. 7 That part of the continent, since known by the names of *Terra Firma*, and the Spanish Main. 1839 LONGF. *Wreck Hesperus* iv, Then .. spake an old Sailor, Had sailed the Spanish Main. 1890 J. CORBETT *Drake* viii. 110 Cartagena was the capital of the Spanish Main.

c. *Spanish March* (see first quot.).

1788 GIBBON *Decl. & F.* xlix. V. 141 In his absence he [Charlemagne] instituted the Spanish march, which extended from the Pyrenees to the river Ebro. *Ibid.* note, The governors or counts of the Spanish march. 1845 *Encycl. Metrop.* XI. 296/1.

2. Of things: Of actual or attributed Spanish origin; made, manufactured, or produced in Spain (or Spanish America); associated or connected with Spain on this account.

1485 *Naval Acc. Hen. VII* (1896) 39 Forest billes.., Spaynish dartes. 1486 *Bk. St. Albans*, *Hawking* C v, Take yolkys of Egges rawe,..put therto spanyshe salte. 1592 *Shuttleworths' Acc.* (Chetham Soc.) 75 Towe ovnsies of blake spenyes sylke to be boughte at Chester, iiij*ˡ*. 1598 *Sc. Acts, Jas. VI* (1816) IV. 169/1 Euerie erle be armit and furnist wᵗʰ corslet of pruif, heid peaces, vanbraces, teslettis, and ane spanische pik. 1615 MARKHAM *Eng. Housew.* II. iv. (1668) 116 If it be Spanish Cute, two gallons will go further than five gallons of Candy Cute. 1649 *Eng. Farrier* xiii, Make your shooe of spruse or Spanish Iron. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. xxii. (Roxb.) 274/1 Spanish tobacco, the wreath about a finger thickness. 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* I, Some flasks of rich Spanish wine. 1829 LOUDON *Encycl. Plants* 205 S[alsola] sativa.. affords all the best soda consumed in Europe. It is called by us Spanish or Alicant soda. 1846 BAXTER *Libr. Pract. Agric.* (ed. 4) I. 202 Spanish annotta is unquestionably the best ingredient for colouring cheese. 1880 J. DUNBAR *Pract. Papermaker* 35 Spanish Esparto,..Oran Esparto.

Comb. 1654 GAYTON *Pleas. Notes* To Friend, Thou 'dst turn'd the Pyrrhick Galliard of the Times Into inchanted Spanish-Pavin Rimes. 1796 WITHERING *Brit. Plants* (ed. 3) IV. 283 Buffy brown or Spanish snuff colour.

b. Esp. *Spanish leather, mahogany, needle, soap, -wool* (see also 7).

1483 in *Antiq. Rep.* (1807) I. 42, viij paire of botews of *Spaynysh leder. 1576 GASCOIGNE *Steele Glas* 373 Wks. 1910 II. 152 Our knit silke stockes, and spanish lether shoes. 1626 L. OWEN *Speculum Jesuiticum* (1629) 9 Our Spanish-leather Saint had a diuine reuelation of the blessed Trinitie. 1693 DRYDEN *Juvenal* vi. (1697) 134 The several Suits Of Armour, and the Spanish Leather Boots! 1711 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4862/4 Every..Spanish Leather-dresser, and all other Dressers of Hides. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade, Spanish-leather maker*, a manufacturer of Cordovan-leather. 1837 W. B. ADAMS *Pleasure Carriages* 75 There are two kinds of mahogany, known as *'Spanish' and 'Honduras'. 1869 RANKINE *Machine & Hand-tools* App. 69 Spanish mahogany is the more highly valued for ornamental purposes. 1584 in Feuillerat *Revels Q. Eliz.* (1908) 368 For *spanishe needles iiii[d]. 1605 *Tryall Chev.* II. i. in Bullen *Old Pl.* (1884) III. 286 Sitting upon the poynt of a Spanish needle. 1615 MARKHAM *Country Contentm.* I. x, The best substance whereof to make Angling hooks, is either old Spanish needles, or else strong wier. *c* 1450 *M. E. Med. Bk.* (Heinrich) 134 Take harde *spaynessh sepe and a litul stale ale. 1572 GASCOIGNE *Councell to Withipoll* 78 Some may present thee with a pounde or twaine Of Spanishe soape to washe thy lynnen white. 1789 H. BUCHAN *Dom. Med.* (1790) 453 Such as cannot bear the asafœtida may substitute Spanish soap in its place. 1870 YEATS *Nat. Hist. Comm.* 206 Spanish or Castile soap is made by mixing olive oil and soda. 1436 *Libel English Policy* in *Polit. Poems* (Rolls) II. 162 For *Spayneshe wolle in Fflaundres draped is. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Wool*, The goodness of the Spanish Wools is owing to a few English Sheep sent over into Spain. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XVII. 343/2 The wool..is used for mixing with Spanish wool in some of their finest cloths.

c. Of articles of dress, etc.: Made in Spain, or Spanish materials, or after the Spanish fashion.

1530 PALSGR. 273/2 Spayniss̃he bagge, *bauldrier*. *c* 1534 in Lewis *Life Fisher* (1855) II. 297, 2 Spanysshe napkyns wroght wythe sylke and gold. 1542 *Nottingham Rec.* III. 220 One Spaynes cloke of frysado. 1610 B. JONSON *Alch.* IV. vii, His Spanish slops. *Ana.* They are profane..and idolatrous breeches. 1634 W. TIRWHYT tr. *Balzac's Lett.* 120 A Nose..against which there is no possible defence but Spanish Gloves. 1652 *News fr. Lowe-Countr.* 2 Sometimes, forsooth, the Spanish Hose Doth trick him up, and there He goes. 1805 SCOTT *Last Minstrel* II. xix, A palmer's amice..With a wrought Spanish baldric bound.

d. *Needlework.* (See quots.)

1640 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Praise Needle* A 2 The Spanish-stitch, Rosemary-stitch, and Mowse-stitch. 1882 CAULFEILD & SAWARD *Dict. Needlew.* 454/1 Spanish embroidery, a modern work, and closely resembling Darning on Muslin. *Ibid.* 455/1 Some of the Spanish Points are not raised, but are formed with a pattern worked out in Buttonhole Stitches. 1893 MISS MASTERS *Art Needlework* 41 Several specimens of the embroidery executed by this queen [Katharine of Aragon]..are still known as 'Spanish work'.

3. Of a type or kind characteristic of, or exemplified by, the Spaniards.

In quot. 1584, 'deceitful, perfidious, treacherous'.

1530 PALSGR. 225/1 Gyrdell for a purse of the spayniss̃he facyon. 1584 WALSINGHAM in *Cott. Libr. Catal.* 8 The French king..will mislike, that, by any Spanish practice, she should be drawn to violate her faith. 1592 G. HARVEY *Four Lett.* Wks. (Grosart) I. 192 Be thinke your selues of the olde Romane Discipline, and the newe Spanish industry. *a* 1628 F. GREVILLE *Sidney* iii. (1652) 37 His Spanish haugh-

ture. 1693 W. Freke *Sel. Ess.* Apol. 5, I shall not cramp myself to a Spanish Cutt to do it. 1806 A. Hunter *Culina* 159 To stew Vegetables in the Spanish manner. 1891 Farrar *Darkn. & Dawn* xvii, Your poem...is crude in parts. It is too Spanish and provincial.

4. In the names of various diseases.

1583–91 [see Pip *sb.*[1] b]. 1600 Pory tr. *Leo's Africa* I. 39 This they were most certainly perswaded of, that the same disease came first from Spaine; wherefore they..call it, The Spanish pocke. 1608 [see Pox *sb.* 1 e]. 1681 [see Pock *sb.* 2 a]. *a* 1700 *Dict. Cant. Crew, Spanish-gout*, the Pox. *c* 1720 W. Gibson *Farrier's Dispens.* xiv. (1734) 271 The disease of the Head, which he [Solleysell] calls the Spanish-evil,..affected the Head with a Delirium or Madness. 1868 *Rep. U. S. Commissioner Agric.* (1869) 38 Five western cattle died of Spanish fever at Millerton, New York, where they were quarantined.

5. Of or pertaining to, dealing or connected with, the language or literature of Spain.

1599 Minsheu (*title*), A Spanish Grammar, first collected ..by R. Percivale,..now augmented..by J. Minsheu. 1706 Stevens *Spanish & Eng. Dict.* Pref., The Spanish Diminutives are much more numerous than the Substantives. 1706 — *New Spanish Grammar* 3, I shall enter immediately upon the Spanish Alphabet. 1728 Chambers *Cycl.* s.v. *Bible*, Where he explains the Hebrew Words by Spanish Words. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 302/1 A Spanish grammar for the use of English students. 1887 *Encycl. Brit.* XXII. 352/2 The law of Spanish accentuation. *Ibid.*, A treatise on Spanish 'doublets' by Mme. Carolina Michaelis. 1888 Jacobi *Printers' Vocab.* 129 Spanish n, a capital or lower case n with a curly accent, thus—ñ.

6. In combination with other proper names, as *Spanish-American, -Arab(ic, -Indian*, etc.

1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) I. 494/2 The Bastulian or Spanish Phœnician [alphabet]. 1838 Prescott *Ferd. & Is.* Pref., The literal version..of the Spanish-Arab chronicles. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 821/2 The Spanish-Americans use the leaves as a condiment. 1871 Kingsley *At Last* x, One of the old Spanish-Indian jungle tracks. 1886 *Encycl. Brit.* XXI. 653/2 We possess a few literary works written in Spanish Arabic.

7. Special collocations.

†Spanish ashes, = Barilla 2. **S. biscuit, black** (see quots.). **S. brown,** a kind of earth having a reddish-brown colour (due to peroxide of iron), used as a pigment; also, the colour which this imparts. **S. burn, burton,** *Naut.* (see quots.). **†S. chalk,** a variety of steatite found in Spain. **S. clew,** *Naut.* (see quot.). **†S. coal,** an aromatic composition [Sp. *pebete*] burned as a perfume. **†S. coin,** *slang* (see quot.). **†S. fig** (see Fig *sb.* 2). **S. fox,** *Naut.* (see Fox *sb.* 8). **†Spanish green,** verdigris. **S. juice, liquorice** (see Liquorice 1). **S. march, †S. money, S. padlock,** *slang* (see quots.). **†S. paint, paper,** cosmetics coming from or used in Spain. **†S. pike,** a needle (cf. sense 2 b). **S. red,** an ochre resembling Venetian red, but slightly yellower (Fairholt, 1854). **S. reef,** *Naut.* (see quot.). **S. spoon,** a kind of long-handled scoop used for removing the earth in the excavation of holes for telegraph posts. **S. stripes,** a kind of woollen fabric (Knight, 1875). **†S. sword,** a rapier. **S. trot, trumpeter** (see quots.). **S. wave** (after G. or Du. use as an intensive: see quot. 1852). **S. white,** (*a*) finely powdered chalk used as a pigment or for its cleansing properties; (*b*) a fine quality of flour (see quot. 1882). **S. windlass,** *Naut.* (see quot. 1846). **S. wood,** Spanish mahogany. **S. wool,** a variety of rouge (see also 2 b). **†S. worm** (see quot.).

1727 De Foe *Eng. Tradesm.* iii. (1841) I. 20 These ashes they call *Spanish*. 1763 Lewis *Phil. Comm. Arts* 596 The ashes..are brought to us, under the name of Spanish ashes or *bariglia*. 1769 Mrs. Raffald *Eng. Housekpr.* (1778) 275 To make *Spanish Biscuits*. [Recipe follows.] 1839 Ure *Dict. Arts* 341 When this cork [*sc.* the white cork of France] is burned in close vessels it forms the pigment called *Spanish black*. 1660 *Albert Durer Revived* 15 *Spanish Brown is a dirty brown colour. 1703 R. Neve *City & C. Purchaser* 215 Timber-works that are expos'd to the Weather, ought..to be Prim'd with Spanish-brown. 1732 J. Peele *Water-Colours* 63 Shadow your Vermilion with Spanish brown. 1850 Holtzapffel *Turning* III. 1313 The cement is..hardened with red ochre, or Spanish brown and whiting. 1867 Smyth *Sailor's Word-bk.* 640 **Spanish-Burn*, a specious method of hiding defects in timber, by chopping it in pieces. 1829 *Nat. Philos., Mechanics* II. viii. 36 (L.U.K.), In figs. 65, 66, are represented systems with two ropes and two moveable pullies, called *Spanish burtons. 1846 A. Young *Naut. Dict.* 55 A single Spanish burton, has three single blocks; or two single blocks and a hook fixed to one of the bights of the standing part of the tackle. A double Spanish burton, has one double and two single blocks. 1759 *Phil. Trans.* LI. 41 *note*, My friend Mr. Dacosta shewed me a piece of *Spanish chalk*. 1796 Kirwan *Elem. Min.* (ed. 2) I. 154 The steatites of China..is often called Spanish Chalk. 1893 Alston & Walker *Seamanship* (ed. 3) 116 **Spanish Clews*..are made by serving the nettles round below the seizing, leaving one out on each side, at regular intervals. 1616 B. Jonson *Devil an Ass* iv. iv, [To] aske for your *pineti*, *Spanish-cole, To burne, and sweeten a roome. 1785 Grose *Dict. Vulgar T.*, **Spanish coin*, fair words, and compliments. 1594 Nashe *Unfort. Trav.* Wks. (Grosart) V. 143 To see poore English asses how soberly they swallow *Spanish figges, deuour any hooke baited for them. 1611 Cotgr., *Verd de gris*, verdigrease, a *Spanish greene. 1648 Hexham II, *Spaensch Groen*, Spanish Greene. 1803 *Med. Jrnl.* X. 166 The insertion in the Schedule [of the Medicine Act of 1802] of such names as *Spanish juice, refined liquorice [etc.]. 1872 Oliver *Elem. Bot.* II. 166 Spanish juice is the sweet extract of the Liquorice-root..evaporated to dryness. 1750–*Spanish liquorice [see Liquorice 1]. 1884 E. L. Anderson *Mod. Horsem.* II. xvii. 145 The *Spanish march should be practised at a very slow walk, and the horse well supported by the hand. *a* 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew*, **Spanish-money*, fair Words and Compliments. 1788 Grose *Dict. Vulgar T.* (ed. 2), **Spanish Padlock*, a kind of girdle contrived by jealous husbands of that nation, to secure the chastity of their wives. 1668 Charleton *Onomast.* 303 *Bianca Alexandrina*,..*Spanish Paint for Ladies. 1650 Bulwer *Anthropomet.* 155 The women of Spaine are also great painters, other Nations having learnt from them the use of *Spanish-paper. *Ibid.* 156 [see Rubric *sb.* 1 b]. 1624 Ford *Sun's Darling* II. i, A French Gentleman that trayls a *Spanish pike, a Tailor. 1867 Smyth *Sailor's Word-bk.* 640 **Spanish Reef*, the yards lowered on the cap. Also, a knot tied in the head of the jib. 1876 Preece & Sivewright *Telegraphy* 191 For light lines, on which the poles need not be inserted to a greater depth than four feet, the *Spanish Spoon answers the purpose..very fairly. *c* 1532 Du Wes *Introd. Fr.* in *Palsgr.* 908 The *spanische sworde, *la rapiere*. 1884 E. L. Anderson *Mod. Horsemanship* II. xvii. 143 The *Spanish Trot is an exaggerated action in which, at each stride, a fore-leg is thrust boldly to the front, and there is a poise or half halt as the horse is in air. 1785 Grose *Dict. Vulgar T.*, **Spanish*, or *King of Spain's Trumpeter*, an ass when braying. 1852 tr. *Ida Pfeiffer's Journ. Iceland* 56 Our decks were washed by a great many *Spanish waves. *Note.* The large waves which approach from the westward are called by the sailors Spanish waves or billows. 1857 Dufferin *Lett. High Lat.* (ed. 3) 22 Tumbling about on the top of the great Atlantic rollers—or Spanish waves, as they are called—until I thought the ship would roll the masts out of her. 1546 *Invent. Ch. Goods Sussex* 106 For *Spaynysch whytt, vj^e vj^d. 1686 *Phil. Trans.* XVI. 26 Spanish white made of Chalk and Alum burnt together. 1799 G. Smith *Laboratory* I. 313 This is the magistery of bismuth, used by ladies for a cosmetic; and is termed, by artists, Spanish white. 1825 J. Nicholson *Operat. Mechanic* 755 The varnish,..when quite dry, [is] cleaned with starch or Spanish white. 1882 *Notes on Cerem.* (ed. 2) 44 *note*, The very best white flour, ..either that known as 'Spanish whites', or else 'Hungarian flour'. 1846 A. Young *Naut. Dict.* 290 **Spanish-windlass*, a wooden roller having a rope wound about it, through the bight of which rope an iron bolt is inserted as a lever for heaving it round. *c* 1860 H. Stuart *Seaman's Catech.* 29 Heave both parts of the strop together with a Spanish windlass. 1875 *Carpentry & Join.* 15 The mahogany being what is often called cedar, to distinguish it from the very hard *Spanish wood. 1892 *Photogr. Ann.* II. 301 This camera is..made of Spanish wood. 1678 Phillips (ed. 4), **Spanish-Wool*, a parcel of Wool so coloured by Spanish Art, and therefore so called, that it imparts its tincture to Ladies [etc.]. 1838 *Penny Mag.* 1 Dec. 467/2 Two other preparations, called Spanish wool and Oriental wool, have been long known to..the dealers and consumers of rouge. 1785 Grose *Dict. Vulgar T.*, **Spanish worm*, a nail, so called by carpenters when they meet one in a board they are sawing.

8. In the specific names or designations of animals, birds, fish, etc.

A number of others, chiefly West Indian and Bermudan fish names, are given in recent American Dicts.

(*a*) 1668 Charleton *Onomast.* 74 *Perdix Ruffa*..the Spanish Partridge. *a* 1705 Ray *Syn. Avium & Piscium* (1713) 184 Icterus minor nidum suspendens...The Watchy Picket, or Spanish Nightingale. The American Hang-nest. 1731 Albin *Nat. Hist. Birds* I. 87 The Spanish Goose, or Swan Goose. *Anser cygnoides*. 1781 Pennant *Genera Birds* Pl. 13 Spanish Duck. 1849 D. J. Browne *Amer. Poultry Yd.* 25 In the Spanish fowl, the comb is more developed than in any other breed. 1854 Meall *Moubray's Poultry* 248 Spanish Runt.—Described as the largest of the Runts. 1894–5 Lydekker *Roy. Nat. Hist.* III. 393 The Spanish sparrow (*Passer hispaniolensis*) replaces the English bird in many parts of the Mediterranean region.

(*b*) 1648 Hexham II, *Een Spaensche Zee-hatte*, a Spanish Cat. *a* 1672– Spanish mackerel [see Mackerel[1] 2]. 1836 Yarrell *Brit. Fishes* I. 104 The Spanish Bream, *Pagellus erythrinus*. 1882 Jordan & Gilbert *Syn. Fishes N. Amer.* 669 *Sebastodes rubrivinctus*, Spanish Flag. *Ibid.* 887 *Clupea pseudohispanica*, Spanish Sardine. *Ibid.* 939 *Scarus radians*, Spanish Porgy. 1885 Lady Brassey *In the Trades* xvii, The..little blue and yellow Spanish angel-fish [*Holocanthus tricolor*]. 1888 Goode *Amer. Fishes* 205 In this limpid pool were many gorgeously-colored species,..the rainbow-fish, the Spanish-lady [*Bodianus rufus*].

(*c*) 1787 *Young's Ann. Agric.* VIII. 197 Four shepherds, and from four to six large Spanish dogs. 1801 Shaw *Gen. Zool.* II. II. 391 The principal distinction of the Spanish Sheep is the fineness of the fleece, and the horizontally extended spire of the horns. 1827 Griffith tr. *Cuvier* V. 172 Spanish Cat...Fur short; feet and lips flesh-colour. 1831 *Ibid.* IX. Syn. 35 Spanish Lizard, *Lacerta* (*Psammodromus*) *Hispanicus*. 1837 [see Pointer 4]. 1884 Goode *Nat. Hist. Aquat. Anim.* 837 We are informed by a large importer that the Spanish Leech was a small green Leech brought here occasionally..by sea-captains. 1894 Lydekker *Roy. Nat. Hist.* II. 237 The Spanish wild goat inhabits the Pyrenees [etc.]. 1896 *Ibid.* V. 71 The Spanish terrapin (*Clemmys leprosa*), of Spain and North-Western Africa.

b. Esp. *Spanish fly*, = Cantharides. Also *fig.*

So Du. *spaansche vlieg*, G. *spanische fliege*, F. *mouche d'Espagne*, etc.

a 1634 Chapman *Alphonsus* III. i. 179 Drink not, Prince Palatine, throw it on the ground. It is not good to trust his Spanish flies. 1681 Grew *Museum* I. § vii. ii. 168 The common slender Spanish-Fly. *Cantharis vulgaris*. 1712 Arbuthnot *John Bull* Postscr., He procured Spanish flies to blister his neighbours. 1815 Kirby & Sp. *Entomol.* x. (1818) I. 317 Another species of Mylabris..., which is fully as efficacious as the common Spanish fly. 1842 Loudon *Suburban Hort.* 105 The Canthárides, or Spanish blister-flies, are an essential article of medicine. 1861 Hulme tr. *Moquin-Tandon* II. III. iii. 128 Common Cantharides:..commonly called Cantharides of the shops, Spanish Fly, Cantharides Fly.

transf. 1823 Byron *Juan* IX. xxviii, None, save the Spanish fly and Attic bee, As yet are strongly stinging to be free.

9. In the names of plants, trees, etc., denoting either varieties or distinct species found in Spain or Spanish America (esp. the West Indies), as *Spanish arbor-vine, ash, briar, campion, cane, cardon, catchfly, coffee, oak, onion*, etc.

Spanish bayonet (see Bayonet *sb.* 5). **S. bean,** (*a*) a variety of broad bean; (*b*) *U.S.*, the scarlet runner (*Cent. Dict.* 1891). **S. beard,** *U.S.*, the epiphytic plant, *Tillandsia usneoides*, of the Southern States; long-beard. **†S. bell,** some garden flower, ? *Campanula hispanica* (cf. G. *spanische glocke*). **S. chestnut, cress** (see quots.). **S. dagger** (see quot.). **S. elm,** an evergreen timber-tree (*Cordia Geraschanthus*) of the West Indies. **S. garlic,** the rocambole. **S. grass,** Esparto grass. **S. hedge-nettle** (see quot.). **S. iris,** a bulbous iris of the genus *Xiphium*, esp. *X. vulgare* (formerly *Iris Xiphium*). **S. moss,** = *Spanish beard*. **S. needles,** the American plant *Bidens bipinnata* or its prickly fruit. **S. nut,** (*a*) an iridaceous plant, *Moræa sisyrinchium*, the bulbs of which are eaten in Spain; (*b*) a variety of hazel-nut, *Corylus colurna*. **†S. pick-tooth** (see quot.). **S. plum,** = Plum *sb.* 3 b. **S. potato:** (see Potato *sb.* 3 a). **S. soldier,** = Spaniard 3 a. **†S. trumpet,** the jonquil. **S. viper's grass,** scorzonera, esp. *S. hispanica* or black salsify. See also Spanish broom.

A number of others are given in recent American Dicts., as *Spanish berries, bluebell, buckeye*, etc.

1731 Miller *Gard. Dict.* s.v. *Convolvulus*, Great American Bindweed.., commonly call'd *Spanish Arbor-Vine, or Spanish Woodbind. 1846 Lindley *Veg. Kingd.* 631 *Ipomœa tuberosa*, the Spanish Arbour Vine of Jamaica. 1716 *Petiveriana* I. 178 *Spanish Ash...*Caroba Barbad. 1856 A. Gray *Man. Bot.* 472 *Yucca gloriosa* and *Y. aloifolia* (*Spanish Bayonet). 1865– [see Bayonet 5]. 1706 London & Wise *Retir'd Gard.* 96 *Spanish, Sandwich, Windsor Beans. 1784 Smyth *Tour in U. S.* I. 372 Another very singular and striking appearance is a kind of Moss, here [Mississippi] called *Spanish Beards. 1812 Brackenridge *Views of Louisiana* (1814) 42 The long moss, or Spanish beard, begins to be seen below the Arkansas. 1867 Latham *Black & White* 118 The white oaks and cypresses in the swamps are hung with 'Indian moss', also called 'Spanish beard', a grey pendent lichen. 1664 Evelyn *Kal. Hort.* (1729) 215 August. Flowers in Prime, or yet lasting... *Spanish Bells [etc.]. 1716 *Petiveriana* I. 177 Barbadoes *Spanish Briar. 1731 Miller *Gard. Dict.* s.v. *Lychnis*, *Spanish Campion, with a red Valerian Leaf, and a purplish Flower. 1703 *Art's Improv.* I. 63 A slip of hollow *Spannish-Cane, brought to a smooth and sharp edge. 1699 Evelyn *Acetaria* 10 The *Spanish Cardon, a wild and smaller Artichoak, with sharp pointed Leaves. 1707 Mortimer *Husb.* 450 Cardons Spanish are only propagated by Seed that is of a longish Oval form. 1738 *Phil. Trans.* XL. 457 *Lychnis Viscosa...Anglicè* *Spanish Catch-fly. 1664 Evelyn *Kal. Hort.* (1729) 207 Cherries.., the Common Cherry, *Spanish Black. 1733 W. Ellis *Chiltern & Vale Farm.* 145 There are many sorts of Cherries, as the.. Spanish, Amber, Nonsuch. 1699 Evelyn *Acetaria* 18 The sweet aromatick *Spanish Chervile. 1762 *Ann. Reg.* I. 119 For sowing the greatest number of *Spanish chesnut-trees. 1843 Holtzapffel *Turning* I. 80 The sweet, or Spanish chesnut, is very much like oak. 1880 Bessey *Botany* 478 *Castanea vesca*, the so-called Spanish Chestnut, is a native of Asia Minor and the region eastward to the Himalayas. 1831 Audubon *Ornith.* I. 181 The wild *Spanish Coffee (*Cassia occidentalis*)..grows chiefly in old fields in the Southern States. 1887 Bentley *Man. Bot.* 567 Peeled Colocynth..is commonly known as Turkey Colocynth, but that imported from France and Spain is sometimes distinguished as French and *Spanish Colocynth. 1823 Crabb *Techn. Dict.* II. s.v., *Spanish Cress, the *Vella annua*, an annual. 1829 Loudon *Encycl. Plants* 552 *Lepidium Cardamines*, Spanish Cress. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1075/2 **Spanish dagger*, a West Indian name for *Yucca aloifolia*. 1758 P. Browne *Jamaica* 170 *Spanish Elm or Prince-wood..is..one of the best timber woods [etc.]. 1829 Loudon *Encycl. Plants* 150 *Cordia Geraschanthus*, Spanish-elm. 1707 Mortimer *Husb.* (1721) II. 163 Rocambles are a sort of wild Garlick, otherwise called *Spanish Garlick. 1852 G. W. Johnson *Cott. Gard. Dict.* 781 Rocambole,..sometimes called Spanish Garlic. 1884 *De Candolle's Orig. Cultivated Pl.* 250 The principal varieties of *Cucurbita maxima* are the great yellow gourd,..the *Spanish gourd, the turban gourd. 1867 *Ure's Dict. Arts* (ed. 6) II. 237 Esparto or *Spanish Grass. 1823 Crabb *Techn. Dict.* II. s.v., *Spanish Hedge Nettle, the *Prasium*, a shrub. 1863 *Chambers' Encycl.* V. 629/2 *l. xiphium*, sometimes called *Spanish I[ris]. 1880 *Encycl. Brit.* XIII. 276/2 The garden plants known as the Spanish iris and the English iris are both of Spanish origin. 1664 Evelyn *Kal. Hort.* (1729) 201 Prune now your *Spanish Jasmine. 1707 [see Jasmine 1 a, β]. 1842 Loudon *Suburban Hort.* 617 The *Spanish lentil, and the tuberous Lathyrus. 1706 London & Wise *Retir'd Gard.* 95 Red *Spanish Lettuce. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s.v. *Lychnis*, The capillaceous leaved *Spanish lychnis. 1856 Olmsted *Slave States* 373 The long, waving drapery of the tyllindria [*sic*], or *Spanish moss. 1884 *Evangelical Mag.* Feb. 60 We have the 'Old Man's Beard', or Spanish Moss of American Forests. 1846–50 A. Wood *Class-bk. Bot.* 346 *Bidens bipinnata*, *Spanish Needles. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1075/2 *Spanish needles*, a name given in the West Indies to the fruits of a species of *Bidens*. 1597 Gerarde *Herbal* I. lxviii. 94 *Spanish Nut hath smal grassie leaues. 1664 Evelyn *Kal. Hort.* (1729) 205 Ladies Slipper, Stock Gilly Flower, Spanish Nut [etc.]. 1760 J. Lee *Introd. Bot.* App. 320 Nut, Spanish, *Iris*. 1785 Martyn *Lett. Elem. Bot.* xxviii. (1794) 442 The stipules.. of the Byzantine or Spanish nut, which Linnæus gives as a distinct species, are linear. 1829 Loudon *Encycl. Plants* 46 *Moræa sisyrinchium*, Spanish-nut. 1716 *Petiveriana* I. 179 *Spanish Oak...*Caroba Barbad tetraphylla. 1717 *Ibid.* III. 204 Spanish Oak. Splits very well into Clapboards and Ladders. 1852 Morfit *Tanning & Currying* (1853) 98 *Quercus Falcata*..[is] known in Delaware, Maryland and Virginia by the name of Spanish oak. 1706 London & Wise *Retir'd Gard.* 93 Red [and] white *Spanish Onion. 1763 Mills *System Pract. Husb.* IV. 34 The Spanish onion is most esteemed for it's mildness as well as size. 1806 A. Hunter *Culina* (ed. 3) 150 Take four *Spanish.. onions. 1647 Hexham I. (Herbs), Pepper wort, or *Spanish Pepper. 1842 Loudon *Suburban Hort.* 607 The annual capsicum, the Spanish, or Guinea pepper, *C. annuum* L., a native of South America. 1706 Phillips (ed. Kersey), **Spanish Pick-tooth*, a sort of Herb. 1823 Crabb *Techn. Dict.* II. s.v. *Spondias*, The species are trees, as the.. Purple Hog-Plum, or *Spanish Plum. 1864 Grisebach *Flora Brit. W. Ind.* 787/2 Spanish-plum, *Spondias purpurea*. 1706 London & Wise *Retir'd Gard.* 93 Black [and] White *Spanish Radish. 1731 Miller *Gard. Dict.* s.v. *Raphanus*, Great round black Radish, commonly call'd The Spanish Radish. 1786 Abercrombie *Gard. Assist.* 238

Cuttings of common, or *Spanish reed. 1767 — *Ev. Man his own Gardener* (1803) 671 *Apples*... Italian apple, *Spanish rennet, Canada rennet [etc.]. 1707 *Spanish salsify* [see SALSIFY b]. 1819 *Pantologia* X. s.v. *Scorzonera*, *Spanish scorzonera, or garden viper's-grass. 1901 *Gardener* 12 Jan. 1048 Close by..is a *Spanish Soldier.., stiff and pointed with its three-cornered stem-like leaves. 1882a *Garden* 27 Sept. 372/1 Two or three others..continue in beauty till the first flowers of the *Spanish Squill expand. 1822 *Hortus Anglicus* II. 104 *Thymus Zygis*. White *Spanish Thyme. 1591 PERCIVALL *Span. Dict.*, *Mielgas*, *spanish trefoyle, *Herba medica*. 1623 MINSHEU, *Mielgas*, an herbe called Spanish trefoile, or three leafed grasse. 1664 EVELYN *Kal. Hort.* (1729) 198 March Flowers in Prime, or yet lasting,.. *Spanish Trumpets or Junquils [etc.]. 1852 G. W. JOHNSON *Cott. Gard. Dict.* 837 *Spanish Viper's Grass, *Scorzonera*. 1875 *Spanish willow* [see SPANIARD 3 b]. 1731 *Spanish woodbine* [see *S. arbor-vine* above].

10. *Comb.*, as *Spanish-barrelled, -born, -built, -speaking*, etc., adjs.

a 1628 F. GREVIL *Life Sidney* (1907) 104 Resolutely oppose those Spanish-born, or Spanish-sworn Tyrannies. *c* 1677 in Marvell *Growth Popery* (1678) 61 A Spanish built Ship. 1812 SCOTT *Let.* in *Lockhart* (1839) III. 390, I have got Rob Roy's gun, a long Spanish-barrelled piece. 1818 — *Rob Roy* xxxi, Levelling their long Spanish-barrelled guns. 1871 KINGSLEY *At Last* x, A shrewd Spanish-speaking schoolmaster. 1875 RUSKIN *Fors Clav.* lvi, Mr. Peter Domecq was, I believe, Spanish born.

B. *sb.* or *ellipt.* **1.** The Spanish language.

1485 CAXTON *Malory's Arthur* Pref. 2 Bookes..as wel in duche, ytalyen, spaynysshe, and grekysshe as in frensshe. 1545 RAYNALD *Byrth Mankynde* Prol. C viii, To speke dutche, frenche, spanissh, and dyuers other langages. *a* 1568 ASCHAM *Scholem.* II. (Arb.) 147 Translating the Vlisses of Homer out of Greke into Spanish. 1623 MINSHEU *Span. Gram.* Proem, Spanish is a speech, whereof in times past (in Spaine) there hath beene foure kinds vsed. 1642 HOWELL *For. Trav.* (Arb.) 39 The Spanish is nought else but mere Latine, take a few Morisco words away. 1706 STEVENS *Sp. & Eng. Dict.* Pref., Neither can I allow Spanish to be as generally call'd a Corruption of Latin. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XIV. 564/1 In Spanish, we have many old Gothic words. 1842 BORROW *Bible in Spain* iii, The magnificent tones of the Spanish sounded to great advantage amidst the shrill squeaking dialect of Portugal.

2. In various elliptical or absolute uses:

a. Spanish persons or people; Spaniards. *rare*—1. †**b.** Spanish snuff, usually *plain Spanish*. *Obs.* **c.** (*The*) *Spanish*, hard cash, money. *slang*. **d.** Spanish bonds or stock.

a. 1660 F. BROOKE tr. *Le Blanc's Trav.* 347 There is a large river..which some Spanish were about to crosse.

b. 1681 COLVIL *Whigs Supplic.* (1751) 119 Then hope triumphs, and fear doth vanish, Like grief, when it's expell'd by Spanish. 1698 FARQUHAR *Love & a Bottle* II. ii. Wks. 1892 I. 35 The three divisions of his head were filled with orangery, bergamot, and plain Spanish. 1709 STEELE *Tatler* No. 1 P 3 Allowing him some Plain Spanish. 1748 SMOLLETT *R. Random* xxxix, Her upper-lip contained a large quantity of plain Spanish.

c. 1788 GROSE *Dict. Vulgar T.* (ed. 2), *Spanish*, the Spanish; ready money. 1806 SURR *Winter in Lond.* II. 122 He helps the flats out of their Spanish. 1811 *Sporting Mag.* XXXVII. 303 After extracting the Spanish from all his sporting acquaintance. *a* 1814 *Sailors' Ret.* II. iii. in *New Brit. Theatre* II. 342, I wish you would rather give the hard Spanish. 1869 *Punch* 10 July 11/2.

d. 1841 THACKERAY *Gt. Hoggarty Diamond* ii, The young stockbrokers used to tell us of immense bargains in Spanish, Greek, and Columbians.

C. *adv. To walk Spanish*, to (cause to) walk under compulsion, properly with some one holding the collar and the seat of the trousers. *U.S.*

1848 LOWELL *Biglow P.* Ser. 1. No. ii, To..walk him Spanish clean right out o' all his homes an' houses. 1890 *Voice* (N.Y.) 14 Aug., [They] were hustled out of the country on an hour's notice, made to 'walk Spanish' in fact.

†**Spa·nish,** *sb.*2 *Obs. rare.* [Of obscure origin.] Earth or clay unfit for brick-making.

1725 *Act* 12 *Geo. I*, c. 35 Several Persons..continue to make Bricks of bad Stuff and unsizeable Dimensions, and do not well burn the same; and in making thereof mix great Quantities of Soil called Spanish. *Ibid.*, No Spanish at any time..shall be..mixed with any Brick, Earth, or Clay.

†**Spa·nish,** *v.*1 *Obs. rare.* Also **spannish-, spanys-.** [f. OF. *espaniss-*, lengthened stem of *espanir* (mod.F. *épanouir*) to expand, spread out.] *intr.* Of a flower: 'To expand or open. So †**Spanished** *ppl. a.*, †**Spanishing** *vbl. sb.*

c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xliii. (*Cecilia*) 138 Twa cronis mad wynnly of spanyst rose & quhyt lely. *c* 1400 *Rom. Rose* 3633, I saugh that thurgh the leves grene The rose spredde to spannishyng. *c* 1425 WYNTOUN *Cron.* I. Prol. 127, I seke the sawowre of that ros That spanysys, spredys, and evyre spryngys In plesans of the Kyng of Kyngis.

†**Spa·nish,** *v.*2 *Obs.*—1 [SPANISH *sb.*2] *trans.* ? To mix (brick-earth) with other material.

1714 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 5209/4 Together with two Stools of Brick-Earth ready dug and spanished.

Spanish broom. [SPANISH *a.* 9.] The plant *Spartium junceum* (or *Cytisus junceus*), common to the Mediterranean region, the rush-like branches or twigs of which are used in basket-work and yield a fibre employed in the manufacture of cords, coarse cloth, etc.

The resemblance of the generic name *Spartium* to L. *spartum* (see SPART 1), and misunderstanding of passages in Pliny, has led to occasional confusion between Spanish broom and esparto grass.

1562 TURNER *Herbal* II. 144 The sede and floures of Spanish brome are good to be dronken wyth mede..to pourge strongly. 1676 GREW *Anat. Flowers* II. ii. § 8 Spanish Broome, Dulcamara, and others. 1731 MILLER *Gard. Dict.* s.v. *Spartium*, The white Spanish Broom. 1785 MARTYN *Lett. Elem. Bot.* xxv. (1794) 350 Spanish Broom, with some other species, has simple leaves. 1861 BENTLEY *Man. Bot.* 527 *Sarothamnus* (*Cytisus*) *scoparius*, is the common Broom. ..*Sarothamnus junceus*, the Spanish Broom, has similar properties. 1882a *Garden* 29 Apr. 297/1 Pale sulphur-coloured Spanish Broom.

Spanished, *ppl. a.* [f. SPANISH *a.*] (See quot.)

1815 *Zeluco* I. 140 'How do you name Miss Delvayne's vestment, or whatever I ought to stile it?' asked he...'Why the millinery people..call it Spanished—and are indebted to Wellington for disposing of an expensive dress to almost everybody.'

†**Spa·nishify,** *v. Obs.*—1 [f. SPANISH *a.*] *trans.* To make Spanish; to Spaniolize.

1612a in Birch *Crt. & Times Jas. I* (1848) I. 214 Mr. Rossingham came some three weeks since out of Spain, so Spanishified, that I scant knew him till he saluted me.

Spanishly (spæ·nɪʃlɪ), *adv.* [f. SPANISH *a.* + -LY2.] Towards Spain or Spanish policy; like Spanish; in a characteristically Spanish manner.

a 1641 FINETT *For. Embass.* (1656) 65 He desired that (if the place were so equall, as some Spanishly inclined pretended) he might have the first choyce. 1717 DE FOE *Mem. Ch. Scot.* II. 128 To excommunicate the Popish and Spanishly affected Nobility, so they then called them. 1882a STEVENSON *Merry Men* I. in *Cornh. Mag.* XLV. 679 The name..of the ship..sounded, in my ears, Spanishly. The Espirito Santo they called it. 1907 *Westm. Gaz.* 3 June 2/1 Its cathedral rising solemnly, Spanishly, greyly above all else.

Spank (spæŋk), *sb.*1 *dial.* or *colloq.* [f. SPANK *v.*1]

1. A smart or sounding blow, esp. one given with the open hand; a slap or smack.

1785 GROSE *Dict. Vulgar T.*, *Spanks*,..blows with the open hand. 1812 H. & J. SMITH *Horace in Lond.* 140 When ice encrusts the slippery bank, The tallest fall with heaviest spank. 1858 HUGHES *Scour. White Horse* iv. 78 Said Joe, giving me a great spank on the back. 1889 *Cent. Mag.* Mar. 743/1 My mother..lifted me cleverly, planted two spanks behind, and passed me to the hands of Mme. Levicq.

b. The sharp noise or sound produced by this.

1833 M. SCOTT *Tom Cringle* xix, [The snake] let the smaller [tree] go with a loud spank that shook the dew off the neighbouring branches. 1860 O. W. HOLMES *Prof. Breakf.-t.* iii. 64 A clean, straight, hard hit which took effect with a spank like the explosion of a percussion cap.

†**2.** *Cant.* (See SPANK *v.*1 2.) *Obs.*

Spank (spæŋk), *sb.*2 [f. SPANK *v.*2] The action or fact of spanking or moving along rapidly and sharply.

1801 tr. *Gabrielli's Myst. Husb.* III. 286 Having got her between me and Madame we dashed off full spank.

b. A quick or smart bound or leap.

1882a in *Jamieson's Sc. Dict.* 1886 B. BRIERLEY *Cast upon World* I. 10 A spank..that seemed to have the lithesomeness of a deerhound.

†**Spank,** *sb.*3 *Cant. Obs.*—0 = SPANKER 1 1.

1725 *New Cant. Dict.*, *Spanks*, Money, Gold or Silver.

Spank (spæŋk), *v.*1 *dial.* or *colloq.* [Probably imitative of the sound.]

1. *trans.* To slap or smack (a person, esp. a child) with the open hand. Also *absol.*

1727 BAILEY (vol. II), *To Spank*, to slap with the open Hand. 1786 *European Mag.* IX. 292 The Science of Nothing even dunces have taught, Without spanking a pupil, or spending a thought. 1862 F. W. ROBINSON *Owen, a Waif* I. 82 'You're sorry for your mother.'..'I think so ..., but she spanked hard.' 1867 *Lond. Rev.* 15 June 673/1 This baby..as a last resource is spanked into a voiceless rage by the mother. 1872 DE VERE *Americanisms* 321 If the sufferer be a child, it is *spanked*, that is, punished by slapping with the open hand.

fig. 1882a *Punch* 11 Mar. 112 House of Lords spanked by 300 against 167.

b. To crack (a whip). *rare*—1.

1834 M. SCOTT *Cruise Midge* (1859) 417 The mule drivers ..were stringing into the yard and spanking their whips.

c. To bring down, thrust, etc., with a slap.

1880 TENNYSON *Northern Cobbler* xv, An' 'e spanks 'is 'and into mine.

†**2.** *Cant.* (See quot.) *Obs.*

1812 J. H. VAUX *Flash Dict.* s.v., To *spank a glaze*, is to break a pane of glass in a shop window, and make a sudden snatch at some article of value within your reach. *Ibid.*, To *spank* a place is to rob it 'upon the spank'; a *spank* is a robbery effected by the above means.

3. *intr.* **a.** To drop or fall with a spank or smack.

1800 HURDIS *Fav. Village* 61 The sullen shower from the drench'd eaves Drips fast, and on the..pavement spanks.

b. Of a boat: To pound, beat, or slap the water in sailing.

1891 *Cent. Dict.* (citing J. A. Henshall).

4. The vbl. stem used adverbially: With a spank or smack. *rare*—1.

1810 *Splendid Follies* III. 8 Spank flew another revoke card from the hand of Samuelina.

Hence **Spanked** (spæŋkt) *ppl. a.*

1864 *Daily Tel.* 27 Sept., That back-yards should re-echo to the howling of spanked children.

Spank (spæŋk), *v.*2 *dial.* and *colloq.* [prob. a back-formation from SPANKING *ppl. a.* 2.]

1. *intr.* To move or travel with speed and elasticity; to go quickly and vigorously; to ride or drive at a sharp trot and in a smart or stylish manner. Usually const. with adverbs or preps., esp. with *along*: **a.** Of animals, in general use.

1807–10 TANNAHILL *Poems* (1846) 20, I saw the dragon spankin o'er the fiels. 1808– in numerous dial. glossaries and texts (Sc., E. Angl., Northants., Warw., Som., etc.). *a* 1825 FORBY *Voc. E. Anglia* s.v., How he did spank along. 1886 C. SCOTT *Sheep-farming* 200 His dog..darts off like a greyhound. We watch him spanking across the glen. 1902 *Daily Chron.* 13 Nov. 8/5 Reynard..came away right-handed and spanked along for Kenwick-park.

b. *spec.* Of horses, or of persons driving or riding these. Also with *it*.

1811 *Lexicon-Balatronicum*, *Spank* (*Whip*), To run neatly along, between a trot and gallop. 1824 SCOTT *St. Ronan's* viii, 'I suppose so, sir,' said the groom..'Zounds! she can spank it over wet and dry.' 1843 LE FEVRE *Life Trav. Phys.* II. I. xiv. 36 At this season they [the roads] were good, so that we spanked along merrily. 1860 THACKERAY *Lovel* iii, A gentleman in a natty gig, with a high-trotting horse, came spanking towards us.

c. Of ships: To sail quickly and smartly; to bowl *along*.

1834 H. MILLER *Scenes & Leg.* xiii. (1857) 195, I found myself aboard Robinson's lugger, spanking down the frith. 1841 CAPT. B. HALL *Patchwork* II. xiii. 251 When..we did get to sea..we spanked along. 1894 CROCKETT *Raiders* x. (ed. 3) 93 The Ariel was at that moment spanking away to the south'ard.

2. *trans.* To drive (horses) quickly and smartly.

1825 C. WESTMACOTT *Eng. Spy* I. 205 Where Gwydin spanks his fours along. 1840 THACKERAY *Shabby-genteel Story* v, How knowingly did he spank the horses along.

Spanker 1 (spæ·ŋkəɹ). [Related to SPANKING *ppl. a.* or (in later use) f. SPANK *v.*2]

†**1.** *slang.* A gold coin; usually in *pl.*, coin, money. *Obs.*

1663 COWLEY *Cutter Coleman St.* II. v, Mean time, thou pretty little Smith o' my good fortune, beat hard upon the Anvil of your Plot, I'l go and provide the Spankers. *a* 1668 DENHAM *Dialogue* Poems (1771) 77 Your cure too costs you but a spanker. *a* 1680 BUTLER *Rem.* (1759) I. 269 Tho' he can produce more Spankers Than all the Usurers and Bankers. 1708 MOTTEUX *Rabelais, Pant. Progn.* vi, Old Gold, such as your Double Ducats, Rose-Nobles, Angels, Spankers, Spur-Royals. 1760 FOOTE *Minor* II. Wks. 1799 I. 250 Procure you the spankers, my boy. I have a broker, that.. shall take off your bargain. 1785 in GROSE.

2. *dial.* and *colloq.* Anything exceptionally large or fine; a person, animal, or thing of superior quality or character.

1751 SMOLLETT *Per. Pic.* xcv, To turn me adrift in the dark with such a spanker. 1838 W. H. MAXWELL *Stories Waterloo* I. 208 Miss O'Brien was what Rattigan called *a spanker*. 1844 DICKENS *Mart. Chuz.* xvi, Her passage either way, is almost certain to eventuate a spanker! 1865 — *Mut. Fr.* I. xv, Your new establishment:..it's to be a spanker. 1888 W. ROGERS *Mem. West* II. 32 [We] are soon rewarded by a brace or so of spankers [*sc.* fish], whose appearance in our basket [etc.].

b. A heavy blow or smack.

1772 BRIDGES *Burlesque Homer* 491 (Farmer), Ajax gave him two such spankers, They smarted worse than nodes and shankers. 1894 MEREDITH *Ld. Ormont* i, Matey's sure aim ..relieving J. Masner of a foremost assailant with a spanker on the nob.

3. *Naut.* A fore-and-aft sail, set with a gaff and boom at the aftermost part of the ship. Cf. also DRIVER 5 and MIZEN 1.

1794 *Rigging & Seamanship* 162 The Driver-boom, on which the foot of the driver, or spanker, is extended. 1804 *Log 'Victory'* 15 June in Nicolas *Disp. Nelson* (1846) VI. 72 Wore and set the mainsail and spanker. 1840 R. H. DANA *Bef. Mast* xxv, There was no sail now on the ship but the spanker and the close-reefed main topsail. 1894 CLARK RUSSELL *Good Ship Mohock* I. 55 He..told the officer..to brail up the spanker.

attrib. 1794 *Rigging & Seamanship* 217 The Driver or Spanker Sail is bent as a temporary matter. 1840 R. H. DANA *Bef. Mast* xxiii, One boy at the spanker-sheet and guy. 1840 F. D. BENNETT *Whaling Voy.* II. 66 A frigate bird alighted on the spanker-gaff. 1894 C. N. ROBINSON *Brit. Fleet* 251 The last decade of the last century, when the spanker-gaff and boom came in.

4. *dial.* (See quots.)

1808 JAMIESON, *Spanker*, one who walks in a quick and elastic way. 1811 WILLAN in *Archaeologia* XVII. 159 *Spanker*, a tall, and active young person. *a* 1825 FORBY *Voc. E. Anglia*, *Spanker*, a person who takes long steps with agility.

5. *dial.* and *colloq.* A horse which travels quickly and smartly; a fast-going horse.

1814 SCOTT *Wav.* xxxix, And ye wanted a spanker that would lead the field,..I would serve ye easy. 1836 HALIBURTON *Clockm.* I. xix, That are horse goes etarnal fast... He's a spanker you may depend. 1870 THORNBURY *Tour rd. Eng.* I. ii. 31 The spankers strike out and away they do go ..from Hounslow to Staines.

6. *U.S.* A light cart suitable for rapid travelling.

1831 in A. E. Lee *Hist. Columbus* (1892) I. 318 Our vehicle, which in the dialect of the country was called a spanker, was intended for four persons.

Spanker 2. [f. SPANK *v.*1] One who, or that which, spanks or slaps.

1892 *Newcastle Daily Jrnl.* 1 Jan. 8/3 A wonderful invention to serve three purposes—a self-rocking cradle, a clothes wringer, and a 'baby spanker.'

Spanker-boom. *Naut.* [SPANKER 1 3.] The boom on which the spanker is set.

1813 *Examiner* 26 Apr. 261/2 Spanker-boom, gaff, and trysail-mast. 1834 MARRYAT *P. Simple* (1863) 244 Perch yourself upon the spanker-boom, and let me know when you've rode to London. 1854 Miss C. L. BALFOUR *Working Women* 155 The next minute the spanker boom, an immense piece of timber, snapped like a reed.

attrib. 1849 CUPPLES *Green Hand* vii. (1856) 70 Men.. hauling on the spanker-boom guys. 1891 C. ROBERTS *Adrift Amer.* 231, I crawled right aft to the taffrail, and quietly put the end of the spanker boom sheet over.

Spanker-eel. *north. dial.* The lamprey.

1846 in BROCKETT (ed. 3). 1883 DAY *Fishes Gt. Brit.* II. 360 Lampern,..cunning, and spanker-eel, Northumberland.

Spa·nkily, *adv. rare* —1. [f. SPANK *sb.*2 or *v.*2] Spankingly.

1842 *Tait's Mag.* IX. 370 We soon arrived spankily at the open hall door.

Spanking (spæ·ŋkiŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. SPANK *v.*1] The action of beating or slapping with the open hand by way of punishment.

1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss.* 1859 *Slang Dict.* 98 *Spanking*, a good beating. 1868 in *Sat. Rev.* (1869) 30 Jan., I gave her what some American friends call 'a spanking', sharp, short and effectual. 1885 SALA *Let.* in *Queen* 26 Sept. 307/3 The American lady doctor .. suggested 'spanking' all round as a cure for the evil.

attrib. 1899 *Westm. Gaz.* 1 June 5/3 The Warden of Denver Penitentiary has introduced a 'spanking chair' into the list of punishments permitted in the State prison.

Spanking (spæ·ŋkiŋ), *ppl. a.* Chiefly *dial.* and *colloq.* [Of doubtful origin. Cf. Da. (and NFris.) *spanke* to strut.]

1. Very big, large, or fine; exceptionally good in some respect, freq. with implication of showiness or smartness.

a 1666 FANSHAWE *Love for Love's sake* II. (1671) 64 What a spanking Labradora! 1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), *Spanking*, spruce, fine, jolly; as *A spanking Lass.* 1772 BRIDGES *Burlesque Homer* 501 (Farmer), A table..Whereon she placed a spanking dish. 1780 in W. Beckford *Italy* (1834) I. 16 This worthy dignitary .. enjoys a spanking revenue. 1791 O'KEEFFE *Wild Oats* IV. i, Now for a spanking lie, to continue her in the belief that Jack is the man she thinks him. 1837 MISS MITFORD *Country Stories* (1850) 118 We must see what can be done for that boy—he's a fine spanking fellow. 1842 LOVER *Handy Andy* iv. 40 We'll have some spanking sport.

2. Of horses; *esp.* in later use: Moving or travelling at a rapid pace and in a smart and vigorous manner. (Cf. SPANK *v.*2 1 b.)

1738 BRACKEN *Farriery Impr.* (1756) II. 167 He goes by the Name of Spanking Roger. 1802 COLMAN *Poor Gentleman* IV. i, There are four spanking greys..here, that shall whisk us to town in a minute. 1863 SALA *About Shrimpington* 110 As the 'spanking tits', which..were on this occasion more 'spanked' themselves than 'spanking', clattered along. 1897 W. H. THORNTON *Remin. of West-Co. Clergym.* iii. 96 We had a spanking sixteen-hands-high mare in a dogcart.

b. Of persons: Dashing, lively, boisterous.

1801 MAR. EDGEWORTH *Mlle. Panache* II. Wks. 1832 III. 254 This spanking horsewoman has frightened us all out of our senses.

3. Of a breeze: Blowing strongly or briskly; rattling.

1849 CUPPLES *Green Hand* ii. (1856) 23 They..struck up the 'Buffalo', that finest of chants for the weather forecastle with a spanking breeze. 1862 *Lond. Rev.* 16 Aug. 139 We are rushing through the water with a spanking breeze on our quarter. 1888 *Boston* (Mass.) *Jrnl.* 14 Aug. 1/2 Spanking Breeze for the Yachts.

4. Of a pace, rate, etc.: Rapid, smart, vigorous.

1857 HUGHES *Tom Brown* I. v, The wheelers in a spanking trot, and leaders cantering. 1882 SERGT. BALLANTINE *Exper.* xxiii. 230 We went at a spanking pace until suddenly brought to a stand-still. 1899 F. T. BULLEN *Log Sea-waif* 39 A large canoe..was coming off to us at a spanking rate. *fig.* 1858 BAILEY *Age* 61 He lives at what folks call a spanking rate.

Hence **Spa·nkingly** *adv.*, at a spanking pace; in a rapid and smart manner.

1803 COUPER *Tourifications* II. 16 A country lad, mounted on a spirited pretty galloway, came spankingly along. 1830 *Fraser's Mag.* II. 439 The time put on his seven-leagued boots, and went spankingly away so rapidly that [etc.]. 1866 *Lond. Rev.* 23 June 697/1 You are told how his reverence rode spankingly to church.

† **Spa·nkled** *ppl. a.*, var. of SPANGLED *ppl. a.*

1703 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 3945/4 Stolen..., a sorrel Strawberry Mare..with a bald Face,..and spankled about the Jaws. 1777 MME. D'ARBLAY *Early Diary* 7 Apr., She had on a lilac negligée, gauze cuffs, trimmed richly with flowers and spangles, spankled shoes [etc.].

† **Spank span-new,** *adj. phr. Obs.*—1 [Intensified form of SPAN-NEW. Cf. Sc. and north. dial. *spang-new, spanker-new.*] Perfectly new.

1775 S. J. PRATT *Liberal Opin.* lix. (1783) II. 189, I took out a spank span new half-crown piece.

Spanless (spæ·nlĕs), *a.* [f. SPAN *v.*1] That cannot be spanned.

1847 TENNYSON *Princ.* VI. 20 The little seed..Has risen and cleft the soil, and grown a bulk Of spanless girth.

Span-long, *a.* [f. SPAN *sb.*1 + LONG *a.*] Having the length of a span; hence, brief, short.

1593 NASHE *Christ's T.* Wks. (Grosart) IV. 214 Though our span long youthly prime, blossomes foorth eye-banquetting flowers,..yet in the graue shall we rotte. 1637 B. JONSON *Sad Shepherd* II. ii, There..white faies do dwell, And span-long elves that dance about a pool. 1790 BURNS *Tam o' Shanter* 132 Twa span-lang, wee, unchristen'd bairns. 1878 BROWNING *Poets Croisic* 4 While—never mind who..—Sank stifled span-long brightness in the birth.

Comb. 1654 WHITLOCK *Zootomia* 283 In the apprehension of us Momentanean Ephemeri, and span-long-lived Accountants.

Spanned (spænd), *ppl. a.* [f. SPAN *v.*1 and *v.*2] That is or has been spanned or drawn tight.

1597 A. M. tr. *Guillemeau's Fr. Chirurg.* 24/1 The tunge being hindred by a certayne ligament which we call the spanned vayne. 1741 RICHARDSON *Pamela* I. Introd. p. xxvi, He made a too tight-laced Objection, where he quarrels with the spann'd Waist of Pamela.

† **Spannel.** *Obs.*—1 [f. OE. *spann-an* to fasten + -EL 1.] A spancel.

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XVIII. xiv. (Bodl. MS.), An oxe heerde..bindeþ here feete with lange holdeþ [1495 langhaldes] and spannels.

Spannel(l, obs. forms of SPANIEL *sb.*1

Spanner1 (spæ·nəɹ), [ad. G. *spanner* (also *spänner*, Sw. *spännare*), f. *spannen* SPAN *v.*2]

† **1.** An instrument by which the spring in a wheel-lock firearm was spanned or wound up. *Obs.*

Phillips (ed. Kersey, 1706) has '*Spanner*, the Cock of a Carbine or Fusee'; hence in later Dicts., as Bailey (1721), Johnson (1755), with 'Lock' in place of 'Cock'.

1639 R. WARD *Animadv. Warre* I. 293 A case of good Firelocke Pistolles,..with his Spanner and flaske boxes. 1644 HOWELL *England's Tears for Pres. Wars* in *Dodona's Grove* 169 My Prince his Court is now full of nothing but Buff-Coats, Spanners, and Musket Rests. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. xx. (Roxb.) 243/2 The second is called a Spanner; it is a thing made of Iron, haueing a square hole in the bending part of it, by which the springs of wheele locks are wound vp. [1863 W. THORNBURY *True as Steel* II. 29 He then took the spanner..and bent the spring which communicated with the axis-pin of his wheel-lock.]

2. A hand-tool, usually consisting of a small bar of steel, having an opening, grip, or jaw at the end which fits over or clasps the nut of a screw, a bolt, coupling, etc., and turns it or holds it in position; a wrench.

There are several makes of spanner, and they vary greatly in shape and size, some having one opening, others two; some taking one size of nut, etc., others being adjustable to nuts of different sizes.

1790 W. H. MARSHALL *Rur. Econ. Midl.* II. 443 *Spanner*, a wrench; a nut screw-driver. 1831 J. HOLLAND *Manuf. Metal* I. 215 A screw attached to a spanner or lever. 1858 GREENER *Gunnery* 101 Wood carriage complete, with wrought iron screw and spanner for elevating mortar. 1888 RUTLEY *Rock-forming Min.* 22 A nut which screws on to the end of the spindle and is tightened up by means of a spanner.

attrib. and *Comb.* 1830 G. R. AINSLIE *Anglo-French Coinage* 66 Two spanner-like towers. 1902 MARSHALL *Metal Tools* 69 The small worm shown in the spanner head.

3. *Mech.* **a.** A bar or lever for opening the valves of a steam-engine (see quots.).

1773 W. EMERSON *Mechanics* (ed. 3) 230 The horizontal piece *h* 3, called the spanner; so that moving *h* back and forward, moves the plate *45* over the hole *2*, and back again. 1824 STUART *Hist. Steam Engine* 175 Two valves, which are moved alternately by levers acted on on the outside from the revolution of a spanner or lever attached to the hollow axle. 1869 RANKINE *Machine & Hand-tools* Pl. F I. 2 Lower down on this spindle..is keyed a duplex spanner or rocking lever 1, one end of which is attached..to the valve rod of the small engine.

b. In a parallel-motion steam-engine (see quots.)

1846 A. YOUNG *Naut. Dict.* 306 The lever *e* is called the Spanner or Lever of Parallel Motion. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.* 640 *Spanner*, an important balance in forming the radius of parallel motion in a steam-engine, since it reconciles the curved sweep which the side-levers describe with the perpendicular movement of the piston-rod, by means of which they are driven.

† **Spanner**2. *Obs.* (Origin and meaning obscure.)

1653 (*title*), The Total Rout, or a Brief Discovery Of a Pack of Knaves and Drabs, intituled Pimps, Panders, Hectors, Trapans, Nappers, Mobs, and Spanners.

Spa·nner 3. *rare.* [f. SPAN *v.*1] A rib forming part of a roof-span.

1862 *Macm. Mag.* Apr. 527/2 A spanner like the rib of a groined roof springs from each to unite with its antagonist from the other side of the roof-ridge;..similar, but smaller, spanners perform the same office for the aisle roofs.

Span-new (spæ·nˌniū), *a.* Now chiefly *dial.* Also **span new.** [ad. ON. *spán-nýr*, f. *spán-n* chip + *nýr* new, with normal shortening of the first element. Cf. SPON-NEW *a.*

Dial. variants are *spander-* (*spanther-*), *spanker-*, *spangnew.* See also *bran-span-new* BRAND-NEW; SPANK SPAN-NEW; and SPICK AND SPAN.]

Quite or perfectly new: **a.** Of things, esp. clothes.

c 1300 *Havelok* 968 Þe cok bigan of him to rewe, And bouthe him clobes, al spannewe. 13.. *K. Alis.* 4055 (Laud MS.), Richelich he doop hym shrede In span newe knigtten wede. *c* 1374 CHAUCER *Troylus* III. 1665 This tale was ay span new to byginne Til at the nyght departed hem atwynne. 1463–4 SIR J. HOWARD *Expenses* in *Manners & Househ. Exp.* (Roxb.) 160 A new jakett off purpylle that was made for my mastyr..and itt is spanne new. 1579 G. HARVEY *Letter-bk.* (Camden) 59 Let me borrowe on crackd groate of your purse for this same span new pamflett. 1598 MARSTON *Sco. Villanie* III. xi. 229 The news he tels you, is of some newe flesh, Lately brooke vp, span newe, hote piping fresh. 1626 in Birch *Crt. & Times Chas. I* (1848) I. 158, I have lighted upon a span new proclamation, which I send you in time. 1655 FULLER *Ch. Hist.* II. 60 Therefore [he] would not wear an Old Title, but have a span-New Arch-Bishops Chaire carved out for himself. 1691 RAY *S. & E. Co. Words* 114 *Span New*, very new: that was never worn or used. 1822 COBBETT *Weekly Reg.* 2 Feb. 260 A maker of span-new governments and religions. 1849 CUPPLES *Green Hand* I. (1856) 6 Up the side he scrambles,..all togged out to the nines in a span-new blue jacket. 1879 A. TAYLOR *Guienne* 55 The span-new..nineteenth century miracle.

b. Of persons, etc. Also *Comb.*

1598 MARSTON *Sco. Villanie* Prol., Some spruce pedant, or some Span-new come fry Of Innes a-court. 1619 FLETCHER & MASS. *False One* III. ii, Am I not totally a span-new Gallant, Fit for the choycest eyes? 1648 *Petit. Eastern Assoc.* 24 Such..conditions, as their pride, and span-new Gentries will not indure. 1846 D. JERROLD *Chron. Clovernook* Wks. 1864 IV. 409 Most of the children, however, lost by degrees the errors and weaknesses of their former days, and in time became span-new creatures.

Spa·nning, *vbl. so.* [f. SPAN *v.*1] The action of measuring, bridging, etc., with a span.

1775 ASH *Suppl.*, *Spanning*, the act of measuring with a finger and thumb. 1883 *Athenæum* 24 Nov. 662/3 Increasing skill in the spanning of wide roofs. 1909 *Q. Rev.* Apr. 344 The chasm yawned unspanned...A price..had to be paid for its spanning.

Spa·nning, *vbl. sb.*2 [f. SPAN *v.*2]

† **1.** The action of drawing tight, making close, etc.; the result of this. *Obs.*

1527 ANDREW *Brunswyke's Distyll. Waters* L ij, The same water..is good agaynst the spannyng of the harte. 1592 *Shuttleworths' Acc.* (Chetham Soc.) 74 Houpinge and spannynge of the vesseles, xij[d]; the porteres for loding the same wyne, vj[d]. 1597 A. M. tr. *Guillemeau's Fr. Chirurg.* 21 b/2 These swellings cause noe payne, vnles it weare great spanninge of that parte might chaunce.

2. The action of fastening, harnessing, or yoking. Also with *on.*

1874 A. H. MARKHAM *Whaling Cruise Baffin's B.* 25 All hands have been as busy as bees, employed in the operation of *spanning on*, which literally means attaching the lines to the harpoons. 1882 SCHAFF *Encycl. Relig. Knowl.* I. 87 Ritualistic..considerations for bade the spanning of different species of animals.

Spa·nning, *ppl. a.* [f. SPAN *v.*1] Extending or crossing as a span.

1823 P. NICHOLSON *Pract. Build.* 122 The rafters were the sides of an equilateral triangle, of which the spanning line was the base. 1825 J. NICHOLSON *Operat. Mechanic* 539 The height, or rise of the arch, is a line drawn at right angles from the middle of the chord, or spanning line, to the intrados. 1881 W. R. W. STEPHENS *Selsey-Chichester* 155 Broad spanning arches, and high massive towers. 1889 C. C. R. *Up for Season* 269 Where..you can gaze far away On the wide-spanning bridge.

Spanniolize, variant of SPANIELIZE *v.*

Span-roof (spæ·nˌɹūf). [SPAN *sb.*1] A roof consisting of two inclined sides.

1823 P. NICHOLSON *Pract. Build.* 593. 1881 YOUNG *Every Man his own Mech.* § 1304 When a building..has been made with a span-roof, sloping on both sides. 1901 *J. Black's Carp. & Build.* 22 If the structure be independent or stand alone a 'span' roof (fig. 7) will be needed.

attrib. 1851 *B'ham & Midl. Gardeners' Mag.* May 65 A span-roof pit is the most suitable for this purpose. 1881 BLACKMORE *Christowell* I, It was a long, low, span-roof house. *Ibid.* vii, His span-roof forcing-house.

Hence **Spa·n-roofed** *a.*, having a span-roof.

1836 PARKER *Gloss. Archit.* (1850) I. 432 The body of a church is span-roofed and its aisles shed-roofed. 1842 LOUDON *Suburban Hort.* 611 They may also be grown as standards in a span-roofed house. 1860 T. RIVERS *Orchard House* 20 A span-roofed orchard house, 30 feet long, 14 feet wide.

Spanyard(e, obs. forms of SPANIARD.

Spanyell(e, obs. forms of SPANIEL *sb.*1

Spar (spāɹ), *sb.*1 Also 4 **sperr,** 4–6 **sperre;** 4–7 **sparre,** 4, 6–8 **sparr.** [A word of Continental origin, appearing in the following forms: MDu. *sparre, spar, spaer* (Du. and WFris. *spar*), MLG. *sparre, spare, spar* (LG. *spar, spaar*), OHG. *sparro* (MHG. *sparre*, G. *sparren*, † *sparr*), ON. *sparri* (Norw., Sw., Da. *sparre*); also MDu. and WFlem. *sperre, sper*, ON. (Icel. and Norw.) *sperra* (older Da. *sperre*), NFris. *spêr, spär.* The type *sparre* is the source of OF. *esparre* (mod.F. dial. *épare*), which may partly have contributed to the adoption of the word in English.]

1. One of the common rafters of a roof. Now chiefly *dial.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 8796 We haf soght forest bath ner and ferr For to sek a maister sparr [*Gött.* sperr]. *c* 1340 *Nominale* (Skeat) 443 *Cumble, hees et cheuerown*, Roof, firstre and sparre. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Knt.'s T.* 132 He wan the cite aftur, And rente doun bothe wal, and sparre, and raftur. 1402 *Pol. Poems* (Rolls) II. 77 Envie..reuyd hath oure houses, that unnethes the hillinge hangith on the sparres. *a* 1490 BOTONER *Itin.* (Nasmith, 1778) 260 Item the yerdys called sparres of the halle ryalle contenyth yn length about 45 fete of hole pece. *a* 1547 SURREY *Æneid* II. 580 The gilt sparres, and the beames then threw they down. 1598 BP. HALL *Sat.* V. i, A silly cote, Whose thatched spars are furred with sluttish soot. 1647 HERRICK *Noble Numb., Thanksgiving to God*, A little house, whose humble Roof Is weather-proof; Under the sparres of which I lie Both soft, and drie. 1666 SPURSTOWE *Wiles of Satan* 24 What shall the spars and rafters do, if the pillars of the building tremble. 1833 LOUDON *Encycl. Archit.* § 985 The laths to be well nailed to spars (common rafters). 1846 J. BAXTER *Libr. Pract. Agric.* (ed. 4) II. 125 Height of the wall..to the sill, 6 ft. Length of the spars, 15 ft. 1854– in dial. glossaries (Northampt., Chesh., Northumbld.).

† **b.** *Her.* = CHEVRON *sb.*1 2. *Obs.*

1486 *Bk. St. Albans, Her.* f j b, We haue sotheli in armys certan signys the wich ar calde Cheuerons in french ..and in englich a cowpull of sparris.

2. A pole or piece of timber of some length and moderate thickness; *spec.* an undressed stem of fir or similar wood under six inches in diameter.

1388 in Nicolas *Hist. Royal Navy* (1847) II. 476, XX. sparres de keyne; xiiii. plankes & shelles de keynes. 1392 *Earl Derby's Exp.* (Camden) 156 Pro x hurdell, ij sparrez, ij bulters pro officio suo in naue. *c* 1450 *Merlin* XXV. 460 He caught a sparre of Oke with bothe hondes. *c* 1460 *Towneley Myst.* iii. 130 Thou must spend many a spar this wark or thou wyn To end fully. 1513 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scotl.* IV. 481 For..sperris to mak hand spakis of. 1526 SKELTON *Magnyf.* 1047 Of a spyndell I wyll make a sparre. 1615 CHAPMAN *Odyss.* IX. 138 Who tooke the Oliue sparre, made

keene before, And plung'd it in his eye. 1664 EVELYN *Sylva* (1679) 27 Mr. Blith makes Sparrs, and small building-Timber of Oaks of eleven years growth. 1708 J. C. *Compl. Collier* (1845) 15 We must have either Oaken Spars, or Firr bawks. 1795 *Phil. Trans.* LXXXV. 579 These platforms..were always made horizontal at the time of levelling, by means of a mahogany spar, or straight-edge. 1848 LAYARD *Nineveh* ix. (1850) 239 Loading a small raft with spars and skins for the construction of a larger. 1876 VOYLE & STEVENSON *Milit. Dict.* 139/2 *Fishing Spars*, in artillery material, consist of spars of wood placed parallel to the spars to be strengthened, by lashing them to one another.

fig. 1648 J. BEAUMONT *Psyche* xv. cccxxvi, Their Eyes will know no Lid, But make the beams recoil, the spars retreat.

b. Without article, as a material.

1794 *Rigging & Seamanship* 25 The trestle-trees..are confined in a temporary manner by pieces of spar.

3. † **a.** A bar of wood used to fasten a gate or door. *Obs.* (Cf. SPAR *v.*[1])

1596 SPENSER *F. Q.* v. xi. 4 The Prince..opening streight the Sparre, forth to him came. 1611 COTGR., *Barre*, a barre, or sparre, for a doore. 1647 HEXHAM I, The sparre or bolt of a doore. 1668 WILKINS *Real Char.* II. x. § 4. 257 Bolt, Barr, Sparr.

† **b.** *fig.* A prop or support. *Obs.*—[1]

1630 LORD *Banians* 80 He gained great fame, whereunto his divining fortunes became such a sparre that he was made King of Delee.

c. A spoke, bar, or cross-bar.

In Scotland commonly applied to the bars or rails of a wooden fence or gate.

1687 MIÉGE *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II, The Spars of a spinning Wheel. 1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), *Spars* are also the spokes of a Spinning-wheel. 1825 JAMIESON *Suppl., Dog-rung*, one of the spars which connect the stilts of a plough. 1882 STEVENSON *New Arab. Nts.* (1884) 306 'What's all this?' cried the..host through the spars of the gate.

4. *Naut.* 'The general term for all masts, yards, booms, gaffs, etc.' (Young, 1846).

The comb. CANT-SPAR is found somewhat earlier (1611).

1640 in Entick *London* (1766) II. 170 Spars: Bonnispars [*sic*]. Cantspars. Small spars. 1794 *Rigging & Seamanship* 43 Cant Spars, Ratling Spars, Boom Spars, Middling Spars, Small Spars. 1840 R. H. DANA *Bef. Mast* xvii, We next sent ashore our spare spars and rigging. 1863 P. BARRY *Dockyard Econ.* 226 The spars will be slight, sufficient merely to give steadiness to the ship at sea. 1878 T. L. CUYLER *Pointed Papers* 173 When the first blow of the cyclone tears our canvas from the spars.

fig. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* xvii, Three young stock-brokers..sent this little spar out of the wreck..to good Mrs. Sedley. 1848 DICKENS *Dombey* i, Thus clinging fast to that slight spar within her arms, the mother drifted out upon the dark and unknown sea.

5. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *spar-batten, -bridge, -pole, -raft, -wood*; *spar-maker*.

1504 in Gage *Hist. & Antiq. Suffolk* 140 The rofes to be sper batens, and jopies. 1578 in Feuillerat *Revels Q. Eliz.* (1908) 306 Longe sparre poles of ffurre. 1752 *Records Elgin* (New Spald. Cl.) I. 464 Ilk cart load..of sparwood or logs. 1798 *Survey of Province of Moray* 100 Sparwood..about 7 inches diameter, is sold at 7d. the solid foot. 1860 *Sat. Rev.* 28 July 110/1 The master spar-maker, master blacksmith, and timber inspector. 1876 VOYLE & STEVENSON *Milit. Dict.* 394/2 *Spar Bridge*, a light bridge for crossing broken arches, rivers with steep banks, &c. 1880 *Northwestern Lumberman* 24 Jan., More than the usual number of spar rafts will be prepared this winter.

6. Special combs., as **spar-buoy** (see quot. 1883); † **spar-dry** *a.*, perfectly dry (land); **spar-dust** (see quot.); † **spar foot**, a horizontal piece of wood supporting the lower end of a rafter; **spar-naked** *a.*, stark naked; **spar-piece** (see quot.); **spar shed** a ship-building shed in which spars are stored; **spar-torpedo**, a torpedo fastened on the end of a spar projecting from the bows of the boat; **spar-yard**, a yard in which ship-spars are prepared.

1860 *Merc. Marine Mag.* VII. 94 A *spar-buoy moored in 11 feet. 1883 *Chambers's Jrnl.* 8 Dec. 772/1 A spar-buoy ..is so designed that a spar or mast stands almost perpendicularly out of the water. ‡1.. *E. E. Allit. P.* C. 338 Thenne oure fader to þe fysch ferslych biddez, þat he hym sput spakly vpon *spare drye. *a* 1825 FORBY *Voc. E. Anglia*, **Spar-dust*, powder of post; dust produced in wood by the depredation of boring insects. 1579 in Willis & Clark *Cambr.* (1886) I. 311, xliiij copple of *sparr feete eche..iiij foote longe. 1849 *Blackw. Mag.* LXV. 610 The poor fellow was *spar-naked. 1842 GWILT *Archit.* Gloss., **Spar-piece*, a name given in some places to the collar beam of a roof. 1883 *Daily News* 4 July 5/4 The scene at the *spar shed where the bodies are laid out for identification. 1878 *N. Amer. Rev.* CXXVII. 384 Armed with the *spar-torpedo. 1868 WHITMAN *Poems, Song of the Broad-Axe* iii, Spar-makers in the *spar-yard.

Spar (spāɹ), *sb.*[2] *Min.* Also 6–7 **sparr.** [ad. MLG. *spar*, *sper* (also in combs. *sparglas*, *-kalk*, MHG. *sparchalch*), related to OE. *spæren* gypsum, *spærstán* SPAR-STONE.]

1. A general term for a number of crystalline minerals more or less lustrous in appearance and admitting of easy cleavage.

A large number of varieties are distinguished by special epithets, as *bitter, Bolognian, brown, calcareous, Derbyshire, Iceland, pearl, ponderous, rhomb, tabular*: see these words and CALC-, FELD-, FLUOR-, HEAVY SPAR.

1581 in *Trans. Jewish Hist. Soc. Eng.* (1903) IV. 96 In our copper ures were..a kinde of black stone (wherin the copper groweth), and a kinde of white stone named sparr. 1631 JORDEN *Nat. Bathes* vii. (1669) 45 Sparr, which the Dutch call Sput or Querts, shoots into points like Diamonds. 1653 MANLOVE *Customs Lead-mines* 265 (E. D. S.), Cauke, Sparr, Lid-stones, Twitches, Daulings, and Pees. 1672 BOYLE *Ess. Gems* 91 The clear Spar, which in most of our Western Lead-Mines in England is found next to the Metalline Veins. 1756 C. LUCAS *Ess. Waters* III. 236 All perfectly petrified; some into bright crystallised spar. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) I. 66 The pendent rocks were glazed with spar. 1832 TENNYSON *Œnone* 82 in *Poems* (1833) 55 Within the green hillside..Is an ingoing grotto, strown with spar. 1867 BAKER *Nile Trib.* xvii. (1872) 304 Immense quantities of very beautiful spar lay upon the surface in all directions.

b. *pl.* Different varieties of this.

1668 CHARLETON *Onomast.* 274 *Fluores*,..Spars. 1695 WOODWARD *Nat. Hist. Earth* IV. 179 Gemms or Stones that are here shot into Cubes.., the Bristow-Stones, Crystallized Sparrs, the Iris,..and several others. 1797 *Monthly Mag.* III. 203 Matlock is much noted for its..curious spars and fossils. 1814 SCOTT *Lord of Isles* III. xxviii, And o'er his head the dazzling spars Gleam like a firmament of stars! 1823 BYRON *Island* II. vii, Or cavern sparkling with its native spars.

2. a. A fragment or particle of spar. Also *transf.*

1855 [MISS COBBE] *Ess. Intuitive Morals* 117 The waters of our spiritual life..stand in need of rocks and falls or at least of spars or pebbles, to freshen them by their resistance. 1873 DIXON *Two Queens* XVI. i. III. 186 Love, romance, generosity, were as foreign to the soul of Charles as to a spar of ice.

b. An ornament made of spar.

1851 MAYHEW *Lond. Lab.* I. 370/2 'Spars,' as spar ornaments are called by the street-sellers. *Ibid.* 371/1 Some street-sellers have their spars in covered barrows.

3. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *spar-like* adj., *-lode, ornament, -rider, -seller*.

1700 ? MACKWORTH *Disc. Mine-Adventure, 2nd Abstract* 12 We are Sumping and driving in the new Work in good firm..Oar, and the Spar-rider continues to under cut in Oar. 1778 W. PRYCE *Min. Cornub.* 91 This being a hard unmetallick petrifaction, thence called a Spar Lode by those unacquainted with real Spar. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) VI. 230/1 The spar-like gypsum, *marmor metallicum*. 1851 MAYHEW *Lond. Lab.* I. 370/2 The spar-sellers carried their goods..in strong baskets on their heads. *Ibid.* 371/1 Some of the spar ornaments are plain, white, and smooth.

Spar (spāɹ), *sb.*[3] [f. SPAR *v.*[2]]

† **1.** A thrust. *Obs.*—[1]

c 1400 *Destr. Troy* 10684 Menestaus..Presit Polidamas & put hym of horse, With a spar of a speire.

2. A boxing-match; a display of boxing; a motion of sparring.

1814 *Monthly Mag.* XXXVIII. 439 He's coming: I know the white steed from afar; He is not a man to be late at a spar. 1901 *Oxford Times* 16 Mar. 4/2 Boxing: an interesting exhibition spar was given by..two boys.

3. A cock-fight.

1849 D. J. BROWNE *Amer. Poultry Yd.* (1855) 45 Many of the handsomest game cocks..are already trimmed, (in the comb at least,) in case they should be wanted in a hurry for a private spar.

4. *transf.* A wordy contest or dispute.

1836–7 DICKENS *Sk. Boz, Tales* x, Mr. Timson..kept up a running spar with Mr. Watkins Tottle. 1841 HOOD *Tale of Trumpet* 661 Such wrangle, and jangle, and miff, and tiff, And spar, and jar. 1861 MRS. RIDDELL *City & Suburb* 207 Ruby faced out, and had a spar with him.

Spar (spāɹ), *sb.*[4] *dial.* [Of doubtful origin: cf. the variant SPEAR *sb.*[4]] A pointed and doubled rod used in securing thatch.

1746 *B. N. C. Muniments, Estates* 43. 45, Sept. 7, Paid for one day worke of thacing, 1*s.* 6*d.* Paid for 500 of sparies, 1*s.* 3*d.* 1748 *Ibid.* Feb. 26, Paid for 4500 of sparis, 11*s.* 3*d.* 1796 W. H. MARSHALL *Rur. Econ. W. Eng.* I. 330 *Spars*, thatching rods. 1825 JENNINGS *Obs. Dial. W. Eng.* 71 The pointed sticks, doubled and twisted in the middle, and used for fixing the thatch of a roof, are called *spars*: they are commonly made of split willow rods. 1874 T. HARDY *Far fr. Mad. Crowd* XXXVI, The dull thuds of the beetle which drove in the spars.

b. *attrib.*, as *spar-gad, -hook, -house, -rod*.

1844 BARNES *Poems Rur. Life* (1848) 387. 1863 MONCRIEFF *Dream* in *I. of Wight Gloss.* (E.D.S.) 52 He skulks through the copses for sparods and ledgers. 1886 T. HARDY *Woodlanders* ii, A bundle of the straight, smooth hazel rods called spar-gads. *Ibid.* iv, [He] crossed over to the spar-house where some journey-men were already at work.

† **Spar,** *sb.*[5] *Obs.* In 5–6 **spare, sparr(e,** 6 **sper-, spear-, speyr.** [Irregular var. of SPARTH 1.] A long-handled axe; a soldier armed with this.

c 1440 *Eng. Cong. Ireland* (Rawl. MS.) 17 Speris and sparris. *Ibid.* 83 He..broght two Spares faste on his shelde. 1515 *St. Papers Hen. VIII*, II. 5 The armye of every region excede not 200 sperys and 600 kerne. 1534 *Ibid.* 185, 8 score fotmen, called kern, 10 scor spearys, callid gall-agloghis; which 10 score sparris amountith to 20 score men. 1543 *Ibid.* III. 444 Ther footemen..having every of them his weapon, callyd a sparre, moche like axe of the Towre, and they be named galloglasse. 1600 DYMMOK *Ireland* (1843) 7 He is named a spare of his weapon so called, 80 of which spares make a battell of Galloglass.

attrib. 1539 *St. Papers Hen. VIII*, III. 142 His armie ..be but chorles and plowmen, and..his sparr men went from hym.

† **Spar,** *sb.*[6] *Obs.*—[1] [f. SPAR *v.*[1]] A check or impediment.

1613 DAY *Dyall* ix. (1614) 263 First that this Kingdome of Grace be not hindred by many spars and lets that it hath what with the World, the Flesh, and the Divell.

† **Spar,** *sb.*[7] *Obs.*—[0] In 7 **sparre.** [Of obscure origin.] The purre or stint.

1668 CHARLETON *Onomast.* 108 *Junco*,..the Stint, or Sparre, or Perr.

Spar, *sb.*[8] Anglicized form of SPARUS.

1881 RAWLINSON *Hist. Anc. Egypt* I. ii. 84 Among other delicate fish produced by the Nile may be mentioned..the spar (*Sparus Niloticus*).

Spar (spāɹ), *v.*[1] Forms: *α.* 3 **sperren,** 4–6 **sperre,** 5 **sper,** 7 **sperr.** *β.* 4–7 **sparre,** 4 **sparr,** 5– **spar.** [In the *α*-forms app. ad. MDu. *sperren* (Du. *sperren*), = OHG. *sperran* (MHG. and G. *sperren*; hence Da. *spærre*, Sw. *spärra*), f. the stem *sparr-* SPAR *sb.*[1] The *β*-forms may be a normal alteration of this, or may represent the base of OE. *gesparrian* and *besparrian* BESPAR *v.* For further variants in ME. and later use see SPARE *v.*[2] and SPEAR *v.*[1]]

1. *trans.* To fasten (a door or gate) with a bar or bolt; to shut or close firmly or securely. Also occas. with *up*. Now *arch.*

α. c 1200 ORMIN 4122 Forr swa..Wass Paradisess ȝate sperrd ȝæn all mannkinn onn eorþe. 1338 R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (1810) 240 To maynten forth þe werre..Þe entres did þei sperre, & hold þam in Snowdoun. *c* 1450 *Cursor M.* 10420 (Laud), She sperrid her doris and wept sore. *c* 1462 *Paston Lett.* II. 87 The yates of Lynne..weren fast sperred. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 354/1 To Sperre, *claudere*. 1579 SPENSER *Sheph. Cal.* May 224 If he chaunce come when I am abroade, Sperre the yate fast for feare of fraude. 1596 — *F. Q.* v. x. 37 The other which was entred, laboured fast To sperre the gate.

β. a 1300 *Cursor M.* 2788 Fast þe dors þan did he sparr [*Gött.* bar]. *a* 1400 N. T. (Paues) *Acts* xii. 14 Sche..lefte þo ȝhate sparde, ande tolde hem þat Peter stondes bifore þe ȝate. 1484 *Cal. Letter-Bks. Lond.* 'L' 202 b, That every nyght..thei Shitte and Sparre their doores at the hour of ix^e^ of the Clok. *a* 1529 SKELTON *Ware the Hauke* 91 The church dores were sparred, Fast boltyd and barryd. 1555 EDEN *Decades* (Arb.) 143 Excepte they take good heede that the doores bee well sparde. 1614 GORGES *Lucan* I. 5 So when all iarres doe end their dates, Ianus may sparre his Iron gates. 1626 B. JONSON *Staple of N.* II. iv. (1905) 47, I haue heard you..cauke your windores, spar up all your doores. 1674 RAY *N. Co. Words* 44 To *Spar* the Door, to bolt, bar, pin, or shut it...This word is also used in Norfolk. 1825 in JAMIESON *Suppl.* 1888 DOUGHTY *Arabia Deserta* I. 193 The gate was sparred, and the old man made no speed to come down and undo for us.

b. In fig. contexts. Also *absol.*

c 1400 *Apol. Loll.* 34 He closiþ, and þan no man opuniþ; he opuniþ, and þan no man sperriþ. 1435 MISYN *Fire of Love* 16 Þai treuly sal haue power to spar heuen to þame. 1555 LATIMER *Let.* in *Serm. & Rem.* (1845) 437 Or else the doors [of heaven] will be shut up [*v. r.* sparred up before ye come], that ye cannot go in. 1612 J. DAVIES (Heref.) *Muse's Sacrifice* Wks. (Grosart) II. 56/1 Thus shall each pious person pray to thee in fitting time (yer Mercies Gate be sparr'd)?

† **2.** In general use: To close, fasten, secure, lock, etc. Also with *up*.

c 1200 ORMIN Ded. 261 He sahh..an boc Bisett wiþþ seffne innsæȝless, & sperrd swa swiþe wel þatt itt Ne mihhte nan wihht oppnenn. *Ibid.* 12155 Forr Cristess þohht wass sperrd..Wiþþinnenn & wiþþutenn. *c* 1400 *Rom. Rose* 3320 He tought it [my heart] so hym for to obey, That he it sparrede with a key. *a* 1425 tr. *Arderne's Treat. Fistula*, etc. 14 Aftirward it [*sc.* the fistula] is opned by itself, and renneþ as it is seid afore, and aftirward it is sperred. 1430–40 LYDG. *Bochas* IX. xxxv. (1554) 215 b, [He] Closed hys booke, and shet it in his chest, But ere he might sperre it with the keye [etc.]. 1615 T. ADAMS *Black Devil* 19 He lockes the doores after him, sparres up the heart with security, that his treasure be not stolne.

† **3.** To confine, enclose, or imprison, to shut *up*, in a place. *Obs.*

a 1240 *Wohunge* in *O. E. Hom.* I. 285 Mi bodi henge wiþ þi bodi neiled o rode, sperred querfaste wiþ-inne fowr wahes. *c* 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 9501 ȝyf he wyþ sege sperre me her-yn. *Ibid.* 11824 As wyþ þe Romayns for to werre, þat alle men in þer daunger sperre. *a* 1400 HYLTON *Scala Perf.* I. xvi. (W. de W. 1494), And therefore as a wretche & outcaste..art sperred in a hous alone. *c* 1440 *Alph. Tales* 3 Sho was sparred in a cloce cell iij yere. 1583 MELBANCKE *Philotimus* B b j, He..caused him to bee sparred faste in the same tower. 1586 WARNER *Alb. Eng.* II. xii. (1589) 50 There sparred vp in gates, The valiant Thæbane..a following fight awaites. *a* 1600 *Floddan Field* (1664) 1. 10 Our startling Nags in Stables sparde, Are waxen wild with too much rest.

refl. 1535 COVERDALE *Ezek.* iii. 24 Go thy waye, and sparre thy selff in thyne house.

† **4.** To shut (a person or thing) *out* or *in*. *Obs.*

c 1430 *Life St. Kath.* (1884) 66 Sorwyng þat mankynde was spard out..from þe delytes of paradyse. *c* 1460 *Towneley Myst.* iii. 128 Anoynt thi ship with pik and tar.., The water out to spar. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 354/1 To Sperre in, *includere*. *Ibid.*, To Sperre oute, *excludere*. 1530 PALSGR. 728/1 What meanyth this woman, she sperryth me out, she callyth me agayne. 1535 COVERDALE 1 *Sam.* xxi. 7 But the same daye was there a man sparred in before the Lorde.

† **5.** To fix or fasten *together* or *down*. *Obs.*

1591 FLETCHER *Russe Commonw.* (Hakl. Soc.) 78 They haue drummes besides of a huge bignesse, which they carry ..on foure horses, that are sparred together with chaines. *a* 1722 LISLE *Husb.* (1757) 202 It is very good husbandry to top hay or corn-reeks with well wetted helms, that they may be well sparred down.

Spar (spāɹ), *v.*[2] Also 5–6 **sparre,** 7–8 **sparr.** [Of obscure origin.]

† **1.** *intr.* To dart or spring; to strike or thrust rapidly. *Obs.*

a 1400–50 *Alexander* 2975 With þat he brochis his blonke þat þe blode fames, Sparis [*v.r.* Sparrys] out spacly as sparke out of gledes. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 6690 Teuser, with tene turnyt to Ector, Sparrit to hym with a speire. *Ibid.* 6914 He put hym to Paris.., Sparrit at hym with a spere.

2. Of cocks: To strike with the feet or spurs; to fight.

1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 29 To sparre, as cocks do, *confligere.* 1686 R. BLOME *Gentl. Recreat.* II. 279/1 Your Cocks having Sparred sufficiently. 1696 R. H. *Sch. Recreat.* 144 Let him Sparr with another Cock. 1710 PALMER *Proverbs* 255, 'I'll teach you to sparr at your lady!' and in a moment [she] twisted off his neck. 1776 G. WHITE *Selborne* lxxiii, A young cock will spar at his adversary before his spurs are grown. 1828 in Blaine *Encycl. Rural Sports* (1840) 1208 The practice of permitting the stags and younger chickens to spar occasionally.

b. *trans.* To cause (a cock) to spar; to exercise in sparring.

1686 R. BLOME *Gentl. Recreat.* II. 279/1 The Day following Spar him again. 1696 R. H. *Sch. Recreat.* 145 The second Fortnight, twice a Week will be enough to Chase or Spar your Cock. 1832 MARRYAT *N. Forster* xlv, They..fed and sparred them [cocks] to get them into wind.

3. To engage in or practise boxing; to make the motions of attack and defence with the arms and fists; to box. Also const. *at.*

1755 JOHNSON, *Spar*, to fight with prelusive strokes. 1825 C. WESTMACOTT *Eng. Spy* I. 85 Big George can teach the use of fives,..Or spar or keep the game alive [etc.]. 1833 NYREN *Yng. Cricketer's Tutor* 38 The position of the wicket keeper in his standing, should be that of a man preparing to spar. 1847 ALB. SMITH *Chr. Tadpole* xli. (1879) 355 It appeared that two pugilists who were advertised to spar had not yet arrived.

fig. 1809 MALKIN *Gil Blas* IV. xi. P 6 We..suspended the fray to spar a little with the flagon.

b. *trans.* With cognate object.

1901 *Oxford Times* 16 Mar. 4/2 He..sparred a bye, in which the boxing was only of a light character.

4. To dispute; to bandy words.

1698 COLLIER *Immor. Stage* iv. § 5. 147 Jacinta spars again and says, I would have thee to know, thou graceless old Man, that I defy a Nunnery. 1741 RICHARDSON *Pamela* III. 346 What! sparring and jangling again, you Sluts! 1752 CHESTERF. *Lett.* ccxci. III. 336 Only women and little minds pout and spar for the entertainment of the company. 1854 THACKERAY *Wolves & Lamb* Wks. 1899 XII. 30 They spar so every night they meet. 1880 MRS. RIDDELL *Myst. Palace Gardens* xxvi, She liked to hear the two sparring.

b. *trans.* To argue or debate (questions).

a 1734 NORTH *Lives* (1826) III. 336 Among his virtuoso friends and acquaintances he loved to spar questions and foment disputes.

Spar (spāɹ), *v.*[3] [f. SPAR *sb.*[1] Cf. MDu. and MHG. *sparren*, ON. and MSw. *sparra*, older Da. *sparre*, in sense I.]

1. *trans.* To furnish, make, or close *in*, with spars. Also *fig.*

1657–8 in Willis & Clark *Cambridge* (1886) II. 97 Extraordinary repaires..for slating and sparring y[e] chappell. 1805 R. W. DICKSON *Pract. Agric.* I. 52 For these purposes, one or more stalls may be sparred to the top. *a* 1851 MOIR *Snow* xii. Poet. Wks. 1852 II. 388 The mill-wheel sparr'd with icicles, Reflects her silver ray. 1894 STEVENSON *Lett.* (1899) II. 333, I have a room now, a part of the twelve-foot verandah sparred in, at the most inaccessible end of the house.

2. *Naut.* **a.** In pa. pple.: Provided with spars.

1840 R. H. DANA *Bef. Mast* xxxiv, She..[was] heavily sparred, with sails cut to a *t.* 1894 *Times* 12 May 9/3 The vessel..was snugly sparred and canvased for the passage.

b. To fix spars across (the rigging) preparatory to rattling down.

c 1860 H. STUART *Seaman's Catech.* 35 Commence sparring the rigging.

c. *U.S.* 'To aid (a vessel) over a shallow bar by the use of spars and tackles' (*Cent. Dict.*).

1883 *American* VI. 40 At low water, the vessel has often to be sparred over sand-bars.

Sparable (spæ·răb'l). Also 7 **sparabile, sperrable**, 9 **sparrable, -bil.** [Reduced form of SPARROW-BILL.]

1. A small headless wedge-shaped iron nail (stouter than a *sprig*), used in the soles and heels of boots and shoes.

a. *a* 1627 H. SHIRLEY *Mart. Soldier* III. i. in Bullen *Old Pl.*, He would put Sparabiles into the soules then? 1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), *Sparables* or *Sparrow-Bills*, a sort of small Iron-nails, which some Country-People wear in their Shooes. *c* 1780 in C. Coleridge *Life C. M. Yonge* 3 [A letter..complaining that he had been sent to Oxford with] sparables in his shoes. 1827 FARADAY *Chem. Manip.* xxiv. (1842) 605 Burn a cast-iron sparable in the same manner. 1839 CARLETON *Fardorougha* vii, Why did you get..three rows of sparables in the soles o' them? 1877 BLACKMORE *Cripps* (1887) 356 His heels had their sparables as good as new.

β. 1648 HERRICK *Hesper., Upon Cob, Epig.* 266 His thumb-nailes-par'd afford him sperrables. 1828 CARR *Craven Gloss., Sparrables*, short nails without heads, used by shoe-makers. 1831 J. HOLLAND *Manuf. Metals* I. 216 The portions chopped off would be sparrables. 1893 MOIRA O'NEILL *Dimpses* 42 You could have counted the sparrabils in the soles.

2. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *sparable-cutter, -paved* adj.; **sparable-tin** (see quot.).

1824 MACTAGGART *Gallovid. Encycl.* 79 The mowdieman's shoon being sparrable paved. 1864 SMYTH *Cat. Min. Coll.* 17 Cassiterite, in ditetragonally terminated crystals, locally termed 'Sparable Tin'. 1884 *Times* 8 Jan. 2/6 A 'sparable-cutter' is a personage well known among the nailers of Cradley and Halesowen.

† Sparadrap. *Med. Obs.* Also 6 **-drappe, -drape**, 7 **-drop, sparrowdrope.** [a. F. *sparadrap* († *spadadrap*), = It. *sparadrappo*, Sp. *esparadrapo*, Pg. *sparadrapo*, *esparadrà*, med.L. *sparadrapum* (*spandarapum*), of unknown origin. The second element may be F. *drap* cloth: cf. SPASMADRAP.] A piece of linen or other cloth dipped in, or spread with, some ointment or medicament for use as a bandage or plaster.

1543 TRAHERON *Vigo's Chirurg.* 268 b/2 Dyppe cloutes therein, in the fourme of a sparadrap. 1599 A. M. tr. *Gabelhouer's Bk. Physicke* 212/2 Applye as then theron a Sparadrape, which must in this sorte be made. 1612 WOODALL *Surg. Mate* Wks. (1653) 153 Dipping a course canvas therein in forme of a sparrowdrope. 1635 A. READ *Tumors & Ulcers* 272 Above the unguents you are to apply Sparadrops made onely of wax. 1683 SALMON *Doron Med.* III. 693 Take a sufficient quantity, mix, melt, and make a Sparadrap according to art. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v., There are as many different Kinds of Sparadrap, as there are of Plaisters for the Cloth to be dipp'd in. [1755 in JOHNSON (citing Wiseman), and in later Dicts.]

† Spa·rage. *Obs.* [a. OF. *sparage* (= It. *sparagio*), ad. L. *asparagus*: cf. SPERAGE.] Asparagus. Also *attrib.*

1565 COOPER, *Asparagus*, ..in English Sparage. *Ibid., Corruda*, an hearbe called wylde sparage. 1592 NASHE *P. Penilesse* Wks. (Grosart) II. 34 Yet am I not against it, that these men..should come to be sparage gentlemen & chuffheaded Burghomasters. 1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* (1658) 399 Sea Onions, Scammony, wilde Sparage. 1612 PEACHAM *Gentl. Exerc.* III. ix. (1634) 151 Sparage, Fennell, and white Ellebore.

Sparagrass, obs. variant of SPARROWGRASS.

† Spa·ragus. *Obs.* Also 7 **sparragus**, 7–8 **'sparagus**, 8 **speragas.** [a. med.L. *sparagus*, aphetic form of ASPARAGUS.] Asparagus.

1543 TRAHERON *Vigo's Chirurg.* 196 b/1 Sparagus is hoote and drye. 1607 DEKKER *Iests to make you merry* Wks. (Grosart) II. 304 The flower *sparagus*, that growes out of euery mans dunge, and contemned of euery man. 1611–40 [see ASPARAGUS 1 δ]. 1669 COKAINE *Poems* 247 What delicate Sparagus you have growing there. *c* 1711 PETIVER *Gazophyl.* VI. lvii, Prickly tern-feathered Cape Sparagus. 1711 TEMPEST *Cryes of London* 27 Ripe Speragas. 1785 COWPER *Lett.*, In May we shall have 'sparagus.

attrib. 1640 R. BROME (*title*), The Sparagus Garden. 1668 PEPYS *Diary* 22 Apr., Over to the 'sparagus garden.

Sparanaro, variant of SPERONARA.

‖ Sparaxis (spăræ·ksis). *Bot.* [mod.L. (1805), a. Gr. σπάραξις tearing, laceration.] A genus of S. African iridaceous plants (related to the genus *Ixia* and characterized by a lacerated spathe), species of which are cultivated for their showy flowers; a plant or bulb of this genus.

1829 LOUDON *Encycl. Pl.* 40. 1841 DUNCAN *Hist. Guernsey* 557 The innumerable species of ixia, sparaxis, and other cognate genera of Cape bulbs. *Ibid.* 559 The ixia, too, and the sparaxis, have lately been observed to hybridise. 1852 JOHNSON *Cottage Gard. Dict.* 517/1 The true Ixias are known from *Sparaxis* by not having, like it, a jagged sheath.

Sparble, variant of SPARPLE *v. Obs.*

Sparch, *v.*[1] *rare.* [Related to PARCH, *v.*] *trans.* and *intr.* To scorch.

1532–3 *Act* 24 *Hen. VIII*, c. 1 § 6 Every Coriar shall well and sufficiently corie & blacke the said Lether tanned..& not craftely to bourne ne sparche the said Lether. 1894 HALL CAINE *Manxman* III. ix. 156 While the oatcake crackled and sparched and went black.

Sparch, *v.*[2], variant of SPARGE *v.*

1894 HALL CAINE *Manxman* V. iii. 287 The net boiler sparched drops of hot water at intervals.

Sparch (to parget): see SPARGET *v.*

Sparcle, obs. or dial. f. SPARKLE *sb.* and *v.*[1]

Spar-deck. Also 6, 8 **sparr-**, 7–8 **spare-deck.** [f. SPAR *sb.*[1] Hence G. and F. *spardeck.*] A light upper deck in a vessel.

a. 1570 GOOGE *Pop. Kingd.* III. 40 b, Hir fraught was only Friers and Monkes, and on the spardeckes hie Were all the chiefest members of the wicked papacie. 1599 DALLAM in *Early Voy. Levant* (Hakl. Soc.) 9 Than the booteson of our ship stod upon our spar decke,..commanding them to come under our Lee side. *a* 1618 RALEIGH *Invent. Shipping* 29 Needing no other addition of building, then a slight spar Decke, fore and afte as the Seamen call it. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. xiv. (Roxb.) 35/1 The spar deck, which is the vpermost, betwixt the two masts and is made very slight. 1716 B. CHURCH *Hist. Philip's War* (1867) II. 42 He must take some of the open Sloops, and make Spar-Decks to them. 1769 FALCONER *Dict. Marine* (1780) s.v. *Decks*, Frigates, sloops, &c. with one gun-deck and a half, with a spar deck below to lodge the crew. 1847 H. MELVILLE *Omoo* xxix, On the spar-deck, also, are carronades of enormous calibre. 1887 J. BALL *Nat. S. Amer.* 31 A spar-deck carried flush from stem to stern.

attrib. 1893 *Naut. Mag.* May 396 The spar-deck ship is of character intermediate between the awning-deck ship and the three-deck ship.

β. *a* 1642 SIR W. MONSON *Naval Tracts* II. (1704) 253/2 To have all the spare Decks and other Things of weight taken down. 1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), *Spare-Deck* or *Sparr-deck*, the uppermost Deck in some great Ships, which lies between the Main and Missen Masts.

Hence **Spar-decked** *a.*, fitted with a spar-deck; **Spar-decker,** a spar-decked vessel.

1877 SIR C. W. THOMSON *Voy. Challenger* I. i. 9 The 'Challenger', a spar-decked corvette. 1885 LADY BRASSEY *The Trades* 19 The 'Norham Castle' is a spar-decked ship. 1893 *Naut. Mag.* May 397 No allowance should be made for deck erections in a spar-decker.

Spare (spēəɹ), *sb.*[1] Also 5 **spar.** [f. SPARE *v.*[1] and *a.* Cf. Norw. and obs. G. *spar* the act of sparing or saving.]

† 1. The fact of leaving unhurt or unharmed; sparing; leniency, mercy. In the phrases *without spare* and *to make* (*no*, etc.) *spare. Obs*

(*a*) *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 2909 Bot þan com dome [=doom] witouten spare, To þaa þat lang was spared are. *c* 1380 *Antecrist* 136 in Todd *Three Treat. Wyclif* (1851), If þai wil noght turn til his lare, He sal þam sla wituten spare. *a* 1425 *Cursor M.* 3974 (Trin.), Iacob dred esau sare, For he was fel wibouten spare. 1609 HOLLAND *Amm. Marcell.* 139 To wipe away all shamefull dishonour, as whetting their anger against such..perfidious enemies, without spare.

(*b*) 1591 in Bacon *Genesis New Eng. Ch.* (1874) 127 They have made no spare or conscience to accuse..and punish us. 1609 HOLLAND *Amm. Marcell.* 80 Our souldiors..rifled rich villages full of corne and cattell, making spare of none. 1620 tr. *Boccaccio's Decam.* 4 Little lesse spare was made in the villages round about. 1633 BP. HALL *Hard T.* 421 Cut them off..and make no spare of any of them.

2. The exercise of economy, frugality, or moderation. Chiefly in the phrase *to make* (*no*, etc.) *spare.*

1577 GRANGE *Golden Aphrod.*, etc. P j, To spende and make no spare, he must himselfe incline. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* III. i. 51 Whiles fruitfull Ceres, and Lyæus fat, Pourd out their plenty, without spight or spare. 1643 TRAPP *Comm. Gen.* xlvii. 14 Bidden to eate..what he pleased, and make no spare. 1850 F. S. MERRYWEATHER *Glimmerings in Dark* 36 The canons of the Church..injoined them to be bountiful in their charity and to use no spare in their hospitality. 1891 *Spectator* 19 Sept. 377/2 We may be able to make shift with 19 million quarters of foreign and Colonial Wheat. It is certainly desirable to make spare, as we may do if we have an abundant potato-crop.

b. Const. *of.* (Common *c* 1600–40.)

1577 KNEWSTUB *Confut.* R j, He hath plentifully powred out, and made no spare of it, thorow out the whole yeare. 1579 TWYNE *Phis. agst. Fortune* II. xliii. 218 b, There must be no spare of the rod. 1626 BACON *New Atl.* (1650) 1 By which time our Victuals failed us, though we had made good spare of them. 1648 J. GOODWIN *Right & Might well met* 8 They made no spare of their owne deare lives. 1655 tr. *Sorel's Com. Hist. Francion* II. 32 At our meal there was no spare of liquor. 1832 tr. *Tour German Prince* IV. 77 There are a thousand men and two hundred horses in action, and no spare of gunpowder.

† c. *At spare*, with poor or little food or entertainment; poorly, frugally. *Obs.*[-rare]

1585 EARL LEYCESTER *Corr.* (Camden) 462 Most of the noblemen and gentlemen lodged that night at spare in Harwiche.

3. In various elliptical uses of the adj.: A spare or reserve sum of money; a spare room; a spare part, tool, tire, etc., carried esp. by motorists to replace a breakage or supply a sudden emergency.

1642 FULLER *Holy & Prof. St.* IV. xvi. 321 Reserving a spare for all events and accidentall occasions. 1868 DICKENS in *Lett.* (1880) II. 355 To provide and lay down new Brussels carpets in the front spare and the two top spares. 1906 *Daily Chron.* 24 Apr. 3/3 He recommends..a complete spare magneto. I wonder if he has ever really carried such a 'spare'. 1908 *Motor Boat* 5 Mar. 133/1 The best method of dealing with spares is to have a chest made to carry all the spares you require.

4. *U.S.* In ten-pins: The knocking down of all the pins with two bowls (thus leaving one 'to spare'), or with the first bowl (= *double spare*); the score for doing this.

1879 *Daily News* 2 Sept. 3/1 Younger people..sought out the American ten-pin alleys,..and, in striving for 'spares' and 'double-spares', esteemed themselves far in advance of their wise elders. 1884 *Harper's Mag.* Jan. 299/2 Strikes and spares were less common.

† Spare, *sb.*[2] *Obs.* Forms: 4 **spaier**, 5 **spayere, speyer, speyr(e**, 5–6 **spayre**, 6 **sparre**, 5–6 (8–9) **spare.** [Of obscure origin.] An opening or slit in a gown, robe, etc., in later use in a woman's gown (see quot. 1597).

Jamieson (1808) has also 'the slit or opening, formerly used in the fore-part of breeches'.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 5825 He put it [his hand] eft in his spaier, And vte he drogh it, hale and fere. ? *a* 1400 *Morte Arth.* 2060 A-bowne the spayre a spanne, emange the schortte rybbys. *c* 1430 *Pilgr. Lyf Manhode* II. ix. (1869) 78 And than Resoun putte hire hond in to hire bosom bi a spayere. *c* 1440 *Jacob's Well* 115 His clothyng was lynen, & full of spayerys, & in euery spayere hyng a crewett. *a* 1529 SKELTON *P. Sparowe* 345 My byrde..That was wont to..go in at my spayre, And crepe in at my gore Of my gowne before. 1530 PALSGR. 273/2 Sparre of a gowne, *fente de la robe.* 1597 SKENE *De Verb. Sign.* s.v. *Bastardus*, That part of weemens claiths, sik as of their gown, or petticot, quhilk vnder the belt, and before, is open, commonlie is called, the spare. ? *a* 1700 *Jew's Daughter* in Motherwell *Minstrelsy* (1827) 52 She took out a little penknife, Hung low down by her spare. [Also in other ballads.]

Spare, *sb.*[3] Anglicized form of SPARUS.

1803 SHAW *Gen. Zool.* IV. II. 407 Rose-red Spare, with silvery abdomen. *Ibid.* 419 Silvery Spare [etc.].

Spare, *sb.*[4] *Coal-mining.* (See quot.)

1849 GREENWELL *Coal-trade Terms, Northumb. & Durh.* 49 *Spare.*—A piece of wood, 6 or 8 inches long, 6 inches broad, cut from 1 inch Scotch deal, with one of the flat sides tapered off to the end;..the baff-end is put in first,..and the spare driven between the baff-end and the crib, in the manner of a wedge.

† Spare, obs. variant of SPAR *sb.*[1]

Examples of the pl. *spares, sparis* in the 15–16th cent. probably belong to SPAR.

1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 100/1 *Raile*,..is a piece of Timber, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 foot or more long,..and an inch or more thick...*Spare*, is two inches thick, and four inches broad; in some places it is termed a single Quarter.

Spare (spēəɹ), *a*, and *adv.* Also 5 **spar.** [Connected with SPARE *v.*[1] Cf. ON. *sparr* (to be) spared; OE. *spær*, OHG. *spar*, MDu. *spaer*, MSw. and Norw. *spar* sparing; also Du. *spaar-*, G. and Sw. *spar-*, Da. *spare-*, Icel. *spari-* in combs.]

I. 1. Not in actual or regular use at the time spoken of, but carried, held, or kept in reserve for future use or to supply an emergency; esp. *Naut.* (see quot. 1769); additional, extra.

a. In attributive use.

The various types of context are illustrated by the different groups of quotations.

(*a*) 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* C. 104 Cables þay fasten,..weȝen her ankres, Sprude spak to þe sprete þe spare bawe-lyne. *c* 1450 *Bk. Curtasye* 792 in *Babees Bk.*, The keruer anon.. Into þe couertoure wyn he powres owt, Or in-to a spare pece, with-outen doute. 1497 *Naval Acc. Hen. VII* (1896) 110 Spare extrees for faucons,..v. 1573 *Richmond Wills* (Surtees) 242, v. ireon teames,..ij spare crooks. 1590 SHAKS. *Com. Err.* I. i. 80 A small spare Mast, Such as sea-faring men prouide for stormes. 1602 MARSTON *Ant. & Mel.* II. Wks. 1856 I. 23 If you have any spare paire of silver spurs. 1691 T. H[ALE] *Acc. New Invent.* 43 A spare Set thereof [i.e. rudder-irons] sent to Sea with every Lead-sheathed Ship. 1709 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4521/2 One of the Flukes of the Spare-Anchor (was)..shot off. 1769 FALCONER *Dict. Marine* (1780), *Spare*, an epithet applied to any part of a ship's..furniture, that lies in reserve, to supply the place of such as may be lost, or rendered incapable of service. Hence we say, spare top-masts, spare sails, spare rigging, &c. 1811 *Regul. & Orders Army* 276 All Spare Ammunition is given in to the nearest Ordnance Depôt. 1856 KANE *Arct. Expl.* II. xvi. 173 We carried spare tins, in case the others should burn out. 1893 KIPLING *Many Invent.* 2 We've just sent our regular engine to London, and this spare one's not..so accurate.

(*b*) *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VIII*, 29 The master of hys horse folowed him with a spare horse. 1613 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* (1614) 420 They bring with them three moneths victuall,..and a spare Horse for food, besides a better for seruice. 1708 J. C. *Compl. Collier* (1845) 33 The Charge of maintaining a spare Shift of Horses. 1781 GIBBON *Decl. & F.* xviii. II. 90 The custom of their warriors, to lead in their hand one or two spare horses, enabled them to advance and to retreat with a rapid diligence. 1822–56 DE QUINCEY *Confess.* (1862) 76 Here's a spare dromedary. 1850 R. G. CUMMING *Hunter's Life S. Afr.* I. 105 A horseman..accompanied by an after-rider leading a spare horse.

(*c*) *a* 1687 PETTY *Pol. Arith.* (1690) 107 There are spare Hands among the King's Subjects, to earn two Millions more than they do. 1897 *Daily News* 27 May 8/5 Driver R. Wilcockson, a spare driver,..gave evidence in regard to the irregular hours of the 'spare' men.

(*d*) 1702 *Guide for Constables* 12 He shall keep one or more spare beds for lodging of strangers. 1811 SCOTT *Let.* in *Lockhart* (1837) II. xi. 361 My present intention is to have only two spare bed-rooms. 1827 — *Surg. Dau.* i, A spare apartment, in which Doctor Gray occasionally accommodated..patients. 1881 YOUNG *Every Man his own Mechanic* § 806. 371 A spare bed which may be put up anywhere in a few minutes.

b. In predicative use. Now *rare.*

1497 *Naval Acc. Hen. VII* (1896) 87, ij pair wheles & a pair of hynder wheles spare. 1600 DYMMOK *Ireland* (1843) 7 His horse of service is alwaies led spare. 1621 LADY M. WROTH *Urania* 460 They only riding in one Coach, two other went spare. *a* 1642 SIR W. MONSON *Naval Tracts* III. (1704) 324/1 Anchors lying spare at the River side. 1899 *Westm. Gaz.* 7 Dec. 5/2 Their ponies were running about spare all over the place.

† **c.** Of land, ground, etc.: Uncultivated, unoccupied, vacant. *Obs.* (exc. in sense 1 a or 2).

c 1470 *Gol. & Gaw.* 112 Sped hym on spedely on the spare mure. 1577 B. GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* I. (1586) 24 The ground that is yeerely sowen, and that hath lyne spare, is to be plowed thryse. 1665 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* (1677) 221 The number of Gardens, Cemeteries [etc.],..take up much more spare place than London doth. 1669 WORLIDGE *Syst. Agric.* 93 You may raise these Pollards in Hedgerows, and spare places.

† **d.** Of a leaf: Blank. *Obs.*—1

1705 HEARNE *Collect.* 13 July (O.H.S.) I. 5 A spare leafe, before a 4to Book of tracts.

2. That can be spared, dispensed with, or given away, as being in excess of actual requirements; superfluous. † Rarely as predicate.

a 1553 UDALL *Royster D.* (Arb.) 28 She shall haue the first day a whole pecke of argent. .. A pecke? *Nomine patris*, haue ye so much spare? 1613 BEAUM. & FL. *Captain* I. iii, When I..have enough spare gold To boil away, you shall be welcome to me. 1783 BURKE *Rep. Aff. India* Wks. 1842 II. 49 The supply destined for the London market is proportioned to the spare tonnage. 1816 TUCKEY *Narr. Exped. R. Zaire* iv. (1818) 141 The very little spare provisions the natives seem to have at this season. 1849 SIR F. B. HEAD *Stokers & Pokers* v. (1851) 53 A few of the.. men who had spare cash purchased the greater portion of these articles. 1856 KANE *Arct. Expl.* I. xiii. 149 All the spare morsels, the cast-off delicacies of the mess.

b. Of time: Not employed or taken up by one's ordinary or usual duties or occupations; leisure.

a 1610 HEALEY *Epictetus* (1636) 69 If thou hast any spare time, go. *c* 1643 LD. HERBERT *Autobiog.* (1824) 240 All the spare hours which I could get from my visits and negotiations. 1711 ADDISON *Spect.* (J.), The female world..have more spare time upon their hands, and lead a more sedentary life. 1885 G. ALLEN *Babylon* xvi, Minna was working hard in all her spare hours. 1885 'MRS. ALEXANDER' *At Bay* iv, The earliest spare moment he could find was devoted to Lady Gethin.

transf. 1633 G. HERBERT *Temple, Sunday* iv, The other dayes fill up the spare And hollow room with vanities.

II. † **3.** Of speech: Sparing; marked by reticence or reserve. *Obs. rare.*

13.. *Gaw. & Gr. Knt.* 901 Penne was spyed & spured vpon spare wyse, Bi preue poyntez of þat prynce [etc.]. *c* 1460 *Towneley Myst.* xx. 294 This spekyng must be spar, and neuen it neuer..; let no man wyt where that we war.

4. Of persons, their limbs, etc.: Having little flesh; not fat or plump; lean, thin.

a 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VII*, 60 b, He was a man of body but leane and spare. 1597 SHAKS. 2 *Hen. IV*, III. ii. 287 O, giue me the spare men, and spare me the great ones. 1614 ROWLANDS *Fooles Bolt* (Hunterian Cl.) 34 Thou worthy leane spare Gentleman. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* x. 511 His Visage drawn he felt to sharp and spare. 1709 *Tatler* No. 93 ¶ 4 As I am spare, I am also very tall. 1716 SWIFT *Progr. Poetry* Wks. 1755 III. II. 162 Hard exercise and harder fare Soon make my dame grow lank and spare. 1808 SCOTT *Marm.* II. iv, Her cheek was pale, her form was spare. 1844 W. IRVING *Goldsmith* xiv. (1850) 172 He was upwards of six feet high, and very spare. 1885 *Spectator* 25 July 971/1 A man of spare figure, with a shrewd, humorous face.

transf. 1848 DICKENS *Dombey* lvii, Mrs. Miff assents with a spare nod of her mortified bonnet. 1865 — *Mut. Fr.* I. xv, The staircase, balustrades, and rails, had a spare look.

b. Const. *in* or *of* (flesh).

1632 SHERWOOD, Spare (of flesh), *desnué de chair.* 1842 TENNYSON *Talk. Oak* 92, I hold them [fairies] exquisitely knit, But far too spare of flesh. 1871 NAPHEYS *Prev. & Cure Dis.* I. i. 45 Spare in flesh.

c. Lacking body or substance; flimsy, thin.

1602 WARNER *Alb. Eng.* XIII. lxxix. (1612) 325 But all effects, and names to God his Essence come more short Than Sun-shine to the Suns-selfe, than to action spare report. 1858 LOWELL *Vis. Sir Launfal* II. iii, Sir Launfal's raiment thin and spare Was idle mail 'gainst barbed air.

d. *poet.* Growing thinly or sparsely.

1815 SHELLEY *Alastor* 527 Grey rocks did peep from the spare moss.

† **5.** Of persons: Sparing, temperate, or moderate *of* or *in* something, esp. diet or speech. *Obs.*

(*a*) 1563 FOXE *A. & M.* 1050/1 He [Hooper] was..spare of dyet, sparer of wordes, and sparest of tyme. 1615 BRATHWAIT *Strappado* (1878) 183 Another may we see, though spare of speech, And temporate in discourse, yet he may teach By his effectual words the rasher sort. 1658–9 in *Burton's Diary* (1828) III. 341, I am very spare of speaking. 1697 DRYDEN *Virgil, Life* (1721) I. 61 He was..spare of Dyet, and hardly drank any Wine.

(*b*) 1581 PETTIE tr. *Guazzo's Civ. Conv.* II. (1586) 71 b, We must be spare in speaking of things which are not easily beleeued. 1589 PUTTENHAM *Eng. Poesie* III. (Arb.) 298 A man to be in giuing free, in asking spare. 1599 SHAKS. *Hen. V*, II. ii. 131 Are they spare in diet, Free from grosse passion.

† **b.** Not lavish, liberal, or profuse, esp. in expenditure or living; frugal, niggardly, parsimonious; abstemious. *Obs.*

1577 HANMER *Anc. Eccles. Hist.* VII. xxxi. (1619) 143 Pierius was proved a spare man of life, and singular in Philosophy. 1583 STUBBES *Anat. Abus.* I ij b, But as some be ouer largeous, so other some are spare enough. 1633 P. FLETCHER *Poet. Misc.* 58 Oh happy pair, where nothing wants to either,..Fortune and nature being spare to neither!

c. *dial.* Displaying little exertion or energy; slow, dilatory.

1746– in south-western dial. glossaries, etc.

6. Characterized by meanness, bareness, economy, or frugality, esp. in regard to food.

1560 ABP. PARKER *Corr.* (Parker Soc.) 133 The unclean or negligent order and spare-keeping of the house of prayer. 1600 SHAKS. *A. Y. L.* III. ii. 20 As it is a spare life.., it fits my humor well: but as there is no more plentie in it, it goes much against my stomacke. 1634 MILTON *Comus* 767 She..Means her provision onely to the good, That liue according to her sober laws, And holy dictate of spare Temperance. 1876 GEO. ELIOT *Dan. Der.* xxiv, To order the whole establishment on the sparest footing possible.

b. Of diet, fare, meals, etc.: Consisting of a comparatively small amount of food, esp. of a plain kind; not abundant or plentiful.

1570 JEWEL *View of Seditious Bull* (1582) 29 So that the quantitie be smal, and fit for sober and spare diet. 1607 ROWLANDS *Earl of Warwick* (Hunterian Cl.) 66 His diet of the meanest, hard and spare. *c* 1665 MRS. HUTCHINSON *Mem. Col. Hutchinson* (1846) 24 He was not talkative, yet free of discourse; of a very spare diet. *a* 1721 PRIOR *Wand. Pilgr.* 13 Spare diet, and spring-water clear, Physicians hold are good. 1784 COWPER *Task* IV. 173 When her patriots..Enjoy'd—spare feast!—a radish and an egg! 1841 BARHAM *Ingol. Leg.* Ser. II. *Nell Cook*, The Priory fare was scant and spare. 1842 COMBE *Digestion* 203 He was unable for study till five or six hours after even a very spare dinner.

transf. 1893 STEVENSON *Catriona* XXV. (1902) 306, I drink nothing else but spare, cold water.

c. *poet.* Scanty, meagre, rare.

1813 SHELLEY *Q. Mab* v. 202 Some servile souls, Whom cowardice itself might safely chain, Or the spare mite of avarice could bribe. 1842 TENNYSON *St. S. Styl.* 77 Eating not, Except the spare chance-gift of those that came To touch my body. 1888 *Cent. Mag.* May 26 Even now the reaper-beams appear, And gather in the clouds' spare aftermath.

7. As *adv.* Sparely; with spare diet. *rare.*

1813 SCOTT *Trierm.* III. iv, Yet still his watch the warrior keeps, Feeds hard and spare, and seldom sleeps.

III. 8. *Comb.*, chiefly parasynthetic, as *spare-bodied, -built, -fed* adjs.; † **spare-handed** *adj.*, having a sparing hand.

1646 J. YATES *Ibis ad Cæsarem* I. 1 God is ample in Predestination unto life, but in the death of sinners spare-handed. 1742 JARVIS *Don Quix.* I, He was of a robust constitution, spare-bodied, of a meagre visage. 1813 SCOTT *Rokeby* II. xxii, His stately form, spare-built and tall. 1837 LOCKHART *Scott* IV. v. 157 For 'early to rise', unless in the case of spare-fed anchorites, takes for granted 'early to bed'. 1895 SCULLY *Kafir Stories* 133 Whitson was a sallow-faced, spare-built man of short stature.

Spare (spēə1), *v.*1 Forms: 1 **sparian, spear-, speerian,** 3 **sparien, spearien,** 3–4 **sparie** (4 **-ye**), 3–5 **spary**; 4–5 **sparen,** 4– **spare,** 5–8 *Sc.* **spair** (6 **spaare, spaer,** 7 **spayer,** 9 *dial.* **spaar**). [Common Teutonic: OE. *sparian* (also *a-, ge-sparian*), = OFris. *sparia* (WFris. *sparje*, † *spearje*, NFris. *spari, spāri*), OS. and OHG. *sparôn* (MLG. and LG., MDu. and Du., MHG. and G. *sparen*), ON. *spara* (Icel., Norw., Sw. *spara*, Da. *spare*), f. a stem *spar-* (see SPARE *a.*) of uncertain relationship. The Teutonic word is the base of OF. *espargner* (mod.F. *épargner*), It. *sparagnare* and *sparmiare.*]

I. 1. *trans.* To leave (a person) unhurt, unharmed, or uninjured; to refrain from inflicting injury or punishment upon; to allow to escape, go free, or live. Usually with personal subject.

c 825 *Vesp. Psalter* lxxi. 13 God..spareð dearfan & weðlan. *c* 897 K. ÆLFRED *Gregory's Past. C.* xlvi. 352 Hie ne sparodon ða synnfullan, ac slogon. *c* 1100 in Cockayne *Shrine* 17 Ne spareð nu se fæder þan sune ne nan mann oðren; Ac ælc man wiðoncean oðren. *a* 1122 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1086, He sætte..þæznas on cweartern, & æt nextan he ne sparode his azenne broðor. *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 121 Þa he na sparede na ihesu crist his azene sune. *c* 1205 LAY. 27487 Nuste nan kempe whæm he sculde slæn on, and wham he sculde sparien. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 8830 Sparie he wolde Mildemen & harde chasty þe proute. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* IX. 297 He..gert his men burn all Bouchane ..and sparit nane. *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (Roxb.) xxxi. 142 Þare es nane spared þat es taken with a trespas. 1474 CAXTON *Chesse* II. iv. (1883) 53 To spare them & gyue hem her lyf 1589 ? LYLY *Pappe w. Hatchet* (1844) 19, I am like death, Ile spare none. 1596 SHAKS. *Tam. Shr.* IV. iii. 153 Take thou the bill, giue me thy meat-yard, and spare not me. *a* 1628 PRESTON *New Covt.* (1634) 364 If men could have entered into Covenant and kept the Law, Christ had beene spared. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* IV. 758 Whom ev'n the savage Beasts had spar'd, they kill'd. 1780 COWPER *Fable* 34 An earthquake may be bid to spare The man that's strangled by a hair. 1825 SCOTT *Talism.* iii, Saladin had issued particular orders that he should be spared and protected. 1891 FARRAR *Darkn. & Dawn* xlii, They..demanded that there should be a trial, and that the innocent should be spared.

refl. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 1609 Vor woch dede a man ssolde..Lese is on eye, & he him sulf ne sparde him sulue noȝt, Ac let pulte out is owe eye. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 26718 Þis man will we spare, For noght he spard him-self are.

b. With impersonal object (but implying or suggesting a person or persons). (Cf. 4.)

c 825 *Vesp. Psalter* lxxvii. 50 [He] ne spearede from deaðe sawlum heara. 1362 LANGL. *P. Pl. A.* VII. 11 Spyrneth it spedily, sparep noght ȝour fyngres. 1605 SHAKS. *Lear* II. ii. 72 Spare my gray-beard, you wagtaile? 1725 POPE *Odyss.* XV. 303 Receive the suppliant! spare my destin'd blood. 1757 GRAY *Bard* 107 Visions of glory, spare my aching sight. 1817 SHELLEY *Rev. Islam* X. xxiv. 1 Famine had spared the palace of the king.

c. To allow to be free or exempt *from* (or † *of*) some task, etc. Also *refl.* without const.

1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* V. 362 He him sparit na kyn thing, Bot prufit swa his fors..That throu his vorschip [etc.]. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XVIII. cix. (Bodl. MS.), The more scheo [i.e. a cow] is forbore and spared fro [1495 of] trauaile, þe more slowe [s]he is. 1596 BACON *Max. & Use Com. Law* II. (1635) 7 By which the Earles were spared of their toyles and labours, and that was laid upon the Sheriffes. 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* XXXV. [The] housekeeper, now spared from further attendance by the entrance of the count.

d. To refrain from denouncing or exposing in strong terms; to deal gently or leniently with.

1535 COVERDALE *Job* XXXII. 21, I wil open my lyppes, and make answere. I will regarde no maner of personne, no man wil I spare. 1607 SHAKS. *Cor.* II. iii. 243 *Sicil*[*nus*]. Lay the fault on vs. *Brut*[*us*]. I, spare vs not. 1649 MILTON *Eikon.* B 2, As he hath not spar'd his Adversaries, so to him will be us'd no more Courtship then he uses. 1728 T. SHERIDAN tr. *Persius* (1739) Ded. p. iv, I never did once either distinguish or spare you. 1771 *Junius Lett.* liv. (1788) 295 What public question have I declined? What villain have I spared? 1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* xli, As Varney ..had been studious to spare the character of his patron. 1852 THACKERAY *Esmond* I. iv, My lady used not to spare Colonel Esmond in talking of him. 1891 FARRAR *Darkn. & Dawn* lxii. 295 He shrank from eliciting a keenness of wit which had not spared the bloodstained Sylla.

e. To refrain from afflicting or distressing.

1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* XXXVIII, Emily.. was followed by the Lady Blanche,..whom she entreated to spare her on the subject of her distress. 1819 SHELLEY *Cenci* V. ii. 108 Oh, spare me! Speak to me no more!..Those solemn tones Wound worse than torture. 1856 CAPERN *Poems* (ed. 2) 143 Spare, oh, spare thy tender feelings.

2. *absol.* To exercise or show mercy, forbearance, or leniency.

a 1225 *Juliana* (Royal MS.) 70 A stalewurðe men ne sparie ȝe nawiht; ha haueð us alle scheome idon. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 3974 Esau ai he dred ful sare, For he was fel and wald noght spare. 1382 WYCLIF *Job* XXVII. 22 He shal senden out vp on hym, and not sparen. *c* 1420 *Prymer* 78 God, to whom it is proprid to haue merci & to spare euer more. 1422 tr. *Secreta Secret., Priv. Priv.* 181 He that is a gouernoure in tymes he shall Spare, and in tymes vengeaunse take. 1535 COVERDALE *Job* VI. 10, I wolde desyre him in my payne, that he shulde not spare. 1611 BIBLE *Prov.* VI. 34 He will not spare in the day of vengeance. 1736 *Gentl. Mag.* VI. 678 Spare, charmer spare! in prudence do! 1761 GRAY *Fatal Sisters* 34 Ours to kill, and ours to spare. 1825 SCOTT *Talism.* XXII, The lion Richard will spare when he has conquered. 1871 GROSART *H. Vaughan's Wks.* I. Ded. p. iv, Available and destined for the same august post (God sparing).

† **b.** Const. *to.* (After L. *parcere.*) *Obs.*

c 1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* xviii. 13 Of myn hid [trespasses]

make me clene, and of oþer spare til þi seruaunte. 1382 Wyclif *Wisd.* xii. 16 To alle thou makest thee to sparen. *c* 1420 *Prymer* 47 Spare, lord, spare to þe puple.

3. *trans.* † **a.** To refrain from violating, infringing, or breaking. *Obs.*

1303 R. Brunne *Handl. Synne* 806 Of al þe festys þat yn holy chyrche are Holy sunday men oght to spare. 1387 Trevisa *Higden* (Rolls) VIII. 129 No privelege of persoun wheþer of holy cherche noþer fredom was i-spared.

b. To abstain from visiting (a sin, etc.) with due punishment; to forgive or pardon.

1388 Wyclif *Job* xiv. 16 Sotheli thou hast noumbrid my steppis; but spare thou my synnes. *a* 1450 tr. *De Imitatione* III. lv. 132, I þonke þe þat þou hast not spared myn eueles. 1500–20 Dunbar *Poems* lxx. 27 Thow, that on rude ws ransomit,..Spair our trespas. 1782 Cowper *Mut. Forbearance* 44 If infirmities..Are crimes so little to be spar'd.

c. To preserve or save (life) in place of destroying; to allow to continue or last.

1594 Kyd *Cornelia* v. 445 To spare Thy worthles life that yet must one day perish. 1605 Shaks. *Lear* II. ii. 66 This ancient Ruffian Sir, whose life I haue spar'd at sute of his gray-beard. 1781 Cowper *Expost.* 623 Those holy men..could not..spare a life too short to reach the skies. 1823 Scott *Quentin D.* xix, With what face darest thou ask any guerdon beyond my sparing thy worthless life? 1865 Trollope *Belton Est.* i. 8 He hoped that the squire's life would be long spared. 1890 *Science-Gossip* XXVI. 167 Poor pussy began to purr, and that decided the verdict in favour of her life being spared.

4. To abstain from destroying, removing, damaging, or injuring (a thing).

c 897 K. Ælfred *Gregory's Past. C.* xviii. 140 Swæ sindon ða loccas to sparianne ðæm sacerde ðæt hie ða hyd behelizen. *c* 900 tr. *Baeda's Hist.* IV. xxvii, Cyricum ne mynstrum seo herehand sparode ne ne arode. 1338 R. Brunne *Chron.* (1810) 248 Holy who salle spare,..Whan þo þat hedes are do þer to no gode. 1382 Wyclif *Rom.* xi. 21 Forsothe if God sparide not the kyndely braunchis, lest perauenture he spare not thee. *c* 1400 *Brut* ii. 45 [They] destroyede al þing þat þai fonde; and no þing þai ne sparede. 1480 *Cov. Leet Bk.* 446 In their shotyng called rovyng,..[they] nother sparen corn ne grasse, but distroyen & defowlen hem. *a* 1586 Sidney *Arcadia* (1622) 368 Shee..was now about to put out his eyes, which all this while were spared. 1643 Denham *Cooper's H.* 155 What does he think our Sacriledge would spare, When such th' effects of our Devotion are? 1648 Milton *Sonn.* viii. 10 The great Emathian Conqueror bid spare The house of Pindarus. 1759 Johnson *Rasselas* xxix, From the wonders which time has spared we may conjecture..what it has destroyed. 1794 Mrs. Radcliffe *Myst. Udolpho* xlv, The beauty .. of its delicate carvings, determined the count to spare this door. 1839 Thirlwall *Greece* VI. 165 It was believed that Alexander ..was induced to spare it by the hope that it would soon surrender. 1879 S. C. Bartlett *Egypt to Pal.* x. 225 Usually a large part of their branches had been cut off, even when the tree itself had been spared.

b. To save or protect (a thing) from damage, wear, or undue strain in some way.

1817 Lady Morgan *France* I. (1818) I. 63, I remember our having alighted from our carriage to spare its springs in a sort of 'crack-scull-common' road.

II. 5. To refrain from using or consuming; to use in a frugal or economical manner. Now *rare.*

c 1000 Ælfric *Hom.* (Thorpe) II. 70 He sparode þæt gode win oð his azenum to-cyme. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 7927 For to spar his aun aght Þis pouer mans scep he laght. 1398 Trevisa *Barth. De P. R.* vi. xiv. (Bodl. MS.), [A father] spareþ his owne mete to fede his chyld with. *c* 1440 *Jacob's Well* 143 Þou myȝt so spare þi purse, þat þou myȝt forfare þi-self. 1477 Earl Rivers (Caxton) *Dictes* 14 It satisfieth not to spare metes and do euill dedis. *c* 1550 N. Smyth tr. *Herodian* II. 19 He..also teacheth others to be frugall, and spare that them selues gette. 1589 Greene *Menaphon* (Arb.) 34 She sparde no euening milke, but went amongst the cream bowles, and made him a posset. 1635–56 Cowley *Davideis* I. 869 Free Natures bounty thriftily they spent, And spared the Stock. 1651 Hobbes *Leviath.* II. xxx. 181 He which laboureth much, and sparing the fruits of his labour, consumeth little [etc.]. 1726 Swift *Gulliver* III. i, Being resolved to spare my provisions as much as I could. 1743 Francis tr. *Hor., Odes* II. vii. 26 Thy Limbs from Toils of Warfare free, Nor spare the Casks reserv'd for Thee.

† **b.** To save, hoard, or store up. *Obs.*

c 1400 *Gamelyn* 320 My brother is a niggoun..; And we wil spende largely that he hath spared yore. 1483 Caxton *Cato* F iij b, For men hath dyspended..in lytel tyme that whiche men hath acquyred and spared wyth grete labour. 1500–20 Dunbar *Poems* xxxvi. 25 Sum grit gud gadderis and ay it spairis. 1579 Spenser *Sheph. Cal.* May 84 The sonne of his loines why should he regard To leaue enriched with that he hath spard? 1648 Gage *West Ind.* 160 What monies they have spared, after their own and their servants lawful maintenance. 1683 D. A. *Art Converse* 116 They can inform you of Twenty Arts how to gain and spare a Peny.

c. *absol.* To use or practise economy or frugality; to be parsimonious or niggardly; to live or act sparingly.

1377 Langl. *P. Pl.* B. xii. 53 And riche renkes riȝt so gaderen and sparen. *c* 1420 *Sir Amadace* (Camden) ii, I myȝte lung spare, Or alle these godus qwitte ware, And haue noȝte to spend. *c* 1475 *Rauf Coilȝear* 202 Thairfoir sic [good fare] as thow seis, spend on, and not spair. *a* 1513 Fabyan *Chron.* vi. (1811) 234 He..gaue parte vnto suche knyghtes as he fauoured, and spared to theym that hadde wele deserued. 1573 Tusser *Husb.* (1878) 204 For lordlie bent Must learne to spare. 1621 T. Williamson tr. *Goulart's Wise Vieillard* 73 It is a pleasing..excuse among men..to alledge that they spare for their children. 1667 Milton *P. L.* v. 320 Where Nature..by disburd'ning grows More fruitful, which instructs us not to spare. 1737 Pope tr. *Hor., Epist.* II. ii. 290, I, who at some times spend, at others spare. 1792 Burns *Country Lassie* iv, But some will spend, and some will spare. 1866 Howells *Venetian Life* 325 Those people who attempt to maintain a certain appearance upon insufficient means,..and who spare in every possible way. 1889 — *Hazard New Fortunes* 94 They must spare in carriage hire at any rate.

prov. 1562 J. Heywood *Prov. & Epigr.* (1867) 54 Euer spare and euer bare. 1573 Tusser *Husb.* (1878) 23 Some spareth too late,..the foole at the bottom, the wise at the brim. 1677 Miège *Fr. Dict.* II. s.v., To spare at the spiggot, and let it run out at the bung-hole. 1681 W. Robertson *Phraseol. Gen.* s.v., Better spare at the brim, than at the bottom, *sera est in fundo parsimonia* [Seneca *Ep.* I. 5]. 1736 Ainsworth I. s.v., It is too late to spare, when all is spent.

d. In passive: To be left over or unused.

1577 Googe *Heresbach's Husb.* § 149 You must feede them often by hand, when meate fayles abroade,..and not so much as Barly spared. 1793 Smeaton *Edystone L.* § 237 The mason took the mortar out of the bucket; and if any was spared, he still kept on beating. 1799 [A. Young] *Agric. Linc.* 25 All that may be spared at night, should be thrown to the common mortar heap, and fresh stucco made in the morning. 1868 Atkinson *Cleveland Gloss.* 481 Eat what thee likes, an' what's spared tak' awa' yamm fur t' bairns.

6. To abstain or refrain from using, employing, exercising, etc.; to forbear, omit, or avoid the use or occasion of; also, to use, or deal in, with moderation, economy, or restraint: **a.** In various special contexts.

(*a*) *c* 1000 Ælfric *Hom.* II. 324 Se ðe sparað his ȝyrde, he hatað his cild. *a* 1250 *Prov. Ælfred* 451 in *O. E. Misc.*, Þe mon þe spareþ yeorde.., þat him schal on ealde sore reowe. 1393 Langl. *P. Pl.* C. vi. 139 Ho so spareþ þe spring spilleþ hus children. *c* 1430 *Stans Puer ad Mensam* 91 (Lamb. MS.), Who þat sparíþ þe rodde [*v.r.* the yerd] al uertues settiþ a-side. 1526 Skelton *Magnyf.* 1955 There is nothynge that more dyspleaseth God Than from theyr chyldren to spare the rod Of correccyon. 1535 Coverdale *Prov.* xiii. 24 He that spareth the rodde, hateth his sonne. 1664 Butler *Hud.* II. i. 844 Love is a Boy, by Poets styl'd, Then Spare the Rod, and spill the Child. 1841 Lytton *Nt. & Morn.* II. iii, Spare the rod and spoil the child. 1855 Thackeray *Newcomes* iii, I have a brother to whom my poor mother spared the rod, and who..has turned out but a spoilt child.

(*b*) *a* 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 807 Lure ow is to leosen ower swinkes lan, þe leoteð se lutel of, & sparieð ower speche. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 16110 Sai me iesus, qui dos þou þus? to me na soth þou spare. *c* 1386 Chaucer *Sompn. T.* 55 Tel forth thy tale, and spare it not at al. *c* 1400 *Pilgr. Sowle* (Caxton, 1483) IV. xxx. 78 Flaterers and forgeours that sparen the soothe ben nothynge profitable. 1481 Caxton *Reynard* xxxiv. (Arb.) 100 Yf ye wyl spare the trouth and lye grete lesynges. 1508 Dunbar *Tua mariit wemen* 40 Syne thai spak more spedelie, and sparit no materis. 1617 Moryson *Itin.* II. 72 He might doe well to spare the rest of his speech. 1663 S. Patrick *Parab. Pilgr.* xii. (1687) 79 Your blushes bid me spare this language. 1731 Swift *Death Dr. Swift* Wks. 1841 I. 657/2 Had he but spared his tongue and pen, He might have rose like other men. 1753 Richardson *Grandison* V. iv. 27, I am put upon a task that grieves me, Ease my heart, by sparing my speech. 1820 Scott *Monast.* xxxvii, 'Spare your threats,' said Murray. 1848 Thackeray *Van. Fair* xxix, Much painful and unavailing talk between them was spared. 1864–8 Browning *J. Lee's Wife* II. iii, Spare the curse!

(*c*) *a* 1440 *Found. St. Bartholomew's* (E.E.T.S.) 19 Whane thou cummyste yn to the Iewes strete, spare thy sporys, lose thy brydyll, lette thyn hors to my gouernaunce. *c* 1470 *Gol. & Gaw.* 305 Thayr wes na spurris to spair, spedely thai spring. 1575 Gascoigne *Glasse of Govt.* Wks. 1910 II. 26 But yet where youth is prone to follow ill, There spare the spurre, and use the brydell still. 1735 Somerville *Chase* III. 85 Flourish the Whip, nor spare the galling Spur. 1782 Miss Burney *Cecilia* VIII. i, Why, Sir, you have not spared the spur! 1831 Scott *Ct. Rob.* xvi, Come along.. like a good fellow, and for once I shall spare the whip.

b. In miscellaneous (partly *obs.*) uses.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 5867 Dathait qua werkes on þam spar! Þan held þai þam harder þan ar. 1388 Wyclif *Jer.* l. 14 Ouercome ȝe it [*sc.* Babylon], spare ȝe not arowis, for it synnede to the Lord. 1515 *Plumpton Corr.* (Camden) 212, [I] entreated them to spare distreyning, till such tyme as I had sent unto you [etc.]. 1553 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* I. 141 It is maist convenient and best to spair puneisment for the said cryme. 1573 Tusser *Husb.* (1878) 97 Spare meadow at Gregorie, marshes at Pask, for feare of drie Sommer. 1687 A. Lovell tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* I. 59 They spare not now and then a blow with a Cudgel by the by. 1831 Scott *Ct. Rob.* xxxiii, Count Robert spared putting forth some part of the military skill for which he was celebrated. 1884 F. Temple *Relat. Relig. & Sci.* v. (1885) 142 We recognise that we are bound to spare pain to all creatures that can feel.

c. Const. *to* and infinitive.

Freq. from the 14th to the 17th century; now *rare.*

a 1225 *Juliana* 26 Ant..wa wurðe him wurst þat te mest sparie wondreðe to donne. 13.. *Sir Beues* 4482 Sire Miles ..Lep vpon a dromedary, To prike wolde he nouȝt spary. 1377 Langl. *P. Pl.* B. III. 51 Wist I that..I wolde nouȝt spare For to be ȝowre frende. *c* 1386 Chaucer *Merch. T.* 1065, I schal not spare for no curtesye To speke him harm, that wold us vilonye. *c* 1440 *Partonope* 1707 Ye spared not in-to my bedde Homely to gonne. 1479 *Cov. Leet Bk.* 423 Not sparyng to do therin as lawe will for eny persone.. what-so-euer. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 18 Some spare not to make insurrecyon and rebell agaynst theyr prelates and heddes. 1575 Gascoigne *Glasse of Govt.* Wks. 1910 II. 16 Spare not to commaund my service. 1637 Bp. Reynolds *Serm.* (1638) 34, I shall spare to bee so injurious to your patience, and to the businesse wee attend upon. 1686 tr. *Chardin's Coronat. Solyman* 75 The Controller.. would not spare to inform the worst he could against him. 1808 Scott *Marm.* I. iv, And, from the platform, spare ye not To fire a noble salvo-shot. 1893 Stevenson *Catriona* xxix. (1902) 346 Using travellers' freedom, we spared to wait for James More.

prov. 14.. *Lat. & Eng. Prov.* (MS. Douce 52) fol. 16 b, Who so sparyth to speke sparyth to spede. 1509 Hawes *Past. Pleas.* xvi. (Percy Soc.) 91 Who spareth to speke he to spede doth spare. 1546 Heywood *Prov. & Epigr.* (1867) 31 Spare to speake spare to speede. 1567 Turberv. *Epit.*, etc. (1837) 308 My Spencer, spare to speake, and euer spare to speed. 1748 Smollett *R. Random* xxxiv, Remembering the old proverb, 'Spare to speak, spare to speed', [he] resolved to solicit the new captain's interest immediately. 1789 Burns *Blue-eyed Lassie* ii. 1887 in *Eng. Dial. Dict.* s.v., He that spares to speyk, spares to speed.

d. In elliptical use: To refrain from doing something. Now *rare* or *Obs.*

c 1386 Chaucer *Friar's T.* 39 Now telleth forth,.. Ne spareth nought, myn owne maister deere. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 12736 Sho spilt hade hir spousaile, sparit ho noght. 1530 Tindale *Wks.* (Parker Soc.) 343, I could more deeply have entered into the practice of our cardinal, but I spare for divers considerations. 1557 Tusser *100 Points Husb.* lxxxi, In June washe thy shepe,..and kepe them from dust. ..Then share them and spare not. 1610 Shaks. *Temp.* II. i. 24 *Alon.* I pre-thee spare. *Gon.* Well, I haue done. *a* 1620 J. Dyke *Right Receiv. Christ* (1640) 161 Talke and spare not.

† **e.** *absol.* To refrain from or forbear the use or exercise *of* something. *Obs. rare.*

c 1470 *Gol. & Gaw.* 274 A! lord, sparis of sic speche, quhill ye speir more. 1481 *Cov. Leet Bk.* 489 To commaunde vs to respite & spare for a season of callyng furth oure seid retynue.

7. To avoid incurring or being involved in, to save (expense or labour).

(*a*) *a* 1325 [see (*b*) below]. *c* 1400 *Cursor M.* 29060 (Cott. Galba), If þou fast þi spens to spare, thrise for to ete better þe ware. *c* 1420 *Avow. Arth.* xlviii, Ther was no spense for to spare, Burdes thay were neuyr bare. 1491 *Act 7 Hen. VII*, c. 22 Preamble, Put to your hand and spare no cost. 1548 Elyot, *Parcere impensæ*, to spare coste. 1617 Moryson *Itin.* I. 9 This fortification, wherein he hath spared no cost. 1621 in W. H. Hale *Prec. Causes of Office* (1841) 50 He said they haue no nede of popish reliques and that the parishe may spare their money for such thinges. 1693 in Willis & Clark *Cambridge* (1886) II. 376 It being necessary to retrench the expences, it was thought proper to spare the charge of the Organist. 1819 Scott *Ivanhoe* xxxiv, The gold thou shalt spare in her cause. 1848 Thackeray *Van. Fair* lvi, A famous tailor..was summoned to ornament little George's person, and was told to spare no expense in so doing.

(*b*) *a* 1325 *MS. Rawl. B. 520* lf. 30 b, Þe king hath igraunted for te sparen trauail and despense of his men. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 2 b, They..spared no labours neyther by see ne yet by lande. 1560 Daus tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 126 They wil spare neyther paynes nor peryl. 1603 Knolles *Hist. Turks* (1621) 1154 Meaning..by this means to spare their pouder, shot, and paines, and to reserue them to their better vses. 1675 J. Owen *Indwelling Sin* xvi. (1732) 216 To spare the trouble in the Education of their Children. 1780 *Mirror* No. 101, These I spared no pains to cultivate and improve. 1827 Faraday *Chem. Manip.* ix. (1842) 238 He should not spare pains to procure the best possible [filtering-paper]. 1832 Ht. Martineau *Life in Wilds* vi. 80 We must spare labour to the utmost till we can get a stock of labourers. 1892 *Photogr. Ann.* II. 601 No time, trouble, or expense has been spared in the matter.

b. To avoid, shun, keep clear of. Now *rare.*

c 1380 *Sir Ferumb.* 1553 Faste þay passede ouer al þe weys..; Ne sparede þay hulles, noþer valeys, bote prikede forþ with bost. 1387 Trevisa *Higden* (Rolls) VI. 39 He hated wyn dronkenes, ribaudye, and harlottie; uppon caas for hete of þe contray he wolde have it i-spared. 1483 Caxton *Gold. Leg.* 121 b/2 Haue pyte on thy self..that y[u] mayst.. wynne to spare the tormentes that ben yet to come. 1523 Ld. Berners *Froiss.* I. ccx. 252 They spared nat the dangerous maresses, but went through them. 1590 Shaks. *Mids. N.* II. i. 142 Shun me and I will spare your haunts. 1821 Shelley *Epipsych.* 183 And we know not How much..Of pleasure may be gained, of sorrow spared.

8. To dispense with from one's stock or supply, or from a number, quantity, etc.; to part with, to give or grant, lend, etc., to another or others, esp. without inconvenience or loss to oneself; to do without.

Also const. *to* (a person or persons), *from* or *out of* (a stock or store, etc.).

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 416 Ȝif heo mei sparien eni poure schreaden, sende ham al derneliche ut of hire woanes. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 29057 Þe mete þat þou þi-self suld ete..þou sal it to þe pouer spare. *a* 1400 *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* lv. i. 67 Ȝit of þi good woldestou not spare. 1481 *Cov. Leet Bk.* 484 To knowe..what able persones & howe many the Towne myght spare ouer þe seid iij[xx] men. *a* 1548 Hall *Chron.*, *Edw. IV*, 31 b, The lord Beauchampe toke from her rereward, more ordinance then she might haue wel spared. 1560 Daus tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 398 b, No parte of that wheate, whiche is in the citie, can be spared. 1601 in Moryson *Itin.* (1617) II. 145 At this time he cannot well be spared from hence. 1613 Purchas *Pilgrimage* (1614) 516 He is Collector or Treasurer to the King of Ternate in those parts, and sends him what he can spare. 1651 Hobbes *Leviath.* II. xxiv. 129 It is necessary, that men distribute that which they can spare. 1769 Johnson *Lett.* (1788) I. 20, I..can easily spare the pine-apple. 1769 Falconer *Dict. Marine* (1780), *Donner un grand hunier*, to spare a main top-sail to some other ship in company. 1827 Faraday *Chem. Manip.* xvii. (1842) 463 When a drop only of the fluid can be spared, a glass plate..will support it. 1855 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* xii. III. 241 Kirke could spare no soldiers; but he had sent..some experienced officers. 1879 Froude *Cæsar* xx. 337 Cæsar and Pompey must each spare a legion for the East.

b. To reserve, retain, set aside or store up *for* some particular use or purpose; to keep in reserve.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 5394 Þai had noþer worth ne ware þat þai moght for þair mete spare. [*Trin. MS.* Þei hadde no þing ȝare þat þei myȝte to her lyuelode spare.] *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 6502 The tother speire þat he sparit, [he] spent vpon hym. 1573 Tusser *Husb.* (1878) 90 Land meadow that yeerly is spared for hay, now fence it and spare it. 1610 Guillim *Heraldry* I. iii. (1660) 19 It is taken up and spared for necessary purposes. 1795 *Gentl. Mag.* 542/2, I request you will spare room for one tribute more to his memory.

1886 G. E. Pascoe *Lond. of To-day* xxvii. (ed. 3) 251 The proper description of which would require more space than we can conveniently spare for the purpose.

c. To set apart, save, or give (time) from one's usual or ordinary duties or avocations; to have free, unoccupied, or unemployed.

a 1548 Hall *Chron., Hen. VI*, 82 b, This .. pollitique Capitayne lost not one houre, nor spared one mynet, till he came before the citie of Burdeaux. 1565 Cooper s.v. *Succisiuus*, Time spared from other businesse. *c* 1643 Ld. Herbert *Autobiog.* (1824) 71 That Exercise taking up more time than can be spared from a studious man to get Knowledge. 1741–3 Wesley *Extr. Jrnl.* (1749) 59, I take such a proportion of time as I can spare every night, to discourse with each child apart. 1788 G. Keate *Pelew Isl.* xxiii. 297 The portion of time which they could spare from providing for their natural wants. 1833 Ht. Martineau *Tale of Tyne* vii. 126 Can you spare a minute, just to look out of this window? 1875 Jowett *Plato* (ed. 2) V. 423 Let all the citizens who can spare time hear .. such causes.

d. In prec. senses as complement to the verbs *have* or *be*, or with ellipse of these.

1390 Gower *Conf.* II. 396 Whan Somer hath lost al his grene And is with Wynter wast and bare, That him is left nothing to spare. 1530 Palsgr. 726/1 Sownde, mariner, let us se what water we have to spare. 1550 Crowley *Last Trumpet* 1198 Thou haste no tyme to spare, and spende in bankettyng. 1633 G. Herbert *Temple, Ch. Porch* xii, For we have wit to mark them, and to spare. 1654 Bramhall *Just Vind.* v. (1661) 102 These [bishops] were few enough for their own province, and none to spare for Britain. 1705 De Foe in *Lett. Lit. Men* (Camden) 322, I know your Lordship has but few minutes to spare. 1771 Franklin *Autobiog.* Wks. 1840 I. 94 She brought me word she had no such sum to spare. 1836 Marryat *Japhet* xlvi, I had an hour to spare, before the coach started. 1863 W. C. Baldwin *Afr. Hunting* v. 133, I won both events .., with three bullets to spare. 1878 *Masque Poets* 13 If we had only time to spare To taste the glories of the Spring.

9. With direct and indirect object: **a.** To give or grant; to supply (a person) with (something) out of a stock, quantity, etc.

1593 Shaks. 3 *Hen. VI*, II. vi. 78 Then the world go's hard When Clifford cannot spare his Friends an oath. *a* 1616 Beaum. & Fl. *Wit without M.* I. ii, She may spare me her smiseu, and her bonnets, strike her main Petticoat, and yet outsail me. *c* 1643 Ld. Herbert *Autobiog.* (1824) 138, I was without any meat but what my Footman spared me out of his pocket. 1711 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4887/3 They outrunning us so very much, that they spared us half their Sails. 1784 Cowper *Task* I. 262 He spares me yet These chesnuts rang'd in corresponding lines. 1821 Scott *Kenilw.* xvii, Your nobleness will willingly spare your old servitor his crib and his mess. 1847 Tennyson *Princ.* vi. 242 And now A word, but one, .. Not one to spare her: out upon you, flint!

†**b.** To allow (one) to utter (a word). Also *ellipt. Obs.*

1660 *Trial Regic.* 24 Spare me but one Word. 1710 Palmer *Proverbs* 189 Out comes two or three 'If you'll give me leave's', as many 'Spare me's', 'with submission's', and 'I humbly conceive's'.

c. To save or relieve (a person, one's feelings, etc.) from (something).

1681 Dryden *Span. Friar* v. i, Spare my sight the pain Of seeing what a world of Tears it cost you. 1794 Mrs. Radcliffe *Myst. Udolpho* xxxix, Spare me the necessity of mentioning those circumstances. *Ibid.* xlvi, Adding that he would spare her any difficulties that might occur. 1802 Mar. Edgeworth *Moral T.* (1816) I. 216, I shall spare you .. the reflections I have made on this occasion. 1856 Kane *Arct. Expl.* II. xxix. 287, I had a set of signals .. which spared us the noise of the voice. 1893 Sloane-Stanley *Remin. Midshipm. Life* vi. 82, I was, however, spared this infliction.

refl. 1717 Lady M. W. Montagu *Let. to Pope* 1 Apr., I might spare myself the trouble. 1781 Cowper *Charity* 626, I might spare myself the pains to show What few can learn. 1841 W. Spalding *Italy & It. Isl.* II. 102 We may spare ourselves the labour of looking for its essence. 1848 Thackeray *Van. Fair* ii, Minerva thought wisely she could spare herself the expense of a master. 1884 *Manch. Exam.* 11 Oct. 5/1 They wrench off cupboard doors to spare themselves the trouble of closing them.

III. *intr.* **10.** *To spare for*: **a.** To desist or refrain from some action because or on account of (difficulty, opposition, loss, etc.).

Freq. *c* 1400; usually with a negative. Now *arch.*

a 1300 *Beket* (Percy Soc.) 62 Heo wende alone .. And ne sparede for no sorewe that myste come hire to. *c* 1330 *King of Tars* 905 Bid him com hider with his ost, .. For no thyng that he ne spare. *c* 1400 *Pilgr. Soule* (Caxton) v. xiv. (1859) 81 For blandyssyng, for manace, ne for drede They spared not, but stoden by the trouthe. *c* 1430 *How Good Wife taught Dau.* 12 in *Babees Bk.*, Go to chirche whanne þou may, Loke þou spare for no reyn. *a* 1585 Montgomerie *Cherrie & Slae* 370 He is bot daft that hes ado, And spairis for euery speiche. 1810 Scott *Lady of L.* v. xxxii, Spare not for spoiling of thy steed. 1823 — *Quentin D.* x, Throw down the screen—spare not for cup or goblet.

b. With negative: To refrain from action in order to avoid or save (expense, trouble, etc.); to be sparing of or in (something).

c 1400 *Destr. Troy* 233, I shall spare for no spence & þu spede wele. 14.. *Sir Beues* (E.) 3310 Þey sparyd neyþer for syluyr ne golde. 1535 Lyndesay *Satyre* 52 And sie the burgessis spair not for expence, Bot speid thame heir. 1593 Marlowe *Edw. II*, I. iv, Spare for no cost. 1599 Shaks. *Much Ado* III. v. 66 And we must doe it wisely. *Dogb.* Wee will spare for no witte I warrant you. 1657 Earl Monm. tr. *Paruta's Pol. Disc.* 55 Cæsar never spared for any labour by which he might hope to purchase renown and glory. 1681 Hickeringill *Sin Man-Catching* Wks. 1716 I. 178 They plot their Work, .. spare for no pains, no cost, not daunted with any ill success. 1723 *Briton* No. 12 (1724) 54 Crassus .. spared for no Expence to purchase Voices. 1726 Leoni *Alberti's Archit.* II. 53 No Columns or Pilasters were spared for. 1793 Smeaton *Edystone L.* § 305 They did not spare for cold water to throw in my face and upon me.

IV. 11. Combs. with the verbal stem, as *spare-good, -penny, -thrift*; also †**spare-chest**, a chest for spare money, a reserve fund.

1611 Cotgr. s.v. *Manger, Il est à table, & n'ose manger*; (Applyable to a miserable spare-good). 1707 J. Stevens tr. *Quevedo's Com. Wks.* (1709) 298 The Retentive Knight: containing much wholesome Advice for saving the Ready, and being free of good Words. Dedicated to the Society of Spare-Pennies. 1768 *Ann. Reg.* I. 117 The extraordinary expences occasioned by his Sicilian majesty's marriage .. will not be levied upon the state, but defrayed out of the savings of the spare-chest. 1803 *Ann. Rev.* I. 423 The manufacturer has to deal .. with the spendthrift and the sparethrift.

Spare, *v.*[2] *north.* and †*Sc.* Also 5 spayr, 6 spair. [var. of Spar *v.*[1] Cf. Spear *v.*[2]

Spared, given as a variant in the *Ancr. R.* 70, is perh. an error for *spered*.]

1. *trans.* To bar, bolt, or secure (a door or gate).

1375 Barbour *Bruce* v. 389 The 3ettis than he gert thame spare, And sat and ete at all lasare. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xxvi. (*Nicholas*) 363 Þocht þe 3et wes before sparyt, with strinth he enterit In. *c* 1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 5067 He fande þe mynster 3atis spared; As a wodeman he fared. 1583 *Durham Dep.* (Surtees) 314 The said Edward doore was spaired all the tyme the said geis was in eatyng. 1677 Nicolson in *Trans. R. Soc. Lit.* (1870) IX. 319 *Spare the dure*, shut to the door. 1825 Brockett *N. C. Gloss.*, *Spare*, to shut, to close. 1894 Heslop *Northumbld. Gloss.* 674 'Spare the yett,' 'Spare the door,' are still in common use.

†**2.** To close (the lips or eyes) firmly. *Obs.*

c 1400 *Rule St. Benet* (Verse) 107 And spayr þi lipes, & hald þam still, So þat þay opyn noght with ill! *c* 1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 3847 He spared his eghen and lay still.

†**3.** To shut up; to keep *out*. *Obs.*

c 1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 4123 As a man in prisoun sparde. 1482 *Monk of Evesham* lv. (Arb.) 107 The crosse .. was lettyn done ageyne, and so sparyd other oute that wuld haue commyn in.

Spareable (spē·răb'l), *a.* [f. Spare *v.*[1]] That can be spared, in various senses of the verb.

1688–9 in Cobbett *Parl. Hist. Eng.* (1809) V. 173 You cannot doubt but the spareable part will be treasured up for the good of the subject. 1821 *Blackw. Mag.* X. 89 We intend shipping a cargo of our worst and most spareable puns on board the next whaler. 1887 Blackmore *Springhaven* (ed. 4) III. xix. 270 His great desire .. was never to destroy his enemies, by the number of one man spareable.

Spared (spēəd), *ppl. a.* [f. as prec.] Saved up, reserved; not wasted or destroyed, etc.

1580 G. Harvey *Three Lett.* 40 And my poore Muse hath spent hir spared store, Yet little good hath got. 1623 Wodrœphe (*title*), The spared houres of a Souldier in his travels. 1657 S. Purchas *Pol. Flying-Ins.* 189 They breed .. most commonly in Meadows, and spared layes, or else in a hole in the ground. 1874 W. Bruce *Hebrew Odes* 41 The spared remnant of His host. 1894 H. Nisbet *Bush Girl's Rom.* 194 The only spared man of that camp darted towards the bush.

†**Spare-dry**: see Spar *sb.*[1] 6.

†**Spa·reful,** *a. Obs.* [f. Spare *sb.*[1] or *v.*[1]] Sparing, frugal.

1565 Stapleton tr. *Bede's Hist. Ch. Eng.* 107 How sparefull personnes he and his predecessours were, .. euen the place, where he bare rule, did witnesse. 1599 *Life More* in C. Wordsw. *Eccl. Biog.* (1853) II. 112 She was also sparefull, and somewhat given to niggardliness. 1600 Fairfax *Tasso* iv. xxx, Her sparefull eie to spread his beames denaies.

Hence † **Spa·refully** *adv.*; † **Spa·refulness.**

1570 Jewel *View Seditious Bull* (1582) 53 They labour truely, they liue sparefully. *a* 1586 Sidney *Arcadia* (1622) 214 Largesse his hands could neuer skill of sparefulnesse. 1618 Ryves in *Camden's Lett.* (1691) 236 We know how sparefully S. Augustine speaketh of them in his books De civitate Dei.

Spareless (spēə·lĕs), *a.* and *adv.* [f. as prec.]

†**1.** Unstinted, unlimited. *Obs.*

a 1400–50 *Alexander* 5467 Sum spends on him of sponges a sparles nounbre.

2. Unsparing, merciless.

1589 *Rare Triumphes Loue & Fortune* I. in J. P. Collier *Five O. Pl.* (Roxb.) 87 What I have promist doubt not to be perfourmed; The spareleese destinies my will affoorde: Let this defend thee, like a trusty swoord. 1605 Sylvester *Du Bartas* II. iii. II. *Fathers* 140 Alàs! I could not but even dye for griefe, Should I but yeeld mine Age's sweet reliefe .. Into the hands of hang-men's spare-lesse spight. 1826 R. S. Hawker *Cornish Ball.*, etc. (1904) 220 Thy spareless foe Bears the fell shaft and fatal blow. *a* 1851 Moir *Unknown Grave* vi. Poet. Wks. II. 346 When all the friends .. Were vanish'd .. ; Pluck'd one by one by spareless Time.

3. As *adv.* Without stint.

1567 Painter *Pal. Pleas.* II. 427 With a fashion of attire to garnish their inward parts, so well as (sparelesse) they imploy vpon the vanishing pompe.

Sparely (spēə·rli), *adv.* [f. Spare *a.* Cf. OE. *spærlice*, MDu. *spare-, spaerlike*, MLG. *sparlike*, OHG. *sparalthho* (MHG. *sperlîche*, G. *spärlich*), ON. *sparliga* (MSw. *sparlika*).]

1. In a sparing, frugal, or stinted manner; not fully, amply, or copiously.

1559 *Decl. Doctr.* in Strype *Ann. Ref.* (1709) I. viii. 118 Indeed we do think that discreet ministers will speak sparely and circumspectly of them. 1571 Golding *Calvin on Ps.* xxxvii. 25 By their lyving sparely, they have alwais enough. 1601 Holland *Pliny* I. 98 It is drunke vp, and therefore floweth more sparely. 1637 Milton *Lycidas* 138 Ye valleys low .. On whose fresh lap the swart Star sparely looks. 1784 Cowper *Task* IV. 379 They .. find at eve, Ill clad and fed but sparely, time to cool. 1840 Hood *Kilmansegg, Honeymoon* xxx, He drank—the reverse of sparely. 1867 A. Barry *Sir C. Barry* iv. 101 Ornament is sparely applied.

2. Thinly; sparsely.

1836 [Jas. Grant] *Recoll. Ho. of Lords* viii. 153 He is thin and sparely made, with a sallow complexion. 1841 C. Mackay *Longbeard* ii, His hair .. hung sparely over his temples.

Spareness (spēə·nĕs). [f. Spare *a.* Cf. OE. *spærnes* frugality, etc.] The quality of being spare, in various senses of the adj.

1648 Hexham II, *Magerheydt*, Leanenesse, or Sparenesse. 1649 Hammond *Chr. Obligations* 36 Returning the grosse habit of sin to a sparenesse and slendernesse of stature. 1822 Galt *Provost* viii. 55 He was, notwithstanding the spareness of his abilities, a prideful creature. 1826 Hood *Recipe for Civilization* 142 She saw the spareness of her habits. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* IV. 608 After the age of forty years persons either diverge into spareness or become more or less obese.

Sparer (spēə·rəɹ). Also 5 spararе. [f. Spare *v.*[1] Cf. MLG. and G. *sparer*.]

1. A sparing, frugal, or thrifty person; one who spares in using anything.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 467/1 Sparare, or he þat sparythe, *parcus, parca.* 1542 Udall *Erasm. Apoph.* 73 b, Plato was a frugall man and a great sparer or housband. 1555 W. Watreman *Fardle Facions* II. i. 118 The Nabatheens of all other arabiens are the beste husbandes, and thriftiest sparers. 1601 Holland *Pliny* XI. xix. 321 For otherwise they [bees] are very thriftie and overgreat sparers. 1635 J. Gore *Way to Well-doing* 25 A good sparer makes a good spender. 1816 Scott *Old Mort.* i, I am in general a sparer of the rod. 1882 *Pall Mall G.* 14 June 4/2 The Turk has slaves in plenty, and is no sparer of their labour.

b. A thing or substance which aids in sparing or saving.

a 1613 Overbury *A Wife*, etc. (1616) K vj b, Hee cannot away with Tobacco; for hee is perswaded (and not much amisse) that tis a sparer of bread-corne. 19.. *Buck's Handbk. Med. Sci.* V. 564 (*Cent. Dict. Suppl.*), The great power as proteid sparers which the carbohydrates exercise.

2. One who refrains from injuring or destroying.

1572 Bossewell *Armorie* II. 78 b, He is the auenger, he is also the sparer. 1607 Lloyd *Pilgr. Princes* 37 b, His sodaine chaunge .. from a spoyler of all places, to be a sparer now of his subjects. 1853 *Zoologist* II. 4011 The humane sparer of the poor hedgehog in the midst of his many foes.

Spare-rib. Also 8 spear-rib. β. 7 sparrib, 8 sparib, 8–9 spar-rib. [prob. ad. MLG. *ribbespêr* (see Ribspare) with transposition of the two elements, and subsequent association with Spare *a.*] A cut of meat, esp. of pork, consisting of part of the ribs somewhat closely trimmed. Also *fig.*

α. 1596 Nashe *Saffron Walden* 48 Let's haue halfe a dozen spare ribs of his rethorique, with tart sauce of taunts correspondent. 1709 W. King *Cookery* ix, Spear-ribs, surloins, chines, and barons. 1749 Fielding *Tom Jones* (1775) III. 113, I have bespoke a shoulder of mutton .. and a spare-rib of pork. 1834 Marryat *P. Simple* xxvii, There was plenty of pork, .. a roast sparerib with the crackling on, .. and pig's pettitoes. 1844 H. Stephens *Bk. Farm* II. 99 The ribs [of the sheep] are here left exposed at the part from which the shoulder has been removed, and constitute what are called the *spare-ribs*. 1887 Jefferies *Amaryllis* xii, Pig-meat—such as spare-rib, griskin, blade-bone, and that mysterious morsel, the 'mouse'.

β. 1607 Brewer *Lingua* II. i, Traile no speares, but sparribs of Porke. 1611 Cotgr., *Cotis*, the sparribs of a porke. 1706 S. Sewall *Diary* 24 Dec. (1879) II. 175 Din'd on Salt Fish and a Spar-Rib. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* III. v. (ed. 4) 449 There was a great quantity of provisions, particularly salted sparibs of pork. 1867 Waugh *Tattlin' Matty* i. 11 They'n bin killin' a pig; an' hoo's brought me a bit o' spar-rib.

b. *attrib.*, as *spare-rib feast*; etc.

1737 *Ochtertyre Ho. Bks.* (S. H. S.) 90 The sparrib rost peices. 1867 G. Easton *Autobiog.* i. (ed. 2) 18 The Spare-rib Feast .. took place immediately after the fatted ox had been killed.

Spare royal: see Spur-royal.

Spa·resome, *a.* [ad. G. *sparsam.*] Economical.

1864 Mayhew *German Life* I. 285 We must be sparesome now, the feast days are near at hand.

Sparewe, obs. form of Sparrow.

†**Sparewort,** obs. variant of Spearwort.

1579 W. Langham *Garden of Health* 614 Sparewort, stampe it and apply it .. to the sciatica, to reare a blister.

Spa·rfle, *v. Sc. rare.* In 6 sparfal, 9 sperfle. [Alteration of Sparple *v.*] *trans.* To scatter or disperse; to squander.

Sparfeled in Greene's *Orpharion* (1599) 48 is prob. an error for *sparpeled*.

c 1575 *Diurn. Occurr.* (Bann. Cl.) 194 Bot or this tyme, the said men of weare hade sparfallit the best of thame. 1808–25 in Jamieson (in form *sperfle*).

‖ **Spargano·sis.** *Path.* [a. Gr. σπαργάνωσις (Dioscorides 2. 129 in old editions; but in 3. 41 σπάργωσις Spargosis), for σπάργησις, f. σπαργᾶν to swell.]

†**1.** (See quot.) *Obs.*—°

1693 tr. *Blancard's Phys. Dict.* (ed. 2), *Sparganosis*, a Distention of the Breasts, occasioned by too much Milk. [Also in Phillips (1706), Bailey, Chambers (1753), etc.]

2. Puerperal swelling of the legs.

1822–7 Good *Study Med.* (1829) II. 633 This .. was an instance of erratic or metastatic rheumatism rather than sparganosis. *Ibid.* V. 612 In a singular enlargement of the lower extremity produced by a puerperal sparganosis.

Sparge (spāidʒ), *sb.* Also *Sc.* **spairge.** [f. next.]

1. The act of sprinkling or splashing; a sprinkle or slight dash (of liquor, etc.).

1808 in JAMIESON. 1819 W. TENNANT *Papistry Storm'd* (1827) 56 Chariots and horse-hoofs round did scatter Scamander's sand wi' spairge and splatter. 1867 G. W. DONALD *Poems* (1879) 72/2 A spairge may put us in repair When coughs an' caulds our stammacks pester.

2. *Brewing.* A spray of warm water sprinkled over the malt.

1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 107 The malt is exhausted by eight or ten successive sprinklings of liquor.., which are termed in the vernacular tongue, *sparges*. 1869 W. MOLYNEUX *Burton-on-Trent* 244 The 'sparge' is set to run on the malt an additional quantity of water.

Sparge (spāidʒ), *v.* Also 8–9 *Sc.* **spairge.** [app. ad. OF. *espargier* or L. *spargĕre* to sprinkle; but in sense **1** answering to PARGET *v.* and having the earlier variants SPARGEN and SPARGET.]

1. *trans.* To plaster; to rough-cast.

1560 *Edinb. Burgh Recs.* 62 To reparrall the kirk, to lay the throwchis thairof of new and sparge the samyn. 1597 *Rec. Elgin* (1908) II. 48 The haill eldaris hes promeist a boll lyme ilk ane of thame to sparge the kirk withall. *a* 1670 J. LAMONT *Diary* (1810) 156 Att this time also, the forepairt of the house was sparged, with the tower-head. 1883 *Almondbury Gloss.* 125 *Sparge*, to point or plaster the inside of a chimney.

2. To bespatter, besprinkle. Also *fig.*

1786 BURNS *A Dream* vii, An' Will's a true guid fallow's get, A Name not Envy spairges. 1821 LIDDLE *Poems* 127 Auld Cloot at last may spairge ye lightly.

3. To dash, splash, or sprinkle (water, etc.) about. Also *fig.*

1785–6 BURNS *Address to Deil* i, O thou!..Wha..Spairges about the brunstane cootie To scaud poor wretches! 1808 JAMIESON, *Spairge*, to dash; as, to spairge water. 1875 G. MACDONALD *Malcolm* I. i. 5 Nobody..at wad gang and spairge sic havers aboot her.

4. *Brewing.* To sprinkle (malt) with hot water. Also *absol.*

1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 107 It would keep up an uniform temperature in the goods, without requiring them to be sparged with very hot liquor. 1885 *Civilian* 3 Jan. 133/1 He, too, sparges for small beer with hot liquor.

Hence **Spa·rging** *vbl. sb.* Also *attrib.*

1590 in Pitcairn *Crim. Trials* (Bann. Cl.) I. iii. 210 Quha had offendit him in nocht spargeing of his chalmer. 1836 *Penny Cycl.* V. 404/2 If sparging or sprinkling the water over the goods should be adopted..instead of mashing. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 107 The only serious objection to the sparging system is the loss of time by the successive drainages. 1869 W. MOLYNEUX *Burton-on-Trent* 245 The malt has had its regulated series of spargings. 1876 *Encycl. Brit.* IV. 274/2 The heat of the sparging water.. must be modified by circumstances.

Spargefa·ction. *rare*$^{-1}$. [f. L. *spargĕ-re* to sprinkle: see -FACTION.] = next.

1704 SWIFT *T. Tub* Wks. 1768 I. 86 The operation was performed by Spargefaction in a proper time of the Moon.

Spargefica·tion. Also -ification. [f. as prec.: see -FICATION.] The action of sprinkling or scattering.

1835 MARRYAT *J. Faithful* ii, Wiping off his share of my liberal spargefication from his coat and waistcoat. 1836 E. HOWARD *R. Reefer* xiii, There was much spargefication of powder. 1892 *Sat. Rev.* 27 Aug. 257/1 There is a liberal spargification of melted butter over divers of the author's contemporaries.

Spa·rgelstone. *rare*$^{-1}$. [ad. G. *spargelstein*, f. *spargel* asparagus.] Asparagus-stone.

1804 R. JAMESON *Min.* I. 540 Asparagus, or Spargel Stone.

† **Spargen,** *v. Sc. Obs.* In 6 **spargein, -eon.** [Cf. PARGEN *v.* and SPARGE *v.* I.] *trans.* To parget.

1512 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* IV. 284 For xvj puncheonis plaister,..send to Dingwall to spargein the wallis tharof. 1562 WINȜET *Wks.* (S.T.S.) I. 14 The prophetis of it, spargeonit thaim with vntemperit morter.

Hence † **Spa·rgener,** a pargeter. *Obs.*

1600 *Rec. Convent. Roy. Burghs* II. 89 Masouns, sklatteris, painteris, spargeneris. 1641 *Acts Parl. Scot., Chas. I* (1870) V. 562/2 The haill Friemen of Masones,..spargineres, painteres.

Sparger (spā·ɪdʒəɹ). [f. SPARGE *v.*] An appliance for sprinkling water, esp. in brewing.

1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade, Sparger*, a copper cylinder, used by brewers for dashing or sprinkling. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2264/1 *Sparger*, a sprinkler; usually a cup with a perforated lid, or a pipe with a perforated nozzle. 1888 *Wine, Sp. & Beer* 8 Mar. 141/2 The rake mash machine is driven from underneath, so that nothing impedes the action of the rotary sparger.

† **Sparget,** *v. Obs.*$^{-0}$ [var. of PARGET *v.* Cf. SPARGE *v.* I and SPARGEN *v.*], *trans.* To parget.

Two MSS. have *sparchyn*, which may belong to SPARGE *v.*

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 467 Spargettyn, or pargette wallys.., *gipso, limo*. *Ibid.*, Spargeittynge, or pargettynge.

Spargification. : see SPARGEFICATION.

‖ **Spargo·sis.** *Path.* [Gr. σπάργωσις : see SPARGANOSIS.] (See quot.)

1867 [W. J.] E. WILSON *Dis. Skin* (ed. 6) 914 *Spargosis*,.. a substantive term applicable to elephantiasis Arabum, and bouchemia...We prefer spargosis to sparganosis.

Sparhawk (spā·ɪhɔ̄k). Now *arch.* or *dial.* Forms: *α.* 1 **spaerhabuc, spearhafoc,** 4–7 **sparhauk**(e, 5–6 *Sc.* **-halk,** 5–7 **-hawke,** 6– **sparhawk.** *β.* 4–6 **sperhauk**(e, 5–7 **-hawk**(e. *γ.* 4, 6 **sparehauk**(e, 5 **-hawk,** 7 **-haucke.** *δ.* 4, 6 **spere-hauke,** 5 **-hawk**(e. [OE. *spearhafoc*, f. the stem of *spearwa* SPARROW + *hafoc* HAWK: so ON. *sparrhaukr*.] A sparrowhawk.

α. c 725 *Corpus Gloss.* A 432 *Alietum*, spaerhabuc. *c* 1000 ÆLFRIC *Gloss.* in Wr.-Wülcker 132 *Accipiter, uel raptor*, spearhafoc. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 1789 Þe sparhauk flough be þe sterling. *c* 1374 CHAUCER *Troylus* III. 1192 What might or may the sely larke seie, Whanne that this sparhauk hath it in his foote? 1438 *Bk. Alexander Grt.* (Bann.) 12 It semis thay sparhalkis war & we lawrokis that durst bot dar. 1483 CAXTON *Cato* h vj b, It is sayd in a comyn prouerbe that crafte is better than the Sparhawke. 1560 ROLLAND *Seven Sages* 28 The Sparhalk is als swyft of flicht As the Griffoun. 1598 BP. HALL *Sat.* IV. iv. 88 Gallio may..tend his spar-hauke mantling in her mew. 1639 MASSINGER *Unnatural Combat* v. i, How her heart beats! Much like a partridge in a sparhawk's foot. 1661 J. CHILDREY *Brit. Bacon.* 13 Sparhawks, the most useless of Hawks. 1700 TYRRELL *Hist. Eng.* II. 820 The Ayries of Hawks, of Spar-Hawks. 1842 TENNYSON *Sir Launc. & Q. Guinevere* ii, Sometimes the sparhawk wheel'd along. 1865 KINGSLEY *Herew.* iv, In the first [copse] there built an eagle, in the second there built a sparhawk. 1891 'SON OF MARSHES' *Surrey Hills* (1894) 44 Spar'hawk, the woodmen call him.

β. 1377 LANGL. *P. Pl. B.* VI. 199 What pieres preyed hem to do as prest as a sperhauke. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) I. 335 Þere is grete plente of..sperhaukes. 1456 SIR G. HAYE *Law Arms* (S.T.S.) 299 That he be lord of his subjectis, as to the quaile the sper-hauk. *c* 1489 CAXTON *Sonnes of Aymon* vi. 152 The kyng gaaf to hym a sperhawke. 1539 FITZHERB. *Survey.* xi. 26 Except it be an entiere rent, as a sperhauke or a hora. 1555 EDEN *Decades* (Arb.) 300 Haukes, as faulcons, gerfalcons, lanners, and sperhaukes. 1602 L. LLOYD *Briefe Conf. Divers Lawes* 32 The feather of a sperhawke in their caps.

γ. a 1400 MAUNDEV. (1839) xxii. 238 Gerfacouns, Sparehaukes, Faukons gentyls. 1486 *Bk. St. Albans* c viij b, She may be also callid a spare hawke for .ij. Resones, oon is she sparith goshawkys and tercellys both. 1550 J. COKE *Eng. & Fr. Heralds* § 8 (1877) 60 Also we have hawkes of the towre,..lykewyse goshawkes, and sparehawkes for ladyes. 1587 GOLDING *De Mornay* xxvi. (1592) 416 The Woolfe, the Foxe,..the Sparehauke, the Kyte & so foorth. 1612 *Shuttleworths' Acc.* (Chetham Soc.) 201 Foure sparehaucke hoodes, xij^{d}. 1890 J. WATSON *Nat. & Woodcraft* viii, The Gamekeeper..will record a black and bloody list of depredations against the 'spare'-hawk.

δ. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XII. iv. (Bodl. MS.), Hereby it semeþ þ^{t} *alietus* and a litel sperehauke is all one. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 468/2 Sperehawke.., *nisus*. *c* 1500 *Melusine* xxiv. 175 His enemyes fled byfore hym as the partrych doth byfore the sperehauke.

† **Spa·rily,** *adv. Obs.* [f. SPARY *a.*] Sparingly; moderately; with restraint.

1603 HOLLAND *Plutarch's Mor.* 1289 Otherwise the priests drinke thereof but sparily. 1606 — *Sueton.* 56 He granted the freedom of the City of Rome, most sparily. 1633 D. R[OGERS] *Treat. Sacr.* ii. 51 Using liberty sparily. 1642 — *Naaman* 36, I will more sparily touch forraine nations and Churches.

Sparing (spē·ɹiŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. SPARE *v.*1]

1. The action of saving, economizing, or using with frugality.

c 1386 CHAUCER *Pars. T.* 835 Sparyng also þat restreyneth þe delicate ease to sitte long at his mete. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 467/2 Sparynge, *parcimonia*. 1565 COOPER *Thesaurus* s.v. *Circunscribo*, To limite riote within the boundes of thriftie sparyng. 1588 KYD *Househ. Phil.* Wks. (1901) 252 With industrie, sparing, and good husbandry [I] did much augment it. 1621 T. WILLIAMSON tr. *Goulart's Wise Vieillard* 72 Couetousnes..knowes no meane in sparing or spending. 1640 BP. HALL *Chr. Moder.* (Ward) 5/1 As too much bounty is prodigality, so too much sparing is niggardliness.

attrib. 1560 ROLLAND *Seven Sages* 96 Put spairing dayis and thame togidder, And sa small sall ȝe tyne. 1579–80 NORTH *Plutarch* (1895) III. 346 There was such store of gold and silver in the sparing cofers of their treasurie.

b. Const. *of* (the thing spared).

1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. v. 442 In speche and in sparynge of speche. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* II. 287 For sparinge of a litel cost Fulofte time a man hath lost The large cote for the hod. 1573 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 38 A Jack for to saw vpon fewell for fier, for sparing of firewood. 1607 DOD & CLEAVER *Expos. Prov. xi-xii.* 177 This sparing of speech, when men reserue themselues for fit occasions. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* II. 238 We haue vsed a great kind of sparing of the victuals in the store.

c. *pl.* That which is saved by economy; savings.

1628 GAULE *Pract. The.* (1629) Ep. Ded., The Sparings of want haue euer beene held more acceptable, then the Fallings of abundance. 1647 R. STAPYLTON *Juvenal* XIV. 141 First Poor little sparings, then th' insatiate thirst Of Getting. 1760 *Cautions & Adv. to Officers of Army* 124 Here is another Deduction to be made out of your Sparings. 1866 HOWELLS *Venetian Life* 66 The sparings for the whole week..are spent for this evening's amusement.

2. The action of leaving unhurt or uninjured, of showing mercy or forbearance, etc.

1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* VIII. 483 Thai..strak on thame forout sparing. 1422 tr. *Secreta Secret., Priv. Priv.* 181 The vertue of mekenesse kepyth the mene betwene Sparynge and vengeaunce. 1490 CAXTON *Eneydos* lxii. 162 They.. drewe out theyre sharpe swerdes. Thenne was there noo sparynge. *c* 1526 *Plumpton Corr.* (Camden) 226, I pray you be contented to give sparing to the next head Cort at Spoforth. 1585 T. WASHINGTON tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* III. 110 b, [They] cast vpon the head of euery one of them three small buckets full, without sparing of their clothes. *c* 1611 CHAPMAN *Iliad* v. 205 The Reason I laid down Was but the sparing of my horse. 1910 *Daily Chron.* 22 Jan. 3/2 They appear to kill all they can, leaving the sparing to some other time.

† **b.** Respite, delay. *Obs. rare.*

a 1513 FABYAN *Chron.* VII. (1811) 344 The mayre and the cytezyns..desyred a sparynge of yᵉ lordys tyll they myght speke wᵗ the Kynge. 1531 *Dial. on Laws Eng.* II. xiv. 37, I pray the gyue a lytle sparynge & procede now for this tyme to som othe[r] questyon.

Sparing (spē·ɹiŋ), *ppl. a.* and *adv.* [f. as prec.]

1. Inclined to save; exercising economy or frugality in using or spending; niggard.

pred. c 1386 CHAUCER *Melib.* P 633 Ye schul use the richesses..in such a maner, that men holde yow not skarce ne to sparynge. *c* 1400 *Rom. Rose* 5363 The riche men are loved ay, And namely tho that sparand bene. *c* 1440 *Alph. Tales* 66 Sho was so sparand, at sho wolde giff nothyng..vnto pure folke. 1568 GRAFTON *Chron.* II. 11 He was so couetous and sparing, that he woulde spende nothing more than he needes must. 1592 SHAKS. *Ven. & Ad.* 1147 It [*sc.* love] shall be sparing and too full of riot. 1807 CRABBE *Par. Reg.* I. 447 The wise frugality, that..saves to live; Sparing, not pinching, mindful though not mean.

attrib. c 1440 *Alph. Tales* 245 When he was a monke, he was a passand hard man, & a sparand. 1590 SHAKS. *Com. Err.* III. i. 27 A niggardly Host, and more sparing guest. 1601 F. GODWIN *Bps. Eng.* 94 He was a very frugal and sparing man, neuer esteeming pompe or outward brauery. 1639 J. CLARKE *Paræmiologia* 261 A sparing father, and a spending son. 1759 FRANKLIN *Ess.* Wks. 1840 III. 256, I most earnestly entreat you will not delay the supplies, nor deal them out with a sparing hand.

transf. 1766 JOHNSON *Let.* 14 Jan. in *Boswell*, The reasons, good or bad, which have made me such a sparing and ungrateful correspondent.

b. Observing economy or moderation, avoiding excess, in some specified respect. Const. *in, of,* † *for,* or † *to* (with inf.).

(*a*) 1604 E. G[RIMSTONE] *D'Acosta's Hist. Indies* IV. v. 217 Nature seemes more sparing in bringing it foorth. 1665 MANLEY *Grotius' Low-C. Wars* 151 The People..are very sparing in imposing and granting Subsidies. *a* 1682 SIR T. BROWNE *Tracts* (1683) 98 The Books of Scripture..are often silent, or very sparing, in the particular Names of Fishes. 1756 C. LUCAS *Ess. Waters* I. 154 The ancient Romans were very sparing in the use of wine. 1797–1805 S. & HT. LEE *Canterb. T.* II. 447 [She was] sparing in all she provided for herself. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* iii. I. 389 It was no longer necessary for the King to be sparing in the use of..his undoubted prerogative. *a* 1862 BUCKLE *Civiliz.* (1873) III. ii. 71 And they, who had the power, were not sparing in the use of it.

(*b*) 1615 DAY *Festivals* v. 120 Giue me one that is greedy, and Covetous & to to sparing of expences. 1683 D. A. *Art Converse* 55 Be sparing of your complements before his rivals. 1735 BERKELEY *Free-think. in Mathem.* § 34 Wks. 1871 III. 320, I advise you to be more sparing of hard words. 1758 JOHNSON *Idler* No. 1 P 7 He is now grown sparing of communication. 1824 MISS L. M. HAWKINS *Annaline* I. 33 He is as sparing of his letters as a brewer of his malt. 1880 RUSKIN *Bible Amiens* i. (1884) 4 [One] neither wasteful of his time nor sparing of it.

(*c*) 1656 EARL MONM. tr. *Boccalini's Advts. fr. Parnass.* I. lxxv. (1674) 92 [He] was not sparing for any pains, in procuring that the Sentence might be favourable. 1690 LOCKE *Hum. Und.* I. iii. § 14 Those who talk so confidently of them are so sparing to tell us which they are.

2. a. Characterized by reticence or restraint in discourse or statement.

1568 E. DERING (*title*), A sparing Restraint of many lauishe Vntruthes. 1594 SHAKS. *Rich. III*, III. vii. 194 For reuerence to some aliue I giue a sparing limit to my Tongue. 1601 W. W[ATSON] (*title*), A Sparing Discoverie of our English Jesuits. 1701 NORRIS *Ideal World* I. vi. 364 A very sparing and reserved allegation of a great authority. 1901 *Harper's Mag.* CII. 805/2 A certain sparing touch, with which he presents situation and character by mere statement of fact.

b. Marked by economy or frugality.

1611 COTGR., *Taille d'espargné*, cut with sparing worke. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* III. iii. (ed. 4) 438 To make the most of their jerked beef, by a very sparing distribution of it.

3. Small in amount, quantity, or extent; not lavish, liberal, or profuse; scanty, limited.

1602 BRETON *Mother's Blessing* xxiii, The sparing diet is the spirits feast. 1634 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* 147 Mouthes rather large then sparing. 1672 GREW *Anat. Pl., Idea* 10 The supplies from the Root being yet but slow and sparing. 1730–46 THOMSON *Autumn* 355 Be mindful of that sparing board, Which covers yours with luxury profuse. 1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 595 Where only the sparing use of lime is admissible, it should be used to the coping. 1857 MILLER *Elem. Chem., Org.* iii. § 5. 187 The sparing solubility of chloroform in water.

b. With agent-nouns: Slight, very moderate.

1860 SMILES *Self-Help* x. 273 Many of our most energetic and useful workers have been but sparing readers. 1883 V. STUART *Egypt* 230 He was a wonderfully sparing sleeper.

4. Forbearing; merciful, considerate.

c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xviii. (*Egiptian*) 733 To god ay lowynge be, þat..sparand Is to wrak of synful. 1605 SHAKS. *Lucr.* 1687 Let the traitor die; For sparing justice feeds iniquity. *a* 1626 BACON (J.), Their king..was sparing and compassionate towards his subjects. 1658–9 in *Burton's Diary* (1828) III. 329 It is easy to misconstrue the debates of this House if we be not sparing one with the other. 1786 BURNS *Holy Fair* xxi, Black Russell is na spairan: His piercin words like Highlan swords Divide the joints an' marrow.

5. As *adv.* Sparingly.

1623 PENKETHMAN *Handf. Hon.* II. xvii, Thy gaines vse sparing. 1627 FELTHAM *Resolves* II. xxiii. Wks. (1677) 42, I will never censure any man,..but sparing, and with modesty. – 1742 YOUNG *Nt. Th.* II. 49 Part with it as with money, sparing.

Sparingly (spē·ɹiŋli), *adv.* [f. prec. + -LY 2.]

1. In a sparing or saving manner; frugally, economically.

c 1440 *Jacob's Well* 206 þi wyif & chyld muste sparynglye as hem nedyth spendyn of þi euyl getyn good. 1571 GOLDING *Calvin on Ps.* xxxvii. 19 He teacheth us thriftynesse, by dealing out sparingly. 1598 R. BERNARD tr.

Terence, Andr. I. i, *Si.* At the first she lived chastely, sparingly, and hardly, earning her living by wooll and webbe. 1611 Cotgr., *Frugalement*, frugally, thriftily, sparingly. 1776 Adam Smith *W. N.* II. i. (1869) I. 275 He consumes his stock as sparingly as he can. 1781 Cowper *Hope* 521 He..Is sober, meek, benevolent, and prays, Feeds sparingly. 1873 Symonds *Grk. Poets* xi. 368 Your goods enjoy, as if about to die; As if about to live, use sparingly.

2. In a restricted or limited manner; very moderately, scantily, slightly.

1555 *Lydgate's Chron. Troy* To Rdr., He shall be compelled to put on..theyr fantasye, and yet..sparinglye. 1588 A. King tr. *Canisius' Catech.* 175 He quha saues sparinglie sal scheer sparinglie, as the Apostle witnessis. 1617 Moryson *Itin.* I. 36 We passed..through a Fenny ground and woods of Oake, yeelding some corne, but sparingly. 1684-5 Boyle *Min. Waters* 79 To make some estimate, how copiously or sparingly the Liquor is impregnated with it. *a* 1722 Lisle *Husb.* (1757) 236 The clover has not come up at all, or but very sparingly. 1784 Cowper *Tiroc.* 198 And taught at schools much mythologic stuff, But sound religion sparingly enough. 1812 *New Botanic Gard.* I. 42 They should be often but sparingly watered. 1843 R. J. Graves *Syst. Clin. Med.* xxvi. 331 Cases where the chancre had..suppurated sparingly. 1871 L. Stephen *Playgr. Eur.* (1894) ii. 54 A bit of rough scenery..might be admitted into descriptions, though sparingly.

b. Of eating or drinking: In great moderation; abstemiously.

1574 Newton *Health Mag.* 37 All kindes of Shelfishes..are seldom and sparingelie to be eaten. 1630 *R. Johnson's Kingd. & Commw.* 52 Their Wines..are hurtfull to all,..except sparingly taken. 1668 H. More *Div. Dial.* v. i. (1713) 400 But both you and Philotheus ate so sparingly. 1717 L. Howel *Desiderius* (ed. 3) 171 Pray, how must I tast or eat this Fruit? Very sparingly, says he. 1760 *Phil. Trans.* LI. 849 By..his living sparingly, and being confined to his bed, he became much emaciated. 1805 Southey *Madoc* II. iv, Sparingly Drink, for it hath a strength to stir the brain. 1865 *Cornh. Mag.* XI. 489 He sipped sparingly the other in acknowledgment of our politeness.

c. Of speaking, etc.: With reserve or restraint; not fully or copiously.

1576 Fleming *Panopl. Epist.* 80, I wrote of you (by my credite and honestie) sparingly and timorously. 1583 G. Babington *Commandm.* (1590) 402 When a man speaketh of himselfe, let him speak sparinglie, but not falsely. 1605 Earl Stirling *Alexandr. Trag.* II. ii, Speake sparingly of vice, praise virtue much. 1681 Flavel *Meth. Grace* vii. 145 Though there be such a thing as an explicit faith sometimes spoken of among them, yet it is very sparingly discoursed. 1754 Chatham *Lett. Neph.* iv. 21 Deliver your own opinions sparingly, and with proper diffidence. 1796 H. Hunter tr. *St.-Pierre's Stud. Nat.* (1799) III. 111 They reasoned sparingly on the subject of those Sacred Books. 1825 Lytton *Falkland* 39 Which in modern writings have been so sparingly exposed.

d. To a slight extent; in a small degree.

1796 Withering *Brit. Plants* (ed. 3) III. 565 Stalks naked: leaves sparingly serrated. 1804 *Phil. Trans.* XCIV. 428 Octaedral crystals.., that are very sparingly soluble in water. 1835 J. Duncan *Beetles* (Nat. Lib.) 268 The head and thorax are black and shining, the latter sparingly punctured. 1855 Scoffern in *Orr's Circ. Sci., Elem. Chem.* 502 Silver is sparingly attacked by strong hydrochloric acid. 1871 Garrod & Baxter *Mat. Med.* (ed. 3) 47 Soluble in water, more sparingly in spirit.

3. With restriction to a few occasions; seldom, infrequently.

1590 Swinburne *Testaments* 13 When Codicilles were first inuented, they were vsed very sparinglie. *c* 1643 Ld. Herbert *Autobiog.* (1824) 89 As for hunting in his Forests I told him I should use it sparingly. 1666 Dryden *Ann. Mirab.* Pref. (1910) 21 A grave Sentence, affected by Lucan, but more sparingly used by Virgil. 1748 Hartley *Observ. Man* I. iv. § 1. 426 Discords..sparingly introduced so as to make a strong Contrast. 1803 *Med. Jrnl.* 271 The lancet, however, was more sparingly employed. 1849 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* iii. I. 297 Military punishments were doubtless inflicted..; but they were inflicted very sparingly. 1876 Freeman *Norm. Conq.* V. xxiv. 389 The Parliament of England has, for some ages, but sparingly exercised its right of personal election.

4. Leniently, gently.

1863 Miss Braddon *Aurora Floyd* I. 5 Autumn's red finger has been lightly laid upon the foliage—sparingly.

Sparingness (spē°rĭŋnĕs). [f. Sparing *ppl. a.*] The quality of being sparing: **a.** In respect of diet, living, expenditure, etc.

1579 Twyne *Phis. agst. Fortune* I. xlii. 61 They are most agreable to the auncient sparyngnesse, and the manners of the Romanes. *a* 1603 T. Cartwright *Confut. Rhem. N. T.* (1618) 370 To the end, that (by the sparingnesse and homelinesse of their diet,) they..might serue for figures of our Sauiour. 1653 Holcroft *Procopius, Goth. Wars* III. 82 With a provident sparingnesse he gave them food more scarcely then according to their appetite. 1682 Norris *Hierocles* 98 Too much Sparingness [will slide] into Sordidness and Slovenliness. 1726 Shelvocke *Voy. round World* 411 By these exercises, and the sparingness of their diet. 1732 *Rape of Helen* Pref. p. v, The few books of English poetry which thro' sparingness I have purchased. 1853 Ruskin *Stones Ven.* II. vii. § 11. 240 A lightness of form and sparingness of material. 1873 Helps *Anim. & Mast.* iii. (1875) 65 It affords a beautiful illustration of the prudence and sparingness of what we call Nature.

b. In other connexions.

1617 Moryson *Itin.* II. 50 In secrecy, and in sparingnesse of speech. 1671 [R. MacWard] *True Nonconf.* 189 For all your sparingness in passing judgment. 1717 L. Howel *Desiderius* (ed. 3) 138 Courtesy, and Affability, justly modified with Slowness and Sparingness of Words. 1828 Miss Mitford *Village* Ser. III. (1863) 60 A prodigality of words which the fair poetess endeavoured to counterbalance by a corresponding sparingness of idea. 1904 *Athenæum* 2 Apr. 423/3 The artistic selection and sparingness of their inclusions.

Spark (spāɹk), *sb.*[1] Forms: α. 1 spærca, spearca, 3–7 sparke (4 spearke), 6 sparcke; 3 spærc, 3–4 sparc, 4– spark (5 *Sc.* sprak, 6 sparck). β. 3–5 sperke, 5, 9 *Sc.* sperk. [OE. *spærca, spearca*, = MDu. *sparke, spaerke* (WFlem. *sparke, sperke*), MLG. and LG. *sparke*, of obscure origin and not represented in the other Teutonic languages. With most of the senses compare those of Sparkle *sb.*]

1. A small particle of fire, an ignited fleck or fragment, thrown off from a burning body or remaining in one almost extinguished, or produced by the impact of one hard body on another.

c 725 *Corpus Gloss.* (Hessels) S 192 *Scintella*, spærca. *a* 900 *O. E. Martyrol.* 25 Aug. 152 Þa eaȝan wæron swylce fyren iren, ond him sprungon spearcan of þam muðe. *c* 1055 *Byrhtferth's Handboc* in *Anglia* VIII. 320 Hyt beoð spearcan of þam rodere þurh þæs windes blæs. *a* 1225 *Juliana* (Royal MS.) 68 An engel..iþat ferliche fur amidden riht lihte, ant hit cwenchte anan, euer euch sperke [*Bodl. MS.* sparke]. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 25756 Na mar þan a sparc in see, Mai sin agains his merci be. *c* 1384 Chaucer *H. Fame* 2079 As fire ys wont to quyk and goo From a sparke. *c* 1470 *Gol. & Gaw.* 629 Thai hewit on hard steil..Quhil the spalis and the sparkis spedely out sprang. 1570 Levins *Manip.* 81 A sperke, *scintilla*. 1596 Drayton *Legends* ii. 545 A little sparke extinguish'd to the Eye, That glowes againe e'r suddenly it dye. 1667 Milton *P. L.* iv. 814 As when a spark Lights on a heap of nitrous Powder. 1774 Goldsm. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) I. 83 Spirits of wine will flame with a candle, but not with a spark. 1836–41 Brande *Chem.* (ed. 5) 230 If we apply a spark to a small heap of gunpowder, it is instantly dissipated in the gaseous form. 1888 F. Hume *Mme. Midas* I. v, Every blow of the pick sent forth showers of sparks in all directions.

b. With *of* (fire, etc.).

c 1400 *Laud Troy Bk.* 7732 He fferd, as he scholde men haue brent With spark of fire that fro him glent. 1423 Jas. I *Kingis Q.* 48 A ruby..That, as a sperk of lowe,..Semyt birnyng vpon hir quhyte throte. 1560 Bible (Geneva) *Job* xli. 10 Out of his mouth go lampes, and sparkes of fyre leape out. 1613 Shaks. *Hen. VIII*, II. iv. 73 My drops of teares Ile turne to sparkes of fire. 1726 Swift *Gulliver* II. vii, The smallest spark of fire..would kindle the whole. 1827 Faraday *Chem. Manip.* xxiv. (1842) 638 A splinter of wood, with a spark of fire at the extremity.

c. In similes or comparisons.

c 1205 Lay. 21482 Cador sprong to horse swa spærc him doh of fure. *c* 1300 *Havelok* 91 Of knith ne hauede he neuere drede, þat he ne sprong forth so sparke of glede. *c* 1386 Chaucer *Sir Thopas* 194 Forþ vppon his way [he] glode As sparke out of þe bronde. 1390 Gower *Conf.* I. 258 Bot such conseil ther mai be non,..That it nys lich the Sparke fyred Up in the Rof. 1535 Coverdale *Ecclus.* xlii. 22 O how amiable are all his workes, & as a sparke to loke vpon? *a* 1591 H. Smith *Serm.* (1637) 199 His was but a momentary kingdome, like a sparke which riseth from the fire, and falleth into the fire again. 1611 Bible *Job* v. 7 Yet man *is* borne vnto trouble, as the sparkes flie vpward. 1891 Farrar *Darkn. & Dawn* xiii, The grace of God still lived as a faint spark, not wholly quenched, under the whitening embers of his life.

d. *fig.* and in fig. context; freq. with allusion to the beginning or immediate cause of a fire or conflagration.

c 888 K. Ælfred *Boeth.* v. § 3 Of ðæm lytlan spearcan þe þu mid ðære tyndran ȝefenge, lifes leoht þe onlyhte. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 296 Ȝif hit out stureð þe, cwench hit mid teares of watere,..þeo hwule þet hit nis buten a sperke. 1340 *Ayenb.* 137 Huet am ich bote esssse, and spearken, and hor, and stench. 1480 Caxton *Chron. Eng.* III. (1520) 20/2 The power of god to the whiche power all other ben but a sperke and dust. 1560 Daus tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 134 b, For Sathan can rayse up a great flamme through Gods permission, of a verey small sparke. 1609 in *Harl. Misc.* (Malh.) III. 87 That Illustrious Sparke of Honor and Vertue, Sir Robert Sherley. 1631 Gouge *God's Arrows* IV. § 13. 391 Yet were..the sparkes of that fire so blowne up, as dazled the eyes of the Papists. 1655 Fuller *Ch. Hist.* VI. 302 Hereat, that King who was a spark in Himself, was enflamed to that designe by this Prelates perswasion. 1752 Hume *Ess. & Treat.* (1777) II. 134 The smallest spark may here kindle into the greatest flame. 1781 Cowper *Conversat.* 148 Their want of light and intellect supplied By sparks absurdity strikes out of pride. 1845 Disraeli *Sybil* VI. ix, Left alone they might have remained quiet; but they only wanted the spark. 1857 Buckle *Civilia.* I. x. 600 To put them in a state where, the train being laid, the slightest spark sufficed to kindle a conflagration.

e. *A spark in one's throat* (see quot. 1785). *slang.*

1721 Kelly *Sc. Prov.* 334 The Smith has ay a Spark in his Haise [=halse]. And they often take pains to quench it. 1785 Grose *Dict. Vulgar T.* s.v., A man that is always thirsty, is said to have a spark in his throat. 1820 J. Hodgson in Raine *Mem.* (1857) I. 292 He has a spark in his throat which often requires to be cooled. 1842 Tennyson *Will Waterproof* 109 She lit the spark within my throat, To make my blood run quicker.

2. A small trace, indication, or portion *of* some quality, feeling, sentiment, etc., in some way comparable to a spark, esp. in respect of its latent possibilities.

c 888 K. Ælfred *Boeth.* xxxv. § 5 Sum spearca..soðfæstnesse. *Ibid.* xxxviii. § 7 Ðif ða scyldȝan æniȝne spearcan wisdomes hæfden. 1500–20 Dunbar *Poems* lxx. 11 Ane spark of thy hie excellent prudence Giff ws. 1581 J. Bell *Haddon's Answ. Osor.* 388 Not a sparcke so much of Reason, example, or proofe. 1601 J. Wheeler *Treat. Comm.* 101 For the which they neuer shewed any sparke of thankfulnesse. 1697 J. Potter *Antiq. Greece* I. x. (1715) 58 All Sparks of Generosity and Man-hood. *a* 1770 Jortin *Serm.* (1771) I. iii. 41 Whilst any spark of spiritual life remains. 1775 Sheridan *Duenna* II. iii, If any sparks of anger had remained.. 1820 W. Irving *Sketch Bk.* I. 110 They still kept alive the sparks of future friendship. 1868 Freeman *Norm. Conq.* (1877) II. vii. 22 The King who reigned without a spark of English feeling.

b. A small remnant, fragment, piece, atom, or amount, *of* something.

1548 Elyot s.v. *Scintilla*, That no sparke of that moste cruell warre be lefte. *a* 1568 in *Bannatyne MS.* (Hunter. Club) 344 He het the milk our hett, And sorrow spark of it wald yyrne. 1581 J. Bell *Haddon's Answ. Osor.* 150 b, It is neither the cause it selfe, nor any sparcke of the cause. 1638 R. Baker tr. *Balzac's Lett.* (vol. III) 9 From whom in fifteene days I have received but one small sparke of a letter.

c. A speck or spot upon a ground or in a substance of a different colour.

1686 Plot *Staffordsh.* 158 Though it seem to be a white marble fill'd with black sparks. 1873 Spon *Workshop Rec.* Ser. I. 401/2 To make the ink fly off in sparks over the edges of the book.

3. The vital or animating principle in man; a trace *of* life or vitality. Freq. in *vital spark, spark of life.*

1382 Wyclif 2 *Sam.* xiv. 7 Thei sechen to quench my spark that is laft. *c* 1440 *Alph. Tales* 495 Go away fro me, womman, ffor yit þer is a sparke of lyfe in me. 1592 Kyd *Sp. Trag.* II. v. 17 O speak, if any sparke of life remaine. 1700 Rowe *Amb. Step-Moth.* I. i. 218 From whose bright Beings Those active Sparks were struck which move our Clay. 1712 Pope *Dying Chr.* 1 Vital spark of heav'nly flame! 1794 Mrs. Radcliffe *Myst. Udolpho* xxix, She lay so long insensible that Emily began to fear that the spark of life was extinguished. 1817 *Gentl. Mag.* Aug. 174/1 The vital spark was extinct before the body was picked up. *a* 1892 Tennyson *God & the Universe* i, Will my tiny spark of being wholly vanish in your deeps and heights?

4. a. A small diamond († or other precious stone). Originally *diamond* (or *ruby*) *spark* and *spark of diamond*, etc.

(*a*) 1508 Dunbar *Gold. Targe* 24 Hevinly beriall droppis,..birnyng as ruby sperkis. *c* 1550 Rolland *Crt. Venus* I. 111 With Rubie sparkis ane greit number to se. 1632 Lithgow *Trav.* III. 85 Being the goodliest plot, the Diamond sparke, and the Honny spot of all Candy. 1701 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 3718/4 A Gold Twisted Tooth Pick Case set with Diamond Sparks. 1748 Smollett *R. Random* lix, A ring set with a ruby..surrounded by diamond sparks. 1813 Scott *Rokeby* I. xxi, Ingot of gold and diamond spark. 1869 Tennyson *Passing Arth.* 224 For all the haft twinkled with diamond sparks.

(*b*) 1551 Sir J. Williams *Accompte* (Abbotsf. Club) 50 Balaces, small sparkes of emeraldes, and small coursse perles. 1577 in Nichols *Progr. Q. Eliz.* (1788) II. 14 Item,.. xvi small rubyes being but sparcks, and v sparcks of dyamonds. 1629 Massinger *Picture* II. ii, Good Madam what shall he doe with a hoop ring, And a sparke of diamond in it? *a* 1694 Tillotson *Serm.* ccxiii. (1744) XI. 485 The little and short sayings of wise and excellent men are of great value, like the dust of gold, or the least sparks of diamond. 1756–7 tr. *Keysler's Trav.* (1760) II. 275 The Florentine work..consists of sparks of gems and small pieces of the finest marble. *a* 1774 Goldsm. *Surv. Exp. Philos.* (1776) I. 379 As for those things which cannot be thus weighed, such as quicksilver, small sparks of diamond, and such like.

(*c*) 1599 *George a Greene* I. iv, A chaplet..Set with choice rubies, sparkes, and diamonds. 1614 in *Archæol.* XLII. 350 A hoope ringe with 9 sparkes. 1675 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 987/4 A Diamond Ring with three very large stones, and some sparks. 1710 Steele *Tatler* No. 245 ¶ 2 Another [ring] set round with small Rubies and Sparks. 1771 T. Hull *Sir W. Harrington* (1797) II. 239 The lockets are..one,.. with the cyphers of her name put on it, set with very small sparks. 1874 *Slang Dict.* 303 *Sparks*, diamonds. Term much in use among the lower orders, and generally applied to stones in rings and pins.

fig. 1758 S. Hayward *Serm.* xvi. 470 The sparks of this crown are perfect holiness and a conformity to God.

b. A (glittering) fragment or particle *of* some metal, ore, or mineral. Also *transf.*

1560 Whitehorne *Ord. Souldiours* (1588) 44 b, If you will make it parfiter, put to it a few stamped brickes, and sparkes of yron. 1581 Stafford *Exam. Compl.* ii. (1876) 51 To trie out the sandes..to get amonge them after much labour small sparkes of gold. 1653 Manlove *Custome Lead Mines* 273 Trunks and Sparks of oar. *a* 1702 Maundrell *Journ. Jerus.* (1721) Add. 10 Tho' it had the sparks and particles of Salt, yet it had perfectly lost its Savour. 1796 Morse *Amer. Geog.* I. 522 This bluish stone was filled with sparks of virgin-copper.

5. A bright or glittering emanation, flash, or gleam of light. Also *transf.*, a bright glance.

a 1542 Wyatt in *Anglia* XVIII. 479 The lyuely sparkes that issue from those lyes. 1621 Cotgr., *Bluette*, a little streake, or sparke of heat, in the aire, when the season is verie hot. 1687 A. Lovell tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* II. 195 At first I took them for sparks that are many times seen to flash out of the Sea, when the water is very rough. 1746 Hervey *Medit.* (1818) 256 Abundance of living sparks glitter in the lanes, and twinkle under the hedges. 1750 tr. *Leonardus' Mirr. Stones* 86 Of this stone there is one kind, of a gold colour, with some flurting sparks. 1814 Scott *Lord of Isles* v. xii, Beneath their oars the ocean's might Was dash'd to sparks of glimmering light. 1889 *Pall Mall G.* 16 Nov. 3/1 At the sound of her native tongue, a spark came into her dark eyes.

Comb. 1602 Marston *Ant. & Mel.* II. Wks. 1856 I. 20 Delicate, delicious, spark eyed, sleek skind, slender wasted, clean legd, rarely shapt.

b. *Med.* In *pl.*, the glittering caused by the gathering of particles of cholesterin upon the eye in sparkling synchisis.

1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 42 It is conceivable that sparks or similar subjective phenomena, may appear from sudden and powerful contraction of the orbicularis palpebrarum compressing the globe.

6. *Electr.* A brilliant streak or flash of light produced by a discontinuous discharge of electricity between two conductors at a short or moderate distance apart.

[1742 Desaguliers *Diss. Electricity* 7 If the Room be darken'd when you make these Experiments, you will see Sparks of Light where-ever the Tube snaps.] 1748 Franklin *Lett.*, etc. Wks. 1840 V. 205 That thimble in passing by, receives a spark, and thereby being electrified is repelled. 1788 *Phil. Trans.* LXXVIII. 271 Now, when the machine worked well, Mr. Gilpin supposes he got about two or three hundred sparks a minute. 1827 Faraday *Chem. Manip.* xvii. (1842) 435 Upon putting the prime conductor into its place,..sparks two or three inches in length should fly rapidly from it to the knuckle. 1873 J. C. Maxwell *Electr. & Magn.* (1881) I. 57 The discharge, when it occurs, usually takes the form of a spark.

b. More fully in *electric(al) spark*. Also *transf.* and *fig.*

1771 *Encycl. Brit.* II. 480/1 The electric spark will strike a hole through a quire of paper. 1831 Brewster *Optics* x. 86 Similar bands are perceived in the light..of the electric spark. 1840 *Brit. Florist* (1846) I. 72 The flowers of this genus may be seen..to emit small electrical sparks or threads of light. 1846 Grote *Greece* I. xvii. (1862) I. 401 Animated by the electric spark of genius.

7. *attrib.* and *Comb.* a. In the names of contrivances for the arresting, etc., of sparks in locomotive funnels or in chimneys, as *spark-arrester, -baffler, guard, plate, trap.*

Also, in recent use, *spark-condenser, -consumer*, etc.

1833 Loudon *Encycl. Archit.* § 799 What is called a spark plate (a broad plate of cast iron, to reflect back the sparks, and prevent their reaching up to the hops). 1838 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* I. 134/1 The adaptation of this contrivance, and also the spark arrester, is very much called for. 1873 Medley *Autumn Tour U.S. & Canada* ix. 142 The locomotives are generally provided with spark-bafflers to the funnels. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* I. 145/2 In American locomotives the top of the funnel is..fitted with a contrivance known as a 'spark-trap' or 'spark-arrester'. 1901 *Scotsman* 7 Mar. 6/1 To force railway companies to attach spark guards to locomotive engines.

b. In the names of electrical apparatus, or devices in internal-combustion motors, as *spark-chronograph, coil, -condenser, -gap, -recorder.*

Many others, of recent introduction, are recorded and explained in technical and encyclopædic dictionaries.

1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2254/1 *Spark-condenser* (Electricity), an instrument..used for burning metals or obtaining the spectra of gases. 1888 *Encycl. Brit.* XXIII. 124/2 The spark recorder in some respects foreshadowed the more perfect instrument—the siphon recorder. 1889 *Telegr. Jrnl.* 10 May 550/2 An insulated rod, with an induction coil and spark gap. 1889 *Anthony's Photogr. Bull.* II. 294 The time..I had calculated exactly by means of spark-chronographs. 1902 *How to make Things* 3/2 A half-inch spark coil will give very good results.

Spark (spāɹk), *sb.*[2] [prob. a figurative use of prec.: cf. I d, quot. 1609.]

1. A woman of great beauty, elegance, or wit.

1575 R. B. *Appius & Virginia* in Hazl. *Dodsley* IV. 112 But stay: behold the peerless sparks, whereof my tongue did talk, Approach. 1611 Chapman *Widowes T.* I. i, I will wed thee To my great widdowes Daughter and sole Heire, The louely sparke, the bright Laodice. 1676 Etheredge *Man of Mode* I. i, The Vizard is a spark and has a genius that makes her worthy of your self, Dorimant. 1873 Browning *Red Cott. Nt.-Cap* 181 The poor mutilated figure, once The gay and glancing fortunate young spark, Miranda.

2. A young man of an elegant or foppish character; one who affects smartness or display in dress and manners. Chiefly in more or less depreciatory use.

c 1600 *Timon* II. iii. (1842) 30 Theis noble sparkes desires your company. 1627 N. Burley in Capt. Smith *Seaman's Gram.* aij, The Galley Iason built, that Græcian sparke. 1685 Luttrell *Brief Rel.* (1857) I. 339 Mr. Cradock the mercer, a highflown spark, died lately of a St. Anthonies fire. 1709 Pope *Ess. Crit.* 329 These sparks with awkward vanity display What the fine gentlemen wore yesterday. 1782 Wolcott (P. Pindar) *Ode to R. A.'s* Wks. 1812 I. 35 Some young roving Military Spark. 1818 *Sporting Mag.* (N. S.) II. 170 Another dapper spark took the place of the prosecutor. 1852 Thackeray *Esmond* III. iii, She invited the agreeable young spark to visit her if ever he came to London. 1884 J. Gilmour *Mongols* 227 The young spark did not relish his rebuke much, but he did not dare to disobey.

b. Used with *my* (see My *poss. adj.* I c).

1700 S. L. tr. *Fryke's Voy. E. Ind.* 207 When I came to go, I found my Spark gone, and was told he was gone off half an Hour before. 1710 Steele *Tatler* No. 2 ¶ 1 However, my young Spark ventures upon her like a Man of Quality. 1778 Miss Burney *Evelina* xxxvii, Hark'ee, my spark, none of your grinning!

3. A beau, lover, or suitor. Freq. with poss. pron.

1706–7 Farquhar *Beaux' Strat.* IV. ii, Had my Spark call'd me a Venus directly, I shou'd have believ'd him a Footman in good earnest. 1747 Hoadly *Suspicious Husband* II. i, I and my Spark have been long acquainted. 1812 Crabbe *Tales* iv. 266 Am I forsaken for a trimmer spark? 1839 Marryat *Diary Amer.* Ser. I. I. 141 The first time I ever heard ladies complain of having too many sparks about them. 1871 Browning *Balaust.* 1553 The poor poltroon A very woman worsted, daring death Just for the sake of thee, her handsome spark!

4. *attrib.*, as *spark spirit, wit.*

1602 Marston *Ant. & Mel.* V. Wks. 1856 I. 59 Sparke spirit, how like you his voice? 1642 D. Rogers *Naaman* 238 Your sparke wits, ripe heads, experience and abilities.

Spark, *sb.*[3] *s.w. dial.* [Back-formation from Sparked *ppl. a.*] 'A spotted or parti-coloured bullock.'

1798 *Young's Annals Agric.* XXX. 314 He objects to sparks. 1888 Elworthy *W. Somerset Word-bk.* 697.

Spark (spāɹk), *v.*[1] Also 5 **sparkyn**, 6–7 **sparke**, 6 *Sc.* **sperk**. [Related to Spark *sb.*[1], and agreeing in form with MDu. *sparken, spaerken, sperken* (WFlem. *sparken, sperken*, WFris. *sparkje*), MLG. *sparken.* The OE. vb. was *spircan, spyrcan* (:—**spiɹcan*), but **spearcade* is a plausible emendation of *sweartade* in *Satan* 78.]

1. *intr.* To emit or give forth a spark or sparks; to sparkle. Also *transf.* and in fig. context.

c 1300 *Havelok* 2144 It sparkede, and ful brith shon, So doth þe gode charbucle ston. 1398 Trevisa *Barth. De P. R.* XVII. cxlix, Þornes..beþ sone itende in þe fuyre.. and sparkeþ and crakkeþ and makeþ moche noyse. *c* 1460 *Promp. Parv.* (Winch. MS.) 462 Sparkyn, *sintillo.* 1562 J. Heywood *Prov. & Epigr.* (1867) 99, I neuer heard thy fyre once sparke. 1611 Cotgr., *Estinceller*, to sparke, to sparkle, as fire. 1763 C. Berkeley in Jesse *Selwyn & Contemp.* (1843) I. 244 Her temper is like charcoal, which kindles soon, and sparks to the top of the house.

b. *transf.* Of the eyes, or in reference to these.

1594 Spenser *Amoretti* lxxxi, Fayre is my loue, when.. in her eyes the fyre of loue does sparke. 1631 Quarles *Samson* xix, Her eyes did sparke, At every glance, like Diamonds in the darke. 1827 Hood *Hero & Leander* ix, Their cheeks are white.., And those fair mirrors where their joys did spark, All dim.

2. To issue, come forth, fall, etc., as or in the manner of sparks. Also *transf.*

1513 Douglas *Æneid* III. viii. 132 The blak laithly smuke ..With gledis sperkand as the haill als thik. 1873 Black *Pr. Thule* 13 The sunlight that..sparked on his teeth when he laughed. 1897 Crockett *Lad's Love* viii, The anger fair sparked and blazed from her dark, indignant eyes.

b. With advs., as *off, out.*

1833 M. Scott *Tom Cringle* iii, Every now and then a flying fish would spark out from the unruffled bosom of the heaving water. 1889 *Pall Mall G.* 11 Nov. 6/1 If the phosphorus 'sparks' off, as it is apt to do.

c. To go *out*, be extinguished, like sparks.

1845 Bailey *Festus* (ed. 2) 269 These have died, are dying, and shall die; Yea, copyists shall die, spark out and out.

3. *trans.* a. To send *out*, or emit, in or as sparks.

1596 Spenser *F. Q.* VI. xi. 21 To sparke out litle beames, like starres in foggie night. 1610 Heywood *Gold. Age* III. i, Threaten your worst! let all your eyes spark fire!

b. To illuminate or enlighten feebly.

1835 E. Elliott *Wonders of the Lane* xxiv. Poems III. 77 Oh, God of terrors! what are we?—Poor insects, spark'd with thought!

c. *Electr.* To affect, act or operate upon, by the emission or transmission of electrical sparks. Also *absol.*, to send a spark *across*, etc.

1889 *Philos. Mag.* Ser. v. XXVII. 339 Whenever a large Leyden jar is sparked through the coil. 1895 *Daily Chron.* 13 Apr. 3/5 Professor Ramsay saw..that he had some gas, and was eager to 'spark' it. 1905 *Brit. Med. Jrnl.* 1 July 14 Whenever this [gap] is sparked across, the tube is softened slightly by the regulator.

4. *Sc.* and *north. dial.* a. To spatter (dirt, etc.).

1637 Rutherford *Lett.* (1862) I. clxiii. 379 My desire is to ride fair and not to spark dirt..in the face of my..well-beloved.

b. To bespatter or spot with mud, etc. Also *fig.*

1806 Douglas *Poems* 81 Young lasses' fame, my dainty joe, Is unco easy sparkit. 1808 Jamieson App., *To Spark*, ..to soil by throwing up small spots of mire. 1894 Heslop *Northumb. Gloss.* 674 The coach gan past sparkt us.

Spark (spāɹk), *v.*[2] [f. Spark *sb.*[2]]

†1. *intr.* With *it.* To play the spark or gallant; to make a display, show off. *Obs.*

1676 Etheredge *Man of Mode* I. i, That she may spark it in a Box, And do honour to her profession. 1688 Shadwell *Sqr. Alsatia* I. i, Enough [money] to set thee up to spark it in thy brother's face. 1709 Mrs. Manley *Secret Mem.* I. 164 To purchase..a Back-place in their Coach, that they may spark it in the Prado.

2. *U.S.* To engage in courtship; to play the suitor, wooer, or beau. Also with *it.*

1807–8 W. Irving *Salmag.* (1824) 276 Whenever he went a sparking amongst the rosy country girls of the neighbouring farms. 1848 Bartlett *Dict. Amer.* 322 (with quots.). 1862 Lowell *Biglow P.* Ser. II. *Courtin'* ix, He'd sparked it with full twenty gals. 1884 *Harper's Mag.* Feb. 410/2 He used to go sparkin' round among the girls.

b. *trans.* To make love or pay attentions to; to court.

1888 Gunter *Mr. Potter* xiv. 176, I've heard as how young Errol is a sparking your daughter. 1893 *Harper's Mag.* Feb. 372/2 The parents..sit in the room while he 'sparks' the ravisher of his heart.

Sparked, *ppl. a. s.w. dial.* (and *U.S.*). Also 6 **sparkyd**, 8–9 **-it**. [app. f. Spark *sb.*[1]; cf. sense 2 c there.]

1. Of cattle, etc., or their colour: Mottled, dappled; parti-coloured.

[1457 in *Somerset Med. Wills* (1901) 172 Boviculum sparcatum.] 1552 *Will J. Harte* (Somerset Ho.), An oxe of sparkyd colour. 1603–4 in *Wilts. Archaeol. Mag.* (1885) XXII. 225 Quatuor vaccas quarum due color sparked. 1811 T. Davis *Agric. Wilts.* 260 Neat Cattle...Colours—Sparked, of two colours, mottled. 1871 Pulman *Rustic Sketches* (ed. 3) 30 Thee must watch the sparkid hen, Or her'll goo lay astray. 1888 Elworthy *W. Somerset Word-bk.* 697 A sparked cat—i.e. a tortoise-shell cat.

b. *Sparked back* (*plover*), the common turnstone or sea-dotterel. *U.S. local.*

1888 Trumbull *Names*, etc., *of Birds* 186 At Falmouth, Sparked-Back, Streaked-Back and Bishop Plover.

2. Specked or spotted *with* gold, silver, etc. (Cf. Sparky *a.* 1.) *rare.*

1552 in Money *Par. Ch. Goods Berks.* (1879) 46 One Corporas beinge of Red velvete sparked wᵗ golde. 1860 G. P. R. Pulman *Song Solomon* i. 11 We'll mek vor thee eydgin's o' gould, all a-sparkid wi' zelver.

†**Spa·rkefy,** *v. Obs.*[−1] [f. Spark *sb.*[2] + -fy.] *trans.* To make into a spark or gallant.

1667 Ld. Digby *Elvira* III. 36 A sharp pointed Hat.. Appears not so ridiculous, as Yonker, Without a love Intreegue, to Introduce, And sparkefy him there.

Sparker. [f. Spark *sb.*[1] or *v.*[1] + -er.]

1. A spark-arrester.

1864 Webster, *Sparker*, a contrivance [in a locomotive-chimney] to prevent the escape of sparks, while it allows the passage of gas.

2. A kind of miniature firework.

1908 *Daily Chron.* 31 Oct. 3/3 When discharged the sparker created a flare and emitted sparks.

Sparket(ting: see Spirket(ting.

†**Sparkful,** *a. Obs.*[−1] [f. Spark *sb.*[1]] Smart.

1605 Camden *Rem., Languages* 18 Hitherto will our sparkefull Youth laugh at their great grandfathers English.

†**Sparkin.** *Obs.*[−1] [f. Spar *sb.*[1] + -kin.] A small spar.

1408 *Crt.-roll Great Waltham* (Essex) Nov., Dicunt quod Johannes atte Rothe sine licencia succidit lx. quercuncl. vocat. Sparkynes, pret. v s.

Spa·rkiness. *rare.* [f. Sparky *a.*]

1. Sparkling quality.

1641 Trappe *Theol. Theol.* iii. 50 As wine the oftner it is poured from vessell to vessell, the more it loseth of its spirits and sparkinesse.

2. The quality of being mottled or parti-coloured.

1868 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* Ser. II. IV. II. 284 Sparkiness is not liked, but still it does not constitute a valid objection.

Sparking (spā·ɹkiŋ), *vbl. sb.*[1] [f. Spark *v.*[1]] The action of emitting sparks; *spec.* in *Electr.*, the production or emission of electric sparks at points where the continuity of a current is broken or interrupted.

1611 Cotgr., *Scintillation*, a sparking, or sparkling. 1883 *Daily News* 29 Sept. 7/1 It is, perhaps, owing to this arrangement that there is so little sparking to be seen at the brushes of the machine. 1894 *Westm. Gaz.* 15 Jan. 3/1 None of the electric supply companies can prevent sparking from their cables.

b. *attrib.*, as *sparking arrangement, distance, knob, plug*, etc.

1881 *Nature* No. 624. 572 As soon as the cloud by its motion comes within sparking distance. 1891 *Dublin Rev.* Oct. 421 The sparking arrangement is placed inside an ordinary projection lantern. 1900 *Knowledge* 1 Oct. 234/2 If the electric bell was placed on the same table as the sparking knobs. 1902 *Daily Chron.* 5 Sept. 7/5 Only when I got to the very top did I find the last sparking plug cracked.

Spa·rking, *vbl. sb.*[2] *U.S.* [f. Spark *v.*[2]] Courting, paying attentions. Also *attrib.*

a 1859 McClintock *Beadle's Crtship.* (Bartlett), If I ever ..had any dealings with the feminine gender again, in the sparking line. 1888 Eggleston *Graysons* xxxiii, The boys that do a good deal of sparking, and the girls that have a lot of beaux.

Spa·rking, *ppl. a.* [f. Spark *v.*[1]]

1. That emits sparks; filled with sparks.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 2925 Wit sparcand reke..Als it war a brinand ouen. 1826 J. Wilson *Noct. Ambr.* Wks. 1855 I. 152 Then there is naething but sparking ashes. 1904 *Westm. Gaz.* 21 Sept. 1/1 About as comfortable a seat as a barrel of gunpowder in a sparking smithy.

2. *Sc.* That gives off spots; spattering.

1873 A. G. Murdoch *Doric Lyre* 57 Noo I maun dicht my sparkin' pen.

Sparkish (spā·ɹkiʃ), *a.* [f. Spark *sb.*[2] + -ish.]

1. Of persons: Having the character, airs, or manners of a spark or gallant.

1641 J. Johnson *Acad. Love* 89 If it were not for some of the old out-of-date grandames..the young sparkish girles would read in Shakespeere day and night. 1675 Wycherley *Country Wife* IV. ii, I have been detained by a sparkish coxcomb, who pretended a visit to me. 1694 R. L'Estrange *Fables* 32 A daw that had a mind to be sparkish tricked himself with all the gay feathers he could muster. *a* 1718 Penn *Life* in *Wks.* (1726) I. 159 A Rich, Young, Neat, Sparkish Husband. 1767 S. Paterson *Anoth. Trav.* I. 55 Genteel! Ha! Sparkish! A good bit! Admirable. 1830 *Fraser's Mag.* II. 458 The place of the sparkish Templar, the wit about town, was then in the pit of a theatre. *a* 1857 D. Jerrold *J. Applejohn* xviii, Several sparkish holyday makers broke through the press.

2. Of things: Characteristic of, or appropriate to, a spark; of a smart or elegant make.

1657 May *Life Satyr. Puppy* 5 The Gentleman marking my sparkish behaviour..earnestly enquires after my name. 1667 Wood *Life* (O.H.S.) II. 116 Mr. Aubrey was then in a sparkish garb. 1687 *Reflect. on Hind & Panther* 17 And indeed he hath done it in the Sparkishest Poem that ever was seen. 1704 Swift *T. Tub* ii, Observe how sparkish a periwig adorns the head of a beech. 1884 J. Sharman *Hist. Swearing* 5 Some [pipes] were light and sparkish, others ponderous and clumsy.

Hence **Spa·rkishness.**

1687 Mrs. Behn *Lucky Chance* Prol., Who thinks good usage for the sex unfit, And slights ye, out of sparkishness and wit. 1727 Bailey (vol. II), *Sparkishness*, Gaiety, Briskness, Spruceness, &c.

Sparkishly (spā·ɪkiʃli), *adv.* [f. prec. + -LY 2.] Like a spark or gallant; in a sparkish manner.

1676 ETHEREDGE *Man of Mode* I. i, Who..has adorn'd her baldness with a large white Freez, that she may look sparkishly in the forefront of the King's-box. 1686 F. SPENCE tr. *Varillas' Ho. Medicis* 183 The king of Naples answer'd sparkishly. 1812 W. TENNANT *Anster F.* II. xlvii, Each buttonhole, and skirt, and hem is seen Sparkishly edg'd with lace of yellow gold. 1851 D. JERROLD *St. Giles* xi. 110 A young man sparkishly drest suddenly looked in.

Sparkle (spā·rk'l), *sb.* Forms: *α.* 4– **sparkle**, 4–7, 9 *dial.* **sparcle** (6 **-ckle**); 5, 7 **sparkel**, 5 **-ele**, 5–6 **-ell**, 5 **sparkull**, 6 **-ul**, 5 **sparkil**, 6 **-yl(l.** *β.* 4–6, 9 *Sc.* **sperkle**, 5 **sperkyl(l**, 6 **-kil**, 5–6 **spercle**. [f. SPARK *sb.*[1] + -LE 1, perh. on the analogy of the vb. The earlier senses run parallel with those of *spark*.]

1. A small spark; an ignited or luminous particle.

α. *c* 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 8544 Þe sparkles fleye as fir of flyntes. *c* 1407 LYDG. *Reson & Sens.* 1579 A firy bronde, Castyng sparklys fer a-broode. 1482 *Monk of Evesham* xvii. (Arb.) 40 They ware bore vppe an hy by the grete vyolente flamys of fier as sparclys byn of a brennyng fornece. 1532 MORE *Confut. Barnes* VIII. Wks. 757/2 We be sure by the smoke & the sparcles that there is fyre in the chymneye. 1589 R. HARVEY *Pl. Perc.* (1860) 29 When the steele and the flint be knockde togither, a man may light his match by the sparkle. 1620 T. GRANGER *Div. Logike* 126 A sparkle hath the same vertue that fire hath. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* VI. 766 Fierce Effusion..Of smoak and bickering flame, and sparkles dire. 1758 REID tr. *Macquer's Chym.* I. 362 You will see a great many sparkles darted up from the surface of the metal. 1828 SCOTT *Rob Roy* xxxiii, I remained..gazing after them, as if endeavouring to count the sparkles which flew from the horses' hoofs. 1870 BRYANT *Iliad* IV. I. 108 A radiant meteor scattering sparkles round.

β. 1382 WYCLIF *Gen.* xix. 28 Abraham..saw a multitude of sparkis [*v.r.* sperklis] steiynge vp fro the erthe. 1490 CAXTON *Eneydos* xii. 43 Thynke it not nomore than the sperkell yssuyng oute of the fyre wyth the smoke. 1508 STANBRIDGE *Vulgaria* (W. de W.) A vj b, *Fauilla*, a sperkle. 15.. *Adam Bel* 133 in Hazl. *E. P. P.* II. 144 The spercles brent, and fell hym on. 1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 125 A sperkil, *scintilla*.

Prov. 1382 WYCLIF *Ecclus.* xi. 34 Of oo sparcle fyr is eechid. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* x. viii. (1495) 379 Of a lytill sperkyll in an hepe of towe or of tyndyr cometh sodaynly a grete fyre. ? *c* 1470 G. ASHBY *Active Policy* 426 For of a litle sparkel a grete fyre Comyth, displeasaunt to many a sire. *a* 1536 *Proverbs* in *Songs, Carols*, etc. (E.E.T.S.) 130 Of a lytill sparkyll, commeth a gret fyre.

b. With *of* (fire, etc.).

c 1422 HOCCLEVE *Minor P.* xxiii. 702 Right as sparcles of fyr aboute sprede Whan þat a greet toun set is on a lowe. 1491 CAXTON *Vitas Patr.* (W. de W. 1495) I. xiii. 68/1 Noo thynge fantastyque, but a sparcle of fyre. 1597 J. KING *On Jonas* (1618) 10 Quenching a sparkle of wild-fire. 1615 G. SANDYS *Trav.* 209 The aire appeared as if full of sparkles of fire.

c. In similes or comparisons, and in allusive use.

c 1330 *King of Tars* 194 Whon he was brouht uppon his stede, He sprong as sparkle doth of glede. 1382 WYCLIF *Wisd.* iii. 7 As sparcles in reeddy places thei shuln renne hider and thider. 14.. *Sir Beues* (M.) 1884 Vp he sterte also right As sperkyll oute of fire right. 1660 W. SECKER *Nonsuch Prof.* 342 A man that carries Gun-powder about him, can never stand too far from Sparkles.

d. *fig.* and in fig. context; freq. with allusion to the kindling of a fire or conflagration.

(*a*) 1382 WYCLIF *Wisd.* ii. 2 Sermoun of [*read* is] a sparcle to stirn togidere oure herte. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Prol. Reeve's T.* 31 Foure gleedes han we..: Avauntyng, liyng, Anger, Coueitise, Thise foure sparkles [*v.r.* sperkles] longen vn to eelde. 1483 CAXTON *Gold. Leg.* 249 b/1 How be hit that the membres were bounden in the hote of the Sparcles, the force of the feith was not corrupt. 1581 J. BELL *Haddon's Answ. Osor.* 263 It shal be as easie a matter for a man to finde as much Relligion in Tullies Officies..as this your Relligion is,..a fewe sparckles onely except. 1607 *Scholast. Disc. agst. Antichrist* I. i. 38 We must nourish her sparcles least her light bee quite extinguished. 1629 H. BURTON *Babel no Bethel* 119 Considering them as sparkles leaping out of the boyling brest of juvenile ardour. 1687 DRYDEN *Hind & P.* I. 75 When their glimps was gone, My pride struck out new sparkles of her own. 1707 *Curios. in Husb. & Gard.* 323 Seeds..contain an Atom of Life, a sparkle of celestial Fire. 1819 SCOTT *Ivanhoe* xxxii, A sparkle hath been quenched by his blood, which no human breath can again rekindle!

(*b*) 1515 BARCLAY *Egloges* II. (1570) B j/2 A small sparcle may kindle loue certayne. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Edw. IV* 210 Which small sparcle had growen to a greater flame, if the erle of Warwycke..had not sodaynly quenched it. 1600 HOLLAND *Livy* xxix. xxxi. 732 Unlesse they put out this sparkle of fire betimes,..it will be their chaunce to be caught therewith. 1656 EARL MONM. tr. *Boccalini's Advts. fr. Parnass.* II. vi. 207 That every least despised sparkle is apt to occasion great combustions. 1779 JOHNSON *L. P., Addison* P 45 Some unlucky sparkle from a Tory paper set Steele's politicks on fire. 1859 TENNYSON *Geraint & Enid* 833 To make My nature's prideful sparkle in the blood Break into furious flame.

2. A slight beginning, trace, indication, or manifestation *of* something.

c 1380 WYCLIF *Serm.* Sel. Wks. I. 279 Sparclis of grace þat we felen. 1430–40 LYDG. *Bochas* III. xix. (1554) 91 b/2 The sparcle of vengeance is quicked..by windes foure. *c* 1450 METHAM *Wks.* 39 With-in Amoryus the sparkyl off loue so rootyd gan be. 1548 UDALL, etc. *Erasm. Par. Mark* Pref. 5 What sparcle of shame remayneth. 1577 HANMER *Anc. Eccl. Hist.* (1619) 150 They had not one sparcle of compassion on us. 1606 J. CARPENTER *Solomon's Solace* iii. 12 He..giueth not so much as any sparkle or shew of a merry conceit. 1675 TRAHERNE *Chr. Ethics* 415 Now all these sparkles of joy..meet together in humility. 1718 BP. HUTCHINSON *Witchcraft* 40 He said he had never found one Sparkle of Truth. 1768–74 TUCKER *Lt. Nat.* (1834) II. 531 Their frictions..struck out the first sparkles of judgment and forecast. 1825 SCOTT *Betrothed* xxii, Pleased to shew some sparkles of his ancient military education. 1856 EMERSON *Eng. Traits* vii. *Truth* Wks. (Bohn) II. 55 It is an unlucky moment to remember these sparkles of solitary virtue.

3. A vital or animating principle. *rare.*

1388 WYCLIF 2 *Sam.* xiv. 7 Thei seken to quenche my sparcle whych is lefte. 1599 DAVIES *Immort. Soul* 3 How can we hope, that..This dying Sparkle..Can recollect these beames of knowledge cleare?

†**4.** A small ruby or diamond. *Obs. rare.*

1480 in *Cal. Doc. Rel. Scott.* (1888) IV. 297 Sparkyllys [called] rubees. 1687 DRYDEN *Hind & P.* II. 528 Entire, one solid shining Diamond, Not Sparkles shattered into Sects like you. 1704 E. ARWAKER *Embassy fr. Heaven* xxxiv. 14 His Chrystal Coach in Di'mond Sparkles burn'd.

5. A glittering or flashing point of light.

1490 CAXTON *Eneydos* xiii. 48 The sterres launchynge theyr bryghte sparkeles, excyte the appetyte of slepe. 1543 TRAHERON *Vigo's Chirurg.* Interpr. Wds., When it is broken, it sendeth out the golden sparcles shinynge like sterres. *c* 1590 GREENE *Fr. Bacon* III. iii, As the Moone Darkneth the brightest sparkles of the night. 1634 MILTON *Comus* 80 Swift as the Sparkle of a glancing Star. 1652 N. CULVERWEL *Lt. Nature* I. xvi. (1661) 136 The Sun..with its golden Scepter rules all created Sparkles. 1713 *Phil. Trans.* XXVIII. 231 Those Sparkles of Light. 1824 MISS L. M. HAWKINS *Annaline* II. 169, I have witnessed at night.. sparkles which adhered to the adjoining ropes. 1846 RUSKIN *Mod. Paint.* II. III. § 2. v. § 21 The sparkles streaming from their purple wings like the glitter of many suns upon a sounding sea. 1871 L. STEPHEN *Playgr. Eur.* (1894) v. 128 A few green sparkles just pointing out the Lake of Thun.

fig. 1538 STARKEY *England* II. i. 144 We haue conceyuyd some sparkyl of the celestyal lyght. 1583 BABINGTON *Commandm.* (1590) 82 These were but sparcles as it were of His glorie and maiestie that they sawe. 1606 J. CLAPHAM *Hist. Gt. Brit.* I. i. xii. 34 [The] Christian Religion.. began to cast forth some small sparkles of her brightnesse. *a* 1672 STERRY *Rise & Race Kingd. God in Soul Man* 212 A glance and sparkle of this Eternal Image of essential beauty. 1816 MOORE *Sacred Songs*, '*Oh, Thou! who dry'st*' ii. (1849) 247 Hope that threw A moment's sparkle o'er our tears, Is dimm'd and vanished too. 1888 DOUGHTY *Trav. Arabia Deserta* I. vii. 196 These sallies are never unwelcome to Arabs, being as sparkles struck upon their own natural hearts.

b. A flashing or fiery glance.

1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* I. iv. 33 His eies did hurle forth sparcles fiery red. 1721 RAMSAY *Keitha* 41 Her een, which did with heav'nly sparkles low. 1823 ROSCOE tr. *Sismondi's Lit. Eur.* (1846) II. xxxviii. 509 While dark red sparkles from his eye-balls rolled.

6. Glittering or flashing appearance or quality; lively brightness.

1589 GREENE *Menaphon* (Arb.) 34 If the sparkle of her eyes appeare in the night, the starres blush at her brightnesse. 1639 SALTMARSH *Policy* A vij b, Like those jewels which have their matter from earth, their sparkle from heaven. 1820 SCOTT *Monast.* xxxvii, The occasional sparkle of the long line of spears. 1832 W. IRVING *Alhambra* II. 116 His ever-watchful eye caught the sparkle of a diamond. 1885 F. MILLER *Glass-Painting* 53 By rubbing off some of the colour, a wonderful brilliancy and sparkle is imparted.

b. Brightness or liveliness of spirit; smartness; wittiness.

1611 SPEED *Hist. Gt. Brit.* IX. viii. § 30 How a King of any royall sparkle, could brooke such Sea and Land Tempests..I cannot conceiue. 1789 CHARLOTTE SMITH *Ethelinde* (1814) II. 144 The sparkle of spirit and the languish of tenderness. 1828 LYTTON *Pelham* iii, Beside him was a quick, sharp little woman, all sparkle and bustle. 1876 F. E. TROLLOPE *A Charming Fellow* I. xvii. 234 [He] surprised himself by the amount of fun and sparkle he contrived to elicit. 1894 J. CARTWRIGHT *Madame* I The vivacity and sparkle which she inherited from her mother.

c. *spec.* The appearance characteristic of certain wines, due to the presence of carbonic-acid gas.

1833 C. REDDING *Mod. Wines* v. 72 The Sillery has no sparkle at all. 1856 KANE *Arct. Expl.* I. xxxii. 445 If this solitary relic of festival days had lost its sparkle, we had not.

7. A small piece, part, spot, etc., *of* something; a (glittering) particle.

c 1570 FOXE *Serm. 2 Cor. v.* 18 A breeder of sinne, or (as we may call it) a privy sparcle of the Serpents seede. 1585 PARSONS *Chr. Exer.* I. x. 131 All the pleasures..in the worlde, being onely sparkles and parcelles sent out from God. 1769 *St. James's Chron.* 12–14 Sept. 1/3 A Peasant, into whose Eye flew a Sparkle of Iron. 1818 *Gentl. Mag.* 343/2 An aerolite is of a grey colour, and sprinkled with metallic sparkles. 1822 SHELLEY tr. *Calderon's Mag. Prodig.* ii. 61 Sparkles of blood on the white foam are cast.

8. *Comb.*, as *sparkle-blazing, -drifting, -eyed.*

1614 GORGES *Lucan* I. 35 An vgly Fiend (that in her hand Did hold a sparkle-blazing brand). 1648 HEXHAM II, *Katoogigh*, Cat-eyed, or sparkel-eyed like a Cat. 1845 MRS. NORTON *Child of Islands* (1846) 178 Hammer the sparkle-drifting iron straight.

Sparkle (spā·rk'l), *v.*[1] Forms: 3 **sperklen**, 5, 9 *Sc.* **spercle**; 5 **sparklyn**, 5–6 **spark(e)l-**, 6 **-kil(l, -kyll, sparcle**; 4– **sparkle**. [f. SPARK *sb.*[1] + -LE 3. Cf. MDu. *spaer-, sparkelen* (Du. and Flem. *sparkelen*, WFlem. also *sperkelen*; WFris. *sparkelje*).]

I. *intr.* **1.** To issue, to fly or spring *out* or *forth*, in sparkles or small particles. Also *fig.*

a 1200 *St. Marher.* 9 Of his spetewile muð sperklede fur ut. *c* 1450 *Myrr. our Ladye* 47 As it had bene a clowde of fyer sparkelyng & dropyng vpon his hed, & vpon all his body. 1587 GOLDING *De Mornay* ix. (1592) 124 The trueth will sparcle out of the Contrarietie of vntruthes, as fire sparcles out of the knocking of one Flintstone against another. 1608 TOPSELL *Serpents* (1658) 621 The spirits.. hastily leaping out as it were, and quickly sparkling forth. 1620 MARKHAM *Farew. Husb.* II. xvii. (1668) 75 As the Pidgeons or Crows tear up the straw, the Lime or ashes will sparkle into their eyes and nares. 1649 JER. TAYLOR *Gt. Exemp.* II. Disc. ix. 122 If like a flint he sends a sparke out, it must as soon be extinguished as shewes, and cool as soon as sparkle. 1805 WORDSW. *Prelude* VIII. 409 A diamond light..was seen Sparkling from out a copse-clad bank. 1864 TENNYSON *Aylmer's F.* 705 When some heat of difference sparkled out.

2. To emit or send out sparks or sparkles of fire. Also *fig.*

1480 CAXTON *Myrr.* II. xxviii. 121 This that maketh the clowdes to sparkle and lyghtne whan the thondre is herde. 1530 PALSGR. 726/2 Ware your face, this fier sparkilleth apace. 1590 GREENE *Neuer too Late* Wks. (Grosart) VIII. 107 Their eies like comets, that when they sparkle foretell some fatall disparagement. 1692 SIR T. P. BLOUNT *Ess.* 153 And so, like two Flints struck together, they will be continually sparkling and spitting fire at one another. 1769 *Junius Lett.* XXXV. (1788) 177 The coldest bodies warm with opposition, the hardest sparkle in collision. 1794 WORDSW. *Guilt & Sorrow* XX, Till on a stone, that sparkled to his feet, Struck..the troubled horse. 1839 BAILEY *Festus* 73, I will rub them backwards like a cat; And you shall see them spit and sparkle up. 1886 *S.W. Linc. Gloss.* 138 Larch-branches sparkle about so, they're dangerous for childer.

b. To throw off small particles; to crackle.

1495 *Trevisa's Barth. De P. R.* XV. cxlix. 542 In the see of Sicilia is..a wonder maner salt, for it meltyth in fyre and sparklith in water. 1611 COTGR.; *La lumiere petille*, the candle sparkles, or spits.

c. Of the eyes: To flash with anger or rage.

1593 SHAKS. 2 *Hen. VI*, III. ii. 317 Mine eyes should sparkle like the beaten Flint. — 3 *Hen. VI*, II. v. 131 With fiery eyes, sparkling for very wrath. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* I. 194 With..Eyes That sparkling blaz'd. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* IV. 652 The Seer..Rowl'd his green Eyes, that sparkled with his Rage.

3. To reflect or emit numerous separate rays or points of light; to glitter or flash.

c 1386 CHAUCER *Kn.'s T.* 1306 A mantelet..Bret-ful of rubies reed, as fir sparclyng. 1560 BIBLE (Geneva) *Ezek.* i. 7 They sparkled like the appearance of bright brasse. 1611 SHAKS. *Cymb.* II. iv. 40 Sparkles this Stone as it was wont, or is't not Too dull for your good wearing? 1697 DAMPIER *Voy.* (1699) 414 The Sea seemed all of a Fire about us; for every Sea that broke sparkled like Lightning. 1719 YOUNG *Busiris* III. i, Conquest and crowns shall sparkle in her sight. 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* XXXVI, She saw..the wide sea sparkling in the morning rays. 1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* xli, Those stately towers..which still, in some places, sparkled with lights. 1859 JEPHSON *Brittany* ii. 16 The white villas sparkled in the morning sun. 1894 MRS. F. ELLIOT *Roman Gossip* iii. 84 An emerald ring.. sparkled on one finger.

b. *fig.* or in fig. context.

1667 L. STUCKLEY *Gospel Glass* ix. 75 We have not sparkled so much the more in an holy Zeal. 1690 TEMPLE *Ess., Poetry* Wks. 1720 I. 247 'Tis something to sparkle among Diamonds, but to shine among Pebbles is neither Credit nor Value worth the pretending. *a* 1764 LLOYD *Poet* Poet. Wks. 1774 II. 32 Who can a hearty praise bestow, If merit sparkles in a foe. 1781 COWPER *Expost.* 483 It [the language] sparkles with the gems he left behind. 1827 HARE *Guesses* (1859) 42 Chaucer sparkles with the dew of morning.

c. *fig.* To be extremely bright or lively in conversation or writing; to abound or excel in lively sallies of wit.

1698 COLLIER *Immor. Stage* 224 Miss Hoyden sparkles too much in Conversation. 1699 J. DUNTON *Conv. Ireland* in *Dubl. Scuffle* 382 His Wit sparkles as well as his Eyes. 1744 BERKELEY *Siris* § 338 Those exalted notions and fine hints that sparkle and shine throughout his writings. 1841 D'ISRAELI *Amen. Lit.* (1867) 352 They display an original comic invention, and sparkle with the most lively sallies. 1851 WILLMOTT *Pleas. Lit.* (1852) vii. 40 Boccaccio sparkles over a grim treatise of Calvin. 1893 LIDDON *Life Pusey* I. xiii. 309 These hints..sparkle with the dry and clear acuteness characteristic of the writer.

d. To move, proceed, flow, etc., in a glittering or sparkling manner. Const. with preps. and advs.

1823 LAMB *Elia* II, *Amicus Rediv.*, To trace your salutary waters sparkling through green Hertfordshire. 1841 BROWNING *Pippa Passes* Poems (1905) 185 See how that beetle burnishes in the path! There sparkles he along the dust! 1885 RIDER HAGGARD *K. Solomon's Mines* iii, There are the deep kloofs..down which the rivers sparkle.

4. Of wines, etc.: To effervesce with small glittering bubbles, due to the presence or rising of carbonic-acid gas.

1422 [see SPARKLING *ppl. a.*[1] 3 c]. 1671 MILTON *Samson* 544 Nor did the dancing Rubie Sparkling, out-powr'd, the flavor, or the smell,..Allure thee from the cool Crystalline stream. 1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), To *Sparkle*,..to send forth small Bubbles, as strong Wine does in a Glass. 1782 *Phil. Trans.* LXXII. 431 The water sparkled, as does Seltzer water, by the vessel being shook. 1826 *Art of Brewing* (ed. 2) 42 Sparkling in the glass like the finest bottled ale. 1833 REDDING *Mod. Wines* v. 116 The white Crose is a light, delicate wine...It sparkles like Champagne.

5. a. Of feelings, etc.: To appear or be evident *in* (or *through*) the eyes by the brightness or animation of these.

1592 SHAKS. *Rom. & Jul.* I. i. 197 A fire sparkling in Louers eyes. 1599 — *Much Ado* III. i. 51 Disdaine and Scorne ride sparkling in her eyes. *a* 1645 MILTON *Arcades* 27, I see bright honour sparkle through your eyes. 1667 — *P. L.* II. 388 Joy Sparkl'd in all thir eyes. 1704 SWIFT *Batt. Bks.* Wks. 1841 I. 132/2 Rage sparkled in his eyes. 1817 JAS. MILL *Brit. India* II. v. v. 543 With nothing but victory sparkling in his eye. 1848 DICKENS *Dombey* liv, Intense abhorrence sparkling in her eyes.

b. Of the eyes: To be bright or animated; to shine, to glisten.

1700 DRYDEN *To Duchess of Ormond* 10 Inspir'd by two fair Eyes that sparkled like your own. 1782 MISS BURNEY *Cecilia* VIII. iii, Her eyes sparkling with joy, and her cheeks glowing with pleasure. 1820 SCOTT *Monast.* XXVII, His eyes sparkled, his frame was agitated. 1883 S. C. HALL *Retrospect* I. 323 A burly man..whose little eyes seemed always sparkling with unclerical humour.

transf. 1833 HT. MARTINEAU *Berkeley* I. i. 21 Hester blushed, and sparkled, and looked quite ready to communicate something. 1885 'MRS. ALEXANDER' *At Bay* iii, A bright happy smile sparkled over her countenance.

† c. To entertain a strong desire *for* something.

1665 BRATHWAIT *Comment Two Tales* (1901) 46 You tax me of pride, and tell me, high blood ever sparkles for good Cloathes.

II. *trans.* 6. To cause to sparkle or glitter.

In early use in pa. pple., and not quite separable from SPARKLE *v.*[2] 4.

1553 EDEN *Treat. New Ind.* (Arb.) 31 A mountayne, whose sande is sparkeled with gold. 1580 HOLLYBAND *Treas. Fr. Tong* s.v. *Brochée*, A gowne all sparkeled with gold, or aglets. 1619 WILLIAMS *Serm. Apparell* (1620) 16 In picking their rockes for diamonds to sparkle him. 1716 POPE *Iliad* VIII. 2 Aurora now..Sparkled with rosy light the dewy lawn. 1809 W. IRVING *Knickerb.* VI. iv. (1849) 332 The jovial sun..sparkling the landscape with a thousand dewy gems. 1821–30 LD. COCKBURN *Mem.* (1856) iv. 264 The war sparkled us with military gaiety and parade.

7. To emit, eject, or throw out (fire, etc.) as or like sparks. Also *transf.*

1588 SHAKS. *L. L. L.* IV. iii. 351 Womens eyes..sparcle still the right promethean fire. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* III. i. 32 The bright glister of their beames cleare Did sparckle forth great light. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny.* I. 13 Mercury sparkeling his raies. 1652 J. WRIGHT tr. *Camus' Nat. Paradox* X. 244, I fore-see then, replied Miestas (sparkling Fire out of his Eyes) that you and I must have a quarrell.

b. Of the eyes: To indicate or betoken (a feeling) by brightness or animation.

a 1601 *Pasquil & Kath.* (1878) I. 224 Your eye Sparkles not spirit as 't was wont to doe. 1602 MARSTON *Antonio's Rev.* IV. iii, Your eyes should sparkle joy. 1682 C. IRVINE *Hist. Scot. Nomencl.* Ded. *iv, Our faces then shone with joy, and our eyes sparkled gladness.

c. In various fig. uses.

1610 JONSON *Alch.* IV. i, A certaine touch, or aire, That sparkles a diuinitie, beyond An earthly beautie! 1615 CHAPMAN *Odyss.* XVIII. 311 Thy younger blood Did sparkle choicer spirits. 1667 O. HEYWOOD *Heart-Treas.* vii, The working forge of men's wicked hearts doth sparkle forth suitable imaginations. 1742 YOUNG *Nt. Th.* V. 781 Her gaiety ..That, like the Jews fam'd oracle of gems, Sparkles instruction.

8. With *down*: To dispel (gloom) by cheerful behaviour or spirits.

1840 LADY C. BURY *Hist. of Flirt* iv, His endeavours to sparkle down the gloom on his sister's countenance.

Spa·rkle, *v.*[2] *Obs.* or *dial.* Forms: 5–6 **sperkel-, -kle,** 6 **-cle**; 5–6 **sparkyl-,** 6 **sparkel-, -kyll,** 5–6 **sparcle** (6 **-ckle**), 5– **sparkle.** [Alteration of SPARPLE *v.* Cf. DISPARKLE *v.*]

1. *intr.* Of persons: To separate, scatter, or disperse. Freq. with *abroad.*

c 1440 *Generydes* 6049 A bak thei drewe, and sperkelyd her and þer. *c* 1477 CAXTON *Jason* 9 The other..were anon so discoraged that they sparklid abrode. 1523 LD. BERNERS *Froiss.* I. ccxix. 281 Than they sparcled abrode lyke men yᵗ were discomfyted and chased. 1568 GRAFTON *Chron.* II. 341 Assone as this proclamation was made, they sparkled abroade, euery man to their awne homes.

2. *trans.* To cause to scatter or disperse; to drive in different directions. Also *sparkle away* (quot. 1703).

a 1470 HARDING *Chron.* CLXXIV. iii, Then went the kyng.. and sparcled them then so That North they went. *c* 1489 CAXTON *Sonnes of Aymon* xiv. 352 To thende ye maye gader agen togyder your folke that be soo sperkled abrode. 1506 in *Mem. Hen. VII* (Rolls) 282 All his other ships were sparkled, some to Rye..; some were drowned. 1555 W. WATREMAN *Fardle Facions* I. ii. 31 They ware diuersely sparckled in diuers partes of the world. 1618 FLETCHER *Loyal Subj.* I. v, Beaten, and't please your Grace, And all his Forces sparkled. 1703 THORESBY *Let. to Ray, Sparkle away,* to disperse, spend, waste. 1836 WILBRAHAM *Cheshire Gloss.* (ed. 2) 111 *Sparkle,*..to disperse.

3. To cast abroad; to scatter, sprinkle, or strew.

c 1440 *Gesta Rom.* XXVI. 100 And so is þe blode sperkelid aboute the cradil. 1548 ELYOT, *Conspergo,* to scatter or sparcle about abundantly, to strawe. 1555 EDEN *Decades* I. III. (Arb.) 77 As thowgh mele had byn sparkeled throwgh owte al that sea.

transf. 1538 STARKEY *England* II. i. 157 The cure therof ys sparkylyd in the cure of al other.

b. *dial.* To spatter (liquid, etc.) *over* one.

1787 GROSE *Prov. Gloss.* s.v., He sparkled the water all over me. 1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss.* II. 270 He rode so fast he sparkled the mud all over me.

4. To sprinkle, bestrew, or bespatter *with* (also *in*) something; to dot thickly.

14.. *Sir Beues* 350 (Camb. MS. Ff. ii. 38), The chyldys clothys, ryche and gode, He had sparkylde with that blode. 1555 EDEN *Decades* (Arb.) 196 The pauement of the temple is all sparcled with bludde. 1578 LYTE *Dodoens* 586 The fruite foloweth after, which is long, the outside thereof sparckled, and set full of little bowles or bosses. 1625 PURCHAS *Pilgrims* II. IX. 1495 Who being sparkled therewith, dieth by force of the poyson. 1629 in *Capt. Smith's Wks.* (Arb.) II. 819 To see bright honour sparkled all in gore, Would steele a spirit that ne're fought before.

fig. 1570 FOXE *A. & M.* (ed. 2) 1152/2 Such as had fresh wyttes sparcled with Gods grace.

b. *techn.* To overlay or daub with cement or the like. (Cf. SPARKLING *vbl. sb.*[2] 2.)

1805 R. W. DICKSON *Pract. Agric.* I. 89 Pan-tiling, with small-sized deal lath, and sparkled within side.

5. To disseminate or diffuse; to spread or circulate.

c 1532 DU WES *Introd. Fr.* in *Palsgr.* 922 Of it to sparcle the beames through all the worlde. *a* 1547 SURREY *Æneid* II. 199 Lefull be it to sparcle in the ayre Their secretes all. 1577–87 HOLINSHED *Scot. Chron.* (1806) II. 206 Ill seed of sedition, sparkled and scattered in the cruel civil wares before.

Sparkleberry. *U.S.* A shrub or small tree, *Vaccinium arboreum,* of the southern United States; the farkleberry.

1891 in *Cent. Dict.* 1908 R. W. CHAMBERS *Firing Line* viii, A superb butterfly..came flitting about the sparkleberry bloom.

Spa·rkled, *ppl. a.*[1] [f. SPARKLE *sb.* or *v.*[1]]

1. Speckled, spotted. Now *dial.*

1480 *Trevisa's Higden* (Caxton) I. 51 b/2 In the welmes after than ones Ben founde reed sperclid [*Rolls ed.* splekked] stones. 1787 [see SPARKY *a,* 1 b]. 1873 WILLIAMS & JONES *Somerset Gloss.* 35 *Sparcled, Sparked,*..speckled.

2. Filled with sparkles. *rare*—[1].

a 1547 SURREY *Æneid* II. 220 But she gan stare with sparcled eyes of flame.

† **Spa·rkled,** *ppl. a.*[2] *Obs.* [f. SPARKLE *v.*[2]] Scattered, dispersed; dishevelled.

a 1547 SURREY *Æneid* II. 517 Cassandra..From Pallas chirch was drawn with sparkled tresse. — *Eccles.* V. 46, I saw..The plenteous houses sackt; the owners end with shame, Their sparkled goods. 1608 HEYWOOD *Lucrece* I. ii, Did not this monster..Make her unwilling charioteer.. crush her father's bones.. and dash his sparkled brains Upon the pavements?

Sparkler (spā·rklə(r)). [f. SPARKLE *v.*[1] + -ER.]

1. One who sparkles or shines in respect of beauty or accomplishments; *esp.* a vivacious, witty, or pretty young woman.

1713 ADDISON *Guardian* No. 120 § 1 What wou'd you say, should you see the Sparkler..thumping the Table with a Dice-Box? 1772 *Town & County Mag.* 67 He called her his sparkler, and commended her person and accomplishments. 1800 WEEMS *Life Washington* (1810) i. 6 To wheeze and cough by themselves, and not depress the..spirits of the young sparklers. 1849 CUPPLES *Green Hand* vi. (1856) 58 'No doubt,' says Bill, 'she's what I call a exact sparkler!'

2. A bright or sparkling eye. Chiefly *pl.* Latterly *colloq.* or *slang.*

1746 HERVEY *Medit.* (1818) 59 The eye, that outshone the diamond's brilliancy,..where is it? where shall we find the rolling sparkler? 1775 SHERIDAN *Duenna* II. ii, One glance of those roguish sparklers would fix me again. 1804 *Sporting Mag.* XXIII. 284 A very beautiful woman, with a pair of bright sparklers. 1854 AINSWORTH *Flitch of Bacon* II. iii. 135 As to her eyes, they shine, like—I don't know what..; though they don't come up to the lustre of Bab's sparklers.

3. A sparkling gem; a diamond.

1822 BYRON *Werner* III. i. 328 Oh, thou sweet sparkler! Thou more than stone of the philosopher! 1860 *All Year Round* No. 46. 459 Amber mouthpieces filleted with 'sparklers', as the English cracksman affectionately calls diamonds. 1893 MᶜCARTHY *Red Diamonds* I. ii. 47 Pretty sparklers, ain't they?

4. An insect having a shining or sparkling appearance; *spec.* any beetle of the family *Cicindelidæ*; a tiger-beetle.

1860 PIESSE *Lab. Chem. Wonders* 2 Cicindela or sparkler. *c* 1860 J. CARLIN *To Fireflies* i. in *Harper's Mag.* (1884) Mar. 590/1 Awake, ye sparklers, bright and gay.

5. A sparkling wine.

1868 *Rep. U.S. Commissioner Agric.* (1869) 575 In France the manufacturers of sparkling wine..have to increase its effervescence by mixing it with the wine grown in Champagne, which is a natural sparkler.

6. Something which shines or sparkles; a sparkling firework.

1879 WARREN *Astron.* vi. 113 [Mercury] keeps so near the sun that very few people have ever seen the brilliant sparkler. 1894 *Westm. Gaz.* 3 Nov. 3/2 The most popular and novel among these [fireworks] are the electric sparkler [etc.].

Sparkless (spā·rklĕs), *a.* [f. SPARK *sb.*[1] + -LESS.] Free from or devoid of sparks; emitting no sparks.

1821 SHELLEY *Adonais* XI, Nor, when the spirit's self has ceased to burn, With sparkless ashes load an unlamented urn. 1851 MRS. BROWNING *Casa Guidi Wind.* II. 290 Like an anvil black And sparkless. 1881 *Standard* 14 Sept. 3/1 The engine should be..smokeless, as noiseless as possible, but sparkless is imperative.

b. *spec.* in *Electr.*

c 1865 *Wylde's Circ. Sciences* I. 272/1 The relays are 'sparkless'. 1890 *Telegr. Jrnl.* 21 Feb. 203/2 The impossibility of making a sparkless commutator.

Hence **Spa·rklessly** *adv.*

1891 in *Cent. Dict.*

Sparklet (spā·rklĕt). [f. SPARK *sb.*[1] + -LET.]

1. A small spark or sparkle. Also *transf.*

1689 COTTON *Poems, Night* ii, Spread o'er the Earth thy Sable Veil, Heaven's twinckling sparklets to conceal. 1824 *Blackw. Mag.* XV. 429 The glimmering worm..Whose sparklet of dim radiance [etc.]. 1877 [MAY LAFFAN] *Hon. Miss Ferrard* III. iv. 183 A pale yellowish mist, in which here and there a tiny sparklet was visible.

fig. 1830 W. TAYLOR *Hist. Surv. Germ. Poetry* II. 176 The steel, with which The great Creator of all truth bestows On the dead tinder of futurity, The first live sparklet. 1856 MISS YONGE *Daisy Chain* I. xxiv. (1879) 256 The first little gleam, little bit of a sparklet of the meaning. 1872 HAVERGAL *Minist. Song* (ed. 3) 15 A praise all morning sunshine, And sparklets of the spring.

2. A small sparkling ornament for a dress.

1902 *Daily Chron.* 2 May 8/3 Mother-of-pearl paillettes are the latest sparklet introduced for the glorification of chiffon dresses.

Spark-like, *a.* and *adv.* [f. SPARK *sb.*[1] + -LIKE.]

A. *adj.* Like or resembling a spark.

a 1814 *Mermaid* II. ii. in *New Brit. Theatre* II. 479 Her quick and sparklike eyes appear So kindled with malign intelligence. 1868 MORRIS *Earthly Par.* (1870) II. III. 278 And sparklike gems glitter from many a hand.

B. *adv.* After the manner of a spark.

1845 BAILEY *Festus* (ed. 2) 316 Thou shalt be Dashed from creation spark-like from a hand Scarless.

Sparkliness: see SPARKLINGNESS (quot. *a* 1697).

Sparkling (spā·rklĭŋ), *vbl. sb.*[1] [f. SPARKLE *v.*[1]]

1. The action of sending out sparks or sparkles, or of glittering with light; scintillation.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 467/2 Spartlynge [*Winch.* Sparkelyng]. 1548 ELYOT, *Scintillatio,* a sparkelyng vp of fire. 1614 DRUMM. OF HAWTH. *Poems* (1616) 1 j, Her Eyes such Beames sent foorth, that but with Paine Here, weaker Sights their sparckling could sustaine. 1667 *Inform. Fire Lond.* in Somers *Tracts* VII. 619 He saw something..like wild-fire by the sparkling and spitting. 1701 G. STANHOPE *Pious Breath.* III. xiv. (1704) 225 Thou hast not..the sparkling of Precious Stones, nor the Harmony of Musick. 1728 BAILEY, *Scintillation,* a sparkling as Fire. 1811 PINKERTON *Petral.* II. 557 Stones thrown bounding into this furnace, produced flaming eruptions with sparkling. 1884 *Pall Mall G.* 8 Apr. 4/1 A sparkling of gold, silver, or the dull lustre of a bronze.

fig. 1613 DRUMM. OF HAWTH. *Cypress Grove* Wks. (1711) 117 From the sparkling of God in the soul, or from the godlike sparkles of the soul.

b. *attrib.* with *relay* (cf. SPARKING *vbl. sb.*[1]).

c 1865 *Wylde's Circ. Sci.* I. 272 The sparkling relay of other makers compels them to use only a very moderate power.

2. With pl. An instance of this; a shower of sparks; a spark or fiery particle; a gleam, a sparkle.

a 1529 SKELTON *P. Sparowe* 80 Phyllypes soule to kepe.. from her fyry sparklynges, For burnynge of his wynges. 1558 PHAER *Æneid* V. O ij, They themselues beholding spie, The sparcklings rising broad. 1582 STANYHURST *Æneis* I. (Arb.) 23 First on flint smiting soom sparcklinges sprinckled Achates. 1710 J. CLARKE tr. *Rohault's Nat. Philos.* (1729) I. i. ii. 10 If any one looks full upon the Sun, and immediately goes into a dark Place, he will see the Sun there, and some Sparklings of it. 1799 G. SMITH *Laboratory* I. 181 You may perceive by the increase of the sparklings of the iron bars, how your work goes in. 1820 WORDSW. *River Duddon* Sonn. XXV, The waters seem to waste Their vocal charm; their sparklings cease to please. 1848 CLOUGH *Bothie* III. 52 Here, the delight of the bather, you roll in beaded sparklings.

fig. 1641 R. BROOKE *Eng. Episc.* II. vii. 104 Are there not some sparklings of this Truth, even amongst us in England? 1776 LOVE *Diary* 22 Sept. in *Mem.* (1857) I. v. 198, I have had some sparklings of shame now and then.

Spa·rkling, *vbl. sb.*[2] *Obs.* or *dial.* [f. SPARKLE *v.*[2]]

1. The action of dispersing or scattering.

c 1460 *Promp. Parv.* (Winch.) 426 Sparkelyng,..*discipacio.* 1530 PALSGR. 273/2 Sparclyng abrode, *dispertion.* *a* 1616 BEAUM. & FL. *Bonduca* III. ii, March close, and sudden like a tempest: all executions Done without sparkling of the Body.

2. *techn.* (See quot. and cf. SPARKLE *v.*[2] 4 b.)

1787 W. H. MARSHALL *E. Norfolk* (1795) II. 388 *Sparkling.* Claying between the spars to cover the thatch of cottages.

Sparkling (spā·rklĭŋ), *ppl. a.*[1] Also 3 **sperclinde,** 5–6 **sperkelynge**; 5 **sprakelynge.** [f. SPARKLE *v.*[1]]

1. That emits sparks or sparkles. Also *fig.* and in fig. context.

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 34 Þer in sperclinde luue biclupped oure leofmon. 1422 tr. *Secreta Secret., Priv. Priv.* 230 Tho that haue eyen like ly of fyre brandynge and sprakelynge, bene angry and shameles. 1493 *Festivall* (W. de W. 1515) 45 Tongues muste speke wordes of fyre that is sharpe and sperkelynge. 1599 *George a Greene* I. iv, Wherein two sapphires burne like sparkling fire. 1625 JACKSON *Creed* V. li. 455 The light of truth will suddainly burst out, as from a sparkling fire. 1816 SCOTT *Bl. Dwarf* iii, A large sparkling fire of turf and bog-wood.

transf. 1648 CRASHAW *Delights Muses* Wks. (1904) 121 In the close murmur of a sparkling noyse.

b. *transf.* Of heat.

c 1700 KENNETT *MS. Lansdowne 1033,* fol. 388 (Halliw.), A sparkling or welding heat, used to weld barrs or pieces of iron. 1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* I. 11 The sparkling or welding heat is used, by which the metal is brought nearly to a state of fusion.

c. *Sparkling synchisis:* (see first quot.).

1859 MAYNE *Expos. Lex.* 1239/1 *Sparkling Synchysis,*.. term for a species of Synchysis, in which sparks are seen flashing before the eyes. 1898 *Hutchinson's Arch. Surg.* IX. 335 This attack had resulted in detachment of retina, sparkling synchisis, and loss of perception of light.

2. Of the eyes: Flashing, bright, animated.

1422 [cf. 1]. 1591 SHAKS. 1 *Hen. VI,* I. i. 12 His sparkling Eyes, repleat with wrathfull fire. 1611 COTGR. s.v. *Petiller,* A sparkling, or often-twinckling eye. 1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* I. (Globe) 209 A great Vivacity and sparkling Sharpness in his Eyes. 1784 COWPER *Task* I. 405 A sparkling eye beneath a wrinkled front The vet'ran shows. 1822 SCOTT *Nigel* xi, A thin bronzed visage,..and a pair of sparkling black eyes.

Comb. 1801 CATH. HOOD *Remonstr.,* etc. 26 Sparkling-ey'd health, fair innocence, and peace.

transf. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. III. i, With a sparkling briskness of glance.

3. Reflecting or emitting rays of light; flashing, glittering, brilliant, resplendent.

1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* I. viii. 22 His sparkling blade about his head he blest. *c* 1600 SHAKS. *Sonn.* XXVIII, When sparkling stars twire not, thou guild'st the eauen. 1661 BOYLE *Style of Script.* 51 What the Diamond is amongst stones, the pretiousest, and the sparklingest, the most apt to scatter light. 1784 COWPER *Task* V. 112 The sparkling trees And shrubs of fairy land. 1812 J. WILSON *Isle of Palms* I. 3 While many a sparkling star.. Far down within the watery sky reposes. 1850 R. G. CUMMING *Hunter's Life S. Afr.* (1902) 57/1 A mixture of fat and a grey sparkling ore, having the appearance of mica.

b. Of water, the sea, etc.

1782 *Phil. Trans.* LXXII. 430 The sparkling quality of the water did not cease entirely till the vegetable was quite deprived of its life. 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* iv, Sometimes a torrent poured its sparkling flood high among the woods. 1825 SCOTT *Talism.* ii, They had now arrived at..the fountain which welled out..in sparkling profusion. 1891 FARRAR *Darkn. & Dawn* xxxii, Its glorious vineyards by that blue and sparkling sea.

fig. 1806 WORDSW. *A Complaint* 10 That consecrated fount Of murmuring, sparkling, living love.

c. Of wines, etc.: (see SPARKLE *v.*[1] 4).

1422 tr. *Secreta Secret., Priv. Priv.* 244 Drynke grene wyne, clere, sharpe, and sparklynge in tempure. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Past.* v. 108 Two Goblets will I crown with sparkling Wine. 1757 GRAY *Bard* 77 Fill high the sparkling bowl. 1825 T. HOOK *Sayings* Ser. II. *Passion & Princ.* ix. III. 162 Those to whom the sparkling champagne..was a novelty, 1833 REDDING *Mod. Wines* v. 71 Champagne wines are divided into sparkling.., demi sparkling.., and still wines. 1888 *Encycl. Brit.* XXIV. 606 The sparkling champagnes are made from both white and red grapes.

transf. 1826 *Art of Brewing* (ed. 2) 27 A pungent agreeable flavour, and a brilliant sparkling appearance.

d. Effervescent.

1844 G. BIRD *Urin. Deposits* (1857) 170 This mixture evolves enough carbonic acid to be 'sparkling', and is generally taken with readiness.

e. In certain bird names, as *sparkling pheasant, -tail* (see quots.).

1861 GOULD *Trochilidæ* III. pl. 168 *Tryphæna Duponti*, Sparkling-tail. The tail is rendered remarkably sparkling by the decided contrasts of its colours. 1867 — *Birds Asia* VII. pl. 38 *Phasianus Scintillans*, Sparkling Pheasant.

4. Of talk, writing, etc.: Characterized by brilliancy and liveliness.

1647 CLARENDON *Hist. Reb.* I. § 129 His person beautiful, and graceful..; his wit pleasant, sparkling, and sublime. 1701 DE FOE *Trueborn Eng.* 35 It makes their Wit as sparkling as their Wine. 1795–1814 WORDSW. *Excurs.* II. 282 And he continued, when worse days were come, To deal about his sparkling eloquence. 1828 CARLYLE *Misc.* (1857) I. 214 A piece of sparkling rhetoric. 1856 *N. Brit. Rev.* XXVI. 229 Another lively chronicle.., which sketches with..sparkling vivacity the virtues, the follies, and the shams of our own day. 1884 L. J. JENNINGS *Croker Papers* I. Pref. p. iii, Mr. Croker's own letters were written in a singularly light and sparkling vein.

transf. 1859 GULLICK & TIMBS *Paint.* 268 The vigorous and sparkling touch adopted by Velasquez. 1887 *Encycl. Brit.* XXIII. 710/1 The modern characters .. have finer strokes and serifs, and produce in the page a more regular and sparkling general effect.

5. Of persons: Brilliant, animated, sprightly.

a 1704 T. BROWN *To Belinda* V. Wks. 1711 IV. 100 Tho' she's as sparkling, and as fine As Jests, and Gemms, and Paint can make her. 1746 HERVEY *Medit.* (1818) 269 The voice which so lately pronounced the sparkling pair husband and wife.

6. Of pleasure: Characterized by a high degree of delight or enjoyment.

1789 BURNS *Let. to Mrs. McMurdo* 2 May, Never did little Miss with more sparkling pleasure shew her applauded Samplar to partial Mama. 1842 LOVER *Handy Andy* xlvii, Privation one day, profusion the next, darkling dangers, and sparkling joys!

†Spa·rkling, *ppl. a.*[2] *Obs.*[−1] In 4 **sperkelande.** [f. SPARKLE *v.*[2]] Dispersing, scattering.

1387–8 T. USK *Test. Love* I. ii. (Skeat) I. 75 Wottest thou not wel..that every shepherde ought by reson to seke his sperkelande sheep.

Spa·rklingly, *adv.* [f. SPARKLING *ppl. a.*[1]] In a sparkling or vivacious manner; with sparkling brightness or brilliancy; brilliantly.

1669 BOYLE *Certain Physiol. Ess.* (ed. 2) *Absol. Rest Bodies* 18 Some Diamonds of hers, which sometimes would look more sparklingly than they were wont, and sometimes far more dull than ordinary. 1820 WIFFEN *Aonian Hours* (ed. 2) 13 In whose glass All things look sparklingly. 1854 *Tait's Mag.* XXI. 260 Spurted the splinters sparklingly, saw scraped, and hammer rung. 1879 MEREDITH *Egoist* vii, She assured him sparklingly that she was well.

So **Spa·rklingness.** *rare.*

a 1691 BOYLE *Ess. Intestine Motions Quiescent Solids* Wks. 1744 I. 286/2, I have..seemed to my self to observe a manifestly greater clearness and sparklingness at some times than at others. *a* 1697 AUBREY *Lives* (1898) II. 245 He threw his reparties about the table with so much sparklingness [ed. 1813 sparkliness] and gentileness of witt.

†Spa·rky, *sb. Obs.*[−1] [f. SPARK *sb.*[2] + -Y.] A spark or gallant.

1756 MRS. CALDERWOOD in *Coltness Collect.* (Maitland Club) 196 Miss Collier the cousine is a well-looked little lassie, and severall little sparkies were in love with her.

Sparky (spā·rki), *a.* [f. SPARK *sb.*[1] or *v.*[1]]

1. †a. Of velvet: Spotted with gold or some similar material. *Obs.*[−1]

Cf. SPARKED *ppl. a.* 2, and 'sparke of veluet Sackets' in Dekker *Work for Armourers* (1608) G ij.

1620 in Blunt *Ch. Chester-le-Street* (1884) 85 Paid for twelve yeards of sparkie velvett for the pulpitt cloth, at 4*s.* y^e yeard, 48*s.*

b. *dial.* Of cattle: Mottled; = SPARKED *ppl. a.* 1.

1787 GROSE *Prov. Gloss., Sparkey*, or *Sparkled*, spotted, sprinkled. A sparkey cow. 1837– in dial. glossaries (Devon, Somerset, Wilts). 1869 *Daily News* 8 Dec., The second pure Devon in the young class..showed in fine contrast with the very 'sparky' one in the older class.

2. Emitting sparks; also, lively, vivacious.

1827 CARLYLE *Germ. Rom.* II. 298 The Archivarius caught these lilies blazing in sparky fire and dashed them on the witch. 1883 in W. W. Peyton *Life H. Miller* ii. 21 Few like him for sport, a stirring, sparkie callant.

Sparling (spā·rlin), Now chiefly *north.* and *Sc.* Forms: *α.* 4–6 **sperlyng(e, -linge,** 4–6, 8–9 **sperling.** *β.* 5–6 **sparlynge,** 6 **-lyng,** 6– **sparling,** 7 **sparlin.** [ad. OF. *esperlinge* (later *esperlan*, mod.F. *éperlan*), of Teutonic origin, = MDu. and MLG. *spirlinc*, LG. and G. *spierling* (also G. and Du. *spiering*). Cf. SPIRLING and SPURLING.]

1. The common European smelt, *Osmerus eperlanus.* (Used either as a generic or collective name, or of single fish.)

α. 1307–8 *Durh. Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 3 In..ccc sperlinges. *c* 1325 *Metr. Hom.* 136 Riht als sturioun etes merling, And lobbekeling etes sperling. *a* 1377 *Abingdon Rolls* (Camden) 38 In sperlyng xiijs. xjd. *c* 1420 *Liber Cocorum* (1862) 54 Smalle fysshe þou take þer with, als trouȝte, sperlynges and menwus withal. 1489 *Churchw. Acc. Walberswick, Suffolk* (Nicholls, 1797) 183 The sed 2 men to gef a rekenynge of the herynge and sperlinges. 1500 *Maldon* (Essex) *Ct. Rolls* Bundle 59, No. 2 b, Per iii barell. herynge, iii cad. heryng, et ii meyse sperling. *a* 1536 *Songs, Carols*, etc. (E.E.T.S.) 114 Whan..sperlyngis rone with speris in harnes to defence. 1587 *Shuttleworths' Acc.* (Chetham Soc.) 43 A querter of a freshe samonde and foure salte ielles iij^s; sperlinges iij^d. 1596–7 *Ibid.* 108 Sperlynges. 1754 T. GARDNER *Hist. Dunwich* 145 Fishing-Boats for full and shotten Herrings, Sperlings, or Sprats. *a* 1869 C. SPENCE *From Braes of Carse* (1898) 52 Ye catch a sperling, and I catch a fluke.

β. 14.. *Lat.-Eng. Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 609 *Sardallus*, a sparlynge. *c* 1460 J. RUSSELL *Bk. Nurture* 833 in *Babees Book* (1868) 163 Salt fysche, salt Congur, samoun, with sparlynge. 1517 *Sel. Cases Star Chamb.* (Selden) II. 120 Thomas ..came with..ix^e last of heryng..and iiij last of Sparlyng. 1591 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* I. v. 330 The gilden Sparlings, when cold Winter's blast Begins to threat, themselves together cast. 1651 in W. M. Myddelton *Chirk Castle Acc.* (1908) 34 For sparlings & other fish at Chester. 1653 W. LAUSON *Comm. Dennys' Secrets Angling* II. No. 17 *n.*, [The gudgeon] is a dainty fish, like, or neere as good as the Sparlin. 1782 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 2) IX. 6934 Smelts are often sold in the streets of London split and dried. They are called *dried sparlings.* 1793 *Statist. Acc. Scotl.* VII. 54 The smelt or sparling, a very rare fish, is also found in the Cree. 1804 GALLOWAY *Poems* 73 While Forth yields her sa'mon and sparling. 1886 *Field* 23 Jan. 105/3 The fine net..was used for sparling, eels, &c.

†b. *fig.* As a term of endearment. *Obs.*[−1]

1570 *Wit & Science* (1848) 38, I wylbe bolde wyth my nowne darlyng, Cum now, a bas, my nowne proper sparlyng.

2. Applied to other small fish: **†a.** The sprat, *Clupea sprattus. Obs.*

1740 R. BROOKES *Art of Angling* II. xxxvii. 153 Of the Sprat or Sparling. A Sprat is so like a Herring in every Particular, that [etc.].

b. *U.S.* A young or immature herring.

1884 GOODE *Nat. Hist. Aquat. Anim.* 550 Certain local names for the Herring which..designate certain conditions and ages. To this class belongs the name 'Sperling', employed by our own fishermen of Cape Ann to denote the young herrings. 1888 EARLL in Goode *Amer. Fishes* 342 The pasture school remained within a few miles of a large school of sperling without being drawn after them.

3. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *sparling-boat, fishing*, etc.; **†sparling-fisher, -fowl,** the (female) goosander, *Mergus merganser.*

1678 RAY *Willughby's Ornith.* 333 The Dun-Diver or Sparlin-fowl: *Merganser fœmina.* 1700 C. LEIGH *Nat. Hist. Lancs.*, etc. I. 161 The Sparling-Fisher..is about the Bigness of a Duck, and by a wonderful Activity in Diving catches its Prey. 1710 SIBBALD *Hist. Fife* II. 49 The Female of it [*sc.* goosander] is by some thought to be the Mergus Cinereus, the Sparling-Fowl. 1754 T. GARDNER *Hist. Dunwich* 20 Each Sperling-Boat, five shillings on presenting Days. 1902 *Stirling Nat. Hist. & Arch. Soc. Jrnl.* 29 The sparling is one of the fishes of the Forth, and sparling fishing is still prosecuted in the river.

†Sparlire. *Obs.* Forms: *α.* I **speorlira** (etc.), 4 **sparlire, sperlire,** 4–5 **sparlyr(e.** *β.* 4–5 **sparlyver, -uer,** 5 **sperlyver.** [OE. *spær-, spearlira* (also *sper-, speoru-*), f. *spearwa* calf of the leg + *lira* LIRE *sb.*[1] The later change of *-lire* to *-liver* is irregular.] The calf of the leg.

α. *c* 1000 ÆLFRIC *Deut.* xxviii. 35 Slea þe drihten mid þam wirstan yfele on cneowum and on spearlirum. 13.. *Sir Beues* 2487 Be þe riȝt leg ȝhe him grep..,þat neȝ ȝhe braide out is sparlire. 13.. *Gaw. & Gr. Knt.* 158 Heme wel haled, hose of þat same grene, þat spenet on his sparlyr & clene spures vnder. *a* 1400 *Octouian* 330 The ape hym boot full yile Thorgh the sparlyre.

β. *c* 1380 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* III. 92 þe Lord schal smyte þee wiþ moost yvel biel in knees and in sparlyveris. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) V. 355 For þat tyme þe Longobardes usede strapeles wiþ brode laces doun to þe sparlyver. 14.. *Parts Body* in Wr.-Wülcker 632 *Musculus*, the sperlyver.

Sparm(e, obs. ff. SPERM. **Sparmacetye,** obs. f. SPERMACETI. **Spar-maker:** see SPAR *sb.*[1] 5. **Sparmaticall, -tyke,** obs. ff. SPERMATIC(AL.

Sparoid (spæ·roid, spā·roid), *a.* and *sb. Ichth.* [ad. mod.L. *Sparoidēs*, f. *sparus* SPARUS.]

A. *adj.* Of or belonging to, characteristic of, the *Sparidæ* or sea-bream family.

1836 J. RICHARDSON *Fauna Bor. Amer.* III. 71 No one Sparoid species is known to exist on both sides of the Atlantic. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 310 The genus *Pentapus* is founded upon certain Sparoid fishes found in the Indian Seas. 1862 COUCH *Brit. Fishes* I. 220 The Sparoid Family, or Sea Breams.

b. Of scales: (see quots.).

a 1856 YARRELL *Brit. Fishes* (1859) II. 135 Sparoid scales are..thin, broader than long, with the centre of growth near their posterior border. 1880 GUNTHER *Fishes* 46 Scales, the free surface of which is spiny, and which have no denticulation on the Margin, have been termed Sparoid scales.

B. *sb.* A fish of this family.

1842 BRANDE *Dict. Sci.*, etc. 1136/2 Sparoids, *Sparoides*, the name of a tribe of Acanthopterygian fishes of which the genus *Sparus* is the type. 1851 MANTELL *Petrifactions* v. § 1. 412 Sparoids, or Breams. 1884 GOODE *Nat. Hist. Aquat. Anim.* 394 Californian Sparoids.

Sparonaro, obs. variant of SPERONARA.

Sparoo, -ov, -ow(e, obs. forms of SPARROW.

†Sparple, *v. Obs.* Forms: *α.* 4, 6 **sparpil(l,** 5 **sparpeyll,** 5–6 **sparpyll(e,** 6 **-el(l,** 6–7 **-al(l,** 4–6 (9) **sparple;** 4–5 **sparpoil, 6 -ole;** 5 **sperpule,** 5–6 **sperpele, -ale, -ole, sperple.** *β.* 4–6 **sparble,** 6 **sparbel-.** (See also SPARPLE *v.*, SPARKLE *v.*[2], and SPARTLE *v.*[1]) [ad. OF. *esparpeillier* (12th c.; mod.F. *éparpiller*), = Prov. *esparpalhar*, Catal. *esparpillar*, It. *sparpagliare*, to scatter, disperse, send in all directions: of uncertain origin, cf. DISPARPLE *v.*]

1. *intr.* To go or run in different directions; to disperse or scatter.

α. *c* 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 8488 Fele were slayn als þey fledde, & fleyng þey sparplyed & spredde. *c* 1420 *Wars Alex.* (Prose) 39 (E.E.T.S.), Wate þou noȝte wele þat a wolfe chasez a grete floke of schepe & gerse þam sparple. *c* 1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 7826 On þe ferth day þai sparpylled. *c* 1475 *Rauf Coilȝear* 26 Ilk ane tuik ane seir way, And sperpellit full fer.

β. *c* 1440 *Partonope* 1076 (Roxb. Cl.), For Partanope made hym sparble wyde. *c* 1450 *Merlin* xvii. 274 Than sparbled the saisnes and turned bakke towarde her chyuachie.

2. *trans.* To cast or throw here and there or in different directions; to scatter; to disperse or separate unduly or improperly.

a 1350 *John Bapt.* 222 in Horstm. *Altengl. Leg.* (1881) 126 þe banes þat þai fand Sparpilled þai wide in þe land. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XIX. CXXXI. (1495) 942 The rough voyc is hose and sparplyd by smalle and dyuers brethynge. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 4162 þan ferd þai forth..& freschly assemblis All at was sperpolid on þe spene & spilt with þe blastis. 1487 *Sc. Acts Parlt.* (1814) II. 178 Nor the merchandis gudis be strikin vp nor vnresonably sperpalit. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* XI. xii. 50 With sik rebound and rewyne wonder sayr That he his lyfe hes sparpellit in the ayr. 1542 *St. Papers Hen. VIII*, III. 374 The Kinges Majesties Judges..wer so sperplid or severid from other, not two in one housse. 1566 DRANT tr. *Hor., Sat.* I. i. A iij, If that thou spende and sparple it, no dodkin wyll abyde. 1819 W. TENNANT *Papistry Storm'd* v. (1827) 152 The heukle-banies black That sparpled lay about like wrack Or tangles on a shore.

b. To disperse by distribution or division among persons. Chiefly *Sc.*

1435 MISYN *Fire of Love* 24 Gudes þe whilk he has ouer his nede, to þame þat it nedis he sparpyll. 1533 BELLENDEN *Livy* II. iii. 138 The faderis has dividit þe croun amang þame self, and sparpellit his riches and guddis amang þe pepill. 1581 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* III. 414 The guidis and geir of the forsaidis rebellis..ar sparpallit and devidit in the handes of sindre personis. 1625 *Ibid.* X. 343 [They have] sparpallit and disponit upoun the same gold and silver at thair pleasour.

3. To break up, scatter, disperse (an assembly, army, fleet, etc.) by superior force. Freq. with *abroad.*

α. 1382 WYCLIF 2 *Sam.* xviii. 8 Forsothe there was the batail sparpoild vpon the face of al the loond. *c* 1420 *Wars Alex.* (Prose) 74 (E.E.T.S.), Thare na gouernour es þe folke are sparpled belyfe als schepe þat ere wit owtten ane hirde. 1489 CAXTON *Faytes of A.* I. xxiv. 74 So were they in parell to be broken and sparpeylled abrode. *c* 1500 *Melusine* 165, I..shal shew you of the viii vessels that were sparpylled by the tempeste. 1549 THOMAS *Hist. Italy* 186 Andrew and his men behaued them selfes so valiauntly, that they sparpled the imperiall army abrode. 1582 N. LICHEFIELD tr. *Castanheda's Conq. E. Ind.* I. lviii. 121 b, There was made a great slaughter, yea, farre greater then in the fieldes, for that there they were sperpeled and heere they tooke them altogether in their streets.

β. *a* 1513 FABYAN *Chron.* VII. (1811) 375 Where thorough that symple feleshyp whiche named theym self shepherdes, was disseueryd and sparbelyd. *Ibid*, 636 The Kynges hoost was sparbled and chasyd.

4. To disperse in a more or less regular or methodical manner.

c 1400 *Lanfranc's Cirurg.* 158 þe veyne arisynge comeþ to þe mydrif; & sum partie of hir is sparpoiled þoruȝ þe mydrif & þe lymes of þe brest. 1536 BELLENDEN *Cron. Scot.* (1821) I. 48 King Rewtha brocht all maner of craftismen out of othir contres, and sparpellit thaim in sindry schiris of his realme. 1553 T. WILSON *Rhet.* 90 There is another kind of exornacion that is not equally sparpled throughout the whole oration.

5. To spread *abroad* or disseminate (rumours, news, etc.).

1536–7 EARL OF DERBY in *6th Report Hist. MSS. Commission* 445/2 Which letters and devises they sparple abroad. 1548 UDALL, etc. *Erasm. Par. John* vii. 52 These sayinges were by secrete whisperinges sperpled abrode. 1582 J. MELVILL *Autobiog.* (Wodrow Soc.) 132 Newes war

sparpelit athort the countrey, that the Ministers war all to be thair massacred.

† Sparpled, *ppl. a. Obs.* [f. prec.] Dispersed, scattered.

1432 *Wednesdayes Faste* (W. de W.), Wherfore his shepe sparpled to folde he can brynge. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 352/1 Sparpyllde, *sparsus, diuisus.* *c* 1557 ABP. PARKER *Ps.* xliv. 129 Thou letst us all as sparpled sheepe, to be devoured quyte. 1609 HEYWOOD *Brit. Troy* XIII. xcix, With the next [stroke] his sparpled braines appeare. *Ibid.* XV. xc, Ihoues sparpled Alters licke the blood Of slaughtred Priam.

† Sparpling, *vbl. sb. Obs.* [f. as prec.] The action of the verb; dispersing, scattering. Also, mental or spiritual distraction.

1434 MISYN *Mending Life* 110 All þe sparpilyngis of his hart fest he in on[e] desyre. *Ibid.* 118 Sparpillynge sumtyme comys, & wauyrynge of hart. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 352/1 A Sparpyllynge, *sparsio, diuisio.* 1557 LD. WARTON in Strype *Ann. Ref.* (1824) VII. 382 Our men being not of power to encounter them held them close from sparpling abroad to destroy the country.

So **† Spa·rpling** *ppl. a.*, distracting. *Obs.*—1

1435 MISYN *Fire of Love* 66 Sturbyld he settis in pesse, & all noyse sparpilland he wastis.

Sparre, obs. variant of SPEER *v.*

Sparred (spɑːd), (*ppl.*) *a.* [f. SPAR *sb.*1 or *v.*3]

1. Made or constructed of, having or fitted with, spars, narrow boards, or planks, set with intervals or spaces between them.

1805 R. W. DICKSON *Pract. Agric.* I. Pl. 18, Calf pens with sparred floors. 1834 M. SCOTT *Cruise Midge* (1859) 369 A passage..on each side of which were sparred partitions of unpainted pine boards. 1844 J. T. HEWLETT *Parsons & W.* liii, A heavy sparred gate, which ever stood open. 1880 J. DUNBAR *Pract. Papermaker* 49 On the floor of the pit a sparred bottom should be placed.

2. Having spar-like markings.

1827 GRIFFITH tr. *Cuvier* V. 98 The Blue Wing Bat, the Black Back Bat, the Sparred Bat.

3. Of a ship: Furnished with masts, yards, etc.

1905 *Westm. Gaz.* 10 Aug. 9/2 At other points the sparred Indiaman or Colonial traders..lay moored to quay or buoy.

Sparrer (spɑ·rəɪ). *colloq.* [f. SPAR *v.*2] One who spars or boxes. Also *fig.*

1814 *Sporting Mag.* XLIV. 92 The parties were rival sparrers in the North. 1818 COBBETT *Pol. Reg.* XXXIII. 2 The 'Courier' and..the 'Morning Chronicle', those sparrers in double-padded gloves. 1862 THACKERAY *Philip* vii, Cinqbars was a pretty sparrer—but no stamina. 1886 B. SHAW *Cash. Byron's Prof.* Prol. iii, He says you're only a sparrer, and that you'd fall down with fright if you was put into a twenty-four foot ring.

† Spa·rret. *Obs.*—1 [Diminutive of SPAR *sb.*1] A small spar or bar.

1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* I. 32 He and I going in to see the inraviled image with sparrets of iron.

Spar-rib, variant of SPARE-RIB.

Spa·rriness. *rare*—1. [f. SPARRY *a.*2] Sparry quality or condition.

1841 LD. COCKBURN *Circuit Journ.* (1888) 120 Its stalactites were unbroken...Now that not one remains, the whole charm, which was in its sparriness, is gone.

Spa·rring, *vbl. sb.*1 [f. SPAR *v.*1] The action of closing, fastening, or securing.

1564–78 BULLEIN *Dial. agst. Pest* (1888) 57 The diggyng vp of graues, the sparring in of windowes.

Sparring (spɑ·rɪŋ), *vbl. sb.*2 [f. SPAR *sb.*1 or *v.*3] The action of fitting or providing with spars, in various senses.

1459–60 *Durh. Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 88 Pro..le Watlyng et sparryng unius domus. 1606 *Shuttleworths' Acc.* (Chetham Soc.) 166 For bynding, rearinge, sparringe, lattinge, and making of iiij dowers in the said barne, vj^{li}. 1627 CAPT. SMITH *Seaman's Gram.* ii. 14 For clamps,..they shall be all of six inch planke...The rest for the sparring vp of the workes of square three inch planke. 1873 [W. COOPER] (*title*), Yachts and Yachting...Being a treatise on building, sparring, canvassing, sailing, and the general management of yachts, etc.

Sparring (spɑ·rɪŋ), *vbl. sb.*3 [f. SPAR *v.*2]

1. The action of fighting or encountering in a special manner (see the vb.) on the part of cocks and pugilists. Also *transf.*, skirmishing.

1686 R. BLOME *Gentl. Recreat.* II. 278/2 After they have been thus fed,..take them out of their Pens, and putting a pair of Hots upon each of their Heals,..let them fight, and buffet each other a good while, provided they do not wound or draw Blood of each other, and this is called Sparring of Cocks. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl., Sparring*, among Cock-fighters, is the fighting a Cock with another to breathe him. 1734 tr. *Rollin's Ancient Hist.* (1827) I. 76 Endeavouring by that sparring to keep off their enemy. 1797 *Sporting Mag.* X. 320 Nor is the glory of sparring extinguished for ever. 1811 *Ibid.* XXXVII. 99 A manly stand-up fight, to the exclusion altogether of sparring and shifting. 1861 HUGHES *Tom Brown at Oxf.* viii, The fighting man was..there, stripped for sparring. 1885 *New Bk. of Sports* 127 Fifty years ago sparring with the gloves was regarded chiefly as a means to an end.

2. *transf.* Verbal hitting or skirmishing; engagement in argument or dispute; bandying of words.

1755 J. SHEBBEARE *Lydia* (1769) II. 32 She knew the conversation of the evening would turn upon the subject of the earl's marriage: and that some gentle sparrings might probably be aimed at her ladyship. 1825 JEFFERSON *Autobiog.* Wks. 1859 I. 11 These gentlemen had had some sparrings in debate before. 1861 *Illust. Lond. N.* 18 May 476/3 A little amusing sparring took place between the lecturer and Mr. Sexton. 1891 CLARK RUSSELL *Curatica* 81 But let us have done with sparring, and come to business.

3. In attributive uses, as *sparring-academy, -lesson, -match, -room*, etc.; **† sparring-blow** (see quots. *a* 1700, 1785), also, a hard or severe blow.

a 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew, Sparring-blows*, the first Strokes to try the goodness of young Cocks Heels; also those in a Battel before the Cocks come to Mouth it. 1701 RUSHW. *Hist. Coll.* IV. I. 139 This Year [1645] had generally been very fatal to his Majesty's Interests, so it concluded with such a Sparring-Blow as destroy'd almost all hopes of Resource. 1704 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4063/4 The..Pens are..very convenient to the sparring and stiving Rooms. 1785 GROSE *Dict. Vulgar T., Sparring blows*, blows given by cocks before they close, or as the term is, mouth it, used figuratively for words previous to a quarrel. 1807 J. BERESFORD *Miseries Hum. Life* (ed. 3) II. xviii. 208 This sparring match is quite a Comedy to me. 1847 ALB. SMITH *Chr. Tadpole* xxix. (1879) 261 I've got a gent up stairs for a sparring lesson. 1853 'C. BEDE' *Verdant Green* I. xvi, He would have..referred him to his spacious ..Sparring Academy.

Sparrow (spæ·rou). Forms: *α.* 1 **spearu(u)a, spearwa,** 4 **sperwe,** 4–5 **sparwe**; 1 **spearewa,** 3–5 **sparewe.** *β.* 1 **spearuwa,** 3 **speruwe,** 5 **sperow, sperrowe**; 3 **sparuwe,** 4–6 **sparowe** (4, 6–7 **sparr-**), **sparow,** 4, 6 **sparou** (4 **sparov, sparu, sparw,** 5 **sparoo**), 6– **sparrow.** [OE. *spearwa*, etc., = Goth. *sparwa*, MHG. *sparwe, sparbe, sperwe*, older Da. *sparwe, sporwe, spørwe* (Da. *spurv*, Norw. dial. *sporv, sparv*, Sw. *sparf*; also obs. Da. *spurg, sporig*, NFris. *sparreg*). The original *w* of the stem has disappeared in OHG. *sparo* (MHG. *spare, spar*, G. dial. *spar*; cf. MHG. *sperlinc*, G. *sperling*) and ON. *spørr* (Norw. dial. *sporr, spør*, obs. Da. *sparre, spurre*). Outside of Teutonic the stem seems to occur in OPruss. *spurglis* sparrow, *spergla-wanags* sparrow-hawk.

The forms *speara* in the Vesp. Ps. lxxxiii. 4 and *spare* in the earlier Wycliffite Ps. ci. 8, although similar to the Continental forms without *w*, are so isolated in Eng. that they may be mere scribal errors.]

1. A small brownish-grey bird of the family *Fringillidae*, indigenous to Europe, where it is very common, and naturalized in various other countries; esp. the house-sparrow *Passer domesticus.*

α. c 725 *Corpus Gloss.* F 128 *Fenus*, spearua. *c* 825 *Vesp. Psalter* ci. 8 Seworden ic eam swe swe spearwa..in timbre. *c* 900 tr. *Bæda's Hist.* II. xiii. (1890) 136 Cume an spearwa & hrædlice þæt hus þurhfleo. *c* 1100 *O. E. Chron.* (MS. D) an. 1067, He..sæiȝ þæt..an spearwa on gryn ne mæg befeallan forutan his foresceawunge. *c* 1205 LAY. 29274 He lette forð wenden swiðe ueole sparewen; þa sparwen heore flut nomen [etc.]. *a* 1325 *Prose Psalter* x. 1 Wende þou in-to heuen as a sparwe? *c* 1340 *Nominale* (Skeat) 390 [Man] takith sperwe in nette. *c* 1380 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* I. 195 þei ben betere þan many sparewis. *c* 1400 *Brut* XCV. 94 þai..token peces of tunder..and bonde to sparwe feet.

β. c 1000 *Ags. Ps.* (Thorpe) ci. 5 Ic spearuwan..ȝelice ȝewearð. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 152 Ȝet is ancre iefned her to sparuwe þet is one under roue. *Ibid.*, Ich am..ase speruwe þet is one. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 11986 Wit handes made he sparus tuelue. *a* 1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* CXXIII. 6 We ere takyn out as sparow þat flees þe snare. 14.. *Sir Beues* (M.) 2526 Euery man callyd me a sparoo. 1456 SIR G. HAYE *Law Arms* (S.T.S.) 12 The sparow is a lytill foule janglare. *a* 1529 SKELTON *P. Sparowe* 266 But my sparowe dyd pas All sparowes of the wode. 1555 EDEN *Decades* II. VII. (Arb.) 129 There is no lesse plentie of popingiais, then with vs of dooues or sparous. 1616 R. C. *Times' Whistle* (1871) 87 Fine gellies of decocted sparrowes bones. 1708 PRIOR *Turtle & Sparrow* 5 The Sparrow..(A Bird that loves to chirp and talk). 1784 COWPER *Task* V. 65 The sparrows peep, and quit the shelt'ring eaves. 1802 BINGLEY *Anim. Biog.* (1813) II. 169 No bird is better known in every part of Great Britain than the Sparrow. 1897 *Times* 5 Jan. 10/5 Few small birds, with the exception of the robin, will face the sparrow.

b. Used as a term of endearment.

c 1600 *Timon* II. i. (1842) 24 Lett me but kisse thyne eyes, my sweete delight, My sparrow,..my duck, my cony.

c. *slang.* (See quots.)

1879 *Gd. Words* 739 There are their 'sparrows' (beer or beer-money), given by householders [to the dustmen] when their dust-holes are emptied. 1902 *Daily Chron.* 6 Dec. 3/7, I should like to say a few words about the milkman's secret customers, otherwise 'sparrows'.

2. With distinguishing terms, denoting varieties of the true sparrow, or other small birds in some way resembling these.

See also *field-, house-, Java, mountain-, ring-, Savannah, swamp-sparrow*, and HEDGE-, REED-, SONG-, TREE-SPARROW. Many other names, which have obtained little or no currency, are given in the ornithologies of Edwards, Latham, and Wilson.

1668 [see SPECKLED *ppl. a.*]. 1678 RAY *Willughby's Ornith.* 385 The foolish Sparrow..is a Sea fowl, and feeds upon fish. It hath the cry of a Jay. *a* 1705 — *Syn. Avium* (1713) 187 Green Sparrow, or Green Humming Bird. 1767 tr. *Cranz' Greenland* I. 85 The akpalliarsuk, or seasparrow,..is no larger than a fieldfare. 1771 *Encycl. Brit.* II. 633/2 The black fringilla..is the American black sparrow with red eyes. *Ibid.* 634/1 The black fringilla, with a white belly, is the American snow-sparrow of Catesby. 1810 WILSON *Amer. Ornith.* II. 128 The Chipping sparrow is five inches and a quarter long. 1842 J. B. FRASER *Mesopot. & Assyria* XV. 368 The becafico is called the fig-sparrow. 1899 W. T. GREENE *Cage-Birds* 59 The Diamond Sparrow, also an Australian, but inhabiting further south than the Zebra Finch.

3. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *sparrow-chatter, -hole, -kind, -legs, -pest, -trap, -tribe*; *sparrow-billed, coloured, -footed* adjs.

1841 J. T. HEWLETT *Parish Clerk* I. 288 Cormorants,.. and the *sparrow-billed puffins. 1851 W. ANDERSON *Expos. Popery* (1878) 125 Such is the *sparrow-chatter of a degenerate..generation. 1815 STEPHENS in *Shaw's Gen. Zool.* IX. II. 385 *Sparrow-coloured Bunting. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* I. 156 The women [have feet] so short & smal, that thereupon they be called Struthopodes, *i.* *sparrow footed. *a* 1722 LISLE *Husb.* (1757) 193 *Sparrow-holes under the eaves of a reek. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) V. 299 Of Birds of the *Sparrow Kind in General. 1886 W. J. TUCKER *E. Europe* 385 A very little man, with a very big abdomen, on *sparrow legs. 1884 *York Herald* 26 Aug. 6/5 The Chester Farmers' Club met..to discuss the *sparrow pest and its remedies. 1876 SMILES *Sc. Natur.* ii. (ed. 4) 38 A few.. boys preparing *sparrow-traps. 1842 LOUDON *Suburban Hort.* 107 Among birds of the *sparrow tribe, the starling deserves particular notice.

4. Special combs.: **sparrow-beak,** *dial.* (see quot.); **sparrow-bottle,** a jar suspended on a wall to serve as a nesting-place for sparrows; **sparrow club,** a society formed for destroying sparrows; **sparrow-hail,** the smallest kind of shot; **sparrow-mumbling,** the action of holding a cock-sparrow's wing in the mouth, and attempting to draw in the head by movement of the lips; **sparrow-net,** a net fixed on a pole, used for catching sparrows living in the eaves of houses or in grain-stacks; **sparrow-picked** *a.*, marked with small indentations; **sparrow-pie,** a dish proverbially supposed to make the eater sharp-witted; **sparrow-pot,** = *sparrow-bottle*; **sparrow-pudding,** = *sparrow-pie*; **sparrow-tail,** a long narrow coat-tail; also *attrib.*

1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss.*, **Sparrow-beaks*, fossil shark's teeth: called also birds' beaks. 1881 *N. & Q.* 6th Ser. IV. 456 *Sparrow bottles..of red ware..are continually used by most of the farmers in Thorney Fen. 1886 *Pall Mall G.* 29 May 4 Clubs, known as '*sparrow clubs', were formed expressly with a view to their utter and speedy extermination. 1859 *J. Watson's Bards Border* 53 Some *sparrow-hail wad best despatch him. 1868 W. R. TRENCH *Realities Irish Life* (1869) 22 Some flasks of gunpowder and a quantity of 'sparrow hail'. 1852 HAWKER *Cornish Ball.* (1899) 147 Among them, swallowing living mice and *sparrow-mumbling had frequent place. 1621 MARKHAM *Hungers Prev.* 101 The Engine or *Sparrow-nette..must carry this fashion or proportion. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. xxii. (Roxb.) 278/1 That on the sinister chief is termed an Eve or Easing nett, or a Sparrow nett or Purse nett. 1707 MORTIMER *Husb.* (1721) I. 323 Many ways are made use of to destroy them; but none more effectual than the large folding Sparrow Net. 1808 F. W. MACEY *Specifications* 130 Granite may be roughly axed, finely axed, *sparrow-picked, or polished. 1881 BLACKMORE *Cristowell* XXXVII, How sharp you are! You've been eating *sparrow-pie. 1886 P. ROBINSON *Valley Teet. Trees* 87 Introduce another British novelty—and try sparrow-pie. 1831 RENNIE *Montagu's Ornith. Dict.* 486 Unless they multiply their *Sparrow pots yearly. 1833 LOUDON *Encycl. Archit.* § 550 The use of these sparrow pots is, to prevent the birds from dirtying the walls or windows with what falls from their nests. 1896 *Daily News* 3 Nov. 7/2 The heckler..must rise very early in the morning and dine very liberally off '*sparrow-pudding'. 1888 EGGLESTON *Graysons* XXVI, The lawyers in their blue *sparrow-tail coats with brass buttons, which constituted then [about 1840] a kind of professional uniform.

b. In names of animals and plants: **sparrow-bunting** (see quot.); **† sparrow-camel,** the ostrich; **sparrow-duck,** *dial.* the hooded crow; **sparrow-owl,** one or other of various small owls, esp. of the genus *Glaucidium*; **† sparrow parrot,** a small species of parrot; **† sparrow's toadflax** (see quot. and *sparrow-wort*); **sparrow's-tongue,** the knot-grass, *Polygonum aviculare*; **sparrow-wort** (see quots.).

1894–5 LYDEKKER *Roy. Nat. Hist.* III. 416 The *sparrow-bunting (*Zonotrichia albicollis*),..differs from the true buntings by the exposed nostrils. 1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* 163 The common opinion of the Oestridge, Struthiocamelus, or *Sparrow-Camell conceives that it digesteth Iron. 1895 P. H. EMERSON *Birds* xlix. 140 Kentishmen are sold and eaten as '*sparrow-duck'. 1831 RENNIE *Montagu's Ornith. Dict.* 488 The *Sparrow Owl is a very rare species in England. 1870 GILLMORE tr. *Figuier's Reptiles & Birds* 553 Sparrow Owls are of small size. 1787 LATHAM *Syn. Birds* Suppl. II. 93 *Psittacus fringillaceus.* *Sparrow Parrot...General colour green, head blue. 1597 GERARDE *Herbal* II. clvi. 443 *Passerina linaria.* *Sparrowes Tode flaxe. This plant also for resemblance sake is referred vnto the Linaries, bicause his leaues be like Linaria. *a* 1400 *Stockholm Med. MS.* in *Archaeol.* XXX. 413 *Sparwystungge,..*Centenodium.* 1597 GERARDE *Herbal* Table Eng. Names, Sparrowes toong, that is Knotgrasse. 1760 J. LEE *Introd. Bot.* App. 327 *Sparrow-wort, *Passerina. Ibid.*, Sparrow-wort, Tragus's, *Stellera.* 1852 G. JOHNSON *Cott. Gard. Dict.* 681/2 *Passerina.* Sparrow-wort...Greenhouse evergreens, white-flowered, and from the Cape of Good Hope.

Hence **Spa·rrowcide,** the destruction of sparrows; **Spa·rrowdom,** the region of sparrows; **Spa·rrower,** one who snares or kills sparrows; **Spa·rrowhood,** the condition of being a sparrow; **Spa·rrowish** *a.*, characteristic of a sparrow; **Spa·rrowless,** devoid of sparrows; **Spa·rrowling,** a young sparrow; **Spa·rrowy** *a.*, abounding in, frequented by, sparrows.

1865 *St. James' Mag.* Feb. 375 *Sparrowcide is not a modern crime, but was extensively practised by our forefathers. 1880 *Fraser's Mag.* Jan. 49 At least, when we get outside the cities we get outside of *Sparrowdom. 1830 tr. *Aristophanes' Birds* 226 Should any one of you slay Philocrates the *Sparrower, he shall receive a talent. 1869

Echo 2 Sept., The sparrows, so soon as ever they grow from the callow state to mature *sparrowhood, become..dark and rusty. 1641 *True Char. of Untrue Bishop* 4 Witnesse his many *Sparrowish, Wrenlike wanton extravagances. 1848 W. Stirling *Artists of Spain* I. 371 In these *sparrowless shades, Factor spent much of his time. 1849 *Fraser's Mag.* XXXIX. 573 A poor, unfledged, twittering *sparrowling. 1891 Meredith *One of our Conq.* II. iv. 85 London of the *sparrowy roadways and wearisome pavements.

Spa'rrow-bill. [f. prec.] = Sparable 1.

The application in quot. 1834–6 is irregular, a sparrow-bill being properly distinct from a brad, and having no projection.

1629 Dekker *Loudon's Tempe* iv. Wks. 1873 IV. 123 Hob-nailes to serve the man i' th' moone, And sparrowbils to cloute Pan's shoone. 1688 Holme *Armoury* III. 300/1 *Sparrow Bills*, Nails to clout Shooes withal. 1706 [see Sparable 1]. 1834–6 P. Barlow in *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) VIII. 671/1 The kind of brads called sparrow-bills, (which have a small projection from one side of their heads). 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* IV. 12/1 Those small tacks called sparrowbills, which are much used by shoemakers.

attrib. and *Comb.* 1859 Sala *Gas-light & D.* xxxiii. 387 White drawers and stockings, flaring waist-handkerchiefs and sparrow-bill shoes. 1881 *Instr. Census Clerks* (1885) 91 Sparrow-bill Cutter, Maker.

† Sparrow-blasted, *a. Obs.* [Cf. next.] Balefully stricken or blighted; thunderstruck, dumbfounded.

a 1652 Brome *Queenes Exch.* v. i, What art thow that canst look thus Piepickt, Crowtrod, or Sparrow-blasted? ha! 1682 Bunyan *Holy War* (1905) 337 Will you never shake off your timorousness? are you afraid of being sparrow-blasted? who hath hurt you? 1823 Galt *Entail* lxxiii, 'Eh! Megsty me! I'm sparrow-blasted!' exclaimed the Leddy,..lifting both her hands and eyes in wonderment.

† Sparrow-blasting. *Obs.* [f. Sparrow, with jocular or contemptuous force.] The fact of being blasted or blighted by some mysterious power, sceptically regarded as unimportant or non-existent.

1589 ? Nashe *Martin's Months Mind* Ep. to Rdr. B j b, No more praying against thunder and lightning, than against sparrowe blasting. 1593 *Tell-Troth's N. Y. Gift* (1876) 35 To lock vp ones wife for fear of sparrow-blasting. 1617 J. Taylor (Water P.) *Trav. to Hamburgh* E 2 b, Which two precious relickes I brought home with me to defend me and all my friends from sparrow blasting. 1633 T. Adams *Exp. 2 Peter* ii. 6 Otherwise they say, we pray against sparrow-blasting.

Spa'rrow-grass, spa'rrowgrass. Now *dial.* or *vulgar.* Also 7–9 **sparagrass** (7 **sparra-gras**), 8 **-gras(se.** [Corruption of Sparagus, assimilated to Sparrow and Grass.] Asparagus.

a. 1664 F. Hawkins *Youths Behav.* II. 178 Prauns, or Sparagrass. *Ibid.*, A dish of Sparagrass. 1711 in Leader *Rec. Burgery Sheffield* (1897) 334 Paid a messinger for bringing sparagrasse from Doncaster. 1723 *Pres. St. Russia* I. 151 Roses, Gilliflowers, and well-tasted Sparagras. 1764 Foote *Mayor of G.* II. Wks. 1799 I. 181, I should recommend the opening a new branch of trade; sparagrass, gentlemen, the manufacturing of sparagrass. 1801 Southey in C. Southey *Life* II. 154 Sparagrass (it ought to be spelt so) and artichokes, good with plain butter.

β. 1649 [see Asparagus 1 δ]. *c* 1685 *Three Merry Trav.* in *Bagford Ball.* 52 Both Chickens and sparrow grass she did provide. 1712 Addison *Spect.* No. 371 P 4 The Ducklins and Sparrow-grass were very good. 1734 [see Asparagus 1 δ]. 1819 'Rabelais the younger' *Abeillard & Heloisa* 5 Some score hundred sparrow-grass, As it's now call'd by every ass. 1860 O. W. Holmes *Elsie V.* xxxii, Mind me now, and take the tops of your sparrowgrass. 1865 'C. Bede' *Rook's Gard.*, etc. 96, I have heard the word sparrowgrass from the lips of a real Lady—but then she was in her seventies.

b. *attrib.*, as *sparrow-grass bed, green, plant.*

1658 in W. M. Myddelton *Chirk Castle Acc.* (1908) 78 Paid ..his gardiner that came with sparrowgrasse plants. *c* 1700 T. Houghton in *Essex Rev.* (1906) XV. 170 The side of the dwelling house which looks toward the sparagrass beds. 1796 Kirwan *Elem. Min.* (ed. 2) I. 28 Sparrow grass green —pale yellowish green with a mixture of grey and brown.

Spa'rrow-hawk. Also 5 **sparowhawke** (6 **-hauke**). [f. Sparrow: cf. Sparhawk. So Sw. *sparfhök*, Norw. dial. *sporvehauk.*]

1. A species of hawk (*Accipiter nisus*) which preys on small birds, common in the British Islands and widely distributed in northern Europe and Asia. Occas., one or other species of hawk resembling this.

14.. *Metr. Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 625 *Nisus*; sparowhawke. *c* 1450 *Mirk's Festial* 43 A bryd þat couthe speke..went out of his cage, and a sparow-hawke wold haue slayne hym. *a* 1548 Hall *Chron., Hen. V*, 58 b, The Normans fled as fast as..the sely Partridge before the Sparowhauke. 1611 Beaum. & Fl. *Philaster* II. i, Use exercise, and keep a Sparrow-hawk. 1642 Fuller *Holy & Prof. St.* IV. xvi. 322 An Embassadour should not as a sparrow-hawk flie outright to his prey. 1752 J. Hill *Hist. Anim.* V. 341 *The Sparrow hawk.* The yellow-legged Falco, with a white, undulated breast, and a fasciated brown tail. 1768 Pennant *Brit. Zool.* I. 151 The difference between the size of the male and female sparrow hawks is more disproportionate than in most other birds of prey. 1843 Yarrell *Brit. Birds* I. 63 The Sparrow-Hawk is another short-winged Hawk. 1870 Gillmore tr. *Figuier's Reptiles & Birds* 590 The Sparrow-hawks are distinguished from the preceding birds by the slenderness of their tarsi. 1880 A. Newton in *Encycl. Brit.* XI. 534/2 The so-called 'Sparrow-Hawk' of New Zealand (*Hieracidea*) does not belong to this group of birds at all.

fig. 1820 Scott *Monast.* xxxv, Thou art a bold sparrow-hawk, to match thee so early with such a kite as Piercie Shafton. 1859 Tennyson *Marr. Geraint* 444 The second was your foe, the sparrow-hawk, My curse, my nephew.

b. With distinguishing epithets.

1787 Latham *Syn. Birds* Suppl. II. 51 *Falco Nisus*,.. New Holland Sparrow-Hawk. *Ibid.*, Speckled Sparrow-Hawk. 1807 Shaw *Gen. Zool.* VII. i. 190 Great-Billed Sparrow-Hawk. *Falco magnirostris.* 1810 A. Wilson *Amer. Ornith.* II. 117 American Sparrow Hawk, *Falco sparverius.* 1870 Gillmore tr. *Figuier's Reptiles & Birds* (1892) 591 Africa possesses..the Dwarf Sparrow-hawk (*Accipiter minullus*).

2. A small anvil used in silver-working.

1869 *Routledge's Ev. Boy's Ann.* 309 The sparrow-hawk, which is a kind of miniature anvil. 1877 G. Gee *Silversm. Hdbk.* 119 The bezil all the time gradually working round the pointed end of the sparrow-hawk.

Spa'rrow-like, *a.* [f. Sparrow.] Resembling a sparrow or that of a sparrow.

1611 Cotgr., *Passerin*, sparrow-like of..a Sparrow. 1829 Griffith tr. *Cuvier* VI. 82 Sparrow-like Owl, *Strix passerinoides.* 1851 G. H. Kingsley *Sp. & Trav.* (1900) v. 116 Small clouds of sparrow-like snow-birds. 1896 *Lloyd's Nat. Hist.* 87 The second type of egg is Sparrow-like.

† Spa'rrow-mouth. *Obs.* [Cf. next.] A wide mouth suggestive of that of a sparrow.

1673 Hickeringill *Greg. F. Greyb.* 314 Split jaws, sparrow mouths, grunting, lyons faces, hems, haws. 1699 R. L'Estrange *Fables* II. lvi. (1715) II. 55 Why what a Hawk's Nose have we got here! and what a Sparrow-Mouth! 1700 S. Parker *Six Philos. Ess.* 25 To me it seems a Miracle that all Hypocrites don't squint, but come off without inverted Pupils, Sparrow-Mouths and blubber'd Lips. [1756 Amory *Buncle* (1770) III. 215 His nose hooked like a buzzard, wide nostrils like a horse and his mouth sparrow.]

† Spa'rrow-mouthed, *a. Obs.* [Sparrow 3.] Having a wide mouth.

1611 Cotgr. s.v. *Fendu, Bien fendu de gueule*, wide-mouthed, sparrow-mouthed, mouthed vp to the eares. 1621 Burton *Anat. Mel.* III. ii. IV. i. (1651) 519 Every Lover admires his Mistress, though she be..squint-eyed, sparrow-mouthed, Persean hook-nosed. *a* 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew, Sparrow-mouth'd*, a Mouth o Heavenly wide, as Sir P. Sidney calls it. 1725 Bailey *Erasm. Colloq.* (1878) I. 44 Can you fancy that..Snub-nos'd, Sparrow-mouth'd, Paunch-belly'd Creature? 1785 Grose *Dict. Vulgar T., Sparrow mouth'd*, wide mouth'd.

Spa'rry, *a.*[1] [Cf. Speary *a.*[1] 1.] ? Hard, stiff.

1641 Best *Farm. Bks.* (Surtees) 28 Whearas most of the grasse..is a small, sparrie, and dry grasse, and sheepe doe not like it.

Sparry (spā'ri), *a.*[2] [f. Spar *sb.*[2]]

1. Consisting of, abounding in, spar; of the nature of spar.

1695 Woodward *Nat. Hist. Earth* IV. 192 The Water.. taking the Sparry Particles as they lay dispersedly mingled with the Sand. 1713 Derham *Phys.-Theol.* 64 *note*, One or more vast Stones, which..are incrustated with this Sparry, Stalactical Substance, if not wholly made of it. 1749 *Phil. Trans.* XLVI. 276 Among the great Numbers of sparry Productions which I saw in this Mine. 1778 Pryce *Min. Cornub.* 28 Neither have we yet seen a perfect Sparry Rhomb in Cornwall. 1812 Brackenridge *Views Louisiana* (1814) 66, I have seen some pieces penetrated with sparry matter. 1851 Mantell *Petrifactions* vi. § 6. 482 Upon breaking through the sparry floor [of the cave] the ossiferous deposit is exposed. 1877 Le Conte *Elem. Geol.* II. (1879) 225 Certain mineral matters..in a purer and more sparry form than they exist in the rocks.

b. Impregnated with spar.

1724 J. Macky *Journ. thr. Eng.* II. xii. 201 From it continually drops a sparry water, which..petrifies. 1782 *Phil. Trans.* LXXII. 203 Nor is there an instance of any earth rendered permanently fluid by any means, except in sparry air.

c. Of places: Rich in spar.

1789 E. Darwin *Bot. Gard.* I. (1791) 130 Graces and Loves ..On venturous step her sparry caves explore. 1806 Moore *'I stole along the flowery bank'* ii. 9 Oh for a Naiad's sparry bower, To shade me in that glowing hour! 1847 Disraeli *Tancred* v. v, With pendants hanging like stalactites from some sparry cavern. 1886 Ruskin *Præterita* I. v. 152 The sparry walks at Matlock.

2. In specific terms denoting mineral substances of the nature of, or containing, spar, as *sparry iron* (*ore*).

1796 Kirwan *Elem. Min.* (ed. 2) II. 190 Calcareous, or Sparry Iron Ore. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XV. 751/2 The sparry quartz, which is the scarcest of the whole. 1800 tr. *Lagrange's Chem.* II. 95 Bog iron-ore and sparry-ore appear, in a great measure, to be formed by this combination. 1805 R. Jameson *Min.* II. 308 Sparry Ironstone... Colour light yellowish-grey. 1816 P. Cleaveland *Min.* 552 Thus it is associated with..gray copper, sparry iron, &c. 1854 tr. *Pereira's Polarized Light* (ed. 2) 128 Selenite, or sparry gypsum, is the native crystallised hydrated sulphate of lime. 1868 Joynson *Metals* 6 The spathose ores—'chalybeate', 'sparry carbonite of iron'. 1875 Croll *Climate & T.* xviii. 308 The rock in which they are found is a sparry iron ore.

b. *Sparry acid*, hydrofluoric acid.

1796 Kirwan *Elem. Min.* (ed. 2) II. 3 The sparry acid exists principally in fluor spar.

3. Of lustre, etc.: Resembling that of spar.

1792 S. Rogers *Pleas. Mem.* II. 251 A cool sequestered grot From its rich roof a sparry lustre shot. 1820 *Blackw. Mag.* VI. 385 Icicles..gleam in the sunshine with a sparry light. *c* 1830 N. P. Willis *Schol. Thebet Ben Khorat* 65 The sparry glinting of the Morning Star. 1845 Bailey *Festus* (ed. 2) 266 Full of all sparkling sparry loveliness.

Sparse (spāis), *a.* [ad. L. *spars-us*, pa. pple. of *spargĕre* to scatter. Cf. It. *sparso*, Pg. *esparso*, OF. *espars(e*, F. *épars(e.*]

1. *Sc.* Of writing: Having wide spaces between the words; widely spaced or spread out.

1727 Wodrow *Corr.* (1843) III. 288 These were produced on Tuesday the 18th, and are four or five sheets of sparse write, yet not so long as I expected. 1785 J. Beattie *Scoticisms* (1787) 85 The writing is *sparse*.—Loose. Not close. Takes up too much room. 1800 *Monthly Mag.* IX. 237 When much space is occupied by few words, the Scotch, especially the lawyers, say, 'the writing is sparse'. 1825 Jamieson *Suppl.*, 'Sparse writing' is wide open writing, occupying a large space.

2. Separated by fairly wide intervals or spaces; thinly dispersed, distributed, or scattered; placed, set, etc., here and there over a relatively extensive area; not crowded, close, or dense.

In some instances passing into the sense of 'scanty, few, meagre'.

a. *Bot.* = Scattered *ppl. a.* 4 a.

Also (in recent Dicts.) *Zool.* of spots, markings, etc.

1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s.v. *Leaf, Sparse Leaves*, those which are placed irregularly over the several parts of the plant. *c* 1789 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) III. 443 The Situation of the Parts of a Plant is..Sparse, placed without any certain order. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1076/2 *Sparse*, scattered, irregularly distributed.

b. Of population, an assembly, etc., or of persons composing this.

In this sense orig. *U.S.*, and commented upon as an Americanism in the *Penny Cycl.* (1833) I. 449/1.

(*a*) 1828–32 Webster s.v., A sparse population. 1841 Emerson *Ess., History* Wks. (Bohn) I. 10 A sparse population and want make every man his own valet, cook, butcher, and soldier. 1863 Reade *Hard Cash* v, Next day she was at evening church: the congregation was very sparse. 1870 Lubbock *Orig. Civilis.* App. 345 It is my belief that the great continents were already occupied by a wide-spread though sparse population.

(*b*) 1850 *N. & Q.* 1st Ser. I. 215/1 A sparse and hardy race of horsemen. 1879 Browning *Halbert & Hob* 11 Thus were they found by the few sparse folk of the country-side. 1890 *Spectator* 21 June, There are..kingdoms where the inhabitants are as 'sparse' as the Maories were when the first ship-captain landed in New Zealand.

c. Of things.

1861 J. H. Bennet *Shores of Medit.* I. i. (1875) 20 [The] Olive-tree..is often as large as a fine old oak, but with fewer limbs and a more sparse foliage. 1864 Browning *Dram. Pers., Gold Hair* iii, Smiles might be sparse on her cheek so spare. 1875 Miss Braddon *Strange World* i, A man with sparse grey hair. 1884 *Fortn. Rev.* Jan. 23 Such efforts as have been made in this direction are sparse.

3. Characterized by wide distribution or intervals.

1801 Jefferson *Writ.* (1830) III. 462 The great extent of our republic is new. Its sparse habitation is new. 1861 *Press Newsp.* IX. 889/2 It was composed of matter so amazingly sparse, that the whole substance of a comet could be compressed into a single square inch of earthy matter. 1863 Mary Howitt *F. Bremer's Greece* I. iv. 102 Nearly the whole of our way lay through sparse olive-woods. 1872 Howells *Wedding Journ.* (1892) 288 The village..grows sparser as you draw near the Falls.

b. Thinly occupied or populated.

1851 Nichol *Archit. Heav.* 267 Situated exclusively within that sparse district,..they composed but a few even of the orbs which are scattered there.

c. Characterized by sparseness or scantiness.

1871 *Echo* 23 Jan., The average German uniform is less showy than the British on account of the sparser use of gold lace. 1889 *Spectator* 14 Dec. 850 The gleaning has been somewhat sparse.

4. In adverbial use: Sparsely. Also *Comb.*

1725 Armstrong *Imit. Shaks. & Spenser* Misc. 1770 I. 150 The bleak puffing winds, that seem to spit Their foam sparse thro' the welkin. 1872 Blackie *Lays Highl.* 162 Through the lone sparse-peopled glen. 1883 Stevenson *Silverado Sq.* (1886) 38 A lawn, sparse planted like an orchard.

† Sparse, *v. Obs.* Also 6 **sparce.** [f. L. *spars-*, ppl. stem of *spargĕre* to scatter, sprinkle, strew, etc. Cf. prec. and OF. *esparser, -cer*, MDu. *sparsen, spaersen* (WFlem. *spaarzen*). See also Sperse *v.*]

1. *absol.* To distribute or scatter *abroad* in giving.

1535 Coverdale *Ps.* cxi. 9 He hath sparsed abrode, & geuen to the poore. [So in later versions, commentaries, etc.] 1612 T. Taylor *Comm. Titus* i. 8 Hereby thou art like God, he sparseth abroad, he vnweariably giveth good, to good and bad. 1614 T. Adams in Spurgeon *Treas. Dav.* VII. 23 Sparse abroad with a full hand, like a seedsman in a broad field.

2. *trans.* To spread or disseminate (a rumour, doctrine, etc.). Freq. with *abroad.*

(*a*) 1536 *Rem. Sedition* Fj, They began properly to sparse pretye rumours in the North. *a* 1572 Knox *Hist. Ref.* Wks. 1846 I. 119 Sparsing a false bruyt, 'That the said Johnne..had broken his awin craig'. 1651 Calderwood *Hist. Kirk* (1843) II. 17 Diversitie of rumors which Satan sparseth against us.

(*b*) 1548 Udall, etc. *Erasm. Par. Acts* vi. 27 The doctrine of Christes Gospel was sparsed euery daye further abrode. 1585 Fleetwood in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* Ser. I. II. 298 For sparcinge abrood certen lewed, sedicious, and traytorous bookes. 1606 Hieron *Wks.* I. 47 Dangerous and infectious bookes, which..are sparsed abroad into all parts.

3. To break up, scatter, send in all directions.

1549–62 Sternhold & H. *Ps.* xliv. 10 Our enemies robb'd and spoyld our goods, While we were sparst abroad. 1600 Fairfax *Tasso* v. lxxxviii, That many Christians haue they falsly slaine, And like a raging flood they sparsed ar. *c* 1611 Chapman *Iliad* XI. 268 When the hollow flood of aire, in Zephyres cheeks doth swell, And sparseth all the gatherd clouds, white Notus power did draw.

b. To dispose, sprinkle, throw, etc., in a scattered manner. Const. *into* or *upon* (something).

c 1550 H. Lloyd *Treas. Health* F v, Ashes made of a dogges head sparsyd vpon ye holownes of the breste. 1614

GORGES *Lucan* II. 78 To set free the bay againe, And sparse these workes into the maine.

c. To distribute, place, etc., here and there or dispersedly *in* a book or writing. Chiefly in *pa. pple.* Also without const.

1608 PARKE *Fal Babel* B 2 b, I would not heape vp al I could saie at once, but sparse and let them fall here some and there some, the better to profit. 1608 H. CLAPHAM *Errour Left Hand* A iv b, With diuers of the heades sparsed in my Bibles briefe. 1631 R. BYFIELD *Doctr. Sabb.* 118 This hath been anciently taught, and still is sparsed in the writings of the..learned. 1657 J. WATTS *Vind. Ch. Eng.* 42 Though sparsed up and down in your Sheets.

Sparsed (spāɪst), *ppl. adj.* [f. prec. + -ED 1.]

† 1. Dispersed, scattered, spread about or abroad, etc. *Obs.*

1590 H. BARROW in Greenwood *Coll. Art.* D ij b, I haue.. bene..accused, by sparsed articles, printed priuiledged books. 1600 FAIRFAX *Tasso* XII. xlvi, There the blustring winds adde strength and might, And gather close the sparsed flames about. *a* 1608 DEE *Relat. Spir.* I. (1659) 419 One.. whose nether parts are in a cloud of fire, with his haire sparsed, his arms naked. 1614 GORGES *Lucan* IX. 359 Then flittes hee ouer all the maine, Where flotes the sparsed Nauies traine.

2. *Bot.* = SPARSE *a.* 2 a.

1697 *Phil. Trans.* XIX. 685 Towards the ripening of the Seed, the Burs in which they are included grow more spars'd, or at greater distance. 1725 *Fam. Dict.* s.v. *Umbel*, A sparsed or thin Umbel is, when they [*sc.* flowers] stand at a distance from one another, yet all of an equal Height. 1760 J. LEE *Introd. Bot.* (1765), *Teucrium*, with sparsed Leaves. 1853 MACDONALD & ALLAN *Botanist's Word-bk., Sparsed*,..numerous, but without fixed order.

Spa·rsedly, *adv.* Now *rare.* [f. prec. + -LY 2.] In a dispersed or scattered manner; sparsely.

1570 FOXE *A. & M.* (ed. 2) I. 1/2 The which Church, because it is vniuersall, and sparsedlye through all countries dilated [etc.]. 1640 PARKINSON *Theat. Plants* 4 Branches, slenderly or sparsedly set with two narrow leaues at each joynt. 1664 EVELYN *Pomona* Pref. (1729) 53 There are doubtless many such soils sparsedly throughout this Nation. 1668 WILKINS *Real Char.* II. iv. § 4. 100 That which bears larger flowers growing more sparsedly. 1889 STEVENSON *Edinb.* 140 A star or two set sparsedly in the vault of heaven.

† **Spa·rsedness.** *Obs.*—1 [f. as prec.] The condition or quality of being sparsed.

1633 *Gerarde's Herbal* I. xviii. 25 This sometimes varies in the largenesse of the whole Plant, as also in the greatnesse, sparsednesse, and compactnesse of the eare.

Sparsely (spā·rsli), *adv.* [f. SPARSE *a.* + -LY 2.]

1. In a sparse manner; not closely or densely; thinly.

1796 MORSE *Amer. Geog.* I. 191 It grows sparsely in the N. England and middle States. 1800 *Monthly Mag.* IX. 237 The paper is sparsely written. 1851 NICHOL *Archit. Heav.* 35 Strewn comparatively sparsely through the neighbouring spaces. 1867 BAKER *Nile Trib.* xix. (1872) 327 A vast plain sparsely covered with small trees.

b. Thinly with respect to inhabitants.

1857 OLMSTED *Journ. Texas* 365 The country is sparsely settled, containing less than one inhabitant to the square mile. 1863 GEO. ELIOT *Romola* II. i, The hill was sparsely inhabited, and covered chiefly by gardens. 1879 H. GEORGE *Progr. & Pov.* II. ii. (1881) 98 The earth as a whole is yet most sparsely populated.

2. At rare or infrequent intervals of time. *rare*—1.

1867 MRS. CARLYLE in C. *Reminis.* (1881) II. 153 In summer we had sparsely visitors, now and then her mother, or my own.

3. *Comb.* with ppl. adjs. (usually hyphened), as *sparsely-bushed, -foliaged, -populated,* etc.

Freq. in recent use.

1880 SPALDING *Eliz. Demonol.* 129 The sparsely populated country sides. 1882 O'DONOVAN *Merv Oasis* I. 330 Sparsely-sprinkled gardens.. tremble in the mirage. 1895 J. G. MILLAIS *Breath fr. Veldt* (1899) 300 We all knew the country—a great sparsely-bushed plain. 1897 MARY KINGSLEY *W. Africa* 587 A clump of gnarled sparsely-foliaged trees.

Sparseness (spā·rsnés). [f. SPARSE *a.*] The quality of being sparse; sparsity.

1833 J. STORY *Comm. Constit. U. S.* III. ix. II. 70 The concentration or sparseness of the population. 1852 NICOLAY in Visct. Ingestre *Meliora* 52 The 'sparseness', to use an Americanism, of the population. 1887 *Courier* 7 July 9/4 One advantage..resulted from the sparseness of the attendance.

Spa·rsile, *a. rare*—0. [ad. late L. *sparsil-is*, f. *spars-us* : see SPARSE *v.*] Of a star: Not included in any constellation.

1891 in *Cent. Dict.*

‖ **Sparsim** (spā·rsim), *adv.* [L.] In various places; here and there; sparsely.

1586 J. HOOKER *Conq. Irel.* Ep. Ded. in *Holinshed*, Men ..whose vertues are highlie recorded sparsim in the chronicles of England. 1626 BACON *Sylva* § 839 See principally our *Abecedarium Naturæ*; And otherwise Sparsim in this in our *Sylua Syluarum*. 1733 TULL *Horse-hoeing Husb.* 71 (Dubl.), Corn standing irregular and *sparsim*. 1872 LANGE *Comment. O.T., Eccl.* iii. 15. 73 It appears in the Old Testament Ps. i. 5..; Job xxi. 30..; Proverbs and Prophets sparsim.

† **Spa·rsion.** *Obs.*—0 [ad. L. *sparsiōn-em*, f. *spars-us* : see SPARSE *v.*] (See quot.)

1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.*, *Sparsion*,..a sprinkling, especially of water, coloured with Saffron out of some Pipe.

Sparsity (spā·rsiti). [f. SPARSE *a.* + -ITY.] Sparse or scattered state or condition; comparative scarcity or fewness.

1865 *Intell. Observ.* No. 37. 35 The density or sparsity of their growth. 1866 HOWELLS *Venetian Life* xx. 330 At receptions where the sparsity of the company permits the lady of the house to be seen. 1883 F. DAY *Indian Fish* 23 While the sparsity or the reverse of the population has also to be taken into account.

Spar-stone. *Obs.* exc. *dial.* Also 1 spærstan, 2 -ston, 4 sperstane, 5 sparre stone. [In sense 1 repr. OE. *spærstān*: see SPAR *sb.*2 In sense 2 directly f. the latter word.]

† 1. Gypsum; plaster. *Obs.*

c 1000 ÆLFRIC *Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 146 *Creta argentea*, spærstan. *c* 1050 *Voc.* Ibid. 334 *Gipsum*, spærstan. *c* 1150 *Voc.* Ibid. 550 *Gipsum*, spærston. 1394–6 *Cartul. Abb. de Whiteby* (Surtees) 623 Item pro sperstane et ratonbrede emptis, 11 s. 11 d. 1481 in *Ripon Ch. Acts* (Surtees) 345 Usque ad quandam querruram de plaster vocatam Sparre stone.

2. A stone or rock having a crystalline appearance; quartz, spar.

1694 SALMON *Bate's Dispens.* (1713) 655/1 If you cannot get the *Lapis Judaicus*, our English Spar-stone, (which is plentiful enough in those Countries where there are Leadenmines) may supply the place. 1880 *Cornw. Gloss.* 53 A man of penetration he, For through a spar-stone he could see.

Spart 1 (spāɪt). [ad. L. *spart-um* or Sp. *esparto*. Cf. SPARTO and SPARTUM.]

1. Esparto. Also *spart-grass.*

In quot. 1601 *ship-sparts* are simply 'cables', Pliny's *navium sparta* being a direct citation of the Homeric *νεῶν σπάρτα* (*Iliad* ii. 135).

1600 HOLLAND *Livy* XXII. xx. 444 They found great store of Spart (to make cables) provided and laid up there by Asdruball to serve the navie. 1601 — *Pliny* II. 188, I wot not well whether Homer meant it, when he said, that the ship-sparts were vntwisted and loose. For this is certain, that neither the spart of Africk, ne yet the Spanish spart was as yet in any vse. 1809 tr. *Laborde's View Spain* i. 9 A plain..fertile in flax and spart, or sea-rush. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1076/2 *Spart*, the Esparto. 1909 *Eng. Rev.* Feb. 462 Discussing the while the olive harvest, the price of spart-grass and the chances of the bull-ring.

¶ 2. Spanish broom. Also *spart-broom. Obs.*

1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* II. 6 The nature of Spart or Spanish broome. 1603 — *Plutarch's Mor.* 156 The Roper..suffereth an asse behind him to gnaw and eate a rope as fast as he twisteth it of the Spartbroome. 1611 FLORIO, *Genéstra*, Spart or Spanish-broome. 1726 LEONI *Alberti's Archit.* I. 58 Under these we ought to lay Fern, or Spart, to keep the mortar from rotting the Timber. *Ibid.* 93 Spart and rushes shred small.

Spart 2 (spāɪt). *north. dial.* (and *Sc.*). [app. a metathetic form of SPRAT in the same sense.] A dwarf rush; a coarse rushy grass.

1614 *Mem. St. Giles's, Durham* (Surtees) 44 For one thrave of spartes to the Bull house. 1792 *Trans. Soc. Arts* X. 127 Wild marshy grass, rushes, sparts, bents, brambles and brushwood. 1829 BROCKETT *N. C. Gloss.* (ed. 2), *Spart*, a dwarf rush; common on the Northern moors and wastes.

† **Spart** 3. *Obs.*—1 App. a term of abuse, of obscure origin.

c 1460 *Towneley Myst.* xii. 271 Godys forbot, thou spart, and thou drynk euery deyll.

Spartacle, -icle, dial. forms of SPECTACLE.

Spartalite (spā·rtăləit). *Min.* [f. *Sparta* in New Jersey, its locality, + -LITE.] Red oxide of zinc; zincite.

1843 *Penny Cycl.* XXVII. 781/2 Oxide of Zinc and Oxide of Manganese;..Spartalite.—Occurs in embedded small nodules and massive. 1856 DANA *Min.* (ed. 3) 136 Spartalite..occurs in lamellar masses and grains of a fine deep red colour.

Spartan (spā·rtăn), *sb.* and *a.* Also 5 Spert-, Spartane, 7 Sparton. [ad. L. *Spartān-us*, f. *Sparta* (Gr. Σπάρτα, Σπάρτη), the capital of the ancient Doric state of Laconia in the Peloponnesus.]

A. *sb.* 1. A native or inhabitant of Sparta; a Laconian or Lacedæmonian.

Coverdale (1535) has *Sparcians* in 1 Macc. xli, xiv.

c 1425 WYNTOUN *Cron.* IV. 825 Þe Spertanys wiþe outtyn chas þar fais wyncust in þat plasse. 1432–50 tr. *Higden* (Rolls) IV. 127 Ionathas renewede frendeschippe after that with the Romanes and Spartanes. 1718 POPE *Iliad* XV. 680 The fiery Spartan..Warms the bold son of Nestor in his cause. 1770 LANGHORNE *Plutarch, Pyrrhus* III. 99 He was neither loved nor trusted by the Spartans. 1836 THIRLWALL *Greece* XV. II. 264 The Persians would not treat them less like brothers than the Spartans. 1845 MAURICE *Mor. Philos.* in *Encycl. Metrop.* II. 570/1 Terse sentences, such as the Spartan delighted in.

2. One who resembles the ancient Spartans in character.

1810 CRABBE *Borough* XVIII. 194 Here nature's outrage serves no cause to aid; The ill is felt, but not the Spartan made.

B. *adj.* 1. Of or pertaining to Sparta or its inhabitants; Laconian, Lacedæmonian.

1582 STANYHURST *Æneis* I. (Arb.) 28 In weed eke in visage lyke a Spartan virgin in armour. *c* 1611 CHAPMAN *Iliad* III. 271 Paris and the Spartan King. 1625 MILTON *On Death of fair Infant* 26 Young Hyacinth the pride of Spartan land. 1667 — *P. L.* X. 674 The Spartan Twins [Castor and Pollux]. 1743 FRANCIS tr. *Hor., Odes* II. xi. 32 With her flowing Tresses ty'd, Careless like a Spartan Bride. 1770 LANGHORNE *Plutarch* I. 144 They asked not of them ..troops, but only a Spartan general. 1835 T. MITCHELL *Acharn. of Aristoph.* 120 *note*, A word of Spartan origin. 1847 TENNYSON *Princ.* II. 263 Why should I not play The Spartan Mother with emotion?

b. *Spartan dog*, etc., a kind of bloodhound. Also *fig.*

1590 SHAKS. *Mids. N.* IV. i. 124 My hounds are bred out of the Spartan kinde. 1604 — *Oth.* v. ii. 361 Oh Sparton Dogge: More fell then Anguish, Hunger, or the Sea. 1697 DRYDEN *Æneid* IV. 187 The force Of Spartan dogs, and swift Massylian horse.

c. *Spartan stone*, ? Peloponnesian marble.

a 1700 EVELYN *Diary* June 1645, Adorn'd with porphyrie, ophit, and Spartan stone.

2. Characteristic or typical of Sparta, its inhabitants, or their customs; *esp.* distinguished by simplicity, frugality, courage, or brevity of speech. (Cf. LACONIC *a.* 2.)

1644 MILTON *Areop.* (Arb.) 36 To..mollifie the Spartan surlinesse with his smooth songs and odes. 1711 STEELE *Spect.* No. 6 ¶ 6 The Athenians being suddenly touched with a Sense of the Spartan Virtue. 1770 LANGHORNE *Plutarch, Agis* V. 124 He kept close to the Spartan simplicity. 1781 COWPER *Expost.* 542 If some Spartan soul a doubt express'd. 1847 HELPS *Friends in C.* I. iii. 41 A man who could bear personal distress of any kind with Spartan indifference. 1885 *Times* (weekly ed.) 25 Sept. 14/4 The fare is Spartan in its extreme frugality. 1886 RUSKIN *Præterita* I. vii. 227 These Spartan brevities of epistle.

Hence **Spa·rtanhood,** Spartan character or qualities; **Sparta·nic** *a.*, = SPARTAN *a.* 2; **Spa·rtanism,** discipline, principles, or methods resembling those of Sparta; **Spa·rtanize** *v., trans.* to render Spartan-like; to imbue with Spartan characteristics; *intr.* to act like a Spartan; **Spa·rtan-like,** *adv.* like a Spartan, bravely; *adj.* resembling (that of) the Spartans; **Spa·rtanly** *adv.*, in a Spartan manner; with great endurance, etc.

1880 MISS BROUGHTON *Second Th.* I. i. v. 67 She bears it with senseless *Spartanhood for as long as endurance is possible. 1882 J. WALKER *Jaunt to Auld Reekie* 167 His grace's phiz *Spartanic vigour shows. 1880 *Daily Tel.* 19 Feb., A mock-heroic and spurious *Spartanism. 1884 *Athenæum* 19 July 79/3 The hardy but squalid Spartanism of our older public schools. 1849 *Ainsw. Mag.* Dec. 531 Custom and fate may have *Spartanised the feelings of young ladies in garrison. 1875 BROWNING *Aristoph. Apol.* 124 He Spartanizes, argues, fasts and prates, Denies the plainest rules of life. 1883 LD. LYTTON *Life, Lett.*, etc. *Lytton* I. 102 He had high notions of discipline and prerogative, and wished to Spartanise his household. 1838 THIRLWALL *Greece* IV. xxxvi. 413 Pisander..fell, *Spartan-like, sword in hand. 1900 *Daily News* 20 Jan. 6/7 A quiet, sorrowful, but Spartanlike resignation. 1890 *Pall Mall G.* 15 May 3/1 Hunters have told me how *Spartanly he will take the months of temperate discipline imposed by a hunting expedition.

Spartarent, -ine : see SPATARENT.

Spartein (spā·rtiin). Also **spartein.** [f. mod.L. *Spartium* broom : see -INE 5. Named by Stenhouse (1851).] An alkaloid obtained from common broom, used to some extent in medicine.

1851 J. STENHOUSE in *Chem. Gaz.* IX. 117 Sparteine appears to be a strong narcotic poison, though much inferior in this respect to either nicotine or coneine. 1875 WOOD *Therapeutics* (1879) 483 Spartein paralyzes the motor nerves. 1898 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* V. 991 Sparteine has no notable advantage over the broom tea..which contains it.

Sparth 1. *Obs.* exc. *Hist.* Also 4 sparpe, 4–7 (9) sparthe, 5 sparreth, 9 sperth(e. [ad. ON. *sparða* of obscure origin, perh. related to OHG. *partâ* (MHG. *barte*), OS. *barda* (MLG. *barde*) of the same meaning. Cf. SPAR *sb.*5

Sparke in Spenser *St. Ireland* Wks. (Globe) 676/1 is prob. a misreading for either *sparthe* or *sparre.*]

1. A long-handled broad-bladed battle-axe, used especially by the Irish down to the 16th century.

13.. *Gaw. & Gr. Knt.* 209 An ax in his oþer [hand], a hoge & vn-mete, A spetos sparþe to expoun in spelle quo-so myȝt. *a* 1363 HIGDEN *Polychron.* (Rolls) I. 350 Tres fratres.. usum securium, qui Anglice *sparth* dicitur, ad terram Hiberniæ comportarunt. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Knt.'s T.* 1662 He hath a sparth of twenti pound of wighte. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 1403 Now a schaft, now a schild,..Now a sparth, now a spere. *Ibid.* 2458 Sparrethis spetous to spend & speris in handis. *c* 1425 *Eng. Cong. Ireland* 16 Al, with wepne ryngynge, speres and sparthes ruthlynge to-geddre. 1530 PALSGR. 273/2 Sparthe, an instrument. 1586 J. HOOKER *Hist. Irel.* in *Holinshed* II. 33/1 The one part giuing a fierce onset with stones and spa[r]ths, & the other defending themselues with bowes and weapons. *a* 1604 HANMER *Chron. Ireland* (1809) 59 Their chiefe armes were Skeynes, Speares, Darts, Slings, and Sparthes (which we call Galloglas Axes). *Ibid.* 170 Of these and the former Norwegians, the Irish took the use of the sparthes, now called Galloglas axes. 1801 SCOTT *Eve St. John* iii, At his saddle-gerthe was a good steel sperthe.

2. *transf.* A fighting-man armed with an axe of this kind; a galloglass.

c 1518 in *Jrnl. Kilkenny Arch. Soc.* Ser. II. IV. 112 The said Brene shull finde on his propre Costes an c Sparthis of Gallogles, on his vitailles and wagges..for a quarter of a yere. 1862 *Ibid.* Note, Every Sparthe or axman was attended by four 'horse boys'.

† **Spartht** 2. *Obs.*—1 (Meaning obscure.)

c 1480 HENRYSON *Fables, Parl. Beasts* xv, The anteloip, the sparth furth can speid.

Spartiate (spā·rʃiĕt). Also 4–5 **Sparciate.** [ad. L. *Spartiāt-ēs*, a. Gr. Σπαρτιάτης, f. Σπάρτη Sparta.] A Spartan.

1382 WYCLIF 1 *Macc.* xii. 6 Jonathas..and other peple of Jewis, to Sparciatis, bretheren, helthe. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) IV. 127 After þat Ionathas renewede frendschipe..wiþ þe Sparciates. 1609 BIBLE (Douay) 1 *Macc.* xiv. 19 This is a copie of the epistles, that the Spartiates sent. 1884 tr. *Ranke's Univ. Hist.* 366 Aristotle recognises only one thousand families of the ancient Spartiates.

Spa·rtle, *sb.* Now *dial.* Also 7 **spartel.** [Alteration of SPATTLE *sb.*[2] Cf. SPURTLE *sb.*] A spatula.

1682 G. ROSE *Sch. Instruct. Officers Mouth* 130 You may instead of a Scummer put in a Spartle. *Ibid.* 159 Keep them always stirring..with a Spoon or Spartel. 1894 HESLOP *Northumbld. Gloss.* 675 *Spartle,* a wooden spatula ..used by thatchers for raising up old thatch in order to insert fresh wisps in repairing the roof.

† Spartle, *v.*[1] *Obs.* Also **spartel-.** [Alteration of SPARPLE *v.* Cf. SPARKLE *v.*[2]] *trans.* To scatter, disperse. Hence † **Spa·rtling** *vbl. sb.*

c 1475 *Promp. Parv.* (K.) 467/2 Spartelyn, *spergo, dispergo. Ibid.,* Spartelynge, sundrynge, *dissipacio.* 1483 CAXTON *Gold. Leg.* 15/2 By cause that..many skulles of heedes were there sparteled all openly they said that it was the place of calvarye.

Spa·rtle, *v.*[2] *Sc.* [ad. (M)Du. or (M)LG. *spartelen* (also *spertelen*) in the same sense.] *intr.* To move the body or limbs in a sprawling or struggling manner.

1710 RUDDIMAN *Gloss. Douglas' Æneis, Sprinkilland,* gliding swiftly, with a tremulous motion..of their tails; Scot. Bor. call it *Spartling.* 1789 DAVIDSON *Seasons* 12 Powheads spartle in the oosy flosh. 1828 *Buchan's Ball.* II. 233 Her bonny bairn Lay spartling by her side. *a* 1878 AINSLIE *Land of Burns* (1892) 283 Our Steenie chiel began to squeal An' spartle 'mang the claes.

† **Sparto,** aphetic form of ESPARTO. (Cf. SPART[1].)

1577 HOLINSHED *Descr. Scot.* 15/1 Certes such is the force of Rope made of the skinne of this fishe, that they will holde at a plunge no lesse than the Spanishe *Sparto.* 1591 PERCIVALL *Sp. Dict., Tomiza,* a kinde of small corde made of sparto.

† **Sparto-statics.** [ad. mod.L. *spartostatica* (Stevinus, 1605), f. Gr. *σπάρτον* rope: see STATICS.] The science or study of the strength of ropes.

1672 WALLIS in Rigaud *Corr. Sci. Men* (1841) II. 531 Mr. Townley..may receive satisfaction from Stevinus in his Sparto-statics.

‖ **Spa·rtum.** *rare.* Also 7 *erron.* **spartus.** [L.] = SPART[1].

1555 EDEN *Decades* I. II. (Arb.) 69 Certayne long and toughe rotes much lyke vnto the shrubbe called *Spartum,* 1654 R. CODRINGTON tr. *Iustine* XLIV. 514 There is also abundance of Flax and Spartus. 1673 RAY *Journ. Low C.* 458 Round thin baskets made of Spartum like frails.

Sparu, obs. form of SPARROW.

‖ **Sparus** (spē·rəs). Pl. **spari** (spē·rəi). [L., ad. Gr. *σπάρος.* For Anglicized forms see SPAR *sb.*[8] and SPARE *sb.*[3]] A sea-bream or gilt-head.

Formerly also applied to many different fishes in some way resembling these.

1668 WILKINS *Real Char.* II. v. § 5. 138 Gilt-Head, Seabream, Sparus. 1752 J. HILL *Hist. Anim.* 252 The silvery-eyed, red Sparus. *Ibid.* 253 The reddish Sparus,..the Seabream. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s.v., Of the *spari* some have acute and cylindric teeth. 1777 G. FORSTER *Voy. round World* II. 171 They also brought..a fine well-tasted sparus ready dressed in leaves. 1803 SHAW *Gen. Zool.* IV. II. 403 Silvery-blueish Sparus, with gold-coloured brows. *Ibid.* 407 Yellowish Sparus. 1836 YARRELL *Brit. Fishes* I. 111 The four-toothed Sparus, *dentex vulgaris.*

Sparuwe, obs. form of SPARROW.

† **Spa·rver.** *Obs.* Forms: α. 5 **spervyr, spervier, sperver,** 5–7 (9) **sperver,** 6 **spurver.** β. 5–7 (9) **sparver,** 5 *Sc.* **sparwort,** 6 **sparuiour, sparuer, sparvill,** 6–7 **sparvar.** [ad. OF. *espervier* (*esprevier*) 'l'ensemble des pièces qui composent le coucher' (1380 in Godefroy), = obs. It. *sparviere, -eri, -ero.* The forms are those of the OF. and It. names for the sparrow-hawk (see SPERVER), but the connexion is not obvious.] A canopy for a bed (or cradle).

α. 1440-1 *Durh. Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 627 Et solut. pro j. sperver empt. apud London pro d'no Priore. 1480 *Wardr. Acc. Edw. IV* (1830) 129 Sperver of rede damask with curtyns of sarsynett. 1501 *Bury Wills* (Camden) 91 It[em] a sperver of sylke. 1519 *N. Cy. Wills* (Surtees, 1908) 106 A sperver of whyte with a coverlete.

β. 1444 *Test. Ebor.* (Surtees) II. 112 A sparver w[t] coueryn of lynnyn clothe. 1473–4 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* I. 41 For iiij½ elne of tartar for a sparwort abone his creddil. 1494 in *Leit. Rich. III & Hen. VII* (Rolls) I. 390 The parlement chambre, where wer..beddes wiche hadden sparvers. 1519 HORMAN *Vulg.* 167 b, Some haue curteynes: some sparuers aboute the bedde to kepe awey gnattis. 1591 HARINGTON *Orl. Fur.* v. 39 A happie woman..hath as quiet sleeps..in a bed of cloth as vnder a sparuer of tissue. *a* 1612 — *Epigr.* (1633) IV. vi, At home in silken sparvers, beds of down, We scant can rest. 1641 *Invent.* in *Burlington Mag.* (1911) Nov. 100/1 A greate Sparver round about over the Bed.

b. *fig.* and *transf.*

c 1640 A. TOWNSHEND *Poems & Masks* (1912) 24 Thy sparver, a well tufted tree, Ore heaven itselfe, thy canopy. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 449/2 The several names given to these Moveing Houses...A Tent, or a Sperver. A Hutt. A Booth [etc.].

c. *attrib.,* as *sparver bed, curtain, tester.* Also *Comb.,* as *sparver-wise* adv.

1475 *Bury Wills* (Camden) 251 A white bedde made sparverwyse. 1501 *Ibid.* 135, vj payre shetes wyth the sparver curtanys of dornykes. 1596 *Unton Invent.* (1841) 4, j sparvill tester of silk. 1610 *Althorp MS.* in Simpkinson *Washingtons* (1860) App. p. ii, One half hed bedsted for a sparvar bed. 1611 COTGR. s.v. *Parement, Lict de parement,..*a bed of State, or, a great Sparuer bed.

† **Sparvise,** *sb. Obs.* [Alteration of prec.] (See quots.) Hence † **Sparvise** *v. Obs.*

1598 FLORIO, *Capoletto,..*the sparuise or vallance of a bed. 1611 *Ibid., Cortinàggio,* the curtaines or valance, or sparuis, or vailing of a bed or window. *Ibid., Sparuierare,..*to sparuise a bed or chamber.

Sparviter: see SPERVITER *Obs.*

Sparwe, obs. form of SPARROW.

† **Spa·ry,** *a. Obs.* Also **sparie.** [f. SPARE *v.*[1] Cf. MDu. and MLG. *sparich,* MHG. *sperig* (obs. G. *spärig, sparig*).] = SPARING *ppl. a.* in various senses.

Peculiar to Holland, and frequent in his works.

1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* II. 25 Very scant and sparie of seed. *Ibid.* 387 They wil indure so a long time,..with abstinence and spary feeding. 1606 — *Sueton.* 158 But in honouring himselfe he was sparie and caried a civile modestie. 1632 — *Cyrupædia* 4 They instruct them to bee spary in their meats and drinks.

Spasm (spæ·z'm). Also 5–7 **spasme.** [a. OF. *spasme* (F. *spasme,* = Prov. *espasme,* Sp. and Pg. *espasmo,* It. *spasmo, spasimo*), or ad. L. *spasmus* masc., *spasma* neut., a. Gr. *σπασμός, σπάσμα,* f. *σπᾶν* to draw, tug, etc. Cf. next and SPASMUS.]

1. Sudden and violent muscular contraction of a convulsive or painful character.

c 1400 *Lanfranc's Cirurg.* 160 þanne it is greet drede of þe spasme & aftirward of deeþ,..þe akynge arisiþ vp to þe brayn, & þanne comeþ spasme. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* II. 41 It cureth those who have their necks drawne backward to their shoulders with the Spasme. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* XI. 481 All maladies Of gastly Spasm, or racking torture. 1670 COVEL in *Early Voy. Levant* (Hakluyt Soc.) 140 He had very oft (almost every minute) a strange kind of spasme in the muscles of his breast. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s.v., The spasm is a much less dangerous complaint than the convulsion. 1799 *Med. Jrnl.* I. 49 The first species of spasm in the stomach originates from extreme debility.. and atony in that organ. 1845 BUDD *Dis. Liver* 382 Spasm of the gall-ducts is..something more than a mere hypothesis. 1876 BRISTOWE *Th. & Pract. Med.* (1878) 479 Spasm of the larynx and trachea... Spasm is chiefly known as causing contraction of the rima glottidis.

2. With *a* and pl. An instance of this; a convulsive twitch or throe.

c 1477 CAXTON *Jason* 76 b, She fyll on the erthe al in a spasme and a swoune. 1543 TRAHERON *Vigo's Chirurg.* III. 90 b/1 For the prohibition of a spasme ye shal rubbe often the nuke or marye of the backebone. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* Expl. Wds. Art, *Spasmes,* be painefull crampes or pluckings of the sinewes and cords of the Muscles. 1652 CULPEPPER *Eng. Physic.* 79 Such persons as have their bodies drawn together by some Spasme or Convulsion. 1681 tr. *Willis's Rem. Med. Wks.* Vocab., *Spasms,* cramps or convulsions of the nerves. 1718 QUINCY *Compl. Disp.* 112 Such Parts likewise draw the Fibres into Spasms, and keep them too tense. 1756 BURKE *Subl. & B.* IV. XXI, Water is found, when not cold, to be a great resolver of spasms. 1804 ABERNETHY *Surg. Obs.* 178 He came again to the hospital complaining of spasms in his left arm. 1839 DICKENS *Nickleby* iii, Newman's face was curiously twisted as by a spasm. 1891 FARRAR *Darkn. & Dawn* IV, The swollen form of the Emperor heaved with the spasm of a last struggle.

3. *fig.* Any sudden or convulsive movement of a violent character; a convulsion:

a. Of natural agencies or forces.

1817 SHELLEY *Rev. Islam* IX. V, As with an earthquake's spasm. 1860 EMERSON *Cond. Life, Power* Wks. (Bohn) II. 334 Red republicanism, in the father, is a spasm of nature to engender an intolerable tyrant in the next age. 1909 *Contemp. Rev.* Feb. 156 Here is a problem more terrible than any spasm of nature.

b. Of feeling, emotion, etc.

1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. V. ii, In utmost preternatural spasm of madness. 1860 EMERSON *Cond. Life, Power* Wks. (Bohn) II. 340 So in human action, against the spasm of energy we offset the continuity of drill. 1874 SYMONDS *Sk. Italy & Greece* (1898) I. X. 200 A mere spasm of suspicious jealousy. 1880 MEREDITH *Tragic Com.* (1881) 294 He caused her a spasm of anguish.

c. Of political excitement, etc.

1862 CARLYLE *Fred. Gt.* VI. IX. (1872) II. 219 War in Italy, universal spasm of wrestle there. 1879 FROUDE *Cæsar* XXVI. 437 The fears which the final spasm of rebellion had again provoked. 1891 FARRAR *Darkn. & Dawn* LXVI, As for the succeeding Emperors, the spasm of their brief elevation was marked by universal horrors.

‖ **Spa·sma.** *Obs.* [L. *spasma,* Gr. *σπάσμα*: see prec.] = SPASM 1 and 2.

1541 R. COPLAND *Guydon's Quest. Chirurg.* A iiij, There must he begyn,..for daunger of the spasna [*sic*], which is moste perylous. 1625 PURCHAS *Pilgrims* I. V. 662 A violent Feuer and Spasma. 1670 J. SMITH *Eng. Improv. Reviv'd* 246 If it fill the Nerves of the Muscles only it becomes the Spasma, or Convulsion. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v., There are Spasma's peculiar to certain Members, and distinguished by particular Names.

† **Spasmadrap.** *Obs.* [app. f. med.L. *spasma* a healing powder (Du Cange) + F. *drap* cloth: cf. SPARADRAP.] A medical plaster.

c 1540 in *Vicary's Anat.* (1888) App. IX. 222 Make thereof a plaster, or a spasmadrappe. [1826 HORACE SMITH *Tor Hill* I. 106 He [a friar] carried divers pills, spasmadraps, cordials, and drops for his adult patients.]

Spasma·tic, *a.* Now *rare* or *Obs.* [ad. obs. F. *spasmatique* (Cotgr.), or f. Gr. *σπασματ-,* stem of *σπάσμα* spasm + -IC.]

1. Spasmodic.

1603 HOLLAND *Plutarch's Mor.* 124 Anger..resembleth not..the sinewes of the soule, but is like rather to their stretching spreines and spasmatick convulsions. 1746 R. JAMES *Moufet's Health Improv.* 13 Pains, Flatulencies, and spasmatic Contractions of the Intestines. 1824 *Examiner* 548/1 Seized with spasmatic lameness.

2. Liable to, or suffering from, spasms.

1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* II. 44 It is a soveraigne remedie for them that bee bursten or Spasmaticke, that is to say, vexed with the Crampe.

So **Spasma·tical** *a.* Now *rare.*

c 1645 HOWELL *Lett.* II. XX, The ligaments and sinews of my love..wer never yet subject to such spasmatical shrinkings and Convulsions. 1650 ELDERFIELD *Civ. Right Tythes* 89 Many a paralytical or spasmatical fit. 1879 G. MACDONALD *P. Faber* II. ix. 172 The spirit of life is at war with the spasmatical body of death.

Spa·smatoma·ncy. [f. Gr. *σπασματο-,* combining form of *σπάσμα* spasm + -MANCY.] (See quot. 1855.)

1855 SMEDLEY *Occult Sci.* 296 Spasmatomancy..is properly a part of medicine, for it is the art of foretelling from convulsive twitchings of the limbs diseases by which a man is about to be attacked. 1885 *Encycl. Brit.* XIX. 4/2 The treatises also contain occasional digressions on..podoscopy, spasmatomancy, &c.

Spasmed (spæ·z'md), *a.* [f. SPASM + -ED[2].] Affected with, accompanied by, spasms.

1787 *Generous Attachm.* IV. 148 Now I suppose you are absent again; quite spasmed, quite lame, cracked from head to foot. 1831 YOUATT *Horse* viii. 118 The painful and spasmed stretching of this part. 1845 — *Dog* vi. 123 The dog had lain slightly spasmed for two or three days.

Spasmic (spæ·zmik), *a.* [f. SPASM + -IC.] Spasmodic; convulsive.

1710 T. FULLER *Pharm. Extemp.* 301 The breaking off of a spasmic Paroxysme. 1868 WHITMAN *Chants Democratic* Poems 118 The slender, spasmic blue-white jets. 1894 A. MORRISON *Mean Streets* 66 A pale little fellow with a nasty spasmic cough.

Spasmodic (spæzmǫ·dik), *a.* and *sb.* [ad. med. or mod.L. *spasmodicus,* f. Gr. *σπασμώδης,* f. *σπασμός* or *σπάσμα*: see SPASM. So F. *spasmodique,* It. *spasmodico,* Sp. and Pg. *espasmodico.*]

A. *adj.* **1.** Of the nature of a spasm; characterized by spasms or convulsive twitches; marked by jerkiness or suddenness of muscular movement.

a. *spec.* in *Path.*

1682 tr. *Willis's Rem. Med. Wks.* Vocab., *Spasmodic,* belonging to the cramp or convulsion, or hauling of the sinews. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v., Hunger..is a Spasmodic Affection of the Fibres of the Stomach. 1786 MISS CLAYTON in *Corr. Mrs. Delany* (1862) Ser. II. III. 415 Mrs. Clayton..is extremely ill with spasmodic convulsions on her lungs. 1799 *Med. Jrnl.* II. 155 An attorney..was during several days afflicted..with spasmodic colics. 1811 A. T. THOMSON *Lond. Disp.* (1818) 101 The use of ipecacuan in spasmodic asthma. 1842 COMBE *Digestion* 334 This actually happens in spasmodic cholera. 1878 T. BRYANT *Pract. Surg.* I. 591 Spasmodic stricture is usually met with in the young.

b. In general use.

1836–7 DICKENS *Sk. Boz* (1850) 199/1 He had..a somewhat spasmodic expression of countenance. 1851 CARPENTER *Man. Phys.* (ed. 2) 606 Sometimes..the spasmodic action occurs in the pronunciation of vowels, and continuous consonants. 1884 *Marshall's Tennis Cuts* 191, I was startled by his firing at me, as it were a series of spasmodic winks.

2. Employed against spasms; antispasmodic.

1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl., Spasmodic,* something belonging to a Spasma, or Convulsion; as a Spasmodic Medicine.

3. Occurring or proceeding by fits and starts; irregular, intermittent; not sustained or kept up.

1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. II. iii, But indeed may we not regret that such conflict..should usually be so spasmodic? 1856 FROUDE *Hist. Eng.* (1858) II. viii. 243 Acquiescence in disorder would be followed by a spasmodic severity. 1874 STUBBS *Const. Hist.* I. vii. 199 The spasmodic efforts of the Northumbrian Danes were checked.

4. Convulsively furious or violent.

1840 CARLYLE *Heroes* (1858) 288 A noble strength, very different from spasmodic violence. 1866 R. W. DALE *Disc. Spec. Occasions* X. 334 They mistake spasmodic vehemence for strength.

5. Agitated, excited; emotional, high-strung; given to outbursts of excitement; characterized by a disjointed or unequal style of expression.

Spasmodic School, a name given by Prof. Aytoun to a group of poets chiefly represented by Alexander Smith, Philip James Bailey, and Sydney Dobell.

1848 DICKENS *Dombey* i, Miss Tox immediately became spasmodic. 1854 AYTOUN in *Blackw. Mag.* May 534/1 Let us see what is the practice of the poets of the Spasmodic School. 1865 *Cornh. Mag.* May 640 We would..ask them if they would not desire to see their daughters brought up in a simpler, less spasmodic..and morbid way?

absol. 1861 READE *Cloister & H.* lxi, I would be prose laureat, or professor of the spasmodic, or something, in no time.

B. *sb.* † **1.** *pl.* (See quot.) *Obs.*—°

1704 J. HARRIS *Lex. Techn.* I, *Spasmodicks,* are Medicines against Convulsions.

2. *pl.* Spasmodic utterances or ejaculations.

1865 *Sat. Rev.* 11 Nov. 617 Mr. Porter's heroics and spasmodics are only excusable on the supposition that they are intended for a class of readers..who rejoice in Watts's Divine and Moral Songs.

Spasmo·dical, *a.* [-AL.] = SPASMODIC *a.*

1766 SMOLLETT *Trav.* I. iii. 23, I knew there was no imposthume in my lungs, and I supposed the stitches were spasmodical. 1864 *Daily Tel.* 29 June, M. von Bismarck, who .. made spasmodical exertions to prevent the Diet kindling into martial indignation.

Hence **Spasmo·dicalness.**

1881 BROOKS *Candle of Lord* 130 There are two ideas which belong to the notion of vast power...One is spasmodicalness and the other is waste.

Spasmodically (spæzmǫ·dikăli), *adv.* [-LY[2].]

1. *Path.* By means of, with the accompaniment of, a spasm or spasms.

1710 T. Fuller *Pharm. Extemp.* 251 The use of this [julep] is indicated..when the Spirits..are spasmodically exploded. 1763 *Phil. Trans.* LIII. 11 The Temporal and Masseter muscles.. were tense, hard, and spasmodically affected. 1814 J. Burns *Princ. Midwifery* (ed. 3) 391 The uterus may contract spasmodically. 1879 *St. George's Hosp. Rep.* IX. 683 On attempting to take fluids, they..were.. spasmodically rejected.

2. In a jerky or sudden manner.

1839 Dickens *Nickleby* xl, Poor Noggs .. moved spasmodically in his chair. 1864 F. W. Robinson *Mattie, a Stray* III. 114 Causing innumerable articles in the glass cases thereon to jump spasmodically with the shock.

b. With convulsive effort or violence.

1840 Carlyle *Heroes* (1858) 276 A human soul is seen clinging spasmodically to an Ark of the Covenant. 1851 De Quincey *Ld. Carlisle on Pope* Wks. 1859 XIII. 27 Pope obeyed, spasmodically, an overmastering febrile paroxysm. 1880 Flor. Marryat *Fair Alda* II. i. 23 She clung to him spasmodically.

3. By fits and starts; irregularly, intermittently.

1878 Huxley *Physiogr.* 190 The steam generally issues spasmodically. 1882 *Standard* 30 Dec. 2/2 If rates went up for a few days they did so spasmodically. 1897 Mary Kingsley *W. Africa* 599 The men then gradually go off to sleep, breaking out now and again spasmodically into little rows over a pipe.

Spasmodism (spæ·zmŏdiz'm). [f. Spasmod-ic *a.* + -ism.] Spasmodic feeling or emotion.

1878 T. Sinclair *Mount* 242 Spasmodism is a true stage in the growth of a first spirit. 1883 *Mem. Vol. Rev. A. Maclean* 231 A curious mixture of mediæval rigidity and modern spasmodism.

Spasmodist (spæ·zmŏdist). [f. Spasmod-ic *a.* + -ist.] One whose work is of a spasmodic character or who affects a spasmodic style; a writer of the 'spasmodic school'.

a 1849 Poe *Marginalia* Wks. 1864 III. 505 De Meyer and the rest of the spasmodists. 1854 *Tait's Mag.* XXI. 557 The fine frenzies of the noble new school of Spasmodists. 1878 T. Sinclair *Mount* 242 Here is the pitfall of the whole school of spasmodists who would make poetry wild 'speaking i' the air'.

† **Spa·smodized,** *ppl. a. Obs.*—[1] [Irreg. f. Spasmodic *a.*] Affected with spasms.

1819 *Metropolis* I. 219 Lady Mildew had recourse to her aromatic vinegar: she was quite spasmodized.

† **Spasmo·logy.** *Obs.*—[0] [ad. mod.L. *spasmologia.* So F. *spasmologie.*] (See quots.)

1681 tr. *Willis's Rem. Med. Wks.* Vocab., *Spasmology,* the doctrine of the convulsion or cramp of the sinews. 1823 Crabb *Technol. Dict.* II, *Spasmology,* a discourse or treatise on spasms. [Hence in later Dicts.]

Spa·smous, *a. rare*—[1]. [f. Spasm + -ous. Cf. Of. *spasmeux.*] Characterized by spasms.

1559 *Mirr. Mag.* (1563) M ij, That loathed leach, that never wellcum death, Through spasmous humours stopped vp his breth. 1859 Mayne *Expos. Lex.* 1177/1 *Spasmodes,* having or full of spasm or convulsion; spasmous.

‖ **Spa·smus.** *Obs.* Pl. **spasmi.** -[L. *spasmus,* a. Gr. σπασμός.] = Spasm.

c 1400 *Lanfranc's Cirurg.* 357 The xv. c° is of spasmus. 1591 Jas. I *Poet. Exerc., Furies* D ij, Els Spasmus..strait doth holde The Senewes of weake Adam. 1597 A. M. tr. *Guillemeau's Fr. Chirurg.* 2 b/2 If into anye woundes anye Spasmus happen, that is a bad signe. 1657 G. Starkey *Helmont's Vind.* 266 The Pleuresie is a most dangerous Feaver, with a Spasmus or Convulsion of the side. 1728 Chambers *Cycl.* s.v., A Spasmus happening after the taking of Hellebore..is mortal. *Ibid.,* Accidental Spasmi are of little Continuance.

Spasmy (spæ·zmi), *a.* [f. Spasm + -y[1].] Affected by spasms.

a 1849 Mangan *Poems* (1903) 168 Twitching A spasmy face From side to side with a grace Bewitching.

Spastic (spæ·stik), *a.* [ad. L. *spastic-us* (Pliny), a. Gr. σπαστικός, f. σπᾶν to draw: cf. Spasm. So F. *spastique.*]

1. *Path.* Of the nature of a spasm or sudden contraction; characterized or affected by spasmodic symptoms or movements.

1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s.v. *Gout,* The *podagra* in particular is thus defined to be a spastic and painful affection of the foot. 1755 *Phil. Trans.* XLIX. 243 To compose these spastic motions of the parts. 1822–7 Good *Study Med.* (1829) I. 318 The graft of a spastic disease upon a spastic temperament. 1878 Hamilton *Nervous Dis.* 155 There are occasionally spastic contractions, which last for some little time. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VI. 314 Amentia, in association with..spastic limbs.

b. *spec.* in names of special ailments.

1822–7 Good *Study Med.* (1829) IV. 334 Spastic wry-neck. From excess of muscular action on the contracted side. 1876 tr. *Wagner's Gen. Path.* 340 Spastic anæmia of the small and smallest arteries. 1891 *Lancet* 15 Aug. 354/1 Among the cases of apparent cure..were cases of spastic paralysis.

2. Performing involuntary contractile movements.

1822–7 Good *Study Med.* (1829) IV. 576 Such has been the force of the spastic muscles. 1834 *Good's Study Med.* (ed. 4) IV. 144 The contraction was here a spastic ring bordering immediately on the orifice of the uterus.

Spasticity (spæsti·sĭti). [f. Spastic *a.* + -ity.] Spastic condition or quality.

1822–7 Good *Study Med.* (1829) I. 293 Its wandering or universal spasticity. *Ibid.* IV. 435 A spasticity or want of pliancy in the muscular fibres of the heart. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VII. 58 Complete paraplegia, with or without spasticity or contracture.

Spat (spæt), *sb.*[1] Also 7 **spatt.** [Of obscure origin; perh. related to Spit *v.*[1]]

1. The spawn of oysters or other shell-fish.

[1376–7 *Rolls of Parlt.* II. 369/1 Il destruit..le spat des oistres, musklys, & d'autres Pessons.]

1667 Sprat *Hist. R. Soc.* 307 In the Month of May the Oysters cast their Spaun (which the Dredgers call their Spat). 1687 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 2272/4 The Laws for the preservation of the Spawn and Spatt of Oysters in the River of Burnham. 1721 *Phil. Trans.* XXXI. 251 From the Spat or Seed of which, it is most probable,..all the Bottom at length..became cover'd with Oysters. 1796 *Statist. Acc. Scot.* XVII. 70 In May the oysters cast their spat or spawn. 1817 in J. Evans *Excurs. Windsor* 448 For the preservation of the brood and spat of Oysters, and for otherwise regulating the said fishery. 1826 Sir A. Carlisle *Hunter. Oration* 19 The whole brood are associated together, by being involved in a viscid slime, and in that state called 'The Spat'. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* IV. 76 To save the bulk of the spat when free is the great object of oyster culture.

fig. 1881 *Blackw. Mag.* Mar. 272 Many square miles of the South and West of Ireland are but spawning beds of misery. The spat is nourished by the poor laws.

Comb. 1891 W. K. Brooks *Oyster* 112 Shells are very effective as spat-collectors.

b. In *pl.* in the same sense.

1667 Sprat *Hist. R. Soc.* 307 One Shell having many times 20 Spats. 1777 Pennant *Brit. Zool.* IV. 89 The oysters, or their spats, are brought to convenient places, where they improve in taste and size. 1854 S. P. Woodward *Mollusca* II. 254 The oysters spawn in May and June, and the fry ('spats') are extensively collected.

† **2.** The eggs of bees. *Obs.*

1634 J. Levett *Ordering of Bees* 14 The Bees haue first brought out the Drone spat, and after that their owne spat. *Ibid.* 61 The spat or brood of the Bees are nourished by honey and water. 1657 S. Purchas *Pol. Flying-Ins.* 47 Their young is called spat, that which the bees spit forth or deliver by their mouth.

Spat (spæt), *sb.*[2] *rare.* [app. an abbreviation of Spatule.]

† **1.** (See quots.) *Obs.*—[0]

1647 Hexham I. s.v., A Spat or an instrument that Chirurgions use in spreading their salves. 1656 Blount *Glossogr., Spat,*..a little slice or Splatter, wherewith Surgeons and Apothecaries use to spread their plaisters and salves.

2. A flat implement used in playing ball-games.

1866 *Routledge's Ev. Boy's Ann.* 180 A..version of racquets, with a 'spat' and an India rubber ball.

† **Spat,** *sb.*[3] *Min. Obs. rare.* [a. G. *spat,* also *spath* Spath I.] = Spar *sb.*[2]

1706 Phillips (ed. Kersey), *Spat,*..a kind of Mineral Stone. 1762 tr. *Busching's Syst. Geog.* I. 41 Spat, or Spar, the species of which are cubic, flaky, granular Spat, and transparent Spat;..glass spat, and field spat.

Spat (spæt), *sb.*[4] Chiefly *dial.* or *colloq.* [Probably imitative: cf. Spat *v.*[2]]

1. A tiff or dispute; a quarrel. Orig. *U.S.*

1804 *Repertory* (Boston) 27 April (Thornton), [London news] The late spat between Mr. Pitt and Mr. W. Pulteney. 1828 Webster, *Spat,* a petty combat; a little quarrel or dissension. (A vulgar use of the word in New England.) 1869 Mrs. Stowe *Old Town* 33 They was pretty apt to have spats. 1898 J. M. Henderson *Chron. Kartdale,* etc. 316 Robert and his uncle had a bit o' a spat this morning.

2. A smart blow, smack, or slap. Also *fig.*

1823 Creevey in *C. Papers* (1904) II. 62 The first sentence relating to Spain is a regular spat on the face to the Villains of Verona. 1831 *Ibid.* 231, I received rather a smartish spat on my shoulder from an unseen stick. 1840 *Comic Lat. Gram.* 23 More kicks, more boxes on the ear, more spats, more canings. 1899 *Contemp. Rev.* Dec. 881 An attention which she promptly requited by a 'spat' on the nose.

3. A sharp, smacking sound.

1881 Mary H. Catherwood *Craque o' Doom* ix. 74 They heard the spat of boot-soles on the flinty pike behind them. 1893 C. King *Foes in Ambush* 110 The bullets with furious spat drove deep into the adobe.

Spat (spæt), *sb.*[5] [Abbreviation of Spatterdash.] A short gaiter worn over the instep and reaching only a little way above the ankle, usually fastened under the foot by means of a strap. Chiefly in *pl.*

1802 James *Milit. Dict., Spatts,* a small sort of spatterdashes, that reach only a little above the ancle, called also half gaiters. 1820 Hogg *Shepherd's Cal.* xiv, Take in black spats, and a very narrow-brimmed hat, and you have the figure complete. 1863 Mrs. March *Heathside Farm* I. 28 Whose nether man was generally cased in brown spats (*Anglice* gaiters). 1888 *Times* (weekly ed.) 16 Nov. 3/4 He wore a pair of dark spats with light buttons.

Spat (spæt), *sb.*[6] [app. a. Du. *spat* in the same sense.] A small splash *of* something.

1876 J. Weiss *Wit, Hum., & Shaks.* ii. 47 When a skilfully distended bubble breaks, and only a thin spat of suds is left. 1897 Mary Kingsley *W. Africa* 258 Spats of mud ..came flap, flap among the bushes covering me.

Spat (spæt), *v.*[1] [f. Spat *sb.*[1] The use of the form as a pa. pple. (in quots. 1677) is prob. due to association with Spit *v.*[1]]

1. *intr.* and *trans.* Of oysters: To spawn.

1667 Sprat *Hist. R. Soc.* 307 With a knife they gently raise the small brood [of oysters] from the Cultch, and then they throw the Cultch in again, to preserve the ground for the future, unless they be so newly Spat that they cannot be safely severed from the Cultch. *Ibid.* 309 The Oysters are sick after they have spat. 1865 *Rep. Sea Fisheries Comm.* II. 1359/2 Some of the oysters..spat as late as the end of September. The general time of spatting, however, is much earlier. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* IV. 77/1 As oysters..have been known to spat very late in the year.

† **2.** *intr.* Of bees: To breed. *Obs.*

1634 J. Levett *Ordering of Bees* 25 The Bees both spat faster and preserve..their brood the better. *Ibid.* 61.

Spat (spæt), *v.*[2] [Prob. imitative: cf. Spat *sb.*[4]]

1. *intr.* To start *up* sharply or actively; to engage in a dispute. *U.S.*

1809 Kendall *Trav.* III. 292, I was answered, 'that the women had not much to say in politics, though now and then they would spat up'. 1848 Bartlett *Dict. Amer.* 323 *Spat,* to dispute; to quarrel. A low word. New England.

2. *trans.* To clap, slap, or smack.

c 1832 Sir C. Lyell in Mrs. Lyell *Life* (1881) I. 11 We were very angry with him for having *spatted* us all round with a ruler. 1845 S. Judd *Margaret* (Bartlett), The little Isabel leaped up and down spatting her hands. 1886 *Cent. Mag.* Jan. 489/2 You can't spat a man harder betwixt the eyes than to set back an' not break bread wi' 'im.

b. To beat *down* with a spade or the like.

1845 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* V. II. 553 It must be..finally spatted down and smoothed by the spade. 1890 *Lippincott's Mag.* Apr. 579 Shovelled away by dozens and spatted down under neat mounds by the unfeeling spade of the scientific excavator.

3. *intr.* To administer slaps or pats; to strike sharply, to spatter.

1868 Miss Alcott *Lit. Women* (1869) I. xv. 231 Amy spatted away energetically. 1894 Crockett *Raiders* xl. (ed. 3) 341 Bullets spatted uncomfortably among the rocks.

b. Used adverbially.

1890 L. C. D'Oyle *Notches* 71 Bill fired again,..and I heard the ball go 'spat I' 1895 *Outing* XXVI. 30/2 Spat-spat, splash! they fell, one big sprig coming down squarely on top of my head.

Hence **Spa·tting** *vbl. sb.*, a slapping, a smacking.

1840 *Comic Lat. Gram.* 34 A caning...A spatting...A flogging. 1883 C. D. Warner *Roundabout Journ.* 24 As I approached this sunken place I heard a tremendous spatting, and pounding, and chattering, and laughing.

Spatangoid (spætæ·ŋgoid), *sb.* and *a. Zool.* [ad. mod.L. *Spatangoides,* f. *Spatangus* (late L. *spatangius,* Gr. σπατάγγης): see -oid.] **a.** *sb.* A sea-urchin belonging or related to the genus *Spatangus* (heart-urchins). **b.** *adj.* Having the characteristics of this.

1857 Agassiz *Contrib. Nat. Hist. U.S.* I. 114 Next come true Echinoids, later only Spatangoids. 1877 *Encycl. Brit.* VII. 630/2 In some Spatangoid genera the corona bears symmetrical bands of minute tubercles with attached spines.

† **Spatarent,** *a. Obs. rare.* Also **spartarent, -ine.** [a. obs. F. *spa(r)tarent,* ad. med.L. *spatarent-icus* (also *spatarensis*): see Mowat *Alphita* (1887) 159.] *Spatarent soap,* a kind of soap formerly in use.

1526 *Grete Herbal* clvii. (1529) K j b, Confect with spatarent sope or Frensshe sope. *Ibid.* cccxcviii. X vj, The other [sort] is called Iewes sope or spartaryne bycause ye Iewes wasshe them therwith. *Ibid.* X vj b, The Iewes sope & spartarent.

† **Spatch,** *v. Obs.*—[1] [Aphetic form of Dispatch *v.*] *trans.* To slay, kill.

1616 J. Lane *Contn. Sqr.'s T.* VII. 60 Vnmake my limbes, vntwiste my guiltie liefe, And quicklie spatche thy griefe-killd Algarsife.

Spatch-cock, spatchcock (spæ·tʃkɒk), *sb.* [See quot. 1785 and Dispatch *sb.* 12.]

1. A fowl split open and grilled after being killed, plucked, and dressed in a summary fashion. Also *attrib.*

Orig. in Irish use, later chiefly Anglo-Indian.

1785 Grose *Dict. Vulgar T., Spatch cock,* abbreviation of a dispatch cock, an Irish dish upon any sudden occasion. It is a hen just killed from the roost, or yard, and immediately skinned, split, and broiled. 1819 Moore *Mem.* (1853) II. 317 We had a good deal of laughing at an Irishman who was of our party, on account of a bull he had made at breakfast, and which we called 'half a nightingale'—a sort of 'spatch-cock nightingale'. 1823 — *Fables, Holy Alliance* i. 86 Proud Prussia's double bird of prey, Tame as a spatch-cock, slunk away. 1851 R. F. Burton *Goa* 258 Presently the 'butler' informs you that your breakfast, a spatchcock, or a curry with eggs,..is awaiting you. 1875 Miss Bird *Sandwich Isl.* (1880) 99 Supper was ready for us;..the spatchcock and salmon reminded me of home.

2. (See quot.)

1901 Bradley *Highw. & B. Lake District* 62 Any official ..would have run a grave risk of being made a spatchcock of, or in other words, of his head being stuck in a rabbit-hole, and his legs staked to the ground.

Spatchcock (spæ·tʃkɒk), *v.* [f. prec.]

1. *trans.* To cook as, or in the manner of, a spatchcock. Hence **Spatchcocked** *ppl. a.*

1865 *Pall Mall G.* 2 Aug. 3 Those who have never eaten spatchcocked grouse can hardly be said to know the real flavour of the bird. 1879 Mrs. James *Ind. Househ. Man.* 34 You sit down..to your fowl—spatch-cocked of course, that being the natives' favourite way of dressing the tempting dish. 1890 *Queen* 11 Jan. 68/3 To split a fowl in two and serve one half à la Marengo, and the other half the next day either spatchcocked with mushrooms, or in any other approved fashion.

2. To insert, interpolate, or sandwich (a phrase, sentence, etc.). Const. *in* or *into.*

1901 Gen. Buller in *Times* 11 Oct. 10/2, I therefore spatchcocked into the middle of that telegram a sentence in which [etc.]. 1901 *Daily Chron.* 18 Oct. 3/4 Such indifferent performances as 'Catriona'—indifferent in spite of the fine short story 'spatchcock'd' into it. 1903 Mahaffy in *Cal. St. P., Irel.* Introd. 12 We read phrases of apparent sincere religious fervour spatchcocked in between these bloodthirsty expressions.

b. To add to, or modify, by interpolation.

1901 *Daily Chron.* 24 Oct. 5/6 They knew of the spatchcocked telegram then. 1902 *Speaker* 16 Nov. 190/1 Generals spatchcock telegrams and receive dismissal.

Spate (spēt), *sb.* Orig. *Sc.* and *north.* Forms: *α.* 5– **spate**, 5–9 **spait**, 6–7, 9 *dial.* **spaitt**, 6–7 **spat**, 7 **spaite**, 9 **spaight**. *β.* 6–7 **speate**, 7–9 **speat**, 9 *dial.* **speatt**, **speeat**, **speet**, **spete**, **spyet**, etc. [Of obscure origin: the early spelling and rimes show that the original vowel was *ā*, the later change of which to *ea*, etc., is regular.]

1. A flood or inundation; *esp.* a sudden flood or rising in a river or stream caused by heavy rains or melting snow.

α. *c* 1425 WYNTOUN *Cron.* I. viii[i.] *heading*, The ark and the spate of Noe: *Ibid.* VII. 771 Na spate þan mycht mak þar kneys wate.. *c* 1440 *Alph. Tales* 381 Þe watur þat was cald Padus rase vp opon a grete spate and owryode all þe feldis. 1522 *Aberdeen Reg.* (1844) I. 105 The sentrice of the brig..quhilk the spat haid brocht dovne incontinent. 1562 TURNER *Herbal* II. (1568) 35 Great heapes of Stones are casten together wyth the myght of a great spat or floode. 1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 39 A spate, *torrens*. *c* 1614 SIR W. MURE *Dido & Æneas* II. 478 Nor haile, nor sleet, nor wind, nor weit [Atlas] eschewes; Adoune his shoulders raging spates do spowt. 1706 SIBBALD *Hist. Picts* in *Misc. Scot.* I. 97 Others perished in the water, being carried down by the spate. 1725 RAMSAY *Gentle Sheph.* I. ii, The spate may bear away Frae aff the howms your dainty rucks of hay. 1858 GLADSTONE *Homer* III. 158 That he carried away in sudden spates many of the horses that were pastured on his banks. 1889 F. A. KNIGHT *By Leafy Ways* 25 Heaps of drifted rubbish,..to mark the tide-line of the winter spates.

transf. 1611 SIR W. MURE *Misc. Poems* ii. 60 Wks. (S.T.S.) I. 11 No spaits of teires culd quench ye boyling leede. 1847 MOTHERWELL *Poet. Wks.* (ed. 2) 9 In that spate of blood, how well The headless corpse will swim.

β. 1595 DUNCAN *App. Etym.* (E.D.S.), *Elwio, diluvium*, a speate of watters. *a* 1670 SPALDING *Troub. Chas. I* (Spalding Cl.) I. 81 Throw ane great speat of the water of Die, occasioned be the..extraordinar rayne, thir haill four schippis brak louss. 1731 *Morison's Dict. Decis.* (1806) XXXIII. 14524 The prejudice..did arise..from the running in of mud and gravel, by speats and land-floods. 1785 BURNS *Brigs of Ayr* 121 While crashing ice, borne on the roaring speat, Sweeps dams, an' mills, an' brigs, a' to the gate. 1818 MISS FERRIER *Marriage* I. 296 A Horse and Cart were drowned at the Ford last Speat. 1863 [W. F. CAMPBELL] *Life in Normandy* I. 54 They [i.e. fish] cannot get into these small rivers without a speat.

b. A sudden heavy downpour or storm *of* rain.

1727 *Life J. Semple* in *Biogr. Presbyteriana* (1827) I. 168 With a Speat of Rain, to raise the Waters. 1793 T. SCOTT *Poems* 389 Routh o' kisses, That fell like speats o' rain. 1825– in numerous northern dial. glossaries. 1871 *Daily News* 25 Aug., All day long there had been a 'spate' of rain in Inverary.

c. *fig.* A sudden or violent outburst or outpouring *of* some quality, feeling, etc.; a sudden rush or flood, an unusual number or quantity, *of* words, events, etc.

α. *c* 1614 SIR W. MURE *Dido & Æneas* III. 191 Deathbent Dido,..Transported with a rageing spait of ire. *a* 1689 W. CLELAND *Poems* (1697) 45 Innocence proves no defence, Against this Spait of violence. 1730 T. BOSTON *Mem.* x. 320 The spate ran high for the transportation [to Closeburn] when we came to town. *a* 1796? BURNS *Poem on Pastoral Poet.* ix, Nae bombast spates o' nonsense swell. 1826 SCOTT *Jrnl.* 6 Sept., Here is a fine spate of work—a day diddled away, and nothing to show for it. 1890 *Argus* (Melbourne) 17 Dec. 9/2, I already had such a spate of schools to attend that I was unable to accept the invitation.

β. 1629 SIR W. MURE *True Crucifix* 564 Wks. (S.T.S.) I. 221 Thy Crimes the cause, thy sinnes inunding speate. 1634 RUTHERFORD *Lett.* (1862) I. xxxvii. 118 God hath dried up one channel of your love by the removal of your husband. Let now that speat run upon Christ. 1710 RUDDIMAN *Gloss. Douglas' Æneis* s. v. *Flum*, A speat of language. 1731 *Plain Reasons Presbyt. Diss.* 138 The most honest cause is often run down with the torrent and speat of lawquirks. 1834 *Tait's Mag.* I. 428/1 Not a foaming speat, and blether of dictionary words. 1858–62 E. B. RAMSAY *Remin.* vi. (1870) 168 Sic a speat o' praying, and sic a speat o' drinking, I never knew.

2. Without article: Flooding or inundation, swollen condition *of* water, etc.; copious downpouring *of* rain. Now usually without const.

1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* IX. i. 74 Sevyn swelland ryveris eftyr spait of rayne. 1536 BELLENDEN *Cron. Scot.* (1821) II. 287 In this yeir, al the landis of Godowine, be spait of seis, wes coverit with sandis. 1609 SKENE *Reg. Maj.* 9 Inundation, or spate of water, or anie other suddaine chance or perill. *c* 1630 in Burton *Scot Abr.* (1864) II. 323 For as meikle as a greit part of the playfeild..is spoiled, broken and carriet away in speat and inundation of water. 1848 CLOUGH *Bothie of Toper-na-Fuosich* 1, 7 As sudden torrent in time of speat in the mountain. 1893 K. SIMPSON *Jeanie o' Biggersdale* 51 The water rushed down..angrily in winter and in times of spate.

b. *In* (or † *on*) *spate*, in flood.

1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* II. vi. 14 Quhen the burne on spait hurlis doun the bank. 1567 *Gude & Godlie B.* (S.T.S.) 111 Lyke burnis that in spait fast rin. 1610 *Aberdeen Reg.* (1848) II. 299 The said burne, efter great rayne, being in spat, brak out oft and diuerse tymes be vehement force. 1803 JAMIESON *Water-Kelpie* xxi. in Scott *Minstrelsy*, Yestereen the water was in spate. 1860 G. H. K. *Vac. Tour* 133 The burn, high in spate,..rattles harshly at our feet.

c. Broken or turbulent water characteristic of a river in flood. *rare* —[1].

1884 W. SIME *To & Fro* 104 The Ilen..breaking into rough currents of brown 'spate'.

3. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *spate river, water*; *spate-created* adj.

1456 SIR G. HAYE *Law Arms* (S.T.S.) 115 The spate wateris of the grete mountanis may sudaynly cum till infest the ost and disloge thame. 1529 *Registr. Aberdon.* (Maitl. Cl.) I. 396 Gif it sall happin þe said brig be..inundatioun of spaitt water weiring of grund be our inaduertence ..to failȝe. 1902 *Scotsman* 4 Mar. 10/2 Floods are of very short duration on those spate rivers. 1901 *Pall Mall G.* 17 Sept. 6/2 Those spate-created runs at the heads of pools.

Hence **Spate** *v. trans.*, to flood, swell; *intr.*, to rain heavily. Also **Spated** *ppl. a.*

1827 AIKMAN *Hist. Scot.* III. iv. 374 The speated Tweed came down heavy two days before. 1853 W. WATSON *Poems* 26 (E.D.D.), Sheughs an' deep fur-drains were jawin' To spate the burns. 1866 *Banffshire Gloss.* 230 It spaitit on the hail nicht.

Spate-bone, irregular variant of SPADE-BONE.

1655 FULLER *Ch. Hist.* v. 169 To humble the Cardinals pride, some afterwards set up on a window, a painted Mastiff-dog, gnawing the spate-bone of a shoulder of Mutton. *a* 1825 FORBY *Voc. E. Anglia, Spate-bone, Spaut-bone*, the shoulder-bone of an animal slain for food.

Spatel(le, etc., obs. variant of SPATTLE.

Spatewil, variant of SPETEWIL *a. Obs.*

Spath[1] (spæþ). Now *rare.* [a. G. *spath*, var. spelling of *spat* (SPAT *sb.*[3]), *spad* (SPAAD), MHG. and MLG. *spat*, *spât*. Hence also Du. *spaath*, Da. and Sw. *spat*; F. *spath*, It. *spato*, Sp. and Pg. *espato*.] = SPAR *sb.*[2]

1763 W. LEWIS *Phil. Comm. Arts* 144 A friable opake stone called white spath, which appears to be a kind of gypsum. 1794 R. J. SULIVAN *View Nat.* I. 73 The crystallizations which are found in granite, are almost always of a siliceous substance, quartz: whereas marble has always spath, which is a calcareous one. 1803 *Med. Jrnl.* IX. 494 These layers imitate..closely calcareous spath. 1886 *Leeds Mercury* 15 Feb. 5/6 The lens coincides with the principal chrystallographic axis of the Spath.

Spath[2], variant of SPATHE.

1834 *Penny Cycl.* II. 371/2 Bows made from the spath (σπαθη) of the palm.., six feet long. 1889 *Science-Gossip* XXV. 184/1 The spath is thrown up from the tuber at a different period.

‖ **Spatha** (spēi·pă). Pl. **spathæ** (-þē). [L. *spatha*, ad. Gr. σπάθη broad blade, broad flat piece of wood, stem of a palm-leaf, spatula, etc.]

1. *Bot.* A spathe.

1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s.v., The *spatha* is of very different texture..in different plants. 1760 [see SPADICEOUS *a.* 2]. 1769 E. BANCROFT *Guiana* 31 A tough ligneous cylindrical stalk..terminated by a conic, reddish purple spatha. 1796 STEDMAN *Surinam* II. xix. 66 The seed is enclosed in a brownish kind of spatha, that arises from the center of the branches. 1830 LINDLEY *Nat. Syst. Bot.* 175 Flowers.. bursting through an irregularly lacerated spatha. 1850 TYAS *Favourite Field Fl.* Ser. II. 18 The daffodils were showing their..petals through the transparent spatha.

transf. 1834 tr. *Raspail's Org. Chem.* 283 If..we examine a feather..we may..satisfy ourselves, that its tube is formed and grows by means of spathæ, one within another.

2. A flat blade-shaped implement.

1881 J. ANDERSON *Scot. in Early Chr. T.* Ser. II. i. 32 At its right side lay an iron knife, a weaver's rubbing-bone, and spatha of whalebone.

Spathaceous (spăþēi·ʃəs), *a.*[1] *Bot.* [a. mod. L. *spathaceus*: see SPATHA and -ACEOUS.] Furnished with or enclosed by a spathe; of the nature of or resembling a spathe.

1760 J. LEE *Introd. Bot.* II. vi. (1765) 85 Such as have Spathaceous Flowers. 1830 LINDLEY *Nat. Syst. Bot.* 236 Calyx divided or entire, sometimes spathaceous. 1858 [see SPADICEOUS *a.* 2]. 1872 OLIVER *Elem. Bot.* II. 269 Daffodil.. A bulbous herb, with..a membranous spathaceous bract.

† **Spatha·ceous**, *a.*[2] *Obs.*—[1] [f. SPATH[1].] Spathic, spathose.

1794 R. J. SULIVAN *View Nat.* I. 426 A great variety of forms may be produced by the spathaceous particles.

Spathal (spēi·ðăl), *a. Bot.* [f. next or SPATHA.] 'Furnished with a spathe; as, *spathal* flowers.'

1864 WEBSTER (citing Howitt).

Spathe (spēið). [ad. L. *spatha* or Gr. σπάθη: see SPATHA and cf. SPATH[2]. So F. *spathe*.]

1. *Bot.* A large bract or sheathing-leaf enveloping the inflorescence (usually a spadix) of certain plants, as arums, palms, etc., in such a way as completely to enclose it before expansion.

1785 MARTYN *Lett. Bot.* xiv. 154 These [genera]..agree in having a *Spathe* or sheath instead of a calyx. 1793 — *Lang. Bot.* s.v. *Spatha*, A Spathe may be one-valved, or two-valved [etc.]. 1811 A. T. THOMSON *Lond. Disp.* (1818) 61 The spathe is erect,..covering the fruit till it is nearly ripe, when it drops. 1848 TYAS *Favourite Field Fl.* Ser. I. 3 Near the summit of the flower-stalk is a spathe which originally enveloped the bud. 1870 *Zoologist* Ser. II. V. 2354 A singular species of Arum, with long curling horns extending from its lurid spathes.

attrib. 1882 *Garden* 17 June 424/3 A naked stem, inflated spathe-valves, and somewhat broad leaves.

2. *Zool.* A spatulate or spoon-shaped part, process, etc. 1891 in *Cent. Dict.*

Hence **Spathed** *a.*, having a spathe (Webster, 1864); **Spa·theful**, such a number or quantity as fills a spathe.

1888 G. ALLEN in *Good Words* 385 The entire spatheful of pollen-bearing flowers.

Spathe-bill. *rare*—[1]. [f. SPATHE *sb.*] The spoon-billed sandpiper, *Eurynorhynchus pygmæus*.

1840 *Cuvier's Anim. Kingd.* 245 Near the Sandpipers should apparently be placed the Spathe-bill.., which is distinguished by a depressed bill, widened at the tip somewhat as in the Spoonbills.

† **Spa·ther.** *Obs. rare.* [Irregularly f. L. *spatha*, or alteration of SPATTER *sb.*[1]] A spattle or spatula.

1597 GERARDE *Herbal* III. xxxix. 1178 Of this there is made a profitable spather or slice to be vsed in making of compounde plaisters and pessaries. 1657 *Physical Dict.* B iv, *Albation*, is the abstraction of Dust..with a Hares foot, feather, spather, or such like.

So † **Spa·thern.** *Obs. rare.*

1634 T. JOHNSON *Parey's Chirurg.* III. xxix. 121, I have sometimes seen such passages so open, that they would receive the head of a Spathern [F. *espatule*]. *Ibid.* XV. vi. 567 That bone which is deprest must be lifted up with a spatherne, or little sticke.

Spathic (spæ·þik), *a.*[1] *Min.* [f. SPATH[1] + -IC. Cf. F. *spathique*.]

† **1.** = SPATHOSE *a.*[1] 2. *Obs.*—[1]

1788 JEFFERSON *Writ.* (1859) II. 432 The property of the spathic acid, to corrode flinty substances, has been lately applied by M. Puymaurin to engrave on glass.

2. a. = SPATHOSE *a.*[1] 1 b.

1803 *Med. Jrnl.* IX. 494 Sometimes it is found in spathic layers, semitransparent, of different thickness;..these layers imitate so closely calcareous spath, that [etc.].

b. = SPATHOSE *a.*[1] 1 a.

1831 J. HOLLAND *Manuf. Metal* I. 265 Bergmann had already asserted that manganese was contained in the white or spathic iron ores. 1855 SCOFFERN in *Orr's Circ. Sci., Elem. Chem.* 442 Native peroxide of iron (spathic iron). 1868 JOYNSON *Metals* 7 At Weardale the spathic ore is often found associated with a brown ore—a hydrated oxide.

Spa·thic, *a.*[2] *Bot.* [ad. mod.L. *spathicus*, f. SPATHA 1.] Of or belonging to a spathe.

1859 MAYNE *Expos. Lex.* 1178/1.

Spathiform (spæ·þifɔim), *a.*[1] *Min.* [f. SPATH[1] + -(I)FORM. Cf. F. *spathiforme*.] Resembling spath or spar in form or appearance; lamellar.

1793 R. KERR *Lavoisier's Elem. Chem.* (1802) I. 268 These [forms of uranite] may be divided into three genera, the ochreous, the spathiform, and the mineralized. *Ibid.* 269 The spathiform, or uranite spar.

Spa·thiform, *a.*[2] *Bot.* (*Zool.*) [f. SPATHA or SPATHE.] Having the form of a spathe.

1859 HUXLEY *Oceanic Hydrozoa* 29 The hydrophyllia spathiform and smooth externally.

Spathose (spæþō·us), *a.*[1] *Min.* [f. SPATH[1] + -OSE[2]. Cf. SPATHIC *a.*[1]]

1. Of the nature of or resembling spath or spar; abounding in, consisting of, spar; foliated or lamellar in structure or texture; sparry.

a. *Spathose iron, iron-ore, ore*, = SIDERITE 6.

1776 *Phil. Trans.* LXVI. 620 The first experiment [was with] white spathose iron ore from Bayreuth. 1799 *Hull Advertiser* 7 Sept. 4/2 White or yellowish spathose iron. 1801 *Phil. Trans.* XCI. 190 These cavities are analogous to those which appear in the crystals of the spathose ores of iron. 1823 W. PHILLIPS *Min.* (ed. 3) 236 Spathose iron ..occurs of a wine yellow, brownish yellow, yellowish brown and brown colour. 1868 JOYNSON *Metals* 6 The celebrated 'steel irons' of Siegen, Styria, and Carinthia have always been produced from the spathose ores.

b. In general use.

1802 PLAYFAIR *Illustr. Huttonian Theory* 67 All these stones have a tendency to a spathose structure. 1822 J. PARKINSON *Outl. Oryctol.* 22 Calcareous spathose wood previously bituminized. 1856 S. P. WOODWARD *Mollusca* III. 76 Shell external, spathose layer produced beyond the phragmocone into a long pointed beak.

† **2.** Derived from fluor-spar. *Spathose acid*, hydrofluoric acid. *Obs.*

1811 PINKERTON *Petral.* II. 139 The fluor is of various colours;..yielding much phosphorescence when thrown on hot iron, as well as a spathose acid gas.

Spatho·se, *a.*[2] *Bot. rare.* [f. SPATH-E or SPATH-A + -OSE[2].] = SPATHACEOUS *a.*[1]

1839 G. ROBERTS *Dict. Geol., Spathose*, resembling the covering of the date. 1847 in WEBSTER.

So **Spa·thous** *a.* (Webster, 1828–32).

‖ **Spathula** (spæ·þiŭlă). *rare.* [L., var. of SPATULA.] A spatula. Also *Comb.*

The erroneous form *spathulor* occurs in Topsell *Serpents* (1608) 34.

1706 in PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey). 1742 *Phil. Trans.* XLII. 75, I mix them gently..with a Spathula of white Wood. 1826 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* III. xxxv. 643 A spathula-shaped diverging process.

Spathulate (spæ·þiŭlēt), *a.* [f. prec. + -ATE[2].] Spatulate, spatular. Chiefly *Bot.*

1821 W. P. C. BARTON *Flora N. Amer.* I. 34 Flowers large, petals spathulate: 1826 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* III. 647 The shape and figure..of scales are very various,..some nearly round,..others spathulate. 1857 HENFREY *Bot.* § 88 When the blade passes still more gradually into a broad-winged stalk, a spathulate form results. 1882 VINES tr. *Sachs' Bot.* 529 The lower ones are entirely free, sickle-shaped and pointed, the upper ones broadly spathulate and coherent at their base.

So **Spa·thulated** *ppl. a. rare.*

1821 W. P. C. BARTON *Flora N. Amer.* I. 120 Radical leaves numerous, spathulated, ciliated, and slightly pubescent. 1859 MAYNE *Expos. Lex.* 1178/1 The *Spondylus spathuliferus* has its shell charged with many rows of simple and spathulated scales.

† **Spathule,** Anglicized var. of SPATHULA.

1658 PHILLIPS, *Spathule*, .. an Instrument wherewith Chirurgions and Apothecaries spread their plaisters.

† **Spa·thy,** *a. Obs. rare.* [ad. G. *spathig, spatig* (MHG. *spatic*), f. *spath* SPATH[1].] Sparry.

1757 tr. *J. F. Henckel's Pyritologia* 127 The adhering, interspersed, quartzy, spathy matters. *Ibid.* 314 Calcarious, spathy stone.

Spatial (spēi·ʃăl), *a.* Also **spacial.** [f. L. *spāti-um* SPACE *sb.*[1] + -AL.]

1597 GERARDE *Herbal* III. xxxix. 1178 Of this there is made a profitable spather or slice to be vsed in making of compounde plaisters and pessaries. 1657 *Physical Dict.* B iv, *Albation*, is the abstraction of Dust..with a Hares foot, feather, spather, or such like.

1. Having extension in space; occupying or taking up space; consisting of or characterized by space.
1847 WHEWELL *Philos. Induct. Sci.* II. 447 We contemplate objects as made up of spatial parts. 1882 J. W. DRAPER *Intell. Devel. Europe* iv. (1865) 85 All is composed of points or spacial units, which, taken together, constitute a number. 1863 J. G. MURPHY *Comm., Gen.* i. 20 The expanse is here proved to be aerial or spatial; not solid. 1886 A. WEIR *Hist. Basis Mod. Europe* (1889) 474 An independent spatial world, with minds and matter moving about in it.

2. Of, pertaining, or relating to space; subject to, or governed by, the conditions of space. Chiefly *Metaph.* and opposed to *temporal*.
a. 1857 WHEWELL *Hist. Induct. Sci.* (ed. 3) I. 351 There are properties of bodies, of the most intimate kind, which involve such spatial relations as are exhibited in the Regular Solids. 1865 J. GROTE *Moral Ideals* (1876) 188 If we translate the consideration of the mind from spatial to temporal language. 1875 CAYLEY in *Phil. Trans.* CLXV. 675 If..we imagine the spatial distribution as made over an indefinitely thin layer or stratum. 1886 A. WEIR *Hist. Basis Mod. Europe* (1889) 481 Ideas..which have been formed from a vast quantity of temporal and spatial experience.
β. 1871 FRASER *Life Berkeley* x. 364 A mathematical or spacial conception of what is real. *a* 1881 A. BARRATT *Phys. Metempiric* (1883) 107 A temporal principle of unity does exist, but a spacial does not.

3. Happening or taking place in space; caused or involved by space.
1866 W. R. ALGER *Solitudes Nat. & Man* III. 123 Spatial separation is not spiritual independence. *a* 1870 SIR J. HERSCHEL in Proctor *Other Worlds* xii. 276 *note*, One of the arguments advanced in favour of the spatial extinction of light. 1888 *Linnean Soc. Jrnl.* XX. 232/2 Spatial segregation does not depend upon diversity in the qualities and powers of the organism.

4. Of faculty or sense: Apprehending or perceiving space or extension.
1886 *Encycl. Brit.* XX. 54/1 *note*, The sensibility of our 'spatial sense'. 1886 SIDGWICK *Hist. Ethics* i. 9 To investigate the origin of the spatial faculty.

Hence **Spatiality** (spēˌʃiæˈlĭti), spatial character, quality, or property. **Spatialization** (spēˌʃəlәizēˈʃәn), the fact of making spatial or investing with spatial qualities or relations.
1882 B. P. BOWNE *Metaphysics* 209 All forms of external experience are not alike calculated to awaken the mind to react with a spatialization of its objects. 1887 *Mind* Jan. 10 The existence of the vague form..of spatiality. 1890 A. SETH *Scot. Philos.* (ed. 2) iii. 98 Elements which do not already include the fact of spatiality.

Spatially (spēˈʃăli), *adv.* Also **spacially**. [f. SPATIAL *a.*] As regards, in or with reference to, space; by means of space.
1865 J. GROTE *Explor. Philos.* I. 44 The sensation which we have is rudimentarily perhaps, simply of a colour, how spatially related to us is hard to trace. 1877 E. CAIRD *Philos. Kant* II. ii. 447 All spatially or temporarily determined phenomena. 1882 STALLO *Concepts Mod. Phys.* 228 There is no objectively real thing which is not spacially extended. 1896 JEVONS *Introd. Hist. Relig.* xvii. 230 Gods who are spatially remote from him.

Spatiate (spēˈʃiˌeit), *v.* [f. ppl. stem of L. *spatiārī*, f. *spatium* SPACE *sb.*1] *intr.* To walk about; to stroll, wander, range, or roam. Also *fig.*
1626 BACON *Sylva* § 720 The Fixing of the Minde upon one Object of Cogitation, whereby it doth not spatiate and transcurre, as it useth. 1656 in BLOUNT *Glossogr.* *a* 1711 KEN *Psyche* Poet. Wks. 1721 IV. 299 The Soul in Vision seem'd from Flesh unloos'd To fly abroad, and spatiate unconfin'd. 1734 WATTS *Relig. Juv.* (1789) 140 My spirit feels her freedom,..Exults and spatiates o'er a thousand scenes. 1846 *Blackw. Mag.* LIX. 759 Give him room and opportunity..to spatiate for the good of digestion. 1889 *Jrnl. Archaeol. Inst.* No. 181. 15 We can spatiate at peace and gather in a rich harvest of useful information.

Hence **Spatiation.** *rare* —°.
1658 PHILLIPS, *Spatiation*, a walking at length, or in a large compasse.

Spatour, variant of SPATURE *Obs.*

Spatous, *a. Min.* ? *Obs.* [f. SPAT *sb.*3] Spathic, spathose.
1803 PLYMLEY *Agric. Shropsh.* 50 The white spatous-ore, and considerable quantity of black-jack. 1811 PINKERTON *Petral.* II. 207 Red felspar, in irregular spots,..in greenish spatous hornblende. 1834 *Gentl. Mag.* CIV. I. 175 The black hornblende is the only constituent which has a.. spatous appearance.

† **Spattania.** *Obs.* Also **-ana, -armia, spatania.** [Of obscure origin: connexion with med. L. *spatana* a kind of iris (*c* 1300 in Matth. Sylvat.) is uncertain.] (See quots.)
1583 GREENE *Mamillia* Wks. (Grosart) II. 23 The tallest blade of Spattania hath his full height in one moment. 1589 — *Menaphon* (Arb.) 83 There is no herbe sooner sprung vp than the Spattarmia nor sooner fadeth. 1590 LODGE *Euphues Gold. Legacy* Q 2, Loue growes not like the hearb Spattana to his perfection in one night.

Spatted, *ppl. a.* [f. SPAT *sb.*5] Provided with or wearing spats or short gaiters.
1894 G. DU MAURIER *Trilby* II. 184 Our three friends balmorally-booted or neatly spatted. 1894 HALL CAINE *Manxman* 136 One of his spatted feet was on the break.

Spatten, obs. f. pa. t. (pl.) and pa. pple. SPIT *v.*

† **Spa·tter,** *sb.*1 *Obs.* [Alteration of *spatour* SPATURE.] A spatule.
1569 R. ANDROSE tr. *Alexis' Secr.* IV. II. 40 Worke it with a spatter, vntill it be come vnto the heigth of waxe. *Ibid.* III. 25 Laboring them with the spatter. *Ibid.* 45 Working it alwayes with a spatter. 1590 BARROUGH *Meth. Physick* VIII. (1639) 420 Stirre [the materials]..with a spatter untill they come together. 1668 CULPEPPER & COLE *Barthol. Anat.* III. vi. 143 Having cut the pia Mater, open the sides thereof a little with a Spatter.

Spatter (spæˈtәr), *sb.*2 [f. SPATTER *v.* So WFlem. *spetter*.] A slight splash or sprinkle; a spattering.
1797 T. PARK *Sonn.* 86 'Tis odds that you escape the spatters. 1850 S. DOBELL *Roman* vi. Poet. Wks. (1875) 102, I would wash that hearthstone in your blood, If but the poorest spatter on the wall Would save my child! 1896 *Daily News* 23 Sept. 5/1 Some spatter of war-fire is, indeed, seen here and there.

Spa·tter, *sb.*3 *rare.* [Short for SPATTERDASH.] A spatterdash or gaiter.
1898 T. HARDY *Wessex Poems* 94 I've my knapsack, fire-lock, spatters.

Spatter (spæˈtәr), *v.* [app. a frequentative of the stem found in Du. and LG. *spatten* to burst, spout, etc.: cf. WFris. *spatterje*, Helgoland *spattere* to spirt, WFlem. *spetteren* to spatter.]
I. *trans.* **1.** To scatter or disperse in fragments.
1582 STANYHURST *Æneis* II. (Arb.) 44 But Capys..Did wish thee woodden monster weare drowned,..or ribs too spatter a sunder. 1658 BROMHALL *Treat. Specters* II. 175 [He] did command..to burn all, and to spatter the ruines all about. 1877 TENNYSON *Harold* II. ii, O God, that I were in some wide, waste field With nothing but my battle-axe and him To spatter his brains!

b. With *out*: To sputter, or cause to sputter.
a 1586 SIDNEY *Arcadia* IV. (1598) 396 He without any regard of reseruing it for the Kings knowledge, spattered out the bottome of his stomacke. 1649 G. DANIEL *Trinarch., Hen. V*, XXV, But now the Palsey of the Common Earth Trembles my Quill, and Spatters out my Inke. 1806 H. SIDDONS *Maid, Wife & Widow* III. 76 The indiscriminate censure which every pert would-be witling spatters out against the practice of the law.

c. To dash, cast, send flying, in drops or small particles. Const. with preps. or advs.
1721 BAILEY, *Spatter*, to dash or sprinkle upon. 1841 CATLIN *N. Amer. Ind.* lii. (1844) II. 141 Several others struck so near on each side as to spatter the water into our faces. 1852 HAWTHORNE *Blithedale Rom.* v, The..puffs of wind spattered the snow against the windows. 1889 *Anthony's Photogr. Bull.* II. 308 The person working at the next sink cannot spatter hypo or other chemicals on his neighbor's plate. 1905 [see 7].

2. To splash or stain with drops of fluid, mud, etc.; to bespatter; *fig.* to assail with obloquy or detraction.
1645 WITHER *Vox Pacifica* 65 Your Foes..Finde meanes to spatter, and to ruine those, Whom, to defend, you did (with vowes) professe. 1656 LD. HATTON in *Nicholas Papers* (Camden) III. 284 Mr Smith is uery sencible that many little pens will spatter him. 1718 LADY M. W. MONTAGU *Let. to C'tess Mar* 28 Aug., The arms of France over the house of the envoy [were] spattered with dung in the night. 1727 GAY *Fables* I. xiv. 45 Bend all your force to spatter merit. 1879 FROUDE *Cæsar* xviii. 296 As an advocate, he must praise the man whom, a year before, he had spattered with ignominy. 1900 *19th Cent.* XLVIII. 795 They're kicking in that mud-puddle, and trying to spatter your nice white dress.

b. To cover in a dispersed manner.
1647 H. MORE *Cupid's Confl.* xliii, So Natures carelesse pencill dipt in light With sprinkled starres hath spattered the Night. 1841 DICKENS *Barn. Rudge* lxv, Lighted brands came whirling down, spattering the ground with fire. 1864 LOWELL *Fireside Trav.* 240 The walls were spattered with placards.

3. Of fluids, etc.: To fall or strike upon (something) in scattered drops.
1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* III. I. vi, He dies..; his blood spattering the cheeks of his old Mother. 1860 GOSSE *Rom. Nat. Hist.* 42 Huge drops of warm rain, like blood-drops, are spattering the stones.

II. *intr.* **4.** To spring or fly, to spirt, in drops or particles; to throw off drops or small fragments.
1600 SURFLET *Countrie Farme* III. liii. 553 As it is boiling ..it will be spattering and casting vp bubbles. *Ibid.*, If it spatter, there is yet some waterish moisture remaining in it. 1674 RAY *Coll. Wds., Iron Work* 129 If..you cast upon the Iron a piece of Brass it will hinder the metal from working, causing it to spatter about. 1863 TYNDALL *Heat* ii. 38 The liquid metal is seen spattering over the poles of the magnet. 1883 *Harper's Mag.* June 117/2 The mineral ichor rises and dances in clouds of steam; it fumes, it spouts, it spatters.

b. To fall, descend, strike, in heavy drops or with a sound suggestive of these.
1675 HANNAH WOOLLEY *Gentlew. Comp.* 145 Pour your Eggs and Cream very high into the Bason, that it may spatter in it. 1859 HAWTHORNE *Fr. & It. Note-bks.* II. 279 The rain-drops began to spatter down faster. 1869 TOZER *Highl. Turkey* I. 316 We heard their bullets..spatter against the rocks. 1887 BESANT *The World went* V, The musket-balls spattering in the water.

5. To eject small drops of saliva or particles of food, etc., from the mouth; to splutter while speaking; to cause spattering in any way.
1618 BRETON *Courtier & Countryman* Wks. (Grosart) II. 14/1 The Seruants..no sooner tasted of it, but they did so spit and spatter as if they had been poysoned. 1649 MILTON *Eikon.* 19 That mind must needs be irrecoverably deprav'd, which..tasting but once of one just deed, spatters at it, and abhorrs the relish ever after. *c* 1645 HOWELL *Lett.* I. 229 The Grave spatter'd and shook his Head, saying, 'Twas the greatest error he had committed since he knew what belonged to a Soldier. 1828 LYTTON *Pelham* XXXIV, The confused hubbub of the little domestic deities, who ate, clattered, spattered, and squabbled around her.

b. To scatter drops of ink.
a 1640 JACKSON *Creed* XI. xlii. Wks. XI. 258 As children often make fair letters while their tutors guide their hands, but spatter and blot and dash after they be left to their own guidance.

6. To walk or tread in some splashy substance.
1806 BLOOMFIELD *Wild Flowers* 9 The mill-brook.., Good creature! how he'd spatter through! 1897 RHOSCOMYL *White Rose Arno* 186 'Well, I must find out where I stand first,' said he to himself as he spattered along in the darkness.

III. 7. In combs., as **spatter-cone, -dock** (see quots.); **spatter-work**, a method of producing decorative work by spraying ink or other fluid over something (e.g. leaves of plants) laid on paper or other suitable material.
1856 A. GRAY *Man. Bot.* (1860) 23 *Nuphar*...Yellow Pond-Lily. Spatter-dock. 1873 ELIZ. PHELPS *Trotty's Wedding Tour* 224 Gray spatter-work (oak leaves and acorns) on cranberry silk. 1891 KIPLING & BALESTIER *Naulahka* (1892) 21 His collection of..embroideries, and..sofa-pillows and spatter-work filled his parlour. 1905 CHAMBERLIN & SALISBURY *Geol.* I. 580 A still more subordinate variety consists of 'spatter-cones' formed by small mildly explosive vents that spatter forth little dabs of lava which form chimneys, or cones.

Hence **Spattera·tion,** spattering. *U.S.*
1853 MOODIE *Life Clearings* 112, I wonder if..this waterfall [has] been underminin' With constant spatteration. 1902 *Westm. Gaz.* 23 June 2/1 For Londoners there is no alternative between spatteration and suffocation.

Spatterdash (spæˈtәdæʃ). [f. SPATTER *v.* + DASH *v.* Cf. SPATTER-LASH, -PLASH, and the dial. *splatter-, spattle-dash(er)*.] A kind of long gaiter or legging of leather, cloth, etc., to keep the trousers or stockings from being spattered, esp. in riding. Chiefly in *pl.*
sing. 1687 E. RAVENSCROFT *Long Vac., Prol. to Titus Andronicus*, Prepare to gallop down on Smithfield Titts, Equip'd with the Heel-Spur and Spatter-dash. 1756 TOLDERVY *Hist. 2 Orphans* III. 122 He generally left his stall, ..which one day caused him the loss of two pair of breeches, and a spatterdash. 1778 SHERIDAN *Camp* I. ii, There's a leg for a spatterdash. 1841 BORROW *Zincali* I. v, The legs are protected..by a species of spatterdash, either of cloth or leather.
pl. 1687 [see SPATTER-LASH]. 1694 MOTTEUX *Rabelais* IV. xii, The porter soon found him out, by his large greasy spatterdashes, his..hollow flanked mare [etc.]. *Ibid.* XXXII, Cows Leather Spatter-dashes. 1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* I. (Globe) 151, I had..made me a Pair of some-things..to flap over my Legs, and lace on either Side like Spatter-dashes. 1746 in *Rep. Comm. Ho. Commons* II. 99 (Land Forces), Haversacks,..Frocks to go over the Mens Cloaths, Spatterdashes, and Watering Caps. 1777 W. DALRYMPLE *Trav. Sp. & Port.* xliii, His waistcoat and breeches are generally leather, with a pair of cloth spatterdashes on his legs. 1807–8 W. IRVING *Salmag.* (1824) 358 Dressed in a man's hat, a cloth overcoat, and spatterdashes. 1858 CARLYLE *Fredk. Gt.* IV. viii. (1872) II. 20 This done, he shall as rapidly as possible get on his shoes and spatterdashes.

b. *Comb.*, as *spatterdash-maker, -making.*
1768 STERNE *Sent. Journ.* (1902) 30 His talents of drum-beating and spatterdash-making. 1905 *Westm. Gaz.* 1 Apr. 3/1 La Fleur,..ex-drummer and spatterdash-maker.

Spatterdashed, *ppl. a.* [f. prec. + -ED 1.] Clad in, provided with, spatterdashes.
1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* xlv, Many young gentlemen canter up on thoroughbred hacks, spatterdashed to the knee. 1862 SALA *Seven Sons* I. xi. 274 The dashing [Miss] Southbank, splendid in a scarlet riding-habit, spatterdashed with patent leather.

Spatterdasher. *Obs.* exc. *dial.* = SPATTERDASH.
1684 *Yorks. Dial.* 373 (E.D.S.), Wife, what's become of my Spatterdashers? 1711 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4809/4 A pair of Spatterdashers. 1767 *Connoisseur* No. 79 F 2 (ed. 5) III. 60 He wore upon his legs something that resembled spatterdashers [1755–61 spatterdashes].

Spattered (spæˈtәd), *ppl. a.* [f. SPATTER *v.*]
1. Dispersed or scattered, esp. in drops or small particles.
1647 H. MORE *Minor Poems, Exorcismus* iv. Wks. (Grosart) 178/1 Those Eastern spatterd lights..purpling the gay Night. 1720 POPE *Iliad* XXII. 97 Where famish'd Dogs ..Shall lick their mangled Master's spatter'd Gore. 1814 SCOTT *Lord of Isles* III. xxix, The spatter'd brain and bubbling blood Hiss'd on the half-extinguish'd wood.

2. Sprinkled, splashed; covered with spots of liquid matter, mud, etc.
1784 COWPER *Task* IV. 6 He comes..With spatter'd boots, strapp'd waist, and frozen locks. 1794 — *Needless Alarm* 125 By panting dog, tir'd man, and spatter'd horse. *a* 1813 A. WILSON *Foresters* Poet. Wks. (Belfast ed.) 233 The cow loud bawling fills the spattered door. 1892 *Pall Mall G.* 3 Oct. 2/2 Such is the prospect from my spatter'd pane.

Spa·tterer. *rare* —°. One who spatters.
1611 COTGR., *Cracheur*, a spitter, spawler, spatterer.

Spa·ttering, *vbl. sb.* [f. SPATTER *v.*]
1. The action of splashing or sprinkling, etc.
1604 T. M. *Black Bk.* in *Middleton's Wks.* (Bullen) VIII. 40 The lamentable spattering of his pearl-colour silk stockings. 1611 COTGR., *Crachement*, a spitting, spatling, spattering, spawling. 1788 G. KEATE *Pelew Isl.* (1789) 179 *note*, It is probable that the spattering of it on their naked bodies might create an unpleasant sensation. 1805 A. WILSON *Poems & Lit. Prose* (1876) II. 150 A fleet of ducks.. alarmed with sudden spattering soar. 1856 HAWTHORNE *Eng. Note-bks.* (1879) I. 126 Little spatterings of rain.
† **2.** A smattering. *Obs.*—1
a 1662 HEYLIN *Laud* (1668) 317 A small spattering in the Hebrew, made him subject unto some suspicion of Heretical Fancies.

3. A noise (esp. that made by bullets) suggestive of the fall or impact of heavy drops.

1866 *Ann. Reg.* 230 Suddenly..a spattering of musketry breaks out. 1870 *Daily News* 29 Oct., A steady spattering of independent fire, could be heard.

Spa·ttering, *ppl. a.* [f. as prec.] That spatters, in senses of the vb.

1576 NEWTON *Lemnie's Complex.* (1633) 148 His beard sluttish, driveling and filthy, with spattering snevell deformed. 1611 COTGR., *Crache en-ruelle,* a spawling, or spattering fellow. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* x. 567 They..instead of Fruit Chewd bitter Ashes, which th' offended taste With spattering noise rejected. 1708 J. PHILLIPS *Cyder* I. 28 With a writhen mouth and spattering noise He tastes the bitter morsel. 1818 SCOTT *Rob Roy* xxx, A continued spattering fire, in which every shot was multiplied by a thousand echoes. 1849 EASTWICK *Dry Leaves* 27 A sudden squall, which..sprinkled us with a spattering rain. 1883 *Mag. of Art* Sept. 470/2 What heaps of linen! What a spattering fire of blows!

† Spatter-lash, -plash, varr. SPATTERDASH.

1687 MIÉGE *Gt. Fr. Dict.*, Spatter-dashes, or (as they call 'em in the West) Spatter-plashes, *guêtres.* 1725 BAILEY *Erasm. Colloq.* 131 Where have you been, with your Spatter Lashes?

Spatter-work: see SPATTER *v.* 7.

Spatting (spæ·tiŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. SPAT *v.*¹] Of shell-fish: The action or process of depositing spawn. Also *attrib.*

1864 *Morn. Star* 28 Dec., It is calculated, in spite of the bad spatting of the last three years, that there is a stock of oysters..of the value of upwards of 100,000*l.* 1866 *Cornh. Mag.* Aug. 163 We have not had a very good spatting season since 1860. 1877 *Q. Rev.* CXLIV. 486 The spatting process, or labour of the parental oyster.

Spattle (spæ·t'l), *sb.*¹ *Obs.* exc. *dial.* Forms: α. 1 **spatl** (**spadl, spaðl**), 3 **spatel,** 5 **-ell, -ill, -ylle,** 6 **-ele, -yll, spattyl** (*Sc.* -ill); 6 **spatle,** 6–7, 9 *dial.*, **spattle.** β. 3–4 **spotle,** 3, 9 *dial.*, **spottle;** 4 **spotel(e,** 4–5 **-il,** 5 **-ell, -yl(l.** [OE. *spátl* (*spádl,* also *spáld* SPOLD), f. **spát-*, stem of *spǽtan* to spit. Cf. MLG. *spêdel,* OFris. *spêdel, spêdla.*] Spittle.

α. *c* 897 K. ÆLFRED *Gregory's Past. C.* xxxvi. 261 Se ilca ..se na ne forbeaȝ mid his nebbe ðara triowleasena monna spatl, ðonne hie him on ðæt nebb spætton. *c* 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* John ix. 6 [He] uorhte lam of ðæm spadle & ahof þæt lam ofer eȝo his. *c* 975 *Rushw. Gosp.* Matt. xxvii. 30 Spittende on him heor spaðl. *c* 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* II. 226 Ȝif þonne ȝit sio adl eȝle, do spatl to. *a* 1240 *Wohunge* in *O. E. Hom.* I. 279 Þat tu mihtes wið þat spatel..wasche mi sawle. *c* 1400 tr. *Secreta Secret., Gov. Lordsh.* 72 Þat shalt þow knowe..by þy spatill rennand to þy mouth. *c* 1410 *Master of Game* (MS. Digby 182) xii, Put it in a dysshe wᵗ þe spatell of iii. or iiii. fastynge men. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 352/1 A Spatylle, *saliua, sputum.* *a* 1529 SKELTON *P. Sparowe* 358, I..fed him with my spattyl, With his byll betwene my lippes. 1555 W. WATREMAN *Fardle Facions* II. xii. 277 He mingleth earthe and his spattle toguether, and smereth the eyes, eares, and nosethrilles of the childe. 1601 DEACON & WALKER *Ans. to Darel* 180 By the touch of Christs finger, and the loosing of his tongue by his spattle. 1664 POWER *Exp. Philos.* I. 10 A Wood Louse.. fastened to the object-plate by a little spattle. 1876– in Yorks. and Som. glossaries.

β. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 288 Þauh heo bispeteð hire mid hire blake spotle. *c* 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 362 Seint Marc with is spottle watte a luyte vrþe on þe grounde. *c* 1380 WYCLIF *Serm.* Sel. Wks. II. 193 Cristis spotel hadde greet vertue. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) I. 195 Men þat heleþ smytynge of serpentes wiþ touche or wiþ spotel. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 469/2 Spyt, or spotle, *sputum, screa, saliva.* 1460–70 *Bk. Quintessence* II. 19 Mortifie it wiþ fastynge spotil. 1886 *Rochdale Gloss.* 83 *Spottle,* matter (saliva) spit from the mouth.

Spattle (spæ·t'l), *sb.*² Also 5 **spatyl,** 6 **-yll,** 6–7 **spatle** (7 **spatwel**). [Anglicized f. SPATULE. Cf. Du., G., Da., and Sw. *spatel.*]

1. A spatula. Now *rare* or *Obs.*

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 467/2 Spatyl, instrument to clense wythe soorys, *pessaria.* 1530 PALSGR. 273/2 Spatyll, an instrument. 1576 G. BAKER tr. *Gesner's Jewell of Health* 194 When the same shall begynne to melte..Sturre with a spattle. 1594 PLAT *Jewell-ho.* II. 38 With a woodden spatle or spoone, beat them wel together. 1605 TIMME *Quersit.* III. 155 Stirre it continually with an yron spattle. 1658 A. FOX *Würtz' Surg.* II. ix. 80 Unguentum Mucilaginis put into the wounded Eye with a spattle will clear the sight. 1725 *Fam. Dict.* s.v. *March-Pane,* Let all be afterwards well incorporated, with the Spattle. 1854 PAPPE *Silva Capensis* (1862) 59 *Spathulate,* shaped like a spattle.

2. *techn.* and *dial.* (See quots.)

In first quot. associated with SPATTLE *v.*²

1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2254 *Spattle,*..a tool for mottling a molded article with coloring matter. 1888 ADDY *Sheffield Gloss.* 231 *Spattle,* a wooden spoon used for lifting meal from the meal-tub to the bake-stone. 1899 *Cumbld. Gloss.* 307/2 *Spattle,* a peel..used for putting the loaves into the oven, and for removing them.

Spa·ttle, *sb.*³ *dial.* [Alteration of PATTLE *sb.*, perh. after prec.] A plough-spade or other small spade. Also *spattle-hoe.*

1824 MACTAGGART *Gallovid. Encycl.* 460 Another, perhaps, gives the sock, another the stilts, another the spattle. 1834 *Tait's Mag.* I. 528 Farmers became country gentlemen; changing..the spattle-hoe for the riding-whip. 1869–94 in Lanc. and Northumbld. glossaries.

† Spa·ttle, *v.*¹ *Obs.* Also 4–5, 7 **spatle,** 5 **spatel.** [OE. *spátlian* (more commonly *spǽtlan, -ian*), f. *spátl* SPATTLE *sb.*¹] *intr.* and *trans.* To spit. Also with *out.*

c 1000 ÆLFRIC *Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 162 *Pitisso,* ic spatliȝe. *c* 1325 *Old Age* in *E. E. P.* (1862) 149, I spitte, i spatle, in speche i sporne. *c* 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 8196 [The dragons] Spatled, spouted, belewed, & byten. *c* 1450 LYDG. *Secrees* 1416 Erthe, Autumpnus, and Age accordyn in oon, Slough, malencolye, spatlyng euere among. *a* 1470 H. PARKER *Dives & Pauper* (W. de W. 1496) VIII. xiv. 341/1, I suffered to be beten and bounde, to be spateled and despysed. 1538 BALE *Thre Lawes* 444, I can werke wyles in battle, If I do ones but spattle. 1554 PHILPOT *Examin. & Writ.* (Parker Soc.) 313, I would I had a fountain of spittle to spattle on them. 1601 DENT *Pathw. Heaven* (1617) 160 Would to God..that we were come to such a..loathing of lying, that we should euen spattle at it! 1611 COTGR., *Cracher,* to spit; spawle; spattle, bespatter. *Ibid., Craché,* spet, or spatled out.

Spattle (spæ·t'l), *v.*² Now *techn.* and *dial.* Also 7 **spatle.** [Related to SPATTER *v.*] *trans.* To spatter or sprinkle; to mottle.

1611 COTGR., *Enfanger,* to spatle, beray, or durtie all ouer with myre. *Ibid., Entretaché,* spotted (and spatled) here and there. 1875 [see SPATTLING *vbl. sb.*²]. 1879– in Shropshire and Cheshire glossaries.

† Spa·ttling, *vbl. sb.*¹ *Obs.* [f. SPATTLE *v.*¹] Spitting; spittle.

c 1000 ÆLFRIC *Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 162 *Pituita, i. minuta saliua,* spatlung. *a* 1240 *Lofsong* in *O. E. Hom.* I. 207 Bi his scornunge and bi his spotlunge and bufettunge. *a* 1240 *Wohung* Ibid. 279, I for þe luue of þe þolede schome and bismere and schomeliche spateling of unwurði ribauz. 1576 NEWTON *Lemnie's Complex.* II. 106 b, Spettle, sweat, sneuel, spattling and Phlegme. 1611 COTGR., *Crachement,* a spitting, spatling, spattering, spawling.

Spa·ttling, *vbl. sb.*² [f. SPATTLE *v.*²] Spattering; mottling.

1611 COTGR., *Papillotage,* a spatling, or spottinesse. *Ibid., Papillottes de bouë,* mirie spots, spatlings, bedashings. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2254/2 *Spattling-machine,* one for sprinkling earthenware with glaze, or coloured slip, to make party-coloured ware.

Spa·ttling, *ppl. a.* Also 6– **spatling.** [f. SPATTLE *v.*¹] *Spattling poppy* (or *campion*), bladder campion. *Obs.* exc. *arch.*

1597 GERARDE *Herbal* II. lxviii. § 4. 295 *Papauer spumeum,* which I haue Englished Spatling Poppie. *Ibid.* cxxi. § 7. 384 Spatling Campion hath a slender hoarie stalke. 1611 COTGR., *Pavot escumant,* spatling Poppie, frothie Poppie. 1640 PARKINSON *Theat. Bot.* 263 Some with us call it Knapbottle, and others Spatling or Frothy Poppy. *a* 1722 LISLE *Husb.* (1752) 324, I gathered a large handful of spatling-poppy, and held it to the cow. 1758 MRS. DELANY *Life & Corr.* (1861) III. 499 Some sea-holly, and spatling poppy. 1785 MARTYN *Lett. Bot.* xix. (1794) 274 Spatling Poppy is not an uncommon weed among corn and in meadows. 1829 *Glover's Hist. Derby* I. 114 *Silene inflata,* spattling poppy, white bottle or bladder champion.

† Spatul. *Obs. rare.* Also **spatull.** [var. of SPATULE: cf. SPATTLE *sb.*²] = SPATULA 1.

1600 SURFLET *Countrie Farme* I. xii. 81 Stirring it about many times with a spatull of cleane and faire wood. *Ibid.* 82 Mixe them all togither, and stirre them well with a spatull. *a* 1663 K. DIGBY *Chymical Secrets* (1683) 47 Stirring continually with an Iron Spatul.

‖ **Spatula** (spæ·tiŭlă). [L. *spatula,* var. of *spathula* SPATHULA, dim. of *spatha* SPATHA. Cf. Sp. *espatula,* It. *spatola.*

The erroneous form *spattular* occurs in Topsell *Four-f. Beasts* (1607) 511. For Anglicized forms see SPATULE, SPATUL, SPATTLE *sb.*², SPARTLE *sb.*, also (with change of ending) SPATURE and SPATTER *sb.*¹]

1. A simple implement of wood, ivory, or metal, having a flat elongated form with various modifications of shape and size, used for a variety of purposes: **a.** For stirring mixtures (esp. of a medical nature), spreading ointments or plasters, etc.

1525 tr. *Jerome of Brunswick's Surg.* C iv/2 Take a spatula & styrre all these togeder. 1599 A. M. tr. *Gabelhouer's Bk. Physicke* 45/1 Reverberate the same dilligentlye with the spatula, and it will be the better. 1639 T. DE GRAY *Expert Farrier* 305 Laid on a spatula plaister-wise. 1669 W. SIMPSON *Hydrol. Chym.* 187 Over which fume..we directly plac'd a spatula. 1683 PETTUS *Fleta Min.* I. (1686) 162 Stir it about continually with a wooden spatula. 1718 QUINCY *Compl. Disp.* 15 We many times stir the Body that is to be calcin'd with a Spatula, or else mix it with something else. 1799 G. SMITH *Laboratory* I. 40 Take some cotton, and with a spatula..work that, the nitre and the brandy together. 1823 P. NICHOLSON *Pract. Build.* 382 Being stirred with a spatula till the whole becomes incorporated. 1837 *Flemish Husb.* 61 in *L. U. K.* III, The butter..is well washed and worked with..a kind of spatula or flat spoon. 1873 SPON *Workshop Rec.* Ser. I. 18/1 The mixture is removed from the stone by a spatula.

b. For minor surgical operations or for the medical examination of certain organs.

1684 tr. *Bonet's Merc. Compit.* II. 45 This Scab..hath fallen off, by the help onely of a Spatula. 1694 *Phil. Trans.* XVIII. 220 With a small Spatula..she pick'd out five or six Worms at a time. 1755 *Gentl. Mag.* XXV. 39 The tongue..must be loosened with a spatula. 1803 *Med. Jrnl.* X. 330 He ordered the patient to take in his mouth a silver spatula, to which the conducting chain had been adapted. 1853 LOWELL *Lett.* (1894) I. iii. 222 There is no spatula with which you can hold the Public's tongue while you force things down their throat. 1879 T. BRYANT *Pract. Surg.* II. 5 This is best done by introducing the little finger or a spatula into the nostril.

c. For technical operations of various kinds.

1842 LOUDON *Suburban Hort.* 306 The strip of bark.. being raised up..by the spatula of the budding-knife. 1865 LUBBOCK *Preh. Times* xi. 358 The pottery was all made by women. Their tools were very simple, consisting of..a flat mallet or spatula for the surface [etc.]. 1883 *Harper's Mag.* Oct. 775 The few..tools of the craft—chisel, hammer, spatula—lay in various places. 1887 D. MAGUIRE *Art Massage* ii. (ed. 4) 22 We give this name [i. e. palette] to a kind of spatula in the shape of a battledoor with a long handle.

2. A ferule. *rare*⁻¹.

1830 MRS. BRAY *Fitz of Fitz-ford* iii. (1884) 29 A large birchen rod,..and a wooden spatula, to inflict punishment on the hand.

3. *Ornith.* The roseate spoonbill.

1872 *Routledge's Every Boy's Annual* 138 The rose-coloured spatula, a bird that frequents lakes and rivers [in America], and lives on fish.

4. *attrib.*, as *spatula-hand, -hook;* **† spatula-bird,** a spoonbill.

1750 *London Mag.* May 224/2 As to the Spatula-bird,..it is a kind of water fowl, of the goose or duck kind. 1861 PEARSON *Early & Mid. Ages* vii. 66 The *spatula* hand..is rather that of a mechanician than an artist. 1895 *Arnold & Sons' Catal. Surg. Instrum.* 145 Spatula Hook.., in ivory handle.

5. *Comb.*, as *spatula-like, -shaped.*

1796 WITHERING *Brit. Plants* (ed. 3) IV. 100 The spatula-shaped leaves appear at the end of these branches. 1826 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* IV. xlvi. 263 *Spatulate,*..spatula-shaped. Broader and rounded at the apex, linear and narrow at the base. 1834 McMURTRIE *Cuvier's Anim. Kingd.* 150 Their bill..becoming widened and flattened..so as to form a spatula-like disk. 1880 MISS BIRD *Japan* II. 93 A spatula-shaped shuttle of engraved wood.

Spatulama·ncy. [ad. med. or mod.L. *spatulamancia,* f. *spatula* shoulder-blade.] Divination by means of the shoulder-blade of an animal. (Cf. SPADE-BONE and SPEAL-BONE.)

In quot. 1652 there is app. some error or omission, as the explanation would more properly apply to **spatilomancy,* f. Gr. σπατίλη excrement, parings of leather.

1652 GAULE *Magastrom.* xix. 166 *Spatalamancy,* [divining] by skins, bones, excrement. 1720 DE FOE *D. Campbell* (1841) 241 If it be by consulting the shoulder-bones of any beast, it goes by the name of spatulamancy. 1887 RIBTON-TURNER *Vagrants & Vagrancy* 78 Spatulamancy.., by reading..the blade bone of a shoulder of mutton well scraped.

Spatular (spæ·tiŭlăɹ), *a.* [f. SPATULA.] Having the form of a spatula. Also *Comb.*

1891 *Cent. Dict., Spatular,* like a spatula in form; spatulate. 1906 ALICE WERNER *Natives Brit. Central Africa* v. 107 She..scraped..the neck..with a little spatular-shaped iron razor.

† Spa·tulary, *a.* *Obs.*⁻¹ [f. med.L. *spatula* shoulder-blade, SPATULA.] (See quot.)

1651 J. F[REAKE] *Agrippa's Occ. Philos.* 66 Whence there arose a spatulary kind of divining (i. e.) by the Shoulder-blades.

Spatulate (spæ·tiŭlět), *a.* [ad. mod.L. *spatulat-us,* f. *spatula* SPATULA. Cf. SPATHULATE *a.*] Having a broadened and rounded end like that of a common form of spatula: **a.** *Bot.* Of leaves, etc.

1760 J. LEE *Introd. Bot.* III. v. (1765) 176 *Spatulate,* resembling a Spatula; when the Figure is roundish, but lengthened out by the Addition of a linear Base that is narrower. 1785 MARTYN *Lett. Bot.* xxv. (1794) 354 The leaves have..hairy, spatulate leaflets. 1806 GALPINE *Brit. Bot.* 382 L[eaves] several, spatulate, rough at the apex. 1828 SIR J. E. SMITH *Eng. Flora* II. 94 Leaves linear-lanceolate;..lowermost stalked, somewhat spatulate. 1850 TYAS *Fav. Field Fl.* Ser. II. 74 The leaves..immediately from the root, ovate or spatulate.

b. *Zool.* Of organs or parts.

1826 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* IV. 263. 1838 *Penny Cycl.* XI. 232/2 Lower incisor teeth [of giraffe]..spatulate. 1851 S. P. WOODWARD *Mollusca* I. 69 Pen like loligo, but dilated and spatulate behind. 1877 HUXLEY *Anat. Inv. Animals* vi. 262 The large basal joint..bears a curved, spatulate process.

c. In general use.

1883 FRITH & ALLEN *Chiromancy* 70 A woman with rather spatulate fingers and a small thumb. 1892 *Pall Mall G.* 30 June 6 With the long, spatulate little finger the management of business will result. 1897 *Archaeol.* V. 480 Rods of gilt copper expanded at one end into flat spatulate heads.

Comb. 1885 J. THOMSON *Through Masai Land* ii. 88 Their weapons are a knife, a long, spatulate-shaped sword, and the bow and arrow.

Spa·tulated, *a.* = prec.

1777 FORSTER *Voy. round World* I. 437 Many were spatulated, flattish, and pointed. 1893 SELOUS *Trav. S. E. Africa* 48 Their two long tail feathers, broadened out or spatulated at the extremity in the form of a paddle.

Spatula·tion. *rare.* [f. SPATULATE *a.*] The fact or condition of being spatulate; a spatulate formation.

1881 NEWTON in *Encycl. Brit.* XII. 359/1 The lateral feathers [of humming birds] may..suddenly enlarge into a terminal spatulation as in the..'Racquet-tails'. 1895 *Ibis* July 399 That in some motmots the spatulation of the tail-feathers may be effected by the bird itself.

Spatule (spæ·tiul). Also 7 **spattule.** [a. OF. *spatule* (also mod.F.), ad. L. *spatula* SPATULA. Cf. MDu. *spatule, spatele.*]

1. = SPATULA 1.

a 1425 tr. *Arderne's Treat. Fistula,* etc. 40 Anoynt it aboue þe sore wiþ a penne or feþer or wiþ a spatule. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* II. 508 Stirring it with spattules or ladles oftentimes in a day, vntill it be resolued into the vineger. 1658 EVELYN *Fr. Gard.* (1675) 294 Frequently stirring the bottom of your pan with the spatule. 1674 GUIDOTT *Observ. at Bath* in *Harl. Misc.* (Malh.) IV. 130 The very knives, and spatules, [which] I put in to stir some residence in the bottom. 1778 *Ann. Reg.* 124/2 With a kind of wooden spatule he scrapes all the blood. 1905 *Blackw. Mag.* May 630/2 A small 'spatule' in silver..which I acquired.

Comb. *a* 1686 SIR T. BROWNE *Norf. Birds* Wks. 1852 III. 314 They..are..remarkable in their white colour, copped crown, and spoon or spatule-like bill.

2. A spatulate terminal portion in the tail-feathers of a bird; a spatulate formation or part.
1873 *Proc. Zool. Soc.* 430 For a long time its tail had perfect spatules.

Spa·tuliform, *a. rare.* [f. SPATULA: see -(I)FORM.] Spatula-shaped.
1822 J. PARKINSON *Outl. Oryctol.* 43 In soft spatuliform thin plates. 1893 S. STEBBING *Hist. Crustacea* vi. 65 The front is horizontal and not spatuliform.

Spatulo·se, *a.* [See next and -OSE.] =next.
1867 DK. ARGYLL *Reign of Law* v. 245 Plumes of enormous length, with flat or spatulose terminations. 1885 *Proc. Soc. Ant. Scot.* XIX. 142 The arrow-head is..spatulose and bevelled at the broad end.

Spatulous (spæ·tiŭləs), *a.* [f. SPATUL-A + -OUS.] Resembling a spatula in form; spatulate.
1828 STARK *Elem. Nat. Hist.* II. 439 Cells..slightly clavate or spatulous. 1865 *Spectator* 14 Jan. 39 The fore-finger.., if pointed, shows a tendency to mysticism; .. if spreading, or 'spatulous', to a restless, active, religious spirit. 1889 MRS. LYNN LINTON *Thro' Long Night* I. i. ii. 20 Sly may..splash his spatulous fingers in rose-water.

† **Spature.** *Obs.* Also 4–5 **spatour.** [ad. OF. *spatule* or L. *spatula*, with change of suffix. Cf. SPATTER *sb.*[1]] A spatula.
1348–9 *Durh. Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 549 In factura unius spatour pro lectuariis..de pixidibus evellendis, *vd. c* 1400 *MS. Sloane* 4463 159 b in *Lanfranc's Cirurg.* 297 Loke thou stere hit euermore with a spature of tre till þat it be thikke as oynement. *a* 1425 tr. *Arderne's Treat. Fistula*, etc. 31 And so euermore mouyng strongly wiþ a spatour, seþe þam on a softe fyre. *Ibid.* 69 With þi fynger or with a spature impressyng it [wool]. 1597 GERARDE *Herbal* III. CXXXI. 1335 A spature or a thing to stir with.

Spatyl(l, varr. SPATTLE *sb.* **Spau,** obs. f. SPA *sb.*
Spauld, var. SPAAD (*Obs.*), SPALD *v.*, SPAULD.

† **Spaudeler.** *Obs. rare.* In 4 **spawdeler,** 5 **spaudelere.** [f. OF. *espalde* SPAULD. Cf. MLG. *spoldener*, MHG. *spaldenier*, MDa. *spaldenær*, MSw. *spaldenär*, *spoldener*, etc.] A piece of armour protecting the shoulder; a shoulder plate.
13.. *Coer de L.* 5285 Cowdyrbras..Smot Sere Thomas.. On hys spawdeler off hys scheeld, That it fleygh into the feeld. 14.. *Lat.-Eng. Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 588 *Humeralis*, a spaudelere [*printed* spanbelere].

Spauen, obs. form of SPAVIN.

† **Spaught.** *Obs. rare.* Also 7 **spaut, spowte.** [Of obscure origin.] A youth, lad, or stripling.
1598 R. BERNARD tr. *Terence, Eunuch* IV. iv, That other came, being a spaught of sixteene yeeres old. 1641 BEST *Farm. Bks.* (Surtees) 133 Wee give usually to a spaught for holdinge of the oxe plough fower nobles or perhaps 30*s.* per annum. 1686 G. STUART *Joco-ser. Disc.* 42 Sir, here's a Spaught that came fra Taunton. 1691 RAY *N. Co. Words* (ed. 2) 68 A *Spaut* or *Spowte*, a youth.

† **Spaul,** *v. Obs. rare.* [In sense 1, ad. OF. *espauler* (mod.F. *épauler*); in sense 2, ad. OF. *espaul(l)ier*, both f. *espaule*, *épaule* shoulder.]
1. *trans.* In *pass.*, of a horse: To be injured *in* the shoulder.
c 1410 *Master of Game* (MS. Digby 182) xii, If he may not be hole for all þis, do to hym as men done to an horse þat is spauled in þe sholder byfore.
2. *intr.* Of the shoulders: To move up and down during walking.
c 1430 *Pilgr. Lyf Manhode* II. cvi. (1869) 115, I go with my shuldren spaulinge [F. *des espaules espauliant*] and with my necke coleyinge.

Spaul, var. SPALL *v.*[1]; obs. f. SPAWL *sb.* and *v.*

Spauld (spɔld). Now *Sc.* and *north.* Forms: *α.* 4, 6, 9 **spald,** 5 **spalde, spaulde,** 4– **spauld.** *β.* 4–5 **spaude,** 5 **spawd(e,** 9 **spaud.** *γ.* 5, 8–9 **spaul,** 9 **spawl, spoale, spaw-.** [a. OF. *espalde*, **espaulde, espaule, espalle* (mod.F. *épaule*, = Prov. *espatla*, Sp., Pg. *espalda*, It. *spalla*) shoulder:—L. *spatula* SPATULA.]
1. The shoulder in man or animals; a shoulder of an animal used for food.
α. 1305–6 in *Cal. Doc. rel. Scotl.* (1888) 392 Pro CXXXVJ carcosiis bovium et ij spauld et ccciij baconibus. 1338 *Durh. Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 35 In spald et brusket' emp., xij*d.* *a* 1400 *Sir Perc.* 796, I kepe nothynge of thi coste Ne noghte of thi spalde. *c* 1430 *Two Cookery-bks.* 59 Spaulde de Motoun. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* X. xii. 60 The bustuus swyne..With spaldis hard and harsk. *Ibid.* xiv. 157 The knycht..Foundris fordwart flatlingis on hys spald. *c* 1570 in *Bannatyne MS.* (Hunter. Cl.) 269/37 For sen thay red amang our durris, With splent on spald and rousty spurris. *a* 1585 MONTGOMERIE *Flyting* 304 With bockblood and beanshaw, speven sprung in the spald. *a* 1802 *Kinmont Willie* xvii. in Scott *Minstr. Sc. Border*, With spur on heel and splent on spauld. 1820 HOGG *Sheph. Cal.* i. (1829) I. 32 Some entire carcasses hung by the neck, some by a spauld. 1873 D. MACLAGAN in Edwards *Mod. Sc. Poets* (1881) III. 180 Baith strang o' limb an' braid o' spauld.
β. *c* 1320 *Sir Tristr.* 485 Þe spaude [*printed* spande] was þe first brede. *c* 1400 *Lanfranc's Cirurg.* 155 Of woundis of þe spaude..Þe spawde is oon of þe iiij. boonys, þe which þat makþ þe foorme of þe schuldre. *c* 1430 *Two Cookery-bks.* 63 Spawdys de Motoun. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 467/2 Spawde, *spatula.* 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 352 A Spawde, *armus.*
γ. *c* 1400 *Lanfranc's Cirurg.* 165 If þer go ony breeþ þere, it wole do harme to þe spaulis. 1718 RAMSAY *Christ's Kirk Gr.* III. xvi, 'Wae worth ye'r drunken saul,' Quoth she, and lap out o'er a stool, And claught him be the spaul. 1724 — *Vision.* v, A various rainbow-colourt plaid Owre his left spaul he threw. 1788 PICKEN *Poems* 59 For they, some night,..Might lug us by the spaul to Satan. 1899 *Cumbld. Gloss.* 309/2 *Spoale*,..a butcher's term for the cut between the neck and the forecrop; the thin or flat portion of the shoulder blade.
2. *transf.* A limb, leg, etc.; any joint of the carcass of a beast or bird.
1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* lxi. 64, I wald be spurrit at everie spald. 1535 STEWART *Cron. Scot.* I. 87 The theif takar suld haif the forder spald. 1570 *Satir. Poems Reform.* xxiv. 47 At euerie port a spald of the to hing, As tratouris sould, for schuitting vnder trest. 1715 RAMSAY *Christ's Kirk Gr.* II. xx, Wi' hind and fore spaul of a sheep. 1746 GRAHAM *Hist. Rebellion* (1774) 92 Their Brigadier In every spaul did quake for fear. 1807–10 R. TANNAHILL *Poems* (1846) 30 She tore poor chucky spawl frae spawl. 1831 J. WILSON *Noct. Ambr.* (1856) III. 214 For half a mile, the bubbly, being longer in the spald, would outstep the gander.
3. *Black spauld*, a disease of cattle; black quarter, quarter-evil, or quarter-ill. *Sc.*
1807 *Prize Ess. & Trans. Highland Soc.* III. 368 MR. J. Hog says..that it is the same disease with the black spauld, which prevails among the young cattle in the west of Scotland, when the grasses fail.
4. *attrib.*, as **spauld-bone,** the shoulder-bone (cf. SPADE-BONE); **spauld-ill,** quarter-ill (cf. sense 3); **spauld-piece** (see quot. 1828).
c 1400 *Lanfranc's Cirurg.* 155 Þe spawde-boon is þinne & brood twoward þe schuldris & in hise endis gristly. 1793 URE *Hist. Rutherglen* 191 The Spalliel [*sic*] in young cattle, is sometimes cured by [etc.] 1828 CARR *Craven Gloss., Spaw-bone*, the blade bone or shoulder bone. Hence, a piece of beef cut from the shoulder with a part of this bone, is called the spaw-piece.

Spauld, variant of SPALD *v.* **Spaune,** obs. ff. of SPAWN. **Spaut,** variant of SPAUGHT *Obs.*

Spave, *v. Sc.* and *north.* Forms: 8–9 **speave,** speeav(e, 9 speav(v, spaive, 7– **spave,** etc. [Alteration of SPAY *v.*] *trans.* To spay. Also *intr.* Of an animal: To undergo spaying.
1672 SKINNER *Etymol. Ling. Angl.*, To Spay, Spade or Spave. 1781 HUTTON *Tour Caves* Gloss., *Speaved*, gelded, barren. 1788 W. H. MARSHALL *Yorksh.* II. 354 To *Speeav* (mid. dial. to *spave*); to spay, as a female calf. 1795 *Statist. Acc. Scot.* XV. 85 When cut, or spaved, they then with us obtain the name of heifers. 1824 MACTAGGART *Gallovid. Encycl.* 432 Spaivers, persons who libb and spaive cattle. *Ibid.*, A young cow with calf..will not speave. 1825– in dial. glossaries (N.Cy., Cumbld., Yks., etc.). 1876 ROBINSON *Whitby Gloss.* 181 A speeav'd whye.
Hence **Spa·ver,** a spayer.
1824 MACTAGGART *Gallovid. Encycl.* 372 Few men would I rather spend an hour with than Mr. Papple, the speaver. *Ibid.* 432 [see above].

Spa·vie. *Sc.* Also 7, 9 **speavie,** 9 **spaivie, spavy,** etc. [Alteration of next.] The spavin. Freq. *fig.*
1706 in Maidment *Pasquils* (1827) 19 The seventh wife Davie, The seventh give him the spavie. 1785 BURNS *Inventory* 19, I play'd my fillie sic a shavie, She's a' be-devil'd wi' the spavie. 1785 — *2nd Ep. to Davie* viii, She'll never leave ye,..even tho' limpin' wi' the spavie Frae door to door. *a* 1813 A. WILSON *Hogmenae* Poet. Wks. (Belfast ed.) 293 At length the twa carriers appeared, The ne'er a ane then had the spavy.
b. *attrib.* or as *adj.* Spavined. *rare*—[1].
1693 in Maidment *Pasquils* (1868) 272 Ye spur Your speavie mear too fast.
Hence **Spa·vied** *a.*, spavined.
1785 BURNS *1st Ep. to Davie* xi, My spavet Pegasus will limp, Till ance he's fairly het. 1788 PICKEN *Poems* 115 The spavy't creature never thrave, Wi' a' his care. 1853 CADENHEAD *Bon-Accord* 248 (E.D.D.), Like a spavied horse.

Spavin (spæ·vin), *sb.*[1] *Farriery.* Forms: *α.* 5 **spaueyne, -veyne, spavayne,** 6 **spauain.** *β.* 6 **spauen, speven,** 6–7 **spaven, -ing, spauin,** 6– **spavin** (9 *Sc.* **spaivin**). [ad. OF. *espavain* (cf. med.L. *spavenus*, It. *spavenio*), var. of *esparvain, esprevain, esprevin* (mod.F. *éparvin, épervin*), of obscure origin.]
1. A hard bony tumour or excrescence formed at the union of the splint-bone and the shank in a horse's leg, and produced by inflammation of the cartilage uniting those bones; a similar tumour caused by inflammation of the small hock bones.
1426 LYDG. *De Guil. Pilgr.* 18226 With that fall..I cawht a great spavayne vpon my lege, whiche made me for to halt. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 467/2 Spaveyne, horsys maledy. 1523 FITZHERB. *Husbandry* § 107 A courbe..appereth..a lyttell benethe the spauen. 1551 T. WILSON *Logike* II. N j b, We can se a spauain, a splent, a ring bone, or suche other disease in a horse. 1596 SHAKS. *Tam. Shr.* III. ii. 53 His horse..troubled with the Lampasse, infected with the fashions, full of Windegalls, sped with Spauins. 1614 MARKHAM *Cheap Husb.* I. iii. (1668) 63 A splent is a bony excression under the knee.., the spaven is the like on the inside of the hinder hough. 1633 MARMION *Fine Companion* IV. i, I am afraid this dancing will breed spavins in my legs. 1678 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1270/4 A Roan Nag,..a little spavin on the off leg behind. 1741 *Complete Family-Piece* III. 435 The Spavin..appears in like Manner on the Shank Bone behind, not far below the Hough. 1766 *Compl. Farmer* s. v. *Spavin*, When the spavin was pressed hard on the inside the hough, there was a small tumor on the outside. 1825 C. WESTMACOTT *Eng. Spy* I. 321 Having put out a spavin. 1856 LEVER *Martins of Cro' M.* XXV, Sir Peter shows an incipient spavin on the off leg, and I think he'd be well sold. 1896 *Blackw. Mag.* Aug. 262 My attention was drawn.. to one of the worst spavins I ever saw on the near hock of one of them.
b. A malady of horses due to the above cause. Also *transf.*
c 1500 *Rowlis Cursing* 52 in Laing *Anc. Poet. Scotl.*, The pokkis, the spaving in the halss, The panefull gravell and the gutt. 1594 GREENE & LODGE *Looking Gl.* 265 G.'s Wks. (Grosart) XIV. 18 If he haue outward diseases, as the spavin, splent, ring-bone,..we let him blood. 1601 B. JONSON *Poetaster* I. ii, Now the bots, the spauin, and the glanders, and some dozen diseases more, light on him, and his moyles. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* II. 152/2 The Spaven [is] an old Halt, which is left as the Horse warms in Travel. 1706 in PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey). 1831 YOUATT *Horse* 270 The lameness of spavin..abates, and sometimes disappears, on exercise. 1874 SIR W. W. HUNTER in Skrine *Life* (1901) xiii. 229 A cast cavalry charger who gets rid of his spavin the moment he is drummed out of the regiment.
2. With distinguishing terms, as *blood spavin*, a soft swelling or enlargement of the hock vein caused by the accumulation of blood; freq. taken as synonymous with *bog spavin* (see BOG *sb.*[1] 4); *bone* or *dry spavin* (see BONE *sb.* 17 and prec. 1); *through* or *wet spavin* (see THROUGH- 2).
Ox-spavin, in some 18th c. works, is a rendering of F. *éparvin de bœuf*, and app. had no real currency in English.
1523, 1565 [see THROUGH- 2]. 1580 BLUNDEVIL *Horsemanship* III. 57 b, The drie spauen..is a great hard knob, as big as a Walnut, growing in the inside of the hough, hard vnder the ioint. 1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* 406 Of the Spauen there are two kindes, the one hard the other soft: that is: a bone-Spauen, and a blood-Spauen. 1639 T. DE GRAY *Expert Farrier* 90 We have two sorts of spavens: the one we call a through, wet, bloud or bog-spaven; the other a dry, or bone-spaven. 1677 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1346/4 A grey Nag,..a thorow spavin on the fore-leg before. 1831 YOUATT *Horse* 179 The distension reaches from this bag as low down as the next valve. This is called a blood-spavin. 1846 J. BAXTER *Libr. Pract. Agric.* (ed. 4) I. 449 Constituting puffy swellings, called bog spavin. 1885 *Field* 4 Apr. 453/1 The connection between the 'blood spavin' and the 'thoroughpin' is proved by pressing on the swelling in front.
3. *attrib.*, as † *spavin-joint, -place, -vein*, the joint, etc., usually affected by spavin, or where a spavin commonly occurs.
1523 FITZHERB. *Husb.* § 118 If a horse wante wartes behynde, benethe the spauen-place. 1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* 407, I haue knowne diuers..helpt onley by taking vppe the Spauen vaine. 1623 MARKHAM *Cheap Husb.* (ed. 3) 47 For the smals of his hinder legges somewhat below the spauin ioynts. 1682 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1724/4 A hurt not quite cured on the in-side of the Spaven Joint of the near Leg behind. 1688 *Ibid.* No. 2355/4 A dapple grey,..full jointed in both his hinder Legs, in the Spavin place.
Hence **Spa·vin** *v. trans.*, to affect with the spavin. *rare*—[1].
1867 BURTON *Hist. Scot.* VI. (1873) I. 215 The village hag who spavins the horse.

Spavin (spæ·vin), *sb.*[2] *Coal-mining.* [Of obscure origin.] (See quots.)
1870 *Eng. Mech.* 14 Jan. 423/3 Roots were found in the spavin or under clay. 1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-m.* 230 *Spavin*, clunch, or ordinary bottom or underclay.

Spavined (spæ·vind), *a.* Also 5 **spaueyned,** 7 **spavend.** [f. SPAVIN *sb.*[1]] Of horses, etc.: Affected with spavin; having a spavin. Also *absol.* (of persons).
c 1430 *Pilgr. Lyf Manhode* II. civ. (1869) 114 With whiche [garments] queyntisen hem as wel the halte, the boistouse, the spaueyned, the blynde, the embosed, the maymed and oothere. 1684 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1965/4 A brown bay Gelding,..a little Spavend of his near Leg behind. 1727 SOMERVILLE *Bald Batchelor* Poems (1810) 215/2 A mare,..Though she be spavin'd, old, and blind, With founder'd feet, and broken wind. 1788 J. MAY *Jrnl. & Lett.* (1873) 19, I observed my horse to be lame..Some said he was hipped, others spavined. 1818 SCOTT *Rob Roy* xix, He..made a present to Andrew of a broken-winded and spavined pony. 1867 TROLLOPE *Chron. Barset* xiii, [He] had ridden over ..on a poor spavined brute belonging to the bishop's stable.
b. *fig.* Lame, halting, maimed, etc.
1647 N. WARD *Simp. Cobbler* 37 If any have a minde to ride poste, he will helpe them with a fresh spavin'd Opinion at every Stage. 1822 BYRON *Vis. Judgem.* xci, Ere the spavin'd dactyls could be spurr'd Into recitative. 1856 KANE *Arct. Expl.* II. ix. 93 After a diversified series of spavined efforts, the mystical number forms its triangle at the table. 1863 *Sat. Rev.* 200 We turn our spavined horses out to grass..; we are sadly in need of some analogous arrangement for spavined Christians.

Spaw, obs. form of SPA *sb.*

Spa-water. Also 6–8 **spaw-.** [f. SPA *sb.*] Water derived from mineral springs (orig. from those at Spa itself).
1589 PUTTENHAM *Eng. Poesie* III. (Arb.) 285, I being at the Spaw waters, there lay a Marshall of Fraunce..; to vse those waters for his health. 1636 WOTTON in *Reliq.* (1651) 497 The taste and operation of the Spaw-water. 1652 FRENCH *Yorks. Spaw* xv. 114 Four, or six glasses of the Spaw-water may be drunk. 1709 STEELE *Tatler* No. 107 P 13 Drink upon them a Bottle of Spaw-Water. 1778 R. JAMES *Diss. Fevers*, etc. (ed. 8) 112 It [i.e. rheumatism] went off..by bathing in the sea, and drinking the Spaw-water at Scarborough. 1843 R. J. GRAVES *Syst. Clin. Med.* XX. 235 Using a course of chalybeate spa waters. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* IV. 621 Treatment [of obesity] by spa-waters.

Spawde, var. SPAAD *Obs.* **Spawe,** obs. f. SPA.

† **Spawe.** *Obs.*—[1] Some kind of bird.
1610 W. FOLKINGHAM *Art of Survey* IV. iii. 83 Gray, Greene and Bastard Plouer, Dottrill, May-Chit, Spawe.

† **Spawl,** *sb. Obs.* Also 7 **spaul.** [f. SPAWL *v.*] Spittle.
1642 H. MORE *Song of Soul* III. 77 Lastly into his mouth with filthy spaul He spot. 1646 J. HALL *Poems, To young Authour*, The well drench'd smoaky Jew, That stands in his own spaul above the shooe. 1693 DRYDEN *Persius* II. 63 Th' obscene old Grandam..first of Spittle a Lustration makes: Then in the Spawl her middle-finger dips.

Spawl, var. SPALL *sb.* and *v.*, SPAULD.

Spawl (spǫl), *v.* *Obs.* exc. *arch.* Forms: 6 **spal**, 7, 9 **spall**; 7 **spaule**, 7–9 **spaul**; 6– **spawl**, 7 **spawle**. [Of obscure origin; both date and form are against direct connexion with OE. *spáld* SPOLD.]

1. *intr.* To spit copiously or coarsely; to expectorate.

1607 DEKKER & WEBSTER *Westw. Hoe* v. i, Pray spawle in another roome: fie, fie, fie. 1649 W. M. *Wander. Jew* (1857) 23 He..so spawles, and drivells, he has almost made a puddle where he stands. 1730 SWIFT *Traulus* Wks. 1755 IV. i. 122 Why must he sputter, spawl, and slaver it In vain against the people's fav'rite? 1755 *Connoisseur* No. 95 ¶ 11, I began to spawl, and sputter, and keck. [1864 BROWNING *Dram. Pers., Sludge* 200 He may strut and fret his hour, Spout, spawl, or spin his target, no one cares!] *fig.* 1599 NASHE *Lenten Stuffe* Wks. (Grosart) V. 286 Our Norwich now..was a poore fisher towne, and the sea spawled and springed vp to her common stayres.

b. Coupled with *spit*.

1598 E. GUILPIN *Skial.* (1878) 20 Talke bawdery and Chrestina spets and spals. 1609 MARKHAM *Famous Whore* (1868) 41 Now are my faculties..to cough, to spaule, to spit, to raile. 1683 TRYON *Way to Health* 170 Sotting and smoaking ten or twenty Pipes of Tobacco in a day,..and spitting and spawling. 1721 AMHERST *Terræ Fil.* No. 39 (1726) I. 49 The fellow..fell a spitting and spawling about the room. 1793 *Laity's Direct.* 20 The unclean trick of hawking, spitting or spawling about the chapel.

c. Const. with preps., as *at*, *on*. Also *fig.*

1635 QUARLES *Embl.* III. ii, To spit and spaul upon his Sun-bright face. 1638 MAYNE *Lucian* (1664) 84 He presently grows disdainfull, and Spawles at me. 1659 BROUGH *Sacr. Princ.* 405 Nor shouldst thou more spaul on His Name, then spit in His Face.

2. *trans.* To utter in a coarse manner.

1616 EARLE *Elegy on Beaumont* B.'s Wks. 1905 I. p. xxxiii, Such mouthes,..That twixt a whiffe, a Line or two rehearse, And with their Rheume together spaule a Verse. 1794 GIFFORD *Baviad* (1811) 46 And itching grandams spawl lascivious odes.

Hence **Spaw'ler**, a spitter; **Spaw'ling** *ppl. a.*

1598 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. i. III. *Furies* 402 The spawling Empiem..With foule impostumes fils his hollow chest. 1603 FLORIO *Montaigne* I. XXXVIII. (1632) 120 This man whom ..thou seest.., flegmatike, squalide and spauling. 1611 COTGR., *Cracheur*, a spitter, spawler, spatterer.

Spaw'ling, *vbl. sb.* Now *arch.* [f. SPAWL *v.*]

1. The action of the vb.; expectoration.

1609 DEKKER *Gull's Horn-bk.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 207 The manner of spawling, slauering, spetting and driueling in all places. 1684 tr. *Bonet's Merc. Compit.* XIX. 799 A spontaneous Salivation or spawling preceeds Vomiting. 1727 DE FOE *Protestant Monast.* 10 His spitting and spawling turn'd Madam's Stomach. 1753 MISS COLLIER *Art Torment.* Concl. 228 The constant drumming upon the table.. of another! The hawking and spawlting [*sic*] of a third! 1881 DUFFIELD *Don Quix.* II. 577 By his spawling and clearing his throat [he] is preparing to sing something.

attrib. 1608 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. iv. IV. *Decay* 166 A Visard, newly varnisht o'r With spauling Rheums, hot Fumes, and Ceruses. 1628 GAULE *Pract. The.* (1629) 335 Spite contemnes him, He's made their flapping, flouting, spawling Sport.

2. *pl.* Spittle, spittings, saliva.

1614 SYLVESTER *Tobacco Battered* Wks. (Grosart) II. 270 A Drug for Jews..who did so foule abuse.. with their Spawlings base, Our loving Saviour's lovely-reverend Face. *Ibid.* 274 How juster will the Heav'nly God..punish.. Those, that on Earth..Offend the Eyes, with foul and loathsom spawlings. 1693 CONGREVE in *Dryden's Juvenal* xi. 290 Whose Marble Floors with drunken Spawlings shine; Let him lascivious Songs and Dances have.

Spawn (spɔn), *sb.* Forms: 5–6 **spawne**, **spaune**, 6 **spaume**, **spane**, 7 **spaen**, 7– **spawn**. [f. SPAWN *v.*]

†1. The milt of a fish. *Obs.*

c 1430 *Two Cookery-bks.* 14 Take..þe lyuer an þe Spaune, an sethe it y-now in fayre Water. *c* 1450 *Ibid.* 90 Take a Gurnard..(the lyuer and þe Spawne with-in him).

2. The minute eggs of fishes and various other oviparous animals (chiefly aquatic or amphibian), usually extruded in large numbers and forming a more or less coherent or gelatinous mass; also, the young brood hatched from such eggs, while still in an early stage of development.

1491 *Act 7 Hen. VII*, *c.* 9 Grete multitude of Spawne and broode of all maner fysshes of the See. 1538 LELAND *Itin.* (1769) V. 70 A Kinde of Weedes,..wherin the Spaune hath Socur, and also the greate Fische. 1545 ELYOT, *Anguilla*, a fyshe called an eele, whiche..cometh without generacion or spawne. 1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 44 Ye spaune of fishe, *fœtus*, *auxumæ*. 1600 DALLAM in *Early Voy. Levant* (Hakluyt Soc.) 95 This day we saw greate store of the spane of whales, whearof they make spermacetie. 1656 RIDGLEY *Pract. Physick* 325 Anoint it with the spawn of red Snails. *a* 1676 HALE *Prim. Orig. Man.* IV. v. (1677) 338 The Semina or Spawn of Insects. 1710 *Tatler* No. 236 ¶ 5 He filled several Barrels with the choicest Spawn of Frogs. 1731 *Gentl. Mag.* I. 12 The first appearance of them is in a sort of Spawn, spread over the Cabbage-leaves. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* IV. 31 Oysters usually cast their spawn in May. 1833 L. RITCHIE *Wand. by Loire* 191 Eels are also plentiful; and their spawn, while ascending the river.., are caught in vast quantities. 1845 BUDD *Dis. Liver* 400 It is remarkable, too, that their excrement and spawn should not have set up disease in the substance of the liver. 1888 GOODE *Amer. Fishes* 27 The European Bass are said to deposit their spawn near the mouths of rivers.

transf. 1555 EDEN *Decades* (Arb.) 142 Whether perles bee ..the byrthe or spaune of there intruls. 1608 TOPSELL *Serpents* (1653) 594 They bite to cleanse their teeth from all spawn and spume of venom.

b. With *a* and pl. A fish-egg; an undeveloped fish.

1563 B. GOOGE *Eglogs* (Arb.) 105 But Pikes haue Spawnes good stoore in euery Pound. 1584 B. R. tr. *Herodotus* II. 93 These male fishe..shed theyr seede by the way, which their femals..deuour, and thereof shortly after breede theyr spawnes. 1610 FLETCHER *Faithf. Sheph.* III, Bare-foot may no Neighbour wade..When the spawns on stones do lye, To wash their Hemp, and spoil the Fry. 1611 FLORIO, *Alace*, a meate made of spaunes of fishes.

3. A brood; a numerous offspring. Chiefly *fig.*

1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* I. i. 22 She poured forth..Her fruitfull cursed spawne of serpents small. 1600 LANE *Tom Tel-troth* 127 Bearing a spawne of many new-bred sinnes. ?1619 S. HIERON *Wks.* II. 473 Such..are..not only suffered to remayne within, but to encrease also, so that there is euen a fresh spawne of such euery day. *a* 1740 WATERLAND *Def. Ld. Bp. St. David's* Wks. 1823 VI. 282 Its effects and consequences..are plainly a spawn of all vices and villanies, a deluge of all mischiefs and outrages upon the earth.

4. *fig.* A person contemptuously regarded as the offspring of some parent or stock, or as imbued with some quality or principle. In early use freq. with *a* and pl.

1589 NASHE *Pasquill & Marf.* 16 They are the very Spawnes of the fish Sæpia. 1589? LYLY *Pappe w. Hatchet* (1844) 16 Whie are not the spawnes of such a dog-fish hangd? *a* 1627 MIDDLETON *Witch* I. ii, Here's a spawn or two Of that same paddock brood. 1667 DRYDEN & DK. NEWCASTLE *Sir M. Mar-all* IV, Thou spawn of the old serpent, fruitful in nothing but in lies. 1706 E. WARD *Wooden World Diss.* (1708) 67 The Gunner is commonly a Spawn of the Captain's own Projection. 1817 SOUTHEY *Wat Tyler* III. i, This is that old seditious heretic...And here the young spawn of rebellion; My orders ar'n't to spare him. 1844 LEVER *T. Burke* II. 164 There was a cry..to have the child executed also, and many called out that the spawn would be a serpent one day. 1865 KINGSLEY *Herew.* i, 'Oh, apostate!' cries the bell-wether, 'oh, spawn of Beelzebub!'

b. Similarly in collective use.

1601 B. JONSON *Poetaster* Prol., How ere that common spawne of ignorance, Our frie of writers, may beslime his fame. 1625 FLETCHER & SHIRLEY *Nt. Walker* III, The Goblins, Haggs, and the black spawn of darkness, Cannot fright me. 1698 FRYER *Acc. E. India & P.* 83 They are worse Brokers than Jews; if they be not the Spawn of them, the Rechabites, that would drink no Wine. 1729 GAY *Polly* II. xxvii, You ne'er were drawn..Among the spawn Who practice the frauds of courts. 1737 [S. BERINGTON] *Mem. G. de Lucca* (1738) 117 Other Northern Nations, who have..overrun the Face of Europe; leaving a Mixture of their Spawn in all Parts of it. 1852 R. S. HAWKER in Byles *Life* xiv. (1905) 228 The wretched Heretics, the spawn of that miscreant John Wesley. 1895 RIDER HAGGARD *Heart of World* xvii, The vengeance of generations [might be] accomplished upon the spawn of the Spaniard.

5. *fig.* A product, result, or effect *of* something.

1624 DONNE *Serm.* Wks. 1839 V. 331 The Spawns of Leviathan, the Seed of Sin,..reign most in that part of the body. 1646 J. HALL *Horæ Vac.* 45 Libels are her spawns. 1673 CAVE *Prim. Chr.* I. v. 12 The result and spawn of lying fame. *a* 1770 JORTIN *Serm.* (1771) V. xiii. 282 Atheism ..is the annual spawn and the natural effect of the gross superstitions..of the Romish church. 1789 BELSHAM *Ess.* XXV. II. 17 If this hypothesis be a spawn of the Oriental philosophy, it ought to be rejected. 1857 MAURICE *Mor. & Met. Philos.* IV. ix. § 35. 558 In the sentimental spawn which was produced from him. 1869 RUSKIN *Q. of Air* i. 59 The many monstrous and misbegotten fantasies which are the spawn of modern licence.

6. *fig.* The source or origin *of* something.

a 1591 H. SMITH *Wks.* (1867) II. 273 It is called, 'The root of all evil,'..as if we would say, the spawn of all sin. 1607 HIERON *Wks.* I. 331 Both haue in them the root and seed and (as it were) the spawne and beginning of euery euill. 1650 HUBBERT *Pill Formality* 220 In their birth lies the spawne of all evil. 1667 WATERHOUSE *Fire Lond.* 35 The Primitive Martyrs, which were the Churches Spawn.

7. The mycelium of mushrooms or other fungi.

1731 MILLER *Gard. Dict.* s.v. *Mushrooms*, A Bed thus manag'd, if the Spawn takes kindly, will..produce great Quantities of Mushrooms. 1763 MILLS *Syst. Pract. Husb.* IV. 187 This seed, or rather this spawn..should be kept very dry till it is used. 1824 LOUDON *Encycl. Gard.* (ed. 2) § 3406 Spawn is a white fibrous substance, running like broken threads, in such dry reduced dung, or other nidus, as is fitted to nourish it. 1845 *Florist Jrnl.* 126 The spawn being thus provided, the next consideration is the preparation of the dung, and the making of the bed. 1867 H. MACMILLAN *Bible Teach.* vi. (1870) 112 The spawn of the mushrooms .. both consume putrescent organized matter, and manure the land.

8. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *spawn-box*, *-deposit*, *-feathered* adj.; **spawn-brick**, a brick-shaped mass of compost containing mushroom-spawn; **spawn-eater**, **-pike**, *U.S.* (see quots. 1881–4); **†spawn-stone**, oolite, roe-stone.

1641 DAY *Parl. Bees* v, The greater number of spawn-feathered bees Fly low like kites. 1668 CHARLTON *Onomast.* 252 *Ammonites*,..Lesser Spawn-stone. *c* 1820 in Loudon *Encycl. Gard.* (1824) § 3413, I shall next give directions how to form spawn-bricks. 1853 *Zoologist* XI. 4040, I have also seen young toads, though I never noticed any spawn-deposits. 1862 H. MARRYAT *Year in Sweden* II. 420 In the greenhouse are spawn-boxes. 1881 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* V. 131 The Spawn-eater, or Smelt (*Leuciscus hudsonicus*), is a silvery fish..about three inches long, and occurs in Lake Superior. 1884 GOODE *Nat. Hist. Aquat. Anim.* 421 At Vermillion, Ohio, there is caught, early in the spring, what is termed the 'Spawn Pike'.

Spawn (spɔn), *v.* Forms: 5 **spawnyn** (**spanyn**), 5–7 **spawne** (6 **spaune**), 7– **spawn**. [app. for **spaund*, ad. AF. *espaundre*, = OF. *espandre* (mod. F. *épandre*) to shed, spill, pour out:—L. *expandĕre* EXPAND *v.*

The AF. word occurs in the treatise of Walter de Bibbesworth (Wright *Voc.* I. 164) in the line 'Soffret le peysoun en ewe *espaundre*', and is glossed by *scheden his rounе*, 'shed his roe' (Skeat), misprinted by Wright as *scheden him frome*.]

I. *intr.* **1.** Of fish, etc.: To cast spawn.

c 1400 *Pilgr. Sowle* (Caxton) v. xiv. (1859) 80 Whiche fisshes he putte in the stewe, where they haue spawned and multyplyed. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 467/2 Spawnyn, as fyschys (*K.* spanyn), *pisciculo*. 1530 PALSGR. 727/1 Never use to ete fyschys, whan they spawne, for they be nat holsom than. 1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 44 To spaune, *ova gignere*. 1613 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* (1614) 560 The Arabians and Lybians eat them before they haue spawned. 1674 tr. *Scheffer's Lapland* xvi. 81 The fishermen, at those times when the fishes do spawn, do alwaies live on the side of some river. 1694 MOTTEUX *Rabelais* V. xxxi. (1737) 143, I saw..Fish milting, spawning. 1771 *Phil. Trans.* LXI. 317 Carp spawn in May, June, or July. 1821 SHELLEY *Adonais* xxix, The sun comes forth, and many reptiles spawn. 1865 HATTON *Bitter Sweets* xxvi, The bream and the tench had spawned in the river.

transf. 1673 TEMPLE *Observ. U. Prov.* Wks. 1720 I. 11 These Nations, which seem'd to spawn in every Age, and.. discharged their own native Countries of so vast Numbers.

2. To increase or develop after the manner of spawn; to become reproductive.

1607 R. C[AREW] tr. *Estienne's World Wond.* 151 Seeds of sinne, which naturally breed and (as it were) spawne in our hearts. 1658 A. FOX *Würtz' Surg.* I. iii. 10 Then is that wound in that natural swelling hindered,..then it begins to spawn and swell. 1702 *Phil. Trans.* XXIII. 1260 These [flower-spikes] are thick set in oblong heads, which sometime spawn or divide at the bottom.

b. To grow or develop *into* something.

1677 GILPIN *Demonol.* (1867) 131 Error..stops not at one or two falsehoods, but is apt to spawn into many others. 1686 GOAD *Celest. Bodies* II. vii. 243 Navigation had not spawn'd into Sholes, or afterwards.

3. To issue or come forth like or after the manner of spawn.

1657 W. MORICE *Coena quasi* Κοινή iii. 136 These dismal Heresies which have lately spawn'd. 1693 LOCKE *Educ.* § 124 [Lying] is so ill a Quality, and the mother of so many ill ones that spawn from it.

b. Of persons: To swarm *out*.

1718 RAMSAY *Christ's Kirk Gr.* III. xix, The wives and gytlings a' spawn'd out O'er middings and o'er dykes.

4. To swarm or teem *with* something.

1818 SOUTHEY *Ess.* (1832) II. 137 The infidelity with which some of the Scotch Schools have spawned during the last half century. 1856 EMERSON *Eng. Traits, Land*, The rivers and the surrounding sea spawn with fish.

II. *trans.* **5.** To produce or generate as spawn or in large numbers; also, in contemptuous use, to give birth to (a person).

1603 SHAKS. *Meas. for M.* III. ii. 115 Some report, a Sea-maid spawn'd him. Some, that he was begot betweene two Stock-fishes. 1687 MONTAGU & PRIOR *Hind & Panth. Transv.* 9 Or else reforming Corah spawn'd this Class. 1730 SOUTHALL *Treat. Bugge* 24 They generally spawn about fifty at a time. 1784 COWPER *Task* II. 827 A race obscene, Spawn'd in the muddy beds of Nile, came forth, Polluting Egypt. 1847 DISRAELI *Tancred* III. vii, A race spawned perhaps in the morasses of some Northern forest hardly yet cleared. 1867 EMERSON *May-Day & Other Pieces* Wks. (Bohn) III. 442 She spawneth men as mallows fresh. 1891 LOUNSBURY *Stud. Chaucer* III. vii. 198 A poet of the kind the eighteenth century spawned in profusion.

b. With *forth*, *upon*.

1629 HIERON *Wks.* I. 644 Nature hath (as it were) spawned vs forth into this worldly sea. 1838 LYTTON *Alice* VI. ii, But oh, that a nation which has known a Corneille should ever spawn forth a ——. 1865 J. G. HOLLAND *Plain Talk* i. 31 Then think of multitudes of men spawned upon the country every year by our medical institutions.

6. To engender, produce, bring forth, give rise to. Also with *forth* and *out*.

1594 NASHE *Unfort. Trav.* 62 Her eies in their closing seemed to spaune forth in their outward sharpe corners new created seed pearle. 1654 WHITLOCK *Zootomia* 202 But well it were if meer Speculation were onely barren;..In the Church it spawneth Heresies. 1683 KENNETT tr. *Erasm. on Folly* 47 The curiosity of the Greeks spawned so many subtleties. 1708 SWIFT *Sacramental Test* Wks. 1755 II. i. 137 What practices such principles as these..may spawn, when they are laid out to the sun, you may determine at leisure. 1792 BURKE *Let. to Sir H. Langrishe* Wks. 1842 I. 557 That they are not permitted to spawn a hydra of wild republicks, on principles of a pretended natural equality in man. 1863 KINGSLEY *Water-Bab.* 23 The house looked.. as if it had been all spawned in a night as mushrooms are.

b. *spec.* in contemptuous use with reference to literary work, utterances, etc.

1631 A. WILSON *Swisser* v. i. (1904) 89 From kissing a' the hand to cutting a' the throat, Sir, O you shall meet 'em, spawning out the word, With such a Grace. *a* 1661 FULLER *Worthies, Gen.* x. (1662) 29 Books..come swimming into the world like shoals of Fishes, and one edition spawneth another. 1672 MARVELL *Reh. Transp.* I. 87 Of late years Mr. Bayes had regularly spawned his books. *a* 1704 *Friendly Adv. to Dr. Bl—* in T. Brown *Wks.* (1711) IV. 197 Such vile Heroicks .. Were never spawn'd before from Irish Brains. 1713 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 5118/2 The Press .. hath Spawn'd so many Blasphemous..Pamphlets. 1820 BYRON *Juan* v. lii, But every fool describes, in these bright days, His wondrous journey.., And spawns his quarto. 1826 in W. Cobbett *Rur. Rides* (1885) II. 107 Cobbett's prophecies were falsified as soon as spawned.

7. To supply with spawn or mycelium.

1786 ABERCROMBIE *Gard. Assist.* 205 Mushroom spawn—for spawning new beds.

8. To extract spawn from (fishes).

1884 DAY *Fishes Gt. Brit.* I. p. cix, The mode of spawning or stripping fish..requires practice.

Hence **Spawned** *ppl. a.* **a.** Cast or deposited as spawn. **b.** That has emitted spawn; spent.

1866 *Banffshire Gloss.* 176 *Speinty*, a spawned fish. 1905 *Westm. Gaz.* 1 Feb. 3/2 Sometimes these spawned salmon resemble the genuine article so closely that only an expert can distinguish the difference.

Spawner (spǭ·nəɹ). [f. SPAWN *v.* or *sb.*]

1. A female fish, esp. at spawning time.

1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* I. 264 The spawner, when the time serueth for generation, followeth after the male. 1652 NEEDHAM tr. *Selden's Mare Cl.* 90 The Romanes..used none but in-land Fish-ponds, storing them with Spawners of the larger size. 1771 *Phil. Trans.* LXI. 317 As the milter, by a natural instinct, follows the spawner. 1787 BEST *Angling* (ed. 2) 5 With a few Milters and Spawners, ..a whole country may be stocked in a short time. 1819 *Sporting Mag.* IV. 266 In stocking ponds, put from three to five spawners to one milter. 1888 GOODE *Amer. Fishes* 59 Many late spawners are occupied with family cares until the last of July.

†**b.** Applied to a woman. *Obs.*

1611 BEAUM. & FL. *Philaster* IV. ii, Yet you may do well to spare your Ladies Bed-fellow, and her you may keep for a Spawner. 1675 COTTON *Burlesque upon B.* 38 By no means meddle with that Spawner. For if thou dost,..A graceless Child will be begot.

2. One who, or that which, spawns, produces, etc., in various senses.

16.. in *Hartlib's Legacy* (1655) 117 The least Spawners from the root will grow. Any twigs cut from the body will grow. 1668 R. L'ESTRANGE *Vis. Quev.* I. (1702) 15 Your corrupt Judges are the great Spawners that supply our Lake. 1839 LADY LYTTON *Cheveley* (ed. 2) II. ii. 58 Every one knew Lord de Clifford.., a spawner of Whig pamphlets, and a crack political writer.

3. A spawn-collector (*Cent. Dict.* 1891).

Spaw·ning, *vbl. sb.* [f. SPAWN *v.*]

1. The action of depositing or laying spawn.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 467/2 Spawnynge, of fysche, *pissiculacio.* 1653 WALTON *Angler* 146 His time of breeding, or spawning. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s.v. *Salmo*, In the season for spawning it removes into the fresh waters again. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1824) III. 48 Their [*sc.* lampreys] preparation for spawning is peculiar. 1842 LOUDON *Suburban Hort.* 525 It is always best to repeat the spawning when the heat is on the decline. 1866 LIVINGSTONE *Last Jrnls.* (1873) I. 95 The female becomes large for spawning.

fig. *a* 1662 HEYLIN *Laud* (1668) 368 The Churches cast into the same mould..at the spawning of the second separation.

2. *attrib.*, as *spawning force, season, time*, etc.

1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* I. 245 If a man do the same with a female in spawning time, hee shall haue as many milters follow after her. 1746 FRANCIS tr. *Horace, Sat.* II. viii. 58 This Fish, Mæcenas, big with Spawn was caught, For after spawning-time its Flesh is naught. 1799 *Monthly Rev.* XXX. 51 To prevent the destruction of this most valuable fish, during the spawning season. 1833 RENNIE *Alph. Angling* 66 It is of much importance for the angler to attend to the spawning time of trout. 1856 EMERSON *Eng. Traits, Race* Wks. (Bohn) II. 20 The spawning force of the [British] race. 1860 — *Cond. Life, Considerations* Ibid. 415 This spawning productivity is not noxious or needless. 1868 *Rep. U.S. Commissioner Agric.* (1869) 320 Protection is accorded to all fish in the spawning season. 1883 WALLEM *Fish Supply Norway* 6 The codfish..are..of 10 or 11 lbs. weight alive, and their errand seems only to be that of a first spawning-trip.

b. In the sense 'in which spawning is performed', as *spawning-bed, -ground, -pan, -place, -pond.*

1771 *Phil. Trans.* LXI. 315 The first is called the spawning-pond. *a* 1841 in *Penny Cycl.* XX. 363/2 Three pairs have been seen on the spawning-bed at the same time. 1866 *Chambers's Encycl.* VIII. 446/2 Notable from time immemorial as favourite spawning-places. 1883 WALLEM *Fish Supply Norway* 12 Therefore caplin is used for bait, and is caught only for that purpose on its spawning-grounds. 1883 EARLL in Goode *Fish Indust. U.S.* 77 A few spawning-pans, dippers, and pails, in which to impregnate the eggs.

Spaw·ning, *ppl. a.* [f. as prec.]

1. Of fish, etc.: Engaged in casting spawn.

1579 E. K. *Gloss. to Spenser's Sheph. Cal.* Oct. 14 *Frye*, is a bold Metaphore, forced from the spawning fishes. 1873 *Beeton's Dict. Comm.* s.v. *Norway*, Spawning fish form only a small part of this fishery. 1883 WALLEM *Fish Supply Norway* 15 This fishing of spawning herring has been ruined.

2. *transf.* Fertile; teeming; prolific.

1682 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1729/3 That late horrid Confederacy, ..called by the prolifick spawning name of an Association. 1867 EMERSON *May-Day & Other Pieces* Wks. (Bohn) III. 439 On spawning slime my song prevails. 1878 — *Misc. Papers, Fort. Republ.* Ibid. 399 Then Illinois and Indiana with their spawning loins must needs be ordinary.

Spaw·nling. *rare*$^{-1}$. [f. SPAWN *sb.*] The product of a single egg of spawn.

1698 MOTTEUX *Quix.* (1733) I. 168 God's Providence..provides for..the Wormlings in the Earth and the Spawnlings in the Water.

Spaw·ny, *a. rare.* [f. SPAWN *sb.*] **a.** Like that of spawn. **b.** Resembling spawn. **c.** Spawning.

1669 W. SIMPSON *Hydrol. Chym.* 372 If you pour oyl of tartar upon some of the fresh water, it makes a frisking spawny motion. 1786 ABERCROMBIE *Arr.* in *Gard. Assist.* p. x, Perpetuating its duration by a spawny progeny of the root. 1908 *Daily Rec. & Mail* 9 Mar., It is rather amusing to be told..that 'spawny' herring are unfit for food.

†**Spay,** *sb. Obs. rare.* Also **spey(e.** [a. MFlem. *speye* (14th cent., also in F. texts *espeye*; Kilian *spije*; mod. WFlem. *speie, spei*), related to MFlem. *spoye* (Kilian *spuje*, Flem. and Du. *spui*) in the same sense.] A sluice. (Cf. SPAYER.)

1415 in Riley *Mem. Lond.* (1868) 615 [A watergate, called a] scluys, [or a] speye. 1429 *Cov. Leet Bk.* 121 The residu of the money spended apon the makyng of the Town dyche, & the spey atte Gosford yate. 1451 *Ibid.* 258 The whiche portecoles, Spayes & Cheynes ben made & myche part of the dykes clansed.

Spay (spē^{i}), *v.* Also 5–6 **spaie,** 6–7 **spaye,** 7, 9 **spey;** *pa. pple.* **spade.** [ad. AF. *espeier*, = OF. *espeer* to cut with a sword, f. *espee* (F. *épée*) sword.]

†**1.** *trans.* To pierce or cut (a deer) so as to kill.

c 1410 *Master of Game* (MS. Digby 182) Prol., And after whann the hert is spaied and dede he vndothe hym. *Ibid.* xxxiii, Þen shulde who so be moste maister þere byd somme of þe hunters go spay hym euen behynde þe shulder forwarde to þe herte.

2. To operate upon (a female, esp. the female of certain animals) so as to remove the ovaries and destroy the reproductive power.

c 1410 *Master of Game* (MS. Digby 182) xi, And bycause þei shuld not lese her tyme, men make hem yspayed, saue þose men will kepe open to bere whelpes. 1576 TURBERV. *Venerie* lxvi. 186 The kydneys whiche Gelders take awaye from a bytche.. when they spaye hir. 1577 B. GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* (1586) 150 b, The sowes are spaied by burning the matrixe with an irone. ? *c* 1600 *Distr. Emperor* II. i. in Bullen *O. Pl.* (1884) III. 188 If she had been spayd And all mankynd made Euenucks. 1639 T. DE GRAY *Expert Farrier* Ep. Ded., A gelder who spayes more then a hundred fillies. 1664 BUTLER *Hud.* II. iii. 247 [He] knew..When Sows and Bitches may be spade. 1725 *Fam. Dict.* s.v. *Bitch*, But if you would spay your Bitch, it must be done before ever she has a Litter of Whelps. 1799 [A. YOUNG] *Agric. Linc.* 297 He ..spays about half the heifers. 1820 SHELLEY *Œd. Tyr.* I. 72 Out with your knife..and spay those Sows That load the earth with Pigs. 1879 DUNCAN *Clin. Lect. Dis. Women* iv. 48 Lastly, it has of late years frequently been decided to spay women in this disease.

fig. *a* 1658 CLEVELAND *Gen. Poems* (1677) 10 Geld your loose wits, and let your Muse be spade.

Spaya(r)d, spayd. Now only *arch.* Forms: *α.* 5 **spayer,** 5 (7) **spayad** (7 **-ade**), 9 **spayard, -art.** *β.* 6–7 **spayde,** 7 **spaide,** 7–8 **spaid,** 8 **spayd;** 7, 9 **spade.** *γ.* 6 **spaie,** 9– **spay.** [Of obscure origin: only the earliest quots. are of any value for the genuine form of the word. See also SPIRE *sb.*] A male deer in its third year.

α. *a* 1425 in *Rel. Ant.* I. 151 The fyrst yere he is a calfe, the secunde yere a broket, the .iij. yere a spayer. 1486 *Bk. St. Albans, Hunting* e j b, The secunde yere a Broket... The therde yere a Spayad. 1598 MANWOOD *Lawes Forest* iv. (1615) 42 The third yeere, yow shall call him a Spayad. 1632 *Guillim's Heraldry* III. xiv. (ed. 2) 175 The Third Year, you shall call them Spayade. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* II. 132/1 An Hart, is called 1 yeare a Hind,..3 a Spayade or Spayde. 1859 *Todd's Cycl. Anat.* V. 517 In this condition he is called a 'spayard'. 1886 ELWORTHY *W. Som. Word-bk.* 698 *Spayart*,..a male deer of three years old.

β. 1576 TURBERV. *Venerie* 237 An Hart is called the firste yeare a Calfe, the seconde a Brocket, the thirde a Spayde. 1602 *2nd Pt. Return Parnass.* II. v. 888 Your Hart is the first yeare a Calfe,..the third yeare a Spade. 1627 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Armado* D 1 b, So a Hart is the first yeare a Calfe,..the third a Spaide. 1678 PHILLIPS, *Spaid*, or *Spayad* [in later dicts. *Spayed, Spayd*], a term used by Hunters, a red male Deer of three years old. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade, Spade*,..a deer three years old.

γ. 1577 HARRISON *England* III. iv. 226/1, I find that the yoong male is called in the first yeere a calfe, in the second a broket, the third a spaie. 1906 DOYLE *Sir Nigel* xiii. 163 Great his anxiety lest he confuse a spay with a brocket.

Spayed (spē^{i}d), *ppl. a.* Also 6 **spaied, spaide,** 7 **spaid, spead(e, spade,** 8 **speyed.** [f. SPAY *v.*] Having the ovaries excised.

c 1410 *Master of Game* (MS. Digby 182) xi, And also oo spayed bycche lasteth longer in hir bonte þenne oþer two þat be not spayed. 1577 B. GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* III. (1586) 154 b, The spaide Bitches do bite sorest. 1607 MARKHAM *Cavel.* v. ix. 50 If they be speade or gelte mares, they be the worst of al. *a* 1658 CLEVELAND *Poems* (1677) 39 The Groom is Rampant, but the Bride is Spade. 1684 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1906/4 Stolen.., a Spaid Bay Mare about 15 hands high. *a* 1722 LISLE *Husb.* (1757) 408 Such a sow was worth less by two shillings..than a spayed sow. 1779 *Phil. Trans.* LXIX. 286 When they are preserved it is..for all the purposes of an ox or spayed heifer. 1813 *Sporting Mag.* XLII. 23 Attended only by his two faithful spayed bitches. 1851 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* (ed. 2) I. 256/2 A quey-calf whose ovaries have been obliterated, to prevent her breeding, is a spayed heifer, or a spayed quey. 1859 *Todd's Cycl. Anat.* V. 573/1 The spayed animal continued to breed until she was six years old.

†**Spayer.** *Obs.* Also **spayr(e, spyre.** [f. SPAY *sb.* + -ER.] A sluice.

1450 *Cov. Leet Bk.* 254 They ordeyn that a spyre be made besides the Gosford-ȝate. 1451 *Ibid.* 257 That ther shulde be made Spayers withe-in the water of Shurburn to holde vp the water. *Ibid.* 260 For rammeng & stoppeng the spayre of ston for the water shuld not issu owt.

Spayer (deer): see SPAYA(R)D. **Spayer,** obs. f. SPARE *v.*[1] **Spayer(e,** varr. SPARE *sb.*[2] *Obs.*

Spay·ing, *vbl. sb.* [f. SPAY *v.*] The operation of excising the ovaries in female animals or in women. Also *attrib.*

1576 TURBERV. *Venerie* 18 In spaying of hir, it shal not be good to take away all the rootes or strings of the veynes. 1611 COTGR., *Chastrement*, a gelding, libbing, speying. *a* 1722 LISLE *Husb.* (1757) 407 If pigs be cut..they ought not to be suffered to creep through hedges, lest the thread which sows up the spaying hole be drawn out. 1725 *Fam. Dict.* s.v. *Sow*, As for the Spaying of a Sow, which is the Gelding of that Animal [etc.]. 1805 R. W. DICKSON *Pract. Agric.* II. 988 The spaying of the female calves..is an operation of greater nicety. 1822–7 GOOD *Study Med.* (1829) V. 25 The operation of spaying or excising the ovaries. 1879 DUNCAN *Clin. Lect. Dis. Women* iv. 44 Spaying, an operation which has been introduced recently into gynæcological practice.

Spaynal, -ol, varr. SPAINOL *Obs.* **Spaynard(e, -erd(e,** obs. ff. SPANIARD. **Spaynel(l,** etc., obs. ff. SPANIEL. **Spayr,** obs. f. SPARE *v.*[2] **Spayre,** var. SPARE *sb.*[2] *Obs.*; obs. f. SPEAR *sb.*[1]

Speach(e, obs. forms of SPEECH *sb.*

Spead, obs. form of SPEED.

Speak (spīk), *sb.* Chiefly *Sc.* and *north.* Forms: 3–5 **speke** (4 **spece**), 4–5 **spek,** 5 *Sc.* **speike** (9 **speik**), 6–7 **speake,** 8– **speak.** [Partly the northern form of ME. *spēche* (OE. *spǽc, sprǽc*) SPEECH *sb.*[1]; partly, in later use, f. SPEAK *v.*

In Laȝamon 1971, *Owl & N.* 13, and Rob. Glouc. 8535, 8643, the forms *speke* and *spek* have obviously been miswritten for *spech(e* through being mistaken for parts of the verb.]

†**1.** The action of speaking; also, manner of speaking. *Obs.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 13260 He sermund wit his loueli spek. *c* 1300 *Havelok* 946 Of alle men was he mest meke, Lauhwinde ay, and bliþe of speke. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* I. 393 In spek wlispyt he sum deill. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xxvii. (*Machor*) 1164 With þis of spek he mad ending. *c* 1450 HOLLAND *Howlat* 242 All apperit to the Pape,..Salust his sanctitud with spirituale speike.

†**b.** The power or faculty of speech. *Obs.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 24320 Als ded þai war, wit-vten speke. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* Prol. 122 As to deff men gyfand herynge,..and spek till oþer at war dum.

†**c.** A language. *Obs.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 2267 Þar war al þe speces delt þat now ouer-alle þe werld er melt.

2. Talk, discourse, conversation.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 2618 Wit hir sli spece gun he spell. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* ii. (*Paul*) 301 With wismen þare-of [Nero] had spek. 1886 WILLOCK *Rosetty Ends* xii. (1887) 88 The affair caused a hantle o' speak.

b. With *a, the, this*, etc., or possessive pronouns.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 12197 Ihesus þan folud on his speke, And þus began his resun eke. *c* 1300 *Havelok* 1065 Þoruth England yede þe speke [*MS.* speche], Hw he was strong, and ek meke. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* I. 72 Thai all concordyt, That all thar spek suld be recordyt Till Schyr Eduuard. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 3318 With þis speke at he spake þe sprete he ȝeldis. *a* 1779 D. GRAHAM *Writ.* (1883) II. 209, I maun hae..a quiet speak to hersel about it. 1790 SHIRREFS *Poems* 247 Only foes to common sense Frae sic a speak can tak' offence. 1819 W. TENNANT *Papistry Storm'd* (1827) 5 Notin' down within thy book Ilk motion, gesture, speik, and look. 1883– in dial. glossaries, etc. (Yks., Westmld., Linc., Berks.).

†**c.** *A great speak*, an important statement. *Obs.*

1587 GOLDING *De Mornay* xxiv. (1596) 366 They thinke themselues to haue made a greate speake, and hard to be resolued.

3. A formal discourse; a speech.

1567 DRANT *Horace, Ep., Arte Poet.* A vij, A solemne speake, mete for great things. 1576 PETTIE *Petite Pallace* 89 b, Before hym Aristotle..maketh a great speake, saying [etc.]. 1600 O. E. *Repl. to Libel* I. i. 9 Nor doth he applie his common place to his purpose, but leaueth it..without any coherence to the rest of his long speake. 1610 R. DAVIES in *Chester's Triumph* (Chetham Soc.) C 3 b, Is it not harsh to heare a Marmeset squeake Vpon a stage a most vnioynted speake? 1791 J. LEARMONT *Poems* 30 Their unco speaks o' sax hours lang.

4. *Cant.* (See quot.) *Obs.*$^{-0}$

1812 J. H. VAUX *Flash Dict.*, *Speak*, committing any robbery, is called *making a speak*; and if it has been productive you are said to have *made a rum speak.*

Speak (spīk), *v.* Forms: (see below). [OE. *sprecan* (pa. t. *spræc, sprǽcon*, pa. pple. *ȝesprecen*), = OFris. *spreka* (WFris. *sprekke*, NFris. *spreek, spreeg*), MDu. (and Du.) *spreken*, OS. *sprekan* (MLG. and LG. *spreken*), OHG. *sprehhan* (MHG. and G. *sprechen*); not recorded in Gothic, and absent in older Scand., the obs. Da. *sprecke, sprække*, Icel. *spreka*, being adoptions from LG.

The later OE. *specan* became common in the 11th cent., and forms with *r* app. did not survive in actual use beyond the middle of the 12th cent. A similar elision of the *r* appears very rarely in MDu. *speken*, OHG. *spehhan.*]

A. Illustration of Forms.

1. *Inf.* *α.* 1 **sprecan, spreocan, spræcan;** *north.* **spreca, spræca, -spreaca; sprecca, spræcca;** 2 **sprecon.**

c 825 *Vesp. Hymns* iv, Nyllað ȝemoniȝfaldian spreocan. *c* 897 K. ÆLFRED *Gregory's Past. C.* 89 [Hie] ne durron.. sprecan. *a* 900 in *O. E. Texts* 178 Hu meahte ic.. her spræcan? *c* 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Matt. x. 19 Huætt ȝe spreca scilo. *Ibid.* 20 Huæt ȝie sprecca scilon. *c* 1075 *O. E. Chron.* (Parker MS.) an. 1070, Umbe þæt hi sprecan woldon. *a* 1122 *Ibid.* (Laud MS.) an. 1114, He wolde sprecon mid him.

β. 1 **specan** (2 **-on**), 1–2 **specen,** 2–5 **speken** (3 *Orm.* **spekenn**), 5 **spekyn;** 1–2 **spæcon,** 2 **-en,** 3 **spæ(c)ken;** 2–3 **speoken.**

c 1000 in Assmann *Ags. Hom.* xviii. 55 Hy..wið hi specan woldon. *c* 1000 *Ags. Gosp.* Matt. xii. 46 Secende spæcon [*c* 1160 *Hatton* spæcen] to him. *c* 1120 *O. E. Chron.* (MS. H) an. 1113, Swa þæt hiȝ uneaðe specon mihton. *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 35 Ȝif he mihte speken. *Ibid.* 89 Heo..ongunnen to speoken. *c* 1205 LAY. 14758 He wold spæcken heom wið. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 3400 Ðo cam ietro.. To speken him. *a* 1425 *Cursor M.* 20025 (Trin.), I bigon hir worshepe speken. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 468/1 Spekyn, *loquor.*

γ. 3–6 **speke,** 4–6 **spek,** 4 **spec, speck,** 5 **speike,** 6–7 **speake,** 6–8 *Sc.* **speik,** 6– **speak** (*Ir.* 8–9 **spake**).

a 1250 *Owl & Night.* 261 Let me speke. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 24795 (Edinb.), For to spek about sum pais. 13.. *Ibid.* 19176 (Gött.), Quilis þai suld samen speck. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 4976 By course for to speike. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 353/1 To Speke,..*loqui.* 1535 COVERDALE *Isaiah* lxvi. 19 The Iles.. that haue not herde speake of me. 1586 LD. BURGHLEY in *Leycester Corr.* (Camden) 450 Some spek of namyng the count Morrice. 1609 SKENE *Reg. Maj.* 95 Na man sall speik. *a* 1700 in *Cath. Rec. Soc. Publ.* IX. 362 She could not speake french. 1762 FOOTE *Orator* 11, By my shoul but I will spake.

2. *Pres. tense sing.* (Early contracted forms.) **a.** *2nd pers.* α. 1 **sprycst**, 1–2 **sprecst**, 2 **spræcst**. β. 1 **spycst**, 2 **spæcst**, 3 **spekst**, 3–4 **spext**.

α. 971 *Blickl. Hom.* 183 Forhwon ne sprecst þu? *c* 1000 *Ags. Gosp.* John iv. 27 Hwæt sprycst [*c* 1160 *Hatton* sprecst] þu wið hiȝ? *c* 1160 *Hatton Gosp.* John xix. 10 Hwi ne spræcst þu wið me.

β. *c* 1000 *Ags. Gosp.* Matt. xiii. 10 For hwiȝ spycst [*c* 1160 *Hatton* spæcst] þu..mid biȝ-spellum? *a* 1272 in *O. E. Misc.* 98 Hwat spekstu of eny stone. *c* 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 128 Þov spext ase a fol. *c* 1320 in *Rel. Antiq.* I. 265 Ȝef thou with dede mon spext.

b. *3rd pers.* α. 1 **sprycð**, 1–2 **spricð**, **sprecð**, 2 **spræcð**. β. 1 **spycð**, **spycþ**, 2–4 **specþ**, **specð** (2 **specd**), 3 **spechð**, 3–4 **spekþ**, 4 **spekth**.

α. *c* 897 K. ÆLFRED *Gregory's Past. C.* 380 Ðæs monnes saul þe wel spricð. 971 *Blickl. Hom.* 55 Se þa soþfæstnesse ..sprecþ. *c* 1000 *Ags. Gosp.* John vii. 18 Se þe be him sylfum sprycð [*c* 1160 *Hatton* spræcð].

β. *c* 1000 *Ags. Gosp.* John vii. 26 Nu he spycþ openlice. *c* 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 51 Dauid specð..sume of þe wordes. *a* 1250 *Owl & Night.* 1072 Wel viht þat wel spekþ. 1340 *Ayenb.* 126 Huanne he specþ of þise..uirtues. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 366 Solyns spekth of a wonder kinde.

3. *Past tense.* **a.** *sing.* α. 1 **sprec**, 1–2 **spræc** (1 **spræcc**), 2 **spreac**.

c 825 *Vesp. Psalter* xcviii. 7 In syle wolcnes [he] sprec to him. *a* 900 in *O. E. Texts* 178 He spræc to his liornæra sumum. *c* 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Luke ix. 11 [He] spræcc him of ric godes. *a* 1122 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1083, Þe abbot..spræc uppon þa munecas. 1131 *Ibid.* an. 1131, Se abbot..spreac mid þone kyng.

β. 1–3 **spæc**, 2–4 **spec**, **spek**, 4–5 **speck**.

a 1000 *Psalm l.* 30 Dauid..ðus wordum spæc. *a* 1122 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1046, Sweȝen..spec wið his feder. *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 73 Of ileue spek ure drihten. *c* 1205 LAY. 12655 He..of gode spæcswide wel. *a* 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 308 Hwil þet ha spek þus. *c* 1307 *Elegy Death Edw. I*, vi, The pope..spec a word of gret honour. 13.. *K. Horn* 600 An hound..spek wordes bolde.

γ. 2–5 **spac** (3 *Orm.* **spacc**), 4–5, *Sc.* and *dial.* 7– **spack**, 5 **spacke**, **spakke**, 3–5, *Sc.* and *north.* 6– **spak**, 9 *Sc.* **spak'**.

a 1154 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1140, Þe biscop..spac wid Rodbert. *c* 1200 ORMIN 224 Spacc he nohht wiþþ tunge. *a* 1250 *Owl & Night.* 396 Ho spak boþe right & red. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 12005 Sum him..spack o prise. *c* 1380 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* III. 312 Many þinges þat God spac not. *c* 1400 *Pilgr. Sowle* (Caxton, 1483) I. xvi. 14 These wordys whiche ..the juge..spack. 1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* I. xxi. 68 Thenne spak Igrayne. 1567 *Gude & Godlie B.* (S.T.S.) 84 Than spak that Virgin fre. *c* 1614 SIR W. MURE *Dido & Æneas* I. 467 Ne're word she spak. 1786 BURNS *Holy Fair* iv, Laughan as she spak.

δ. 3 **spæke**, 3–5 **speke**, 4 **speeke**, 5 **speek**.

Properly representing the OE. forms *sprǣce*, *spǣce*.

c 1200 ORMIN 16260 Þeȝȝ wenndenn þatt he spæke..off þeȝȝre temmple. *c* 1275 LAY. 14316 Þe speche þat þe maide speke. *c* 1320 *Cast. Love* 458 Pees..þus to hire Fader speek. 1382 WYCLIF *Job* ii. 10 As oon of the fool wymmen thou speeke. *c* 1420 *Sir Amadace* (Camden) lx, Thenne speke Sir Amadace so fre.

ε. 3– (now *arch.*, *dial.*, or *poet.*) **spake**, 4–5 **spaak**. Also *2nd pers.* 5 **spakist**, 6– **spakest**, 6 **spakst**, 7 *poet.* **spak'st**.

a 1300 *K. Horn* 535 Do nu þat þu er of spake. *c* 1380 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* III. 265 He spaak þes wordis. 1388 — 1 *Sam.* xxviii. 21 Thi wordis, whiche thou spakist. 1461 *Paston Lett.* II. 14, I..spake Ric. Sothwell. 1509 FISHER *Wks.* (1876) 103 That thou spake them to hym. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* VIII. 444, I, ere thou spak'st, Knew [etc.]. 1781 COWPER *Conversation* 511 They spake of him they lov'd. 1827 [see B. 1 f]. 1848 BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.* 321 *Spake*.. is still heard occasionally from the pulpit, as well as in conversation. 1872 TENNYSON *Gareth & Lynette* 472 Lancelot ever spake him pleasantly.

ζ. 6– **spoke**, 7, 9 *dial.* **spok**, 7 **spoak(e**, **spook**, 8–9 *dial.* **spock**. Also *2nd pers.* 9 **spokest**.

1596 SPENSER *F. Q.* VI. xii. 25 He..blasphemy spoke. 1615 COCKS *Diary* (Hakl. Soc.) I. 18 She spoake Spanish. 1617 *Ibid.* 260 He spok to the Chinas. 1697 J. LEWIS *Mem. Dk. Glocester* (1789) 50 A sweetness..that spoke the inner feelings. 1773 GOLDSM. *Stoops to Conq.* III, He spoke to me. 1802 *Med. Jrnl.* VIII. 194 With whom I spoke here lately. 1848 LYTTON *Harold* I. iii. 41 Thou spokest of Harold.

b. *Plur.* α. 1 **sprecun**, **-on** (**-an**), 1–2 **spræcon** (1 **-un**, **-an**, 2 **-en**).

c 825 *Vesp. Psalter* cxviii. 23 Aldermen..wið me sprecun. *c* 897 K. ÆLFRED *Gregory's Past. C.* 95 Eall ðæt ðæt we ær spræcon. 971 *Blickl. Hom.* 77 Hie..to Criste spræcan. *Ibid.* 99 Þa þe..him olyhtword sprecan. *c* 1000 *Ags. Gosp.* Luke xxiv. 36 Þa hiȝ þis spræcon [*c* 1160 *Hatton* spræcen]. 1123 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1123, Ða spræcon ða biscopas hem betwenan.

β. 1–2 **spæcon**, 2 **spæcen**, 2–3 **spæken** (3 *Orm.* **-enn**); 2 **specon**, 2–5 **speken** (5 **spekon**, **-yn**), 3–5 **speke**, 4 **spek**; 4 **speeken**, **spieken**, **speeke**, **spieke**.

c 1000 *Ags. Gosp.* Luke xxiv. 14 And hiȝ spæcon him betwynan. *c* 1160 *Hatton Gosp.* Luke ix. 30 Ða spæken [*v.r.* spæcen] tweȝen weres wið hine. *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 89 Þe apostles speken to þes folkes igederunge. *c* 1205 LAY. 8249 Þus þe cnihtes him spæken [*c* 1275 speke] wið. *c* 1305 *St. Dunstan* 9 in *E.E.P.* (1862) 34 Hi speke ech to oþer. *a* 1325 *Prose Psalter* xxxvii. 13 Hij..speken uanites. 1382 WYCLIF *Ps.* cxviii. 23 Aȝen me thei speeken. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 235 Therof spieken alle men. *Ibid.* III. 300 Togedre as thei tuo speeke. *c* 1450 *Merlin* 25 The peple..assembleden, and speken of Vortiger. *c* 1489 CAXTON *Blanchardyn* 71 The most valiaunt knyght that men euere speke of.

γ. 4–5 **spaken**, 4–5, 7 **spake**, 4 **space**, **spac**, 4, 6 *Sc.* **spack**, 4, 9 *dial.* **spak**.

a 1300 *E. E. Psalter* lxxii. 8 Þai..spake quedenes vnrighte. *a* 1325 *Prose Psalter* cviii. 2 Hij spaken to me. *a* 1425 *Cursor M.* 11990 (Trin.), Þei spake to Ioseph. *c* 1449 PECOCK *Repr.* II. x. 206 Whom prophetis bifore spaken Sauiour. 1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* II. 284 Tha spack verie scharpe. 1621 COCKS *Diary* 11 Nov. (1883) II. 218 Those 10 men they spake of.

δ. 3–5 **spoken**, 4 **spokyn**; 4, 6– **spoke**, 5 **spook**.

c 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 2913 Quanne he ðat bodewurd spoken. *a* 1325 *Prose Psalter* cxviii. 23 For princes..spoken oȝains me. 1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. II. 225 Spiceres spoke with hym. 1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* XVII. viii. 700 As they spoken thus. 1598 SHAKS. *Merry W.* IV. iv. 17 That [way] they spoke of.

4. *Past Participle.* α. 1 **ȝesprecen**, **ȝespecen**, 3 **i-specken**, **i-speken**, **i-spæ(c)ken**; 1 **sprecen**, 2 **sprecon**; 3–5 **speken**, 7 **speaken**, 6 **spaken**.

Beowulf 643 Þa wæs eft..þryðword sprecen. *c* 888 K. ÆLFRED *Boeth.* xviii. § 1 Ða ðis þa ȝesprecen was. *c* 1050 *Ags. Hom.* (Assmann) 183 Ða þa Tyrus hæfde þus ȝespecen. *a* 1122 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 675, Swa swa ȝe hit sprecon hauen. *c* 1200 *Moral Ode* 9 (Trin. Coll. MS.), Fele idel word ich habbe ispeken. *c* 1205 LAY. 13643 Ich habbe ..ispæken him wið. *c* 1300 *Havelok* 2369 Þat ich haue of ofte speken. *c* 1590 in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* Ser. II. III. 159, I have spaken to Dollyne. 1670 DK. YORK in *3rd Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* 421/1 Nor will it be speaken on..till next weeke.

β. 3–4 **i-speke**, **y-speke**, 4–5 **speke**, 4 **spek**.

a 1250 *Owl & Night.* 1293 For þe hule swo ispeke hadde. *c* 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 228 Þare nas neuere..yspeke..non oþur word. 1340 *Ayenb.* 69 Uor þet hi habbeþ yspeke. *c* 1350 *Will. Palerne* 4605 Til i speke haue.

γ. 4–5 **y-**, **i-spoken**, **i-spokyn**; 4– **spoken** (5 **-ene**, **-un**), 4–5, *Sc.* 6 **spokin** (5 *Sc.* **-ine**), 4–6 **spokyn**, 5 **spockyn**, 6 *Sc.*, 9 *dial.* **spocken** (9 *dial.* **spockin**, **spawken**), 6 *Sc.* **spokne**, 7 **spokn**, **spoaken**.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 1757 Quen he his wil had with him spoken. *a* 1325 *Prose Psalter* xi. 2 Ichon han i-spoken idel þynges. 1450–80 tr. *Secreta Secret.* 13 Whan that this worthi lord hath þus..spokene. 1530 PALSGR. 727/2 Whan they hadde spokyn..of the matter. 1583 *Leg. Bp. St. Androis* 353 Trowing the teallis befoir was spocken. 1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* I. 88 We haue schortlie spokne. 1604 E. G[RIMSTONE] *D'Acosta's Hist. Indies* II. ix. 102 Not so great as they had spoken. 1817 WILBRAHAM in *Archaeol.* (1821) XIX. 38 *Spocken*, participle of the verb to speak.

δ. 4–5 **y-spoke**, 4 **i-spoke**; 4–9 **spoke**, 5, 7 **spok**, 7 **spoak**.

1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) IV. 123 He hadde proudeliche i-spoke. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 60 As I have spoke. *c* 1430 *Pilgr. Lyf Manhode* I. xliv. (1869) 26 Whan Nature hadde þus yspoke. 1461 *Paston Lett.* II. 42, I have spok with John Rwsse. 1557 GRIMALD in *Tottel's Misc.* (Arb.) 116 Not more..hath Sparta spoke. 1622 DONNE *Serm. 15 Sept.* 37 Neither is that spoak there. 1664 POWER *Exp. Philos.* I. 2 He would not have spoke so doubtfully. *a* 1774 GOLDSM. tr. *Scarron's Com. Romance* (1775) I. 63 When she had spoke these last words. 1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* vii, Nothing was spoke of for some time. 1843 S. R. MAITLAND *Dark Ages* xvi. (1890) 293 That I have..spoke the truth.

ε. 6–7 **spake**, 9 *Sc.* **spak'**.

c 1500 *Three Kings' Sons* 61 That he had spake to hym. 1616 W. FORDE *Serm.* 17 He had no sooner spake the word. 1632 MASSINGER & FIELD *Fatal Dowry* V. ii, Tho' spake by him That never brake his word. 1812 P. FORBES *Poems* 34 (E.D.D.), Another chield that hadna spak'.

B. Signification.

I. *intr.* **1.** To utter or pronounce words or articulate sounds; to use or exercise the faculty of speech; to express one's thoughts by words.

Beowulf 1698 Ða se wisa spræc sunu Healfdenes; swiȝedon ealle. *c* 888 K. ÆLFRED *Boeth.* iii. § 3 Þa ongan he eft sprecan & cwæð to þan Mode. *c* 1000 *Ags. Gosp.* Matt. xv. 31 Þa mæneȝu wundredon ȝeseonde dumbe specende, healte gangende. *a* 1200 *St. Marher.* 16 Swuch farlac ich fele.. þet speoken i ne dar nawt. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 19415 Þe hali spirit vte of him spak. 1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. XIX. 126 For defe..to here & dombe speke he made. 1422 tr. *Secreta Secret., Priv. Priv.* 209 He that hyryth the reysones of many men may lightyr well sayne, than he that erste spake. 1581 PETTIE tr. *Guazzo's Civ. Conv.* II. (1586) 69 b, Not to speake, while an other is in speaking,..before he which speaketh be thorowly understood. 1610 SHAKS. *Temp.* II. i. 65 If but one of his pockets could speake, would it not say he lyes? 1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* I. (Globe) 182, I had taught my Poll, as I noted before, to speak. 1828 LYTTON *Pelham* III. xiv, He spoke with great feeling on the subject for which I was summoned. 1897 GLADSTONE *E. Crisis* 6 It is time to speak with freedom.

transf. 1611 BIBLE *Prov.* vi. 13 He winketh with his eyes, he speaketh with his feete.

b. Said of the mouth, tongue, etc.

c 825 *Vesp. Psalter* xvi. 10 Muð heara spreocende wes in oferhyȝde. *c* 1000 *Ags. Gosp.* Luke vi. 45 Soðlice se muð spycð [*c* 1160 specð] swa seo heorte þencð. 1382 WYCLIF *Ps.* lxv. 14 My mouth spac in my tribulacioun. 1535 COVERDALE *Matt.* xii. 34 For of yͤ abundance of yͤ hert yͤ mouth speaketh. 1560 BIBLE (Geneva) *Song Sol.* vii. 9 Which ..causeth the lippes of the ancient to speake. 1611 BIBLE *Isaiah* xxxii. 4 The tongue of the stammerers shall bee readie to speake plainely. 1646 CRASHAW *Steps to Temple Poems* (1904) 74 Christ bids the dumb tongue speak; it speakes. 1841 LANE *Arab. Nts.* I. 95 When I have cut off thy head, will it speak?

c. To hold talk or discourse, to converse, with others or with each other. (Cf. 19.) Also, in mod. use, to be on speaking terms.

971 *Blickl. Hom.* 93 Seo eorþe on þæm norþ-ende & on þam east-ende sprecað him betweonum. *c* 1000 *Ags. Gosp.* Luke vii. 32 Hi synt ȝelice cildum on stræte sittendum & specendum betwux him. *c* 1125 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1123, Se king..and se biscop..riden þær specende. *c* 1200 ORMIN 3389 Þa hirdess tokenn sone þuss To spekenn hemm bitwenenn. 1375 [see 3 a]. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 208 Thus as they lihe abedde and spieke. 1582 N. T. (Rhem.) *Acts* xxvi. 31 Going a side, they spake among them selues, saying [etc.]. 1607 SHAKS. *Cor.* I. iv. 4 They lye in view, but haue not spoke as yet. 1777 CLARA REEVE *Champion of Virtue* 54 While they were speaking, Oswald came to them, and said [etc.]. 1819 SHELLEY *Cenci* V. i. 64 Even whilst we speak The ministers of justice wait below. 1826 DISRAELI *Vivian Grey* II. ii, There is Courtown, but we do not speak. 1865 H. KINGSLEY *Hillyars* III. xxiii. 240 Even their husbands did not speak for a fortnight.

d. In various phrases and proverbs.

See also BOOK *sb.* 14 and CARD *sb.*² 4 c.

a 1250 *Owl & Night.* 1074 'Wel fiȝt þat wel specþ,' seide Alured. 1381 in *Knighton's Chron.* (Rolls) II. 139 Speke, spende and spede, quoth Jon of Bathon. *a* 1425 *Cursor M.* 23849 (Trin.), Euer to speke & not to spede, Wastyng hit is of goddes sede. 14..– [see SPARE *v.*¹ 6 c]. 1596 SHAKS. *Tam. Shr.* II. i. 66 Mistake me not, I speake but as I finde. *c* 1676 SOUTH *Serm.* (1715) 341 He only now-a-days speaks like an Oracle, who speaks Tricks and Ambiguities. 1748 RICHARDSON *Clarissa* VI. 61 He always loved to speak as he found. 1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) I. 482, I am speaking like a book.

e. With reflexive or ethical dative. *rare.*

c 1400 *Anturs of Arth.* l, Bot than hym spake Gallerone to Gawayne þe gude. 1703 ROWE *Ulyss.* I. i. 366 This Wife of him that was my Friend? *Eur.* Thou speak'st me well, of him that was thy Friend. 1839–48 BAILEY *Festus* 60/1 Thou speakest me of visions.

f. To deliver a speech or formal address; to express one's opinions or views in an assembly of any kind.

a 1577 SIR T. SMITH *Commw.* II. ii. (1584) 40 The speaker hath no voice in the house, nor they will not suffer him to speake in any bill to mooue or disswade it. 1601 SHAKS. *Jul. C.* III. ii. 89 Heere, vnder leaue of Brutus, and the rest,..Come I to speake in Cæsars Funerall. 1689 *Sc. Acts Parlt.* (1875) XII. 59/2 That the members be allowed to speak oftner than twyce if it be done with discreatione. 1738 tr. *Guazzo's Art Convers.* 115 Marius, being to speak before the People of Rome, said [etc.]. 1827 SOUTHEY *Hist. Penins. War* II. 574 Lord Grenville spake in a similar temper. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* vi. II. 18 The Commons were summoned to the bar of the Lords; and the King spoke from the throne. His speech had been composed by himself.

2. a. Followed by direct quotation of the words uttered.

More commonly with insertion of 'and said'.

Beowulf 1168 Spræc ða ides Scyldinga: 'Onfoh þissum fulle.' *c* 1000 *Ags. Ps.* (Thorpe) lxiii. 4 Hi..sare sprecað, 'Hwa ȝesyhð usic?' *a* 1325 *Prose Psalter* xxxviii. 5 Ich spak wyþ my tunge, 'Make, Lord, knowen to me myn endyng'. 1375 in Horstmann *Altengl. Leg.* (1878) 127/1 Adam þo spak ful pitously: 'A, deuel, wo þe be!' 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* (S.T.S.) xxxiv. 14 Than spak the Devill.., 'Renunce thy God and cum to me'. 1588 A. KING tr. *Canisius' Catech.* 30 For thou hes spoken..'the bread quhilk I sal giue is my fleshe'. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* VII. 339 Again th' Almightie spake: Let there be Lights [etc.]. 1781 COWPER *Hope* 524 Well spake the prophet, Let the desert sing. 1825 SCOTT *Betrothed* vi, He spoke again, and in anxious haste, 'Daughter, we are betrayed!' 1859 TENNYSON *Marr. Geraint* 555 Loudly spake the Prince, 'Forbear: there is a worthier'.

b. In pa. t. used in narrative poetry (after L. *dixit*) at the end of a speech. Cf. SAY *v.*¹ B. 3 e.

1667 MILTON *P. L.* I. 663 He spake: and to confirm his words [etc.]. 1697 DRYDEN *Æneid* V. 218 He spoke, and..at his stern he saw [etc.]. 1716 POPE *Iliad* V. 351 He spoke, and rising hurl'd his forceful dart. 1757 GRAY *Bard* 143 He spoke, and headlong..plunged to endless night. 1820 SHELLEY *Hymn Merc.* lxix, He spoke, and bound Stiff withy bands the infant's wrists around.

3. a. With advs. and advb. phrases, as *so*, *thus*, etc. (See also 4 a.)

Speak may also be accompanied by many different adverbs denoting either the tone of voice, the temper or intention of the speaker, or the character of the ideas expressed. For some special instances of these see EVIL *adv.* 1, FAIR *adv.* 2, FALSE *adv.* 1, HOME *adv.* 5, LOW *adv.* 3, PLAIN *adv.* 2 and 3, SOFT *adv.* 4, THICK *adv.* 4, WELL *adv.*

971 *Blickl. Hom.* 227 Þa he þa þus spræc, ða ȝeseah he [etc.]. *a* 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 312 He..feng on þus to speokene. *c* 1250 *Kent. Serm.* in *O. E. Misc.* 27 Herodes..swo spac te þo þrie kinges. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* XIX. 613 Thusgatis spekand, thai held thar way. 1557 *Tottel's Misc.* (Arb.) 216 If guile do guide your wit by silence so to speake. 1611 BIBLE 1 *Sam.* xviii. 24 On this manner spake Dauid. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* I. 271 So Satan spake, and him Beelzebub Thus answer'd. 1748 SMOLLETT *R. Random* lvi, While I spoke thus, she concealed her face with her fan. 1819 SCOTT *Ivanhoe* xxviii, Speak not so, my dear father. 1845 S. JUDD *Margaret* I. xiv, I have heard Hash speak so.

b. With advs. of quantity, as *less*, *little*, *more*, *much*.

With these words it is often difficult to distinguish between the intr. and trans. uses of the verb.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 19115 Þe apostels spekand þus and mar, þe preistes come. 1338 R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (1810) 77 Was noiþer more no lesse of þer penance spoken. 1388 WYCLIF 2 *Sam.* xix. 29 What spekist thou more? *c* 1400 *Brut* cxiii. 114 When þe Kyng herde speke so miche of here beaute. *c* 1475 *Rauf Coilȝear* 270 Mair the King spak nocht. 1588

SHAKS. *L. L. L.* I. i. 112, I haue for barbarisme spoke more. 1702 *Eng. Theophrastus* 335 It is the character of your half witted fellows to speak much and say little. 1805 SCOTT *Last Minstrel* II. xxxii, Little he ate, and less he spoke. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* xxxiv, Perhaps rather disappointed that the port wine had not made Jim speak more.

c. With advs. denoting continuation, as *away*, *on*.

1535 COVERDALE *Ecclus.* xxvii. 12 Amonge soch as be wyse, speake on hardely. 1591 SHAKS. *1 Hen. VI*, III. iii. 43 Speake on, but be not ouer-tedious. 1725 RAMSAY *Gentle Sheph.* Song xvii, Speak on,..and still my grief. 1781 C. JOHNSTON *Hist. J. Juniper* II. 164 If stages were built for them to speak away upon. *a* 1814 *Fam. Politics* v. iii. in *New Brit. Theat.* II. 248 Speak away, girl: we shall halt here some time yet. 1885 'MRS. ALEXANDER' *At Bay* i, He wanted her to speak on.

d. With advs. having reference to the use of a particular language or style of speech.

1823 SCOTT *Quentin D.* xvi, 'Thou speakest too well for one who hath lived always in thy filthy horde,' said the Scot. 1846 LANDOR *Imag. Conv., Southey & Landor* Wks. 1853 II. 164/1 Varlunga, a pastoral district, in which the people speak differently from both.

4. In various parenthetical and other phrases:

a. In the infinitive, esp. *so to speak*.

(*a*) 1553 T. WILSON *Rhet.* (1580) 205 All goodnesse (to speake at a worde) goeth awaie. 1595 SHAKS. *John* II. i. 514 Or if you will, to speake more properly, I will enforce it easlie. 1628 GAULE *Pract. The.* (1629) 232 Before Herod (to speake in few) they put vpon him a Fooles Note. 1671 H. M. tr. *Erasm. Colloq.* 494 There was no year, wherein he did not gain a thousand duckats, to speak with the least. 1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* vii, It would cost me nothing.. to say yes—but, to speak on the square, I must needs say no. 1886 C. E. PASCOE *Lond. of To-day* xl. (ed. 3) 349 To speak by the book, 'Mr. Gunter, cook, confectioner, and fruiterer'.

(*b*) 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. III. iii, Notables are, so to speak, organed out. 1888 'J. S. WINTER' *Bootle's Childr.* v, Pearl..was the leading spirit of the pair, and led Maud by the nose, so to speak.

attrib. and as *sb.* 1874 *Gentl. Mag.* July 126 In a so to speak unconscious manner. 1893 R. HEATH *Eng. Peasant* 248 This statement of his..is not to be dismissed as a mere so-to-speak.

b. *As they* (etc.) *speak*, = as the phrase is.

1595 in J. H. Pollen *Acts Eng. Mart.* (1892) vi. 101 Forthwith was found by the twelve *billa vera*, as they speak. 1665 *Phil. Trans.* I. 80 By letting down shafts from the day (as Miners speak). 1695 WOODWARD *Nat. Hist. Earth* I. (1723) 37 Many of them became petrified, as they speak. 1846 KEBLE *Serm.* xiii. (1848) 335 The same saying fell accidentally (as men speak) on the eye of another rich young man.

c. In pres. pple. with advs., as *broadly*, *correctly*, *generally*, *humanly*, *properly*, *roughly*, *strictly*, etc. (Freq. in recent use.)

1699 T. BROWN *Let. to Dr. Brown at Tunbridge* Wks. 1711 IV. 129 Misfortunes..of which I can, humanly speaking, see no End. 1826 *Art of Brewing* (ed. 2) 90 Generally speaking, I am an advocate for malt and hops only. 1855 *Orr's Circ. Sci., Inorg. Nat.* 108 Strictly speaking also, there are no beds hitherto found lying above the chalk. 1865 RUSKIN *Sesame* ii. § 74 Speaking broadly, a man ought to know any language or science he learns, thoroughly.

5. Of a writer, literary composition, etc.: To make a statement or declaration in words; to state or say.

c 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 131 Seinte paul..speceð on þe halie pistle þe me ret to dei. *c* 1205 LAY. 70 Al swa þe boc spekeð þe he to bisne inom. *c* 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 4529 Þai sal be, als þe appocalips spekes, In..hayres cledde. *c* 1400 LOVE *Bonavent. Mirr.* (1908) 50 Herto accordynge speketh the apostle..in his pistle ad hebreos. 1585 WASHINGTON tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* II. ix. 42 b, Strabo spake aright, where he sayeth [etc.]. 1631 WEEVER *Anc. Funeral Mon.* 250 My old Anonimall Manuscrip speakes..to the like effect. 1763 C. JOHNSTON *Reverie* I. 42 You are to observe that I speak in the general. 1816 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 265 It was admitted that the ancients spoke from justifiable data. 1869 T. C. BARKER *Aryan Civiliz.* x. (1871) 31 A law of the Twelve Tables at Rome speaks to the same effect.

6. *fig.* Of things: To be expressive or significant; to make some revelation or disclosure.

1535 COVERDALE *Heb.* xii. 24 The sprenklynge off bloude, that speaketh better then the bloude of Abel. 1602 MARSTON *Ant. & Mel.* IV. Wks. 1856 I. 54 His grief speakes in his slow-pac't steps. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* III. 267 His words here ended, but his meek aspect Silent yet spake. 1722 WOLLASTON *Relig. Nat.* i. 8 We read of feet, that speak; of a philosopher, who answerd an argument by only getting up and walking. 1813 BYRON *Corsair* I. iii, A sail!—a sail!.. Her nation—flag—how speaks the telescope? 1843 R. J. GRAVES *Syst. Clin. Med.* xiv. 153 His countenance now spoke promisingly. 1885 'MRS. ALEXANDER' *Valerie's Fate* iv, Never had her heart spoken before.

b. To take effect legally; to be valid.

1837 *Act 7 Will. IV & 1 Vict.* c. 26 § 24 That every Will shall be construed..to speak and take effect as if it had been executed immediately before the Death of the Testator. 1845 WILLIAMS *Real Prop.* x. 154 *marg.*, A will now speaks from the death of testator.

7. *transf.* **a.** Of musical instruments, etc.: To emit a sound; *spec.* to utter a full and proper note. Chiefly *rhet.* or *techn.*

1602 SHAKS. *Ham.* v. ii. 286 Let the Kettle to the Trumpets speake. 1676 MACE *Musick's Mon.* 70 The String lying upon This only Round single Fret, cannot but speak Clear. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 19 Nov. 1674, He..made it [a violin] speake like the voice of a man. 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* xliii, Horns and other instruments..spoke in sweet response to the harmony that proceeded from the pavilion. 1843 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* VI. 108/1 By coupling the pedals with the keys, 87 pipes are made to speak with each pedal. 1884 *Encycl. Brit.* XVII. 833/2 This saves space in the interior [of the organ], and gives the large pipes room to speak.

b. Of natural forces, etc.: To emit noise, make a sound; to reverberate.

1604 SHAKS. *Oth.* II. i. 5 Me thinks, the wind hath spoke aloud at Land. ? 1807–8 WORDSW. *Somnambulist* 4 How softly then Doth Aira-force..Speak from the woody glen! 1859 MEREDITH *R. Feverel* xlii, All at once the thunder spoke.

c. Of firearms: To emit a report on being fired.

1706 E. WARD *Wooden World Diss.* (1708) 67 He loves dearly to hear his Guns speak. 1875 KINGLAKE *Crimea* (1877) VI. vi. 218 The Coldstream..could not get their wet rifles to speak. 1896 *Pall Mall G.* 8 Jan. 1/3 The news from the Transvaal, where the rifles have already spoken.

d. Of a hound: To give tongue; to bay.

1826 *Sporting Mag.* (N. S.) XVII. 288 The hounds were speaking in the covert. 1888 ELWORTHY *W. Somerset Word-bk.* 605 The word ['quest'] is never used with hounds; they 'give tongue', 'speak', or 'bay'.

e. *Naut.* (See quot.)

1833 M. SCOTT *Tom Cringle* viii, The sharp little vessel began to *speak*, as the rushing sound through the water is called.

f. *techn.* (See quot.)

1884 F. J. BRITTEN *Watch & Clockm.* 205 When the tool is of proper size the pinion will 'speak' (make a squeaking noise) as the red stuff is drying off.

II. With preps., in more or less specialized uses.

8. Speak about —; (see ABOUT *prep.* 7).

Cf. the common OE. *sprecan ymb(e*.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 24795 For to spek abute sum pais. 1605 SHAKS. *Macb.* I. iii. 83 Were such things here, as we doe speake about? 1671 H. M. tr. *Erasm. Colloq.* 263 He falls on speaking about the success of their business. 1737– [see 13 b]. 1843 J. H. NEWMAN *Lett.* (1891) II. 430 Sermons which speak more confidently about our position than I inwardly feel.

9. Speak again(st —: (see AGAIN *prep.* 6 and AGAINST *prep.* 12).

c 1000 ÆLFRIC *Numb.* xxi. 7 We singodon swiðe, for þan þe we swa spræcon onȝean god & þe. *a* 1250 *Owl & Night.* 678 Þar muþ shal speke ayeyn horte. 1388 WYCLIF *Ps.* xlix. 20 Thou sittynge spakist aȝens thi brother. *a* 1425 *Cursor M.* 2928 (Trin.), Þer aȝeyn durst he not speke. 1545 ASCHAM *Toxoph.* I. (Arb.) 59, I speake not agaynst greate candelles, but agaynst lytle candels. 1605 SHAKS. *Lear* II. iv. 243 Sith that both charge and danger Speake 'gainst so great a number. 1736 AINSWORTH I. s.v., If he go on to speak lavishly against me. 1847 TENNYSON *Princ.* VII. 112 On the other side Hortensia spoke against the tax. 1908 R. BAGOT *A. Cuthbert* xxvi. 339 Some regretted..that they spoke against her as an interloper.

10. Speak for —. a. To make a speech or plea in place of or on behalf of (a person); in later use *esp.* to plead for. Also, to make representations concerning (a thing).

a 1300 *K. Horn* 171 Hor[n] spak for hem alle. 1382 WYCLIF *Acts* xxvi. 1 It is suffrid to thee, for to speke for thi silf. 1481 CAXTON *Reynard* iv. (Arb.) 7 How grymbart the dasse ..spack for reynart. 1535 COVERDALE *2 Kings* iv. 13 Hast thou eny matter to be spoken for to the kynge? *c* 1643 LD. HERBERT *Autobiog.* (1824) 139 An unpardonable fault, insomuch that no man would speak for him. 1736 AINSWORTH I. s.v., If ever he do so again, I will never speak for him. 1777 CLARA REEVE *Champion of Virtue* 102 Take courage and speak for yourself. 1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* xxxvi, 'I say, speak not for her!' replied Leicester. 1858 LONGFELLOW *M. Standish* III, Why don't you speak for yourself, John?

transf. 1607 SHAKS. *Cor.* III. i. 127 There Mutinies and Reuolts..spoke not for them. 1722–7 BOYER *Dict. Royal* I. s.v. *Parler*, *Ses Services parlent pour lui*, his Services speak for him. 1770 LANGHORNE *Plutarch* (1879) II. 664/2 He had a very engaging countenance, which spoke for him before he opened his lips. 1859 TENNYSON *Merlin & V.* 466 She ceased,..and let her eyes Speak for her.

b. To beg or request; to ask for.

1560 BIBLE (Geneva) *Song Sol.* viii. 8 What shal we do for our sister..when she shalbe spoken for? 1594 LYLY *Mother Bombie* I. iii, They giue vs pap with a spoon before we can speak, and when wee speake for that wee loue, pap with a hatchet. 1605 SHAKS. *Lear* I. iv. 267 The shame it selfe doth speake For instant remedy.

c. To order; to bespeak; to engage.

1679 BUNYAN *Israel's Hope Encour.* Wks. 1855 I. 583 As your great traders do with the goods that their chapmen have either bought or spoke for. 1730 BAILEY (fol.), *To Bespeak*, to speak for something; to give order for it to be made. 1743 *Lond. & Country Brew.* IV. (ed. 2) 284 The next time he went to the Brew-house to speak for more. 1815 JANE AUSTEN *Emma* xv, The bell was rung, and the carriages spoken for. 1859 MRS. STOWE *Minister's Wooing* xii. 115 Three months beforehand, all her days and nights are spoken for.

d. To indicate; to betoken.

1832 *Philological Museum* I. 335 The great mass of evidence that speaks for an intimate affinity between the Pelasgians and the Hellenes. 1852 MRS. CRAIK *Head of Family* viii, It may speak very ill for Mr. Græme's knowledge of the world, to confess [etc.]. 1910 HIRTH in *Encycl. Brit.* VI. 191/1 This does not seem to speak for racial consanguinity.

e. *To speak for itself*, to be significant or self-evident. (Cf. 28 c.)

1779 WARNER in Jesse *Selwyn & Contemp.* (1844) IV. 213 The letter was not from any of the family, she said, and that speaks for itself. 1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* viii, But I need not detail them—the fact speaks for itself. 1869 J. MARTINEAU *Ess.* II. 127 The paragraph..will speak for itself.

11. Speak of —. a. To mention, or discourse upon, in speech or writing. (See also 13 b.)

c 825 *Vesp. Psalter* cxviii. 46 [Ic] sprec of cyðnissum ðinum in ȝesihðe cyninga. *c* 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Luke ix. 11 [He] spræcc him of ric godes. *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 73 Of þe halie fulht spec ure drihten on oðer stude. *c* 1200 ORMIN 6784 Goddspellboc ne spekeþþ nohht Off all þatt oþerr genge. *c* 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 2683 Here es þe thred parte of þis buke spedde þat spekes of þe dede. 1422 *Secreta Secret., Priv. Priv.* 203 Of this Spekyth the boke of Iudyth. 1530 PALSGR. 727/2, I go nowe beyondsee, but if God send me lyfe you shall here speke of me. 1603 PARSONS *Three Convers. Eng.* II. viii. 481, I shall haue occasion to speake againe of these heretiks in the next chapter. 1730 A. GORDON *Maffei's Amphith.* 58 The Theatre..is spoke of by Martial. 1818 SCOTT *Br. Lamm.* xviii, 'And speaking of red-game,' said the young scape-grace, interrupting his father. 1884 tr. *Lotze's Metaph.* 43 A common-place with every philosophy which spoke of Things at all.

transf. 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* xlii, Every object on which her eye fixed seemed to speak of the marchioness. 1833 L. RITCHIE *Wand. by Loire* 180 At Doulon every thing begins to speak of the neighbourhood of a city. 1894 MAX PEMBERTON *Sea Wolves* xi, He..wore sea-boots to his hips, though they spoke of much service and of decay.

b. With advs., as *evil*, *ill*, *well*.

c 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Mark ix. 39 Seðe..mæȝe recone yfle spreca [L. *male loqui*] of mec. 1382 WYCLIF *Ps.* lxxvii. 19 And euele thei speken of God. 1382 — *Jer.* xl. 16 Fals forsothe thou spekist of Ismael. *c* 1440 *Jacob's Well* 83 Whan þou spekyst euyll of an-oþer mannys goodnesse. 1530 PALSGR. 727/2 Never speke yl of men behynde their backes. 1535– [see EVIL *adv.* 1 b]. 1568 GRAFTON *Chron.* II. 598 He was..well spoken of of all men. 1611 BIBLE *Luke* vi. 26 When all men shall speake well of you. 1635 R. N. tr. *Camden's Hist. Eliz.* Introd., Howbeit her dayes have beene ill spoken of. 1807 SOUTHEY *Espriella's Lett.* II. 263 The boys..spake well of their masters.

c. In the phr. *to speak of* (in later use = 'worth mentioning'). Chiefly in negative constructions. Also (*b*) = 'if mentioned or considered'.

(*a*) 1485 CAXTON *Chas. Gt.* 27 Of hys strengthe is not a lytel thynge to speke of, For [etc.]. 1582 BENTLEY *Mon. Matrones* iii. 269 For that which I haue hitherto done, is nothing at all to speake of. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* (1637) 633 This Towne is not very ancient to speak of. 1654 GATAKER *Disc. Apol.* 47 None out-went me, few to speak of came neer me. 1694 WOOD *Life* 23 Oct., No raine to speak of all Sept. and Oct. 1815 SCOTT *Guy M.* xlv, He had ridden the whole day..without tasting anything 'to speak of'. 1881 FREEMAN in Stephens *Life & Lett.* (1895) II. 244 To-day has come the first snow to speak of.

(*b*) 1580 G. HARVEY *Let. to Spenser* in S.'s Wks. (1912) 628/1 For the Romanes to speake of, are but verye Ciphars in this kinde.

† d. *Not to be spoken of*, (to be) beyond all description. *Obs.*

1600 NASHE *Summer's Last Will* 989 Wks. (Grosart) VI. 126 As for my Pease and my Fetches, they are famous, and not to be spoken of. 1611 SHAKS. *Wint. T.* v. ii. 47 Then haue you lost a Sight which was to bee seene, cannot bee spoken of.

† e. To bespeak; to order. *Obs.*[−1]

1596 SHAKS. *Merch. V.* II. iv. 5 We haue not spoke vs yet of Torch-bearers.

f. With verbal sbs.: To suggest, propose, hint at (doing something).

1586 LD. BURGHLEY in *Leycester Corr.* (Camden) 450 Some spek of namyng the count Morrice. 1611 BIBLE *1 Sam.* xxx. 6 The people spake of stoning him. 1792 BURNS *Duncan Gray* ii, Duncan..Spak o' lowpin' ower a linn.

12. Speak on —. † a. To address or talk to (a person). *Obs.*

? 1370 *Robt. Cisyle* in Halliw. *Nugæ Poet.* (1844) 58 Lowde on hym he began to speke. *c* 1420 *Sir Amadace* (Camden) xxxvii, So come a mon..And speke on him fulle hastely.

† b. = To speak of (see 11 a, b). *Obs.*

1593 SHAKS. *2 Hen. IV*, II. ii. 69 (Q.), I am well spoke on, I can heare it with mine owne eares. 1647 SALTMARSH *Spark. Glory* (1847) 28 The Baptism of Christ..is that one Baptism spoken on in Ephes. 4.

c. To discourse upon (a subject, etc.).

1818 SCOTT *Br. Lamm.* xxix, Mr. Hayston speaks on a subject on which you have long since agreed to give him a favourable hearing. 1876 *Nature* 7 Dec. 128 The Society ..has invited Prof. Nordenskjöld to speak on the Kara Sea and Jenissei.

13. Speak to —. a. To address words or discourse to (a person); to talk to, converse with.

To speak to (see quot. 1837), so as to have conversation or personal acquaintance with one. Freq. in the phr. 'to know (one) to speak to'.

Beowulf 1171 Þu on sælum wes..& to Ȝeatum sprec mildum wordum. *c* 825 *Vesp. Psalter* xlix. 7 [Ic] sprecu to Israhela folce. 971 *Blickl. Hom.* 141 Heo spræc to þæm weorode & cwæþ [etc.]. *c* 1000 *Ags. Gosp.* John x. 25 Ic spece [*c* 1160 speke] to eow & ȝe ne ȝelyfað. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 925 After ðis spac god to abram. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 11964 Sai þou: i der noght til him speke. 1382 WYCLIF *1 Cor.* xiv. 3 He that prophecieth, spekith to men. *c* 1400 *Pilgr. Sowle* (Caxton, 1483) IV. xxiii. 69, I wold haue spoke to them but I ne myght nought. 1528 ROY *Rede me* (Arb.) 118 Thus to the Cardinall he spake. 1581 PETTIE tr. *Guazzo's Civ. Conv.* I. (1586) 13 b, If..you resalute not a friend, he will speake no more to you. *a* 1635 SIBBES *Confer. Christ & Mary* (1656) 15 When he speaks aloof to her, she answereth aloof to him. 1651 HOBBES *Leviath.* III. xxxv. 216 Commanded by a Voice, as one man speaketh to another. 1751 ELIZA HEYWOOD *Betsy Thoughtless* I. 165 What reply she made I do not know, being speaking to Wildly at the same time. 1837 LOWELL *Lett.* (1894) I. 21 How I remember the first time I ever saw you 'to speak to'. 1908 R. BAGOT *A. Cuthbert* xxvi. 342 It was too late that night to speak to her

b. With *of*, *on*, or *about* (a matter, etc.).

c 1200 ORMIN 10466 Þatt fir þatt Sannt Johan Bapptisste Spacc offe to þa sanderrmenn. *c* 1450 LOVELICH *Merlin* 3204 What scholen we don of this mateer That he to vs spak of now heer? 1530 PALSGR. 727/1, I speke to him of my busynes. 1611 BIBLE *1 Sam.* ix. 17 Behold the man whom I spake to thee of. 1737 *Gentl. Mag.* VII. 492, I have ..spoke to the King of England..about your Friend. 1796

H. Hunter tr. *St.-Pierre's Stud. Nat.* (1799) III. 234 They spake to me of the various Works of Nature. **1804** *Med. Jrnl.* XII. 448, I also spoke to the principal surgeons..on the subject of vaccination. **1888** 'J. S. Winter' *Bootle's Childr.* iv, Whatever you wish for, you have only to speak to nurse here about it.

c. *transf.* or *fig.*; esp. to appeal to, to influence, affect, or touch.

1604 Shaks. *Oth.* I. ii. 23 My demerites May speake (vnbonnetted) to as proud a Fortune As this. **1606** — *Ant. & Cl.* I. ii. 188 More vrgent touches Do strongly speake to vs. **1700** Astry tr. *Saavedra-Faxardo* I. 116 b, Elogies inscribed on Tombs, speak not to the Dead, but to the Living. **1734** tr. *Rollin's Anc. Hist.* (1827) II. II. 32 To give a more lively idea of the greatness of the victory, by speaking in some measure to the eye. **1825** T. Hook *Sayings* Ser. II. *Doubts & F.* vii. II. 231 How strongly it speaks to the heart. **1891** Farrar *Darkn. & Dawn* xvi, The actor had *spoken* to them in the eloquence of rhythmic gesture.

d. To apply to (a person) for a special purpose, esp. for help or service; to influence or bribe.

1362 Langl. *P. Pl.* A. v. 130 My Wyf..Spak to þe spinsters for to spinne hit softe. **1535** [see 10 a]. **1610** Shaks. *Temp.* I. i. 3 Good: Speake to th'Mariners. **1669** R. Montagu in *Buccleuch MSS.* I. 430 Their friends having spoke to me to speak for them to the King. **1687** A. Lovell tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* I. 26 If you would have a lodging room there, you must speak to the Porter of the *Han.* *c* **1860** *Household Wds.* (Flügel), When judges were corrupt,..and attorney generals were to be 'spoken to'.

e. To treat of or deal with, to discuss or comment on, (a subject) in speech or writing.

1610 J. Dove *Advt. Seminaries* 42, I desire them therefore..to speake to these foure points. **1637** Heylin *Answ. Burton* 78, For your charges,..I meane to take them..in order, and speake as briefely to them, as you would desire. **1662** Stillingfl. *Orig. Sacræ* II. vi. § 4 Though it be a subject little spoken to either by Jewish or Christian Writers. **1706** Stanhope *Paraphr.* III. 555 Part of this Scripture hath already been spoken to. **1724** Swift *Drapier's Lett.* Wks. 1755 V. II. 110 A lawyer, who speaks to a cause, when the matter hath been almost exhausted by those who spoke before. **1778** Earl Malmesbury *Diaries & Corr.* I. 166 Unprepared as he was for such a proposition, he could not, he said, off-hand, speak to it accurately. **1869** *Daily News* 28 Apr., The report..was spoken to by the Most Rev. Chairman..and the Bishop of Derry. **1880** *Ibid.* 19 Mar. 2/3, I wish to call your attention..to..that allegation, and I shall endeavour to speak to it.

f. To give († or constitute) evidence regarding (a thing); to attest, bear testimony to.

1624 Bp. Mountagu *Immed. Addr.* 201 [These] speake indeed to the practise since it was in beginning. **1774** Mitford *Ess. Harmony Lang.* 195 From the antient Greeks I know of nothing speaking to the sound of the diphthong *ov*. **1776** *Trial Nundocomar* 65/2, I cannot speak to the motions of the army. **1817** Jas. Mill *Brit. India* III. ii. 85 The witness was not allowed to speak to the consultation of that day. **1825** Hazlitt *Spirit of Age* 227 This is a nice criticism, and we cannot speak to its truth. **1888** *Times* (weekly ed.) 2 Nov. 22/4 [He] asked that witnesses might be called to speak to his character.

g. To address with reproof; to admonish.

1753 Miss Collier *Art Torment.* I. ii. (1811) 67 Who, she hopes, on being spoke to, will do so no more. **1872** Jean Ingelow *Off Skelligs* xix, 'Papa,' he exclaimed, in a loud, plaintive voice,..'will you speak to Giles?'

h. *Cant.* To rob (a person or place); to steal.

1799 *Spirit Public Jrnls.* III. 353 Twenty-four highway and footpad robberies,..none of the parties *spoke to* on the road able to swear positively. **1812** J. H. Vaux *Flash Dict.*, To *speak to* a person or place is to rob them, and to *speak to* any article is to steal it.

i. *slang.* (See quot.)

1812 J. H. Vaux *Flash Dict.* s.v. *Spoke*, Upon any great misfortune befalling a man,..his friends will say, Poor fellow, I believe he's *spoke to*, meaning it is all over with him.

j. Of hounds: To give indications of (a fox, scent, etc.) by barking.

1845 Youatt *Dog* iii. 78 When a hound first speaks in cover to a fox. **1883** *Standard* 10 Aug. 2/1 The hounds could not speak to the line.

14. Speak unto —. **a.** To speak to (= 13 a).

c **1386** Chaucer *Nun's Priest's T.* 586 In al his drede vnto the fox he spak. *c* **1400** *Brut* ccxviii. 258 He..spake vnto ham of þe Kyngus honour. **1526** Tindale 1 *Cor.* xiv. 3 He that prophesieth, speaketh vnto men. **1640** Fuller *Abel Redivi., Life Abbot* (1867) II. 292 His majesty spake pleasantly unto him. **1684** Bunyan *Pilgr.* II. (1862) 217 [They were] spoke kindly unto by him. **1839** Bailey *Festus* 136, I speak unto the young, for I am of them.

†b. To discourse upon or deal with (a topic).

1639 Ld. Digby *Lett. conc. Relig.* (1651) 108 The precedency..is pretended due upon another ground also, which I have yet spoke little unto. **1675** J. Owen *Indwelling Sin* x. (1732) 117 These and the like things,..which are commonly spoken unto, is the Mind of a Believer obliged to attend..constantly unto.

15. Speak upon —, to speak about, of, or on. (Cf. 12 b, c.)

1535 Coverdale *Isaiah* xix. 17 Who so doth but speake vpon it, shal put them in feare. **1550** tr. *Senonoys' Godly Saiynge* (1846) 147 The doctrine of the gospell whyche we do professe, shal be evill spoken upon. **1794** Mrs. Radcliffe *Myst. Udolpho* xxxviii, Remember I do not promise ever to speak upon them.

16. Speak with —. **a.** To converse with, talk to; to consult or confer with.

In OE. and early ME. similarly with *mid*.

971 *Blickl. Hom.* 241 He þæt is se þe wiþ me spræc. *c* **1000** Ælfric *Exod.* xxxii. 23 Þa þu..wiþ god spæce. *c* **1200** *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 85 Alse wise hire lerden, þanne hie wiþ hire speken. *a* **1250** *Owl & Night.* 1553 Ne mot no mon wiþ hire speke. *c* **1320** *Sir Tristr.* 811 Wiþ morgan speke wil y And spede. **1426** Audelay *Poems* 19 Ze spekyn with hym in spirit. **1470–85** Malory *Arthur* I. x. 48 They spak with the knyghtes & welcomed hem. **1530** Palsgr. 727/2 He shalbe spoken with towchyng your cause. **1622** in Foster *Eng. Factories Ind.* (1908) II. 10 They both retired themselves to there privacy, soe that wee could not then speake with them. **1675** *City Mercury* 18–25 Nov. 2/1 He [a Physician] is any time to be spoke with from eight in the Morning to four in the Afternoon. **1764** Foote *Patron* III. Wks. 1799 I. 356 Not to be spoke with! Don't tell me, Sir; he must, he shall. **1816** Scott *Old Mort.* xxxvi, Your uncle..has been spoken with, and declines visiting you. **1847** Tennyson *Princ.* II. 58 Not for three years to speak with any men.

fig. **1663** Bp. Patrick *Parab. Pilgr.* xv. (1687) 134 When any temptation desires to speak with you, let the answer be ready, that there is other company within.

b. *Naut.* To hold communication with (another vessel). Cf. 32 b.

1634 Sir T. Herbert *Trav.* 182 The expedition bearing vp to speak with vs, the ships fell foule. **1708** *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4422/7 We made Signal to the Commanding Officer.; that we would speak with him. **1745** P. Thomas *Jrnl. Anson's Voy.* 24 On our speaking with her we found she had sprung her Fore-stay. **1775** Romans *Florida* App. 6, I need not direct seamen how to proceed, in order to speak with any vessel they chance to see.

c. To communicate with (a place). *rare*$^{-1}$.

1659 Pell *Impr. Sea* 275 In Greenland, and Nova Zembla, &c. which onely in Summer-time may bee spoke with.

†d. *Cant.* To have to do with; to steal or rob (cf. 13 h). *Obs.*$^{-0}$

1725 *New Cant. Dict.* s.v., *I will never speak with any thing but Wedge or Cloy*; I'll never steal, or have to do with any thing but Plate, or Money, &c. **1785** Grose *Dict. Vulgar T.* s.v., I spoke with the cull on the cherry coloured prancer, I robbed the man on the black horse.

III. With advs. in special uses.

17. Speak out (cf. 35). **a.** To talk in a loud voice, or so as to be heard distinctly.

1530 Palsgr. 727/2 Speke out that a man may here you. *a* **1533** Ld. Berners *Huon* lxxxiii. 262 Speke out hyer that ye may the better be herde. **1647** Hexham I, To speake out alowd. *Ibid.*, To speak half out, or mumbling. **1712** [see Out *adv.* 11]. **1908** R. Bagot *A. Cuthbert* v. 44 Jim stared at him. 'What did you say?' he asked. 'Oh, nothing! Did I speak out loud?'

b. To talk freely or unreservedly.

To speak out in meeting (U.S.), to express one's opinions freely or openly (Thornton).

1694 T. Brown *Lottery for Ladies & G.* Wks. 1711 IV. 172 Is it not as modest to speak out, as to make broad Signs? **1765** G. Williams in Jesse *Selwyn & Contemp.* (1843) I. 396 Why do not you speak out as to Lord Gower? Is he to come in or not? **1809** *Med. Jrnl.* XXI. 150 But with all who have the courage to speak out, a difficulty remains. **1842** Tennyson *Morte d'Arth.* 150 Speak out: what is it thou hast heard, or seen?

c. To break into speech.

1792 Burns *Country Lassie* i, Out spak a dame in wrinkled eild.

d. To be apparent or evident.

1845–6 Trench *Huls. Lect.* Ser. II. iii. 183 The sense of this speaks out in every arrangement.

†18. Speak over, to say too much, to exaggerate. *Obs.* (Cf. Overspeak *v.*)

1610 A. Cooke *Pope Joan* 87 If you bring not some author for the proofe of this point, you must giue me leaue to thinke you speake ouer. **1626** R. Harris *Hezekiah's Recov.* 4 The Orator spake not over, when hee intimated that Ingratitude was a kinde of Unjustice.

19. Speak together, to hold conference or consultation; to confer.

c **1205** Lay. 3248 Þa ilomp hit..þat þe Scottene king & þe duk speken to gaðere. **1377** Langl. *P. Pl.* B. xv. 270 Monkes and mendynauntz..selden speken togideres. *c* **1400** *New Test.* (Paues) Acts xxvi. 31 [They] wente biside ande speke togieder. *c* **1450** Lovelich *Merlin* 3201 Thanne spoken they to-gederes hem be-twene. **1593** Shaks. *Rich. II*, II. iii. 29 He was not so resolu'd, when we last spake together. **1677** Coles *Eng.-Lat. Dict.* (ed. 17) 1764 To speak together, *colloquor*. **1859** Tennyson *Marr. Geraint* 385 While the Prince and Earl Yet spoke together.

20. Speak up. **a.** To speak strongly *for* (= on behalf of, in defence of) a person.

1705 Hearne *Collect.* 17 Oct. (O.H.S.) I. 57, I spoke up for him. **1844** Dickens *Mart. Chuz.* xliv, It's all very well for you to speak up for him...You'll get a fortune by him.

b. To raise the voice in speaking; to talk boldly or unreservedly; to break into speech.

a **1723** in Child *Ballads* III. 135/2 Speak up, jolly blade, never fear. **1863** Mrs. Wood *Trevlyn Hold* II. 226 Timid Mrs. Chattaway..spoke up to the rescue. **1865** Kingsley *Herew.* i, Out he stepped to your father's side, and spoke right up before the king. **1896** [see Specksioneer].

IV. *trans.* **21.** To articulate or utter (a word or words).

To speak not a word of, to make no mention or suggestion of. *To speak a (good) word for*: see Word *sb.*

Beowulf 341 Wlanc Wedera leod word æfter spræc. 971 *Blickl. Hom.* 31 Se forhwyrfda gast spræc forhwyrfedlice word. *c* **1000** *Ags. Ps.* (Thorpe) lvii. 3 Syððan..heo on life lyge-word spæcon. *c* **1200** *Moral Ode* 9 (Trin. Coll. MS.), Fele idel word ich habbe ispeken. *a* **1300** *Cursor M.* 4342 Ar i ga þou spek wit me a word or tua. *a* **1400–50** *Alexander* 243 Þou a wirschipfull worde has werpid & spoken. **1470–85** Malory *Arthur* XVIII. xx. 761 There they fond..a poure man sittyng in the bargets ende and no word wold he speke. **1542** Udall *Erasm. Apoph.* II. 176 A sorte of the Grekes..spake many woordes of reproche by the kyng. **1611** Bible 2 *Sam.* xix. 10 Why speake ye not a word of bringing the king backe? **1651** Hobbes *Leviath.* III. xxxii. 196 Though the mind be incapable of any Notion at all from the words spoken. **1755** B. Martin *Mag. Arts & Sci.* 13, I will follow, when I have spoke a Word to one of the Millers. **1806** Wordsw. *Horn Egremont Castle* 87 Thou hast a dungeon, speak the word! And there he may be lodged, and thou be Lord. **1885** 'Mrs. Alexander' *At Bay* ix, Elsie followed her into the hall to speak some last words.

b. With cognate accus.: To utter, make, or deliver (a speech or statement).

c **888** K. Ælfred *Boeth.* xxxv. § 5 On ða ilcan spræce þe þu ær spræce. *c* **930** *Laws Athelstane* vi. viii. § 8 (Liebermann I. 180/1), Manige men specað ȝemæhlice spræce. *a* **1300** *K. Horn* 387 He spac faire speche. *c* **1400** *Destr. Troy* 8864 When his speche was spokyn, & sped to þe last. **1590** Shaks. *Mids. N.* III. i. 77 When you haue spoken your speech, enter into that Brake. **1603** — *Meas. for M.* v. 265 One that hath spoke most villanous speeches of the Duke. **1712** Hearne *Collect.* 24 May, He desir'd that he might speak a speech publickly upon that occasion. **1837** Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* I. v. i, Speeches are spoken;..audible within doors and without. **1876** 'L. Carrol' *Hunting the Snark* iv. vii, The rest of my speech..You shall hear when I've leisure to speak it.

c. Similarly with other objects denoting a word, sentence, speech, etc., uttered or recited.

a **1300** *Cursor M.* 23945 Spell yeit i wald spek if i cuth. *c* **1375** *Ibid.* 11616 (Fairf.), Þe propheci..þat spokin was of þat childe dere. *c* **1400** *Rom. Rose* 7519 Thou spak a jape not long ago..Of a young man. **1553** T. Wilson *Rhet.* (1580) 169 Some will speake Oracles, that a manne can not tell whiche waie to take them. **1598** Shaks. *Merry W.* III. v. 75 After we had embrast,..& (as it were) spoke the prologue of our Comedy. **1653** Walton *Angler* 184, I will speak you a copy of verses. **1795** Wolcot (P. Pindar) *Pindariana* Wks. 1812 IV. 245 He made many quotations and spoke them with propriety. **1823** Scott *Quentin D.* xxxii, The last sentence was spoken in a tone which made all the councillors tremble. **1861** Paley *Aeschylus* (ed. 2) *Choeph.* 915 *note*, Orestes..speaks two continuous verses. **1865** Morris *Jason* III. 291 Whose name I speak not.

fig. **1599** B. Jonson *Cynthia's Rev.* II. iii, He speakes all creame, skimd. **1634** Milton *Comus* 804 As when the wrath of Jove Speaks thunder..To som of Saturns crew.

†d. To employ (the voice) in utterance. *Obs.*

1382 Wyclif *Rev.* x. 3 And whan he hadde cried, seuene thundres spaken her voices. *a* **1586** Sidney *Ps.* xviii. iv, Then thundred heav'nly sire, Then spake he his lowd voice.

22. To utter or say (something) by way of a remark or statement.

The object is freq. a pronoun, as *it, this*, etc., or a relative clause introduced by *that* (*which*) or *what*.

Beowulf 531 Hwæt þu worn fela..ymb Brecan spræce. *c* **888** K. Ælfred *Boeth.* xxxviii. § 3 For oðrum ðincgum ic hit spræc ȝet swiðor. 971 *Blickl. Hom.* 19 Eac is to ȝeþencenne hwæt Drihten spræc. *c* **1000** *Ags. Gosp.* Mark xiii. 11 Specað þæt eow on þære tide ȝe-seald bið. *a* **1122** *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1048, Eustatius..spæc wið hine þæt þæt he þa wolde. *c* **1160** *Hatton Gosp.* John xii. 50 Þa þing þe ic sprece ic speke swa se fader me saiȝde. *c* **1205** Lay. 26868 Þis wes al þus ispeken. **13..** *Cursor M.* 19115 (Gött.), Þe apostlis speckand þis and mare, þe preistes come. **1382** Wyclif *Mark* xiii. 11 Speke ȝe that thing that schal be ȝouen to ȝou in that our. **1422** tr. *Secreta Secret., Priv. Priv.* 188 What is that, that thou spekyste. **1582** Allen *Martyrdom Campion* (1908) 47 He was urged..to speake what he thought of the said Bull of Pius Quintus. **1622** Fletcher *Span. Cur.* v. i, I dare tell you..what I have spoken Freely behind your back. *a* **1662** Heylin *Laud* (1668) 378 To speak the matter in a word. **1711** *Spectator* No. 192 ¶ 6 The most indifferent thing has its Force and Beauty when it is spoke by a kind Father. **1780** *Mirror* No. 99, The account he gives of his own feelings..is evidently spoken in earnest. **1830** tr. *Aristophanes' Acharn.* 26 Grant me yet thy pardon, if..I have spoke or triflingly uttered anything. **1871** R. Ellis tr. *Catullus* li. 2 He, if I dare speak it, ascends above them [the Gods].

b. With objective clause: To state or declare *that*, etc.

Beowulf 1595 Gomele ymb godne on ȝeador spræcon, þæt hiȝ þæs æðelinges eft ne wendon [etc.]. *c* **900** tr. *Baeda's Hist.* III. ii. (1890) 156 Ða ȝehyrde he sumne þara broðra sprecan, þæt he wolde feran to þæm halȝan Cristes mæle. **1560** Daus tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 369 Murtherers..which spake it of theyr own mind, that Fernando Gonzage had waged them to slay Octavius. **1611** Shaks. *Cymb.* IV. ii. 354 The ruine speakes, that sometime It was a worthy building. **1663** Gerbier *Counsel* 62 Experience speaks that as times change..prises may alter. **1766** *Complete Farmer* s.v. *Surveying*, The farmer speaks loudly, that..no more should be measured..than the plow or scythe can go over.

c. With superlative adjs. as (*one's*) *best, last.*

a **1632** Donne *Poems* (1650) 59 Here dead men speake their last. **1876** Trevelyan *Macaulay* II. ix. 132 In the set party fights..he did not speak his best.

23. To utter or express (truth, falsehood, etc.) in words or speech.

Beowulf 2864 Þæt la mæȝ secgan, se ðe wyle soð specan [etc.]. *c* **825** *Vesp. Psalter* v. 7 Ðu forspildes hie ða ða spreocað leasunge. *Ibid.* xxvii. 3 Ða ðe spreocað sibbe mid ðone nestan. 971 *Blickl. Hom.* 223 He a to æȝhwylcum soð & riht sprecende wæs. *c* **1000** *Lambeth Ps.* cxliii. 8 Þara muð specende wæs idelnesse. *a* **1225** *Ancr. R.* 82 Ful speche is as of lecherie,..þæt unweaschene muðes spekeð oðer hwule. **13..** *Deo Gratias* 68 in *E. E. P.* (1862) 126 Þenne i rede þou rule þe so þat Men may speke worschupe bi þe. **1382** Wyclif *Jude* 16 The mouth of hem spekith pride. *c* **1400** *Rom. Rose* 7514 For it is better stille be, Than for to speken harme. **1470–85** Malory *Arthur* X. viii. 425 Alle knyghtes speken of hym worship. **1535** Coverdale *Eph.* iv. 15 Speake euery man the trueth vnto his neghboure. **1598** Shaks. *Merry W.* II. i. 129 Beleeue it (Page) he speakes sence. **1646** Crashaw *Steps to Temple* 74 O, 'tis not Spanish, but 'tis heaven she speaks. **1711** Addison *Spect.* No. 35 ¶ 1 If they speak Nonsense, they believe they are talking Humour. *a* **1766** Mrs. F. Sheridan *Nourjahad* (1767) 179 Nothing is more certain..than that Cozro has spoke the truth. **1816** Scott *Bl. Dwarf* xii, My cousin Ellieslaw, who speaks treason as if it were a child's nursery rhymes. **1841** Browning *Pippa Passes* Poems (1905) 169 Do you think I fear to speak the bare truth once for all?

24. With preps.: To utter or direct (words, remarks, etc.) *against*, *to* (also † *on*, *upon*, etc.) a person. Also *fig.*

c 825 *Vesp. Psalter* cviii. 20 Ða ðe spreocað yfel [L. *mala*] wið sawle minre. *c* 1000 *Lambeth Ps.* cviii. 20 Þa þe specaþ yfelu togeanes sawle mine. *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 13 Ne spec þu agein þine nexta nane false witnesse. *a* 1300 *E. E. Psalter* xxvii. 4 Þat spekes pees to neghburgh hisse. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 16495 Þai..sal on me tresun spek. 1338 R. Brunne *Chron.* (1810) 63 Forto..destroie þat kynde, þat ouht to him couth speke. 1535 Coverdale *Ps.* lxxxiv. 8 He shal speake peace vnto his people. *Ibid.* cviii. 20 Those that speake euell agaynst my soule. 1547 *Homilies* I. *Contention* T j b, To suffre euery man to speake vpon me what thei list. 1599 Shaks. *Much Ado* v. i. 21 Men Can..speake comfort to that griefe, Which they themselues not feele. 1603 — *Meas. for M.* v. i. 129 For certaine words he spake against your Grace In your retirment. 1821 Wordsw. *Eccl. Sonnets* III. ii, Last night..that Vision spake Fear to my Soul. 1838 [I. Williams] *Cathedral* 144 Love..Speaks peace to fall'n humanity.

25. To declare in words; to make known by speech; to tell (of).

To speak one's mind: see Mind *sb.*[1] 9 a.

c 825 *Vesp. Psalter* xvi. 4 Dætte..ne sprece muð min wirc monna. *Ibid.* lxxvii. 2 Ic spreocu foresetenisse from fruman weorulde. *c* 1000 *Lambeth Ps.* cxliv. 11 Wuldor rices þines hi cweðaþ..& mihte þine hi specaþ. *c* 1200 Ormin 12965 Forr þatt he wollde beldenn hemm To spekenn þe3re nede. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 24074 Þat es na tung mai speke wit word ..Hu þat vr stur was strang. 1382 Wyclif 1 *Cor.* ii. 7 We speken the wysdom of God, that is hid in mysterie. 1513 *Bk. Keruynge* A iv, Than serue ye forth the table manerly, yᵗ euery man may speke your curtesy. 1595 Shaks. *John* III. i. 39 What other harme haue I..done, But spoke the harme that is by others done? 1611 Tourneur *Ath. Trag.* II. i, Here's one,..saies hee is newly returned from Ostend, and has some businesse of import to speake. 1693 Prior *C'tess Exeter playing on Lute* 17 Your Art no other Art can speak. 1760–72 H. Brooke *Fool of Qual.* (1809) III. 40 You have, in a few words, spoke the whole of the matter. 1812 Crabbe *Tales* iv. 279 Speak, then, my fate. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* I. III. iii, Bound to speak his opinion. 1852 Thackeray *Esmond* II. ii, I spoke my business.

b. To state or declare in writing, etc.

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 48 Þis is nu ðe uorme dole, þet ich habbe ispeken hiderto, of ower seruise. *c* 1449 Pecock *Repr.* I. x. 51 The firste of the iij. opiniouns spoken and sett forth ..in the first chapiter. 1562 Winȝet *Wks.* (S.T.S.) I. 4 Albeit the time be schort, sumthing of ȝour prais man we speik. 1604 E. G[rimstone] *D'Acosta's Hist. Indies* III. iii. 127 Of the West, I cannot speake any thing certaine or generall. 1672 in E. B. Jupp *Carpenters' Co.* (1887) 305 The said Statute..makes no mencion at all nor speakes a tittle of a Joyner. *a* 1763 W. King *Polit. & Lit. Anecd.* (1819) 121, I speak this upon a supposition that Bing [*sic*] was justly put to death. 1849 Rock *Ch. of Fathers* I. viii. (1903) III. 45 The monument itself, with its little chantry altar,..speaks what was his belief while here.

c. *transf.* Of musical instruments: To announce, indicate, or proclaim by sound.

1702 Rowe *Tamerl.* I. i. 120 These Trumpets speak his Presence. 1781 Cowper *Anti-Thelyphth.* 161 The trumpet now spoke Marmadan at hand. 1837 A. Tennent *Force Imag.* 7 In mournful plaints of sorrow now It [*sc.* the pibroch] speaks the battle's close.

26. To use as a language; to talk.

1297 R. Glouc. (Rolls) 7539 Þe normans..speke french as hii dude atom. 1387 Trevisa *Higden* (Rolls) I. 345 Þis Gaythelus kouþe speke many langages and tonges. 1456 Sir G. Haye *Law Arms* (S.T.S.) 22 [He] coude wele speke the langage of Grece and of Latyne. 1530 Palsgr. 727/1 They speke a pedlars frenche amongest them selfe. 1610 Holland *Camden's Brit.* (1637) 596 Welsh and English speaking both languages. 1720 De Foe *Capt. Singleton* xvi. (1840) 281 Can they speak Dutch? 1756 Mrs. Calderwood in *Coltness Collect.* (Maitl. Club) 204 The collonell.. has been over all Europe, and speaks all the languages. 1849 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* vii. II. 225 He knew no language but the English, as it was spoken by the common people. 1910 Haverfield in *Encycl. Brit.* IV. 587/1 By this time the town populations..spoke Latin.

†27. a. To make mention of (a person); to speak of or mention in a certain way; to commend (one) *to* another. *Obs.*

1297 R. Glouc. (Rolls) 2390 Princes oueral aboute of ech kinedom Speke him vuel & hated him. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 12005 Sum him loued and spack o prise. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* iii. (*Andrew*) 975 For men will lichtly speke þe ill. *c* 1449 Pecock *Repr.* II. x. 203 The King .. whom the lesson of prophetis hath bifore spokun. 1613 Shaks. *Hen. VIII*, IV. ii. 32 Yet thus farre Griffith, giue me leaue to speake him, And yet with Charity. 1618 Sir D. Carleton *Lett.* (1775) 259 Who they [the ambassadors] shall be, is not yet fully determined; but count Ernest of Nassau is chiefly spoken. *a* 1657 Loveday *Lett.* (1663) 58, I pray speak me to her in the best Language of affection.

†b. To assign or dedicate. *Obs.*[-1]

1502 *Ord. Crysten Men* (W. de W. 1506) I. ii, All these thynges the whiche be spoken and consecrate unto god.

†c. To bespeak or order. *Obs.*

1508 Stanbridge *Vulgaria* (W. de W.) B v, I haue spoken a payre of shone agaynst sondaye.

†d. To use as a term or phrase. *Obs.*[-1]

1579 E. K. *Gloss. Spenser's Sheph. Cal.* Apr. 118 A beauie of Ladyes, is spoken figuratiuely for a company or troupe.

28. To indicate, denote, or betoken; to reveal, make known.

1588 Shaks. *Tit. A.* I. 438 Lord Titus,..Whose fury not dissembled speakes his griefes. 1608 — *Per.* I. iii. 14 His seal'd commission, left in trust with me, Doth speak sufficiently he's gone to travel. 1662 Stillingfl. *Orig. Sacræ* II. ii. § 7 Two things speak much the wisdom of a Nation; good Laws, and a prudent management of them. 1727 A. Hamilton *New Acc. E. Ind.* I. x. 100 Some Porches and broken Pillars I have seen, that speak their ancient Grandeur. 1770 Goldsm. *Des. Vill.* 122 The loud laugh that spoke the vacant mind. 1812 Byron *Ch. Har.* I. lxxvi, Loud bellowings speak his woes. 1856 Emerson *Eng. Traits, Land*, The solidity of the structures..speaks the industry of ages.

refl. 1850 Carlyle *Latter-d. Pamph.* v. (1872) 166 William the Silent spake himself best in a country liberated.

b. Of the countenance, eyes, etc.: To indicate or manifest by expression.

To speak daggers: see Dagger *sb.* 3 b.

1601 Shaks. *All's Well* I. iii. 185 Thine eies See it so grosely showne in thy behauiours, That in their kinde they speake it. 1666 Dryden *Ann. Mirab.* lxxiii, His face spake hope, while deep his Sorrows flow. 1792 Burns *Duncan Gray* iv, And oh! her een, they spak' sic things! 1820 Keats *Isabella* v, If looks speak love-laws, I will drink her tears. 1859 J. Watson *Bards Border* 78 Her look spoke affection.

†c. *refl.* Of things: To be self-evident. *Obs.* (Cf. 10 e.)

1689 Popple tr. *Locke's 1st Let. Toleration* L.'s Wks. 1727 II. 244 Let us apply the last Case..and the Thing speaks itself. 1693 Dryden *Juvenal* iii. Argt., The Story of this Satyr speaks it self.

29. To manifest or show (a person, thing, etc.) to be or do a certain thing, or to possess a certain quality or character. Const. with simple complement or with *to be*. Now *arch.*

(*a*) 1605 Shaks. *Macb.* IV. iii. 159 Sundry Blessings hang about his Throne, That speake him full of Grace. 1666 Dryden *Ann. Mirab.* xxiii, Men quit the open air, When Thunder speaks the angry Gods abroad. 1709 Steele *Tatler* No. 75 ¶ 3 His whole Person is finely turned, and speaks him a Man of Quality. 1796–7 Jane Austen *Pride & Prej.* (1813) 139 A sudden noise below seemed to speak the whole house in confusion.

(*b*) 1642 Fuller *Holy & Prof. State* II. viii. 79 Which speaks his judgement to be better then his invention. *a* 1701 Maundrell *Journ. Jerus.* (1732) 137 This speaks it self to have been part of some very August Pile. 1774 Goldsm. *Nat. Hist.* (1862) I. xi. 209 Each of which [varieties]..speaks the kind seldom to have mixed with any other. 1808 Helen St. Victor *Ruins of Rigonda* II. 156 His graceful carriage ..spoke him to be a person very different from what his plain garb might naturally denote. 1821 Scott *Pirate* xxii, His acquaintance with the English language..plainly spoke him to be an Englishman.

b. To term or call; to describe as. *rare.*

1617 Fletcher *Valentinian* v. viii, Mays't thou live ever spoken our Protector. 1825 Scott *Talism.* xiv, Report speaks thee one unlikely to return thus from fight.

c. To describe (a person). Now *arch.*

1623 B. Jonson *Underwoods, Celebr. Charis* viii, Make account,..And that quickly, speak your Man. 1662 Cokaine *Trag. Ovid* III. i, You mistake me, I cannot speak her to her merit. 1703 Rowe *Ulyss.* I. i, But be it as it may; it speaks you well. 1780 Cowper *Progr. Error* 460 How shall I speak thee, or thy pow'r address, Thou god of our idolatry, the press? 1819 Scott *Ivanhoe* xxxix, Thou hast spoken the Jew,..as the persecution of such as thou art has made him. 1859 Tennyson *Elaine* 154 To speak him true, ..No keener hunter after glory breathes.

30. To express or signify. Now *rare.*

To speak volumes: see Volume *sb.*

1645 Rutherford *Tryal & Tri. Faith* (1845) 32 Ramhorns speak not taking of towns in an ordinary providence. 1674 N. Fairfax *Bulk & Selv.* 200 And they were so ready to make *World* speak *seculum*, that where we give a much unlike meaning, they still hold to it. 1875 E. White *Life in Christ* II. ix. (1878) 93 Men have compelled the narrative to speak a meaning contrary to its intention.

31. a. To send *to*, to cause to pass or enter *into* (another state, condition, or position) by speaking. Also *refl.* and with adj. complement.

1684 Brook *Precious Remedies* 5 God can speak or nod you to hell in a moment. 1696 Brookhouse *Temple Opened* Pref. A iv, So Now, the same word..comes to speak the Ataxy or Irregularities of the Four Monarchies into..an Harmonious Frame. 1781 Cowper *Expost.* 256 He will be found..Too just to wink, or speak the guilty clear. 1814 Scott *Lord of Isles* IV. xxii, That glance, if guilty, would I dread More than the doom that spoke me dead! 1820 A. A. Watts in Wiffen *Aonian Hours* (ed. 2) p. x, With gratitude thy bosom swelleth To him—who spoke them into birth! 1833 *New Monthly Mag.* XXXVII. 356 He spoke himself into the Common Council.

†b. To create by speaking. *Obs.*[-1] (Cf. 35 c.)

1735 S. Wesley *Hymn*, 'The Lord of Sabbath' iv, 'Twas great to speak the World from Nought, 'Twas greater to redeem.

V. 32. To talk or converse with; to address.

c 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Matt. xii. 46 Soecende spreca him [*L. loqui ei*]. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 3400 Þo cam ietro to moyses, To speken him and þo kinnes-men. *c* 1450 Lovelich *Grail* liv. 28 Welcome..ȝe be, longe haue I desired ȝow to speken & se. 1561 in *Maitl. Cl. Misc.* III. 290 He wald cum to þar chalmer and speik tham. 1581 A. Hall *Iliad* VIII. 140 Thus Hector comforts vp his mates, and speaks his horse. *c* 1690 Kirkton *Hist. Ch Scot.* viii. (1817) 330 The two brethren went and spoke the Lord Stair. 1722 De Foe *Col. Jack* ix, What, do you want to speak with the great master? He can't be spoke by you. 1805 Scott *Last Minstrel* VI. xxvi, Like him of whom the story ran, Who spoke the spectre-hound in Man. 1852 Bailey *Festus* (ed. 4) 331 Speaking him In that instinctive Paradisal tongue.

b. To communicate with (a passing vessel) at sea, by signal, speaking-trumpet, etc. Cf. 16 b.

1792 M. Riddell *Voy. Madeira* 20 We spoke several East Indiamen. 1793 Nelson 11 Oct. in Nicholas *Disp.* (1845) I. 331 Yesterday I spoke a Ship from Gibraltar. 1816 Tuckey *Narr. Exped. R. Zaire* i. (1818) 10 We saw several vessels, but spoke none. 1840 R. H. Dana *Bef. Mast* xxxv, She hove-to for us, seeing that we wished to speak her. 1885 *Times* (weekly ed.) 18 Sept. 14/2 A service of swift yawls..to run out and speak the fishing boats.

transf. 1848 Dickens *Dombey* xxxix, Two or three stragglers..'spoke him'—so the captain entered it—on the subject of spectacles.

33. *To speak* (one) *fair*, to address (a person) courteously or kindly. (Cf. Fair *adv.* 2.)

c 1375 *Cursor M.* 6836 (Fairf.), Speke ham faire wiþ þi moupe. 1533 More *Apol.* 71 b, I am content to..geue them no wors wordes agayn then yf they speke me fayre. 1583 Melbancke *Philotimus* E iij b, They thought it good to.. speake him faire while their feete were in his mouth. 1690 Dryden *Amphitryon* II. ii, Thou wouldst have a woman of the town..to be always speaking my husband fair! 1818 Scott *Hrt. Midl.* xxxiii, I spoke the wretch fair; I appeared to confide in her. 1861 Geo. Eliot *Silas M.* i, He was worth speaking fair, if it was only to keep him from doing you a mischief.

fig. 1669 Dryden *Tyrannic Love* IV. i, Heaven speaks me fair.

b. With other advs.

1871 Browning *Balaust.* 1562 If thou speak us ill Many a true and ill thing shalt thou hear! 1872 Tennyson *Gareth & Lynette* 470 Lancelot ever spake him pleasantly.

VI. With advs. in special senses.

†34. Speak forth, to utter, declare, proclaim.

1526 Tindale *Matt.* xiii. 35, I wyll..speake forth thinges whych have bene kepte secrete from the begynnynge off the worlde. 1611 Bible *Acts* xxvi. 25, I..speake foorth the words of trueth and sobernesse. 1674 N. Fairfax *Bulk & Selv.* 191 It would not..more fully speak forth its boundlessness. 1730 Bailey (fol.), *To Utter*, to pronounce or speak forth.

35. Speak out (cf. 17). **a.** To utter; to make known in words; to declare openly or clearly.

1382 Wyclif *Acts* xxvi. 25, I speke out the wordus of treuthe and sobrenesse. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 468/1 Spekyn owte, *exprimo*. *c* 1449 Pecock *Repr.* III. x. 339 That he meened so myche bi hise..wordis, thou3 he not alle hem out spake. 1602 Shaks. *Ham.* II. ii. 545 'Tis well, Ile haue thee speake out the rest, soone. 1648 J. Beaumont *Psyche* II. clxiv, I'll make his Dumbness find a Tongue To speak out his imposture. 1676 [see Mind *sb.*[1] 9 a]. 1815 Scott *Guy M.* xii, You will often hear it mentioned... I will therefore speak it out. 1855 Thackeray *Newcomes* II. xxi. 209, I have no right..to hear him speak out his heart, and tell it to any friend. 1889 Jessopp *Coming of Friars* i. 42 Henry..spoke out his mind and showed that he was not too well-pleased.

b. Of things: To declare, manifest, etc.

1613 Shaks. *Hen. VIII*, II. iv. 140 If thy rare qualities.. could speake thee out. 1675 Brooks *Gold. Key* Wks. 1867 V. 175 Now what do all these things speak out, but the certainty and reality of Christ's manhood? 1715 Chappelow *Rt. Way to be Rich* (1717) 52 He is the highest bidder, and this speaks him out to be the greatest merchant.

c. *poet.* To create by speaking. *rare.* (Cf. 31 b.)

1635–56 Cowley *Davideis* I. 783 They sung how God spoke out the worlds vast ball. 1844 Mrs. Browning *Drama of Exile* 1055, I am the spirit of the harmless earth. God spake me softly out among the stars.

d. To talk out (see Talk *v.* 9).

1893 *Westm. Gaz.* 30 Mar. 2/3 He spoke with the obvious intention of speaking out the Bill.

36. *Comb.* **Speak-a-word room,** *Sc.* (see quots.); **speak-easy,** *U.S. slang*, a saloon where liquor is sold without license; **† speak-room,** = Speak-house I; **† speak-truth,** one who tells the truth.

1614 R. Tailor *Hog hath lost Pearl* in Dodsley *O. Pl.* (1780) VI. 427 But I do trouble thee too much, therefore Good Speak-truth, farewel. 1756 Mrs. Calderwood in *Coltness Collect.* (Maitland Club) 175 The nuns..said they never wore it but when they came to the speak-room. 1825 Jamieson *Suppl., Speak-a-Word-Room*, a parlour. 1839 Chambers *Tour Holland* 23/1 Then we were whirled down again into a little speak-a-word room. 1889 *Voice* (N.Y.) 14 Nov., Hundreds of unlicensed dealers in both cities continued to run under the names of 'clubs' and 'speak-easies'.

Speakable (spī·kăb'l), *a.* Also 5 **spekabylle,** 6 **spe(a)keable.** [f. Speak *v.* + -able.]

1. That may or can be spoken; fit or possible to be expressed in speech.

1483 *Cath. Angl.* 353/1 Spekabylle, *effabilis*. *Ibid.* 379/1 Tellabylle, *vbi* spekabylle. 1545 Ascham *Toxoph.* I. (Arb.) 56 Heaping othes upon othes, one in a nothers necke, moost horrible and not spekeable. 1587 Fleming *Cont. Holinshed* III. 1318/1 Pining with more than speakeable passions. *a* 1684 Leighton *Comm. 1 Pet.* Wks. (1859) 32/2 The best worldly joys are easily speakable. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* III. VI. iii, If no speakable charge exist against a man. 1889 F. M. Crawford *Greifenstein* II. xiv. 112 This creature for whom no speakable name could be found.

† 2. Having the power of speech; able to speak. *Obs. rare.*

1667 Milton *P. L.* IX. 563 Redouble then this miracle, and say, How cam'st thou speakable of mute? 1676 Macb *Musicks Mon.* 109 It will seem to speak the word Tut, so plainly, as if it were a Living Creature, Speakable.

Hence **Speakably** *adv.*

1845 Mrs. Browning *Lett.* (1899) I. 4 Mr. Kenyon—who most unspeakably, or only speakably with tears in my eyes —has been my friend.

Speaker (spī·kəɹ). Forms: 4–6 **speker,** 4–5 **-ere,** 5 **spekar, speiker,** 6 **spiker,** 6– **speaker.** [f. Speak *v.* + -er. Cf. OFris. *(for)spreker* (WFris. *sprekker*, NFris. *spreeker, spreeger*), MDu. (Du.) and MLG. (LG.) *spreker*, OHG. *sprehhari, -eri* (MHG. *sprechære*, G. *sprecher*).]

1. One who speaks or talks.

1303 R. Brunne *Handl. Synne* 8291 Þe foule wurde þe speker dereþ. 1388 Wyclif *Ezek.* iii. 1, Y herde the vois of a spekere. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 5085 In speche may men spie the speker to know. 1485 Caxton *Chas. Gt.* 27 Whan one

spake to hym, he remembred the manere for to compryse thentencyon of the spekar. 1542 Udall *Erasm. Apoph.* II. 260 b, It was laied..against hym, that he was a speaker of euill by Cæsar. 1565 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* I. 394 Thair Majesteis sall require the spekar and delatar to gif his complaint or narratioun in writt. 1605 Shaks. *Macb.* IV. iii. 175 *Malc.* What's the newest griefe? *Rosse.* That of an houres age, doth hisse the speaker. 1651 Hobbes *Leviath.* III. xxxvi. 222 It may bee understood sometimes of the Speaker. 1725 Watts *Logic* I. iv. § 3 It implies both the Falshood of the Speech, and my Reproach and Censure of the Speaker. 1781 Cowper *Hope* 345 All speakers, yet all language at a loss. 1832 Brewster *Nat. Magic* vii. 162 The real speaker was a full-grown woman. 1863 Geo. Eliot *Romola* II. viii, She started up with anger in her eyes, and faced the speaker.

b. *spec.* One who speaks formally before a number of persons; one who addresses an audience; an orator.

c 1400 *New Test.* (Paues) Acts xiv. 11 þei called..Poule Mercurye, for he was ledar ande spekar of þo worde. *a* 1533 Ld. Berners *Huon* lxxxii. 254 'Syr,' quod Gaulter, who was ye fyrst speker, 'me thynke he can scape none other wyse.' 1599 Shaks. *Hen. V*, v. ii. 166 What? a speaker is but a prater, a Ryme is but a Ballad. 1780 *Mirror* No. 102, Some of our public speakers. 1828 Whately *Rhet.* in *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) I. 262/1 The sentiments..which it is so important that the audience should feel towards the Speaker. 1855 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* xxii. IV. 744 He.. had scarcely taken his seat when he attained a high place among parliamentary speakers. 1891 Farrar *Darkn. & Dawn* xvii, When the speaker's voice ceased, a burst of applause came from the lips of the hearers.

2. With distinguishing adjs.: **a.** Denoting moral character, tendency to talk, or manner of speaking, as *evil, fair, false, great, hasty, short*, etc.

a 1340 Hampole *Psalter* xxvi. 18 A wickid spekere delited is in his leghe. 1388 Wyclif *Job* xvi. 9 A fals spekere is reisid agens my face. *a* 1450 tr. *De Imitatione* II. i. 41 Crist had aduersaries & suffrid shrewde spekers. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 353/2 A schort Speker, *micrologus*. A grete Speker, ..*grandiloquus*. 1570 Levins *Manip.* 212 Great speaker, *loquax*. 1611 Bible *Ps.* cxl. 11 Let not an euill speaker bee established in the earth. 1656 Blount *Glossogr.* s.v. *Sphinx*, His unarticulate voice like that of a hasty speaker. 1784 Cowper *Task* IV. 66 The modest speaker is asham'd and griev'd T'engross a moment's notice.

b. Denoting ability (or the want of it) in the use of speech. † *Fair speaker*, an orator.

c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xxxi. (*Eugenia*) 130 Quhat poetis seis, or fare spekaris. 1387 Trevisa *Higden* (Rolls) IV. 141 Þat was a noble spekere in all manere tonges of wit and of wisdom, and cheef spekere wiþ tonge. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 3806 A freike þat was fre, and a feire speiker. *c* 1440 *Alph. Tales* 236 A passand fayr man & a riche, & ane eloquent speker. 1484 Caxton *Fables of Alfonce* vii, A rethoryque man or fayr speker. 1613 Shaks. *Hen. VIII*, I. ii. 111 The Gentleman is Learn'd, and a most rare Speaker. 1720 Pope *Iliad* xix. 86 Unruly murmurs, or ill-timed applause, Wrong the best speaker, and the justest cause. 1778 Miss Burney *Evelina* lxxvii, We of the Lower House..have likewise the most able speakers. 1831 Sir J. Sinclair *Corr.* II. 108 The Count de Villele was not only an able speaker, but a real statesman. 1865 Dickens *Lett.* (1880) II. 247 Almost the worst speaker I ever heard in my life. 1871 R. Ellis tr. *Catullus* xlix. 1 Greatest speaker of any born a Roman, Marcus Tullius.

3. The member of the House of Commons who is chosen by the House itself to act as its representative and to preside over its debates. Also called *Mr. Speaker* and † *Speaker-forth*.

In 1376–7 Sir Thomas de Hungerford, app. the first person formally mentioned as holding the office, 'avoit les paroles pur les Communes d'Engleterre en cest Parlement' (*Rolls of Parlt.* II. 374/1).

c 1400 *Brut* 330 Þis same Piers was chosen to be speker for the communes in þe parlement. 1414 *Rolls of Parlt.* IV. 22 The sentence & the entente axked by the Speker mouthe. *c* 1435 *Chron. Lond.* (1905) 50 Sir John Cheyne excusid him ffor the Speker fforth ffor the Comvnes, ffor dyuers Infirmites..that he hadde. *a* 1513 Fabyan *Chron.* VII. (1811) 486 Wherfore the sayde commons prayed by the mouth of theyr speker [etc.]. *a* 1577 Sir T. Smith *Commw. Eng.* II. ii. (1584) 40 The speakers office is as brieflie and as plainely as he may to declare the effect thereof to the house. 1641 *King's Sp. to Parlt.* 2 Dec., It is no ways in Answer to Master Speakers learned Speech. 1654 Whitelock *Mem.* (1732) 52 [The king] himself entred into the house; at which the speaker rose out of his chair, and stood below. 1707 J. Chamberlayne *Pres. St. Gt. Brit.* I. II. (1708) 114 Before the choice of a Speaker, all the Members of the House of Commons take the Oaths of Allegiance and Supremacy. 1741 *Johnson's Debates* (1787) II. i. 4 The new House of Commons being met, the Usher came from the House of Lords, with His Majesty's commands for their immediate attendance, when they were ordered to chuse a Speaker. 1818 *Evans' Parl. Deb.* 16 On a message from the lords, Mr. Speaker and several members attended to hear the speech of the lords commissioners read by the Lord Chancellor. 1840 *Penny Cycl.* XVII. 274/2 As yet he is only Speaker elect, and as such presents himself on the following day, in the house of lords. 1901 Courtney *Working Const. U. K.* 90 If any vacancy occurs whilst Parliament is in existence, a writ is issued by Mr. Speaker.

fig. 1589 R. Harvey *Pl. Perc.* (1860) 7 The chiefe actor in the pageant of my braine, and high speaker in the Parlament of my deuise. 1597 Shaks. 2 *Hen. IV*, IV. ii. 18 The Speaker in his Parliament; .. th'imagine Voyce of Heauen it selfe.

b. More fully in *Speaker of (the) Parliament*.

1460 Capgrave *Chron.* (Rolls) 230 It was answerd be Petir de la Mar, Kuyte, and Speker of the Parlement. *a* 1500 *Bale's Chron.* in *Six Town Chron.* (1911) 136 And the comones chosen Sir William Oldhall Knight wt þe duk of york speker of the parliament. 1565 Cooper *Thesaurus*, *Demiurgus*,..an officer that proposed all thinges to the people whervpon they should intreate: as the speaker of the parliament amonge vs. 1696 Phillips (ed. 5), *Speaker of the Parliament*, an Officer in that High Court, who is as it were the common mouth of all the rest.

c. The presiding officer or chairman of the House of Lords, now the Lord Chancellor, or one acting as his deputy or substitute. Also † *Lord Speaker*.

1660 Pepys *Diary* 26 April, I hear, that about twelve of the Lords met and had chosen my Lord of Manchester Speaker of the House of Lords. 1687 Miège *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II. s.v., The one [is] termed the Lord Speaker of the House of Peers, and the other the Speaker of the House of Commons. 1707 J. Chamberlayne *Pres. St. Gt. Brit.* (1710) 96 The Lord Chancellor or Keeper (who usually is Speaker of the House of Lords). 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XIII. 761/2 The speaker of the house of lords..is the lord chancellor,..or any other appointed by the king's commission [etc.]. 1867 *Chambers's Encycl.* IX. 24/2 The Speaker of the Lords may speak or vote on any question. 1891 *Law Times* XCII. 123/2 The Lord Chancellor need not be a member of the House of Lords of which he is the Speaker.

d. A similar president in other assemblies.

1656 Blount *Glossogr.*, *Prolocutor*, .. the Speaker or Chair-man of each Convocation-house, or of a Synod, is so termed. 1728 S. Jeake *Charters Cinque Ports* 91 In both these Courts,..the Head Officer..sits as Chief, and is called in Speeches addressed to him Mr. Speaker. 1789 *Constit. U. S.* I. § 2 The house of representatives shall choose their speaker and other officers.

4. One who speaks in place of, or on behalf of, another or others.

1583 Melbancke *Philotimus* G j, Princes you know in parliament houses haue their speakers, to declare their pleasures, and ease themselues. 1782 J. Brown *Nat. & Rev. Relig.* II. ii. (1796) 129 He is the great Speaker for us to God, in his ancient engagements and his continual intercession.

5. One who proclaims or celebrates. *rare*$^{-1}$.

1613 Shaks. *Hen. VIII*, IV. ii. 70 After my death, I wish ..No other speaker of my liuing Actions,..But such an honest Chronicler as Griffith.

6. As a title of books containing pieces adapted for recitation or reading aloud.

1774 W. Enfield (*title*), The Speaker; or, miscellaneous Pieces, selected from the best English Writers. 1858 Simmonds *Dict. Trade, Speaker*,..a book for school-reading. 1879 Webster *Suppl.*, *Speaker*, a book containing selected pieces for declamation. (U.S.)

7. As second element: One who speaks a particular language.

1899 *Daily News* 2 Oct. 6/4 A population of industrial English-speakers;..a population of pastoral Dutch-speakers.

Speakeress (spī·kərés). [f. prec. + -ess.] A female speaker; a woman acting as a president or Speaker.

1781 *Westm. Mag.* IX. 16 Here the 'Speakeress' was again obliged to call 'to order'. 1831 *Lincoln Herald* 14 Oct. 3/6 The dowager Duchess of Richmond is the Speakeress, and Lady Jersey first clerk at the table. 1831 Carlyle in Froude *Life* (1882) II. 177, I sate directly behind a speakeress with tongues. 1897 *Westm. Gaz.* 4 Feb. 2/1 With men and women on the Treasury Bench, and, perhaps, a Speakeress in the chair.

Spea·kership. [f. Speaker + -ship.]

1. The office of Speaker in a legislative or other assembly.

1653 in S. Jeake *Charters Cinque Ports* (1728) 91 Whereas by septennary Revolution the Speakership of the Ports is now devolved upon us. 1803 G. Rose *Diaries* (1860) II. 35 Unless he could be prevailed with to take the Speakership of the House of Lords, separated from the Great Seal. 1844 Jesse *Selwyn & Contemp.* IV. 379 Charles Wolfran Cornwall, Esq., whose appointment to the Speakership of the House of Commons is mentioned .. in this letter. 1883 *Harper's Mag.* Feb. 371/1 It was an easy and natural promotion to the Speakership of the Imperial Diet.

2. Oratory.

1887 Saintsbury *Manchester* 149 There was room for all kinds of Speakership in the great campaign of the League.

† **Spea·kful,** *a. Obs.*$^{-1}$ In 3 spekeful. [f. Speak *v.* + -ful. Cf. OE. *sprǽcful*.] Talkative.

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 100 Þis is a cruel word..þet vre Louerd seið..to babelinde, & to spekefule ancren.

Speak-house. [f. Speak *v.* + House *sb.* Cf. the earlier *speech-house*.]

† **1.** A room, in a convent or monastery, where conversation was permitted or visitors received; the parlour. *Obs.*

c 1650 in J. Morris *Troubles Cath. Forefathers* (1872) 275 Those Cloisters of this Order..did sometimes invite them to dinner, and made great cheer with plenty of wine in their speakhouse. 1762 B. F. E. tr. *Marin's Perf. Relig.* 5 What can be thought of a Religious who runs with eagerness ..to the Speak-house, whenever called.

2. In the South Sea Islands, a large hut used as a place of council.

1893 Stevenson *Island Nights' Entert.* 4 Getting tabooed, and going down to the Speak House to see and get it taken off. 1901 G. Balfour *Life Stevenson* II. iv. 80 A large 'speak-house' at Tuagana, some two hours' sail down the coast.

Speaking (spī·kiŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. Speak *v.*]

1. The action of the verb; talking, discoursing.

1303 R. Brunne *Handl. Synne* 8285 3yt þer ys spekyng of vylaynye þat longeþ vnto lecherye. 1375 Barbour *Bruce* III. 181 Sic speking off the king thai maid. *c* 1440 *Alph. Tales* 228 He..dischargid þaim þe company & spekyng with of any strangiers. *c* 1470 Henry *Wallace* VIII. 1507 Sone thai war brocht to spekyng to Wallace. 1523 Ld. Berners *Froiss.* I. cxxiii. 148 They fledde away as ferr as they might here spekyng of thenglysshmen. 1630 *R. Johnson's Kingd. & Commw.* 10 From the South hath scarce ever beene attempted a journey worth speaking of, to the indammagement of the North. 1691 T. H[ale] *Acc. New Invent.* p. cx, These very words of the Captains speaking were Noted down from his Mouth by the Person to whom he spake them. 1780 *Mirror* No. 88, A young gentleman, who, from his correct manner of speaking, I suppose practised the law. 1825 Scott *Talism.* xviii, Within an hour from the time of my speaking. 1845 Clough *New Sinai* vi. Poems (1849) 25 The Voice, Whose speaking spoke abroad..The ancient Truth of God.

b. The delivery of speeches; speech-making.

a 1763 W. King *Polit. & Lit. Anecd.* (1819) 181 *note*, Indeed our methodists and our enthusiasts of all denominations pretend to the gift of speaking. 1828 Whately *Rhet.* in *Encycl. Metrop.* I. 241/1 It is evident that in its primary signification, Rhetoric had reference to public Speaking alone. 1847 Helps *Friends in C.* I. i. 63 That you would not be so bitter against after-dinner speaking.

2. With possessive prons., etc.: Speech, talk; conversation, discourse.

a 1325 *Prose Psalter* cxviii. 50 Þi spekyng quikened me. 1375 Barbour *Bruce* I. 428 Gyff thow wald kep thi fewte, Thow maid nane sic speking to me. *c* 1400 *Laud Troy Bk.* 2810 He toke then leue at qwene Eleyne, Off here spekyng he was fayne. *c* 1460 *Towneley Myst.* xviii. 190 Sich spekyng will we spare. 1876 Morris *Sigurd* (1877) 7 So sweet his speaking sounded. 1885 *Athenæum* 17 Oct. 501/2 He was obliged..to mingle some plain political speaking..with his ethical teaching.

b. An instance or occasion of speech or talk; a discourse, † conference, discussion, etc.

c 1275 Lay. 12988 þo comen to Londene alle þeos Bruttes to one speking. 1338 R. Brunne *Chron.* (1810) 301 In alle þis spekyng com þe tresorere Fro Edward our kyng. 1389 in *Eng. Gilds* (1870) 52 Also it was ordeynd..for to haue a spekyng to-geydr thre tymes in þe 3er. 1481 Caxton *Reynard* xvii. (Arb.) 43 Assone as this spekyng was don. 1492 — *Vitas Patr.* (W. de W. 1495) II. 184/2 The good relygyous..was enfourmed of this spekyng. 1611 Shaks. *Cymb.* v. iv. 148 'Tis still a Dreame: or else..a speaking such As sense cannot vntye. 1650 Cromwell *Let.* 12 Sept. in Carlyle *Lett. & Sp.*, A speaking to instruction and edification. 1837 Dickens *Pickw.* xxxiii, That she was the mother of eight children at that present speaking. 1844 Mrs. Browning *Lady Geraldine's Courtsh.* xii, When a sudden silver speaking, gravely cadenced, over-rung them.

† **c.** *pl.* Things spoken; sayings, statements, words. *Obs.*

a 1325 *Prose Psalter* cxviii. 11 Ich hidde þy spekynges in myn hert. 1390 Gower *Conf.* I. 49, I mot algate..make my spekynges Of love. *c* 1400 tr. *Secreta Secret., Gov. Lordsh.* 42 By tokyns & ensamples, & lyke spekynges. 1535 Coverdale *Dan.* viii. 23 A kynge..which shall be wyse in darcke speakinges. 1578 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* III. 16 To credeit the reportis and speikingis of the saidis personis. 1653 H. More *Def. Cabbala* 177 To understand the speakings of God, according as the circumstances of the Matter naturally imply.

3. a. With adjs., as *evil, fair, great, wise*, etc.

1340 *Ayenb.* 50 Ine zenne of kueade tonge, þet is in fole spekinge. *a* 1400 *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* 533/159 Whon he þe makeþ feirest spekyng þen drede þou most his dedes suwyng. 1486 *Bk. St. Albans* e iij, For all the fayre spekyng..Commyth of sechyng and fyndyng of the hare. 1535 Coverdale *Ephes.* iv. 31 Let all bytternes, ..roaringe, & cursed speakynge [1611 euill speaking] be farre from you. 1605 Shaks. *Macb.* IV. iii. 130 My first false speaking Was this vpon my selfe. 1611 Bible 1 *Pet.* ii. 1 Laying aside all malice,..and enuies, and euill speakings. 1721 Bailey, *Malediction*, an Evil Speaking or cursing.

b. With advs., as *evil, soft, thick*, etc.

1530 Palsgr. 274/1 Spekyng toguyder, *locution*. 1580 Hollyband *Treas. Fr. Tong, Abbaissement de voix*, a speaking soft. 1597 Shaks. 2 *Hen. IV*, II. iii. 24 And speaking thicke (which Nature made his blemish) Became the Accents of the Valiant. 1639 Drumm. of Hawth. *Prophecy* Wks. (1711) 180 If the speaking evil of a King be a Sin before God. 1736 Ainsworth II, *Pronunciatio*,..a speaking out, or delivery of a speech.

† **4.** The faculty or power of speech. *Obs.*

c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xii. (*Matthias*) 386 Defe men he gaf herynge, alsa to dum þe spekyne. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 140 Though the frere minour gyue syght to ye blynde,..to the domme spekyng.

5. *attrib.*, as *speaking acquaintance, distance, exercise, part, point, room, voice*, etc.

1687 Miège *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II. s.v., This Book is a great Help both for the speaking and the reading part. 1751 *Female Foundling* II. 47 Immediately I went down into the Speaking-room [=parlour]. 1852 Bristed *Five Yrs. Eng. Univ.* (ed. 2) 289 And our acquaintance with the tongue of Dante never became, to borrow a very old Joe Miller, a speaking acquaintance. 1860 Adler *Prov. Poet.* x. 216 Rudiger has already arrived within speaking distance of the enemy. 1870 Emerson *Soc. & Solit.* iv. 55 The eloquence of one stimulates all the rest, some up to the speaking-point. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* III. 355 Graduated and methodical speaking exercises.

b. In combs. denoting devices or apparatus for producing or conveying articulate sounds, as *speaking-apparatus, battery, board, -machine, -pipe, telephone*, † *trump*, etc.; **speaking front**, an organ-front composed of pipes which actually sound, as contrasted with dummy pipes. See also Speaking-trumpet, -tube.

a 1711 Ken *Hymns Festiv.* Poet. Wks. 1721 I. 315 Up then I saw an Angel take His Speaking-Trump. 1795 *Phil. Trans.* LXXXV. 401 By means of the speaking-pipe the workman may be directed to begin, to stop, to go fast, or slow. 1832 Brewster *Nat. Magic* vii. 159 It has been supposed..that in the ancient speaking-machines the deception is effected by means of ventriloquism. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* I. VI. i, Not a unit of whom but has..his own

speaking-apparatus. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXIV. 154/1 Speaking-pipes, or tubes to convey the voice from one place to another. 1879 PRESCOTT *Sp. Telephone* 44 During the past year the articulating or Speaking Telephone has attracted very general interest. 1881 W. E. DICKSON *Pract. Organ-building* iv. 53 It is by these means that 'speaking fronts' are arranged according to any design.

c. *On (upon;* † *in) speaking terms*: see TERM *sb.* 9 a. (Usually in negative constructions.)

1786 MACKENZIE *Lounger* No. 78 ₱ 2 One half of the neighbours are scarce in speaking terms with the other. 1853 DICKENS *Bleak Ho.* xi, Mrs. Perkins, who has not been for some weeks on speaking terms with Mrs. Piper. 1882 'EDNA LYALL' *Donovan* xli, He was no longer on speaking terms with Stephen.

Speaking (spī·kiŋ), *ppl. a.* [f. SPEAK *v.*]

1. That speaks; capable of articulate speech. † In early use *absol.*

c 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 2821 Quo made domme, and quo specande? 1382 WYCLIF *Ezek.* iii. 1 A vois of the spekynge. 1568 *Satir. Poems Reform.* xlvii. 102 Callit ane speikand devill. 1685 BOYLE *Eng. Notion Nat.* iv. 84 Of some such sort of speaking images, some learned criticks suppose the Teraphim..to have been. 1740 J. DYER *Ruins Rome* (1903) 33 Historic urns and breathing statues rise, And speaking busts. 1778–81 WARTON *Hist. Eng. Poetry* xxvii. (1870) 452 The public pageants of this period..received..the addition of speaking personages. 1832 BREWSTER *Nat. Magic* i. 4 The speaking head which uttered its oracular responses at Lesbos. 1865 TYLOR *Early Hist. Man.* ii, 19 So the speaking man has no business to meddle with the invention of signs. 1883 *Encycl. Brit.* XV. 208/1 The philosopher Descartes made a speaking figure.

fig. 1549 *Compl. Scot.* xiii. 108 Ther is ane ald prouerb that says, that ane herand damysele, and ane spekand castel, sal neuyr end vith honour. 1644 J. BULWER (*title*), Chirologia; or the Natvrall Langvage of the Hand. Composed of the Speaking Motions, and Discoursing Gestures thereof.

b. As the second element of various combs., as *evil-, fair-, great-, public-, true-, well-speaking.* † Also *absol.*

a 1325 *Prose Psalter* xliii. 18 Fram þe voice of þe reproce-and and þe oşains spekand. ? *a* 1366 CHAUCER *Rom. Rose* 1268 A knyght..That worthy was and wel spekyng. 1388 WYCLIF *Ps.* xi. 4 The Lorde destrie..the greet spekynge tunge. 1422 tr. *Secreta Secret., Priv. Priv.* 211 That he bene corteyse, wel Spekynge, and eloquente. 1570–6 LAMBARDE *Peramb. Kent* (1826) 290 The opinion of any one true speaking man. 1611 COTGR. s.v. *Pendu*, A smooth, glib, eloquent, or well speaking tongue. 1647 CLARENDON *Contempt. on Ps.* Tracts (1727) 517 To grapple with our fair-speaking adversaries. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. VII. iii, The public-speaking woman at the Palais Royal.

c. In objective combs. with names of languages.

1865 KINGSLEY *Herew.* Prel., French-speaking knights. 1873– [see ENGLISH *a.* C]. 1899 MACKAIL *W. Morris* I. 179 Among Greek-speaking people.

2. In various fig. and transf. senses; *esp.* expressive, significant, eloquent.

c 1586 C'TESS PEMBROKE *Ps.* XLV. i, Thie lipps, as springs, doe flowe with speaking grace. 1635 JACKSON *Creed* VIII. XXXI. 358 A prophecie or speaking picture that the victory..should be accomplishte upon the crosse. 1653 R. FLECKNOE *Poems of all Sorts* 1 Still borne Silence,..Admirations speakingst Tongue. 1722 DE FOE *Plague* (1884) 84 'Tis a speaking Sight. 1730 T. BOSTON *Mem.* ix, This recovery..seemed to be speaking as to the point I was concerned about. 1813 SHELLEY *Q. Mab* IV. 3 The balmiest sigh..Were discord to the speaking quietude That wraps this moveless scene. 1853 HUMPHREYS *Coin-coll. Man.* I. 262 Supposed to have been adopted as a speaking type. 1876 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* V. xxii. 40 The same is of itself a speaking witness to their permanence.

b. Of the eyes, countenance, etc.: Highly expressive.

1592 *Arden of Feversham* I. 259 Loue is the Painters Muse, That makes him frame a speaking countenaunce. 1602 *Kyd's Span. Trag.* III. Wks. (1901) 68 With a speaking looke to my sonne Horatio. 1631 P. FLETCHER *Piscatory Eclog.* II. XX. (1633) 12 Me thinks I heare thy speaking eye Woo me my posting journey to delay. 1726 POPE *Odyss.* XVII. 438 With speaking eyes, and voice of plaintiff sound. 1740 RICHARDSON *Pamela* (1824) I. xxiii. 35 Can the pretty image speak, Mrs. Jervis? I vow she has speaking eyes! 1826 DISRAELI *V. Grey* III. vi, One who takes her answer.. from the speaking lineaments of the face, which are Truth's witnesses. 1842 Is. WILLIAMS *Baptistery* II. XXVIII. (1874) 145 Expression varies still each speaking glance. 1885 'MRS. ALEXANDER' *At Bay* ii, Elsie was silent, but a distressed look crept over her speaking face.

3. Of likeness, etc.: Striking; true; faithful.

1582 STANYHURST *Æneis* I. (Arb.) 40 His face goodlye roset, with speaking forgerye feigned. 1844 KINGLAKE *Eothen* xviii, Anybody..could still draw a speaking, nay scolding, likeness of Keate. 1862 P'CESS ALICE *Mem.* (1884) 40 A most beautiful picture of the Grand Duchess Hélène—quite speaking.

4. *Speaking demurrer*: (see quot.).

1887 *Cassell's Encycl. Dict., Speaking-demurrer*, Law, a demurrer in which new facts not appearing upon the face of a bill in equity were introduced to support a demurrer.

5. *Speaking-flame lamp*, a safety lamp which announces the presence of explosive gas by giving out a peculiar sound.

1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-m.* 230.

Spea·kingly, *adv.* [f. prec. + -LY 2.] In a speaking or eloquent manner; strikingly.

1633 BROME *Antipodes* (1640) v. 4 A Mute is one that acteth speakingly, And yet sayes nothing. 1746 HERVEY *Medit.* (1818) 250 How solemnly they recognize the fate of others, and speakingly remind us of our own. 1765 H. WALPOLE *Otranto* iv. (1798) 75 The judgments which the portents of these days but too speakingly denounce against thy house. 1831 *Fraser's Mag.* IV. 286 It is surprisingly clever, and speakingly characteristic.

So **Spea·kingness**. *rare.*

1851 J. BROWN *Lett.* (1907) 94 Such a voice for..sweetness, and power—and a certain speakingness.

Speaking-trumpet. (Also unhyphened.) [SPEAKING *vbl. sb.* 5 b.] A kind of trumpet (chiefly used at sea), so contrived as to carry the voice to a great distance, or to cause it to be heard above loud noises.

1671 SIR S. MORLAND *Tuba Stentoro-phonica* Title-p., The instruments (or Speaking-Trumpets) of all sizes [etc.]. 1671 *Phil. Trans.* VI. 3056 An Account of the Speaking Trumpet, as it hath been contrived and published by Sir Sam. Moreland Knight and Baronet. 1680 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1520/1 The Twelfth at night, Captain St. Johns, by the help of the Speaking Trumpet, called to us. 1709 *Ibid.* No. 4506/2 They were told (by a Speaking Trumpet from the Castle) that the Enemy had taken the Town. 1773 GOLDSM. *Stoops to Conq.* I. i, He sometimes whoops like a speaking trumpet. 1824 MISS MITFORD *Village* Ser. I. (1863) 127 His voice was loud enough to have hailed a ship at sea without the assistance of a speaking-trumpet. 1887 W. P. FRITH *Autobiogr.* I. v. 60 A very old gentleman..with a speaking-trumpet under his arm.

fig. and *transf.* 1710 PALMER *Prov.* 145 This is performing the contemptible office of a speaking-trumpet. 1823 SCOTT *Quentin D.* xxx, Reason..borrows the speaking-trumpet of Necessity, and her voice becomes lordly and imperative.

Speaking-tube. (Also unhyphened.) [SPEAKING *vbl. sb.* 5 b.]

1. A tube or pipe for speaking, or communicating orders, from one room, building, etc., to another.

1833 LOUDON *Encycl. Archit.* § 1457 Orders being given by the waiter above through a speaking-tube. 1844 T. WEBSTER *Encycl. Dom. Econ.* § 4797 These speaking tubes first came into use here..about thirty-five years ago. 1894 ELIZ. BANKS *Camp. Curiosity* 27 Annie was called to the hall to answer the whistle of the speaking-tube.

attrib. 1884 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* Suppl. 834/1 *Speaking Tube Whistle*, a modification of an intonating modulating steam whistle.

2. A speaking-trumpet.

1889 F. COWPER *Capt. of 'Wight'* 304 'You'll be aboard o' us an' you take no more care,' sung out the Master through a speaking-tube.

† **Spea·kless,** *a. Obs.*$^{-1}$ [f. SPEAK *v.* + -LESS.] Unspeakable, indescribable.

1612 FIELD *Woman is a Weathercock* III. ii, But speakless is his plague, that once had store And from superfluous state falls to be poor.

† **Spea·kman.** *Obs. rare.* In 4 speke-. [f. SPEAK *v.*] An advocate or spokesman.

1340 *Ayenb.* 60 To þan belongeþ þe zenne of ham þet zechiþ spekemen ham uor to prayşi. *Ibid.* 99 Oure guode spekeman and oure zuete mayster Iesu Crist.

† **Spea·kworthy,** *a. Obs.*$^{-1}$ In 6 speke-. [f. SPEAK *v.*] Worthy of mention.

1562 TURNER *Herbal* II. (1568) 77 Poppy geueth no speke-worthy norishment vnto the body.

Speal, dial. f. SPALE *sb.*^{2}; var. SPEEL *v.*

Speal-bone. *Sc.* and *north.* [For dial. *speal-bane*, var. *spule-bane*: see SPULE.] The shoulder-blade, esp. as used in a method of divination.

Pennant is the chief source of later instances.

1771 PENNANT *Tour Scot. 1769*, 154 There is another sort of divination, called Sleinanachd, or reading the speal-bone, or the blade-bone of a shoulder of mutton well scraped. 1802 SIBBALD *Chron. S. P.* Gloss. s.v. *Spald*, 'Reading the speal or spule-bane,' antiently a common mode of divination. 1871 TYLOR *Prim. Cult.* I. 113 A proper English term for it is 'reading the speal-bone'.

Speale, var. SPELE *v.*^{2} *Obs.*

Spealt, obs. f. SPELT *sb.*^{1}

Spean (spīn), *sb.*^{1} Now *dial.* Forms: *α.* 6–7 speane, 6–7, 9 spean. *β.* 6– spene, 8–9 speen, 9 spen. [a. MDu. or MLG. *spene* (Du. and Flem. *speen*, WFris. *spien*, LG. *spene, späne*), = ON. *speni* (MSw. *spene, späne*, etc.; Norw., Sw., obs. Da. *spene*), related to OE. *spana, spona*: see SPANE *v.*]

† 1. Swelling of the uvula. *Obs.*$^{-1}$

1527 ANDREW *Brunswyke's Distyll. Waters* C iv, It is also good to be gargoled agaynste vuala that is the spene in the strote.

2. A teat or nipple, *esp.* of a cow.

α. 1573 TWYNE *Æneid* XI. Ii ij b, To her tendre lippes in milkinge, downe their speanes he raught. 1607 TOPSELL *Four-footed Beasts* 38 A bear..hath also foure speanes to her Paps. *Ibid.* 126 The Hinde hath vdders betwixt her thighes with foure speanes like a cow. *Ibid.* 238 The females ..haue vnderneath their bellies great paps, with many speanes to sucke at. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* II. 171/2 The Speanes, or the Paps, the four Dugs, by which the Milk is drawn from the Udder. 1873– in dial. glossaries (Surrey, Kent, Yks.).

β. 1674 RAY *S. & E. Co. Words* 76 A *Seen* [1691 *Speen*] or *spene*: a cows pappe, *Kent.* [Hence in Worlidge (1681), Phillips, etc.] 1736 PEGGE *Kenticisms* (E.D.S.), *Speen*, the teat of a cow. 1846 J. BAXTER *Libr. Pract. Agric.* (ed. 4) II. 104 The maid..milks two speens, while the calf sucks the other two. 1863– in dial. glossaries, etc. (Kent, Sussex, Hants, Pemb., Wexford, etc.), in forms *spene, speen*, and rarely *spen*.

Spean (spān), *sb.*^{2} *south. dial.* Also spane, spen(e, speen. [Of obscure origin.]

1. A prong of a fork.

18.. *Devon Gloss.* in Halliw. (1847), *Spanes*, the prongs of a peek, or hay-fork, or dung-fork. 1848 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* IX. II. 550 On stiff soils..the flatter and broader forks or speens are best. 1889 JEFFERIES *Field & Hedgerow* 79 A two-span spud, or Canterbury hoe, with points instead of a broad blade.

2. A bar or rail of a gate.

1863–83 in Hampshire glossaries.

Spean (spīn), *v. Sc.* and *north. dial.* Forms: 6 speane, 6, 8–9 spean (8 speean, 9 spene). [Later form of SPANE *v.*, or independently ad. MDu. or MLG. *spenen* (Du. and Flem. *spenen*, LG. *spenen, spänen*), = MHG. *spenen* (G. dial. *spänen*), f. *spene* SPEAN *sb.*^{1}]

1. *trans.* To wean, in *lit.* and *fig.* senses.

1595 DUNCAN *App. Etym.* (E.D.S.), *Depello*, to put away, to speane, *iacte depellere.* 1599 A. HUME *Poems* (S.T.S.) 87 Thinke not that thou art sufficientlie mortified, and speaned from the world. 1781 J. HUTTON *Tour to Caves* (ed. 2) Gloss. 96 *Spain*, or *spean*, to wean. 1788 W. H. MARSHALL *Yorksh.* II. 354 To *Speean...*, to wean, as calves or pigs. 1808– in Sc. and northern dial. glossaries and texts. 1831 *Sutherland Farm Rep.* 75 *Husb.* (L.U.K.) III, The fields ..not being eaten bare by the sheep, the scythe is passed over them as soon as the lambs have been speaned. 1871 W. ALEXANDER *Johnny Gibb* xxix, The vera winter that Benjie was spean't.

absol. 1831 *Sutherland Farm Rep.* 79 *Husb.* (L.U.K.) III, The sale ewe lot..which are then brought in to lamb, and, consequently, to spean early.

b. In phrases implying the creation of extreme disgust, repression, etc.

1790 BURNS *Tam o' Shanter* 160 But wither'd beldams, auld and droll, Rigwoodie hags wad spean a foal. 1826 SCOTT *Let.* in *Lockhart* (1839) I. 171 One of the ugliest countenances.., enough as we say to spean weans. 1895 R. B. C. GRAHAM *Notes on Menteith* i. 13 Slate-roofed cottages,..hideous enough to spean a bairn.

2. (See quot. and SPANE *v.* 2.)

1829 BROCKETT *N. C. Gloss.* (ed. 2), Young corn is said to be speaned, when the milky..juice of its grain is exhausted, and it is obliged to depend on the nutriment collected by its own roots.

Hence **Spea·ning** *vbl. sb.*; also *attrib.*: in *speaning brash, time* (cf. SPANING *vbl. sb.* b).

1831 *Sutherland Farm Rep.* 75 *Husb.* (L.U.K.) III, That the aftermath may be, at speaning time, open to recruit the weakest and worst fed lambs. *Ibid.* 78 The speaning was performed nearly a fortnight sooner than had been formerly practised. 1872 MACMILLAN *True Vine* iii. 122 After a while the field of emerald loveliness looks suddenly sere and yellow...This remarkable change is caused by what the farmers call the 'speanin brash'.

† **Spea·ning,** *sb. Obs.*$^{-1}$ In 6 spenyng. [Cf. prec. and *spaneling* s.v. SPANE *v.*] A weaned pig.

1536 *Cockersand Chartul.* (Chetham) 1179 Store of swine. Item ix yong Spenynges...Item oone olde Hogge.

Spear (spīəɹ), *sb.*^{1} Forms: *α.* 1–7 spere (3 spære), 3–6 sper (5 sperre), 5–7 speere. *β.* 5–6 speir, 5 speire, speyre, spayre, 6 spair. *γ.* 6–7 speare, 7– spear. [OE. *spere*, = OFris. *spiri, spere, sper* (WFris. *spear*), MDu. *spere, speer* (Du. *speer*), OS. and MLG., OHG. and MHG. *sper* (G. *speer*), ON. pl. *spjor*; MSw. *spär* and obs. Da. *spær* are from MLG. It is doubtful whether L. *sparus*, hunting-spear, is related.]

I. 1. A thrusting weapon consisting of a stout wooden staff of some length, on which a sharp-pointed head, usually of iron or steel, is socketed or otherwise securely fixed; a lance; also, a shorter or lighter weapon of this kind used for throwing.

a. c 725 *Corpus Gloss.* (Hessels) C 610 *Contos*, speoru *c* 893 K. ÆLFRED *Oros.* III. xvii. § 1 Þa for he..& funde hiene ænne be wege licgan mid sperum tosticad. *c* 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* John xix. 34 An ðara cempa mið spere sidu his untynde. *c* 1000 ÆLFRIC *Saints' Lives* xii. 55 Þæt hors hine bær forð swa þæt þæt spere him eode þurh ut. *c* 1060 *O. E. Chron.* (MS. C) an. 1055, Ær þær wære æniz spere zescoten, ær fleah ðæt Englisce folc. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 60 Þerefter heo schekeð hire spere, & nehlecheð up on hire, & ..ziueð speres wunden. *c* 1275 *Passion our Lord* 179 in *O. E. Misc.*, Mid speres and myd staues and oþe vele þinge. *c* 1320 *Sir Tristr.* 1446 Wiþ a spere feloun He smot him in þe side. *a* 1400 *Sir Perc.* 191 Off alle hir lordes faire gere Wolde scho noȝte with hir bere, Bot a lyttille Scottes spere. 1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* I. x. 48 Vlfyus and Brastias dressid theire speres and ranne to gyder with grete raundon. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 354/2 A Sperre for a bayre, *excipulum, venabulum.* *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VIII*, 36 b, The Scottes dayly shipped long speres called Colleyne Clowystes. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* I. i. 11 The Champion .. to the Dwarfe a while his needlesse spere he gaue.

β. c 1400 *Destr. Troy* 6494 Two speirus full dispitus he sparet to cast. 14.. *Trevisa's Barth. De P. R.* XVII. XXXI. (Bodl. MS.), Dartes of reede..so longe..þ⁴ þei vse hem in stede of speirs. 1562 WINȜET *Wks.* (S.T.S.) I. 78 That knycht quha peirsit our Lordis syde with the speir. 1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* II. 330 The Scotis ouerthrew monie Inglismen with speiris.

γ. 1524 *St. Papers Hen. VIII*, II. 115 Englishe speares, bowes, and billes. 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 130 The chief Prophet..thrusteth his speare into hym. 1630 *R. Johnson's Kingd. & Commw.* 109 Some after the fashion of Italie, using a Scull, a Iacke, a Sword, and two light Speares. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* I. 292 His Spear, to equal which the tallest Pine Hewn on Norwegian hills..were but a wand. 1756–7 tr. *Keysler's Trav.* (1760) IV. 403 The spears of both these champions are still shewn here. 1813 SCOTT *Trierm.* I. xvii, Four of the train combined to rear The terrors of Tintadgel's spear. 1889 BADEN-POWELL *Pigsticking* 90 The short or 'jobbing' spear is generally used throughout Bengal and Upper India.

b. Without article, freq. coupled with *shield, sword*, etc., and used in a collective sense.

c 1205 LAY. 548 Brutus..mid sweord & mid spere al he todrof þes kinges here. *a* 1250 *Owl & Night.* 1022 He myhte bet teche ane beore To bere scheld and spere. *a* 1300

Cursor M. 20817 To be þan for vs sper and scheild. 1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. XVIII. 12 Wyth-oute spores other spere spakliche he loked. *c* 1400 *Rom. Rose* 5823 That she .. nyl .. smyte a stroke in this bataile, With darte, ne mace, spere, ne knyf. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* IV. 302 All.. Off that party that mycht weild bow or sper. 1500-20 DUNBAR *Poems* liv. 16 Quhai for hir saik, with speir and scheld, Preiffis maist mychtelye in the feld [etc.]. 1595 *Reg. Mag. Sig. Scot.* 116/2 With jak, knaipisca, speir and suord. 1611 BIBLE *Jer.* vi. 23 They shall lay hold on bowe and speare. 1725 POPE *Odyssey* X. 169, I climb'd a cliff, with spear and sword in hand. 1810 SCOTT *Lady of Lake* V. xi, And still, from copse and heather deep, Fancy saw spear and broadsword peep. 1849 AYTOUN *Lays Scott. Caval.* 70 Why go you forth..With spear and belted brand?

†c. Const. *of* (peace or war). *Spear of peace*, a blunt spear used in jousting. *Obs.*

a 1400 *Sir Degrev.* 1177 Tak ether of 3ow a spere, Bothe of pes and of were. *Ibid.* 1261 To gret sperus of pese Bothe these lordes hem chese. 1508 KENNEDY *Flyting w. Dunbar* 545 Deulbere, thy spere of were, but feir, thou yelde.

†d. The sharp head of a pike. *Obs. rare.*

1690 *Exercise of Foot* 121 Trail your Pikes with the Spears behind. *Ibid.* 144 The Pikemen Charge their Pikes to the Front, the Spears in a Line Breast high.

e. *Mil.* One of the transverse spikes or poles of a cheval-de-frise.

1823 CRABB *Technol. Dict.* 1828 SPEARMAN *Brit. Gunner* (ed. 2) 142 Weight, Dimension, &c. of Chevaux-De-Frize... Barrel, Length 9 ft. 5 in. Spears, 20. Length 6 ft. 1834-47 J. S. MACAULAY *Field Fortif.* (1851) 82 The spears of the chevaux-de-frise should be so arranged as to present three rows of points to the enemy. 1876 VOYLE & STEVENSON *Milit. Dict.* (ed. 3) s.v. *Chevaux de frise*, Each length is composed of a barrel or stout beam..., with strong sharp spears driven through it, in two or more different directions.

2. In *transf.* and *fig.* uses.

c 897 K. ÆLFRED *Gregory's Past. C.* XXXV. 244 Ða speru ðære soðfæstnesse, ðæt sindon haligra gewrita manunga. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 28046 O licheri agayn þe spere Wit chastite þou sal þe were. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* II. 231 Compleyne for hym that was your aspre sper. 1500-20 DUNBAR *Poems* lxxxiv. 40 Inconstance..; Secreit invy, and of dispyt the speir. 1546 J. HEYWOOD *Prov.* (1867) 29 Will is a shrewde boy...A gentle white spurre, and at neede a sure speare. 1593 SHAKS. *Rich. II*, v. i. 171, I am..Pierc'd to the soule with slanders venom'd speare. 1820 SHELLEY *Prometh. Unb.* I. 31 The crawling glaciers pierce me with the spears Of their moon-freezing crystals. 1873 M. ARNOLD *Lit. & Dogma* (1876) 328 The spear of Butler's reasoning.

†3. In allusive phrases or uses. a. *Under a spear*, under one banner, pennon, or flag. *Obs.*—[1]

1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 11861 So þat þer were To & tuenti knistes vnder a spere.

†b. *To sell at the spear, to put*, etc., *under the spear*, to sell by auction. *To pass under the spear*, to 'come under the hammer'. *Obs.*

After the common L. phrase *sub hasta vendere.*

1600 HOLLAND *Livy* II. xvii. 55 The rest of the inhabitants were sold at the speare in ouvert market like slaves. *Ibid.* XXIII. XXXII. 496 Their fields he would lay wast; sell their servants in port sale at the speare. 1611 B. JONSON *Catiline* II. i, When you see..that..their Houses, and fine Gardens [are] giuen away, And all their goods, vnder the Speare. 1689 EVELYN *Let. to Pepys* 12 Aug. in *E.'s Diary* (1827) IV. 319 The noblest library that ever pass'd under the speare at outcry. 1709 MRS. MANLEY *Secret Mem.* (1736) IV. 96 They persuaded him to put all the Furniture of the House immediately under the Spear.

†c. *Stroke of the spear*: (see quot. and FEATHER *sb.* II b).

1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s.v., The feather of a horse, called the *stroke of the spear*, is a mark in the neck, or near the shoulder, of some Barbs [etc.].

4. A soldier armed with or carrying a spear; a spearman. Now *arch.*

c 1205 LAY. 7453 Com of Muriene, moni spere kene. *a* 1400 *Sir Degrev.* 319 The best mene that he ledde, He hadd y-lefft home to wedde, With fyffty spers is he ffledd. *c* 1450 *Contin. Brut* 580 One Watkyn Ruskyn, a gentill man and a gud spere, was slayn at þe wynnyng of þe same bullewerk. 1475 *Bk. Noblesse* (Roxb.) 38 Ser John Chaundos, ..whiche had bene in many batailes, and had the governaunce of M^l. speris. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VI*, 55 The Erle of Huntyngdone, .. with twoo M. archers, and foure hundred speres, was sente into Gascoyne. *a* 1578 LINDESAY (Pitscottie) *Chron. Scot.* (S.T.S.) II. 39, ij^o speiris witht the earle of Angus and ij^e witht my lord governour. 1618 BOLTON *Florus* (1636) 55 Caius Minutius, a speare in the fourth Legion. 1820 SCOTT *Monast.* XXXV, That plump of spears that are spurring on so fast. 1885 RUSKIN *Pleas. Eng.* 113 He sent..for some German knights, and got five hundred spears.

†b. (See quots. and PENSIONER 2.) *Obs.*

1539 CRANMER *Let. to Cromwell* in *Rem.* (1833) I. 296 Edward Askew..is by some nobleman preferred unto the room of one of these new spears in the Court. 1540 WRIOTHESLEY *Chron.* (Camden) I. 112 This yeare [1539] the kinge made many yong gentlemen speres, and gave them 5 l. a peece. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VIII*, 6 Also this yere [1509], the kyng ordeined fiftie Gentle menne to bee speres, euery of theim to haue an Archer, a Dimilaunce and a Custrell, and euery Spere to haue three greate Horses. *Ibid.* 237 b, In December [1539] were appointed to wayte on the kynges hyghnes person fiftie Gentelmen called Pencioners or Speares, lyke as they were in the first yere of the kyng.

c. A hunter or sportsman who uses a spear; a pig-sticker.

1849 EASTWICK *Dry Leaves* 75 One of the best spears who ever chased the wild boar over wide plain and tangled hill. 1863 TREVELYAN *Compet. Wallah* (1866) 139 Mr. Mildred, an indigo planter, a first-rate spear and rough-rider.

5. A sharp-pointed weapon used for various purposes; esp. one for catching fish, a leister.

Also with defining terms, as *eel-*, *fish-*, *salmon-*, *trout-spear.*

1551- (see SALMON *sb.*[1] 4). 1555- (see EEL-SPEAR): 1611 (see FISH *sb.*[1] 6 b.). *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 22 July 1654, Abounding in trouts catch'd by speare in the night. 1766 *State of Proc., A. Macdonald* v. *Dk. Gordon* Pursuer's Proof 13 The fish..were killed and taken out by spears. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) VI. 208 They renew their attacks, till the whale begins to be quite enfeebled.., when they plunge their longer spears into various parts of its body. 1815 SCOTT *Guy M.* XXVI, This chase, in which the fish is pursued and struck with barbed spears,..is much practised at the mouth of the Esk. 1840 BLAINE *Encycl. Rural Sports* § 2889 The salmon is also caught with a spear, which they dart into him as he swims near the surface of the water.

b. A pointed iron bar. *rare.*

1607 DEKKER *Jests* G ij, If they haue..taken not of any casement, without a speere going vp in the middle. *Ibid.* G ij b.

c. A prong *of* a fork. (Cf. SPEER *sb.*[2])

1739 BAKER in *Phil. Trans.* XLI. 135 A Young Woman ..received a Wound just in the Pupil of her right Eye, by the Spear of a common Fork. 1748 AERY *Ibid.* XLV. 412 She received a Wound in the Cornea of her right Eye, by the Spear of a common Fork, which also divided the Uvea.

6. a. *pl.* The thorns or prickles of a plant, the spines or spikes of a hedgehog, sharp fins of a fish, etc. Chiefly *poet.*; now *rare.*

[1503 DUNBAR *Thistle & Rose* 130 Vpone the awfull Thrissill scho beheld, And saw him kepit with a busche of speiris.] 1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* 279 The Hedghog rowleth vpon the Serpent..and killeth his aduersary, carrying the flesh vpon his speares. 1693 DRYDEN, etc. *Juvenal* iv. (1697) 91 Mark the pointed spears That from thy Hand on his pierc'd Back he wears! *Note.* He makes the Flatterer call the sharp Fins rising on the Fishes back, Spears. 1821 CLARE *Vill. Minstr.* II. 161 The very bramble, weeping 'Neath dewy tear-drops that its spears surround. 1827 — *Sheph. Cal.* Feb. ix. 23 The hedgehog,..As shepherd-dog his haunt espies,..rolls up in a ball of spears.

b. The sting of a reptile or insect, esp. of a bee. Now *Sussex dial.*

1608 TOPSELL *Serpents* 172 Nor yet he when [he] with his angry mouth Doth byte, such paines and torments bringeth As other Serpents.., When with his teeth and speare he stingeth. 1609 C. BUTLER *Fem. Mon.* A iij b, The speere she hath is but little and not halfe so long as the other Bees. *Ibid.* A v b, Hir speere she [the bee] is very loth to vse, if by any other meanes she can shift hir enimy. *a* 1700 KEN *Edmund* Poet. Wks. 1721 II. 90 Into his tendrest Parts.. the pertinacious Legion dart their spears. 1721 BRADLEY *Philos. Acc. Wks. Nat.* 149 Our Gnat, which is of the unarmed Kind, having no Spear in its Mouth. 1875 PARISH *Sussex Dial., Spear*, the sting of a bee. 1889 *Longman's Mag.* July 269 The best thing..when you have taken 'the spear' out, is to rub the place with a leek.

7. A beam or ray *of* light.

c 1850 LOWELL *Above & Below* I. iii, 'Tis from these heights alone your eyes The advancing spears of day can see. 1894 HALL CAINE *Manxman* 277 A spear of candle-light shot from her door.

II. *attrib.* and *Comb.*

8. Simple attrib., in the sense 'of or belonging to a spear', as *spear-blade*, †*-block*, *-butt*, †*-pile* (= shaft), etc.; also denoting distance or measurement, as *spear-cast*, *-length*, *-throw*; and miscellaneous, as *spear-arm*, *-storm*, *-stroke*, *-thrust.*

1880 BROWNING *Dram. Idyls, Echetlos* 5 Up, back, out, down—was the *spear-arm play. 1880 F. WITTI *Diary* in J. Hatton *New Ceylon* iv. (1881) 99 To the one end of the blowpipe is always made fast a *spear-blade. 1543 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* VIII. 223 For certane *speir blokis boucht..to his grace in Ayr,..xv li. 1853 KINGSLEY *Hypatia* vi. 73 An obedience which the Roman soldiers could only have compelled by hard blows of the *spear-butt. 1865 MORRIS *Jason* x. 209 As in the stream they lay A *spear-cast from the shore. 13.. *Gaw. & Gr. Knt.* 2316 He sprit forth spenne fote more þen a *spere lenþe. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 3698 Hit spirit vp spitiously fyue speire lenght. 1585 T. WASHINGTON tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* I. viii. 9 The ditch..was only seuen fadomes broade, and twoo speare lengths deep. 1890 DOYLE *White Company* XXXVI, He fell within a spear-length of the English line. 1638 BRATHWAIT *Psalmes Paraphr.* cli, Six hundred iron shekels masse upon my *speare-pile playes. 1848 LYTTON *K. Arthur* III. xlviii, May Harold, thus confronting all, Pass from the *spear-storm to the Golden Hall. 1835 *Court Mag.* VI. 35/2 The captive English,..awaiting the *spear-stroke with unblenching fortitude. 1884 J. COLBORNE *Hicks Pasha* 46 Their many-coloured *spear-tassels dropping on their shoulders. 1892 RIDER HAGGARD *Nada* 28 The men were running..with the length of a *spear-throw between them. 1825 SCOTT *Talism.* XXVI, With sword-cut and *spear-thrust all hack'd and pierced through. 1857 GOSSE *Omphalos* xii. 362 It falls to the ground before the *spear-touch of our Ithuriel. 1895 *Cath. Mag.* Aug. 210 The *spear-wound in His side.

9. General combs. a. With agent-nouns, as *spear-bearer*, *-hurler*, *-planer.*

1449 in Sharp *Cov. Myst.* (1825) 193 Item, ij sperberrers.. ij d. *c* 1515 *Cocke Lorell's B.* 10 Tankarde berers,..and spere planers. 1876 G. W. COX *Gen. Hist. Greece* II. i. 103 His spear-bearer Gyges. 1895 JANE MENZIES *Cynewulf's Elene* 25 The great spear-hurler, who the hosts to battle led.

b. With verbal sbs. (objective or instrumental), as *spear-bearing*, *-breaking*, *-fishing*, *-pricking*, etc.

1861 PALEY *Æschylus* (ed. 2) *Pers.* 149 *note*, Archers, or Persians, are again opposed to *spear-bearing Greeks. 1848 BUCKLEY *Iliad* 265 *Spear-brandishing Polydamas came as an avenger. 1823 SCOTT *Quentin D.* XXVI, I should otherwise have had *spear-breaking between you and my cousin of Orleans. 1601 *Reg. Mag. Sig. Scot.* 392/2 Lie cobill, curroch et *speir fischingis super aqua de Spey. 1895 SIR H. MAXWELL *Duke Britain* VIII. 117 Forced by heavy blows and *spear-prickings to resume progress. 1865 MORRIS *Jason* VI. 485 *Spear-shaking warrior and slim-ankled maid. 1895 K. GRAHAME *Gold. Age* 98 His *spear-splintering crash of tourney. 1828 P. CUNNINGHAM *N. S. Wales* (ed. 3) II. 42 By means of their perpetual wars and the practices of *spear-throwing, child-murder, and concubinage. 1848 BUCKLEY *Iliad* 26 *Spear-wielding auxiliaries from many cities.

c. With past pples. (instrumental), as *spear-bound*, *-fallen*, *-famed*, *-pierced*, etc.

1816 H. G. KNIGHT *Ilderim* 280 The *spear-bound steeds that ready harness'd fed. 1824 SYMMONS *Agamemnon* 104 The blood-drop..from the *spear-fallen man Drips apace. 1848 BUCKLEY *Iliad* 42 These, *spear-famed Idomeneus commanded. 1863 J. H. NEWMAN *Verses Var. Occas.* 53 Faint shadows of the *spear-pierced side. 1848 BUCKLEY *Iliad* 43 He killed Mynetes and *spear-skilled Epistrophus. 1870 MORRIS *Earthly Par.* III. IV. 364 In forefront of battle let him fall; Or..on some foeman's *spear-swept wall.

d. With adjs., as *spear-headed*, *-pointed*, etc.

1561 *Burning St. Paul's* P 2 (Camden), A long and a speare pointed flame of fier. 1598 BARRET *Theor. Warres* II. i. 20 A speare-headed staffe, sharpe pointed with iron. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s.v. *Phaseolus*, The American *phaseolus*, with a sinuated and spear-pointed leaf. 1777 POTTER *Æschylus* (1779) I. 184 Sev'n chiefs of high command, In arms spear-proof, take their appointed stand. 1846 LANDOR *Exam. Shaks.* Wks. II. 295 Rushes spear high. 1873 SPON *Workshop Rec.* Ser. I. 59/2 No spear-pointed drill can be tempered hard enough not to break.

e. In some specific names, as *spear-bill*, *-billed* (grebe), *spear-leaf*, *-nosed* (bat).

1827 GRIFFITH tr. *Cuvier* II. 9 We may here add the Lunette,..spear-nosed bat. *Ibid.* V. 69 *Phyllostoma Hastatum* (Spear-leaf Phyllostome, or Javelin Bat). 1884 COUES *N. Amer. Birds* 793 *Æchmophorus*, Spear-bill [*Index*, Spear-billed] Grebes.

10. Special combinations, as **spear-axe**, a spear with an axe-shaped head; †**spear-egg-shaped** *a.*, *Bot.* lanceolate-obovate; †**spear-field**, the field of battle; †**spear-foot** (see quot.); **spear-hand**, the hand with which a spear is usually held, thrown, etc.; the right hand or side; **spear-hook**, *U.S.* a kind of snap-hook or spring-hook for taking fish (*Cent. Dict.*); **spear-nail** (see quot.); **spear-play**, exercise or fighting with spears; **spear-pyrites**, *Min.* a variety of marcasite or white iron pyrites; **spear-running**, jousting with spears; now *arch.*; **spear-side** (after OE. *on spere-healfe*), the male line of descent; †**spear silver**, *Sc.* a form of military tax or levy; †**spear-stick**, a spiked walking-stick; **spear-thrower**, an implement used to aid the throwing of a spear.

1865 J. H. INGRAHAM *Pillar of Fire* XI. 129 The offensive weapons of the [Egyptian] army are the..*spear-axe [etc.]. 1796 WITHERING *Brit. Plants* (ed. 3) I. 82 **Spear-egg-shaped*,..shaped like a spear towards the base, and like an egg towards its extremity. *Ibid.* II. 474 Flower-scales spear-eggshaped, in pairs. *c* 1470 *Gol. & Gaw.* 1238 To speid thame our the *spere-feild enspringing thai sprent. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl., **Spear-foot*, of a horse, is the far-foot behind. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Hand*, *Spear-Hand, or Sword-Hand, is used for a Horseman's Right-Hand. 1824 SYMMONS *Agamemnon* 12 On the spear-hand and by the seat of state. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2255/2 **Spear-nail*, one with a spear-shaped point. *c* 1640 J. SMYTH *Lives Berkeleys* (1883) I. 325 Given to his Esquiers for to play at *Spearplay at Bristol*, 26^s 8^d. 1885 C. J. LVALL *Anc. Arab. Poet.* 96 Steeds, in the spear-play skilled. 1894 *Geogr. Jrnl.* III. 479, I had the pleasure of witnessing a spear-play between two parties. 1837 DANA *Min.* 405 White Iron Pyrites, *Pyrites rhombicus*...*Spear Pyrites. 1865 WATTS *Dict. Chem.* III. 402 White iron pyrites, Marcasite, Radiated pyrites, Spear pyrites. *c* 1550 ROLLAND *Crt. Venus* IV. 597 Than tuik thay in Iurnayis of Tornament, And *speir rinning, with mony Interpryis. 1823 SCOTT *Quentin D.* xiv, At the spear-running of Strasbourg. 1861 PEARSON *Early & Mid. Ages* 122 In his [Alfred's] will he declares his intention of..leaving his land on the *spear-side. 1870 LOWELL *Study Wind.* 246 Such and such qualities he got from a grandfather on the spear side. 1496 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* I. 324 To gadir in the *spere siluer of Perth, Forfare, and Striuelinschire. 1801 tr. *Gabrielli's Myst. Husb.* II. 135 His *spear stick, pelisse, &c. were at the Curate's. 1871 TYLOR *Prim. Cult.* I. 60 The highest people known to have used the spear-thrower proper are the Aztecs.

b. In the names of plants, trees, etc., as **spear arum**, †**crowfoot**, **-fern**, **-flower**, **-lily**, **-(plume) thistle**, **-wood** (see quots.).

1845-50 MRS. LINCOLN *Lect. Bot.* App. 220/2 *Spear arum, *Rensselaeria.* 1597 GERARDE *Herbal* II. cccIv. 815 Called ..in English *Speare Crowfoote, Spearewoort, and Banewoort. 1867 W. W. SMYTH *Coal & Coal-mining* 37 The *Odontopteris*, or tooth-fern, and *Lonchopteris*, or *spear-fern, are [fossil] genera which occur less frequently. 1891 *Cent. Dict.*, **Spear-flower*, a tree or shrub of the large tropical and subtropical genus *Ardisia* of the *Myrsineæ*. 1889 MAIDEN *Usef. Native Pl.* 621 *Doryanthes excelsa*... '*Spear Lily.' 'Giant Lily.' 1855 MISS PRATT *Flower. Pl.* III. 231 (*Spear Plume Thistle.) Heads of flowers large, mostly solitary. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s.v. *Thistle*, The broad-leaved *spear-Thistle. 1777 JACOB *Cat. Plants* 19 *Carduus lanceolatus*, Spear-Thistle. 1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* III. 1066 The biennial spear-thistle, *Cnicus lanceolatus*, the spines of which breaking in the flesh, give acute pain when touched. 1872 MACMILLAN *True Vine* VII. 320 In the common spear-thistle, each plant produces upwards of a hundred seed-vessels. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1077/2 *Spearwood, *Acacia doratoxylon.* 1874 *Ibid.* Suppl. 1343/2 Spearwood, also *Eucalyptus doratoxylon.*

c. In the names of fishes, as **spear-beak**, **dog**, **-fish** (see quots.).

1896 LYDEKKER *Roy. Nat. Hist.* V. 507 The extinct Jurassic *spear-beaks (*Aspidorhynchus*) constitute a second family. 1848 *Zoologist* VI. 1975 Picked Dog, *Spear Dog, *Spinax acanthias.* 1882 JORDAN & GILBERT *Syn. Fishes N. Amer.* 119 *Carpiodes cyprinus*...Quillback; *Spear-fish; Sail-fish; Skimback. *Ibid.* 420 *Tetrapturus albidus*,

Bill-fish; Spear-fish. 1888 Goode *Amer. Fishes* 241 In Cuba, the Spear-fishes are called '*Aguja*'.

Spear (spīəɹ), *sb.*2 Forms: 5–6 spere, 6 speere, speare, 9 speer, 7- spear. [Irregular variant of Spire *sb.*1, perh. influenced by prec.]

†**1.** A spire of a church or other building; a pyramid. *Obs.*

a 1490 Botoner *Itin.* (Nasmith, 1778) 221 Altitudo de le spere..sicut modo fracto continet 200 pedes. [*Ibid.* 241 Spera sive pinaculum cum turri quadrata ecclesiæ Beatæ Mariæ de Radclyff.] 1509 Barclay *Shyp of Folys* (1570) 169 Chemnis also, as Diodorus sayes, Builded a speere hye and wonderous..This speere was costly, dere and sumptuous. 1570–6 Lambarde *Peramb. Kent* (1826) 260 The speare or steeple of which Churche was fired by lightening. *c* 1605 *Acc. Bk. W. Wray*, in *Antiquary* XXXII. 212 The great spere of St. Wilfrides steple. 1653 H. More *Antid. Ath.* I. iv. § 2 If you say it consists of Points,..I can demonstrate that every Spear or Spire-Steeple is as thick as it is long. 1663 in Strype *Stow's Surv.* (1754) I. II. vii. 443/1 Your Lordship being the Owner of the greatest Part of the said Speare or Steeple. 1755 *Mem. Capt. P. Drake* II. iii. 79 A great and rich Cloyster,..where there is a very fine Church that has four Spears.

2. The plumule or rudimentary shoot of a seed; *spec.* the acrospire of grain.

1647 Herrick *Noble Numbers, To Finde God* Tell me the motes, dust, sands, and speares Of Corn, when Summer shakes his eares. 1676 M. Cook *Forest-Trees* 63 Watering them [nuts, etc.] may kill them, by making the kernel swell too hastily, and so crack it before the spear causeth it; or it may Mould and stupifie the spear. *a* 1722 Lisle *Husb.* (1757) 91 By the time the spear is shot under ground the corn is well rooted. 1886 Elworthy *W. Som. Word-bk.* s.v., In malting or other germination of grain, the *spear* is that sprout which develops into the future stalk, as distinct from the shoots which form rootlets.

b. A blade, shoot, or sprout (*of* grass, etc.).

1841 Catlin *N. Amer. Ind.* lv. (1844) II. 203 Not a spear of grass is broken or bent by his feet. 1865 *Athenæum* No. 1979. 444/3 Leaves of trees and spears of corn. 1873 Joaquin Miller *Life among the Modocs* xx. 253 He pointed to the new leaves of the trees, [and] the spears that were bursting through the ground. 1896 Howells *Impress. & Exp.* 283 Every spear of grass had been torn from it.

c. Similarly of hair.

1852 Mrs. Stowe *Uncle Tom's C.* xxv, If they's to pull every spear o' har out o' my head it wouldn't do no good.

3. *south. dial.* **a.** *collect.* Reeds, esp. as a material for thatching, or for plastering upon.

1794 *Trans. Soc. Arts* XII. 144 This prevents its being overrun with spear and sedge. 1819 Cobbett *Weekly Reg.* 13 Feb. 658 In England we sometimes thatch with reeds, which in Hampshire, are called *spear*. 1894 *Times* 14 June 14/1 The long coarse herbage which fringes the banks of rivers and other streams, and is locally termed 'spear', makes excellent thatch for hay and corn stacks.

b. A stem or stalk of a reed, osier, etc.

1844 W. Barnes *Poems Rur. Life* (1848) 388 *Spears*,..the stems of the reed *arundo phragmites*, sometimes employed instead of laths to hold plaster. 1905 *Westm. Gaz.* 12 Aug. 5/2 She walked down to the water's edge, through the green osier spears, bareheaded.

c. *attrib.* in *spear-bed, reed.*

1812 Col. Hawker *Diary* (1893) I. 46 Second storeys of many houses of spear reed, cemented..with plaster. 1863 Wise *New Forest* 287 The phrase 'spire-bed', or 'spear-bed field', is very common, meaning a particular field, near where the 'spires' grow. 1874 T. Hardy *Far fr. Mad. Crowd* I. xxii. 251, I believe Farmer Boldwood kissed her behind the spear-bed at the sheep-washing.

Spear (spīəɹ), *sb.*3 Also 6 spere. [Variant of Spire *sb.*3]

1. A young tree, esp. a young oak; a sapling. Also attrib. in *spear oak, tree.*

1543 *Mem. Fountains* (Surtees) 412 Yonge saplings, speres of okes and ashes. 1891 *Pall Mall G.* 23 Mar. 3/3 Large numbers of spear trees are destroyed while decaying pollards are left standing. 1895 *Daily News* 20 May 6/5 Bury Wood, which is mainly composed of spear oaks, horn-beam, and blackthorn.

†**b.** *transf.* A stripling, youth. Also *fig. Obs.*

1526 Skelton *Magnyf.* 947 In faythe, Lyberte is nowe a lusty spere. *a* 1529 — *Agst. Garnesche* iii. 41 At Gynys when ye ware But a slendyr spere, Dekkyd lewdly in your gere.

2. *techn.* A pump-rod. Also *attrib.*

1729 Capt. W. Wriglesworth *MS. Log-bk. of the 'Lyell'* 9 Oct., Took in..18 small Sparrs, and 9 Spears. 1731 *Phil. Trans.* XXXVII. 7 The four Necks of the Crank have each an Iron Spear, or Rod, fixed at their upper Ends to the respective Libra, or Lever. 1750 Blanckley *Nav. Expos.* 124 Stave or Spear (Pump Hand) is a long Rod of Iron with an Eye at the upper End, which Hooks to the Brake. 1824 *Mechanic's Mag.* No. 43. 238 Which requires least manual labour in the case of a common ship-pump, a long or a short spear? 1849 Greenwell *Coal-trade Terms, Northumb. & Durh.* 49 Spears are made of Memel or Norway fir, in lengths of about 40 feet, and joined together by spear-plates. 1862 *Times* 28 Jan., The engine from which the pumps derive their motive power..and the great beam to which their 'spears' or rods were attached.

Spear, *sb.*4 *Dev.* and *Cornw. dial.* [Variant of Spar *sb.*4] A thatching rod. Also *attrib.*

1837 J. F. Palmer *Dialogue Dev. Dial.* Gloss. 84 *Spears* or *Spear-sticks*, the pointed sticks, doubled and twisted, used for thatching. 1891 *Hartland Gloss.* s.v., Slatting.. shoots of withy or nut-halse by means of a spear-hook, which is like a narrow-bladed bill-hook. 1899 Bourne *Billy Bray* 55 (E.D.D.), I told the farmer to bring three hundred sheaves [of reed]..., and some spears for them.

Spear (spīəɹ), *sb.*5 *rare.* [f. Spear *v.*3] The act of spearing or striking with a spear, *spec.* in pig-sticking.

1903 Sir M. G. Gerard *Leaves fr. Diaries* vii. 224 The gainer of first spear in the final heat becoming the winner of the Cup. *Ibid.*, The rule is that upon anyone touching the pig and calling 'Spear', should any other man..have reason to question the claim, he must shout 'No spear'.

Spear, variant of Speer *sb.*1 (screen, etc.).

Spear (spīəɹ), *v.*1 *Obs.* (exc. *dial.*). Forms: 3 speren, 5 speryn (speyryn); 4–5 spere, sper (4 spir-); 6 speare, 6, 9 *dial.* spear. [a. MLG. *speren* (LG. *speren, speeren, speiren*), related to MDu. *sperren*, OHG. *sperran*: see Spar *v.*1

It is clear from rimes and other evidence that the pret. forms *sperde, sperd*, common in the 13th and 14th centuries, usually belong to this verb and not to *sperre* Spar *v.*1]

1. *trans.* To shut or close (a door, lid, etc.) firmly or securely; †to bar or block (a way).

c 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 384 He ben don ut of blisses erd, Cherubin hauet ðe gates sperd. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 5618 In þis kist þe barn sco did. Quen it spird was wit þe lid,..Sco laid it on þe water fame. *Ibid.* 18086 Spers [*Gött.* Speris] your yates, þis es na gamen. *c* 1330 R. Brunne *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 13166 Sire Richer saw, & Beduer herde, þat þer enemis þer weyes sperde. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 5545 In at a wicket he went & wynly it speris. ?1449 *Paston Lett.* I. 83 And qhan he com thedder, the dors were fast sperid. 1542 Becon *Potation for Lent* I viij b, Heauen gates were speared agaynst vs for the sin of our first father Adam. *c* 1550 Bale *Image both Ch.* (East) 30 Speared is Gods Temple, when his true worshipping is hid. 1894 in Heslop *Northumbld. Gloss.*

b. With *up.*

1445 in *Anglia* XXVIII. 275 Where as townys were longe speryd vp, he dare sette wide þe yates. 1538 Bale *Thre Lawes* 1100, I close vp heauen, And speare vp paradyce.

2. In general sense: To close, shut, etc.

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 80 Þet ȝe þertoȝeines..tunen [*C.* speren] ower eiȝurles. *a* 1340 Hampole *Psalter* x. 5 His egh lidys.. þat now ere oppynd & now sperd. *Ibid.* cxl. 3 Swa be oure lippis opyn til shrift, and sperd til excusynge of syn. 1387 Trevisa *Higden* (Rolls) VII. 121 For overmoche sorwe the herte is stoken and spered. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 3649 Brant vp he sittis, Springis out a spere, sperid all þe platis. *a* 1425 tr. *Arderne's Treat. Fistula*, etc. 39 þe lacertes and þe synowes speryng and opnyng þe lure. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 283/1 Lacyn, or spere wythe a lace, *fibulo*. *c* 1550 Bale *Image Both Ch.* (Wyer) E v, So was it [a book] afore speared by the decre of God. 1560 Becon *Policy War* Wks. 1564 I. 139 Howe many wynke and speare theyr eyes, because they wyll not se it.

3. To shut up or confine (a person) in a prison or other place. Also *fig.*

c 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 2194 He dede hem binden, and leden dun, And speren faste in his prisun. *c* 1300 *Havelok* 448 Onon he ferde To þe tour þer he woren sperde. 1375 Barbour *Bruce* IV. 14 Thai stythly speryt [thaim] Bath in fetrys and in presoune. *c* 1400 Maundev. (Roxb.) xxiv. 113 He spered him in amanges his tresour withouten mete or drink. *c* 1460 *Play of Sacrament* 46 In an hoote ouyn [they] speryd hym fast. 1542 Becon *Potation for Lent* F iiij, Fastynge speareth vp & encloseth as though it were in a narrowe prison the extraordinary & vnlawfull mocions. 1548 — *Solace Soul* Wks. 1564 II. 111 Therfore doth he.. snarle him with these fetters and chenes, speareth hym in this prison & dongen.

b. To shut up, put away, or enclose, in some receptacle.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 6888 Ilk waand þat þai þere bare He sperd wit-in þer santuare. 1303 R. Brunne *Handl. Synne* 3656 Cunsel of shryfte sperd yn hys breste, He ne oght for to telle. *Ibid.* 6134 Weyl I ferde Ar y, yn purs, penys sperde. *a* 1400 *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* xxiv. 195 In þi wombe þou speredest heuene Hele of god, vre mede. *a* 1564 Becon *Art. Chr. Relig. Proved* Wks. 1564 II. 158 When the disciples..dyd receaue his bodye they receiued it neither shutte or speared, or enclosed on ye bread.

c. To unite or join closely.

1545 Bale *Image Both Ch.* C vj, They are speared up together faste unto hym with the shyninge cheane of charite.

4. To exclude; to shut *out.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 25183 Þat thoru vr liuelade wick we sper fra us þe rightwis demester. 13.. *Seven Penit. Psalms* 72 in *Engl. Stud.* X. 234 In heuene, whan þou holdist alle, Late me not be þer out isperd. *c* 1440 *Jacob's Well* 228 Wo to ȝou þat speryn out of ȝoure herte þe mynde of cristes passioun. *c* 1450 *Cov. Myst.* (Shaks. Soc.) 31 This blysse I spere from ȝow ryth fast.

5. *absol.* To perform the act of closing or shutting.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 13329 O þaim þou sal þe caiss ber, For to oppen bath and sper. *Ibid.* 17357 Þai sperd fast wit lok and kai. *c* 1340 Hampole *Pr. Consc.* 3835 Of wilk þe pape þe kays bers, Whar-with he bathe opens and spers. 1538 Bale *God's Promises* VII, O perfyght keye of David,..whych openest and no man speareth. *c* 1550 — *Image Both Ch.* (Day) I iij, With all auctorite..to open or to speare.

6. *intr.* To close or shut; to admit of being closed. *rare.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 1683 þu sal..Mak a dor wit mesur wide, A windou sperand wel on hei. 1550 Bale *Eng. Votaries* II 38 Whyls the dore..oft tymes opened and speared agayne.

Hence **Speared** *ppl. a.*1; **Spearing** *vbl. sb.*1 and *ppl. a.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 10091 He com in at þe yatt sperd. *a* 1425 *Ibid.* 1683 (Trin.), þou shalt..Make..A sperynge wyndowe als on heȝe. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 284/2 Latchynge, or sperynge wythe a lacche, *clitura, pessulatus. Ibid.* 460/1 Sloot, or schytyl of sperynge, .. *pessulum. c* 1450 *Mirour Saluacioun* (Roxb.) 24 And þot it is merveille and more to passe thorgh spered ȝate. 1542 Becon *Potation for Lent* I viij b, The spearynge of the chyrch dore.

Spear (spīəɹ), *v.*2 Also 6–7 speer. [Irregular variant of Spire *v.* Cf. Spear *sb.*2] *intr.* Of corn, etc.: To sprout, germinate. Also with *out.*

1573 Tusser *Husb.* (1878) 174 Malt being well speered, the more it will cast. 1651 R. Child in *Hartlib's Legacy* (1655) 91 Rooks, which pluck up in light land, presently after the Corn speareth, much Corn. 1678 *Phil. Trans.* XII. 946 As soon as the Heads begin to shoot or speer within the ground,..howe or pare the ground all over very thin. *a* 1722 Lisle *Husb.* (1757) 114 Fourteen barley-corns of the twenty had put forth roots, but had not speared. *Ibid.* 139 In turning up wet wheat straw..I found..many loose grains speared out. 1763 Mills *Pract. Husb.* III. 156 That surface must be so fine, and so lightly compressed, that the seed may spear through it. *a* 1825– *in* dial. glossaries (Yks., E. Anglia, Kent, Surrey, Sussex, etc.). 1886 *Science* VII. 174 The single blade 'spears' first into three, then into five or more side-shoots.

Hence **Speared** *ppl. a.*2; **Spearing** *vbl. sb.*2

1577–82 Breton *Toyes* Wks. (Grosart) I. 58/2 What their shiftes should be,..by speered Mault the Bruer soone will see. 1707 Mortimer *Husb.* (1721) II. 23 You may prepare them for spearing by laying the [Ash-] Keys in Earth or Sand. 1765 *Museum Rust.* III. 151 It would have been better..if more of it had been grown last year, when the wheat was almost all speared.

Spear (spīəɹ), *v.*3 [f. Spear *sb.*1 Cf. G. *speeren.*]

1. *trans.* To pierce or transfix with a spear.

1755 in Johnson. 1774 Goldsm. *Nat. Hist.* (1824) III. 40 A prodigious ray..was speared by the Negroes at Guadaloupe. 1815 Scott *Guy M.* liv, The only light..was a quantity of wood burnt to charcoal in an iron grate, such as they use in spearing salmon by night. 1823 — *Quentin D.* x, He would questionless have made in, and speared the brute. 1853 Kane *Grinnell Exp.* l. (1856) 480, I have seen them spear the eider on the wing. 1869 Freeman *Norm. Conq.* (1875) III. xii. 176 The poet tells us how the King saw his men speared and shot down.

fig. and *transf.* 1843 Carlyle *Past & Pr.* IV. iii, Spearing down and destroying Falsehood. 1855 Tennyson *Maud* I. IV. 23 The Mayfly is torn by the swallow, the sparrow spear'd by the shrike.

2. *intr.* To rise *up* like a spear.

1822 Ainslie *Land of Burns* 151 Do ye see a steeple yonner, spearing up frae amang the massy trees? 1891 *Illustr. Lond. News* 7 Feb. 174/1 The two broken masts, swinging and spearing high up under the..heaps of vapour.

Spear(e, obs. forms of Speer *v.*1

Speared, *a.* [f. Spear *sb.*1] Armed with a spear or spears.

1819 Keats *Otho* v. v. 160, I will lead your legions forth, Compact in steeled squares, and speared files. 1839 Bailey *Festus* 150 The speared desires that overran The fairest fields of virtue.

Spearer (spīəɹəɹ). [f. Spear *sb.*1 or *v.*3] One who is armed with, or strikes with, a spear.

More frequent in Combs., as *eel-, salmon-spearer.*

1573 Baret *Alv., A Pensioner*, a gentilman about a prince alway ready, with his speare: a sperer. 1885 *Sat. Rev.* 21 Nov. 673/1 The spearer [of eels] takes aim.

Spear-grass. Also speargrass, spear grass. [f. Spear *sb.*1]

†**1.** = Spearwort 3. *Obs.*

1548 Turner *Names Herbes* (E.D.S.) 84 Flamula is the herbe whiche we cal in englishe Sperewurte or spergrasse. 1579 T. Lupton *Notable Things* iii. § 91 (1660) 48 Whosoever is tormented with the Sciatica or the Gout, let them take an herb called Speregrasse. 1596 Shaks. 1 *Hen. IV*, II. iv. 340 Yea, and to tickle our Noses with Spear-grasse, to make them bleed.

2. One or other of various British grasses, *esp.* couch-grass (*Triticum repens, Agrostis*, etc.).

1784 *Young's Annals Agric.* I. 197 The soil is light and sandy, and consequently very subject to spear-grass (*triticum repens*). 1806 J. Grahame *Birds of Scot.* 3 He founds their lowly house, of withered bents And coarsest speargrass. 1820 Keats *Lamia* II. 228 Let spear-grass and the spiteful thistle wage War on his temples. 1823 E. Moor *Suffolk Words, Spear-grass*, the coarse sour grass..called couch, squitch, and quitch, in other counties. 1825 Holdich *Ess. Weeds Agric.* 43 Black-grass (*Alopecurus agrestis*), also called Black-bent, Spear-grass, Slender Foxtail-grass, etc.

3. *Amer.* **a.** One or other of several species of meadow-grass, esp. *Poa pratensis.*

1747 Franklin *Lett.* Wks. 1887 II. 80 The grass which comes in first after ditching is spear-grass and white clover. 1762 Mills *Syst. Pract. Husb.* I. 152 Mr. Eliot, after draining the swamp [in New England].., sowed it with grass-seed, such as red clover, spear grass,..and herd grass. 1846–50 A. Wood *Class-bk. Bot.* 614 *Poa pratensis.* Spear Grass. ..*P. nemoralis.* Wood Spear Grass...*P. annua.* Annual Spear Grass. 1856 A. Gray *Man. Bot.* (1860) 561 *Poa annua.* ..Low Spear-Grass.

b. Some South American grass or plant.

1833 M. Scott *Tom Cringle* iv, Impervious underwood of prickly pear, penguin, and speargrass.

c. *Sea spear-grass*, a species of manna-grass.

1856 A. Gray *Man. Bot.* (1860) 560 *Glyceria maritima*,.. Sea Spear-Grass.

4. *Austr.* One or other of various grasses belonging to different genera (see quots.).

1847 Leichhardt *Jrnl.* ii. 44 Very disagreeable, however, was the abundance of Burr and of a Spear-grass (*Aristida*). 1865 Tenison-Woods *Disc. & Expl. Austr.* II. 463 *note*, The settlers call it spear-grass, and it is, I believe, a species of *Anthistiria*. 1874 Ranken *Dom. Australia* v. 86 Sheep in paddocks cannot be so well kept clear of spear grass. 1889 Maiden *Usef. Pl.* 90 *Heteropogon contortus*,..'Spear Grass', *Ibid.* 110 These grasses are excellent feeding before the appearance of the inflorescence; afterwards they are known as 'Spear Grasses'. 1890 Lumholtz *Cannibals* 23 A noxious kind of grass, namely the dreaded spear-grass (*Andropogon contortus*), which .. rendered sheep-raising impossible.

5. A New Zealand umbelliferous plant of the genus *Aciphylla.*

1851 [see Spaniard 3 a]. 1863 S. Butler *First Year Canterb. Settl.* vi. 81 Spaniard..is sometimes called spear-grass, and grows to about the size of a mole-hill.

6. One or other of several Asiatic grasses or plants.

1864 *Daily Tel.* 15 Aug., A place where an elephant could not crush through the thorn-trees,..the creeping plants, and the spear-grass. 1884 J. Gilmour *Mongols* 81 Here and there were the ghost-like remnants of last year's growth of spear-grass. 1900 Pollok & Thom *Sports Burma* 378 Coming in contact with spear grass and the fine hair of the bamboo.

Spear-head. Also **spearhead.** [f. Spear *sb.*1]

1. The sharp-pointed head or blade forming the striking or piercing end of a spear.

c 1400 Maundev. (Roxb.) ii. 6 Ane of þe nayles, and þe spere heued, and many oþer reliques er in Fraunce. *c* 1400 *Laud Troy Bk.* 17106 Thei were alle In mochel doute How the spere-hed scholde gon oute With-oute lesyng of his lyff. *c* 1445 Lydg. *Nightingale* ii. 158 Thurgh myn hert the sperhed gan it dresse. 1503 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* II. 202 For ane sper hede gilt, xxviij s. 1523 Fitzherb. *Husb.* § 54 Ther is a grasse called sperewort, and hath a long narowe leafe, lyke a spere-heed. 1610 Holland *Camden's Brit.* (1637) 188 They found Spear-heads, axes, and swords of brasse. 1638 Junius *Paint. Ancients* 320 Others do but shew their halfe bodies,..their head-pieces, their spear-heads. 1778 *Eng. Gazetteer* (ed. 2) s.v. *Tamworth*, A large trench remains..where bones of men and horses, and spear-heads, have been dug up. 1825 Scott *Talism.* xxviii, His lance.. shivered into splinters from the steel spear-head up to the very gauntlet. 1883 in *Fisheries Japan* (Fish. Exhib.) 35 A long bamboo rod..which is tipped at the extremity with an iron-barbed spear-head.

fig. 1893 in J. H. Barrow *World's Parlt. Relig.* II. 1540 The Scriptures were to be the spear-head, all other knowledge the well-fitted handle.

2. *transf.* A thing having the pointed form characteristic of the head of a spear.

1894 Doyle *S. Holmes* 33 The sticky spearheads of the chestnuts were just beginning to burst into their fivefold leaves. 1897 Quiller-Couch *Stevenson's St. Ives* xxxiii, Yonder was England, with the Solway cleaving the coast—a broad, bright spearhead, slightly bent at the tip.

3. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *spear-head form, -shaped.*

1865 Lubbock *Preh. Times* ix. 274 A weathered hatchet.. identical in form with the spearhead shaped specimens from Amiens. 1897 Mary Kingsley *W. Africa* 324 The Fan decorates the bellows with spearhead forms, the points whereof are directed towards the fire.

Spearien, obs. form of Spare *v.*1

Spea·riness. *rare*−1. [f. Speary *a.*1] The character of being speary or sharp-pointed.

a 1722 Lisle *Husb.* (1757) 141 The spikiness and speariness of the tops.

Spearing (spīə·rĭŋ), *sb.* Chiefly *U.S.* [?ad. Du. and G. *spiering* smelt (see Sparling).] **a.** *U.S.* The anchovy. **b.** *Ground spearing* (see quots.).

? 1838 *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) XXIV. 333/2 *Saurus Myops*, Cuv.;..Mouse-eyed Saury...Is found off St. Helena, and called by the colonists the Ground Spearing. 1884 Goode *Nat. Hist. Aquat. Anim.* 612 The fishermen distinguish it [Anchovy] from the true 'Whitebait', the young of the herring, calling it 'Spearing'. 1896 Jordan & Evermann *Fishes Amer.* 533 *Trachinocephalus myops*,.. Ground Spearing;..common in West Indies and Brazil.

Spearing (spīə·rĭŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. Spear *v.*3] The action of piercing, killing, etc., with a spear. Also *attrib.*

1779 Cook *Third Voy.* vi. v. (1784) III. 297 Our diversion was therefore changed to spearing of salmon. 1839 T. C. Hofland *Brit. Angler's Man.* xv. (1841) 184 The spearing-ground generally chosen, is a soft, sandy, or grassy bottom. 1876 'Wildfowler' *Shooting & Fishing Trips* II. 263 He resumed his spearing [of eels]. 1900 Isabel Savory *Sportswoman in India* i. 16 Spearing on the near side of a horse is most dangerous, and is not allowed.

†Spea·ring, *ppl. a. Obs.*−1 [f. **spear*, var. of Spire *v.*] Rising in a spiral form.

1752 *Phil. Trans.* XLVII. 478 Those, who saw it evaporate, affirm it ascended into the clouds in a long spearing vapour, and at last ended in a fiery stream.

Spearke, obs. form of Spark *sb.*1

Spear-like (spīə·rlaik), *a.* [f. Spear *sb.*1] Resembling a spear in shape or in sharpness.

1567 Maplet *Gr. Forest* 35 The Bulrush hath..two kindes: one..verie blunt and the other is rather Spearelike. *a* 1593 Marlowe tr. *1st Bk. Lucan* 530 Fiery meteors blaz'd in heauen: Now spearlike, long; now like a spreading torch. 1865 Tylor *Early Hist. Man.* viii. 223 This spear-like fossil. 1872 Coues *N. Amer. Birds* 265 A quick thrust of the spear-like bill. 1884 Bower & Scott *De Bary's Phaner.* 220 Each of these contains a single spear-like crystal.

Spearman (spīə·rmæn). [f. Spear *sb.*1 Cf. Spearsman.]

1. A soldier or warrior armed with a spear; one who carries a spear as a weapon.

1297 R. Glouc. (Rolls) 7753 Of kniȝtes & squiers, Speremen auote & bowemen, & al so arblasters. 1375 Barbour *Bruce* xv. 220 To the ficht Maknakill then Come with twa hundreth of gude sper-men. *c* 1400 *Laud Troy Bk.* 16671 The speremen ride, the bowemen schote. *c* 1500 *Melusine* 219 Thenne mounted spere men on horsback, and bygane euery man to marche forth in fayre aray. 1591 Savile *Tacitus, Hist.* II. xxxiii. 73 A valiant companie..of speare-men and horse departed away. 1665 Manley *Grotius' Low C. Wars* 451 Against whom was sent Lewis of Nassau, with 400 Spear-men. 1790 Cowper *Odyss.* III. 504 Beside him, he bade sleep the spearman bold. 1807 Wordsw. *White Doe* VI. 123 A Spearman brought him to the ground. 1865 J. H. Ingraham *Pillar of Fire* xi. 128 The Egyptian army consist[s]..of bowmen, spearmen,..and other corps.

b. A royal or civic officer bearing a spear.

c 1640 R. Sempill *Piper of Kilbarchan* 29 At fairs he play'd before the Spear-men, All gaily graithed in their gear-men. 1674 Blount *Glossogr.* (ed. 4), *Pensioners*,.. are the more noble sort of Guard to the King's Person...In Hen. 8. time they were called *Spearmen.*

2. A spearer of fish.

1815 Scott *Guy M.* xxvi, 'The deil's in Gabriel!' said the spearman, as the fragments of glowing wood floated..down the stream.

3. *U.S.* As an insect-name (see quot.).

1868 *Rep. U.S. Commissioner Agric.* (1869) 80 Numbers of the *Lebia grandis*..were taken feeding on the larvæ of the ten-lined spearman (*Doryphora 10-lineata*).

Spearmint (spīə·rmint). [f. Spear *sb.*1]

1. The common garden mint, *Mentha viridis*, much used in cookery.

1562 Turner *Herbal* II. (1568) 54 Thys herbe is called with us gardin mynte, and as far as I remembre, it is called spere mynte, and if it be not named so, it may well be called so of the sharpnes of the lefe. 1584 Cogan *Haven Health* xvi. 38 One [kind] most fragrant in sauour..is called Spere Mint, and is vsed to be put in puddings. 1597 Gerarde *Herbal* II. ccxv. 552 The leaues of Speare Mint are long like those of the Willow tree. 1620 Venner *Via Recta* vii. 153 Of these two, the Speare-Mint is the more excellent. 1666 Boyle *Orig. Forms & Qual.* 124 *Raphanus Aquaticus*, Spearemint, and even *Ranunculus* it self, did grow..in Viols filld with fair water. 1717 Berkeley *Jrnl. Tour Italy* Wks. 1871 IV. 552 Air perfumed with speermint growing over an ample space. 1779 Forrest *Voy. N. Guinea* 247 In this garden he had..onions, parsley, spearment, and the Spanish raddish. 1807 P. Gass *Jrnl.* 103 There is in the bottoms a great quantity of spear-mint and currant bushes. 1811 A. T. Thomson *Lond. Disp.* (1818) 255 Spearmint is stomachic and carminative. 1882 *Garden* 6 May 320/1 Mint should now be planted, both the Spear-mint and Peppermint.

b. With pl. A plant of this.

1539 Elyot *Cast. Helthe* 78 Mylke, newe mylked, wherin is put..three leaues of good speare myntes. 1620 Venner *Via Recta* ii. 44 Take..of Speremints, of Balme, of each one handfull.

2. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *spearmint-leaf, oil, root, water.*

1662 R. Mathew *Unl. Alch.* 192 Put into it one quart of Rose-water, and one quart of Spermint-water. 1681 Grew *Museum* I. vii. ii. 165 Not Oval, but rather expressing the figure of a Speer-Mint-Leaf. 1757 A. Cooper *Distiller* II. v. (1760) 126 The simple Waters now commonly made, are Orange-flower-water, .. Spear-mint-water [etc.]. 1786 Abercrombie *Gard. Assist.* 306 Plant spear-mint roots in a hot bed. 1857 Miller *Elem. Chem., Org.* vii. § 1. 448 Indifferent oils, such as spearmint oil (C_{20} H_{20} O_2). 1860 Warter *Sea-board* II. 29 All I could give her was some spearmint water.

Spear-point. [f. Spear *sb.*1]

1. The point of a spear.

c 1450 *Merlin* xvii. 275 The cristin hem receyved at spere poynte. 1584 *Shuttleworths' Acc.* (Chetham Soc.) 13 Payed for makinge a spair poynt, vj^d. 1597 *Cal. Border Pap.* II. 464 Langriges..did openlie baffell and reprove the said lord Harrise of treason, by bearing his glove upon a speare point. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s.v. *Crambe*, A fruit of the shape of a spear point. 1776 Mickle tr. *Camoens' Lusiad* IX. 78 Like melted gold the brazen spear-points blaze. 1815 Scott *Guy M.* xlvii, A staff in her hand, headed with a sort of spear-point. 1856 Kingsley *Heroes* iv. ii, Then they hurled their lances at his shield, but the spear-points turned like lead.

attrib. 1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib., Brit.* II. No. 6490, Table knives and forks, spear point, palette, and butchers' knives.

2. *transf.* Something resembling the point of a spear.

1801 L. L. Noble *Icebergs* 169 Where the ice shoots up into thin spear-points. 1902 *Daily Chron.* 1 Apr. 2/1 The ruddy spearpoints of the beech buds..swelling with new life.

3. A species of moth (see quot.).

1832 J. Rennie *Consp. Butterfl. & M.* 79 The Spear Point (*Acronycta cuspis*)...Rare. Kent.

Spear-rib, obs. form of Spare-rib.

Spearse, variant of Sperse *v.*

Spear-shaft. Also 1, 3 **speresc**æ**ft,** 4–5 **spereschaft**(**e,** 5 **spereshafte, speyre-chaft.** [f. Spear *sb.*1 Cf. OHG. *sperascaft* (MHG. *sperschaft*, G. *speerschaft*), MSw. *spärsskapt.*] The long shaft or handle to which the spear-head is fixed. Also *transf.* (quot. 1841).

a 900 Wærferth tr. *Gregory's Dial.* 14 Þær hi ealle ongunnon heora hors mid heora speresc**æ**ftum þerscan. *c* 1205 Lay. 14752 He nom ænne spere-sc**æ**ft þe wes long & swiþe stærc. 1382 Wyclif 1 *Chron.* xx. 5 Whos spere schaft was as the beme of websters. 1398 Trevisa *Barth. De P. R.* xii. xxiv, Locusta..haþ longe legges, as a spere schafte. *c* 1420 *Contin. Brut* 337 William Walworth..slow Iack Straw, and anon ryȝt þere dede smyȝt of his hed, and sette it vp apon a spere-schafte. 1483 *Wardr. Acc.* in *Antiq. Rep.* (1807) I. 49, viij spereshaftes with their chapitulls. *a* 1700 Ken *Edmund* Poet. Wks. 1721 II. 26 Fit barbed Heads for their Spear-shafts to make. 1841 H. Miller *O.R. Sandst.* vii. 119 They form a continuous convex stratum in the sandstone spear-shaft. 1887 Morris *Odyssey* x. 170 As I steadied myself with my spear-shaft.

Spear-shaped, *a.* [f. Spear *sb.*1] Resembling a spear in shape; pointed like a spear.

1763 Mills *Pract. Husb.* III. 282 The lobes are small, spear-shaped, and hoary on their under side. 1796 Withering *Brit. Plants* (ed. 3) I. 203 Petals..spear-shaped, rather flat, but a little bent inwards. *Ibid.* III. 625 Thorns simple and compound: leaves spear-shaped. 1831 Scott *Cf. Rob.* xxiii, The tent..was raised upon tall spear-shaped poles. 1837 P. Keith *Bot. Lex.* 260 Appendages..varying much in form in different species, as awl-shaped, spear-shaped, half-arrow-shaped. 1908 Sir H. Johnston *Grenfell & Congo* II. xxvii. 788 The paddles along the main course of the Congo are generally spear-shaped.

Spearsman. [f. Spear *sb.*1] = Spearman.

1836 Mrs. Traill *Backw. Canada* 159 He is considered very skilful as a spearsman. 1885 *Manch. Exam.* 13 Feb. 5/4 They are specially marked out by the Arab marksmen and spearsmen.

Spear-staff. [f. Spear *sb.*1] The staff or shaft of a spear; = Spear-shaft. Also *transf.*

1530 Palsgr. 274/1 Speare staffe, *fust de lance.* 1565 Cooper *Thesaurus, Hastile*, a speare staffe. 1653 W. Ramesey *Astrol. Restored* 100 The fixed Stars in Libra.. are in number Twenty five...20. The calf of the right leg of Bootes. 21. The Spear-staff Incalurus of Bootes. 1687 Miége *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II, Spear-staffe, *la hampe.* 1736 Ainsworth II, *Hasta pura*, a spear staff without an iron head. 1776 Mickle tr. *Camoens' Lusiad* I. 274 [Mars] Strikes his tall spear-staff on the sounding ground. 1878 Gosse *Rivers Bible* 376 His spear-staff was 'like a weaver's beam'.

Spearwort (spīə·rwɤt). Forms: 1 **spere-wyrt,** 3 **-wurt,** 5 **-wourt**(**h,** 5–7 **-wort,** 6 **-wurte**; 4–5 **sperwort,** 6 **sperworte**; 8 **speerwort**; 6 **spearewoort** (7 **-wort**), 6– **spearwort.** [f. Spear *sb.*1 Cf. G. *speerkraut, -wurz.*]

†1. Elecampane (*Inula Helenium*). *Obs.*

c 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* I. 210 Genim þas wyrte þe man hinnula campana, & oþrum naman spere wyrte nemneþ. *a* 1100 in Wr.-Wülcker 299 *Innule campane*, sperewyrt. *c* 1265 *Voc. Plants* Ibid. 558 *Hinnula campana*, sperewurt.

†2. = Nep *sb.*2 *Obs.*

c 1000 Ælfric *Gloss.* in Wr.-Wülcker 135 *Nap siluatica*, sperewyrt, *uel* wilde næp.

3. One or other of several species of ranunculus, esp. *R. Flammula* (lesser or small spearwort) and *R. Lingua* (great spearwort).

The identity of the plant in quot. *c* 1450 is doubtful.

a 1387 *Sinon. Barthol.* (Anecd. Oxon.) 21 *Flammula*, i. sperwort, calidus est et siccus in quarto gradu. *a* 1400 *Stockholm Med. MS.* 185 Sperewourt or launcelef. *Ibid.* 189 Þe lesse sperewourth. *c* 1450 *Alphita* (Anecd. Oxon.) 23 *Borith*, nonaclum cirurgie, lanceolata aquatica idem,.. sperewort. 1523 Fitzherb. *Husb.* § 54 Ther is a grasse called sperewort, and hath a long narowe leafe, lyke a spere-heed, and it wyll growe a fote hyghe, and beareth a yelowe floure. 1597 Gerarde *Herbal* II. cccl. 815 Spearewoort is like to the other Crowfootes in faculties, it is hot in the mouth or biting, it exulcerateth and raiseth blisters. 1614 Markham *Cheap Husb.* I. xxx. 79 The grasse which is vnwholesome for Sheepe, is that which hath growing amongst it, Spearewort, Pennywort, or Penny-grasse. 1635 Swan *Spec. M.* (1670) 219 Spear-wort, or Banewort, is an herb which if it be taken inwardly, is deadly. *c* 1710 Petiver *Cat. Ray's Eng. Herbal* Tab. xxxix, Great Spear-wort. Small Spear-wort. 1763 Mills *Pract. Husb.* III. 312 The hairy wood grass, the lesser spearwort,.. have evidently suspicious marks. 1848 Johns *Week at Lizard* 210 Lined ..with..aquatic plants, among which the great spear-wort.. is...conspicuous. 1865 *Reader* No. 153. 628/2 The little dwarf spearwort. 1890 *Science Gossip* XXVI. 44/1 It is a well-known variety of the lesser spearwort.., which I have found in a very fine condition in Sussex.

b. Mentioned as used by beggars to produce artificial blisters or sores.

1567 Harman *Caveat* (1869) 44 All for the most parte.. wil either lay to their legs an herb called Sperewort, eyther Arsnicke, which is called Ratesbane. 1608 Dekker *Belman of London* Wks. (Grosart) III. 99 With Sperewort or Arsenick will they in one night poyson their leg be it neuer so sound, and raise a blister, which at their pleasure they can take off againe. 1673 R. Head *Canting Acad.* 74 Sperewort or Arsnick..will draw blisters.

Hence **Spea·rworty** *a.*, diseased through the eating of spearwort. ? *Obs.*

1736 Pegge *Kenticisms* (E.D.S.) 48 The liver of a rotten sheep, when it is full of white knots, is said to be speerworty.

Speary (spīə·ri), *a.*1 [f. Spear *sb.*1]

†1. Of grass: Hard and stiff. *Obs.*

1577 Harrison *England* 37 b/2 Where.. blewe claye aboundeth..there the grasse is speary, rough, and very apt for bushes. 1653 Blithe *Eng. Improver Impr.* 11 They bear little, or no grass, a little wild Time, and speary harsh grass, that Cattell eat not.

2. Resembling a spear or spears; slender and sharp-pointed; keen.

1820 Hogg in *Blackw. Mag.* VI. 464 The speary wood Groans to the blast. 1822 Moir *Ibid.* XI. 305 The bordering reeds exalt higher their speary summits. 1855 *Fraser's Mag.* LI. 95 Speary sleet and driving snow. 1872 Howells *Wedding Journ.* (1892) 143 Dark evergreens that..point their speary tops above the crest of bluffs.

3. Consisting of spears; waged with spears.

1810 W. Taylor in *Monthly Mag.* XXIX. 417 Thread of Roman entrails twin'd In the speary loom they strain. 1888 Doughty *Arabia Deserta* I. 25 Better him were to comb his beard..at home, than show his fine skin to..their speary warfare.

Spea·ry, *a.*2 [perh. f. Spear *sb.*2, but cf. prec.] Slender, spindly.

1821 Clare *Village Minstr.* II. 104 Speary barley bowing down with dew. 1854 Miss Baker *Northampt. Gloss., Speary*, shooting up long and slender. 1899 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* Mar. 114 Too close planting induces to speary growth.

Speat, var. Spate *sb.* **Speate,** obs. f. Spit *sb.* **Speave,** var. Spave *v.* **Speawe,** obs. f. Spew *v.*

Spec (spek), *sb. colloq.* and *slang.* [Short for Speculation; orig. American, but in English use from *c* 1825.]

1. A commercial speculation or venture.

Freq. with qualifying adj. as *bad, good.*

1794 J. Adams *Wks.* (1856) I. 469 Many merchants have already made a noble *spec.* of the embargo by raising their

prices. 1819 W. Faux *Mem. Days Amer.* (1823) 37 By way of turning a penny, or as they say, of making a good *spec.* of it. 1824 in *Spirit Public Jrnls.* (1825) 204 And the Hunts—a bad spec,..Have published some posthumous trash of Byshe Shelly. 1851 Mayhew *Lond. Labour* I. 378, I have already sold enough to pay me well enough for my spec. 1872 A. H. Hutchinson *Try Cracow* (ed. 2) v. 93 A Prussian banker..who purchased the property..as a kind of spec to form into a limited company.

transf. 1829 in Knapp *Life G. Borrow* (1899) I. 140 Do not enter the army; it is a bad spec. 1855 Delamer *Kitchen Garden* (1861) 177 Sow a few dwarf kidney beans as a spec.

b. *On spec*, on the chance of obtaining some advantage, gaining some profit, etc.

1832 Marryat *N. Forster* xlvi, Both..came out on spec. 1837 Dickens *Pickw.* xxxiii, They said what a wery gen'rous thing it was o' them to have taken up the case on spec. 1857 Kingsley *Two Y. Ago* xxv, If tradesmen will run up houses on spec in a water-meadow, who can stop them?

2. *Winchester slang.* A good or enjoyable thing or occasion. Also *on spec.*

1891 Wrench *Winch. Wordbk.* (1901) s.v.

Spec, variant of Speck *sb.*

† Specary, *a. Sc. Obs.*—[1] [ad. med.L. **spicarius* (usually *spicatus*), f. L. *spīca* spike.] *Nardus specary*, spikenard.

1535 Stewart *Cron. Scot.* III. 286 The quhilk with spycarie [=spicery] Anoyntit wes, and nardus specarie.

† Spece. *Obs.* Forms: 4–7 spece (5 speche), 4, 6 spiece, 7 speece. [ad. OF. *espece* (mod.F. *espèce*) sort, kind, appearance, etc., ad. L. *speciēs* Species. Cf. Spice *sb.*]

1. Appearance, form, likeness.

a 1325 *Prose Psalter* xlix. 2 Fram þe sonne arisyng vn-to þe going a-doune, þe spece of his fairnes is of Syon. 1490 Caxton *Eneydos* xix. 70 The soule of my fader Anchisis.. apyereth byfore me vndre the speche of a terryble ymage.

2. a. A spice; an aromatic vegetable condiment. **b.** A medical substance; a drug.

a 1300 *Body & Soul* in *MS. Laud 108* fol. 200 Þwere ben þine cokes snelle, þat scholden gon greiþe þi mete With speces [*written* spetes] swete for to smelle? 1390 Gower *Conf.* II. 325 With diverse spieces The fleissh..Sche takth, and makth therof a sewe. 1561 Hollybush *Hom. Apoth.* 15 Nether let him eat any fishes nor speces. 1605 Timme *Quersit.* III. 177 Take..the speces of diamarg[ariton] frigid., camphor, of each 2 drachmes.

3. A species, kind, sort, or variety.

1303 R. Brunne *Handl. Synne* 8319 Ȝyt ys þyr a specyal spece þat doþ leccherye klymbe by a grece. 1357 *Lay Folk's Catech.* 527 (T.), Of this syn comes sum sére speces. 1390 Gower *Conf.* III. 114 As for wisdom, it is in Grece, Wher is aproprede thilke spiece. 1422 tr. *Secreta Secret., Priv. Priv.* 219 More-ouer we sene that euery beest hath his propyr Sowle, and his Propyr body. Of thes Speces neuer faillyth. 1491 Caxton *Vitas Patr.* (W. de W. 1495) I. i. 3 b/2 Nytree, Whyche is a spece of Salte puryfycatyff. *c* 1530 L. Cox *Rhet.* (1899) 44 These thre laste þe properly callid speces or kindes of oracions. 1637 B. Jonson *Sad Shepherd* III. i, Tempest shall grow hoarse, Loud thunder dumb, and every speece of storm, Laid in the lap of listening nature, hush'd. 1647 M. Hudson *Div. Right Govt.* II. ix. 137 Thus much briefly of the nature and spece's of Fundamentall Honour; the other spece of Honour opposite to this is Symbolicall.

4. A part, portion, or share; a touch or trace.

c 1330 R. Brunne *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 904 A bacheler.. born y þe lond of Grece; Of þat blod he hadde a spece, ffor his ffader was Gregeys. 1548 Udall, etc. *Erasm. Par. Mark* ii. 23 Certain of Johns disciples..were attached with a spiece of humain enuie, for that [etc.].

Spece, obs. f. Space *sb.*[1], Speak *sb.*, Speech *sb.*

Specefie, -fy(e, obs. ff. Specify *v.*

† Specery. *Obs.* Also **-eri, -erye.** [ad. OF. *especerie*, var. of *espicerie*.] Spicery.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 23456 (Edinb.), Swet speceri to..smel. *a* 1400 *Sqr. lowe Degre* 687 She sered that body with specery. 1404 in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* Ser. II. I. 30, vi Schippis owte of Fraunce..wt wyn & specery. 1480 Caxton *Chron. Eng.* ccxliii. 284 Dyuerse speceryes and baumes.

Spech(e, obs. ff. Speech *sb.*, Spetch *sb.*

† Speche. *Obs.*—[1] [Cf. MLG. *spêke*, MHG. *speiche, speich* (G. *speichel*; Du. *speeksel*).] Spittle.

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 288 Þauh heo bispeteð hire mid hire blake spotle [*C.* speches, *T.* speckes].

Specheles(s, etc., obs. ff. Speechless, etc.

Specht, obs. f. Speight (woodpecker).

Special (spe·ʃăl), *a., adv.*, and *sb.* Forms: 3–6 **specyal** (4 **-el**), 4–5 **-alle,** 4–6 **-all**; 3–6 **speciale,** 4 **-ele,** 5 **speceale**; 3– **special** (4 **-el**), 4–6 **-alle,** 4–7 **-all,** 6 **spetiall,** 7 **speaciall.** [ad. OF. *especial* (see Especial *a.*) or L. *speciālis* individual, particular, f. *speciēs* Species. Cf. It. *speciale, speziale*; MDu. *speciael* (Du. *speciaal*), G. *spec-, spezial, -iell.*]

A. *adj.* **1.** Of such a kind as to exceed or excel in some way that which is usual or common; exceptional in character, quality, or degree: **a.** Of actions, qualities, etc.

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 56 Nullich þet no mon iseo ou bute he habbe leaue speciale of ower meistre. 1297 R. Glouc. (Rolls) 8730 Special loue þer adde ibe er..Bituene him & þe kinges dozter Mold of scotlonde. *c* 1340 Hampole *Pr. Consc.* 2781 For þe saul for ilka penaunce here, Sal haf specyel ioy in heven swa clere. *c* 1384 Chaucer *H. Fame* 68, I wol make Inuocacion With special deuocion. *c* 1400 Maundev. (Roxb.) xi. 49 Perfore scho had a speciale gift of Godd. *c* 1430 Lydg. *Min. Poems* (Percy Soc.) 44 Do almesse dedes where nede is specialle. *c* 1449 Pecock *Repr.* II. xi. 214 Forto make..persoones come into remembraunce of a mater, ymagis & picturis seruen in a specialer maner than bokis doon. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 2 This treatyse promyseth..thre great prerogatiues or special benefytes. 1573 G. Harvey *Letter-bk.* (Camden) 1 Harti thanks for the..special gud wil which you have alwais..shewid me. 1601 Shaks. *Twel. N.* III. iv. 69 Let some of my people haue a speciall care of him. 1624 Ussher in *Lett. Lit. Men* (Camden) 131 The first bookes that I shall have speciall neede of. 1667 Milton *P. L.* II. 1033 Mortals..whom God and good Angels guard by special grace. 1717 in *Nairne Peerage Evidence* (1874) 145 With the special advice and consent of his said lady. 1781 Cowper *Expost.* 631 The moles and bats in full assembly find, On special search, the keen-ey'd eagle blind. 1818 Scott *Hrt. Midl.* xxxiv, As you say you have special reason to apprehend violence from them. 1857 Miller *Elem. Chem., Org.* ii. § 4. 97 The foregoing facts..have a special interest. 1867 Freeman *Norm. Conq.* (1877) I. App. 645 Men of no special celebrity.

b. Of material things, events, etc.

13.. *E. E. Allit. P. A.* 235 Ho profered me speche, þat special spyce. 1340–70 *Alisaunder* 183 Der sprong neuer spicerie so speciall in erþe. 1535 Coverdale *Jer.* xxii. 7, I will prepare a destroyer..to hew downe thy special Cedre trees. 1585 T. Washington tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* II. v. 35 Thinges most speciall and woorthie of memorie. 1610 Holland *Camden's Brit.* (1637) 335 A speciall fountaine, into which God infused a wonderfull gift and vertue. 1685 R. Burton *Eng. Emp. Amer.* xxii. 208 They have Horses so plentifull that a special one may be bought for six or seven pound. 1831 Scott *Cast. Dang.* i, A few special spots excepted, the soil..was more and more mixed with the pastoral and woodland country. 1833 Ht. Martineau *Cinnamon & Pearls* v. 92 A special instrument of forcing the means of production into artificial channels.

c. Of persons.

1461 *Paston Lett.* II. 51, I shuld have had as speciall and as gode a maister of you, as any pour man. 1503 Hawes *Examp. Virt.* xiv. 292 Our Sauyour Ihesu deere and specyall. *a* 1548 Hall *Chron., Edw. V*, 13 b, One of the speciallest contriuers of all thys horrible treason. 1639 Fuller *Holy War* II. xl. 97 These proved excellent souldiers and speciall horsemen, and are called Mammalukes. 1747 Hoadly *Suspicious Husband* I. iii, A special Acquaintance I have made to-day! 1854 Miss Baker *Northampt. Gloss.* s.v., She's a special favourite. 1904 A. Griffiths *50 Years Public Service* xii. 169 A strong brigade of single workers, 'special' convicts, 'blue dress men' of exemplary conduct.

† d. *spec.* Notable, important, distinguished. *Obs.*

1576 Fleming *Panopl. Epist.* 377 Secrete sciences, which hee did impart but to a verie fewe, the same being special persons. 1591 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* Ser. I. IV. 623 The speciall and cheif personis of the said parochin. 1602 Fulbecke *Pandects* 32 So did the Thebane state a long time florish..by the wisedome of Pelopidas, Epamondas, and other speciall men. 1631 Weever *Anc. Funeral Mon.* 516 These I suppose to be the burials of some special persons.

e. *colloq.* Particularly interested or informed.

1830 Galt *Lawrie T.* II. v. (1849) 56, I ain't special 'bout pedigrees.

2. Of friends: Admitted to particular intimacy; held in particular esteem.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 13365 þe bridgom did alle þider call His specialiest freindes all. 1387 Trevisa *Higden* (Rolls) I. 9 Þan special frendes þat knewe myn entent..prayed me besiliche, þat [etc.]. 1422 tr. *Secreta Secret., Priv. Priv.* 151 Yestyrday he hadd frendys Speciall, but to-day he haue ham all y-lyke. *c* 1489 Caxton *Sonnes of Aymon* xiv. 344 Come nere, my specyall frende. 1535 Coverdale *Acts* x. 24 Cornelius..had called together his kynszfolkes and speciall frendes. 1691 Wood *Ath. Oxon.* II. 191 This book, as Mr. Ley's special friend hath told me, was written by the said Ley. 1863 Boyd *Graver Th. Country Parson* 240 A Christian man ought never to choose for his special friend a person who, he knows, has no religion.

† b. Particularly intimate; closely attached by acquaintance or friendship. Const. *to, with. Obs.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 17626 þai send forth seuen men o wale, War mast to ioseph speciale. *c* 1325 *Metr. Hom.* 30 An cloyster monk loued him ful wel, And was til him ful speciel. 1375 Barbour *Bruce* v. 501 Thai vald nocht persauit be, That thai war speciall to the king. *c* 1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 2610 Elfled, þat honorabil abbas, To whaim cuthbert sa special was. *Ibid.* 7885 He was speciall to þe kyng. *c* 1500 *Lancelot* 411 To them that war to hyme most speciall. *Ibid.* 906 For o knycht he send, That was most speciall with the lady kend.

3. Marked off from others of the kind by some distinguishing qualities or features; having a distinct or individual character; also, in weakened sense, particular, certain.

1303 R. Brunne *Handl. Synne* 8319 Ȝyt ys þyr a specyal spece þat doþ leccherye klymbe by a grece. *c* 1386 Chaucer *Pars. T.* P 488 Alle other synnes ben somtyme oonly agains oon special vertu; but certes envye is agayns alle vertues. 1387 Trevisa *Higden* (Rolls) I. 27 Eueriche prouince and londe is descryued for to me come to Britayne þe laste of alle, as most special. 1535 Coverdale *Zech.* xiv. 8 This shalbe that specyall daye, which is knowne vnto the Lorde. 1561 T. Norton *Calvin's Inst.* I. 32 Seing it is the purpose of ye Prophet to adorn Christ with such special notes as may builde our Faith vpon him. 1620 T. Granger *Div. Logike* 43 Aristotle saith, a man is the most speciall. 1628 T. Spencer *Logick* 131 That is most speciall, vnto which there can be no other Species inferior. 1725 Watts *Logic* I. iii. § 3 A special Idea is call'd by the Schools, a Species. 1768–74 Tucker *Lt. Nat.* (1834) I. 474 As well in entire systems as in their sundry parts, yea, members, and moreover, the speciallest species of them. 1841 *Penny Cycl.* XXI. 178/2 Of Special or Local Secretions. *Ibid.*, Secreted in a particular part of plants for a special purpose. 1861 M. Pattison *Ess.* (1889) I. 48 The Germans..maintained in it an altar, and had their own masses said in it on special days. 1884 J. Sully *Outlines Psychol.* xii. 553 The order of development of the special sensibilities..concerned.

b. In predicative use: Limited or restricted.

1848 J. T. White *Xenophon's Anab.* III. iv. § 15 Notes (1872) 174 Zeune refers the term to their imitating the Scythians in the mode of discharging the arrow; but this is too special.

c. Additional to the usual or ordinary.

1840 *Rep. Sel. Comm. Railw. Quest.* 255, I believe this special train was the next. 1847 in *Thames Valley Times* (1887) 22 June 5/3 Special Trains may be engaged for large Parties. 1882 J. Hatton *Journalistic Lond.* 148 The whole *Morning Standard* is printed in one hour and fifty minutes,..and the special edition in forty-five minutes.

4. Of persons: **a.** Appointed or employed for a particular purpose or occasion. † Also in predicative use (with *in*).

13.. *K. Alis.* 7609 (Laud MS.), By a speciale messager, I wil hir sende loue drurye. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 1492 Bifore þe sancta sanctorum soþefast dryȝtyn Expouned his speche spiritually to special prophetes. *c* 1400 Love *Bonavent. Mirr.* (1908) 49 Perаunter gabriel that was special messanger of this werk. 1405 *Rolls of Parlt.* III. 605/1 Our generalls and specialls Attornes and Deputes. *c* 1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 843 Þai were speciale in his seruyse. 1646 Gataker *Mistake Removed* 18 Having from the mouth of God, by a special expresse, received a prayere. 1801–31 [see Constable 5 e]. 1856 *Men of the Time* 687 He was deputed to be the special correspondent of the 'Times' in the Crimea. 1865 *Ibid.* 714/2 He was employed as Special Commissioner during the Irish famine.

b. Devoted to a particular or limited field of study or research.

1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 120 Some well-known (and not too special) specialist.

5. Having an individual, particular, or limited application, object, or intention; affecting or concerning a single person, thing, circumstance, etc., or a particular class of these.

Special intention: see Intention 12 b.

13.. *Coer de L.* 6471 The abbot..brought hym lettres speciele, Aselyd with the barouns sele. *c* 1380 Wyclif *Sel. Wks.* III. 441 Þai say furst, þat speciale prayere..is better þen generale. *c* 1400 *Lanfranc's Cirurg.* 195 þe white morphu is curid..wiþ þis special medicyn. 1444 *Rolls of Parlt.* V. 111/2 That..a speciall Commission be made to the chief Justice of your Benche. 1526 Skelton *Magnyf.* 2464 From you I receyued a letter, Whiche conteyned in it a specyall clause That I sholde vse Largesse. 1570–6 Lambarde *Peramb. Kent* (1826) 329 Of a specyall intent and purpose to pray to God for raine. 1596 Shaks. *Merch. V.* v. i. 292 There doe I giue to you..a speciall deed of gift. 1613 Purchas *Pilgrimage* (1614) 918 On which day this..came ..without any special appointment, to the presse. 1651 Hobbes *Leviath.* II. xxvi. 145 In which case there is no speciall Law ordained. 1764 Burn *Poor Laws* 194 To..distribute the same, together with other special benefactions, to such as shall have most need. 1802 Paley *Nat. Theol.* xv. (1819) 242 It is a special purpose, specially consulted throughout. 1849 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* vi. II. 51 He was sent to London charged with several special commissions of high importance. 1862 *Sat. Rev.* 8 Feb. 147 Popular theology dispenses with special knowledge as a key to difficulties. 1892 *Photogr. Ann.* II. 285, I could not very well include it under 'Special Cameras.'

b. Entering into details or particulars; precise.

1681 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1648/4 Providing always that the Libel..be special, as to a certain place..; and also be special as to the time. 1876 E. Mellor *Priesthood* viii. 348 This confession must not only be general, but special, involving a minute description of all the circumstances in which the sins were committed.

6. Having close, intimate, or exclusive connexion or relationship with one person or thing (or set of these); peculiar: **a.** Of persons.

1382 Wyclif *Deut.* vii. 6 That thow be to hym a special puple. 1456 Sir G. Haye *Law Arms* (S.T.S.) 253 [The] king of Napples mon., mak..oblissing to the pape as specale lord soverane till him. 1508 Kennedie *Flyting w. Dunbar* 417, I am the kingis blude, his trew speciall clerk. 1591 Shaks. *1 Hen. VI*, I. i. 171 To Eltam will I, where the young King is, Being ordayn'd his speciall Gouernor. 1611 Bible *Deut.* vii. 6 The Lord thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people vnto himselfe. 1737 Challoner *Cath. Chr. Instr.* (1753) 213 In this Nation we keep the Days of St. Thomas of Canterbury, and of St. George, as our special Patrons. 1898 Watts-Dunton *Aylwin* I. ii, I always looked upon him as my special paid henchman.

b. Of things.

1484 Caxton *Chivalry* 89 The comyn wele is gretter and more necessary than propre good and specyall. 1548 Udall, etc. *Erasm. Par. Luke* v. 54 b, The propre and moste speciall office of suche an one. 1578 Lyte *Dodoens* II. xliv. 202 Floures..without any speciall smell. 1599 Hakluyt *Voy.* II. II. 4 Their language was speciall, and not mixed with Romane speech or Arabian. 1673–4 Grew *Anat. Pl., Trunks* (1682) 132 The specifying of the Sap dependeth chiefly on the special Nature of the Parts. 1850 McCosh *Div. Govt.* III. i. (1874) 296 Every intuitive principle in our constitution has its special truth to reveal and sanction. 1870 J. Yeats *Nat. Hist. Comm.* I Each region has its special treasures. 1884 R. Paton *Scott. Ch.* viii. 81 Columba ..had his special cell at Iona, in which he wrote and read.

c. Const. *to.*

1871 Ruskin *Arrows of Chace* (1880) I. 227 Nearly every great church in France has some merit special to itself. 1894 *Nature's Method in Evol. Life* vii. 77 The new force special to the whale.

7. *Law.* Used with a large number of legal terms to denote particular or distinctive instances or cases of the thing, action, or person in question, as *special bail, bailiff, bastard(y, heir, occupant, resolution, tail, verdict.*

See also Jury 2 d, and Special pleader, pleading.

1495 [see Tail *sb.*[2] 3 b]. 1544 tr. *Littleton's Tenures* 4 b, Tenaunt in tayle specyal, is where landes and tene-

mentes be gyuen vnto a man and his wyfe and the heyres of theyr .ii. bodyes begoten. 1665 Ever *Tryals per Pais* xiii. 166 A Special Verdict, or Verdict at large, is so called, because it findeth the special matter at large, and leaveth the Judgement of the Law thereupon, to the Court. 1720 T. Wood *Inst. Laws Eng.* II. 1009 The Special Pleas are many, as *Per dures, Per Minas.* 1768 Blackstone *Comm.* II. 259 There the heir might, and still may, enter and hold possession, and is called in law a special occupant. 1769 *Ibid.* III. 287 In order to arrest the defendant, and make him put in substantial sureties for his appearance, called special bail. 1818 Cruise *Digest* (ed. 2) VI. 413 With a subsequent devise to the heirs general, or special, or issue, of A. 1835 *Tomlins's Law Dict.* I. s.v. *Bailiff,* Formerly bailiffs of hundreds were the officers to execute writs; but now it is done by special bailiffs, put in with them by the sheriff. *Ibid.* s.v. *Bastard,* Bastardy, in relation to the several manners of its trial, is distinguished into general and special bastardy. 1845 Stephen *Comm. Laws Eng.* (1874) II. 176 By 'Special' resolution—i. e., by one passed by a majority in number and three-fourths in value of the creditors present.

8. *Comb.* In collocations used attributively, as *special-creation, -service, -temper,* or derivatives of these, as *special-creationist, -correspondently* adv.

1886 Spencer in *19th Cent.* May 766 The point of view of the special-creationist. 1887 *Pall Mall G.* 10 Jan. 5/1 When the special-service man desires to inculcate caution on the driver of the next train, he affixes a single detonator to the rail. 1891 Kipling *Life's Handicap* 86 It suited him to talk special-correspondently. 1895 W. H. Hudson *Intr. Spencer's Philos.* 27 The special-creation hypothesis. 1897 *Outing* XXX. 279/1 A special-temper tool steel. 1901 *Daily Tel.* 9 Mar. 9/3 Two British special service officers have left London for the Abyssinian capital.

B. *adv.* and in phr. *in special.*

1. In a special manner; especially, particularly. Now only *colloq.* or *dial.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 27972 Speciale þan cals þis sin Wrak o him þat ligges þar-in. 1340 *Ayenb.* 230 Oure lhordes leman special is yloued þet lokeþ maydenhod. 14.. *Sir Beues* (C) 688+3 Sche preyed yow specyalle, To come & speke with hur yn preuyte. 1451 Capgrave *Life St. Aug.* 35 He comendid gretly his cunnyng and special his deuocion. 1513 Bradshaw *St. Werburge* I. 2460 It [i. e. an exemption] to confyrme and roborate specyall With charters and dedes and seales patent. 1545 Raynald *Byrth Mankynde* 124 Sethe them in white wyne, and therein lap the infante, spetiall yf it be not taken ouer great heate. 1600 Pory tr. *Leo's Africa* VI. 278 Great plenty of dates, which..are speciall good. 1613 Ussher *Lett.* (1686) 17 One thing therein I think special worthy of observation. 1670 J. Smith *Eng. Improv. Reviv'd* 65 The Chesnut is special good Timber for Building. 1765 Cowper *Let.* 5 Nov., They [the Unwins] live in a special good house. 1851 Helps *Companions of Solit.* vii. 143 A case came on rather unexpectedly..and I was sent for 'special' as we say. 1856 *2nd Rep. Postmaster General* 12 That the Night Mail train should be run special (without passengers). 1859 Thackeray *Virgin.* ix, The Duke of Marlborough was no special good penman.

†**2.** In special: **a.** Specially, especially, particularly. *Obs.*

c 1374 Chaucer *Troylus* I. 901 Se that thow in special Requere not that is ayens her name. 1390 Gower *Conf.* I. 7 The world is changed overal, And therof most in special That love is falle into discord. *c* 1400 *Pilgr. Sowle* (Caxton, 1483) IV. xxxiii. 81 Ther ben other counceylours of the kynge that haue for to sene in special to gouernaunce of his propre goodes. *c* 1440 *Gesta Rom.* I. xlviii. 211 The Emperour made a generall feste, to the whiche þe Erle was i-bede in speciall. 1500 in *Exch. Rolls Scotl.* XII. 266 *note,* To all and sindry oure liegis..and in speciale to our custumaris of oure burgh of Abirdene. 1551 Robinson tr. *More's Utopia* I. (1895) 33 Chyefelye suche thynges as shalbe profytable to be knowne; as in specyall be thoese decrees and ordinaunces. 1603 Bodley in *Buccleuch MSS.* (Hist. MSS. Comm.) 44 We have a speech given out, among Papists in special, of a match..between our Prince and the King of Spain's..daughter. 1665 Bunyan *Holy Citie* (1669) 62 Which Salvation I take in special to signifie our fortification and safety from the wrath of God. 1680 Allen *Peace & Unity* 134 He singles out this in special as the matter of his request.

†**b.** In detail; so as to enter into particulars. *Obs.*

c 1386 Chaucer *Melib.* P 268 3e han wel & couenably taught me as in general how I shal gouerne me...But now wolde I fayn þat 3e wolde condescende in special. 1401 *26 Pol. Poems* iii. 49, I speke not in specyale Of oo kyngdom the lawe to telle; I speke hool in generale. *c* 1449 Pecock *Repr.* v. xv. 562 That y be not ouer long..y speke not of thilk mater in special here. 1573 *Satir. Poems Reform.* xl. 106 That this may be maid mair manifest, I will discurs sum thing in speciall Tuiching this Lamp.

†**c.** In an individual, separate, or distinctive manner. *Obs.*

1390 Gower *Conf.* I. 18, I wol noght seie in general, For ther ben somme in special In whom that alle vertu duelleth. *Ibid.* 92 Bot such a thing in special, Which to hem alle in general Is most plesant. 1469 *Waterf. Arch.* in *10th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. V. 307 If ony suete or chalange be ..so done in commene or in speciall. 1508 Dunbar *Tua Mariit Wemen* 495 To euery man in speciall speke I sum wordis. *c* 1550 '*Faine wald I, with all diligence*' in *Dunbar's Poems* (1893) 310 And thocht I say in generale, Sum sall it tak in speciale.

C. *sb.* †**1.** A particularly intimate or favourite friend, associate, or follower. *Obs.*

c 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 23 þat specials to hym were. 13.. *Coer de L.* 2352 Let him yelde my tresor every dele If he will be my speciele. *a* 1340 Hampole *Psalter* lxvii. 27 [Those] till whaim aungels ere gret specials. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 8830 Thus he spake for his spede his specials vnto. *a* 1450 tr. *De Imitatione* II. viii. 49 Lete ihesu be sool þy derlyng and þy special. 1581 *Satir. Poems Reform.* xliii. 129 Ane of the specialis [that] did mentene 3our croun, 3our ferme protectour in 3our tender 3eiris. 1596 Dalrymple tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* II. 84 To require libertie to cum to Scotland with..his garde of a thousand specialis. *a* 1660 Hammond *Serm. Prov. i.* 22 (1664) 42 The Saviour, that hath promises of long life annexed to some specials of his service.

†**b.** A (female) sweetheart or paramour; a mistress or concubine. *Obs.*

c 1375 in *Rel. Ant.* I. 40 Byhold, my derlyng, speketh to me, arys, come nerre, my special, come. 1388 *Pol. Poems* (Rolls) I. 276 Here specialis yf y kys [*v.r.* Ther special whan thei kis]. 1432–50 tr. *Higden* (Rolls) VI. 449 Hit happede a monke of Seynte Audoen in Roone to goe in a ny3hte towarde the hows of his specialle. 1473 *Visitation Paper* in *Archaeologia* XLVIII. 250 þe vecar of þe sayde towne has haldyn to hys speciall this vj 3ere and more, and noe correction done. 1554 *Interlude of Youth* C j b, A backe galantes, and loke vnto me, And take me for your speciall.

†**c.** A male sweetheart or lover. *Obs.*

c 1400 *Laud Troy Bk.* 13552 To vysite him ful offte sche went; For sche wiste he toke the falle Off Troyle that was hir specialle. 1432–50 tr. *Higden* (Rolls) VI. 333 After that sche electe into pope..was gete with childe by her specialle. *c* 1489 Caxton *Blanchardyn* xx. 67 [She] altogydre was of her determyned, to make of Blanchardyn her louer and her specyall. *a* 1500 *Gest Robin Hood* VIII. xxxv, For the loue of a knyght, Syr Roger of Donkesly, That was her owne speciall.

†**2.** A particular person; an individual. *Obs.*

c 1400 *Destr. Troy* 4292 Fals goddes .. þat entrid into ymagis,..Spekand to specyals, þat spede for to aske. *Ibid.* 12119 All þai sparit þat speciall to spill at þe tyme.

†**3. a.** A particular point, part, detail, concept, or statement. *Obs.*

c 1386 Chaucer *Melib.* P 389 Lat us now descende to the special [*v.r.* purpos special]. *c* 1449 Pecock *Repr.* v. v. 512 This comaundement..is not but a special and a parti of this general and hool comaundement. 1581 *Satir. Poems Reform.* xliii. 25 To pen the speciallis it passis mony a hunder. 1594 T. B. *La Primaud. Fr. Acad.* II. 162 Reason..descendeth from generalles to specialles, & from them to particulars. 1611 W. Sclater *Key* (1629) 177 Which generall is farther amplified by the specials. 1628 T. Spencer *Logick* 204 Of the kindes of Distribution, and first of the Generall into the Specialls.

†**b.** A particular thing or article. *Obs.*

1599 B. Jonson *Ev. Man out of Hum.* II. i[i], To the perfection of the compliment..are required these three specials. 1615 in *Buccleuch MSS.* (Hist. MSS. Comm.) I. 168 Those specials which they appropriate to themselves are the sole and main commodities of the Kingdoms now in question. 1621 Bp. Mountagu *Diatribæ* 467 You must shew some reason why *Decimæ* were restrayned vnto some specialls, seeing *Primitiæ* extended themselues vnto all.

†**4.** Species, kind. *Obs.*

1551 T. Wilson *Logike* (1580) 54 Beauis with Alexander, are comprehended under man as their kinde and speciall. 1628 T. Spencer *Logick* 131 The lowest species, is that which cannot be divided into other specialls. 1654 Z. Coke *Logick* 32 Quality hath four kinds or specials.

5. *ellipt.* A special constable, correspondent, etc.; an advocate at a special fee.

1837 Dickens *Pickw.* xxiv, 'Is the other specials outside, Dubbley?' inquired Mr. Grummer [the chief constable]. 1882 Pebody *Eng. Journalism* 147 To number among its enterprising band of correspondents the famous special of the *Daily News.* 1893 *Westm. Gaz.* 29 Sept. 1/2 A 'special' is an advocate who is not attached to any particular Court, but who will accept any brief with a special fee of 50 guineas marked upon it.

b. A special train, examination, prize, etc.

1866 [G. A. Lawrence] *Sans Merci* xvi, They had been warned at the terminus that a 'special' would probably be needed. 1871 M. Legrand *Cambr. Freshm.* 298 When the 'special' containing the excursion party..entered the station. 1890 *Lancet* 11 Oct. 796/1 What are known as 'specials' are being held this week. These are for men who partially failed at the last regular examinations. 1897 *Daily News* 16 June 9/1 It is laid down that the same dog cannot win more than one of these specials.

Specialism (spe·ʃăliz'm). [f. Special *a.* + -ism.]

1. Restriction or devotion to a special branch of study or research; limitation to one department or aspect of a subject.

1856 J. Grote in *Cambr. Ess.* II. 88 The question of professionalism, or specialism, in education. 1876 Gladstone *Homeric Synchr.* 212 This divarication into specialism..is a sign of an old..condition of study and practice. 1891 *Lancet* 3 Oct. 773 This is the true remedy for the evils of specialism [in medicine].

2. With *a* and pl. A special study or investigation; an instance of specializing.

1868 *Lancet* 8 Aug. 171 Medicine is a specialism; but of no narrow kind. 1884 *Athenæum* 7 June 720/2 Hence the book is one of specialisms. The specialisms, however, do not lapse into mere technicalities. 1891 *Daily News* 9 Apr. 3/5 To do it, the work must be made a specialism.

Specialist (spe·ʃălist). [f. as prec. + -ist, or ad. F. *spécialiste.*]

Worcester (1846) gives '*Specialist,* a practical man. *Qu. Rev.*' Hence in Ogilvie (1850).

1. A medical practitioner or authority who specially devotes his attention to the study or treatment of a particular disease or class of diseases.

1856 Kane *Arct. Explor.* II. ix. 93 The recital might edify a specialist who was anxious to register the Protean indications of scurvy. 1875 B. Meadows *Clin. Observ.* II Has been treated by an eminent specialist, with both arsenic and mercury 1889 D. C. & H. Murray *Dang. Catspaw* 162 He was a famous nerve specialist when he retired from practice.

2. In general use, one who specially or exclusively studies one subject or one particular branch of a subject.

1862 Spencer *First Princ.* II. i. § 36 (1867) 130 Even the most limited specialist would not describe as philosophical, an essay which [etc.]. 1877 Sir C. W. Thomson *Voy. Challenger* I. i. 9 To associate with her complement of scientific officers a civilian staff of specialists. 1884 Symonds *Shaks. Predec.* Pref. p. ix, I cannot pretend to be a specialist in this department, nor have I sought to write for specialists.

3. *attrib.* (of persons or things).

1883 *Fortn. Rev.* July 110 The matters to be dealt with require a specialist knowledge. 1887 D. Maguire *Art Massage* (ed. 4) 15 The specialist doctor who practises therapeutic massage should develop a special action of his own. 1893 F. Adams *New Egypt* xix, I had no specialist acquaintance with the place or the people.

Specialistic (spe‍ʃăli·stik), *a.* [f. prec. + -ic.] Of or pertaining to specialism or specialists.

1882 *Athenæum* 7 Jan. 13/1 The specialistic study demanded by modern philology. 1890 *Ibid.* 19 July 87/2 The learned, specialistic mind takes in the facts of one or two creeds or departments. 1893 *Min. 8th Nat. Counc. Cong. Chs. U.S.A.* 220 Encouragement of specialistic investigation on the part of both faculty and students.

Speciality (spe‍ʃiæ·liti). Also 5 -itee, 5–6 -ite, 7 -allitye. [ad. OF. *especialité* Especiality (later *specialité,* mod.F. *spécialité*) or late and med.L. *specialitās,* f. *specialis* Special *a.* Cf. It. *spec-, spezialità,* Sp. *especialidad,* Pg. *-idade.*]

1. A special, particular, or individual point, matter, or item; freq. *pl.*, particulars, details.

1432–50 tr. *Higden* (Rolls) I. 27 Till hit be commen to Breteyne the last prouince, as vn to a specialite moste specialle for whom [t]his present storye was made. 1513 in Halliwell *Lett. Kings Eng.* (1846) I. 216 After rehearsal..of many..injuries, griefs, and damages.., the specialities whereof were superfluous to rehearse. 1560 *Inchaffray Charters* (S.H.S.) 167 Providing that the specialite heirin expremit mak nocht dirogatioun to the generalite. 1581 Sidney *Apol. Poet.* (Arb.) 31 The generalities that contayneth it, and the specialities that are deriued from it. *a* 1600 Edmonds *Observ. Cæsar's Comm.* 47 This last Commentarie containeth the specialities of the warre which Cæsar made against all the States of Gallia. 1624 in *Cosin's Corr.* (Surtees) I. 37 These speciallityes I desire, if the thing be printed, may be left out. 1719 Waterland *Vind. Christ's Div.* xxi. 323 The περιχώρησις and interior Generation, are two specialities taught by the Catholicks. 1865 Mill *Comte* 159 A practical position..chains the mind to specialities and details. 1867 Ruskin *Time & Tide* (1872) 5 Yonder sad letter warped me away from the broad inquiry, to this speciality, respecting the present distress of the middle classes.

2. The quality of being special, limited, or restricted in some respect (occasionally implying particularity of application or treatment). † *In speciality,* in detail. † *But speciality,* without partiality or favour.

1456 Sir G. Have *Law Arms* (S.T.S.) 1 The ferde [part shall be] of bataillis in specialitee. *Ibid.* 99 Here he spekis of armes and baneris in specialitee. 1493 *Sc. Acts, Jas. IV* (1814) II. 233/1 A..Juge quhilk sall minister justice to all parteis but specialitie. 1576 Fleming tr. *Caius' Dogs* (1880) 5 Of a singuler specialitie they deserued to bee called..bloudhounds. 1617 Ussher *Lett.* (1686) 48 Neither doth the speciality of the one any ways abridge the generality of the other. 1619 W. Sclater *Exp.* 2 *Thess.* (1629) 304 Distinguish ye twixt speciality of loue, and partiality. 1657 S. Sergeant *Schism Dispatch't* 137 This Particularity then, and speciality of schismatical guilt,..makes a man in a..more special manner faulty. 1829 I. Taylor *Enthus.* iv. (1867) 99 With a completeness and speciality of coincidence. 1847 Grote *Greece* II. xi. III. 181 Some of them are mere general and vague directions, while others again run into the extreme of speciality. 1872 J. G. Murphy *Comm. Lev.* vi. 12–16 In the general ordinances..it would have been out of place because of its speciality.

†**b.** Technical usage. *Obs.*—[1]

1657 Heylin *Ecclesia Vind.* 105 The word so used..became in fine a word of Art or speciality, amongst the writers of the new [Testament].

c. *In speciality,* especially, particularly.

1867 Ruskin *Time & Tide* v. § 23 There were, in speciality, two thoroughly good pantomime actors.

d. *Biol.* Special development or adaptation to surroundings.

1880 A. R. Wallace *Island Life* 100 The comparative poverty and speciality of their animals. *Ibid.* 323 Cause of Great Speciality in Fishes.

3. A special or distinctive quality, property, characteristic, or feature; a peculiarity.

1625 Purchas *Pilgrims* II. 1380 *margin,* The specialities of Horeb. 1794 J. Hutton *Philos. Light* 182 But, there must be specialities in the case,.., and, these specialities may form a proper subject for investigation. 1844 Dickens *Mart. Chuz.* lii, Think of this, Sir,..apart from the specialities..of prejudice. 1868 Viscт. Strangford *Selections* (1869) II. 259 The Doctor's Khivan Mollah..will be but an uncertain guide to the specialities of Yarkandi Turkish. 1881 *Nature* No. 627. 4 There is a wonderful similarity between all the chief tribes.., though there are many specialities in habits.

b. With *the*: The distinctive quality, etc., *of* a particular thing or class.

1829 Jas. Mill *Hum. Mind* (1869) II. 40 The special nature of that group or series..constitutes the speciality of the relation predicated. 1855 Bain *Senses & Int.* II. ii. § 8 The speciality of the pleasures of light is their endurableness. 1882 F. P. Cobbe *Peak in Darien* 32 It is the speciality of all vice to be selfishly indifferent to the injurious consequences of our actions.

4. *Law.* **a.** = Specialty 7.

1681 *Brasenose Coll. Doc.* M[2] 56, Leases, Chattells and Specialities wherein I have any estate. 1704 J. Harris *Lex. Techn.* I, *Speciality,* in Law, is most commonly taken for a Bond, or Bill, or such like Instrument. 1756 Garrick *Cath. & Petrucio* I. i, Let specialities be therefore drawn between us, That cov'nants may be kept on either hand.

b. A special warrant; also, the officer charged with executing this.

1815 *Ann. Reg., Chron.* 9 James O'Sullivan,..with a speciality from the sheriff, proceeded to his estate...Mr. H., having fired in through a window at the speciality and those on the inside, they quickly returned the fire.

5. A special aptitude, skill, occupation, or line of business.

1867 RUSKIN *Time & Tide* i. § 3 Every nation is fitted..for some particular employments or manufactures; and..it is the true interest of every other nation to encourage it in such speciality. 1879 MISS BRADDON *Cloven Foot* III. xiv. 263 It was made by a man who had a speciality for these things. 1886 C. E. PASCOE *Lond. of To-day* xxxix. (ed. 3) 331 This gentleman's speciality [as a bookseller] lies in the department of theology. 1892 *Photogr. Ann.* II. 705 Who make a speciality of publishing maps prepared for cyclists.

b. A special subject of study or research; that branch of scholarly, scientific, or professional work in which one is a specialist.

1858 KINGSLEY *Misc.* (1859) I. 140 Even men of boundless knowledge..must have had once their speciality, their pet subject. 1867 MGR. PATTERSON in Manning *Ess. Relig. & Lit.* Ser. II. 491 Let us..suppose the writer in question to have a speciality; let us suppose him to be a Catholic theological writer. 1880 J. W. SHERER *Conjuror's Dau.* III Mr. Cowley..was acquainted with most of the sciences, but his speciality was Entomology.

c. A thing or article specially characteristic of, produced or manufactured by, a particular place, business firm, etc. (Cf. SPECIALTY 8.)

In this sense the F. form *spécialité* is frequently employed.

1863 DICKENS *Lett.* (1880) II. 191 The romantic drama.. is the speciality of your theatre. 1863 SIR W. HOLMES *Rep.* in Veness *El Dorado* (1866) App. 158 Indeed, rum seems a sort of 'speciality' of that island [Jamaica]. 1892 *Photogr. Ann.* II. 529 The Optical Lantern trade is somewhat different to photography as regards specialities. In the main, most dealers content themselves with selling goods that are not specially their own.

6. A thing or article of a special kind, as distinguished from what is usual or common.

1867 LATHAM *Black & White* 84 One is for the routine cooking, which is always the same; the other is for the preparation of the specialities of each day's diet. 1880 *Plain Hints Needlework* 13 Where special materials are insisted on, specimens of these specialities should be at hand for reference.

Specialization (spe:ʃəlaizĕ'ʃən). [f. SPECIALIZE *v.* + -ATION.] The action or process of specializing or of becoming specialized.

a. Of language, legislation, etc.

1843 MILL *Logic* IV. v. II. 270 We have seen above, in the words *pagan* and *villain*, remarkable examples of the specialization of the meaning of words. 1864 MAX MÜLLER *Sci. Lang.* Ser. II. viii. 352 *note*, The specialization of general roots is more common than the generalization of special roots. 1892 DRIVER *Introd. Lit. O. T.* (1892) 26 A noticeable difference is the greater specialization and strictness of the provisions contained in the former narrative.

b. *Biol.* Of animals or plants, or of the parts or organs of these.

1862 DANA *Man. Geology* 599 This law of specialization—the general before the special—is the law of all development. 1869 SPENCER *Princ. Psychol.* (1872) I. III. vi. 330 Change from a general diffusion of food to a localization of food, involves a further specialization. 1880 A. R. WALLACE *Island Life* v. 75 The cause..is, undoubtedly, the extreme specialisation of most insects.

c. Of employments, studies, etc.

1865 MILL *Comte* 94 The increasing specialisation of all employments..is not without inconveniences. 1868 M. PATTISON *Academ. Org.* v. 273 The principle of the improvement which appears to me possible in our system of studies is that of specialisation. 1890 GROSS *Gild Merch.* I. 116 The rapid development and specialisation of industry. 1891 *Lancet* 3 Oct. 774 We are opposed to the specialisation of hospitals.

Specialize (spe:ʃəlaiz), *v.* [ad. F. *spécialiser*, = It. *specializzare*, Sp. and Pg. *especializar*; see SPECIAL *a.* and -IZE.]

1. *trans.* To mention or indicate specially; to specify, particularize.

1616 SHELDON *Mir. Antichr.* 261 Our Sauiour specialising and nominating the places in which these false prophets should teach his presence to be. 1657 J. SERGEANT *Schism Dispach't* 66 The proper answer..is to specialize some plea for themselves, which will not as well excuse their Desertours. 1873 FERGUSON *Discourses* 23 Still less has he a right to specialise the sign from heaven by which the proof is to be established. 1874 BLACKIE *Self-Cult.* 61, I will now specialise a few of those virtues the attainment of which should be an object of lofty ambition.

b. *absol.* To enter into particulars or details.

1613 WITHER *Abuses Stript* in *Juvenilia* (1633) 249 First lash the Great-ones; but if thou be wise, In generall and doe not speciallize. 1850 BLACKIE *Æschylus* I. 296 It is quite common with Æschylus to give a general description first, and then specialise.

2. To render special or specific; to invest with a special character or function.

1628 EARLE *Microcosm., Scept. in Relig.* (Arb.) 67 He is at most a confus'd and wild Christian, not specializ'd by any forme, but capable of all. 1701 NORRIS *Ideal World* I. vi. 321 The great difficulty is to specialize this account, to shew in particular what kind of thing truth is. 1850 ROBERTSON *Serm.* Ser. III. v. 73 He specializes what is universal. 1874 MAHAFFY *Soc. Life Greece* xi. 339 A belief in some systematic ruler of the world,..not specialised in form or character. *Ibid.* xii. 362 The Attic legal system..by specialising its courts apparently provided for a prompt and accurate treatment of disputes.

b. *spec.* in *Biol.* In pa. pple.: Adapted to a special function or environment; modified by development tending towards this end.

1851 S. P. WOODWARD *Mollusca* I. 32 Respiration is performed by the mantle, or by a portion of it specialized, and forming a gill. 1874 LUBBOCK *Orig. & Met. Ins.* v. 86 The earliest known Neuroptera and Orthoptera, though in some respects less specialized than existing forms. 1881 TYLOR *Anthrop.* ii. 43 Man's upper and lower extremities have become differentiated or specialised in two opposite ways.

c. To develop (parts) by adaptation to surroundings.

1897 MARY KINGSLEY *W. Africa* 558 If this sort of weather goes on I expect I shall specialise fins and gills myself.

3. To make narrower and more intensive.

1855 M. PATTISON in *Oxford Ess.* 292 The very fact that the new statute has restrained and specialized the subjects in the School of Literae Humaniores. 1868 — *Academ. Org.* v. 264 The principle I am now contending for goes further still in the direction of specialising study.

4. *intr.* **a.** To engage in special study or some special line of business, etc.

1881 *Jrnl. Educ.* 1 Mar. 51/1 They will not allow their scholars to specialize. 1888 BRYCE *Amer. Commw.* cii. III. 442 Enabling men to specialize..in matters like history and Oriental or Romance philology. 1897 MARY KINGSLEY *W. Africa* 505 A certain set of men and women then specialise off to study how these spirits can be managed.

b. To develop in a special direction; to assume a special form or function.

1889 *Lancet* 28 Sept. 635/1 That some cells have specialised on the amœboid character is seen in the so-called myeloplaxes.

Specialized (spe:ʃəlaizd), *ppl. a.* [f. prec.]

1. Specially adapted, modified, or developed:

a. *Biol.* (Cf. prec. 2 b.)

1853 LEWES *Hist. Philos.* (ed. 2) 254 The operation of some external thing on the specialized nervous system. 1854 OWEN in *Orr's Circ. Sci., Org. Nat.* I. 205 The modified or specialized character of the elements of the cranial vertebræ has gained for them special names. 1870 ROLLESTON *Animal Life* 16 There are no specialized renal arteries in birds. 1889 *Science-Gossip* XXV. 182 If several species of bees are adapted to each specialised flower.

b. In general use.

1865 LUBBOCK *Preh. Times* 280 Numerous and specialised as are our modern instruments, who would care to describe the exact use of a knife? 1874 SIDGWICK *Meth. Ethics* I. iii. 28 The sentiment of veracity, courage, purity, &c. But each such specialized sentiment in its normal state includes..the more general impulse to do right.

2. Rendered special or particular.

1885 MYERS *Ess.* II. 63 Laws of which our highest generalisations may be but the specialised case or the incidental aspect.

3. Specially mentioned or indicated.

1893 F. ADAMS *New Egypt* 157, I fancy..that the very manner of the specialised passage is identic.

Specializer (spe:ʃəlaizə). [f. as prec.] One who specializes.

1878 *Fraser's Mag.* XVII. 267 Minds of the first rank are generalisers; of the second, specialisers.

Specializing, *vbl. sb.* [f. as prec.] The action or process of becoming or rendering special in some respect.

1889 SIDGWICK in *Jrnl. Educ.* Feb. 116 Prevented by need of early specialising. 1904 H. BLACK *Pract. Self Cult.* v. 138 Division of labour, or specialising of function have [*sic*] become essential in modern industry.

Specializing, *ppl. a.* [f. as prec.] That specializes, in senses of the verb.

In the first group of quots. the ppl. a. is not clearly separable from attributive uses of the vbl. sb.

(*a*) 1701 NORRIS *Ideal World* I. vi. 326 The great specializing character that distinguishes necessary and eternal truths from those of the opposite order. 1861 H. MACMILLAN *Footn. Page Nat.* 203 In the fungi, however, there is little or nothing of this specializing or differentiating process. 1873 SYMONDS *Grk. Poets* v. 111 We remark a powerful specializing tendency.

(*b*) 1890 *Times* 24 Dec. 7/3 To enable 'specializing' students to follow their courses. 1894 *Nature's Method in Evol, Life* vi. 70 Specialising organs made their appearance.

Specially (spe:ʃəli), *adv.* Forms: 3–4 **specialliche**, 4– **specially**, 5 **-alli**, 6 **-allie**, **-allye**; 4 **specialyche**, **-ich(e**, **-ali**, 4–5 **-aly**, 6 **-alie**; 4 **specyaly**, 5 **specealy**, 5–6 **specyally** (5 **spes-**); 6 **spetiallye**, 7 **-ally.** [f. SPECIAL *a.* + -LY 2, after L. *speciāliter* or OF. (*e*)*speciaument*, (*e*)*specialement* (mod.F. *spécialement*). Cf. ESPECIALLY *adv.*]

1. In a special manner; in a degree or to an extent beyond what is usual or customary; particularly.

1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 10220 Þe king of alimayne sende specialliche inou To king Ion þat he wiþdrowe him of is wou. 13.. *Seuyn Sages* (W.) 3547 On God in heuyn ay thinkes he, And specially he praied him till To help him. 1340 *Ayenb.* 7 Þise þri hestes dizteþ ous to gode specialliche. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* IV. 467 The kyng..sperit syne full specialy, Giff ony man couth tell tithand [etc.]. *c* 1450 *Mirk's Festial* 12 Ȝet childyr dydden hym worschyp spesyaly byfor any oþer seynt. 1486 *Rec. St. Mary at Hill* (1905) 18 The said preest..to..be alwey charged specially & deuoutly to pray daily..for the soule of the said Iohn Nasyng. 1512 *Act* 4 *Hen. VIII*, c. 20 Preamble, Your said Besecher..was specially requyred to arrest and take the said John. 1548–9 (Mar.) *Bk. Com. Prayer* 127 b, Specially we beseche thee to saue and defende thy seruaunt, Edwarde our Kyng. 1590 SIR J. SMITH *Disc. Weapons* Ded. 9 b, They haue vsed diuers waies.., but chieflie two, specially to be noted. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* II. 50 Not so much in secrecy and in sparingnesse of speech..as more specially in Court factions. 1711 in *Nairne Peerage Evidence* (1874) 135 Lykeas by the said first contract..it is specially provided and declared. 1816 A. KNOX *Rem.* (1834) I. 49 The House of Lords and the Established Church are specially united to each other. 1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* II. xvi. 313 Measurements..which bear more specially upon the subject. 1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) V. 404 There appears to be a need of some bold man who specially honours plainness of speech.

b. Qualifying adjs. and advs.

1422 tr. *Secreta Secret., Priv. Priv.* 207 A Specialy behouabill Place of Prayynge is a pryue Place. 1530 PALSGR. 842 Specially wel, *..fort bien.* 1535 COVERDALE *Song Sol.* ii. 4 He..loueth me specially well. 1685 BAXTER *Paraphr. N. T.* Matt. iii. 2 Tho' repentance be always a duty, it's specially necessary to..our assurance of pardon. 1847 S. AUSTIN *Ranke's Hist. Ref.* III. 659 That alliance of a specially religious nature. 1867 MITCHELL *Rural Studies* 108 *As a hint* for better ones, I think it specially good. 1871 FREEMAN *Hist. Ess.* Ser. I. viii. 243 The military results.. were not specially glorious.

2. Of special purpose; expressly.

c 1315 SHOREHAM I. 1219 God ches folk speciallíche..Offyce for to fonge. *c* 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 935 Alle þe world so wyde and brade, Our Lord speciali for man made. *c* 1410 HOCCLEVE *Mother of God* 115 The fadir god gan edifie (By his sone oonly-geten specially) To him an hows.

1842 LOUDON *Suburban Hort.* 502 Mr. Mills invariably raises plants specially for that purpose. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* II. 179/2 It is better to make them specially for each patient.

b. By special effort or application.

1882 FREEMAN *Amer. Lect.* 124 The Latin tongue..lives on..as a book-language specially learned.

3. Above or beyond, more than, other things or persons; in a supreme degree; pre-eminently.

c 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 3603 Þan may þe saules in purgatory, By way of grace specialy, Be delivered of pyn. 1387–8 T. USK *Test. Love* III. ix. (Skeat) I. 15 But specialliche, predestinacion of goodnesse alone is sayd by these grete clerkes. *c* 1400 LOVE *Bonavent., Mirr.* (1908) 160 It is ful perilous .. to .. haue a name of holynesse, as hauen specially thise recluses. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Edw. V*, 9 b, In two places specially, the one at the elbow of the citie,.. & the other in the very bowels. 1596 SHAKS. *Tam. Shr.* I. i. 121 To labour and effect one thing specially.

b. Freq. *and specially*, used to introduce a clause following upon a previous statement.

1303 R. BRUNNE *Handl. Synne* 59 To alle crystyn men,.. And speciali, alle be name, þe felaushepe of Sympryng-hame. *c* 1380 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* III. 101 Wherefore we alle scholde be meke, and specialyche prestes. *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (Roxb.) xxxiv. 154 Þai can speke wele of þe Bible and specially of þe buke of Genesis. *c* 1430 LYDG. *Min. Poems* (Percy Soc.) 16 God..preserve him in alle manner thing. And specially..In enmyes handis that he nevir falle. 1481 CAXTON *Godfrey* xlvii. 88 But oure peple, and specially the Frenssmen, myght not byleue that this Ioye..myght come of ony trayson. 1535 COVERDALE *Isaiah* lx. 9 The Iles also shal gather them vnto me, and specially the shippes of ye see. 1585 T. WASHINGTON tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* II. v. 35 To the great pleasure..of vs.., and specially of the faire dames. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* IV. 420 Toscany, and more spetially the Citty and State of Florence therein contayned, is noted to yeald men of stronge memorye. 1651 HOBBES *Leviath.* III. xxxv. 216 In the Writings of Divines, and specially in Sermons. 1807 A. KNOX *Rem.* (1834) I. 71 For the attention I have ever received from them, and specially for the invaluable regard of individuals, I trust I am cordially grateful.

c. Similarly without *and.*

1483 CAXTON *Cato* B vj, Thou oughtest not to mocke.. none other, specyally whan thy wyll is to haue companye with hem. 1538 STARKEY *England* I. ii. 30 That thyng wych one callyth lyght knolege .. the other callyth ignorance, specyally when hyt ys ouercome wyth the contrary persuasyon. 1577 B. GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* I. (1586) 14 b, That the sicke may be..looked vnto, specially yf their diseases be contagious. 1625 BACON *Ess., Wisd. for Man's Self* (Arb.) 183 And be so true to thy Selfe, as thou be not false to Others; Specially to thy King, and Country. 1807 G. CHALMERS *Caledonia* I. III. ix. 451 *Toscheoderach*, an officer, or jurisdiction, not unlike to a baillierie, specially, in the isles. 1878 BROWNING *La Saisiaz* 11 Child's play call it—specially when one descends!

†**4.** With particularity or detail; not generally or vaguely. *Obs.*

c 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 7526 Now wille I tylle þe sevend part wende,..þe whilk spekes..Specialy of þe ioyes in heven. *Ibid.* 7875 Now will I specialy shew yhow mare Of seven maners of blysses þare. 1456 SIR G. HAYE *Law Arms* (S.T.S.) 102 Law canoun, and law civile,..determynis specealy as law and resoun gevis. 1502 *Ord. Crysten Men* (W. de W. 1506) II. viii, Yᵉ whiche thynge ought to be understande generally & specyally. 1544 tr. *Littleton's Tenures* 116 Yif he plede yᵉ release specially. 1620 T. GRANGER *Div. Logike* 43 Whereby men are most specially specificated and individuated.

†**5.** *In specially*, especially. *Obs.* (Cf. INSPECIALLY *adv.* and INESPECIALLY *adv.*)

1503 HAWES *Examp. Virt.* vii. 89 For other nacyons our lawe ne dredeth But our swerd they do in specyally. 1505 in *Mem. Hen. VII* (Rolls) 280 In specially he intendithe ayenst the Kynge of Oran.

6. In, or in regard to, species. *rare.*

1628 T. SPENCER *Logick* 66 Two men are the same specially, because they haue a reasonable soule.

7. *Comb.*, as *specially-adapted, -arrangea*, etc.

1873 DARWIN *Orig. Spec.* (ed. 6) vii. 190 To break the egg-shell by tapping..with their specially adapted beaks. 1880 GEIKIE *Phys. Geog.* iii. 127 A specially arranged kind of thermometer. 1892 *Photogr. Ann.* II. 610 In newly and specially-erected premises. 1893 J. A. HODGES *Elem. Photogr.* (1907) 139 The specially-prepared plates to which I have referred.

Specialness (spe:ʃəlnĕs). Also 6 **specyal-**. [f. as prec. + -NESS.] The quality of being special.

1530 PALSGR. 274/1 Specyalnesse, *specialité.* 1668 WILKINS

Real Char. II. i. § 3. 34. *a* 1679 T. GOODWIN in Spurgeon *Treas. David* Ps. lxxviii. 67–8 The specialness of his love greateneth it, endeareth it to us. 1879 P. BROOKS *Influence Jesus* ii. (1883) 78 It is the depth of His government that makes the specialness of His government. 1900 STODDARD *Evol. Eng. Novel* 177 Specialness in the direction of the purpose-work of the hero.

Special pleader 1. [See PLEADER 1.]

1. *Law.* A member of an Inn of Court who devotes himself mainly to the drawing of pleadings, and to attending at Judges' chambers (Wharton).

1804 *Act* 44 *Geo. III*, c. 98 *Schedule A*, Certificate to be taken out by every Special Pleader. 1870 *Jury Act, Schedule*, Persons exempt from serving on juries... Serjeants, barristers-at-law, certificated conveyancers, and special pleaders if actually practising. 1891 *Stamp Act* § 48 (a), The certificates of..conveyancers, special pleaders and draftsmen in Equity in England.

fig. 1901 H. SUTCLIFFE *Willowdene Will* i. 21 They showed clean hoofs to the highwayman's undischarged special pleaders [=pistols].

2. One who uses special pleading; a disingenuous or sophistical disputant.

1809 MALKIN *Gil Blas* IV. iii. P 4 All the arts of a thoroughbred special pleader.

Special pleader 2. [See PLEADER 2.] A special plea; a piece of one-sided pleading.

1891 *Pall Mall G.* 30 Sept. 7/2 Nor do we find it so cheap as is stated in Mr. Percy Lindley's special pleader for the cause of those interested in this particular tour.

Special pleading. [See PLEADING *vbl. sb.*]

1. A pleading drawn with particular reference to the circumstances of a case, as opposed to general pleading.

1684 A. VIDIAN (*title*), The Exact Pleader; A Book of Entries of Select and Special Pleadings in the Court of King's-Bench. 1685 J. HANSARD (*title*), A Book of Entries of Declarations and other Pleadings general and special.

2. The putting forward of special pleadings; the art or science of drawing pleadings.

1768 BLACKSTONE *Comm.* III. 305 The science of special pleading having been frequently perverted to the purposes of chicane and delay, the courts have of late in some instances..permitted the general issue to be pleaded. 1849 FORSYTH *Hortensius* (1879) 341 Of all the systems that ever were invented to cramp and confine the intellect, that of special pleading seems to have been the most admirably adapted to attain that end. 1864 BOWEN *Logic* ix. 299 In Law the only object of what is called *special pleading* is, to ascertain the precise point at issue.

attrib. 1846 LD. CAMPBELL *Chancellors* V. 81 Carteret.. ridiculed with much pleasantry this piece of special-pleading sophistry. 1896 *Westm. Gaz.* 3 July 2/2 It will enable him to make some capital special-pleading speeches.

b. *fig.* Ex-parte or one-sided argumentation; disingenuous pleading; sophistry.

1872 MURRAY in *Compl. Scotl.* Introd. p. cxiv, His [Leyden's] argument, which is probably one of the most successful pieces of special pleading in existence. 1878 STUBBS *Study Med. & Mod. Hist.* ix. (1886) 217 We all know what an amount of special pleading was thought necessary to justify that [the Norman Conquest].

Hence **Special-plead** *v. intr.*, to employ special pleading or sophistical argument.

1848 DK. ARGYLL *Eccles. Hist. Scot.* 232 They [*sc.* the clergy]..misrepresent, conceal, and special-plead.

Specialty (spe·ʃălti). Forms: 4–6 **specyalte** (5 **-allte**), 5–6 **specyaltee**, 6 **-alt(e)y**; 4–5 **specialte**, 5–6 **-tee**, 4–7 **-tie**, 6–7 **-tye**, 6– **specialty** (6 **-allty**); 5 **spetialte**, 7 **specielty**. [ad. OF. *(e)specialté*, f. *(e)special* SPECIAL *a.*: see -TY, and cf. SPECIALITY and ESPECIALTY.]

I. †**1.** Special affection, attachment, or favour.

c 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 5281+15 For grete luf & specialte he toke with him sir Androche. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* VII. 246 Quhat is he That garris 3ow haue sic specialte Till men that trauaylis? *a* 1400 *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* 527/75 Drau3 vppon þe no specialte Of Mon þat is of gret dignite. 1435 MISYN *Fire of Love* 28 þerfore bettyr I trow þere specialte to wante þen in þer handys to fall. *c* 1450–60 in *Babees Book* 330 Thorow affeccion to personys or by specialte.

†**b.** *For* or *in specialty*, as a special mark of favour or esteem. *Obs.*

c 1400 MAUNDEV. (1839) ii. 13 That was 3oven to me for gret Specyaltee. *c* 1466 *Emaré* 176 For gret loue he 3af hyt me, I brynge hyt þe in specyalte.

†**2.** Particularity or detail in description or discussion. Chiefly in phr. *in specialty*. *Obs.*

c 1380 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* III. 513 But, to discende doun in specialte, fful mane articlis of reulis of siche sectes ben openly contrarie to þe apostlis reule. *c* 1449 PECOCK *Repr.* I. xx. 130 The othere bokis..schewen the same in specialte. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 9 After that we shall entreate in a more specyalty..yᵉ holy lyfe of religyon. 1561 T. NORTON *Calvin's Inst.* IV. 47 Before that we beginne to discourse of euery one of these in specialtie. 1577 KNEWSTUB *Confut.* (1579) 5 He hath dealt wisely, to leaue the other chapters without anie specialtie.

3. *In* (also †*by*, †*of*, †*with*) *specialty*, in a special or particular manner or degree.

1451 CAPGRAVE *Life St. Aug.* 32 O þing I pray 3ou of specialte. 1576 FLEMING *Panopl. Epist.* 253 Hee sheweth also, by specialtie, wherein it is good to bee exercised. 1659 W. BROUGH *Sacr. Princ.* 284 The body for which (with specialty) He gave His blood. 1711 *Fingall MSS.* in *10th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. V. 122 The episcopal Protestants in specialty triumph the most. 1865 H. BUSHNELL *Vicar. Sacr.* ii. (1868) 65 Taking them as clients in specialty.

4. Special or particular character or quality; a special feature or characteristic.

(*a*) 1575 LANEHAM *Let.* (1871) 25 Whear the specialty of the sport waz, to see, how sum for hiz slakness had a good bob with the bag. 1606 SHAKS. *Tr. & Cr.* I. iii. 78 The specialty of Rule hath beene neglected. *a* 1641 BP. MOUNTAGU *Acts & Mon.* (1642) 32 All shall bee then taught by God, which once was the specialty of Prophets. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. IV. iv, A man living in falsehood, and on falsehood; yet not what you can call a false man: there is the specialty! 1861 DICKENS *Gt. Expect.* III. 181 The specialty of the occasion caused our talk to be less dry and hard.

(*b*) 1609 W. SCLATER *Threefold Preserv.* (1610) E iv b, A specialty in it belongs to them, that labour in the word and doctrine. 1628 — *Three Serm.* (1629) 36 Yet who..is not readie to conceit some singular specialtie in their degree and measure of sinning. 1838 W. BELL *Dict. Law Scot.* 849 There were specialties, however, in the case. 1846 GROTE *Greece* II. II. v. 453 The Laconian dialect contained more specialties of its own than any other variety of the Dorian. 1887 RUSKIN *Præterita* II. 265 The house itself had no specialty, either of comfort or inconvenience, to endear it.

(*c*) 1598 MARSTON *Sco. Villanie* I. iv. 186 If he were once but freed from specialty. 1848 BAILEY *Festus* Proem (ed. 3) p. x, Of Him who..one human heart With equal power and specialty inspires.

b. The quality of being limited or determined by special cases or circumstances.

1619 W. SCLATER *Exp. 1 Thess.* (1630) 64 Such the Specialtie of Gods fauour in the distribution. 1623 BP. HALL *Contempl., O.T.* XX. 6 Looke how much more specialtie there is in the charge of God, so much more danger is in violation. 1683 J. CORBET *Free Actions* III. XXXVII. 55 There is always a specialty of Grace towards the Elect. 1859 S. WILBERFORCE *Sp. Missions* (1874) 186 One..who is beckoning me by the specialty of my position to take up.. the work which he so nobly began. 1874 FINLAYSON *Divine Gentleness* iv. 80 Any special duty..tends, by its very specialty, to brace us for the doing of it.

c. Special knowledge; tendency to specialism.

1868 M. PATTISON *Academ. Org.* V. 158 An electoral body which shall be competent to look out for and select true eminence in specialty. 1868 *Rep. U.S. Commissioner Agric.* (1869) 141 The favorite charge against the academies is their 'one-sidedness' or specialty.

II. †**5.** A thing specially belonging or attached to one person; a special possession, distinction, favour, or charge. *Obs.*

1388 WYCLIF *Ex.* XIX. 5 If 3e schulen here my wois,..3e schulen be to me in to a specialte [L. *peculium*] of alle puplis. 1451 CAPGRAVE *Life St. Aug.* 46, I wil þat no man 3yue to me so precious clopis whech þat I, as of a specialte a-boue opir, schuld wer. *c* 1491 *Chast. Goddes Chyld.* X. (Caxton) 26 Some desire..myracles or vysions or reuelacions or some other specyalte. 1628 BP. HALL *Contempl., O.T.* XIX. 1300 Not without some specialty from God doth Elijah follow the campe.

†**b.** *Of* or *with a specialty*, especially, particularly. *Obs.*

1686 GOAD *Celest. Bodies* I. XVIII. 118 The Wind may Change we know, every Hour, but with a Specialty upon the Hour of the Suns leaving us. 1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* XLVII, Lady Robertland, whilk got six sure outgates of grace ..in times past; and of a specialty, Mr. John Scrimgeour, minister of Kinghorn.

6. A special or particular matter, point, or thing.

c 1400 *Pilgr. Sowle* (Caxton, 1483) IV. XXXV. 83 Iustyces of the countrees somme for pees some for other specialte owen to see the gouernaunce of the Countre. 1450 *Rolls of Parlt.* V. 194 The Joyntour of the office of forein Apposer is comprisid under this generaltee, with the specialtee above rehersed. 1502 in *Lett. Rich. III & Hen. VII* (Rolls) II. 108 No specialties of our communicacions, but only the generalties. 1550 BALE *Apol.* 32 God commaunded certen specyaltees to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. 1588 J. HARVEY *Disc. Probl.* 64 What should I argue the case any farther, ..or heape vp more particularities, and specialties, which are so infinitely innumerable? *a* 1619 M. FOTHERBY *Atheom.* II. XIII. § 3 (1622) 352 By all which specialties, this Conclusion is proued. *a* 1641 BP. MOUNTAGU *Acts & Mon.* (1642) 418 The Sect of the Pharisees tendered and recommended..to the people many specialties..to bee observed. 1682 MONRO *Compar. Anat.* (ed. 3) 42 We go on to consider the specialties in the *viscera* of each kind. 1820–30 COLERIDGE *Lit. Rem.* (1838) III. 21 Judgment, solid sense, invention in specialties,..in these we can shew giants. 1831 CARLYLE *Sart. Res.* II. VIII, Amid these specialties, let us not forget the great generality.

b. A special or separate proviso or article in an agreement, etc.

14.. *Master of Game* (MS. Douce 335) 72 b, If thei haue ony specialte of a certeynn nombre of swynn to go in the forest, ye shul do vs to wete whether thei be rynged or no. 1636 EARL CORK *Diary* in *Lismore Papers* Ser. I. (1886) IV. 199 There is an Indented receipt..wherin all the particuler specielties ar expressed.

7. *Law.* A special contract, obligation, or bond, expressed in an instrument under seal.

c 1482 in *Cal. Proc. Chanc. Q. Eliz.* (1830) II. Pref. 63 Your besecher can have noo remedy by cours of the comen lawe, for asmoche as he hath noo specialte in writynge. 1483 *Cely Papers* (Camden) 134 To receyve yn thys martt all syche specyalltes of yowrs payabull yn thys martt. 1528 in *Lett. Suppress. Monast.* (Camden) 3 Certen munimentes, evidencez, and specialties, tochinge and apperteynynge unto our monastery. 1594 WEST *2nd Pt. Symbol., Chancerie* § 120 He neither tooke any specialtie or securitie of him,.. nor provided any witnesses to be present. 1621 *Galway Arch.* in *10th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. V. 470 Those persons whoe have neglected to produce theire said evidences, grauntes, and specialties, to bee looked into by the Maior. 1644 HOWELL *Twelve Treat.* (1661) 238 There's no *legall* Instrument, no Bond, Bill, or Specialty can be writ but upon his seal'd paper. 1768 BLACKSTONE *Comm.* III. 154 Where the debt arises upon a specialty, that is, upon a deed or instrument under seal. 1781 M. MADAN *Thelyphthora* III. 309 Marriage-settlements, mortgage-deeds, and specialties of various kinds. 1856 H. BROOM *Comm. Common Law* II. i. 274 A specialty..is distinguished from a simple contract in writing by certain solemnities attendant on its execution—viz. by sealing and delivery. 1883 H. G. WOOD *Limitation of Actions* 64 All instruments under seal of record, and liabilities imposed by statute, are specialties within the meaning of the Stat. 21 James I.

fig. 1606 DANIEL *Queen's Arcadia* II. iii, I..had secur'd her of my constant truth, Vnder so many faithfull specialties. 1640 FULLER *Abel Rediv., Junius* (1867) II. 187 She was bound by the specialty both of nature and grace to provide for her children. 1650 — *Pisgah* III. xi. 436 But can an acquittance of humane tradition, be valid, against a debt of specialty by God's command?

attrib. 1818 CRUISE *Digest* (ed. 2) II. 176 Legatees are entitled to stand in the place of specialty creditors. 1875 K. E. DIGBY *Real Prop.* V. (1876) 249 Debts..secured by deed (called specialty debts).

8. A special line of work or business; a special manufacture or product (characteristic of a certain firm, place, etc.); an article specially dealt in or stocked. (Cf. SPECIALITY 5 c.)

1860 *Sat. Rev.* X. 737/2 Mr. Lovell Reeve..has a specialty—to use a neologism of the day. It is to illustrate books with stereographs. 1873 LELAND *Egypt. Sketch-Bk.* 246 His specialty was inlaid-work of mother-of-pearl and ebony in little diamonds, squares, and triangles. 1883 *Eng. Illustr. Mag.* Nov. 89/1 The brass work of Birmingham has long been one of its specialties. 1891 *Daily News* 16 Feb. 2/7 The better classes of fancy tweeds, choice serges, and specialties.

b. A special subject of study or research.

1861 tr. *Czermak's Uses Laryngoscope* ii. 10 Physicians ..who do not intend to make a specialty of laryngoscopy. 1861 *Sat. Rev.* 7 Dec. 591 Mr. Aris Willmott's specialty (to use a very current piece of slang) is with the sacred poets. 1873 MORLEY *Rousseau* I. 150 There is a constant tendency on the part of energetic intellectual workers..to concentrate their energies on a minute specialty. 1883 M. PATTISON *Mem.* (1885) 70 He had selected as his specialty currency and finance.

Specie (spī·ʃi, spī·ʃī, spī·ʃiĕ). [a. L. *speciē*, abl. sing. of *speciēs* SPECIES, orig. adopted in the phr. *in speciē* (see IN). So MDu. and Du., MHG., Da. and Sw. *specie*.]

I. In the phrase in specie.

1. In kind; in respect of kind; specifically.

1562 TURNER *Herbal* II. 93 b, Pitiusa is iudged to differ in spicie or kynde from the cypresse spourge. 1600 W. WATSON *Decacordon* (1602) 66 Being of one and the selfe same kind in specie. 1631 B. JONSON *Discoveries* (Rtldg.) 764/2 They differ but in specie: either in the kind is absolute. 1672 BOYLE *Virtues of Gems* 119 The..substance ..may be of so small specific gravity, as not to make the Gem at all heavier in specie than Crystal it self. 1704 SWIFT *T. Tub* iii, A sort of Critick, not distinguisht in *specie* from the former, but in Growth or Degree. 1743 D. WATSON *Horace, Sat.* etc. II. *Dissert.* p. xliii, Casaubon therefore is guilty of a palpable Mistake, when he says that the Satires of Lucilius were wholly different in Specie from those of Ennius and Pacuvius. 1802–12 BENTHAM *Ration. Judic. Evid.* (1827) I. 219 The power of the advocate, though in respect of intensity less in *degree* is in *specie* the same with the power of the judge.

†**b.** In a manner or form properly belonging to a species or class; in respect of species, as opposed to individually. *Obs.*

1620 WOTTON in *Reliq.* (1685) 501 Whether visits of respect ..being received *in specie*, should be paid *in individuo*. 1651 BAXTER *Inf. Bapt.* 105 Infants in specie (and not those numerically only) should not be forbidden to come.

†**c.** In respect of specific form or manner, as opposed to generally. *Obs.*

1651 BAXTER *Inf. Bapt.* 302, I know meer circumstances are determined of but in general, and left to humane determination in Specie. 1670 — *Cure Ch. Div.* 83 First, as a Papal Catholick Church...Secondly as particular Congregations in specie.

2. In the real, proper, precise, or actual form; without any kind of substitution. In later use only in *Law*.

1551 CRANMER *Lord's Supper* (1844) 156 As unto the Jews Jesus Christ was given in figures, so to us he is given *in specie*, that is to say, *in rei veritate*, in his very nature. 1659 BAXTER *Key Cath.* II. iii. 431 It is not a Head, but this Head *in specie*, that is, the form of the Church, if any such be. *a* 1683 SIR W. SCROGGS *Courts-leet* (1728) 228, I should have my Things again in Specie, if they may be had. 1760 GILBERT *Cases in Law & Equity* 400 If the Chattel itself be by the Agreement to be returned *in specie*, he can only be said to detain it from me unjustly. 1818 CRUISE *Digest* (ed. 2) I. 235 The covenant will be decreed to be performed in specie. 1886 *Law Rep.* 34 *Chanc. Div.* 139 The widow is..to possess the leaseholds in specie during her lifetime.

3. †**a.** In the actual coin specified. *Obs.*

1615 in Birch *Crt. & Times Jas. I* (1848) I. 370 Having, besides other gold, above seven thousand Jacobus pieces in specie. 1630 *R. Johnson's Kingd. & Commw.* 209 To pay a Rose-noble of gold, not only in value, but *in specie* for their passage.

†**b.** Of coin or money: In the actual form of minted pieces of metal. *Obs.*

1617 MORYSON *Itin.* I. 276 In respect of the foresaid difficulties to export coyne *In specie*, that is in the kinde. 1622 MALYNES *Anc. Law-Merch.* 477 That the imaginarie moneys..do ouerrule the course and propertie of Reall and Substantiall moneys *in specie*. 1691 LOCKE *Money* Wks. 1727 II. 46 Our Coin.., whether we send it in Specie, or whether we melt it down here to send it in Bullion. 1714 in Somers *Tracts* II. 114 By which means the ancient Method of paying Money in Specie into the Exchequer hath been much laid aside, and a great Part of the Revenue of the Kingdom received in Bank Notes.

c. Of sums or amounts: In actual coin; in money. (Cf. 6.)

1636–7 in Birch *Crt. & Times Chas. I* (1848) II. 264 The other third, by the agreement, was to go over to Dunkirk in specie. 1663 DRYDEN *Wild Gallant* I. ii, But, besides the land here mentioned, he has wealth in specie. 1713 *Guardian* No. 120 (1756) 144 All play-debts must be paid in specie, or by an equivalent. 1756 TOLDERVY *Hist. 2 Orphans* II. 124 That I am poor, is very certain, having in specie only the sum of ten-pence half-penny. 1870 *Pall Mall G.* 23 Sept. 9/1 With forty first-class cabin passengers and 156,395 dols. in specie. 1871 C. DAVIES *Metric Syst.* III. 113 As the balances..could be paid for only in specie.

†4. Of goods or commodities: In kind. (See KIND *sb.* 15.) *Obs.*

1626 in Birch *Crt. & Times Chas. I* (1848) I. 131 Nor will the country pay money instead of viands *in specie.* 1699 *Laws Nevis* xxiv. (1740) 19 All Masters of Ships..shall pay..One Pound of Pistol Powder (in *Specie*) for each and every Ton. 1738 *Hist. Crt. Excheq.* ii. 28 When they did not deliver their Goods in Specie to the King.

†b. *transf.* Of requital or repayment: In a similar fashion; with like treatment. *Obs.*

1632 *Story Bks. Little Gidding* 180 She shall..requite her parents in specie, as Merchants speak, when the payment is made in the self-same Coine. 1678 BUTLER *Hud.* III. ii. 1544 This Worthy, as the World will say, Is paid in Specie, his own way. 1702 *Eng. Theophrastus* 93 Kindnesses are to be paid in Specie as well as Money. 1760–72 H. BROOKE *Fool of Qual.* (1792) II. 223 My husband..loved me with passion; and, as I could not pay him in specie, I endeavoured to supply my want of affection..by my attention.

II. In general use.

†5. Form. *In its proper specie,* = sense 2. *Obs.*

1644 *Doc. Lett. Pat. at Oxf.* (1837) 123 The Moneyes..to be of the same specie, weight, and goodnesse as his Majestys Moneys in the Tower of London. 1698 in *Col. Rec. Pennsylv.* I. 543 That everything you have taken by virtue of the warrant of Replevin, be forth coming in its proper specie.

6. Coin; coined money. (Cf. 3 c.) † Also, a commodity serving as a means of exchange or trade.

1671 in *9th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. II. 13/2 Unpurged brown [sugar], being the specie of the country [Barbadoes], pays for the exports from the kingdom. 1710 *Acc. Dist. T. Whigg* II. 19 A Bung-Cart..laden with Specie and Exchequer Bills. 1749 SMOLLETT *Gil Blas* x. x, I sometimes kissed the specie, and contemplated the different pieces with..rapture. 1794 MANN in *Lett. Literary Men* (Camden) 440 They have plundered the Nation..and consequently must possess an immense quantity of specie. 1848 MILL *Pol. Econ.* III. xiii. § 1 (1876) 329 Up to this point the effects of a paper currency are substantially the same, whether it be convertible into specie or not. 1864 BOWEN *Logic* ix. 274 Money may mean either specie, or bank-notes, or currency consisting of a mixture of these two.

fig. 1709 MRS. MANLEY *Secret Mem.* (1736) I. 219 He saw Promises were no longer Specie, or would any more pass current with Zara. 1806 H. SIDDONS *Maid, Wife, & Widow* I. 241 Affection is a current coin: every other specie is an infamous alloy. 1864 LOWELL *Fireside Trav.* 107 All of whose wits were about him, current, and redeemable in the specie of action.

7. †a. A subordinate division. *Obs.*

1670 MOXON *Pract. Perspective* 1 This Specie of Perspective is many times (alone) called the Opticks. 1750 BEAWES *Lex. Mercat.* (1752) 6 The laws [of trade]..which are long since become a Specie of the law of nations.

b. Species; kind. Now *rare* or *Obs.*

1711 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4874/4 To prepare a List of each respective Specie [of bills] which they intend to Subscribe. 1738 [G. SMITH] *Cur. Relat.* II. 558 Such Men who are Plagues to their own Specie. 1747 W. HORSLEY *Fool* (1748) II. 141 Our Hero made Divinities, though of a peculiar Specie. 1800 C. STURT in *Naval Chron.* IV. 396 A very large specie of gull. 1810 *Splendid Follies* III. 193 Such is the specie of game after which Nettletop is now in search. 1858 in Bartlett *Dict. Amer.* (1859) 432 The size of the trap,..and the nature of the bait, depends upon the specie of the animal hunted for.

8. *attrib.* (in sense 6), as *specie* † (*bank*)-*bill,* † *bank-note,* † *book, issue,* † *note, parcel, payment, value.*

1696 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 3242/4 A Specie Bank Note for 300 l. payable to John Norton. 1697 *Ibid.* No. 3361/4 A Specie Bank-Bill..for 100 l. payable to Jonathan Tabor. 1697 LUTTRELL *Brief Rel.* (1857) IV. 267 They will allow no other interest on specie notes then 2*d.* per day per cent. 1700 G. BROWN (*title*), Specie Book, serving to turne any number of pieces of Silver to pounds Scots or Sterling. 1786 R. KING *Life & Corr.* (1894) I. 5 Reducing the price of the article..by the scale of its specie value. 1808 *Edinb. Rev.* II. 107 To recommend the perpetual stoppage of specie-issues at the Bank. 1845 MCCULLOCH *Taxation* II. xi. (1852) 382 The resolution to revert to specie payments at the old standard. 1884 *Illustr. Lond. News* 11 Oct. 342/1 Daily conveyance of ordinary and specie parcels.

Specie-, combining form of L. *speciēs* SPECIES, employed in a few recent terms, as **speciegra·phical** *a.*, of or pertaining to the scientific description of species. (Cf. SPECIO-.)

1888 *Nature* 2 Feb. 322/1 A more direct reference to a speciegraphical description of *S*[*almo*] *namaycush* might have been expected.

Species (spī·ʃīz, spī·ʃiīz), *sb.* Pl. **species**; also 7–9 **specieses.** [a. L. *speciēs* (abl. sing. *speciē* SPECIE) appearance, form, kind, etc., f. *specĕre* to look, behold; hence also G. *species, spezies.* Within the Romanic languages the word is represented by It. *specie, spezie,* Sp. and Pg. *especie* (and *especia*), OF. *espece* (F. *espèce*) and *espice* (F. *épice*): see SPECE and SPICE *sb.*]

I. †1. Appearance; outward form. *Obs.*

This sense is partly represented in the legal use of the word: see quots. 1651 and 1765–8 under SPECIFICATION 1 b.

1559 MORWYNG *Evonym.* 400 An other very good wine with the same species, but in other weight. 1651 HOBBES *Leviath.* IV. xliv. 338 A Divinity under their *species,* or likenesse.

b. *Math.* Of geometrical figures (see quot. 1842).

But in earlier quots. taken in sense 9.

1660 BARROW *Euclid* I. xxxii, All right-lined figures of the same species. *Ibid.* VI. vii, The angles C and F are not of the same species or kind. 1715 tr. *Gregory's Astron.* (1726) I. 411 The Methods..for finding the Species and Position of the Orbit of the Earth. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 322/2 Euclid..means by figures of the same species those which have the same form, whatever may be their size...The word species is here used in its primitive sense of appearance. 1881 CASEY *Sequel to Euclid* 37 A triangle is said to be given in species when its angles are given.

2. *Eccl.* The visible form of each of the elements of bread and wine used in the sacrament of the Eucharist; one or other of these elements.

Sometimes rendered by 'form', but more commonly (through association with 9) by 'kind': see KIND *sb.* 13 b.

1579 FULKE *Heskins's Parl.* 84 They ceasse to be the body & bloud of Christ, when the species or kinds of bread and wine, are putrified or rotten. 1614 BREREWOOD *Lang. & Relig.* 213 They deny the true body of Christ to be really in the sacrament of the eucharist under the species of bread and wine. 1637 GILLESPIE *Eng. Pop. Cerem.* III. ii. 34 Now that which was under the species, though in their conceit it was Christs body, yet it was indeed Bread. 1671 WOODHEAD *St. Teresa* II. xi. 97 As soon as I had communicated (the Species remaining yet as it were intire). 1737 CHALLONER *Cath. Chr. Instr.* (1753) 99 The Ceremony of mixing a Particle of the Host with the Species of Wine in the Chalice. 1849 ROCK *Ch. of Fathers* I. ii. 101 The sacramental species are no longer bread and wine, but have been changed into the Very Body and Blood of Christ Himself. 1880 LITTLEDALE *Plain Reasons* xxx. 78 *note,* All the acts..took place in relation to the species of bread, and not with regard to the chalice.

†3. The outward appearance or aspect, the visible form or image, *of* something, as constituting the immediate object of vision. *Obs.* (Common in 17th cent.)

1598 R. HAYDOCKE tr. *Lomatius* Pref. 4 The picture mooveth the eye, and that committeth the species and formes of the things seene to the memory. 1603 H. CROSSE *Vertues Commw.* (1878) 42 Our sight being remoued from the obiect and species of things. 1653 URQUHART *Rabelais* I. xliv, As if they had seen the very proper species and forme of death before their eyes. 1699 LD. TARBUT *Let.* in *Pepys' Diary* (1870) 688 That which is generally seen by them is the species of living creatures, and inanimate things, which are in motion.

†b. Similarly without *of.* *Obs.*

c 1613 W. BROWNE in *Sir T. Overbury's Wks.* (1856) 12 Yet through thy wounded fame, as thorow these Glasses which multiply the species, We see thy vertues more. 1654 GAYTON *Pleas. Notes* I. viii. 27 For he saw at a convenient distance forty windmills to be the very same, that the species represented them. *a* 1700 KEN *Hymnotheo* Poet. Wks. 1721 III. 355 As the two Eyes, two Species entertain.

†c. The image of something as cast upon, or reflected from, a surface; a reflection. *Obs.*

1638 WILKINS *New World* v. (1707) 41 The Light which appears in the Moon at the Eclipses, is nothing else but the second Species of the Sun's Rays. 1669 *Phil. Trans.* IV. 1104 The way of casting the Species of the Sun through a good Telescope of a competent length, on an extended paper. 1697 DRYDEN *Æneid* VIII. 36 The glitt'ring species here and there divide, And cast their dubious beams from side to side. 1737 *Gentl. Mag.* VII. 121/2, I cast the Species of the Sun on a Sheet of Paper..thro' a two-foot Telescope. *c* 1790 IMISON *Sch. Arts* I. 200 The Species of an object is the image or representation thereof made by the rays of light in the Focus, or place where they unite.

†4. A thing seen; a spectacle; *esp.* an unreal or imaginary object of sight; a phantom or illusion. *Obs.*

1639 S. DU VERGER tr. *Camus' Admir. Events* 34 We will cause her obsequies to be prepared, and a fantasme, or species to be put into the grave. 1652 J. WRIGHT tr. *Camus' Nat. Paradox* VI. 134 Shee had no sooner opened her Eyes, but the first *species* that formed it self to her sight, was an horrible Serpent of an immense growth. 1661 LOVELL *Hist. Anim. & Min.* 82 It helps against vaine species.

†5. *Metaph.* A supposed emission or emanation from outward things, forming the direct object of cognition for the various senses or for the understanding. *Obs.*

The species affecting the senses were classed as *sensible* (divided into *audible, visible,* etc.) and distinguished from the *intelligible.* See also INTENTIONAL *a.* 3.

a. With qualifying adjs.

1614 BP. HALL *No Peace with Rome* § 8 (1627) 665 In the same state as the faculty of seeing when a sensible species is absent. 1651 HOBBES *Govt. & Soc.* xiii. § 7. 195 We may more truly say..that the sensible, and intelligible species of outward things,..are by the ayre transported to the soule. 1661 BOYLE *Spring of Air* (1682) 108 Because no visual species's could proceed either from it, or through it, unto the eye. 1700 ASTRY tr. *Saavedra-Faxardo* II. 54 The Councils are as 'twere..the Optick Nerves, by which visible Species are transmitted to the Prince. 1707 J. FRAZER *Disc. Second Sight* 17 Visible Ideas, or Species, are emitted from every visible Object to the Organ of the Eye.

b. In general use.

1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* I. i. II. vii, Memory layes vp all the Species which the Senses haue brought in, and records them. 1668 CULPEPPER & COLE *Barthol. Anat.* Man. IV. viii. 345 That the Species of odours may with the Air be carried to the..Organs of Smelling. 1683 TRYON *Way to Health* 269 The very Air conveys the Species of diseased People, more especially if there be fit and prepared matter for Diseases. 1756 GIBBON *Autobiog. & Corr.* (1869) 182 If you understand by ideas these chimerical species, the mere fictions of metaphysicians.

c. A mental impression; an idea.

1644 DIGBY *Nat. Bodies* xxxviii. § 3. 329 If there be aboundance of specieses of any one kind of obiect then strong in the imagination. 1650 EARL MONM. tr. *Senault's Man bec. Guilty* 244 Imagine..that his soul exercising those species which she by the senses had received, considered the works of God. 1711 SHAFTESB. *Charact.* (1737) III. 33 There are certain moral Species or Appearances so striking,..that..they bear down all contrary Opinion.

†6. In Platonic philosophy, = IDEA *sb.* 1. *Obs.*

1678 CUDWORTH *Intell. Syst.* 261, I suppose, said Socrates, that God and the very Species, Essence or Idea of Life, will be granted by all to be Incorruptible. 1704 NORRIS *Ideal World* II. vi. 315 Plato..supposed besides these corporal things another kind of beings separate from matter and motion, which he called species or ideas. *Ibid.*, That so the soul did not understand those corporal things, but the separate species of those corporal things. 1792 MONBODDO *Language* ix. 110 These perfect ideas of Plato are no other than the specieses of things which were held by Aristotle to exist in the mind of the deity.

II. 7. *Logic.* The second of the five Predicables (q.v.), connoting the common attributes or essential qualities of a class of persons or things as distinguished from the genus on the one hand and the individual on the other.

1551 T. WILSON *Logike* B vj, Species is a common word that is spoken of many whiche differ only in number, as manne is spoken of Socrates,..and of euery proper name belonging to a man. As Socrates is a man. 1567 JEWEL *Def. Apol.* III. v. 343 What adoo was made in daily disputations..aboute Genus and Species, and the reste of the Vniuersals. 1657 J. SMITH *Myst. Rhet.* A viij b, Species, is a more special title attributed to divers particulars under it: as, Man to William, Thomas, John. 1668 WILKINS *Real Char.* II. i. § 3. 26 That common nature which is communicable to several Individuals, is called Species, Sort or special kind. 1725 WATTS *Logic* (1726) 36 A special Idea is call'd by the Schools, a Species; it is one common Nature that agrees to several singular or individual Beings. *Ibid.* 235 All those supposed unknown Parts, Properties or Species are clearly and distinctly perceived to be..contain'd in the known Parts, Properties or general Ideas. 1827 WHATELY *Logic* 138 Whatever Term can be affirmed of several things, must express..their whole essence, which is called a Species. 1857–60 [see DIFFERENCE *sb.* 4 c].

†b. The essential quality or specific properties *of* a thing. *Obs.*

1594 T. B. *La Primaud. Fr. Acad.* II. 429 The instruments whereby the *Species* or kinde of any thing is vnited and knit vnto the matter. 1599 B. JONSON *Ev. Man out of Hum.* II. vi, I am come to have you play the Alchymist with me, and change the species of my land, into that mettall you talke of. 1610 — *Alch.* II. iii, We..can produce the species of each mettall More perfect thence, then nature doth in earth. 1651 HOBBES *Govt. & Soc.* vii. § 1. 109 We have already spoken of a City by institution in its Genus; we now say somewhat of its species.

8. A class composed of individuals having some common qualities or characteristics, freq. as a subdivision of a larger class or genus.

1630 PRYNNE *Anti-Armin.* 180 This kinde of argument from euery indiuiduall to the species will not hold. 1653 ? HALES *Brevis Disq.* in *Phenix* (1708) II. 324 Are you not yet sure whether..if you reject all the Species, the whole Genus be taken away? 1690 LOCKE *Hum. Und.* III. vi. § 8 The individuals that are ranked into one sort, called by one common name, and so received as being of one species. 1762 KAMES *Elem. Crit.* (1833) 486 A number of individuals considered with respect to qualities that distinguish them from others, is termed a species. 1822 I. TAYLOR *Elem. Educ.* 39 The smaller parcels into which we afterwards divide the whole, are called species. 1843 MILL *Logic* I. vii. § 3 In this popular sense any two classes one of which includes the whole of the other and more may be called a genus and a species. 1870 JEVONS *Elem. Logic* xii. 98 A species is any class which is regarded as forming part of the next larger class.

†b. *Algebra.* (See quot. 1704.) *Obs.*

'The term was..used by Vieta in its logical sense, as opposed to individual, in designating the algebraical notation which he first distinctly proposed' (*Penny Cycl.* XXII. 322).

1674 JEAKE *Arith.* (1696) 334 Species are Quantities or Magnitudes, denoted by Letters, signifying Numbers, Lines, ..Figures,..&c. 1688 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 2319/4 Together with Arithmetick in Species or Algebra, &c. 1704 J. HARRIS *Lex. Techn.* I, *Species* in Algebra, are those Letters, Notes, Marks, or Symbols, which represent the Quantities in any Equation or Demonstration.

c. Without article, esp. in phr. *in species.*

1785 REID *Intell. Powers* 28 To differ in species is one thing, to differ in degree another. 1841 LANE *Arab. Nts.* I. 30 It is believed..that the difference between them and the Jinn and Sheytáns is a difference of species.

9. A distinct class, sort, or kind, of something specifically mentioned or indicated. Freq. const. *of.*

The separate groups of quotations illustrate the chief varieties of context.

(*a*) 1561 T. HOBY tr. *Castiglione's Courtyer* III. (1900) 223 Both the one and the other is conteined under the Species of *Homo.* 1660 R. COKE *Justice Vind.* 26 If the Scriptures be true,..that since Adam..the species of Mankind was continued by generation. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* III. 830 Sheep, Oxen, Horses fall; and heap'd on high, The diff'ring Species in Confusion lye. *a* 1763 SHENSTONE *Ess.* Wks. 1765 II. 155 Man is not proud as a species, but as an individual. 1799 WASHINGTON *Lett.* Writ. 1893 XIV. 196 To sell the overplus I cannot, because I am principled against this kind of traffic in the human species.

(*b*) 1599 B. JONSON *Cynthia's Rev.* II. iii, Every your most noted species of persons, as your marchant, your scholer,

your souldier. 1662 J. Davies tr. *Olearius' Voy. Amb.* 170 They were certain Indian Lords...The same Author distinguishes them into four species. *a* 1687 Petty *Pol. Arith.* (1690) 95 Might not the several Species of the Kings Subjects be equally mixt in their Habitations? 1750 Johnson *Rambler* No. 75 P 2 That species of men whom the ladies generally mention with terror. 1780 Bentham *Princ. Legisl.* xviii. § 44 *note*, Aristotle..divides mankind into two distinct species: that of freemen and that of slaves. 1867 Kingsley *Water Life* vi. (1879) 71 Dante, with his various *bolge*, tenanted each by its various species of sinners.

(*c*) 1581 Sidney *Apol. Poet.* (Arb.) 43 Now in his parts, kindes, or *Species*, (as you list to terme them) it is to be noted, that some Poesies haue coupled together two or three kindes. 1759 Goldsm. *Wks.* (1837) III. 215 Disapproving in one species of composition, what we approve in another! 1780 *Mirror* No. 79, No species of poetry has given occasion to more observation and criticism than what is called *pastoral*. 1801 Busby *Dict. Mus.*, *Species*, a subdivision of one of the genera of the ancient music. The genera of the Greeks were three... The Species were called *Chroia*, or colours of the genera. 1826 Macaulay *Misc. Writ.* (1860) I. 303 No species of fiction is so delightful to us as the old English drama. 1845 M. Pattison *Ess.* (1889) I. 1 Such history is a distinct species of composition.

(*d*) *a* 1625 Sir H. Finch *Law* (1636) 252 Wood is the generall of all trees growing, and therefore shall be put in demand before Alders and Willowes which are but *species* of it. 1656 [? J. Sergeant] tr. *T. White's Peripat. Inst.* 355 By the meeting of different parts, as many kinds and species of Earths,..we see [etc.]. 1727 A. Hamilton *New Acc. E. Ind.* II. l. 229, I told them what the current Price was in Town for every Species of my Goods. 1794 Hutton *Philos. Light*, etc. 65 That it is the invisible species of light which is most absorbed by the..glass.

(*e*) 1635 J. Hayward tr. *Biondi's Banish'd Virg.* 136 There was not any *species* of simplicity that I counterfeited not affectately. 1644 Digby *Nat. Bodies* ii. § 8. 14 There remaineth no more to be said of this subject, but to enumerate the seuerall specieses of Quantity. 1769 E. Bancroft *Guiana* 368 In this situation they are subjected to many complicated species of misery. 1792 J. Barlow *Constit. of 1791*, 9 That species of government which offers a premium for wickedness. 1825 Macaulay *Ess.*, *Milton* (1851) I. 26 He fought for the species of freedom which is the most valuable. 1834 L. Ritchie *Wand. by Seine* 83 That imaginative species of memory which converts the past into the present.

b. *A species of*, a kind of (cf. Kind *sb.* 14); also with *the*. †In early use in more definite sense.

1620 T. Granger *Div. Logike* xiii. 315 When in the handling of a controuerted question, diuers opinions are recited, it is a part, or species of a narration. 1644 Bulwer *Chirol.* 108 For suretiship is a species of bargaining. 1751 Johnson *Rambler* No. 87 P 9 Their gratitude is a species of revenge. 1815 Scott *Guy M.* xii, A species of native banditti who were always on the watch for prey. 1839 Fr. Kemble *Resid. in Georgia* (1863) 12 Under the species of social proscription in which the blacks in your Northern cities exist. 1842 Loudon *Suburban Hort.* 345 Clipping is a species of pruning that was formerly much more general.

c. Applied to individuals as unique or as typical of a class.

1644 Cleveland *Char. Lond. Diurnall* 7 As the Angels, each of them makes a severall *Species*; so every one of his Souldiers is a distinct Church. 1656 Cowley *Pindar. Odes, Praise of Pindar* i, Pindar is imitable by none; The Phœnix Pindar is a vast Species alone. 1719 Young *Busiris* v. i, I can't complain in common with mankind—But am a wretched species all alone. 1768 Johnson *Pref. to Shaks.* Wks. IX. 243 In the writings of other poets a character is too often an individual; in those of Shakespeare it is commonly a species.

d. With possessive pronouns, usually with reference to man or animals.

1706 E. Ward *Wooden World Diss.* (1708) 42 He loves dearly to propagate his Species, even in the very Lands that know him not. 1794 Godwin *Caleb Williams* 48 You will live deserted in the midst of your species. 1839 Ruskin *Poetry Arch.* vi. § 87 A man who could remain a radical in a wood country is a disgrace to his species.

e. *The species*, the human race.

1711 Addison *Spect.* No. 10 P 6 Their Amusements seem contrived for them rather as they are Women..; and are more adapted to the Sex, than to the Species. 1728 Fielding *Love in Sev. Masques* Ded., Wks. 1882 VIII. 3 Those morose schoolmen, who would confine knowledge to the male part of the species. 1797 Godwin *Enquirer* I. i. 1 If individuals were happy, the species would be happy. 1814 Chalmers *Evidences* vi. 182 Every great step in the history of the species. 1859 Mill *Liberty* i. 7 In the stage of progress into which the more civilized portions of the Species have now entered.

10. *Zool.* and *Bot.* A group or class of animals or plants (usually constituting a subdivision of a genus) having certain common and permanent characteristics which clearly distinguish it from other groups.

The exact definition of a species, and the criteria by which species are to be distinguished (esp. in relation to genera or varieties), have been the subject of much discussion.

1608 Topsell *Serpents* 126 Some haue taken the word *Crocodilus* for the Genus, and the seuerall Species, they distinguish into the Crocodile of the Earth, and the water. 1676 Ray *Corr.* (1848) 122 In the 'History of the Fero Islands' I find no more *species* of birds than what I have already inserted in the Ornithology. 1695 Woodward *Nat. Hist. Earth* vi. (1723) 272 There were then the very same kinds of Animals and Vegetables, and the same subordinate *Species* under each kind that now there is. 1730 Miller *Gard. Dict.* s.v. *Leontopetalon*, We have but one Species of this Plant in the English Gardens. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s.v. *Specific*, The *torpedo maculosa*, and *non maculosa*, seem to express two species different only in the spots. 1807 J. E. Smith *Phys. Bot.* 462 Of which genus *Phyllachne*..is justly there reckoned a species. 1825 Waterton *Wand. S. Amer.* I. i. 94 The Humming-birds are chiefly to be found near the flowers at which each of the species of the genus is wont to feed. 1862 Johns *Brit. Birds* 415 The American Bittern .. seems to differ in no material respect from the European species. 1878 Huxley *Physiogr.* 208 Exactly the same kind or species of shell-fish is found to-day living in the Mediterranean.

†**11.** *a. pl.* The separate materials or ingredients used in compounding a perfume, drug, or similar preparation. *Obs.*

1601 Holland *Pliny* I. 375 The Species that goe to the composition of sweet Perfumes. *Ibid.* II. 289 It is one of the species or ingredients entring into the preseruatiue compositions called Antidotes. 1693 tr. *Blancard's Phys. Dict.* (ed. 2), *Species* of Treacle are those Ingredients of which Treacle is compounded: By the same Name are called the *Species* of ordinary Decoctions.

†**b.** *pl.* Spices. *Obs.*—1

1652 Crashaw *Carmen Deo Nostro* Wks. (1904) 198 Mountains of myrrh, & Beds of species.

†**c.** A composition used in embalming. *Obs.*

1767 Gooch *Treat. Wounds* I. 457 Filled with a *species*, compounded of fragrant herbs, aromatic drugs, and gums reduced to powder.

†**12.** **a.** A particular kind or sort of coin or money. *Obs.*

1617 Moryson *Itin.* I. 275 With covenant to deliver him by his Factor the same [coins], both in the Species or Kind, and in the number. 1699 Bentley *Phal.* 440 Dionysius perhaps did not only recoin the money of Syracuse; but alter the Species too and the Names of it. 1704 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4029/1 The different Rates at which the same Species of Foreign Coins do pass. 1756 Mrs. F. Brooke *Old Maid* No. 20. 171 He gave me a note specifying the sum, and the several species of money of which it consisted.

†**b.** Coinage, coin, money, bullion. *Obs.*

In this sense it is difficult to distinguish between sing. and pl., and in some cases the pl. of Specie may be intended.

a 1618 Raleigh *Prerog. Parl.* 58 If all be content to pay upon moderation and change of the Species. 1672 Petty *Pol. Anat.* (1691) 70 What hath been said of the Silver-species, may be said of the Gold-species. 1701 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 3740/3 The melting down of the Species is prohibited. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* (ed. 4) 248 The species on board her was inconsiderable, being principally small silver money. 1788 Priestley *Lect. Hist.* III. xvi. 138 Their nominal species.. being about three times higher than ours. 1804 *Captive of Valence* II. 100 By prohibiting species to be carried out of his kingdom in such small quantities, he will prevent the entry of a sum much more considerable.

†**c.** Metal (gold or silver) used for coinage. *Obs.*

1790 Burke *Fr. Rev.* Wks. V. 56 The paper securities.. held out as a currency..in lieu of the two great recognized species that represent the lasting conventional credit of mankind.

†**13.** *pl.* **a.** *Naut.* Sorts of provisions. *Obs.*

[1699 Luttrell *Brief Rel.* (1857) IV. 494 The victualling the Streights fleet without due proofe for the prime costs of the several species of provision.] 1716 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 5464/3 The Goodness of the several Species, and Conditions expected from each Contractor. 1751 *Navy Board Orders* 4 Apr. (MS.), The Kingfisher..to be Victualled to three months of all Species except Beer. 1806 Capt. Mundy in *Naval Chron.* XXXIX. 13 Stored and victualled for five months, of all species.

†**b.** Sorts of produce. *Obs.*

c 1730 Burt *Lett. N. Scotl.* (1818) II. 53 So that if the tenant is not provided with all the species he is to pay, then that which is wanting may be converted into money.

14. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *species-cycle*, *-maker*, *-monger*, *-preservation*.

1849 Darwin in F. Darwin *Life & Lett.* (1887) I. 366 As long as species-mongers have their vanity tickled by seeing their own names appended to a species. 1851 S. P. Woodward *Mollusca* I. 61 Fancying that the genus-maker, and not the species-maker, should enjoy this privilege. 1883 *Encycl. Brit.* XVI. 843/2 The complete series of forms needed to represent the species being the species-cycle. 1894 H. Drummond *Ascent Man* 24 Obeying the law of species-preservation, to feed its young.

Specifiable (spesifəi·ăb'l), *a.* [f. Specify *v.*] Capable of being specified.

1661 Boyle *Style Script.* 118 Which otherwise being so near Infinite, as to be Indefinite, are not so easily specifiable in Rules. 1888 *Nature* Oct. 592/1 A minute but specifiable fraction of an original disturbance.

†**Specifal,** *a. Obs. rare.* [Irreg. f. Specify *v.*, or error for Specifical *a.*] Specific.

a 1670 Hacket *Abp. Williams* II. (1692) 151 They..ought first to put in a Specifal Charge, and the *Reus*, or Defendant first be call'd to his Answer. *Ibid.* 176 It took away..the very specifial Form, Essence, and Being of a Parliament.

Specific (spesi·fik), *a.* and *sb.* Also 7 specifique, 7–8 -ick. [ad. med.L. *specific-us*, f. *speci-ēs* Species: see -fic. Hence also F. *spécifique*, It. *specifico*, Sp. and Pg. *especifico*.]

A. *adj.* **1.** Having a special determining quality.

a 1631 Donne *Poems* (1912) 194 For, God no such specifique poyson hath As kills we know not how. 1650 Bulwer *Anthropomet.* 72 Which sentence is..true..of all parts that naturally exist in any specifique body. 1842 Loudon *Suburban Hort.* 59 Bones are valuable as a specific manure, because they contain phosphate of lime.

†**b.** Having the qualities of a species. *Obs.*

1650 Bulwer *Anthropomet.* 129 Man is not at once an Individuum and a specifique Individuum.

2. Of qualities, properties, effects, etc.: Specially or peculiarly pertaining to a certain thing or class of things and constituting one of the characteristic features of this.

Specific gravity, heat: see Gravity 4 c, Heat *sb.* 2 d.

c 1650 Denham *Of Prudence* 16 That thou to Truth the perfect way mayst know, To thee all her specific forms I'll show.. 1665 *Phil. Trans.* I. 48 Plants and other Medicinal things, that have specifique Vertues. 1712 Addison *Spect.* No. 409 P 5 The distinguishing Perfections, or, if I may be allowed to call them so, the Specifick Qualities of the Author whom he peruses. 1744 Berkeley *Siris* § 87 The specific taint or peculiar cause of the malady. 1782 *Phil. Trans.* LXXII. 196 The different portions of elementary fire contained in such substance, and absorbed by it,..and hence called its specific fire. 1804 Abernethy *Surg. Obs.* 150 *note*, The specific operation of mercury on the constitution. 1837 P. Keith *Bot. Lex.* 139 The primitive and specific molecule proper to each organ pre-exists already in the infant embryo. 1863 E. V. Neale *Anal. Th. & Nat.* 36 Between these unities of quantity there exist relations independent of their specific magnitudes. 1884 Bower & Scott *De Bary's Phaner.* 503 Plants, in which the demarcation of the annual rings is constantly absent as a specific peculiarity.

b. *Specific difference*: see Difference *sb.* 4 c.

1649 Bulwer *Pathomyot.* I. vi. 32 Al actions equally proceed from the Soul, but receive their Specifique difference from the instruments. 1697 tr. *Burgersdicius' Logic* II. ii. 6 A perfect Definition consists of the next Genus and Specifick Difference. 1777 Priestley *Matt. & Spir.* (1782) I. xxii. 282 It was necessary to find some specific difference between them. 1840 Carlyle *Heroes* iii. (1904) 82 Where there is no specific difference, as between round and square, all definition must be more or less arbitrary. 1861 Mill *Utilit.* v. (1874) 74 This feature in the case..constitutes the specific difference between justice, and generosity.

c. Peculiar *to*, characteristic *of*, something.

1667 Waterhouse *Fire Lond.* 9 The mediation of concurring circumstances specifique to that Issue. 1874 Symonds *Sk. Italy & Greece* 251 Their style..is specific to Italy in the middle of the fifteenth century. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* III. 519 Ulcers in the stomach specific of these affections may arise.

3. **a.** *Med.* Of remedies, etc.: Specially or exclusively efficacious for, or acting upon, a particular ailment or part of the body.

1677 W. Harris tr. *Lemery's Chym.* I. xvi. 195 It is esteemed to be specifick for malignant Diseases. 1680–90 Temple *Ess. Health & Long Life* Wks. 1720 I. 285 Garlick..I believe is..a Specifick Remedy of the Gout. 1704 J. Harris *Lex. Techn.* I. s.v., Physitians mention in their Books three kinds of Specifick Medicines. 1778 R. James *Diss. Fevers* (ed. 8) 80 Little can be said in favour of specific medicines, but what is equally applicable to specific methods of cure. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VI. 795 The internal administration of specific remedies.

b. *Path.* Of a distinct or characteristic kind.

1804 Abernethy *Surg. Obs.* 166 We must not impute the occurrence of these peculiar sores to mere irritability, but to some specific contagion. 1843 R. J. Graves *Syst. Clin. Med.* xx. 234 The specific irritation of the skin termed scabies. 1876 tr. *Wagner's Gen. Path.* 260 Specific-pus, is not distinguished histologically and chemically from common pus. 1898 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* V. 150 Specific peribronchitis of the trachea and bronchi. 1899 *Ibid.* VII. 685 Some of these lesions are 'specific' in the sense of being characteristic of syphilis.

4. **a.** Precise or exact in respect of fulfilment, conditions, or terms; definite, explicit.

1740 J. Penn, etc. (*title*), Upon a Bill to compell a Specifick Execution of Articles of Agreement, entred into between the Partys for setling the Boundarys of the Province of Pensilvania. 1768 Blackstone *Comm.* III. 116 This may ..be effected by a specific delivery or restoration of the subject-matter in dispute to the legal owner. 1856 Dove *Logic Chr. Faith* v. ii. 317 We do not as yet know the specific commandments of the moral law. 1862 Trollope *Orley F.* ii, She had been specific in her requests, urging him..to settle Orley Farm upon her own boy. 1871 Markby *Elem. Law* § 109 A command must by its very nature be specific.

b. Exactly named or indicated, or capable of being so; precise, particular.

1766 Blackstone *Comm.* II. 8 What it is that gave a man an exclusive right to retain..that specific land. 1779 Burke *Corr.* (1844) II. 264 A specific misconduct, brought home to a particular man, is always to be attended to. *c* 1788 — *Charges agst. W. Hastings* Wks. 1813 XII. 370 Without a publick well-vouched account of the specifick expenditure thereof. 1828 Mackintosh *Speech Ho. Commons* Wks. 1846 III. 492 There are..two specific classes of grievances complained of by the Lower-Canadians. 1865 H. Phillips *Amer. Paper Curr.* II. 68 No specific preparations had been made by the states to perform their part of the engagement. 1880 L. Stephen *Pope* iv. 103 The specific cause of the quarrel, if cause there was, has not been clearly revealed.

5. *Zool.* and *Bot.* Of or pertaining to, connected with, etc., a distinct species of animals or plants; esp. in *specific character*, *name*.

1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s.v., The more accurate of the modern naturalists have..set about the reformation of the specific names of things. *Ibid.*, But as this holds in all the genus, there can be no use made of it as a specific character. 1775 Rose *Elem. Bot.* 302 A Plant is said to be compleatly named when it has got both the generic and specific name. 1796 Withering *Brit. Plants* (ed. 3) I. p. v, Many of the Specific Characters..are entirely new. 1842 Loudon *Suburban Hort.* 19 Specific names..often indicate the situation or the county where the plant is found naturally. 1866 Darwin *Orig. Spec.* (ed. 4) ii. 58 Such characters of course are not of specific value. 1870 Hooker *Stud. Flora* 147 Scarcely entitled to specific rank. 1880 A. R. Wallace *Isl. Life* 359 Thus one great cause of specific modification would be wanting.

B. *sb.* **1.** A specific remedy. (See A. 3 a.)

1661 Evelyn *Fumifugium* 8, I doe assent that both Lime and Sulphur are in some affections Specifics for the lungs. 1671 Salmon *Syn. Med.* III. xxii. 427 Elder-tree..is a specific for the cure of the Dropsie. 1684 tr. *Bonet's Merc. Compit.* VI. 170 Specificks for Fevers seem to have place chiefly in Agues. 1732 Arbuthnot *Rules of Diet in Aliments*, etc. I. 429 If there be a Specifick in Aliment it is certainly Whey. 1779 Johnson *Lett.* (1788) II. 64 How did you light on your specifick for the tooth-ach? 1843 R. J. Graves *Syst. Clin. Med.* xxvii. 351 All specifics lead

to a false system of therapeutics. 1873 SPENCER *Study Sociol.* i. (1877) 20 Always you find among people in proportion as they are ignorant, a belief in specifics.

attrib. 1859 MEREDITH *R. Feverel* xxii, Her parties were the dullest in London, and gradually fell into the hands of popular preachers, Specific Doctors, raw Missionaries [etc.].

b. *transf.* and *fig.*

1662 CHARLETON *Myst. Vintners* (1675) 192 Having found out certain Specifics as it were, to palliate the several Vices of Wines of all sorts. *a* 1680 BUTLER *Rem.* (1759) I. 224 For all Defences and Apologies Are but Specifics t' other Frauds and Lies. 1779 J. MOORE *View Soc. Fr.* (1789) I. xviii. 140 A more infallible specific against tedium and fatigue. 1841 HELPS *Ess., Aids Contentm.* (1842) 17, I have no intention of putting forward specifics for real afflictions, or pretending to teach refined methods for avoiding grief. 1860 MILL *Repr. Govt.* (1865) 59/2 Against this evil the system of personal representation..is almost a specific.

2. A specific difference, quality, statement, subject, disease, etc.

1697 tr. *Burgersdicius' Logic* II. ii. 7 The Difference is taken from his Form...But because incorporeal Substances have none, and the Specificks of Corporeal, even lye hid [etc.]. 1757 MRS. GRIFFITH *Lett. Henry & Frances* (1767) III. 148 The Phænomenon..is owing to two most uncommon Specifics, in the Constitution of your Mind, and of your Body. 1874 H. W. BEECHER *Lect. Preaching* Ser. III. viii. 153 Generics never take hold of men. It is specifics that take hold of them. 1891 *Daily News* 19 Oct. 6/5 Even in London Board Schools only 20,000 scholars were presented in specifics. 1893 W. R. GOWERS *Dis. Nervous Syst.* (ed. 2) II. 330 Acute specifics, pneumonia, and septicæmia.

Speci·fical, *a.* and *sb.* Now *rare.* [f. med.L. *specific-us* (see prec.) + -AL.]

A. *adj.* **1.** = SPECIFIC *a.* 2. †Also of division: Resulting in the separation of species.

1432-50 tr. *Higden* (Rolls) I. 27 In the maner of a diuision genericalle in to a diuision specificalle. 1570 J. DEE *Math. Pref.* B iij b, The specificall order and forme, due to euery seede. 1637 GILLESPIE *Eng. Pop. Cerem.* IV. ii. 4 The specificall nature of that action. 1682 NORRIS *Hierocles* 6 Which so retain their Connexion in their specifical distinction & conjunction. *a* 1703 BURKITT *On N. T.* 1 Cor. xi. 7 Consider the woman according to her specifical nature. 1751 R. SHIRRA in *Rem.* (1850) 150 The first regeneration is a specifical change—a change from nature to grace. 1815 CHALMERS *Posth. Wks.* (1849) VI. 278 The great and specifical end of that affecting solemnity.

b. = SPECIFIC *a.* 2 b.

1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* I. i. III. i. 46 Omitting the specificall difference. 1678 CUDWORTH *Intell. Syst.* 799 According to the best Philosophy, which acknowledges no Essential or Specifical Difference of Matter. 1713 DERHAM *Phys.-Theol.* VIII. vi. 425, I could not perceive any difference, at least, not specifical, between the Flies coming from these two productions.

2. = SPECIFIC *a.* 1.

1610 HEALEY *St. Aug. Citie of God* VIII. vi. 308 Alcinous saith..that God is incomprehensible,..not definable, nor specificall. 1644 DIGBY *Nat. Bodies* xxiv. (1658) 273 Generation is not made.. by a specifical worker within. 1648 MILTON *Tenure Kings* (1650) 39 Having..clad him over, like another specifical thing, with formes and habitudes destructive to the former.

3. *Med.* = SPECIFIC *a.* 3 a.

1604 F. HERING *Mod. Defence* 21 The specificall Antidot of the Pest is yet vnknowen. 1612 WOODALL *Surg. Mate* Wks. (1653) 209 All minerals shew themselves in operation to be specifical. 1660 tr. *Paracelsus' Archidoxis* I. VII. 102 As..Water quencheth Fire, even so doth the Specifical Anodine extinguish Diseases.

4. = SPECIFIC *a.* 4 a and 4 b.

1768 BLACKSTONE *Comm.* III. ix. 154 The proper remedy is by action of debt, to compel the performance of the contract and recover the specifical sum due. 1781 *Gentl. Mag.* LI. 616 *Matadores* in Spanish are *murderers*, and the specifical cards so called do cut down and *murder* all the rest.

5. *Zool.* and *Bot.* = SPECIFIC *a.* 5.

1761 *Phil. Trans.* LII. 84. I only mention this species, to determine its specifical character. 1790 R. PULTENEY *Hist. Sk. Bot. in Eng.* I. v. 69 Allowing for the time when specifical distinctions were not established,..the number [of plants] he was acquainted with is much beyond what could easily have been imagined.

6. Limited to a special sense.

1778 *Gentl. Mag.* XLVIII. 407/1 It is not uncommon for a general word to become specifical.

B. *sb.* **1.** = SPECIFIC *sb.* 1.

1651 BIGGS *New Disp.* P 134 By adding strong specificals. 1656 RIDGLEY *Pract. Physick* 61 Specificals are, the whitest dung of a Wolf [etc.].

2. A person representing a class.

1651 N. BACON *Disc. Govt. Eng.* II. xl. (1739) 176 This is done in the Convention of States, which in the first times consisted of Individuals, rather than Specificals.

Specifica·lity. *rare.* [f. SPECIFICAL *a.*] The quality of being specific.

1660 tr. *Paracelsus' Archidoxis* I. VII. 96 That same Specificality taketh its Original and Rise from External Things. 1756 J. CLUBBE *Misc. Tracts, Physiogn.* (1770) I. 20 They agree indeed so much..that their specificality is swallowed up in their general likeness. 1858 CARLYLE *Fredk. Gt.* IX. iii. (1872) III. 96 Official List of them was drawn-up here, with the fit specificality.

Specifically (spesi·fikăli), *adv.* [f. as prec.]

1. In respect of specific or inherent qualities:

a. Of likeness or difference.

1624 GATAKER *Transubst.* 48 One thing is said to be another, which cannot be individually or specifically the same. 1628 T. SPENCER *Logick* 209 This hath one kinde of forme, that hath another, therefore this doth specifically differ from that. 1678 CUDWORTH *Intell. Syst.* Pref. 14 There is a substance specifically distinct from body. 1785 REID *Intell. Powers* VI. i. 414 Judgement is an act of the mind, specifically different from simple apprehension. 1859 DARWIN *Orig. Spec.* xi. (1860) 370 During the newer Pliocene period,..and whilst the majority of the inhabitants of the world were specifically the same as now. 1877 E. R. CONDER *Basis Faith* iv. 182 Other minds generically like, but specifically unlike, my own.

b. Of comparative weight.

1692 BENTLEY *Boyle Lect.* iv. 10 If an Axhead be supposed to float upon water, which is specifically much lighter than it. 1725 *Family Dict.* s.v. *Pores*, If they had not [pores], all Bodies would be alike specifically weighty. 1774 PENNANT *Tour Scotl. in 1772*, 331 The waters are said to be specifically lighter than most others. 1800 VINCE *Hydrost.* vii. (1806) 78 The vapours..become specifically heavier than the medium wherein they floated. 1878 HUXLEY *Physiogr.* 152 The cold water becoming specifically lighter and rising to the surface.

c. In other contexts.

a 1676 HALE *Prim. Orig. Man.* I. ii. (1677) 44, I shall not at large discuss those Faculties and Organs which he hath in common with Vegetables and Brutes, but those only that belong to him specifically as Man. 1865 TYLOR *Early Hist. Man.* iii. 54 The gesture language appears not to be specifically affected by differences in the race or climate of those who use it. 1894 J. DENNEY *Stud. Theol.* V. 103 This conjunction of ideas is specially but not specifically Pauline.

2. In a specific or definite form or manner.

1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* 95 [They] seem specifically and in regular shapes to attend the corruption of their bodyes. 1707 *Curios. in Husb. & Gard.* 32 The Plant ..may be specifically discern'd in each..Seed. 1766 BLACKSTONE *Comm.* II. 335 A deed of defeazance..upon events specifically mentioned. 1790 BURKE *Fr. Rev.* 32 The law by which this royal family is specifically destined to the succession. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* III. II. v, Is there any man here that dare specifically accuse me? 1870 J. BRUCE *Life Gideon* xxiii. 419 It is well to have ascertained, thus specifically, how deep-seated..is our spiritual disease. 1891 *Law Times* XCII. 105/2 The lady had contracted specifically with a view to bind definite separate estate.

3. In something of the same kind.

1780 JEFFERSON in Sparks *Corr. Amer. Revol.* (1853) III. 177 These articles shall be either identically or specifically returned, should we prove successful.

4. In a special manner. Chiefly *Med.*

1801 in *Med. Jrnl.* VIII. 90 That all medicines act specifically upon one or more parts of the body. 1829 I. TAYLOR *Enthus.* vi. (1867) 121 A dispensation of moral exercise, specifically adapted to the temper and power of the individual. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VI. 304 Nearly all authors agree that syphilitic arteritis is much more likely to occur in persons who have not been specifically treated.

Speci·ficalness. *rare*⁻⁰. [f. as prec.] 'A specific quality' (Bailey, 1727, vol. II).

Speci·ficate, *sb.* *rare*⁻¹. [Cf. next.] Something specified or stated.

1804 COLERIDGE in *Blackw. Mag.* (1882) CXXXI. 124 The imaginative power..acting with its permeative..might on the thoughts, images, specificates of the poet.

Specificate (spesi·fikĕt), *v.* Now *rare* or *Obs.* [ad. med.L. *specificāt-*, ppl. stem of *specificāre* SPECIFY *v.*]

1. *trans.* To distinguish as belonging to a particular species, group, kind, etc.; to determine specifically.

1620 T. GRANGER *Div. Logike* 43 Whereby men are most specially specificated and individuated. 1637 GILLESPIE *Eng. Pop. Cerem.* IV. iii. 7 An action is said to be specificated by its object, and individuated by its circumstances. 1673-4 GREW *Anat., Trunks* I. ii. 108 The properties, whereby the said Vessels of the Barque are specificated and distinguished one from another.

refl. c 1629 DONNE *Serm.* vii. (1640) 69 Life is the character by which Christ specificates and denominates himselfe. 1653 ASHWELL *Fides Apost.* 57 A peculiar Epithite, wherby he specificates himselfe.

2. To apply specifically or especially *to*; to confine or limit *to*.

1631 J. BURGES *Answ. Rejoined* 33 God doth not onely commend Davids affection in generall, but his affection [is] actuated to a deed, and specificated to this deede. *a* 1638 MEDE *Wks.* (1672) 843 That passage being it seems anciently specificated to *Resurrectio Prima*. 1687 J. RENWICK *Pref., Lect., & Serm.* (1776) 446 We must understand that prayer to be specificated to that all for whom he gave himself a ransom.

3. To give specific or explicit details of or concerning; to mention specifically or in detail; to particularize or specify.

1649 JER. TAYLOR *Gt. Exemp. Disc.* Pref. P 25 Those few superadded precepts, in which God did specificate their prime duty. 1654 G. GODDARD in *Burton's Diary* (1828) I. 150 But we shall..labour to specificate our enemies, to know who they be, and are, that seek the very destruction and being of these nations. 1843 *Tait's Mag.* X. 137/1 In beginning the following story, with the same popular phrase, we specificate a very different moment from the arduous struggles of the Pretender. 1847 CARLYLE in *Fraser's Mag.* XXXVI. 632 Of which latter office my Correspondent could not..quite specificate the meaning.

4. To render specific in character or qualities. †Chiefly *Chem.* (common *c* 1650–80).

1650 ASHMOLE *Chym. Coll.* 125 That it might..communicate its fixt Nature, to the prepared Medicine, which being specificated it might at length become perfect. 1669 W. SIMPSON *Hydrol. Chym.* 257 The vine..specificates the water..into its own shape. 1694 SALMON *Bate's Dispens.* (1715) 463/2 It is a general Remedy and may be specificated by the addition of several Salts.

1866 *Nation* 4 Oct. 269/1 Words have seemingly contrary and inconsistent tendencies. Now they incline to specificate that which was generic; now to generalize that which was specific.

5. *intr.* To become specific.

1835 COLERIDGE in *Fraser's Mag.* XII. 494 In a crystal we may perceive a tendency to specificate, or become a specific total.

Hence **Speci·ficated, Speci·ficating** *ppl. adjs.*

1651 FRENCH *Distill.* v. 163 When it hath received its body by becoming a specificated salt. 1657 OWEN *Vindication of Treatise on Schism* ix. 142 Disputes about an implicit and explicit covenant, of specificating forms [etc.]. 1666 BOYLE *Orig. Forms & Qual.* 316 All the Volatile, and Acid, and Lixiviate Salts, that we know of, are of so determinate and specificated a Nature,..that there is no one sort of the three. *a* 1676 HALE *Prim. Orig. Man.* I. i. (1677) 40 Without any particular, specificating, concurrent, new imperate act of the Divine special Providence to every particular determination of his Will. 1763 W. LEWIS *Phil. Comm. Arts* 72 The specificating principles of the metal.

Specification (spesifikē·ʃən). [ad. med.L. *specificātiōn-em*, n. of action f. *specificāre* SPECIFY, or a. F. *spécification* (1341 in Godef. *Compl.*), = It. *specificazione*, Sp. *especificacion*, Pg. *-ação.*]

†**1.** The action of investing with some specific or determinate quality; conversion to something specific. *Obs.*

1615 CROOKE *Body of Man* 285 All formation and specification (for you must giue vs leaue to vse our Schooletearmes in these matters of Art) that is, all power to set the seale or figure or difference vpon any thing. 1664 EVELYN *Sylva* (1679) 3 The maturer seeds..freeing themselves from those impediments which hindred their Specification and Nativity. 1701 NORRIS *Ideal World* I. 261 So then the creatures owe their pure being to the power of God, but the specification of their being to his ideality.

b. *Roman and Scots Law.* The formation of a new species of property out of material belonging to another by converting it into a different form.

1651 G. W. tr. *Cowel's Inst.* 65 There is also an accession by specification or changing the Species, as if a man create a new Species out of a substance which was anothers, the property shall be in him, that made the Species. 1681 STAIR *Institt.* I. xii. 189 Appropriation by Specification. 1736 in Bell *Comm. Laws Scot.* (1826) I. 277 It was found, that the specification by malting did not bar the reduction. 1765-8 ERSKINE *Inst. Law Scot.* II. i. § 16 Under accession may be included specification, by which is understood a person's making a new species or subject, from materials belonging to another. 1826 BELL *Comm. Laws Scot.* I. 276 The famous controversy of the Proculeiani and Sabinjani concerning specification. 1869 R. CAMPBELL *Austin's Jurispr.* (ed. 3) II. liv. 904 There are various cases in which a party acquires a right in a thing belonging to another by labour employed upon it; for instance in the Roman Law by specification, that is by giving it a new form.

†**2.** A specific character, quality, or nature. *Obs.*

1628 DONNE *Serm. John xiv.* Wks. 1839 I. 534 His specification, his character, his title, Paracletus, the Comforter, passes through all. 1656 JEANES *Mixt. Schol. Div.* 40 An act ought to be proportioned unto it's object, seeing it takes therefrom it's specification. 1710 W. SALMON (*title*), Botanologia: the English Herbal, or, History of Plants, containing their Names, Species, Descriptions, Qualities, Specifications,..and Uses.

3. Specific definition or description; description by specific or peculiar characters; †a specific name or appellation.

1633 J. ADAMS *Exp. 2 Peter* ii. Wks. 1865 X. 408 Therefore this lust hath the specification: lust of uncleanness. 1651 BAXTER *Inf. Bapt.* 64 It is..either a spirituall Mercy (common or speciall) or else Mercy in the generall without specification. 1660 R. COKE *Justice Vind.* 41 Men..must alter their Terms as they proceed from one thing to another, and add to them in the specifications of them. 1734 WATERLAND *Import. Doctr. Holy Trin.* ii. 37 In short, the Specification of our Worship, and the right Direction of it, are nearly concern'd in this Doctrine. 1879 THOMSON & TAIT *Nat. Phil.* I. I. § 218 The second element in the specification of a force is its direction...The third element in the specification of a force is its magnitude. 1879 H. SPENCER *Data Ethics* vi. § 39. 100 From the biological point of view, ethical science becomes a specification of the conduct of associated men.

b. *Logic.* (See quots. and DETERMINATION 5 b.)

1864 BOWEN *Logic* iv. 75 The contrary process of descending from higher to lower Concepts through the successive assumption of Marks is called Determination,—more properly Specification, as it expresses the act of becoming a Species. 1877 E. CAIRD *Philos. Kant* II. iv. 273 An endless process of specification which, beginning with the most general and vague determinations,..goes on to determine the object in all its particular relations. 1884 tr. *Lotze's Logic* 185 We may set down any conception *M* as equivalent to any other conception *N* when we have by further specification so changed *N* that it is equal to *M*.

c. Assignment to a (new) species. *rare*⁻¹.

1878 DARWIN in *Life & Lett.* (1887) III. 160, I should think nearly perfect separation would greatly aid in their 'specification', to coin a new word.

4. Specific, explicit, or detailed mention, enumeration, or statement *of* something.

1642 JER. TAYLOR *Episc.* (1647) 119 No example in all Scripture of any censure inflicted by any meere Presbyters, either upon Clergy or Laity; no specification of any power that they had so to doe. 1658 T. WALL *Charact. Enemies Ch.* 30 The specification of these other beasts in the text prompts my inclination to this sense. 1719 F. HARE *Ch. Author. Vind.* 27 By demanding a Specification of the powers claimed. 1762-71 H. WALPOLE *Vertue's Anecd. Paint.* (1786) II. 47 *note*, Besides others for very obscure persons, and without specification of place. 1817 JAS. MILL *Brit. India* II. v. ii. 380 The allegation of precipitation and unfairness..he..by a specification of circumstances endeavoured to disprove. 1839 HALLAM *Hist. Lit.* IV. vii. § 60 The specification of some public or private library where they may be seen. 1862 MARSH *Eng. Lang.* iii. 59 The specification of the particular colours which he ascribes to the wings of the archangel.

b. Without const.

1767 Gooch *Treat. Wounds* I. 97 Celsus agrees with Hippocrates, adding some specifications, in respect to the wounded parts. 1794 Paley *Evid.* II. i. (1825) II. 224 If the prophecies had been composed after the event, there would have been more specification. 1838 Prescott *Ferd. & Is.* (1846) II. xix. 179 This illustrious family..is worthy of specification. 1888 Bryce *Amer. Commw.* I. I. App. 546 The provisions of the whole fifth section..are in so many State constitutions that no specification is needed for them.

c. *spec.* A document, drawn up by the applicant for a patent and submitted to the proper authority, giving an explicit description of the nature, details, construction, and use of an invention.

1791 *Obs. Utility Patents* 16 The Patentee being under the necessity of describing in his Specification the nature and form of his invention in all its parts. 1815 J. Smith *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 140 We shall now take so much from the specification of the patent..as may explain [etc.]. 1854 Ronalds & Richardson *Chem. Technol.* (ed. 2) I. 369 The drawings are taken from Mr. Reece's original specification. 1882a *Engineer* 24 Feb. 138/2 After carefully perusing the defendant's specification,..I am led to think [etc.].

d. *techn.* A detailed description of the particulars of some projected work in building, engineering, or the like, giving the dimensions, materials, quantities, etc., of the work, together with directions to be followed by the builder or constructor; the document containing this.

1833 Loudon *Encycl. Archit.* § 233 Particulars, or Specification and Estimate. *Ibid.*, We shall give the specification, for each trade, in a separate paragraph. 1850 Denison *Clock & Watch-m.* 272, I have seen a specification..furnished sometime ago by an eminent architect for an important public clock. 1883 M. P. Bale *Saw-Mills* 67 The author appends a short specification of 30 h.-p. boiler suitable for saw-mill work.

e. A specified article, item, or particular.

1828–32 in Webster. Hence in later Dicts.

† **Specificative,** *a. Obs.* [f. Specificate *v.* + -ive. Cf. F. *spécificatif, -ive* (14th c. in Godef.).] That serves to specify or distinguish; specific.

1641 *Relat. Answ. Earl of Strafford* 54 Treason was a thing of a simple and specificative nature. 1644 Hunton *Vindic. Treat. Monarchy* iii. 13 It's specificative distinction must be from something which distinguisheth Powers. 1710 tr. *Werenfels's Disc. Logom.* 25 Whether Body, as *natural*, be the Object of its Speculation? And if so, whether the word *As* be reduplicative or specificative.

† **Specificatively,** *adv. Obs.* [See prec.] Specifically.

c 1600 *Timon* IV. iii. (1842) 66 The moone may be taken 4 manner of waies; either specificatively, or quidditatively, or superficially, or catapodially. 1659 H. L'Estrange *Alliance Div. Off.* 134 In thy seed (declaring specificatively in whose) shall all the nations of the earth be blessed. 1678 Gale *Crt. Gentiles* IV. iii. ii. 31 *As* here..cannot be taken Reduplicatively, but only Specificatively, as it specifies one and the same Act. 1701 Norris *Ideal World* I. iii. 164 Which phrase must be taken specificatively, not objectively.

Specificity (spesifi'siti). Chiefly *Med.* and *Path.* [ad. F. *spécificité*, or f. Specific *a.* + -ity.]

1. The quality or fact of being specific in operation or effect.

1876 Bartholow *Mat. Medica* (1879) 417 It is not an action of specificity—like quinia in intermittent and remittent fevers. 1884 *Trans. Victoria Inst.* 37 *note*, The specificity of germs is still an unsettled question. 1896 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* I. 888 He denies, from experiments of his own, the specificity of protective serum.

2. The fact of being specific in character.

1879 *Brit. Med. Jrnl.* 24 May 785 No one who has studied the clinical history of diphtheria can avoid grave doubts as to its specificity. 1894 *Lancet* 3 Nov. 1058 The doctrine of the invariable specificity of the disease. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* III. 633 In determining the specificity of the rheumatic origin.

Speci·ficize, *v. rare.* [f. Specific *a.* + -ize.] *trans.* To make specific.

1885 *Alienist & Neurol.* VI. 483 The richest specificized apparatus of nervous mechanism.

† **Speci·ficly,** *adv. Obs.*[-1] In 7 -fiquely. [f. Specific *a.* Cf. F. *spécifiquement.*] Specifically.

1650 *Descr. Future Hist. Europe* 13 Daniel..doth..most plainly and specifiquely picture the two grand preparations to this spirituall Monarchy of Christs Church.

Speci·ficness. *rare.* [f. as prec. + -ness.] Specific character or quality.

1682a H. More *Annot. Glanvill's Lux O.* 233 For a Spirit is nothing else but such a specifick simple Substance or Essence, the Specifickness of whose nature onely is its real intimate Form. 1727 in Bailey (vol. II). 1852 Lynch *Lett. to Scattered* 249 There should be much specificness in prayer, yet may too large a portion of our prayer be specific. *Ibid.* 251 Peculiar natural character will give specificness to a man's sins.

‖ **Speci·ficum.** *Obs.* [Neuter sing. of med.L. *specific-us* Specific *a.*] = Specific *sb.* I.

1651 French *Distill.* To Rdr. B ij b, A specificum against all distempers of the liver. 1658 A. Fox *Würtz' Surg.* III. vi. 234 Other specifica proper for the head may be used.

Spe·cified, *ppl. a.* [f. Specify *v.*] That is or has been definitely or specifically mentioned, determined, fixed, or settled.

1645 *Verney Mem.* (1907) I. 422 That you may add to my fortin the above specifide sum. 1796 *Cavalry Instr.* (1813) 134 All these specified wheelings are in order to make the divisions [etc.]. 1845 McCulloch *Taxation* I. iii. (1852) 126 Their incomes die with themselves or cease at specified periods. 1878 H. S. Wilson *Alpine Ascents* I. 2 Engaged by us as chief guide for a specified time.

Spe·cifier. [f. Specify *v.*] One who specifies; the writer or drawer up of a patent specification.

1758 in *Sixth Rep. Dep. Kpr.* (1845) App. II. 157 Henry Raminger..: For..Bullets of Lead, (made by machines invented by the Specifier). 1787 *Ibid.* 177 An instrument (discovered by the Specifier's father, and by him imparted).

Specifique, etc., obs. forms of Specific, etc.

Specify (spe·sifai), *v.* Forms: 4–6 speoyfy (5–6 specyfe), 4–7 specifie, 4– specify (5–6 -fe); 4 specefie, 5–6 -fy, 6 -fye (6 specief-, speesyf-). [a. OF. *specifier* (13th c.; mod.F. *spécifier*, Prov., Sp. *especificar*, It. *specificare*), ad. med.L. *specificāre* to describe, mention, note particularly or specifically.]

† 1. *intr.* To speak or make relation *of* some matter fully or in detail. *Obs.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 27959 Forthermar o þis lecheri Agh i þe noght to specifie. 1390 Gower *Conf.* III. 86 If I therof schal specefie So as the Philosophre tolde, Nou herkne. 1487 *Cely Papers* (Camden) 161, I wrate ij letters to yow..specyfying of divers matters of Flaunders. *c* 1489 Caxton *Blanchardyn* 1 Whiche boke specyfyeth of the noble actes and fayttes of warre, achyeued by..Blanchardin.

2. *trans.* To mention, speak of, or name (something) definitely or explicitly; to set down or state categorically or particularly; to relate in detail. Usually said of persons, but sometimes of an act, document, etc.

c 1340 Hampole *Pr. Conse.* 3352 Now wille I som syns here specify For whilk þai duelle in purgatory. *c* 1380 Wyclif *Sel. Wks.* II. 294 Petre specifiep here mekenes, þat men shulde have bi ensaumple of Crist. *a* 1400 *Harmony Gospels* (MS. Bodl. 771) Prol., Here..biginnep a table þat specifiep euery chapitre..in þis book. *c* 1430 Lydg. *Min. Poems* (Percy Soc.) 10 They began to syng..This same roundelle wiche I schalle now specify. 1491 *Rolls of Parlt.* VI. 443/1 Any other greter charge, than in the said acte is specified. 1515 Barclay *Egloges* III. (1570) B vj b/2 Then haste thou wretched payne Of colde or of heate, of thirst, hunger and rayne. And mo other paynes then I will specify. 1560 Daus tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 233 A terrible tempest was lyke to enswe, as in the seventh booke is specifyed. 1600 E. Blount *Hosp. Incur. Fooles* 39 Yet had he no more in his armie, then we haue specified. 1648 Wilkins *Math. Magic* I. x. 61 It shall not therefore be impertinent..to specifie some of the most remarkable amongst them. 1766 Blackstone *Comm.* II. 319 But then there must many requisites be observed, which the statute specifies, otherwise such leases are not binding. 1827 Jarman *Powell's Devises* II. 329 If the number specified correspond with the number existing at the date of the will. 1855 Prescott *Philip II*, II. vii. I. 215 The fact that the lords had not specified any particular subject of complaint..gave the king an obvious advantage. 1894 *Solicitors' Jrnl.* XXXIX. 2/2 The..report..must state that fraud has been committed, though the guilty person need not be specified.

b. With clause as object, freq. introduced by *that.* †Also with *to be* or simple complement.

(*a*) *c* 1380 Wyclif *Wks.* (1880) 341 How crist specified to petre to 3yue hym þe keyes of heuen. *c* 1407 Lydg. *Reson & Sens.* 2451 For poetis specifye That goddys..Purposede of presumpsion To wrastle with this Champyon. 1430–40 — *Bochas* IX. i. (1554) 20 b, To shewe and specifye He was the prophet that called was Messy. 1470–85 Malory *Arthur* XXI. i. 839 The letters specefyed that Kynge Arthur was slayn in bataylle. 1547 J. Harrison *Exhort. Scottes* f iij, Our Cronicles specifie y^t^ those .xviii. kinges were in Englande. 1582 T. Watson *Centurie of Love* lxxii. (Arb.) 108 In this Sonnet The Authour seemeth to specifie, that his Beloued [etc.]. 1834 K. H. Digby *Mores Cath.* V. vi. 181 Philippe Augustus, in founding a daily mass.., specifies that it shall be said early in the morning.

(*b*) 1513 Bradshaw *St. Werburge* I. 288 Saynt Merwalde specyfyed vncle to saint Werburge. 1597 J. Payne *Royal Exch.* 47 The..sede of Abraham, specifyed to be lyke in nomber to the starrs.

c. In pa. pple. with limiting adverb preceding (rarely following).

1412–20 Lydg. *Chron. Troy* V. 3599 þat noble myȝti conquerour, Herry þe Fyfþe, to-forn y-specefied. *c* 1460 Fortescue *Abs. & Lim. Mon.* (1885) 140 A ffewe regions beffore specified. 1467 in *Eng. Gilds* (1870) 389 In eny of them above specified. 1562a Winȝet *Wks.* (S.T.S.) I. 9 As we do to the warldly ignorantis abone specifiit. 1576 Fleming tr. *Caius' Dogs* (1880) 2 There are two sortes of Dogges by whose meanes, the feates within specifyed are wrought. 1651 Hobbes *Leviath.* II. xxx. 175 The essentiall Rights of Soveraignty (specified before in the eighteenth Chapter). 1664 Power *Exp. Philos.* I. 16, I could not onely see the long bristles formerly specified. 1710 in *Nairne Peerage Evidence* (1874) 153 The severall yearly few dutys above specified payable to us. 1799 G. Smith *Laboratory* I. 185 Take thereof double the quantity above specified. 1800 *Med. Jrnl.* III. 428 The patient has never suffered the least return of her fits since the time there specified.

d. With omission of direct object, esp. in clauses introduced by *as.*

1390 Gower *Conf.* II. 86 The ferste, if I schal specefie, Was *lapis vegetabilis.* 1412–20 Lydg. *Chron. Troy* I. 2578 Liche as to 3ow I thenke specifie [*v.r.* to specifie]. 1433 — *St. Edmund* I. 96 Be sentence of prudent Carnotense In Enteticon where he doth specifie. 1532 More *Confut. Barnes* VIII. Wks. 812/1 The very true church of Christ..is..this one comon well knowen catholyke churche.., as I before haue specifyed. 1596 Shaks. *Merch. V.* II. ii. 131 The rich Iewes man that would, sir, as my Father shall specifie. 1709 Hearne in *R. Glouc. Chron.* II. 597 Accordingly several Editions follow'd with Improvements, as you have particularly specify'd in your Paper.

† 3. a. To make special mention of (a person); to celebrate. *Obs.*[-1]

c 1450 Holland *Howlat* 733 Haile speciose, most specifyit with the spiritualis! Haile ordanit or Adam, and ay til indur!

† b. To exhibit or show (a quality, etc.) to advantage or in a special manner. *Obs.*[-1]

a 1575 *Pol. Verg. Eng. Hist.* (Camden) 254 This certis was a singuler and notable fighte, wheerin the Englishe people didd well specifie their manwhode and valiance.

† 4. To call by a specific name. *Obs.*[-1]

1652 Selden *Domin. Sea* 21 Some of the aforesaid Autors speak with general words, saying the Sea of the Venitians; yet others do specifie it, using the name of the Gulf.

5. To invest with a specific character.

1645 Rutherford *Tryal & Tri. Faith* (1845) 54 An intention to take satisfactory vengeance on the reprobate, specifieth his rod, and maketh it punishment of black wrath. 1676 Gale *Crt. Gentiles* II. iv. 421 An action is specified from its particular cause, not from the first universal cause. 1750 tr. *Leonardus' Mirr. Stones* 59 Only that form which specifies the matter is more powerful than other forms. 1876 F. H. Bradley *Ethical Stud.* 71 Be specified in yourself, but not specified by anything foreign to yourself.

† 6. *intr.* To develop into different species; to vary in kind or character. *Obs.*

1664 Evelyn *Sylva* (1679) 3 Some there are, 'Spring of themselves unforc't by human care,' Specifying according to the various disposition of the Air and Soil.

Hence **Spe·cifying** *vbl. sb.* and *ppl. a.*

1673–4 [see Special *a.* 6 b]. 1681 Baxter *Acc. Sherlocke* v. 204 Its species is the specifying Form. 1701 Norris *Ideal World* I. iii. 164 How then will you distinguish,..since 'tis himself that is still the specifying object in both? ?1819 Chalmers *Congregat. Serm.* Wks. 1836 VIII. 368 That, which impresses on the mercy of the Gospel its essential and specifying characteristic.

Specimen (spe·simĕn). Also 7, 9 *dial.* speciment. [a. L. *specimen*, f. *specĕre* to look, look at. Cf. F. *spécimen*, Sp. *especimen.*

The Latin pl. *specimina* was fairly common in the latter half of the 17th c.]

† 1. A means of discovering or finding out; an experiment. *Obs.*[-1]

1610 W. Folkingham *Art of Survey* I. viii. 17 For deprehending and finding out the taste of the Earth, Vergil prescribes a generall Specimen for triall of salt and bitter soyles.

† 2. A pattern or model. *Obs.*

1619 R. Jones *Resurrection Rescued* (1659) 67 Our Resurrection shall be like our Saviour's: His and ours make a mutual Aspect; His the Specimen, and ours the Complement. 1647 H. More *Poems* 60 It so weakens and disables men That they of manhood give no goodly specimen. 1697 *Observ. Money & Coin* 2 Some Brittish Princes did Coyn some pieces both of Gold and Silver, of which he there exhibits to us the Specimina.

3. An example, instance, or illustration *of* something, from which the character of the whole may be inferred.

1659 Bp. Walton *Consid. Considered* 291 These specimina of his candor and love of truth. 1683 Cave *Ecclesiastici, Greg.-Naz.* 282 He had scarce given a Speciment of his Learning. 1700 Dryden *Fables* Pref. (1721) 21 You have here a specimen of Chaucer's language. 1780 *Mirror* No. 97, The conversations of which I have given you a specimen. 1829 Jas. Mill *Hum. Mind* (1869) I. 133 It is one of those specimens of clear and vigorous statement..in which the Analysis abounds. 1847 Emerson *Repr. Men, Shaks.* Wks. (Bohn) I. 357 Our English Bible is a wonderful specimen of the strength and music of the English language. 1863 D. G. Mitchell *Sev. Stor.* 4 It is a fair specimen of what the Roman stationers could do.

4. A single thing selected or regarded as typical of its class; a part or piece *of* something taken as representative of the whole.

1654 Whitlock *Zootomia* 493 Any one may sooner finde a fault, than mend it, in any Specimens, or performances of Art. 1725 De Foe *Voy. round World* (1840) 99 Things..of which they had brought specimens. 1765 *Museum Rust.* IV. 239 English workmen, who have made specimens of the several articles of equal goodness with those of the Dutch. 1830 D'Israeli *Chas. I*, III. vii. 128 We cannot judge of this concealed genius by many specimens we have of her correspondence. 1853 Maurice *Proph. & Kings* xix. 335 A very memorable chapter of Micah's prophecy,..which our Church has chosen as a specimen of the whole book. 1887 Lowell *Democracy*, etc. 96 It was not a bringing of the brick as a specimen of the house.

b. *spec.* An animal, plant, or mineral, a part or portion of some substance or organism, etc., serving as an example of the thing in question for purposes of investigation or scientific study.

1765 *Museum Rust.* IV. 126, I have found and send a specimen of another yellow trefoil. 1797 *Phil. Trans.* LXXXVII. 383, I covered one side of a specimen of Iceland crystal, three inches deep, with black paper. 1802 M. Cutler in *Life*, etc. (1888) II. 112 Very busy in putting up a box of [botanical] specimens for Mr. Paykull. 1827 Faraday *Chem. Manip.* xvi. (1842) 431 Such portions of valuable fluids or solids..intended for specimens. 1854 Ronalds & Richardson *Chem. Technol.* (ed. 2) I. 121 This determination of the amount of coke yielded by any specimen of coal. 1878 Huxley *Physiogr.* 192 In different specimens, however, the lava exhibits great variations.

transf. 1844 S. Wilberforce *Hist. Prot. Episc. Ch. Amer.* (1846) 5 The native thus cruelly kidnapped was not the only specimen they gathered. 1850 Hr. Martineau *Hist. Peace* v. xi. (1877) III. 414 He will stand in history as a specimen—dry and curious—but in no way as a vital being.

c. With adjs. denoting the value of the example as a type.

1841 D'Israeli *Amen. Lit.* (1867) 463 These complimentary sonnets..are not the happiest specimens in our language of these minor poems. 1849 Parker *Introd. Stud. Gothic Archit.* v. 197 Lincoln college chapel is also a very favourable specimen of Jacobean Gothic. 1856 Delamer *Fl. Garden* (1861) 2 If we can show finer and more remarkable specimens than our neighbours, so much the better.

5. Of persons as typical of certain qualities or of the human species. Also *colloq.* or *slang* with derogatory force, chiefly with defining adj., as *a bright, poor* (etc.) *specimen*.

(*a*) 1817 COBBETT *Pol. Reg.* XXXII. 92 Mr. Hickman and Mr. Young..are new specimens of the spirit and the talent, which the times and the cause of freedom have brought forth. 1842 LOVER *Handy Andy* xxi, Growling was looking on in amused wonder at this specimen of vulgar effrontery, whom he had christened 'The Brazen Baggage', the first time he saw her. 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xvi. III. 703 They were perhaps the two most remarkable specimens that the world could show of perverse absurdity.

(*b*) 1837 DICKENS *Pickw.* ii, 'Here you are, sir,' shouted a strange specimen of the human race. 1897 MARY KINGSLEY *W. Africa* 328 Where one continually sees magnificent specimens of human beings.

(*c*) 1854 THOREAU *Walden* (1884) 163 There were some curious specimens among my visitors. 1908 R. BAGOT *A. Cuthbert* ii. 15 What was her husband about?..He must have been a poor specimen.

†**6.** A brief and incomplete account *of* something in writing; a rough draught or outline serving to show the chief features. *Obs.*

1665 HOOKE *Microgr.* Pref. 2 b, Some specimen of each of which Heads the Reader will find in the subsequent delineations. 1672 *Life Mede* in *M.'s Wks.* (ed. 3) p. xxx, To the same effect he had express'd himself in an early Specimen or first Draught of his Thoughts.

7. (See quot.)

1819 *Act* 59 *Geo. III*, c. 90 § 10 Whereas it is usual for the Officers of Excise to leave on the Premises of the Traders and Manufacturers under their Survey, certain Books or Papers commonly called *Specimens*, for recording therein the Entries in the Books of such Officers of the state of the Manufactory [etc.].

8. *attrib.*, passing into *adj.* (freq. hyphened): Serving as, or intended for, a specimen; typical.

Freq. in recent use and often applied to plants, fish, etc., of an exceptionally large size or fine quality.

1860 ADLER *Prov. Poet.* xviii. 421, I have..produced such specimen-quotations as will serve to give us an idea of the decadence of this poetry. 1870 *Hist. Sketch Anderston Ch.* 9 These specimen facts speak of marvellous changes. 1877 RAYMOND *Statist. Mines & Mining* 251 The highest assay made from specimen rock was $ 2,000 per ton. 1877 *Academy* 3 Nov. 428/1 The specimen chapter here given us is on Guicciardini's embassy to Spain in 1511. 1896 *Daily News* 7 Sept. 7/5 A number of 'specimen' fish have lately been caught in the Thames.

b. *Comb.*, as *specimen-hunter, -monger*, etc.; **specimen-book**, a book of specimens or samples; **specimen-box**, a portable box or case specially adapted for carrying botanical or other specimens.

1864 C. P. SMITH *Our Inherit. in Gt. Pyramid* 18 The hammers of tourists and the axes of specimen-mongers. 1896 *Westm. Gaz.* 4 Nov. 4/1 It used to be a favourite resort of the entomological specimen hunter. 1896 T. L. DE VINNE *Moxon's Mech. Exerc., Print.* 404 The specimen-book of the Enschedé foundry. 1897 VOYNICH *Gadfly* I. ii. 21 Arthur brought out his specimen box and plunged into an earnest botanical discussion.

Hence **Spe·cimenify** *v. trans.*, to select as a specimen or instance; **Spe·cimenize** *v. trans.*, to show a specimen or sample of; to collect or preserve as a specimen.

1821 LAMB *Lett.* (1888) II. 34 The line you cannot appropriate is Gray's sonnet, specimenifyed by Wordsworth..as mixed of bad and good style. 1832 *Blackw. Mag.* XXXII. 812 A conceited coxcomb..tormented the birds, and poked the beasts, specimenizing fantastically his 'universal knowledge'. 1894 E. H. A[ITKEN] *Naturalist on Prowl* 173, I noticed a lovely little silvery spider, and resolved to specimenize it.

†**Speci·minal**, *a. Obs.* [f. L. *specimin-*, stem of *specimen* (see prec.) + -AL.] Of the nature of a specimen, example, or type.

1664 H. MORE *Myst. Inig.* 200 The said Reformation is an eminent speciminal completion of the prophecy of the Resurrection of the Witnesses. 1685 — *Paralip. Prophet.* 483 Christ's partial or speciminal taking again possession of his Kingdom.

Specio-, comb. form of L. *species*, employed in a few scientific terms of recent introduction, as *speciographic, -graphy, -logic, -logy*. (Cf. SPECIE-.)

1882 *Imperial Dict.* IV. 151/1 *Speciology*, the doctrine of species.

†**Speciose**, *a. Obs.*—1 [ad. L. *speciōs-us* SPECIOUS *a.*] Beautiful, lovely. In quot. *absol.*

c 1450 HOLLAND *Howlat* 733 Haile speciose, most specifyit with the spiritualis !..Haile our hope and our helpe !

Speciosity (spīʃiˈɒ·sĭti). Now *rare*. Also 5 **specioustee**, 6–7 **speciositie**. [ad. late L. *speciōsitās* (=F. *spéciosité*, It. *speziosità*, Sp. *especiosidad*, Pg. *especiosidade*) beauty, good appearance or looks, f. *speciōsus* SPECIOUS *a.*: see -ITY.]

†**1.** The quality of being beautiful; beauty, fair or lovely appearance. Also, a beautiful thing. *Obs.*

a 1470 HARDING *Chron.* ccvii, He had..Iewelles in chestes, and stones of precioustee, And other Marchauntes in specioustee. 1535 STEWART *Cron. Scot.* I. 107 The palice [that] proper wes to se, Poleist perfyte with all speciositie. 1647 SYBTHORPE *Apost. Obed.* 25 Although the common-weale be safest and most beautifull, when it is at unitie in it selfe,.. yet, that the speciositie may the better appeare to us, wee must survey it by particulars. 1660 H. MORE *Myst. Godl.* IV. xii. 128 The Transfiguration of his person on the top of mount Tabor into so great a glory as all the speciosities of the world could not equalize. 1731 BAILEY (vol. II), *Speciousness, Speciosity*, fairness of show and appearance.

2. The quality of being specious; speciousness.

1608 T. JAMES *Apol. for Wickliffe* 33 He preached against the pretiosity, speciosity, and miraculositie, and sundry other sophisticationes about images.

1839 CARLYLE *Chartism* v, Speciosity in all departments usurps the place of reality..; instead of performance, there is appearance of performance. 1851 — *Sterling* I. v. (1872) 35 Professions, built so largely on speciosity instead of performance.

b. *pl.* Specious actions, promises, etc.

1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. v. i, Poor Paris!..enveloped in speciosities, in falsehood which knows itself false. 1858 — *Fredk. Gt.* I. i. I. 11 The shops declining to take hypocrisies and speciosities any farther.

Specious (spīˈʃəs), *a.* Also 5 **specius, speceows**, 5–6 **specyous**, 7 **spetious**. [ad. L. *speciōs-us* fair, beautiful, fair-seeming, f. *speciēs* SPECIES. Hence also F. *spécieux, -euse*, It. *spezioso*, Sp. and Pg. *especioso*.]

1. Fair or pleasing to the eye or sight; beautiful, handsome, lovely; resplendent with beauty. ? *Obs.*

a. Of persons, their parts, etc., or of things.

(*a*) *a* 1400 *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* xxiii. 146 Heil ful of grace, eke Specíouse at al, Mayden wys and þerto Meke. *c* 1425 *St. Elizabeth of Spalbeck* in *Anglia* VIII. 115/45 Hir chere semiþ þen ful specyous and cleer & gracyous. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 184 Specyous & beautyfull is he aboue all the chylder of men. 1626 T. H[AWKINS] *Caussin's Holy Crt.* 45 Nicephorus relateth certaine lineaments of his stature, colour and proportion of his members,..in all parts louely and specious. 1652 GAULE *Magastrom.* 265 Yet the wise men of Greece were not ashamed to pursue specious boyes. *a* 1670 HACKET *Cent. Sermons* (1675) 422 There is thy Saviour..looking like a specious Bridegroom. 1748 RICHARDSON *Clarissa* (1811) I. xvi. 109 Disagreeable only as another man has a much more specious person. 1791 COWPER *Odyss.* XVII. 547 Gods! how illiberal with that specious form! 1818 HAZLITT *Eng. Poets* i. (1870) 14 The Greek statues are little else than specious forms.

(*b*) 1402 *Pol. Poems* (Rolls) II. 98 The pore man at the specious ȝate praiede to the apostlis to parten of her almes. *c* 1440 *Gesta Rom.* viii. 20 That oþer [way] specius and faire, sett aboute withe lileis and Rosis. 1582 N. T. (Rhem.) *Acts* iii. 10 He which sate for almes at the Specious gate of the temple. 1621 BRATHWAIT *Nat. Embassie* (1877) 188 Smooth to the touch, and specious to the sight. 1651 FRENCH *Distill.* vi. 192 So will the Spirit..be coloured with a very specious blue colour. 1697 AUBREY *Brief Lives* (1898) I. 77 The great Cardinal Richelieu, who lived both to designe and finish that specious towne of Richelieu. 1756 BURKE *Subl. & B.* Wks. 1842 I. 57 When any object partakes of the above mentioned qualities, or of those of beautiful bodies, and is withal of great dimensions, it is full as remote from the idea of mere beauty; I call it *fine* or *specious*.

transf. c 1485 *Digby Myst.* (1882) III. 628 To me itt is a loye most speceows. 1631 MASSINGER *Emperor East* I. ii, Your specious titles Cannot but take her.

b. Of flowers, birds or their feathers, etc. In later use, having brilliant, gaudy, or showy colouring. Also *transf.*

(*a*) 1513 BRADSHAW *St. Werburge* I. 3456 This rutilant gemme and specious floure [*sc.* the body of St. Werburge]. *a* 1637 B. JONSON *Underwoods, Epitaph Master Corbet* Wks. (1640) 178 And adde his Actions unto these, They were as specious as his Trees. *a* 1682 SIR T. BROWNE *Misc. Tracts* (1684) 93 Successive acquists of fair and specious Plants. 1731 MILLER *Gard. Dict.* s.v. *Saxifraga*, The fourth Sort is propagated for the Sake of its specious Flowers. 1800 ANDREWS *Bot. Rep.* 87 This truly specious Ixia! 1812 *New Botanic Gard.* I. 29 The corolla specious, and purple in colour. 1837 P. KEITH *Bot. Lex.* 265 The novice in botany, who is attracted, perhaps, only by what is specious *in* the plant or flower.

(*b*) 1688 HOLME *Armoury* II. 287 It can set up specious feathers on the crown of its head like a crest. 1688 *Phil. Trans.* XVII. 996 There be other sorts of Goldfinches variegated with red, orange and yellow Feathers, very specious and beautiful. 1786 S. GOODENOUGH in *Mem. Sir J. E. Smith* (1832) I. 184 Bees, several new ones, one very specious indeed. 1803 SHAW *Gen. Zool.* IV. II. 603 Specious Mackrel, *Scomber Speciosus*. 1809 *Ibid.* VII. II. 364 Specious Jay, *Corvus speciosus*. Crested green Jay.

2. Having a fair or attractive appearance or character, calculated to make a favourable impression on the mind, but in reality devoid of the qualities apparently possessed.

In certain contexts passing into the sense 'merely apparent'.

1612 T. TAYLOR *Comm. Titus* i. 16 Their actions, although neuer so good in themselues, neuer so specious vnto others, ..yet are abhominable vnto God. 1644 QUARLES *Judgm. & Mercy* 144 Let not the specious goodness of the end encourage me to the unlawfulness of the means. 1681 DRYDEN *Abs. & Achit.* 746 A smooth pretence Of specious love, and duty to their Prince. 1705 STANHOPE *Paraphr.* II. 264 The most specious Instances,..such as Martyrdom,.. are no necessary Proofs of Charity. 1743 FRANCIS tr. *Hor., Odes* II. i. 4 The specious Means, the private Aims,..how fatal to the Roman State! 1774 REID *Aristotle's Logic* iv. § 2 (1788) 72 The friends of Aristotle have shown that this improvement of Ramus is more specious than useful. 1807 CRABBE *Birth Flattery* 67 What are these specious gifts, these paltry gains? 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* v. I. 599 It appeared that this plan, though specious, was impracticable. 1873 W. H. DIXON *Two Queens* x. v. II. 179 What was done by him in Rome was merely specious.

absol. 1676 DRYDEN *Aurengz.* Ep. Ded. A ij, But somewhat of Specious they must have, to recommend themselves to Princes.

b. Of pretences, pretexts, etc.

1611 SPEED *Hist. Gt. Brit.* IX. viii. 499/2 Traiterous requests..which he was now willing to maske with the specious pretext of iustice and deuotion. 1632 *Galway Arch.* in *10th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. V. 478 The specious pretences you made. 1734 *Col. Records Pennsylv.* III. 546 Notwithstanding the specious and ample Professions made by the Governor of Maryland. 1769 ROBERTSON *Chas. V*, x. III. 254 The specious pretexts which had formerly concealed his ambitious designs. 1836 THIRLWALL *Greece* xvii. III. 4 Cimon seized this specious pretext for exterminating the people.

c. Of appearance, show, etc.

a 1628 PRESTON *Effect. Faith* (1631) 74 There be many works that have a specious and faire shew in the view of men; But..God regards them not. 1647 CLARENDON *Hist. Reb.* IV. § 172 The law..being neglected or disesteemed (under what specious shews soever). 1729 BUTLER *Serm.* Wks. 1874 II. 65 A discovery..which they..have found out through all the specious appearances to the contrary. 1735 SOMERVILLE *Chase* II. 313 To rob, and to destroy, beneath the Name And specious Guise of War. *a* 1827 WORDSW. *Sonn. Liberty* II. vi. 10 Ere wiles and politic dispute Gave specious colouring to aim and act. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* vii. II. 231 A policy which had a specious show of liberality. 1870 MOZLEY *Univ. Serm.* iv. (1877) 74 We have even in the early Christian Church that specious display of gifts which put aside as secondary the more solid part of religion.

d. Of falsehood, bad qualities, etc.

1665 GLANVIL *Scepsis Sci.* xiv. 79 Such an Infinite of uncertain opinions, bare probabilities, specious falshoods. 1682 DRYDEN *Abs. & Achit.* II. 955 Who Truth from specious falsehood can divide [etc.]. 1728 YOUNG *Love Fame* II. 68 If not to some peculiar end assign'd, Study's the specious trifling of the mind. 1748 MELMOTH *Fitzosborne Lett.* lii. (1749) II. 63 Religion without this sovereign principle [generosity], degenerates into slavish fear, and wisdom into a specious cunning. 1823 SCOTT *Quentin D.* xvii, In whose eyes the sincere devotion of a heathen is more estimable than the specious hypocrisy of a Pharisee. 1866 MRS. H. WOOD *St. Martin's Eve* i. (1874) 4 Be not ensnared by specious deceit.

3. Of language, statements, etc.: Fair, attractive, or plausible, but wanting in genuineness or sincerity.

1651 HOBBES *Leviath.* II. xxi. 110 It is an easy thing, for men to be deceived, by the specious name of Libertie. 1665 MANLEY *Grotius' Low C. Wars* 371 The Prince,..by an evident demonstration, confuting specious words. 1670 MARVELL *Corr.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 338 This motion seemed specious and welcome to the Committee. 1712 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 469 P 5 Gratifications, Tokens of Thankfulness, Dispatch Money, and the like specious Terms. 1798 S. & HT. LEE *Canterb. T.* II. 230 She then imparted the specious tale of the Marquis's loss at the gaming-table. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* v. I. 568 The meaning latent under this specious phrase. 1855 MOTLEY *Dutch Rep.* v. v. (1866) 748 The specious language of Philip's former letters.

b. Of reasoning, arguments, etc.: Plausible, apparently sound or convincing, but in reality sophistical or fallacious.

1651 HOBBES *Leviath.* I. xv. 73 This specious reasoning is neverthelesse false. 1656 tr. *Hobbes' Elem. Philos.* (1839) 415 For the establishing of vacuum, many and specious arguments and experiments have been brought. 1726 POPE *Odyss.* XIX. 8 To sooth their fears a specious reason feign. 1788 GIBBON *Decl. & F.* xliv. IV. 378 A specious theory is confuted by this free and perfect experiment. 1791 MACKINTOSH *Vind. Gall.* Wks. 1846 III. 107 Many subtle and specious objections are urged. 1856 *N. Brit. Rev.* XXVI. 23 Undoubtedly it is robust good sense which is here brought to bear upon a specious sophism. 1877 GEIKIE *Christ* xxvii. (1879) 308 He was not led away by such suggestions, however specious.

absol. a 1850 CALHOUN *Wks.* (1874) III. 274 To this it may be traced, that the Senator prefers the specious to the solid, and the plausible to the true.

†**4.** Apparent, as opposed to real. *Obs.*—1

1617 MORYSON *Itin.* II. 64 The Lord Deputie conceived the Earles surprise to bee an evill more spetious then materiall.

5. Of material things: Outwardly or superficially attractive or pleasing, but possessing little intrinsic worth; showy. *rare.*

1816 SIR J. REYNOLDS *Charac. of Painters of Italy* 136 [Michael Angelo] has rejected all the false, though specious ornaments, which disgrace the works even of the most esteemed artists. 1825 MACAULAY *Ess., Milton* (1851) I. 23 We shall, like Bassanio in the play, turn from the specious caskets.., and fix on the plain leaden chest.

6. Of persons: Characterized by conduct, actions, or reasoning, of a specious nature; †outwardly respectable.

1740 RICHARDSON *Pamela* (1824) I. 83 But now I have found you out, you specious hypocrite! 1798 CANNING *New Morality* 84 in *Poetry Anti-Jacobin* (1799) 223 If Vice appal thee..Yet may the specious bastard brood, which claim A spurious homage under Virtue's name,..rouse thee! 1799 W. GILPIN *Serm.* v. 54, I propose next to describe that of the specious or decent man. By the decent man, I mean him, who governs all his actions by appearances. 1841 DICKENS *Barn. Rudge* xl, You are a specious fellow,.. and carry two fans under your hood. 1884 *Pall Mall G.* 14 May 5/1 If we were to sum up similarly in one word the chief characteristics of their German rival, we should say that Von Hartmann was specious.

†**7.** Of algebra: = LITERAL *a.* 1 c. *Obs.* (Cf. SPECIES 8 b.)

1670 COLLINS in Rigaud *Corr. Sci. Men* (1841) I. 154 A design to cause Diophantus to be turned into specious algebra. 1673 KERSEY *Algebra* I. i. 2 Algebra is by late Writers divided into two kinds; to wit, Numeral and Literal (or Specious). 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s. v. *Algebra*, In 1590, Vieta..introduc'd what he call'd his 'Specious Arithmetick', which consists in denoting the Quantities..by Symbols or Letters.

8. *Psychol.* Appearing to be actually known or experienced.

1890 W. JAMES *Princ. Psychol.* I. 642 We are constantly conscious of a certain duration—the specious present—varying in length from a few seconds to probably not more than a minute.

Speciously (spī·ʃəsli), *adv.*[1] [f. prec.]

†1. So as to present a fair or respectable appearance. *Obs.*

1647 Clarendon *Hist. Reb.* II. § 39 Lashly had placed them by the advantage of that hill so speciously that they had the appearance of a good body of men. *a* 1677 Barrow *Serm.* iv. Wks. 1687 I. 46 To these considerations may be added, that we are commanded to walk εὐσχημόνως (decently, or speciously, which implies a regard to mens opinion). 1698 Fryer *Acc. E. India & P.* 396 To grow Rich, be saluted with Honour, appear magnificently, be accounted Noble and speciously Great,..they will venture on any Evil Enterprize.

2. In a specious manner; attractively or plausibly, but deceptively or fallaciously.

1647 Clarendon *Contempl. Ps.* Tracts (1727) 405 There can be little said for the defence of the one, which may not be as speciously offered..for the defence of the other. 1699 Burnet *39 Art.* xxii. 234 Contrary..to the Worshipping of Images of all sorts, how speciously soever they may be disguised. 1734 tr. *Rollin's Anc. Hist.* (1827) II. II. 63 Other motives were speciously intended. 1781 Gibbon *Decl. & F.* xix. II. 143 Exasperated, as he might speciously allege, by injuries of a similar nature [etc.]. 1800 Colquhoun *Comm. Thames* viii. 261 It has been argued speciously, that Docks will supersede the necessity of a Police. 1872 J. L. Sanford *Estim. Eng. Kings, Jas. I*, 323 The poverty of his exchequer, to which his policy of abstinence from war has been sometimes speciously attributed.

Spe·ciously, *adv.*[2] [Alteration of Specially *adv.*] Specially, notably, principally.

The form also occurs in mod. dial. (*Eng. Dial. Dict.*).

1598 Shaks. *Merry W.* III. iv. 113 [*Mrs.*] *Quickly.* I will do what I can for them all three;..and Ile bee as good as my word, but speciously for M. Fenton. *Ibid.* IV. v. 114 *Qui.* Haue not they suffer'd? Yes, I warrant; speciously one of them.

Speciousness (spī·ʃəsnĕs). [f. Specious *a.*]

1. The quality of being speciously attractive, plausible, etc.

1648 J. Beaumont *Psyche* xx. cclxxi, Never could She find leisture to attend On ceremonious Idelness, nor by The civil speciousness of Visits spend Her precious Time on courteous Vanity. 1663 S. Patrick *Parab. Pilgrim* xviii. (1687) 174 With much speciousness, and very fair shews of faithful counsel will all this be represented. 1753 Johnson *Adventurer* No. 45 ¶ 1 The numberless projects that have flattered mankind with theoretical speciousness. 1797 *Phil. Trans.* LXXXVII. 181 These objections have at least speciousness to recommend them to our notice. 1824 De Quincey *Idea Univ. Hist.* Wks. 1859 XIII. 146 All good, that is not engrafted upon moral good, is mere show and hollow speciousness. 1885 J. Payn *Talk of Town* II. 229 The calmness of this reasoning appalled Margaret even more by its speciousness than by its falseness.

†2. Fair or elegant appearance. *Obs.*

1650 Fuller *Pisgah* IV. vi. 11 The quickness, speciousness, cheapness, and novelty of the work; not the state, riches, and curiosity thereof. 1731 [see Speciosity 1]. 1756 Burke *Subl. & B.* III. xxiii. 227 Elegance and Speciousness.

Specioustee, obs. variant of Speciosity.

Speck (spek), *sb.*[1] Forms: 1 specca, 5–7 specke, 5 spe(c)kke, speke; 4, 7, 9 *U.S.* spec, 5 spekk, 6 spek, 7– speck. [OE. *specca*, not found in the cognate languages, but cf. Speckle *sb.*]

1. A small spot of a different colour or substance to that of the material or surface upon which it appears; a minute mark or discoloration. Occas. const. *of* (cf. 2).

c 725 *Corpus Gloss.* (Hessels) N 160 *Notae*, speccan. *c* 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* (Rolls) II. 88 Smire þonne þa speccan mid þære sealfe. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 551 On spec of a spote may spede to mysse Of þe syȝte of þe souerayn þat syttez so hyȝe. 1398 Trevisa *Barth. De P. R.* XVI. xciv. (Bodl. MS.), Salte doþ awey speckkes [1495 speckles] in þe face ȝif it is itempered wiþ water camphora. *Ibid.* XVIII. lxxxi, Pantera..is a beeste paynted wiþ smal rounde speckes [1495 speckles]: so þat al his skynne semeth fulle of ȝȝen bi diuersite of speckes blacke, white and rede. 1530 Palsgr. 274/1 Specke, marke, *marcque*. 1591 Percivall *Sp. Dict.*, *Peca*, a specke, a spot in the face, *macula, naeus*. 1611 Cotgr., *Tacheture*, a spot, specke, or speckle. 1671 Grew *Anat. Pl.* I. (1684) 5 Divers small Specks, of a different colour from that of the Parenchyma,..may be observ'd. 1727 Gay *Fables, Peacock, Turkey & Goose* 2 In beauty faults conspicuous grow, The smallest speck is seen on snow. 1787–9 Wordsw. *Ev. Walk* 356 But now the clear bright Moon her zenith gains, And, rimy without speck, extend the plains. 1815 J. Smith *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 745 Give the little speck of light reflected from the pupil of the eye, with pure white. 1868 Freeman *Norm. Conq.* (1877) II. vii. 34 Such faults seemed little more than a few specks on a burnished mirror.

b. With adjs. of colour, etc.

c 1050 in Wr.-Wülcker 446 *Maculam fullam*, þone sweartan speccan. 1567 Maplet *Gr. Forest* 7 Bespotted with Purple speckes and bloud coloured vaines. 1608 Willet *Hexapla Exod.* 641 The saphir..shineth with golden speckes in it. 1663 Boyle *Usef. Exp. Nat. Philos.* I. III. 54 The cicatricula or little whitish speck discernable in the coat of the eggs yolk. 1687 A. Lovell tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* I. 239 The Skin of it is all spotted black and white, with some yellowish specks. *a* 1701 Maundrell *Journ. Jerus., River Euphr.* (1749) 158 Stone very much resembling Porphyry, being of red ground, with yellow specks and veins, very glossy. 1796 Stedman *Surinam* (1813) II. xxviii. 348 The timber brown, variegated or powdered with white specks. 1818–20 E. Thompson tr. *Cullen's Nosologia* 325 An efflorescence consisting of small, distinct, purple specks and patches. 1877 Huxley & Martin *Elem. Biol.* 18 In some *Amœbæ* a clear space makes its appearance. ..After a while, a small clear speck appears at the same spot. *fig.* 1822 Lamb *Elia* I. *Praise Chimney Sweepers*, I have a kindly yearning towards these dim specks—poor blots—innocent blacknesses.

c. Applied to things rendered extremely small by distance or by comparison with their surroundings. (Common in 19th cent.)

1656 Cowley *Pindar. Odes, Extasie* ii, Where shall I find the noble Brittish Land? Lo, I at last a Northern Spec espie, Which in the Sea does lie! 1815 J. Smith *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 723 What the eye sees distinctly at once, is comparatively but a speck in the vast scene. 1819 Byron *Juan* II. xiii, The town became a speck, From which away so fair and fast they bore. 1868 Lockyer *Elem. Astron.* § 321 We find..that the whole solar system is but a mere speck in the universe.

d. Applied to a very small or distant cloud. Freq. in fig. context.

1726–46 Thomson *Summer* 987 Amid the heavens, Falsely serene, deep in a cloudy speck. 1831 D. E. Williams *Life & Corr. Sir T. Lawrence* II. 73 The speck destined to be the tempest of future life. *a* 1832 Mackintosh *Revol. 1688* Wks. 1846 II. 230 Not a speck in the heavens seemed to the common eye to forebode a storm. 1878 Stubbs *Const. Hist.* III. xviii. 211 The solitary speck that clouded the future of the dynasty.

2. A small or minute particle *of* something.

a 1400–50 *Alexander* 743 Als sprent of my spittyng a specke on þi chere, þou sall be dit3t to þe deth. 1587 D. Fenner *Song of Songs* i. 10 With speckes of siluer very fine they set about shalbe. 1664 Power *Exp. Philos.* I. 23 The Gloworm...Her eyes are two small black points or specks of jett. 1839 De la Beche *Rep. Geol. Cornwall*, etc. xi. 327 These bunches frequently containing strings and specks of ore. 1860 Tyndall *Glac.* II. xxi. 342 We watch the ice.. and find that every speck of dirt upon it retains its position. 1879 Harlan *Eyesight* v. 52 Specks of iron and steel, however, may often be removed..by the use of a strong magnet. *fig.* 1713 Young *Last Day* III. 251 Call back thy thunders, Lord,..Nor with a speck of wretchedness engage. 1757 Mrs. Griffith *Lett. Henry & Frances* (1767) III. 252 A man of Sense, and Taste, and Virtue,..who magnifies her every Speck of Merit! 1865 Dickens *Mut. Fr.* I. iii, The only speck of interest that presents itself to my..view.

b. Without const. Also *fig.*

1601 Holland *Pliny* I. 320 In these so little bodies (nay pricks and specks rather than bodies indeed). 1712 Blackmore *Creation* VI. 282 Each vital Speck, in which remains Th' entire, but rumpled Animal. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* II. vii. 214 Here we struck ground.., and found the bottom to consist of grey sand, with black specks. 1853 Kane *Grinnell Exp.* xxxiv. (1856) 298 An almost constant deposition of crystalline specks, which covered our decks with a sort of hoar-frost. 1855 J. Phillips *Man. Geol.* 201 Coarse sandstone with carbonaceous specks. *a* 1862 Buckle *Misc. Wks.* (1872) I. 18 What we have done is but a speck compared to what remains to be done. 1883 S. C. Hall *Retrospect* I. 258 He..deemed it a duty..to magnify faults and dwindle virtues to specks.

c. A small piece, portion, etc., of ground or land.

1538 Leland *Itin.* (1769) VII. 31 The hole Foreste of Maxwel except it be a smaul Spek is yn Chestre. 1796 Stedman *Surinam* (1813) I. vii. 166 My negroes having made a temporary kind of bridge, to step from the yawl upon a small speck of dry ground. 1800 Coleridge *Piccolom.* I. x, Yield them up that dot, that speck of land.

d. *Not . . a speck*, not at all. *U.S.*

1843 Haliburton *S. Slick in Eng.* I. ii. 31, I doubled up my fist, for I didn't like it [the treatment] a spec.

3. A small spot as indicative of a defective, diseased, or faulty condition; a blot, blemish, or defect.

1825 J. Nicholson *Operat. Mechanic* 636 The best [glass] is that which is..free of blemishes, as blisters, specks, streaks, &c. 1859 Tennyson *Merlin & V.* 393 The..little pitted speck in garner'd fruit, That rotting inward slowly moulders all. 1909 *Cent. Dict.* Suppl. s.v., White speck of tobacco, a disease..caused by the fungus *Macrosporium tabacinum*.

transf. and *fig.* *c* 1785 Courtenay in *Boswell's Johnson* (Oxf. ed.) I. 525 Hence not alone are brighter parts display'd, But e'en the specks of character pourtray'd. 1815 Mackintosh *Speech* Wks. 1846 III. 317 What is destroyed by the slightest speck of corruption [etc.]. 1825 Scott *Talism.* xvii, Can all the pearls of the East atone for a speck upon England's honour? 1878 Browning *Poets Croisic* 36 Not a dint Nor speck had damaged 'Ode to Araminte'.

b. *slang.* (See quots. 1851.)

1851 Mayhew *Lond. Lab.* I. 88/1 The damaged oranges are known as 'specks'. *Ibid.* 117/1 The shrivelled, dwarfish, or damaged fruit—called by the street-traders the 'specks'. 1897 *Daily News* 9 Sept. 3/7 He heard children asking for 'farthingsworths of specks' at defendant's stall.

4. In moth-names (see quots.).

1832 J. Rennie *Consp. Butterfl. & M.* 80 The White Speck (*Leucania unipuncta*..); ..a minute white dot at the base of the hinder stigma. *Ibid.* 135 The Tawny Speck (*Euplithecia subfulvata*..) appears the beginning of August.

Speck, *sb.*[2] *north. dial.* Forms: 5 spekk(e, speke, 6 specc-, 6–8 specke, 7– speck. [Of obscure origin: a common later form is Spetch.]

1. A patch or piece of leather used in the making or mending of boots or shoes. †Also, a patch of cloth or other material.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 468/1 Spekke, clowte, *pictacium*. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 353/1 A Spekk (Speke *A.*), *presegmen*. 1570 Levins *Manip.* 47 A specke, *cento*. 1609 Bible (Douay) *Josh.* ix. 5 And shoes very old which for shew of oldenesse were clouted with speckes. 1664 *Spelman's Gloss., Pictatium*,..Anglicè a scraw, or a speck, or the clout of a shoe. 17.. *Robin Hood rescuing three Squires* in Child *Ball.* III. 179 Robin did on the old mans cloake, And it was torne in the necke; 'Now, by my faith,' said William Scarlett, 'Heere shold be set a specke'. 1788 W. H. Marshall *Yorksh.* II. 354 *Speck*, the heel-piece of a shoe. *a* 1825 Forby *Voc. E. Anglia*, *Speck*, the sole of a shoe. 1876 Robinson *Whitby Gloss.*, *Speck*, the piece put on to the heel or toe of a shoe.

†2. A piece, strip, or trimming of undressed hide used in making size. *Obs.*

1496–7 *Durh. Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 250 Et sol. eidem pro le spekkes et dealbacione aule, xviij*d*. 1531 *Durham Househ. Bk.* (Surtees) 69 Empcio le Whyteledre...Et in mundacione 3 pellium equorum soluti Johanni Grynvill, 2*s*. Et eidem pro 3 speccis, 6*d*. *Ibid.* 84 Et in speccis emptis pro camera de Merynyton, 4*d*. 1611 *Churchw. Acc. Pittington* (Surtees) 161 Paide for fower bushels of speckes to the same [lime], xx d.

†3. (See quots.) *Obs. rare.*

1684 *Yorks. Dial.* 39 Thy Father and Hobb, mun gang to th' Smiddy, And fetch the Specks, Sock and Cowlter hither. *Ibid.* Clavis, *Specks*, are long thin pieces of Iron which Husband-men nail upon their Ploughs, to save them from wearing.

Speck, *sb.*[3] *E. Anglian dial.* [ad. OF. *espec* or *especque* (mod.Norm. *épec*, Picard *épèque*, F. *épeiche*), ad. MHG. *speck*, *spech*, var. of *specht* Speight.] A woodpecker.

15.. *Parl. Eyrdes* in Hazl. *E. P. P.* III. 176 Than in his hole sayd the Specke [*v.r.* Woodspecke], I woulde the hauke brake his necke. [1847 Halliwell, *Woodspack*, a woodpecker.] 1855 *Norfolk Wds.* in *Trans. Philol. Soc.* 37 *Specke.*—Woodpecker.

Speck (spek), *sb.*[4] Now *U.S.* and *S. African.* Also 7 specke, 9 spec, spek. [a. Du. *spek* (†*speck*, MDu. *spec*) or G. *speck* (MHG. *spec*, OHG. *spec*, *spech*; MLG. *speck*, whence MSw. *späk*, Sw. *späck*, Da. *spæk*), related to OE. *spic* Spick *sb.*[1]]

1. a. Fat meat, esp. bacon or pork. b. The fat or blubber of a whale. c. The fat of a hippopotamus.

a. 1633 Heywood *Eng. Trav.* I. ii, Adue good Cheese and Oynons, stuffe thy guts With Specke and Barley-pudding for disgestion. 1809 in Thornton *Amer. Gloss.* s.v., He goes out almost every week to eat speck with the country folks; thereby showing that a democratic governor is not to be choaked with fat pork. 1886 *Trans. Amer. Philol. Assoc.* XVII. App. p. xii, 'Speck' is..the generic term applied [in Pennsylvania] to all kinds of fat meat.

b. 1743 *Univ. Spectator* 25 Sept. 3 About ten Days ago a large Whale run ashore at Whitehills near Banff, from which they have already taken 80 Barrels of Speck. 1825 in Jamieson *Suppl.* 1856 Kane *Arct. Expl.* I. ii. 23 The spec or blubber is purchased from the natives with the usual articles of exchange.

c. 1863 W. C. Baldwin *Afr. Hunting* iv. 110 Mothlow shot a sea-cow, and I went down..to bring up half a wagon-load of speck. 1864 P. L. Sclater *Guide Zool. Gard.* 53 The layer of fat next the skin makes excellent bacon, technically denominated Hippopotamus speck at the Cape.

2. *attrib.* in the names of tackle or apparatus used in dealing with whale-speck, as *speck-block, -fall, -purchase, -tackle, -trough* (see quots.).

1820 Scoresby *Acc. Arctic Reg.* II. 299 The harpooners.. divide the fat into oblong pieces or 'slips'..; then affixing a 'speck-tackle' to each slip, progressively flay it off, as it is drawn upward. *Ibid.* 306 The 'speck-trough'..consists of a kind of oblong box or chest, about twelve feet in length. 1846 A. Young *Naut. Dict.* 121 The speck-falls, whereof there are two, for hoisting the blubber and bone off the whale, are ropes rove through two blocks made fast to the blubber-guy. *Ibid.* 290 Speck-block. 1874 A. H. Markham *Whaling Cruise to Baffin's B.* 133 The fish is taken in, in four hoists, with the fore and main spek tackles.

Speck (spek), *v.*[1] [f. Speck *sb.*[1], or back-formation from Specked *ppl. a.*]

1. *trans.* To mark with specks; to dot after the manner of specks.

1580 Hollyband *Treas. Fr. Tong, Picoter*, to peckle, to pricke thicke, to specke. 1611 Cotgr., *Maculer*, to spot, blot; specke, speckle, bespatter. 1805 Southey *Madoc* I. vi, A beautiful and populous plain it was;..And many a single dwelling specking it. 1835 Willis *Pencillings* I. xii. 89 Only broken by a few prostrate figures, just specking its wide area. 1853 Mrs. Gaskell *Cranford* i, Trim gardens ..without a weed to speck them.

b. In passive: To be covered, marked, or diversified *with* (or *by*) specks or spots.

1667 Milton *P. L.* IX. 429 Each Flour of slender stalk, whose head though gay Carnation, Purple, Azure, or spect with Gold, Hung drooping unsustained. 1678 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1337/4 A Little white lap Spaniel Dog,..his legs speckt with brown. *a* 1732 Gay *Ep.* xiii. Poems 1790 I. 217 When I some antique jar behold, Or white, or blue, or speck'd with gold. 1821 Clare *Vill. Minstr.* (1823) I. 67 Pasture speck'd with sheep, and horse, and cow. 1845 E. Warburton *Crescent & Cross* I. 339 The lake was soon specked by people swimming, or rowing themselves on logs of wood. 1870 Rock *Text. Fabr.* I. 40 They are specked all over with quatrefoil spots.

2. *intr.* To move or fly *like* specks.

1821 Clare *Vill. Minstr.* II. 197 The sweeping rack That specks like wool-flocks through the purple sky.

3. *trans.* To go over (a woven fabric) and remove specks or other blemishes.

1895 in *Funk's Standard Dict.*

4. To convert into a mere speck.

1898 Meredith *Odes Fr. Hist.* 90 Specked overhead, the imminent vulture wings At poise.

Speck, *v.*[2] *north. dial.* [f. Speck *sb.*[2]] *trans.* To patch or mend (shoes) with 'specks'.

1681 in Magrath *Flemings in Oxf.* (O.H.S.) II. App. M. 313 Paid unto Jo. Thompson of Hawkeshead shoemaker for soaling and Specking of Georges, Michaels, Richards & Rogers shoes, 2*s*. 1876 in Robinson *Whitby Gloss.* 1898 in Kirkby *Lakel. Wds.*

Speck and span, variant of Spick and span.

1614 Tomkis *Albumazar* II. ii. (1615) D ij b, Of a starke Clowne I shall appeare speck and span Gentleman. 1767 S. Paterson *Anoth. Trav.* I. 48, I became desirous of seeing one of the last speck-and-span new things. 1840 Thackeray

Paris Sk.-bk. I. 51 No man stepped out so speck and span ..as Major British.

Speckboom, obs. form of SPEK-BOOM.

Specked (spekt), *ppl. a.* [f. SPECK *sb.*[1] or *v.*[1]]

1. Covered or marked with specks or spots; speckled; chequered, dappled, variegated.

1382 WYCLIF *Gen.* xxx. 32 Seuer alle thi speckid sheep, and with speckyd fiese, and what euere 3olow, and speckid, and dyuerse colourid were, as wel in sheep as in geyt, shal be my mede. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) I. 189 3if þey drynken of boþe, þey schulle worþe spekked of dyuers colour. 1398 — *Barth. De P. R.* XVIII. lxviii. (Bodl. MS.), His backe is diuerslich ischape & specked as þe pard is. *c* 1450 *Nominale* (MS. Harl. 1002) 147 b, *Scutulatus*, speckud. *c* 1460 *Towneley Myst.* xxx. 243 A syde hede and a fare fax, his gowne must be spekytt. 1578 LYTE *Dodoens* 64 The floures are..specked in the knappes and buddes. 1616 J. LANE *Contn. Sqr.'s T.* IX. 387 Wheare seemd a longe speckd snake, his postern drewe and wrigled, her to stinge with forker blewe. 1654 GAYTON *Pleas. Notes* IV. viii. 227 Sure a pure Chrystall would more pleasant be Than a spect glasse tainted by venemous eye. *a* 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew, Speckt-wiper*, a colour'd Handkerchief. 1821 CLARE *Vill. Minstr.* II. 204 The speckt throstle never wakes his song. 1886 HOLLAND *Chesh. Gloss.*, *Speckt baw*, a suet dumpling with currants in it.

b. Of fruit: Having specks of decay or disease.

1658 [implied in SPECKEDNESS]. 1882 *Garden* 4 Feb. 72/2 Even when the trees are but slightly affected by either canker or mildew the fruit is sure to be specked and comparatively valueless for market. 1897 *Daily News* 9 Sept. 3/7 'Specked' fruit was fruit damaged, but not necessarily unsound.

† **2.** Of a disease: Characterized by the appearance of specks or spots. *Obs.*—0

1648 HEXHAM II, *Ceter, of schorfte als Lazerie*, Specked Leprosie.

Hence **Spe·ckedness,** the state of being specked or covered with specks, blemishes, etc.; a specked or unsound place.

1617 *Rider's Dict.*, *Nævositas*, speckednesse. 1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.*, *Nevosity*, speckedness, fulness of moles or freckles. 1658 tr. *Porta's Nat. Magick* IV. v. 119 See that [the fruits] ..bee sound, without any bruise, or speckednesse.

Spe·ckiness. *rare.* [f. SPECKY *a.*] The state of being specked or specky.

1857 *Ecclesiologist* XVIII. 170 Some quaint speckiness or liniiness of detail.

Speckle (spe·k'l), *sb.* Also 5 **spakle, spakkyl, spackyll, specle,** 6 **speccle, speckil.** [Corresponds to MDu. *speckel* (Flem. *spekel*, Du. *spikkel*): see SPECK *sb.*[1] and -LE.]

1. A speck, small spot or mark, esp. one occurring on the skin, body, etc.; a natural marking of this nature; a small patch or dot of colour.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 467/1 Spakle (*S.* spakkyl, *P.* spackyll), *scutula.* 1495 [see SPECK *sb.*[1] 1, quots. 1398]. 1530 PALSGR. 274/1 Speccle in ones face, *lentylle.* 1549 E. ALLEN *Erasm. Par. Rev. St. John* xiii, Like unto a cat of the mountayne with her many speckles and spottes. 1591 SPENSER *Virg. Gnat* 250 An huge great Serpent all with speckles pide. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* II. 62 With vinegre alone, it [cumin] cureth the blacke spots and speckles appearing in any part of the bodie. *a* 1658 CLEVELAND *Wks.* (1687) 285 The monstrous Fry Like Serpents with fair Speckles strike the Eye. 1825 SCOTT *Talism.* xvii, A coat or tabard..made of dressed bull's hide, and stained in the front with many a broad spot and speckle of dull crimson. 1856 MORTON *Cycl. Agric.* II. 575/2 The seeds of a grayish colour, with purple speckles.

b. A small or minute object.

1888 BLACKMORE *Christowell* xvii, The humours of a slippery speckle, just beginning to outgrow a tadpole.

2. Speckled colouring, speckling.

1851 HAWTHORNE *Ho. Sev. Gables* x. 114 She curiously examined..the peculiar speckle of its plumage.

3. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *speckle-bellied, -coated, -faced, -starred* adjs.; **speckle-belly,** (*slang*) a Nonconformist or Dissenter; (*U.S.*) one or other of various birds or fishes having speckled markings on the abdomen; **speckle-wood** (see SPECKLED *ppl. a.* 3 b).

1783 WALDRON *Contin. Ben Jonson's Sad Sheph.* 71 This swoll'n and *speckle-bellied toad. 1874 *Slang Dict.* 303 **Specklebellies*, Dissenters. A term used in Worcester and the North, though the etymology seems unknown in either place. 1884 COUES *N. Amer. Birds* 684 *Anser albifrons gambeli*,..Speckle-belly. 1888 TRUMBULL *Names Birds* 24 Gadwell,..Gray Duck,..is known..at Moriches [in Long Island] as Speckle-Belly. 1891 *Cent. Dict.*, *Speckle-belly*, a trout or char, as the common brook-trout of the United States, *Salvelinus fontinalis.* 1871 BROWNING *Balaust.* 1321 Round thy lyre, Phoibos, there danced the *speckle-coated fawn. 1885 BOWMAN *Struct. Wool Fibre* 85 The Shropshire *Speckle-faced Sheep is a cross breed between the original horned sheep and the Southdown. 1591 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* I. v. 143 Feast-famous Sturgeons, Lampreys *speckle-starr'd. 1619 J. SCOTT *Hist. & Descr. Amazones* (MS. Bodl. Rawl. A 175) lf. 370 b, They Loaded the Ship with Tobacco, Anotta, and *Specklewood. 1669 STURMY *Mariner's Mag., Penalties & Forfeit.* 6 Speckle-wood, Jamaica-wood, Fustick, or any other Dying-wood. 1729 *Cowley's Voy.* 24 The island of Borneo..is plentifully stored with..fine wood, as Speckle-wood and Ebony.

† **Speckle,** *a. Obs. rare.* Speckled, dappled.

1536 *MS. Acc. St. John's Hosp., Canterb.*, For a spekyll cowe, XV s. iiij d. 1538 *Ibid.*, For a spekyll cowe att crystenmes, XV s. iiij d.

Speckle (spe·k'l), *v.* [f. SPECKLE *sb.* or back-formation from SPECKLED *a.* Cf. MDu. *speckelen, spekelen* (WFlem. *spekelen*, Du. *spikkelen*).]

1. *trans.* To mark with, or as with, speckles; to cover or dot (a surface, etc.) after the manner of speckles.

1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 47 To speckle, *maculare.* 1611 COTGR., *Grivoler*, to peckle, or speckle; to spot with diuers colours. 1648 HEXHAM II, *Spickelen*, to Speckle, or to Spott. 1708 SEWEL II, *Bespikkelen*, to Speckle. 1780 COWPER *Progr. Error* 83 Dawn appears; the sportsman and his train Speckle the bosom of the distant plain. 1834 PRINGLE *Afr. Sk.* vi. 201 So numerous were those herds,..they literally speckled the face of the country. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* xli, Squads of them might have been seen, speckling with black the public-house entrances. 1854 DICKENS *Hard T.* III. vi, Beautiful shadows of branches flickered upon it, and speckled it.

transf. 1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib., Brit.* II. No. 6449, One wonders how on earth needle-making came to speckle such a scene.

2. *intr.* To form speckles; to be dotted about like speckles. *rare.*

1820 CLARE *Poems Rural Life* (ed. 2) 209 And moss and ivy speckling on my eye. 1821 — *Vill. Minstr.* II. 15 Every thing shines round me just as then, Mole-hills, and trees, and bushes speckling wild.

Speckled (spe·k'ld), (*ppl.*) *a.* and *pa. pple.* Also 5 **spac-, spaklyd, spekelede, spekeld, specled,** 6 **spekeled, speckelde,** 7 **speckeld.** [Corresponds to MDu. and WFlem. *spekelde* adj. and *gespekeld* (Du. *gespikkeld*) pa. pple. See SPECKLE *sb.*] Covered, dotted, or marked with (numerous) speckles or specks; variegated or flecked with spots of a different colour from that of the main body; spotted.

1. In predicative use.

a 1400 *Stockholm Med. MS.* ii. 658 in *Anglia* XVIII. 323 His stalke is..Lyke nedderis hyde spaclyd amonge. *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (Roxb.) xxxi. 143 þai bene of dyuerse coloures, as rayed, rede, grene and 3alowe, .. and all spekelede. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 467/1 Spaklyd, *scutulatus.* 1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 49 Speckled, *maculosus.* 1612 T. TAYLOR *Comm. Titus* i. 15 He is no better than a leper in Gods eies, .. outwardly spotted and speckled like the leopard. 1638 JUNIUS *Paint. Ancients* 138 To have their..Pigeons speckled and painted after their own phantasie. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 7 May 1662, He drawing it [his arm] oute we found it all speckled. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) V. 265 She usually lays but one [egg], which is speckled. 1796 H. HUNTER tr. *St.-Pierre's Stud. Nat.* (1799) I. 579 They are thus speckled, I admit, only on one side. 1861 PALEY *Æschylus* (ed. 2) *Agam.* 383 *note*, If unskilfully mixed it turns quite black externally, and is liable to become dim and speckled after being polished.

fig. 1614 T. ADAMS *Divell's Banket* 25 The Conscience growes more speckled by them, till men become not only spotted, but spots.

b. Const. *with* something, esp. of a colour different from that of the main surface or material.

1483 CAXTON *Gold. Leg.* 353/1 In the sayd welle appiere yet stones bespryncte and specled as it were with blood. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. IV*, 12 Some had the mainferres ..dropped and gutted with red and other had them spekeled with grene. 1578 LYTE *Dodoens* 203 Two leaves, speckled with great redde spottes. 1653 W. RAMESEY *Astrol. Restored* 57 The *Heliotropion*, is in colour green like a Jasper, speckled with red. 1735 JOHNSON *Lobo's Abyssinia* Descr. xii. 114 These Serpents..have..their bellies speckled with Brown, Black, and Yellow. 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* xxxiv, Its luxuriant plain..speckled with gardens and magnificent villas. 1825 SCOTT *Betrothed* x, As she beheld that the trophies were speckled with blood. 1891 *Science-Gossip* XXVII. 23 With a dark zone of different shades of brown and black round the small end and speckled with the same colours on the other part.

2. In attrib. use. a. Of animals, their skin, parts, etc. *Speckled beauty*, a fine trout.

1482 *Trevisa's Higden* (Caxton) II. xi. 86 Alle the spekeld lammes and kyddes. *a* 1547 SURREY *Æneid* II. B iv, The adder..Rered for wrath swelling her speckled neck. 1583 MELBANCKE *Philotimus* F iv b, A foxe though he haue not so gawdye a skin as the Leopard, hath more wit then the speckled foole. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* I. i. 17 She..turning fierce, her speckled taile aduaunst. 1634 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* 5 [Sharks] are alwayes directed by a little speckled fish, called a pilot fish. 1675 HOBBES *Odyssey* (1677) 166 A goatskin..Of which a speckeld wild goat had been flaid. 1735 SOMERVILLE *Chase* I. 247 His Ears and Legs Fleckt here and there, in gay enamell'd Pride Rival the speckled Pard. 1789 E. DARWIN *Bot. Gard.* II. (1791) 109 Two serpent forms..ploughed their foamy way with speckled breasts. 1832 LYTTON *Eugene A.* I. v, The speckled trout, fresh from the stream. 1859 GEO. ELIOT *A. Bede* i, A clean old woman..talking to some speckled fowls. 1873 G. C. DAVIES *Mount. & Mere* xiv. 112 In the mean time I had landed two speckled beauties.

transf. 1598 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. i. HI. *Furies* 217 How many loathsome swarms Of speckled poysons..in close Ambush lurk. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* III. 663 A Snake..renew'd in all the speckl'd Pride Of pompous Youth. *c* 1760 SMOLLETT *Ode Leven-Water* 13 The springing trout in speckled pride.

b. Of flowers, stone, cloth, garments, etc.

1577 B. GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* IV. (1586) 191 b, Veronica ..beareth a leafe like the Blackthorne, with a blewish speckled flowre. 1599 HAKLUYT *Voy.* II. 211 Ouer the body they haue built a tombe of speckled stone. 1648 HEXHAM II, *Gespickelt laken*, Speckled or Spotted cloath. 1682 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1757/4 A dark-colour'd Stuff Riding-Coat,..and speckled Stockings. 1708 SEWEL II, *Spekkige boter of kaas*, speckled butter or cheese. 1843 J. E. PORTLOCK *Geology* 525 The cavities are lined with green earth, and, from their number and minuteness, give a very speckled appearance to the mass. 1887 BESANT *The World Went* ii. 15 He wore a common speckled shirt like the watermen's children.

c. *fig.* Of sin, vice, etc.: Characterized by, full of, moral blemishes or defects.

1603 DEKKER & CHETTLE *Grissil* (Shaks. Soc.) 8 Before my soul look black with speckled sin My hands shall make me pale death's underling. 1608 DAY *Law Trickes* I. i, Her credit is more foule Than speckled scandall or black murders soule. 1629 MILTON *Hymn Nativ.* xiv, And speckl'd vanity Will sicken soon and die. 1664 DUCHESS OF NEWCASTLE *Sociable Lett.* xv, Being unspotted, and free from that speckled Vice.

d. *colloq.* Of a mixed character or nature; motley.

1845 S. JUDD *Margaret* I. x, It was a singularly freaked and speckled group. 1909 *Daily Chron.* 16 Dec. 7/1 They are certainly not all desirable, taken separately. It must be owned that they are usually a speckled lot.

3. In the specific names of birds, fishes, animals, etc. (see quots. and the sbs.).

A number of moth names are given in Rennie *Consp. Butterfl. & Moths* (1832).

(*a*) 1888 TRUMBULL *Names Birds* II American White-fronted goose,..Laughing goose,..known in various parts of the West as Prairie Brant, *Speckled Belly, and *Speckled Brant. 1781 LATHAM *Gen. Synop. Birds* I. I. 97 *Speckled Buzzard,..in shape like our common Buzzard. 1884 COUES *N. Amer. Birds* 276 *Catherpes mexicanus conspersus*, *Speckled Cañon Wren. 1678 RAY *Willughby's Ornith.* III. 341 The greatest *speckled Diver or Loon: *Colymbus maximus caudatus.* 1785 LATHAM *Gen. Synop. Birds* III. II. 341 Speckled Diver, *Colymbus stellatus.* 1894 HESLOP *Northumbld. Words*, Speckled-Diver, the young of the red-throated diver, *Colymbus septentrionalis.* 1815 STEPHENS in *Shaw's Gen. Zool.* IX. II. 438 *Speckled Finch (*Fringilla bononiensis*). 1785 LATHAM *Gen. Synop. Birds* III. I. 266 *Speckled Gallinule..frequents the marshes of Germany. 1678 RAY *Willughby's Ornith.* III. 283 The greater *speckled or red Heron of Aldrovand. 1785 LATHAM *Gen. Synop. Birds* III. II. 341 Greatest *speckled Loon...This bird is pretty frequent in England. 1772 *Phil. Trans.* LXII. 383 *Speckled Partridge Hawk, at Hudson's Bay. The name is derived from its feeding on the birds of the Grous tribe, commonly called partridges, at Hudson's Bay. 1668 CHARLETON *Onomast.* 78 *Passeres Maculatus*,..the *speckled Sparrow, with a yellow tail. 1783 LATHAM *Gen. Synop. Birds* II. I. 255 Speckled Sparrow...Back, and rump, black, white, and yellowish, mixed. *Ibid.* 87 *Speckled Thrush,..speckled with small numerous brown spots.

(*b*) 1836 YARRELL *Brit. Fishes* II. 164 The *Speckled Cod is frequently taken in the weirs at Swansea. 1881 DAY *Fishes Gt. Brit.* I. 278 Turton's 'speckled cod' may have been so coloured due to disease. 1804 SHAW *Gen. Zool.* V. II. 417 *Speckled File-fish, *Balistes Punctatus.* 1884 GOODE *Nat. Hist. Aquat. Anim.* 263 *Speckled Garrupa (*Sebastichthys nebulosus*). 1863 COUCH *Brit. Fishes* II. 170 *Speckled Goby (*Gobius reticulatus*, Cuvier)..is known in the Mediterranean. 1888 GOODE *Amer. Fishes* 56 'Marsh Bass'..and '*Speckled Hen' are other names applied to one or both species [of bass]. 1672 *Speckled Hound-fish [see HOUND-FISH 2]. 1876 GOODE *Fishes Bermudas* 72 *Gymnothorax moringa*, *Speckled Maray. 1884 [see MORAY]. 1888 GOODE *Amer. Fishes* 71 *Pomoxys annularis*..has other names of local application as..'Goggle Eye', '*Speckled Perch'. 1882 JORDAN & GILBERT *Syn. Fishes N. Amer.* 320 *Salvelinus fontinalis*, Brook Trout; *Speckled Trout. 1884 GOODE *Nat. Hist. Aquat. Anim.* 504 The Dolly Varden Trout, *Salvelinus malma*,..is known in the mountains as 'Lake Trout', 'Bull Trout', 'Speckled Trout'. 1804 SHAW *Gen. Zool.* V. II. 428 *Speckled Trunk-Fish, *Ostracion Meleagris.*

(*c*) 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) IV. 306/2 The Axis, or *Speckled Deer, has slender trifurcated horns. *c* 1880 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* IV. 253 China yields the *Speckled Emys. 1802 SHAW *Gen. Zool.* III. II. 581 *Speckled Slow-Worm, *Anguis Meleagris*;..nearly allied to the common Slow-Worm. *Ibid.* I. 30 *Testudo Europæa*...The *speckled Tortoise is of rather small size. 1831 GRIFFITH tr. *Cuvier* IX. II The Speckled Tortoise, *Testudo Europæa.* 1884 GOODE *Nat. Hist. Aquat. Anim.* 158 The 'Spotted Tortoise' or '*Speckled Turtle', *Chelopus guttatus.*

b. **Speckled wood,** a variety of wood having speckled markings; *esp.* the South American snake-wood or letter-wood, *Brosimum Aubletii.* Also *speckled osier* (see quot. 1885).

1656 *Act Commw.* c. 20 Rates (1658) 476 Log-wood... Speckled-wood. 1663 GERBIER *Counsel Builders* (1664) 109 What extent of Land about Surrenam is beset with speckled wood. 1703 DAMPIER *Voy.* III. I. 55 Here are Dye-woods, as Fustick, &c. with Woods for other uses, as speckled Wood, Brazil, &c. 1796 MORSE *Amer. Geog.* I. 745 A beautiful piece of speckled wood, made use of in cabinet work. 1843 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* I. 106 Snake wood, Letter or Speckled wood, is used at Demerara, Surinam, and along the banks of the Orinoko, for the bows of the Indians. 1885 C. G. W. LOCK *Workshop Rec.* Ser. IV. 277/1 The best variety [of the *Salix viminalis*] is known under several names, as..the..blotched osier, and speckled osier.

4. *Comb.*, as *speckled-faced, -tailed* adjs. *

1884 COUES *N. Amer. Birds* 278 *Thryothorus bewicki spilurus*, Speckled-tailed Wren. 1884 *Daily News* 10 Dec. 3/1 The black or speckled-faced class [of sheep]. 1886 *Pall Mall G.* 7 Dec. 10/2 Fat wether sheep, of any blackfaced or speckledfaced mountain breed.

Hence **Spe·ckledness,** the state of being speckled; spottiness.

1611 COTGR., *Hagture*, the maile (or speckledneesse) of the coat of a hawke. 1665 HOOKE *Microgr.* 200 The speckledness of his shell. 1727 BAILEY (vol. II), *Speckledness*, Spottedness.

Spe·ckler. *rare.* [f. SPECKLE *v.*]* One who or that which speckles.

1798 W. MAVOR *Brit. Tourists* V. 258 A hamlet, the residence of poverty, [may] be a fair speckler of the mountain's brow.

Spe·ckless, *a.* [f. SPECK *sb.*[1]] Having no speck or speckle; free from specks, blemishes, flaws, etc. Also in fig. context.

1788 Wolcot (P. Pindar) *Peter's Proph.* 41 The beautiful deformities of nature! Birds without heads, and tails, and wings, and legs,..speckless eggs [etc.]. *a* 1827 Wordsw. *Misc. Sonn.* II. xix, If his thought stand clear,.. Bright, speckless, as a softly-moulded tear. 1833 M. Scott *Tom Cringle* xviii, The second sun set—still the horizon was speckless. 1889 C. Edwardes *Sardinia* 120 The speckless blue of the sky.

b. Free from specks of dirt, dust, etc.; scrupulously or spotlessly clean. Also in fig. context.

1827 Pusey in Liddon *Life* (1893) I. vii. 137 Viewing their minds in the almost speckless mirror of his own. 1859 Geo. Eliot *A. Bede* i, The leaded windows were bright and speckless. 1879 Macquoid *Berksh. Lady* 159 Afraid of soiling his speckless shoes.

Hence **Spe'cklessly** *adv.*, **Spe'cklessness.**

1862 T. A. Trollope *Marietta* I. x. 187 Signor Giusseppe Palli..equally rigid and bolt upright in his chair, equally specklessly black. 1876 Mrs. Whitney *Sights & Ins.* xiii. 130 The whole turn-out is specklessly brilliant in finish. 1882 'F. Anstey' *Vice Versa* iv. 64 His dress..having all the uncreased trimness and speckiessness [etc.].

Spe'ckling, *vbl. sb.* [f. Speckle *v.*] The action of the vb.; speckled marking or marks.

1611 Cotgr., *Tacheture*,..a spotting, speckling, marking. 1648 Hexham II, *Een spickelinge*, a Speckling, or a Spotting. 1872 Coues *N. Amer. Birds* 254 More or less dusky speckling on the throat, breast and sides.

So **Spe'ckling** *ppl. a.*, producing speckles or blemishes. In quot. *fig.*

1602 Marston *Ant. & Mel.* iv. Wks. 1856 I. 45 O, this is naught but speckling melancholie.

Spe'ckly, *a.* [f. Speckle *sb.* Cf. MDu. *speckelich* (Du. *spikkelig*) speckled.] Full of or covered with speckles; speckled, spotted; freckled.

1704 *Phil. Trans.* XXV. 1758 Through which the Spot appeared distinct,..with an Elliptical Speckly mist about it. 1886 G. Allen *Kalee's Shrine* i. 17 The speckly dress and impossible bonnet. 1899 E. Phillpotts *Human Boy* 95 A thick-necked, speckly, stumpy chap like Bray.

Specknell, obs. form of Spignel.

Specksioneer (spekʃənīə·r). *Whale-fishing.* Also **specktion(e)er, spectioneer, speckshioner.** [ad. Du. *speksnijer*, colloquial form of *speksnijder*, f. *spek* Speck *sb.*4 + *snijden* to cut. The Du. *ij* was formerly, and is still locally, pronounced as (*ī*).] A harpooner, usually the chief harpooner, of a whaler, who directs the operation of flensing the whale or cutting up the blubber.

a. 1820 Scoresby *Acc. Arctic Reg.* II. 40 The office of specksioneer, as it is called by the English. The specksioneer is now considered the principal harpooner. *Ibid.* 299 The harpooners, directed by the specksioneer, divide the fat into oblong pieces or 'slips'. 1858 Simmonds *Dict. Trade, Spectioneer*, a whaling name for the first harpooner. 1863 Mrs. Gaskell *Sylvia's Lovers* II. 89 They spoke of the specksioneer, with admiration enough for his powers as a harpooner and sailor. 1867 Smyth *Sailor's Word-bk.* 641 *Speckticoneer*, the chief harpooner in a Greenland ship.

β. 1836 *Uncle Philip's Convers. Whale Fishery* 87 There is among the harpooners one man called the specktioner, and as he commands, the harpooners cut the fat into long pieces. 1896 Kipling *Seven Seas* 24 Up spake the soul of a gray Gothavn 'speckshioner.

†**Speckstone.** *Min. Obs.* [ad. G. *speckstein*, f. *speck* Speck *sb.*4 + *stein* Stone *sb.*] Soapstone, or the Chinese variety of this; figure-stone.

1794 Schmeisser *Syst. Min.* I. 194 To the harder kinds belong..the Chinese smectis, or speckstone, which takes a fine polish.

Speckt, error for *specht* Speight.

Specky (spe·ki), *a.* Also 7 **speckie,** 8 **speckey.** [f. Speck *sb.*1 + -y.] Covered or marked with specks; speckled, spotted; having specks or spots of disease, discoloration, etc.

1382 Wyclif *Gen.* xxx. 33 Alle that weren not dyuerse, and speckid [*v.rr.* specky, speckel]. 1587 Mascall *Govt. Cattle, Sheepe* (1596) 206 Although the skinne be specky and spotted of diuers colours. 1763 W. Lewis *Phil. Comm. Arts* 65 In some parts it appeared specky or full of small holes. 1793 *Trans. Soc. Enc. Arts*, etc. XI. 17 For where the leaves curl, the fruit is always specky. 1856 Morton *Cycl. Agric.* I. 48/1 When ground with wheat, they render the flour 'specky'. 1865 *Intell. Observ.* No. 37. 18 A turbid or specky appearance. 1884 F. J. Britten *Watch & Clockm.* 34 Pieces [of steel] that have been cleaned in dirty benzine..will become specky in blueing.

transf. 1858 *Dublin Univ. Mag.* LII. 264 A style which might technically be termed specky and disfigured by some affectations which honest criticism must deplore.

Specky(d, obs. ff. Speckle *sb.*, Speckled *ppl. a.*

Specs. Also **specks.** [Dial. or colloq. abbreviation of *spectacles* Spectacle *sb.*1] Spectacles for the eyes.

a. 1807 Hogg *Mountain Bard* Poet. Wks. 1838 II. 202 The miller.., wi' specks on his nose, To hae an' to view it was wondrous fain. 1815 G. Beattie *John o' Arnha'* (1826) 40 Wi' specks on nose,..The wary fiend loom'd bluff and big. 1882 Blackmore *Christowell* xxvii, Must have my thick specks.

β. 1826 J. Wilson *Noct. Ambr.* Wks. 1855 I. 125 Few o' them..that kenna read big prent wi' powerfu' specs. 1853 Carlyle in Froude *Life C. in Lond.* (1884) II. 127 She reads now with specs in the candlelight, as well as I; uses her mother's specs I perceive. 1873 Carleton *Farm Ball.* 19 She got her specs from off the mantel-shelf.

†**Spect,** *v. Obs. rare.* [ad. L. *spect-āre* to look.] *intr.* To look or face in a specified direction.

1585 T. Washington tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* I. xvi. 17 b, Ther is another port which specteth towards the North. *Ibid.* II. vi. 35 The yle of Chio..lyeth in the sea Ionique specting Eastwardes.

†**Spectabi'lity.** *Obs.*–1 [f. next, or ad. L. *spectābilitās.*] Display, show.

1637 Gillespie *Eng. Pop. Cerem.* II. iv. 20 Musculus reprehends Bishops, for..adding Ceremonies unto Ceremonies in a worldly splendor and spectability.

†**Spectable,** *sb. Obs. rare.* [Substituted for Spectacle *sb.*1, after next or OF. *spectable* sb.] A spectacle.

1535 *Goodly Primer, Prayer Lord* C j b, For an effectual example, & spectable of all vertues. 1550 Coverdale *Spir. Perle* xxviii. (1588) 269 Job, the spectable of patience.

†**Spectable,** *a. Obs.* [ad. L. *spectābilis* (f. *spectāre* to look) or a. OF. (also mod.F.) *spectable* (It. *spettabile*, Sp. *espectable*).]

1. Presentable to the sight; worthy of being seen or contemplated.

1432–50 tr. *Higden* (Rolls) I. 5 For in this tyme presente artes and lawes scholde falle vtterly, the exemplares of acciones spectable scholde not be patent. 1489–99 *Inscript. Holloway Chapel, Widcome* in Wood *Life* (O.H.S.) III. 409 Thys chapill floryschyd with formosyte spectabyll In honour of Mary Magdalen prior Cantlow hath edyfyd. 1611 T. Higgons *Serm. at Pauls Crosse* 42 My function and office.. was very spectable, yea honourable also. 1635 Heywood *Hierarchy* III. Comm. 150 That by which a woman is made more faire and Spectable. 1665 J. Sergeant *Sure Footing* 63 Experience of them.., by the venerable Sacraments, by the spectable Majesty of outward Ceremonies.

2. Capable of being seen; visible.

c 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* IV. 692 Ther are in hem certeyn signys spectable Which is teschewe, and whiche is profitable. 1604 T. Wright *Passions* v. § 4. 220 Divers times both proportion, comelinesse, or..other perfection be more spectable in the reiected, then in the accepted. 1622 *Tom Tell-Troath* in *Harl. Misc.* (1744) II. 405/1 The blasing Starr was not more spectable in our Horizon, nor gave People more Occasion of Talke. *a* 1655 T. Adams *Serm.* ix. Wks. 1861 I. 104 Their prayers were at the corners of streets;..and so more spectable to many passengers.

†**Spectabundal,** *a. Obs.*–1 [f. L. *spect-āre* to look, after adjs. in *-bundus.*] Eager to see.

1652 Urquhart *Jewel* Wks. (1834) 230 By the inchanted transportation of the eyes and ears of its spectabundal auditorie.

Spectacle (spe·ktăk'l), *sb.*1 Forms: 4– **spectacle** (5 **-acul**); 4 **spectakil,** 5 **-akele, -akyl(le,** 6 **-akle, -akill(e;** 7 **specktacle, -ikill.** [a. OF. *spectacle* (also mod.F.: see next), = It. *spettacolo*, Sp. and Pg. *espectaculo*, or ad. L. *spectāculum* (poet. *-āclum*), f. *spectāre* to look. Hence also G., Da., Sw. *spektakel.*]

I. 1. A specially prepared or arranged display of a more or less public nature (esp. one on a large scale), forming an impressive or interesting show or entertainment for those viewing it.

a 1340 Hampole *Psalter* xxxix. 6 Hoppynge & daunceynge of tumblers and herlotis, and oþer spectakils. 1382 Wyclif 2 *Macc.* v. 26 He stranglide togidre alle that camen forth to the spectacle, or biholdyng. 1542 Becon *Pathw. Prayer* A iij b, What an extreme enemy is the worlde... Howe doth it delyghte vs with the beholdyng of the vayne spectacles therof! 1553 Eden *Treat. New Ind.* (Arb.) 16 The Romaynes..were wont to put them [*sc.* the elephant and rhinoceros] together vpon the theater or stage, for a spectacle. 1607 Topsell *Four-f. Beasts* 315 The noblest horses..were ioyned together in chariots for races, courses, spectacles, games, and combats. 1617 Moryson *Itin.* IV. 476 To which and to many musterings and other frequent spectacles, the people flocke in great nombers. 1641 J. Jackson *True Evang. T.* II. 126 They abhorred Theaters, and publique spectacles, especially of blood. 1763 J. Brown *Poetry & Music* iv. 43 The gentle Passions, and less affecting Actions, which might fill the Spectacles of a mild and peaceful Nation. 1782 J. Warton *Ess. Pope* II. viii. 87 What solid reason can we give why the Romans..could yet never excel in tragedy, though so fond of theatrical spectacles? 1806 J. Beresford *Miseries Hum. Life* II. xii, Violent rain coming on, and continuing..during the whole of the spectacle. *c* 1854 H. Reed *Lect. Eng. Lit.* ix. (1855) 290 It was a very fine spectacle, but it was nothing more than a spectacle. 1865 Lecky *Ration.* (1878) I. 324 He had written a treatise dissuading the Christians of his day from frequenting the public spectacles.

b. Without article.

1387 Trevisa *Higden* (Rolls) V. 375 In comyn spectacle þere me stood to beholde playes and som newe þinges. 1607 Topsell *Four-f. Beasts* (1658) 374 Cæsar when he was Dictator, presented in spectacle four hundred Lions. 1740 Cibber *Apol.* 57 Sir William Davenant, therefore,..to make Head against their Success, was forc'd to add Spectacle and Musick to Action. 1809 Pinkney *Trav. France* 98 The French..infinitely excell every other nation in all things connected with spectacle. 1835 Lytton *Rienzi* x. vi, Gorgeous imagination rather than vanity..had led the Tribune into spectacle and pomp. 1866 Carlyle in Froude *Remin.* (1881) II. 215 She was constantly in spectacle there, to herself and to the sympathetic adorers.

attrib. and *Comb.* 1834 *Edinb. Rev.* LX. 7 The spectacle-loving public of the seventeenth century. 1908 *Stage Year Bk.* 21 An ingeniously conceived..spectacle play.

2. A person or thing exhibited to, or set before, the public gaze as an object either (*a*) of curiosity or contempt, or (*b*) of marvel or admiration.

In 2 *Sam.* xxiii. 21 the later Wycliffite version has the literal rendering 'worthi of spectacle'.

(*a*) *a* 1380 *S. Paula* 67 in Horstm. *Altengl. Leg.* (1878) 4 To gode angeles and to men Spectacle mad forsoþe we ben. 1382 Wyclif 1 *Cor.* iv. 9. 1382 — *Hebrews* x. 33 In that other ȝe [were] maad a spectacle bi schenschips and tribulaciouns. 1582 N. T. (Rhem.) 1 *Cor.* iv. 9 We are made a spectacle to the world, and to Angels and men. 1724 Gay *Captives* v, Let her be led a public spectacle. 1818 Scott *Hrt. Midl.* xii, How proud I was o' being made a spectacle to men and angels, having stood on their pillory at the Canongate.

(*b*) 1609 Bible (Douay) 2 *Sam.* xxiii. 21 He also stroke the Ægyptian, a man worthie to be a spectacle. 1794 Godwin *Caleb Williams* 110 A man who..must stand alone the spectacle and admiration of all ages of the world. 1805–6 Cary *Dante, Inf.* xxix. 130 And his rare wisdom Abbagliato show'd A spectacle for all. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* II. v. xii, There he stands, with unimpeachable passivity,..a spectacle to men.

3. A thing seen or capable of being seen; something presented to the view, esp. of a striking or unusual character; a sight. Also *fig.*

1434 Misyn *Mending Life* 127 Odyr says þat contemplacion is free sight in þe spectakyls of wysdom. 1509 Hawes *Past. Pleas.* xx. (Percy Soc.) 97 Alas! thought I, this is no spectacle To fede myn eyne, whiche ar now all blynde. *a* 1540 Barnes *Wks.* (1573) 346/2 S. Augustine sayth, Let vs not loue any visible spectakilles lest..by louing shadowes we be brought in to darknes. 1600 Shaks. *A. Y. L.* II. i. 44 But what said Iaques? Did he not moralize this spectacle? 1648 Wilkins *Math. Magic* I. x. 66 Either of them might joyntly behold the same spectacles. 1784 Cowper *Task* I. 476 The paralytic..sits, Spectatress both and spectacle, a sad And silent cypher. 1794 R. J. Sulivan *View Nat.* II. 15 The spectacle has in it something almost supernatural. 1829 *Chapters Phys. Sci.* 315 To observe this spectacle the back of the spectator must be turned towards the sun. 1839 Fr. A. Kemble *Resid. in Georgia* (1863) 32 How shall I describe to you the spectacle which was presented to me. 1849 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* v. I. 645 Lord Stawell..was punished by having a corpse suspended in chains at his park gate. In such spectacles originated many tales of terror.

b. The sight or view *of* something.

1625 in Foster *Eng. Factories Ind.* (1909) III. 56 Whole rabbles of people, whose revengefull eyes never glutted themselves to behould the spectacle of our mizeries. 1658 in *Verney Mem.* (1907) II. 138 Trobled with the specktikill of a discontented sister. 1780 Bentham *Princ. Legisl.* xiv. § 1 The spectacle of your suffering gives me at least for a time a feeling of pleasure. 1816 Scott *Old Mort.* xxxii, The spectacle of their hurried and harassed retreat. 1852 H. Rogers *Ecl. Faith* (1853) 3 The spectacle of the interminable controversies.. occupied the mind of Germany. 1874 L. Stephen *Hours in Library* (1892) I. v. 185 The spectacle of a man tortured by a life-long repentance.

4. A sight, show, or exhibition *of* a specified character or description.

1484 Caxton *Curiall* 5 They only that ben hyest enhaunsed ben after theyr despoyntement as a spectacle of enuye, of detraction, or of hate. 1665 Manley *Grotius' Low C. Wars* 681 Both near at hand, and far off, nothing [was seen] but terrible spectacles of horrour and dying. 1671 Milton *P. R.* I. 415 A poor miserable captive thrall,..A spectacle of ruin or of scorn. 1746 Hervey *Medit.* (1818) 50 How many dismal hours did that illustrious Sufferer hang, a spectacle of woe to God, to angels, and to men! 1791 Burke *Corr.* (1844) III. 219 A spectacle of suffering royalty. 1839 Fr. A. Kemble *Resid. in Georgia* (1863) 65 Such another spectacle of filthy disorder I never beheld.

b. With descriptive adjs. denoting the impression (agreeable, imposing, or otherwise) conveyed by the thing seen.

(*a*) 1560 Daus tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 115 b, The same woulde be a moste pleasaunt syght, and spectacle for the Lutherians. 1580 Lyly *Euphues* (Arb.) 433 Your eyes being too olde to iudge of so rare a spectacle. 1664 Power *Exp. Philos.* I. 6 The Gray, or Horse-Fly: Her eye is an incomparable pleasant spectacle. 1698 Fryer *Acc. E. India & P.* 76 In the mean while Nature affords us a pleasant Spectacle for this Season. 1718 Lady M. W. Montagu *Let. to Lady Rich* 10 Oct., The shops being all set in rows so regularly well lighted, they made up a very agreeable spectacle. 1845 Darwin *Voy. Nat.* viii. (1879) 162 The sea presented a wonderful and most beautiful spectacle. 1873 Hamerton *Intell. Life* I. vi. (1876) 31 The magnificent spectacle of the universe.

(*b*) 1590 Spenser *F. Q.* II. i. 40 Pitifull spectacle, as euer eye did view. 1602 Marston *Antonio's Rev.* v. vi, Whose hand presents this gory spectacle? 1653 H. Cogan tr. *Pinto's Trav.* ix. 30 Which was so dreadful a spectacle to us, as we had not the power to cry out. 1726 Swift *Gulliver* II. iv, The beggars..gave me the most horrid spectacles.. a European eye beheld. 1740 Richardson *Pamela* (1824) I. 77, I shan't be able to stir out this day or two, for I am a frightful spectacle! 1837 Disraeli *Venetia* I. ix, Mrs. Cadurcis indeed offered a most ridiculous spectacle. 1863 Bright *Sp.*, *Amer.* 26 Mar. (1876) 125 Privilege has beheld an afflicting spectacle for many years past.

II. †5. A means of seeing; something made of glass; a window or mirror. *Obs.*

c 1430 Lydg. *Lyfe of our Ladye* (MS. Bodl. 75) fol. 19 Rigt as þe son percyd þorou3 glas, Thorou3 crystal beryl or spectacle, Wiþ oute harme. *c* 1430 — *Min. Poems* (Percy Soc.) 140 By his labour was cristened al this lond, Feith of our lord wex moor cleer than spectacle. 1439 in Sir W. Dugdale *Monast. Angl.* (1823) IV. 553/2 We ordeyne.. that ye..have no lokyng nor spectacles owte warde, thorght the wiche ye mythe falle in worldly dilectacyone. 1548 Elyot, *Specularius*, he that maketh glasse windowes or spectacles, a glasiar. 1576 Fleming *Panopl. Epist.* 49 Should I set before your eyes, as it were a spectacle or looking glasse, men of great noblenesse and passing fame? 1630 *R. Johnson's Kingd. & Commw.* 130 The first is Temperance, with a Diall and Spectacle.

†b. *fig.* A mirror, model, pattern, or standard.

c 1430 Lydg. *Min. Poems* (E.E.T.S.) 52 To all virgines merour and spectacle, Off hire merites of hevene crownyd queene. 1483 Caxton *G. de la Tour* e iiij b, Here is a fair spectacle to euery woman to see in, and conceyue the tyme comynge. 1523 Ld. Berners *Froiss.* I. cccc. 695 This harde and perylous aduenture myght well be to hym a spectacle all his lyfe after, and an ensample to all other. *a* 1548 Hall *Chron., Hen. VI*, 101 The erles..determined first to ryde to London, as the chefe key, and common spectacle to the

whole Realme. *a* 1575 tr. *Pol. Verg. Eng. Hist.* (Camden, No. 36) 217 Knowing the owld sayde sawe, that preestes weare the spectacle and looking glasse of the whole worlde.

† **c.** An illustrative instance or example. *Obs.*

1579 W. WILKINSON *Confut. Fam. Love* 65 b, Hee [Judas] should be a notable spectacle of God's vengeance. 1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* x. 489 When the Starres of great states decline.., and [are] made the deplored-for spectacles of the inconstancy of fortune. 1656 EARL MONM. tr. *Boccalini's Advts. fr. Parnass.* I. viii. (1674) 10 Through their Masters ingratitude and cruelty..they became the spectacle of all brutish usage.

6. A device for assisting defective eyesight, or for protecting the eyes from dust, light, etc., consisting of two glass lenses set in a frame which is supported on the nose, and kept in place by wires passing over the ears. Usually in *pl.*

sing. c 1386 [see c]. 1415 HOCCLEVE *To Sir J. Oldcastle* 417 Right as a spectacle helpith feeble sighte, Whan a man on the book redith or writ. 1447 BOKENHAM *Seyntys* (Roxb.) 27 Myn eyne bleynte Shuld be, ner helpe of a spectacle. 1589 PUTTENHAM *Eng. Poesie* III. xxv. (Arb.) 311 There be artes and methodes..by which the naturall is in some sorte relieued, as th'eye by his spectacle. 1628 DONNE *Sermons* 289, I thank him..that assists me with a Spectacle when my sight grows old. *c* 1640 J. SMYTH *Lives of Berkeleys* (1883) II. 408 Reading much, yet never used spectacle or other help. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Eye*, This Membrane, like a Kind of Spectacle, covers the Eye.

pl. c 1430 LYDG. *London Lackpenny* Min. Poems (Percy Soc.) 105 What will you copen or by? Fyne felt hattes, or spectacles to reede? *c* 1500 *Blowbol's Test.* 101 in Hazl. *E. P. P.* I. 96 No man may his letters know nor se, Alle-though he looke trughe spectacles thre. 1561 T. NORTON *Calvin's Inst.* I. 11 b, Being holpen with spectacles,..they begin to read distinctlie. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* III. 56 And because they cast up sand upon the passengers, some curious men use spectacles of glasse to preserve their eyes. 1656 RIDGLEY *Pract. Physick* 129 Use of Spectacles weakneth the sight, unlesse you wear them for need. 1728 PEMBERTON *Newton's Philos.* 383 Hence may be understood why spectacles made with convex glasses help the sight in old age. 1761 *Phil. Trans.* LII. 124 Plain spectacles..do not appear to have been known till a hundred years after. 1831 BREWSTER *Optics* xxxviii. 320 Spectacles and reading glasses are among the simplest and most useful of optical instruments. 1859 *Habits of Gd. Society* iii. 154, I am one of those people who wear spectacles for fear of seeing anything with the naked eye. 1887 RUSKIN *Præterita* II. 233 Tourists who pass their time mostly in looking at black rocks through blue spectacles.

trans. 1593 SHAKS. *2 Hen. VI*, III. ii. 112, I..bid mine eyes be packing.., And call'd them blinde and duskie Spectacles.

b. In phr. *a pair of spectacles.* † Also without *of.*

1423 *Test. Ebor* (Surtees) III. 75 De XXS receptis pro pare de spectakelis de argento et deaurato. 1463 *Bury Wills* (Camden) 15 A peyre spectaclys of sylur and ouyr gylt. 1529 MORE *Dyalogue* I. Wks. 147/1 And so should the scripture stand them in as good stede, as a paire of spectacles shold stand a blinde freer. 1589 PUTTENHAM *Eng. Poesie* III. xxv. (Arb.) 311 No lesse to be laughed at, then for one that can see well inough, to vse a paire of spectacles. 1666 PEPYS *Diary* 24 Dec., I this evening did buy me a pair of green spectacles, to see whether they will help my eyes or no. 1726 SWIFT *Gulliver* I. ii, A pair of spectacles (which I sometimes use for the weakness of mine eyes). 1756–7 tr. *Keysler's Trav.* (1760) III. 374 On the other side is another cardinal with a large pair of spectacles on his nose. 1827 FARADAY *Chem. Manip.* xxiii. (1842) 590 A pair of spectacles, with side as well as front glasses.

c. *fig.* A means or medium through which anything is viewed or regarded; a point of view, prepossession, prejudice, etc.

c 1386 CHAUCER *Wife's T.* 347 Povert a spectacle is, as thinkith me, Thurgh which he may his verray frendes se. 1579 W. WILKINSON *Confut. Fam. Love* 16 He that putteth on the Christall spectacles of Gods word. 1598 BARCKLEY *Felic. Man* (1631) 648 We behold our owne faults with spectacles that make things shew lesse. 1606 *Proc. agst. Late Traitors* 356 False informations, which are rightly called the spectacles of error. 1644 JESSOP *Angel Ephesus* 62 One of late looking on his words with an Episcopall paire of spectacles, blesseth himselfe at the reading of them. 1676 HOBBES *Iliad* Pref., They that..look upon it with the oldest spectacles of a Critick, may approve it. 1711 *Countrey-Man's Lett. Curat* 29 All the World hitherto had thought, these Horses and Chariots of Fire had been the Prophets Guard not his Danger; But they have wanted the Doctor's Spectacles. 1861 [see ROSE-COLOURED *a.* 3]. 1869 J. MARTINEAU *Ess.* II. 5 They offer you the spectacles they did not use.. 1889 *Spectator* 28 Dec., He early recognised that it is a scholar's duty to interpret what he sees simply, without the spectacles of prepossession.

† **d.** A device for restricting the view of horses. In both passages a rendering of It. *occhiali*.

1632 J. HAYWARD tr. *Bionda's Eromena* 3 The horse with his spectacles and covering. 1656 EARL MONM. tr. *Boccalini's Pol. Touchstone* in *Advts. fr. Parnass.* 395 The jealous Spaniards keep..a caveson upon his nose, a bit in his mouth, a spectacle on his eyes, as if they were afraid of him.

7. a. *ellipt.* A species of moth.

1819 SAMOUELLE *Entomol. Compend.* 422 *Noctua triplasea*. The dark Spectacle. *Noctua asclepiades*. The light Spectacle. 1832 J. RENNIE *Consp. Butterfl. & M.* 92 The Dark Spectacle (*Abrostola triplasia*) appears in July. *Ibid.*, The Spectacle (*Abrostola Asclepiadis*) appears the end of July.

b. *Zool.* A marking resembling a pair of spectacles.

1884 COUES *Key N. Amer. Birds* 815 Spectacled Guillemot..A pair of white spectacles on the eyes, and whitish about base of bill. 1908 E. M. GORDON *Indian Folk Tales* viii. (1909) 76 Two varieties of *cobra*, one with the spectacles and the other without them.

c. *pl.* A batsman's score of two 'eros or 'duck's eggs' in a cricket match of two innings. Freq. in *a pair of spectacles.*

1892 in W. A. Bettesworth *Chats Cricket Field* (1910) 455. 1893 *Whitaker's Alm.* 613 Unlucky enough to make spectacles for his side against Middlesex. 1898 *Globe* 1 Sept. 5/5 Yesterday in a match..he made a pair of spectacles.

8. a. *pl.* The glazed openings in the cab-screen of a locomotive.

1878 F. S. WILLIAMS *Midl. Railw.* 503 We..see through the 'spectacles' of the powerful little engine..that [etc.]. 1896 *B'ham Weekly Post* 15 Feb. 8/7 The lid of the sand-box was blown off, and, rising in the air, was shot through the spectacles of the engine.

b. The device consisting of two frames containing respectively red and green glass worked at night in connexion with a railway semaphore.

1881 *Standard* 17 Dec. 2/5 When we got to the up-distant signal I called..attention to the fact that the arm and spectacle were thickly covered with snow. 1889 G. FINDLAY *Eng. Railway* 68 With the arm is a frame containing coloured glasses, and termed 'spectacles'.

c. A mechanical device attached to a phonograph (see quot.).

1889 *Pall Mall G.* 11 Mar. 1/1, I have just finished some improvements in the spectacle (a term given to the mechanical device holding the receiver and transmitter).

9. *attrib.* and *Comb.* (in sense 6), as *spectacle-frame, lens, -mark, years; spectacle-seller, -user, -wiper; spectacle-bestrid, -less, -like, -shaped* adjs.

1784 COWPER *Task* II. 439 At conventicle, where worthy men..strain celestial themes Through the prest nostril, *spectacle-bestrid. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* II. 179/1 In the manufacture of blue steel *spectacle-frames. 1898 WATTS-DUNTON *Aylwin* XV. iii, A strongly marked indented line ..made by long-continued pressure of the spectacle frame. 1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib., Brit.* II. No. 2899 Concave, convex, and meniscus *spectacle lenses. 1889 *Longman's Mag.* Oct. 619 Her brother's helplessness in his *spectacleless condition. 1663 GERBIER *Counsel* 13 Those *Spectacle-like cant Windows, which are of Glasse on all sides. 1796 P. RUSSELL *Indian Serpents Coromandel* 8 The spectacle-like mark on the hood. 1895 *Oracle Encycl.* II. 98 Specimens [of the Cobra] destitute of the *spectacle-mark come from the E. Indies. 1648 HEXHAM II, *Een bril..verkooper*, a *Spectacle..Seller. 1847 A. SMEE *Vision* 50 The knowledge possessed by even the better order of spectacle-sellers. 1802 SHAW *Gen. Zool.* III. I. 409 The neck marked above by a large black and white *spectacle-shaped spot. 1838 WELLINGTON *Lett. to Miss J.* (1890) 102, I return ..the *Spectacle Wipers which you was so good as to send me. 1657 R. AUSTEN *Fruit-trees* ii. 10 What a shame is it for a man to begin to learne his letters and to spell at *spectacle yeares!

b. In names of animals or birds having markings round the eyes, or elsewhere, suggestive of a pair of spectacles, as **spectacle bat, owl, snake, thrush, warbler.** (Cf. SPECTACLED *a.* 2.)

1827 GRIFFITH tr. *Cuvier* V. 69 *Phyllostoma Perspicillatum* (*Spectacle Bat). 1787 LATHAM *Suppl. Gen. Syn. Birds* I. 50 *Spectacle Owl..is less stout than the Cinereous Owl. 1829 GRIFFITH tr. *Cuvier* VI. 83 The Spectacle Owl,..*Strix perspicillata*. 1802 SHAW *Gen. Zool.* III. II. 409 *Spectacle Snake...The Coluber Naja, or Cobra de Capello, is a native of India. 1840 *Penny Cycl.* XVI. 60/2 The Asiatic species.., Spectacle-snake of the English,..may be considered as the type of the genus. 1783 LATHAM *Gen. Synop. Birds* II. I. 61 *Spectacle Thrush. *Ibid.* 452 *Spectacle Warbler..[has] a naked yellowish wrinkled skin, which encircles the eye all round, giving the appearance of wearing spectacles.

10. Special combs.: **spectacle-case,** a case of leather or other material in which spectacles are kept when not in use; **spectacle clew,** a form of double clew for a sail; **spectacle eye,** a spectacle glass; **spectacle furnace** (see quot.); **spectacle plate,** = sense 8 a; **spectacles-seat,** *slang*, the nose; † **spectacle telescope,** a binocular telescope or field-glass.

1597 *Shuttleworths' Acc.* (Chetham Soc.) 108 A *specta[c]le cace, vj[d]. 1690 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 2079/4 Lost..a Black Shagreen Spectacle-Case. 1866 J. MARTINEAU *Ess.* I. 47 The spectacle-case may well be empty, if the glasses are already on the nose. 1863 *Appleby's Handbk. Mach. & Iron Work* 92 *Spectacle Clues, all sizes—Black, 35/0 per cwt. 1884 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* Suppl. 200/1 Ear-ring clew...Spectacle clew. 1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib., Brit.* No. 2887 Lump of Brazilian pebble, from which slabs are cut and ground into *spectacle eyes. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2257 **Spectacle-furnace*,..a furnace with two tap-holes, one above the other. 1900 *Daily Express* 19 June 5/7 Alongside the driver is a fireman,..frowning..through the *spectacle plate. 1895 MEREDITH *Amazing Marriage* xvi, Ben received a second spanking cracker on the *spectacles-seat. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v., F. Cherubin, a Capuchin, describes a kind of *Spectacle-Telescopes, for the viewing of remote Objects with both Eyes; hence called Binoculi.

‖ **Spectacle** (spektakl'), *sb.*[2] [F.: see prec.]

1. = SPECTACLE *sb.*[1] 1.

1749 CHESTERF. *Lett.* ccviii. (1792) 294 Go to whatever assemblies or *spectacles* people of fashion go to. 1768 EARL CARLISLE in Jesse *Selwyn & Contemp.* (1843) II. 336, I shall go to Fontainbleau on Saturday next. It is to be extremely dull; no *spectacle* at court. 1792 A. YOUNG *Trav. France* 217 If cheapness of living, *spectacles*, and pretty women, are a man's objects.., let him live at Venice. 1801 HELEN M. WILLIAMS *Fr. Rev.* I. xi, 110 The love of a *spectacle* is, you know, the ruling passion of the Parisians. 1837 LOCKHART *Scott* III. xi. 370 So mounted,..he witnessed the great closing *spectacle* on the *Champ de Mars*.

2. *spec.* A piece of stage-display or pageantry, as contrasted with real drama.

1752 T. SCROPE in Jesse *Selwyn & Contemp.* (1843) I. 149 Their *spectacles* were very grand, and their stage far surpasses ours; but their plays, in my opinion, fall as far short.

1835 T. MITCHELL *Acharn. of Aristoph.* 1059 *note*, The progress of the piece evidently requires here some little pageant or *spectacle*. 1860 *Once a Week* 14 July 70/1 The young Thespians.. had to appear as Peace and Plenty, amidst a great display of red-light, at the end of a grand *spectacle*, which was drawing uncommonly well.

Spectacle, *v. rare.* [f. SPECTACLE *sb.*[1]]

1. *trans.* To scrutinize through spectacles.

a 1734 NORTH *Lives* (1826) III. 131 The barons, each one after another, spectacled it over and over, and scarce believed their own eyes. 1888 MURDOCH *Readings* Ser. II. 47 Oh, ye may spectacle me as much as ye like, my fine man.

2. To provide with spectacles.

1880 *Sat. Rev.* No. 1295. 235 Of late years the practice of putting children into spectacles has increased with alarming rapidity...Spectacling them may be a wholesome preventive.

Spectacled (spe·ktăk'ld), *a.* [f. as prec.]

1. Provided with or wearing spectacles.

1607 SHAKS. *Cor.* II. i. 221 All tongues speake of him, and the bleared sights Are spectacled to see him. 1624 MIDDLETON *Game at Chess* II. i, When the Inquisitors came all spectacled To pick out syllables. 1779 *Mirror* No. 8, Those grave personages, whom you may observe daily..rising in a coffee-house in the full dignity of a spectacled nose. 1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* vi, Half-scared by the..spectacled old lady, by whom these tempting stores are watched. 1852 R. S. SURTEES *Sponge's Sp. Tour* xxix. 175, 'I think it will be a fine day,' he said,..turning his spectacled face up to the clouds. 1886 W. J. TUCKER *E. Europe* 215 A couple of spectacled professional gentlemen.

b. With distinguishing adjs.

1884 G. ALLEN *Philistia* I. 12 There was honesty..in those hazy blue-spectacled eyes. 1896 *Idler* Mar. 247/2 This innocent-looking little gold-spectacled bald-headed gentleman.

2. In names of birds, animals, etc., having spectacle-shaped markings or the appearance of wearing spectacles (see quots. and SPECTACLE *sb.*[1] 9 b).

1831 GRIFFITH tr. *Cuvier* IX. Syn. 21 *Spectacled Alligator, *Crocodilus* (*Alligator*) *Sclerops*. 1835 *Penny Cycl.* IV. 87 The *Spectacled Bear, *Ursus Ornatus* of F. Cuvier, inhabits the Cordilleras of the Andes in Chili. 1894 LYDEKKER *Roy. Nat. Hist.* II. 23 The spectacled bear of the Peruvian Andes .. is a small-sized black species. 1830 GRIFFITH tr. *Cuvier* XI. 188 The *Spectacled Cayman (*Crocodilus Sclerops*) is the most common in Cayenne. 1854 OWEN in *Orr's Circ. Sci., Org. Nat.* I. 197 They sustain a fold of integument, peculiarly coloured in some species—*e.g.*, the *spectacled cobra. *c* 1880 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* IV. 304 The natives say that the Spectacled Cobra is a Snake of the city or town. 1872 COUES *N. Amer. Birds* 292 *Spectacled Eider,..a whitish space round eye, bounded by black. 1884 *Ibid.* 815 *Uria carbo*,..*Spectacled Guillemot. 1896 LYDEKKER *Roy. Nat. Hist.* V. 298 The little *spectacled salamander (*Salamandrina perspicillata*) of Italy. 1831 GRIFFITH tr. *Cuvier* IX. 274 Named *Spectacled Serpent, from a black line drawn on the widened part of its disk in the form of spectacles. 1861 HULME tr. *Moquin-Tandon* II. v. i. 259 The Naia or Spectacled Serpents—called also the Hooded Snakes. 1834 *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) XXII. 397/1 The Snakemen [of India]..never use in their shows any other poisonous Snake than the *Spectacled Snake. 1871 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* I. 262 Leaf-like organs, often of the most extraordinary forms (see the Head of the *Spectacled Vampire). 1829 GRIFFITH tr. *Cuvier* VI. 446 *Spectacled Warbler, *Sylvia Conspicillata*. 1894–5 LYDEKKER *Roy. Nat. Hist.* III. 493 The spectacled warbler builds its nest in a small bush about a foot from the ground.

Spectacle-glass. [SPECTACLE *sb.*[1]]

1. A lens of a pair of spectacles.

a 1583 in Halliwell *Rara Mathem.* (1841) 40 For makinge of the smallest sorte of them, commonly called spectacle glasses. 1697 *C'tess D'Aunoy's Trav.* (1706) 146 Proportionably as a Man's Fortune rises, he increases in the largeness of his Spectacle-Glasses and wears them higher upon his Nose. 1761–9 tr. *Voltaire's Works* XXVI. 196 (Jod.), A lentular spectacle-glass. 1852 MRS. STOWE *Uncle Tom's C.* ix, He..seemed particularly busy in clearing his throat and wiping his spectacle-glasses. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* II. 177/1 Preference is usually given to bi-convex and bi-concave spectacle glasses.

† **2.** A lens used as, or in, a microscope or telescope. *Obs.*

1671 GREW *Anat. Pl.* I. i. (1682) 2 Magnified with a good Spectacle-Glass. *Ibid.* 20 A lesser sort, which by the help only of a good Spectacle Glass may be observ'd. *a* 1697 AUBREY *Lives* (1898) I. 283 Anno 1678, he [Halley] added a spectacle-glasse to the shadowe-vane of the lesser arch of the sea-quadrant (or back-staffe).

Spectacle-maker. [SPECTACLE *sb.*[1] 6, 7 c]

1. One who makes spectacles.

1530 PALSGR. 274/1 Spectacle maker, *lunettier*. 1611 COTGR., *Besiclier*, a Spectacle-maker. 1694 BOYLE *Excell. Theol.* I. iv. 168 Des-Cartes does acknowledge with other writers, that perspective-glasses were .. first found out .. casually by one Metius, a Dutch spectacle-maker. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Telescope*, Fifty Years afterwards, a Telescope..was made..by a Spectacle-maker of Middlebourg. 1839 *Penny Cycl.* XIV. 110/1 [List of City Companies] Spectacle-makers. 1883 *Encycl. Brit.* XVI. 258/1 Not only were spectacle-makers the first to produce glass magnifiers (or simple microscopes), but [etc.].

2. One who makes no score in either innings in a game of cricket.

1893 *Star* 8 July 4/2 The compiler has been cruel enough to set out a full..list of spectacle-makers during the whole term of years.

Spectacular (spektæ·kiźlăr), *a.* and *sb.* [f. L. *spectacul-um* SPECTACLE *sb.*[1]]

1. Of the nature of a spectacle or show; striking or imposing as a display.

1682 G. HICKES *Serm. bef. Ld. Mayor 30 Jan.* 4 The Spectacular sports were concluded. 1865 *Daily Tel.* 20 Nov. 5/1 The true interests of the drama may in the end be advanced by its separation from merely spectacular

entertainments. 1876 BLACK *Madcap Violet* xliv. 382 That was all very well as a spectacular exhibition. 1884 *Nonconf. & Indep.* 13 Nov. 1094/1 The Lord Mayor's Show was a more ambitious and spectacular pageant than ever.

b. *absol.* That which appeals to the eye.

1876 J. PARKER *Paracl.* I. xvi. 257 The carnal mind loves the spectacular, the marvellous. 1896 J. M. MANLY *Introd. Macbeth* p. xxiii, The list of plays and masques indicates a growing tendency to the spectacular during the 2nd decade of the 17th century.

2. Pertaining to, characteristic of, spectacles or shows.

1864 *Daily Tel.* 16 Aug., They are fond of spectacular magnificence. 1876 MELLOR *Priesthood* vi. 293 It is easy.. to surround any ceremony..with a spectacular splendour which captivates the imagination. 1883 E. H. ROLLINS *New Eng. Bygones* 240 That climate..spread over the landscape a great spectacular glory.

3. Addicted to, fond of, spectacles.

1894 *Daily Tel.* 2 July 7/2 All the glory of uniform and the glow of colour beloved by the most spectacular nation in the world.

4. As *sb.* A spectacular display.

1890 *Pall Mall G.* 8 Apr. 7/2 An amphitheatre..in which spectaculars on a grand scale might be produced before a half-million spectators.

Hence **Specta·cula·rity**, spectacular quality or character.

1883 HOWELLS *Woman's Reason* xii, The bare spectacularity of the keeping..must all be eloquent of a boarding-house. 1891 — *Imperative Duty* 6 A certain civic grandiosity, a sort of lion-and-unicorn spectacularity.

Specta·cularly, *adv.* [f. the adj.] In a spectacular fashion; after the manner of a spectacle.

1859 DICKENS *T. Two Cities* II. i, He was permitted to be seen, spectacularly poring over large books. 1897 *Advance* (Chicago) 14 Jan. 43 The '7,000 free Christmas dinners', spectacularly served in barracks. 1901 *Munsey's Mag.* XXIV. 838/2 They moved slowly and spectacularly up the avenue.

†**Specta·culous**, *a. Obs.*—1 [f. L. *spectacul-um* SPECTACLE *sb.*] Spectacular.

1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* VI. 271 Setting them on their Altars, O spectaculous Images! adoring them for gods.

Spe·ctant, *a. Her.* [a. L. *spectant-*, stem of *spectans*, pres. pple. of *spectāre* to look.] (See quot.)

1825–7 W. BERRY *Encycl. Her.* I, *Spectant*, at gaze, or looking forward, sometimes termed *in full aspect*. The term is, likewise, applied to any animal looking upwards, with the nose bendwise.

Spectate (spekte·i·t), *v.* [f. L. *spectāt-*, ppl. stem of *spectāre* to look.] *intr.* and *trans.* To look or gaze (at). Hence **Specta·ting** *ppl. a.*

1709 in Ashton *Social Life Reign Q. Anne* (1882) I. 287 A Gentleman sitting on the Coach, civilly salutes the Spectating Company. 1854 DE QUINCEY in 'H. A. Page' *Life* (1877) II. xviii. 88 The thing to be spectated, or in base vulgar, the spectacle. 1858 — *Wks.* VII. App. 329 To the poor spectator (unless paid for spectating) [it] is sympathetically painful.

†**Specta·tion.** *Obs. rare.* [ad. L. *spectātio*, noun of action f. *spectāre* to look.] The action of beholding, observing, or inspecting.

1638 *Briefe Relat.* 16 The Execution of the Lords Censure in Starre-Chamber,..at the spectation whereof the number of people was so great [etc.].

†**Specta·tive**, *a. Obs.*—0 [ad. L. *spectātīv-us.*] (See quot.)

1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.*, *Spectative*, that belongs to speculation; speculative, contemplative.

Spectator (spekte·i·tə(r)). Also 6–7 **spectatour**. [a. L. *spectātor*, agent-noun f. *spectāre* to look, whence also F. *spectateur* (1540), It. *spettatore*, Sp. and Pg. *espectador*.]

1. One who sees, or looks on at, some scene or occurrence; a beholder, onlooker, observer.

a 1586 SIDNEY *Arcadia* II. x. (1912) 211 [He] thought no eyes of sufficient credite in such a matter, but his owne; and therefore came him selfe to be actor, and spectator. *c*1645 HOWELL *Lett.* (1650) II. 27 There is a true saying, 'That the spectator oft times sees more than the gamester'. 1651 HOBBES *Leviath.* II. xxxi. 189 A signe is not a signe to him that giveth it, but to him to whom it is made; that is, to the spectator. 1677 HUBBARD *Narrative* (1865) I. 16 In such Passages as were variously reported by the Actors, or Spectators, that which seemed most probable is only inserted. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) II. 205 Even the agonies of the former rather terrify the spectators, than torment the patient. 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* xxxviii, Henri was a silent and astonished spectator of the scene. 1828 LYTTON *Pelham* xvi, There is some trick afloat to which we may as well be spectators. 1841 JAMES *Brigand* xxxii, The hall was totally void of spectators.

†**b.** *spec.* A scientific observer. *Obs. rare.*

1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* I. iv. (1686) 10 They were conceived by the first Spectators to be but one Animal. 1787 *Families of Plants* I. 259 Jacquin, Brown, and other Spectators consider it as a distinct Genus.

2. *spec.* One who is present at, and has a view or sight of, anything in the nature of a show or spectacle.

1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* II. iv. 27 The treachour..Me leading, in a secret corner layd, The sad spectatour of my Tragedie. 1611 SHAKS. *Wint. T.* IV. i. 20 Imagine me (Gentle Spectators) that I now may be In faire Bohemia. 1690 T. BURNET *Theory Earth* II. 214 This being the last act and close of all humane affairs, it ought to..satisfie the spectators, and end in a general applause. 1716 LADY M. W. MONTAGU *Let. C'tess Mar* 14 Sept., All the men of quality at Vienna were spectators. 1784 COWPER *Task* v. 878 Gods..that sit Amus'd spectators of this bustling stage. 1814 JANE AUSTEN *Mansf. Park* (1851) 103 Fanny began to be their only audience, and sometimes as prompter, sometimes as spectator, was often very useful. 1855 KINGSLEY *Westw. Ho!* xxvi, He had been a pitying spectator of the tragedy. 1897 'SARAH TYTLER' *Lady Jean's Son* x. 178 The opposite houses, crowded from top to bottom with spectators.

attrib. 1639 COKAINE *Masque* Dram. Wks. (1874) 13 When they have danced all they intended, the Lar, or one of the Masquers, invites the spectator-ladies with this song to join with them. 1891 *Daily News* 12 Oct. 3/5 The spectator portion of the baths was crowded to its utmost capacity.

3. Used as the title of various periodical publications. Also *Comb.*

Freq. with distinguishing epithets, as *The Catholic, Country, Modern, Monthly, Provincial, Temperance Spectator* (published at various dates between 1792 and 1866).

1711–14 ADDISON (*title*), The Spectator. 1711 STEELE *Spect.* No. 20 ¶ 2 Ever since the *Spectator* appear'd. 1714 ADDISON *Ibid.* No. 567 ¶ 8, I intend shortly to publish a *Spectator*, that shall not have a single Vowel in it. 1728–37 (*title*), The Universal Spectator, and Weekly Journal. 1744 ELIZA HEYWOOD *Female Spectator* I. 5 Whatever Productions I shall be favour'd with from these Ladies..will be exhibited under the general Title of *The Female Spectator*. 1755 H. WALPOLE *Lett.* (1846) III. 178 The Spectator-hacked phrases. 1828– (*title*), The Spectator. A weekly journal of news, politics, literature, and science.

Hence **Specta·tordom**, spectators collectively; **Specta·torism**, the practice of being a spectator or onlooker at sports or games.

1854 THOREAU *Walden* i. (1863) 49 He was there to represent spectatordom. 1889 *Wykehamist* No. 241, 317/1 There are distinct limits to the use of 'spectatorism'.

Spectatorial (spektătǒ·rĭăl), *a.* [f. prec.]

1. Pertaining or appropriate to, characteristic of, a spectator.

In earlier examples with reference to SPECTATOR 3.

1712 STEELE *Spect.* No. 336 ¶ 1, I hope your Spectatorial Authority will give a seasonable Check to the Spread of the Infection. *Ibid.* No. 430 ¶ 1 All which is submitted to your Spectatorial Vigilance. 1744 ELIZA HEYWOOD *Female Spectator* v. (1748) I. 257 In fine, my spectatorial capacity will permit me to approve of no other entertainments which are paid for. 1889 *Macm. Mag.* May 40 He..stood in a spectatorial attitude, watching the world through wicked humorous eyes.

2. Forming part of a spectacle.

1783 COLMAN *Prose Sev. Occas.* (1787) III. 73 To introduce a groupe of Spectatorial actors speaking in one part of the Drama and singing in another.

3. Having the characteristics of one or other of the periodicals bearing the title of *Spectator*.

1817 WHEWELL in Todhunter *Acc. Writ.* (1876) II. 21 A magazine or periodical collection of essays upon all subjects, scientific, literary, spectatorial, or any other. 1834 SOUTHEY *Doctor* lxiii. (1848) 134 A painter might describe the facial angle,..and whether the chin was in the just mean between rueful length and spectatorial brevity. 1891 *Pall Mall G.* 4 Mar. 2/2 Disposing of it in one of those airy generalizations which Spectatorial omniscience is wont to throw off from time to time.

Spectatorship (spekte·i·təʳʃip). [f. as prec.]

†**1.** Presentation to the eyes of spectators. *Obs.*

1607 SHAKS. *Cor.* v. ii. 71 If thou stand'st not i'th state of hanging, or of some death more long in Spectatorship.

2. The state of being a spectator or beholder; the fact of (merely) looking on.

1712 STEELE *Spect.* No. 304 ¶ 3 Moreover, your first rudimental Essays in Spectatorship were made in your Petitioner's Shop, where you often practised for Hours. 1854 MRS. OLIPHANT *M. Hepburn* III. 248 He stood..looking forth, if not with the exulting delight of his former spectatorship, at least with..curiosity. 1881 H. JAMES *Portrait of Lady* xv, What is the use of being..restricted to mere spectatorship at the game of life? 1896 *Eng. Churchm.* 5 Nov. 745/1 England's part in such an event could not..be one of mere spectatorship.

3. Spectators collectively.

a 1836 CHALMERS *Moral Philos.* vii. Wks. V. 301 It..will be followed up by the instant and obstreperous glee of a whole host of spectatorship.

Spectatory (spekte·i·təri). [f. SPECTATOR: see -ORY.]

1. A body of spectators.

1831 *Blackw. Mag.* XXIX. 887 They anticipated or rather turned the tables on the audience or spectatory.

2. The part of a building intended for, or assigned to, spectators.

1836 G. CLARKE *Pompeii* I. 286 Galleries gave access to the spectatory at different elevations. 1837 *Penny Cycl.* IX. 3/2 The spectatory or saloon for the visitors is a rotunda 40 feet in diameter.

Spectatress (spekte·i·trĕs). [f. SPECTATOR: see -ESS[1] and cf. next.] A female spectator.

1632 J. HAYWARD tr. *Biondi's Eromena* 101 The Princesse that stood all this while an amazed spectatresse [etc.]. 1703 ROWE *Fair Penit.* v. i, See where she stands! Spectatress of the Mischief which she made. 1759 JOHNSON *Idler* No. 42 ¶ 5 To be a daily spectatress of his vices. 1799 CAMPBELL *Pleas. Hope* I. 179 She, sad spectatress,.. Watch'd the rude surge his shroudless corse that bore. 1844 *For. Q. Rev.* XXXIII. 440 As soon as she appeared the other spectatresses were eclipsed. 1861 *Sat. Rev.* 21 Dec. 648 Was the Grand Duchess a spectatress of the atrocity?

fig. 1789 E. DARWIN *Bot. Gard.* I. 249 So should young Sympathy, in female form, Climb the tall rock, spectatress of the storm. 1791 COWPER *Iliad* XI. 89 Discord, spectatress terrible. 1836 THIRLWALL *Greece* III. xix. 92 As she had been a quiet spectatress of the fall of Samos.

Spectatrix (spekte·i·triks). [a. L. *spectātrix*, fem. of *spectātor*. Cf. F. *spectatrice*, It. *spettatrice*.] = SPECTATRESS.

1611 COTGR., *Spectatrice*, a spectatrix. 1615 W. HULL *Mirr. Maiestie* 88 She (good soule) stood by the crosse as a dolefull spectatrix of that wofull Tragedy. 1651 HOWELL *Venice* 4 She [Venice] hath allwayes..chosen rather to be a Spectatrix or Umpresse, than a Gamestresse. *c*1710 CELIA FIENNES *Diary* (1888) 13 The discription of the Coronation ..which I received the relation off from a spectatrix. 1781 EARL MALMESBURY *Diaries & Corr.* I. 390 The Dutch Ambassadors..are leaving nothing untried to prevent Her Imperial Majesty from remaining spectatrix of their quarrel. 1860 MRS. A. CLIVE *Why P. Ferrall* x, She had been spectatrix of the same scene at a play. 1866 J. B. ROSE tr. *Ovid's Met.* 264 Spectatrix of this cruel fate was I.

†**Spe·ctible**, *a. Obs.*—1 [f. L. *spect-*, ppl. stem of *specĕre* to look.] Visible.

1581 J. BELL *Haddon's Answ. Osor.* 207 Hee added moreover Statutes and Lawes, not onely emprinted within every ones hart, but engraven also outwardly in spectible Tables.

Spectioneer, variant of SPECKSIONEER.

Spectra, pl. of SPECTRUM.

†**Spe·ctral**, *sb. Obs. rare.* [Cf. next.] An apparition; a spectre.

a 1656 USSHER *Ann.* (1658) Ep. to Rdr., Those things which I produce concerning Preesages, Spectrales, and Oracles. *Ibid.* 705 He expounded to him out of the doctrine of the Epicureans, what was to be thought concerning such spectrals.

Spectral (spe·ktrăl), *a.* [ad. L. type **spectrāl-is*, f. *spectrum* SPECTRE and SPECTRUM. So mod.F. *spectral*.]

†**1.** Capable of seeing spectres. *Obs.*

1718 BP. HUTCHINSON *Witchcraft* v. 81 Joseph Ballard..sent to Salem, for some of these Accusers, who pretended to have the spectral Sight, to tell him who afflicted his Wife.

2. Having the character of a spectre or phantom; ghostly, unsubstantial, unreal.

1815 SHELLEY *Alastor* 259 The mountaineer, Encountering on some dizzy precipice That spectral form. 1818 SCOTT *Br. Lamm.* xiii, Some of the spectral appearances which he had heard told of in a winter's evening. 1853 KANE *Grinnell Exp.* xxxiv. (1856) 307 The setting sun..gave us again the spectral land about Cape Adair, eighty miles off. 1877 BLACK *Green Past.* xlii, We saw through a window a wild vision of a pair of spectral horses apparently in mid-air.

fig. 1829 I. TAYLOR *Enthus.* viii. 191 A spectral resemblance of piety, unsubstantial and cold as the mists of night. 1837 DICKENS *Pickw.* xxiv, A spectral attempt at drollery.

Comb. 1840 MRS. S. C. HALL *Irish Peasantry* (1850) 138 A lean, spectral-looking gray horse..limped towards them. 1868 BOND *Less. Middle Age* 315 A mile or two down,..tall and spectral-white, stands the Cloch lighthouse.

b. Resembling, looking like, suggestive of, a spectre or spectres. Also *spec.* in *Zool.*

1828 LYTTON *Pelham* xviii, The spectral secretary of the embassy. 1843 BETHUNE *Sc. Fireside Stor.* 110 That species of erect tombstone, which some one has somewhere designated 'spectral'. 1851 RUSKIN *Stones Ven.* (1874) I. App. 366 The old spectral Lombard friezes. 1884 COUES *N. Amer. Birds* 509 *Strix cinerea*,..Spectral Owl. 1896 H. O. FORBES *Hand-bk. Primates* I. 20 The Spectral Tarsier.

3. Characteristic of, appropriate to, a spectre.

1820 BYRON *Mar. Fal.* v. ii, They form'd a spectral voice, Which shook me in a supernatural dream. 1852 MRS. JAMESON *Leg. Madonna* Introd. (1857) 25 Compared with the spectral rigidity, the hard monotony, of the conventional Byzantines. 1898 WATTS-DUNTON *Aylwin* I. vi, Crumbling cliffs, whose jagged points..had the kind of spectral look peculiar to that coast.

4. Produced merely by the action of light on the eye or on a sensitive medium.

1839 G. BIRD *Nat. Phil.* 398 If the wafer were yellow, and placed on a black surface, the spectral image will be deep violet when viewed on a white ground; in the same manner a white wafer is attended by its black spectral figure.

5. a. Of or pertaining to, appearing or observed in, the spectrum.

1832 *Nat. Philos.* (L. U. K.) II. Index 40 Spectral colours, when re-united, produce white.. 1849 MRS. SOMERVILLE *Connex. Phys. Sci.* (ed. 8) xxiv. 235 A spectral image obtained by Mr. Hunt on a similar [Daguerreotype] plate. 1866 ATKINSON tr. *Ganot's Physics* (ed. 2) § 480. 424 The relative distances of the different spectral lines. 1879 ROOD *Mod. Chromatics* x. 127 By mixing three or more spectral colours no new hues were produced. 1883 *19th Cent.* Nov. 881 Its absorptive capacity for particular spectral tints.

b. Carried out or performed by means of the spectrum. Freq. in *spectral analysis*.

1862 *Amer. Jrnl. Sci.* Nov. 404 There are few branches of science which promise more magnificent results than the spectral analysis. 1879 PROCTOR *Pleas. Ways Sci.* i. 26 The inquiry seems specially suited to the methods of spectral photography pursued by Dr. Draper. 1881 *Times* 11 Mar., Spectral observations on stars.

Hence **Spe·ctralism**, a spectral or ghostly scene. **Spectra·lity**, a phantasm; ghostliness. **Spe·ctrally** *adv.*, in a ghostly manner. **Spe·ctralness**, the quality or character of being spectral.

1851 CARLYLE in *New Rev.* (1891) Oct. 299 All dreamlike, one *spectralism succeeding another. 1850 — *Latter-d. Pamph.* i. 50 Traditions now really about extinct..still haunting with their *spectralities..almost all of us! 1880 *Scribner's Mag.* July 326 There is about it a certain vagueness and spectrality. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. II. vi, This ..did for many months..walk *spectrally,—in all French heads. 1865 DICKENS *Mut. Fr.* III. ii, The steamer's lights moved spectrally a very little. 1892 W. W. PEYTON *Memorab. Jesus* x. 285 A *spectralness, which..gives you an idea of weirdness.

Spectre (spe·ktə(r)), *sb.* Also 7–8 **specter**. [a. F. *spectre* (16th cent., = It. *spettro*, Sp. and Pg. *espectro*), or ad. L. *spectrum*, f. *specĕre* to look, see.]

1. An apparition, phantom, or ghost, esp. one of a terrifying nature or aspect.

1605 Z. JONES (*title*), A Treatise of Specters or straunge Sights, Visions and Apparitions appearing sensibly unto men. 1641 *Lords Spiritual* 15 Thus this great Goliah being handled, appeareth..rather a ghost and specter, then a body. 1703 POPE *Thebais* 133 Swift as she pass'd, the flitting ghosts withdrew, And the pale spectres trembled at her view. 1744 HARRIS *Three Treat.* Wks. (1841) 40 The superstitious have not a more previous tendency to be frightened at the sight of spectres,..than [etc.]. 1813 SCOTT *Trierm.* II. Interlude i, How should I, so humbly born, Endure the graceful spectre's scorn? 1862 *Macm. Mag.* Apr. 507 The simple..explanation of spectres is that they are our own thoughts. 1871 PALGRAVE *Lyr. Poems* 37 A terror..As when a sudden spectre at mid-day Meets us.

b. *fig.* An unreal object of thought; a phantasm of the brain.

1711 SHAFTESB. *Charac.* (1737) I. 53 When the mind is taken up in vision, and fixes its view either on any real object, or mere specter of divinity.

c. *fig.* An object or source of dread or terror, imagined as an apparition.

1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) II. 206 Death..is a spectre which frights us at a distance. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. I. iv, That same cloud-capt, fire-breathing Spectre of Democracy. 1856 KINGSLEY *Lett.* (1878) I. 500 The glaring eye of the dark spectre of bereavement. 1893 *Black & White* 29 July 122/2 The Channel Tunnel spectre is laid.

d. *transf.* One whose appearance is suggestive of an apparition or ghost.

1807-8 W. IRVING *Salmag.* (1824) 352 [She is] a mere household spectre, neither giving nor receiving enjoyment. 1825 J. NEAL *Bro. Jonathan* I. 362 A creature like you—a spectre—..to talk about seeking your fortune! 1891 MARIE A. BROWN tr. *Runeberg's Nadeschda* 50 Ever since a spectre From place to place he wanders.

e. A faint shadow or imitation *of* something.

1849 C. BRONTE *Shirley* xxiv, With the strangest spectre of a laugh.

2. One of the images or semblances supposed by the Epicurean school to emanate from corporeal things.

1785 REID *Intell. Powers* 26 The spectres of Epicurus were composed of a very subtle matter. 1834 SOUTHEY *Doctor* v. 11 The old atomists supposed that the likenesses or spectres of corporeal things..assail the soul when she ought to be at rest.

3. An image or phantom produced by reflection or other natural cause.

1801 *Encycl. Brit.* Suppl. II. 514/2 Spectre of the Broken, a curious phenomenon observed on the summit of the Broken. 1832 BREWSTER *Natural Magic* vi. 148 It is only within the last forty years that science has brought these atmospherical spectres within the circle of her dominion. 1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* I. ii. 22 Before each of us..stood a spectral image of a man...We stretched forth our arms; the spectres did the same. 1908 [MISS FOWLER] *Betw. Trent & Ancholme* 299, I must look again for this aerial and charming spectre.

4. *Zool.* One or other of the insects or animals distinguished by the epithet *spectre-* (see 7), esp. an insect of the family *Phasmidæ*.

1797 *Trans. Linn. Soc.* IV. 190 This singular animal [sc. *Phasma dilatatum*]..belongs to that tribe of insects which Stoll has called by the title of Spectres. 1815 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* iii. (1818) I. 67 *note*, Orthoptera consisting of Cockroaches, Locusts,..Spectres, Mantes, &c. 1816 *Ibid.* xxiii. (1818) II. 328 The spectres..are distinguished by tarsi of five joints. 1880 *Encycl. Brit.* XIII. 152/2 *Phasmidæ* (Spectres, or Walking-Sticks).

† 5. A horrid spectacle or sight. *Obs.*—1

a 1763 SHENSTONE *Elegies* xxii. 68 To see my limbs..gash'd beneath the daring steel, To crowds a spectre, and to dogs a prey!

6. a. *attrib.* (chiefly in sense 1), as *spectre-bark, -chimera, -doubt, -fashion, -horse*, etc.

1817 COLERIDGE *Anc. Mar.* III. xiii, Off shot the *spectre-bark. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* III. VI. i, Through some section of History, Nineteen *spectre-chimeras shall flit,..till Oblivion swallow them. 1799 CAMPBELL *Pleas. Hope* II. 263 Ye *spectre-doubts, that roll Cimmerian darkness on the parting soul! 1822 SCOTT *Nigel* x, It were a shame to my household, thou shouldst glide out into the Strand after such a *spectre-fashion. ? 1786. B. HARTE *Friar Pedro's Ride* in *Fiddletown*, etc. (1873) 112 A phantom friar, on a *spectre horse. 1805 SCOTT *Last Minstrel* VI. xxvi, Like him .. Who spoke the *spectre-hound in Man. *c* 1820 S. ROGERS *Italy* (1839) 118 He had so oft beheld..The *spectre-knight. 1825 J. WILSON *Poems* II. 305 While stern beneath the chancel high, My country's *spectre monarch stood. 1777 WARTON *Poems* 61 We bid those *spectre-shapes avaunt. 1798 COLERIDGE *Anc. Mar.* III. xiv, Off darts the *Spectre-ship. 1807 BYRON *Childish Recoll.* 7 What grisly forms, the *spectre-train of woe, Bid shuddering Nature shrink beneath the blow. 1816 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* xxi. (1818) II. 220 The *Spectre tribe..go still further in this mimicry. 1817 COLERIDGE *Anc. Mar.* III. x. *marg. note*, The *Spectre-Woman and her Death-mate.

b. *Comb.*, chiefly in similative adjs., as *spectre-lean, -like* (also adv.), *-looking, -pallid, -staring, -thin*; also *spectre-haunted, -mongering* (adjs.), *-queller*.

1831 CARLYLE *Sart. Res.* II. viii, At worst as a *spectre-fighting Man, nay who will one day be a Spectre-queller. 1718 ROWE tr. *Lucan* 303 Nº Swain thy *Spectre-haunted Plain shou'd know. 1873 E. BRENNAN *Witch Nemi*, etc. 78 That dark land and spectre-haunted grove. 1887 MEREDITH *Ballads & P.* 85 He came out of miracle cloud, Lightning-swift and *spectre-lean. 1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* I. (Globe) 258 Not making quite so staring a *Spectre-like Figure as I did. 1834 *Tait's Mag.* I. 726/1 Spectre-like they stray, And soon their steps in distance die away. 1884 J. COLBORNE *Hicks Pasha* 41 The camels glided noiselessly and spectre-like over the track. 1849–50 ALISON *Hist. Europe* VIII. lv. § 24. 580 With a few thousand miserable and *spectre-looking followers. 1809 BYRON *Bards & Rev.* 919 Let *spectre-mongering Lewis aim..To rouse the galleries. 1844 HOOD *Haunted House* III. ix, But from their tarnish'd frames dark Figures gaz'd, And Faces *spectre-pallid. 1831 *Spectre-queller [see *spectre-fighting* above]. 1826 MILMAN *A. Boleyn* (1827) 72 Thy tossing, feverish, *spectre-staring midnights. 1820 KEATS *Ode to Nightingale* 26 Where youth grows pale, and *spectre-thin, and dies.

7. Special combs.: **spectre-bat**, a tropical species of bat (*Vespertilio* or *Phyllostoma spectrum*); **spectre-candle** (see quot.); **spectre-crab**, a glass-crab (*Cent. Dict.*); **spectre insect**, an insect of the genus *Phasma* (see 4); **spectre-lemur**, = *spectre tarsier.*; **spectre-mantis**, = *spectre insect*; **spectre-shell** (see quot.); **spectre-shrimp**, a slender-bodied amphipod of the genus *Caprella*; **spectre tarsier**, a small lemuroid animal (*Tarsius spectrum*).

1781 PENNANT *Hist. Quadrup.* II. 552 *Spectre Bat... Inhabits South America. 1827 GRIFFITH tr. *Cuvier* V. 71 *Phyllostoma Spectrum* (Spectre or true Vampyre Bat). 1835 *Penny Cycl.* IV. 172/2 Belemnite, Thunderstone, or Arrowhead..: we..find the term Devil's fingers bestowed on them, and not unfrequently that of *spectre-candles. 1826 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* III. 90 The largest egg known..is that of a *spectre insect (*Phasma dilatatum*), figured in the Linnean Transactions. 1886 GEIKIE *Class-Bk. Geol.* 359 Spectre-insects (*Phasmidæ*)..have been detected chiefly among the shales and coals of the Coal-measures. 1882 *Spectre-lemur [see TARSIER]. 1840 F. D. BENNETT *Whaling Voy.* I. 343 The insects we found here were the *spectre-mantis; a purple butterfly [etc.]. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl., *Concha spectrorum*, the *spectre shell, a name given by authors to a species of voluta, from some odd figures described on its surface [etc.]. 1882 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* VI. 212 The popular name of *Spectre, or Skeleton Shrimp, seems very appropriate. 1871 *Ibid.* I. 250 The *Spectre Tarsier, which inhabits the Oriental Archipelago and the Philippine Islands.

Hence **Spe·ctre** *v. trans.*, to fill with spectres; **Spe·ctredom**, the realm or region of spectres.

1849 AYTOUN *Old Camp* ii, It hath a look that makes me old, and spectres time again. 1883 J. S. STALLYBRASS tr. *Grimm's Teutonic Myth.* III. 930 Part and parcel of this heathenish spectredom. 1897 *Daily Tel.* 20 July 7/3 The tyranny of the manager of spectredom.

Spectred (spe·ktəd), *a.* [f. SPECTRE *sb.* 1.] Filled with spectres; converted into a spectre; resembling a spectre.

1791 WOLCOT (P. Pindar) *Lousiad* III. Wks. 1794 I. 269 Amidst the spectred solitude of sleep. 1803 T. G. FESSENDEN *Petit. agst. Tract. Trumpery* 2 'Gainst spectred poverty still striving. 1809 E. S. BARRETT *Setting Sun* I. 69 That specter'd elf, Grim death hath seiz'd our father your viceroy.

† **Spectrene**, *a. Obs.*—1 [f. as prec.] Spectral. 1652 GAULE *Magastrom.* 355 By malefical incantations there was brought in to him the spectrene apparition of her whom he loved.

Spectrey. *nonce-wd.* [f. SPECTRE *sb.* 1.] A place of spectres.

1822 GALT *Sir A. Wylie* I. xxiii. 207, I believe it is a huge old Ann-Radcliffe place, a spectrey surrounded by a rookery.

† **Spe·ctrical**, *a. Obs.*—1 [f. as prec.] Spectral. Hence † **Spe·ctrically** *adv. Obs.*

1609 SIR E.-HOBY *Let. to T. H[iggons]* 85 Then are you cruell comforters, who..do terrifie the departing soule of him..with such spectricall delusions. 1615 *Curry Combe for a Coxe-Combe* iii. 121 Such is the exposition of the place so spectrically raysed, and so dubitatiuely propounded by the Interpreters themselues.

Spe·ctrish, *a. rare*—1. [f. SPECTRE *sb.* + -ISH.] Somewhat spectral or ghostly.

1822 GALT *Sir A. Wylie* I. xx. 170, I am indeed not surprised that you should be somewhat disconcerted, for I believe that I am a little spectrish.

Spectro- (spe·ktro), combining form (on Greek analogies) of SPECTRUM, chiefly employed in a number of recent terms, as **Spectrohe·liograph, -heliogra·phic** *a.*, **-microsco·pical** *a.*, **-phone, -pho·nic** *a.*, **-photo·meter, -photome·tric** *a.*, **-photome·trically, -pyro·meter, -te·lescope.**

Others are *spectrobolograph, -bolographic* adj., *-bolometer, -bolometric* adj., *-chemistry, -colorimetry, -comparator, -photograph(y, -polarigraph, -polarimeter, -polariscope*, etc.

1892 *Athenæum* 16 July 102/1 An instrument called the *spectroheliograph.., by means of which..photographs are now made of all the prominences visible round the entire circumference of the sun with a single exposure. 1907 *Ibid.* 6 Apr. 415/3 Dr. Lockyer showed spectroheliographs of the sun. 1905 *Ibid.* 29 Apr. 535/2 *Spectroheliographic Results explained by Anomalous Dispersion. 1885 tr. *Behrens' Micros. in Bot.* V. 139 The *spectro-microscopical apparatus..has become an important instrument in the investigation of the coloring matter of plants. 1881 A. G. BELL *Sound by Radiant Energy* 41 These substances are put in communication with the ear by means of a hearing-tube, and thus the instrument is converted into a veritable *spectrophone. *Ibid.*, Suppose we smoke the interior of our *spectrophonic receiver. 1881 *Nature* XXIV. 552 Photometric comparison of luminous sources of different colours, by M. Crova. He uses a *spectrophotometer. 1884 *Boston* (Mass.) *Jrnl.* 13 Sept., A *spectrophotometric study of pigments', by Professor Nicolls. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* IV. 285 Normal fresh urines..examined *spectro-photometrically. 1881 *Nature* XXIII. 524 The *spectropyrometer is proved practically useful. 1880 *Athenæum* 25 Sept. 405/1 A *spectro-telescope,..the purpose of which is to enable the observer to survey large portions of the sun's disc at once in homogeneous light.

Spe·ctrogram. [f. prec. + -GRAM.] A photograph of a spectrum.

1892 *Pall Mall G.* 17 Feb. 7/2 The spectrograms of the star show two spectra, one above the other. 1900 *Edinb. Rev.* Apr. 474 There must be a suspension of judgement in the matter until spectrograms of nebular nuclei can be produced in evidence.

Spe·ctrograph. [f. as prec. + -GRAPH.]

1. An instrument used for photographing a spectrum.

1884 YOUNG in *Proc. Amer. Acad. Arts & Sci.* 238 In July, 1876, several photographs of the spectrum of Vega were taken with an apparatus which Dr. Draper called the spectrograph. 1889 *Anthony's Photogr. Bull.* II. 394 The color sensitiveness of the plate I find out with the aid of my Quartz spectrograph. 1893 *Nation* 16 Feb. 126/2 With the eleven-inch Draper spectrograph nearly a thousand photographs were taken.

2. = SPECTROGRAM.

1891 *Pall Mall G.* 26 Sept. 4/2 A few spectrographs of pure and impure blood. 1898 *Edinb. Rev.* Apr. 306 Rich harvests of photographs and spectrographs were garnered.

Hence **Spectrogra·phic** *a.*, relating to a spectrograph or the observations made with it; **Spectrogra·phically** *adv.*, in a spectrographic manner; **Spectro·graphy**, the art of using the spectrograph.

1884 *Science* III. 727/1 Spectrographic operations are..much more sensitive to atmospheric conditions than are visual observations. 1900 *Edinb. Rev.* Apr. 458 'Spectrography' is the complement of spectroscopy. *Ibid.* 460 The spectrographic impression of a hydrogen star. *Ibid.* 474 Having spectrographically surveyed the entire heaven. 1903 AGNES CLERKE *Probl. Astrophys.* 3 Spectroscopic photography, or 'spectrography' dates from Sir William Huggins's adoption of the dry gelatine process in 1876.

Spectrolo·gical, *a.* [See next and -LOGICAL.]

1. Pertaining to spectres or apparitions.

1802 *Ann. Reg., Chron.* 387/1 This man stated that he had lately arrived from the Continent and intended to exhibit before the public his deceptions in the spectrological art.

2. 'Of or pertaining to spectrology; performed or determined by spectrology; as, spectrological analysis' (1882 *Imp. Dict.*).

Spectro·logy. *rare.* [f. SPECTRO- (in senses 1 and 3 of SPECTRUM) + -LOGY.]

1. The science or study of spectres.

1820 W. IRVING *Sketch Bk.* (1821) II. 196 The gloom of religious abstraction, and the wildness of their situation,.. had filled their imaginations with the frightful chimeras of witchcraft and spectrology. 1827 HONE *Table Bk.* I. 710 Spectrology. A Remarkable Narrative.

2. The scientific study of spectra.

1862 *Amer. Jrnl. Sci.* May 440 The attention of the French scientific world is wholly fixed on *spectrology*, for thus do they designate the experiment with the spectroscope of Bunsen and Kirchhof. [Hence in Webster (1864), etc.]

Spectro·meter. [ad. G. *spektrometer* or F. *spectromètre*.] An instrument used for measuring the index of refraction.

1874 tr. *Lommel's Light* 144 The determination of the index of refraction can be much more conveniently effected by means of Meyerstein's Spectrometer. 1878 *Smithsonian Rep.* 431 The spectrometer stands upon a plate of metal which can be made to revolve so that measurements by repetitions are practicable. 1883 *Knowledge* 18 May 297/1 Professor Clifton of Oxford has brought out a new spectrometer.

Hence **Spectrome·tric** *a.*; also **Spectro·metry** (1902 *Webster's Suppl.*).

Cf. F. *spectrométrique, -métrie* (Littré).

1892 *Cent. Dict.*, Spectrometric 1903 AGNES CLERKE *Probl. Astrophys.* 8 The 'spectrometric' division of photometry consists in the comparative estimation of ray-intensities.

Spectroscope (spe·ktrŏskōup), *sb.* [ad. G. *spektroskop* or a. F. *spectroscope*.] An instrument specially designed for the production and examination of spectra.

1861 *Proc. Amer. Philos. Soc.* VIII. 279 The results obtained by the spectroscope. 1869 ROSCOE *Chem.* 153 The blowpipe flame..exhibits a characteristic series of bands when examined by means of the spectroscope. 1880 HAUGHTON *Phys. Geogr.* i. 6 By means of the spectroscope, it has been ascertained that the terrestrial elements, found in meteoric stones, may be found also in the sun.

Hence **Spe·ctroscope** *v. trans.*, to examine by means of a spectroscope.

1881 *Standard* 30 Dec. 5/2 It was photographed and spectroscoped. 1886 PIAZZI SMYTH in *Trans. Roy. Soc. Edin.* XXXII. 521 Hence a solar spectroscoping..might be expected to have some further special interest connected with our own earth.

Spectroscopic (spektrŏskǫ·pik), *a.* [f. prec. or ad. F. *spectroscopique*.]

1. Performed by means of the spectroscope.

1864 *Athenæum* No. 1939. 500/2 The spectroscopic examinations. 1870 PROCTOR *Other Worlds* ii. 38 So many of the wonders of modern science are associated with spectroscopic analysis. 1878 NEWCOMB *Pop. Astron.* III. ii. 257 Devoting special attention to the spectroscopic observations. 1883 *Science* I. 115/1 The results of spectroscopic work.

2. Presented or afforded by, pertaining or belonging to, the spectroscope.

1869 *Eng. Mech.* 31 Dec. 375/1 Data..with respect to the spectroscopic appearances of comets. 1879 PROCTOR *Pleas. Ways Sci.* I. 7 In some cases, the quantity of a material to give unmistakable spectroscopic evidence is singularly small. 1884 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* Suppl. 835/2 *Spectroscopic Eye-piece*,..an adaptation of the spectroscope to the microscope for the examination of minute substances.

3. Occupied or dealing with spectroscopy.

1872 tr. *Schellen's Spectrum Anal.* Pref. 4, I regret that the author has reversed the practice of the principal spectroscopic authors. 1871 *Daily News* 12 Jan., It is true the spectroscopic party..at Oran failed totally.

So **Spectrosco·pical** *a.*

1870 *Eng. Mech.* 11 Feb. 520/2 The nature of the solar atmosphere is ascertained by spectroscopical examinations of the light of the sun. 1882a *Athenæum* 4 Mar. 286/2 An interesting series of spectroscopical observations.

Spectrosco·pically, *adv.* [f. prec.] By means of the spectroscope; in respect of spectroscopic qualities, etc.

1871 tr. *Schellen's Spectrum Anal.* 16 *note,* When the light of burning magnesium is observed spectroscopically. 1879 Proctor *Pleas. Ways Sci.* v. 125 The part of the remaining light spectroscopically most effective. 1903 *Times* 25 Mar. 10/4 Radium..remains spectroscopically identical after many months of continuous emission of heat.

Spectroscopist (spektrɒ·skɒpist, spe·ktrɔskəupist). [f. Spectroscope *sb.* + -ist.] One who pursues researches with the spectroscope.

1866 *Athenæum* 3 Mar. 304/3 The following will perhaps interest spectroscopists. 1879 Proctor *Pleas. Ways Sci.* i. 8 [It] would not affect those rays sufficiently for the spectroscopist to recognize any diminution of their lustre. 1893 Sir R. Ball *Story of Sun* 195 The phenomenon known to spectroscopists as the reversal of the dark lines.

Spectroscopy (spektrɒ·skɒpi, spe·ktrɔskəupi). [f. as prec., after forms in *-scopy*, or ad. F. *spectroscopie.*] The art of using the spectroscope; that branch of science which involves the use of the spectroscope.

1870 W. Huggins *Manchester Lect.* 36 This was the state of this newly-born science of Spectroscopy when in 1861 [etc.]. 1882 M. L. Knapp *Coming Disasters* 17 The progress made within the last few years in spectroscopy.

Spectrous (spe·ktrəs), *a.* [f. Spectre *sb.* 1.] Spectral.

1652 Gaule *Magastrom.* 215 We see that men are really affected and terrified even from spectrous and ludibrious phantasmes. *Ibid.* 298 [He] was haunted mightily with a spectrous apparition of a beautiful woman. 1678 Cudworth *Intell. Syst.* I. ii. § 2. 61 They could have been nothing else but a certain kind of Aerial and Spectrous Men. 1809 W. Blake *Descr. Catal.* 22 The Plowman of Chaucer is Hercules in his supreme eternal state, divested of his spectrous shadow. 1868 Swinburne *Blake* 282 These, with all their flock of emanations and spectrous or vegetating shadows, let us leave to the discretion of Los.

Spectrum (spe·ktrɔm). Pl. **spectra** (also **spectrums**). [L. *spectrum*: see Spectre *sb.*]

1. An apparition or phantom; a spectre.

1611 Speed *Hist. Gt. Brit.* IX. xiv. (1632) 770 Walsingham hath written of a fatall Spectrum or Apparition,..where sundry monsters of diuers colours..were seen. 1649 Bulwer *Pathomyot.* II. ii. 140 Feare also, and a Sudden fright or Spectrum..hath the same effect sometimes upon the Muscles of the Face. 1684 *Case of Cross in Baptism* 14 Startled at Thunder, taken in a storm, frighted with a spectrum. 1706 Baynard *Cold Baths* II. 309 He would sooner believe Witch-Craft and Spectrums. 1728 *Brice's Weekly Jrnl.* 19 July 1 The Maid's seeing his Spectrum, could be no..*Deceptio Visus*, but..was a real Apparition of the Deceased. 1809 W. Irving *Hist. New York* (1861) 182 Subject to bad dreams..in the night, when the grizzly spectrum of old Keldermeester would stand sentinel by his bedside. 1860 Ruskin *Mod. Paint.* V. IX. xi. 326 *note,* Fuseli may wander wildly among gray spectra, but Reynolds and Gainsborough must stay in broad daylight, with pure humanity.

fig. 1657 H. Pinnell *Philos. Ref.* 67 The Spectrum, ghost, or fantasie, the Light of Nature. 1674 Grew *Anat. Pl., Disc. Mixture* (1684) 222 Their notions of Mixture..being ..so many phantastick Spectrums, serving only to affright men from coming near them. 1710 Sacheverell *Answ. Bp. Oxford's Sp.* 21, I was..surpriz'd..with an Apparition or Spectrum, which the Magi call a Parenthesis. 1866 Huxley *Physiol.* x. 247 Many persons are liable to what may be called *auditory spectra*—music of various degrees of complexity sounding in their ears, without any external cause, while they are wide awake.

2. An image or semblance. *rare.*

1693 Penn *Fruits Solitude* II. § 197 A jealous man only sees his own spectrum, when he looks upon other men, and gives his character in theirs. 1831 Carlyle *Sart. Res.* II. viii, Two little visual Spectra of men, hovering..in the midst of the Unfathomable.

3. The coloured band into which a beam of light is decomposed by means of a prism or diffraction grating.

1671 Newton in *Phil. Trans.* VI. 3076 Comparing the length of this coloured Spectrum with its breadth, I found it about five times greater. 1674 *Ibid.* IX. 218 The Sunbeams..passing through a Glass Prism to the opposite Wall, exhibited there a Spectrum of divers colours. 1728 Pemberton *Newton's Philos.* 323 These colours shall discover themselves more perfectly..the larger the spectrum is. 1788 V. Knox *Winter Even.* I. iii. 27 All the hues of the prismatic spectrum. 1815 J. Smith *Panorama Sci. & Art* I. 440 It assumes an oblong shape,..and exhibits seven different colours. This oblong image is called the spectrum, and from its being produced by the prism, the prismatic spectrum. 1839 G. Bird *Nat. Philos.* 326 The solar spectrum may therefore be regarded as composed of three spectra of equal lengths overlapping each other. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* I. 126/1 Most of our sources of artificial light yield spectra without lines.

fig. 1860 Holland *Miss Gilbert's Career* iv. 68 All the colors of the spectrum of truth. 1874 H. R. Reynolds *John Bapt.* viii. 453 A luminous spectrum lingers for a while in the atmosphere of Judaism.

4. The image retained for a time on the retina of the eye when turned away after gazing fixedly for some time at a bright coloured object.

1786 *Phil. Trans.* LXXVI. 313 This appearance in the eye we shall call the ocular spectrum of that object. 1829 *Nat. Philos., Optics* xvii. 46 (L.U.K.), One of the most curious affections of the eye, is that in virtue of which it sees what are called ocular spectra, or accidental colours. 1839 G. Bird *Nat. Philos.* 398 Thus wafers, or other coloured objects, produce spectra of colours complementary to their own. 1854 *Lardner's Mus. Sci. & Art* I. 85 Unreal objects will often be perceived. These are called spectra. *Ibid.,* This object is an optical spectrum.

5. *Ent.* A spectre-insect (*Phasma*).

1838 *Murray's N. Germany* 34 The minerals and insects are also good; among the latter are various specimens of spectrum, nearly a foot long.

6. *attrib.* (in sense 3): **a.** *Spectrum analysis* (cf. Spectral *a.* 5 b). Also *fig.*

1866 Atkinson tr. *Ganot's Physics* 425 The method of spectrum-analysis is most readily applied to the alkaline metals. 1871 tr. *Schellen's Spectrum Anal.* Pref. 4 The great merit of the book as a popular treatise on Spectrum Analysis. 1873 Farrar *Famil. Speech* ii. 39 The microscope and spectrum analysis of Philology.

b. Misc., as *spectrum-band, -line, microscope, photography, work.*

1871 tr. *Schellen's Spectrum Anal.* 101 The number of the spectrum-lines of a substance. *Ibid.* 456 Qualitative Analysis ..by means of the spectrum microscope. 1889 *Anthony's Photogr. Bull.* II. 389 The bath plate is less suitable for spectrum photography. 1891 *Ibid.* IV. 357 The yet hardly visible spectrum band. 1899 Lockyer in *Daily News* 13 Nov. 6/7 For this spectrum work very rapid isochromatic plates..should be employed.

Spe·ctry, *a. rare.* [f. Spectre *sb.* 1.] Spectral.

1796 Townshend *Poems* 69 When the cowl'd monk.. Fleets o'er the seat of long past crimes; And spectry forms of cloister'd maids In sorrow bow their pensive heads.

†Spe·culable, *a. Obs. rare.* [ad. L. *speculābilis*, f. *speculārī* to Speculate. Cf. It. *speculabile.*] **a.** That admits of speculation; speculative. **b.** = Specular *a.* 3.

c 1449 Pecock *Repr.* II. i. 134 Ech treuthe knowun in mannis vnderstonding is a treuthe considerable or speculable or biholdable oonli. 1592 R. D. *Hypnerotomachia* 68 b, Beeing come to the fift mount they finde it speculable, lyke a mirrour.

Specular (spe·kiŭlă), *a.* [ad. L. *speculāris*, f. *speculum* Speculum; or, in senses 6 and 7, f. L. *speculārī* to spy, observe, *specula* watch-tower. Cf. F. *spéculaire* (16th c. in Godef. *Compl.*), Prov. *specular*, It. *speculare, specolare*, Sp. and Pg. *especulario.*]

I. 1. *Specular stone* (after L. *specularis lapis*), a transparent or semi-transparent substance formerly used as glass or for ornamental purposes; a species of mica, selenite, or talc; a piece or flake of this. (Cf. Phengite.) *Obs.* exc. *arch.*

1577 Harrison *England* II. xii. (1877) I. 236, I find obscure mention of the specular stone to haue beene found and applied to this use [*sc.* window-making] in England. 1627 Donne *Serm.* Wks. 1839 IV. 472 In Temples made of Specular Stone that was transparent as glass or crystal. 1677 Plot *Oxfordsh.* 68 Unless they are particles of the specular stone, or English Talc. 1715 tr. *Pancirollus' Rerum Mem.* I. I. vi. 15 Specular Stones were a shining kind of Substance, and..transparent like the Air. 1889 tr. *Rénan's Apostles* xi. 168 The decoration of a hall which he wanted to have adorned with specular stones.

† b. A piece of this used as a mirror. *Obs.*–1

1640 Carew *Poems* Wks. (1824) 104 Give then no faith to the false specular stone, But let thy beauties by th' effects be knowne.

†2. Of vision: Obtained by reflection only; not direct or immediate. *Obs.*

Based upon 1 *Cor.* xiii. 12, where the Vulgate has *per speculum in ænigmate* and the Greek δι' ἐσόπτρου ἐν αἰνίγματι.

a 1619 Fotherby *Atheom.* II. viii. § 5 (1622) 293 Not in a specular, and ænigmaticall vision; but in a cleere, and immediate one. *a* 1677 Manton *Transfig. Christ* ii. Wks. 1870 I. 349 Not only doth vision or immediate intuition produce this effect, but also spiritual specular vision, or a sight of God in the ordinances. 1704 Norris *Ideal World* II. v. 287 St. Paul says..we see through a glass darkly...This has given occasion to the schools to distinguish of a certain ænigmatical or specular vision, in opposition to that vision of God which is by his essence.

3. Having the reflecting property of a mirror; presenting a smooth, polished, and reflecting surface; of a brilliant metallic lustre. Now *Min.*

1661 Boyle *Scept. Chem.* V. 333 From this red Body..may be obtain'd a Mercury bright and Specular as it was before. 1666—*Orig. Forms & Qual.* 235 Divers of these Christals have..Triangles..and other Figures exquisitely Cut on their smooth & specular surfaces; and others, Bodies of Prismatical shapes. 1796 *Phil. Trans.* LXXXVI. 273 It is evident that the particles of bodies are specular. 1796 Kirwan *Elem. Min.* (ed. 2) I. 36 The laminæ..have not a polished, or at least, not a specular surface. 1816 P. Cleaveland *Min.* 552 Specular native arsenic. This very remarkable variety of Arsenic possesses a metallic brilliancy. 1829 *Chapters Phys. Sci.* 281 Specular bodies are those the surfaces of which, being polished, reflect the rays in the same order as they come from other bodies. 1851 Mantell *Petrifactions* iii. § 1. 144 Iron-glance, or specular oxide, from Elba, Stromboli, Vesuvius.

fig. 1665 Boyle *Occas. Reft.* III. vi. (1848) 156 The fine Expressions you applaud, are commonly parts of a Sermon that have no specular Virtue in them.

b. *Specular iron* or *iron ore,* hæmatite, esp. the brilliant crystalline form of this.

(*a*) 1796 Kirwan *Elem. Min.* (ed. 2) II. 162 Specular Iron ore. 1803 *Phil. Trans.* XCIII. 336 The primitive form of the slightly attractable oxide of iron, formerly known by the name of specular iron ore. 1859 R. Hunt *Guide Mus. Pract. Geol.* (ed. 2) 153 Specular iron ore is found throughout Asia, Corsica, Germany [etc.]. 1882 Floyer *Unexpl. Baluchistan* 125 The blocks of specular iron ore are very heavy.

(*b*) 1804 *Phil. Trans.* XCIV. 332 The fine gray specular iron from Sweden. 1854 Bakewell *Geol.* 87 Iron presents itself separately as a volcanic product in the peculiar form of brilliant laminæ, called specular iron, which bears a high polish. 1879 Rutley *Study Rocks* x. 155 The crystallised variety, specular iron or ironglance, belongs to the rhombohedral system.

c. (See quot.)

1863 Atkinson tr. *Ganot's Physics* 363 The reflection from the surfaces of polished bodies, the laws of which have just been stated, is called the regular or specular reflection.

4. Of a telescope: Fitted with a speculum; reflecting.

1676 *Life Paul Sarpi* in *Brent's Counc. Trent* 21 Gio. Battista Porta..makes honourable mention of Padre Paolo as of no ordinary personage, and particularly of his specular perspective.

5. Performed by means of a surgical speculum.

1898 P. Manson *Trop. Diseases* xviii. 307 In every case in which there is probability of rectal disease digital or specular examination must be made.

II. 6. Of or pertaining to sight or vision; esp. *specular orb* (poet.), the eye.

1656 Blount *Glossogr.*, *Specular*,..belonging to seeing or spying, to Spectacles or glass windows. 1708 J. Philips *Cider* i. 22 Thy Specular Orb Apply to well-dissected Kernels. 1721 D'Urfey *Two Queens Brentford* v. i, Always considering the Design is for specular Instruction. 1810 Southey *Kehama* XIV. x, In the fiendish joy within his eyes, She knew the hateful Spirit who look'd through Their specular orbs.

7. *poet.* Of heights, etc.: Affording or giving a wide or extensive view. (Cf. Speculation 2 c.)

1671 Milton *P. R.* IV. 236 Look once more e're we leave this specular Mount Westward. 1833 Wordsw. '*Hope smiled when your nativity was cast*', Calm as the Universe, from specular towers Of heaven contemplated by Spirits pure. 1842 Is. Williams *Baptistery* I. x. (1874) 115 This is Wisdom's specular height, from whence To view as from a watch-tower things of sense. 1890 J. H. Stirling *Philos. & Theol.* viii. 144 The specular heights of the universal.

Spe·cularly, *adv. rare*–1. [f. as prec.] In a specular manner; by reflection as in a mirror.

1704 J. Norris *Ideal World* II. v. 288 If we have no knowledge of God at all, then we do not know him so much as specularly or ænigmatically.

†Spe·culary, *a. Obs. rare.* [ad. F. *spéculaire*: see -ary 2.] = Specular *a.* 1.

1694 Motteux *Rabelais* v. xliv. 207 She..led him..into a round Chappel made of transparent speculary Stones.

Speculate (spe·kiŭleit), *v.* [f. L. *speculāt-*, ppl. stem of *speculārī* to spy out, watch, examine, observe, etc., f. *specula* a look-out, watch-tower, f. *specĕre* to see, look. Cf. It. *speculare, specolare*, Sp. and Pg. *especular*, OF. *especuler, speculer*, F. *spéculer.*]

1. *trans.* To observe or view mentally; to consider, examine, or reflect upon with close attention; to contemplate; to theorize upon.

Common in the 17th c.; now *rare* or *Obs.*

1599 Sandys *Europæ Spec.* (1632) 62 Yet notwithstanding these are theorems which few list to speculate. 1632 J. Hayward tr. *Biondi's Eromena* 12 To speculate the meanes of negotiating with diversity of persons, and to put the same in practise. 1643 Sir T. Browne *Relig. Med.* II. § 13 If we do but speculate the folly and indisputable dotage of avarice. *a* 1706 Evelyn *Hist. Relig.* (1850) I. 54 We should not, therefore, wholly consult our senses when we speculate truth. 1788 T. Taylor *Proclus* I. 74 It is just, after speculating its whole and entire genus, to consider the differences of its more particular sciences, according to their species. 1793—*Sallust* v. 24 Likewise..we should speculate providence, fate and fortune, virtue and vice. 1852 Sir W. Hamilton *Discuss.* (1853) 21 We..conceit ourselves that we contemplate absolute existence, when we only speculate absolute privation.

† b. Said of the soul, understanding, etc.

1604 T. Wright *Passions* IV. ii. § 2. 129 A gluttonous stomacke..causeth such a mist before the eyes of the soul, that shee cannot possibly speculate any spirituall matters. *a* 1652 J. Smith *Sel. Disc.* IV. 87 Whensoever it will speculate truth itself, it will not then listen to the several clamours and votes of these rude senses. 1678 Norris *Misc.* (1699) 157 It being..against the Nature of Understanding to make that truth which it speculates. 1816 *Pamphleteer* VIII. 65 Fables are theological which employ nothing corporeal, but speculate the very essences of the gods.

c. With obj. clause introduced by *how, what, when.*

1856 *N. Brit. Rev.* XXVI. 192 When the company were speculating what lost production of the human mind was most to be regretted. 1857 J. Hamilton *Less. Gt. Biog.* 296 They were speculating how the stone might be moved away. 1885 'Mrs. Alexander' *At Bay* xi, She had begun to speculate when Glynn would join them.

d. To talk (a matter) *over* conjecturally.

1862 Dickens *Somebody's Luggage* i, Speculating it over with the Mistress, she informed me that the luggage had been advertised.

2. To look or gaze at (something); to examine, inspect, or observe closely or narrowly. ? *Obs.*

1616 J. Lane *Contn. Sqr.'s T.* VI. 298 The troopes of horse, before, behind, theare, heere, speculates all approches, farr and neere. 1672 Marvell *Reh. Transp.* I. 66 If he frequented their company it was only to speculate his own Baby in their Eyes. *a* 1734 North *Lives* (1826) III. 350 Every morning he speculated his urine. 1805 *Spirit Public Jrnls.* IX. 244 Louis shall hold a mirror to thine eyes, Wherein thy downfal thou mayst speculate.

b. *spec.* To observe (the stars, heaven, etc.), esp. as an object of study.

1630 Shirley *Grateful Servant* II. i, I shall never eat garlike with Diogenes in a Tub, and speculate the Starres without a shirt. 1652 Gaule *Magastrom.* 7 One contemplates them [i.e. the heavens, etc.] devoutly, and constantly;..the other

speculates them superstitiously. 1707 *Athenian Sport* (title-p.), The Eye beholds as much when it looks on a Shilling, as when it speculates the whole Heaven. 1890 J. H. STIRLING *Philos. & Theol.* iv. 73 The sun and moon, which, he [Anaxagoras] said, he was born to speculate.

† 3. *intr.* To exercise spiritual contemplation.

c 1630 C. LEVER in Farr *S. P. Eliz.* (1845) II. 523 Thy heauenly presence is a faire aspect; There doth my soule delight to speculate.

4. To engage in thought or reflection, esp. of a conjectural or theoretical nature, *on* or *upon* a subject.

a 1677 BARROW *Serm.* ii. Wks. 1686 III. 18 For who would not more readily learn..to draw by setting a good Picture before him, than by merely speculating upon the laws of Perspective. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) II. 67 It is all this time storing its mind with objects, upon the nature, the properties, and the relations of which future curiosity may speculate. 1790 BURKE *Fr. Rev.* Wks. 1808 II. 7, I certainly take my full share..in speculating on what has been done, or is doing, on the public stage. 1845 BAILEY *Festus* (ed. 2) 138 Here we can speculate on policy, On social manners, fashions, and the news. 1871 C. DAVIES *Metric Syst.* III. 121 Taxation and philosophy now began to speculate, at the same time, upon the weights and measures of England.

b. Const. *about, as to, concerning*, etc.

1847 HELPS *Friends in C.* I. viii. 133 Nearly every body whose death was worth speculating about. 1855 *Orr's Circ. Sci., Inorg. Nat.* 217 Adaptations, concerning the nature, object, and extent of which it would be equally foolish and impossible to speculate. 1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* 2. v. 38 While speculating as to the wisdom of entering the cavern.

5. To engage in the buying and selling of commodities or effects in order to profit by a rise or fall in their market value; to undertake, to take part or invest in, a business enterprise or transaction of a risky nature in the expectation of considerable gain. Also const. *on* or *in*.

1785 JEFFERSON *Corr.* Wks. 1859 I. 472 Should any attempt be made to speculate on these papers [i.e. the public stocks]. 1787 [implied in *Speculating* vbl. sb.]. 1822 BYRON *Let. to Ellice* 12 June, I do not go there to *speculate*, but to settle. 1839 DICKENS *Nickleby* i, Would he be what he is if he hadn't speculated? *transf.* 1841 THACKERAY *Gt. Hoggarty Diam.* xiii, I was not over well pleased that his lordship should think me capable of speculating in any way on my wife's beauty.

b. In the game of speculation (q.v.).

1850 *Bohn's Handbk. Games* (1864) 325 The eldest hand shews the uppermost card, which if a trump, the company may speculate on or bid for. *Ibid.*, The company speculating as they please, till all are discovered.

c. To count or reckon *on* something as probable or certain. *rare*—1.

1797 COLERIDGE *Lett.* (1895) I. 215 You might safely speculate on twenty pounds a year or more from your compositions.

d. *trans.* To invest (money) in an enterprise which involves considerable risk.

1907 *Westm. Gaz.* 2 Dec. 7/1 They were compelled to own the cars privately because the railways would not speculate the money.

Hence **Spe·culated** *ppl. a.*, **Spe·culating** *vbl. sb.* (also *attrib.*) and *ppl. a.*

1787 M. CUTLER in *Life*, etc. (1888) I. 304 The speculating plan concerted between the British in Canada and New Yorkers was now well known. 1812 COMBE *Syntax, Picturesque* XXV. 232 We do not bring our learned powers To vex its speculating hours. 1820 SCOTT *Monast.* xxxi, A rash..interpretation of the Scriptures, wrested according to the private opinion of each speculating heretic. 1865 H. BUSHNELL *Vicar. Sacr.* i. (1868) 49 The innate sense of justice in men has been mocked by the speculated satisfactions of justice.

Speculation (spekiŭlē·ʃən). Also 4 speculacioun, 5–6 -cion, 6 -cyon, -tyon, -tione. [ad. late L. *speculātiōn-em*, noun of action f. *speculārī* to SPECULATE. Cf. OF. *speculation* (14th c.), F. *spéculation*, It. *specul-*, *specolazione*, Sp. *especulacion*, Pg. *especulação*.

In English, as in later L. and the Romance languages, the literal senses have been less usual than the transferred, and the earliest examples occur in the latter group.]

I. 1. The faculty or power of seeing; sight, vision, *esp.* intelligent or comprehending vision. Now *arch.*

1471 RIPLEY *Comp. Alch.* in Ashm. (1652) 121 O Hygh Yncomprehensyble and gloryous Mageste, Whose Luminos Bemes obtundyth our Speculation. 1474 *Cov. Leet Bk.* 393 O splendent Creator! In all oure speculacion, More bryghter then Phebus! 1603 BRETON *Packet Mad Lett.* I. xx. Wks. (Grosart) II. 11 Beleeue not your eyes, till they haue a better speculation. 1605 SHAKS. *Macb.* III. iv. 95 Thou hast no speculation in those eyes Which thou dost glare with. 1648 J. BEAUMONT *Psyche* XXI. lxviii, Her Speculation fix'd its Eye Upon the royal Goodness of her Lord. 1821 SHELLEY *Ginevra* 149 Open eyes, whose fixed and glassy light Mocked at the speculation they had owned. 1829 SCOTT *Anne of G.* xxxiv, His horny eye had lost the power of speculation. 1861 LD. LYTTON & FANE *Tannhäuser* 84 Her eyes Wide open, fix'd into a ghastly stare That knew no speculation.

† 2. The exercise of the faculty of sight; the action, or an act, of seeing, viewing, or looking on or at; examination or observation. *Obs.*

1509 HAWES *Past. Pleas.* VII. (Percy Soc.) 27 Her goodly chambre was set all about With depured myrrours of speculacion. 1530 PALSGR. 274/1 Speculation, beholding, *speculation*. 1599 SHAKS. *Hen. V*, IV. ii. 31 Though we vpon this Mountaines Basis by, Tooke stand for idle speculation. 1648 BOYLE *Seraph. Love* (1660) 13 Whilst they liv'd Exiles here on Earth, 'twas such a speculation..'as seeing Him who is invisible'. 1693 *Phil. Trans.* XVII. 691 The square Tower in the middle fitted with Holes for Speculation. 1711 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 3 P 1 In one of my late Rambles, or rather Speculations, I looked into the great Hall where the Bank is kept. 1774 JOHNSON in *Boswell* 1 Oct., Wales is so little different from England, that it offers nothing to the speculation of the traveller.

† b. Observation of the heavens, stars, etc. *Obs.*

In some quots. with suggestion of sense 4.

1538 ELYOT, *Astrologia*, the speculation and reasonyng concernyng the celestial or heuenly motions. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* I. 597 But now to goe on still with our Astrologie and Speculation of Heaven as wee have begun. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* I. 59 He [Tycho Brahe] had a little round house of great beauty, in which he did exercise his speculation. 1652 GAULE *Magastrom.* 7 What difference betwixt a divine contemplation and a diviners speculation of the heavens!

† c. *Top*, or *turret, of speculation*, one from which a wide or extensive view is obtained. *Obs.*

After L. *turris speculationis* (Gregory *Moral.* XXXI. § 85).

1653 CODRINGTON *Marrow Hist.* Ep. Ded., Here, as from a Turret of Speculation, you may look down upon the Vulgar. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* XII. 589 Let us descend now therefore from this top Of Speculation.

† 3. a. A spectacle or sight; a spectacular entertainment or show. *Obs. rare.*

c 1440 *Gesta Rom. a.* XXVI. 100 (Harl. MS.), As ofte as a man gobe to the Iolytees of worldlye speculacions, & hathe delectacion in hem. *c* 1520 *Mystery Resurr.* in *Rel. Antiq.* II. 151 It pleasid thi Godhed to tak but three To beholde and see the highe speculatioun, Of thy Godly majestye in thy transfyguratioun.

† b. An observer or watcher; a spy. *Obs.*—1

1605 SHAKS. *Lear* III. i. 24 Seruants,..Which are to France the Spies and Speculations Intelligent of our State.

II. 4. The contemplation, consideration, or profound study *of* some subject.

Freq. in the 17th cent.; now *rare* or *Obs.*

c 1374 CHAUCER *Boeth.* v. pr. ii. (1868) 153 Þe soules of men moten nedes ben more free whan þei loken hem in þe speculacioun or lokynge of þe deuyne þoust. 1549 *Compl. Scotl.* vi. 62 Ane rustic pastour..distitut of vrbanite, and of speculatione of natural philosophe. *c* 1590 MARLOWE *Faustus* iii. 114 Ile liue in speculation of this Art, Till Mephastophilis returne againe. 1604 WRIGHT *Passions* I. xi. 45 The motions of our Passions are hidde from our eyes...Yet for the Speculation of this matter, I thinke [etc.]. 1693 CONGREVE *Old Bach.* IV. vi, Sure it is a good book, and only tends to the speculation of sin. 1788 T. FAYLOR *Proclus* I. Pref., The great object of ancient philosophy, was an accurate speculation of principles and causes.

b. Without const., or with *in, into, concerning*.

1550 BALE *Eng. Votaries* II. E iij, Other instructors he had ..whych..were most conning in that speculacyon. 1563 SHUTE *Groundes Architecture* B ij b, Optica, is properly called perspectiue, and is of a furder speculacion, then therin can or nedeth to be exprest. 1636 HEYWOOD *Challenge Beautie* II. i, *Bona.* That you may know it is not lust, but love, And the true speculation I have tane, In both these adjuncts, that proclaime you rare. 1669 CLARENDON *Ess.* Tracts (1727) 96 The end of this speculation into ourselves and conversation with ourselves. 1674 *Playford's Skill Mus.* III. 3 This kind of Counterpoint..may appear simple, ..yet the right speculation may give much satisfaction even to the most skilful. 1678 CUDWORTH *Intell. Syst.* I. iv. 416 Furthermore Aristotle declares, that this Speculation concerning the Deity, does constitute a Particular Science by it self. 1725 (*title*), The Prophecies of Michael Nostradamus...Made English for the Speculation of the Publick.

c. The conjectural anticipation *of* something.

1795 BURKE *Th. Scarcity* Wks. 1842 II. 253 Continually in a state of something like a siege, or in the speculation of it.

5. An act of speculating, or the result of this; a conclusion, opinion, view, or series of these, reached by abstract or hypothetical reasoning.

1432–50 tr. *Higden* (Rolls) V. 27 Ptholomeus, a man nobly erudite in speculacions mathematicalle. 1575 VAUTROLLIER *Luther on Ep. Gal.* 16 There is nothing more daungerous then to wander with curious speculations in heauen. 1588 LAMBARDE *Eiren.* III. i. 328 These speculations of M. Marrowes reading, are like inough to fall in practise. 1613 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* (1614) 512 Such are his speculations of these hidden fires, that he maketh them the causers of Windes [etc.]. 1673 TEMPLE *Let. Duke Florence* Wks. 1720 II. 286 To make the Speculations of Strangers Abroad, part of your own Diversion at Home. 1708 SWIFT *Sentim. Ch. Eng. Man* Wks. 1755 II. i. 77 It is not a bare speculation that kings may run into such enormities as are abovementioned. 1769 BURKE *Let. Marq. Rockingham* Corr. 1844 I. 219 Not that I rely much on this speculation of my own. 1793 SMEATON *Edystone L.* § 344 In consequence of these speculations, I ordered a well to be sunk near the middle of the peninsula. 1816 MACKINTOSH *Bacon & Locke* Wks. 1846 I. 332 The source of many mistaken speculations on the important subjects of government and education. 1881 *Nature* No. 618. 414 Speculations respecting their ultimate form or structure will have found a place in the science as soon as such speculations have helped to arrange the facts which are known.

† b. An aim, purpose, or intention. *Obs.*

1616 B. JONSON *Devil an Ass* II. v, They may..spend an houre; Two, three, or foure, discoursing with their shaddow: But sure they haue a farther speculation.

c. A conjectural consideration or meditation; an attempt to ascertain or anticipate something by probable reasoning.

1796 HORSLEY *Serm.* (1811) 189 The populace that were witnesses of the miracle 'wondered': they wondered, and there was an end of their speculations upon the business. 1833 HT. MARTINEAU *Brooke Farm* xii. 135 Our annual speculations about how so much good cheer was to be consumed. 1841 DICKENS *Barn. Rudge* i, The subject of their speculations had done due honour to the house by calling for some drink.

6. Without article: Contemplation of a profound, far-reaching, or subtle character; abstract or hypothetical reasoning on subjects of a deep, abstruse, or conjectural nature.

a 1450 tr. *De Imitatione* III. lx. 141 Neiþer þe ȝifte of prophecie, ner worching of myracles, ner speculacion, be it neuere so hye, is of eny estimacion wiþouten hir [*i.e.* grace]. *c* 1532 DU WES *Introd. Fr.* in *Palsgr.* 1062 Abstynence of Danyell, speculation of Hely, experience of saynt Paule. 1565 HARDYNG *Confut.* I. 34 The scriptures haue nede of speculation (that is to witte, to be well studied and considered) to the ende the force and power of euery argument may be knowen. 1596 SPENSER *Hymn Heavenly Beauty* 134 Thence gathering plumes of perfect speculation, To impe the wings of thy high flying mynd. 1606 BRVSKETT *Disc. Civill Life* 252 Euen as sapience or wisedom is the guide and gouernesse of speculation. 1708 SWIFT *Sentim. Ch. Eng. Man* Wks. 1755 II. i. 72 Because slavery is of all things the greatest clog and obstacle to speculation. 1748 HARTLEY *Observ. Man* II. i. § 4. 17 Men of great Speculation and Refinement may desire to have this analogical Reasoning supported. 1776 ADAM SMITH *W. N.* I. i. (1869) I. 11 Philosophers or men of speculation, whose trade is not to do anything, but to observe everything. 1828 LYTTON *Pelham* XXXIII, If I have any fault, it is too great a love for abstruse speculation and reflection. 1857 BUCKLE *Civiliz.* I. 5 Habits of speculation..are the essential condition of all real knowledge. 1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) V. 25 The same desire to base speculation upon history..we find in the Critias.

b. As opposed to *practice, fact, action*, etc.

1530 LYNDESAY *Test. Papyngo* 30 Boith in practick and speculatioun. 1597 MORLEY *Introd. Mus.* III. 153 Now..make a lesson as I haue done, and ioine practise with your speculation. 1599 B. JONSON *Cynthia's Rev.* II. iii, Your courtier theorique, is hee, that..doth now know the court, rather by speculation, then practice. *a* 1676 HALE *Prim. Orig. Man.* (1677) 25 Usefulness in reference to Speculation or Knowledge, and Usefulness in relation to Practice or Exercise. 1777 J. ADAMS *Wks.* (1854) IX. 470 This is fact, and facts are stubborn things in opposition to speculation. 1800 *Ann. Reg.* 28/1 His talents were much more fitted for action than speculation.

c. In more or less disparaging use, usually with adjs., as *bare, mere, pure*, etc.; also simply = conjecture, surmise.

(*a*) 1575 VAUTROLLIER *Luther on Ep. Gal.* 35 And that which he thinketh him selfe to know, he attaineth only by bare speculation. 1612 BRINSLEY *Lud. Lit.* Comm. Pref., Neither are these directions of meere speculation, whose promises are commonly as large, as the performance defectiue. 1665 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* (1677) 196 For that of Abulfaeda..is no new discovery;..I know he has it onely by speculation. 1696 STANHOPE *Chr. Pattern* (1711) 87 The reason why these things are seen with so useless speculation, is because our minds are not rightly disposed. 1712 STEELE *Spect.* No. 450 P 1 [Partaking] more of the Invention of the Brain, or what is styled Speculation, than of sound Judgment or profitable Observation. 1780 *Mirror* No. 107, In every art and science, practitioners complain how often they are deceived by specious theories and delusive speculation. 1812 WOODHOUSE *Astron.* xiii. 135 The enquiry into the form, since the theory is complete without it, is one of pure curiosity and speculation. 1861 LD. BROUGHAM *Brit. Const.* I. (1862) 13 The mere romantic speculation of political dreamers.

(*b*) 1791 LD. AUCKLAND *Corr.* (1862) II. 396 There is some speculation here that he may look towards the fourth princess.

d. In *matter, object, subject*, etc., *of speculation*. Also *ellipt.* for this.

(*a*) 1665 GLANVILL *Def. Van. Dogm.* 75 The little delight I have in matters that are not of very material speculation. 1736 BUTLER *Anal.* Introd. (1798) 3 This determines the question, even in matters of speculation. 1769 *Junius Lett.* xii. (1788) 75 Let me..consider your character and conduct merely as a subject of curious speculation. 1788 PRIESTLEY *Lect. Hist.* v. xlix. 369 The progress of society, is one of the most..useful objects of speculation. 1810 W. WILSON *Hist. Dissent. Ch.* iii. 63 Points of speculation, or party, he studiously avoided. 1832 BREWSTER *Nat. Magic* xiii. 340 They afford ground of curious speculation. 1847 HELPS *Friends in C.* I. i. 4 It was a matter of frequent speculation with us, whether [etc.].

(*b*) 1793 SMEATON *Edystone L.* § 111 The various Strata..would furnish speculation to the curious naturalist.

e. *In speculation*, in conjecture or theory; not actually or practically; also, under consideration, in contemplation or view.

(*a*) 1638 MEDE *Wks.* (1672) 154 This Faith is not barely Historical and in speculation, but a Faith in motion. 1645 USSHER *Body Div.* (1647) 37 Is God every where in speculation only? 1718 *Free-thinker* No. 90. 246 It avails nothing, that a projected Change is, in Speculation, for the Better. 1777 HAMILTON *Wks.* (1886) VII. 483 As to their notion .., I apprehend it will do better in speculation than in practice. 1793 HORSLEY *Serm. Westm.* 29 Whatever preference therefore, in speculation, he might give to the Republican form, he could not, with these principles, be practically an enemy to the Government of Kings.

(*b*) 1811 SIR WM. SCOTT *Dodson's Rep.* I. 32 Operations against Buenos Ayres were entirely in speculation, and not finally decided upon.

† 7. A plan or scheme for some enterprise or undertaking. *Obs.*—1

a 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 7 Sept. 1667, Came Sir John Kiviet to article with me about his brick-work speculation.

8. The action or practice of buying and selling goods, land, stocks and shares, etc., in order to profit by the rise or fall in the market value, as distinct from regular trading or investment; engagement in any business enterprise or transaction of a venturesome or risky nature, but offering the chance of great or unusual gain. Also *Comb.*

1774 H. WALPOLE *Let. to Mann* 1 May, Next to gaming, ..the predominant folly is pictures...Sir George Colbroke, a citizen, and martyr to what is called *speculation*, had

his pictures sold by auction last week. 1776 ADAM SMITH *W. N.* I. x. 1. (1904) I. 127 Sudden fortunes, indeed, are sometimes made in such places, by what is called the trade of speculation. *a* 1827 T. DWIGHT *Trav. New Eng.*, etc. (1821) I. 218 The first cause..of this evil was, if I mistake not, what has been proverbially called in this country *Speculation.* 1834 *Tait's Mag.* I. 408/1 The evils produced by that species of gambling named speculation. 1897 *Daily News* 10 Apr. 5 The speculation-laden air of Johannesburg.

b. *On speculation*, on chance; on the chance of gain or profit. Cf. SPEC 1 b.

1811 Miss HAWKINS *Countess & Gertrude* (1812) II. 162 A distant relation who had married, at fifteen, in the East Indies, sent out on speculation. 1837 DICKENS *Pickw.* xxvi, Won't Mr. Dodson and Fogg be wild if the plaintiff shouldn't get it,..when they do it all on speculation?

9. An act or instance of speculating; a commercial venture or undertaking of an enterprising nature, esp. one involving considerable financial risk on the chance of unusual profit. Cf. SPEC 1.

1776 ADAM SMITH *W. N.* I. x. 1. (1904) I. 127 A bold adventurer may sometimes acquire a considerable fortune by two or three successful speculations. 1787 M. CUTLER in *Life*, etc. (1888) I. 305 We obtained..the remainder for a private speculation. 1825 COBBETT *Rur. Rides* 327 The talk about 'speculations', that is to say adventurous dealings, or rather commercial gamblings,..is the most miserable nonsense. 1841 W. SPALDING *Italy & It. Isl.* III. 393 The government was to undertake a certain part of the speculation, while the remainder of the capital might be given off in shares. 1880 *Austr. Town & Country Jrnl.* 14 Feb. 314/4 A young fellow who had a speculation in pigs on hand.

fig. 1876 J. PARKER *Paracl.* II. Epil. 387 Life itself is a high and solemn speculation.

10. *Cards.* A round game of cards, the chief feature of which is the buying and selling of trump cards, the player who possesses the highest trump in a round winning the pool.

1804 Miss AUSTEN *Watsons* in J. E. A. Leigh *Mem.* (1871) 357 'What's your game?'..'Speculation I believe.' 1839 DICKENS *Nickleby* ix, They sat down to play speculation. 1868 PARDON *Card Player* 83 As a merry game for Christmas parties speculation is without a rival.

Speculatist (spe·kiu̯lətist). [f. SPECULATE *v.*]

1. One who speculates, or indulges in abstract reasoning; a professed or habitual speculator; a theorist. (Very common from *c* 1750.)

1613 tr. *Pedro Mexio's Treas. Ane. & Mod. Times* 12/2 The Septuagint..haue commonly traduced it to be in Eden. ..Other speculatis[t]es do affirme it to be in Syria. 1621 GRANGER *Eccl.* 24 Let the profoundest speculatist, or curious practitioner, turne the edge of his wit which way he will to finde out some new thing. 1714 tr. *T. à Kempis, Chr. Exerc.* x. 15 Either a lofty Speculatist, or a subtil Disputant. 1750 JOHNSON *Rambler* No. 14 P 5 The speculatist is only in danger of erroneous reasoning, but the man involved in life has his own passions, and those of others, to encounter. 1780 COWPER *Progr. Error* 490 Fresh confidence the speculatist takes From ev'ry hair-brain'd proselyte he makes. 1807 *Edinb. Rev.* X. 369 We shall..lay before our readers the opinions of this clever speculatist. 1849 DARWIN in *Life & Lett.* (1887) II. 37 This confounded variation..is pleasant to me as a speculatist, though odious to me as a systematist. 1886 A. WEIR *Hist. Basis Mod. Europe* (1889) 20 The social principles recommended by speculatists.

b. With disparaging adjs.

1693 W. FREKE *Sel. Ess.* xxxiv. 223 'Tis the Curse of dreaming Speculatists, that they not only have no taste of real Wisdom, but mispend the time that should lead them to it. 1766 ELIZ. CARTER *Let. to Mrs. Vesey* I July, The most visionary speculatist must sometimes awake to the cares and solicitudes of real life. 1792 W. ROBERTS *Looker-on* (1794) I. 373 An Utopian speculatist might amuse himself with planning a department..which should be called the office of advice. 1827 G. S. FABER *Orig. Expiat. Sacr.* 262 The notion of its divine institution originated..with some fantastical innovating speculatists among the modern Puritans. 1850 MCCOSH *Div. Govt.* 217 He is probably an idle dreamer,..or a wild speculatist. 1893 *Ch. Times* 20 Oct. 1062 The vapid and airy region of third-rate speculatists.

c. As the title of a book or periodical.

1730 (*title*), The Speculatist. A Collection of Letters and Essays, Moral and Political, Serious and Humourous, upon Various Subjects. [1787 Sir J. HAWKINS *Life Johnson* 538 Concanen, one of the Dunciad heroes, in a paper called 'The Speculatist'.]

d. With adjs. denoting the subject or sphere of speculation.

1802 BEDDOES *Hygëia* VIII. 92 The hypothesis of any medical speculatist. 1818 BUSBY *Gram. Music* 167 Among those who succeeded Rameau, as musical speculatists, was the celebrated Tartini. 1837–8 Sir W. HAMILTON in *Reid's Wks.* I. 53/2 Some of the recent physiological speculatists of Germany. 1850 GLADSTONE *Glean.* (1879) V. lxxxiii. 222 In the other case we may as political speculatists either rank with those [etc.].

2. One who speculates in commerce or finance.

1812 *Examiner* 5 Oct. 634/1 The Corn and Mealing Trade has lately got into the hands of Speculatists. 1832 *Fraser's Mag.* V. 653 Among other inducements to the cupidity of the queen and speculatists, he affirmed [etc.]. 1834 H. MILLER *Scenes & Leg.* XXX. (1857) 448 The great wealth of the speculatist proved insufficient.

Speculative (spe·kiu̯lətiv), *a.* and *sb.* Also 5 speculatif, -ijf, -iff, -yff, 6 -ifey -yf(e, -yue, 6–7 -iue. [a. OF. *speculatif, -ive* (mod.F. *spéculatif, -ive*, = It. *specul-, speculativo*, Sp. and Pg. *especulativo*), or ad. late L. *speculātīv-us*, f. the ppl. stem of *speculārī* to SPECULATE.]

A. *adj.* **1.** Of the nature of, based upon, characterized by, speculation or theory in contrast to practical or positive knowledge: **a.** Of knowledge.

c 1380 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* I. 241 þis cunnyng was not speculatif. 1555 EDEN *Decades* (Arb.) 277 They confessed that the ordinarie pilottes and mariners ignorant in Cosmographi, are not to bee compared to men of speculatiue knowleage. 1585 BLAGRAVE (*title*), The Mathematical Iewel,..compiled and published for the Furtherance..of Gentlemen and others desirous of Speculatiue Knowledge. 1612 BRINSLEY *Lud. Lit.* xxi. (1627) 252 Other speculative or more curious knowledge in Quiddities. *a* 1674 CLARENDON *Surv. Leviath.* (1676) 117 From his speculative knowledge of man-kind. 1736 BUTLER *Anal.* I. v. Wks. 1874 I. 103 A practical sense of things, very different from a mere speculative knowledge. 1748 RICHARDSON *Clarissa* (1811) V. ix. 124 She has a world of knowledge: knowledge speculative, as I may say, but no experience. 1850 C. DAUBENY *Atom. The.* i. (ed. 2) 4 One more proof of the benefits arising from experimental science, and of the unexpected advances in speculative knowledge. 1865 DICKENS *Mut. Fr.* I. v, His knowledge of its affairs was mostly speculative and all wrong.

b. Of special sciences, or parts of these.

c 1400 *Lanfranc's Cirurg.* 15 Alle þese þingis..ben but techinge of medicyns [*v.r.* medycine] speculatijf. 1561 T. NORTON *Calvin's Inst.* Pref., An arte of brawlyng whiche these men call Speculatiue Diuinitie. 1597 MORLEY *Introd. Mus.* Annot., As for the diuision, Musicke is either speculatiue or practicall. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* II. 344 Chrysippus ..altered the Theoricke and speculatiue Physicke of Hippocrates and Prodicus, with all their principles. 1665 BOYLE *Occas. Reft.* v. i. (1848) 296 The diligent Studies of Speculative and Polemical Divinity. 1730 CHAMBERLAYNE *Relig. Philos.* Pref. p. xx, Euclid, Algebra, and other Speculative Parts of the Mathematicks. 1741 WATTS *Improv. Mind* (1801) 112 Endeavour to apply every speculative study, as far as possible, to some practical use. 1859 Sir W. HAMILTON *Lect.* (1877) I. vii. 111 Theoretical, called likewise speculative,..philosophy has for its highest end mere truth or knowledge. 1881 FROUDE *Short Stud.* (1883) IV. II. i. 168 The speculative part of it [religion] was accepted because it was assumed to be true.

c. In general use.

a 1483 *Liber Niger* in *Househ. Ord.* (1790) 50 Men of worshipp, endowed with vertues, morall and speculatiff. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 31 b, As well in matters speculatyue as practyue. 1615 CROOKE *Body of Man* 26 Many of these nice and fine points..serue rather for a speculatiue pleasure & admiration, then be of any vse in the art of physick or Chirurgery. 1677 YARRANTON *Eng. Improv.* Addr. Ld. Windsor, They have given the World sufficient Tests of the vast difference betwixt Speculative Notions and Practical Experiments. 1708 SWIFT *Sacram. Test.* Wks. 1755 II. I. 127 The bare opinion of his being vicar of Christ is but a speculative point. 1761 HUME *Hist. Eng.* III. xlvi. 24 The king's despotism was more speculative than practical. 1812 Sir H. DAVY *Chem. Philos.* 17 The speculative ideas of the Arabians were more or less adopted by their European disciples. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* ii. I. 247 He..had a languid speculative liking for republican institutions. 1880 MCCARTHY *Own Times* xlv. III. 350 Even against speculative dangers a wise people will always take precautions.

2. Of persons: Given to speculation; inclined to theorize or indulge in conjectural reasoning.

c 1546 G. JOYE in Gardiner *Declar. Joye* (1546) 53 Euery speculatyue pharisay and idle hypocrite. 1555 EDEN *Decades* (Arb.) 218 If there bee any dyfference..,it canne not bee perceaued but by the iudgement of speculatiue men. 1609 J. DOWLAND *Ornith. Microl.* 5 A Speculative Musitian excels the Practick. 1660 BOYLE *New Exp. Phys. Mech.* (1682) 123 To dwell upon all the several Reflexions, that a Speculative Wit might make. 1712 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 305 P 8 Six Professors, who, it seems, are to be Speculative Statesmen. 1785 REID *Intell. Powers* I. viii. 245 Why have speculative men laboured so anxiously to analyse our solitary operations? 1813 Sir H. DAVY *Agric. Chem.* (1814) 339 He is too speculative a writer to awaken confidence in his results. 1841 HELPS *Ess., Pract. Wisd.* (1842) 4 Many persons are considered speculative merely because they are of a searching nature. 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xix. IV. 327 The only statesman, indeed, active or speculative, who did not share in the general delusion was Edmund Burke.

absol. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* I. x, The various opinions that have employed the speculative upon this subject,

b. Similarly of the soul, mind, etc.

1570 DEE *Math. Pref.* *j, Ascend, and mount vp (with Speculatiue winges) in spirit. 1599 NASHE *Lenten Stuffe* Wks. (Grosart) V. 300 The grossest kind of fire that..illumines my speculatiue soule. 1793 T. BEDDOES *Math. Evid.* 10 They seem to promise, to speculative minds, a sort of independance upon external things. 1809–10 COLERIDGE *Friend* (1818) III. 81 A certain number of speculative minds is necessary to a cultivated state of society.

†**c.** Given to pry or search *into* something. *Obs.*

1605 BACON *Adv. Learn.* I. iii. §7 To be speculatiue into another man, to the end to know how to worke him,..proceedeth from a heart that is double. 1612 — *Ess., Counsel* (Arb.) 322 Councellors should not be too speculatiue into their Soueraignes person.

3. Of life, etc.: Spent in, devoted to, speculation.

1579 LYLY *Euphues* (Arb.) 142 A trifold kinde of life, Actiue,..Speculatiue, which is continuall meditation and studie. 1643 MILTON *Divorce* II. xix. Wks. 1851 IV. 115 Christ himselfe hath taught us..even for a bodily healing to dispence with that holy and speculative rest of Sabbath. 1670 CLARENDON *Ess.* Tracts (1727) 267 An active and practical condition of life, or a speculative repose. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* vi. II. 54 There was..no walk of speculative or of active life, in which Jesuits were not to be found.

4. Of faculties, etc.: Adapted for, exercised in, speculation († or vision).

1604 SHAKS. *Oth.* I. iii. 271 When light wing'd Toyes Of feather'd Cupid, seele with wanton dulnesse My speculatiue, and offic'd Instrument. 1605 — *Macb.* V. iv. 19 Thoughts speculatiue, their vnsure hopes relate. 1678 CUDWORTH *Intell. Syst.* 408 That Perfect Happiness is a Speculative or Contemplative Energy, may be made manifest from hence. 1703 ATTERBURY *Serm.* (1734) II. 126 The other, being a mere speculative Power, hath no Contrary in the Mind of Man to struggle with. 1860 MILL *Repr. Govt.* (1865) 6/2 If any one requires to be convinced that speculative thought is one of the chief elements of social power. 1896 DK. ARGYLL *Philos. Belief* 11 Our speculative faculties are altogether untrustworthy on such subjects.

†**5.** Pertaining to vision; optical. *Obs.*

1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.*, *Catopticks*, professors of the Opticks, or art speculative.

6. Suitable for observation or watching; speculatory. Chiefly *poet.*

1709 POPE *Lett.* (1735) I. 81, I have been inform'd, that you have left your speculative Angle in the Widow's Coffee-house. 1782 COWPER *Jackdaw* 13 Fond of the speculative height, Thither he wings his airy flight. 1784 — *Task* I. 289 Now roves the eye; And, posted on this speculative height, Exults in its command. 1821 WORDSW. *Eclipse Sun* 1 High on her speculative tower Stood Science.

7. Of persons: Given to, or engaging in, commercial or financial speculation.

1763 JANSSEN *Smuggling laid open* 28 Several Persons, who go under the Denomination of Speculative Buyers, purchase Teas there, merely on an Expectation of the Price rising afterwards. 1776 ADAM SMITH *W. N.* I. x. (1869) I. 119 The speculative merchant exercises no one regular business. 1799 *Hull Advertiser* 6 Oct. 3/3 To keep down the price of corn which speculative men were trying to advance. 1813 SCOTT *Let.* in *Lockhart* (1837) III. ii. 107 Any rare printed book which a speculative bookseller might purchase with a view to re-publication.

b. Of the nature of, characterized by, or involving speculation.

1799 *Hull Advertiser* 6 Oct. 3/3 Articles which ought..to be exempt from all speculative interest. 1848 MILL *Pol. Econ.* III. xxiv. §2 (1876) 395 There are two states of the market, one which may be termed the quiescent state, the other the expectant or speculative state. 1879 H. GEORGE *Progr. & Pov.* VIII. iii. (1881) 331 How speculative rent checks production. 1907 *Standard* 19 Jan. 2/4 Heavy speculative transactions have been in progress in tin for weeks past.

c. Forming an object of speculation.

1890 *Daily News* 30 Sept. 2/5 The market for speculative beetroot continues dull and prices to decline.

B. *sb.* †**1.** As a book-title, = MIRROR *sb.* 4. *Obs.*

c 1430 LYDG. *Min. Poems* (Percy Soc.) 63 Vincencius in his speculatif historialle, Of this saide monk makithe ful mencyoune.

2. †**a.** Speculation; hypothetical reasoning; theory. *Obs.*

After late L. *speculātīva* sb. So F. *spéculative.*

1412–20 LYDG. *Chron. Troy* I. 3578 For-dullid is myn ymagynatif, To deme in practik or in speculatif. 1426 — *De Guil. Pilgr.* 18575 For speculatyff..With-outen good experience Avaylith lytle or ellis nought. 1474 CAXTON *Chesse* III. v. (1883) 119 The maistres of rethorique ben the chyef maistres in speculatyf. *a* 1500 in M. Cooke *Hist. Masonry* (1861) 90 Of speculatyfe he was a master and he lovyd well masonry and masons. 1509 BARCLAY *Ship Folys* (1570) 102 Such that haue practise and nought of speculatife.

†**b.** *pl.* Speculative matters; the speculative sciences. *Obs.*

1640 SEDGWICK *Christ's Counsell* 258 In speculatives be wise to sobriety, in practicals be as good as thou canst. *a* 1670 RUST *Disc. Truth* (1682) 166 As indispensible are the mutual respects and relations of things both in Speculatives and Morals. 1678 CUDWORTH *Intell. Syst.* 416 Aristotle concludes, that as the Speculative Sciences in General, are more Noble and Excellent than the other, so is Theology or Metaphysicks the most Honourable of all the Speculatives.

c. With *the*: That which rests only on speculation.

1877 SPARROW *Serm.* xix. 254 When..we are compelled..to make a choice between the speculative and the practical we should give preference to the latter.

†**3.** A speculator or speculatist. *Obs.*—1

a 1638 MEDE *Wks.* (1672) 878 If if were in Latine, it would make some of your German Speculatives half wild.

Speculatively (spe·kiu̯lətivli), *adv.* [f. prec.]

1. In a speculative manner; in respect of, by means of, speculation.

1570 DEE *Math. Pref.* C iij b, Thus can the Mathematicall minde deale Speculatiuely in his owne Arte. 1599 *Life More* in Wordsw. *Eccl. Biog.* (1863) II. 220 As [he] speculatively, so practicallie taught them to embrace vertue. 1631 R. H. *Arraignm. Whole Creature* xii. § 6. 166 Salomon, as the wisest of men speculatively, as the best experienced of men, practically. 1693 NORRIS *Pract. Disc.* (1712) III. 230 If he that is speculatively wise, did but joyn Consideration to his Notion, he would quickly become practically so. 1713 *Guardian* No. 3 P 1 These Sages of Iniquity are, it seems, themselves, only speculatively wicked. 1793 BURKE *Obs. Conduct Minority* Wks. 1842 I. 623 It is not easy to state for what good end..Mr. Fox should be fond of referring to those theories, upon all occasions, even though speculatively they might be true. 1814 D'ISRAELI *Quarrels Auth.* (1867) 454 No man was more speculatively bold, and more practically timorous. 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xv. III. 579 The objection was, beyond all doubt, speculatively just; but..no practical inconvenience was to be apprehended. 1875 MANNING *Mission H. Ghost* ii. 37, I will endeavour then to draw this out, not speculatively, but practically.

b. With a speculative or meditative air.

1883 *Harper's Mag.* Sept. 626/1 She looked speculatively at the..linen duster.

2. Towards, by way of, commercial or financial speculation; on speculation.

1847 in WEBSTER. 1898 *Westm. Gaz.* 26 Feb. 8/1 Whether the shares..should command a premium of 250 per cent. is a question best answered by the speculatively-inclined. 1908

Ibid. 10 Nov. 2/1 Occasionally a solicitor may be found who will take up his case speculatively.

Spe·culativeness. [f. as prec.] The quality of being speculative; tendency towards speculation.

1727 BAILEY (vol. II), *Speculativeness*, Propenseness to Speculation, Studiousness in Observation: *Speculativeness* is the Opposite to Practicalness. 1828–32 WEBSTER, *Speculativeness*, the state of being speculative, or of consisting in speculation only. 1855 MILMAN *Lat. Chr.* XIV. ii. VI. 402 The one man who at that period .. by the congenial speculativeness of his mind .. was qualified to translate into Latin the mysterious doctrines of the Areopagite. 1890 *Nature* 30 Oct. 633 The subject is worked out with all Mr. Seebohm's .. energy and speculativeness.

Spe·culativism. [f. as prec.] Excessive exercise of, or leaning towards, speculation.

1865 *Spect.* 30 Sept. 1094 The characteristic of the sixteenth century was a *speculativism* alike in thought and action, rather than earnest faith and resolute deed. 1878 *Pop. Sci. Monthly* July 269 Built on the quicksand of æsthetics and speculativism which was quickly swept away by the tide of barbarian invasion.

Speculator (spe·kiu̯lē·tər). Also 6–7 **-our.** [a. L. *speculātor*, agent-noun f. *speculārī* to SPECULATE, or ad. F. *spéculateur*, = It. *specul-*, *specolatore*, Sp. and Pg. *especulador*.]

1. One who speculates on abstruse or uncertain matters; one who devotes himself to speculation or theoretical reasoning.

1555 EDEN *Decades* (Arb.) 367 The philosophers, speculatours of naturall thynges, saye that it is engendered of substaunce more watery then fyerie. 1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* III. xiii. 137 The Writers of Mineralls and naturall speculators, are of another beliefe. 1664 POWER *Exp. Philos.* III. 193 The old Dogmatists and Notional Speculators, that onely gaz'd at the visible effects and .. Resultances of things. 1798 MALTHUS *Popul.* (1878) 5 The most enthusiastic speculator cannot suppose a greater increase. 1855 PALEY *Aeschylus* Pref. (1861) p. xii, Pythagoras, one of the most deep-minded speculators of the ancient world, speaks in every page of Aeschylus. 1871 C. DAVIES *Metric Syst.* III. 285 Some philosophical speculators have started doubts whether the metre is really the forty millionth part of the circumference of the earth.

b. Used as the title of periodicals.

1790 [N. DRAKE, etc.] The Speculator. 1801 The Speculator, containing essays on men and things.

2. A watchman, sentry, or look-out.

1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* (1658) 406 It is reported by a certain Greek writer that, if their speculator do not give them the watch-word, .. they tear him in pieces with their teeth. 1661 R. BURNEY Κέρδιστον Ἄωρον 104, I am the speculator and sentinel that chase away all evil with my eyes. 1663 BUTLER *Hud.* I. i. 711 We, .. Like Speculators, should foresee From Pharos .. Portended Mischiefs [etc.]. 1725 BROOME *Observ.* in *Pope's Odyss.* XII. III. 215 All the boats had one speculator in common, to give notice when the fish approach'd. 1820 T. S. HUGHES *Trav. Sicily* I. iv. 139 The speculator or man who descries the movements of the fish.

†**3.** One who engages in occult observations or studies. *Obs.*

1652 GAULE *Magastrom.* 9 Diviners, Speculators, Circulators, Prognosticators, .. &c. 1658 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* (ed. 4) VI. xiv. 416 The Hebrew letters in the heavens, made out of the greater and lesser Stars, which put together do make up words, wherein Cabalistical Speculators conceive they read the events of future things. 1691 WOOD *Ath. Oxon.* I. 244 Dee .. appointed his Friend Kelley to be his Seer or Skryer or Speculator, that is to take notice what the Spirits did.

†**4.** An observer, spectator. *Obs.*—1

1647 NYE *Gunnery* xviii. 95 As they wriggle to and fro, they will pull one another after them, to the speculatour a great deal of content.

5. A messenger sent to consult an oracle. *rare*—1.

1794 T. TAYLOR *Pausanias' Descr. Greece* III. 149 They sent speculators (*theoroi*) to Delphos.

6. One who engages in commercial or financial speculation.

1778 HAMILTON *Wks.* (1886) VII. 560 The speculators in the city have been bidding against the commissaries. 1786 JEFFERSON *Writ.* (1859) I. 578 There are even speculators in America who will purchase it. 1827 HONE *Every-day Bk.* II. 1476 He was a keen .. speculator, well versed in the mystery of the bulls and bears. 1848 DICKENS *Dombey* vi, One or two bold speculators had projected streets. 1884 *Fortn. Rev.* Mar. 346 There are a class of speculators in the fag ends of leases.

Speculato·rial, *a. rare*—0. = SPECULATORY *a.*

1860 WORCESTER (citing Blount and Bailey). Hence in later Dicts.

Spe·culatory, *sb.* and *a.* Now *rare.* Also 6–7 **-orie**s [ad. L. *speculātōri-us*: see SPECULATE *v.* and **-ORY.** In sense 1 of the sb. from the L. fem. *speculātōria* (sc. *ars*): cf. F. *spéculatoire.*]

A. *sb.* †**1.** The observation or study of occult phenomena. *Obs.*

1569 J. SANFORD tr. *Agrippa's Van. Artes* 52 b, Out of the same fundation commeth Speculatorie, which doth enterprete thunder, lightning, and other impressions of the Elementes. 1676 tr. *Agrippa's Van. Arts* (1684) 99 Among the Arts therefore of Fortune-telling vulgarly professed in hope of gain, are Physiognomy, .. Soothsaying, Speculatory, and Interpretation of Dreams.

†**2.** A place of observation. *Obs.*—1

1619 J. BAINBRIDGE *Descr. Late Comet* 14 Appearing to our eye on the superficies of this terrestriall speculatorie.

†**3.** = SPECULATOR 2. *Obs.*—1

1775 L. SHAW *Hist. Moray* v. 211 By their speculatories or scouts, they had certain intelligence of the King's approach.

B. *adj.* †**1.** Of the nature of, pertaining to, occult speculation. *Obs.*

1588 J. HARVEY *Disc. Probl.* 26 No Opticall, or Speculatorie Theories: no Cabalisticall, or Traditionall Suppositions. 1652 GAULE *Magastrom.* 244 Whether mythology or astrology (the poeticall or the speculatory fable) serves most to make one another good or more significant? 1676 tr. *Agrippa's Van. Arts* (1684) 105 Upon the same Grounds the Art of Speculatory Divination is founded.

†**2.** Inspectorial. *Obs.*—1

1634 T. CAREW *Cœlum Brit.* Wks. (1824) 154 My privileges are an ubiquitary, circumambulatory, speculatory, interrogatory, redargutory immunity over all the privy lodgings.

3. Serving for observation; affording an outlook or view.

1781 WARTON *Hist., Kiddington* (1783) 58 Both these [Roman camps] were nothing more than speculatory outposts to the Akeman-street. 1791 W. GILPIN *Forest Scenery* II. 99 Another small fort .. is generally supposed to have been a speculatory station to the grand camp of Buckland. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. v. ii, Extreme Left; sitting on the topmost benches, as if aloft on its speculatory Height or Mountain.

Speculatrix (spekiu̯lē·triks). [a. L. *speculātrix*, fem. of *speculātor.*] A female speculator, in various senses.

1611 COTGR., *Speculatrice*, a speculatrix; a contemplatiue .. or watchfull woman. 1744 Z. GREY *Butler's Hud.* II. iii. 1093 *note*, This Sarah Jimmers; whom Lilly calls Sarah Shelhorn, a great Speculatrix. 1841 D'ISRAELI *Amen. Lit.* III. 307 Persons even of ordinary rank in life pretended to be what they termed *speculators*, and sometimes women were *speculatrices*. 1908 *Westm. Gaz.* 29 Aug. 7/2 This .. indicates that the exploitress and speculatrix has just obtained an advantage by doing something particularly mean.

†**Specule,** *v.* - *Obs.*—1 [ad. OF. *speculer*: see SPECULATE *v.*] *trans.* To regard attentively.

1484 CAXTON *Fables of Æsop* V. vi, The he goot .. speculynge and beholdynge his shadowe [in the water], .. sayd suche wordes within hym self.

Speculist (spe·kiu̯list). [f. SPECUL-ATE *v.* + **-IST.**] = SPECULATIST.

1707 C. N. *Poem on Union* 18 No more vain Speculists your Fancies Cheat. 1788 G. A. STEVENS (*title*), The Adventures of a Speculist, or, a Journey through London. 1825 N. WOOD *Railroads* 290 The ridiculous expectations, or rather professions, of the enthusiastic speculist. 1861 I. TAYLOR *Spir. Hebrew Poetry* 198 The astute speculist shall be heard quoting the very man—who is quoting Isaiah.

†**Spe·culous,** *a. Obs.*—1 Speculative.

?*c* 1600 *Distr. Emperor* IV. iii. in Bullen *O. Pl.* (1884) III. 236 *Ol.* Thys newe pyle of honor walks as if A would knocke patts with heaven. *Rich.* Tys not unlike Your owne true pryde dothe make you speculous.

‖ **Speculum** (spe·kiu̯lŏm). Pl. **spe·cula** and **-ums.** [L. *speculum*, f. *specĕre* to look (at), observe. So F. *spéculum*, It. *speculo*, *specolo*, Sp. *espéculum.*]

1. A surgical instrument of various forms, used for dilating orifices of the body so as to facilitate examination or operations.

Freq. with Latin genitive of the part for which the instrument is used, as *speculum oculi*, *oris*, etc.

1597 A. M. tr. *Guillemeau's Fr. Chirurg.* C ij b/1 A Dilatorye of the Eyelidde, or the Speculum of the Eye. 1671 PHILLIPS, *Speculum oris*, an Instrument to skrew open the mouth, that the Chirurgion may discern the diseased parts of the throat. 1693 tr. *Blancard's Phys. Dict.* (ed. 2), *Dilatorium*, a Chyrurgeon's Instrument, wherewith the Womb or the Mouth is dilated or opened. It is called likewise *Speculum*, because by it one may see into the Mouth or the Womb. 1752 SMELLIE *Midwifery* Introd. p. xlix, He is the first who gives a draught of the *Speculum Matricis* for dilating the Os Internum. 1800 *Med. Jrnl.* IV. 103 Permit me to offer the model of a Speculum Oculi, for insertion in the Medical and Physical Journal. 1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib., Brit.* II. No. 3552, *Specula*, an elegant assortment for the eye, ear, vagina, rectum and nose. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* III. 983 Under an anæsthetic the speculum may be of service.

2. A mirror or reflector (of glass or metal) used for some scientific purpose; †a lens.

1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* VII. xviii. (1686) 312 Archimedes burnt the ships of Marcellus with Speculums of Parabolical figures. 1666 BOYLE *Orig. Formes & Qual.* (1667) 30 The giving to a large Metalline Speculum a concave figure, would never enable it to set wood on fire. 1756–7 tr. *Keysler's Trav.* (1760) I. 401 The notes are written in a very small hand, .. so that they cannot be easily read without a magnifying *speculum*. *c* 1790 IMISON *Sch. Art* I. 218 There are four of these concave specula, of different magnifying powers, to be used as objects to be examined may require. 1825 *Gentl. Mag.* XCV. I. 292/1 On opening it, it was found to contain in the lid a small convex metallic *speculum*, and in the under-part a larger one. 1860 FARADAY *Forces Nat.* (1874) 186 A single small speculum, no larger than a nut, will send it in any direction we please. 1873 SPON *Workshop Rec.* Ser. I. 317/1 Place the speculum, face downwards, in a dish.

fig. 1826 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* xlvii. IV. 404 The ultimate object intended to be reflected from this great speculum of creation. 1829 I. TAYLOR *Enthus.* vi. 146 The few individuals in every age to whom it has happened to live, and act, and speak under the focus of the speculum of history.

b. *spec.* A metallic mirror forming part of a reflecting telescope.

1704 NEWTON *Optics* (1721) 97 Such an Instrument, .. if it be six Foot long, (reckoning the length from the Speculum to the Prism, and thence to the Focus T). 1782 J. EDWARDS in *Naut. Almanac* (1787) 52 The Springs at the Back of the great Speculum, which are every Moment varying their Elasticity. 1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* I. 44 It .. is susceptible of so exquisite a polish, as to be admirably adapted for the speculums of telescopes. *c* 1865 *Wylde's Circ. Sciences* I. 73/2 The speculum is generally made of an alloy composed of variable quantities of copper and tin. 1868 LOCKYER *Elem. Astron.* § 481 The largest reflector in the world has been constructed by the late Earl of Rosse; its mirror, or *speculum*, is six feet in diameter.

c. *transf.* A telescope fitted with a speculum.

1789 HERSCHEL in *Phil. Trans.* (1790) LXXX. 10 In hopes of great success with my forty-feet speculum, I deferred the attack upon Saturn till that should be finished.

†**3.** A diagram or drawing. *Obs.*—1

1676 COLEY *Clavis Astrol.* (ed. 2) III. 674 A Speculum of the Geniture, or Table of the Radiations of the Planets.

4. *Ornith.* A lustrous mark on the wings of certain birds; = MIRROR *sb.* 6 b.

1804 BEWICK *Brit. Birds* II. 342 The exterior webs .. are glossed with gold green, which forms the speculum or beauty-spot of the wings. 1863 C. ST. JOHN *Nat. Hist. & Sport Moray* 35 The pochard has no speculum or bright bar on the wing. 1871 DARWIN *Desc. Man* I. viii. 291 The beautiful green speculum on the wings is common to both sexes.

5. *attrib.* **a.** *Speculum metal*, an alloy of copper and tin used for making specula. Also *speculum steel.*

1796 *Phil. Trans.* LXXXVI. 438 The composition in common use, which contains the greatest proportion of tin, is called speculum metal. 1807–10 TANNAHILL *Poems* (1846) 76 'Twas by the rays' reflected heat, Frae speculum steel. 1818 W. PHILLIPS *Outl. Min. & Geol.* (ed. 3) 46 If the proportion of tin [to copper] amount to one third, it forms speculum metal, used for reflecting telescopes. 1873 SPON *Workshop Rec.* Ser. I. 13/1, 2 lbs. copper, 1 lb. tin, 1 oz. arsenic, form a good speculum metal.

b. *Speculum forceps* (see quot. '1875).

1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2261/1 *Speculum-forceps*, long, slender forceps, used for dressing wounds or operating on parts not accessible except through speculums. 1881 *Trans. Obstet. Soc. Lond.* XXII. 47 The ovum could generally be removed by the administration of ergot and the ordinary speculum forceps.

Sped, *ppl. a.* [Pa. pple. of SPEED *v.*] Discharged; let go.

1891 H. HERMAN *His Angel* 75 No human ingenuity has yet invented the means of recalling the sped bolt.

Sped, obs. f. SPADE *sb.*1 and *sb.*3, SPEED *sb.*; pret. of SPEED *v.* **Spedd(e,** obs. pret. of SPEED *v.* **Spede,** obs. f. SPEED *sb.* and *v.* **Spedee, Sped(e)ful(le, Spedi,** etc., obs. ff. SPEEDY *a.*, SPEEDFUL *a.*, etc. **Speece,** variant of SPECE *Obs.*

Speech (spīʃ), *sb.*1 Forms: *a.* 1–2 **spræc, sprec,** 2 **sprace, spræche.** *β.* 1 **spæc, spec,** 2 **spece,** 3 **spæche (spache, spiche),** 3–6 **spech** (4 **spieche**), 4–6 **spech,** 6– **speech,** 6–7 **speach, speache**; *Sc.* 6 **speitche,** 6–7 **speiche.** [OE. *spræc*, *sprǽc* (later *spǽc*, *spǽc*), = OFris. *sprêke*, *sprêtse* (NFris. *sprêk*, *spriak*) and *sprâke* (WFris. *sprake*, *spraek*, EFris. *sprôk*), MDu. *sprâke*, *spraec* (Du. *spraak*), OS. *sprâka* (MLG. *sprâke*, LG. *sprâke*, *sprâk*, etc.; hence Sw. *språk*, Da. *sprog*), OHG. *sprâhha* (MHG. *sprâche*, G. *sprache*), f. *sprǽc-* the pret. pl. stem of *sprecan*, *specan* SPEAK *v.* As in the verb, the forms with *spr-* did not survive beyond the 12th century.]

I. 1. The act of speaking; the natural exercise of the vocal organs; the utterance of words or sentences; oral expression of thought or feeling.

c 725 *Corpus Gloss.* (Hessels) S 299 *Sermo*, spræc. *c* 897 K. ÆLFRED tr. *Gregory's Past. C.* 274 Hit is awriten .. ǽette hwilum sie spræce tiid, hwilum swiggean. *c* 1000 *Ags. Gosp.* Matt. vi. 7 Hiȝ wenaþ þæt hi sin gehyrede on hyra menigfealden spæce. *c* 1230 *Hali Meid.* 17 Hire forme fulst is sihðe: .. Speche is hire oðer help. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 7197 Stalwarde mon of speche he was. *c* 1330 *Assump. Virg.* (B.M. MS.) 628 Oure mayne þee knewe þat ilke nyȝt Bothe bi speche & by syȝt. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Prol.* 783 Hold up youre hond withoute more speche. *c* 1400 LOVE *Bonavent. Mirr.* (1908) 53 For moche speche with oute frute is a grete vice and displesynge to god and man. *c* 1470 *Gol. & Gaw.* 261 Than schir Spynagrose with speche spak to the king. 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* XX. 4 In mekle speche is part of vanitie. 1594 T. B. *La Primaud. Fr. Acad.* II. 89 Thus the thoughtes and counsailes of the minde and spirite are discouered and manifested by speach. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* VIII. 377, I with leave of speech implor'd, And humble deprecation thus repli'd. 1690 LOCKE *Hum. Und.* III. vi. (1695) 258 This is adjusted to the true end of Speech, which is to be the easiest and shortest way of communicating our Notions. 1732 BERKELEY *Alciphr.* I. § 14 Men .. express their thoughts by speech. 1751 HARRIS *Hermes* Wks. (1841) 117 Since speech, then, is the joint energy of our best and noblest faculties. 1825 SCOTT *Talism.* XXII, A movement .. attended with no speech and very little noise. 1864 *Reader* 14 May 626 The author would define human speech as a method of expressing human thought by audible sounds. 1887 BOWEN *Æneid* VI. 387 He accosts them, and first breaks silence in speech.

fig. 1611 SHAKS. *Wint. T.* V. ii. 14 There was speech in their dumbness, Language in their very gesture.

transf. 1866 B. TAYLOR *Euphorion* 273 The speech of winds. 1904 SWINBURNE *Channel Passage*, etc. 181 The speech of storm, the thunders of the soul.

b. *transf.* The speaking or sounding of a musical instrument, organ-pipe, etc.

1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib., Brit.* II. No. 3377, Quickness of 'speech', flute-like quality of tone, .. are some of the characteristics of the English harmonium. 1880 *Grove's Dict. Music* II. 578 The manner of testing the 'speech' [of an organ] by blowing the pipe with the mouth in various ways. 1882 W. E. DICKSON *Pract. Organ-building* xii. 146 The speech of the pipe will be entirely unaltered.

†**c.** *fig.* Mouth-piece; organ. *Obs.*—1

1578 T. N. tr. *Conq. W. India* (1596) 34 Certainly he was the meane and speech of all their proceedings.

A NEW ENGLISH DICTIONARY ON HISTORICAL PRINCIPLES.

(VOLUME IX. FIRST HALF. SI.—ST.)

SPEECH—SPRING.

BY

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PREFATORY NOTE.

THIS double section contains 1745 Main words, 298 Special Combinations explained under these, 979 Obvious Combinations, and 284 Subordinate entries of obsolete or variant forms; in all 3306 words. Of the Main words 374 are marked † as obsolete, and 53 are marked ‖ as alien or not fully naturalized.

Comparison with Johnson's and some recent Dictionaries gives the following results :—

	Johnson.	Cassell's 'Encyclopædic'.	'Century' Dict.	Funk's 'Standard'.	Here.
Words recorded	230	1196	1719	1522	3306
Words illustrated by quotations	196	443	354	136	3028
Number of quotations	743	693	960	186	16,733

In the corresponding portion of Richardson the quotations number 601.

This double section contains a further instalment of words beginning with SP-, in which the Teutonic, Romanic, and Greek elements of the English vocabulary are very fully represented. Among the native words (most of them sufficiently recorded from the Old English period onwards) are *speech, speed, spell, spew, spider, spill, spin, spindle, spit, spoke, spoon, sprawl, spread,* and *spring,* which together with their derivatives occupy many columns in all. In addition to these there is a large percentage of words now obsolete, or surviving only in dialect use, for many of which the evidence is very scanty. A number of these, first recorded in Middle English, have corresponding forms in the other Teutonic languages, and some may really have been adopted from the Continent. Among the older words which clearly appear to have a Dutch or Low German origin are *spill* sb.[2], *spirling, splice, splint, splinter,* and *split*; during the 19th cent. Dutch has also supplied *spook* and *spoor.* An interesting example of a local form attaining a wide currency in recent years is *spindrift.* Gaelic is scantily represented by *spleuchan, sporran,* and *spreath* (corruptly *spreagh*).

The French contributions are numerous and important, including *spell* v.[2] (with its older variant *spelder* v.[1]), *spice, spicery, spinach, spine, spinel, spinet, spinney, spoil, spouse,* etc., and some aphetic forms, as *spence*[1], *spense, spite, splay,* and *sport.* Latin stems are largely represented among these words, as well as in such forms as *spicule, spike* sb.[1], *spikenard, spinal, spinous, spiracle, spirit* (with many derivatives), *splendid, splendour, spoliation, sponsor, spontaneous,* etc. *Spirit* also appears in the disguised form *spright* (whence *sprightly*), and an unusual development from a Latin source is found in *spittle* sb.[1] (hospital).

The Greek element, adopted directly or through Latin, is in this section above the average; in addition to the words beginning with SPH- (which include *sphere, spheric,* etc., and *Sphinx*), it comprises *sperm, spire* sb.[3], *splanchnic, spleen, spondee, spondyle, sponge, sporadic, spore,* and a variety of derivatives from some of the stems represented by these.

The precise source of many of the minor words in this section is doubtful, and some of the more important still remain more or less obscure. A few are fanciful formations on ordinary words, as *speechify, spellbinder, spittoon, splendacious, spreadation,* while others are probably or certainly due to pure inventiveness, as *spiff, spiffy, spiflicate, splurge, spoff, spondulicks, spoof, spree.* Some which begin with SPL- (e.g. *splash*) are later variants of forms with PL-.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS, SIGNS, &c.

a. [in Etymol.] ... = adoption of, adopted from.
a (as *a* 1300) ..... = *ante*, before.
a., *adj.*, adj..... = adjective.
absol., absol. ..... = absolutely.
abst. ..... = abstract.
acc..... = accusative.
ad. [in Etymol.]... = adaptation of.
adv., adv. ..... = adverb.
advb. ..... = adverbial, -ly.
AF., AFr. ..... = Anglo-French.
Anat. ..... = in Anatomy.
Antiq...... = in Antiquities.
aphet..... = aphetic, aphetized.
app..... = apparently.
Arab. ..... = Arabic.
Arch. ..... = in Architecture.
arch. ..... = archaic.
Archæol...... = in Archæology.
assoc. ..... = association.
Astr. ..... = in Astronomy.
Astrol. ..... = in Astrology.
attrib. ..... = attributive, -ly.
bef. ..... = before.
Biol. ..... = in Biology.
Boh. ..... = Bohemian.
Bot...... = in Botany.
Build...... = in Building.
c (as *c* 1300) ..... = *circa*, about.
c. (as 13th c.)..... = century.
Cat..... = Catalan.
catachr. ..... = catachrestically.
Cf., cf.,..... = *confer*, compare.
Chem. ..... = in Chemistry.
cl. L. ..... = classical Latin.
cogn. w. ..... = cognate with.
collect...... = collective, -ly.
colloq. ..... = colloquially.
comb. ..... = combined, -ing.
Comb...... = Combinations.
Comm. ..... = in commercial usage.
comp. ..... = compound, composition.
compl. ..... = complement.
Conch...... = in Conchology.
concr. ..... = concretely.
conj. ..... = conjunction.
cons. ..... = consonant.
Const., *Const.* ... = Construction, construed with.
Cryst. ..... = in Crystallography.
(D.) ..... = in Davies (Supp. Eng. Glossary).
Da. ..... = Danish.
dat. ..... = dative.
def. ..... = definite.
deriv. ..... = derivative, -ation.
dial., *dial.* ..... = dialect, -al.
Dict. ..... = Dictionary.
dim. ..... = diminutive.
Du. ..... = Dutch.
Eccl. ..... = in ecclesiastical usage.
ellipt. ..... = elliptical, -ly.
e. midl. ..... = east midland (dialect).
Eng. ..... = English.
Ent. ..... = in Entomology.
erron. ..... = erroneous, -ly.
esp., esp..... = especially.
etym. ... . = etymology.
euphem. ..... = euphemistically.
exc..... = except.
f. [in Etymol.] ... = formed on.
f. (in subordinate entries) ..... = form of.
fem. (*rarely* f.) ... = feminine.
fig. ..... = figurative, -ly.
F., Fr..... = French.
freq. ..... = frequently.
Fris. ..... = Frisian.
G., Ger..... = German.
Gael. ..... = Gaelic.
gen. ..... = genitive.
gen. ..... = general, -ly.
gen. sign. ..... = general signification.
Geol. ..... = in Geology.
Geom. ..... = in Geometry.
Goth. ..... = Gothic (= Mœso-Gothic).
Gr. ..... = Greek.
Gram...... = in Grammar.
Heb. ..... = Hebrew.
Her. ..... = in Heraldry.
Herb. ..... = with herbalists.
Hort. ..... = in Horticulture.
imp. ..... = Imperative.
impers. ..... = impersonal.
impf. ..... = imperfect.
ind...... = Indicative.
indef. ..... = indefinite.
inf. ..... = Infinitive.
infl. ..... = influenced.
int. ..... = interjection.
intr. ..... = intransitive.
It. ..... = Italian.
J., (J.) ..... = Johnson (quotation from).
(Jam.)..... = in Jamieson, Scottish Dict.
(Jod.)..... = Jodrell (quoted from).
L. ..... = Latin.
(L.)(in quotations) = Latham's edn. of Todd's lang. ..... = language. [Johnson.
LG..... = Low German.
lit. ..... = literal, -ly.
Lith. ..... = Lithuanian.
LXX. ..... = Septuagint.
Mal. ..... = Malay.
masc. (*rarely* m.) = masculine.
Math. ..... = in Mathematics.
ME..... = Middle English.
Med. ..... = in Medicine.
med.L. ..... = mediæval Latin.
Mech. ..... = in Mechanics.
Metaph. ..... = in Metaphysics.
MHG. ..... = Middle High German.
midl. ..... = midland (dialect).
Mil. ..... = in military usage.
Min. ..... = in Mineralogy.
mod. ..... = modern.
Mus. ..... = in Music.
(N.) ..... = Nares (quoted from).
n. of action..... = noun of action.
n. of agent ..... = noun of agent.
Nat. Hist. ..... = in Natural History.
Naut. ..... = in nautical language.
neut. (*rarely* n.) = neuter.
NF., NFr. ..... = Northern French.
N. O. ..... = Natural Order.
nom. ..... = nominative.
north. ..... = northern (dialect).
N. T. ..... = New Testament.
Numism. ..... = in Numismatics.
obj. ..... = object.
Obs., *obs.*, obs. ... = obsolete.
occas. ..... = occasional, -ly.
OE..... = Old English (= Anglo-Saxon).
OF., OFr. ..... = Old French.
OFris. ..... = Old Frisian.
OHG..... = Old High German.
OIr..... = Old Irish.
ON. ..... = Old Norse (Old Icelandic).
ONF. .. .. = Old Northern French.
Opt...... = in Optics.
Ornith. ..... = in Ornithology.
OS. ..... = Old Saxon.
OSl. ..... = Old Slavonic.
O. T. ..... = Old Testament.
OTeut. ..... = Original Teutonic.
orig. ..... = original, -ly.
Palæont...... = in Palæontology.
pa. pple. ..... = passive or past participle.
pass. ..... = passive, -ly.
pa. t. ..... = past tense.
Path. ..... = in Pathology.
perh. ..... = perhaps.
Pers. ..... = Persian.
pers. ..... = person, -al.
pf. ..... = perfect.
Pg. ..... = Portuguese.
Philol. ..... = in Philology.
phonet. ..... = phonetic, -ally.
phr...... = phrase.
Phren. ..... = in Phrenology.
Phys. ..... = in Physiology.
pl., *pl.* ..... = plural.
poet...... = poetic.
pop. ..... = popular, -ly.
ppl. a., ppl. adj.... = participial adjective.
pple. ..... = participle.
Pr. ..... = Provençal.
prec. ..... = preceding (word or article).
pref. ..... = prefix.
prep. ..... = preposition.
pres. ..... = present.
Prim. sign. ..... = Primary signification.
priv. ..... = privative.
prob. ..... = probably.
pron. ..... = pronoun.
pronunc..... = pronunciation.
prop. ..... = properly.
Pros. ..... = in Prosody.
pr. pple. ..... = present participle.
Psych...... = in Psychology.
q.v. ..... = *quod vide*, which see.
(R.) ..... = in Richardson's Dict.
R. C. Ch. ..... = Roman Catholic Church.
refash..... = refashioned, -ing.
refl., refl. ..... = reflexive.
reg..... = regular.
repr. ..... = representative, representing.
Rhet. ..... = in Rhetoric.
Rom. ..... = Romanic, Romance.
sb., *sb.* ..... = substantive.
Sc. ..... = Scotch.
sc. ..... = *scilicet*, understand or supply.
sing. ..... = singular.
Skr..... = Sanskrit.
Slav. ..... = Slavonic.
Sp. ..... = Spanish.
sp. ..... = spelling.
spec. ..... = specifically.
subj. ..... = subject, subjunctive.
subord. cl. ..... = subordinate clause.
subseq. ..... = subsequently.
subst. ..... = substantively.
suff..... = suffix.
superl. ..... = superlative.
Surg. ..... = in Surgery.
Sw. ..... = Swedish.
s.w. ..... = south western (dialect).
T. (T.) ..... = in Todd's Johnson.
techn. ..... = technical, -ly.
Theol. ..... = in Theology.
tr. ..... = translation of.
trans. ..... = transitive.
transf. ..... = transferred sense.
Trig. ..... = in Trigonometry.
Typog. ..... = in Typography.
ult. ..... = ultimate, -ly.
unkn. ..... = unknown.
U.S. ..... = United States.
v., vb. ..... = verb.
v. str., or *w* ..... = verb strong, or weak.
vbl. sb. ..... = verbal substantive.
var. ..... = variant of.
wd. ..... = word.
WGer. ..... = West Germanic.
w.midl. ..... = west midland (dialect).
WS. ..... = West Saxon.
(Y.)..... = in Col. Yule's Glossary.
Zool. ..... = in Zoology.

Before a word or sense.
† = obsolete.
‖ = not naturalized.

In the quotations.
* sometimes points out the word illustrated.

In the list of Forms.
1 = before 1100.
2 = 12th c. (1100 to 1200).
3 = 13th c. (1200 to 1300).
5–7 = 15th to 17th century. (See General Explanations, Vol. I, p. xx.)

In the Etymol.
* indicates a word or form not actually found, but of which the existence is inferred.
:— = extant representative, or regular phonetic descendant of.

The printing of a word in SMALL CAPITALS indicates that further information will be found under the word so referred to.

2. Talk, speaking, or discourse; colloquy, conversation, conference. Commonly const. *with* or *of* (a person), and chiefly occurring in phrases, esp. *to have speech*.

†*In speech with*, in negotiation with. *Obs.*

(*a*) *c*900 tr. *Baeda's Hist.* III. xxviii. 248 Osweo..& Ecgberht ..hæfdon betweoh him spræce & ȝeþeahte, hwæt to donne wære [etc.]. *c*975 *Rushw. Gosp.* John xi. 47 Ȝisomnadun.. ða biscopas & æ-larwas to sprece. *c*1000 ÆLFRIC *Saints' Lives* iv. 342 Se dema..æfter langsumre spræce let þa modor to þam suna. *c*1200 ORMIN 12803 Biforenn þatt Filippe toc To clepenn þe to spæche. *c*1400 *Pilgr. Sowle* (Caxton, 1483) IV. xxiv. 70 We shalle take the right weye to the yonder lady of whiche we ben in speche. 1604 SHAKS. *Oth.* II. iii. 225 Montano and my selfe being in speech, There comes a Fellow. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* IX. 1133 Adam ..Speech intermitted thus to Eve renewd. 1850 TENNYSON *In Mem.* Concl. xxvi, Again the feast, the speech, the glee.

(*b*) *c*900 tr. *Baeda's Hist.* I. xxvii. 72 Hafa ðu mid þone ilcan biscop sprece & ȝeþeahte hwæt to donne sy. *c*1000 ÆLFRIC *Hom.* II. 584 Seo cwen ða hæfde spræce wið Salomon. *a*1122 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1085, Æfter þisum hæfde se cyng mycel ȝeþeaht & swiðe deope spæce wið his witan ymbe þis land. *c*1275 *O. E. Misc.* 86 Ich hit am.. þat wiþ þe holde speche. 1489 *Cely Papers* (Camden) 15, I am in speche wyt Hewe Brone..for money. 1596 HARINGTON in *Metam. Ajax* (1814) p. xiv, To make him come to speech with him. 1601 SHAKS. *All's Well* II. v. 62 He desires Some priuate speech with you. 1653 HOLCROFT *Procopius, Goth. Wars* II. 60 Venetia, where having speech with Vitalius, they repented of their Errour against the Emperour. 1819 SCOTT *Ivanhoe* xliii, When, in speech with each other, they expanded their blubber lips. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. II. ii, There is speech of men in uniform with men not in uniform.

(*c*) 1599 SHAKS. *Much Ado* V. ii. 3 Praie thee..deserue well at my hands, by helping mee to the speech of Beatrice. 1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* xxxiv, Look to it that none have speech of her. 1858 M. ARNOLD *Merope* 928 A messenger.. Arrived, and of the King had speech but now. 1872 BLACK *Adv. Phaeton* xii. 165 He had come from London to get speech of his sweetheart.

b. With possessive pronoun, or *the* and genitive: The opportunity of speaking or conversing with a person; an audience or interview with one. In phrases *to come, be admitted, bring, to* (one's) *speech*. Now *arch.* or *Obs.*

*c*900 tr. *Baeda's Hist.* I. xxv. 58 Se cyning..het Agustinum mid his ȝeferum þider to his spræce cuman. *a*1122 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1093, Ne mihte he beon weorðe ..ure cynges spæce. 1123 *Ibid.* an. 1123, Ær hi mihte cumen to þes papes spræce. 1451 CAPGRAVE *Life St. Aug.* 16 Sche is come to lond and to þe speche of hir son. 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 384 b, Being admitted to his speache aboute the begynnynge of December. 1595 RALEIGH *Discov. Guiana* 2 In all that time we came not to the speach of any Indian or Spaniard. 1640 tr. *Verdere's Rom. of Rom.* II. 169, I will bring you to the speech of her whom it represents. 1690 G. FAREWELL in *Andros Tracts* II. 187 He could never obtaine a releasement, or by any meanes come to the speech of any of their Magistrates. 1734 *Col. Records Pennsylv.* III. 548 They were admitted after some time to the Speech of the Prisoners. 1778 *Hist. Eliza Warwick* II. 49 Sir Charles's valet..soon brought her to the speech of him. 1809 MALKIN *Gil Blas* V. i. ¶ 65 He found the means of getting to the speech of me in private. 1821 SCOTT *Nigel* xxvii, To the speech of the King you will not come so easily, unless you..meet him alone.

c. Mention *of* a thing. Also with *no*. Now *rare*.

*c*1305 *Land Cokayne* 111 in *E. E. P.* (1862) 159 N'is no spech of no drink, Ak take inoȝ wiþ-vte swink. *c*1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* I. 1115 Conuenyent hit is to knowe, of bathis Whil speche is mad [etc.]. 1565 RANDOLPH in Tytler *Hist. Scot.* (1864) III. 194 The speech of this marriage to any of them all..is so much contrary to their desires that [etc.]. 1592 *Arden of Feversham* IV. iv. 66 But see in any case you make no speache Of the cheare we had at my Lord Cheineis. 1659 H. THORNDIKE *Wks.* (1846) II. 550 Being meant of the vine which he had speech of a little afore that. 1864 TROLLOPE *Can you forgive her?* I. xix. 150 No payment of former loans had been made, nor had there been any speech of such.

†**d.** *To take the speech* [after F. *prendre la parole*], to take one's turn in conversation. *Obs.*[-1]

1612 SHELTON *Quix.* I. IV. xiv. 453 Then she taking the speech, demanded..whether I was a Gentleman.

3. Common or general talk; report, rumour, or current mention *of* something. Freq. with *much* or *great*. Now *rare* or *Obs.* (Cf. 9 a.)

*c*1200 ORMIN 4877 All onn hæþing & o skarn Off me gaþ eȝȝwhær spæche. *c*1275 LAY. 4018 Þo was mochel speche ouer al þeos kineriche of Juden þare cwene. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* II. 31 Anon as Demephon it herde, And every man it hadde in speche, His sorwe was noght tho to seche. *c*1400 *Three Kings Cologne* (1886) 51 Grete speche was in all þe contrey among all þe pepil long tyme after of hem. 1533 MORE *Debell. Salem* Wks. 930/1 And of thys trauail.. I herde much speach made almost euery weeke. 1562 *Child-Marriages* 99 He sais he dwellid nere them, & ther was spech of such thinges, but he toke no hede of them. 1601 JONSON *Ev. Man in Hum.* (Q.[1]), III. ii. 35 Doctor Clement, what's he? I haue heard much speech of him. 1622 BACON *Hen. VII*, 211 My Lord, I haue heard much of your Hospitalitie, but I see it is greater then the speach. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* III. II. i, There comes Committee Report on that Decree.., and speech of repealing it.

†**b.** Const. with inf. or clause. *Obs.*

1600 E. BLOUNT *Hosp. Incur. Fooles* 309 Besides there was speech to sende fowre galliasses and twelue galleies. 1616 SIR C. MOUNTAGU in *Buccleuch MSS.* (Hist. MSS. Comm.) I. 250 There is now speech the Lord Chief Baron shall go into the King's Bench. 1677 W. HUBBARD *Narrative* II. 5 In the mean time before there was yet any Speech, or endeavour to settle any other Plantation in those parts.

†**c.** *In speech*, spoken about, mentioned. *Obs.*

1602 SIR H. SAVILE in *Buccleuch MSS.* (Hist. MSS. Comm.) I. 36 A fit man is sought out to be employed.., and yourself already here in speech for that service. 1617–8 SIR D. CARLETON *Lett.* (1775) 233, I have been moved..concerning the residence of our merchant-adventurers, which hath been often attempted, and is now again in speech, to be removed from Middleburg. 1628 HOBBES tr. *Thucydides* (1822) 13 The truest quarrel, though least in speech, I conceive to be the growth of the Athenian power.

II. 4. The form of utterance peculiar to a particular nation, people, or group of persons; a language, tongue, or dialect.

*c*888 K. ÆLFRED *Boeth.* xviii. § 2 Forðon hiora spræc is todæled on twa & [orr] hundseofontiȝ, & ælc þara spræca is todæled on maneȝa þioda. *c*1000 ÆLFRIC *Gen.* xi. 1 Ealle men spræcon ane spræce. *a*1122 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1095, Þa het he makian ænne castel..& hine on his spæce Malueisin het, þæt is on Englisc Yfel nehhebur. *c*1200 ORMIN Ded. 130 And tærfore hafe icc turrnedd itt Inntill Ennglisshe spæche. *Ibid.* 16057 To spekenn wel Wiþþ alle þede spæchess. *c*1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 665 Al was on speche ðor bi-foren, ðor woren sundri speches boren. 13.. *Cursor M.* 2270 (Gött.), Þat first was bot an and na ma; Nou er þer spechis sexti and tua. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) II. 93 Gildas..turnede þese tweie lawes out of Bretoun speche in to Latyn. *c*1400 MAUNDEV. (Roxb.) iii. 8 Þare er also many oþer diuerse cuntreez and spechez..obeyand to þe emperour. 1535 COVERDALE 2 *Kings* xviii. 26 Speake to thy seruauntes in the Syrians language,..and speake not vnto vs in the Iewes speche. 1547 BOORDE *Introd. Knowledge* iv. (1870) 137 In Scotlande they haue two sondry speches. 1603 G. OWEN *Pembrokeshire* (1892) 17 Both the ffleminges and ffrench speach alltogether worne awaie. 1674 tr. *Scheffer's Lapland* 74 When from the original of the People he infers the same of the Speech. 1727 DE FOE *Syst. Magic* I. i. (1840) 17 The several families who understood one another's speech kept together. 1840 HOOD *Up the Rhine* 31 They deal in foreign gestures, And use a foreign speech. 1875 WHITNEY *Life Lang.* iii. 37 There are at least two sounds in the Anglo-Saxon which are unknown in our present speech.

5. The faculty or power of speaking, or of expressing thoughts by articulate sounds.

?*a*1000 *Laws Ethelb.* § 52 (Liebermann), Ȝif spræc awyrd weorð .XII. scillingas. *c*1000 *Sax. Leechd.* II. 288 Ȝif hwam seo spræc oþfylð. *c*1053 *O. E. Chron.* (MS. C) an. 1053, Þa færinga sah he niðer wið þæs fotsetles spræce benumen. *a*1175 in Napier *Holy Rood-tree* 8 [Me] iðuht wæs þæt mi spece me ætfeallæn wæs. *c*1200 ORMIN 7299 Hemm alle beþ o Domess daȝȝ Binumenn muþ & spæche. *a*1225 *Leg. Kath.* 495 Muð bute speche, ehnen buten sihðe. *c*1320 *Sir Tristr.* 1489 No ȝede he bot ten stride, His speche les he þar. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* v. xxiii. (Bodl. MS.), Euerich beest þat is with oute lunges is with oute voice and speche. *c*1420 LYDG. *Assembly of Gods* 517 Yef I may see hys fase, For euer of hys speche I shall hym depryue. 1587 GOLDING *De Mornay* i. 8 When in..man we..consider Speech: must wee not needes say that he was made to communicate himselfe to many? 1676 SOUTH *Serm.* (1715) 342 That Speech was given to the ordinary Sort of Men, whereby to communicate their Mind; but to wise Men, whereby to conceal it. 1732 LEDIARD *Sethos* II. IX. 288 The Governor..had recover'd the use of his speech. 1742 YOUNG *Nt. Th.* II. 469 Had thought been all, sweet speech had been deny'd. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* iv. I. 439 Soon after dawn the speech of the dying man failed. *a*1854 H. REED *Lect. Eng. Lit.* iii. (1878) 88 Speech, even more than reason, distinguishes man from the brute.

fig. 1664 MARVELL *Corr.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 167 Seeing upon so extraordinary occasions as these, the boldest eloquence would lose its speech.

6. Manner or mode of speaking; *esp.* the method of utterance habitual to a particular person. Usually with possessives.

*c*1000 *Ags. Gosp.* Matt. xxvi. 73 Soþlice þu eart of hym, & þin spræc [*Hatt.* sprace] þe ȝeswutelað. *c*1200 ORMIN 2207 Siþþenn seȝȝde he sone anan Wiþþ all full openn spæche [etc.]. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 8535 He was quointe of conseil & speke [*v.r.* speche] & of bodi strong. 1338 R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (1810) 30 No non [was] so faire of face, of spech so lufly. *c*1386 CHAUCER *Clerk's T.* 797 O goode God! how gentil and how kynde Ye semede by your speche and your visage. 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* xviii. 31 And be I ornat in my speiche, Than Towsy sayis [etc.]. 1535 COVERDALE *Mark* xiv. 70 Thou art a Galilean, and thy speach soundeth euen alike. 1598 YONG *Diana* 347 Putting a corner of his handkercher in his mouth, bicause he would not be knowen by his speech. 1644 MILTON *Educ.* (1738) 137 Their Speech is to be fashioned to a distinct and clear pronounciation. 1781 COWPER *Table T.* 346 His speech, his form, his action, full of grace. 1839 FR. A. KEMBLE *Resid. in Georgia* (1863) 67 They are languid in their deportment and speech. 1867 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* (1877) I. App. 725 Charmed with the handsome countenance and ready speech of the youth.

III. 7. The result of speaking; that which is spoken or uttered: **a.** With possessives, etc.: One's words, discourse, or talk.

*c*897 K. ÆLFRED *Gregory's Past. C.* 192 Ðu bist ðonne ..ȝehæft mid ðinre aȝenre spræce. *c*950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* John viii. 43 Sprec min ne onȝeattas ȝie. *c*1000 *Lambeth Ps.* cxviii. 172 Freabodaþ *vel* mærsað tunge min spæce þin. *c*1075 *O. E. Chron.* (Parker MS.) an. 1070, Þa angan Thomas his spæce hu he com to Cantuuarebyri [etc.]. *c*1200 ORMIN 18736 All þuss he spacc onnȝæness hemm To lihhnenn þeȝȝre spæche. *a*1250 *Prov. Ælfred* (C.) 22 He was wis on his worde, and war on his speche. *a*1300 *Cursor M.* 27932 Speche o disur, Rimes vnright, gest of Jogolur. 1382 WYCLIF *John* viii. 43 Whi knowen ȝe not my speche? for ȝe mown not heere my word. *c*1460 *Vrbanit.* in *Babees Book* (1868) 15 With þy speche þou may þe spylle. 1535 COVERDALE 1 *Sam.* xxv. 33 Blessed be thy speach, and blessed be thou. 1552 HULOET *Dict.* A j, A.A.A which is the primitive Speache or naturall voyce of a Baby. 1605 CAMDEN *Rem.* (1623) 39 You may frame your speech according to the matter you must worke on. 1644 MILTON *Areop.* (Arb.) 31 They who to States and Governours of the Commonwealth direct their Speech. 1779 *Mirror* No. 64, Every one seemed impatient of his neighbour's speech, and eager to have an opportunity of introducing his own. 1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* xxiii, A man, whose mixed speech of earthly wealth and unearthly..knowledge, hath in it [etc.]. 1860 TRENCH *Serm. Westm. Abbey* ix. 117 We may be quite sure that as our speech is, so we are.

b. In general use.

Part of speech: see PART *sb.* 19.

971 *Blickl. Hom.* 225 Ne ȝehyrde næniȝ man on his muþe oht elles nefne Cristes lof & nytte spræce. *a*1023 WULFSTAN *Hom.* (1883) 299 Haliȝ ȝeþanc and god spæc and fullfremed worc. *a*1122 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1114, He wolde sprecon mid him dærne sprece. *c*1205 LAY. 445 Pandrasum þene king he grette mid greiðlicre speche. *c*1275 *Passion our Lord* 257 in *O. E. Misc.*, Vre louerd hym onswerede myd swyþe veyre speche. 1362 LANGL. *P. Pl.* A. II. 23 Fauuel with feir speche haþ brouȝt hem to-gedere. *a*1400–50 *Alexander* 739 Reviles he þis oþire renke with vnrid speche. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 92 b, [He] defendeth with hygh and clamorous wordes or speche his opinyon. 1581 LAMBARDE *Eiren.* I. ii. (1588) 11 The Statutes..do all (in playne speach) couple the maintenance of the Peace with the pursuing of suites. 1647 TRAPP *Comm. 1 Tim.* v. 13 The Rabbins have a Proverb, that ten Kabs of speech descended into the world, and the women took away nine of them. 1697 tr. *Burgersdicius' Logic* I. xxiv. 98 Speech is either perfect or imperfect. Perfect is that that absolves the sentence; an imperfect is not. 1821 SHELLEY *Ginevra* 62 If..wildered looks, or words, or evil speech,..can impeach Our love. 1872 HUXLEY *Physiol.* vii. 184 Speech is voice modulated by the throat, tongue, and lips. 1874 SAYCE *Compar. Philol.* i. 14 Speech is uttered thought.

†**c.** = LOGOS. *Obs. rare.*

1587 GOLDING *De Mornay* v. (1592) 50 The same thing which in the Trinitie we call the Sonne, the Word, the Speech.

8. A certain number of words uttered by a person at one time; *esp.* a more or less formal utterance or statement with respect to something.

*c*888 K. ÆLFRED *Boeth.* xl. § 1 Hwæðer ðu nu onȝite hwider þios spræce wille? 971 *Blickl. Hom.* 195 Þa mycclan spræca..weorþaþ him þonne ealle on heaf ȝehwyrfede. *c*1000 ÆLFRIC *Gen.* xvii. 22 God þa astah upp..siððan he þas spræce ȝeendod hæfde. *a*1200 *Vices & Virtues* 11 Godes forbode, ðe me forbett alle euele spaches. *a*1275 *Prov. Ælfred* 353 Gin þu neuere leuen alle monnis spechen. 13.. *Gaw. & Gr. Knt.* 1261 Þe knyȝt with speches skere, Answared to vche a cace. 1362 LANGL. *P. Pl.* A. x. 34 Alle þing at his wille was wrouȝt wiþ a speche. 1508 DUNBAR *Tua Mariit Wemen* 239 Onone quhen this amyable had endit hir speche..the laif allowit hir mekle. 1548 GESTE *Pr. Masse* G j, Yf thone be through the sayd speche autorysed to sacryfyce christis body, the other is in lyke maner. 1611 BIBLE *Transl. Pref.* ¶ 3 He would not suffer it to be broken off for whatsoeuer speaches or practises. 1642 FULLER *Holy & Prof. St.* III. xii. 181 Many have been the wise speeches of fools, though not so many as the foolish speeches of wise men. 1710 *Tatler* No. 266 ¶ 3, I began to make him compliments of condolence; but he started from his chair, and said, Isaac, you may spare your speeches. 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* xxxi, His quivering lip and lurking eye made her almost repent the boldness of her speech. 1819 SCOTT *Ivanhoe* xxix, From the speeches of these men who were my warders just now, I learn that I am a prisoner. 1841 DICKENS *Barn. Rudge* ii, The traveller returned no answer to this speech.

†**b.** An account or mention *of* something. *Obs.*

1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) I. 223 By þat wall is þe bath Byaneus made, of þe whiche baþ was raþer a speche [L. *de quo supra dicitur*].

†**c.** A talk or discourse between persons or *with* another. *Obs.*

1469 *Plumpton Corr.* (Camden) 23 It were well done that ye had a speech with Mr. Midleton of the forme of the pleading. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 352/2 A Speche, *colloquium*. 1508 DUNBAR *Tua Mariit Wemen* 12, I hard..Ane hie speiche, at my hand, with hautand wourdis. 1633 BP. HALL *Hard Texts* 507 Hitherto I have related the speech which the angel had with me.

d. An address or discourse of a more or less formal character delivered to an audience or assembly; an oration; also, the manuscript or printed copy or report of this.

1583–4 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* III. 631 Maister Andro Melvile..answerit that, althocht the speitche [*sc.* a sermon] wer alledgit to be treasoun, yit the tryell in the first instance aucht not to be befoir the King, bot befoir the Kirk. 1605 BACON *Adv. Learn.* II. xiii. § 7 Demosthenes..had ready framed a number of prefaces for orations and speeches. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* II. 71 After him Sir Francis Bacon concluded the accusation with a very eloquent speech. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* II. 731 Some Patriot Fools to popular Praise aspire, Of Publick Speeches, which worse Fools admire. 1758 *Ann. Reg.* 151/2 Four days after the speech was delivered, her royal highness carried it to the assembly of the States General. 1771 *Junius' Lett.* xlii. (1788) 237 The consideration of his Majesty's speech of 13th November 1770, and the subsequent measures of government. 1827 HARE *Guesses* (1859) 427 The difference between a speech and an essay should be something like that between a field of battle and a parade. 1855 DICKENS *Lett.* (1880) I. 400 They are going to print my speech in a tract-form. 1897 *Westm. Gaz.* 13 Jan. 1/1 The Council for the settlement of the Speech from the Throne at the opening of Parliament.

e. A school exercise or composition declaimed or recited upon speech-day.

1886 C. E. PASCOE *London of To-day* xviii. (ed. 3) 173 The proceedings on this anniversary begin with the 'speeches', delivered in 'Upper School', in Greek, Latin [etc.].

†**9. a.** A report or rumour. *Obs.* (Cf. 3.)

*c*1000 *Ags. Gosp.* Luke vii. 17 Ða ferde þeos spæc [*v.r.* spræc] be him on ealle iudea. *a*1400–50 *Alexander* 1884 For þan sall spring vp þe speche & sprede out of mynd, How I haue conquired a kyng þe kidest of þe werd. 1603 KNOLLES *Hist. Turks* (1621) 760 That there was a speech of a marriage to be made betwixt Mustapha and the Persian kings daughter. 1654 *Nicholas Papers* (Camden) II. 145 There is a speech here of many tropes discharged by Cromwells consent. 1660 *Essex Co.* (Mass.) *Crt. Rec.* in

Geneal. Q. Mag. III. 29 There was a speech that one Mr. Browne..had lost a mare.

† b. A current saying or assertion. *Obs.*

1575 Gascoigne *Flowers* Wks. 1907 I. 64 The common speech is, spend and God will send. 1577 B. Googe *Heresbach's Husb.* I. (1586) 20 b, The common people haue a speache, that ground enriched with Chalke, makes a riche father, and a beggerly sonne. 1639 Fuller *Holy War* v. xvii. (1647) 257 It was the common speech that the Holy land had long since been wonne, but for the false Collusion of the Templars..with the Infidels. 1642 tr. *Perkins' Prof. Bk.* v. § 411. 177 It is a common speech, That the dower of a woman ought to be assigned unto her by metes and bounds.

† c. A phrase, term, or idiom. *Obs.*

1596 Spenser *State Irel.* Wks. (Globe) 676 For Borh in old Saxon signifyeth a pledge or suretye, and yet it is soe used with us in some speaches, as Chaucer sayeth; St. John to *borrowe*. 1607 Topsell *Four-f. Beasts* (1658) 399 In ancient time, a Mouse-killer was taken for an opprobrious speech. 1675 Brooks *Gold. Key* Wks. 1867 V. 411 Vorsitus thinks it a speech taken from the custom of soldiers or cities.

† 10. A claim, cause, or suit, esp. of a legal nature; a law-plea. *Obs.* (common in OE.).

c 897 K. Ælfred *Gregory's Past. C.* xxviii. 196 Đeah hie ryhte spræce hæbben hiera yfel on him to tælonne. 961 in Thorpe *Charters* 203 Þæt þis æfre ȝesett spræc wære. *c* 1000 *Ags. Ps.* (Thorpe) ix. 4 Forðam þu demst minne dom and mine spræce. *c* 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 179 And ȝief he him [*sc.* his underling] set a speche and mid woȝedome binimeð him his biliue. *a* 1250 *Owl & Night.* 398 Þe nyhtegale..hire ofþuhte þat heo hadde þe speche so feor uorþ iladde. *Ibid.* 545 Yet nis þeos speche ibroht to dome. *c* 1381 Chaucer *Parl. Foules* 489 Frome the morowe gan this spech last Tyll don-warde went the sonne. wonder fast. [Cf. 495 Whan shall your cursyd pledynge haue an ende.] *c* 1450 *Godstow Reg.* 157 The sentence of this covenaunte.. was, that the said Abbesse shold withdraw her speche the which she hadde ayenst the said Symond afore the kyngis Iustice.

† b. A manorial court in the Forest of Dean (cf. quot. and Speech-house). *Obs.*

1687 *Customs Miners Dean Forest* 15 § 26 The Constable ..shall deliver the Miners in six weeks at the Speech, that is the Court for the Wood before the Verderors,..sufficient of Timber [etc.].

11. *slang.* (See quot.)

1874 *Slang Dict.* 303 *Speech*, a tip or wrinkle on any subject. On the turf a man will wait before investing on a horse until he 'gets the speech', as to whether it is going to try, or whether it has a good chance. To 'give the speech', is to communicate any special information of a private nature.

IV. 12. *attrib.* and *Comb.* **a.** Simple attrib., as *speech-apparatus, -break, -deafness, defect, -element, -form, -sound*, etc. (Freq. in recent use.)

1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 430/2 The machinery of respiration, of vocalization, and of enunciation, together constitute the *speech-apparatus. 1674 N. Fairfax *Bulk & Selv.* To Rdr., The great *Speech-break at Babel. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VII. 429 To this condition Lichtheim gave the name of 'isolated *speech-deafness'. *Ibid.* 394 Aphasia and other *Speech Defects. 1865 tr. *Strauss' New Life Jesus* I. Introd. 179 In the latest of our Gospels.. the overweight is again on the side of the *speech-element. 1863 W. Barnes *Dorset Gloss.* 9 The main marks of south-western English, as it differs from the *speech-forms of the north. 1873 Earle *Philol. Eng. Tongue* (ed. 2) § 320 Grimm bewails this seduction of the *speech-genius from the true path. 1886 Tupper *Life as Author* 133 As a youth..I was, from the *speech-impediment since overcome, isolated from the gaieties of society. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 429/1 The voice..may possess the peculiar conditions of those distinctions which constitute *speech-notes. 1869 Ellis *E. E. Pronunc.* I. Introd. 1 In order to write intelligibly on *speech sounds, some systematic means of representing them must be adopted. 1820 W. Tooke *Lucian* I. 230, I can make *speech-traps, in which I catch those who talk with me. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 431/2 Respiration and *speech-voice training will follow. 1887 Morris *Odyssey* IX. 258 Yet even so with *speech-words I answered again and spake.

b. With agent-nouns, verbal sbs., or present ppples., as *speech-bringer; speech-bereaving, -getting, -making, -shunning*, etc.

1593 Nashe *Christ's T.* Wks. (Grosart) IV. 224 The speech-shunning sores, and sight-acking botches of theyr vnsatiate intemperance. 1608 Day *Hum. out of Breath* III. ii, If speech-bereaving love will let thee speak. 1717 Rowe *Poems* Wks. 1728 I. 79 That Tyburn-Tribe of speech-making Non-jurors. 1798 Coleridge *Tears in Solit.* 57 A vain, speech-mouthing, speech-reporting Guild. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* III. I. ii, Their miraculous healer and speech-bringer is rapt away. 1875 Whitney *Life Lang.* ii. 13 The whole process of speech-getting.

c. With past ppples., as *speech-bound, -famed, -flooded.*

1761 Churchill *Rosciad* 30 Was speech-fam'd Q—n himself to hear him speak. 1870 Rossetti *Poems, House Life* xxii, The speech-bound sea-shell's low importunate strain. 1888 Bryce *Amer. Commw.* III. lxxiv. II. 611 England has since 1876 become the most speech-flooded country in the world.

13. Special combs.: **speech-centre** (see quots.); **speech-craft**, the knowledge or science of speech; **speech-crier**, one who hawked the 'last dying speeches' of criminals; **speech-day**, the day at the end of the school year upon which exercises are declaimed and the annual prizes distributed in certain public schools; **speech-reading**, the action on the part of deaf and dumb persons of comprehending speech by watching the movements of a speaker's mouth; so *speech-reader*; **speech-room**, the room or hall at Harrow School in which speeches are delivered.

1879 *Syd. Soc. Lex.* s.v. *Centre*, **Speech centre*,..a cortical centre situated in the region of the posterior extremity of the third left frontal convolution. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VI. 759 In their opinion this bundle..connects the cortical centre for sight with the auditory speech-centre. 1573 R. Lever *Arte Reason* 6 The arte of measuring, witcrafte, *speachcraft, starre-crafte, &c. 1878 W. Barnes (*title*), An Outline of English Speech-Craft. 1856 J. Ballantine *Poems* 68 Ilk wee *speech-crier, Ilk lazy ballant singin' idler. 1870 H. Lonsdale *Life R. Knox* vi. 109 Speech-criers of the last horrid doings of Burke and the doctors. 1848 Thackeray *Van. Fair* xxiv, He used to go down on *speech-days..and scatter new shillings among the boys. 1898 G. W. E. Russell *Coll. & Recoll.* xxxv. 482 The budding scholar..declaimed his verses on Speech-day. 1911 J. K. Love *Deaf Child* 161 The best speakers amongst the deaf and dumb are not always the best *speech-readers. 1891 R. Elliott *Elem. Lang. Deaf* Pref. p. v, *Speech and lip-reading should form the medium of communication and explanation. 1880 Trevelyan *Hist. C. J. Fox* ii. 50 Fox..was always to the front both in the *speech-room and the debating society. 1884 *Jrnl. Educ.* 1 Sept. 347/2 My memory takes me back some five-and-twenty years to the old speech-room at Harrow.

Speech, *sb.*2 ? *U.S.* [app. repr. an OE. **ȝespǽce*, f. *spáce* Spoke *sb.*] (See quot.)

1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2261/1 *Speech*, of a wheel, the hub with the spokes, without the fellies and tire.

Speech (spīʧ), *v.* [f. Speech *sb.*1]

† 1. *trans.* To drive *out* by means of speech. *Obs.*—1

1654 Gayton *Pleas. Notes* III. i. 67 Doe but recount (for I must speech out this timorousnesse from thy head and heart).

2. To say or state in a speech or speeches. *rare.*

1682 T. Flatman *Heraclitus Ridens* No. 54 (1713) II. 90 The Bills of Exclusion and Association (whatever was Speech'd or Resolv'd to the contrary) are not now thought [etc.]. *a* 1734 North *Lives* (1826) I. 229 In speeching to the jury, one and the same matter, over and over again, the waste of time would be so great that..there would scarce be an end.

3. To make a speech to; to address in a speech; *dial.*, to speak or talk to. Also with compl.

1818 Moore *Fudge Fam. Paris* ii. 35 Your Lordship, having speeched to death Some hundreds of your fellow-men, Next speeched to Sovereigns' ears,—and..at last Speeched down the Sovereign of Belfast. 1864 Carlyle *Fredk. Gt.* XV. viii. IV. 119 Upon which I immediately turned about to our own Regiment; speeched them, and made them huzzah. 1877–86 in Linc. glossaries.

4. *intr.* To make or deliver a speech or speeches. Also with *it.* Now *rare.*

(*a*) 1684 Wood *Life* 8 Nov., Mr. Charles Hickman.. speech'd it in laudem Thomae Bodley in the Schola linguarum. *c* 1720 *Fable Widow & Cat* iv. in *Prior's Wks.* (1907) 383 But in a saucy manner He Thus Speech'd it like a Lechmere: 'Must I [etc.].' *a* 1734 North *Lives* (1826) I. 230 He was positive not to permit more than one counsel of a side to speech it to the jury.

(*b*) 1710 *Acc. Last Distemper T. Whigg* I. 9 He stood up upon the Bulks in Westminster-Hall, and speech'd against him from Morning till Night. 1821 *Blackw. Mag.* IX. 82 Lambton speeching till the lights are gone. 1824 in *Spirit Public Jrnls.* (1825) 203 Tom Moore to Lord Lansdown is tipsily speeching. 1835 *Fraser's Mag.* XI. 612 He was fêted and speeched unto at divers and sundry towns. 1864 A. Thomson in *Remin.* (1904) I. xviii. 299 Yesterday I speeched well at St. Andrews.

b. To direct a speech or speeches *at* a person. Also *dial.*, to speak *with* some one.

1826 Scott *Woodst.* xxi, Have I not been speeched at by their orators. 1888 K. Saunders *Diamonds* 30 He hasn't *speeched* wi' me much.

Speeched (spīʧt), *a.* [f. as prec.] Having or using speech of a specified kind.

1567 Drant tr. *Horace, Ep.* II. i. G iv, This fayre-speachde queare. 1581 A. Hall *Iliad* II. 33 Though tongues, yea, fully ten Right good he had, and mouthes like, wel speecht that open were. 1605 *1st Pt. Jeronimo* II. iv, I could not think you but Andreas selfe, so legd, so facst, so speecht. 1682 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1731/4 A thin Melancholy Man,..slow Speeched. 1805 T. Holcroft *Mem. B. Perdue* I. 16 Fair-speeched gentlemen as they are.

Speecher (spīʧəɹ). [f. Speech *sb.*1 or *v.*]

1. One who makes speeches; a speaker.

1762 Foote *Orator* I. Wks. 1799 I. 194 Here is a man.. that will make thee a *speecher* at once. 1818 Moore *Fudge Fam. Paris* ix. 108 Oh, can we wonder, best of speechers! That [etc.].

2. *Harrow slang.* The speech-room; speech-day.

1894 Wilkins & Vivian *Green Bay Tree* I. 43 When Butler called you up to give you the key in speecher this morning. 1905 H. A. Vachell *The Hill* i, You ought to have been here last Speecher.

Speechful (spīʧful), *a.* [f. Speech *sb.*1 Cf. OE. *spǽcful.*] Full of speech; possessing the power of speech; loquacious, talkative.

1842 Mrs. Browning *Grk. Chr. Poets* 83 One speechful voice among the silent. 1861 G. E. Maunsell *Poems* 246 Like a blest influence, Speechful, though dumb. 1873 Mrs. Whitney *Other Girls* xxvi, She had..carried him to the nursery, got him on her knee in a speechful condition.

b. Of the eyes, etc.: Full of expression; expressive, speaking. Also const. *of* (some quality).

a 1849 Mangan *Poems* (1859) 83, I well could read her speechful eye. 1865 E. Burritt *Walk to Land's End* xii. 407 He could not have made the expression of the central face more speechful of sadness. 1872 Blackie *Lays Highl.* 18 Dost thou see the speechful eyne Of the fond and faithful creature Sorrowed with the swelling brine?

Hence **Spee·chfulness.**

1880 Meredith *Tragic Com.* (1881) 30 This man's face was the born orator's,..the animated mouth..stamped for speechfulness and enterprise. 1901 *Buck's Handbk. Med. Sci.* I. 414 (Cent. Suppl.), Sensory aphasia is..in the beginning..the aphasia of comparative speechfulness, while motor aphasia in the beginning is usually absolute speechlessness.

Speech-house. Now *Hist.* [OE. *spǽchûs* (f. *spǽc* Speech *sb.*1), = OS. *spâk-hûs*, OHG. *spâh-hûs* (MHG. *spâch-hûs*).] A hall, room, or building set apart for speech, conference, etc.; a court-house; † a monastic parlour.

Retained in the place-name Speech-house-Road in the Forest of Dean, Glouc.

c 1050 *Suppl. Ælfric's Gloss.* in Wr.-Wülcker 184 *Auditorium*, spræchus. *Ibid., Curia, uel senatus*, uþwitena spræchus. *c* 1205 Lay. 13036 Þe abbed hit him uðe, & he hine ladde to spæc-huse. *Ibid.* 13123 Whet Vortiger þencheð in ure spæc-huse þer he spel haldeð. 1640 W. Somner *Antiq. Canterbury* 126 Aforetime it [the Guildhall] was commonly called and knowne by the name of the Speech-house. 1799 Hasted *Hist. Kent* IV. 426. 1838 *Dean Forest Mines Act* § 54 A copy of all the rules [etc.] to be hung in the Speech House within the said Forest.

Speechification (spīʧifikē·ʃən). [f. Speechify *v.*: see -fication.]

1. An instance or occasion of speech-making; a speech, oration, harangue.

1809 *Spirit Public Jrnls.* XIII. 150 Very useful for just seasoning all public speechifications. 1824 Southey *Sir T. More* (1831) I. 361 Quarterly and Annual Meetings, Preachers from a distance, Speechifications. 1851 Huxley in L. Huxley *Life* (1900) I. vii. 89, I made a speechification of some length..about a new animal.

2. The action of making speeches; oratory.

1825 Lockhart in *Scott's Fam. Lett.* (1894) II. 339 Would not he be a goose to indulge Wordsworth with speechification [etc.]? 1853 Conybeare *Ess. Eccles. & Soc.* (1855) 94 Lectures here, addresses there, and speechification everywhere. 1877 Symonds *Renaiss. It.* II. 528 The fifteenth century was the golden age of speechification.

Speechifier (spī·ʧifəiəɹ). Also 8 **speechefyer**, 9 **speechifyer.** [f. Speechify *v.*] One who speechifies or delivers speeches; one given to, or having some aptitude for, public speaking.

1778 Foote *Trip Calais* I. Wks. 1799 II. 331 The man is ..a pretty good speechefyer. 1794 C. Pigot *Female Jockey Club* 82 As an orator his parliamentary speeches prove him an inimitable, practical speechifier. 1819 *Monthly Mag.* XLVIII. 307 He was no speechifier; but preferred talking over such business in a walk. 1837 Whittock *Bk. Trades* (1842) 322 (*Mariner*), Without which..our overweening public speechifyers..would lose at least one topic of oratorical lamentation. 1886 W. J. Tucker *E. Europe* 259 In all classes amongst us you will find a formidable number of professional chatterboxes and speechifiers.

Speechify (spī·ʧifəi), *v.* [f. Speech *sb.*1 + -ify. Noted by Bartlett (1848) as 'a rather low word, and seldom heard except among bar-room politicians'. In ordinary use, together with its derivatives, chiefly employed as a humorous form or with depreciatory suggestion.]

1. *intr.* To make or deliver a speech or speeches; to harangue or 'hold forth'; to speak or talk at some length or with some degree of formality.

1723 [implied in Speechifying *vbl. sb.*]. 1762 Foote *Orator* I. Wks. 1799 I. 193 And have you speechified yet? *Ibid.* 194, I did speechify once at a vestry. 1806 *Naval Chron.* XV. 19 Jack made..attempts to *speechify*. 1833 Moore *Mem.* (1854) VI. 341 Lord Lansdowne began to speechify to the German and Frenchman. 1862 Thackeray *Philip* vii, We were free to speechify,..and be as young as we liked.

2. *trans.* To address in a speech or speeches.

1862 *Daily Tel.* 9 Sept., Who entertained the crazy egotist Wilkes,..and 'ovated and speechified him?

Hence **Spee·chifying** *ppl. a.*

1803 J. Foster in Ryland *Life* (1846) I. 247 The man who has just conquered his speechifying antagonist. 1817 Mar. Edgeworth *Th. on Bores* Wks. 1848 IX. 213 Of the common parliamentary bore there be two orders; the silent, and the speechifying. 1828 Miss Mitford *Village* Ser. III. (1863) 109 There was also..a Mrs. Harden, speechifying and civil, and a Miss Harden, her daughter, civiller still.

Speechifying (spī·ʧifəiiŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. prec.]

1. The action of making or delivering speeches; the practice of oratory.

1733 *Briton* No. 19 (1724) 84 He has an excellent Talent at Speechifying. 1762 Foote *Orator* I. Wks. 1799 I. 193 'Tis all brought about by his speechifying. 1812 Byron *Ch. Har.* II. xii. *note*, Their little absurdities are as harmless as ..maiden speechifying. 1849 C. Brontë *Shirley* xvi, Then came the feast, and afterwards the meeting, with music and speechifying in the church. 1884 *Chr. Commonw.* 23 Oct. 20/3 The immense volume of speechifying during the recess, on both sides.

b. The action of speaking or talking, esp. in a formal manner or at excessive length.

1777 Mme. D'Arblay *Early Diary* (1889) II. 193 Richard, ..after fine speechyfying, walked off. 1782 Eliz. Blower *Geo. Bateman* I. 21, I could stand and hear you talk all day long; to be sure you have a vast fine knack at speechifying. 1853 Miss Yonge *Heir of Redclyffe* xxv, Come, what's past can't be helped, and I have no end of work to be done, so there's speechifying enough for once. 1887 P. McNeill *Blawearie* 131 'No more speechifying, Morris,' shouted the overseer. 'Let us haste to the rescue.'

2. An instance or occasion of public speaking.

1843 F. E. Paget *Warden of Berkingholt* 77 Nothing is to be done without platforms, and meetings, and speechifyings. 1852 H. Newland *Lect. Tractar.* 28 The meetings and the speechifyings and the hard words. 1894 *Brit. Jrnl. Photog.* XLI. 91 A demonstration, a feasting, a speechifying, and a concert all rolled into one.

Speeching (spī·ʧiŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. Speech *sb.*1 or *v.*] The action or practice of making speeches; the art of speaking; a speech.

1664 J. Wilson *A. Commenius* I. i, You've such a knack at

speeching. 1702 Rowe *Tamerl.* II. ii, This vile Speeching, This After-game of Words is what most irks me. 1771–2 *Ess. fr. Batchelor* (1773) I. 143 For God's sake reserve it for the house, I shall hear more than enough of speeching if ever we meet there. 1820 Keats *Cap & Bells* iv, An audience had, and speeching done, they gain Their point. 1857 J. Brown *Lett.* (1907) 113 Have you looked at the speechings of that infinite Swell and Snob?

attrib. 1824 in *Spirit Public Jrnls.* (1825) 288 Had doughty beadles..chaced Ev'ry poor puppy that at greatness scowled, I fear my speeching talent had been waste.

So **Spee·ching** *ppl. a.*, speech-making.

a 1734 North *Examen* I. ii. § 71 (1740) 67 But it seems the House of Peers thought fit to send the four speeching Lords to the Tower. 1808 Moore *Corruption* ii. 28 A few crank arguments for speeching lords.

Speechless (spī·tʃlės), *a.* Also 1 **spæcleas**, 3–5 **specheles** (5 **-less**, 6 **-lesse**), 6–7 **speech(e)les(se**. [OE. *spǽcléas* (f. *spǽc* Speech *sb.*[1]), = older Flem. *spraeckeloos* (Du. *sprakeloos*), MLG. (and LG.) *sprâkelôs*, OHG. *sprâhhalôs* (MHG. *sprâche-*, G. *sprachlos*).]

1. Destitute of, unendowed with, or lacking the faculty of speech; naturally or permanently mute or dumb.

a 1000 *Gloss.* in *Germania* (1878) XI. 398/72 Spæclease *vel* dume, *elinguis*. 1377 Langl. *P. Pl.* B. xv. 36 Þanne am I spirit specheles and *spiritus* þanne ich hatte. 1530 Palsgr. 325/2 Specheles, that can nat speke, *muet*. *c* 1586 C'tess Pembroke *Ps.* cxv. iii, They mouthes, but speechlesse, have: Eyes sightlesse. 1588 Shaks. *Titus A.* III. ii. 39 Speechlesse complayne[r], I will learne thy thought: In thy dumb action, will I be as perfect As begging Hermits in their holy prayers. 1669 W. Holder *Elem. Speech* 115 He that never hears a word spoken, nor can be told what it signifies, it is no wonder if such an one remain speechless. 1746 Francis tr. *Horace, Sat.* I. iii. 134 When the first Mortals crawling rose to Birth, Speechless and wretched, from their Mother-Earth. 1815 Shelley *Alastor* 123 He lingered,..through the long burning day Gazed on those speechless shapes. 1889 Mivart *Orig. Hum. Reason* 287 Speaking of his hypothetical speechless-man.

b. Of a state or condition: Characterized by the lack of speech.

1593 Shaks. *Rich. II*, I. iii. 172 What is thy sentence then, but speechlesse death, Which robs my tongue from breathing natiue breath? 1819 Shelley *Cenci* v. ii. 69 She is as pure as speechless infancy!

2. a. Unable to speak on account of illness, injury, or extreme exhaustion.

c 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 67 Wel longue he lai speche-les þene deth þ forto a-bide. 1470–85 Malory *Arthur* I. iii. 39 Thenne he fyll passynge sore seke, so that thre dayes & thre nyghtes he was specheles. 1484 in *Cely Papers* (Camden) 155 Old Henley ys wyddowe hath beyn speche-less thys daye & a hallfe. 1591 *Troub. Raigne K. John* I. 378 Some powere strike me speechless for a time! 1601 Shaks. *Jul. C.* I. ii. 255 He fell downe in the Market-place, and foam'd at mouth, and was speechlesse. 1675 Hobbes *Odyssey* (1677) 66 All his body swell'd was: and in fine Speechless and breathless was he, like one dead. 1770 Langhorne *Plutarch* (1851) I. 408/1 He lay a long time speechless. 1797 S. & Ht. Lee *Canterb. T.* (1799) I. 393 The criminal himself..sank pale, and speechless, into the arms of those nearest. 1857 Longf. *Santa Filomena* vii, Slow..The speechless sufferer turns to kiss Her shadow.

fig. 1611 Shaks. *Cymb.* I. v. 52 His Fortunes all lye speechlesse, and his name Is at last gaspe.

b. Deprived for the time being of the power of speech through astonishment, fear, or other emotion; temporarily dumb; unable to answer.

c 1374 Chaucer *Troylus* IV. 370 And specheles thus ben thise ilke tweye, That neither myght a word for sorwe seye. 1526 Tindale *Matt.* xxii. 12 Howe camyst thou in..and hast not on a weddyng garment? and he was even spechelesse. 1582 Stanyhurst *Æneis* II. (Arb.) 68 Heere with I was daunted, my hear stard, and speechles I stutted. 1608 Day *Hum. out of Breath* III. ii, If speech-bereaving love will let thee speak, Then, speechless man, speak with the tongue of love. 1667 Milton *P. L.* IX. 894 Speechless he stood and pale, till thus at length First to himself he inward silence broke. 1711 Steele *Spect.* No. 113 ¶ 4, I at last came towards her with such Awe as made me Speechless. 1778 Miss Burney *Evelina* lxxviii, Speechless, motionless myself, I attempted not to stop him. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* I. III. viii, An astonished Parlement sits convoked; listens speechless to the speech of D'Espréménil. 1891 Farrar *Darkn. & Dawn* xlvi, Acte was almost speechless with surprise.

c. Deprived of speech through excessive drinking. Hence *colloq.*, dead drunk.

1881 Besant & Rice *Chapl. of Fleet* I. 158 Those evenings of riot from which Sir Miles was so often carried home speechless.

3. Refraining from speech; keeping or observing silence; silent. Also, reticent, taciturn.

1390 Gower *Conf.* I. 85 Thanne is my cause fully schent, For specheles may noman spede. 1530 Palsgr. 325/2 Specheleese, of fewe wordes, *musart*. 1592 Kyd *Sp. Trag.* II. ii, *Bel.* Why stands Horatio speecheles all this while? *Hor.* The lesse I speak, the more I meditate. *a* 1771 Gray *Dante* 53 On my Children's Eyes Speechless my Sight I fix'd. 1848 Dickens *Dombey* xxxvi, A bony and speechless female with a fan.

transf. 1602 Shaks. *Ham.* II. ii. 507 A silence in the Heauens,..The bold windes speechlesse. 1607 — *Cor.* v. i. 67 Twas very faintly he said Rise: dismist me Thus with his speechlesse hand.

†**4.** Not uttered or expressed in speech. *Obs.*

1596 Shaks. *Merch. V.* I. i. 164 Sometimes from her eyes I did receiue faire speechlesse messages. *c* 1600 — *Sonn.* viii. 13 [The strings] Whose speechlesse song..Sings this to thee. 1603 — *Meas. for M.* I, ii. 188 For in her youth There is a prone and speechlesse dialect, Such as moue men.

5. Of an emotion, etc.: Of such a nature as to deprive one temporarily of the power of speech; characterized by loss of speech.

1593 Shaks. *Lucr.* 1674 Which speechless woe of his poor she attendeth, And his untimely frenzy thus awaketh. 1738 Glover *Leonidas* I. 364 In speechless anguish on the hero's breast She sinks. 1761 Gray *Odin* 75 What virgins these, in speechless woe, That bend to earth their solemn brow? 1794 Mrs. Radcliffe *Myst. Udolpho* xxxiii, She gave herself up to speechless joy. 1848 Dickens *Dombey* lxii, Mr. Dombey nods at the Captain, who shines more and more with speechless gratification. 1865 Carlyle *Fredk. Gt.* XVIII. v. (1872) VII. 164 He surveyed with speechless feeling the small remnant of his Lifeguard of Foot.

6. Marked or characterized by absence of speech; free from, unaccompanied or undisturbed by, speech.

1726 Pope *Odyss.* XIX. 251 A speechless interval of grief ensues. 1738 Wesley *Ps.* CXXXVII. i, Her we bewail'd in speechless Groans. 1765 Walpole *Otranto* iv, [Her mother] seeing Matilda fall at her feet with a flood of speechless tears. 1817 Shelley *Rev. Islam* v. liii, As o'er that speechless calm delight and wonder grew. 1855 Longf. *Hiawatha* xiv. 17 In the great, mysterious darkness Of the speechless days that shall be! 1874 Spurgeon *Treas. David* Ps. xciv. 17 He..would have been wrapped in speechless silence.

7. *poet.* Incapable of expression in or by speech.

1813 Shelley *Q. Mab* v. 138 Stifling the speechless longings of his heart, In unremitting drudgery and care! 1817 — *Rev. Islam* I. xlii, At night, methought in dream A shape of speechless beauty did appear. 1851 Mrs. Browning *Casa Guidi Wind.* I. 90 As the veil withdrawn 'Twixt the artist's soul and works had left them heirs Of speechless thoughts.

Hence **Spee·chlessly** *adv.*, without speech or speaking; silently.

1848 Thackeray *Van. Fair* xiv, The placable and soft-hearted Briggs speechlessly pushed out her hand at this appeal. 1857 W. Collins *Dead Secret* (1861) 238 She stood ..looking steadfastly, speechlessly, breathlessly, at her blind husband. 1895 Scully *Kafir Stories* 126 He glared speechlessly at Kondwana and Senzanga.

Spee·chlessness. [f. Speechless *a.*] The state or condition of being speechless; lack or loss of speech.

1581 Dee *Priv. Diary* (Camden) 10 My mervaylous horsnes and in manner spechelesnes toke me. 1638 Rawley tr. *Bacon's Life & Death* (1650) 54 The immediate preceding signs of death are..the memory confused, speechelesnesse, cold sweats [etc.]. 1822–7 Good *Study Med.* (1829) I. 540 *Aphonia*. Dumbness. Speechlessness. Inability of Speech. 1863 Mrs. Whitney *Faith Gartney's Girlh.* xvii, Her very speechlessness before him had come from the deep pleasure that his presence had given to her. 1873 B. Harte *Fiddletown* 17 The monstrous doll, whose very size seemed to give a pathetic significance to its speechlessness.

Speechlet (spī·tʃlėt). [f. Speech *sb.*[1] + -let.] A short speech.

1881 *Daily News* 28 Nov. 3/5 He speaks in the fashion—I don't know whether I should not call them speechlets—very much of the *feuilletons* of the French romances. 1896 *Westm. Gaz.* 13 Mar. 7/3 Leaving out of account speechlets by Mr. B. L. Thompson,..Lord Carrington [etc.].

So **Spee·chling.** [-ling[1] 2.]

1880 Trollope *Cicero* I. 226, 'I will send you,' he says, 'the speechlings which you require'.

Speech-maker. [Speech *sb.*[1]] One who makes or delivers a speech or speeches, esp. in public; an orator.

1710 Swift (*title*), The famous Speechmaker of England; or Baron..Lovel's Charge at the Assizes. 1738 *Gentl. Mag.* VIII. 94/2 Their Youth became Witlings, Demi-Criticks, and Speech-makers. 1842 Lover *Handy Andy* xix, Let me see the speech-maker, and I'll tell you what he says. 1873 Symonds *Grk. Poets* i. 30 The consummate skill of professional speech-makers.

Speech-making, *vbl. sb.* [f. as prec.] The action or fact of making or delivering speeches.

1718 J. Trapp tr. *Virgil* Pref. to Æneis (1735) I. p. xl, I do not understand why Speech-making in an Heroick Poem must be called Dramatic. 1820 T. Mitchell *Aristoph.* I. p. lxiii, When a mania took place in Athens, whether for cock-fighting or speech-making,..it was no slight obstacle that could oppose it. 1870 Disraeli *Lothair* xlix. 264 Speech-making is a new thing for me. 1876 Ruskin *St. Mark's Rest* iv. § 47 Through sixteen hundred years of effort and speech-making, and fighting.

b. An instance or occasion of this.

1835 J. Foster *Life & Corr.* (1846) II. 302 Some of our journals and speech-makings. 1845 Dickens *Chimes* ii. (ed. 2) 73 Don't look for me to come up into the Park when there's a Birthday, or a fine Speechmaking.

†**Speechman.** *Obs.* Also 6–7 **speche-, speach-man.** [f. Speech *sb.*[1]] One who is appointed to speak for others; a spokesman.

c 1530 in *Essex Rev.* (1904) XIII. 22 Who wer messyngers and spechemen for lynsell for ye obtaynyng of ye lese of Macchyng parsonage? 1559 Aylmer *Harborowe* I iv b, Thou shalt be his God and he thy specheman. 1570 B. Googe *Pop. Kingd.* III. 35 b, Not seeking Mediators here, nor Speachmen for to pray. 1630 W. Scot *Apol. Narr.* (1846) 167 Mr. James Melvill..was appointed to be their speechman.

fig. 1564 Becon *God's Word & Man's Invent.* Pref., Wks. II. 388 b, He would..straightwaies (so that money be the Aduocate and spechman)..be more meeke and gentle than a Lambe.

Speechment. *nonce-word.* [f. Speech *sb.*[1] or *v.*] A speech or oration.

1854 Huxley in L. Huxley *Life* (1900) I. viii. 113, I am rejoiced you liked my speechment.

Speed (spīd), *sb.* Forms: 1 **spoed** (**spod**), 1–6 **sped**, 3–6 **spede**, 5–7 **speede**, 6– **speed**; 4 **spied**, 4–8 **speid**; 5 **spyd(e**, 6–7 **spide**. [OE. *spéd*, earlier *spǽd*, = MDu. *spoed*, *spoet* (Du. *spoed*), OS. *spôd*, *spôt* (MLG. *spôd-*, *spôt*, *spoet*, *spoit*), OHG. *spôt*, *spuot* (MHG. *spuot*), f. OE. *spówan*, OHG. *spuon* to prosper, succeed.]

I. †**1.** Abundance. *Obs.*

Also freq. in OE. 'substance, means, wealth'.

a 900 Cynewulf *Crist* 604 He us æt gieféð, & æhta sped, welan ofer widlond. *a* 1000 *Genesis* 1084 Tubal Cain, se þurh snytro sped smið cræfteza wæs. *c* 1200 Ormin 12079 Off þatt hemm weorelldahhtess spedd A33 waxeþþ mare & mare. *Ibid.* 12252 Off laferrddom, off ahhtess sped. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 122 Of euerilc ou3t, of euerilc sed, Was erðe mad moder of sped.

†**2.** Power, might. *Obs.*

971 *Blickl. Hom.* 179 Þonne syndon on þyssum Simone twa speda, mannes & deofles. *c* 1000 *Ags. Ps.* (Thorpe) lxxxviii. 7 Þu eart mæzena God,..nis þe ealra zelic ahwær on spedum. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 25 God..unspered al ðe fendes sped, And halp ðor he sa3 mikel ned. *Ibid.* 2995 Her hem wantede mi3t and sped.

3. Success, prosperity, good fortune; profit, advancement, furtherance. *Obs.* exc. *Sc.* or *arch.*

c 725 *Corpus Gloss.* (Hessels) P 707 *Præuentus*, spoed. *Ibid.* S 646 *Successus*, spoed. *a* 900 Cynewulf *Elene* 1182 He ah æt wiz3e sped, si3or æt sæcce. *c* 1000 *Ags. Ps.* (Thorpe) lv. 4 Ic..on God..3elyfe, þæt minre spræce sped folzie. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 2221 [They] hauen it so to iacob bro3t, And tolden him so of here sped. *Ibid.* 3929 Al..is fultum and his sped. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 22886 (Edinb.), Þe mar man swink him þar aboutin Fra sped þe ferre he sal ben outin. 1390 Gower *Conf.* II. 11 For Slowthe is mihti to confounde The spied of every mannes werk. *c* 1407 Lydg. *Reson & Sens.* 4906 Now shal ye here..Al the processe of my spede. 1412–20 — *Chron. Troy* IV. 4662 Myn entent is nat to repreue 3oure wyse conseil..3if it conclude to þe comoun spede Of my peple and sauacioun. 1503–4 *Act* 19 *Hen. VII*, c. 19 Preamb., For their owne spede and lucre they suffer their ledder to pass untruly coryed. *c* 1510 More *Picus* Wks. 32 What seruice maie so desirable bee, As where all turneth to thyne owne spede. 1611 Chapman *Widdowes T.* Wks. 1873 III. 8, I am assured of my speede. 1786 Burns *Ep. Young Friend* xi, In ploughman phrase 'God send you speed'. 1791 Learmont *Poems* 51 We wiss him speed Till he unravel ilka quirk. 1899 Greig *Logie o' Buchan* xii. 203 Guid-bye than, Jamie; and I wish ye a' speed and forder.

b. With adjs., as *good*, *evil*, etc.: Success, fortune, lot.

c 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 309 3et ic wene I can a red, 3at hem sal bringen iwel sped. 14.. *Sir Beues* (1894) 182/2 God send them evyll spede. 1451 *Rolls of Parlt.* V. 219/2 The good spede of this Act of Resumption. 1535 *Goodly Prymer* Sjb, That temyng women may haue ioyfull spede in their labour. 1577–87 Holinshed *Chron.* III. 1097/1 In the assistance..all their hope of prosperous speed consisted. 1634 Canne *Necess. Separ.* (1849) 221 It is..worth the noting, what ill speed Mr. Dayrell hath still in all his testimonies. 1651 Weldon *Crt. Chas.* 194 Another Parliament was summoned, wherein ..there proved no better a good speed and successe than a mere frustration of all hopes on both hands. 1724 De Foe *Mem. Cavalier* (1840) 113 The king wished us good speed. 1809 Malkin *Gil Blas* V. i. ¶ 21 You give way to difficulties with more haste than good speed.

Comb. *a* 1616 Beaum. & Fl. *Little Fr. Lawyer* v. iii, They are men of a charitable vocation,..And put a good speed penny in my purse.

c. *To come* (*good*) *speed*, to be successful. So *to come bad*, or *no*, *speed*, to be more or less unsuccessful. *Sc.*

a 1557 *Diurn. Occurr.* (Bann. Cl.) 19 He come no speid but depairtit with repulse. *c* 1620 Z. Boyd *Zion's Flowers* (1855) 57, I at the market have this day come speede. 1638 A. Cant *Serm. at Edinburgh* (1699) 21 If I had hope to come speed with you. 1756 Mrs. Calderwood in *Coltness Collect.* (Maitland Club) 232 There was one came about gathering charity,..but she came very ill speed. 1824 Miss Ferrier *Inher.* xxxii, No wonder he came such bad speed at the courting. *Ibid.*, Somebody has come good speed. 1881 W. Gregor *Folk-Lore* xxii. 161 Sittin beggars cumna speed.

†**4. a.** Assistance, aid, help. *Obs.*

c 1340 Hampole *Pr. Consc.* 2882 And þat may be thurgh helpe and spede Of prayer of frendes and almusdede. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 1607 Þur3 þe sped of þe spyryt þat sprad hym with-inne. 1399 *Rolls of Parlt.* III. 451 [To] procede as hym thoght for the best.., for the spede of this nede and of all the Parlement. 1443 *Ibid.* IV. 256 In spede as wele of the Kynges nede, as of his peple. ?*a* 1500 *Chester Pl.* x. 79 Haue here of me, to do thee speede, right a gay garment.

†**b.** One who, or that which, promotes success or prosperity. *Obs.*

c 1375 *Cursor M.* 21348 (Fairf.), Of þe rode now for to rede, ihesus criste he be mi spede. 1377 *Pol. Poems* (Rolls) I. 215 He that was ur most spede Is selden seye and sone for3ete. *c* 1450 *Godstow Reg.* 4 [Cross] of ihesu criste be euer oure spede. 1577 Grange *Golden Aphrod.*, etc. S iv, Adewe therefore, God be thy speede. 1591 *Troub. Raigne K. John* (1611) 54 S. Francis be your speed. 1596 Shaks. *1 Hen. IV*, III. i. 190 Good-manners be your speede. 1681 W. Robertson *Phraseol. Gen.* (1693) 1158 Christ be our speed.

II. 5. Quickness in moving or making progress from one place to another, usually as the result of special exertion; celerity, swiftness; also, power or rate of progress.

In OE. only in the dat. plur. used adverbially. In ME. freq. in advb. phrases, as *a good speed*, or with preps. (cf. 7 and 8).

a 1000 *Genesis* 2397 Ʒewiton him þa ædre ellorfuse æfter þære spræce spedum feran. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 1598 Fro bersabe he ferde wið sped. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 16597 Him þai can to nede, At tak þe tan end o þe tre, to ga þe better spede. *c* 1350 *Will. Palerne* 1765 William & þe mayde..gon forþ þur3th þe gardin a wel god spede. *a* 1400 *Sir Perc.* 720 For to rynne scho my3te not thole Ne folowe hym no spede. *c* 1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 1727 For mare spede be ship he went. *c* 1450 Holland *Howlat* 292 He wald nocht spair for to spring

on a gud speid. 15.. *Christ's Kirk* 143 in *Bann. MS.* 287 He suld bene swift that gat him, throw speid. 1596 Shaks. *Merch. V.* III. iv. 56 Madam, I goe with all conuenient speed. 1667 Milton *P. L.* II. 700 Back to thy punishment,..and to thy speed add wings. 1697 Dryden *Virg. Georg.* III. 305 Thus, form'd for speed, he challenges the Wind. 1758 Johnson *Idler* No. 6 ¶ 10 The true causes of her speed were fear and love. 1797 S. & Ht. Lee *Canterb. T.* (1799) I. 355 He exerted all the speed fatigue would allow. 1823 Scott *Quentin D.* xvii, The Scottish mountaineer was at liberty to put forth a speed which was unrivalled in his own glens. 1847 Marryat *Childr. N. Forest* xxii, That's a fine horse you were riding, sir. Has he much speed? 1891 Farrar *Darkn. & Dawn* xii, Pudens had seen him..run up the steps with a speed which a Roman regarded as very undignified.

b. Of things: Swiftness, rapidity, velocity, of direct or circular movement; rate of motion or revolution.

c 1200 Ormin 18094 All swa se waterrstræm Aȝȝ fleteþþ forþ & erneþþ Towarrd te sæ wiþþ mikell sped. 1560 Daus tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 83 It began at the Ocean sea, &..spred over all Germany, & with unspeakeable spede. 1590 Shaks. *Com. Err.* I. i. 110 Her part..Was carried with more speed before the winde. 1619 in *Eng. & Germ.* (Camden) 156, I know not whether I should have beene diverted a second time from taking the speede of the river if [etc.]. 1742 Gray *Eton* 29 What idle progeny succeed To chase the rolling circle's speed? 1823 Scott *Quentin D.* xxvii, What has taken some time to narrate, happened, in fact, with the speed of light. 1857 Dufferin *Lett. High Lat.* (ed. 3) 410 Then, notwithstanding the slowness of the speed, it requires as much luck as skill to avoid collisions. 1883 M. P. Bale *Saw-Mills* 209 If a sawing or planing machine is driven at a very great rate of speed.

c. With numerals or adjs. forming attrib. combs.

1871 *Routledge's Ev. Boy's Ann.* Apr. Suppl. 3/2 Three-speed Pulley. 1885 *Field* 31 Jan. 121/3 A 'ten-speed gear' tricycle. 1904 *Westm. Gaz.* 5 July 12/1 Very high-speed passenger trains.

6. Quickness, promptness, or dispatch in the performance of some action or operation. Freq. in the phrase *with* (*all*) *speed*.

For the proverbial contrast with *haste*, see Haste *sb.* 6.

a 1000 *Genesis* 2667 Spedum sægde eorlum Abimeleh..waldendes word. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 1083 Đo seiden ðis angres to loth wið sped. *c* 1425 *Abraham's Sacrifice* 376 in *Non-Cycle Myst. Plays* (1909) 51 Thys fyere schall brene a full good spyd. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 90 b, Let vs ryse agayne with all spede. 1577 B. Googe *Heresbach's Husb.* § 29 Barley..must be geathered with more speede then other graynes. *c* 1614 Sir W. Mure *Dido & Æneas* I. 77 Let vs a navie then prepair with speid. 1663 S. Patrick *Parab. Pilgr.* xii. (1687) 81 All that surprizes me is..that such feeble words as mine should..with such speed excite so high a degree of Love. 1701 Penn in *Pennsylv. Hist. Soc. Mem.* IX. 51 Get them transcribed by good hands with all speed. 1761 Gray *Odin* 1 Uprose the King of Men with speed. 1847 Helps *Friends in C.* I. viii. 128 Insist upon speed in learning...This speed gives the habit of concentrating attention. 1891 Farrar *Darkn. & Dawn* lv, The execution of the Christians was to be hurried on with all speed.

b. *Photogr.* The relative rapidity with which a plate, film, etc., is acted upon by light or by a developer.

1892 Abney *Instr. Photogr.* (ed. 9) 103 Measuring the speed and gradation of plates.

7. In various prepositional phrases:

† **a.** *In speed*, with speed, speedily. *Obs.*

c 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 1221 Abraham rapede him sone in sped for to fulfillen godes reed. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xxix. (*Placidas*) 800 One þe morn scho went in sped to þe gret maister of þe knychtede. *Ibid.* xxxiii. (*George*) 233 Ta þi horse in spede, & pas in haste fra þis stede. *a* 1586 Sidney *Ps.* xxxi. i, Deliver me, deliver me in speed. 1596 Shaks. *Merch. V.* III. iv. 49 Take this same letter..In speed to Mantua.

b. *At speed* (also † *at his speed*, † *on* or *upon the speed*), at a rapid rate of movement.

1632 Lithgow *Trav.* VI. 259 [He] stroke at me with his halfe-pike; but his horse being at his speed, I preuented his cruelty. 1646 Evance *Noble Order* 26 They are most upon the speed after [this game]. 1670 Milton *Hist. Eng.* Wks. 1738 II. 16 Riding on the speed down a steep Hill. 1781 Cowper *Table-T.* 685 Always at speed, and never drawing bit. 1807 Sir R. Wilson *Priv. Diary* (1862) II. viii. 293 We were galloping at speed when an unfortunate marais received my horse. 1865 Viscr. Milton & W. B. Cheadle *N.-W. Passage by Land* iv. (1867) 62 We gained on them rapidly, until within about 200 yards, when they went off at speed.

c. *At* (or † *on*) *full speed*, = 8 b.

1749 Fielding *Tom Jones* XI. ii, The young lady looking behind her, saw several horses coming after on full speed. 1784 Cowper *Task* VI. 331 The horse..That skims the spacious meadow at full speed. 1849 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* v. I. 610 The waggoners drove off at full speed. 1877 M. M. Grant *Sun-Maid* ii, The Marquis drove at full speed.

8. In adv. phrases (without article):

† **a.** *Good speed*, speedily, quickly. *Obs.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 4786, I sagh caf on þe watur flete ;..dun-ward flette it wel god spede. 1375 Barbour *Bruce* IV. 507 Ȝon is the kyng, but dreid; Ga we furth till hym bettir speid. *c* 1420 *Avow. Arth.* xl, Toward Carlele ryȝte He hies, gode spede. 1500–20 Dunbar *Poems* xxxiii. 24 He fled away gud speid.

b. *Full speed*, with the utmost speed possible. (Cf. 7 c.) Also *attrib.*

1382 Wyclif *Deut.* iii. 18 Fulspeed goo ȝe before ȝoure britheren. 1654–66 Earl Orrery *Parthen.* (1676) 343 He thrust himself into the Wood full speed. 1700 S. L. tr. *Fryke's Voy. E. Ind.* 212, I ran full speed towards her to help her. 1737 [S. Berington] *Mem. G. de Lucca* (1738) 69 Ten or a dozen armed Turks came upon us full Speed from the Town. 1835 W. Irving *Tour Prairies* xxi. 187 Away several of them dashed, full speed. 1860 *Merc. Marine Mag.* VII. 139 The engines are going 'full speed ahead'. 1890 *Times* 18 Sept. 4/2 The Blanche..went out..for her four hours' full-speed trial of her engines.

9. a. *To make speed*, to hurry, to make haste.

1548 Udall, etc. *Erasm. Par. Matt.* iii. 30 Jesus left Galile..& maketh spede vnto Jordane. 1548–9 (Mar.) *Bk. Comm. Prayer, Morn. Prayer*, O God, make spede to saue me. 1635 R. N. tr. *Camden's Hist. Eliz.* I. 60 Though she made but slow speed about it. 1663 *Extr. State P. rel. Friends* (1911) II. 180 Make all possible speed and gett Matts and deales for a Bulke head there if to be had. 1868 Freeman *Norm. Conq.* (1877) II. vii. 117 They made good speed with their journey.

† **b.** *To have*, or *get*, *the speed of*, to outdistance, get ahead of (one). *Obs.*

1605 Shaks. *Mach.* I. v. 36 Our Thane is comming: One of my fellowes had the speed of him. 1646 Fuller *Good Th. in Worse T.* (1841) 106 The other had got the speed of him, having first accused himself,..and already obtained his pardon.

10. a. An inflammatory disease of cattle.

1704 *Dict. Rust.* s.v., *Speed.* This Distemper in Cattle [1725 *Fam. Dict.*, in Black Cattle] may well be so called, because it either mends or ends in three Days time. *a* 1800 Pegge *Suppl. Grose*, *Speed*, a disease among young cattle in the Autumn, North. 1834 Youatt *Cattle* 362 In the West Riding, where from the rapidity with which it runs its course it is called the *speed*, it also generally begins behind. 1881 Sheldon *Dairy Farming* 63/1 Calves are extremely liable to the fatal disease of 'hyant', 'speed'.

b. A section of a cone-pulley giving a particular rate of speed.

1881 Young *Every Man his own Mechanic* § 550. 257 The steps or speeds of the cone pulleys are generally flat and driven by a flat leathern belt.

c. (See quot.)

1889 W. Marcroft *Ups & Downs* 18 The class of machinery first made at the Hartford New Works, Werneth, was called speeds, generally known as roving frames.

11. *attrib.* and *Comb.* **a.** In the names of devices or apparatus for regulating or indicating speed, as *speed-check*, *-clock*, *-cone*, *-gauge*, etc.

Descriptions of some of these are given by Knight *Dict. Mech.* (1875–84). The number of such combs. has greatly increased in recent years, as *speed-band*, *-board*, *-brake*, *-gear*, etc.

1898 *Westm. Gaz.* 18 Nov. 9/1 The Sawyer footbrake—which appears to be a very reliable form of *speed-check. 1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib., Brit.* II. No. 3220, Watchman's detector clocks, steam or *speed clock. 1869 Rankine *Machinery & Millwork* 312 The most convenient way of changing the velocity-ratio of rotation of a pair of shafts.. is by means of '*speed-cones'. 1843 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* VI. 248/2 The name Sillomêtre..might be well rendered in English *Speed-gauge. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2261/2 Osborne's speed-gage is for the purpose of determining the rate of speed at which shafting or wheels are rotating. 1858 Simmonds *Dict. Trade*, **Speed-indicator*, a gauge for testing the velocity of steam engines or machines. 1863 A. Young *Naut. Dict.* 244 Tyssen's Ship's Log, or Speed Indicator. 1892 *Photogr. Ann.* II. 341 A roller blind shutter, with outside speed indicator. 1898 Kipling *Fleet in Being* ii, The Sub watches the *speed-lights of the next ahead, for as those lanterns change so must he adjust his pace. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2262 The fly-wheel (of a foot-lathe), on which is the cord passing to the *speed-pulley of the head-stock. *Ibid.* 2262 Such a machine..does not fulfill the conditions of a *speed-recorder. 1880 *Engineer* XLIX. 404 *Speed regulator for light machinery. 1888 Jacobi *Printers' Vocab.* 129 **Speed riggers*, riggers graduated to allow of the driving band being shifted to increase or reduce the running power.

b. Denoting the attainment of, or capacity for, high-speed, as *speed-gallop*, *-skating* (hence *-skater*, *-skate*).

Also, in recent use, *speed-boat*, *-car*, *-lathe*.

1852 R. F. Burton *Falconry Valley Indus* viii. 81 The four miles of best speed gallop. 1885 *Daily News* 24 Jan. 6/7 The performances of the exponents of speed skating. 1894 *Westm. Gaz.* 6 Jan. 5/2 The tendency is altogether in favour of the 'speed' skate as against the slow, antiquated article. 1897 *Ibid.* 27 Jan. 7/2 Speed-skaters..are thoroughly enjoying themselves.

c. Miscellaneous, as *speed-capacity*, *-limit*, *-praise*, *-rate*, *-stroke*, *-trial*, etc.; **speed-man**, a cyclist who rides at a high rate of speed; **speed-way** *U.S.*, a special track for rapid cycling or motoring; † **speed while**, a short time.

1900 *Daily Express* 16 July 1/1 A motor car with a claimed *speed capacity of 85 miles an hour. 1893 *Outing* XXII. 104/2 Both assured her owner that she had not touched her *speed limit. 1896 *Cycling Times* 10 June 2/4 Smith, who is a '*speed man,' may be able to push the same machine.. to the tune of twenty [miles] an hour. 1605 Sylvester *Du Bartas* II. iii. I. *Vocation* 861 Thou that thrice..Losest thy *speed-praise, and thy life beside. 1894 C. H. Cook *Thames Rights* 25 The reasons against fixing a *speed-rate are these. *a* 1618 Sylvester *Mem. Mortalities* ii. Wks. (Grosart) II. 223 Having Death's *speed-stroak undiscerned given. 1885 *Pall Mall G.* 14 Jan. 11/1 The *speed trials of the *Umbria* ..and the *Collingwood*. 1894 *Voice* (N. Y.) 28 June, New York has millions of dollars to spend upon its uptown parks and *speedways. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 1285 Alle he spoyled spitously in a *sped whyle.

d. With vbl. sbs. and ppl. adjs., as *speed-making*, *-mingling*, *-multiplying*, *-producing*.

1548 Elyot, *Properantia*, haast, speede makyng. 1611 Cotgr., *Acceleration*, hast, or speedmaking. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2262/1 This gearing-up or..speed-multiplying ..is found in many kinds of machinery. *Ibid.* 2262/2 A system of speed-multiplying gear. 1885–94 R. Bridges *Eros & Psyche* Nov. vi, Betwixt the twin speed-mingling fans of gold. 1893 *Outing* XXII. 106 Another great speed-producing son of the same sire. 1901 *Munsey's Mag.* XXV. 737/1 When the colt settled into his stride again, the effort at speed making was continued as before.

Speed (spīd), *v.* Forms: 1 **spedan**, 3–5 **speden** (3 **-enn**, 5 **-yn**), 4–5 **sped**, 6 **spede**; 4–7 **speede**, 6– **speed**; 5–6 *Sc.* **speid**, 6 **spead**. *Pa. t.* 2 **spædde**, 2–6 **spedde**, 3 **spede**, 4– **sped**, 4–7 **spedd**. *Pa. pple.* 3–5 **i-sped**, 5 **i-spedde**; 4 **y-sped(d**, **y-spedde**; 3– **sped**, 4–6 **spedd**, 5–6 **spedde**. Also *3rd sing. pres.* 3–4 **spet**, 5 **spette**. [OE. *spédan* (once; otherwise *gespédan*, early ME. *i-speden*), = MDu. *spoeden*, *spueden* (Du. *spoeden*), OS. *spôdian* (MLG. and LG. *spôden*), OHG. *spuoten* (G. *spuden*, *sputen*, from LG.), f. the stem **spôd-*: see Speed *sb.*]

I. 1. *intr.* Of persons: To succeed or prosper; to meet with success or good fortune; to attain one's purpose or desire. Now *arch.*

993 *Battle of Maldon* 34 Ne þurfe we us spillan, ȝif ge spedaþ to þam. *a* 1122 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 656, Swa he spedde swa him Crist huðe, swa þet in feuna ȝeare wæs þet mynstre ȝare. 1154 *Ibid.* an. 1140, Eustace.. wende to biȝæton Normandi þær þurh, oc he spedde litel. *c* 1200 Ormin 12317 He..wollde winnenn Crist..All alls he wann Eve & Adam, ȝiff þatt he mihhte spedenn. *c* 1275 *Moral Ode* 258 in *O. E. Misc.*, Ne his poure kunesmen at him ne myhte nouht spede. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 734 In his auen schap To sped he hopd haue na hap. 1362 Langl. *P. Pl. A.* III. 164 Menede hire to þe kyng To haue space to speken, spede ȝif heo mihte. *c* 1425 *Brut* 363 So the King come to Engelond ayen, for lesyng of moo of his peple, and þus he spedde not þere. 1456 Sir G. Have *Law Arms* (S.T.S.) 13 Quhen he sawe that he mycht nocht in that maner spede. 1500–20 Dunbar *Poems* xiii. 24 Some speidis [at law], for he in court hes menis. *a* 1542 Wyatt in *Tottel's Misc.* (Arb.) 53 Soonest he spedes, that most can lye and fayn. 1647 N. Bacon *Disc. Govt. Eng.* I. iv. (1739) 9 [They] sent for aid where they were most like to speed for the present, and left the future to look to it self. *a* 1688 Bunyan *Israel's Hope Encour.* Wks. 1855 I. 614 Wouldst thou be a man that would pray and prevail? Why, pray to God in the faith of the merits of Christ, and speed. 1825 Scott *Betrothed* xxiii, Here we come near to the spot where we hope to speed, or no where. 1835 Browning *Paracelsus* III. 989 This he has done and nobly. Speed that may! 1836 J. Martin *Discourses* 367 It is a thing in which we are sure of speeding.

Prov. c 1470 *Gol. & Gaw.* 879 Oft in romanis I reid: Airly sporne, late speid. 1593 R. Harvey *Philad.* 5 He that goeth aspying goeth aspeeding. (See also Spare *v.*[1] 6 c.)

† **b.** Const. *of*: To succeed in getting, obtaining, or accomplishing. *Obs.*

c 1400 Maundev. (Roxb.) xxxiii. 151 Many grete lordes has assayd diuerse tymes to passe;..bot þai myght noȝt spede of þaire iournee. 1530 *Hickscorner* (1905) 148 But there he could not speed of his prey. 1530 Palsgr. 727/1 And y maye spede of this ones, I care nat and I never sewe to him whyle I lyve. 1573 L. Lloyd *Marrow of Hist.* (1653) 256 Untill she sped of the like chance that Procris did, she could never be quiet. 1600 Pory tr. *Leo's Africa* I. 41 Their young men may goe a wooing to diuers maides, till such time as they haue sped of a wife. 1643 Prynne *Sov. Power Parl.* App. 26 But he sped little of his purpose.

2. With advs.: To succeed or fare *well*, *ill*, etc.

a 1122 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1114, Sona þær æfter sende se cyng him..to Rome æfter þes æreb' pallium, & an munec mid him.., & hi þær well spæddon. *c* 1200 Ormin 14242 Swa þatt teȝ mihhtenn spedenn wel To winnenn erþlic ahhte. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 1585 And ðu salt ðe betre sped, If it beð bi ðin faderes red. *Ibid.* 3314 'Ille,' he seiden, 'haue we sped'. *c* 1330 R. Brunne *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 4279 Y trowe þou schalt fol euele spede. 1377 Langl. *P. Pl.* B. III. 270 Spille it and spare it nou3te, þow shalt spede þe bettere. *a* 1425 tr. *Arderne's Treat. Fistula*, etc. 75, I spedde effectuously with sich a clistre þat is þer made. 1483 Caxton *Gold. Leg.* 113 b/1 He answerd that he had euyl spedde. 1573 Tusser *Husb.* (1878) 44 But worse shall he speed, that soweth ill seed. 1577–87 Holinshed *Chron.* I. 128/2 Some warres he had, and sped diuerslie. *a* 1628 Preston *New Cov.* (1634) 86 When we pray best, we speed best. 1676 Hobbes *Iliad* II. 116, I wonder less that we no better speed. 1791 Cowper *Odyss.* VII. 61 For boldest men Speed ever best.

b. With *how* (or *however*).

c 1230 *Hali Meid.* 27 Hwase, of engel, lihteð to iwurðen lahere þen a beast,..loke hu ha spede! *c* 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 148 Heo tolden þe kinge al heore cas, hov heo hadde i-sped. *a* 1300–1400 *Cursor M.* 17288+123 Þai..told vnto þer maisters how þat þai hade spedd. *c* 1450 Lovelich *Merlin* 9656 Merlyne hadde hym told..hou that they thanne speden in desert. *a* 1533 Ld. Berners *Huon* lxxxi. 247 He demaunded how I had sped in my iourney. 1563 B. Googe *Eglogs*, etc. (Arb.) 114, I entred in, with fearefull Harte, muche doutyng howe to speede. 1617 Moryson *Itin.* II. 109 Not caring how the messengers sped, so the letters were not understood. 1653 in *Hatton Corr.* (Camden) 9 However wee speed heere, 4 of our Est India shipps are taken by the Dutch. 1766 Goldsm. *Vicar* x, Well, my girls, how have you sped? 1824 Southey *Roderick* xxv. 501 Go tell thy father now how thou hast sped With all thy treasons! 1852 Miss Yonge *Cameos* (1877) I. xvii. 129 If she could thus treat a royal uncle, how must not men inferior in rank have sped?

c. With *as* or *thus*.

1649 Milton *Eikon.* 15 In this Warr against the Church hee hath sped as other haughty Monarchs, whom God hath harden'd to the same enterprize. 1653 Holcroft *Procopius, Pers. Wars* I. 24 Thus the Romans spedd with these people.

3. *impers.* To go or fare (well or ill) *with* a person, etc. † In early use with dat. or *to*.

c 1205 Lay. 18695 Þa iseh Vðer king þat him ne spedde naðing. *Ibid.* 29508 Þu scalt..beode þer godes godd-spel; þe scal spede ful wel. 1297 R. Glouc. (Rolls) 8163 Þe cristine were of þe sarazins an onywar biset, & vor þe sarazins were ywar, hom spedde wel þe bet. *a* 1325 *Life Adam* 67 in Horstm. *Altengl. Leg.* (1878) 140 To Adam wende we, And loke we hou him spet þat..He brak godes comand-

ment. 1545 BRINKLOW *Compl.* xxiv. (1874) 69 Comenly it spedeth vnhappyly to that reame, where thei be embassytors. 1610 GUILLIM *Heraldry* III. xii. 122 Though sometime it speed with them contrary to their Titles. 1854 FERRIER *Inst. Metaph.* Introd. 8 As time has advanced, it has constantly sped worse with philosophy, instead of speeding better.

4. Of things: To prove successful; to thrive.

c 1200 ORMIN 1765 Godess ennglebeod Ne maȝȝ nohht unnderrstanndenn Hu mikell Cristess bede maȝȝ Towarrd hiss faderr spedenn. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 28317 Oþer mans beginyng of gode dede Oft-sith i letted for to spede. *a* 1586 SIDNEY *Ps.* XXXVII. iii, Lay all thy trusting On hym, and he will make it speed. 1626 W. YONGE *Diary* (Camden) 93 Arminianism and Pelagianism do much speed abroad, in divers parts of this realm. 1713 SWIFT *Cadenus & Vanessa* Wks. 1755 III. II. 7 A project .. which, if it sped, Wou'd shew the merits of the cause. 1866 *Contemp. Rev.* I. 263 The suits of the Bishop of Salisbury against Dr. Williams and of Dr. Fendall against Mr. Wilson had not sped.

b. With modifying words (as *well, ill, how,* etc.): To succeed, fare, go (on), make progress, etc.

a 1250 *Owl & Night.* 763 Oft spet wel a lute lyste, þar muche strengþe..myste. *c* 1400 *Gamelyn* 800 'I se wel,' seyde Gamelyn, 'the justice is sette; Go aforn, Adam, and loke how it spette.' *a* 1425 tr. *Arderne's Treat. Fistula,* etc. 95 And so schal it better spede. 1449 in *Cal. Proc. Chanc. Q. Elis.* (1830) II. 55 The xxvj li. levyng behynde shall be wele and truly paied..unto the forseid Thomas like as the forseid werkes spedyn. 1545 BRINKLOW *Lament.* A iv b, The Cytie neuer speadeth so euell, as when they so ronne a whore hountinge. 1681 W. ROBERTSON *Phraseol. Gen.* s.v., This business speeds well under our hands. 1733 W. ELLIS *Chiltern & Vale Farm.* 79 The Acorn here may speed very well. 1781 COWPER *Conversat.* 316 Relate how many weeks they kept their bed, How an emetic or cathartic sped. 1855 PRESCOTT *Philip II,* I. viii. I. 114 Philip's suit no longer sped so favorably as before.

†**5.** To be profitable, expedient, or useful. Chiefly *impers. Obs.*

c 1380 WYCLIF *Serm.* Sel. Wks. II. 109 It spediþ to ȝou þat o man die for þe puple. 1382 — *Ecclus.* XXXVII. 31 Forsothe not alle thingus to alle speden. 1423 JAS. I. *Kingis Q.* XXVIII, Ane wofull wrecche that to no wight may spede. *a* 1425 tr. *Arderne's Treat. Fistula,* etc. 3 For-als-miche in hard thingis it spedith to studiers for to perseuere and abide.

6. *trans.* To further or assist (a person); to cause to succeed or prosper. Also *refl.* Now *arch.*

a 1240 *Sawles Warde* in *O. E. Hom.* I. 267 Hwa se þis writ haueð ired, Ant crist him haueð swa isped, Ich bidde..þet ȝe bidden ofte for me. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 29002 Seuen ar þai [*sc.* boons] þat vs mai spede Til al þat euer we haue of nede. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Reeve's T.* 113, I prey you speed us in al that ye may. *c* 1430 *Syr Tryam.* 1196 Y tryste in God that he schalle me spede. 1503–4 *Act* 19 *Hen. VII,* c. 28 Preamb., The Kinges Highnes..is therfor enclyned to here & spede resonably the seid peticioners. 1530 PALSGR. 727/1 Serve God well and he shall spede you in all your busynes. 1601 SHAKS. *Jul. C.* I. ii. 88 For let the Gods so speed mee, as I loue The name of Honor, more then I feare death.

absol. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 551 On spec of a spote may spede to mysse Of þe syȝte of þe souerayn þat syttez so hyȝe. 1819 SCOTT *Ivanhoe* xli, Achieving an adventure, with only his good sword, and his good arm to speed.

b. In the phrase *God speed me, thee,* etc., or variations of this. (Cf. GOD-SPEED.) Also *God speed the plough,* etc.

(*a*) *c* 1320 *Sir Tristr.* 2266 He may bidde god me spede. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* XVIII. 389 'Do than,' he said, 'and god the speid!' *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Knt.'s T.* 1700 God spede you; goth forth and ley on faste. *c* 1400 *Gamelyn* 827 God spede me this day at my newe werk. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* II. 93 Go hens, .. the mekill dewill the speid. 1526 TINDALE *Matt.* XXVIII. 9 Iesus mett them sayinge: God spede you. 1553 T. WILSON *Rhet.* (1580) 4 As for other that haue no witte, thei wil neuer learne it, therefore God speede them. 1627 in Birch *Crt. & Times Jas. I* (1848) II. 17 God speed him, and send him a better voyage than I even hope for! 1641 MILTON *Reform.* II. Wks. 1851 III. 42 The little adoe..puts mee into the mood to tell you a tale ere I proceed further; and Menenius Agrippa speed us. 1677 MIÈGE *Fr. Dict.* II. s.v., God speed you well. 1819 SCOTT *Ivanhoe* XXXII, Rowena waved a graceful adieu to him.—the Saxon bade God speed him. 1866– in Sc. use (*Eng. Dial. Dict.*).

absol. *c* 1586 C'TESS PEMBROKE *Ps.* CXXIX. v, God speed, friendes, God give you joy. 1594 SHAKS. *Rich. III,* II. iii. 63 *Cit.* Neighbours, God speed. 1602 [see *b*].

(*b*) *c* 1500 *Spede the Plough* 8 I pray to God, spede wele the plough. 1569 T. NORTON *Warning agst. Papists* O iv, Let vs draw..together, and then say and sing merily, God spede the ploughe of England. 1589 HORSEY *Trav.* (Hakl. Soc.) App. 310 Thearby have they mayntayned their decayed trade..by meanes of their traffycque. God speed their plowe! 1602 DEKKER *Honest Wh.* xii, *Duke.* God speed, father. *Mad.* God speed the Plow, thou shalt not speed me. 1610 FLETCHER *Faithf. Sheph.* II. i, Great Pan for Syrinx sake bid speed our Plow. 1781 COWPER *Charity* 123 Heav'n speed the canvass, gallantly unfurl'd [etc.].

†**c.** In the adjuration *So God me speed,* etc. *Obs.*

c 1320 *Sir Tristr.* 1631 Þe king swore, so god him spede, þat boþen schuld haue riȝt. 1393 LANGL. *P. Pl.* C. XI. 107 Ȝut sauereþ me nat þi sawe,' quaþ ich, 'so me criȝt spede'. *c* 1440 (see SO *adv.* 19). *c* 1460 *Towneley Myst.* X. 194 Whos is that chyld, so god the spede?

†**d.** Const. *of* or *with*: To provide or furnish (one) with something. Chiefly in *pa. pple.* Also *refl. Obs.*

1530 TINDALE *Answ. Sir T. More* Wks. (1573) 249/2 We beleue, we deserue to be sped of all that our blynd hartes desire. 1554 *Interlude of Youth* in Hazl. *Dodsley* II. 17, I can speed thee of a servant of price, That will do thee good service. 1576 PETTIE *Petite Pallace* 36 She..began to cast in her head how she myght be sped of an other husband. 1600 HOLLAND *Livy* III. xlvi. 119 For this time I am sped of sureties ynough. 1601 — *Pliny* I. 144 There also a man may be sped with bondslaues. 1665 BRATHWAIT *Comment Two T.* (1901) 56 Of such an one she speeds her self, that it seems his Soul deserv'd well of her.

7. In *pa. pple.* (see also prec.): **a.** Furthered or brought to the end or condition desired; so dealt with as to be satisfied or well situated. (In later use also with *well.*)

13.. *Cursor M.* 24752 (Gött.), Þat gifs me list of hir to rede, For he es all spedd þat scho will spede. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 94 Er thou be sped, Thou schalt me leve such a wedd, That [etc.]. *c* 1420 LYDG. *Lond. Lyckpeny* v, But, lackyng mony, I could not be sped. *c* 1450 *Reg. Oseney* 111 If hit happe my wife to be i-spedde in child-beryng at Barton. 1566 *Pasquine in Traunce* 35 For the moste part, she that went so bed a Virgin, arose from thence spedde with hir errande. 1571 CAMPION *Hist. Irel.* vi. (1633) 18 And then if they can get a piece of rugge to cover them, they are well sped. 1657 W. RAND tr. *Gassendi's Life Peiresc* I. 110 [He] went on purpose..into Dauphine; and returned sped, about the beginning of the year following. 1680 H. MORE *Apocal. Apoc.* 208 But they that have obtained their glorified body, ..they are sped already, and are safe from this fate. 1713 *Guardian* No. 100 (1756) II. 78 When the maid was once sped, she was not suffered to tantalize the male part of the commonwealth. 1864 SWINBURNE *Atalanta* 368 That this great hunt with heroes for the hounds May leave thee memorable and us well sped.

b. In contexts implying an evil plight or awkward situation.

c 1530 *Remedy Love* lxxiii. in *Chaucer's Wks.* (1532) 368 b/1 To warne him nowe he is too farre spedde; It is to late him to forbede. 1596 SHAKS. *Tam. Shr.* v. ii. 185 We three are married, but you two are sped. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* II. 49 Like as those that be sped with the yellow jaunise. 1616 *Marlowe's Faustus* in M.'s Wks. (1910) 217 *Benu.* 'Zons, hornes againe. *Mart.* Nay chafe not man, we all are sped. 1709 PRIOR *Ladle* 92 Told 'em, for Supper or for Bed They might go on, and be worse sped. 1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* v, 'We are fairly sped now,' said Foster; 'yonder is thy lord's signal'.

c. Appointed or elected *to* (or as) something. *rare.*

c 1380 WYCLIF *Wks.* (1880) 23 For who so may most gold brynge sunnest schal be sped to grete benefices. 1691 WOOD *Ath. Oxon.* II. 18 His father got him to be sped a Kings-scholar at Westminster. 1903 in Farmer & Henley *Slang Dict.* VI. 307 Sped to New College=elected to a scholarship.

†**d.** Prepared, equipped; skilled or versed *in* something. *Obs.*

a 1450 tr. *De Imitatione* III. xxi. 89 Wherfore be þou spedde & redy to fistyng, if þou wolt haue þe victory. 1526 SKELTON *Magnyf.* 562 Can you a remedy for a tysyke, That sheweth yourselfe thus spedde in physyke? *a* 1529 — *P. Sparowe* 788 In Chauser I am sped, His tales I haue red.

8. To promote or further (a matter); to bring to or towards a successful issue or termination; to accomplish or carry out.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 23920 Mi will ic hope þou will me spede. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Sec. Nun's T.* 357 Every maner boone That he God asked, it were sped ful soone. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 162 Thei kepte that non other scholde Touchende of love his cause spede. *a* 1425 tr. *Arderne's Treat. Fistula,* etc. 36 Þan, forsoþe, may he..finaly spede þe forseid cure aboute four & tuenty wekes. *c* 1450 *Merlin* v. 87 And ye haue also wele spedde the entente of Merlin. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 168 This holy prayer for his ennemyes anone was spedde,..for it conuerted saynt Paule. 1568 GRAFTON *Chron.* II. 8 The next yere when king William had sped his businesse in the sayde Countrie, he returned into England. 1633 G. HERBERT *Temple, Cross* iv, Ev'n when my hopes seem to be sped, I am to grief alive. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Past.* VII. 44 These Branches of a Stag..Young Mycon offers, Delia, to thy Shrine, But speed his hunting with thy Pow'r divine. 1771 MRS. GRIFFITH *Hist. Lady Barton* II. 218 The only amends we can make you, for having sped our frolic, is to desire the favour of your company to dinner. 1833 MRS. BROWNING *Prometh. Bound* Wks. (1904) 150/1 May no sin be sped in the word that is said. 1847 EMERSON *Poems* (1857) 90 He had so sped his wise affairs That he caught Nature in his snares.

b. *spec.* To promote, expedite, prosecute (a bill, plea, etc.), as a matter of official or legal business.

1429 *Rolls of Parlt.* IV. 343/2 No Bill shal be sped but in the place ordeyned. 1482 in Rymer *Fœdera* (1711) XII. 164/2 In passyng and spedyng Letters of Transsumpt under the Seale of our Office of Mairaltie. 1566 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* I. 466 Nocht to compone nor speid ony confirmatioun upoun the few abonewrittin. 1591 LAMBARDE *Archeion* (1635) 143 No Bill be sped, but in place ordained for Councell. 1641 *Termes de la Ley* (1659) 94 All pleas touching the life or maihem of a man, called Pleas of the Crown, are usually held and sped in the King's name. 1726 AYLIFFE *Parergon* 27 All those Writings and Matters, which..are sped in open Court at the Instance of one or both of the Parties Litigant. 1884 *Law Rep.* 27 Chanc. Div. 63 The Plaintiffs ought to undertake to speed the action, that is to prosecute the action with due diligence.

9. †**a.** To treat of, deal with (a matter). *Obs.*

13.. *Cursor M.* 224 (Gött.), For mani [matters] ar þar for to spede. *c* 1374 CHAUCER *Boeth.* v. pr. i. (1868) 149 She hadde..tournede þe cours of hir resoun to somme oþer þinges to ben tretid and to ben ysped. *Ibid.* pr. iv. 161 Ȝit ne haþ it nat ben determined ne yspedd..diligently of any of yow.

b. To bring to an end; to finish or dispatch.

c 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 2682 Here es þe thred parte of þis buke spedde. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 7601 When this speche was sped, speke þai no fferre. 1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* III. X. 111 Was there gras, otys, and breed for their horses; soone it was sped, and full hard was their souper. 1764 GOLDSM. *Trav.* 191 At night returning, every labour sped, He sits him down the monarch of a shed. 1825 SCOTT *Talism.* xvii, Go, speed thine office quickly, sirrah.

c. To dispatch, destroy, kill (a person, etc.).

1594 PLAT *Jewell-ho.* III. 74 They [rats] shall not be able to rise..before you haue sped them. 1605 *Play of Stucley* in Simpson *Sch. Shaks.* (1878) I. 201 Braving braggart, since thou dost seek thy death, Look to thyself; I'll speed thee if I can. 1654 FULLER *Two Serm.* 20 Thus no doubt Herod..was confident he..had sped and despatched the Iewish king amongst the rest. 1735 POPE *Prol. Sat.* 31 A dire dilemma! either way I'm sped, If foes, they write, if friends, they read me dead. 1819 SCOTT *Ivanhoe* XXX, But that I wore a shirt of Spanish mail under my plate-coat, I had been fairly sped. 1845 DISRAELI *Sybil* VI. xii. III. 310 'Yes. I am sped,' he said in a faint voice.

II. 10. *trans.* To send with speed or haste; to hurry (a person, etc.) *out* or *away*; also, to force to go.

c 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 3178 Egipte folc hem hauen ut sped. 1634 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* (1638) 106 Assaph-chan seeing all as he desired, speeds away a sure post with letters to Curroon. 1678 *Spanish Hist.* II. 15 Eight Ships commanded by our Admiral were speeded out from Cadis. 1770 GOLDSM. *Des. Vill.* 309 If to the city sped—what waits him there? 1781 COWPER *Expost.* 289 The cry in all thy ships is still the same—Speed us away to battle and to fame. 1845 SUMNER *True Grandeur Nations* (1846) 10 The twenty thousand letters, which each fortnight are speeded from this port alone, could not be sent. 1885 *Manch. Exam.* 10 July 5/2 Every soul in that part of the mine would be sped into eternity.

b. To send out, cast, discharge, or direct, with some degree of quickness and force.

a 1569 KINGESMYLL *Godly Adv.* (1580) 13 His tong sped yng wordes no faster then thei may seme wel bestowed. 1791 COWPER *Iliad* III. 436, I sped my spear in vain. 1830 TENNYSON *Poems* 43 His last arrow is sped. 1842 MACAULAY *Horatius* xlv, Through teeth, and skull, and helmet So fierce a thrust he sped. 1891 H. HERMAN *His Angel* xii. 236 The glance he sped towards his betrothed was brimful of expectant love.

†**c.** To recall hastily. *Obs.*—1

1606 G. WOODCOCK *Hist. Ivstine* VI. 31 This their intent gaue matter of great mistrust vnto the Lacedemonians, causing them to speed home Agesilaus from his Persyan victories.

d. To enable (a person) to make speed in departing or travelling; to further the going or progress of; sometimes simply, to bid farewell to.

1725 POPE *Odyss.* XV. 84 True friendship's laws are by this rule exprest, Welcome the coming, speed the parting guest. 1732 — *Hor. Sat.* II. ii. 160 For I, who hold sage Homer's rule the best, Welcome the coming, speed the going guest. 1829 SCOTT *Anne of G.* XXVI, Assuring them, that..horses and faithful attendants should be ready to speed the youth on his journey to Nancy. 1849 ROCK *Ch. of Fathers* II. 388 Everywhere the brief-bearer was received, treated, and speeded on his way. 1894 B. CHAMBERS *Butterfly* 241 Next morning the host stood once more on the steps, speeding the parting Miss Scropes.

11. To give speed to (a course, etc.); to hasten; to cause to be rapid in movement.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 19076 Up he ras, And to þe temple spede his pas. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) III. 231 þe cours was so i-sped þat the strokes come to-fore þe enemyes. 1577–87 HOLINSHED *Chron.* I. 35/1 So through France [Claudius] sped his iournies till he came to the side of the Ocean sea. 1700 DRYDEN *Iliad* I. 54 The helpless Priest reply'd no more, But sped his Steps along the hoarse-resounding Shore. 1746 FRANCIS tr. *Horace, Art Poet.* 215 To the grand Event he [the poet] speeds his Course. 1807 J. BARLOW *Columb.* III. 16 The king, undaunted in defensive war, Repels their hordes, and speeds their flight afar. 1855 CHAMIER *My Travels* I. vi. 88 There before us passed traveller after traveller, each speeding his way to the hotel. 1885 HOWELLS *Silas Lapham* (1891) I. 35 Let me..take you out over the Milldam, and speed this mare a little. I'd like to show you what this mare can do.

b. To press or urge on, *esp.* in order to bring to an early result or termination; to expedite.

1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 180 The Souldan..In alle haste his cause spedde To sende for the mariage. 1463 *Bury Wills* (Camden) 17 To spede the tyme for y° sarmon. 1535 STEWART *Cron. Scot.* II. 639 Now tarie noche thairfor; speid hand, haif done. 1696 RAY in *Lett. Lit. Men* (Camden) 202, I think it best to speed the finishing and fitting my Supplement for the Presse. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Past.* IV. 11 O chaste Lucina speed the Mother's pains, And haste the glorious Birth. 1815 SCOTT *Guy M.* XXVII, One of those prayers, or rather spells,..used by the vulgar and ignorant to speed the passage of a parting spirit. 1870 BRYANT *Iliad* VI. I. 207 Command thy maids to speed the work.

c. To cause (time) to pass (*away*) quickly.

1818 SCOTT *Rob Roy* XXI, The incident..sped away a part of the time which hung so heavily on my hand. 1851 HAWTHORNE *Snow Image,* etc. (1879) 246 Then he strove to speed away the time.

d. To increase the speed or working rate of. In recent use chiefly with *up.*

1856 KANE *Arct. Expl.* I. xxvii. 353 Our plans were formed at once; there is nothing like emergency to speed, if not to instruct, the energies. 1894 *Westm. Gaz.* 4 Sept. 7/1 What of machinery? Shall we get that 'speeded up' sufficiently to counterbalance the shorter working day?

e. To give a specified speed to (a machine).

1881 *Eng. Mechanic* No. 874. 376/3 My own 46 in. [wheels] are speeded down to 40 in. for level roads. 1889 *Engineer* LXVIII. 458 When an engine is speeded to run 300 revolutions per minute. 1897 *Daily News* 10 July 4/3 On similar automatic machines, speeded alike.

12. *refl.* **a.** To go with speed; to make haste in passing from one place to another. Now *arch.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 10555 Ga to mete him, þou þe spede. *c* 1350 *Will. Palerne* 5169 Now..speke we of þe spaynols.. hou þei sped hem to spayne. *c* 1400 *Laud Troy Bk.* 17817 Antenor him hamward spedde. *c* 1450 *Merlin* i. 21 So he spedde hym oute of the town till he com to a ryver. 1509 HAWES *Past. Pleas.* XVIII. (Percy Soc.) 77 Venus and she made conjuncyon. Frome the combust way she had her so sped. 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 386 They both talking long and much with the Emperor alone, spede them on their journy. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* 374 Severne.. with many windings and turnings in, and out, speedeth him

unto the Ocean. 1678 BUNYAN *Pilgr.* I. (1862) 41 Christian suddenly started up and sped him on his way. 1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* ix, Dickie..bolted from the cottage, and sped him to the top of a neighbouring rising ground.

b. To act with speed; to make haste in doing, or to do, something. Now *arch.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 13538 Fra now behoues þe sun him spede For to do his fader dede. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* II. 256 And he with alle haste him spedde And made him naked and al warm. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 13236 Þe worthy..sped hir full specially my sped for to let. 1447 BOKENHAM *Seyntys* (Roxb.) 35 For to other thyngys I wold spede me. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 72 b, These thynges..we shall spede vs..to declare euery daye by it selfe. 1581 A. HALL *Iliad* v. 86 Iris straight hir spedde To dresse them wel. 1647 N. BACON *Disc. Govt. Eng.* II. xiii. (1739) 71 The Eagle stooped, and sped himself so well, as within six years he fastned upon the Sword and Scepter. 1682 BUNYAN *Holy War* (1905) 329 Then speed you to do that which is written in my Law. 1805 SCOTT *Last Minstrel* II. xxi, Now, speed thee what thou hast to do. 1828 — *F. M. Perth* ii, Come, Dorothy, speed thee with the food, old woman.

13. *intr.* **a.** To go or move with speed. Also with *it.*

c 1400 *Destr. Troy* 7733 The grete horses..Sparit for no Spurse, speddyn to the flight. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* IV. 775 'Speid fast,' he said, 'Wallace is lokit in'. 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* lxxiii. 11 Walk furth, pilgrame,..Speid home, forquhy anone cummis the nicht. 1562 WINȜET *Wks.* (S. T. S.) I. 3 Sum..speidis baith with airis and erect salis [etc.]. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* 696 From Aberford the said Riveret Coc speedeth immediately to the River Wherf. 1637 HEYWOOD *Royall King* I. iii, I'le try to day which of our two good steeds Can speed it best; let the most swift take both. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Past.* IV. 25 The Goats with strutting Dugs shall homeward speed. 1736 GRAY *Statius* I. 48 O'er his head, Collecting all his force, the circle sped. 1795 SOUTHEY *Joan of Arc* II. 128 From the disastrous plain of Agincourt I speeded homewards. 1835 LYTTON *Rienzi* I. i, The vessel thus referred to was speeding rapidly down the river. 1856 KANE *Arct. Expl.* II. xxi. 211 The dogs speed from hut to hut, almost unguided by their drivers. 1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* I. vii. 51 Streams sped downwards, falling over the rocks.

fig. 1588 SHAKS. *L. L. L.* II. i. 120 Your wit's too hot, it speeds too fast, 'twill tire. 1869 J. MARTINEAU *Ess.* II. 49 We might..have lightly sped across the slippery logic. 1893 STEVENSON *Catriona* v. (1902) 51 His eyes speeding here and there without rest.

b. Of time: To advance or pass quickly.

13.. *Sir Beues* (A.) 1475 Whan hit to þat time spedde, Þat Yuor scholde þat maide wedde. 1833 HT. MARTINEAU *Cinnamon & Pearls* i. 1 The brief twilight of the tropics had just sped away. 1858 SEARS *Athan.* II. iii. 195 The day speeds on to the great evening. 1891 FARRAR *Darkn. & Dawn* xxxv, The hours sped by almost unnoticed.

c. To make haste *to* do something; *to* be speedy in action.

a 1400 *Pistill of Susan* 103 Spyces speden to spryng, In Erbers enhaled. *a* 1425 *Cursor M.* 13538 (Trin.), Now bihoueþ þe son to spede For to do his fadir dede. 1480 *Robt. Devyll* 188 in Hazl. *E. P. P.* I. 226 [He] prayed hys sonne, that he woulde spede, For to learne bothe to wryte and reade. 1577 HANMER *Acc. Eccl. Hist., Socrat.* v. vi. (1619) 341 Being sore sicke, and speeding to baptisme. 1625 BACON *Ess., Of Delays* (Arb.) 525 First to Watch, and then to Speed.

d. With complement: To attain a speed of.

1900 *Westm. Gaz.* 1 May 6/3 Her engines are twin-screw triple expansion,..and she will speed seventeen knots.

Spee·ded, *a.* [f. SPEED *sb.*] Having a specified speed, as *high-speeded.*

1890 *Jrnl. Franklin Inst.* Mar. 261 Circular saws and other high speeded wood-working machines.

Speeder (spī·dəɹ). Also 5 **speder, -ar.** [f. SPEED *v.*]

1. One who speeds, aids, or furthers; a helper or forwarder. Now *arch.*

c 1400 *Laud Troy Bk.* 4798 He made him lord and her leder, And prayed god be her speder. *c* 1440 *York Myst.* i. 110 To spill vs þu was oure spedar. 1616 CHAPMAN *Homer's Hymn Hermes* 52 Speeder of Nights spies And guide of all her dreames obscurities. 1859 G. MEREDITH *R. Feverel* xxxviii, I ain't a speeder of matrimony, and good's my reason! 1887 MORRIS *Odyss.* XIII. 41 For now are all things ready.., The speeders and gifts of well-wishers.

† 2. One who prospers or succeeds, *esp.* in a suit.

1580 LYLY *Euphues* (Arb.) 405 Your wooers [will be] good old Gentlemen before they be speeders. 1592 GREENE *Philomela* Wks. (Grosart) XI. 155 He that is a sutor in Ieast, maye be a speeder in earnest. 1611 COTGR. s. v. *Perdeur,* The miserable pleader is a miserable speeder; the sparing of a fee is often the spoyle of a cause. 1671 H. M. tr. *Erasm. Colloq.* 32 Go thy way advocate, thou wilt come back again a speeder.

transf. 1611 CHAPMAN *Widdowes T.* Wks. 1873 III. 7 My former suites have been all spenders, this shall be a speeder.

3. A device or contrivance for quickening or regulating the speed of machinery; also, a kind of roving-machine used in cotton-manufacture.

1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2261/1 The twist, which is given in the bobbin and fly frame by the rotation of the spindle and flyer, is given in the speeder by an endless belt.

4. One who cycles, motors, etc., at a high rate of speed; a fast car, horse, etc.

1891 in *Cent. Dict.* 1893 *Columbus* (Ohio) *Disp.* 6 Sept., A certain good-fellowship has been established between the speeders and the city.

Speedful (spī·dfŭl), *a.* Also 4–6 **sped(e)ful(e, -full(e,** 5 **spedphull,** 5–7 *Sc.* **speidful(l,** 5 **speyd-),** 6 **speedeful.** [f. SPEED *sb.* + -FUL.]

† 1. Profitable, advantageous, expedient, helpful, efficacious. *Obs.*

1340–70 *Alex. & Dind.* 623 God is spedful in speche & a spryt clene. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* III. 574 Saylys, ayris, and othir thing, That wes spedfull to thar passyng. *c* 1394 *P. Pl. Crede* 264 In pouernesse of spyrit is spedfullest hele. *c* 1449 PECOCK *Repr.* I. xix. 111 Of which ech bi him silf is a good and a speedful wey. 1456 SIR G. HAYE *Law Arms* (S.T.S.) 112 Quhilkis thingis ar maist nedefull to the bataill and spedefull. 1509 FISHER *7 Penit. Ps.* xxxviii. Wks. (1876) 70 That they myght vse these holy psalmes as..spedefull prayers for remyssyon and forgyuenes. 1573 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 116 Good store howse needfull well ordred speedfull.

† b. Freq. in *it is speedful* or syntactical variations of this. *Obs.*

c 1340 HAMPOLE *Prose Tr.* 23 Vnto these men itt is nedefulle and spedefulle to vse the werkis of Actife liffe als besili as þei may. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) III. 127 It is nouȝt spedeful to us to knowe þat day. 1414 in *Proc. Privy Council* (1834) II. 141 That it were spedefulle to sende swiche ambassiatours. *c* 1449 PECOCK *Repr.* I. v. 27 It is profitable and speedful ofte tymes a man forto speke as many vsen forto speke. *c* 1537 DE BENESE *Measurynge Lande* A iij, It is..not spedefull to mete therewyth a great quantite of lande. *c* 1550 ROLLAND *Crt. Venus* III. 909 Do as ȝe think speidfull in this proces. 1609 SKENE *Reg. Maj.* 170 He..sall assigne to them ane certaine day, to vnderly the law, either in that air, or thereafter quhen he sall think speidfull.

2. Speedy, quick, swift, rapid. Now *rare.*

1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) II. 167 Þese men been speedful boþe on hors and on foote. *c* 1400 tr. *Secreta Secret., Gov. Lordsh.* 80 It gladys þe herte, and makys..þe tonge spedfull. 1545 RAYNALD *Byrth Mankynde* 59 Geuynge her good hope of a spedeful delyuerance. 1595 BARNFIELD *Cassandra* D vij b, His sturdie steedes: Whose speedful course the day and night now eeuens. 1615 T. ADAMS *Lycanthropy* 8 It is not enough to be speedfull, we must also be discreet and faithfull. 1903 L. M. WATT *Communion Table* viii. 65 This speedful fleetingness of all earth's days.

b. Quasi-*adv.* Speedily, quickly.

?*c* 1480 *Ragman Roll* 52 in Hazl. *E. P. P.* I. 71 To moysten ther your appetitys drey, Ful spedful ye rennyn and ful yerne.

† 3. Of time: Passing quickly; short, brief. *Obs.*

a 1400–50 *Alexander* 971 With þat he bloþirs in þe brest ..in a spedfull space so þe sprete ȝeldis.

Hence **Spee·dfulness,** speed, swiftness.

1386 *Almanack for Year* (1812) 8 In oþer planetis it hace more spedefulnesse.

Spee·dfully, *adv.* [f. SPEEDFUL *a.*] **a.** Speedily, quickly. **b.** Effectively.

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* v. xxvii. (Bodl. MS.), Þe same bones in here ioyntes meue þe more spedefullich. *c* 1475 *Partenay* 183 Then thay toke ther way wonder spedfullye. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 353/1 Spedefully, *efficaciter, effectiue.* *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. V,* 70 We shall labor ..spedefully, diligently, and truly. 1615 T. ADAMS *Lycanthropy* 9 It is not yet enough to go speedfully and heedfully except also deedfully.

† Spee·diful, *a. Obs.*[−1] In 7 **speedyfull.** [f. SPEEDY *a.*] Speedy, prompt.

1647 *16 New Quæres Prælates* Ded. p. i, Publishing a speedyfull and satisfactory answer to these fewe Questions.

† Speedihead. *Obs.*[−1] In 5 **spedyhed.** [f. SPEEDY *a.*] Swiftness, rapidity.

c 1440 *Jacob's Well* 185 Þe thridde spanne in þe handyl of þi schryfte muste be spedyhed, wyth-outyn delaying.

Speedily (spī·dili), *adv.* Forms: 4 **spedili,** 4–6 **spedily,** 6 **spedyly, speadilie,** *Sc.* **spedalie,** 6–7 **speedilie,** 6– **speedily.** [f. SPEEDY *a.* Cf. OE. *gespédiglice* prosperously. Before the 17th cent. less usual than *spedely* SPEEDLY *adv.*] In a speedy manner; with speed or celerity; quickly.

13.. *Cursor M.* 4048 (Gött.), Þat loueword had sua spedili spredd. *c* 1400 *Rule St. Benet* (Prose) 1 Gladly take and spedily fulfil þe warnyng of þe meke fadir. *a* 1425 *Cursor M.* 19214 (Trin.), Spedily [*earlier MSS.* sped(e)li] spelled þei goddes word. ?*a* 1550 *Freiris Berwick* 217 in *Dunbar's Poems* (1893) 292 Syn to hir madin spedyly scho spak. 1563 HYLL *Art Garden.* (1593) 16 The seedes sowen in due chosen time..doth speediliest breake forth and shoote vp. 1605 SHAKS. *Lear* IV. ii. 80 You Iustices, that these our neather crimes So speedily can venge. 1659 in *Verney Mem.* (1907) II. 97 Itt being high tyme..speedily to looke out for a place for him. *a* 1700 in *Cath. Rec. Soc. Publ.* IX. 346 To the end she may the speedierly Arrive to Inioy the company of yᵉ Blessed. 1749 *Naval Chron.* III. 93 An opportunity of closing the Line speedilyer. 1779 *Mirror* No. 65, The marriage was speedily concluded. 1837 P. KEITH *Bot. Lex.* 28 An example that was speedily followed by that of Dodonæus. 1877 FROUDE *Short Stud.* (1883) IV. I. x. 117 A short altercation..ended speedily in high words on both sides.

Speediness (spī·dinės). Forms: 6 **spedynesse, spedi-, speedines,** 6–7 **speedinesse,** 6– **speediness** (7 **speedy-**). [f. SPEEDY *a.* Cf. OE. *spédignes* opulence.] The quality of being speedy; quickness, celerity, promptitude.

1530 PALSGR. 274/1 Spedynesse, *hastifueté.* 1548 UDALL, etc. *Erasm. Par. Matt.* ix. 60 Maruelyng at so great spedines of miracles. 1635 SWAN *Spec. M.* vi. § 2 (1643) 202 [Waters] yield us an easinesse and speedinesse of conduct and traffick. 1663 S. PATRICK *Parab. Pilgr.* xix. (1687) 185 The wounds.. are made more angry, and you hinder the speediness of the Cure. 1770 LANGHORNE *Plutarch* (1851) I. 279/1 Much lustre did fortune add to the gallantry of their exploits by the speediness of their execution. 1775 ADAIR *Amer. Ind.* 234 For the certainty, ease, and speediness of cure.

Speeding (spī·diŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. SPEED *v.*]

1. Success, prosperity, good fortune; the fact of being successful or of attaining one's end.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 23716 Þat dos all vr speding spill. *c* 1400 tr. *Secreta Secret., Gov. Lordsh.* 112 It [*sc.* Mercury in mid-heaven] shal shewe spedynge of þe werk & perfeccion. *c* 1460 *Play of Sacrament* 112 In Spayne & in Spruce moche ys my spedyng. *a* 1555 LATIMER *Serm. & Rem.* (Parker Soc.) 234 For which like doings we shall have like speedings. 1570 T. NORTON tr. *Nowel's Catech.* (1853) 187 Such as pray doubting and uncertain of their speeding. 1608 SHAKS. *Per.* II. iii. 116 Each one betake him to his rest; To-morrow all for speeding do their best. 1686 F. SPENCE tr. *Varillas' Ho. Medicis* 393 Either th'one or t'other of these two conspiracies cou'd not have miss'd of speeding, if the Duke..had not revealed them. 1713 M. HENRY *Ordinat. Serm.* Wks. 1857 II. 503/1 Those who go without sending, will come back without speeding. 1726 S. WILLARD *Body Div.* 900/1 How we may so ask as not to miss of speeding in it.

b. Lot or hap in respect of success.

1573 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 9 By practise and ill speeding, these lessons had their breeding. 1599 SHAKS., etc. *Pass. Pilgr.* xviii, Heart is bleeding, All help needing, O cruel speeding, Fraughted with gall. 1641 MILTON *Ch. Govt.* II. 37 The not deferring is of great moment to the good speeding.

† 2. The action of sending out or forth. *Obs.*

1382 WYCLIF *Judith* ii. 7 Olofernes..noumbrede men in to the speding [L. *in expeditionem*], as the king comaundede to hym.

3. The action of aiding, furthering, or setting forward.

c 1400 tr. *Secreta Secret., Gov. Lordsh.* 94 Yn spedynge of goodnesse. 1530 PALSGR. 711/2 I set a syde, as counsaylours or judges do all their maters for the hasty spedynge of some one. 1625 SANDERSON *Serm.* (1681) I. 125 To give any kind of furtherance to the speeding either of justice in civil, or of judgment in criminal causes. 1672 T. CORY *Course & Pract. Comm.-Pl.* 30 The Plaintiff was not bound to give the Defendant notice of the speeding a Writ of Inquiry of Damages.

4. With *up*: The process of increasing the rate of work or production.

1892 *Daily News* 8 Feb. 6/2 One of the most remarkable features of modern industrial enterprise is the great 'speeding up' of industry. 1897 S. & B. WEBB *Industr. Democr.* I. viii. 399 This enforced 'speeding up' would be all very well if the old plan of paying by the piece were continued.

Speeding (spī·diŋ), *ppl. a.* [f. SPEED *v.*]

† 1. *Well-speeding,* successful. *Obs.*[−1]

1422 tr. *Secreta Secret., Priv. Priv.* 235 Whoso hath the Paas large and slow, he is wyse and wel spedynge in al his dedys.

2. Leading with speed; rapid, direct.

c 1611 CHAPMAN *Iliad* XXII. 280 Where th'unequal winding bone..had place, and where there lay The speeding way to death. 1641 H. L'ESTRANGE *God's Sabbath* 81 For (to take a short and speeding course) the most embraced and popular opinion is that [etc.].

b. Causing to move with speed; favouring.

1757 W. WILKIE *Epigoniad* IV. 86 To speeding gales I saw the canvass rise.

c. Moving with speed.

1847 EMERSON *Poems, Visit* Wks. (Bohn) I. 404 Speeding Saturn cannot halt. 1884 *Marshall's Tennis Cuts* 269 Till the speeding ball appeared as One continuous flash of lightning.

† 3. Dispatching, finishing; deadly, fatal. *Obs.*

?*c* 1600 *Distr. Emperor* II. i. in Bullen *O. Pl.* (1884) III. 185 Twas a speedinge plott To send me into Spayne. 1621 LADY M. WROTH *Urania* 313 He might chuse the most mischeuing, and most speeding hurt for him. 1660 MAY *Hen. II,* VI. 419 A speeding feaver seiz'd his vitall part. 1693 DRYDEN, etc. *Juvenal* xii. 22 A Neck so strong, so large, as wou'd demand The speeding Blow of some uncommon hand.

† b. Liable to a fatal wound. *Obs.*

1612 T. JAMES *Jesuits' Downf.* 68 The best weapons the Iesuits haue to defend themselues, and wound their opposits in the speedingst place they can. 1631 HEYWOOD *Fair Maid of West* I. Wks. 1874 II. 278 You hit him in the very speeding place.

† 4. Effective; decisive. *Obs.*

1612 WEBSTER *White Devil* Wks. (Rtldg.) 36/2 There's no way More speeding than this thought on. 1613 SHAKS. *Hen. VIII,* I. iii. 40 The slye whorsons Haue got a speeding tricke to lay downe Ladies. *a* 1641 BP. MOUNTAGU *Acts & Mon.* (1642) 212 If he could produce but one ancient copy (which is a speeding argument in Scaligers and Casaubons Grammar).

5. Serving to further, advance, or aid.

a 1625 FLETCHER *Noble Gent.* III. i, I am resolv'd my Wife shall up to Court;..that is a speeding course, And cannot chuse but breed a mighty fortune. 1812 CARY *Dante, Paradise* XXII. 41 Such a speeding grace shone over me, That from their impious worship I reclaim'd The dwellers round about.

Hence **Spee·dingly** *adv.*

1647 N. WARD *Simp. Cobler* 77 Pray speedily therefore, and speedingly.

Speedless (spī·dlės), *a.* Also 4 **spedeles,** 6 **speedeles.** [f. SPEED *sb.* + -LESS.]

1. Profitless, ineffectual, unsuccessful.

13.. *S. Erkenwolde* 93 in Horstm. *Altengl. Leg.* (1881) 268 Þer was spedeles space to spyr vsch one oþer Quat body hit myȝt be þat buried wos þer. *a* 1542 WYATT *Poet. Wks.* (1861) 114 A speedless proof I have endured; And now I leave it to them that lust. 1571 GOLDING *Calvin on Ps.* xx. 20 David poureth not oute his moninges as vaine and speedlesse. *c* 1611 CHAPMAN *Iliad* XVI. 441 But no such speedless flight Patroclus let his spear perform. 1821 CLARE *Vill. Minstr.* II. 71 Till speedless trials prove the doubted elf As skill'd in noise and sounds as Hodge himself.

2. Of persons: Meeting with no success.

1586 WARNER *Alb. Eng.* I. vi. (1589) 21 For Lycus, speedles in his lust, against her so had frownde. 1615 CHAPMAN *Odyss.* v. 40 It obeys thy powers; And in their ship returne the speedlesse wowers.

† Spee·dly, *adv. Obs.* Forms: α. 4 **spedlic, -li,** 4–5 **-ly,** 6 **-lye,** 7 **speedly.** β. 4 **spedeliche,** 4–6 **-ly,** 6 **-lie, speadely,** 6–7 **speedely(e.** [f. SPEED *sb.* Cf. OE. *spédlíce* successfully, effectually.] = SPEEDILY *adv.*

α. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 19214 Spedli [*Edinb.* spedlic, *Gött.* spedeli] þai speld godds word. *c* 1380 WYCLIF *Wks.* (1880) 153 Þei..ne wolen spedly lerne..þe gospel & goddis hestis.

c 1400 *Laud Troy Bk.* 9621 The ffloures sprede & spedly sprynge. 1482 *Monk of Evesham* xxviii. (Arb.) 69 She.. hastyd her spedly gretly profeting on the iorney that goyth to paradyse. 1530 CROMWELL in Merriman *Life & Lett.* (1902) I. 334 Beseching your grace spedlye to send hym home. 1618 BOLTON *Florus* III. xxi. (1636) 246 The army of Norbanus was quickly overthrowne and all Scipio's forces..speedly oppressed.

β. 13.. [see α]. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) III. 199 þe ȝongelynge dede spedeliche his dedes. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 10942 Two spurres full spedely [she] spent on his helis. *c* 1440 *Jacob's Well* 208 It castyth noȝt oute spedely þe wose of synne fro þe pytt of lustys. 1512 *Act* 4 *Hen. VIII*, c. 18 Preamb., For the accomptes of the same more spedelie to be taken. 1588 PARKE tr. *Mendoza's Hist. China* 38 For that it should be speedelier doone. 1618 in Foster *Eng. Factories India* (1906) I. 17 You must speedelye looke to this maggat.

Speedometer (spīdǫ·mĭtəɹ). [f. SPEED *sb.* + *-ometer* -METER.] A speed-indicator, esp. one affixed to an automobile.

1904 *Times* 4 Aug. 13/1 His 'speedometer'..showed he was going at only ten miles an hour.

Speedwell (spī·dwel). [app. f. SPEED *v.* 1 + WELL *adv.*] One or other species of *Veronica*, an extensive genus of small herbaceous plants with leafy stems and small blue (rarely pink or white) flowers; a plant belonging to this genus.

1578 LYTE *Dodoens* 26 Paules Betony, Herbe Fluellyn, or Speedewell. 1646 Sir T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* 101 An herbe there is commonly called Betonica Pauli, or Paul's Betony .., and is no more then speed well, or Fluellen. 1671 PHILLIPS, *Speedwell*, ..in Latin *Betonica Pauli*, and *Veronica Mas*, and *Femina*. 1760 J. LEE *Introd. Bot.* App. 327 Speedwell, *Veronica*. 1833 E. ELLIOTT *Spirits & Men* 22 in *Spl. Village*, etc. 218 While groups of speedwell, with their bright blue eyes, ..cluster in the sun. 1850 TENNYSON *In Mem.* lxxxiii, Bring orchis, bring the foxglove spire, The little speedwell's darling blue. 1885 R. BUCHANAN *Annan Water* v, The banks were sprinkled thick with speedwells and primroses.

attrib. *c* 1710 PETIVER *Cat. Ray's Eng. Herbal* Tab. xlviii, Speedwell Cress. Hill sides. 1862 Miss YONGE *C'tess Kate* v, The young lady..delicately blue and white, like a speedwell flower.

b. With distinguishing terms.

The number of specific designations is very large: see *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. (1753) s.v. *Veronica*, Withering *Brit. Plants* (1796) II. 12–18, *Penny Cycl.* (1843) XXVI. 271, Irvine *Handbk. Brit. Plants* (1858) 439–444.

1611 COTGR., *Veronique masle*, the male Speed-well. 1731 MILLER *Gard. Dict.* s.v. *Veronica*, Common Male Speedwell or Fluellin. *Ibid.*, Narrow-leav'd spik'd Speedwell [etc.]. 1777 JACOB *Cat. Plants* 121 *V*[*eronica*] *serpyllifolia*, little, or smooth Speedwell, or Paul's Betony. 1796 WITHERING *Brit. Plants* (ed. 3) II. 17 *Veronica Chamaedrys*. ..Wild Germander. Germander Speedwell. 1840 HODGSON *Hist. Northumb.* III. II. 360/1 *Veronica scutellata*, Narrow-leafed Marsh Speedwell. 1846–50 A. WOOD *Class-bk. Bot.* 406 *V. arvensis*. Field Veronica. Corn Speedwell. ..*V. agrestis*. Neckweed. Field Speedwell. 1847 DARLINGTON *Amer. Weeds*, etc. [1860) 227 *V. peregrina*, ..Foreign Veronica. Purslane Speedwell. 1855 Miss PRATT *Flower. Pl.* IV. 89 Spiked Speedwell...Gardeners call it Cat's-tail Speedwell. 1882 *Garden* 15 Apr. 263/3 The New Zealand Speedwell, when well grown, is one of the most beautiful of greenhouse plants. 1898 MORRIS *Austral Eng.* 428 *Native Speedwell*, ..a Tasmanian species, *Veronica formosa*.

Speedy (spī·di), *a.* Forms: 4–5 **spedi**, 4–6 **spedy**(e, 6 *Sc.* **speidie**, **spidy** (7 **spidde**); 6–7 **speedie**, 6– **speedy**. [f. SPEED *sb.* Cf. OE. *spēdig* prosperous, wealthy, powerful, etc.; MDu. *spōd-, spoedich* (Du. *spoedig*), MLG. *spōdig*, G. (from LG.) *spudig* (obs.), *sputig*, *spültig*.]

†1. Advantageous, expedient, helpful. *Obs.*

c 1380 WYCLIF *Wks.* (1880) 42 þei schulle see þat it is spedy to here nedy. *c* 1400 *Apol. Loll.* 50 It semiþ good, spedi, and meritori, þat þe kirk be honorid. *c* 1449 PECOCK *Repr.* II. xii. 220 Therfore this..is a spedi condicioun and a myȝti forto helpe.

2. Moving, or able to move, with speed; going or travelling quickly; swift.

1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* VI. 591 He bad fif of his cumpany That..on fut spediast ware..Ryn eftir hym: *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* I. 230 Wallace was spedy, and gretlye als agast. 1533 BELLENDEN *Livy* I. xi. (S.T.S.) I. 64 Ane knycht come to tullus on ane spedy hors. 1576 FLEMING *Panopl. Epist.* 120 Foure swifte and speedie legions. 1630 *R. Johnson's Kingd. & Commw.* 421 The Barbary Horse is more speedy than the rest. 1641 MILTON *Ch. Govt.* I. vii. 41 They..can best judge how speedy we are to their relief. 1716 POPE *Iliad* v. 54 The speedy javelin drove from back to breast. 1811 *Sporting Mag.* XXXVII. 135 To get not only speedy but lasting racers.

absol. 1742 YOUNG *Nt. Th.* II. 223 Why spur the speedy? Why with levities New-wing thy..day's too rapid flight?

†b. *Speedy man*, one formerly employed to carry from Oxford to Winchester intimations of vacancies at New College. *Obs.*

1825 C. WESTMACOTT *Eng. Spy* I. 260 A speedy-man by nimbler foe Lies buried in the earth below. *Ibid.* note, Wm. Perkins..the New College Speedy-man.

3. Acting with speed; active, prompt, quick.

1504 C'TESS RICHMOND tr. *De Imitatione* IV. vii. (1893) 269 So neglygent vnto the seruyce of god, so spedy to thende therof. 1551 T. WILSON *Logike* (1580) 52 b, The Gospell then required speedie Preachers. 1589 PUTTENHAM *Eng. Poesie* III. (Arb.) 241 *Expeditio*, or the speedie dispatcher. 1627 MAY *Lucan* III. 19 Three sisters speedy hands cannot suffice, For breaking threads has tyr'd the Destinies. 1702 in *Pennsylv. Hist. Soc. Mem.* IX. 125 Thy affairs here require a speedy hand. 1793 SMEATON *Edystone L.* § 200 The mixtures..rendered the plaster less speedy in setting. 1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* xxxiv, Speak out, and be speedy.

b. That quickly becomes so.

1628 FELTHAM *Resolves* II. [I.] iii. 7, I will take heed both of a speedy friend and slow enemy. Love is never lasting that flames before it burns.

4. Characterized by speed of motion or progress from one place to another.

1382 WYCLIF *Rom.* i. 10 If by ony maner aftirward sumtyme I haue esy, or spedy, weie in the wille of God of comynge to ȝou. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Edw. IV*, 14 He then..beyng well furnished, with spedy iorneys, came safe to his citie of London. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* I. i. 39 Making speedy way through spersed ayre. 1618 in Foster *Eng. Factories Ind.* (1906) I. 30 The conveyaunce would bee cheape, secure and speedy. 1685 DRYDEN *Ep. Albion & Albanius* 3 Feign'd Zeal..set out the speedier Pace; But, the last Heat, Plain Dealing won the Race. *a* 1701 MAUNDRELL *Journ. Jerus.* (1732) 144 The nearest and speediest way. 1797 S. & HT. LEE *Canterb. T.* (1799) I. 348 Favourable winds seemed for some time to promise them a speedy navigation. 1825 SCOTT *Talism.* xxii, A horseman..had returned on a speedy gallop to El Hakim. 1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* I. xvi. 118 Our progress was much more speedy than it had been on starting in the morning. *Ibid.* II. ix. 273 The speedier central motion [of the glacier].

b. Of time: Passing rapidly.

1598 YONG *Diana* 123 As she thinkes the howers of her life short and speedie.

5. Characterized by speed in operation or action; taking place rapidly or quickly.

1529 *Star Chamber Cases* (Selden) II. 179 The king willing speding [?*read* spedy] remedy for the same [*sc.* scarceness]. 1577 B. GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* III. (1586) 156 b, Wee keepe vp Cattes for the auoiding of the mischiefe, neither is there a speedier remedie. 1602 WILLIS *Stenographie* A ij b, Secondly, in speedie writing: For he that is well practized in this Art, may write Verbatim, as fast as a man can treateably speake. 1653 W. RAMESEY *Astrol. Restored* 128 It denoteth good success and speedy dispatch in the business. 1678 MARVELL *Growth Popery* 21 Another Act for speedier convicting of Papists. 1726 SWIFT *Gulliver* II. vii, The speedy determination of civil and criminal causes. 1764 *Museum Rust.* IV. 5 Therefore some speedy remedy should be applied. *a* 1806 H. K. WHITE *Lett.* (1837) 273 The speedier disseminating of the blessed gospel. 1843 SIR C. SCUDAMORE *Med. Visit Gräfenberg* 30 An impatient desire of urging crisis for the sake of a more speedy cure. 1867 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* (1877) I. iv. 149 The speedy fusion of Normans and English was greatly promoted by the fact [etc.].

b. Rapidly brought to pass or to an end; quickly accomplished, arrived at, or obtained.

The distinction between this and the prec. sense is often very slight.

1607 SHAKS. *Cor.* I. iii. 87, I will wish her speedy strength. 1648 *Hamilton Papers* (Camden) 184 To expect opportunites to assist and serue you, of which yee will see speedy effects. 1703 T. BROWN *Mourning Poet* Wks. 1711 IV. 215 Neale started first, to raise a speedy Sum, A Million Lottery. 1747 GRAY *Fav. Cat* 33 She mew'd to ev'ry wat'ry God, Some speedy aid to send. 1803 *Med. Jrnl.* X. 274, I flatter myself that the controversy will come to a speedy termination. 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xxii. IV. 701 Unless they could send him a speedy supply, his troops would..desert by thousands. 1895 *Law Times* XCIX. 544/1 There are under the existing rules some facilities for obtaining a speedy decision in such cases.

6. quasi-*adv.* Speedily.

1601 DOLMAN *La Primaud. Fr. Acad.* (1618) III. 782 To trie who should goe speediest. 1632 J. HAYWARD tr. *Biondi's Eromena* 12 Polimero..had put himselfe in that shippe only to get out the speedier from Birsa. 1756 TOLDERVY *Hist. 2 Orphans* III. 108 Humphry, having some reason to remember those sort of gentry, very speedy escaped into Drury-lane. 1796 J. MOSER *Hermit Caucasus* I. 172 Are causes decided as speedy, and at as small an expence as possible? 1866 S. B. JAMES *Duty & Doctrine* (1871) 61 You in your future, you in your speedy-coming actual experience.

7. **Speedy cut**, an injury on the inner side of a horse's fore leg, near the knee, caused by the foot of the opposite leg when in motion. Also as *v.* and *attrib.* (sometimes with ellipse of *cut*).

1692 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 2787/4 Lost,..a sorrel Gelding, full-aged,..speedy-cuts the off Leg before. 1697 *Ibid.* No. 3351/4 A brown bay Nag,..speedy cut. 1831 YOUATT *Horse* 245 The inside of the leg, immediately under the knee,..is subject to injury from what is termed the speedy cut. 1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib., Brit.* II. No. 4693, Web, Fetlock, Speedy, Splint,..and Strengthening Boots. 1884 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* Suppl. 464/1 The upper or speedy-cut boot, which is concaved in front to fit..the hoof-boot.

Hence †**Spee·dying** *vbl. sb.*, speeding, expediting.

1617 EARL ARUNDEL in *Buccleuch MSS.* (Hist. MSS. Comm.) I. 193 For the speedying whereof..I doubt not but your Lordships' persuasions may prevail. 1650 FULLER *Pisgah* II. v. vi. 202 For the speedying of whose conversion he pleased to compose the many different judgments of Christians into one truth.

†**Speek**, *sb. Obs.* Also **speeke**, **speake**. [Irregular var. SPICK *sb.*3] A large nail; a spike-nail.

1611 COTGR., *Clou d'estoupe*, a speake, or sheathing nayle; vsed in ships. *c* 1635 CAPT. N. BOTELER *Dial. Sea Service* (1685) 276 Those nails you call speeks. They are great and long iron nails with flat heads and of divers lengths. Some of the speeks are ragged which cannot be drawn out again. 1671 SKINNER *Etymol. Ling. Angl., Speeks*, vox Naut. sic autem dicuntur magni Clavi ferrei.

attrib. 1633 T. JAMES *Voy.* 108 Their weake Speeke Ships, can hardly long endure it.

Hence †**Speek** *v.*1 *trans.*, to fasten *up* with spikes.

c 1635 CAPT. N. BOTELER *Dial. Sea Service* (1685) 277 They use with these nails to fasten a Coin..unto the deck, close to the Breech of the carriages of the great Guns to help keep them firm up..., and this is called speeking up of the Ordnance. 1711 *Milit. & Sea Dict.* s.v., In foul Weather they use to speek up the Guns; that is, nail a Quoin to the Deck, close to the Breech of the Carriage, to help keep up the Piece strong to the Ship's side.

†**Speek**, *v.*2 *Obs.*–° = PEAK *v.*3 1.

1644 MANWARING *Seaman's Dict.* 68 Speek the Missen, (that is, put the yard right up and downe by the mast). 1711 *Milit. & Sea Dict.* s.v. *Spell*, This Word is most commonly us'd to the Mizzen-Sail; for when they take it in, or speek it up, they say spell the Mizzen.

Speel, *sb.*1 Now *dial.* Also 7 **speele**, 7, 9 **spele**. [Of Scand. origin: cf. Norw. *spela*, *spila*, Sw. *spjela*, *spjele*, of the same meaning.] A splinter or strip of wood, iron, etc.

c 1440 *Wycliffite Bible* 2 Kings xviii. 21 The splyndre or speel therof schal entre in to hys hond. 1634 *Lowe's Chirurg.* 185 Boyle all in an earthen pot, and stirre it about with a speele of wood. 1660 M. PARKER *Hist. Arthur* C iv, The speele of a broken launce hapned to pierce his skull. 1676 WISEMAN *Surg. Treat.* 286 During which some small Speels of Bones cast off, and the Ulcer cicatrized without much difficulty. *a* 1700 KENNETT *MS. Lansdowne* 1033 fol. 388 (Halliw.), A *spele*, a small wand, or switch in Westmorl[and]. 1854 Miss BAKER *Northampt. Gloss.*, *Spele*, .. a long, thin slip of wood. 1872 *N. & Q.* 4th Ser. IX. 21/2 He had got a speel in his finger. 1882 *Lancash. Gloss.* 249 *Speel* (Preston), a splinter.

Speel, *sb.*2 *Sc.* Also **spiel**. [f. next.] The act of clambering or climbing.

1807–10 TANNAHILL *Poems* (1846) 76 He clamb the heights of Jura's isle, Wi' weary speel. 1885 [J. LUMSDEN] *Rhymes* 31 Steeple-Jack daurna wage a spiel wi' me.

Speel (spīl), *v.*1 *Sc.* and *north. dial.* Forms: 6 **speill**, 6, 9 **speil**, 9 **spiel**; 6 **spel**, **spele**, 8– **speel**, 9 **speal**. [Of obscure origin; perh. a back-formation from SPEELER 1.]

1. *intr.* To mount or ascend to a height by climbing; to climb or clamber (*up* or *down*).

1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* II. viii. 11 Wp to the side wallis mony leddir set is, Quhairon thai preis fast our the ruif to speill. 1530 LYNDESAY *Test. Papyngo* 154 This Bird.. began to speill, rycht spedalie. 1560 ROLLAND *Seven Sages* 232 The skipper speillit belyve to the top Mast. 1725 RAMSAY *Christ's Kirk Gr.* II. x, [They] swat like pownies when they speel Up braes. 1816 SCOTT *Old Mort.* x, I could ..speel down..weel eneugh. 1818 — *Hrt. Midl.* xx, The.. wolves..that I used to see spieling up on my bed. 1863 in Robson *Bards of Tyne* 221 So he speal'd up the side. *fig.* *a* 1586 MONTGOMERIE *Misc. Poems* iii. 31 Then spurgald sporters they begin to speill [at court]. 1825 J. WILSON *Noct. Ambr.* Wks: 1855 I. 2 You'll see who will have speeled to the top of the tree.

b. *transf.* Of the sun, etc.: To move towards the zenith.

1718 RAMSAY *Christ's Kirk Gr.* III. i, The dawn Speel'd westlines up the lift. 1768 ROSS *Helenore* 58 An' neist the sun to the hill heads did speal. 1819 W. TENNANT *Papistry Storm'd* (1827) 43 Phoebus..up the pend at furious rate Gaed speilin'.

2. *trans.* To mount or ascend, to climb or clamber up (a hill, tree, etc.).

1571 *Satir. Poems Reform.* xxviii. 160 The Lord..Inspyrit thair spreitis, & gart thame speil that heuch. 1785 BURNS *To W. Simpson* iii, My senses wad be in a creel, Should I but dare a hope to speel..The braes o' fame. 1790 A. WILSON *2nd Ep. A. Clark* Poet. Wks. (Belfast ed.) 99 Tired wi'..Speeling stairs, and lifting snecks. 1815 SCOTT *Antiq.* vii, Nae mortal could speel them [*sc.* the cliffs] without a rope. 1894 HESLOP *Northumbld. Gloss.* 676 He speeled the tree like a cat.

fig. 1786 BURNS *To Jas. Smith* xiii, Ance that five an' forty's speel'd.

b. *transf.* Of things.

1790 A. WILSON in *Poems & Lit. Prose* (1876) II. 198 Bonny mornin' speels the eastlin lift. *a* 1849 W. NICHOLSON in Edwards *Mod. Scott. Poets* (1881) III. 67 The honeysuckles speel the roof. 1856 R. SIMPSON *Covenanters of South* 429 An ancient Celtic dyke speels the beetling height.

Speel, *v.*2 *slang. rare*–°. (See quot.)

1859 *Slang Dict.* 98 *Speel*, to run away, make off; 'Speel the drum', to go off with stolen property. *North.*

Speel-bone. *dial.* Also 4 **spile-**, 7 **speell-**. [? f. SPEEL *sb.*1 Cf. Craven dial. *spell-baan* in the same sense.] The small bone of the leg († or arm).

1307 *Wakefield Crt. Rolls* (1906) II. 131 [They assaulted and beat her, and broke the] spilebon [of her arm]. 1698 in *Jrnl. Friends' Hist. Soc.* (1912) IX. 193 A fall..broke the speell bone of her leg. 1869–76 in Lonsdale and Whitby glossaries.

†**Spee·ler** 1. *Sc. Obs.* In 5 **spelare**, 6 **spelair**. [prob. ad. older Flem. or LG. *speler* (G. *spieler*) player, actor; formation on SPEEL *v.*1 is less likely.] A performer; an acrobat.

1496 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* I. 322 Item,..giffin to the tawbronar that playit to the King, and the spelare with him, xxvij *s.*. 1502 *Ibid.* II. 334 Item, to the spelair, his quartar pensioun, xij li. x *s.* 1503 *Ibid.* 387 Item, to the Inglis spelair, that playit the supersalt.

Spee·ler 2. *Sc.* [f. SPEEL *v.*1] One of a pair of spiked irons used in climbing poles or trees.

1869 in Mrs. Gordon *Home Life Brewster* iii. 31 These [firs] the boys ascended, with 'speilers' or iron cramps on their ankles, to reach the crow-nests.

Speeler 3. *Austr.* [perh. f. north. dial. *speel* 'to run quickly' (of a horse).] A horse with a turn for speed.

1893 MRS. C. PRAED *Outlaw & Lawmaker* I. 252 He's a bit of a speeler. He'd lick the lot of 'em if he was put into training.

Speeler, var. SPIELER, 'sharper'; **Speen**, var. SPEAN *sb.*; Sc. dial. var. *spune* SPOON *sb.*

Speer (spīəɹ), *sb.*[1] Now *dial.* Forms: 4–5 spere, 6 sper, 7 speare, 9 spear, 5, 7– speer, 6, 9 speere. [? a. MLG. *speer*, *sper* spar-work.] A fixed screen for warding off an air-draught; a wooden partition near the door or by the fire-place; a chimney-post.

1379 *Durham Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 131 In factura unius spere de Estlandbord' in Scakar Hostill. cum ligaturis ferreis et clavis. 1419 *Mem. Ripon* (Surtees) III. 145 Pro dobyng ij sperys j mesuagii in Bondgate pro ij dies. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 468/2 Spere, or scuw, ..*scrineum*, *ventifuga*. *a* 1470 H. Parker *Dives & Pauper* (W. de W. 1496) IV. iv. 1641 He was put out of the chambre & layde hym behynde the spere at the halle dore. 1530 Palsgr. 274/1 Speere in a hall, *buffet*. 1538 in Gage *Hist. & Antiq. Hengrave* (1822) 42 Item, ye said hall to have ij coberds; one benethe, at the sper, w^t^ a tremor; and another, at the hygher table's inde, w'out a tremor. *a* 1600 *Heir of Linne* 80 in *Percy's MS.* (1867) I. 78 When that he came to Iohn of the Scales, vpp at the speere he looked then. 1674 Ray *N. C. Words* 44 The Speer. Chesh. The Chimney post. 1820 Wilbraham *Chesh. Gloss.* 62 *Speer*, the chimney post on each side of the fire-place. 1886 B. Brierley *Cast upon World* i. 9 The first object to be seen after the door was closed was a pinched face at the edge of the 'speer'.

†Speer, *sb.*[2] *Obs.* Also 8 **spear.** [var. of Spire *sb.*[1] (cf. Spear *sb.*[2]).] A branch or prong of a deer's horn. (Freq. in Topsell's work.)

1607 Topsell *Four-f. Beasts* 327 They [*sc.* the horns] are sharp.., no where smooth but in the tops of the speers. 1658 Rowland *Topsell's Four-f. Beasts* 97 These [harts] do excell all other in the beauty of horns,..branching forth into many speers. *Ibid.* 98 At one year old they have nothing but small bunches,..at three years they grow forked into two speers. [Hence in Blome *Gentl. Recreat.* (1686), *Dict. Rust.* (1704) s.v. *Hart*, Chambers *Cycl.* (1728) s.v. *Head*, etc.] 1774 Goldsm. *Nat. Hist.* III. v. 113 [The stag's] horns are called his head; when simple, the first year they are called broches; the third year, spears.

Speer, *sb.*[3] *Sc. rare.* Also **spier.** [f. Speer *v.*[1]] An inquiry, questioning, or interrogation.

1788 Macaulay *Poems* 134, I..had nae fear O' getting you wi' little spier, Being sure to find you. 1822 Galt *Steam-Boat* x. 257 There was..a wonderful speer and talk about what we had all seen that day at the Coronation.

Speer, *sb.*[4] *rare.* Also *Sc.* **spire.** [Of obscure origin.] Spray.

1825 Jamieson *Suppl.*, *Spire*, spray. Sea-spire, the spray of the sea. Renfr[ew]. 1902 'M. Fairless' *Roadmender* 70 The salt and speer of the sea, the companying with great ships, the fresh burden.

Speer (spīəɹ), *v.*[1] Chiefly *Sc.* and *north.* Also **speir, spier.** Forms: *a.* 1 spyrian, 4 spury-, spur-, 5–6 spure, spur, 6–7 spurre; 1 spirian, 4–5 spire, 4–6 spyre, 4–5, 9 spir, 5 spyr, spirr, spyrr, 5–6 spyrre, 5, 7 spirre. *β.* 4 speriȝe, 5 speryn, 4–6, 9 sper, 5 speore, 5– speir, 6 speire, 6–8 spear, 8– spier, 5– speer; 5 *Sc.* spar, 7 *north.* sparre. [Common Teut.: OE. *spyrian*, = OS. **spurian* (cf. the sbs. *spuringa*, *spurida*), OHG. *spurigen*, *spurien* (MHG. *spüren*, *spürn*, G. *spüren*, dial. *spieren*, *spiren*), ON. (Icel. and Norw.) *spyrja* (Sw. *spörja*, Da. *sperge*, †*sperje*); cf. also MDu. *spören* (Du. *speuren*), LG. *spören*, *sporen* (hence Da. *spore*, Sw. *spåra*), obs. G. *spören*, *speuren*, *spuren*. For the relationship of the stem *spur-*, *spor-* see Spoor *sb.*

In OE. the original senses of 'to make or follow a track', 'to go in search of', 'to seek after', are fully represented.]

I. *intr.* **1.** To put a question or questions; to make inquiries; to ask. Also with advs. as *about*, *in*.

a. c 888 K. Ælfred *Boeth.* xxvi. § 2 Ȝenoh ryhte þu spyrast; swa hit is swa þu seȝst. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 11475 'Gais,' he said, 'and spirs well gern'. 13.. *Seuyn Sages* (W.) 3832 The seriantes..spird obowt als he tham bad. 1375 Barbour *Bruce* III. 486 And on sic maner spyryt he, That he knew that it wes the king. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 4297, I will tell..How sprittis in hom spake to qwho þat spirre wold. *c* 1475 *Babees Bk.* 37 Yf there be eny worde That yee kenne nouhte, spyrre whils yee yt ken. 1530 Palsgr. 731/1, I spurre, I aske a questyon. 1659 Somner *Dict. Sax. Lat.-Angl.* s.v. *Spyrian*, Lanc. *to spirre*.

β. c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xxx. (*Theodera*) 228 Þane mad þe kerlyng sum dangere, wittand scho suld þe ȝarnare spere. *c* 1430 *Syr Gener.* (Roxb.) 6820 He that was the maryner Went aboute fast to spere; Of this mariage he herd tel. *c* 1475 *Rauf Coilȝear* 51 Sen thow speiris, I the tell All the suith hale. 1535 Stewart *Cron. Scot.* I. 75 Exploratouris than haif tha send..That was expert, to speir about. 1774 Fergusson *Leith Races* Poems (1845) 30 Where do ye win? if ane may speir. *c* 1780 Burns *Tarbolton Lasses* v, And should ye ride by yon hill-side, Speer in for bonie Bessie. 1808 Mayne *Siller Gun* III. xix, 'It sets ye weel, indeed, to speer,' The sutor answer'd.

b. Const. *about* or *anent*, *after*, *for*, *into*, *of* (= concerning).

a. a 1300 *Cursor M.* 11444 Þai toke þair gesting in þe tun, And spird him efter vp and dun. *Ibid.* 13628 Quar-for spir yee o þat gom? 1338 R. Brunne *Chron.* (1810) 112 Þe kyng in þat forest A moneth lay, to spire for wod & wilde beste. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 12429 The kynges into councell callit hir þan, To spir of hor spede. *c* 1440 *Alph. Tales* 122 Þai went vnto þis clerkis howse & spirrid after þer maister & his suster.

β. 1375 Barbour *Bruce* IV. 494 Heir I saw the men, That ȝhe speir eftir, mak luging. *Ibid.* XVI. 21 And he..sperit of his brotheris fair. *c* 1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 300 He wendes forthe..Of þis nouelry to sper. *c* 1489 Caxton *Sonnes of Aymon* xxvii. 573 Whan he founde not his mayster in the chirche he..spered after him. ? *a* 1550 *Freiris Berwik* 59 in *Dunbar's Poems* (1893) 287 Freir Robert speirt eftir the gud man. *a* 1578 Lindesay (Pitscottie) *Chron. Scot.* (S.T.S.) I. 258 [He] come..cryand and speirand for the king. *a* 1700 ? Semple *Maggie Lauder* v, Gin ye should come to Anster Fair, Spier ye for Maggie Lauder. 1717 Ramsay *Elegy Lucky Wood* xii, And after ages bairns will spear 'Bout thee and me. 1795 Burns *Braw Wooer* vii, I speered for my cousin..Gin she had recovered her hearin'. 1815 Scott *Guy M.* i, Troth, I kenna, unless ye like to..speer for quarters at the Place. 1824 — *Redgauntlet* let. xi, Speer as little about him as he does about you. 1866 H. Kingsley *Leighton Court* xxxiii, Of whom were ye speiring?

c. Const. *at* (also †*of*) a person. Cf. **4.**

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 15899 Gladli wald he spek and sper, Bot at quam he ne wate. 1375 Barbour *Bruce* v. 39 The King ..sperit at hym how he had done. 1441 *Plumpton Corr.* (Camden) p. lvi, Sir William Plompton..spirred of the said tenants..of the governance & rule that night. 1470–85 Malory *Arthur* XXI. viii. 852 Syr Launcelot spyrred of men of douer where was kyng Arthur become. 1500–20 Dunbar *Poems* xc. 33 Gif..he be blinde, and can nocht at the speir. 1585 Jas. I *Ess. Poesie* (Arb.) 48 I speared at him..What word of Phœnix which was flown away? *a* 1724 in Ramsay *Tea-t. Misc.* (1733) I. 28 He first speer'd at the guidman. 1792 Burns *'An' O for ane-and-twenty'* ii, At kith or kin I need na spier. 1818 Scott *Hrt. Midl.* x, What needs ye be aye speering then at folk? 1903 *Pilot* 22 Aug. 169/1 These things can only be ascertained by 'speiring' at the Colonies themselves.

†2. To inquire one's way; to make one's way, proceed or go, *to* a place, etc. *Obs.*

c 1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 6166 Be hir tellyng men wer steryd, And diuers to þe saynt speryd, and come in pilgrimage. 1513 Douglas *Æneid* II. vi. 52 To quhilk other forthires sall we speir? *Ibid.* VI. v. 147 Speir to the portis quhilkis Velinos kait. 1615 Brathwait *Strappado* (1878) 131 Heere stood I musing..Till Iockie wha dost thinke speard vp to me.

II. *trans.* **3.** With objective clause: To inquire or ask *how*, *what*, *who*, etc.

a. c 900 tr. *Baeda's Hist.* xvii. (1722) 499 Hi ða spyredan hwæt and hwonan he wæs. 13.. *K. Alis.* 2569 (W.), He ..spirred whider Darie is went. 1338 R. Brunne *Chron.* (1810) 327 He spired as he ȝede, who did suilk trespas. 1390 Gower *Conf.* I. 198 This lord to spire Began, fro whenne that sche cam. *c* 1440 *Alph. Tales* 264 Þan þis duke besoght þaim to spur who did þis trispas. 1483 Caxton *Gold. Leg.* 77/1 Therfore spyre and aske how thou maist goo to hym.

β. c 1325 *Metr. Hom.* 95 The king..sperid in quat time, and quat cyte, That Goddes sun suld born be. 1375 Barbour *Bruce* X. 522 Tharfor preuely sperit he Gif ony man mycht fundin be [etc.]. 1456 Sir G. Haye *Law Arms* (S.T.S.) 1 He speris quhat thing is bataill. *a* 1470 Harding *Chron.* CXVII. viii, Buryed he was, but where no man durste spere. 1549 *Compl. Scot.* xi. 100 His sone pontius sperit quhou he suld vse hym contrar the romans. *a* 1572 Knox *Hist. Ref.* Wks. 1846 I. 241 'What sayis thow of the Messe?' spearis the Erle of Huntley. 1637 Rutherford *Lett.* (1862) I. lxxix. 202 Rouse..your soul, and speer how Christ and your soul met together. 1686 G. Stuart *Joco-ser. Disc.* 13 I speer'd what news in this gude town. *c* 1770 Beattie *To A. Ross* vi, Naebody car'd For anes to speer how Scota far'd. 1818 Scott *Rob Roy* xviii, And is't the way to Glasgow ye were speering if I ken'd? 1871 C. Gibbon *Lack of Gold*, xiv, You needna' speir how I ken.

4. To make inquiries concerning, to ask questions regarding (a thing or fact). Also const. *at* or *of* (a person).

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 1606 Alle þat he spured hym..he expowned clene. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* ii. (*Paul*) 229 At þame spere but mare þe cause quhy I gert ȝou cum þare. 14.. *King & Barker* 13 in Hazl. *E. P. P.* I. 4 Howt kyng bad hes men abeyde, And he welde sper of hem the wey. *c* 1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 2622 When many thinges sho had speryd. *c* 1500 *Lancelot* 1169 At qwhome sul sone than gan scho to Inquere, And al the maner of the ostis till spere. 1549 *Compl. Scot.* Prol. 15 Gyf ony persone vald speir at me the maneir of the gouernyng of ane battel. 1646 Row *Hist. Kirk* (Wodrow Soc.) p. xxxiii, To informe of thingis that I sall speir at him. 1686 G. Stuart *Joco-ser. Disc.* 14 Ye speer the Gate ye kenn right weel. 1830 Galt *Lawrie T.* IX. viii. (1849) 434 Oh, no great sum; ye needna speer that. 1858–61 E. B. Ramsay *Remin.* ii. (1870) 21 It's no the day to be speering sic things.

b. With special objects, as *tidings*, *price*, etc.

To speer (one's) price, to ask one's terms, to ask in marriage.

(*a*) *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 5682 Moyses..sett him þar a wel bi-side, Tiþand for to spir and bide. 1375 Barbour *Bruce* XIX. 599 Ilkane at othir sperit tithing. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 237 And þar [she] hire spakid with his speche & spird of him wordis. 1513 Douglas *Æneid* III. ii. 155 My fadir exhortis ws..Apollois ansueir speir. *a* 1585 Montgomerie *Cherry & Slae* 946 ȝe culd not luck..That all opinions sperit.

(*b*) 1583 *Leg. Bp. St. Androis* 794 For a pair of schone he ast. Bot or he sperit the price to pay them [etc.]. 1785 Burns *Scotch Drink* xiv, Monie..hardly, in a winter season, E'er spier her price. 1823 Galt *Entail* II. xxviii. 268, I was past thirty before man speer't my price. 1837 Lockhart *Scott* vi. I. 286 We've stood here an hour by the Tron, hinny, and de'il a ane has speered our price.

c. To request the return of (money); to ask *back*.

1818 Scott *Hrt. Midl.* xlix, This siller binds me to naething, and can never be speered back again.

d. To ask for (advice); to beg (leave).

1724 in Ramsay *Tea-t. Misc.* (1733) I. 101 Love speers nae advice Of parents o'er wise. *a* 1835 *Child Maurice* xii. in Child *Ball.* II. 268/1 She maun cum to the merrie green-wud, And speir the leive o nane. 1866 J. Young *Life y. Welsh* 403 'It's right like, Sir,' said she; 'for we never speired his advice'. 1895 Crockett *Men of Moss-hags* xxxv. 253 Dinna bide to speer her leave.

5. To trace or find out by inquiry. Usu. with *out*.

c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* vi. (*Thomas*) 10 Bisily fore to spere a man, þat sic palace can make. 1390 Gower *Conf.* III. 324 He bad his man to gon and spire A place wher sche myhte abyde. 1562 Turner *Herbal* II. (1568) 39 Perchance som of vs..myght spere it out and fynd it by that name. 1637 Rutherford *Lett.* (1862) I. 434 Oh that people would speer out Christ! 1648 *Burgh Rec. Glasgow* (1881) II. 157 To speir out men fitting to be employet for the Manufactorie. *c* 1746 J. Collier (Tim Bobbin) *View Lanc. Dial.* (1775) 41 I soyn sperr'd the Gentlemon's Hoah eawt. 1863 S. S. Jones *Northumbld.* 64/1 Tryin' tae speer oot his station an' character. 1854 Miss Baker *Northampt. Gloss.* s.v., Speer it out if you can. With us it is almost *obs.*

6. With cognate object (see also 7): To ask (a question).

c 1460 *Towneley Myst.* XXX. 206 Whi spir ye not, sir, no questyons? 1549 *Compl. Scot.* xvi. 143 The preist of peblis speris ane questione in ane beuk that he conpilit. 1581 J. Bell *Haddon's Answ. Osor.* 56 But you begyn here to..spurre questions at me on all sides. 1816 Scott *Old Mort.* XXXVII, I hae had sae mony questions speered at me in my day. 1889 Barrie *Window in Thrums* 168 Ye shouldna spier sic annoyin' queistions.

7. To question or interrogate (a person). Usually with const., as *of*, interrogative clause, or cognate object (cf. 6).

Still in Sc. use; also *spec.* to propose marriage to (a woman).

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 3826 He spird þaim queben þai ware. *c* 1400 *Anturs of Arthur* XX, Of thies sperituale thynges spyre me na mare. 1484 in *Cely Papers* (Camden) 153 He speryd me noo oder questyans. 1568 tr. *Montanus' Inquisit.* 22 b, He shall ride the racke, and there be spurred certeyne questions. 1594 Lyly *Mother Bombie* IV. ii, He be so bolde as spurre her, what might a bodie call her name? 1600 Holland *Livy* XXIII. xii. 481 b, Seeing a Senatour bluntly spurreth me the question.

Hence **Speerer,** an inquirer. *rare*[−1].

c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xxvii. (*Machor*) 1140 Þarfor lewe forthir to spere..; for sperer of his maieste fra his Joy sall donne thrungine be.

Speer (spīəɹ), *v.*[2] *dial.* and *U.S.* [perh. identical with prec., influenced by Peer *v.*] *intr.* To peer. Const. *at*, *into*, *out*.

1866 Blackmore *Cradock Nowell* XLV. (1873) 293 Out went Eöa, speering around for the tracks of Bob. 1866 J. Sleigh *Derby Gloss.* (E.D.D.), To speer and pry into any thing. 1885 B. Harte *Maruja* i, She a flirt, speerin' at men with that modest, downcast air? 1895 *Pall Mall G.* 2 Dec. 3/2 We all speered out to catch a glimpse of the Injiman.

Speer, variant of Spere *a. Obs.*

Speer(e, obs. forms of Spear, Sphere.

Speering, *vbl. sb. Sc.* and *north. dial.* [f. Speer *v.*[1] Cf. Spurring *vbl. sb.*[2]]

1. The action of questioning or inquiring; interrogation, inquiry.

a 1100 in Napier *O. E. Glosses* 132/1 *Adinuentionum*, ȝesmeangum, spyrungum, axungum. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 27280 In spiring loke þe preist be sli. 1375 Barbour *Bruce* III. 568 Eftir the mete sone rais the king, Quhen he had lewyt hys speryng. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 12093 He besit hym barly þe burde forto seche,..Till he aspiet hir..by speryng of othir. *c* 1440 *York Myst.* XXXIII. 64 For any spirringes in þat space no speche walde he spell. 1552–3 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* I. 137 Anent the spering..of every wrang sen the peax bigane. 1816 Chalmers in Hanna *Life* (1851) II. 77, I..went through a great deal of speering and hand-shaking. 1892 *Edin. Rev.* Jan. 51 He used to reply to his son's eager 'speerings' by such admissions as 'That I do not know' [etc.].

2. Information obtained by inquiry. Also *pl.*

1375 Barbour *Bruce* V. 490 He..lay still in the castell than, Till he gat spering at [=of] a man Of Carrick. 1814 Scott *Wav.* XXX, If it please my Creator, I will forthwith obtain speirings thereof. 1824 — *Redgauntlet* let. xi, Ony of the hill-folk he could get speerings of.

Speet, obs. f. or var. Spit *sb.* and *v.* **Speget,** obs. f. Spigot *sb.* **Speid,** obs. f. Speed.

†Speight. *Obs.* Also 5 *Sc.*, 6–7 specht, 6 speicht, 6–7 speight, 7 spight. [Either repr. an unrecorded OE. **speht* (**specht*), or a MDu. or MLG. *specht* (Du. *specht*, WFris. *specht*, *spjucht*), = OS. *speth* (sic), OHG. *speht* (MHG. *speht*, *speiht*, G. *specht*): cf. Da. *spætte*, Norw. *spetta*, Sw. *hack-spett*, and OF. *espoit*, *espois* (from Germanic). The ultimate affinities of the word are uncertain.

Specht in Johnson (1755) is due to a misprint in Ainsworth (1736) s.v. *Picus*.]

The green woodpecker, *Gecinus viridis*. (Cf. Speck *sb.*[3] and Wood-spite.)

c 1450 Holland *Howlat* 334 The Specht was a purcevant, provde till apper, That raid befor the empriour. 1513 Douglas *Æneid* VII. iv. 92 Ane byrd..Wyth sprutlit wyngis, clepit a Speicht wyth ws, Quhilk in Latyne hecht *Pycus Marcyus*. 1552 Elyot, *Picus martius*, a birde:..of this bee three kyndes, the fyrst a specht, the seconde a hecway, the third..is not in Englande. 1598 Sylvester *Du Bartas* II. i. IV. *Handicrafts* 157 Eve, walking forth about the Forrests, gathers Speights', Parrots', Peacocks', Estrich' scatt'red feathers. 1601 Holland *Pliny* I. 278 Some little birds there are also that haue hooked clees, as the Spights. 1656 W. Du Gard tr. *Comenius' Gate Lat. Unl.* 43 The Gnat-snapper used to feed on figs; and the Speight on Bees.

†Speild. *Sc. Obs.*[−1] [var. of Speld *sb.*] A piece, part, or strip.

1653 in Laing *Lindores Abbey* (1876) 231 He took neither hyd not half ane hyd, but ane speild of ane hyd, and caried it to the house.

Speinzie, obs. Sc. form of Spain.

†Speir[1]. *Obs.* Forms: 4 speyr(e, 4–5 speire. [ad. OF. *espeir(e* Espeire.] Hope; expectation.

1303 R. Brunne *Handl. Synne* 6476 Þy sone ys now yn þe same speyre; he shal nat þenk þat he shal deye. *c* 1330

— *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 5790 To haue a lord þey were in speyr. *c* 1400 *St. Alexius* (MS. Laud 622) 1030 To þi comyng was al my speire, To haue ymade of þee myne eire.

†**Speir**[2]. *Obs. rare.* Also 5 speyr. [Aphetic f. *despeir* DESPAIR *sb.*] Despair; despondency.

13.. *Eufrosyne* 9 in Horstm. *Altengl. Leg.* (1878) 174 Þis mon was sori and in gret speir, For he hedde of his bodi non heir. 14.. *Tundale's Vis.* 1008 Tundale feld a stynkyng ayr, Then of his lyffe he was in speyr.

Speir, var. SPEER *v.*[1]; obs. Sc. f. SPHERE.

Speir(e, obs. ff. SPEAR *sb.*[1]

Speiss (spəis). Also 8–9 speis. [ad. G. *speise* in the same sense, a special use of *speise* (:—pop. Lat. *spēsa*, L. *expensa*) 'food, nourishment'.]

1. An impure metallic compound, containing nickel, cobalt, iron, etc., produced in the smelting of certain ores; *esp.* an arsenide obtained in the manufacture of smalt and used as a source of nickel.

1796 KIRWAN *Elem. Min.* (ed. 2) II. 287 It [sulphurated nickel] affords, together with Speis (which is a compound of Nickel and Cobalt) also Copper and Silver. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 302 The latter ores should be but slightly roasted, so as to convert the nickel into speiss. 1850 FOWNES *Chem.* (ed. 3) 295 The artificial, or perhaps rather merely fused, product, called *speiss*, ..may be employed as a source of the nickel-salts. 1877 RAYMOND *Statist. Mines & Mining* 184 The average assay of speiss produced during the year. 1883 *Encycl. Brit.* XVI. 61/2 We can produce a speis which contains only cobalt and nickel.

2. **Speiss-cobalt**, tin-white cobalt; smaltine.

1872 RAYMOND *Statist. Mines & Mining* 20 Antimonial silver ore with traces of speiss-cobalt. 1877 *Encycl. Brit.* VI. 81/1 Smaltine or speiss cobalt, an arsenide of the isomorphous bases, cobalt, nickel, and iron.

Speit, obs. Sc. f. SPIT *sb.*

Spek, obs. f. SPEAK, SPECK, SPEKE[2].

‖ **Spek-boom** (spe·kbōm). Also **speck-**. [S. African Du., f. *spek* SPECK *sb.*[4] + *boom* tree.] The purslane-tree (*Portulacaria Afra*) of South Africa.

1834 PRINGLE *Afr. Sk.* vi. 209 The spekboom, with its light green leaves and lilac blossoms. *Ibid.* vii. 248 Browsing on the succulent spekboom, which clothed the skirts of the hills. 1850 R. G. CUMMING *Hunter's Life S. Afr.* (1902) 12/1 One vast jungle of dwarfish evergreen shrubs and bushes, amongst which the speckboom was predominant. 1879 ATCHERLEY *Trip Boerland* 186 The *spek-boom* grows here in great profusion.

†**Speke**[1]. *Obs.*—[1] [ad. L. *spec-us.*] A cave.

1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. xv. 270 Monkes..In spekes an in spelonkes selden speken togideres.

†**Speke**[2]. Also 5 spek, 7 speak. [a. MDu. or MLG. *spēke* SPOKE *sb.*]

1. A handspike.

1366 in Nicolas *Hist. Royal Navy* (1847) II. 473 [For one other] wyndas [bought, with four] spekes [pertaining to the same, 12 d.]. 1417 in Riley *Mem. Lond.* (1868) 656 [Taking in his hands a certain staff commonly called a] spek.

2. A wheel-spoke.

?*a* 1400 *Morte Arth.* 3264 The spekes was splentide alle with speltis of siluer. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 353/1 A Speke (A Speke of a qwele), *radius*. 1485 in *Ripon Ch. Acts* (Surtees) 374, xxj axiltrees, ..x gang de felghes, ..iiij gang de spekes, 1617–8 *Shuttleworths' Acc.* (Chetham Soc.) 228, xj gange of fellice [felloes], ..viij gange of speaks.

Speke, etc., obs. f. SPEAK, etc. **Spekenardy**, obs. var. SPIKENARD. **Speknel**, obs. f. SPIGNEL.

Spelæan (spĭlī·ăn), *a.* Also spelean. [f. mod. L. *spelæ-us*, f. L. *spēlæum*, ad. Gr. σπήλαιον cave.]

1. Inhabiting a cave or caves; frequenting caverns; cave-dwelling.

1839 G. ROBERTS *Dict. Geol.* 161 *Spelæan*, that frequent caverns. A term applied to the hyæna. 1874 DAWKINS *Cave Hunt.* iii. 118 The remains of the spelæan variety of the spotted hyæna were very abundant in the cave-earth. *a* 1882 *Fraser's Mag.* (Imp. Dict.), Those primitive spelæan people who contended against and trapped the mammoth.

2. Of the nature of a cave.

1882 OWEN in *Longman's Mag.* I. 67 More satisfactorily ..than in any other spelæan retreat which I have explored.

Spelæology (spelĭɪ·ŏlŏdʒi). Also **speleo-**. [ad. F. *spéléologie*: see prec. and -OLOGY.] The scientific study of caves.

α. 1895 E. A. MARTEL in *Rep. 6th Geogr. Congr.* (1896) 721 To make of speleology something else than a mere sport. 1899 *Pop. Sci. Monthly* LV. 562 The southern half of Missouri and the Black Hills..offer..regions for the study of caves, or speleology.

β. 1895 *Knowledge* Oct. 223/2 'Spelæology, the Science of Caverns,' was the title of a paper by Mons. E. A. Martel. 1896 *Geogr. Jrnl.* VII. 221 An account of the position of Spelæology, the science of caverns, in geography.

So **Spelæolo·gical** *a.*, of or pertaining to spelæology; **Spelæo·logist**, a student of, or authority on, cave-research.

1895 *Knowledge* Oct. 223/2 It was shown that *spelæological investigation would be of value to many branches of natural science. 1900 *Geogr. Jrnl.* XV. 78 The progress of speleological exploration in Yorkshire. 1895 MARTEL in *Rep. 6th Geogr. Congr.* (1896) 722, I hope..that the English *speleologists may be..incited to renewed investigations. 1895 *Knowledge* Oct. 223/2 Much remains to be done by British spelæologists.

†**Spelch**, *sb. Obs. Sc.* and *north.* [Related to SPELK *sb.*]

1. A chip or splinter.

1572 R. BANNATYNE *Jrnl.* (1806) 388 The portcullious.. fell down to the ground agane, and a part of a spelch therof fleing of, hurt Harie Balfour in the heid. 1634 *Lowe's Chirurg.* 354 A little part of the bone is superficially separated like unto a little spelch or sclat.

2. (See quot.)

1677 NICOLSON in *Trans. R. Soc. Lit.* (1870) IX. 319 *Spelch*, a swathe band.

†**Speld**, *sb. Obs.* Also 4–5 spelde, 4 spielde. [OE. *speld* neut., = ON. *speld*, *spjald* (Norw. *spjeld*, Sw. *spjell*), related to Goth. *spilda* fem., MHG. and G. dial. *spelte* tablet, splinter, chip, etc.: see SPALD *v.*]

1. A flake or particle of fire; a spark. Also with *of*.

c 1050 *Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 529 *Fedtsque*, and biernende speld. *c* 1100 in Napier *O. E. Glosses* 161/2 *In fauillam*, on speilde. *c* 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 410 Wrechche gostes..he seiȝ Fleo op and doun al brenninde, ase speldene doth of fuyre. *Ibid.* 473 Ake ofte gret fuyr and eke stuyrne west of a luytel spielde. *c* 1440 *R. Gloucester's Chron.* (Rolls) II. 819 *note*, And þer amydde he cast A litil spelde of fuyre and abowte þe speld fast He by wounde þys tender.

2. A chip or splinter.

1350 *Will. Palerne* 3603 þe kniȝt spere in speldes alto-schiuered. *Ibid.* 3855 So spakli here speres al on speldes went.

Speld, *v. Sc.* Also 6 speild. [Related to SPALD *v.* For the vowel cf. prec.]

1. *trans.* To lay flat or extended; to spread out; to split open. Also *refl.*

c 1480 HENRYSON *Fables, Preach. Swallow* xxvii, Heirefter ȝe sall find als sour as sweit, Quhen ȝe ar speldit [*v.r.* speildit] on ȝone carlis speit. *c* 1480 — *Orph. & Eurydice* 177 Besyde hym on the bent, He saw speldit a wonder wofull wicht, Nailit full fast. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* v. vii. 19 All flat [he] hym speldit on the dwn sand, In the deid thrawis. 1533 BELLENDEN *Livy* I. xi. (S.T.S.) I. 68 He..band þis Mecius speldit betuix þe twa cheriottis. 1710 RUDDIMAN *Gloss. Douglas' Æneis* s.v., [We] say, 'Hespelded himself on the ice'; and 'a spelded herring', and 'speldings', &c. 1866 EDMONDSTON *Gloss. Shetl.* 114 *Speld*, to split up, to lay open, S.

2. To split or crack. *rare*—[1].

1616 *Aberdeen Burgh Reg.* (1848) II. 346 The back dyick of the colledge yard..is creuisched and speldit at the wast neuck thairof, and lick[l]ie to faill.

†**Spelder**, *sb. Obs.*—[1] [=MLG. *spelder*, MHG. *spelter*: cf. SPELD *sb.* It is doubtful whether OE. *speldra* pl. belongs here or to *speld*.] A splinter, shiver, or chip.

1530 PALSGR. 274/1 Spelder of woode, *esclat*.

Spelder (spe·ldəɹ), *v.*[1] *north. dial.* [ad. OF. **espeldre* (*espeaudre*, *espiatre*; later *espeller*, *espeler*, mod.F. *épeler*), f. the Germanic stem *spell-*: see SPELL *v.*[1]] *trans.* and *intr.* To spell, as words.

c 1200 ORMIN 16347 Adamess name Adam iss all Wiþþ fowwre stafess speldredd. *Ibid.* 16440 And ȝiff þatt tu cannst speldrenn hemm, Adam þu findesst speldredd. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 353/2 To Speldyr, *sillabicare*. 1691 RAY *N. C. Words* (ed. 2) 68 *To Spelder*, to Spell. *a* 1743 RELPH *Misc. Poems* (1747) 15 Right oft at schuil I've spelder'd owr thy rows. 1788– in dial. glossaries (Yks., Lanc., N. Cy., Cumbld.).

Hence **Spe·lderer**; **Spe·ldering** *vbl. sb.*

1483 *Cath. Angl.* 353/2 A Speldrer, *sillabicator*. 1876 ROBINSON *Whitby Gloss.* 181/1 He's ept at his speldering.

Spelder, *v.*[2] *Sc.* [Cf. SPELD *v.* and dial. *spalder* (s.v. SPALD *v.*).]

1. *intr.* To spread or extend oneself, by throwing or stretching out the legs (and arms). Also in *pa. pple.*, stretched out in this manner.

1720 PENNECUIK *Screams fr. Helicon* 67 The Doxies turn up their Keels and spelder. 1756 MRS. CALDERWOOD in *Coltness Collect.* (Maitl. Club) 129 Bowles, who had come from the other cabin, ..was speldring with legs and arms to keep his ballance. 1820 HOGG *Bridal of Polmood* vii, Kimmers, that war lying doveryng..and spelderyng. 1863 W. MILLER *Willie Winkie*, etc. (1902) 1 The dog's spelder'd on the floor.

2. *trans.* To split and spread open (a fish, etc.). Hence **Spe·ldered** *ppl. a.*

1710 RUDDIMAN *Gloss. Douglas' Æneis* s.v. *Speldit*, We say also *spelder*..in the same sense. 1808 JAMIESON, To *Spelder*, to split, to spread open; as, *to spelder a fish*, to open it up for being dried. 1828 MOIR *Mansie Wauch* vii. 61 Splitting the hills as ye would spelder a haddy. 1896 P. A. GRAHAM *Red Scaur* xvii. 260 Never talk o' fightin', you speldered herring!

Spelding (spe·ldiŋ). *Sc.* Also 7–8 spelden, 8–9 -in, 9 -ane. [f. SPELD *v.* + -ING[1]. Cf. next and the earlier SPALDERLING.] A small split fish, preserved by being dried in the sun.

1537 in *Reg. Mag. Sig. Scot.* (1883) 608/1 Reddend. annuatim..pro Fischarhill 40 sol. pro lie kayn speldingis. 1547 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* IX. 106 Item, mair for ane card of speldinges, put in the said castell, price vj li. *a* 1682 SEMPILL *Blythsome Wedding* 63 And there will be partans, and buckies, Speldens, and haddocks anew. 1722 RAMSAY *Three Bonnets* IV. 169 Swift hame and feast upon a spelding. 1785 BOSWELL *Tour Hebrides* 50, I bought some *speldings*, fish (generally whitings) salted and dried in a particular manner. 1805 MCINDOE *Poems* 107 This trout.. was faulded in twa like a speldin. 1883 *Fisheries Exhib. Catal.* 67 Dried Sprats, ..Soft Speldings, Whitebait.

Spe·ldring. *Sc.* Also -rin, -rain, -ron. [f. SPELDER *v.*[2]] =prec.

1802 SIBBALD *Chron. S. P.* Gloss., *Speldings*, *Speldrings*, small fish (as haddocks) stretched open and dried in the sun. 1834 J. WILSON *Noctes Ambr.* xxxiv. Wks. 1856 IV. 88 Finnans! Kipper! Speldrins! Herring! 1881 DAY *Fishes Gt. Brit.* I. 284 Haddock..are finnan haddocks, when smoked in a peculiar manner: if simply dried, speldrings.

transf. 1820 *Blackw. Mag.* VIII. 98 Whose place, as soon as he evaporated, was filled by another strange rizzard speldron.

Spele, var. SPEEL *sb.* and *v.*

Spele, *v.*[1] Now *dial.* and *rare.* Forms: 1 spelian, 3 spelien, 4 spelie, -ye; 3 *Orm.* spelenn, 4 spele, *s.w. dial.* 8 speal, 9 spale. [OE. *spelian*, related to *gespelia* and *spala* substitute (see SPALE *sb.*[1]), of obscure origin.]

1. *trans.* To take or stand in the place of (another); to represent.

c 960 *Rule St. Benet* (Schröer) 114 For Cristes arwurðnysse and for þæs lufe, ðe he spelað. *c* 1000 ÆLFRIC *Gram.* v. 8 *Pronomen* is ðæs naman speliend, se spelað þone naman, þæt ðu ne ðurfe tuwa hine nemnan. *c* 1000 — *Hom.* II. 62 Næs ðeah Isaac ofslezen, ac se ramm hine spelode. ?*c* 1730 *Danet Voc.* in *N. & Q.* 6th Ser. (1883) VIII. 45 *Speal*, to spare one and take his place.

2. To spare or save (something); to leave over; to use sparingly or frugally.

c 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 31 ȝef þu ani þing spelest and leuest, þat þu forlest. *c* 1200 ORMIN 10133 Þatt te birrþ hellpenn iwhillc mann..Wiþþ all þatt tu mihht spelenn wel & libbenn þær wiþþutenn. 1303 R. BRUNNE *Handl. Synne* 1204 Wykkedlyche al þat gode he dyspendyþ þat hys fadyr for godenesse spelyþ. *c* 1330 — *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 14470 Schipes he hadde, y ne wot how fele; Alle he tok, & non wold spele. 1393 LANGL. *P. Pl.* C. VII. 432 As an hounde.. so gan ich to brake, And spilde þat ich spele myghte. *c* 1400 *St. Alexius* (Trin.) 208 Al þat he spelye myȝte,..His pouere feren he delde. 1880 *W. Cornwall Gloss.* 53/2 *Spale*,..to make anything last a long time. To spare.

absol. 1393 LANGL. *P. Pl.* C. XIV. 77 Bope [to] spele and spare to spene vpon þe needful.

†b. To set aside; to neglect. *Obs.*

1338 R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (1810) 96 He & oþer fele sent vnto Roberd, þat stound suld he not spele, sen he þat tiþing herd.

†3. To spare (a person); to leave unpunished or unharmed. *Obs.*

a 1300 *Body & Soul* in *Map's Poems* (Camden) 339 Forlorn wretches that tou miȝtest spele, ..wȝi lestouȝ hem be born? *c* 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 12428 Arthur ..smot hym sore woundes fele, Nought of hym ne wolde he spele. *c* 1380 *Sir Ferumb.* 458 Þar-for y am to þe y-sent to spelie þai dosty men.

†b. To respite *from* death. *Obs.*

13.. *Seuyn Sages* (W.) 542 To-dai tho hast him fram deth i-speled.

Hence †**Spe·ling** *vbl. sb.*, sparing. *Obs.*

c 1420 *Anturs Arth.* xx. (Douce MS.), Þes arne þe graceful giftes of þe holy goste, þat enspires iche sprete, withe oute speling.

†**Spele**, *v.*[2] *Obs. rare.* Also 7 speale. [ad. OF. *espeler* (mod.F. *épeler*), *espelir*: cf. SPELL *v.*[2]] 1. *trans.* a. To interpret or explain as. b. To signify or mean.

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 170 Þes nome Assuer is ispeled eadi,..& bitocneð God: eadi ouer alle. *Ibid.*, Mardocheus speleð 'amare conterens impudentem'.

2. *intr.* To spell.

a 1400 *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* 694/76 Sum leueþ on hit, As children leorneþ for to spele. 1611 COTGR., *Espeler*, to spell, to speale; to ioyne letters, or sillables together. *Ibid.*, *Espelement*, a spelling, or spealing of words.

Hence †**Spe·ler** (in 7 spealer), =SPELLER[2] 1.

1611 COTGR., *Appelleur*, a caller; or spealer.

Speler, var. or obs. f. SPELLER[3].

Spelican, var. SPILLIKIN.

Spelk (spelk), *sb.* Chiefly *north.* (and *Sc.*). Also 1 spelc, 5 spelke, 7 spelck. [OE. *spelc* (also *spilc*), = WFlem. *spelke* (De Bo), Norw. *spjelk*, Icel. *spelka*, †*spjalk*, related to MDu. *spalke* (Kilian *spalcke*), *spalc* (Du. *spalk*), LG. *spalke*, *spalk* splinter, chip.]

1. A surgical splint.

c 1000 *Saxon Leechd.* II. 68 Þonne recce he þa ban swa he swiþost maeȝe, do spelc to. 1691 RAY *N. C. Words* (ed. 2) 149 A Spelck, *Fascia*. 1703 in THORESBY *Let. to Ray*. 1855– in north. dial. glossaries, etc.

2. A splinter or chip; a small strip of wood.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 468/1 Spelke, *fissula*. 1623 MARKHAM *Country Housew. Gard.* x, The lesse your Spelkes are, the lesse is the waste of your hony, and the more easily will they draw, when you take your Bees. 1788– in northern glossaries. 1894 *Rev. Reviews* Sept. 256 A belated attempt to extract a small spelk from the hand of the Irish peasant. 1899 R. WALLACE *Schoolmaster* 26 A schoolboy carefully gathered up the larger 'spelks' of the tram of the broken vehicle.

3. A thatching-rod; =SPAR *sb.*[4]

1563 *Richmond Wills* (Surtees) 169, iij. spelks and iij. carres, xix d. 1578 *Ibid.* 282 Woodd and bords..with stangs, hots, and cares, and spelks and latts. 1712 in *Trans. Cumbld. & Westm. Archæol. Soc.* (N.S.) III. 108 For 184 bottles of thatch...For spelks two hundred and twenty seven. 1781 J. HUTTON *Tour to Caves* (ed. 2) Gloss. 96 *Spelks*, small sticks to fix on thatch with. 1828– in Yorkshire and Lancs. glossaries, etc.

4. In various uses: (see quots.).

1828 CARR *Craven Gloss.*, *Spelk*,..a spoke of a wheel. 1829 BROCKETT *N. C. Gloss.* (ed. 2), *Spelk*, a little, slender creature; used as a term of reproach. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2264/1 *Spelk*,..a rod in a loom.

Spelk (spelk), *v.*[1] Now *Sc.* and *north. dial.* Also 1 spelcan, 5 spelkyn, spelke. [OE. *spelcan* (also *spilcan*), = WFlem. *spelken* (Du. *spalken*), OIcel. *spelkja*, Norw. *spjelka*, Sw. *spjälka* (MSw. *spiälca*), f. *spelc*, etc.: see prec.] *trans.* To fasten with a spelk; *esp.* to bind or join (a broken limb, bone, etc.) by means of splints.

c 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* II. 6 Þif scancan forade synd, ..hu mon spelcean scyle. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 468/1 Spelte [*v.r.*

spelke, spelkyn] broke bonys or oþer þyngys. 1637 RUTHERFORD *Lett.* (1881) ciii. 199 Many broken legs since Adam's day hath He spelked. *c* 1700 KENNETT *MS. Lansdowne 1033* (Halliw.), To *spelk* in Yorkshire, to set a broken bone. 1802 in SIBBALD *Chron. S. P.* Gloss. 1828– in north. dial. and Sc. glossaries (Yks., Lancs., Shetland). 1889 W. WESTALL *Birch Dene* II. ix. 140 The doctor bound up and spelked his maimed fingers.

Hence **Spe'lking** *vbl. sb.*

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 468/1 Spellynge [*v. r.* spelkynge], broke bonys or oþer thyngys, *fissulatus.*

† **Spelk,** *v.*[2] *Obs.*—[Of obscure origin: cf. SPELT *v.* and Sc. *spilkings* split peas.] *trans.* To bruise (beans).

1483 *Cath. Angl.* 28/1 Benes spelked, *fabefrese. Ibid.* 353/2 Spelkyd benes, *fabefrese.* [1796 S. PEGGE *Derbicisms* Ser. I. 66 (E.D.S.), To *spelch* horse-beans, to bruise them in a mill. Obsolete.]

Spell (spel), *sb.*[1] Also 1–7 **spel,** 2–5 **spelle.** [OE. *spel, spell,* = OS. *spel, spell-,* MDu. *-spel,* OHG. (and MHG.) *spel, spell-* (G. dial. *spill, spiell* gossip, G. *-spiel*), ON. *spjall,* Goth. *spill* recital, tale, etc.]

†1. Without article: Discourse, narration, speech; *occas.* idle talk, fable. *Obs.*

Beowulf 873 Secg eft ongan..on sped wrecan spel ge-rade. *c* 888 K. ÆLFRED *Boeth.* xiii, Þa ongon he eft secgean spel & þus cwæð. *c* 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* III. 232 Dæt nis to spelle ac elles to rædenne þam þe hit licað. *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 153 To lusten hoker, & spel, & leow [*read* leoþ], & oðer þing þet boð to-3eines godes heste. *c* 1205 LAY. 12093 Nes hit neowhær itald on songe no on spelle. *c* 1200 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 329 3weþer þis beo soth,..oþur us þinchez ase in metingue, oþur in manere of spelle? *a* 1310 in Wright *Lyric P.* xxv. 68 Thine peynes rykene hit were long, Ne may hem tellen spel ne song. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xxiii. (*Seven Sleepers*) 362 Wes nane þat euire hard tel of ony of þame in red na spel. *c* 1425 AUDELAY *XI Pains of Hell* 321 Þen seide vr lord to hem in spelle.

†b. *To set spell on end,* to begin to speak. *Obs.*

a 1300 *Sirix* 62, I shal setten spel on ende, And tellen þe al. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 1295 Seth þen sette him spell [*Trin.* tale] on-end And tald warfor þat he was send. *c* 1440 *Alph. Tales* 84 He sett spell on ende & tolde hym all þe cace.

†2. A discourse or sermon; a narrative or tale; also (OE.), a subject of discourse. *Obs.*

Beowulf 2898 Lyt swiʒode niwra spella..ac he soðlice sæʒde ofer ealle. *c* 888 K. ÆLFRED *Boeth.* xxvi. § 3 Ða se Wisdom ða þis spel asæd hæfde. *Ibid.* xxxi. § 1 We ʒe-heordon ʒeo ʒeara on ealdum spellum þæt [etc.]. *c* 1000 ÆLFRIC *Gram.* Pref. (Z.) 2 Syððan ic ða twa bec awende on hundeahtatiʒum spellum. *c* 1200 ORMIN 8026 Þurrh þatt teʒȝ cweȝmdenn Jesu Crist Wiþþ spelless & wiþþ dedess. *a* 1250 *Owl & Night.* 1704 Ne can ic eu na more telle; her nys na more of þisse spelle. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 19655 (Edinb.), Mikil he lernid..Of spellis þat he sipin spac. *c* 1320 *Sir Tristr.* 2768 Þe geaunt herd þat spelle, For þi him was ful wa. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 3840 ʒit for na spell at he spirid spek wald þai neuire. *a* 1450 MYRC 170 Take gode hede on thys spel. *a* 1500 *Tale of Harper* 4 in Hazl. *E. P. P.* III. 44 A man may dryfe forth the day..With harpyng and pipyng and other mery spellis.

1612 DEKKER *If it be not Good* Wks. 1873 III. 282 There with holy spels mens soules they cherish. *a* 1617 BAYNE *On Eph.* (1658) 115 The Gospel..may well bee called a good spell or word. *a* 1653 GOUGE *Comm. Heb.* xiii. 9 Gospel, that is a good spell, a good speech.

†b. With possessive pronouns, etc. *Obs.*

a 1000 *Daniel* 479 Ece drihten..se ðe him dom forʒeaf.. þam þe his spel berað. *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 27 Bi hulche monna seið drihten in his spelle. *c* 1200 ORMIN 185 To turrmenn..þe suness þurrh hiss hallȝhe spell Till þeȝȝre faderr herrte. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 5332 Þe king badd all to listen þan, And þus iacob his spell be-gan. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Sir Thopas* 182 Now hold your mouth..And herkneth to my spelle. *a* 1450 MYRC 1443 But he take hyre in hys spelle, Þen he may þe name mynge.

1579 E. K. *Gloss. to Spenser's Sheph. Cal.* Mar. 54 And herehence I thinke is named the gospell, as it were Gods spell or worde. 1642 H. MORE *Song of Soul* II. III. iv. 31 So many myriads tumble down to hell, Although partakers of Gods holy spell.

3. A set of words, a formula or verse, supposed to possess occult or magical powers; a charm or incantation; a means of accomplishing enchantment or exorcism. (Cf. the earlier NIGHT-SPELL.)

1579 E. K. *Gloss. to Spenser's Sheph. Cal.* Mar. 54 Spell is a kinde of verse or charme, that in elder tymes they vsed often to say ouer euery thing, that they would haue preserued, as the Nightspel for theeues, and the woodspell. 1598 SHAKS. *Merry W.* IV. ii. 185 She workes by Charmes, by Spels, by th'Figure, & such dawbry as this is. 1615 G. SANDYS *Trav.* 28 Where the spirits of the deceassed, by certaine spells..were accustomed to be raised. 1651 HOBBES *Leviath.* III. xxxvii. 236 If therefore Enchantment be not, as many think it, a working of strange effects by spells, and words; but Imposture [etc.]. 1727 DE FOE *Syst. Magic* I. vi. 153 The diabolical spells and charms of the pagan magicians. 1761 GRAY *Odin* 59 Prophetess, my spell obey. 1810 SCOTT *Lady of L.* III. vi, Whatever tells Of magic, cabala, and spells. 1848 MRS. JAMESON *Sacr. & Leg. Art.* (1850) 138 Hermogenes..bound Philetus by his diabolical spells, so that he could not move hand or foot. 1894 J. MACINTOSH *Ayrshire Nts. Entert.* iii. 32 The Norwegians believed it to have been raised by the spells of the Scottish witches.

b. *transf.* and *fig.* An occult or mysterious power or influence; a fascinating or enthralling charm.

1592 NASHE *Four Lett. Confut.* 35 His only care was to haue a spel in his purse to coniure vp a good cuppe of wine with at all times. 1599 B. JONSON *Ev. Man out of Hum.* II. vi, Your good face is the witch and your apparell the spells that bring all the pleasures of the world into their circle. 1618 FLETCHER *Loyal Subj.* II. ii, Thinking what strange spells these Rings have, And how they work with some. 1668 COWLEY *Ess. Verses & Pr., Garden* v, These are the Spels that to kind Sleep invite. 1766 FORDYCE *Serm. Yng. Wm.* I. vii. 302 Let it be remembered however, that the triumph of their rivals is commonly..short. The spell on which it is founded is soon broke. 1784 COWPER *Task* VI. 98 Books are not seldom talismans and spells, By which the magic art of shrewder wits Holds an unthinking multitude enthrall'd. *a* 1817 JANE AUSTEN *Lady Susan* XXXIV. (1879) 279 The spell is removed; I see you as you are. 1856 *N. Brit. Rev.* XXVI. 228 The ordinary devices by which the novelist keeps us under his spell. 1865 KINGSLEY *Herew.* xii, The spell was on him;..that of woman's tact.

c. A device, trick. *rare*—[1]

1728 RAMSAY *Last Sp. Miser* ix, To hane in candle I had a spell Baith cheap and bright.

4. *attrib.* and *Comb.* a. With pa. pples., as *spell-banned, -caught, -raised, -riveted,* etc.

1610 SHAKS. *Temp.* v. i. 61 There stand For you are Spell-stopt. 1649 G. DANIEL *Trinarch., Hen. IV,* ccxxii, Soe you may Vnderstand Spel-Sprung Castles,..if you haue the Key. 1691 DRYDEN *K. Arthur* III. ii, I cannot stir; I am spell-caught by Philidel. 1805 H. K. WHITE *Let. to C. Lofft* 10 Sept., By dark wood, or hamlet far retired, Spell-struck, with thee I loiter'd. 1817 CAMPBELL *Reullura* in *Theodric,* etc. 146 He..stood at the statue's foot, Spell-riveted to the spot. 1828 *Blackw. Mag.* XXIV. 481 The gay attire of spell-raised loveliness. 1867 JEAN INGELOW *Story of Doom* VII. 24 Japhet strove Vainly to take away his spell-set eyes. 1896 *Dublin Rev.* Apr. 339 The legions ..dissolved, like a spell-banned host.

b. With agent-nouns and vbl. sbs., as *spell-monger, -mutterer, -speaker; spell-casting, -weaving.*

1625 HART *Anat. Ur.* II. xi. 123, I say nothing of our Spel-mongers, curing by characters, figure-casting, with a world of other forbidden trash. 1633 — *Diet of Diseased* Introd. 22 Many..have often recourse to Wizards, Spelmongers [etc.]. 1821 SCOTT *Pirate* xxvi, We shall soon see how the old spell-mutterer will receive us. 1845 FORD *Handbk. Spain* I. 48 A person who has visited these spell-casting sites. 1883 STALLYBRASS tr. *Grimm's Teut. Myth.* III. 1109 Many books.. couple together sieve-turners and spell-speakers. 1894 *Westm. Gaz.* 6 Sept. 2/1 The capture and the spell-weaving proceed as usual.

c. With sbs., as *spell-craft, -glance, -word,* etc.

1817 MOORE *Lalla Rookh, Fire Worshippers* (ed. 2) 206 His only spell-word, Liberty! *Ibid.* 249 Like those Peri isles of light, That hang by spell-work in the air. 1817 SCOTT *Harold* II. iii, To its dread aim her spell-glance flew. 1844 *Ayrshire Wreath* 176 Then comes the spell-craft of the mind To knit the soul [etc.].

d. With adjs., as *spell-free, -like, -proof.*

1799 SHERIDAN *Pizarro* IV. iii, The spell-like arts, by which this hypocrite first undermin'd..a guileless heart! 1801 LEYDEN *Elfin King* Poems (1875) 168 Except on his faulchion arm Spell-proof he bear..The holy Trefoil's charm. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. VI. i, A France spell-free, a Revolution saved.

Spell (spel), *sb.*[2] Now *dial.* Also 6–9 **spel,** 7 **spelle.** [Perh. a later form of SPELD *sb.*, but cf. G. *spellen* to split, cleave.]

1. A splinter, chip, fragment.

1545 ASCHAM *Toxoph.* II. (Arb.) 121 To swadle a bowe much about wyth bandes, verye seldome dothe anye good, excepte it be to kepe downe a spel in the backe. 1591 HARINGTON *Orl. Fur.* XIX. lxi, The speares in spels and sundry peeces flew As if they had beene little sticks or cane. 1610 MARKHAM *Masterp.* II. cli. 450 This will heale any bone or spell, or any other stubbe. 1612 *Ench. Med.* 100 Remoue the sharpe spels and splinters of bones. 1674 RAY *N. Co. Words* 44 A *Spell* or *speal,* a Splinter. 1811 FAREY *Derbyshire* I. 250 Large Slapits, Spels or fragments fly off, sometimes with loud explosions. 1829– in northern glossaries.

2. A bar, rail, or rung.

1559 *Dunmow Churchw. MS.* 43 Item, to John Hutt for spells for the bells, ii[d] ob. 1641 BEST *Farm. Bks.* (Surtees) 15 To a barre belongeth two heads,..into which the 4 spelles are to bee putte:..the spelles are usually 6, 7, or sometimes 8 foote in length. 1796 W. H. MARSHALL *Yorksh.* (ed. 2) II. 346 *Spel* (vulg. *speyl*); a bar. 1847– in dial. glossaries (Linc., Yks., Cumb.). 1864 GILBERT & CHURCHILL *Dolomite Mount.* 230 Upon a face of rock were two long beams of wood, with, instead of spells, notches cut in the timbers at irregular intervals.

3. The trap used in the game of *spell and knur* (also *knor, null,* etc.). Cf. KNUR 3.

1781 J. HUTTON *Tour to Caves* (ed. 2) Gloss. 96 *Spel-and-knor,* the game of trap-stick. *a* 1809 HOLCROFT *Mem.* (1816) I. 61 Spell and null, bandy, prison-bars, and other field games. 1816 *Sporting Mag.* XLVIII. 178 The games most common at Newmarket, were fives, spell and null, marbles, [and] chuck-farthing. 1828 CARR *Craven Gloss.* 1862 C. C. ROBINSON *Dial. Leeds* 338 Underneath, at the four corners, are 'prods' wherewith the 'spell' is fixed into the earth. 1868 *N. & Q.* 4th Ser. I. 325.

Spell (spel), *sb.*[3] Also 7 **spel.** [Related to SPELL *v.*[3], and perh. directly representing OE. *gespelia* substitute (cf. *spala* SPALE *sb.*[1]).]

1. A set of persons taking a turn of work in order to relieve others; a relay, relief-gang, or shift. Now *rare.*

1593 P. NICHOLS *Drake Revived* (1628) 27 Rowing in the eddy..by spels, without ceasing, each company their halfe houre glasse. 1602 CAREW *Cornwall* 10 b, In most places, their toyle is so extreame, as they cannot endure it aboue foure houres in a day, but are succeeded by spels. 1627 CAPT. SMITH *Seaman's Gram.* ii. 9 In pumping they vse to take spels, that is, fresh men to releeue them. 1628–9 DIGBY *Voy. Medit.* (Camden) 87 Yet I sent them an other fresh spell of men. 1851 G. BLYTH *Remin. Mission. Life* II. 108 The fifteen or twenty persons who constituted the spell refused to go on.

2. A turn of work taken by a person or set of persons in relief of another.

a 1625 *Nomenclator Navalis* (Harl. MS. 2301) s.v., As when they pump a hundred strokes,..they call it a spell. 1626 CAPT. SMITH *Accid. Yng. Seamen* 30 To row a spell, hold-water, trim the boate. 1644 MANWAYRING *Seaman's Dict.* 79 At a Chaine-Pump, the Spels goe by Glasses. 1683 MOXON *Mech. Exerc., Printing* XXIV. ¶ 15 The First now takes his spell at Pulling: for the First and Second take their spell of Pulling and Beating an agreed number of Tokens. 1769 FALCONER *Dict. Marine* (1780) s.v., Such are the spells, to the hand-lead in sounding; to the pump;..and to steer the ship; which last..is generally called the *trick.* 1838 HOLLOWAY *Prov. Dict., Spell,* a turn, as one workman says to another:—'now you take a spell'. 1849 CUPPLES *Green Hand* xi. (1856) 112, I stays aboard the brig, works my spell in her, an' takes my trick at the hellum. 1886 STEVENSON *Kidnapped* xvi, The men gave way..with a good will, the passengers taking spells to help them.

b. *To give a spell,* to relieve another by taking a turn of work.

1750 BLANCKLEY *Nav. Expos.* 156 To give a Spell, is all one as to say, Work in such a one's Room. 1825 J. NEAL *Bro. Jonathan* II. xviii. 138 One or two..were continually offering to give him a 'spell'—or a 'lift'—or a 'turn' [at counting his money]. 1829 B. HALL *Travels in N. A.* I. 188 A poor old negro..begged to be taken in, and offered to give me a spell when I became tired.

c. Without article, in phr. *spell and spell* (*about*), *spell for spell; to keep* or *take spell.*

1797 S. JAMES *Narr. Voy.* 202 They re-bailed out our boat ..spell and spell about. 1799 *Hull Advertiser* 27 July 4/2 His faithful companions..worked incessantly (spell and spell) for nine days. 1828 *Life Planter Jamaica* 36 Plato takes spell after him. *Ibid.,* Langbey was keeping spell, or in other words, had charge of the negroes employed in preparing the sugar. 1837 MARRYAT *Dog Fiend* liv, We plied the pumps, 'twas spell and spell. 1855 [ROBINSON] *Whitby Gloss.* s.v., Spell for spell is fair play.

3. A continuous course or period *of* some work, occupation, or employment; a turn or bout *at* something. Also without const.

1706 E. WARD *Wooden World Diss.* (1708) 34 He..believes there is no more Sin in taking a Spell with a Whore, than in pumping a leaky Vessel. 1804 NELSON 4 Nov. in Nicolas *Disp.* (1846) VI. 257 The Termagant Sloop will be going to Lisbon—she has had a long spell of service. 1824 SOUTHEY in C. C. Southey *Life* (1850) V. 187, I have lately taken a pleasant spell at it, and have something more than a volume ready. 1857 HUGHES *Tom Brown* I. ii, The closeness of the men in action to one another..makes a spell at back-sword-ing a very noble sight. 1885 *Manch. Exam.* 18 Mar. 5/3 Twenty-five years without a holiday except on Sunday is certainly a remarkable spell of assiduous labour.

b. *Austr.* An interval or period of repose or relaxation; a rest.

1852 MUNDY *Antipodes* (1857) 83 Your carriage horses will be all the better for a 'spell', (a rest). 1865 TUCKER *Austr. Story* I. 84 The only recompense was..to light his pipe and have a 'spell'. 1900 H. LAWSON *On Track* 107 He did not go back to work that night; he took a spell.

c. *Spell oh!* (or *ho!*), used as a call or signal, usu. to rest or cease working; also = prec.

1837 MARRYAT *Dog Fiend* I. ix. 94 'Come now,' said Coble, tossing off his glass, 'spell oh!—let's have a song while they take their breath'. 1841 R. H. DANA *Seaman's Man.* 124 *Spell ho!*..used as an order or request to be relieved at work by another. 1891 MORRIS *News fr. Nowhere* 51 So he stayed his pick and sang out, 'Spell ho, mates! here are neighbours want to get past'. 1900 H. LAWSON *On Track* 97 Bill..was having a spell-oh under the cask when the white rooster crowed.

4. A period or space of time of indefinite length; usu. with adjs. denoting duration, as *long, short,* etc.

1728 MORGAN *Algiers* II. iv. 265 The Corsairs met with a brisk Reception and were warmly entertained for a good Spell. 1767 GIBBON *Let. to Holroyd* 29 Apr., I hope to take a pretty long spell in town. 1775 ROMANS *Florida* App. 56 Those unlucky persons..have lain that long spell wearing and tearing vessels and rigging. 1836 MARRYAT *Midsh. Easy* XXVI, A hope that Mr. Easy would take his share of the duty, now that he had had such a spell on shore. 1860 MAYNE REID *Hunter's Feast* xxii, It only halted a short spell, and then..it run up to the carcass. 1870 MISS BRIDGMAN *R: Lynne* I. xii. 184 Thirty years! It is a good spell off a man's life.

b. A period having a certain character or spent in a particular way.

1830 SOUTHEY *Lett.* (1856) IV. 175 The very sight of you ..would go far towards giving these poor girls a spell of better health than..at present. 1885 'MRS. ALEXANDER' *At Bay* I, Then came a spell of wandering, of high play, of rage for costly excitement, which..beggared him in a few years. 1885 R. W. DIXON *Hist. Ch. Eng.* XIX. III. 330 After a grievous spell of eighteen months on board the French galleys.

c. *By spells,* at intervals, now and again.

1788 *Massachusetts Spy* 4 Sept. 3/2 It had..rained by spells for three days before. 1821 in Cobbett *Rur. Rides* (1885) I. 2 To-day the fog came by spells. 1854 THOREAU *Walden* xiii, I had an old axe..with which by spells in winter days..I played about the stumps. 1883 *Harper's Mag.* Mar. 602/1 All day by 'spells' I have been out helping Jack make the garden.

d. *For a spell,* for a time. In *U.S.* without prep.; also *a spell ago,* some time ago.

(*a*) 1834 [SEBA SMITH] *Lett. J. Downing* XXX. (1835) 208 Mahogany was as cheap as pine boards was a spell ago. *c* 1850 'DOW JR.' in Jerdan *Yankee Hum.* (1853) 88 That woman who broomed me out of the house a spell ago.

(*b*) 1834 [SEBA SMITH] *Lett. J. Downing* XXVII. (1835) 179 So I whistled Yankee Doodle a spell. 1848 LOWELL *Biglow P.* Poems 1890 II. 11 He stood a spell on one foot fust, Then stood a spell on tother. 1884 *Harper's Mag.* Feb. 410/2 He tried doctorin' a spell.

(*c*) 1862 TROLLOPE *N. Amer.* I. 186, I wish those masons.. could be driven to the labour market of Western America for a spell. 1890 *Melbourne Argus* 7 June 4/1, I..was told

by an honest and sensible doctor to..get out in the bush and work for a spell.

5. A continuous period or stretch *of* a specified kind of weather.

1728 T. SMITH *Jrnl.* (1849) 265 For several days past, there has been a spell of comfortable weather. 1733 *Ibid.* 266 This whole week has been a spell of warm weather. 1775 WASHINGTON *Lett. to J. Reed* (1852) 32 The setting in of a severe spell of cold weather, and a considerable fall of snow. 1808 SOUTHEY in C. C. Southey *Life* (1850) III. 163 We are now having a spell of wind and rain. 1840 R. H. DANA *Bef. Mast* iii, We have now had a long 'spell' of fine weather. 1897 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* Dec. 663 If a spell of cold wind..should prevail.

attrib. 1868 *Pall Mall G.* 28 July 4 On the supposition that such 'spell-weather', as the Americans call it, is to last for ever.

b. With adjs., as *cold, hot, dry, wet*, etc.

1740 T. SMITH *Jrnl.* (1849) 268, I believe no man ever knew so winter-like a spell so early in the year. 1797 JEFFERSON *Writ.* (1859) IV. 157 You wish to know the state of the air here during the late cold spell. 1817-8 COBBETT *Resid. U.S.* (1822) 286 The hot spells as well as the cold spells, seldom last more than three days. 1860 MAURY *Phys. Geog.* iv. § 241 The phenomena of cold and warm 'spells' are often observed in the United States. 1887 *Boston* (Mass.) *Jrnl.* 23 Aug. 5 Everybody found smoking on the streets..during the dry spell was liable to be arrested.

6. *U.S.* A period of being indisposed, out of sorts, or irritable; an attack or fit of illness or nervous excitement.

1856 KANE *Arct. Expl.* II. iii. 47 An attack of partial epilepsy; one of those strange indescribable spells, fits, seizures, whatever name the jargon gives them, which indicate deep disturbance. 1869 MRS. STOWE *Oldtown* xvi, When Hepsy does get beat out she has *spells*, and she goes on awful, and they last day arter day. 1889 GUNTER *That Frenchman* xvii. 210 Oh! blues, hysteria, headache, tantrums—any ill that's particularly feminine, we call spells in America.

Spell (spel), *sb.*[4] *colloq.* [f. SPELL *v.*[2]] A way or mode of spelling a word.

1702 C. MATHER *Magn. Chr.* VII. v. (1852) 546 There were eighteen horrid false spells..in one short note that I received from him. 1801 *Monthly Mag.* XII. 299 Why should this spell (as school children say, and, I think, rightly, for mode of spelling) be authorized?

Spell, *sb.*[5] *Cant.* [a. Du. or Flem. *spel* (G. *spiel*), or abbrev. of SPELLKEN.] A playhouse or theatre. Also *attrib.*

1812 J. H. VAUX *Flash Dict., Spell*, the play-house. 1819 — *Mem.* II. 199 They say, the push, as the push at the spell doors. 1865 *Slang Dict.* 241 'Precious rum squeeze at the spell,' *i. e.* a good evening's work at the theatre.

Spell, *v.*[1] *Obs.* or *dial.* Forms: 1 **spellian, -iæn (spillian),** 2–4 **spellen,** 3–5 **spelle,** 4–6 **spel,** 4– **spell.** [OE. *spellian* (f. *spel* SPELL *sb.*[1]), = OHG. *-spellôn* (MHG. *spellen*, G. dial. *spellen, spillen*), MDu. and MLG. *spellen*, Goth. *spillôn*, ON. *spjalla*, to talk, discourse, etc.

It is doubtful how far some modern dialect uses of *spell* represent this word.]

I. *intr.* To discourse or preach; to talk, converse, or speak.

c 888 K. ÆLFRED *Boeth.* xvi. § 1 Þa ongan he eft spellian & þus cwæþ. *c* 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Luke xxiv. 15 Miðy [hia] woeron spellendo *vel* gespelledon. *c* 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* III. 202 Mid deadum spellian, gestrion hit getacnað. *a* 1200 *Vices & Virtues* 121 Ða ðe Crist gann arst to spellen,..ða sade he [etc.]. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 8530 He þat mikel has for to tell þe scortliker he aght to spell. *a* 1375 *Lay Folks Mass Bk.* App. iv. 508 Iesus..dude him aȝeyn in paradis,..Wiþ speche as I ow spelle. *a* 1450 *Le Morte Arth.* 3722 What helpeth lenger for to spelle? *c* 1450 HOLLAND *Howlat* 99 He suld spedely speike, and spair nocht to spell.

b. Const. *of* (the thing spoken of).

c 1200 ORMIN 6389 Þa lifess þatt icc habbe ȝuw Summ del nu spelledd offe. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 95 Qua-sa will of hyr fayrnes spell, Find he sal inogh to tell. *c* 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 10613 Til Domesday men schalle spelle ..of Arthures dedes. *a* 1400–50 *Bk. Curtasye* 379 in *Babees Bk.*, Now of marschalle of halle wylle I spelle, And what falle to hys offyce now wylle y telle. *c* 1450 LOVELICH *Grail* xxxvii. 455 I beleve ryht wel That this is he of whom ȝe spelle. 1530 in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* Ser. III. II. 186 I assure your Grace shall sease and put to sylence sum persons that moche spelyth of the same.

2. *trans.* To utter, declare, relate, tell.

a 1000 *Boeth. Metr.* Proem 4 Him wæs lust micel ðæt he ðiossum leodum leoð spellode. *c* 1200 ORMIN Ded. 311 I wollde..Þatt all Ennglisshe lede..Wiþþ tunge shollde spellenn itt. *c* 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 112 Acke of seint thomas himselue þat beste cometh nou to spelle. *c* 1320 *Cast. Love* 692 No tonge ne may hit telle, Ne þoust þenche, ne mouþ spelle. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* II. 20 I can noght thanne unethes spelle That I wende altherbest have rad. 1426 AUDELAY *Poems* 28 He that spekys and spedys noȝt, he spellys the wynd. *c* 1485 *Digby Myst.* (1882) v. 275 Blessed is that soule that this speche spelles. 1509 HAWES *Past. Pleas.* XVI. (Percy Soc.) 68 Pryvely I did his lesson spel, Sayeng to him, my chance and destyny Of al other is the moste unhappy.

Spell (spel), *v.*[2] Pa. t. and pa. pple. **spelled, spelt.** Also 4–5 **spelle,** 5 **spellyn**; 5–7 **spel.** [ad. OF. *espeller* (also *espeler*, mod.F. *épeler*: see SPELE *v.*[2]), f. the Germanic stem *spell-*: see prec. and *Spell sb.*[1] The earlier OF. type **espeldre* is represented by SPELDER *v.*[1] Du. and Flem. *spellen*, WFris. *spelle, spjelle*, in this sense may also be from French, rather than directly connected with SPELL *v.*[1]]

I. *trans.* **1.** To read (a book, etc.) letter by letter; to peruse, or make out, slowly or with difficulty.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 14692 Your aun bok yee can noght spell. *c* 1400 *Trevisa's Higden* (Rolls) VII. 333 Lanfranc..took hym a þing with letter [L. *abecedarium litterarum*] for to spel. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 468/1 Spellyn (*S.* letters), *sillabico.* 1530 PALSGR. 728/1 He hath bene at scole thys halfe yere and yet he can nat spell his pater noster. 1687 MIÈGE *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II. s.v., He begins to spell the Letters.

1780 *Mirror* No. 75, What must be the state of him who sits down to spell the newspapers with the determined resolution of believing whatever he sees in print? 1807 CRABBE *Par. Reg.* III. 208 As they approach to spell the age, the name, And all the titles of th' illustrious dame. 1825 T. HOOK *Sayings* Ser. II. *Passion and Princ.* vi, Reading all the newspapers, spelling the red-book and the directory. 1850 THACKERAY *Pendennis* v, He was spelling the paper, with the help of his lips.

b. With *out* or *over*.

c 1813 S. SMITH in Lady Holland *Mem. S. Smith* (1855) I. vii. 157 He..spelt over the county paper on Sundays. 1820 SHELLEY *Witch Atl.* xxvi, All day the wizard lady sate aloof, Spelling out scrolls of dread antiquity. 1864 THACKERAY *D. Duval* i. (1869) 4 It used to be my lot as a boy to spell out my lady Viscountess's letters to her.

c. To make (one's way) letter by letter in reading.

1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* i. I. 45 Not one man in five hundred could have spelled his way through a psalm.

2. *fig.* **a.** To discover or find out, to guess or suspect, by close study or observation. Also with *out*.

1587 GOLDING *De Mornay* i. 8 A plaine booke laide open to all men..to reade, and (as yee would say) euen to spell God therein. 1635 JACKSON *Creed* VIII. xxii. 252 The babes then did spel the Prophets meaning not amisse. 1691 tr. *Emiliane's Observ. Journ. Naples* 82 Spelling nothing good from it, he went immediately to the Door of the Church. 1707 NORRIS *Treat. Humility* vii. 324 One may make a shift to spell out who is the gentleman, and who it is that would only be thought so. 1879 SPURGEON *Serm.* XXV. 333 That there should be a God, heathens might spell out.

b. To make out, understand, decipher, or comprehend, by study. Also with *out*.

1635 JACKSON *Creed* VIII. xvii. 189 Hee that could rightly spell the severall passages in the forementioned authors. 1671 MILTON *P. R.* IV. 385 By what the Stars..In thir conjunction met, give me to spell. 1681 FLAVEL *Meth. Grace* xi. 238 Christ is an unsearchable mercy: who can spell his wonderful name? 1791 COWPER *Iliad* v. 77 Unskill'd to spell aright The oracles predictive of the woe. 1829 PRAED *Surly Hall* 80 Poems 1864 II. 117 He..spells a horse's teeth divinely. 1842 H. ROGERS *Ess.* (1874) I. i. 36 The arts of spelling out and piecing the mouldering records of antiquity. 1886 DOWDEN *Shelley* (1887) I. ii. 72 Nor was his an intellect that could spell out patiently the lessons of nature.

c. To consider, contemplate, scan intently. Also with *over*.

1633 G. HERBERT *Temple* iv, Will great God measure with a wretch? Shall he thy stature spell? 1654 H. L'ESTRANGE *Chas. I* (1655) 118 So that in short (all circumstances spell'd together) I may safely say [etc.]. 1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* vii, I will sit on this footstool at thy feet, that I may spell over thy splendour. 1823 — *Quentin D.* xiii, As if he were in the act of internally spelling and dissecting every lineament and feature. 1859 TENNYSON *Vivien* 217 For still I find Your face is practised when I spell the lines.

d. To turn *out* (literary work or writing) with some difficulty.

1829 SCOTT *Jrnl.* 15 May, I have spelled out some work this day, though I have been rather knocked about.

3. To name or set down in order the letters of (a word or syllable); to enunciate or write letter by letter; to denote by certain letters in a particular order.

1588 SHAKS. *L. L. L.* v. i. 50 What is Ab speld backward with the horn on his head? *a* 1595 R. SOUTHWELL *Maconiæ, Virgin's Salutation*, Spell Eva back and Ave shall you find. 1612 BRINSLEY *Lud. Lit.* 151 Cause also euery one to spel the words which he hath made in Latine,..so as [etc.]. 1693 DRYDEN *Disc. Satire* Ess. (ed. Ker) II. 67 If this be so, then it is false spelled throughout this book. *Ibid.* The French..never spell it any other way than *satire*. 1750 GRAY *Elegy* 81 Their name, their years, spelt by th' unletter'd Muse, The place of fame and elegy supply. 1784 COWPER *Task* I. 283 Leaving an obscure, rude name, In characters uncouth, and spelt amiss. 1842 *Proc. Philol. Soc.* I. 7 Their mode of spelling the passive participle. 1888 SWEET *Hist. Eng. Sounds* 70 The same word may be spelt in half-a-dozen different ways on the same page.

fig. *a* 1668 LASSELS *Voy. Italy* (1670) I. Pref., Though these things be but the Elements and Alphabet of breeding, yet without them he can never spel *gentleman* rightly.

b. Similarly with *out*.

1867 *Chambers's Encycl.* IX. 52/2 The medium, under spirit-guidance, spelling out the requisite words. 1871 M. LEGRAND *Cambr. Freshm.* 356 The machine was clicking away, and the needle rapidly spelling out its message. 1899 BULLEN *Way Navy* 88 The discordant notes of sirens spelling out each ship's name.

c. Of letters: To form (a word).

1834 MARRYAT *J. Faithful* iv, What doth *c-a-t* spell then? 1852 DICKENS *Bleak Ho.* v, He went on quickly, until he had formed..the word *Jarndyce*...'What does that spell?' he asked me.

d. *slang.* (See quot.)

1865 *Slang Dict.* 241 *Spell*, to advertise, to put into print.

4. *fig.* †**a.** *To spell* (one) *backward*, to misrepresent; to pervert. *Obs.*

1599 SHAKS. *Much Ado* III. i. 60, I neuer yet saw man.. But she would spell him backward. 1669 HOPKINS *Serm.* (1685) 42 What is this but to spell the Magistrates backwards and to give him that power over your consciences by his prohibitions, which you deny to his commands?

b. *To spell..short*, to express by a shorter and blunter term.

1830 DE QUINCEY *R. Bentley* Wks. 1857 VII. 76 A dedication..was what the French used to understand by a *pot-devin*; in fact, 'spelt short,' it was a bribe.

c. *To spell baker*, to have, or perform, a difficult task. *U.S. colloq.*

1868 LONGFELLOW *Giles Corey* II. i, If an old man will marry a young wife, Why then—why then—why then—he must spell Baker!

5. To amount to; to signify, imply, or involve. (Common in recent use.)

a 1661 FULLER (Webster), The Saxon heptarchy, when seven kings put together did spell but one in effect.

1890 SAINTSBURY in *New Rev.* Feb. 142 There can be no question..that 'Republic' usually spells 'corruption'. 1891 *Spectator* 27 June, To go on trading on these terms would very soon spell ruin.

II. *intr.* **6.** To form words by means of letters; to repeat or set down the letters of words; to read off the separate letters forming a word or words.

a 1400–50 *Alexander* 630 He..wonder wele leres, Sped him in a schort space to spell & to rede. 1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 55 To spel, *syllabam coponere.* 1592 SHAKS. *Rom. & Jul.* II. iii. 88 O she knew well, Thy Loue did read by rote, that could not spell. *c* 1645 MILTON *Sonn.* xi, Some in file Stand spelling false. 1685 BAXTER *Paraphr. N. T.* Matt. xiii. 13, I speak to them in similitudes, as children must be first taught to spell. 1712 SWIFT *Prop. Correcting Eng. Tongue* Wks. 1841 II. 288 A foolish opinion..that we ought to spell exactly as we speak. *a* 1764 LLOYD *Poet* Poet. Wks. 1774 II. 23 Those who cannot spell will Talk. 1816 BYRON *A Sketch* 14 She taught the child to read, and taught so well, That she herself, by teaching, learn'd to spell. 1870 ROGERS *Hist. Gleanings* Ser. II. 137 He never could spell accurately.

b. *fig.* To engage in study or contemplation *of* something. *poet.*

1632 MILTON *Penseroso* 170 The..Mossy Cell, Where I may sit and rightly spell Of every Star that Heav'n doth shew. 1738 GRAY *Propertius* ii. 15 Then let me rightly spell of nature's ways.

7. To intimate or suggest a desire *for* something; to ask *for*, either by hints or direct request.

WFlem. *spellen* is similarly used (De Bo).

1790 BENTHAM *Wks.* (1843) X. 230 Was it natural..to spell for such a thing in the most distant manner? 1818 JANE AUSTEN *Persuasion* II. x. 215, I had not the smallest intention of asking him,..but he gave so many hints;..I never saw any body in my life spell harder for an invitation. 1840 J. H. NEWMAN *Lett.* (1891) I. 429 Before I had given him anything, he began to spell for something. 1860 *Ibid.* II. 105 It will be observed..that he 'spelled' for the curacy. 1876 ROBINSON *Whitby Gloss.* 181/2 'He was a good hand at spelling for't,' clever at entreaty.

b. With other constructions.

c 1800 R. CUMBERLAND *John De Lancaster* (1809) II. 52 Nephew David spells hard to borrow him, but I won't lend him to David of all men living. 1821 COMBE *Syntax, Wife* IV. (Chandos Cl.) 339 Syntax with native keenness felt At what the cunning tradesman spelt. 1855 [ROBINSON] *Whitby Gloss.* s.v., 'He spell'd hard in the matter,' he endeavoured perseveringly to gain his point.

Spell (spel), *v.*[3] [Later form of SPELE *v.*[1] Cf. SPELL *sb.*[3]]

1. *trans.* To take the place of (a person) at some work or labour; to relieve (another) by taking a turn at work. Now *U. S.*

1595 RALEIGH *Discov. Guiana* (1596) 44 Euery gentleman and others taking their turns to row, and to spell one the other at the howers end. 1823 T. ROUGHLEY *Jamaica Planter's Guide* 340 Sometimes there are two ostensible boilers to spell and relieve one another. *Ibid.*, When he is obliged to be spelled, for the purpose of natural rest [etc.]. 1857 GOODRICH *Recoll.* I. 62, I was sometimes permitted.. to spell my father in this favorite employment [*sc.* shelling corn]. 1873 LOWELL *Lett.* (1894) II. 91 He tells me that the Finns recite their poems six or seven hours on the stretch, spelling one another, as we say in New England.

b. To relieve by an interval of rest; to rest (*esp.* a horse). Chiefly *Austr.*

1846 STOKES *Disc. Australia* II. i. 42 In order to spell the oars, we landed at a point on the east side. 1867 H. BUSHNELL *Mor. Uses Dark Th.* 252 Nature is put under a heavy pressure..; spelled by no relaxations, freshened by no play of society. 1885 MRS. C. PRAED *Head Station* xii. III. 202 They are camping at Araluen and spelling the horses.

2. *Naut.* To take a turn or turns of work at (the pump, etc.).

1769 FALCONER *Dict. Marine* (1780) s.v., Thus we say, spell the pump, spell the lead, &c. ?1782 *Loss of H.M.S. Centaur* 3 The Captain was obliged to turn all hands up to spell the pump.

3. *intr.* **a.** To replace one set of workers by another; to take turns.

1861 MAYHEW *Lond. Lab.* (ed. 2) III. 247 We go on in that way throughout the day, spelling at every 28 tons.

b. *Austr.* To take an interval of rest.

1880 *Victoria in 1880* 114 (Morris), He 'spelled' upon the ground. 1890 *Melbourne Argus* 13 June 6/1 Working a steady stroke through the day, smoking and spelling as they willed. 1893 J. A. BARRY *S. Brown's Bunyip* 2 It was Sunday, and the caravan was spelling for the day.

Spell (spel), *v.*[4] [f. SPELL *sb.*[1] 3.]

1. *trans.* To charm, fascinate, bewitch, bind by (or as by) a spell; to act as a spell upon.

a 1623 BUCK *Rich. III* (1646) 116 For a time he was much speld with Elianor Talbot. 1682 DRYDEN & LEE *Dk. Guise* IV, He durst not touch me; But aw'd and craven'd as he had been spell'd [etc.]. 1793 MME. D'ARBLAY *Diary* V. IX. 397 Susanna's temporary widowhood..has spelled me with a spell I know not how to break. 1816 KEATS *To a Friend who sent me some Roses* 12 But when..thy roses came to me My sense with their deliciousness was spell'd. 1876 *Good Words* 687 We stayed our walk—spelled to the spot—to watch The sunset glorifying earth and sky.

b. To protect (one) *from*, to drive *away*, by means of a spell or charm.

1691 DRYDEN *K. Arthur* I. ii, Thor, Freya, Woden, hear and spell your Saxons, With sacred Runic rhymes, from death in battle. 1876 *Tinsley's Mag.* XVIII. 240 Thy soft voice spelled away All my dearth.

2. To invest with magical properties.

1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* III. 445 This, gather'd in the Planetary Hour, With noxious Weeds, and spell'd with Words of Pow'r, Dire Stepdames in the Magick Bowl infuse.

Hence **Spelled**, **Spelling** *ppl. adjs.*

1598 SHAKS. 1 *Hen. VI*, v. iii. 31 Vnchaine your spirits now with spelling Charmes. 1838 S. BELLAMY *Betrayal* 22 To such end his spell'd appearance wrought.

†**Spell**, *v.*5 *Naut. Obs.* [Of obscure origin; partly confused with SPILL *v.*] (See quots.)

c 1635 N. BOTELER *Dial. Sea Service* (1685) 167 Take in the Missen-mast; or at the least, Peek it up: which Peeking up is called Spelling the Missen. 1704 J. HARRIS *Lex. Techn.* I, *Spell*, a Sea Word signifying to let go the Sheats and Bowlings of a Sail, (chiefly the Missen) and Bracing the weather Brace in the Wind, that the Sail may lie loose in the Wind. 1711 [see SPEEK *v.*5].

Spell, *v.*6 *dial.* Also 9 **spel**. [f. SPELL *sb.*2]

1. *trans.* a. To fit with bars or cross-pieces. b. To put into splints.

1641 BEST *Farm. Bks.* (Surtees) 61 The best way for spellinge of an hive is to putte in the two lowermost spelles aboute 4 wreathes from the bottome of the hive, and the two uppermost spelles just 4 wreathes above them. 1886 *S. W. Linc. Gloss.* 138 The Doctor did not spell it while to-day.

2. *trans.* and *intr.* To splinter.

1811 FAREY *Derbyshire* I. 367 On his return, [he] finds all the Vein-stuff so furrowed, spelled, or slappeted off. 1829 *Glover's Hist. Derby* I. 81 Where the hard 1st toadstone also, in the gates and shafts, thus spels off.

Spellable (spe·lăb'l), *a.* [f. SPELL *v.*2 + -ABLE.] Capable of being spelled or denoted by letters.

1837 CARLYLE *Mirabeau* Misc. Ess. 1857 IV. 69 All manner of reviews and periodical literatures that Europe, in all its spellable dialects, had. 1864 — *Fredk. Gt.* XV. ii. IV. 21 District not important, not very spellable, though doubtless pronounceable by natives to it. 1896 A. MORRISON *Child Jago* x. 108 There came a hoot or two, a 'Yah!' and other less spellable sounds, expressive of contempt.

Spell-bind (spe·lbəind), *v.* [f. SPELL *sb.*1 3, after SPELL-BOUND *a.*] *trans.* To bind by, or as by, a spell; to fascinate, enchant.

1808 SOUTHEY *Chron. Cid* 380 Hermogenes spell-bound him so that he could not move. 1861 J. PYCROFT *Agony Point* (1862) 109 The eye of the experienced physician spell-binds the lunatic. 1877 C. GEIKIE *Christ* xlix. (1879) 590 The power and majesty of His discourse had spell-bound many others.

Spellbinder (spe·lbəindəɹ). *U.S.* [f. as prec.] A political speaker capable of holding an audience spell-bound.

1888 *New York Tribune* 15 Nov. 6/1 The Republican Orators—'Spellbinders'—who worked during the recent campaign. 1888 *Boston* (Mass.) *Jrnl.* 23 Dec. 2/2 The Republican campaign orators..intend forming themselves into a permanent organization to be called the Republican Spell-binders' National Association. 1896 *N. Y. Weekly Witness* 30 Dec. 13/1 Highrollers, as the boss spellbinders are technically called.

Hence **Spe·llbinding** *vbl. sb.*

1896 *N. Y. Weekly Witness* 30 Dec. 13/1 He prayed to be permitted to try his hand at spellbinding.

Spell-bone *dial.*: see SPEEL-BONE.

Spell-bound (spe·lbaund), *ppl. a.* [f. SPELL *sb.*1 3.] Bound by, or as by, a spell; fascinated, enchanted, entranced.

1799 H. GURNEY *Cupid & Psyche* (1800) 17 Spell-bound she own'd thy mild control. 1813 SCOTT *Trierm.* II. xxvii, So lovely seem'd she there, Spell-bound in her ivory chair. 1837 DISRAELI *Venetia* I. ii, It seems a spell-bound place. 1874 L. STEPHEN *Hours in Library* (1892) I. vi. 199 The student who has once submitted to his charm becomes spell-bound.

†**Spe·ller**1. *Obs. rare.* [f. SPELL *v.*1 Cf. MDu. *spelre*; G. dial. *speller* a gossip.] A preacher.

a 1200 *Vices & Virtues* 45 Wile ðu hlesten spelleres and priestes and munekes..ne scalt ðu næure habben god. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 20849 Speke we nou o þaa spellers bald, ..þe apostlis þat all wide war spred. *Ibid.* 21179 Þir war his discipleis tuelue,..Spellers o trouth.

Speller2 (spe·ləɹ). Also 5 **-are**. [f. SPELL *v.*2 So Du. and Flem. *speller*.]

1. One who spells, or spells out, words, one having a specified proficiency in spelling; an authority on spelling.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 468/1 Spellare, *sillabicator*. 1598 CHAPMAN *Sev. Bks. Iliad* To Rdr., I write..to him that will disdaine those easie obiections, which euery speller may put together. 1687 MIÈGE *Gt. Fr. Dict.* s.v., A good Speller, in point of Writing. *Ibid.*, A bad Speller. 1776 *Pennsylv. Even. Post* 28 Mar. 160/2 He..is a poor writer and speller. 1858 CARLYLE *Fredk. Gt.* VI. iii. II. 37 The worst speller ever known. 1882 SCUDDER *Noah Webster* ii. 38 Webster was a moralist as well as a speller.

2. A seeker *after* something.

1796 PAINE *Writ.* (1895) III. 217 John Adams..it is known was always a speller after places and offices.

3. *U.S.* A spelling-book.

1864 in WEBSTER. 1882 SCUDDER *Noah Webster* ii. 70 The popularity of 'the speller' rendered it liable to piracy. 1904 *Westm. Gaz.* 25 May 4/2 The extremely primitive primers and 'spellers'.

Spe·ller3. *Obs.* or *arch.* Also 6 **speler**. [Aphetic f. ESPELER.] (See quots. and SPILLER 2.)

1576 TURBERV. *Venerie* 238 In a Bucke we say, Burre, Beame, Branche, Aduauncers, Pawlme, and Spelers. 1611 COTGR., *Espois d'un cerf*, the top of a red Deeres head; of a fallow, the Spellers. 1632 *Guillim's Heraldry* (ed. 2) III. xiv. 179 Skilfull Wood-men describing..a bucks head..say .. spellers. [Similarly in other writers.] 1659 TORRIANO, *Spessi*,..those sharp hornes on the top of a Deers Antler called the Spellers. 1686 PLOT *Staffordsh.* 200 Whereof some of the blades are curled round, divided and jagged like the Spellers of a Bucks-head. [1857 *Fraser's Mag.* LVI. 211 The advancer, palm, and spellers or spillers.]

Spellful (spe·lfŭl), *a.* Also **spelful**. [f. SPELL *sb.*1] Full of, abounding in, spells or magical power.

1773–83 HOOLE *Orl. Fur.* XV. 102 Here, while his eyes the learned leaves peruse, Each spelful mystery explain'd he views. 1805 T. HARRAL *Scenes Life* III. 36 You..would fain persuade me, by your spelful art, that I can act. 1865 E. BURRITT *Walk to Land's End* 28 Eyes of every spellful influence. 1889 *Harper's Mag.* Nov. 943 Her accents are spellful as her eye.

Spellican, var. SPILLIKIN.

†**Spe·lling**, *vbl. sb.*1 *Obs.* [f. SPELL *v.*1] Speaking, talking, discourse, utterance.

In O.E. esp. 'idle or unprofitable talk'.

c 1000 ÆLFRIC *Hom.* (Thorpe) I. 180 Forbuxað idele spellunge, and dyslice blissa. *c* 1030 *Rule St. Benet* (Logeman) 83 Idelnesse oððe spellingum [L. *otioso aut fabulis*]. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 64 Spellunge & smecchunge beoð ine muðe boðe; ..we schulen..speken nu of spellunge. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 19951 Petre þam said o spelling þan O baptising þat Iohn bigan. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* II. 263 So that with spellinge of hir charmes Sche tok Eson in bothe hire armes.

Spelling (spe·lin), *vbl. sb.*2 [f. SPELL *v.*2 So Du., Flem., and WFris. *spelling*.]

1. The action, practice, or art of naming the letters of words, of reading letter by letter, or of expressing words by letters.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 468/1 Spellynge, *sillabicacio*. 1452 CAPGRAVE *Life St. Aug.* 8 Thus lerned he þe smale scienses, as spellyng, reding and constrewyng, in his 3ong age. 1551 T. WILSON *Logike* (1580) 17 b, Shewe hym the maner of spellyng before wee teache hym to reade. 1580 HOLLYBAND *Treas. Fr. Tong, Espelement des syllables*, a spelling of syllables. 1612 BRINSLEY *Lud. Lit.* 151 The former knowledge of spelling. 1693 LOCKE *Educ.* § 143 His eldest Son, yet in Coats, has play'd himself into Spelling with great eagerness. 1758 L. TEMPLE *Sketches* (ed. 2) 18 Of the Modern Art of Spelling. 1771 LUCKOMBE *Hist. Printing* 270 Compositors..never can arrive to one regular way of Spelling. 1809–10 COLERIDGE *Friend* (1837) III. 343 There is one branch of learning without which learning itself cannot be railed at with common decency, namely, spelling. 1871 EARLE *Philol. Eng. Tongue* ii. 121 That which we call a settled orthography is a habit of spelling which admits only of rare modification.

2. Manner of expressing or writing words with letters; orthography. Also *fig.*

c 1661 *Marq. Argyle's Last Will* in *Harl. Misc.* (1746) VIII. 29/2 It is most evident, that the right Spelling of *Covenant* is *Covetousness*. 1693 DRYDEN *Disc. Satire* Ess. (ed. Ker) II. 67 In the criticism of spelling, it ought to be with *i*, and not with *y*. 1697 C. LESLIE *Snake in Grass* (ed. 2) 112 By some unusual Spelling of some words. 1770 [SIR D. DALRYMPLE] *Anc. Scottish Poems* 271 From the spelling of the specimens..I incline to think [etc.]. 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xviii. IV. 245 The letter may still be read with all the original bad grammar and bad spelling. 1894 LINDSAY *Latin Lang.* I. § 12 However natural it may appear for the Romans to have adopted Greek spelling.

b. A particular instance of this; a special collocation of letters representing a word.

1731–8 SWIFT *Polite Conv.* Introd. 50 Of these Spellings the Publick will meet with many Examples. 1758 L. TEMPLE *Sketches* (ed. 2) 18 An Author seems reduced to great Extremities, who flies to new Spellings to distinguish himself. 1811 SCOTT *Let.* in *Lockhart* (1837) II. x. 351 All the license of using obsolete words and uncommon spellings. 1894 LINDSAY *Latin Lang.* I. § 8 The dates at which these spellings are first found on inscriptions.

3. *attrib.*, as *spelling-bee* (BEE 1 4), *-game*, *-lesson*, *-reform(er*, etc. Also SPELLING-BOOK.

1731 T. DYCHE (*title*), The Spelling Dictionary. 1815 SCOTT *Guy M.* li, He had..the strongest desire..to resume spelling lessons and half-text. 1849–50 (*title*), The Spelling Reformer. Edited by A. J. Ellis. 1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib., Brit*, II. No. 5504, Alphabet and spelling game, adapted for infant-schools and nurseries. 1873 EARLE *Philol. Eng. Tongue* (ed. 2) 179 Many proposals for spelling-reform have been made in this country and in America. 1875 *Ann. Reg.* 111 A Spelling Bee has been held at the Myddelton Hall, Islington. 1880–3 (*title*), The Spelling Experimenter...Conducted by W. R. Evans.

Spe·lling, *vbl. sb.*3 [f. SPELL *v.*4] The use or exercise of spells or charms.

1664 COTTON *Scarron.* IV. (1741) 115 She'll make a Cowl-staff, by her Spelling, Amble like any double Gelding.

Spe·lling-book. [SPELLING *vbl. sb.*2] A book designed to teach spelling.

1677 T. LYE (*title*), New Spelling-Book. 1712 STEELE *Spect.* No. 296 P 1 By the Assistance of a Spelling-Book it's legible. 1714 MANDEVILLE *Fab. Bees* (1733) I. 332 Buried alive in their hall under a great heap of primers and spelling-books. *c* 1775 JOHNSON in *Boswell* (Oxf. ed.) I. 30 Tom Brown..published a spelling-book, and dedicated it to the Universe. 1828 MISS MITFORD *Village* Ser. III. (1863) 7 Superintending the different exercises of the needle, the spelling-book, and the slate. 1852 C. W. HOSKYNS *Talpa* xx. (1854) 177 Nature is a schoolmaster that teaches without spelling-books.

attrib. 1771 LUCKOMBE *Hist. Printing* 270 [The hyphen] has given employment..to a number of Spelling-Book-Authors. 1835 MACAULAY in Trevelyan *Compet. Wallah* (1864) 421 They designate the education which their opponents recommend as a mere spelling-book education.

Spe·llingly, *adv.* [f. *spelling*, pres. pple. of SPELL *v.*2] By dint of spelling; letter by letter.

1644 DIGBY *Nat. Bodies* xix. § 7. 171 If then we can but arriue to decypher the first characters of the hidden Alphabet..and can but spellingly reade the first syllabes of it [etc.]. 1847 THACKERAY *Lords & Liv.* iii, Jeames read the..paper ..; not spellingly and with hesitation.

†**Spellken.** *Cant. Obs.* [See SPELL *sb.*5 and KEN *sb.*2] A theatre.

c 1800 in Byron *Juan* XI. xix. *note*, If you at the spellken can't hustle, You'll be hobbled in making a Clout. 1823 BYRON *Ibid.* XI. xix, Who in a row like Tom could lead the van, Booze in the ken, or at the spellken hustle?

†**Spe·llman.** *Obs.* Also **spelman**. [f. SPELL *sb.*1 3.] One who employs spells or charms.

1611 H. BROUGHTON *Require of Agreement* 27 At Francfurt a Preacher by occasion of speach against English Spellmen, was aunswered that they were allowed in England. 1641 J. TRAPPE *Theol. Theol.* vi. 250 Balaam, Satan's spelman (as one cals him). 1680 C. NESSE *Church Hist.* 75 He calls for Balaam, the Devils spelman, to curse Israel.

†**Spe·lly**, *a. Obs.*—1 [f. SPELL *sb.*1 3.] Full of spells or charms.

1648 EARL OF WESTMORELAND *Otia Sacra* (1879) 37 By vanquishing the Witchcrafts of the Skies, The Spelly-vaprous mists.

Spelonk, variant of SPELUNK *Obs.*

Spelt, *sb.*1 Also 5 **spilt**, **spylt**, 6 **spelte**, 7 **spealt**. [OE. *spelt*, = MDu. *spelte*, *spelt* (Du. *spelt*, WFris. *spjelte*), OS. *spelta* (MLG. *spelte*), OHG. *spelza* (MHG. *spelze*, *spelte*, G. *spelz*, *spelt*), a late L. *spelta* (from *c* 400, mentioned as a foreign word answering to the older L. *far*), whence also It. *spelta*, *spelda*, Sp. *espelta*, OF. *spelte*, *spealte*, *spiautre*, *espeltre*, *espiautre*, etc., mod.F. *épeautre*.

The evidence indicates that the word had no continuous history in Eng., and little currency, until the 16th cent.]

1. A species of grain (*Triticum spelta*) related to wheat, formerly much cultivated in southern Europe and still grown in some districts.

a 1000 in WR.-WÜLCKER 273 *Faar*, spelt. *Ibid.* 401 *Farris*, hwætes, speltes. *Ibid.* 405 *Far serotina*, spelt samgrene. 1392 *Earl Derby's Exp.* (Camden) 225 Pro spelt per ipsum empt' ibidem [*sc.* at Modon]. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XVII. lxxxi. (Bodl. MS.), Some greyne is noþer in codde noþer in huole as barlich & spilt [*e.r.* spylt]. 1562 TURNER *Herbal* II. (1568) 85 The stalkes [of Phalaris] ar.. much lyke vnto the strawes of spelt. *Ibid.* 133 Semen is called..in Duche spelt; it may in English be called spelt. 1578 LYTE *Dodoens* 164 This plant groweth amongst wheate and Spelte, in good frutefull groundes. 1597 GERARDE *Herbal* I. xlii. 61 Spelt is like to wheate in stalks and eare. *a* 1656 USSHER *Ann.* (1658) 770 He passed it..thorough unbeaten paths, where his food was spelt and dates. 1661 LOVELL *Hist. Anim. & Min.* 55 The meale of spelt, in red Wine helpeth the stingings of Scorpions, applied warme. 1736 BAILEY *Houshold Dict.* s.v. *Brawn*, Bread made of Spelt is hard of digestion. 1762 MILLS *Pract. Husb.* I. 408 Spelt, though commonly reckoned a summer corn, is sowed either in autumn, or in the spring. 1805–6 CARY *Dante*, *Inf.* XIII. 101 There sprouting, as a grain of spelt, It rises to a sapling. 1855 SINGLETON *Virgil* I. 75 There, upon the season being changed, You'll sow the golden spelt. 1884 *De Candolle's Orig. Cultivated Pl.* 362 Spelt is now hardly cultivated out of south Germany and German-Switzerland.

2. *attrib.*, as *spelt-cake*, *-corn*, *-ridge*, *-wheat*.

1610 W. FOLKINGHAM *Art of Survey* I. xi. 35 Spelt-corne in a fat moist layer degenerats from bad to better, *viz.* in three yeeres space to Wheat. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* II. 87/1 Spelt-Corn is lesser and blacker than Wheat. 1694 MOTTEUX *Rabelais* II. *Let.* i. 3 Oats, Spelt-Corn, and Barly. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s.v. *Zea*, The bread made of the spelt corn..is lighter and whiter than any other bread. 1832 *Veg. Subst. Food of Man* 35 Spelt Wheat—*Triticum spelta*—is imagined to have been the Triticum of the Romans, and the Zea of the Greeks. 1853 SOYER *Pantropheon* 43 Among other delicate dishes..he had ordered a spelt cake to be made.

Spelt, *sb.*2 *rare.* Now *dial.* [Connected with SPELT *v.* Cf. SPELD *sb.* and G. *spelze* husk.] A thin piece of wood or metal; *spec.* a board of a book (OE.), a toe- or heel-plate (*dial.*).

c 1000 ÆLFRIC *Gloss.* in WR.-WÜLCKER 164 *Quaternio*, cine. *Planca*, spelt... *Membrana*, boccel. ? *a* 1400 *Morte Arth.* 3365 Abowte cho whirllide a whele...The spekes was splentide alle with speltis of siluer. 1585 HIGINS tr. *Junius' Nomenclator* 143 *Schidia vel schidiæ*,..Chippes or spelts of wood. 1875 PARISH *Sussex Dial.* 111 *Spelts*, iron toes and heels for boots.

Spelt, variant of SPALT *sb.*2 *Obs.*

Spelt (spelt), *v.* Now *dial.* [Related to SPELD *v.* in the same way as SPALT *v.* to SPALD *v.* Cf. G. *spelzen* to husk.] *trans.* To husk or pound (grain); to bruise or split (*esp.* beans). Hence **Spe·lted** *ppl. a.* (Cf. SPELK *v.*2)

1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 58 To spelt corne, *tundere*, *eglumare*. 1607 MARKHAM *Cavel.* v. (1617) 8 The loues in some places are rould in spelted beanes. 1620 — *Farew. Husb.* XV. 137 The garden Pease..serue..for pottage, boiling, parching or spelting. 1623 — *Cheap Husb.* (ed. 3) II. 52 If then you cause those beanes to be spelted vpon a milne, and so mixt with oates, it will recouer him. 1707 MORTIMER *Husb.* (1721) I. 258 Feed them with Oats, spelted Beans, Barley-meal, or Ground-Malt mixed with Milk. 1877 in *N. W. Linc. Gloss.*

Spelter (spe·ltəɹ), *sb.* Also 8–9 **speltre**. [Corresponds to OF. *espeautre*, MDu. *speauter*, Du. and G. *spiauter*, LG. *spialter*, but the immediate source is not clear. Related to PEWTER.]

1. Zinc. (Now only *Comm.*)

1661 BOYLE *Certain Physiol. Ess.* (1669) 194 Leaving a

lump or two of Spelter there for two or three days. 1671 J. Webster *Metallogr.* Pref. B ij b, Ores..of Antimony, Tinglass, Spelter, Talk, and Cinnober. 1733 Tull *Horse-Hoeing Husb.* xxii. 350, I have often made them with a mix'd Metal, of half Pewter and half Spelter. 1758 Borlase *Nat. Hist. Cornw.* 129 Of bismuth, speltre, zink, naptha,..I have received specimens from several parts of Cornwall. 1799 G. Smith *Laboratory* I. 106 Fling into it one ounce of spelter, i. e. zinc. 1835 *Penny Cycl.* IV. 182/2 The articles which Belgium supplies to England are oak-bark,..spelter, and sheeps' wool. 1860 *Ure's Dict. Arts* (ed. 5) III. 1076 The general consumption of Spelter throughout the world is about 67,000 tons per annum.

2. An alloy or solder of which zinc is the principal constituent.

1815 J. Smith *Panorama Sci. & Art* I. 51 The hard solder for copper, is a soft fusible sort of granulated brass, well known to artists under the name of spelter. 1824 *Mechanic's Mag.* No. 26. 415 Method of making spelter for brazing iron, copper, etc. 1854 H. Miller *Sch. & Schm.* (1858) 392 An elderly tinker..sat admiring a bit of spelter of about a pound weight. It was gold, he said.

3. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *spelter-box, -dust, -heap, -maker, -ore.*

1684 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1991/4 There is another Watch a Spelter Box and Case all in one. 1758 Borlase *Nat. Hist. Cornw.* 129 Speltre ore I have had from a mine near St. Columb. 1868 *Q. Rev.* No. 248. 346 Covering acres of ground like the spelter and cinder heaps. 1882 Blackmore *Christowell* xlv, Where mine-slag, sparry rocks, and spelter dust combined to glare with intense heat. 1884 C. G. W. Lock *Workshop Rec.* Ser. III. 18/1 Spelter or zinc statuettes, known in the trade as imitation or French bronze. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* II. 940 Spelter workers,..that is, men who smelt zinc ore, occasionally suffer from plumbism.

b. *Spelter solder*, a solder made from zinc and copper.

1671 Boyle *Usef. Nat. Philos., Trades* 19 Though common Spelter-soder be much cheaper, than that which is made with Silver instead of Spelter. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XVII. 745/1 In this heat soft solder is just ready to melt, and has no tenacity;..even spelter solder is considerably weakened by it. 1843 Holtzapffel *Turning* I. 268 Soft spelter-solder, suitable for ordinary brass work, is made of equal parts of copper and zinc. 1873 Spon *Workshop Rec.* Ser. I. 365/2 This solder possesses several advantages over the usual spelter solder or brass.

Hence **Spe·lter** *v. trans.*, to unite with spelter solder.

1861 W. Graham *Brassfounder's Man.* 34 When the work is cleaned, bound, fluxed, and spelt̃ered, the whole is subjected to a clear charcoal or coke fire.

Speluncar (spelv·ŋkaɪ), *a.* [f. L. *spelunca.*]

1. Having relation or reference to a cave.

1855 *Ecclesiologist* XVI. 295 What Mr. Scott calls the speluncar idea, is thus fully carried out. 1861 Beresf. Hope *Eng. Cathedr. 19th C.* iii. 85 Mr. Burges..bases his plan upon what has been called, by a self-explanatory term, the speluncar principle of tropical architecture.

2. Of the nature of a cave.

1865 *Sat. Rev.* 11 Feb. 181 Nor would these speluncar chambers gain much in artistic value..were the point gained.

Spelu·ncean, *a. rare*—1. [f. as prec. + *-ean.*] = Speluncar *a.* 2.

1803 G. S. Faber *Cabiri* II. 380 His opinion, that the ornamented artificial cavern,..and the circular speluncèan temple, were all the legitimate descendants of the Mithratic grotto.

†**Spelunk.** *Obs.* Forms: 4–5 spelonk(e; 4–6 spelunc, spelunk(e, 6 speluncke. [ad. L. *spelunca* or OF. *spelonque, spelunque.* Cf. MDu. *spelonke, spelunke* (Du. *spelonk*), MHG. and G. *spelunke.*] A cave or cavern; a grotto.

13.. *S. Erkenwolde* 49 in Horstm. *Altengl. Leg.* (1881) 267 Thre sperlis of þe spelunke..Was metely made of þe marbre. 1377 Langl. *P. Pl.* B. xv. 270 Monkes and mendynauntz men bi hem-selue, In spekes an in spelonkes selden speken togideres. 1382 Wyclif *Gen.* xxiii. 9 Preye ȝe for me..that he ȝyue to me the dowble spelunk, or caue. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 5392 All spritis in þis spelonk here speke þai to-gedire. 1483 Caxton *G. de la Tour* d ij b, Not hows of marchaundyse nor pytte or spelonke for theues. 1511 *Guylforde's Pilgr.* (Camden) 24 Into the first of thyse two spelunkes entred the women. 1563 Becon *Relyques of Rome* 53 b, Our recluses haue grates of yron in their spelunckes and dennes.

Spelye, obs. variant of Spelk *v.*[1]

†**Spen,** *sb. Obs.*—1 (Meaning obscure.)

13.. *Gaw. & Gr. Knt.* 1074 ȝe schal..cum to þat merk at mydmorn, to make quat yow likez in spenne.

Spen, *v.* ? *Obs.* Also 4, 9 spenn. [a. ON. *spenna* (Icel. and Norw. *spenna*, Sw. *spänna*, Da. *spænde*), = MDu. and MLG. *spennen*, NFris. *spên, spän*, related to Span *v.*[2] Cf. Spend *v.*[2]]

1. *trans.* To clasp; to fasten by means of clasps or buckles; to button or lace.

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* A. 49 Bifore þat spot my honde I spennd, For care ful colde þat to me cazt. 13.. *Gaw. & Gr. Knt.* 587 Wyth ryche cote armure, His gold sporez spend with pryde, *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy.* 10942 Telamon full tyte.. Two spurres full spedely spent on his helis. *c* 1500 *Lancelot* 2806 The maden sone one to his chalmer gos, And sacretly his armour one hyme spent. 1825 Jamieson *Suppl., To Spenn,..* to button, or to lace one's clothes; as, to spenn the waistcoat.

b. With personal object.

c 1400 *Rowland & O.* 361 Þay spende hym with his gilte sperres, And dressede hym in his armours.

2. *intr.* To fit tightly or closely.

13.. *Gaw. & Gr. Knt.* 158 Hose of þat same grene, þat spenet on his sparlyr, & clene spures vnder.

Spen, variant of Spean *sb.*

Spence[1] (spens). Also 5–7 spens(e, 5 spenyse. [Aphetically f. OF. *despense* (mod.F. *dépense*), = Sp. and Pg. *despensa*, It. *dispensa*, med.L. *despensa, dispensa* (rarely *spensa*), in the same sense: cf. Dispense *sb.*[1] So Swiss dial. *spense.*

The prefix *de-* is similarly dropped in other words; in this case there may have been association with Spense *sb.*]

1. A room or separate place in which victuals and liquor are kept; a buttery or pantry; a cupboard. Now *dial.* or *arch.*

a. c 1386 Chaucer *Somp. T.* 223 Fat as a whale, and walking as a swan; Al vinolent as Botel in the spence. 1426 Lydg. *De Guil. Pilgr.* 23026, I hadd no maner lyberte;.. in the seller, nor in the spence, ete nor drynke on no syde. *c* 1460 *Play of Sacram.* 529 He syttyth with sum tapstere in yº spence. 1540 Palsgr. *Acolastus* Q iij, If we..bring out of (the buttery) or spence all the meate that is left. 1600 Surflet *Countrie Farme* I. v. 22 [A] vaulted roome, which shall also be for the huswifes vse and serue for a spence, to keepe her prouision of victuals in. 1684 *Yorks. Dial.* 183 (E.D.S.), Our Sew hes been 'ith Spence, thrawn down Whigg-Stand. 1720 *Postmaster* 25 Nov. 103 House..contains Four Chambers,..a Kitchen, with two Spences. 1790 Grose *Prov. Gloss.* (ed. 2), *Spence*, a small place for setting milk or drink in, made with wainscot, or a lattice. 1814 Scott *Wav.* xvii, In one large aperture, which the robber facetiously called his *spence* (or pantry). 1865 R. Hunt *Pop. Rom. W. Eng.* (1871) Ser. I. 110 Nancy must have something to drink before she started for Penzance, and she went to the spence for the bottles.

fig. 1609 Holland *Amm. Marcell.* XIX. xii. 141 These cruell enterludes, which out of a spence or budget of craftie devices he brought forth.

β. 14.. *Lat.-Eng. Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 578 *Dispensa*, a spense. *c* 1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 1441 He bare þe bordeclath to þe spens. 1519 Horman *Vulg.* 151 b, I haue ij spensis: one for euery day: a nother for store of all vitayle, tyll newe come. 1609 Skene *Reg. Maj.* 6 Hir keyes ..of hir spens, hir ark of hir claithing and jewells, or of hir cist or coffer.

2. *Sc.* An inner apartment of a house; a parlour.

a. 1783 Burns *Poor Mailie's Elegy* iv, Our Bardie, lanely, keeps the spence. 1786 — *Vision* I. ii, Ben I' the Spence, right pensivelie, I gaed to rest. 1820 Scott *Monast.* iv, They rushed into the spence, (a sort of interior apartment in which the family ate their victuals in the summer season,) but there was no one there. 1843 Bethune *Sc. Fireside Stor.* 154 Others assisted in conveying the invalid to the spence of the inn, which had been readily offered for the accommodation of the family.

3. *attrib.*, as *spence-basket, -door.*

1825 Jamieson *Suppl., Spense-Door*, the door between the kitchen and the spense. 1844 W. H. Maxwell *Wand. Highl. & Isl.* I. ix. 180 A peg behind the spence door. 1881 Cussans *Hist. Hertfordsh.* III. ii. 321 *Spence-Basket*, a basket used by waggoners to hold provisions for their journey.

†**Spence**[2]. *Obs. rare.* Also 4 spense. [Substituted for Spencer *sb.*[1], after prec.] A steward.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 28740 For quat {need} es þat spense [*v.r.* spenser] mai be Nithing þar þe lauerd es fre. *c* 1325 *Metr. Hom.* 165 Hir spense [*v.r.* spensar] knew hir fleysleye. *a* 1568 *Henryson's Twa Myss* xix. in *Bannatyne MS.* (Hunter. Cl.) 963 The spense come in, with keis in his hand. 1644 Digby *Nat. Soul* ii. § 3. 367 In the scripture we meete with these wordes, the iudge of vniustice, the spence of wickednesse, the man of sinne,..which in our phrase of speaking, do signify an vniust iudge, a wicked spence, and a sinnefull..man.

Spencean (spensī·ăn), *a.* and *sb.* [f. the name of the political theorist Thomas *Spence* (1750–1814).] **A.** *adj.* Of or pertaining to Thomas Spence or his views.

1817 Castlereagh in *Parl. Deb.* 280 To trace these Hampden and Spencean clubs through all their bearings. *Ibid.*, The great mass received the Spencean doctrines among them. 1866 Charnock *Verba Nom.* 287 *Spencean System*, a plan..by which the human kind could be provided with sustenance without pauperism.

B. *sb.* A follower of Thomas Spence.

1817 W. Ponsonby in *Parl. Deb.* 286 Those foolish and criminal people called the Spenceans. 1817 Coleridge *'Blessed are ye'* 132 The poor visionaries called Spenceans.

†**Spencer,** *sb.*[1] *Obs.* Also 4 spensere, 4–5 spenser, 6 *Sc.* spensar; 5 spencere. [a. AF. *espenser* (cf. Spence 2), var. of *despenser*, OF. *despencier*, Dispenser.] One who dispenses or has charge of the provisions in a household; a steward or butler.

a. a 1300 *Cursor M.* 4447 þe spenser and þe botelar bath þe king self wit þaim was wrath. *c* 1380 Wyclif *Wks.* (1880) 413 Þus a clerk or spenser of a curat may parte þes godis in þe name of hym. 14.. *Lat.-Eng. Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 561 *Acellarius*, a spenser. *c* 1480 Henryson *Fables, Town & C. Mouse* xix, The spensar come with keyis in his hand.

β. c 1400 *Gamelyn* 493 Adam þe spencer toke vp þe clothe. *c* 1420 *Chron. Vilod.* 175 After he was kynge, he wedded hure.., His owne spencers douȝter he [=she] was. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 354/1 A Spencer, *vbi* A butler. 1580 Hollyband *Treas. Fr. Tong, Despensier, qui a la garde de la viande*, a spencer.

Spencer (spe·nsəɹ), *sb.*[2] [From the family name *Spencer.* In sense 1 prob. from that of Charles Spencer, third Earl of Sunderland (1674–1722); in sense 2 from that of George John Spencer, second Earl Spencer (1758–1834); in sense 3 from that of Mr. Knight Spencer (fl. 1803).]

†**1.** A kind of wig. Also *attrib. Obs.*

17.. *Songs & P. on Costume* (Percy Soc.) 206 At us the fribbles may strut and look big, In their spencers, bobs, and ramelies. 1748 Smollett *R. Random* xv, A gold laced hat, a spencer wig, and a silver hilted hanger. 1753 Hogarth *Anal. Beauty* xvi. 218 The uniform 'diamond' of a card was filled up by the flying dress..of the little capering figure in the spencer-wig.

2. A short double-breasted overcoat without tails worn by men in the latter part of the 18th century and the beginning of the 19th.

Hence G. *spencer, spenser*, now *spenzer*, WFlem. *spensel.*

1796 *Sporting Mag.* VII. 311 The economical garment called a spencer. 1817 J. Bradbury *Trav. Amer.* 126 This occasioned..on my part a pretended alarm for fear that his coat should become a spencer. 1853 Dickens *Bleak Ho.* xxiv, A very respectable old gentleman,..dressed in a black spencer and gaiters and a broad-brimmed hat. 1899 C. K. Paul *Memories* 81 Bethell was the last man who wore a 'spencer', an over-jacket which allowed the tails of a dress-coat to appear below it.

b. A kind of close-fitting jacket or bodice commonly worn by women and children early in the 19th century, and since revived.

1803 Wittman *Trav. Turkey* 442 They wear a kind of short spencer of green silk or satin. 1836–7 Dickens *Sk. Boz, Scenes* xiv, There was a considerable talking among the females in the spencers. 1885 Lady Brassey *The Trades* 69 The women were mostly dressed in..some sort of dark jacket or spencer.

attrib. 1883 *Cassell's Mag.* Dec. 43/2 A resuscitation is the Spencer bodice, as much like those of forty years ago as can be.

c. A short coat or jacket.

1851 Mayne Reid *Scalp Hunt.* XX. 141 Some wore leathern calzoneros, with a spencer or jerkin of the same material. 1879 Stevenson *Trav. Cevennes* 10 My travelling wear of country velveteen, pilot-coat, and knitted spencer.

3. A form of life-belt.

1803 *Phil. Mag.* XVI. 172 Account of the Marine Spencer for the Preservation of Lives in Cases of Shipwreck. 1806 *Ann. Reg., Usef. Proj.* (1808) 980/2 Swimming spencers, which..consist of a cork girdle.

4. *slang.* (See quot.)

1804 *Sporting Mag.* XXIII. 220 A small glass of gin in St. Giles's [is called] a Spencer.

Spencer (spe·nsəɹ), *sb.*[3] *Naut.* [Perhaps of similar origin to prec.] A fore-and-aft sail, set with a gaff, serving as a trysail to the fore or main mast of a vessel.

1840 R. H. Dana *Bef. Mast* v, We had got her down to close-reefed topsails, double-reefed trysail, and reefed fore spenser. 1851 Kipling *Sailmaking* (ed. 2) 5 There are the fore-trysail, main-trysail, and mizen-trysail, or as they are sometimes called the fore-spencer, Duke of York or main-spencer, and storm-mizen. 1860 Maury *Phys. Geog.* xix. § 807 At 8 p.m...hove to under close-reefed main top-sail and spencer.

attrib. 1840 R. H. Dana *Bef. Mast* v, The chief mate.. was standing..at the foot of the spenser-mast. *Ibid.* xxv, The captain ordered the fore and main spencer gaffs to be lowered down.

†**Spe·ncer,** *v. Obs.*—1 (Meaning obscure.)

1831 *Examiner* 278/1 The accomplished Sir Robert Gresley has arrived in Newark, and has offered to display his pugilistic prowess in the Market-place, having been spencered by the people.

Spencerian (spensī·ĕriăn), *a.* and *sb.* [f. the name of the philosopher Herbert *Spencer* (1820–1903).] **A.** *adj.* Of or pertaining to Herbert Spencer or his philosophical views.

1886 *Academy* 28 Aug. 132/3 The Comtian and Spencerian systems. 1900 H. Macpherson *H. Spencer* 66 The comprehension of the Spencerian philosophy.

B. *sb.* A follower of Spencer.

1888 *Athenæum* 14 Jan. 47/1 Being somewhat of a Spencerian, Major Ellis looks on their gods as originally spirits.

Hence **Spence·rianism,** = next.

1881 Ld. Acton *Lett. to Mary Gladstone* (1904) 89 The doctrine that there is no resisting the priesthood except by definite Spencerianism. 1892 *Nation* 28 Apr. 322/3 The editor appears to be a propagandist of Spencerianism.

Spencerism (spe·nsəriz'm). [f. *Spencer* (see prec.) + -ism.] The philosophy of Herbert Spencer, or views in accordance with this.

1880 *Nature* XXI. 406 The propagation of Spencerism and Monism. 1900 H. Macpherson *H. Spencer* 66 Spencerism stands on its own merits as the philosophy of the knowable.

So **Spe·ncerite,** a Spencerian.

1882 *Advance* (Chicago) 30 Mar. 194 There are such sects as Calvinists and Agnostics, and one..of Spencerites.

Spency (spe·nsi). *dial.* [Of obscure origin.] The stormy petrel, *Procellaria pelagica.*

1813 Montagu *Ornith.* Suppl., *Petrel* (*Stormy*),..Mitty, Assilag, Spency, Sea-Swallow, Allamotti. 1844 *Zoologist* II. 627 Storm petrel,..the 'Mother Carey's chickens', or 'Spencies', as they are called by sailors. 1899 *Shetland News* 14 Jan. (E.D.D.), The Manx shearwater, or 'lyrie' of our native folk,..and the storm petrel or 'spencie'.

Spend (spend), *sb.*[1] [f. Spend *v.*[1]] The action of spending money. Only in phrase *on* or *upon the spend.*

a 1688 Bunyan *Israel's Hope Encouraged* Wks. 1855 I. 618 What if I cannot but live upon the spend all my days, yet, if my friend will always supply my need, is it not well for me? *c* 1800 J. Newton in R. Cecil *Life* (1853) 269 A man always in society, is one always on the spend. 1904 *Sat. Rev.* 17 Dec. 751 The suggestion that the Government is 'on the spend'.

Spend, *sb.*[2] *Sc.* [f. Spend *v.*[3]] A spring, leap, bound. Also *fig.*

1825 in Jamieson *Suppl.* 1828 Moir *Mansie Wauch* xix. 277 Making a spend like a greyhound.

Spend (spend), *v.*[1] Pa. t. and pa. pple. **spent.** Forms: *Inf.* 4–7 **spende** (5 **spendyn**), 4– **spend.** *Pa. t.* 3–5 **spende**; 4–5 **spended** (5 **-ide, -yd**; *Sc.* 5 **-yt**, 6 **-it**); 4 **spente**, 5– **spent.** *Pa. pple.* 3–4 **i-spend**, 4–6 **spend(e**; 3 **i-spendet**, 4 **spendet**, 5 **-ut(te**, 6 *Sc.* **-it**; 4 **i-spended**, 4–5 **spendid**, 4–6 **-yd**, **spended** (5 **-ede**); 2, 5 **i-spent**, 6 **y-spent**, 4– **spent** (6 **spynt**), 5–6 **spente.** [OE. *spendan (cf. *spendung* and *á-, forspendan*), ad. L. *expendĕre* (cf. It. *spendere*, Sp. *espender*), which was also adopted in other Germanic languages, as OHG. *spendôn*, *spentôn* (MHG. and G. *spenden*), OS. *spendôn (MLG. and MDu. *spenden*), ON. *spenna*. The ME. *spende*, however, may also have been formed aphetically from OF. *despendre* Dispend *v.*: cf. Spence. From the early ME. pa. t. and pa. pple. a new inf. Spene *v.* was formed, on the analogy of such verbs as *wene* ween; the converse process took place in Lend *v.*[2]]

I. *trans.* **1.** Of persons: To pay out or away; to disburse or expend; to dispose of, or deprive oneself of, in this way.

The object is usually money, or a particular sum of this, but occas. a more general term denoting property or wealth, esp. in earlier use.

c 1175 *Moral Ode* 28 in *O. E. Hom.* I. 161 Al to muchel ich habbe ispent, to litel ihud in horde. *c* 1280 *Sarmun* 25 in *E. E. P.* (1862) 4 And bot þou hit hab ispend ariȝte þe gode þat god þe haþ ilend of ihsu criste þou lesist þe siȝt. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 17507 Þai..gaf þam giftes gret to spend. *c* 1380 Wyclif *Wks.* (1880) 5 Lest freris ypocrisie and wynnyng be stoppid and þe peples almes betere spendid. 1436 *Pol. Poems* (Rolls) II. 190 Oure money [is] spente alle to lytelle avayle. *c* 1491 *Chast. Goddes Chyld.* (Caxton) 69 Riches and worshippes ben but lente to man for a tyme to yelde rekeninge of hem how they ben spended. *a* 1533 Ld. Berners *Huon* lx. 211 To seke hym I haue spent all my golde and syluer. 1574 J. Dee in *Lett. Lit. Men* (Camden) 34, I have..spent very many hundred powndes. *c* 1643 Ld. Herbert *Autobiog.* (1824) 5 After he had spent most part of his means, he became a soldier. 1697 Dryden *Virg. Georg.* I. 406 The Farmer to full Bowls invites his Friends, And what he got with Pains, with Pleasure spends. 1732 Berkeley *Alciphr.* II. § 2 When money is spent, it is all one to the public who spends it. 1776 Adam Smith *W. N.* II. iii. (1904) I. 378 That portion of his revenue which a rich man annually spends. 1827 Scott *Chron. Canongate* iii, If I lost the estate, I at least spent the price. 1894 *Temple Bar* CII. 340 She spent his money and led him such a life.

prov. 1548 in Strype *Eccl. Mem.* (1721) II. App. Q. 51 Evil gotten, worse spent. 1562 J. Heywood *Prov. & Epigr.* (1867) 62 Soone gotten, soone spent, yll gotten yll spent. *Ibid.* 154 Lyttle good, soone spended.

fig. 1591 Shaks. *Two Gent.* II. iv. 41 Sir, if you spend word for word with me, I shall make your wit bankrupt. 1663 Dryden *Wild Gallant* Prol., And for Wit, those that boast their own Estate, Forget Fletcher and Ben before them went, Their Elder Brothers, and that vastly spent.

b. Const. with prepositions, as † *about*, *for*, *in*, *on*, or *upon*.

a 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 101 For hare sake ane dale ha etheold of hire ealdrene god & spende al þet oðer in neodfule & in nakede. *c* 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 101 On leches heo hadde i-spendet Muche del of hire guod. *c* 1325 in *Pol. Songs* (Camden) 69 He spende al is tresour opon swyvyng. *c* 1400 *Brut* clxxiii. 195 His tresoure þat he hade spendede about his werre. *c* 1440 *Gesta Rom.* x. 32 (Harl. MS.), Also he spende ij[d] vpon him selfe. 1528 *Star Chamber Cases* (Selden) II. 177 [He] says he hasse a M[1] pownd to spend in the law ayenst hys Neyburus. 1578 in Feuillerat *Revels Q. Eliz.* (1908) 307 For sondrey parcells by him boughte & brought into the office to be spente about the rock. 1611 Bible *Isaiah* lv. 2 Wherefore doe yee spend money for that which is not bread? 1696 Prideaux *Lett.* (Camden) 176 After all y[e] interest he could make and many thousands spent in y[e] canvas. 1706 E. Ward *Wooden World Diss.* (1708) 56 The poor Souls..are oblig'd to spend their Pay upon the very Wine that was assign'd them. 1735 Johnson *Lobo's Abyssinia* Descr. i. 45 They..spent their Wealth in costly Ornaments for Churches, and Vessels for the Altars. 1883 F. M. Peard *Contrad.* I. 23 She spent a fortune in shoes and gloves. 1897 W. C. Hazlitt *4 Generations* II. 185 When his lordship told her that he had spent upon her enough to build the *Great Eastern*.

†**c.** To give away (a garment) in payment. *Obs.*

c 1440 *Jacob's Well* 157 Brynge hedyr þat pilgrym þat spendyd ȝister evyn his slaueyn at þe wyn! 1553 T. Wilson *Rhet.* (1580) 133 He loues women well; he will spende Goddes Coope if he had it. 1575 *Gamm. Gurton* II. iv. 40 By the masse, chil rather spend the cote that is on my backe!

†**d.** To levy charges on (a person). Only in the phrase *spend me and defend me*. *Obs.*

1590 Payne *Brief Descr. Ireland* (1841) 4 They haue a common saying which I am persuaded they speak vnfeinedly, which is, Defend me and spend me. 1596 Spenser *State Irel.* Wks. (Globe) 624/1 They..are very loth to yeld any certayne rent, but onely such spendinges, saying commonly, 'Spend me and defend me'.

†**e.** With dative of the person whose money is expended. *Obs.*

1609 B. Jonson *Sil. Woman* IV. i, She spends me forty pounds a year in mercury and hogs-bones. 1666 Pepys *Diary* 21 Feb., A little vexed to see myself so beset with people to spend me money.

2. *absol.* To exercise, make, or incur expenditure of money, goods, means, etc.

1297 R. Glouc. (Rolls) 8026 Him ne roȝte hou he spende, ne wat, he was so prout. ? *a* 1366 Chaucer *Rom. Rose* 1157 Not Avarice..Was half to gripe so ententyf, As Largesse is to yeve and spende. *c* 1440 *Jacob's Well* 207 Þi wyif & chyld muste sparyngly..spendyn of þi euyl getyn good. 1530 Palsgr. 728/1 This gere can nat laste longe, for he spendeth a pace and getteth nothyng. 1595 Lodge *Fig for Momus* H 1 b, Spend on thy house, to tyle it from the raine. 1652 J. Wright tr. *Camus' Nat. Paradox* VI. 115 These Strangers,..spending high, and making such cheer as the others were not accustomed to see. 1860 Ruskin *Unto this Last* iv. § 72 The vital question for individual and for nation is..'to what purpose do they spend?' 1869 Lowell *Under Willows* 162 To spend in all things else, But of old friends to be most miserly.

prov. 1562 J. Heywood *Prov. & Epigr.* (1867) 54 Spend, and god shall send,..saith tholde ballet. 1636 Sir R. Baker *Cato Variegatus* 32 Tis an old saying; spend, and God will send.

b. In the phrase *to spend and be spent*.

1611 Bible 2 *Cor.* xii. 15 And I wil very gladly spend and bee spent for you. 1694 Penn *Rise & Progr. Quakers* iii. 66 They could have no design to themselves in this Work, thus to expose themselves to Scorn and Abuse; to spend and be spent. 1828 Carlyle *Misc.* (1857) I. 236 Counting it blessedness enough so to spend and be spent.

3. To expend or employ (labour, material, thought, etc.) in some specified way: **a.** Const. *on* or *upon*.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 20857 It es na spede our suinc to spend On thing we may noght bring til end. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 6502 The tother speire, þat he sparit, [he] spent vpon hym. *c* 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* IV. 541 The plauntys sette is stonys to sustene, And donged lond vpon the rootys spende. 1590 Shaks. *Mids. N.* III. ii. 74 You spend your passion on a mispris'd mood. 1605 Bacon *Adv. Learn.* I. iv. § 2 Then did Sturmius spend such infinite and curious pains upon Cicero the Orator. 1662 Stillingfl. *Orig. Sacræ* II. vii. § 1 Their great R. Abravanel, who spends his whole 13 Chapter *de capite fidei* upon it. 1706 E. Ward *Wooden World Diss.* (1708) 19 He spends a great deal of puzzling Thought upon his Boat's Crew. 1707 Mortimer *Husb.* (1721) I. 2 It concerns the judicious Husbandman to consider the Nature of the Land he is to spend his Time, Cost and Labour upon. 1822 Lamb *Elia* I. *Distant Corresp.*, As useless as a passion spent upon the dead. 1875 Jowett *Plato* (ed. 2) I. 170 Why do you spend many words and speak in many ways on this subject?

b. Const. *in*.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 28493 O spusail i haf þe halines In lust al spended o my fles. 1500–20 Dunbar *Poems* lxxix. 9 Ȝe neid nocht..paper for to spend, nor ink, In the ressaueing of my soumes. 1588 Shaks. *L. L. L.* II. i. 19 To be counted wise, In spending your wit in the praise of mine. 1663 *Extr. St. Papers rel. Friends* II. (1911) 181 All the paines and cost therein spent was casting good money after bad. 1696 Tate & Brady *Ps.* cii. 5, I spend my Breath in Groans. 1728 Pemberton *Newton's Philos.* 319 It will be necessary to spend a few words in explaining what is meant by the refraction of light. 1889 *Nature* 24 Oct. 613 The equivalence of the work spent in overcoming fluid.

c. With other constructions.

c 1340 Hampole *Pr. Consc.* 2431 Þe byhoves acounte yhelde ..how þow has spendyd þi wittes fife. *c* 1430 Lydg. *Min. Poems* (Percy Soc.) 224 For the better thy speche thou spende. 1509 Hawes *Past. Pleas.* XLIV. (Percy Soc.) 214 And thus in vaine thou hast thy labour spent. *a* 1529 Skelton *Agst. Garnesche* iv. 176 My study myght be better spynt. 1619 Fletcher, etc. *Knt. Malta* III. ii, My last breath cannot Be better spent, than to say I forgive you. 1648 Gage *West Ind.* xx. 175, I would spend my best endeavours for the helping and furthering of them. *a* 1763 W. King *Polit. & Lit. Anecd.* (1819) 154 To spend three or four whole pages to prove that this is neither Latin nor sense.

d. To express (an opinion). Now *dial.*

1687 Miège *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II. s.v., To spend his Verdict, to give one's Opinion. 1902 *Brit. Med. Jrnl.* 19 July 209 An Ulster man will ask his medical adviser to 'spend his opinion' on a case.

4. To employ, occupy, use or pass (time, one's life, etc.) *in* or *on* some action, occupation, or state.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 28259 Þe tyme þat ic in lijf has lende In idel-nes ic haue it spende. *c* 1385 Chaucer *L. G. W.* 650 *Cleopatra*, And thus the longe day in fight they spende. *c* 1482 J. Kay tr. *Caoursin's Siege Rhodes* (1870) P 2, The space of .iii. yeres which were spended and occupped in the conseylyng of thes werkes. 1509 Hawes *Past. Pleas.* XXXI. (Percy Soc.) 150 That you your youth in ydelness wyll spende. 1560 Daus tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 137 The space of two dayes followyng, was spent in Godly admonitions. 1600 Holland *Livy* x. xxii. 367 Thus in handling of these matters was that day spent. 1669 Sturmy *Mariners' Mag.* II. ii. 52 Men..spending their spare-time on this Practice. *a* 1701 Maundrell *Journ. Jerus.* (1732) 142 After about half an hour spent in surveying this place. 1746 Francis tr. *Horace, Epist.* I. vii. 69 Philip, whose Youth was spent in Feats of War. 1802 Mar. Edgeworth *Moral T.* (1816) I. iv. 19 He spent his time in training horses. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* I. I. iii, Christophe de Beaumont, who has spent his life in persecuting hysterical Jansenists. 1859 Jephson *Brittany* viii. 112 The morning..was spent in walking about Morlaix.

b. With other complements.

a 1400 *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* xxxii. 347 Þenk þenne ..Hou þou hast spendet þi tyme honeste. *a* 1440 *Relig. Pieces fr. Thornton MS.* 19 Þan sall þou besyly thynke how þou hase spende þat day (or þat nyghte). 1580 Lyly *Euphues* (Arb.) 243 Would you haue me spend the floure of my youth, as you doe the withered rase of your age? 1621 T. Williamson tr. *Goulart's Wise Vieillard* 46 Young men (for the most part) spend their time badly. 1687 A. Lovell tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* I. 56 They are extreamly Lazy, spending the whole day sitting on a Divan. 1715 De Foe *Fam. Instruct.* I. v. (1841) I. 109 How do they spend the sabbath at your aunt's? 1799 Han. More *Fem. Educ.* (ed. 4) I. 120 They do not scruple to allow their daughters to spend almost the whole of their time exactly like the daughters of worldly people. 1808 Scott in *Lockhart* (1837) I. i. 35 My time with him, though short, was spent greatly to my advantage. 1891 Marie A. Brown tr. *Runeberg's Nadeschda* 13 Many hours had been thus sweetly spent.

c. *ellipt.* To pass (the day, evening, etc.) in social intercourse or entertainment, or as a guest.

1697 J. Lewis *Mem. Dk. Glocester* (1789) 51 Mrs. Atkinson invited Lady Harriot and Lady Anne Churchill one day to dine with her, in her chamber, and spend the day. 1843 Dickens *Christm. Carol* iii, The very lamp-lighter..was dressed to spend the evening somewhere. 1852 Mrs. Stowe *Uncle Tom's C.* iii, I'm so glad you's come! Missis is gone to spend the afternoon.

5. To use up; to exhaust or consume by use; to wear out. In later use freq. with *force*, *fury*, etc., as object.

1297 R. Glouc. (Rolls) 8332 Þe sarazins wiþoute wuste..þat no maner liflode ne miȝte to hom wende; So þat þo hii adde ispend þat wiþinne was [etc.]. *a* 1375 *Lay Folks Mass-Bk.* App. iv. 347 Whon his parchemyn was al spende, He rauhte þe Rolle bi þe ende Wiþ his teth a-non. 1387 Trevisa *Higden* (Rolls) IV. 331 Þey chaungede nevere hosen and schoon, noþer cloþinge, but whan þey were i-tore or i-spend. *c* 1440 *Jacob's Well* 206 And it be spendyd or wastyd, þou art noȝt bounde to restore it. 1535 Coverdale *Deut.* xxxii. 23 I wil heape myscheues vpon them, I wil spende all myne arowes at [1611 vpon] them. ? 1580 Lodge *Sch. Abuse* A iv, Did not they spende one candle by seeking another. 1599 Shaks. *Much Ado* I. i. 281 If Cupid haue not spent all his Quiuer in Venice. 1633 G. Herbert *Temple, Ch. Porch* li, If thou be Master-gunner, spend not all That thou canst speak, at once. 1667 Milton *P. L.* I. 176 The Thunder..Perhaps hath spent his shafts. 1707 Floyer *Physic. Pulse-Watch* 90 A great Contention of the Mind spends the Spirits, but if it be moderate, it only spends the Humidity of the Lympha. 1757 W. Wilkie *Epigoniad* VII. 220 Erring from the course, In mazes wide, the rower spent his force. 1781 J. Moore *View Soc. It.* (1790) I. viii. 87 Having spent their fury in the destruction of the tyrant. 1802 James *Milit. Dict.* s.v., To spend all your ammunition. 1878 Bosw. Smith *Carthage* 285 Meanwhile the war, which seemed for the moment to have spent its force in Italy, had broken out with fresh fury in Sicily.

transf. *a* 1656 Ussher *Ann.* VI. (1658) 104 Into them he put all such as he suspected for enemies at home, desiring Cambyses that he would spend them there and never send them home again.

b. To bring to a violent end; to destroy; to consume by destruction or wasting; † to disperse or dissipate; to reduce or convert *into* something.

c 1435 *Torr. Portugal* 2010 Tho men of armes theder went, Anon they had theyre hors spent, Her guttys oute she rave. 1481 *Cely Papers* (Camden) 80 Aull the whowlschypys ar cwm to Calles savyng vij, qwher of ij be spente. 1502 Arnolde *Chron.* (1811) 133 The saide William W. occupyed the sayde shyppe and spent her att Caleys, in soo moche that alle the gables, sayles, and other takell..he solde them at Caleis. 1570 *Satir. Poems Reform.* xxi. 104 On the countrie of Scotland..Thair is na mendis..With speid till thay be spendit. 1668 Culpepper & Cole *Barthol. Anat.* I. xvii. 47 Each branch..being again divided into other lesser ones, they are at last spent into Veins and Arteries as smal as Hairs. 1672 H. Savile *Engagement with Dutch Fleet* 6 A Fireship [was] taken, and we forced them to Spend most of the rest. 1871 R. Ellis tr. *Catullus* lxiv. 81 When a plague so deadly..Spent that slender city.

†**c.** Of emotion, action, etc.: To deprive (a person) of energy, strength, or resources; to exhaust or wear out. *Obs.*

1582 T. Watson *Centurie of Love* xix. 55, I whom Loue hath spent. 1616 J. Lane *Contn. Sqr.'s T.* VIII. 30 Tell him I will auxiliaries send him, gainst warrs all difficulties, whiche maie spende him. 1674 Flavel *Husb. Spiritual.* Proem 9 It spends a minister to preach, but more to be silent.

d. *refl.* Of persons or things: To exhaust or wear out (oneself or itself); to become incapable of further activity; to cease to operate.

(*a*) *a* 1593 Marlowe & Nashe *Dido* I. i, Here in this bush ..will I stand, Whiles my Aeneas spends himself in plaints. 1613 Heywood *Braz. Age* II. ii. Wks. 1874 III. 208 Why should we..spend ourselues on accidentall wrongs? 1658 T. Langley in *Thurloe Papers* VII. 463 They [Quakers] cry out soe loude in their preachings, that they..spend themselves extreemly. 1718 Hickes & Nelson *J. Kettlewell* I. xx. 44 He spending himself..in his Labours of Love. 1823 Mrs. Sherwood *Henry Milner* III. vii, Suppose you go and spend yourself with a run,..and then we will have some discourse. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* II. IV. viii, Man after man spends himself in this cause. 1868 Nettleship *Ess. Browning* vi. 233 He never rested until he had spent himself in asserting those claims.

(*b*) 1663 S. Patrick *Parab. Pilgrim* xxiii. (1687) 236 This voice was intercepted by a new passion like to the former, though it was not long before it had spent it self. 1664 Power *Exp. Philos.* III. 155 Camphire, which spends itself by continually Effluviating its own component Particles. 1705 Collier *Ess. Mor. Subj.* III. *Pain* 25 For Torment like a Storm spends itself, and is destroy'd by its own Force. 1777 Priestley *Matt. & Spir.* Pref. (1782) p. ix, The popular Clamour may have spent itself. 1791 Cowper *Yardley Oak* 86 Thought cannot spend itself, comparing still The great and little of thy lot.

6. To suffer the loss of (blood, life, etc.); to allow to be shed or spilt.

[*a* 1340 Hampole *Psalter* xx. 1 Swa that..he spend noght his precious blode in vayn on vs.] *c* 1400 *Rom. Rose* 5440 Wenyng with hym they wolde abide..And also for hem to spende her bloode. 1516 *Acts Parlt. Scotl.* (1875) XII. 37/2 For conservacioun of quhais persoun we ar determit to spend oure Livis. 1553 Eden *Treat. New Ind.* (Arb.) 6 Knowing that whereas one death is dewe to nature, the same is more honourably spent in such attemptes as may be to the glorye of God. 1594 Shaks. *Rich. III*, I. iii. 125 To royalize his blood, I spent mine owne. 1751 *Affect. Narr. of Wager* 53 They..would still spend their Lives for his Defence. 1868 Nettleship *Ess. Browning* vi. 158 Money which they had spent no sweat to obtain.

†**b.** *Naut.* To lose or incur the loss of (a mast, yard, sail, etc.) through bad weather or by some accident. *Obs.* (Freq. in the 17th c.)

1591 *Hon. Actions of E. Glemham* Cij, In which storme he

spent his Maine Mast, which had beene before fysht. *c* 1635 Capt. N. Boteler *Dial. Sea Services* (1685) 164 When a Mast or Yard is broken down by foul Weather, or any other accident, the Sea-word is, the Mast or Yard is spent. 1665 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 14/3 She was much beaten at Sea by storm, having spent her Main-mast and Fore-mast. 1694 Motteux *Rabelais* v. xviii. 79 Lest we should spend our Topsails.

7. To use for food or drink; to consume in this way; to eat or drink.

Common from *c* 1550 to *c* 1700, freq. with the addition *in one's house* or *family*; now *dial.*

c 1380 Wyclif *Wks.* (1880) 217 God made alle goode mete & drynke couenable for men schulden spende it & lyue þer-by. *a* 1425 *Cursor M.* 13410 (Trin.), Þe good drynke shulde furst spende [*Cott.* dispend] And þe weiker at þe ende. *c* 1450 Lovelich *Grail* lvi. 74 Of Cornes 3e haven.. gret plente, More thanne be 3oure howshold spendid schal be. 1468 *Cov. Leet Bk.* 338 Hit is ordeyned þat no householder frohensfurth bye no more butter þen he well spend in his owne house. 1551 Ascham *Let.* Wks. 1865 I. II. 257 Isles.. so full of walnut trees that they cannot be spent with eating, but they make oile of them. 1577 Harrison *England* in *Holinshed* (1587) 170/1 Malt..feedeth vpon the hop,..which being extinguished the drinke must be spent or else it dieth. 1657 Sparrow *Bk. Com. Prayer* (1661) 279 If any of the Bread and Wine remain,..if consecrated, it is all to be spent..by the Communicants. 1670 J. Smith *Eng. Improv. Reviv'd* 190 Houses for keeping Pheasants, Partridges, and other Fowl to be spent in the Family, or sold at Markets. 1719 London & Wise *Compl. Gard.* 44 So great a quantity of Fruit..that 'twill be all we can do to spend them before the Rottenness..surprizes them. 1743 *Lond. & Country Brewer* II. (ed. 2) 155 For Beer or Ale that is to be spent presently, two, three, or four, to eight Bushels will suffice. *a* 1825 Forby *Voc. E. Anglia* s.v., We spend so much meat, flour, cheese, etc. in our family weekly.

absol. c 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* IV. 404 Or let a tonne of barly hem comprende Vchon from other; close hit til thou spende. *c* 1475 *Rauf Coilzear* 202 Thairfoir sic [good fare] as thow seis, spend on, and not spair.

†**b.** To serve, serve up (a dish, food, etc.). *Obs.*

c 1350 *Will. Palerne* 4324 Þann were spacli spices spended al a-boute, fulsumli at þe ful to eche freke þer-inne. *c* 1420 *Liber Cocorum* (1862) 31 Make hit þyke inowghe þenne, Whenne þou hit spendes byfore gode menne.

c. *Agric.* To use (a crop, hay, etc.) as food or fodder for cattle; to eat off.

1733 Tull *Horse-Hoeing Husb.* x: 104 There are now Three Manners of Spending Turneps with Sheep. 1764 *Museum Rust.* II. lix. 171 When I sow vetches before wheat, I always, in the spending my crop, have regard to the condition of my land. 1789 T. Wright *Meth. Watering Meadows* (1790) 7 The farmer..has an hundred tons of hay to carry off and spend upon his other ground. 1823 E. Moor *Suffolk Words* s.v., To spend all the stover, straw, and turnips on the land.

8. To make use of; to use or employ. Now *rare.*

a 1400–50 *Alexander* 2458 Sparrethis spetous to spend & speris in handis. *c* 1450 *Vrbanitatis* 74 in *Babees Bk.*, In chambur among ladyes bry3th, Kepe þy tonge & spende þy sy3th. 1570 J. Campion in *Hakluyt's Voy.* (1599) II. I. 117 The oiles which we do spend in England for our cloth, are brought out of Spaine. 1621 in Foster *Eng. Factories Ind.* (1906) I. 259 In other places yt [*i.e.* coral] ys much spent to burne with the dead. *a* 1692 Pollexfen *Disc. Trade* (1697) 129 If it be considered that all persons of all degrees, did wear, or spend, some of those Commodities. *a* 1700 Evelyn *Diary* 12 Oct. 1641, A Light-horse-man (as they call it) taking us in, we spent our tide as far as Greenwich. 1845 Browning *Time's Revenges* 47 You shall see how the Devil spends A fire God gave for other ends!

9. To expend or employ (speech or language); to utter or emit (a word, sound, etc.).

13.. *Gaw. & Gr. Knt.* 410 If I spende no speche, þenne spedez þou þe better. 1362 Langl. *P. Pl.* A. VIII. 50 Ac he þat spendeþ his speche and speke þ for þe pore. 1508 Dunbar *Gold. Targe* 274, I knaw quhat thou of rethorike hes spent. 1576 Gascoigne *Philomene* Wks. 1910 II. 181 The piteous pleasant notes, Which Phylomene doth darkely spend in spring. 1591 Shaks. *1 Hen. VI*, II. v. 38, I may embrace his Neck, And in his Bosom spend my latter gaspe. 1633 Bp. Hall *Hard Texts, N. T.* 20 However the false pretenders unto Wisdom are ready.. to spend their censures thus injuriously.

†**b.** *To spend the mouth, tongue,* etc. Of hunting dogs: To bark or give tongue on finding or seeing the game. Also *fig. Obs.*

1590 Cokaine *Treat. Hunting* D ij b, He will vent so oft, and put vp ouer water, at which time the hounds will spend their mouthes verie lustely. 1599 Shaks. *Hen. V*, II. iv. 70. *a* 1627 H. Shirley *Mart. Soldier* III. i. in Bullen *Old Pl.* (1882) I. 203 A packe of the bravest Spartan Dogges in the world; if they do but once open and spend there gabble, gabble, gabble it will make the Forest ecchoe. 1657 R. Ligon *Barbadoes* 3 The onely difference I finde is, these doe not spend their mouthes, but what they want in that is supplyed by the goodnesse of their noses. 1682 N. O. *Boileau's Lutrin* IV. 228 Nor was it Reason that the gutted Fops Should spend their Tongues, who could not use their Chops.

†**c.** *absol.* = prec. *Obs.*

1602 *2nd Pt. Return Parnass.* II. v. 826 Hunters luck Sir, but there was a fault in your Hounds that did not spend well. 1651 Cleveland *Poems* 12 The Ven'sons now in view, our hounds spend deeper. 1672 R. Wild *Poet. Lucent.* 39 Hanging 's the end By Huntsmen's Rule, of Hounds that will not spend. 1741 *Compl. Fam.-Piece* II. i. 290 Then draw with more Care, checking your Hound, lest he spends when he comes so near as to have him in the Wind. *fig.* 1643 Sir T. Browne *Relig. Med.* II. § 3 For then reason like a bad hound spends upon a false sent. 1682 S. Pordage *Medal Rev.* 233 Let the hot Tories, and their Poet Curse, They spend in vain, and you are ne'r the worse.

d. To allow or cause to flow; to shed.

1602 Marston *Antonio's Rev.* I. v, If hee is guiltlesse, why should teares be spent? 1697 *Phil. Trans.* XIX. 373 Whether any part of the Tree (as Body, Root, or Branch) will spend it [i.e. gum] being purposely Wounded. 1820 Scott *Monast.* xxvi, And you, Sir Knight, think better of us than to suppose you may spend Scottish blood, and reckon for it as for wine spilt in a drunken revel.

10. To consume, employ, use superfluously, wastefully, or with undue lavishness; to waste or squander; to throw away.

In some instances the sense is conveyed by the addition of *in vain, to no purpose,* etc.

1390 Gower *Conf.* II. 395 Many on..Whiche after selle in gret desese Thurgh wast of love, that thei spente. 1509 Hawes *Past. Pleas.* XXXI. (Percy Soc.) 154 Wo worth love that I do spend in wast. 1530 Palsgr. 728/1, I spende, as men..wastyth any thyng in vayne, *je consume.* 1590 Sir J. Smyth *Disc. Weapons* 22 Wherby it commeth to passe, that such quick and hastie Harquebuziers, doo worke no other effect but spend powder, match & shot. 1604 Shaks. *Oth.* II. iii. 195 What's the matter That you vnlace your reputation thus, And spend your rich opinion, for the Name Of a night-brawler? 1638 Junius *Paint. Ancients* 61 The impatient horses..do spend before the race thousand and thousand steppes to no purpose. 1827 Scott *Highl. Widow* v, I am a fool..to spend my words upon an idle..unintelligent boy. 1885 'Mrs. Alexander' *At Bay* xi, The horror and disgust of the creature on whom you spent your life!

b. To waste (time).

a 1604 Hanmer *Chron. Ireland* (1809) 123 Brother Lazerianus (saith he) let us not spend time, neither trouble this people with this tedious question. 1658–9 Sir R. Temple in *Burton's Diary* (1828) IV. 44, I am sorry this has spent your time. I do not see what fruit you will have by recommitting it, unless to spend as much more of your time. 1720 J. Clarke *Educ. Youth* 27 Those vain Amusements that have been found out to make Boys spend their Time at School.

11. To allow (time, one's life, etc.) to pass or go by; to live or stay through (a certain period) to the end. Cf. sense 4.

1423 *Acts Privy Counc.* III. 90 His forsayd retenu..continued fro yere to yere unto four yer was nere spendid and passid. *c* 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* XII. 501 Tho iij dayes spende, They vessel hit. 1500–20 Dunbar *Poems* lxix. 35 Remember thow hes compt to mak Off all thi tyme thow spendit heir. 1565 Stapleton tr. *Bede's Hist. Ch. Eng.* 191 Spending all the daies of my life, in the mansion of the same monastery. 1617 Morvson *Itin.* I. 12, I spent this winter at Leipzig. *c* 1643 Ld. Herbert *Autobiog.* (1824) 7 His son..went to the Low Country Wars, and after some time spent there, came home. 1732 Berkeley *Alciphr.* I. § 1 If you and Dion would spend a week at my house. 1784 Cowper *Task* I. 547 And now she roams The dreary waste; there spends the livelong day. 1854 Ld. Houghton (& T. W. Reid *Life* (1891) I. xi. 498, I have been spending six weeks in Ireland. 1886 C. E. Pascoe *Lond. of To-day* xx. (ed. 3) 199 A journey into the country affords perhaps the most rational and pleasant way of spending Sunday.

†**12.** To cause or involve expenditure of (something). *Obs.*

1616 *Buccleuch MSS.* (Hist. MSS. Comm.) I. 248 The putting off of the arraignments spent much money. 1674 Jeake *Arith.* (1696) 451, 5 Guns in 2 Days spend 60 Barrels of Powder. 1703 R. N[eve] *City & C. Purchaser* 276 A great Covering with these spends but little Mortar..and but little time in laying.

b. To occupy, take up, or waste (time). † Also with double object.

a 1627 Donne *Lett.* (1651) 172 It spent me so little time after going, that [etc.]. *a* 1631 — *Six Serm.* i. (1634) 2 That earth and that heaven which spent God himself..six dayes in finishing. *a* 1649 Winthrop *New Eng.* (1825) I. 140 The main business, which spent the most time,..was about the removal of Newtown.

13. Const. with adverbs, as *away, out, up,* in various senses.

1532 More *Confut. Tindale* Wks. 609/2 Therin he spendeth vp that Chapiter. 1542 Udall *Erasm. Apoph.* 16 b, Some ther bee, that in lyngreyng & drivyng foorth..spenden out all their life. 1576 Fleming *Panopl. Epist.* 405, I was fully determined..to haue spent away the tedious time, in some talke. 1602 Carew *Cornwall* 157 b, The Cornish forces.. encamped themselues on the greene,..and there spent out the night. 1650 Trapp *Comm. Deut.* XXXII. 23, 'I will spend mine arrowes,' which yet cannot be all spent up. 1848 Thackeray *Van. Fair* lxvii, She..reproached herself for having flung away such a treasure. It was gone indeed. William had spent it all out.

II. *intr.* †**14.** Of time, the season, etc.: To pass, elapse. *Obs.*

1607 S. Collins *Serm.* (1608) 11 To finish this, because the time spendeth so fast. *c* 1614 Sir W. Mure *Dido & Æneas* II. 246 Before the palace all the cowrt attends The Queen's aryvall, whil the morning spends. 1681 R. Knox *Hist. Ceylon* 120 The time and season of the year spending for the ship to proceed on her voyage.

†**15.** To be consumed, dispersed, exhausted, or used up; to pass off or *away. Obs.*

1626 Bacon *Sylva* § 129 The Sound spendeth, and is dissipated in the Open Aire. *Ibid.* § 622 The Vines..are so often cut, and so much digged and dressed, that their Sap spendeth into the Grapes. 1643 J. Steer tr. *Exp. Chyrurg.* vi. 25 He shall diligently take notice how the blacknesse of the powder spendeth away. 1704 N. N. tr. *Boccalini's Advts. fr. Parnass.* III. 247 [They] never thought it worth their while to examine how the Oil spent, or the Taper burn'd.

†**b.** Of a storm: To die down, exhaust its force or fury. *Obs.*[—1]

1655 Vaughan *Silex Scint.* III. *Thalia Rediv.* 237 Giving the tempest time to spend.

16. Of foodstuffs, wheat, hay, etc: To turn out or prove in use to be of a certain quality; to last or hold out *well.* Now *dial.*

1673 Temple *Ess., Ireland* Wks. 1720 I. 115 They had observed [that] it [i.e. butter] spent as if it came from the richest Soil of the two. 1687 Miège *Gt. Fr. Dict.* s.v., Meat that spends well. 1763 *Museum Rust.* I. 156 It [wheat] was sold in the public markets, and declared..to spend as well as if it had been of the last year's growth. 1764 *Ibid.* II. 210 Yet did this hay spend as well as if it had been got in never so favourably. 1840 Spurdens *Suppl. Forby's E. Angl. Gloss.* s.v., The meal spends well, i.e. it holds out well; lasts long.

b. *dial.* To produce or yield (*well*).

1854 Miss Baker *Northampt. Gloss.* s.v., Corn that yields well is said to spend well. 1893 *Wilts. Gloss.* 152 How do your taters spend to-year?

17. Of a liquid: To flow or run. ? *Obs.*

1735 *Dict. Polygraph.* I. S 4 White-lead ;..let it be as stiff as it well can be to spend well from the pencil. 1742 *Loud. & Country Brew.* I. (ed. 4) 28 Taking particular Care..to return two, three, or more Hand-bowls of Wort into the Mash-tub, that first of all runs off, till it comes absolutely fine and clear, and then it may spend away, or run off for good. 1811 *Self Instructor* 535 Fustic..spends with or without salts.

Spend, *v.*[2] Now *dial.* [Alteration of Spen *v.*]

†**1.** *trans.* To grasp (a spear). *Obs.*

c 1430 *Syr Tryam.* 828 A spere spendyd he thare; He prekyd to the kyng with fors. *a* 1500 *Chevy Chase* 84 He sawe the Duglas to the deth was dyght; He spendyd a spear, a trusti tre.

2. *dial.* (See quot.)

1877 *N. W. Linc. Gloss.* 234 *Spend up,* to brace up the hames of harness.

Spend, *v.*[3] *Sc.* [Of obscure origin.] *intr.* To spring, leap, dash.

1533 Bellenden *Livy* I. xviii. (S.T.S.) I. 106 [She] draif þe chariot oure hir faderis body, with sic violence þat..þe blude of hir faderis body spendit on hir face. 1808 Jamieson, *Spend,* to spring. 1839 Moir *Mansie Wauch* (ed. 2) xxii. 275 Holding the naig's head, in case it should spend off, and capsize the concern.

Spend, *v.*[4] *Mining.* (See quot. 1860.)

1847 in Halliwell. 1860 *Eng. & For. Mining Gloss., Cornw.* (ed. 2) 24 *Spend,* to break ground; to work away.

Spendable (spe·ndăb'l), *a.* Also 6 **-abyll.** [f. Spend *v.*[1] + -able. Cf. Spendible *a.*]

†**1.** That may be expended, consumed, or used up for ordinary purposes. Of paper: Suitable for wrapping things in, or similar uses, in contrast to writing-paper. *Obs.*

a 1500 *MS. Sloane* 4. 81 Take spendabyll pauper and clene flesshe of þe hyppys of a catt. 1502 Arnolde *Chron.* (1811) 74 Paper scribabil the bale, vi. d'. Paper spendable the reme, q'. 1527 *MS. Acc. R. Gibson* (P. R. O.), Item..for rebyn poyntis for the kynge and the lordes, iij dosyn and a groose of spendabyll poyntis.

2. That which can be spent for current needs.

1886 *Times* 29 Mar. 8/3 The enormous loss of spendable income thereby occasioned to the landlords. 1893 *Ibid.* 8 Aug. 10/1 The loss of spendable income by farmers owing to crop failures and low prices.

Spend-all. Now *rare.* Also **spendall, spend all.** [f. Spend *v.*[1] + All *sb.*] One who spends all his goods, money, etc.; one who is prodigal, wasteful, or too free in expenditure; a spendthrift.

1553 T. Wilson *Rhet.* (1580) 123, I call a notable flatterer, a faire spoken manne..a spende-all, a liberall gentleman. 1566 Drant *Horace, Sat.* I. ii. A viij, Teschue, and shun the name Of spendall, and of scatter good. 1609 W. M. *Man in Moon* (1849) 29 Thy wife shall be enamored of some spend-all, which shall wast all as licentiously as thou hast heaped together laboriously. 1635 R. Younge *Charge agst. Drunkards* 4 Drunkards are not onely lazie get-nothings; but they are also riotous spend-alls. 1708 *Brit. Apollo* I. No. 5. 3/1 A Sot, a Spend-all, a Gamester. 1870 *Macm. Mag.* July 168/1 A lounging upper world of spend-alls and do-nothings. 1896 Mary Beaumont *Joan Seaton* 114, I like a thrifty man, he doesn't backen himself like a spend-all.

transf. 1583 Melbancke *Philotimus* A iij, By your folly spendall is your store consumed, and by your God the sendall it may be restored.

†**Spender**[1]. *Obs.* In 4 **spendere,** 5 **-are.** [Aphetic form of *de-,* Dispender.] A steward.

1340 *Ayenb.* 190 He..het his desspendoure þet he him yeaue uyftene pond of gold. Þe spendere be his couaytise ne yeaf bote vyf. *Ibid.,* Þo he clepede his spendere and him acsede hou moche he hedde y-yeue to þe knizte. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 468/2 Spendare, *dispensator.*

Spender[2] (spe·ndəɹ). Also 4 **spendour,** 5 **-are.** [f. Spend *v.*[1] + -er[1]. Cf. MDu. *spender,* OHG. *spentâri, -eri* (MHG. *spendære, -iere,* G. *spender*).]

1. One who spends; *spec.* one who spends lavishly or wastefully, a spendthrift.

1393 Langl. *P. Pl.* C. VI. 28 An ydel man þow semest, A spendour þat spende mot oþer a spille-tyme. 1398 Trevisa *Barth. De P. R.* VI. xvi. (Bodl. MS.), He is a greete spender of his lordes good and catel. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 468/2 Spendare in waast, *prodigus.* *c* 1450 *Myrr. our Ladye* 114 Ye saye that she ys a prudente and a ware spender and dysposer of goodes. 1562 J. Heywood *Prov. & Epigr.* (1867) 62 Ye are calde..to great a spender. 1581 Sidney *Apol. Poet.* (Arb.) 42 They would let so vnprofitable a spender starue. 1620 T. Granger *Div. Logike* 200 Of Spenders there are two sorts, some are Prodigall, some Liberall. 1670 *Moral State Eng.* 90 She is commonly a most extravagant spender. 1760–72 H. Brooke *Fool of Qual.* (1809) III. 118 An industrious..man..is richer in my eye than a spender with thousands. 1844 Emerson *Lect., Young Amer.* Wks. (Bohn) II. 302 Money is of no value, it cannot spend itself. All depends on the skill of the spender. 1883 *American* VI. 217 Very rich men in England are much freer spenders than they are here.

prov. 1596 Bell *Surv. Popery* I. II. iv. 84 After great getters come great spenders. 1611 Cotgr., *Mal soupe qui tout disne,* of a young spender comes an old beggar. 1629 Gaule *Holy Madn.* 438 After a great Getter, then commonly comes a Spender. 1635 J. Gore *Way to Well-doing* 25 A good sparer makes a good spender. 1639 J. Clarke *Paræmiol.* 262 Great spenders are bad lenders.

transf. 1611 CHAPMAN *Widdowes T.* Wks. 1873 III. 7 My former suites have been all spenders, this shall be my speeder. 1656 DAVENANT *Siege Rhodes* 1st Entry, They Stewards are, Without accompt, to that wild Spender, War.

2. One who, or that which, consumes, employs, or uses up; a consumer or waster *of* something.

1565 COOPER *Thesaurus*, *Consumptor*, a spender, consumer, or waster. 1600 SIR W. CORNWALLIS *Essays* xviii. L j b, I will put away this sleepy Humour, for it is an extreame spender. 1675 HAN. WOOLLEY *Gentlw. Comp.* 85 Queen Elizabeth.. was pleased to term Plays the harmless Spenders of time. 1704 SWIFT *Mech. Operat. Spir.* in *Tale Tub* 296 To prevent Perspiration, than which nothing is observed to be a greater Spender of Mechanick Light. *a* 1825 FORBY *Voc. E. Anglia*, *Spender*, a consumer. A 'small spender' is a person who has very little appetite.

3. *Tanning.* A pit in which the bark is leached. Also *attrib.* in *spender pit.*

1882 *Encycl. Brit.* XIV. 382/2 The method of leaching commonly adopted in the United Kingdom is to pass the bark through a series of leachers or spender pits. 1897 C. T. DAVIS *Manuf. Leather* iv. (ed. 2) 61 When the material in No. 1 is spent, it is cast and filled with fresh bark, and becomes the best leach,.. No. 2 becoming the spender.

Spe·ndful, *a. rare*—°. [f. SPEND *v.*1] Inclined to spend; lavish, extravagant.

1611 COTGR., *Despendeux*, spendfull, wastfull. *Ibid.*, *Despensier*, spending,..spendfull.

† **Spend-good.** *Obs. rare.* [f. SPEND *v.*1 + GOOD *sb.*] A spend-all, spendthrift.

1605 *Play of Stucley* in Simpson *Sch. Shaks.* (1878) 162 He's very wild, a quarreller, a fighter Aye, and I doubt a spend-good too. 1611 COTGR., *Enfans sans soucy*, an vnthrift, spend-good, carelesse companion.

† **Spe·ndible,** *a. Obs.*—° [ad. late L. *spendibilis* (10th c. in Du Cange), f. late L. *spendĕre* to weigh out, expend, etc.] = SPENDABLE *a.* 1

1483 *Cath. Angl.* 353/2 Spendybylle, *expendibilis.*

Spe·nding, *sb. ? Obs.* [prob. f. SPEND *v.*2] A cross-bar forming part of the bottom of a coal-corf.

1797 J. CURR *Coal Viewer's Pract. Comp.* 16 Flags for the corf bottom, of Oak..; bars or spendings of Oak. *Ibid.* 19 This plate is nailed under the spending of the corf.

Spending (spe·ndiŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. SPEND *v.*1]

1. The disbursing, expending, paying out or away of money, etc.; expenditure. † *At other spending*, at another's expense.

c 1000 ÆLFRIC *Hom.* (Thorpe) II. 556 Sum underfehþ eorðlice æhta, and se sceal ðæs pundes spendunge Gode agifan of his æhtum. 1338 R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (1810) 280 First he was a kyng, now is he soudioure, & is at oþer spendyng bonden in þe toure. 1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. XIV. 197 But owre spences and spendynge sprynge of a trewe wille, Elles is al owre laboure loste. *c* 1430 LYDG. *Min. Poems* (Percy Soc.) 67 [Be] Curteys of language, in spendyng mesurable. 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* xli. 5 Be nocht a wreche, nor skerche in 3our spending. 1582 N. LICHEFIELD tr. *Castanheda's Conq. E. Ind.* I. xxvi. 69 b, Not remembring the trouble of his spirite, neyther yet the spending of his treasure. 1686 tr. *Chardin's Coronat. Solyman* 90 According to the usual rate of their spending. 1719 RAMSAY *To Arbuckle* III My income, management, and spending. 1815 SCOTT *Guy M.* xxxii, It wasna for his spending,..for he just had a mutton-chop and a mug of ale. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* xxvi, There was a deal of spending in two thousand pounds. 1867 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* (1877) I. v. 297 There was nothing..but..spending of money.

transf. 1412–20 LYDG. *Chron. Troy* II. 1511 For whom I had..so gret ado Or I hir gat with spendyng of my blood.

b. An instance or occasion of this; an amount spent.

1617 RICH *Irish Hubbub* 46, 319375. pounds all spent in smoake, besides priuate spendings. 1666 PEPYS *Diary* 31 Dec., My spendings this year have exceeded my spendings the last, by 644*l.*

† **2.** That which may be expended or spent; means of support; goods, money, cash. *Obs.* (freq. in the 15th c.).

a 1290 *S. Eustace* 209 in Horstm. *Altengl. Leg.* (1881) 215 Swinken and sweten he moste þo, Wor [=for] his spending wes al at-go. *c* 1325 *Deo Gratias* 33 in *E. E. P.* (1862) 129 Whon i. hedde spendyng here bifore, þer wolde no felaschupe founde me fro. 1436 *Pol. Poems* (Rolls) II. 166 They loste here goode, here mone, and spendynge. 1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* XI. xi. 587 Whanne she was awaked she sente a squyer after them with spendynge ynough. 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* xxi. 13 Lak of spending dois him spur. 1650 ROW *Hist. Kirk* (Wodrow Soc.) 417 The money furnished him spending till he came to London.

† **b.** A supply of some produce or commodity formerly levied by an Irish landlord upon his tenants. *Obs. rare.*

1596 SPENSER *State Irel.* Wks. (Globe) 623/2 The which is a common use amongest the Irish landlordes, to have a common spending upon theyr tenauntes. *Ibid.* 624/1 They ..are very loth to yeld any certayne rent, but onely such spendinges. 1612 DAVIES *Why Ireland*, etc. (1747) 179 Irish exactions,..cuttings, tallages, or spendings.

3. The action of using or employing, of using up or consuming, in later use *esp.* as food.

a 1430 *Octouian* 376 Both thys chylde and thy palfray, Thou most here lete thys yike day To owre spendyng. 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* ix. 11 Off the wrang spending of my wittis fyve. 1573 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 120 Whome fancie persuadeth..to haue for his spending, sufficient of hops. 1648 GAGE *West Ind.* 133 Others to bring him wood for his house spending. 1693 EVELYN *De la Quint. Compl. Gard.* I. 77 As for the Fruits that are for the spending both during the End of Autumn, and all the whole Winter. 1709 DAMPIER *Voy.* III. II. 24 The Fish or Flesh that they take, besides what serves for present spending, they dry on a Barbacue. 1764 *Museum Rust.* II. ii. 14 They made excellent pork for family spending. 1850 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* XI. I. 150 The turnip or root land..is ploughed and planted as opportunity offers up to Christmas..; the spending and carting off requiring time.

4. The action or fact of losing, destroying, exhausting, etc.

c 1595 CAPT. WYATT *Dudley's Voy.* (Hakl. Soc.) 54 When wee expected nothing less then..breakinge of shrowdes, spendinge of mastes, springinge of plankes. 1598 R. BERNARD tr. *Terence, Heavtontim.* Prol., To the spending of my spirits and wasting of my bodie. 1605 *Journ. Earl Nottingham* in *Harl. Misc.* (Malh.) II. 540 Had not the hoy.. by spending of her mast.. caused a longer abode. 1680 BURNET *Rochester* (1692) 21 He was fully perswaded that Death was not the spending or dissolution of the soul. 1707 MORTIMER *Husb.* (1721) II. 54 Be careful to rub a little dry Earth upon the Wound where you cut them,..to prevent their spending of themselves too much, which these Trees are very subject to do.

† **5.** Of dogs: The action of giving tongue. *Obs.*

1615 MARKHAM *Country Contentm.* I. i. 7 If you would have your Kennell for sweetnesse of cry, then you must compound it of some large dogges, that haue deepe solempe mouthes, and are swift in spending, which must as it were beare the base in the consort.

6. The pouring or rushing *of* water.

1847 EMERSON *Poems* (1857) 156, I see the inundation sweet, I hear the spending of the stream.

7. *attrib.* in the sense 'used or available for ordinary expenditure or consumption', as *spending-brass, -silver* (= SPENDING-MONEY), *spending income*; **spending-cheese** (see quot. *a* 1825).

1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. XI. 278 *Spera in deo* speketh of prestes þat haue no spendyng syluer. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Can. Yeom. T.* 7 And spending silver had he right y-nough. *a* 1500 *Gest Robin Hood* ccxlv. in Child *Ball.*, For of thy spendynge-syluer, monke, Thereof wyll I ryght none. 1815 SCOTT *Guy M.* xxxviii, I'll take care o' the bits o' claes, and what spending siller she maun hae. *a* 1825 FORBY *Voc. E. Anglia*, *Spending-cheese*, a cheese of a middling quality, used for family consumption in the dairy districts of Suffolk. 1862 TROLLOPE *N. America* xi, A man should certainly not apportion more than a seventh of his spending income to his house rent. 1896 SNOWDEN *Web of Weaver* iv, He had a great deal more 'spending-brass' nor I could handle.

Spe·nding, *ppl. a.* [f. SPEND *v.*1] That spends, in various senses of the verb.

1589 PUTTENHAM *Eng. Poesie* III. xxiv. (Arb.) 298 It is decent to be..in houshold expence pinching and sparing, in publicke entertainement spending and pompous. 1639 J. CLARKE *Paræmiol.* 261 A sparing father, and a spending son. 1674 FLAVEL *Husb. Spiritual.* xvii. 147 If this were not so, all the self-denial, spending duties and sharp sufferings of the people of God would turn to their damage. 1681 — *Meth. Grace* IX. 203 Soul troubles are spending and wasting troubles. 1885 *Times* (weekly ed.) 7 Aug. 6/4, I am an industrious man; I am not a spending man.

Spending-money. [f. SPENDING *vbl. sb.* 7.] Money used or available for spending; a sum allowed for this purpose; pocket-money.

1598 R. BERNARD tr. *Terence, Heavtontim.* I. ii, Allowing them little spending mony. 1600 DYMMOK *Ireland* (1843) 8 Soren is a kind of allowance over and above the bonaght, which the Galloglass exact upon the poore by way of spendinge monye. 1632 MASSINGER *City Madam* I. i, From whom Received you spending-money? 1707 J. CHAMBERLAYNE *St. Gt. Brit.* II. III. lvi. (1710) 654 The Allowance of 1*s.* 6*d.* per Week for Spending-Money. *a* 1732 T. BOSTON *Crook in Lot* (1805) 153 The servant at the term gets his fee in a round sum, while the young heir gets but a few pence for spending-money. 1856 OLMSTED *Slave States* 102 The slaves have a good many ways of obtaining 'spending money'. 1890 *Spectator* 5 July, Each missionary is therefore mulcted on the average to the extent of £60 a year, a direct reduction..in his total spending-money of nearly one-fourth.

Spe·ndless, *a. rare*—1. [f. SPEND *v.*1 + -LESS.] That cannot be spent or consumed.

1600 B. YOUNG in *Eng. Helicon* K ij, An endlesse plaint that shuns all consolation, A spendlesse flame that never is impaired.

Spendthrift (spe·ndþrift), *sb.* (and *a.*). Also 7 spend-thrift. [f. SPEND *v.*1 + THRIFT *sb.*1 Cf. the earlier DINGTHRIFT.]

1. One who spends money profusely or wastefully; one who wastes his patrimony by foolish or lavish expenditure; an improvident or extravagantly wasteful person (freq. connoting moral worthlessness).

1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* I. 246 What would he have cost our prodigal spendthrifts, if hee had been taken upon our coasts neere Rome? 1670 DRYDEN *Conq. Granada* I. i, Thus, as some fawning Usurer does feed With present Sums th'unwary Spendthrift's Need. 1750 JOHNSON *Rambler* No. 53 ¶ 9 Little satisfaction will be given to the Spendthrift by the encomiums which he purchases. 1776 ADAM SMITH *W. N.* IV. i. (1904) II. 11 This complaint..of the scarcity of money, is not always confined to improvident spendthrifts. 1852 THACKERAY *Esmond* I. xiv, If I fall,..there will only be a spendthrift the less to keep in the world. 1864 BOWEN *Logic* ix. 278 An instance of the former is what may be called the Spendthrift's Fallacy.

transf. 1860 EMERSON *Cond. Life*, *Fate* Wks. (Bohn) II. 324 Nature is no spendthrift, but takes the shortest way to her ends.

2. *transf.* One who employs or uses something lavishly or profusely; a prodigal consumer, user up, or waster, *of* something.

1610 SHARS. *Temp.* II. i. 23 Fie, what a spend-thrift is he of his tongue. 1654 WHITLOCK *Zootomia* 302 But the Debaucht burner out of his dayes..is an undoubted Spend-thrift of time. 1742 YOUNG *Nt. Th.* II. 273 Thus, with indulgence most severe, she treats Us spendthrifts of inestimable time. 1825 J. NEAL *Bro. Jonathan* III. 297, I have been a prodigal of my best affections; a foolish prodigal—a spendthrift. 1890 *Spectator* 25 Jan., How can a man be proud of his genius without dreading that he may prove a spendthrift of that genius instead of its skilful almoner?

3. *attrib.* passing into *adj.* **a.** Acting as or like, having the qualities of, a spendthrift.

1607 TOURNEUR *Rev. Trag.* I. i, Within the spend-thrift veynes of a dryve Duke. 1647 R. STAPYLTON *Juvenal* 109 Spend-thrift Fabius,..who in his youth spent his estate, and was thence surnamed the Gulfe or (as our word is) the Spendthrift. *a* 1704 T. BROWN *Walk round Lond., Coffee-Houses* Wks. 1709 III. III. 40 The Spendthrift Officers. 1834 LYTTON *Pompeii* I. i, These rich plebeians are a harvest for us spendthrift nobles.

fig. 1830 GALT *Lawrie T.* v. ii. (1849) 194 The common wee spendthrift fiddle.

b. Characterized or marked by excessive or improvident expenditure; wasteful.

1790 BURKE *Fr. Rev.* 234 Had you no way of turning the revenue to account, but through the improvident resource of a spendthrift sale? 1838 LYTTON *Leila* IV. v, The spendthrift violence of the mob was restrained. 1886 W. J. TUCKER *E. Europe* vii, As the money-lender is an inevitable figure, where habits are spendthrift and bankruptcy imminent.

Hence **Spe·ndthri·ftism,** the state or quality of being spendthrift. **Spe·ndthri·fty** *a.*, prodigal or wasteful in expenditure.

1642 D. ROGERS *Naaman* 611 For their spend-thrifty, uncleane and ruffianlike courses. 1862 T. C. GRATTAN *Beaten Paths* I. 30 The Irish..felt a poor pride in acting down to the degrading level of spendthriftism and bullying.

† **Spene,** *sb. Obs.*—1 (Meaning obscure.)

a 1400–50 *Alexander* 4162 Þan ferd þai forth..& freschly assemblis All at was sperpolid on þe spene & spilt with þe blastis.

Spene, variant of SPEAN *sb.* and *v.*

† **Spene,** *v. Obs.* Also 4 spen. [Alteration of SPEND *v.*1]

1. *trans.* To spend, expend (money, goods, etc.).

c 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 31 Nabbe ic nawiht þer-of, ic hit habbe al ispened. *Ibid.* 79 A þe marzen [he] bitahte him twa peneȝes to spenen on him. *a* 1250 *Owl & Night.* 1525 Þat were gulte, þat leof is oþer wymmon to pulte & speneþ on þare al þat he haueþ. *c* 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 147 He nadde him-sulf nouȝt to spene., 1393 LANGL. *P. Pl.* C. XVIII. 72 Of þat þat holychurche of þe olde lawe cleymeþ, Priestes on aparail and on purnele spenen. 1400 in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* Ser II. I. 6 Rather then I schuld fael he wold spene of his own godde xx. marke.

absol. c 1205 LAY. 3302 Andd nowher heo ne spedet and auere heo spened.

b. To exact contributions from (tenants). Cf. SPEND *v.*1 I d.

1538 *St. Papers Hen. VIII*, III. 48 His servauntes and his kerne dothe spene my tenauntes and fermoris in the barrony of Dunnbrathie.

2. To spend, in other senses; to employ, expend, make use of, use.

c 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 179 Þe underlinges þenchen oðe dai hu hie muȝen mest swinken and spenen here flesh and here blod on iuele swinche. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 322 Euerich tide & euerich time schal beon þer irikened, hwu hit was her ispened. *a* 1300 *Sarmun* xlvii. in *E. E. P.* (1862) 6 What is þe ioi þat man sal hab if his lif he speniþ wel. 1340–70 *Alex. & Dind.* 876 But ȝe han dainte in dul 3oure daies to spene. *a* 1400 *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* I. 555 Loke wel in þi mood þi wit to spene wysliche.

Hence † **Spe·ning** *vbl. sb.*, spending, expenditure.

1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 8001 In speninge he was fol large In herte þoru out prout.

† **Spen-foot,** *adv. Obs.*—1 [app. f. SPEN *v.*] ? With the feet close together.

13.. *Gaw. & Gr. Kn.* 2316 He sprit forth spenne fote more þen a spere lenþe.

Spenged, dial. variant of SPANGED *ppl. a.*

1788 W. H. MARSHALL *Yorksh.* II. 354 *Speng'd*, pied, as cattle. 1876 in ROBINSON *Whitby Gloss.*

Spengyie, obs. Sc. var. SPAIN. **Spenn(i)e,** obs. ff. SPINNEY. **Spens,** obs. f. SPENCE, SPENSE.

† **Spensa·tion,** aphetic f. DISPENSATION.

1618 BELCHIER *Hans Beer-pot* F, Oh fie on periury, Ile not beleeue spensations of the Pope.

Spense (spens). Now *dial.* Also 3–4, 6 spens, 3–7, 9 *dial.* spence. [ad. OF. *espense*, = AF. *expense* EXPENSE.]

† **1.** Expense, expenditure; cost. *Obs.*

1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 3486 He nadde noȝt wel war-wiþ such menie up to holde, Ac..he þoȝte of þe saxons is spense vp arere. *a* 1350 *St. Cecilia* 459 in Horstm. *Altengl. Leg.* (1881) 164 Þe bischop..made a kirk of ful grete spens. 1382 WYCLIF 1 *Cor.* IX. 18 That I preching the gospel, putte the gospel with oute spence takynge, or sustenaunce therfore. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 233, I shall spare for no spence & þu spede wele. *c* 1460 *Reg. Oseney Abbey* 50 To þe Burgeys spense to such a parlement i-chose. 1523 LD. BERNERS *Froiss.* I. ccvi. 243 So that they demaunde no wages, nor for losse of horse nor spence. 1566 DRANT *Horace, Sat.* I. ii. A viij, And fearyng such lyke blame That doth ensue outragiouse spence, he will not geue nor lende One crosse of coyne.

b. *pl.* Charges, costs, items of expense or expenditure; *esp.* in later use = EXPENSE 3 c.

1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. XIV. 197 But owre spences and spendynge sprynge of a trewe wille. *c* 1380 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* III. 347 How shulde not þis suffice now for fewer clerkis and lesse of spensis? *c* 1400 *Brut* 328 This tretys lasted twey ȝer, wiþ grete costes & houge spences of boþe parties. 1720 in *Jrnl. Derbysh. Archæol. Soc.* (1905) XXVII. 215 For spenses at Chappell fair, 1 0 0. 1886 ELWORTHY *W. Somerset Word-bk.* s.v. *Overdrow*, To pay all 'spences.

2. *concr.* That which may be or is spent; money, supplies; *dial.* pocket-money. Also *pl.*

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 350 Ne he ne bereð no garsum bute gnedeliche his spense. *c* 1290 *Beket* 1365 in *S. Eng. Leg.* 145 þe king him fond spence i-nov3 to him and alle his. 1303 R. Brunne *Handl. Synne* 6857 To þe cyte he was com late, And of spensys had he non. 1387 Trevisa *Higden* (Rolls) VII. 127 þe duke was prayed of þe emperour for to take costage and spence for the way. *c* 1460 *Towneley Myst.* xxii. 249, I wold spende all my spence To se hym ones skelpt. 1886 H. Cunliffe *Rochdale Gloss., Spence*, pocket-money.

†**3.** The expenditure or spending *of* goods, income, etc. *Obs.*

c 1400 *Destr. Troy* 13692 So he sped hym by spies, & spense of his gode. 1538 Starkey *England* II. iii. 201 Wych..ys the occasyon of the grete spens of the intrat of the monastery. 1567 Drant *Horace, Ep.* I. xv. E vj, When as with spence of parentes goddes Sir Meui once began.. for to be cawld a iolly gentleman.

† **b.** The employing, expending, consuming, or using up *of* something. *Obs.*

1555 J. Proctor *Hist. Wyat's Rebellion* 54 b, To aduenture the spense of her royall bloude in defense of them. 1563 Foxe *A. & M.* 745 Many hote argumentes were betwene them,..with muche spence of language. 1594 Lodge *Wounds Civil War* A iv b, The spence of yeares that Marius hath ore-past..Hath taught him this.

Spense, obs. form of Spence.

†**Spe·nseful,** *a. Obs.*—1 [f. Spense.] Extravagant or lavish in expenditure.

1600 Sir R. Cecil in *Carew MSS.* (1869) 445, I think he is but spenceful beyond measure.

Spenser, variant of Spencer[1] *Obs.*

Spenserian (spensi·riăn), *a.* and *sb.* [f. the name of the Elizabethan poet Edmund *Spenser* (? 1552–1599) + -ian.]

A. *adj.* Of or belonging to, characteristic of, Spenser or his work.

Spenserian stanza, the stanza employed by Spenser in the *Faerie Queen*, consisting of eight decasyllabic lines and a final Alexandrine, with the rhyming scheme *ab ab bc bcc*.

1818 Scott *Rob Roy* ii, I..was busy in meditation on the oft-recurring rhymes of the Spenserian stanza. 1853 Ruskin *Stones Ven.* II. vii. 273 The Spenserian mingling of this mediæval image..is altogether exquisite. 1890 Hosmer *Anglo-Sax. Freedom* 97 The redoubtable Spenserian giant, Kirk-rapine.

B. *sb.* **1.** A Spenserian stanza, or a poem in this metre.

1818 Keats *Lett.* (1848) I. 133, I see no reason..why I should not have a peep at your Spenserian. 1853 J. Nichol in Knight *Mem.* (1896) ii. 101, I hope to come nearer it at any rate than in these Spenserians. 1886 *Athenæum* 23 Jan. 131/2 Scarcely any poet since Spenser has written entirely successful Spenserians...Byron..failed altogether in Spenserians.

2. A follower or imitator of Spenser; a poet of Spenser's school.

1894 Gosse *Jacobean Poets* 47 His [Donne's] were the first poems which protested, in their form alike and their tendency, against the pastoral sweetness of the Spenserians.

So **Spense·ric,** *a.* [-ic.] Spenserian.

1795 Anna Seward *Lett.* (1811) IV. 113 That gay town, which Shenstone, in his Spenseric poem, the Schoolmistress, has so beautifully apostrophized.

Spent (spent), *pa. pple.* and *ppl. a.* [Spend *v.*1]

I. In predicative uses.

1. Of material things: Expended, consumed, used up completely.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 468/2 Spent, *expensus, dispensatus.* 1450 in *Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* Var. Coll. IV. 85 The vitailes of oure seid Towne ben al moste spent & consumed. *a* 1548 Hall *Chron., Hen. V*, 14 b, Their vitaile was in maner al spent, and newe they coulde gette none. 1591 Shaks. 1 *Hen. VI*, II. v. 8 These Eyes, like Lampes, whose wasting Oyle is spent, Waxe dimme. 1632 Lithgow *Trav.* VII. 329 The..cause of our Arriuall here, was in regard of our fresh Water that was spent. 1664 Power *Exp. Philos.* I. 34 When the Liquor wherin they swim is almost spent and dried up. 1769 Sir W. Jones *Palace Fortune* Poems (1777) 19 His guards retir'd, his glimmering taper spent. 1837 Lockhart *Scott* I. xi. 417 When the lamp of his own genius was all but spent. 1849 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* v. I. 611 Their powder and ball were spent. 1883 Browning *Jocoseria* 116 Our acquist Of life is spent.

†**b.** Wrecked; drowned. *Obs. rare.*

c 1477 Caxton *Jason* 76 b, And thus by this waye they (i.e. ships) were all lost and spent. 1626 *Whitburn Par. Reg.* 17 July, John Burne of Sheels, being casten forth of a Cobble and spent in the sea.

2. Passed, gone; come to an end; over: **a.** Of time. Also *far spent* (Far *adv.* 3 c).

1528 Gardiner in Burnet *Hist. Ref., Rec.* I. ii. (Pocock) IV. 127 The day being then spent. 1560 Daus tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 182 The time is farre spente. 1593 Shaks. *Rich. II*, II. i. 154 His time is spent, our pilgrimage must be. 1611 Bible *Rom.* xiii. 12 The night is farre spent. 1615 Sandys *Trav.* 87 January being now well spent, we departed from Constantinople. 1667 Milton *P. L.* VIII. 206 Day is yet not spent. 1724 Gay *Captives* I. (1772) 19 Is night near spent? 1841 Browning *Pippa Passes* Poems (1905) 189 New year's day is over and spent. 1860 Tyndall *Glac.* I. xi. 79 The day was already far spent.

b. Of things, material and immaterial.

c 1600 Shaks. *Sonn.* cvii, And thou in this shalt finde thy monument, When tyrants crests and tombs of brasse are spent. 1634 Sir T. Herbert *Trav.* 7 The raine is spent. 1766 Blackstone *Comm.* II. 237 Till both the immediate bloods of George Stiles, the paternal grandfather, are spent. 1818 Cruise *Digest* (ed. 2) III. 496 The lease..determined by the estate tail being spent.

3. Of persons or animals: Deprived of force or strength; tired or worn out by labour, exertion, hardship, etc.; completely exhausted.

1591 Savile *Tacitus, Hist.* I. xii. 7 Galba was spent and feeble for age. 1647 Hexham I. (*Hunting*), The Hart, Stagg, Hinde, Buck, or Doe, is spent. 1691 Ray *Creation* I. (1704) 159 Why the Hare when she is near spent makes up a Hill? 1713 Addison *Cato* IV. iv, Now thou seest me Spent, overpower'd, despairing of success. 1774 Goldsm. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) V. 33 Many..quite spent by the fatigues of their flight, drop down into the sea. 1840 Dickens *Old C. Shop* xlv, So very weak and spent she felt.

transf. 1612 Drayton *Poly-olb.* I. 319 When long-renowned Troy lay spent in hostile fire.

b. Const. *with* age, fatigue, toil, etc.

Freq. from *c* 1600 to 1730.

1603 Knolles *Hist. Turks* (1621) 137 Ertogrul now spent with age, shortly after died. 1611 Shaks. *Cymb.* III. vi. 63 Almost spent with hunger, I am falne in this offence. 1703 Pope *Thebais* 537 On the cold marble spent with toil he lies. 1760–72 H. Brooke *Fool of Qual.* (1809) III. 5 Being spent with fatigue, I..sat me down to die. 1817 Shelley *Rev. Islam* x. xxxvii, They will sleep with luxury spent. 1867 F. Parkman *Jesuits in N. Amer.* iv. (1875) 26 Spent with travel, and weakened by precarious and unaccustomed fare.

4. Of things: Exhausted of the active or effective power or principle.

1596 Lodge *Marg. Amer.* F iv b, Thy sap by course of time is blent, My sence by care and age is spent. 1633 T. James *Voy.* 85 Our tooles were all so spent, that we could cut none. 1665 Manley *Grotius' Low C. Wars* 437 For by the..long distance of place, the Shot was spent, before it came to the place, which it was intended to batter. 1697 Dampier *Voy.* I. 36 At length when the Creatures strength is spent, they ..knock it on the head. *a* 1722 Lisle *Husb.* (1757) 154 The malt is spent and wasted before it is laid in the grounds. 1774 Goldsm. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) I. 201 If this acquired velocity be quite spent. 1817 Shelley *Rev. Islam* IV. xxx, Though their lustre now was spent and faded. 1883 *Manch. Exam.* 28 Nov. 5/1 The vigour and 'go' infused into the party..would show symptoms of being spent.

b. *Naut.* Of the tide or a current.

c 1595 Capt. Wyatt *Dudley's Voy.* (Hakl. Soc.) 3 Our master thought it not good to turne downe the channell, the tide beinge soe far spent. 1616 J. Lane *Contn. Sqr.'s T.* VII. 359 Then in hee bore for land, till th' tyde was spent. 1719 De Foe *Crusoe* I. (Globe) 143 When I had made something more than a League of Way by the Help of this Current or Eddy, I found it was spent. 1743 Bulkeley & Cummins *Voy. S. Seas* 137 And the Tide being spent, we put into a small Cove, and made fast.

II. In attributive uses.

5. Of persons or animals: = sense 3.

a 1568 Ascham *Schoolm.* (Arb.) 152 The talke of a spent old man. 1605 Shaks. *Macb.* I. ii. 8 It stood, As two spent Swimmers, that doe cling together. 1715 Pope *Iliad* II. 465 Let..each spent courser at the chariot blow. 1825 Hone *Every-day Bk.* I. 292, I remember the..squire and his.. chaplain casting home on spent horses. 1859 Jephson *Britany* xii. 193 The English archers..charged down..upon the now spent and wearied French.

b. Of fish: Exhausted by spawning; having recently spawned.

1864 *Intell. Observ.* V. 369 After the performance of this function the fish is sickly and weak, and is then called a Shotten or Spent fish. 1866 *Chambers's Encycl.* VIII. 446/2 Salmon, which have completed their spawning, continue for some time..very unfit for the table...They are called 'foul fish', or more distinctively, 'spent fish', or Kelts. 1883 *Fisheries Exhib. Catal.* 69, 1 Barrel Large Full Herrings. ..1 Barrel Spent Herrings.

c. *Spent gnat*, a kind of artificial fly used in trout fishing.

1867 F. Francis *Angling* vi. (1880) 229 The black drake, or spent gnat, as it is sometimes called. 1894 *Daily News* 9 June 832/1 All kinds were tried, including the spent gnat, but the fish would have none of them.

6. Of things: Exhausted, worn out, used up; no longer active, effective, or serviceable.

1697 Dryden *Virg. Georg.* I. 108 That the spent Earth may gather heart again; And, better'd by Cessation, bear the Grain. 1830 Lyell *Princ. Geol.* I. 322 If the action of one becomes very great for a century or more, the others assume the appearance of spent volcanos. 1850 Whittier *To Avis Keene* 38 Where spent waves glimmer up the beach. 1883 Miss Broughton *Belinda* II. 189, 'I should like to sit down,' says Belinda, in a spent voice.

b. Of arrows, balls, or shot.

1697 Dryden *Æneid* IX. 906 Heaps of spent Arrows fall and strew the Ground. 1799 *Naval Chron.* I. 169 A spent ball ..hit him. 1802 James *Milit. Dict.* s. v., Spent balls..are frequently fatal in their effects. 1858 Carlyle *Fredh. Gt.* II. IX. I. 153 [He] declared in solemn Diet, the Pope's ban to be mere spent shot.

c. Of hops, tan, etc., from which the essential properties have been extracted.

1826 *Art of Brewing* (ed. 2) 105 If the disorder do not subside readily, a gyle of spent hops thrown in will generally be advantageous. 1842 Loudon *Suburban Hort.* 390 Coverings for the surface of the ground include dead leaves,..spent tan,..rotten dung,..&c. 1857 Miller *Elem. Chem., Org.* VI. § 1. 372 A quantity of common salt is next added to separate the spent leys. 1877 Raymond *Statist. Mines & Mining* 390 The spent liquor..is discharged into the stream.

7. In comb. with *out*.

1620 Dekker *Dream* Wks. (Grosart) III. 18 The Terrestiall Pauement burn'd, In which the Starres to spent-out Snuffes were turnd. 1848 Thackeray *Van. Fair* lxi, A spent-out, bootless life of defeat and disappointment.

Spenze(e, -zie, obs. Sc. varr. Spain.

‖ **Speos** (spī·ŏs). *Egyptol.* [Gr. σπέος cave, grotto.] A cave temple or tomb, esp. one of some architectural importance.

1843 G. Wilkinson *Mod. Egypt & Thebes* V. II. 56 Pasht ..has always the head of a lioness, and the title, 'Lady of the excavation' or 'Speos'. 1888 C. D. Bell *Winter on Nile* xviii. 170 There is a large speos with four massive pillars.

Speowen, obs. form of Spew *v.* **Sper,** obs. var. Spar *v.*[1], Spear *sb.*[1], *v.*[1], Speer *v.*, Sphere.

†**Sperable,** *a. Obs.* [ad. L. *spērābilis* (f. *spērāre* to hope) or F. *espérable* (Sp. *esperable*, Pg. *esperavel*, It. *sperabile*).] That may be hoped for; admitting of, giving room for, hope. Of debts: = Sperate *a.* 1.

1565 Sir W. Cecil in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* Ser. II. III. 297 Wherin suerly perceaving his own cause not sperable, he doth honorably and wisely. 1571 — in D. Digges *Complete Ambass.* (1655) 164, I am sorry that your health is not more sperable to be speedily recovered. 1591 Unton *Corr.* (Roxb.) 187 If..you yourselfe shall find the recovery [of Rouen] sperable, then..you may afterwards use the kind of speache. *c* 1615 Jas. I in *Buccleuch MSS.* (Hist. MSS. Comm.) I. 170 Debts before the 30th of Elizabeth, though they be never so sperable.

Speragas, variant of Sparagus *Obs.*

†**Spe·rage.** *Obs.* Also 7 **spirage, sperrage,** 8 **spearage.** [a. OF. *sperage*, var. of *sparage* Sparage.] Asparagus.

c 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* III. 558 Sperages seed..Is good to sowe hem with,..For cannes & sperage haue oon tylynge. 1545 Elyot, *Asparagus*, an herbe callyd of common Apotecaries Sparagus, in englishe Sperage. 1577 B. Googe tr. *Heresbach's Husb.* 19 Sperage and such like, must be sowen in shaddowy places. 1620 Venner *Via Recta* vii. 190 Asparagus or Sperage is hot in the beginning of the first degree. 1688 Holme *Armoury* II. 99/2 Asparagus or Sperage...The Flowers are yellow, consisting of six leaves. 1731 Miller *Gard. Dict., Asparagus*,..Sparagus or Sperage. 1760 J. Lee *Introd. Bot.* App. 327 Spearage, see Asparagus.

attrib. 1611 Cotgr., *Pois à visage*,.. Sperage Beanes, French Beanes,.. Kidney Beanes. *a* 1661 Holyday *Juvenal* 77 Thy patrone's fish, Deck'd round with sperage-buds.

b. With distinguishing adjs.

1545 Elyot, *Corruda*, an herbe called wylde sperage. 1548 Turner *Names Herbes* (E.D.S.) 17 It maye be called in englishe pricky Sperage, because it is all full of pryckes. 1601 Holland *Pliny* II. 122 The stalke is smooth, and resembleth garden Sperage. *a* 1661 Holyday *Juvenal* 214 Wild sperage too We'll have; my plow-man's wife her spindle threw Aside, to gather it. 1758 Borlase *Nat. Hist. Cornw.* 233 Marsh-asparagus or sperage, *Asparagus palustris*.

Spe·rate, *a. ? Obs.* [ad. L. *spērāt-us*, pa. pple. of *spērāre* to hope.]

1. Of debts: Having some likelihood of being recovered; not desperate.

1551 *Will of R. Studlaye* (Somerset Ho.), Sperate debtes. *a* 1625 Cope in Gutch *Coll. Cur.* I. 122 Which [debts] were good, which were bad, which sperate, which desperate, no man knew. 1697 in *New Jersey Arch.* Ser. I. (1901) XXIII. 83 A negro maid servant and debts sperate and desperate. 1710 in Ecton *St. Q. Anne's Bounty* (1721) 108 We have therefore spent much Time..in distinguishing between the sperate and desperate Debts of the Clergy. 1798 *Washington's Reports* I. 169 Outstanding debts, distinguishing such as are sperate from such as are supposed to be desperate.

2. In general use: Giving or leaving room for hope; of a promising nature.

1808 Ld. Ellenborough in *10 Rev. Rep.* (1893) 718 If you think there is anything sperate in it, I will save the point. 1824 *Cowen's Rep.* (N. Y. State Supreme Crt.) 106 Every vessel has a point of time at which it passes from a Sperate to a desperate state, or arrives at a situation of unseaworthiness.

†**Speratory,** *a. Obs.*—1 [See prec. and -ory.] Resting in hope or expectation.

1629 Donne *Serm.* CXXXVI. Wks. 1839 V. 442 [Mammon offers] the present and possessory things of this world, God but the future and speratory things of the next.

†**Spercil.** *Obs.*—1 [app. f. *sper* Spar *sb.*[1]] ? The spars of a roof.

1570 Levins *Manip.* 125 Ye spercil, *subtegulaneum*.

Spercle, obs. form of Sparkle.

Spere, obs. form of Spear, Speer, Sphere.

†**Spere,** *a. Obs.* Also **speer.** [Of obscure origin.] Frail, delicate.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 468 Spere, or fres (*K.* freshe or brityl, *P.* britill or brekyll), *fragilis*. *c* 1440 *Jacob's Well* 221 My chayere is my body of speer brotyl & rotyn bonys, in whiche my soule sytteth. 1486 *Bk. St. Albans, Hawking* e viii b, She may be callid a Spere hawke for of all the hawkys that ther be she is moost spere, that is to say moost tendre to kepe.

†**Sperel.** *Obs.* Also **sperl-.** [prob. of Flem. origin: cf. WFlem. *spèrel, sperrel* door-bar, f. *sperren* Spar *v.*[1]] A means of closing or fastening; a bar or bolt; a book-clasp.

13.. *S. Erkenwolde* 49 in Horstm. *Altengl. Leg.* (1881) 267 Thre sperlis of þe spelunke þat spradde [? *read* sparde] hit o lofte Was metely made of þe marbre. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 365/1 Ondoynge, or opynynge of schettellys, or sperellys, *apercio. Ibid.* 469/1 Sperel, or closel yn schetynge, *fermaculum. Ibid.*, Sperel, of a boke, *offendix*,..*signaculum*.

Sperete, obs. form of Spirit *sb.*

†**Sperge**[1]. *Obs.*—1 [? ad. OF. *esperge*, var. of *asperge*.] ? Asparagus.

c 1400 *Lanfranc's Cirurg.* 275 He schal ete fenel, ache, persil, sperge,..& he schal ete no mustard.

†**Sperge**[2]. *Obs.*—1 [Aphetic f. Asperge *sb.*] A sprinkler.

1675 Evelyn *Philos. Disc. Earth* (1676) 143 Gently refresh'd with a dewie sperge or brush, not with the watring-pot.

‖ **Spergula** (spɔ̄·rgiźlă). [med. and mod.L. *Spergula*, of unknown origin.] One or other variety of spurrey.

1882 *Garden* 29 Apr. 297/2 Couch Grass and Spergula are at this season very troublesome. 1884 tr. *De Candolle's Orig. Cultivated Pl.* 115 Agriculturists distinguish a taller variety of spergula.

Spe·rgulin. *Chem.* [f. mod.L. *Spergula*: see prec.] (See quot.)

1881 WATTS *Dict. Chem., 3rd Suppl., Spergulin*, a fluorescent body, occurring in the seed-coverings of *Spergula vulgaris* and *S. maxima*, and produced at the time when the seeds blacken and are nearly ripe.

Sperie, obs. var. SPURREY. **Sperit(e,** varr. SPIRIT *sb.* **Sperk(e,** obs. or Sc. varr. SPARK. **Sperket,** obs. or dial. f. SPIRKET. **Sperling,** var. SPARLING.

Sperm (spɔm), *sb.* Forms: 4–7 **sperme,** 6 **spearme, sparme,** 7 **sparm,** 6– **sperm.** [ad. OF. *esperme* (F. *sperme*), *sparme*, or L. *sperma* (hence also It. *sperma*, Sp. and Pg. *esperma*), a. Gr. *σπέρμα*, f. the stem of *σπείρειν* to sow.]

I. 1. The generative substance or seed of male animals (esp. of vertebrates).

c 1386 CHAUCER *Monk's T.* 19 In the feld of Damassene With goddes owene finger wroght was he And nat bigeten of mannes sperme [*Harl. MS.* sperma] unclene. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XIII. xxix. (Tollem. MS.), The whale haþ gret plente of sperme, and after þat he gendreþ with þe female, superfluite þerof fleteþ aboue þe water. *a* 1425 tr. *Arderne's Treat. Fistula*, etc. 14 Som-tyme þe sperme goþ oute by þe hole of þe 3erde infistulate. 1526 *Grete Herball* xxviii. (1529) B v b, Ambre is hote and drye... Some say that it is the sparme of a whale. 1549 *Compl. Scot.* vi. 67, I sau hemp, that coagulis the flux of the sparme. 1605 TIMME *Quersit.* I. xvi. 85 We see, of bread and wine, blood to be made; of blood, sperm or seed. 1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* 330 And thus may it also be in the generation and sperm of Negroes. 1725 *Fam. Dict.* s. v. *Poultry*, The Cock.. rarifies the Egg, and renders it fit to produce its Species by the Sperm or Tread he infuses into it. 1783 JUSTAMOND tr. *Raynal's Hist. Indies* V. 361 It hath since been imagined, that pearls must be the eggs or the sperm of the fish inclosed in the shell. 1822–7 GOOD *Stud. Med.* (1829) V. 6 The male shortly afterwards passes over the spawn or hard roe, and discharges upon it his sperm, which we call soft roe or milt. 1878 F. J. BELL *Gegenbaur's Elem. Comp. Anat.* 53 Receptacles which serve for the collection of the sperm.

b. A spermatozoon.

1904 *Brit. Med. Jrnl.* 15 Oct. 964 Gametes (eggs and sperms). 1905 G. A. REID *Princ. Heredity* xii. 162 If these same sperms reside for a longer time [etc.].

†**2. a.** The eggs of insects. *Obs.*

1615 W. LAWSON *Country Housew. Gard.* (1626) 44 The red peckled butter-flye doth euer put them [i.e. caterpillars], being her sparm, among the tender spraies for better feeding. 1747 W. GOULD *Eng. Ants* 34 A just Description of the Sperm or Eggs (which is entirely answerable to what the Queen lays).

† **b.** Offspring, brood (of persons). *Obs. rare.*

1641 MILTON *Animadv.* Wks. 1851 III. 237 Let not those wretched Fathers thinke they shall impoverish the Church.., though they keep back their sordid sperm begotten in the lustinesse of their avarice.

3. *transf.* The generative matter or source from which anything is formed or takes its origin:

a. Of plants.

1610 J. DAVIES (Heref.) *Commend. Poems, Vaughan* Wks. (Grosart) II. 3/2 His royall Trench (that..holds the Sperme of Herbage by a Spring). 1620 MARKHAM *Farew. Husb.* (1625) 99 The worme..deuouring vp the substance or sperm, is the cause that the corne cannot grow. 1642 H. MORE *Song of Soul* II. I. ii. 25 I'll call't form bestiall, It makes a beast added to plantall sperm.

b. Of other material things.

1651 FRENCH *Distill.* v. 108 Water is both the Sperme, and the Menstruum of the world. 1671 J. WEBSTER *Metallogr.* iv. 77 The Sperm of Metals is not different from the sperm of other things, to wit, an humid vapour. 1694 MOTTEUX *Rabelais* IV. i. 3 The Fifth [ship had for its device] a famous Kan made of Sperm of Emerald. 1845 BAILEY *Festus* (ed. 2) 120 The primal sperm and matter of the world.

c. Of qualities, conditions, etc.

1639 G. DANIEL *Ecclus.* xxvi. 91 Infects her mind With the black Sperme of Contradiction. 1659 C. NOBLE *Inexpediency Exped.* 4 The Remedy that is prescribed is the very Seed and Sperm .. and Vivary of that difference. 1820 SHELLEY *Ode Liberty* xv, 'Tis the sperm Of what makes life foul, cankerous, and abhorred.

4. a. *attrib.*, as *sperm-bag, -ball, -cell, -germ*, etc.

1849 *Phil. Trans.* CXXXIX. I. 347 The spermatozoa are distinctly seen in the *sperm-bag. 1887 *Encycl. Brit.* XXII. 424/2 Each cell .. produces a large number of spermatozoa, which occur in spherical clusters or *sperm-balls. 1851 CARPENTER *Man. Phys.* (ed. 2) 148 In the lower tribes, both of Plants and Animals, we find that '*sperm-cells' and 'germ-cells' are developed in the midst of the ordinary tissues of the body. 1881 MIVART *Cat* 318 The male pronucleus is a spermatozoon, which is a part of the nucleus of the original sperm-cell. 1868 WATTS *Dict. Chem.* V. 397 With *sperm-corpuscles, mucus-corpuscles, and epithelium-scales. 1859 *Todd's Cycl. Anat.* V. [138] Two different organised bodies, which are respectively formed from two different cells; the ovigerm and the *spermgerm. 1856 EMERSON *Eng. Traits, Ability* (1903) 56 Stall-feeding makes *sperm-mills of the cattle. 1826 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* IV. xlii. 146 The *Sperm-reservoir (*Spermatheca*) is an organ connecting the vagina with the oviduct. 1883 LANKESTER in *Encycl. Brit.* XVI. 682/2 In other Mollusca..this formation of '*sperm ropes' is known. 1859 HUXLEY *Oceanic Hydrozoa* 64 The smaller contained a *sperm-sac, with incompletely developed spermatozoa. 1841 T. R. JONES *Anim. Kingd.* 280 Two long auxiliary vessels.., that have been named *sperm-vessels, gluten-vessels, and gum-vessels by different authors.

b. *Comb.*, as *sperm-forming, -like, -secreting* adjs.

1836–9 *Todd's Cycl. Anat.* II. 414/1 The principal forms of the sperm-secreting organs. 1876 BRISTOWE *Th. & Pract. Med.* (1878) 32 Infect them, by either growing parasitically .., or (sperm-like) imparting to them specific properties. 1878 F. J. BELL *Gegenbaur's Elem. Comp. Anat.* 53 The relation of the egg-forming and sperm-forming organs to one another varies greatly.

II. (Short for SPERM WHALE or SPERMACETI.)

5. a. *Sperm oil*, an oil found together with spermaceti in the head of various species of whales.

1839 T. BEALE *Nat. Hist. Sperm Whale* 149 There was still a gradual increase in the importation of sperm oil. 1857 MILLER *Elem. Chem., Org.* vi. § 1. 358 The principal drying oils are those of linseed, walnut, hemp,..and sperm oil. 1883 *Fisheries Exhib. Catal.* 202 Crude and refined Sperm oil, used for illuminating,..and in the manufacture of spermaceti.

attrib. 1849 CUPPLES *Green Hand* ii. (1856) 18 Trimming up the sperm-oil lights.

b. *Sperm candle*, a spermaceti candle.

1856 *Orr's Circ. Sci., Pract. Chem.* 458, 15 sperm candles will give the light of 16·5 stearic. 1890 *Daily News* 29 Oct. 3/5 The only clean and tidy candles..were wax candles and sperm candles.

6. A sperm whale. Also *collect.* and *attrib.*

1840 F. D. BENNETT *Narr. Whaling Voy.* II. 185 The commencement of the Sperm Fishery by England. 1854 *Chamb. Jrnl.* 28 Jan. 53/2 See, again! there is a sperm of the largest size, which has just leaped. 1860 MAURY *Phys. Geog.* xviii. 772 The parts of the ocean..in which the sperm are found. 1895 *Pall Mall G.* 16 Dec. 2/1 He killed as many as five sperms in a single day with one harpoon.

b. *Sperm-bird* (see quot.).

1840 F. D. BENNETT *Narr. Whaling Voy.* I. 10 Many ocean birds of the high south latitudes were now visible.., as nellies (*Procellaria gigantea*); blue-petrels, or sperm-birds (*Prion pachyptila*), [etc.].

7. Sperm candles or oil.

1856 *Orr's Circ. Sci., Pract. Chem.* 458 If there be any difference, the light of sperm is a little greater, and that of stearic acid a little whiter. 1890 CLARK RUSSELL *Ocean Trag.* I. iv. 68 The soft..radiance diffused by the burning sperm.

†**Sperm,** *v. Obs.*—[1] [f. prec.] *intr.* To spawn.

a 1425 tr. *Arderne's Treat. Fistula*, etc. 41 Þei grew to þe liknes of þe womb of a..creuyse or lopster when he spermeþ or frieþ.

‖ **Spe·rma.** Now *rare.* Pl. **spermata.** [a. L. *sperma* or Gr. *σπέρμα*: see SPERM *sb.*] Sperm; seed.

14.. [see SPERM *sb.*[1]]. 1527 ANDREW *Brunswyke's Dist. Waters* M iij, The same water is good and multyplyeth the sperma. 1597 A. M. *Guillemeau's Fr. Chirurg.* 3 b/2 The patient can nether retayne his vrine, Sperma, or Stole. 1600 PORY tr. *Leo's Africa* 344 Whether the said Amber be the sperma or the excrement therof, they cannot well determine. 1668 *Phil. Trans.* III. 790 Here have been Sperma-Ceti-Whales driven upon the shore, which Sperma (as they call it) lies all over the Body of those Whales. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl., Sperm* or *Sperma*, the Seed whereof an Animal is form'd. 1843 R. J. GRAVES *Syst. Clin. Med.* xxvii. 350 By the mixture and mutual neutralization or solution of different spermata. 1886 *Lond. Q. Rev.* Oct. 129 Basilides is said to have spoken of a 'sperma' or seed-mass, from which all things have been produced.

Sperma-, combining form of prec.: see SPERMADUCT, etc., and cf. SPERMATO-, SPERMO-.

Spermaceti (spɔ̄ɪmăsī·ti, -se·ti). Forms: 6–9 **sperma ceti** (5 **cete,** 7 **coeti, cetæ**); 5– **spermaceti** (5 **-cetie,** 7 **-cete, -cæty,** 8 **-cety**); 6 **sparmaceti.** [med.L., from *sperma* sperm + *cētī* gen. sing. of *cētus* (ad. Gr. *κῆτος*) whale, through an erroneous opinion as to the nature of the substance. Hence also F. *spermaceti*, It. *spermaceti*, Sp. *espermaceti*, Pg. *-cete.* The corrupt form PARMACETY was formerly common.]

1. A fatty substance, which in a purified state has the form of a soft white scaly mass, found in the head (and to some extent in other parts) of the sperm-whale (*Physeter macrocephalus*) and some other whales and dolphins; it is used largely in various medicinal preparations, and in the manufacture of candles.

1472 RIPLEY *Comp. Alch.* in Ashm. (1652) 113 Use.. Sperma Cete ana with redd Wyne when ye wax old. 1525 tr. *Jerome of Brunswick's Surg.* R iij b/2 Take sperma ceti .iij. dragma, mumie an ounce. 1581 RICH *Farew.* T j, The Doctor tooke Sparmaceti, and suche like thynges that bee good for a bruse. 1600 DALLAM in *Early Voy. Levant* (Hakl. Soc.) 95 This day we saw greate store of the spane of whales, whearof they make spermacetie. 1658 A. FOX *Würtz' Surg.* IV. v. 334 When Sperma Cetæ is stale..it ought not to be used, making the medicine very unpleasant. 1747 WESLEY *Prim. Physick* (1762) 53 Put a Scruple of Sperma-Ceti into the yolk of a new-laid Egg. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1824) III. 27 The first cavity or chamber of the brain, is filled with that spermaceti which is supposed of the greatest purity and highest value. 1811 A. T. THOMSON *Lond. Disp.* (1818) 297 Spermaceti is demulcent and emollient. 1842 LOVER *Handy Andy* ii. 26 All the spermaceti in M'Garry's shop won't cure you. 1897 F. T. BULLEN *Cruise of 'Cachalot'* 51 Spermaceti exists in all the oil, especially that from the dorsal hump.

fig. 1601 B. JONSON *Poetaster* II. i. (1905) 28 Looke here, my sweet wife.., my deare mummia, my balsamum, my *spermacete.* *a* 1613 OVERBURY *Characters, Ord. Fencer* Wks. (1856) 112 For an inward bruise, lambstones and sweet-breads are his onely sperma ceti, which he eats at night next his heart fasting.

2. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *spermaceti-candle, -fat, -fish, manufactory, oil, -ointment, -refiner.*

1738 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v., *Spermaceti candles are of modern manufacture,..superior to the finest wax-candles. 1758 FRANKLIN *Lett.* Wks. 1887 III. 8 The extinguisher is for spermaceti candles only. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade, Spermaceti-candles*, fine transparent candles, used as wax lights. 1868 WATTS *Dict. Chem.* V. 397 Sperm-oil appears to be isomeric with *spermaceti-fat or cetin. 1781 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 2) VIII. 6171 *Physeter*, or *Spermaceti-fish,..a genus belonging to the order of cete. 1748 ARMSTRONG *Misc.* (1770) I. 216 Their filthy greasy brains, that were never fit for any thing but the *sperma ceti manufactory. 1765 *Museum Rust.* IV. 76 A taper..lamp, with four ordinary threads of cotton in the wick, consumes 1664 oz. of *spermaceti oil in one hour. 1820 SCORESBY *Acc. Arctic Reg.* II. 413 The oil..is more inflammable than spermaceti-oil. 1843 R. J. GRAVES *Syst. Clin. Med.* ix. 103 A piece of lint smeared with *spermaceti ointment. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade, Spermaceti-ointment*, a pharmaceutical preparation consisting of lard, spermaceti, and bees'-wax. *Ibid.*, **Spermaceti-refiner*, a person who purifies spermaceti, chiefly by pressure and crystallization.

b. *Spermaceti whale*, the sperm whale.

1658 SIR T. BROWNE *Gard. Cyrus* iii, A better account.. of that prominent jowle of the Sperma Ceti Whale. 1672 *Phil. Trans.* VII. 5021 To heal Bruises and Aches with the Oyl of the Sperma-ceti-Whale. 1763 *Ann. Reg.* I. 116 Two spermaceti whales have been caught on the Essex coast. 1783 *Phil. Trans.* LXXIII. 231 They look for ambergrise in all the spermaceti-whales they catch. 1845 DARWIN *Voy. Nat.* (ed. 2) x. 223 *note*, We saw..several spermaceti whales jumping upright quite out of the water.

Spe·rmaduct. *Zool.* [f. SPERMA- + DUCT 6 a.] A spermatic or seminal duct or passage in a male animal. Also **Spe·rmagone, Spermago·nium,** *Bot.* = SPERMOGONE, -GONIUM. **Spe·rmaphore, Spe·rmaphyte,** *Bot.* = SPERMOPHORE, -PHYTE.

1891 *Cent. Dict.*, **Spermaduct*,..a spermatic duct, or sperm-duct [etc.]. 1905 J. MCCABE tr. *Haeckel's Evol. Man* II. 823 In the male they convey the spermatozoa away from the testicles, and are called 'spermaducts', or *vasa deferentia.* 1876 *Encycl. Brit.* IV. 159/1 Embedded in the margin of the thallus in Lichens..certain hollow urn-shaped bodies are found, which have been termed *spermagones (conceptacles). 1861 H. MACMILLAN *Footn. Page Nat.* 73 Minute, blackish, elevated, somewhat gelatinous points called *spermagonia, occurring on various parts of the upper surface of the thallus. 1880 BESSEY *Botany* 299 Minute cells (the *spermatia*), which..are permitted to escape through the small opening at the apex of the spermagonium. 1847 WEBSTER, **Spermaphore*, in botany, that part of the ovary from which the ovules arise; it is synonymous with *Placenta.* 1891 *Cent. Dict.*, **Spermaphyte.* 1897 tr. *Strasburger's Text-bk. Bot.* 432 They are also termed Seed-plants or Spermaphytes.

†**Spe·rmal,** *a. Obs.*—[1] [f. SPERM *sb.* + -AL, or ad. med.L. *spermāl-is.*] Spermatic.

1642 H. MORE *Song of Soul* II. II. i. 9 This is the nourishing Of all; but spermall form, the certain shapening.

‖ **Spermarium** (spɔrmē·riŭm). Pl. **-aria.** [mod.L., f. *sperma* sperm.] = next.

1861 J. R. GREENE *Man. Anim. Kingd., Coelent.* 40 Processes of the body-wall, within which are developed true generative organs, the 'spermaria' and 'ovaria', constitute the reproductive apparatus of the *Hydrozoa.* 1881 LANKESTER in *Encycl. Brit.* XII. 550 Each ovarium and each spermarium represents an aborted generative person.

Spermary (spɔ̄·ɪmări). [Anglicized f. prec: see -ARY[1].] The organ or gland in which spermatozoa are generated in male animals.

1864 in WEBSTER (citing Dana). 1885 S. F. CLARKE in *Riverside Nat. Hist.* (1888) I. 76 In a limited region on the body of *Hydra*,..there appear..small out-growths of the body-wall which prove to be the spermaries.

‖ **Spermatheca** (spɔ̄ɪmăpī·kă). Pl. **-thecae.** [f. SPERMA- + THECA.] A receptacle in the oviduct of female insects and invertebrates, in which fecundation of the ova takes place.

1826 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* xlii. IV. 147 *n.*, Perhaps likewise the organ discovered by M. L. Dufour in *Scolia*..may be a *spermatheca.* 1841 T. R. JONES *Anim. Kingd.* 283 The spermatheca has a small accessory vesicle connected with it. 1888 ROLLESTON & JACKSON *Anim. Life* 206 The female apparatus is completed by two pairs of vesicular spermathecae.

Hence **Spermathe·cal** *a.*, of or belonging to the spermatheca.

1883 LANKESTER in *Encycl. Brit.* XVI. 658/2 On reaching the point where the spermathecal duct debouches they are impregnated by the spermatozoa. 1900 *Proc. Zool. Soc.* June 169 In the region of the spermathecal apertures.

Spermatic (spɔrmæ·tik), *a.* and *sb.* Also 6 **sparmatyke,** 7 **-ique,** 6 **spermaticke,** 6–7 **-ike,** 7 **-ique,** 7–8 **-ick.** [ad. med.L. *spermatic-us*, ad. Gr. *σπερματικός*, f. *σπέρμα* sperm, or OF. (also mod.F.) *spermatique* (1314), = It. *spermatico*, Sp. and Pg. *espermatico.*]

1. Containing, conveying, or producing sperm or seed; seminiferous.

1539 ELYOT *Cast. Helthe* (1541) 12 Vessels spermatike, wherin mannes seede lyeth. 1597 A. M. tr. *Guillemeau's Fr. Chirurg.* 21 b/2 Not to touch the testicles, nether anye of the spermaticke vessels. 1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* 189 The seminall ejaculation proceeds..from the spermatick glandules. 1730 CHAMBERLAYNE *Relig. Philos.* I. iii. § 22 The Spermatic Arteries, coming on each Side out of the great Artery. 1797 M. BAILLIE *Morb. Anat.* (1807) 356 A disease of the spermatic chord which is not uncommon, is an enlargement of its veins. 1857 BULLOCK tr. *Cazeaux' Midwifery* 69 The numerous lymphatic vessels..contribute to the formation of the spermatic plexus. 1881 MIVART *Cat* 243 Within it is a layer of membrane—the spermatic fascia.

b. Full of, abounding in, sperm; generative, productive.

1619 DRAYTON *Owle* Poems 407 There in soft Downe the liquorous Sparrow sat, Pamper'd with meats, full sper-

matike and fat. 1648 J. Beaumont *Psyche* IX. xxxiv, Spermatick Nile, which brings Choise Monsters forth. 1655 T. Vaughan *Euphrates* 32 This Primitive spermatick Ocean filled all that space which we now attribute to the Air.

2. Of the nature of sperm; resembling sperm.

1541 R. Copland *Guydon's Quest. Chirurg.* B iv b, They haue theyr breding and begynnynge of spermatyke mater. *a* 1631 Donne *Elegies* viii. 8 Ranke sweaty froth .. Like spermatique issue of ripe menstruous boiles. *c* 1645 Howell *Lett.* III. xxix, A production of an organicall body out of the spermatic substance. 1693 Sir T. P. Blount *Nat. Hist.* 28 It would sometimes let fall a Spermatick Juice, which.. would thereupon produce another coral. 1828 Kirby & Sp. *Entomol.* (ed. 2) IV. xlii. 153 This organ was a reservoir for the spermatic fluid. 1869 H. A. Nicholson *Man. Zool.* 22 As a rule, the germ-cell is produced by one individual and the spermatic element by another.

b. *transf.* and *fig.* Resembling sperm, esp. in generative or reproductive power.

1669 Gale *Crt. Gentiles* I. III. iii. 44 The Stoics also held, there was..a spermatic efformative word, whereby the world was formed. 1671 J. Webster *Metallogr.* x. 142 Having annexed to it some slates and other spermatick matter, which detracts from the goodness of its own nature. 1741 Warburton *Div. Legat.* Wks. 1811 III. 168 You will be assumed into the Divine nature, or the spermatick reasons. 1870 Emerson *Soc. & Solit.* Wks. (Bohn) III. 80, I find certain books vital and spermatic, not leaving the reader what he was.

†**3.** Directly derived from sperm (according to old physiological views). *Obs.*

1548–77 Vicary *Anat.* ii. (1888) 18 The Grystle is a member simple and spermatike, next in hardnes to the bone. 1621 Lodge *Summary Du Bartas* I. 284 *Stomake.* The substance thereof is more sparmatique then sanguine. 1670 *Phil. Trans.* V. 2077 The two sorts of Parts of the Body, Spermatick and Sanguineous. 1684 tr. *Bonet's Merc. Compit.* XIV. 498 A Membrane is a Spermatick part, which being consumed is not regenerated. 1728 Chambers *Cycl.* s.v., The Ancients made a general Division of the Parts of the Animal Body into Spermatic and Fleshy.

4. Of qualities: Characteristic of, peculiar to, derived from, sperm.

1642 H. More *Song of Soul* II. App. 101 Nought can e'er consume that centrall power Of hid spermatick life. 1669 W. Simpson *Hydrol. Chym.* 269 Water..by the spermatick efflorescence of a mineral seed becomes wrought into a mineral juyce. 1706 De Foe *Jure Div.* Introd., Spermatick Vigour spreads the poison'd Race, Conveys Hereditary Crimes apace. 1866 Shuckard *Brit. Bees* 296 This in some cases has a spermatic odour. 1896 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* I. 204 The first theory..views the growth of a tumour as due to the spermatic influence of certain cells upon those contiguous.

5. Existing in sperm.

1837 P. Keith *Bot. Lex.* 304 According to him, they are animated substances; the analogues of the spermatic animalcules of Leuenhoeck. 1857 Bullock tr. *Cazeaux' Midwifery* 96 These minute bodies have been designated as the spermatic animalcules, or the spermatozoa.

6. As *sb.* in *pl.* The spermatic vessels.

1690 in Maidment *Bk. Sc. Pasquils* (1868) 277 Spermaticks sink, true mother of discord, Inflam'd these Hectors. 1719 Quincy *Phys. Dict.* (1722) s.v. *Semen*, In the Aorta, where the Spermaticks arise. 1857 Bullock tr. *Cazeaux' Midwifery* 68 The arteries which supply the ovary are the spermatics, and proceed directly from the aorta. 1859 *Todd's Cycl. Anat.* V. 651/1 This structure is found..in the internal spermatics, and in all the veins of the uterine substances.

†**Sperma·tical,** *a. Obs.* Also 5 spermatycall, 6 sparmaticall. [See prec. and -AL.]

1. = Spermatic *a.* 2.

1471 Ripley *Comp. Alch.* VI. xviii. in Ashm. (1652) 165 Yt thus fro thyng to thyng was alterat..; And so our Mater spermatycall wythin one Glas Wythin hyt selfe must turne fro thyng to thyng. 1655 in Hartlib *Ref. Commw. Bees* 22 A tender spermatical milk enclosed in a most tender skin.

2. = Spermatic *a.* 3.

1562 Bullein *Bulwarke, Dial. betw. Sorenes & Chir.* 22 Members, whiche Phisicians call sparmaticall, beyng ones loosed, will not be ioyned again. 1615 Crooke *Body of Man* 697 Euery Similar part is either Spermaticall or fleshie. 1633 P. Fletcher *Purple Isl.* II. xii. *marg. note*, A nerve is a spermaticall part rising from the brain and the pith of the back-bone. 1668 Culpepper & Cole *Barthol. Anat.* Introd., All these parts are commonly divided into Spermatical, Sanguine or mixt.

3. Endowed with sperm or semen.

1610 Healey *St. Aug. Citie of God* VII. ii. 260 Liber and Libera, [gods] of the distillation of seede in all spermaticall creatures.

4. = Spermatic *a.* 1.

1615 Crooke *Body of Man* 217 The spermaticall vessels which bring the seede from the whole bodye..are foure. *Ibid.* 837 The left Emulgent also is larger then the right, because of the Spermatical veine which was to arise therefrom. 1621 Lodge *Summary Du Bartas* I. 269 The spermaticall, or seede Vessels.

5. = Spermatic *a.* 4.

1642 H. More *Song of Soul* II. I. ii. 25 Both what hight form spermaticall Hath here a share, as also that we term Soul sensitive. *a* 1652 J. Smith *Sel. Disc.* VII. iv. (1660) 309 Like the Spermatical virtue of the Heavens, which spreads it self freely upon this Lower World. 1682 H. More *Annot. Glanvill's Lux Orient* 119 We have..reason..to suppose this Vital or Spermatical Law is amongst the rest.

Sperma·tically, *adv.* [f. prec. + -LY 2.] In a spermatic manner; in a way characteristic of sperm; seminally.

1647 Trapp *Comm. Matt.* i. 20 He..was conceived of the holy Ghost, not spermatically, but operatively. 1682 H. More *Annot. Glanvill's Lux Orient* 119 Such a spirit as contains Spermatically or Vitally all the Laws contrived by the Divine Intellect. 1822 T. Taylor *Apuleius* 324 The participations subsist in these subjects spermatically.

Spe·rmatid. *Biol.* Also -ide. [f. L. *spermat-*, stem of *sperma* sperm + -ID.] A seminal cell which develops into a spermatozoon.

1889 Geddes & Thomson *Evol. Sex* ix. 113 The sperm or spermatozoon is differentiated from an immature cell or spermatide. 1904 *Biol. Bulletin* Feb. 150 There is the normal number of two chromosomes. The ovotid and the spermatid have each only one.

Spermati·ferous, *a.* [f. as prec. + -(I)FEROUS.] Bearing or conveying sperm.

1862 Ansted *Channel Isl.* II. viii. 189 His specimens were covered with spermatiferous spermogones. 1865 M. C. Cooke *Microsc. Fungi* ii. 24 The colour of this spermatiferous matter is commonly orange.

Spe·rmatin. *Chem.* Also -ine. [a. F. *spermatine*, f. as prec. + *-ine* -IN 1.] An albuminic constituent of the spermatic fluid.

1836–9 *Todd's Cycl. Anat.* II. 458/2 In the spermatic fluid of the horse, Lassaigne has detected..Peculiar animal matter called spermatine. 1856 *Orr's Circ. Sci., Pract. Chem.* 317 The seminal principle (spermatine), is..nearly analogous to albuminous substances. 1873 Ralfe *Phys. Chem.* 176 The peculiar albuminoid substance, spermatin, is probably a mixture of globulin and lecithin.

Sperma·tio-, comb. form of Spermatium, as in **Spermatio·genous** *a.*, bearing spermatia. **Sperma·tiophore,** = Spermatophore 2.

1887 Garnsey tr. *De Bary's Fungi* v. 241 Some Pyrenomycetes..form layers agreeing in every respect with the spermatiophores. *Ibid.*, They are..cushion-shaped bodies with spermatiogenous surface.

Spe·rmatism. *rare*—°. [ad. mod.L. *spermatismus* (Gr. σπερματισμός) or F. *spermatisme*: cf. next.] (See quots.)

1857 Dunglison *Med. Dict., Animalculism*, Spermatism. 1882 *Imp. Dict.* IV. 155/1 *Spermatism*, ..1. The emission of sperm or seed.—2. The theory that the germ in animals is produced by spermatic animalcules.

Spe·rmatist. [ad. mod.L. **spermatista* or F. *spermatiste*, f. L. *spermat-*, *sperma* sperm + -IST.] One who held the view that the sperm alone was the source of animal life.

1836–9 *Todd's Cycl. Anat.* II. 427/1 According to the.. theory..of the Spermatists,..the male semen alone furnished all the vital parts of the new animal. 1899 J. A. Thomson *Sci. Life* 125 Other observers, nicknamed 'spermatists' or 'animalculists', believed them [*sc.* spermatozoa] to be the earliest stages of the young animal.

‖ **Spermatium** (spəɹmē·ʃĭəm). *Bot.* Pl. **-atia.** [mod.L., ad. Gr. σπερμάτιον, dim. of σπέρμα seed, Sperm *sb.*] A minute linear sporule forming part of the reproductive system of lichens and fungi. (Chiefly in pl.)

1856 W. L. Lindsay *Pop. Hist. Brit. Lichens* 75 The fecundating influence of the spermatia or stylospores. 1867 J. Hogg *Microsc.* II. i. 291 The spermatia or contents of the spermagonia never germinate. 1885 Goodale *Physiol. Bot.* 440 *note*, A branch showing antheridia, *a*, and a carpogonium, *o*, with the trichogyne, *t* (*e*, spermatium).

†**Spe·rmative,** *a. Obs. rare.* Also 6 sparmatyf. [ad. mod.L. **spermatīv-us.*] Spermatic.

1541 R. Copland *Guydon's Quest. Chirurg.* Cj, I say secondly that no membres sparmatyf after the losse of theyr substaunce maye nat regenerate. 1610 Healey *St. Aug. Citie of God* 267 The brain..is the most excellent of the spermative parts.

†**Spe·rmatize,** *v. Obs.* [ad. F. *spermatiser* or med.L. *spermatizāre*, ad. Gr. σπερματίζειν to sow, etc., f. σπερματ-, stem of σπέρμα Sperm *sb.*] *intr.* To emit or produce sperm.

1611 Cotgr., *Spermatiser*, to spermatize; to shed, eiect, or iniect sperme. 1646 Sir T. Browne *Pseud. Ep.* 149 Affirming that women do not spermatize,..he deductively includes both sexes in mankinde. 1725 Bourne *Antiq. Vulg.* XXVII, In ancient Times the Dragons..did frequently ..Spermatize in the Wells and Fountains. 1777 Brand *Pop. Antiq.* XXVII. 281, I have nothing to observe here concerning Mr. Bourne's lustful Dragons, their spermatizing in the Wells,..&c. !

Spermato- (spə·ɹmăto), repr. Gr. σπερματο-, combining form of the stem of σπέρμα Sperm *sb.*, employed in a large number of terms (chiefly of very recent origin) relating to the reproductive organs or activities of animals and plants.

Some of these are employed only in L. forms, as *spermatocystidium*, *-cystis*, *-cystitis*, etc., and others have had very little currency even in special works. A number have alternative forms in *sperma-* or *spermo-*.

1. In terms denoting special reproductive organs, or parts of these, as **Spe·rmatoblast, -cyst, -cyte, -gemma, -gone, -gonium, -mere, -spore.**

Some of these are the source of adj. forms, as *spermatoblastic*, *-cystic*, *-gonial*, *-gonic*, etc.

1882 *Imp. Dict.* IV. 155/1 **Spermatoblast*,..certain stalk-like filaments in the seminal ducts upon which the spermatozoa are developed. 1886 *Encycl. Brit.* XX. 412/1 To the whole prolongation with its lobes he [Von Ebner] applies the term spermatoblast. 1884 *Proc. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist.* 61 The first stages in the development of the *spermatocyst of Hydra. 1886 *Encycl. Brit.* XX. 412/2 One kind .. divide into a mass or spermatogemma of small cells (*spermatocytes). *Ibid.* 413/1 The *spermatogemma meanwhile is developing a central cavity. 1898 A. S. Packard *Textbk. Entomol.* 499 A colossal cell,..the *spermatogone, from which the entire contents of the testes originate. 1861 Bentley *Man. Bot.* 384 The spermagonia or *spermatogonia [in Lichens] were first discovered by Tulasne. 1886 *Encycl. Brit.* XX. 412/2 One kind, resembling young ovules, which he [Von La Valette St. George] terms primitive seminal cells or spermatogonia. 1886 *Q. Jrnl. Microsc. Sci.* XXVI. 597 The region where the spermatogonia are formed at the expense of their mother-cells or *spermatomeres.

2. In some other sbs. and adjs. with second elements of obvious meaning, as **Spermatoge·nesis, -gene·tic** *a.*, **-genic** *a.*, **-logy, -phoral** *a.*, **-phorous** *a.*, **-poe·tic** *a.*, **-rrhœ·a, -spore.**

1881 *Athenæum* 11 June 787/1 M. Mathias Duval on *spermatogenesis. 1886 *Encycl. Brit.* XX. 412/1 The process of spermatogenesis in the Bull, Dog, and Rabbit. *Ibid.*, Ascribing *spermatogenetic functions both to the spermatoblasts and to the round cells. 1880 Allman in *Linn. Soc. Jrnl., Zool.* XV. 136 These I regard as the remains of the *spermatogenic tissue. 1851 Dunglison *Med. Lex.*, **Spermatology*, a treatise on sperm. 1886 Howes & Scott *Huxley's Pract. Biol.* 291 The *spermatophoral gland or flagellum. 1851 Dunglison *Med. Lex.*, **Spermatophorous*, sperm-bearing. The cells or granules in the sperm have been so called. 1799 *Monthly Rev.* XXX. 521 A curious restorative and *spermatopoeic sugar-candy of the Japanese. 1858 Mayne *Expos. Lex.* 1180/2 **Spermatorrhœa*,..seminal flux. 1879 T. Bryant *Pract. Surg.* II. 226 Spermatorrhœa doubtless exists as a disease although rare. 1880 *Q. Jrnl. Microsc. Sci.* 83 The term *spermatospore..is applied to the constituent cells of a testis, derived from the primitive germ-epithelium.

‖ **Spermatocele** (-sīl). *Path.* [med.L.: see prec. and Cele. So F. *spermatocèle*, Sp. *espermatocela.*] (See quots.)

1693 tr. *Blancard's Phys. Dict.* (ed. 2), *Spermatocele*, a Rupture caused by the Contraction of the Vessel which ejects the Seed, and its falling down into the Scrotum. 1823 Crabb *Technol. Dict., Spermatocele*, .. a swelling of the testes, or epididymis, from an accumulation of semen. 1874 Van Buren *Dis. Genit. Org.* 407 Spermatocele is a collection of serous fluid, containing spermatic elements.

Spermatogone, -go·nium : see Spermato- 1.

Spe·rmatoid, *a. rare*—°. [f. *spermat-* sperm + -OID.] Similar to sperm.

1855 Dunglison *Med. Lex., Spermatoid*, Gonoides

Spermato·on. *Biol.* Pl. **-o·a.** [f. Spermato- + Gr. ᾠόν egg.] A spermatid.

1875 Brande & Cox *Dict. Sci.*, etc. III. 530/1 Sometimes the sperm-cell contains a single spermatoon, sometimes several spermatoa.

Spe·rmatophore. [f. Spermato- + -phore.]

1. *Biol.* In certain of the lower forms of animal life, a structure containing a compact mass of spermatozoa.

1847–9 *Todd's Cycl. Anat.* IV. I. 485/1 These fibres in the Cephalopods are..surrounded..by peculiar sack-like enclosures or Spermatophores. 1870 Rolleston *Anim. Life* 108 A packet of spermatozoa, aggregated in their passage along the convolutions of the vasa deferentia into the so-called 'spermatophore'. 1880 Huxley *Crayfish* 351 The filaments are in fact tubular spermatophores.

2. *Bot.* A part of the spermogonium of lichens or fungi, on which the spermatia are borne.

1861 Bentley *Man. Bot.* 384 The spermagonium, when mature, has its interior filled with a number of bodies called spermatia..raised on stalks, termed spermatophores.

Spe·rmatophyte. *Bot.* = Spermophyte.

1897 *Nature* 11 Nov. 46/1 In the pteridophytes and spermatophytes nutritive and assimilatory structures are developed.

Spermatozo·al, *a. Phys.* [f. Spermatozo-on + -al.] Of or pertaining to spermatozoa; of the nature of a spermatozoon. So **Spermatozo·an, -zo·ic** *adjs.*

1858 J. W. Draper *Human Physiol.* (ed. 2) 518 Spermatozoic filaments, developing in Certhea vulgaris. 1877 Huxley *Anat. Inv. Anim.* xii. 661 The ascription of a spermatozoal nature to the striæ of the modified endoplastules is not warranted. 1888 Rolleston & Jackson *Anim. Life* Introd. p. xxv, Fusion of the nuclei, often termed the male (spermatozoal) and female (ovular) pronuclei.

Spermatozo·id. [f. as prec. + -ID, or ad. F. *spermatozoïde.*]

1. *Bot.* A minute fertilizing body or cell in Cryptogamia and Algæ.

1857 Henfrey *Bot.* 511 Spermatozoids are filiform bodies of various forms, mostly presenting one or more spiral curves, or minute globules. 1863 M. J. Berkeley *Brit. Mosses* iii. 18 An oblong sac..filled with cellular tissue, each ultimate cell of which..gives birth to a spermatozoid. 1877 Heath *Fern World* II The sperm cells contain minute, active, thread-like bodies called spermatozoids.

2. *Phys.* = next.

1861 T. R. Jones *Anim. Kingd.* (ed. 3) 156 The testicular cæca become filled with granulations,.. but these do not contain spermatozoids. 1870 H. A. Nicholson *Man. Zool.* 22 A sperm-cell or spermatozoid..is enabled to develop itself into a new individual.

‖ **Spermatozoon** (-zōə·ɒn). Pl. **-zoa.** [f. Spermato- + Gr. ζῷον living thing, animal.] One of the numerous minute and active filaments present in the seminal fluid, by which the fecundation of the ovum is effected.

1836–9 *Todd's Cycl. Anat.* II. 113/1 The Spermatozoa have been detected..in the different classes of the Articulate Animals. 1844 G. Bird *Urin. Deposits* (1857) 376 Mixed with these are generally found round granular bodies, rather larger than the body of a spermatozoon. 1881 Mivart *Cat* 245 The special secretion of the testis consists of certain spermatic filaments or spermatozoa.

Spermi-, irregular comb. form of L. *sperma* Sperm *sb.*, as in **Spermidu·cal** *a.*, **Spe·rmiduct** (= Spermaduct), †**Spermifica·tion, Spermi·gerous** *a.*

1666 J. Smith *Old Age* 106, I shall only mention five; .. Chylification, Sanguification, Assimulation, Lactifica-

tion, and Spermification. 1877 Huxley *Anat. Inv. Anim.* v. 240 They frequently play the part of oviducts and spermiducts. *Ibid.* viii. 481 *note*, In the common Oyster the genital cæca..are found to be either almost all ovigerous or almost all spermigerous. 1897 *Proc. Zool. Soc.* 343 The spermiducal glands are long and coiled.

Spe·rmic, *a. rare*—°. [ad. F. *spermique*: see Sperm *sb.*] Of or pertaining to sperm or seed.

1858 Mayne *Expos. Lex.* 1180/2 The interior of the Spermoderm..he [Richard] terms the *spermic cavity*. 1882 *Imp. Dict.* IV. 155/1.

Spe·rmin. *Chem.* Also -ine. [a. F. *spermine*: see Sperm *sb.* and -in 1.] A toxin extracted from the pancreas and some other parts of the body.

1892 *Lancet* 16 July 175/1 Professor de Poehl..had succeeded in extracting from the pancreas, thyroid body, ovaries and testes a leucomaine called spermine. 1898 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* V. 647 A compound of phosphoric acid and a base 'Spermin'. 1899 *Ibid.* VIII. 50 Oppenheim once observed tetany after a spermin injection.

Spermo-, irregular comb. form (for Spermato-) of L. *sperma* or Gr. *σπέρμα* Sperm *sb.*1, used in various terms of *Phys., Zool.*, and *Bot.*

The older and more important of these are given below; many others, as *spermocarp, -centre, -coccus, -cyte, -duct, -lith, -nucleus*, etc., appear in recent Dicts. or special scientific works.

Spermoderm (spō·ɪmɒdəɪm). *Bot.* [ad. mod. L. *spermoderma, -dermis* (De Candolle) or F. *spermoderme*: see prec. and Derm.] The combined outer and inner integuments of a seed, or the outer of these by itself.

1841 *Penny Cycl.* XXI. 184/1 The external coverings of the seed..are called the testa, perisperm, or spermoderm. 1861 Bentley *Man. Bot.* 337 Some writers..use the word testa in a general sense for the two integuments, and call the external one spermoderm. 1864 *New Syd. Soc. Year-bk. Med. & Surg. for 1863* 427 The spermoderm of the bean.. is also poisonous.

Spermogon-, the stem of Spermogon-ium, occurring in a few derivative adjs., as **Spermogoni·ferous, Spermo·gonoid, Spermo·gonous.**

1871 W. A. Leighton *Lichen-Flora* 126 Laciniæ..undulate, and spermogoniferous towards the centre. 1875 M. C. Cooke *Fungi* 200 The fungus never got beyond the spermogonoid stage. 1891 *Cent. Dict.*, *Spermogonous*,..having the character of spermogonia or spermogones.

Spe·rmogone. *Bot.* Anglicized form of next.

1856 W. L. Lindsay *Pop. Hist. Brit. Lichens* 72 The cavity of the spermogone is usually simple and rounded. 1862 Ansted *Channel Isl.* II. viii. 189 His specimens were covered with spermatiferous spermogones. 1882 *Encycl. Brit.* XIV. 555/1 The spermogones, which are the presumed male organs of reproduction,..differ in appearance from the apothecia in being very minute corpuscles.

‖ **Spermogonium** (-gō·nĭəm). Pl. **-gonia.** [mod.L., f. Sperm- + Gr. *γον-* stem of *γονή, γόνος* offspring, etc. Cf. Spermagonium.]

1. *Bot.* One of the receptacles in lichens and fungi in which the spermatia are produced.

1857 Henfrey *Bot.* 169 Smaller chambers, analogous in structure to the perithecia,.. occur in the thallus of all Lichens..; they are called spermogonia. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1211/2 The pycnidia or spermogonia of different sporidiiferous lichens. 1887 W. Phillips *Brit. Discomycetes* 349 Spermogonia in the form of minute depressed tubercles.

2. *Phys.* A sperm-cell.

1913 J. W. Jenkinson *Vertebrate Embryol.* 23 In the male sex the primordial germ-cells divide to form small cells, the spermogonia.

† Spermo·loger. *Obs.*—1 [f. Gr. *σπερμολόγος* gathering seeds, also *fig.* picking up news, gossiping.] A gatherer of seeds. In quot. *fig.*

1676 Marvell *Mr. Smirke* 38 Whereas there are some Few among the Few, such Spermologers, that unless a grain of Faith fall down, by the by, from Heaven, your seed is Barren.

Spermo·logist. *rare*—°. [f. as prec. or next: see -ist.] (See quots.)

1727 Bailey (vol. II), *Spermologist*, a Gatherer of Seed. 1755 Johnson, *Spermologist*, one who gathers or treats of seeds. [Hence in later Dicts.].

Spermo·logy. *rare.* [In sense 1 f. Spermo- + -logy. In sense 2 ad. Gr. *σπερμολογία*: cf. Spermologer.]

1. (See quot. and cf. Spermatology.)

1882 *Imp. Dict.* IV. 155/1 *Spermology*,..that branch of science which investigates sperm or seeds; a treatise on sperm or seeds.

2. An instance of babbling or trifling talk.

1890 Earle *Engl. Prose* xii. 485 For historical truth it is on a level with that favorite spermology of the Liberation Society, which seeks to diffuse the notion [etc.].

Spermophile (spō·ɪməfil). *Zool.* [ad. mod.L. *Spermophilus* (Cuvier) or a. F. *Spermophile*: see Sperm- and -phile.] A rodent belonging to the squirrel-like genus *Spermophilus*, widely distributed in the northern hemisphere; a pouched marmot.

1824 Richardson in Parry *N. W. Passage* App. 314 We know nothing..whether they are true marmots or spermophiles. 1839 *Penny Cycl.* XV. 517/2 This Spermophile inhabits the barren grounds skirting the sea-coast. 1849 *Sk. Nat. Hist., Mammalia* IV. 18 Besides possessing cheek-pouches, the Spermophiles are distinguished by the closeness of the ears, the slender form of the body,..and the narrowness of the paws. *c* 1880 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* III. 92 The Spermophiles are Squirrel-like in form and have rather short tails.

Spe·rmophore. *Bot.* [ad. mod.L. *spermophorum* or a. F. *spermophore*: see Sperm- and -phore.] The placenta in plants. Also **Spe·rmophyte** *Bot.*, a seed-bearing plant. **Spermophy·tic** *a.*, 'capable of producing true seeds' (1891 *Cent. Dict.*). **Spe·rmospore** *Phys.*, a compound cellular mass from which sperm filaments are developed. **Spermoto·xin** *Chem.*, a serum destructive to spermatozoa.

1861 Bentley *Man. Bot.* 283 The placenta is called by Schleiden the **spermophore*. 1891 *Cent. Dict.*, *Spermophyte*,..a plant producing true seeds. 1881 Mivart *Cat* 245 From these cells the spermatozoa appear to be formed by subdivision of the nucleus of each **spermospore*. 1902 *Brit. Med. Jrnl.* 12 Apr. 920 Metchnikoff [deals] with *spermotoxins and leucotoxins.

Spe·rmous, *a. rare*—1. [f. Sperm *sb.* + -ous.] Of the nature of sperm; spermatic.

1822–7 Good *Study Med.* (1829) V. 8 The male..afterwards ejecting over them his spermous fluid.

Sperm whale. Also **sperm-whale.** [Short for *spermaceti whale*: cf. Sperm *sb.* II.]

1. The spermaceti whale, *Physeter macrocephalus*; = Cachalot.

1839 T. Beale *Nat. Hist. Sperm Whale* 3 The sperm whale is one of the most noiseless of marine animals. 1860 Gosse *Rom. Nat. Hist.* 48 In the midst of this war of the elements appear a pair of sperm-whales. 1884 Goode *Nat. Hist. Aquat. Anim.* 7 The Sperm Whale..was first described by Clusius in 1605 from specimens cast up on the coast of Holland in 1598 and 1601.

b. Applied, with distinguishing epithets, to species of whales resembling, or related to, this.

1882 *Cassell's Encycl. Dict.* s.v. *Cachalot*, The Mexican Sperm-whale (*Catodon Colneti*). *Ibid.*, The South Sea Sperm-whale, found..in the Southern Ocean. 1891 *Cent. Dict.* s.v., *Porpoise sperm-whale*, a pygmy sperm-whale, or snub-nosed cachalot.

2. *attrib.*, as *sperm-whale fishery, fishing*, etc.; **sperm-whale porpoise** (see quot. 1884).

1839 T. Beale *Nat. Hist. Sperm Whale* 136 Rise and Progress of the Sperm Whale Fishery. 1884 Goode *Nat. Hist. Aquat. Anim.* 18 The Sperm Whale Porpoise,..*Hyperaodon bidens*. 1887 — *Fisheries of U. S.* 69 The next important sperm-whale ground to be discovered was the Japan Ground. 1888 *Encycl. Brit.* XXIV. 528/1 American Fisheries..Sperm whale fishing seems to have commenced early in the 18th century.

Hence **Sperm-whaler,** a person or vessel engaged in the capture of sperm-whales; **Sperm-whaling** *pres. pple.* and *vbl. sb.*

1834 *Tait's Mag.* I. 411/1 The London sperm-whalers are generally large vessels. 1840 F. D. Bennett *Narr. Whaling Voy.* II. 202 Difficulties that oppose the Sperm-Whaler's success. 1851 *Lit. Gaz.* 11 Jan. 30/3 The graphic accounts of sperm-whaling, by Beale and Bennett. †1863 in *Pall Mall G.* (1895) 16 Dec. 2/1 Accidentally killed while sperm-whaling off the Brazil Banks. 1887 Goode *Fisheries of U.S.* 69 Sperm-whaling at New Zealand and the offshore ground.

Spe·rmy, *a. rare*—1. [f. Sperm *sb.*] Resembling, of the nature of, sperm.

1657 S. Purchas *Pol. Flying-Ins.* 29 Into those orbicular cells is injected a spermy matter thick like cream.

† Spermyse. *Obs.* A kind of cheese.

1542 Boorde *Dyetary* xiii. (1870) 266 Spermyse is a chese the which is made with curdes and with the iuce of herbes. *Ibid.*, I knowynge the herbes,..coulde tell the operacyon of spermyse chese.

Spern, variant of Spurn *sb.*

‖ **Speronara** (spɛronā·rä). Forms: *α.* 8–9 **speronara,** 9 **-aro.** *β.* 8–9 **speronare.** *γ.* 8–9 **sparan-, sparonaro,** 9 **sparonara.** [It.] A large rowing and sailing boat used in southern Italy and Malta.

α. 1783 *Phil. Trans.* LXXIII. 175, I had a pleasant voyage in my Maltese Speronara (which are excellent boats, and the boatmen very skilful). 1838 H. G. Knight *Normans in Sicily* 135 The harbour only contains a few fishing-boats and speronaras. 1870 Disraeli *Lothair* lxxi. 378 The boat was what is called a *speronaro*; an open boat worked with oars, but with a lateen sail at the same time when the breeze served.

β. 1797 Holcroft tr. *Stolberg's Trav.* IV. xcii, We went on board a *speronare*. 1836 Marryat *Midsh. Easy* xviii, Let's get on board one of the speronares which come with fruit from Sicily. 1887 Gunter *Mr. Barnes* i. 6 A score or so of feluccas and speronares from Sardinia and Sicily.

γ. 1799 Nelson 22 May in Nicolas *Disp.* (1846) VII. p. clxxxiii, Neither of the two Sparanaroes..having joined, I cannot send this for Palermo. 1823 J. J. Blunt *Vestiges Anc. Manners Italy* ii. 33 A friend of mine who..had hired a sparonara to convey them from Naples to Rome. 1828 Duppa *Trav. Italy*, etc. 202 Here we quitted Sicily, and took a Sparanaro to visit Stromboli.

Sperow, obs. f. Sparrow. **Sperple,** var. Sparple *v. Obs.* **Sperr,** obs. var. Spar *sb.*1, *v.*1 **Sperrable,** obs. var. Sparable. **Sperre,** obs. var. Spar *sb.*1, *v.*1, Sphere, Spur.

† Spe·rring, *vbl. sb. Obs.*—1 (Meaning obscure.)

1340 *Ayenb.* 53 Þe ilke byeþ properliche glotounes þet al uorzuel3eþ, ase deþ þe kete of his sperringe.

Sperrowe, obs. form of Sparrow.

Sperse (spɑ̄rs), *v.* Now *arch.* Also 7 **spearse.** [Aphetic form of Disperse *v.*, prob. in part after It. *sperso*, pa. pple. of *spergere* to scatter.]

1. *trans.* To cause to scatter or disperse; to drive in different directions.

1580 Baret *Alv.* S. 93 That is spersed and scattered out of order. 1591 Spenser *Visions Bellay* viii, I saw the wrathfull winde..That sperst these cloudes. 1596 — *F. Q.* v. iii. 37 He..broke his sword in twaine, and all his armour sperst. 1603 Dekker *Wh. Babylon* (1607) K iv, Are those clowds sperst that stroue to dimme our light? 1614 Gorges *Lucan* II. 77 Rockes..like the sands are spearst abroad, Faster than hands can them vnload. 1642 H. More *Song of Soul* xlviii, What then shall hinder but a roscid air With gentle heat eachwhere be 'sperst and sprent.

1845 T. Cooper *Purg. Suicides* (1877) 122 Who, then, shall sperse the dark eternal mists? 1879 J. D. Long *Æneid* I. 80 Wreck their sinking boats, Or sperse and whelm their corses in the deep.

2. *intr.* To take different directions.

1819 W. Tennant *Papistry Storm'd* (1827) 125 They.. spers'd about in search o' beds.

Hence **Spersed** *ppl. a.*

1590 Spenser *F. Q.* I. i. 39 Making speedy way through spersed ayre. 1642 H. More *Song of Soul* II. App. 5 An inward triumph doth my soul up-heave And spread abroad through endlesse 'spersed air.

† Spert. *Obs.* Also 5–6 **sperte.** [OE. *sperte, spirte, spyrte*, ad. L. *sporta* basket.]

1. A basket used for holding articles or for catching fish.

c 975 *Rushw. Gosp.* Matt. xv. 37 þara ȝebroca [hie] ȝenomen siofun sperta fulle. *a* 1000 Ælfric *Hom.* II. 402 Spyrte bið..of rixum ȝebroden, oððe of palm-twyġum. *c* 1000 *Colloq. Ælfric* in Wr.-Wülcker 93 Hu ȝefehst þu fixas?.. Ic wyrpe..spyrtan and swa hwæt swa hiġ ȝehæftað ic ȝenime. 1406 in *Essex Rev.* (1904) April 74 [Putting] spertes [and other fish-catching devices into the lord's river].

2. A species of willow or osier.

1578 Lyte *Dodoens* 744 That which hath reddish barke, is called..in English Red Withy, and the better sort thereof is called Red Sperte. *Ibid.*, The small lowe Withy is called.. the Sperte or twigge Withy. 1611 Cotgr., *Siler*, the hearbe ..Hartwort; some also call Spert, or the Osier Withie, so.

Spert(e, varr. Spirt *sb. Obs.* **Spertle,** obs. var. Spirtle *v.* **Speruwe,** obs. f. Sparrow.

† Sperver. *Obs. rare.* In 4–5 **speruer, -vyr, spreuere.** [ad. OF. *espervier, esperver* (mod.F. *épervier*) and *esprevier* (obs. F. *éprevier*), = Prov. *esparvier*, It. *sparviere* (*-eri, -ero*), of Germanic origin (OHG. *sparwari, sperwere*, G. *sperber*).] A sparrow-hawk.

c 1330 *Arth. & Merl.* 5258 (Kölbing), And Agreuein tok þat destrer, & fleiȝe þer on so a speruer. 13.. *King Alis.* 183 (Laud MS.), A speruer þat was honest, So sat on þe lefdyes fyst. *a* 1400 *Octouian* 702 A stowt squyere.. bar vpon hys ryght hond gay A fayr spreuere.

† Sperviter. *Obs. rare.* In 5 **sper-, sparuiter** (**-uyter**). [ad. OF. **esperveteur, espreveteur*, f. *espervier*: see prec.] A keeper of sparrow-hawks.

1486 *Bk. St. Albans, Hawking* b v b, Tho that kepe Sperhawkys and muskettys ben called Speruiteris. *Ibid.* e viij b, The namys of a Spare hauke as Ostrigers and Sparuiters have determyned.

Sperwe, obs. f. Sparrow. **Spery,** obs. var. Spurrey. **Spery·call,** obs. f. Spherical. **Speryt,** obs. f. Spirit.

† Sperware. *Obs.* (Meaning obscure.)

1434 *Indenture Fotheringey* in Dugdale *Monast.* (1830) VI. iii. 1414/1 Til aither isle shall be a sperware enbattailement of free-stoon throwgh out, and both the ends enbattailled butting upon the stepill.

Spessartine (spe·sätin). *Min.* [ad. F. *spessartine* (Beudant, 1832), f. *Spessart* a hilly district in north-western Bavaria, where it is found: see -ine 5.] A species of manganese garnet.

1850 Ansted *Elem. Geol., Min.*, etc. 190 *Spessartine* is the name given to a deep red garnet in which protoxide of manganese replaces the lime of the usual formula, so that it becomes silicate of alumina and manganese. 1888 Rutley *Rock-Forming Min.* 112 Spessartine, or manganese-alumina garnet, occasionally exhibits a red, or yellowish-red colour.

So **Spe·ssartite.** [-ite 1 2 b.]

1887 in *Cassell's Encycl. Dict.* 1896 in Chester.

Spet, *sb.*1 Now *dial.* [f. Spet *v.*] The or an act of spitting; spit, spittle. Also *Comb.*

1446 Lydg. *Nightingale P.* I. 259 Hogh that the Iewes.. There all defouled with spet his blessed face. 1570 Levins *Manip.* 86 Spet or spetting, *sputum*. 1592 Nashe *P. Penilesse* Wks. (Grosart) II. 67 Would you..gesse it were possible for anie shame-swolne toad to haue the spet-proofe face to out liue this disgrace? *a* 1658 Lovelace *Lucasta, Posth.* 42 The speckl'd Toad..Defies his foe with a fell Spet. 1882 T. Hardy *Two on Tower* xxii, Well, when I found 'twas Sir Blount my spet dried up within me.

Spet, *sb.*2 *U.S.* [a. F. *spet*, = Sp. *espeto(n)*.] A species of barracuda, the *Sphyræna sphyræna* (*S. spet*) of Europe.

1896 D. S. Jordan & B. W. Evermann *Fishes N. & Mid. Amer.* I. 826 *Sphyræna sphyræna* (Linnæus). European Barracuda; Spet; Sennet.

Spet, *v.* Now *dial.* [Alteration of Spete *v.*, after pa. t. and pa. pple. *spet(te.*] To spit, in various senses; to expectorate. (Freq. *c* 1550–*c* 1630.)

a. *intr.*

c 1421 *26 Pol. Poems* 91 She spettes on me, and doþ me fyȝe. 1542 Udall *Erasm. Apoph.* 147 A certain saucy.. young spryngall..spetted even in the veraye face of hym. 1584 R. Scot *Discov. Witchcr.* xii. xviii. (1886) 219 Spet into the shoo of your right foote. 1617 Moryson *Itin.* III. 42 Their sumptuous Churches (in which it is a great trespasse so much as to spet). 1655 Culpepper, etc. *Riverius* VI. i. 130 They who have the Tooth-ach, do continually spet. 1867 H. J. Daniel *Muse in Motley* 43 He wud spet, Iss, spetty like a toad. 1881– in southern dial. glossaries.

fig. 1621 Bp. Hall *Heaven upon Earth* § 25 He that sits in heauen..bids his winds spet sometimes in thy face.

b. *trans.* Also const. *in, out, up.* Freq. *fig.*

1532 More *Confut. Barnes* Wks. 736/1 All hys deuelyshe lies which he spetteth and speweth oute vpon honest men. 1573 Baret *Alv.* s.v., To spette out his poyson: to speake the worste that he can. 1598 Marston *Pygmal., Sat.* ii. 152 Spett in thy poyson theyr fair acts among. 1634 Milton *Comus* 132 When the Dragon woom Of Stygian darknes spets her thickest gloom. 1639 O. Wood *Alph. Bk. Secrets* 87 [Let him] spet from him the rhewme in a Bason as often as he needeth. *Ibid.* 115 Then spet it forth. *Ibid.* 167 Spet out the rhewme as it comes. 1697 Dryden *Virg. Georg.* iv. 148 A thirsty Train That..spet from their dry Chaps the gather'd dust again. 1895 'Rosemary' *Chilterns* ii. 55 Don't tech it!—that ull spet pison if you do.

Hence **Spe·tter**; **Spe·tting** *vbl. sb.*

c 1460 *Vrbanitatis* 19 in *Babees Bk.*, Fro spettyng & snetyng kepe þe also. 1548 Elyot, *Excreatio*, a spettyng out. 1580 Hollyband *Treas. Fr. Tong, Cracheur*, a spetter. 1607 Topsell *Four-f. Beasts* 550 Those which are molested with corrupt and bloody spettings with retchings. 1648 Hexham II, *Een Spouwer*, a Spetter, or a Spuer. 1655 Culpepper, etc., *Riverius* VII. vi. 164 Usually the word Hœmoptysis doth signifie al manner of Spetting of blood.

Spet, obs. f. Spit *sb.*[1]; obs. or dial. pa. t. Spit *v.*[2]

Spetch (spetʃ), *sb.* Also 7 spech, 9 spitch. [Related to Speck *sb.*[2]]

1. A piece or strip of undressed leather, a trimming of hide, used in making glue or size.

1611 [see *spetch-grease* below]. 1624 *Naworth Househ. Bk.* (Surtees) 216 Glover's spech, iiij[d]. 16.. *Churchw. Acc. All Saints, York* Ibid., For glovers' spetches to maike syse to wase the wales, 10[d]. 1795 J. Phillips *Hist. Inland Nav.* Add. 40 For every pack or sheet of wool, dried pelts, or spetches, carried the whole length of the canal.., six-pence. 1815 *Pocklington Canal Act* 52 Dried pelts, spetches, and wool. 1858 Simmonds *Dict. Trade, Spetches*, a name for glue pieces; the offal of skin and hides. 1883 R. Haldane *Workshop Rec.* Ser. II. 300/2 The materials..in use for the manufacture of glue are the following:—(*a*) 'Wet' materials: sheep-pieces or 'spetches' from fellmongers.

attrib. and *Comb.* 1611 Cotgr., *Surpoinct*,..Spech grease; an oylie grease scummed from peeces of lickored leather sodden in water for that purpose. 1881 *Instr. Census Clerks* (1885) 166 Spitch Dealer (refuse of Hides).

2. *dial.* A piece or patch of leather, esp. one used for making or mending boots, clogs, etc.; also, a patch of cloth.

1828 Carr *Craven Gloss., Spetch*, a patch. 1853 'Tom Treddlehovle' *Bairnsla Ann.* 52 Ther [cobbler's] hause floor..is kept cuvard all ovver we leather spetches. 1863– in Cumbld. and Yks. dial. glossaries and texts.

Spetch, *v.* Now *north. dial.* [f. the sb. Cf. Speck *v.*[2]] *trans.* To patch, mend, or repair (shoes, clogs, etc.) with 'spetches'; to patch (a garment) with cloth.

16.. *York Corp. Min.* in *Naworth Househ. Bk.* (Surtees) 216 *note*, The said shomakers shall not in anywise spetche, clout, or coble any manner of bootes. 1828 Carr *Craven Gloss., Spetch*, to patch. 1862– in w.Yks. dial. glossaries and texts. 1873 Standing *Echoes* 13 It's all mendin' and spetchin'—scarce iver aught new: Thur's mi white weddin' shirt's to be patched op wi blue.

†Spete, *v.* *Obs.* Forms: *Inf.* 1 spætan, 3 speten, 4–5 spete. *Pa. t.* 1 spætte, 2–5 spette (4 spetide); 3–4 spatte, 4 spat. [OE. *spætan*, f. the stem **spæt-*: cf. Spattle *sb.*[1] and *v.*[1] The inf. and pres. forms disappeared in the 15th cent., and the pa. t. and pa. pple. came to be associated with Spit *v.*[1]] To spit; to expectorate: **a.** *intr.*

c 1000 *Ags. Gosp.* Mark x. 34 Hi him on spætað [*Hatton* spæteð]. *Ibid.* John ix. 6 Þa spætte [*Hatton* spette] he on þa eorþan. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 240 Þonne spet heo & scheked þet heaued. *a* 1250 *Owl & Night.* 39 Me luste bet speten þane singe Of þine fule howelynge. *c* 1275 *Passion our Lord* 272 in *O. E. Misc.*, Þe Gywes..Blyndfellede and spatten him on. *c* 1300 *Leben Jesu* (Horstm. 1873) 29 He..spatte a luyte on is fingur. 13.. *K. Alis.* 979 Tho thou spettest in my visage. 1382 Wyclif *Mark* vii. 33 He..spetinge towchide his tunge. 14.. in Wr.-Wülcker 610 *Screo*, to spete.

b. *trans.*

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 82 Þe þet swuch fulðe speteð ut [etc.]. 1398 Trevisa *Barth. De P. R.* v. xxxv. (Bodl. MS.), As it fareþ in ham þat spetynne bloode and quyture. *c* 1400 *Pilgr. Sowle* (Caxton, 1483) v. x. 101 He smote hym in the brest that he spette blood many dayes after.

Hence † **Spe·ting** *vbl. sb. Obs.*

1388 Wyclif *Lev.* xv. 8 If sich a man castith out spetyng on hym, *a* 1400 *Stockholm Med. MS.* i. 302 in *Anglia* XVIII. 302 It schal drywyn owte all þe peyne Withowte gret spetynge or oþer peyne.

Spete, obs. form of Spit *sb.*[1] and *v.*[2]

† Spetewil, *a. Obs. rare,* (Of uncertain origin and meaning.) Hence † **Spetewiliche** *adv.*

a 1200 *St. Marher.* 9 Of hir spetewile muð sperklede fur ut. *Ibid.* 12 Hwil þet ha spec þus o þet spatewile wiht. *Ibid.* 15 He bigon þus spetewetliche [? *read* spetewiliche] to speokene.

† Spetia. *Obs. rare.* Also 7 spetya. [? a. It. *spezia* specie.] Actual coin or money, = Specie 6.

1620 in Foster *Eng. Factories India* (1906) I. 195 Theye bringe hether either redy spetya or exchanges. 1622 *Ibid.* (1908) II. 43 Mr. Younge with upwards of 5,000 ruppees in ready spetia..departed for Lahore.

Spetious, obs. form of Specious *a.* **Spetos, Spetous(e, -ly, Spetows(le,** varr. Spitous, -ly *Obs.* **Spet(te,** obs. pres. t. Speed *v.*; obs. ff. Spit *sb.*[1]; see Spit *v.*[2] **Spettell,** obs. f. Spettle, Spital. **Spetter, Spetting**: see Spet *v.*

† Spettle. *Obs.* Forms: 5 spetil, 6 spettill, spettyl, 7 -ell; 6–7 spetle, spettle. [repr. OE. *spǽtl* var. of *spátl* Spattle *sb.*[1], or modification of *spattle* after Spete *v.* and Spet *v.* Cf. Spittle *sb.*] Spittle, spit. (Freq. *c* 1575–1650.)

1422 tr. *Secreta Secret., Priv. Priv.* 240 Sutil and thyn spetil that descendyth or comyth doune fro the Palete of the mouth. *c* 1520 M. Nisbet *John* ix. 6 He spittit into the erd, and made clay of the spettill [1535 *Coverd.* spetle]. 1584 R. Scot *Discov. Witchcr.* II. vi. (1886) 22 She will put spettle privilie upon hir cheeks, and seeme to weepe. 1608 Sylvester *Du Bartas* II. iv. IV. *Decay* 617 Hee spets at Heav'n, And his owne spettle in his face is driven. 1650 Bulwer *Anthropomet.* (1653) A iij b, Thy Cheeks on each side bored through appeare; Thorough whose holes (the slavering spetles vent) The Teeth [etc.]. 1693 Dryden *Persius* I. 210 No Blood, from bitten Nails, those Poems drew; But churn'd, like Spettle, from the Lips they flew.

transf. 1555 Eden *Decades* (Arb.) 294 The swette of heauen or as it were a certeyne spettyl of the starres.

† Spe·ttly, *a. Obs. rare.* In 6 spettelly, 7 -ely. [f. prec. Cf. Spittly *a.*] Spittle-like.

1578 Banister *Hist. Man* v. 69 The Glandules..imbrue and washe it [the ventricle] with a certaine spettelly humor. 1634 T. Johnson *Parey's Wks.* VI. xii. (1678) 129 Glandules ..which like sponges suck and receive..a waterish and spettely humour.

Spettylle, obs. form of Spital.

Spetuously, variant of Spitously *Obs.*

† Speu·stic, *a. Obs.*—[0] [ad. L. *speustic-us* (Pliny), ad. Gr. σπευστικός.] (See quot.)

1656 Blount *Glossogr.*, *Speustick*, made in haste or quickly, made and baked on the sudden. [So in Phillips.]

Spew (spiū), *sb.* Also 7–9 spue. [f. the vb.]

1. That which is spewed or cast up from the stomach; vomited matter; vomit. Also *fig.* or in fig. context.

1609 Markham *Famous Wh.* (1868) 32 Thus to mine old trade, and spew of hell, Onely for gaine, agen I basely fell. 1642 H. More *Song of Soul* I. iii. 29 That foul spue Which the false Dragon casts in every coast. 1660 Milton *Free Commw.* Wks. 1851 V. 445 The Language of thir infernal Pamphlets, the Spue of every Drunkard, every Ribald. 1705 Swift *Salamander* 66 Wks. 1841 I. 607 She soon would find the same effects, Her tainted carcase to pursue, As from the salamander's spew. 1739 R. Bull tr. *Dedekindus' Grobianus* 266 'Twas nothing but his Due, Instead of Laurel to be crown'd with Spue. 1817 Jas. Mill *Brit. India* I. II. iv. 159 Throwing upon another from the navel downwards to his foot, spue, or urine, or ordure.

b. *techn.* (See quot.)

1893 *Labour Commission* Gloss. No. 9, *Spew-out*, the emanation similar to treacle of the glucose from the uppers or leather when kept for a time.

2. *dial.* The fourth swarm of bees in a season.

1750 W. Ellis *Mod. Husbandm.* IV. I. 182 The swarm is the first and greatest number, the cast is the next greatest, the colt the next, and the spew the least of all. *Ibid.* II. 115. 1854 in Miss Baker *Northampt. Gloss.*

3. *dial.* A wet, marshy piece of ground; a place in a field, etc., where water oozes up.

1794 P. Foot *Agric. Midl.* 45 (E.D.D.), The water.. appears at the foot or in the middle of a declivity, and causes a spew, a squall, or boggy piece of ground. 1868 R. W. Huntley *Gloss. Cotswold* (*Glouc.*) *Dial., Spew*, a spungy piece of ground. 1871 Kingsley *At Last* viii, The little pitch wells—'spues' or 'galls', as we should call them in Hampshire.

Spew (spiū), *v.* Forms: *a.* 1 spiwan, spywan, spiowan, speowan, 3 speowen; 3– spew, 4–6 spewe, 5 spyw-, 6 speew, speawe. *β.* 4–9 spue (5 spuwe, spw-). [Two OE. forms are here represented: (1) the strong verb *spíwan, spýwan* (pa. t. *spáw*, pl. *spiwon*), = OFris. *spia, spiga* (WFris. *spije*, EFris. *spî*, NFris. *spi, spei, spai*), OS. *spîwan* (MLG. *spîen, spîgen, spiggen*), OHG. *spîwan* (MHG. *spîwen, spîen*, G. *speien*), ON. and Icel. *spýja* (Norw., Sw., Da. *spy*), Goth. *speiwan*; (2) the weak verb *spéowan, spíowan* (pa. t. *spéowde, spíowde*). The strong forms barely survived beyond OE. The Continental languages also show a tendency to adopt weak forms, and exhibit various irregular modifications of the stem, which is found outside of Teutonic in L. *spuĕre*, Gr. πτύειν, Lith. *spiauti*, etc.]

1. *intr.* To bring up and discharge the contents of the stomach through the mouth; to vomit. Not now in polite use.

Also in OE., to spit, to discharge spittle or blood.

a. c 897 K. Ælfred *Gregory's Past. C.* v. 45 Gif hire ðonne se wiðsace, ðonne is cynn ðæt him spiwe ðæt wif on ðæt nebb. *c* 1000 Ælfric *Saints' Lives* xii. 163 Swa þæt he bið þam hunde gelic þe spywð, and eft ytt þæt þæt he ær aspaw. *c* 1100 *O. E. Chron.* (MS. F) an. 1003, Ða gebræde he hine to spiwenne & cwæd ðæt he seoc wære. *a* 1225 *Juliana* 49 Hare ahne blod ich habbe ofte imaket ham to spitten & to speowen. *c* 1340 *Nominale* (Skeat) 344 *Homme vomyte pur surfet*, [Man] spewith for ouer mykul. *c* 1386 Chaucer *Melib.* P 451 If thou ete of it out of mesure, thou shalt spewe. *c* 1400 tr. *Secreta Secret., Gov. Lordsh.* 71 Þe medicyn ys þys, to drynke cler watir with a sope of vynegre, and spewe. 1530 Palsgr. 728 This felowe is so lothsome that he wolde make one spewe. 1570 Levins *Manip.* 214 To speawe, *spuere, vomere.* 1570 Googe *Pop. Kingd.* IV. 56 He..holdes their heades that speewing lie. 1607 Middleton *Fam. Love* IV. iii. 93, I will..send him packing, or else he will spew or do worse before me. 1647 Trapp *Marrow Gd. Authors* in *Comm. Ep.* 687 Such as should make a Christian spew to think on them. 1739 R. Bull tr. *Dedekindus' Grobianus* 42 There, unabash'd, heroically, spew. 1783 Gibbon *Misc. Wks.* (1814) II. 327, I had not the least symptom of sea-sickness, while my companions were spewing round me. 1809 Byron *Lines to Mr. Hodgson* iii, Passengers their berths are clapt in, Some to grumble, some to spew. 1888– in dial. glossaries and texts (Som., Norf., Lanc., Yks., Durh., etc.).

transf. 1731 Pope *Ep. Burlington* 154 The rich Buffet well-colour'd serpents grace, And gaping Tritons spew to wash your face.

β. a 1400 Trevisa *Higden* (Rolls) VII. 503 Edricus a fals traytor, feyned for to spuwe, and seide that he was seke. *c* 1460 *Towneley Myst.* xxiv. 82, I spuyd and spyt right in his face. 1509 Barclay *Shyp of Folys* (1570) 33 Some spue, some stacker, some vtterly are lame. 1530 Palsgr. 730/2, I spue, I gyve over my gorge, *je gomys.* 1633 P. Fletcher *Purple Isl.* VII. lxxvii, All drink to spue, and spue again to drink. 1706 J. H. Browne *Pipe of Tobacco* Poems (1768) 123 A pot wherein to spit or spue. 1877 in *Holderness Gloss.*

fig. 1586 T. B. *La Primaud. Fr. Acad.* I. 365 Lysander,.. being reviled with many bitter speeches, said to him that offered the injurie: Spue out boldly, my friend; spue out.. and spare not.

† b. *trans.* To bespew or bespit. *Obs.*

1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 97 b, He was illuded & scorned with garmentes of irrisyon, spewed in yᵉ face.

2. *trans.* To bring up (food or drink) from the stomach and eject through the mouth; to cast up or vomit; to cast out, throw forth, or discharge (blood, poison, etc.) from the mouth. Also in fig. context.

In OE. the object is sometimes in the dative.

971 *Blickl. Hom.* 57 Ne þæt to nahte nyt ne biþ þæt man godne mete ete oþþe þæt betste win..drince, ȝif..he hit eft spiwende anforlæteþ. *a* 1000 *Juliana* 476 (Gr.), Eac ic sume ȝedyde, þæt him banlocan blode spiowedan. *c* 1000 Ælfric *Saints' Lives* xii. 63 He feoll þa æt ðære forman snæde underbecc ȝeswozen, and spaw blod. *c* 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 199 [þe] neddre..speweð hire atter. *c* 1220 *Bestiary* 139 in *O. E. Misc.*, Oc he speweð or al ðe uenim ðat in his brest is bred. *c* 1300 *Havelok* 1819 þe fifte..Gaf he a ful sor dint ok, Bitwen þe sholdres,..þat he speu [*printed* spen] his herte blod. 1387 Trevisa *Higden* (Rolls) IV. 439 Men ete..filþe þat men hadde y-spewed [*v. r.* yspuwed] and i-cast up. *c* 1400 *Lanfranc's Cirurg.* 118 Or ellis he spewiþ [*v.r.* spyweþ] his mete, or he feliþ to gret akþe in þe heed. 1500–20 Dunbar *Poems* xxvii. 59 He about the Devillis nek *Did* spew agane ane quart of blek. 1590 Spenser *F. Q.* I. i. 20 Therewith she spewd out of her filthy maw A flood of poyson. 1611 Sir W. Mure *Wks.* (S.T.S.) I. 6 Ane spytfull spidar, ewer spewing Ye poysonous potioune of late rewing. 1697 Dryden *Virg. Georg.* III. 772 The Steer..dying spews a Flood Of foamy Madness, mix'd with clotted Blood. 1815 G. Beattie *John o' Arnha'* (1826) 39 Dæmons, dragons, spectres dire, Spewin' reek, an' riftin' fire.

b. Const. with advs., as *forth, out, up.*

a 900 *O. E. Martyrol.* 23 Mar., He spaw his innoð ut þurh his muð. *c* 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 37 þe fule man þe foleȝeð his wombes wil..and þe est metes and drinkes ut speweð. *a* 1240 *Sawles Warde* in *O. E. Hom.* I. 251 Iteilede draken ..forswolheð ham ihal, ant speoweð ham eft ut binoren ant bihinden. 1388 Wyclif *Job* xx. 15 He schal spue out the richessis, whiche he deuourride. 1632 Lithgow *Trav.* III. 92 Their Musicke in the end was sound drunkennesse, and their Syncopa turnd to spew vp all. 1655 Mouffet & Bennet *Health's Improv.* (1746) 239 If you shift them into fresh Water or Brine..they will open themselves, and spue out all their Gravel and Filthiness. 1683 N. O. *Boileau's Lutrin* II. 172 Thou look'st as if first eaten, and then spew'd up. 1855 Singleton *Virgil* II. 247 But he..from his jaws prodigious smoke..spews forth.

fig. a 1618 Raleigh *Instr. to Son* (1651) ix. 27, I thought at the last, quoth Diogenes, he would spue out a whole house. 1639 S. Du Verger tr. *Camus' Admir. Events* 214 Thus they left him in that place, spewing out his soule with his bloud.

c. Freq. in fig. use with reference to abusive or objectionable language. Chiefly const. with advs., as *forth, out, up.* (Freq. *c* 1550–1600.)

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 86 Þe uorme [backbiter] cumeð al openliche, & seið vuel bi anoðer, & speoweð ut his atter. 1532 [see Spet *v.* b]. 1535 Joye *Apol. Tindale* (Arb.) 39 [He] hathe spewed forthe al his venome and poyson at onee vpon me. 1576 Fleming *Panopl. Epist.* 114 But why should they spue against me their spiteful stomaches? 1628 Wither *Brit. Rememb.* II. 171, I doe not grudge mine enemies to spue Their slanders on my name. 1632 Lithgow *Trav.* X. 472 My sonne, beholde you deserue to be burnt quicke..: Spewing forth also this Fæminine Latine [etc.]. *a* 1704 T. Brown *Amusem. Ser. & Com., Lond.* Wks. 1709 III. I. 17 There is an Evidence ready to spue up his false Oaths at the sight of the common Executioner. 1718 T. Gordon *Dedic. to Gt. Man* 20 Why must prating Oafs..be for ever suffer'd, without Rebuke, to be spewing up their ill-scented Crudities in the Faces of Men that are either Wise or Brave? 1877 Dowden *Shaks. Primer* V. 53 Thersites spews over everything that we had deemed high and sacred, his foul..insults.

3. To cast *out* († or *up*), to eject or reject, with abhorrence, contempt, or loathing. Also const. *out of* or *forth* (a place). (Freq. *c* 1600.)

(*a*) 1388 Wyclif *Lev.* xviii. 25 Of which lond Y schal vysyte the grete synnes, that it spewe out hise dwellers. 1526 Tindale *Rev.* iii. 16 Because thou arte..nether colde ner hott, I will spew the oute of my mought. 1583 Stubbes *Anat. Abus.* (1877) 105 It will spue out many of his Maisters out of dores before it be long. 1601 Bacon *Decl. Treas. E. of Essex* Wks. 1879 I. 433 He was thus justly spewed out of the realm. *a* 1652 Brome *Novella* V. i, I shall take for your disgrace an order Shall spue you forth the City. 1692 Ray *Disc.* III. xii. (1732) 421 Heaven would naturally spue out and eject a wicked Person. 1729 W. Flower *Let. Swift* S.'s Wks. 1841 II. 624 Bad men..should be spewed out of it with the utmost contempt. 1849 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* vii. II. 231 William..would have been pronounced by..bigots on both sides a mere Laodicean,..and fit only to be spewed out.

4. To eject, cast or throw out or up, as if by vomiting. (Freq. in the 17th c.).

1598 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. ii. IV. *Columnes* 224 A Bullet spewd from Brazen Brest. 1613 DRAYTON *Man in the Moone* 240 Others [*sc.* shell-fish] agayn wide open that did yawn, And on the grauell spew'd their orient spawn. 1676 GREW *Museum, Anat. Stomach & Guts* (1681) vii. 29 The glands of the Guts are likewise of great Use. The Mucus which they spew, serves to make the Guts slippery. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* I. 176 When Earth with Slime and Mud is cover'd o'er, Or hollow Places spue their wat'ry Store. 1707 MORTIMER *Husb.* (1721) II. 120 The Frosts are apt to spew them out of the Ground. 1710 T. FULLER *Pharm. Extemp.* 250 It is useful to..hinder the Lympha's being plentifully spewed out of the Glands.

b. Const. *forth, out, up.*

1610 G. FLETCHER *Christ's Vict.* I. xxii, And, least their pleasant gods should want delight, Neptune spues out the Lady Aphrodite. 1664 EVELYN *Sylva* (1679) 10 Your plants beginning now to peep, should be earthed up,..especially, after breaking of the greater Frosts, and when the swelling mould is apt to spue them forth. 1678 BUNYAN *Pilgr.* I. 13 At such time as this place doth spue out its filth. 1727 EARBERY tr. *Burnet's St. Dead* 127 The Sepulchres open'd their marble Jaws, and spew'd out their Dead. 1855 SINGLETON *Virgil* I. 138 If no high Mansion..Of morning visitants a mighty tide Spews forth from all its halls.

c. *spec.* To eject by volcanic action.

1594 GREENE & LODGE *Looking Gl.* 1382 G.'s Wks. (Grosart) XIV. 62 The hill of Sicely..spues out from below The smoakie brands that Vulcans bellowes driue. 1685 BURNET *Trav.* (1687) II. iv. 27 What can be the fuel of so lasting a burning, that hath calcined so much matter, and spewed out such prodigious quantities. 1690 — *Theory Earth* II. 86 When the bowels of the earth begin to melt, and the mountains spew out streams of liquid fire. 1717 BERKELEY *Jrnl. Tour Italy* Wks. 1871 IV. 589 It is pretended that in [the year] 31 hot waters were spewed out of the crater. 1847 C. BRONTE *Jane Eyre* xx, A crater-crust which may crack and spue fire any day.

5. *techn.* **a.** To force or cause to ooze out by undue strain or pressure; *spec.* in *Naut.* use (see quot. 1863).

1570–1 *Admiralty Crt. Exam.* 18, 17 Feb., Havinge her okam spewed owte. 1630 *Ibid.* 49, 26 Aug., [A leaky ship] spewed the ocum out of her seames. 1663 GERBIER *Counsel* 28 That which is thin, will cause the work to settle more in one place then in the other, and the joynts to spue out the Morter. 1863 A. YOUNG *Naut. Dict.* 365 A vessel is said to spue the oakum when her straining and labouring at sea forces the oakum out of the seams of her planks.

†**b.** Of a gun: To throw out or drop (powder) instead of consuming it. *Obs.*—1

a 1642 Sir W. MONSON *Naval Tracts* III. (1704) 344/1 The shorter Piece will spue her Powder.

6. *intr.* Of water, liquids, etc.: To flow, pour, or run in a more or less copious stream; to ooze or be forced *out* or *up*. Usually const. with adverbs or preps. Now chiefly *dial.*

1670 J. SMITH *Eng. Improv. Reviv'd* 38 Being full of Land-springs (which is Water running within the Earth, and shews it self, or is discovered by breaking out, or spewing up in many places). 1675 WORLIDGE *Syst. Agric.* vii. § 10 (ed. 2) 123 The Sap or Gum will also spew out in that place. 1695 WOODWARD *Nat. Hist. Earth* III. (1723) 152 It [water] spues out of Chasmes, opened by the Earthquake, in great Abundance. 1717 BERKELEY in Fraser *Life* (1871) iii. 79 This stuff would sometimes spew over and run down the convex side of the conical hill. 1784 CULLUM *Hist. Hawsted & Hardwick* iii. 171 *Sand-Galls*, spots of sand in a field where water oozes, or, as we say, spews up. 1843 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* IV. I. 40 The gravel..causes the land-springs to rise and spew out upon the surface. 1892 STEVENSON & L. OSBOURNE *Wrecker* 339 Avalanches of clay, rock, and uprooted forest spewed over the cliffs and fell upon the beach.

b. Of ground: To swell through excess of moisture; to slip or run when left unsupported.

1839 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* II. 27/1 Stratford marshes, where the ground for a depth of eight feet is inclined to 'spew up'. 1860 WORCESTER, *Spew*, v.n., to swell, as wet land affected by frost, so as to throw seed out of the ground; as, 'The ground spews'. 1876 ROBINSON *Mid-Yks. Gloss.* s.v., In constructing a 'sike' for the drainage of land, gravelly earth will often break edge, and spew.

c. *Artill.* (See quot.) *rare*—0.

1842 BURN *Nav. & Milit. Techn. Dict.* I, *Saigner du nez*, to spew, run at the mouth; applied to a gun when, from too quick a fire, it bends at the chase, or the muzzle droops.

7. Of bees: To swarm for the fourth time in one season.

1750 W. ELLIS *Mod. Husbandm.* IV. II. 115 Bees will sometimes (but rarely) swarm, cast, colt, and spew, from one and the same old stock of Bees in one Summer.

Hence **Spewed** *ppl. a.*; **Spew'er.**

c 1000 ÆLFRIC *Gloss.* in Wr.-Wülcker 108 *Uomex, uel uomens*, spiwere. 1606 HOLYOKE *Rider's Dict.* I, *Vomitor*, a spewer, or parbreaker. 1633 P. FLETCHER *Purple Isl.* VII. lxxvii, Insatiate sink, how with so generall stain Thy spu'd-out puddles court, town, fields entice! 1648 HEXHAM II, *Een Braker*, a Vomiter, or Spewer. *Ibid.*, *Een Spouwer*, a Spetter or a Spuer. 1883 *Almondbury & Huddersf. Gloss.*, *Spuers*, squibs; serpents; a kind of fireworks.

Spewiness (spiū·inès). [f. SPEWY *a.*] *Agric.* Spewy, boggy, or undrained condition (of land).

1653 GAUDEN *Hierasp.* 551 These..would in time bear store of good fruits; if the coldnesse and spewinesse of the soil..did not make them dwindle. 1762 *Tull's Horse-Hoeing Husb.* (ed. 4) xvi. 246 The most prejudiced Farmers agree, that keeping the Lands or Ridges of wet Ground always cross the Descent doth cure its Spewiness.

Spewing (spiū·iŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. SPEW *v.* + -ING 1.]

1. The action of the verb in various senses; vomiting; an instance or occasion of this.

a 1000 in Wr.-Wülcker 230 *Euomatio*, speowung. *c* 1000 ÆLFRIC *Gloss.* Ibid. 162 *Euomitio*, spiwingc. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) IV. 393 Also he usede ofte clistories and spuynge. 1398 — *Barth. De P. R.* XIII. xxi. (Bodl. MS.), Þe see..bredeþ drede and feere & heedeache and spuying. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 471/1 Spwynge, or brakynge (or parbrakynge), *vomitus*. 1500 *Ortus Vocab., Ructus i. vomitus, angl.* a spwynge. 1535 COVERDALE *Hab.* ii. 16 For the cuppe of the Lordes righte honde shall compasse the aboute, and shamefull spewinge in steade of thy worshipe. 1657 H. CROWCH *Welsh Traveller* 4 Then to spewing did her [=she] fall. 1686 J. DUNTON *Lett. fr. New-Eng.* (1867) 23 As often as I view'd the Ocean, or durst peep out of my Cabin, to order Palmer to assist me in my Spewing. 1842 BURN *Naval & Mil. Techn. Dict.* I, *Egueulement*, elliptical enlargement of the bore, called running or spewing at the muzzle, of a gun, occasioned by quick and long continued firing. 1883 *Athenæum* 4 Aug. 146/3 The 'spueing' of the sloppy ink over the edges of the letters.

b. *attrib.*, as *spewing-fit*, †*-nut* (see quot.).

1586 LUPTON *1000 Notable Things* (1675) 121 The pouder of Nux Vomica called the Spuing Nut. *a* 1704 T. BROWN *Walk round Lond., Quaker's Meet.* Wks. 1709 III. iii. 21 When the Spewing-fit is over, he'll sit down to take a Nod.

2. Matter spewed out or vomited; spew.

c 1380 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* II. 330 Houndis..þat after þe tyme þat þei have spued þei turnen aʒen and eeten þe spuynge. 1388 — *Isaiah* xxviii. 8 Alle bordis weren fillid with spuyng and filthis. 1553 BECON *Reliques of Rome* (1563) 226 If a man by any chaunce of glotony, do spue out yᵉ sacrement, the same spuyng must be brent. 1880 *Antrim & Down Gloss.* 98 *Spuans*, what is vomited.

Spew·ing, *ppl. a.* [f. as prec.]

1. That spews, in senses of the vb.

1388 WYCLIF *Isaiah* xix. 14 A drunkun man and spuynge. 1560 ROLLAND *Seven Sages* 97 Thow poysonit spewand spout. 1605 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. iii. I. 1306 Earth's exhalations hot Are spewing Ætnas that to Heav'n aspire. 1648 J. BEAUMONT *Psyche* XVIII. clxi, That Simon he outspit in Heresy, And higher than his spewing Father flew. 1856 *Deil's Hallowe'en* 16 (E.D.D.), Some dreepit a' wi' spewin' sairs.

2. *Agric.* Of ground: Characterized by the oozing out of moisture; excessively wet; spewy. Freq. in the 17th c.; now *rare* or *Obs.*

1610 W. FOLKINGHAM *Art of Survey* I. x, 24 Spewing grounds ouer-soaked with sower moisture are well releeued by being sowne with Oates. 1634 W. WOOD *New Eng. Prosp.* (1865) 11 The Soyle is for the generall a warme kinde of earth, there being little cold-spewing land. 1664 EVELYN *Sylva* xvii. 36 In moist, and boggy places they will flourish wonderfully, so the ground be not spewing. *a* 1722 LISLE *Husb.* (1757) 11 Chalk is healing, and therefore proper for clay, cold, and spewing grounds.

3. Issuing as if spewed out.

1616 SURFL. & MARKH. *Country Farme* V. x. 540 These Oxen are fittest for those soyles which are tough and firme, without anie spewing moisture in them. 1675 EVELYN *Philos. Disc. Earth* (1676) 86 Cutting your Furrow..about a foot beneath the spewing water. 1786 BURNS *Vision* iii, The spewing reek That fill'd, wi' hoast-provoking smeek, The auld, clay biggin.

Spewy (spiū·i), *a.* Also 7–8 spewey. [f. SPEW *v.*[1] + -Y.]

1. Of ground: Tending to excessive wetness; from which water rises or oozes out. Chiefly *Agric.*

1669 WORLIDGE *Syst. Agric.* iii. § 3. 22 Where the ground is moist, cold, clay, spewy, rushy or mossie. 1721 MORTIMER *Husb.* (ed. 3) I. 110 The place was cover'd with a scurf of wet spewy Earth about a Foot thick. 1733 TULL *Horse-Hoeing Husb.* xviii. 251 Hills are made wet and spewy by the Rain-water which falls thereon, and soaks into them as into other Land. 1821 COBBETT *Rural Rides* (1853) 49 A nasty spewy black gravel on the top of a sour clay. 1849 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* X. II. 437 The wet 'spewy' pastures of the Cotswold Hills. 1879 MISS BRADDON *Vixen* XXVII, They..splashed through a good deal of spewy ground.

b. *transf.* Of literary style: Sloppy, slovenly.

1829 [H. BEST] *Personal & Lit. Mem.* 171 The main cause of the puffy, spungy, spewy, washy style that prevails at the present day.

2. Frothy, effervescent. *rare*—1.

1743 *Lond. & Country Brew.* IV. (ed. 2) 279 Whereby any such spewy, creamy Head or Ferments, is entirely kept off.

Spey, obs. f. SPAY *v.* **Speyr(e,** varr. SPEIR *Obs.*; obs. forms of SPEAR *sb.*[1], SPEER, SPHERE *sb.*

†**Speys.** *Obs. rare.* Also speyes. [ad. OF. *espeisse* (*espesse, espoisse*), f. *espeis* (F. *épais*) thick.] A thick or dense part of a wood.

In quots. perh. taken as a plural form.

c 1410 *Master of Game* (MS. Digby 182) XXX, Howe an hunter shall quest amonge clere speys and amonge hy trees. *Ibid.*, Þei abyde amonge clere speyes and in hye wodes. *Ibid.* XXXIII, If it be in thyk speys, bowes or braunches broken as þe dere hath walked, he sholde saye lowde: sy va.

†**Sphacel.** *Obs. rare.* [a. older F. *sphacel* (1554), *sphacele* (mod.F. *sphacèle*), ad. med.L. *sphacelus.*] = SPHACELUS.

1634 T. JOHNSON *Parey's Wks.* IX. XV. 335 It [doting] happens..from a Gangreen or Sphacel. *Ibid.* X. XX. 371 There sometimes followes a corruption and Sphacell of the fractured bones of the scull upon wounds of the head. [1849 in CRAIG.]

†**Spha·celate,** *a. Obs. rare.* [ad. med. or mod.L. *sphacelātus*: see next and cf. F. *sphacélé*, Sp. *esfacelado.*] Sphacelated.

1634 T. JOHNSON *Parey's Wks.* XXVI. XXXI. 1064 Exhalations, lifted or raised up from any part which is gangrenate or sphacelate. 1785 MARTYN *Lett. Bot.* XXVI. 392 Having a cylindric .. calyx with the scales sphacelate or seeming mortified at top.

Sphacelate (sfæ·sĭleⁱt), *v. Path.* [f. med. or mod.L. *sphacelāt-*, stem of *sphacelāre*, f. *sphacelus* SPHACELUS. Cf. F. *sphacéler* (16th cent.).]

1. *trans.* To affect with sphacelus; to cause to gangrene or mortify.

1653 URQUHART *Rabelais* I. XXVII, To some others he spoiled the frame of their kidneys, marred their backs,.. sphacelated their shins. 1663 BOYLE *Usef. Exp. Nat. Philos.* II. ii. 38 The inside of the abdomen looked as well neer black, as if it had been sphacelated. 1676 WISEMAN *Surg. Treat.* V. ix. 383 For the most part, the long retention of Matter sp[h]acelates the Brain.

2. *intr.* To become gangrenous or mortified.

1684 tr. *Bonet's Merc. Compit.* XIV. 474 They render their Patients..lame of their Fingers ends, because the Bones do sphacelate. 1707 SLOANE *Jamaica* I. p. cxlvi, It sphacelated more and more and..he died. 1764 *Phil. Trans.* LIV. 242 The lungs..were..here and there upon their surface beginning to sphacelate. 1829 COOPER *Good's Study Med.* (ed. 3) III. 470 Sometimes the whole aneurismal swelling suddenly inflames, and sphacelates. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 824 The tumour..then sphacelates and drops off.

Hence **Spha·celating** *ppl. a.*

1799 KENTISH in Beddoes *Contrib. Phys. & Med. Knowl.* (1799) 266 The same sphacelating tendency. 1822–7 GOOD *Study Med.* (1829) III. 491 It often alternated from a sphacelating to an erysipelatous inflammation.

Spha·celated, *ppl. a.* [f. prec. + -ED.]

1. *Path.* Mortified, gangrened.

attrib. 1612 WOODALL *Surg. Mate* Wks. (1653) 387 They used to take off the Sphacelated member. 1738 *Phil. Trans.* XL. 9 A separation of the sphacelated stuff. 1783 BENTLEY in *Med. Comm.* I. 258 The sphacelated parts were dressed. 1800 *Med. Jrnl.* IV. 167 The greater portion of the surface ..was in a sphacelated state. 1877 F. T. ROBERTS *Handbk. Med.* (ed. 3) I. 393 The sphacelated portion is expelled.

pred. 1668 CULPEPPER & COLE *Barthol. Anat.* 374 The lower part of the Arm was gangrenated and sphacelated. 1712 *Phil. Trans.* XXVII. 513 The Liver was intirely sphacelated. 1782 W. HEBERDEN *Comment.* XVI. (1806) 85 The pelvis was sphacelated. 1859 SEMPLE *Diphtheria* 11 All the soft parts..appeared deeply sphacelated.

2. *Bot.* Withered, dead.

1806 J. GALPINE *Brit. Bot.* 409 [Leaves] somewhat sphacelated at the apex. 1821 W. P. C. BARTON *Flora N. Amer.* I. 125 Root..invested at the bottom and upper part with a sphacelated, brownish-black tunic.

Sphacelation (sfæsĭlā·ʃən). *Path.* [f. SPHACELATE *v.*] The fact or process of becoming mortified; the formation of a sphacelus.

1657 *Physical Dict.*, *Sphacelus*, deadness of any part. *Sphacelation*, the same as before. 1665 BOYLE *New Exper. Cold* vi. 204 The Gangrænes and Sphacelations that often rob living men of frozen Toes. 1718 QUINCY *Compl. Disp.* 138 The Insensibility which sometimes the Opium induces, so as to endanger a Sphacelation. 1771 D. LYSONS *Ess. Camphire* 10 Against such violent internal inflammations as are productive of sphacelation. 1826 S. COOPER *First Lines Surg.* (ed. 5) 44 Both during the extension of the disorder, and..when the sphacelation has stopped. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* IV. 128 The mass of ulceration and sphacelation in which..the vessels are often involved.

‖ **Sphacelia** (sfæsī·liă). *Bot.* [mod.L., f. *sphacelus* SPHACELUS, with reference to its effects when eaten.] The first stage of the fungus which produces ergot in rye. Also *attrib.*

1879 *Encycl. Brit.* IX. 834/2 The ascospores, on germinating,..give rise again to the sphacelia, which closes the cycle. 1880 BESSEY *Botany* 289 In this stage, which is called the Sphacelia stage, it produces a multitude of conidia. 1882 VINES tr. *Sachs's Bot.* 317 The conidia can germinate at once and immediately again detach conidia, which..again produce a sphacelia in other Grasses.

Sphaceli·nic, *a. Chem.* [f. prec. or SPHACELUS.] *Sphacelinic* (or *Sphacelic*) *acid*: (see quot.).

1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* II. 797 Kolert tells us that ergot contains two poisons; sphacelinic acid, which provokes the gangrene; and cornutine.

Spha·celism. *rare.* [ad. F. *sphacélisme* or mod. L. *sphacelismus* (Gr. σφακελισμός).] (See quot.)

1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.*, *Sphaselism*, an ulcer eating in the brain.

Sphacelous (sfæ·sĭləs), *a. Path.* [f. SPHACEL-US + -OUS.] Gangrenous, necrotic.

1682 *Phil. Trans.* XIII. 93 Large and corrupted spleens, sphacelous and corroded tongues. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Sphacelus*, A Sphacelous Foot..ought to be cut off in the mortified Part, near the live Part. 1824 *Ann. Reg.* 157 The right foot and the lower part of the leg..was sphacelous.

‖ **Sphacelus** (sfæ·sĭlŏs). *Path.* Also 6 sphacilus. [med. or mod.L., ad. Gr. σφάκελος gangrene, etc. Cf. It. *sfacelo*, Sp. and Pg. *esfacelo*, F. *sphacèle* SPHACEL.]

1. Necrosis, mortification; an instance of this.

1575 BANISTER *Chyrurg.* III. (1585) 488 If the malice of this ulcer..fall a creeping, it turneth to Sphacilus. 1600 SURFLET *Countrie Farme* II. xlii. 256 The flying fire, the ringworme, the leprosie, the Gangrena, and Sphacelus. 1612 WOODALL *Surg. Mate* Wks. (1653) 379 A Gangrene is ever the forerunner of a Sphacelus. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v., The Sphacelus is distinguished by the Lividness or Blackness of the Part affected. 1782 W. HEBERDEN *Comment.* XXXI. (1806) 154 Ending fatally in a sphacelus of the bowels. 1813 J. THOMSON *Lect. Inflam.* 519 Gangrene, gangrenous inflammation, or inflammation which shows a tendency to terminate in sphacelus. 1878 T. BRYANT *Pract. Surg.* I. 570 General inflammation of the pulp, following sooner or later on the previous condition and resulting in its sphacelus.

2. A mass of mortified tissue; a slough.

1880 A. FLINT *Princ. Med.* 52 A necrosed mass of tissue is called a sphacelus or slough. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VI. 575 The sphacelus becomes black, dry and hard.

Sphære, obs. form of SPHERE.

Sphæriaceous (sfĭəri,ē·ʃəs), *a. Bot.* [f. mod.

L. *Sphæriace-æ* (see def.) + -OUS.] Belonging to, typical of, the *Sphæriaceæ*, an extensive family of Fungi.

1857 HENFREY *Bot.* 587 Corpuscles..extruded through the pore of the spermogonium, as in the Sphæriaceous Fungi. 1875 M. C. COOKE *Fungi* 35 The majority of so-called species are undoubtedly conditions of sphæriaceous fungi.

Sphæriaform, *a. Bot.* Also **sphæriæform.** [f. mod.L. *Sphæria* (see def.) + -(I)FORM.] Having a form like that of *Sphæria*, the typical genus of *Sphæriaceæ* (see prec.).

1857 BERKELEY *Cryptog. Botany* § 237. 247 Many species of..acrosporous sphæriæform Fungi. 1887 W. PHILLIPS *Brit. Discomycetes* 351 Pycnidia intermixed with the above, sphæriaform.

Sphærical, -ick, obs. forms of SPHERIC(AL.

‖ **Sphæri·dium.** *Zool.* Pl. **-i·dia.** Also **-ideum.** [mod.L. (Lovén), f. *sphæra* SPHERE *sb.*] One of the numerous minute rounded bodies attached to certain parts of sea-urchins.

1877 HUXLEY *Anat. Inv. Anim.* 572 In some genera, these *sphæridea*..are sunk in fossæ of the plate to which they are attached. 1888 ROLLESTON & JACKSON *Anim. Life* 559 Sphaeridia..occur on the peristome and ambulacra...Structurally they are modified spines, spherical or oval in shape.

Sphæro- (sfī·rō), ad. Gr. *σφαιρο-*, combining form of *σφαῖρα* ball, SPHERE, employed in a considerable number of terms, esp. *Bot.* and *Zool.*, of which only a few are naturalized in form or have any general currency. **Sphæ·roblast** *Bot.* (see quot.). **Sphæroco·baltite** *Min.*, 'carbonate of cobalt, found in small spherical masses' (Chester). **Sphæroda·ctyle,** a species of humming-bird. **Sphæ·rolite** (see quot.). † **Sphæro·machy** (see quot.). **Sphæ·rospore** *Bot.* (see quot.). **Sphærosti·bite** *Min.*, 'a variety of stilbite, occurring in radiated spheres' (Chester).

1901 H. M. WARD *Diseases in Plants* xxiv. 225 *Woodnodules* or **Sphæroblasts* are curious marble-like masses of wood which protrude with a covering of bark from old trunks of Beeches, etc. 1881 WATTS *Dict. Chem., 3rd Suppl.*, **Sphærocobaltite,* or *Cobalt-spar*, is a native carbonate of cobalt belonging to the calcspar-group, black on the outside, red within. 1860 GOSSE *Rom. Nat. Hist.* 149 The little *sphærodactyle,—which we might put into a quill-barrel, and carry home in the waistcoat pocket. 1881 WATTS *Dict. Chem., 3rd Suppl.*, **Sphærolite,* a volcanic glass from the lava of Antisana. 1658 PHILLIPS, **Sphæromachy,* a playing at bowls, or tennis. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1081/1 **Sphærospore,* the quadruple spore of some algals. 1850 DAUBENY *Atom. The.* (ed. 2) xii. 410 The former combinations are called hydrosilicates...Example: *Sphærostilbite.

Sphæroid, -al, variants of SPHEROID, -AL.

Sphærometer, variant of SPHEROMETER.

Sphærosiderite (sfī·rosi·dərəit). *Min.* [f. SPHÆRO- + SIDERITE 1.] 'A variety of siderite occurring in spherical concretions' (Chester).

1837 DANA *Min.* 213 Carbonate of Iron. Sparry Iron... Sphærosiderite. 1878 LAWRENCE tr. *Cotta's Rocks Class.* 50 In the compact state, or when occurring in reniform masses or concretions, this mineral is termed sphærosiderite. 1886 GEIKIE *Class-Bk. Geol.* 181 Sphærosiderite or Clay-ironstone concretion enclosing portion of a fern.

Sphærule, -lite, -litic, obs. ff. SPHERULE, etc.

† **Sphagian,** *a. Obs.*—1 [f. Gr. *σφάγιος* slaying, slaughtering.] Employed in the killing or sacrificing of animals.

1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* 88 Then put they vnder him their Sphagian vesselles to receiue his bloud.

† **Sphagitid.** *Obs.*—1 [ad. F. *sphagitide*, ad. Gr. *σφαγῖτιδ-*, *σφαγῖτις* (*φλέψ*) jugular vein, f. *σφαγή* throat.] (See quot.)

1653 URQUHART *Rabelais* I. xliv, He cut clean through the jugularie veins and the sphagitid or transparent arteries of the neck.

Spha·gneous, *a. rare*—1. = SPHAGNOUS *a.* 1.

a 1864 GESNER *Coal, Petrol.*, etc. (1865) 53 They contain the remains of sphagneous plants and woody fibre.

Sphagno·logist. [f. *sphagn-*, SPHAGNUM: see -OLOGIST.] A special student of, or authority on, the sphagna.

1886 *Jrnl. Roy. Microsc. Soc.* VI. 108 The very great diversity displayed by different sphagnologists in the limitation of species.

So **Sphagno·logy,** the special study of the sphagna (*Cent. Dict.* 1891).

Sphagno·se, *a. rare*—1. = SPHAGNOUS *a.* 2.

1818 T. NUTTALL *Genera N. Amer. Plants* I. 259 Growing in sphagnose morasses.

Sphagnous (sfæ·gnəs), *a.* [f. SPHAGN-UM.]

1. Of the nature of, consisting of, sphagnum.

1828–32 WEBSTER (citing Bigelow), *Sphagnous*, pertaining to bog-moss, mossy. 1846 DANA *Zooph.* iv. (1848) 64 Like the sphagnous moss of a peat-swamp, coral zoophytes continue growing at top. 1868 *Rep. U.S. Commissioner Agric.* (1869) 173 The annual moisture..would collect between the impervious clayey soil and its sphagnous covering. 1888 *Pall Mall G.* 29 Aug. 12/1 A marsh lake—whose wide margins were one dense mass of trembling sphagnous moss.

2. Producing, or abounding in, sphagnum.

1845 S. JUDD *Margaret* I. v, Their habitat is sphagnous places, what you call swamps. 1853 G. JOHNSTON *Nat. Hist. E. Bord.* I. 39 Sundew. In sphagnous bogs.

‖ **Sphagnum** (sfæ·gnəm). *Bot.* Pl. **sphagna, -ums.** [mod.L., f. Gr. *σφάγνος* a kind of moss.]

1. A genus of mosses growing in boggy or swampy places; bog-moss, peat-moss; also, one or other of the species or plants composing this genus.

1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s.v., The sphagna are divided into two orders, the one comprehending the branched kinds, and the other the unbranched ones. 1839 LINDLEY *Introd. Bot.* (ed. 3) 547 The only case of undoubtedly perforated parenchyma with which I am acquainted is in Sphagnum. 1857 HENFREY *Bot.* 443 The *Sphagna* have antheridia like those of *Jungermannia*. 1880 BESSEY *Botany* 351 The adult plant-body in this class, which includes, besides the Sphagnums, all the true Mosses, is always a leafy stem.

attrib. 1839 LINDLEY *Introd. Bot.* (ed. 3) 547 The circular spaces in Sphagnum leaves are openings. 1857 T. MOORE *Handbk. Brit. Ferns* (ed. 3) 27 On this a thin layer of sphagnum moss should be spread. 1890 *Science-Gossip* XXVI. 60 In the far-off bogs and sphagnum swamps of North Wales.

2. The mossy substance of which plants of this genus are composed.

1840 *Florist's Jrnl.* (1846) I. 208 Covered over with dry sphagnum, or bog moss. 1863 LYELL *Antiq. Man* 9 The lowest stratum consists of swamp-peat composed chiefly of moss or sphagnum. 1877 W. H. DALL *Tribes Ext. N.W.* 80 A saucer or dish of stone or clay, with a wick, usually of sphagnum.

Sphairi·stic, *a. rare*—1. [ad. Gr. *σφαιριστικ-ός* playing at ball.] Tennis-playing.

Lawn-tennis was first introduced (in 1874) under the name of *sphairistike* (Gr. *σφαιριστική*).

1882 *World* 14 June 15 Lawn-tennis has not to answer for many accidents; so that two in a week among the sphairistic ladies of Ireland seems alarming.

Spha·lerite. *Min.* [f. Gr. *σφαλερ-ός* deceptive + ITE 1 2; named by E. F. Glocker (1847).] Zinc-blende.

1868 in WATTS *Dict. Chem.*

† **Sphalm.** *Obs.*—1 [Anglicized f. next.] An error; an erroneous doctrine or tenet.

1715 M. DAVIES *Athen. Brit.* I. Pref. 29 Both the Romish and Jacobite Schisms and Sphalms are irretrievably laid open and flat to the Ground thereby.

‖ **Spha·lma.** *Obs. rare.* Pl. **sphalmata(s).** [a. Gr. *σφάλμα*, f. *σφάλλειν* to err.] An error or slip in writing or copying.

1657 EVELYN *Let.* in *Mem.* (1827) IV. 45 I have been bold to note places with my black-leade where ye Amanuensis has committed some sphalmatas.

Sphecoid (sfī·koid), *a. Ent.* [f. Gr. *σφηκ-*, *σφήξ* wasp (see SPHEX) + -OID.] Wasp-like; *spec.* resembling, or related to, the digger-wasps.

1815 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* ix. (1818) I. 263 It is probable that most of the other Vespoid and Sphecoid Hymenoptera ..assist in this great work. 1858 MAYNE *Expos. Lex.* 1183/2 *Sphecoides*,...resembling a wasp: sphecoid.

‖ **Sphendone** (sfe·ndōnī). *Archæol.* [a. Gr. *σφενδόνη* a sling, head-band, etc.]

1. A head-band or fillet, shaped like a common form of sling, worn by women in ancient Greece.

1850 LEITCH tr. *C. O. Müller's Anc. Art* § 363 (ed. 2) 453 On the hair:..The sphendone surrounded with rays. 1872 HEAD *Sel. Grk. Coins in Electrotype Brit. Mus.* 6 Head of Parthenope, wearing sphendone, to right.

2. An area composed of elongated sloping sides with a rounded end.

1847 LEITCH tr. *C. O. Müller's Anc. Art* § 290. 281 The Messenian stadium, which is surrounded by colonnades, has 16 rows of seats in the sphendone.

Sphene (sfīn). *Min.* Also **sphen.** [a. F. *sphène* (Haüy, 1801), f. Gr. *σφήν* wedge, from the shape of its crystals.] = TITANITE 1.

1815 AIKIN *Min.* (ed. 2) 137 Sphen. Rutilite...Colour redish, yellowish, greyish, and blackish brown. 1849 DANA *Geol.* vi. (1850) 347 Some minute crystals of sphene. 1879 RUTLEY *Stud. Rocks* x. 140 Frequently the crystals of sphene appear cloudy or imperfectly translucent.

Sphenethmoid (sfīne·þmoid), *sb.* and *a. Zool.* [f. Gr. *σφήν* wedge (cf. SPHENO-) + ETHMOID.] One of the cranial bones in batrachians, situated at the base of the skull; the girdle bone. Also *sphenethmoid bone.*

1875 HUXLEY in *Encycl. Brit.* I. 754/1 As it takes the place of the ethmoid, presphenoid, and orbito-sphenoids, it may be termed the *sphen-ethmoid.* 1877 HUXLEY & MARTIN *Elem. Biol.* 218 Appearing at the base of the skull, at the front end of the parasphenoid, is the girdle-bone or sphen-ethmoid. 1903 *Encycl. Brit.* XXXV. 896 Sphen-ethmoid bone.

Spheniscan (sfīni·skăn). *Ornith.* [f. mod. L. *Sphenisc-us* (Brisson) + -AN.] A penguin of the genus *Spheniscus*; a jackass penguin.

1840 *Cuvier's Anim. Kingd.* 255 The Spheniscans..have a straight and compressed beak. *Ibid.*, The Cape Spheniscan..chiefly inhabits the neighbourhood of the Cape, where it nestles among the rocks.

So **Spheni·sque.** *rare.*

1826 STEPHENS in *Shaw's Gen. Zool.* XIII. 64 Cape Sphenisque. *Ibid.* 65 Magellanic Sphenisque.

Spheno- (sfī·nō), a. Gr. *σφηνο-*, combining form of *σφήν* wedge, employed in a number of scientific terms.

1. *Anat.* In adjs. which designate something pertaining to the sphenoid bone together with the part specified by the second element of the compound, as **Spheno-ba·silar, -basi·lic, -fro·ntal, -ma·lar, -maxi·llary, -occi·pital, -o·rbital, -pa·latine, -pari·etal, -te·mporal.**

Some of these represent Latin formations, as *sphenopalatinus, -pharyngæus*, in use from at least the 17th cent. Cf. also F. *sphénobasilaire, -maxillaire, -palatin*, etc.

1849 CRAIG, **Spheno-basilar.* 1904 DUCKWORTH *Stud. Anthropol. Laborat.* 213 The spheno-basilar suture. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* IV. 486 Premature synostosis of the **spheno-basilic* suture. 1830 R. KNOX *Béclard's Anat.* 280 Of this kind are the **spheno-frontal* sutures. 1884 J. E. LEE tr. *Römer's Bone Caves of Ojcow* 29 A synostosis of the spheno-frontal and the lower part of the coronal sutures. 1855 HOLDEN *Hum. Osteol.* 94 Other short sutures, such as the '**spheno-malar*', 'spheno-parietal', 'zygomatic',..speak for themselves. 1771 *Encycl. Brit.* I. 227 The inferior orbitary, or **sphenomaxillary* fissure. 1831 R. KNOX *Cloquet's Anat.* 107 The Spheno-maxillary Fossa.. is formed by the sphenoid bone behind, the upper maxillary bone before, and by the palate bone to the inside. 1840 E. WILSON *Anat. Vade M.* (1842) 29 The sphenoid, in conjunction with the occipital, was described..as a single bone, under the name of **spheno-occipital.* 1841 *Penny Cycl.* XXI. 158/1 The round aperture is..confounded with the **spheno-orbital* slit. 1831 R. KNOX *Cloquet's Anat.* 107 The **spheno-palatine* hole. 1858 H. GRAY *Anat.* 489 The Spheno-Palatine Ganglion (Meckel's), the largest of the cranial ganglia. 1881 MIVART *Cat* 86 The spheno-palatine foramen opens into the nasal cavity. 1831 **Spheno-parietal* [see below]. 1884 J. E. LEE tr. *Römer's Bone Caves of Ojcow* 29 The spheno-parietal suture..is also in part completely obliterated. 1831 R. KNOX *Cloquet's Anat.* 89 It is traversed by various sutures, the coronal, the sphenoidal, the **spheno-temporal*, the spheno-parietal, and the squamous.

2. In names of minerals, as **Sphe·noclase** (see quots.), or of genera of animals or plants, as **Sphe·nodon, Spheno·phyllum, Spheno·pteris.**

Webster (1864) also gives '*Sphe·nogram*, a cuneiform or arrow-headed character', to which the *Imp. Dict.* (1882) adds *spheno·grapher, -gra·phic, -graphist, -graphy.*

1868 WATTS *Dict. Chem.* V. 399 **Sphenoclase*, a mineral occurring in parallel layers..in a bluish granular limestone ..in Norway. 1896 CHESTER *Dict. Min.*, *Sphenoclase*, a questionable silicate of calcium, etc., of yellowish color. 1878 J. F. BELL *Gegenbauer's Comp. Anat.* 440 This arrangement obtains also in some Saurii (*Sphenodon). *c* 1880 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* IV. 290 The Tuatera, or Hatteria, or the Sphenodon Lizard. *Ibid.* 341 The remarkable Lizard from New Zealand—the Tuatera, or Sphenodon. 1837 *Penny Cycl.* VII. 294/1 **Sphenophyllum*..has broad wedge-shaped leaves, the veins of which are forked. 1858 BAIRD *Cycl. Nat. Sci.* 509/2 *Sphenophyllum*, a genus of fossil plants peculiar to the coal measures and the transition formations. 1837 *Penny Cycl.* VII. 292/2 **Sphenopteris* has twice or thrice pinnatifid leaves. 1842 *Ibid.* XXII. 338/2 *Sphenopteris*, a genus of fossil ferns...They are all coal-measure plants. 1851 MANTELL *Petrifactions* i. § 2. 32 The other characteristic Wealden plant is the Sphenopteris (*S. Mantelli*), or wedge-leaf fern.

Sphenoid (sfī·noid), *a.* and *sb.* Also 8 **sphænoid,** 9 **sphenoïd.** [ad. mod.L. *sphēnoidēs, sphēnoeidēs* († *sphæno-*), a. Gr. *σφηνοειδής*, f. *σφήν* wedge: see -OID. So F. *sphénoïde* (1611).]

A. *adj. Sphenoid bone*, a bone of irregular form situated at the base of the skull, where it is wedged in between the other bones of the cranium.

1732 MONRO *Anat.* (ed. 2) 76, I have seen separate..Bones at the Conjunction .. of the sphenoid and parietal Bones. 1766 *Phil. Trans.* LVII. 119 Portions of medullary substance lying upon the sphænoid bone. 1831 R. KNOX *Cloquet's Anat.* 41 The sphenoid bone is articulated with the frontal, ethmoid, occipital, parietal, and temporal bones. 1884 M. MACKENZIE *Dis. Throat & Nose* II. 232 The posterior third of the roof..is formed by the body of the sphenoid bone.

B. *sb.* **1.** *Anat.* The sphenoid bone; one or other of the separate parts of this.

1828 STARK *Elem. Nat. Hist.* I. 28 In the fœtus the occiput is divided into four parts, the body of the sphenoid into two. 1841 T. R. JONES *Anim. Kingd.* 638 These two halves may.. be called, respectively, the anterior and posterior sphenoids. 1896 tr. *Boas' Text Bk. Zool.* 362 In the basal and lateral regions in front of the parts just mentioned are the sphenoids (ali-, orbito-, and basi-sphenoid).

2. *Cryst.* A wedge-shaped crystal bounded by four equal and similar triangular faces.

1855 *Orr's Circ. Sci., Inorg. Nature* 435 The Rhombic Sphenoid, or, Irregular Tetrahedron, is a hemihedral form, derived from the double four-faced rhombic pyramid. *Ibid.*, A sphenoid may be derived from every one of the pyramids previously described. 1878 GURNEY *Crystallogr.* 78 A closed figure bounded by four similar isosceles triangles..is sometimes called a sphenoid.

Sphenoidal (sfīnoi·dăl), *a. Anat.* Also 8 **sphænoidal,** 8–9 **sphenoïdal.** [ad. mod.L. *sphēnoidālis* († *sphæn-*), f. *sphēnoidēs* SPHENOID. So F. *sphénoïdal* (18th cent.).]

1. *Sphenoidal bone*, the sphenoid bone.

1726 MONRO *Anat.* 88 It is connected to the sphenoidal Bone, by means of that same Suture. 1746 *Phil. Trans.* XLIV. 11 The Hole of the sphænoidal Bone, thro' which the Optic Nerve passes. 1834 MCMURTRIE *Cuvier's Anim. Kingd.* 173 A narrow canal which traverses the palatine and sphenoidal bones.

2. Of or pertaining to, connected with, the sphenoid bone.

Chiefly in a number of special collocations, as *sphenoidal angle, fissure, sinus, suture*, etc.

1726 MONRO *Anat.* 88 The sphenoidal Suture connects it to the Wedge-like Bone. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.*, *Sphenoidal Suture*, in Anatomy, a Suture thus call'd from its encompassing the *Os Sphenoides*. 1808 BARCLAY *Muscular Motions* 505 The frontal, sphenoidal, and maxillary antres. 1822 J. PARKINSON *Outl. Oryctol.* 284 The sphenoidal plates which form a vault over the palate bones. 1854 R. OWEN in *Orr's Circ. Sci., Org. Nature* I. 167 Such cells are called .. 'sphenoidal' and 'ethmoidal sinuses' in man. 1872 MIVART *Anat.* 83 A long but narrow space, termed the sphenoidal fissure.

Sphenotic (sfīno·tik), *a.* and *sb. Zool.* [f. SPHEN(O)- + OTIC *a.*] **a.** *adj.* Of or pertaining to,

formed by combination of, the sphenoid bone and otic structures in certain fishes and in birds. b. *sb.* The sphenotic bone or ossification.

1872 MIVART *Anat.* 106 It may also, in Fishes, have added to it a large and distinct ossification, the sphenotic. 1884 COUES *N. Amer. Birds* 156 The post-frontal process, morphologically the post-frontal or sphenotic bone, bounds the rim of the orbit behind. 1885 *Athenæum* 13 June 764/1 He attempted to show..that the human *linguæ* are homologous with the sphenotic of the bird. 1895 *Proc. Zool. Soc.* 371 The sphenotic process is also relatively somewhat shorter.

Spheral (sfi·răl), *a.* Also 6 -all. [ad. late L. *sphēr-, sphærālis*, f. *sphæra* SPHERE *sb.*: see -AL. So It. *sferale*, Pg. *esferal.*]

1. Of or pertaining to a sphere or round body; having the rounded form of a sphere; spherical.

1571 DIGGES *Pantom.* IV. vi. X, Thus also..ye shal most speedily finde these spheral semidiameters. *Ibid.* xvii. Bbj b, All the sides and diameters both circular and spherall of.. regulare solides. 1690 LEYBOURN *Curs. Math.* 328 In respect of these Bodies Spheral Circumscriptibility. 1766 G. CANNING *Anti-Lucretius* II. 107 These in a form exactly spheral place.

b. *fig.* Symmetrically rounded or perfect.

1841 EMERSON *Ess., Intellect* P 19 The poet, whose verses are to be spheral and complete. 1844 *Ibid., Nom. & Real.* P 12 There is somewhat spheral and infinite..in every genius.

2. Of or pertaining to the cosmic spheres or the heavenly bodies: a. Of the supposed music of the spheres.

1829 CARLYLE *Misc.* (1857) II. 77 As the Ancients fabled of the Spheral Music. 1845 BAILEY *Festus* (ed. 2) 237 She spake as with the voice Of spheral harmony. 1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* II. i. 239 The ancients had their spheral melodies.

b. In other contexts.

1849 LYTTON *Caxtons* XIV. i, Fortune,..calm and aloft amongst the other angelic powers, revolves her spheral course. 1863 COWDEN CLARKE *Shaks. Char.* xvi. 409 To discuss the Platonic theory of the spheral motion. 1883 *Nature* 8 Feb. 351 As closely contiguous in space as are the molecules of spheral atmospheres.

Hence **Spheral·ity**, sphericity. *rare* —°.

1891 in *Cent. Dict.*

Spheration. *rare.* [f. SPHERE *sb.* + -ATION.] The process of being formed into a sphere; the formation of a sphere or spheres.

1883 *American* VII. 152 A sketch of the life of a nebula not thus broken up, of its rotation, annulation, and final spheration into a nebulous orb.

Sphere (sfi·ə), *sb.* Forms: *α.* 4–5 sper (5 sperre), speere, 4–6 spere, 6 *Sc.* speir, speyr; 4–5 spire, 5 spyere, *Sc.* spir. *β.* 5– sphere (5 sphyre), 6–7 sphear(e, 7 spheere; 6–7 sphær, 7 sphære, sphaer(e. [ad. OF. *espere* (13th c.), later *sphere* (mod.F. *sphère*) or late L. *sphēra*, earlier *sphæra*, ad. Gr. *σφαῖρα* ball. So It. *sfera*, Sp. and Pg. *esfera*; MDu. *spere, speer* (Du. *sfeer*), MHG. *spære, spere* (G. *sphäre*).]

I. 1. The apparent outward limit of space, conceived as a hollow globe enclosing (and at all points equidistant from) the earth; the visible vault of heaven, in which the celestial bodies appear to have their place.

Oblique, parallel, right sphere: see OBLIQUE *a.* 2 b, PARALLEL *a.* 1 b, RIGHT *a.* 3 a.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 1548 Quen sa fele yeier ar wroken oute þe mikel spere [*Gött.* spire] es rune aboute. *c* 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 4867 Alle þe fire þat es in þe spere, And under erthe, and aboven erthe here. *c* 1430 LYDG. *Life our Lady* (Harl. MS. 629) fol. 43 b, As the svnne dothe in heuen shyne In mydday speere dovn to vs by-lyne. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* VIII. 1186 The mery day sprang fra the oryent... Heich in the sper, the signes maid declayr. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* III. viii. 13 Or [=ere] the speir his owris rollit rycht Sa far about that it wes skars mydnycht. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* I. x. 56 He wondred much..What stately building durst so high extend Her loftie towres vnto the starry sphere. 1634 MILTON *Comus* 241 Sweet Echo,..Sweet Queen of Parly, Daughter of the Sphear. 1655 VAUGHAN *Silex Scint.* (1858) 135 If a star Should leave the sphære. 1703 MOXON *Mech. Exerc.* 352 The highest Heaven with all its imagined Circle[s], is called the Sphere. 1727–46 THOMSON *Summer* 204 The face of Nature shines, from where earth seems, Far stretch'd around, to meet the bending sphere. 1847 TENNYSON *Princ.* III. 89 But I An eagle clang an eagle to the sphere. 1854 TOMLINSON *Arago's Astron.* 17 They had remarked that, amidst the general movement of the sphere, one of the stars of the Lesser Bear appeared always to remain in the same position.

fig. 1608 CHAPMAN *Dk. of Byron* III. i. 155 When I appear'd from battle, the whole sphere And full sustainer of the state we bear. *a* 1721 KEN *Psyche* Poet. Wks. 1721 IV. 204 God is our circumambient Sphere.

b. A material representation of the apparent form of the heavens; a globe or other construction illustrating the place and motions of the celestial bodies. (See also ARMILLARY *a.*)

c 1391 CHAUCER *Astrol.* II. § 26 The excellence of the spere solide..shewyth Manifeste the diuerse assenciouns of signes in diuerse places. *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (Roxb.) XXV. 115 Sum has..astrolabres of gold, sum speres of precious stanes. *c* 1532 DU WES *Introd. Fr.* in *Palsgr.* 1039 Whan I shall teche you the spere. 1551 RECORDE *Cast. Knowl.* (1556) 73 Set your Sphere before you, and first turn it so that bothe the Poles may touch the Horizont. 1674 MOXON *Tutor to Astron. & Geog.* (ed. 3) App. 201 As a Sphear is an Astronomical Instrument, it is a complication of material Circles only, so fitted together that they represent all the imaginary Circles and motions of the eighth Sphear, and the Circles and motions of all the Planets about the Earth.

1701 — *Math. Instr.* 19 *Sphere*, made of Silver or Brass Hoops, or Rings, representing the Principal Circles of the Sphere (called a material Sphere). 1774 J. BRYANT *Mythol.* I. 341 They had the use of the sphere, and were acquainted with the zodiac. 1821 TURNER *Arts & Sci.* 172 He [Atlas] was..the first who represented the world by a sphere. 1864 SPENCER *Illust. Progress* 172 Then came the sphere of Berosus,..and the quadrant of Ptolemy.

2. One or other of the concentric, transparent, hollow globes imagined by the older astronomers as revolving round the earth and respectively carrying with them the several heavenly bodies (moon, sun, planets, and fixed stars).

The number of these was originally supposed to be eight, subsequently increased to nine and finally to ten by the addition of the PRIMUM MOBILE and the *Crystalline sphere* (see CRYSTALLINE *a.* 5).

c 1374 CHAUCER *Troylus* V. 1809 His lighte gost ful blysfully is went Vp to þe holwghnesse of þe seuenþe spere. *c* 1381 — *Parl. Foules* 59 After shewede he hym the nyne speris. *c* 1400 tr. *Secreta Secret., Gov. Lordsh.* 65 Yn ordynance of þe heuens and of þe speres, and þe disposicioun of þe planetes. *c* 1450 *Treat. Astrol.* (MS. Ashm. 337) 8 b, In the firmament above the viij spere there is a brode cercle ful of sterris. †*a* 1533 FRITH *Answ. More* (1548) 62 Yᵉ highest sphere..with his swift mouying doth violently drawe the inferiour Spheares with him. 1559 W. CUNNINGHAM *Cosmogr. Glasse* 10 This region do in it contayne .x. spheres. 1627 FELTHAM *Resolves* I. xxvii. (1628) 86 Some will know Heauen as perfectly, as if they had been hurried about in euery Spheare. 1643 SIR T. BROWNE *Relig. Med.* I. § 49, I grant that two bodies placed beyond the tenth Spheare.. could not behold each other. 1695 LD. PRESTON *Boeth.* I. (1712) 8 He saw of every wandring Star The various Motions through each Spheare. 1827 POLLOK *Course T.* x, The spheres stood still, and every star Stood still and listened. 1841 LANE *Arab. Nts.* I. 20 This notion of the seven heavens appears to have been taken from the 'seven spheres'.

b. In references to the harmonious sound supposed to be produced by the motion of these spheres; in later use esp. in the phr. *the music of the spheres.*

c 1381 CHAUCER *Parl. Foules* 61 Aftyr that the melodye herde he That comyth of thilke speris thryes thre. *c* 1400 *Pilgr. Sowle* (Caxton) v. i. (1859) 70 The cause of this melodye is the merueylous mouyng, and wonderfull tornyng of the spyeres. 1601 SHAKS. *Twel. N.* III. i. 121, I had rather heare you to solicit that, Then Musicke from the spheares. 1606 — *Ant. & Cl.* V. ii. 84 His voyce was propertied As all the tuned Spheres. 1698 FRYER *Acc. E. India & P.* 191 Our Organs are the Musick of the Spheres to them. 1732 POPE *Ess. Man* I. 202 If nature thunder'd in his op'ning ears, And stunn'd him with the music of the spheres. 1827 POLLOK *Course T.* I, The chiming spheres, By God's own finger touched to harmony. *a* 1882 ROSSETTI *Site Mulberry Tree* 12 Wks. 1886 I. 285 This deaf drudge, to whom no length of ears Sufficed to catch the music of the spheres.

c. Used as a standard of comparison to denote a great difference in rank, intelligence, etc.

1633 MARMION *Fine Companion* IV. i, He may be styl'd a civil gentleman, ten spheres below a fool. 1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* I. iii. (1658) 13 Although their [i.e. tutelary spirits] condition and fortunes may place them many Spheres above the multitude. 1859 MEREDITH *R. Feverel* xv, Erelong he meets Ralph, and discovers that he has distanced him by a sphere.

d. A place of abode different from the present earth or world; a heaven.

1592 *Soliman & Pers.* I. i. 29 *Love.* Now will I vp into the brightsome sphere, From whence I sprung, till [etc.]. 1680 R. GRAHAM *Poems* 2 She..from her lower Circle there Took flight into an higher Sphær. 1817 MOORE *Lalla Rookh, Fireworshippers* IV. 344 If there be some happier sphere, Where fadeless truth like ours is dear. 1863 J. THOMSON *Sunday at Hampstead* II. iv, Being lord in Mohammed's seventh sphere. 1865 LECKY *Ration.* (1878) I. 337 A future sphere, where the injustices of life shall be rectified.

3. One or other of the concentric globes formerly supposed to be formed by the four elements, earth, water, air, and fire; †also, the globe formed by these elements collectively. Now *Hist.*

c 1380 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* III. 64 Filosofris..seyn þat undir þe moone is a spere of sotil fier, and in þat is a spere of þe eir, and in eiþer spere of þe watir, and in þe myddil of þe world..spere of þe erþe. *c* 1400 tr. *Secreta Secret., Gov. Lordsh.* 95 þe mone, vnder whom ys þe spere of þe elemenz, þat er fyre, Eyre, water, and erthe. 1423 JAS. I *Kingis Q.* lxxvi, Ascending vpward ay fro spere to spere, Through aire and watere and the hote fyre. *c* 1450 LYDG. *Secrees* 166 To chaunge..from the Erthe the Watir and the Ayr, And parte the Ellementys in ther sperys fayr. 1530 RASTELL *Bk. Purg.* II. xiii, The fyre therin wyll ascend to the proper place and spere of the element of the fyre. 1604 E. G[RIMSTONE] *D'Acosta's Hist. Indies* III. vi. 136 As for the fire, without doubt it hath his sphere (as Aristotle and other Philosophers have held). 1664 POWER *Exp. Philos.* II. 107 By which it most evincingly appears, that water does gravitate in its own Sphære (as they phrase it). 1837 WHEWELL *Hist. Induct. Sci.* I. iii. I. 70 The principle that each element seeks its own place, led to the doctrine, that, the place of fire being the highest, there is, above the air, a sphere of fire.

4. With possessive pron. or genitive: The particular sphere (in sense 2) appropriate to, or occupied by, each of the planets (or the fixed stars).

c 1374 CHAUCER *Troylus* III. 1495 Furste schal Phebus falle from his spere. *Ibid.* v. 656 O brighte Lucina,..ren faste aboute thy spere. 1426 LYDG. *De Guil. Pilgr.* 20043 The cours off sterrys alle, Mevnge in ther bryhte sperys. 1430–40 — *Bochas* IX. xxviii, Lyke Phœbus shyning in his mydday spere. 1508 KENNEDIE *Flyting w. Dunbar* 338, I perambalit of Pernaso the montayn, Enspirit wyth Mercury fra his goldyn spere. 1551 RECORDE *Cast. Knowl.* (1556) 7 The Sphere of the Moone whiche is lowest. 1590 SHAKS. *Mids. N.* II. i. 153 Certaine starres shot madly from their Spheares. 1610 — *Temp.* II. i. 183 You would lift the Moone out of her spheare. 1656 S. HOLLAND *Don Zara* 73, I can call down Luna when I list from her sphere. 1736 GRAY *Statius* i. 55 The sun's pale sister, drawn by magic strain, Deserts precipitant her darken'd sphere. 1764 REID *Inquiry* vi. § 1 We can measure the planetary orbs, and make discoveries in the sphere of the fixed stars. 1821 BYRON *Cain* III. i, Suns, moons, and earths, upon their loud-voiced spheres. 1849 M. ARNOLD *The Voice* 4 As the kindling glances..Which the bright moon lances From her tranquil sphere.

transf. 1781 COWPER *Truth* 400 Go—bid the winter cease to chill the year; Replace the wand'ring comet in his sphere.

b. *fig.* Of deities, persons, or things.

c 1500 *Lancelot* 170 The mychty gode of loue, That sitith hie in to his spir abuf. 1509 HAWES *Joyf. Med.* xvi, Now gentyll Jupyter..Sendynge downe trouthe from thy fulgent spere. 1602 SHAKS. *Ham.* I. v. 17 A Tale..whose lightest word Would..Make thy two eyes, like Starres, start from their Spheres. 1621 J. LANE *Tritons Trumpet* (MS. Reg. 17 B 15, fol. 3), But Chaucer shee bidds com down off his spheare. *c* 1760 SMOLLETT *Ode to Blue-ey'd Ann* 23 When nature from her sphere shall start. 1814 SCOTT *Lord of Isles* VI. xxxvi, He..greeted him 'twixt joy and fear, As being of superior sphere.

c. The orbit of a planet. Also *fig.*

1594 SPENSER *Amoretti* lx, Mars in three score yeares doth run his spheare. *Ibid.*, The spheare of Cupid fourty yeares containes.

5. A place, position, or station in society; an aggregate of persons of a certain rank or standing. In early use directly associated with 4 b, and used only of elevated rank.

1601 SHAKS. *All's Well* I. i. 100 He is so aboue me, In his bright radience and colaterall light Must I be comforted, not in his sphere. 1647 CLARENDON *Hist. Reb.* I. § 71 Any man who shined in such a sphere in that age in Europe. 1678 *Yng. Man's Call.* 66 You are ready..to..complain, that the orbe and sphære in which you are placed is low and mean. 1724 SWIFT *Drapier's Lett.* vii. Wks. 1761 III. 140, I should think myself obliged in conscience to act in my sphere according to that vote. 1790 BURKE *Fr. Rev.* Sel. Wks. 1808 II. 89 I saw her just above the horizon, decorating and cheering the elevated sphere she just began to move in. 1820 SCOTT *Monast.* xiv, The young lady, who seemed to have dropped amongst them from another sphere of life. 1886 RUSKIN *Præterita* I. vii. 210 The change, for her, was into a higher sphere of society.

b. The group of persons with whom one is directly in contact in society.

1839 J. H. NEWMAN *Par. Sermons* IV. xiii. 235 Each knows little about what goes on in any other sphere than his own. 1848 DICKENS *Dombey* XX, It was an assurance to him that his power extended beyond his own immediate sphere.

6. A province or domain in which one's activities or faculties find scope or exercise, or within which they are naturally confined; range or compass of action or study.

1606 SHAKS. *Ant. & Cl.* II. vii. 16 To be call'd into a huge Sphere, and not to be seene to moue in't. 1635 A. STAFFORD *Fem. Glory* (1869) 167 Divinity not being the spheare wherin my studies move. 1712–4 POPE *Rape Lock* II. 75 Ye know the spheres and various tasks assign'd By laws eternal to th' aërial kind. 1776 ADAM SMITH *W. N.* I. iii. (1904) I. 20 A village is..too narrow a sphere for him. 1853 C. BRONTE *Villette* viii, That school offered for her powers too limited a sphere. 1884 R. PATON *Scott. Ch.* vii. 62 Other labourers in similar spheres had left the gloom unbroken.

b. With possessive pronouns. (Cf. 4.)

1643 R. BAKER *Chron.* (1653) 587 All this while the King had moved within his own Sphear, and had done nothing out of the Realm. 1667 PRIMATT *City & C. Builder* 55 They do buy their materials at cheaper rates than those out of whose sphere it is. 1705 STANHOPE *Paraphr.* II. 266 Not..thrusting into Business above our Capacity and proper Sphere. 1762–71 H. WALPOLE *Vertue's Anecd. Paint.* (1789) IV. 147 Each personage is distinct from the rest, acts in his sphere, and cannot be confounded with any other of the dramatis personæ. 1841 *Penny Cycl.* XXI. 175/1 In his new sphere Seckendorf showed the same activity and good will towards the people as before. 1888 BRYCE *Amer. Commw.* xxxiii. I. 495 Each of which [*sc.* executive and legislative powers] forms its view as to the matters falling within its sphere.

c. In phrases with *in* and *out of*, denoting suitability, or the want of it, to surroundings or environment.

1650 FULLER *Pisgah* IV. i. 10 The Temple, where this glorious Plate shined in its proper sphear. 1670 CLARENDON *Hist. Reb.* XV. § 78 He..told them that all the time he was in France he was out of his sphere. 1762–71 H. WALPOLE *Vertue's Anecd. Paint.* (1786) II. 261 He was no sooner at Rome, than he found himself in his sphere. 1832 HT. MARTINEAU *Each & All* i, She is in her own sphere wherever there is grace, wherever there is enjoyment.

7. The whole province, domain, or range *of* some quality, thing, etc.

1602 MARSTON *Ant. & Mel.* II. Wks. 1856 I. 25 Ladie, erect your gratious simmetry: Shine in the spheare of sweete affection. *a* 1668 DAVENANT *News fr. Plimouth* I. i, London, the Spheare of Light and harmony. 1704 SWIFT *Mech. Oper. Spirit* Wks. 1768 I. 205 There are three general ways of ejaculating the soul, or transporting it beyond the sphere of matter. 1750 JOHNSON *Rambler* No. 169 P 5 They see a little, and believe that there is nothing beyond their sphere of vision. 1777 ROBERTSON *Hist. Amer.* (1783) I. 105 In this course, he came within the sphere of the trade wind. 1849 RUSKIN *Sev. Lamps* I. § 1. 7 Extending principles which belong altogether to building, into the sphere of architecture proper. 1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) IV. 8 The sphere of mind was dark and mysterious to him.

b. Esp. *of* action, activity, operation, etc.

1661 COWLEY *Gov. Oliver Cromwell* Wks. (Grosart) II. 299/2 The bounds of those laws which have been left them, as the sphere of their authority. 1666 DRYDEN *Ann. Mirab.* Pref. *Ess.* (Ker) I. 12 All which, by lengthening of their chain, makes the sphere of their activity the larger. 1729 BUTLER *Serm.* Wks. 1874 II. 154 The sphere of action of.. the greatest part of mankind is much narrower than the

government they live under. 1783 BURKE *Rep. Aff. India* Wks. 1842 II. 26 The spirit..prevailed not only in Bengal, but seems, more or less, to have diffused itself through the whole sphere of the company's influence. 1836 W. IRVING *Astoria* II. 27 The distrust..had increased in proportion as they approached the sphere of action. 1852 MRS. STOWE *Uncle Tom's C.* xx, Miss Ophelia resolved to confine her sphere of operation and instruction chiefly to her own chamber.

c. Similarly with *a* and pl. Also *ellipt.*

1726 BUTLER *Serm. Rolls Chap.* xv. 309 A Sphere of Knowledge..level to our Capacities. 1757 BURKE *Abridgm. Eng. Hist.* II. iii. Wks. (1812) 288 He agreed to an accommodation which..only left to himself a sphere of government. 1862 STANLEY *Jew. Ch.* (1877) I. iii. 61 His history belongs henceforth to a wider sphere. 1867 DK. ARGYLL *Reign of Law* ii. 55 They belong to wholly different spheres of thought. 1879 FROUDE *Cæsar* xiii. 179 Cæsar could only wish for a long absence in some new sphere of usefulness.

d. *Sphere of action, influence,* or *interest,* in recent use, a region or territory (esp. in Africa or Asia) within which a particular nation claims, or is admitted, to have a special interest for political or economic purposes. Also *ellipt.* and *attrib.*

1885 EARL GRANVILLE in Hertslet *Map of Africa by Treaty* (1894) II. 596 A Memorandum of Agreement for separating and defining the spheres of action of Great Britain and Germany in those parts of Africa where the Colonial interests of the two countries might conflict. *Ibid.* 598 Their respective spheres of influence in the territories on the Gulf of Guinea. 1890 SIR C. W. DILKE *Probl. Greater Britain* v. II. 193 Our South African 'sphere'. 1898 *Westm. Gaz.* 25 July 1/2 There is no necessary opposition between the sphere of influence policy and the 'open-door' policy.

II. 8. *Geom.* A figure formed by the complete revolution of a semicircle about its diameter; a round body of which the surface is at all points equidistant from the centre.

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XIX. CXXVII. (1495) 928 The Spere is a fygure shape alle rounde and is pere to Solid in all partyes. *c* 1400 *Pilgr. Sowle* (Caxton, 1483) v. xiv. 107 Alle thre dymensions in a round body nys but the same, and yf ther be ony difference the spere is not parfyte. 1551 RECORDE *Cast. Knowl.* (1556) 17 A Sphere is a sound figure, made by the tournynge of half a circle, tyll it ende where it began to be moued. 1570 BILLINGSLEY *Euclid* XI. def. 12. 316 A Sphere is a figure most apt to all motion, as hauing no base whereon to stay. 1613 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* I. ii. (1614) 10 Neyther is it yet absolutely round and a perfect sphere. 1698 KEILL *Exam. Th. Earth* (1734) 223 A Sphere..whose Center of Gravity coincides with its Center of Magnitude. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s.v., Parallel planes, which divide the diameter of a sphere into equal parts, divide the surface of the sphere into equal parts at the same time. 1840 LARDNER *Geom.* 204 The diameter..on which the generating circle turns is called the axis of the sphere, and its extremities..are called the poles of the sphere. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* I. 394 Draw the complete plan, and project..the external form of the sphere.

†b. The containing surface of such a figure or body. *Obs.*—[1]

a 1631 DONNE *Poems* (1650) 7 Shine here to us, and thou art every where; This bed thy center is, these wals, thy spheare.

9. A body of a globular or orbicular form; a globe or ball.

1388 WYCLIF *Isaiah* xxix. 3 And Y schal cumpasse as a round speere, ether trendil, in thi cumpasse. 1432–50 tr. *Higden* (Rolls) I. 227 In the hizte of whom is a spere of brasse conteynenge the bones of Iulyus Cesar. 1575 LANEHAM *Let.* (1871) 49 With obelisks, sphearz, and white bearz, all of stone, vpon theyr curioouz basez. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* VII. 355 Of Celestial Bodies first the Sun A mightie Spheare he fram'd. 1747 FRANKLIN *Lett.*, etc. Wks. 1840 V. 188 Our spheres are fixed on iron axes, which pass through them. 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* I, The changing moon forsakes this shadowy sphere. 1831 BREWSTER *Optics* XXVIII. 237 If we place a sphere of glass in a glass trough of hot oil. 1842 TENNYSON *Locksley Hall* 164 Lying in dark-purple spheres of sea. 1875 DARWIN *Insectiv. Plants* vi. 95 The fourth [cube] was converted into a minute sphere surrounded by transparent fluid.

fig. 1671 MILTON *Samson* 172 For him I reckon not in high estate Whom long descent of birth Or the sphear of fortune raises. 1701 NORRIS *Ideal World* I. vi. 389 He..can never go out of her sphere, whose center is everywhere, and whose circumference is nowhere. 1853 LYNCH *Self-Improv.* 33 Religion..at last fills the sphere, the eternity of his being.

b. The rounded mass *of* such a body.

1555 EDEN *Decades* I. I. (Arb.) 67 The iudgement of auncient wryters as touchynge the bignesse of the Sphere and compasse of the Globe. 1663 S. PATRICK *Parab. Pilgr.* XXXVI. (1687) 470 To colour the cheeks of our Apples, and enlarge the Sphere of our Cabbages. 1827 HOOD *Plea Mids. Fairies* i, With a broader sphere The Moon looks down on Ceres and her sheaves. 1830 TENNYSON *Mermaid* 54 All things..Would lean out from the hollow sphere of the sea. 1858 GREENER *Gunnery* 79 Until the flat surface is nearly equal to the diameter of the sphere of the ball.

c. The surface or material of a circular object.

c 1611 CHAPMAN *Iliad* XIV. 154 A girdle, whose rich sphere a hundred studs impress'd.

10. †a. = GLOBE *sb.* 4, ORB *sb.*[1] II. *Obs.*

1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) I. 235 The riȝt hond holdynge þe spere, þat is þe roundenesse and þe liknesse of þe world. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VIII,* 91 b, A hande of golde holdyng a spere of the worlde.

b. An orb of the mundane system; a planet or star.

1598 MARSTON *Sco. Villanie* x. H iij b, A hall, a hall, Roome for the Spheres, the Orbes celestiall Will daunce *Kemps Iigge.* 1607 SHAKS. *Timon* I. i. 66 All kinde of Natures That labour on the bosome of this Sphere. 17.. WATTS *Hymn,* '*God is a Name my Soul adores*' ii, Thy Voice produc'd the Sea and Spheres. 1837 BABBAGE *9th Bridgewater Treat.* iii. 57 He has traced the orbits of earth's sister spheres. 1871 BLACKIE *Four Phases Morals* i. 20 We attempt ambitiously to measure the remote movement of the spheres.

III. 11. *attrib.* a. In the sense 'of or pertaining to the celestial spheres', as *sphere-fire, -harmony, -melody, -metal, -music, -song, -tune.*

1609 MARKHAM *Famous Wh.* (1868) 33 Angels learnt their sphear-tunes from my voice. *c* 1630 MILTON *Univ. Carrier* ii. 5 So hung his destiny never to rot,..Made of sphear-metal, never to decay Untill his revolution was at stay. 1820 SHELLEY *Cloud* 71 The sphere-fire above its soft colours wove. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. III. vi, The Sphere-music of Parlementary eloquence begins. 1840 — *Heroes* iii. (1904) 84 The Greeks fabled of Sphere-Harmonies. 1858 SEARS *Athan.* XVII. 143 We..strike out bravely for the sphere-melodies. 1878 BROWNING *La Saisiaz* 24, I shall no more dare to..Pass off human lisp as echo of the sphere-song out of reach.

b. In the sense 'having the form of a sphere', as *sphere-crystal.*

1882 VINES tr. *Sachs' Bot.* 63 It crystallises in the form of so-called Sphere-crystals,..consisting of crystalline elements disposed in a radiate manner. 1885 GOODALE *Physiol. Bot.* 53 Both forms have been termed Sphæraphides and Sphere-crystals.

12. Comb., as *sphere-born, -descended, -filled, -found, -headed, -like, -tuned* adjs.

c 1630 MILTON *At a Solemn Music* 2 *Sphear-born harmonious Sisters, Voice, and Vers. 1747 COLLINS *Passions* 95 O Musick! *sphere-descended maid. 1855 BAILEY *Mystic,* etc. 82 The holy image of the *sphere-filled air. 1747 COLLINS *Ode to Liberty* iv. 34 The secret builder knew to choose Each *sphere-found gem of richest hues. 1786 ABERCROMBIE *Arr.* 56 in *Gard. Assist.,* *Sphere headed greater [thistle]. 1567 MAPLET *Gr. Forest* 23 In manner *Spherelike it hath one within an other. 1719 D'URFEY *Pills* V. 119 Last of all there should appear, Seven Eunuchs sphere-like Singing here. 1896 *Pop. Sci. Monthly* Feb. 507 The water..breaks up into spherelike globules. 1636 T. SANFORD in *Ann. Dubrensia* (1877) 50 And how your Swaines will leave Posteritie *Sphære-tuned Sonnets. 1752 H. M[OORE] *To Mem. of Dr. Doddridge* xi, I seem to..catch sweet Music from thy Sphere-tun'd Tongue.

Sphere (sfīər), *v.* Also 7 **sphear.** [f. prec.]

1. *trans.* To enclose in or as in a sphere; to encircle, engirdle, surround. Also with *about.*

1607 CHAPMAN *Bussy d'Ambois* I. i. 31 Spreading all our reaches As if each private arm would sphere the earth. *c* 1611 — *Iliad* XVIII. 185 When any towne is spher'd With siege of such a foe, as kils mens mindes. 16.. MIDDLETON, etc. *Old Law* v. i, A place at hand we were all strangers in, So spher'd about with music. 1856 MRS. BROWNING *Aur. Leigh* III. 309, I resolved by prose To make a space to sphere my living verse. 1866 W. R. ALGER *Solit. Nat. & Man* II. 43 Mourners, sphered by their dark garb in a sacred and touching solitude.

2. To make into a sphere; to fill up or 'crown' *with* liquor.

1605 B. JONSON *Masque of Blackness* Wks. (Rtldg.) 547/2 An urn sphered with wine. *a* 1849 H. COLERIDGE *Ess.* (1851) I. 272 Who could endure to see the sweet creature take a trumpet and sphere her bias cheeks like fame?

b. *fig.* To form into a rounded or perfect whole.

1615 CHAPMAN *Odyss.* XVIII. 297 That no more my mone Might waste my blood..For want of that accomplisht vertue spher'd In my lou'd Lord. 1622 MASSINGER & DEKKER *Virg. Martyr* IV. i, You, hitherto, Have still had goodness sphered within your eyes, Let not that orb be broken. 1847 TENNYSON *Princ.* IV. 129 Not vassals to be beat,..but living wills, and sphered Whole in ourselves and owed to none.

3. To place in a sphere or among the spheres; to set in the heavens.

1606 SHAKS. *Tr. & Cr.* I. iii. 90 And therefore is the glorious Planet Sol In noble eminence, enthron'd and sphear'd Amid'st the other. 1637 W. MORICE *Coena quasi Κοινή* xxii. 215 All that fire which is spheared on high and separate from commixture, is a pure element. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* VII. 247 Light..from her Native East To journie through the airie gloom began, Sphear'd in a radiant Cloud. 1820 SHELLEY *Fiordispina* 26 But thou art as a planet sphered above. 1847 TENNYSON *Princ.* IV. 418, I would have reach'd you had you been Sphered up with Cassiopëia. 1850 — *In Mem.* IX, Sphere all your lights around, above; Sleep, gentle heavens, before the prow.

b. *fig.* To set aloft or aloof; to place above the common reach.

1615 BRATHWAIT *Strappado* (1878) 190 The minds internall soueraignesse doth sit, As a great Princesse, much admired at, Sphered and reared in her chaire of state. 1649 G. DANIEL *Trinarch., Rich. II,* LXXXII, Maiestie should be sphear'd Beyond the common Eye. 1853 LYTTON *My Novel* VI. iv, The pale reflex and imitation of some bright mind, sphered out of reach and afar. 1861 LD. LYTTON *Fane Tannhäuser* 14 That so august a spirit, sphered so fair, Should from the starry sessions of his peers Decline.

4. To send *about* in a circle; to turn *round* in all directions.

1648 HERRICK *Hesper., His Age* xix, We'l still sit up, Sphering about the wassail cup, To all those times, Which gave me honour for my Rhimes. 1820 KEATS *Hyperion* I. 117 Open thine eyes eterne, and sphere them round Upon all space.

5. *intr.* To centre *in* something.

1856 MASSON *Ess. Biog. & Crit.* I. 34 The very same soul..was also related with inordinate keenness and intimacy to all that this life spheres in.

Hence **Sphe·ring** *vbl. sb.* Also *attrib.*

1818 KEATS *Endym.* II. 251 One of those Who, when this planet's sphering time doth close, Will be its high remembrancers. 1877 SYMONDS *Renaiss. It.* VI. 323 How those mighty master spirits watched the sphering of new planets in the spiritual skies.

Sphered, *ppl. a.* [f. prec. + -ED[1].] Converted into a sphere; formed like a sphere or circle.

1606 SHAKS. *Tr. & Cr.* IV. v. 8 Till thy sphered Bias cheeke Out-swell the collicke of puft Aquilon. 1820 KEATS *Lamia* II. 183 Twelve sphered tables, by silk seats insphered. 1855 M. ARNOLD *To Marguerite* iii, From thy remote and sphered course. 1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* I. xviii. 124 The sphered masses of condensed vapour which issue from a locomotive.

Sphereless (sfīə·rlės), *a.* [f. SPHERE *sb.* + -LESS.] a. Having no proper sphere; wandering. b. Displaying no spheres; orbless, starless.

1819 SHELLEY *Masque of Anarchy* lxxviii, Let the horsemen's scimitars Wheel and flash, like sphereless stars. 1870–4 J. THOMSON *City Dreadf. Nt.* III. i, When the night its sphereless mantle wears.

Sphereometer. *rare.* [f. SPHERE *sb.*]

1. *Naut.* (See quots.)

1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib., Brit.* II. No. 2775, A 'sphereometer', for facilitating the practice of great circle sailing. 1863 A. YOUNG *Naut. Dict.* 361 *Sphereometer,* a contrivance 'for facilitating great circle sailing by obviating abstruse calculations'.

2. = SPHEROMETER (Knight, 1884).

Spheric (sfe·rik), *a.* and *sb.* Forms: 6 **spherike,** 6–8 **spherick** (7 **sphear-, sphær-, sphœrick**), 7– **spheric** (8 **sphæric, spherique**). [ad. late L. *sphēr-, sphæricus,* ad. Gr. σφαιρικός, f. σφαῖρα SPHERE *sb.*, or F. *sphérique* (14th c.), = It. *sferico,* Sp. and Pg. *esferico.* The sb. corresponds to late L. *sphærica* fem.]

A. *adj.* 1. Of or relating to the sphere as a geometrical figure. (Cf. SPHERICAL *a.* 2.)

1559 W. CUNNINGHAM *Cosmogr. Glasse* 5, I wil exhort you ..to reade with great diligence..Theodosius of spherike Demonstrations. 1594 DAVIS *Seamans Secrets* II. (1607) 4 Cutting the Equinoctiall at right Spherick Angles. 1704 J. HARRIS *Lex. Techn.* I, *Spherick Geometry,* or *Projection,* is the Art of Describing on a Plane the Circles of the Sphere [etc.]. 1706 W. JONES *Syn. Palmar. Matheseos* 279 Of Spheric Trigonometry. 1798 HUTTON *Course Math.* (1807) II. 51 The spheric segment PFN.

2. = SPHERICAL *a.* 1.

1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* I. 224 Foure round isles of Sphærick work. 1622 DRAYTON *Poly-olb.* XXVIII. 335 Stones of a spherick form. 1673 GREGORY in Rigaud *Corr. Sci. Men* (1841) II. 247, I spoke not so of spheric speculums. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s.v. *Lycoperdon,* The blood red sphæric lycoperdon. 1791 E. DARWIN *Bot. Gard.* I. IV. 178 The diving castles, roof'd with spheric glass. 1828 SPEARMAN *Brit. Gunner* (ed. 2) 134 It appears that when the spheric chamber is filled with powder, it has the advantage in point of range. 1855 SINGLETON *Virgil* I. 30 Behold with spheric mass a nodding world. 1883 LANIER *Eng. Novel* 273 The most ravishing combination of tender curves and spheric softness.

3. Of or pertaining to, connected with, the spheres or heavenly bodies.

1648 J. BEAUMONT *Psyche* XX. CXI, Those rich Notes.. Whose Comfort makes the spherick melody. 1652 BENLOWES *Theoph.* VII. XLII, No lines, poles, tropicks, zones can thee enthrall, First mover of the Sphearick ball. 1813 T. BUSBY *Lucretius* II. v. 863 What there he [*sc.* the sun] borrows from the spheric skies, To parts opposing his advance supplies. 1844 MRS. BROWNING *Drama of Exile* 2050 We shall leap up..To join the spheric company. 1880 G. MACDONALD *Diary Old Soul* Jan. 20 Then harmony with every spheric song, And conscious power, would give sureness divine.

B. *sb.* (Chiefly *pl.*) The mathematical study or science of the sphere; spherica geometry and trigonometry.

1660 STANLEY *Hist. Philos.* III. I. 53 Geometry is precedent to Sphærick, as Station is to Motion. 1730 CHAMBERLAYNE *Relig. Philos.* III. xxiv. § 9 Concerning Spherics, or the Intersections and Angles which the Circles make. 1757 *Phil. Trans.* L. 422 We have (per spherics) sin. AE : 1 (rad) :: co-t. E ; co-t. AH. 1820 SHELLEY *Let. M. Gisborne* 94 Conic sections, spherics, logarithms. 1867 BRANDE & COX *Dict. Sci.,* etc. III. 532/1 The practical application of spherics to navigation.

Spherical (sfe·rikăl), *a.* and *sb.* Forms: *a.* 6 **sperycall,** 6–7 **sphericall,** 7– **spherical.** *β.* 6–9 **sphærical** (7 **-all**). γ. 7 **spheericall.** [f. as prec. + -AL.]

A. *adj.* 1. Having the form of a sphere (or a segment of a sphere); globular.

a. 1523 SKELTON *Garl. Laurel* 1514 Then to the heuyn sperycall vpwarde I gasid. 1570 BILLINGSLEY *Euclid* XI. def. 12. 316 The Sphericall superficies, which is the limite.. of a Sphere. 1613 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* (1614) 508 The Earth being,..at the first forming of it, more perfectly sphericall. 1698 KEILL *Exam. Th. Earth* (1734) 275 He will not suppose..that the Channel of the Sea is exactly of a Spherical surface. 1753 HOGARTH *Anal. Beauty* 8 Connected circular threads, or lines, forming a true spherical shell. 1805–17 JAMESON *Char. Min.* (ed. 3) 168 Supposing the molecules to be spherical. 1851 S. P. WOODWARD *Mollusca* 38 Completely spherical pearls can only be formed loose in the.. soft parts of the animal. 1871 B. STEWART *Heat* (ed. 2) § 67 A kind of flask, either cylindrical or spherical.

Comb. 1804 SHAW *Gen. Zool.* V. II. 432 Spherical-bodied Diodon, with triangular spines.

β. 1570 DEE *Math. Pref.* Dj b, Perpendiculars drawen to the Sphæricall Superficies of the earth. 1610 HEALEY *St. Aug. Citie of God* 483 A center is that point in the midst of a sphæricall body from whence all lines drawn to the circumference are equal. 1658 SIR T. BROWNE *Gard. Cyrus* iv. 64 Since many..sphæricall seeds arise from angular spindles. ?1705 BP. BERKELEY in Fraser *Life* (1871) 483 Segments of sphærical surfaces. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s.v. *Lycoperdon,* The snow white sphærical lycoperdon.

γ. 1613 *Blundevil's Exerc.* III. II. vi. (ed. 4) 381 Sith the

earth and the water..do make together one whole Sphearicall or round body.

b. Of form or figure: Characteristic of a sphere.

1527 THORNE in *Hakluyt* (1589) 257 To set the forme Sphericall of the world in *Plano* after yᵗ true rule of Cosmographie. 1553 EDEN *Treat. New Ind.* (Arb.) 11 Wyth what certayne demonstracions the Astronomers and Geometricians, proue the earth to bee rounde, and the Sphericall or rounde forme to bee mooste perfecte. 1608 TOPSELL *Serpents* 260 They haue eyther a Sphæricall and heauenly, or at least-wise an Ouall forme. 1698 KEILL *Exam. Th. Earth* (1734) 137 The Figure of the Earth which the Theorist rightly affirms not to have been exactly Spherical. 1803 IMISON *Sci. & Art* I. 237 The machine used on this occasion was formed of silk of a spherical figure. 1868 LOCKYER *Guillemin's Heavens* (ed. 3) 96 Its form is not rigorously spherical.

† **c.** *Spherical number*, a number whose powers always terminate in the same digit as the number itself. *Obs.* (Cf. CIRCULAR *a.* 10.)

The only spherical numbers are 5, 6, and 10.

1646 Sir T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* 219 As Plato first began, and some have endeavoured since by perfect and spherical numbers. 1658 — *Gard. Cyrus* iii. 53 The number of five is remarkable in every Circle, not only as the first sphærical Number, but the measure of sphærical motion. 1704 J. HARRIS *Lex. Techn.* I, *Circular Numbers*, or *Spherical ones*, according to some, are such whose Powers terminate in the Roots themselves.

d. Circular. *rare*⁻¹.

1730 A. GORDON *Maffei's Amphith.* 126 A spherical Building, with Towers at Intervals, as the City Tusculana appears in the Coins of the Sulpician Family.

2. *Math.* **a.** Of lines or figures: Drawn in, or on the surface of, a sphere; esp. *spherical triangle.*

1571 DIGGES *Pantom.* IV. x. Y i b, The axis and spherical Diameter of thys Dodecaedron. 1585 BLAGRAVE *Math. Jewel* (title-p.), The whole Artes of Astronomy,..Dyalling, Spherical triangles, Setting figures [etc.]. 1632 J. HAYWARD tr. *Biondi's Eromena* 136 Such like were the reasonings of sundry young Princes of divers Countries, who like spherical lines came to meete all in one and the same center. 1678 HOBBES *Decam.* Wks. 1845 VII. 162 The arch of a spherical angle is the side opposite to the angle. 1715 tr. *Gregory's Astron.* (1726) I. 476 The spherical Triangle *PLT*. 1824–5 *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) I. 362/1 A spherical polygon is a portion of the surface of a sphere terminated by several arcs of great circles. 1860 CAYLEY *Math. Papers* (1891) IV. 428 The envelope of XY is a spherical conic. 1861 PARKER *Introd. Gothic Arch.* (ed. 2) Gloss. Ind. 250 *Spherical triangle*, a triangular opening with curved sides, used in clear-story windows. 1886 B. BROWN *Schola to Cathedral* iv. 168 The spherical pendentive, by which dome construction was brought to perfection.

b. Dealing with the properties of the sphere or spherical figures.

1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v., Spherical Geometry, the Doctrine of the Sphere. *Ibid.*, Spherical Trigonometry, the Art of resolving Spherical Triangles. 1795 PLAYFAIR *Elem. Geom.* 279 Elements of Plane and Spherical Trigonometry. 1852 BRISTED *Five Yrs. Eng. Univ.* (ed. 2) 220 To make sure of the two questions in Spherical Trigonometry, on the first morning's paper.

c. Of or pertaining to, characteristic of, arising from, the sphere or its properties.

Chiefly in special collocations, as *spherical aberration, excess, harmonic, inversion, projection*, etc.: see the sbs.

3. Of or pertaining to the celestial spheres.

1605 SHAKS. *Lear* I. ii. 134 As if we were.. Knaues, Theeues, and Treachers by Sphericall predominance. *a* 1619 FOTHERBY *Atheom.* II. xi. § 1 (1622) 310 This sphericall motion of the heauens. 1838 MRS. BROWNING *Isobel's Child* xxxi, A harp whose strings are..tuned to music spherical.

4. *Spherical compasses, lathe*: (see quots.).

1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2264/2 *Spherical Lathe*, a lathe for turning spheres. 1891 *Cent. Dict.*, *Spherical compasses*, a kind of calipers for measuring globular bodies.

B. *sb.* A spherical body. *rare.*

1652 GAULE *Magastrom.* xxvi. I ij, All these Arts are chiefly conversant about the spherical, or round, whether figure, or number, or motion; they are forced..to confesse, that a perfect round, or spherical, is no where to be found.

Sphericality (sferikæ·lĭti). [f. SPHERICAL *a.*] The quality of being spherical; sphericity.

1669 STURMY *Mariner's Mag.* v. v. 19 The Sphericality of this Terrestial Globe. 1780 HARRIS *Philol. Enq.* Wks. (1841) 362 *note*, Let us, for example, call sphericality (if we may employ such a word) the essential form to a bowl. 1844 G. S. FABER *Eight Dissert.* (1845) II. 250 From an acquaintance with the earth's sphericality. 1878 *N. Amer. Rev.* CXXVI. 375 A knowledge of the sphericality of the earth.

Spherically (sfe·rikăli), *adv.* Also 6 **sphærically.** [f. SPHERICAL *a.* + -LY ².] In a spherical manner; in the form, after the fashion, of a sphere.

1592 T. DIGGES *Descr. Cælest. Orbs* To Rdr., In L. Digges *Prognost.* M j, The Sunne..giueth lawes of motion to the rest [of the spheres], sphærically dispersing his glorious beames of light through all this sacred Cœlestiall Temple. *a* 1639 WOTTON in *Relig.* (1651) 215 And it [*sc.* the circle] seemes, besides, to haue the approbation of Nature..: For birds do build their nests Spherically. 1690 LEYBOURN *Curs. Math.* 449 It may be concluded..that it is Spherical, because it is Spherically illuminated. 1882 VINES tr. *Sachs' Bot.* 423 The projection..swells up spherically at once.

Sphe·ricalness. *rare.* = SPHERICALITY.

1644 DIGBY *Nat. Bodies* iv. § 2. 27 Such bodies .. do receiue theire figure and limits from such letts as hinder them from attaining to that sphericalnesse they ayme att. 1704 *Phil. Trans.* XXV. 1728 The Sphericalness of the Apple of the Eye in Men. 1730 BAILEY (fol.), *Sphericity*, the Quality of a Sphere;..Sphericalness.

Sphericist (sfe·risist). *rare.* [f. SPHERIC *a.* + -IST.] (See quot.)

1897 *Athenæum* 29 May 716/1 One long tirade against the sphericists, or those who hold that the earth is round.

Sphericity (sferi·sĭti). Also 7 **sphæricity.** [ad. mod.L. *sphēr-*, *sphæricitās*: see SPHERIC *a.* and -ITY. So F. *sphéricité*, It. *sfericità*, Sp. *esfericidad*, Pg. *-idade.*]

† **1.** A spherical body or figure. *Obs.*⁻¹

1625 N. CARPENTER *Geogr. Del.* II. vii. 111 Such a sphericity as hath the same center with the center of the Earth.

2. The quality of being spherical or having the form of a sphere.

1625 N. CARPENTER *Geogr. Del.* I ñ. 38 The reasons.. that in generall proue the Sphæricity of the Terrene globe are diuers. *Ibid.* II. v. 70 Forasmuch as this hath little or no proportion to the vast Sphæracity [*sic*] of the Water. 1650 BULWER *Anthropomet.* 20 By some device to have their Heads..rounded, that they may obtain a perfect Sphericity. 1719 *Phil. Trans.* XXX. 1089 The Sphericity of the drops of Rain. 1789 BELSHAM *Ess.* I. xix. 370 Sphericity..is a property belonging to a complete globe. 1809 HUTTON in *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) III. 476/1 Let two large glasses, of convenient sphericities, be placed at proper distances. 1866 *Cornhill Mag.* Aug. 164 Tastes differ about the colour of pearls..At Bombay those of yellow hue and perfect sphericity are preferred. 1881 *Nature* XXIII. 398 The sphericity characteristic of the liquid state.

b. Of numbers: (see SPHERICAL *a.* 1 c.)

1658 Sir T. BROWNE *Gard. Cyrus* 70 For the stability of this Number, he shall not want the sphericity of its nature, which multiplied in it self, will return into its own denomination.

Sphe·ricle. *rare*⁻⁰. [dim. of SPHERE *sb.*, on Latin types.] 'A small sphere' (Webster, 1847).

Spherico- (sfe·riko), used as combining form of SPHERIC *a.* in a few terms, as *spherico-cylindrical, -tetrahedral, -triangular* adjs.

1778 *Phil. Trans.* LXVIII. 69 The fourth and fifth shots were of a long form, which may be called spherico-cylindrical, as they were cylinders terminated by hemispherical ends. 1839 *Penny Cycl.* XIV. 335/2 Buccal appendages spherico-triangular. 1857 M. J. BERKELEY *Cryptog. Bot.* § 636. 556 Sporangia..containing large spherico-tetrahedral spores. 1879 *St. George's Hosp. Rep.* IX. 522 A concavo-convex spherico-cylindrical glass, in preference to a biconvex spherico-cylindrical.

Spheriform (sfī·rifōm), *a.* Also 7 **sphery-.** [ad. L. type **sphēri-*, *sphæriformis*: see SPHERE *sb.* and -FORM.] Having the form of a sphere; = SPHERICAL *a.* 1. Also *fig.*

1678 CUDWORTH *Intell. Syst.* I. iv. § 20. 378 God was said to be σφαιροειδὴς or Spheryform, by Xenophanes, only..as being..every way like and uniform. 1848 MARTINEAU *Ess. & Addr.* (1891) II. 227 There is something spheriform in the Providence of humanity. 1869 — *Ess.* II. 176 A thing of spheriform perfection.

Sphe·rify, *v. rare*⁻¹. [Cf. prec. and -FY.] *trans.* To invest with a spherical form.

1866 R. CHAMBERS *Ess. Fam. & Hum. Ser.* I. 197 The same attractive force which spherifies the tear of morning on the prickle of the thorn.

Sphe·rioda·ctyl. *Zool.* Also **-yle.** [a. F. *sphériodactyle* (Cuvier), f. Gr. σφαιρίον, dim. of σφαῖρα sphere + DACTYL.] A gecko belonging to one of Cuvier's subdivisions. Hence **Sphe·rioda·ctylous** *a.*

1838 *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) XXV. 45/2 Spheriodactylous Geckos,..with the tips of the toes terminating in a little smooth pellet. 1840 *Cuvier's Anim. Kingd.* 278 A fifth subdivision is composed of the Spheriodactyles,..which are certain small Geckos [etc.]. 1845 *Encycl. Metrop.* Index, Spheriodactyls.

† **Sphe·rist.** *Obs.*⁻¹ [f. SPHERE *sb.* + -IST.] An observer of the spheres.

1604 E. G[RIMSTONE] *D'Acosta's Hist. Indies* VI. iv. 438 Neyther do they call those characters, letters,..but rather ciphers, or remembraunces, as those be which the Spherists or Astronomers do vse.

‖ **Spheriste·rion.** *rare*⁻¹. [ad. Gr. σφαιριστήριον, f. σφαῖρα ball.] A place for exercise in ball-play. In quot. *fig.*

1824 LANDOR *Imag. Conv., Arist. & Callisth.* II. 339 What a spheristerion is opened here to the exercise of informers!

Sphero- (sfī·ro), var. of SPHÆRO-, used as combining form of SPHERE *sb.* (cf. F. *sphéro-*) in various terms, chiefly scientific and technical, as **Spheroco·nic** *Math.*, **Spherocyli·ndric** *a.*, **Sphe·rogram** *Math.* (see quots.). **Sphe·rograph** *Naut.*, a device serving to facilitate the calculation of spherical problems. **Sphero·logy,** the science, study, or theory of the sphere. † **Sphero·machy** [L. *sphæromachia*, Gr. σφαιρομαχία] (see quot.). **Spheroma·niac,** one who is passionately fond of playing at bowls. **Spherophy·ric** *a. Min.*, **Spheropo·lar** *a. Geom.*, **Spheroqua·rtic** *Math.*, **Spherosi·derite** *Min.* (see quots.) **Spherosti·lbite** *Min.*, a variety of stilbite, having the form of radiated spheres.

Also, in recent works o Dicts., *spherobacteria, -cobaltite, -crystal, -mere*, etc.

1867 BRANDE & COX *Dict. Sci.*, etc. III. 532/1 **Spheroconic*, the section of a sphere by a quadric cone having its vertex at the centre. 1871 [see *spheroquartic*]. 1825 J. NICHOLSON *Operat. Mechanic* 541 If a cylinder intersect a sphere of greater diameter than the cylinder, the arch is called a *sphero-cylindric arch. 1870 CAYLEY *Math. Papers* (1894) VII. 403 In the figures called '*spherograms'..the representation of a hemisphere is all that is required. 1858 *Merc. Marine Mag.* V. 231 The *Spherograph, invented by Mr. Saxby, will shew..the true bearing of the Sun at any time throughout the day. 1867 BRANDE & COX *Dict. Sci.*, etc. III. 532/1 *Spherograph*, an instrument invented for the practical application of spherics to navigation. By its aid any possible spherical triangle can be constructed without dividers or scales. 1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.*, **Spheromachy*, playing at Tennis, or Bowling. 1906 *Gentl. Mag.* Dec. 631 To us as to all *spheromaniacs, a good game at bowls is the finest sport in the world. 1895 DANA *Man. Geol.* (ed. 4) 77 The kind of mineral is indicated by the terms *orthophyric*, if orthoclase;..**spherophyric*, if containing spherical concretions, etc. 1867 BRANDE & COX *Dict. Sci.*, etc. III. 532/1 **Sphero-polar Reciprocal*, [see] Polar Reciprocal. 1871 CASEY in *Phil. Trans.* CLXI. 585 On this account I have called this species of cyclide .. a *sphero-quartic. .. The sphero-quartic is the intersection of a sphere and a cone. *Ibid.*, A sphero-quartic is the envelope of a variable circle whose centre moves along the sphero-conic, and which cuts the circle J orthogonally. 1836 T. THOMSON *Min., Geol.*, etc. I. 444 Carbonate of Iron. Brownspar,..*spherosiderite, spathose iron. 1862 DANA *Min.* 247 The globular concretions found in some amygdaloids or lavas have been called spherosiderite. 1843 PORTLOCK *Geol.* 222 At Portrush it [Stilbite] occurs white, (?*Spherostilbite,) in implanted globules.

Spheroid (sfī·roid), *sb.* and *a.* Also 7–9 **sphæroid,** 8 **spheroide.** [ad. L. *sphæroïdes*, ad. Gr. σφαιροειδής, f. σφαῖρα ball: see -OID. So F. *sphéroïde* (1556), It. *sferoide*, Sp. and Pg. *esferoide.*]

A. *sb.* A body approaching in shape to a sphere, *esp.* one formed by the revolution of an ellipse about one of its axes. *Oblate, prolate spheroid*: see the adjs.

1664 BARROW in Rigaud *Corr. Sci. Men* (1841) II. 39 Were I to compute the portions of a sphere or spheroid, I should only use these rules, out of Archimedes. 1698 KEILL *Exam. Th. Earth* (1734) 95 After the fashion of a broad spheroid which is generated by the rotation of a semi Ellipsis round its lesser Axis. 1777 *Phil. Trans.* LVII. 285 Conceive now a spherical surface..to be carried about with the revolving spheroid. 1829 *Chapters Phys. Sci.* 41 In all cases, the centre of gravity tends towards the centre of the terrestrial spheroid, or to a point very near to it. 1854 MURCHISON *Siluria* vi. 134 [Mudstone] has a tendency to run into large spheroids. 1881 LE CONTE *Sight* 52 The form of a perfect eye is that of a spheroid of revolution about the optic axis.

B. *adj.* = SPHEROIDAL *a.*

1767 *Phil. Trans.* LVIII. 32 As no two measurements.. make the earth of the same spheroid figure. 1875 COOKE *Fungi* 62 Afterwards small sphæroid projections appear at certain points on the mycelium. 1884 JEFFERIES *Red Deer* iii. 42 The spheroid form concentrates more substance in a given measurement than any other.

Spheroidal (sferoi·dăl), *a.* Also **sphæroidal.** [f. SPHEROID *sb.* + -AL. So F. *sphéroïdal*, Sp. and Pg. *esferoidal.*]

1. Of form, figure, etc.: Characteristic of a spheroid; approximately spherical.

1781 *Phil. Trans.* LXXI. 503 Allowing for the spheroidal figure of the earth. 1802 PLAYFAIR *Illustr. Huttonian The.* 493 To account for its assuming the spheroidal figure. 1845 TODD & BOWMAN *Phys. Anat.* I. 138 The spheroidal form of the cranium. 1890 *Science-Gossip* XXVI. 49/1 While the heavier portions..were being drawn together so as to acquire a spheroidal contour.

b. *Spheroidal condition* or *state*: (see quots. 1860 and 1871).

1855 SCOFFERN in *Orr's Circ. Sci., Elem. Chem.* 190 If it be projected upon a capsule of platinum, maintained at a red heat, the salt..will assume the spheroidal condition. 1860 *Ure's Dict. Arts* (ed. 5) III. 732 *Spheroidal state*, the name given by Boutigny to the condition assumed by water when projected into red hot vessels. 1871 B. STEWART *Heat* (ed. 2) § 110 Vaporization in the Spheroidal Condition, where a liquid evaporates slowly although in apparent contact with a very hot substance.

2. Having the form of a spheroid.

1798 HUTTON *Course Math.* (1807) II. 348 The spheroidal hollow in the bottom of the bore. 1822 J. PARKINSON *Outlines Oryctol.* 77 A stony polypifer, fixed, in a simple hemisphærical or sphæroidal mass. 1867 J. HOGG *Microsc.* II. i. 271 A splitting up..into six or eight masses, which become spheroidal sporules. 1878 NEWCOMB *Pop. Astron.* IV. iii. 998 A constant flattening of the spheroidal atmosphere.

Comb. 1891 MOULLIN *Surg.* 138 Spheroidal-celled Cancer ..occurs in the breast,..nose, and palate.

b. In special applications (see quots.).

1805–17 R. JAMESON *Char. Min.* (ed. 3) 209 Spheroidal, when its surface consists of forty-eight convex faces, as in the diamond. 1842 GWILT *Archit.* Gloss., *Spheroidal Bracketing*, that formed to receive the plastering of a spheroid. 1881 MIVART *Cat* 26 Or they may be rounded, forming spheroidal epithelium. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* III. 977 Spheroidal carcinoma is rare in the large intestine.

3. Dealing with the properties of spheroids.

1876–7 CAYLEY *Math. Papers* (1896) IX. 197 The fundamental formulæ of Spheroidal Trigonometry are those which belong to a right-angled triangle.

Hence **Spheroi·dally** *adv.*, after a spheroidal manner; so as to form spheroids.

1888 *Q. Jrnl. Geol. Soc.* XLIV. 450 The great mass of Mynydd-y-Rhiw..is largely built up of spheroidally jointed rock.

Spheroidical (sferoi·dikăl), *a.* [f. SPHEROID *sb.* + -ICAL.]

1. = SPHEROIDAL *a.* 2.

1698 *Phil. Trans.* XXXIII. 254 Because..I have already shew'd that the Surface of the Ocean is spheroidical and not spherical. 1713 DERHAM *Phys.-Theol.* VIII. vi. (1752) 378 Its leaves expanded, minister to the germination of globular, and other spheroidical balls. 1787 *Gentl. Mag.* Nov. 993/1 The barrows..are..in general nearly spheroidical. 1823 DE QUINCEY *Lett. Lang.* (1860) 128 Any whatever of the larger spheroidical fruits. 1832 H. LLOYD *Light & Vision* III. i. 265 The bounding surfaces of the refracting media, however, are not spherical,..but spheroidical.

2. = SPHEROIDAL *a.* 1.

1708 J. KEILL *Anim. Secret.* 163 The Globule would be pressed into a Spheroidical Form. 1710 *Brit. Apolla* III. No. 118. 1/2 The Spheroidical Figure of the Earth. 1845 HERSCHEL *Ess.* (1857) 666 The change of spheroidical form.

Hence **Spheroi·dically** *adv.*, spheroidally.

1786 JEFFERSON *Writ.* (1859) II. 69 We may, therefore, conclude it impossible for the poles of the earth to shift, if it was made spheroidically.

Sphe·roidi·city. [Cf. prec. and -ICITY.] The state or character of being spheroidal.

1855 SCOFFERN in *Orr's Circ. Sci., Elem. Chem.* 189 The phenomenon of *spheroidicity*, or calefaction,..must have been noticed. 1867 DENISON *Astron. without Math.* 7 The spheroidicity of the earth or any other planet is usually called its ellipticity.

Sphe·roidism. *rare.* [f. SPHEROID *sb.* + -ISM.] The fact of being a spheroid.

1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s. v. *Earth*, Mons. Cassini has found, that the Degrees of a Meridian grow larger, the further we go towards the Line by one Eight hundredth Part of every Degree; which puts the Spheroidism of the Earth past Question. 1903 *Engineer* 9 Jan. 42/3 Most makers of flash boilers repudiate the idea that sphergidism manifests itself.

†Spheroi·dity. *Obs. rare.* [f. SPHEROID *a.* + -ITY.] Spheroidicity.

1740 CHEYNE *Regimen* 5 The Rotundity, or at least the Spheroidity of its constituent particles. 1794 G. ADAMS *Nat. & Exp. Philos.* IV. xlii. 133 The orbit of the earth has an eccentricity, more than double in proportion to the spheroidity of its globe.

Spherometer (sfɛrɒ·mĭtəɹ). Also **sphæro-meter.** [ad. F. *sphéromètre*: see SPHERO- and -METER.] An instrument for measuring the sphericality or curvature of bodies or surfaces.

1827-8 HERSCHEL in *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) IV. 567 The 'Spherometer', a delicate species of *calibre* contrived by M. Biot. 1830 — *Study Nat. Philos.* 355 The elegant invention of the sphræometer,..substituting the sense of touch for that of sight in the measurement of minute objects. 1876 *Catal. Sci. App. S. Kens.* 29 Spherometer for measuring spherical curves, with true gun-metal plane.

Comb. 1903 *Nature* 12 March 442/2 The spherometer-calliper, which, we believe, was used with success in the testing of the instruments employed in the transit of Venus expeditions.

Spherular (sfe·rĭŭlăɹ), *a.* [f. SPHERULE *sb.* + -AR 1.] Having the form of a spherule.

1820 SCORESBY *Acc. Arctic Reg.* I. 429 Having a spherular nucleus, giving rise to radii in all directions. 1822-7 GOOD *Study Med.* (1829) II. 54 Instead of being annular wheels with iron axles, they are spherular wheels with iron tiers. 1889 *Nature* XXXIX. 315/2 Spherular bodies consisting of radially-aggregated fibres of a single mineral.

Sphe·rulate, *a. Ent. rare*—°. [ad. mod.L. *sphærulāt-us.*] (See quot.)

1826 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* IV. xlvi. 274 *Spherulate*, ..having one or more rows of minute tubercles.

Spherule (sfe·rĭəl). Also 8 **sphærule.** [ad. L. *sphēr-, sphærula*, dim. of *sphæra* SPHERE *sb.* Cf. F. *sphérule.*]

1. A little sphere; a small or minute spherical or globular body.

1665 HOOKE *Microgr.* 85 A Spherule or Globe. 1713 DERHAM *Phys.-Theol.* 79 *note*, The Particles of Water thus mounted up by the Heat, are visibly Sphærules of Water, if viewed with a Microscope. 1752 *Phil. Trans.* XLVII. 457 Each..was composed of ten or twelve angular and chrystalline spherules. 1813 T. BUSBY *Lucretius* II. VI. Comm. p. vii, The density of the spherules is less and less as the parts recede from the centre. 1852 DANA *Crust.* I. 642 Minute, ruby-red spherules. 1875 M. COLLINS *Sweet & Twenty* I. x; A fountain..throwing its showers of perennial spherules into the air untiringly.

attrib. c 1790 IMISON *Sch. Arts* I. 215 In using these spherule microscopes, the objects are to be placed in one focus, and the eye in the other.

2. *Bot.* 'A globose peridium, with a central opening, through which sporidia are emitted' (Lindley).

1796 WITHERING *Brit. Plants* (ed. 3) IV. 391 Spherules in heaps, but not confluent, globular, very small.

Spherulite (sfe·rĭŭləit). Also **sphærulite.** [f. L. *sphærula* SPHERULE + -ITE 1 2 a and 2 b.]

1. *Min.* A concretionary substance found in small spherular masses in certain rocks.

1823 W. PHILLIPS *Min.* (ed. 3) 209 Sphærulite..occurs in small roundish masses, sometimes aggregated in the botryoidal form. *c* 1840 *Encycl. Metrop.* VI. 516/1 Sphærulite.. occurs in small spheroidal and botryoidal masses imbedded in pearlstone and pitchstone. 1862 DANA *Min.* 357 Spherulite is a kind of pearlstone, occurring in small globules in massive pearlstone. 1889 *Science-Gossip* XXV. 47 Spherulite and pitchstone from Arran.

b. A spherular concretion of this nature.

1863 DANA *Man. Geol.* § 8. 88 [Pearlstone] often contains spherical concretions, called spherulites, which consist of feldspar with an excess of quartz. 1886 GEIKIE *Class-Bk. Geol.* 214 In some obsidians, little spherulites of a dull grey enamel-like substance have made their appearance.

2. *Palæont.* A genus of fossil molluscs.

In early use in L. form *Sphærulītes.*

1834 GRIFFITH tr. *Cuvier* XII. 92 Sphærulites,..where the valves are roughened by irregularly raised plates. 1841 MILLER *O. R. Sandst.* viii. 153 The hippurites, sphærulites, and nummulites of the same formations, in Greece, Italy, and Spain. 1847 ANSTED *Anc. World* x. 241 One such genus is called Sphærulite...They seem most nearly allied to the inhabitants of those univalve shells of which the limpet is the present representative.

Spherulitic (sferĭŭli·tik), *a. Geol.* and *Min.* Also **sphærulitic.** [f. prec. (sense 1) + -IC.]

1. Of rocks, etc.: Containing, or composed of, spherulites.

1833-4 J. PHILLIPS *Geol.* in *Encycl. Metrop.* VI. 761/1 That concretionary structure which reminds us of some kinds of obsidian and sphærulitic traps. 1863 DANA *Man. Geol.* § 6. 88 Spherulitic obsidian. Contains small feldspathic concretions. 1889 *Science-Gossip* XXV. 216 Pitchstone (ordinary, banded, and spherulitic)..

2. Pertaining to, characteristic of, spherulites.

1878 LAWRENCE tr. *Cotta's Rocks Class.* 86 Spherulitic or Globuliferous. A texture so named, somewhat similar to the oolitic. 1879 RUTLEY *Stud. Rokks* xi. 184 Spherulitic structure is sometimes developed in artificial glass.

3. Having the form or character of a spherulite.

1888 RUTLEY *Rock-Forming Min.* 130 Sections passing through the centres of these spherulitic bodies.

Spherulitize (sfe·rĭŭlitəiz), *v. Geol.* [f. SPHERULITE.] *trans.* To render spherulitic.

1889 *Q. Jrnl. Geol. Soc.* XLV. 250 The milk-white fragments of felstone..are, at places, spherulitized, and contain abundant microliths.

Sphe·rulitoid, *a. Geol.* [f. as prec. + -OID.] More or less spherulitic in structure.

1889 *Q. Jrnl. Geol. Soc.* XLV. 248 Chains of stellate spherulitoid enclosures along the curved surface of a crack.

Sphery (sfī·ɹi), *a.* Also 6 **spherie,** 7 **spheary,** 9 **spherey.** [f. SPHERE *sb.*]

1. Of or pertaining to, connected with, the spheres or heavenly bodies; sphere-like.

1590 SHAKS. *Mids. N.* II. ii. 99 What wicked and dissembling glasse of mine, Made me compare with Hermias sphery eyne? 1634 MILTON *Comus* 1021 Love vertue,..She can teach ye how to clime Higher then the Spheary chime. 1816 KEATS *Ep. to Bro. George* 4 In seasons when I've thought No spherey strains by me could e'er be caught From the blue dome. 1818 — *Endym.* III. 33 A thousand Powers..Hold sphery sessions for a season due. 1867 JEAN INGELOW *Christ's Resurr.* xxii, Hurrying down the sphery way Night flies. 1882 SYMONDS *Animi Figura* 121 Discord that jars upon the sphery tune.

2. Having the form of a sphere. Also *Comb.*

1600 LANE *Tom Tel-troth* 183 Astronomie..hath lost By cruell fate her starrè-embroidred coate; Her spherie globe in dangers seas is tost, And in mishap her instruments doe floate. 1871 B. TAYLOR *Faust* III. (1886) 274 This way, ye gloomy, sphery-bodied, monster throng [of phantoms]!

Spheterize (sfe·tĕrəiz), *v. rare.* [ad. Gr. σφετερίζειν, f. σφέτερος one's own.] *trans.* To make one's own; to appropriate.

1779 SIR W. JONES *Let.* in *Parr's Wks.* (1828) I. 109 Remember to reserve for me a copy of your book..I am resolved to *spheterize* some passages of it. 1895 *Academy* 30 Mar. 279/1 By filching a purse or spheterizing a neighbour's spoons.

‖ Sphex (sfeks). *Ent.* Pl. **sphe·ges** (sfī·dʒīz) [a. Gr. σφήξ (pl. σφῆκες) wasp.] A genus of digger-wasps; a wasp of this genus.

1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XVII. 689/2 Sphex, Ichneumon Wasp, or Savage. 1805 BINGLEY *Zool.* (ed. 3) III. 354 Many species of the Sphex are common in England;..their larvæ feed on dead insects, in the bodies of which the parent Spheges lay their eggs. 1857 GOSSE *Omphalos* 319 Immense tribes of solitary Bees, Wasps, and Spheges. 1881 DARWIN *Veg. Mould* 93 A sphex..stocks its nest with paralysed grasshoppers.

attrib. 1807 J. E. SMITH *Phys. Bot.* 196 An insect of the Sphex or Ichneumon kind. 1815 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* xi. (1818) I. 351 Similar laborious exertions are not confined to the bee or Sphex tribe. 1897 *Contemp. Rev.* June 869 A sphex-wasp stings into helplessness the caterpillars it has selected.

Hence **Sphe·xide,** a wasp belonging or related to the genus *Sphex.*

1828 STARK *Elem. Nat. Hist.* II. 230 In the Hymenoptera, such as wasps, bees, sphexides, &c. the extremity of the abdomen incloses a sting, calculated for attack or defence.

Sphincter (sfi·ŋktəɹ). *Anat.* Also 7 **sphyncter.** [a. L. *sphincter*, ad. Gr. σφιγκτήρ band, contractile muscle, f. σφίγγειν to bind tight. So F. *sphincter*, It. *sfintere*, Sp. and Pg. *esfinter.*]

1. A contractile muscular ring by which an orifice of the body (in man or animals) is normally kept closed.

Sometimes with Latin genitive of the part, as *Sphincter ani, vaginæ, vesicæ.*

1578 BANISTER *Hist. Man* VII. 97 Some [Arteries] together with certaine Ueynes of *Vena caua*, do flowe to the Muscles called the Sphincter. 1594 T. B. *La Primaud. Fr. Acad.* II. 352 This straight gutte hath this muscle, which the physicions call sphincter. 1623 HART *Arraignm. Ur.* ii. 4 The two muscles called Sphyncters. 1691 *Phil. Trans.* XVII. 819 The Fibres that compose the Sphincter of the Bladder. 1740-1 BERKELEY in Fraser *Life* (1871) viii. 263, I have also known tow, dipped in brandy and thrust into the fundament, to be effectual in strengthening that sphincter. 1759 GOLDSM. *Bee* No. 4 ¶ 26 A glutinous liquid, which..it spins into thread, coarser or finer as it chooses to contract or dilate its sphincter. 1807 *Med. Jrnl.* XVII. 421 In the lower part [of the pupil], the divided fibres of the sphincter receded. 1851 G. F. RICHARDSON *Geol.* (1855) 245 A lung..which opens and shuts, at the will of the animal, by the action of a muscular sphincter. 1872 HUXLEY *Physiol.* 145 The muscular fibres are so disposed as to form a sort of sphincter around the aperture of communication.

b. *transf.* and *fig.*

1737 M. GREEN *Spleen* 697 Debarr'd the pleasure to impart By av'rice, sphincter of the heart. 1752 *Phil. Trans.* XLVII. 455 The animal [i. e. a coral-insect], when it wanted to come forth from its niche, forced the sphincter at its entrance. 1837 P. KEITH *Bot. Lex.* 335 Their edge has the appearance of being a sort of thickened sphincter capable of opening and shutting.

2. a. *attrib.*, as *sphincter-fibre, -power*; also **sphincter-muscle,** = sense 1.

1615 CROOKE *Body of Man* 422 Euen the muscles haue a motion which we call *Tonicum motum*,..especially the two sphincter muscles. 1676 *Phil. Trans.* XI. 603 His sence was..that they might be rather numerous, though small, Sphincter-muscles. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1824) III. 15 A bony partition, which is closed by a sphincter muscle on the inside. 1808 BARCLAY *Musc. Motions* 463 Sphincter muscles cannot open themselves. 1876 CURLING *Dis. Rectum* 169 A large part of the sphincter muscle may be excised without seriously weakening the retentive power of the anus. 1879 *St. George's Hosp. Rep.* IX. 348 The margin of this opening possessed slight sphincter power. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* III. 365 A spasm of the sphincter fibres at the lower end of the circular coat of the œsophagus.

b. *Comb.*, as *sphincter-contracting, -inhibitory, -like* adjs.

1841 *Penny Cycl.* XXI. 160/1 The closing appears to be effected by sphincter-like muscles. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VI. 775 A sphincter-contracting centre, closely associated with a sphincter-inhibitory centre.

Hence **Sphincte·ric** *a.*, of or pertaining to, of the nature of, a sphincter. Also **Sphi·nctrate** *a.* Recent Dicts. give *sphi·ncteral* and *sphincte·rial.*

1883 DUNCAN *Clin. Lect. Dis. Women* (ed. 2) viii. 54 This is a sphincteric opening, and during the child-bearing period of life it must open and close. 1884 C. B. KELSEY *Dis. Rectum & Anus* v. 106 No amount of sphincteric contraction would close it. 1887 SOLLAS in *Encycl. Brit.* XXII. 415 Which communicates through a sphincterate aperture.

Sphi·ngal, *a. rare.* [f. *sphing-* stem of SPHINX.] Resembling that of a sphinx.

1851 B. W. BALL *Elfin-Land* I. 21 No sphingal countenance more calm, Than his majestic face.

†Sphi·ngian, *a. Obs.*—1 In 7 **sphyngian.** [f. as prec.] = SPHINXIAN *a.*

1620 BP. HALL *Hon. Marr. Clergy* I. iv. (1628) 744 These sphyngian riddles are for better heads.

†Sphingture, obs. variant of SPHINCTER.

1612 WOODALL *Surg. Mate* Wks. (1653) 6 The Sphingtures or gathering muscles of the fundament, will not of themselves without resistance be opened.

Sphinx (sfiŋks). Pl. **sphinges** (sfi·ndʒīz), **sphinxes.** Also 5 **spynx,** 7-8 (9) **sphynx.** [a. L. *Sphinx*, a. Gr. Σφίγξ (stem Σφιγγ-), app. f. σφίγγειν to draw tight. So F. *sphinx*, It. *sfinge*, Sp. and Pg. *esfinge.*]

In generalized senses usually with small initial; otherwise with capital S.

1. *Gr. Mythol.* A hybrid monster, usually described as having the head of a woman and the (winged) body of a lion, which infested Thebes until the riddle it propounded was solved by Œdipus; also, any monster of a similar form and character.

1420-2 LYDG. *Thebes* 1. 624 And as I rede, Spynx this monstre hight. *Ibid.* II. 2158 At thylke mount wher that Spynx was slawe. 1582 SIDNEY *Apol. Poet.* (Arb.) 55 What that before tyme was, I thinke scarcely Sphinx can tell. 1588 SHAKS. *L. L. L.* IV. iii. 342 Subtill as Sphinx, as sweet and musicall, As bright Apollos Lute. 1615 G. SANDYS *Trav.* 131 The vpper part of a Sphinx resembled a maide, and the lower a Lion. 1649 DRUMM. OF HAWTH. *Poems* Wks. (1711) 40/2 Geryons, Harpyes, Dragons, Sphinges Strange, Wheel, where in spacious gires the fume doth range. 1729 MANDEVILLE *Fab. Bees* II. 266 Do you lay any Stress upon Sphinxes, Basilisks, flying Dragons, and Bulls that spit Fire? 1756-7 tr. *Keysler's Trav.* (1760) III. 146 Several relievo's of plaster, representing a sphynx, a griffin, and other imaginary animals. 1820 SHELLEY *Prometh. Unb.* I. 347 Thou Sphinx, subtlest of fiends Who ministered to Thebes..unnatural love, and more unnatural hate. 1883 *Fortn. Rev.* Feb. 193 The sphinx had an awkward habit of swallowing up those who could not guess her riddles.

b. *transf.* A person characterized by some quality of the Sphinx; *esp.* one who propounds or presents a difficult question or problem.

1603 B. JONSON *Sejanus* II. iii. [III. i.], I am not Oedipus inough, To vnderstand this Sphynx. 1611 SPEED *Hist. Gt. Brit.* IX. xii. § 8. 670/1 The Sphynx, who is said to be the Author of this ambiguous Riddle,..was Adam de Torleton. 1808 *Sporting Mag.* XXX. 209 A lady named Gibson, one of the sphynxes of Fleet-market. 1857 KINGSLEY *Ten V. Ago* XXVII, He was a sphinx, a chimera, a lunatic broke loose, who took unintelligible delight in getting wet, and dirty. 1884 *Bath Herald* 25 Oct. 3/2 Mr. Dodson has for many years been a political sphinx.

c. *fig.* A thing or subject of a mysterious or inscrutable nature.

a 1610 HEALEY *Cebes* (1636) 110 For ignorance is a Sphynx unto man. 1678 *Yng. Man's Call.* 46 It is the philosophers sphinx, which however it may seem to propound toyes, yet devoureth all (as that did) who fall unwisely into its imbraces. 1856 R. A. VAUGHAN *Mystics* (1860) I. 13 History fairly questioned is no Sphinx.

2. A sculptured, carved, or moulded figure of an imaginary creature having a human head and breast combined with the body of a lion.

The Egyptian sphinxes usually exhibit male heads and wingless bodies; in the usual Greek type the head is female and the body winged.

a. 1579-80 NORTH *Plutarch* (1896) V. 320 He had a Sphinx of Yvory geven him by Verres. 1738 LD. CHESTERF. in *Common Sense* 4 Mar. (1739) 33 A Sphynx of curious Workmanship and of inestimable Value. 1789 MRS. PIOZZI *Journ. France* I. 405 There is a sphinx upon it,..mighty clearly expressed. 1865 LIVINGSTONE *Zambesi* iv. 97 The southern end of the range rises in the form of an unfinished sphinx. 1877 AMELIA B. EDWARDS *Up Nile* Pref. p. xv, The stone lips of a colossal Sphinx, buried to the neck in sand.

β. 1603 HOLLAND *Plutarch's Mor.* 1290 Setting up ordin-

arily before the..gates of their temples, certaine Sphinges. 1678 CUDWORTH *Intell. Syst.* 315 With which agreeth also the Testimony of Plutarch, he adding a further Confirmation thereof from the Egyptian Sphinges. 1863 LD. LYTTON *Ring Amasis* II. 32 The beautiful serious sphinges, with their smooth lion-limbs, and serene human faces. 1877 *Times* 17 Feb. 4/5 There are handles ornamented with bull's heads, winged sphinges [etc.].

γ. 1651 CLEVELAND *Poems* 31 As Temples use to have their Porches wrought With Sphynxes, creatures of an antick draught. 1766 WALPOLE *Lett.* (1857) IV. 492 Two sphynxes in stone, with their heads coquetly reclined. 1814 HEYNE *Tracts on India* 336 In the Conjeveram pagoda there are pillars resting on sphynxes. 1888 F. HUME *Mme. Midas* I. iii, The motionless calm which the old Egyptians gave to their sphinxes.

b. *spec.* The colossal stone image of this kind near the pyramids of El-Gizeh in Egypt.

1613 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* VI. i. I. 467 Not farre hence is that Sphynx, a huge Colosse, with the head of a Maid, and bodie of a Lion. 1687 A. LOVELL tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* I. II. v. 134 It is said, that this Sphynx, so soon as the Sun was up, gave responses to any thing it was consulted about. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XV. 681/2 The great sphynx was in his [Pliny's] time upwards of 62 feet above the surface of the ground. 1820 KEATS *Hyperion* I. 31 Her face was large as that of Memphian sphinx. 1869 RAWLINSON *Anc. Hist.* 68 Thothmes IV, who cut the great sphinx near the Pyramids. 1879 LOFTIE *Ride in Egypt* 162 To some the Sphinx is part of the great 'Time-passage' theory.

3. A kind of ape; in mod. use, a sphinx-baboon.

1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* 17 The Sphinx or Sphinga is of the kinde of Apes... In the promontory of the farthest Arabia, neer Dira, are Sphinges, and..Lyons. 1613 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* VI. i. I. 466 Other Apes there are store,..Satyres with feet like Goats, and Sphynges, with breasts like women and hairie. 1871 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* I. 148 This excited the indignation of the Sphinx, who trotted off to the further end of his cage.

4. An insect belonging to the lepidopterous genus *Sphinx* or to the family represented by this, so called from the attitude frequently assumed by the caterpillar.

1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl., *Sphinx*,..a name given by Mr. Reaumur to a very singular species of caterpillar. 1816 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* xxiii. (1818) II. 369 The most remarkable insects in this respect are the sphinxes, and from this they doubtless took their name of *hawk-moths*. 1824 FORSYTH *Fruit Trees* xxvii. 396 The Sphinges appear either early in the morning, or after sunset. 1868 *Rep. U.S. Commissioner Agric.* (1869) 310 This order [*sc.* Lepidoptera] has been divided into three groups, called..butterflies, sphinges, and moths. 1882 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* VI. 25 The larvæ of many Sphinges, etc., construct a cell in the ground.

5. a. *attrib.*, as *sphinx-enigma, -face, -figure, -form, -question, -riddle.*

1832 [G. LONG] *Egypt. Antiq.* I. x. 218 So great is the variety of forms in which sphinx-figures occur. *Ibid.* 225 Some light on the origin of the sphinx-form. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. VI. i, What Sphinx-questions; which the distracted world..must answer or die! 1862 — *Fredk. Gt.* XIII. i, One must act, and act at once; but it is a perfect sphinx-enigma to say How. 1886 W. GRAHAM *Social Probl.* 41 The veritable sphinx-riddle which not to solve is to be destroyed. 1900 *Cent. Mag.* Feb. 510/2 You still might see..the sphinx face of the old West, smiling, mysterious, alluring.

b. *Comb.*, as *sphinx-faced, -guarded, -lined.*

1856 KANE *Arct. Expl.* I. vii. 69, I have..heard that the close approach to land of these sphinx-faced monsters [*sc.* walrus] portends a storm. 1857 J. HAMILTON *Less. fr. Gt. Biogr.* 88 The Pharaohs sleep grandly in their sphinx-guarded sepulchres. 1865 J. H. INGRAHAM *Pillar of Fire* III. viii. 383 [Pharaoh] proceeded..along the sphinx-lined avenue to the terrace of the Nile.

c. Special combs.: **sphinx-baboon**, the Guinea Baboon (*Cynocephalus* or *Papio sphinx*); **sphinx-moth**, = sense 4.

1839 DARWIN *Surv. Voy. Nat.* III. ii. 37 Whenever I saw these little creatures..I was reminded of the sphinx moths. 1871 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* 149 The Sphinx Baboon..is commonly seen in menageries, and stuffed in museums.

Hence **Sphi·nxian** *a.*, of or pertaining to the Sphinx; sphinx-like. **Sphi·nxily** *adv.*, in a sphinx-like manner. **Sphi·nxine** *a.*, characteristic of the Sphinx; enigmatical, mysterious. **Sphi·nxineness**, sphinx-like obscurity.

1598 MARSTON *Pygmal., Sat.* ii. 142 And in such pitchy clouds enwrapped beene His *Sphinxian riddles, that old Oedipus Would be amaz'd. 1746 *Brit. Mag.* 53 Like the Monster represented in the Sphinxian Riddle. 1889 *Jrnl. Educ.* 1 Nov. 575/1 The Œdipus to this sphinxian enigma seems unlikely to make his appearance. 1889 *Pall Mall G.* 25 Nov. 4 Mr. Marston smiled *sphinxily. 1845 MRS. BROWNING in *Lett. R. Browning & E. B. Barrett* (1899) I. 53 People say of you and of me..that we love the darkness and use a *sphinxine idiom in our talk. 1845 — *Lett.* (1897) I. 254 The sin of Sphinxine literature I admit. Have I not struggled hard to renounce it? *Ibid.*, Tell me honestly..if anything like the *Sphinxineness of Browning, you discover in me.

Sphi·nx-like, *a.* [f. prec.] Resembling (that of) the Sphinx; *esp.* enigmatical, mysterious, inscrutable, insoluble.

1837 (MISS MAITLAND) *Lett. Madras* (1843) 136 She was an immense creature, but young, and rather a good sphinx-like face. 1839 BAILEY *Festus* 137 The sphinx-like heart.. Loathes life the moment that life's riddle is read. 1885 'MRS. ALEXANDER' *At Bay* iv, 'I know nothing. I have seen very little. I suspect every thing.' 'What a sphinx-like reply.'

Sphondyle, variant of SPONDYLE.

Spho·ndyloid, *sb.* and *a.* [f. Gr. *σφόνδυλος*, **var.** of *σπόνδυλος*: see SPONDYLE.] **a.** A solenoid. **b.** Solenoidal.

1852 FARADAY *Exper. Res. Electr.* (1855) III. 424 The magnet, with its surrounding sphondyloid of power. *Ibid.* 428 When..a magnet..is made into a horseshoe form, we see at once that the lines of force and the sphondyloids are greatly distorted. *Ibid.* 422 *note*, The sphondyloid body.

Sphra·gid(e. *rare*⁻⁰. [ad. L. *sphrāgid-, sphrāgis* or Gr. *σφρᾱγῖδ-, σφρᾱγίς* seal, sealing earth.] Lemnian earth, sigillated earth.

1828–32 WEBSTER, *Sphragid* (1847 *Sphragide*).

‖ **Sphragistes** (sfrăd͡ʒi·stīz). [a. Gr. *σφρᾱγιστής* sealer: cf. next.] An Egyptian priest who kept and used the temple seal.

1847 LEITCH tr. *C. O. Müller's Anc. Art* § 230. 201 The Egyptians used many signet rings. Even sacrifices were sealed by the sphragistes. 1858 BIRCH *Anc. Pottery* I. 28 One of whom was also a sphragistes or sealer.

Sphragistic (sfrăd͡ʒi·stik), *sb.* and *a.* [ad. F. *sphragistique* or Gr. *σφρᾱγιστικ-ός*, f. *σφρᾱγίς* seal.]

A. *sb. pl.* The scientific study or knowledge of seals or signet rings.

1836 *Partington's Brit. Cycl., Lit.*, etc. III. 837/1 *Sphragistics*, a branch of diplomatics which teaches the history of seals and the means which they afford of determining the genuineness of the documents to which they are attached.

B. *adj.* Of or pertaining to, relating to or dealing with, seals or signet rings.

1884 *Athenæum* 10 May 602 His unrivalled knowledge of sphragistic archæology. 1887 WYON *Gt. Seals Eng.* p. xvii, The seals follow and illustrate the..successive styles of English sphragistic art.

Sphragitid, *a. rare*⁻¹. [ad. F. *sphragitide*, ad. Gr. *σφρᾱγῖτις*, f. *σφρᾱγίς* seal.] = SIGILLATED *ppl. a.*

1694 MOTTEUX *Rabelais* IV. liv. (1737) 224 The Sphragitid Earth [is produced] at Lemnos.

Sphy·gmic, *a.* and *sb. rare.* Also 8 **sphugmick.** [ad. mod.L. *sphygmicus*, Gr. *σφυγμικός*, f. *σφυγμός*: see next.] **a.** *sb. pl.* The study of the pulse. **b.** *adj.* 'Pertaining to the pulse, or to the knowledge or doctrine of the pulse' (Craig, 1849).

1707 FLOYER *Physic. Pulse-Watch* 336 The Ignorance of the Europeans in the Sphugmicks Science.

Sphygmo- (sfi·gmo), a. Gr. *σφυγμο-*, combining form of *σφυγμός* pulse (f. *σφύζειν* to beat or throb), used in various scientific terms: **Sphygmodyna·meter** (see quot.). **Sphy·gmogram**, a diagram of pulse-beats as traced by the sphygmograph. **Sphy·gmograph**, an instrument which records the movements of the pulse by means of tracings; hence *sphy·gmograph* vb. **Sphygmogra·phic** *a.*, of or pertaining to, effected or produced by, the sphygmograph. **Sphygmo·graphy**, scientific description of the pulse or registration of pulse-beats. **Sphygmomano·meter, Sphygmo·meter**, an instrument for measuring the force or rate of the pulse. **Sphygmome·tric** *a.*, relating to measurement of the pulse. **Sphy·gmophone**, an instrument by which pulsations are rendered audible. **Sphygmopho·nic** *a.*, pertaining to the sound of pulsations. **Sphy·gmoscope**, an instrument for examining the pulse.

1876 *Catal. Sci. App. S. Kens.* 521 **Sphygmodynameter*, an apparatus for estimating the pressure of the blood [etc.]. 1887 *Brit. Med. Jrnl.* 14 May 1045/1 Dr. Suckling also showed a number of *sphygmograms. 1898 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* V. 815 A pamphlet..giving descriptions and sphygmograms of such pulses in hysterical cases. 1860 *Illustr. Lond. News* 14 Apr. 362/3 A new *sphygmograph or pulse register. 1875 PAYNE *Jones & Siev. Pathol. Anat.* 259 That there is an increased arterial tension..is also demonstrated by the sphygmograph. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* IV. 389 The educated finger, or I should say fingers, are as instructive as the sphygmograph. 1870 *Gentl. Mag.* Aug. 378 The doctors..measuring, *sphygmographing, and generally making a tool of experiment of him. 1879 H. C. WOOD *Therap.* (ed. 2) 38 *Sphygmographic studies made of it..have been thought to indicate a condition of general arterial spasm. 1895 tr. *Ferri's Crim. Sociol.* 167 The sphygmographic data on the circulation of the blood. 1859 MAYNE *Expos. Lex.* 1185 *Sphygmographia*,..a description of the pulse, its nature and causes: *sphygmography. 1864 *Reader* Mar. 365/3 A memoir upon the value of Sphygmography in diagnosis. 1891 *Cent. Dict.*, *Sphygmomanometer. 1898 *Daily News* 12 May 6/3 Simple forms of sphygmomanometers. 1842 BRANDE *Dict. Sci., etc.* 1138 **Sphigmometer*,..an instrument for counting the arterial pulsations. 1872 O. W. HOLMES *Poet Breakf.-t.* iii. (1885) 63 There were..Sphygmometers and Plexímeters. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VII. 257 In states of over-fatigue ..the arterial blood is, according to sphygmometer readings, run at high pressure. 1898 *Ibid.* V. 673 Here *sphygmometric observations are wanting, though much to be desired. 1879 B. W. RICHARDSON in *Proc. R. Soc.* May 70 The *Sphygmophone. 1889 HANDERSON tr. *Baas' Outl. Hist. Med.* 1016 It has been combined with an electric chime of bells (sphygmophone) of Upham. 1881 *Med. Temp. Jrnl.* XIII. 75 The pulse is sixty-eight, and the three *sphygmophonic indications are present. 1859 MAYNE *Expos. Lex.* 1185/2 *Sphygmoscopium*,..a *sphygmoscope. 1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib., Brit.* II. No. 2849, Sphygmoscopes; stethogoniometer; and hydrophone, used in chest diseases.

‖ **Sphyræna** (sfəirī·nă). *Zool.* [mod.L., a. L. *sphȳræna*, ad. Gr. *σφύραινα*, f. *σφῦρα* hammer.] A pike-like fish belonging to the genus *Sphyræna* or the family represented by this; one of the common species is the barracuda.

1849–52 OWEN in *Todd's Cycl. Anat.* IV. II. 876/1 The teeth of the *Sphyræna* are examples of the ordinary implantation in sockets. *Ibid.* 880/2 The most formidable dentition..in the order of osseous fishes is that which characterizes the *Sphyræna*.

Sphyrænoid (sfəirī·noid), *a.* and *sb. Zool.* [f. prec. + -OID.] **a.** *adj.* Related to or resembling the genus *Sphyræna*. **b.** *sb.* A fish of this kind.

1849–52 OWEN in *Todd's Cycl. Anat.* IV. II. 881/1 It is in this position of the germs of the teeth that the Sphyrænoid fishes..mainly differ. 1851 MANTELL *Petrifact.* V. § 1. 416 Cycloid Order:..Sphyrænoids.

Sphyre, obs. form of SPHERE.

‖ **Sphyrelaton** (sfəirĕ·lătŏn). [a. Gr. *σφυρήλατον*, f. *σφῦρα* hammer + *ἐλατός*, f. *ἐλαύνειν* to beat out.] Metal-work done with the hammer.

1855 tr. *Labarte's Arts Mid. Ages* i. 47 Sphyrelaton,.. hammer or repoussé work. 1878 DENNIS *Cities & Cemet. Etruria* II. 313 A canopus of this metal in a curule chair of the same, all in *sphyrelaton* or hammered work.

† **Spi**, *int. Obs.*⁻¹ [a. MDu. *spi* (also *tspi*), a natural expression of disgust.] = FIE *int.*

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 310 Alle þet him luueden, 3eieden spi him on, and hatieð him alle.

Spial (spəi·ăl). Forms: 5 *Sc.* **spyale**, 6 **-alle**, *Sc.* **spyell**, 6–7 **spyal, -all, spiall**, 6– **spial.** [Aphetic f. ESPIAL. Cf. SPY *sb.* and *v.*]

† **1.** Espial, spying; observation, watch. *Obs.*

c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xl. (*Ninian*) 831 Þai..spyale gat to se quhen he fra strinth of men mycht fundyn be. 1525 LD. BERNERS *Froiss.* II. xxix. 35/1 I caused by spyall the towne & castell of Thury in Albygois to be well aviewed. 1577–87 HOLINSHED *Chron.* III. 1097/1 Vpon such aduertisement as he receiued by spiall, of the queens being in the Guildhall. 1601 MOUNTJOY in Moryson *Itin.* (1617) II. 152, I..since that time kept very good spiall upon him, and have had the sight of all his papers. 1611 B. JONSON *Catiline* IV. ii, I haue those eyes and eares, shall still keepe guard And spiall on thee.

2. A spy; a scout. Now *arch.* or *Obs.*

Very common *c* 1550–1600, especially in plural.

1548 UDALL, etc. *Erasm. Par. Matt.* i. 22 Because she preserued the spyalles sent from Jesu. 1605 BACON *Adv. Learn.* II. To King § 10 As Secretaries, and Spyalls of Princes and States bring in Bills for Intelligence; so you must allowe the Spyalls and Intelligencers of Nature to bring in their Billes. *a* 1656 USSHER *Ann.* VI. (1658) 319 Understanding by his spialls, that Cilles with his army lay at Myus carelessely. 1678 SPELMAN *Life Alfred* (1709) 63 Others Eyes and Ears were not always sufficient Spyals. 1813 SCOTT *Rokeby* III. xxvii, Now, could a spial of our train On fair pretext admittance gain, That sally-port might be unbarr'd. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. I. iii, Roaming far out, obscure, as King's spial,..the man has come thus far.

transf. 1605 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. iii. IV. *Captaines* 549 Spiall of Nature, O all-seeing Sun.

3. *attrib.*, as *spial-eye, money, ship.*

1520 *Lett. & Papers Hen. VIII*, III. I. 393 [For John Bourgchier.., deputy of Calais.., with 100*l.* a year for himself and 104*l.* a year for] spiall money. 1565 COOPER *Thesaurus, Catascopium*,..a spiall shippe: a brigantine or pinneise. 1609 HEYWOOD *Brit. Troy* 129 When lustful Men aime at suche horride use, They watch all Spyal-eyes and listning Eares.

Spiare, obs. form of SPIER.

Spic, variant of SPICK *sb.*¹ *Obs.*

‖ **Spica** (spəi·kă). [L. *spīca* ear of grain, etc.: see SPIKE *sb.*¹ In senses 3 and 4 after Gr. *στάχυς*.]

† **1.** *Oil of spica*, oil of spike. *Obs.*

c 1400 *Lanfranc's Cirurg.* 226 It is good..to comforte þe place wiþ oile of mastic, & oile of spica.

2. *Bot.* A flower-spike.

1693 tr. *Blancard's Phys. Dict.* (ed. 2), *Spica*, the long Tops of Herbs, as of Lavender, &c. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Spica-Nardi*, The Ear or *Spica*, is about the Length and Thickness of a Finger. 1760 J. LEE *Introd. Bot.* III. iv. (1765) 173 *Spica*, a *Spike*, has sessile Flowers that are alternate and dispersed about a common Peduncle that is simple. 1793 MARTYN *Lang. Bot.* s.v. 1856 HENSLOW *Dict. Bot. Terms* 177.

3. *Astr.* A bright star in the constellation Virgo.

1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Virgo*, First of three [stars] under *Spica. Ibid.*, Last, and North of 3 under *Spica.* 1843 *Penny Cycl.* XXVI. 373/1 Spica (α Virginis), a star of the first magnitude, is in the hand, which holds ears of corn, typical of the harvest. 1886 SIR R. BALL *Story of Heavens* xviii. (1897) 380 There is a fine equilateral triangle, whereof Arcturus and Spica form two of the corners.

4. *Surg.* A form of bandage, the arrangement of which is suggestive of an ear of wheat or barley. Also *attrib.*

1731 BAILEY (vol. II), *Spica* (with Surgeons), a band used in Hernias. 1758 J. S. *Le Dran's Observ. Surg.* (1771) 193 Covering the Wound with a proper Dressing, sustained by the *Spica.* 1846 BRITTAN tr. *Malgaigne's Man. Oper. Surg.* 420 A compress [was] laid on the course of the canal, with a spica bandage. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2265/2 *Spica*,..a form of bandage resembling a spike of barley. The turns of the bandage cross like the letter V, each leaving a portion uncovered.

Spica·ceous, *a. Bot. rare*⁻¹. [f. prec.: see -ACEOUS.] Having the form of a spike.

1755 *Phil. Trans.* XLIX. 253 It is a gramineous plant, of which some bear spicaceous flowers.

Spicant, *a. rare*⁻¹. [f. L. *spīca* or *spīcāre*, after heraldic terms in -ANT.] Spiky.

1867 *Gd. Words* 325/2 The many windings of Stert Valley, spicant with bulrushes.

Spicat, obs. form of SPICKET, spigot.

Spicate (spəi·kĕt), *a.* Also 9 **spikate.** [ad. L. *spīcāt-us*, pa. pple. of *spīcāre* to furnish with spikes, to make pointed, f. *spīca* SPIKE *sb.*¹]

1. *Bot.* **a.** Of plants: Having an efflorescence in the form of a spike. **b.** Of flowers: Arranged in a spike.

a. 1668 WILKINS *Real. Char.* II. iv. § 4. 93 Spicate flowers. *Ibid.* 94 Spicate herbs. 1760 J. LEE *Introd. Bot.* III. xxi. (1765) 217 *Spicate*, with the Flowers in Spikes. 1857 A. GRAY *First Less. Bot.* 231 *Spicate*, belonging to or disposed in a spike. 1872 OLIVER *Elem. Bot.* II. 173 A perennial erect herb, with..terminal spicate rose or purple flowers. 1876 HARLEY *Royle's Mat. Med.* 780 The flowers whitish, in long branched spicate racemes.

β. 1847 W. E. STEELE *Field Bot.* 192 Infl. capitate, spikate, unilateral, recurved. 1896 G. HENSLOW *Wild Fl.* 113 The terminal portion of the spikate inflorescence.

2. *Zool.* Having the form of a spike; pointed.

1856 W. CLARK *Van der Hoeven's Zool.* I. 314 *Athericera*. Antennæ..presenting the form of a patella or capitulum, and in most supplied with a seta or spicate appendage.

Spicated (spəi·keitĕd), *a.* Now *rare*. [See prec. and -ED[1].]

1. *Bot.* Having the form of a spike.

1661 BLOUNT *Glossogr.*, *Spicated*, eared, or in an ear, as corn is. 1712 *Phil. Trans.* XXVII. 422 The Flowers grow spicated in a loose tuft. 1750 G. HUGHES *Barbados* 254 The top of the stalk terminates in a spicated tuft.

2. Furnished with spikelets; bristly.

1702 *Phil. Trans.* XXIII. 1359, I plainly saw that all the bristles on the body of one of them..were..spicated (if I may make a word) or bearded like the Ear on the Seed head of some Grasses. 1742 H. BAKER *Microsc.* II. xxiii. 189 Those Hairs were spicated, or had other little Hairs issuing from their Sides. 1791 W. GILPIN *Forest Scenery* I. 51 The catkins of both are round, spicated balls. 1859 SALA *Gaslight & D.* xxv. 285 This big, barbated, spicated basso, with the beard of a sapeur.

Spice (spəis), *sb.* Forms: 3 spis, 4, 6 spise, spyse, 4–6 spyce, 3– spice. [ad. OF. *espice* (mod.F. *épice*), ad. L. *speciēs* SPECIES. Cf. SPECIE.]

1. One or other of various strongly flavoured or aromatic substances of vegetable origin, obtained from tropical plants, commonly used as condiments or employed for other purposes on account of their fragrance and preservative qualities.

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 370 Þe on was iwuned, uor his kolde mawe uorto nutten hote spices. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 2247 Fruit and spices of dere pris, Bereð ðat man ðat is so wis. *a* 1272 *Lude Ron* 168 in *O. E. Misc.*, Þu ert swetture þan eny spis. 13.. *K. Alis.* 5631 (Laud MS.), Þer ne groweþ no whete, Ne oþer corne, bot spyces swete, Þerof hij maken her breed. 1382 WYCLIF *Luke* xxiii. 56 And thei turnynge aȝen, madeñ redy swete spices, and oynementis. *c* 1420 *Liber Cocorum* (1862) 11 Do þer to pynys and saunders,..And oþer goode spyces þou take. 1450–80 tr. *Secreta Secret.* 33 Lete him haue savor of encence and othir good spicis among. *a* 1533 LD. BERNERS *Huon* lxxi. 243 It is not possyble to gyue ony trewe Iugemente when you and we are full of wyne and spyces. 1553 EDEN *Treat. New Ind.* (Arb.) 27 Pouderinge with spyces the bodye therein inclosed, that no euyll sauoure maye passe foorth. 1625 N. CARPENTER *Geogr. Del.* II. iii. (1635) 53 Let our Merchants answer, which owe their Spices to Arabia. 1692 TRYON *Good Housew. made Doctor* xvii. 143 Such a prodigious encrease of sugars, Spanish Fruits, Wines and Spices. 1725 SLOANE *Jamaica* II. 77 It may deservedly be counted one of the best spices in common use, having a very fine relish of many, from thence call'd All-Spice. 1770 LANGHORNE *Plutarch* (1851) II. 816/2 The spices and rich robes that were burned with him were very expensive. 1842 LOUDON *Suburban Hort.* 646 Baked in pies with spices, they have an excellent flavour. 1891 FARRAR *Darkn. & Dawn* lix, Nero had so many spices burnt at her funeral that the learned doubted whether Arabia could furnish more in a single summer.

b. *fig.* (In ME. sometimes applied to persons.)

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 78 Hope is a swete spice wiðinne þe heorte. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* A. 235 Ho profered me speche þat special spyce. *Ibid.* 938 Þat specyal spyce þen to me spakk. *a* 1400 *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* xxviii. 21 Heil spice sprong þat neuer was spent, *c* 1450 *Godstow Reg.* 21 That heuenly spyce hit is ful swete. 1605 BACON *Adv. Learn.* I. i. § 3 This correctiue spice, the mixture whereof maketh knowledge so soueraigne, is Charitie. 1652 BENLOWES *Theoph.* x. iii. 179 No Grandee Patron court I, nor entice Love-glances from enchanting Eyes, Nor Blandishments from lisping Wantons vocall Spice. 1784 COWPER *Task* II. 606 Variety's the very spice of life, That gives it all its flavour. 1859 *Habits Gd. Society* xii. 323 The gentlemen of the bar..make a charming spice to a dinner. 1874 L. STEPHEN *Hours in Library* (1892) I. x. 358 He meant something more, which gives the real spice to his writings.

c. An odour or perfume arising from, or resembling that of, spices. (Cf. 2 c.)

1560 BIBLE (Geneva) *Song Sol.* iv. 16 Blowe on my garden, that the spices thereof may flowe out. 1855 TENNYSON *Maud* I. xxii. i, The woodbine spices are wafted abroad.

2. Without article, as a substance or in collective sense. (In Sc. use freq. = pepper.)

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 2103 Asie..es þe best, for þar in es.. Precius stans and spice of prise. *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (1839) vi. 67 Thei ete it in stede of Spice. 1474 CAXTON *Chesse* 101 Medecynes maad wyth precious spyce. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VIII*, 217 To whom the Erle of Sussex..brought a voyde of spice and comfettes. 1611 SHAKS. *Wint. T.* IV. iii. 128 Your purse is not hot enough to purchase your Spice. 1694 CROWNE *Regulus* II. 12 A man all vertue, like a pye all spice, will not please. 1717 LADY M. W. MONTAGU *Let. to C'tess Mar* 18 Apr., They use a great deal of rich spice. 1805 SOUTHEY *Madoc in W.* XV, The dead,..with precious gums and spice Fragrant, and incorruptibly preserved. 1842 LONGF. *Quadroon Girl* iii, Odours of orange-flowers and spice Reached them.

b. *dial.* (See quots.)

1674 RAY *N. C. Words* 44 *Spice*: Raisins, plums, figs and such like fruit. York-sh. [Hence in Bailey and Grose.] 1788 W. H. MARSHALL *Yorksh.* II. 354 *Spice*, dried fruit, as raisins, currants, etc. 1828 CARR *Craven Gloss., Spice*, sweet meats of any kind. 1855 [ROBINSON] *Whitby Gloss., Spice*, the common term here for sweetmeats and confectionery of all sorts, but especially for gingerbread articles.

c. Spicy fragrance. (Cf. 1 c.)

1833 TENNYSON *Pal. Art* 116, A summer fann'd with spice. 1850 — *In Mem.* ci, And many a rose-carnation [shall] feed With summer spice the humming air.

d. *techn.* (See quot.)

1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade, Spice*,..a technical name among sugar-refiners for bullocks'-blood.

†3. A sort, kind, or species. *Obs.*

1303 R. BRUNNE *Handl. Synne* 7585 3yt þyr ys a-noþer spyce þat cumþ of þe fendes malyce. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Pars. T.* P 102 The spices of penitence ben thre. *c* 1449 PECOCK *Repr.* II. xiii. 228 Ech spice of moral yuel is moral yuel, and is a morali yuel spice. 1483 CAXTON *Cato* 3 b, Of the seuen spyces of ydolatrye. 1528 PAYNELL *Salerne's Regim.* b j b, There is an other spice of fleure, which is swete and some what warme. 1587 GOLDING *De Mornay* xiv. (1596) 211 For alterations or chaunges, are spices, or rather consequents of mooving.

†b. In the phr. *a spice of*, a kind of. *Obs.*

Freq. not clearly distinguishable from sense 5.

c 1380 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* I. 27 For þis is a spise of pride that men clepen ypocrisie. *c* 1400 *Lanfranc's Ciurg.* 180 Allopucia is a maner spice of lepre þat comeþ of rotid fleume. *c* 1460 FORTESCUE *Abs. & Lim. Mon.* (1885) 144 Such givinge were no vertu, but a spice of prodigalite. 1520 WHITINTON *Vulg.* (1527) 3 b, It is a spyce of peuysshe pryde..whan a man wyll take a singuler waye by hymselfe. 1538 ELYOT Addit., *Cachexia*, a spyce of a consumption, which procedeth of an yll disposition of the body. 1601 B. JONSON *Poetaster* IV. vi, Bountie is A spice of vertue.

†4. a. Appearance, semblance. *Obs.*

1382 WYCLIF 1 *Thess.* v. 22 Absteyne 3ou fro al yuel spice, or liknesse. 1382 — 2 *Tim.* iii. 5 Hauynge sothli the spice, or licnesse, of pite, forsothe denyinge the vertu of it.

†b. = SPECIES 2. *Obs.*[1]

c 1425 *Orolog. Sapient.* vi. in *Anglia* X. 377 So longe tyme dwellith goddis body as ben hole þe spices of þe sacramente.

†c. = SPECIES 6. *Obs.*[1]

1547 BALDWIN *Mor. Philos.* (1564) 106 Plato affirmeth that there is set in the soule of man..certaine spices, or as it were seedes of thinges.

5. A slight touch or trace *of* some physical disorder or malady. Now *dial.*

a 1479 HARDING *Chron.* Pref. xxv, Though this werke haue some spice of blindnesse, Yet is the autoure not to bee blamed muche. 1530 PALSGR. 274/1 Spyce of the axes. 1579–80 NORTH *Plutarch, Sylla* (1895) III. 304 A paine and numnesse in his legges;..Strabo calleth it a spice of the gowte. 1635 BRATHWAIT *Arcadian Prince.* 44 Sure I am, their whole family seemes to have a spice of the same malady. 1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* I. (Globe) 96, I had a little Spice of the cold Fit, but it was not much. 1733 SWIFT *Let. to Sheridan* 27 Mar., Wks. 1841 II. 700/2, I have been much out of order with a spice of my giddiness. 1838 HOLLOWAY *Prov. Dict.* s.v., I have a spice of the rheumatism.

b. A slight touch, trace, or share, a dash or flavour, *of* some thing or quality.

In later use frequently with suggestion of sense 1.

1531 ELYOT *Gov.* I. xix, Daunsis whiche..contained in them a spice of idolatrie. 1564 *Brief Exam.* B ij, Those..do go about with these reliques to maynteyne at least a little spyse of Masse. 1611 MIDDLETON & DEKKER *Roaring Girl* II. i, I had my Latin tongue, and a spice of the French. *a* 1677 BARROW *Serm.* Wks. 1716 I. 169 The contrary practice hath indeed within it a spice of slander. 1709 STEELE *Tatler* No. 39 P 42 There must be a Spice of Romantick Gallantry in the composition of that very Pretty Fellow. 1790 GOUV. MORRIS in Sparks *Life & Writ.* (1832) III. 16 The Flemings have a spice of obstinacy in their character. 1835 W. IRVING *Tour Prairies* 280 The horse..had a considerable spice of devil in his composition. 1887 JESSOPP *Arcady* ii. 49 A certain gentle rebuke at your negligence and a spice of jealousy too.

c. A specimen or sample. *rare.*

1790 GROSE *Prov. Gloss.* (ed. 2) Suppl., *Spice*, a sample. I gave him a spice of his behaviour. *c* 1826 MRS. SHERWOOD *Stories Ch. Catech.* xi. 91 He would often give the company a spice of what he had learned at school.

†6. *Cant.* (See quot.) *Obs.*

1812 J. H. VAUX *Flash Dict.* s.v., The spice is the *game* of footpad robbery... A spice is a footpad robber.

7. a. *attrib.* in combinations denoting receptacles or places for holding spice, as *spice-bag*, *-bowl*, *† -bust*, *-dish*, *-house*, etc., or preparations in which spice is an ingredient, as *spice-ball*, *-bread*, *-broth*, *-bun*, etc.; also misc., as *spice-blossom*, *-merchant*, *-plant*, *-shop*, *-trade*. Also SPICE-BOX, etc.

1591 PERCIVALL *Sp. Dict., Alcartas para especias*, a *spice bag, a coffin for spice. 1879 MISS JACKSON *Shropsh. Word-bk.*, **Spice-balls*, same as Faggits [a kind of sausages made of the liver and lights of a pig, boiled with sweet herbs, and finely chopped]. 1879 MRS. A. E. JAMES *Ind. Housek. Managem.* 71 There are very likely other ingredients..in the proper spice-balls, and a native 'vet'..will withhold some principal ingredient while pretending to give you the whole recipe. 1819 KEATS *Fall Hyperion* I. 21 Where trees of every clime,..With plantain, and *spice-blossoms, made a screen. 1665 WOOD *Life* (O.H.S.) II. 50 W., at Jeanses with *spice-bolls, 7d. 1727 SOMERVILLE *Fables* Wks. 1790 II. 106 In cradles, whittles, spice-bowls, sack, Whate'er the wanton gossips lack. 1555 MACHYN *Diary* (Camden) 91 After durge *speysse-bred and wine. 1579 W. FULKE *Refut. Rastel* 728 His comparing of the sacrament with spicebread and cake-bread sauoureth of a mynde that ..derideth all religion. 1897 R. M. GILCHRIST *Peakland* 69 The landlady was busily kneading spice-bread. 1777 BRAND *Pop. Antiq.* App. 336 A smoking Prize of *Spice-Broth. 1857 *Household Words* XVI. 201 They all..sat down to regale on the tea and *spice-buns we had provided. 1489 *Acta Dom. Concil.* (1839) 131 Þe dosane of siluer spvnis, siluer salt-fat, & *spice bust. 1420 *E. E. Wills* (1882) 46 Also a *spyce dissh of seluer. 1863 in Robson *Bards of Tyne* 22 There will be pies and *spice dumplings. 1468–9 *Durham Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 92 Pro nova construccione unius *spyce-house ad exitum Coquine, xxxs. 1591 *Exch. Rolls Scotl.* XXII. 121 Andro Quhyte, maister in the spicehous. 1588 *Ibid.* XXI. 368 David Manteithe, maister in the *spyce lardner. 1611 BIBLE 1 *Kings* x. 15 The traffique of the *spice-merchants. 1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib., Brit.* II. No. 5383, Examples of the most useful *spice plants. 1824 PIPER *Dial. Sheffield* 22 (E.D.D.), *Spice-pudding. *c* 1475 *Cath. Angl.* 355/1 A *Spice schope, *apotheca vel ipotheca*. 1647 HEXHAM I, A spice shop, *een specerye winckel*. 1860 INGLEDEW *Ballads Yks.* 278 This wor a spice shop, where t' lads met. 1885 *Broad Yks.* 25 Temptin' *spice-stalls rang'd i' rows. 1670 R. COKE *Disc. Trade* 39 If the French King can establish a *Spice Trade, wherein he is wonderously industruous. 1796 MORSE *Amer. Geog.* II. 331 The good fortune of the Dutch, in rendering themselves masters of the spice-trade. 1599 in *Archæol.* XL. 333 Item, iij *spice treyes, xvjd. 1848 tr. *Hoffmeister's Trav. Ceylon*, etc. iv. 171 It is the Bazaar, in which..the *spice-warehouses predominate.

b. *Comb.*, as *spice-bearer*, *-seller*, *-vendor*; *spice-bearing*, *-breathing*, *-burnt*, *-fraught*, *-warmed* adjs.

1845 KITTO *Cycl. Bibl. Lit.* s.v. *Burial*, In the splendid funeral procession of Herod, 500 of his servants attended as *spice-bearers. 1796 H. HUNTER tr. *St. Pierre's Stud. Nat.* (1799) III. 647 The *spice-bearing trees of the Moluccas. 1648 J. BEAUMONT *Psyche* III. ccxiv, As one..doth wondring go Through those *spice-breathing paths. 1858 *Brit. Q. Rev.* LVI. 344 Raleigh's search after spice-breathing islands and gold-paved cities. 1589 WARNER *Alb. Eng.* v. xxvi, Rarer then the onely Fowle of *Spice-burnt Ashes bread. 1868 J. H. NEWMAN *Verses Var. Occas.* 42 Transport fresh as *spice-fraught gale. 1647 HEXHAM I, A *spice seller, *een specerye verkooper*. 1890 P. H. HUNTER *After the Exile* II. vi. 133 The goldsmiths and *spice-vendors voluntarily contracted for particular..portions of wall. *a* 1847 ELIZA COOK *Sunshine* iv. 3 The winter hours were long to him who had no *spice-warmed cup.

8. Special Combs.: **spice apple**, a variety of the ordinary apple; **spice-berry** *U.S.*, winter-green (*Gaultheria procumbens*); **spice-bush** *U.S.*, wild allspice, fever-bush (*Benzoin odoriferum*); also, an aromatic Californian tree of the laurel family; **† spice-conscience** (*attrib.*), **-conscienced** *a.*, having a delicate or tender conscience; **spice-islands**, the islands in the East from which spices were imported; **spice-land**, a country which produces spices (in quots. *fig.*); **spice mill**, a small hand-machine for grinding spices; **† spice mortar**, a mortar used for braying or pounding spices in; **spice-nut**, a gingerbread nut; **spice-tea** *U.S.* (see quot.); **spice-tree**, a spice-bearing tree; **spice-wood**, (*a*) *U.S.*, the spice-bush; (*b*) wood of spice-bearing shrubs.

1611 COTGR., *Espice*,..the *Spice apple (whereof excellent Cyder is made). 1860 HOGG *Fruit Man.* I Aromatic Russet (Brown Spice,..Spice Apple). 1852 MRS. TRAILL *Canadian Crusoes* vi. 177 The little creeping wintergreen,..which the Canadians call *spice-berry. 1872 DE VERE *Americanisms* 404 The queen..is said to be the lovely, creeping snowberry.., although others give the prize to the *spice-berry. 1845–50 MRS. LINCOLN *Lect. Bot.* 161 The *Laurus benzoin*, called *Spice-bush, has scarlet berries, and is an aromatic plant. 1856 BRYANT *Fountain* ii, There the spice-bush lifts Her leafy lances. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 821/2 *Oreodaphne californica* is a common tree in the mountainous parts of California, where it goes by a variety of names, such as Mountain Laurel, Spice-bush, Balm of Heaven. *c* 1613 ROWLAND *Four Knaves* (Percy Soc.) 97 Let *spice-conscience fellows talke their fill, Mine owne's mine owne. 1600 HOLLAND *Livy* VI. xxvii. 236 To chuse a third time they made a scruple, so *spice conscienced were they. 1721 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 69 P 5 My Friend Sir Andrew calls.. the *Spice-Islands our Hot-beds. 1776 MICKLE tr. *Camoens' Lusiad* Introd. xxxiv. *note*, To find the spice islands of the East was his [Columbus's] proposal at the court of Spain. 1834 COLERIDGE *Table Talk* 10 July, Like breezes blown from the spice-islands of Youth and Hope. 1890 *Cassell's Pop. Educ.* IV. 156/2 Malaysia..includes..Sumatra, Java, Borneo, and Celebes, and the Moluccas or Spice Islands. 1864 LOWELL *Fireside Trav.* 153 Those *spice-lands of character which we..must reach..by weary voyages. 1897 P. WARUNG *Tales Old Régime* 192 The honeyed sweetness of the spice-land. 1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib., Brit.* II. No. 6141, Pepper and *spice mills. 1562 J. HEYWOOD *Prov. & Epigr.* (1867) 195 That *spice mortar to sell it be you willyng? 1628 R. NORTON *Gunner* 62 A Grocers or Apothecaryes spice Morter. 1829 T. HOOK *Bank to Barnes* 120 I passed a few minutes and a bad shilling in bargaining for some *spice-nuts. 1836–7 DICKENS *Sk. Boz, Scenes* xii. 107 To induce you to purchase half a pound of the real spice nuts. 1872 DE VERE *Americanisms* 395 *Spice-tea is.. made from another laurel common at the South, the spice-bush. 1796 H. HUNTER tr. *St. Pierre's Stud. Nat.* (1799) II. 249 The laurel which bears it is, as well as *spice-trees, a plant of no great elevation. 1868 MORRIS *Earthly Par.* (1870) I, II. 510 As though in some Arabian plain he stood, Anigh the border of a spice-tree wood. 1760 J. LEE *Introd. Bot.* App. 327 *Spice Wood, *Laurus*. 1792 J. BELKNAP *Hist. New-Hampsh.* III. 97 The Spice-wood (*Laurus Benzoin*) or..Feverbush. *a* 1813 A. WILSON *Amer. Blue Bird* Poet. Wks. (Belfast ed.) 278 Spicewood and sassafras budding together. 1819 KEATS *Fall Hyperion* I. 236 Many heaps Of other crisped spice-wood. 1846–50 A. WOOD *Class-bk. Bot.* 478 *Benzoin odoriferum*... Spice Wood.

Spice (spəis), *v.* Also 6 spise, spyce. [ad. OF. *espicer* (mod.F. *épicer*), f. *espice* SPICE *sb.*; or directly from the sb.]

1. *trans.* To prepare or season (food, etc.) with a spice or spices. Also allusively (quot. 1821).

1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. XIX. 283 Shulde no curyous clothe comen on hys rugge, Ne no mete in his mouth þat maister Iohan spiced. 1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 114 To spice, *condire*. 1611 BIBLE *Ezek.* xxiv. 10 Consume the flesh, and spice it well, and let the bones be burnt. 1658 ROWLAND tr. *Moufet's Theat. Ins.* 912 It is spiced at pleasure with Ginger, Saffron [etc.]. 1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* xx, 'Fetch him wine,' said the alchemist. 'Aha! and thou wouldst spice it for me,..

wouldst thou not?' 1822 — *Nigel* iii, She..spiced the toast with her own hands. 1885 Lady Brassey *The Trades* 291 Anciently ambergris was much used for spicing wines.

transf. 1600 Delonev *Strange Hist.* Wks. (1912) 405 Yet his faire bodie was full sore infected, So ill they spiced both his fleshe and fishe.

b. *fig.* To season, to affect the character or quality of, by means of some addition or modification. Usu. const. *with*.

1529 More *Dyalogue* iv. Wks. 257/2 One special thing, with which he spised al the poison. 1564 Bullein *Dial.agst. Pest* (1888) 27 Me think your conscience is to much spiced with sodaine deuotion. 1634 W. Wood *New Eng. Prosp.* To Rdr., I have inserted many passages of mirth concerning them, to spice the rest of my more serious discourse. 1684 Bunyan *Adv. to Sufferers* Wks. 1885 II. 728 His holy harmless and profitable notions, because they are spiced with grace, yield to him comfort, joy, and peace. 1837 W. Irving *Capt. Bonneville* III. 103 Hardship and hard work, spiced with the stimulants of wild adventure. 1855 Tennyson *Maud* I. xviii. vii, O, why should Love..Spice his fair banquet with the dust of death? 1891 Baring-Gould *In Troubadour-Land* iii. 39 The reader will think I have given him a dull chapter,..so I will..add an anecdote, to spice it.

absol. 1822 Scott *Nigel* xxvii, Mind to spice high with Latin.

c. *slang.* To adulterate (soot).

1798 J. Middleton *View Agric. M'sex* 302 The chimney-sweepers who sell soot in London, mix with it ashes and earth, sifted very small and fine: this they term *Spicing the soot*.

2. †a. To embalm, to preserve with spices. *Obs.*

1432–50 tr. *Higden* (Rolls) V. 287 The body of this holy man spicede with mony spices was sende to his churche. 1555 Eden *Decades* (Arb.) 160 Sumwhere also, they drye them, spyce them,..and so reuerently place them in certeyne tabernacles. 1598 W. Phillip tr. *Linschoten* 3/1 His body beeing seared and spiced was conuaied into his countrie of Alua.

†b. To perfume with or as with spices.

1648 Herrick *Hesper., Nupt. Song* ii, Treading upon Vermilion And Amber; Spiceing the Chaf't-Aire with fumes of Paradise.

c. *Cant.* To rob; to deprive *of* by robbery.

1812 J. H. Vaux *Flash Dict.* s.v., A rogue will say, I *spiced* the *swell* of so much, naming the booty obtained.

d. To dose (a horse) with spice in order to mislead the buyer.

1841 J. T. Hewlett *Parish Clerk* I. vii. 111 [He] knew nothing of spicing a horse, or giving him a ball.

†**3.** In pa. pple.: Slightly affected *with* a physical disorder. *Obs.*—[1]

1576 Fleming *Panopl. Epist.* 382 From drunkennesse proceedeth trembling handes, spiced with the Palsie.

†**4.** *intr.* Of a bird: To mute. *Obs.*—[1]

1688 N. O. *Boileau's Lutrin* iii. 183 Dar'st thou presume (profane!) to spice i' th' Quire?

Hence **Spi·cing** *vbl. sb.*; also **spicing apple**, a variety of apple (cf. *spice apple* Spice *sb.* 8).

1664 Evelyn *Kal. Hort.* 72 The Kirkham Apple,.. Cushion Apple, Spicing, May-flower. 1707 Mortimer *Husb.* (1721) II. 291 The Spicing Apple, of all Apples that are marked Red, is the meanest. 1844 M. Stuart *O. T. Canon* § viii. (1849) 185 The story..although mixed with a spicing of fable in all probability has some truth for its basis. 1896 Mrs. Caffyn *Quaker Grandmother* 133 Boredom sharpened by a spicing of mischief.

Spice-box. Also 6 spys box. [Spice *sb.*]

1. A box, usually having several compartments, to keep spices in.

1527 *Test. Ebor.* (Surtees) V. 244 Le spicebox de every. 1533–4 *Rutland MSS.* (Hist. MSS. Comm.) IV. 348, j spys box with a little spone to the same. *a* 1625 Fletcher *Bloody Brother* II. ii, Here stands a bak'd meat, he wants a little seasoning;..my Spice-box, Gentlemen. 1858 Simmonds *Dict. Trade, Spice-box*, a kitchen-box with several divisions for holding different spices. 1874 H. H. Cole *Catal. Ind. Art S. Kens. Mus.* App. 288 Centre Piece, silver, consisting of a plateau fitted with spice boxes and receptacles for flowers.

2. A small decorated box, usually of Oriental workmanship.

1880 Birdwood *Ind. Art* I. 160 Small boxes of very graceful form, covered with the most delicate tracery, and known to Europeans as spice-boxes.

Spice-cake. Also 6 spyce-, spise-. [Spice *sb.*] A cake seasoned with spice; *dial.*, a rich currant-cake. Also *Comb.*

1530 Palsgr. 274/1 Spycecake, *gasteau*. 1561 Awdelay *Frat. Vacab.* 12 Such knaves commonly vse to buy Spice-cakes, Apples, or other trifles. 1605 *London Prodigal* v. i, I haue liued since yesterday two a clocke of a spice-cake I had at a buriall. 1648 Hexham II. s.v. *Kruydt*, A Spice-cake-baker. 1790 Grose *Prov. Gloss.* (ed. 2) Suppl., *Spice-cake*, plumb-cake. 1825 Brockett *N. C. Gloss.*, *Spice-cake*, a cake full of currants. 1862 C. C. Robinson *Dial. Leeds* 417 *Spice-cake*, Christmas fare. Currants, candied lemon, and raisins, hold a conspicuous part in the manufacture of this article [etc.].

Spiced (spəist), *ppl. a.* Also 4 spisid, 5 spicid, 6 spised, spyced, spicte. [f. Spice *sb.* or *v.*]

1. Seasoned or flavoured with spice or spices; cured with spices.

c 1325 *Gloss. W. de Bibbesw.* in Wright *Voc.* 157 *Brakole*, a spiced cake. *c* 1380 Wyclif *Wks.* (1880) 13 3if þei.. drynkyn dilicious ale and spisid and heiȝe wynes. 1479 in *Eng. Gilds* (1870) 421 To haue..their drynkyngs with spiced Cakebrede. 1487–8 *Rec. St. Mary at Hill* 139 To Milton for spicid Bunnes, xiiij d. 1589 *Cov. Leet Bk.* 697 That no persone..shall bake or make eny spised Caks with butter ..but onelie suche persones as shal-be therunto assigned. 1589 Greene *Menaphon* (Arb.) 34 Carmela seeing her brother refuse his spicte drinke, thought all was not well. 1611 Bible *Song Sol.* viii. 2, I would cause thee to drinke of spiced wine. 1681 *Manch. Crt. Leet Rec.* (1888) VI. 126 Joan Liegh for spiced bread. 1708 Sewel I, Spiced sauce, *kruydige saus*. 1777 Cowper *Let. to Hill* Wks. 1837 XV. 37, I am much obliged to you for a tub of very fine spiced salmon which arrived yesterday. 1816 Tuckey *Narrative Exped. R. Zaire* iii. (1818) 103 The keg of spiced rum which I had brought..was now produced. *a* 1848 in Bartlett *Dict. Amer.* s.v. *Liquor*, Spiced punch. 1896 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* I. 404 Avoidance of seasoned and spiced food.

b. Impregnated with hot spices.

1666 H. Stubbe *Mirac. Conform.* 29 No Clothes could possibly warme him: he wore upon his head many spiced Caps.

†**2.** Of conscience, etc.: Nice, dainty, delicate, tender; over particular or scrupulous. *Obs.*

c 1386 Chaucer *Prol.* 526 He waytud after no pompe ne reverence, Ne maked him a spiced conscience. *c* 1386 — *Wife's Prol.* 435 Ye schulde be al pacient and meke, And have a swete spiced consciens. *c* 1550 Medwall *Nature* 509 (Brandl), Haue ye suche a spyced conscyence That wyll be entryked wyth euery mery thought? 1594 O. B. *Quest. Prof. & Pleas. Concern.* E ij, I remember how they dallied out the matter like Chaucers Frier at the first, vnder pretence of spiced holinesse. 1617 Fletcher *Mad Lover* III. i, Take it; it is yours; Be not so spiced; 'tis good gold. 1631 Massinger *Emperor East* I. ii, Fool that I was, to offer such a bargain To a spiced-conscience chapman!

b. Accustomed to spices; blunted, jaded.

1771 Mrs. Griffith *Hist. Lady Barton* II. 268 As tasteless and insipid, as..the sweetest viand to the spiced palate.

3. Fragrant, aromatic; spice-laden.

1590 Shaks. *Mids. N.* II. i. 124 In the spiced Indian aire, by night Full often hath she gossipt by my side. 1881 Mrs. R. T. Cooke *Somebody's Neighbors* 39 Spiced carnations of rose and garnet crowned their bed in July and August. 1882 B. Harte *Flip* i, The spiced thicket stretched between him and the summit.

†**Spiceful,** *a. Obs.*—[1] [f. Spice *sb.*] Full of spices; spicy.

1612 Drayton *Poly-olb.* v. 312 The sandie wyldes of spice-full Barbarie.

Spice-like, *adv.* and *a.* [f. Spice *sb.*]

A. *adv.* So as to smell like spices.

c 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 2443 Iosep dede hise lich..riche-like smeren, And spice-like swete smaken. *Ibid.* 2515 Hise liche was spice-like maked.

B. *adj.* Resembling that of spice.

1578 Lyte *Dodoens* 519 The sayde leaues be of an aromaticall or spicelyke taste.

Spice-plate. Now *Hist.* [Spice *sb.*] A small plate or dish formerly used for holding spice.

1391 *Earl Derby's Exp.* (Camden) 100 Pro j[bus] spyce-plates argenteis. *Ibid.*, Pro factura de les spyceplates. 1415 in *Kal. & Inv. Treas.* (1836) III. 367 ii. spiceplates d'argent. 1459 *Paston Lett.* I. 469 Item, j. spice plate, well gilt like a double rose. 1537 *N. Co. Wills* (Surtees) 146 A spice plate of Spanysshe worke. 1568 Grafton *Chron.* II. 385 The Frenche king gaue to him an Owche and a spice Plate of Golde of a great weight. 1778 Warton *Hist. Eng. Poetry* II. xv. 346 *note*, The spice, for this mixture, was served, often separately, in what they called a spice-plate. 1884 *Leisure Hour* June 374/1 The marshal of the hall..bearing the grace-cup and spice-plate of his lord.

†**Spi·cer** [1]. *Obs.* Also 4 spiser, 4–5 spyser; 4 spycier, 4–6 spycer. [ad. OF. *espicier* (mod. F. *épicier*), f. *espice* Spice *sb.* Cf. MDu. and MHG. *specier* (G. dial. *spezier*).] A dealer in spices; an apothecary or druggist.

1297 R. Glouc. (Rolls) 11204 Willam þe spicer & geffray of hencsei. *a* 1340 Hampole *Psalter* xliv. 10 Goed odurs of vertus ere takynd bi þere spiseres. 1362 Langl. *P. Pl.* A. x. 121 Out of a Ragged Roote..Springeþ and spredeþ þat spicers desyreþ. *c* 1400 *Lanfranc's Cirurg.* 67 þanne I sente to þe spiceris schoppe þat was a greet weye fro me. 1474 Caxton *Chesse* III. iv. (1883) 118 The pawon that is sette to fore the quene signefyeth the phisicyen Spicer and Apotyquaire. *a* 1513 Fabyan *Chron.* VII. (1811) 512 A spycer or grocer namyd Petyr Gylle, of Paris. 1566 Securis *Detect.* D v, Certayne, which are called spicers, or Poticaries. 1609 D. Rogers in *Digby Myst.* (1882) p. xxi, Mercers, Spicers, bringe forthe ye 3. kinges of Collen.

attrib. 14.. *Nom.* in Wr.-Wülcker 692 *Hec apoticaria*, a spyser wyfe. *Ibid.* 730 *Hec apoteca*, a spycerschope.

Spicer [2] (spəi·sər), *rare*—[0]. [f. Spice *v.*] 'One that seasons with spice' (Webster, 1828–32).

†**Spicerer.** *Obs.*—[1] [Cf. Spicer [1].] One skilled in the nature of spices or drugs.

1665 G. Havers *P. della Vallis Trav. E. India* 82 In the Colledge of Fryer Joseph Masagna, a famous Spicerer.

Spicery (spəi·sĕri). Forms: 3–7 spicerie (4 -eri, 5 -ere, 6 -eree), 3– spicery (4–5 -erye); 4–6 spycerie (5 -irie, 6 -arie), spy(e)cery(e; 4 spisorie, 5 spysory(e, spiserie. [ad. OF. *espicerie* (mod.F. *épicerie*), f. *espice* Spice *sb.* Cf. OF. *especerie* (=Sp. *especeria*, It. *spezeria*) Specery, which is also the source of MDu. *spec-*, *speserie* (Du. *specerij*), MLG. *specerie* (*spisserie*), MHG. *specherie*, *spezerie* (G. *spezerei*).]

1. *collect.* or in *pl.* Spices.

sing. 1297 R. Glouc. (Rolls) 3162 He..Nom wiþ him spicerie þat to fysike drou. 13.. *Sir Beues* 3188 Wiþ pyment and wiþ spisorie. *c* 1380 Wyclif *Sel. Wks.* I. 89 For Goddis lawe savouriþ wele whan it is defoulid, as spicerye ȝyveþ smell whan it is powned. *c* 1420 *Liber Cocorum* (1862) 42 Fore pore menne þys crafte is tolde þat mowon not have spysory, as þay wolde. 1470–85 Malory *Arthur* XI. ii. 573 There with alle there was suche a sauour as alle the spyecery of the world had ben there. 1567 Drant *Horace, Ep.* II. i. H j, Wher francke incence is soulde And what soeuer spycerie in waste paper is roulde. 1593 Rovdon in *Spenser's Astrophel* S.'s Wks. 1910 I. 358 The Phœnix..Built vp her tombe of spicerie. 1652 Earl Monm. tr. *Bentivoglio's Hist. Relat.* 14 Having brought by many Voyages an inestimable Treasure of Spicery into Holland. 1689 Burnet *Tracts* I. 96 It tasted high of Spicery, though she assured me there was not one grain of Spice in it. 1776 Mickle tr. *Camoens' Lusiad* 464 The richest gust of spicery's fragrant fire. 1819 Crabbe *T. of Hall* xxi. 169 And the good ladies whom at church he saw,..Could,..whispering, deal for spicery and lace. 1847 H. Miller *First Impr. Eng.* v. (1857) 69 Several glasses of Sampson, a palatable Dudley beverage, compounded of eggs, milk and spicery. 1877 Morris *Jason* XI. 361 While on the veined pavement lie The honied things and spicery.

pl. c 1400 Maundev. (Roxb.) vii. 26 Sum distilles garioffles, spikenarde, and oþer spiceries. 1527 R. Thorne in *Hakluyt* (1589) 254 Many Islandes which be Islandes of the Spiceries of the Emperor. 1591 Savile *Tacitus* Annot. 2, Windowes & doores..wherein the herse was placed, and all kinde of spiceries and odours..heaped therein. 1610 Holland *Camden's Brit.* I. 71 There is a mighty heape of the said spiceries gotten together. 1630 *R. Johnson's Kingd. & Commw.* 552 All sorts of Trees, wilde Beasts, and Spiceries. 1777 Robertson *Hist. Amer.* I. (1778) I. 34 He traded in many of the islands from which Europe had long received spiceries and other commodities. 1834 H. Miller *Scenes & Leg.* xvii. (1857) 258 He supplied the proprietors with teas, wines, and spiceries. 1893 A. H. Sayce *Higher Crit.* (1894) 133 Dedan was the leading tribe..which carried the spiceries of the southern coast to the populations of Palestine.

b. *fig.* in various applications.

1377 Langl. *P. Pl.* B. ix. 100 (Trin. Coll. Cambr. MS.), And siththe to spille speche That spicerie [*v.r.* spyse] is of grace. 1576 Gascoigne *Steel Glas* Ep. Ded., Wks. 1910 II. 135 Were not the cordial of these two pretious Spiceries, the corrosyve of care woulde quickely confounde me. 1594 Nashe *Unfort. Trav.* Wks. (Grosart) V. 62 Arabian spiceries of sweete passions and praises. 1652 Benlowes *Theoph.* IV. xcvii, All virtues fir'd in her pure breast their spicery. 1679 J. Goodman *Penit. Pard.* I. iv. (1713) 123 The name of the wicked shall rot, in despite of all the spicery of flatterers and parasites. 1828 Landor *Imag. Conv.* Wks. 1853 I. 340/2 After his hot and stimulating spicery, we now are running to..sager poets. *a* 1881 Ripley in Frothingham *Rec. & Impr.* 266 The affluence of his [Emerson's] illustrations diffuses a flavor of oriental spicery over his pages.

2. †a. A spice-shop or spice-store, or a set of these; a source or supply of spices. *Obs.*

1297 R. Glouc. (Rolls) 11224 þe bowiares ssoppe hii breke, ..& suþþe þe spicerie Hii breke fram ende to oþer, & dude al to robberie. 1527 R. Thorne in *Hakluyt* (1589) 254 A head land called Malaca, where is the principal spicery.

b. The department of the royal household connected with the keeping of spices; esp. in *Clerk of the Spicery*. Now only *Hist.*

1418–9 in *Cal. Proc. Chanc. Q. Eliz.* (1827) I. Introd. 16 Roger Wodehill,..som tyme clerc of 3oure faders Spicerie. 1523 *Bk. Keruynge* in *Babees Bk.* (1868) 272 Speke with the panter and offycers of y[e] spycery for fruytes that shall be eten fastynge. *a* 1548 Hall *Chron., Hen. VIII*, 58 The kyng sent William Blacknall esquyer, Clerck of hys Spycery, with silver vessell, plate and other thynges. 1602 F. Tate *Househ. Ord. Edw. II*, § 11 (1876) 11 Al thinges touching th' office of the spicerie. *Ibid.* § 17. 14 Two towels of the clarke of the spicery. 1654 H. L'Estrange *Chas. I* (1655) 63 They..divested him of his place in the spicery. 1707 Chamberlayne *Pres. St. Gt. Brit.* (1710) 535 Her Majesty's Houshold Officers and Servants...Spicery: Richard D'Avenant, Esq., Clerk. 1780 Burke *Corr.* (1844) II. 327, I propose ..to abolish..all the offices of the kitchen, cellar, spicery, &c.

c. A room or part of a house set apart for the keeping of spices. Now only *Hist.*

1536 *MS. Rawl. D. 780* fol. 57 b, A new key for the stew howse Dore in the spycery. 1605 Armin *Foole upon F.* (1880) 10 The Pie was drawne,..but wanting Suger, stept aside to the spicerie to fetch it. 1705 Addison *Italy, Pesaro* 148 The Spicery, the Cellar and its Furniture,..are too well known to need a Description. 1883 *Eng. Illustr. Mag.* Nov. 81 Kitchens, cellars, pastries, spiceries,..and the like. *fig.* 1638 Brathwait (*title*), A Spiritual Spicerie, containing sundrie sweet Tractates of Devotion and Piety.

Spice-wood: see Spice *sb.* 8.

Spici- (spəi·si), combining form of L. *spīca* ear of corn, Spike *sb.*[1], occurring in a few words, as **Spici·ferous** *a.* [L. *spīcifer*] (see quot.). **Spi·ci-form** *a.*, having the form of a (flower-) spike. **Spi·cilege, ‖Spicile·gium, †Spicilegy** [L. *spīcilegium*], a gleaning; a collection or anthology.

Mayne *Expos. Lex.* (1859) also gives *spiciferous*, *florous*, *gerous* as renderings of mod.L. formations.

1656 Blount *Glossogr.*, **Spiciferous*, that beareth ears of corn. [Hence in Phillips and Bailey.] 1836 *Penny Cycl.* VI. 401/1 Verticillated either round some foreign body or under the form of *spiciform branches. 1870 Hooker *Stud. Flora* 194 Heads purplish or white,..in a spiciform panicle. 1837 Landor *Pentameron* ii. Wks. 1853 II. 322/2 Yet we may almost make out in quantity, and quite in quality, our *spicilege from Virgil himself. 1846 G. S. Faber *Lett. Tractar. Secess.* 91, I shall exhibit some specimens of the process,.. a *spicilegium only. 1859 *Archaeol. Cant.* II. 221 Which shall be, as it were, a 'Spicilegium', a gathering up of fragments. 1656 Blount *Glossogr.*, **Spicilegy*, gathering ears of corn, gleaning or leising corn.

Spicily (spəi·sili), *adv.* [f. Spicy *a.* + -ly [2].] In a spicy manner; pungently.

1855 in Hyde Clarke *Dict.* 1896 J. K. Bangs *House-boat on Styx* xi. 142 The conversation had opened a trifle spicily.

Spiciness (spəi·sinĕs). [f. Spicy *a.* + -ness.] The quality of being spicy (esp. in fig. senses).

1633 Herbert *Temple, Odour* iii, That these two words might creep and grow To some degree of spicinesse to thee! 1655 Vaughan *Silex Scint.* (1858) 81 Cold showers nipt and wrung Their spiciness and bloud. 1730 Bailey (fol.), *Aromaticalness*, Spiciness. 1876 *World* V. 11 Our English language does not lend itself so easily as the French to meretricious spiciness of phrase. 1895 *Outing* XXVII. 38 There is a spiciness in the fact.

†Spick, *sb.*[1] *Obs.* Forms: *a.* 1, 3 spic, 4–5 spyk (5 spike), 6 spycke. *β.* 3 spiche. [OE. *spic* (=ON. and MSw. *spik*), var. of *spec* (once): see SPECK *sb.*[4]] Fat meat or bacon; fat, grease, lard.

a. c 832 *Charter* in *O. E. Texts* 446, ii weȝa spices & ceses. 835 *Ibid.* 449 An weȝ spices & ceses. *a* 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* II. 92 ȝenim þa readen netlan..& spices. *c* 1205 LAY. 24437 þer com spic and water and aten vmimete. *c* 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 12345 Dynabrok..[was] Rostyng a swyn,..his berd þer-wiþ al lothen, & al to-soilled wyþ þe spyk. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 469/1 Spyk, or fet flesche (*K.* spike of fleshe), *popa*. *a* 1529 SKELTON *E. Rummyng* 335 Another brought a spycke Of a bacon flycke.

β. c 1275 *Lay Pains of Hell* 134 in *O. E. Misc.*, Heom me drepeþ myd þe piche As we brede wiþ þe spiche.

Spick, *sb.*[2] Now *dial.* Also 6, 9 spik, 7 spicke. [ad. OF. *spic, espic* (Cotgr. *spique*): see ASPIC[2] and SPIKE *sb.*[1]] Lavender.

1558 WARDE tr. *Alexis' Secr.* 19 Take first..the oyle of Violettes,..oyle of Spick,..of eche of them a pound. 1559 MORWYNG *Evonym.* 23ᵇ Oyl of Spick...Set the herb (the flowers rather) of Spik or Lavendar a whyle in the sun. 1639 O. WOOD *Alph. Bk. Secrets* 121 Mixe therewith liquid Storax and oyle of Spicke. 1656 RIDGLEY *Pract. Physick* 85 Take..Spick, six grains, with Honey of Roses. 1844 W. BARNES *Poems Rural Life* 234 The lilies white's her maiden frocks, The spik to put 'ithin her box. 1885– in s.w. dial. glossaries (Somerset, Wilts., etc.).

†Spick, *sb.*[3] *Obs. rare.* [var. SPIKE *sb.*[2] or SPEEK *sb.*] A spike-nail.

1611 FLORIO, *Chiodo*, a naile, a spicke. 1628 in Foster *Eng. Factories India* (1909) III. 251 Spicks and nailes of all sorts.

†Spick, *v. Obs.*[−1] [f. prec.] =SPIKE *v.*[2] 1.

1623 in Foster *Eng. Factories Ind.* (1908) II. 230 Our people..came theather..and spicked upp their ordinance.

Spick, *a.* Short for SPICK AND SPAN *a.*

1882 GOSSE *Gray* vi. 127 His servant..had to keep the room as bright and spick as an old lady's bandbox.

Spick and span, *a.*, *sb.*, and *adv.* Also spick-and-span (occas. spic). [Shortening of next. See also SPECK AND SPAN.]

A. *adj.* **1.** =next.

1665 PEPYS *Diary* 15 Nov., My Lady Batten walking through the dirty lane with new spicke and span white shoes. 1731 SWIFT *On Death Dr. Swift* xxv, His way of writing now is past;..I keep no antiquated stuff; But spick and span I have enough. 1793 COWPER *Let.* Wks. 1836 VII. 214, I have built one summer-house already, with the boards of my old study, and am building another spick and span, as they say. 1809 *European Mag.* LV. 21 The great number of spick and span articles that have been received into our catalogue. 1849 H. MAYO *Pop. Superst.* (1851) 51 Fresh from the mint, and spic and span. 1877 SPURGEON *Serm.* XXIII. 442 Their shifting gospel changes about every ten years, and comes out spick and span as a new theology.

2. Particularly neat, trim, or smart; suggestive of something quite new or unaffected by wear:

a. Of persons in respect of dress.

1846 THACKERAY *Crit. Rev.* Wks. 1886 XXIII. 159 Benvenuto, spick and span in his very best clothes. 1863 W. W. STORY *Roba di R.* I. iv. 64 The shopkeepers..looking spick-and-span, as if they had just come out of a bandbox. 1886 'MAXWELL GRAY' *Silence Dean Maitland* I. i. 9 A dog-cart,..driven by a spick-and-span groom.

b. Of things.

1857 DUFFERIN *Lett. High Lat.* (ed. 2) 87 You must not suppose..that the..land-slip of Thingvalla took place quite in the spick and span manner the section might lead you to imagine. 1882 Mrs. RIDDELL *Daisies & Butterc.* I. 121 This spick and span old house. 1888 W. E. NORRIS *Rogue* xxxi, A spick-and-span victoria, with a lady seated in it.

B. *sb.* That which is quite new or particularly trim and smart.

1758 H. WALPOLE *Let. to H. S. Conway* 21 July, I repeat what has been printed in every newspaper of the week, and then finish with one paragraph of spick and span. 1888 B. W. RICHARDSON *Son of Star* III. iii. 41 A Jewish legion of the spick and span of Jewish youth.

C. *adv.* In a spick and span manner.

1815 LAMB *Let. to Manning* in *Final Mem.* x. 99 Mary reserves a portion of your silk..to make up spick and span into a bran-new gown. 1821 *Blackw. Mag.* IX. 134 Caparison'd all spick and span.

Hence **Spick-and-spanness.** (In recent use.)

Spick and span new, *a.* Also spick-and-span new. (For other variations see quots.) [Emphatic extension of SPAN-NEW *a.* The same first element appears in the synonymous Du. and Flem. *spikspelder-nieuw, -splinter-nieuw* (WFlem. *-spankel-nieuw*).] Absolutely or perfectly new; brand-new; perfectly fresh or unworn.

The *β*-quots. show the more unusual spellings.

a. 1579–80 NORTH *Plutarch* (1895) II. 217 They were all in goodly gilt armours, and brave purple cassocks apon them, spicke, and spanne newe. *c* 1590 *Forewords to Stubbes' Anat.* (1877) 38 A spicke and spanne new Geneua Bible. 1614 B. JONSON *Barth. Fair* III. v. (1904) 66 Sir, this is a spell against 'hem, spicke and span new. 1659 FULLER *App. Inj. Innoc.* II. 31 The Animadvertor will not wear words at the second hand of my using, but will have them spick and span new of his own making. *a* 1668 DAVENANT *Jeffereidos* I. Wks. (1673) 225 They found him close, beneath a spick And almost span-new-peuter-Candlestick. 1742 *Lond. Mag.* 611 A spick and span new French or Dutch Habit. 1771 WESLEY *Wks.* (1872) IX. 181 This discovery is spick and span new; I never heard of it before. 1818 LADY MORGAN *Autobiog.* (1859) 165 These façades..with spick-and-span-new plaster of Paris and patent cement. 1879 SALA *Paris Herself Again* (1880) II. xvii. 270 Its gilt railings..looked spick-and-span new. 1893 VIZETELLY *Glances Back* I. i. 22 The handsome horses in spick-and-span new harness.

Comb. 1607 MIDDLETON *Fam. Love* IV. iii, I am..of the spick and span new-set-up company of porters.

β. 1583 GOLDING *Calvin on Deut.* clxxxii. 1130/1 They [Papists] make men beleeue that the breade is no more a materiall thing...And that is spycke and spawne newe. 1598 FLORIO s.v. *Trinca, Nuoua di trinca*, as we vse to say spike and span new. 1653 GATAKER *Vind. Annot. Jer.* 73 In his Preface to his spik and span New Ephemeris. 1663 KILLEGREW *Parson's Wed.* II. vii, Spik and span new arguments. *c* 1789 Mrs. UNWIN *Let.* in Burgon *Twelve Good Men* (1888) II. 351 Two spic and span new pieces. 1855 *Whitby Gloss.* s.v., Spic-and-span New. See *Brandnew.*

Hence **Spick-and-span newness.** *rare.*

1640 BP. HALL *Episc.* III. vii. 36 The most manifestly spick-and-span-newnesse of this devised Discipline.

Spi·cket[1]. Now chiefly *dial.* and *U.S.* Also 5 spyket, spykett, 6 spicat, 7, *Sc.* 8–9 spiket. [Alteration of SPIGOT *sb.*]

1. A spigot.

14.. *Lat.-Eng. Voc.* in WR.-WÜLCKER 573 *Clipsedra*, a spyket. 14.. *Metr. Voc.* Ibid. 626 *Clepsidra*, spykkett. 1591 HARSEY *Trav.* (Hakl.) 252 [There were] som wines and spicats in their bellies to draw at. 1619 *Pasquil's Palm* (1877) 148 Into the vault the laylor down doth creep, Where how he deals with bung-holes and with spickets I cannot tell. *a* 1635 RANDOLPH *Poems* (1652) 16 His Eyes look like two Tunnels, his Nose like a Fausset with the Spicket out. 1739 BROME in *Lett. Eminent Persons* (1813) II. 119 He..ran his fingers into the orifices, like spickets, of the arteries, and then knockt for his surgeon. 1747–96 Mrs. GLASSE *Cookery* xxii. 343 Put them into a large vessel of wood or stone, with a spicket in it. 1804 A. DUNCAN *Marin. Chron.* IV. 72 The spicket I perceived out of the cask, and the liquor running about. 1836 HALIBURTON *Clockm.* Ser. I. xxxi, I guess I'll whip out of the bung while he's a lookin arter the spicket. 1893 LELAND *Mem.* II. 169 The Indian ..took a glass and turned on the spicket.

attrib. 1654 GAYTON *Pleas. Notes* IV. xvi. 256 Where his miscarriage is the more..scandalous; insomuch, as that he is chiaus'd by two spicket-wenches.

b. In allusive use.

1615 DAY *Festivals* iv. 94 They..spend their Birthright and Patrimonies upon the Spicket. 1654 GAYTON *Pleas. Notes* III. vi. 102 The Brethren of the Spicket..lay downe for a fundamentall, that there is no living without Liquids.

2. A water-tap.

1888 J. & E. R. PENNELL *Sent. Journ.* 60 The waiter pointed to a small spicket and a handkerchief of a towel.

† Spicket[2]. *dial. Obs.*[−1] Also **spickard.** [perh. a transferred use of prec.] (See quot.)

1728 *Phil. Trans.* XXXV. 573 The Owners [in Essex] are sure to choose for their own Use the..fattest [crocus] Roots, but above all, they reject the longish pointed ones, which they call *Spickets* or *Spickards*.

Spicknard, obs. form of SPIKENARD.

Spicknel(l, obs. forms of SPIGNEL.

Spick-span *a.*, abbrev. of SPICK AND SPAN *a.*

1815 W. H. IRELAND *Scribbleomania* 40 A wish Spick span from the press on wove foolscap to issue. 1888 *Public Opinion* (N.Y.) 15 Dec. 197 Their visits to a State's prison have been under the guidance of officials, before whom all is made spick-span. 1894 A. ST. AUBYN *Orchard Damerel* III. ii. 48 It could never have been..clear like spic-span modern glass.

So **Spick-span new** *a.*

1880 TENNYSON *Northern Cobbler* xix.

† Spi·ckwort. *Obs.*[−1] =SPEARWORT 3 b.

1562 AWDELAY *Frat. Vacab.* (1869) 5 They [*sc.* palliards] be bitten with Spickworts, & somtime with rats bane.

Spicose, *a. rare*[−0]. [f. L. *spīca.*] (See quot.) Also **Spico·sity.**

1721 BAILEY, *Spicosity*, a being spiked or pricked like an Ear of Corn. 1775 ASH, *Spicose*, full of ears, having many ears like corn. [Hence in later Dicts.]

Spi·cous, *a. Bot.* ? *Obs.* [f. L. *spīca* spike.] Spicate; spiky, pointed.

1658 Sir T. BROWNE *Gard. Cyrus* iii. 46 The seeds about the spicous head or torch of *Tagsus Barbatus*. 1694 WESTMACOTT *Script. Herb.* (1695) 8 The Fruit or Apples..are..coated and armed with many spicous Pricks. [1775 in ASH. Hence in later Dicts.]

Hence **Spi·cousness.** *rare*[−0].

1730 BAILEY (fol.), *Spicousness*, a being spiked like Ears of Corn; also Fulness of Ears.

‖ Spicula (spi·kiŭlă). Pl. **spiculæ** (*-iulī*). [mod.L., dim. of L. *spīca*, = L. *spīculum* SPICULUM.]

1. A sharp-pointed or acicular crystal or similar formation.

1747 tr. *Astruc's Fevers* 83 Whose stomach is lined with a sort of pituita, whereby the spiculæ of this poison are blunted. 1794 R. J. SULIVAN *View Nat.* I. 426 We have.. only to suppose, the particles which are employed in crystallization, to be endowed with a tendency to form spiculæ; and these spiculæ with a tendency to arrange themselves at equal angles of inclination. 1802 PLAYFAIR *Illustr. Huttonian Th.* 85 Where there is any admixture of that substance [*sc.* felspar], whether in slender spiculæ or in larger masses. 1825 FARADAY *Exp. Res.* XXX. 167 A substance comes over in small quantity,..crystallizing in spiculæ in the receiver.

b. *esp.* A formation of this nature caused by the action of frost.

1783 *Phil. Trans.* LXXIII. 310 On dropping in a bit of ice,..spiculæ of ice shoot suddenly through the water. 1792 BELKNAP *Hist. New Hampsh.* III. 20 The spiculæ [of hoar frost] were of all lengths, from an inch downward. 1854 BREWSTER *More Worlds* iii. 54 The frozen moisture may fall in spiculæ or crystals of ice. 1888 *Athenæum* 6 Oct. 451/3 It was argued that the vapour was changed into ice, and that the higher atmosphere was charged with spiculæ.

2. A small sharp-pointed process on some part of a plant or animal; a prickle.

1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s.v. *Spider*, They all have weapons issuing out of the mouth...They consist, in some, of two spiculæ, in the manner of a forked hook. 1792 BELKNAP *Hist. New Hampsh.* III. 125 It [the prickly ash] is armed with *spiculæ*, like the locust. 1800 *Phil. Trans.* XC. 370 The spiculæ on the shark's skin were also separated. 1815 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* iv. (1818) I. 114 Others are barbed like the spicula of a bee's sting. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1082/2 *Spicula*, a fine fleshy erect point.

b. In fungi: =SPICULE 2.

1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1082/2.

3. *Bot.* A floral spikelet. *rare.*

1760 J. LEE *Introd. Bot.* III. xxii. (1765) 227 *Spicula*, a little spike. 1793 MARTYN *Lang. Bot.*, *Spicula*, a Spicule or Spikelet. A partial spike, or a subdivision of it: as in some Grasses. 1830 LINDLEY *Nat. Syst. Bot.* 293 In certain genera with a simple spike..this is clearly proved by the structure of the terminal flower or spicula.

4. A slender pointed fragment *of* bone, etc.

1835–6 *Todd's Cycl. Anat.* I. 237/1 A spicula of a fractured bone. 1870 H. LONSDALE *Life R. Knox* xii. 249 My finger was caught by a sharp spicula of bone.

5. =SPICULUM 3.

1845 GOSSE *Ocean* i. (1849) 53 In the substance of many species [of sponge]..are found *spiculæ*, or needle-like crystals, of pure flint. 1859 R. HUNT *Guide Mus. Pract. Geol.* (ed. 2) 252 Silicious spiculæ or the minute bones of sponges.

6. *Comb.*, as *spicula-like*; **spicula-forceps** (see quot. 1875).

1857 DANA *Min.* (1862) 124 The fine spicula-like crystalline grains of Epsom salt. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2265/2 *Spicula-forceps*, a dentist's long-nosed forceps for removing small fragments of bone, etc.

Spicular (spi·kiŭlăj), *a.* [f. SPICUL-A, SPICUL-E, or SPICUL-UM + -AR. Cf. F. *spiculaire.*]

1. Of the nature of a spicule or spicula; slender and sharp-pointed; also, characterized by the presence of spicules: **a.** In *Min.*, *Zool.*, etc.

1794 R. J. SULIVAN *View Nat.* I. 308 Spicular poisons, antimony and sublimate, may be rendered inoffensive by sheathing their points in oil or in wax. 1796 KIRWAN *Elem. Min.* (ed. 2) II. 197 [Tin stone] found massive,..or in blunt, or spicular fragments. 1832 BREWSTER *Nat. Magic* xiii. 340 In several cavities in minerals I have found..black spicular crystals. 1861 J. R. GREENE *Man. Anim. Kingd., Calent.* 160 We find, in the genus *Zoanthus*, a spicular coralium. *Ibid.* 161 The spicular stage permanently exemplified in *Alcyonium*. 1872 H. A. NICHOLSON *Palæont.* 72 A peculiar tubular or spicular skeleton.

b. In general use.

1822–7 GOOD *Study Med.* (1829) I. 614 Calcareous or other spicular materials, inhaled while working on stones or metals. *Ibid.* IV. 556 Some spicular node within the cranium. 1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* I. 298 Should the flakes be spicular and fall very thick and fast, then a heavy fall.. may be expected.

2. Characteristic of a spicule or spicules.

1813 *Edinb. Rev.* XXI. 55 The castellated and spicular appearance of the ruins of the sandstone.

† Spi·culate, *v. Obs.* [In sense 1 f. L. *spiculāt-*, ppl. stem of *spīculāre* to point; in sense 2 f. L. *spiculum* sharp point, arrow, ray, etc.]

1. *trans.* To sharpen to a point. *rare*[−0].

1623 COCKERAM II, To make a sharp Point to a thing, *spiculate.*

2. To pierce or transfix. *rare*[−1].

1834 SOUTHEY *Doctor* lxxxvii. (1848) 191 In those representations [in old almanacks] man..stood erect and naked, spiculated by emitted influences from the said signs.

Spiculate (spi·kiŭlĕt), *a. Bot.* [ad. L. *spīculāt-us*, pa. pple. of *spīculāre* to point.] (See quot.)

1832 LINDLEY *Introd. Bot.* 395. 1856 HENSLOW *Dict. Bot. Terms* 178 *Spiculate*, .. where a surface is covered with fine pointed fleshy appendages. Also..when a spike is composed of several smaller spikes (or rather spikelets) crowded together.

Spi·culated, *a.* [f. as prec. + -ED[1].]

† 1. Containing spiculæ. *Obs.*[−1]

1738 D. BAYNE *Gout* 105 Acrimony arises from the different modifications of spiculated salts. 1794 R. J. SULIVAN *View Nat.* I. 308 Blood and oil are globular; corrosive sublimate spiculated; and antimony is in small filaments, like needles.

2. Having the form of a spicula; slender and sharp-pointed.

1744 *Phil. Trans.* XLIII. 186 From its upper End arise five spiculated *Aristæ*. 1768 *Elaboratory* 218 The spiculated or needle-like form of the saline concretions.

3. Furnished with sharp points or spikelets.

1762 tr. *Büsching's Syst. Geog.* I. 236 Some whales have *Spicula* in their jaws...Of the spiculated kind with a flat back, the chief is the real Greenland Whale. 1777 MASON *Eng. Garden* II. 16 Extend a rail of elm, securely arm'd With spiculated paling. 1836–9 *Todd's Cycl. Anat.* II. 803 The spiculated edges of the cavity protruded into the pelvis.

Spicula·tion. [f. SPICULA, etc.: see -ATION.] Formation into a spicule or spicules.

1880 *Trnl. Linn. Soc.* XV. 150 Sketches of the spiculation of another sponge. 1900 B. D. JACKSON *Gloss. Bot. Terms* 247 *Spiculation*, Nylander's term for a hyphal constriction in spore-formation, the extremity being left as a spicule.

Spicule (spi·kiul). [a. F. *spicule*, or anglicizing of SPICULA, SPICULUM.]

1. *Bot.* **a.** A floral spikelet (cf. SPICULA 3). **b.** (See quot. 1855.)

1785 MARTYN *Lett. Bot.* xiii. (1794) 136 Spicules triangular. [*Note*] These are the little assemblages of flowers, or ultimate subdivisions of the panicle or whole. *Ibid.* 137 The spicules are ovate, and on short foot-stalks. 1845 Miss PRATT *Flower. Pl.* I. 5 *Spicules*, two little wing-like pieces often seen at the base of the leafstalk, as in the Rose.

2. One or other of the points of the basidia or sporophores in fungals.

1843 *Penny Cycl.* XXV. 183/1 The hymenium [of *Exidia*

glandulosa] is covered with spicules. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1088/2 In such *Fungi* as agarics the sporophores .. bear generally four little points called spicules,..on which the spores are seated. In *Tremella* the sporophores are globular or quadripartite, the spicules being drawn out into long threads. 1875 Cooke *Fungi* 22 With which also their structure agrees, excepting in the development of spicules.

3. In sponges: = Spiculum 3.

1846 Dana *Zooph.* (1848) 645 The cortex..shows numerous minute granules or spicules of lime, disseminated through it. 1860 Maury *Phys. Geog.* xiv. 616 *note*, A considerable number of silicious spicules of sponges. 1885 J. E. Taylor *Brit. Fossils* i. 9 When alive the outer layer of 'sponge-flesh' is usually permeated with myriads of exceedingly small solid bodies, called fibres and *spicules*.

attrib. 1887 Sollas in *Encycl. Brit.* XXII. 416/1 A thin layer of organic matter, known as the *spicule sheath*, forms an outer investment to the spicule.

4. *Zool.* A needle-like or sharp-pointed process or part.

1861 J. R. Greene *Anim. Kingd., Cælent.* 160 In some species of *Alcyonidæ* proper, the spicules attain a comparatively large size. 1872 H. A. Nicholson *Palæont.* 66 All the Radiolaria possess hard structures in the form of siliceous spicules or a siliceous test. 1890 *Science-Gossip* XXVI. 198 The ovate individuals..showed the mouth or osculum fringed with spicules standing erect.

5. A fine-pointed piece, splinter, or fragment of some hard substance; a spicula or spiculum.

1878 Huxley *Physiogr.* 62 A nucleus from which six little spicules or rods of ice are shot forth. 1879 Khory *Digest Med.* 37 Under the microscope granular matter, and spheres with spicules sticking on them, are seen. 1895 Hoffman *Beginnings of Writing* 37 A small bundle of needles, spicules of bone, or fish spines.

Spiculi- (spi·kiźli), combining form, after L. models, of Spicula, Spicule, and Spiculum, occurring in a few *Zool.* terms, as **Spiculi·ferous** *a.*, bearing spicules. **Spi·culiform** *a.*, formed like a spicule; sharp-pointed. **Spiculi·genous** *a.*, 'containing spicules' (Webster, 1847). **Spiculi·gerous** *a.*, spiculiferous.

1836–9 *Todd's Cycl. Anat.* II. 866/1 In the fourth section, *Tubulifera*,..the abdomen is furnished..with a *spiculiferous ovipositor. 1841 *Penny Cycl.* XX. 423/2 Many hook-formed spiculiferous lobes. 1846 Dana *Zooph.* iv. (1848) 36 These *spiculiform organs .. are of three kinds. 1852 — *Crust.* II. 708 A slender spiculiform process. 1877 Huxley *Anat. Inv. Anim.* iii. 118 The inner cells..in the meanwhile have become *spiculigerous.

†**Spiculine,** *a. Obs. rare.* [f. Spicul-a or Spicul-um + -ine 2.] = Spiculated *ppl. a.* 2.

1754 *Phil. Trans.* XLVIII. 836 It seems to be from this spiculine or needle-like form..that antimonial preparations have their emetic quality. 1775 *Ibid.* LXV. 92 The first solution..deposits some of its colour in the form of minute spiculine crystals.

Spiculo- (spi·kiźlo), combining form of Spiculum (cf. sense 3), occurring in a few terms, as *spiculo-fibre*, *-fibrous*.

1900 *Proc. Zool. Soc.* 137 Skeleton [of the sponge] forming a rectangular network, the meshes being..with a few slender primary lines of spiculo-fibre 2–4 spicules thick. *Ibid.* 138 Skeleton consisting of an axial or central open spiculo-fibrous network.

‖ **Spiculum** (spi·kiźlŏm). Pl. **spicula.** [a. L. *spīculum* sharp point, sting, dart, etc., dim. of *spīca* Spike *sb.*]

1. = Spicula 1 and 1 b.

1746 R. James *Mouffet's Health Improv.* 32 Another Class of Medicines .. consists of such Substances as sheath the Spicula, or sharp Points of the Acid. 1839 Darwin *Voy. Nat.* xvii. 398 We were enveloped in a cloud which was falling under the form of minute frozen spicula. 1863 Baring-Gould *Iceland* 119 Composed of minute spicula of ice.

transf. and *fig.* 1840 Fraser *Koordistan*, etc. II. vi. 146 The wind was..loaded with spicula of cold, which penetrated every limb and joint. 1847 Emerson *Repr. Men*, *Swedenborg* Wks. (Bohn) I. 317 His style lustrous with points and shooting spicula of thought.

2. *Zool.* A sharp-pointed process or formation.

1762 tr. *Büsching's Syst. Geog.* I. 236 Some whales have *Spicula* in their jaws, as those of Greenland, the Nordcaper, the Fin Fish. 1844 Emerson *Ess., Nature* (1901) 313 It publishes itself in creatures, reaching from particles and spicula..to the highest symmetries. 1856–8 W. Clark *Van der Hoeven's Zool.* I. 78 Crowded with microscopic calcareous spicula. 1859 J. Tomes *Dental Surg.* (1873) 5 Projecting inwards from the free edge of the outer and inner alveolar walls, we observe small spicula.

b. The excitatory dart in snails.

1838 *Penny Cycl.* XII. 105/2 Dr. Maton often observed these *spicula*, but never saw them actually projected from one to the other. 1856–8 W. Clark *Van der Hoeven's Zool.* I. 190 Male genital organ a double spiculum. 1866 R. Tate *Brit. Mollusks* iv. 119 The snails are furnished with spicula —crystalline darts, which they eject at each other.

3. One of the calcareous or siliceous needles found in sponges. Usu. in pl.

1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 376/1 The calcareous and silicious spicula, and the formation and distribution of the pores and orifices of sponges. 1865 Gosse *Land & Sea* (1874) 266 These spicula or needles..make up the firm portion of the Sponge. 1877 Huxley *Anat. Inv. Anim.* iii. 114 A multitude of separate spicula, composed of an animal substance.. impregnated with carbonate of lime.

attrib. 1883 Saville-Kent *Fisheries Bahamas* 33 In a third group, that of the *Calcispongiæ*, a spicula skeleton is likewise developed.

4. = Spicula 4.

1872 Mivart *Anat.* 116 The malar bone may be merely a delicate spiculum of bone. 1874 G. Lawson *Dis. Eye* (ed. 2) 68 To detect a fine spiculum of steel, or a fragment of glass, ..which may have been impacted on the cornea.

Spicy (spəi·si), *a.* Also 6 spycye, 8–9 spicey. [f. Spice *sb.*]

1. Having the characteristic qualities of spice; of the nature of spice.

1562 Turner *Herbal* II. (1568) 50 The shel smelleth well, and is spycye, not onely in smell, but also in taste. 1626 Bacon *Sylva* § 644 So Fennell-seeds are sweet before they ripen, and after grow spicy. 1667 Milton *P. L.* II. 640 Whence Merchants bring Thir spicie Drugs. 1725 De Foe *Voy. round World* (1840) 112 The herbs were of a spicy kind, and had a most pleasant agreeable taste. 1789 W. Buchan *Dom. Med.* (1790) 431 The diet must be..seasoned with spicy and aromatic vegetables. 1806 A. Hunter *Culina* (ed. 3) 125 The French Cooks make a spicey mixture that does not discover a predominancy of any one of the spices over the others. 1833 Ht. Martineau *Cinnamon & Pearls* iii. 54 The sun could penetrate to the pure white sand from which the spicy stems sprang.

fig. 1646 J. Hall *Poems* 37 When age shall..all that Red remove That on thy spicy lip now ly's. 1847 Emerson *Poems*, *Monadnoc* Wks. (Bohn) I. 438 Fountain-drop of spicier worth Than all the vintage of the earth.

b. Flavoured or mixed with spice.

1632 Milton *L'Allegro* 100 The Spicy Nut-brown Ale. 1807 Crabbe *Par. Reg.* I. 259 Here his poor bird th'inhuman cocker brings,..With spicy food th'impatient spirit feeds.

2. Having the fragrance of spice; sweet-scented, aromatic: **a.** Of flowers.

1765 Cath. Talbot *Lett.* (1808) II. 21 Here [there is] a gale of spicy pinks, here the breath of lillies. 1797 Mrs. Radcliffe *Italian* xiii, The spicy myrtle sent forth all its fragrance. 1830 Tennyson *Poet's Mind* 13 Holy water will I pour Into every spicy flower Of the laurel-shrubs. 1845–50 Mrs. Lincoln *Lect. Bot.* 105/2 *Gaultheria procumbens* (spicy wintergreen). 1867 Augusta Wilson *Vashti* xxiv, An exquisitely beautiful and fragrant bouquet..fringed daintily with spicy geranium leaves.

b. Of air, breezes, etc.

1650 Vaughan *Silex Scint.* (1885) 51 Calm streams; Joyes full, and true; Fresh, spicie mornings. 1712 Pope *Messiah* 27 See spicy clouds from lowly Saron rise. 1713 — *Windsor For.* 392 Led by new stars, and borne by spicy gales! 1820 Keats *Hyperion* I. 186 When he would taste the spicy wreaths Of incense. 1855 Browning *Fra Lippo* 340 Tasting the air this spicy night which turns The unaccustomed head like Chianti wine!

3. Containing or producing, abounding in, spices.

1648 Crashaw *Poems* (1904) 144 A fragrant Breath suckt from the spicy nest O' th' precious Phœnix. 1667 Milton *P. L.* IV. 162 As when..North-East windes blow Sabean Odours from the spicie shoare Of Arabie the blest. 1746 Hervey *Reft. Flower-Garden* 43 All the Odours of the spicy East. 1781 Cowper *Charity* 442 The stores [which] The sun matures on India's spicy shores. 1813 Shelley *Q. Mab* VIII. 64 Fragrant zephyrs there from spicy isles Ruffle the placid ocean-deep.

b. Consisting of spice; conveying spice.

1712 W. King *Brit. Pallad.* 39 Restore the spicy traffick of the East. 1840 Hood *Up Rhine* 31 Masts of spicy vessels From distant Surinam.

4. Of qualities: Appropriate to, or characteristic of, spices.

1652 Crashaw *Carmen Deo Nostro* Poems (1904) 197 O dissipate thy spicy Powres. 1728 Chambers *Cycl., Zeodary* .. for its spicy Warmth is commended in Cholics. 1732 Arbuthnot *Rules of Diet* in *Aliments*, etc. I. 244 Burnet, astringent, with a gentle spicy Quality. 1821 Clare *Vill. Minstr.* I. 115 Spikenard's spicy smell. 1883 *Cent. Mag.* Oct. 814/2 The great variety of flowers and their spicy flavour.

†**5.** *Sc.* (See quots.) *Obs.*

1768 [Sir D. Dalrymple] *Bannatyne Poems* 276 Thus a *spicy man* is still used for one self-conceited and proud. 1808 Jamieson, *Spicy*, proud, testy.

6. *slang.* **a.** Full of spirit, smartness, or 'go'.

1828 *Sporting Mag.* (N.S.) XXI. 324 We had a remarkably spicy team out of town. 1829 *Ibid.* XXIII. 291 Four little spicy devils, it would be difficult for anything I should think to catch. 1858–61 E. B. Ramsay *Remin.* vi. (1870) 238 It.. requires to be performed with a particular and *spicy* dexterity of hand. 1898 Wollocombe *From Morn till Eve* viii. 196 A well-appointed drag appeared with its spicy team stepping well together.

b. Smart-looking; neat. Also as *adv.*

1846 Huxley in L. Huxley *Life* (1900) I. ii. 28 The spicy oilcloth..on the floor looks most respectable. 1854 F. E. Smedley *H. Coverdale's Courtsh.* i, The fortunate possessor of a spicy dog-cart, a blood mare to run in it. 1859 Meredith *R. Feverel* xxix, That young Tom! He 've come to town dressed that spicy.

7. Of writing or discourse: Smart and pointed; pungent; having a flavour of the sensational or scandalous; somewhat improper.

1844 J. T. Hewlett *Parsons & W.* li, The articles were so clever, and so very 'spicy'. 1848 *Punch* XV. 62, I wish you would say something spicy about the new regulation. 1891 Farrar *Darkn. & Dawn* xxvi, It is composed of the spiciest libels against every senator of note whom he ventures to attack.

8. Exciting, exhilarating.

1853 Kane *Grinnell Exped.* xxxvii. (1854) 335 The spicy tingling of a crisis.

9. *Comb.*, as *spicy-looking*, *-smelling*.

1819 Scott *Ivanhoe* xxxvii, A warming and spicy-smelling balsam. 1850 F. E. Smedley *F. Fairlegh* (1894) 4 A spicy-looking nag. 1901 *Wide World Mag.* VI. 469/2 It is planted thick with spicy-smelling pines and firs.

Spiddock. *north. dial.* Also 7 spidick, 9 spiddick. [Alteration of Spigot *sb.*] A spigot.

1629 *Vestry Bks.* (Surtees) 298 For a spidick and a cannell, 1d. 1685 G. M[eriton] *Praise of Yorksh. Ale* 15 Then out they pulled the Tapps, And stuck the Spiddocks finely in their Hats. 1825 Brockett *N. C. Gloss.*, *Spiddick-and-fawcet*, a wooden instrument used as a substitute for a cock to let out liquors. 1849– in dial. glossaries (Durh., Lanc., Yks., Cumbld.).

Spider (spəi·dəɹ), *sb.* Forms: 4 spipre, 5 spiper(e, spither, spyther; 5–7 spyder, 6–spider (7 spidar). [app.-repr. OE. **spīpre* :— **spin-þre*, f. *spinnan* Spin *v.* Cf. Spinner 1.

In the obscure passage in *Saxon Leechd.* III. 42 the reading of the MS. is *spiden* (not *spider*) *wiht*.]

1. One or other of the arachnids belonging to the insectivorous order *Araneidæ*, many species of which possess the power of spinning webs in which their prey is caught.

The cunning, skill, and industry of the spider, as well as its power of secreting or emitting poison, are frequently alluded to in literature. The various species or groups of spiders are freq. denoted by some distinguishing word, as *bird-catching*, *crab-*, *cross-*, *diadem-*, *garden-*, *house-*, *jumping-*, *mason-*, *sedentary*, *spinning*, *trap-door-*, *wall-*, *wandering spider*, etc.: see these words.

1340 *Ayenb.* 164 And þe greate niedes of þe wordle him þingþ ase naȝt, and þeruore hise ne prayzeþ naȝt bote ase þe web of þe spiþre. 1398 Trevisa *Barth. De P. R.* xviii. liv. (Bodl. MS.), Þis formicalion..is a manere kinde of spiþeres. *c* 1440 *Wycliffite Bible* Job viii. 14 His trist schal be as a web of spiþers [*v.rr.* yreyns, areyns; *earlier version* attercoppis]. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 140/2 Eranye, or spyder, or spynnare. 1480 Caxton *Myrr.* II. xv. 101 The spyther or spyncop. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 54 How the vyne of grace..shold be kepte,..that neyther beestes, wormes, ne spiders come therto. 1592 Greene *Repent. R. Greene* Wks. (Grosart) XII. 180 They with the spider sucke poison out of the most pretious flowers. 1665 in *Verney Mem.* (1907) II. 244 The house..being horidly nasty,..the spiders are redy to drope into my mouthe. 1697 Dryden *Virg. Georg.* IV. 361 Or Secret Moaths are there in Silence fed; Or Spiders in the Vault their snary Webs have spred. 1727–46 Thomson *Summer* 269 The window..where, gloomily retir'd, The villain spider lives, cunning, and fierce, Mixture abhorr'd! 1782 Priestley *Corrupt. Chr.* II. vi. 51 In case..any fly or spider should fall into the wine. 1828 Lytton *Pelham* xx, Because rogues are like spiders, and eat each other, when there is nothing else to catch. 1861 Hulme tr. *Moquin-Tandon* II. v. ii. 262 In hot climates, Spiders are able to produce..a certain amount of local pain. 1896 tr. *Boas' Text Bk. Zool.* 283 The Spiders may be distinguished from other Arachnida by the separation of the cephalothorax from the abdomen by a deep constriction.

b. In allusive use.

1596 Shaks. *Merch. V.* III. ii. 121 Here in her haires The Painter plaies the Spider, and hath wouen A golden mesh t'intrap the hearts of men. 1894 Mrs. Dyan *Man's Keeping* (1899) 310 There was too much of the alluring spider and giddy fly business in the arrangement.

c. Applied to persons as an opprobrious or vituperative term.

1568 T. Howell *Arb. Amitie* (1879) 58 For spightfull spiders spare not, For curious carpers care not. 1579 Lodge *Reply Gosson* 35 From the same flower..whence the Spyder (I mean the ignorant) take their poison. 1594 Shaks. *Rich. III*, I. iii. 242 Why strew'st thou Sugar on that Bottel'd Spider, Whose deadly Web ensnareth thee about? 1602 *Narcissus* 1893 577 Dare you vse mee thus to my face, spidar? 1638 Chillingw. *Relig. Prot.* I. Concl. 410 If you were ten times more a spider then you are, you could suck no poyson from them. 1798 Southey *To a Spider* iii. Poet. Wks. 1837 II. 180 Hell's huge black Spider, for mankind he lays His toils, as thou for flies. 1821–2 Shelley *Chas. I*, IV. 16 Realms..beyond the shot of tyranny, Beyond the webs of that swoln spider. 1898 'Merriman' *Roden's Corner* i. 3 In such a shop..there is always a human spider lurking in the background, who steals out upon any human fly that may pause to look at the wares.

†d. *To swallow a spider*, to go bankrupt. *Obs.*

1670 Ray *Prov.* 194 He hath swallowed a spider, *i. e.* plaid the bankrupt.

e. *Electrical spider* (see quot.).

1842 Francis *Dict. Arts, Sci.*, etc. s.v., *Electrical Spider*, a small ball of pith, cut of the size, and into the form of a spider, suspended by a long filament of silk, and with eight linen thread legs.

2. a. Applied, usually with distinguishing term, to other allied species of *Arachnida* resembling spiders in appearance; esp. the harvest-spider; a spider-mite. See also Red spider, Sea spider.

1665 Hooke *Microgr.* 198 The Carter, Shepherd Spider, or long-legg'd spider. 1688 Holme *Armoury* II. x. 215/2 The long legged Spider of the Garden, or Field. 1806 Shaw *Gen. Zool.* VI. II. 473 To this genus [*Phalangium*] belong those well known insects called long-legged, shepherd, or harvest Spiders. 1818 Kirby & Sp. *Entomol.* xxiii. (ed. 2) II. 307 Octopods..including the tribes of mites (*Acaridæ*); spiders (*Araneidæ*); long-legged spiders (*Phalangidæ*); and scorpions. 1848 [see Long-legged *a.*].

b. (See quot.)

1863 Couch *Brit. Fishes* II. 43 The fishes of the genus *Trachinus*..have from an early date obtained for themselves a formidable reputation under the names of Spiders and Sea Dragons.

c. A spider-crab.

1853 T. Bell *Brit. Stalk-eyed Crustacea* 42 Like all the other triangular Crustacea, the fishermen inveterately term it [*sc.* the spinous spider-crab] 'spider'.

d. A species of artificial fly used in angling; a hackle-fly.

1857 W. C. Stewart *Pract. Angler* v. 81 Spiders dressed of very soft feathers are more suitable for fishing up than for fishing down.

3. A kind of frying-pan having legs and a long handle; also loosely, a frying-pan. Orig. *U.S.*

1830 Galt *Lawrie T.* III. xii. (1849) 125 A judicious selection of spiders and frying-pans. 1842 Whittier in Pickard *Life* (1895) I. 278 Like fishes dreaming of the sea,

And waking in the spider. 1869 Mrs. Whitney *We Girls* vi, It is slopping and burning, and putting away with a rinse, that makes kettles and spiders untouchable.

b. *U.S.* A trivet or tripod; a griddle.

1875 in Knight *Dict. Mech.*

4. *Austr. slang.* A drink consisting of lemonade and brandy mixed.

1854 *Argus* (Melb.), They asked us what we would have to drink; we had a spider each. 1859 K. Cornwallis *New World* I. 300 Shandy-gaff, or spiders,—the latter to clear their throats of flies as they said. 1859 Fowler *Southern Lights* 52.

5. *Naut.* (See quots. and *spider-hoop*.)

1860 Nares *Naval Cadet's Guide* 5 *Spiders*, an iron outrigger to keep blocks clear of the ship's side. *c* 1860 H. Stuart *Seaman's Catech.* 71 What are spiders? They are somewhat similar to goose necks, only they are supported by three legs, to enable them to resist strain in different directions; they are used for the after main brace and main sheet. 1874 Thearle *Naval Archit.* 66 An iron forging termed a 'spider', with a square hole or a socket in the top, ..is let down over the top of the rudder. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2265/2 *Spider*, ..a hoop around a mast provided with belaying-pins.

6. *techn.* One or other of various parts or pieces of machinery, *esp.* one consisting of a framework or metal casting with radiating arms or spokes suggestive of the legs of a spider.

1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2265/2 *Spider*, a skeleton of radiating spokes; as a sprocket-wheel consisting of spokes on a rotating shaft. 1888 Bottone *Electr. Instrum. Making* (ed. 2) 109 Which pins..serve to bolt the armature firmly to the brass star-wheel, or 'spider', by means of which it is affixed to the shaft.

b. (See quot.)

1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2265/2 *Spider*, ..the solid interior portion of a piston to which the packing is attached and to whose axis the piston-rod is secured.

c. *U.S. Coal-mining.* (See quot.)

1883 Gresley *Gloss. Coal-m.* 230 *Spiders*, ..see Drum rings. [*Ibid.* 91 *Drum-rings*, cast iron wheels, with projections, to which are bolted the staves or laggings forming the surface for the ropes to lap upon.]

7. A lightly-built cart, trap, or phaeton with a high body and disproportionately large and slender wheels. Orig. *S. African.*

1879 *Daily News* 21 Aug. 5/4, I don't know how often that 'spider' and I rolled over together into the mud. 1882 Mrs. Heckford *Lady Trader* 241 A spanking pair of horses in a spider, brought the sheriff from Pretoria. 1895 *Outing* XXVII. 186 A few days later he journeyed again to Brooklyn..and found her spider standing in front of the door.

8. In various elliptical uses (see sense 10): **a.** A spider-table. **b.** A spider-rest. **c.** A spider-cell.

(*a*) 1848 [M. W. Savage] *Bachelor of the Albany* 70 A nest of spiders for embroidery or chess, an oblong table, ..and a round table. (*b*) 1887 in *Cassell's Encycl. Dict.* 1896 W. J. Ford in Broadfoot *Billiards* 392 Beginners should be cautioned to watch carefully for foul strokes, especially when the rest or spider is being used. (*c*) 1893 *Brit. Med. Jrnl.* 26 Aug. 462 Contemporaneously the nerve-cells shewed signs of degeneration, amongst them were seen the proliferating spiders.

9. *attrib.* and *Comb.* **a.** Simple attrib., as *spider-cord, -film, -kind, -silk, -snare, -sting, -thread, tribe.*

1863 Grosart *Small Sins* (ed. 2) 35 A scratch like the slenderest *spider-cord. 1835 Browning *Paracelsus* III. 76 Despising youth's allurements, and rejecting As *spider-films the shackles I endure. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl., *Solipuga*, ..a small venomous insect of the *spider-kind. 1861 *Med. Times* 20 Apr. 421/1 A large black monkey of the spider kind. 1728 Chambers *Cycl.* s.v. *Silk*, *Spider-Silk. Within a few Years the Secret has been found in France, of procuring and preparing Silk of the Webs of Spiders. 1875 *Encycl. Brit.* II. 295/2 With respect to the economic or mercantile value of spider silk. 1796 Burns *Poem on Life* v, To put us daft; Syne weave, unseen, thy *spider snare, O' hell's damned waft. 1852 Mundy *Antipodes* (1857) 179 Thanks to the *spider-sting, I felt too feverish to leave the ship. 1541 R. Copland *Galyen's Terap.* 2 A iij b, A *spyder threde. 1848 Mrs. Carlyle *Lett.* (1883) II. 31 His dislike to be connected in people's minds, by even the slightest spider-thread, with what he calls 'George Sandism'. 1868 Watts *Dict. Chem.* V. 399 Spider-threads appear to consist essentially of..sericin. 1894 Baring-Gould *Deserts S. France* I. 1 The traveller..having crossed that spider-thread viaduct of Garabit. 1805 Bingley *Anim. Biog.* III. 603 *Spider Tribe.

b. Passing into adj., with the sense 'like that of a spider; *esp.* slender, thin; spider-like, spidery'.

1632 Massinger *Maid of Hon.* I. ii, Be not taken with My pretty spider-fingers. 1723 Fenton *Mariamne* IV. v, His spider-constitution wou'd dissolve In its own venom. 1840 Thackeray *Shabby-genteel Story* viii, A brown cut-away coat..that fitted tight round a spider waist.

c. Appositive, chiefly in allusion to the cunning or wily nature of the spider, as *spider-farmer, -saint, -siren.*

1678 Butler *Hud.* III. i. 1461 Those Spider-Saints, that hang by Threads Spun out o' th' Entrals of their Heads. 1899 *Daily News* 9 May 8 The toils set for him by the treacherous spider-farmer. *Ibid.* 12 July 8/2 An Indian opium den, and its spider-siren, inveigling poor flies of men to destruction.

d. With adjs. forming similative combs., as *spider-legged, -limbed, -shanked.* Also *spider-leggy, -webby* adjs.

1787 'G. Gambado' *Acad. Horsem.* (1809) 21 The pitiful *spider-legged things of this age fly into a ditch with you, at the sight of a pocket-handkerchief. 1871 Kingsley *At Last* i, Sand-brush,..through which the spider-legged mangroves rose on stilted roots. 1894 W. S. Simpson *Mem.* (1899) 146 Not an angular spider-legged Frenchified hand, but a clear round legible hand. 1881 Freeman in W. R. W. Stephens *Life & Lett.* (1895) II. 216 First, W. makes a bold broad cross, somewhat as I might make; M. a *spider-leggy kind of one. 1855 R. R. Madden *Life C'tess Blessington* I. 367 The..height of its slim, *spider-limbed, powdered footman. 1785 Grose *Dict. Vulgar T.*, *Spider-shanked, thin legged. 1864 *Builder* 16 Apr. 274/2 The doors became dingier, the areas and lobbies more *spider-webby.

10. Special combs.: †**spider-bag**, the cocoon spun by the spider for the protection of its eggs; **spider-band** *Naut.*, a spider-hoop (*U.S.*); **spider-brusher** *slang*, a domestic servant; **spider-cake** *U.S.*, a cake cooked in a spider pan; **spider-cancer** *Path.*, spider-nævus; †**spider-cap**, a cap of a spider-like appearance formerly worn by women; **spider-cart**, = sense 7; †**spider-caul**, a spider's web (cf. Caul *sb.*[1] 3); in quot. *fig.*, a male flirt; **spider-cell**, (*a*) *Biol.*, a bacillus having the appearance of a small spider; (*b*) *Anat.*, one of the characteristic cells of the neuroglia, having numerous delicate processes resembling the legs of a spider; †**spider's cloth**, †**spider cob**, a spider's web, a cobweb; **spider couching** *Needlewk.*, **spider-hoop** *Naut.*, **spider-nævus** *Path.* (see quots.); **spider-rest**, a billiard rest with legs of sufficient length to allow of its being placed over a ball without touching it; **spider-shanks** *dial.*, a person having long, thin legs; **spider-sheave**, a form of sheave or pulley-block somewhat resembling a spider in construction; **spider-stitch** *Needlewk.* (see quots.); **spider-table**, a slightly-constructed occasional table with spider-like legs; †**spider-wevet**, a cobweb (in quot. *fig.*); **spider-wheel**, (*a*) a form of water-wheel; (*b*) *Needlewk.* (see *spider-stitch*); **spider-work**, work having the characteristics or appearance of a spider's web.

A few other special terms, which appear to have little or no currency, are given in recent Dicts.

1728 Chambers *Cycl.* s.v. *Silk*, The *Spider-Bags are of a Grey Colour when new. 1833 T. Hook *Love & Pride, Widow* iii, Carefully folded according to the suggestion of the venerable *spider-brusher. 1841 W. H. Maxwell *Scotland* (1855) 11 The English spider-brusher is a gem beyond value. 1869 Mrs. Whitney *We Girls* v, The flaky *spider-cake, turned just as it blushed golden-tawny over the coals. 1898 *Syd. Soc. Lex.*, *Spider-cancer, *Acne rosacea.* 1790 Wesley *Wks.* (1872) VII. 360 Your needless ornaments..—ruffles, necklaces, *spider-caps, ugly, unbecoming bonnets. 1900 Treves *Tale Field Hosp.* xxvii. 97 Left by the roadside..were carts, light *spider-carts, ..and..cumbrous impedimenta. 1641 Brathwait *Eng. Gentlw.* 322 Let not then these *Spidercauls delude you, discretion will laugh at them, modesty loath them. 1888 Rolleston & Jackson *Anim. Life* 433 Spherical '*spider' cells with clear contents. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VII. 715 At a later stage the spider-cells are transformed into a fibrillar meshwork. 1638 W. M. *Garcia's Sonne Rogue* 38 The hangings of their chambers are all mourning, with some borders of *spiders-cloth (cobwebs). *a* 1571 Jewel *Serm.* (1609) 231 What profit had ye in your dreames, in your *spider cobbes, in your drosse, in your chaffe? 1882 Caulfeild & Saward *Dict. Needlework* 92/9 **Spider couching*, a Raised Couching. Upon a linen foundation fasten down short pieces of whipcord. Cut these of equal length, and arrange them like the spokes of a wheel or the chief threads of a spider's web. 1846 A. Young *Naut. Dict.* 291 **Spider-hoop*, the hoop going round a mast to secure the shackles to which the futtock-shrouds are attached. 1863 *Ibid.* 362 The name of spider hoop is also given to a hoop of iron with belaying pins attached to it, or an iron hoop encircling a wooden rim, into which such pins are inserted for belaying brails or braces to. 1868 Nares *Seamanship* (ed. 4) 57 The spider hoop for the topgallant shrouds. 1898 *Syd. Soc. Lex.*, *Spider-nævus. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 826 A common variety [of nævus] found on the face of children, is a small central red spot with a leash of vessels running to it (spider nævus). 1873 Bennett & Cavendish *Billiards* 28 The heads of cushion and *spider-rests, are generally made of wood. 1828 Lytton *Pelham* lxxxi, The tallest of the set, who bore the euphonious appellation of *Spider-shanks, politely asked me [etc.]. 1903 *Sci. Amer.* 31 Jan. 80/1 A couple of *spider-sheaves were sent ashore. 1882 Caulfeild & Saward *Dict. Needlework* 62/2 Catherine Wheel..is also known by the name of Spider Wheel or *Spider Stitch, and is chiefly employed to fill up round holes in embroidery on muslin. *Ibid.* 242/2 Roue, also called Wheel and Spider Stitch, and made either with Point Croisé and Point de Toile, or of Point d'Esprit. 1844 W. H. Maxwell *Scotland* xiv. (1855) 128 Mrs. C— was seated in her easy-chair with a *spider table before her. 1861 Lever *One of them* lii. 402 As they placed a little spider-table between them. 1581 J. Bell *Haddon's Answ. Osor.* III. 420 b, When you sate knittyng such fleying moats, and *spyderweuett and such stubble. 1868 *Chambers's Encycl.* X. 95/2 The latter are more often made of wrought-iron rods, with a slight axle. This wheel is much lighter.., and is called a suspension or *spider wheel. *c* 1812 Byron in Peel *Luddites* (1880) vii. 35 By the adoption of one species of frame in particular, one man performed the work of many...Yet it is to [be] observed that the work thus executed was inferior in quality...It was called, in the cant of the trade, by the name of '*Spider work'. 1874 *Queen Lace Bk.* I. 5 Darned Netting (Opus araneum; Spiderwork; Point conté). 1883 *Gd. Words* Dec. 791/2 This orchid is seldom seen without some gossamery spiderwork surrounding it.

b. In the names of animals, insects, birds, etc., which bear some resemblance to, or are associated in some way with, spiders, as **spider-ant, -diver, -eater,** †**-fish, -fly, -hunter, -mite, -shell, -tortoise, -wasp, -whelk** (see quots.). Also **Spider-catcher, -crab, -monkey.**

1881 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* V. 377 The females of this and other species have an aspect intermediate between that of a Spider and that of an Ant, whence the German entomologists give them the very characteristic name of '*Spider Ants'. *Ibid.* 381 The Spider Ants (*Mutillæ*). 1827 *Sporting Mag.* (N.S.) XX. 39 These birds (*colymbus minutus*) are very common in the fleets, and are called by the Marshmen *Spider Divers. 1885 Swainson *Prov. Names Birds* 216 *Little Grebe*, ..Spider diver. 1885 H. O. Forbes *Nat. Wand. E. Archip.* III. viii. 233 I obtained an interesting bird, a green species of *Spider-eater. 1608 Topsell *Serpents* 233 Yet these Serpents are thought to be none other then the Fishes called *Aranei*, or *Spyder-fishes. 1787 Best *Angling* (ed. 2) 112 The *Spider-Fly. Comes on about the twentieth of April,..and continues on about a fortnight. 1813 Bingley *Anim. Biog.* III. 331 The Hippoboscæ form a connecting link betwixt the two-winged and the apterous insects. By some authors they have been denominated *mouches araignées*, or spider-flies. 1868 *Rep. U. S. Commissioner Agric.* (1869) 317 The *Hippoboscidæ*, or spider-flies, are found upon birds and animals. 1856–8 Horsfield & Moore *Catal. Birds E. India Co.* II. 727 *Arachnothera magna*, the Great *Spider-hunter (Hodgson). 1862 Jerdon *Birds India* I. 361 *Arachnothera pusilla*, the Little Spider-hunter. 1876–80 Shelley *Monograph Nectariniidæ* 358, I retain the Spider-hunters in the present family [*Arachnotherinæ*]. 1870 H. A. Nicholson *Man. Zool.* xxxvii. 269 The Garden-mites (*Trombidiidæ*) and *Spider-mites (*Ganasidæ*) live upon plants. 1879 E. P. Wright *Anim. Life* 525 The Spider Mites are small eyeless creatures, parasitical on bats, birds, reptiles, and insects. 1752 J. Hill *Hist. Anim.* 144 The tuberculose Murex, the Scorpion shell, commonly called the *Spider-shell. 1896 Lydekker *Roy. Nat. Hist.* VI. 385 The spider-shells (*Pteroceras*), with the claw-like projections from the outer lip. *Ibid.* V. 64 The last member of this section of the family is the *spider-tortoise (*Pyxis arachnoides*) of Madagascar. 1816 Kirby & Sp. *Entomol.* xxiii. (1818) II. 309 The *spider-wasps (*Pompilus*, F.) walk by starts, as it were, vibrating their wings, at the same time. 1713 Petiver *Aquat. Anim. Amboinæ* Tab. vi, *Tribulus*, .. *Spider Welk.

c. In the names of plants, grasses, etc., as **spider grass, ophrys, orchid, orchis, plant** (see quots.). Also Spiderwort.

1889 Maiden *Usef. Pl.* 98 *Panicum divaricatissimum*, *Spider-Grass. 1796 Withering *Brit. Pl.* (ed. 3) II. 39 *Ophrys aranifera*, *Spider ophrys. 1889 Maiden *Usef. Pl.* 11 *Caladenia*, *Spider Orchids. 1785 Martyn *Lett. Bot.* xxvii. (1794) 421 *Spider Orchis is a lower plant. 1839 Lindley *Sch. Bot.* 177 *Ophrys araneifera* (Spider Orchis). 1882 *Garden* 11 Feb. 89/1 The requirements of such fastidious plants as ..the Bee, the Fly, the Spider Orchis..are seldom found in gardens. 1898 Morris *Austral. Eng.* 429 Spider-Orchis, name given in Tasmania to the Orchid *Caladenia pulcherrima*, F. v. M. 1852 P. C. Sutherland *Jrnl. Voy. Baffin's Bay* xix. II. 236 The most beautiful plant that one could see in a whole day's walking around Assistance Bay, was the *spider plant (*Saxifraga flagellaris*). 1882 Friend *Dev. Plant-n.*, Spider-plant, *Saxifraga sarmentosa.*

Hence **Spi'der** *v. trans.*, to catch or entrap after the manner of the spider; **Spi'derdom**, the world of spiders; **Spi'derhood**, the existence of spiders.

1892 *Standard* 5 Oct. 2/2 Mr. Gladstone has fooled these people..to the very top of their bent. He has spidered them once more. 1892 *Longman's Mag.* Aug. 367 The prime blame of spiderhood rests with Nature. 1897 *Strand Mag.* Feb. 287/2 The principles of Malthus are unknown in Spiderdom.

Spider-catcher. [Spider *sb.*]

1. One who catches spiders. Chiefly *fig.*, and freq. as a vague term of abuse (*obs.*).

1579 W. Wilkinson *Confut. Fam. Love* Brief Descr. p. iii, Not only in the priuate assemblies..did these spidercatchers swarme together. 1599 Peele *Sir Clyom.* vii. 64 Charm, enchant, make a spider-catcher of me, if I be false to you ever. 1620 Bp. Hall *Hon. Marr. Clergy* III. ii. (1628) 793 He that would doubt whether such an Epistle were written..may doubt whether spider-catcher, corner-creeper C.E...wrote a scurrilous letter. 1625 Shirley *Love-Tricks* I. i, If I fail, call me spider-catcher. 1721 Addison *Spect.* No. 21 P 7 Innumerable Retainers to Physick..: Not to mention the Cockleshell-Merchants and Spider-catchers.

b. A monkey (Halliwell, 1847).

2. One or other of certain birds which catch or eat spiders, as: (*a*) The wall-creeper, *Tichodroma muraria.* (*b*) One or other of the East Indian sunbirds belonging to the genus *Arachnothera*; a spider-hunter. (*c*) *local.* (See quot. 1854.)

1668 Charleton *Onomast.* 86 *Picus Murarius*, .. the Creeper, or Spider-catcher. 1678 Ray *Willughby's Ornith.* II. vi. § 2. 143 The Wall-creeper, or Spider-catcher. *Picus murarius*...It is somewhat bigger than a House-Sparrow. 1764 G. Edwards *Glean. Nat. Hist.* III. 320. 1840 tr. *Cuvier's Anim. Kingd.* 207 The Spider-Catchers (*Arachnotheres*) have the same long, arcuated beak, as the Sunbirds. 1854 Miss Baker *Northampt. Gloss.*, *Spider-catcher*, the spotted Fly-catcher or Beam-bird, *Muscicapa grisola.*

†**3.** (See quot.) *Obs.*—⁰

a 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew*, *Spider-catcher*, a Spindle for a Man.

Spider-crab. [Spider *sb.* 10 b.] One or other of several crabs belonging to the group *Oxyrhyncha*, esp. to the family *Maioidea*, and characterized by their long slender legs and spider-like appearance; a maia or maioid crab.

1710 Sibbald *Hist. Fife* 55 *Cancer Araneus Johnstoni*, the Spider Crab. 1756 P. Browne *Jamaica* (1779) 421 The Spider-Crab. .. All the limbs are slender and delicate, in proportion to the size of the body. 1848 Johns *Week at Lizard* 229 A few spider-crabs .. were also stored away. 1865 Gosse *Land & Sea* (1874) 81 The spider-crab, or maia, of little value as food, though occasionally eaten. 1883 *Science* I. 466/2 The enormous spider-crabs of the Straits of Magellan.

Spi·dered, *a. rare.* [f. SPIDER *sb.*] †**a.** Like a spider in disposition or nature. *Obs.*—1 **b.** Infested by spiders; cob-webbed.

1659 W. BROUGH *Sacr. Princ.* 477 Be not such a spider'd spirit, to suck poyson out of sacred flowers. 1787 WOLCOT (P. Pindar) *Lousiad* II. Wks. 1794 I. 251 Content can visit the poor spider'd room.

Spi·derine, *a. nonce-wd.* [f. SPIDER *sb.*, after *feline*, etc.] Of the nature of a spider.

1887 BLACKMORE *Springhaven* xxviii. (ed. 3) II. 25 The human race happily is not spiderine.

Spider-leg. Also **spider leg.** [SPIDER *sb.* 9 b.] **1.** A thin, long leg like those of a spider.

Also *dial.* (in *pl.*), a spider-legged or lanky person.

1760 STERNE *Tr. Shandy* VII. i, Whilst .. these two spider legs of mine..are able to support me. 1833 NYREN *Yng. Cricketer's Tutor* (1902) 107 He was .. remarkably broad in the chest, with large hips and spider legs. 1859 GEO. ELIOT *A. Bede* xxi, In that period of spider-legs and inlaid cupids. 1861 *Romance of Dull Life* xxi. 154 How ridiculously slim the spider-legs of the dining-room sideboard!

2. *transf.* A long irregular marking, crack, wrinkle, etc., resembling in shape the leg of a spider. Also *attrib.* in *spider-leg gold.*

1873 E. SPON *Workshop Rec.* Ser. I. 303/1 The breaking of the gold into irregular fractures called spider-legs. 1889 BINNS *Wilsden Orig.* No. I. 1 (E.D.D.), Thi forheead's a big un, No line o' care, No 'student's spider-legs', Can be seen there. 1898 *Daily News* 28 Jan. 5/7 The nuggets there all have the 'spider-leg' gold adhering.

Spi·derless, *a.* [f. SPIDER *sb.*] Destitute of, free from, spiders.

1892 W. H. HUDSON *La Plata* 178, I was nearly forgetting that England is not a spiderless country.

Spi·der-like, *adv.* and *a.* [f. SPIDER *sb.*]

A. *adv.* In or after the manner of a spider; with the power or faculty (real or supposed) of a spider. Freq. in the 17th cent.

1604 HIERON *Wks.* I. 497 Mans corrupt nature, spider-like, turneth the wholesome doctrine into poison. 1673 DRYDEN *Marr. à la Mode* II. i, And when our eyes meet far off, our sense is such, That, spider-like, we feel the tenderest touch. 1700 C. NESSE *Antid. Armin.* (1827) 117 If man (spider-like) could spin a thread out of his own bowels. 1783 WOLCOT (P. Pindar) *Lyric Odes* I. vi, Like him, in holes too, spider-like, I mope. 1839 BAILEY *Festus* 128, I have that within me I can live upon: Spider-like, spin my place out anywhere. 1869 LD. LYTTON *Orval* II. vii. 69, I cannot pass Where pathway none can be. Nor from myself Spin, spiderlike, a passage through the vast And vacant air.

B. *adj.* Like or resembling a spider or that of a spider; having the characteristic appearance or qualities of a spider; spidery.

a 1653 GOUGE *Comm. Heb.* vi. 16 Some men have such a spider-like disposition, as they will suck poison out of the sweetest flowers. 1754 HAY *Ess. Deformity* 18, I..often restrain my inclination to perform those little Services, rather than expose my Spider-like Shape. 1806 SHAW *Gen. Zool.* VI. II. 472 The present genus [*sc.* Phalangium], which, exclusive of its spider-like shape, is..armed with weapons resembling those of the genus Aranea. 1841 DICKENS *Barn. Rudge* (1849) 235/1 Struggling to free himself from her chaste, but spider-like embrace.

Spider-line. Also **spider's line.** [SPIDER *sb.*] One of the threads or filaments of spider-web used to form the reticle of various optical instruments, esp. of micrometers, and serving to obtain minute measurements; also loosely, any slender thread or wire used for this purpose.

1829 W. PEARSON *Pract. Astron.* II. 323 The spider's lines, or wires, are usually laid parallel to one another on a circular plate of brass. 1866 PARKINSON *Optics* (ed. 2) 209 Such a set of threads are commonly called cross-wires or spider lines. 1888 RUTLEY *Rock-Forming Min.* 14 Within the focus of the eye-glass, two fine wires or spider-lines are inserted.

attrib. 1829 W. PEARSON *Pract. Astron.* II. 245 Binocular Spider's-line and Glass-disc Micrometers. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 1431/1 A substitute for the spider-line micrometer.

Spi·derling. [-LING.] A little spider.

1885 H. C. MCCOOK *Tenants of Old Farm* 30 Thus the young spiderlings are snugly blanketed and tucked away. 1897 *Strand Mag.* Sept. 288/1 The spiderlings [when touched] disperse like the nations at Babel.

Spi·derly, *a. rare.* [-LY 1.] Like a spider.

1892 C. MACEWEN *Three Women in Boat* xv. 113 The Grand Duke was..looking spiderly, ugly, but [etc.].

Spider monkey. Also **spider-monkey.** [SPIDER *sb.* 10 b.] One or other of the monkeys belonging to the South and Central American genus *Ateles,* characterized by their long spider-like limbs and prehensile tail.

1764 G. EDWARDS *Glean. Nat. Hist.* III. 222, I lately..saw ..a Black Monkey something like the above-described: they called him a Spider Monkey, from his thinness and the length of his limbs and tail. 1813 BINGLEY *Anim. Biog.* (ed. 4) I. 89 The Four-fingered Monkey... The legs and arms are so long that the animal has hence obtained the name of Spider Monkey. 1836 MARRYAT *Pirate* iv, I always think of two spider-monkeys nursing two kittens. 1871 KINGSLEY *At Last* xvii, The Spider Monkeys are instinctively gentle and fond of man.

†**Spi·derous,** *a. Obs.* [-OUS.] Spider-like.

1533 FRITH *Judgem. Tracy* Wks. (1572) 78/1 There is no man that can receiue venome by those wordes, except hee haue such a spyderous nature that he can turne an hony combe into perilous poyson. 1648 SYMMONS *Vindic.* 319 In which they speak truth, and had not themselves been of too spiderous a nature they might have made much good vse of them.

Spider-web, *sb.* Also **spider's web.**

1. A cobweb. Freq. *fig.* or in fig. context.

a. 1535 COVERDALE *Job* viii. 14 His confidence shalbe destroyed, for be trusteth in a spyders webbe. 1611 BIBLE *Isaiah* lix. 5 They hatch cockatrice egges, and weaue the spiders web. 1725 *Fam. Dict.* s.v. *Spider,* Some in France have made a sort of Silk of Spiders Webs. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Web,* Spider's-Web, or Cob-Web. 1745 *Transl. & Paraph. Sc. Ch.* XXIV. ii, As the spider's web, when try'd it yieldeth, breaks and flies.

β. a 1649 DRUMM. OF HAWTH. *Hist. Jas. II,* Wks. (1711) 28 Wise princes suffered houses to grow as men do spider-webs, not taking heed of them so long as they were small. 1822 BYRON *Werner* IV. i. 308 My destiny has so involved about me Her spider web. 1889 *Spectator* 9 Nov., These spider-webs of fashion appear to confine the freedom of those who suffer under them more effectually than brick walls.

2. *transf.* and *fig.* Something resembling a cob-web in nature or appearance.

a 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew, Spider's-web,* the subtilties of Logic. 1864 BROWNING *Caliban upon Setebos* 13 He looks out o'er yon sea which sunbeams cross And recross till they weave a spider-web.

3. *attrib.* and *Comb.,* as *spider-web bridge, scales,* etc. Also *spider('s)-web-like.*

1885 J. E. TAYLOR *Brit. Fossils* i. 28 For the passage of spider's-web-like threads of protoplasm. 1891 H. HERMAN *His Angel* 33 The spiderweb-like chaos of jagged beams. 1897 *Outing* XXIX. 347/1 His father was old, and soon must cross the spider-web bridge, and leave his son to rule. 1898 *Weekly Reg.* 10 Sept. 328 Away, then, Messieurs Rigourists, with your spider-web scales.

Hence **Spider-web** *v. trans.,* to cover with a network resembling a spider-web.

1894 W. T. STEAD *If Christ came to Chicago* IV. iii. 286 The town was being spider-webbed with wires.

Spiderwort. *Bot.* Also **spider-wort.**

†**1.** One or other plant of the liliaceous genus *Anthericum* (earlier *Phalangium*). *Obs.*

1597 GERARDE *Herbal* I. xxxiii. 45 The first [branched spiderwort] is called of the Latines .. *Phalangium,* .. in English it is called Spiderwoort... The leaues..stand vpon the ground with long legs, and the knees bowing vp like the spiders legs when he creepeth. 1629 PARKINSON *Parad.* xv. 152 The vnbranched Spiderwort most commonly flowereth before all the other. 1671 SALMON *Syn. Med.* III. xxii. 418 Spiderwort..is Alexipharmick and cures the biting of all venomous beasts. 1705 MRS. BEHN tr. *Cowley's Plants* C.'s Wks. 1711 III. 379 Thou Spider-Wort dost with the Monster strive And from the conquer'd Foe thy Name derive. 1731 MILLER *Gard. Dict.* s.v. *Phalangium,* Branched Spiderwort. .. Unbranched Spider-wort. .. African Spider-wort [etc.]. 1751 J. HILL *Nat. Hist.* 375 The plane-leaved and simple-stalked Anthericum, single-stalked spiderwort. 1763 MILLS *Pract. Husb.* III. 312 The spiderwort,..the lesser spearwort, the butterwort, have evidently suspicious marks.

b. *Mountain* or *Saffron spiderwort* (see quots.).

1796 WITHERING *Brit. Plants* (ed. 3) II. 339 *Anthericum serotinum,* Mountain Saffron. Saffron Spiderwort. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1083 Spiderwort,..Mountain, *Lloydia serotina.*

2. One or other of the plants belonging to the genus *Tradescantia*; esp. *T. virginica,* Virginian spiderwort.

Parkinson states that he originated this use.

1629 PARKINSON *Parad.* xv. 152 Phalangium Ephemerum virginianum Ioannis Tradescant,..Tradescant his Spiderwort. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* II. 109/2 The Virginia Spider-Wort, or Day Flower,..is..on the back of a sullen yellowish hue. 1731 MILLER *Gard. Dict.* s.v. *Ephemeron,* Virginian Spider-wort, with a small blue Flower, commonly call'd John Tradescant's Spider-wort. 1741 *Compl. Fam.-Piece* II. iii. 385 You have besides the scarlet Lichnis, Virginian Spiderwort. 1829 LOUDON *Encycl. Pl.* (1836) 260 *Tradescantia.* Spiderwort..common,..rose-flowered,..thick-leaved [etc.]. 1831 AUDUBON *Ornith.* I. 154 The Virginian Spider-wort..is distinguished by its erect, succulent stem. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1159/2 *Tradescantia virginica* is the Common Spiderwort of gardens. 1882 *Garden* 1 Apr. 212/2 This rare and beautiful Spiderwort is now finely in flower.

3. *Savoy spiderwort,* the hemerocallis or day-lily; also, † a variety of *Tradescantia.*

1629 PARKINSON *Parad.* 150 *Phalangium Allobrogicum,* the Sauoye Spiderwort. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* II. 99/2 Savoy Spider-wort hath thin small sedgy leaves of a whitish green. 1721 MORTIMER *Husb.* II. 236 *Spider Wort.* The Italian and the Savoy are the only ones fit for your choice. 1731 MILLER *Gard. Dict.* s.v. *Ephemeron,* Virginian Spider-wort, with a large azure Flower, commonly call'd the Savoy Spider-wort. 1760 J. LEE *Introd. Bot.* App. 327 Spider-wort, Great Savoy, *Hemerocallis.* 1829 LOUDON *Encycl. Pl.* (1836) 260 *Hemerocallis Liliastrum,* Savoy-Spiderwort.

4. Any plant belonging to the order *Commelynaceæ,* which includes the genus *Tradescantia.*

1846 LINDLEY *Veget. Kingd.* 188 The Spiderworts are plants which exhibit a transition from the first remove out of the regions of sedge-like plants to the true Lilies. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 228/1 *Cartonema,* the generic name of one of the Spiderworts.

attrib. 1856 A. GRAY *Man. Bot.* 485 *Commelynaceæ* (Spiderwort Family). 1861 BENTLEY *Man. Bot.* 680 *Commelynaceæ,* the Spider-Wort Order.

5. *U.S.* A plant of the genus *Cleome,* belonging to the caper family.

1846–50 A. WOOD *Class-bk. Bot.* 172 *Cleome pungens,* Spiderwort... A common garden plant, with curious purple flowers.

Spidery (spəi·dəri), *a.* [f. SPIDER *sb.* + -Y.] Cotgrave (1611) has '*Araignier,* spiderie', but the word otherwise belongs to the 19th century.

1. Like a spider in appearance or form.

1837 *New Monthly Mag.* LI. 365 That grotesque race, the Sapajous,..are slender,..long in tail, and *spidery* in general appearance. 1859 LD. LYTTON *Wanderer* (ed. 2) 21 Spidery Saturn in his webs of fire. 1881 J. W. OGLE *Harveian Orat.* 93 That hideous spidery crustacean, the crab.

Comb. 1882 *Garden* 25 Mar. 194/3 A bright spidery-looking flower.

b. *fig.* Entangling like a spider.

1875 M. COLLINS *Sweet & Twenty* III. II. vii. 19 Lest he should be picked up by the wily widow or spidery spinster.

2. Of legs or arms: Resembling those of a spider; long and thin.

c 1845 DE QUINCEY *Fatal Marksman* Wks. 1859 XII. 228 The old woman, stretching her withered spidery arms after the flying girl. 1880 MISS BROUGHTON *Second Thoughts* I. i, He is a..fragile young man, slender as any reed, and with legs even more spidery than Jane's. 1896 CROCKETT *Cleg Kelly* vi. 47 Delicate little keys with spidery legs.

b. Suggestive of the appearance of a spider with long and thin legs.

1862 H. AÏDÉ *Carr of Carrl.* II. 228 The marchesa wrote, with characteristic effusion, in her long spidery characters. 1879 STEVENSON *Trav. Cevennes* 82 A spidery cross on every hill-top. 1894 A. SPINNER *Study in Colour* 132 The writing was quite legible, although rather crooked and spidery in places.

c. Like a spider-web in formation; suggestive of a cobweb or cobwebs.

Not always clearly separable from prec.

1860 *Ecclesiologist* XXI. 284 An ornate kind of German Late-Pointed, very spidery in detail. *a* 1893 SYMONDS in H. F. Brown *Biogr.* (1895) I. ii. 53, I hauled some spidery black weed out of a pool. 1909 BOND & CAMM *Roodlofts* 172 The tracery is spidery.

3. Suggestive of that of a spider, in respect of entanglement, cunning, etc.

1843 LYTTON *Last Bar.* VI. i, I have of late narrowly and keenly watched that spidery web which ye call a Court. 1875 BESANT & RICE *Harp & Cr.* xviii, He had the spidery look as his flabby face shone through the panes.

4. Of the nature of spiders.

1871 MISS BRADDON *Lovels of Arden* xi, There was a particular race of spiders, the biggest specimens of the spidery species it had ever been her horror to encounter.

5. Full of or infested by spiders.

1889 MARCHIONESS OF STAFFORD *How I Spent my Twentieth Year* 260 A gabled cottage..in reality rather uncomfortable—stuffy and spidery. 1894 D. C. MURRAY *Making of Novelist* 15, I shall never forget the spidery black-painted galleries and staircases.

Spidy, obs. form of SPEEDY *a.*

Spie, obs. form of SPY *sb.* and *v.*

Spied (spəid), *ppl. a. rare.* [f. SPY *v.* + -ED.] Of a spy: Discovered, found out.

c 1597 DONNE *Sat.* iv. 237, I shooke like a spyed Spie. 1637 B. JONSON *Sad Sheph.* I. ii, You are..the spied spy that watch upon my walks. 1829 SCOTT *Anne of G.* xxvii, The very horse-boys know him..and sutler women give him the name of the spied spy.

Spiegel (spī·g'l). [Short for SPIEGELEISEN or SPIEGEL IRON.] = next. Also *Comb.*

1881 *Instr. Census Clerks* (1885) 93 Bessemer Steel Manufacture:..Spiegel Cupola Man. 1884 in KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* Suppl. 839/2.

‖ **Spiegeleisen** (spī·g'lˌəi·z'n). [G., f. *spiegel* mirror + *eisen* iron.] A crystalline and lustrous variety of white manganiferous cast-iron much used in the Bessemer process for the manufacture of steel.

1868 JOYNSON *Metals* 53 A much higher..quality of iron is required to make steel by the Bessemer process, and, generally, a quantity of Spiegeleisen is required to be added to it. 1890 W. J. GORDON *Foundry* 102 Spiegeleisen is pig-iron's most highly carburized and crystalline form.

So **Spiegel iron.**

1883 *Harper's Mag.* Aug. 334/1 A rill of spiegel-iron is let in. 1884 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* Suppl. 839/2 We have a spiegel iron in this country; it is made from the New Jersey Franklinite ore, and was at first called Franklinite iron.

Spiel (spīl). *Sc.* [See BONSPIEL.] A match at curling.

1824 MACTAGGART *Gallovid. Encycl.* 333 Then curling, and hurling, The channelstane at spiels. 1830 M'DIARMID *Sk. Nat.* 252, I know nothing more exhilarating than a *spiel* on the ice. 1901 R. M. F. WATSON *Closeburn* xiv. 232 In 1838 a spiel had not then been played in the memory of man in Aberdeenshire.

Spiel, variant of SPEEL *sb.* and *v.*

Spiel bone, variant of SPEAL BONE.

Spieler (spī·lər). *Austr. slang.* Also **speeler.** [a. G. *spieler* player, gambler, gamester.] A gambler; a card-sharper or professional swindler.

1886 *N. Zealand Herald* 1 June 4/7 It is stated that a fresh gang of 'speelers' are operating in the town. 1893 J. A. BARRY *S. Brown's Bunyip,* etc. 21 You want to get away amongst the spielers and forties of the big smoke?

Spier (spəi·ər). Forms: 3 **spiare,** 4 **spiere,** 4–7, 9 **spier**; 4 **spyere,** 5 **spyar, -our,** 5, 9 **spyer.** [f. SPY *v.* + -ER, or ad. OF. *espierre, espieur* (mod.F. *épieur*), whence also MDu. *spierre, spiere, spier* (later *spieder*).] One who spies or spies out; an espier; a spy.

c 1275 LAY. 1488 Spiares he sende to þis kinges ferde, to witen of his farecostes, ware he wolden fihte. Þeos spiares verden, & sone ayein comen. *c* 1380 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* III. 150 For prest is a spyere in his castel, to loke ofer perels of schepe. 1382 — 1 *Esdr.* viii. 31 The hond of oure God.. ..deliuerede vs fro the hond of the enemy and of the spiere in the weie. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XI. xii. (Tollem. MS.), Myste is frende to þeuis and euel doares, for he hideþ here spieris and waytynges. *c* 1440 *Gesta Rom.* xxvii. 102 (Harl. MS.), He sente wacchemen & spyeris to fecche him.

1490 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* I. 173 Johne Hammilton callit Master Spyar. 1496 *Ibid.* 305 Giffin to the Maister Spyour. 1589 PUTTENHAM *Eng. Poesie* I. xiii. (Arb.) 46 These terrene and base gods [Satyrs] being conuersant with mans affaires, and spiers out of all their secret faults. 1621 R. BOLTON *Stat. Irel.* 70 Upon paine of forfeiture of the said wares,..halfe to the King, and the other halfe to the spier and finder of the same. 1850 A. H. CLOUGH *Dipsychus* IV. (1871) 110, I let them slip, Like an unpractised spyer through a glass.

Spier, var. SPEER *sb.*[3] and *v.*[1]; obs. f. SPIRE *sb.*

Spier-hawk, later f. *spere-hawk* SPARHAWK.

?*c* 1810 in Child *Ball.* IV. 484/2 Lord William..spyed his bonnie spier-hawk, Was fleein aboon his head.

Spierre, obs. form of SPIRE *sb.*[2]

† Spiery. *Obs.* [f. SPY *sb.* or *v.* + -ERY. Cf. ESPIERY.] The fact or condition of being a spy; the action of spying; espionage.

c 1588 PARSONS in Morris *Troub. Cath. Forefathers* 2nd Ser. (1875) 312 After I had read over the whole story..of his living in England,..his examinations, confessions, fictions, accusations, slanders, spiery, recantation and the like. 1600 W. WATSON *Decacordon* (1602) 132 This good Cardinall [was] most spitefully infamed by these three Priests (though al in one predicament of spierie if any were).

† Spie-woman, variant of SPAE-WOMAN. *Obs.*

1744 in D. M'Naught *Kilmaurs* (1912) xiv. 189 [Going to Glasgow to consult] a spie woman anent some beese that somebody had stolen from him.

Spiff, *sb. slang.* [Of obscure origin. Cf. next.] *pl.* (See quots.) Also *attrib.*, as *spiff stores, system.*

1859 *Slang Dict.* 98 *Spiffs*, the percentage allowed by drapers to their young men when they effect sale of old fashioned or undesirable stock. 1890 *Pall Mall G.* 2 April 3/2 To balance this network of penalties a 'spiff' system is usually adopted, spiffs being premiums placed on certain articles, *not* of the last fashion.

Hence **Spiff** *v.*[1] *trans.*, to allow a certain sum as commission on (an article).

1891 *Ironmonger* 19 Sept. 387 A 'job' chandelier, not very unsaleable, may be 'spiffed', say 1*s.*, but a more unsaleable one should bear a higher sum.

Spiff, *v.*[2] *slang.* [Cf. next and SPIFFY *a.*] In *pa. pple.* Made neat, spruce, or fine; smartly dressed or tricked *out.*

1877 W. S. GILBERT *Foggerty's Fairy* ii, We flatter ourselves that we are spiffed out; at all events we've got our best dresses on.

Spiffing (spi·fiŋ), *a. colloq.* and *dial.* Also **spiffin,** *dial.* **spiving.** [Cf. next and such forms as *rattling, ripping, topping,* etc.] Excellent, first-rate, very good, etc.; fine or smart in, or with regard to, dress or appearance. Also as *adv.*

Sleigh *Derby. Gloss.* (1865) has *Spiffyn*, work well done. 1872 *Routledge's Ev. Boy's Ann.* 287/2 The vulgar Pupkins said,..'It was spiffing!' 1879– in general dial. use (*Eng. Dial. Dict.*). 1884 G. MOORE *Mummer's Wife* (1887) 145 'Have you got good places for your posters?' 'Spiffing,' answered the man.

Spiffy (spi·fi), *a. colloq.* and *dial.* [Of obscure origin; the shorter form *spiff* is recorded in dialect use from 1862; also *spiff* 'a well-dressed man, a swell' (*Slang Dict.* 1874).] Smart, spruce.

1860 *Slang Dict.* 223 *Spiffy*, spruce, well-dressed. 1881– in dial. glossaries (Leicester, Warwick, Cornwall). 1896 Mrs. LYNN LINTON in *Chambers's Jrnl.* 25 Jan. 50, I, in my older clothes, and by no means 'spiffy' in my get up.

Spificate (spi·flikeɪt), *v. humorous* or *colloq.* Also **spifflicate, spefficate.** [Prob. a purely fanciful formation. Cf. SMIFLIGATE *v.*] *trans.* To deal with in such a way as to confound or overcome completely; to treat or handle roughly or severely; to crush, destroy.

Common in the 19th century.

α. 1785 GROSE *Dict. Vulgar T.*, To *spifilicate*, to confound, silence, or dumbfound. 1796 *New Brighton Guide* 39 Come, spificate that scoundrel Care, Gruel him, bruise him, never fear. 1818 MOORE *Fudge Fam. Paris* ix. 223 Alas, alas, our ruin's fated; All done up, and spificated! 1824 — *Mem.* (1853) IV. 258 Asked him about Pendeli, which is long, as I feared, and my song, accordingly, spificated. 1842 BARHAM *Ingol. Leg.* Ser. II. *Babes in Wood* xi, So out with your whinger at once, and scrag Jane, while I spificate Johnny! 1873 *Brit. Q. Rev.* LVII. 276 The way in which the learned, racy old Hector smashes and spificates scientific idiots..is delicious.

β. 1841 HARTSHORNE *Salop. Ant.* Gloss., *Spifflicate*, to do some bodily injury. 1857 DUFFERIN *Lett. High Lat.* (ed. 3) 200 The best mode of spifflicating the white bears. 1894 STEVENSON & L. OSBOURNE *Ebb-tide* 221, I on'y ast you to stand by and spifflicate the niggers.

Hence **Spi·flicating** *ppl. a.*

1891 MEREDITH *One of our Conq.* x, You've got a spificating style of talk about you.

Spification (spiflikē·ʃən). *humorous* or *colloq.* [f. SPIFLICATE *v.*] The action of spificating; the fact or condition of being spificated; complete destruction.

1855 R. F. BURTON *El-Medinah* I. 204 Whose blood he vowed to drink—the Oriental form of threatening spification. 1859 MEREDITH *R. Feverel* xxi, You had better not mention anything..of Benson's spification. 1887 *Pall Mall G.* 26 Sept. 3/1 The metaphysical spification of rash members of the bourgeoisie.

‖ Spigelia (spəidʒī·liă). *Bot.* [mod.L. (Linnæus, 1737), f. the name of the Belgian physician and anatomist, Adrian *Spigelius* (1578–1625).] A genus of plants belonging to the order *Loganiaceæ* or worm-grass; a plant of this genus, esp. *Spigelia marilandica*, the pink-root of the Southern U.S., the roots and leaves of which are used medicinally. Also *attrib.*

1822–7 GOOD *Study Med.* (1829) I. 364 In the latter we may place .. the *spigelias*, and *scabiosa Indica.* 1847 DARLINGTON *Amer. Weeds*, etc. (1860) 165 Maryland Spigelia. Carolina or Indian Pink. 1861 BENTLEY *Man. Bot.* 591 *Loganiaceæ.* The Spigelia or Strychnos Order. 1875 H. C. WOOD *Therap.* (1879) 600 Spigelia is a most efficient remedy in cases of the roundworm.

Spigelian (spəidʒī·liăn). *Anat.* [f. *Spigeli-us* (see prec. and def.) + -AN.] *Spigelian lobe*, a term for the middle lobe of the liver, first particularized by Spigelius (Mayne).

1811 in R. HOOPER *Med. Dict.* s. v. 1905 H. ROLLESTON *Dis. Liver* 4 Davy described a pedunculated Spigelian lobe. *Ibid.* 200 One of the smaller lobes, such as the spigelian or caudate, may be enlarged.

† Spight, *pa. t.* and *pa. pple. Obs.* [prob. from an inf. **spicchen*, = G. dial. *spicken* to prick, push.] *trans.* Instigated, urged, stirred up.

1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) I. 7 By þe worþynesse and ensaumple of so worþy writeris i-spiȝt and i-egged [L. *provocatus*]. *Ibid.* VII. 429 Robert..made [*v.r.* spiȝte; L. *excitavit*] meny Walsche men to rise aȝenst þe kyng.

Spight, obs. f. SPEIGHT (woodpecker), SPITE, *sb.* and *v.* **Spightful,** etc., obs. f. SPITEFUL, etc.

† Spig-nail, obs. variant of SPIKE-NAIL.

a 1600 *Stat. Streets* xix. in Stow *Surv. Lond.* (1633) 666 No Carts that shall be shod with Spig-naile, that shall come upon the streets of this City. 1755 STRYPE *Stow's Surv.* (ed. 6) II. 715/2 That no..Cart shod with Iron, or Spignails, or having more Horses than is allowed,..shall take up any Goods within this City.

Spignel (spi·gnel). Forms: *α.* 6 **spignale,** 6–7 **spignell,** 7 **spygnal,** 6–7, 9 **spignel.** *β.* 6 **speknel, specknell, spiknel,** 6–7 **spicknell,** 6–9 **spiknel,** 9 **spikenel.** [Of obscure origin; perh. a later form of SPIGURNEL[1].]

† 1. The aromatic root of the umbelliferous plant *Meum athamanticum*, used, when dried and ground, in medicine as a carminative or stimulant, or as a spice in cookery. *Obs.*

1502 ARNOLDE *Chron.* (1811) 188 Take cloues and gelofre,..gynger and spignale,..and temper hem with good wyne. 1577 *Richmond Wills* (Surtees) 269 For arseneck xij[s]. Spicknell, turmirick, and galingall ij[s]. 1592 *Wills & Inv. N. C.* (Surtees, 1860) 212 One pound and a half specknell, 2*s.* 1610 MARKHAM *Masterp.* I. xl. 82 A penny worth of Galingal, two peniworth of spygnal of Spaine. 1718 QUINCY *Compl. Disp.* 169 Spignel..has an aromatick Pungency in it's Scent, but also somewhat fetid.

2. The plant itself; meum; baldmoney.

α. 1579 LANGHAM *Gard. Health* 390 Meu, Meon, or Spignel, boyle or soke the roots in water, and drinke it to open mightely the stoppings of the kidneys and bladder. 1668 WILKINS *Real Char.* II. iv. 90 Umbelliferous herbs whose Leaves are more Finely cut into narrow segments..: Spignel. Bishopsweed. 1712 tr. *Pomet's Hist. Drugs* I. 43 Which has made some believe that Spignel was a species of Fennil or Dill. 1760 J. LEE *Introd. Bot.* App. 327 Spignel, *Athamanta.* 1822–7 GOOD *Study Med.* (1829) V. 53 The *athamanta meum*, or spignel, which once rivalled the reputation of madder, seems to have a peculiar influence in stimulating the lower viscera. 1861 S. THOMSON *Wild Fl.* (ed. 4) III. 296 The root[s]..of the meum or spignel..have..been held in esteem.

β. 1548 TURNER *Names Herbes* 53 Meum...I neuer sawe thys herbe in Englande sauynge once at sayncte Oswarldes where as the inhabiters called it Speknel. 1562 — *Herbal* II. (1568) 56 Ye Spiknel of England (which peraduenture was ones called Spiknard). 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* II. 77 Meu or Spicknell is not found in Italy, vnlesse it be in some Physitians garden. 1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey) s.v., Spicknel or Spignel. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1083/2 Spikenel, or Spicknel, *Meum Athamanticum.*

b. Applied, with distinguishing terms, to other plants allied to or resembling this, as *bastard, mountain, parsley, wild spignel* (see quots.).

1597 GERARDE *Herbal* II. cccclx. 895 It is called..in English Spignell, or Spicknell...The second may be called bastard Baldmony, or bastard Spicknell. 1713 *Phil. Trans.* XXVIII. 190 Parsley Spignel. 1760 J. LEE *Introd. Bot.* App. 327 Spignel, Wild, *Seseli.* 1796 WITHERING *Brit. Plants* (ed. 3) II. 294 *Athamanta Libanotis*,..Mountain Spignel or Stone Parsley.

Spigot (spi·gŏt), *sb.* Forms: *α.* 4, 6 **spigote,** 5 **speget,** 5–6 **spygott(e, spygot,** 6–7 **spigott,** 4– **spigot.** *β.* 7 **spigget, spiggott,** 7–9 **spiggot.** See also SPICKET[1] and SPIDDOCK. [Of obscure history, but probably ad. early Prov. **espigot*, f. *espiga* SPIKE *sb.*[1]

For the formation cf. mod.Prov. *espigot* (F. dial. *épigot*; OF. *espigeot*, F. dial. *épigeot*) a badly-threshed ear of grain. Some approximation in sense appears in Prov. *espigoun, espigou* (= Sp. *espigon*, Pg. *espigão*, It. *spigone*), rung of a ladder, bar of a chair, bung of a cask. Pg. *espicho* (—L. *spiculum*) has the sense of 'spigot'. Florio (1611) also gives It. *spigo* as 'spigot', but for this there appears to be no other evidence.]

1. A small wooden peg or pin used to stop the vent-hole of a barrel or cask; a vent-peg; a similar peg inserted into and controlling the opening or tube of a faucet and used to regulate the flow of liquor.

α. 1383–4 *Durham Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 593 In iij duodenis de Spigotes empt. pro butelaria,..iijs. iiijd. 1388 WYCLIF *Job* xxxii. 19 Lo! my wombe is as must with out spigot, ether a ventyng. 14.. *Nom.* in Wr.-Wülcker 724 *Hec clipsidra*, a spygotte. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 469/1 Spygot, *clipsidra, ducillus, ductileum.* 1531–2 *Durham House. Bk.* (Surtees) 74, 2 dd. spigotts et cannells. 1590 *Shuttleworths' Acc.* (Chetham Soc.) 63 Spigotes and facetes, ij[d]. 1598 SHAKS. *Merry W.* I. iii. 24 O base hungarian wight: wilt thou the spigot wield? 1674 GREW *Anat. Pl., Disc. Mixture* (1682) 226 When one Atome is admitted into the..hole of another; as a Spigot is into a Fosset. 1768–74 TUCKER *Lt. Nat.* (1834) I. 568 If a careless servant does not mind to thrust the spigot fast into the barrel, the beer must necessarily run all away. 1809 MALKIN *Gil Blas* IX. iv. P 5 We have..wherewithal to keep the spit and the spigot in exercise. 1843 JAMES *Forest Days* ix, A man with a mallet was busily engaged in driving a spigot and faucet to give discreet vent to the liquor within. 1896 CROCKETT *Cleg Kelly* viii. 61 Cleg went to the back of the door, where there was a keg with a spigot.

β. 1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 177/11 A spiggotte, *epistomium.* 1594 NASHE *Unfort. Trav.* Wks. (Grosart) V. 23 Nothing but spiggots and faussets of discarded emptié barrels. 1658 tr. *Porta's Nat. Magic.* X. ii. 256 Pull out the Spigget, that the hot Water may run out. 1673 RAY *Journ. Low Co.* 462 They gather it [petroleum] up,..and put it in a barrel set on one end, which hath a spiggot just at the bottom. 1743 *Lond. & Country Brew.* III. (ed. 2) 185 Sometimes the Weight of the Wort forces out the Spiggot. 1823 P. NICHOLSON *Pract. Build.* 340 A small barrel of water at the top, furnished with a spiggot.

b. *fig.* That which controls, lets out, or restrains. Freq. used with reference to speech or language.

1780 WARNER in Jesse *Selwyn & Contemp.* (1844) IV. 402 You must be very serious in what you say about a speech. Do but pull out the spigot and let it run, and nobody can sport a clearer or a sweeter stream. 1830 CARLYLE *Misc.* (1857) II. 174 Something which he called the rudder of Government, but which was rather the spigot of Taxation. 1834 MEDWIN *Angler in Wales* I. 224 I should find such enemies in the preachers, that I might bung up my spigot. 1900 LAPSLEY *Co. Pal. Durham* 127 Having but a limited control of the spigot of taxation.

† 2. A hollow wooden peg or tube used in drawing off liquor; a faucet. *Obs.*

Not always clearly distinguishable from sense 1.

1530 PALSGR. 693/2 I ronne, as lycour dothe out of a vessell by a spigot or faulset, whan it ronneth styll after a stynte. 1644 DIGBY *Nat. Bodies* xx. § 3. 177 [To have] a little spigott, or quile att the outside of the hole, that by the narrow length of it helpeth in some sort (as it were) to sucke it. 1675 J. ROSE *Eng. Vineyard Vind.* 43 Drawing out your must by a spigot at the bottom of your vessel. 1725 *Fam. Dict.* s.v. *Birch-Wine*, [It] will need neither Stone nor Chip to keep it open, nor Spiggot to direct it to the Recipient.

3. In figurative or allusive use: **a.** In various proverbial phrases (see quots.).

1562 J. HEYWOOD *Prov. & Epigr.* (1867) 194 We apply the spigot, till tubbe stande a tilte. 1591 GREENE *Farewell to Follie* Wks. (Grosart) IX. 249 The foole was a fidler, and knewe scarse a speare from a spigot. 1594 LYLY *Mother Bombie* II. v, *Memp.* Ile teach my wag-halter to know grapes from barley. *Pris.* And I mine to discerne a spigot from a faucet. 1677 MIÈGE *Fr. Dict.* II. s.v. *Spare*, To spare at the spiggot, and let it run out at the bung-hole.

b. *Brother, knight, man, son of the spigot,* a tapster; a seller of liquor; an alehouse-keeper; *hero, imp of the spigot,* one who indulges in liquor.

1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* i, 'What, ho! John Tapster. 'At hand, Will Hostler,' replied the man of the spigot. *Ibid.* viii, When an old song comes across us merry old knights of the spigot, it runs away with our discretion. 1828 MISS MITFORD *Village* Ser. III. (1863) 42 Like that renowned hero of the spiggot [Boniface]. 1839 SIR J. STEPHEN *Eccl. Biog.* (1850) 309 Under the guidance..of the imp of the spigot, Martin Luther.

4. A plain end of a pipe entering an enlargement (a 'socket' or 'faucet') of another as a means of forming a joint. Chiefly in attrib. phrases, as *spigot and faucet joint, spigot and socket piece.*

1797 J. CURR *Coal Viewer* 55 The joints [of jack-head pumps] may be either spigot and faucet, or hoboy joints run with lead and regulus. 1840 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* III. 121/1 Some cocks of the smaller sizes have heretofore been cast with spigot and socket instead of flange outlets. *Ibid.*, The outlets are generally made with flanges, to which a socket and spigot piece with corresponding flanges are bolted. 1849 GREENWELL *Coal-trade Terms, Northumb. & Durh.* s.v., *Spigot and Faucit*, a description of pump joint, in which each pump is cast with a cup or faucit end; the other, or spigot end, being plain, for the purpose of insertion into the cup.

b. An annular projection (as on a cylinder cover or a flange) entering a corresponding depression in the adjacent piece.

1900 HASLUCK *Mod. Eng. Handybk.* 84 The spigots of the cylinder-covers are also chipped away the same width as the ports.

5. *attrib.*, as *spigot-end, -hole*; also **spigot-joint,** a spigot and faucet joint; **† spigot-sucker,** one given to drinking or tippling.

1611 COTGR., *Pinteur*, a tippler, pot-companion, spiggot-sucker. 1849 Spigot end [see 4 above]. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2266/1 Spigot (or Faucet) Joint. 1879 MISS JACKSON *Shropsh. Word-bk.* 33 The..strainer placed over the spigot-hole within the mash-tub, to prevent the grains passing through into the wort. 1884 *Harper's Mag.* Sept. 608/2 The ..creatures made their escape through the spigot-hole.

Hence **Spi·got** *v. trans.*, to thrust a spigot into. In quots. *fig.*

a 1809 J. PALMER *Like Master* (1811) II. xiv. 211 But I must obey orders, or he might spigot me, mayhap, as they do in the foot-cavalry. 1824 LANDOR *Imag. Conv.* Wks. 1853 I. 173/2 Did not you or your father flay the devil alive? Did not you spigot him nor singe him?

† Spigurnel[1]. *Obs. rare.* [ad. med.L. *spigurnella*, of obscure origin and meaning. Cf. SPIGNEL.] Some plant.

a 1400 *Stockholm Med. MS.* 95 Spyggurnell mal and refamall. *c* 1450 *Alphita* (Anecd. Oxon.) 174 *Spigurnella*, g. et ang. spigurnelle uel freydele; mirabiliter ualet contra squinanciam;..angl. spinagre.

† **Spigurnel** 2. *Obs. rare.* Also 7 **spigurnell.** [ad. Anglo-L. *spigurnellus* (1314), *spigornellus* (1275), of obscure origin. 'Godefridus Spigurnell' was in the service of King John in 1207, and the office of *espicurnantia* is mentioned in a document, dated 1299, cited by Kennett.] (See quots.)

It is evident that the word had no real currency in English, and its appearance is due to Camden and Holland, copied by Phillips, Blount, Harris, Bailey, etc.

1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* I. 312 These Bohuns (to note so much by the way for the antiquity of a word now growne out of use) were by inheritance for a good while the Kings Spigurnells, that is, the Sealeres of his writs. 1679 BLOUNT *Anc. Tenures* 72 The Office of Spigurnel, or Sealer of the Kings Writs in Chancery. 1754 POCOCKE *Trav.* (Camden) II. 112 The Bohuns, who were the spigurnels or sealers of the king's writs.

Spik, Spikate, varr. SPICK *sb.*2, SPICATE *a.*

Spike (spəik), *sb.*1 Also 4 **spik,** 6 **spyke.** [ad. L. *spīca* fem. (rarely *spīcum* neut. and *spīcus* masc.) ear of corn, plant-spike. In branch I corresponding to It. *spiga*, Prov., Sp. *espiga* fem., OF. *espi* (*espic*), F. *épi* masc.; in sense 4 to OF. *espic*, F. *spic* and *aspic* (see SPICK *sb.*2, ASPIC 2), It. *spigo*, Sp. *espliego* masc., also MDu. *spike*, *spijc*, Du. *spijk*, G. *spieke* fem. (also masc. in variant forms).]

I. 1. An ear of grain. Chiefly *poet.*

1393 LANGL. *P. Pl.* C. XIII. 180 Bote yf þe sed þat sowen is in þe sloh sterue, Shal neuere spir springen vp ne spik on strawe curne.

1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* XVIII. vii. I. 557 All kind of corne carrying spike or eare, called Frumenta. 1648 DENHAM *Cato Major Old Age* iii. (1669) 33 Drawn up in rancks, and files, the bearded spikes Guard it from birds as with a stand of pikes. 1700 DRYDEN tr. *Ovid's Meleager & Atalanta* 33 Suff'ring not their yellow Beards to rear, He [*sc.* the wild boar] tramples down the Spikes, and intercepts the Year. 1730-46 THOMSON *Autumn* 166 The gleaners spread around, and here and there, Spike after spike, their scanty harvest pick. 1796 WITHERING *Brit. Plants* (ed. 3) I. 83 Take a spike (or as it is frequently called, an ear) of wheat. 1798 COLERIDGE *Three Graves* III. ii, On the hedge-elms in the narrow lane Still swung the spikes of corn. 1860 ADLER *Prov. Poet.* xvi. 359 A man without love is worth no more than the spike without grain. 1875 [see SPICA 4].

b. *Astr. The virgin's spike* [tr. L. *spica Virginis*], = SPICA 3.

1559 W. CUNNINGHAM *Cosmogr. Glasse* 104 A fixed sterre, called the virgins spike. 1764 MASKELYNE in *Phil. Trans.* LIV. 359 The virgin's spike, and a small star preceding it. 1802 O. G. GREGORY *Treat. Astron.* VI. 109 On the 8th of April, 1801, at what hour will the star called *virgin's spike* be on the meridian of London?

c. The receptacle in which the grains of maize are fixed.

1800 *Med. Jrnl.* IV. 249 From the young fresh stalks, as well as from the spikes of India corn, a true sugar can be extracted. 1809 A. HENRY *Trav.* 134 I was requested not to break the spikes. *Ibid.*, The grains of maize..grow in compact cells, round a spike.

2. *Bot.* A form of inflorescence consisting of sessile flowers borne on an elongated simple axis.

1578 LYTE *Dodoens* 103 Long purple, spykie knoppes like to the eares or spikes of Bistorte. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* I. 364 The head of Nardus spreadeth into certaine spikes or eares, whereby it hath a twofold use, both of spike and also of leafe. 1668 WILKINS *Real Char.* 78 Naked stalks; and flowers in a spike. *Ibid.*, Whose leaves are of a dark green above,..bearing a spike of flowers. 1676 M. LISTER in *Ray's Corresp.* (1848) 124 The fulminating powder, which the spikes of *Muscus Lycopod.* yield. 1726 *Flower Garden Displ.* (ed. 2) Introd., *Spikes*, Trusses or Bunches, when the Flowers grow in such a manner as to form an Acute Cone. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s.v. *Lychnis*, The wild white lychnis with a bending spike of flowers. 1784 COWPER *Task* VI. 159 Her beauteous head now set With purple spikes pyramidal. 1851 GLENNY *Handbk. Fl. Gard.* 158 The blossoms are purple, and grow in spikes at the ends of the branches. 1889 *Science-Gossip* XXV. 122 They were beautiful trees, with their leaves..growing in thickly-set spikes.

3. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *spike-corn*, *-stalk*; *spike-flowered*, *-like* adjs; *spike-wise* adv.

1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* I. 559 White Amel-corn, called Olyra, which is among them holden for the third sort of *Spike-corne. 1833 *Penny Cycl.* I. 77/1 *Acer spicatum*, the *spike-flowered maple. 1857 HENFREY *Bot.* § 126 The term catkin ..is applied to the..*spike-like inflorescence of the Willow, Poplar, Birch. 1880 JEFFERIES *Gt. Estate* 136 Beside them a rolled spike-like bloom not yet unfolded. 1796 WITHERING *Brit. Plants* (ed. 3) I. 83 **Spike-stalk*,..a long, rough, slender receptacle, upon which the flowers composing a spike are placed. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* I. 559 The graines arranged *spike-wise.

b. In some specific names of plants, as **spike-cudweed, -grass, -mint, -rush** (see quots. and SPIKED *a.*1 2).

1715 *Phil. Trans.* XXIX. 355 Welted Antego *Spike-Cudweed. 1760 J. LEE *Introd. Bot.* App. 327 *Spike-grass, Winged, *Stipa.* 1771 R. F. FORSTER *Flora Amer. Sept.* 4 Spike-grass, *Uniola paniculata.* 1856 A. GRAY *Man. Bot.* 567 *Uniola*,..Spike-Grass. 1731 MILLER *Gard. Dict.* Index, *Spike-mint, Spear-mint. 1829 LOUDON *Encycl. Pl.* (1836) 48 *Eleocharis*,..*Spike-Rush. Spike oval naked. 1859 Miss PRATT *Brit. Grasses* 11 Spike-rush. Spikelet many-flowered, solitary, terminal.

II. † 4. French lavender (*Lavandula Spica*); = SPICK *sb.*2 *Obs.*

1539 ELYOT *Cast. Helthe* (1541) 11 Thinges good for a colde head: Cububes: Galingale:.. Pionye: Hyssope: Spyke: Yreos. 1578 LYTE *Dodoens* 265 It is called..in English Spike and Lauender. 1591 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* I. vi. 729 Here bitter Worm-wood, there sweet-smelling Spike. 1611 COTGR., *Spicaire*, Roman Spike, or Lauender. 1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* III. iv. I. i, Sweet sents of saffron, spike, calamus and cynamon. 1712 tr. *Pomet's Hist. Drugs* I. 26 Of a strong smell, very much like Spike or Lavender.

b. *Oil of spike*, an essential oil obtained by distillation from *Lavendula Spica* (and *L. Stœchas*), employed in painting and in veterinary medicine. (Cf. *spike-oil* in 7.)

1577 HARRISON *England* III. ix. (1878) II. 65 A most delectable and sweet oile, comparable to..oile of spike in smell, was found naturallie included in a stone. 1594 PLAT *Jewell-ho.* II. 9, I speak not here of the oile of spike which will extende very farre this way. 1669 STURMY *Mariner's Mag.* VII. XXXIV. 49 Yellow Oker, well ground Oyle of Spike or Turpentine. 1686 PLOT *Staffordsh.* 379 They use Litharge pounded and searced fine, mixt with oyle of Spike.. 1753 J. BARTLET *Gentl. Farriery* 231 The hot oils, as spike, turpentine and origanum. 1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 755 They are then mixed with oil of spike, and applied to the glass with camel-hair pencils. 1861 BENTLEY *Man. Bot.* 610 Oil of Spike or Foreign Oil of Lavender. *Ibid.*, *L. Stœchas* also yields .. an essential oil, which is commonly distinguished as the True Oil of Spike.

attrib. 1703 *Art's Improv.* I. 48 You need not fear much the laying on of the Varnish the second time, provided..it be Oil of Spike Varnish.

† **5.** *Spike Celtic*, a species of valerian. *Obs.*

1540 R. JONAS *Byrth Mankynde* 70 For this take spyke celtyke, whiche some call mary mawdelyne flower,..& sethe it in the oyle of sesamum,..& laye it on the place. 1579 LANGHAM *Gard. Health* (1633) 16 Seethe Spike celtike in oyle of Almonds, and a little Turpentine and dip well therein and apply it.

† **6.** Spikenard. *Obs.*—1

1540 HYRDE tr. *Vives' Instr. Chr. Wom.* (1592) F vj, Mary Magdalene poured upon the head of our Lorde, oyntment of pretious Spike.

7. *attrib.* (in sense 4), as *spike-flower*, *-lavender*, *-leaf*, *-oil* [cf. Du. *spijkolie*, G. *spieköl*], † *-water.*

1588 L. M. tr. *Bk. Dyeing* 12 Take 2 pound of *spike flowers, one pound of rose marie. 1741 *Compl. Fam.-piece* I. iv. 252 Then put to them Balm, Spike-flowers,..of each 1 Ounce. 1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* 444 With the decoction or liquor which commeth from *Spike-Lauender. 1799 G. SMITH *Laboratory* I. 114 Temper..with oil of spike, i.e. spike-lavender. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* III. 247/1 Oil of spike lavender, or..turpentine, may be used instead of the coal-naphtha. 1750 W. ELLIS *Mod. Husbandm.* III. I. 178 Boil some Lavender and *Spike-leaves. 1611 COTGR., *Huile nardin*, *spike oyle. 1685 BAXTER *Paraphr. N. T.* Mark xiii. 3 It was a Cruise of precious Spike-oil shaken and poured out. 1868 WATTS *Dict. Chem.* V. 399 According to Gastell, spike-oil is obtained from the leaves and stalks, true lavender-oil from the flowers, of several species of *Lavendula.* 1558 WARDE tr. *Alexis' Secr.* 46 b, Take.. Lauender water, *Spike water, of eche of them thre vnces. 1572 in Feuillerat *Rev. Q. Eliz.* (1908) 175, i pynte of spike water.

Spike (spəik), *sb.*2 Also 4 **spyk,** 5 **spyke.** [Of doubtful origin: agrees in form and meaning with MSw. *spīk*, *spijk*, Sw. and Norw. *spik* nail, which may be a shortened form of MLG. *spiker* (LG. *spiker*, *spieker*; hence G. *spiker*, Da. *spiger*, Norw. *spikar*), = MDu. *spīker*, *spijcker* (Du. *spijker*), Fris. *spiker*, *spikker* (perh. from Du. and LG.), MHG. *spīcher* (G. dial. *speicher*-): see SPIKER 1. It is possible that these may in some way be derived from L. *spīca* SPIKE *sb.*1, as OF. *espi*, F. *épi*, Sp. and Pg. *espiga* have senses nearly or altogether coincident with those of 'spike.'

The evidence for a MDu. *spike* sb. or *spiken* v. is very slender: see Verdam, s.vv. The Swed. and Norw. words differ in gender from Norw. *spik*, Icel. *spti* fem., 'splinter, thin worn-out scythe', and are prob. unconnected with this.]

1. A sharp-pointed piece of metal (esp. iron) or wood used for fastening things securely together; a large and strong kind of nail.

Cf. the earlier SPIKE-NAIL and SPIKING *sb.*

1345-6 in Nicholas *Hist. Royal Navy* (1847) II. 477 [Nails, called] glots, midelglots, spikes, rundnails, cloutnails [and] lednails. 1390 *Earl Derby's Exp.* (Camden) 26 Pro M^cc spyks, vj s. 1486 *Naval Acc. Hen. VII* (1896) 15, c lb of spykes..xxv^s ij^d; also for xl lb spikes. *a* 1616 BACON *Adv. Villiers* Wks. 1778 II. 270 We need not borrow of any other iron for spikes, or nails to fasten them together. 1627 CAPT. SMITH *Seaman's Gram.* xi. 53 It is strongly nailed with Spikes. 1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), *Speeks* or *Spikes*, ..great and long Iron-nails with flat Heads and of divers Lengths. 1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* II. (Globe) 411 In this Manner he made many Things, but especially Hooks, Staples, and Spikes. 1753 HANWAY *Trav.* II. XVI. (1762) I. 69 Instead of iron bolts, they have spikes of deal. 1825 J. NICHOLSON *Operat. Mechanic* 565 Fasten them together by pins, spikes, or bolts, as the case may require. 1884 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* Suppl. 839/2 The following table shows the amount of spikes to a mile of railroad.

b. A pointed piece of steel used for driving into the touch-hole of a cannon in order to render it unserviceable.

1617 MORYSON *Itin.* II. 166 Some were found having spikes and hammers to cloy the cannon. 1828 SPEARMAN *Brit. Gunner* (ed. 2) 385 There are two descriptions of spikes in the service. The common conical spike, which serves for all natures of ordnance, is 4 inches long. 1859 GRIFFITHS *Artill. Man.* (1862) 60 For Spiking Ordnance, two kinds of spikes are used:..The Common Spike...The Spring, or temporary spike. 1876 VOYLE & STEVENSON *Milit. Dict.* 395/1 Spikes form a portion of the stores of a battery.

2. A sharp-pointed piece of metal (or other hard material) which is, or may be, so fixed in something that the point is turned outwards; a stout sharp-pointed projecting part of a metal object.

c 1470 HENRY *Wallace* X. 42 Sa tha sam folk he send to the dep furd, Gert set the ground with scharp spykis off burd. 1532-3 in E. Law *Hampton Crt. Pal.* (1885) 347 Item 11 spikes of Irne to stand uppon the sayd typys. 1676 WISEMAN *Surg. Treat.* V. iii. 359 In his falling he was catcht by one of those Spikes in the middle of his Wrist. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Movement*, The gutter'd Wheel, with Iron Spikes at bottom, wherein the Line of ordinary Clocks runs. 1791 BENTHAM *Panopt.* I. Postscr. 137 But a person cannot press against the point of a spike as he could against a bar. 1820 SHELLEY *Let. M. Gisborne* 35 Spain..grew dim with Empire:—With thumbscrews, wheels, with tooth and spike and jag. 1846 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* II. 818 The length of files is always measured exclusively of the tang or spike, by which the file is fixed in its handle. 1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* I. xi. 83 The iron spike at the end of the baton made a hole sufficiently deep [etc.].

b. *transf.* A stiff sharp-pointed object or part.

1718 LADY M. W. MONTAGU *Let. to Abbé Conti* 31 July, The spikes or thorns are as long and sharp as bodkins. 1756-7 tr. *Keysler's Trav.* (1760) I. 38 Shoes with long points or spikes..were worn. Some of these spikes were an ell long. 1850 DICKENS *T. Two Cities* II. i, His son was garnished with tenderer spikes [of hair]. 1868 MORRIS *Earthly Par.* II. 261 Then shot up on high A steady spike of light.

c. A young mackerel.

1884 GOODE *Nat. Hist. Aquat. Anim.* 298 Mackerel..six and a half or seven inches in length;..fish of this size are sometimes called 'Spikes'.

† **3.** A handspike. *Obs.*—1

1771 *Act* 11 *Geo. III*, c. 45 § 7 To purchase or make.. Winches, Spikes, Dams, Flood Gates and Engines for the completing and carrying on the said Navigation. 1802 JAMES *Mil. Dict.*, *Spikes*, in gunnery. See *Hand-Spikes.*

4. *slang.* The workhouse.

1894 D. C. MURRAY *Making Novelist* 107 To sleep in the workhouse is to go 'on the spike'. 1900 FLYNT *Tramps* 260 The next two nights of our stay..were spent in the Notting Hill casual ward, or 'spike', as it is called in tramp parlance.

5. *attrib.* and *Comb.* a. Attrib., in the sense 'resembling or formed like a spike', as *spike bit*, *bowsprit*, *gimlet*, *rod.*

1766 *Museum Rust.* VI. 392 A hole made with a spike gimblet. 1815 *Hist. J. Decastro* I. 109 The man who had a spike bit in his hand, and would have forced the door. 1856 MORTON *Cycl. Agric.* II. 721/2 Rods of hazel, &c., split and twisted for use by the thatcher (spike rods). 1895 *Daily News* 19 June 3/2 With nothing standing but her spike bowsprit, which was painted white.

b. In the sense 'provided or furnished with spikes', as *spike-roller*, *-wheel.*

1799 A. YOUNG *Agric. Linc.* 74 A capital spike-roller, which cost £40. 1805 R. W. DICKSON *Pract. Agric.* I. 27 It is, perhaps, a more efficient implement than the spike-roller. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2267/2 Spike-wheel Propeller.

c. Misc., as *spike-hole*; *spike-horned*, *-leaved*, *-like*, *-tailed* adjs.; *spike-wise* adv.

Also *spike-drawer*, *-extractor* (Knight, 1875).

1691 T. H[ALE] *Acc. New Invent.* 45 They were forced to .. spile the *Spike-holes. 1890 W. P. LETT in Shields *Big Game N. Amer.* 84 There is a difference..between the branching and *spike-horned Deer. 1864 G. P. MARSH *Man & Nat.* 109 Dead trees, especially of the *spikeleaved kinds, ..are often allowed to stand until they fall of themselves. 1896 *Pop. Sci. Jrnl.* L. 207 It was chipped..with a *spike-like stone implement. 1884 *Harper's Mag.* Sept. 514/2 You needn't worry about any *spike-tailed coat or clerical tie. 1891 *Cent. Dict.* s.v., *Spike-tailed grouse*, the sharp-tailed.. or pin-tailed grouse. 1850 BROWNING *Christmas Eve* ii, I sent my elbow *spike-wise At the shutting door, and entered likewise. 1865 G. MACDONALD *A. Forbes* XXXVIII, They were kept upright..by the constant application, 'spikewise', of the paternal elbow.

6. Special Combs.: **spike-buck** *U.S.*, a buck in its first year; **spike-disease**, a disease affecting the leaves of certain plants and trees; **spike-fish** *U.S.*, the sailfish (*Histiophorus americanus*); **spike-horn**, (*a*) a deer's horn in the form of a spike; (*b*) a spike-buck (so *spike-horn buck*); **spike-machine** (see quot.); **spike-maul**, a mallet for driving in spikes; **spike-nose** *U.S.* (see quot.); † **spike-park** *slang*, the grounds of a prison; **spike-pole** *dial.* (see quot. 1841); also, a pole fitted with a spike; † **spike-ring** (?); † **spike-shot**, cannon-shot having projecting spikes; **spike-tail** *U.S.*, a dress-coat; **spike-team** *U.S.* (see quots.).

1860 MAYNE REID *Hunters' Feast* xxiii, In the first year they grow in the shape of two short straight spikes; hence the name '*spike-bucks' given to the animals of that age. 1897 *Outing* XXX. 330 A tidy spike-buck splashed through a shallow. 1906 *Athenæum* 24 Nov. 661/3 A suitable reward to any one who can discover the cause of *spike disease in sandal trees. 1869 *Amer. Nat.* Dec. 552 The *spike-horn differs greatly from the common antler of the *Cervus Virginianus*. *Ibid.* 553 The first spike-horn buck was merely an accidental freak of nature. 1897 *Outing* XXIX. 439 So the gamey spikehorn turned to bay. 1851 *Catal. Gt. Exhib.* I. 1468/2 A *spike machine. This machine is for the purpose of making wrought spikes. 1886 *Pall Mall G.* 16 June 14/1 Two squads, the one armed with claw bars, the other with *spike mauls. 1901 *Cent. Dict.*, **Spike-nose*, the pike-perch, or wall-eyed pike, *Stizostedion vitreum.* 1837 DICKENS *Pickw.* xlii, No danger of overwalking yourself here—*spike park—grounds pretty—romantic but not extensive. 1841 HARTSHORNE *Salop. Ant.* Gloss., **Spike-pole*, a rafter eight feet long, bound with iron at its end,..used in 'tying' dangerous places in the roof of a pit. 1848 THOREAU *Maine W.* (1894) 57 He uses..a long spike-pole, with a screw at the end of the spike to make it hold.

1597 *Wills & Inv. N. C.* (Surtees, 1860) 267 One *spike-ringe, j paire of goulde weights, and an oulde halbarte. *a* 1661 Fuller *Worthies, Kent* II. (1662) 61 They have Round- double- head- Bur- *spike- Crow- Bar- Case- Chain shot. 1894 Howells *Trav. fr. Altruria* 139 He says he isn't dressed for dinner; left his *spike-tail in the city. 1848 Bartlett *Dict. Amer.* 324 *Spike team*, a waggon drawn by three horses, or by two oxen and a horse, the latter leading the oxen or span of horses. 1890 L. C. D'Oyle *Notches* 178, I got there with a loaded waggon, and a 'spike' team —three mules.

†Spike, *sb.*[3] *Obs.* = Spike-hole.

1586 J. Hooker *Hist. Irel.* in *Holinshed* II. 93/2 He perceived one of the enemies leveling at the window or spike at which he stood. 1633 T. Stafford *Pac. Hib.* I. ix. 64 Where from out of a Spike, they slewe foure of our men. *Ibid.* III. viii. 317 A spike or window that..commands that part of the barbicon of the Castle.

Spike (spəik), *v.*[1] [f. Spike *sb.*[2] Cf. MSw. and Sw. *spika* to nail; also LG. *spikern*, Du. *spijkeren*.]

1. *trans.* With *up*: **a.** To fasten or close firmly with spikes or strong nails.

1624 Capt. Smith *Virginia* V. 198 He went to seeke for a wracke they reported lay vnder water with her hatches spiked vp.

† **b.** *spec.* = sense 2. *Obs.*

1644 Prynne & Walker *Fiennes' Trial* App. 34 Whereupon himselfe, and one Harris,..did spike up the touch-holes of their Canons to make them unservisable to the enemy. 1672 J. Lacey tr. *Tacquet's Milit. Archit.* 50 If they cannot carry away their Guns, they must spike them up, by driving Nails in their Touch-holes. 1747 *Gentl. Mag.* XVII. 308 We spiked up 15 field pieces, which we could not get off. 1799 *Hull Advertiser* 7 Sept. 1/4 Helder Point was last night evacuated and the guns in it spiked up.

† **c.** *spec.* (See quot.) *Obs.*—°

1704 J. Harris *Lex. Techn.* I, *Spiking up the Ordnance*, is fastning a Coin or Quoin with Spikes to the Deck, close to the Breech of the Carriages of the Great Guns, that they may keep close and firm to the Ship-sides and not break loose when the Ship Rolls.

d. To set up as on a spike.

1742 Young *Nt. Th.* IV. 771 They..Spike up their inch of reason, on the point Of philosophic wit, call'd argument.

2. To render (a gun) unserviceable by driving a spike into the touch-hole; also, to block or fill up (the touch-hole) with a spike. (Cf. 1 b.)

1687 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 2270/5 Captain Archburnett..made himself Master of their Guns, which he ordered to be dismounted and spiked. 1700 Rycaut *Hist. Turks* V. iii. 150 In one of which [sallies] they spiked or nailed three Pieces of Cannon. 1706 Phillips (ed. Kersey) s.v., Among Mariners, the Touch-hole of a Gun is said *To be spiked*, when Nails are purposely driven into it, so that no Use can be made of that Gun by an Enemy. 1778 Orme *Milit. Trans. Ind.* II. I. 62 Ensign Pischard..seized and spiked the four pieces of cannon. 1811 Wellington in Gurw. *Desp.* (1837) VII. 269 Unfortunately the guns in the battery were not spiked, or otherwise destroyed or injured. 1848 *Exchequer Rep.* II. 174 The defendant..spiked the guns, and placed sentinels at the doors.

fig. 1871 Lowell *Study Wind.* (1886) 37 All the batteries of noise are spiked.

3. To fix or secure by means of long nails or spikes. Chiefly with preps., as *on*, *to*.

1703 Moxon *Mech. Exerc.* 255 Pin'd or spiked down to the pieces of Oak on which they lye. *Ibid.*, [To] spike or pin the Planks to them. 1776 G. Semple *Building in Water* 102 Scantling of the same Size..will answer effectually, by pinning and spiking the Grooves on the corner Pile. 1823 P. Nicholson *Pract. Build.* 120 By spiking or bolting each piece [of timber] on both sides of the joint. 1833 Loudon *Encycl. Archit.* § 83 Ceiling joists, joggled on,..and spiked.. at each end, to the top of the plate. 1875 Martin *Winding Mach.* 6 Four vertical 3-in. planks are spiked into the joints of the lining of the pit.

4. a. To make sharp like a spike. *rare*—°.

1687 Miége *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II. To Spike, *faire pointu; enclouer*. 1736 Ainsworth I, To spike, or make sharp at the end, *spico, spiculo*.

b. To provide, fit, or stud with spikes.

1716 M. Davies *Athen. Brit.* II. 139 Too much also of our English Prose is spik'd over with keen Cynicks. 1777 Sir A. Campbell in C. H. Walcott *Life* (1898) 32, I am lodged in a dungeon..doubly planked and spiked on every side. 1847 Tennyson *Princ.* iv. 188 His brows Had sprouted, and the branches .. grimly spiked the gates. 1850 'Bat' *Cricket Man.* 50 It is a good plan to have those shoes spiked which have been worn.

5. To pierce with, or as with, a spike. Also *refl.*

1687 Miége *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II, To spike himself, or fall upon spikes, *tomber sur des pointes de fer*.

1837 Barham *Ingol. Leg.* Ser. I. *Spectre Tappington*, Charles drank his coffee and spiked some half-dozen eggs. 1884 Browning *Ferishtah* 122 When cold from over-mounts spikes through and through Blood, bone and marrow.

b. *spec.* In certain sports, to injure (another player or competitor) by means of spiked shoes.

1867 *Athlete for 1866*, 13 Lord Jersey, a good third, notwithstanding having been accidentally spiked by one of the competitors. 1886 Shaw *Cash. Byron's Prof.* (1901) 197 'What does spiking mean?' said Lydia. 'Treading on a man's foot with spiked boots,' replied Lord Worthington.

6. To drive *away* with or as with spikes.

1879 Geo. Eliot *Theo. Such* xviii. 346 To urge on that account that we should spike away the peaceful foreigner.

Spike (spəik), *v.*[2] [f. Spike *sb.*[1] 2.] *intr.* Of plants: To form a spike or spikes of flowers. Also with *up*.

1711 *Phil. Trans.* XXVII. 377 The last and the preceding Summer it spiked very plentifully in Chelsea Garden. 1852 *Beck's Florist* 234 If a Hollyhock do not 'spike up' well ..it cannot be called 'first rate'.

Spiked (spəikt), *a.*[1] [f. Spike *sb.*[1]]

1. Of plants: Having an inflorescence in the form of a spike; bearing ears, as grain.

1601 Holland *Pliny* II. 559 Wheat and such like spiked corne withstand the winter cold better than Pulse. 1640 Parkinson *Theat. Bot.* 1169 This greatest sort groweth up with..stalkes two foot high, on which stand long round spiked heads. 1712 *Phil. Trans.* XXVII. 416 Neither grows it upright and spiked, but procumbent and racemose. 1777 Potter *Æschylus, Supplicants* 114 Dogs .. yield to the mast'ring wolves; And the soft reed to the firm spiked corn. 1830 Lindley *Nat. Syst. Bot.* 172 Herbaceous dicotyledons, with..opposite leaves, spiked flowers. 1870 Hooker *Stud. Flora* 315 Clusters of flowers spiked.

2. In specific names, as *Spiked brome-grass, clover, liatris, loosestrife, mint*, etc.

1597 Gerarde *Herbal* I. xcii. 339 The spiked Rose Plantaine hath very few leaues. 1731 Miller *Gard. Dict.* s.v. *Mentha*, Common Spik'd-Mint, usually call'd Spear-Mint. *Ibid.* s.v. *Veronica*, Narrow-leav'd spik'd Speedwell. *Ibid.*, Welsh spiked Speedwell. 1771 *Encycl. Brit.* I. 681 The pinnatus or spiked brome-grass. 1796 Withering *Brit. Plants* (ed. 3) II. 350 *Spiked Rush.* Near the summits of the Highland mountains. 1822 *Hortus Anglicus* II. 351 Spiked Liatris;..spike leafy, dense above. 1828 J. E. Smith *Engl. Flora* II. 343 Spiked Purple-Loosestrife...Flowers in whorled leafy spikes. 1851 Wilson *Rur. Cycl.* IV. 15/2 The spiked rampion, *Phyteuma spicatum*, has sometimes been used as an article of food. 1855 Miss Pratt *Flower. Pl.* III. 345 Spiked Rampion...This rare species has been found only in Sussex. 1888 *Boston* (Mass.) *Jrnl.* 6 Dec. 2/3 A native forage plant, called 'spiked clover', is attracting attention in California. The plant puts out white blossoms on slender spikes.

Hence † **Spikedness,** 'likeness to an ear of corn' (Bailey, vol. II, 1727). *Obs.*—°

Spiked (spəikt), *a.*[2] [f. Spike *sb.*[2]]

1. Provided with spikes or sharp points.

1681 Grew *Museum* I. vi. i. 125 The Spiked-Wilk. Murex Aculeatus. *a* 1727 Newton *Chronol. Amended* (1728) 319 An archer .. crowned with a spiked crown. 1763 *Brit. Mag.* IV. 206 Shot, of all sizes, from 28 pounders to four ounces..Grape ditto...Spiked [ditto]. 1830 Skelton *Meyrick's Arms & Armour* II. Pl. 80 The long spiked-rowel spur of Edward IV's time, of iron. 1850 'Bat' *Cricket Man.* 104 Spiked Soles for Cricket Shoes. 1884 W. S. B. McLaren *Spinning* (ed. 2) 182 The three spiked workers..revolve above it in the opposite direction.

transf. 1876 Geo. Eliot *Dan. Deronda* III. xlii. 242 The yoke of oppression was a spiked torture. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* II. 157 [The temperature] is of a strikingly 'spiked' character when charted.

2. *Spiked buck*, a spike-buck. *U.S.*

1897 *Outing* XXIX. 439/1 A strong, young, spiked buck.

† **Spike-hole.** *Obs.* [perh. f. Spike *sb.*[2], but the simple word in this sense (Spike *sb.*[3]) occurs earlier than the compound.] A loop-hole or small opening in a wall.

1598 Florio, *Balestriera*, a spike hole or loope hole, to shoote out at. 1629 J. M. tr. *Fonseca's Dev. Contempl.* 90 Of all those Kingdomes..he hath not so much as one poore spike-hole in a wall. 1642 in *Lismore Papers* Ser. II. (1888) V. 47 [They] played theire spicke holes and the tope of the Castle with small shott. 1690 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 2560/2 These ..beat the Enemy out of a Ravelin..and fired upon them through their own Spikeholes. 1742 Jarvis *Quix.* Pref. (1749) p. xviii, The dungeon is one of those strong stone towers..with small spike-holes high in the walls.

Spikelet[1] (spəi·klĕt). *Bot.* [f. Spike *sb.*[1]]

1. A small group of florets in grasses, forming part of the spike.

1793 Martyn *Lang. Bot.*, *Spicula*, a Spicule or Spikelet; a partial spike, or a subdivision of it: as in some Grasses. 1835 Lindley *Introd. Bot.* (ed. 2) 125 A locusta or spikelet, as the partial inflorescence of Grasses is denominated. 1850 Tyas *Fav. Field Fl.* Ser. II. 37 The common Quaking Grass, with its broadly egg-shaped spikelets, is indeed one of the most beautiful of the grasses. 1872 Oliver *Elem. Bot.* I. v. 52 The flowers are arranged in short, broad spikelets, which spikelets are disposed alternately in two rows along the top of the stem.

2. A subdivision of an ear of grain.

1860 Piesse *Lab. Chem. Wonders* 145 An individuality as definite as an ear of corn or a spikelet of barley. 1868 Darwin *Anim. & Pl.* I. ix. 318 The ear is thus much narrower, and the spikelets stand out more horizontally, than in our present forms. 1893 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* Dec. 696 The spikelets of the ear are borne in groups of three.

Spikelet[2] (spəi·klĕt). [f. Spike *sb.*[2]] A small spike or spike-shaped object; a prickle or thorn.

1851 Mayne Reid *Scalp Hunt.* xxvii. 203 We carefully pare off the volutes and spikelets [of the cacti]. 1876 tr. *Wagner's Gen. Pathol.* 121 The surface of the body is covered with little spikelets.

Spike-nail. [Spike *sb.*[2] Cf. MDu. and LG. *spikernagel*, MHG. *spîchernagel* (G. dial. *speichernagel*).] A large and strong nail, now *spec.* one upwards of three (or four) inches in length, with a small head.

1314–5 *MS. Acc. Exch. K. R.* Bdle. 492 No. 19 (P.R.O.), Item in C spiknail emptis, ♈d. 1562 *Ludlow Churchw. Acc.* (Camden) 109 For spyke nayles to make the pewe. *c* 1608 in Swayne *Sarum Churchw. Acc.* (1896) 160, viij long spike nayles for the Refters, 12 d. 1769 Falconer *Dict. Marine* s.v. *Kelson*, It [the kelson] is secured by spike-nails [to the floor-timbers and crotches]. 1782 *Phil. Trans.* LXXII. 367 The spike-nail which had fastened the lead to it appeared perfectly sound. 1807 W. Irving *Salmag.* (1824) 198 He put a good store of beads, spike-nails and looking-glasses in his trunk. 1866 *Harvard Mem. Biogr., F. C. Hopkinson* II. 21 The method..was..to strike them alternately with a large Spike-nail.

Spikenard (spəi·knāɹd). Forms: *a.* 4– **spike-nard** (4 speke-, spyknard), 5–6 **spikenarde, spyk(e)narde** (5 **spykenard**), 6 **spignard, spiknarde,** 7 **spick-,** 7–8 **spiknard.** *β.* 4 **spikanard.** *γ.* 6 **spekenardy,** 7 **spyke nardy.** [ad. late or med. L. *spica nardi* (see Spike *sb.*[1] and Nard *sb.*), rendering Gr. *νάρδου στάχυς* (also *ναρδόσταχυς*); perhaps partly after OF. *spicanarde* fem., *spica-, spice-, spiquenard* masc., = It. *spiganardi, -nardo*, Sp. *espicanardi, -nardo*. Cf. also MDu. *spikenaerde, -naert* (Du. *spijknardus*), MLG. *spikenardi, -nard(us)*, MHG. *spîcanarde* (G. *spikenarde*, with many older variants), MSw. *spikinardus*, etc.]

1. An aromatic substance (employed in ancient times in the preparation of a costly ointment or oil) obtained from an Eastern plant, now identified as the *Nardostachys Jatamansi* of Northern India.

a. c 1350 *Leben Jesu* (1873) 63 Þat oygnement was of spikenard þat mani may do bote. 1382 Wyclif *John* xii. 3 Therfore Marie took a pound of oynement spikenard [*v.r.* spekenard], or trewe narde. *c* 1400 Maundev. (Roxb.) vii. 26 Sum distilles gariofles, spikenarde, and oþer spiceries. 1465 *Mann. & Househ. Exp.* (Roxb.) 305 Item, for a unce of spykenarde, viij. d. 1545 Raynald *Byrth Mankynde* 84 Take of cupresse nuttes, spikenard, balaustium, acorne cuppes, of eche an ounce. 1599 B. Jonson *Cynthia's Rev.* v. iv, The decoction of turmericke, sesama, nard, spikenard. 1671 Salmon *Syn. Med.* III. xxii. 401 Indian-leaf; its virtues are the same with Mace and Spicknard. 1712 tr. *Pomet's Hist. Drugs* I. 50 Chuse the true Spiknard from the Levant. 1841 Elphinstone *Hist. India* I. 11 A highly scented grass, the essential oil of which is supposed by some to have been the spikenard of the ancients. 1850 Tennyson *In Mem.* xxxii. 12 She bathes the Saviour's feet With costly spikenard and with tears. 1872 Oliver *Elem. Bot.* II. 192 Spikenard is the root of *Nardostachys jatamansi*, a North Indian plant. It has been highly valued as a perfume from early antiquity.

β. 1382 Wyclif *Mark* xiv. 3 A womman..hauynge a box of precious oynement spikanard.

γ. 1545 Raynald *Byrth Mankynde* 83 Dyp wool in ye oyle of masticke or of spekenardy [1613 spyke Nardy], and laye it vnto the place.

2. The plant yielding this substance; now *spec.* the North Indian *Nardostachys Jatamansi*, a plant of the Valerian order.

1548 Turner *Names Herbes* (E.D.S.) 55 Nardus is named in greeke Nardos, in englishe Spyknarde. 1671 Phillips, Spikenard, (*Nardus Indica*,) an Odoriferous Plant, the Oil whereof is much used in Medicine. 1714 *Steele's Poet. Misc.*, *Solomon's Song* 242 Spikenard and Cinnamon, that loves the Vale. 1830 Lindley *Nat. Syst. Bot.* 197 Valerian Jatamansi, or true Spikenard of the ancients, is valued in India..as a remedy in hysteria and epilepsy. 1858 Simmonds *Dict. Trade, Spikenard*, the *Nardostachys Jatamansi*, a dwarf herbaceous plant,..a native of the Himalayas. 1897 G. O. Morgan *Ecl. Virgil* iv. 25 Ivy that everywhere roves with the spikenard's growth interwoven.

fig. 1692 W. Marshall *Gosp. Myst. Sanct.* xiii. 298 Thus your Spikenards will yield their Smell, as godly sorrow.. peace,..joy.

3. † **a.** Lavender. *Obs.* (Cf. Spike *sb.*[1] 4.)

1563 Hyll *Art Garden.* (1593) 94 Lauender is an hearbe sweet in smelling;..[and] for that it giueth no lesse sauor than the Spike, is of the same named Spikenard. 1579 Langham *Gard. Health* (1633) 622 Spikenard (see Lauender). 1736 N. Bailey *Household Dict.* s.v., Spikenard or Lavender Spike.

b. Valerian. *rare.* (Cf. Spike *sb.*[1] 5.)

1688 Holme *Armoury* II. 89 Spicknard, or Valerian, hath leaves like the Primrose, growing in bunches, out of which comes a stalk set with jagged leaves. 1864 J. Gilbert & G. C. Churchill *Dolomite Mountains* 325 The Speik (*Valeriana celtica*) is a very small plant...You will be familiar with it as *spikenard*.

c. *Amer.* (See quots.)

1845–50 Mrs. Lincoln *Lect. Bot.* App. 75/2 *Aralia..racemosa* (spikenard). 1864 Grisebach *Flora Brit. W. Ind.* 787/2 Spikenard, *Hyptis suaveolens*.

4. *Ploughman's spikenard*, the wild plant *Inula Conyza* (formerly assigned to the genera *Baccharis* and *Conyza*).

1597 Gerarde *Herbal* II. cclxv. 648 This plant *Baccharis* ..in English..may be called the Cinamom roote, or Plowmans Spiknarde. 1671 Phillips, *Plowmans Spiknard*, a sort of plant called in Latin *Baccharis*. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl., *Baccharis*, .. commonly called *plowman's spikenard*, a sweet scented shrubby plant. *Ibid.* s.v. *Flea Bane*, The common great *conyza*, called Plowman's spikenard. 1777 Jacob *Catal. Plants* 11 *Conyza squarrosa*, Plowman's Spikenard. 1822 Clare *Vill. Minstr.* I. 115 Thy horehound tufts I love them well, And ploughman's spikenard's spicy smell. 1902 *Pall Mall Mag.* Sept. 105/1 Fragrant ploughman's spikenard now rises.

5. With various specific adjectives, as *American, bastard, Celtic, Cretan, false, French, Indian, mountain, small, Syrian, West Indian, wild spikenard* (see quots.).

1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1083/2 *American Spikenard, *Aralia racemosa*. 1760 J. Lee *Introd. Bot.* App. 327 *Bastard French Spikenard, *Nardus*. 1693 tr. *Blancard's Phys. Dict.* (ed. 2), *Spica celtica*, or *Nardus celtica*, *celtic Spikenard. 1718 Quincy *Compl. Disp.* 169 Celtick Spikenard.—This is reckon'd of kin to our Lavender, both by Family..and Virtues. 1760 J. Lee *Introd. Bot.* App. 328 Celtic Spikenard, *Valeriana*. 1891 *Cent. Dict.* s.v., *Cretan spikenard, *Valeriana Phu*. 1760 J. Lee *Introd. Bot.* 328 *False Spikenard, *Lavandula*. 1856 A. Gray *Man. Bot.* (1860) 467 *Smilacina racemosa*. False Spikenard. 1857 — *First Less. Bot.* (1866) 81 A compound raceme, as in the Goat's-beard and the False Spikenard. 1597 Gerarde *Herbal* II. ccccxxv. 921 *Nardus Narbonensis*, *French Spikenard. *Ibid.*, *Nardus Indica*, *Indian Spikenard. 1693 tr. *Blancard's Phys. Dict.* (ed. 2), *Nardus indica, Spica Indica*,

Indian Spikenard, great quantities of it grow in Java. **1760** J. LEE *Introd. Bot.* App. 327 Indian or True Spikenard. **1597** GERARDE *Herbal* II. ccccxxv. 919 *Nardus Celtica*, *Mountaine Spikenard. *Ibid.*, Creeping mountaine Spikenard. **1831** DAVIES *Mat. Med.* 206 *Small Spikenard. False Sarsaparilla Root. *Aralia nudicaulis.* **1611** COTGR., *Nard Syriaque*, *Syrian Spikenard, Indian Spikenard. **1866** *Treas. Bot.* 1083/2 *West Indian Spikenard, *Hyptis suaveolens.* **1611** COTGR., *Nard rustique*, *Wild Spikenard, Valerian. **1647** HEXHAM I. (Herbs), Assarabacke or wilde Spiknard, *Hasel-wortel.* **1760** J. LEE *Introd. Bot.* App. 328 Wild Spikenard, *Asarum.* **1866** *Treas. Bot.* 1083/2 Wild Spikenard, *Aralia nudicaulis.*

6. *Oil of spikenard* (see quots.).

1565 COOPER *Thesaurus*, *Vnguentum nardinum*, oyle of spikenarde. **1648** HEXHAM II, *Spijck-olie*, Oyle of Spike, or of Spike-nard. **1725** *Fam. Dict.* s.v., The Oil of Spikenard is a Sovereign Remedy for Sheep..incommoded with Obstructions. **1847** ROYLE *Mat. Med.* 621 A Volatile Oil [is secreted] by *Andropogon Calamus aromaticus*,..and several other species [of grasses]. This oil, often called *Oil of Spikenard*, is extremely grateful for its fragrance [etc.]. **1861** BENTLEY *Man. Bot.* 699 The oil known in India as Roshé or Rosé Oil, and in London as Turkish Essence of Geranium,..is also sometimes termed *oil of spikenard.*

7. *attrib.*, as *spikenard garden, oil.*

1806 T. MAURICE *Fall Mogul* II. iv, Mild, as soft whispers of the vernal breeze That sweeps the spikenard gardens of the South. **1861** BENTLEY *Man. Bot.* 699 The precious Spikenard Oil of Scripture is supposed by some to have been derived from *A*[*ndropogon*] *Iwarancusa.*

† **Spiker**[1]. *Obs.* Also 6 **spyker.** [a. MDu. or MLG. *spīker*: see SPIKE *sb.*[2]] A spike-nail.

1574 in Feuillerat *Revels Q. Eliz.* (1908) 237 Small spykers .j. dozen. **1576** *Ibid.* 263 Dimid. C of spykers, xvi[d]. **1658** tr. *Porta's Nat. Magic* VII. i. 191 They have ships made fast..by great spikers of wood.

Spiker[2] (spəi·kəɹ). [f. SPIKE *v.*[1]]

1. A device for spiking a cannon.

1868 *Rep. to Govt. U. S. Munitions War* 112 Figures 2 and 3 represent a spiker for guns of large calibre.

2. One who spikes a gun; one who drives or hammers in a spike.

1884 'H. COLLINGWOOD' (W. J. C. Lancaster) *Under Meteor Flag* 290, I immediately withdrew the spikers, and ..we silently made the best of our way to the beach. **1887** *Sci. Amer.* 18 Jan. 389 There are 32 'spikers' to every five miles of track, each man of whom drives 840 spikes a day.

† **Spi·ket.** *Obs.* [f. SPIKE *sb.*[1]] = SPIKELET[1].

1796 WITHERING *Brit. Plants* (ed. 3) I. 83 *Spiket* (*spicula*) or *Little Spike*, constituting a part of a larger composition of florets. *Ibid.* II. 149 The number of florets in each spiket very uncertain. **1817** *Blackw. Mag.* II. 235 The spikets on an ear of wheat are in two rows.

Spike-tackle, -tub: see SPECK *sb.*[4] 2.

1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.* 642.

Spikey, obs. form of SPIKY *a.*[2]

Spi·kily, *adv.* [f. SPIKY *a.*[2]] In a spiky manner; like spikes.

1893 'MAXWELL GRAY' *Last Sentence* I. I. vii. 135 [Hair] which..stood spikily out in every direction.

Spi·kiness. [f. SPIKY *a.*[2]] The quality of being spiky or sharp-pointed.

a **1722** LISLE *Husb.* (1757) 141 The spikiness and speariness of the tops. **1865** *Examiner* 4 Nov. 697/3 A real Christmas fire..reflected itself in the..tiles and the fantastic spikiness of the steel fender.

Spi·king, *sb. Obs.* exc. *dial.* Forms: 3–5 **spikyng(e,** 4–6 **spykyng(e,** 5 **spykhyng),** 4–6, 9 **spiking,** 5–7, 9 **spikin,** 6 **spikene,** 9 **spiken, speken, -in, specking.** [prob. a. MDu. *spiking*, synonymous with *spiker* (see SPIKE *sb.*[2]) or denoting some variety of this.] A spike-nail.

1261 in *Rep. Comm. Pub. Rec. Irel.* (1815) Pl. ii, In fabricacione..ij malliorum et xx. spikyngorum, de mediocri forma. **1307–8** *MS. Acc. Exch. K. R.* Bdle. 14 No. 14 (P.R.O.), In .iij. C. de magnis Spykinges emptis,...iiij.s. **1354** *Mem. Ripon* (Surtees) III. 96 Et de M[1] DC de spykinges grossis emp. ut infra pro coopertura ejusdem domus. **1399** *Ibid.* 133 Et in j mille de midelspykyng, iis. iid. **1408** *Ibid.* 139 Item et in iij m[1] dubylspykyng. **1484** *Churchw. Acc. Wigtoft, Linc.* (Nichols, 1797) 80 Paid for grete spikyngs to all the trestles of all the Belles. **1527–8** *Rec. St. Mary at Hill* (1905) 344 Paid for a hillett & a plate & spikinges for the Southe churchdur. **1586** *Shuttleworths' Acc.* (Chetham Soc.) 27 For dubblye and singley spikenes, ij[d]. **1603** *Ibid.* 151 Duble spykinges,..iij[s];..single spykinges,..xij[d]. **1647** J. CARTER *Nail & Wheel* 27 There are a sort of nails (spikins I think they call them) they want heads: and so whatsoever is hang'd upon them slips of. *a* **1825** FORBY *Voc. E. Anglia*, *Spikin, Spekin*, a large nail with a round flat head. **1828** CARR *Craven Gloss.*, *Spiking*, a long nail without a head.

So † **Spiking-nail.** *Obs.*

1311–2 in J. R. Boyle *Hedon* (1895) App. 13 Spyky[n]gnayl et lignis pro barris. *c* **1440** *Promp. Parv.* 469/1 Spykynge nayle. **1497** *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* I. 350 For ij[c] spikin nalis.

Spi·king, *vbl. sb.* [f. SPIKE *v.*[1]]

1. The action of fastening or piercing with a spike or spikes.

1775 in ASH. **1887** *19th Cent.* Aug. 176 The spiking and subsequent death of John M.

2. *Spiking crib* or *curb*: (see later quots.).

1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 972 In this operation, three kinds of cribs are employed; called wedging, spiking, and main cribs. *Ibid.* 973 The next operation is to fix spiking cribs.. to the rock. **1867** W. W. SMYTH *Coal & Coal-mining* 114 Lighter rings of wood, the spiking curbs, were then placed at intervals of 18 inches to 3 feet, according to the pressure. **1883** GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-m.* 230 *Spiking Curbs*, light rings of wood to which planks are spiked,..when plank tubbing is used in sinking through water-bearing ground.

Spi·king, *ppl. a.* [f. SPIKE *v.*[1]]

1. *Spiking party*, a small body of men told off, or sent out, to spike guns.

1884 *Milit. Engineer.* I. II. 111 The artillery or spiking party will be from 4 or 5 to 40 or 50 men. **1891** *Pall Mall G.* 22 Oct. 6/2 General Davis, when a captain, headed the spiking party in the attack on the Redan.

2. Presenting the appearance of spikes; suddenly rising and falling.

1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* II. 360 The range of temperature may be moderate—not exceeding 103°—or irregular with 'spiking' readings.

Spiknard, -nel, obs. ff. SPIKENARD, SPIGNEL.

Spiky (spəi·ki), *a.*[1] Also 6 **spikie, spykie.** [f. SPIKE *sb.*[1]] Having the form of a flower-spike; characterized by the production of spikes or ears.

In some contexts not clearly distinct from *a.*[2]

1578 LYTE *Dodoens* 105 The floures grow..upon long purple, spykie, knoppes like to the eares or spikes of Bistorte. **1656** CULPEPPER *Eng. Physic. Enl.* 162 The stalk riseth above this Leaf..like the spiky head of the Adders-Tongue. **1778** J. SCOTT *Mor. Eclogues* iii. 9 Spiky mint rich fragrance breathing round. **1828** *Blackw. Mag.* Dec. 711/2 The tall harvest of spiky wheat. **1883** *Knowledge* 8 June 336/2 Rye-grass,..a common roadside weed..with..a number of spiky flower-heads. **1884** *Pall Mall G.* 10 June 4/1 Sweet-vernal-grass..the peculiar spiky plant to which new-mown hay owes with us the whole of its delicious fragrance.

Spiky (spəi·ki), *a.*[2] Also 8 **-ey.** [f. SPIKE *sb.*[2]]

1. Fitted with a spike or spikes; having sharp projecting points.

1720 POPE *Iliad* XX. 585 The spiky Wheels thro' Heaps of Carnage tore; And thick the groaning Axles dropp'd with Gore. **1764** RANDALL *Semi-Virgilian Husb.* App. 1 Mr. Ellis, in one of his eight volumes on Husbandry, made mention of a spiky roller. **1767** R. JAGO *Edge-hill* III. 120 By gainful Commerce of her woolly Vests, Wrought by the spiky Comb. **1866** *Daily Tel.* 20 Jan. 3/6 His martial cloak ..around him, and the usual spiky helmet on his head. **1893** G. ALLEN *Scallywag* I. 97 A couple of large spiky shells.

Comb. **1778** [W. MARSHALL] *Minutes Agric.*, *Observ.* 18 The latter has scarcely ten vigorous plants in the whole field;—though spikey-rolled, and repeatedly harrowed.

2. Having the form of a spike or spikes; stiff and sharp-pointed.

1742 BLAIR *Grave* 191 The tapering Pyramid!..Whose spiky Top Has wounded the thick Cloud. **1796** KIRWAN *Elem. Min.* (ed. 2) I. 298 [Calcedony] filiform, tubular, or spiky. **1810** WORDSW. *Prose Wks.* (1876) II. 282 If ten thousand of this spiky tree, the larch, are stuck in at once upon the side of a hill, they can grow up into nothing but deformity. **1859** DICKENS *T. Two Cities* II. i, With his spiky hair looking as if it must tear the sheet to ribbons. **1894** W. BESANT *Equal Woman* 126 A dozen spiky thorns sticking into him in the most cruel manner.

Comb. **1849** CUPPLES *Green Hand* xvi. (1856) 158 The high bundles of knotted and jointed bamboo, with their spiky-tufted crowns.

3. *fig.* Suggestive of spikes; sharp.

1881 MRS. LYNN LINTON *My Love!* I. 94 To oppose smoothness to her spiky irritability.

Spilakee, obs. variant of SPILLIKIN.

Spilching. (See quot.)

1892 *Labour Comm.* Gloss. No. 9, *Spilching*, a trade term applied usually to a brick..which on being exposed to the weather becomes dry, crusts, and gradually falls away.

† **Spilcock.** *Obs.*[—0] In 5 **spylkok.** [Of doubtful origin: cf. SPILQUERN.] A form of top.

c **1440** *Promp. Parv.* 469 Spylkok, or whyrlegygge, chyldery pley,..*giraculum.*

† **Spilder.** *Obs.*[—1] In 5 **spildur.** [Of Scand. origin: cf. Norw. *spildra*, Sw. *spillra*, *spiller-*, in the same sense, and SPELDER *sb.*] A splinter.

c **1420** *Avow. Arth.* xiii, The grete schafte that was longe, Alle to spildurs hit spronge.

† **Spile,** *sb.*[1] *Obs. rare.* [Related to SPILE *v.*[1] Cf. OFris., OS., OHG. *spil* (G. *spiel*, dial. *spil*, Du. *spel*, etc.).] Sport, play. (In fig. senses: cf. SPILE *v.*[1] 1 b.)

c **1250** *Gen. & Ex.* 2977 Polheuedes, and froskes, & podes spile Bond harde egipte folc in sile [? *read* file = filth]. *Ibid.* 3462 Ðe ðridde daiȝes morȝe quile, ðunder and leuene made spile.

Spile (spəil), *sb.*[2] Also 7 **spyle.** [a. MDu. or MLG. *spīle* (Du. dial., WFris., and LG. *spile*; Du. *spijl*, NFris. *spīl*, G. *speil*), splinter, wooden pin or peg, skewer, etc.]

1. *north. dial.* and †*Sc.* A splinter, chip, or narrow strip, of wood; a spill.

1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* IX. ix. 42 Sum stekyt throu the cost with spilis of tre Lay gaspand. **1540** *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* VII. 486 For glew, to glew on the spilis upoun ane patrown of ane gun. **1634** *Lowe's Chirurg.* (ed. 3) 111 The tumor being opened,..you must separate the [membrane] ..gently from the flesh, either with your Spyle or other fit instrument proper to pull it out. **1671** SKINNER *Etymol. Ling. Angl.* s.v., A Spile or Spill. **1838** *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* I. 242/2 Two wedges made out of one piece, and two spiles. *Ibid.*, He..drives in a wooden spile, which immediately stops the leak. **1869** PEACOCK *Lonsdale Gloss.* 79/1 *Spile*, a splinter. **1894** HESLOP *Northumbld. Gloss.* 677 Thor's a spile run into ma finger.

2. A small plug of wood for stopping the vent of a cask; a vent-peg; a spigot. Chiefly *dial.*

1707 MORTIMER *Husb.* 573 Have near the Bung-hole a little Vent-hole stopp'd with a Spile. **1796–** in many dial. glossaries. **1832** MARRYAT *N. Forster* v, He knelt to pull out the spile. **1896** *Sun* 11 Dec. 3/2 A number of spiles for extracting spirit from casks.

fig. **1836** HALIBURTON *Clockm.* Ser. I. xvi, This Province is like that are tree;..and if they don't drive in a spile and stop the everlastin flow of the sap, it will perish altogether.

b. *U.S.* A small wooden or metal spout for conducting sap from the sugar-maple.

1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2268/1 A notch is cut by an axe in the tree above the spile. **1879** BURROUGHS *Locusts & Wild Honey* 9 The bees get their first taste of sweet from the sap as it flows from the spiles.

3. *techn.* (See quot. and cf. SPILL *sb.*[1] 3.)

1750 BLANCKLEY *Nav. Expos.* 156 *Spiles* are small Wood Pins, which are drove into the Nail-holes, when a Ship's Sheathing is taken off. [Hence in some later nautical Dicts.]

4. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *spile-borer, -hole, -peg, -tap.*

a **1825** FORBY *Voc. E. Anglia*, *Spile-hole*, the air-hole in a cask. *Spile-peg*, the wooden peg closing the hole for the admission of air into a cask when it is tapped. **1875** KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2268/1 *Spile-borer*, an auger-bit to bore out stuff for spiles. **1885** *Whitby Times* 31 July 2/6 Bar, &c.—Trays, waiters,..screws, spring spile taps, crushers.

Spile (spəil), *sb.*[3] Also 6 *Sc.* **spyl-.** [app. an alteration of PILE *sb.*[1] after prec. or by wrong analysis of combs.]

1. = PILE *sb.*[1] 3.

1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* IX. x. 20 Aschame ȝe nocht..To be inclosit amyd a fald of stakis, And be assegit..With akyn spyllis and dikis on syk wys? **1614** in *Trans. Cumbld. & Westmoreld. Antiq. & Archæol. Soc.* (1912) 244 [Some of the] spiles [which had been placed at the king's charges for defence of the sea]. **1829** [see SPILE *v.*[3]]. **1851** H. MELVILLE *Whale* ix, Another runs to read the bill that's stuck against the spile on the wharf. **1856** OLMSTED *Slave States* 351 A spile, pointed with iron, six inches in diameter, and twenty feet long, is set upon the stump by a diver. *Ibid.*, In very large stumps, the spile is often driven till its top reaches the water. **1878** N. H. BISHOP *Voy. Paper Canoe* 115 The government is building a remarkable pier of solid iron spiles, three abreast.

b. (See quot.)

a **1825** FORBY *Voc. E. Anglia*, *Spile*, a wedge of wood stoutly pointed with iron, used in clay or gravel pits, limestone quarries, etc., to let down large quantities at once.

c. *Mining.* A sharp-pointed post used in sinking by means of cribs.

1841 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* IV. 293/1 Supposing..the sand five fathoms..in depth,..and the length of the spiles six feet. *Ibid.*, The five rounds of spiles and cribs..will take up 10 feet of the diameter of the pit. **1883** GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-m.* 231 *Spiles*, narrow-pointed tubbing wedges.

d. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *spile-driver, -pier, -worm.*

1894 *Harper's Mag.* Jan. 422 The operation of a spile-driver at Plymouth docks. **1895** *Funk's Stand. Dict.*, *Spile-worm*, a ship-worm; teredo. **1898** KIPLING *Day's Work* 2 An overhead-crane travelled..along its spile-pier.

† **2.** = PILE *sb.*[1] 2 b. *Obs.*[—1]

1649 J. ELLISTONE tr. *Boehme's Ep.* xv. 133 Yet what God will, be done; as many a spile of grass perisheth when the Heaven giveth not its raine.

† **Spile,** *v.*[1] *Obs.* In 1 **spilian,** 3 **spilien, spelien, spilen,** 4 **spyle-.** [OE. *spilian*, = OFris. *spilia* (WFris. *spylje*), OS. *spilôn* (MLG. and MDu., LG. and Du. *spelen*), OHG. *spilôn*, *spilên* (MHG. *spilen*, *spiln*, G. *spielen*); Icel. *spila*, Norw. and Sw. *spela*, Da. *spille*, are from LG.]

1. *intr.* To sport or play; to rejoice.

a **1000** *Institutes of Polity* in Thorpe *Laws* (1840) II. 322 [Hi] lufiað..idele blisse..& ealne dæȝ fleardiað, spelliað & spiliað, & nænige note dreoȝað. *a* **1023** WULFSTAN *Hom.* (1883) 45 Eowra leoda, þe spiliað and pleȝað and rædes ne hedað. *c* **1205** LAY. 13816 Þer he mid his hirede hæhliche spilede. *c* **1250** *Gen. & Ex.* 2532 God leue hem in his blisse spilen Among engeles & seli men. *c* **1315** SHOREHAM v. 89 Elizbeth wel þat aspyde, Hou a spylede onder hyre syde, And made hys reioyynge.

b. To play havoc, do damage. (Cf. SPILE *sb.*[1])

c **1250** *Gen. & Ex.* 3183 Oc ðe [h]ail haueð so wide spiled, ðat his graue is ðor-vnder hiled.

¶ **2.** *trans.* and *intr.* To say; to speak.

Freq. in Layamon, through confusion with *spellien* SPELL *v.*[1] (cf. the first quot. in sense 1 above).

c **1205** LAY. 14102 Ofte heo stilledliche spækeð, & spilieð mid runen, of twam ȝunge monnen. *Ibid.* 14316 What weoren þat speche þe þat maide spilede.

Spile (spəil), *v.*[2] [f. SPILE *sb.*[2] Cf. NFris. *spīle*, G. *speilen*, to fix or fit with spiles.]

1. *trans.* To stop up (a hole) by means of a spile. Also with *up.*

1691 T. H[ALE] *Account New Invent.* p. xxii, Nail-holes, which they use to spile up at stripping. *Ibid.* 45 They were forced to..spile the Spike-holes. **1837** in *Civil. Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* I. 242/1 If there should be a defect in the joint it must be made afresh, as it can neither be spiled as a wooden joint, nor set up as a lead joint.

2. To draw (liquid) from a cask by spiling or broaching. Now *dial.*

1772 in J. Tomlinson *Doncaster* (1887) 237 Going to Rossington to Spile the Court Ale. *a* **1904** in *Eng. Dial. Dict.* s.v., I never spiled the beer.

3. To provide (a cask, tree, etc.) with a spile, in order to draw off liquid. Now *dial.* or *U.S.*

1832 MARRYAT *N. Forster* v, I've spiled them, and they prove to be puncheons of rum. **1836** — *Midsh. Easy* xiv, Then one of the casks of wine was spiled. **1879–** in dial. glossaries (e.Anglia, s.w. Lincs., Cumbld., etc.). **1904** MRS. ATHERTON *Rulers of Kings* ix. 33 Of course the trees have to be spiled.

Spile (spəil), *v.*[3] [f. SPILE *sb.*[3]] *trans.* To furnish, secure, or strengthen with timber or iron piles; = PILE *v.*[1] 1.

1829 BROCKETT *N. C. Gloss.* (ed. 2), *Spile*, to make a foundation in soft or boggy ground..by driving in spiles; i.e. piles or pieces of timber. **1869–** in dial. glossaries, etc.

Spile-bon, obs. form of SPEEL-BONE *dial.*

Spiling (spəi·liŋ), *vbl. sb.*[1] [f. SPILE *v.*[3]] The action of driving in spiles; also, spiles collectively.

1841 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* IV. 293 The spiling and cribs averaging each six inches thick. *Ibid.*, A..general idea of the mode of spiling and cribbing through the sand.

Spiling (spəi·liŋ), *vbl. sb.*[2] [Origin obscure; found earlier as SPOILING *vbl. sb.*[2]] (See quots.)

1846 A. YOUNG *Naut. Dict.* 291 *Spilings*, in shipbuilding, the dimensions of the curve or sny of a plank's edge. They are commonly measured by means of a rule-staff fastened for this purpose on the ship's timbers. *c*1850 *Rudim. Navig.* (Weale) 150 *Spilings*, the dimensions taken from a straight line, a mould's edge, or rule-staff, to any given line or edge. 1894 *Outing* XXIV. 21/2 To take the spiling for shaping the planks, care and patience are required.

attrib. 1869 Sir E. REED *Shipbuild.* xx. 457 The edges of plating..are marked upon these moulds, and spiling lines ..are given out with them. 1894 *Outing* XXIV. 21/2 The spiling staff or batten is cut..the length of the gunwale line and four or five inches wide.

Spilite (spəi·ləit). *Min.* [a. F. *spilite*: see -ITE[1] 2 b.] Amygdaloid diabase.

1879 RUTLEY *Stud. Rocks* xiii. 247 To some of these rocks occurring..in France, the name spilite has been applied. 1895 L. FLETCHER *Introd. Study Rocks* (1898) Index 118/1.

Spill (spil), *sb.*[1] Forms: 4 spille, 5–6 spyll(e, 6–7 spil, 7– spill. [Of doubtful origin; app. in some way related to SPILE *sb.*[2]]

1. A splinter; a sharp-pointed fragment of wood, bone, etc.; a slip or sliver.

c 1300 *Beket* 850 We suspendieth such consail, for hit his noȝt worth a Spille. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 11119 Pirrus with payn puld of his brest The spyll of his speire. 1550 T. LEVER *Serm.* (Arb.) 135 Beware..that ye staye not your selfe vnto a bryttell staffe, for it wyll brast in spylles and perce thorowe your handes. 1598 HALL *Sat.* IV. iii, What boots it..to reserve their relics many years, Their silver spurs, or spils of broken spears. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* II. 283 This herb ..draweth forth of the body any spils whatsoeuer. 1658 J. JONES *Ovid's Ibis* 43 Divine justice..maketh..the spils of the staff on which he leaned to run into his hands. 1748 in *6th Rep. Dep. Kpr.* App. II. 123 Taking out all such lints, spills, and other things which will not receive the dye. 1846 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* II. 527 To preserve the edge of the tool, thin spills of hard wood are sometimes placed between the cutter and the bar. 1863 *Gd. Words* Apr. 282/1 Like what are called spills in the game of spillikins.

fig. 1600 HOLLAND *Livy* VII. xxi. 263 This matter of usurie, the onely spill or bone (as it were) between, that seemed to hinder the uniting of their hearts.

b. *techn.* (See quot.)

1843 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* I. 197 The scrap-iron is sometimes twisted during the process of manufacture, to lay all the filaments like a rope, and prevent the formation of spills, or the longitudinal dirty seams found on the surface of inferior iron.

2. A thin slip of wood, a folded or twisted piece of paper, used for lighting a candle, pipe, etc.

1839 Sir G. C. LEWIS *Gloss. Heref.* s.v., Long thin splinters of wood used in farm houses for lighting candles are called spills. 1849 C. BRONTE *Shirley* xxxvi, She had separated a slip of paper for lighting tapers—a spill, as it is called—into fragments. 1871 TYLOR *Prim. Cult.* I. 68 The children stand in a ring; one lights a spill of paper and passes it on.

b. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *spill-box, -case, cup, -holder, pot.*

1847 ALB. SMITH *Stuck-up People* 84 It was termed a spill-case, to be sold, with similar ones, at a guinea the pair. 1859 F. S. COOPER *Ironmongers' Catal.* 181 Spill Cups. 1860 Miss YONGE *Hopes & Fears* I. x. 362 The..well-filled spill-holder and match-box on the mantel-shelf. 1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib., Brit.* II. No. 6860, Several pairs of spill pots, various designs. 1866 Mrs. RIDDELL *Race for Wealth* xix, He has got a clock on the mantel-shelf,..and spill-boxes, ..and cigar-cases.

c. *ellipt.* A spill-holder in the form of a cylindrical jar; also, an umbrella-holder of similar form.

1895 *Army & Navy Soc. Price List* 15 Sept. 318 Oriental Goods:..Spills: 6 in., pair 1/8. *Ibid.*, Umbrella Spills, 25 in. high, 9 in. diameter.

3. *techn.* (See quot. and cf. SPILE *sb.*[2] 3.)

1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech., Spill* (Shipwrighting), a small peg used to stop the hole left by a spike when drawn out.

4. *Mining.* (See quot.)

1881 RAYMOND *Mining Gloss., Spills*, Corn[wall], long thick laths or poles driven ahead horizontally around the door-frames, in running levels in loose ground.

Spill (spil), *sb.*[2] Also 7 spil. [app. a. Du. *spil* (MDu. *spille*) or LG. (MLG.) *spille*, G. *spille* (OHG. *spilla*), spindle, axis, pin, stalk, etc., app. for original **spinla*, f. *spin-* SPIN *v.* In some senses perh. associated with prec.]

†**1.** A small cylinder upon which yarn is wound; a spool. *Obs.*

1594 H. WILLOBIE *Avisa* 38 Her Spill was neuer fully spone, For night vndid that day had done. *Ibid.* 39 The Spindle that you see me driue, Hath fyld the spill so often trend. 1615 HIERON *Wks.* I. 604 I will, now (as the vse in spinning is) that I haue..twisted this threed, briefly wind it vpon the spill.

2. A rod or stalk of wood, metal, etc.

1594 CAREW *Tasso* (1881) 71 A sepulchre of Cipresse sweete they stall Their Barricados neere, and highest spill Of Palme tree with his boughs orespreads it all. 1602—*Cornwall* 30 b, The Oysters..haue a peculiar dredge, which is a thicke strong net, fastned to three spils of yron, and drawne at the boates sterne. *Ibid.* 124 b, One of the boyes conuerted the spill of an old candlesticke to a gunne. 1807 VANCOUVER *Agric. Devon* (1813) 118 A bridle..should be fixed on the beam by a nut and screw, and passed down the spill with a lip, to grasp the head end of the sole. 1844 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* VII. 190/2 The 'button clack'..was a disc of metal with a central spill or stalk, which rose and fell in a guide. 1881 GREENER *Gun* 236 By using more packing, or a larger spill, the same bit may be used to bore several sizes out of a barrel.

†b. A stem-like root. Also *spill-root. Obs.*

1766 *Museum Rust.* VI. 29 Mr. Lewis says it [*sc.* burnet-haulm] runs down in a spill six or eight inches. 1796 *Trans. Soc. Arts* XIV. 260, I do not suppose the transplanted ones will answer, having but one spill-root.

c. Of a gun: = NIPPLE *sb.* 3.

1823 *Specif. J. Day's Patent* No. 4861, Nipple or spill to receive the copper percussion caps.

3. A pin or slender rod upon which anything turns; a spindle.

1730 *Phil. Trans.* XXXVI. 337 This is to be kept in Motion by a Gut-string (as the Spill of a Spinning-Turn is moved). 1762 *Ibid.* LII. 510 A large spill of iron, on which there is a brass weather-cock. 1770 *Ibid.* LXI. 74 It is remarkable that the spill was found in the bell-chamber, and the weather-cock in the battlements. 1881 YOUNG *Ev. Man his own Mech.* § 1486. 671 The spill that connects the handles and keys with the lever that acts on the catch [of the lock]. 1888– in s.w. dial. glossaries.

†**Spill,** *sb.*[3] *slang. Obs.* [Of doubtful origin: perh. from SPILL *v.*] A small gift of money; a tip.

1675 CROWNE *Country Wit* II. i, Give a spill to my watch, and my Grace shall drink your health in claret. *Ibid.* IV, Never make a bustle on your wedding-day! give the constable a spill. 1726 AYLIFFE *Parergon* 173 The Bishops who consecrated this Ground, were wont to have a Spill or Sportule from the credulous Laity. 1774 FOOTE *Cozeners* I. Wks. 1799 II. 151, I will..give him a good spill for his resignation into the bargain.

b. Const. *of* (money).

1707 J. STEVENS tr. *Quevedo's Com. Wks.* (1709) T iij, For a small Spill of Money, he was..my Friend. 1778 FOOTE *Trip Calais* II. Wks. 1799 II. 347 For a little spill of money, he may put us in a way to get our daughter out. 1815 SCOTT *Guy M.* xxxiv, All dead but Gipsy Gab, and he would go off the country for a spill of money.

Spill (spil), *sb.*[4] [f. SPILL *v.*]

1. A throw from a horse or vehicle; a fall or tumble; an upset.

a 1845 BARHAM *Ingol. Leg.* Ser. III. *Blasphemer's Warn.* 355 Cursing his fill At his courser because he had given him a 'spill'. 1876 *Chambers' Jrnl.* 29 July 493/1 During the struggle [in polo]..mishaps now and then occur—happy if only a spill. 1895 MEREDITH *Amazing Marriage* xv, The coach rocked, they were sharp on a spill midway of the last descent.

2. A downpouring or dropping of liquid; a quantity spilled.

c 1848 J. KEEGAN *Leg. & Poems* (1907) 482 If a spill of my heart's blood could be of any comfort to the poor creature, he should be welcome to it. 1888 *Harper's Mag.* Dec. 87 Soon the rain left off for a moment, gathering itself together again for another spill.

b. A channel or passage for the escape of surplus water; a 'spill-way'.

1900 *Westm. Gaz.* 10 July 2/1 The waters flow down many spills and channels, though at present there are two main branches.

3. *Naut.* A slight breeze.

1899 *Daily News* 20 July 8/3 They found a spill from the stern again taking the ships on the starboard aft.

Spill (spil), *v.* Pa. t. and pa. pple. **spilled, spilt.** Forms: *Inf.* 1–2 spillan, 2–5 -en, 5 spyllyn; 3–6 spille, 4–6 spylle, 4–8 spil, 6 spyl(l; 4– spill. *Pa. t.* 1–4 spilde (4 spild), 4 spilede, 5 spillide, spyllede, 5, 7– spilled; 4 spilte, 4–5 spylt, 5–6 spylte, 4– spilt. *Pa. pple.* 1 ȝespilled, -od, 2 i-spilled, 5–6 spylled, 5– spilled (7 spill'd); 1, 5–6 spild (6 spilde), 3–5 i-spild (4 i-spilde, i-spyld, y-spild, 5 y-spyld); 1, 4– spilt (4, 6 spilte), 4 y-spilt(e, y-spylt, 5–6 spylt(e. [OE. *spillan*, = MDu. and Du. *spillen*, MLG. and LG. *spillen*, G. (*ver*)*spillen*, NFris. *spille, spilj*, obscurely related to the synonymous OE. *spildan*, = OS. *spildian* (MLG. and MDu. *spilden*), OHG. (obs. G.) *spilden*. It is not clear which of the two forms is represented by ON. *spilla* (Icel., Norw., Sw. *spilla*, Da. *spilde*), which may partly have contributed to the ME. uses of the word.]

I. 1. *trans.* To destroy by depriving of life; to put (or bring) to death; to slay or kill.

Common *c* 1300–1600. Now *Obs.* exc. *arch.*

c 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Luke xx. 16 [He] cymeð & spilleð buendo ðas. *Ibid.* John xi. 53 Of ðæm dæge..ȝeðohton [hia] þætte hine spildon *uel* acuoeldon. *a* 1122 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1096, Þær wearð eac Eoda..þæs cynges aðum..& sumne man to Lundene lædde, & þær spilde. *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 17 ȝif heo nulluð nefre..gan to bote, hit is riht þet me hem spille. *c* 1205 LAY 16870 Let heom alle for-don, spillen & æc an-hon. *c* 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 348 With þis Askebert heo spac, þis child to slen and spille. *c* 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 4806 Androcheus saw his felon wille, þat þe kyng þoughte hym to spille. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) II. 253 [þey] hadde leuere be lost and i-spilde þan be vnderlynges and seruauntes. 1418–20 in *Archaeol.* (1827) XXI. 72 Whan thay had hym so gretly agylte, And of hys men meny one spylte. *c* 1489 SKELTON *Death Earl Northumbld.* 106 Alas for pite! that Percy thus was spylt, The famous Erle of Northumberland. *a* 1529—*'Now synge we'* 14 Thus was I spylt, Man, for thy gylte, And not for myne. 1573 L. LLOYD *Marrow of Hist.* (1653) 94 O Greece thou spillest more men with civil wars.., then would defend thy state against all the world. 1612 T. TAYLOR *Comm. Titus* i, 7 Caring no more in their fury to spill a man, then to kill a dogge. 1868 MORRIS *Earthly Par.* (1890) 44/2 Then if mine old line he must spill There let God save him if He will. 1887—*Odyss.* XI. 438 How many for Helen death did spill!

b. Contrasted with *save.*

13.. *K. Alis.* 3997 (Laud. MS.), þe kyng may don his will Sauen þat Percien oiþer hym spille. *c* 1385 CHAUCER *L. G. W.* 1917 *Ariadne*, So that the site was al at his wille To sauyn hem hym leste or ellis spille. 1430–40 LYDG. *Bochas* I. viii. (1544) 13 b, Ye may me saue and spill with a woord. 1526 SKELTON *Magnyf.* 1496 Surely it is I that all may saue and spyll. 1567 *Gude & Godlie B.* (S.T.S.) 170 Thow may me saif, thow may me spill, Baith lyfe and deide lyis in thy will. 1620–6 QUARLES *Feast for Worms* 631 Wks. (Grosart) II. 14 Loue cry'd out, Hold; for better sau'd, then spill'd; But Feare cry'd, Kill.

c. *refl.* To destroy or kill (oneself).

c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xxix. (*Placidas*) 435 He..oft-tyme wes in to wil hyme-self in-to þe flud to spil. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 328 In this wise himself he spilte With his folhaste and deth he nam. 1412–20 LYDG. *Chron. Troy* II. 4368 For into teris þou3 þou al distille, And rende þi silfe, as þou woldest þe spille. 1480 *Robt. Devyll* 68 in Hazl. *E. P. P.* I. 221 My wyfe soroweth in her partye, I feare that she wyll her selfe spyll. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* II. x. 203 Gif thou list pas, quod scho, thi self to spill. *c* 1550 ROLLAND *Crt. Venus* III. 39 Quhilk spilt hir self for luif of Pyramus. 1609 DANIEL *Civ. Wars* VIII. xvii. Wks. (Grosart) II. 304 Thou first didst conquer vs; then rays'd our skill To vanquish others; here our selues to spill.

†d. *absol.* To cause death or slaughter. Freq. contrasted with *save, spare*, etc. *Obs.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 16330 Ne wat þou þat þe pouste es min to spill or latte ga? 1390 GOWER *Conf.* II. 114 For he to spille and noght to save is schape, as thogh he were ded. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 1318 With þat Bucifalon..he brased in þe side, Springis out with a spere, spillis at þe gaynest. 1412–20 LYDG. *Chron. Troy* IV. 3317 Vn-to þe tyme þei haue of þe toun..ful possessioun, At her fre wil to spillen and to saue. *c* 1485 *Digby Myst.* (1882) II. 233 For he hath the pour of the princes alle, To saue or spylle. 1576 PETTIE *Petite Pallace* 78 Women ought to..spyll with Camma, to kyll with Lucrece. 1580 LYLY *Euphues* (Arb.) 452 Thinking no reuenge more princely, then to spare when she might spill. *a* 1618 SYLVESTER *Panaretus* 1546, I know it far more honourable To saue then spill (in Cases tolerable). 1627 E. F. *Hist. Edw. II* (1680) 72 To save where you may spill proclaims your Goodness.

2. To destroy or put an end to (life). Now *arch.*

In later use perh. associated with sense 9.

c 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Luke xvii. 33 Seðe suahuelc soecað sauel his hal ȝewyrca spilleð hia. 13.. *K. Alis.* 1062 (Laud MS.), Miȝth she haue yfounde a knif, She had yspilt sone her lif. *c* 1430 *Sir Gener.* (Roxb.) 9738 Thogh my life in erth be spilt, Gladly I wold my soul saue. 1549–62 STERNHOLD & H. *Ps.* XXXV. 4 Confound them with rebuke and blame that seeke my soule to spill. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* III. vii. 54, I..Bad her commaund my life to saue, or spill. 1642 H. MORE *Song of Soul* II. ii, III. viii, Ay me! that dreary death such lovely life should spill. 1650 FULLER *Pisgah* H. xii. 249 Behold his life spilled, whilest wicked Balaams was spared in journey. *a* 1668 LASSELS *Voy. Italy* (1698) I. 4 You must carry your body steadily, or else spill your life. 1813 SCOTT *Trierm.* II. xxii, But trust me, that, if life be spilt, ..in Arthur's grace Gyneth shall lose a daughter's place.

†**3.** To destroy, ruin, or overthrow (a person); to bring to ruin or misery. *Obs.*

c 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* John vi. 39 Þætte all þæt salde me ne ic losige *uel* þætte ic ne spillo. *c* 1205 LAY. 28863 Ah he nes noht iseli; þat wes for unleoden spilden al his þeoden. *c* 1275 in *O. E. Misc.* 144 þat folk worþ eft wroþe i-spild þe nule to hire turne. *c* 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 13624 Þer hardinesse þem seluen spild! *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Manciple's T.* 326 Ful ofte for to muche speche Hath many a man been spilt as clerkes teche. *c* 1425 *MS. Digby* 233 fol. 224 b/1 Necligence & mysavisement spilleth, perscheth, & leseth hem þat ben vnkunnynge. 1526 TINDALE *Heb.* ii. 1 We ought moche more to attende vnto tho thynges which we have herde, lest we be spilt. 1583 BABINGTON *Commaudm.* viii. (1590) 344 This spoyle to speede our selues, and spill our Brethren in this lamentable and vnmercifull manner. 1615 T. ADAMS *Black Devil* 25 Hee walkes any way, to spill any man by any meanes. 1642 H. MORE *Song of Soul* II. iii. IV. xxx, Why had the first-made man such a loose will, That his innumerous of-spring he should fouly spill.

refl. a 1300 *Cursor M.* 17226 But i þat es sa dedli dill, Me spedis ai me-self to spill, Wit my flexsli lust to fill. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xxix. (*Placidas*) 148 Quhen man for his gylt brekand my byding hymself spilt. *c* 1460 *Vrbanitatis* 82 in *Babees Bk.* 15 With fayr speche þou may haue by wylle, And with þy speche þou may þe spylle. 1526 SKELTON *Magnyf.* 2165 Some fall to foly them selfe for to spyll. 1584–7 GREENE *Carde of Fancie* Wks. (Grosart) IV. 134, I will either spoile him, or spill my selfe. 1602 SHAKS. *Ham.* IV. v. 20 So full of Artlesse iealousie is guilt, It spill's it selfe, in fearing to be spilt.

†b. To destroy or ruin (the soul) by offending, or causing to offend, against moral laws. *Obs.*

c 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 131 þe honour of holi churche he lore, and is soule he miȝte so spille. *c* 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 1320 And welthes..þe saul of man may lightly spille. *c* 1375 *Cursor M.* 2902 (Fairf.), Mony mon for þaire awen wil þaire body and þaire saule wil spil. 1509 HAWES *Conv. Swearers* 29 Wo worthe couetyse that dothe your soules spyll. 1556 in W. H. Turner *Select. Rec. Oxford* (1880) 246 Other..lamented, to see him spill his soul, wretchedly. 1623 R. CARPENTER *Consc. Chr.* 110 So the least sinne.. vncontrolled [is sufficient] to spill the soule.

†c. To injure in respect of character; to spoil morally. *Obs.*

1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. v. 41 Who-so spareth þe sprynge, spilleth his children. 1393 [see SPARE *v.*[1] 6 a. *a*]. *c* 1500 *Lancelot* 1990 It stant apone thi will For to emend thi puple, or to spill; Or have thi court of vertewis folk, or fullis. 1551 ROBINSON tr. *More's Utopia* (1895) 50 Gentlemen vouchesauffe to corrupte and spill none but picked and chosen men. 1637 RUTHERFORD *Lett.* (1862) I. xcix. 254 Verily, we know not what an evil it is to spill and indulge

ourselves and to make an idol of our will. 1657 R. Austen *Fruit-trees* II. 84 The common saying is: Spare the rod and spill the child. 1664 [see Spare *v.*¹ 6 a. *a*].

† **4.** To wreck, destroy, or devastate; to spoil or ruin by demolition, etc. *Obs.*

Freq. from *c* 1400 to *c* 1620. In first quot. *absol.*

c 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* John x. 10 Deaf ne cymes buta þætte gestele & eteð & losað *uel* spilleð. *c* 1125 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1125, On ðes ilces geares wearð swa micel flod..þet feola tunes & men weorðan adrencte,..& corn & mædwe spilt mid ealle. *c* 1225 in *Rel. Antiq.* I. 48 The strong fend..Godes hondiwerc he spilde, For on appel of the tree. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 720 A-ganis godd wex he sa gril þat al his werk he wend to spil. 1340 *Ayenb.* 129 Vor þou art ase þe ilke þet sleþþ ine þe ssipe þet is yspild. 1412–20 Lydg. *Chron. Troy* I. 3904 Her behestes manly to fulfille, Towardis Troye, þe cite for to spille. *c* 1470 Henry *Wallace* viii. 731 Palyce thai spylt, gret towris can confound. 1532 Hervet *Xenoph. Housch.* 16 b, The dogges kepe away wylde beastis, that they spille not the frute. 1573 Tusser *Husb.* (1878) 109 Let Iuie be killed, else tree will be spilled. 1608 Topsell *Serpents* 39 Conyza strewed, the haunt of serpents spills. 1623 C. Butler *Fem. Mon.* vii. Q 2, The Mother-Waspes were many at first; yet the Rainie Spring and Summer did so spill their nests, that there were no small Waspes seene till Libra.

† **b.** With immaterial object. *Obs.*

Not always clearly distinguishable from 5 d.

1382 Wyclif *Pref. Ep. Jerome* v, Verreye wisdom shal spil the fals wisdom. 1382 — *Gen.* xli. 31 The greetnes of myseys is to spille the greetnes of plentithe. *a* 1400 *Sir Perc.* 1336 A sadde stroke I salle one hym sett His pride for to spylle! *c* 1420 *Chron. Vilod.* 2150 þat feyndus powere y dude þo spylle By help of þo angels, þat comen me to. 1567 *Gude & Godlie B.* (S.T.S.) 134 Man, I gaif the nocht fre will, That thow suld my Gospell spill. 1602 J. Davies (Heref.) *Mirum in Modum* Wks. (Grosart) I. 25/2 Naturally Contraries spill each other.

5. † **a.** To despoil or deprive *of* something. *Obs.*

c 1124 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1124, Six men [wæron] spilde of here æzon & of here stanes.

† **b.** To deprive of chastity; to violate. *Obs.*

13.. *Sir Beues* (A.) 3256 Doþ be me al 3oure wille, Schel he neuer eft wimman spille! *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xi. (*Simon & Judas*) 350 [She] sad, þat he agane hir will hyre difforsit, & sa cane spill. *c* 1470 Henry *Wallace* I. 164 Both wiffis, wedowis, thai tuk all at thair will, Nonnys, madyns, quham thai likit to spill.

c. To spoil by injuring or damaging in some way; to render imperfect or useless; to destroy the goodness or value of (a thing). Now only *dial.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 6774 If i lent þe suilkin beist, þat ded be or spilt at leist. 1377 Langl. *P. Pl.* B. v. 442, [I have] yspilte many a tyme Bothe flesche & fissche and many other vitailles. *c* 1420 *Avow. Arth.* iii, On him spild I my spere, And myculle of my nothir gere. 1532–3 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* VI. 151 Item, to him for hors spilt in the Kingis service,..xl li. 1589 Puttenham *Eng. Poesie* III. i. (Arb.) 150 They not onely giue it no maner of grace at all, but rather do disfigure the stuffe and spill the whole workmanship. 1643 Trapp *Comm. Gen.* xxxiv. 8 Too much severity overthroweth, and quite spilleth a tender minde. 1703 Brand *Descr. Orkney, Zetland*, etc. 112 When he Brewed, he would not suffer any Sacrifice to be given to Brouny, whereupon the..Brewings were spilt and for no use. 1773 Fergusson *Poems* (1789) II. 43 Ae scabbit yew spills twenty flocks. 1861 Geo. Eliot *Silas Marner* xiv, If you've got anything as can be spilt or broke,..she'll be at it. 1875–87 in dial. glossaries (Sussex, Surrey, Kent).

d. With immaterial object. *Obs.* or *dial.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 26841 Qua all fulfilles þe laght, and in a point it spilles, He sal be plighti for þis an. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* iii. (*Andrew*) 926 þat oþir worthit me do his will, or halely my purpos spill. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 12736 Whille he faryn was to fight in a fer lond, Sho spilt hade hir spousaile. 1483 Caxton *G. de la Tour* K viij b, Of her..that of her falshede..breketh and spylleth her holy sacrement of maryage. 1500–20 Dunbar *Poems* xv. 22 He that dois all his best servyiss May spill it all..Be fowll inoportunitie. 1568 T. Howell *Newe Sonets* (1879) 148 She geues him leaue to range his fill, Full loth she is his sporte to spill. 1590 Greene *Mourn. Garm.* (1616) 14 For cares cause Kings full oft their sleepe to spill. *c* 1620 Hume *Orthogr. Brit. Tongue* (1865) 22 In al quhilk, if a man change the accent, he sall spill the sound of the word. 1632 Rutherford *Lett.* (1862) I. xxii. 87 If ye mar or spill that business, ye cannot come back to mend that piece of work again. 1728 Ramsay *Robt., Richy, & Sandy* 115 These to repeat braid spoken I wad spill, Altho' I should employ my utmost skill. 1790 Shirrefs *Poems* 92 Tak' tent..the sport ye dinna spill.

† **6.** To waste by scattering, squandering, or misusing; to employ or expend wastefully. *Obs.*

a 1000 *Rituale Eccl. Dunelm.* 55 Ic gisette ðec oðer cynno & ofer rico bæte..[ðv] to worpa & ðv spilla [L. *disperdas et dissipes*]. *c* 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 213 He..spilleð on him þat he sholde spelien wrecche men. 1308 in Ritson *Songs & Ball.* (1877) 63/96 Throgh ham this lond is ilor To spille ale ant bred. 1377 Langl. *P. Pl.* B. v. 380 I..spilte þat myȝte be spared, and spended on somme hungrie. *c* 1460 J. Russell *Bk. Nurture* 47 And to þy mastir be trew, his goodes þat þow not spille.. 1533 More *Debell. Salem* Wks. 959/2 Euery fond piece of his diuises, wherein this good man is content to leese tyme & spyll paper. 1551 Crowley *Pleas. & Pain* 117 When any pore men..were so bolde to calle it yll, My landis and goodis in waste to spyll, You shet them vp in prisone strong. 1579 Lyly *Euphues* (Arb.) 109 All my treasure spente on Iewells, and spylte in iolytye. 1633 P. Fletcher *Purple Isl.* viii. xxix, His spear a spit, a pot-lid broad his shield..; his word, 'Much better sav'd, then spill'd'. 1728 Young *Love Fame* I. 186 Men, overloaded with a large estate, May spill their treasure in a nice conceit. 1786 *Har'st Rig* 51 Nae gude I e'er kent come o' them Gude food that spill.

† **b.** To spend (time, speech, labour) fruitlessly or unprofitably; to waste. *Obs.*

(*a*) *a* 1250 *Owl & Night.* 1020 He myhte bet sytte stylle, Vor al his hwile he scolde spille. *c* 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 97 For þov nast non more 3wile to spille, þane speken embe nou3t. *c* 1330 R. Brunne *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 9354 Al a wyke þe kyng þer lay, He spilte his tyme, sped of no pray. 1393 Langl. *P. Pl.* C. iv. 466 Ech man to..Spynnen, and spek of god, and spille no tyme. *c* 1450 Lovelich *Merlin* 12462 3e don but spillen 3oure tyme jn veyn.

(*b*) *a* 1225 *Juliana* 24 Speche þu maht spillen ant ne speden nawiht. *a* 1250 *Owl & Night.* 1027 Ne sunge ich hom neuer so longe, Mi song were i-spild ech del. *c* 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 69 Þar-aboute þou spillest þi breth þ. 1377 Langl. *P. Pl.* B. ix. 97 He doth best, þat with-draweth hym..To spille any speche. 1390 Gower *Conf.* I. 82 He spilleth many a word in wast That schal with such a poeple trete. 1445 in *Anglia* XXVIII. 273 Ner thou spekist not sternely to hem,..ne spillest no wynde for pride. *a* 1536 *Songs, Carols*, etc. (E.E.T.S.) 43 Leve þi sweryng, & spill not þi wynde. *a* 1586 Sidney *Ps.* xi. i, Since I do trust Iehoua still, Your fearfull wordes why do you spill?

(*c*) *c* 1386 Chaucer *Manciple's T.* 153 This holde I for a verray nycetee To spille labour for to kepe wyues. *c* 1425 *Craft of Nombrynge* (E.E.T.S.) 14 Ellis þou mayst spyl alle þi laber þere aboute.

† **7.** *intr.* To perish; to be destroyed or lost. *Obs.*

Freq. from *c* 1300 to *c* 1550.

a 1300 *K. Horn* 194 Nu þu miȝt us slen,..Bute ȝef hit beo þi wille Helpe þat we ne spille. 1340 *Ayenb.* 182 Spilþ ofte þet ssip þet geþ zikerliche ine þe hege ze. *c* 1350 *Will. Palerne* 1535 Mi perles paramours, my pleye & my ioye, spek to me spakli, or i spille sone. 1414 Brampton *Penit. Ps.* (Percy Soc.) 11 But, Lord! late nevere mannes soule spylle. *c* 1450 *Mirk's Festial* 13 Suche a derth and hongyr..þat all negh spylleden for defawte. *a* 1536 *Songs, Carols*, etc. (E.E.T.S.) 8 Yff thy syn be never so yll, Yet for no syn thou shalt spyll. 1592 Daniel *Sonnets Delia* xxxvi. Wks. (Grosart) I. 61 Her sight consented thus to see me spill.

† **b.** To go to ruin. *Obs.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 516 Adam..was wroght þan þe tent ordir for to fullfill, þat lucifer did for to spill. 1535 Stewart *Cron. Scot.* II. 532 Seand the realme in sic ane poynt to spill. 1567 *Satir. Poems Reform.* v. 48 Bot now..Sho moste be keipit or all will spill.

† **c.** To meet with bad fortune. *Obs.*—1

1390 Gower *Conf.* II. 88 And natheles gret diligence Thei setten vpon thilke dede, And spille more than thei spede.

8. To fall off or decline in respect of good qualities; to degenerate or deteriorate, to spoil. *Obs.* exc. *dial.*

? *a* 1300 *Salomon & Sat.* (1848) 271 Mote hit al habben is while Woltou, nultou, hit wol spille, Ant bicome a fule. 13.. *K. Alis.* 1719 (Laud MS.), Alisaunder! þou conion wood, In þe spilleþ þi faye blood. 1340 *Ayenb.* 232 þet þe guodnesse of maydenhod ne spille ine þe. 1387–8 T. Usk *Test. Love* I. i. (Skeat) I. 7 Thus from my comfort I ginne to spille, sith she that shulde me solace is fer fro my presence. *a* 1450 *Le Morte Arth.* 23 How your courte by-gynnyth to spill off duoghty knightis all by-dene. 1540 Hyrde tr. *Vives' Instr. Chr. Wom.* (1592) Dd vj, My goods spil daily, the heritage of mine ancestry perisheth. 1574–5 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* II. 432 That the tymmer of the Frater of the said Abbay, quhilk consumis and spillis,..be tane doun. 1808 Jamieson s.v., Meat is said to *spill*, when it begins to become putrid.

II. 9. *trans.* To shed (blood).

a 1125 *Gosp. Nicodemus* (Cott. Vesp. D xiv) 91 b, Seo ȝebletsod se þe nolde þæt min blod wære ȝespilled [*earlier text* min blod nolde aȝeotan]. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 2958 þai reft þam aght and spilt þair blode. *a* 1340 Hampole *Psalter* xiii. 6 Swift ere þaire fete to spill blode. *c* 1400 *Rowland & O.* 816 His hert blode he gan þer spill. 1474 Caxton *Chesse* 41 To shede and spylle blood is the condicion of a wylde beste. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 205 His blode spylled and shedde on the grounde. 1595–7 Daniel *Civ. Wars* iv. xliv. Wks. (Grosart) II. 151, I constrayned am this bloud to spill. 1638 Junius *Paint. Ancients* 131 A great deal of bloud would have been spilled that day between them two. *c* 1680 Beveridge *Serm.* (1729) I. 506 That very blood which was spilt upon the cross. 1762 Hume *Hist. Eng.* (1806) III. 790 After spilling an ocean of blood in those theological quarrels. 1829 Hood *Eugene Aram* xiii, Woe, woe, unutterable woe,—Who spill life's sacred stream! 1848 Gallenga *Italy* (1851) 279 To account for the blood thus wantonly spilt. 1855 Tennyson *Maud* II. v. x, The red life spilt for a private blow.

10. To allow or cause (a liquid) to fall, pour, or run out (esp. over the edge of the containing vessel), usually in an accidental or wasteful manner; to lose or waste in this way.

a 1340 Hampole *Psalter* xxi. 13 þai roght na mare to sla me þan to spill watere. *c* 1340 *Nominale* (Skeat) 356 [Man] of chirne mylke spilluth. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 469 Spyllyn, or puttyn owte (*K.* powryn owte), *effundo*. 1489 Caxton *Faytes of A.* II. xxxvii. 155 They shall lightly spylle the watre castyng the tubbes and other vesselles dounward. 1530 Palsgr. 728/2 Who hath spylled his potage upon the boorde clothe on this facyon? 1602 Marston *Ant. & Mel.* v. Wks. 1856 I. 56 Holde my dish, whilst I spill my pottage. 1636 Jonson *Discov.* Wks. (Rtldg.) 750 Their arguments are as fluxive as liquor spilt upon a table. 1779 *Mirror* No. 64, Like claret spilt on a smooth table. 1794 Mrs. Radcliffe *Myst. Udolpho* li, Emily's hand trembled, and she spilt the wine as she withdrew it from her lips. 1827 Faraday *Chem. Manip.* i. (1842) 17 Any of the metal [*sc.* mercury] which may be spilled is swept or wiped into the groove. 1859 Dickens *T. Two Cities* I. v, The wine had stained the ground of the narrow street..where it was spilled. 1885–94 R. Bridges *Eros & Psyche* July xxvi, The lamp..One drop of burning oil spill'd from its side On Eros' naked shoulder.

transf. 1818 Byron *Ch. Har.* iv. clxxiii, The..wind.. which spills The ocean o'er its boundary. 1847 Tennyson *Princ.* vii. 197 Leave The monstrous ledges there to slope, and spill Their thousand wreaths of dangling water-smoke.

absol. 1820 Scott *Monast.* Introd. Ep., It is difficult, said the proverb, to carry a full cup without spilling. 1887 J. Dickie *Wds. Faith, Hope, & Love* (1891) 197 My cup runneth over. It cannot be moved without spilling.

b. *fig.* and in fig. context.

In quot. 1574 = 'to divulge, let out'.

1574 Hellowes tr. *Gueuara's Fam. Ep.* (1577) 257 Although it be a shame to spill it, I will not leaue to say that which..his friendes haue said vnto me. 1583 Greene *Mamillia* Wks. (Grosart) II. 55 He doubted if he should be ouer bold, he might spill his pottage. 1650 T. B[ayley] *Worcester's Apoph.* Ep. Ded., That the favours which were conferr'd upon me, were not spilt, but powred into a Viol. 1701 Stanhope *Pious Breath.* iv. xiii. 276 The love of Sin pollutes, the love of Vanity spills the Wine. 1821 Shelley *Adonais* xxxvii, Be thou free To spill the venom when thy fangs o'erflow. 1894 *Harper's Mag.* Feb. 380 The fat's in the fire, the milk's spilt.

c. *transf.* (See quot.)

1870 Medbery *Men & Myst. Wall Str.* 137 *Spilling stock*, when great quantities of a stock are thrown upon the market, sometimes from necessity, often in order to 'break' the price.

11. To scatter, esp. by emptying from some receptacle or the like; to disperse.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 14733 þe moneurs for þair misgilt, þair bordes [Jesus] ouerkest, þair penis spilt. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 1419 Spedely with spry[n]galdis [they] spilt þaire braynes. *a* 1425 tr. *Arderne's Treat. Fistula* 35 Be þe tonges warly drawen out þat þai spill noȝt þe poudre. *c* 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* iv. 402 Or in a seriol half water fild..let hem suspende, And close hit fast, in wynde lest they be spild. 1710 Philips *Pastorals* iv. 72 As ruthless Winds the tender Blossoms spill. 1825 T. Hook *Sayings* Ser. II. *Man of Many Fr.* I. 189 She is spilling all the sugar all over the table. 1847 Tennyson *Princ.* iv. 511 Better have died and spilt our bones in the flood.

transf. 1854 Mrs. Browning *Ragged Sch. Lond.* xii, But these others—children small, Spilt like blots about the city.

12. a. To cover or overlay *with* something by (or as by) spilling. *rare.*

1596 Spenser *F. Q.* iv. x. 5 Though..all the others pauement were with yuory spilt. 1895 Baring-Gould *Noémi* xxiv. (ed. 2) 336 The clouds were dispersing..; the floor of heaven was, as it were, spilt over with curds.

b. To empty (a cup, etc.) by spilling. *rare.*

1886 J. Dickie *Wds. Faith, Hope, & Love* (1891) 147 'Twas anguish when earth's cup was spill'd.

13. *Naut.* **a.** To empty (a sail) of wind.

a 1625 *Nomenclator Nav.* (Harl. MS. 2301), When a sail hath much winde in it..we saie Spill the saile, which is done by letting goe the sheats and bowlings, &c. 1633 T. James *Voy.* 95 The rest stood to spill and fill the sayle. *a* 1691 Sir D. North in North *Lives* (1744) 15 He was sure to be duck'd that was at the Yard-arm spilling the Sail. 1769 Falconer *Dict. Marine* (1780), *To Spill*, to discharge the wind out of the cavity or belly of a sail when it is drawn up in the brails in order to furl or reef it. 1867 Smyth *Sailor's Word-bk.* 565 When the wind was going free, and the sail could not be 'spilled'. 1899 F. T. Bullen *Log Sea-waif* 190 She.. rounded-to under our stern and 'spilled' her sail.

b. To discharge (wind) from the belly of a sail.

1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2268/1 *Spilling-line*, a line to spill the wind out of a sail, by keeping it from bellying out when clewed up. 1899 *Daily News* 20 Oct. 5/7 His club-topsail began to spill wind badly, and he gained nothing.

14. *colloq.* To cause to fall from a horse or vehicle; to throw or throw out.

1731–8 Swift *Polite Conv.* 70 The road was so bad that I ..call'd to the Coachman, Pray, Friend, don't spill us. 1785 Grose *Dict. Vulgar T., Spilt*, thrown from a horse, or overturned in a carriage; pray coachee don't spill us. 1809 *European Mag.* LV. 20 The parson..met with a serious accident in being spilt from his horse. 1821 Byron *Lett.* Wks. 1833 III. 301 Riding pretty sharply.., in turning the corner of a lane.., he was spilt. 1887 H. Smart *Cleverly Won* iii, It was a trick that might have spilled a practised horseman.

b. Similarly in other contexts. Also with *out.*

1830 Scoresby *Cheever's Whalem. Adv.* vi. 82 He..spills us all at once into the sea. 1861 S. Brooks *Silver Cord* xxvii, 'Mop, you old fool, will you come down?' said the manager, spilling out the reluctant animal [from the chair] to the ground. 1881 *Scribner's Monthly* XXII. 536/1 She [the ice-yacht] slows up and heels over,..and she quietly spills the crew out of the box.

fig. 1888 *Pall Mall G.* 29 Nov. 1/1 An intrigue..to spill Sir Charles and then to secure Mr. Monro's appointment to the vacant post.

15. *intr.* To flow or run over the brim or side; to escape or be wasted in this manner. Freq. with preps. and advs. Also *fig.*

1655 Vaughan *Silex Scint.* II. 174 Life without thee is loose and spills. 1683 Moxon *Mech. Exerc., Printing* xix. P 1 The Mettal may spill or slabber over the Mouth of..the Mold. 1741 Watts *Improv. Mind* I. ix. Wks. 1753 V. 238 He was so top-full of himself, that he let it spill on all the company;..he spoke too long. 1771 *Phil. Trans.* LXI. 496 To prevent the liquor from spilling when poured out. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2268/1 Any metal which dribbles or spills is caught into the spill-trough. 1899 F. H. King *Irrigation & Drainage* vi. 246 A long, sharp lip, over which the water may spill back into the canal.

transf. 1884 Burroughs *Pepacton* 217 Its body slumps off, and rolls and spills down the hill. 1900 *Cent. Mag.* Feb. 510/1 The reaches of this majestic range run south..until they spill out in the far Southwest.

b. *Naut.* To empty or become void of wind.

1762 Falconer *Shipwr.* II. 139 Till close embrail'd, and squar'd, the belly spills. 1833 Marryat *P. Simple* xv. (1863) 103 The ship turned slowly to the wind, pitching and chopping as the sails were spilling

Spill- (spil), the stem of Spill *v.* in combination.

† **1.** In the sense 'that spoils, mars, destroys, or wastes', as *spill-berry, -bread, -cause, -good, -love, -pain* (= bread), *-soul, -time. Obs.*

c 1563 *Thersites* in *Four Old Pl.* (1848) 82 The spere of spanysshe *spylbery sprente wt spiteful spottes. *c* 1320 in *Rel. Antiq.* I. 122 My wyf that shulde be;..Hue clepeth me *spille-bred. 1566 *Pasquine in Traunce* 64 Doe they use Bartolus, and Baldus, and such other *spill causes to set men togither by the eares? 1626 Minsheu 683/1 *Spill-good, *vi[de]* Spend-thrift. 1377 Langl. *P. Pl.* B. xix. 336

[Pride] sente forth..his spye *spille-loue, one speke-yuel-byhynde. *c* 1460 *Towneley Myst.* xxiv. 124 *Secundus tortor.* *Spyll-payn in fayth I hight. 1591 FRAUNCE *C'tess Pembroke's Yuychurch* I. C j, So sore inchaunted with *spill-soule spells. 1393 LANGL. *P. Pl.* C. VI. 28 An ydel man þow semest,..oþer a *spille-tyme.

2. *dial.* In the sense 'spoilt', as *spill-wood.*

1847 HALLIWELL, *Spilwood*, refuse of wood, or wood *spilt* by the sawyers. *South.* 1852-83 in Hampshire and Sussex glossaries.

3. In the sense 'constructed for (or by) the passage of surplus water, for receiving overflow liquid, etc.', as *spill-back, -box, channel, stream, -trough, -water, -way.*

1899 F. H. KING *Irrigation & Drainage* vi. 247 The depth of the water over the lip of the *spill-back. *Ibid.* vi. 245 The *spill-box..is, perhaps, as satisfactory a means for maintaining a nearly uniform head against..an opening as has yet been devised. 1888 *19th Cent.* Jan. 43 The Bhagirathi,..for centuries a mere *spill-stream from the parent Ganges. 1843 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* I. 327 The flask..is put on the surface of the pouring or *spill-trough. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2268/1 *Spill-trough*, (Brass-founding), the trough against which the inclined flask rests while the metal is being poured from the crucible. 1852 BURN *Techn. Dict.* II. s.v., *Spill-water, *réservoir, excavation pour recevoir les inondations d'une rivière.* 1875 ALEX. SMITH *New Hist. Aberdeen* I. 75 The Commissioners resolved to make..a spill-water to the south of the harbour. 1889 *Pall Mall G.* 26 June 1/3 The by-wash, or, as the Americans term it, the *spill-way was utterly insufficient. 1892 *Trans. Amer. Soc. Civil Eng.* XXVI. 640 The weir..consisted partly of *stortebed* or spillway.

Spillard: see SPILLER *sb.*[3] and *v.*

Spilled (spild), *ppl. a.* [f. SPILL *v.* + -ED [1].] = SPILT *ppl. a.*

1574 HELLOWES tr. *Guevara's Fam. Ep.* (1577) 24 If they by chaunce found spild bread, rotten wheat..and such other things spoyled. 1865 DICKENS *Mut. Fr.* III. xii, If we could have packed the brute off with Georgiana;—but however; that's spilled milk. 1880 CABLE *Grandissimes* xiii, She had begun to sweep up some spilled buttons.

Spiller (spi·lə(r)), *sb.*[1] [f. SPILL *v.* + -ER [1].] One who sheds or spills; *esp.* a shedder of blood.

1530 PALSGR. 266/2 Schedar, a spyller, *respandevr.* 1592 WYRLEY *Armorie* 137 Blouds wilfull spiller seld doth mercie finde. 1611 COTGR., *Respandeur*, a shedder, a spiller. 1647 HEXHAM I. s.v. *Blood*, A spiller of Bloud, *een bloed-storter.* 1755 JOHNSON, *Shedder*, a spiller; one who sheds. 1775- in ASH and later Dicts. 1899 *Westm. Gaz.* 9 Feb. 2/1 A mighty hunter, a spiller of life-blood.

Spiller, *sb.*[2] *Obs.* exc. *arch.* [Alteration of SPELLER 3.] A branchlet on a deer's horn.

1590 COKAINE *Treat. Hunting* D j, Some (bucks)..are plaine palmed without any aduauncers, with long spillers out behinde. 1660 HOWELL *Parly of Beasts* 62 Such silly coxcombs..deserve to wear such branch'd horns, such spilters [*sic*] and trochings on their heads, as that goodly Stagg bears. 1727 BAILEY (vol. II), *Spillers*, the small Branches shooting out from the flat Parts of a Buck's Horn at the Top. 1827 GRIFFITH tr. *Cuvier* IV. 85 Additional advancers and spillers, or snags on the anterior or posterior parts of the palm. 1864 *Reader* 23 Jan. 112/3 The spillers into which the palm divides were directed exteriorly, as in the reindeer and the fallow-deer.

Spiller (spi·lə(r)), *sb.*[3] Chiefly *Cornish dial.*, *Ir.*, and *Amer.* Also 9 **spillard** (**spilliard**). [Of obscure origin.]

1. A long fishing-line provided with a number of hooks; a trawl-line.

1602 CAREW *Cornwall* 31 b, In Harbor Eeles are taken mostly by Spillers made of a Cord..to which diuers lesser and shorter are tyed at a little distance, and to each of these a hooke is fastened with a bayt. *Ibid.*, This Spiller they sincke in the Sea. 1836 *1st Rep. Irish Fisheries* 151 The line and spillards are the modes of fishing chiefly practised. 1851 *Voy. Mauritius* iv. 160 A line some hundred yards in length, from which depend shorter lines, like an Irish 'spiller'. 1875 *Zoologist* 2nd Ser. X. 4500 A specimen of the torpedo..caught on spillers (hook and line)..near Lamorna [in Cornwall].

attrib. 1836 *1st Rep. Irish Fisheries* 151 The long line, hand line, and spillard fishing grounds. 1900 C. LEE *Cynthia* 81 A group of men..baiting spiller-hooks with cuttle.

2. 'In the mackerel-fishery, a seine inserted into a larger seine to take out the fish.' Also *attrib.*

a 1891 in Nova Scotian use (*Cent. Dict.*). 1891 *Pall Mall G.* 10 Sept. 4/1 Supplementing the spring and autumn mackerel fishery by line and spiller seine and trammel with ordinary trawlings.

Hence **Spiller** *v. intr.*, to fish with spillers.

1836 *1st Rep. Irish Fisheries* 151 Long line fishing, which is a kind of spillarding, is generally practised in hookers.

Spillet (spi·lĕt). *Ir.* (and *Sc.*). [var. of prec.] = SPILLER *sb.*[3] 1. Also *Comb.*

1832 W. H. MAXWELL *Wild Sp. West* I. 262 If you shoot in foul ground, you will probably lose the spillet. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade, Spillet-fishing*,..a name on the west coast of Ireland for a system of fishing [etc.]. 1875 *Zoologist* 2nd Ser. X. 4502 Having shot their spillets (or long lines) in the morning.

Hence **Spilleteer**, one who spillers.

1832 W. H. MAXWELL *Wild Sp. West* I. 263 An indistinct glance of a dark object..brings the assistant spilleteer, gaff in hand, to the quarter.

† **Spill-house.** *Obs.*[-1] [ad. Du. *speelhuis* or G. *spielhaus.*] A gaming-house.

1778 EARL MALMESBURY *Diaries & Corr.* I. 181 All the French in London were sent to the .. coffee-houses, ale-houses, and spill-houses to publish the intelligence.

Spillikin (spi·likin), **spellican** (spe·likăn). Forms: *a.* 8 **spilakee,** 9 **spilleken, -ekin, -acan,** 8- **spillikin, 9 -iken, spilikin.** *β.* 9 **spel(l)ican, spelekin.** [app. a diminutive of SPILL *sb.*[1]]

1. *pl.* A game played with a heap of slips or small rods of wood, bone, or the like, the object being to pull off each by means of a hook without disturbing the rest.

α. 1734 MRS. DELANY *Life & Corr.* (1861) III. 211 Your busyness done, and you at ease To take your game at spilakees. 1800 MAR. EDGEWORTH *Belinda* xix, Belinda was playing with little Charles Percival at spillikins. 1864 MISS YONGE *Trial* I. 173 In the nursery he was, playing at spillekens with his left hand. 1884 *Punch* 16 Feb. 73/2, I have heard that the Bishops play Spilikins for cups of tea.

β. 1869 MISS MONTGOMERY *Misunderstood* xi. 211 Eagerly waiting for his game of 'Spelicans'. 1896 BEARDSLEY *Under the Hill* (1904) 17 Spiridion..looked up from his game of Spellicans and trembled.

b. One of the slips with which this is played.

1883 MRS. R. T. RITCHIE *Bk. Sibyls* iv. 220 The spillikens lie in an even ring where she had thrown them. 1890 HALLETT *Thousand Miles on Elephant* 251 Dead bamboos lay like spellicans cast about in every direction.

2. (See quot.)

1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade, Spillikins*, pegs of wood bone or ivory, for marking the score of cribbage or other games.

3. *fig.* In *pl.*, Splinters; fragments.

1857 READE *White Lies* III. ix. 127 The shot..knocked him into spillekins. 1886 *Illustr. Lond. News* 3 July 2/1, I do not want to see the British empire split into spillikins.

4. *attrib.*, as *spillikin-heap, twig*, etc.

1860 *Zoologist* XVIII. 7060 Stepping cautiously and delicately over the spillacan twigs, like a Catholic priest in a crowded thoroughfare. 1891 V. C. COTES *Two Girls on Barge* 119 Not frivolous tea in a Sévres eggshell with a spellican development of spoon. 1900 *Blackw. Mag.* July 57/1 We became involved in a spillikin-heap of cross-purposes.

Spi·lling, *vbl. sb.*[1] [f. SPILL *v.* + -ING [1].]

† **1.** The action of destroying, spoiling, or marring.

a 1122 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 999, Ne beheold hit nan þing..buton folces ġeswinc & feos spilling. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 469 Spyllynge, or lesynge or schendynge, *confusio, deperdicio.* 1496 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* I. 270 For spilling of his hous in Striuiling be the Abbot of Vnresoun. 1600 *Gowrie Consp.* A iv, Commanding him.. that hee should not spare for spilling of his horse. 1647 HEXHAM I, A spilling, spoiling, or marring.

† **2.** Wasting; wasteful employment. *Obs.*

c 1380 *Sir Ferumb.* 5425 Wan þay were to-gadre y-met, Spillyng of speche þar was grẹt y-mad bytwene hem þanne.

3. The action of causing to flow or run out wastefully; shedding; effusion.

a 1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* xxix. 11 What profit is in spillynge of my blode? 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* XIII. 19 The battale thair so felloune was, And sua richt gret spilling of blud. *c* 1440 CAPGRAVE *Life St. Kath.* v. 1631 He is cause of spillyng of mekel gentel blood. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 355/1 A Spyllynge, *perfusio.* 1593 SHAKS. *Lucr.* 1236 One justly weeps; the other takes in hand No cause, but company, of her drops spilling. 1623 COCKERAM II, A Spilling commonly of blood, *effusion.* 1844 TUPPER *Crock of G.* xlviii. 314 About a thimbleful of water, after fifty spillings, arrived safely in a tumbler.

b. With advs., as *out, over.* Also *transf.*

1883 E. H. ROLLINS *New Eng. Bygones* 36 The daily spilling-out from the doors of family life. 1909 J. STUART *Burma thro' Cent.* i. 9 The spilling over from the kingdom ..of Yunnan probably began fully two thousand years ago.

4. *pl.* That which is spilt.

1772-3 *Act* 13 *Geo. III*, c. 52 § 6 The other four grains shall be allowed him towards his waste and spillings in making the said assays. 1800 COLQUHOUN *Comm. Thames* iii. 99 The evil practice of staving Casks..to enlarge the quantity of spillings of Sugar, Coffee, &c. 1825 T. HOOK *Sayings* Ser. II. *Passion & Prince.* vi, Sundry circular deposits of ale and porter, the accidental spillings of last night's carouse. 1841 DICKENS *Barn. Rudge* xv, They trace the spillings of full pitchers on the heated ground.

5. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *spilling-place*; **spilling-line,** *Naut.* (see quots. 1769, 1882); **spilling-staysail,** a sail controlled by a spilling-line.

1706 STEVENS *Span. Dict.* I, *Derramadero*, a scattering, or spilling place. 1762 FALCONER *Shipwr.* II. 314 High o'er the lee yard-arm the canvas swell'd; By spilling lines embraced, with brails confined. 1769 — *Dict. Marine* (1780), *Spilling-lines*,..ropes fixed occasionally to the main-sail and fore-sail of a ship,..for reefing or furling them more conveniently. 1840 R. H. DANA *Bef. Mast* xxxi, Reef-tackles were rove to the courses, and spilling lines to the topsails. 1851 KIPPING *Sailmaking* (ed. 2) 5 There are.. sometimes a mizen-royal-staysail, and main-spilling-stay-sail. 1882 NARES *Seamanship* (ed. 6) 125 The spilling lines ..are small pieces of rope fitted on the fore side of the sail for picking up the reef line in reefing topsails.

Spi·lling, *vbl. sb.*[2] *Min.* [f. SPILL *sb.*[1] 4.] (See quot.)

1881 RAYMOND *Mining Gloss.*, *Spilling*, Corn[wall], a process of driving or sinking through very loose ground.

Spi·lly, *a. techn.* [f. SPILL *sb.*[1] 1 b.] Of iron: Exhibiting spills or dirty seams.

1843 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* I. 207 Some..twist the iron before the hammering to prevent it from becoming 'spilly'.

Spi·losite. *Min.* [f. Gr. σπίλος spot, speck + -ITE [1] 2 b.] (See quot. 1885).

1882 GEIKIE *Text-Bk. Geol.* IV. viii. 578 Fleckschiefer, Bandschiefer,..the spilosite and desmosite of Zincken. 1885 *Ibid.* (ed. 2) II. ii. 127 Spilosite is a greenish, schistose rock, composed of finely granular or compact felspathic material, with small chlorite concretions or scales. 1895 L. FLETCHER *Introd. Study Rocks* (1898) Index 118/1.

† **Spilquern.** *Obs.*[-0] In 4 **-querne.** [Cf. SPILCOCK.] A whirligig or top.

c 1375 *Gloss.* in *Rel. Antiq.* I. 9 *Giraculum, quidam ludus puerorum*, a spilquerene.

† **Spilt,** *sb. Obs.*[-1] [Cf. SPILL *sb.*[1]] A splinter.

1577-87 HOLINSHED *Chron.* III. 1185/1 He was striken on the viser with a lance,..the spilts entring by the sight of his headpeece.

Spilt, obs. form of SPELT *sb.*[1]

Spilt (spilt), *ppl. a.* [f. SPILL *v.* Cf. SPILLED *ppl. a.*]

† **1.** Spoiled, ruined; destroyed. *Obs.*

c 1400 *Destr. Troy* 4060 Menelay the mighty..sped hym fro Spart his awne spilte rewme. *Ibid.* 10131 A space for his spilt men spedely to graue.

b. *Sc.* Rendered unwholesome or unfit for food through being kept too long.

1595 DUNCAN *App. Etym.* (E. D. S.), *Rancida caro*, spilt flesh. *Ibid.*, *Vappa*, spilt wine. 1887 *Scott. Leader* 11 Oct. 5/1 Selling 'Spilt' Pears. *Ibid.*, Dr. Anderson stated that ..'spilt' pears were unwholesome.

2. Of a liquid: That has been allowed to flow over or run out, *esp.* in an accidental or wasteful manner. Also in fig. context.

1483 *Cath. Angl.* 355/1 Spyllt, *butus, perfusus.* 1636 B. JONSON *Discov.* Wks. (Rtldg.) 743 Of this spilt water, there is a little to be gathered up: it is a desperate debt. 1683 MOXON *Mech. Exerc., Printing* xix. P 1 The spilt Metal sticking about the out-sides of the Mouth. 1718 RAMSAY *Christ's Kirk Gr.* III. xiii, Boord, and floor, and a' did sail, Wi' spilt ale i' the dark. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. I. x, His words are like spilt water. 1859 DICKENS *T. Two Cities* I. v, Is all the spilt wine swallowed?

b. *To cry over spilt milk* (or † *water*), or variants of this: To fret about some loss, mistake, etc., which cannot be remedied.

1836 HALIBURTON *Clockm.* Ser. I. xxx, What's done, Sam, can't be helped, there is no use in cryin over spilt milk. 1849 ROBERTSON *Serm.* Ser. I. iv. (1866) 76 Not stop..to weep over spilt water. 1860 TROLLOPE *Castle Richmond* I. vi. 113 It's no use sighing after spilt milk.

† **Spilter.** *Obs.*[-1] [Cf. SPILT *sb.*] A splinter or fragment.

? 1646 EARL MONM. tr. *Biondi's Civil Wars* V. 171 A peece of Ordnance bursting in two, a spilter thereof slew him.

Spilter, error for SPILLER *sb.*[2]

Spilth (spilþ). [f. SPILL *v.* + -TH [1] a.] That which is spilled; the action or fact of spilling.

1607 SHAKS. *Timon* II. ii. 169 Our Vaults haue wept With drunken spilth of Wine. 1812 W. TENNANT *Anster F.* II. XXXVI, Both chin and nose bedaub'd with spilth of snuff. 1830 W. TAYLOR *Hist. Surv. Germ. Poetry* I. 324 To avenge ..The spilth of brother's blood. 1865 CARLYLE *Fredk. Gt.* V. VII. II. 117 Grumkow .. sent it spinning .. through the bottles and glasses; reckless what damage to breakage and spilth it may occasion.

fig. 1852 T. AIRD *Mem. Moir* M.'s Poet. Wks. I. v. p. CXXXII, Such things are not made by the brain; they are the spilth of the human heart. 1892 SYMONDS *Life in Swiss Highl.* IV. 116 A ruin of old granitic rocks around you, the spilth and waste of mountains.

‖ **Spilus** (spəi·lŏs). *Path.* [mod.L., ad. Gr. σπίλος spot, speck.] A spot or mark on the skin.

1882-7 GOOD *Study Med.* (1829) V. 696 It is this occasional dash that constitutes a spilus or mole. 1849 CRAIG, *Spilus*, ..a congenital spot, appearing to consist of a partial thickening of the rete mucosum.

Spin (spin), *sb.*[1] [f. the vb.]

1. An act or spell of spinning; also *techn.*, capacity for being twisted or spun; the product resulting from spinning.

1853 *Househ. Words* VII. 131/1 The apparatus for testing what is termed the 'spin' of the silk;—its capability of being twisted round with great velocity without..being damaged. 1884 W. S. B. MCLAREN *Spinning* (ed. 2) 62 As it is to be spun into worsted,..the longer the fibres remain the better will be the spin.

2. An act or spell of revolving or whirling round; a circular or rotatory movement.

1831 MOORE *Summer Fête* Poet. Wks. (Oxf. ed.) 275 Tee-totums we've for patriots got,..A glorious spin, and then—a tumble. 1864 DASENT *Jest & Earnest* (1873) I. 194 The circular motion imparted to the new matter by the original twist or spin which the sun gave to the mass. 1878 W. K. CLIFFORD *Dynamic* 133 Hence every twist may be resolved into two spins, the axis of one of which is any arbitrary straight line.

attrib. 1882 MINCHIN *Unipl. Kinemat.* 260, θ is what we have called the expansion, while ω is the spin-vector at *P.*

b. A head-over-heels movement; a somersault.

1842 LOVER *Handy Andy* i, Surprising was the spin the young equestrians took over the ears of the horse.

c. *Cricket.* A twisting motion given to the ball when bowled or thrown.

Also in combs. *off-, over-, side-, underspin.*

1862 PYCROFT *Cricket Tutor* 34 When there is no spin upon the ball, a batsman will risk a kind of guess-hit. 1884 *Lillywhite's Cricket Ann.* 25 Not able to get quite the same amount of spin on the ball.

3. The act of causing something to spin.

1840 *P. Parley's Ann.* I. 85 Peter..changed tops with Thorp; and after having a few spins, ran home. 1856 'STONEHENGE' *Brit. Rural Sports* 254/1 It is obvious that for this purpose a long rod is required to command a greater extent of water, and a more numerous series of spins.

b. The act of tossing a coin in the air as a means of deciding something.

1882 *Daily Tel.* 27 May, The Oxonians being fortunate in the spin of the coin.

4. A spell of continuous movement by way of exercise or pastime; a fairly rapid ride or run of some duration.

1856 'STONEHENGE' *Brit. Rur. Sports* 336/2 Shorter spins of three-quarters of a mile..will be adopted as often as the trainer sees fit. 1884 *Boston* (Mass.) *Jrnl.* 15 Sept., The bicyclist now..takes long spins from one end of the State to the other. 1890 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Col. Reformer* (1891) 319 He..was in much the same bodily..condition as if he had taken a ten-mile spin with a greatcoat on.

b. A spell of quick rowing or sailing.

1875 SCUDAMORE *Day Dreams* 14 [They] would willingly have hired a boat for the purpose of having a spin with the Frenchmen. 1895 *Times* (weekly ed.) 30 Aug. 683/1 The Valkyrie went out for another spin on Wednesday.

5. Rapid or lively movement.

1891 MEREDITH *One of our Cong.* xix, Like the men who escape colds by wrapping in comforters instead of trusting to the spin of the blood.

Spin (spin), *sb.*[2] *Anglo-Indian.* [Abbreviation of SPINSTER.] An unmarried lady.

1872 'ALIPH CHEEM' (Veldham) *Lays of Ind* (1876) 193 I'm going to rhyme about A most unhappy spin. *Ibid.* 200 O spins. ! be warned ere yet too late. 1888 MRS. CROKER *Diana Barrington* xxiii, There were all the Gurrumpore spins in their beautiful new frocks !

† Spin, *sb.*[3] *Obs.*[−1] In 6 **spynne.** [a. G. *spinne, spünne*, related to SPEAN *sb.*] A teat.

1525 ANDREW tr. *Brunswyke's Surg.* iii. Bij/2 Vuula, ye whiche is a lytell deme hangynge in ye throte lyke the spynne.

Spin (spin), *v.* Pa. t. **spun, span.** Pa. pple. **spun.** Forms: *Inf.* 1 **spinnan,** 3–7 **spinne,** 4–6 **spynne** (4 **-en,** 5 **-yn**), 5–6 **spyn** (7 **spyne**), 6– **spin.** *Pa. t.* 1 **spann,** 4–6 **spanne** (4–5 **spane**), 5– **span;** 1 *pl.* **spunnon, -un,** 4 *pl.,* 6 **sponne,** 5 *pl.* **spon,** 6 **spunne,** 6– **spun.** *Pa. pple.* 1 **ȝespunnen,** 3 **i-,** 4, 6 **y-spunne,** 7 *arch.* **y-spunne;** 4–5 **sponnen,** 4–6 **sponne,** 5–6 **spon(e,** 6 **spoon(ne,** 5–7 **spunne** (6 **spune**), 6– **spun.** Also 5 **spynned,** 6 (9 *dial.*) **spinned.** [Common Teut.: OE. *spinnan,* = OFris. **spinna* (WFris. *spinne,* EFris. *spinne, spin,* NFris. *spen, span*), MDu. and Du., MLG. and LG. *spinnen,* OHG. *spinnan* (MHG. and G. *spinnen*), ON. and Icel., Norw. and Sw. *spinna* (Da. *spinde*), Goth. *spinnan*; the stem is perhaps related to that of SPAN *v.*[2] and to Balto-Slavic forms (with initial *sp-* or *p-*) of similar meaning (Schade *Altd. Wbch.* 852/2).]

I. 1. *intr.* To draw out and twist the fibres of some suitable material, such as wool or flax, so as to form a continuous thread; to be engaged in or to follow this occupation.

c 725 *Corpus Gloss.* R 148 *Reuerant* [read *neuerant*], spunnun. *c* 975 *Rushw. Gosp.* Matt. vi. 28 Sceawiǥaþ lilia londes hu hie waexaþ, ne winnaþ, ne spinnaþ. *c* 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* II. 310 Nim þone hweorfan þe wif mid spinnað. *c* 1290 *St. Clement* 156 in *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 327 Noupe mine hondene me beoth bi-nome, þat Ine may sevwy ne spinne. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* II. 170 Hire moder..Bad that sche scholde..lerne forto weve and spinne, And duelle at hom and kepe hire inne. *a* 1400 *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* 707/99, I wolde wite, whon þat Eue gon spinne, Bi whom þat ȝoure gentrie stod? 1467 in *Eng. Gilds* (1870) 383 To dye, carde, or spynne, weve, or cloth-walke. 1530 PALSGR. 728 And you wyll speake with my mother she spynneth nowe at home. 1560 PILKINGTON *Expos. Aggeus* (1562) 217 When Adam dalve, and Eve span, Who was than a gentleman? *c* 1655 MILTON *Sonn.* xx. 8 The Lillie and Rose, that neither sow'd nor spun. 1756–7 tr. *Keysler's Trav.* (1760) I. 388 The entrances are crouded with old women spinning. 1825 J. NICHOLSON *Operat. Mechanic* 422 The short interval when splicing the yarn, and preparing to set on to spin. 1882 'OUIDA' *Maremma* I. 37 In bad weather she sat at home and span.

Phr. 1542 UDALL *Erasm. Apoph.* 342 b, We saye in Englyshe to teache our dame to spynne.

fig. 1768–74 TUCKER *Lt. Nat.* (1834) I. 293 If you go to spin finer than they have been accustomed to, [they] cry out against it as an inconceivable absurdity. 1857 EMERSON *Poems* 171 The storm-wind wove, the torrent span, Where they were bid the rivers ran. 1876 SPURGEON *Commenting* 122 This author..is good but verbose. Some authors toil not, but they spin; Macculloch both toils and spins.

b. Of insects: To produce glutinous threads from the body by means of special organs.

c 1511 [see 3 d]. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Silk,* Before they begin to Spin, they always apply..these..Nipples against the Body whence the Web is begun. 1815 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* (1818) I. 408 You will find that precisely the same takes place in the minutest species that spins. 1833 TENNYSON *Two Voices* 180 For every worm..Draws different threads, and..Spins, toiling out his own cocoon. 1841 T. R. JONES *Anim. Kingd.* 297 When about to spin, the larva.. allows a minute drop of the glutinous secretion to exude.

c. To make a noise like that of spinning.

1851 MEREDITH *Love in the Valley* v, Lone on the fir-branch, his rattle-note unvaried,..spins the brown eve-jar.

2. *trans.* To draw out (wool, flax, or other material) and convert into threads either by the hand or by machinery.

c 1000 ÆLFRIC *Gram.* xv. 97 Hiȝ spinnað wulle. 13.. *K. Alis.* 6806 (W.), They haveth no wolle to spynne. 1399 GOWER *Praise Peace* 299 Men sein the wolle, whanne it is wel sponne, Doth that the cloth is strong and profitable. *a* 1450 *Knt. de la Tour* (1868) 79 She..came afore hym with a rocke under a gerdelle spynning black wolle. 1523 FITZHERB. *Husb.* § 146 Flaxe..tawed, hecheled, spon. 1577 B. GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* 39 The Towe is seuered from the Flaxe, and appoynted for his vse, so are they seuerally spon vpon the Distaffe. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 286/2 Woll is principally, nay only spun at it, and at none of the other sorts of Wheels. 1796 H. HUNTER tr. *St.-Pierre's Stud. Nat.* (1799) III. 78 As for the two friends, they spun cotton from morning till night. 1835 URE *Philos. Manuf.* 222 The flax formerly spun to twelve pounds a bundle, is with hot water spun to six. 1874 GREEN *Short Hist.* vii. § 5. 386 The farmers' wives began everywhere to spin their wool from their own sheeps' backs.

fig. c 1315 SHOREHAM III. 150 For wel to conne, and nauȝt to don, Nys naþer rawe ne y-sponne. *a* 1420 [see DISTAFF 1 b]. *c* 1440 *Cast. Persev.* 2618 in *Macro Plays,* For no man can be war be oþer tyl he hathe al ful spunne. 1525–46 [see DISTAFF 1 b]. 1633 G. HERBERT *Temple, Glimpse* vi, If I have more to spinne, The wheel shall go, so that thy stay be short.

b. = To spin off (see 5 a). Also with *up.*

a 1553 UDALL *Royster D.* I. iii, If thys distaffe were spoonne Margerie Mumblecrust..will drinke no water. 1593 G. HARVEY *Pierce's Super.* 163, I must spin-vp my taske.

c. To convert (or *intr.*, to admit of being converted) *into* thread, etc., by spinning. Also *transf.*

1669 STILLINGFL. *Serm.* iv. 151 For plain truths lose much ..and their strength is impaired when they are spun into too fine a thread. *a* 1676 HALE *Prim. Orig. Man.* (1677) 306 To spin some prepared Matter into vital and sentient *Semina* for those insect Animals. 1780 A. YOUNG *Tour Irel.* I. 166 The 8 lb. [of flax] will spin into..20 hanks or 5 spangles fit for a ten hundred cloth. 1842 OASTLER *Fleet Papers* II. 26 It will not spin into good yarn, nor weave into wearable cloths. 1883 HALDANE *Workshop Rec.* Ser. II. 320 The number of strands of gut spun into a cord varies with the thickness of catgut required.

refl. 1867 AUGUSTA WILSON *Vashti* xvii, Your mind..exhausts and consumes itself, like fabled Arachne, spinning itself into filmy nothings.

d. (See quot.)

1802 JAMES *Milit. Dict.* s.v., *To spin hay,* is to twist it up in ropes, very hard, for an expedition... An expert horseman can spin five days forage into a very narrow compass.

e. To deposit (liquid sugar) on cakes, etc., in a thread-like form.

1883 HALDANE *Worksh. Rec.* Ser. II. 166 Sugar may be spun over the inside of the basket.

3. To form or fabricate (a thread, etc.) by the process of drawing out (and twisting) some suitable material; to prepare the material for (a fabric or garment) by this process.

c 1290 *St. Edmund* 167 in *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 436 Heo [*sc.* a hair-coat] nas i-sponne ne i-weoue, ake i-broide [of] strengus longue. 1362 LANGL. *P. Pl. A.* v. 130 My wyf..þat wollene clop made, Spak to þe spinsters for to spinne hit softe. 1382 WYCLIF *Judg.* xvi. 9 The threed of a top of flexe, that is sponnen with spotel. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* x. xiii. 141 His coyte of goldin thredis brycht Quhilk his moder hym span. 1562 HEYWOOD *Prov. & Epigr.* (1867) 163 Which showth in deede That a fowle spinner may spin a fayre threede. 1607 SHAKS. *Cor.* I. iii. 93 All the yearne she spun in Vlisses absence. 1634 MILTON *Comus* 83 First I must put off These my skie robes spun out of Iris Wooff. 1735 JOHNSON *Lobo's Abyssinia, Voy.* iv. 25 They..Sew them together with Thread which they spin out of the Bark. 1805 *Act* 45 *Geo. III,* c. 30 Sched., Every pound .. of gold thread, gold lace, or gold fringe, made of plate wire spun upon silk. 1832 HT. MARTINEAU *Life in Wilds* iv. 51 The lace-makers and jewellers and glass-cutters, and even those who spin glass for the amusement of the wealthy. 1874 H. H. COLE *Catal. Ind. Art S. Kens. Mus.* 137 The filigree..is like a fine web spun over the surface of the bottle.

transf. 1769 MRS. RAFFALD *Eng. Housekpr.* (1778) 186 When you spin a silver web, or a desert, always take particular care your fire is clear. *Ibid.,* You must not spin it before a kitchen fire.

b. In figurative contexts.

To spin street-thread, etc.: see STREET *sb. To spin a yarn* (to tell a story): see YARN *sb.*

13.. *K. Alis.* 7251 (W.), He hath y-sponne a threde, That is y-come of eovel rede. *c* 1450 *Pol. Poems* (Rolls) II. 231 Let theym [wear] suche clothis as they spane. *a* 1568 A. SCOTT *Poems* (S.T.S.) xxx. 7 Than is his weid of vertew spune. 1586 KYD *Verses Praise & Joy* 31 My thred is cut, and yet it is not spunne; And now I liue, and now my life is done. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Past.* IV. 57 The Fates, when they this happy web have spun. 1757 GRAY *Bard* 98 Weave we the woof. The thread is spun. 1820 SHELLEY *M. Gisborne* 154 How we spun A shroud of talk to hide us from the sun Of this familiar life. 1852 THACKERAY *Esmond* II. xiii, [A grave] so fresh made that the spring had scarce had time to spin a coverlet for it.

† c. In the ironical phrase *to spin a fair thread.*

1554 LATIMER in Strype *Mem.* (1721) III. 93 If you tarry with them, you have sponne a fayre Threde. 1562 J. HEYWOOD *Prov. & Epigr.* (1867) 56 In beyng your owne foe, you spin a fayre threede. 1656 HOBBES *Liberty, Necessity, & Chance* (1841) 31 If it be so, he hath spun a fair thread, to make all this stir. [1818 SCOTT *Rob Roy* xxiii, Spinners ! ye'll spin and wind yourself a bonny pirn.]

d. *transf.* Of insects. (Cf. 1 b.)

c 1511 *1st Eng. Bk. Amer.* (Arb.) p. xxxv/1 This wormes ..goo in too that fyre, and there they spynne lyke the wormes yat the sylke spynneth. 1660 tr. *Amyraldus' Treat. conc. Relig.* II. vi. 234 Insects spin silk for his service. 1700 C. NESSE *Antid. Armin.* (1827) 117 If man (spider-like) could spin a thread out of his own bowels. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Silk,* The Silk-Spider makes a Silk, every whit as beautiful..as the Silk-worm: It spins it out of the Anus. 1815 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* (1818) I. 406 All spiders do not spin webs. *Ibid.,* The thread spun by spiders. 1861 P. P. CARPENTER in *Rep. Smithsonian Instit. 1860,* 265 The animal [*Crenella*] spins for itself a silky nest.

fig. 1841 DE QUINCEY *Style* iv, in *Blackw. Mag.* Feb. 215/2 Those accidents of time and place which obliged Greece to spin most of her speculations, like a spider, out of her own bowels. 1850 TENNYSON *In Mem.* cxxiv, I found Him not..thro' the questions men may try, The petty cobwebs we have spun.

4. *fig.* **a.** Of the Fates or other powers: To devise or appoint (one's destiny or fortune).

c 1374 CHAUCER *Troylus* III. 734 O fatal sustren, which, er any clooth Me shapen was, my destene me sponne. 1430–40 LYDG. *Bochas* VIII. xxv, The parchas susterne spon so hys fate. 1606 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. iv. 1. *Tropheis* 932 On David's head, God doth not spin good hap. 1649 G. DANIEL *Trinarch., Hen. V,* ccxxiii, To Spin his Fate To an ignobler End, then one soe Bold Had merited. 1726 POPE *Odyss.* xx. 250 May fate..spin thy future with a whiter clue ! 1840 *Penny Cycl.* XVII. 242/2 The Fates are usually spoken of by the Greek and Roman poets as spinning the destinies of men.

b. To evolve, produce, contrive, or devise, in a manner suggestive of spinning.

c 1555 HARPSFIELD *Divorce Hen. VIII* (Camden) 227 This interpretation is finely spinned..out of the lawyer's fantastical head. 1633 G. HERBERT *Temple, Praise* i, Lord, I will.., speak thy praise... My busie heart shall spin it all my dayes. 1664 COTTON *Scarron.* 56 Should I begin my story spinning, From the first end to th' last beginning. 1746 FRANCIS tr. *Horace, Sat.* II. i. 4 My Lines are weak, unsinew'd, others say—A Man might spin a thousand such a Day. 1791–1823 D'ISRAELI *Cur. Lit.* (1866) 509 Many secret agents.. were spinning their dark intrigues. 1850 ROBERTSON *Serm.* Ser. II. ii. (1864) 24 A system of wild fancies spun out of the brain. 1870 MAX MÜLLER *Sci. Relig.* (1873) 60, I cannot help suspecting that language has been at work spinning mythology.

c. To draw out, prolong. (Cf. 6.)

1629 J. MAXWELL tr. *Herodian* (1635) 214 Which being no small detriment to the Romans, did spinne the Warre to a great length. 1713 SWIFT *Cadenus & Vanessa* Wks. 1755 III. II. 7 For sixteen years the cause was spun, And then stood, where it first begun. 1789 JEFFERSON *Writ.* (1859) III. 58 If the fear of the former alternative prevails they will spin the matter into negotiation. 1792 MME. D'ARBLAY *Diary* V. VII. 323 The little novel..would not have gone on improving, as the latter part begins already to seem spun.

5. Spin off: a. To finish or clear *off* (a distaff, etc.) by spinning. (Cf. 2 b.)

1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* II. 549 One would imagine he saw every woman making hast to spin off her distaffe, striving avie who shall have done her taske first. 1601 SHAKS. *Twel. N.* I. iii. 110 It hangs like flax on a distaffe: & I hope to see a huswife take thee between her legs, & spin it off. 1690 TEMPLE *Ess., Poet.* Wks. 1720 I. 249 To spin off this Thread, which is already grown too long. 1735–1894 [see ROCK *sb.*[2] 2].

b. To throw or cast *off* (a composition) in a continuous or easy manner.

1895 *Daily News* 24 Apr. 7/4 He..used to spin off novels in the intervals between signing piles of papers.

6. Spin out: a. To ender lengthy or protracted; to protract, prolong.

Used with a variety of objects, the commonest types of which are illustrated by the separate groups of quotations. Cooper (1565, s.v. *Parcæ*) has '*to* spynne out the threade of mans lyfe', and an early example of the literal use occurs s.v. SPINNER 2 (quot. 1393).

(*a*) 1603 in Moryson *Itin.* (1617) II. 282 Shee was still apt to beleeve that hee..would spin out all things further then were requisite, with delayes and shifts. 1646 J. HALL *Horæ Vac.* 154 Neither is any warre so long spun out. 1670 G. H. *Hist. Cardinals* III. II. 282 It was done more to procrastinate, and spin out the Conclave. 1759 ROBERTSON *Hist. Scot.* II. Wks. 1813 I. 106 Under his management the negociations were spun out to a great length. 1770 LANGHORNE *Plutarch* (1879) II. 764/1 He spun out the debate till it was too late to conclude upon anything that day. 1865 CARLYLE *Fredk. Gt.* XXI. iv. VI. 476 Kaunitz..span out the Turk pacification in a wretched manner for years coming. 1885 *Law Times* 30 May 74/1 That arbitration..was spun out for forty-four days.

(*b*) 1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* 574 Therefore they spin out their liues to the length of the thread. 1663 BP. PATRICK *Parab. Pilgr.* xxiv, They would fain spin out the most miserable life to the greatest length. 1734 WATTS *Relig. Fwd.* (1789) 130 Thus he spun out his supple soul, and drew A length of life amidst a vicious crew. 1872 *Punch* 19 Oct. 163/1 If I were condemned to execution, I should perhaps be inclined to spin out my time by talking till they took me off by force.

(*c*) 1633 FORD *Broken H.* I. i, You spin out your discourse. 1673 *Lady's Call.* I. v. § 75 This section is spun out to a length very unproportionable to the former. 1710 STEELE *Tatler* No. 132 P 10 Our innocent Conversation, which we spun out till about Ten of the Clock. 1787 MME. D'ARBLAY *Diary* 16 Feb., I..spun out into an hour's discourse what might have been said in three minutes. 1813 PRICHARD *Phys. Hist. Man* vii. § 4. 357 This sort of argument has been..so spun out by antiquaries of late times.

(*d*) 1644 PRYNNE & WALKER *Fiennes's Trial* 46 In this his defence (to spin out time) he led us in perambulation through all the Works, Forts, Dikes, Rampires [etc.]. 1673 *S'too him Bayes* 129 No body that hop'd to have a reprieve ever spun out time at last as thou hast done. 1761 HUME *Hist. Eng.* lxvi. (1806) V. 45 The French ambassadors spun out the time till the morning of the critical day. 1817 JAS. MILL *Brit. India* II. v. iv. 439 The distance of Madras would aid the Rajah in spinning out the time till the commencement of the rains.

b. To spend or occupy (time) in inactivity or without effect.

1608–14 in Leadam *Crt. Requests* (Selden) Introd. 96 Counsell..doe..Spyne and Trifle out one or two termes about the exceptions. 1646 H. P. *Medit. Seige* 42 Although I die at twenty, I have lived more then he that hath spunne out a hundred uselesse yeares. 1712 J. JAMES tr. *Le Blond's Gardening* 108 Those People are..lazy, and have no Concern but to spin out the Day. 1789 in *Nairne Peerage Evid.* (1874) 127, I shall endeavour to spin out the remainder of my days as comfortably as my situation can permit.

c. To evolve or devise by mental effort; to express at length.

1652 N. CULVERWEL *Lt. Nature* xi. (1654) 97 Mans reason is fain to spend time..in spinning out a Syllogisme. 1663 MARVELL *Corr.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 97, I have no more time left to spin out in words the kindnes which I acknowledge from you and beare to you. 1736 *Gentl. Mag.* VI. 466/2 How many hundred Declarations has Caleb D'Anvers spun out from

a Thread of this Clue. 1828 SCOTT *Aunt Marg. Mirror* Introd., The sort of waking dreams which my imagination spins out. 1864 THACKERAY *D. Duval* viii. (1869) 107 He could spin out sentences by the yard. 1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) IV. 426 To be spinning out a long soliloquy or address, as if I wanted to show off.

d. To draw out, extend, prolong, in length or duration.

1655 GURNALL *Chr. in Arm.* verse 14. ii. (1669) 13/2 He who is spun out at length, but not thicken'd suitable to his height. 1663 BP. PATRICK *Parab. Pilgr.* xxxix, The Paracelsian promise of spinning out the life of man to a length equal with the clew of time. 1717 PRIOR *Alma* III. 539 Would she, in friendship, peace, and plenty Spin out our years to four times twenty. 1865 CARLYLE *Fredk. Gt.* XX. i. VI. 5 Prince Henri and Fouquet have spun themselves out into a long chain of posts.

e. To bring to an end; to consume or exhaust. Chiefly *refl.* or in *pass.*

1718 *Entertainer* No. 35. 236 To beat the wind, and spider-like, to spin out ones self for those who will not thank him for it. 1728 RAMSAY *Fables, Fox turned Preacher* 51 His glass spun out, he ceast. 1809 MALKIN *Gil Blas* XI. vii. P 3 My brain is fairly spun out.

f. To cause to last out; to use sparingly.

1726 SHELVOCKE *Voy. round World* 328 We might have spun out what we had by good husbandry. 1862 MRS. H. WOOD *Mrs. Halliburton's Troubles* I. xvi. 195 We must spin the money out..until something comes in.

g. *intr.* To run out; to extend; to last out.

1724 DE FOE *Mem. Cavalier* (1840) 258 The time spinning out, [they] demanded longer time. 1758 J. BURTON *Monast. Ebor.* Pref. p. xi, This preface has spun out to a greater length than I expected. 1891 C. ROBERTS *Adrift Amer.* 51 In my..state of ignorance with regard to making money spin out.

II. 7. *intr.* To shoot or spring *up*; to grow or rise rapidly. *rare.*

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* A. 35 So semly a sede mo3t fayly not, Pat spryngandes spycez vp ne sponne. 1641 MILTON *Animadv.* Wks. 1851 III. 229 Their unquestionable charity, which.. like a working flame, had spun up to such a height of pure desire.

8. Of blood, etc.: To issue in a rapid stream; to gush or spurt. Freq. with *out.*

c 1400 *Laud Troy Bk.* 8942 Depe in-to his fflesch it ran, That the blod fast out span. *c* 1569 INGELEND *Disobed. Child* A iv, Shoulde I be content then thyther to runne, Where the bloude from my breeche thus shoulde spunne. 1573 L. LLOYD *Marrow of Hist.* (1653) 289 Alexander the great being wounded, and his blood spinning out. 1627 DRAYTON *Agincourt* 131 The blood out of their Helmets span. 1684 R. WALLER *Nat. Exper.* 155 That thin Spirit.. which in a small Thread spins out of the same Peel when it is squeezed. 1720 POPE *Iliad* XXI. 184 One raz'd Achilles' hand; the spouting blood Spun forth. 1881 MRS. R. T. COOKE *Somebody's Neighbors* 84 The sharp streams of milk spun and foamed into the pail below.

b. *trans.* To send *forth* in a stream. *rare*—1.

1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* I. 279 Spatious pastures, and flockes of cattell spinning forth milke abundantly.

9. To move rapidly; to run quickly; now *esp.* to ride or drive at a rapid and even rate.

a 1400–50 *Alexander* 3033 He spynnes [*v.r.* spedes] him out a grete space fra hes peris all. *c* 1430 *Chev. Assigne* 331 An edder sprongе out of his sheldе & in his body spynnethe. *c* 1450 *Cast. Persev.* 1400 With spete of spere to bee I spynne. 1556 J. HEYWOOD *Spider & Fly* lxiii. 45 Streight from that place they are speedilie spinning, To an other host. 1581 A. HALL *Iliad* V. 79 The which the heardman when he sees, for feare begins to spin.

1842 TENNYSON *Sir Galahad* v, The tempest crackles on the leads, And, ringing, spins from brand and mail. 1850 SCORESBY *Cheever's Whalem. Adv*, iii. (1859) 36 The boat spun after him with singular swiftness. 1883 F. M. CRAWFORD *Dr. Claudius* 209 There was a cab at the door,..and in a minute more he was spinning along Fifth Avenue.

b. To pass or be spent quickly.

1850 THACKERAY *Pendennis* x, The young one is making the money spin. 1868 DICKENS *Lett.* (1880) II. 362, I hope that the time will soon begin to spin away.

c. *trans.* To cause to pass *away*; to carry *away* or convey rapidly.

1696 PHILLIPS, *Amusement*, any idle Employment to spin away time. 1877 MRS. OLIPHANT *Young Musgrave* I. xii. 205 Lovely horses who could spin her away over the broad country. 1880 MISS BRADDON *Just as I am* VI, I shall soon spin him over to Highclere.

10. To revolve or gyrate; to whirl *round.*

1667 MILTON *P. L.* VIII. 164 The Earth..With inoffensive pace that spinning sleeps On her soft Axle. 1700 DRYDEN *Ovid's Met.* VIII. 122 Quick, and more quick he spins in giddy Gires, Then falls. 1784 COWPER *Task* III. 491 Thrice must the voluble and restless earth Spin round upon her axle, ere the warmth..attain the surface. 1825 SCOTT *Talism.* XX, Dance, or we will scourge thee with our bowstrings, till thou spin as never top did under schoolboy's lash. 1846 GREENER *Sci. Gunnery* 352 Do not require a bullet to spin twice on its axis, if once is sufficient. 1888 J. INGLIS *Tent Life in Tigerland* 260 Sometimes we spinned round and round like a teetotum.

fig. 1805 WORDSW. *Prelude* II. 47 We ran a boisterous course; the year span round With giddy motion. 1893 *Times* 15 June 9/6 The mind accustomed to spin upon the poles of Greek and pure mathematics.

b. Of the brain or head: To whirl; to be giddy or dazed.

1819 BYRON *Juan* II. CX, And as he gazed, his dizzy brain spun fast, And down he sunk. 1886 BARING-GOULD *Crt. Royal* III. xlvi. 93 My head spins. I cannot think. 1894 STEVENSON *Lett.* (1899) II. 327 My head is simply spinning with a multitude of affairs.

11. *trans.* To cause to turn or revolve rapidly; to twirl or whirl.

1612 DEKKER *If it be not Good* Wks. 1873 III. 296 Ile turne the wheeles: and spin the howers vp faster. 1830 GALT *Lawrie T.* II. i. I. 90 There he you spinning your thumbs with a small child that ha'n't got no mother. 1842 BROWNING *Spanish Cloister* vii, Spin him round and send him flying Off to Hell. 1870 EMERSON *Soc. & Solit.* vii. 138 When you spun tops and snapped marbles.

b. To cause (a chafer) to fly while secured by a thread passed through its tail.

1801 STRUTT *Sports & Past.* IV. iv. 291 *note*, When a child I was caught by my mother..in the act of spinning a chafer. 1844 J. T. J. HEWLETT *Parsons & W.* iii, To spear trout, spin cockchafers, bait cats.

c. With cognate object.

1828 LYTTON *Pelham* xl, They just walk a quadrille or spin a waltz.

d. *techn.* To shape (articles of sheet-metal) by pressure applied during rotation on a lathe.

1853 URE *Dict. Arts* (ed. 4) II. 865 'Raising' by means of 'spinning' and stamping has to a great extent superseded the older methods of tin plate working. 1884 *B'ham Daily Post* 24 Jan. 3/3 Britannia-metal Spinners.—Wanted a Man, who can Spin and Make Up.

12. *Angling.* **a.** *trans.* To cause (a minnow or other bait) to revolve in the water by fastening it on the hook in a particular manner.

1814–24 COL. HAWKER *Instructions Yng. Sportsm.* 173 Trolling, or spinning a minnow, is the other most general mode of trout fishing. *Ibid.* 175 A new gut seldom spins the minnow so well as one that is half worn out. 1856 'STONEHENGE' *Brit. Rural Sports* 254/2 In dead water a well mounted minnow or gudgeon may be spun with great effect.

b. *intr.* To fish with a spinning bait.

1863 'OUIDA' *Held in Bondage* (1870) 7 De Vigne stopped to have a glance across country as he stood trolling and spinning. 1867 F. FRANCIS *Angling* i. 30 *note*, When spinning for trout.

c. *trans.* To fish (a pool, etc.), to rouse *up* (a fish), by means of a spinning bait.

1886 *Field* 30 Jan. 133/3 He was to be occasionally seen spinning the weir pool and scours below Marsh Lock. 1895 *Baily's Mag.* May 357/2 If he does not 'spin up' a fish, he brings his minnow in as short as he can.

13. *slang.* To reject (a candidate) at an examination; to pluck or plough. Usu. in *pass.*

1860 in *Slang Dict.* 223. 1865 *Pall Mall G.* 4 Aug. 9/2 The historical test is, we imagine, the one which will 'spin' most applicants. 1897 *Brit. Weekly* 7 Jan. 214/5 'How far through did you say he was with his medical course?' 'He was spun in the final,' I answered.

b. *intr.* To fail in an examination.

1869 *Pall Mall G.* 24 Nov. 3/2 If an ensign passes his regimental, and 'spins' in his special examination.

14. In combs., as **spin-'em-round**, a game of chance (see quot. 1859); also *dial.*, a merry-go-round; **spin-heat**, the rotatory form of heat-energy.

1851 MAYHEW *Lond. Lab.* I. 4 The Proprietors of Street Games, as swings,..down the dolly, spin-'em-rounds, prick the garter, thimble-rig, etc. 1859 *Slang Dict.* 98 *Spin-em-rounds*, a street game consisting of a piece of brass, wood, or iron, balanced on a pin and turned quickly around on a board, when the point, arrow shaped, stops at a number and decides the bet one way or the other. 1899 LOCKYER in *Nature* 20 Apr. 585/2 To get concrete images of these effects we spoke of path-heat, spin-heat, and wobble-heat.

‖ Spina (spəi'nă). [L. *spīna* SPINE *sb.*1]

1. The backbone. Now only *Path.* in *spina bifida*, dropsy of the spine.

c 1400 *Lanfranc's Cirurg.* 167 Pese boones binebe be necke is clepid be rigge ouber spina.

1674 GREW *Anat. Pl., Disc. Mixture* (1682) 249 The Spina of a Fish (that which I used was of a cod-fish) maketh a Bullition one degree higher. 1720 *Phil. Trans.* XXXI. 100 These Tumours constantly attend the *Spina Bifida.* 1740 *Ibid.* XLIII. 11 A perfect *Spina bifida* must suppose the very canal and *Medulla spinalis* to divide into Two Branches. 1800 T. V. OKES (*title*), An Account of Spina Bifida. 1829 COOPER *Good's Study Med.* (ed. 3) V. 412 In spina bifida, the fluid is always within the dura mater of the cord. 1878 T. BRYANT *Pract. Surg.* I. 256 A spina bifida is essentially a hernia of the membranes of the cord through an opening in the spine.

† 2. *Spina ventosa*: (see quots.). *Obs.*

1693 tr. *Blancard's Phys. Dict.* (ed. 2), *Spina Ventosa*, an Ulceration in which the Bones are eaten by a malignant Humour without any Pain. 1746 *Phil. Trans.* XLIV. 199 This Distemper was found to be a *Spina ventosa*, or Cariosity in the Body of the *Os Humeri*, whereby about four Inches of the solid Bone had been destroyed. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s.v., In the *spina ventosa* the caries, or erosion of the bone, is occasioned by a depravity of the contained fluids.

3. *Rom. Antiq.* The barrier running up the middle of a Roman circus.

1766 SMOLLETT *Trav.* xxxii. II. 131 A good part of this was taken up by the spina, or middle space, adorned with temples, statues, and two great obelisks. 1832 W. GELL *Pompeiana* I. vi. 103 The *spina* or perhaps the goal is also visible. 1842 *Smith's Dict. Gr. & Rom. Antiq.* 230/1 At each extremity of the spina were placed..three wooden cylinders.

† Spinace. *Obs.* Also **spynas, spyn(n)es.** Earlier form of PINNACE.

1442 *Rolls of Parlt.* V. 59/2 There most be awaytyng and attendaunt opon hem IIII Spynes, in eche Spynes XXV men. *Ibid.* 60/1 The Shippes, Barges, Balingers and Spinaces. 1458 *Paston Lett.* I. 429 Then my Lord..manned fyve schippis of forecastell, and iij. carvells, and iiij. spynnes. 1466 *Mann. & Housch. Exp.* (Roxb.) 205 My mastyr paid ..for a pompe, v. polyves, and odre aparaylle for the spynas.

Spinaceous (spinē'·ʃəs), *a.*1 [f. mod.L. *Spinacia* spinach.] Belonging to the spinach family.

1822 LOUDON *Encycl. Gard.* 711 Spinaceous Plants. The excellence of this class consisting in the succulency of the leaves [etc.]. 1842 — *Suburban Hort.* 659 Substitutes for spinaceous esculents are to be found in chenopodiaceous plants generally.

Spinaceous (spəinē'·ʃəs), *a.*2 [f. L. *spīna* spine + -ACEOUS.] Furnished with spines.

1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2621/1 The tangles are used to catch small, delicate, or spinaceous forms of marine life.

Spinach (spi'nédʒ). Forms: *α.* 6 **spynnage, spenege,** 7–9 **spinnage,** 6–9 **spinage.** *β.* 6 **spynache, spinech,** 6–7 **spinache,** 6– **spinach.** [ad. OF. *espinage*, (*e*)*spinache* (also *-ace*), = Catal. *espinach*, Sp. *espinaca*, It. *spinace*, Roum. *spenac*, med.L. *spinachia* (*-achium*), *spinacia* (*-acium*), of doubtful origin. Cf. MDu. *spinage*, *-agie*, *-aetse* (Du. *spinazie*, Flem. *spinagie*), LG. *spinase*, *-axe*, obs. G. *spinacie*, *-asche*, G. dial. *spinaz*, MHG. and G. *spinat* (whence Da. *spinat*, Sw. *spenat*).

The difficult problem of the ultimate origin of the word is complicated by variation of the ending in the Romanic languages. In addition to *espinache*, *-age*, OF. had also *espinoche* (still in dial. use), *-oce*, = med.L. *spinochia*, and *espinarde*, *espinar* (F. *épinard*), = PROV. *espinarc*, med.L. *spinarium*, *-argium*. Pg. exhibits the further variant *espinafre*. By older writers the stem of these forms was supposed to be L. *spina*, in allusion to the prickly seeds of a common species. De Vic considers the various forms to be adoptions of Arab. *isfināj*, Pers. *isfānāj*, *ispānāk*, *aspanākh* (Richardson), but it is doubtful whether these are really native words. It is difficult to explain either the Romanic or the Oriental forms from the synonymous *Hispanicum olus* recorded from the 16th cent. and represented by older F. *herbe d'Espaigne* (Cotgrave).]

1. A plant (*Spinacia oleracea*) belonging to the N.O. *Chenopodiaceæ*, extensively cultivated for culinary purposes; the succulent leaves of this plant used as a vegetable.

α. 1530 PALSGR. 274 Spynnage an herbe, *espinars*. 1568 TURNER *Herbal* III. 71 Spinage or spinech is an herbe lately found and not long in use. 1656 EARL MONM. tr. *Boccalini's Advts. fr. Parnass.* I. xvi. (1674) 18 Gardners might know Nettles and Henbane, from Spinnage and Lettice. 1732 ARBUTHNOT *Rules of Diet* in *Aliments*, etc. I. 249 Spinage emollient, but not very nourishing. 1774 GOLDSMITH *Nat. Hist.* (1776) III. 4 The grass has the appearance of boiled spinage. 1808 *Med. Jrnl.* XIX. 38 Neither boiled spinage, nor succory, possess this quality. 1861 BENTLEY *Man. Bot.* 623 Some are used as pot-herbs, as Spinage.

β. 1538 TURNER *Libellus*, Seutlomalochon,..a nostris spynache nominatur. 1568 [see above]. 1578 LYTE *Dodoens* 556 This pot-herbe, or rather Salet herbe, is called..Spinache. 1671 SALMON *Syn. Med.* III. xxii. 433 Spinach..is used in sallads,..and helps inflamations..of the Stomach. 1747 WESLEY *Prim. Physick* (1762) 71 Eat largely of Spinach. 1791 BOSWELL *Johnson* II Apr. 1773, We had a very good soup, a boiled leg of lamb and spinach. 1839 BARHAM *Ingol. Leg.* Ser. 1. *Lay St. Dunstan*, St. Dunstan himself sits there..eating poach'd eggs with spinach and toast. 1883 *Cassell's Fam. Mag.* Sept. 593 The winter spinach must next be thinned out.

b. With distinguishing epithets denoting varieties of the common garden spinach.

1600 SURFLET *Countrie Farme* II. xix. 226 Spinage (so called bicause his seede is prickly) is of two sorts, the male and the female. 1731 MILLER *Gard. Dict.* s.v. *Spinachia*, The common prickly or narrow-leav'd Spinach. *Ibid.*, Common smooth-seeded Spinach. *Ibid.*, These Male Plants are by the Gardeners commonly called She Spinach. 1763 MILLS *Syst. Pract. Husb.* IV. 89 The oblong oval leaved spinage, commonly called plantain spinage. 1842 LOUDON *Suburban Hort.* 656 There are three varieties, the round-seeded,..the Flanders spinach,..and the prickly-seeded, or common winter spinach.

c. Applied (with distinguishing terms) to other species of *Spinacia*, or to plants in some way resembling or taking the place of this, as *Australian*, *†Cretic*, *French*, *mountain*, *New Zealand*, *perennial*, *strawberry*, *wild spinach* (see quots.).

1866 *Treas. Bot.* 267/2 *Australian spinach (*Chenopodium erosum*). 1874 *Ibid.* Suppl. 1343/2 Spinach, Australian, *Chenopodium auricomum*. 1889 MAIDEN *Usef. Pl.* 16 *Chenopodium murale*,..Australian Spinach. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s.v. *Spinachia*, The procumbent *Cretic spinach. 1842 LOUDON *Suburban Hort.* 657 The orache, or *French spinach..is a chenopodiaceous polygamous annual. 1822 LOUDON *Encycl. Gard.* 714 The Orach, or *Mountain Spinach, *Atriplex hortensis*. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 108/2 The Garden Orache, or Mountain Spinach,..[is] a native of Tartary. 1824 LOUDON *Encycl. Gard.* (ed. 2) 637 *New Zealand Spinach, *Tetragonia expansa*. 1849 BALFOUR *Man. Bot.* § 881 Some of them [ficoids] are used as articles of diet, as the leaves of..New Zealand Spinach. 1842 LOUDON *Suburban Hort.* 657 The *perennial spinach..is a chenopodiaceous perennial, a native of Britain. 1760 J. LEE *Introd. Bot.* App. 328 *Strawberry Spinach, *Blitum*. *c* 1710 PETIVER *Cat. Ray's Eng. Herbal* Tab. vii, *Wild Spinage. 1790 W. H. MARSHALL *Rur. Econ. Midl.* II. 443 *Spinage, *wild*,..goosefoot. 1867 BAKER *Nile Trib.* viii, There are several varieties of wild spinach.

2. *ellipt.* As a moth-name.

1832 J. RENNIE *Consp. Butterfl. & Moths* 123 The Spinach (*E. Spinachiata*, Stephens) appears in July. 1896 LYDEKKER *Roy. Nat. Hist.* VI. 117 The little moth..known as the dark spinach (*Larentia chenopodiata*).

3. In allusive use (cf. GAMMON *sb.*4 3).

The words *gammon and spinage* are part of the refrain to the song 'A frog he would a-wooing go'.

1850 DICKENS *Dav. Copp.* XXII, 'What a world of gammon and spinnage it is, though, ain't it!'

4. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *spinach-coloured*, *-green*, *-like* adjs., *-plant*, *-seed*; **spinach-beet, moth** (see

quots.); **spinach-stool**, an evacuation of the colour of spinach.

1842 LOUDON *Suburban Hort.* 658 The *spinach beet, leaf beet, or white beet, *Beta cicla*,..a native of the sea-shores of Spain and Portugal. 1843 THACKERAY *Jerome Paturat* Wks. 1900 XIII. 393 A certain Oscar,..who paints *spinach-coloured landscapes. 1896 *Westm. Gaz.* 7 May 3/1 A neck-band of rich bright colour, cerise velvet or perhaps orange or *spinach green. 1886 P. ROBINSON *Teetotum Trees* 123, I suddenly became aware of a peculiar circular movement in one of the *spinach-like plants. 1887 *Cassell's Encycl. Dict.* s.v., Northern *spinach-moth,..*Cidaria populata*, a British geometer-moth. 1842 LOUDON *Suburban Hort.* 657 It has been more or less in culture as a *spinach plant since the beginning of the present century. 1763 MILLS *Syst. Pract. Husb.* IV. 89 The best way for those who have ground enough, is to sow their *spinage seeds alone. 1888 GOODHART *Dis. Children* (ed. 3) iv. 74 The *spinach stool has commonly been said to be due to altered blood.

Spinagre: see SPIGURNEL[1] (quot. *c* 1450).

Spinal, *sb.* Also 4, 7 **spinall**, 5 **spynal**, 7 **spinnall**, **spinnel**, 9 **spinel**. [Of obscure origin; in sense 2 app. a. G. *spinal* (Du. *spinaal*), thread or yarn of various kinds.]

†**1.** Some textile fabric. *Obs.*

1399–40 *Compotus frat. orat. dominice in civitate Ebor.* (MS.), Et de xiiij d. pro iiij ulnis et dimidio et j quart. de spinall pro corpore dicti Richardi involvendo. 1431 *Maldon Crt. Rolls* Bundle 18 No. 6, j pese de spynal contin. xii ellys, prec. le elle iii d. obol.

2. A kind of yarn (see later quots.).

16.. *Advt. of M. Gregory, Haberdasher, at the Raven and Sun, Drury Lane*, Inkle and Spinnel, and Scotch Yarn. 1692 *Patent Office* No. 286. 1 The Makeing of Spinall Yarne is a new Invention never practiced before. *Ibid.*, Severall workmen out of Germany..skilled in makeing the said spinnall. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade* 203/2 Unwrought inkle, or short spinel, is bleached yarn. *Ibid.* 355/1 *Spinal*, a kind of unwrought inkle.

Spinal, obs. form of SPINEL (ruby).

Spinal (spəi·năl), *a.* Also 6–7 **spinall**. [ad. late L. *spīnālis*, f. *spīna* SPINE *sb.*[1] So F. *spinal*, It. *spinale*, Sp. *espinal*.]

1. Of or pertaining to, forming part of, or located in, the spine or backbone: **a.** In *spinal marrow* or *cord*.

(*a*) 1578 BANISTER *Hist. Man* 1. 6 Cerebellum..lyeth vnder the brayne, and the spinall marey thence slydeth from the head. 1615 CROOKE *Body of Man* 875 Some Nerues..doe arise from the brayne,..others from the Spinall marrow. 1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* 189 The spinall marrow, which is but the braine prolonged. 1767 GOOCH *Treat. Wounds* I. 341 Wounds in any part of the spinal-marrow require no peculiar treatment. 1830 HERSCHEL *Study Nat. Phil.* 87 The seat of the exertion..is demonstrably..either in the brain or in the spinal marrow. 1881 MIVART *Cat* 15 If the skull and backbone be cut through, the white substance of the brain and spinal marrow will be found within them.

(*b*) 1836 *Penny Cycl.* V. 330/1 A long cord of nervous matter filling the cavity of the vertebral or spinal column, called the spinal cord. 1851 CARPENTER *Man. Phys.* (ed. 2) 417 Convulsive actions, which are dependent upon the medulla oblongata and spinal cord, may continue for a minute or two longer. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VI. 478 [Certain cases] were confused by him with cases of spinal cord origin.

b. With other sbs., as *artery*, *bone*, *canal*, etc.

1725 POPE *Odyss.* x. 668 Full endlong from the roof the sleeper fell, And snapped the spinal joint and waked in hell. 1726 MONRO *Anat.* 181 That Protuberance..is called the Spinal Process, from which this whole Series of Bones has got its Name. 1760–72 H. BROOKE *Fool of Qual.* (1809) III. 99 The stake..they run up withinside the spinal bone. 1771 *Encycl. Brit.* I. 219 [It] is fixed..to the last spinal apophysis of the back. *c* 1793 *Ibid.* (1797) I. 759 A thin transparent substance, which from its indentations between the spinal nerves has obtained the name of *ligamentum denticulatum*. 1799 *Med. Jrnl.* II. 461 The spinal artery..had been noticed by Berengar, as a white shining line. 1826 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* xxxvii. IV. 18 Those remarkable nerves described by Lyonnet under the name of *spinal bridle* (*bride épinière*). 1845 BUDD *Dis. Liver* 360 They [hydatid tumors] have been met with, but in comparatively very few instances,..in the spinal canal. 1881 MIVART *Cat* 275 The 11th, or Spinal Accessory Nerve, is a comparatively insignificant one.

c. *absol.* With ellipse of *artery* or *nerve*.

1888 W. R. GOWERS *Man. Dis. Nervous System* II. 406 It usually supplies the 'bulbar' nuclei,..in part directly, and in part by the anterior spinal. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 33 If all are not directly innervated by the spinal accessory, division..may not be completely successful.

2. (See quot.) *rare*[−1].

1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* 203 All spinall [fishes], or such as have no ribs, but only a back bone, or somewhat analogous thereto, as Eeles, Congers, Lampries.

3. Of diseased conditions: Affecting the spine.

1838 DICKENS *Nickleby* xxx, Letters inflicted with every possible variation of spinal deformity. 1878 A. M. HAMILTON *Nerv. Dis.* 219 Spinal hemorrhage is usually the result of a transmutism. 1878 R. BRAITHWAITE *Life & Lett. W. Pennefather* ii. 22 The memoranda..tell of such..suffering and debility, from spinal irritation.

Comb. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2268/1 *Spinal-Distortion Apparatus*, an apparatus designed to gradually restore the spine to its normal condition when it has become curved.

4. Resembling a spine or backbone in form or function.

1841 *Florist's Jrnl.* (1846) II. 301 There may be rain on the central, or spinal, mountains and hills. 1856 KANE *Arct. Expl.* I. xxiii. 301 Everywhere else the spinal ridge seemed unbroken. 1903 *Westm. Gaz.* 20 May 12/1 If water does not fall on his acres, he will bring it to them from his long spinal mountain range if necessary.

5. Of qualities: Arising from, seated in, the spine. Also *fig.*

1855 BAIN *Senses & Int.* I. ii. § 18 The permanent tension of the muscle is in part due to spinal influence. 1890 *Pall Mall G.* 5 Sept. 1/2 The news will give a spice to sport, a spinal strength to the desultory conversation of the rambler.

6. Of appliances: Adapted to, intended for, application to the spine.

1864–8 J. CHAPMAN (title-p.), Sea-Sickness, and how to prevent it..by Means of the Spinal Ice Bag. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2268/1 *Spinal Brace*,..a brace for remedying posterior curvature of the spine. 1895 *Arnold & Sons' Catal. Surg. Instrum.* 782 Spinal Support,..for double lateral curvature.

7. *Comb.*, as *spinal-depressant*, *-stimulant*.

1874 GARROD & BAXTER *Mat. Med.* 263 Commercial conia was found to exhibit spinal-stimulant and spinal-depressant actions.

Hence **Spi·nally** *adv.*

1885 MEREDITH *Diana* II. viii. 191 Spinally prepared..to repay dignity of mien with a similar erectness of dignity.

Spinaret, variant of SPINNERET.

Spination (spəinā·ʃən). [f. L. *spīna* SPINE *sb.*[1]] The condition of having spines; the manner in which spines are formed or arranged.

1866 BOWERBANK *Brit. Spongiadæ* II. 199 The internal defensive spicula..are readily to be distinguished from the skeleton ones, by..their entire spination.

†**Spin-coal.** *Obs.* (See quot.)

1712 *Phil. Trans.* XXVII. 541, XI. Coal, more black and shining, called Spin-Coal. [Hence in some later works.]

†**Spincop.** *Obs.* In 5 **spyn-**. [a. older Flem. *spinnekoppe* (Kilian), Du. and Flem. *spinnekop*, f. *spinne* spider, or *spinnen* to spin: cf. COP *sb.*[3]] A spider.

1474 CAXTON *Chesse* II. iii, The lawes of somme ben like vnto the nettis of spyncoppis. 1480 — *Myrr.* II. xv. 101 The spyther or spyncop. 1483 — *Gold. Leg.* 114/1 By the wylle of god cam spyncoppes and made their werke and nettes afore him.

Spind, variant of SPINE *sb.*[2], sward.

†**Spinde.** *Obs.*[−1] In 5 **spynde**. [a. MDu. *spynde*, *spinde*, var. *spende*, = med.L. *spenda* (:—**expenda*): cf. SPENCE[1].] A larder, pantry.

1481 CAXTON *Reynard* (Arb.) 26 This preest had a spynde wherin henge many a good flitche of bacon.

Spi·ndlage. Also **spindleage**. [f. SPINDLE *sb.*] The number of spindles employed in a particular mill, district, trade, etc.

1908 *Westm. Gaz.* 24 Jan. 4/1 During the last three years Lancashire has increased her cotton spindleage to the extent of about 11,000,000.

Spindle (spi·nd'l), *sb.* Forms: *α.* 1 **spinil**, **spinel**, **spinl**, 5 *Sc.* **spyn(y)le**, 7 *Sc.* **spynell**, 6, 8 **spinnel**, 9 *dial.* **spin(n)el**, **-al**, **spin(n)le**. *β.* 4–6 **spindel** (4 **-elle**, 6 **-ell**), 5–6 **spyndel**, **-ell** (5 **-ill**, **-yl**, **-yll**, **-ylle**, **-ulle**), 6, *Sc.* 8–9 **spyndle**, (2) 6– **spindle**. [OE. *spinel* fem., = OHG. *spinela*, *-ala* (MHG. *spinele*, *-el*, *spinle*) and *spinnila*, *-ela*, *-ala* (MHG. *spinnile*, *-ele*, *-el*), f. the stem of *spinnan* SPIN *v.* The intrusive *d* of the later forms appears also in MDu. and Du., MHG. and G., OFris. *spindel* (NFris. *spandel*); cf. also Sw. *spindel* (MSw. *spinnil*) spider.

Early assimilation of *ni* gave rise to the MDu., MLG., and MHG. *spille* (Du. *spil*, LG. and G. *spille*): cf. SPILL *sb.*[2]]

I. 1. A simple instrument employed in spinning by hand, consisting of a slender rounded rod (usually of wood), tapering towards each end, which is made to revolve and twist into thread the fibres drawn out from a bunch of wool, flax, or other material.

c 725 *Corpus Gloss.* (Hessels) F 378 *Fusum*, spinel. *Ibid.* N 108 *Nitorium*, spinil. *a* 1100 *Gen*sa* in *Anglia* IX. 263 He sceal fela towtola, flexlinan, spinle, reol, gearnwindan, stodlan..habban. *c* 1150 *Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 547 *Fusus*, spindle. *c* 1325 *Gloss. W. de Bibbesw.* in Wright *Voc.* 157 *Le fusil*, spindel. *c* 1350 *Geburt Jesu* in Horstm. *Altengl. Leg.* (1875) 105 Bot mid spindle and mid nelde, his moder him bi wan. 1410 *Nottingham Rec.* II. 70, j spyndel, pretii ijd. 1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* XVII. vi. 698 Carue me oute of this tree as moche woode as wylle make me a spyndyl. *a* 1529 SKELTON *E. Rummyng* 299 They layde to pledge theyr wharrowe, Theyr rybskyn and theyr spyndell. 1577 B. GOOGE tr. *Heresbach's Husb.* 11 b, The smaller sort [of necessaries] be these,..Distaues, Spindelles Wharles. 1615 CHAPMAN *Odyss.* X. 151 As she some web wrought; or her spindles twine She cherisht with her song. 1631 ANCHORAN *Comenius' Gate Tongues* 98 [They] draw their threads, whether it be with a reele, or with a spindle, and a wherne. 1720 POPE *Iliad* XXIII. 890 As closely following as the running Thread The Spindle follows. 1758 JOHNSON *Idler* No. 5. P 8 The prejudices and pride of man have long presumed the sword and spindle made for different hands. 1816 SCOTT *Antiq.* XXVI, The younger children..watched the progress of grannie's spindle. 1863 TREVELYAN *Compet. Wallah* (1866) 335 Along the whole course of the Ganges the women flung their spindles into the river.

b. In a spinning frame, one of many steel rods, by each of which a thread is twisted and wound on a bobbin.

c 1790 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) V. 488/2 Large buildings.., many of which contain several thousands of spindles. 1831 G. R. PORTER *Silk Manuf.* 201 Upon each spindle, just above the bobbin, a piece of hard wood is so fixed by a pin as to cause the wood to revolve with the spindle. 1845 DISRAELI *Sybil* (1863) 155 After a day of labour passed.. amid the ceaseless and monotonous clang of the spindle and the loom. 1846 MCCULLOCH *Acc. Brit. Empire* (1854) I. 677 At first the mule carried only 144 spindles; but, by successive improvements, it was rendered capable..of working 300 or 400 spindles.

c. A spool or bobbin.

1837 HEBERT *Eng. & Mech. Encycl.* I. 320 The workman having placed his spindles of thread near him, begins to work on the first horizontal line of one of the squares. 1837 WHITTOCK *Bk. Trades* (1842) 113 (Carpet-weaver), Before the Weaver commences he prepares a number of small 'spindles' which hold the woollen yarn of the different colours required in the carpet.

2. *a. fig.* In allusions to the Fates imagined as spinning the thread of life or destiny, or in similar contexts.

1577 GRANGE *Golden Aphrod.* F ij, What tyme soeuer the turnyng spindle had thorowly twyned his fatall threede. 1608 DEKKER *Lanth. & Candle Lt.* Wks. (Grosart) III. 300 Shall I shew you what other bottomes of mischiefe, Plutos Beadle saw wound vpon the blacke spindels of the Night? *a* 1645 MILTON *Arcades* 66 To those that..turn the Adamantine spindle round, On which the fate of gods and men is wound. 1847 EMERSON *Repr. Men, Plato* Wks. (Bohn) I. 297 He beholds..the Fates, with the rock and shears; and hears the intoxicating hum of their spindle.

b. As a type of something slender.

a 1625 FLETCHER *Wom. Pleas'd* IV. iii, I am fall'n away to nothing, to a spindle.

c. *ellipt.* = SPINDLE-SIDE. *rare*[−1].

1877 BLACKMORE *Erema* li, The barony,..upon default of male heirs, devolved upon the spindle.

3. Such an amount of thread or yarn as can be prepared on a spindle at one time; hence, a certain quantity or measure of yarn, varying according to the material.

1452 *Cov. Leet Bk.* II. 271 The seid shirrifs to sesse & take the spyndels to ther owne behofe, & to paye þe spynner for hir labour. 1610 WEDDERBURNE *Compt Bk.* (S.H.S.) 79, 19 spynellis of yarn lyning, Ilk spynell cost me 28*s*. 1717 *Forfeited Estates Papers* (S.H.S.) Introd. p. xxvi, Yarn, 20 Spindles, 1 Hasp, and 3 Heer, at 2*s*. per Spindle. 1766 W. GORDON *Gen. Counting-ho.* 197, 3 bales linen yarn containing 1500 spindles. 1794 *Statist. Acc. Scot.* XI. 114 It is..an easy task, for one of these two-handed females, to spin 3 spindles in the week. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade* s.v., In cotton-yarn a spindle of 18 hanks is 15,120 yards; in linen yarn a spindle of 24 heers, is 14,400 yards. 1878 BARLOW *Weaving* 330, 4 Hasps = 1 spyndle = 60,000 yards.

4. a. A figure having the form of an elongated lozenge; *esp.* as a charge in Heraldry, = FUSIL[1].

1486 *Bk. St. Albans, Her.* F ij b, Off armys fusyllit in englisch spyndyllis now I will speke. 1589 PUTTENHAM *Eng. Poesie* II. xi. (Arb.) 105 The Fuzie or spindle, called Romboides. 1765 PORNY *Elem. Her.* iv. (1777) 123 The Fusil, called also a Spindle, is longer than the Lozenge. 1886 SYMONDS *B. Jonson* 2 In which shape they assume the semblance of the heraldic fusil, spindle, or rhombus.

b. *Med.* A dilatation of the fœtal aorta resembling a spindle in shape; the spindle-shaped part of a muscle.

1898 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* V. 707 This constriction or isthmus is succeeded by a fusiform dilatation, the aortic spindle of His. 1899 *Ibid.* VI. 711 Disease of sensory muscle nerves and their end organs, the 'muscle spindles'.

5. *ellipt.* **a.** = SPINDLE-TREE.

With quot. 1712 cf. SPINDLEKIN.

1712 *Phil. Trans.* XXVII. 421 Cape Spindle with a shining notch'd Leaf. 1891 *Daily News* 11 Nov. 5/2 The spindle is not a striking shrub, and its sober flowers are small and inconspicuous.

b. = Spindle-shell, -stromb (see 17).

1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXIII. 124/2 *Rostellaria curvirostris* (*Strombus fusus*, Linn.), the Spindle of collectors, is by far the most common of the Asiatic species.

II. 6. A rod, usually of iron or other metal, serving as an axis upon which, or by means of which, something revolves or is turned round.

In technical use this sense has developed into many special applications, esp. from the 17th cent. onwards. The earliest examples refer to the rod of a mill-stone (cf. *mill-* and *rind-spindle*).

c 1343 *Durham Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 543 In..ij Spindels. 1345–6 *Ely Sacr. Rolls* II. 133 In j pari de Spyndel et cogg. pro molendino equino. 1458 in *Brit. Mag.* XXXI. 249 Item, to hym for makyng of the Spendel for the fane, x*d*. 1507–8 *Fabric Rolls York Minster* (Surtees) 94 Pro faccione j spyndill for remevyng of ye hamers of ye chyme. 1533 J. HEYWOOD *Play Wether* B iv, Our mylstons, our whele with her kogges & our trindill,..Our hopper, our extre, our yren spyndyll. 1625–6 in Swayne *Sarum Churchw. Acc.* (1896) 310 Mending of the spindle of the clocke. 1627 CAPT. SMITH *Seaman's Gram.* ii. 8 Capstaine. The maine body of it is called the Spindle. 1687 A. LOVELL tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* I. 54 They fall a turning round with their naked feet, the left foot serving for a Pivot or Spindle to turn upon. 1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* 1. (Globe) 74, I had no possible way to make the Iron Gudgeons for the Spindle or Axis of the Wheel to run in. 1764 J. FERGUSON *Lect.* 46 The trundle [of a water-mill] is fixt upon a strong iron axis called the spindle. 1788 *Massachusetts Spy* 25 Dec. 3/3 An apprentice..being under the spindle of a grindstone, that was going by water, had the hair of his head caught by the spindle. 1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* I. 20 The drill [of a lathe] is screwed, or otherwise fastened, upon the spindle. 1824 R. STUART *Hist. Steam Engine* 157 The tail or spindle of the valve *k*, being pressed upwards, opens the valve. 1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib., Brit.* II. No. 6332, A spindle, which is to act on the bolt for shutting and opening the lock. 1900 HASLUCK *Mod. Eng. Handybk.* 98 When the engine is moving with great velocity,..the weights or balls attached to the arms will fly further from the spindle, moving the ring on the spindle. *fig.* 1869 J. MARTINEAU *Ess.* II. 175 The universe revolving round the spindle of necessity.

7. a. A cylindrical rod or bar provided with

grooves so as to act as a screw; *spec.* that by which the platen of a hand printing-press is lowered and raised.

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* v. xii. (1495) 117 The holes that ben the propre instrumentes of herynge ben wrapped and wounde as a spindle of a presse. 1585 HIGINS tr. *Junius' Nomencl.* 217 *Cochlea*, the vice or spindle of a presse: the winding peece. 1677 MOXON *Mech. Exerc.* II. 31 The length of a Worm begins at the one end of the Spindle and ends at the other... The depth of the Worm is cut into the diameter of the Spindle. 1683 *Ibid.*, *Printing* x. ¶ 12 The Spindle.. is sixteen Inches and a half, the length of the Cilinder the Worms are cut upon is three Inches and a quarter. 1825 J. NICHOLSON *Operat. Mechanic* 295 When the workman pulls this handle, he turns round the spindle *l*,..and causes the platen to descend and produce the pressure. 1829 *Chapters Phys. Sci.* viii, When the spiral is formed upon a cylinder, it is called the spindle, or interior screw, and by some a male screw.

b. A revolving frame used for stirring a mixture.

c 1793 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XI. 442/2 The spindle is of light wood, and moves on a brass pivot in the bottom. It has four wooden wings. *Ibid.* 443/1 The..stirring of the mixture with the spindle.

8. † a. The newel of a winding stair. *Obs. rare.*

1585 HIGINS tr. *Junius' Nomencl.* 215 *Scapus*,..the spindle or maine peece of worke whereabout the winding staires doe run. 1611 COTGR., *Noyau*,..the Nuell, or spindle of a winding staire.

b. *Geom.* (See quots.) *rare*—⁰.

1706 [see PARABOLIC *a.* 2]. 1801 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) Suppl. II. 516/2 *Spindle*, in geometry, a solid body generated by the revolution of some curve line about its base or double ordinate. 1842 FRANCIS *Dict. Arts, Spindle*,.. as a solid, is a circular body, tapering towards both ends; as a superficies, it is flat, tapering also at both ends.

c. A rod upon which the core of a gun-shell is moulded.

1842 in BURN *Naval & Mil. Techn. Dict.* s.v. *Arbre.* 1889 *Pall Mall G.* 24 Jan. 7/2 By introducing dynamite into the spindle of the grape with a time fuse, much more execution will be done.

9. A stalk, stem, or shoot of a plant, esp. of cereals. ? *Obs.*

G. *spindel* has also this sense: cf. SPINDLE *v.* 1.

1577 B. GOOGE tr. *Heresbach's Husb.* 27 b, The blade of wheate is..narrower than the Barley, the Spindel, Stalke, or Strawe thereof, is smoother and gentler. 1608 WILLET *Hexapla Exod.* 178 *Abib* signifieth the spindle with the eare. 1660 SHARROCK *Vegetables* 118 The Gardiner..not suffering above one, two, or three spindles upon such roots or stools. 1707 MORTIMER *Husb.* (1721) II. 121 The Spindles must be often tyed up,..lest by their bending they should break, and their Flowers be lost. 1750 W. ELLIS *Mod. Husb.* III. i. 28 Hail-Stones..beat down and hurt the spindle of the Wheat.

b. In prepositional phrases, denoting a stage or manner of growth.

1686 PLOT *Staffordsh.* 23 Another storme of Hail..cut the stalks of the Wheat and Barley (then in spindle) quite asunder. *a* 1722 LISLE *Husb.* (1757) 116 The juices stagnate in the plants, and are not pushed on to tillow, but run to spindle. 1750 W. ELLIS *Mod. Husb.* III. xi. 153 The wheat was upon the spindle, and had not shot into Ear. 1764 *Museum Rust.* II. 21 When the corn is shot into spindle, and the ears begin to appear. 1896 *Midland Herald* 4 June (E.D.D.), Forward crops [of wheat] are in full spindle and give promise of being in full ear by the 14th inst.

†10. A rod or bar forming part of a plough or harrow. *Obs.*

1616 SURFL. & MARKH. *Country Farme* v. v. 532 The composition of plows..consisteth vpon the beame, the sheath, the head, the hales, the spindles, the rest [etc.]. 1641 BEST *Farm. Bks.* (Surtees) 120 Att Martynmasse..wee sette our foreman to cuttinge of..saughs for hecke-stowers and harrowe-spindles. 1736 J. LEWIS *Hist. Antiq.* 15 Next the Handle of the Plough is this Wreest, supported by a Piece of Iron which they call a Spindle.

11. *Naut.* The upper part or section of a made wooden mast.

1597 VERÉ *Comm.* 48 My mainmast being in the partners rent to the very spindell which was eleven inches deep. 1670 COVEL in *Early Voy. Levant* (Hakluyt Soc.) 128 There appear'd a very bright Helena at the very spindle of the main top mast. 1697 DAMPIER *Voy.* (1699) 414 We saw a *Corpus Sant* at our Main-top-mast head, on the very top of the truck of the Spindle. 1794 *Rigging & Seamanship* 13 The spindle, or upper tree, of large masts is made of two pieces. *c* 1860 H. STUART *Seaman's Catech.* 73 Two spindle pieces dowelled and bolted to each other...Two side trees ..dowelled and bolted to the spindle.

12. a. *U.S.* A stout iron rod or pole fixed on a rock as a guide to shipping.

1819 *Stat. at L.* (U.S.) III. 535 A spindle on the rock off the point of Fairweather Island. 1829 *Ibid.* IV. 345. 1843 *Amer. Jrnl.* in *Civ. Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* (1844) VII. 68/1 Upon many of the reefs in Long Island Sound..it has been the practice..to erect wrought iron spindles of about 4 in. diameter, and from 15 to 25 ft. in height.

b. A slender cylindrical rod (esp. of metal) or other object of this shape.

1829 *Nat. Philos., Mechanics* II. 30 (L.U.K.), The teeth of the wheel..are made to act upon a form of wheel called a lantern...The cylindrical teeth or bars of the lantern are called trundles or spindles. 1902 ELIZ. BANKS *Newspaper Girl* 187 If he wants the article he puts it on a spindle or in a pigeon-hole.

transf. 1870 EMERSON *Soc. & Solit., Farming* Wks. (Bohn) III. 60 Set out a pine-tree, and it dies in the first year, or lives a poor spindle.

13. *Midl. dial.* The third swarm of bees from a hive in one year.

1825 HONE *Every-day Bk.* I. 647 A Warwickshire correspondent says, that in that county ..'the second [swarm] from the same hive is called a *cast*, and the third..a *spindle*. 1853 *N. & Q.* 1st Ser. VIII. 575/2 In the midland counties the first migration of the season is *a swarm*,..the third *a spindle*.

III. *attrib.* and *Comb.* **14. a.** In sense 1 (in later use especially in combs. relating to machine-spinning), as *spindle-band, -box, -carriage, -hook, -maker, -production, -work.*

1483 *Cath. Angl.* 355/1 A Spyndelle maker, *fusarius.* 1598 FLORIO, *Fusaro*, a spindle maker. 1638 JUNIUS *Paint. Ancients* 298 He is likewise commended for a picture of spindle worke, wherein the threads of every spinning woman seem to make very great haste. 1770 in *Abridgm. Specif. Patents, Spinning* (1866) 18 [Two grooves, into which the] spindle-box [is fixed]. 1825 J. NICHOLSON *Operat. Mechanic* 422 One of the spindle-hooks of the spinning-machine. 1835 URE *Philos. Manuf.* 178 The part of the billy which contains the spindle-carriage is movable..through what is called the billy-gate. *Ibid.* 274 These two bars together are called by workmen the spindle-box. 1892 J. NASMITH *Students' Cotton Spinning* ix. (1893) 357 It does not pay to use spindle bands made of inferior material. 1892 *Daily News* 1 Oct. 2/5 The demand for yarns is regular, and about equal to spindle production.

b. With numerals, as *two-spindle*, etc.

1835 URE *Philos. Manuf.* 159 Some of them are two spindle, ..others six spindle-frames. 1884 W. S. B. MCLAREN *Spinning* (ed. 2) 128, 2nd, two two-spindle gill boxes; 3rd, four-spindle drawing box.

c. In sense 6, as *spindle-end, -gearing, -lathe, -screw, -valve.*

1869 RANKINE *Machine & Hand-tools* Pl. H 8, The pinion, *a*, keyed on the spindle end, takes into an intermediate wheel, *b*. *Ibid.*, The back shaft, E, being arranged to throw out of gear with the spindle gearing. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 1262/2 The spindle-lathe has a rotating axis in the head-stock, to which the work is attached. *Ibid.* 2269/2 *Spindle-valve*, a valve having an axial guide-stem. 1895 *Model Steam Engine* 88 As the spindle-screws are of the same fineness, and with right and left threads.

15. a. Of the limbs (or person), in the sense, 'thin, slender, lacking in robustness'. See also SPINDLE-SHANK.

a 1586 in Pinkerton *Anc. Sc. Poems* (1786) 201 To the rude scho maid ane vow, 'For I sall hit thy spindill schyn'. 1648 HEXHAM II, *Spille-been*,.. Spindle leggs, or leane Shankes. 1681 ? D'URFEY *Progr. Honesty* IV. 4 One that could flatter every Golden Clod, And call my Spindle Lord ..his God. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* II. 401/2 The slender Legs, such as have no Calf: Spindle Legs. 1828 LYTTON *Pelham* II. xxvi, You have thrust those spindle legs of yours into your coat-sleeves instead of your breeches! 1843 CARLYLE *Past & Pr.* II. x, The burden their poor spindle-limbs totter and stagger under.

b. Of things, in the sense 'having the form of a spindle; cylindrical with a taper towards either end'.

1708 *Phil. Trans.* XXVI. 79 *Turbinites*, The Spindle Periwinkle. *c* 1711 PETIVER *Gazophyl.* VIII. lxxiii, Limington Spindle Fossil...A very rare Shell. 1765 *Treat. Dom. Pigeons* 55 It is a very small Pigeon, with a..very short and spindle beak, and a round button head. 1840 J. BUEL *Farmer's Companion* 156 A spindle root may be able to draw an abundance of nourishment from land..exhausted by short or creeping roots. 1878 T. BRYANT *Pract. Surg.* I. 135 Some spindle-cell sarcomas will recur often after removal. 1903 AGNES CLERKE *Astrophysics* 443 All spindle-nebulæ were resolved into spirals viewed aslant.

16. In parasynthetic adjs., as *spindle-celled, -formed, -pointed, -rooted*, etc. Also, *spindle-like* adj. *-wise* adv.

1871 T. H. GREEN *Introd. Pathol.* 117 The soft round-celled varieties are..much more malignant than the firmer *spindle-celled growths. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 846 The treatment of spindle-celled sarcoma of the skin is not easy to formulate. *Ibid.* 600 Long, *spindle-formed, partially pigmented cells appear round the vessels. 1831 J. F. SOUTH tr. *Otto's Comp. Pathol. Anat.* 485 A whole row of *spindle-like swellings. 1884 BOWER & SCOTT tr. *De Bary's Phanerogr. & Ferns* 27 Their obliquely tapered or *spindle-pointed ends. 1796 C. MARSHALL *Gardening* xviii. (1813) 298 *Spindle rooted plants should be set where they are to blow, quite young. 1846 J. BAXTER *Libr. Pract. Agric.* (ed. 4) II. 226 The early short-topped and salmon among the spindle-rooted [radishes], and the small white and red among the turnip-rooted, may be sown for succession crops every fortnight. 1775 ASH, **Spindleshin[n]ed*, having small legs. 1591 PERCIVALL *Sp. Dict., Ahusada figura*, shaped *spindle wise.

17. Special Combs.: **† spindle bud**, ? a bud giving rise to a shoot or stem; **spindle cross** *Her.*, a cross having arms shaped somewhat like a spindle; **† spindle-pear**, a pear having the elongated form of a spindle; **spindle-shell, -stromb** (see quots.); **spindle-twirl, †-whirl, -whorl**, a whorl used for weighting a spindle; **spindle-wood**, the spindle-tree, or the wood of this; **spindle-worm** *U.S.*, the maize-eating larva of a noctuid moth (*Achatodes zeæ*).

1657 AUSTEN *Fruit Trees* III. 16 They will become much larger than if all the *spindle buds were suffered to grow. 1828 BERRY *Encycl. Her., Pandall*, Pendall, or *Spindle Cross. 1664 EVELYN *Kal. Hort.* Dec. 80 The Squib-pear, *Spindle-pear, Virgin. *c* 1711 PETIVER *Gazophyl.* VI. lvi, Knotty chained Indian *Spindle Shell. 1775 *Phil. Trans.* LXV. 238 These anemonies had been found on old volutes, called spindle-shells (*fucus brevis*). 1861 P. P. CARPENTER in *Rep. Smithsonian Instit. 1860*, 175 Another group, of which the Spindle-shells are the type, have no varices at all. 1881 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* V. 193 The 'Spindle-shell', *Fusus*.., is extensively dredged for the markets. 1861 P. P. CARPENTER in *Rep. Smithsonian Instit. 1860*, 198 These creatures may be regarded as *Spindle-strombs. 1881 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* V. 192 The genus Rostellaria, or the 'Spindle-stromb', is marked by having a very much elongated spire. 1855 *Archæol.* XXXVI. 135 About the middle of the body was a bronze finger ring, and a stone *spindle-twirl. 1648 HEXHAM II, *Een Spille-wervel*, a Whirle for a Spindle, or a *Spindle-whirle. 1874 DAWKINS *Cave Hunt.* iii. 103 The number of personal ornaments and the *spindle-whorls imply the presence of the female sex. 1712 tr. *Pomet's Hist. Drugs* I. 129 The Tree is like *Spindle-Wood, or Priests-Cap. 1885 *St. James's Gaz.* 2 Jan. 6/1 Spindle-wood, which is nowhere plentiful, is reserved for skewers. 1839 T. W. HARRIS *Treat. Insects Injurious Veget.* (1862) 438 Indian corn..often suffers severely from the depredations of one of these Nonagrians, known to our farmers by the name of *spindle-worm.

Spindle (spi·nd'l), *v.* Also 6 **spindel**. [f. the sb. (esp. in sense 9).]

1. *intr.* Of cereals: To shoot up into the slender stalks on which the ear is formed.

So G. *spindeln* in dialect use.

1577 B. GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* 27 When the Spring draweth on, it [*sc.* wheat] beginneth to spindle. *Ibid.* 32 When it beginnes to spindel, it must be well weeded. 1616 SURFL. & MARKH. *Country Farme* v. vi. 534, I must needs discommend that manner of weeding..which is used after the corn is spindled. 1651 R. CHILD in Hartlib *Legacy* (1655) 139 Corn sown in July,..if it should begin to spindle, (as the Husbandmen call it) it is very easy..to prevent it. *a* 1722 LISLE *Husb.* (1757) 127 In the hot countries it is a frequent calamity, that the corn will not spindle, that is, will not come out of the hose. 1763 MILLS *Pract. Husb.* II. 201 The whole had already spindled, which made me sorry I had sowed so early. 1805 DICKSON *Pract. Agric.* I. 550 Great care is necessary to see that the whole is completed before the crop begins to spindle. 1846 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* VII. II. 344 The author has never once seen a single plant of the ..rye to spindle before the following spring.

b. Of flowering plants: To form the stalk or stem on which the flowers are produced.

1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* II. 253 Even so doth the decoction of Lonchitis, if it bee taken before it spindle and run vp to seed. 1665 REA *Flora* 163 When they begin to rise to spindle, nip of such as are smallest. 1725 *Fam. Dict.* s.v. *Pink*, When the Pinks begin to Spindle, they will then require a little more Care. 1821 CLARE *Vill. Minstr.* II. 173 Feather-headed grasses, spindling rank. 1824 T. HOGG *Carnation* 35 When the plants begin to spindle, or shoot up for bloom, they require to be supported by sticks.

c. With *up* or *upward(s)*. In later use sometimes implying too slender a growth.

1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* I. 558 No sooner commeth the spring, but they begin to grow up into straw, and to spindle upward pointwise. *a* 1722 LISLE *Husb.* (1757) 142 The blade, after it is come up, will die away, and then spindle up again. 1796 *Hist. Ned. Evans* I. 282 He resembled those exotic plants which spindle up in our hot-houses. 1810 WORDSW. *Scenery Lakes* (1823) 61 The whole island planted anew with Scotch firs, left to spindle up by each other's side—a melancholy phalanx. 1841 *Florist's Jrnl.* (1846) II. 197 Too much water..makes them spindle up and flower prematurely. 1881 *Daily News* 4 June 5/6 Wheat is very thin,.. the plant not stooling satisfactorily, but spindling up.

fig. *a* 1864 HAWTHORNE *Dr. Grimshawe* i. (1891) 3 The cemetery..might probably have nourished..whatever else is of English growth, without that tendency to spindle upwards and lose their sturdy breadth.

2. To shoot out or up, to develop by rapid growth or attenuation, *into* something thin or unsubstantial.

1784 COWPER *Task* v. 11 From ev'ry herb..Stretches a length of shadow o'er the field. Mine, spindling into longitude immense,..Provokes me to a smile. 1833 M. SCOTT *Tom Cringle* xii, Here Sir, squealed Timothy, his usual gruff voice spindling into a small cheep. 1854 LOWELL *Jrnl. Italy* Wks. 1890 I. 203 That fairest variety of mortal grass which with us is apt to spindle so soon into a somewhat sapless womanhood. 1860 EMERSON *Cond. Life* ii. (1861) 46 The gardener, by severe pruning, forces the sap of the tree into one or two vigorous limbs, instead of suffering it to spindle into a sheaf of twigs.

b. To become spindly or weak.

1863 THORNBURY *True as Steel* I. 210, I will..betake myself to the service of the Elector.., where I can win a place for myself in the van, and not spindle and pine as I do here.

c. To rise in a slender form.

1897 *Catholic News* 6 Nov. 5/3 If one or two prayer-towers spindled above Ballydehob it would be a perfect Turkish village.

3. *trans.* To fit with, fix upon, a spindle or axis.

1833 LOUDON *Encycl. Archit.* § 1301 An oak curb to be made to go all round the mill and the millwright [to be] assisted in rimming it, and spindling the stone.

4. To spin (a garment). *rare*—¹.

1887 AUSTIN *Pr. Lucifer* IV. ii, I will..clip the July fleeces for your hands To spindle me a jacket.

Spi·ndled, *ppl. a.* [f. SPINDLE *sb.* or *v.*]

1. Of corn: Shot up into the slender pointed stalks which afterwards bear the ear.

1604 E. G[RIMSTONE] *D'Acosta's Hist. Indies* IV. xvii. 258 Of the seede sowen, at one instant, some is spindled, some is in the eare, and some doth but bud. 1608 WILLET *Hexapla Exod.* 178 Then the corne was spindled and began to be eared. 1764 *Museum Rust.* II. 253 He must then..go among the spindled corn.

b. With *up*: Overgrown in height or length in proportion to strength or stoutness.

1855 CHAMIER *My Travels* I. x. 167 A tall, thin king, spindled up like a weak geranium. 1885 *Bazaar* 30 Mar. 1255/3 These are fine compact bushy plants and not spindled up rubbish.

2. Attenuated, thin, slender.

1584 B. R. tr. *Herodotus* II. 76 There be two mountaines.. arising into sharpe and spindled tops. 1630 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Praise Clean Linen* Ded., Wks. II. 165 A good Legge is a great grace if it be discreetly essex'd in the calfe, and not too much spindled in the small.

3. Spindle-shaped; slightly bulging.
1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* II. 460 In the former state, teats are very apt to become corded or *spindled*.
4. Twisted or wound on the spindle.
1866 J. B. ROSE tr. *Ovid's Met.* 93 The Minyeides..With rosy fingers twirl the spindled wool.

Spi·ndleful. [f. SPINDLE *sb.* + -FUL 2.] As much (yarn or thread) as fills a spindle.
1611 COTGR., *Fusée*, a spoole-full, or spindle-full, of thread, yarne, &c. 1913 MACLAGAN *Our Ancest.* xiii. 131 The moon representing the ball or spindleful of thread.

†Spindlekin. *Obs.*—[1] (Cf. SPINDLE *sb.* 5.)
1713 *Phil. Trans.* XXVIII. 64 Steerbecks Cape Spindlekin.

Spindle-legged, *a.* [f. SPINDLE *sb.* 16.] = SPINDLE-SHANKED *a.*
1710 STEELE *Tatler* No. 148 ¶ 2 Many great families..are dwindled away into a pale, sickly, spindle-legged generation of valetudinarians. 1860 WORCESTER, *Spindle-legs*,..a spindle-legged person. 1863 MISS BRADDON *J. Marchmont's Legacy* I, It seemed as if the spindle-legged chairs and tables had grown attenuated..by much service.

†Spindler(s)-boat. *Obs. rare.* In 3 spindelerbote, 4 spindlerebote, spindeleresbot, spinleresbot. [Of obscure origin.] Some kind of fishing-boat.
1243 *Munim. Gildh. Lond.* (Rolls) III. 449 Major et cives ..dicunt quod omnes naves extraneorum cum omnibus piscibus salsatis exceptis spindelerbotes [*v.r.* spindlerebotes] applicuerunt ad prædictam hetham. *c*1365 *Liber Albus* Ibid. I. 374 Spindeleresbot [*v. r.* spinleresbot] qui ducit mulvellum recentem vel rayum.

Spindle-shank. Also spindleshank, spindle shank. [SPINDLE *sb.* 15 a. Cf. G. *spindelbein*, LG. *spil-*, *spillenbên*, Du. *spillebeen*.]
1. A long and slender leg. (Chiefly with contemptuous force and usu. in pl.) a. Of persons.
1570 ? REDFORD *Marr. Wit & Sci.* II. i, But what if she finde fault with these spindle shankes? 1581 MULCASTER *Positions* xxiv. (1887) 98 Quicke riding,..which so helped his spindle shankes. 1674 tr. *Scheffer's Lapland* 12 Slender wasts, spindle shanks, and swift of foot. 1700 LOCKE in Fox Bourne *Life* (1876) II. 480, I hope in my next, I shall be able to give a better account of my spindle-shanks. 1709 STEELE & ADDISON *Tatler* No. 75. ¶ 8 The Marriage of one of our Heiresses with an eminent Courtier, who gave us Spindle-Shanks, and Cramps in our Bones. 1786 BURNS *To a Haggis* vi, His spindle shank a guid whip-lash. 1840 THACKERAY *George Cruikshank* Wks. 1899 XIII. 293 He will find them [Frenchmen] almost invariably thin, with ludicrous spindle-shanks. 1898 STEEVENS *With Kitchener to Khartoum* 89 They..are willowy in figure, and their legs run to spindle-shanks, almost ridiculously.
b. Of articles of furniture.
1841 DICKENS *Barn. Rudge* vi, A lonely bedchamber, garnished..with chairs whose spindle-shanks bespoke their age.
2. *transf.* A spindle-legged person.
1602 *How Chuse Good Wife* II. iii, When didst thou see the starveling school-master?..that shrimp, that spindle-shank. 1828–32 WEBSTER, *Spindle-shanks*, a tall slender person; in contempt. 1865 *Slang Dict.* 241 *Spindle-shanks*, a nickname for any one who has thin legs.
3. *attrib.* in the sense 'having spindle-legs'.
1604 T. M. *Black Bk.* in *Middleton's Wks.* (Bullen) VIII. 25 The spindle-shank spiders, which show like great lechers with little legs.

Spindle-shanked, *a.* [Cf. prec.]
1. Having long and slender legs; spindle-legged. (Usu. with contemptuous force.) a. Of persons or animals.
c 1600 *Timon* II. i. (1842) 25, I did reject..Demetrius Cause he was spindleshankt. 1692 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 2787/4 Went away from his Master.., one Cæsar Rammer,..aged about 14,..small of growth, and spindle-shank'd. 1713 STEELE *Guardian* No. 97, Her lawyer..is a little, rivelled, spindle-shanked gentleman. 1754 ? FIELDING *Fathers* II. i, I will neither marry my daughter to a spindle-shanked beau, nor my son to a rampant woman of quality. 1800 *Sporting Mag.* XV. 107 The poor, slight, weedy, spindle-shanked stock of brood mares. 1837 CREEVEY in *C. Papers* (1904) II. 326 A chattering, capering, spindle-shanked gaby. 1863 *Blackw. Mag.* Sept. 276 The spindleshanked son of the notary Arouet.
b. Of articles of furniture.
1853 R. S. SURTEES *Sponge's Sp. Tour* (1893) 135 An old spindle-shanked sideboard, with very little middle.
2. Of legs: Long and thin.
1664 POWER *Exp. Philos.* I. 17 Such prodigiously little spindle-shank'd leggs.

Spindle-shaped, *ppl. a.* [SPINDLE *sb.* 16.] Having the form of a spindle; fusiform.
Chiefly *Bot.*, *Zool.*, and *Anat.*; common in 19th c.
1776 J. LEE *Introd. Bot.* Explan. Terms 377 *Fusiformis*, spindle-shaped, simple, and gradually lessening downwards. 1796 WITHERING *Brit. Plants* (ed. 3) IV. 220 Stem..gradually increasing in thickness to the ground, and then tapering to a spindle-shaped root. 1834 MRS. SOMERVILLE *Connex. Phys. Sci.* 401 Not unfrequently they are long and narrow, like a spindle-shaped ray. 1863 TYNDALL *Heat* viii. App. § 5 (1870) 263 The flame longer, narrower, and nearly spindle-shaped. 1875 COOKE *Fungi* 84 It is..easily recognized by the spindle-shaped stem.

Spi·ndle-side. [f. SPINDLE *sb.*, after older Teutonic combs. Cf. OFris. *spindelsida*, MLG. *spinelside*, G. *spindelseite*; MDu. and MLG. *spille(n)-*, *spilside* (Du. *spillezijde*, G. *spillseite*); also OE. *spinlhealf*, MLG. *spillhalbe*, MDu. and OFris. *spindelhant*.] The female line of descent.
1851 SIR F. PALGRAVE *Norm. & Eng.* I. 526 When..traditions of royalty are deduced through the spindleside, marriages accomplish the most radical of revolutions. 1868 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* viii. II. 243 One whose connexion with Normandy was only by the spindle-side. 1870 LOWELL *Study Wind.* 246 Such and such qualities he got from.. a great-uncle on the spindle side.

Spi·ndle-tree. [f. SPINDLE *sb.*, after G. *spindelbaum* (OHG. *spindel-*, *spinelpaum*, *spinnilapoum*), = MDu. *spindelboom*; cf. also G. *spillbaum*, Du. *spilboom*, MLG. *spillebôm*.]
1. An ornamental European shrub (*Euonymus Europæus*), furnishing a hard fine-grained yellowish wood formerly much used for spindles.
1548 TURNER *Names Herbes* (E.D.S.) 36 Euonymus.. maye be called in englishe Spyndle tree or square tree. 1578 LYTE *Dodoens* 760 Some call it..in Englishe Spindel tree, and Pricke timber: bycause the timber..serveth very well to the making both of Prickes and Spindelles. 1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* 240 The prickle or spindle tree (called also Euonimus) which groweth in the Mount Occynius. 1668 WILKINS *Real Char.* 108 Spindle Tree. Not purgative; having slender flexile twigs. 1734 *Phil. Trans.* XXXVIII. 234 On the Twigs it is more even and greener, resembling that of the Evonymus, or Spindle-Tree. 1769 *Ibid.* LIX. 38, I have likewise my suspicions with regard to the Privet and Spindle tree. 1841 *Penny Cycl.* XXI. 184/1 It is also well seen in the Euonymus, or common spindle-tree, where it forms a beautiful orange-coloured mantle around the seed. 1872 OLIVER *Elem. Bot.* II. 159 Charcoal is prepared from the wood of the Spindle-tree, for the use of artists. 1884 *Longman's Mag.* June 191 Willows, laurels, figs, and spindle-trees grew side by side.
attrib. 1857 HENFREY *Bot.* 271 *Celastraceæ*. The Spindle-tree Order. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 233/2 *Cassine*, a genus of South African plants belonging to the Spindle-tree family, *Celastraceæ*. 1868 WATTS *Dict. Chem.* s.v., Spindle-tree oil is prepared chiefly in Switzerland.
b. Applied, with distinguishing epithets, to other species of *Euonymus*, or to plants of different genera (see quots.).
1713 *Phil. Trans.* XXVIII. 64 Virginia Spindle-tree with rough Fruit. 1731 MILLER *Gard. Dict.* s.v. *Euonymus*, Ever-green African Spindle-Tree. *Ibid.* Ever-green Ethiopian Spindle-Tree. 1760 J. LEE *Introd. Bot.* App. 328 Spindle-tree, Bastard, *Celastrus*. *Ibid.*, Spindle-tree, Bastard, *Kiggellaria*. *Ibid.*, Spindle-tree, Climbing, *Celastrus*. 1771 J. R. FORSTER *Flora Amer. Septentr.* 11 *Evonymus Americanus*. Spindle tree, American. 1829 T. CASTLE *Introd. Bot.* 52 Studded over with small warts,..as in warty spindle-tree.
2. *pl.* The natural order *Celastraceæ*, to which the genus *Euonymus* belongs.
1840 LINDLEY *Veget. Kingd.* 586 *Celastraceæ*, Spindle-trees. *Ibid.* 587 The radicle of Spindle-trees is inferior. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 243/2 The Spindle-trees have a beautiful scarlet aril.

Spi·ndling, (*vbl.*) *sb.* [f. SPINDLE *sb.* or *v.*]
1. a. The action of providing with a spindle or spindles. *rare*—[1]. b. (See quot. 1611.)
1441–2 *Durham Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 185 In reparacione molendini.., viz. in spyndillyng et factura unius novi sayl-yerde, iiis. viiid. 1611 FLORIO, *Fusarie*, trifles, toyes, spindlings.
2. The formation of a stem, stalk, or shoot, in plants.
1626 BACON *Sylva* § 669 Another ill accident is drouth at the Spindling of the Corn, which with us is rare. 1707 MORTIMER *Husb.* (1721) II. 145 Their Leaves..may be tied in knots..which will prevent their spindling. 1726 *Dict. Rust.* (ed. 3), *Spindling*, a term which Gardiners use, to signify the first Appearance or putting forth of Flowers, Stems, or their running up in Length.
3. A spindly plant, animal, etc.
1842 TENNYSON *Amphion* xii, Half-conscious of the garden-squirt, The spindlings look unhappy. 1852 *P. Parley's Ann.* 330 Black sheep, or white sheep,..fat tails, or spindlings.

Spi·ndling, *ppl. a.* [f. SPINDLE *v.*]
1. Of plants: Growing or shooting out into (long) stalks or stems, esp. of a slender or weakly kind.
1750 G. HUGHES *Barbados* 217 Its numerous branches are spindling and weak. 1767 FAWKES *Theocr.* iv. 65 How high these thorns, and spindling brambles grow! 1805 R. W. DICKSON *Pract. Agric.* I. 546 Such warm sorts of land..are apt ..to push the plants forward in such a rapid manner, that they become weak and spindling. 1851 *B'ham & Midl. Gardeners' Mag.* Apr. 42 If they [*sc.* cuttings] are neglected in this particular they will grow spindling. 1885 *Athenæum* 23 May 669/1 Five spindling pines stand in the midst of a sandy waste.
fig. 1871 MRS. STOWE *My Wife* ix, Doubt..breaks a fellow up, and makes him morally spindling and sickly.
2. Of things: Slender, spindly.
1858 HOLLAND *Titcomb's Lett.* vi. 59 There are others who are coming up delicately with spindling shanks, and narrow shoulders. 1861 *Athenæum* 29 June 867 The spindling piers of stone are not grave enough in character.

Spindly (spi·ndli), *a.* Also 8 *Sc.* spinly. [f. SPINDLE *sb.*]
1. Of plants: Of a slender and weakly growth.
1651 in Hartlib *Legacy* (1655) 106 No more then a strong and fairly spread root could have a small and spindly head. 1743 MAXWELL *Sel. Trans. Agric. Scot.* 80 Where it..continues as Quagmire, it is all Fog at Top, with a short spinly thin Grass. 1805 R. W. DICKSON *Pract. Agric.* I. 550 On such lands the growth of the crop may be so retarded as to become weak and spindly. 1855 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* XVI. I. 131 The corn turns yellow and spindly. 1880 MISS BIRD *Japan* I. 242 Sandy ridges with nothing on them but spindly Scotch firs and fir scrub.
Comb. 1897 MARY KINGSLEY *W. Africa* 262 Some stretches of this forest were made up of thin, spindly stemmed trees of great height.
b. Of growth: Characterized by slimness or attenuation and weakness.
1856 GLENNY *Everyday Bk.* 121/1 Cramped into a weakly spindly growth, a temporary bloom, and a premature decay.
1887 *Sat. Rev.* 1 Oct. 444 They [*sc.* trees] developed an abnormal spindly habit in their struggles upwards.
2. In general use: Having a slender elongated form implying, or suggestive of, weakness.
1827 *Sporting Mag.* (N. S.) XX. 170 A late writer..complains of our present breed of racers as weak and spindly. 1871 B. TAYLOR *Faust* (1875) I. 108 Therefore I've worn, like many a spindly youth, False calves these many years upon me. 1883 MRS. G. L. BANKS *Forbidden to Marry* I. vi. 102 Spindly fire-irons. 1892 SLADEN *Japs at Home* xvi, The spindly little lacquer tables,..with bowed legs.

Spi·ndrift. Orig. *Sc.* Also 7 spene-, 8 speendrift. [var. of SPOONDRIFT, app. due to local Sc. pronunciations of *spoon*; the form *speen-* is north-eastern, *spin-* south-western.] Continuous driving of spray; spoondrift.
Common in English writers from *c* 1880, probably at first under the influence of W. Black's novels.
1600 MELVILL *Diary* (1842) 169 A how wa and spenedrift. 1755 R. FORBES *Ajax' Speech* 31 Twa-three swankies riding at the hand-gallop, garring the dubs flee about them like speen-drift. 1823 GALT *Entail* II. i. 9 Like the blast that brushes the waves of the ocean into spindrift. 1866 MACLEOD in *Gd. Words* Feb. 109 It..began to blow with furious gusts which angrily tore the small waves of the inland sea into spindrift. 1879 BLACK *Macleod of D.* xxix, Brief gleams of stormy sunlight lighting up the grey spindrift. 1883 G. C. DAVIES *Norfolk Broads* xxvii, The spindrift hid them every minute, and it appeared impossible they could live in such a boil.

Spine (spəin), *sb.*[1] Also 5 spyne, spin. [ad. OF. *espine* (mod.F. *épine*, = Prov. *espina*, Sp. *espina*, Pg. *espinha*, It. *spina*), or directly ad. L. *spīna* thorn, prickle, backbone, etc.]
I. 1. *Bot.* A stiff, sharp-pointed process produced or growing from the wood of a plant, consisting of a hardened or irregularly developed branch, petiole, stipule, or other part; a thorn; a similar process developed on fruits or leaves.
Botanically distinguished from a PRICKLE (q.v.), and sometimes also from a *thorn*, the latter being then restricted to processes originating from the epidermis only.
1430–40 LYDG. *Bochas* II. xxxi. (1554) 67 Serue the Lorde ..Which for thy sake was crouned with a spine, His heart eke perced to saue thee fro ruine. 1601 DENT *Pathw. Heaven* (1617) 36 The crab-stock spines, which grow out of the root of the very best apple tree. 1612 *Two Noble K.* I. i, Roses, their sharpe spines being gon. 1656 in BLOUNT. *a* 1722 LISLE *Husb.* (1757) 449 The spine, to which the pea adheres by a thread, is preserved entire. 1813 SIR H. DAVY *Agric. Chem.* (1814) 63 The tendrils, the spines, and other similar parts of plants. 1839 DARWIN *Voy. Nat.* xiv. 318 [A cactus] which, including the spines, was six feet and four inches in circumference. 1860 RUSKIN *Mod. Paint.* V. VI. viii. § 14. 75 *note*, A branch of blackthorn with its spines. 1867 H. MACMILLAN *Bible Teach.* vii. (1870) 145 In the holly ..the leaves which grow nearest the ground are thickly furnished with spines.
b. *transf.* = NEEDLE *sb.* 11.
1859 BOYD *Recreat. Country Parson* ii. 28 There was not a breath of air through the spines of the firs. 1869 *Chambers's Jrnl.* Sept. 623 A few years ago, no one imagined that the spines (foliage) of pine-trees could be converted into wool.
†2. The sting of a bee. *Obs.*—[0]
1656 in BLOUNT *Glossogr.*
3. *Anat.* One or other of several sharp-pointed slender processes of various bones.
1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey) s.v. *Pectinis Os*, The upper Part of this Bone is call'd its Spine. 1726 MONRO *Anat.* 107 Thro' the Middle of the Two Arches a small sharp Ridge runs, which has the Name of *Spine* bestowed on it by some, as indeed Anatomists commonly do apply this Name to all the long narrow-edged Protuberances of Bones. 1808 *Med. Jrnl.* XIX. 212 A very troublesome sensation near the spine of the left ilium. 1831 R. KNOX *Cloquet's Anat.* 99 At the middle part it is much diminished, and is limited by the two nasal spines. 1870 ROLLESTON *Animal Life* 7 The spines of the dorsal vertebræ.
4. *Zool.* A stiff, pointed, thorn-like process or appendage developed on the integument of certain fishes, insects, or lower forms of animal life.
1721 BRADLEY *Philos. Acc. Wks. Nat.* 148 On the forepart of its [an insect's] Body, near the Head, are placed two Branches..from which proceed several capillary Spines. 1748 J. HILL *Hist. Fossils* 652 The various species of bodies allow'd to have been spines of the Echini. 1815 STEPHENS in *Shaw's Gen. Zool.* IX. I. 42 At the bend of the wing, just within, is a horn-coloured spine, about one-eighth of an inch long, and blunt at the end. 1835 J. DUNCAN *Beetles* 110 The tibiæ..are frequently beset with stiff bristles, and armed more or less with spines or spurs. 1888 ROLLESTON & JACKSON *Anim. Life* 190 [In star-fish] the edges of a groove are bordered immediately by a series of fine moveable spines.
b. One of the prickles of a hedgehog, the quills of a porcupine, or similar growth on other animals.
1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl., *Erinaceus*,..the common hedgehog...Its head, back, and sides, are covered with sharp spines. 1770 G. WHITE *Selborne* xxvii, No doubt their spines are soft and flexible at the time of their birth. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1824) II. 104 In the one [species of porcupine], the spines are about an inch long; in the other, a foot. 1828 STARK *Elem. Nat. Hist.* I. 128 Crested Porcupine. With very long spines on the back. 1840 *Cuvier's Anim. Kingd.* 113 Some [rats] have spines mingled with their fur, as the Cairo Mouse.., which has spines on the back in place of hairs. 1870 YEATS *Nat. Hist. Comm.* 298 Bristles, hedgehog spines, and porcupine quills, are all modifications of hair.
c. *Ichth.* A spinous or spiny fin-ray; a fin-spine.
1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) VI. 189 These fins differ very much from those of other fishes, which are formed of straight spines. 1828 STARK *Elem. Nat. Hist.* I. 476 Bantickle or Stickleback. Three spines on the back. 1867

F. Francis *Angling* iii. (1880) 98 Master Perch has sharp spines.

d. *Conch.* A sharp projection of a shell.

1822 J. Parkinson *Outl. Oryctol.* 156 A subfusiform univalve;..the spine longish. *Ibid.* 203 Lip alæform; bent upwards on the spine.

5. a. Any natural formation having a slender sharp-pointed form.

1750 tr. *Leonardus' Mirr. Stones* 89 Its broad head..being put before the light, the Spine appears within. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VI. 490 The dendrons are possessed of numerous minute lateral projections, gemmules, spines, or 'thorns', as they have been variously called.

b. *Needlework.* (See quot.)

1882 Caulfeild & Saward *Dict. Needlework* 458/1 Spines ..are also called Pinworks, and are used to trim the raised Cordonnets that surround Spanish and Venetian Point Lace, and also other kinds of Point Lace. The Spines are long straight points that stick out from the edge of the Cordonnet.

II. 6. The spinal or vertebral column in man and vertebrates; the backbone. Also *spine of the back*; now *dial.*

(*a*) *c* 1400 *Lanfranc's Cirurg.* 358 Of curis of woundis of þe spine oupir spondilium.

1615 Crooke *Body of Man* xiii. xx. (1631) 974 Vnder the name of the Spine we comprehend all that which is extended from the first Racke bone of the Necke vnto the Coccyx or Rumpe. 1646 Sir T. Browne *Pseud. Ep.* iv. i. 180 So cannot other animals lye upon their backs; though the spine lye parallell with the Horizon, yet will their legs incline, and lye at angles unto it. 1661 Lovell *Hist. Anim. & Min.* Isagoge v, Amongst Fishes..The *Psettaceous*, or plain and spinose, have a spine that seemeth to be divided in the midd'st. 1794 Cowper *Needless Alarm* 7 Many a neighb'ring squire.. Contusion hazarding of neck or spine. 1827 N. Arnott *Physics* I. 223 The head rests on the elastic column of the spine. 1834 McMurtrie *Cuvier's Anim. Kingd.* 27 The spine, most commonly, is continued into a tail. 1866 G. Macdonald *Ann. Q. Neighb.* i. (1878) 5 The horses stand.. with their spines in a straight line.

(*b*) 1651 *Sir W. Raleigh's Ghost* 87 From the head, it..is extended through the spine of the back. 1815 J. Smith *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 272 Having suspended some frogs ..by means of metallic hooks fixed in the spines of their backs. 1884– in dial. glossaries and texts (Worcs., Glouc., Oxf., Berks., Herts., Cornw.).

b. *transf.* A part or formation having the function of a backbone.

1665 Hooke *Microgr.* 117 The leaf being..set into the *Pedunculus*,..receiveth from that not onely a *Spine*, as I may call it, which, passing through the leaf, divides it [etc.]. 1807 J. Barlow *Columb.* ix. 96 Yet what an age her shell-rock ribs attest! Her sparry spines, her coal-encumber'd breast! 1855 Tennyson *Maud* II. ii. iv, The shock Of cataract seas that snap The three decker's oaken spine. 1889 *Pall Mall G.* 23 Apr. 2/1 The span is the great arch that supports the first floor. The spine is the iron upright which runs outside the Tower from the second floor to the summit.

c. A line or mark along the back.

1791 W. H. Marshall *W. England* (1796) II. 243 The Cattle..chiefly of a dark red color; a few of them with white Glocestershire spines.

7. The heart-wood or duramen of a tree.

1630–1 [implied in *spine-lath*: see 11]. 1703 R. Neve *City & C. Purchaser* 261 If the Elm be fell'd between November and February, it will be all Spine, or Heart. 1825–63 [see *spine-oak* in 11]. 1883 M. P. Bale *Saw-Mills* 336 *Spine*, is the name given to the mature wood of a tree, the outer layer being called alburnum or sapwood.

8. A ridge or elevated stretch of ground, rock, etc., having a position analogous to that of the backbone, or resembling it in some way.

1796 Morse *Amer. Geog.* I. 567 The spine, or highest ridge of the peninsula. 1852 Munday *Antipodes* (1857) 4 These spines of land, or rather rock, subdivide the south shore of Port Jackson. 1860 Tyndall *Glac.* I. xxi. 148 These blocks ride upon a spine of ice, and form a moraine. 1895 Meredith *Amazing Marriage* xxxiv, Mickleham, where the Surrey chalk runs its final turfy spine North-Eastward.

9. *techn.* A longitudinal ridge; a fin; a longitudinal slat of a riddle.

1875 in Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2269/2.

III. *attrib.* and *Comb.* **10. a.** In sense 6, as *spine-ache, -case, -chisel, -pad*, etc.; *spine-breaking, -broken* adjs.

1822–7 Good *Study Med.* (1829) III. 221 In no instance do I find the back-bone ache, or spine-ache, from which rhachialgia derives its name. *Ibid.* IV. 682 Baron Larrey speaks in terms of high commendation of the first, and especially in spine-cases, or paraplegia. 1823 Campbell *Sp. Patriots* iii, Smile o'er the gaspings of spine-broken men. 1882 Flower *Unexpl. Baluchistan* 120 We bumped, stumbled, and jolted in a most horribly spine-breaking, bone-dislocating manner. 1895 *Arnold & Sons' Catal. Surg. Instrum.* 93 Spine Chisel. *Ibid.* 96 Spine Saw. *Ibid.* 513 Spine Hook. 1900 Isabel Savory *Sportsw. India* viii. 256 Not only [to] wear a large *solá topi*, but have a spine pad sewn inside the coat.

b. In senses 1 and 4, as *spine-clad, -covered, -finned, -headed, -like, -pointed, -tailed* adjs.; *spine-cushion.*

1846 Patterson *Zool.* 43 In the harder, or *spine-clad species [of Echinodermata]. 1849 *Sk. Nat. Hist., Mammalia* IV. 115 The Common Porcupine.. This *spine-covered animal is found in Italy [etc.]. 1884 Bower & Scott *De Bary's Phaner.* 310 The leaf-bundles run..almost horizontally upwards towards the lower margin of the *spine-cushion. 1896 Lydekker *Roy. Nat. Hist.* V. 335 The *spine-finned fishes..are distinguished..by some of the anterior rays of the dorsal, anal, and pelvic fins usually taking the form of strong, unjointed, bony spines. *Ibid.* 547 The extinct Spine-finned Sharks,—order Acanthodii. 1804 Shaw *Gen. Zool.* V. ii. 396 *Spine-headed Sucker, *Cyclopterus Bispinosus.* *c* 1880 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* IV. 301 All the species of the Snake family..have minute vestiges of hind limbs, scale-like or *spine-like. 1882 Vines tr. *Sach's Bot.* 457 The four cells are attached to each other by means of rigid spine-like projections. 1829 T. Castle *Introd. Bot.* 63 The apex of a leaf may..be..*spine-pointed or cuspidate. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1062/2 A Peruvian shrub, with elliptic spine-pointed leaves. 1802 Shaw *Gen. Zool.* III. i. 216 *Spine-tailed Lizard, *Lacerta Acanthura.* 1860 G. Bennett *Gatherings Naturalist* 180 That remarkable little bird, the..Spine-tailed Orthonyx. 1872 Coues *N. Amer. Birds* 183 *Chæturinæ.* Spine-tailed Swifts.

11. Special Combs.: **spine-bill**, one or other of two species of Australian honey-eaters, characterized by their long spine-like bills; **spine-bone**, the spine; also *transf.*; **spine-eel**, a spiny eel; **spine-fish**, a fish having sharp spines; †**spine-lath**, a heart-lath; **spine-machine**, a device for supporting or strengthening the human spine; **spine-oak**, the heart-wood of an oak (cf. 7). See also Spine-tail.

1848 Gould *Birds Australia* IV. Pl. 61 *Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris.* Slender-billed *Spine-bill. *Ibid.* Pl. 62 *A. superciliosus.* White-eyebrowed Spine-bill. *c* 1400 *Lanfranc's Cirurg.* 148 Þei strecchen doun to þe eeris [*v.r.* ers]in lenkþe biside þe *spin boon [*v.r.* spyne bon]. 1621 Lodge *Summary of Du Bartas* I. 273 The marrow of the Spine-bone. *a* 1892 Tennyson in *Mem.* (1897) I. 20, I used to stand on this sand-built ridge,..and think that it was the spine-bone of the world. 1883 Day *Indian Fish* 30 Few are of much economic importance, if we except the common goby, *spine-eels (*Mastacembelidæ*). 1827 Hood *Hero & Leander* xxvi, Let no fierce sharks destroy him with their teeth, Nor *spine-fish wound him with their venom'd thorns. 1630–1 in Swayne *Sarum Churchw. Acc.* (1896) 192 Three hundred of *spind lathes, 2s. 6d. 1635–6 *Ibid.* 204, ij hundred of spine lathes to mend ouer the North dore of the Ch. 1803 Hey *Pract. Obs. Surg.* Pref. p. vii, Mr. E. makes excellent *Spine-machines, upon the true principle of supporting the weak part from the ground. 1825 Cobbett *Rur. Rides* (1885) II. 31 The best of *spine oak is generally chosen for these pins. 1863 Wise *New Forest* Gloss., *Spine-oak*, the heart of oak.

Spine (spəin), *sb.*[2] *s.w. dial.* Also 7–8 **spind**. [OE. *spind* fat, = WFris. *spyn*, OS. *spind* (MLG. *spint*), MDu. and Du. *spint*, OHG. and G. dial. *spind, spint*, fat, sapwood. In Devon and Cornw. the forms *spend, spen* are also in use.]

1. Greensward, sward; turf. Also *attrib.*

1786 *Young's Annals Agric.* VII. 60, I would recommend some heaps to be made of the sward or spind, in the nature of denshiring or burnbaiting. 1791 W. H. Marshall *W. England* (1796) II. 264 Paring off and subverting, apparently with a Breast Plow, the 'spine' or rough sod of an orchard. 1807 Vancouver *Agric. Devon* (1813) 116 Cutting..the spine or green sward to a feather-edge. 1823 J. Badcock *Dom. Amusem.* 29 These planks subsequently covered with the spine of earth well kept. 1889 *Reports Provinces, Devon.* (E.D.D.), You can't grow a good spine under those trees.

2. The rind of pork or other meat; the layer of fat or meat adhering to the skin. Also *attrib.* in *spine-pork* (see quot. 1886).

1847 Halliwell, *Spine*, the hide of an animal; the fat on the surface of a joint of meat. 1886 Elworthy *W. Somerset Word-bk., Spine-pork*, the meat of small pigs, on which the bacon is left with the skin; hence the 'crackling'.

Spine (spəin), *v. rare.* [f. Spine *sb.*[1]]

†**1.** *intr.* To grow or develop like a spine. *Obs.*–[1]

1621 G. Sandys *Ovid's Met.* v. (1626) 101 A taile withall Spines from his changed shape.

2. *trans.* To shoot or hit in the spine.

1888 J. Inglis *Tent Life Tigerland* 340 It was 'spined' (the shot had been a lucky one).

†**Spineal**, *a. Obs.*–[1] [f. L. *spīne-us*, f. *spīna* thorn.] Made of thorns.

1688 Holme *Armoury* III. 7/2 The Crown Spineal, or Crown of Thorns,..was made of sharp thorns.

Spined (spəind), *a.* [f. Spine *sb.*[1]]

1. Having, provided or covered with, spines; spinous, spiny.

1777 Pennant *Brit. Zool.* (ed. 4) IV. 4 Claws angulated; second joint spined. 1819 Samouelle *Entomol. Compend.* 274 Feet..not strongly ciliated or spined. 1856 A. R. Wallace in *Ann. Nat. Hist.* July 27 A female Mias, on a durian tree, kept up..a continuous shower of branches and of the heavy, spined fruits. 1882 P. M. Duncan *Transf. Insects* 91 Their legs are well developed; the hind ones are particularly strong, and the others are spined.

b. In the specific names of various animals, fishes, etc., as *spined caterpillar, cicada, loach, rat, sea-screw, shark, sparus* (see quots.).

1803 Shaw *Gen. Zool.* IV. II. 416 Spined Sparus, *Sparus Spinifer.* 1836 Yarrell *Brit. Fishes* I. 381 The Spined Loche Groundling. *Botia tænia.* 1839 *Penny Cycl.* XV. 496/2 *Echimys*, Geoff. (Spined Rats). 1840 Swainson & Shuckard *Insects* 64 One of the spined caterpillars of Brazil. *Ibid.* 130 The *Centronotidæ*, or spined cicadas, remarkable for..the spines upon their bodies. 1850 A. White *List Specim. Crustacea Brit. Mus.* 49 *Dexamine spinosa.* Spined Sea-Screw. 1879 E. P. Wright *Anim. Life* 464 Of the Spined Sharks, or *Spinacidæ*, there are a good many species.

2. Having a spine or spinal column.

1891 in *Cent. Dict.*

†**Spinee.** *Obs.* In 4 **spynee, spine, 5 spyneye.** [ad. OF. *espinee* (not recorded in this sense), f. *espine* Spine *sb.*[1]] A dish or confection flavoured with hawthorn flowers.

1381 in *Forme of Cury* (1780) 107 For to make spine. Nym the flowrys of the haw thorn clene gaderyd and bray hem al to dust [etc.]. *c* 1430 *Two Cookery-bks.* 20 Spyneye. [Receipt follows.]

Spinel (spi·nĕl). Forms: 6 **spynel, 7 spinnell, 7–9 spinell, 8–9 spinal, 7– spinel.** [ad. older F. *espinelle* (mod.F. *spinelle*, It. *spinella*, Sp. *espinela*). See also Espinel and Spinelle.]

1. A gem or precious stone of a red or scarlet colour, closely resembling the true ruby, now classed as belonging to the typical species of the spinel group of minerals (see sense 2).

1528 *MS. List of Jewelry* (P.R.O.), xiij rynges,..iij with Spynels,..oon with a crapawd. 1599 Hakluyt *Voy.* II. 236 Rubies, Safires & Spinels. 1620 in Rymer *Fœdera* (1710) XVII. 196 Two greate Stones called Spinnells. 1665 Sir T. Herbert *Trav.* (1677) 88 Translucent stones which want neither beauty nor esteem; namely, Topazes, Amethysts, Spinels [etc.]. 1698 Fryer *Acc. E. India & P.* 214 The third sort of Ruby is called a Spinell. 1801 T. Thomson in *Encycl. Brit.* Suppl. II. 203/2 If deep [red], the ruby is usually called balass; if pale rosy, spinell. 1892 *Daily News* 23 Mar. 5/4 The Spinel and the Balas, the one a lively poppy-red, the other a violet-rose, frequently usurp the dignity of a true ruby.

b. More fully in *spinel ruby.*

1668 Charleton *Onomast.* 277 *Rubinus Spinellus*, the Spinel Ruby. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s.v. *Ruby*, The second is the spinal ruby. Under this name they [jewellers] know those rubies, which are of a somewhat less deep..colour, than what they call the true ruby. 1796 Kirwan *Elem. Min.* (ed. 2) I. 253 Spinell and Balass Rubies. 1815 J. Smith *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 411 In the emerald it [chromium] exists in the state of green oxide, and the spinal ruby contains it in the state of an acid. 1839 Ure *Dict. Arts* 391 If..we make the edges of a spinel ruby..curvilinear. 1883 *Encycl. Brit.* XVI. 386/2 Varieties are—Spinel ruby when scarlet, Balas Ruby when rose-red.

2. *Min.* The typical species of a group of minerals (the *spinel group*), which are compounds of sesquioxides with protoxides, and crystallize in the isometric system.

1807 T. Thomson *Chem.* (ed. 3) II. 482 This mineral, which has some resemblance to the spinel, was found composed of 60 parts alumina [etc.]. 1817 R. Jameson *Char. Min.* (ed. 3) 132 Triple crystals occur in spinel and calcareous-spar. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 348/2 Spinell is found in Ceylon and Siam in isolated and rolled crystals in the beds of rivers. 1888 Rutley *Rock-Forming Min.* 108 Ordinary spinel appears reddish, or colourless by transmitted light.

b. One or other of the various minerals belonging to this group.

See also *chloro-spinel* (Chloro-[1]) and *water-spinel.*

1837 Dana *Min.* 328 The fine colored spinels, when of large size, are highly esteemed as gems. 1863 — *Man. Geol.* 139 The soft spinels of St. Lawrence co., called houghite. 1880 Cleminshaw *Wurtz' Atom. The.* 144 The spinels form a very natural isomorphous group.

c. *attrib.*, as *spinel-crystal.*

1851 *Amer. Jrnl. Sci.* Ser. II. XII. 210 Some of his specimens are spinel crystals..in one part, and true Houghite in another.

Spinel, var. Spinal *sb.*; obs. or dial. f. Spindle.

Spineless (spəi·nlės), *a.* [f. Spine *sb.*[1]]

1. Of animals, plants, etc.: Having no spines or sharp-pointed processes; not spinous.

1827 Griffith tr. *Cuvier* V. 223 Spineless Rats of the Old Continent. 1832 Lindley *Introd. Bot.* 49 In domesticated plants they [spines] often entirely disappear, as in the Apple and Pear, the wild varieties of which are spiny, and the cultivated ones spineless. 1840 *Penny Cycl.* XVIII. 170/2 Scales of Cones [of a pine] spineless at apex. 1890 *Cent. Dict.* s.v. *Perch, Spineless perch*, a pirate-perch.

2. Having a weak or diseased spine; deprived or destitute of the natural strength or support of the spine; exhausted, limp.

1860 Dickens *Uncomm. Trav.* iv, A whole family of Sprites, consisting of a remarkably stout father and three spineless sons. 1876 Bothmer *Germ. Home Life* 237 The sole heir to a vast property was a delicate spineless boy. 1877 W. S. Gilbert *Foggerty's Fairy* (1892) 97 He found Mrs. Pintle reclining in a spineless way on a comfortable sofa.

b. Lacking moral force, resolution, or vigour; marked by weakness or instability of character; feeble, flabby, irresolute.

1885 *The Voice* (N. Y.) 17 Dec. 2 We are sick of this spineless way of treating violators of law. 1891 Miss Dowie *Girl in Karp.* 209 She had married this spineless person, broken him of his drinking habits. 1892 Kipling in *Pall Mall G.* 24 Mar. 3/1 Clamouring for the aid of a spineless Government.

Spi·nelet. [dim. of Spine *sb.*[1]] A small spine or spiny process.

1901 *Proc. Zool. Soc.* 273 It is quite likely..that these horny spinelets are equally characteristic of *Galago garnetti.*

Spinellane (spine·lən). *Min.* [ad. G. *spinellan*, so named (1808) by the German geologist K. W. Nose, from its resemblance to Spinel.] = Nosean, or a blue variety of this.

1815 Aikin *Min.* (ed. 2) 208 Spinellane occurs in small crystals. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 348/2 Spinellane.. is found on the borders of Lake Laach, near Andernach on the Rhine. 1850 Ansted *Elem. Geol., Min.*, etc. 200 Hauyne, with a nearly allied mineral, Spinellane, also called Nosean, cannot with propriety be separated [from Lapis-lazuli].

Spinelle (spine·l). [ad. older F. *espinelle*, mod.F. *spinelle*: see Spinel.]

1. = Spinel 1.

1555 Eden *Decades* (Arb.) 264 There is also..an other kynde of Rubies which wee caule Spinelle. 1599 Hakluyt *Voy.* II. i. 264 There is great store of rubies, saphires, and spinelles in this Iland. 1600 in Nichols *Progr. Q. Eliz.* (1823) III. 454 One jewell of golde, garnished with two spynnelles and sparkes of dyamondes about yt. 1684 R. Waller *Nat. Exper.* 128 The Spinelle, and the Ruby Baleis. 1796 Kirwan *Elem. Min.* (ed. 2) I. 253 By Mr. Klaproth the spinelle which he analyzed..contained, 0,7635 argill, 0,1568 silex, 0,0263 of

iron, and 0.0128 calx. 1802 [see 1 b]. 1876 *Encycl. Brit.* IV. 552/2 [In Burmah are] found..different varieties of chrysoberyl and spinelle.

b. *Spinelle ruby*, = SPINEL 1 b and 2 (cf. next).

1802 *Phil. Trans.* XCII. 305 The first of these substances ..is the spinelle ruby, now generally known by the name of spinelle. 1829 CRAWFURD *Jrnl. Emb. to Crt. of Ava* (1834) II. 201 The precious stones ascertained to exist in the Burmese territory are chiefly those of the sapphire family and the spinelle ruby. 1854 J. SCOFFERN in *Orr's Circ. Sci., Chem.* 448 Chromate of iron..occurs crystallized in regular octahedrons, being..the alogue of magnetic oxide of iron, and the spinelle ruby

2. *Min.* = SPINEL 2.

1804 R. JAMESON *Min.* I. 78 Spinelle...Its principal colour is red. 1823 H. J. BROOKE *Introd. Crystallogr.* 82 The octahedron will therefore..be adopted as the primary form of spinelle and red oxide of copper. 1876 PAGE *Adv. Text-bk. Geol.* vii. 146 Many of the older lavas yield agates, chalcedony, leucite, spinelle, olivine, and other precious minerals.

Spinescence (spəine·sĕns). *Bot.* and *Zool.* [See next and -ENCE. So F. *spinescence*.] Spinescent character, condition, or formation.

1859 MAYNE *Expos. Lex., Spinescentia*,..spinescence. 1894 *Nat. Sci.* Oct. 263 It is not altogether strange to find spinescent processes away from deserts; but I do maintain that spinescence is an important element in the facies of hot and arid deserts in a barren soil. 1908 *Smithsonian Misc. Coll.* v. 104 The differences are mainly in the spinescence or smoothness of the skin.

Spinescent (spəine·sĕnt), *a.* [ad. mod.L. *spinescent-, -ens*, pres. pple. of L. *spīnescere* to grow thorny, f. *spīna* SPINE *sb.*1 So F. *spinescent*.]

1. *Bot.* Developing into, or terminating in, a spine or thorn; also, bearing or covered with spines; spiniferous.

1793 MARTYN *Lang. Bot., Spinescens*, spinescent, becoming hard and thorny. 1841 *Florist's Jrnl.* (1846) II. 213 The calyx is small and entire, with five spinescent teeth. 1876 HARLEY *Royle's Mat. Med.* 666 A shrub with squamose spinescent branches.

2. *Zool.* Tending to become a spine or spinous process; spinous, spinulous.

1856–8 W. CLARK *Van der Hoeven's Zool.* II. 526 Feathers of back and rump rigid, often spinescent. 1894 [see SPINESCENCE].

Spinet1 (spi·nĕt, spine·t). Forms: α. 7– spinette, 8 spinnette. β. 7–9 spinnet. γ. 8 spinett, 8– spinet. [ad. older F. *espinette* (1522; mod.F. *épinette*), = It. *spinetta, -etto*, Sp., Pg. *espineta*, mod.L. *spineta* (*a* 1558 Scaliger *Poet.* I. xlviii). Cf. ESPINETTE.

Acc. to Scaliger *spineta* was formed on L. *spīna*, with reference to the crow-quills which had been introduced into the mechanism. This, however, would be an unusual application of *spīna*, and greater probability attaches to the explanation given by A. Banchieri in 1608, that the name was derived from the inventor of the instrument, Giovanni Spinetti of Venice, whose name Banchieri had seen on a spinet dated 1503. See *Grove's Dict. Mus.* s.v.]

A keyed musical instrument, common in England in the 18th century, closely resembling the harpsichord, but smaller and having only one string to each note.

A full description of the various kinds of spinet is given in *Grove's Dict. Mus.* s.v.

α. 1664 PEPYS *Diary* 1 July, One Cheswicke, a master who plays very well upon the Spinette. 1686 tr. *Chardin's Trav. Persia* 229 When the Spinette came they set it upon the Table in the midst of the Room. 1761 *Ann. Reg., Chron.* 128 Father de la Borde, the inventor of the electrical spinette. 1763 JEFFERSON *Writ.* (1892) I. 352, I am vastly pleased with her playing on the spinnette and singing. 1874 T. ARCHER *Sword & Shuttle* i. in *Casquet Lit.* 2nd Ser. I. 250/1 A spinette in the corner of the room was open. 1886 MRS. MARSHALL *Tower on Cliff* iv. 52 It is not every woman can..play on the spinette.

β. 1696 H. PURCELL (*title*), A Choice Collection of Lessons for the Harpsichord or Spinnet. 1713 SWIFT *Cadenus & Vanessa* Wks. 1751 III. ii. 27 When miss delights in her spinnet, A fiddler may a fortune get. 1786 *Ann. Reg., Chron.* 207/2 The strings of a spinnet were heard to vibrate. 1821 GALT *Ann. Parish* xii. 118 An old woman, sitting whole hours jingling with that paralytic chattel a spinnet. 1881 BESANT & RICE *Chapl. of Fleet* I. viii. (1883) 61 [She] had once been a proficient on the spinnet, but there was no spinnet to be had.

γ. 1702 STEELE *Funeral* II, There's the Spinet Mr. Campley, I know you're Musical. 1773 J. ADAMS *Wks.* (1850) II. 323 The young ladies..entertained us upon the spinet, &c. 1810 A. BOSWELL *Edinburgh* Poet. Wks. (1871) 51 While 'Nancy Dawson', 'Sandie o'er the lee',..Ring on the jingling spinet or guitar. 1847 H. MILLER *First Impr. Eng.* v. 74 He had fitted up an old spinet, until it awoke into life, in these latter days of Collards and Broadwoods. 1889 BRINSMEAD *Hist. Pianoforte* 94 The English spinet was similar to the virginal except in its shape.

attrib. and *Comb.* 1703 STEELE *Tender Husb.* III. ii, Madam, your Spinet Master is come. 1883 *Grove's Dict. Mus.* III. 656/1 Stephen Keene was a well-known spinet-maker. *Ibid.*, His spinets..reached the highest perfection of spinet tone possible.

Spinet2. *Obs.* exc. *arch.* [ad. L. *spīnēt-um* (f. *spīna* thorn) or It. *spineto*.] A thicket; a spinney.

1603 B. JONSON *Entertainm. at Althorpe* 1 The invention was, to have a Satyre lodged in a little Spinet by which her Majestie and the Prince were to come. 1635 BRATHWAIT *Arcadian Princess* II. 179 Walking one day in a delightfull spinet, beautified with shady poplars. 1848 TYAS *Fav. Field Fl.* Ser. I. 17 We came near a spinet, consisting chiefly of lofty well-grown ash trees.

†**Spi·net**3. *Obs*–1. [dim. of SPINE *sb.*1] A small spine or thorn.

1671 GREW *Anat. Pl.* I. iv. (1682) 33 Of affinity with these are the Spinets or Thorny Prickles upon the Edges and Tops of divers Leaves.

Spine-tail. [SPINE *sb.*1]

1. *Ornith.* One or other of several birds of unrelated genera characterized by their stiff, spine-like or mucronate tail-feathers.

1839 AUDUBON *Syn. Birds N. Amer.* 33 *Chætura*, Spine-tail. *Ibid., Chætura pelasgia*, American Spine-tail. *c* 1880 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* IV. 111 The third family of the Mesomyodi, or Songless Birds, the Spine-tails (*Dendrocolaptidæ*). 1890 *Cent. Dict., Orthonyx*, a remarkable Australian genus of passerine birds; the spinetails. 1891 *Ibid., Spine-tail*, the ruddy duck, *Erismatura rubida*. 1893 W. H. HUDSON *La Plata* 371 Small Spine-tail [*Synallaxis phryganophila*] and Nest.

b. *attrib.* in *spine-tail grouse, swift.*

1884 COUES *N. Amer. Birds* 457 *Chæturinæ*, Spine-tail Swifts. *Ibid.* 580 *Centrocercus*,..Spine-tail Grouse.

2. *Ichth.* (See quots.)

1851 GOSSE *Nat. Hist., Fishes* 147 *Teuthididæ*. (Spine-tails.) *Ibid.* 148 In form and general appearance the Spine-tails resemble the Chætodons.

Spine-tailed: see SPINE *sb.*1 10 b.

†**Spiney, spiny.** *Obs. rare.* [Of obscure origin.] A shoot or sucker of a plant or tree.

1649 BLITHE *Eng. Improver* xxii. 130 Every Root may send forth twentie or fortie Spineyes, and yet all nourished from the Earth, and these Stooles they grow upon also. 1652 — *Eng. Improv. Impr.* 232 Every set having some suckors or spinies of root going out from them.

†**Spi·ngard.** *Obs.*–° [ad. med.L. *spingarda* (It. *spingarda*, Sp., Pg. *espingarda*, OF. **espingarde*): cf. ESPRINGAL, SPRINGAL(D.)] (See quot.)

1671 PHILLIPS, *Spingard*, a kind of Chamber-gun, but now out of use.

†**Spi·nger.** *Obs. rare.* [? ad. It. *spingere* to push, thrust.] (See quots.)

1659 C. SIMPSON *Division-Violist* I. 9 There is yet another plain or smooth Grace, called a Spinger, which concludeth the sound of a Note more acute, by clapping down another Finger just at the expiring of it. 1676 MACE *Musicks Mon.* 109 The Spinger, is a Grace, very Neat, and Curious, for some sort of Notes.

Spin-house. Now *Hist.* Also 8 spinn-. [ad. Du. *spinhuis* (MDu. *spinhuys*), G. *spinnhaus*. Cf. SPINNING-HOUSE.] A house or building in which persons are employed in spinning. a. In reference to Continental usage: A house of correction or penitentiary for women. b. A workhouse.

a. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 19 Aug. 1641, [At Amsterdam] we stepp'd in to see the *Spin-house*, a kind of Bridewell, where incorrigible and lewd women are kept in discipline and labour. 1703 tr. *Nieuhoff's Voy. to E. Indies* 306 For the Encouraging of Virtue and Suppressing of Debauchery in lewd Women, a Spin-House has been erected here. 1777 J. HOWARD *State of Prisons* 121 The States do not transport criminals: but men are put to labour in the Rasp-houses, and women do proper work in the Spin-Houses.

b. 1702 in Brand *Newcastle* (1789) I. 327 *note*, Work-house, alias spinn-house.

Spini- (spəi·ni), combining form of L. *spīna* spine, thorn (cf. SPINO-), used in various scientific terms, as *spini-acute, -dentate, -tuberculate* adjs.

Mayne *Expos. Lex.* (1859) employs *spinicerebral, -folious, -pede* to translate corresponding Latin formations; recent Dicts. give a number of other combs., as *spinicerebrate, -deltoid, -spirular, -spirulate*, esp. anatomical terms relating to the spinal cord and some other part or organ, as *spinibulbar, -cerebellar, -muscular, -peripheral*, etc.

1852 DANA *Crust.* I. 323 Hand..spini-dentate on the lower margin. *Ibid.* 463 The carpus spini-tuberculate above and pilose. *Ibid.* 479 Anterior angles spini-acute.

Spiniferite (spəini·fĕrəit). *Palæont.* [f. L. *spīnifer* (see next) + -ITE.] (See quot.)

1872 H. A. NICHOLSON *Palæont.* 69 In some sections of flint are found minute 'spherical bodies, covered with radiating and multicuspid spines', which have been termed *Spiniferites* or *Xanthidia*, and are probably the 'gemmules' of sponges.

Spiniferous (spəini·fĕrəs), *a.* [f. L. *spīnifer*, f. *spīna* SPINE *sb.*1 Cf. F. *spinifère*.] Bearing, covered with, or having spines; spinose. Chiefly *Zool.* or *Bot.*

1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr., Spiniferous*, that beareth prickles or thorns, thorney. 1851 G. F. RICHARDSON *Geol.* viii. 276 The Rajacidæ..have the body depressed in the form of a disc, and covered with spiniferous plates. 1867 J. HOGG *Microsc.* II. ii. 391 Small spicula, slightly curved, thickly spiniferous.

‖ **Spinifex** (spəi·nifeks). *Bot.* [mod.L., f. *spīna* SPINE *sb.*1 + *-fex* maker, f. *facere* to make.]

1. One or other of a number of coarse grasses (now classed in the genus *Tricuspis*) which grow in dense masses on the sand-hills of the Australian deserts, and are characterized by their sharp-pointed, spiny leaves; esp. the porcupine-grass, *Triodia irritans*.

1846 J. L. STOKES *Discov. Australia* II. 209 In the valleys was a little sandy soil, nourishing the spinifex. 1847 CAPT. C. STURT *Narr. Exped. C. Australia* (1849) I. 405 The spinifex was close and matted, and the horses were obliged to lift their feet straight up to avoid its sharp points. 1890 LUMHOLTZ *Cannibals* 43 On the broad sandy heights in the vicinity the so-called spinifex is found in great abundance. *attrib.* 1895 W. G. W. MARTIN *Pagan Irel.* 389 An interchange..of flint and basalt, or spinifex gum.

2. A genus of grasses common on Australasian sea-shores and characterized by the elastic spines of the seeds; a plant belonging to this genus, esp. *Spinifex hirsutus*.

1877 BAR. F. v. MÜLLER *Bot. Teach.* 126 The Desert Spinifex of our colonists is a Fescue, but a true Spinifex occupies our sand-shores.

Spiniform (spəi·nifōm), *a. Bot.* and *Zool.* [ad. mod.L. *spīniformis*: see SPINE *sb.*1 and -FORM. So F. *spiniforme*.] Having the form of a spine or spinous process.

1833 HOOKER in *J. E. Smith's Eng. Flora* V. I. 108 Leaves smaller fewer with 3 sharp spiniform teeth at the extremity. 1852 DANA *Crust.* I. 470 Large hand with short and small but spiniform tubercles. 1868 tr. *Figuier's Ocean World* vii. 151 The axis..presents on its surface small spiniform projections.

Spini·genous, *a. rare*–°. [f. L. type **spīnigena*.] 'Sprung up of a thorn' (Bailey, 1727).

Spinigerous (spəini·dʒĕrəs), *a.* [f. L. *spīniger* spine-bearing.]

1. *Ent.* (See quot.)

1826 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* IV. xlvi. 333 *Spinigerous*,.. when the Coleoptra have a spine common to them both.

2. *Bot.* and *Zool.* = SPINIFEROUS *a.*

1852 DANA *Crust.* I. 371 Front above obliquely subcristate, not spinigerous. 1888 ROLLESTON & JACKSON *Anim. Life* 311 Down the centre of each ray the spinigerous tubercles are in this species arranged with considerable regularity.

Spinigrade (spəi·nigrēid), *a.* and *sb.* [f. mod. L. *spīnigrad-us*.] a. *adj.* Of or belonging to the *Spinigrada*, a class of echinoderms which move by means of spines or spinous processes. b. *sb.* An echinoderm of this class.

1841 E. FORBES *Brit. Starfishes* 19 *Ophiuridæ*, or Spinigrade Echinodermata. *Ibid.*, They are *Spinigrade* animals,..their progression being effected..by means of five long flexible-jointed processes..furnished with spines. 1864 *Intell. Observ.* IV. 251 The Star-fishes are divided according to their mode of locomotion into Spinigrades, moving by means of spines —Cirrhigrades, by suckers—and Pinigrades, by fins.

Spi·niken. *Cant.* Also **spinikin, spinniken.** [f. SPIN *v.* + KEN *sb.*2 Cf. SPIN-HOUSE b.] A workhouse.

1859 *Slang Dict., Spinikin*, a workhouse. 1864 *Ibid., Spiniken*, St. Giles's workhouse [etc.].

Spininess (spəi·ninĕs). [f. SPINY *a.* + -NESS.] The quality or state of being spiny.

c 1611 CHAPMAN *Iliad* III. Comment. 48 To make the old men resemble Grasshoppers for their cold, and bloodlesse spininesse. 1902 *Q. Rev.* July 125 A certain spininess which has developed even amongst genera that are elsewhere smooth. 1907 G. F. SCOTT-ELLIOT *Romance Plant Life* 181 The common Whin..is very nearly as perfect an example of thorniness and spininess.

‖ **Spinitis** (spəinəi·tis). *Path.* [mod.L., f. *spīna* SPINE *sb.*1 + -ITIS.] = MYELITIS.

1859 in Mayne *Expos. Lex.*, and in recent Dicts.

Spink (spink), *sb.*1 Now *dial.* Forms: 5–7 spynke, 6 spynk, 6–7 spinke, 6– spink. [prob. imitative of the note of the bird: cf. PINK *sb.*6]

1. One or other of the finches; esp. the chaffinch. Also, in Lancs., Westm., Cumbld., the yellow-hammer.

c 1425 *Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 640 *Hic rostellus*, spynke. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 355/2 A Spynke.., *spinx*. *a* 1529 SKELTON *P. Sparowe* 407 The larke with his longe to; The spynke, and the martynet also. 1591 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* I. v, The Spink, the Linot, and the Gold Finch fill All the fresh Aire with their sweet warbles shrill. 1600 SURFLET *Countrie Farme* VII. lv. 886 The spinke is a very beautifull and melodious birde, but all spinkes haue not one and the same tunes. 1653 URQUHART *Rabelais* II. xiv, The little bird called a spink or chaffinch. 1767 W. HARTE *Amaranth, Eulogius* Poems (1810) 385 The spink chants sweetest in a hedge of thorns. 1787 LATHAM *Gen. Syn. Birds* Suppl. I. 165 The Chaffinch..called by some..Spink, from its cry. 1811– in various dial. glossaries, chiefly northern, midland, and E. Anglian. 1875 BROWNING *Aristoph. Apol.* 341 Collops of hare, with roast spinks rare.

†b. *Sc.* Used as an abusive epithet. *Obs.*–1

1508 KENNEDIE *Flyting w. Dunbar* 552 Spynk, sink with stynk ad Tertara Termagorum.

2. With distinguishing prefix, as *herring spink*, the golden-crested wren; †*mountain spink*, the mountain finch or brambling. Also GOLDSPINK.

1611 COTGR., *Passe de bois*, the little brambling, or mountaine Spinke. 1906 *Westm. Gaz.* 21 July 13/1 By the fishermen of the North Sea these little birds are known as 'herring spinks'.

3. Used to imitate or represent the characteristic note or cry of certain birds. (Usually with repetition.)

1898 R. KEARTON *Wild Life at Home* 82 Some tantalising accident scared her off with an angry 'spink, spink, spink'. 1899 CROCKETT *Kit Kennedy* 195 Here..the stone-chats cried 'Spink! spink! spink!'

Hence **spink** *v. intr.*, to utter the note 'spink'.

1892 *Blackw. Mag.* July 103 He spinks, and chatters, and vibrates his little quill. 1898 R. KEARTON *Wild Life at Home* 54 [The young blackbirds] 'spink, spink, spinked' as loudly and angrily as if a cat had intruded itself upon them.

Spink, *sb.*2 *north. dial.* [Related to LG. *spinke, spinkel* freckle, *spinkel* a speckled cow, *spinkelt* speckled, *spinkeln* to glitter.]

†1. A spot or marking of a different colour on cattle. *Obs.*–1

1550–1 *York Wills* (Surtees) VI. 306 Too blake whies, one with a whyte spynke of the backe.

2. (See quot. 1829.)

1829 BROCKETT *N. C. Gloss.* (ed. 2), *Spink*, a spark of fire

or light. 1870 GIBSON *Up-Weardale Gloss.* (E.D.D.), Not a spink of light.

Spink, *sb.*3 *Sc.* and *north.* [Of obscure origin.] The cuckoo-flower or lady-smock, *Cardamine pratensis.*

Freq. erroneously defined as 'a pink' (Jamieson, 1808), or confused with other plants, as the primrose or polyanthus.

1773 FERGUSSON *Poems* (1785) 139 Or can our flow'rs, at ten hours bell The Gowan or the Spink excell? 1806 A. DOUGLAS *Poems* 99 Countless spinks an' daisies springin, Gaily deckt ilk vale an' hill. 1819 W. TENNANT *Papistry Storm'd* (1827) 9 Dear daffodillies, Kingcups and spinks, and livelie lillies.

†**Spink,** *a. Obs.* [Cf. SPINK *sb.*2] = next.

1558 in *Archæol. Jrnl.* V. 316, I gyve to Isabell Carter one spynke oxe. 1618–9 *Knaresb. Wills* (Surtees) II. 54 A brandid spink cow.

Spinked, *a. north. dial.* [See SPINK *sb.*2] Flecked, speckled, spotted. Usually of cattle.

1588 *Knaresb. Wills* (Surtees) I. 163 A tagged cowe spinked. 1591 *Ibid.* 176 A whye stirke spinked. 1828 CARR *Craven Gloss., Spinked,* spotted.

Spinnable (spi·năb'l), *a.* [f. SPIN *v.* + -ABLE.] Capable of spinning or of being spun.

1882 RUSKIN *Bible of Amiens* iii. 92 The British pride of wealth..may assuredly..possess itself of penny universes, conveniently spinnable on their axes.

Spinnaker (spi·năkəɹ). Also **spinniker.** [Said to have been a fanciful formation on *spinx,* mispronunciation of *Sphinx,* the name of the first yacht which commonly carried the sail.] A large three-cornered sail carried by racing-yachts, boomed out at right angles to the vessel's side, opposite to the mainsail, and used in running before the wind. Also *attrib.*

1866 *Yachting Cal. & Rev.* Aug. 84 The Sphinx [set] a 'spinniker', a kind of large balloon jib extending from the topmast head to the deck, and before the wind a most powerful drawing sail. 1869 *Hunt's Yachting Mag.* June 266 Eva sent up her spinnaker boom in lieu of a topmast. *Ibid.* Oct. 450 Rosebud's crew especially deserve great credit for their smartness in handling their troublesome customer, i.e. the spinnaker. 1886 R. C. LESLIE *Sea Painter's Log* 89 The rig of the sailing-boats looks like a conglomeration of spinnakers.

Spinnall, Spinnel, obs. ff. SPINAL *sb.* **Spinnel,** north. f. SPINDLE *sb.* **Spinnell,** obs. f. SPINEL.

Spinner (spi·nəɹ). Forms: 3–4 **spinnere,** 4–6 **spynner,** 5 **-ere, spynnare,** 6 **-ar,** 5– **spinner.** [f. SPIN *v.* + -ER1. Cf. MDu. *spinnere* (Du. *spinner*), MHG. *spinre* (G. *spinner*).]

I. 1. A spider, esp. one which spins a web.

Freq. *c* 1530–1615; now *dial.* or *rhet.*

c 1220 *Bestiary* 462 *Natura aranee*...Þe spinnere on hire swid ȝe [? *read* spindle] weveð. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 469 Spynnare, or erany, *aranea.* 1495 *Trevisa's Barth. De P. R.* XVIII. ix. (W. de W.) 763 A serpent..sucketh gladly the moysture therof as the spynner suckyth flies. 1527 ANDREW *Brunswyke's Distyll. Waters* B j b, Whan a persone is stynged of a spynner. 1574 HYLL *Bees* 10 The spinner through her web hanging downe before the hiue.. doth much molest and trouble them. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* II. 360 These be our common spiders or spinners which against wals vse to stretch out their large webs. 1682 H. MORE *Annot. Glanvill's Lux O.* 220 A Spinner hanging by its weak thread from the brim of ones Hat. 1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), *Spinner,*..a small sort of harmless Spider. 1768–74 TUCKER *Lt. Nat.* (1834) II. 654 The spinner's web hangs in the yielding air incapable of molesting it. 1838 *Murray's Handbk. N. Germ.* 19 The forlorn attempt of a solitary spinner to establish himself in the corner of a window. 1842 *Dumfries Herald* Oct., Earwigs, beetles, and long-legged spinners, the living..residuum of the last cart-load of peas. 1876 ROBINSON *Whitby Gloss., Spinner,* a spider.

attrib. *c* 1475 *Promp. Parv.* 469 (K.), Spinnar webbe, *tela aranee.* 1855 [ROBINSON] *Whitby Gloss., Spinner-web* or *Spinner-mesh,* the spider's web.

b. A caterpillar which spins a web or cocoon; a silkworm. *rare.*

1598 FLORIO, *Cauagliere,*..a silke worme or spinner. 1841 HARRIS *Insects Massachusetts* 239 Their caterpillars..are generally spinners, and, with few exceptions, make cocoons in which they are transformed.

c. *dial.* A daddy-longlegs, = JENNY-SPINNER 1. Also *spinner-fly.*

1848 *Proc. Berw. Nat. Club* II. 330 The larva of the long-legged spinner fly (*Tipula oleracea,* &c.).

2. One who spins cotton, wool, yarn, etc.; *esp.* one whose occupation it is to do this; a workman or workwoman engaged in spinning; one who attends to or works a spinning-machine.

1393 LANGL. *P. Pl.* C. VII. 222 Hue spak to þe spynnesters [*v.r.* spinnere] to spynnen hit oute. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 1595 Sporiors, Spicers, Spynners of clothe. 1450 *Rolls of Parlt.* V. 201/2 Many Cloth makers, that is to wite, men, Wevers, Fullers, Diers; and women, Kempers, Carders and Spynners. 1536 *Act* 28 *Hen. VIII,* c. 4 § 1 Weauers, tuckers, spinners, diers, and wulpikers. 1573–80 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 122 Drie flax get in, for spinners to spin. 1610–11 *Shuttleworths' Acc.* (Chetham Soc.) 193 To a spinner, for spinning xvj days flaxe,..xvj^{d}. 1679 T. JORDAN *Lond. in Luster* 17 Carders, Spinners, Dyers, Wool-combers, Sheerers, Dressers, Fullers. 1744 H. BROOKE *Love & Vanity* 211 Trust me from titled dames to spinners, 'Tis I make saints, whoe'er makes sinners. 1776 ADAM SMITH *W. N.* I. i. (1904) I. 8 The spinner is almost always a distinct person from the weaver. 1833 HT. MARTINEAU *Manch. Strike* 9 All present were spinners and power-loom weavers. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 1494/2 Previous to the invention of the mule few spinners could make yarn of 200 hanks to the pound.

fig. 1881 MISS BRADDON *Asphodel* III. 175 My mother.. was one of the lilies of the field,..my father..belonged to the toilers and spinners.

b. A manufacturer or merchant engaged in spinning, esp. cotton-spinning; a master-spinner.

1834 *Penny Cycl.* II. 346/1 For several years, the market prices of cotton twist were fixed by Arkwright, all other spinners conforming to his scale. 1863 BRIGHT *Sp., Amer.* 16 June (1876) 131 The wants of the spinners and the manufacturers of the world. 1881 H. SMART *Race for Wife* ii, The old county families are swept away by these spinners, brewers, solicitors, and such-like.

c. *transf.* The nightjar, *Caprimulgus europæus.*

1885 SWAINSON *Bird Names* 97.

3. *fig.* One who spins, tells, or relates (a story, yarn, etc.).

[1621 BP. MOUNTAGU *Diatribæ* 134 You were ἀμάχητος, not to be dealt withall by any Postillating Breuiarist, or Polyanthean spinner up of Sermon webs.]

1770 *Monthly Rev.* 72 Those mushroom romances, which our expert Novel spinners will manufacture in a Week. 1851 HAWTHORNE *Twice-told T.* II. vi. 97, I am a spinner of long yarns. 1874 GEO. ELIOT *Coll. Breakf.-P.* 31 Osric, spinner of fine sentences. 1898 L. STEPHEN *Stud. Biogr.* II. i. 5 Already an accomplished spinner of boyish stories.

4. a. = SPINNERET.

1815 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* (1818) I. 406 If you examine a spider, you will perceive in this part [of the abdomen] four little teat-like protuberances or spinners. 1839 DARWIN *Voy. Nat.* ix. 188 A spider..darted forth four or five threads from its spinners. 1875 *Encycl. Brit.* II. 292/1 The spinners consist of from one to three joints..; in *Tetrablemma* (Cambr.) they are enclosed in a kind of corneous sheath.

b. *techn.* A spinning-machine.

1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2269/2 *Spinner,* a general term for a spinning-machine...Specifically applied to a form of drawing and twisting device. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* II. 107/1 This gigantic spinner and weaver needs very little assistance from man.

5. One of the principal supporting threads of the spider's web.

1861 *Sat. Rev.* 25 May 525 Long dark cables..looking like the first radial 'spinners' constructed by the spider to carry the finer and continuous tissue of his web.

II. 6. *Angling.* a. One or other of several flies, or artificial imitations of these, used esp. in trout-fishing.

1787 BEST *Angling* (ed. 2) 104 June. The Palmers 5. The Great Red Spinner 5. 1799– [see *red spinner* RED *a.* 19]. 1867 F. FRANCIS *Angling* vi. 172 The spinners are only second in the estimation of the trout to the duns. *Ibid.* 181 The Brown Spinner..is another capital fly. 1898 *Westm. Gaz.* 5 May 4/2 He was using a small gilt spinner on fine tackle.

b. An angler who uses spinning-tackle.

1836 F. SYKES *Scraps fr. Jrnl,* 70 A great advantage for the spinner, as a quantity of baits are always to be had. 1867 F. FRANCIS *Angling* viii. 246 The very best spinners for large trout in the world are Thames fishermen.

c. (See quots.) Also *attrib.*

1884 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* Suppl. 840 *Spinner,* a trawling spoon-bait which revolves as it tows abaft the boat. *Ibid., Spinner,* a flanged attachment in connection with a fish-hook to cause a lively motion of the hook and bait. 1895 *Outing* XXVI. 358 A 6-o hook with a lively smelt wired to it spinner fashion.

7. a. A device which spins round or revolves; a teetotum, a top.

1794 G. ADAMS *Nat. & Exp. Philos.* IV. l. 383 Here is a small spinner with an iron axis; I spin the spinner, and then take it up by a magnet. 1895 *Westm. Gaz.* 25 July 3/3 His favourite game was the *Erratic Spinner*...These [i. e. ninepins] had to be knocked over with a top or spinner of polished steel.

b. A cricket-ball bowled with a spin.

1895 *Westm. Gaz.* 2 Mar. 5/2 [He] got an undeniable spinner past the stubborn bat of the Lancashire man.

8. Something which moves rapidly.

1881 *Daily Tel.* 5 July 2/1 These crank and nimble spinners [i.e. racing yachts] give you no chance of looking about.

9. A workman who 'spins' metal plate.

1884 [see SPIN *v.* 21 d].

‖ **Spinner** (a ship): see SPINACE.

Spinneret (spi·nəret). Also **spin(n)aret.** [dim. of SPINNER: see -ET.] An organ or process by which the silk, gossamer, or thread of certain insects, esp. silkworms and spiders, is produced; a spinning-organ; spec. (*a*) one of the pores or tubules on the lower lip of a silkworm or caterpillar; (*b*) one of the nipple-like mammillæ on the abdomen of a spider.

(*a*) 1826 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* III. XXX. 124 On each side of the apex of the under-lip is a minute feeler, and in the middle..is a filiform organ, which I shall call the *spinneret* (*Fusulus*), through which the larva draws the silken thread employed in fabricating its cocoon. 1863 SPENCER *Ess.* II. 336 It appears that the ultimate fibre of silk is coated, in issuing from the spinneret of the silk-worm, with a film of varnish. 1888 ROLLESTON & JACKSON *Anim. Life* 148 The median lobe..carries..a central tubular projection, the spinneret, upon which opens the common duct of the two silk glands.

(*b*) 1835–6 *Todd's Cycl. Anat.* I. 209/1 The surface of each of the spinnarets [of the spider] is pierced by an infinite number of minute holes. 1841 T. R. JONES *Anim. Kingd.* 317 The fluid silk,..when it is drawn through the microscopic apertures of the spinneret, affords the material whereof the web is constructed. 1849 *Proc. Berw. Nat. Club* II. 371 A minutely bituberculated wart, somewhat like the spinnerets of the spider.

fig. 1877 *Athenæum* 1 Dec. 701/2 The web is now before us, but the spinnerets used in the elaboration of most of it have been the scissors, and the gossamer, paste.

(*c*) 1835 KIRBY *Hab. & Inst. Anim.* I. viii. 254 The spinnerets..of various shell fish [are] in their foot.

Spinnerule (spi·nəriul). *rare.* [f. as prec.: see -ULE.] One of the minute tubules forming the spinneret of a spider.

1830 *Insect Archit.* (L.E.K.) 337 These are minute tubes which we may appropriately term *spinnerules,* as each.. emits a thread of inconceivable fineness. *Ibid.,* Spinnerets of a Spider magnified to show the Spinnerules.

Spinnery (spi·nəri). [f. SPIN *v.* + -ERY 2. Cf. Du. *spinnerij,* G. *spinnerei.*] A spinning factory or establishment.

1837 *Blackw. Mag.* XLI. 854 In country districts, and about isolated spinneries. 1856 W. WHITE *On Foot thro' Tyrol* ii. 40 The small stream..drives a spinnery on its way. 1893 *Month* July 329 The cotton spinnery at Pesth.

Spinnet, obs. form of SPINET 1.

Spinney (spi·ni). Forms: *α.* 4 **spenné,** 6 **spinnie,** 7 **spennie,** 8– **spinny.** *β.* 7 **spynney,** 7–**spinney,** 9 **spenney.** [ad. OF. *espinei, espinoi, -oy* masc., *espinoie, espinaye* (mod.F. *épinaie*) fem., a place full of thorns or brambles, f. *espine* SPINE *sb.*1 Cf. SPINET 2.]

†**1.** ? A thorn-hedge. *Obs. rare.*

13.. *Gaw. & Gr. Knt.* 1709 At þe last bi a littel dich he lepez ouer a spenné, Stelez out ful stilly bi a strothe rande. *Ibid.* 1896 As he sprent ouer a spenné, to spye þe schrewe.

2. A small wood or copse, esp. one planted or preserved for sheltering game-birds; a small clump or plantation of trees.

α. 1597 GERARDE *Herbal* ci. 353, I found this strange kinde of Gentian in a small groue of wood called the Spinnie. *c* 1600 in J. H. Glover *Kingsthorpiana* (1883) 114 For Hantorne's Spennie, xii*d.* 1750 W. ELLIS *Mod. Husb.* IV. iv. 18 When a Field is under such a fertile growth of this Grain, it appears somewhat like a Spinny, or Spring of Underwood. 1826 *Sporting Mag.* XVII. 331 The carriage not being able to get up to the spinny. 1857 KINGSLEY *Two V. Ago* I. p. x, The downs..crowned with black fir spinnies, and dotted with dark box and juniper. 1876 *Fraser's Mag.* 470 Woods and spinnies of old trees are scattered about the rich corn-lands.

β. 1625 *Althorp MS.* in Simpkinson *Washingtons* (1860) p. lx, To Butlin 5 daies paling about the new spinney. *Ibid.,* One daie setting up stiles in the spynney. 1785 COWPER *Wks.* (1837) XV. 177, I told you..that the spinney has been cut down. 1814 *Ann. Reg., Chron.* 84/2 A small wood called Holyoak Spenney. 1840 HOOD *Kilmansegg, Accident* iv, Had her horse but been fed upon English grass And sheltered in Yorkshire spinneys. 1883 PENNELL-ELMHIRST *Cream Leicestersh.* 43 The fox..had turned into the little spinneys bordering the hill.

attrib. 1821 CLARE *Vill. Minstr.* II. 133 Ragged-robins by the spinney lake.

transf. 1905 SIR F. TREVES *Other Side Lant.* I. i, A spinney of cranes and derricks.

Spinning (spi·niŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. SPIN *v.* + -ING 1.]

I. 1. The action or operation of converting fibres into thread or yarn by hand-labour or by machinery.

Freq. also in combs., as *cotton-, flax-spinning.*

c 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 261/18 With spinningue and with seuwingue. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Wife's Prol.* 401 Deceite, weping, spinning god hath yive To wommen kindely. 1393 LANGL. *P. Pl.* C. x. 74 That þei wiþ spynnynge may spare [they] spenen hit in hous-hyre. 1440 *York Mem. Bk.* (Surtees) I. 78 That noon..make no capez nother of meld woll nor meld garn, nother of thair awne spynnyng nor bought spon. 1523 FITZHERB. *Husb.* 49 b, A woman can nat get her lyuynge honestly w^{t} spynnynge on the dystaffe. 1573 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 109 Sowe hemp and flacks, that spinning lacks. 1685 BAXTER *Paraphr. N. T.* Matt. vi. 28 Christ here neither blameth Sowing, Spinning, or other meer labour. 1756 DYER *Fleece* III. 59 A diff'rent spinning every diff'rent web Asks from your glowing fingers. 1770 LANGHORNE *Plutarch* (1851) 29/1 She was not to be employed in any other labour but that of spinning. 1825 J. NICHOLSON *Operat. Mechanic* 404 The various modes of preparing flax for the operation of spinning. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2272/2 The spinning of flax resembles the throstle-spinning of cotton.

fig. 1818 BYRON *Juan* I. vii, I shall open with a line (Although it cost me half an hour in spinning).

b. The operation of producing a thread of some viscid material.

1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s.v., By making the viscous liquor..pass through a fine perforation in the organ appointed for this spinning. 1815 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* (1818) I. 408 The same preliminary step which the spider adopts in spinning. 1883 HALDANE *Workshop Rec.* Ser. II. 165/2 *Spinning.*—Proficiency in this requires much practice...Dip a tablespoon in the sugar [etc.].

2. The product of this operation; the thread or yarn spun.

c 1511 *1st Eng. Bk. Amer.* (Arb.) Introd. p. xxxv/1 Of that same spynnyng we make our clothynge. 1711 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4850/3, 30 Pound weight of Legois Spinnings. 1887 *Daily News* 5 Nov. 2/5 In higher numbers and best spinnings there is a moderate amount of business. 1892 *Ibid.* 3 Aug. 2/6 Most spinnings were quoted at a slight advance.

3. The action of protracting or drawing *out* to undue length; an instance of this.

1644 D. P. P. (*title*), The Six Secondary Causes of the Spinning out of this Unnaturall Warre. 1736 FIELDING *Pasquin* IV. i, The practical rules of writing,..the first and greatest of which is protraction, or the art of spinning. 1780 WESLEY *Wks.* (1872) XIV. 295, I was indeed a little disgusted with the spinning out of the story. 1830 H. N. COLERIDGE *Grk. Poets* (1834) 268 The injudicious spinnings out of a shorter primitive text.

4. The action of turning or whirling round; rapid revolution.

1814-24 Col. Hawker *Instr. Yng. Sportsm.* 175 To prevent a counteraction to the spinning of the minnow. 1858 Greener *Gunnery* 278 Unscientifically formed projectiles..have to receive a counteracting agency in the shape of additional spinning. 1866 Airy *Pop. Astron.* v. (1868) 184 In consequence of its spinning, the inclination of CP to CQ does not sensibly alter.

5. The action of angling with a spinning bait.

1855 Kingsley *Glaucus* (1878) 22 There is good spinning with a brass minnow round the angles of the rocks. 1856 'Stonehenge' *Brit. Rural Sports* 254/1 Spinning for perch is practised as follows. 1870 Pennell *Mod. Pract. Angler* 123 In all sorts of spinning..a good breeze is usually an advantage.

6. The operation of shaping metallic substances by means of a turning-lathe.

1857 R. Hunt *Guide Mus. Pract. Geol.* (1859) 188 Sheet metal prepared for the process of 'spinning'. 1884 Knight *Dict. Mech.* Suppl. 840/1 *Spinning*, a mode of forming silver and other ductile metal into shapes.

II. *attrib.* **7.** (In sense 1.) **a.** Misc., as *spinning-mistress, -process, -time, -work.*

1608 Willet *Hexapla Exod.* Ded. 2, The women..vse euery yeere to shew publikely their spinning work. 1677 Yarranton *Eng. Improv.* 159 Send for a Spinning Mistriss out of Germany, to..govern the little Maids, and instruct them in the Art of Spinning. 1707 Mortimer *Husb.* (1721) II. 37 The top Leaves..being most proper to feed the Worms towards their Spinning time. 1835 Ure *Philos. Manuf.* 14 The carding, drawing, roving, and spinning processes of a cotton-mill. 1899 *Daily News* 16 Jan. 9/4 The spinning end of the trade has been characterised by a fair amount of briskness.

b. In terms denoting appliances or machinery, or parts of these, employed in spinning, as *spinning-engine, -frame, -hook, -machine*, etc.

1678 *Patent Office* No. 202. 1 A new *Spining Engin whereby Six to an hundred Spinners and vpwards may be imployed by the Strength of one or two Persons. 1825 J. Nicholson *Operat. Mechanic* 387 The cotton..is carried to the *spinning-frame. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* II. 337/2 The transition from Arkwright's spinning-frame.. to the throstle-frame was easy enough. 1788 ? Burns *D. Davison* 15 Then Meg took up her *spinnin'-graith, And flang them a' out o'er the burn. 1750 Blanckley *Nav. Expos.* 80 *Spinning hooks are drove into the Rails for the Ropemakers to hang their threads on, as they spin them. *c* 1790 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) V. 488 The rapid operations of the new *spinning machines. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* II. 43/1 Paul's spinning-machine patent..is dated 1738. 1807 Vancouver *Agric. Devon* (1813) 446 It is not meant ..to condemn the introduction of *spinning-machinery. 1835 Ure *Philos. Manuf.* 273 The machine for twisting the single threads of silk..is called the *spinning-mill. 1844 G. Dodd *Textile Manuf.* i. 18 Crompton, of Bolton, who invented the '*spinning-mule'. *a* 1693 *Urquhart's Rabelais* III. xxviii. (1737) III. 395 Wouldst thou..slander the *spinning-quills..of the weird sisters, Parcæ. 1730 *Phil. Trans.* XXXVI. 337 As the Spill of a *Spinning-Turn is moved. 1865 Lubbock *Preh. Times* 163 Earthenware *spinning-weights. 1895 A. C. Haddon *Evol. Art* 177 These patterns are delineated on masks, posts, *spinning-whorls, and other objects.

c. In terms denoting places where spinning is carried on, as *spinning-factory, -floor, -ground, -mill, -place*, etc.

1835 Ure *Philos. Manuf.* 351 At the elegant *spinning-factory of Egerton, near Bolton. 1890 W. J. Gordon *Foundry* 164 Finally it reaches the *spinning-floor. 1825 J. Nicholson *Operat. Mechanic* 419 There are two railways..fixed along the *spinning-ground or rope-walk. 1835 Ure *Philos. Manuf.* 334 The better wages and steadier employment of their great *spinning-mills. 1689 in Picton *L'pool Munic. Rec.* (1883) I. 312 A *spinning place at ye entrance into ye town field. 1692 *Ibid.*, A spinning place..for making cables. 1835 Ure *Philos. Manuf.* 400 That the *spinning-rooms in a cotton factory can be crowded is utterly impossible. 1677 Yarranton *Eng. Improv.* 47 After a young Maid hath been three years in the *Spinning School..she will get eight pence the day. 1799 [A. Young] *Agric. Linc.* 441, I made many inquiries concerning the present state of the spinning schools.

d. In terms relating to the spinneret of spiders, etc., as *spinning gland, organ, -tube, tubuli, -wart.*

1841 T. R. Jones *Anim. Kingd.* 317 At the base of the external spinning tubuli. 1878 F. J. Bell *Gegenbaur's Comp. Anat.* 250 The spinning glands of Spiders are further differentiations of dermal glands. *Ibid.* 291 In others this pair of stigmata is fused, and lies in front of the spinning-warts. 1885 McCook *Tenants Old Farm* 136 The spinning-tubes at the end of the abdomen. 1890 *Science-Gossip* XXVI. 130 The spinning organs of various kinds of spiders.

8. a. *Spinning-top*, = Top *sb.*[2] 1.

1821 Clare *Vill. Minstr.* I. 5 The spinning-top whirl'd from the twitching string. 1862 *Gifts & Graces* xviii. 177 Many..a spinning-top, or popgun, had reached him from the hand of the kind squire. 1879 [see Peery *sb.*].

b. *Spinning-rod, -tackle*, etc. (see Spin *v.* 12).

1856 'Stonehenge' *Brit. Rural Sports* 263/2 The Spinning-Tackle for salmon. 1870 Pennell *Mod. Pract. Angler* 52 A trolling and spinning rod of about the stiffness I find preferable.

Spi·nning, *ppl. a.* [f. Spin *v.*]

1. That spins or produces thread.

1634 Milton *Comus* 715 Millions of spinning Worms, That ..weave the smooth-hair'd silk. 1708 Sewel II, *Spinster*, a Spinning-woman. 1736 *Gentl. Mag.* VI. 681 You May, like Arachne, dare to vie, With any spinning Deity. 1840 tr. *Cuvier's Anim. Kingd.* 460 The second section of the sedentary and rectigrade Spiders—that of the *Inequitelæ* or Spinning Spiders. 1891 *Cent. Dict.*, *Spinning-mite*, any mite or acarid of the family *Tetraonychidæ*; a red-spider.

2. That spouts or gushes. *rare.*

1577 B. Googe *Heresbach's Husb.* III. (1586) 143 It easeth straight the flaming feuers paine, If in the foote you strike the spinning vaine.

3. That revolves, gyrates, or turns round.

1854 Ct. E. de Warren tr. *De Sauley's Journ. Dead Sea* II. 273 A spinning dervise usually resides in the Grotto of Jeremiah. 1867 F. Francis *Angling* i. 30 The chub..will run equally at a spinning-bait, or a live minnow. 1869 Ruskin *Q. of Air* Pref. p. vii, A newly-constructed artificial rockery, with a fountain twisted through a spinning spout. 1883 *Fisheries Exhib. Catal.* 56 Artificial Spinning Baits, Flies and Insects.

transf. 1862 Pycroft *Cricket Tutor* 35 Spinning bowling is always liable to turn in or to break away contrary to all expectation.

4. *colloq.* Rapid, fast.

1882 *Society* 16 Dec. 4/2 The Cambridgeshire enjoyed a spinning run.

Spi·nning-house. [Spinning *vbl. sb.*]

1. A room or building set apart for the purpose of spinning.

1463 *Bury Wills* (Camden) 20 Y^e^ dore y^t^ is out of ye parlour into ye spynnyng hous. *Ibid.*, The drawt chambyr above ye spynnyng hous. 1756 Nugent *Gr. Tour, Italy* III. 113 The most remarkable thing..is its spinning-house for a manufacture of silk. 1772 *Hartford Merc. Suppl.* 18 Sept. 4/3 A Dressing Shop, a long spinning and Weaving House.

2. (See quots. and cf. Spin-house.)

1803 *Gradus ad Cantabrigiam* 126 *Spinning House*, an ergastulum; a house of labour and correction; a prison for prostitutes under the jurisdiction of the Vice-Chancellor and Proctors. 1840 *Life J. Howard* in *Chivalry & Charity* 150 A spinning house, or Bridewell for women, at Amsterdam. 1874 *Slang Dict.* 304 *Spinning-house*, the place in Cambridge where street-walkers are locked up, if found out after a certain time at night. 1897 T. D. Atkinson *Cambridge* 94 In 1790..the Gaol was removed to a new building at the back of the Spinning House.

Spinning-jenny. [f. Spinning *vbl. sb.* or *ppl. a.* + Jenny. The reason for this use of the personal name is uncertain.]

1. An early form of spinning-machine (introduced by James Hargreaves about 1764–7 and patented in 1770) in which several spindles were set in motion by a band from one wheel.

1783 *Trans. Soc. Arts* I. 34 The construction of this kind of Machine, called a Spinning Jenny, has since been improved. 1792 A. Young *Trav. France* 269 So many spinning jennies have been destroyed by the people..that the trade is in a deplorable situation. 1816 *Ann. Reg., Chron.* 70/1 Demanding that he should give up a machine called a spinning jenny by the use of which they imagined themselves aggrieved. 1856 Bryant *Rhode Isl. Coal* xiv, Thou ..shalt be The moving soul of many a spinning-jenny.

attrib. 1826 Cobbett *Weekly Reg.* LVIII. 79 The unhappy creatures who have sweated out their lives in the spinning-jenny regions. 1834 *Tait's Mag.* I. 383 One Peel, a spinning-jenny fellow.

fig. 1831 Carlyle *Sart. Res.* II. x, The basest of created animalcules, the Spider itself, has a spinning-jenny..within its head.

2. Part of a gambling apparatus.

1897 *Daily News* 9 June 3/3 Charged with gambling with a 'spinning jenny' at Hurst Park Racecourse...He had a table coloured red, white, and black, and was turning a rod or 'spinning jenny'.

Hence **Spinning-jennyish** *a.*

1841 Hood *Tale Trumpet* 157 Thoughts in the process of fabrication, By a Spinning-Jennyish operation.

Spi·nning-wheel. [f. Spinning *vbl. sb.* Cf. Du. *spinnewiel*, WFris. *spinwiele*, NFris. *spenweel.*] A simple apparatus for spinning, formerly in common use, in which the formation of the thread is carried out by the help of a wheel worked either by the hand or foot.

1404 *Nottingham Rec.* II. 22, j. spynyng wheel. 1475 *Maldon Crt. Rolls* Bundle 49 No. 8, 1 saucer, 1 spynnyng-whele in manu servientis. *a* 1529 Skelton *E. Rummyng* 296 Some layde to pledge..Theyr rocke, theyr spynnyng whele. 1542 *Richmond Wills* (Surtees) 30 Item, a spynnyng qweyll. 1617 *Shuttleworths' Acc.* (Chetham Soc.) 220 To the cookes wiffe, for a spinninge wheele, ij^s^ iiij^d^. 1714 Gay *Sheph. Week* v. 123 My Spinning-Wheel and Rake, Let Susan keep for her dear Sister's sake. 1790 Mme. D'Arblay *Diary* July, We had begun some intercourse.. through an application I made to her for a spinning-wheel. 1859 Jephson *Brittany* vi. 67, I found the good-wife sitting at her spinning-wheel, and in the recess I observed two looms. 1882 Caulfeild & Saward *Dict. Needlework* 458 Spinning wheels were universally employed on the Continent of Europe and in this country until the year 1764.

attrib. and *Comb.* 1801 *Encycl. Brit.* Suppl. II. 520/1 The upper pivot (which resembles the fore pivot or eye of a spinning wheel fly). 1876 Smiles *Sc. Natur.* vi. 101 The night-jar..was still out with his spinning-wheel-like *birr, birr.* 1884 Littell *Living Age* 691 The spinning-wheel sound which betrays the bear sucking his paws at his ease.

Spinny, var. form of Spinney.

Spino- (spəi·no), used as comb. form of L. *spina* spine, in a few terms of *Anat., Bot.*, etc., as **Spino-bu·lbar, -oa·rpous, -sca·pulen, -sympathe·tic, -tube·roulous** *adjs.*

1808 Barclay *Muscular Motions* 383 The spino-scapulen portion of the deltoides is a flexor. 1846 Dana *Zooph.* (1848) 572 Small glomerate species, having a spino-tuberculous surface. 1859 Mayne *Expos. Lex.* 1188/1 *Spinocarpus*,..having spinous fruit,..spinocarpous. 1869 G. Lawson *Dis. Eye* 75 Some affection of the spino-sympathetic filaments. 1876 *Dunglison's Dict. Med. Sci.*, *Spinobulbar*, relating to the spinal cord and the medulla oblongata, as the spino-bulbar neuroses.

Spinocism, obs. form of Spinozism.

Spinode (spəi·nōud). *Geom.* [Irreg. f. L. *spina* spine + Node *sb.*] A stationary point on a curve; a cusp.

1852 Cayley *Math. Papers* (1889) II. 28, I shall, with reference to plane curves,..use the term 'node' as synonymous with double point, and the term 'spinode' as synonymous with cusp. 1852 G. Salmon *Higher Plane Curves* ii. (1879) 25 Such points are called cusps or spinodes. They are also called stationary points.

attrib. 1852 Cayley *Math. Papers* (1889) II. 29 The spinode-planes give rise to a developable which may be termed the 'spinode-develope'. Also the 'spinode-tangent' is the tangent to the curve of intersection at the spinode. 1869 *Ibid.* (1893) VI. 450 The spinode curve of the cubic surface. *Ibid.* 584 The spinode torse is the envelope of the parabolic planes of the surface.

† Spinogre, obs. variant of Spinach.

a 1400 *Sloane MS. No. 5* fol. 12/1 *Spinatea*...G[allice] spinache, A[nglice] Spinogre.

Spinoid (spəi·noid), *a.* [f. L. *spina* spine + -oid.] Resembling a spine; spine-shaped.

1882 *Gardeners' Chron.* XVII. 44 The small white petals have three teeth at the top, a callus inside in the middle, and a spinoid tooth on their base.

Spinose (spəinō·us), *a.* [ad. L. *spinōs-us* (whence also It. *spinoso*, Sp. *espinoso*, Pg. *espinhoso*, OF. *espinous*, *-eus*, F. *épineux*), f. *spina* thorn.]

† 1. = Spinous *a.* 1. *Obs.*

1660 H. More *Myst. Godl.* viii. iii. 369 If this Childe of God prove something spinose and harsh in opposing, rebuking [etc.]. 1665 Glanvill *Def. Van. Dogm.* 89 A spurious medley of nice, spinose, and useless notions. 1677 Gale *Crt. Gentiles* iii. 20 Of spinose, frivolous questions, such as assume the name of Science but deserve not the same.

2. *Zool.* = Spinous *a.* 3.

1661 Lovell *Hist. Anim. & Min.* Isagoge A vj b, Oxyrinchus, stellarie oculate and clavate, spinose, rough. *c* 1711 Petiver *Gazophyl.* iv. xl, I have observed one or two of this Genus of Insects in England, tho not Spinose. 1742 *Phil. Trans.* XLII. 28 The Cartilaginous and Spinose kinds of Fishes. 1835 Kirby *Hab. & Inst. Anim.* I. x. 307 The hard and often spinose crust of crabs or lobsters. 1852 Dana *Crust.* II. 1530 The tendency to spinose forms among the species of the colder temperate regions. 1896 Lydekker *Roy. Nat. Hist.* V. 65 The spinose land-terrapin (*Geœmyda spinosa*).

3. *Bot.* = Spinous *a.* 2.

1693 *Phil. Trans.* XVII. 687 'Tis spinose, and trifoliate, the Flower and Seed of a coccineous Colour. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s.v. *Leaf, Spinose Leaf*, that whose disk or edge is armed with cartilaginous points..firmly affixed. 1772 J. R. Forster *Kalm's Trav.* I. 130 When the hedges consist of spinose bushes, the cattle will hardly attempt to get through them. 1870 Hooker *Stud. Flora* 8 Achenes tubercled or spinose. 1872 Oliver *Elem. Bot.* I. vii. 8 In Whin or Furze, both the leaves..and the branches are spinose.

Comb. 1857 T. Moore *Handbk. Brit. Ferns* (ed. 3) 41 Serratures spinose-mucronate. 1857 Henfrey *Bot.* 56 These teeth..may be tipped with spines when they are termed spinose-serrate.

Hence **Spino·sely** *adv.*

1847 W. E. Steele *Field Bot.* 84 Leaves minutely spinosely ciliated on edge. *Ibid.* 163 Leaves..spinosely serrate.

Spinosism, -ist, obs. ff. Spinozism, -ist.

Spinosity (spəinɒ·siti). [ad. late L. *spinōsitās* (cf. It. *spinosità*): see Spinose *a.* and -ity.]

1. The quality of being spinose or thorny. Chiefly *fig.*

1605 Bacon *Adv. Learn.* II. 47 The part of Humane Philosophie..seemeth but a Net of subtilitie and spinositie. 1660 H. More *Myst. Godl.* VI. xviii. 275 The acuteness and spinosity of harsh and dry Opinions.

2. A rude or disagreeable remark; an argument or theory of a difficult and unprofitable character.

1653 H. More *Conject. Cabbal.* Wks. (1713) 105 Many spinosities and cutting passages that often happen unawares in..conversation. 1691 Wood *Ath. Oxon.* II. 283 He..was not unseen in their subtilties and spinosities. 1701 Norris *Ideal World* I. vi. 330 Without running through all the scholastic spinosities upon this occasion. 1836 Hor. Smith *Tin Trump.* (1876) 311 Amid the dry spinosities and tortuous labyrinths of theology.

Spinoso- (spəinōu·so), used as comb. form of Spinose *a.*, as *spinoso-dentate, -denticulate*, etc.

1848 Dana *Zooph.* 187 Lamellæ unequal, spinoso-dentate. *Ibid.* 229 Lamellæ..at apex spinoso-denticulate. 1852 — *Crust.* I. 101 Arm and carpus..spinoso-tubercular. *Ibid.* 114 Third and fourth joints spinoso-tuberculate.

Spinous (spəi·nəs), *a.* [f. Spine *sb.*[1] + -ous, or ad. L. *spinōs-us* Spinose *a.*]

1. *fig.* Resembling or suggestive of a thorn or thorns in respect of sharpness and aridity; unpleasant and difficult or unprofitable to handle or deal with. (Cf. Spinose *a.* 1.)

a 1638 Mede *Disc. Script.* (1642) 92 This I take to be the true and genuine meaning of this passage,..nor needeth it any spinous Criticisms for its explication. 1660 tr. *Amyraldus' Treat. Relig.* III. xi. 535 They would not judge Religion a thing full of spinous questions and irresolvable difficulties. 1694 Strype *Mem. Cranmer* II. xiii. 196 Who had himself..vindicated the truth from the spinous and confused cavils of Sophisters. 1821 Lamb *Elia* I, *Ola Benchers Inner T.*, Many a sarcastic growl did the latter cast out—for Coventry had a rough spinous humour.

2. *Bot.* Furnished with spines or thorns; thorn-bearing, thorny.

1668 Wilkins *Real Char.* 109 Larger leaves; not spinous. 1694 Westmacott *Script. Herb.* 199 The Spinous tribe of herbs are many. 1776 J. Lee *Introd. Bot.* Explan. Terms 380 *Spinosus*, spinous, armed with Thorns. 1815 Kirby & Sp. *Entomol.* (1818) I. 288 Insects, which it first impales alive on the thorns of the sloe and other spinous plants. 1854 Hooker *Himal. Jrnls.* I. vi. 157 With spinous involucres inclosing an eatable sweet nut. 1887 J. Ball *Nat. S. Amer.* 32 One of the spinous species of Solanum.

3. Armed or covered with spines or slender sharp-pointed excrescences; spinigerous. Chiefly *Zool.*

1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1824) III. I. i, 13 Thus there are three grand divisions in the fish kind; the cetaceous, the cartilaginous, and the spinous. 1822 J. PARKINSON *Outl. Oryctol.* 147 The corselet..is sometimes spinous,..but it is generally smooth. 1834 McMURTRIE *Cuvier's Anim. Kingd.* 192 Fishes..whose operculum or preoperculum.. [has] dentated or spinous edges. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* IV. 271 Their surface [is] smooth, rough, or spinous.

b. In specific names, as *spinous loach, shark, spider-crab, tortoise.*

1769 PENNANT *Brit. Zool.* III. 1 The Spinous Tortoise.. seems common to the Mediterranean. 1839 YARRELL *Brit. Fishes* Suppl. II. 54 The Spinous Shark. *Echinorhinus spinosus.* 1862 COUCH *Brit. Fishes* I. 54 The Spinous Shark was not known to naturalists before the latter part of the last..century. 1881 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* V. 133 The Spinous Loach (*Cobitis tænia*) is a rarer fish in this country. 1882 *Ibid.* VI. 198 The Spinous Spider Crab (*Maia squinado*).

4. Having the form of a spine or thorn; slender and sharp-pointed.

1758 MONRO *Anat. Bones* (ed. 6) 121 The fifteenth is the *spinous* [suture]; which is in the middle of the lower part of the nostrils. 1807 J. E. SMITH *Phys. Bot.* 414 Four naked seeds, with always more or less of spinous bristles..on their foliage. 1828 STARK *Elem. Nat. Hist.* I. 409 Tail forked, with a spinous ray on each side. 1854 *Proc. Berw. Nat. Club* III. 164 The scales on the back were..raised to a sharp edge, but not spinous nor curved backwards.

b. *Spinous process*, a process or apophysis of a spine-like form, esp. one of those on the vertebræ.

1732 MONRO *Anat.* (ed. 2) 201 The spinous Processes of the *Vertebræ* of the Back become gradually longer. 1797 ABERNETHY *Surg. Ess.* III. 28, I could..touch the transverse spinous process of the sphenoid bone. 1831 R. KNOX *Cloquet's Anat.* 115 The Anterior and Inferior spinous process of the ilium. 1843 R. J. GRAVES *Syst. Clin. Med.* XXX. 416 There was no tenderness over the spinous processes of the vertebræ. 1873 MIVART *Elem. Anat.* 179 Separated by a small notch from a strongly marked prominence called the posterior inferior spinous process.

5. Composed of spines.

1790 BEWICK *Hist. Quadrup.* 423 The Hedge-Hog..is provided by Nature with a spinous armour.

6. *Anat.* Of or belonging to the spine.

1826 S. COOPER *First Lines Surg.* 216 A rupture of the spinous, or some other artery of the dura mater.

7. *Comb.*, as *spinous-finned, -pointed, -serrate, -tailed, -tipped, -toothed.*

1785 LATHAM *Gen. Synop. Birds* III. II. 555 Spinous-tailed Teal..inhabits Cayenne and Guiana. 1828 J. E. SMITH *Eng. Flora* II. 18 Leaves awl-shaped, spinous-pointed, rough. 1851 GOSSE *Nat. Hist., Fishes* 200 The Soft-finned Fishes are, in general, inferior to the Spinous-finned in [etc.]. 1870 HOOKER *Stud. Flora* 185 Leaves alternate, usually spinous-toothed. *Ibid.* 191 Bracts..acuminate or spinous-tipped.

Hence **Spi·nousness.**

1846 PATTERSON *Zool.* 48 It varies also in the length of the ray-spines, the spinousness of the disc and the relative proportions of rays and discs.

Spino·zan, *a.* [f. as next + -AN.] Of or pertaining to, originating with, Spinoza.

1879 *Expositor* X. 436 God, in Spinozan phrase, is simply *Natura naturans.*

Spinozism (spinō·ziz'm). Also 8 **Spinoo-ism, -osaism,** 8–9 **Spinosism.** [f. the name of the philosopher Baruch or Benedict de *Spinoza* (1632–77). So F. *spinosisme.*] The philosophical doctrines of Spinoza, or the general principle underlying these; pantheism as represented by Spinoza.

1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v., The great Principle of Spinosism is, That there is nothing properly and absolutely existing, but Matter, and the Modifications of Matter. 1740 WARBURTON *Vind. Pope's Ess. Man* 24 Spinozism is the Destruction of an Universe, where every Thing tends..to the Perfection of the Whole. 1757 LAW *Lett. Import. Subj.* 277 As Spinocism is nothing else but a gross confounding of God and nature. *a* 1765 STUKELEY *Mem.* (Surtees) I. 127 He wrote a treatise against Mr. Pope's essay on man, to prove it to be atheism, spinosaism, deism,..& what not. 1821 COLERIDGE *Lett., Convers.*, etc. I. 25 To guard my own character from the suspicions of pantheistic opinions, or Spinosism. 1881 ADAMSON *Fichte* 130 The theoretical part ..is nothing but an inverted or idealistic Spinozism.

Spinozist (spinō·zist). Also 7–9 **Spinosist.** [f. as prec. + -IST. So F. *spinosiste.*] One who accepts or advocates the philosophical doctrines of Spinoza.

1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl., Spinosism*, the Doctrine of Spinosa; ..the Retainers whereto, are called Spinosists. 1740 WARBURTON *Vind. Pope's Ess. Man* 24 The Spinozists..to hide the Impiety..are used to express the Omnipresence of God in Terms that any religious Theist might employ. 1814 W. WILSON *Hist. Dissent. Ch.* IV. 78 He was generally esteemed to be a Spinozist. 1882–3 SCHAFF *Encycl. Relig. Knowl.* 309 The conversation [with Jacobi] shows that Lessing ended a confirmed Spinozist.

attrib. 1878 MORLEY *Diderot* I. 224 The true line of cleavage that would have enabled him..to shatter the Spinosist-system.

So **Spinozite.** *rare*$^{-1}$.

1690 in Maidment *Bk. Sc. Pasquils* (1868) 186 The Spinosit to his own interest true, Swears if a Trinitie, they have theirs too.

Spinozistic (spinō̆zi·stik), *a.* Also **-osistic.** [f. prec. + -IC.] Of, pertaining to, or characteristic of Spinoza or his philosophical views.

1832 COLERIDGE *Table-t.* 4 April, I prefer the Spinozistic scheme infinitely. 1839 HALLAM *Hist. Lit.* IV. iii. § 79 It has sometimes been doubted whether the Spinosistic philosophy excludes altogether an infinite intelligence. 1877 E. CAIRD *Philos. Kant* II. XV. 540 The Spinozistic conception of a unity of all affirmative predicates.

† **Spin-rock.** *Obs. rare.* Also 5 **spynroke.** [ad. MDu. *spinrocke, -roc* (WFlem. *-rokke, -rok*), *-rocken* (Du. *-rokken*), = G. *spinnrocken*, † *-rocke, -rock*: see SPIN *v.* and ROOK *sb.*^{2}] A distaff.

A variant of the Fr. phrase translated in quot. 1623 is similarly rendered in Dutch of the 16th cent.

1483 CAXTON *G. de la Tour* F j, She tooke in her handes a spynroke with blacke wolle and beganne to spynne. 1623 WODROEPHE *Marrow Fr. Tongue* 515/2 Those be old Wiues Tales, That is written in the Booke of Spin-Rockes [= F. *livre des quenouilles*]. 1648 HEXHAM II, *Een Wocke*, a Spin-rocke, or a Distaffe.

† **Spinsers,** *sb. pl. Obs.*$^{-1}$ In 6 **spynsars.** [f. OF. *espince* 'pince, tenailles'.] = PINCERS 1.

1539 in *Victoria Hist. Sussex* II. 246/1 Reparacions..in Bellowes, Hamors,..sundry great Spynsars and Skepes.

Spinster (spi·nstəɹ). Also 4–5 **spynnester(e,** 5–6 **spynster** (6 **-starre**). [f. SPIN *v.* + -STER. Cf. MDu., Du., and WFris. *spinster*, NFris. *spen-, spanster.*]

1. A woman (or, rarely, a man) who spins, *esp.* one who practises spinning as a regular occupation.

1362 LANGL. *P. Pl. A.* v. 130 And my wyf at Westmunstre þat wollene cloþ made, Spak to þe spinsters for to spinne hit softe. 14.. *Lat.-Eng. Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 583 *Filatrix*, a spynnester. 1543 *Star Chamber Cases* (Selden) II. 254 Ther were .. ther dwelling .. dyuers good spynsters & carders. 1578 LYTE *Dodoens* 617 Spinsters use the stemmes ..to winde yarne upon. 1600 PORY tr. *Leo's Africa* II. 103 Their women are excellent spinsters, whereby they are saide to gaine more then the men of the towne. 1647 R. STAPYLTON *Juvenal* 231 Destinies that spin the thred of life; Juvenal calls them spinsters. The distaffe bearer is Clotho, the spinster Lachesis. 1704 HEARNE *Duct. Hist.* (1714) I. 243 This monstrous Sight..that Soldiers that bore Arms should be commanded by a Spinster. 1758 JOHNSON *Idler* No. 2 P 7, I should be, indeed, unwilling to find that, for the sake of corresponding with the Idler, the smith's iron had cooled on the anvil, or the spinster's distaff stood unemployed. 1836 [MRS. TRAILL] *Backw. Canada* 47 The spinster does not sit, but walks to and fro. 1910 *Contemp. Rev.* July 31 She would be a famous spinster and needle-woman.

fig. 1609 DEKKER *Gull's Horn-bk.* 16 Let the three huswifely spinsters of Destiny rather curtaile the threed of thy life. 1698 FARQUHAR *Love & Bottle* III. i, Are my clothes so coarse, as if they were spun by those lazy spinsters the Muses?

b. A spider, or other insect that spins. *rare.*

1636 BRIDEOAKE *Poem* (MS. Bodl. 22 fol. 10), The little Spinster's Lawne [*sc.* web]. 1706 J. GARDINER tr. *Rapin's Gardens* (1728) 197 The gnat, the buzzing drone, the Palmer-worm, The wily Spinster, and the creeping snail.

2. Appended to names of women, originally in order to denote their occupation, but subsequently (from the 17th century) as the proper legal designation of one still unmarried.

1380 in T. Rogers *Oxf. City Docum.* (1891) 10 De Alicia Moris Spynnestere, vjd. 1496 *Nottingham Rec.* III. 48 Johanna Hunt,..spynster. 1545 *Knaresb. Wills* (Surtees) I. 49 Elizabeth Lethom, spynstarre. 1564–5 in *10th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* (1885) 27 Joan Lambe, widow of London, spynster. 1580–1 *Ibid.* Margaretta Tirrell spinster, alias dicta Margaretta Tirrell uxor Thome Tirrell. 1617 MINSHEU *Ductor*, A *Spinster*, a terme, or an addition in our Common Law, onely added in Obligations, Euidences, and Writings, vnto maids vnmarried. 1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.*, *Spinster*; ..this is the onely addition for all unmarried women, from the Viscounts Daughter downward. 1711 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4865/4 Elizabeth Harris of London, Spinster. 1719 J. ROBERTS *Spinster* 135, I write myself spinster, because the laws of my country call me so. 1773 GOLDSM. *Stoops to Conq.* v. i, Constantia Neville, spinster, of no place at all. 1818 SCOTT *Rob Roy* xxxix, Diana Vernon, Spinster.

b. A woman still unmarried; *esp.* one beyond the usual age for marriage, an old maid.

1719 J. ROBERTS *Spinster* 349 As for us poor Spinsters, we must certainly go away to France also. 1832 W. IRVING *Alhambra* II. 140 The vigilant Fredegonda was one of the most wary of ancient spinsters. 1859 THACKERAY *Virgin.* xxii, Your sweet mistress, your spotless spinster, your blank maiden just out of the school-room. 1882 MISS BRADDON *Mt. Royal* I. vi. 183 Providence is wonderfully kind to plain little spinsters with a knack of making themselves useful.

3. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as (sense 1, 1 b) *spinster-caterpillar, -slave*; (sense 2 b) *spinster aunt, -like* adj., *sex.*

1743 FRANCIS tr. *Horace, Odes* III. xxvii. 64 A spinster-slave, Some rude barbarian's concubine. 1800 HURDIS *Fav. Village* 169 The spinster caterpillar ties aloft, Fine as the gossamer, his slender cord. 1828 LYTTON *Pelham* II. xii, A solitary candle, whose long, spinster-like wick was flirting away with an east wind. 1837 DICKENS *Pickw.* vi, Tupman and the spinster aunt established a joint-stock company of fish and flattery. 1891 MEREDITH *One of our Conq.* xxiii, The little dog had qualities to entrance the spinster sex.

Hence **Spi·nsterdom, -ism, -ship,** = SPINSTERHOOD. **Spinste·rial, -ian, Spi·nsterish, -ous** *adjs.*, having the characteristics of a spinster; old-maidish.

1879 T. H. S. ESCOTT *England* I. vii. 178 Where there is enough of leisure, idleness, and *spinsterdom. 1883 *Sat. Rev.* 21 July 82 A single..thunder-shower may..doom maidens by the dozen to the sorrows of spinsterdom. 1849 ALB. SMITH *Pottleton Legacy* (1854) 415 His sisters.. annoyed him with their *spinsterial propensities. 1874 J. HATTON *Clytie* xiii, The landlord's sister, a spinsterial Scotchwoman. 1819 *Sporting Mag.* V. 60 With all the finicality of *spinsterian consequence. 1881 *Graphic* XXIII. 146/3 The naval, military, clerical, or spinsterian would-be-investor. 1892 *Academy* 5 Mar. 237/3 His little *spinsterish ways at times grew rather tiresome. 1818 *La Belle Assemblée* XVII. 75 The full terrors of *spinsterism took hold of all her faculties. 1874 in J. W. Howe *Sex & Educ.* 52 The respectable ranks of spinsterism. 1899 *Illustr. Lond. News* 11 Mar. 328, I take the liberty of calling them maiden ladies because their style is, so to speak, *spinsterous. 1816 SOUTHEY in *Q. Rev.* XV. 8 If the bride has an elder sister still in her state of *spinstership.

Spi·nsterhood. [f. SPINSTER 2 b.]

1. The condition of being an unmarried woman or old maid.

1823 LOCKHART *Reg. Dalton* I. vi, It must have required the tact of a very Beau Nash to detect in her appearance the very smallest symptom of spinsterhood. 1863 B. TAYLOR *H. Thurston* ii. 28 He married..a tall, staid, self-reliant creature, verging on spinsterhood. 1879 H. PHILLIPS *Notes Coins* 6 In antiquity these coins were known as *Maidens*, referring to the spinsterhood of the goddess represented upon them.

2. The collective body of unmarried women.

1844 *Blackw. Mag.* LV. 201 Is this a reason..for leaving, like an uncultivated waste,..the spinsterhood of Great Britain?

Spi·nsterly, *a.* and *adv.* [f. SPINSTER.]

A. *adj.* **1.** Appertaining to a spinner.

1827 LAMB *Let. to B. Barton* in *Final Mem.* xvi. 151, I feel most thankful for the spinsterly attentions of your sister. Thank the kind knitter in the sun!

2. Old-maidish.

1902 *Daily Chron.* 17 Nov. 5/2 New England..is not really spinsterly, but only so by comparison.

B. *adv.* In the manner of a spinster.

1894 *Sketch* 4 July 522/1 Miss Wilkins is handling the life too delicately, too spinsterly, too much, in fact, as a New England Nun.

Spinstress (spi·nstrés). [f. SPINSTER + -ESS.]

1. A female spinner.

1643 HOWELL *Twelve Treat.* (1661) 206 Spinstresses are become States-women, and every peasan turned politician. 1664 POWER *Exp. Philos.* I. 11 Ovid's Lydian-Spinstresse, that proud Madam which Pallas .. transform'd into the Spider. *a* 1704 T. BROWN *Odes of Horace* Wks. 1711 IV. 359 Let meaner Souls by Virtue be cajol'd, As the good Grecian Spinstress was of old. 1713 *Gentleman Instructed* I. Suppl. p. Iv, You are a kind of Mulatoe,..a compound of Gentleman and Spinstress. 1841 *Penny Cycl.* XX. 139/2 Lady Hamilton..was painted in various characters, as.. Sensibility, a Bacchante,..the Spinstress.

2. A maiden lady; a spinster.

1716 in Payne *Eng. Cath.* (1889) 11 Gertrude Beveridge,.. spinstress. 1821 SCOTT *Pirate* xii, He actually ventured to salute the withered cheek of the spinstress.

Spinstrian: see SPINTRIAN *a.*

Spi·nstry. [f. SPINSTER + -Y (cf. -RY).]

1. The art or occupation of spinning; the product of spinning.

1611 COTGR., *Filandrerie*, spinstrie, spinning. 1652 CHARLETON *Darkn. Atheism* x. 353 The spinstry of Silk-worms. 1660 tr. *Amyraldus' Treat. conc. Relig.* II. iii. 193 The combates of the Gods one against another,..their imployments of the Forge and Spinstry. 1859 *Jrnl. Brit. Archæol. Assoc.* Dec. 309 The instruments of spinstry were borne in procession before a newly married bride.

transf. 1653 HEMINGS *Fatal Contract* II. ii, Come along, Or by the curious spinstrie of thy head, Which natures cunnin'st finger twisted out, I'l drag thee to my couch.

† **2.** Spinsterhood. *Obs.*$^{-1}$

1784 R. BAGE *Barham Downs* II. 242 It has come to pass very unnaturally, that I have lived to a very respectable age of Spinstry, without falling in love.

Spin-text. Also **spintext.** [f. SPIN *v.* + TEXT *sb.*, originally as a suggestive surname.] A clergyman or parson, *esp.* one who preaches long or weak sermons.

1693 CONGREVE *Old Bachelor* I. i, Talks of sending for Mr. Spintext to keep me Company...Spintext! Oh, the fanatick one-eyed parson! *c* 1700 T. BROWN *Lett. fr. Dead* Wks. II. 236 Representing Mr. Spin-text the Preacher, or Mr. Love-Lady the Chaplain, after a ridiculous manner. 1712 WARD *Yng. Libertine's Answ.* Wks. III. II. 33 Employing some superannuated Spintext, to rattle off your poor Nephew. 1788 V. KNOX *Winter Even.* I. III. ii. 243 The race of formal spintexts and solemn saygraces is nearly extinct. 1834 SOUTHEY in *Corr. C. Bowles* (1881) 313 Poor Newton seems to have sat down to them as..a sorry spin-text to his sermon at the latter end of the week. 1889 *Antiquary* Nov. 194 Barrow was of the obsolete family of the Spintexts.

Spintha·riscope. [Irreg. f. Gr. *σπινθαρίς* spark: see -SCOPE.] An instrument in which the rays emitted from the metal radium are evidenced by the production of tiny sparks.

1903 SIR W. CROOKES in *Science* 26 June 1002, I propose to call *this* little instrument the 'spintha riscope'. 1904 *Longm. Mag.* Dec. 126 He was as full of vivacity as a spintha riscope.

† **Spi·nther.** *Obs.*$^{-1}$ [a. Gr. *σπινθήρ.*] A scintillation.

1641 TRAPP *Theol. Theol.* 7 Small sparkes and spinthers of divine light.

† **Spinthere.** *Min. Obs.* [a. F. *spinthère*, f. Gr. *σπινθήρ* spark.] = SPHENE.

1805 R. JAMESON *Char. Min.* II. 568 Spinthere...Its colour is greenish. 1821 URE *Dict. Chem., Spinthere*..occurs in the department of Isere in France, incrusting calcareous spar crystals. 1836 T. THOMSON *Min., Geol.*, etc. I. 151 Sphene,..semelin, spinellane, spinthere.

† **Spi·ntle,** obs. variant of SPINDLE *sb.*

1749 *Phil. Trans.* XLVI. 111 Sundry very large Comazants.., some of which settled on the Spintles at the Top-mast Heads.

†Spi·ntrian, *a. Obs.* [f. L. *spintria*: see next. So F. *spinthrien.*] (See quot. 1656.)

1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.*, *Spintrian*, pertaining to those that seek out, or invent new and monstruous actions of lust. *a* 1678 MARVELL *State Poems* Wks. 1726 II. 46 The poor Priapus,..in the mimicks of the spinstrian [*sic*] sport, Outdoes Tiberius, and his goatish Court.

†Spi·ntry, *Obs. rare.* [ad. L. *spintria.*]

1. A species of male prostitute.

The L. form is used as a pl. by Goldsm. *Cit. World* xxxiv.

1598 GRENEWEY *Tacitus, Ann.* VI. i. (1622) 121 Then first of all were those vnknowen words of Sellaries and Spintries found out of the filthines of the place. 1603 B. JONSON *Sejanus* IV. v, [Some] are ravish'd hence, like captives, and ..dealt away, Unto his spintries, sellaries, and slaves.

2. A place used for unnatural practices.

1649 C. WALKER *Relat. & Observ.* II. 257 Their New erected Sodomes and Spintries at the Mulbury-garden.

‖ Spinula (spəi·niŭlă). *rare.* = SPINULE.

1826 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* xlvii. IV. 386 Certain intestinal worms,..some of which are furnished with lateral spinulæ.

Spinulate (spəi·niŭlĕt), *a.* [See SPINULE and -ATE.] Furnished with spinules or small spines.

1866 BOWERBANK *Monogr. Brit. Spongiadæ* II. 66 *Polymastia spinula*,..Sponge...External defensive spicula of.. fistulæ spinulate. *Ibid.* 69 There are numerous small spinulate spicula.

So **Spi·nulated** *a.*

1900 J. T. CUNNINGHAM *Sexual Dimorphism* 8 The presence of well-developed ctenoid or spinulated scales all over both sides of the body.

Spinulation (spəiniŭlē·ʃən). [See next and -ATION.] The form or arrangement of spinules.

1884 *Proc. Zool. Soc.* 83 The investigation of the spinulation of Starfishes.

Spinule (spəi·niŭl). [ad. L. *spīnula*, dim. of *spīna* SPINE *sb.*[1] So F. *spinule.*]

1. A small or minute spine or thorn-like formation, esp. in lower forms of animal life.

1752 J. HILL *Hist. Anim.* 226 The Pleuronectes, with.. the lateral line rough, and spinules at the fins. 1819 SAMOUELLE *Entomol. Compend.* 233 Antennæ lamelliform, small, ciliated with spinules. 1846 DANA *Zooph.* (1848) 498 Slender spinules scarcely a line long. 1878 F. J. BELL *Gegenbaur's Comp. Anat.* 206 The tuft of spinules on the latter.

2. A particular kind of larva.

1857 GOSSE *Omphalos* 223 A tiny egg was discharged from a parent *Botrylius*, which presently produced a little active tadpole-like larva, called a 'spinule'.

Hence **Spi·nuled** *a.*, spinulate. **Spinule·scent** *a.*, having a tendency to produce small spines.

1829 LOUDON *Encycl. Plants* 448 *Mesembryanthemum spinuliferum*; spinulescent. 1880 *Linn. Soc. Jrnl.* XV. 143 Delicately spinuled teeth of such forms as Ophioscolex.

Spi·nuli-, comb. form of L. *spīnula* spinule, used in a few compounds, as *spinuli·ferous, spi·nuli·form, spinuli-scabrous* adjs.

1846 DANA *Zooph.* (1848) 495 A few minute spinuliform papillæ. 1852 — *Crust.* I. 527 Lower margin .. spinuli-scabrous. 1859 MAYNE *Expos. Lex.* 1188/2 *Spinuliferus*, ..having very small spines..: spinuliferous. 1900 *Proc. Zool. Soc.* 519 The spinuliferous..margins of the carapace.

Spi·nulo-, variant of prec.

1852 DANA *Crust.* I. 188 Hand externally spinulous..or spinulo-tuberculous.

Spinulose (spəiniŭlōu·s), *a. Zool.* and *Bot.* [ad. mod.L. *spīnulōs-us*, f. *spīnula* SPINULE.]

1. Furnished or covered with spinules.

a. *Zool.* 1819 SAMOUELLE *Entomol. Compend.* 221 Tibiæ spinulose. 1859 DANA *Crust.* II. 871 This part..excavate and minutely spinulose. 1877 HUXLEY *Anat. Inv. Anim.* vi. 278 Twenty-six spinulose thoracico-abdominal segments.

b. *Bot.* 1829 LOUDON *Encycl. Plants* 505 Stems and spinulose calyxes covered with wool. 1847 W. E. STEELE *Field Bot.* 14 Bracts spinulose at base with a long, terminal, slender spine. 1870 HOOKER *Stud. Flora* 183 Teasel..; hairy or spinulose herbs with angular stems.

2. Having the form of spinules.

1848 *Proc. Berw. Nat. Club* II. 288 The spinulose serratures begin..about the middle of the leaf. 1859 T. MOORE *Brit. Ferns* 46 Broad rounded segments..notched into a varying number of pointed but not spinulose teeth.

Comb. 1870 HOOKER *Stud. Flora* 466 Lobes oblong spinulose-toothed.

Hence **Spinulo·sely** *adv.*

1857 T. MOORE *Handbk. Brit. Ferns* (ed. 3) 123 Upper pinnules inciso-lobate with spinulosely serrate lobes.

Spinuloso- (spəiniŭlōu·sō), combining form of prec., as *spinuloso-ciliate, -dentate, -denticulate, -granulate, -serrate.*

1833 HOOKER in *Smith's Eng. Flora* V. I. 121 The margins ..more or less spinuloso-dentate. *Ibid.* 124 The upper lobes ..spinuloso serrate. 1846 DANA *Zooph.* (1848) 262 Corallum having a subelliptical aperture, sides..spinuloso-denticulate. 1852 — *Crust.* I. 186 Fourth, fifth and especially sixth joint spinuloso-granulate above. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1084/2 *Spinuloso-ciliate*, ciliated with fine spines.

Spinulous (spəi·niŭləs), *a.* [f. SPINULE + -OUS.] = SPINULOSE *a.*

1846 DANA *Zooph.* (1848) 155 A few of the foliaceous Astræidæ..have the surface simply striated and spinulous. 1870 H. A. NICHOLSON *Man. Zool.* 108 The sclerobasis..in the latter..is always either smooth or spinulous.

Spinx, rare variant of SPINK *sb.*[1]

1628 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* III. ii. III. i. (ed. 3) 468 Like a summer fiye or Spinxes winges, or a raigne bow of all colours. 1823 E. MOOR *Suffolk Words, Spinx*, the chaffinch.

Spiny (spəi·ni), *a.* Also 6 spyny, 6–7 spinie, 7 spynie, 7–9 spiney. [f. SPINE *sb.*[1] + -Y.]

1. Having the characteristics of a thorn or thorns; resembling a thorn in form or qualities.

1586 KYD *Verses Praise & Joy* 1. Mongst spyny cares sprong vp now at the last. 1615 G. SANDYS *Trav.* 223 Psiloriti: from whose lofty and spiny top both seas may be discerned. 1663 COWLEY *Cutter Coleman St.* Pref., And so much for this little spiny objection which a man cannot see without a Magnifying Glass.

b. Thin and hard or dry; spare, lean.

Common in the first half of the 17th cent.

1598 FLORIO, *Smilzo*, bare, spinie, gant, leane, lanke. 1608 MIDDLETON *Mad World* III. ii, A little, short, old spiny gentleman. 1621 G. SANDYS *Ovid's Met.* VI. (1626) 111 Her thighs and legs to spiny fingers grow. 1650 BULWER *Anthropomet.* 232 The French commonly have more spinie and slender Legs then the Italian Gentleman. *a* 1722 [cf. *spiny-legged* in 5].

†c. Of turf or grass. *Obs.*

1607 J. CARPENTER *Plaine Mans Plough* 139 That which was old must be renewed, and the spinie turfe changed into a gentle soyle. 1615 G. SANDYS *Trav.* 198 The valley..producing but a spiny grasse.

2. Abounding in, furnished or thickly set with, thorns. In early quots. *fig.*

1604 T. WRIGHT *Passions* I. iii. 11 Wee..touched the roote from whence did spring those spinie braunches of briarie passions. 1635 A. STAFFORD *Fem. Glory* (1860) 43 Bee constant, most pious Lordes, in the vertuous, though rough and spiny course you are to runne. 1644 DIGBY *Nat. Bodies* A iv b, So difficult and spiny an affaire, as the writing vpon such a nice and copious subiect. 1727 WARBURTON *Prodigies* 61 The spiney Desarts of Scholastic Philosophy. 1798 CHARLOTTE SMITH *Yng. Philos.* II. 164 The holly, whose shining thorny and spiny head..shadowed the whole eminence. 1830 LINDLEY *Nat. Syst. Bot.* 54 Shrubs, either unarmed or spiny. 1870 HOOKER *Stud. Flora* 127 Shrubs or small trees, often spiny.

3. Furnished or set with spines; covered with slender sharp-pointed processes.

1615 G. SANDYS *Trav.* 249 The body light, the taile spiny, and the colour dun. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Spine*, The hind Part thereof is Edg'd, or Spiny. 1778 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 2) III. 1610/1 The strigosus, or plated lobster, with a pyramidal spiny snout. 1804 CHARLOTTE SMITH *Conversations* II. 153 What endless swarms of creatures..Of burnish'd scale and spiny fin! 1843 *Penny Cycl.* XXVI. 444 Shell oval, spiny or tuberculous. 1883 *Standard* 3 Aug. 5/7 Two..lizards with remarkable spiney skins.

Comb. 1857 T. MOORE *Handbk. Brit. Ferns* (ed. 3) 39 Pinnæ spiny-serrate.

b. In specific names of animals or fishes, as *spiny ant-eater, dog-fish, eel, globe-fish*, etc.

1827 GRIFFITH tr. *Cuvier* III. 263 The Echidnes,..otherwise *Spiny Ant-eaters. 1894–5 LYDEKKER *Roy. Nat. Hist.* III. 286 The echidnas, or spiny anteaters, of which there are two species. 1896 *Ibid.* V. 533 The *spiny dog-fishes, rays, saw-fishes, and their kindred. 1882 JORDAN & GILBERT *Syn. Fishes N. Amer.* 368 *Mastacembelidæ*. (The *Spiny Eels.) 1896 LYDEKKER *Roy. Nat. Hist.* V. 395 The so-called spiny eels of the Oriental region and West Africa. 1834 GRIFFITH tr. *Cuvier* X. 566 Diodon, (Vulg. *Spiny globe-fish.) 1853 in Morris *Austral Eng.* (1898) 304/2 The *Spiny Lizard (*Moloch horridus*) of Western Australia. 1898 MORRIS *Austral Eng.* 430 *Spiny Lizard*, q. Mountain Devil. 1819 *Spiny lobster [see LOBSTER[1] 1 b]. 1862 ANSTED *Channel Isl.* II. ix. 233 The spiny lobster, locally called cray-fish.., is also very common. 1884 GOODE *Nat. Hist. Aquat. Anim.* 780 The Spiny Lobster or Rock Lobster, *Panulirus interruptus*. 1804 SHAW *Gen. Zool.* V. I. 4 *Spiny Loche...This is distinguished by a double spine situated on each side the head. 1884 *Encycl. Brit.* XVII. 6 *Acanthomys*...*Spiny-mice. 1894–5 LYDEKKER *Roy. Nat. Hist.* III. 119 The pretty little murine known as the Malabar spiny-mouse. 1804 SHAW *Gen. Zool.* V. II. 342 *Spiny Shark. *Squalus Spinosus*. 1896 LYDEKKER *Roy. Nat. Hist.* V. 535 The spiny shark (*Echinorhinus spinosus*) of the Mediterranean and Atlantic. 1894–5 *Ibid.* III. 71 The Ethiopian *spiny squirrels are characterized by their coarse and spiny hair. 1879 E. P. WRIGHT *Anim. Life* 69 The *Spiny Tanrec (*Ericulus spinosus*). *c* 1880 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* IV. 256 The *Spiny Trionyx, or Gymnopus.

4. Having the form of a spine; stiff and sharp-pointed.

1828 STARK *Elem. Nat. Hist.* I. 121 Fur ash gray,..composed of rough spiny hairs. 1871 HUXLEY *Anat. Vert.* 318 The inner surface is often armed with spiny developments of the epidermis.

5. *Comb.*, as *spiny-backed, -finned, -footed, -haired, -leaved*, etc. (Freq. in specific names.)

1885 HORNADAY *Two Years in Jungle* XXVI. 310 The fishermen catch and eat a good many *spiny-backed rays (*Urogymnus asperrimus*). 1881 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* V. 78 Acanthopterygii, or *Spiny-finned fishes. 1802 SHAW *Gen. Zool.* III. I. 112 *Spiny-footed Frog. *Rana Spinipes*. 1829 GRIFFITH tr. *Cuvier* VI. 321 Spiny-footed Tyrant, *Tyrannus Calcaratus*. 1891 T. HARDY *Tess* (1900) 67 The pollard willows..became *spiny-haired monsters. 1847 DARLINGTON *Amer. Weeds*, etc. (1860) 206 The *Spiny-leaved Sow-thistle (*Sonchus Asper*). *a* 1722 LISLE *Husb.* (1757) 226 A *spiny legged beast never pays the grazier so well. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 515/1 The leaves are pinnatifid with *spiny-pointed segments. 1880 GÜNTHER *Fishes* 41 The dorsal fin ..is either *spiny-rayed, or soft-rayed. 1882 JORDAN & GILBERT *Syn. Fishes N. Amer.* 397 *Acanthopteri*. (The Spiny-rayed Fishes.) 1831 GRIFFITH tr. *Cuvier* IX. Syn. 38 *Spiny Tailed Guana. 1877 NEWTON in *Encycl. Brit.* VII. 505 The *Erismaturinæ* or Spiny-tailed Ducks.

† Spion. *Obs.*–[1] In 7 spyon. [ad. F. *espion*, Sp. *espion*, or It. *spione.*] A spy or scout.

1625 HEYWOOD *Four Prentices* K j b, As assistants you haue vnder you The Serieant Maior, Quarter-maister, Prouost, And Captaine of the Spyons.

Spir, obs. form of SPEER *v.*[1], SPHERE *sb.*

†Spirable, *a. Obs.* [ad. L. *spīrābilis*, f. *spīrāre* SPIRE *v.*[2] So It. *spirabile*; Sp. *espirable.*]

1. Connected with breathing; having the power of breathing; respiratory.

1562 BULLEIN *Bulwarke, Bk. Simples* 25 It also is good:. for shorte windes in the spirable partes. 1576 NEWTON *Lemnie's Complex.* (1633) 215 It [death] is an abolishment and destruction of life and nature spirable. 1698 FRYER *Acc. E. India & P.* 311 We are followed by..continued Fevers, as well as those that accompany Catarrhs, from the Intemperament of the Spirable Parts.

2. Capable of being breathed; respirable.

1599 NASHE *Lenten Stuffe* 56 The spirable odor & pestilent steame ascending from it, put him out of his bias of congruity. 1610 HEALEY *St. Aug. Citie of God* XII. xiii. (1620) 723 The visible light, the spirable ayre, the potable water. 1715 tr. *Cicero's Tusculan Disp.* I. 20 That fortuitous jumbling together of light and round atoms, which Democritus, however, maintains to be warm and spirable. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Platonism*, The Starry Heaven, which he [Plato] teaches is not adamantine or solid, but liquid and spirable.

Spiracle[1] (spəi·răk'l). Also 4 spyrakle, 5 -acle. [ad. L. *spīrācul-um* SPIRACULUM. So older F. *spiracle*, F. *spiracule*, It. *spiracolo, -aculo*, Sp. and Pg. *espiraculo.*]

† 1. Breath, spirit. *Obs.*

Orig. after L. *spiraculum vitae* in Gen. ii. 7, vii. 22.

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 408 þenne mourkne in þe mudde most ful nede Alle þat spyrakle in-spranc. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* III. iii. (1495) 50 A soule is lyke to god a spiracle of lyfe. *Ibid.* 51 Oracliphicus [*sic*] callyth the soule lyghte other a spyrancle [*sic*] of beynge. 1607 B. BARNES *Devil's Charter* IV. ii, A bastard of our house,.. In whom no sparke or spiracle of honor Appear'd. 1640 G. WATS *Bacon's Adv. Learn.* IV. iii. 207 We will stile that part of the generall knowledge concerning mans soule, the knowledge of the spiracle, or inspired substance. 1654 VILVAIN *Theorem. Theol.* Suppl. 261 Into which [body] he breathed the Spiracle or Spirit of Life.

2. A small opening by which a confined space has communication with the outer air; *esp.* an air-hole or air-shaft.

1620 tr. *Boccaccio's Decam.* 126 A cave..which received no light into it, but by a small spiracle or ventloope made out ingeniously on the hills side. 1661 EVELYN *Fumifugium* Misc. Writ. (1825) I. 220 Salt and sope boylers,.. one of whose Spiracles does manifestly infect the aer more than all the chimnies of London. 1760–72 tr. *Juan & Ulloa's Voy.* (ed. 3) I. 472 There must have been here and there vent-holes, or spiracles. 1851 HAWTHORNE *Ho. Sev. Gables* i, The seven gables..presented the aspect of a whole sisterhood of edifices, breathing through the spiracles of one great chimney. 1856 J. STEVENSON *Ch. Historians Eng.* IV. II. 437 On splitting a vast rock..there appeared two dogs, but without any spiracle whatever.

fig. 1827 SCOTT *Napoleon* Misc. Wks. 1870 XIV. 326 The least spiracle, by which the voice of France could find its way to the ears of her sovereign.

b. *spec.* An opening in the ground affording egress to subterranean vapours or fiery matter; a volcanic vent-hole.

1671 R. BOHUN *Wind* 27 Wind, out of some cavityes and spiracles of the Earth. 1695 WOODWARD *Nat. Hist. Earth* III. (1723) 151 The *Camini* or Spiracles of Ætna. 1751 LAVINGTON *Enthus. Meth. & Papists* III. (1754) 120 Some Spiracles, or breathing Holes, in many Parts of the Earth, which scatter a pestilential Infection upon all that come near. 1762 tr. *Busching's Syst. Geog.* I. 216 The clefts and chasms which were the spiracles or outlets to those dreadful eructations. 1828 H. D. BESTE *Italy* 399 Other spiracles of mephitic might probably be found here. 1833 HERSCHEL *Astron.* v. 209 Powerful upward currents of the [sun's] atmosphere, arising, perhaps, from spiracles in the body. 1869 J. PHILLIPS *Vesuv.* viii. 209 A level place surrounded by fiery heights, having numerous chimney-like spiracles.

fig. 1833 CARLYLE *Misc. Ess., Diderot*, The subterranean fire..was here, we can say, forming itself a decided spiracle.

3. a. A pore *of* the skin. *rare.*

1650 H. BROOKE *Conserv. Health* 143 It [exercise] discusses Vapors and fuliginous excrements by the pores or Spiracles of the skin. 1837 MORIER *Abel Allnutt* XXXII. 188 The steam and fumes of the dinner..acting violently upon the spiracles of the skin belonging to the attendants.

b. A breathing-pore in the epidermis of plants; a stoma. *rare.*

a 1774 GOLDSM. *Surv. Exp. Philos.* (1776) *II.* 108 This undulation is very manifest in the spiracles of many plants viewed with the microscope. 1867 H. MACMILLAN *Bible Teach.* iii. (1870) 56 The whole stem being succulent and covered with spiracles or air-holes, thus acting as lungs along with the leaves.

c. *Zool.* A special aperture, orifice, or pore, chiefly in lower forms of animal life, by which respiration is effected.

1775 *Phil. Trans.* LXVI. 214 The torpedo..loosens the sands by flapping its fins, till its whole body, except the spiracles, is buried. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XVII. 716/1 The teeth [of the saw-fish] are granulated;..and the spiracles five. 1816 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* xxi. (1818) II. 251 From a small hole just above each spiracle, [the insect] syringes a similar fluid in horizontal jets. 1847 *Proc. Berw. Nat. Club* II. 234 Prothoracic spiracle in most cases free and uncovered. 1882 *Entomol. Mag.* Mar. 220 A broad..stripe runs just above the spiracles, which are black.

transf. 1854 DE QUINCEY *War* Wks. 1862 IV. 286 The great phenomenon of war..keeps open in man a spiracle—an organ of respiration.

d. The blow-hole of a whale or other cetacean (and of certain sharks).

1796 BURKE *Let. to Noble Lord* Wks. VIII. 35 His whalebone, his blubber, the very spiracles through which he spouts a torrent of brine against his origin. 1849 *Sc. Nat. Hist., Mammalia* III. 146 The spiracle, or blow-hole, is a single orifice of a semicircular form, on the top of the head, directly over the eyes. 1898 F. T. BULLEN *Cruise 'Cachalot'* 192

A whale can no more force water through its spiracle or blow-hole than you or I through our nostrils.

Spi·racle[2]. *rare*—[1]. [f. SPIRE *sb.*[1] 8.] A little spire; a pinnacle.

1842 *Tait's Mag.* IX. 636/1 The fine old cathedral, with its eager crowds bending over buttress and spiracle.

Spiracular (spəiræ·kiŭlăr), *a. Zool.* [f. SPIRACUL-UM + -AR.] Of or pertaining to, serving as, a spiracle or spiracles.

1840 F. D. BENNETT *Whaling Voy.* II. 151 The spiracular canals of spouting-whales. 1848 *Proc. Berw. Nat. Club* II. 339 Spiracular lines not very distinct. 1880 GÜNTHER *Fishes* 80 They form a valve for the protection of the spiracular orifice of these fishes.

Spira·culiform, *a. Ent.* [f. next: see -FORM.] Having the form of a spiracle.

1826 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* III. 16 The openings for the entrance of the air spiraculiform. *Ibid.* IV. 128 The spiraculiform pores that mark the sides of the animal.

‖ **Spiraculum** (spəiræ·kiŭlŭm). Pl. **-acula.** [L. *spīrāculum*, f. *spīrāre* to breathe.]

1. = SPIRACLE[1] 2 b.

a 1668 LASSELS *Voy. Italy* (1670) II. 295 There are divers *spiracula*, or Vents round about it, out of which the thick smoke presseth furiously. *a* 1705 RAY *Disc.* II. (1713) 13 The enclosed Fire was not of Force sufficient to make its way out, or found not *Spiracula* to vent itself. 1789 E. DARWIN *Bot. Gard.* I. (1791) Notes 12 The volcanos themselves appear to be spiracula or chimneys belonging to great central fires. 1820 T. S. HUGHES *Trav. Sicily* I. iv. 115 It contains two principal spiracula, or vents, from whence ..huge stones and rocks are precipitated.

2. = SPIRACLE[1] 2.

a 1734 NORTH *Examen* II. v. § 74 (1740) 360 Like a Chymist's Fire,..upon opening the Spiracula of the Furnace.. the Flame broke out.

3. *Zool.* = SPIRACLE[1] 3 c.

1768 G. WHITE *Selborne* xiv, If some curious gentleman would procure the head of a fallow deer..he would find it furnished with two spiracula, or breathing places, besides the nostrils. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) VI. 676/2 All insects ..respire through pores..which are termed *spiracula*. 1816 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* (1818) II. 425 The remarkably large spiracula in glow-worms. 1878 F. J. BELL *Gegenbaur's Comp. Anat.* 396 Peripheral nerves pass out from the anterior ganglion...Others pass backwards to the spiracula.

‖ **Spiræa** (spəirī·ă). *Bot.* Also **spiræa.** [L. *spiræa*, ad. Gr. σπειραία, app. f. σπεῖρα SPIRE *sb.*[3] Cf. F. *spirée*, Sp. *espirea*, and SPIREY.]

1. One or other species of an extensive genus of rosaceous plants or shrubs, many of which are largely cultivated for their handsome foliage and flowers.

The cultivated species are of foreign origin; but *Spiræa Ulmaria*, meadow-sweet, and *S. filipendula*, dropwort, are common wild plants in Britain.

1669 EVELYN *Kal. Hort.* (ed. 3) 90 Flowers in Prime,.. Pome-granads double, and single Flowers, Shrub *Spiræa, Agnus Castus*. *c* 1711 PETIVER *Gazophyl.* IX. LXXXIX, Cape Spirea with white loose Flowers. 1731 P. MILLER *Gard. Dict.* s.v. *Spiræa frutex*, Spiræa with a Marsh-Elder Leaf. *Ibid.*, Sweet-scented African Spiræa with hairy Leaves. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s.v., 1. The willow-leaved *spiræa*. 2. The opulus-leaved *spiræa* [etc.]. 1760 J. LEE *Introd. Bot.* App. 328 Spiræa, African, *Diosma*. 1888 MISS BRADDON *Fatal Three* I. ii, Half hidden amidst the bank of feathery white spirea. 1894 *Daily News* 17 July 6/5 The leafy spiræa is much used for such decorations.

b. With *a* and pl. A single plant or shrub, or one particular species, of this genus.

1731 *Gentl. Mag.* I. 40 All sorts of flowering Shrubs which bear the Weather, as Roses,..Lilac, Spireas, Altheas. 1846 LINDLEY *Veget. Kingd.* 563 Section of the flower of a Spiræa. 1868 *Rep. U. S. Commissioner Agric.* (1869) 85 The beetle frequents flowers; a great number were taken..on the flowers of a spiræa. 1886 *Pall Mall G.* 24 Apr. 7/2 Spireas, gardenias, narcissi, and lilies of the valley.

2. The genus composed of these plants.

1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s.v., The species of *spiræa*, enumerated by Mr. Tournefort, are these. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XVII 697/2 *Spiræa*, in botany: A genus of plants..in the natural system arranged under the 26th order. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1084/2 Of the foreign shrubby kinds of *Spiræa* some are very handsome.

3. *Oil of spiræa*: (see quot. 1857).

1842 [see SALICYLOUS *a.*]. 1857 MILLER *Elem. Chem.*, *Org.* vii. 479 Oil of Spiræa,..Hydride of Salicyl; Salicylous Acid. 1866 ODLING *Anim. Chem.* 58 He might produce..oil of spiræa, for instance, from salicin.

Spiræ·in. *Chem.* [f. prec. So F. *spiréine*.] A yellow crystalline powder obtained from the flowers of meadow-sweet (*Spiræa ulmaria*).

1868 WATTS *Dict. Chem.* s.v. *Spiræa*, When the dried flowers of meadow-sweet are exhausted with ether, a colouring-matter called spiræin is dissolved out.

† Spirage, variant of SPERAGE *Obs.*

1647 HEXHAM I. (*Herbs*), Spirage, *Spergel-kruydt*. Wild Spirage, *Wildt Spergel-kruydt*.

Spiral (spəi·răl), *sb.* [Subst. use of next. Cf. F. *spirale* fem. (also *spiral* masc., spiral spring), It. *spirale*.]

1. *Geom.* A continuous curve traced by a point moving round a fixed point in the same plane while steadily increasing (or diminishing) its distance from this.

Spiral of Archimedes, a curve traced by a point moving uniformly along a line which at the same time revolves uniformly round a fixed point in itself. *Equiangular, Hyperbolic, Logarithmic, Loxodromic, Parabolic spiral*: see these words.

1656 tr. *Hobbes' Elem. Philos.* xvii. 194 The description of Archimedes his Spiral, which is done by the continual diminution of the Semidiameter of a Circle in the same proportion in which the Circumference is diminished. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* Ded. (1721) I. 179 At that time the Diurnal Motion of the Sun partakes more of a Right Line than of a Spiral. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v., Then will the Points *M m*, *m*, &c. be Points in the Spiral, which connected, will give the Spiral itself. 1816 C. BABBAGE tr. *Lacroix' Different. & Integr. Calculus* 128 The spirals compose another class of transcendental curves. 1869 RANKINE *Machinery & Millwork* 54 Each point in the secondary piece..describes a plane spiral about the fixed axis. 1882 MINCHIN *Uniplanar Kinematics* 50 Prove that the Space Centrode is a parabola and the Body Centrode a spiral of Archimedes.

fig. 1845–6 TRENCH *Huls. Lect.* Ser. I. iv. 57 The advance may sometimes be rather in a spiral than in a straight line. 1848 H. ROGERS *Ess.* (1874) I. vi. 319 Other questions succeed,..gradually approaching in one long spiral of interrogations the central position.

2. A curve traced by a point moving round, and simultaneously advancing along, a cylinder or cone; a helix or screw-line.

The *spiral* has sometimes been distinguished from the *helix*: see quot. 1728.

1670 COLLINS in Rigaud *Corr. Sci. Men* (1841) I. 147 The spiral described by the compound motion of a heavy body falling to the centre of the earth. 1681 tr. *Willis' Rem. Med. Wks.* Vocab., *Spiral*, a turning about, and as it were ascending. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.*, *Spiral*, in Architecture, Sculpture, &c. is a Curve that ascends, winding about a Cone...By this it is distinguished from the Helix, which winds..around a Cylinder. 1788 *New Lond. Mag.* 44 The length of the Spiral described by the fly in passing from one pole to the other. 1825 MRS. SOMERVILLE *Connex. Phys. Sci.* (ed. 2) xvii. 172 By thus tracing these nodal lines he discovered that they twist in a spiral or corkscrew round rods and cylinders. 1876 VOYLE & STEVENSON *Milit. Dict.* 198/2 *Increasing Spiral*, a term applied to the twist or the spiral inclination of the grooves of rifled arms.

b. The degree in which the successive circles of such a curve approach each other.

1846 GREENER *Sci. Gunnery* 348 From the peculiar nature of the powder..the extreme spiral given to their grooves was required. 1864 *Daily Tel.* 1 Aug., Making the arm shoot well, is simply matter of detail, involving considerations of length of barrel, character and spiral of rifling.

3. a. A piece of wire coiled into a spiral form.

1825 *Annals Philosophy* X. 52 After which the extremity of the spiral being tied hard,..I put the covered wire in a vice. 1881 J. HATTON *New Ceylon* vi. 154 Men and women alike wear the neck spiral, and the former also a closely-fitting spiral around their biceps. 1885 C. G. W. LOCK *Workshop Rec.* Ser. IV. 298/2 The spirals of the key-board must be bent their right shape.

b. *Bot.* A spiral vessel in plants.

1837 P. KEITH *Bot. Lex.* 241 According to Raspail it is composed of cells, tubes, and spirals yet visible. *Ibid.* 288 They have neither stomata nor spirals: hence they can neither form the green chromule, nor exhale moisture.

c. *Astr.* A spiral nebula.

1866 LOCKYER *Guillemin's Heavens* 400 Brilliant spirals, unequally luminous,..diverge from the centre, and become separated..as they recede from it. 1881 G. F. CHAMBERS *Smyth's Celestial Cycle* 38 One of Lord Rosse's 'spirals'.

d. In general use: Any object having a spiral form.

1853 JAMES *Agnes Sorel* I, The stair-case was one of those narrow, twisting spirals. 1858 LARDNER *Handbk. Nat. Phil.* 119 In practice, the spiral through which the water is carried is not in the form of a tube. 1883 *Harper's Mag.* Aug. 375/2 Misfortune awaits the boat that ventures into this watery spiral. 1890 J. GAGNEY tr. *Jaksch's Clin. Diagnosis* iv. 70 The spirals are often overlaid with epithelium.

4. One of the separate circles or coils of a spiral or helical object. Cf. SPIRE *sb.*[3] 1.

1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Screw*, The said Distance between the Spirals..of the Screw. *c* 1790 IMISON *Sch. Arts* I. 23 Supposing the distance of the spirals to be half an inch. 1825 J. NICHOLSON *Operat. Mechanic* 240 If, therefore, a pipe of uniform bore be wrapped round a conic frustrum,..the spirals will be very nearly such as will answer the purpose. 1891 KIPLING *Light that Failed* (1900) 272 He stroked the creaseless spirals of his leggings.

Spiral (spəi·răl), *a.*[1] and *adv.* [ad. med.L. *spīrāl-is* (Albertus Magnus, *a* 1255), whence also F. *spiral*, It. *spirale*, Sp. *espiral*.]

1. Forming a succession of curves arranged like the thread of a screw; coiled in a cylindrical or conical manner; helical: a. In general use.

1551 RECORDE *Castle Knowl.* (1556) 249 In going betweene the firste degree of Capricorne, and the fyrste of Cancer, he ..maketh aboue 182 reuolutions lyke spirall circles. 1668 WILKINS *Real Char.* 129 [Shells] more short in the spiral production, considerable for having a Purple juice. 1693 BENTLEY *Atheism* v. 17 The Spiral, and not Annulary, Fibres of the Intestines. 1712 tr. *Pomet's Hist. Drugs* I. 38 Little, thin, black Seeds, each one having a spiral head. 1781 COWPER *Retirem.* 231 As woodbine..In spiral rings ascends the trunk. 1805 SOUTHEY *Madoc in Azt.* x. 217 Then louder from the spiral sea-shell's depth Swell'd the full roar. 1825 J. NICHOLSON *Operat. Mechanic* 246 The spiral tubes in that axle take up the water. *a* 1878 SIR G. SCOTT *Lect. Archit.* (1879) II. 125 The intermediate pier is a round column,..with spiral flutings.

b. Of an ascending course or path.

See also *spiral stair* in 3.

1794 R. J. SULIVAN *View Nat.* II. 46 Local lower heat, and proportionate superior cold, causes the rarefaction, which gives the spiral ascent. 1825 LONGF. *Sunrise on Hills* 18 Where upward..The noisy bittern wheeled his spiral way. 1841 *Penny Cycl.* XXI. 173/2 An almost circular mountain of considerable height, which is ascended by a spiral road. 1876 T. HARDY *Ethelberta* (1890) 264 They paced the remainder of their spiral pathway in silence.

c. With abstract sbs.

1829 T. CASTLE *Introd. Bot.* 234 Losing the spiral character. 1831 SIR J. SINCLAIR *Corr.* II. 264 They have..a species of the pigeon, which fly in a spiral or circular manner, upon one wing. 1860 EMERSON *Cond. Life, Beauty* Wks. (Bohn) II. 428 The spiral tendency of vegetation infects education also. 1880 BESSEY *Botany* 29 Good examples of ringed, spiral, and reticulated thickening.

fig. 1878 O. W. HOLMES *Motley* xvii. 115 That progress is by a spiral movement seems to be a law of Providence.

2. Curving continuously round a fixed point in the same plane at a steadily increasing (or diminishing) distance from it.

a 1639 WOTTON *Reliq.* (1651) 231 The Capitall..in a spirall wreathing, which they call the Ionian Voluta. 1656 tr. *Hobbes' Elem. Philos.* xvii. 194 That space in the Circle.. without the Spiral Line. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v., The curve B..is called a Spiral Line, and the plain Space contained between the Spiral Line, and the Right Line BA, is called the Spiral Space. 1796 H. HUNTER tr. *St.-Pierre's Stud. Nat.* (1799) I. 562 They are disposed in the direction of a spiral line winding from East to West. 1833 SIR C. BELL *Hand* (1834) 204 Wherever the sense of feeling is most exquisite, there are minute spiral ridges of cuticle. 1870 F. R. WILSON *Ch. Lindisf.* 90 Among some bold spiral curves..a hound-like quadruped is represented. 1895 W. MACPHERSON *Mouymusk* I. 4 The tracings of the characteristic spiral ornaments..are still visible.

3. In various special collocations (chiefly in sense 1), as *spiral bit, cam, pump, spring, stair*, etc.

Spiral auger, battery, gearing, punch, screw, etc., are described by Knight *Dict. Mech.* (1875–84).

1876 VOYLE & STEVENSON *Milit. Dict.* 40/2 **Spiral Bit*, a gun implement used for clearing the vents of ordnance when choked. 1855 OGILVIE *Suppl.*, **Spiral Cam*,..the solid cam.., when the ridge is formed spirally on the cone. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Screw*, Archimedes's Screw, or the *Spiral Pump, a Machine for the Raising of Water. 1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 120 If we wind a pipe round a cylinder, of which the axis is horizontal, and connect one end with a vertical tube, while the other ..is at liberty to turn round.., the machine is called a spiral pump. 1884 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* Suppl. 842/1 *Spiral Pump*, a pump that raises its water by a spiral flange or screw, on the principle of the Archimedean screw. 1690 LOCKE *Hum. Und.* III. vi. § 38 Some [watches] have the Balance loose, and others regulated by a *spiral Spring. 1869 RANKINE *Machine & Hand-tools* Pl. H 9, The projecting piece, *a*, is kept up to the slide, *b*,..by means of the spiral spring and die, *h*. 1624 WOTTON *Archit.* (1672) 37 *Spiral, or Cockle Stairs. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v., Spiral Stairs, in Building. 1839 W. CHAMBERS *Tour Holland* 40/1 We were conducted by a spiral stair to the higher part of the tower. 1756–7 tr. *Keysler's Trav.* (1760) II. 457 This column, with its *spiral stair-case,..was restored to its former beauty by Pope Sixtus V. 1840 LARDNER *Geom.* 245 Such a spiral surface is the form of spiral staircases, sometimes called geometrical staircases. 1850 OGILVIE, **Spiral-Wheels*, in mill work, a species of gearing much used in the textile manufactures. 1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-m.* 231 **Spiral worm*, a tool for extricating broken boring rods.

b. *Bot.* in *spiral cell, tube, vessel.*

1832 LINDLEY *Introd. Bot.* 17 Spiral vessels..are membranous tubes with conical extremities; their inside being occupied by a fibre twisted spirally. 1837 P. KEITH *Bot. Lex.* 10 A revival of Grew's first opinion with regard to the function of the spiral tubes. 1861 BENTLEY *Man. Bot.* 15 In some cells the fibre forms are uninterrupted spiral from one end to the other: such are termed spiral cells. 1884 BOWER & SCOTT *De Bary's Phaner.* 157 This is the case in the closely-wound spiral tubes, which show transitional forms to the reticulate.

c. *Zool.* in specific names (see quots.).

1802 SHAW *Gen. Zool.* III. II. 564 Spiral Hydrus...Yellowish Hydrus with..spirally contorted body. 1861 P. P. CARPENTER in *Rep. Smithsonian Instit. 1860*, 244 Family *Limacinidæ*. (Spiral Pteropods.)

d. In attributive combs. (see quots.).

1846 JOYCE *Sci. Dial.* viii. 18 By means of one of those steel spiral-spring instruments..the fact might be ascertained. 1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib., Brit.* II. No. 3500, Patent spiral-spring trusses. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2276 Spiral-vane Steam-engine. 1884 *Ibid.* Suppl. 842/1 Spiral Tube Boiler.

4. As *adv.* = SPIRALLY *adv.*[1]

1726 LEONI *Alberti's Archit.* II. 36/1 Those chanels that run spiral about the shaft. 1884 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* Suppl. 842/1 Plates laid together with something to maintain their distance and then rolled together spiral.

5. *Comb.*, as *spiral-coated, -grooved, -horned, -pointed* adjs.; *spiral-wise* adv.

1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.*, The *Screw*..is a right Cylinder.. furrow'd Spiral-wise. 1807 J. E. SMITH *Phys. Bot.* 200 The sap must soon flow out of those spiral-coated tubes. 1827 G. HIGGINS *Celtic Druids* xlvi, A low spiral-pointed roof of stone. 1864 *Athenæum* 5 Mar. 342/2 Mr. Cuming also exhibited two [pins],..the heads of which are spiral-wise. 1884 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* Suppl. 842/1 The spiral grooved guide is a wrought-iron tube. 1894 LYDEKKER *Roy. Nat. Hist.* II. 250 The Himalayan markhor..or spiral-horned goat.

Spiral (spəi·răl), *a.*[2] [f. SPIRE *sb.*[1] + -AL.] Rising like a spire; tall and tapering or pointed:

a. Of rocks, edifices, etc.

1658 PHILLIPS, *Spiral*, belonging to a pyramid or spire-steeple. 1665 J. WEBB *Stone-Heng* (1725) 181 Trophies.. were evermore made of high and spiral Stones: And they will have these..which are high and spiral, to be, not a Trophy, but a Place for electing of Kings. 1740 DYER *Ruins Rome* 138 The spiral tomb Of ancient Chammos. 1772–84 *Cook's Voy.* (1790) V. 1675 The various summits which are spiral cannot be viewed without exciting the most awful ideas.

b. Of trees.

1729 SAVAGE *Wanderer* IV. 15 Turning, with sighs, far spiral firs he sees. *c* 1750 SHENSTONE *Elegies* xxiii. 91

Cheer'd by the verdure of my spiral wood. 1827 STEUART *Planter's G.* (1828) 338 It is indispensably necessary..that the standard or grove Trees should be kept spiral, and the underwood subordinate in its character. 1842 J. WILSON *Chr. North* I. 365 The sweet Furness Fells,..among its spiral larches showing..groves and copses of the old unviolated woods.

Spiral (spəi·răl), *v.* [f. SPIRAL *sb.*]

1. *intr.* To wind or move in a spiral manner; to form spiral curves.

1834 M. SCOTT *Cruise Midge* xx, We began to ascend the narrow corkscrew path that spiralled through the rocky grass-piece. 1851 H. MELVILLE *Whale* III. 117 The..curling line buoyantly rising and spiralling towards the air. 1904 E. ROBINS *Magnetic North* vii. 124 It curled and spiralled, and described..involved and long-looped flourishes.

2. *trans.* To twist or coil spirally.

1867 F. FRANCIS *Angling* vi. (1880) 226 Spiral it round to lash it on to the hook.

Spira·liform, *a.* [f. SPIRAL *sb.* : see -FORM.] Having or taking the form of spiral lines.

1895 *Jrnl. Hellenic Stud.* XIV. 329 In the wake of early commerce the same spiraliform motives were to spread still further afield to the Danubian basin. 1900 *Nature* 27 Sept. 527/1 The spiraliform system of design re-entered the British Isles in another form.

Spira·lity. [f. SPIRAL *a.*[1] + -ITY.] Spiral character; the degree of a spiral curve.

a 1858 in Greener *Gunnery* 407 The tendency of a bullet to twist the rifle on one side is now avoided by reducing the spirality of the grooves. 1884 *Science* III. 583/2 The better the [cotton] fibre, the more perfect its spirality.

Spi·ralize, *v.* [f. SPIRAL *sb.* or *a.*[1]] *trans.* To cut spirally.

1851 H. MELVILLE *Whale* lxvii. II. 180 Precisely as an orange is sometimes stripped by spiralizing it.

Spi·ralled, *ppl. a.* [f. SPIRAL *sb.*] Shaped spirally.

1665 HOOKE *Microgr.* 111 These Shells which are thus spirallied [*sic*] and separated with Diaphragmes, were some kind of Nautili or Porcelane shells. 1881 *Linn. Soc. Jrnl.* XV. 440 Shell, high and narrow, rather strong, white, spiralled.

Spirally (spəi·răli), *adv.*[1] [f. SPIRAL *a.*[1]]

1. In a spiral manner; in spiral lines or curves.

a 1608 DEE *Relat. Spir.* I. (1659) 52 The bonds seem of a smoky ashy collour, spirally going about the cloud. 1691 RAY *Creation* II. (1692) 48 The Heart..being a Muscular Part, the sides of it are composed of two orders of Fibres running circularly or spirally from Base to Tip. 1769 FALCONER *Dict. Marine* s.v. *Engagement,* The barrel..is rifled spirally. 1799 G. SMITH *Laboratory* 312 Let pieces of milled lead be rolled spirally. 1822 J. PARKINSON *Outl. Oryctol.* 210 A canal passing spirally up its sides. 1845 J. COULTER *Adv. in Pacific* vii. 75 They..cut the blubber the proper breadth spirally from the base of the head to the flukes. 1885 *Mag. of Art* Sept. 458/1 The coils all joined together and running parallel to each other, instead of spirally.

2. *Comb.*, as *spirally-arranged, -coiled,* etc.

1815 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* (1818) I. 62 Two spirally-convoluted tubes were filled with a silky gum. 1816 *Ibid.* II. 423 Two minute oval sacs formed of an elastic spirally-wound fibre. 1822 J. PARKINSON *Outl. Oryctol.* 198 Two spirally-coiled tubular appendages nearly filling the shell. 1870 ROLLESTON *Anim. Life* 131 The mucous membrane..is prolonged into spirally-arranged valvular folds. 1882 VINES tr. *Sachs' Bot.* 639 The concave side of the long spirally-curved vegetative cone.

Spi·rally, *adv.*[2] *rare*—[1]. [f. SPIRAL *a.*[2]] After the manner of a spire; high in air.

1806 A. DUNCAN *Nelson* 13 The..flags rising spirally above them afforded a..relief to the glare.

Spi·raloid, *a.* [f. SPIRAL *sb.* + -OID.] Resembling that of a spiral; approximating to a spiral form.

1866 LOCKYER *Guillemin's Heavens* 402 The spiraloid form is not confined to the nebula we have described. 1875 MARTIN *Machinery* p. iv, New system of spiraloid drum shown in section.

† **Spirament.** *Obs.* [ad. L. *spīrāment-um,* f. *spīrāre* to breathe. So It. *spiramento.*]

1. A spiracle in an animal body; a pore.

1608 TOPSELL *Serpents* 124 Almighty God hath so ordained, that it should haue spiraments and breathing places in euery part of the body, to vent away the heate. 1657 TOMLINSON *Renou's Disp.* 215 The fume..doth transmit itself through the spiraments of the skin.

2. An air-hole or vent-hole.

1654 R. CODRINGTON tr. *Iustine* III. 73 The winds do work more strong through the spiraments of the Caves. 1657 TOMLINSON *Renou's Disp.* 429 The vessel's spirament daubed with a singular cement.

So ‖ **Spiramentum.** *Obs.*—[1]

1706 BAYNARD *Cold Baths* II. 238 The Pores are the Spiramenta through which it passes.

Spirant (spəi·rănt), *sb.* and *a.* [a. L. *spīrant-, spīrans,* pres. pple. of *spīrāre* to breathe. So F. *spirant,* It. *spirante,* Sp. and Pg. *espirante.*] **a.** *sb.* A consonant which admits of a continued emission of some amount of breath, so that the sound is capable of being prolonged. **b.** *adj.* Pronounced with an accompanying emission of breath.

1856 WHITNEY in *Jrnl. Amer. Oriental Soc.* VIII. 348 If ..any one of them..has passed over into a spirant, it can never recover an explosive character. 1882–3 SCHAFF *Encycl. Relig. Knowl.* III. 2155 The Semitic alphabet is..characterized by fulness of guttural, uvular, and spirant consonants. 1894 LINDSAY *Latin Lang.* 51 The change from the bilabial to the labiodental spirant.

Hence **Spira·ntic** *a.*, **Spi·rantize** *v.*

1896 *Classical Rev.* X. 59 In support of the spirantic theory, we have the difference of phonetic law in Sanskrit and Greek. 1896 *Academy* 21 Mar. 243/1 The author might safely have claimed the spirantic pronunciation as existent in Athens in the fourth century B.C. *Ibid.* 243/2 This was the point in the language at which the spirantising tendency would first attack the χ and the φ.

Spira·nthy. *Bot.* [f. σπεῖρα SPIRE *sb.*[3] + ἄνθος flower.] 'The occasional twisted growth of the parts of a flower' (Webster *Suppl.* 1879).

† **Spirarck.** *Obs.*—[0] [ad. Gr. σπειράρχης, f. σπεῖρα band, company.] (See quot.)

1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.*, *Spirarck* (*spirarchus*), a Captain, in a foreward.

† **Spirate,** *v. Obs. rare.* [f. L. *spīrāt-,* ppl. stem of *spīrāre* to breathe.] *trans.* To breathe out.

1649 J. ELLISTONE tr. *Behmen's Epist.* (1886) vi. 79 The one doth unfold and spirate or breathe itself forth out of another. 1765 LAW tr. *Behmen's Myst. Magn.* I. vii, That which is spirated or spoken forth is the Wisdom..of the Will.

Spi·rated, *ppl. a.* [f. L. *spīra* SPIRE *sb.*[3]] Spirally twisted.

1871 DARWIN *Desc. Man* II. xvii. 246 The males of this species have long straight spirated horns, nearly parallel to each other. 1890 *Cornh. Mag.* Sept. 230 [Their] tall, spirated horns and jet-black sides are indicative of their age.

Spiration[1] (spəirē·ʃən). Also 6 **spiracyon, -ation.** [ad. L. *spīrātiōn-, spīrātio,* n. of action f. *spīrāre* to breathe. So OF. (*e*)*spiracion,* F. *spiration,* It. *spirazione,* Sp. *espiracion.*]

1. *Theol.* † **a.** The action of breathing as a creative or life-giving function of the Deity. *Obs.*

1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 217 b, Job sayth, the spiryt of god hath made me & the spiracyon of the almyghty hath gyuen me lyfe. 1649 J. ELLISTONE tr. *Behmen's Epist.* 84 Man, who with his soule,..is couched in the eternall Spiration (or generation) of the Divine power. *a* 1677 BARROW *Serm.* (1686) II. 490 To other substances of this kind it seemeth also assigned,..because God did by a kind of spiration produce them. 1708 DODWELL *Nat. Mort. Hum. Souls* 23 As the πνοὴ, or Flatus, is by the Fathers supposed to continue so long, and no longer, than the Act of Spiration, or Flation, lasts. 1765 LAW tr. *Behmen's Myst. Magn.* I. vii, This Egress from the Will in the Speaking or Spiration is the Spirit of the Deity.

b. The special action to which the origin of the Holy Ghost is assigned.

1602 J. DAVIES (Heref.) *Mirum in Modum* (Grosart) 17/1 Fatherhood, breathing, or Spiration, Son-hood, Procession. 1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.* s.v., The Holy Ghost proceeds from the Father, and the Son,..produced through the will by an ineffable way, and this Divines term *Spiration.* 1699 BURNET *39 Art.* v. 69 The Word Procession, or as the Schoolmen term it, Spiration, is only made use of in order to the naming this relation of the Spirit to the Father and Son. 1829 J. DONOVAN tr. *Catech. Counc. Trent* (1855) 83 As on the production of the third Person is imposed no proper name, but it is called spiration and procession. 1898 W. ADAMSON *J. Morison* 42 The doctrines of the eternal generation of the Son and the eternal spiration of the Spirit.

† **2.** The action of breathing or drawing breath in man and animals. *Obs.*

1568 SKEYNE *The Pest* (1860) 28 Cohibite also spiratione, to eschew occasioun of new corruptioun. 1594 R. ASHLEY tr. *Loys de Roy* 57 b, The variable aire, sustayning with spiration and respiration all liuing creatures. 1615 CROOKE *Body of Man* 421 The spiration or breathing of colde is verie necessary for the preseruation of naturall heate. 1673–4 GREW *Anat. Pl., Anat. Trunks* (1684) 117 Even as in Animals, there are divers Kinds of Organs for Spiration.

† **3.** An inspiration; a spiritual influence. *Obs.*

1628 JACKSON *Creed* VI. xi. Wks. 1844 V. 131 Such as..boisterously counterblast the sweet and placid spirations of celestial influence. 1686 HORNECK *Crucif. Jesus* xxvi. 846 Some other spirations, and breathings of the soul after God.

† **Spira·tion**[2]. *Obs. rare.* [f. L. *spīra* SPIRE *sb.*[3]] Spiral conformation.

1672–3 GREW *Anat. Pl., Anat. Roots* (1684) 73 The Spiration of the Fibres of these Vessels, may more easily be observed in the Trunk, than in the Root.

Spira·tor. *rare.* [f. L. *spīrāre* to breathe.]

† **1.** A breathing passage or tube. *Obs.*—[1]

1657 TOMLINSON *Renou's Disp.* 550 Eclegms..potently incide..humours, impacted in the spirators.

2. (See quot. 1876.)

1875 *Ure's Dict. Arts* (ed. 7) III. 877. 1876 *Catal. Sci. App. S. Kens.* 90 *Spirator,* an instrument designed to get a constant current and measureable volume of air driven or drawn over a body.

Spire (spəiəɹ), *sb.*[1] Forms: 1, 4–5 **spir,** 3–spire, 4, 6–7 **spier** (7 **spiere**), 5–6 **spyre.** [OE. *spīr,* = WFris. *spier,* NFris. *spīr,* MDu. and Du. *spier,* MLG. *spīr, spyer, spyr,* MHG. *spīr* (G. *spier, spiere*), Da. *spire,* MSw. and Sw. *spira,* sprout, shoot, sprig, etc. Cf. SPEAR *sb.*[2]]

1. A stalk or stem of a plant, esp. one of a tall and slender growth. Now *rare.*

a 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* II. 266 Wiþ lungen adle, hindberȝean leaf & hreodes spir. 1513 BRADSHAW *St. Werburge* I. 1603 There was in pycture..Our lorde apperynge in busshe flammynge as fyre, And nothynge therof brent, lefe, tree, nor spyre. 1523 FITZHERB. *Husb.* § 20 Dockes have a brode lefe, and diuers high spyres, and very small sede in the toppe. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* II. 23 Raddishes eat the more pleasantly, if their leaues be cropt off before the master stem or spire be growne big. *a* 1722 LISLE *Husb.* (1757) 136, I observed the wheat on the ground, and that the first, or capital branch, consisted of an upright spire, between two leaves. 1768–74 TUCKER *Lt. Nat.* (1834) II. 414 The green leaves of corn, which protect and assist to draw up nourishment into the spire. 1815 SHELLEY *Alastor* 528 Tall spires of windle-strae Threw their thin shadows down the rugged slope.

fig. 1865 RUSKIN *Sesame* ii. 194 Among those sweet living things, whose new courage..is starting up in strength of goodly spire.

b. The tapering top of a tree; the portion of the main stem which shoots up above the branches.

†1657 THORNLEY *Daphnis & Chloe* 162 One Apple hang'd upon the very top of the Spire of the Tree. 1820 SHELLEY *Orpheus* 27 There stands a group of cypresses; not such As, with a graceful spire and stirring life, Pierce the pure heaven. 1875 LASLETT *Timber* 72 No tops to be received, except the spire and such other top or limb as may be grown on the main piece.

c. A flower-spike.

1850 TENNYSON *In Mem.* lxxxiii, Bring orchis, bring the foxglove spire. 1852 M. ARNOLD *Empedocles* I. ii. 4 The giant spires of yellow bloom Of the sun-loving gentian. 1874 SYMONDS *Sk. Italy & Greece* (1898) I. viii. 169 Meadows, where..asphodel is pale with spires of faintest rose.

2. (Now *south* or *s.w. dial.*) **a.** *collect.* Reeds; reed-like coarse tall-growing plants or sedges (see later quots.).

a 1250 *Owl & Night.* 18 In ore waste þicke hegge, Imeind mid spire & grene segge. 1388 WYCLIF *Exod.* ii. 3 [She] puttide hym forth in a place of spier of the brenke of the flood. — *Isaiah* xviii. 1 *margin,* Papirus is a kynde of spier. 1578 LYTE *Dodoens* 514 The common Reede or spier groweth in standing waters..This plante is called in.. English Common Pole Reede, Spier, or Cane Reede. 1796 W. H. MARSHALL *Rur. Econ. W. Eng.* I. 330 *Spire* (*Arundo*), reed. 1856 BROMEFIELD *Flora Vect.* 583 Common Sea-reed..is known only as Spire, a term applied by the islanders to all the larger-spiked and close-panicled grasses, Carices and Typhæ. 1865 R. HUNT *Pop. Rom. W. Eng.* (1871) Ser. I. 201 Before the reed-like plant called by the present inhabitants the spire was planted.

b. A single plant of this; a reed.

1388 WYCLIF *Job* viii. 11 Whether a rusche may lyue with out moysture? ethir a spier [*v.r.* reed] may wexe with out watir? 1847 HALLIW., *Spires,* is chiefly applied to the tall species of sedge..; it is likewise used of the tall leaves of the common yellow iris...*Isle of Wight.* 1863 WISE *New Forest* 287 The phrase 'spire-bed'..is very common, meaning a particular field, near where the 'spires' grow

c. *Mining.* (See quot.)

1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2276/2 *Spire,* the tube carrying the train to the charge in the blast-hole. Also called the *reed* or *rush,* as the spires of grass or rushes are used for the purpose.

3. A young or tender shoot or sprout; *esp.* the rudimentary shoot of a seed; the acrospire of grain; = SPEAR *sb.*[2] 2.

13.. in *Archiv Stud. neu. Spr.* LXXXI. 83/18 Whon greyne of whete is cast in grounde..þerof springeþ spires I-nowe. *c* 1374 CHAUCER *Troylus* II. 1335 As an oke comyth of a littil spire. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XVII. xi. (Bodl. MS.), þe spire of þe lely springeþ oute of the side of þe cloue and nouȝt oute of þee ende. *c* 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* III. 1034 When their spir up goon is,..Let plaunte hem ther. 1664 POWER *Exp. Philos.* I. 65 The Grains of Barly being moistned with water,..the fermentation and heat presently appears,..and therefore it shoots forth into Spires. 1670 EVELYN *Sylva* (ed. 2) 83 [They] place the ends of them in water 'till towards the Spring, by which season they will have contracted a swelling spire or knurr. 1766 *Compl. Farmer* s.v. *Malt,* At this time, the spire should be near piercing through the outer skin of the barley. 1826 *Art of Brewing* (ed. 2) 7 Nature intended this for the future support of the spire.

fig. 1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. IX. 100 Sitthe to spille speche þat spyre is of grace.

b. A blade or shoot *of* grass, etc.; = SPEAR *sb.*[2] 2 b. (Freq. *c* 1660–1720; now *rare.*)

1646 BP. HALL *Balm Gilead* (1650) 372 What if there were as many Devils in the air, as there are spires of grasse on the earth? 1675 TRAHERNE *Chr. Ethics* 60 Every grain of dust,..every spire of grass is wholly illuminated thereby. 1701 STANHOPE *Pious Breath.* III. v. (1704) 182 [Thy hand] only could produce the least spire of grass. 1724 WELTON *Disc.* 433 Look but upon a spire of grass. *a* 1729 CONGREVE *Ovid's Art Love* Wks. 1730 III. 320 Pointed Spires of Flax, when green, will Ink supply. 1849 BROWNSON *Wks.* VII. 18 We know that a spire of grass grows, but how it grows we know not. 1867 F. FRANCIS *Angling* vi. 204 The Wren-tail..may be seen in the fine sunny weather sunning itself on the long spires of grass.

c. *U.S.* Similarly of hair; = SPEAR *sb.*[2] 2 c.

1868 MISS ALCOTT *Lit. Women* xv, I'd do as much for our Jimmy any day if I had a spire of hair worth selling.

4. A long slender and tapering growth in a plant:

a. The awn or beard of grain.

1530 PALSGR. 274 Spyre of corne, *barbe du ble.* 1877 *N. W. Linc. Gloss.* 234 *Spires,* the horns of barley.

† **b.** The stigma of the crocus, from which saffron is obtained. *Obs.*—[1]

1633 BP. HALL *Occas. Medit.* 319 The saffron yields an odoriferous and cordial spire, whiles both the flower and the root are unpleasing.

5. An elongated or pointed shoot or tongue of fire or flame.

c 1450 *Mirk's Festial* 102 And when he come done to þe pepull, .. two spyres of fyre stoden out of hys hed lyke two hornes. 1621 G. SANDYS *Ovid* II. (1626) 27 Parnassus grones beneath two flaming spires. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* I. 223 On each hand the flames Drivn backward slope their pointing spires. 1812 *Examiner* 21 Sept. 597/1 Spires of smoking flame. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 993 If the gas be copious, the flame elongates into a sharp spire. 1877 E. R. CONDER *Basis Faith* ix. 383 An immense instinct in his nature points upward, like a spire of flame.

6. A conical, tapering, pointed body or part of something; a sharp point.

1551 RECORDE *Pathw. Knowl.* I. Defin., They are lyke in foorme to two such cantles ioyned togither..: or els it is called a rounde spire, or stiple fourme. *Ibid.*, A square spire. 1589

PUTTENHAM *Eng. Poesie* II. (Arb.) 108 Of the Spire or Taper called Pyramis. 1632 G. SANDYS *Ovid* I. 22 The whole skie being all the night long in the beames of the Sun (that little spire, the shadowe of the Earth excepted). 1658 tr. *Porta's Nat. Magic* 393 Make..[a] vessel in the fashion of a Tunnel, or a round Pyramis;..let the spire of it..be open. 1725 POPE *Odyss.* IX. 386 The narrow'r end I sharpen'd to a spire. 1813 SHELLEY *Q. Mab* IV. 11 Icicles..So stainless, that their white and glittering spires Tinge not the moon's pure beam. 1885 *Harper's Mag.* Apr. 703 She..directed the capping of her hemp-stacks till the spires were..symmetric.

b. A branch or prong of a deer's horn. (Cf. SPEER *sb.*[2]) Also *fig.*

1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* 119, I haue seene the hornes to haue seauen spires or braunches. *Ibid.* 124 At one yeare old they haue nothing but small bunches..; at three yeares they grow forked into two spieres. 1641 MILTON *Church Govt.* I. vi, Haughty prelates..with their forked mitres, ..instead of healing up the gashes of the Church,..fall to gore one another with their sharp spires.

c. A metal spike or rod. *rare.*

c 1710 CELIA FIENNES *Diary* (1888) 52 A little wall of a yard High of free Stone very fine wrought, on which are to be Iron railes and spires. 1750 in D. Gilbert *Paroch. Hist. Cornwall* (1838) III. 430 One of those rocks..with an iron spire at the top thereof.

7. A tall, slender, sharp-pointed summit, peak, rock, or column.

1586 WHITNEY *Choice Emblems* 1 A mightie Spyre, whose toppe dothe pierce the skie. 1599 HAKLUYT *Voy.* II. 202 About an Harquebuz-shotte from Matarea is a spire of great height like to that at Rome. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* II. 577 The Ægyptians..speake much of these two Pyramides, the mighty spires and steeples whereof..do arise out of the very water. 1634 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* 22 Mæollis rises very high with a Peake or Pyramidall Spire. 1749 *Phil. Trans.* XLVI. 269 The whole Surface of the Rock shall rise into Points or Spires. 1833 TENNYSON *Dream Fair Wom.* xlvii, All night the splinter'd crags that wall the dell With spires of silver shine. 1847 — *Princ.* IV. 262 Like a spire of land that stands apart Cleft from the main. 1855 *Orr's Circ. Sci., Inorg. Nat.* 143 The spires, or needle-shaped detached rocks, called in Switzerland *aiguilles*.

b. *poet.* A pyramidal heap or pile *of* something.

1818 KEATS *Endym.* I. 222 On the shrine he heaped a spire Of teeming sweets, enkindling sacred fire.

8. A tall structure rising from a tower, roof, etc., and terminating in a slender point; *esp.* the tapering portion of the steeple of a cathedral or church, usually carried to a great height and constituting one of the chief architectural features of the building. (Cf. SPEAR *sb.*[2] I.)

So MLG. *spyre* (1392), Sw. *spira*, Da. and Norw. *spir.*

1596 LODGE *Wits Miserie* B iiij b, His beard is cut like the spier of Grantham steeple. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* 739 An high Towre in the middest and two Spires at the West end. 1643 BAKER *Chron., Eliz.* 117 The Spire of the Cathedrall Church of Pauls being..two hundred and sixty [feet] from the Square Steeple where it was placed. 1700 DRYDEN *Pal. & Arc.* I. 215 The Temples crown'd With golden Spires. 1727 SWIFT *Baucis & Philemon* Wks. 1755 III. ii. 33 The chimney widen'd, and grew higher, Became a steeple with a spire. 1765 STERNE *Tr. Shandy* VII. v, The steeple, which has a spire to it, is placed in the middle of the church. 1815 SCOTT *Guy M.* iv, The spire of a church.. indicated the situation of a village. 1866 M. ARNOLD *Thyrsis* iii, And that sweet city with her dreaming spires,..Lovely all times she lies, lovely to-night. 1867 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* V. I. 310 Queenly Lübeck had not yet begun to cover her peninsula with her stately spires, her soaring gateways.

transf. 1878 STEVENSON *Inland Voy.* 77 My consciousness should be diffused abroad in all the forest, and give a common heart to that assembly of green spires.

9. *fig.* The highest point, summit, or top *of* something.

1600 J. DOWLAND *and Bk. Songs* ii. B ij b, From the highest spire of contentment, my fortune is throwne. 1607 SHAKS. *Cor.* I. ix. 24 To silence that, Which to the spire, and top of prayses vouch'd, Would seeme but modest. 1611 SPEED *Hist. Gt. Brit.* V. vi. § 17. 36 The Romanes that stroue to mount hie on the spires of their intended glory.

10. *attrib.* and *Comb.* **a.** In senses 1–3, as *spire-end*; **spire-bed, mint, reed,** *dial.* (see quots.). Also SPIRE-GRASS.

a 1722 LISLE *Husb.* (1757) 207 The germen, or the spire-end of the barley. 1863 PRIOR *Plant-n., Spear-mint* or *Spire-mint*, from its spiry, not capitate inflorescence. *Ibid., Spires*, or *Spire-reed*, the pool reed, *Arundo phragmites*. 1863 WISE *New Forest* Gloss., *Spire-bed*, a place where the 'spires', that is, the reed-canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), grow.

b. In sense 8, as *spire-growth, -top*; **spire-light,** a window in a spire; **spire-roof,** a steeply sloping roof rising up into a spire. See also SPIRE-STEEPLE.

1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 356 The cathedrals of Worms and Gelnhausen..exhibit many varieties of spires, or rather spire-roofs, springing up from gables at their base. 1846 *Archaeol. Jrnl.* II. 3 The spire itself, at about half its height, is encircled by spire-lights. 1853 C. WICKES *Illustr. Spires & Towers Eng.* (title-p.), The Architecture of the Middle Ages, and its Spire-Growth. 1882 STEVENSON *New Arab. Nts.* II. 144 The flag of England, fluttering on the spire-top, grew ever fainter and fainter.

c. With past ppples. or adjs. (chiefly instrumental and similative), as *spire-adorned, -crowned, -shaped, -topped* adjs., *spire-like* adj.

1804 J. GRAHAME *Sabbath* (1808) 32 He toiled up the spire-topt hill. 1840 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* III. 32/1 This..is covered by a very steep, or spire-shaped roof. 1879 WILL CARLETON *Farm Ballads* 87 The turreted, spire-adorned city. 1885 F. P. WARREN & CLEVERLY *Wand. Beetle* 56 The famous Roche à Bayard, rising almost sheer from the river, soars to its spire-like peak. 1893 *Daily News* 27 Apr. 5/5 Each corner is adorned with a spire-crowned pavilion.

Spire, *sb.*[2] Chiefly *Sc.* and *north. dial.* Forms: 4–6 **spyre,** 5 **spyr, spyer, spierre,** 7 **spier,** 5, 7– **spire.** [app. of Continental origin, corresponding in sense 1 to ON. *spíra* (Norw. and Sw. *spira*, Da. *spire*), LG. *spiere, spier*, MDu. *spier* (rare), NFris. *spîr*, WFris. *spier, spjirre.* The original locality of the word, and its relation to SPIRE *sb.*[1], are not clear.]

†**1.** A spar or pole of timber; a bar or moderately long piece of wood. *Obs.* (Cf. SPAR *sb.*[1] 1–3.)

1392 *Mem. Ripon* (Surtees) III. 115 In iij spyres emp. de Joh. de Morpath pro skaffald, 15*d.* *c* 1400 *Gamelyn* 503 Gamelyn spreyniþ holi water with an oken spire. *c* 1400 *Laud Troy Bk.* 17170 [They] spered the 3ates wel and faste With many a spire that wel wolde laste. 1419 *Mem. Ripon* (Surtees) III. 144 Et in ij spyrys de esch emt. pro reparacione unius domus,..5*d.* 1470 *Cal. Anc. Rec. Dublin* (1889) 339 Noo freman [shall] goo without the citte to by hides, tallow, spirys, bordes. 1609 HOLLAND *Amm. Marcell.* 221 There lyeth foorth farther out a fouresquare beame or spire.

†**b.** The pole or shaft of a chariot. Also *attrib.*

1609 HOLLAND *Amm. Marcell.* 222 From the very midst of these ropes there riseth forth a beame of wood overthwart, and after the fashion of a yoke spire or tiller erected. 1610 — *Camden's Brit.* (1637) 29 They were wont to..runne along the spire-pole and beame of the chariot.

2. A young tree suitable for making into a spar; a sapling. Also *attrib.*

1392 *Mem. Ripon* (Surtees) III. 116 In xxxij spyres emp. de Will. Mayllour, 16*s.* 4*d.* Et in eisdem prosternandis, 7*d.* 1543 *Mem. Fountains* (Surtees) 413 [Survey of woods], Young oke spyres,..small ashe spyres. 1620 *N. Riding Rec.* II. 234 For cutting and stealing in Watlas Springe, two ash-spires. 1634 BP. HALL *Contempl., N. T.* IV. xi, Like a wood new felled, that hath some few spires left for standers. 1703 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 3975/4 Persons having any small young Spire Elm Timber to dispose of. 1707 MORTIMER *Husb.* 394 Many times a Spire Elm will begin to grow hollow at the bottom when any of its Roots happen to perish. 1788 W. H. MARSHALL *Yorksh.* II. 355 *Spires*, timber stands (not common). 1828 in CARR *Craven Gloss.* 1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss., Spires*, young trees that shoot up a considerable height before they branch out and form a head. 1876 *Davidson's Precedents* V. I. 225 All timber and other trees, pollards, spires, and saplings.

Spire (spəi·ə1), *sb.*[3] Also 6 **spyre.** [a. F. *spire* (= It. *spira*, Sp. and Pg. *espira*), or ad. L. *spīra*, ad. Gr. σπεῖρα coil, twist, winding.]

1. One of the series of complete convolutions forming a coil or spiral. **a.** One of the sinuous folds or windings of a serpent, etc.; a coil. Chiefly in pl.

1572 J. JONES *Bathes Ayde* II. 14 V° pypes did resemble the Spyres of a Dragon. 1608 TOPSELL *Serpents* 236 Sometimes also they [i.e. serpents] sette vp such a Spire aboue the water, that a boate or little Barke without sayles may pass thorow the same. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* IX. 502 [The Serpent] erect Amidst his circling Spires, that on the grass Floted redundant. 1700 DRYDEN *Fables, Alexander's Feast* 29 A dragon's fiery form bely'd the god: Sublime on radiant spires he rode. 1712–4 POPE *Rape Lock* IV. 43 Now glaring fiends, and snakes on rolling spires. 1820 L. HUNT *Indicator* No. 22 (1822) I. 175 Tired out at length, they trail their spires, and gasp. 1868 BROWNING *Ring & Bk.* V. 1959 There was the reptile,..Renewing its detested spire and spire Around me.

b. In general or technical use.

1608 TOPSELL *Serpents* 150 The humour about the vitall spire [*sc.* the bowels]. 1634 T. JOHNSON *Parey's Wks.* XIV. v. (1678) 325 If on the third day..the spires or windings [of the bandage] be found more loose. *a* 1661 FULLER *Worthies, Lond.* II. (1662) 194 With anfractuous spires, and cocleary turnings about it. 1774 PENNANT *Tour Scotl. in 1772*, 295 A great ox-horn,—the arm was twisted round its spires. 1822 SHELLEY *Fragm. Unf. Drama* 196 The plant..trailing its quaint spires Along the garden and across the lawn. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 473 Rifles should not be too deeply indented;..and the spires should be truly parallel. 1870 *Rep. Smithson. Instit. 1869*, 8 The center of a coil of many spires of fine wire forming part of the galvanic circuit.

2. A spiral; a series of spiral curves or coils.

1611 B. JONSON *Catiline's Consp.* II. i, *Ful.* Binde my hair vp...*Gal.* Will you ha't i' the globe, or spire? 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Spiral*, 'Tis called from its Inventor, Archimedes's Spire, or Helix. 1761 *Brit. Mag.* II. 642 Of those perfect spires which lie in the same plane, there are two sorts. The first contains those curves whose spaces, or the distances between each circumvolution, are equal, commonly called Archimedes' spire. 1801 SHAW *Gen. Zool.* II. II. 391 The principal distinction of the Spanish Sheep is the fineness of the fleece, and the horizontally extended spire of the horns. 1887 D. MAGUIRE *Massage* (ed. 4) 114 These frictions are applied in every possible direction, now in a rectangular way, now obliquely describing spires and concentric..curves.

3. A curl or wreath of smoke, etc.

1699 GARTH *Dispens.* 7 Aromatick Clouds in Spires ascend. 1716 CHEYNE *Philos. Princ. Nat. Relig.* I. 65 Air seems to consist of Spires contorted into small Spheres. 1769 *Phil. Trans.* LIX. 334 There was not a spire of smoke to be perceived.

†**4.** As the name of a shell. *Obs.*—[1]

1681 GREW *Museum* I. vi. i. 132 The Level-Whirle, or the Spire.

5. *Conch.* The upper convoluted portion of a spiral shell, consisting of all the whorls except the body-whorl.

1822 J. PARKINSON *Outl. Oryctol.* 150 A shield-formed, subconical univalve; no spire. 1851 G. F. RICHARDSON *Geol.* (1855) 240 The spire forms a very important feature in the univalves, and on its being raised, flattened, concealed, or reversed, depend many of the generic and specific distinctions of the shells. 1870 ROLLESTON *Anim. Life* 51 The greater part of the shell has been removed, but a part of the spire has been left.

6. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *spire-shell, -ward* adj.; **spire-bearer** *Conch.*, a spirifer.

1713 PETIVER *Aquat. Anim. Amboinæ* ix, Thread listed Spire-shell. 1880 *Linn. Soc. Jrnl.* XV. 104 A broader furrow, in the bottom of which runs the suture on the spire-ward side of a fine rounded thread. 1881 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* V. 265 The Spire-Bearers. The name..is derived from the spiral shape assumed by the calcareous labial appendages which nearly fill the interior of the dorsal valve.

†**Spire,** *sb.*[4] *Sc. Obs.* = SPEER *sb.*[1]

1768 ROSS *Helenore* 136 I's no seek near the fire,—Let me but rest my weary banes, Behind backs at the spire. 1806 R. JAMIESON *Pop. Ballads* II. 406 The spire in a cottage, is properly the stem or leg of an earth-fast couple, reaching from the floor to the top of the wall.

Spire, *sb.*[5] *rare.* Var. of SPAYARD.

The form may be due to SPIRE *sb.*[1] 6 b.

1856 'STONEHENGE' *Brit. Rur. Sports* I. x. 82 The Brocket has only small projections, called knobbers, with small brow antlers; the Spire a brow antler [etc.]. 1886 ELWORTHY *W. Som. Word-bk.* 700 *Spire*,..a male deer of three years old.

Spire, *sb.*[6] *Coal-mining.* (See quot.)

1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-m.* 231 *Spires*, coal of a hard, dull, slaty nature, and difficult to break up.

Spire, Sc. variant of SPEER *sb.*[4] (spray).

Spire (spəi·ə1), *v.*[1] Also 5–6 **spyre,** 6 **spyer.** [f. SPIRE *sb.*[1] Cf. Norw. and Sw. *spira*, Du. *spire*, in sense I.]

1. *intr.* Of seeds, grain, etc.: To send forth or develop shoots, esp. the first shoot or acrospire; to germinate, sprout. Also with *out.* Now *rare* or *Obs.* (Cf. SPEAR *v.*[2])

c 1325 *Gloss. W. de Bibbesw.* in Wright *Voc.* 158 *Ben germée*, [wel atome (? acome); *v.r.*] spired. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XVII. xliii. (Tollem. MS.), Many men hangen oynones and garlek in þe smoke ouer þe fyre,..for þey schulde nouȝt spire and growe. Ofte oynones and garlek spireþ, þouȝe þey be nouȝt in erþe. *c* 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* III. 1034 Now curneles of mixe hit is to keste In molde in sum vessell, so fele attonys As wel may spire. 1471 RIPLEY *Comp. Alch.* III. xvii. in Ashm. (1652) 143 Then shall thy seeds both roote and spyre. 1577 HARRISON *England* II. vi. 95 b/2 The workeman not suffring it [malting barley]..to take any heate, whereby the bud ende shoulde spire. 1679 EVELYN *Sylva* (ed. 3) 8 If they [i.e. seeds] spire out before you sow them, be sure you commit them to the earth before the Sprout grows dry. 1728 *Phil. Trans.* XXXV. 569 As they [crocus roots] then begin to spire, and are ready to shew themselves above Ground. 1765 *Museum Rust.* III. 223 There is a sure disappointment in buying such grain, as the kerns will spire at different times.

transf. 1582 STANYHURST *Æneis* I. (Arb.) 27 Thee Troian Cæsar shal spire fro this auncetrye regal.

†**b.** *trans.* To produce; to put *forth. Obs. rare.*

1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* III. v. 52 In..race Of woman kind it fairest flowre doth spire, And beareth fruit of honour and all chast desire. 1591 — *Ruins Time* Ded., The seede of most entire loue..; which taking roote..would in their riper strength..[have] spired forth fruit of more perfection.

2. *intr.* Of plants, corn, etc.: To run up into a tall stem, stalk, or spike; to grow upwards instead of developing laterally. Now *dial.*

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XVII. lxxvi. (Bodl. MS.), 3if þei beþ i-suffred in þe bigynnynge to growe to swiþe þan-þei spireþ & sedeþ to sone & leseþ to sone here fairenes & grene coloure. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 469 Spyryn, as corne dothe whan it begynneth to waxe rype, *je espie.* *a* 1618 SYLVESTER *New Jerusalem* 31 Wks. (Grosart) II. 258 There, Mead and Field, spring, spire, and yeeld. 1669 WORLIDGE *Syst. Agric.* (1681) 163 As often as they spire, crop them. 1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), To *Spire*, to grow up into an Ear, as Corn does. 1828 CARR *Craven Gloss., Spire*, to shoot up luxuriantly. 1841 HARTSHORNE *Salop. Ant.* Gloss., *Spire*, to grow rapidly, shoot upwards quickly. 1894 HESLOP *Northumbld. Gloss.* s.v., A tree or plant which shoots out in length and not proportionately in breadth is said to *spire.*

3. To rise or shoot up into a spire or spire-shaped form; to rise or extend to a height in the manner of a spire; to mount or soar aloft. Also with *up.*

a. Of flames or fire.

1591 SPENSER *Ruins Rome* 220 As ye see huge flames spred diuerslie, Gathered in one vp to the heauens to spyre. 1652 CULVERWEL *Lt. Nat.* I. xviii. (1661) 163 The Candle of the Lord;..'tis fain to spire up, and climbe up..in a Pyramidal form. 1816 J. HODGSON in J. Raine *Mem.* (1857) I. 181 The flame of its wick spired slightly into length. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 993 If the tip begins to spire, he drops down on one knee, and holding the candle near the pavement, gradually raises it up. 1867 G. MACDONALD *Disciple*, etc. 53 Each ripple waves a flickering fire..; They laugh and flash, and leap and spire.

b. Of edifices, rocks, etc.

1687 A. LOVELL tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* II. 60 A square Minaret that spires into a Pyramid. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* I. vii. 74 These rocks terminate in a vast number of ragged points, which spire up to a prodigious height. 1790 PENNANT *London* (1813) 581 They spire into very elegant pinnacles. 1818 MILMAN *Samor* 308 Sudden around 'gan spire the mountain tops. 1872 TENNYSON *Gareth & Lynette* 302 A city.. Which Merlin's hand..had touch'd, and everywhere..tipt with lessening peak And pinnacle, and had made it spire to heaven.

c. Of leaves, branches, or trees.

1707 MORTIMER *Husb.* 330 It will be convenient..to leave a leading Branch near the top to spire up and cover the wound. 1712 tr. *Pomet's Hist. Drugs* I. 136 The leaves only grow at the Top longwise, pointed as those of the Flower-de-lis, spiring, and opposite one to the other. 1798 COLERIDGE *Picture* 115 The crowded firs Spire from thy shores, and stretch across thy bed. 1870 BARING-GOULD *In Exitu Israel* I. i. 1 The upstart poplars..spire above the venerable trees.

d. In fig. use.

1672 TEMPLE *Ess., Govt.* Wks. 1720 I. 105 A Commonwealth, the more it takes in of the general Humour and Bent of the People, and the more it spires up to a Head by the Authority of some one Person. 1857 EMERSON *Poems, Sphinx* xvi. Wks. (Bohn) I. 398 Uprose the merry Sphinx, And crouched no more in stone;..She spired into a yellow flame; She flowered in blossoms red.

4. *trans.* **a.** To build *up* in the form of a spire. **b.** To direct or point upwards. **c.** To pierce with a sharp and lofty peak.

1750 WREN *Parentalia* 307 The Ground-work being settled, they had nothing else to do but to spire all up as they could. 1839 BAILEY *Festus* 53 Nay, I love Death. But Immortality, with finger spired, Points to a distant, giant world. 1874 LANIER *In Absence* iii. Poems (1892) 75 An Alp sublime.. Spiring the world's prismatic atmosphere.

† Spire, *v.*[2] *Obs.* Also 5–6 spyre. [ad. OF. *spirer, espirer* (= Sp. and Pg. *espirar*, It. *spirare*), or L. *spīrāre* to breathe.]

1. *intr.* or *absol.* To breathe; to blow gently; to come *forth* or *out* as breath. Also *fig.*

1382 WYCLIF *Ecclus.* xliii. 17 In his wil shal spiren, or brethen, out the south. *a* 1395 HYLTON *Scala Perf.* II. xli. (MS. Bodl. 592), þe hooli goost spireþ where he wole & þou heerist his voice, but þou woost not fro whennes he comeþ or whidir he goiþ. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (1531) 59 b, Let the swete odour of deuocyon and prayer spyre out and ascende vp to thy lorde and spouse. 1535 JOYE *Apol. Tindale* (Arb.) 24 Here may ye smel out of what stynkyng breste and poysoned virulent throte thys peivissbe Pystle spyrethe and breathed forthe.

2. *trans.* To breathe (air, etc.). Const. *into.*

1382 WYCLIF *Gen.* ii. 7 The Lord God thanne fourmede man of the slyme of the erthe, and spiride in to the face of hym an entre of breth of lijf.

3. To breathe forth or out, to create or produce by the agency of the breath.

Used in the pa. pple. of the Holy Spirit in relation to the other Persons of the Trinity.

1435 MISYN *Fire of Love* 16 þe sone is cald, be-caus of þe fadyr he is gottyn; þe holy goste, be-caus of both þe holy fader & holy sone he is spiryd. 1613 DAY *Dyall* iii. (1614) 49 He is tearmed a Spirit,..because he is spired or breathed from the Father and the Sonne. 1645 USSHER *Body Div.* (1647) 86.

b. To pour out by or as by breathing; to emit or give *forth* (odour).

1649 LOVELACE *Poems* 77 The rosin-lightning [should] flash, and Monster spire Squibs, and words hotter then his fire. 1657 W. MORICE *Coena quasi* Κοινή Def. xviii. 321 The leaves ..gently toucht do spire forth an excellent odour.

Spire (spəiəɹ), *v.*[3] [f. SPIRE *sb.*[3]] *intr.* To curl, twist, or wind spirally; to make a spiral curve; *esp.* to mount or soar with spiral movement.

Sometimes difficult to distinguish from SPIRE *v.*[1]

1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* 54 The hornes [of the Bonasus] are recurued,..so that they do not spire directly downeward but rather forward. 1718 *Entertainer* No. 41. 280 It is a Pitchy-smoak, and wheresoever it curls and spires, there we may..find the..Fire of Virtue. 1824 MISS L. M. HAWKINS *Annaline* II. 232 The whirlwind came spiring upwards. *a* 1850 BEDDOES *Poems* (1851) 214 The amazèd circle of scared eagles Spire to the clouds. 1895 YEATS *Poems* 225 The worms that spired about his bones.

Spire, obs. form of SPEER *v.*[1]

† Spire-alum. *Obs.*[−1] Some variety of alum.

c 1375 *Litt. Red Bk. Bristol* (1900) II. 6 Qe nul alym soit vsee nule part en la ville en oueraigne forsqe Spyralym, Glasalym, et Bokkau.

† Spired, *ppl. a.*[1] *Obs.* [f. SPIRE *v.*[1] 1.] Of barley: Sprouted; spoilt on this account for brewing purposes.

1548 *Act* 2–3 *Edw. VI*, c. 10 § 2 Any Malte not beinge well and sufficiently made, or beinge made of mowburnte or spired Barley. 1649 THORPE *Charge at York Assizes* 28 If any Malt-maker do not make his Malt of good and sweet Barley, not Mow-burnt or Spired Barley. 1702 *Guide Constables* 46 Malt..made of..spired barly.

Spired (spəiəɹd), (*ppl.*) *a.*[2] [f. SPIRE *sb.*[2]]

1. Having a tapering, sharp-pointed top; peaked.

1611 SPEED *Theatr. Gt. Brit.* (1614) 115 The Severne,.. whose head rising from the spired mountaine Plymllimon [etc.]. 1650 in *Archaeol.* (1779) V. 434 There is one piramide in spired pinacle of marble. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) I. 501 Black, rocky, and marked with rugged spired tops.

b. Of a steeple, tower, etc.: Provided with or carrying a spire.

Also as the second element in combs.

1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* 248 An exceeding high spired steeple. 1681 W. ROBERTSON *Phraseol. Gen.* (1693) 334 Huge spired steeples, with a gallant ring of Bells. 1682 WHELER *Journ. Greece* II. 202 On the top of the Hill is a round spired Tower. 1779 MASON *Eng. Gard.* III. 173 Of some old Fane, whose steeple's Gothic pride Or pinnacled, or spir'd, would bolder rise. 1888 W. E. HENLEY *Bk. Verses* 157 Like rampired walls the houses lean, All spired and domed and turreted.

fig. 1851 WHITTIER *Chapel Hermits* xix, The breaking day, which tips The golden-spired Apocalypse! 1865 E. BURRITT *Walk to Land's End* 430 A great human prayer spired with faith and towering heavenward.

2. Sharply-pointed; tapering. *rare.*

1670–1 NARBOROUGH *Jrnl.* in *Acc. Sev. Late Voy.* I. (1694) 16 Three Tropick Birds..with a long spired Tail as big as Pigeons.

3. Of plants: Stemmed, spiked. In combs., as *high-, sharp-spired.*

1780 BECKFORD *Italy* (1834) I. 263 Above the hut, their appearance was truly formidable, bristled over with sharp-spired dwarf aloes. 1838 MARY HOWITT *Birds & Fl.* 65, I love sweet flowers of every sort, High-spired or trailing low.

Spired, (*ppl.*) *a.*[3] *rare.* [f. SPIRE *sb.*[3] or *v.*[3]]

† 1. Spiral in appearance or form. *Obs.*[−1]

c 1623 LODGE *Poor Mans Talent* (Hunter. Cl.) 75 Vf it [sediment of urine] be white, equall, and spired, it signifieth that the patientt is of a good Constitution of boddie.

2. *Conch.* Having a spire.

1891 in *Cent. Dict.*

Spire-grass. [SPIRE *sb.*[1] Cf. SPEAR-GRASS.] **† a.** = SPEAR-GRASS 1, SPEARWORT 3. *Obs.* **b.** One or other of various reeds or sedges. Cf. SPEAR-GRASS 2. Now *dial.*

1626 BACON *Sylva* § 565 Where Alleyes are close Gravelled, the Earth putteth forth, the first yeare, Knot-grasse and after Spire-grasse. 1629 *Drayner Conf.* (1647) A iv b, There are many watry plashes, and much rotten Spire-grasse in it. 1851 STERNBERG *Northampt. Dial., Spire-grass*, a tall species of sedge, growing on fenny land. 1851 MEREDITH *Flower of Ruins* Poems 33 The little harebell leans On the spire-grass that it queens, With bonnet blue.

Spireless (spəiəɹlés), *a.* [f. SPIRE *sb.*[1]] Destitute of a spire or spires.

1833 CHALMERS in Hanna *Mem.* (1851) III. xix. 421 Re-entered the town near its singular and spireless church. 1894 *Outing* XXIV. 317/1 At early dawn when the huge spireless towers were becoming gradually distinct.

Spirelet (spəiəɹlĕt). [f. SPIRE *sb.*[1] + -LET.] A small spire, esp. one erected on a church tower or turret. (Freq. from *c* 1850.)

1848 B. WEBB *Cont. Ecclesiol.* 257 The tower is square of brick, with an octagonal lantern, and above all a tall spirelet. 1867 BARING-GOULD *Path Just* 120 A small religious house hard by, with a spirelet and bell. 1894 *Ch. Q. Rev.* Apr. 52 In most cases the central tower of their churches becomes a mere spirelet.

attrib. 1900 *Jrnl. R. Archæol. Inst.* LVII. 3 It had a plain spirelet top with a finial.

† Spire-steeple. *Obs.* Also **spire steeple.** [SPIRE *sb.*[1]] A steeple surmounted by a spire; a church spire; = SPIRE *sb.*[1] 8. (Common from *c* 1610 to *c* 1725.)

1559 MORWYNG *Evonym.* 78 Upon this necke standeth the head of brasse with a top like a spire steple. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* 700 A very faire Church [at Ripon],..with three high spire-steeples. 1635–56 COWLEY *Davideis* Notes 59 A Pyramide is a Figure broad beneath, and smaller and sharper by degrees upward, 'till it end in a Point, like our Spire-Steeples. 1725 in Picton *L'pool Munic. Rec.* (1886) II. 70 This Councill..being very desirous..to erect a convenient church, with a proper spire steeple. 1784 R. BAGE *Barham Downs* I. 7 From the window of the parlour..I have a view of a tall spire-steeple. 1809 COLERIDGE *Friend* 23 Nov. 223 An instinctive taste teaches men to build their churches in flat countries with spire-steeples.

Spirewise, *adv.* ? *Obs.* [f. SPIRE *sb.*[1] + -WISE.] In the manner of a tapering spire; pyramidally.

1610 GUILLIM *Heraldry* II. vi. (1611) 56 A Cheveron is an ordinary formed of a two fold line spirewise or pyramidall. 1658 ROWLAND tr. *Moufet's Theat. Ins.* 930 Some of them build their nests spire wise out of clay. 1683 LORRAIN tr. *Muret's Rites Funeral* 38 A kind of Square Tower,..and on the top of it were four little Towers made Taper or Spire-wise.

† Spirey. *Obs.*[−1] [? ad. F. *spirée.*] = SPIRÆA.

1713 *Phil. Trans.* XXVIII. 220 Curran leaved Spirey.. grows wild in Canada and Virginia.

Spirey, obs. form of SPIRY *a.*

† Spirget. *Obs.* Also 7 **spurget.** [Of obscure origin: cf. SPIRKET *sb.*[1]] A pin or peg for hanging things on.

1567 GOLDING *Ovid's Met.* VIII. 830 There hung a Boawle of Beeche upon a spirget by a ring. 1691 RAY *S. & E. Co. Words* 114 A *Spurget*, a Tagge or piece of Wood to hang any thing upon.

Spiric (spəiəɹrik), *a.* and *sb. Geom. rare.* [ad. Gr. σπειρικ-ός, f. σπεῖρα SPIRE *sb.*[3] Cf. F. *spirique.*] **a.** *adj.* Of or pertaining to, having the form of, a tore or torus. **b.** *sb.* A plane section of a torus.

1788 T. TAYLOR *Proclus* I. 134 But, with respect to these sections, the conic were invented by Menæchmus,..But the spiric by Perseus. 1891 in *Cent. Dict.*

So **† Spi·rical** *a. Obs.*[−1]

1788 T. TAYLOR *Proclus* I. 134 Conic, or spirical sections are generated from a particular section of solids.

Spiricle (spəiəɹrik'l). *Bot.* [dim. of SPIRE *sb.*[3]] A minute coiled thread in the coating of certain seeds and achenes, which uncoils when moistened.

1891 in *Cent. Dict.*

Spirifer (spəiəɹrifəɹ). *Palæont.* [mod.L. *spirifer* (Sowerby, 1816), f. L. *spīra* SPIRE *sb.*[3] + *-fer* bearing.] A genus of fossil brachiopods, found abundantly in the Silurian, Devonian, and Carboniferous formations, characterized by long highly-developed spiral appendages; a member or species of this genus, or of the family *Spiriferidæ* of which it is the type. Also *attrib.*

1835 *Penny Cycl.* III. 125/1 A particular kind of fossil-shell, named a *spirifer*, has indeed been detected in it. 1839 DE LA BECHE *Rep. Geol. Cornwall*, etc. iii. 47 Those seams which contain casts of broken vertebral columns of..spirifers, and corals. 1872 H. A. NICHOLSON *Palæontol.* 205 The true Spirifers are mainly Silurian and Devonian. 1890 GEIKIE *Class-Bk. Geol.* (ed. 2) xix. 266 The Devonian system [contains]..Cypridina-shales, Spirifer sandstone.

Spiriferous (spəiəɹrifərəs), *a.*[1] [ad. mod.L. *spirifer(us)* or F. *spirifère*: cf. prec.]

1. *Conch.* Having a spire.

1859 in MAYNE *Med. Lex.*

2. *Palæont.* Of a brachiopod: Having spiral appendages.

1891 in *Cent. Dict.*

Spiriferous, *a.*[2] *Geol.* [f. SPIRIFER + -OUS.] Containing or yielding spirifers.

1888 *Encycl. Brit.* XXIV. 507/2 The spiriferous sandstone on the Denison Plains..is doubtless Palæozoic.

Spiriform (spəiəɹrifɔm), *a.* [ad. mod.L. *spiriformis* or F. *spiriforme.*] Having the form of a spire or spiral.

1841 T. R. JONES *Anim. Kingd.* 450 In all essential particulars this spiriform viscus is precisely analogous to the laminated cavity of the *Nautilus*. 1861 HULME tr. *Moquin-Tandon* II. VII. iii. 349 The females [of the *Trichocephalus*] are always straight; never spiriform, like the males. 1892 F. GALTON *Finger Prints* v. 77 A series of rings, spirals, and plaits..breaking away into a..spiriform arrangement.

Spirillar (spəiəɹri·lăɹ), *a.* [f. SPIRILL-UM + -AR.] Of or belonging to the bacterial genus *Spirillum*; resembling a spirillum; characterized by the presence of spirilla.

1891 in *Cent. Dict.* 1896 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* I. 510 We should find that some of its descendants are spirillar. *Ibid.* 952 Blood..containing the spirillar organisms. 1904 *Brit. Med. Jrnl.* 17 Sept. 654 The pseudo-leucocytes that are present in the blood in..spirillar fever.

Spirillosis (spəiəɹrilō·sis). *Path.* [See next and -OSIS.] A disease or affection characterized by the presence of spirilla.

1904 *Jrnl. Microsc. Soc.* Feb. 100 Spirillosis of Fowls.—In the blood they found a spirillum and this blood produced the disease in other fowls.

‖ Spirillum (spəiəɹri·lŭm). Pl. **spirilla.** *Bacteriol.* [mod.L., dim. of L. *spīra* SPIRE *sb.*[3]] A genus or group of bacteria characterized by a spiral structure; any member of this genus, esp. the species found in the blood in relapsing fever.

1875 HUXLEY & MARTIN *Elem. Biol.* 28 *Spirillum.* Elongated unjointed threads rolled up into a more or less perfect spiral: frequently two spirals intertwine. 1878 BRISTOWE *Th. & Pract. Med.* (ed. 2) 134 Spirilla are moving spiral filaments of extreme tenuity. 1895 *Westm. Gaz.* 8 Nov. 8/1 The water used in making the creams teemed with micrococci, bacilli, and spirilla.

b. *Spirillum fever*, relapsing fever.

1886 PYE-SMITH *Fagge's Princ. & Pract. Med.* I. 201 With the analogy of spirillum fever to guide us. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* II. 368 In spirillum fever there is no rash.

† Spirinche. *Obs.*[−1] [ad. med.L. *spirinchus, spiringus*: see SPIRLING.] A smelt.

a 1682 SIR T. BROWNE *Acc. Fishes Norfolk* Wks. 1835 IV. 331 *Spirinches*, or smelt, in great plenty about Lynn.

Spiring (spəiəɹriŋ), *vbl. sb.*[1] [f. SPIRE *v.*[1]] The action of the verb in various senses; also *concr.*, a shoot or sprout.

c 1400 tr. *Secreta Secret., Gov. Lordsh.* 73 Trees er cled with newe leuys, þe erthe ys fair wyth spirynges. 1707 MORTIMER *Husb.* 376 They will be the taller and streighter by being forced up by the Wood that grows about them; tho' a deep Soil..contributes much to their spiring. 1733 W. ELLIS *Chiltern & Vale Farm.* 158 It is freed from the risque of Spiring before the Nut is put into the Ground.

† Spi·ring, *vbl. sb.*[2] *Obs.*[−1] [f. SPIRE *v.*[2]] A breathing; a blowing.

1534 MORE *Answ. Poysoned Bk.* Wks. 1061/1 Christ..bode him meruayl not therof, no more then of yᵉ spiring or mouing of the spirite or of yᵉ wind.

Spiring (spəiəɹriŋ), *ppl. a.*[1] [f. SPIRE *v.*[1]]

1. That spires or rises up taperingly to a point; freq. *poet.* or *rhet.*, soaring aloft or reaching to a great height: **a.** Of edifices, rocks, etc.

1538 LELAND *Itin.* VIII. (1909) III. 59 The old building of the chirch of the abbay remayneth having ii. goodly spiring steples. 1613–6 W. BROWNE *Brit. Past.* I. iv, Carved Monuments, Spiring Colosses and high raised rents. 1738 [G. SMITH] *Cur. Relat.* II. 275 Surrounded..by spiring Rocks, some eight, some sixteen, and others thirty Foot high. 1774 PENNANT *Tour Scotl. in 1772*, 343 Spiring summits of vast Mountains. 1800 BENTHAM in *Ess. Goth. Archit.* 85 This chapel..is supported by strong spiring buttresses. 1825 *Stranger's Comp. Cambr.* 53 From its roof rises a spiring and airy lantern. 1906 CORNFORD *Defenceless Isl.* 30 The graceful lines, the spiring masts,..suggest swift motion.

b. *fig.* Of the spirit.

1618 LITHGOW *Pilgr. Farewell* A iij, Prayse-worthie Pilgrime, whose so spiring Sprite Restes not content, incentred in one Soyle.

c. Of trees. (Cf. SPIRAL *a.*[2] b.)

1707 MORTIMER *Husb.* 390 If each other of these Trees be a spiring Tree, and the odd one between, a Fruit-tree to spread. 1802 SOUTHEY *Thalaba* I. xxiii, All trees that bend with luscious fruit,..Or point their spiring heads to heaven. 1857 THOREAU *Maine W.* ii. (1867) 102 The lofty, spiring tops of the spruce and fir. 1886 MRS. CADDY *Footsteps Y. D'Arc* 12 The spiring groves of distant elm and poplar are thrown out by the white clouds.

2. Of grass or plants: Shooting, sprouting; running up into a spire or stem.

1612 DRAYTON *Poly-olb.* xvi. 48 Where now the sharp-edg'd scythe shears up the spiring grass. 1677 PLOT *Oxfordsh.* 241 They..plough it early in the year as soon as their clay is fallowed, and then there will spring some spiring-grass that will keep it from scorching. 1863 W. W. STORY *Roba di R.* II. iv. 115 Their spiring weeds that grow out of the eaves of the..moss-stained tiles.

† Spi·ring, *ppl. a.*[2] *Obs.*[−1] [f. SPIRE *v.*[2]] Respiring.

1577 GRANGE *Gold. Aphrod.*, etc. Q iv b, Yet I forlorne a dolefull wight,..Doe wishe me set farre from the light: And ridde of this my spyring breath.

Spi·ring, *ppl. a.*[3] *rare*[−1]. [f. SPIRE *v.*[3]] Spiral; winding spirally.

1872 TENNYSON *Last Tourn.* 510 She heard the feet of Tristram grind The spiring stone that scaled about her tower.

Spirit (spi·rit), *sb.* Forms: *α.* 3– spirit, 4–6 -ite, 4–5 -itt, 4, 6 spiryte, 5 spiryt, 9 *dial.* spirut; 4–6 spyrite, 5 -itte, -id, -ut, -ete, 5–6 -it, 4–5 spyryt, 5–6 -yte. *β.* 5 sperete, -ite, 5–6 speryt, 5, 7, 9 sperit, 9 sperrit. See also SPIRT, SPRIGHT, and SPRITE. [a. AF. *spirit* (*espirit*), *spirite*, = OF. *esperit*, *-ite*, *esprit* (mod.F. *esprit*), or ad. L. *spīritus* (It. *spirito*, Pg. *espirito*, Sp. *espiritu*) breathing, breath, air, etc., related to *spīrāre* to breathe.

Mod.F. has also *spirite* in the sense of 'spiritualist'. In G., Da., and Sw. the L. form *spiritus* occurs, chiefly in sense 21.

The earlier English uses of the word are mainly derived from passages in the Vulgate, in which *spiritus* is employed to render Gr. *πνεῦμα* PNEUMA and Heb. רוּחַ *rūaḥ*. The translation of these words by *spirit* (or one of its variant forms) is common to all versions of the Bible from Wyclif onwards.]

I. 1. The animating or vital principle in man (and animals); that which gives life to the physical organism, in contrast to its purely material elements; the breath of life.

In some examples with implication of other senses.

c 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 203 God made Adam, and his licham of erðe he nam, And blew ðor-in a liues blast,..A spirit ful of wit and sckil. 1340 *Ayenb.* 92 Þet body of man is..þe vileste þet is, and þe spirit of man is þe zaule, and ys þe nobleste þing an þe heȝeste sseþþe þet may by. 1382 WYCLIF *Eccl.* iii. 21 Who knoȝ, if the spirit of the sonus of Adam steȝe vp aboue, and if the spirit of bestis go doun bynethe? 1582 N. T. (Rhem.) *Jas.* ii. 26 For euen as the bodie without the spirit is dead: so also faith without workes is dead. 1611 BIBLE *Wisd.* xvi. 14 The spirit when it is gone foorth returneth not; neither the soule receiued vp, commeth againe. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* x. 784 Least that pure breath of Life, the Spirit of Man,..cannot together perish With this corporeal Clod. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Person*, Thus, a Man, tho' consisting of two very different Things, *viz.* Body and Spirit, is not two Persons. 1850 TENNYSON *In Mem.* lvi, The spirit does but mean the breath. 1853 ABP. THOMSON *Laws Th.* (ed. 3) 61 When the breath is exhaled the spirit remains immortal.

transf. 1382 WYCLIF *John* vi. 64 The wordis that I haue spokun to ȝou, ben spirit and lyf. 1712 J. JAMES tr. *Le Bland's Gardening* 201 Water-Works are the Life of a Garden; 'tis these..which animate and invigorate it, and, if I may so say, give it new Life and Spirit.

b. In phrases denoting or implying diminution or cessation of the vital power, or the recovery of this. Also *transf.*, life-blood.

In various Biblical passages used with reference to profound discouragement, or recovery from this: cf. sense 13.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 12075 And sone þe spirit þat was fledd Again come in þat ilk stede. 1382 WYCLIF *Luke* viii. 55 And her spirit turnyde aȝeyn, and sche roos anon. *Ibid.* xxiii. 46 And he seyinge thes things, sente out the spirit (*v.r.* ȝaf vp the goost), ether diede. *a* 1425 tr. *Arderne's Treat. Fistula*, etc. 38 Neþerlesse þai may..moue almost to þe brebing out of þe spirit. 1606 SHAKS. *Ant. & Cl.* IV. xv. 58 Now my Spirit is going, I can no more. 1611 BIBLE *Judg.* xv. 19 When he had drunke, his spirit came againe, and he reuiued. 1720 POPE *Iliad* XVIII. 120 Let me revenge it on proud Hector's heart, Let his last spirit smoke upon my dart.

transf. 1595 SHAKS. *John* IV. i. 110 There is no malice in this burning cole, The breath of heauen, hath blowne his spirit out.

c. In contexts relating to temporary separation of the immaterial from the material part of man's being, or to perception of a purely intellectual character. Chiefly in phr. *in spirit.*

1382 WYCLIF *Rev.* iv. 2 Anoon I was in spirit, and lo! a seete was put in heuen, and on the seete oon sittinge. *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (Roxb.) xiv. 61 In spirit he was rauischt intill heuen, whare he sawe heuenly priuetez. *c* 1440 *Alph. Tales* 451 He was ravisshid his spyrid fro his body vnto Pasch day. 1582 N. T. (Rhem.) *Rev.* i. 10, I was in spirit on the Dominical day. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* XI. 406 In Spirit perhaps he also saw Rich Mexico.., And Cusco in Peru. 1850 TENNYSON *In Mem.* xvii, For I in spirit saw thee move Thro' circles of the bounding sky.

d. Incorporeal or immaterial being, as opposed to *body* or *matter*; being or intelligence conceived as distinct from, or independent of, anything physical or material. (Cf. MIND *sb.*[1] 17 f.)

1382 WYCLIF *John* iii. 6 That that is born of spirit, is spirit. 1611 BIBLE *Isaiah* xxxi. 3 Now the Egyptians are men and not God; and their horses flesh and not spirit. 1690 LOCKE *Hum. Und.* II. xxiii. (1695) 164 The primary Ideas we have peculiar to Body, as contradistinguished to Spirit. *Ibid.*, The Ideas we have belonging, and peculiar to Spirit, are Thinking, and Will. 1725 WATTS *Logic* (1736) 23 Modes belong either to Body or to Spirit, or to both...Modes of Spirit belong only to Minds. 1832 BREWSTER *Nat. Magic* ii. 10 The sentinel which guards the pass between the worlds of matter and of spirit. 1845 BAILEY *Festus* (ed. 2) 39 Spirit is soul Deified. 1898 ILLINGWORTH *Div. Immanence* i. 5 If matter and spirit are thus only known in combination, it follows that neither can be completely known.

2. The soul of a person, as commended to God, or passing out of the body, in the moment of death.

c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* i. (*Peter*) 730 And þis he ȝalde þe spyrit, of god in-to þe halde. 1382 WYCLIF *Luke* xxiii. 46 Fadir, in to thi hondis I bitake my spirit. 1509 FISHER *Funeral Serm. C'tess Richmond* Wks. (1876) 309 Sone after ..she departed & yelded vp her spyryte in to the handes of our lorde. 1582 N. T. (Rhem.) *Acts* vii. 59 They stoned Steuen .. saying: Lord Iesus, receiue my spirit. 1611 BIBLE *Luke* xxiii. 46 Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit. 1825 SCOTT *Betrothed* Concl., If you come to announce the doom of this poor frame, may God be gracious to the spirit which must be violently dismissed from it!

b. The disembodied soul of a (deceased) person, regarded as a separate entity; = SOUL *sb.* 11.

1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* IV. 757 The Pithones..Rasit, throu hyr mekill slycht, samuell['s] sperit. 1426 LYDGATE *De Guil. Pilgr.* 11960 To the body a spyryt spak,..The spyryt in the weye stood; The body..hong on a tre. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 7 All the holy sayntes that ben saued, and also the damned spirytes in hell. 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 115 There by a signe made, he sheweth that he is the spirite of her. 1611 BIBLE *Heb.* xii. 23 To the generall assembly,..and to the spirits of iust men made perfect. 1632 MILTON *Penseroso* 88 Where I may..unsphear The spirit of Plato. 1741–2 GRAY *Agrippina* 14 'Twould dash his joy To hear the spirit of Britannicus Yet walks on earth. 1790 COWPER *Mother's Picture* 23 Hover'd thy spirit o'er thy sorrowing son, Wretch even then, life's journey just begun? 1819 SHELLEY *Cenci* IV. i. 93 Her spirit shall approach the throne of God Plague-spotted with my curses. 1840 HOOD *Open Question* 145 Spirit of Kant! have we not had enough To make Religion sad, and sour, and snubbish?

fig. 1742 YOUNG *Nt. Th.* II. 180 The spirit walks of ev'ry day deceas'd.

3. A supernatural, incorporeal, rational being or personality, usually regarded as imperceptible at ordinary times to the human senses, but capable of becoming visible at pleasure, and freq. conceived as troublesome, terrifying, or hostile to mankind.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 17288+449 Spirit has nauther flesch ne bone, as I now haf soþtly. *c* 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 8072 We fynde writen..Of swylk manere of spyrites; Bytwyxte þe mone & þe erþe þei wone. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) III. 279 We haveþ i-lerned of Socrates, þat was alway tendaunt to a spirit þat was i-cleped demon. 1422 tr. *Secreta Secret., Priv. Priv.* 143 This Spyritte that al thy workys seyth ande parcewyth. 1483 CAXTON *G. de la Tour* F j, His wyf..sayd it was the fende or elles the goblyn or somme spyryte. 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 116 After that Luthers doctrine was spred abroad and knowen, those spirites..vanyshed cleane out of syght. 1596 SHAKS. 1 *Hen. IV*, III. i. 52, I can call Spirits from the vastie Deepe. 1610 — *Temp.* I. ii. 409 What, is't a Spirit? ..Beleeue me sir, It carries a braue forme. But 'tis a spirit. 1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* 76 The conceit is excellent, and if the effect would follow somwhat divine, whereby we might communicate like spirits. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* I. 423 For Spirits when they please Can either Sex assume, or both. 1721 YOUNG *Revenge* III. i, Shut close the doors, That not a spirit find an entrance here. 1731–8 SWIFT *Polite Conv.* 110, I saw some thing in black, I thought it was a Spirit. 1799 WORDSW. *Nutting* 54 With gentle hand Touch —for there is a spirit in the woods. 1841 BROWNING *Pippa Passes* Poems (1905) 175 As if God bade some spirit plague a world. 1897 MARY KINGSLEY *W. Africa* 479 The spirit is malevolent: all native-made spirits are. 1902 J. M. ROBERTSON *Hist. Christianity* 71 Mithra..being the first of the seven planetary spirits on whose names the week was based.

fig. 1850 TENNYSON *In Mem.* cii, As down the garden-walks I move, Two spirits of a diverse love Contend for loving masterdom.

transf. 1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* I. ii. 22 We had, in fact, the Spirit of the Brocken before us.

b. With qualifying terms, as *evil*, *familiar*, *guardian*, *wicked*, etc.

c 1340 HAMPOLE *Prose Treat.* 5 For thare may na wykked spyrite noye þare Ihesu es mekyll in mynde. *c* 1380 WYCLIF *Last Age Ch.* (1840) 34 Alas, þat no good spiryt dwellid wiþ me at my comynge into Goddis Chirche. 1382 — 1 *Sam.* xxviii. 7 There is a womman hauynge a dyuynynge spirite in Endore. 1508– [see DAMNED *ppl. a.* 2]. *a* 1536 *Songs, Carols*, etc. 69 Þe sperytis infernall, all þe hole rowte. 1555– [see EVIL *a.* 3 b]. 1565– [see FAMILIAR *a.* 2 d]. 1582 N. T. (Rhem.) *Heb.* i. 14 Are they not al ministring spirits? 1611 BIBLE 1 *Tim.* iv. 1 Giuing heed to seducing spirits. 1676 *Charge* in *Office of Clerk of Assize* 101 If any person have..employed any wicked spirit, to any intent or purpose whatsoever. 1711 [see GUARDIAN 6 b]. 1785 C. WILKINS tr. *Bhaguat-Gheeta* 68 The evil spirits are terrified. 1827 SCOTT *Highl. Widow* v, The days and hours when the wicked spirits were supposed to have especial power over man and beast. 1860 PUSEY *Min. Proph.* 30 It has been thought that the evil spirits assault mankind in a sort of order or method.

transf. 1581 PETTIE *Guazzo's Civ. Conv.* I. (1586) 38 The more they are in prosperitie, the more they are beset with Flatterers,..whereof it commeth that Princes are euer besieged by these euill spirites.

c. A being of this nature imagined as possessing and actuating a person.

1382 WYCLIF *Matt.* viii. 16 Thei brouȝte to hym many hauynge deuelys, and he castide out spiritis by word. 1382 — *Acts* xvi. 16 Sum wenche hauynge a spirit of dyuynacioun. 1546 LANGLEY *Pol. Verg. de Invent.* I. xviii. 33 To banish the Spirit out of yᵉ Demoniake. 1651 [see POSSESS *v.* 5 b]. 1711 SHAFTESB. *Charac.* (1737) III. 117 He had been seiz'd with this prophesying spirit-errant, processional, and saltant. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl., Demoniac*, .. a Person possess'd with a Spirit, or Demon. 1850 [see POSSESS *v.* 5].

d. In generalized sense: A being essentially incorporeal or immaterial.

c 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 3022 Bot now may som..aske how þe saul may fele payne, þat es noght elles bot a spirit. *c* 1380 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* III. 502 Hit is heresye to trowe þat Crist is a spiryt and no body. 1382 — *John* iv. 24 God is a spirit. 1653 BINNING *Serm.* 9 Angels and men next to God, are spirits, as He is a Spirit. *a* 1703 BURKITT *On N. T., John* iv. 24 God..is not a bare spiritual substance, but a pure and perfect Spirit. 1710 BERKELEY *Princ. Hum. Knowl.* I. § 6 In my mind, or in that of some other created spirit..or of some eternal spirit. 1876 J. PARKER *Paracl.* I. i. 9 Man *has* a body, but he *is* a spirit.

4. With *the* and qualifying term, denoting some particular being of the above nature.

1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* IV. 758 [She raised] in his sted þe euill spirit þat gaf grath ansueir hir to. *a* 1425 *Cursor M.* 170 (Trin.), Iesu..Was temptide with þe spirit of wronge. *c* 1440 *Alph. Tales* 281 Þer was ane hermett þat was tempid with þe spiritt of blasfemyng.

1797 COLERIDGE *This Lime-tree Bower my Prison* 42 Such hues As veil the Almighty Spirit, when He makes Spirits perceive his presence. 1836 *Penny Cycl.* VI. 208/2 The Indians..consider it as the dwelling of the Great Spirit, or 'Manitou'. 1842 LYTTON *Zicci* 2 The Evil Spirit is pulling you towards him by the hair.

5. † **a.** One who kidnaps; an abductor. *Obs.*

1645 WHITELOCKE *Mem.* (1682) 140/1 An Ordinance against such who are called Spirits, and use to steal away, and take up children. 1686 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 2532/1 The frequent Abuses of a lewd sort of People, called spirits, in Seducing many of His Majesties Subjects to go on Shipboard [etc.]. 1690 J. CHILD *Disc. Trade* x. 170 A sort of loose vagrant People,..which Merchants and Masters of Ships, by their Agents (or Spirits, as they were called) gathered up about the Streets of London, and other places.

b. *Printing.* (See quots.)

1683 MOXON *Mech. Exerc., Printing* 373 The Pressman sometimes has a Week-Boy to take Sheets, as they are Printed off the Tympan. These Boys do..black and dawb themselves; whence the Workmen do jocosely call them Devils; and sometimes Spirits, and sometimes Flies. 1888 JACOBI *Printers' Vocab.* 129 *Spirit*, the evil genius of a chapel.

c. (See quot.)

1825 in Drewitt *Bombay in Days Geo. IV* (1907) 176, I shall gain the character here of a 'spirit'..having met several times at his house ladies of spotted reputation, and who are not visited by any one.

d. *ellipt.* The spirit duck.

1784 PENNANT *Arct. Zool.* II. 558 Called sometimes the Spirit, as is supposed, from its suddenly appearing again at a distance, after diving.

II. 6. *The Spirit of God* (or *the Lord*), the active essence or essential power of the Deity, conceived as a creative, animating, or inspiring influence.

13.. *Cursor M.* 7106 (Gött.), Sampson slou þat leon kene, þe spirit of godd in him was sene. 1382 WYCLIF *Isaiah* lxi. 1 The spirit of the Lord [is] vp on me. — 1 *Cor.* ii. 11 What thingis ben of God, no man knowith, no but the spirit of God. 1582 N. T. (Rhem.) *Eph.* iv. 30 And contristate not the holy Spirit of God. 1604 HIERON *Wks.* I. 480 Were these inuented by Gods Spirit Or found you them in holy writ? 1667 in *Cath. Rec. Soc. Publ.* III. 70 One of those ..happy trees vnto which the spirit of God compares a iust man. 1841 TRENCH *Parab.* xiii. 220 The informing Spirit of God which prompts the works and quickens the faith. 1875 MANNING *Mission H. Ghost* i. 1 The Spirit of the Lord is God the Holy Ghost.

b. *The Holy Spirit*, = HOLY GHOST 1.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 19415 (Edinb.), Þe hali spirite oute of him spac. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* x. (*Matthew*) 130 Eftyre cristis ascencione, þe haly spyrit of criste come done. *c* 1420 *Prymer* 40 Take þou not fro me þin hooli spirit. 1549 *Bk. Com. Prayer, Ord. Priests*, Laude and praise be to the father,..And to the holy spirite. 1639, etc. [see PROCESSION *sb.* 4]. 1709 WATTS *Hymn*, 'Come, Holy Spirit' i, Come, Holy Spirit, heavenly Dove. 1881 N. T. (R.V.) *Matt.* i. 18 The Holy Ghost. *marg.* Or, Holy Spirit: and so throughout this book. 1898 CHAVASSE *Litton's Ch. Christ* 18 Those who by the Holy Spirit have been convinced of sin.

c. *The Spirit*, = prec.

1382 WYCLIF *Mark* i. 12 Anon the Spirit puttide [Vulg. *expulit*] hym in to desert. *a* 1400 N. T. (Paues) *Rom.* viii. 26 Þe Spirit also helpeþ oure infirmyte. *c* 1520 M. NISBET *John* i. 32, I saw the spirit cummande doun as a dow fra heuen. 1546 GARDINER *Declar. Joye* 88 Baptisme yᵉ sacrament of birth of yᵉ spirite, as ye speake, in newe englyssh, and of the holly goost as the olde english turned it. *a* 1619 FOTHERBY *Atheom.* II. xii. § 2 (1622) 337 With diuine accents, tuning rarely right, Vnto the rapting Spirit, the rapted spright. 1679 *Establ. Test* 24 If the Spirit moves, he can disgorge himself against the Priests of Baal, the Hirelings. 1822 SHELLEY *Chas. I*, II. 223 The apostolic power with which the Spirit Has filled its elect vessels.

d. So *The Spirit of truth* or † *verity*, etc.

1382 WYCLIF *John* xiv. 17 He schal ȝyue to ȝou another coumfortour, the spirit of treuthe. ? *a* 1533 FRITH *Answ. More* L ij b, That spiryte of veryte whiche is sent from God our Father through our sauyour.., to lyghten our darke ignorance. 1551 BIBLE *John* xv. 26 When the comforter is come,..whiche is the spirite of truthe. 1819 J. MONTGOMERY *Hymn*, 'Lord God the Holy Ghost' iii, Spirit of Light, explore And chase our gloom away.

7. The active or essential principle or power *of* some emotion, frame of mind, etc., as operating on or in persons.

1382 WYCLIF 2 *Tim.* i. 7 God ȝaf not to vs the spirit of drede, but of vertu, and of loue, and sobrenesse. *c* 1400 LOVE *Bonavent. Mirr.* (1908) 61 Knowynge hym by the spirit of prophecie. 1551 BIBLE *Isaiah* xix. 14 The Lorde hathe made Egypte droncken wyth the spirite of erroure, and they shall vse it. 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 129 One of them, as though he were moved with the spirite of prophecie, runeth up and downe the citie. 1591 SHAKS. *Two Gent.* v. iv. 55 The gentle spirit of mouing words. 1601 — *Twel. N.* I. i. 9 O spirit of Loue, how quicke and fresh art thou. 1675 OWEN *Indwelling Sin* (1732) i. 3 The effectual Power of the Spirit of Grace. 1705 in *Buccleuch Pap.* (Mont. Ho.) I. 354 The spirit of lying runs away with more torrys than ever I had the honour to know. 1779 *Mirror* No. 18, The dark and gloomy spirit of fanaticism, which prevailed so universally..during the last century. 1820 BELZONI *Egypt & Nubia* III. 326 The spirit of contradiction excited by the illiberality of travellers. 1855 PRESCOTT *Philip II*, II. v. (1857) 247 The spirit of independence was fostered by the institutions of the country. 1872 MORLEY *Voltaire* (1886) 250 A momentary self-indulgence in the spirit of party.

b. With *a*: A tendency, inclination, impulse, etc., *of* a specified kind.

1388 WYCLIF *Isaiah* xix. 14 The Lord meddlid a spirit of errour in the myddis therof. *c* 1430 LYDG. *Min. Poems*

(Percy Soc.) 9 God the ffulfylle withe intelligence, And withe a spyrut of goostly sapience. *Ibid.*, God send [thee] also ..A spiryt..Of connyng. 1596 Shaks. *1 Hen. IV*, v. ii. 64 A double spirit Of teaching, and of learning. 1765 *Museum Rust.* IV. 56 A certain spirit of improvement.. has been promoted and carried on. 1774 Goldsm. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) I. 18 If possest with a spirit of theory, his imagination will supply the rest. 1833 Ht. Martineau *Vanderput & S.* ix. 133 The old woman had infused a further spirit of thankfulness into the suffering boy. 1844 Disraeli *Coningsby* III. i, A slight spirit of mockery played over his speech. 1859 C. Barker *Assoc. Princ.* iii. 62 To foster a spirit of comprehensive patriotism.

8. A particular character, disposition, or temper existing in, pervading, or animating, a person or set of persons; a special attitude or bent of mind characterizing men individually or collectively.

1561 Rastell *Confut. M. Ivelles Serm.* 137 Not onlye Moyses had the grace of gouerning.., but seuentie elders.. had imparted vnto them of his spirite and dignitie. 1588 Kyd *Househ. Phil.* Wks. (1901) 242 There mette vs another youth of lesse yeeres, but no lesse gentle spirit. 1611 Shaks. *Wint. T.* II. iii. 127 Ioue send her A better guiding Spirit. 1665 Sir T. Herbert *Trav.* (1677) 62 Observing in his pupil a Spirit fitted for the Government of that Monarchy. 1682 Flavel *Fear* Ded., A dear friend from whom I have often had the fair idea and character of your excellent spirit. 1712 Addison *Spect.* No. 363 ₱8 His Person, his Port, and Behaviour, are suitable to a Spirit of the highest Rank. 1754 Gray *Progr. Poesy* 81 Latium had her lofty spirit lost. 1856 Froude *Hist. Eng.* (1858) I. i. 34 By these measures the money-making spirit was for a time driven back. 1897 *Cavalry Tactics* 5 Like the quality of tact, the cavalry spirit is perceptible only by its results.

b. The disposition, feeling, or frame of mind with which something is done, considered, or viewed.

1601 Bp. W. Barlow *Serm. Paules Crosse* Pref. 10 But from what spirit these objections proceede, may soone be gessed at. *c* 1680 Aubrey in Ingleby *Shaks. Cent. Praise* (1880) 383 It seemed to him that he writt with the very spirit that Shakespear [did]. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* I. I. iv, It is not thy works,..but only the Spirit thou workest in, that can have worth or continuance. 1861 M. Pattison *Ess.* (1889) I. 31 Such is the spirit in which the history of our ancestors is ordinarily propounded to us. 1864 Bryce *Holy Rom. Emp.* ix. (1875) 147 Otto laboured on his great project in a spirit almost mystic.

9. A person considered in relation to his character or disposition; one who has a spirit of a specified nature: **a.** With preceding adjs.

1591– [see Choice *a.* 1 b]. 1598 E. Guilpin *Skial.* v, Here I converse with those diviner spirits Whose knowledge and admire the world inherits. 1601– [see Master *sb.*[1] 24 a]. 1638 Junius *Paint. Ancients* 10 Many lively spirits at length are most pittifully turned away from their forward course. 1655 Fuller *Ch. Hist.* IX. 194 Thus impossible it is to please froward spirits. 1718 *Free-thinker* No. 56. 8 The Brave Spirits of France now strive to vindicate their Liberty in Religious Matters. 1746 Francis tr. *Horace, Epist.* I. xix. 11 Let thirsty Spirits make the Bar their Choice. 1808 Scott in *Lockhart* I. i. 27 He is..led to be the associate and companion of those inferior spirits with whom he is placed. 1849 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* i. I. 34 A few regiments of household troops are sufficient to overawe all the discontented spirits of a large capital. 1883 *Manch. Guard.* 29 Oct. 5/2 That the army, at least the more active spirits within it, were discontented was notorious.

b. With other forms of qualification. *rare.*

1603 Daniel *Def. Rhime* Wks. (1717) 21 Being..in all Ages furnish'd with Spirits fit to maintain the Majesty of her own Greatness. *a* 1648 Ld. Herbert *Hen. VIII* (1683) 93 So haughty were the major part of the spirits in this assembly, that..they condemned Luther's Books to the Fire. 1760–72 H. Brooke *Fool of Qual.* (1809) III. 82 Our ship..was full manned, with about two hundred and seventy spirits,.. ready, and desirous to go and meet death.

10. The essential character, nature, or qualities *of* something; that which constitutes the pervading or tempering principle of anything. (Common after 1800.)

1690 Temple *Est., Poetry* Wks. 1720 I. 241 The true Spirit or Vein of ancient Poetry. 1721 Bradley *Philos. Acc. Wks. Nat.* 189 Which is enough to support the Spirit of Botany. 1746 Francis tr. *Horace, Epist.* II. i. 224 It breathes the Spirit of the tragic Scene. 1843 Ruskin *Mod. Paint.* I. II. iv. § 3 The spirit of the hills is action, that of the lowlands repose. 1888 Bryce *Amer. Commw.* v. xciii. III. 298 To do so would be alien to the whole spirit of American legislation.

b. The prevailing tone or tendency *of* a particular period of time.

1820 Shelley *Lett.* Wks. 1880 IV. 166 It is the spirit of the age, and we are all infected with it. 1824 Landor *Imag. Conv.* Wks 1846 I. 144 The spirit of the times is only to be made useful by catching it as it rises. 1884 Gladstone in *Western Daily Press* 22 Sept. 3/3 This legitimate process.. conducted in the spirit of the present day. 1891 *Pall Mall G.* 6 Aug. 3/1 The Spirit of the Age is against those who put party or programme before human needs.

c. The broad or general intent or meaning *of* a statement, enactment, etc. Used in contrast to Letter *sb.*[1] 5.

Suggested by the use of the words in 2 *Cor.* iii. 6.

1802 *Med. Jrnl.* VIII. 288 Knowing..that Magistrates are generally obliged to inflict penalties according to the Letter and not according to the Spirit of an Act. 1850 Robertson *Serm.* Ser. III. vi. (1857) 84 His faith appears to have consisted in disbelieving the letter, almost as much as in believing the spirit of the promise.

III. 11. The immaterial intelligent or sentient element or part of a person, freq. in implied or expressed contrast to the body.

1382 Wyclif *Ps.* l. 19 Sacrifise to God [is] a spiritt holly trublid. *c* 1386 Chaucer *Knt.'s T.* 1907 Naught may the wofui spirit in myn herte Declare a poynt of my sorwes smerte. *a* 1420 *Aunters of Arth. xx*, The holy goste, That enspyres alle sperites..to come to that blysse. 1551 Bible *Luke* i. 47 My spirite reioyseth in god my sauiour. 1585 T. Washington tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* III. i. 69 b, [They] teach them to learne some art or occupation, according to the capacitie of their spirit. 1604 E. G[rimstone] *D'Acosta's Hist. Indies* II. iv. 88 As well in the fruites of the earth, as in the bodies and spirits of men. *c* 1665 Mrs. Hutchinson *Mem. Col. Hutchinson* (1846) 5 But these things bounded not their great spirits. 1743 Francis tr. *Horace, Odes* II. iii. 2 In arduous Hours an equal Mind maintain, Nor let your Spirit rise too high. 1789 Cowper *Queen's Visit Lond.* 65 That cordial thought her spirit cheer'd. 1827 Hallam *Const. Hist.* iii. (1876) I. 162 They stood the trial of their spirits without swerving from their allegiance. 1842 Tennyson *Sir Galahad* iv, My spirit beats her mortal bars. 1872 Morley *Voltaire* 7 Many new things, after which the spirits of others were unconsciously groping and dumbly yearning.

b. In generalized sense, with *the*.

1382 Wyclif *Baruch* iii. 1 The soule in anguysshes, and the spirit tormentid crieth to thee. *c* 1440 *Gesta Rom.* i. 4 (Harl. MS.), Þi flesch, þat dispisith all werkis that þe spirite lovith. *a* 1450 tr. *De Imitatione* II. viii. 48 Blesful is þat man whom..he callip fro teres to þe ioy of þe spirit. 1560 Daus tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 55 Luther hath offended..in..not teaching those thinges, that are of the spirite. 1614 C. Brooke *Ghost Rich. III*, E iv, As the Catholick Spirit in Man applyes Each Sence and Organ, to their proper Ends. 1665 R. Howard *Four Plays, Committee* III. 99 Saffron-posset-drink is very good against The heaviness of the Spirit. 1781 Cowper *Hope* 299 Hopes..that cannot..cheer the spirit, nor refresh the sight. 1875 E. White *Life in Christ* III. xx. (1878) 298 In such cases the spiritual action must at first be directly on the spirit and not at all on the mind.

c. Without article; freq. in phr. *in spirit.*

1382 Wyclif *Rom.* xii. 11 Not slow in bisynesse, feruent..in spirit. *Ibid. 1 Cor.* vii. 34 And a..mayden thenkith what thingis ben of the Lord, that sche be hooly in body and spirit. *c* 1430 Lydg. *Min. Poems* (Percy Soc.) 48 This rose of Jericho,..Pore in spirit, parfit in pacyence. 1582 N. T. (Rhem.) *Luke* x. 21 In that very houre he reioyced in spirit. 1582 N. Lichefield tr. *Castanheda's Cong. E. Ind.* 143 The Captaine Generall was inwardly moued in spirit. 1663 Bp. Patrick *Parab. Pilgr.* xix, Losing more time by these dejections of spirit. 1670 Clarendon *Hist. Reb.* XVI. § 10 The poor man had not spirit enough to discern what was best for him. 1779 *Mirror* No. 10, Mr. Fleetwood felt an unusual elevation of spirit. 1859 Thackeray *Virgin.* vi, Saddened and humbled in spirit, the young officer presented himself after a while to his old friends. 1860 Ruskin *Mod. Paint.* V. VIII. i. 167 *note*, This being the true distinction between flesh and spirit.

12. The emotional part of man as the seat of hostile or angry feeling.

1382 Wyclif *2 Chron.* xxi. 16 Thanne the Lord rerede aȝeinus Joram the spirite of the Philisteis, and of Arabes. 1607 Shaks. *Timon* III. v. 104 And not to swell our Spirit, He shall be executed presently. 1611 Bible *Eccl.* x. 4 If the spirit of the ruler rise vp against thee, leaue not thy place. *a* 1715 Burnet *Own Time* (1724) I. 467 The carelessness and luxury of the court came to be so much exposed that the King's spirit was much sharpened upon it. 1862 Trollope *Orley F.* xiv, She was prepared for war and her spirit was hot within her.

13. Mettle; vigour of mind; ardour; courage; disposition or readiness to assert oneself or to hold one's own.

1596 Shaks. *1 Hen. IV*, IV. i. 101 All furnisht, all in Armes, ..As full of spirit as the Moneth of May. 1603 — *Meas. for M.* III. i. 212 I haue spirit to do any thing that appeares not fowle. 1643 in Clarendon *Hist. Reb.* VI. § 338 They have of late taken spirit, and begun to speak big words. *a* 1715 Burnet *Own Time* (1734) II. 427 A man of more spirit than discretion. 1749 Fielding *Tom Jones* IV. viii, Molly had too much spirit to bear this treatment tamely. 1809 Byron *Bards & Rev.* (ed. 2) Postscr., 'The age of chivalry is over,' or, in the vulgar tongue, there is no spirit now-a-days. 1862 Stanley *Jew. Ch.* (1877) I. xv. 296 They replied with all the spirit of Arab chiefs. 1890 'L. Falconer' *Mlle. Ixe* i. 33 She consoled herself by describing what other people called disobedience as spirit.

b. In the phr. *with* (..) *spirit.*

1748 Gray *Alliance* 95 What wonder if..They guard with spirit what by strength they gain'd? 1799 Nelson 7 June in Nicolas *Disp.* (1846) VII. p. clxxxiv, Don Jose..has on several occasions conducted himself with spirit. 1816 Scott *Old Mort.* xxxii, Ere Morton or Burley had reached the post to be defended, the enemy had commenced an attack upon it with great spirit. 1830 Marryat *King's Own* xiii, The action was now maintained with spirit, but much to the disadvantage of the cutter.

c. Freq. in *a man of spirit.*

1747 Hoadly *Suspicious Husband* I. i, We Men of Spirit, Sir, are above it. 1780 *Mirror* No. 102, Youths entering on the stage of life are catched with the engaging appellation, 'a man of spirit'. 1812 *Lex. Bal.* Pref. p. vi, They may be initiated into all the peculiarities of language by which a man of spirit is distinguished from a man of worth.

14. a. A brisk or lively quality in things.

1588 Kyd *Househ. Phil.* Wks. (1901) 272 The small wynes, and those of little spirite that quickly lose their strength. 1638 Junius *Paint. Ancients* 229 Seeing .. that nothing marreth the life and spirit of the invented things so much, as to force and strain them to a fore-determined purpose. 1686 Horneck *Crucif. Jesus* (1716) 190 Wine hath Briskness and Spirit in it. 1852 Mrs. Stowe *Uncle Tom's C.* xiv, So much motherliness and full-heartedness..seemed to put a spirit into the food and drink she offered. 1874 H. H. Cole *Catal. Ind. Art S. Kens. Mus.* App. 281 The action and modelling of the conventional griffin has some spirit about it.

b. Liveliness, vivacity, or animation in persons, their actions, discourse, etc. (Cf. 17 c.)

a 1700 Evelyn *Diary* 16 Aug. 1691, An honest discourse, but read without any spirit or seeming concern. 1750 Gray *Long Story* 30 Arm'd with spirit, wit, and satire. 1783 Mme. D'Arblay *Diary* 20 June, The absence of Dr. Johnson.. took off the spirit of the evening. 1867 Ruskin *Time & Tide* v. § 24 She danced her joyful dance with perfect grace, spirit, sweetness, and self-forgetfulness. 1886 *Athenæum* 30 Oct. 559/2 The twenty-second chapter..relates with some spirit the disputes between England and the United States.

IV. 15. A movement of the air; a wind; a breath (of wind or air).

In later use *poet.* and associated with other senses.

1382 Wyclif *Gen.* viii. 1 The Lord..brouȝte to a spirit [1388 wynd] vpon the erthe. And the watris ben lessid. *Ibid. Ps.* x. 7 Fyr, brunston, and the spiritis [1388 spirit] of tempestis. 1561 Daus tr. *Bullinger on Apoc.* (1573) 158 Fyre, brimstone, and spirite of tempest. 1601 Holland *Pliny* I. 37 All the spirit and winde which should beare them [*sc.* birds] vp is withdrawne from them. 1626 Bacon *Sylva* § 39 All Purgers haue in them a raw Spirit, or Wind; which is the Principall Cause of Tortion in the Stomach. 1725 Pope *Odyssey* VII. 152 The balmy spirit of the western gale. 1820 Shelley *Witch Atlas* lx, With motion like the spirit of that wind Whose soft step deepens slumber.

†**b.** The act of breathing; (a) breath. *Obs.*

1382 Wyclif *2 Thess.* ii. 8 The ilke wickid man..whom the Lord Jhesu schal sle with the spirit of his mouth. 1481 Caxton tr. *Cicero, Old Age*, Their wisedom ascendyd in encreasing and contynued unto the last spirite of their lives. 1483 — *Gold. Leg.* 129/2 For all her body bycam cold and she felte that her spirite helde her in her brest. 1581 Marbeck *Bk. Notes* 55 Him shall God destroie with yᵉ spirit of his mouth. 1678 Wanley *Wond. Lit. World* 293 Forasmuch as the force of the words was sharp and that there was a succession of spirits.

c. *Gram.* An aspirate or breathing; a conventional mark indicating this; *spec.* in the writing or printing of Greek.

1555 Eden *Decades* (Arb.) 169 Ye, all suche woordes as in their tonge are aspirate, are pronounced with lyke breath and spirite as is .f. 1612 Brinsley *Lud. Lit.* 232 Call vpon them oft to marke earefully the accents of each word, with the spirits. *a* 1653 Gouge *Comm. Heb.* i. 3 The Greek makes an apparent distinction by a different spirit over the head of the first letter. 1680 Dalgarno *Deaf & Dumb Man's Tutor* 126 The unnecessary and troublesome luggage of Spirits and Accents. 1751 Wesley *Wks.* (1872) XIV. 79 Every initial vowel has a spirit prefixed. 1827 Faber *Sacr. Cal. Prophecy* (1844) III. 163 The inscription in the Greek cursive character, even with the accompanying accents and spirits. 1861 Scrivener *N. T. Critic.* 39 The book has neither spirits..nor accents.

†**d.** *Mus.* An air; a melody. *Obs.*—[1]

1608 Weelkes (*title*), Ayeres or Phantasticke Spirites for three voices.

16. One or other of certain subtle highly-refined substances or fluids (distinguished as *natural, animal*, and *vital*) formerly supposed to permeate the blood and chief organs of the body. In later use only *pl.*

See also Animal spirits 1, Natural *a.* 12 a, and Vital *a.*

1387 Trevisa *Higden* (Rolls) I. 53 For þe son beme.. drawep oute þe humours,..and by drawing oute of spirites makep hem coward of herte. *c* 1400 *Lanfranc's Cirurg.* 26 þe toþer arterie..hap two cootis, bi cause þat oon myȝt not aȝenstonde þe strenkþe of þe spiritis. *Ibid.* 162 Of þis clene blood þe spirit is engendrid; which spirit is..more sutil þan ony bodi. 1477 Norton *Ord. Alch.* v. in Ashm. (1652) 82 The Spirit Vitall in the Hert doth dwell, The Spirit Naturall..in the Liver.., But Spirit Animall dwelleth in the Braine. 1539 Elyot *Cast. Helthe* (1541) 12 b, Spirite is an ayry substance subtyll, styrynge the powers of the body to perfourme theyr operations. 1587 Golding *De Mornay* xiv. (1592) 206 A mans .. eyes faile because the Spirites of them fayle. 1615 Crooke *Body of Man* 61 The reason is, because all the spirits are immured. *a* 1646 Burroughes *Exp. Hosea* vi. (1652) 266 The fatter mens bodies are, the lesse blood and the fewer spirits they have. 1697 Dryden *Virg. Georg.* III. 155 When his Blood no Youthful Spirits move, He languishes and labours in his Love. 1725 N. Robinson *Th. Physick* 250 What Remedies will be properest to repress the Disorders of the Spirits. 1791 *Pop. Tales Germ.* I. 190 Her spirits retired inward, her cheeks grew pale, and down she sank.

transf. 1719 W. Wood *Surv. Trade* 3 It disperses that blood and Spirits throughout the Members, by which the Body Politick subsists. 1812 Cary *Dante, Parad.* XXVI. 70 With the eye's spirit running forth to meet The ray.

b. *pl.* Vital power or energy; the normal operation of the vital functions.

c 1386 Chaucer *Knt.'s T.* 514 So feble eek were hise spiritz and so lowe,..that no man koude knowe His speche ne his voys. *c* 1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 6065 Fra he was vp ryght sett, he began his spirits to gett with in a litil stounde. 1617 Morvson *Itin.* I. 118 At last feeling my spirits begin to faile me, I was glad to returne. 1670 Walton *Lives* III. 228 More he would have spoken, but his spirits failed him. 1700 Rowe *Amb. Step-Moth.* i, That ever will remain, And in my latest Spirits still survive. 1793 Cowper *To Mary* ii, Thy spirits have a fainter flow, I see thee daily weaker grow.

17. *pl.* The mind or faculties as the seat of action and feeling, esp. as liable to be depressed or exalted by events or circumstances.

1375 Barbour *Bruce* VI. 223 He..sumdeill affrayit wes; But in schort tym he till him tais His spiritis richt full hardely. *a* 1548 Hall *Chron., Rich. III*, 49 To visite his familie, and to recreate and refreshe his spirites (as he openly saide). 1592 *Arden of Feversham* I. 1 Arden, cheere vp thy spirits and droup no more. 1608 Chapman *Dk. Byron* v. i. 133 For we shall never brag That we have made his spirits check at death. 1719 De Foe *Crusoe* I. (Globe) 199 Dangers, the Sight of which, if discover'd to him, would..sink his Spirits. 1771 Smollett *Humph. Cl.* (1815) 184, I find my spirits and my health affect each other reciprocally. 1825 Scott *Betrothed* xxii, The spirits of Eveline in particular felt a depression. 1845 J. Coulter *Adv. in Pacific* xi. 135 It is one of the means of keeping up the spirits of the men on long voyages. 1893 *Law Times* XCIV. 603/2 For the last three or four days he appears to have been depressed in spirits.

b. With adjs., as *good, great, high, low*, etc. Freq. *in . . spirits.*

1737 GRAY *Lett.* (1900) I. 6 Low spirits are my true and faithful companions. 1743 BULKELEY & CUMMINS *Voy. S. Seas* 169 So that we are in pretty good Spirits. 1744 [see Low *a.* 8 b]. 1780 *Mirror* No. 98, I walked home in great spirits. 1802 MAR. EDGEWORTH *Moral T.* (1816) I. vii. 41 She had a constant flow of good spirits. 1820 IRVING *Sketch Bk.* I. 49 She seems in better spirits than I have ever known her. 1884 *Daily News* 21 Feb. 5/3 The men are in high spirits at the prospect of a fight.

c. Vigour or animation of mind; cheerfulness, vivacity, liveliness. (Cf. 14 b.)

1716 LADY M. W. MONTAGU *Let. to Lady Rich* 16 Aug., I found myself perfectly recovered, and have had spirits enough to go and see all that is curious in the town. 1780 *Mirror* No. 81, I lost all my former spirits, as well as my former bloom. 1803 *Med. Jrnl.* IX. 211 Loss of appetite and spirits, succeeded with thirst. 1852 MRS. STOWE *Uncle Tom's C.* xxi, The horse would roll when he was bringing him up from the stable; he's so full of spirits.

d. *In spirits*, in a cheerful mood; animated, elated, happy. *Out of spirits*, low-spirited.

1766 GOLDSM. *Vicar* xxxii, His time is pretty much taken up in keeping his relation..in spirits. 1779 in Jesse *Selwyn & Contemp.* (1844) IV. 259 [She] is..so out of spirits, that she is cruelly afraid she shall never live till her dear master s return. 1826 DISRAELI *V. Grey* IV. ii, I suppose he is quite in spirits at your success? 1838 LYTTON *Alice* I. i, Who can be out of spirits in such weather?

† **18.** *pl.* **a.** The faculties of perception or reflection; the senses or intellect; mental powers. *Obs.*

1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 57 b, That..thou gather to the thy spirytes, & be..quyet. 1604 SHAKS. *Oth.* III. iv. 63 His Spirits should hunt After new Fancies. *c* 1645 HOWELL *Lett.* (1650) II. 115 Truly the more I scrue up my spirits to reach it, the more I am swallowed in a gulf of admiration. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Past.* IV. 66 To sing thy Praise, wou'd Heav'n my Breath prolong, Infusing Spirits worthy such a Song.

† **b.** Disposition, character. *Obs.*

1602 SHAKS. *Ham.* III. ii. 63 For what aduancement may I hope from thee, That no Reuennew hast, but thy good spirits To feed & cloath thee?

19. † **a.** A subtle or intangible element or principle in material things. *Obs.*

1626 BACON *Sylva* § 98 The Spirits or Pneumaticalls, that are in all Tangible Bodies are scarce known. 1638 RAWLEY tr. *Bacon's Life & Death* (1650) 57 There is in every Tangible Body a Spirit, covered and encompassed with the Grosser Parts of the Body. 1661 SOUTH *Serm.* Wks. 1823 II. 328 In the rain, it is not the bare water that fructifies, but a secret spirit or nitre descending with it. *a* 1722 LISLE *Husb.* (1757) 218 The spirit of the straw is washed out by the rain. 1725 *Fam. Dict.* s.v. *Cider*, The Spirits of Cider being exceedingly apt to evaporate.

b. (See quot.)

1829 *Chapters Phys. Sci.* 235 The oxygenous gas..is a kind of vivifying spirit or quality, which is necessary to continue the lives of animals.

V. † **20. a.** One or other of four substances so named by the mediaeval alchemists. *Obs.*

c 1386 CHAUCER *Can. Yeom. Prol. & T.* 60 Ne eek oure spirites Ascencioun..Mowe in oure werkyng no thyng vs auaille. *Ibid.* 103 The firste spirit quyk siluer called is, The seconde Orpyment, the thridde ywis Sal Armonyak, and the ferthe Brymstoon. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* II. 84 Of bodies sevene ..With foure spiritz joynt withal Stant the substance of this matiere.

† **b.** *Spirit of the world*: (see quot.).

1651 FRENCH *Distill.* v. 107 In the element of Water there is a great plenty of the Spirit of the world,..and..this Spirit hath three distinct substances, *viz.* Salt, Sulphur, and Mercury.

† **c.** *spec.* Mercury. *Obs.*

1704 J. HARRIS *Lex. Techn.* I, *Spirit*, which the Chymists call Mercury, is one of the 5 Principles separable from a Mixt, by Fire. 1725 WATTS *Logic* I. ii. § 2 The chemist makes spirit, salt, sulphur, water, and earth, to be their five elements. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Element*, Mercury, which they [*sc.* chemists] also call *Spirit*.

† **d.** (See quot.) *Obs.*—[1]

1733 W. ELLIS *Chiltern & Vale Farm.* 200 The Exhalations of the Sun that draws up a moist Vapour from the Earth, by some, called the Spirit, by others, the Salt of the Earth.

21. A liquid of the nature of an essence or extract from some substance, esp. one obtained by distillation; a solution in alcohol of some essential or volatile principle.

1610 JONSON *Alch.* II. vi, H' is busie with his spirits, but wee'll vpon him. 1651 FRENCH *Distill.* v. 139 Dissolve any sulphurous .. metall .. in *Aqua fortis*, or any other acid Spirit. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v., The Chymists are said to draw a Spirit from Sulphur, Salt and other Bodies, when they extract the Essence .. by Distillation or otherwise. 1813 SIR H. DAVY *Agric. Chem.* (1814) 136 All the common spirits may, I find, be deprived of their peculiar flavour by repeatedly digesting them with..charcoal and quicklime. 1831 J. DAVIES *Mat. Med.* 36 The spirits have a weaker odour than the distilled waters. 1875 H. C. WOOD *Therap.* (1879) 18 Spirits are alcoholic solutions of volatile principles made by direct solution or by distillation from the crude drugs.

fig. 1613 SYLVESTER (*title*), Lachrymæ Lachrymarum: or the Spirit of Teares, distilled for the vntymely Death of the incomparable Prince of Wales. 1639 FULLER *Holy War* II. xxxiv. (1840) 94 These Assassins..had in them the very spirits of that poisonous superstition. 1742 YOUNG *Nt. Th.* IV. 144 To drink the spirit of the golden day, And triumph in existence.

b. Without article: Liquid such as is obtained by distillation, *spec.* that which is of an alcoholic nature. Also *pl.*

sing. 1610 JONSON *Alch.* I. i, Have I..Wrought thee to spirit, to quintessence, with paines Would twise haue won me the philosophers worke? 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. xx. (Roxb.) 250/2 Wine coopers termes:..Spiritt, wine double distilled. 1726 *Dict. Rust., Spirit dulcified*, a choice Remedy for the Cholick in Horses. *a* 1774 GOLDSM. *Surv. Exp. Philos.* (1776) I. 380 A solid that will swim in water, will sink in spirit. 1799 G. SMITH *Laboratory* I. 334 In this manner are extracted from roses the three principles, spirit, oil, and salt. 1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 576 The substances from which spirit is obtained are usually barley, wheat, oats, rye, sugar, or molasses. 1854 RONALDS & RICHARDSON *Chem. Technol.* (ed. 2) I. 289 In this manner, by one operation, spirit containing about 60 per cent. of alcohol is obtained. 1863 HUXLEY *Man's Place in Nat.* I. 16 M. Palm..shot one, and forwarded it to Batavia in spirit.

pl. 1800 SOUTHEY in C. C. Southey *Life* (1850) II. 91 The head and hands were sent here; I have seen them in the Museum, in spirits.

c. Strong alcoholic liquor obtained by distillation from various substances and employed for drinking; strong drink. Chiefly *pl.*

1684 BUNYAN *Pilgr.* II. 67 He gave me also a piece of an Honey-comb, and a little Bottle of Spirits. 1742–3 HERVEY in *Johnson's Deb.* (1787) II. 409 It is not to be doubted, my Lords, but that spirits will, by this additional duty, be made one third part dearer. 1833 HT. MARTINEAU *Vanderput & S.* vi. 95 Every body agreed that spirits were the only safeguard against the perils of ditch water. 1884 *Graphic* 29 Nov. 562/2 An exuberance of animal spirits occasionally increased by spirits of another character.

sing. 1840 DICKENS *Old C. Shop* xxi, Quilp..drank three small glass-fulls of the raw spirit. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* lxvii, When she was prevailed on..to take a little spirit-and-water. 1884 J. P. QUINCY *Figures of Past* 265 The use of wine and spirit was practically universal at the time of which I am speaking.

d. With *of* (the name of the liquor). *rare.*

1700 T. BROWN tr. *Fresny's Amusem.* viii. Wks. 1709 III. 1. 77 To the Charms of Coffee the wiser sort joyn'd Spirit of Clary, Usquebaugh, and Brandy. 1831 SCOTT *Cast. Dang.* xiii, Wilt thou take some refreshment?—or shall we go on without the spirit of muscadel?

22. An essence, distilled extract, or alcoholic solution, *of* a specified substance. Freq. *pl.*, esp. in later use.

Only the earlier or more important of these special designations are illustrated here: see also TURPENTINE, VITRIOL, and WINE.

a 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 27 Oct. 1675, By applying hot firepans and *spirit of amber to his head. 1737 [see AMBER *sb.*[1] 3 b]. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 1158 **Spirit of Ammonia* is, properly speaking, alcohol combined with ammonia gas; but the term is often applied to water of ammonia. 1871 GARROD *Mat. Med.* (ed. 3) 47 Aromatic Spirit of Ammonia. ..Often called Sal Volatile. 1853 ROYLE *Mat. Med.* (ed. 2) 599 *Spirit of Camphor...Dissolve Camphor..in Rectified Spirit. *Ibid.* 701 *Spirit of Ether..Mix Sulphuric Ether.. with Rectified Spirit. *Ibid.*, Compound Spirit of Ether. 1871 GARROD *Mat. Med.* (ed. 3) 149 Spirit of ether is employed in making the ethereal tincture of lobelia. 1683–4 BOYLE *Mem. Nat. Hist. Hum. Blood* 122 The *Sp. of Harts-horn. 1685 [see HARTSHORN 2]. 1826 HENRY *Elem. Chem.* II. 609 Spirit of Hartshorn. This may be counterfeited by mixing the *aqua ammoniæ puræ* with the distilled spirit of hartshorn. 1666 BOYLE *Orig. Forms & Qual.* 337, I did..make a red *spirit of Nitre, by the help onely of Oyl of Vitriol. 1710 J. CLARKE tr. *Rohault's Nat. Philos.* (1729) I. 113 A few Drops of Spirit of Nitre or of Oil of Vitriol. 1823 J. BADCOCK *Dom. Amusem.* 45 A strong solution of mercury, made with spirit of nitre. 1853 ROYLE *Mat. Med.* (ed. 2) 702 *Spirit of Nitric Ether. Hyponitrous Ether dissolved in Rectified Spirit. Sweet Spirits of Nitre. 1859 MAYNE *Expos. Lex.* 1189/2 *Spirit of nitrous ether. 1871 GARROD *Mat. Med.* (ed. 3) 151 Spirit of nitrous ether ..is popularly known by the name of Sweet Spirits of Nitre. 1779 *Phil. Trans.* LXX. 40 Apply to the precipitate solution of volatile alkali, sold by the name of *spirit of sal ammoniac. 1651 FRENCH *Distill.* i. 36 The *Spirit of salt being rectified may serve again. 1779 *Phil. Trans.* LXX. 39 Half an ounce of muriatic acid sold by the name of spirit of salt. 1807 T. THOMSON *Chem.* (ed. 3) II. 611 This residuum is usually called bittern, and sometimes in Scotland spirit of salt. 1860 *Ure s Dict. Arts* (ed. 5) II. 481 The solution of hydrochloric acid in water is the muriatic acid and spirit of salt of commerce. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s.v. *Silk*, If spirit of wine be poured upon spirit of sal armoniac, or *spirit of silk. 1704 J. HARRIS *Lex. Techn.* I, **Spirit of Sulphur*, commonly call'd Oil of Sulphur,..is only the acid Part of Sulphur turned into a Liquor by the means of Fire. 1651 FRENCH *Distill.* iii. 66 Dissolve Salt-Armoniack in.. *spirit of Urine. 1710 J. CLARKE tr. *Rohault's Nat. Philos.* (1729) I. 129 An equal Quantity of Spirits of Wine and Spirits of Urine. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) IV. 598 (Plate), Pyroligneous acid. *Spirit of wood.

b. *Dyeing.* (See quots.)

1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 428/1 [In] spirit-color printing, the colors are produced by a mixture of dye extracts and solution of tin, called by the dyers *spirits of tin.* 1877 *Encycl. Brit.* VII. 574/2 The so-called nitrate of tin (sometimes called 'bowl spirits', from being prepared in an earthenware bowl). 1880 D. SMITH *Pract. Dyer's Guide* (title-p.), Receipts for making all the Dye Spirits with which to dye every colour in the work.

VI. *attrib.* and *Comb.*

23. In senses 1–14: **a.** Simple attrib., in various applications, as *spirit-blow, -body, -book, -child*, etc.

1818 KEATS *Endym.* IV. 899 But the *spirit-blow Was struck, and all were dreamers. 1848 KINGSLEY *Saint's Trag.* II. ii, Spirit-love in *spirit-bodies. 1852 BAILEY *Festus* (ed. 5) 500 To..strict collation of the *Spirit-book With the pretemporal volume, writ of God. 1845 S. JUDD *Margaret* I. xii, Call me your child,..your *spirit-child, and so love me. 1874 GEO. ELIOT *Coll. Breakf.-P.* 278 The Church as..fount of *spirit force. 1865 MISS BRADDON *Sir Jasper's Tenant* iii, Shadowy as those *spirit-hands of which we hear so much nowadays. 1831 CARLYLE *Sart. Res.* III. viii, Like a God-created, fire-breathing *Spirit-host. 1845 HIRST *Poems* 157 Beyond the Vale of Shadows, lie dispread The *spirit-lands. 1859 BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.* (ed. 2) 434 *Spirit-land*, an expression which, in the cant of the rappers, means the abode of departed spirits, the other world. 1869 RUSKIN *Q. of Air* iii. § 157 The *spirit-life of art. 1662 HIBBERT *Body Divinity* I. 127 Soul-light is not enough to make us truly wise, but there must also be *spirit-light. 1830 MRS. HEMANS *Indian w. Dead Child* ix, I saw the spirit-light From his young eyes fade away *a* 1835 — *Song of Rose* Poems (1875) 550 Shall we not behold thee..In *spirit lustre clothed? 1844 MRS. BROWNING *Lady Geraldine's Courtsh.* liii, No new *spirit-power comprising. 1877 E. CAIRD *Philos. Kant* Introd. v. 79 The *spirit-monad—the monad that has consciousness of itself. *a* 1835 MRS. HEMANS *Painter's last Wk.* Poems (1875) 596 Purified To *spirit radiance from all earthly stain. 1858 SEARS *Athan.* III. x. 333 This tide of humanity sweeps on into the *spirit-realm. 1852 BAILEY *Festus* (ed. 5) 529 So every bodily organ shall be changed Into a *spirit-sense. 1657 J. WATTS *Vind. Ch. Eng.* 115 Refuse the Mother-tongue Translation, and call for the *Spirit-tongue Original. 1655 VAUGHAN *Silex Scint.* 40 Prayer is a *spirit-voyce. 1852 MRS. STOWE *Uncle Tom s C.* xxiv, The voice came over him as a spirit-voice. 1847 MARY HOWITT *Ballads* 266, I see on *spirit-wings, How thou hast set them high. *Ibid.* 323 My *spirit-words were all too faint. 1855 BROWNING *In a Balcony* Wks. 1863 II. 494 The success And consummation of the *spirit-work. *a* 1853 ROBERTSON *Serm.* Ser. III. v. 62 The reality of the *spirit-world. 1871 TYLOR *Prim. Cult.* I. 131 Two of the most popular means of communicating with the spirit-world. 1878 MACLEAR *Celts* ii. 28 *Spirit-worship, which peopled all the objects of nature with malignant beings.

b. Appositive, as *spirit-chieftain, -enemy, -friend, -guardian, -lady*, etc.

1841 MRS. S. C. HALL *Ireland* I. 192 A belief in the existence of the *spirit-chieftain. 1900 *Month* Jan. 96 For ages..these wild people had believed in spirit-guardians, and also in *spirit-enemies. 1839 BAILEY *Festus* 50 Have I not heard thee hint of *spirit-friends? Where are they now? 1845 G. MURRAY *Islaford*, etc. 186 The *spirit-lady soars away. 1845 BAILEY *Festus* (ed. 2) 119 There are *spirit-rulers of all worlds. 1848 *Ibid.* (ed. 3) 336 It will bear the gaze Of all the star souls and the *spirit stars Which will the living land of light indwell. 1838 MRS. BROWNING *Seraphim* II. Poems (1904) 87/2 Doth the *Spirit-wind Blow white those waters?

c. With agent-nouns, as *spirit-charmer, -hunter, -monger, -ridder, -seer, -wrestler.*

As the specific name of a religious sect, *Spirit-wrestlers* is a rendering of Russ. *Dukhobortsi*, f. *dukh*' spirit + *borets*' wrestler.

1711 SHAFTESB. *Charac.* (1737) II. 330 In ghostly company of spirit-hunters, witch-finders [etc.]. 1832 HOOD *Ode Ld. Gambier* iii, Consider The sorry figure of a spirit-ridder. 1862 S. LUCAS *Secularia* 91 'How,' exclaims the spirit-seer, ..'do I envy you a sight of Bristow, in the year 1480'. 1877 J. E. CARPENTER tr. *Tiele's Hist. Relig.* 29 The magicians, soothsayers, and spirit-charmers. 1881 *Dr. Gheist, an Autobiogr.* 43 All the spirit-mongers are either old women or curates. 1897 (*title*), Christian Martyrdom in Russia. Persecution of the spirit-wrestlers (or Doukhobortsi) in the Caucasus. 1899 R. WHITEING 5 *John St.* 329 The real spirit-wrestlers who struggle for a new blessing with the God within.

d. With vbl. sbs. and ppl. adjs., as *spirit-cheering, -chilling, -crushing, -freeing, -healing*, etc.

1838 MARY HOWITT *Birds & Fl.* 52 Raven, thou art *spirit-cheering. 1825 D. L. RICHARDSON *Sonets* 15 This sad heart By *spirit-chilling Sorrow unrepress. 1858 HAWTHORNE *Fr. & It. Jrnls.* II. 221 It is extremely *spirit-crushing, this remorseless gray. 1858 T. GUTHRIE *Christ & Inheritance Saints* (1859) 20 The same *spirit-freeing words. 1798 COLERIDGE *Fears in Solitude* 12 O! 'tis a quiet *spirit-healing nook. 1605 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. iii. III. *Law* 26 It is the *spirit-inspiring Spirit. 1818 SHELLEY *Rosal. & Helen* 1156 His countenance..burned with radiance Of *spirit-piercing joy. 1817 — *Rev. Islam* XI. xiv, On each unwilling heart Unusual awe did fall—a *spirit-quelling dart. *c* 1621 CHAPMAN *Iliad* III. 265 Two lambs, and *spirit-refreshing wine,..they bring. 1814 SCOTT *Lord of Isles* VI. i, The emotions of the *spirit-rousing time. 1777 POTTER *Æschylus, Choephoræ* 323 Bitter constraint, and *spirit-sinking fear. *a* 1822 SHELLEY *'She was an aged woman'* vii, The spirit-sinking noise Of heartless mirth. 1817 — *Rev. Islam* IV. xxviii, The love that lies Hovering within those *spirit-soothing eyes. 1799 CAMPBELL *Pleas. Hope* I. 98 The dauntless brow, and *spirit-speaking eye. 1817 SHELLEY *Rev. Islam* VII. iv, A wild, and sad, and *spirit-thrilling lay. 1830 TENNYSON *Ode to Mem.* 39 Those spirit-thrilling eyes. 1777 BRAND *Pop. Antig.* 71 Mr. Bourne might have stiled this Chapter, A Sermon on *Spirit-walking. *Ibid.* 235 The Spirit-walking Time of Popery! 1809 MALKIN *Gil Blas* IX. i. P 6 Six merchants.., all plodding *spirit-wearing personages.

e. With pa. ppples., denoting either (*a*) 'of or by the spirit', 'by spirits', as *spirit-born, -guided, -haunted*, etc., or (*b*) 'in spirit', as *spirit-broken, -crushed, -fallen, -froze*, etc.

(*a*) 1602 FULBECKE *Pandects* Introd., The valiant Persians, the spirit-guided Hebrews, the prudent Grecians. 1645 QUARLES *Sol. Recant.* XII. 59 And what his spirit-prompted pen did write Was truth it self, and most exact upright. 1855 BAILEY *Mystic* 70 The spirit-haunted Kâf. 1850 ROBERTSON *Serm.* Ser. III. ii. (1857) 23 Those called the Spirit-born, and those called the world. 1897 MARY KINGSLEY *W. Africa* 417 Sending out long white arms..and then drawing them back as if it were some spirit-possessed thing.

(*b*) *a* 1628 F. GREVIL *Life Sidney* (1652) 60 If not with abrupt, and spirit-fall'n tolleration, yet with that invisible web of connivencie. 1649 G. DANIEL *Trinarch., Hen. V*, CCXXXVII, Stung with the Aspiche of invadeing feare, Or Spirit-froze, bound vp in bloodlesse veines. 1839 BAILEY *Festus* 268 See where she flies, spirit-torn, round the heavens. 1845 *Encycl. Metrop.* XI. 375/1 The injured but spirit-broken progeny of Ali and Fatima wanted resolution or ability to assert their cause. 1865 J. H. INGRAHAM *Pillar of Fire* I. XXV. (1872) 423 The queen..seems heart-broken,

spirit-crushed! 1880 SWINBURNE *Songs of Spring-t., Thalassius* 30 Death spirit-stricken of soul-sick days.

f. Similative, as *spirit-pure, -small, -wise; spirit-tongued, -winged.*

1817 SHELLEY *Rev. Islam* XII. xxxviii, The stream..faster bare The spirit-winged boat. 1820 — *Prometh. Unb.* II. i, 164 The crags..mock our voices As they were spirit-tongued. 1842 BROWNING *By the Fireside* xxiii, The spirit-small hand propping it. 1845 — *Statue & Bust* vii, A pale brow spirit-pure. 1848 BAILEY *Festus* (ed. 3) 309 Thou shalt perceive earth spirit-wise.

g. In expressions relating to the phenomena or doctrines of spiritualism, as *spirit-circle*, etc.

1858 W. M. WILKINSON (*title*), Spirit Drawings; a Personal Narrative. 1865 MASSON *Rec. Brit. Philos.* 295 The heterodox science of the Swedenborgians and the spirit-manifestationists. 1867 J. H. POWELL (*title*), Mediumship: ..with brief instructions for the formation of Spirit-Circles. 1871 TYLOR *Prim. Cult.* I. 135 The Baron..publishes a mass of fac-similes of spirit-writings thus obtained. 1887 *Encycl. Brit.* XXII. 405/2 'Spirit-photography,' or photographing of human and other forms invisible to all but specially endowed seers. 1893 *Fortn. Rev.* Jan. 125 Can a ghost be photographed? Are all the spirit-photos frauds?

h. In specific names, as **spirit-butterfly, duck, -leaf, -weed, -wood** (see quots.).

1891 *Cent. Dict.*, **Spirit-butterfly*, a tropical American butterfly of the genus *Ithomia*. 1784 PENNANT *Arct. Zool.* II. 558 *Spirit Duck...Inhabits North America, from Hudson's Bay to Carolina. 1829 GRIFFITH tr. *Cuvier* VIII. 611 Spirit Duck, *Anas Albeola*. 1872 COUES *N. Amer. Birds* 290 Buffle-headed Duck. Butter-ball. Spirit Duck. Dipper. 1696 SLOANE *Cat. Plantarum Jamaica* 52 *Spirit leaf. 1864 GRISEBACH *Flora Brit. W. Ind.* 787/2 Spirit-leaf, *Ruellia tuberosa*. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1085/1 Spirit-leaf, or Spirit-weed, *Ruellia tuberosa*, now called *Cryphiacanthus barbadensis*. 1699 SLOANE in *Phil. Trans.* XXI. 119 None is more surprizing then one in Jamaica, called *Spirit-weed. 1866 [see above]. 1716 *Petiveriana* I. 259 *Spirit-wood,.. *Pneumatoxylum*.

24. In sense 21 (freq. 21 c): **a.** Simple attrib., as *spirit bubble, -extract, -flame, -licence, -trade*, etc.

1796 BURKE *Regic. Peace* Wks. VIII. 406 The spirit licences kept nearly the same level till the stoppage of the distilleries in 1795. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 360/1 Spirit-trade. 1846 G. E. DAY tr. *Simon's Anim. Chem.* II. 186 Spirit-extract with chloride of sodium. 1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib., Brit.* II. No. 2947, When the instrument is turned in any direction, the spirit bubble will be kept in the centre of its run. 1866 ODLING *Anim. Chem.* 68 The heat of the spirit-flame..passing into the water.

b. In the sense 'used for holding, storing, or selling alcoholic spirits', as *spirit-back, -beck, -bottle, -case, -flask, -jar; spirit-cellar, -room*, etc.

1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 402 The middle portion..are received into the *spirit-back. 1894 *Funk's Stand. Dict.*, **Spirit-beck*, a beck or vat for containing the spirit in a distillery. 1786 G. FRAZER *Dove's Flight* 76 They have recourse to the *spirit-bottle..for consolation. 1849 R. G. CUMMING *Hunter's Life S. Afr.* (1902) 78 They were both very drunk, having broken into my wine-cask and *spirit-case. 1833 LOUDON *Encycl. Archit.* § 916 The *spirit cellar is to have two tiers of catacombs (bins). 1834 MARRYAT *P. Simple* (1863) 161 He put the *spirit-flask to his mouth. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade*, **Spirit-jar*, an earthenware jar..., for sending out spirits. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XVII. 404/2 That part of the orlop which is over the after magazine, *spirit room, and fish room. *c* 1850 *Rudim. Navig.* (Weale) 143 The spirit-room is built in the hold, next before the fish-room, to contain the spirituous liquors for the use of the ship's company. 1837 HT. MARTINEAU *Soc. Amer.* III. 202 *Spirit-shops have been shut up by hundreds. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade*, **Spirit-store*, a shop where spirits are kept for sale, wholesale and retail. 1863 HAWTHORNE *Our Old Home* (1883) I. 327 Gin-shops, or what the English call *spirit-vaults.

c. With agent-nouns, as *spirit-dealer, -drinker, -grocer, -merchant*, etc.

1826 *Art of Brewing* (ed. 2) 44 It would be a matter of great convenience if one instrument only were adopted by the trade, as is the case with *spirit-dealers. 1864 A. MCKAY *Hist. Kilmarnock* 190 He spent a social hour in the house of a spirit-dealer. 1827 *Edin. Rev.* XLVI. 69 The *spirit-drinkers..never can agree in one party. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VI. 685 A man, aged 41, a spirit drinker. 1872 *Act 35 & 36 Vict.* c. 94 § 81 The term '*spirit grocer'.. means any person..having an excise licence to sell spirits by retail. 1841 DICKENS *Barn. Rudge* xiii, To be looked upon as a common *spirit-guzzler. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade*, **Spirit-merchant*, a vender of spirits. 1896 *Daily News* 4 Mar. 8/5 Her greatest danger came from the *spirit-sellers.

d. With vbl. sbs. and ppl. adjs., as *spirit-bibing, -boiling, -drinking*, etc.

1827 *Edin. Rev.* XLVI. 69 The spirit-bibing party began to indulge *in foolish..conversation. 1834 MARRYAT *P. Simple* (1853) 234 Mr. Apollo, who was above spirit-boiling heat with jealousy. 1897 *Daily News* 11 Feb. 5/5 Mr. Sharpe ..observed that the Celtic population are a spirit-drinking people.

e. In the sense 'that works, acts, etc., by means of spirit or spirits', as *spirit blow-pipe, -engine, -standard, -stove, thermometer, tube, weather-glass.*

1842 FRANCIS *Dict. Arts, Alcoholic*, or **Spirit Blow-pipe*, a blow-pipe which acts by the inflammation of a stream of the vapor of spirits of wine. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade*, **Spirit-engine maker*, a manufacturer of the tavern, or bar, engines for drawing spirits for retail sale. 1856 KANE *Arct. Expl.* I. xiv. 154 The reduced mean of our best *spirit-standards gave -69°. 1895 *Army & Navy Price List*, Kettle and *Spirit Stove. 1902 ELIZ. BANKS *Newspaper Girl* 170 One day I thought I'd cook some over my spirit-stove. 1827 FARADAY *Chem. Manip.* iv. (1842) 139 A large and a small bulb, or a mercury and *spirit thermometer, will take different periods to heat and cool. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 359/1 The *spirit-tube is used in determining the relative heights of ground at two or more stations. 1704 *Dict. Rust.* s.v., *Spirit Weather-Glass.

f. Applied to various dye-colours obtained from a mixture of dye-extracts and solution of tin, as *spirit black, blue, brown*, etc. Also *spirit-colour.*

1836 *Penny Cycl.* VI. 157/1 Spirit-Colours are brilliant, but fugitive; they consist generally of decoctions of dye-woods, mixed with nitro-muriate or muriate of tin. 1867 *Ure's Dict. Arts* (ed. 6) I. 589, 2 quarts spirit pink. *Ibid.*, 1 gallon spirit yellow. *Ibid.* 590 Spirit black. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 428/1 Spirit-color printing.

g. Special combs.: **spirit fresco**, a method of fresco-painting, in which the colours are ground in a medium of wax, elemi resin, artist's copal, oil of spike or spirits of turpentine; **spirit-gum** (see quot.); **spirit-liver**, a liver affected by the drinking of spirits; **spirit varnish**, a varnish prepared by dissolving a resin in spirit; hence *spirit-varnish* vb.

1880 GAMBIER PARRY (*title*), Spirit Fresco Painting. *Ibid.* 4 Wash over the part for the morning's work with pure spike oil, to melt the surface (hence the name *Spirit Fresco). 1909 J. WARD *Fresco Painting* 38 The method of painting followed out in the spirit-fresco system..is almost precisely the same as that of the lime or buon-fresco process. 1891 *Cent. Dict.*, **Spirit-gum*, a quick-drying preparation used by actors and others to fasten false hair on the face. 1905 ROLLESTON *Dis. Liver* 197 The *spirit livers appeared to be more frequently fatty [than the beer livers]. 1850 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* III. 1375 These resins constitute the basis of what are called *spirit varnishes. 1887 *Pall Mall G.* 7 Mar. 6/1 The miserable, hungry appearance of the wood in all old violins known to be spirit varnished.

Spirit (spi·rit), *v.* [f. SPIRIT *sb.*]

† 1. *trans.* To make (the blood, a liquor) of a more active or lively character.

1599 SHAKS. *Hen. V*, III. v. 21 And shall our quick blood, spirited with Wine, Seeme frostie? 1644 in Hartlib *Legacy* (1655) 221 The blood being..spirited with subtle Nitre or Gunpowder, it..is distributed through the body. 1670 EVELYN *Pomona* (ed. 2) 55 Mustard made with Sack preserves boild Cider, and spirits it egregiously. 1822–7 GOOD *Study Med.* (1829) I. 511 We find it [*sc.* the blood] return from the lungs spirited with newness of life.

2. To infuse spirit, life, ardour, or energy into (a person); to inspirit, animate, encourage. Also const. *for* or *to.*

1608 CHAPMAN *Dk. Byron* III. i, Like men, that, spirited with wine, Pass dangerous places safe. 1682 N. O. *Boileau's Lutrin* III. 28 Thy Valour firm d the wavering Troops that day, And spirited their Files with fresh array! 1698 FRYER *Acc. E. India & P.* 14 May had now began, when..we were once more spirited with milder Weather. 1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* I. (Globe) 48, I also found some Rum.., which I had indeed need enough of to spirit me for what was before me. 1736 LEDIARD *Life Marlborough* II. 235 The small Advantages they had obtained..spirited them to entertain several towering Projects. 1758 *Ann. Reg.* 16 Spirited with this advantage, he pushed onwards. 1844 H. ROGERS *Ess.* (1874) I. ii. 69 He was further spirited to it by an anonymous letter. 1851 *Chr. Spect.* I. 100 Let the song of faith spirit thee for the fight of faith.

b. With impersonal object.

a 1652 J. SMITH *Sel. Disc.* IX. (1821) 423 There is a living soul of religion in good men which..spirits all the wheels of motion. 1679 J. GOODMAN *Penit. Pard.* II. ii. (1713) 194 Hope and apprehension of feasibleness spirits all industry, actuates all faculties, raises the spirits.

c. To lead or urge *on* by encouragement.

1682 *New News fr. Bedlam* 30 Give Nature a Phillip with two or three quarts of Mum, to spirit them on for any Attempt. 1792 MME. D'ARBLAY *Lett.* 2 Oct., I wish to spirit him on to collect them [*sc.* notes] into a pamphlet. 1840 LADY C. BURY *Hist. of Flirt* XV, What was labour to me when my cousin James was at hand to spirit me on?

d. To excite, instigate, or stir up.

a 1680 CHARNOCK *Attrib. God* (1834) II. 686 It is not to spirit rebellion, but to give a merciful stop to it. 1701 SWIFT *Contests Nobles & Comm.* Wks. 1755 II. i. 36 Civil dissentions never fail of introducing and spiriting the ambition of private men.

3. To invest with a spirit or animating principle.

1629 T. ADAMS *Rage Oppression* Wks. 608 God hath.. tempered all our bodies of one clay, and spirited our soules of one breath. 1642 CUDWORTH *Disc. Lord's Supper* Introd. 2 There is ever some Soule of Truth, which doth secretly Spirit and Enliven the dead and unweildy Lump of all Errours, without which it could not move or stirre. 1650 R. STAPYLTON *Strada's Low C. Wars* I. 1 A Prince (the great body of whose Empire must be spirited with a great soul. 1717 POPE *Iliad* IX. 98 Thy high commands must spirit all our wars.

b. To invest with a particular spirit, disposition, or character.

Not always clearly distinguishable from 2 and 2 b.

1654 OWEN *Saints' Persev.* v. 113 The first great Promise of Christ..is that which Spirits and principles all other promises whatsoever. 1662 R. MATHEW *Unl. Alch.* 63 Your rash and hasty zeal, running upon Ordinances not spirited from on high. 1685 W. ADAMS *Dedham Pulpit* 108 This will spirit and dispose you to practise all those counsels 1721 R. KEITH tr. *T. à Kempis, Valley of Lillies* XXXIII. 105 The holy Spirit, who..taught him, and spirited him, and adorned his whole Life with Virtues. 1728 P. WALKER *Life Peden* To Rdr. (1827) p. XXVIII, They were some Way fitted and spirited for Trials.

c. Const. *by* or *with* (some principle, etc.). Chiefly in passive.

1646 J. GREGORY *Notes & Obs.* (1650) 33 Thus spirited with this secret power, it [the Palladium] was dispos'd of in some eminent..place of the City. 1654 OWEN *Saints' Persev.* v. 112 The generall intention of God in all Gospel Promises, whereby they being equally Spirited, become as one. 1671 TEMPLE *Ess., Constit. & Int. Emp.* Wks. 1731 I. 107 In all these Wars the People were both united and spirited by the common Love of their Country. 1704 SWIFT *Mech. Operat. Spirit* Misc. (1711) 300 Spirited by a noble Zeal. 1741 BETTERTON *Hist. Eng. Stage* i. 21 They had warm Disputes behind the Scenes, which spirited the Rivals with..a natural Resentment to each other.

d. To lead or win *over* by persuasion.

1656 HAMMOND *Leah & Rachel* (1844) 10, I shall abhor to spirit over any; but go along with such as are voluntarily desirous to go thither.

4. With *up*: To stimulate, animate, encourage, stir up, or excite (a person).

1712 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 482 P 2 She is forced..to spirit him up now and then, that he may not grow musty, and unfit for Conversation. 1743 BULKELEY & CUMMINS *Voy. S. Seas* 11 Not knowing..by whom the Fellow might be spirited up, I acquainted the Captain with the Affair. 1760–72 H. BROOKE *Fool of Qual.* (1809) I. 70 Being encouraged and spirited up..they became, by degrees, quite happy and jovial. 1797 JANE AUSTEN *Sense & Sens.* XXX, Well, I shall spirit up the Colonel as soon as I can. 1847 MRS. GORE *Castles in Air* xix, 'You might live at a worse place, Charley!' said I, spirited up for Yorkshire. 1871 BROWNING *Balaust.* 106 We want no colony from Athens here, With memories of Salamis,..To spirit up our captives.

b. Const. *against, into*, or *to.*

1716 POPE *Lett.* (1735) I. 288 Such a Mind as your's has no need of being spirited up into Honour. 1721 AMHERST *Terræ Fil.* No. 8 (1726) 38 They made it their business to.. spirit up their neighbours to rebellion. 1728 H. HERBERT tr. *Fleury's Eccl. Hist.* I. 328 The powerful party that had been spirited up against him. 1764 GOLDSM. *Hist. Eng. in Lett.* (1772) II. 220 The French..continually spirited up the Indians to repel the new comers. 1809 W. IRVING *Knickerb.* VI. vii. (1849) 355 Spiriting them up to heroic deeds. 1841 W. DUNCAN *Cicero's Sel. Orat.* ii. 32 Many very powerful nations were spirited up against us. 1857 TROLLOPE *Barchester T.* (1861) 130 Expecting that he should find his lordship..spirited up by his wife to repeat the rebuke.

c. To instigate or promote (rebellion, etc.).

1715 in *Westm. Gaz.* (1907) 14 May 2/3 Those Incendiaries who came hither on Purpose to spirit up a Rebellion. 1751 SMOLLETT *Per. Pic.* (1779) IV. XCVII. 258 Attempts..to spirit up suits against him. 1770 LANGHORNE *Plutarch* (1879) I. 255/1 He determined to spirit up a cruel war.

II. 5. To carry off or away, to make away with or remove in a mysterious or dexterous manner: **† a.** To kidnap, in order to transport to the plantations in America. *Obs.* (Cf. 6 a.)

1666 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 107/1 Several persons escaped from the Vessel, who pretend they were spirited (as they term it) and invited upon several pretences aboard them, and then.. carried away. *a* 1683 OLDHAM *Wks.* (1686) 85 These serve for Baits the simple to ensnare, Like Children spirited with Toys at Fair. 1693 I. MATHER *Cases Consc.* (1862) 241 A Servant, who was Spirited or Kidnapt (as they call it) into America.

b. In general use.

1670 *Caveat to Conventiclers* 4 They do in a manner acknowledge, that they were Spirited out of their Bogs and Woods, and transported hither with vain hopes of preferment. 1678 *Strange News fr. Wicklow* 3 Mr. Uniack demanded if she could give them any account of a Gentleman..that had been Spirited out of their Company (by fairies) about an hour before. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. v. i, Leading men from all the Three Orders are nightly spirited thither. *Ibid.* II. v. v, Deserters are spirited over by assiduous crimps. 1858 R. S. SURTEES *Ask Mamma* xlv. 199 [He] seemed to spirit the things off the table without sound or effort. 1889 STEVENSON *Edinburgh* 46 Many a solid bulk of masonry has been likewise spirited into the air.

6. With *away* (cf. 5): **a.** To kidnap, carry off, or abduct (a person).

Freq. *c* 1670–*c* 1690, with reference to transporting boys to the West Indian plantations: cf. 5 a.

1670 MARVELL *Corr.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 323 An Act.. against spiriting away Children beyond Sea. 1682 *Lond. Gaz.* 1723/4 For Spiriting or Stealing away a Young Boy, and sending him to Jamaica. 1697 DAMPIER *Voy.* (1729) I. 178 We anchor'd, and sent..to treat about an Exchange for our Man they had spirited away. 1749 FIELDING *Tom Jones* I. ix, Some..intimated, that she was spirited away with a design too black to be mentioned. 1769 BLACKSTONE *Comm.* IV. 219 In the civil law, the offence of spiriting away and stealing men and children..was punished with death. 1820 SCOTT *Monast.* iv, She was sensible that he would have neither scruple nor difficulty in spiriting away the child. 1858 FROUDE *Hist. Eng.* III. xvii. 449 The archbishop spirited away the preacher into Kent. 1883 *Law Rep.* 11 Q.B.D. 592 The prosecutor had spirited away..the sister of the accused person, and had shut her up in a convent.

fig. 1688 CROWNE *Darius* v. Wks. 1874 III. 449 What is it spirits me away to fear?

b. To take away, carry off, by some mysterious means or power; to transport with speed.

1696 C. LESLIE *Snake in Grass* (1697) 97 Their Spiriting away the Letter of the Promised Seed. 1726 PENN *No Cross* xiii. § 14 An Enemy to the State, for he [the miser] spirits their Money away. 1775 R. CHANDLER *Trav. Asia M.* (1825) I. Introd. p. xi, The jealousy of the papal court.. spirited away these inestimable treasures. 1794 GODWIN *Caleb Williams* 69 There is no Mrs. Jakeman now to spirit you away. 1861 HUGHES *Tom Brown at Oxf.* XXXII, One shake of the hand, and she was spirited away in a moment.

c. Said of the action of spirits.

1825 J. NEAL *Bro. Jonathan* I. 253 Peters had been.. spirited away in a thunderstorm. 1855 W. IRVING *Chron. Wolfert's Roost* 179 Others jocosely ninted that old Pluto ..had spirited away the boy to the nether regions. 1889 BARRIE *Window in Thrums* 102 It was thocht next mornin' 'at the ghost had spirited them awa.

III. † 7. To extract spirit from; to distil. In quot. *fig. Obs.*[-1]

1677 *Cleveland's Poems* Ded., Yet how many such Authors must be creamed and spirited to make up his *Fuscara*?

8. To treat with a solution of spirits.
1883 HALDANE *Workshop Rec.* Ser. II. 145 Worsted-and-Cotton Damasks,..after being spirited and rinsed,..must have a water starch to make them look strong and well when finished.

†Spi·rital, *a. Obs.* Also 7 -all. [a. OF. *(e)spirital*, or ad. L. *spīritālis*: see SPIRIT *sb.*]
1. Pertaining to sacred concerns; = SPIRITUAL *a.* 2. Also *absol.*
1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 32 Wher sche cometh overal, Noght only of the temporal Bot of the spirital also. *Ibid.* 259 That the Papacie Thei wolde honoure and magnefie In al that evere is spirital.

2. Of the nature of spirit; of or pertaining to the spirit in contrast to the body or matter.
1598 HAYDOCKE tr. *Lomazzo* II. 193 Spirital and incorporal thinges. 1642 H. MORE *Song of Soul* II. ii. II. xi, This is a substance truly spiritall, That reason by her glistring lamp hath shown. *Ibid.* II. ii. III. xvii, That truths spiritall we may with ease Find out. *a* 1676 HALE *Prim. Orig. Man.* III. vi. (1677) 277 When the Matter is fitly prepared, there is an illapse of this Vital, Formative, Spirital Principle into it. 1707 J. STEVENS tr. *Quevedo's Com. Wks.* (1709) 48 There being no likelihood that human Weakness could prevail against a spiritual Power.

†Spirita·lity. *Obs.*—[1] [f. prec. + -ITY, or ad. late L. *spīritālitas*. Cf. OF. *esperitalité*.] Spiritual nature or quality.
1677 GALE *Crt. Gentiles* IV. II. iii. 307 That al Spirits have, according to the degree of Spiritalitie, an amplitude of Essence.

†Spi·ritally, *adv. Obs. rare.* [f. prec. + -LY[2].]
1. In a spiritual manner.
1598 HAYDOCKE tr. *Lomazzo* II. 194 The body without the spirit cannot draw any thing vnto it; For whatsoever it would draw, it must draw it by the helpe of the spirit, that is spiritally. For a spirit cannot drawe a body vnto it bodily, but spiritally.

2. *Gram.* With breathing or aspiration.
1669 HOLDER *Elem. Speech* 58 We may conceive one of each pronounced *Spiritally*, the other vocally. But in attempting to pronounce these two Consonants..and some of the vowels Spiritally, the Throat is brought to labour.

†Spiritalty. *Obs.*—[1] = SPIRITALITY.
c 1400 tr. *Secreta Secret., Gov. Lordsh.* 97 Wete þat vche voys yn his ordre ys al hool whenne it ys stiryd yn þe Eyre þat berys it, & þat self noble spiritalte stirrys þerwith.

‖ **Spiritato.** *Obs. rare.* In 7 *pl.* **-ati, -aties.** [It. *spiritato*, pa. pple. of *spiritare*, f. *spirito* SPIRIT *sb.*] A religious enthusiast.
1659 GAUDEN *Tears Ch.* 195 Before these new Illuminates and Spiritaties rose up. 1678 CUDWORTH *Intell. Syst.* I. iii. § 29. 134 A kind of Bewitched Enthusiasts and Blind *Spiritati*, that are wholly..acted by a dark, narrow and captivated Principle of Life.

Spi·ritdom. [f. SPIRIT *sb.* + -DOM.] The domain of disembodied spirits.
1864 TYNDALL *Fragm. Sci.* (1879) I. 499 These [sounds of music] were acknowledged to be as great marvels as any of those of spiritdom.

Spi·rited, *a.* [f. SPIRIT *sb.*]
In addition to its uses as a simple word, *spiritea* also occurs as the second element in a large number of combs., as *bold-, cold-, high-, humble-, low-, mean-, meek-, narrow-, poor-, public-spirited*, etc., which are dealt with under the first element or as main words.

†1. Impregnated with spirit or active properties.
1599 B. JONSON *Cynthia's Rev.* v. iv, Pure benjamin, the onely spirited sent, that ever awak'd a neapolitane nostrill. 1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* 50 Which perhaps must not be taken strictly, but in the germe and spirited particles. 1677 MIÈGE *Fr. Dict.* II. s.v. *Sparkle*, To Sparkle as spirited wine nimbly filled out.

2. Of persons: Full of spirit or animation; of a lively and energetic disposition; prompt to act, or to assert oneself, in a worthy manner.
1599 B. JONSON *Cynthia's Rev.* IV. i, This tire (me thinkes) makes me looke very ingeniously, quick, and spirited. *Ibid.* v. iv, O brave and spirited! Hee's a right Jovialist. 1725 DE FOE *Voy. round World* (1840) 294 So generous, spirited, and grateful a person. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* II. vi. 193 The shouts..of threescore sailors.., joyous as they always are, when they land..; the huzza's, I say, of this spirited detachment. 1780 *Mirror* No. 102, Nor is the ambition of those spirited ladies satisfied with speaking in public. 1828 D'ISRAELI *Chas. I*, II. x. 245 The spirited servant on whom the hope of his glory rested. 1852 MISS YONGE *Cameos* II. viii. 101 The French..had always been forced back by the spirited little garrison. 1895 MEREDITH *Amazing Marriage* I. i. 4 He wealthy and rather handsome, and she quite lovely and spirited.

b. Energetic or enterprising in the pursuit of some study or business.
1769 *Junius Lett.* ii. (1788) 41 A most spirited as well as excellent scholar. 1799 A. YOUNG *Agric. Linc.* 74 A very spirited and active farmer. 1847 W. C. L. MARTIN *Ox* 82/1 The improvement in the short-horns..under the superintendence of spirited individuals.

c. Of animals, esp. horses: Full of animation and vigour; mettlesome.
1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* II. 362 The Persian horses ..are docile, spirited, nimble, hardy, courageous [etc.]. 1828 LYTTON *Pelham* II. viii, I saw a groom managing, with difficulty, a remarkably fine and spirited horse. 1846 J. BAXTER *Libr. Pract. Agric.* (ed. 4) II. 217 The cock..should be brisk, spirited, and attentive..in defending the hens. 1869 TOZER *Highl. Turkey* II. 319 A man..seated on a spirited charger. 1871 BLACKIE *Four Phases Morals* i. 7 Men who wish to learn to ride do not choose the meekest and most docile beast..but the most spirited.

3. Of things: Characterized by, displaying, or suggestive of spirit, animation, vigour, or energy:
a. Of literary work, speech, etc.
1715 POPE *Iliad* Pref. P 55 The most noble and spirited translation I know in any language. 1768 in *Priv. Lett. Ld. Malmesbury* (1870) I. 166 Some very spirited expressions flung out in our King's speech. 1797 JANE AUSTEN *Sense & Sens.* xxxvii, A very spirited critique upon the party. 1835 T. MITCHELL *Acharn. of Aristoph.* 463 *note*, A spirited version of this chorus..appeared in an early number of a monthly publication. 1867 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* I. v. 378 To which summons the Earl returns a spirited reply.

b. Of action, conduct, etc.
1765 in *Priv. Lett. Ld. Malmesbury* (1870) I. 132 Hau the Governor acted a becoming or spirited part at first, matters had not risen into this confusion. 1796 SCOTT *Let. in Lockhart* (1837) I. vii. 238 By the wise precautions of the magistrates,..and the spirited conduct of the gentlemen, I hope their designs will be frustrated. 1815 — *Guy M.* xxx, A few such instances of spirited resistance would greatly check the presumption of these lawless men. 1841 *Exchcq. Rep.* ii. 178 Her Majesty's government entertain a high sense of the very spirited and able conduct of Commander Denman. 1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* I. xxiii. 161 The thing was accomplished in a very spirited way. 1897 MARY KINGSLEY *W. Africa* 339 It was a spirited performance I assure you.

c. Of business or other enterprises.
1771 *Ann. Reg.* II. 109/2 Amongst the rarest instances of spirited husbandry ever met with among the common farmers of England. 1842 LANCE *Cottage Farmer* 26 To whose spirited exertions we are mainly indebted for the annual cattle-show. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* iii. I. 378 It was announced that a vehicle..would perform the whole journey between sunrise and sunset. This spirited undertaking was solemnly..sanctioned by the Heads of the University. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* I. 225/2 A gradual and spirited revival of the Gothic style.

d. Of attitudes, features, etc., or artistic representations of objects.
1781 SIR J. REYNOLDS *Journ. Flanders & Holland* Wks. 1797 II. 57 Some horsemen are seen at a distance in very spirited attitudes. 1832 BREWSTER *Nat. Magic* iv. 78 The expence of exceedingly minute and spirited drawings. 1849 C. BRONTË *Shirley* vii, What clearly cut, spirited features! 1879 H. PHILLIPS *Notes Coins* 11 The action is spirited and by no means so stiff as the low state of the arts would have warranted us in expecting.

4. Of persons: Occupied or possessed by a (good or evil) spirit.
1667 MILTON *P. L.* IX. 613 So talk'd the spirited sly Snake. 1861 J. A. ALEXANDER *Gosp. Christ* iii. 47 A voice both of kindness and of authority, stole in upon your spirited senses.

5. *Gr. Gram.* Provided with a breathing.
1668 M. CASAUBON *Credulity* (1670) 98 As for example, ἄγνος: Accented and Spirited ἅγνος, it signifies..a willow.

6. Impregnated with alcoholic spirit.
1822–7 GOOD *Study Med.* (1829) II. 693 The mischief produced by highly-spirited malt liquors.

Spi·ritedly, *adv.* [f. prec. + -LY[2].] In a spirited or lively manner; with spirit, animation, or vivacity.
1785 J. PHILLIPS *Treat. Inland Nav.* p. x, The horses..contribute more spiritedly to the sport or pleasure of their possessors. 1799 COLERIDGE *Lett.* (1895) I. 313 'Christabel,' were it..finished as spiritedly as it commences [etc.]. 1813 T. FAULKNER *Fulham* 88 This monument is very spiritedly executed. 1832 *Blackwood's Mag.* XXXI. 374 Henry..spiritedly refused his brother's counsel. 1861 L. L. NOBLE *Icebergs* 31 We were moving spiritedly forward over a bright and lively sea.

b. Qualifying adjs. and ppl. adjs.
1780 YOUNG *Tour Irel.* II. xvii. 75 Lazy to an excess at work, but so spiritedly active at play. 1812 *Examiner* 25 May 328/1 A very spiritedly drawn and classical background. 1886 RUSKIN *Præterita* I. xii. 425 Spiritedly curling and projecting dark hair.

Spi·ritedness. [f. as prec. + -NESS.]
The formation is more common as a second element in combs., as *base-, high-, low-, mean-, narrow-, poor-, public-spiritedness.*

†1. Spiritual state or condition. *Obs.*—[1]
1681 C. TAYLOR *Ep. Caution to Friends* 11 The ruin..of his Soul forever, and the Souls of all, who in this Spiritedness adhere to him.

2. The character or quality of being spirited, lively, or animated; liveliness, vivacity.
1704 PENN in *Pennsylv. Hist. Soc. Mem.* IX. 356, I desire ..my officers will take a little more spiritedness and quickness upon them. 1834 *New Monthly Mag.* XLI. 318 The unostentatious spiritedness, the tranquil but forcible truth of their character. 1853 BAGEHOT *Lit. Stud.* (1911) I. 131 In spiritedness, the style of Shakespeare is very like to that of Scott. 1880 MEREDITH *Tragic Com.* (1881) 215 Her natural spiritedness detested the monotony.

Spi·riter. *rare*—[1]. [f. SPIRIT *v.* + -ER.] An abductor or kidnapper.
1675 COTTON *Burlesque upon B.* 146 Whilst the poor Boy, half dead with fear, Writh'd back to view his Spiriter.

Spi·ritful, *a. Obs.* or *dial.* [f. SPIRIT *sb.*]
1. Having a spiritual or refined character.
1546 BOLTON *Arraignm. Errour* 43 Others againe of finer tempers and spirits, that must be undone a finer way, a more spiritfull way, the grosse way is too low for them. 1643 MILTON *Divorce* Introd. Wks. 1851 IV. 10 The spiritfull and orderly life of our grown men. *a* 1665 J. GOODWIN *Filled w. the Spirit* (1867) 387 That such a doctrine or ministry, which some count legal and low is far more spiritful and raised than [etc.].

2. Of persons: Full of spirit or animation; spirited, vigorous, energetic. (Freq. *c* 1610–70.)
1598 DRAYTON *Heroical Ep.* (1619) Catal., Couragious Poole and that brave spiritfull Queene. 1650 HOWELL *Giraffi's Revolution Naples* I. 76 Naples,..the Nurse of so many valiant Champions, and spiritfull Cavaliers. 1673 O. WALKER *Educ.* 192 Making us stand upon our guard, which renders the mind more diligent, vigorous, brisk, and spiritfull. 1748 RICHARDSON *Clarissa* (1811) III. 63 Miss Howe is a charming creature too; but confoundedly smart and spiritful. 1851 MAYHEW *Lond. Labour* I. 386/2 He was always a spiritful man, and it hurted him sorely that he should come to this at last. 1886 *Cheshire Gloss.* 332.

b. Of horses: Mettlesome.
1644 DIGBY *Nat. Bodies & Soul* 458 The spiritfull horse dutyfully beareth the soldier.

3. Of actions, etc.: Performed with, characterized by, spirit or vigour.
1614 LATHAM *Falconry* (1633) 87 All which..tempteth the Hawke to flye couragiously with more eagernesse and spiritfull assurance to enioy him. 1643 MILTON *Divorce* xi. Wks. 1851 IV. 50 And what is life without the vigor and spiritfull exercise of life?

4. Of liquor: Impregnated with some active or lively principle; spirituous.
1608 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. iv. IV. *Decay* 1155 The spirit-full bloud spins in his Father's face. 1644 DIGBY *Nat. Bodies* xvii. 145 Wine, or other spiritfull liquors. 1662 HIBBERT *Body Divinity* I. 312 Poyson..is subtle and spiritful, and therefore incorporates with that which is most subtle in man, his spirits. 1675 BAXTER *Cath. Theol.* II. ii. 36 To know that the Drink is pleasant to the tast, exhilerating, spiritful.
transf. 1643 T. GOODWIN *Child of Light* 97 That word is inspired with a principle, most quick, spiritfull, and active.
Hence **†Spi·ritfully** *adv.*; **†Spi·ritfulness.**
1644 DIGBY *Nat. Bodies* xxviii. 254 The exceeding life and spiritefulnesse of his eyes. 1655 tr. *Sorel's Com. Hist. Francion* IX. 10 Sir, said Nays, very spiritfully unto him, I plainly perceive [etc.]. *a* 1665 J. GOODWIN *Filled w. the Spirit* (1867) 464 This same activeness and spiritfulness in the service of God.

Spi·rithood. *rare.* [f. SPIRIT *sb.* + -HOOD.] The state of being a spirit.
1852 BAILEY *Festus* (ed. 5) 494 Day by day Grew *spirit*-hood to deathless angel kind.

Spi·riting, *vbl. sb.* [f. SPIRIT *sb.* or *v.*]
1. The action or work of a spirit or sprite; the ministering of spirits. Also *fig.*
In mod. use only in echoes of the Shaksperian passage.
1768 *Shakspere's Temp.* I. ii. 298 (Capell), I will be correspondent to command, And do my spiriting [*fol.* spryting] gently. 1841 MOORE *Lalla Rookh* Poet. Wks. VI. Pref. p. xvii, Quick as Fancy required the aid of fact, in her spiritings. 1860 GEN. P. THOMPSON *Audi Alt.* cvi. III. 16 Like lawyers, they are ready to do their spiritings with as little of personal bitterness as human nature will admit. 1880 BROWNING *Dram. Idyls* Ser. II. 120 As I am free to do my spiriting.

2. Inspiration.
1845 MRS. BROWNING in *Lett. Browning & E. B. Barrett* (1899) I. 37 We turn to you..for comfort and gentle spiriting.

3. *techn.* A solution of spirits with which carpets, lace, etc., are treated in their manufacture.
1883 HALDANE *Workshop Rec.* Ser. II. 146 When it [*sc.* a curtain] has been well worked in this [soap liquor], handle it directly out of the soap into the spiriting.

†Spiritish, *a. Obs.*—[1] [f. SPIRIT *sb.* + -ISH.] Dealing with spirits.
1588 J. HARVEY *Disc. Probl.* 32 Which neither..cosening oraclers could euer insinuate:..or the superstitious inuocations of spirtish exorcistes discouer.

Spiritism (spi·ritiz'm). [f. SPIRIT *sb.* + -ISM. So F. *spiritisme.*] = SPIRITUALISM 3.
This form has to some extent been preferred by those specially interested in the subject, as being more distinctive than *spiritualism.*
1864 *Reader* 542/1 Spiritism (spirit-rapping, as commonly understood). 1865 *Cornh. Mag.* Oct. 504 The Maories seem to be in advance of us, if not of our French and American cousins, in spiritism. 1876 M. DAVIES *Unorthodox Lond.* 98 The line of demarcation between Swedenborgianism and modern Spiritualism—or Spiritism, as it is now called. 1880 HOWELLS *Undiscov. Country* iv. 69 In the development of the phenomena which now agitate the world, mesmerism came first, and spiritism came second.

Spi·ritist. [f. SPIRIT *sb.* + -IST.]
1. One who believes in spiritism; a spiritualist.
1858 *Brownson's Q. Rev.* Apr. 180 Mormons, Swedenborgians, and Spiritists, &c. 1867 CHRISTIE in Manning *Ess. Relig. & Lit.* Ser. II. 310 These remarks apply to such pretenders to Divine communications as..the Jansenists, and modern Spiritists. 1896 *Pop. Sci. Jrnl.* L. 229 This condition finds its ideal fulfillment in the 'developing séance' of the spiritists.
b. *attrib.* as *adj.* = SPIRITISTIC *a.*
1865 *Cornh. Mag.* Apr. 481 Those who believe in spiritist and other marvels. 1877 J. E. CARPENTER tr. *Tiele's Hist. Relig.* 35 The spiritist side of Animism. 1887 *Amer. Nat.* XXI. 497 The spiritist practices of Chinese women.
2. = SPIRITUALIST 3.
1878 T. SINCLAIR *Mount* 39 Spiritists, or Comtists, let them keep to the moorlands of life. 1883 L. OLIPHANT *Altiora Peto* II. 16 Why he should shrink from this hypothesis for fear of becoming a materialist, as much as the scientific man does from it for fear of becoming a spiritist.

Spiriti·stic, *a.* [f. SPIRIT *sb.* + -ISTIC.] Of or pertaining to, dealing or concerned with, spiritism; = SPIRITUALISTIC *a.* 2.
1867 *Eng. Leader* 15 June 333/1 That spiritistic 'literature' which has led astray..so many weak and impressionable minds. 1880 HOWELLS *Undiscov. Country* iv. 70 The only perfectly ascertained fact of spiritistic science is the rap. 1898 *Pop. Sci. Monthly* LII. 493 New support for unfounded spiritualistic and spiritistic chimeras.

Spi·ritize, *v. rare.* [SPIRIT *sb.* + -IZE.] *trans.* To imbue with spirit or spiritual power.
1654 GAYTON *Pleas. Notes* III. vii. 111 The nimble Mercurie..hath so spiritiz'd their whole Oeconomie, that they are Quick-silver to their finger ends. 1893 J. H. BARROWS

World's Parlt. Relig. I. 617 To spiritize a stone, a block of wood, one must first have believed in a spirit.

Spi·rit-lamp. Also **spirit lamp.** [SPIRIT *sb.*] A lamp fed by methylated or other spirits, and used esp. for heating, boiling, or cooking.

1802 *Phil. Trans.* XCIII. 14 The..solution, gently exhaled to dryness, and kept over a spirit-lamp. 1838 T. THOMSON *Chem. Org. Bodies* 372 Having put on the cover, the flame of a spirit-lamp was applied beneath the indigo. 1893 LADY I. BURTON *Life R. F. Burton* II. 8 Our hosts are astir, and already..drinking tea made over a spirit-lamp.

attrib. 1827 FARADAY *Chem. Manip.* vi. (1842) 186 In operations of this kind, heat is applied..by a small spirit lamp flame.

Spi·ritless, *a.* [f. SPIRIT *sb.* + -LESS.]

1. Deprived of the spirit or animating principle; having or possessing no spirit; lifeless.

1570 T. NORTON tr. *Nowel's Catech.* (1853) 160 His dead and spiritless body was laid in the grave. *c* 1611 CHAPMAN *Iliad* XII. 163 The man..Fell now quite-spiritlesse to earth. *a* 1616 BEAUM. & FL. *Bonduca* v. i, 'Tis the Body Of the great Captain Penyus, by himself Made cold and spiritless. 1705 GREENHILL *Embalming* 5 Nature admonishes us that the spiritless Body should be restored to the Earth. 1852 BAILEY *Festus* (ed. 5) 346 A work or thought..may Be..like the air,..Sweeping miles broad o'er far western woods,.. Or may be, nothing—bodiless, spiritless.

2. Devoid of lively or cheerful spirits; depressed, dejected, downcast, dull or melancholy.

1597 SHAKS. 2 *Hen. IV*, I. i. 70 Euen such a man, so faint, so spiritlesse, So dull. *c* 1620 FLETCHER & MASS. *Double Marriage* II. i, Why are you still so sad ?..You make us dull, and spiritless. 1643 MILTON *Divorce* iv. Wks. 1851 IV. 29 Whereof who misses by chancing on a mute and spiritlesse mate, remaines more alone then before. 1726 LEONI *Alberti's Architecture* III. 18/1 Those that grieve..seem fatigued and spiritless. 1778 MISS BURNEY *Evelina* lxxvi, I was totally spiritless and dejected. 1816 C. HUTTON *Concl. Life W. Hutton* 92, I..found my father thinner, weaker, and more spiritless than I left him. 1826 *Literary Souvenir* 326 He sank spiritless, and almost lifeless, upon the gunwale of the vessel. 1876 *Trans. Clinical Soc.* IX. 189 The child, ceasing to play about, became spiritless.

transf. 1778 [W. H. MARSHALL] *Minutes Agric., Observ.* 67 The countenance of the Soil..is pallid and spiritless.

3. Destitute or devoid of spirit, animation, or courage; lacking ardour or boldness.

1628 FELTHAM *Resolves* II. 5, I wish no man so spiritlesse, as to let all abuses presse the dulnesse of a willing shoulder. 1651 BIGGS *New Disp.* P 100 We are uselesse and spiritlesse to our selves and the Common-Wealth. 1702 DENNIS *Monument* xiii, Their Soldiers and Commanders all grown faint, Dejected, spiritless with frequent Routs. 1776 GIBBON *Decl. & F.* viii. I. 214 The infantry was a half-armed spiritless crowd of peasants. 1839 DICKENS *Nickleby* xxxi, You are a base and spiritless scoundrel ! 1850 MERIVALE *Rom. Emp.* xi. (1865) II. 21 Spiritless himself, he was incapable of infusing spirit. 1884 SWINBURNE *Midsummer Holiday*, etc. 169 As a swordless and spiritless nation.

b. Destitute of energy or enterprise.

1799 J. ROBERTSON *Agric. Perth* 71 About half a century ago,..the fields [were] uncultivated and the farmers spiritless and poor. *c* 1825 LD. COCKBURN *Mem.* (1856) 168 The publishers we had were too spiritless even for their position. 1861 SMILES *Engineers* II. 49 The country was too poor or too spiritless to undertake their improvement on any comprehensive scale.

4. Marked or characterized by lack of animation, vivacity, or energy.

1651 N. BACON *Disc. Govt. Eng.* II. (1739) p. ix, Both the Election of a King, and the Solemnization of such Election, ..are spiritless motions without the presence of the people. 1712 STEELE *Spect.* No. 484 P 5 Men have indulged themselves in a spiritless Sheepishness. 1753 RICHARDSON *Grandison* (1766) V. 269 What a spiritless figure does he make ! 1796 MME. D'ARBLAY *Camilla* II. 38 The evening was passed in spiritless conversation. 1841 W. SPALDING *Italy & It. Isl.* II. 133 That spiritless apathy with which the subjects of the Italian principalities submitted to the rule of their despotic masters. 1878 T. HARDY *Ret. Native* IV. iv, The spiritless stir of the summer wind.

b. Of literary or artistic productions.

1737 *Gentl. Mag.* VII. 12/2 A literal Translation of the Hebrew Code..must necessarily be,..at best, but flat, insipid, and spiritless. 1797 T. HOLCROFT tr. *Stolberg's Trav.* II. xlvi, These colours, when singly laid on, are entirely spiritless. 1802 MAR. EDGEWORTH *Moral T.* (1816) I. 198 It was her business to sketch designs,..but..the figures were awkward and spiritless.

†**5.** Lacking spiritual zeal; cold. *Obs.*—1

1680 H. MORE *Apocal. Apoc.* 37 And buy of Me white rayment, O Spiritless Laodicea, and desire to be cloathed with thy Spiritual Tabernacle from Heaven.

Hence **Spi·ritlessly** *adv.*

1669 H. MORE *Exp. 7 Epist.* ix. 142 The same [formal profession] will this Church of Laodicea hold on spiritlessly and lazily, with little life or zeal. 1873 MISS BROUGHTON *Nancy* III. 30 We part without a word, and I, spiritlessly, mount the staircase alone. 1879 W. COLLINS *Rogue's Life* i, Her son..spiritlessly availed himself of the oleaginous refuse of the soap and candle trade.

Spi·ritlessness. [f. prec. + -NESS.] The quality or fact of being spiritless.

1669 H. MORE *Exp. 7 Epist.* ix. 150 This is one reason of the Spiritlesnesse and Inactivity of the Laodicean Church. *a* 1684 LEIGHTON *Comm. 1 Pet.* Wks. 1805 I. 442 This is not a loving agreement, arising from oneness of spirit, but a dead stupidity, arguing a total spiritlessness. 1840 *New Monthly Mag.* LIX. 386 The fair liquid amber..subsided into spiritlessness. 1870 *Echo* 23 Sept., In view of the spiritlessness of the mass of the people.

Spirit-level. Also **spirit level.** [f. SPIRIT *sb.* + LEVEL *sb.* I.] A kind of levelling instrument for determining a horizontal line or surface, usually consisting of a hermetically-sealed glass tube filled with spirit and an air-bubble, which, when the tube lies exactly horizontal, occupies a position midway in its length.

1768 *Phil. Trans.* LVIII. 286 The spirit level shewing the axis of the telescope to be horizontal. 1793 SMEATON *Edystone L.* § 97 It could be brought justly horizontal by means of a pocket Spirit-Level being placed upon it. 1805 R. W. DICKSON *Pract. Agric.* I. 292 This is to be done by means of levelling, in which the instrument called the spirit-level may be thus employed. 1834 *Brit. Husb.* I. 534 The instrument called a spirit or water level is the most proper for ascertaining the inclination of the ground with certainty. 1881 YOUNG *Ev. Man his own Mechanic* § 282. 111 In bringing horizontal bars, shelves, etc., to a true level the spirit level must be used.

attrib. 1868 in *Rep. to Govt. U.S. Munitions War* 135 Two degrees of elevation taken with a spirit-level quadrant.

Hence **Spirit-levelling** *vbl. sb.*

1861 SIR H. JAMES (*title*), Abstract of the Principal Lines of Spirit Levelling in England and Wales.

Spirit-like, *a.* [f. SPIRIT *sb.* + -LIKE.] Like a spirit; resembling that of a spirit.

1644 DIGBY *Nat. Bodies* xxvii. 244 Those masters..teach vs that the impressions vpon sense are made by spirituall or spiritelike things or qualities. 1839 LOWELL *Lett.* (1894) I. 41 Eyes the largest..and most spirit-like I ever dreamed of. 1843 RUSKIN *Mod. Paint.* I. II. III. iii. § 5 There is added to this [cloud-range] a spirit-like feeling. 1852 BAILEY *Festus* (ed. 5) 494 The souls of all things..ripening fast To spirit-like perfection.

†**Spi·ritly,** *a. Obs.*—1 [f. SPIRIT *sb.* + -LY1.] Of horses: Spirited, mettlesome.

1629 T. ADAMS *Love's Copy* Wks. 815 Pride..comes out like a Spanyard..mounted on a spiritley Ieanet named Insolence.

Spi·ritous, *a.* ? *Obs.* Also 8 *poet.* spir'tous. [f. SPIRIT *sb.* + -OUS. Cf. It. *spiritoso*, Sp. *espiritoso*.]

1. Of the nature of spirit; having the qualities of an essence or distilled product; highly refined or dematerialized.

1605 TIMME *Quersit.* III. 149 The two volatile salts..wil be best mingled by reason of their subtilty and spiritous substance. 1653 H. MORE *Antid. Ath.* III. ix. § 12 The blood was found so pure and spiritous, that it spurted into his face as he cut him. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* VI. 479 Materials dark and crude, Of spiritous and fierie spume. 1733 TULL *Horse-hoeing Husb.* xiv. 83 When it [hay] stands till full Blown, the most spiritous, volatile, and nourishing Parts of its Juices is spent on the next Generation. 1766 *Phil. Trans.* LVI. 96 The heat used in making the spiritous extract.

fig. 1641 MILTON *Ch. Govt.* II. iii, Such the most covert and spiritous vices as would slip easily between the wider and more material grasp of Law. 1651 H. MORE *Enthus. Tri.* (1712) 14 That Melancholy partakes much of the nature of Wine, he evinces from that it is so spiritous. *Ibid.*, And that Melancholy is flatuous or spiritous [etc.].

b. Of liquors: Alcoholic; = SPIRITUOUS *a.* 3 b.

1799 DUNDAS in Owen *Wellesley's Desp.* (1877) 642 The encreasing produce of the revenue on salt, opium and spiritous liquors. 1801 CHARLOTTE SMITH *Lett. Solit. Wand.* I. 322 Not allowing me to take any thing spiritous. 1836 MACGILLIVRAY *Trav. Humboldt* xxv. 381 From the fermented juice a spiritous liquor..is procured.

2. Exhilarating, enlivening. *rare*—1.

1624 WOTTON *Archit.* 68 The second point is Vsefulnesse, which will consist in a sufficient Number of Roomes, of all sorts, and in their apt Coherence,..without confusion;.. that it may appear airie and spiritous, and fit for the welcome of cheerefull Guests.

†**3.** Of persons: Lively, vivacious, high-spirited.

1629 WALTON in Wotton *Reliq.* (1672) 445, I writ by him to the Queen..about your Spiritous nephew. 1737 *Gentl. Mag.* VII. 373/1 A gay companion,..Fond without folly, spir'tous without rage. 1746 W. HORSLEY *Fool* (1748) I. 49 The spiritous Mrs. Frolic.

transf. 1763 *Brit. Mag.* IV. 468 Her eyes darted the most spiritous rays.

†**4.** *Gram.* Of consonants: Pronounced with breathing or aspiration. *Obs.*

1668 WILKINS *Real Char.* 367 The Spiritous Consonants to be breathed through the Mouth. *Ibid.* 375 The Spiritous Consonants that are Mutes.

Hence **Spi·ritousness.** *rare*—1.

a 1691 BOYLE (J.), Notwithstanding the great thinness and spiritousness of the liquor.

†**Spirit-plate.** *Obs.* The blast-wall or mouth-screen of a smelting-furnace.

1686 PLOT *Staffordsh.* 162 That next the bellows, [is] the tuarn or tuiron wall; that against it, the wind-wall or spirit-plate.

Spirit-rapper. [Back-formation from next.] One who professes that he can induce spirits to communicate with him by means of rapping.

1854 O. A. BROWNSON (*title*), The Spirit-Rapper; an autobiography. 1860 JEAFFRESON *Bk. Doct.* II. 38 To electro-biologists, spirit-rappers, and table-turners the same arguments must be used. 1881 FROUDE *Short Stud.* IV. II. 165 Their pretensions deserve essentially no more respect than those of spirit-rappers.

Spirit-rapping. [f. SPIRIT *sb.* + RAPPING *vbl. sb.*1]

1. *pl.* Rappings alleged to be made by spirits in answer to questions addressed to them.

1853 H. SPICER *Sights & Sounds* 88 This lady was a medium, and as the subject of 'spirit rappings' was already [etc.]. 1859 in BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.* (ed. 2) 434.

2. Professed communication from or with spirits by means of raps or knockings made by these.

1854 N. S. GODFREY (*title*), The Theology of Table-Turning, Spirit-Rapping, and Clairvoyance, in connection with the Antichrist. 1862 G. H. TOWNSEND *Man. Dates* s.v. The modern spirit-rapping originated in America, in the family of John D. Fox, in March, 1848. 1867 AUGUSTA WILSON *Vashti* x, I don't believe in spirit-rapping, and such stuff as dancing tables, and spinning chairs.

Spiritrump. *Ent.* [ad. F. *spiritrompe.*] = ANTLIA.

a 1843 *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) VII. 280/1 The Antlia of Kirby and Spence, or Spiritrump of Latreille, is a most remarkable character of the Lepidopterous Order.

Spi·ritsome, *a.* [f. SPIRIT *sb.* + -SOME1.] Of the nature of spirit; spirit-like.

1876 MRS. WHITNEY *Sights & Ins.* vi. 81 Faint points and shapes, looming larger, bluer, surer,—but always so soft, so spiritsome !

Spirit-stirring, *a.* [SPIRIT *sb.*] That stirs or animates the spirits; spirit-rousing.

1604 SHAKS. *Oth.* III. iii. 352 The Spirit-stirring Drum, th' Eare-piercing Fife. 1740 DYER *Ruins Rome* 102 The spirit-stirring form Of Caesar, raptur'd with the charm of rule. 1741-2 GRAY *Agrippina* 124 There will not want.. ears to own Her spirit-stirring voice. 1794 GODWIN *Caleb Williams* 158 The haziness of the morning was followed by a spirit-stirring and beautiful day. 1807 *Edin. Rev.* X. 385 All spirit-stirring topics will surely fail. 1861 G. F. BERKELEY *Eng. Sportsman* xiv. 241 Conveying to me a spirit-stirring information. 1886 T. MICHELL *Scot. Exped. to Norway* I. I. 12 The spirit-stirring poem by Edvard Storm.

Spiritual (spi·ritiuăl), *a.* and *sb.* Forms: 4-5 **spirituel**(l, 4-6 **-elle**, 4 **spyrytuele**, 5 **spyryt-, spyrit-, spirytuel**(l; 4- **spiritual**, 4-5 **-ale**, 6-7 **-all**, 5 **spirytuall, spyrytual**(e, 5-6 **-all, speruall** (5 **-ale**), 6 **spyritualle.** [a. OF. *spirituel* (12th c., = It. *spirituale*, Sp. and Pg. *espiritual*), or ad. L. *spirituāl-is*, f. *spiritus* SPIRIT *sb.* Cf. ESPIRITUAL, SPRITUAL, and SPIRITAL.]

A. *adj.*

I. 1. Of or pertaining to, affecting or concerning, the spirit or higher moral qualities, esp. as regarded in a religious aspect. (Freq. in express or implied distinction to *bodily, corporal*, or *temporal.*)

1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. XIV. 284 So pouerte propreliche, penaunce, and ioye, Is to þe body pure spiritual helthe. *c* 1400 *Anturs of Arth.* XX, Of thies sperituale thynges spyre me na mare. *c* 1430 LYDG. *Min. Poems* (Percy Soc.) 97 Spiritual gladnesse most for to habounde, This day mynistred til oure refeccioune. 1474 CAXTON *Chesse* (1883) 42 For they doo spirytuell and also corporall werkis. 1529 MORE *Dyalogue* I. Wks. 157/1 It then bycame to be the spirituall busynesse and occupacion of man. 1563 FOXE *A. & M.* IIII. In the sacrament..there is not the very substaunce..but a spirituall partaking of the bodye and blood of Christ. 1592 in J. Morris *Troubles Cath. Foref.* (1877) 38 A man..much given to meditation, and receiving thereby many spiritual consolations. 1630 B. JONSON *New Inn* III. ii, Love is a spiritual coupling of two souls. 1663 BP. PATRICK *Parab. Pilgr.* XXVII, Since they are most proper to Beginners, and..those who enter upon the Spiritual Race. 1753 CHALLONER *Cath. Chr. Instr.* 20 The spiritual Kindred which is contracted between the Gossips and the Child. 1784 P. WRIGHT *New Bk. Martyrs* 798/1 To administer those spiritual helps that were suitable to men in their circumstances. 1835 I. TAYLOR *Spirit Despot.* vii. 289 The spiritual essence of popery has outlived the overthrow of the papal domination. 1883 J. PARKER *Apost. Life* II. 327 The thing I aim at is spiritual restoration, spiritual completeness, spiritual immortality.

Comb. 1872 HOWELLS *Wedding Journ.* (1892) 269 A spiritual-worldliness which was the clarified likeness of this-worldliness.

b. Applied to material things, substances, etc., in a figurative or symbolical sense.

1387-8 T. USK *Test. Love* III. ix. (Skeat) I. 98 How was it, that sightful manna in deserte to children of Israel was spirituel mete? 1550 COVERDALE (*title*), A Spyrytuall and most Precyouse Pearle teaching all men to love and imbrace the Crosse. 1576 G. TYRRELL in J. Morris *Troubles Cath. Foref.* Ser. II. (1875) 30 Abundance of spiritual riches far passingly supplieth the lack of the other [i.e. corporal]. 1611 BIBLE *Transl. Pref.* P 1 The Spirituall and sincere milke of the word. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* XII. 491 His Spirit ..shall write To guide them in all truth, and also arme With spiritual Armour. *a* 1729 J. ROGERS *Nineteen Serm.* vi. (1735) 117 All eat of the same spiritual Bread, and drank of the same spiritual Cup. 1820 SOUTHEY *Wesley* II. 331 With regard to the bodily effects that ensued, whenever the spiritual Influenza began. 1871 MORLEY *Carlyle* in *Crit. Misc.* Ser. I. (1878) 173 A cloud of sedulous ephemera still suck a little spiritual moisture. 1889 STEVENSON *Edinburgh* 168 Every kind of spiritual disinfectant.

c. Of songs, etc.: Devotional, sacred.

1382 WYCLIF *Eph.* v. 19 Spekinge to 3ou silf in psalmes, and ymnes, and spiritual songis. 1567 *Gude & Godlie B.* (S.T.S.) 1 Singing of the Psalmes, and spiritual sangis. 1611 BIBLE *Eph.* v. 19; *Colos.* iii. 16. 1660 F. BROOKE tr. *Le Blanc's Trav.* 364 Dancings in stately rooms, or gardens, with spirituall songs, rather a sort of adoration than a dance.

†**d.** Of transcendent beauty or charm. *Obs.*—1

1480 CAXTON *Myrr.* II. iv. 69 Ther ben yet plente of other places so delectable, so swete, and so spyrytuel that yf a man were therin, he shold saye, that it were a very paradys.

2. Of, belonging or relating to, concerned with, sacred or ecclesiastical things or matters, as distinguished from secular affairs; pertaining to the church or the clergy; ecclesiastical.

1338 R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (1810) 283 He sent to þe kyng two bisshops of renoun, & schewed þat spiritualle þing þorgh pouert 3ede alle doun. *c* 1380 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* III. 395 þei meyntenen þis cursed þefte bope bi seculer power and spiritual swerd. *a* 1440 *Found. St. Bartholomew's* (E.E.T.S.) 5 Thou shalte founde a Chirche.. This spirituall howse, almyghty God shalle ynhabite and halowe yt. 1467 in

Eng. Gilds (1870) 390 In eny cymitory or londe spirituelle. 1500-20 DUNBAR *Poems* lxxi. 25 Couatyce ringis into the spirituall state, 3arnand banifice the quhilk ar now vacand. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. V*, 37 We have in our spirituall conuocacion graunted to your highnes..a some of money. 1570-6 LAMBARDE *Peramb. Kent* (1826) 249 If any Clerke gave to a layman..any spirituall goodes he should stand excommunicate. 1654 WHITLOCK *Zootomia* 362 The Scabberd of Power (if not of Justice,) seemeth to have Locks on them, that only the spirituall Keyes can open. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 26 Apr. 1689, The penalty is to be the losse of their dignitie and spiritual preferment. 1727 DE FOE *Eng. Tradesm.* v. (1841) I. 33 The duties of life, which are either spiritual or secular. 1844 LINGARD *Anglo-Sax. Ch.* (1858) I. ii. 78 The prelate watched over the spiritual interests. 1863 MRS. OLIPHANT *Salem Chapel* i. 6 The young man knew very little of the community which he had assumed the spiritual charge of.

† b. Of law: Canon, canonical. *Obs.*

1474 CAXTON *Chesse* III. iii. (1883) 95 As well in the spirituell lawe as in the temporall. 1642 tr. *Perkins Prof. Bk.* i. § 49. 22 If a bastard eigne (who is *mulier* in the spiritual law,) continueth possession in lands [etc.].

† c. Of a day: Devoted to or set apart for special religious or sacred observances; holy. *Obs.*

1490 CAXTON *Rule St. Benet* 134 The souereyn may breke his mele for a stranger, wythout it be a spirituell fastynge daye. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 1 b, Whiche..in maner declareth the hole mater of these vij spirituall dayes.

d. *Spiritual court*, a court having jurisdiction in matters of religion or ecclesiastical affairs.

1498-9 *Plumpton Corr.* (Camden) 133 A spoliacion in the spirituall court. 1538 STARKEY *England* 139 In theyr spiritual courtys, they haue no punnyschement..conuenyent to such fautys. 1681 H. NEVILE *Plato Rediv.* 131 Neither the Chancery,..nor the Spiritual Courts, nor the Cheats in trade. 1758 in Blackstone *Comm.* (1765) I. 20 This appears in a particular manner from the spiritual courts of all denominations. 1809-10 COLERIDGE *Friend* (1865) 55 A..period during which the powers and the aims of law were usurped..by the clergy and the courts spiritual. 1845 MRS. S. AUSTIN *Ranke's Hist. Ref.* I. 111 The confusion arising from the jurisdiction of the spiritual and temporal courts.

3. Of persons: a. Standing to another, or to others, in a spiritual relationship.

c 1386 CHAUCER *Pars. T.* ¶ 516 Alle we haue o fader flesshly & o moder, that is to seyn Adam and Eue, & eek o fader spirituel, that is god of heuene. *c* 1440 *Alph. Tales* 189, I had iij spirituall maisters, and þe furste was drede, & the secunde was shame, and þe iij was luff. 1483 CAXTON *Cato* A vij, For herto ben bounden of ryght not onely the carnal faders but also the spyrituel. 1555 EDEN *Decades* To Rdr. (Arb.) 51 Thincrease of this spirituall Israell vnto whome.. he was the father of fayth. 1562 WINJET *Wks.* (S.T.S.) II. 23 Be thame he wald..quikin his spiritual peple afoir slane. 1567 ALLEN *Def Priesthood* 226 We call them Confessours, & of olde in Grece, they were named Spirituall maisters or Fathers. 1697 BURGHOPE *Disc. Relig. Assemb.* 122 He preferrs his own parish priest..as being his spiritual father. 1769 H. VENN in *Life* (1835) 152 A lady said to me, 'You, sir, are my spiritual father'. 1820 MILNER *Suppl. Mem. Eng. Cath.* 66 *note*, The distinguished Professor of Divinity and Spiritual Director of the Pontifical Seminary of Douay. 1859 BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.* (ed. 2) 434 *Spiritual wife*,..a Mormon extra wife or concubine.

b. Ecclesiastical, religious. Freq. in *spiritual lords* and *spiritual man* (or *person*).

(*a*) 1399 *Rolls of Parlt.* III. 451 The Kyng comond with his Spirituel Lordes. *c* 1460 FORTESCUE *Abs. & Lim. Mon.* xv. (1885) 145 The gretteste lordes off þe lande, both spirituelles and temporellis. 1516 *Sc. Acts, Jas. V* (1875) XII. 36/1 We prelatis spirituall, Barouns Temporall, and Commouns of ..Scottlaund. 1625 in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* Ser. I. III. 203 When he had consulted with the Lords spirituall and Temporall. 1661 *Reflex. upon the Oaths Suprem. & Alleg.* 50 Ecclesiastical Courts, which we call the Spiritual Courts, and Spiritual Judges, and Spiritual Authority. 1727 SWIFT *Poison. E. Curll* Wks. 1755 III. I. 150 I do also heartily beg pardon of all persons of honour, lords spiritual and temporal, gentry, burgesses, and commonalty. 1824 in *Nairne Peerage Evid.* (1874) 73 With the advice and consent of the lords spiritual and temporal and commons in this present Parliament assembled. 1863 H. COX *Instit.* I. vii. 62 The Lords Spiritual and Temporal form one legislative assembly.

(*b*) *c* 1460 FORTESCUE *Abs. & Lim. Mon.* xv. (1885) 146 Ther were chosen xij spirituell men, and xij temporell men. 1480 in *10th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. V. 316 What ever condicion or degree he be of, spirituell or temporell. 1530 *Act 22 Hen. VIII*, *c.* 15, Spyrituall persones of the prouynce of the archebyshopryche of Canturburye. 1582 in *Cath. Rec. Soc. Publ.* V. 32 Being examined whether he be a spirituall or a temporall man, answereth that he is a Spirituall man and a Priest. 1642 BIRD *Mag. Honour* 146 The brethren and sonnes..of every Knight, being spirituall men, may.. purchase lycense and dispensation. 1726 AYLIFFE *Parergon* 129 All Bishops and Abbots sat in State-Councils by Reason of their Office, as they were spiritual Persons. 1848 STEPHEN *Laws Eng.* (ed. 2) II. 39 *note*, Any sale or assignment by any spiritual person of any patronage belonging to him in virtue of his office.

c. Devout, holy, pious; morally good; having spiritual tendencies or instincts.

1382 WYCLIF *Gal.* vi. 1 3e that ben spiritual, teche siche a maner man in spirit of softenesse. *c* 1400 *St. Alexius* (Laud MS. 622) 842 Þere is a Man of dedes gode, Spirituel, & mylde of mode. *c* 1450 HOLLAND *Howlat* 166 Thir ar fowlis of effect,..Spirituale in all thing, Leile in thar leving. 1674 MARVELL *Corr.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 423 The good acquaintance you have among those spiritual people. *c* 1791 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) VII. 447/1 These milder alterations were zealously opposed by a branch of the Franciscans called the *spiritual*. 1836 *Going to Service* xii. 140, I have a spiritual lady to serve. 1883 [see SPIRITUALITY 3].

4. Of or pertaining to, consisting of, spirit, regarded in either a religious or intellectual aspect; of the nature of a spirit or incorporeal supernatural essence; immaterial.

In early use not always distinct from sense 1.

1303 R. BRUNNE *Handl. Synne* 12170 He myȝt se weyl Pyng þat was spyrytuele. 1382 WYCLIF 1 *Cor.* xv. 44 It is sowun a beestly body, it schal ryse a spiritual body. *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (Roxb.) xvi. 74, I am noȝt erthely, bot spirituall. *c* 1475 *Partenay* 5291 When to ende nyhed he, That the soule moste yelde being spirituall. 1557 N. T. (Genev.) *Eph.* vi. 12 For we wrestle not against fleshe and bloud: but..against spiritual wickednesses. 1662 STILLINGFL. *Orig. Sacræ* III. i. § 17 If there be then such things in the World which matter and motion cannot be the causes of then there are certainly spiritual and immaterial Beings. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* IV. 677 Millions of spiritual Creatures walk the Earth Unseen. 1696 PHILLIPS (ed. 5), *Spiritual*, said of a Being that has no Body, that falls not under the Senses. 1825 COLERIDGE *Aids Refl.* 67 The Will is pre-eminently the spiritual Constituent of our Being. 1846 RUSKIN *Mod. Paint.* II. III. ii. § 17 It is degrading to the spiritual creature to suppose it operative through impulse of bone and sinew. 1875 J. P. HOPPS *Princ. Relig.* ii. 9 The real man is the spiritual being who controls and uses all the faculties and organs of the body

b. Appropriate or natural to a spirit.

1667 MILTON *P. L.* VIII. 110 His Omnipotence, That to corporeal substances could adde Speed almost Spiritual.

5. Consisting of pure essence or spirit; volatile; spirituous, alcoholic. Now *rare* or *Obs.*

1477 NORTON *Ord. Alch. vi. in Ashm.* (1652) 95 All other Vessells be made of Glasse, That spirituall matters should not out-passe. 1626 BACON *Sylva* § 387 All Sweet Smells have joyned with them, some Earthy or crude Odours; And at some distance the Sweet, which is the more Spiritual, is perceived. *a* 1648 DIGBY *Closet Opened* (1677) 125 Thus you have only the spiritual parts of the Tea. 1826 *Art of Brewing* (ed. 2) 69 Stout ales..labour under one material want—that of spiritual vigour.

6. Of or pertaining to, emanating from, the intellect or higher faculties of the mind; intellectual.

1725 WATTS *Logic* I. iii. § 1 Spiritual or intellectual Ideas are those which we gain by reflecting on the Nature and Actions of our own Souls. 1749 FIELDING *Tom Jones* XVI. v, That refined degree of Platonic affection which is..entirely and purely spiritual. 1813 SHELLEY *Q. Mab* v. 162 Blunting the keenness of his spiritual sense With narrow schemings and unworthy cares. 1853 LYTTON *My Novel* VIII. xi, Whatever she gained in the graver kinds of information, became transmuted, through her heart and her fancy, into spiritual golden stores. 1873 HAMERTON *Intell. Life* XI. iv. 417 The great spiritual function of the intellectual class.

7. Characterized by or exhibiting a high degree of refinement of thought or feeling. (Cf. SPIRITUEL *a.*)

1784 J. BARRY *Lect. Paint.* vi. (1848) 227 The harmony resulting from all those variegating masses of colour, together with the light, easy, graceful, spiritual manner in which the whole [picture] is conducted. 1820 KEATS *St. Agnes* XXXV, Those sad eyes were spiritual and clear. 1840 DICKENS *Old C. Shop* xliii, The delicate face,..the too bright eye, the spiritual head,..told their silent tale.

8. Clever, smart, witty. (Cf. SPIRITUEL *a.*)

1791-1823 D'ISRAELI *Cur. Lit.* (1834) I. 228 It may not here be improper to take notice of a wise and spiritual saying of this young prince. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. I. X, Of all this the spiritual biographies of that period say nothing. 1872 *Routledge's Ev. Boy's Ann.* July 493/1 We French are extremely spiritual, and..are never at a loss for an answer.

9. Concerned with spirits or supernatural beings.

1841 LANE *Arab. Nts.* I. 69 Who acquired a very great and extensive celebrity for his attainments in spiritual and natural magic. 1855-7 (*title*), Yorkshire Spiritual Telegraph, containing a number of extraordinary communications from the Spiritual World. 1860-1877 (*title*), The Spiritual Magazine.

b. = SPIRITUALISTIC *a.* 2.

Spiritual funeral, one conducted after the fashion of the believers in Spiritualism (Bartlett).

1858 in Bartlett *Dict. Amer.* (1859) 434 A spiritual funeral was held at Lowell lately.

II. † 10. Of or pertaining to breathing; respiratory. *Obs.*

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* v. xxvi. (Bodl. MS.), þe schuldres ben nedeful to defende þe spiritualle membres. *c* 1460 J. METHAM *Wks.* (E.E.T.S.) 89 It signifieth good dysposicion of the hert and of the spirituall membris in a man. 1576 G. BAKER tr. *Gesner's Jewell of Health* 169 Briefly, all matters found in the Lungs, and spirituall members, this singularly purgeth.

B. *sb.* I. † 1. a. *collect.* The spirituality; the clergy. *Obs.*

? *a* 1400 *Morte Arth.* 2414 It es a foly to offende oure fadyr vndire Gode...3if we spare the spirituelle, we spede bot the bettire.

† b. An ecclesiastic or cleric. *Obs.*—1

c 1450 HOLLAND *Howlat* 733 Haile speciose, most specifyit with the spiritualis! 1682 WHELER *Journ. Greece* v. 356 There are but few among them [Greeks], who have wherewithal to live, but will learn, while they are young, to write and read, whether Spirituals, or Seculars.

2. a. A spiritual or spiritually-minded person.

1532 MORE *Confut. Tindale* Wks. 365/2 He sayth himselfe that ye spirituals do searche the bottome of gods commaundementes and fulfyll them gladly. *Ibid.* 715/1 The very Isaackes, the very Iacobs, and the very spiritualles, & the verye apostles.

b. *Eccl. Hist.* (With initial capital.) A member of the Congregation of Narbonne, a branch of Franciscans which advocated a stricter observance of the rule of poverty and simplicity of dress.

The branch was pronounced schismatic by Pope John XXII in 1318.

c 1791 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) VII. 447/2 The one [party], embracing the severe discipline and absolute poverty of St. Francis, were called spirituals. 1855 MILMAN *Lat. Chr.* XII. vi. V. 419 The Spirituals, the Fraticelli,..openly avowed their belief. *Ibid.* 420 The sudden election to the Popedom of Cœlestine V,..a new St. Francis, to the Spiritualists a true Spiritual. 1862 G. H. TOWNSEND *Man. Dates, Spiritualists*, called also the Zealous, or the Spirituals.

c. An inhabitant of the 'spiritual kingdom'.

1807 SOUTHEY *Lett. fr. Eng.* (1814) III. 158 The celestials chiefly using the vowels U and O, the spirituals preferring E and I.

d. *U. S.* A spiritual wife (see prec. 3 a).

1855 *Putnam's Monthly Mag.* VI. 147/1 These extra wives [of the Mormons] are known by sundry designations —some call them 'spirituals', others, 'sealed ones'.

3. *pl.* Spiritual matters, affairs, or ideas.

1582 N. T. (Rhem.) *Eph.* vi. 12 Our wrestling is not against flesh and bloud: but..against the spirituals of wickednes in the celestials. 1607 [see CARNAL *a.* 4 b]. 1625 BURGES *Tithes* 14 Why he should pay so much of his Carnals for Spirituals. 1649 F. ROBERTS *Clavis Bibl.* Introd. ii. 32 He condemns the contrary unskilfulnesse in the Scriptures, as the..root of all errour in spirituals. 1665 BOYLE *Occas. Refl.* I. v. (1848) 86 Translate now (O my Soul) all this unto Spirituals. 1716 M. DAVIES *Athen. Brit.* I. 170 Twas no great piece of News to hear of Laymen's ministring in Spirituals to Church-People. 1774 MME. D'ARBLAY *Early Diary* (1889) I. 303 I have found much pleasure in Madame de Maintenon's Letters (except in Theologicals and Spirituals). 1840 MILL *Diss. & Disc.* (1875) I. 433 Such was the prevailing tone of English belief in temporals; what was it in spirituals? 1893 *Pall Mall G.* 9 Jan. 3/2 Spirits and spirituals taken in excess..work the same effect with weak and over-excited brains.

b. Matters which specially or primarily concern the church or religion.

1647 N. BACON *Disc. Govt. Eng* I. vii. 25 There was but one Metropolitan.., so as his power was in spirituals over many Kingdoms. 1689 POPPLE tr. *Locke's 1st Let. Toleration* L.'s Wks. 1727 II. 246 If..such a Power be granted unto the Civil Magistrate in Spirituals. 1794 tr. *Barruel's Clergy during Fr. Rev.* 98 That it did not belong to the secular power to meddle in spirituals. 1853 M. KELLY tr. *Gosselin's Power Pope Mid. Ages* II. 360 That the Church and the pope have received..full power to govern the world, both in spirituals and temporals. 1873 MORLEY *Rousseau* xii. II. 178 The civil power does best absolutely and unreservedly to ignore spirituals.

c. Spiritual or ecclesiastical goods or possessions; spiritualities.

1827 *Gentl. Mag.* XCVII. II. 536 Forming part of their spirituals (because such their spirituals always include an absolute right over other people's temporals). 1863 BLYTH *Hist. Notices & Rec. Fincham* 39 The spirituals were such revenue as was connected with spiritual duties and the cure of souls, and consisted almost entirely of tithes, glebe lands, and house.

4. a. A spiritual counterpart or analogue.

1650 T. VAUGHAN *Anima Magica* 52 Learn to refer all Naturals to their Spirituals, per viam Secretioris Analogiæ.

b. A spiritual (as opposed to a material) thing.

1661 GLANVILL *Van. Dogm.* 97 In our notion of spirituals, we, as much as we can, denudate them of all material Phantasmes. 1708 H. DODWELL *Nat. Mort. Hum. Souls* 127 It does now affect us to think of Spirituals, whilst we have no sensible Impression made upon us by Things purely Spiritual, but by those only which are only Corporeal.

c. Spiritual quality or power; *pl.* spiritual faculties.

1649 F. ROBERTS *Clavis Bibl.* 239 The Succession of Elisha as Prophet in stead of Elijah; a double portion of his spirituall resting upon him. 1658 BENLOWES *Theoph.* IV. xix, Spiritual light spirituals clears.

5. *colloq.* A spiritual or sacred song; a hymn.

1870 T. W. HIGGINSON *Army Life* 197, I had for many years heard of this class of songs under the name of 'Negro Spirituals'. *Ibid.* 199 This seemed the simplest primitive type of 'spiritual'.

II. † 6. *pl.* The respiratory organs. *Obs.*

c 1400 *Lanfranc's Cirurg.* 161 þis diafragma departiþ þe spirituals from þe guttis, & in þe holownes þat is aboue liggiþ þe herte & þe lungis. 1610 HEALEY *St. Aug. Citie of God* XXII. XXIV. (1620) 848 The courses of the veines, sinewes and arteries, and the secrets of the spirituals.

Spiritualism (spi·ritiwăliz'm). [f. SPIRITUAL *a.* + -ISM. Cf. F. *spiritualisme*, It. *spiritualismo*.]

1. The exercise of the mental or intellectual faculties, or their predominance over body. *rare.*

1831 CARLYLE *Sart. Res.* II. viii, Savage Animalism is nothing, inventive Spiritualism is all.

2. Tendency towards, or advocacy of, a spiritual view or estimate of things, esp. as a leading principle in philosophy or religion.

1836 LYTTON *Athens* (1837) II. 408 The serene and lofty spiritualism of Anaxagoras. 1857 ROBERTSON *Serm.* Ser. III. i. (1857) 6 We find the Unitarian of the old school denouncing the spiritualism of the new and rising school. 1869 SEELEY *Ess. & Lect.* v. 133 Religion re-assumed its ancient Judaic form of austere and ardent spiritualism. 1884 *Contemp. Rev.* Feb. 264 The very source of [Dante's] inspiration is the austere spiritualism of the Catholic creed.

b. A spiritual view or aspiration.

1850 CARLYLE *Latter-d. Pamph.* vii. (1872) 224 Like a set of grisly undertakers come to bury the dead spiritualisms of mankind.

c. Spiritual nature or quality.

1855 MILMAN *Lat. Chr.* XIV. ii. (1864) IX. 96 Dante [could] represent such things with the most objective truth, yet without disturbing their fine spiritualism.

3. The belief that the spirits of the dead can hold communication with the living, or make their presence known to them in some way, esp. through a 'medium'; the system of doctrines or practices founded on this belief. Cf. SPIRITISM.

Also specifically called *modern spiritualism* by way of distinction from sense 2.

1855 E. W. CAPRON (*title*), Modern Spiritualism, its Facts

and Fanaticisms, its Consistencies and Contradictions. 1860 *All Year Round* No. 66. 370 Witchcraft, demonology, possession, and the like, revived in the modest phrase of Spiritualism. 1878 T. H. SINCLAIR *Mount* 37 Spiritualism, or, as its advocates name it now on both sides of the Atlantic, Spiritism. 1886 MYERS *Phant. Living* I. Introd. p. lix, On this basis the creed of 'Modern Spiritualism' has been upbuilt.

4. Belief in the existence and influence of spiritual beings.

1871 TYLOR *Prim. Cult.* I. 385 The sense of Spiritualism in its wider acceptation, the general doctrine of spiritual beings, is here given to Animism.

Spiritualist (spi·ritiuălist). [f. as prec. + -IST. Cf. F. *spiritualiste*, Sp. and Pg. *espiritualista*.]

1. One who regards things from a spiritual point of view or interprets them in a spiritual sense; one whose ideas or doctrines have a purely spiritual basis or tendency.

In early use sometimes with depreciatory force.

1649 H. LAWRENCE *Some Consid. Vind. Scriptures* 37 Certaine demands, which these pretended spiritualists will be sure to make to me. 1673 H. HALLYWELL *Acc. Familism* 19 Those high-flown Spiritualists the Quakers are of the same mind. 1716 M. DAVIES *Athen. Brit.* II. 42 This is the great Rule the reform'd Order of Protestant Spiritualists, call'd Quakers and others, seem to walk by. 1800 C. BUTLER *Life A. Butler* xii, Approved of by St. Francis of Sales and other spiritualists. 1845 G. OLIVER *Coll. Biogr. Soc. Jes.* 50 As a Spiritualist also, he must have been pre-eminent, judging from many of his letters now before me. 1865 MILL *Exam. Hamilton* 492 Proofs that the most sincere Spiritualists may consistently hold the doctrine of so-called-necessity.

b. *spec.* (See quots. and cf. SPIRITUAL *sb.* 2 b.)

1716 M. DAVIES *Athen. Brit.* II. 225 Those Montanists were call'd also Cataphrygians, Spiritualists, Apostolicks, [etc.]. 1862 G. H. TOWNSEND *Man. Dates* s.v., Spiritualists, called also the Zealous,..formed a portion of the great order of Franciscans, who, about 1245, under the name of Spiritualists, advocated the strict observance of the rule and vow of poverty, which had been one of their fundamental laws. 1882–3 SCHAFF *Encycl. Relig. Knowl.* 832 The Spiritualists, as the severer party [of Franciscans] was called, were cruelly persecuted.

†**2.** One who supports the spiritual or ecclesiastical authority as against the secular or temporal.

1651 HOBBES *Leviath.* III. xxxix. 248* That Governor must be one; or else there must needs follow Faction, and Civil war in the Common-wealth, between the Church and State; between Spiritualists, and Temporalists.

3. A believer in, or adherent of, spiritualism as a philosophical doctrine.

1836 I. TAYLOR *Phys. The. Anoth. Life* i. 15 The spiritualist will retain the advantage he has gained over his opponent [the materialist]. 1876 P. G. TAIT *Rec. Adv. Phys. Sci.* i. (ed. 2) 25 Whether it show itself in the comparatively harmless folly of the spiritualist or in the pernicious nonsense of the materialist.

4. A believer in modern spiritualism or spiritism; a spiritist.

1859 BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.* (ed. 2) 435 *Spiritualist*, a believer in the doctrine of spiritualism. 1860 O. W. HOLMES *Prof. Breakf.-t.* i. 13 The Spiritualists have some pretty strong instincts to pry over. 1881 FROUDE *Short Stud.* IV. ii. 227 A spiritualist assured me that I could work a miracle myself if I had but faith.

5. *attrib.* or as *adj.* Spiritualistic.

1860 FARRAR *Orig. Lang.* i. 20 The spiritualist school of the nineteenth century. 1898 WATTS-DUNTON *Aylwin* x. i, The studio of the famous spiritualist-painter.

Spiritualistic (spi·ritiuăli·stik), *a.* (and *sb.*). [f. prec. + -IC.]

1. Of or pertaining to, characterized by, philosophical or theological spiritualism; of the nature of spiritualism.

1852 A. P. FORBES *Explan. Nicene Creed* 47 Spiritualistic Pantheism, introduced by Hegel, has still many followers. 1871 ALABASTER *Wheel of Law* p. lvi, The Malays, being Mahometans, ought..to have shown the superior civilisation due to spiritualistic belief. 1881 HUXLEY in *Nature* XXIV. 344 The subtle thinker, to whom we owe both the spiritualistic and the materialistic philosophies of modern times.

2. Of or pertaining to, associated or connected with, modern spiritualism; spiritistic.

1865 *Athenæum* 18 Nov. 684/3 In his restlessness and perplexity he has recourse to a spiritualistic medium. 1875 E. WHITE *Life in Christ* III. xxi. (1878) 300 If this was true under the Mosaic Law how much more emphatically must spiritualistic 'seeking to the dead' be an abomination now! 1882 HINSDALE *Garfield & Educ.* I. 79 An itinerant spiritualistic and scientific lecturer and debater.

b. *sb. pl.* Matters pertaining to spiritualism.

1886 TUPPER *My Life as Author* 387 If we dare to do this, higher interests are endangered than spiritualistics.

Hence **Spiritualistically** *adv.*, by a spiritualist or by means of spiritualism; towards spiritualism.

1880 *Times* 27 Sept. 12/2 Professing the same [pills] to be spiritualistically prescribed for the cure of..neuralgia. 1891 *Sat. Rev.* 28 Feb. 272/1 The cupidity and credulity of a spiritualistically minded valet.

Spirituality (spi·ritiuæ·liti). Also 5 **spiritualite(e**, 5–7 **-alitie**, 6 **-allitie**, **-elity**; 6 **spyrytualite**, 7 **spirittuality**. [a. OF. (*e*)*spiritualité*, **-alleté** (mod.F. *spiritualité*, = It. *spiritualità*, Sp. *espiritualidad*, Pg. *-idade*), or ad. late L. *spīrituālitās*, f. *spīrituālis* SPIRITUAL *a.*: see **-ITY**, and cf. SPIRITUALTY.]

1. The body of spiritual or ecclesiastical persons; = SPIRITUALTY 3. Now *Hist.*

c 1441 *Pol. Poems* (Rolls) II. 207, I come before the spiritualite; Two cardynals, and byshoppis fyve [etc.]. 1513 *Life Henry V* (1911) 23 Intendinge to oppresse the church, the spiritualitie, the Kinge and the realme. 1583 STUBBES *Anat. Abus.* II. (1882) 67 The corruptions and abuses of the spiritualitie, or (as some call it) of the ecclesiasticall hierarchie. 1625 PURCHAS *Pilgrims* II. 1753 This exchange commeth most commonly from the Spiritualitie, who doe secretly use it. 1709 STRYPE *Ann. Ref.* I. xxvi. 255 He blamed both spirituality and laity. 1825 SCOTT *Betrothed* xviii, You of the spirituality make us laymen the pack-horses of your own concerns. 1900 GASQUET *Eve Ref.* iii. (1905) 58 According to the lawyer, it should be the owner of the soil who should apportion the payment, and failing him, the Parliament, and not the spirituality.

b. A spiritual society.

1854 T. C. UPHAM *Life Mme. Guyon* xxxiv. 293 She was considered the head of the new spirituality.

2. That which has a spiritual character; ecclesiastical property or revenue held or received in return for spiritual services. Now *arch.*

1456 Sir G. HAYE *Law Armes* (S.T.S.) 105 All the grettest thingis that ar belangand the governance of bathe temporalitee and spiritualitee ar to be knawin and kend be the pape. 1468–9 *Inchaffray Charters* (S.H.S.) 159 Quhat tym we the saide georg Abbat beis admittit be our Juge ordinare to the spiritualite ande be our souerane lord the king to the temporalite of the said Abbisse. 1651 [see TEMPORALTY 1]. 1709 STRYPE *Ann. Ref.* I. xxvi. 270 In the First Year of the Queen, the Supreme Government over her Spirituality and Temporality, was given to her. 1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* xliii, The said incumbent might lawfully enjoy the spirituality and temporality of the cure of souls at Knocktarlitie.

b. *pl.* Spiritual or ecclesiastical things; ecclesiastical possessions, rights, etc., of a purely spiritual character; = SPIRITUALTY 2 b. Now *Hist.*

1417 in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* Ser. II. I. 61 The Gardeins of the spiritualities of Ardmaghe. 1570 *Act* 13 *Eliz.* c. 12 § 1 Parlyament..shall bryng from such Bysshop or Gardyan of Spyritualities [*v.r.* Spyrytualtyes]..a testimoniall of such Assent. 1635 PAGITT *Christianogr.* I. iii. (1636) 187 Who doe extoll the Pope..not onely..in spiritualities, but also in Temporalities. 1664 H. MORE *Myst. Iniq.* 433 So these pretended Successours of Peter..have notoriously imitated that example of Simon in buying and selling Spiritualities. 1726 AYLIFFE *Parergon* 200 They are Guardians of the Spiritualities during the Vacancy of the Bishoprick. 1727 WILLIS *Surv. Cathedr., Durham* 232 The Temporalities of Durham are valued at 1233*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.* and the Spiritualities at 494*l.* 19*s.* 3*d.* 1809 BAWDWEN *Domesday Bk.* 7 The King [has no right] in the manors of the Earl, excepting what relates to Spiritualities which belong to the Archbishop, in all the land of St. Peter of York. 1874 STUBBS *Const. Hist.* I. xiv. 140 Their spiritualities, the tithes and oblations, were not to be taxed.

3. The quality or condition of being spiritual; attachment to or regard for things of the spirit as opposed to material or worldly interests.

1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* lxxxiv. 45 Sum spark of licht and spiritualitie Walkins my witt, and ressoun bidis me rys. 1641 R. BROOKE *Eng. Episc.* 7 If you then consider the quantity, the variety, the spirituality, of the Ministeriall worke under the Gospell. 1675 OWEN *Indwelling Sin* iv. (1732) 35 The more of Spirituality and Holiness is in any Thing, the greater is its Enmity. 1753 CHALLONER *Cath. Chr. Instr.* 177 His Life is written by the great St. Athanasius, and is full of excellent Lessons of Spirituality. 1787 COWPER *Lett.* Wks. 1837 XV. 194 That spirituality which once enlivened all our intercourse. 1808 JEBB *Corr. w. Knox* (1834) I. 403 Prayer is, undoubtedly, the life and soul of spirituality. 1852 MISS YONGE *Cameos* (1877) III. xxxiii. 340 Painting, which had hitherto aimed chiefly at spirituality,..now made nature and beauty its primary object. 1883 H. DRUMMOND *Nat. Law in Spir. W.* ii. (1884) 89 No spiritual man ever claims that his spirituality is his own.

b. Spiritual character or function.

1661 R. BURNEY *Κέρδιστον Δῶρον* 15 A King for his spirituality is properly and Hieroglyphically to be pourtrayed half in Heaven..and part on the Earth.

c. With *a.* and pl. A spiritual thing or quality as distinct from a material or worldly one; †a pious remark or saying.

1676 *Life Father Sarpi* in *Brent's Counc. Trent* 73 He was never known to use any hypocritical actions,..not to speak with affected Spiritualities. 1840 CARLYLE *Heroes* iii. (1904) 114 Apart from spiritualities; and considering him [Shakspere] merely as a real, marketable..possession. 1855 W. H. MILL *Applic. Panth. Princ.* (1861) 46 If..the so-called spiritualities which he alleges be the main inducement offered to the Christian.

†**4.** An immaterial or incorporeal thing or substance; a spirit. Also *fig.* *Obs.*

1628 T. SPENCER *Logick* 207 That includeth a corporall substance, and a spiritualitie, called life. 1664 POWER *Exp. Philos.* III. 155 Might not such Microscopes hazard the discovery of the Aerial Genii, and present even Spiritualities to our view? 1825 J. NEAL *Bro. Jonathan* III. 428 The very dogs were lying about..as if they were..a species of new, four-footed spirituality.

†**5.** The fact or state of being spirituous or of consisting of pure spirit; volatile state or quality.

1644 DIGBY *Nat. Bodies* xxvi. 240 The heate and spirituality of the bloud. 1660 tr. *Paracelsus' Archidoxis* I. i. 8 Medicine doth mundifie bodies, in whom is a spirituality. 1678 R. R[USSELL] tr. *Geber* I. x. 17 Luna or Silver is subtiliated and attenuated and reduced to Spirituality as above said.

6. The fact or condition of being spirit or of consisting of an incorporeal essence.

1681–6 J. SCOTT *Chr. Life* II. vii. (1718) 543 They who are to be judged being, by reason of their spirituality, in a Condition to attend to every one's Trial while they are undergoing their own. *a* 1708 BEVERIDGE *Thes. Theol.* (1711) II. 336 We must celebrate..God's spirituality..by serving Him in spirit. 1871 TYLOR *Prim. Cult.* II. 372 Such morbid disturbances are explained as symptoms of divine visitation, or at least of superhuman spirituality. 1884 J. TAIT *Mind in Matter* Introd. 5 That He is invisible is accounted for by His spirituality.

†**Spiritualizate**, *pa. pple. Obs.*–[1] [Cf. next.] Changed into or impregnated with spirit.

1471 RIPLEY *Comp. Alch.* Ep., in Ashm. (1652) 116 Which oftentimes must againe be Spiritualizate.

Spiritualization (spi·ritiuălaizē·ʃən). [f. next + -ATION. Cf. F. *spiritualisation*, Sp. *espiritualizacion*.] The action of the verb SPIRITUALIZE.

1. The action of changing into spirit; conversion or transformation of a corporeal or material substance into a spiritual condition.

1665 NEEDHAM *Med. Medicinæ* 285 The Fifth Concoction is in the Arteries, where its [the blood's] Spiritualisation and vitality is perfected. 1674 BLOUNT *Glossogr.* (ed. 4), *Spiritualization*, is the changing the whole body into spirit; a Chymical term. 1824 *Monthly Mag.* LVIII. 38 That spiritualization..which must take place previous to the admission of any bodies into that region of spirits. 1891 [F. C. S. SCHILLER] *Riddles Sphinx* 397 Matter also undergoes a process of spiritualization.

transf. 1863 COWDEN CLARKE *Shaks. Char.* iv. 104 That spiritualisation of fun, frolic, and mischief—immortal Puck.

2. The action of spiritualizing or making spiritual; the state of being spiritualized.

1809 *Crit. Rev.* Ser. III. XVI. 464 This spiritualization of the old faith. 1851 RUSKIN *Stones Ven.* I. i. § 29 The history of Gothic architecture is the history of the refinement and spiritualisation of Northern work under its influence. 1879 FARRAR *St. Paul* I. 144 Nor had they seen that His fulfilment of the Law had consisted in its spiritualisation.

b. Interpretation in a spiritual sense.

1820 SOUTHEY *Wesley* I. 204 Madness never gave birth to combinations of more..blasphemous obscenity, than they did in their fantastic allegories and spiritualizations.

Spiritualize (spi·ritiuălaiz), *v.* [f. SPIRITUAL *a.* + -IZE, or ad. F. *spiritualiser* (16th c.). Cf. It. *spiritualizzare*, Sp. and Pg. *espiritualizar*.]

1. *trans.* To render spiritual; to invest with a spiritual character; to raise or change to a spiritual (or more spiritual) condition.

Freq. in the 17th c.

1631 R. H. *Arraignm. Whole Creature* xiii. § 1. 173 The Soules food, if I may so say, is spiritualized to the sustentation of the spirit. 1655 FULLER *Ch. Hist.* II. 57 Christ more spiritualized their Joy, rather to rejoyce that their Names were written in Heaven. 1696 STANHOPE *Chr. Pattern* (1711) 81 This man is as it were spiritualized, can have recourse to God without distraction. 1801 B. MAXWELL *Let. in Mem. B. Ewing* (1829) 37 That any thing I should write should be helpful in spiritualising another. 1882 MISS BRADDON *Mt. Royal* II. xii. 279 Illness and solitude had done much to exalt and spiritualize Angus Hamleigh's mind.

b. To convert into, invest with, a spiritual sense or meaning; to expound or understand in a spiritual sense; to explain *away* in this manner. Also *absol.*

1645 CALAMY *Indict. agst. Eng.* 26 Oh that God would give us hearts to spiritualize these stories! 1663 BOYLE *Usef. Exp. Nat. Philos.* I. v. 115 Beasts inhabit and enjoy the world: man, if he will do more, must study, and (if I may so speak) spiritualize it. 1696 C. LESLIE *Snake in Grass* 166 They have Spiritualiz'd away all the Letter of the Scripture, the Sacraments, and Christ's Humanity. 1734 WATTS *Relig. Juv.* (1789) 221 Must we spiritualize the affairs of larks, and worms, and squirrels, and learn religion from all the trifles in nature? 1798 GRAVES *Charac. Apos.* 126 Nothing is attributed to natural causes; every thing is spiritualized and magnified. 1833 *Fraser's Mag.* VIII. 47 There is an increasing tendency to spiritualise away the pains of what is technically called Hell. 1845 KITTO *Cycl. Bibl. Lit.* s.v. *Commentary*, Pious reflections, and multitudinous inferences enter largely into our popular books of exposition. They Spiritualise, but they do not expound.

c. To render spiritual in appearance; to refine in a high degree.

1889 HISSEY *Tour in Phaeton* 101 The softened light spiritualises the landscape. 1898 WATTS-DUNTON *Aylwin* III. vi, Sinfi's noble features, illumined and spiritualized by a light that seemed more than earthly.

†**2.** To invest with full spiritual or ecclesiastical status or rights. *Obs.*–[1]

1641 *Termes de la Ley* 126 If Chappels founded by Lay men were not approved of by the Diocesan, and as they terme it, spiritualized, they are not accounted Benefices.

3. †**a.** To change, convert into, or reduce to spirit; to render volatile or spirituous. *Obs.*

1644 DIGBY *Nat. Bodies* xxvi. 238 This motion of the hart drueth the bloud (which is warmed and spiritualised, by being boyled in this furnace) through due passages into the arteries. 1694 SALMON *Bate's Dispens.* (1713) 347/2 From what has been said it appears, first, that the Gold ought to be spiritualized or subtilized. 1721 BAILEY, *Spiritualize* (in Chymistry) is to reduce a compact mixt Body into the Principle call'd Spirit. 1741 *Phil. Trans.* LV. 242 It seems fitted,..by its expansive quality, to rarify and as it were spiritualize the blood.

b. To invest with the immaterial qualities or nature of a spirit.

1659 H. MORE *Immort. Soul* (1662) 154 This body is far more active then ours, being more spiritualized, that is to say, having greater degrees of motion communicated unto it. 1818 KEATS *Endym.* IV. 993 Then 'twas fit that from this mortal state Thou shouldst, my love, by some unlook'd for change Be spiritualis'd.

†**4.** *absol.* To inform with spirit. *Obs.*–[1]

1733 DERHAM *Phys.-Theol.* 4 A Mass of Air, of subtile penetrating Matter, fit..to excite, animate, and spiritualize; and in short, to be the very Soul of this lower World.

Hence **Spi·ritualizing** *ppl. a.*

1845 KITTO *Cycl. Bibl. Lit.* s.v. *Commentary*, A preaching, spiritualising commentary does not deserve the appellation of commentary at all. 1853 DE QUINCEY *Autob. Sk.* Wks. I. 27 That softening and spiritualising haze which belongs..to the action of dreams. 1899 W. R. INGE *Chr. Myst.* viii. 317 The spiritualising power of human love.

Spiritualized (spi·ritiuălәizd), *ppl. a.* [Cf. SPIRITUALIZE *v.*]

† **1.** Containing an infusion of spirits. *Obs.*—1

1593 NASHE *Christ's T.* 70 b, Why ensparkle they theyr eyes with spiritualiz'd distillations? Why tippe they theyr tongues with *Aurum potabile*?

2. Rendered spiritual; characterized by spirituality.

1651 N. BACON *Disc. Govt. Eng.* II. vi. 50 The persons of these Spiritualized men were of so aiery constitution, as they could not be holden by hands made out of the Clay. 1720 WELTON *Suffer. Son of God* II. xiv. 373 He alone is the True spiritualized Soul, who only aims at God's Glory. 1826 SCOTT *Woodst.* i, Dry bran and sapless pottage, unfitted for the spiritualized palates of the saints. 1860 *Smith's Dict. Bible* I. s.v. *Ark*, The climax of spiritualised religion.

3. Changed from a bodily or material condition to a spiritual one; converted into spirit.

1799 GILPIN *Serm.* xxii. 269 Whatever may be the immediate state of our souls, our bodies, in some spiritualized form which we understand not, shall be again united to them. 1857 KEBLE *Eucharist. Ador.* 52 The..contemplation of a certain presence of His now spiritualized Body among them. 1873 L. FERGUSON *Disc.* 71 His body..was immediately after death brought to life again in a spiritualised and incorruptible form.

Spiritualizer (spi·ritiuălәizəɹ). [f. SPIRITUALIZE *v.*]

1. One who gives a spiritual sense to a Scriptural statement, etc.; one who interprets spiritually.

1698 tr. *Abp. Fenelon's Maxims Saints* 202 Altho' the said Book doth..make an enumeration of false spiritualizers. *a* 1779 WARBURTON *Div. Legat.* IX. ii. Wks. 1788 III. 655 The Socinians, who boast to have interpreted Scripture on the severest and justest Laws of Logic and Criticism, have, in this instance,..deviated more from these Laws than the most licentious of the Allegorists, or the wildest of the Spiritualizers. 1828 E. IRVING *Last Days* 362 O ye niggard spiritualizers of God's universal promise! 1842 FABER *Prov. Lett.* (1844) II. 35 A thorough-going spiritualiser will tell you the covert meaning of every dish and spoon in Solomon's temple.

2. A spiritualizing agency or quality.

1882 WHEWELL in S. Douglas *Life* (1881) 73 It..is something of the same kind of consoler and spiritualiser in small matters that religion is in great ones. 1867 H. BUSHNELL *Mor. Uses Dark Th.* 21 Sleep is a spiritualizer.

Spiritualizing (spi·ritiuălәiziŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. as prec.] The action of the verb SPIRITUALIZE; a spiritual interpretation.

1649 F. ROBERTS *Clavis Bibl.* Introd. ii. 16 Man ascending unto God, by the Spiritualizing of his Nature. 1696 C. LESLIE *Snake in Grass* 166 Their [*sc.* Quakers'] Principle is Spiritualizing. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXIV. 247/2 His kingdom was not so much a new one, as a fulfilling and spiritualizing of the former dispensation. 1864 *Macm. Mag.* Oct. 469 The mystic spiritualizings of an Irving.

b. In attributive use.

1842 A. R. C. DALLAS *Look to Jerus.* (ed. 2) 49 The spiritualizing system of interpretation. 1856 R. A. VAUGHAN *Mystics* (1860) I. 52 If this spiritualizing mania be Philo's great claim to distinction. 1873 SYMONDS *Grk. Poets* x. 339 The spiritualizing tendency of modern genius, symbolical in Shelley's 'Adonais'.

Spiritually (spi·ritiuăli), *adv.* Also 4 **spirituellyche, 5 spirytuelly.** [f. SPIRITUAL *a.*]

1. In a spiritual manner; in or as to the spirit; as regards or in respect of spiritual things; in accordance with spiritual principles.

1340 *Ayenb.* 84 Hi zet man spirituellyche ine his riȝte stat huerinne he wes uerst ymad. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* I. (1495) 3 By the..simylitude of thynges visible our wit or our vnderstondynge, spirytuelly,..may be so well ordred [etc.]. *c* 1440 *Alph. Tales* 194 Our Ladie..enoyntid þis seke man..& curid hym bothe spirituallie & bodelie. 1456 SIR G. HAYE *Law Armis* (S.T.S.) 20 As evill bitter wateris gerris mony folk dee temporaly, sa dois..heresy and lollardry the saule dee spiritualy. *a* 1513 FABYAN *Chron.* v. cxiii. (1516) G iij/1 þe Quene..brought in hir armes the yonge Baby, to the which she was moder bothe naturally, and spiritually. 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 66 The body and blud of Christ is received spiritually. 1650 JER. TAYLOR *Holy Living* ii. § 3. 90 In the same degree that Virgins live more spiritually then other persons. 1755 YOUNG *Centaur* ii. Wks. IV. 145 Spiritually blind, deaf, and stupid, they see not the great Omnipresent walking in the garden. 1828 LYTTON *Pelham* I. xx, Mr. Howard de Howard is too unsubstantial not to be spiritually inclined. 1893 *Bookman* June 86/1 This Russian baroness..spiritually directing the Czar of all the Russias.

b. *Comb.* in *spiritually-minded.*

1526 TINDALE *Rom.* viii. 6 To be carnally mynded is deeth, and to be spiritually mynded is lyfe, and peace. 1564–78 BULLEIN *Dial. agst. Pest.* (1888) 122 He is so spiritually mynded that he forgetteth poore Roger. 1681 OWEN (*title*), Grace and Duty of being Spiritually-Minded. 1831 SCOTT *Cast. Dang.* v, Methinks thou art more spiritually-minded than can always be predicated of a wandering minstrel. 1844 tr. *M. T. Asmar's Mem. Babylonian Princ.* II. 57 Being..a spiritually-minded woman, she yielded her consent.

† **2.** In or according to a spiritual sense. (Opposed to *literally*.) *Obs.*

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 1492 Bifore þe sancta sanctorum soþefast dry3tyn Expouned his speche spiritually to special prophetes. *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (Roxb.) xv. 68 Þai vnderstand noȝt haly writte spiritually, bot after þe letter. 1550 SENONOVS *Godly Sayings* (1846) 74 Understand ye spiritually that whiche I have spoken unto you. 1559 W. CUNNINGHAM *Cosmogr. Glasse* Pref. 2 All they agree in this poynt,.. but yet as touchinge the situation, some vnderstand it spiritually.

† **3.** In a spiritual or ecclesiastical capacity.

c 1511 *1st Eng. Bk. Amer.* Introd. (Arb.) p. xxx/2 The Grekes haue spyrytually the Patriarcke of Constantynnoplen, and many Archebysshops, bysshops, and abbottes.

4. As a spirit or spiritual being; with supernatural beauty, radiance, etc.

1816 BYRON *Siege Corinth* xi, Bespangled with those isles of light, So wildly, spiritually bright. *a* 1850 ROSSETTI *Dante & Circle* I. (1874) 95 She..Grew perfectly and spiritually fair.

5. In respect of distilled spirit or alcohol. *rare.*

1866 *Athenæum* 12 May 634/1 French wine being spiritually weaker, than either port or sherry.

Spiritual-mindedness. [Cf. *spiritually-minded* SPIRITUALLY *adv.* 1 b.] The quality or state of being spiritually-minded or of having the mind set upon spiritual things.

1647 N. WARD *Simp. Cobler* 43, I have..seen so much.. spirituall mindednesse in..Christians. 1688 OWEN *Dominion of Sin & Grace* Wks. 1852 VII. 524 This case of the affections I have handled..at large in my discourse of Spiritual-mindedness. 1791 BOSWELL *Johnson* 22 Mar. 1776, I have always loved the simplicity of manners, and the spiritual-mindedness of the Quakers. 1863 GROSART *Small Sins* (ed. 2) 82 No lamentation over want of spiritual-mindedness.

Spi·ritualness. [f. SPIRITUAL *a.* + -NESS.] The fact, quality, or state of being spiritual in origin, character, or nature; spirituality.

Very common in the 17th c.; now *rare.*

1561 DAUS tr. *Bullinger on Apoc.* (1573) 149 b, Otherwyse there is no spiritualness at all: for they be altogether fleshe. 1579 W. WILKINSON *Confut. Fam. Love* B ij, Out of your spiritualnes judge all thinges according to the ballance of equitye. *a* 1603 T. CARTWRIGHT *Confut. Rhem. N. T.* (1618) 438 The spiritualnesse of our bodies doth not take away their naturall and essentiall properties. 1642 D. ROGERS *Naaman* 108 The spiritualnesse and precisenesse of Christ is a burthen to them. 1693 FIRMIN *Rev. Vind.* i. 6 It was the Law opened in the Spiritualness of it, that took of Paul from his own Righteousness. 1721 BAILEY, *Spirituality*, Spiritualness, Devotion. 1889 *Pall Mall G.* 15 June 6/1 A pseudo spiritualness which makes small account of the daily behaviour and moral stamina of our teachers and preachers.

b. A spiritual condition or state. *rare*—1.

a 1658 DURHAM *Comm. Revelation* I. (1660) 29 To be in the spirit is..to be in a spiritualnesse abstracted from carnalnesse.

† **Spi·ritualship.** *Obs.* [f. SPIRITUAL *a.*: see -SHIP 3.] The personality of an ecclesiastic. (Used as a mock title.)

1670 EACHARD *Cont. Clergy* 90 A sober and temperate clergy, that will not eat so much as the laity, but that..the least of every thing may satisfie their spiritualship. 1680 HICKERINGILL *Narr. Tryal* Wks. 1716 II. 306 If the Judge had the keeping of his Spiritualship, Mr. H. should neither be so rich, nor so fat.

Spirituality (spi·ritiuălti). Forms: 4–6 **spiritualte(e, 5 -allte, speritwalte, spyryt-, 6 spyritualte**; 5 **spyryt-, spirituelte(e**; 4–7 **spiritualtie, 5– spiritualty** (6 **-tye**). [ad. OF. *espirit-, esperituaulté, spiritualté*, etc.: see SPIRITUAL *a.* and cf. SPIRITUALITY.]

† **1.** The quality or state of being spiritual; spiritual character; = SPIRITUALITY 3. *Obs.*

1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. v. 148 Þus þei speken of spiritualte þat eyther despiseth other, Til þei be bothe beggers and by my spiritualte libben. *a* 1420 *Aunters of Arth.* xx, These ar the gracius giftus of the Holi Gost, That enspires iche sprete..Off this spiritualite speke we no more. 1421 *26 Pol. Poems* xviii. 8 In brennyng contemplacion, þe hiȝest lyf of spiritualte. ? *a* 1500 *Chester Pl.* IX. 166 In tokening of thy dignitie and that office of Spiritualty, receave..deuoutly myne offring.

† b. = HOLINESS *sb.* 2. *Obs.*—1

1613–8 DANIEL *Coll. Hist. Eng.* Wks. V. 168 The King of France whom he had excommunicated.., shortly after so wrought, as his Spiritualty was surprized at Anagne.

2. † **a.** = SPIRITUALITY 2. *Obs.*

c 1380 WYCLIF *Wks.* (1880) 276 So þat alle clerkis lyue clenly on spiritualte, as crist & his apostlis deden. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) VII. 335 Kyng William..rulede boþe temperalte and spiritualte [L. *secularia et ecclesiastica*] at his owne wille. *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (Roxb.) iii. 10 He es þare lorde bathe of temperaltee and of spiritualtee. 1700 [see TEMPORALTY 1]. 1709 STRYPE *Ann. Ref.* I. xxv. 245 Keeper of the spiritualty of the city and diocese of Bristol.

b. *pl.* = SPIRITUALITY 2 b. Now *Hist.*

c 1380 WYCLIF *Wks.* (1880) 369 Siþ þai han now þe more part of þe temporal lordeschips, and wiþ þat þe spiritualtees and þe greete mouable tresouris of þe rewme. 1531–2 *Act* 23 *Hen. VIII*, c. 20 § 2 Bysshopes.. shall..entyerly have and enjoye all the spiritualties and temporalties..in..beneficiall maner. 1570 *Act* 13 *Eliz.* c. 12 § 1 The Bysshop or Gardian of the Spyritualties of some one Diocesse where he hath..Ecclesiastical Lyving. 1607 COWELL *Interpr.* s.v. *Gardeyn*, The guardeyn of the spiritualties, may be either Guardeyn in lawe,..or guardian by delegation. 1726 AYLIFFE *Parergon* 125 Of Common Right, the Dean and Chapter are Guardians of the Spiritualties, during the Vacancy of a Bishoprick. 1763 BURN *Eccles. Law* (1767) I. 202 Spiritualties of bishopricks in the time of vacation. 1835 TOMLINS *Law Dict.* s.v. *Guardian.* 1912 *Eng. Hist. Rev.* Oct. 768 A complete list of the..temporalties and spiritualties belonging to a parish church.

3. The body of spiritual or ecclesiastical persons; the spiritual estate of the realm; the clergy; = SPIRITUALITY 1.

c 1400 *Destr. Troy* 3100 Ho tentit not in Tempull to no tall prayers,..Ne speche of no spiritualtie, with speciall ne other. *c* 1450 LOVELICH *Grail* xlviii. 218 Axeth hem..what maner of men that they welen be, Owther wedded men, owther speritwalte. 1482 CAXTON *Polychronicon* VIII. xi. 405 As for the temporalytees beynge in the handes of the spirituelte. 1529 MORE *Dyaloge* III. Wks. 225/1 So dare I boldly say that the spiritualtie of Englande..is in learning and honest liuing well able to matche..the spiritualtie of anye nacion christen. 1579 FENTON *Guicciard.* III. (1599) 143 The diuision being no lesse amongst the spiritualtie then the layetie. 1641 MILTON *Ch. Discipl.* II. 86 The boistrous and contradictional hand of a temporall, earthly and corporeal Spiritualty. 1699 BURNET *39 Art.* xxxvii. 384 The Synods..were for the greatest part mixed Assemblies in which the Temporalty and the Spiritualty sate together. 1849 W. FITZGERALD tr. *Whitaker's Disput.* 248 He says *all*, not merely the learned, or the bishops, or the spiritualty. 1856 FROUDE *Hist. Eng.* (1858) I. iii. 248 The spiritualty defended themselves by prescription and usage. 1878 STUBBS *Const. Hist.* III. xix. 290 We may regard the spiritualty of England, the clergy or clerical estate, as a body completely organised.

† b. A body or set of ecclesiastics or clergy. *Obs.*

1513 *Life Hen. V* (1911) 184 And all the saide spiritualtie, singinge the offices accustomed in like case, conueyed the saide corps [etc.]. 1545 JOYE *Exp. Dan.* v. I v, Then the kynge cried commanding his spiritualtye, his wyse men, enchaunters,..to be brought unto him. 1624 BEDELL *Lett.* iii. 68 We learne that no earthly power, no Magistrate is a spirituall man, vnlesse hee bee one of the Popes spiritualtie. 1653 MILTON *Hirelings* Pref., A spiritualtie of men devoted to their temporal gain.

† **4.** *pl.* Ecclesiastical ground or precincts. *Obs.*

1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* XVII. xxiii. 724 Bors lete bery hym by his syster and by Galahad in the spyrytuelltees.

† **Spiritua·scence, -a·scency.** *Obs. rare.* [f. L. *spiritus* SPIRIT *sb.*] Spirituosity.

1662 H. STUBBE *Indian Nectar* vii. 137 The spirituascency of the seed little. *Ibid.* 139 A..resemblance, in its colour, consistence, and spirituascency, to the white of an Egg. 1684 tr. *Bonet's Merc. Compit.* XIX. 831 Aromaticks..correct that dulness and deficient spirituascence..of the Stomach.

† **Spi·rituated,** *a. Obs.*—1 [f. as prec.] Impregnated with, or converted into, spirit.

1657 G. STARKEY *Helmont's Vind.* 292 The glorified, spirituated and perfected Sulphurs,..by their fermentall irradiation, at once mortifie whatever is malignant in the body.

‖ **Spiritue·l, -e·lle,** *a.* [F. *spirituel* masc., *-elle* fem.: see SPIRITUAL *a.*] Of a highly refined character or nature, esp. in conjunction with liveliness or quickness of mind.

The distinction between the masc. and fem. forms has not always been observed in English.

α. 1673 DRYDEN *Marr. à la Mode* III. i, Do not call it my service, that's too vulgar; but do my *baise-mains* to the princess Amalthea; that is *spirituelle*! 1738 MRS. DELANY *Life & Corr.* (1861) II. 20 She has such a flow of spirits and of wit;..she is by much the most spirituelle creature I ever met with. 1867 AUGUSTA WILSON *Vashti* xvii, To-day there was a *spirituelle* beauty in the white face that he had never seen before. 1886 *Illustr. Lond. News* 9 Jan. 45/1 The expression of her countenance..was *spirituelle* in a high degree. 1895 *Q. Rev.* Oct. 467 She was as delightful, racy, *spirituelle* a companion after as before her religious change.

β. 1709 MRS. MANLEY *Secret Mem.* (1720) III. 120 She was very Beautiful, and more *Eveliez* and *Spirituel* than any I had met. *Ibid.* 146 Gay Conversation of the Modish, most *Spirituel*. 1833 LYTTON *Godolphin* lxiv, The admired—the cultivated—*spirituel*—the splendid Godolphin.

Hence **Spiritue·lly** *adv.*

1825 *New Monthly Mag.* XV. 367 It tells them some very disagreeable truths, and..tells them so *spirituel*-ly, that.. the castigation..is sport to all the rest of the world.

† **Spirituose,** *a. Obs. rare.* = SPIRITUAL *a.* 4.

1677 GALE *Crt. Gentiles* IV. v. § 1. 305 Al life consisting in a spirituose actuositie. *Ibid.* 306 The Angelic life is of al creatid lifes the most actuose, spirituose, and noble.

Spirituosity (spiritiuɒ·sĭti). [f. next + -ITY. So F. *spirituosité.*]

1. The state or quality of being spirituous or of containing spirit, esp. through distillation.

1669 W. SIMPSON *Hydrol. Chym.* 31 Which digestion of the spleen so promoting the blood in its tincture, and height of spirituosity [etc.]. 1674 PETTY *Disc. Dupl. Proportion* 93 The measuring of the Spirituosity of Liquors, or in what proportions several Liquors contein more or less of inflameable or ardent parts. 1778 *Phil. Trans.* LXVIII. 500 The spirituosity of different liquors distilled from wine. 1826 *Art of Brewing* (ed. 2) 102 A flavour partaking of the spirituosity of wine. 1880 *Libr. Univ. Knowl.* VI. 281 The wines in this part are rich in color, and distinguished by much body and spirituosity.

† **2.** Spiritual nature or quality; animating force or energy. *Obs. rare.*

1677 GALE *Crt. Gentiles* IV. v. § 1. 306 Whatever Spirituositie or Actuositie there is in any created life. *Ibid.* 307 The Life of God carries in it the most perfect Spirituositie, as he is the most simple pure Spirit.

Spirituous (spi·ritiuəs), *a.* [f. L. *spīritu-s* + -OUS, or ad. F. *spirituеux* (16th c.), Sp. and Pg. *espirituoso.*]

1. Spirited, animated, lively, vivacious. Now *rare.*

1599 B. JONSON *Cynthia's Rev.* III. ii, Well, I am resolv'd what Ile doe.—What my good spirituous sparke? 1703 J. SAVAGE *Lett. Antients* xlv. 109 The Greeks, who are a spirituous and wise People, not to be us'd as the barbarous Nations are by their Tyrants. 1709 *Phil. Trans.* XXVII. 74 A very Vivacious and Spirituous Animal. 1752 ELIZA HEYWOOD *Betsy Thoughtless* II. 10 Her once gay and spirituous behaviour..was now become all dull and gloomy. 1888 DOUGHTY *Arab. Des.* I. 593 The Emir in his spirituous humour, and haughty familiar manners.

2. Of the nature of, having the properties of, spirit;

containing spirit or volatile principle in a natural state. (Freq. in 17th cent.)

1605 TIMME *Quersit.* I. vii. 30 Vineger,..in regard of.. that most thin, spirituous, sower essence of salt, doe pierce into the most inward parts. 1646 Sir T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* 88 If the matter be spirituous, and the cloud compact, the noise is great and terrible. 1694 W. WOTTON *Anc. & Mod. Learn.* (1697) 239 The Fæculencies are separated from the more spirituous Parts, and by their Weight sink to the Bottom. *a* 1722 LISLE *Husb.* (1757) 302 Though the grounds are very rich, the juices of the grass are from thence less spirituous. 1737 BRACKEN *Farriery Impr.* (1757) II. 185 Oats and Beans is a more warm and spirituous Feed than Hay. 1794 G. ADAMS *Nat. & Exp. Philos.* II. xvii. 264 It is thin and clear like water, though somewhat more spirituous and viscous. 1837 P. KEITH *Bot. Lex.* 306 Vegetable substances are always resinous, or oily, or spirituous, when the oxygen which they contain is to the hydrogen in a smaller proportion than in water.

fig. 1673 DRYDEN *Marr. à la Mode* II. i, Fancy will every touch and glance improve, And draw the most spirituous parts of love. 1705 J. DUNTON *Life & Err.* vii. (1818) I. 275 My happiness was too spirituous and fine to continue long. 1709 MRS. MANLEY *Secret Mem.* (1720) III. 29 That little valuable spirituous Particle [*sc.* sincerity], that animated the Whole!

3. Containing or impregnated with spirit or alcohol obtained by distillation; containing an infusion of alcohol; alcoholic, ardent.

1681 tr. *Belon's New Myst. Physick* Introd. 30 Medicine must be invited.., by refined and spirituous Medicaments, to procure Preservation. 1694 SALMON *Bate's Dispens.* (1713) 46/2 Cover and lute it, and distil S. A. so will you have a spirituous Water. 1742 tr. *Algarotti's Newton's The.* II. 194 They were obliged to cut the most spirituous Wine with a Hatchet. 1767 GOOCH *Treat. Wounds* I. 246 Spirituous, warm, subtile medicines are to be used. 1813 T. THOMSON *Lect. Inflam.* 605 Spirituous and resinous substances have long been in repute for the cure of burns. 1857 MILLER *Elem. Chem., Org.* vii. §2. 503 The spirituous varnishes dry the most rapidly. 1867 J. HOGG *Microsc.* I. ii. 142 Dropping into it carefully..a spirituous solution of iodine.

b. Freq. in *spirituous liquor(s)*.

1732 ARBUTHNOT *Rules of Diet in Aliments*, etc. I. 245 Strong Waters or Spirituous Liquors contract and harden the solid Parts most of all. 1764 BURN *Poor Laws* 242 As the laws stand, a licence from the officers of excise alone, for retailing spirituous liquors, is not sufficient. 1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Science & Art* II. 88 When the instrument is immersed in spirituous liquor. 1836 THIRLWALL *Greece* xiv. II. 197 The modern Tartars extract a spirituous liquor from the milk of their mares. 1862 TROLLOPE *N. Amer.* I. xvii. 377 No wine or spirituous liquors may be used.

4. Of or belonging to spirit or alcohol; like or resembling that of spirit.

1667 *Phil. Trans.* II. 496 The Thames-water..in eight months time..acquires a Spirituous quality, so as to burn like Spirit of Wine. 1699 EVELYN *Acetaria* (1729) 167 Spirituous and active Force to animate and revive every Faculty and Part. 1838 T. THOMSON *Chem. Org. Bodies* 789 When this sap was left exposed to the air..it became milky [and].. acquired a spirituous smell and taste. 1862 MILLER *Elem. Chem., Org.* (ed. 2) 155 Wood spirit is a limpid, inflammable, colourless liquid, of a penetrating spirituous odour. 1867 F. H. LUDLOW *Little Briggs* 218 The spirituous soupçon which tingles through the siropy flavors of an arrack punch.

b. Accomplished or carried out by means of spirit or alcohol.

1800 tr. *Lagrange's Chem.* II. 167 There are reckoned to be three kinds of fermentation: spirituous, acetous, and putrid.

† **5.** = SPIRITUAL *a.* 4. *Obs.*

1662 R. MATHEW *Unl. Alch.* 60 When thy now rotting body is destroyed, thou again shalt receive a spirituous body. 1678 CUDWORTH *Intell. Syst.* 785 The Irrational Part or Life thereof, is Separable only from this Gross Body..; but hath (after Death) a Spirituous or Aiery Body. 1727 DE FOE *Hist. Appar.* iv. (1840) 30 Such inhabitants as are spirituous, and invisible. 1745 ELIZA HEYWOOD *Female Spect.* No. 15 (1748) III. 120 As great an enemy as indolence is to our spirituous part, activity in things unfit is yet much more so.

† **6.** Spiritual, in various senses. *Obs.*

a 1632 DONNE *Serm.* (1634) IV. 7 God gives not his people.. valour, and then leaves them to a spirituous quarrelsomenesse. 1712 W. KING *Joan of Hedington* Pref., Wks. 1776 III. 11 She seems spirituous and .. not disinclinable to virtuous courses. 1727 WARBURTON *Prodigies & Miracles* I. 54 What then must we expect from this spirituous Imposture; which persuades the credulous Reader that the Soul of History is here disingaged from the unweildy..Carcasses of Chronicle and Annal?

Hence **Spi·rituously** *adv.*, † in a spirited manner.

1751 ELIZA HEYWOOD *Betsy Thoughtless* IV. 52 'Bless me, madam!' cried Mrs. Munden, spirituously, 'would your ladyship have me give up..that slender pittance?'

Spi·rituousness. [f. SPIRITUOUS *a.*]

1. = SPIRITUOSITY 1.

1660 BOYLE *New Exp. Phys. Mech.* xxiv. 193 The great thinness and spirituousness of the Liquor. 1670 H. STUBBE *Plus Ultra* 106 He plants a kind of..fire in the heart, which ..imprints a spirituousness in the blood that issueth out into the Arteries. 1725 *Fam. Dict.* s.v. *Wine*, These [i.e. strong wines] by their Spirituousness, wonderfully conduce to the Digestion of the gross Food of our Country.

2. = SPIRITUOSITY 2.

1727 BAILEY (vol. II), *Spirituousness*, Fulness of Spirits, Liveliness. 1740 *Phil. Trans.* XLI. 301 How can one believe, that..a little more Activity, a little more Spirituousness, should compose..any Organization?

Spirity (spi·riti), *a.* (and *adv.*). Chiefly *dial.* or *colloq.* Also 9 *dial.* **spirrit(t)y, sperrity, spe(e)rity**, etc. [f. SPIRIT *sb.* + -Y.]

1. Full of or characterized by spirit, animation, energy, or vivacity; spirited.

1633 STRUTHER in Spurgeon *Treas. Dav.* Ps. xxxvi. 4 To make them more spirity [Satan] can horse them on restless contention. 1765 in *Priv. Lett. Ld. Malmesbury* (1870) I. 136 He is a most active, spirity man, and by his great mental exercises keeps himself from any thing like a lethargy. 1808 E. SLEATH *Bristol Heiress* I. 65 That was spoken like a young woman of sense!—A fine spirity lass. 1830 GALT *Lawrie T.* VIII. v. (1849) 376 Semple is a spirity man.

b. As *adv.* Spiritedly; with spirit.

1894 BLACKMORE *Perlycross* 64, I answered him quite spirity.

2. Of the nature of spirit; spirituous. *rare.*

a 1722 LISLE *Husb.* (1757) 421 The dews soke into the broad-clover, and thin the spirity juice. *Ibid.*, The spirity juice..is..thinned by the water getting into it. 1899 DOYLE *Duet* (1909) 126/1 Do you notice a sort of low, sweetish, spirity kind of scent?

Spi·rivalve, *a. Zool.* [a. F. *spirivalve*, f. L. *spira* SPIRE *sb.*[3]] **a.** Of shells: Univalve and spiral. **b.** Having a spiral univalve shell.

1835 KIRBY *Hab. & Inst. Anim.* I. ix. 267 Trachelipods..; greatest part of the body spirally convolved,..inhabiting a spirivalve shell. 1836–9 *Todd's Cycl. Anat.* II. 384/1 Many of the spirivalve Gasteropoda..are provided with a calcareous plate, which..closes accurately the mouth of the shell.

† **Spirk.** *Obs.*–[1] [prob. related to E. Anglian *spurk* to spring or shoot up.] A sprout or shoot.

1565 GOLDING *Ovid's Met.* IV. (1567) 46 b, By little and by little did with growing top begin A pretie spirke of Frankinsence aboue the Tumbe to win.

Spi·rket[1]. *E. Angl. dial.* Also 7 **spirkit**, 9 **sper-, spurket.** [Of obscure origin: cf. prec. and SPIRGET.] A stout peg or hook on which to hang things.

1644 J. CARTER *Nail & Wheel* (1647) 14 The use of such a nail, or peg, or spirkit is to hang things out of hand. 1787 MARSHALL *Norfolk* Gloss., *Spirket*, a hook to hang things on. 1806 BLOOMFIELD *Wild Flowers* 44 She passed a clean white hog..They'd kilt the day before. High on the spirket there it hung. 1823 E. MOOR *Suffolk Words, Sperket*, wooden, hooked, large peg, not much curved, to hang saddles, harness, etc. on. 1899 MISS BETHAM-EDWARDS *Lord of Harvest* II. 22 The big boiler hanging from the spirket now contained a bit of beef and a plum pudding.

† **Spi·rket**[2]. *Naut. Obs.* In 8 **spirkit.** [Cf. next and SPURKET.] *Spirket risings*, = next 1.

1711 W. SUTHERLAND *Shipbuild. Assist.* 44 The Spirkit Risings..are placed under the Lower Gun-deck Ports. *Ibid.*, The Spirkit Risings under the Middle Deck Ports.

Spirketting (spɔ̄·ɹkĕtiŋ). *Naut.* Also 8 **spirkit-**, 9 **spirkitting, sparketting.** [app. f. *spirket* (cf. prec.), var. of SPURKET.]

1. Inside planking between the waterways and the ports of a vessel. (See quots. 1750, 1769.)

1748 *Anson's Voy.* II. iv. 158 Her spirkiting and timbers were very rotten. 1750 BLANCKLEY *Nav. Expos.* 156 Spirketing are Strakes of thick Plank wrought from the lower Edge of each Port to each Deck respectively within Side of the Ship. 1769 FALCONER *Dict. Marine* (1780), *Spirketing*, that range of planks which lies between the waterways and the lower edge of the gun-ports within the side of a ship of war. 1801 *Naval Chron.* VI. 202 Carlings, and sparketting, much damaged by shot. 1805 *Shipwright's Vade-M.* 202 All clamps and spirkittings above the lower gun-deck should have three port shifts in midships. *c* 1860 H. STUART *Seaman's Catech.* 69 The spirketting works up so as to form the lower sills of the ports. 1874 THEARLE *Naval Archit.* 43 The butts of shelf, spirketting, clamps, and waterway should all be carefully disposed with reference to each other.

attrib. 1869 SIR E. REED *Shipbuild.* xvii. 368 The preceding method..is also applicable to deck tie-plates, clamp or spirketing plates.

2. (See quot. 1846.)

1846 A. YOUNG *Naut. Dict.* 291 In merchant vessels, when there is a strake of ceiling wrought between the upper-deck and the plank-sheer, it is called the spirketting, or quick-work. 1850 WEALE *Dict. Terms* 246 *Kevels*..are sometimes fixed to the spirketing on the quarter-deck, when the timber-heads are deficient.

Spirling (spɔ̄·ɹlin). Now only *Sc.* Also 5–6 **spyrlyng**(e. [a. MLG. *spirling* or MDu. *spierling*: cf. SPARLING and SPURLING.] The smelt, *Osmerus eperlanus.*

c 1425 *Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 641 *Hic gamerus*, spyrlyng. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 52/2 Broche for spyrlynge or heryngе, *spiculum.* 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* XXV. 95 Quhair fische to sell is non bot spirling. 1526 *Househ. Exp. Sir T. Lestrange* (B.M. Add. MS. 27448) fol. 38 Item, in playce, vj d. Item, in Spyrlyngs, j d. 1655 MOUFET & BENNET *Health's Improv.* xvii. 143 Sticklebacks and minoes, and spirlings, and anchovaes. 1668 CHARLETON *Onomast.* 143 *Apua*,..the Spirling, Smy, or Sea-Dace. 1769 *De Foe's Tour Gt. Brit.* (ed. 7) IV. 19 Trouts, Perch, Pike, Scate,..Lyths, Spirlings..are also caught on the Scottish coasts in great plenty. 1830 M. DONOVAN *Dom. Econ.* II. 187 The Smelt or Spirling is remarkable for two qualities, the transparency of its body, and its odoriferous smell. 1870 P. H. MACKERLIE *Lands & Owners Galloway* I. 35 This river has salmon and that delicate fish the spirling.

attrib. 1887 *Scottish Leader* 20 Sept. 4 Salmon..illegally caught in the spirling nets. *Ibid.*, The interdict..would not interfere with spirling fishing.

Spiro- (spəi·rɔ), combining form of L. *spīra*, Gr. σπεῖρα, SPIRE *sb.*[3], used in a number of recent scientific terms, few of which have much currency, as **Spirobacte·ria**, bacteria with spirally twisted cells; **Spirochæte** (-kī·tī), a genus of bacteria having a highly twisted spiral form.

1876 tr. *Wagner's Gen. Pathol.* 93 Spirobacteria are distinguished from vibrio, by the closer and narrower, regular, permanent spiral of the filament. 1877 HUXLEY & MARTIN *Elem. Biol.* 29 *Spirochæte.* Much like spirillum, but longer and with a much more closely rolled spiral. 1899 tr. *Jaksch's Clin. Diagnosis* VI. 206 Mobile swarms are seen in the centre of the mass, while at its circumference appear the spirochæte-like bodies.

Spiroid (spəi·roid), *a.* [ad. mod.L. *spīroīdes* (cf. Gr. σπειροειδῶς spirally), f. *spīra* SPIRE *sb.*[3]: see -OID. So F. *spiroïde.*] Tending to a spiral form.

1849 HERSCHEL *Outl. Astron.* 468 It would be easy..to trace..the form of the spiroid curve. 1859 MAYNE *Expos. Lex.* 1190/1 *Spiroides*,..resembling a screw: spiroid.

Spiroil (spəi·rɔ̄il). *Chem.* Also spiroïle, **spiroyl.** [ad. F. *spiroyle*, irreg. f. mod.L. *Spiræa* SPIRÆA: see -YL.] (See quots.)

1838 T. THOMSON *Chem. Org. Bodies* 614 This is what has induced M. Löwig to consider the acid or oil as a compound of 1 atom hydrogen with the compound base $C^{12} H^5 O^4$, to which he has given the name of spiroil. 1841 BRANDE *Chem.* (ed. 5) 1251 Chloride of spiroïle...Iodide of spiroïle. 1868 WATTS *Dict. Chem., Spiroyl*, Löwig's name for the radicle $C^7 H^5 O^2$ (more generally called *salicyl*, or *salicosyl*), which may be supposed to exist in oil of spiræa.

Hence **Spi·roilate, Spiroi·lic** *a.*, **Spi·roilide, Spi·roilous** *a.*

1849 CRAIG, **Spiroilate*, a compound of spiroilic acid and a base. 1837 R. D. THOMSON in *Brit. Annual* 346 *Spiroilic acid. 1841 BRANDE *Chem.* (ed. 5) 1251 A crystallized product..which Löwig terms spiroïlic acid. 1868 WATTS *Dict. Chem., Spiroylic acid*, syn. with Salicylic Acid. 1838 T. THOMSON *Chem. Org. Bodies* 615 A *spiroilide of potassium was formed. When this spiroilide is treated with muriatic acid [etc.]. 1841 BRANDE *Chem.* (ed. 5) 1251 Evolving hydrogen and producing a spiroïlide of potassium. 1868 WATTS *Dict. Chem., *Spiroylous acid*, syn. with *Salicylol.*

† **Spirol**[1]. *Obs.*–[1] [ad. obs. F. *spirole.*] A kind of cannon (see quot.).

1653 URQUHART *Rabelais* I. xlvii. 209 Long pieces of Artillery called Basilisks, and smaller sized ones, known by the name of spirols.

Spi·rol[2]. *Chem.* (See quot. and SPIROIL.)

1868 WATTS *Dict. Chem., Spirol*, a name applied to phenylic alcohol, because it may be obtained from spiroylic (salicylic) acid, in the same way as benzol from benzoic acid.

Spirometer (spəiɹpɔ·mĭtəɹ). [Irreg. f. L. *spīr-āre* to breathe: see -OMETER.] An instrument for measuring the breathing power of the lungs.

1846 HUTCHINSON in *Medico-Chirurg. Trans.* XXIX. 146 General and practical deductions, to detect disease by the spirometer, with the method of its application. 1858 O. W. HOLMES *Aut. Breakf.-t.* (1883) 206 Estimating height, weight, force by the dynamometer and the spirometer. 1877 M. FOSTER *Physiol.* II. ii. (1878) 255 It may be measured by a modification of a gas meter called a spirometer.

Hence **Spirome·tric, Spirome·trical** *adjs.*

1887 *Jrnl. Education* No. 210. 29 The distance naturally separating them .. on the spirometric register. 1887 C. DENISON *Pref. Climate Consumption* 9 The large spirometrical records of those who live at great elevations. 1896 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* I. 310 (a) Increase of chest circumference, (b) increase of spirometric capacity.

Spirometry (spəiɹpɔ·mĭtri). [See prec. and -METRY.] Measurement of breathing-power or lung-capacity; the use of the spirometer.

1859 in MAYNE *Expos. Lex.* 1190/1. 1862 H. W. FULLER *Dis. Chest* 25 Spirometry, which has received its fullest development from Dr. Hutchinson. 1890 *Lancet* 9 Aug. 294/2 A number of observations in spirometry.

Spirous (spəiə·rəs), *a. rare.* [f. SPIRE *sb.*[1]] Spire-shaped; spiry.

1841 *Florist's Jrnl.* (1846) II. 278 *Epidendrum selligerum* (side-saddle)...The flowers spirous, upright.

Spirr, obs. form of SPEER *v.*[1]

† **Spirt,** *sb.*[1] *Obs.* Also 5 **spyrt,** 6 **spert(e.** [Reduced form of SPIRIT.] = SPIRIT *sb.*, in various senses.

1447 BOKENHAM *Seyntys* (Roxb.) 9 The margaryte if of blood descende,..many spyrtys it counfortyth souvereynly. 1542 R. COPLAND *Galyen's Terap.* 2 H ij b, Yf some thing passe in the myddes of the way of the spert, yᵗ is the ayre, forth wᵗ it bredeth the coughe. 1607 HIERON *Wks.* I. 569 That item which the Spirt of God giueth by the prophet. *a* 1619 FOTHERBY *Atheom.* II. xiv. § 4 (1622) 357 Euery Poet is inspired, with a kind of heauenly spirt. 1782 ELPHINSTON *Martial* XII. ccxi. [= III. xcvii.] 465 Let not SNOW.. chill this bundle of spirt [L. *hunc libellum*].

Spirt (spɔ̄ɹt), *sb.*[2] Also 6 **spyrt.** [Of obscure origin: cf. SPURT *sb.*[1]]

† **1. a.** A brief period of time; a short space. *Obs.*

c 1550 WEVER *Lusty Juv.* D iij, I wil play a spyrt, why should I not? 1582 STANYHURST *Æneis* III. (Arb.) 85 Heere for a spirt [they] linger, no good opportunitye scaping. 1612 SHELTON *Quix.* I. i. (1620) I. 2 The Spirts that he was idle (which was the longer part of the Year).

† **b.** A short distance. *Obs.*–[1]

a 1668 LASSELS *Voy. Italy* I. 85, I must except the Strada Noua here, which for a spirt surpasseth all the streets I ever saw any where else.

2. *Naut.* A short or slight spell *of* wind.

1726 SHELVOCKE *Voy. round World* 5 A small spirt of wind would now run us into fair weather. 1799 *Naval Chron.* I. 440 Orders came down..to sail from Cawsand Bay the first spirt of wind. 1805 *Ibid.* XIII. 243 She sails the first spirt of Wind. 1837 T. HOOK *Jack Brag* xx, I think we shall have a spirt of wind presently.

3. A sudden outbreak or brief spell of activity or exertion; a spurt.

1829 GEN. P. THOMPSON *Exerc.* (1842) I. 55 It would undoubtedly cause a spirt of employment and felicity in Ireland. But as soon as this spirt was over [etc.]. 1844 DICKENS *Mart. Chuz.* iv, The strife,..after breaking out afresh some twice or thrice in certain inconsiderable spirts and dashes, died away in silence. 1856 'STONEHENGE' *Brit. Rural Sports* II. II. ii. 386/1 On the days intervening

between the gallops a very short and quick spirt will serve to freshen the horse's wind. 1883 'ANNIE THOMAS' *Mod. Housewife* 142 That dinner's only a spirt, you know.

Spirt, *sb.*[3] Now *dial.* [Metathetic form of SPRIT *sb.* Cf. SPURT *sb.*[2]] A sprout or shoot.

1634 HOLLAND *Pliny* I. 446 These Filberds..within their belly..haue in the mids a little chit or spirt [1601 spurt] as if it were a nauill. 1882– in western dial. glossaries (Warw., Worc., Heref.).

Spirt (spɔ̄ɪt), *sb.*[4] [f. SPIRT *v.*[1] Cf. SPURT *sb.*[3]]

1. A jet or slender spout of water or other liquid.

1716 GAY *Trivia* III. 106 Water, dash'd from fishy Stalls, shall stain His hapless Coat with Spirts of scaly Rain. 1840 BROWNING *Sordello* IV. 135 In the centre spreads..A laver, broad and shallow, one bright spirt Of water bubbles in. 1865 DICKENS *Mut. Fr.* IV. i, A great spirt of blood burst from his nose. 1879 J. BURROUGHS *Locusts* 120 There was a spirt or two of rain.

b. The sound made by a jet of liquid.

1874 T. HARDY *Far fr. Mad. Crowd* iii. I. 26 Soon a soft spirt, alternating with a loud spirt, came in regular succession from within the shed.

2. A sudden jet of fire, or puff of smoke.

1851 HAWTHORNE *Snow Image* (1879) 111 Looking at the little spirts of fire. 1871 MEREDITH *H. Richmond* xxix, He sent out quick spirts of smoke rolling into big volumes. 1878 BROWNING *Poets Croisic* 21 Spirt and spirt Of fire from our brave billet's either edge.

fig. 1879 BROWNING *Ivan Ivanovitch* 23 Man's inch of masterdom,—spot of life, spirt of fire,—To star the dark and dread.

Spirt (spɔ̄ɪt), *v.*[1] [Of obscure origin: cf. MHG. and G. dial. *spirzen* to spit, Icel. (17th c.) *spirta* (fig.) to utter. The form SPURT *v.*[1] is recorded a little earlier.]

1. *intr.* Of liquids (or small objects): To spring or burst out in a small quantity but with some force; to issue in a jet.

1582 STANYHURST *Æneis* III. (Arb.) 72 From that stub lykewise foorth spirt drops bluddelye stilling. 1626 BACON *Sylva* § 314 Beer or ale while it is new and full of Spirit (so that it Spirteth when the Stopple is taken forth). 1668 WILKINS *Real Char.* 105 That whose seed when ripe will spirt out of the cod. 1692 RAY *Disc.* I. iii. (1693) 42 The water breaks forth with great force,..spirting several fathoms high. 1728 POPE *Dunc.* II. 178 Thus the small jett..Spirts in the gardner's eyes who turns the cock. 1758 REID tr. *Macquer's Chym.* I. 136 This spirts out in fine small jets. 1827 SCOTT *Surg. Dau.* xiv, Upon whose muslin robe a part of the victim's blood had spirted. 1844 THACKERAY *Contrib. to Punch* Wks. 1898 VI. 74 His coat and waistcoat buttons spirt violently off his garments. 1905 J. B. FIRTH *Highways Derbyshire* XXV. 369 Through the sluices at the sides the water was spirting gaily.

fig. *c* 1826 LANDOR *Imag. Conv.* Wks. 1846 I. 190 Wit vibrates and spirts.

2. *trans.* To send out in a jet or slender rapid stream; to squirt.

1582 STANYHURST *Æneis* II. (Arb.) 59 [The adder] with toonge three forcked furth spirts fyre freshlye regendred. 1625 PURCHAS *Pilgrims* II. 1827 The Rose water that was spirted by little young Jewes. 1635 J. HAYWARD tr. *Biondi's Banish'd Virg.* 203 Others were busied in spirting and sprinkling water in her face. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* IV. 622 His finny Flocks..rowling round him, spirt the bitter Sea. 1796 MME. D'ARBLAY *Camilla* I. 149 The same gentleman ..was now spirting lavender water all about him. 1817 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* xvii. (1818) II. 73 A pair [of ants].. rearing upon their hind-legs mutually spirt their acid. 1843 THACKERAY *Irish Sk. Bk.* ii, A tablecloth, over which a waiter has just spirted a pint of obstreperous cider. 1895 SIR H. MAXWELL *Duke Britain* v. 72 Fill your mouth with water and spirt it into the opening.

fig. 1582 STANYHURST *Æneis* I. (Arb.) 35 In that od Isle raigneth, from Troyblud spirted, Acestes. 1628 WITHER *Brit. Rememb.* II. 2115 Lest I should spirt a blot So black, as that it would not be forgot In future Ages. *a* 1661 FULLER *Worthies, Linc.* II. (1662) 158, I find one Pen spirting ink upon him. 1860 THACKERAY *Round. Papers* iii. *Ribbons,* Our fountain of Honour..has spirted a baronetcy upon two, and bestowed a coronet upon one noble man of letters.

transf. 1857 DICKENS *Dorrit* II. xxx, He spirted it [the hotel-bill] into Mr. Flintwinch's face, when the old man advanced to take it.

b. Const. *forth, out, up.*

1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* 137 Toades are sometimes observed to exclude or spirt out a dark and liquid matter behinde. 1664 POWER *Exp. Philos.* I. 39 The Lamprey hath a fistula..at the back part of the head, whereat they spirt out water. 1716 GAY *Trivia* II. 144 Oft' the loose Stone spirts up a muddy tide Beneath thy Foot. 1817 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* xxi. (1818) II. 239 Sometimes they will even spirt out that liquor. 1826 *Ibid.* III. xxx. 150 Perforated tubercles, which when the animal is molested spirt forth a transparent fluid. 1840 DICKENS *Old C. Shop* xlv, When every chimney spirted up its flame.

3. To knock *out* with something spirted.

1642 FULLER *Holy & Prof. St.* III. v. 162 He that eats cherries with Noblemen shall have his eyes spirted out with the stones.

Hence **Spi·rted** *ppl. a.*; **Spi·rting** *vbl. sb.*

1834-6 P. BARLOW in *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) VIII. 415 Some inconvenience is caused by the spirting. 1847 TENNYSON *Princ.* VII. 187 Red with spirted purple of the vats. 1860 O. W. HOLMES *Prof. Breakf. T.* xii, We all like the spirting up of a fountain.

Spirt, *v.*[2] Now *dial.* [Metathetic form of SPRIT *v.* Cf. SPURT *v.*[2]] *intr.* To sprout or germinate, esp. abnormally or unseasonably; †to shoot *up* in growth.

1584-5 in Miss Jackson *Shropshire Word-bk.* (1879) 403 Their corne..was layd flat to the grownde, *and so by* meanes spirtid. 1599 SHAKS. *Hen. V,* III. v. 8 Shall a few Sprayes of vs,..Our Syens, put in wilde and sauage Stock, Spirt vp so suddenly into the Clouds, And ouer looke their Grafters? 1764 *Warwicksh. Letter* in *Museum Rust.* III. 136 The ears.., in a wet time, will spirt, and so spoil the whole. 1863 in BARNES *Dorset Gloss.* 1879– in western dial. glossaries (Shropsh., Worc., Warw., Glouc.).

Spirt (spɔ̄ɪt), *v.*[3] [f. SPIRT *sb.*[2] Cf. SPURT *v.*[3]] *intr.* To make a spurt; to turn or dart *about* quickly; to exert oneself for a short time.

1599 NASHE *Lenten Stuffe* 53 Our Herring smoker..spirted ouer seas to Rome with a Pedlers packe of them. 1856 'STONEHENGE' *Brit. Rural Sports* I. III. ix. 216 The short running and quick turning of the rabbits, which spirt about even more sharply than hares. 1857 HUGHES *Tom Brown* I. iv, They comes out about twice or three times a week, and spirts a mile alongside of us.

Spirting (spɔ̄·ɪtiŋ), *ppl. a.* [f. SPIRT *v.*[1]]

1. That spirts (in *trans.* or *intr.* senses).

1583 MELBANCKE *Philotimus* N iv, All beuenimd is her spirting tongue. 1648 HERRICK *Hesper., Country-life* I. 48 Making thy peace with Heav'n.., With holy-meale and spirting salt. 1656 W. DU GARD tr. *Comenius' Gate Lat. Unl.* 137 With a spirting quill. 1792 A. YOUNG *Trav. France* 274 With the addition of some spirting *jets d'eau.* 1865 DICKENS *Mut. Fr.* I. x, The lady has prodded little spirting holes in the damp sand before her with her parasol.

b. *Spirting cucumber*: see CUCUMBER 3.

1578 LYTE *Dodoens* III. xl. 372 Of the wilde spirting Cucumbre. 1611 COTGR., *Concombre sauvage,* the wild Cowcumber, Spirting Cowcumber, Touch-me-not. 1741 *Compl. Fam.-Piece* II. iii. 362 You may now sow, in natural Ground, the wild spirting Cucumber. 1760 J. LEE *Introd. Bot.* App. 328 Spirting Cucumber, *Momordica.* 1830 LINDLEY *Nat. Syst. Bot.* 193 The perennial roots of all the order appear to contain similar bitter drastic virtues, especially that of the ..Spirting Cucumber.

2. Resembling that made by spirts of liquid.

1594 NASHE *Unfort. Trav.* Wks. (Grosart) V. 121 Inchained chirping birds, whose throates..made a spirting sound.

Spirtle (spɔ̄·ɪt'l), *sb.* [Cf. next.] A small spirt or jet; a sprinkle.

1881 in EVANS *Leic. Gloss.* 251. 1892 KIPLING *Barrack-r. Ballads* 115 Out of the grass, on a sudden, broke A spirtle of fire, a whorl of smoke.

Spirtle (spɔ̄·ɪt'l), *v.* Now *dial.* Also 7 spertle. [f. SPIRT *v.*[1] + -LE.]

1. *trans.* To sprinkle, spatter, or splash *with* something. Also *fig.*

1603 DRAYTON *Odes* (1619) xi. 28, I creepe behind the Time From spertling [=being spirtled] with their Crime. 1610–1 J. DAVIES (Heref.) *Paper's Compl.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 76/1 He scraped mee With Pens that spirtled me with Villany. 1854– in midland and western glossaries.

2. To cause to spatter or splash; to disperse in small particles.

1612 DRAYTON *Poly-olb.* ii. 283 The braines and mingled blood were spertled on the wall. 1704 *Phil. Trans.* XXV. 1786, I suppose from some of the fouled Oyl of the Pump spirtled on the Wheels. 1713 DERHAM *Phys.-Theol.* I. iv. 34 The Terraqueous Globe..would by the centrifugal force of that Motion, be soon dissipated, and spirtled into the circumambient Space. 1749 W. ELLIS *Sheph. Guide* 117 A sharp rain that so bashes the earth and spirtles it upon the grass as to cause a rot on..sheep.

3. *intr.* To become dispersed or scattered.

1725 N. ROBINSON *Th. Physick* 7 Without which Power this Globe of ours would spirtle into ten thousand Millions of Pieces.

Spirt-net. Now *dial.* [?f. SPERT 1.] (See quots.)

1686 BLOME *Gentl. Recreat.* II. 200/2 Fishing with a Spirt-Net,..being a common sort of Net, generally made with indifferent Meshes, and so it may do well for small Fish as well as for great. 1886 ELWORTHY *W. Somerset Word-bk.* 700 *Spirt-net,* a kind of fishing net...It is a shallow bag in shape, tapering off to what is called a 'purse', made with a much finer mesh.

‖ **Spirula** (spəi·rizlă). *Zool.* [mod.L., dim. of L. *spīra* SPIRE *sb.*[3]] A genus of cephalopods having a flat spiral shell in the hinder part of the body; an animal of this genus, or one of the shells.

1835–6 *Todd's Cyc. Anat.* I. 546/2 The shell of the Spirula is..convoluted on one plane, with the whorls disjoined. 1851 WOODWARD *Mollusca* I. 13 The argonaut, with his relative the spirula, both carnivorous. 1881 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* V. 181 The beautiful pearly-white shell known as Spirula.

So **Spi·rule.** [Cf. F. *spirule.*]

1851 MARY ROBERTS *Mollusca* 57 The Spirule, like the Nautilus, has a chambered, siphonated shell.

Spiry (spəi·ri), *a.*[1] Also 7 spirie. [f. SPIRE *sb.*[1]]

1. Of grass or other plants, stems, etc.: Forming slender pointed shoots.

1602 CAREW *Cornwall* 56 The middle part of the Shire.. beareth Heath and Spirie Grasse. 1626 BACON *Sylva* § 592 As for the Leaues, their Density appeareth, in that, either they are Smooth and Shining,..Or in that they are Hard and Spiry. 1703 ROWE *Ulyss.* II. i, When ev'ry spiry Grass, and painted Flow'r, Is hung with pearly Drops of Heav'nly Rain. 1764 *Museum Rust.* I. 453 The oat-stubble, the sedge, or long lowland spiry grass. 1794 GISBORNE *Walks in Forest* vi. (1796) 101 Spiry rushes in divergent files Rise fledged with rime. 1805–6 CARY *Dante, Inf.* II. 129 As florets..Rise all unfolded on their spiry stems. 1834 PRINGLE *Afr. Sk.* vii. 232 Waving with a crop of long spiry grass. 1865 *Cornh. Mag.* May 629 The spiry reed, that bare..The sponge of vinegar and gall.

b. Of trees: Rising in a slender tapering form without much branching.

1664 EVELYN *Pomona* viii. 20 If the top prove spiry, or the fruit unkind, then the due remedy must be in re-grafting. 1712 POPE *Messiah* 74 Waste sandy Vallies..The spiry Fir and shapely Box adorn. 1740 DYER *Ruins Rome* 54 Thro' spiry cypress groves, and tow'ring pine. 1784 COWPER *Task* III. 570 The spiry myrtle..Shines there, and flourishes. 1824 WORDSW. *Laodamia* 169 A knot of spiry trees for ages grew From out the tomb. 1843 tr. *Custine's Empire of Czar* II. 279 The marshes with their spiry pines and stunted birches. 1879 STEVENSON *Trav. Cevennes* 125 A range of meadows, set with spiry poplars.

Comb. 1833 LOUDON *Encycl. Archit.* § 105 Firs, or pines, or other spiry topped trees.

2. Having the characteristic form of a spire; tapering up to a point: **a.** Of parts of buildings.

1664 EVELYN tr. *Freart's Archit.* 140 Pinnæ and Battlements were made sometimes more Sharp, Towring or Spiry. 1703 [R. NEVE] *City & C. Purchaser* 2 Sharp and spiry Battlements, or Pinacles. *a* 1748 THOMSON *Hymn Solitude* vii, I just may cast my careless eyes Where London's spiry turrets rise. 1803 JANE PORTER *Thaddeus* (1826) III. xi. 244 The spiry aisles of Harrowby-Abbey were discernible through the mist. 1823 GIFFORD in *Q. Rev.* XXIX. 369 The village church, with its spiry steeple.

b. Of hills, rocks, etc.

1694 E. CHAMBERLAYNE *Pres. St. Eng.* (ed. 18) I. 35 Carnarvanshire.., with spiry Hills, the highest in all Wales. 1786 W. GILPIN *Mount. & Lakes Cumberland* II. 229 A solitary rock, tho spiry, has often a good effect. 1811 PINKERTON *Mod. Geogr.* (ed. 3) 281 The spiry pinnacles of rock that rear themselves from among the perpetual snows..of the higher Alps. 1840 F. D. BENNETT *Whaling Voy.* II. 45 Two spiry cliffs..bound the lake on opposite sides. 1889 *Science-Gossip* XXV. 205/1 The sea..leaving on the outskirts.. numerous stacks, islets, and spiry rocks.

c. In miscellaneous applications.

1716 GAY *Trivia* III. 358 The spiry Flames now lift aloft their Heads. 1725 POPE *Odyss.* X. 175 A stream of curling smoke, ascending blue, And spiry tops. 1789 E. DARWIN *Bot. Gard.* (1791) I. 99 Loud o'er the camp the Fiend of Famine shrieks,..High-poised in air her spiry neck she bends. 1805 J. LUCCOCK *Nature Wool* 306 Some samples ..were very kempy, with coarse and spiry tops to the staple. 1819 H. BUSK *Vestriad* V. 468 Spiry lance of dark and polish'd wood. 1871 B. TAYLOR *Faust* (1875) II. v. 283 Soon the climbing spiry flashes Set the tree-tops in a glow.

3. Of form: Resembling that of a spire.

1777 G. FORSTER *Voy. round World* I. 253 The mountains, clothed with forests, rose majestic in various spiry forms. 1789 CHARLOTTE SMITH *Ethelinde* (1814) V. 214 A group of yew and cypress relieved, by their spiry form, the more solid and regular mass of stone. 1842 SELBY *Brit. Forest Trees* 521 When young, the Cedar presents a pyramidal or spiry form. 1865 GEIKIE *Scen. & Geol. Scotl.* viii. 219 The height and the angular spiry forms of the mountain ridges.

4. Of places: Full of spires; spire-crowned.

1728–46 THOMSON *Spring* 952 Spiry towns by surging columns mark'd Of household smoke. 1756 DYER *Fleece* I. 50 The leas And ruddy tilth which spiry Ross beholds. 1843 RUSKIN *Mod. Paint.* (1860) V. VIII. iv. § 10. 189 The group of spires, without it, would not..give a proper impression of Lausanne, as a spiry place. 1889 STEVENSON *Edinburgh* 180 The spiry habitable city.

5. *slang.* Highly distinguished.

1825 T. HOOK *Sayings* Ser. II. I. 229 Mr. Abberly used to think it quite spiry to wear a white hat and sit upon the coach-box and drive them himself on Sundays.

6. Characterized by slenderness or slimness of growth or form.

1853 R. S. SURTEES *Sponge's Sp. Tour* XX. 99 The light spiry ease of an animal full of strength and running. 1856 'STONEHENGE' *Brit. Rural Sports* I. XI. i. 97/1 It would be impossible..to distinguish a large spiry foxhound from one of the smallest and lightest of her Majesty's beautiful pack [of staghounds].

Spiry (spəi·ri), *a.*[2] [f. SPIRE *sb.*[3]] Curving or coiling in spirals.

1676 DRYDEN *State Innoc.* IV. i, Hid in the spiry volumes of the snake, I lurked within the covert of a brake. 1697 — *Virg. Georg.* I. 334 Around our Pole the spiry Dragon glides. 1725 POPE *Odyss.* IV. 619 On spiry volumes there a Dragon rides. 1798 SOTHEBY tr. *Wieland's Oberon* (1826) I. 157 Soft through the ivory flows his gentle breath, And from its spiry folds sweet fairy tones ascend.

†**Spiscious,** *a. Obs.*–[1] [For *spissous*: see SPISS *a.*] Of a thick consistency.

1655 tr. *Sorel's Com. Hist. Francion* III. 54 It could not properly be called a liquor, but rather a certain concreted mist or spiscious Froath.

Spise, obs. form of SPICE *sb.* and *v.*

†**Spise,** *v. Obs. rare.* Also **spyse.** [Aphetic form of DESPISE *v.*] *trans.* To despise.

13.., *Seuen Sages* 2311 (W.), Al the werld [will] the spise, Yif thou do bi here [= by her], and lete the wise. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 3889 He spake neuer dispituosly, ne spiset no man. 1435 MISYN *Fire of Love* 44 Pat, vanite spisyd & spurnyd, to trewth vnpartyngly we draw.

Spiserie, -orie, obs. forms of SPICERY.

†**Spiss,** *a. Obs.* Also 6 **spysse,** 6–7 **spisse.** [ad. L. *spiss-us* (whence It. *spesso,* Pg. *espesso,* Sp. *espeso,* OF. *espes, espeis, espais,* F. *épais*).] Thick, dense, compact, close.

c 1530 *Judic. Urines* I. iii. 9 b, Spisse is thycke. *Ibid.* II. vii. 28 b, And in these maner wyse maye vryne be spysse. 1567 MAPLET *Gr. Forest* 67 The male [plant] is of more spisse or tough branches. 1614 BRERewood *Lang. & Relig.* To Rdr., This spisse and dense, yet polished, this copious, yet concise..Treatise of the variety of Languages. 1658 A. FOX *Wurts' Surg.* III. xvii. 275 Boil these to a spisse Catalasme. 1670 *Phil. Trans.* V. 1028 This little Chrystalline being of a more spiss consistence then the great one, its refraction is also more strong. 1711 *Ibid.* XXVII. 274, I saw a Spot arise.., and again nearly disappear; and then again appear strong and spiss. 1784 J. KEEBLE *Harmonics* 29 The number of spiss or small intervals.

Hence †**Spi·ssly** *adv.*; †**Spi·ssness.** *Obs.*

1598 FLORIO, *Condensità,* a thicknes, a densitie, a spisnes. *Ibid., Spessezza,* thicknes, spissenes. 1611 COTGR., *Espesse-*

ment, thickly, spissely, close together. *Ibid., Espesseur*, thicknesse, densitie, spissenesse, closenesse.

† Spi·ssament. *Obs. rare* −1. [ad. L. *spissāmentum*, f. *spissāre* (see next). Cf. It. *spessamento*, Sp. *espesamiento*.] A thickening substance.

1652 FRENCH *Yorksh. Spa* iv. 46 The body is to be anointed with oyle, with spissaments or thickeners that the quality onely of the cooler be received, and not the substance.

Spi·ssated, *ppl. a. rare.* [f. *spissāt-us*, pa. pple. of L. *spissāre*, f. *spiss-us* SPISS *a.*] Thickened.

1727 BAILEY (vol. II). *Spissated*,..thickened. *a* 1779 WARBURTON *Div. Legation* II. iv. Wks. 1788 I. 266 The images, which the spiscated [*sic*] juice of poppy presents to the fancy. 1859 MAYNE *Expos. Lex.* 1190 *Spissatus*,..thickened: spissated.

So **Spi·ssating** *ppl. a.*, thickening. *rare.*

1657 *Physical Dict.* s.v.

† Spissa·tion. *Obs.*−0 [ad. L. *spissātio*.] A thickening (1727 in BAILEY, vol. II).

† Spissative, *a. Obs.*−1 [Cf. prec. and -IVE. So Sp. *espesativo*.] Serving to thicken.

1678 R. R[USSELL] tr. *Geber* II. i. ii. i. 38 For Temperate Heat only is Spissative of Humidity.

† Spissed, *a. Obs. rare.* [f. SPISS *a.*] Thickened, condensed.

1635 HEYWOOD *Hierarchy* III. Comm 161 The Spissed Fire turnes into thickned Aire; The Aire condenst, to Water makes repaire. *Ibid.* IV. 214 Of such a spissed Substance there's no need.

† Spi·ssid, *a. Obs.*−1 [f. L. *spiss-us* SPISS *a.* + -ID 1.] Thick.

1781 *Phil. Trans.* LXXI. 375 Around their edges they are environed with a spissid sub-pellucid liquid, which seems to glue them to the branch.

Spissitude (spi·sitiud). [ad. L. *spissitūdo*, f. *spissus* SPISS *a.* Cf. It. *spessitudine*.] Density, thickness, compactness.

c 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* XII. 479 With walkers cley is salt so doon therto, The spissitude of hit to ha fordone. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* I. 611 For all the spissitude and thicknesse that they seeme to haue, they admit gently our sight to pierce into their bottome. 1658 A. FOX *Würtz' Surg.* II. xiv. 103 In the Joynt must not remain any spissitude or grossness when it is almost healed. 1682 H. MORE *Annot. Gianvill's Lux O.* 213 Spirits may have a contracted spissitude which is not Penetrable. 1720 HALLEY in *Phil. Trans.* XXXI. 3 The great strength of their native Light, forming the resemblance of a Body, when it is nothing else but the spissitude of their Rays. 1756 P. BROWNE *Jamaica* 235 It may be given with success in most diseases arising from a lentor or spissitude of the juices. 1822–7 GOOD *Study Med.* (1829) II. 17 The relative spissitude..ascribed to the elastic and muscular arterial coats. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 927 To produce a proper spissitude of stuff for making paper.

So † **Spi·ssity** [ad. L. *spissitās*]. *Obs.*−0

1623 COCKERAM i, *Spissitie*, thicknesse. [Also in Blount, Phillips, etc.]

† Spi·ssy, *a. Obs. rare.* [f. L. *spiss-us* SPISS *a.*] Dense, compact.

1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 108 Spissy, massy, *spissus*. 1637 N. WHITING *Albino & Bellama, Vind. Poesy* H 7 The spissye aire..Turnes into sea, earth's made a thickned water. 1683 PETTUS *Fleta Min.* I. (1686) 101 Sometimes with the digg'd Gold..there breaks a small grey spissy Oar.

Spit, *sb.*1 Forms: α. 1 spitu, 2–4 (6 *Sc.*) spite, 3, 5 spyte. β. 4–6 spete, 5 speete, 6 speet; *Sc.* 5–7 speit (6 speite, speitt), 6 speat (9 speate), 8–9 speet. γ. 4–6 spet, 5 spette. δ. 4–6 spitte, 6–8 spitt, 5– spit; 5–6 spytt(e, 6 spyt. [OE. *spitu*, = MDu. *spit*, *spet* (Flem., Du., WFris. *spit*), MLG. *spit* (*spyt*), *spet* (LG. *spit*, *spet*, *speet*, etc.), OHG. and MHG. *spiz* (obs. G. *spisz*, *spiss*, etc.; G. *spiess*); MSw. *spit* (Sw. *spett*) and Da. *spid* are from LG. By adoption into Romanic the word appears as It. (Naples dial.) *spito*, Sp. and Pg. *espeto* spit, F. *épois* (pl.) the points of a deer's horn.]

1. A cooking implement consisting of a slender sharp-pointed rod of metal or wood, used for thrusting into or through meat which is to be roasted at a fire; a broach.

α. *c* 1000 ÆLFRIC *Gram.* xi. (Z.) 80 *Ueru*, spitu. *Ibid.* xiv. 89 *Ueribus*, spitum. *a* 1100 in Assmann *Ags. Hom.* xv. 39 Sumne [heo] mid spiten betweon felle & flæsce þurhwræcon. 11.. *Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 548 *Ueru*, spite. *c* 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 208 Some op-on grediles of Ire i-rostede weren also, Some ase gyes, þe spites of Ire þoru3-out heom i-do. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 4213 [He had] yspited him þoru out mid an yrene spite & rostede in þis grete fur. *c* 1340 *Nominale* (Skeat) 491 *Broche, luche et esquele*, Spite, ladul and dissch. *a* 1400 *Octouian* 122 The kokes knaue, that turneth the spyte. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 469 Spyte, for rostynge,..*veru*. 1480 CAXTON *Chron. Eng.* CCXV. 202 They toke a spyte of coper brennyng and put it in to his body. 1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* I. 287 Rosting at the fyre, vpon a spite of trie.

β. *a* 1300 *Body & Soul* in *Map's Poems* (Camden) 334 Thine cokes snelle, that scholden..greithe thi mete, With spetes. *c* 1400 *Brut* (1906) 253 [They] toke a spete of Copur þrennyng, & put hit..into his body. *c* 1430 *Two Cookery-bks.* 8 Put þe porke on a fayre spete, an rost it half y-now. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* V. ii. 117 Sum vthir..the colis hett Wndir the speitis swakkis. 1538 in *Lett. Suppress. Monast.* (Camden) 194, ij gret brasse pottys,..spetys, pannys. 1676 in Macintosh *Anc. Rec. Kirkwall* (1892) 78 Ane pair of long caces [*read* raxes] and ane speit. 1679 J. SOMERVILLE *Mem. Somervilles* (1815) I. 240 When any persones of qualitie wer to be with him, he used to wryte in the postscript of his letters, Speates and Raxes. 1747 in *Nairne Peerage Evid.* (1874) 80 Three speets one shilling sixpence. 1824 SCOTT *Ep. to J. G. Lockhart* 42 *Speates and raxes* ere five [o'clock] for a famishing guest, sir.

γ. 1392 *Earl Derby's Exp.* (Camden) 205, vj spets et meremiis pro rakks. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 355/2 A Spette of flesche, *verutum*. 1559 *Bury Wills* (Camden) 153 A skommer, a spet, a gredyron. 1564 *Wills & Inv. N. C.* (Surtees, 1835) 219 Tongs, poore, shouell, spet, and that belongs thervnto.

δ. 1391 *Earl Derby's Exp.* (Camden) 102 Pro iiij magnis spittes longis, et ij paruis spittes. *c* 1420 *Liber Cocorum* (1862) 13 Rost hit afterwarde.., then serve thou may Hit forthe with spit. 1495 *Nottingham Rec.* III. 38 Unum spytte cum uno cobberd. 1540 *Test. Ebor.* (Surtees) VI. 119 The gretest yron spit that I have. 1553 EDEN *Treat. New Ind.* (Arb.) 30 They rosted also mans fleshe vpon spyttes. 1607 SHAKS. *Cor.* IV. iv. 5 Least that thy Wiues with Spits, and Boyes with stones In puny Battell slay me. 1671 MILTON *P. R.* II. 343 Fowl of game, In pastry built, or from the spit. 1710 PALMER *Proverbs* 107 It ends with poison in the cup, or with the spit in his guts. 1740 SOMERVILLE *Hobbinol.* II. 131 A Spit he seiz'd, Just reeking from the fat Surloyn. 1809 MALKIN *Gil Blas* IX. ix. P 5 We have.. wherewithal to keep the spit and the spigot in exercise. 1848 LYTTON *Harold* II. i, The meats were not placed on the table, but served upon small spits. 1870 BRYANT *Iliad* I. I. 25 Transfixed with spits, And roasted with nice care.

fig. 1607 HIERON *Wks.* I. 413 Thrust through with a spit of reproch.

Comb. 1617 MINSHEU *Ductor*, A *Spitter*, a yong male Deere, that beginnes to haue his hornes grow vp sharpe spitwise.

b. *To beat* (etc.)..*with the spit*, to treat with unexpected harshness (following upon kindly usage or hospitality). Now only *dial.* (in *transf.* use).

1553 T. WILSON *Rhet.* 72 b, Suche are not to be lyked that geue a man a shoulder of mutton, and breake his heade with the spitte when thei haue doen. 1584 GREENE *Arbasto* Wks. (Grosart) III. 214 Thou art bidden to the feast by loue, and art beaten with the spit by beauty. 1674– [see ROAST MEAT 2 c]. 1686 WOOD *Life* (O.H.S.) III. 186 Din'd at the College. [*note*] 'Gave me roast-meat and beat me with the spit.' 1690 W. WALKER *Idiomat. Anglo-Lat.* 43 To bid one to roast and beat him with the spit. 1876 ROBINSON *Whitby Gloss.* 182/1 'Nevver invite a friend to a roast and then beat him with the spit,' do not confer a favor and then make the obligation felt.

c. The contents of a spit. *rare*−1.

1634 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* 150 They have Camell or Mutton cut in mammocks or small bits put vpon scuers.. rosted in the fire; of this they sell three or foure spits for two pence.

† 2. a. A fin-spine of a fish. *Obs.*−1

c 1205 LAY. 21329 He..bihaldeð þu ligeð i þan stræme stelene fisces;..þer fleoteð heore spiten swulc hit spæren weoren.

† b. The point *of* a spear. *Obs.*

c 1450 *Cast. Persev.* 1400 in *Macro Plays*, With spete of spere to þee I spynne; Goddis lawys to þee I lerne.

† 3. A straight horizontal stroke used as a mark in books; = OBELISK *sb.* 2. *Obs.*

1388 WYCLIF *Esth.* x. 3 Which chapitre we bi oure custom han bifor markid with a spite. 1583 [see OBELISK *sb.* 2]. 1610 HEALEY *St. Aug. Citie of God* 733 The booke is not corrected but rather corrupted by those asteriskes, and spits. 1627 BP. HALL *Epist.* II. v. 303 Either your stars or your spits shall be welcome to my margent.

4. † a. A slender or sharp-pointed rod. *Obs.*

1485 *Naval Acc. Hen. VII* (1896) 51 Merlyng Irenes, iiij, Spyttes of Iron, j, Canne hokes, ij. 1577 HARRISON *England* 91 b/1 In sundry parts of Lancasshyre..the people go ..into their Fennes and Marises with long spittes, which they dashe here and there..into the grounde.

b. *Printing.* An iron rod carrying the wheel by which the carriage of a hand-press is run out or in.

1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Printing*, Under the Carriage is fix'd a small piece of Iron call'd the Spit, with a double Wheel in the middle. 1808 STOWER *Printer's Gram.* 323 The axis, or spit, is a straight bar of iron,..about three inches longer than the whole breadth of the carriage. 1833 J. HOLLAND *Manuf. Metal* II. 210 The handle [of the rounce]..was attached to a rod which crossed the platten; this rod was connected with the spit by means of machinery.

c. A thatching-peg. (Cf. BROACH *sb.* 5.)

1833 LOUDON *Encycl. Archit.* § 122 These are fastened to the thatch, by staples, or spits, or broaches. 1901 *N. & Q.* 9th Ser. VIII. 178 The owner thought I meant the thatch-pegs, which held the thatch down, so he said, 'Speets'.

d. A rod or skewer on which fish are strung and hung up to dry. (Cf. BROACH *sb.* 2 b.)

1833 LOUDON *Encycl. Archit.* § 739 In the neighbourhood of Aberdeen, and in various places in the north of Scotland, haddocks are strung up on rods called spits. 1865 W. WHITE *E. Eng.* I. 146 These open partitions or racks are called 'loves'. They support the speets, which are sticks or laths, long enough to lie across from one to the other. 1883 R. HALDANE *Workshop Rec.* Ser. II. 443 Each fish (herring) is then threaded through the gills, on long thin spits holding 25 each.

e. A shuttle-pin.

1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2279.

5. A sword. (Chiefly contemptuous.)

1642 in Hazl. *E.P.P.* IV. 316 So that the vapour is all frenchified, With out-stucke bomm, streight breech, and spit at side. 1681 OTWAY *Soldier's Fort.* II. i, I know five or six more of the same stamp; that never came abroad without terrible long Spits by their sides. 1733 FIELDING *Don Quix. in Eng.* II. v, Throw by your spit, sir; throw by your spit, and I don't fear you. 1749 — *Tom Jones* XV. v, Don't think I am afraid of such a fellow as thee art! because [thou] hast got a spit there dangling at thy side. 1785 GROSE *Dict. Vulgar T., Spit*, a sword. 1871 B. TAYLOR *Faust* (1875) I. XIX. 171 Out with your spit without delay! You've but to lunge and I will parry.

6. A small, low point or tongue of land, projecting into the water; a long narrow reef, shoal, or sandbank extending from the shore.

1673 HICKERINGILL *G. Father Greybeard* 138 That sand with the two horns is the spits. 1764 J. BYRON *Voy.* (1773) I. 27 They drew up upon a stoney spit, which ran a good way into the sea. 1775 ROMANS *Florida* App. 72 Off of the Look-out on St. Rosa Island lies a spit, which you must avoid. 1802 *Naval Chron.* VIII. 211 Above the third buoy ..lies a dangerous spit. 1859 in *Merc. Marine Mag.* (1860) VII. 110 The spit or horn..extends 1½ miles. 1871 B. TAYLOR *Faust* (1875) II. II. 154 Around yon narrow spit the waves are rippling.

b. Const. *of* (land, sand, etc.).

1697 DAMPIER *Voy.* (1699) II. 461 It is a small spit of sand, just appearing above the Waters edge. 1727 A. HAMILTON *New Acc. E. Ind.* I. XXVII. 343 There are..several Spits of Sand jetting a pretty Way into the Sea from Points of Land. 1836 W. IRVING *Astoria* I. 132 The entrance from the sea..is bounded on the south side by a flat sandy spit of land, stretching into the ocean. 1863 BARING-GOULD *Iceland* 112 A long spit of black rubble round which the lake curls. 1884 *Contemp. Rev.* Aug. 325 The old town.. stood on an insulated spit of shore.

7. Special Combs.: **spit-boot**, a boot or gaiter fastening by means of an iron spike (*obs. dial.*); **† spit-file** (see quot.); **† spit-fish** [cf. MSw. *spitfisk*, G. *spiessfisch*], the sea-pike; **† spit-nose**, a species of *Oxyrhynchus*; **spit-point**, a sharp slender point; **spit-pointed** *a.*, having a point like a spit; **† spit-rack**, a rack used for supporting a spit or spits; **† spit-staff** (?); **† spit-turner**, a device for turning a spit; **† spit-wheel**, a wheel serving to turn a spit.

1707 N. BLUNDELL *Diary* (1895) 55 A pair of *Spit-Boots. 1729 WALKDEN *Diary* (1866) 43 Bought a pair of bellows and spit boot spurs. 1828 CARR *Craven Gloss., Spit-boots*, a species of boot, now very rarely in use. They opened on the outside of the leg. When put on, they were secured at the bottom by a sharp iron spit or spike, which passed into an iron socket. 1851 *Cumbld. Gloss., Spit-boots*, heavy leather gaiters with iron fastenings. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. xxii. (Roxb.) 272/1 A *Spit file..is an Iron rod thicker then a good wyer; it is bent a little from the handle to a square and then runs out streight. 1601 CHESTER *Love's Mart.* lxxxii, There swimmes the Shad, the *Spit-fish, and the Spurling. 1611 COTGR., *Spet*, .. a slender, long,.. blackish-backt sea-fish, called by some the Spit-fish, and by others .. the sea-Pike. 1668 CHARLETON *Onomast.* 136 *Lucius Marinus*, the Sea-Pike, or Spitt-Fish. *Ibid.* 156 *Oxyrincus Rondeletii*,..the *Spitnose. 1796 WITHERING *Brit. Plants* (ed. 3) III. 609 Leaves .. ending in *spit-points. *Ibid.* 855 Leaves .. narrow, *spit-pointed. *a* 1693 *Urquhart's Rabelais* III. xxxviii. 318 *Spitrack fool. 1828 TYTLER *Hist. Scotland* I. 399 About a thousand spit racks, with meat on them. 1608 WEDDERBURNE *Compt Bk.* (S.H.S.) 113 A *speit staf and carvit wark thairon. *c* 1475 *Pict. Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 770 *Hic veruvertor*, a *spete-turnere. 1703 MOXON *Mech. Exerc.* 51 The Wood-work belonging to the Jack, is a Barrel, a *Spit-wheel and a Handing of the Winch. 1776 HAWKINS *Hist. Mus.* I. 335 The dog who treads the spit-wheel.

Spit (spit), *sb.*2 Also 5 spyt. [f. SPIT *v.*2 Cf. SPET *sb.*1 and Da. *spyt* (NFris. *spiit*).]

1. The fluid secreted by the glands of the mouth, esp. when ejected; saliva, spittle; a clot of this.

See also CUCKOO-SPIT, *frog-spit*.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 24085 Þai sput on him þair spit. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 469 Spyt, or spotle, *sputum, screa, saliva*. *c* 1530 *Hours of Blessed Virgin* 78 His face wt spit defil'd. 1611 COTGR., *Crachat*, spittle, or spit; also, a spitting. 1633 P. FLETCHER *Poet. Misc.* Wks. 1909 II. 256 See how with streams of spit th' are drencht. 1700 FLOYER *Cold Baths* I. 47 Temperate Bathing..ripens the Spit, and helps it up. 1747 tr. *Astruc's Fevers* 291 The yellow spits generally expectorated in a peripneumony. 1865 *Morning Star* 7 Jan., The presence of 'stour', or dust,..the particles of which..manifest themselves in what is called the 'black spit'. 1904 *Brit. Med. Jrnl.* 10 Sept. 35 The spit ceased to be fetid.

b. *Path.* Spitting due to morbid condition.

1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* II. 967 The men become prematurely old; they suffer from cough and spit.

2. The act of spitting; an instance of this.

a 1658 LOVELACE *Lucasta, Toad & Spider* 13 The speckl'd Toad..Defies his foe with a fell Spit. 1700 C. NESSE *Antid. Armin.* (1827) 30 Fortune is but the devil's blasphemous spit upon divine providence. 1763 C. JOHNSTON *Reverie* I. 143, I began to hope that I should come off with a spit in the face, or a kick on the breech at worst. 1883 E. FITZGERALD *Lett.* (1889) I. 224 The Athenaeum in which you will see a more determined spit at me. 1896 *Daily News* 19 May 8/1 Whenever Masai retire from a conference without spitting the spit of peace, squalls may be expected.

transf. 1882 *Proc. R. Geogr. Soc.* IV. 471 [There was] a little spit from a Mahratta musket.

b. *A spit and a stride*, a very short distance.

1676 COTTON *Walton's Angler* II. 23 You are now..within a spit, and a stride of the peak. 1676 *Poor Robin's Intell.* 4–11 Apr. 1/1 He had not gone above a spit and a stride but he meets another arch Wag. 1677 W. HUGHES *Man of Sin* I. x. 44 They, I think, out-spake him, a spit and stride, who prayed unto the Pope [etc.]. 1828 in CARR *Craven Gloss.*

3. *The very spit of*, the exact image, likeness, or counterpart of (a person, etc.).

1825 KNAPP & BALDWIN *Newgate Cal.* III. 497/2 A daughter,..the very spit of the old captain. 1836 T. HOOK *G. Gurney* I. 202 You are a queer fellow—the very spit of your father. 1886 MACQUOID *Sir J. Appleby* III. x. 143 This young chap has got his dear grandmother's eyes, why, he's the very spit of her.

b. With addition of *fetch, image, picture*.

1859 SALA *Gas-light & D.* xxix. 334 He would be the very spit and fetch of Queen Cleopatra. 1869– in dialect use (*Eng. Dial. Dict.*). 1895 E. CASTLE *Lt. of Scarthey* vi. 71 She's like the poor lady that's dead and gone, the spit an' image she is.

4. A slight sprinkle or shower of rain or snow.

1849 Cupples *Green Hand* x. (1856) 90 The night was quite dark, the rain coming in sudden spits out of the wind. 1851 T. J. Taylor *Operat. Running Streams* 33 On the occurrence of a thunder spit. 1889 F. M. Peard *Paul's Sister* III. xxvi. 138 The day was mild,..with occasional spit of rain.

5. *attrib.*, as *spit-venom*; also **spit-box**, a spittoon; **spit-curl** *U.S.*, †-**insect** (see quots.); **spit-kid** *Naut.*, a receptacle for spit.

1833 M. Scott *Tom Cringle* xviii, There was no paucity of silver dishes, basins, *spitboxes, censers, and utensils of all shapes..and sizes. 1840 R. H. Dana *Bef. Mast* xxii, Having a large spit-box always under the steps. 1890 J. Cagney tr. *Jaksch's Clin. Diagnosis* iv. 88 The sputum has a rusty tinge.., and adheres firmly to the spit-box. 1859 Bartlett *Dict. Amer.* (ed. 2) 435 **Spit-curl*, a detached lock of hair curled upon the temple; probably from having been at first plastered into shape by the saliva. 1872 De Vere *Americanisms* 324 The female ornament..is the spit-curl. 1755 *Dict. Arts & Sci.* IV., **Spit-insect*, in zoology, the cicada with brown wings, and two white spots on them, and a double white line. 1891 *Cent. Dict.* s.v., *Spitkid. 1898 Kipling *Fleet in Being* 13 After dinner, as they were smoking above the spit-kids. 1597 Hooker *Eccl. Pol.* v. ii. § 2 The *spit-venome of their poisoned hearts breaketh out to the annoyance of others.

Spit, *sb.*[3] Also 9 *dial.* **speet.** [a. MDu. or MLG. *spit* (Du., LG., WFris. *spit*, NFris. *spet*, *spatt*; also MDu. *speet*, MLG. *spêt*): see Spit *v.*[3]]

1. Such a depth of earth as is pierced by the full length of a spade-blade; a spade-graft: a. Followed by adjs., esp. *deep.*

The sing. is sometimes used after numerals instead of the pl.

1507–8 in Gage *Hist. Suffolk* (1838) 145 For making of a diche..ij spitte depper then the cast of the cawsy now is. 1645–50 Boate *Ireland's Nat. Hist.* (1860) 128 A good clay (which commonly lyeth one or two spits deep). 1670 J. Smith *Eng. Improv. Reviv'd* 36 The ground is delved two spit deep. 1691 Ray *Coll. Eng. Wds.* (ed. 2) Pref., We say a Spade-graft or a Spit deep. *a* 1722 Lisle *Husb.* (1757) 25 Whole beds of chalk, an half spit thick. 1763 *Museum Rust.* I. 254, I make my labourers dig up the intervals one spit deep. 1807 Vancouver *Agric. Devon* (1813) 285 These drains..should be made one foot (or spit) wide, and one spit deep. 1882 *Gard. Chron.* XVII. 84 The best method of preparing the soil for the reception of young trees is to dig or trench it at least two spits deep.

b. In other contexts.

1677 Plot *Oxfordsh.* 66 At Teynton also, within a spit of the surface, they dig a sort of earth they there call Lam. *a* 1679 Sir J. Moore *Eng. Interest* (1703) 47, I..digg my hole 4 Foot square, but no deeper than one Spit, or thereabout. 1792 *Trans. Soc. Encour. Arts* X. 4 The soil was dug one full spit, and the turf inverted. 1842 Lance *Cottage Farmer* 11 Digging one acre of Wheat Land, twelve inches deep, by two 6-inch spits. 1868 O'Curry *Lect. Anc. Irish* xxxiii. (1873) III. 291 It [a curious harp] was raised by labourers at the depth of twelve spits or spadings under the earth in Coolness Moss.

c. A thrust *of* the spade in digging.

1844 H. Stephens *Bk. Farm* II. 552 Manure, which should either be dug down 18 inches deep with a double spit of the spade, or ploughed down with a double furrow.

2. A layer of earth of a spade's depth: a. With adjs. denoting the relative position of the layer.

1663 Gerbier *Counsel* 53 Brickmakers are accustomed to dig the top spit..and to throw it with the other clay. 1670 J. Smith *Eng. Improv. Reviv'd* 36 The second spit or undermost earth is laid upon the first spit or spadeful of earth. 1706 London & Wise *Retir'd Gard.* I. ii, The first Spit, or Top Earth is always allow'd to be better than that which lyes under it. 1757 Mrs. Griffith *Lett. Hen. & Frances* (1767) III. 217 The Difference..may be compared to [that between] the upper Sod, and the under Spit, of the Earth. 1824 T. Hogg *Carnation* 93 Loam..should consist of the top spit and crumbs only. 1851 Glenny *Handbk. Fl. Gard.* 9 Use a compost of two-thirds loam, from the upper spit of a pasture, and one-third sand. 1882 *Garden* 28 Jan. 54/1 The soil..is entirely composed of the top spit of a neighbouring meadow.

b. In other contexts.

1780 Young *Tour Irel.* I. 63 He dug it over, levelled it, and burnt the spit in great heaps. 1792 *Trans. Soc. Encour. Arts* IX. 42 Covering them [potatoes] with straw and a spit of earth. 1805 Dickson *Pract. Agric.* I. 323 He only digs one spit fourteen inches deep with the bottom land-ditching spade 1844 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* V. i. 9 He returns and with another spade longer and narrower than the last cuts out the next spit or lower part of the drain.

3. The quantity of earth taken up by a spade at a time; a spadeful.

1675 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1031/4 The River side,..where the Lord Bishop diggeth the first Spit. 1733 Tull *Horse-Hoeing Husb.* xx. 292 You will find..most of the Pieces or Spits, which are dug out of your Sight, to be of twice that Thickness. 1792 Belknap *Hist. New Hampsh.* III. 119 This being dug in spits of a proper size, and dried, becomes valuable fewel. 1837 *Flemish Husb.* 20 in *Husb.* (L.U.K.) III, Digging out spits of earth with the spade..., and setting them up on the surface already ploughed. 1881 Whitehead *Hops* 43 The modern diggers..do not lift each 'spit' up on their spuds and throw it over, as the old-fashioned workmen did in other days.

b. A series of spadefuls taken in a line.

a 1722 Lisle *Husb.* (1757) 21 Farmer Bond..carried a spit [of dung] all along from the heap, and spread it near to the brink of the furrows. 1765 *Museum Rust.* IV. 374 A spit of earth out of the trenches is..to be cast amongst the plants of coleseed in the rows.

4. *dial.* A special form of spade (see quots.).

1828 Carr *Craven Gloss.*, *Spit*, a spade with a mouth almost semicircular. 1830 *Cumb. Farm Rep.* 65 in *Husb.* (L.U.K.) III, A narrow-mouthed spade (technically called a spit) corresponding to the breadth of the tile to be used. 1866– in *dial. glossaries (Lanc., Yks., Linc., Glouc.).*

5. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *spit-deep* adv., *-dung*, *-shovel.*

1693 *Phil. Trans.* XVII. 826 Some of these *Tubera*, which lay *Spit deep under ground. 1765 *Museum Rust.* IV. 311 Digging, spit-deep, sixteen rods, at three-pence per rod. *a* 1800 Pegge *Suppl. Grose, Spit-deep*, the depth of a spade only. 1672 F. Drope *Fruit-Trees* 3 Upon this Bed must be laid some *spit-dung (*i. e.* such horse-dung as is rotted in the heap, and may be digged with a spade). 1778 [W. H. Marshall] *Minutes Agric., Observ.* III *note*, The ordinary distinction of Long-Dung and Short or Spit-Dung. 1825 *Greenhouse Comp.* I. 115 Loam with..vegetable mould, or mould of spit dung. 1864 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* XXV. II. 329, I..buy good spit-dung, ready for use, as I want it. 1678 *Phil. Trans.* XII. 946 The *Spit-shovel is to be made of a thin streight Iron ten Inches long, and five Inches broad, with a Socket in the side of it to put a staff or handle. 1728 *Ibid.* XXXV. 568 A narrow Spade, commonly termed a Spit-shovel.

Spit, *v.*[1] Forms: *α.* 3 spit(i)en (*pa.t.* **spitede**, *pa. pple.* **i-spited, y-spited, -spyted**), 5 **spite, spyte.** *β. Sc.* and *dial.* 6 **spete**, 6, 8–9 **speet.** *γ.* 5–6 **spytte**, 6 **spyt**, 6– **spit** (*pa. t.* and *pa. pple.* **spitted**), 7 **spitt.** [f. Spit *sb.*[1] Cf. MDu. (Du.) and MLG. *speten*, MDu. and LG. *spitten*, older G. (now dial.) *spissen* (G. *spiessen*).]

1. *trans.* To put on a spit; to thrust through with a spit.

c 1205 Lay. 26522 He..smat hine þurh mid þan spere swa he ispited weore. 1297 R. Glouc. (Rolls) 4213 Þis grisliche geant adde..yspited him þoru out mid an yrene spite. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 469 Spyte mete on a spete, *veruo.* 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 356/1 To Spytte..flesche, *verutare.* 1530 Palsgr. 729, I wyll spytte my meate or ever I wyl set my pyes in the oven. 1581 A. Hall *Iliad* II. 31 The gigots and the other flesh in peeces they did spit. *c* 1611 Chapman *Iliad* IX. 209 Then of a well-fed swine A huge fat shoulder he cuts out, and spits it wondrous fine. 1699 Dampier *Voy.* II. i. 31 Little bits of Pork, spitted 5 or 6 of them at once, on a small skiver, and roasted. 1749 Smollett *Gil Blas* x. x, He lighted a fire, spitted a leg of mutton. 1787 Farley *Lond. Art Cookery* (ed. 4) 35 Having spitted your pig,..lay it down to a brisk clear fire. 1833 Loudon *Encycl. Archit.* § 1515 The operation, when the meat is once spitted,..goes on of itself. 1879 Beerbohm *Patagonia* xi. 171, I lost no time in spitting some meat and setting it to roast.

b. *transf.* To pierce, transfix, or stab with a sharp weapon, etc.; to fix or impale *on* or *upon* something sharp.

α, γ. c 1430 *Pilgr. Lyf Manhode* II. cxxviii. (1869) 124 A spere, that was al ful of eren of men perced, whiche weren spited ther on. 1599 Shaks. *Hen. V*, III. iii. 38 Your naked Infants spitted vpon Pykes. 1607 R. C[arew] tr. *Estienne's World Wond.* 144 Two brethren..who were spitted vpon a stake some fifteene yeares ago. *a* 1643 W. Cartwright *Ordinary* IV. i, Hee'l spit you If he but know you are a usurer. 1781 Cowper *Charity* 354 Whether he measure earth,..Weigh sun-beams, carve a fly, or spit a flea. 1847 E. Bronte *Wuthering Heights* vi. I. 106 If she had been spitted on the horns of a mad cow. 1870 Thornbury *Tour rd. Eng.* I. ii. 51 They were found, side by side, each having spitted the other with his rapier.

fig. 1589 R. Harvey *Pl. Perc.* 11 Heresay is too slender an euidence to spit a mans credit vpon.

refl. 1818 Scott *Rob Roy* x, My falcon Cheviot, who spitted himself on a heron's bill.

β. 1513 Douglas *Æneid* IX. xii. 90 And Phegeas [he] doun brytnys in the feyld, Spetit throw owt the body and his scheyld. 1575 *Gamm. Gurton* v. ii. 18 If he came, [he] bad me not sticke to speet hym. 1785 Burns *Jolly Beggars* xxxix, He swore by a' was swearing worth, To speet him like a pliver.

2. To pierce or stud (a thing) *with* spikes.

a 1225 *Juliana* 57 [He] lette..a swiðe wunderlich hweol meten & makien & þurh spitien [*v.r.* spiten] hit al..wið irnene gadien.

3. a. To fix (herrings or other fish) on a spit or rod for drying or smoking.

1617 *Minutes Archd. Colchester* (MS.), Allegauit that his servant dyd spitt herrings vpon the saboth day,..for otherwise the herrings had bene all lost. 1865 W. White *E. Eng.* II. 140 The fish are washed and speeted by gangs of women, who with nimble fingers hang them one by one through gills and mouth upon speets.

b. To string (needles) together by passing a wire through the eyes.

1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib., Brit.* II. No. 6449, These little labourers take the needles when they have been 'eyed' and proceed to 'spit' them, that is, to pass a wire through the eye of every needle.

Spit, *v.*[2] Forms: *Inf.* 1 **spittan**, 3–4 **spitten**, 5 **spyttyn**; 4–6 **spitte, spytte, spyt** (5–6 **spytt**), 6– **spit** (6–7 **spitt**). *Pa. t. a.* 3–7 **spitted** (6 *Sc.* **-it**), 4–6 **spytted.** *β.* 4–6 **spitte, spytte**, 4– **spit** (4 **spitt, spyt**, 5 **spytt**); 6 **spett(e**, 6–7 **spet**; 6 **spatt(e**, 6– **spat**; 6–9 **spate**, 7 **spot**, 4, 9 *dial.*, **sput.** *Pa. pple. α.* 1 **gispitted**, 4–6 **spytted**, 6–7 (9 *dial.*) **spitted** (6 *Sc.* **-it**). *β.* 6–7 **spet** (6 **spette**), 5– **spit** (6–7 **spitte**, 6 **spytte**), 9 **spat**, *dial.* **sput.** *γ.* 6 **spetten**, 7–8 (9 *dial.*) **spitten**, 9 *dial.* **spatten, sputten.** [Northern OE. *spittan* (also *gespittan*), = G. dial. *spitzen*, of imitative origin; cf. MSw. *spytta, spotta* (Sw. *spotta*), Norw. dial. *spytta* (*sputta*), Da. *spytte*, NFris. *spiitte*, older G. (now dial.) *spützen*, also ON. and Icel. *spýta* (Norw. dial. *spyte*) and OE. *spétan* Spete *v.*

OE. instances are rare, the common words being *spétan, spétlan*, and *sptwan.* From the 15th cent. the conjugation has included forms properly belonging to the obsolete Spete, together with new formations on the analogy of strong vbs. See also Spet *v.*]

I. *trans.* †1. To eject saliva on (a person) as a sign of contempt. *Obs.*

c 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Mark x. 34 Hia spittes hine & hia suingeð hine. *c* 975 *Rushw. Gosp.* Luke xviii. 32 Swungen [he] bið & ʒispitted bið. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 290 Spit him amidde þe bearde to hoker & to schom, þet flikered so mit þe. *c* 1230 *Hali Meid.* 17 Þenne spit leccherie, to schome & to bismere, meidenhad o þe nebbe.

2. To eject from the mouth by the special effort involved in expelling saliva.

To spit sixpences: see Sixpence 2 d.

c 975 *Rushw. Gosp.* Matt. xxvii. 30 Þa spittende on him heor spaðl, ʒenoman þæt hreod & slogun his heafud. *a* 1225 *Juliana* 49 Hare ahne blod ich habbe ofte imaket ham to spitten & to speowen. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 24085 Þai sput on him þair spit. *c* 1385 Chaucer *L. G. W.* 1433 *Hypsiphyle*, Two bolys makyd al of bras That spittyn fer. *c* 1440 *Alph. Tales* 180 He strake hym opon þe breste, at he spytt blude with iij dayes. 1481 Caxton *Reynard* (Arb.) 111 The wulf had so moche payne and anguyssh.. that he spytte blood. 1509 Hawes *Past. Pleas.* xxxiii. (Percy Soc.) 166 With his thre hedes he spytte all his venum. 1590 *Pasquil's Apol.* I. B iij, Hath the Toade no poyson before he spits it? 1600 Surflet *Countrie Farme* I. xii. 65 That cluttered blood which the sicke partie shall haue spet. 1697 Dryden *Virg. Georg.* IV. 148 A thirsty Train That..spit from their dry Chaps the gather'd Dust again. 1711 Addison *Spect.* No. 117 ₱ 7 Sir Roger told me, that old Moll had been often brought before him for making Children spit Pins. 1789 *Med. Comm.* II. 297 He..spate a vast quantity of tough white froth. 1803 *Med. Jrnl.* IX. 430 He..began to spit thick matter of a greenish colour. 1821 Scott *Kenilw.* xxiv, This master-fiend shall spit a few flashes of fire..on the spot, if it will do you pleasure. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* IV. 162 Recovery may ensue after the patient has been spitting muco-pus for weeks.

fig. a 1568 Ascham *Scholem.* II, Wks. (1904) 239 Their whole knowledge..was tied onely to their tong & lips,.. and therfore was sone spitte out of the mouth againe. 1608 Shaks. *Per.* III. i. 8 Thou stormest venomously; Wilt thou spit all thyself? 1777 Brand *Pop. Antiq.* 101 *note*, Boys have a Custom (*inter se*) of spitting their Faith, or as they also call it here, their Saul (Soul), when required to make Asseverations in a Matter of Consequence.

b. With *forth, out, up.*

c 1386 [see c]. *c* 1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 6353 He wald þe penys oute hane spit, he moght noght opyn his mouth ȝit. 1509 Hawes *Past. Pleas.* xxxvii. (Percy Soc.) 192 Toward me he came,..Spyttyng out fyre. 1530 Palsgr. 729 The adder dyd spytte forthe her venyme by and by. 1558 Warde tr. *Alexis' Secr.* 21 b, He tourned..vpon the beddes side, and spitte out a great parte of the matter. 1663 Bp. Patrick *Parab. Pilgr.* IX, As men do with bitter Pills which..if they chaw them, prove so distastful, that they are ready to spit them out again. 1745 tr. *Columella's Husb.* VIII. xvi, When he..had tasted of a pike..and had spitten it out, he followed the impudent action with a jest. 1779 in Jesse *Selwyn & Contemp.* (1844) IV. 258 Those rascals we have seen take so much snuff and spit it up again. 1842 Lover *Handy Andy* xviii, He..saw the trumpeter spitting out a mouthful of beer. 1898 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* V. 55 Since then he had spat up thick phlegm.

fig. 1598 Chapman *Hero & Leander* III, Takes news as if it were too hot to eat, And spits it slavering forth for dog-fees meat. 1613 Shaks. *Hen. VIII*, I. ii. 61 This makes..Tongues spit their duties out.

c. With various fig. objects (as *venom, poison, fire*, etc.) denoting the utterance or expression of malice, hatred, anger, or other violent feeling.

c 1386 Chaucer *Pard. T.* Prol. 135 Thus spitte I out my venym vnder hewe Of hoolynesse, to semen hooly. 1560 Daus tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 20 Herein they..spitte oute the poyson of theyr hatred. 1583 Babington *Commandm.* (1590) 364 When hee woulde haue euen spit fire in Anthonies face and galled him as greatly as hee could. 1621 in Kempe *Losely MSS.* (1836) 454 Y^e^ Spaniards, against whom they are apt..to spitt theyr spleens. *a* 1656 Bp. Hall *Rem. Wks*, (1660) 161 One spits his poyson upon the blessed Trinity. 1701 Farquhar *Sir H. Wildair* I. i, Let 'em spit their venom among themselves, and it hurts nobody. 1759 Dilworth *Pope* 16 When the venom you spit falls short of your aim. 1863 Holland *Lett. Joneses* vi. 98 There be women..who can scold or cry or howl or spit fire.

refl. 1735 Pope *Prol. Sat.* 320 Or at the ear of Eve, familiar Toad, Half froth, half venom, [he] spits himself abroad, In puns, or politics, or tales, or lies.

d. With compl. *in one's face, teeth*, etc. Chiefly in fig. use.

1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 97 Euer spyttynge thy offences in thy tethe. 1593 Shaks. *Rich. II*, I. i. 194 My teeth shall teare The slaiuish motiue..And spit it..euen in Mowbrayes face. 1636 Brathwait *Rom. Emp.* 94 He bit off his tongue and spit it in her face. *a* 1711 Ken *Urania* Poet. Wks. 1721 IV. 475 Sweet Poetry has suffer'd most, By Bards..Who in her beauteous Visage spit The Putrefaction of their Wit. 1781 Cowper *Hope* 662 While bigotry..spits abhorrence in the Christian's face.

e. In phrases denoting great or exact likeness or resemblance. (Cf. Spit *sb.*[2] 3.)

F. *craché* is similarly used.

1602 Breton *Wonders worth Hear.* (1879) 8/1 Twoo girles, ..the one as like an Owle, the other as like an Urchin, as if they had beene spitte out of the mouthes of them. 1664 Cotton *Scarron.* 106 Hee's e'en as like thee as th' adst spit him. 1690 C. Nesse *Hist. O. & N. T.* I. 159 We are of our father the devil,..as like him as if spit out of his mouth. 1788 Grose *Dict. Vulgar T.* (ed. 2) s.v., He is as like his father as if he was spit out of his mouth; said of a child much resembling his father. 1825– in *Eng. Dial. Dict.*

3. a. To emit, cast, throw, in a manner similar to the ejection of saliva.

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* C. 338 Oure fader to þe fysch ferslych biddez, þat he hym sput spakly vpon spare drye. 1595 Shaks. *John* II. 211 The Canons..ready mounted.. to spit forth Their Iron indignation gainst your walles.

c 1611 CHAPMAN *Iliad* IV. 452 The sea thrusts vp her waues; ..she rores, And..spits euerie way her fome. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. I. iii, Sulphur-cloud spitting streaks of fire? 1863 HAWTHORNE *Our Old Home* (1879) 94 The clouds now spat down a few spiteful drops upon us. 1911 *Daily Mail* 1 Nov. 7/2 The bullets came crashing through the cactus leaves, spitting up sand all around us.

† b. To cause to be expelled in spittle. *Obs.*

1608 TOPSELL *Serpents* 45 The roote of Teasill young, for Fullers yet vnfit, Drunke in warme water, venome out doth spit.

c. *colloq.* To leave (visiting-cards).

1782 MME. D'ARBLAY *Diary* 24 Dec., As I had the coach, I then *spit* cards at Mrs. Chapone's, who has sent me an invitation.

d. To extrude or lay (eggs or spawn).

1847 HALLIWELL, *Spit*, to lay eggs, said of insects. 1909 *Toilers of Deep* Sept. 225/1 The adult oyster 'spits' its many thousands of eggs into the water.

4. With *out* (or †*forth*): To utter in a proud, spiteful, plain, or unreserved manner. Also without adv.: To speak (a language).

1595 SHAKS. *John* II. i. 458 A large mouth indeede, That spits forth death, and mountaines. 1639 S. DU VERGER tr. *Camus' Admir. Events* 310 Those students, who returning from the Universities, spit out at their mouth the superfluities of their memory. 1657 J. SMITH *Myst. Rhet.* 80 Thus Michael spits out bitter reproaches against David. 1701 CIBBER *Love makes Man* II. i, *Car.* Does my younger Brother speak any Greek yet, Sancho? *Sanc.* No, Sir, but he spits French like a Magpy. 1876 T. HARDY *Ethelberta* (1890) 5 A good saying well spit out is a Christmas fire to my withered heart. 1904 A. GRIFFITHS *Fifty Yrs. Publ. Serv.* 11 Now Sir, speak up...Don't be afraid, spit it out.

5. To put *out* by means of spitting.

1681 COTTON *Wond. Peak* 62 The water breaks on Rocks in such a showr..as made us doubt 'Twould hazard spitting all our Candles out.

II. *intr.* **6.** To eject saliva (at or on a person or thing) as a means of expressing hatred or contempt. Usually with preps., as *against*, *at*, *in*, *on*, etc.

c 975 *Ruskw. Gosp.* Matt. xxvi. 67 þa spittadun {hiæ} on his ondwliotu & mid hondum hine sloȝun. *a* 1240 *Wohunge* in *O. E. Hom.* I. 279 Hwen þat te sunefule men i þi neb spitted. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 16635 þai spitted on his luueli face. 13.. *K. Alis.* 891 (Linc.), 'Fy on þe!' quoþ Nycolas: And spitte amydde his face. *c* 1400 *Laud Troy-B.* 18577 [She] tare here clothes & on hem spit. *c* 1440 *Jacob's Well* 193 He spytted on þe cros, he dyspysed oure lady. 1483 CAXTON *Gold. Leg.* 231/2 They..spytten ayenste the fals ydollys and Statues. 1508 DUNBAR *Twa Mariit Wemen* 396, I spittit quhen I saw That super spendit euill spreit. 1542 UDALL *Erasm. Apoph.* 56 Aristippus spitted on the evill favoured face of Simus. 1608–9 MIDDLETON *Widow* v. i, Spit at me, gentlemen, If ever I'd such a thought. 1630 LENNARD tr. *Charron's Wisd.* II. iv. (1670) 256 For to go against his own nature, is to tempt God, to spit against the heavens. 1732 BERKELEY *Alciphr.* v. § 13 A determined purpose to murder any man who shall but spit in his face. 1797 *Monthly Mag.* XLVIII. 114 Equal to being tweaked by the nose, spitten upon and buffeted. 1825 SCOTT *Talism.* viii, 'Out upon the hound!' said Richard, spitting in contempt, by way of interjection. 1852 MRS. STOWE *Uncle Tom's C.* xxxviii, 'The more fool you!' said Legree, spitting scornfully at him. 1891 FARRAR *Darkn. & Dawn* li, They spit when they pass a temple; they turn away with horror from sacrifices.

b. In fig. use; freq. with *in one's face.*

(*a*) 1562 WINJET *Wks.* (S.T.S.) I. 108 Think ȝe nocht that this maist barber ruidnes..wald be spittit at be a Iow or an Ethnik? 1579 TOMSON *Calvin's Serm. Tim.* 327/2 Therefore they are so much the more to be accursed and to be spette at. 1612 BP. HALL *Contempl., O. T.* II. iv, How shall not all the world spit at this holy cruelty. 1663 BP. PATRICK *Parab. Pilgr.* xx, They will strain themselves to spit upon their sins. 1716 M. DAVIES *Athen. Brit.* II. 220 Simon Magus was betimes spit upon by the Primitive Bishop Irenæus. 1831 SCOTT *Ct. Rob.* xiii, I am a Christian man, spitting at, and bidding defiance to, Apollo, Bacchus, Comus, and all other heathen deities. 1851 MRS. BROWNING *Casa Guidi Wind.* I. 288 If we turned and spat Upon our antecedents, we were vile. 1868 TENNYSON *Lucretius* 196, I hate, abhor, spit, sicken at him.

(*b*) 1639 S. DU VERGER tr. *Camus' Admir. Events* 286 You spit upon your owne face. *a* 1715 BURNET *Own Time* (1766) II. 143 He said the petitioners for a Parliament spit in the king's face. 1761 HUME *Hist. Eng.* (1806) IV. 637 They could get no other answer than that God had spitten in his face. 1810 W. WILSON *Hist. Dissent. Ch.* III. 86 Say he died spitting in the devil's face, contemning him and his doctrine.

7. To eject saliva from the mouth; to expectorate.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 13544 Wit þis vn-to þe erth he spitt. 1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. x. 40 But þo þat feynen hem folis.. Spitten and spewen and speke foule wordes. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 469 Spyttyn, *screo*, *spuo*, *exspuo*. *a* 1450 MYRC *Par. Pr.* 890 Kepe þe welle þat þou ne spytte. 1530 PALSGR. 728 It is a foule thyng at a sermonde to here people spytte and retche or rough as they do. 1599 B. JONSON *Ev. Man out of Hum.* III. i, I haue beene taking an ounce of tabacco hard by here,..and I am come to Spit priuate in Paules. 1609 HOLLAND *Amm. Marcell.* 186 Hee was never seene abroad and out of his house to have snit his nose, or spit. 1674 R. GODFREY *Inj. & Ab. Physic* 131 He almost continually spitted, and daily grew worse. *c* 1720 PRIOR *Conversat.* 67 Out of breath, he turn'd to spit. 1778 in Jesse *Selwyn & Contemp.* (1844) III. 295 She spits and coughs much. 1841 LANE *Arab. Nts.* I. 68 When any of you has a bad dream, spit three times over your left shoulder. 1892 T. HARDY *Well-Beloved* III. i, Men drank, smoked, and spat in the inns.

b. With preps., as *about*, *against*, *at*, *in*, *into*, *on*, *upon*.

1382 WYCLIF *Ecclus.* xxviii. 14 If thou shul spitten vpon it, it shal ben queynt. 14.. *Rule Syon Monast.* liii. in *Collect. Topogr.* (1834) I. 31 None schal..spyt up on the stayres..but yf they trede it oute forthewythe. 1526 TINDALE *John* ix. 6 As sone as he had thus spoken, he spate on the grounde. 1596 SHAKS. *Tam. Shr.* III. i. 40 Spit in the hole man, and tune againe. 1605 DANIEL *Queen's Arcadia* 125 Wks. (Grosart) III. 221 If she meet but with my dog, she.. playes with his eares, Spits in his mouth. 1633 G. HERBERT *Temple, Unkindness* iii, My friend may spit upon my curious floore. 1668 H. MORE *Div. Dial.* II. xviii. (1713) 146 To spit in the Mouth of a Dog..is not indecorous for the Man, and grateful also to the Dog. 1714 ADDISON *Lover* No. 39, Sitting at table, he spits full upon the servants who waited there. 1777 BRAND *Pop. Antiq.* 101 *note*, In Combinations of the Colliers, &c. in the North, for the Purpose of raising their Wages, they are said to spit upon a Stone together, by Way of cementing their Confederacy. 1824 LANDOR *Imag. Conv.* Wks. 1853 I. 45/1 Nick gave unto him a shilling, having first spatten thereon, as he, according to his superstition, said, for luck. 1861 PETHERICK *Egypt*, etc. 424 Then rising and spitting in my face in token of amity, he said he was happy that I had sent for him. 1883 STEVENSON *Silverado Sq.* 146, I could not continue to give him a salary for spitting on the floor.

c. *To spit in* or *on one's hands*, in fig. use.

1577 GRANGE *Gold. Aphrod.* Hjb, If I haue anoynted your palmes with hope, spitte on your handes and take good holde. 1590 GREENE *Neuer too Late* Wks. (Grosart) VIII. 85 What Francesco? spit on thy hand, and lay holde on thy hart. 1834 [S. SMITH] *Lett. J. Downing* XXVII. (1835) 185 Afore I had time to spit in my hands, the Gineral finished the war.

d. Of certain animals when angry.

a 1668 LASSELS *Voy. Italy* (1698) II. 199 The Lion and the Leopard fighting together, spit angerly in one anothers faces. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) IV. 314 A whole day is often passed..which is spent in growling, quarrelling, and spitting at each other. 1844 HOOD *Tale of Temper* 52 No household cat that ever lapp'd To swear and spit was half so apt. 1872 'A. MERION' *Odd Echoes Oxf.* 3 Reproving My grimalkin for the dreadful way in which she spat and swore.

†e. *Phr.* (See quot., and cf. 7 b, quot. 1777.) *Obs.*

1777 BRAND *Pop. Antiq.* 101 *note*, We have too a kind of popular Saying, when Persons are of the same Party, or agree in Sentiment, 'they spit upon the same Stone'.

8. To sputter.

1611 COTGR., *La lumiere petille*, the candle sparkles, or spits. 1671 GREW *Anat. Pl., Idea* (1684) 17 So Fenil-Seeds, held in the flame of a Candle, will spit and spurtle. 1773 GOLDSM. *Stoops to Conq.* III, Zounds; how she fidgets and spits about like a catherine wheel. 1852 READE *Peg Woff.* (1889) 6 The sausage began to 'spit'. 1866 WATTS *Dict. Chem.* IV. 326 If exposed to the air in the melted state it [*sc.* palladium] absorbs oxygen and spits like silver. 1871 *Archæol.* XLIII. 101 Vegner's paper was bad, his ink worse, his pen 'worser' still, spitting strangely.

9. a. Of rain or snow: To fall in scattered drops or flakes. (Usually with *it* as subject.)

1567 [see SPITTING *ppl. a.* 1].

1778 {W. H. MARSHALL} *Minutes Agric.* Observ. 129 To *sprinkle* (or *spit*), to rain slow in largish drops. 1818 MISS FERRIER *Marriage* vii, 'And'—putting her hand out at the window—'I think it's spitting already'. 1836–7 DICKENS *Sk. Boz, Tales* vii, It had been 'spitting' with rain for the last half-hour. 1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* I. xxv. 189 The fine snow..was caught by the wind and spit bitterly against us. 1887 SERVICE *Life Dr. Duguid* 171 Feeling that it was spittin' through the win', I quickened my step.

b. To penetrate as if sent by spitting.

1850 *Blackw. Mag.* May 554/1 A bullet whizzed by my head, and spat into the opposite bank.

10. *Spit and polish*, the occupation of cleaning up or furbishing, as part of the work of a sailor or soldier.

1895 *Westm. Gaz.* 13 Nov. 3/2 After all his energies had been expended on what in old days was termed 'spit and polish', he took the cow-pen in hand. 1898 *United Service Mag.* Dec. 277 To lessen the time spent in spit and polish to the detriment of real cavalry work.

Spit, *v.*[3] Now *dial.* Also 7 spitt. [OE. *spittan*, = MDu. and MLG. *spitten* (Flem., Du., LG. *spitten*, WFris. *spitte*, NFris. *spat*; also MDu. *speiten*, MLG. *speten*), perh. related to SPIT *sb.*[1]]

1. *intr.* To dig with a spade; to delve.

1393 LANGL. *P. Pl.* C. IX. 184 An hep of eremites henten hem spades, Spitten and spradde donge in despit of hunger. 1648 HEXHAM II, *Spaden*, to Delve, or to Spit.

2. *trans.* To plant with a spade.

1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* 453 When the heads thereof [*sc.* saffron] have been plucked up and after twenty daies spitted or set againe under mould. 1728 *Phil. Trans.* XXXV. 573 Spitting and setting the Heads, *il.* 12*s.* 0*d.*

b. *intr.* To admit of being dug in.

a 1722 LISLE *Husb.* (1757) 29 If dung was..short, such as ox-dung and horse-dung that would spit.

3. *trans.* To dig (*up*) with a spade; also, to turn up with a plough.

So OE. *wid spittan*, to dig up woad.

1648 HEXHAM II, *Spitten*, to Spitt, as, to Spitt turfe. 1725 *Phil. Trans.* XXXIII. 397 Oftentimes the Tenants spit up as much as will serve their Turn for a Winter's burning. 1764 RANDALL in *Museum Rust.* III. 95 He must remember to go twice in a place with his plough, to keep the ground double spitted. 1843 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* IV. I. 41 Cross furrows..afterwards dug or 'spitted' by the spade. 1889 *Trans. Dev. Assoc.* XXI. 102 He sometimes comes up to spit the ground.

Spital (spi·tăl). Also 7 spitall, 8 spittal. [Late respelling of SPITTLE *sb.*[1] after HOSPITAL.]

1. = SPITTLE *sb.*[1] 1. Also in phr. *to rob the spital.*

1634 *Younger Brother's Apol.* 50 Bryand Lyle,..hauing two sonnes, both leprous, built for them a Lazaretto or Spitall. 1648 HEXHAM II. App., *Spitael*, a Spitall, or Hospitall. 1737 J. CHAMBERLAYNE *St. Gt. Brit.* (ed. 12) I. III. x. 226 This house has been a Religious house, time out of mind, sometimes under the Denomination of a Priory or College, sometimes under that of a Spittal [*earlier edd.* Spittle] or Hospital. 1749 FIELDING *Tom Jones* XII. i, Defrauding the Poor,..or, to see it under the most opprobrious Colours, robbing the Spittal. 1764 CHURCHILL *Poems, Independence* 19 They rob the very Spital, and make free With those alas who've least to spare. 1830 SCOTT *Demonol.* iv. 132 A witch from the spital or almshouse. 1865 *Daily Tel.* 26 Oct. 5/2 'Every inch a Queen' was Eugénie when she drove from cholera-infected spital to spital. 1884 TENNYSON *Becket* I. iv, I ha' nine darters i' the spital.

b. *Spital sermon*: see SPITTLE *sb.*[1] 5 c.

1755 JOHNSON, *Spittal*...In use only in the phrases, *a spittal sermon*, and *rob not the spittal*. 1827 DE QUINCEY *Murder* Wks. 1862 IV. 25 One good horse-shoe is worth about two and a quarter Spital sermons. 1863 *Macm. Mag.* Mar. 412 When Barrow preached a spital-sermon before the Lord Mayor and Corporation of London.

2. *fig.* A foul or loathsome place.

1771 SMOLLETT *Humph. Cl.* To Sir W. Phillips 10 May, He declares he will sooner visit a house infected with the plague, than trust himself in such a nauseous spital for the future.

3. A shelter for travellers.

1794 WORDSW. *Guilt & Sorrow* xvii, Kind pious hands did to the Virgin build A lonely Spital, the belated swain From the night terrors of that waste to shield.

Spi·talfield(s), the name of a district in the east of London (so called from St. Mary Spital), used *attrib.* in *Spitalfield(s) breakfast*, *weaver* (see quots.).

1865 *Slang Dict.* 242 Spitalfield's breakfast, at the East end of London this is understood as consisting of a tight necktie and a short pipe. 1880 DAY *Fishes Gt. Brit.* I. 81 This form [i.e. *Trachinus draco*], not *T. vipera*, are sold in Whitechapel as food, and are said to be known as Spitalfield weavers.

Spit-boot: see SPIT *sb.*[1] 7.

Spitchcock (spi·tʃkɒk), *sb.* Forms: 6 spechcock, 7 spitchcoke, -cocke, 7– spitchcock. [Of obscure origin.]

†**1.** A method of preparing an eel for the table (see sense 2). Also in advb. use. *Obs.*

1597 BRETON *Wit's Trenchmour* Wks. (Grosart) II. 10/1 The Cunger must be sowst, and the Eele in a Spechcock, or els they are not in their kind. 1771 MRS. HAYWOOD *New Present for Maid* 70 To broil an Eel Spitchcock.

2. An eel cut into short pieces, dressed with bread-crumbs and chopped herbs, and broiled or fried. Also *transf.*

1602 CHESTER *Love's Martyr*, *Dial.* lxxxi, A Spitchcoke, Stocke-fish, and the litle Pilcher. *a* 1643 W. CARTWRIGHT *Ordinary* II. i, Then a fresh turbot brought in for a buckler, With a long spitchcock for the sword adjoin'd. 1672 R. WILD *Let.* 9 He hath released more souls..than all the Popes since Cerberus the first have saved from being made Spitchcocks in that Kitchin of his Holiness. 1844 J. T. J. HEWLETT *Parsons & W.* v, How he will enjoy a spitchcock.

attrib. 1687 MIÈGE *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II, A Spitchcock Eel, *sorte de grosse Anguille* (*qu'on rôtit ordinairement*).

¶ **3.** = SPATCHCOCK *sb.* 1. (In quot. *attrib.*)

1834 M. SCOTT *Cruise Midge* (1836) I. v. 132 Give me another cup of coffee..and the wing of that spitchcock chicken, if you please.

Spitchcock (spi·tʃkɒk), *v.* Also 8 spitscock. [f. prec.]

1. *trans.* To prepare (*esp.* an eel) for the table as, or after the manner of, a spitchcock.

1675 COTTON *Burlesque upon B.* 98 Sing'd like a Hog And spitch-cock't like a salted Eele. *c* 1700 T. BROWN *Lett. fr. Dead* (1707) II. 124 The first Course consisted of a huge Platterful of Scorpions Spitscock'd [etc.]. 1736 BAILEY *Household Dict.* s.v. *Eel*, To spitchcock eels. Having cleans'd a large eel with salt and water,..then draw off the skin [etc.]. 1791 G. HUDDESFORD in *Salmagundi* 144 Raw sprats he swore were worth all fish beside, Fresh, stale, stew'd, spitchcock'd, fricassee'd or fried. *a* 1845 BARHAM *Ingol. Leg.* Ser. III. *Knt. & Lady*, If you chance to be partial to eels,..Have them spitch-cock'd—or stew'd.

2. To deal with (a person) in a similar manner; *fig.* to handle severely.

1674 P. WHALLEY *Established Relig.* 18 Had the Emperor given according to his quality..the Dr. had escaped Spitchcocking. 1694 ECHARD *Plautus* 14 He designs to Spitchcock me, I believe. Wou'd Old Nick had these bloody-minded Fellows. 1721 MRS. CENTLIVRE *Artifice* IV. i, Oh! that I had her in Spain! I'd spitch-cock her like an Eel. 1814 LAMB *Corr.* 264 But if they catch me in their camps again let them spitchcock me!

Spitchcocked (spi·tʃkɒkt), *ppl. a.* [f. as prec.]

1. Of eels, etc.: Prepared as, made into, a spitchcock. Also *transf.* and *fig.*

a 1643 W. CARTWRIGHT *Ordinary* II. i, No mild words shall bury My spitted, spitch cock'd..Rost'd fury. *a* 1683 OLDHAM *Wks.* (1686) 77, I..drip like any Spitch-cock'd Huguenot. 1708 W. KING *Cookery* 55 No Man lards salt Pork with Orange Peel, Or garnishes his Lamb with Spitchcockt Eel. 1799 *Monthly Mag.* VII. 140 This spitchcock'd rattle-snake, And toasted toad. 1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* I, Though there were as good spitchcock'd eels on the board as ever were ta'en out of the Isis. 1840 J. T. J. HEWLETT *P. Priggins* xvi, A dinner of Spitchcock'd eels and underdone beefsteaks was ordered.

¶ **2.** = SPATCHCOCKED *ppl. a.*

1861 HUGHES *Tom Brown at Oxf.* iii, The college kitchen furnished a spitchcocked chicken, or grilled turkey's leg.

Spit-dung: see SPIT *sb.*[3] 5.

Spite (spəit), *sb.* Forms: α. 4, 6 spyt, 4–6 (8) spyte (5 spyyte, spytte); 4– spite (4 spitt, 5 spit, 6 spiet). β. 6–9 spight (6 spighte). [Aphetic form of DESPITE *sb.* (OF. *despit*), corresponding to MDu. (and Du.) *spijt* (WFris. *spyt*),

MLG. *spyt, spît* (LG. *spît*, NFris. *spit, spid*), MSw. *spit*. The spelling *spight*, on the analogy of native words in *-ight*, was common from *c* 1575 to 1700 both in the simple word and derivatives.]

†**1.** Action arising from, or displaying, hostile or malignant feeling; outrage, injury, harm; insult, reproach. *Obs.* (Cf. DESPITE *sb.* 2 and 3.)

a. In the phr. *to do* (one) *spite* or *a spite*.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 15568 Þou sal þam se yeitt to night do me ful gret spite. 13.. *Ibid.* 7725 (Gött.), Godd it forbede, þat þu..euer him do spitt or schame. *c* 1380 *Sir Ferumb.* 686 Þou hast y-lyued þy lif to longe, to do me such a spyte. *a* 1533 LD. BERNERS *Huon* l. 169 To do hym the more spyte I shall make lyes ynowe. 1589 R. ROBINSON *Gold. Mirr.* (1851) 18 He piteis people poore that weepe, When wrong hath done them spite. 1636 JONSON *Discov.* Wks. (1692) 694 It is as great a spite to be praised in the wrong place,.. as can be done to a noble nature. 1658 *Whole Duty of Man* xi. § 7. 231 Men will make..spoile of the goods of one, to whom they bear a grudg, though they never designe to get any thing to themselves by it, but only the pleasure of doing a spight to the other.

b. In other contexts.

13.. *Gaw & Gr. Knt.* 1444 Þre at þe fyrst þrast he þryst to þe erþe, & sped hym forth good sped, boute spyt more. *a* 1400 *Amis & Amil.* 1594 It is gret spite to al mi kende. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 469 Spyyte, repref or schame,..*obprobrium*. 1449 *Rolls of Parlt.* V. 148/1 Not oonly..to the irreparable hurt,.. but also a everlastyng spite, and perpetuell denigration in the fame..of this noble Reme. 1549 COVERDALE, etc. *Erasm. Par. Gal.* 21, I carie about in my bodye all the spite, that I haue for Christe sustayned, as emprisonmentes, scourgynges [etc.]. 1596 DRAYTON *Legends* i. 653 To make Time worke him everlasting spight. 1615 CHAPMAN *Odyss.* x. 181 Two days, two nights, We lay here pining in the fatal spights Of toil and sorrow. 1633 P. FLETCHER *Purple Isl.* VII. lviii, His Will his Law, he weigh'd not wrong or right; Much scorn'd to bear, much more forgive a spight.

2. A strong feeling of (†contempt,) hatred or ill-will; intense grudge or desire to injure; rancorous or envious malice. (Cf. DESPITE *sb.* 4.)

a. c 1330 *Arth. & Merl.* 3135 (Kölbing), King Lot..& oþer of priss Of his 3iftes spite hadden. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 755, I schal my þro steke, & spare spakly of spyt..& my rankor refrayne. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 12093 He besit hym.. þe burde for to seche,..Till he aspiet hir with spit..Doune in a dungion. *a* 1425 *Cursor M.* 2610 (Trin.), Greet spit she leteþ bi me. *Ibid.* 4619 Nay sir he seide take not to spit. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 301 b, With all spyte & disdayne, cryenge moost outrageously Crucifigatur. 1585 T. WASHINGTON tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* II. viii. 42 This Poet being full of poeticall spyte and indignation. 1633 P. FLETCHER *Purple Isl.* I. vi, Sing what thou list, be it of Cupids spite (Ah lovely spite, and spitefull lovelinesse!) 1667 MILTON *P. L.* IX. 178 Whom us the more to spite his Maker rais'd From dust: spite then with spite is best repaid. 1746 FRANCIS tr. *Horace, Epist.* I. xiv. 54 None there with Eye askance my Pleasures views, With Hatred dark, or poison'd Spite pursues. 1765 GRAY *Shaks.* 5 Much have I borne from canker'd critic's spite. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* vi. II. 79 He knew..what all this liberality meant. It was mere Whiggish spite to himself and his religion. 1868 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* (1876) II. App. 677 He at least has no spite against Harold.

Comb. 1592 NASHE *P. Penilesse* 14 b, Assemble the famous men of all ages, and tel me which of them all sate in the sunshine of his soueraignes grace..but he was spiteblasted, heaued at, & ill spoken of.

β. 1577 *St. Aug. Manual* (Longman) 45 Let the devils then doe their spight. 1598 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. i. II. *Imposture* 54 Hate, Pride, and Envious spight, His hellish life do torture day and night. 1642–4 VICARS *God in Mount* 64 The poysonous malice and incorrigible spight and splene of the malignant partie. 1672 MARVELL *Reh. Transp.* I. 234 Nothing but his spight against the Nonconformists. 1729 LAW *Serious C.* 396 They are no foundation for envy or spight or hatred. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* IV. 198 An ape ..stamping with its feet..to show its spight.

b. In the phrases *for* (also †*of*) or *in spite.*

(*a*) ? *a* 1400 *Morte Arth.* 270, I myght noghte speke for spytte, so my herte trymblyde! *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 745 Quen he had spokin so, for spyte he spittis in his face. 1559 *Mirr. Mag., Salisbury* xxiii, To take his towne of Yvery, which of spight Did to vs dayly al the harme they might. 1570 *Satir. Poems Reform.* xiii. 64 [They] hangit vp for spyte twa theuis besyde him. 1652 CULPEPPER *Eng. Physic.* 75 The Root was longer until the D—l (as the Fryars say) bit away the rest for spight envying its usefulness unto mankinde. 1663 BUTLER *Hud.* I. i. 216 Still so perverse and opposite, As if they worshipp'd God for spight. 1865 M. ARNOLD *Ess. Crit.* vi. 194 Anything to quarrel with one! anything for spite!

(*b*) 1565 J. HALL *Crt. Virtue* 30 Why should they saye to vs in spighte, Where is their God? 1597 HOOKER *Eccl. Pol.* v. lxxii. (1611) 390 Some in disdaine and spite termed grace drunkennesse. 1657 TRAPP *Comm. Ezra* i. 5 Julian the Apostate once did [encourage the Jews] in spight to the Christians, but it came to nothing. 1680 MORDEN *Geog. Rect., France* (1685) 161 Arlet the Skinners Daughter, of whom Duke Robert begat William the Conqueror; in spight to whom, and disgrace to his Mother, the English call Whores, Harlots. 1842 TENNYSON *Dora* 37 And half in love, half spite, he..wed A labourer's daughter.

c. *fig.* Of fortune, nature, the elements, etc.

1562 BULLEIN *Bulwarke, Bk. Sicke Men* 77 b, With a lustie manly courage he defied the spight of Fortune. 1595 T. P. GOODWINE *Blanchardyn* I iv b, Since..fortune hath spit her deadly spight. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* 466 A certaine peculiar spite and envie of Nature. 1616 B. JONSON *Forest* xi. 830 To know vice well, And her blacke Spight expell. 1627 MAY *Lucan* II. 264 Windes rage, and Thunders spight, Plaine grounds must suffer. 1708 OZELL tr. *Boileau's Lutrin* 54 The wormy boards, by Time's corroding Spight disjoin'd. 1814 SCOTT *Lord of Isles* VI. xxxvii, Ourself the cause, through fortune's spite, That once broke short that spousal rite.

3. With *a* and pl. A particular instance of malignant or rancorous feeling directed towards a special object. Freq. in phr. *to have a spite at.*

a 1400 *Sir Degrev.* 101 There wonede an eorl.., a lord of mochelle pryd,..He hade a grete spyt of the knyght. *a* 1568 ASCHAM *Scholem.* I. (Arb.) 78 This is not the opinion of one, for some priuate spite, but the iudgement of all. 1573 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 204 But where a spight Of force must bee, What is that wight May disagree? 1612 T. TAYLOR *Comm. Titus* i. 12 Oh, saith one, this Preacher..hath some spight at me. 1663 BP. PATRICK *Parab. Pilgr.* xxiv, He bears an ill will to us, and owes us a spite. 1726 SWIFT *Gulliver* II. i, Being afraid the boy might owe me a spite. 1849 CUPPLES *Green Hand* vi. (1856) 63 The mystery to her always is *why* the neighbours had a spite at me. 1890 *Spectator* 11 Jan., In a battle of sterile spites with the French people.

b. A mood or humour. *rare*—1.

1723 SWIFT *Stella at Wood Park* 1 Don Carlos, in a merry Spight, Did Stella to his House invite.

†**4. a.** Matter for regret. *Obs.*—1

c 1400 *Rom. Rose* 7254 It is gret pite, out of drede, For they wole be noon ypocritis. Of hem me thynketh (it) gret spite is.

†**b.** An annoying matter, affair, or thing. *Obs.*

1577–82 BRETON *Toyes Idle Head* Wks. (Grosart) I. 54/2 My Lady lawght: Is loue, quod she, A spight and sporte, to both at ones? 1598 B. JONSON *Ev. Man in Hum.* I. iii, I ha' no bootes, that's the spight on't. 1606 *Choice, Chance,* etc. (1881) 48 What a spight it was to see a horse of service drawe in a doung-carte. 1655 FULLER *Ch. Hist.* I. 34 But now the Spight is, that an unparallel'd Critick in Antiquity, leaves this Patrick at this time sweating in the Irish Harvest.

†**c.** A feeling of annoyance or irritation. *Obs.*

a 1586 SIDNEY *Arcadia* v. (1598) 443 She ioyned the vexation for her friend, with the spite to see her selfe as she thought rebelliously detained. 1670 TEMPLE *Let. Sir J. Trevor* Wks. 1720 II. 233 After this I waited with great Spight and Impatience..about five Hours.

5. *Phrase.* **In spite of,** in defiance (†scorn or contempt) of; in the face of; notwithstanding. (Cf. DESPITE *sb.* 5.)

a. c 1400 *Destr. Troy* 1968 But for noy of my nobilte & my nome gret, I shuld..spede the to spille in spite of þi kynge. 1563 *Mirr. Mag., Blacke Smyth & Ld. Awdeley* ix, He dyed, Clad in his cote armor paynted all in paper, Al torne and reversed in spyte of his behaver. 1568 GRAFTON *Chron.* II. 113 In spite both of him and his Legate, they kept company with them that were excommunicate. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* I. 232 They..said, that the Scripture must be beleeved, in spite of all Cosmographers and Philosophers. 1687 A. LOVELL tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* I. 36 He told us that the arrows would fight together in spite of us. 1711 STEELE *Spect.* No. 79 P 1 The Heart of Man deceives him in spite of the Lectures of half a Life. 1765 *Museum Rust.* IV. 266 They grow poor, in spite of all possible industry. 1818 SCOTT *Br. Lamm.* xx, The tears, in spite of her, forced their way between her fingers. *c* 1853 KINGSLEY *Misc.* (1859) I. 15 The English are attacked treacherously in spite of solemn compacts. 1881 WALFORD *Dick Netherby* xxi, I'll go on my own way in spite of you all.

β. 1576 GASCOIGNE *Steele Gl.* (Arb.) 49 This worthy bird hath taught my weary Muze To sing a song, in spight of their despight. 1581 PETTIE tr. *Guazzo's Civ. Conv.* III. (1586) 129 b, The wife in spight of the husband, gaue halfe the meate..to a poore bodie. 1627 DRAYTON *Agincourt,* etc. 89 In spight of Fate they'll giue their Foe the worse. 1666 BOYLE *Orig. Forms & Qual.* 165 The Water will, in spight of the Form, continue far lesse cold, then..its nature requires. 1702 ROWE *Tamerl.* Prol., In spight of Time, the Sacred Story lives. 1762 *Gentl. Mag.* XXXII. 217/2 The benefits of innoculation have established the practice in spight of all opposition. 1816 F. H. NAYLOR *Hist. Germany* I. i. i. 16 In spight of their efforts.

b. In phrases with †*face*, † *heart*, † *nose, teeth.* (Cf. 6 b.)

14.. in *Tundale's Vis.* (1843) 108 They schall askape in spyte of thi face. 1549 [see TOOTH *sb.* 5]. 1570– [see NOSE *sb.* 6 b]. 1574 tr. *Marlorat's Apocalips* 13 Euen in spight of their harts they saw Christ sitting at the right hand of God. 1622 GATAKER *Spir. Watch* (ed. 2) 73 It would euen enforce them to looke about them in spight of their teeth. 1689–1835 [see TOOTH *sb.* 5].

c. In the phr. *In spite of spite.* Now *arch.*

1592 WARNER *Alb. Eng.* VII. xxxvi. (1612) 172 In spight of Spight in Hespera I golden fruit would pull. 1622 WITHER *Philarete* N vij, Those that sleight thee now, shall loue thee, And, in spight of spight, approue thee. 1855 TENNYSON *Maud* I. xiii. i, His face, as I grant, in spite of spite, Has a broad-blown comeliness.

†**d.** *In (one's) spite,* = in spite of (one). *Obs.*

1615 CHAPMAN *Odyss.* x. 382 Ile guard thee free, And saue thee in her spite. 1709 POPE *Ess. Crit.* 34 Mævius scribbles in Apollo's spight. 1732 — *Ess. Man* I. 285 In erring reason's spight One truth is clear; Whatever Is, is Right. 1765 GOLDSM. *New Simile* 4 The modern scribbling kind, who write In wit, and sense, and nature's spite.

†**e.** *In the spite of,* in spite of. *Obs.*

1632 SANDERSON *Serm.* 546 In the spight of so many enemies. 1716 M. DAVIES *Athen. Brit.* III. 92 In the sight and spight of the Scotch Forces, under Cardinal Beton.

6. Spite of, = prec. (Cf. DESPITE *sb.* 6.)

1509 HAWES *Past. Pleas.* XIX. (Percy Soc.) 96 Spyte of your enemyes, I shal me so spede, That in short tyme ye may rewarde my mede. *c* 1600 SHAKS. *Sonn.* cvii, Death to me subscribes; Since spight of him I'le liue in this poore rime. 1681 DRYDEN *Abs. & Achit.* I. 565 For, spight of him, the weight of Business fell On Absalom, and wise Achitophel. 1761 MRS. F. SHERIDAN *Sidney Biddulph* II. 167 Her surprize, spite of her assumed airs of grandeur, was not to be concealed. 1823 BENTHAM *Not Paul* 168 Spite of reason, religion, and Jesus, the victory is, in this account, given to James. *a* 1873 DEUTSCH *Lit. Rem.* (1874) 366 That stamp of unity which it now possesses, spite of the occasional difference of style.

†**b.** In phrases (cf. 5 b and 5 c). *Obs.*

1526 RASTELL in *Shaks. Jest Bk.* (1866) 45 He agayn said he wold bryng them ouer spyte of his teth. 1532 TINDALE *Expos. v–vii. Matt.* (1550) 39 b, To obeye theyr cruelnesse and tyrannye spite of their heades. 1573 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 130 Least..it noieth or perisheth, spight of thy hart. 1600 W. WATSON *Decacordon* (1602) 10 Satisfaction and restitution will be demaunded,..spite of their teeths. *Ibid.* 341 [The Jesuits] shall be lanced into the quicke, spite of spite it selfe. 1618 BRATHWAIT *Rem. after Death* E vij, To such an one as sole executour, Spite of our nose playes Executioner. 1664–75 [see NOSE *sb.* 6 b].

c. With *of* omitted. (Cf. DESPITE *sb.* 6.)

1878 S. PHILLIPS *On Seaboard* 62 Spite dark Torquemada and his hecatombs of slain, Spite Te Deums sung by Tiber side for murder on the Seine.

Spite (spəit), *v.* Also 6 **spyte**, 6–8 **spight.** [Aphetic form of DESPITE *v.* (OF. *despiter*): cf. prec. and MDu. *spiten* (Du. *spijten*, WFris. *spite*), MLG. *spiten.*]

†**1.** *trans.* To regard with contempt or spite.

a 1400–50 *Alexander* 2346 Þire athils of Atenes..kest vp a crie,..Sum in comending of his carpe & on [*read* oþer] clene it spitid. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 355/2 To spite, *despicere.* 1541 PAYNELL *Catiline* v. 9 It doth not a lyttel helpe.., that the ryches of these men is spyted amonge strange nations. 1567 DRANT *Horace, Ep.* I. xiv. E v, Not any there with waywarde eyes for my good lucke shal spyte me. 1601 B. JONSON *Poetaster* v. iii. (1905) 121 While these..applaud my poemes; I would not wish but such as you should spight them. 1659 N. R. *Prov., Eng. Fr.,* etc. 64 It is better to be spited then pitied. 1690 NORRIS *Beatitudes* (1694) I. 185 Envy, which, indeed, spites every thing that is excellent.

2. To treat spitefully or maliciously; to annoy or thwart in a spiteful manner.

It is doubtful whether the pa. pple. *spit* in the *Destr. Troy* 2114 belongs here.

1592 SHAKS. *Rom. & Jul.* IV. v. 55 Beguild, diuorced, wronged, spighted, slaine, Most detestable death, by thee beguil'd. 1598 R. BERNARD tr. *Terence* (1607) 139 They spighted me miserably. 1658 *Whole Duty of Man* xvi. 133 Not caring what they suffer themselves, so they may spite their enemy. 1833 HT. MARTINEAU *Loom & Lugger* II. i. 7, I should be sorry to say anything about spiting the Spitalfields weavers. 1864 DASENT *Jest & Earnest* (1873) I. 161 You have been spited by the Kellner, whom you have perhaps not saluted that day... You have been spited, and only had a little piece. 1885 *Manch. Exam.* 26 June 5/3 The double object of gratifying themselves and spiting the English.

b. In the phr. *to spite* (*one*), in order to vent spite or spleen upon (another); with the object or intention of vexing or annoying.

c 1555 HARPSFIELD *Divorce Hen. VIII* (Camden) 209 For nothing else but to spight the Pope. 1605 SHAKS. *Macb.* III. i. 111, I am recklesse what I doe, To spight the World. 1683 WOOD *Life* (O.H.S.) III. 72 Thanksgiving day: appointed I presume on that day to spite the Presbyterians. 1880 'OUIDA' *Moths* I. 31 I'll keep the child to spite her. 1885 'MRS. ALEXANDER' *At Bay* xi, I don't fancy Deering will cut off his nose to spite his face.

3. To fill with spite or vexation; to annoy, offend, irritate.

c 1563 *Jack Juggler* C iv b, It spiteth my hart to haue lost it by suche open negligence. 1581 PETTIE tr. *Guazzo's Civ. Conv.* I. (1586) 41 b, There is nothing spites us more, than to heare a man commend himselfe. 1627 *Lisander & Cal.* II. 26 He..was justly spighted to see as well his brother as all the rest take them to their advantage. 1686 F. SPENCE tr. *Varilla's Ho. Medicis* 293 It spighted him infinitely, when people discoursed him upon the modesty of his ancestors. 1701 SWIFT *Contests Nobles & Comm.* Wks. 1755 II. i. 27 The nobles, spighted at this indignity done them by the commons, firmly united in a body. 1756 HOME *Douglas* III. i, One whom distress has spited at the world. 1816 SCOTT *Bl. Dwarf* xvi, The danger of intrusting thyself..in the power of one so spited against humanity. 1865 LE FANU *Guy Dev.* III. v. 50 She was spited with it, as so many others are, because it won't do for us what we must do for ourselves.

†**4.** *intr.* To be angry or annoyed; to cherish spite. *Obs.*

c 1560 INGELEND *Disobed. Child* D j b, Wherfore let my father spyte and spurne, My fantasye wyll neuer turne. 1577 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 188 Let fortune spight, and boldly take thine ease. 1579–80 NORTH *Plutarch, Fabius Max.* (1895) II. 80 This Livius spighted to see suche honour done to Fabius, so that one day..he burst out and said [etc.].

†**b.** With *at* (a person or thing). *Obs.*

1567–8 *Gismond of Salerne* I. iii. 16 It was my cruel fate that spited at my pleasant life forepast. 1581 A. HALL *Iliad* IX. 164 Wherat my mother spited much, and eke did iealous grow. 1616 BRETON *Good & Badde, An Atheist* Wks. (Grosart) II. 10/2 He spightes at the gracious, and spurnes the godly. 1641 PRYNNE *Antipathie* 42 In this Bishops time, the Italians had gotten many Benefices in England, who being much spited at [etc.].

Hence **Spited** *ppl. a.*, **Spiting** *vbl. sb.*

c 1460 *Towneley Myst.* xxiv. 286 Wyst I that he spake it in spytyng of me Tytt shuld I spede forto spyll hym. 1573–80 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 159 Not minding by writing to kindle a spiting. 1705 STANHOPE *Paraphr.* II. 423 A Pattern of reproached and spighted Innocence.

Spiteful (spəi·tfŭl), *a.* and *adv.* Forms: *α.* 5–6 **spyteful**, **-full** (5 **-fulle**), 6–7 **spytfull**; 5– **spiteful**, 5–7 **-full** (7 **spitfull**). *β.* 6 **spyght-**, 6–8 **spightfull**, **-ful.** [f. SPITE *sb.* + **-FUL.**]

†**1.** Expressive of, characterized by, contempt or disdain; contemptuous, disdainful, opprobrious.

c 1440 *Pol., Rel., & L. Poems* (1903) 227 With wordis greete and spiteful oop þou defendist þee of þi foule folie. *c* 1450 *Myrr. our Ladye* 243 She knew before that he shulde be greatly payned wyth spyteful repreues and harde tormentes. 1533 MORE *Debell. Salem* v. Wks. 939/1 When he called the chief priest a whyted wal, whiche was a spyghtfull word

among them. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VI*, 130 b, The Parisians..taunted the Englishmen with the most spitefull wordes, and shameful termes. 1639 S. DU VERGER tr. *Camus' Admir. Events* 115 He returned her answeres..full of reproaches, and spitfull termes. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 25 Dec. 1657, These were men of high flight and above ordinances, and spake spiteful things of our Lord's Nativity.

† **b.** Bringing contempt or opprobrium; disgraceful, shameful. *Obs.*

1550 BECON *Jewel of Joy* Wks. 1564 II. 40 b, Jesus Chryst ..suffred the moste spitefull death of the crosse. 1577–82 BRETON *Toyes Idle Head* Wks. (Grosart) I. 54/2 Dame Venus game. Which spightfull sporte for to attaine Some so doo dull their sences all. *c* 1586 C'TESS PEMBROKE *Ps.* XCII. iv, Mine eye shall spy My spies in spightfull case.

2. Full of, possessed or animated by, spite; malicious, malevolent. Also *fig.* of things.

1490 CAXTON *Eneydos* xii. 46 The influences of the heuens so spytefull. 1561 T. NORTON *Calvin's Inst.* I. (1634) 70 He is of nature froward, spiteful, and malicious. 1591 LYLY *Endym.* IV. iii, Belike you cannot speake except you bee spightfull. 1663 BUTLER *Hud.* I. iii. 362 The distress He suffer'd from his spightful Mistress. 1699 GARTH *Dispens.* I. 5 A spightful noise his downy Chains unties, Hastes forward, and encreases as it flies. 1820 KEATS *Lamia* II. 228 Let..the spiteful thistle wage War on his temples. 1841 BROWNING *Pippa Passes* Poems (1905) 166 She'll still face down The spitefullest of talkers in our town. 1874 HOLLAND *Mistr. Manse* 73 And in the midnight came the rain; In spiteful needles at the first.

b. Of the tongue, words, etc.

1557 *Tottell's Misc.* (Arb.) 212 Of wicked wiues this is the lot, To kill with spitefull tong. 1576 GASCOIGNE *Steele Glas* (Arb.) 47 For spyteful tongs..Deeme worst of things, which best..deserued. 1640 BP. HALL *Episc.* II. xvii, Pamphlets with spightfull invectives. *a* 1656 — *Rem. Wks.* (1660) 102 Bitter or spightfull words against his Brethren. 1711 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 169 ¶ 11 A spiteful Saying gratifies so many little Passions. 1868 TENNYSON *Spiteful Let.* i, It is here, the close of the year, And with it a spiteful letter. 1884 F. M. CRAWFORD *Rom. Singer* I. 16 People are saying many spiteful things about him.

c. Of feelings, actions, etc.

1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 356 b, Whan they uttered their malice and spitefull hatred against us. 1582 STANYHURST *Æneis* II. (Arb.) 61 In father his presence with spightful villenye cancred. 1662 EVELYN *Chalcogr.* 54 The famous S. Roch and the spitefull coronation with thornes. 1730 BAILEY (fol.), *Spitefulness*, a spiteful Temper. 1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* xxii, The old man was muttering, with spiteful impatience, 'Am I for ever to be recalled to the affairs of earth from those of heaven?' 1862 BURTON *Bk. Hunter* (1863) 285 Having torn through a life of spiteful controversy with his fellow-men.

† **3.** Distressing, annoying, vexing. *Obs.*

a 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VI*, 84 His name and fame was spitefull and dreadfull to the common people. 1606 G. WOODCOCK *Hist. Ivstine* XII. 53 Afterwardes that all thinges might seeme more spightfull, he gaue generall commaundement to his company, that they should..adore him. 1633 G. HERBERT *Temple, Assurance* i, O spiteful bitter thought! Bitterly spiteful thought! Couldst thou invent So high a torture!

† **4.** As *adv.* Excessively, extremely. *Obs.*

c 1440 *Alph. Tales* 306 It was spitefull dere. *c* 1548 in Hazl. *E. P. P.* IV. 12 A spightfull gay thynge, of all that ever I wyst.

Spitefully (spəi·tfŭli), *adv.* [f. prec.]

1. In a spiteful manner; with spite.

1532 MORE *Confut. Tindale* 45 If the deuyll sholde hym self syt & deuise to speke spyghtfully. 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 433 Marques Albert had written certen thinges spitefully and bitterly. 1635 R. N. tr. *Camden's Hist. Eliz.* I. 30 Having been spightfully used with unworthy reproaches. 1646 CRASHAW *Poems* (1904) 139 Cruel Auster .. Sham'd not spitefully to wast All his leaves. *a* 1704 T. BROWN *Let. M. Burghope* Wks. 1711 IV. 255, I could dwell spightfully upon this Subject for an hour or two. 1714 SWIFT *Imit. Hor.* I. vii, The farmers, spitefully combin'd, Force him to take his tithes in kind. 1855 *Poultry Chron.* III. 388 A basket coop placed over a spitefully disposed hen. 1878 BROWNING *Poets Croisic* 11 The spit of sandy rock which juts Spitefully northward.

† **2.** Excessively, extremely. *Obs.*[−1]

1567 *Trial Treas.* (Percy Soc.) 38 My littell finger is spitefully sore: You will not beleue how my hele doth ake.

Spitefulness (spəi·tfŭlnės). [f. as prec.] The quality, character, or fact of being spiteful.

1530 PALSGR. 274 Spytefulnesse, *despiteveté*. 1576 FLEMING *Panopl. Epist.* 197 You abhorre that principalitie, with equall proportion of spightfulnesse. 1628 WITHER *Brit. Rememb.* III. 1119 With spightfulnesse, that scarce can matched be. 1648–9 *Eikon Bas.* 124 The spightfulness of a few. 1712 W. KING tr. *Naude's Ref. Politics* iv. 133 The spightfulness of two Monks, who had no other weapons but their pens and their tongues. 1741 RICHARDSON *Pamela* (1824) IV. 69 As to the Accusation of Spitefulness. 1841 DICKENS *Barn. Rudge* vii, Every little bone in Miggs's throat and neck developed itself with a spitefulness quite alarming. 1884 *Fortn. Rev.* June 813 That small spitefulness which is sometimes the concomitant of weak or effeminate natures.

Spite-king. *rare*[−1]. [f. SPITE *sb.* or *v.*] One who has a spite at kings.

1614 CAMDEN *Rem.* 155, I know not why that Spite-king Buchanan should enuie lesser titles to Princes.

Spitel: see SPITTLE.

Spiteless (spəi·tlės), *a.* [f. SPITE *sb.* + -LESS.] Devoid of or free from spite.

1875 BROWNING *Aristoph. Apol.* 111 Innocuous anger, spiteless rustic mirth.

† **Spitemouse.** *Obs. rare.* (See quot.)

1668 CHARLETON *Onomast.* 22 *Mus Araneus*, the Hard-shrew, or Spitemouse, or Erdshrew.

Spiteously, etc., varr. SPITOUSLY *adv.* *Obs.*

† **Spite-wed**, *a.* *Obs.*[−0] (See quot.)

1589 PUTTENHAM *Eng. Poesie* (1869) 236 Sir Thomas Smith .., seeking to geue an English word to this Greeke word ἄγαμος, called it Spitewed, or wedspite.

Spitfire (spi·tfəiəɹ), *a.* and *sb.* Also 6–7 **spit-fier**, 7 **spetfire**, 6–9 **spit-fire**. [f. SPIT *v.*[2]]

A. *adj.* **1.** That spits fire; fire-spitting; *fig.* irascible, displaying anger or hot temper.

1600 ROWLANDS *Lett. Humours Blood* ix. 15 That with a spit-fier Serpent so durst fight. 1791 NAIRNE *Poems* 103 Where..spit-fire cats their midnight revels keep. 1850 WHIPPLE *Ess. & Rev.* II. 306 A spitfire satirist, or moody misanthrope. 1866 CHAMBERS *Ess.* Ser. II. 90 A venerable spitfire terrier,..mentally engaged in the business of rat-catching. 1894 MRS. H. WARD *Marcella* I. 10 A little spitfire outsider.

b. Heated, angry.

1894 *Tablet* 20 Jan. 86 The lurid vapours of spit-fire controversies.

2. *Spitfire-jib*: (see quot.). *Naut.*

1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.* 643 *Spitfire-Jib*, in cutters, a small storm-jib of very heavy canvas. 1894 *Outing* XXIV. 193/1, I advise that a 'spit-fire' or storm jib be carried whenever a sail of any distance is contemplated.

B. *sb.* **1.** A thing which emits or vomits fire; *esp.* a cannon.

1611 COTGR., *Bouches à feu*, Spit-fires; Artillerie, Ordnance. 1614 ROWLANDS *Fooles Bolt* (Hunterian Cl.) 19 Spaines Hell spawne of fleete,..With all their brasen Spitfiers. 1680 C. NESSE *Ch. Hist.* 423 Those two monstrous spet-fires, call'd the Earth-quake and Grand-Diabolo,.. planted against Rhodes and Constantinople. 1785 *Span. Rivals* 5 Yes, that spitfire, the Rock of Gibraltar will bear us witness. 1842 F. TROLLOPE *Vis. Italy* II. 199 Vesuvius ..is the most renowned of all accessible spit-fires. 1901 'LINESMAN' *Words by Eye-witness* V. (1902) 113 The 3-inch spitfire on the lower slopes of Spion Kop.

b. A slight eruption or explosion.

1887 RUSKIN *Præterita* II. 61 Firing up under their feet in little splutters and spit-fires of the most appalling heresy.

2. One whose temper is fiery; an irascible, passionate, or quick-tempered person.

1680 BAXTER *Cath. Commun.* (1684) 38 Malignant Spitfires do already write books full of palpable Lies against other men. 1687 T. BROWN *Saints in Uproar* Wks. 1730 I. 77 'Tis some comfort to me however, Bully Spit-fire, that thou canst not abuse me, without falling foul upon my Country. 1721 AMHERST *Terræ Fil.* No. 32 (1726) 169 Not so fast, (I beg of you) my dear little spit-fire. *c* 1750 *Devon. Dial.* (1837) 7 Thecca spitfire woud a fitted en to a T. 1832 CARLYLE *Sart. Res.* II. viii, Deuce on it,..the little spit-fires! 1881 BESANT & RICE *Chapl. of Fleet* II. iv, What a little spitfire was this Nancy of mine!

3. A cat in an angry state.

1825 SCOTT *Fam. Lett.* (1894) II. xxiv. 395 We thought we should have to have opened the wall to get out the little spit-fire alive. 1878 BROWNING *Poets Croisic* 131 If she missed Priority of stroking, soon were stirred The dormant spit-fire.

† **Spit-frog.** *Obs. rare.* [f. SPIT *v.*[1]] In contemptuous use: A sword.

1615 FENNOR *Defence* in J. Taylor (Water P.) *Wks.* (1630) II. 152/2, I would not see thy spightfull Spit-frog drawne. 1658 HARRINGTON *Oceana* 6 What pastures you have will come unto the ballance of propriety, without which the publick sword is but a name or meer spit-frog.

Spi·tful. [f. SPIT *sb.*[3]] A spadeful.

1842 LOUDON *Suburban Hort.* 129 Without the cross-piece or perforated handle of the spade, the operator could not easily lift a spitful or turn it over. 1855 DELAMER *Kitchen Garden* (1861) 165 When..I have taken out a spitful of mould, and put in its place a spitful of loam.

Spither, obs. form of SPIDER *sb.*

Spitish (spəi·tiʃ), *a.* Also 7 **spightish**. [f. SPITE *sb.* + -ISH.] Spiteful, snappish.

1627 W. SCLATER *Exp. 2 Thess.* (1629) 301 Spightishest insidiations of Satan. 1667 in *Cath. Rec. Soc. Publ.* III. 71 Herevppon that churl became spightish and furious. 1848 BARNES *Poems* (ed. 2) Gloss., *Spitish*, spiteful; snappish. 1891 T. HARDY in *Harper's Mag.* April 700/2 This answer made Pa'son Billy..rather spitish, not to say hot. 1909 *Westm. Gaz.* 5 June 2/2 From it..came spitish puffs of wind.

† **Spitling.** *Obs. rare.* Also **spyt(e)ling, spiteling.** [? f. SPITTLE *sb.*[3]] Refuse, rubbish.

1620 MARKHAM *Farew. Husb.* iii. 27 Meanure it either with Oxe dung, ..the spyteling [1649 spiteling] of Housefloores, or sweepings of Channels and Streets. 1638 *Ibid.* xiii. 72, I would have every Husband-man to make much of the rubbish, sweepings, parings, and spytlings of his house and yard.

Spit-locking, *vbl. sb. Mil.* [? f. SPIT *sb.*[3]] (See quots.) Also **Spit-lock** *v.*

1834 J. S. MACAULAY *Field Fortif.* iii. 49 Having set up the profiles, trace with a pick-axe (*note* Termed 'spit-locking') the escarp and counterscarp lines. 1892 G. PHILIPS *Text Bk. Fortif.* (ed. 5) 153 Cutting a groove along the surface of the ground with the point of a pick (*spit-locking*). *Ibid.* 154 The bounding lines of the parapet..may be spit-locked.

† **Spitous,** *a.* and *adv.* *Obs.* Forms: *α.* 4–5 **spitus, -ous,** 5 **-ouse, -uose**; 5 **spytus, -ous, -ows.** *β.* 4 **spetos,** 5 **-ous(e, -ows.** [Aphetic ad. AF. *despitous*, f. *despit*: see SPITE *sb.*]

1. = DESPITOUS *a.*

α. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 14097 Martha thoght sco helpe ne wald, A spitus plaint to crist sco tald. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 845 Whatt! þay spaten & speken of so spitous fylþe. ? *a* 1366 CHAUCER *Rom. Rose* 979 That arowe was as with felonye Envenymed, and with spitous blame. *c* 1400 LOVE *Bonavent. Mirr.* (1908) 256 Was there euere eny theef or worse odyus man so sone dampned and putte to so spitouse deth? *c* 1450 LOVELICH *Merlin* 2830 More feers he was & more hydows, also more egre, & mochel more spytows, thanne the whyte [dragon] was. 1481 CAXTON *Reynard* (Arb.) 106 Isegrym wende wyth thyse mockyng and spytous wordes to haue goon out of his wytte.

β. 13.. *Gaw. & Gr. Kn.* 209 A spetos sparþe to expoun in spelle que-so myȝt. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 2458 Sparrethis spetous to spend & speris in handis. *Ibid.* 4567 He was spetous of speche & spised his dri3tins. *c* 1450 LOVELICH *Merlin* 2850 So spetows was þe bataylle betwixen hem.

2. As *adv.* = next.

c 1400 *Laud Troy Bk.* 7480 Then was wroth Episcropus That Ector spake to him so spitous; Dispitusly Ector he myssayde.

† **Spitously,** *adv.* *Obs.* Forms: *α.* 4 **spitusli** (5 **-ly**), **spytously,** 4–5 **spitously** (4 **-liche,** 5 **-lich**); 5 **spetously, -owsle.** *β.* 5 **spiteously, -iously.** *γ.* 5 **spet-, spytuously, spytt-, spituosly, spiteuoseli, spytwysly.** [f. prec.] = DESPITOUSLY *adv.*

α. 13.. *Cursor M.* 5082 (Gott.), þe coupe into 3our seck put i, And presuned 3ou ful spitusli. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 1285 Alle he spoyled spitously in a sped whyle. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) II. 321 þe childe anon þrewe doun þe crowne, and tradde þeron spitousliche wiþ his feet. *c* 1440 *Cast. Persev.* 27 Spylt is man spetously, whanne he to synne asent. *a* 1450 *Knt. de la Tour* (1868) 43 The houndes.. chaced and bote hem spitously bi the eeres and thies.

β. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 3698 Hit spirit vp spitiously fyue speire lenght. *c* 1460 *Pol., Rel., & L. Poems* (1903) 204 Whan I smote so spiteously.

γ. *c* 1440 *Partonope* 2003 A stroke smote he Vpon Sornogour[s] helme so gay, So spetuously that he gan affray. *c* 1450 in Aungier *Hist. Syon Monast.* (1840) 261 If any ley vyolente hande upon her souereyne or spituosly smyte or wownde her. 1495 *Trevisa's Barth. De P. R.* XVIII. vii. 753 A boore resyth full spytuously ayenste the poynt of a spere of the hunter.

Spit-poison. *rare*[−1]. [f. SPIT *v.*[2]] A venomous or malicious person.

a 1716 SOUTH *Serm.* (1744) X. 290 There goes a person for whom no one breathing was ever the better,..the scourge of society, a spit-poison, a viper.

Spit-sticker. *techn.* [ad. Flem. *spitsteker*, = G. *spitzstichel.*] (See quots.)

1837 WHITTOCK *Bk. Trades* (1842) 304 The Jeweller requires, for finishing his work,..certain gravers,..scrapers, 'spit-stickers', &c. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2279/1 *Spit-sticker*, a graver or sculper, with convex faces.

† **Spittard.** *Obs.* [app. f. SPIT *sb.*[1]; see -ARD, and cf. G. *spiessert.*] = SPITTER [1].

There is prob. some connexion with SPYCCARD, but the exact nature of this is not clear

1538 ELYOT, *Subulo*, an harte hauynge hornes without tynes, callyd as I suppose a spyttarde. 1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* 122 Of the Hart and Hinde..When they begin to haue hornes, which appeare in the second yeare of their age, like Bodkins without braunches,..the Germans cal such an one Spitzhirtz, which in English is called a Spittard.

Spi·tted, *a.* *rare*[−1]. [f. SPIT *sb.*[1]] Prolonged into a single point or spike.

1626 BACON *Sylva* § 757 Whether the Head of a Deer, that by age is more Spitted, may bee brought againe to be more Branched.

† **Spi·tter** [1]. *Obs.* [See SPITTARD above. The form corresponds to G. *spiesser* (also *spiesshirsch, spitzhirsch*, = older Flem. *spieshert*, Du. *spithert*).] A young deer with simple unbranched horns; a brocket or pricket; = SPITTARD.

1565 COOPER *Thesaurus*, *Subulo*, an harte hauynge hornes without tines, called a Spitter. 1565 GOLDING *Ovid's Met.* X. (1593) 238 This goodlie spitter being void of dread..did haunt mens houses. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* I. 336 The lungs of a red Deer, especially the Spitter of that kind. 1610 GUILLIM *Heraldry* III. xiv. 128 In others [*sc.* beasts] plaine and uniforme, without Tines, as in Spitters. 1661 LOVELL *Hist. Anim. & Min.* Isagoge B j, The hornes, in the stagge are ramous, simple in the spitter, palmate in others, ramous, and little in roes.

Spitter [2] (spi·təɹ). [f. SPIT *v.*[2]]

1. One who spits or ejects saliva. Also *fig.*

1382 WYCLIF *Isaiah* l. 6 My face I turnede not awei fro the blameres, and the spitteres in me. 1615 CROOKE *Body of Man* 186 Melancholy men are all of them..great Spitters. 1707 FLOYER *Physic. Pulse-Watch* 239 The Splenetics are great Spitters. 1750 H. WALPOLE *Lett. to Mann* (1833) II. 344 He would not see them, but wrote to the Spitter (or as he is now called, Lord Gob'em,) to say, that he had affronted him very grossly before company. 1869 J. G. WOOD *Bible Anim.* 554 Buxtorf, however, explains the word ['*akshûb*, adder] as the Spitter.

† **2.** A pea-shooter. *Obs.*[−1]

1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. xvi. (Roxb.) 82/1 Shooting in [= with] a trunk staffer [*sic*] or spitter.

Spi·tter [3]. Now *dial.* [f. SPIT *v.*[3]]

1. A spade or spud.

1600 F. WALKER tr. *Span. Mandeville* 69 Commaunding certaine men to digge with spytters, they found..vnder the grounde a graue. 1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), *Spade* or *Spitter*, (among Husband-men) a Tool to dig the Ground with. 1825 JENNINGS *Obs. Dial. W. Eng.* 71 *Spitter*, a small tool with a long handle, used for cutting up weeds, thistles, &c. *Ibid.* 72 To move the earth lightly with a spade or spitter.

2. A spademan; a delver or digger.

1648 HEXHAM II, *Een Kley-steker*, a digger or spitter of Clay. *Ibid.*, *Een Spader*, a Delver, a Spademan, a Spitter. 1728 *Phil. Trans.* XXXV. 568 As soon as the Digger or Spitter has gone once the Breadth of the Ridge, he begins again at the other Side.

Spi·tter [4]. *rare*[−0]. [f. SPIT *v.*[1]] 'One who puts meat on a spit' (Johnson, 1755).

Spitter-spatter. *rare*—¹. [f. SPATTER *v.*] Trifling talk.

1619 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Kicksey Winsey* Wks. 1630 I. 39/1 With such fine scimble, scemble, spitter spattar, As puts me cleane besides the money-matter.

†Spittery. *Obs.*—¹ [f. SPIT *v.*², after F. *crachoir.*] A spittoon.

a 1693 *Urquhart's Rabelais* III. xv. 127 They..spit in the Spitteries.

Spitting, *vbl. sb.*¹ [f. SPIT *v.*¹] The action of piercing with, or fixing on, a spit. Also *attrib.*

1613 SHAKS. *Hen. VIII*, II. iv. 183 This respite..enter'd me..with a spitting power and made to tremble The region of my Breast. 1631 MABBE *Celestina* xv. 164 Shee used such diligence..that shee drew water at the second spitting. 1648 HEXHAM II, *Aen't Spit-stekinge*, a Spitting, or a Broaching of meate.

Spitting, *vbl. sb.*² [f. SPIT *v.*²]

1. The action of ejecting saliva from the mouth; expectoration.

13..*K. Alis.* 898 (Linc.), Hadde he biden ony þing, Aboust he hadde his spittyng. *a* 1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* xxi. 5, I am reproue of men, in spittynge, buffetynge, and pungynge with þe thornes. *c* 1430 *Freemasonry* (Halliw. 1840) 711 From spyttynge and snyftynge kepe the also. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 250 b, His betynges & buffetynges.., with spyttynges, bobbynges & other turmentes. 1565 COOPER *Thesaurus, Excreatio*, a spittyng out with retchynge. 1609 B. JONSON *Silent Woman* IV. i, The spitting, the coughing, the laughter, the neesing. 1648 SANDERSON *Serm.* II. 235 Clamours and outcries, railing, and spitting, and buffeting. 1733 CHEYNE *Eng. Malady* II. ix. § 5 (1734) 212 The Spitting or Salivation, so common in Nervous Distempers. 1786 J. HUNTER *Treat. Vener. Dis.* VI. i. (1810) 456 He rubbed in..mercurial ointment, and had a slight spitting. 1808 *Med. Jrnl.* XIX. 506, I looked..for a return of his consumptive symptoms after the spitting had ceased. 1872 DARWIN *Emotions* xi. 260 Spitting seems an almost universal sign of contempt or disgust.

b. Const. *of* (blood, fire, etc.).

1565 COOPER *Thesaurus* s.v. *Excreatio*, It is bruysed..against spittyng of bludde. 1634 MASSINGER *Very Woman* III. v, Here will be spitting of fire o' both sides presently! 1725 *Fam. Dict.* s.v., When this Spitting of Blood comes from the Stomach. 1789 W. BUCHAN *Dom. Med.* (1790) 339 Spitting of blood is generally preceded by a sense of weight. 1843 R. J. GRAVES *Syst. Clin. Med.* xxii. 261 We are surprised to find that cases of spitting of blood are not much more frequent.

2. Saliva ejected from the mouth; spittle.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 25489 Iesus, þat wald..þi suete face.. With Iuus spitting file. *c* 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 655 Of þe comes mykel foul thyng, Als fen, and uryn and spyttyng. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 355/2 To cast Spyttynge, *despuiare, excreare.* 1639 S. DU VERGER tr. *Camus' Admir. Events* 210 All Berards brags were as so many spittings vomited up against heaven. 1691 tr. *Emiliane's Observ. Journ. Naples* 114 So that the Precious Blood..is spilt upon the Ground, amongst the Filth and Spittings of the People. 1701 STANHOPE *Pious Breathings* VII. ix. 333 That adorable face..was then defiled..with the spittings of unhallowed lips. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. v. v, In descending, he received a spitting (*crachat*) on the head, and some others on his clothes.

3. a. Sputtering; *spec.* of molten silver.

1611 COTGR., *Petillement*,..the spitting of a candle. 1866 *Chambers' Encycl.* VIII. 729/2 Silver,..when..it is fused,..absorbs a considerable quantity of oxygen, which it expels in the act of solidification with a peculiar sound, technically known as spitting. 1887 *Encycl. Brit.* XXII. 71/1 The presence of even very little base metal in the silver prevents this 'spitting'.

b. A slight sprinkle or shower of rain.

1707 in R. M. F. Watson *Closeburn* (1901) App. 274 All..shall be reckoned but as spittings before the great shower. 1869– in dial. glossaries.

c. *techn.* (See quot.)

1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* I. 271/1 In the needle-gun..the 'spitting' of fire at the breech is inconveniently great.

4. *attrib.* a. In sense 'for spitting in or on', as *spitting-box, -cup, -dish, -kettle, -mug, -pan*, etc.

1687 MIÉGE *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II, A *spitting Box, *un Crachoir.* 1794 PARR *Let. Maltby* Wks. 1828 VIII. 336 Is there a smoking room, an arm-chair, a spitting-box, a wax-candle? 1834 MARRYAT *P. Simple* (1863) 88 A large tin spitting-box [was] fixed to his chest by a strap over the shoulders. 1684 HEDGES *Diary* (Hakl. Soc.) I. 149 A Beetle Box, Plate, Arrack Bowl, *Spitting Cup, and Silver handle for a Fan. 1706 STEVENS *Span. Dict.* I, *Escupidero*, a *spitting Dish. 1815 *Hist. J. Decastro* III. 339 Let's have..pipes and tobacco, some sawdust and a *spitting kettle. 1895 *Army & Navy Price List* 15 Sept. 1316/1 *Spitting Mugs. 1834 MARRYAT *P. Simple* (1863) 88 There were *spitting-pans placed in different parts of the decks for the use of the men. 1731–8 SWIFT *Polite Conv.* 39 Come, pray, stand out of my *spitting place. 1727 POPE, etc. *Art of Sinking* 125 Paint, diet-drinks, *spitting-pots, and all other necessaries of life. 1776 *Pennsylv. Even. Post* 27 Apr. 212/1 Blue and white artichoke cups and spitting pots. 1836 J. M. GULLY *Magendie's Formul.* 127 The water used in washing the spitting-pots. 1662 PEPYS *Diary* 21 Nov., To bed this night, having first put up a *spitting-sheet, which I find very convenient. 1684 A. HALL *Will* (Somerset Ho.), One paire of spitting sheetes now used upon my bed. 1707 J. STEVENS tr. *Quevedo's Com. Wks.* (1709) 164 They left me, looking all over like an old Man's Spitting-sheet. 1831 J. JEKYLL *Corr.* (1894) 286 The cigar-smokers of Dublin use *spitting vases in the shape of mitres.

b. In sense of 'facilitating or inducing spitting', as *spitting-drop, -pill.*

1629 MASSINGER *Picture* IV. ii, He's acquainted With the green water, and the spitting-pill's Familiar to him. 1692 *Poor Robin's Alm.* Advt., Spitting-Drops, that any one may safely take.

c. Misc., as *spitting exordium, range, sickness.*

1599 NASHE *Lenten Stuffe* Wks. (Grosart) V. 245 This counterpoyson of the spitting sickenesse. 1600 SIR W. CORNWALLIS *Ess.* I. xii. H iv, He [Montaigne]..forceth you not to attention with a hem, and a spitting Exordium. 1774 J. EDWARDS *Hist. Redemp.* II. ii. (1788) 226 He did not think it too much..to become the laughing-stock and spitting-stock of the vilest of men. 1895 SIR H. MAXWELL *Dk. Brit.* xix. 280 You had him almost within spitting range.

Spitting, *vbl. sb.*³ Now *dial.* [f. SPIT *v.*³] The action of digging, or of ploughing to a spade-depth; a small trench made with a spade.

1594 *Min. Archd. Colch.* (MS.) fol. 25 b, Frauncis Fromont, the sonne, of Lytleburye, dyd work all daye vppon St. James daye at spitting of saffron ground in Walden. 1648 HEXHAM II, *Een spadinge, ofte spittinge*, a Spading, or a Spitting. 1764 RANDALL *Semi-Virgilian Husb.* Introd. lv, This action of the Sun is most considerable in Ridge work, especially in the Double Spitting, in the destruction of Weeds. 1892 in *Eng. Dial. Dict.*

Spitting, *ppl. a.* [f. SPIT *v.*²]

1. That spits, in various (chiefly *transf.*) senses of the verb.

1567 DRANT *Horace, Ep.* E ij, A linnine slop in spitting snowe. 1687 MIÉGE *Gt. Fr. Dict.* I, *Cracheur*, a spitting (or spawling) man. 1880 TYNDALL *Glac.* I. xxvii. 211 The spitting snow-dust raised by the wind. 1888 CHURCHWARD *Blackbirding* 81, I saw the spitting flashes and heard the bangs. 1901 'LINESMAN' *Words by Eye-witness* xii. (1902) 252 There is a roar from the razor-back, an angry spitting reply from the donga.

2. In specific names of reptiles, etc., as **spitting asp, click-beetle, gecko, snake.**

1653 ROWLAND *Topsell's Serpents* 653 The *Ptyas* or spitting [1608 spetting] Asp resembleth an Ash colour. 1802 SHAW *Gen. Zool.* III. i. 279 Spitting Gecko. *Lacerta Sputator.* 1855 MORTON *Cycl. Agric.* I. 47 *Algriotes] sputator.* —The pasture or spitting click-beetle is much smaller than *A. obscurus.* 1887 *Encycl. Brit.* XXII. 197/1 One [genus], *Sepedon hæmachates*,.. or 'Ring-Neck Snake',..shares with the cobra a third Dutch name, that of 'spuw slang' (Spitting Snake).

†Spittle, *sb.*¹ *Obs.* Forms: *a.* 3–4, 6 **spitel** (5 **-ele**), 4–6 **-ell**; 4 **spytel**, 5 **-elle, spytyl**, 5–6 **-ylle**; 5 **spetel, 6 -ylle**; 5–6 **spittell, 6 -el**, *Sc.* **spittaill, spyttell, -yll(e, spettell, -ylle.** *β.* 6 **spyttle**, 6–7 **spitle**, 6–9 **spittle.** *γ.* 7 **spitol, -oll.** See also SPITAL. [ME. *spitel, spittel*, etc., = MLG. *spittel, spettel*, MHG. *spittel, spittol* (G. *spittel*), ultimately representing an aphetic form of HOSPITAL, modified on the analogy of native words in *-el.* Forms with more original ending appear in OHG. *spitâl* (*spitaul*; G. *spital*), MLG. *spittâl, spettâl*, MDu. *spit(t)-, spetael*, MDa. *spital, spedal*, MSw. *spital(e, spetal(e*, Icel. *spital, -ali.* The common source of these is app. Italian or Levantine: cf. It. *spedale*, dial. *spitale*, mod.Gr. σπιτάλι; also med.L. *spitalerius* (1342 in Du Cange), med.Gr. σπιταλιώτης (*c* 1350).]

1. A house or place for the reception of the indigent or diseased; a charitable foundation for this purpose, *esp.* one chiefly occupied by persons of a low class or afflicted with foul diseases; a lazar-house. (Now written SPITAL.)

α. a 1225 [see 4]. *c* 1315 [see 5 a]. 1388 WYCLIF 1 *Kings* ii. 34 *marg.*, Rabi Salomon seith, that he made in desert a spitele for pore men. *c* 1400 *Rom. Rose* 6505 Whanne I see beggers quakyng,..Lete bere hem to the spitel anoon. *c* 1425 *St. Mary of Oignies* II. ii. in *Anglia* VIII. 152 Houses of mesels, þat are callid spitellis. *a* 1529 SKELTON *Col. Clout* 1186 At..Saynt Mary Spyttell, They set not by vs a whystell. 1556 *Chron. Gr. Friars* (Camden) 43 At sent Mary spettell, the iij. dayes in Ester weke, preched the vicar of Stepney one Jerome.

β. 1571–92 [see b]. 1601 B. JONSON *Ev. Man in Hum.* II. iii, May they lie and starue in some miserable spittle. 1698 FRYER *Acc. E. India & P.* 150 We descended from this.. to the Spittle, where we found the Poor faring well from their Benefactors. 1748 THOMSON *Cast. Indol.* I. lxxvi, She felt, or fancy'd..All the diseases which the spittles know. 1839 STONEHOUSE *Isle of Axholme* 129 Burton Lazars..being the chief of all the spittles and lazar houses in England.

b. Distinguished from *hospital*, as being of a lower class than this.

1571 GRINDAL *Articles* B iv b, Whether your Hospitals, Spittles, and almose houses be well and godly vsed according to the foundation and auncient ordinances of the same. 1577 tr. *Bullinger's Decades* (1592) 156 There is mention made..of Hospitals for olde men, or spittles for beggars. 1592 *Nobody & Someb.* in Simpson *Sch. Shaks.* (1878) I. 289 He..for widdowes builde Almes-houses, Spittles, and large Hospitals. 1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* III. i. iii. i. 524 Put vp a supplication to him in the name of..an hospitall, a spittle, a prison. *a* 1641 BP. MOUNTAGU *Acts & Mon.* (1642) 385 They were fitter, if any were alive, for some Spittle or Hospitall, then for any service that they were able to do for Herod. 1702 *Guide for Constables* 98 Almshouses, hospital, school or spittle.

c. *transf.* (See quot.)

1665 *Voy. E. India* 437 The Banians..have Spittles (as they say) on purpose to recover lame Birds and Beasts.

2. Phr. *To rob the spittle*, to make gain or profit in a particularly mean or dastardly manner.

1632 QUARLES *Div. Fancies* I. xciv, Of all men, Vs'rers are not least accurst; They robb the Spittle; pinch th' Afflicted worst. 1679 ALSOP *Melius Inq.* I. ii. 100 To what end steal from the Reformed Churches? which had been merely to rob the Spittle. 1708 O. DYKES *Mor. Refl. Eng. Prov.* xix. 79, I am not to..ruin a Family, or rob the Spittle, to redress his Grievances.

3. *fig.* A foul receptacle or collection. Const. *of.*

1624 HEYWOOD *Gunaik.* IX. 438 Making their corrupt bodies no better than sinkes of sinnes, and spittles of diseases. 1642 FULLER *Holy & Prof. St.* III. xv. 192 Their souls have been the Chappells of sanctity, whose bodies have been the Spitolls of deformity. 1652 BENLOWES *Theoph.* x. x, Gluttons who make themselves spittles of each disease.

4. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *spittle-beggar, -door, -evil* (= leprosy), *-founder, -holiness, -luck, -mare*, etc.

1611 COTGR., *Vn gueux de l'ostiere*, a rogue, vagabond, or *Spittle begger. 1647 N. WARD *Simp. Cobler* 20 The least Error, if grown sturdy and pressed, shall set open the *Spittle-door of all the squint-ey'd, wry-necked, and brasen-faced Errors that are or ever were of that litter. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 148 Moiseses hond,..so sone he hefde wiðdrawen hire ut of his boseme, bisemede oðe *spitel-vuel, & þuhte leprus. 1599 CHAPMAN *Hum. dayes Myrth* Plays 1873 I. 76 Yron and steele, vncharitable stuffe, good *spittle-founders, enemies to whole skinnes. *c* 1548 in Hazl. *E. P. P.* IV. 13 Ye are much bounde to God for suche a *spittell holines. 1545 ASCHAM *Toxoph.* (Arb.) 53 Blynde Fortune, stumbling chaunce, *spittle lucke. 1650 B. *Discollim.* 44 He gives me a leane lame *spittle Mare. 1612 DABORNE *Chr. turn'd Turke* 933 Insatiat goat, thou thinkst our wiues are such, As are your holy sisters,..Your *spittle nuns. 1599 NASHE *Lenten Stuffe* Wks. (Grosart) V. 247 They woulde not moue or stir one foote till they had disclaimd and abiurd their bedred *spittle-positions. 1599 B. JONSON *Cynthia's Rev.* II. v, Bawds and blinde Doctors, Paritors, and *spittle Proctors. 1632 MASSINGER & FIELD *Fatal Dowry* III. i, I will rather choose a *spittle sinner Carted an age before. 1542 UDALL *Erasm. Apoph.* 96 b, All y^e rable of other like *spittle vilaines. 1596 LODGE *Wits Miserie* N j b, He is secretary to the *spittle whores.

5. Special Combs.: a. **Spittle-house,** = sense 1.

c 1315 SHOREHAM I. 1828 Bote þe syke in-to a spytel hous Entry, þer beþ museles. 14.. *Lat.-Eng. Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 596 *Misothonium*, a Spytylhous. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 469 Spytylle howse, *leprosorium. *c* 1480 HENRYSON *Test. Cres.* 391 He..Delyuerit hir in at the Spittaill hous. 1530 PALSGR. 274 Spyttle house, *laderye.* 1558 *Act* 1 *Eliz.* c. 21 § 30 Any Hospitall, Measondue or Spittel House..for the Sustentacion and Relief of pore People. 1600 NASHE *Summer's Last Will* G ij, As it is the Spittle-houses guise, Quer the gate to write their founders names. 1607 SHAKS. *Timon*, IV. iii. 39 Shee, whom the Spittle-house..Would cast the gorge at.

b. **Spittle-man,** an inmate of a spital.

1593 G. HARVEY *Pierce's Super.* 185 Is it not impossible, for Humanity to be a spittle-man,..History a bankrowt? 1607 J. DAVIES (Heref.) *Summa Totalis* (Grosart) 26/1 Good Preachers, that liue ill (like Spittlemen) Are perfect in the way they neuer went. 1653 H. COGAN tr. *Pinto's Trav.* xxxi. 122 They..go up and down the streets with certain Clappers, like our Spittle men.

c. **Spittle sermon,** one of the sermons preached on Easter Monday and Tuesday from a special pulpit at St. Mary Spital outside of Bishopsgate (afterwards at St. Bride's and finally at Christ Church in the City).

For later references see SPITAL 1 b.

a 1596 *Sir T. More* I. i. 113 You knowe the spittle sermons begin the next weeke. *a* 1637 B. JONSON *Underwoods* lx, The lady may'ress pass'd in through the town, Unto the Spittle sermon.

Spittle (spit'l), *sb.*² Forms: 5 **spyttle**, 6 **spyttel, -ell, spitell**, 6– **spittle.** [Modification of SPATTLE *sb.*¹ or SPETTLE, after SPIT *v.*²]

1. Saliva, spit.

To lick, to swallow, (one's) spittle: see LICK *v.* 1 b, and SWALLOW *v.*

1480 CAXTON *Myrr.* II. xv. 100 The spyttle of a man fastyng sleeth comynly the spyncoppe & the tode yf it touche them. 1530 PALSGR. 274 Spyttell that cometh out of the mouthe, *crachat, salive.* 1594 T. B. *La Primaud. Fr. Acad.* II. 97 Although spittle be but an excrement and superfluitie, ..yet it is not vnprofitable, because it wetteth and moysteneth the tongue. 1650 BULWER *Anthropomet.* IX. 103 Their gums are seen with their teeth, their spittle slavering forth. 1673 *Phil. Trans.* VIII. 6152 When he treats of the Tast, he well considers..the nature of the Spittle. 1710 J. CLARKE tr. *Rohault's Nat. Philos.* (1729) I. 169 Those [bodies] that are perfectly dry or hard, have no Taste 'till they are mixed with our Spittle. 1782 PRIESTLEY *Corrupt. Chr.* II. VII. 84 The priest touched his mouth and ears with spittle. 1841 LANE *Arab. Nts.* I. 96 He put his finger to his mouth, and moistened it with his spittle. 1862 J. F. CAMPBELL *Tales W. Highl.* III. 270 Under cats, and dogs, and men's spittle.

b. *Sc.* A quantity of saliva ejected at one time.

1722 RAMSAY *Three Bonnets* III. 20 His floor was a' tobacco spittles. 179– W. SIMSON in *Poets of Ayr.* (1910) 34 Scots rhyme then, though prime then, Will no' be worth a spittle. 1822 GALT *Sir A. Wylie* xxi, A gauze gown..spoilt with a spittle, or any other foul thing out of the mouth of man.

†2. a. *Spittle of the sun*, gossamer. *Obs.*—¹

1574 HYLL *Weather* viii, Many long webbes (which some call the spittle of the Sun) driving in the aire, declare winde, or a tempest to folow.

†b. *Spittle of the stars*, honey-dew; nostoc. *Obs.*

1577 B. GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* IV. (1586) 180 b, Hony dewe,..a certaine spittle of the starres. 1656 T. WHITE *Peripatet. Instit.* 148 When any such matter is found in the Fields, the very Countrey-men cry it fell from Heav'n and the Starres, and, as I remember, call it the Spittle of the Starres. 1657 S. PURCHAS *Pol. Flying-Ins.* 133 Pliny affirmed the Hony-dew to bee either the sweat of the heaven, or the slaver or spittle of the stars.

3. The frothy secretion of an insect. Cf. CUCKOO-SPIT, -SPITTLE.

1821 CLARE *Vill. Minstr.* I. 135 Insects of mysterious birth..Hid in knots of spittle white.

4. Special Combs.: **spittle-ball**, a ball of chewed paper wet with saliva; **† spittle-bishop**, a Roman Catholic bishop (in allusion to the use

of spittle in baptism); **spittle-fly, -insect,** *U.S.* an insect forming, or bred in, a frothy secretion; † **spittle-wort,** pellitory, *Anacyclus Pyrethrum.*

1555 PHILPOT in Strype *Eccl. Mem.* (1721) III. App. 159, I have ben six tymes in examination, twice before the spitell bishopes. 1580 BLUNDEVIL *Horsemanship* IV. 43 b, Pirethum, otherwise called of some Spittlewort. 1885 LELAND *Brand-new Ballads* (ed. 2) 4 As in country schools the urchins cast each one a spittle-ball.

Spi·ttle, *sb.*[3] Now *dial.* Forms: 1, 3–4 **spitel** (3 sputel), 5 **spytelle, -yll,** 6 **spitil,** 6–7 **spittell**; 4 **spittle,** 7– **spittle.** [OE. *spitel* (in the combs. *hand-, wǽd-spitel*), related to SPIT *sb.*[3] and *v.*[3]]

1. A spade or small spade; a spud.

a 1100 *Gerefa* in *Anglia* IX. 263 Spade, scofle, wadspitel. 12.. [implied in SPITTLE-STAFF]. 133.. in *Cal. Inq. post Mortem* (1909) VII. 422 [Thirty] spitles [for digging turfs in the marsh]. 1334–5 *Ely Sacr. Rolls* II. 69 In iij ferr. emp. pro spitel, 6*d*. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 356/1 A Spytelle, *spata.* 1514 *Hist. Monast. St. Peter, Glouc.* (Rolls) III. Introd. p. xl, Staves and knives, shovils, spitils, and mattockes. 1570 *Richmond. Wills* (Surtees) 228 One spittell, ij prignetts, xij*s*. 1617 *Shuttleworths' Acc.* (Chetham Soc.) 226 Hen. Grymshaye, for a spittle of iron and steele, xiiij*d*. 1675 *Hereford Dioc. Reg.* (MS.), Digging with a small spade or spittle in his Garden. 1788 W. H. MARSHALL *Yorksh.* II. 355 *Spittle,* a spaddle, or little spade. 1828– in many dial. glossaries.

2. A hoe or scraper.

1832 *Scoreby Farm Rep.* 21 in *Husb.* (L.U.K.) III, The ground..was kept tolerably clean by the spittle and hand hoe. *Ibid.*, This plantation has been kept perfectly clean with the spittle or Dutch hoe. 1855 [ROBINSON] *Whitby Gloss., Spittle,* an iron blade fixed across the end of a staff for scraping a shop floor in muddy weather.

3. A baking implement; a shovel or peel.

1838 HOLLOWAY *Prov. Dict., Spittle,* a board used in turning oat cakes. 1876–83 in Yks. and Lanc. glossaries.

4. *attrib.* and *Comb.,* as *spittle-fork, -maker, -spade.* See also SPITTLE-STAFF.

14.. *Tundale's Vis.* 724 Summe had..nawg[er]es, Cultorus, sybus kene wytall, Spytyll-forkus þe sowlys to fall. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* I. 608 Let there bee then either a small furrow rased along just through the middest of the shaddow with a spittle spade, or the point of some hooke. 1881 *Instr. Census Clerks* (1885) 43 Spittle Maker (Spade Handle).

Spittle (spi·t'l), *v.*[1] *rare.* Also 4 **spitel.** [In early use f. SPIT *v.*[2] + -LE; later f. SPITTLE *sb.*[2]]

1. *intr.* To eject spittle; to spit.

c 1340 *Nominale* (Skeat) 154 *F*[*emme*] *coupe pur vn muche,* W[oman] spitelith for a flie. 1876 ROBINSON *Whitby Gloss.* 182 It was once the custom 'to spittle' at the name of the Devil in church.

2. *trans.* To make foul with spittle.

1596 NASHE *Saffron Walden* Wks. (Grosart) III. 51 To helpe his bedred stuffe to limpe out of Powles Churchyard, that else would haue laine vnreprivably spittled at the Chandlers.

Spi·ttle, *v.*[2] *rare.* [f. SPITTLE *sb.*[3]] *trans.* To dig (*in*), to pare, etc., with a spittle. Hence **Spi·ttling** *vbl. sb.*

1727 S. SWITZER *Pract. Gard.* 158 Dig it into the ground, but not deep, only just spittle it in, as gardiners term it. 1807 T. RUDGE *View Agric. Glouc.* 155 About the beginning of June,..they [*sc.* plants] are 'spittled', that is, the workman, with a..small spade, turns over the surface mould carefully between every plant. *Ibid.* 156 Spittling generally costs a guinea and a half an acre. 1828 CARR *Craven Gloss., Spittle,* to pare off the surface of the ground.

Spittle-house, -man: see SPITTLE *sb.*[1] 5.

† **Spi·ttler.** *Obs.*[−1] [f. SPITTLE *sb.*[1]] = HOSPITALLER 2 or 3.

a 1550 *Image Hypocr.* IV. 209 in *Skelton's Wks.* (1843) II. 441/2 Some be Templers And Exemplers, Some be Spitlers, And some be Vitlers.

Spi·ttle-staff. Now *dial.* [f. SPITTLE *sb.*[3]] A kind of spade or digging implement.

12.. *Ancr. R.* 384 3if eax ne kurue, ne þe spade [*v.rr.* spitel staf, sputel stef] ne dulue. 1605 *Knaresb. Wills* (Surtees) I. 252 To Marmaduke Coghill one spitbell [*sic*] staffe and one iron appell craddell. 1676 *Hatton Corr.* (Camden) I. 133 One came behind Mr. Downs and with a spittle staff cleft his scull. 1866 BROGDEN *Prov. Lincs., Spittle-staff,* a spud, used for stubbing thistles. 1877– in Linc. and Durh. glossaries.

† **Spittly,** *a. Obs. rare*[−0]. [f. SPITTLE *sb.*[2]] Marked by the presence of spittle.

1611 COTGR., *Salival,* spittlie, slimie. *Ibid., Saliveux,* spittlie, slauering.

Spittoon (spitū·n). Also **spitoon.** [f. SPIT *v.*[2] + -OON.] A receptacle for spittle, usually a round flat vessel of earthenware or metal, sometimes having a cover in the form of a shallow funnel with an opening in the middle.

1840 in Thornton *Amer. Gloss.* s.v., A well-dressed gentleman picked up a China spittoon. 1841 DICKENS *Barn. Rudge* x, Not at all particular on the subject of spittoons. 1851 N. HAWTHORNE in J. Hawthorne *Hawthorne & his Wife* (1885) I. 420 There were spittoons..at equal distances up and down the broad entries. 1888 W. R. CARLES *Life in Korea* ii. 21 One or two small brass spittoons were on the floor.

Spituose, Spitus, varr. SPITOUS *a. Obs.*

† **Spi·ty,** *a. Obs.*[−1] In 5 **spyty.** [ad. MDu. *spitich* (Du. *spijtig*), f. *spīt* SPITE *sb.*] Spiteful.

1481 CAXTON *Reynard* (Arb.) 101 What many a spyty worde haue ye brought forth wyth false lesyngis.

‖ **Spitz** (spits). [G. (also *spitzhund*), special use of *spitz* pointed, peaked.] A species of dog having a very pointed muzzle; a Pomeranian dog.

1845 *Zoologist* III. 1104 The prevalence of the Spitz in Europe would readily account for such a combination. 1883 *Cent. Mag.* Apr. 911/1 Madonna was occupied with a spitz, holding it at one minute and pulling it by the tail the next.

Spitz-devil. [f. SPIT *sb.*[2] or *v.*[2] Cf. the variant *spitting-devil.*] A small sputtering fire-ball made from wetted gunpowder. Also ellipt. *spitz.*

1880 CARNEGIE *Pract. Trap.* 15 Light it, and place it in the hole instead of the spitz. *Ibid.* 16 After having made a 'spitz devil', as we called it at school, light it in the hole.

Spi3t(e: see SPIGHT.

Spla·board. [? f. SPLAY *a.* or *v.*[1]] (See quot.)

c 1850 *Rudim. Navig.* (Weale) 151 *Spla-boards,* boards or planks fixed to an obtuse angle, to throw the light into the filling-room of a magazine.

Spla·chnoid, *a. Bot.* [f. mod.L. *Splachn-um* (Linnæus), f. ad. Gr. *σπλάγχνον* (Dioscorides), some moss or lichen.] Characteristic of, related to, *Splachnum,* a genus of mosses of elegant form and colour.

1833 HOOKER in *J. E. Smith's Eng. Flora* V. I. 6 So remarkable a plant as this [*Œdipodium*], with a splachnoid habit. *Ibid.* 17 As in all the splachnoid family. 1866 *Treas. Bot., Tayloria,* a remarkable genus of splachnoid mosses.

Spla·cknuck. Also **splacnunc.** [Invented by Swift.] An imaginary animal of Brobdingnag; a strange animal or person.

1726 SWIFT *Gulliver* II. ii, That my master had found a strange animal in the field, about the bigness of a splacknuck. 1807 W. IRVING *Salmag.* (1811) I. 68 Philadelphians gave the preference to racoon and splacnuncs. 1820 *Examiner* 626/1 In the grip of the farmer at Botley we accordingly leave this reverend splacknuck. 1842 TENNYSON in H. Tennyson *Mem.* (1897) I. vii. 180 Your modern ladies shriek at a pipe as if they saw a 'splacknuck'.

† **Splai·ting,** *vbl. sb. Obs.* [Of obscure origin: cf. SPLAT *v.* 2, and *shoulder-splate.*] (See quot.)

1580 BLUNDEVIL *Horsemanship* V. 52 Of splaiting of the shoulder. This commeth by some dangerous sliding or slipping, whereby the shoulder parteth from the breast, and so leaves an open rift..in the flesh and film next under the skin. [Hence in Topsell (1607) and Phillips (1658–96), as *Splaying*; Kersey (1706), etc., as *Splaying.*]

† **Splanade,** obs. form of ESPLANADE.

Cf. obs. G. *splanade,* WFlem. *splenade.*

1682 (see ESPLANADE 2). 1737 [S. BERINGTON] *Mem. G. de Lucca* (1738) 82 Where the break of the Hill made that agreeable Splanade, there stood an ancient Pyramid.

Splanchnic (splæ·ŋknik), *a.* and *sb. Anat.* Also 7 **-nick, splancknick.** [ad. med. or mod.L. *splanchnic-us,* ad. Gr. *σπλαγχνικός,* f. *σπλάγχνον,* usu. pl. *σπλάγχνα,* the inward parts, esp. the heart, lungs, liver, and kidneys. So F. *splanchnique.*]

A. *adj.* **1. a.** Situated in, connected with, the viscera or intestines. Freq. in *splanchnic nerve*(*s.*

1694 WESTMACOTT *Script. Herb.* 49 It most sharply irritating the Splancknick fibres..compels..serosities to be cast out. 1831 R. KNOX *Cloquet's Anat.* 536 Of the splanchnic nerves. These nerves are two in number, and distinguished into great and small. 1832 OWEN *Mem. Pearly Nautilus* 63 The splanchnic veins from the liver, ovary, gizzard, &c. 1845 TODD & BOWMAN *Phys. Anat.* II. 137 The great splanchnic nerve arises by separate roots. 1870 FLOWER *Osteol. Mamm.* ii. 9 There are also certain bones called *splanchnic,* being developed within the substance of some of the viscera.

b. Occupied by the viscera (esp. in *splanchnic cavity*); of a visceral character.

1830 R. KNOX *Béclard's Anat.* 39 The splanchnic cavity of the trunk is divided into two by..the diaphragm. 1851 *Rep. Brit. Assoc.* XX. 219 A space intervenes,..to designate which the term 'peritoneal', or 'splanchnic', may be used with perfect anatomical propriety. 1881 *Jrnl. Microsc. Sci.* Jan. 73 The two layers of the mesoblast, somatic and splanchnic. 1898 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* V. 394 This appears to take place chiefly in the splanchnic area.

2. Affecting, pertaining or relating to, the viscera.

1681 WILLIS *Operat. Med.* II. ii. 89 Splanchnick remedies or those which respect the bowels of the lower Belly. 1822–7 GOOD *Study Med.* (1829) V. 307 In Splanchnic Obesity, the encumbered viscera are more or less buried in beds of fat. 1874 COUES *Birds N.W.* 592 Other minor points of splanchnic details.

B. *sb.* A splanchnic nerve. Chiefly in *pl.*

1840 G. V. ELLIS *Anat.* 360 The great splanchnic..is a large white nerve,..which descends to the diaphragm. 1877 DICKINSON *Diabetes* 17 After division of the splanchnics which are in the direct line of hepatic innervation.

So † **Spla·nchnical** *a. Obs. rare.*

1681 tr. *Willis' Rem. Med. Wks.* Vocab., *Splanchnical,* belonging to the spleen. 1702 *Phil. Trans.* XXIII. 1582 Those generated in the..Guts, beget Cholical, Splanchnical, Hypocondriacal Pains.

Splanchno- (splæ·ŋkno), combining form of Gr. *σπλάγχνον* (see SPLANCHNIC *a.*), occurring in a few terms of *Anat.* and *Path.* relating to the viscera, as **Splanchno·graphy** (see quot.). **Splanchnopleu·ral** *a.*, pertaining to the splanchnopleure. **Spla·nchnopleure,** one of the two layers or divisions of the mesoblast. **Splanchnopleu·ric** *a.*, = *splanchnopleural.* **Splanchnopto·sis,** a downward displacement of the viscera. **Splanchnoske·letal** *a.*, relating or belonging to the visceral skeleton. **Splanchnoske·leton,** the visceral skeleton, consisting of hard or bony parts developed in the viscera or sense-organs. **Splanchno·tomy** (see quot.).

1849 CRAIG, **Splanchnography,* an anatomical description of the viscera. 1888 ROLLESTON & JACKSON *Anim. Life* 614 Testes and ovaries are formed by the growth of *splanchnopleural coelomic-epithelium. 1875 HUXLEY in *Encycl. Brit.* II. 53/2 The splitting of the mesoblast into two layers, a *splanchnopleure and a somatopleure. 1888 *Jrnl. Microsc. Sci.* XXVIII. 111 The lower end lies..between the somatopleure and splanchnopleure. 1900 *Nature* 12 Apr. 560 The appearance, in the development in the vascular system, of a *splanchnopleuric subintestinal vein. 1898 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* V. 486 These practices, as he alleges, lead in a considerable percentage of women to *splanchnoptosis. 1848 OWEN *Homologies Vert. Skeleton* III The bones..are..entitled to rank..in the category of sense-capsules or '*splanchno-skeletal' pieces. *Ibid.* 114 The bones or parts of the *splanchno-skeleton. 1875 *Encycl. Brit.* I. 820/1 In man, the teeth being excluded, there is neither exo- nor splanchno-skeleton, but only an endo-skeleton. 1851 DUNGLISON *Med. Lex.*, **Splanchnotomy,* dissection or anatomy of the viscera.

Splanchnology (splæŋknɒ·lŏdʒi). [See prec. and -LOGY. So F. *splanchnologie.*]

1. The scientific study of the viscera.

1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), *Splanchnology,* a Discourse, Treatise, or Description of the Entrails of a Humane Body. 1796 SOUTHEY *Lett. fr. Spain* (1799) 477 The three exercises..shall be upon Myology, Neurology, and Splanchnology. 1831 R. KNOX *Cloquet's Anat.* 8 Angiology...Adenology...Splanchnology. 1897 *Catal. Yale Univ.* 293 Examinations at the end..of the second year upon Angeiology, Neurology and Splanchnology.

2. The visceral system.

1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 57/1 His personal observations made on the osteology and splanchnology of the animal. 1854 BADHAM *Halieut.* 162 His luxurious ancestors..had beaked and clawed at pleasure the whole splanchnology of the giant Tityus. 1874 COUES *Birds N. W.* 592 The splanchnology of the four differs more extensively.

Hence **Splanchnological** *a.*; **Splanchnologist.**

1727 BAILEY (vol. II), *Splanchnologist,* a Describer or Treater of the Bowels. 1886 *Encycl. Brit.* XX. 436/1 Three orders, distinguished chiefly by osteological and splanchnological characters.

Splash (splæʃ), *sb.*[1] [f. SPLASH *v.*[1]]

1. A quantity of some fluid or semi-liquid substance dashed or dropped upon a surface.

1736 AINSWORTH 1, A splash, or splatch of dirt. 1818 TODD, *Splash,* wet or dirt thrown up from a puddle [etc.]. 1833 LOUDON *Encycl. Archit.* § 542 The shapes of the patches will be further altered by the addition of each splash of colour. 1863 BARING-GOULD *Iceland* 120 The snow was blotched with large splashes of blood. 1879 'E. GARRETT' *House by Works* I. 185 A Turkey rug..lay on the stone floor,..befouled with splashes of grease and dirty water.

b. *spec.* (See quot.)

1813 MONTAGU *Suppl. Ornith. Dict.* A a 3 b, Where the fowler perceives perforations made by the bill of a Woodcock, ..or the mutings, called the splash.

c. The fragmentary metal resulting from the shattering of bullets upon impact.

1865 *Pall Mall G.* 22 Sept. 5/2 Several sheep..had been poisoned by swallowing minute portions of bullets—the 'splash'—which lay scattered on the grass. 1887 *Daily News* 25 Oct. 4/7 He granted an injunction..to use the other target in a way that would cause bullets or splashes of bullets to fall upon the plaintiff's land.

d. *Amer.* A body of water suddenly released in order to carry down logs.

1879 *Lumberman's Gaz.* 23 Aug., Some of these..logs may possibly be moved by a splash to have been made at Little Falls dam.

2. *colloq.* A striking or ostentatious display, appearance, or effect; something in the nature of a sensation or excitement; a dash: **a.** In the phrases *to make,* or *cut, a splash.*

1806 SURR *Winter in Lond.* II. 91 Three of my old schoolfellows at Eton, who were very clever, and cut a splash in the 'Microcosm'. 1824 LADY GRANVILLE *Lett.* (1894) I. 287, I expect our drum to make a great splash. 1842 LOVER *Handy Andy* xvii, A band is all very well for making a splash in the first procession. 1890 *Spect.* 14 June 829/1 Distinction shows itself without making a splash, without calling attention to itself.

b. In other contexts.

1810 *Splendid Follies* III. 188 Many a demirep lounges in Tom's curricle for a splash through the city. 1863 FONBLANQUE *Tangled Skein* II. 33 What a grand splash you had on the 31st! We saw it all in the 'Illustrated'. 1885 *Daily Tel.* 28 Dec. (Encycl. Dict.), Enable him to have a rattling good splash for it somehow—break or make.

c. Without article: Sensation, excitement.

1899 *Westm. Gaz.* 5 Dec. 3/1 That last speech of his caused enough splash for some time to come.

3. The act or result of suddenly and forcibly striking or dashing water or other fluid; the sound produced by this.

1819 SHELLEY *Cyclops* 19 All my boys..with splash and strain Made white with foam the green and purple sea. 1842 LOVER *Handy Andy* xi, Billy made all the splash he could in the water as Murphy lifted the fish to the surface. 1898 WATTS-DUNTON *Aylwin* XIV. iv, And hark! that pebble which falls into the water with a splash.

fig. 1834 SOUTHEY *Doctor* xii. (1864) II. 213 Popularity [is] a splash in the great pool of oblivion.

b. *ellipt.* A splash-net.

1855 'C. IDLE' *Hints Shooting & Fishing* [232 The Splash Net. *Ibid.*] 235 To use the splash advantageously at night, the tide and weather must both be in your favour.

4. The act, result, or sound of water falling or dashing forcibly upon something.

1832 DE LA BECHE *Geol. Man.* (ed. 2) 83 This water being apparently derived from the drain of the mountains behind, and the splash of the sea. 1847 TENNYSON *Princ.* I. 214 The

splash and stir Of fountains spouted up and showering down. 1885 *L'pool Daily Post* 1 May 4/9 What if days of foggy drizzle alternate with days of steady splash?

5. A large or irregular patch of colour or light.

1832 T. Brown *Bk. Butterfl. & M.* (1834) I. 197 In *Papilio agala* this silver is disposed in distinct splashes, or spots. 1856 in A. J. C. Hare *Two Noble Lives* (1893) II. 88 C. wore his..uniform, which made such a splash of gold that we were quite fine enough. 1883 Stevenson *Silverado Sq.* 253 [The light] fell in a great splash upon the thicket. 1897 Ld. E. Hamilton *Outlaws of Marches* iii. 24 A bright bay..with a great white splash on its forehead.

b. A variety of the domestic pigeon. Also *attrib.*, as *splash bird, cock, tumbler.*

1854 *Poultry Chron.* I. 332/1 For the best pair of Almond, or Splash Tumblers. *Ibid.*, What is a Splash, but an Almond-bred bird? 1867 Tegetmeier *Pigeons* 120 It is no easy matter to lay down certain rules for matching Splashes, or indeed any other coloured birds. 1879 L. Wright *Pigeon Keeper* 112 These..included Almonds, Splashes, .. black Splash cock, and red cock.

6. *slang.* (See quot.)

1865 *Slang Dict.* 242 *Splash*, complexion powder used by ladies to whiten their necks and faces.

Splash (splæʃ), *sb.*[2] [Alteration of Plash *sb.*[1], probably by association with prec. and next.] A shallow pool.

1760 Hutton *Dial. Storth & Arnside* l. 37 (E.D.D.), A lile splash o' water o'th bare sand. 1802 Montagu *Ornith. Dict.* N 3, The nest..is placed on a tump or dry spot, near a splash or swampy place. 1823 E. Moor *Suffolk Words, Splashes*, shallow accumulations of water from wintry wet, in the low parts of meadows or marshes. 1893 'Son of the Marshes' (D. Jordan) *Forest Tithes* 194 The beautiful grey and white gulls, resting in and around the clear shallow splashes.

Splash (splæʃ), *v.*[1] [Alteration of Plash *v.*[2]]

I. *trans.* **1.** To bespatter, to wet or soil, by dashing water, mud, etc.

1722–7 Boyer *Dict. Royal* I. s.v. *Rejaillir*, He splashed his Face with Dirt. 1755 Johnson, *Splash*, to daub with dirt in great quantities. 1798 W. Hutton *Family of Hutton* 98 Our trooper dismounted, and cast a large stone with design to splash her. 1818 J. W. Croker in *C. Papers* 8 Dec. (1884) I. 121 We ride together, and in the dirty roads splash one another. 1861 Geo. Eliot *Silas M.* iii, You'll..get back home at eight o'clock, splashed up to the chin. 1891 Farrar *Darkn. & Dawn* iv, The slaves..were splashing his face with the water of the fountain.

b. To stain, mark, or mottle with irregular patches of colour or light. Chiefly in *pa. pple.*

1833 Loudon *Encycl. Archit.* § 542 The surface of the wall to be splashed must be well seasoned, and perfectly dry. 1865 Gosse *Land & Sea* (1874) 32 Two eggs of a dirty white, mottled and splashed with brown. 1890 E. H. Barker *Wayfaring in France* 191 Where the sunny grass was splashed by the dark shadows of cypresses.

2. To cause (a liquid or semi-liquid substance) to fly about; to scatter, throw up or about, with some force or commotion.

1762 Lloyd *Ep. Churchill* Poems 191 Where the mock female shrew and hen-peck'd male Scoop'd rich contents from either copious pail,.. And dash'd and splash'd the filthy grains about. 1848 Thackeray *Van. Fair* xxii, The few children made a dismal cheer, as the carriage, splashing mud, drove away. 1859 *Habits of Gd. Society* v. 224 You must carefully turn the joint so as not to splash the gravy. 1878 Huxley *Physiogr.* 191 The liquid is..so splashed about that it falls in drops.

fig. 1824 Landor *Imag. Conv.* Wks. 1846 I. 189 Juvenal..stamps too often, and splashes up too much filth.

b. *fig.* To write *down* carelessly or quickly.

1897 *Daily News* 2 Mar. 3/5, I witnessed many other scenes like the ones which I have rapidly splashed down for you upon paper.

3. To cause (something) to dash or agitate a liquid, esp. so as to produce a sound.

1879 Froude *Cæsar* xix. 319 Splashing their oars, and making as much noise as possible. 1889 Mrs. Lynn Linton *Thro' Long Night* I. i. ii. 20 Sly may..splash his spatulous fingers in rose-water.

4. To make (one's way) with splashing.

?*c* 1830 W. Irving *Knickerbocker* III. v. § 5 The .. little vessel ploughed and splashed its way up the Hudson. 1890 Doyle *White Company* xxviii, Through this the horses splashed their way.

II. *intr.* **5.** To cause dashing or noisy agitation of a liquid; to move or fall with a splash or splashes.

1715 Prior *Down-Hall* 47 Pray get a Calesch, That in Summer may Burn, and in Winter may Splash. 1818 Scott *Rob Roy* xxxi, The heavy burden splashed in the dark-blue waters. 1843 Le Fevre *Life Trav. Phys.* III. iii. ix. 194 In order to reward myself..I splashed away in a bath. 1884 *Marshall's Tennis Cuts* 271 Where the startled wild fowl splash in Sludgeboro's lagoons and marshes.

b. With preps. or advs. implying movement.

1818 Scott *Br. Lamm.* xxiv, In to the water we behoved a' to splash, heels ower head. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* I. vii. xi, Poor Weber went splashing along, close by the Royal carriage. 1862 Mrs. H. Wood *Mrs. Hallib. Troub.* I. i, To splash through the wet streets..was an expedition rather agreeable to Francis. 1902 Belloc *Path to Rome* 300 Through the..rain I splashed up the main street.

c. To use a splash-net.

1855 'C. Idle' *Hints Shooting & Fishing* 234 When it is intended to continue splashing during the night, the net must be taken in carefully.

6. Of liquids: To dash or fly in some quantity and with some degree of force.

1755 *Dict. Arts & Sci.* II. s.v. *Foliating*, So that the amalgam, when you pour it in, may not splash. 1827 Faraday *Chem. Manip.* vii. (1842) 218 A few particles may splash upon the hotter parts of the retort. 1871 R. Ellis tr. *Catullus* lxiv. 185 Nowhere open way, seas splash in circle around me. 1880 *Trans. Seismol. Soc. Japan* I. ii. 22 The manner in which water was observed to splash out of wash-hand basins.

b. Const. *up.*

1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* III. i. viii, Redhot balls..'filled internally with oil of turpentine which splashes up in flame'. 1851 Mrs. Browning *Casa Guidi Wind.* II. 539 Heroes' blood Splashed up against thy noble brow in Rome.

7. Of bullets: To throw off fragments on striking an object.

1894 *Westm. Gaz.* 1 June 4/2 The bullet struck just slightly above the place and then 'splashed', as it is generally called.

Splash, *v.*[2] *dial.* [Alteration of Plash *v.*[1]] *trans.* To pleach (a hedge).

1828 Carr *Craven Gloss.*, *Splash*, to cut and trim hedges. 1854 Miss Baker *Northampt. Gloss.*, To splash a hedge, is to cut away the rough wood..and lay in the smooth, trimming it up on the ditch side. 1899 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* 1 Mar. 93 On well managed farms most hedges are splashed about the month of August.

† **Splash,** obs. dial. var.[3] of Splice *v.*

1672 *Vestry Bks.* (Surtees) 338 For splashing the bell-ropes, 4 d. [Cf. Splicing *vbl. sb.*[1], quot. 1524–5.]

Splash (splæʃ), *adv.* [The stem of Splash *v.*[1]] In a splashing manner; with a splash or splashing sound.

1795 Scott *William & Helen* xlvii, Tramp! tramp! along the land they rode, Splash! splash! along the sea. 1841 Lytton *Nt. & Morn.* v. i, The full flood of sound..came splash upon him. 1895 *Outing* XXVI. 30/2 Spat-spat, splash! they fell.

Splash-, the stem of Splash *v.*[1], occurring in some combs., as **splash-and-dash** *a.*, making much fuss and show; **splash-dash** *adv.*, in a headlong manner; **splash-net,** a small fishing-net; hence *splash-netting* vbl. sb.; **splash-paper,** paper coloured in irregular patches; **splash-work,** spatter-work.

Also, in recent use, *splash lubrication, method, system*, etc., a method of keeping machinery oiled by regular splashing of oil from a receptacle.

1830 Galt *Laurie T.* II. vii. (1849) 63 Very unlike the ordinary *splash and dash ways of young men in a hurry to be rich. 1807 W. Irving *Salmag.* (1824) 74 On they push, *splash-dash, mud or no mud. 1855 'C. Idle' *Hints Shooting & Fishing* 232 The *Splash Net. 1893 *Daily Tel.* 14 Dec. 3/1 Preparations for splash-net fishing. 1901 *Scotsman* 4 Mar. 10/1 The *splash-netting is carried on in shallow water. 1811 *Art Bookbinding* 50 It will..have a fine effect when colouring *splash paper, marbling edges, etc. 1797 Mrs. A. M. Bennett *Beggar Girl* (1813) II. 28 Miss could play a few marches,..make fillagree and *splash-work. 1891 *Melbourne Argus* 16 May 13/5 The picture seems to have been made in the way splashwork is done.

Splash-board. Also **splashboard.** [f. prec.]

1. A guard or screen in front of the driver's seat on a vehicle, serving to protect him, or others sitting beside him, from being splashed with mud from the horse's hoofs. Also in fig. context.

1842 Dickens *Amer. Notes* (1850) 91/2 He takes a rein in each hand;..and dances on the splashboard with both feet. 1860 Thackeray *Round. Papers, Late Gt. Vict.*, I was his conscience, and stood on the splash-board of his triumph-car. 1861 G. M. Musgrave *By-Roads* 75 Our fast mare..had nearly pitched me on to the splashboard. 1894 Baring-Gould *Kitty Alone* II. 102 Pepperill fastened it to the splashboard, and drove on.

2. A board fixed over or beside a wheel to intercept splashings.

1850 Holtzapffel *Turning* III. 1297 A splash-board is fixed behind the wheel, to catch the water thrown off, by centrifugal force. 1902 *Brit. Med. Jrnl.* 31 May 1341/2 It is further recommended that for the wet spinning rooms.. modified splashboards should be obligatory.

3. *Naut.* A screen above the deck-line.

1907 C. D. Stewart *Partners of Providence* vi, The splash-board stood up in front of the wheel like a back-yard fence. 1912 J. Masefield *Dauber* v, A sea Washed them both in, over the splashboard.

Splashed (splæʃt), *ppl. a.*[1] [f. Splash *v.*[1]]

1. Marked with splashes or irregular patches of colour.

1765 *Treat. Dom. Pigeons* 56 In decline of life they as gradually decrease, till they become sometimes a mottled, splashed, or whole colour. 1854 *Poultry Chron.* I. 124 Only tipped with black, or with splashed and smudgy feathers. 1858 Skyring *Builder's Prices* 95 Imitation granite, or splashed work. 1882 *Pall Mall G.* 21 June 10/1 A globular vase of splashed crimson and purple crackle.

2. Wet, soiled, or stained with splashes of water, mud, or the like.

1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* III. i. vii, O ye hapless dulled-bright Seigneurs, and hydrophobic splashed Nankeens. 1858 Froude *Hist. Eng.* III. 126 As the multitude rocked to and fro, a splashed rider spurred through the streets. 1891 C. James *Rom. Rigmarole* 167 Two or three splashed and booted men stood round about, staring at me.

Splashed (splæʃt), *ppl. a.*[2] [f. Splash *v.*[2]] Pleached; secured or strengthened by pleaching.

1886 *Field* 23 Jan. 96/1 A high splashed fence on a bank, reminding one more of Dorsetshire than Wilts, emptied no less than four saddles. 1890 *Blackw. Mag.* Oct. 459 No cattle can storm a moorland splashed bank.

Splasher[1] (splæ·ʃəɹ). [f. Splash *v.*[1]]

1. a. A guard placed over or beside a wheel to prevent splashing or accidental contact.

1848 *Q. Rev.* Dec. 50 Cylinders, connecting-rods, splashers, leading and trailing wheels, &c.,..of which a locomotive engine is composed. 1875 in Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2279.

b. A splash-board.

1887 *United Service Gaz.* 25 June, A semi-state landau, with..splasher in front, in place of the Salisbury boot or hammer cloth.

2. A flat board strapped to the foot for walking on soft ground or mud.

1859 H. C. Folkard *Wild-Fowler* 99 Immediately after the gun was fired, the fowler or his assistant had to put on splashers and proceed over the ooze. 1887 *Chambers's Jrnl.* IV. 2 Boys and girls..went out on them with 'splashers' on their feet to gather shellfish.

Spla·sher[2], *dial.* [f. Splash *v.*[2]] An implement used in pleaching; a splashing-bill.

1868 *Daily News* 26 Dec., She laid hold of a hedge splasher,..and M'Quade got hold of an old cavalry sword. 1881 in Evans *Leic. Gloss.*

Spla·shet, *rare*[−1]. = Plashet.

1896 *Q. Rev.* Apr. 435 Many a meadow formerly..full of soft splashets, is now, through subsoil drainage, sound and dry.

Spla·shily, *adv.* [f. Splashy *a.*[2]] In a splashy manner.

1891 *Blackw. Mag.* CL. 626/2 It was a fruit-piece splashily painted.

Spla·shiness. *rare*[−0]. [f. Splashy *a.*[1]] 'Wateriness' (Bailey, 1727, vol. II).

Splashing (splæ·ʃiŋ), *vbl. sb.*[1] [f. Splash *v.*[1]]

1. The action of the verb, in various senses.

1722–7 Boyer *Dict. Royal*, Splashing, *l'Action d'éclabousser.* 1775 Ash, *Splashing*,..the act of daubing with wet and dirt. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* III. i. vii, There are marchings and wet splashings by steep paths. 1845 J. Coulter *Adv. in Pacific* ix. 114 A whole shoal of them [sharks] were moving about, I suppose attracted by my splashing in the water. 1886 W. J. Tucker *E. Europe* 14 Centring all was a fountain at play, intermingling its musical splashings with the ..song of birds.

2. *techn.* (See quots.)

1833 Loudon *Encycl. Archit.* § 542 Splashing is a mode of colouring walls, which may be performed..in water, in glutinous, or in oil, colours. *Ibid.*, The object of splashing is either to imitate the lichens and weather stains of an old wall, or some particular kind of stone.

3. *attrib.* in *splashing leather.*

1809 *Sporting Mag.* XXXIV. 200 The pole came out of the splashing leather.

Spla·shing, *vbl. sb.*[2] *dial.* [f. Splash *v.*[2]] Pleaching. Also *splashing-bill*, a pleaching-bill.

1869 Blackmore *Lorna D.* xxxviii, The ramparts of ash, which is made by what we call 'splashing'. 1899 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* Mar. 104 The work on well-established hedges is most quickly performed by a long-handled splashing-bill.

Spla·shing, *ppl. a.* [f. Splash *v.*[1]]

1. Causing some stir or sensation; making something of a display.

1820 Creevey in *C. Papers* (1904) I. 326 We are now evidently going to have a splashing debate. 1850 W. P. Scargill *Eng. Sk.-Bk.* 4 The roystering,..splashing, dashing accomplishments of the country gentleman. 1898 *Westm. Gaz.* 24 Jan. 1/3 The fact..does not..diminish the danger of a splashing intervention in foreign affairs.

2. Making or causing a splash or splashes.

1837 Ht. Martineau *Soc. Amer.* III. 25 A splashing rain drove us down into the cabin. 1883 Stevenson *Silverado Sq.* 1 It feeds in the springtime many splashing brooks. 1889 *Science-Gossip* XXV. 224, I unwittingly entered the drowsily splashing ferry-boat and leaped upon the quay.

3. Of the nature of, suggestive of, a splash.

1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* IV. 661 Mention must be made of the splashing sounds which may be produced by shaking the patient.

Hence **Spla·shingly** *adv.*

1831 Trelawny *Adv. Younger Son* lxxv, I heard something fall splashingly into the boat. 1882 E. O'Donovan *Merv Oasis* II. 107 Some heavy rain-drops fell splashingly.

Spla·shy, *a.*[1] [Alteration of Plashy *a.*[1] Cf. Splash *sb.*[2]] Full of shallow pools or puddles; wet and soft.

1727 Bailey (vol. II.), *Splashy*, washy, wet, watery. 1742 Richardson *De Foe's Tour Gt. Brit.* II. 34 Not far from hence is Sedgmore, a watry, splashy Place. 1821 Clare *Vill. Minstr.* II. 185 Winter leaves her splashy slough. 1847 C. Bronte *Jane Eyre* xxviii, [A light] led me..through a wide bog; which..was splashy and shaking even now, in the height of summer. 1890 Baker *Wild Beasts* I. 195 Even at this season the ground was splashy beneath the heavy weight of our advancing line.

Splashy (splæ·ʃi), *a.*[2] [f. Splash *sb.*[1] or *v.*[1]]

1. Of a splashing character; falling, etc., with a splash or in splashes.

1856 Dickens *Lett. to W. Collins* (1892) 56 We wallowed in an odd sort of dinner, which would have been splashy if it hadn't been too sticky. 1864 Carlyle *Fredk. Gt.* xvi. xi. IV. 431 Brown leaves, splashy rains, and winds moaning. 1878 H. S. Wilson *Alpine Ascents* ii. 28 Rain dimpling with a thousand splashy drops the pools of water.

2. Of sounds: Such as are made by a splash.

1834 M. Scott *Cruise Midge* xx, One or two cranes,.. taking wing with a rustling splashy flaff, glided silently past us. 1885 Warren & Cleverly *Wand. Beetle* 34 How inseparable an association of these foreign rivers is the splashy whack of the battoir.

3. Making a show or stir; attracting attention; sensational.

1836 Marryat *Midsh. Easy* xxv, It's the yellow carriage of that old lady with her..two splashy footmen! 1848 *Punch* 27 May 226/2 It is perfectly fair that this gentleman..' should be enabled to make what is termed a 'splashy' effect in civilised society.

4. Done in splashes; not even or regular.

1880 *Academy* 11 Dec. 430/3 The fine, but splashy, sketches

..will rightly attract many admirers. 1884 *Brit. Alm. & Comp.* 167 His manner of handling is rather sketchy and splashy. 1887 *Ch. Times* 7 Oct. 785/2 The organ accompaniment..they complained of as being splashy and spasmodic.

Splat, *sb.* [f. SPLAT *v.*] A flat piece of wood, a flat bar or rail, *esp.* one forming the central part of a chair-back.

1833 LOUDON *Encycl. Archit.* § 2108 The splats (the middle part of the back, which either connects the top and bottom rails, or the two side styles) are carved. 1854 Miss BAKER *Northampt. Gloss., Splat,* the rails or staves used for the framing of a chair. The flat steps of a ladder bear the same name. 1904 *Burlington Mag.* V. 382/1 The carving .. is peculiarly good, both in the splats and the front leg.

†**Splat,** *v. Obs.* Also 5 **splatt,** 5–6 **splatte,** 5 (8–9) **splate**; *pa. pple.* 5, 7 **splat.** [Obscurely related to SPLET *v.* and SPLIT *v.* Cf. also SPLATE *v.*]

1. *trans.* To cut up, to split open; *esp.* to dress (a pike) in this manner for cooking.

In later use only as a traditional entry from lists of 'proper' terms.

c 1400 *Laud Troy Bk.* 14008 He layde him as brod & flat As is a pike when he is splat. *a* 1440 *Sir Eglam.* 400 To splatt the bore they wente fulle tyte, Ther was no knyfe that wolde hym byte. *c* 1450 *Two Cookery-bks.* 101 Take the pike, and roste him splat on a gredire. *Ibid.* 105 Take a tenche, and splat him, and roste him on a gredire. 1495 *Act* 11 *Hen. VII,* c. 23 § 1 Every suche fisshe shuld be splatted downe to a handfull of the taille. 1513 *Bk. Keruynge* in *Babees Bk.* (1868) 265 Splatte that pyke. 1615 MARKHAM *Eng. Housew.* II. ii. 57 A Gigget of Mutton which is the legge splatted and halfe part of the loine together. [1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 78 Splat that Pike. (Also in Phillips, Bailey, etc.) 1787 BEST *Angling* (ed. 2) 169 *Splate a pike,* cut him up. 1853 *Fraser's Mag* XLVIII. 694 The reader will remember.. that he gobbets trout,..splates pike,..and sides haddock.]

2. Of a horse: To strain (the shoulder).

Cf. SPLAITING *vbl. sb.*

1614 MARKHAM *Cheap Husb.* I. 30 There be many infirmities which make a Horse halt, as..splatting the shoulder, shoulder pight, straines in ioynts, and such like.

3. To spread out flat.

1615 W. LAWSON *Orch. & Gard.* iii. (1623) 8 And where, or when, did you euer see a great tree packt on a wall? Nay, who did euer know a tree so vnkindly splat, come to age?

Splatch (splætʃ), *sb.* Now *Sc.* and *U.S.* [app. of imitative origin: cf. SPLOTCH and Sc. *sclatch.*] A large or solid splash or spatter of mud, etc.; a large or glaring patch of colour.

1665 HOOKE *Microgr.* 3 A great splatch of London dirt. 1671 SKINNER *Etymol. Ling. Angl.* s.v., A splatch of dirt. 1825 JAMIESON *Suppl., A splatch o' dirt,* a clot of mud thrown up in walking or otherwise. 1872 BLACK *Adv. Phaeton* xiii. 186 Behind us Kidderminster looked like a dusky red splatch in a plain of green. 1891 *Columbus* (Ohio) *Disp.* 20 Aug., Masses of ancient trees, through which splatches of color from thatch, tile or gable, hint of quiet village homes.

Splatch, *v. Sc.* and *U.S.* [Cf. prec.] *trans.* To mark or diversify with, or as with, large splashes.

1825 JAMIESON *Suppl., To splatch,*..to bedaub, to splash. 1893 *Columbus* (Ohio) *Disp.* 17 Aug., It is a mass of hills.. splatched with knots of noble trees.

Splatchy, *a.* [f. SPLATCH *sb.*] Marked or coloured in a splashy manner.

1708 SEWEL I, Splatchy, *geblanket.* 1722–7 BOYER *Dict. Royal* II, Splatchy, (painted, counterfeit,) *fardé.* 1910 *Daily Chron.* 26 Feb. 6/2 It is often supposed to imply something in the nature of a daub, vivid but splatchy.

†**Splate,** *v. Obs.*–1 [Of obscure origin: cf. SPLAT *v.* and SPLAITING *vbl. sb.*] *intr.* To extend.

c 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* II. 123 Thy vynys soil be not to molsh or hard,..Ne splate [*v.r.* splatte] hit not to flat, but sumwhat lene.

†**Spla·tter,** *sb.*1 *Obs.* [Irreg. f. SPATULE or SPATULA.] A spatula.

1539 in *Vicary's Anat.* (1888) App. iii. 173 The surgeons.. in whyte cotes, with their bendes of whyte & Grene bawdryke-wyse, & their splatters ouer the bende. 1563 T. GALE *Antidot.* II. 27 Continuallye styrrynge it wyth a splatter vntyll it bee colde. 1612 WOODALL *Surg. Mate* Wks. (1653) 9 Spatulaes or splatters..are most needful instruments to spread unguent, and emplaisters withal. 1639 T. DE GRAY *Compl. Horsem.* 77 With your splatter spread it upon the place. 1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.* (1660), *Spat,*..a little slice or Splatter, wherewith Surgeons and Apothecaries use to spread their plaisters and salves.

Spla·tter, *sb.*2 *Sc.* and *U.S.* [f. SPLATTER *v.*]

1. A heavy or loud splash or spatter.

1819 W. TENNANT *Papistry Storm'd* (1827) 56 Chariots and horse-hoofs round did scatter Scamander's sand wi' spairge and splatter. 1894 CROCKETT *Raiders* xiii. (ed. 3) 122 Then came a splatter of musketry up the passage.

2. An irregular assemblage.

1895 *Advance* (Chicago) 8 Aug. 192/2 [Boston] is a splatter of houses with lanes among them.

Spla·tter, *v.* Chiefly *dial.* and *U.S.* [Imitative.]

1. *intr.* To splash continuously or noisily: **a.** Of persons, etc., in water or mud.

1784–5 *Ann. Reg.* 324/2 We..were, God knows how, but as merry as grigs, to think how we should splatter in the water. 1826 J. WILSON *Noct. Ambr.* Wks. 1855 I. 239 How engagingly delicate the virgin splattering along,..draggle-tailed and with left leg bared to the knee-pan! 1854 Miss BAKER *Northampt. Gloss., Splattering,* splashing about in water so as to make a noise. 1896 CROCKETT *Grey Man* xii. 85 A good many Craufords were already splattering like wounded waterfowl in the moss.

b. Of water or other liquid.

1884 *Kendal Mercury & Times* 26 Sept. 2/6 The water comes gurgling, then splattering down betwixt great masses of rock. 1897 *Outing* XXX. 381/1 To one side a stream tumbled over it the whole ten feet, and splattered into a little pool below.

2. *trans.* To spatter or sputter (something); to cause to spatter.

1785 BURNS *To W. Simpson* Postscr. xiii, Tho' dull prose-folk latin splatter In logic tulzie. 1831 *Blackw. Mag.* XXIX. 708 Baser Helot still who ate up that loathsome lie, and splattered it out again! 1897 *Outing* XXX. 132/2 It was a grateful summer shower that splattered the dust on the road.

3. To bespatter or splash *with* something.

1888 in *Berkshire Gloss.* 152. 1894 R. H. DAVIS *Eng. Cousins* 83 Their wives splattered with the mud of the Mile-End Road.

4. *Comb.* in **splatter-work** (see quot.).

1897 SINGER & STRANG *Etching, Engraving,* etc. 124 Splatter work, very customary in poster designing and other large lithographic pictures, is made by filling a short bristle brush with lithographic ink, and drawing a knife or other edge across.

Hence **Spla·ttered** *ppl. a.*

1805 A. WILSON *Poems & Lit. Prose* (1876) II. 145 Through this deep swamp in splattered plight..we laboured on. 1882 *Philadelphia Even. Star* 2 May, There is a masculine run upon fancifully splattered shirtings.

Spla·tterdash. *rare.* [See SPATTERDASH.] A long gaiter or legging; a spatterdash.

1772 NUGENT *Hist. Fr. Gerund* II. 261 White linen splatter-dashes with blue stripes beautiful to behold. 1881 A. M'LACHLAN in Edwards *Mod. Sc. Poets* Ser. II. 261 His legs they were..button'd upward to the knee Wi' great drab splatter-dashes.

Spla·tterdock. *U.S.* [f. SPLATTER *v.* Cf. *spatter-dock.*] The yellow pond-lily.

1832 J. P. KENNEDY *Swallow B.* XXV. (1872) 223 He does not fling away five hundred pounds..to maintain his title to a bed of splatterdocks. 1888 HARRIS in Goode *Amer. Fishes* (1888) 37 Large individuals are caught on the edges of the splatterdocks.

†**Spla·tter-face.** *Obs.*–1 [Alteration of *platter-face*: see PLATTER 1 b.] A broad flat face.

1707 J. STEVENS tr. *Quevedo's Com. Wks.* (1709) 304 Good Mrs. Abigail..said of me, That I had a splatter Face, like an over grown School-boy.

Spla·tter-faced, *a.* Now *dial.* [Cf. prec.] Having a broad flat face.

1707 J. STEVENS tr. *Quevedo's Com. Wks.* (1709) 346 You splatter-fac'd Cully! 1785 G. A. BELLAMY *Apology* (ed. 3) I. 26 This goggle-eyed, splatter-faced, gabbart-mouthed wretch, is not my child! 1861 HUGHES *Tom Brown at Oxf.* vi, A splatter-faced wench neither civil nor nimble! 1894 in HESLOP *Northumbld. Gloss.*

†**Splatter-footed,** *a. Obs.*–1 [Cf. prec. and *platter-foot.*] Having broad flat feet.

1649 QUARLES *Virgin Widow* II, Go, ye weasel-snouted, addle-pated, buzzle-headed, splatter-footed Mooncalf.

Splaw, *a. rare.* Now *dial.* Also 9 **splaa.** [Cf. SPLAY FOOT.] Of feet: Splay; clumsy.

1767 *Woman of Fashion* I. 112 [She] sat with her splaw Feet at a convenient Distance from each other; the Toes turned in. 1881 *Isle of Wight Gloss.* s.v. *Splaa,* I can't get a shoe to fit your splaa foot.

Splay (spleɪ), *sb.* Also 6–7 *pl.* **splaies**; 6 **spleigh.** [f. SPLAY *v.*1]

1. *Arch.* 'A return of work deviating from a right angle, generally applied to the bevelled jambs of windows and doors' (Loudon).

1507–8 in Gage *Hist. Suffolk: Thingoe* (1838) 147 Plasteryng the beystales and the splaies. 1587 FLEMING *Contn. Holinshed* III. 1545/2 This sluse was composed with two arches, in length sixtie foot (besides the splaies). 1604 in Willis & Clark *Cambr.* (1886) II. 492 For altering certenne pannelles of his worke for the splaies of y° greate wyndoes. 1708 *Phil. Trans.* XXVI. 37 Part of the Copeing of the Splay of the Gabel-end it self was broken down. 1725 W. HALFPENNY *Sound Building* 13 How to find the inward Edge AFB, so that it shall diminish gradually from nothing at the Crown F, to the Splay of the Jaums at the Springing AC and DB. 1833 LOUDON *Encycl. Archit.* § 849 To cut all the rakes and splays, and all the chasings required for the lead flashings. 1855 W. CORY *Lett. & Jrnls.* (1897) 65, I would carve the name of a man on each stone in the splays and lintels. 1876 T. HARDY *Ethelberta* xxxviii, The daylight..scarcely reached further into Lord Mountclere's entrance-hall than to the splays of the windows.

attrib. 1669 in Willis & Clark *Cambr.* (1886) II. 558 There shalbe sufficient vpright iron barrs in all the lights of all the lower windowes,..to be sufficient iron splay barrs.

b. The degree of bevel or slant given to the sides of an opening, etc.

1860 W. L. COLLINS *Luck of Ladysmede* (1862) I. 95 The bold splay of the window-sides, contrived so as to throw as much light as possible within. 1893 *Reliquary* Jan. 13 The inner head stones are by far the larger, as the splay is considerable.

c. The outward spread of a bowl or cup.

1874 H. H. COLE *Catal. Ind. Art S. Kens. Mus.* 138 The bowl has a good splay and a curved rim.

†**2.** A spread or expanse *of* boughs. *Obs.*

1594 O. B. *Quest. Prof. Concern.* 7 b, You have spoken so darkely, that for the thick spleigh of boughes and broad leaues of this tree, I cannot discerne your meaning.

Splay, *adv.* and *a.* [f. prec., or after SPLAY-FOOT, -FOOTED.]

A. *adv.* **a.** = SPLAY-FOOT 3. **b.** In an oblique manner; slantingly. Also ellipt. *cut splay,* bricks cut with a slope or slant.

a 1734 NORTH *Lives* (1826) I. 144 He walked splay, stooping and noddling. 1825 J. NICHOLSON *Operat. Mechanic* 554 The sloping of the bricks thus, is called *cut splay.* Plain tile creasing and cut splay are charged by the foot run.

B. *adj.* **1.** Oblique; awry; off the straight.

1876 M. ARNOLD *Lit. & Dogma* Pref. p. xxv, In the German mind, as in the German language, there does seem to be something splay.

2. *Comb.*, as *splay-kneed, -toed.*

1896 'H. SETON MERRIMAN' *Flotsam* iv, The waiter, in his rusty black and splay-toed shuffling boots. 1899 *Westm. Gaz.* 2 Feb. 2/3, I see you..The slave of some splay-kneed mechanic.

Splay (spleɪ), *v.*1 Also 6 **spley(gh, spleigh**; *pa. pple.* 5 **splaid,** 6 **splaied, splaide, spleyde, spleade, spled.** [Aphetic form of DISPLAY *v.*]

†**1.** *trans.* To unfold, unfurl, or expand (a banner); = DISPLAY *v.* Pr. *Obs.*

c 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 9918 Bot horn ne trompe dide non blowe..Til alle were splayed ilka banere. *c* 1400 *Song Roland* 452 They splayd baners, for men se it shold. 1430–40 LYDG. *Bochas* VIII. xiii. (1558) 8/2 Swerd or septer..There was none nor baners splayde wyde. *a* 1529 SKELTON *Agst. Garnesche* ii. 30 Ye grounde yow vpon Godfrey..Your stondarde, Syr Olifranke, agenst me for to splay. 1555 EDEN *Decades* I. iii. (Arb.) 83 They assayled the one the other as fiersely, as if mortal ennemies, with theyr baners spleade, shulde fight for theyr goodes. 1594 R. C[AREW] *Godfrey of B.* (1881) 21 He saw the loftie Standard splayd, With Peters Diademe and with his keyes.

†**b.** To display *in* a banner. *Obs.*–1

c 1430 LYDG. *Min. Poems* (Percy Soc.) 26 The fyve rosis portraid in the shelde, Splaid in the baner at Jherusalem.

†**c.** To adorn *with* displayed banners. *Obs.*–1

1533 *Coronation Q. Anne* A j, All the worshypfull Craftes and Occupacyons..toke theyr barges which were splayed with goodly baners.

2. To spread out, expand, extend; to open out in a spreading manner. Also with *out.*

In mod. use suggested by SPLAY *sb.* 1.

c 1402 LYDG. *Compl. Bl. Knt.* 33 The floures..gunne for to sprede, And for to splay out her leves on brede Ageyn the sunne. 1530 *Hickscorner* 19 She sawe her sone, all deed, Splayed on a crosse with the fyve welles of pyte. 1548 UDALL, etc. *Erasmus Par. Luke* Pref. 11 b, The grayne of mustard-sede..dyd ferre and wyde spleigh his boughes abrode. 1567 GOLDING *Ovid's Met.* VI. (1593) 130 And over Leda she had made a swan his wings to splay.

1879 J. GILBURT in *Lett. to Clergy* 191 Their portals large splayed out embracingly. 1881 *Nature* XXIV. 571 If the tube be touched..the shadow will be splayed out in a striking manner. 1893 'Q' (QUILLER COUCH) *Delect. Duchy* 127 The ..table..collapsed flat.., with its four legs splayed under the circular cover.

transf. c 1557 Abp. PARKER *Ps.* xxxiv. 81 Upon the iust and godly men, the Lorde hys eyes doth splay.

†**b.** To spread or open out so as to exhibit fully; = DISPLAY *v.* 3. *Obs.*

c 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* I. 625 The cok confesseth emyn-e[n]t Cupide When he is gemmy tayl bygynnyth splay About hymself. 1513 in Glover *Hist. Derby* (1829) I. App. 61 Sir John Sowch..bayryth goulls, a Faucon splay'd syttyng upon a stok.. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VIII,* 72 The clothe of his estate of the blacke Egle all splaied on riche clothe of golde. 1575 LANEHAM *Let.* (1871) 40 A gray Mare, ..her pannell on her bak,..her tail splayd at most eaz.

†**c.** To cut up or carve. *Obs.* (Cf. DISPLAY *v.* 2 b.)

In some late works miscopied as SOLAY.

1486 *Bk. St. Albans* F vij b, A Breme splayed. 1513 *Bk. Keruynge* in *Babees Bk.* (1868) 265 Splaye that breme. [Hence in Holme (1688), etc.]

†**d.** (See quot. and cf. SPLAITING *vbl. sb.*) *Obs.*

1463 *Paston Lett.* II. 143 The ferror..seyth he [a horse] was splayyd, and hys shulder rent from the body.

†**3.** *absol.* **a.** To come into view; to display or show oneself. *Obs.*

a 1400 *Stockholm Medical MS.* ii. 186 in *Anglia* XVIII. 312 On lammesse-day Erly on morw, or sonne splay. *a* 1513 FABYAN *Chron.* VI. (1811) 236 Thilfer, a Norman, splayed before the hoost of Normans, and slewe an Englysshe man, or knyght, that came agayne hym.

†**b.** Of wings: To spread *out*; to be extended.

1426 LYDG. *De Guil. Pilgr.* 697 Ther kam a dowe whyt as snowh, With hys wynges splayng oute. *Ibid.* 18521 On the pomel..Wonder hygh ther sate a krowe, His whynges splayynge to and ffro.

4. *trans.* To bevel or make slanting; to construct with a splay.

1598 in Willis & Clark *Cambr.* (1886) II. 252 The windoes ..shalbe well splayed on the inside. 1823 P. NICHOLSON *Pract. Build.* 310 In working the cornice, the top or upper side should be splayed away towards its front edge. 1851 RUSKIN *Stones Ven.* I. xvi. § 4 These angles .. should at once be bevelled off, or, as it is called, splayed. *a* 1878 Sir G. SCOTT *Lect. Archit.* (1879) I. 278 The simplest method.. is to splay the jambs and arch of the window.

b. To take *off* by splaying.

1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* I. 297/2 The upper surface ..becomes an octagon when the angles at the corners are splayed off.

5. *intr.* **a.** To have, take, or lie in, an oblique or slanting direction.

1725 W. HALFPENNY *Sound Building* 13 A..Door, or Window, whose Jaums..splays more or less. *Ibid.* 14 The Arch ..will splay gradually to AC and DB. 1875 MARTIN *Winding Machinery* 45 It is not impossible to build them with sides which splay more and more. 1875 Sir T. SEATON *Fret-Cutting* 151 The little side ornaments splay outwards and incline downwards.

b. To spread out in an awkward manner.

1848 THACKERAY *Bk. Snobs* xxxii, It was a finger, as knotted as a turkey's drumstick, and splaying all over the piano.

Splay, *v.*2 Now *dial.* [Alteration of SPAY *v.*] *trans.* To spay (female animals). Also *fig.*

1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* I. 230 Sowes also are splaied as well

as camels. 1651 CLEVELAND *Poems* 4 Geld the loose wits, and let the Muse be splaid. 1663 BOYLE *Usef. Exp. Nat. Philos.* II. v. 234 The well-known practice of splaying swine and bitches. 1794 BISHTON *View Agric. Salop* 10 The bull calves are cut, and many heifers splayed. 1841 HARTSHORNE *Salop. Ant.* Gloss., *Splay*, to castrate an heifer.

Splayed (splēd), *ppl. a.*[1] [f. SPLAY *v.*[1]]

†**1.** *Her.* = DISPLAYED *ppl. a.* 2. *Obs.*

a 1513 FABYAN *Chron.* VII. (1811) 288 Y^e Emperoure was fled, leuynge his baner of the splayed egle behynde hym. 1562 J. SHUTE tr. *Cambini's Turk. Wars* 3 b, Scanderbeg caused to take downe the Turckes enseigne and to set up his with the splayed egle of Sable in a feelde of Gules. 1631 WEEVER *Anc. Funeral Mon.* 825 A Vulture splaied, which is the Crest of the Shernborns. 1659 in *Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* Var. Coll. (1907) IV. 242 To adde on the same stampe on the other side the splayed eagle.

2. Expanded, extended, spread (*out*).

a 1547 SURREY *Æneid* IV. 787 The Quene the peping day Espyed, and nauie with splaid sailes depart The shore. 1565 GOLDING *Ovid's Met.* II. (1593) 27 Doris with her daughters all, of which some cut the wals [=waves] With splaied arms. 1583 MELBANCKE *Philotimus* A iij, They girde it out with splayed wynges, and ouer-stripp the Easterne wynds. 1770 G. WHITE *Selborne* XXXII. The fore-hoofs were upright and shapely, the hind flat-and splayed. 1863 *Reader* 31 Oct. 502 The splayed vertebræ are grimly distinct—along yards on yards of spine. 1901 'LINESMAN' *Words by Eye-witness* iii. (1902) 40 Spion Kop itself,..the thumb of the vast splayed-out hand.

3. Made or cut with a splay; slanting, bevelled:

a. Of masonry.

1823 RUTTER *Fonthill* 9 The splayed jambs of the northern doorway are large. 1837 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* I. 34/1 The bricks in the angles of the splayed work are to be neatly cut. 1865 BELLEW *Blount Tempest* I. 68 The Keep presents..the same massive walls..and the same splayed windows. 1883 *Specif. Alnwick & Cornh. Rlwy.* 3 The bricks for the splayed corners of the piers.

b. Of boards, metal plates, etc.

1858 SKYRING *Builder's Prices* 22 Floors:..straight joints, splayed headings, 4*zs.* 1883 *Specif. Alnwick & Cornh. Rlwy.* 20 The hinges..made of wrought-iron;..the hooks to have wrought-iron plates with splayed edge.

Splayed, *ppl. a.*[2] Now *dial.* [f. SPLAY *v.*[2]] Spayed; having the ovaries excised.

c 1611 CHAPMAN *Iliad* XIX. Comment., Vnlesse you will take it for a splayed or gelded Sow. 1614 MARKHAM *Cheap Husb.* v. i. (1668) 101 The males will make..excellent Bacon or Pork, and the females which are called splayd-guelts, will do the like. 1768 PENNANT *Brit. Zool.* I. 31 The meat of a splayed goat. 1847 HALLIW. s.v., Nothing could have any chance of running against them but a splayed bitch.

fig. 1698 [R. FERGUSON] *View. Eccles.* 49 The Report has wretchedly clipt what the Display had coyned, and the Display is now splay'd.

Splayer. [? f. SPLAY *v.*[1]] (See quot.)

1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2279/2 *Splayer*,..a segment of a cylinder on which a molded tile is pressed to give it a curved shape, for a pantile,..gutter or drain tile.

Splay foot, splay-foot. [f. SPLAY *v.*[1]]

1. A flat, spread out, clumsy foot, esp. one which turns outwards.

1548 ELYOT, *Plancus*, he that hath a splaie foote. 1586 SIDNEY *Arcadia* I. iii. (1912) 21 Only her face and her splayfoote have made her accused for a witch. 1611 MIDDLETON & DEKKER *Roaring Girl* IV. ii, Have not many handsome legs in silk stockings villanous splay feet? 1816 SCOTT *Old Mort.* vi, Splay feet of unusual size, long thin hands [etc.]. 1862 MERIVALE *Rom. Emp.* lxiv. (1865) VIII. 81 The splay foot of the mountain peasant girl. 1877 MISS A. B. EDWARDS *Up Nile* x. 283 The camels planted their splay feet obstinately in the sand.

fig. 1838 LYTTON *Alice* VII. iii, To have his gentle tenor crushed..by the heavy splay foot of Mr. Tiddy's manly bars ..was insufferable.

b. Used as a term of abuse.

1612 SHELTON *Quix.* I. IV. vi. 45 Good man Splay-foot, unmannerly Clown.

†**2.** *attrib.* = SPLAY-FOOTED *a. Obs.*

1631 DEKKER *Match Mee* II. 25 Th'art a damn'd Bawd: A soaking, sodden, splay-foot, ill-fac'd Bawd. 1690 D'URFEY *Collin's Walk thro' Lond.* 53 Thou Splay-foot blind phanatick Rogue. 1719 — *Pills* (1872) I. 144 He sent a splayfoot Taylor.

fig. 1622 MASSINGER & DEKKER *Virg. Martyr* IV. ii, I would not give up the cloak of your service to meet the splayfoot estate of any left-eyed Knight. 1663 BUTLER *Hud.* I. iii. 192 In small Poets splay-foot Rhimes. 1766 [ANSTEY] *Bath Guide* Epil. 244 Oft have I read the..Splay-foot Measures of thy Simkin's Lays.

3. As *adv.* In a splay-footed manner.

1626 MIDDLETON *Women Beware Women* II. ii, She must be neither slut nor drab, Nor go too splay-foot with her shoes.

Hence **Splayfooting** *vbl. sb.* (In quot. *fig.*)

1675 WOOLLEY *Gentlew. Comp.* 31 Fops will venture the spraining of their tongues, and splayfooting their own mouths if they can.

Splay-footed, *a.* Also 6 **splaie-**. *β.* 6–7 **spla-**, 7 **splea-**. [f. as prec.] Having splay feet.

α. 1545 ELYOT, *Planci*, they whiche be splay footed. 1577 HELLOWES *Guevara's Chron.* 403 He was splay footed, and also poare blind. 1594 NASHE *Terrors of Night* To Rdr., Martin Momus, and splaie footed Zoylus,..are now reuiu'd againe. 1652 GAULE *Magastrom.* 186 The long-footed are fraudulent; and short-footed, sudden; and splay-footed, silly. 1695 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 3057/4 A splay footed and down look'd man. 1809 W. IRVING *Knickerb.* (1861) 186 A gigantic Swede, who, had he not been..splay-footed, might have served for the model of a Samson. 1892 J. LUMSDEN *Sheep-head & Trotters* 233 This long-limbed and somewhat splay-footed genius.

β. 1593 *Passionate Morrice* (1876) 82 Other [suitors], which were well legde, shaled with their feete, or were splafooted. 1608 MACHIN *Dumb Knt.* IV, Sure I met no splea-footed baker, No hare did crosse me. 1647 LILLY *Chr. Astrol.* CIXXXV. 788 All Clowns, crump-shouldered or splea-footed. 1688 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 2392/4 A bandy-leged splafooted..Man.

b. *fig.* Clumsy, awkward; sprawling.

1716 M. DAVIES *Athen. Brit.* II. 139 The rest moulded upon Lucretius's Splay-footed numbers. 1756 FRANCIS tr. *Horace, Epist.* (ed. 7) II. i. 183 Nor wish [I] to stand expos'd to public Shame,..Nor in splay-footed Rhimes to shew my Face. 1765 FALCONER *Demagogue* 380 Splay-footed words, that hector, bounce, and swagger.

Splay'ing, *vbl. sb.*[1] [f. SPLAY *v.*[1]]

1. The action of extending; extension.

For *Splaying* in Kersey (1706) see SPLAITING *vbl. sb.*

1530 TINDALE *Answ. More* Wks. (1573) 277/2 The casting abroad of his hands [is] the splaying of Christ vpon the crosse.

2. The action of making with a splay; the manner or extent of this.

1725 W. HALFPENNY *Sound Building* 13 A..Door, or Window.., whose Crown lies level without splaying. 1844 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* VII. 247/1 The splaying of the arches ..was neither justified by science nor practice. 1851 RUSKIN *Stones Ven.* I. xvi. § 9 The splaying or chamfering of the jamb of the larger door will be deepened. 1881 *Athenæum* 4 June 756/3 The Interior of the New Church..is..noteworthy on account of the bold splaying of the clearstory.

3. The fact of spreading outwards.

1881 *Nature* XXIV. 571 This splaying or bulging of the shadow is due to the interference of the molecular streams.

Splay'ing, *vbl. sb.*[2] [f. SPLAY *v.*[2]] Spaying.

1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* 673 Another part of a good Swinehard is, to looke to the gelding of his Swyne, and splaying of the females. 1611 COTGR., *Chastrement*, a gelding, libbing, speying, splaying.

Splay'ing, *ppl. a.* [f. SPLAY *v.*[1]] Sloping or spreading outwards.

1874 H. H. COLE *Catal. Ind. Art S. Kens. Mus.* 143 The body of the vessel is like an ordinary lota.., with a long and broad splaying neck. *Ibid.* App. 273 A thin bowl-shaped cup with splaying rim.

Splay-legged, *a. rare*—[1]. [Cf. SPLAY-FOOTED *a.*] Having straddling legs.

1638 COWLEY *Love's Riddle* I. i. 269 Although splay-leg'd, crooked, deform'd in all parts.

Splay-mouth. *rare*—[1]. [Cf. next.] A distorted or wry mouth.

1693 DRYDEN *Persius* I. (1697) 410 Hadst thou but..a Face behind, To see the People, what splay-Mouths they make.

Splay-mouthed, *a.* ? *Obs.* [f. SPLAY *v.*[1]] Having a wide or wry mouth. Also *transf.*

1651 CLEVELAND *Poems* 41 Had I but Elsing's gift (that splay-mouth'd brother). 1687 T. BROWN *Æsop's State Conform.* Wks. 1711 IV. 119 This is a happiness, crys our splay-mouth'd Tallow-Chandler. 1718 *Entertainer* No. 30. 202 The Splay-Mouth'd Covenanters, that Sanctified Crew of Hypocrites. 1812 *Examiner* 14 Sept. 590/1 His vulgar volubility and splay-mouthed pronunciation.

Splea-footed, obs. f. SPLAY-FOOTED. **Splea-geant:** see SPLEDGET. **Spleat,** obs. f. SPLEET *sb.*

†**Spleck.** *Obs. rare.* In 4–5 **splek(ke,** 5 **spleke.** [Cf. next and PLECK 2.] A speck, a spot.

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* VIII. xviii. (Bodl. MS.), Þe mone..takeþ a foule splekke and vnsemely. *Ibid.* VIII. xxix. (Tollem. MS.), Þe schadow of þe erþe, of þe whiche is reboundid a maner dym splek [1495 spleke] in þe body of þe mone.

†**Splecked,** *a. Obs. rare.* In 4 **speckid, splekked,** 5 **spleket.** [Cf. MDu. *gesplect* (Verdam s.v. *gespekelt*) and PLECKED *a.*] Specked, spotted.

1382 NICHOLAS OF HEREFORD *Bible* Pref. Ep. vii. (MS. Bodl. 959), Þe reed horssez speckid whyt. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) I. 429 In þe welmes..Is y-founde reed splekked stones. *Ibid.* II. 303 Alle þe splekked lamberne and kedes ..schulde be Iacob his mede. 1422 tr. *Secreta Secret., Priv. Priv.* 230 Spleket eyen and whyte eyen tokenyth dredfulnesse.

†**Splecky,** *a. Obs.*—[1] [f. SPLECK.] Spotty.

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* VIII. xxviii. (Tollem. MS.), Yf þe sonne *is* splekky,..it bodeþ a rayny day.

†**Spledget.** *Obs. rare.* Also 6 **spleageant,** 7 **spleget.** [Alteration of (*plegent*) PLEDGET.] A pledget.

1563 T. GALE *Antidot.* II. 66 This Trochisse made in pouder and tempered..and layed on spleageants, doeth put away inflammations. 1639 O. WOOD *Alph. Bk. Secrets* 28 Take honey of Roses, dip Spledgets therein. *Ibid.* 205 Lay it on with a Spledget of Lint. 1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr., Pleget* or *Spleget*, a long plaister of cloth or leather [etc.].

Spleen (splīn), *sb.* Forms: 4 (6–7) **splen;** 4–7 **splene;** 5–7 **spleene,** 6– **spleen.** [ad. OF. *esplen* (*esplien, esplene*, etc.), or L. *splēn*, a. Gr. σπλήν, related to Skr. *plīhan*, L. *lien*. In Romanic the word has survived in many Italian dialects, and in Roumanian *splină*, but It. *splene* is of learned origin, while mod.F. *spleen* († *spline*) and Sp. *esplin* have been adopted from English in sense 8 c.]

1. *Anat.* An abdominal organ consisting of a ductless gland of irregular form, which in mammals is situated at the cardiac end of the stomach and serves to produce certain changes in the blood; the milt or melt.

a. a 1300 *Vox & Wolf* in *MS. Digby* 86 lf. 138 b/1 Þou hauest þat ilke ounder þe splen, Þou nestes neuere daies ten. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* III. 100 As it is in Phisique write Of livere, of lunge, of galle, of splen, Thei alle unto the herte ben Servantz. 1577 B. GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* III. (1586) 151 Swine..do woonderously labor with the abundance of the splen. 1650 B. *Discolliminium* 46 A..lumpe, compounded of..Satyres Splens, Polcatts Lites.

β. c 1400 *Lanfranc's Cirurg.* 80 If þe lyuere eiþer þe splene ben I-greued,..þou muste rectifien hem. 1460–70 *Book of Quintessence* 18 Brennynge watir in þe which gold is fixid.. heliþ þe splene. 1530 PALSGR. 274 The splene in a man, in a beest the melte. 1578 LYTE *Dodoens* 25 It is good against ..the stopping of the Milte or Splene. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* I. 343 Vnto this Cawle, is fastned the Splene on the left side of the belly just over-against the liver. 1619 [see SPLENIC *a.* 1].

γ. ? *a* 1400 *Morte Arth.* 2061 The comlyche kynge..cowpez fulle evene..emange the schortte rybbys, That the splent and the spleene on the spere lengez! *c* 1623 LODGE *Poor Mans Talent* G iij, The spleene is a member longe, softe, and rare, like vnto a spounge, and is scituated on the lefte side. 1661 LOVELL *Hist. Anim. & Min.* 37 The Spleen [of a cow] eaten with honey..helpeth the paine of the spleen. 1707 FLOYER *Physic. Pulse-Watch* 116 In this Fever the Spleen is affected. 1767 GOOCH *Treat. Wounds* I. 411 The Spleen is an oblong, flat body of a livid color; its substance is soft, and texture very loose. 1802 *Med. Jrnl.* VIII. 277 A propulsion of blood from the exterior parts to some of the viscera, particularly the spleen and liver. 1851 CARPENTER *Man. Phys.* (ed. 2) 300 The structure and functions of the Spleen..have been among the most obscure subjects in Anatomy and Physiology. 1884 DAY *Fishes Gt. Brit.* I. p. lvi, The spleen among fishes is found..as a dull reddish body of a rounded form.

†**b.** Regarded as the seat of melancholy or morose feelings. *Obs.*

1390 GOWER *Conf.* III. 99 The Splen is to Malencolie Assigned for herbergerie. *c* 1425 tr. *Arderne's Treat. Fistula*, etc. 60 Bot þe splene haþ no vertu of gendryng anyþing, siþe it is noþing bot a receptakle of malecolie. *c* 1430 LYDG. *Min. Poems* (Percy Soc.) 201 Wheer ovir many an hed hath ake, In skorn whan she lyth on the splene. 1539 ELYOT *Cast. Helthe* (1541) 22 The splene or mylte is of yl juice, for it is the chamber of melancholy. 1605 *1st Pt. Ieronimo* III. i, Not one little thought..But should raise spleens big as a cannon bullet Within your bosomes. *Ibid.* III. ii, Why, this would vex The resolution of a suffering spleene. 1665 BOYLE *Occas. Reff.* II. xiv. (1848) 142 Those petty Chilnesses that formerly I..was apt to impute to nothing but Fumes of the Spleen, or Melancholy Vapours.

†**c.** Regarded as the seat of laughter or mirth. *Obs.* (Freq. *c* 1600.)

1390 GOWER *Conf.* III. 100 The galle serveth to do wreche, The Splen doth him to lawhe and pleie, Whan al unclennesse is aweie. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* v. xli. (Bodl. MS.), Some men menyn þat þe melte is cause of laugȝhing, for by þe splene we laugȝhen. 14.. *Pol., Rel., & L. Poems* (1866) 37 The mynde is in the Brayne...Gladnes in the splene. 1547 BOORDE *Brev. Health* ccvii. 71 A splene, the whiche..doth make a manne to laughe. 1598 BP. HALL *Sat.* IV. i. 74 Now laugh I loud, and breake my splene to see This pleasing pastime of my poesie. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* (1637) 464 Such matter as will make you laugh your fill, if you have a laughing spleene. 1635 QUARLES *Embl.* II. iv. (1718) 77 Come burst your spleens with laughter to behold A new found vanity. 1681 COLVIL *Whigs Supplic.* (1751) 91 Some for laughter burst their reins, And other some did split their spleens.

†**2.** In various phrases: †**a.** *Of* or *on the spleen*, in jest or play. *Obs.*

c 1460 SIR R. ROS *La Belle Dame* 327 For wordes which said ben of þ^e splene, In fayr langage, paynted ful plesantlye. *a* 1500 *Nut-brown Maid* in *Arnolde's Chron.* (1811) 203 When men wyl breke promyse, they speke the wordis on the splene.

†**b.** *From the spleen*, from the heart. *Sc. Obs.*

c 1480 HENRYSON *Poems* (S.T.S.) III. 148 This prayer fra my splene is. 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* xlvi. 70 God bad eik lufe thy nychtbour fro the splene. 1571 *Satir. Poems Reform.* xxv. 79 When synneris repentis from þe splene.

†**c.** *To the spleen*, to the heart. *Sc. Obs.*

a 1568 A. SCOTT *Poems* (S.T.S.) xiii. 17, I thoill rycht grit distress, Bayth nycht & day, hard persit to þe splene.

†**3.** Merriment, gaiety, sport. *Obs.*

1588 SHAKS. *L. L. L.* v. ii. 117 With such a zelous laughter so profound, That in this spleene ridiculous appeares, To checke their folly, passions solemne teares. 1596 — *Tam. Shr.* Induct. i. 137 Haply my presence May well abate the ouer-merrie spleene, Which otherwise would grow into extreames.

†**4. a.** A sudden impulse; a whim or caprice.

1592 SHAKS. *Ven. & Ad.* 907 A thousand spleens bear her a thousand ways. 1596 — 1 *Hen. IV*, v. ii. 19 A haire-brain'd Hotspurre, gouern'd by a Spleene. *a* 1625 FLETCHER *Wom. Pleas'd* I. ii, Not wandring after every toy comes cross ye, Nor struck with every spleen.

†**b.** Caprice; changeable temper. *Obs.*

1596 SHAKS. *Tam. Shr.* III. ii. 10, I must forsooth be forst To giue my hand..Vnto a mad-braine rudesby, full of spleene. 1596 — 1 *Hen. IV*, II. iii. 81 Out you mad-headed Ape, a Weazell hath not such a deale of Spleene, as you are tost with.

†**5.** Hot or proud temper; high spirit, courage, resolute mind. *Obs.*

1592 SHAKS. *Rom. & Jul.* III. i. 163 All this..Could not take truce with the vnruly spleene Of Tybalt deafe to peace. 1598 B. JONSON *Ev. Man in Hum.* III. i, She [=beauty] will infuse true motion in a stone,..Stuffe peasants bosoms with proud Cæsars spleene. 1600 HEYWOOD *1st Pt. Edw. IV*, Wks. 1874 I. 34 That I shrunk back, that I was neuer seene To show my manly spleen but with a whip. 1605 *Play of Stucley* in Simpson *Sch. Shaks.* (1878) I. 213 Your kind submission might have wrought What your high spleen and courage cannot do.

†**b.** Impetuosity, eagerness. *Obs.*

1595 SHAKS. *John* II. i. 448 With swifter spleene then powder can enforce The mouth of passage shall we fling wide ope. *Ibid.* v, vii. 50 Oh, I am scalded with my violent motion And spleene of speede, to see your Maiesty.

6. Violent ill-nature or ill-humour; irritable or peevish temper: **a.** With possessive pronouns, etc.

1594 SHAKS. *Rich. III*, II. iv. 64 O prepostorous And franticke outrage, end thy damned spleene. 1608 CHAPMAN *Dk. of Byron* V. i. 136 Let others learn by him to curb their spleens, Before they be curb'd, and to cease their grudges.

1642–4 Vicars *God in Mount* (1844) 64 The poysonous malice and incorrigible spight and splene of the malignant partie. 1710 Steele *Tatler* No. 4 ¶ 3 His spleen is so extremely moved on this Occasion that he is going to publish a Treatise against Opera's. 1781 Wesley *Wks.* (1872) XIII. 462, I impute this to his violent spleen against logic. 1824 Dibdin *Libr. Comp.* 745 The spleen and sophistry that marked the notes of the earlier cantos of Child Harold. 1885 Rawlinson *Egypt & Bab.* II. xii. 425 This time he .. vented his spleen on the Jews by renewed attacks and oppressions.

b. Without limiting word.

1604 Dekker *King's Entertainm.* Hiv b, Iustice in causes, Fortitude gainst foes, Temprance in spleene. 1662 Playford *Skill Wks.* Pref. (1674) 5 It abateth Spleen and Hatred. 1728 Young *Love of Fame* IV. 16 Vex'd at a public fame, so justly won, The jealous Chremes is with spleen undone. 1752 Hume *Pol. Disc.* v. 81 An author, who has .. more spleen, prejudice and passion than any of these qualities. 1822 Hazlitt *Table-t.* Ser. II. xviii. (1869) 381 This may be very well as an ebullition of spleen or vanity. 1859 Tennyson *Marriage of Geraint* 273 Whereat Geraint flash'd into sudden spleen.

7. With *a*: **a.** A fit of temper; a passion. Also *transf.* *Obs.* exc. *arch.*

1589 R. Harvey *Pl. Perc.* (1860) 13 Fie, fie, will you vpon a spleen run vpon a Christen body with full cry and open mouth? 1590 Shaks. *Mids. N.* I. i. 146 Briefe as the lightning in the collied night, That (in a spleene) vnfolds both heauen and earth. 1609 R. Barnfield *Faithf. Shepheard* 74 Neuer speake with partiall affection against any in a spleene, euill will seldome speaks well. [1814 Cary *Dante, Par.* xxx. 47 As when the lightning, in a sudden spleen Unfolded, dashes from the blinding eyes The visive spirits.]

† b. A grudge; a spite or ill-will. *Obs.*

1616 *Min. Archd. Colchester* (MS.) fol. 110 There is a spleene betwixt one of the Churchwardens .. and this partie. 1665 Manley *Grotius' Low C. Wars* 825 The Duke having a spleen to the City. 1692 R. L'Estrange *Josephus, Wars Jews* VII. xxx. (1733) 802 Onias did not do all this .. for God's sake, .. but out of a Spleen he bore to the Jerusalem Jews. 1722 De Foe *Col. Jack* (1840) 201 The devil owing me a spleen ever since I refused being a thief.

8. With *the*: **† a.** Amusement, delight. *Obs.*—1

1602 Shaks. *Twel. N.* III. ii. 72 If you desire the spleene, and will laughe your selues into stitches, follow me.

† b. Indignation, ill-humour. *To bear* (one) *upon the spleen*, to bear resentment against. *Obs.*

1600 W. Watson *Decacordon* (1602) 101 Howsoeuer vpon the spleene they sought for it at that time: he acquainted the Pope Clement with it. 1623 Bingham *Xenophon* 36 The Ægyptians, whom you principally beare vpon the spleen. 1629 J. Maxwell tr. *Herodian* (1635) 38 Divers that .. bore Perennius upon the spleene, for his intolerable haughty and disdainefull carriage.

c. Excessive dejection or depression of spirits; gloominess and irritability; moroseness; melancholia. Now *arch.*

1664 Killigrew *Pandora* II, Onely some fumes from his heart, Madam, makes his head addle. 'Tis call'd the spleen of late, and much in fashion. 1673 Temple *Obs. on United Prov.* Wks. 1720 I. 54 Strangers among them are apt to complain of the Spleen, but those of the Country seldom or never. 1711 Shaftesb. *Charac.* (1737) II. i. 199 At first, I look'd on you as deeply in the Spleen. 1726 Swift *Gulliver* IV. vii, Yet here I could discover the true seeds of the spleen, which only seizeth on the lazy, the luxurious, and the rich. 1838 Lytton *Alice* 66 This quiet room gives me the spleen.

d. Without article in the same sense.

1690 Temple *Ess., Poetry* Wks. 1720 I. 248 Our Country must be confess'd to be what a great foreign Physician called it, the Region of Spleen. 1718 Lady M. W. Montagu *Let. to Mrs. Thistlethwayte* 25 Sept., [I have] a mind weakened by sickness, [and] a head muddled with spleen. *a* 1763 Shenstone *Ess.* Wks. 1765 II. 205 Spleen is often little else than obstructed perspiration. 1821 Miss L. M. Hawkins *C'tess & Gertr.* I. 25 Professing that he knew not now in whom to place confidence, he gave himself up to spleen and seclusion. 1860 W. Collins *Wom. in White* II, ii. 179 He is the victim of English spleen.

personif. 1712–4 Pope *Rape Lock* IV. 16 The gloomy Cave of Spleen.

9. *attrib.* **a.** In sense 1, as *spleen artery, blood, -lymph, -mixture, -powder, -pulp, side, vein*, etc.

1601 Holland *Pliny* II. 146 When hee hath drunke it, [let him] lie vpon the spleene side. 1611 Cotgr., *Artere splenitique*, the spleene arterie. *Ibid.* s.v. *Veine, La petite gastrique* .. is the first branch of the spleene veine. 1834 *Good's Study Med.* (ed. 4) I. 367 The spleen-powder and spleen-mixture of Bengal. 1847–9 *Todd's Cycl. Anat.* IV. 778/2 He [Gerlach] altogether denies the existence of these granule-cells .. in the spleen-pulp. *Ibid.* 796/2 In calves and sheep a reddish spleen-lymph is often found. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* IV. 536 Caseous masses .. loosely embedded in the spleen substance.

b. In transf. senses, as *spleen-fit, -fog*, etc.

a 1653 G. Daniel *Idyll* iii. 75 All the world Trades in this magicke; though the foole be hurl'd Spleen-Shittle-Cocke. 1737 M. Green *Spleen* 8 If spleen-fogs rise at close of day, I clear my ev'ning with a play. 1878 Browning *Poets Croisic* 28 Song's remedies for spleen-fits.

10. *Comb.*, as *spleen-born, -devoured, -pained, -piercing, -shaped, -sick, -struck, -swollen* adjs.

1570 Levins *Manip.* 121 Splensicke, *spleneticus*. 1601 Holland *Pliny* II. Index s.v., For the Spleene pained, swelled, hard, obstructed, or otherwise diseased. 1609 *Ev. Woman in Hum.* I. i. in Bullen *O. Pl.* IV, Another, with a spleene-devoured face, Her eies as hollow as Anatomy. 1649 G. Daniel *Trinarch.* To Rdr., A fine Spleen-peirceing Witt. 1677 Miége *Fr. Dict.* II, Splenetick, Spleen-sick, or troubled with the Spleen. 1763–5 Churchill *Gotham* I. 14 A gloom thro' which to spleen-struck minds, Religion, horror-stamp'd, a passage finds. 1775 Sheridan *Rivals* Pref., They are usually spleen-swoln from a vain idea of increasing their consequence. 1859 Tennyson *Merlin & V.* 552 You breathe but accusation vast and vague, Spleen-born, I think, and proofless. 1888 Rolleston & Jackson *Anim. Life* 113 A spleen-shaped body, the albuminiparous gland.

Spleen (splīn), *v.* Also 7 **splene.** [f. the sb.]

1. † a. *trans.* To regard with spleen or ill-humour; to have a grudge at. *Obs.*

a 1629 Hinde *J. Brwen* II. (1641) 168 Is it then your antipathy against goodnesse .., that provokes you to swell against them, and so much to splene and spite them? 1675 J. Smith *Chr. Relig. App.* II. 18 A man so vitious as his hatred to Vertue made him spleen Nicæus, .. and all good men.

† b. To fill with spleen; to make angry or ill-tempered. *Obs.*

1689 N. Lee *P'cess Cleves* IV. i, Such Love as mine, and injur'd as I thought, Wou'd spleen the Gaul-less Turtle, wou'd it not? *a* 1734 North *Examen* (1740) 326 The author .. is manifestly spleened at the force with which they wrote and preached in the controversy. 1802 S. & Ht. Lee *Canterb. T.* V. 258 Stanhope, too much spleen'd for conversation, withdrew.

c. *intr.* To feel spleen or deep anger.

1885 *Congregationalist* 1 Jan. (Cent.), It is fairly sickenin'; I spleen at it.

2. *trans.* To deprive of the spleen.

a 1735 Arbuthnot (J.), Animals spleened grow salacious.

Spleenatick, -ive, -etic: see Splenatic, etc.

Spleenful (splī'nfŭl), *a.* [f. Spleen *sb.*] Full of spleen; passionate, irritable, peevishly angry:

a. Of persons (or animals).

1588 Shaks. *Tit. A.* II. iii. 191 Now will I .. let my spleenefull Sonnes this Trull defloure. 1631 Heywood *Eng. Elizab.* (1641) 90 Thus she remained a sorrowful and dejected prisoner, in the hands of spleenfull and potent adversaries. 1687 Dryden *Hind & P.* III. 1196 The spleenful Pigeons never could create A Prince more proper to revenge their hate. 1795 Wolcot (P. Pindar) *Pindariana* Wks. 1812 IV. 225 'Twas thus I spleenful cried. 1818 Keats *Endym.* IV. 256 About the wilds they hunt with spear and horn, On spleenful unicorn. 1859 Tennyson *Marriage of Geraint* 293 Then rode Geraint, a little spleenful yet, Across the bridge.

b. Of actions, feelings, etc.

1593 Shaks. 2 *Hen. VI*, III. ii. 128 My selfe haue calm'd their spleenfull mutinie. 1616 R. C. *Times Whistle* (1871) 97 These, these they be, on which I doe engage My vexed Muse to wreck her spleenfull rage. *a* 1645 Heywood *Fortune by Land & Sea* I. i, You speak out of some spleenfull rashness, And no deliberate malice. 1718 Pope *Iliad* XV. 111 Smiles on her lips a spleenful joy express'd. 1829 Hood *Mids. Fairies* lxxii, With more spleenful speeches and some tears. 1893 *Temple Bar* XCVII. 61 The spleenful emphasis with which the Squire puffed out the last word.

Hence **Splee·nfully** *adv.*, in a spleenful manner. 1882 in *Imperial Dict.*

Splee·nish, *a.* Now *rare.* Also 6–7 **splenish.** [f. Spleen *sb.*]

† 1. Apt to disorder the spleen. *Obs.*—1

1598 Bp. Hall *Sat.* IV. iv. 20 When splenish morsels cram the gaping maw.

2. Somewhat spleenful or splenetic.

1610 Bp. Hall *Apol. Brownists* 3 [They] are ofttentimes moued to shoote .. the bitter arrowes of spightfull and splenish discourses. 1649 J. Arnway *Tablet* (1661) 8 The common and known fruits of fiery and spleenish tempers. 1651 Baxter *Let. to Ch. Kederminster* 5 They will .. think them spleenish or ungodly that will not offer a sacrifice to Mars. 1890 H. M. Stanley *Darkest Africa* I. xii. 321 They .. sought by other means to gratify their spleenish hate.

Hence **Splee·nishly** *adv.*; **Splee·nishness.**

1775 S. J. Pratt *Liberal Opin.* lxxxiv. (1783) III. 116 To shut the book in a passion, or spleenishly tear out the leaf. 1847 Webster, *Spleenishness*, state of being spleenish.

Spleenless (splī'nlĕs), *a. rare.* [f. Spleen *sb.*]

1. Destitute of a spleen.

1398 Trevisa *Barth. De P. R.* XVIII. xx. (Bodl. MS.), Camelion is .. spleneles and woneþ in dennes as an ewte. 1899 *Brit. Med. Jrnl.* 2 Dec. 1567 Max Majener may claim, it appears, the first operation on a spleenless patient.

2. *fig.* Mild, gentle.

1615 Chapman *Odyss.* XII. 347 A spleeneelesse wind so stretcht Her wings to waft vs, and so vrg'd our keele.

† Spleen-stone. *Obs.* [f. Spleen *sb.*] A stone supposed to cure disorders of the spleen.

1595 Raleigh *Discov. Guiana* (1596) 24 A kinde of greene stones, which the Spaniards call *Piedras Hijadas*, and we vse for spleene stones. 1613 R. Harcourt *Voy. Guiana* 36 There are diuers kinds of Stone of great vse, and good price, as Jasper, Purphery, and the Spleene-stone. 1666 in Myddelton *Chirk Castle Acc.* (1908) 131 Paid the man that came with the spleene stone from Dolgrog. 1691 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 2680/4 Lost .., a Green Spleen Stone cut Triangular. 1775 Motherby *Med. Dict.*, *Ophites*, called also serpentinus, ophite, or spleen-stone.

Spleenwort (splī'nwŭt). Also 6 **splen(e)-**, **spleenewort, spleen-**, 6–7 **spleenewoort.** [f. Spleen *sb.*, after L. *splēnion* or *asplēnon*, a. Gr. σπλήνιον, ἄσπληνον (also ἀσπλήνιος, -ον adj.), f. σπλήν spleen.]

1. a. One or other of various ferns belonging to the genus *Asplenium*; also, the genus itself.

1578 Lyte *Dodoens* III. lxv. 406 Of brode or large Splenewort or Miltwast. 1597 Gerarde *Herbal* II. cccclv. 979 Called .. in English Spleenwoort, Miltwaste, Scale Ferne, and Stone Ferne. 1607 Topsell *Four-f. Beasts* 616 Spleenwort giuen vnto sheep .. is the best remedy for this Malady. 1688 Holme *Armoury* II. 97/2 *Spleenwort*, hath divers stalks of leaves. 1711 Pope *Rape Lock* IV. 56 Safe past the Gnome thro' this fantastic band, A branch of healing Spleenwort in his hand. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. *App.*, *Spleen-wort*, .. called .. in English more commonly miltwaste. 1862 Ansted *Channel Isl.* 183 The varieties of Asplenium or spleenwort are very numerous and beautiful. 1885 Gerard *Waters of Hercules* viii, Between the stones .. the maidenhair and spleenwort were beginning to peep.

b. *pl.* 1859 T. Moore *Brit. Ferns* (1864) 59 The Spleenworts are called *Asplenium* by botanists.

† b. Hart's-tongue; scolopendrium. *Obs.*

1725 *Fam. Dict.* s.v. *Jaundice*, Boil therein an Handful of the Roots of Smallage .. and wild Succory, with as much Harts-tongue or Spleenwort. 1796 Withering *Brit. Pl.* (ed. 3) III. 766 *Asplenium scolopendrium*. Spleenwort or Harts-tongue.

c. With various distinguishing terms.

The number of varieties thus distinguished is very large: see also Maidenhair 6 and Sea 23 f.

1796 Withering *Brit. Pl.* (ed. 3) III. 768 *Asplenium viride*. Green-ribbed Spleenwort. *Ibid.* 770 *A. lanceolatum*. Spear-shaped Spleenwort. 1801 Charlotte Smith *Lett. Solit. Wand.* II. 92 Having found here the white spleenwort in fructification. 1845–50 Mrs. Lincoln *Lect. Bot.* App. 78/2 *Asplenium ebenum* (ebony-spleen-wort). 1846–50 A. Wood *Class-bk. Bot.* 630 Swamp Spleenwort .. Dwarf Spleenwort. *Ibid.* 631 Silvery Spleenwort. 1847 H. Miller *Test. Rocks* (1857) 30 The minute forked spleenwort of Arthur Seat. 1862 Ansted *Channel Isl.* II. viii. 183 Black spleenwort is as common in the islands as in England. 1865 Gosse *Land & Sea* (1874) 333 Here the Marine Spleenwort grows out of the vertical fissures.

† 2. *Rough spleenwort*, a former name for various ferns (see quots.). *Obs.*

1597 Gerarde *Herbal* II. cccclv. 978 *Lonchitis aspera*, Rough Spleenewort. 1600 Surflet *Countrie Farme* II. xiii. 262 *Scolopendrium*, or rough spleene-woort, called also harts-toongue. 1633 *Gerarde's Herbal* II. cccclxxi. 1140 *Lonchitis aspera maior*. Great rough Spleene-woort. 1760 J. Lee *Introd. Bot.* App. 328 Spleen-wort, Rough, *Lonchitis. Ibid.*, Spleenwort, Rough, *Polypodium*. 1777 Jacob *Catal. Plants* 61 *Osmunda Spicant*. Rough Spleenwort. 1785 Martyn *Lett. Bot.* xxxii. (1794) 489 Rough Spleenwort [*note*, Osmunda Spicant] has lanceolate, pinnatifid fronds.

† 3. A pteroid fern, *Lonchitis*. *Obs.*

By some early botanists confused with *Asplenium*.

1579 Langham *Gard. Health* 616 Splenwort, or Lonchitis, is very good against the hardnes, stopping, and swelling of the milt, 1597 Gerarde *Herbal* 979 *Lonchitis Maranthæ*, Bastard Spleenewort. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl., *Lonchitis*, spleenwort, .. the name of a genus of plants.

4. *U.S.* A species of cactus.

1846–50 A. Wood *Class-bk. Bot.* 275 *Cereus Phyllanthus.* .. Spleenwort .. Flowers white.

5. *Comb.*, as *spleenwort-leaved, -like* adjs.

1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s.v. *Filix*, The spleenwort leaved .. Portugal fern. *Ibid.*, The spleenwort like .. African fern. 1786 Abercrombie *Arr.* in *Gard. Assist.* 30 *Liquidambar*, .. Spleenwort-leaved. 1841 *Penny Cycl.* XXI. 229/2 *Senecio hastatus*, the spleenwort-leaved groundsel.

Spleeny (splī'ni), *a.* [f. Spleen *sb.*] Spleenful; splenetic.

1604 Marston & Webster *Malcontent* v. ii, You were to boisterous, spleeny. 1607 Markham *Cavel.* VIII. Ded. A ij b, That I with a more spleeny spirit do condemne you, then all other trades whatsoeuer. 1689 G. Harvey *Curing Dis. by Expect.* IV. 18 A Man or Woman afflicted with any hypochondriac spleeny Distemper. 1793 Burns *Impromptu on Mrs. Riddel's Birth-day* 8 My dismal months no joys are crowning, But spleeny English, hanging, drowning. 1867 in J. Brown *Life Sc. Probationer* (1877) 260 Don't argue that I am envious, or *spleeny*, or much filled with animosity towards the Kirk.

Spleet, *sb.* Now *dial.* and *rare.* [a. MDu. *splete* (WFlem. *splete*), *spleet* (Du. *spleet*) or MLG. (and LG.) *splete*, NFris. *splēt*, related to Split *v.*] A small strip of split wood or willow.

1609 C. Butler *Fem. Mon.* iii. § 9 If the hiue be then fourteene inches ouer within, it may wel receiue foure spleets. 1657 S. Purchas *Pol. Flying-Ins.* 60 Mr. Southern and others .. advise, that if Bees finde fault with a Hive, and will not continue in it, to pull out the spleats. *a* 1679 Sir J. Moore *Eng. Interest* (1703) 104 Your Hive being pruned put in your spleets. 1704 *Dict. Rust.* (1726) s.v. *Bee-hives*, Either Wicker-Hives made with Spleets of Wood, .. or Straw-Hives. 1766 *Museum Rust.* VI. 2 Bind their stems together with a spleet of willow, or some tough wood. *Ibid.* 3 A small wreath, made of spleet, is slipped on the upper end of the staff. 1899– in *Eng. Dial. Dict.*

Hence **† Spleet** *v.*1 *trans.*, to fit (a bee-hive) with slips of wood. *Obs.*

1609 C. Butler *Fem. Mon.* iii. § 9 This is the easiest & quickest way of spleeting a hiue. 1661 Worlidge *Syst. Agric.* (1681) 186 The way they usually Spleet the ordinary Strawn and Daubed Hives, every Countrey Coridon understands.

Spleet, *v.*2 Chiefly *Sc.* [Obscurely related to Split *v.* Cf. Spleet *sb.* and LG. *spleeten* (rare).] *trans.* and *intr.* To split.

1585 Higins tr. *Junius' Nomencl.* 62/2 *Piscem exdorsuare*, .. to spleete out, or part alongest the ridge bone iust in the midst. 1606 Shaks. *Ant. & Cl.* II. vii. 131 Mine owne tongue Spleet's what it speakes. 1647 Hexham I, To Spleet a fish, *een visch splyten*. 1701 J. Brand *Orkney* ii. (1703) 25 At all times it is highly dangerous .. to pass through between the Isles, tho with small Boats, because of the many blind Rocks lying there, upon which sometimes the Inhabitants do spleet. *c* 1730 W. Starrat in Ramsay *Poems* (1760) 222 We'll to the haining drive, When in fresh lizar they get spleet and rive. 1828 Mor *Mansie Wauch* xii, Men .. holding their sides, laughing like to spleet them. 1866 in Edmondston *Gloss. Shetl. & Orkney* 115. 1900 *Shetl. News* 22 Sept. (E.D.D.), Da auld axe ta spleet da lamb's head wi'.

Spleet·ed, *ppl. a.* [f. Spleet *v.*1 or *v.*2] Made with, or consisting of, split rods.

1681 Worlidge *Syst. Agric.* (ed. 3) 327 *Hurdles*, made .. either of spleeted Timber or of Hazle Rods. *Ibid.* 334 *Wattels* also signify spleeted Gates or Hurdles.

Spleet-new, *a. Sc.* [app. f. Spleet *v.*2 Cf. Split-new *a.*] Perfectly new.

1815 G. Beattie *John o' Arnha'* (1826) 15 It was baith

sleekit an' spleet new. 1835 J. Brown *Lett.* (1907) 33, I have got the beautiful edition of Byron in 6 volumes, spleet new.

Spleget, var. Spledget *Obs.* **Spleigh**, obs. f. Splay. **Splek(ked**: see Speleck(ed. **Splen**, obs. f. Spleen *sb.*

Splen-, var. of Spleno- before vowels, occurring in a few medical terms, as **Splene·mia**, **-a·lgia** [cf. F. *splénalgie*], **-a·lgic** *a.*

1822–7 Good *Study Med.* (1829) II. 529 The Splenalgia, or pain in the spleen.., is for the most part a slight attack of this disease [splenitis]. 1850 Ogilvie, *Splenalgy*, a pain in the spleen or its region. 1858 Aitken *Pract. Med.* 417 This form of the disease [leucocythæmia] has been named *splenæmia* by Virchow.

† **Splenatic**, *a. Obs.* Also 7–8 **-ick**; 7 **spleenatick**. [ad. med.L. *splēnaticus* (OF. *splenatique*, Roum. *splinatic*), var. of *splēnēticus* Splenetic *a.*]

1. Affected with disease of the spleen. *rare*—1.

1607 Topsell *Four-f. Beasts* 189 The Spleene drunke in vrine, cureth the spleenatick.

2. Seated in, arising from, the spleen.

1621 Burton *Anat. Mel.* I. ii. iii. v, Windy melancholy, which Laurentius subdivides into three parts,..Hepaticke, Splenaticke, Mesariacke. 1628 *Ibid.* (ed. 3) II. v. iii. i. 371, I finde those that commend vse of apples, in Splenaticke.. melancholy.

3. Of persons: Spleenful.

1663 Butler *Hud.* I. i. 209 More peevish, cross, and spleenatick, Then Dog distract, or Monky sick. 1664 *Ibid.* II. i. 237 King Pyrrhus cur'd his Splenatick And testy Courtiers with a kick. 1721 Amherst *Terræ Fil.* Pref. p. xxi, The splenatick man delights in satire.

4. Caused by, due to, spleen.

a 1661 Fuller *Worthies, Warwick* III. (1662) 121 Queen Mary..understanding it a Splenatick design against Cardinal Poole. 1707 Freind *Peterborow's Cond. Sp.* 219 The first Line dispers'd all those splenatick Fumes.

† **Splenative**, *a. Obs.* Also 6 **spleanatiue**, 7 **spleen-**. [ad. L. type **splēnātīvus* (cf. prec.), or independently f. Spleen *sb.*]

1. Acting on the spleen.

1592 Nashe *P. Penilesse* 32 b, My two cunning Philosophers were driuen to..seeke out splenatiue simples, to purge their popular Patients of the Opinion of their old Traditions.

2. Spleenful; of a hot or hasty temper.

1593 Nashe *Christ's T.* To Rdr., Into some spleanatiue vaines of wantonnesse..haue I foolishlie relapsed. 1602 Shaks. *Ham.* v. i. 284 Though I am not Spleenatiue, and rash, Yet haue I something in me dangerous. 1630 Davenant *Cruel Brother* II, Even so the mighty Nations of the Earth Change..Their Battailes fierce to Duells spleenatiue, Or witty quarrels of the Penne. 1660 tr. *Wishart's Hist. Warrs Scot.* xii. 104 The two spleenative Armies.

Splendacious (splendē·ʃəs), *a.* Also **-atious**, **-aceous**. [Fancifully f. Splend-id *a.*: see -acious.] Very splendid; gorgeous, magnificent.

1843 *Blackw. Mag.* LIII. 379 The room is papered with some splendacious pattern in blue and gold. 1848 Thackeray *Trav. Lond.* Wks. 1886 XXIV. 349 The silver dish-covers are splendaceous. 1872 [Earl Pembroke & G. H. Kingsley] *S. Sea Bubbles* ix. 241 Loney..made a splendacious bedstead to sling his mat to.

Hence **Splenda·ciously**; **Splenda·ciousness**.

1853 Thackeray *Lett.* 14 Feb., On my first arrival, I was annoyed at the uncommon splendatiousness. 1872 'Aliph Cheem' (Yeldham) *Lays of Ind* (1876) 6 One of them..more splendaciously dressed..than the rest.

† **Sple·ndancy**. *Obs.*—1 [See next and -ancy.] = Splendency.

1591 Horsey *Trav.* (Hakl. Soc.) 234 The representacion of the sun shining in his full splendancie.

† **Sple·ndant**, *a. Obs.* [f. L. *splend-ēre* + -ant 1. Cf. OF. (*e*)*splendiant*.]

1. = Splendent *a.* 1 and 1 b.

1578 Banister *Hist. Man* I. 1 The splendant sparke of reason, which shall light ech mans iudgement. 1598 Rowlands *Betraying of Christ* (Hunterian Cl.) 51 Heav'ns glorious lampe .. Turning his splendant beames of gold, to drosse. 1616 R. C. *Times Whistle* (1871) 90 When brighter starres Darken their splendant beauty. 1635 Heywood *Hierarchy* III. Comm. 171 It is still seene to shine with many splendant stars.

2. = Splendent *a.* 3.

1590 *Serpent of Division* A iij, When the noble and famous citie of Rome was most shining in her felicity, and splendant in her glorye. 1598–9 E. Forde *Parismus* I. (1661) 1 The splendant fame of his renowne. 1610 Marcelline *Tri. Jas. I*, 46 Neither could I receive a Princesse more splendant in Beauty, and all good Graces. 1631 R. H. *Arraignm. Whole Creature* xii. § 1. 112 Whose wisedome was so glorious and splendant, as a Beacon on a Mount, a Citty on a Hill.

Splendar, obs. f. Splinder *sb.*

† **Sple·ndence**. *Obs.*—1 [Cf. late L. *splendentia*, It. *splendenza*.] Splendour.

1604 Pricket *Hon. Fame* (1881) 32 More, then if Ten hundred thousand sunnes at once all shinde, and clearly should their radiant splendence guise.

† **Sple·ndency**. *Obs.* [See prec. and -ency.] Splendour.

a 1591 H. Smith *Arrow against Ath.* v. (1593) K iij b *marg.* Visibility or splendencie of the church in outward shew. 1607 *Schol. Disc. agst. Antichr.* II. vi. 75 Men..are delighted with the magnificence and with the splendencie of rites and ceremonies.

Splendent (sple·ndĕnt), *a.* [a. L. *splendent-*, *splendens*, pres. pple. of *splendēre* to be bright or shining. So It. *splendente*, *-iente*, Sp. and Pg. *esplendente*, OF. *esplendent*.]

1. Shining brightly by virtue of inherent light.

1474 in *Coventry Leet Book* (1908) 393 O splendent Creator!..More bryghter then Phebus, excedent all lyght! 1503 Hawes *Examp. Virt.* I. 6 Whan the golden sterres clere were splendent. 1583 Melbancke *Philotimus* X ij b, The same Ioue whiche giues the Sun his splendent globe, hath giuen the Moone..her horned head. 1605 *Tryall Chev.* III. iii. in Bullen *O. Pl.* III. 314 Like the Sunne in his Meridian Throne, Too splendent for weake eyes to gaze upon. 1646 Sir T. Browne *Pseud. Ep.* 233 As is very observable in their red and splendent Planets, that is of Mars and Venus. 1686 Goad *Celest. Bodies* III. ii. 437 Kepler has noted a Splendent Air in the day-time. 1812 Cary *Dante, Parad.* IX, 14 Another of those splendent forms approach'd. 1876 J. Ellis *Caesar in Egypt* 120 Their splendent world of light they permeate.

fig. 1609 *Ev. Woman in Hum.* v. i. in Bullen *O. Pl.* IV, Be stars to Firmaments, and, as you are Splendent, so be fixed, not wandering.

b. Of rays, light, etc.

1509 *Parl. Deuylles* B iv b, With aungelles to synge in lyght splendent. *c* 1605 Rowley *Birth Merlin* IV. v, Again, behold from the igniferous body Seven splendent and illustrious rays are spread. 1676 *Phil. Trans.* XI. 744 It will for all this resume a splendent brightness even in the cold water itself. 1758 *Ibid.* LI. 253 Its light was most surprisingly splendent.

fig. 1614 Jackson *Creed* III. 179 Though cloudes of enuy now may seeme, thy splendent rayes to choake. 1636 Fitz-Geffrey *Holy Transp.* (1881) 185 A Starre which though his Orbe be earth,..Yet doth from heauen deriue his splendent light. *a* 1666 Wharton *Poems* Wks. (1683) 355 Religion's outward worth and splendent Rays.

2. Reflecting light with great brilliancy; bright, gleaming, resplendent.

1578 Banister *Hist. Man* v. 81 This bowell..in a dogge hath for the most part a more splendent red. 1607 Topsell *Four-f. Beasts* 86 He had on his right side an exceeding splendent white spot. *Ibid.* 148 The best Grey-hound hath ..a neate sharpe head, and splendent eyes. *a* 1635 Randolph *Poems* (1638) 30 A splendent buckle in ther maiden zone. 1671 J. Webster *Metallogr.* iv. 28 It is..most dense, uniform, splendent, yellow, and is a most pretious thing. 1814 H. Busk *Fugitive Pieces* 7 Maria..seiz'd the splendent shears. 1826 Faraday *Exp. Res.* (1859) 193 By evaporation it gave a splendent white crystalline salt. 1859 Thackeray *Virgin.* II. 179 Her complexion really was as pure as splendent Parian marble.

b. Extremely brilliant, gorgeous, or magnificent.

1567 Drant *Horace, Ep.* A vij, Both godds, and noblemen in splendent vestures gay. 1583 Stubbes *Anat. Abus.* I. (1879) 39 To think that the Lorde our God is delighted in the splendente shewe of outward apparell. 1635 A. Stafford *Fem. Glory* (1860) 7 If the Inne was so splendent, so sumptuous, what may we thinke of the amiable Guest, that lodg'd in it? 1646 G. Daniel *Poems* Wks. (Grosart) I. 66 Now the Horses proud Breath fire, and trample with a furious heat, To hurrie in the Splendent Chariot. 1817 Stephens in *Shaw's Gen. Zool.* X. i. 246 Splendent Thrush. ..This most splendid bird is generally admitted to be distinct from the Shining Thrush. 1858 Carlyle *Fredk. Gt.* v. v. I. 575 Long Files of Giants, splendent in gold-lace and grenadier-caps, have succeeded.

3. *fig.* Having qualities comparable to material brightness or brilliancy; pre-eminently beautiful, grand, or great.

1509 Hawes *Past. Pleas.* I. (Percy Soc.) 5 The fayre lady excellent, Above all other in cleare beauty splendent. 1649 G. Daniel *Trinarch., Hen. V*, xxiv, And lead vs on Tryumphant through the Port Of Victorye, to Honour's Splendent Court. *a* 1763 Shenstone *Love & Honour* 17 Th' Iberian realm Could boast..No race more splendent, and no form so fair. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* I. II. i, Book-paper, splendent with Theories, Philosophies, Sensibilities.

b. Of qualities, actions, etc.

The first quotation is from a letter given as a ridiculous example of the use of 'ink-horn terms'.

1553 T. Wilson *Rhet.* (1580) 165 Beeyng accersited to suche splendeate renowme, and dignitie splendidious. 1599 *Broughton's Let.* vii. 22 The splendent brightnes of the Trueth, which burnes..so gloriously. 1615 Daniel *Hymen's Tri.* Ded., By your splendent worthiness Your name shall longer live than shall your walls. 1654 Gataker *Disc. Apol.* 97 The splendent lustre of Calvins repute. 1873 M. Collins *Squire Silchester* II. xiii. 158 The splendent genius of..Christopher North.

Hence † **Sple·ndently** *adv. Obs.*

1576 Pettie *Petite Pallace* 12 b, Did it not make her glory & virtue shew more splendently to the whole world? 1601 Bp. W. Barlow *Defence* 30 So splendently appearing these 60. yeares together. 1613 Jackson *Creed* II. 352 Scripture..shines most splendently, most clearly, like a light.

Splender, obs. or dial. var. Splinder.

Splendescent (splende·sĕnt), *a.* [a. L. *splendescent-*, *splendescens*, pres. pple. of *splendes-cĕre* to become bright.] Splendid, gorgeous.

1848 Clough *Bothie* i, Splendescent as a god of Olympus. 1850 *Brit. Museum* (Chambers) 225 Some of these little creatures, with their inimitable plumage of splendescent purple.

† **Sple·ndicant**, *a. Obs.*—1 [a. pres. pple. of L. *splendicāre* to shine.] Resplendent, brilliant.

1592 R. D. *Hypnerotomachia* 99 And by what industrie in her starrie forehead..she had infixed the fairest part of the heavens, or the splendycant Heraclea.

Splendid (sple·ndid), *a.* [ad. L. *splendid-us*, f. *splendēre* to be bright. So F. *splendide*, It. *splendido*, Sp. and Pg. *esplendido*.]

1. Marked by much grandeur or display; sumptuous, grand, gorgeous.

1624 in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* Ser. I. II. 172 His enterteynment .. was as splendid as that country could afford. 1647 Clarendon *Hist. Reb.* I. § 167 All cost was employed to make their Entertainments splendid. 1717 Lady M. W. Montagu *Let. to Lady Rich* 1 Jan., It is not very expensive to keep a splendid table. 1752 Young *Brothers* I. i, I know this splendid court of Macedon, And haughty Philip, well. 1797 S. & Ht. Lee *Canterb. T.* I. 367 Accommodation so splendid I know not that I should desire were I a prince. 1818 Scott *Br. Lamm.* xxii, The entertainment was splendid to profusion. 1849 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* ii. I. 175 The capital was excited by preparations for the most splendid coronation that had ever been known. 1856 Froude *Hist. Eng.* (1858) I. ii. 176 He had the splendid tastes in which the English people most delighted.

b. Of persons: Maintaining, or living in, great style or grandeur.

1658 Sir T. Browne *Hydriot.* v. 80 But man is a Noble Animal, splendid in ashes, and pompous in the grave. *a* 1687 Petty *Pol. Arith.* (1690) 86 The King and some great Men of France appear more Rich and Splendid than those of the like Quality in England. 1779 Johnson *L. P., Pope* Wks. IV. 7 Pope was, through his whole life, ambitious of splendid acquaintance.

2. a. Resplendent, brilliant, extremely bright, in respect of light or colour. *rare.*

1634 Sir T. Herbert *Trav.* 193 In the night, during which the streets are splendide with glistering Lights and Torches. 1750 tr. *Leonardus' Mirr. Stones* 154 The topaz is a most splendid and famous stone of those they call burning gems. 1774 Goldsm. *Nat. Hist.* (1824) II. 424 These splendid inhabitants of the air [sc. kingfishers] possess..the brightest colours, the roundest forms [etc.]. 1820 Keats *Hyperion* II. 353 In each face he saw a gleam of light, But splendider in Saturn's. 1829 *Chapters Phys. Sci.* 319 These colours, already so splendid and various when seen in one aspect, are still more diversified [etc.].

b. Magnificent in material respects; made or adorned in a grand or sumptuous manner.

1685 Baxter *Paraphr. N. T.* Matt. vi. 28 A more beautiful flower than Solomon's most splendid Ornaments could match. 1699 C. Hopkins *Court-Prosp., Peace* i, All [rooms] she keeps Silent, but Splendider than that of Sleeps. 1802 in *Nairne Peerage Evid.* (1874) 165 We arrived in this great and splendid capital. 1863 Lyell *Antiq. Man* 46 A splendid Hindoo temple has lately been discovered. 1892 Farrar *Darkn. & Dawn* lxv, Almost mad with misery, he returned to his splendid chamber in the Golden House.

c. Having or embodying some element of material grandeur or beauty.

1815 J. Smith *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 150 A splendid machine was constructed for this purpose [sc. ballooning] ..by the younger Montgolfier. 1851 Thackeray in *Scribner's Mag.* II. 142/2 The splendider scenery of the Alps. 1860 Tyndall *Glac.* II. i. 238 All these splendid phenomena are, I believe, produced by diffraction.

Comb. 1819 Lady Morgan *Autobiog.* (1859) 320 A most picturesque and splendid-looking stranger in Greek costume.

d. In specific names of birds or insects.

1811 Shaw *Gen. Zool.* VIII. I. 191 Splendid Creeper... Steel-blue and gold-green Creeper, with black wings and tail [etc.]. 1832 J. Rennie *Butterfl. & Moths* 168 The Splendid Codling (*Semasia Splendana*, Stephens).

3. Imposing or impressive by greatness, grandeur, or some similar excellence.

1653 Gauden *Hierasp.* Pref. 34 Persons of more ample conditions, splendider fortunes, and higher quality. 1750 Johnson *Rambler* No. 68 ¶ 1 Of actions that deserve our attention, the most splendid are not always the greatest. 1784 Cowper *Task* v. 320 That thus he may procure His thousands, weary of penurious life, A splendid opportunity to die. 1819 Scott *Ivanhoe* xlii, For this service a splendid *soul-scat* was paid to the convent of Saint Edmund's. 1849 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* vii. II. 191 If a design was splendid, Mordaunt seldom inquired whether it were practicable. 1872 Morley *Voltaire* (1886) 3 Luther and Calvin in their separate ways brought into splendid prominence their new ideas of moral order.

b. Dignified, haughty, lordly.

1833 T. Hook *Parson's Dau.* I. v, A splendid contempt for female intellect.

4. Of persons: Illustrious, distinguished.

1647 Clarendon *Hist. Reb.* I. § 196 He intended the Discipline of the Church..should be applied to the greatest and most splendid Transgressors. 1660 *Guillim's Heraldry* (ed. 4) III. iii. 115 Which Family is not a little splendid by the actions of two persons of it.

5. Excellent; very good or fine.

1644 R. Baillie *Lett. & Jrnls.* (1841) II. 215 Mr. Edwards hes written a splendid confutation of all Independents' Apologie. 1849–50 Alison *Hist. Europe* XIV. xciv. § 4. 4 The summit of these ridges afforded a splendid position for the French artillery to fire upon the English guns. 1882 *Proc. R. Geog. Soc.* IV. 460 He was taught to be a splendid shot with the gun and with the bow.

6. Used, by way of contrast, to qualify nouns having an opposite or different connotation.

1667 Milton *P. L.* II. 252 Our state Of splendid vassalage. 1714 R. Fiddes *Pract. Disc.* II. 15 Even their best actions [are] no better than splendid sins. 1756 Burke *Subl. & B.* Wks. 1842 I. 44 In many cases this splendid confusion would destroy all use. 1848 H. Rogers *Ess.* (1874) I. vi. 294 Even the most successful crime is but a splendid misery. 1898 *19th Cent.* Apr. 524 When she gives, proudly, notice to the whole world of her *splendid isolation*.

† **Splendi·dious**, *a. Obs.* [f. L. *splendid-us* + -ious.] Splendid, magnificent, brilliant.

1432–50 tr. *Higden* (Rolls) I. 11 Seenge the poverte and insufficience of my connynge after so splendidious laboures. 1553 [see Splendent *a.* 3 b]. 1599 B. Jonson *Ev. Man out of Hum.* II. ii, His lady? what, is shee faire? splendidious? and amiable? *a* 1630 J. Taylor (Water P.) *Wks.* II. 256/1 Vnhappy Phaetons Splendidious Sire. 1653 H. Cogan tr. *Pinto's Trav.* xxiii. 85 All which became more splendidious by the Trumpets, Cornets, Hoboys,..that were heard in every corner.

Hence † **Splendi·diously** *adv. Obs.*—1

1432–50 tr. *Higden* (Rolls) I. 39 Whose booke Roberte Byschoppe of Herefforde onornede splendidiously.

Splendidly (sple·ndidli), *a.* [f. Splendid *a.* + -ly 2.] In a splendid manner.

1. With much grandeur or display; sumptuously, grandly, gorgeously: a. In respect of living, state or ceremony, etc.

1651 HOBBES *Leviath.* III. xlii. 294 The Bishops' of those times..lived splendidly. 1682 WOOD *Life* 22 Jan., The old lady Sanderson..was buried verie splendidly in Westminster Abbey Church. 1693 DRYDEN *Juvenal* III. 238 How he lives and eats; How largely gives; how splendidly he treats. 1703 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 3919/2 His Grace was splendidly treated by the Corporation in the Town Hall. 1839 THIRLWALL *Hist. Greece* VI. 185 The burial of the dead.. was splendidly solemnised. 1841 THACKERAY *Drum* I. xxviii, Dukes..were splendidly served at her feasts. 1863 GEO. ELIOT *Romola* II. vii. (1880) II. 68 The Ruccellai.. kept a great table and lived splendidly.

b. In respect of appearance, adornment, etc.

1675 OGILBY *Britannia* Introd. E, The old or Royal Exchange..more splendidly Re-built by the City and Company of Mercers. 1772–84 *Cook's Voy.* III. 220 All the women appeared very splendidly dressed, after the Kamtschadale fashion. 1823 SCOTT *Quentin D.* xiii, The apartments.. were far more splendidly furnished than any which Quentin had yet seen in the royal palace. 1837 P. KEITH *Bot. Lex.* 374 A plumage that is most splendidly brilliant. 1847 C. BRONTE *Jane Eyre* vii, They were splendidly attired in velvet, silk and furs.

2. In a manner or style compelling admiration; magnificently, gloriously.

1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* I. iii. I. 19 These have been the enquiries that have splendidly employed many .. philosophers. 1859 HELPS *Friends in C.* Ser. II. I. To Rdr., Not prone in the first instance to war, though splendidly tenacious in battle when it does come. 1880 MEREDITH *Tragic Com.* (1881) 132 To break conventional laws, and be splendidly irrational.

3. Excellently, finely.

1883 *Harper's Mag.* Feb. 393/1 We were steaming along splendidly now. 1912 *Throne* 7 Aug. 222/1 A set of chambers..which he said would suit us splendidly.

4. *Comb.*, as *splendidly-bound*, etc.

1648 J. BEAUMONT *Psyche* XI. liii, Six yellow springs.. Disgorge their splendidly-contagious flood. 1818 LADY MORGAN *Autobiography* (1859) 215 With splendidly-bound 'Heures' and magnificent reticules. 1886 C. E. PASCOE *London of To-day* v. (ed. 3) 71 The gay throng of splendidly-uniformed military and naval officers. 1890 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Col. Reformer* (1891) 222 Well mounted..on splendidly-conditioned animals.

Sple·ndidness. [f. as prec. + -NESS.] The quality or state of being splendid; magnificence, grandeur.

1648 J. BEAUMONT *Psyche* VIII. lxiii, Resolv'd to try his eyes Upon that Infant-face of Splendidness. *a* 1657 W. BURTON *Itin. Anton.* 251 The splendidness of the Buildings, and the magnificence of the Churches. 1674 BP. CROFT *Fast Serm.* 14 Their splendidness and voluptuousness of living. 1728 MORGAN *Algiers* I. iii. 44 He drew the Eyes of all the Spectators by the Splendidness of his purple Robe.

†**Sple·ndidous,** *a. Obs.* [f. L. *splendid-us* + -OUS.] = SPLENDIDIOUS *a.*

1605 B. JONSON *Volpone* II. ii, Who, euer since my arriuall, have detayned me to their vses, by their splendidous liberalities. 1640 G. ABBOTT *Job Paraphr.* 138 Where is this man's princely pompe, that but even now was so splendidous?

Hence †**Sple·ndidously** *adv. Obs.*

1640 G. ABBOTT *Job Paraphr.* 126 Neither shall the place where he lived so splendidously ever enjoy him so any more.

Splendiferous (splendi·fĕrəs), *a.* [In early use f. med.L. **splendifer* (for late L. *splendōrifer*): cf. OF. *splendifere*. In mod. use jocular (cf. SPLENDACIOUS *a.*) and orig. *U.S.*]

†1. Full of, abounding in, splendour. *Obs.*

c 1460 G. ASHBY *Dicta Philos.* 1031 Who that is wele cherisshed with a king And is with hym grete & splendiferous. 1538 BALE *Br. Com. J. Bapt.* in *Harl. Misc.* (Malh.) I. 215 O tyme most ioyfull, daye most splendiferus. 1546 COVERDALE *Calvin's Treat. Sacram.* Dj, Seyng that ye bryght and splendiferouse veritie is of it selfe able to confute so absurde a vanitie.

2. *colloq.* Remarkably fine; magnificent.

1843 HALIBURTON *Sam Slick in Eng.* xiii, A splendiferous white boss, with long tail and flowin' mane. 1854 P. B. ST. JOHN *Amy Moss* 283, I only escaped..by means of a splendiferous girl call'd Kate. 1863 C. READE *Hard Cash* xxviii. II. 188, I see the splendiferous articles arrive, and then they vanish for ever.

†**Sple·ndious,** *a. Obs.* [Cf. It. *splendioso.*] Splendid.

1609 ARMIN *Maids of More-Cl.* (1880) 116 Which are as sun-shine, sometimes splendious. 1644 NYE *Gunnery* I. (1647) 48 By that splendious light you shall see every flaw, crack or honycomb. 1654 FLECKNOE *Ten Years Trav.* 10 In so noble Company, so splendious Entertainment, and so magnificent Equipage.

Splendir, dial. variant of SPLINDER.

†**Sple·ndish,** *v. Obs. rare.* [Cf. RESPLENDISH *v.*] a. *intr.* To shine. b. *trans.* To make splendid.

1565 J. PHILLIP *Patient Grissell* 1235 Of Pango I the Countis am, my praise doth splendish bright. 1583 STUBBES *Anat. Abus.* I. (1879) 18 To splendish, beautifie and set forthe the maiestie and glorie of this his earthly kyngdome.

Splendorous (sple·ndŏrəs), *a.* Also 7 **splend'rous, splendrous,** 8–9 **splendourous.** [f. *splendor* SPLENDOUR *sb.*] Full of splendour; resplendent, bright.

1591 DRAYTON *Moyses Map Miracle* (1604) 70 Himselfe inuested in a splendorous flame. 1594 — *Idea* 215 Your Beautie is the hot and splend rous Sunne. 1627 — *Agincourt* 35 In Warlike state the Royall Standard borne Before him, as in splendrous Armes he road. 1639 G. DANIEL *Ecclus.* xxv. 31 Splendrous, and in a height Transcending all bright Iustice. 1796 P. L. COURTIER *Pleas. Solitude* (1802) 85 In Corydon's splendourous Ball. 1871 G. MACDONALD *Wks. Fancy & Imag.* III. 215 A light that..spreads a finer joy, Than cloudless noon-tide splendorous o'er the world.

Splendour (sple·ndəɹ), *sb.* Also 5–6 **splendure,** 7 **-eur**; 6– **splendor.** [ad. AF. *(e)splendur, -our* (OF. *esplendor*, etc.), or L. *splendor*, f. *splendēre* to shine. So F. *splendeur*, It. *splendore*, Sp. and Pg. *esplendor.*]

1. Great brightness; brilliant light or lustre.

a. c 1450 *Cov. Myst.* (Shaks. Soc.) 191 In the sunne consydyr 3e thynges thre, The splendure, the hete, and the lyght. 1600 FAIRFAX *Tasso* VII. xliv, When the shining fort his goodly splendure losed. 1603 HOLLAND *Plutarch's Mor.* 1188 Mixing splendeur and light together with the said deepe azure.

β. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 30 Lyke as the beame of the materyall sonne..causeth a splendour or bryghtnes. 1626 BACON *Sylva* § 8 It may be, Percolation doth not only cause Clearness and Splendour, but Sweetness of Savour. 1698 FRYER *Acc. E. India & P.* 128 The splendour of the Moon being shaded by the sides of the Mountains. 1782 *Phil. Trans.* LXXII. 427 The wax tapers took flame immediately with an uncommon splendour. 1825 SCOTT *Talism.* vi, His bright blue eye, which at all times shone with uncommon keenness and splendour. 1897 F. T. BULLEN *Cruise 'Cachalot'* 104 Slowly..the intruding gloom overspread the sweet splendour of the shining sky.

Comb. 1821 SHELLEY *Epipsych.* 81 The splendour-winged stars. 1836 BROWNING *J. Agricola in Medit.* 4 Splendour-proof I keep the broods of stars aloof.

γ. 1596 DRAYTON *Leg., Matilda* XXXV. Poems (1605) Ffvij b, Such bountie Nature did to them impart, Those lampes two planets, clearer then the seauen, That with their splendor light the world to beauen. 1597 J. PAYNE *Royal Exch.* 47 He neyther saw that splendor and glory.., nor the heavens open. 1630 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Praise Clean Linen* Wks. II. 169/2 Till Tytans glory from the burnish'd East..the rotundious Globe with splendor filles. 1684 *Contempl. St. Man* II. ix. (1699) 232 A Wheel of Squibs and Fire-Works..casts forth a thousand lights and splendors. 1732 ARBUTHNOT *Rules of Diet* in *Aliments*, etc. I. 414 A certain Splendor or Shining in the Eyes, with a little Moisture. 1782 *Phil. Trans.* LXXII. 199 Inflammable air is also the principle which..gives them their metallic splendor. 1871 B. TAYLOR *Faust* Prol. (1875) I. 11 And swift and swift beyond conceiving The splendor of the world goes round.

b. *Her.* (See quots.)

1766 PORNY *Heraldry* (1777) Dict., The Sun is said to be in Splendor when it is represented with the lineaments o a human face, and environed with raies. 1868 CUSSANS *Her.* (1893) 102 The Sun is always supposed to be Proper, or In his Glory, or Splendour,..unless otherwise specified.

2. Magnificence; great show of riches or costly things; pomp, parade.

β. 1616 *Fortescue Papers* (Camden) 15 Whome the splendour of fortune hath not beene able to make..lesse vertuous. 1664 H. MORE *Myst. Iniq.* 280 His purple Cardinals are so Emperor like and of such a senatorious splendour. 1732 LEDIARD *Sethos* II. VII. 48 Their ambassy appear'd in splendour before your haven. 1770 GOLDSM. *Des. Village* 286 While thus the land adorned for pleasure all In barren splendour feebly waits the fall. 1837 LOCKHART *Scott* I. II. 63 The antique splendour of the ducal house. 1863 MISS BRADDON *J. Marchmont's Legacy* III. i. 8 Paul Marchmont was fond of splendour, and meant to have as much of it as money could buy. 1886 C. E. PASCOE *Lond. of To-day* XXXI. (ed. 3) 286 One of the most splendid streets in London, deriving its splendour from its club-houses.

personif. 1731 POPE *Ep. Burlington* 180 'Tis Use alone that sanctifies Expense, And Splendour borrows all her rays from Sense.

γ. 1680 BURNET *Rochester* 91 A people naturally fond of a visible splendor in Religious Worship. 1713 STEELE *Guardian* No. 19 ¶ 3 Riches and outward splendor have taken up the place of it. 1756–7 tr. *Keysler's Trav.* (1760) II. 103 With regard to external splendor,..I am inclined to think that modern Rome is superior to the ancient. 1824 W. IRVING *T. Trav.* II. 104 Its faded embellishments spoke of former splendor. 1858 HAWTHORNE *Fr. & It. Jrnls.* II. 98 Gold-laced cocked hats and other splendors.

3. Brilliant distinction, eminence, or glory; impressive or imposing character.

1604 E. G[RIMSTONE] *D'Acosta's Hist. Indies* VI. xxvi. 487 Montezuma set Knighthood in his highest splendor. 1647 CLARENDON *Hist. Reb.* I. § 145 Without any other Friendship or Support, than what the splendour of a Pious life.. would reconcile to him. 1750 JOHNSON *Rambler* No. 72 ¶ 10 Excellencies of higher reputation and brighter splendour. 1830 D'ISRAELI *Chas. I*, III. ix. 196 The splendour of the present progress had not hitherto been equalled in our annals. 1873 HAMERTON *Intell. Life* II. ii. 62 The splendor of the intellectual life.

4. Brilliant or ornate appearance or colouring. Also *Comb.*

1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1824) II. 349 A very extensive tribe, remarkable for the splendour and the variety of their plumage. 1820 SHELLEY *Witch Atl.* iii, Like splendour-winged moths. 1854 tr. *Hettner's Athens* 18 The Attic plain lies before us in a splendour and beauty, to describe which the forms and colours of the painter are powerless.

Sple·ndour, *v.* [f. prec.]

1. *intr.* To move with splendour.

1853 T. PARKER *Theism* (1865) 116 When a star with fiery hair came splendouring through the night, it filled mediæval astronomers with amazement. 1887 SERVICE *Life Dr. Duguid* 272 The golden language of a priceless love Went splendouring like a song of heav'n down.

2. *trans.* To invest with splendour.

a 1867 A. SMITH *Life Drama* I. 49 Poems (1901) 3 'Tis not for me To fling a Poem, like a comet, out, Far-splendouring the sleepy realms of night.

Splendrous, obs. variant of SPLENDOROUS *a.*

†**Sple·ndy,** *a. Obs.*[1] [f. L. *splend-ēre.*] Lustrous, glittering.

1683 PETTUS *Fleta Min.* I. (1686) 230 There appertains to the harsh flowing Copper Oars..what is splendy, mispickly, glimery or spady.

Splene·ctomy. *Surg.* [ad. mod.L. *splēnectomia*, f. Gr. σπλήν SPLEEN *sb.* + ἐκτομή excision. So F. *splénectomie.*] Excision or removal of the spleen. Also **Splene·ctomist,** one who removes the spleen (*Cent. Dict.* 1891); **Splene·ctomize** *v. trans.*, to excise the spleen of (an animal or person).

1859 MAYNE *Expos. Lex.* 1192/1 *Splenectomia*,..old term for excision of the spleen;..splenectomy. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* IV. 516 Effects of splenectomy in man. *Ibid.* 522 Experiments on rabbits that had been splenectomised. *Ibid.* 528 Laudenbach found them in a splenectomised dog.

Splenetic (splĭne·tik), *a.* and *sb.* Forms: 5–6 **splenetyk(e,** 6 **-ike, -ique,** 7–8 **-ick,** 7– **splenetic**; 7 **spleenetick.** [ad. late L. *splēnēticus*, f. *splēn* SPLEEN. So F. *splénétique*, It. *splenetico*, Sp. and Pg. *esplenetico.* See also SPLENATIC *a.* and SPLENITIC *a.*

Metrical examples show that down to the beginning of the 19th cent. the stress was on the first syllable, as given by Bailey, Johnson, and early 19th cent. Dicts.]

A. *adj.* 1. Of or pertaining to, connected with, the spleen; splenic. Also *fig.*

1544 PHAER *Regim. Lyfe* (1553) G iv, The passion splenetyke commeth by a colde humoure melancolyke. 1628 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* Democr. to Rdr. (ed. 3) 75 That Spleneticke Hypocondriacall winde..which proceeds from the spleen and short ribbes. 1722–7 BOYER *Dict. Royal* II, The Splenetick Vein, or Artery. 1758 J. S. tr. *Le Dran's Observ. Surg.* (1771) Dict.., *Vas Breve*, a Vein passing..to the Splenetick Vein. 1818 KEATS *Endym.* IV. 399 These raven horses, though they foster'd are Of earth's splenetic fire, dully drop Their full-vein'd ears. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* IV. 527 Microscopically they were composed of splenetic tissue much pigmented.

†2. Affected with, or suffering from, disease or disorder of the spleen; in later use, affected with melancholia or hypochondria. *Obs.*

1544 PHAER *Regim. Lyfe* (1546) H v, The pacient is called splenetike, whiche ye maye knowe by that, that after meate they have payne in theyr left syde. *c* 1550 H. LLOYD *Treas. Health* M viij, For them that be splenetike. 1656 RIDGLEY *Pract. Physick* 105 They that have a weak Spleen are properly called spleenetick. 1697 J. SERGEANT *Solid Philos.* 200 Splenetick or Maniacal Men can fancy they are made of Glass. 1733 CHEYNE *Eng. Malady* II. viii. 193 All the Symptoms and Disorders of a splenetick Person will be naturally and readily deduced from too thick and glewy or sharp Juices. 1766 GOLDSM. *Ess.* i. ¶ 1 If he be splenetic, he may every day meet companions..with whose groans he may mix his own.

absol. 1658 ROWLAND *Topsell's Four-f. Beasts* 149 The Spleen [of a dog] drunk in Urine, cureth the Spleenetick [1607 spleenatick]. 1750 tr. *Leonardus' Mirr. Stones* 72 It cures the splenetick, being bound to the spleen.

†b. Characterized by, tending to produce, melancholy or depression of spirits. *Obs.*

a 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 20 Dec. 1673, They spake of the excellent aire and climate in respect of our cloudy and splenetic country. *a* 1704 T. BROWN *Walk round Lond.* Wks. 1709 III. III. 41 To contribute your Assistance in order to expel these Splenetick Vapours. 1759 GOLDSM. *Polite Learn.* xi, They should be made up in our splenetic climate to be taken as physic. 1781 COWPER *Conversat.* 582 The friend..Whose wit can brighten up a wintry day, And chase the splenetic dull hours away.

3. Having an irritably morose or peevish disposition or temperament; given or liable to fits of angry impatience or irritability; ill-humoured, testy, irascible. (Freq. in the 18th c.)

1592 G. HARVEY *Pierce's Super.* 158, I was never so splenetique when I was most dumpish but I could smile at a frise jest. 1693 CONGREVE *Double-Dealer* IV. vi, I don't know whether to be splenetic or airy upon't. 1702 POPE *Wife of Bath* 90 Now gayly mad, now sourly splenetick, Freakish when well, and fretful when she's sick. 1748 RICHARDSON *Clarissa* (1811) I. 189 A splenetic woman, who must have somebody to find fault with. 1780 BENTHAM *Princ. Legisl.* ii. § 5 The fear of future punishment at the hands of a splenetic and revengeful Deity. 1841 DICKENS *Barn. Rudge* xli, Neighbours who had got up splenetic that morning, felt good-humour stealing on them as they heard it. 1876 GEO. ELIOT *Dan. Der.* I. v, Her hostess who, though not a splenetic or vindictive woman, had her susceptibilities.

absol. 1756 C. SMART tr. *Horace, Sat.* II. v. (1826) II. 147 By voluntary garrulity you will offend the splenetic and morose. 1829 I. TAYLOR *Enthus.* viii. 207 The disappointed, the splenetic, and the fanatical.

b. Of humour, temper, etc.

1712 STEELE *Spect.* No. 392 ¶ 3 Tho' his splenetick contracted Temper made him take fire immediately. 1759 DILWORTH *Pope* 115 His splenetic turn of mind adapted him for the sequestered life he was so fond of. *c* 1820 S. ROGERS *Italy, Foreign Trav.* (1836) 169 It was in a splenetic humour that I sat me down. 1865 DICKENS *Mut. Fr.* I. iv, She had an amazing power of gratifying her splenetic or worldly-minded humours by extolling her own family.

4. Characterized by, arising from, displaying or exhibiting, spleen or ill-humour.

1693 DRYDEN *Juvenal* Ded. (1726) p. xliv, Horace seems to have purg'd himself from those splenetick Reflections in those Odes and Epodes. 1749 FIELDING *Tom Jones* XI. i, To write within such severe rules as these, is as impossible as to live up to some splenetic opinions. 1775 in Jesse *Selwyn & Contemp.* (1844) III. 118 Forget what I lately wrote to you: it was the overflowing of a splenetic moment.

1806 SURR *Winter in Lond.* II. 159 In a moment of splenetic pride the jewels were dispatched. 1862 CARLYLE *Fredk. Gt.* XI. iii. III. 77 His envies, deep-hidden splenetic discontents and rages. 1899 E. GOSSE *Life J. Donne* I. 44 The poem closes with an outburst of splenetic raillery.

†5. Of medicines: Acting on, good for, the spleen. *Obs.*

1658 SIR T. BROWNE *Gard. Cyrus* iv, The Splenetick medicine of Galen. 1684 tr. *Bonet's Merc. Compit.* III. 92 If the Spleen be affected, splenetick Medicines must be added. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Water*, Splenetic Waters, are those proper against Diseases of the Spleen.

B. *sb.* 1. †a. One who suffers from disease or disorder of the spleen. *Obs.*

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* v. xlv. (Bodl. MS.), In drinke it [urine] halpeþ splenetikes & clenseþ roted woundes. *c*1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* VIII. 125 This wyn..soloeth fleume and helpith splenetyk. 1728 in CHAMBERS *Cycl.*

b. One who has a splenetic disposition; a splenetic, peevish, or ill-humoured person.

1703 STEELE *Tender Husb.* III. ii, The Spleneticks Speak just as the Weather lets 'em. 1779 ALEXANDER *Hist. Women* Introd. (1782) I. p. viii, The subject upon which satirists had discharged their wit, and splenetics their ill-humour. 1784 *Unfortunate Sensibility* I. 144, I cannot see why any poor splenetic should interfere.

†2. A splenetic medicine or remedy. *Obs.*

*c*1643 LD. HERBERT *Autobiog.* (1824) 38 They that are subject to the Spleen from their ancestors ought to use those herbs that are splenetics. 1718 QUINCY *Compl. Disp.* 121 It is commended..for a most noble Epatick, Splenetick, and Vulnerary.

Hence **Splene·ticness**, the fact or condition of being splenetic. *rare* —⁰.

1727 in Bailey (vol. II).

†**Splene·tical**, *a.* and *sb.* *Obs.* [f. prec.]

A. *adj.* 1. = SPLENETIC *a.* 1.

1599 A. M. tr. *Gabelhouer's Bk. Physicke* 162/1 [A prescription] For Spleneticalle dolour. *a*1639 WOTTON *Relig.* (1651) 488, I have received much benefit..touching my spleneticall Infirmity. 1694 WESTMACOTT *Script. Herb.* 13 Wild-Ash..will yield a Liquor highly commended in Scorbutical and Splenetical Affects. 1708 *Brit. Apollo* No. 72. 2/1 Splenetical and Hypocondriacal Distempers.

2. Disposed to mirth. (Cf. SPLEEN *sb.* 1 c.)

*a*1661 HOLYDAY *Juvenal* (1673) 185 Splenetical Democritus did make His lungs with a perpetual laughter shake.

B. *sb.* = SPLENETIC *sb.* 2.

1671 SALMON *Syn. Med.* III. xv. 358 Spleneticals are such things as are appropriated to the Spleen, the seat of Melancholly.

Splenetically (splĭne·tikăli), *adv.* [f. as prec.] In a splenetic manner; with spleen.

1779 ALEXANDER *Hist. Women* Introd. (1782) I. p. v, We laugh at their credulity, and splenetically satirise..all their faults and follies. 1816 SCOTT *Bl. Dwarf* v, More splenetically than became a philosopher or hermit. 1856 MASSON *Ess. Biog. & Crit.* 193 Whether the above was splenetically sent to Calcott..is not certain. 1873 MRS. WHITNEY *Other Girls* x, 'I guess you'll find it so,' said Eliza Mokey, splenetically.

Sple·netive, *a.* *rare.* [Cf. SPLENATIVE *a.*]

1. = SPLENETIC *a.* 3.

1679 *Fletcher's Elder Brother* IV. i. (Fol.²), Some splenetive [Q.¹ spleenative] Youths now, that had never seen more than thy Country smoak, will grow in choler.

2. = SPLENETIC *a.* 4.

1829 *Examiner* 421/1 The *Quarterly*..pours forth splenetive sophisms. 1839 JAMES *Gentlem. Old School* i, With a sharp splenetive oath the horseman tore the gate open.

†**Sple·netize**, *v.* *Obs.*⁻¹ [f. SPLENET-IC *a.* + -IZE.] *trans.* To render splenetic or ill-humoured.

1700 S. PARKER *Philos. Ess.* 39 These violent and frequent Alterations in the Weather serve for a perpetual Monitor by discomposing their Constitutions, .. and splenetizing the poor Gentlemen all-over.

Splenial (splī·niăl), *a.*¹ and *sb.* *Zool.* and *Anat.* [f. L. *splēni-um* (Pliny), ad. Gr. σπληνίον bandage or compress.]

A. *adj.* 1. *Splenial bone* or *piece*, a splint-like bone or process applied to the inner side of the lower mandible in certain classes of vertebrates below Mammalia.

1848 OWEN *Homologies* 15 As it is always applied like a surgeon's splint or plaster to the inner side of most of the other pieces,..'splenial'..suggested itself to me as the most appropriate name. 1849–52 — in *Todd's Cycl. Anat.* IV. II. 882/2 The alveolar border of the splenial element of the mandible. 1875 HUXLEY in *Encycl. Brit.* I. 755/1 It obviously represents the angular, coronary, and splenial elements, and may be termed the *angulo-splenial*.

2. *Splenial border*, the posterior border of the corpus callosum; hence *splenial sulcus*, etc.

1891 *Cent. Dict.* s.v., The splenial border of the corpus callosum. 1904 DUCKWORTH *Study Anthrop. Lab.* 67 On the mesial aspect of the hemisphere [of the brain] the pars genualis of the splenial sulcus is not visible.

B. *sb.* The splenial bone or process.

1854 OWEN in *Orr's Circ. Sci., Org. Nat.* I. 195 The coronoid is a short compressed plate; the splenial is a longer, slender plate, applied to the inner side of the articular and dentary, and closing the groove on the inner side of the latter. 1888 ROLLESTON & JACKSON *Anim. Life* 402 In *Urodela* teeth occur..in the lower jaw on the dentary and splenial.

†**Splenial**, *a.*² *Obs.*⁻¹ [f. *splen* SPLEEN *sb.*] Splenetic, ill-natured, spiteful.

1641 *Apprehend. Capt. Butler* 1 The Papists have often made bould adventures to shew their malicious and splenial intents, towards the Protestants.

†**Sple·niatic**, *a.* *Obs.*⁻⁰ [f. L. *splēn* SPLEEN *sb.*]

1704 J. HARRIS *Lex. Techn.* I, *Spleniatick Artery*, is said by some to be the greatest branch of the *Cæliaca*, whence it goes to the Spleen, and therein ends.

Splenic (sple·nik), *a.* *Anat.* and *Path.* Also 7 splenike, 7–8 -ick. [ad. L. *splēnic-us*, ad. Gr. σπληνικός, f. σπλήν SPLEEN *sb.* Cf. F. *splénique* (Paré), It. *splenico*, Sp. *esplenico*.]

1. *Anat.* Of, pertaining to, connected with, or situated in the spleen.

Freq. in *splenic artery, plexus, vein, vessel.*

1619 PURCHAS *Microcosmus* v. 40 The Liuer by the splenike branch, transfetreth them to the Serjeant of the scullery the Splene. 1666 G. HARVEY *Morb. Angl.* XXVI. (1672) 64 Wee'l suppose the Spleen..principally obstructed in its lower parts and Splenick branch. 1667 *Phil. Trans.* II. 578 The Gastrick and Splenick Arteries. 1702 *Ibid.* XXIII. 1186 The Splenick Vein has divers Cells opening into it near its Extremities in Human Bodies. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Plexus*, The Splenic Plexus sends out Branches to the left Part of the Ventricle and Panchreas. 1758 J. S. tr. *Le Dran's Observ. Surg.* (1771) 284 The Passage of the Sword was near the splenick Vessels. 1851 CARPENTER *Man. Phys.* (ed. 2) 301 The areolæ formed by the trabecular tissue, commonly known as the splenic follicles. 1872 HUXLEY *Physiol.* v. 126 An artery called the splenic artery which proceeds almost directly from the aorta.

b. *Splenic flexure*, the bend of the colon near the spleen.

1808 J. BARCLAY *Musc. Motions* 545 At the liver it exhibits the hepatic flexure; at the spleen the splenic flexure. 1879 *St. George's Hosp. Rep.* 270 A stricture was found situated in the descending colon, about two inches from the splenic flexure.

2. = SPLENETIC *a.* 5. *rare* —⁰.

1730 in BAILEY (fol.).

3. *Path.* Of diseases, etc.: Of or affecting the spleen; esp. *splenic fever*, malignant anthrax.

1867 J. HOGG *Microsc.* II. i. 296 Splenic diseases in sheep. 1868 *Rep. U. S. Commissioner Agric.* (1869) 5 On the breaking out of the splenic fever at the halting places of Texas cattle. 1876 BRISTOWE *Th. & Pract. Med.* 578 The hepatic lesion which so commonly goes along with splenic enlargement. *Ibid.*, The presence of splenic hypertrophy. 1884 *Chr. Commw.* 11 Dec. 120/1 The cause of splenic fever, the terrible 'Woolsorters' Disease'.

Hence †**Sple·nical** *a.* *Obs.*⁻¹ **Sple·nicness**, splenetic condition or state (Bailey, vol. II, 1727).

1693 tr. *Blancard's Phys. Dict.* (ed. 2), *Splenica*, Splenical Medicines, are such as by attenuating and volatilizing the grosser parts, remove the Distempers and Obstructions of the Spleen. [Hence in Phillips (1696).]

Sple·nico-, comb. form of L. *splēnicus* SPLENIC *a.*, used occas. as in *splenico-phrenic* (see quot.).

1835–6 *Todd's Cycl. Anat.* I. 14/1 The peritoneum..in passing from the spleen to that muscle [the diaphragm] forms the fold called *splenico-phrenic*.

Splenification (splenifikē·ʃən). *Path.* [a. F. *splénification*, or ad. mod.L. *splēnificātio*, f. *splēn* SPLEEN *sb.*] = SPLENIZATION.

1859 in MAYNE *Expos. Lex.* 1192. 1876 F. T. ROBERTS *Handbk. Med.* (ed. 2) 352 This condition of the lung being termed splenification.

Sple·nify, *v.* *Path.* [Cf. prec. and -FY.] In *passive*: To undergo splenization.

1873 F. T. ROBERTS *Handbk. Med.* 448 In extreme cases, the vesicular structure is scarcely apparent, and the tissue breaks down very readily, when the lung is said to be 'splenified'.

Splenish, obs. form of SPLEENISH *a.*

†**Splenitic**, *a.* *Obs.* In 6 -ike, -ique, 7 -ick(e, -ic. [var. of SPLENETIC *a.* So obs. F. *splenitique*.] Splenetic, splenic, in various senses.

1578 LYTE *Dodoens* 6 The same..helpeth such as are splenitike. *Ibid.* 555 The young leaues..are very good also to be eaten of suche as be splenitique. 1661 J. CHILDREY *Brit. Bacon* 60 The Waters are so good for Splenitick Diseases. 1671 SALMON *Syn. Med.* III. xxii. 434 It attenuates, opens, cleanses, is Diuretick and Splenitick. 1684 tr. *Bonet's Merc. Compit.* VIII. 297 Bleeding must frequently be repeated in the splenitick Vein.

‖ **Splenitis** (splĭnəi·tis). *Path.* [a. Gr. σπληνῖτις, f. σπλήν SPLEEN *sb.* : see -ITIS.] Inflammation of the spleen, or a particular form of this.

1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s.v., Splenitis is also used by some authors to express a tumor or inflammation of the spleen. 1776–84 CULLEN *First Lines Physic.* Wks. 1827 II. 81, I might here consider the Splenitis, or inflammation of the Spleen. 1835 *Cycl. Pract. Med.* IV. 55/2 The symptoms of acute splenitis..are..a feeling of weight, fulness, and pain in the left side. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* IV. 534 The softened and often diffluent condition of the spleen seen in cases of bacterial infection may be described as a splenitis.

†**Sple·nitive**, *a.* *Obs.* *rare.* [Cf. SPLENATIVE *a.*, -ETIVE *a.*] Splenetic.

1633 P. FLETCHER *Purple Isl.* III. xix. *note*, Hence Stratonicus merrily said, that in Crete dead men walked, because they were so splenitive, and pale-coloured. 1815 *Monthly Mag.* XXXVIII. 111 He was however too splenitive, austere, impatient,..to reach the abacus of excellence in the science of lexicography.

‖ **Splenius** (splī·niəs). *Anat.* [mod.L., f. Gr. σπλήνιον: cf. SPLENIAL *a.*¹] A broad muscle, or either of the two portions (the *splenius capitis* and *colli*) composing it, which occupies the upper part of the back of the neck and is attached to the occipital bone.

1732 A. MONRO *Anat.* (ed. 2) 111 Some tendinous Fibres of the Complexi and Splenii. *Ibid.*, In the Depression on each side..the Splenius is inserted. 1831 R. KNOX *Cloquet's Anat.* 249 The splenius extends the head, inclining it laterally, and impresses upon it a rotatory motion which turns the face to one side. 1873 MIVART *Elem. Anat.* 290 The splenius is placed obliquely in the neck.

attrib. 1835–6 *Todd's Cycl. Anat.* I. 748/1 The sterno-mastoid and splenius muscles.

Splenization (splenizē·ʃən). *Path.* [a. F. *splénisation* or ad. mod.L. *splēnisātio*, f. *splēn* SPLEEN *sb.*] The conversion of substance into tissue resembling that of the spleen; *esp.* the diseased condition of the lungs when this has taken place; splenification.

1849 in CRAIG. 1862 H. W. FULLER *Dis. Chest* 220 The first [condition of the lungs] is that of engorgement or splenization. 1901 OSLER *Princ. & Pract. Med.* 11 Hypostatic congestion and the condition of the lung spoken of as splenization, are very common.

Spleno- (splī·no), a. Gr. σπληνο-, combining form of σπλήν SPLEEN *sb.*, employed in a number of pathological and anatomical terms, as **sple·nocele**, (see quot.); **spleno·graphy**, **spleno·logy**, **spleno·rrhagy**, **spleno·tomy** (Craig, 1849; cf. F. *splénocèle*, *-graphie*, etc.); **spleno-lymphatic**, **-medullary**, **-myelogenic**, etc.; **spleno-typhoid**, typhoid fever complicated with disorder of the spleen.

The number of such compounds has been greatly increased by recent medical writers.

1799 HOOPER *Med. Dict.*, *Splenocele*, a rupture of the spleen. 1849 CRAIG (see above). 1879 REYNOLDS *Syst. Med.* V. 221 In the 'spleno-lymphatic' form [of leucocythæmia] an initial splenic enlargement is associated with glandular swellings, and in the 'spleno-myelogenic' form, with changes in the marrow. 1883 *Science* I. 66/2 This diminution is most marked from a hundred and fifty to two hundred days after the splenotomy. 1896 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* I. 833 Spleno-typhoid occupies a somewhat different position. 1897 *Ibid.* IV. 591 Splenic or spleno-medullary leuchæmia.

Sple·noid, *a.* *rare*—⁰. [f. L. *splēn* SPLEEN *sb.*] 'Spleen-like; having the appearance of the spleen.'

1882 in *Imperial Dict.*

†**Sple·nous**, *a.* *Obs.*⁻¹ [f. *splene* SPLEEN *sb.*] Splenetic, spleenful. Hence †**Sple·nously** *adv.*

1606 WARNER *Alb. Eng.* XV. xcix. 390 There is an Academie, which I reuerence so much, As gessed against it splenous thoughts me splenously would touch.

Splent(e, obs. or dial. var. SPLINT *sb.* and *v.* **Splenter**, obs. f. SPLINTER *sb.* **Splenty**, obs. f. SPLINTY *a.* **Splenwort**, obs. f. SPLEENWORT.

†**Splet**, *sb.* *Obs.*⁻¹ (Meaning obscure.)

1552–3 in Swayne *Sarum Churchw. Acc.* (1896) 97 A bottell of glasse w^t splettes.

Splet, *v.* Now *dial.* Also 6 splette. [ad. Flem. or LG. *spletten*, obscurely related to SPLIT *v.* and SPLEET *v.*²]

1. *trans.* To split.

1530 PALSGR. 729, I splette a fysshe a sonder,..*je ouuers.* Some splet their pyckes whan they broyle them, but I wolde broyle them hole. 1545 ASCHAM *Toxoph.* II. (Arb.) 109 To haue a goose quyll spletted and sewed againste the nockynge. 1746 *Exmoor Scolding* (E.D.S.) 174 Oh the Dowl splet tha! who told theckee Strammer? 1871–76 in *Eng. Dial. Dict.*

†2. To spread, smear. *Obs.*

1530 PALSGR. 729, I splette a saulve abrode upon a clothe, *je placque.* Splette this dyaculome upon a lynen clothe.

†**Splet-bone**. *Obs.* App. = spauld-bone.

*c*1400 *Lanfranc's Cirurg.* 357 Woundis of þe splet boonys of þe arme & of þe hondis, & anothami.

†**Splete**. *Obs.*—⁰ (Meaning obscure.)

1483 *Cath. Angl.* 356/1 Splete, *rignum.*

†**Spleter**. *Obs.* [? f. SPLET *v.*, or var. of SPLITTER *sb.*¹] A splinter.

*a*1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VIII*, 123 When they saw the spleters of the dukes spere strike on the kynges hed piece. *Ibid.*, All the kynges head pece was full of spleters.

Spleuchan (splū·χăn). *Sc.* (and *Ir.*). Also 8–9 spluchan, 9 spleughan. [a. Gael. *spliùchan*, Ir. *spliuchán.*] A tobacco pouch, freq. used as a purse.

1785 BURNS *Death & Dr. Hornbook* xiv, Deil mak his king's-hood in a spleuchan! 1815 SCOTT *Guy M.* I, There's some siller in the spleuchan that's like the Captain's ain. 1865 ALEX. SMITH *Summer in Skye* II. 135 'Do you smoke?' 'Oh, yes, but I have forgot my spleuchan.'

Spley, obs. or dial. f. SPLAY *v.*¹

†**Spleyer**. *Obs.* (Meaning obscure.)

1486 *Bk. St. Albans, Her.* B iv, Fesy bagy is whan tokenys of armys be disseiuered from the cheef of the cotearmure to the right spleyer in the feelde. *Ibid.*, From the laste poynt of the cootarmure to the spleyer.

Splice (splɔis), *sb.* [f. the vb. Cf. Sw. *spliss*, *splits.*]

1. A joining or union of two portions of rope, cable, cord, etc., effected by untwisting and interweaving the strands at the point of junction. Chiefly *Naut.*

The various kinds of splices are freq. denoted by some distinguishing term, as *cut*, *drawing*, *eye* or *ring*, *long*, *round*, *short* (etc.) *splice*.

1627 CAPT. SMITH *Seaman's Gram.* v. 26 Splicing is so to let one ropes end into another they shall be as firme as if they were but one rope, and this is called a round Splice; but the cut Splice is to let one into another with as much distance as you will. *c*1635 CAPT. BOTELER *Dial. Sea Services* (1685) 192 When an Eye is to be made at the end of a Rope, the ends of the Strands..are with a Fidd drawn into the ends of the other Ropes Strands and this is called a Splice. 1711 *Milit. & Sea Dict.*, Make a Splice, and seaze the Ends down with some Sinnet. 1769 FALCONER *Dict. Marine*

s.v., The long splice..is much neater and smoother than the short-splice. 1846 A. Young *Naut. Dict.* 291 Explanations of various kinds of splices..are given in Dana's Seaman's Manual. 1866 *Even. Standard* 13 July 3 The Atlantic Cable. ..The Great Eastern..will leave Berehaven this afternoon, arriving at the buoys..to-morrow morning, when the splice will be made. 1867 F. Francis *Angling* ix. (1880) 316 Where you have to tie and untie your own splices.

transf. 1833 M. Scott *Tom Cringle* xv, The Vice-Admiral has got a hint from Sir —, to kick that wild splice, young Cringle, about a bit.

b. *techn.* A joining of two pieces of wood, etc., formed by overlapping and securing the ends; a scarf-joint.

1875 in Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2280/1.

2. *slang.* Union by marriage; a marriage; a wedding.

1830 Galt *Lawrie T.* II. i. (1849) 43 She ben't five-and-twenty—she'll make a heavenly splice! 1862 *Cornh. Mag.* Jan. 54 Till the splice is made she's a right to please herself. 1876 Holland *Seven Oaks* xxi. 303 I'm a little interested in her myself and I'm going to pay for the splice.

3. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *splice manner*, *-work*, etc.; **splice-bar**, = *splice-piece*; **splice-grafting**, a method of grafting in which the scion and stock are cut obliquely and bound firmly together; whip- or tongue-grafting; hence *splice-graft* vb.; **splice-joint**, **-piece** (see quots.).

1815 *Trans. Horticultural Soc.* I. 239 The amputated parts [of the pear-stocks] were then accurately fitted and bound, as in splice, or whip-grafting, to scions of Pear Trees. 1830 W. Taylor *Hist. Surv. Germ. Poetry* II. 397 [Dryden's style is] never approached by a German splice-work of anapaests and iambics. 1842 Loudon *Suburban Hort.* 288 Splice-grafting, tongue-grafting, or whip-grafting, is the mode most commonly adopted in all gardens where the stocks are not much larger in diameter than the scion. *Ibid.* 289 In splice-grafting the shoots of peaches, nectarines, and apricots. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2280/1 *Splice-piece*, ..a fish-plate or break-joint piece at the junction of two rails. 1884 *Ibid.* Suppl. 842/2 *Splice joint*, the connecting joints between rails on railways. 1894 *Times* 16 Aug. 6/4 Railway fish plates or splice bars.

Splice (splɑis), *v.* Also 6–7 **splise**. [ad. MDu. *splissen*, of doubtful origin, but perh. related to Split *v.*; in the Continental languages now represented by Du. dial., LG. and G. *splissen*, WFris. *splisse*, NFris. *splesse*, *splasse*, Sw. *splissa*; also G. *spleissen*, *splitsen*, Du. *splitsen*, Sw. *splitsa*, Da. *splidse*. The Du. word is also the source of F. *épisser* († *épicer*), whence *épissoir* splicing-iron, and *épissure* a splice.]

I. 1. *trans.* To join (ropes, cables, lines, etc.) by untwisting and interweaving the strands of the ends so as to form one continuous length; to unite (two parts of the same rope) by interweaving the strands of one end into those of another part so as to form an eye or loop; to repair (rigging) in this way. Chiefly *Naut.*

Also const. with preps. and advs., as *into*, *round*, *together*.

1524–5 [see Splicing *vbl. sb.* 1]. *a* 1625 *Nomenclator Navalis* (Harl. MS. 2301), To splice is to make fast the ends of Roapes one into the other by joining the strands at the ends of both the Roapes. 1633 T. James *Voy.* 23 We went to worke..to splise our Cables. 1675 Cocker *Morals* 15 All the Lines, made since Sol's Race began, Spliced into one, would prove too short to sound this bottomless..Sea. 1709 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4547/2 He spliced his Rigging, and repaired the Damages as fast as he could. 1795 Nelson in Nicolas *Disp.* (1845) II. 14 Employed shifting our topsails and splicing our rigging. 1825 J. Nicholson *Operat. Mechanic* 422 The two ends of these yarns he splices together. 1864 *Soc. Sci. Rev.* I. 266 As the sailor wants to be taught how to splice a rope or rove his tackle. 1891 C. Roberts *Adrift Amer.* 213, I very soon ingratiated myself with the other men by teaching them to splice rope.

absol. 1706 E. Ward *Wooden World Diss.* (1708) 80 Shew me the Gentleman, crys he, that can knot or splice, or make Pudding as it should be? 1891 C. Roberts *Adrift Amer.* 213, I was rather surprised to find that they could not splice.

b. To form (an eye or knot) in a rope by splicing.

1773 *Life N. Frowde* 24, I could not only go to any Part of the Vessel that I was bid, but splice a Knot and go aloft. 1845 J. Coulter *Adv. in Pacific* vii. 72 One end [of the line] is bent on to the harpoon; the other (with an eye spliced in it) is left hanging out of the sternpost tub.

c. *To splice the main-brace*: see Main-brace[1] b.

2. To join (two pieces of timber, etc.) by overlapping or scarfing the two ends together in such a way as to form one continuous length; to fasten *together* in this way; to graft by a similar process.

1626 Capt. Smith *Accid. Yng. Seamen* 3 The Carpenter is to..[be] euer ready for calking, breaming,..fishing or spliceing the Masts or Yards. *Ibid.* 13 A Iury-mast; which is made with yards, rouftrees, or what they can, splised or fished together. 1728 Chambers *Cycl.*, To *Splice* among Gardeners, is to graft the Top of one Tree into the Stock of another, by cutting them sloping, and fastening them together. 1763 Mills *Syst. Pract. Husb.* IV. 408 The branches of the old tree thus spliced in the rind yield an uncommon quantity of fruit. 1791 W. Gilpin *Forest Scenery* I. 128 A very noble fir..., which was not spliced in the common mode, but was converted in it's full dimensions, into the bowsprit of the Britannia. 1857 Hughes *Tom Brown* I. ix, East and Tom were..splicing a favourite old fives'-bat. 1860 Mayne Reid *Hunters' Feast* xvii, The breaking of our waggon-tongue..delayed our journey. There was plenty of good hickory-wood,..and Jake..soon spliced it again. 1875 [see Splint *sb.* 4 b].

b. *transf.* To unite in this manner by means of surgery or natural healing.

1755 J. Shebbeare *Lydia* (1769) I. 178 Surgeon Macpherson..having thus spliced the fox's tail to the little skill he had in surgery. 1867 Latham *Black & White* 87 The glass cases of broken bones,..as poor mother nature had tried to glue them together and splice them again, gave some idea of the horrors of war.

c. In various transferred and figurative uses: To unite, combine, join, mend.

1803 *Spirit Public Jrnls.* VII. 68 And when they would buy, a whole company splice Their pence..., to make up the price. 1809 Malkin *Gil Blas* v. i. P 63 My legacy consisted of a broken fortune to splice. 1810 Crabbe *Borough* x. 245 The long tale, renew'd when last they met, Is spliced anew, and is unfinish'd yet. 1828 Creevey in *C. Papers* (1904) II. 154 He splices so many subjects upon one another, it is difficult to make a selection. 1890 D. G. Mitchell *Eng. Lands* ii. 74 We know..that he takes to the work of mending plays, and splicing good parts together.

d. To bind, fasten, fix firmly or securely.

1847 Disraeli *Tancred* III. iii, If you were in the middle of the desert and the least grumbling, you would be spliced on a camel.

3. *slang.* To join in matrimony; to marry. Chiefly in *passive*.

1751 Smollett *Per. Pic.* vii, Trunnion! Trunnion! turn out and be spliced, or lie still and be damned. 1788 in Grose *Dict. Vulg. T.* (ed. 2). 1834 Marryat *P. Simple* (1863) 295 My two sisters are both to be spliced to young squireens in the neighbourhood. 1853 C. Brontë *Villette* xlii, Alfred and I intended to be married in this way almost from the first; we never meant to be spliced in the humdrum way of other people. 1873 Mrs. R. T. Ritchie *Wks.* (1891) I. 148 There goes a parson...Shall I run after him and get him to splice us off-hand?

4. *intr.* To fit *into* something with a splice.

1882 Nares *Seamanship* (ed. 6) 125 The end [of the spilling line] splicing into the head of the sail.

II. † **5.** *trans.* and *intr.* To split. *Obs. rare.*

1664 Evelyn *Sylva* 74 Making the stroke upward, and with a sharp Bill, so as the weight of an untractable bough do not splice and carry the bark with it. *Ibid.* 92 In arms of Timber which are very great, chop a nick under it close to the Boal, so meeting it with the down-right strokes, it will be cut without splicing.

Hence **Spliced** (splɑist) *ppl. a.*, formed, joined, or repaired by splicing.

1870 Morris *Earthly Par.* III. iv. 250 Though a *spliced staff e'en as strong may be As one ne'er broken. 1870 *Routledge's Ev. Boy's Ann.* Suppl. 7/2 A spliced Cricket Bat. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2280/1 *Spliced Eye*, the rope is bent around a thimble, and the end spliced into the standing part.

Splicer (splɑi·sə1). [f. Splice *v.* + -er.] One who splices ropes, etc.

1840 R. H. Dana *Bef. Mast* xxv, There was only one 'splicer' on board, a fine-looking old tar. 1881 *Instr. Census Clerks* (1885) 64 Woollen Cloth Manufacture:..Spinner...Splicer. 1889 Clark Russell *Marooned* (1890) 32 A real splicer in aspect.

Splicing (splɑi·sin), *vbl. sb.* [f. Splice *v.* Cf. Du. *splitsing*, G. *splissung*, *splitsung*, NFris. *splessing*, Da. *splidsning*, Sw. *splissning*.]

I. 1. The action or operation of making a splice or splices.

1524–5 *Rec. St. Mary at Hill* (1905) 327 Paid for Splisyng of v bell Ropis, v d. 1627 [see Splice *sb.* 1]. *a* 1642 Sir W. Monson *Naval Tracts* III. (1704) 339/2 The Splicing and Bending of Cables. 1758 J. Blake *Plan Mar. Syst.* 7 Exercising those who are received into the service, in knotting and splicing. 1772–84 *Cook's Voy.* (1790) V. 1929 Our spare hands were employed incessantly, in knotting and splicing. *fig.* 1829 Bentham *Justice & Cod. Petit.* Wks. 1843 V. 485 Now as to Court Christian...Nothing requisite to be done otherwise than in the quiet way, by splicing; by splicing performed imperceptibly.

b. *attrib.*, chiefly in the names of tools used in splicing ropes, etc., as *splicing-clamp*, *-fid*, *-hammer*, *-piece*, *-shackle*; also *splicing process*.

1750 Blanckley *Nav. Expos.* 55 Spliceing fidds are used to splice or fasten Ropes together, and are made tapering at one End. 1858 H. Bushnell *Serm. New Life* 129 He was not obliged to accommodate his ignorance..by any such splicing process in words. *c* 1860 H. Stuart *Seaman's Catech.* 55 The ends are joined together by a splicing-piece or shackle. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2280/1 Splicing-hammer, -shackle. 1884 *Ibid.* Suppl. 842/2 Splicing Clamp.

2. = *Splice-grafting* (see Splice *sb.* 3).

1653 Bellingham *Plat's Gard. Eden* 118 Grafting whip-stock wise, and letting the cions into the stock by a slit. ..Some call this the Splicing way. 1672 Drope *Fruit Trees* iii. 40 Whip-grafting (otherwise called Backing, Packing, or Splicing).

3. The spliced part of a rope, etc.; a splice.

1892 *Law Times* XCIV. 79/2 The covering of the splicing of the rope had become frayed. 1895 R. B. C. Graham *Notes Menteith* v. 72 A rod with as many splicings as Petrucchio's bridle.

II. † **4.** A piece split off; a slender slip of wood. *Obs.*[-1]

1725 *Family Dict.* s.v. *Osier*, The Peelings or Splicings of the former [osier] are used by Gardeners and Coopers.

Spli·nder, *sb.* Chiefly *Sc.* Forms: 5 **splyndre**, 9 **splinder**; 5 **splendre**, 5–6, 9 **splender** (6 **-ar**, 9 **-ir**). [Related to Splinter *sb.* Cf. Spline *sb.* and NFris. *splíiner-nii* quite new.] A splinter. Chiefly in phr. *in* or *into splinders*.

c 1440 *Wycliffite Bible* 2 Kings xviii. 21 (MS. Bodl. 277), Þe splyndre or speele þerof schal entre into hys hoond. *c* 1470 Henry *Wallace* IX. 921 Speris full sone all in to splendrys sprang. 1535 Stewart *Cron. Scot.* I. 381 The speiris lang.. In splendaris sprang aboue thame in the air. 1562 Winȝet *Wks.* (S.T.S.) I. 3 To brek in splenderis the schip on the feirfull rokis. 1819 W. Tennant *Papistry Storm'd* (1827) 93 In splendirs flew the stane about. *Ibid.* 201 Ilk ane upon its marble crown Smashin' itsel' to splinders. 1880 W. T. Dennison *Orcadian Sketch-bk.* 133 He dang hid's bothom [=its bottom] clean i' splender.

So **Spli·nder** *v. intr.*, to splinter. *rare.*

c 1450 *Merlin* x. 155 [They] mette so sore to-geder..that her speres splyndered in peces. 1731 Meston *Mob contra Mob* v. (1738) 27 Thrawn Trees do always splinder Best with a Wedge of their own Timber.

Spline (splɑin), *sb.* [Orig. E. Anglian dial.: perh. for *splind* (cf. older Da. *splind*, NFris. *splinj*) and related to Splinder *sb.*] A long, narrow, and relatively thin piece or strip of wood, metal, etc.; a slat.

1756 S. White *Collat. Bee-Boxes* (1759) 26, *c. c.* are two Splines of Deal to keep the Boards even and strengthen them. 1806 W. Taylor in *Ann. Rev.* IV. 772 The heavel, which is a row of loops fastened to a spline. 1866 *Spectator* 13 Jan. 30/1 She slept on the splines of the bed, having no bedding. 1886 *Shoolbred's Catal. Furniture*, etc. 177 The ends [of a garden chair] are wrought iron, the splines wood. 1905 Rider Haggard *Gardener's Year* 218 He sent me a score [of orchids], tied on to a spline with string.

fig. 1805 W. Taylor in Robberds *Mem.* (1843) II. 106 My chief complacency in the poem results from the art.., with which the new splines are fitted in.

attrib. 1883 *Daily News* 5 July 3/1 Spars were fixed across, and the spline frames of the seats laid down lengthways as flooring.

b. *spec.* (See quot.)

1891 *Cent. Dict.*, *Spline*, a flexible strip of wood or hard rubber used by draftsmen in laying out broad sweeping curves, especially in railroad work.

c. *dial.* (See quot.)

1892 P. H. Emerson *Son of Fens* 204 A spline is a ten and a half foot measure.

2. *techn.* A rectangular key fitting into grooves in a shaft and wheel or other attachment so as to allow longitudinal movement of the latter.

1864 in Webster. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 339/1 The cutter-block..traverses as a slide on a spline down a huge boring-bar.

Hence **Spline** *v. trans.*, to fit with a spline (*Cent. Dict.* 1891); **Spli·ning** *vbl. sb.*, used attrib. in *splining machine*, one for cutting key-seats and grooves (Webster, 1864).

Splint (splint), *sb.* Forms: *α.* 4–6 **splente**, 4–9 **splent** (5 **splentt**, 6 **splennt**, **spleynt**). *β.* 5–6 **splynt(e**, **splinte**, 6– **splint**. [a. MDu. *splinte* (Du. *splint*), or MLG. *splinte*, *splente* (LG. *splinte*, *splente*, and *splint*, whence G., Da., Sw., Norw. *splint*) metal plate or pin, = OHG. *splinza* 'repagulum, pessulus', of doubtful etymology: cf. Spline *sb.* and Splinter *sb.*]

1. One of the plates or strips of overlapping metal of which certain portions of mediæval armour were sometimes composed; *esp.* one of a pair of pieces of this nature used for protecting the arms at the elbows.

α. 13.. *Coer de L.* 4979 He was armyd in splentes off steel. 1374 *Acc. John de Sleford* in *For. Acc.* 49 *Edw. III* B, In..xj paribus splentes, ij paribus tibialium. ? *a* 1400 *Morte Arth.* 2061 The splent and the spleene on the spere lengez! 1474 *Rental-bk. Cupar-Angus* (1879) I. 194 Tha sal be..welbeseyn with Jakkis, hattis, and splentis. 1530 Palsgr. 274 Splent, harnesse for the arme, *garde de bras*. 1561 *Wills & Inv. N. C.* (Surtees, 1835) 193 A stuffed Jacke, a payre of splents. *a* 1578 Lindesay (Pitscottie) *Chron. Scot.* (S.T.S.) I. 281 The number of iiij^e speiris weill arrayit in jake and splent and wther airmor. *a* 1802 *Kinmont Willie* xvii. in Scott *Minstrelsy*, He has calld him forty marchmen bauld,..With spur on heel, and splent on spauld. 1819 Scott *Leg. Montrose* viii, Such force, as to drive the iron splents of the gauntlet into the hand of the wearer.

fig. *c* 1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 6320 When he forthe went, Aboute his nek agayne sho [a snake] cleuyd. Shame mare þan him greuyd Of þat sary splent.

β. 1499 *Crt. Rolls Maldon*, *Essex* Bundle 58 No. 5, Unum par brygonders, 1 par splynts. 1517 in *Archaeol.* XLVII. 310, dcxl splyntes, and dcccviij salettes. 1555 Eden *Decades* (Arb.) 237 They carye..certeyne armure of golde: especially great and rounde pieces on theyr brestes, and splintes on there armes. 1819 Scott *Ivanhoe* ii, The knees and feet were defended by splints, or thin plates of steel, ingeniously jointed upon each other. 1824 Meyrick *Armour* III. 27 Having not only splints at the elbows, but the breast and back-plates made flexible in the same manner.

b. *Zool.* (See quot.)

1896 tr. *Boas' Zool.* 408 True scales; if these are much broader than they are long, as on the ventral side of the body in Snakes, they are termed splints.

2. A slender, moderately long and freq. flexible, rod or slip of wood cut or cleft off and serving for some particular purpose, esp. as a lath or wattle, or prepared for use in some manufacture.

The exact meaning in the first two quotations is uncertain.

α. *c* 1325 *Gloss. W. de Bibbesw.* in *Relig. Antiq.* II. 84 Splentes, *trenchons*. *c* 1340 *Nominale* (Skeat) 449 *Traches et trenchons*, Sulle-trees and splentes. 1348 in *1st Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* (1874) 65/1 For splentes for the vineyard, 7*d*. For hordlis, 4*s*. 6*d*. 1410 *Crt.-roll Gt. Waltham Manor* (MS.), Defrondaverunt salices..ad valenciam ii carectat. Splents, pretium viii^d. *c* 1450 *Two Cookery-bks.* 73 Ley splentes vnderneth and al aboute the sides, that the Capon touche no thinge of the potte. 1523 Fitzherb. *Husb.* § 122 Whan the swarme is knytte, take a hyue, and splente it within with thre or foure splentes. 1530 Palsgr. 274 Splent for an house, *laite*. 1594 Barnfield *Affect. Sheph.* (Arb.) 13 Or wilt thou in a

yellow Boxen bole, Taste with a woodden splent the sweet lythe honey? 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* I. 459 When the wood is cut into many clefts & splents, fresh and green, they are heaped vp on high [etc.]. 1847 HALLIW., *Splent*, a lath. ..The term is still in use in Suffolk. Splents are parts of sticks or poles, either whole or split, placed upright in forming walls, and supported by rizzers [=poles] for receiving the clay daubing.

β. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XIX. CXXVIII. (1495) 933 Calathus is a baskette made of splyntes to beere fygges therin. 1463 *Crt.-roll Gt. Waltham Manor* (MS.), Pro splintes inde habend. pro camera ad finem orientalem ejusdem domus. 1483 *Ibid.*, Reparabunt..dictam domum et cameram in daubitura, videlicet cum Splynts et Cley mixt. cum stramine. 1577 HARRISON *England* II. xii. 84 b/2 An ouerthwart post in their walles, wherevnto they fasten their Splintes or radles. 1598 FLORIO, *Assicella*, a little board or a planke or splint of thin boords. 1633 QUARLES in P. Fletcher *Purple Isl.* Commend. Verses, Mans Bodie's like a house: his greater bones Are the main timber; and the lesser ones Are smaller splints. 1707 MORTIMER *Husb.* 215 The Hive being taken and housed,..loosen the ends of the splints with your Finger. 1751 J. BARTRAM *Observ.* 48 The 2 splints of wood spreading each side, directs the point into the fish. 1809 A. HENRY *Trav.* 14 The bark is lined with small splints of cedar-wood. 1864 STRAUSS, etc. *Eng. Worksh.* 231 The paraffin dipped splints are taken to the wood-match-framing department. 1885 *Harper's Mag.* Mar. 559/1 We take a broom splint sometimes, or a penknife, or a pin.

b. *Mil.* (See quot.)

1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.*, *Splint*, a tapering strip of wood, used to adjust a shell centrally in the bore of a mortar.

3. A splinter of wood or stone; a chip or fragment. Now chiefly *north. dial.*

α. *c* 1400 *Laud Troy Bk.* 7397 Here speres brast In splentes. 1495 [see β]. 1574 HYLL *Bees* XXXVII, Of it selfe this draweth forth thornes or splents of wood runne deepe into the fleshe. 1612 *North's Plutarch* 1126 So soone as ever they pulled out the head and splent of the dart. 1849– in dial. glossaries (Durh., Cheshire, Northumbld.).

β. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XI. ii. (Tollem. MS.), Þe mater [of snow] is broke in brode parties, as it were splyntes [1495 splentes] of shellis. 1578 T. PROCTER *Gorg. Gallery* H iij b, My Hart like Ware so lightly did not brooke More then one stroke, ere Cupid brought to passe One splint of skale therof to take away. 1599 A. M. tr. *Gabelhouer's Bk. Physicke* 312/2 To extracte a Thorne or Splinte out of anye wounde without payne. *a* 1604 HANMER *Chron. Ireland* (1809) 301 The splints of broken staves fly about their ears. 1638 A. READ *Chirurg.* xxii. 163 These things are to bee done when splints of the scull doe pricke the menings. 1708 J. C. *Compl. Collier* (1845) 22 If he haue not Judgment, the Shivers or Splints of the Whin or hard Stone..will Wound him severely. 1865– in Yks. and Lancs. dial. glossaries. 1868 WHITMAN *Chants Democratic* Poems 147, I see the savage types, the bow and arrow, the poisoned splint [etc.].

4. *Surg.* A thin piece of wood or other more or less rigid material used to hold a fractured or dislocated bone in position during the process of reunion; by extension, any appliance or apparatus serving this purpose.

'Splints vary almost infinitely in form and size, according to the part to which they have to be adapted, and the position in which it is to be held' (*Penny Cycl.* XXII. 368/1). A number of these are specially described in recent Medical Dicts.

α. *c* 1400 *Lanfranc's Cirurg.* 63 If þat þe prickynge eiþer þe dislocacioun nedib splentis [*v.r.* splyntes], make þat þe splentis & byndynge faile aboue þe wounde. 1565 COOPER *Thesaurus*, *Canalis*, a splent for a broken limme. 1594 O. B. *Quest. Profit. Concern.* 32* b, I had rather be packing while my bones be whole, then to be promised golden splents when they are broken. 1634 *Lowe's Chirurg.* 359 Then it must be banded more slacke, using more bands and no splents. 1748 tr. *Vegetius' Distempers Horses* 181 Afterwards you shall put square Olive Splents upon it not less than four Fingers broad. 1836–8 B. D. WALSH *Aristoph., Acharnians* v. i, Prepare lint, plaister, greasy wool, and splents To bind his ancle up!

β. *c* 1410 *Master of Game* (MS. Digby 182) xii, Bynde it with flexe above..with iiii. splyntes wele ybounde þerto one agaynn an other because þat þe bones shuld not remewe. 1580 HOLLYBAND *Treas. Fr. Tong*, *Attelles*, little splintes which Surgeons set about ones legge or broken arme. 1643 J. STEER tr. *Exp. Chyrurg.* XV. 63 *A* is a splint of the breadth of three fingers. 1656 RIDGLEY *Pract. Physick* 162 Splints..are made of much paper and then Chips of Wood. *c* 1720 W. GIBSON *Farrier's Guide* I. vi. (1723) 93 To each Side of this Bone is fastned a Splint, in Shape like a Bodkin. 1826 S. COOPER *First Lines Surg.* (ed. 5) 278 Splints ought to be made of strong materials, and of a sufficient length to reach beyond the two joints nearest the fracture. 1849 H. MILLER *Footpr. Creat.* iv. (1874) 41 A splint of wood or whalebone fastened over a fractured toe or finger. 1876 C. GIBBON *Robin Gray* viii, His arm was still in splints.

b. *transf.* (See quot.)

1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2280/2 *Splint*, a wooden strip for splicing and stiffening a fractured bar or beam.

5. *Farriery.* A callous tumour developing into a bony excrescence formed on the metacarpal bones of a horse's or mule's leg, occurring usually on the inside of the leg along the line of union of the splint-bones with the cannon-bone.

Through-splint: see THROUGH- 2.

α. 1523 FITZHERB. *Husb.* § 97 A splent is the leaste sorraunce that is, that alwaye contynueth, excepte lampas. 1562 TURNER *Baths* (1568) 2, I thinke verely that the bath of brimstone..will heale splentes, spavines, and all knobbes. 1609 DEKKER *Lanth. & Candle Lt.* Wks. (Grosart) III. 280 A Horse cannot be lustie at legges, by reason that either his hoofes bee not good, or that there be Splents, or any other Eyesore about the nether Ioynt. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* II. 152/1 The Splent..is a spungy hard gristly bone ..which by making the Horse stark, causeth him to stumble. 1721 W. GIBSON *Farrier's Dispens.* III. xvi. 305 Bladders, Wind-galls, Splents, and other Swellings in the Legs and Joints. 1737 BRACKEN *Farriery Impr.* (1757) II. 67 If there be large Splents, they may truly be called Blemishes. 1830 HINDS *Osmer's Treat. Horse* 267 Splents cause lameness. 1859 *Blackw. Mag.* LXXXV. 455 The animal's legs were so enlarged by splents that they were literally cylindrical.

β. 1599 PORTER *Angry Wom. Abingt.* I. ii. Bij, A leg both straight and cleane, That hath nor spauen, splint nor flawe. 1677 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1183/4 An Iron gray Gelding, having on each Leg a Splint. 1690 DRYDEN *Don Sebastian* I. i, Feel his legs master; neither splint, spavin, nor windgall. 1724 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 6266/4 Two large Splints on his two fore Legs. 1741 *Compl. Fam.-Piece* III. 435 The Splint is a fixed callous Excrescence..growing on the Flat of the Inside or Outside, and sometimes on both, of the Shank Bone. 1831 YOUATT *Horse* 244 The splint is invariably found on the outside of the small bone, and generally on the inside of the leg. 1856 LEVER *Martins of Cro' M.* 312 There's a splint on the off-leg!

b. The growth of this, as a specific malady in horses.

1594 GREENE & LODGE *Looking-Gl. Lond.* 266 G.'s Wks. (Grosart) XIV. 18 If he haue outward diseases, as the spavin, splent, ring-bone, wind-gall. 1639 T. DE GRAY *Compl. Horsem.* 38 Mallenders, splent, serewe, ring-bone, and such like infirmities in the fore-feet. 1704 *Dict. Rust.* (1726), *Splint*, a Disease in an Horse. 1831 YOUATT *Horse* 365 *Splent.*—It depends entirely on the situation of the bony tumour.., whether it is to be considered as unsoundness. 1847 T. BROWN *Modern Farriery* 114 It is difficult to conceive how splent should appear on the outside of the small bones.

†6. = TENT *sb.*3 2. *Obs.*—1

1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* 187 When the vineger is consumed, then put in the Opponax, and of both together make like taynters or splints and thurst them into the wound.

†7. A separate turn or coil in a spiral. *Obs.*

1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* 717 The splents of the spire are smooth and not deep, being for the most part like vnto the wreathing turnings of Snails.

8. (See quot. 1883 and SPLINT COAL.)

1789 T. WILLIAMS *Min. Kingd.* I. 218 Sometimes masses of splent or parrot..will be found upon the side or at the bottom of a ravine. 1793 EARL DUNDONALD *Descr. Estate Culross* 4 The Coals are partly Smithy Coals, and partly Rich Caking Splents. *Ibid.*, There are several Seams of Dry Splents. 1849 GREENWELL *Coal-trade Terms, Northumb. & Durh.* (1851) 49 *Splint.*—Coarse grey-looking coal...Suitable for burning lime, and the better sorts for steam purposes. 1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-m.* 231 *Splint* or *Splent*, a laminated, coarse, inferior, dull-looking, hard coal, producing much white ash; intermediate between cannel and common pit coal. 1889 *Pall Mall G.* 1 Oct. 6/3 The prices fixed for splint are 2*s.* higher.

attrib. 1887 P. M'NEILL *Blawearie* 57 Where the men had first to descend one of these stairs..to the splint seam.

9. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, chiefly in sense 2, as *splint-cutter*, *-cutting*, *-machine*, *-plane*; *splint-like* adj.; **splint-boot**, a special boot for a horse suffering from a splint. See also SPLINT-BONE.

1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade*, *Splint-cutter*, a shaper and maker of splints. 1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib., Brit.* II. No. 4693, Web, Fetlock, Speedy, Splint,..and Strengthening Boots. 1862 HUXLEY *Lect. Working Men* 141 The splint-like bones in the leg of the horse. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2281 *Splint-machine*, a machine for riving or planing small slats or splints for use in making woven-slat blinds, baskets [etc.]. *Ibid.*, *Splint-plane*, one for riving splints from a block or board. 1889 A. R. WALLACE *Darwinism* 385 We find in the places of the second and fourth digits only two slender splintlike bones.

b. In the sense 'made or formed of splints', as (in sense 1) *splint-armour*, (in sense 2) *splint-basket*, *-chair*, *letter-case*.

(*a*) 1842 BURN *Nav. & Milit. Dict.*, *Écrevisse*, splint-armour. 1885 DILLON *Fairholt's Costume Eng.* II. 376 Splint armour for the legs..is common in German effigies.

(*b*) 1867 *Summer in L. Goldthwaite's Life* 175 The finest and whitest and most graceful of all possible little splint baskets. 1871 B. TAYLOR in Hansen-Taylor & Scudder *Life & Lett.* (1884) II. xxiii. 564 An old-fashioned, high-backed splint-chair. 1889 MARY E. WILKINS *Mor. Exigency* (1891) 28 There were a few poor attempts at adornment on the walls; a splint letter-case, a motto worked in worsteds [etc.].

Splint (splint), *v.* Forms: α. 5–7 **splent**, 6 **splente**. β. 7– **splint**. [f. the sb. Cf. Sw. *splinta* to split or splinter.]

†1. *trans.* To cover, furnish, or construct with splints or thin strips of wood, etc. *Obs.*

?*a* 1400 *Morte Arth.* 3264 A-bowe cho whirllide a whele with hir whitte hondez...The spekes..was splentide alle with speltis of siluer. 1523 FITZHERB. *Husb.* § 122 Whan the swarme is knytte, take a hyue, and splente it within with thre or foure splentes. 1613 MARKHAM *Eng. Husbandman* I. II. XV. 110 Then you shall make a studde wall, which shall be splinted. 1632–3 in Willis & Clark *Cambr.* (1886) II. 697 The Particions and studyes, to be splented and Clayed betweene the Studds. 1639 HORN & ROB. *Gate Lang. Unl.* xlviii. § 527 The partition wall he buildeth up even, being splented and dawbed with clay-mortar.

2. To adjust, bind, or fit a surgical splint to (a fractured bone, etc.); to put into splints; to hold firmly in position, to secure, by means of a splint or splints.

α. 1543 TRAHERON tr. *Vigo's Chirurg.* VI. i. 181 b, Yf the dislocation be with a fracture,..after restauracion ye shall bynde it & splent it. 1577 B. GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* III. (1586) 143 b, Their legges, if they happen to be broken,.. being wrapped first in woll..and afterward splented. 1610 MARKHAM *Masterp.* II. CXXXIX. 442 Then splent it [a broken bone] with three broad, smooth, & strong splents. 1639 T. DE GRAY *Expert Farrier* 243 Clap..over that a peece of leather cut and shaped for the purpose, and so splent it to keepe it fast on. 1648 HEXHAM II. s.v. *Spalcken.*

β. 1606 BP. W. BARLOW *Serm.* 21 *Sept.* B ij, To heale the infected, to splint the spreined, to reduce the wandring. 1612 WOODALL *Surg. Mate* Wks. (1653) 152 The member being onely artificially bound, and splinted orderly. 1725 *Fam. Dict.* s.v. *Surbating*, Stop up his Foot therewith,..covering it with a Piece of an old Shoe, and splint it. 1842 BURN *Nav. & Milit. Dict.* I. s.v. *Attelle*, To splint, to put on a splint. 1875 BEDFORD *Sailor's Pocket Bk.* viii. (ed. 2) 303 If a broken limb be not splinted the ends may be forced through the skin.

†b. To secure or keep *in* (a dressing, etc.) with a splint or splints. *Obs. rare.*

1610 MARKHAM *Masterp.* II. ci. 385 With a little tow stoppe all the foote, and especially the frush, and splent it in so as it may not fall out.

c. *fig.* and *transf.* To strengthen or support as if with splints.

a 1634 CHAPMAN *Bussy d'Ambois* V. iv. (1641) 70 An Emperour might die standing, why not I? Nay without help, in which I will exceed him; For he died splinted with his chamber Groomes. 1832 *Examiner* 721/2 He wants strength of character;—but authority will come in aid of his peculiar deficiency, and splint him up. 1877 *Encycl. Brit.* VI. 108/2 Inner and outer layers of epithelial tissue, splinted by connective tissue.., are always developed.

†d. To stop with a splint. *Obs.*—0

1648 HEXHAM II, *Spalcken den mondt*, to Gagge or Splent the mouth.

†3. To cut or split (wood, etc.) into splints or splinters; to cleave or slit apart or *in two*. *Obs.*

1591 PERCIVALL *Sp. Dict.*, *Desgajar*, to cleaue a sunder, to slit, to splent. 1598 FLORIO, *Schiantare*,..to riue, to splint, to shiuer. 1600 ABBOT *Exp. Jonah* iv. 68 He looketh whether any planke were rift or splint in two.

†b. (See quot.) *Obs.*—1

1737 BRACKEN *Farriery Impr.* (1757) II. 167 Where the Horse is young and fond of running, it would splint him, or knock him up (as we say) if the Rider were to make his Flourishes upon his Back like a Rope-dancer.

†4. *intr.* Of the heart: To burst or split. *Obs.*—1

1594 CAREW *Tasso* (1881) 55 Hard heart of mine why splintst? why breakst not thou?

Splintage (splintedʒ). *rare*—0. [f. SPLINT *sb.*] The application or use of surgical splints.

1891 in *Cent. Dict.*

Splint-bone. Also **splint bone**, 9 **splent bone**. [SPLINT *sb.* 5, 10.]

1. *Farriery.* **†a.** = SPLINT *sb.* 5. *Obs.* **b.** One or other of the two small metacarpal bones of the foreleg of a horse, lying behind and in close contact with the cannon-bone or shank.

1704 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4027/4 A Splint Bone in the inside of her near fore Leg. 1831 YOUATT *Horse* 64 The larger metacarpal or cannon or shank in front, the smaller metacarpal or splent bone behind. 1854 OWEN in *Orr's Circ. Sci., Org. Nat.* I. 244 The small bone called 'splint-bone', by veterinarians, articulated to the 'mesocuneiform', is the stunted metatarsal of the second toe..; the outer 'splint-bone', articulated to the 'cuboides', is the similarly stunted metatarsal of the fourth toe. 1881 *Fortn. Rev.* Dec. 751 But on each side of this enlarged toe there are, beneath the skin, rudimentary bones of two other toes, the so-called splint-bones.

2. *Anat.* = FIBULA 2.

1859 in MAYNE *Expos. Lex.*

Splint coal. [Cf. SPLINT *sb.* 8.] Coal with a more or less splintery fracture; orig. a less bituminous variety of Scotch cannel coal; now chiefly, a hard and highly bituminous coal burning with great heat.

α. 1789 T. WILLIAMS *Min. Kingd.* I. 109 In this line the splent coal, etc. has been worked. 1801 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) Suppl. II. 231/2 A specimen of the slaty kind [of cannel coal] from Airshire, called *splent coal*. 1815 AIKIN *Min.* (ed. 2) 61 Candle Coal. Cannel Coal. Splent Coal.

β. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 963, I found good splint coal of the Glasgow field to have a specific gravity of 1·266. 1861 SIR W. FAIRBAIRN *Iron* 75 It is well known that the anthracite and splint coal can be used most effectively and economically with the hot-blast.

attrib. 1887 P. M'NEILL *Blawearie* 92 We remember.. traversing one [mine] in the splint coal seam barely two and a half feet wide.

Splinted, (*ppl.*) *a.* Also 6-7 **splented**. [f. SPLINT *sb.* or *v.*]

†1. Formed or made of, built with, splints or thin strips of wood. *Obs.*

1538 in *East Anglian* (1910) 227 At the backe side of a splented wall where the cley was broken away. 1703 [R. NEVE] *City & C. Purchaser* 207 Sifted through a fine Splinted-sieve.

†2. Cut into splints; split. *Obs.*

1616 SURFL. & MARKH. *Country Farme* II. lxii. 318 There are also other hiues which are made of splinted wands of hassell or such like pliant wood. 1624 CAPT. SMITH *Virginia* II. 34 To scarrifie a swelling, or make incision, their best instruments are some splinted stone.

3. Of a horse: Affected with the splint; having a splint or splints. *rare.*

1697 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 3323/4 Stolen.., a brown bay Gelding.., splinted under both his Knees.

4. Bound or held in a surgical splint or splints.

1888 W. E. HENLEY *Bk. Verses* 28 Stumps are shaking, crutch-supported; Splinted fingers tap the rhythm.

†Splinten, *a. Obs.*—0 [f. SPLINT *sb.*] Made of splints (see quot.).

1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. xiv. (Roxb.) 17/1 The second [sort of basket] is made of more finer stuffe, the Rime and handles platted with shaved wood, the round bottome the like, woven very strongly togather... These are termed splenten Basketts.

Splinter (spli·ntəɪ), *sb.* Forms: 5 splynter, 6– splinter, 7 splenter. [a. MDu. *splinter* (Du. and WFris. *splinter*), *splenter* (WFlem. *splenter*), = LG. *splinter* (hence in G.), *splenter*, related to SPLINT *sb.* Cf. SPLINDER *sb.*]

1. A rough (usually a comparatively long, thin, and sharp-edged) piece of wood, bone, stone, etc., split or broken off, esp. as the result of violent impact; a chip, fragment, or shiver.

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XVII. vii. (Bodl. MS.), A reod..hurteþ þe hande sone wiþ splynters. *a* 1450 *Knt. de la Tour* (1868) 9 The staf brake,..and the pece and the splinter therof lepte, and smote oute the ladies eye. 1578 LYTE *Dodoens* 56 It draweth forth thornes and Splinters or shivers. 1624 CAPT. SMITH *Virginia* II. 25 His arrowes were fiue quarters long, headed with the splinters of a white christall-like stone. 1657 TRAPP *Comm. Ps.* xxix. 6 God.. maketh those huge trees, the splinters of them, to flie up into the air. 1711 in *10th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. V. 161 The bomb,..a splinter of which struck the lady. 1770 LANGHORNE *Plutarch* (Rtldg.) 478/1 An arrow shattered the bone in such a manner, that splinters were taken out. 1801 COL. STEWART in Nicolas *Disp. Nelson* (1845) IV. 308 A shot through the mainmast knocked a few splinters about us. 1841 H. MILLER *O. R. Sandst.* vi. 116 Almost..every splinter of sandstone, every limestone nodule, contained its organism. 1873 SPON *Workshop Rec.* Ser. I. 59 The best means of drilling holes in glass is by using a splinter of a diamond.

b. *fig.* and in fig. context.

1589 *Pappe w. Hatchet* To Father & Sons, Ile make such a splinter runne into your wits, as shal make them ranckle till you become fooles. 1642 FULLER *Holy & Prof. St.* III. xx. 207 He fears not to have the splinters of his party (when it breaks) flie into his eyes. 1690 TEMPLE *Ess., Poetry* Wks. 1720 I. 245 This Vein of Conceit seemed proper for such Scraps or Splinters into which Poetry was broken. 1730 YOUNG *Ep. fr. Oxf.* 184 Satire recoils whenever charg'd too high, Round your own fame the fatal splinters fly. 1856 W. E. AYTOUN *Bothwell* (1857) 95 The splinters and the accidents That flash from every deed of crime.

c. Used (chiefly with negatives) to denote a very small piece or amount, or something of little or no value.

1606 SHAKS. *Tr. & Cr.* I. iii. 283 Hee'l say..The Grecian Dames are sun-burnt, and not worth The splinter of a Lance. 1658 OSBORNE *Mem. Jas. I*, 56 It is..the..Custome and pure Nature of Humanity to venerate the least splinter of Antiquity. 1728 MORGAN *Algiers* II. v. 320 As for the Ship he talked of, they were resolutely bent not to part with the least Splinter of it. 1769 HOME *Fatal Discov.* II, She is not worth the splinter of a spear.

d. In phr. *in* or *into splinters.* Also *all to splinters*, completely, thoroughly.

1612 DRAYTON *Poly-olb.* xii. 486 With the fearful shock, Their spears in splinters flew. 1656 RIDGLEY *Pract. Physick* 172 When the bone broken into Splinters, is thrust inward. 1711 STEELE *Spect.* No. 32 ₱ 2 Looking-Glasses..sometimes shivered into ten thousand Splinters. 1757 W. WILKIE *Epigoniad* VIII. 258 Short from the steel, the staff in splinters broke. 1847 TENNYSON *Princ.* v. 483 Into fiery splinters leapt the lance. 1884 'H. COLLINGWOOD' (W. Lancaster) *Under Meteor Flag* 159 We beat Flinn all to splinters.

e. A sharp piece of rock projecting from the main body.

1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* I. xiv. 94 A cliff, which afforded us.. some protruding splinters to lay hold of by the hands.

2. A surgical splint. *Obs.* or *dial.*

1597 A. M. tr. *Guillemeau's Fr. Chirurg.* 46 The splinter must be made of stiffe paper, of latinn, or of any other substance. 1658 A. FOX *Wurtz' Surg.* II. xvi. 122 These splinters were like such, as I used to Bone-fractures. 1820 A. COOPER, etc. *Surg. Ess.* (ed. 2) 165 The under splinter was a firm excavated piece of deal.

3. A comparatively thin piece or slender strip of wood prepared or used for some particular purpose. Cf. SPLINT *sb.* 2.

1648 HEXHAM II, *Een Schindel*, a Shingle, or a Splenter. 1673–4 GREW *Anat. Pl., Anat. Trunks* (1682) 121 The Perpendicular Splinters or Twigs of a Basket. 1723 *Pres. State Russia* I. 307 The Roofs are made of thin Splinters of Fir. 1842 LOUDON *Suburban Hort.* 271 Piercing the stems or roots by a longitudinal cut through a joint, and keeping the wound open with a wedge or splinter.

b. Used as a torch, or dipped in tallow and used as a candle.

1751 *England's Gaz.* s.v. *Macclesfield*, Fir-trees..which are dug up for various uses, but chiefly for splinters, that serve the poor for candles. 1791 W. BARTRAM *Carolina* 470 Some take with them little fascines of fat Pine splinters for torches. 1828 CROKER *Leg. S. Irel.* II. 155 While his rosy daughter held a splinter to her mother. 1851 T. H. TURNER *Dom. Archit.* I. ii. 68 It was therefore lit up with splinters and flambeaux. 1862 T. W. HIGGINSON *Army Life* (1870) 24 Perusing a hymn-book by the light of a pine splinter.

†**4.** A fibre or filament of undressed hemp. Cf. SHIVER *sb.*[1] 2. *Obs.*[–1]

1673 BOYLE *Ess. Effluviums* II. 15 The thrids or splinters of Hemp the Rope was made up of.

†**5.** = SPLINT *sb.* 5. *Obs.*[–1]

1704 *Dict. Rust.* (1726) s.v. *Rules buying Horses*, If there be hard knots on the inside of the Leg, they are Splinters.

6. *ellipt.* = SPLINTER-BAR 2. *rare.*

1794 FELTON *Carriages* (1801) I. 62 The front bar to a single-horse carriage is what the draught is mostly taken from, by means of a splinter hung thereto. 1801 tr. *Gabrielli's Myst. Husb.* II. 68 The driver..appeared to have his doubts whether he should not object to my getting into the elegant vehicle, the splinter being certainly, in his opinion, more calculated for a person in my station.

7. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *splinter forceps, -hoop, wound*; **splinter net, -netting** *Naut.*, a net or netting of small rope spread on board a warship during action to protect the men from falling splinters; **splinter-new** *a. dial.* [cf. G. *splinternеu*, Du. *splinternieuw*, etc.], quite new. See also SPLINTER-BAR, -PROOF.

1681 GREW *Museum* IV. iii. 374 A plain Indian Fan,.. Made of the small stringy parts of Roots,..bound together with a Splinter-Hoop. 1799 *Hull Advertiser* 17 Aug. 4/2 The flames coming up the companion and setting fire to the splinter netting. 1824– Splinter-new (in Sc., Cumbld., Yks. dial. glossaries and texts). 1830 MARRYAT *King's Own* xvii, The hatchways being covered over with a strong splinter-netting. 1833 M. SCOTT *Tom Cringle* ix, The splinter wound in his head burst afresh. 1894 *Daily News* 21 Mar. 5/2 Bulkheads, boats, splinter nets. 1895 *Arnold & Sons' Catal. Surg. Instrum.* 82 Splinter Forceps.

Splinter (spli·ntəɪ), *v.* [f. the sb. Cf. Du. *splinteren*, WFris. *splinterje*, LG. and G. *splintern*; WFlem. *splenteren.*]

1. *trans.* To break or split into splinters or long narrow pieces, or in such a way as to leave a rough jagged end or projections.

1582 STANYHURST *Æneis* I. (Arb.) 21 The oars are cleene splintred. 1593 NASHE *Christ's T.* Wks. (Grosart) IV. 53 My leane withered hands..are all to shiuered and splinterd in their wide cases of skinne. 1769 FALCONER *Dict. Marine* (1780) s.v. *Engagement*, This mutual assault..: battering, penetrating, and splintering the sides and decks. 1806 *Monthly Mag.* XXI. 403 A strong bull..splintered with his horns the upper post. 1867 TROLLOPE *Chron. Barset* II. lxxvii. 325 The trees that the storms have splintered are never of use. 1898 WOLLOCOMBE *Fr. Morn till Eve* v. 48 The top of the pole..had been splintered, and was held together by a very thin shred.

b. *fig.* and in fig. context.

1603 SHAKS. *Ham.* III. i. 159 (Q.[1]), The Courtier, Scholler, Souldier, all in him, All dasht and splinterd thence. 1849 M. ARNOLD *Mycerinus* 99 While the deep-burnish'd foliage overhead Splinter'd the silver arrows of the moon. 1859 TENNYSON *Guinev.* 18 [He] sought To make disruption in the Table Round Of Arthur, and to splinter it into feuds.

c. To bring or cause to fall *down*, to break off or rend *from*, in splinters.

1807 J. BARLOW *Columb.* VII. 230 High from the decks the mortar's bursting fires Sweep the full streets, and splinter down the spires. 1871 L. STEPHEN *Playgr. Eur.* (1894) xiii. 320 Long lines of the débris that have been splintered by frost from the higher wall [of rock].

d. To form by shivering or splitting.

1878 BROWNING *La Saisiaz* 7 Five short days, sufficient hardly to entice, from out its den Splintered in the slab, this pink perfection of the cyclamen.

†**2.** To bind, fix, or secure by means of a splint or splints; = SPLINT *v.* 2. Freq. *fig.* Also with *up. Obs.*

1594 SHAKS. *Rich. III*, II. ii. 118 The broken rancour of your high-swolne hates, But lately splinter'd, knit, and ioyn'd together. 1623 FLETCHER & ROWLEY *Maid in Mill* I. iii, Those men have broken credits, Loose and dismembred faiths..That splinter 'em with vows. 1659 BP. WREN *Monarchy Asserted* 148 That Place, which I find..so strangely shattered, that it will be very hard for Me to Splinter up the broken confused Pieces of it. 1720 DE FOE *Capt. Singleton* iv. (1840) 73 As to his arm, he found one of the bones broken;..and this he set, and splintered it up, and bound his arm in a sling.

3. *intr.* To split; to break, burst, or fly *into* or *to* splinters or fragments; to come *away* in splinters.

1625 J. GLANVILLE *Voy. Cadiz* (Camden) 48 This forte was built of a kinde of stone not apt to splinter. 1802 AIKIN *Woodl. Comp.* (1815) 5 Oak-timber is fitted for this purpose [i.e. shipbuilding],..by the property of not readily splintering. *a* 1832 CRABBE *Posth. Tales* x. 97 The dry boughs splinter in the windy gale. 1857 MILLER *Elem. Chem., Org.* ii. 99 When heated, it [i.e. anthracite] splinters into small fragments. 1886 G. R. SIMS *Ring o' Bells* I. i. 42 The boy..tugged at the iron ring till the rotten woodwork splintered away from the bolt.

b. *poet.* To pierce *through* in the form of, or after the manner of, splinters.

1821 CLARE *Vill. Minstr.* I. 80 Stronger lightnings splinter through the cloud. *Ibid.* 213 The moon..Splinters through the broken glass.

Splinter-bar. Also **splinter bar.** [f. SPLINTER *sb.*]

1. A swingle-tree or whipple-tree.

1765 *Museum Rust.* IV. 78 A two-wheeled plough complete, with draught-chain, and splinter-bars, or whipple-trees. 1767 S. PATERSON *Anoth. Trav.* I. 104 A splinter-bar at the end of the traces, to which a small cord leading from the mast is fastened. 1793 W. H. MARSHALL *Rur. Econ. W. Eng.* (1796) II. 350 The yoke and single chain..are..much preferable to collars, traces, and splinter bars. 1855 RUFFINI *Dr. Antonio* i, The rearing of the leader was caused by the knocking of the splinter bar against his legs. 1893 *Spectator* 23 Dec. 909 The plough-teams with looped-up splinter-bars banging against the trace-chains.

2. A cross-bar in a carriage, coach, or other vehicle, which is fixed across the head of the shafts, and to which the traces are attached.

The definition in Webster (1847), 'A cross-bar in a coach, which supports the springs', is repeated by later Dicts.

1794 W. FELTON *Carriages* (1801) I. 59 The draught is much preferable when taken from a splinter-bar, which yields to the motion and pull of the horse. 1837 W. B. ADAMS *Carriages* 145 The distance of the splintre [*sic*] bar from the central pin or perch bolt is regulated by the size of the wheels. 1859 F. A. GRIFFITHS *Artill. Man.* (1862) 167, 4 Spare Splinter Bars,..4 pair of Shafts, per Battery, are distributed among the Waggons. 1877 THRUPP *Hist. Coaches* ii. 33 The horses are harnessed to splinter or drawing bars.

transf. 1890 D. K. CLARK *Steam Engine* II. 408 The splinter-bar is formed of 3-inch angle-iron, ½ inch thick, and is connected to the axle by two wrought-iron arms.

b. With distinguishing terms.

1802 *Sporting Mag.* XX. 308 Affixed to the usual or main splinter-bar. 1852 BURN *Nav. & Milit. Dict.* II. 280 Swing splinter-bar, or rear master-bar, *volée mobile de derrière.*

Splintered (spli·ntəɪd), *ppl. a.* [f. SPLINTER *v.*] Broken into splinters; split off as a splinter; shattered, shivered.

1718 *Free-thinker* No. 95. 283 A Seamstress has been.. sadly wounded by the splintered Glass. 1791 COWPER *Yardley Oak* 128 A splinter'd stump bleach'd to a snowy white. 1804 ABERNETHY *Surg. Obs.* 183 It would be right .. to take away the splintered portions of bone. 1842 TENNYSON *Sir Galahad* i, The splinter'd spear-shafts crack and fly. 1871 L. STEPHEN *Playgr. Eur.* (1894) xiii. 333 The occasional fall of a splintered fragment of rock.

b. Of rocks, etc.: Ragged or jagged through splintering.

1833 TENNYSON *Dream Fair Wom.* xlvii, The splinter'd crags that wall the dell With spires of silver shine. 1850 B. TAYLOR *Eldorado* v. (1862) 42 A chain of splintered peaks in the distance. 1867 MORRIS *Jason* XIV. 38 A little bay Walled from the sea by splintered cliffs and grey.

Spli·ntering (spli·ntərin), *vbl. sb.* [f. as prec.] The action or process of breaking into splinters. Also *attrib.*

1815 SCOTT *Guy M.* x, A large fragment of the rock..had fallen without any great diminution by splintering. 1865 KINGSLEY *Herew.* xv, What splintering of lances there will be about her! 1889 WELCH *Text Bk. Naval Archit.* vi. 89 On account of the splintering which would ensue should the unarmoured side be struck by shot.

attrib. 1846 GREENER *Sci. Gunnery* 59 Their splintering powers are certainly very extensive indeed.

So **Spli·ntering** *ppl. a.*, that splinters; also of sound.

1828 SPEARMAN *Brit. Gunner* (ed. 2) 323 To produce the greatest damage to any splintering object. 1889 DOYLE *Micah Clarke* 292 A splintering crash from inside the Cathedral announced some fresh outrage.

Splinter-proof, *sb.* and *a. Mil.* [See PROOF *a.* 1 b.]

A. *sb.* A structure serving for protection from the splinters of bursting shells.

1805 JAMES *Milit. Dict.* (ed. 2), *Splinter-proof*, a fence or guard...It consists of a shelving sort of frame..of..timber. 1832 SOUTHEY *Hist. Penins. War* III. 705 There were no Barracks, nor any covering for the troops except holes,..to serve for them as splinter-proofs. 1863 P. BARRY *Dockyard Econ.* 15 From the security of the splinter-proofs at Shoeburyness. 1884 *Milit. Engin.* I. II. 41 The splinter-proofs which form the roof of this cover must be laid in position.. before the construction of the battery is commenced.

B. *adj.* Of sufficient strength to ward off the splinters of bursting shells.

1834 J. S. MACAULAY *Field Fortification* 71 The best description of field powder-magazine, is constructed of splinter-proof timbers of about 10 inches by 8. 1884 *Milit. Engin.* I. II. 38 Gun-pits and epaulments,..screened and provided with splinter-proof cover for the gun detachments.

Splintery (spli·ntəri), *a.* (and *adv.*). Also 8–9 **splintry.** [f. SPLINTER *sb.* and *v.* + -Y. Cf. Du. *splinterig*, WFris. *splinterich.*]

1. *Min.* Of fracture: Characterized by the production of small splinters.

1796 KIRWAN *Elem. Min.* (ed. 2) I. 34 Of this [i.e. compact] fracture there are six sorts, the uneven, even, conchoidal, splintery, earthy, and hackly. 1799 — *Geol. Ess.* 215 Primitive limestone..is said sometimes to discover a splintry fracture. 1804 *Edin. Rev.* III. 301 Let its fracture be splintery, and it becomes hornstein. 1884 J. E. LEE tr. *Römer's Bone Caves of Ojcow* 2 A compact white oolitic limestone with a splintery or flatly conchoidal fracture.

2. Of stone, minerals, etc.: Liable to split into splinters; breaking or separating easily into splinters; *spec.* having a splintery fracture.

1807 VANCOUVER *Agric. Devon* (1813) 11 In those places where the upper parts of the rock are of a splintry texture. 1823 W. SCORESBY *Jrnl.* 405 Common calcedony, inclining to splintery quartz. 1886 FENN *Patience Wins* 50 The stone we found here and there was slaty and splintery.

b. Of rocks, etc.: Marked by splintering; rough or jagged.

1829 SCOTT *Anne of G.* i, The ridgy precipices..showed their splintery and rugged edges over the vapour. 1843 RUSKIN *Mod. Paint.* I. II. I. vii. § 5. 76 Salvator bids him stand under some contemptible fragment of splintery crag. 1876 PAGE *Adv. Text-bk. Geol.* xi. 194 Abounding in steep precipices and splintery peaks.

3. Of the nature of a splinter; resembling a splinter in shape or form.

1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 978 To prevent the seam, which forms the ceiling over the workmen's heads, from falling down and killing them by its splintery fragments. 1880 BLACKMORE *Mary Anerley* III. 24 There was no severe cold yet;..no splintery needles of sparkling drift.

fig. 1836 LANDOR *Min. Pr. Pieces* Wks. 1853 II. 457/1, I was never an admirer..of those abrupt and splintery sentences, which..sparkle only when they are broken.

Comb. 1888 RUTLEY *Rock-Forming Min.* 192 The laths do not show splintery-looking ends.

4. Abounding in or full of splinters.

1857 DICKENS *Dorrit* xi, It was a large room, with a rough, splintery floor.

5. As *adv.* In a splintering manner. *rare*[–1].

1784 *Phil. Trans.* LXXIV. 453 It..breaks more woody and splintery.

Splinting (spli·ntiŋ), *vbl. sb.* Also 6 **splyntyng, splentynge, 7 splenting.** [f. SPLINT *v.*]

†1. The action of constructing or providing with splints or laths; the material used in this. *Obs.*

1527 *Luton Trin. Guild* (1906) 190 Payd to Thomas Long for vnderpynnynge, splentynge, & davbing & for Roddis, vs. jd. 1622 Callis *Stat. Sewers* (1647) 110 If a house be decayed in splinting, thack, walling, or in such petty matters.

2. The action of putting into surgical splints; binding or securing by means of a splint or splints.

1548 Elyot, *Mora*,..a staye that surgions vse in splyntyng of sore legges. 1611 Cotgr., *Esclisser*, to bind vp in splents, or keepe straight by splenting. 1648 Hexham II, *Een Spalckinge*, a Splenting of broken bones. 1897 *Trans. Amer. Pediatric Soc.* IX. 168 b, His mother having learned of the splinting of his arms and hands at night.

b. *concr.* Material for a splint or splints.

1895 *Arnold & Sons' Catal. Surg. Instrum.* 671 Splinting (Gooch's),..per piece 18×22.

†3. Splintering, splitting. *Obs.*—°

1598 Florio, *Schiantatura*, a riuing, a splinting, a shiuering.

Splinty, *a.* Now *rare*. Also 8 **splenty**. [f. Splint *sb.* + -y.] Of a splintery nature or texture; of the nature of splint or splint coal.

1611 Cotgr., *Esquilleux*, splintie, scalie; full of little splints, or scales. 1725 *Phil. Trans.* XXXIII. 397 The undermost [vein] is about eighteen Fathoms from the Surface, call'd the Splenty Coal..; it's a hard but not large Coal. 1789 J. Williams *Min. Kingd.* I. 109 Splenty coals and others..are wrought to the south-west of Dalkeith. 1840 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* III. 414/2 This ore is generally found..in caverns or churns of the mountain limestone in large masses, splinty and globulated. 1881 in *Eng. Dial. Dict.*

Splirt, *v. Sc.* and *dial.* [Cf. Splurt *v.*] *intr.* To spirt or spout.

1791 Learmont *Poems* 79 E'en thy ga' Splirts on law stations frae thy sting. 1825– in some northern and midland dial. glossaries.

Splish-splash, *v. rare.* [f. Splash *v.*1, with usual variation of vowel.] *intr.* To splash repeatedly.

1720 Swift *Irish Feast* 44 The Floor is all wet,..While the Water and Sweat, Splish, splash in their Pumps. 1834 Medwin *Angler in Wales* I. 160 They went splish-splashing through an almost interminable inundation.

So **Splishy-splashy** *a.*, sloppy, slushy. *rare*—1.

c 1850 *Denham Tracts* (1895) II. 72 A cold, comfortless (splishy-splashy) Sabbath morning.

Split (split), *sb.*1 Also 6 **splitte**, 7 **splitt**. [f. Split *v.* and *ppl. a.* Cf. LG. *splitt*, G. *spliss*, NFris. *spledd*.]

1. A narrow break or opening made by splitting; a cleft, crack, rent, or chink; a fissure.

1597 A. M. tr. *Guillemeau's Fr. Chirurg.* lf. xiv b/2 That which must entre into the splitte, or els betweene the depressed bones. *Ibid.* lf. xvii b/2 In the which is a splitte, throughe the which the blade passeth. 1648 Hexham II, *Een Splete*, a Split, or a Cleft. 1849 Cupples *Green Hand* iv. (1856) 50 The long ragged split to westward was opened up, and a clear glaring glance of the sky..shot through it. 1855 Ruffini *Dr. Antonio* ii, I see a split in that door behind your bed. 1888 Rutley *Rock-Forming Min.* 171 The cleavage planes..give rise to striations or fine splits.

b. *techn.* An angular groove cut on glass vessels.

1850 Holtzapffel *Turning* III. 1299 For angular grooves, or splits, up the side of a decanter, or similar object, a mill with an angular edge is employed. 1891 *Sale Catal. Glass Wks. Stourbridge*, Twenty clarets, cut splits.

c. A division formed by splitting.

1875 Buckland *Log-Bk.* 227 A horn on one side branching into splits, the other being perfect in form.

2. A piece of wood separated or formed by splitting. Now *U.S.*

1617 Minsheu *Ductor* 462/2 Splits, or splents of wood. 1633 Ford *'Tis Pity* v. iii, Some under-shrubs shall in my weighty fall Be crush'd to splits; with me they all shall perish! 1664 *Min. Bk. Coopers Glasgow* in Jamieson *Suppl.* (1887) 321 That .. nane of thame .. sal buy any runges, stinges, splittis, or stappis, from the saidis four persounes. 1725 *Family Dict.* s.v. *Bee-Hive*, And these are either Wicker-Hives, made with Splits of Wood,..or Straw-Hives. 1778 Pryce *Min. Cornub.* 151 To each crank is fixed a straight half split of balk timber. 1837 Hebert *Engin. & Mech. Encycl.* I. 154 The osiers are divided into four parts, lengthways, which are called splits. 1864 Lowell *Fireside Trav.* 151 Making our bed of some 'splits' which we poked from the roof. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2281/2 *Split*, a ribbon of wood rived from a rough piece of green timber. *Comb.* 1872 De Vere *Americanisms* 58 Hickory and oak both yield the necessary wood, and chairs of this kind are known, especially in the South, as split-bottom chairs. 1893 T. N. Page *Ole Virginia* 204 He was plumped down in his great split-bottomed chair.

b. *Weaving.* A dent (orig. a piece of split reed or cane) in the reed of a loom. *Sc.*

1748 *Rec. Elgin* (1903) I. 188 The web of 1200 wrought two's in a reed containing 1200 splits upon 40½in. 1839 Ure *Dict. Arts* 1056 In Scotland, the splits of cane which pass between the..ribs of the reed, are expressed by hundreds, porters, and splits. The porter is 20 splits. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 1903/2 Two warp-threads count for 1 split.

c. *techn.* (See quot. 1858.)

1858 Simmonds *Dict. Trade, Splits*, a term, in the leather trade, for divided skins which have been separated into two sections by the cutting machine; there being tanned splits and salted splits. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2281/2 Splits of the smaller skins, such as goat and sheep, are made into wash or glove leather. 1882 *Encycl. Brit.* XIV. 386 In the case of a single split the portions form a grain and flesh side.

3. A rupture, breach, division, or dissension in a party or sect, or between friends.

1729 Wodrow *Corr.* (1843) III. 439 The brethren..might meet together,..and consider what was to be done..to guard against a split among ourselves. 1826 Scott *Diary* 21 Jan., I fear the split betwixt Constable and Cadell will render impossible what might otherwise be hopeful enough. 1852 Disraeli *Ld. G. Bentinck* xxv. 520 He felt..that there would be a 'split' in the ranks. 1886 Dk. Devonshire in B. Holland *Life* (1911) II. xxi. 127 The responsibility of provoking an open split in the party..was too great.

b. A body or party formed by a rupture or schism.

1883 *Standard* 22 Mar. 2/1 The Patriotic Brotherhood.. consisted of part of the 'splits' of the Old Ribbon Society combined. 1891 *Newcastle Daily Jrnl.* 9 Mar. 8/2 'Do you belong to the split?' asked one Scotchman of another.

4. a. (*At*) *full split*, or *like split*, at full speed; as fast as possible. *U.S.*

1836 Haliburton *Clockm.* Ser. I. xxx, Most on 'em, arter the second shot, cut and run full split. *a* 1848 Maj. Downing *May-day in N. Y.* 64 (Bartlett), There was no end to the one-hoss teams, goin' like split all over the city. 1867 *Routledge's Ev. Boy's Ann.* 665 [To] drive by so close, at full split, as to just turn the fly round. 1890 'R. Boldrewood' *Robbery under Arms* 145 Out of the house in one minute, and in saddle and off full-split the next.

b. *The splits*, in acrobatics or stage-dancing: (see quot. 1883). Also in sing.

1861 Mayhew *Lond. Labour* III. 90, I had to do the splits and strides. *Ibid.* 99/2, I had learnt to do a split, holding a half-hundred in my teeth. 1883 *Chambers's Jrnl.* 130 Doing the splits is..separating the legs until they extend at right angles to the body, which is thus lowered to the ground. 1895 *Pall Mall G.* 1 Feb. 4/2 The average music-hall audience..demanding extravagant high-kicking, splits, and cart-wheels.

c. The act or process of splitting; an instance of this.

1898 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* V. 914 Blows or crushes resulting in the split of a vessel..have produced aortic aneurism. 1902 *N. & Q.* 9th Ser. IX. 172/1 One of the most striking 'splits' [of an infinitive].

5. *Mining.* a. (See quot. 1881.)

1877 Raymond *Statist. Mines & Mining* 316 The ore in the western branches of the two splits is decidedly softer than that in the eastern ones. 1881 — *Mining Gloss.* s.v., When a parting in a coal-seam becomes so thick that the two portions of the seam must be worked separately, each is called a *split*.

b. A division of a ventilating air-current.

1883 Gresley *Gloss. Coal-m.* 231 Each separate district should have its own split of fresh air. 1892 *Labour Comm. Gloss.* No. 3, *Splits*, the radiating passages through which the main current of air ventilating a mine is subdivided or *split* up for circulation.

c. (See quot.)

1886 J. Barrowman *Sc. Mining Terms* 63 *Split*, a room or end driven through a pillar.

6. *slang.* An informer; a detective.

1812 J. H. Vaux *Flash Dict.*, To *split upon* a person, or *turn split*, is synonymous with *nosing*,..or *turning nose*. 1857 *Slang Dict.* 19. 1891 M. Williams *Later Leaves* xxvii. 326 A man came into one of the other compartments, and ..said: 'You are talking to a split'.

7. *colloq.* a. A drink composed of two liquors.

1882 *Society* 11 Nov. 22/2 The 'nips', the 'stims', the 'sherries and Angosturas', the 'splits' of young Contange. 1892 *Nation* 28 July 66/1 One of the principal of the illicit beverages is a deadly compound called 'split', composed of alcohol and water.

b. A split soda; a bottle of mineral water half the usual size.

1884 G. Moore *Mummer's Wife* (1887) 168 When she had finished Montgomery tried to persuade her to try a 'split' with him. 1896 *Bradford Observer* 5 Oct., Apollinaris [table water]. Now supplied in splits.

c. A split roll or bun.

1903 *Westm. Gaz.* 29 Dec. 2/1 We..were dried and warmed and given hot tea, splits and butter, and cakes.

d. A split vote.

1894 *Westm. Gaz.* 28 Aug. 7/1 If Mr. Burgess got Conservative splits, as well as split votes between himself and Mr. Broadhurst.

†**Split**, *sb.*2 *Obs. rare.* [Given by earlier Continental writers (16–17th cent.) as an Alpine or 'Illyrian' name.] (See quots.)

1713 Petiver in *Phil. Trans.* XXVIII. 212 Yellow Fumitory or Split. *Ibid.* 213 Its glaucous Leaves and pale Flowers, differ it from the yellow Split.

Split (split), *v.* Pa. t. and pa. pple. **split** (also 6– **splitted**, 9 **splitten**). [ad. MDu. *splitten* (Du. *splitten*, WFris. *splitte*), obscurely related to *spletten* Splet *v.* and *spliten* (Du. *splijten*), MLG. and LG. *spliten*, MHG. *spîtzen* (G. *spleissen*), etc. Cf. also Spleet *v.*2 The earlier examples and senses indicate a nautical origin for the use of the word in English.]

It is doubtful whether the following early example is a figurative use of sense 1 b, or of sense 2:—

1576 Gascoigne *Steele Gl.* E iij b, Great Alexander, drounde in drunkennesse, Cæsar and Pompey, split with priuy grudge.

I. *trans.* 1. Of storms, rocks, etc.: To break up (a ship); to cause to part asunder. Chiefly in *pass.*

1590 Shaks. *Com. Err.* I. i. 104 Our helpefull ship was splitted in the midst. 1597 J. King *On Jonas* (1618) 53 It fell not vpon rocks or shelues, but by the power of the onely winde was almost splitted. 1604 E. G[rimstone] *D'Acosta's Hist. Indies* III. xvi. 170 The first shippe was split with a tempest that did rise in the Lake. *c* 1643 Ld. Herbert *Autobiog.* (1824) 100 We coming..straight upon the Pier of Dover,..our ship was unfortunately split against it. 1680 C. Nesse *Ch. Hist.* 345 By swallowing up the ship in the midst of the sea, or by splitting her upon the rocks. 1708 *Constit. Watermen's Co.* iii, If any Waterman..happen to have his Boat..split, staved, or any ways damnified.

fig. 1642 D. Rogers *Naaman* To Rdr., [A rock which] unhappily split their hopes, and made shipwracke of all.

b. Of persons: In *pass.*, to suffer shipwreck. Also in fig. contexts, and *fig.*

1602 Marston *Ant. & Mel.* III. Ej b, That when a soule is splitted, sunke with griefe, He might fall thus, vpon the breast of earth. 1621 Brathwait *Nat. Embassie* 9 He who Vlisses-like stands firme..shall be a spectator of his Companions misery, in himselfe secured while they are splitted. 1640 in *Lett. Lit. Men* (Camden) 165 That I should sitt a Judge ther, wheere I was latelie in possibilitie to have been splitt & ruined. *a* 1704 T. Brown *Sat. agst. Wom.* Wks. 1730 I. 54, I shun the rock where Strephon has been split. 1772–84 *Cook's Voy.* (1790) II. 445 We were surrounded with innumerable quantities of ice, and were in constant danger of being split by them.

transf. c 1611 Chapman *Iliad* xxiii. 386 We ride A way most dangerous; turn head, betime take larger field, We shall be splitted.

c. To have (one's vessel) wrecked.

a 1700 Evelyn *Diary* 12 Sept. 1641, Here we split our skiff.

2. To divide longitudinally by a sharp stroke or blow; to cause to burst or give way along the grain or length; to cleave or rend.

1593 Shaks. 3 *Hen. VI*, II. vi. 30 Come Yorke and Richard, ..I stab'd your Fathers bosomes; Split my brest. 1603 — *Meas. for M.* II. ii. 116 Thou..with thy sharpe and sulpherous bolt Splits the vn-wedgable and gnarled Oke. *a* 1625 *Nomencl. Nav.* (Harl. MS. 2301) s.v., If a Shot come and break a carriage of a Peece, wee saye it hath split the Carriage. 1680 Moxon *Mech. Exerc.* XII. § 13. 207 With the Cleaving-knife and the Mawl, split it into a square piece near the size. 1774 Goldsmith *Nat. Hist.* (1776) I. 157 At Cajeta, in Italy, a mountain was split in this manner by an earthquake. 1827 Faraday *Chem. Manip.* v. (1842) 151 It must be either broken in the hand, or split or crushed by a hammer on the anvil. 1849 James *Woodman* xviii, I care not much whose head I split, if it comes in my way. 1878 Browning *Poets Croisic* 32 Quick on flash Followed the thunder, splitting earth downright.

fig. 1590 Shaks. *Com. Err.* v. i. 308 Oh times extremity Hast thou so crack'd and splitted my poore tongue [etc.]? 1606 — *Per.* III. i. 44 Blow, and split thyself.

b. *Naut.* Of wind: To rend or tear (a sail). Also of persons or a vessel: To have (a sail) rent or torn by the wind.

a 1625 *Nomencl. Nav.* (Harl. MS. 2301) s.v., When the winde hath blowne a Saile to peeces, wee saie the Saile is split. 1669 Sturmy *Mariner's Mag.* I. 17 It is more Wind, come, hawl down both Top-sails close...The Sail is split. 1745 P. Thomas *Jrnl. Anson's Voy.* 26 We split both our Main and Fore-top-sails. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* II. v. 170 The weather proved squally, and we split our maintop-sail. 1800 Nelson 26 Feb. in Nicolas *Disp.* (1845) IV. 200 Ordered the Foudroyant to be anchored,..she having split her main topsail and foresail. 1901 D. B. Hall & Ld. A. Osborne *Sunshine & Surf* ii. 17 The whole of our top-gallant square sail was split to ribbons.

c. *Agric.* To plough (a ridge) so as to throw the furrow-slice outward.

1807 Vancouver *Agric. Devon* (1813) 116 The work is performed by what is called splitting; that is, the plough always turns upon the left to the first furrow, and the coulter is held close all the way to the lifted slice previously turned over. 1844 H. Stephens *Bk. Farm* I. 470 A ridge that has been ploughed the reverse to gathering up from the flat is said to be *split*, which is the short phrase for crown-and-furrow ploughing. 1891 W. J. Malden *Tillage* 106 This is known as splitting the ridge, and is the best form.

d. *Mining.* (See quot.)

1883 Gresley *Gloss. Coal-m.* 231 *Split*, to divide a pillar or post by driving through it one or more roads.

e. To separate or take apart longitudinally.

1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2279/2 The ends of the two others [*sc.* rope-strands] are united by splitting and interlacing in the same manner.

3. In various fig. uses: a. Of violent grief or pain.

1594 Shaks. *Rich. III*, I. iii. 300 O but remember this another day: When he shall split thy very heart with sorrow. 1605 — *Lear* v. iii. 177 Let sorrow split my heart, if euer I Did hate thee. 1813 *Examiner* 19 Apr. 242/2 Absolute happiness is in the power of no one, who has got ..a head to be split with aching. 1829 Scott *Anne of G.* xvii, In parting from thee I am splitting mine own heart in twain.

b. Of loud noise.

1602 Shaks. *Ham.* III. ii. 12 [To] teare a Passion to tatters, ..to split the eares of the Groundlings. 1607 — *Cor.* v. vi. 52 You..had no welcomes home, but he returnes Splitting the Ayre with noyse. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* II. I. xii, The King swears; and now *be* the welkin split with vivats. 1865 Parkman *Champlain* (1875) 327 The air was split with shrill outcries.

c. Of excessive laughter. (Cf. Side *sb.*1 1 c.)

1687 Miége *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II. s.v., To split himself with laughter. 1704 Cibber *Careless Husb.* III, Seeing us ready to split our sides in laughing at nothing. 1809 Malkin *Gil Blas* x. x. P 39 He laughed ready to split his sides. 1839 Hood *Nocturnal Sk.* i, In the small Olympic pit, [to] sit split Laughing at Liston. 1852 Mrs. Stowe *Uncle Tom's C.* iv, Lor! I was fit to split myself.

4. a. To divide or apportion to, or between, two or more persons.

1670 Cotton *Gamester* x. (1680) 83 If the Honours are equally divided among the Gamesters of each side, then they say Honours are split. 1719 Swift *Stella's Birthday* 9 O, would it please the gods to split Thy beauty, size, and years, and wit! No age could furnish out a pair Of nymphs [etc.]. 1824 Han. More *in* W. Roberts *Life* (1835)

IV. 243 When I am obliged to split my attentions, it is a little fatiguing. 1837 DICKENS *Pickw.* ii, Not worth splitting a guinea;..toss who shall pay for both. 1864 LOWELL *Fireside Trav.* 225 They were just alike,..and you could not split an epithet between them. 1889 DOYLE *Micah Clarke* 220, I have been splitting a flask with our gallant Colonel.

absol. 1866 GEO. ELIOT *F. Holt* xi, I'll plump or I'll split for them as treat me the handsomest.

b. To divide or break up into separate parts or portions.

1706 E. WARD *Wooden World Diss.* (1708) 38 Standing upon the firm Deck, he..falls to splitting his Text most methodically. 1777 BURKE *Let. to Sheriffs of Bristol* Wks. 1842 I. 217 There are people, who have split and anatomised the doctrine of free government, as if it were an abstract question. 1785 PALEY *Mor. Philos.* III. II. v. § 2 The proprietors..have it in their power to facilitate the maintenance ..of families..by building cottages [and] splitting farms. 1813 *Ann. Reg., Gen. Hist.* 49 The thing complained of was a novel practice of splitting votes by will. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* ii. I. 236 The practice of splitting freeholds for the purpose of multiplying votes dates from this memorable struggle. 1868 *Rules Stock Exch.* no. 85, A Member splitting a ticket shall pay any increased expense caused by such splitting.

c. To divide or separate (persons) into parties, factions, groups, etc.

1712 STEELE *Spect.* No. 461 P 2 We are..split into so many different Sects and Parties. 1784 COWPER *Task* v. 195 When Babel was confounded, and the great Confed'racy of projectors..Was split into diversity of tongues. 1861 LD. BROUGHAM *Brit. Const.* iv. 63 They are easily split into parties by intrigue. 1885 GLADSTONE in B. Holland *Life Dk. Devonsh.* (1911) II. xxi. 91 The question of the House of Lords, of the Church, or both, will probably split the Liberal Party.

refl. 1885 *Manch. Exam.* June 165/2 The enemy split themselves into two parties.

d. To divide or separate by the interposition of something.

1824 L. MURRAY *Eng. Gram.* (ed. 5) I. 463 What is called splitting particles, or separating a preposition from the noun which it governs, is to be avoided. 1841 LYTTON *Night & Morning* II. v, The man..said..'Pawdon me, and split legs!' therewith stretching himself between Philip's limbs, in the approved fashion of inside passengers! 1894 *Field* 9 June 835/1 Mr. Marshall split Messrs Taylor's pair with Orphan, a good-looking grey. 1895 *Daily News* 6 July 8/1 Mrs. Williamson splits her infinitives; hers is not a dandy way of writing.

e. *Mining.* (See later quots.)

1850 ANSTED *Elem. Geol., Min.*, etc. 490 This whole current is divided by splitting into sixteen currents of above 11,000 cubit feet per minute. 1860 *Mining Gloss., Newcastle Terms* 63 *Splitting the air*, dividing the air into different portions, each ventilating a separate district of the mine. 1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-m.* 231 *Split*, to divide the ventilative current after it reaches the pit bottom.

f. *Croquet.* To drive (a ball) with a 'splitting' stroke.

1877 *Encycl. Brit.* VI. 610 Make that hoop, and split, roll, or rush the ball placed there to help to hoop second back.

5. In various phrases: **a.** *Split me* (or *my windpipe*), used as an imprecation.

1700 T. BROWN tr. *Fresny's Amusem.* viii. Wks. 1709 III. i. 72 A Bully of the Blade came strutting up,..crying out, Split my Wind-pipe, Sir, you are a Fool. 1701 CIBBER *Love makes Man* II. ii, I never fenc'd so ill in all my Life—never in my Life, split me! 1811 *Sporting Mag.* XXXVII. 10 Split me if ever I sell it for less. 1840 THACKERAY *Catherine* ix, I had you here to amuse me—split me!

b. *To split a hair* or *hairs, straws, words*, to make fine or subtle distinctions, esp. in argument or controversy; to be over-subtle or captious.

(*a*) 1674 BOYLE *Excell. Theol.* Pref. 10 The great difficulty ..so to behave oneself, as to split a hair between them, and never offend either of them. 1691 tr. *Emiliane's Observ. Journ. Naples* 55 Shewing himself very inventive and dexterous at splitting a Hair in his way of handling Scholastick matters. 1742 [see HAIR *sb.* 8 j]. 1768-74 TUCKER *Lt. Nat.* (1834) I. 23 Though we are obliged sometimes to split the hair we need not quarter it. 1780 M. MADAN *Thelyphthora* II. 4 They splitted the hair..by condemning those who say 'the church may err in teaching otherwise'. 1809 MALKIN *Gil Blas* II. v. P 5 They would not split a hair about the loss of a wife or two. 1866 BRIGHT *Sp., Reform* 13 Mar. (1876) 346 It never entered into my mind the Government would split hairs in this fashion.

(*b*) 1845 DISRAELI *Sybil* v. iii, I am no changeling, nor can I refine and split straws, like your philosophers. 1905 E. GLYN *Viciss. Evangeline* 225 He does not split straws, or bandy words.

(*c*) 1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) II. 286 Why will you continue splitting words?

c. *To split the difference*, to halve an amount in dispute between two parties; to take the mean between two sums or quantities; to compromise on this basis. Also *fig.* (Cf. DIFFERENCE 2 d.)

1715 M. DAVIES *Athen. Brit.* I. Pref. 28 The Arian Pamphlets are not half so diverting as the Popish Libels; tho' as to their Idolatry, the difference may be split. 1771 *Ann. Reg., Chron.* 145/1 The disagreement..is now amicably settled, by the splitting the difference between his surveyor's estimate and that taken by the surveyor for the executors. 1855 *Poultry Chron.* III. 66/2 As £7 had been named [in place of £13], perhaps if they 'split' the difference, and said £10, that would settle the matter. [1893 *Daily News* 13 Mar. 2/7 They refuse to 'split' the half-crown per ton which represented the difference between buyer and seller.]

d. *Naut.* (See quot.)

1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.* 644 *Splitting the books*, the making of a new complete-book after payment, in which the dead, run, or discharged men are omitted; but the numbers ..against the men's names..must be continued.

6. *slang.* To disclose, reveal, let out. (Cf. 12.)

1850 THACKERAY *Pendennis* xliii, Did I split anything? 1902 *Munsey's Mag.* XXVI. 501/1 We can't have him splitting that Mr. Lemp's in the wood.

II: *intr.* †**7.** As predicate to *all*: To go to pieces. *Obs.*

1590 GREENE *Never too Late* (1600) 47 With that he set downe his period with such a sigh, that as the Marriners say, a man would haue thought all would haue split again. 1590 SHAKS. *Mids. N.* I. ii. 32. 1610 BEAUM. & FL. *Scornf. Lady* II. iii, Two roaring Boys of Rome, that made all split. 1611 MIDDLETON & DEKKER *Roaring Girl* IV. ii, If I sail not with you both till all split, hang me up at the mainyard.

8. Of a ship: To part or break by striking on a rock or shoal, or by the violence of a storm.

1593 SHAKS. 3 *Hen. VI*, v. iv. 10 Whiles..the Ship splits on the Rock, Which Industrie and Courage might haue sau'd. 1613 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* (1614) 730 Their Admirall here splitteth on a Rocke, but the men are saved by the helpe of the other shippes. 1645 HARWOOD *Loyal Subj. Retiring-room* 15 A wise Pilot will not run his ship wilfully on a rock, but if a tempest drive it, he will shew his skill and courage to save it from splitting. 1718 OZELL tr. *Tournefort's Voy.* I. 112 This is the most dangerous Rock to split upon, in all the Archipelago. 1735 JOHNSON *Lobo's Abyssinia, Voy.* iv. 24 These [ships] are the more convenient, because they will not Split, if thrown upon Banks, or against Rocks. 1820 SHELLEY *Vision Sea* 26 The great ship seems splitting! it cracks as a tree.

b. Of persons: To suffer shipwreck in this manner. Freq. in fig. context and *fig.*

1610 SHAKS. *Temp.* I. i. 65 Mercy on vs. We split, we split. 1657 BENLOWES *Wisdom* I. (1905) 474 While sinners split on shelves, saints to Heav'n's harbour steer. 1678 DRYDEN *All for Love* Pref., And this is the rock on which they are daily splitting. 1726 SWIFT *Gulliver* I. i, The wind was so strong, that we were driven directly upon it, and immediately split. 1754 SHERLOCK *Disc.* (1759) I. 113 There is no Danger of their splitting upon these insuperable Difficulties. 1764 G. PSALMANAZAR *Mem.* 283, I know but too well how many excellent critics had already split upon that fatal rock.

9. To part asunder, to burst, to form a fissure or fissures, esp. in a longitudinal direction.

a 1625 *Nomencl. Nav.* (Harl. MS. 2301) s.v., When Sheeuers breake wee say they split. *a* 1661 FULLER *Worthies* (1840) I. 110 The oak..may be called cowardly, as riving and splitting round about the passage of the bullet. *a* 1728 WOODWARD *Fossils* I. 17 All the Stone that is Slaty..will split only lengthways or horizontally. 1796 WITHERING *Brit. Plants* (ed. 3) III. 831 Veil splitting at the side. 1820 SHELLEY *Prometh. Unb.* I. i. 40 When the rocks split and close again behind. 1855 *Orr's Circ. Sci., Inorg. Nat.* 173 The clay..assumes a tendency to split in certain directions much more readily than in others. 1882 VINES tr. *Sachs' Bot.* 806 It is evident that before the bark splits.. the transverse tension must attain a certain intensity.

b. Used hyperbolically to denote the effect of excessive laughter, pain, or repletion.

(*a*) 1677 MIÈGE *Fr. Dict.* II, To split with laughter. 1693 DRYDEN *Juv.* (1697) 333 Shou'd such a Fight appear to view, All Men wou'd split, the Sight wou'd please whilst new. 1729 SWIFT *Grand Quest.* 175 Madam, I laugh'd till I thought I should split. 1840 THACKERAY *Barber Cox* Feb., One or two men, who roared with laughter ready to split. 1862 J. MEREDITH *Old Chartist* ix, I'm nearly splitting.

(*b*) 1722–7 BOYER *Dict. Royal* I. s.v. *Fendre*, My Head is ready to split in two, I have a violent Head-ake. 1756 MRS. CALDERWOOD in *Coltness Coll.* (Maitl. Club) 194 By the time we arrived, my head was like to split with perfect fear. 1849 CUPPLES *Green Hand* xvii. (1856) 168, I lay on my back,..my head aching like to split.

(*c*) 1771 GOLDSM. *Haunch Venison* 104 'A pasty!' re-echo'd the Scot; 'Tho' splitting, I'll still keep a corner for that'. 1783 WOLCOT (P. Pindar) *Ode to R.A.'s* Wks. 1812 I. 49 The Poet might have guttled till he split.

c. To admit of being cleft.

1846 J. BAXTER *Libr. Pract. Agric.* (ed. 4) II. 169 The wood splits clean and easy, and is best adapted for splitpaling and laths.

10. To part, divide, or separate in some way.

1712 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 415 P 10 As in such Bodies the Sight must split upon several Angles, it does not take in one uniform Idea. 1856 STANLEY *Sinai & Pal.* ii. (1858) 111 The..river, which rises at the point where Hermon splits into its two parallel ranges. 1862 MILLER *Elem. Chem., Org.* (ed. 2) 94 If boiled for some hours with hydrochloric acid glycyrrhizin splits into a brownish resin and glucose. 1898 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* V. 956 There is an element of caprice in murmurs, which may rise, fall, split, or perhaps vanish for a time.

b. To break up into separate groups or parties.

1824 SCOTT *Redgauntlet* ch. xii, The land-sharks were on them,..and so they were obliged to split and squander. 1871 L. STEPHEN *Playgr. Eur.* (1894) v. 137 We somehow contrived to split into three parties. 1871 M. LEGRAND *Cambr. Freshm.* 299 This ceremony over, the party split of its own accord into two sections.

11. To break up *into* factions, sects, or similar divisions; to separate through disagreement or difference of opinion; to fall out or disagree.

1730 T. BOSTON *Mem.* ix. 264 The parties were at the very point of splitting. 1732 BERKELEY *Alciphr.* VI. § 29 What or where is the profession of men, who never split into schisms? 1845 S. AUSTIN *Ranke's Hist. Ref.* I. 379 He had not the power of keeping the princes of the empire together; ..on the contrary, every thing about him split into parties. 1890 W. A. WALLACE *Only a Sister?* 120 'Well, don't let us split on a small point of detail,' he began.

b. *slang.* To break or quarrel *with* a person.

1835 JAMES *Gipsy* xi, I don't want to split with Pharold. 1859 *Slang Dict.* 99 *To split with a person*, to cease acquaintanceship, to quarrel.

12. *slang.* To turn evidence or informer; to peach; to give information detrimental to others; to betray confidence.

1795 POTTER *Dict. Cant* (ed. 2), *Split*, turning evidence. 1824 *Compl. Hist. Murder Mr. Weare* 242 Such was the intense anxiety of some parties..to hear whether Thurtell had split. 1840 DICKENS *Old C. Shop* lxvi, If anybody is to split, I had better be the person. 1876 BESANT & RICE *Gold. Butterfly* xvi, Janet would not split even when she was dying. And then there was very little to split about when she died.

b. Const. *on* or *upon* (a person).

1812 in J. H. VAUX *Flash Dict.* 1838 DICKENS *O. Twist* xxv, I might have got clear off, if I'd split upon her. 1875 'A. R. HOPE' *My Schoolboy Fr.* 78 Of course you won't split on us. 1891 V. L. CAMERON *Log Jack Tar* 208 When he investigated the matter some among them split upon the ringleaders.

c. Const. *about* (a matter).

1836 *Ann. Reg., Chron.* 23 Feb. 34/1, I will split about the murder, and get you scragged. 1876 [see 12].

13. *colloq.* To run, walk, etc., at great speed.

1790 R. TYLER *Contrast* II. ii. (1887) 39, I was glad to take to my heels and split home, right off. 1848 in BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.* 324. 1868 DICKENS *Lett.* (1880) II. 361 The spectacle of our splitting up the fashionable avenue..excited the greatest amazement. 1872 *Routledge's Ev. Boy's Ann.* 30 Over him she [*sc.* the mare] goes, and down the hill as hard as she can split.

b. To do anything with great vigour.

a 1848 *Maj. Jones's Courtship* (Bartlett), I set the niggers a drummin' and fifin' as hard as they could split.

III. 14. With advs., as *away, down, off, out, up*:

a. In transitive senses.

1648 HEXHAM II, *Opsplijten*, to Split up, or to Rive open. ? *a* 1735 M. CLERK in *Dict. Nat. Biogr.* (1887) XI. 44/1 He only cut off a chiel's lug, and he ought to ha' split doun his heid. 1799 [A. YOUNG] *View Agric. Lincoln.* 72 A wheel plough..for crossing broad high lands at an equal pitch; which is liked better..than either gathering up, or splitting down. 1807 PIKE *Sources Mississ.* (1810) II. App. 25 We cut down a small green cotton-wood tree, and with much labor split out a canoe. 1846 A. YOUNG *Naut. Dict.* 291 *Splitting out blocks*, a process sometimes resorted to when it is necessary to remove the blocks on which a vessel rests on a slip or in a dock [etc.]. 1855 *Orr's Circ. Sci., Inorg. Nat.* 39 These, which are often of vast dimensions, are split off from the peaks of the higher mountains. 1883 *Manch. Guard.* 22 Oct. 5/2 To split up Manchester into half a dozen distinct constituencies.

b. In intransitive senses.

1843 *Penny Cycl.* XXV. 204/2 The outer layer of which splits up into star-like expanding rays. 1852 MISS YONGE *Cameos* I. i. 4 Soon the kingdom of France split away from the Empire. 1852 MRS. STOWE *Uncle Tom's C.* vii, Sam.. dexterously contriving to tickle Andy.., which occasioned Andy to split out into a laugh. 1865 KINGSLEY *Herew.* i, A Roman camp, guarding the King Street, or Roman road, which splits off from the Ermine Street. 1867 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* (1877) I. 160 The Empire did not at once split up into national kingdoms.

Split-, the verbal stem in combs., as **split-farthing** *a.*, mean, miserly; **split-fig** (see quots.); **split-plough**, a plough used for splitting ridges.

a 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew, Split-fig*, a Grocer. 1787 W. H. MARSHALL *E. Norfolk* (1795) II. 384 *Nip*, a near, split-farthing house-wife. 1840 J. BUEL *Farmer's Comp.* 118 These high furrows are separated in the spring with the four-horse split-plough. 1882 JAGO *Cornwall Gloss.* 274 *Split-fig*, a very stingy person. Nickname for a grocer who would cut a raisin in two, rather than give overweight.

Split (split), *ppl. a.* [f. SPLIT *v.*]

1. That has undergone the process of splitting; divided in this manner; riven, cleft.

1648 HEXHAM, *Gespleten klauwen*, Split or Cloven Clawes. 1673 HICKERINGILL *Greg. Father Greyb.* 314 Wry faces, mops, mows, split jaws. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* II. x. 241 A large split bamboe..as a trough. 1825 JENNINGS *Obs. Dial. W. Eng.* 71 *Spars*..are commonly made of split willow rods. 1849 NOAD *Electricity* (ed. 3) 379 To insulate the wire from the hook, a split quill is slipped over the wire, on which it rests. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 468 Tender nodosities or nodes on the shins, from a pea to a split walnut in size.

b. Of a surface: Exposed by splitting.

1715 LEONI *Palladio's Archit.* (1742) I. 8 River-pebbles split in the middle,..laid with the split-side outwards. 1837 P. KEITH *Bot. Lex.* 121 If a thin slice of one of them is taken from the split surface of the trunk of an Oak or Elm. 1851–4 TOMLINSON *Cycl. Arts & Manuf.* (1867) II. 34 As the hide is split, one half, which is the split flesh side, passes over the knife; the other half, or the split grain side, continues to adhere to the drum. 1891 MALDEN *Tillage* 106 It is not uncommon to throw the split-furrows on to the unploughed land, so that the ridges are not too high.

c. *Bot.* (See quot.)

1832 LINDLEY *Introd. Bot.* 388 Split (*fissus*); divided nearly to the base into a determinate number of segments.

2. In various special collocations: **a.** In designations of apparatus, implements, parts of machinery, or similar objects, as *split bandage, cane, chuck*, etc.

1846 BRITTAN tr. *Malgaigne's Man. Oper. Surg.* 202 The soft parts being divided, the utility of a *split bandage in keeping them back is generally allowed. 1843 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* I. 217 The *split bolster is employed for cutting out long rectangular holes or mortices. 1890 L. C. D'OYLE *Notches* 143 Taking my rod (a light *split-cane) in his hands, he shook it—and grinned. 1892 *Photogr. Ann.* II. 385 A stand upon the split cane principle. When the ring and bottom fittings are removed, the stick opens out into three pieces. 1830 *Mechanic's Mag.* XIII. 50, I call it the *split-chuck, for want of a more appropriate name. 1884 F. J. BRITTEN *Watch & Clockm.* 237 Split chucks were made here many years ago. 1849 CRAIG, In Surgery, **split-cloth*, a bandage for the head, consisting of a central part, and six or eight tails. 1888 SOUTHWARD *Pract. Printing* (1884) 6 Certain

fractions are cast in one piece... If other fractions are needed, they require to be made up with small types, called *split fractions. 1878 Barlow *Weaving* 168 The second [contrivance] is generally used in weaving the richest silks.., and is termed the *split harness. 1843 Holtzapffel *Turning* I. 221 The two parts are previously prepared either to the form of the tongue or *split joint. 1869 Rankine *Machine & Hand-tools* Pl. H 4, A leading screw working in a *split nut beneath the slide rest. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2281/2 **Split-pin*, a pin or cotter with a head at one end and a split at the other. 1879 *Man. Artill. Exerc.* 171 Take out split-pin and unscrew steel pivot out of metal plate. 1884 F. J. Britten *Watch & Clockm.* 237 Separate *split plugs for different sized objects are provided. 1888 Jacobi *Printers' Vocab.* 129 **Split rigger*, riggers made in two equal portions and screwed together in order to facilitate shifting or changing. 1858 Greener *Gunnery* 316 A novel safety guard ;..swivel double like a *split ring. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2281/2 A split-ring has an opening by which keys may be introduced to be strung upon it. 1884 F. J. Britten *Watch & Clockm.* 245 The *Split Seconds ..is a form of chronograph in which there are two centre seconds hands, one under the other. 1888 *Encycl. Brit.* XXIV. 398/1 Watches are also made with what are called *split seconds*-hands.

b. In miscellaneous uses, as *split brilliant, crow, eagle, leather, pea(se*, etc.

1850 Holtzapffel *Turning* III. 1332 The *split brilliant.. only differs from the full brilliant..in the foundation squares being divided horizontally into two triangular facets. 1785 Grose *Dict. Vulgar T.*, **Split crow*, the sign of the spread eagle. 1889 F. E. Gretton *Memory's Harkback* 224 The sign of the Church might well have been the spread or *split eagle. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2281/2 *Split-leather is an inferior article, and is used for light boots and shoes [etc.]. 1854 Miss Baker *Northampt. Gloss.*, **Split-lift*, a narrow strip of leather split in two, which forms the lift, or seat of a shoe. 1846 Lindley *Veg. Kingd.* 63 *Andræaceæ.* —*Splitmosses. 1846 *Split-paling [see Split *v.* 9 c]. 1736 Bailey *Household Dict.* s.v. *Pease*, The *split pease do not need it. 1806 A. Hunter *Culina* (ed. 3) 39 One pint of split pease. 1858 Simmonds *Dict. Trade, Split-pease*, husked peas, split for making pease-soup or pease-puddings. 1894 A. Robertson *Nuggets*, etc. 191 He was as like Pat Kineen..as two split peas are like each other. 1814 W. Brown *Hist. Propag. Chr.* (1823) I. 620 *note*, The name of *split-snake..we considered as descriptive not so much of its split appearance as of the singular sensation occasioned by its bite. 1882 Caulfeild & Saward *Dict. Needlew.* 194/2 **Split stitch*, a stitch much used in ancient Church Embroidery..to work the faces and hands of figures. 1852 Mrs. Meredith *My Home in Tasmania* I. 159 '*Split stuff,' by which is meant timber..split into 'posts and rails', slabs, or paling. 1852 Mundy *Antipodes* (1857) 29 A mile or so of road lined with pretty cottages—pretty although formed only of 'split stuff'. 1882 Jordan & Gilbert *Syn. Fishes N. Amer.* 223 *Pogonichthys macrolepidotus*, *Split-tail. 1887 J. G. Frazer *Totemism* 10 A remarkable feature of some of these Oraon totems is, that they are not whole animals, but parts of animals...Such totems may be distinguished as **split totems*. 1898 *Year-bk. U. S. Dept. Agric.* 122 Another new insect..is the so-called tobacco leaf-miner, or '*split worm'.

3. Separated, divided, parted, or apportioned in some way. In special collocations, as *split draught, duty*, etc.

1871 *Routledge's Ev. Boy's Ann.* 530 The other flues may be arranged either as a wheel-draught or a *split-draught. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2281/2 *Split-draft*, (Furnace,) in steam-boilers, when the current of smoke and hot air is divided into two or more flues. 1895 *Daily News* 25 June 6/3 *Split duty, dividing the day's work into two or more portions, had been a sore point among the London sorters for many years. 1839 Ure *Dict. Arts* 327 Whenever the metal is run off by the tap-hole into the two basins,..called *Split-Hearths. 1839 De la Beche *Rep. Geol. Cornw.*, etc. x. 308 Some good examples of *split lodes are to be seen in the Marazion and Breague districts. 1876 Besant & Rice *Gold. Butterfly* iv. 32 The twins were taking their third *split soda—it was brotherly to divide a bottle. 1848 Bartlett *Dict. Amer.* 410 It sometimes happens..that individuals..erase one or more of the names and substitute others more to their liking. This is called a *split-ticket [1859 also a scratch ticket]. 1872 De Vere *Americanisms* 270 At times the party itself is divided into fractions,..and the result of such a split in their own ranks, is a split ticket.

b. *Split infinitive*: see Infinitive *sb.* 1.

4. With advs., as *split-off, -up*.

1856 Kane *Arct. Expl.* II. xiv. 148 These split-off lines of ice were evidently in motion. 1880 Miss Giberne *Sun, Moon, & Stars* 294 The split-up rays tell us much more than the kinds of metals in different stars.

b. *Split-up*, long-legged. *slang.*

1874 *Slang Dict.* 304 *Split up*, long in the legs. Among athletes, a man with good length of limb is said to be 'well split up'. 1891 *Field* 7 Mar. 334/3 The winner, Grand Fashion, is a leggy, split-up black, but decidedly the best mover of the lot.

5. a. In attrib. combs., as *split-mouth sucker, split-oak railing, split-timber house*.

1827 P. Cunningham *N.S. Wales* II. 170 In the split-timber houses, a frame is first put up. 1882 Jordan & Gilbert *Syn. Fishes N. Amer.* 144 *Quassilabia lacera*,.. Split-mouth Sucker. 1895 Cornish *Wild Eng.* 121 The ordinary high split-oak railing.

b. *Comb.*, as *split-eared, -nosed, -tongued* adjs.

c 1880 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* IV. 272 The sub-order Fissilingues, the Split-tongued Lizards. 1894 *Outing* XXIV. 173/2, I hunted on many horses.., but never on a better than my shaggy, split-eared, one-eyed Whitey. 1900 *Westm. Gaz.* 12 Mar. 7/1 An abundance of explosive soft-nosed and split-nosed ammunition.

†Splite. *Obs.*[−1] In 5 **splyte**. [? a. LG. *splite*, related to *spliten* to split.] A narrow opening.

1489 Caxton *Faytes of A.* II. xiv. Hiij, The walles must be..soo thykke and so brode that aleyes may be there made wyth holes and splytes that archers be sette for to shutte.

Spli·tful. *Weaving.* [f. Split *sb.*[1] 2 b.] A division of the warp, consisting of the threads passing between each pair of dents or splits.

1834–6 P. Barlow in *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) VIII. 734/2 There is likewise a third rod which divides the warp into what is usually called *splitfuls*, for two threads alternately pass over and under it.

Split-new, *a.* [app. f. Split *sb.*[1] or *v.* Cf. Sc. Spleet-new.] Perfectly new, brand-new.

1695 Bp. Sage *Presbytery* (1697) 246 A split new Democratical Systeme; a very Farce of Novelties. 1800 *Monthly Mag.* April 239/2 'The coat is split new.' This no doubt is a Scotticism. 1849 Cupples *Green Hand* xi. (1856) 115, I 'scribes the whole o' my togs as if I'd made 'em,—"split new," says I.

†Spli·tted, *ppl. a. Obs.* [f. Split *v.*] = Split *ppl. a.*

1593 Shaks. 2 *Hen. VI*, III. ii. 411 Euen as a splitted Barke, so sunder we. 1597 A. M. *Guillemeau's Fr. Chirurg.* 23/1 Of the haremouthe, or splitted and cloven lippes. 1602 Marston *Antonio's Rev.* IV. iv, I am a poore, poore orphant .., The wrack of splitted fortune. 1635 J. Johnson *Hist. Tom a Lincolne* (1828) 87 Like to a splitted ship torne by the tempest of the sea. 1695 Bp. Sage *Presbytery* (1697) 407 Why may not the two parts of the splitted Estate join together?

So **Spli·tten** *ppl. a. rare.*

1832 Motherwell *Poems* 17 Alack! What gain they but a splitten skull. 1896 Kipling *Seven Seas* 68 Like a splitten sail, to left and right she tore.

†Spli·tter, *sb.*[1] *Obs.* [a. LG. *splitter* (G. *splitter*, Sw. *splittra*), related to *spliten* to split.] A splinter. (Cf. Spleter.)

1546 Langley tr. *Pol. Verg. de Invent.* II. xi. 54 b, The winter garlandes..which are made of wode splitters or luerie died with many colores began to be had in quotidian usage. 1602 Segar *Honor, Milit. & Civ.* 168 The seuenth encounter was between John Marshal and Bouciquaut, who was somewhat hurt with a splitter. 1616 J. Lane *Contn. Sqr.'s T.* XII. 120 Theie meete amidd :..so that bothe brokenn splitters flewe in th' aier.

Splitter (spli·təɹ), *sb.*[2] [f. Split *v.* + -er 1.]

1. One who, or that which, splits or cleaves, in various senses.

1648 Hexham II, *Een Kliever*, a Cleaver, or a Splitter. 1706 Stevens *Span. Dict.*, *Rajador*, a Hewer, a Cleaver, a Splitter. 1731 Swift *Div. Ch. Livings* Misc. (1735) V. 127 How shou'd we rejoice, if..Those Splitters of Parsons in sunder shou'd burst. 1839 Ure *Dict. Arts* 1141 The splitter begins by dividing the block [of slate]..to a proper size. 1889 Welch *Text Bk. Naval Archit.* iv. 77 For lap-work, a tool called a splitter is employed to make a split in one of the edges. 1890 W. J. Gordon *Foundry* 144 It is taken from the annealing-kiln..to be cut up by the 'splitter' to the best advantage.

b. *spec.* One employed in splitting fish.

1622 Whitbourne *Newfoundland* 82 Seuen are to be skilfull headders, and splitters of fish. *c* 1682 J. Collins *Salt & Fishery* 91 The Splitters immediately split them, beginning at the Tail, and so continue to the Head, close by the back Fin. 1761 *Ann. Reg., Chron.* 188/2 Every boat-master, splitter, and master voyage [*sic*], who are the chief people among the fishermen. 1822 Hibbert *Descr. Shetl. Isl.* 519 A splitter, as he is called, then, with a large knife, cuts a fish open from the head to the tail. 1883 L. Z. Joncas *Fisheries Canada* 16 The splitter now seizes the fish, and with a single stroke of his knife he removes the back bone.

c. *Austr.* A wood-cutter.

1841 in Lang *Phillipsland* (1847) 133 Mokitte shot near Mount Cole; it is said by a (timber) Splitter. 1858 Simmonds *Dict. Trade, Splitter*, a name in Tasmania for a wood-cutter. 1870 A. L. Gordon *Bush Ballads* 32 At the splitter's tent I had seen the track of horse-hoofs.

2. *fig.* In phrases One who makes fine or subtle distinctions.

a 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew, Splitter-of-Causes*, a Lawyer. 1771 *Ann. Reg., Hist. Europe* 32/1 Of which they were as well qualified to judge as the most acute and subtil splitter of cases in all the courts. 1863 Miss Braddon *Aurora Floyd* vi, The splitter of metaphysical straws and chopper of logic.

b. One who favours minute subdivision in scientific classification.

1887 *Darwin's Life & Lett.* II. 105 *note*, Those who make many species are the 'splitters', and those who make few are the 'lumpers'. 1898 *Athenæum* 22 Jan. 123/1 Babington belonged to that category of botanists..denominated 'splitters'.

3. A splitting headache.

1860 Thackeray *Lovel* v. (1869) 224, I have got such a splitter of a headache. 1886 *Punch* 27 Nov. 263 Next morning Mr. Dumpkin has a headache, such a Splitter!!

4. One who causes splitting of votes.

1895 *Westm. Gaz.* 4 Mar. 2/2 The figure cut by the splitters themselves has in all cases been very poor.

Spli·tter, *v. rare.* [f. Split *v.* + -er 5, or ad. G. *splittern.*] *intr.* To break into fragments.

1860 Thackeray *Round. Papers, Week's Holiday*, Atlas ..would drop the moon..on to the white marble floor, and it would splitter into perdition. 1896 *Daily News* 29 Apr. 7/3 Called of God to save Russia from the 'splittering' which has filled Europe with rival creeds.

†Splittern. *Obs.*[−6] (See quot.)

1598 Florio, *Galette delle gambe dietro del cauallo*, the ioint of the hinder legs of a horse, called the hought or the spliterne [1611 splitterne] of a horse.

Splitting (spli·tiŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. Split *v.* + -ing 1.]

1. The action of the vb.; cleaving or rending:

a. In intransitive uses. Also with *asunder*.

c 1595 Capt. Wyatt *Dudley's Voy.* (Hakl. Soc.) 54 When wee expected nothing less then splittinge of sailes, breakinge of shroudes [etc.]. 1597 A. M. tr. *Guillemeau's Fr. Chirurg.* 23/1 The cleavinge or splittinge in the lippes,..and in the nose. 1611 Cotgr., *Debris*,..a breaking, or splitting asunder, as of a ship against a rocke. 1722–7 Bover *Dict. Royal* 1, *Eclat de rire*, a splitting with Laughing. 1798 Hutton *Course Math.* (1807) II. 335 It is to be suspected that the great penetration..was owing to the splitting of his timber in some degree. 1838 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* I. 330/1 The failure of the wall, by its separating into two thicknesses along the middle,..is called splitting. 1882 Vines tr. *Sachs' Bot.* 734 The splitting asunder of whole masses of tissue during freezing.

b. In transitive uses. Also with *out*.

1872 Holland *Marble Proph.* 102 When the chopping and splitting were done. 1890 'R. Boldrewood' *Col. Reformer* (1891) 131 A long spell of bush work—splitting, fencing,..what not. 1899 *Westm. Gaz.* 5 May 1/2 The Chief Constructor..will personally direct the splitting out of the only twelve blocks remaining under the vessel.

2. The action of dividing, separating, or parting.

1737 *Gentl. Mag.* VII. 34/1 Lest the Managers, by Splitting of Votes, should escape the Prosecution commenced against them. 1765 Blackstone *Comm.* I. 173 To prevent the splitting of freeholds. 1766 *Ibid.* II. 215 The inconveniences that attended the splitting of estates. 1833 Ht. Martineau *Loom & Lugger* I. i. 3 Such a splitting into two parties. 1885 *Athenæum* 12 Sept. 333/1 It is equally difficult to escape the charge of tedious and needless splittings.

b. Similarly with *up*.

1847 tr. *Bunsen's Ch. Future* 10 Along with the splitting up of the divine idea in man, the human race also was split up out of unity into plurality. 1862 Miller *Elem. Chem., Org.* (ed. 2) 288 The formation and the splitting up of these saccharides. 1895 *Knowledge* July 149 The splitting up of the rays which occurs on the transmission of light through a prism.

3. *pl.* That which is split, cleft, or chopped.

1867 *Morn. Star* 8 Oct., A Salisbury butcher announces.. meat at the following prices:..Beef—brisket, 7*d.*; splittings, 7½*d.*; rumps, 8*d.* 1887 D. C. Murray & Herman *Traveller Returns* vi. 78 Upon this small logs and splittings, dry and green alike, were thrown.

4. *Mining.* (See quot.)

1883 Gresley *Gloss. Coal-m.* 231 *Splittings*, two horizontal level headings driven through a pillar in pillar workings, in order to work away the coal.

5. *attrib.*, chiefly in the sense of 'used or adapted for splitting', as *splitting-knife, -machine, -mill, -tool*; **splitting-block** (see quot. 1711), **-board** (see quot. 1875).

1711 W. Sutherland *Shipbuild. Assist.* 25 Blocks of hard knotty Stuff..upon which you lay other Blocks, called Splitting-blocks, of the freest Timber that can be got, for the Conveniency of cleaving out again, when you are ready to launch. 1802 A. Young *Autobiog.* (1898) 383, I have fixed straw work here,..and my splitting machines are all distributed. 1846 Holtzapffel *Turning* II. 459 Paring or splitting tools, with thin edges. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2162/2 The blocks are fed to the splitting-knives by fluted rollers. *Ibid.* 2281/2 *Splitting-board* (Mining),..a dividing board used in mine ventilation to divide the incoming air. 1886 A. Weir *Hist. Basis Mod. Europe* (1889) 377 The rollers..saved the smaller gauges from being consigned to the splitting mill.

Spli·tting, *ppl. a.* [f. Splet *v.*]

1. Causing to split or rend.

1593 Shaks. 2 *Hen. VI*, III. ii. 97 The splitting Rockes cowr'd in the sinking sands. 1606 — *Tr. & Cr.* I. iii. 49 When the splitting winde Makes flexible the knees of knotted Oakes. 1624 Capt. Smith *Virginia* III. 64 The flashes of fire from heaven, by which light onely we kept from the splitting shore.

b. Ear-splitting; deafening.

1821 Byron *Sardanap.* I. ii, Worse than the rabble's shout, or splitting trumpet. 1891 Farrar *Darkn. & Dawn* lv, Splitting outbursts settled into a long continued roar.

c. *Croquet.* Of a stroke: Causing the balls to go in divergent directions.

1874 Heath *Croquet Player* 37 The Splitting Stroke. In this stroke, the two balls..fly off from each other at an angle. It is the most important of the croquet-strokes.

2. Parting asunder; separating by cleavage.

1725 Pope *Odyss.* VII. 358 The splitting Raft the furious tempest tore. 1883 *Gd. Words* Nov. 732/1 Besides the very small disease germs, there are many 'splitting-fungi'. 1891 T. Hardy *Tess* (1900) 24/1 The aspect of the straight road enlarged,..the two banks dividing like a splitting stick.

3. Extremely fast; very rapid.

1829 in *Standard* 6 Apr. (1908) 8/2 On the pistol being fired, the boats went off at a splitting rate. 1865 Dickens *Mut. Fr*, III. xv, A weak-spirited, improvident idiot..racing off at a splitting pace for the workhouse. 1873 *Routledge's Young Gentl. Mag.* 270/2 At a splitting gallop.

4. Of a headache: Violent, severe. Also *fig.* of the head.

1847 Mrs. Gore *Castles in Air* xxviii. III. 49, I woke next morning..with a splitting head-ache. 1857 G. A. Lawrence *Guy Livingstone* iii. 23 Pale men with splitting heads..after a heavy drink. 1884 *Punch* 15 Nov. 230/2 Head split open; splitting headache as result. 1893 Earl Dunmore *Pamirs* II. 191, I had a splitting headache in consequence of my fall.

Spli·tty, *a.* [f. Split *v.* Cf. WFris. *splittich.*] Liable to split.

1875 Sir T. Seaton *Fret-Cutting* 114 If the wood should be unusually 'splitty', the notch can be cut little by little.

Sploach, Sploch, obs. forms of Splotch.

Splodge (splɒdʒ), *sb.* [Cf. next and Splotch *sb.*] A thick, heavy, or clumsy splotch.

1854 *Househ. Words* IX. 74/1 She was a dollop of dripping, a splodge of grease. 1862 Sala *Accepted Addr.* 275 The monstrous splodges of colour the marvellous man sent of

late years to the..exhibitions. 1880 Mrs. Parr *Adam & Eve* xxviii. 388 To..display the two splodges of red sealing-wax.

Splodge (splɒdʒ), *v.* [Imitative of the sound.]

1. *intr.* To trudge or plod splashily through mud or water.

1859 A. Whitehead *Leg.* (1896) 56 (E.D.D.), Away he splodg'd in pensive mood, Towards the temple in the wood. 1899 F. V. Kirby *Sport E. C. Africa* ix. 106 As I had braved the first [muddy channel] and got wet through, I 'splodged' through them all in succession.

2. Used adverbially: With a heavy splash.

1898 H. Kirke *25 Yrs. Brit. Guiana* 180, I had hardly spoken when splodge! splodge! came the rain in my face.

Hence **Splo·dger.** (See quot.)

1860 *Slang Dict.* 224 *Splodger*, a lout, an awkward countryman.

Splodgy (splɒ·dʒi), *a.* [f. Splodge *sb.*] Full of splodges; showing coarse splotches of colour.

1882 *Contemp. Rev.* June 952 The large splodgy canvases with which the Academy is so full.

Splore (splōəɹ), *sb. Sc.* [Of obscure origin.]

1. A frolic, merrymaking, revel, carousal.

1785 Burns *Jolly Beggars* 1st Recit., A merry core..In Poosie Nancy's held the splore. 1816 Scott *Bl. Dwarf* vii, You that like to hear o' splores, heard ye ever o' a better ane than I hae had this morning? 1873 C. Gibbon *Lack of Gold* xxviii, Like enough the folk have kept him to join in some splore.

2. A commotion or disturbance; a skirmish or encounter; a scrape.

1785 Burns *Holy Willie* xiii, An' when we chasten'd him therefor, Thou kens how he bred sic a splore. 1818 Scott *Rob Roy* xxxv, Then came the splore about the surrendering your papers. 1843 *Cracks about Kirk* i. 16 Mony a splore you and me hae had; but we can shake hands yet. 1879 'S. Tytler' *Bride's Pass* v, He has not the ability to run wild and get into splores.

Hence **Splore** *v. intr.*, to revel or riot; to make a commotion or show; to brag or boast, etc.

1796 Burness *Thrummy Cap* (1893) 7 I'm a Christian man, Wha never lik'd to curse nor ban, Nor steal nor lie, nor drink nor splore. 1825 Jamieson *Suppl., To Splore, v.n.*, to show off, to make a great show. 1862– in *Eng. Dial. Dict.*

Sploshy (splɒ·ʃi), *a.* [Imitative.] Sloppy.

1881 *Harper's Mag.* Aug. 391 On horseback Rachel looks,—excuse the word but it expresses it,—sploshy. 1905 *Sat. Rev.* 29 July 133/1 Mr. Redmond, in rather a sploshy way, threatened dire obstruction.

Splotch (splɒtʃ), *sb.* Also 7 **sploch, sploach.** [Of obscure origin; perh. merely imitative.] A large irregular spot or patch of light, colour, or the like; a blot, smear, or stain. Also *fig.*

1601 Holland *Pliny* II. 266 Betonie is a soueraigne herbe ..for the blacke sploches that haue continued a long time vpon the skin. 1673 Wycherley *Gentl. Dancing-Master* v. i, Thou spot, sploach of my family and blood! 1683 Moxon *Mech. Exerc., Printing* xxiv. P 10 If..the Leather..be Black and White in Splotches. 1755 *Gentl. Mag.* XXV. 373 See, from thy bite rise blister'd blotches, And from thy ordure filthy splotches. 1812 Sir R. Wilson *Priv. Diary* (1862) I. 247 During my progress, the carter's nose twice froze in splotches as big as half-a-crown. 1863 Miss Braddon *Eleanor's Victory* I. v. 111 The leaves were crumpled, and smeared with stains and splotches of grease. 1885 Lady Brassey *The Trades* 145 Their dark-brown leaves, covered with bright splotches of red and yellow.

Splotch (splɒtʃ), *v.* [f. prec.] *trans.* To cover with splotches; to splash or stain in patches.

1654 Gayton *Pleas. Notes* iii. ii. 71 The bumps in his flesh, which was like a bruised Pig (but not so white), splotch'd all over. 1863 Trevelyan *Compet. Wallah* (1866) 219 He splotches his turban with pink paint. 1880 L. Wallace *Ben-Hur* iv. iii. 176 In places black moss splotched the otherwise bald stones.

Splotchy (splɒ·tʃi), *a.* [f. Splotch *sb.*] Covered with splotches or stains; having the appearance of splotches.

1863 Miss Braddon *Eleanor's Victory* v, There were splotchy engravings scattered here and there through the pages of Monsieur Féval's romance. 1874 Helps *Ivan de Biron* vii. xii. 448 The splotchy aspect of the painted scenery.

†**Splo·tty,** *a. Obs. rare.* [f. OE. *splott* spot; cf. *gesplottud* spotted.] Spotted, speckled.

1382 Nicholas of Hereford *Gen.* xxx. 35 (MS. Bodl. 959), þe schepe..& þe weþeres, dyuers & splotty. *Ibid.* xxxi. 10 Males steying up upon females, vary & splotty.

Splunge (splʌndʒ), *v. dial.* and *U.S.* [Imitative.] *intr.* To plunge.

1839 Marryat *Diary Amer.* Ser. i. II. 232 Here are two real American words:—'Sloping'—for slinking away; 'Splunging', like a porpoise. 1844 Carlyle in Froude *Life* (1884) I. 335 After a certain period of splunging and splashing. 1897 R. M. Johnston *Old Times Mid. Georgia* 68, I had no more idees of getting married again than I had of splunging head foremost into the very bottom o' Rudisill's mill-pond.

Splurge (splɚ̄dʒ), *sb. U.S.* [Imitative.]

1. An ostentatious display or effort.

1834 R. C. Sands *Writ.* II. 179 'What a splurge' (said a Kentucky representative, in one of the favorite and most expressive words of Western invention)—'what a splurge she makes'. 1864 *Boston* (Mass.) *Commw.* 3 June, Manton Marble..has just made a splurge in a letter addressed to the President. 1886 C. D. Warner *Summer in Garden* 152 They make a great deal of ostentatious splurge; and many of them come to no result at last.

2. A heavy splash or downpour.

1879 Sala *Paris Herself Again* II. xvii. 270 The rain came down..in brief but uncomfortable 'splurges'.

Splurge (splɚ̄dʒ), *v. U.S.* [Imitative.]

1. *intr.* To make an ostentatious display; to show off.

a 1848 *Maj. Jones's Courtship* 101 (Bartlett), Cousin Pete was thar splurgin about in the biggest, with his dandy-cut trowsers and big whiskers. 1888 C. D. Warner *Their Pilgr.* iv. 114 People who..buy or build expensive villas, splurge out for a year or two, then fail.., and disappear.

2. To splash heavily. (Cf. Splodge *v.* 1.)

1887 T. Stevens *Around World on Bicycle* i. viii. 189, I don my gossamers as soon as the rain slacks up a little, and splurge ahead through the mud.

Hence **Splu·rging** *ppl. a.*

1884 L. Oliphant *Altiora Peto* 90 The..American heiress and her friend—two of my splurging young countrywomen.

Splurgy (splɚ̄·dʒi), *a. U.S.* [f. Splurge *sb.* + -y.] Showy, ostentatious.

1871 H. Bushnell in M. B. Cheney *Life* (1880) 524 Great care to be had of language—no hollow generalities, no splurgy matter, nothing fine. 1884 *Harper's Mag.* Oct. 701/1 If one is..indifferent to the splendid but splurgy meerschaum.

Hence **Splu·rgily** *adv. U.S.*

1887 *Atlantic Monthly* LX. 279 Living freely, generously, and, if one may say so, splurgily.

Splurt (splɚ̄t), *v.* [Imitative: cf. Spliet *v.*]

1. *trans.* To squirt or spirt out (liquid). *dial.*

1825-54 in N. Cy. and Northampt. glossaries (s.v. *Splirt*).

2. *intr.* To sputter or splash.

1845 J. Keegan *Leg. & Poems* (1907) 259 When the fire-canoe of the pale-face first hissed and splurted in the great waters of the mighty Missouri.

Splutter (splɐ·təɹ), *sb.* [Imitative: cf. Sputter *sb.* Noted by Johnson as 'a low word'.]

1. A noise or fuss.

1677 Miége *Fr. Dict.* II, To keep a great splutter,..*faire grand bruit.* 1711 Swift *Jrnl. to Stella* 8 Sept., What a splutter you keep, to convince me that Walls has no taste! 1735 Burdon *Pocket-Farrier* 70 What a splutter has Mr. Solleysell made in his Works. 1809 T. Donaldson *Poems* 33 Your comrades, Davie, when you're dead, May raise an unco' splutter. 1893 in *S. E. Worcester Gloss.* 37.

b. Violent and confused declamation, discourse, or talk; an instance of this.

1688 *Vox Cleri Pro Rege* 6 After all this Splutter at the Churchmen and Clergy of England, he falls next to shoot his angry Bolts at the Collection. 1791 A. Wilson in *Poems & Lit. Prose* (1876) II. 35 For gudesake whist!..Its nonsense a' this splutter. 1868 Swinburne *Blake* 15 The only original work of its author..consisting mainly of mere wind and splutter. 1881 Huxley in L. Huxley *Life* II. 33 Dinner ..with a confused splutter of German to the neighbours on my right.

c. A controversy or dispute.

1838 Mrs. Carlyle *Lett.* I. 109 He has had a splutter with Leigh Hunt.

2. A loud or violent sputter or splash.

1815 Scott *Guy M.* i, About a rood of the simple masonry giving way in the splutter with which he passed. 1841 Dickens *Barn. Rudge* iv, Until, with great foam and froth and splutter, it would force a vent, and carry all before it. 1873 G. C. Davies *Mount. & Mere* ix. 68 A couple of ducks ..made away with a great splutter.

fig. 1821 Lamb *Elia* i. *Old Benchers Inn. Temple*, Is the splutter of their hot rhetoric one half so refreshing and innocent as the little cool playful streams [etc.]? 1887 [see Spitfire *sb.* 1 b].

Splutter (splɐ·təɹ), *v.* [f. prec.]

1. *trans.* To utter hastily and indistinctly. Also const. *out.*

1729 T. Cooke *Tales*, etc. 119 Call them, without Reserve, Dog, Monkey, Owl, And splutter out at once Fish, Flesh, and Fowl. 1826 Lamb *Pop. Fallacies* vii, When he has been spluttering excellent broken sense for an hour together. 1850 Boker *Anne Boleyn* i. iii, And then shake heaven with angel merriment To hear you splutter—'Lord, all this is ours!' 1870 Thornbury *Tour rd. Eng.* II. xx. 62 King James spluttered out his alarm at Jesuit plots in clumsy Latin.

2. a. To scatter in small splashes.

1835 *Politen. & Gd.-breed.* 66 If you are eating soup, take care not to splutter it about. 1853 R. S. Surtees *Sponge's Sp. Tour* xlii. 232 Twirling the pen between his fingers, and spluttering the ink over the paper.

b. To bespatter (a person). Also *fig.*

a 1869 C. Spence *Fr. Braes Carse* Poems (1898) 196 Ae jaw-hole [will] splutter fifty folk. 1901 *N. & Q.* 9th Ser. VIII. 401/1 His pen was busy spluttering detractors.

3. *intr.* To talk or speak hastily and confusedly.

1728 De Foe *Mem. Capt. Carleton* 64 There came in a Dutchman, spluttering and making a great Noise, that he was sure he could discover one of the Conspirators. 1828 Carr *Craven Gloss., Splutter*, to speak fast and inarticulately. 1881 Besant & Rice *Chapl. of Fleet* II. xx. (1883) 279 He could not even swear. He could only splutter.

4. To make a spluttering sound or sounds.

1818 Scott *Rob Roy* vii, You may see Jobson on such occasions..puffing, strutting, and spluttering, to get the Justice put in motion. 1860 Thackeray *Round. Papers, Autour de mon Chapeau*, Dawn, it may be, rises unheeded; ..while waning candles splutter in the sockets. 1878 Lady Brassey *Voy. Sunbeam* 17 A dozen of them spluttering and fighting for the coin in the water at the same time.

b. To go *out* with a sputter.

1906 Treves *Highways Dorset* xii. 183 The attempt spluttered out like an over-fed candle.

5. Of a pen: To scatter ink in writing.

1837 Dickens *Pickw.* xxxiii, A hard-nibbed pen which could be warranted not to splutter. 1863 Miss Braddon *J. Marchmont's Legacy* II. iv. 90 You see if my pen doesn't splutter, the moment I address Richard Paulette.

6. To fly in small splashes or pieces.

1849 Lytton *Caxtons* 17 The fragments spluttered up round my father's legs. 1862 *Gifts & Graces* xv. 156 She dropped her fat round cake..right into her cup of tea, the contents of which spluttered all over her bonnet-ribbons.

†**Splutter,** *int. Obs.* [Perversion of *God's blood*: see God *sb.* 14 a and Cuts 1.] A form of oath, usually attributed to Welshmen. Also *Splutterdenails* (= blood and nails).

1719 D'Urfey *Pills* (1872) V. 7 Welch Taffy he raves and crys Splutterdenails. 1731 Fielding *Grub St. Op.* iii. xiv, Mr. Puzzletext, you are not mad, I hope? *Puz.* Splutter! my lady, but I am. 1748 Smollett *R. Random* xxv, Splutter and oons! you lousy tog, who do you call my master?

Splutterer (splɐ·tərəɹ). [f. Splutter *v.*] One who splutters.

1840 in Smart. 1882 *Daily News* 21 Feb. 4/5 Referring to the plaintiff as a 'cross-grained and ill-conditioned splutterer'.

Splu·ttering, *vbl. sb.* [f. as prec.] The action of the verb in various senses.

1739 *J. Miller's Jests* No. 167, But all his spluttering was in vain. 1840 Thackeray *Catherine* vi, He emptied, with much spluttering and grimaces,..the beer into the fire. 1856 Mrs. Carlyle *Lett.* II. 299 What galloping and spluttering over the paper.

Splu·ttering, *ppl. a.* [f. as prec.] That splutters or sputters.

1706 E. Ward *Wooden World Diss.* (1708) 28 The End of War-ships is Fighting; but this spluttering Manager seems to believe them built..purely for Sailing. 1846 Hawthorne *Mosses* i. i, By the hissing and spluttering rain. 1852 Motley *Corr.* (1889) I. v. 141 The noisy spluttering politics which constitute our vital elements. 1882 Miss Braddon *Mt. Royal* III. viii. 164 Dopsy exploded in a little spluttering laugh behind her napkin.

Spluttery (splɐ·təri), *a.* [f. as prec.] Suggestive of spluttering.

1866 *Spectator* 10 Nov. 1261/2 The gilding on it [a new book] has a spluttery effect.

Spoak(e, obs. ff. pa. t. and pa. pple. Speak *v.*; obs. ff. Spoke *sb.* **Spoal,** obs. form of Spool *sb.*[1]

†**Spoch-dog.** *Obs.*[-1] Some kind of dog.

1684 Creech *Virg. Ecl.* iii. 25 His Spoch-Dog [L. *Lycisca*] barkt, I cry'd, the Robber, see.

Spode[1]. *rare.* [a. F. *spode*, or ad. L. *spodos* (Pliny), Gr. σποδός ashes, dross, dust.] = Spodium.

1611 Cotgr., *Spodizateur*, one that maketh Spode, or getteth soot, &c., from Brasse, by trying, or melting it. *Ibid.*, *Spodon de canne*, artificiall, or counterfeit Spode, made of the rootes of reedes, and Ox bones burned. [1861 Hulme tr. *Moquin-Tandon* II. iii. 81 Ivory calcined until it becomes white has been regarded as absorbent:..some therapeutists have termed it Spode or Spodium.]

Spode[2] (spōud). [See def.] The surname of a maker of china, Josiah Spode (1754–1827), used *attrib.* to designate ware manufactured by him. Also *ellipt.*, = Spode-ware.

1893 *Auction Catal. Porcelain W. P. Hamond* 4 Two Spode cups. *Ibid.* 5 A Spode Dessert Service. 1899 M. Cobbett *Bottled Holidays* 149 A big, long-lipped, spode-ware jug, capable of holding a gallon. 1908 *Daily Rep.* 25 Aug. 8/3 Very little Spode has been for sale.

‖ **Spodium** (spōu·diŏm). Now *rare.* Also 6 **spodiom.** [L. *spodium* (Pliny), ad. Gr. σπόδιον, = σποδός Spode[1]. Cf. It. *spodio*, Sp., Pg. *espodio.*] A fine powder obtained from various substances by calcination. (See quots. and cf. Nill *sb.*[1])

a 1425 tr. *Arderne's Treat. Fistula*, etc. 63 Medicynez restrictyuez bene þise; Camphore, accacia, spodium [*text* spodin], coriandre. 1528 Paynell *Salerne's Regim.* (1535) 71 As spodium doth helpe and comforte the liuer. 1588 T. Hickock tr. *C. Frederick's Voy.* 38 b, The Spodiom conealeth in certaine canes. 1601 Holland *Pliny* II. 520 There is a kind of Spodium also made of lead in the furnace. 1661 Lovell *Hist. Anim. & Min.* 216 The ashes of their bones if salted, serve in stead of spodium. 1662 J. Davies tr. *Mandelso's Trav.* ii. 152 Spodium is the ashes of a tree growing near Sunda. 1671 Phillips, *Spodium*, a sort of soot which rising from the trying of Brass, falls down at length to the bottom. 1728 Chambers *Cycl.* s.v., The Moderns make their Spodium of Ivory burnt and calcined to a Whiteness. 1861 [see Spode[1]].

Spo·dizator. *rare.* [ad. F. *spodizateur* (Rabelais), f. *spode* Spode[1].] One who makes spodium.

1694 Motteux *Rabelais* v. xx, Her Abstractors, Spodizators, Masticators, Prægustics..and other Officers, for whom I want Names. [1840 *Fraser's Mag.* XXI. 8 Like the young spodizator in the court of that royal lady to whom we have just referred.]

Spodo- (spɒ·do), a. Gr. σποδο-, combining stem of σποδός Spode[1], as in **Spodoge·nic** *a.*, **Spodo·genous** *a.*, *Path.* characterized by the production of waste organic matter. **Spo·domancy,** divination by means of ashes (Smart, 1836). **Spodoma·ntic** *a.*, divining by ashes.

1857 Kingsley *Two Y. Ago* I. vii. 186 [He] stared fiercely into the fire, as if to draw from thence omens of his love, by the spodomantic augury of the ancient Greeks. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* IV. 525 This process may lead to what is called a spodogenous enlargement of the organ. 19.. *Buck's Med. Handbk.* VI. 413 (Cent. Suppl.), Spodogenic.

Spodumene (spɒ·diumēn). *Min.* Also **spodumen.** [a. F. *spodumène*, G. *spodumen* (B. J. d'Andrada, 1800), ad. Gr. σποδούμενος, pple. of σποδοῦσθαι to be burnt to ashes, f. σποδός Spode[1].] A silicate of aluminium and lithium, of varying colour, found both in crystals and massive.

a. 1805 R. Jameson *Min.* II. 563 Spodumene...Colour

greenish-white, which passes into apple-green. 1837 DANA *Min.* 305 Spodumene..was so called because it assumes a form like ashes before the blowpipe. 1897 *Edin. Rev.* Oct. 353 The Hiddenite, or green spodumene, is an extremely rare and very pretty stone.

β. 1822 *Imison's Sci. & Art* II. 84 It..has been met with in the petalite, spodumen, and lepidolite. 1851 MANTELL *Petrifactions* iv. § 1. 364 Felspathic substances. Triphane; spodumen; petalite.

Spoffish (spǫ·fiʃ), *a. slang.* [Of obscure origin.] Bustling, fussy, officious.

1836–7 DICKENS *Sk. Boz, Tales* v, As a little spoffish man ..entered the room. *Ibid.* vii, He..was smart, spoffish, and eight-and-twenty. 1884 E. YATES *Recoll.* II. 244 A little spoffish American gentleman..had regarded me with great curiosity.

So **Spo·ffy** *a.*

1860 *Slang Dict.*, *Spoffy*, a bustling busy-body is said to be spoffy.

Spogeour, obs. form of SPOUCHER (scoop).

Spoil (spoil), *sb.* Forms: 4, 6–7 **spoyle**, 4, 6–8 **spoile**, 4, 6– **spoil**, 6 **spoylle**, 7–8 **spoyl**; 4–5 **spuyle**, 5 **spuyl**. See also SPULYIE. [ad. OF. *espoille, espuille*, f. *espoillier* (see next); or directly f. SPOIL *v.*[1] In senses 5–6 after L. *spolium*, pl. *spolia*.

As in the verb, there are notable gaps in the continuity of the older senses.]

I. 1. Goods, esp. such as are valuable, taken from an enemy or captured city in time of war; the possessions of which a defeated enemy is deprived or stripped by the victor; in more general sense, any goods, property, territory, etc., seized by force, acquired by confiscation, or obtained by similar means; booty, loot, plunder.

a. In collective sing.

13.. *K. Alis.* 986 (Laud MS.), Alisaundre took þe spoyle of þe cite. *Ibid.* 2555 After þat was parted þe spoyle. 1382 WYCLIF *Jer.* xxi. 9 Who forsothe shal..flee to the Caldeis that besegen 30u, shal lyue, and be shal to hym his soule as spoile. 1530 PALSGR. 274 Spoyle that is gotten in warfare, *despoille*. 1568 GRAFTON *Chron.* II. 300 All suche as were at this battayle, were all made riche..by wynning of Golde, Siluer, plate, and Jewels, that was there found in the spoyle. 1582 N. LICHEFIELD tr. *Castanheda's Conq. E. Ind.* 163 With this spoyle the king of Calicut remained..ill contented. 1607 SHAKS. *Cor.* v. vi. 44 That we look'd For no lesse Spoile, then Glory. 1671 MILTON *Samson* 1203 As on my enemies, where ever chanc'd, I us'd hostility, and took thir spoil. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) VIII. 122 If they meet with an insect,..several of them will fall upon it at once, and having mangled it, each will carry off a part of the spoil. 1781 GIBBON *Decl. & F.* (1787) III. 467 They were more ambitious of spoil than of glory. 1821 SCOTT *Pirate* vii, Several of the people..of Jarlshof were now hastening along the beach, to have their share in the spoil. 1838 THIRLWALL *Greece* xliii. V. 270 He led his army back..laden with the spoil of Locris. 1876 MATHEWS *Coinage of World* xiv. 123 Prussia and Austria then attacked Denmark and took Holstein and Schleswig from it, finally quarrelling over the spoil.

fig. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* I. 411 To gather Laurel-berries, and the Spoil Of bloody Myrtles. 1816 BYRON *Prisoner of Chillon* i, My limbs are..rusted with a vile repose, For they have been a dungeon's spoil.

b. In pl. Also more fully in *the spoils of war.*

(*a*) *a* 1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* cxviii. 162, I sall be glad on þi wordis as he þat fyndis spoils many. 1382 WYCLIF *Gen.* xlix. 27 The morwen tide he shall eete a pray, and the euentide he shal dyuyde spoylis. — *Luke* xi. 22 Sothli if a strongere comynge aboue ouercome him, he..schal dele abrood his spuylis. 1535 COVERDALE 2 *Macc.* viii. 27 So they toke their weapens and spoyles & kepte the Sabbath, geuynge thankes vnto the Lorde. 1591 SHAKS. 1 *Hen. VI*, II. i. 80, I haue loaden me with many Spoyles, Vsing no other Weapon but his Name. 1601 R. JOHNSON *Kingd. & Commw.* (1603) 167 The Tartars choosing this for their seate and countrie, beautified it with the spoiles of Asia. 1654 BRAMHALL *Just Vind.* iii. (1661) 37 Why did they not..preserve the spoiles of the cloisters for publick and charitable uses? 1712 HEARNE *Collect.* (O.H.S.) III. 311 Offering to him the Spoyls of the Enemy. 1746 FRANCIS tr. *Horace, Epist.* II. ii. 36 A common Soldier, who by various Toils And Perils gain'd a Competence in Spoils. 1790 BURKE *Fr. Rev.* Wks. 1907 IV. 59 Are the [illegible]urates to be seduced from their bishops, by holding out to them the delusive hope of a dole out of the spoils of their own order? 1823 SCOTT *Quentin D.* xiii, A rich Turkey carpet, the spoils of the tent of a Pacha after the great battle of Jaiza. 1868 J. H. BLUNT *Ref. Ch. Eng.* I. 325 The great spoils of which the king had possessed himself. 1891 FARRAR *Darkn. & Dawn* lxi, Informers who had recently been enriched with the spoils of the innocent.

fig. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* IV. 159 Now gentle gales..dispense Native perfumes, and whisper whence they stole Those balmie spoiles. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) I. 133 The new islands which are sometimes formed from the spoils of the continent.

(*b*) 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* IV. 810 Mighty Cæsar, thund'ring from afar, Seeks on Euphrates' Banks the Spoils of War. 1865 C. STANFORD *Symb. Christ* i. (1878) 6 Who after a long pursuit recovered the prisoners with all the spoils of war. 1892 tr. *Villari's Machiavelli* II. iv. II. 184 Only of the spoils of war has the prince the right to be lavish.

c. *transf.* That which is or has been acquired by special effort or endeavour; esp. objects of art, books, etc., collected in this way.

Sometimes with slight suggestion of the primitive sense.

1750 GRAY *Elegy* 50 But Knowledge to their eyes her ample page Rich with the spoils of time did ne'er unroll. 1752 H. WALPOLE *Lett.* (1846) II. 390, I had just seen her collection, ..composed of the spoils of her father's and the Arundel collections. 1820 HAZLITT *Table-T.*, xvii. (1911) 252 The Louvre is stripped of its triumphant spoils. 1868 G. DUFF *Pol. Surv.* 7, I found him surrounded by the literary spoils which he had brought across the Alps. 1892 *Daily News* 23 Dec. 6/4 The plates represent the spoil of all the great galleries of Europe.

†**d.** *pl.* (See quots.) *Obs.* [F. *dépouilles.*]

1725 tr. *Dupin's Eccl. Hist. 17th Cent.* I. II. iii. 48 The Name of Spoils was given to the Goods the Clergy left at their Demise. 1772 tr. *F. F. de Isla's Friar Gerund* IV. ii. 21 His spoils (so it is usual in communities to call the effects left by the deceased Religious) consisted almost intirely of his manuscript sermons.

e. The public offices, or positions of emolument, distributed among the supporters of a successful political party on its accession to power. Chiefly *U.S.* and in pl.

sing. 1770 *Junius Lett.* xli. (1788) 232 Who is there so senseless as to renounce his share in a common benefit, unless he hopes to profit by a new division of the spoil? *c* 1789 GIBBON *Mem.* Misc. Wks. 1796 I. 164 From a principle of gratitude I adhered to the coalition: my vote was counted in the day of battle, but I was overlooked in the division of the spoil. 1812 *Massachusetts Ho. Repres. to Governor*, The weaker members of the party..would be overlooked..; whilst the more powerful would disagree in the division of the spoil.

pl. 1830 J. S. JOHNSON in *Congressional Deb.* 2 Apr. 299 The country is treated as a conquered province, and the offices distributed among the victors, as the spoils of the war. 1843 WHITTIER *What is Slavery?* Wks. 1889 III. 107 Leave these to parties contending for office, as the 'spoils of victory'. 1888 BRYCE *Amer. Commw.* II. 271 The post of policeman is 'spoils' of the humbler order, but spoils equally divided between the parties.

2. The action or practice of pillaging or plundering; the carrying off or taking away of goods as plunder; rapine, spoliation. Now *Obs.* or *arch.*

Freq. *c* 1550–1625, esp. without article.

1532 CROMWELL in Merriman *Life & Lett.* (1902) I. 348 The hole spoyle and eloyning of the sayd goods & plate was made onely by the sayd Edmond Knyghtley. 1550 T. LEVER *Serm.* (Arb.) 94 Suche Scottes or Frenchemen, as makyng spoyle for theyr owne profit, would not spare to dystroye thys realme. 1592 in J. Morris *Troubles Cath. Forefathers* (1877) 19 He..had a bag of money..which..he had before gotten by the spoil of Catholics. 1603 KNOLLES *Hist. Turks* (1621) 79 So was the citie of Constantinople..for that time saued from saccage and spoile. 1648 GAGE *West. Ind.* 49 The City was yeelded to the spoil, and the Spaniards took the gold, plate and feathers. 1710 O. SANSOM *Acc. Life* 334 The continued cruelty, violence and spoil, that was made upon our Friends. 1823 SCOTT *Quentin D.* xix, Well were the Liegois then assured, that..this Charles..would have given their town up to spoil. 1829 — *Rob Roy* Introd., The alleged acts of spoil and violence on the MacLarens' cattle.

personif. 1589 R. ROBINSON *Gold. Mirr.* (1851) 25 And greedy spoile spares not to spill, to pray on others good.

b. *To make spoil of*, to pillage or plunder; to extort or collect goods, provisions, etc., from.

1613–8 DANIEL *Coll. Eng. Hist.* Wks. (Grosart) IV. 164 [He] enters France in the chiefest time of their fruits, making spoil of all in his way. 1643 R. BAKER *Chron.* (1653) 229 The Welchmen..break into the borders of Herefordshire, making spoil and prey of the Country as freely as if they had leave to do it. 1891 FARRAR *Darkn. & Dawn* xxxii, In this way they made spoil of all the country side.

†**3.** An act or occasion of pillaging or plundering; an incursion for the sake of booty or plunder; a marauding expedition or raid. *Obs.*

1543–4 *Act* 35 *Hen. VIII*, c. 12, The same Scottes..make ..inuasions, spoyles, burnynges,..and depopulations in this his realme. 1585 T. WASHINGTON tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* II. ix. 43 The Turkes haue made dyuers rodes & spoiles into the same. *a* 1586 SIDNEY *Arcadia* (1622) 323 Lycurgus.. went toward her, rather as to a spoile then to a fight. 1603 KNOLLES *Hist. Turks* (1621) 1314 The fregats of Russia,.. the which had continually made inroads and spoyles vpon his lands. 1646 J. TEMPLE *Irish Reb.* (1746) 214 The being found upon Examination guilty of the late Spoils committed most barbarously on the English.

4. An object or article of pillage, plunder, or spoliation; a prey.

1594 KYD *Cornelia* I. 90 The Rocks..if thou sholdst but touch, thou straight becomst A spoyle to Neptune. 1596 SHAKS. 1 *Hen. IV*, I. i. 74 And is not this an honourable spoyle? A gallant prize? 1791 COWPER *Iliad* I. 24 So may the Gods who in Olympus dwell Give Priam's treasures to you for a spoil. 1808 W. WILSON *Hist. Dissent. Ch.* I. 251 The Priory of the Holy Trinity..was fixed upon as an early spoil. 1821 BRYANT *Ages* xvi, Oh, Greece! thy flourishing cities were a spoil Unto each other.

II. 5. The arms and armour of a slain or defeated enemy as stripped off and taken by the victor; a set or suit of these. *Opime spoils* [L. *spolia opima*]: (see quot. 1770 and OPIME *a.*).

a 1547 SURREY *Æneid* II. 352 Ay me, what one? that Hector how vnlike, Which erst returnd clad with Achilles spoiles. 1602 HOLLAND *Pliny* I. 170 Before he was full 17 yeres of age, hee had gained already two complete spoiles of his enemies. 1611 SIR W. MURE *Mes Amours* Wks. (S.T.S.) I. 10 Ye goddesse airmed With proud, presuming Cupid's conquered spoyle. 1697 DRYDEN *Æneid* II. 359 Hector, who return'd, from toils Of war, triumphant in Æacian spoils. 1728 POPE *Iliad* XVI. 808 The radiant arms are by Patroclus borne; Patroclus' ships the glorious spoils adorn. 1770 LANGHORNE *Plutarch* II. 366 What they take from the enemy in the field, they call by the general name of spoils, but these which a Roman general takes from the general of the enemy, they call opime spoils. 1820 DAVIDSON tr. *Virgil* (1843) 286, I vow that you..shall be clad in the spoils torn from the pirate's body.

transf. a 1586 SIDNEY *Arcadia* II. xxviii, Thou God, whose youth was deckt with spoiles of Pythons skin.

fig. 1768–74 TUCKER *Lt. Nat.* (1834) II. 659 Our abhorrences and tormenting passions,..were designed for our benefit, that in struggling with them we..gain the *spolia opima*, the richest spoils.

b. A single article acquired in this way.

1697 DRYDEN *Æneid* XII. 149 O pon'drous spoil [*sc.* a lance] of Actor slain. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* Apr. 1646, A Turkish bridle..taken from a basshaw whom he had slain. With this glorious spoile I rid the rest of my journey as far as Paris.

6. The skin of a snake stripped or cast off, *esp.* that cast off naturally; the slough. Also *pl.* Now *Obs.* or *arch.*

1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* II. 363 As for the skinne or spoile of a snake, if it be put alone in a chist..it wil kil the moth. 1626 BACON *Sylva* § 969 The Wearing of the Spoil of a Snake, for preserving of Health,..is but a Conceit: For that the Snake is thought to renew her Youth, by Casting her Spoil. 1638 RAWLEY tr. *Bacon's Life & Death* (1650) 51 Like the old Skin, or Spoile of Serpents. 1742 tr. *Algarotti's Newton's Theory* II. 200 Laying aside it's old Spoils like the Snake, it may again grow young.

b. The cast or stripped-off skin of any animal.

1664 POWER *Exp. Philos.* I. 12 House spiders have..a sleek thin skin: which they change once a moneth, sayes Muffet; though I hardly believe they cast their spoils so often. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* III. 589 Skins of Beasts, the rude Barbarians wear; The Spoils of Foxes, and the furry Bear. 1725 POPE *Odyss.* IV. 593 She..from her azure car, the finny spoils Of four vast phocæ takes. 1906 C. M. DOUGHTY *Dawn in Britain* III. 42 With buskins of the spoil Of mountain broc.

c. *pl.* The remains of an animal body; the parts left intact or uneaten.

1695 WOODWARD *Nat. Hist. Earth* I. (1723) 16 A Dissertation concerning Shells,..proving..that they are the real Spoils of once living Animals. *Ibid.* 26 These are the real Spoils and Remains of Sea-Animals. 1704 SWIFT *Batt. Bks.* Wks. 1768 I. 177 Numbers of flies, whose spoils lay scattered before the gates of his [the spider's] palace. 1865 G. F. BERKELEY *Life & Recoll.* II. 313, I never found the remains of a tench..where were what we denominate the 'Spoils' of an otter.

III. 7. The action or fact of spoiling or damaging; damage, harm, impairment, or injury, esp. of a serious or complete kind. Now *rare.*

a. With *of* (= inflicted on) or possessive pron.

1572 in Feuillerat *Rev. Q. Eliz.* (1908) 409 To the grett hurt, spoylle, & dyscredyt of the same. 1592 KYD *Murther Y. Brewen* Wks. (1901) 292 It is thou and no man else that can triumph in my spoyle. 1600 SURFLET *Countrie Farme* II. lxvi. 414 They rotte and destroy the honie,..and the spoile of the honie causeth the bees to die. 1677 GILPIN *Demonol.* (1867) 118 The like spoil of duty is made when we adventure upon it in our own strength. 1691 T. H[ALE] *Acc. New Invent.* 22 Were this Spoil of Iron-work chargeable with nothing but what is contained in the Lead and Nails.

b. With *of* (= caused by).

1575–85 ABP. SANDYS *Serm.* (1841) 69 Although God hitherto hath preserved his vineyard from the spoil of these foxes. 1682 PENN *No Cross* xi. (ed. 2) 229 Poor Mortals!.. who with all their Pride cannot secure themselves from the Spoil of Sickness. 1691 RAY *Creation* (1714) 162 Guard them from the invasions and spoil of Beasts. 1820 SHELLEY *Sensit. Pl.* III. 25 The noonday sun..Mocking the spoil of the secret night.

c. Without const., or with *upon*; chiefly in phr. *to do, make,* etc. (*great, much*) *spoil.*

1575 TURBERV. *Faulconrie* 358 They will haue a disease in the backe,..and moreouer they shall be in daunger of vtter spoyle. 1596 DRAYTON *Legends* ii. 549 Ruing the spoile done by his fatall hand. 1609 C. BUTLER *Fem. Mon.* (1634) 43 Mice..which in Winter are wont to make much spoil. *a* 1648 LD. HERBERT *Hen. VIII* (1683) 562 Sir John Wallop.. landed at Calais, and from thence..did much spoil upon the French. 1722 DE FOE *Plague* (1754) 154 Our three Travellers were obliged to keep the Road, or else they must commit Spoil, and do the Country a great deal of Damage in breaking down Fences and Gates. 1760 *Patrington Haven Act* 23 To make such recompence..for any damage or spoil that may be done. 1888 *Pall Mall G.* 28 Sept. 10/2 He was entitled..to raise minerals from the land, and to commit the necessary damage and spoil without making any compensation.

d. *On spoil*, spoiling. *rare*—[1].

1750 in Temple & Sheldon *Hist. Northfield, Mass.* (1875) 378 Thus poorly have our Garrisons been stored; whilst many Hundred Pair of Snow Shoes lie on Spoil some where or other.

†**8.** An act or instance of spoiling, damaging, injuring, etc.; a damage, impairment, or injury; a piece or work of destruction. *Obs.*

1550 T. LEVER *Serm.* (Arb.) 95 In theyr doynges appeareth..a procedyng from euyl vnto worse, by an vncharitable spoyle, and deuyllyshe destruccion. 1581 MULCASTER *Positions* xl. (1887) 225 At home spoiles, soilthes, twentie things, are nothing in the parentes homely eye. 1598 MANWOOD *Lawes Forest* viii. (1615) 66 A wast of the forest is as much by common intendment, as to say, a spoile of the couerts or pasture of the forest. 1607 COWELL *Interpr., Waste*..signifieth..a spoile made, either in houses, woods, gardens, orchards, &c. by the tenent for terme of life. 1660 F. BROOKE tr. *Le Blanc's Trav.* 19 They creepe up the trees, shake down the fruit, and make a great spoyle. *a* 1722 LISLE *Husb.* (1757) 442, I observed in the barley several full-grown ears withered lying along in a track of the field, which seemed to be a great spoil.

†**b.** A spoiler or destroyer *of* something. *Obs.*—[1]

c 1612 CHAPMAN *Iliad* v. 331 Away flew Venus then, And after her cried Diomed: 'Away, thou spoil of men'.

9. †**a.** A spoiled or waste part of a timber-tree; wood of this kind. *Obs.*

1567 in F. J. Baigent *Crondal Rec.* (1891) 167 The same tenauntes maye lawfully haue..all the loppes, toppes, barkes, spoyles, and offalles of all..tymbre..trees. 1609 [see next].

†**b.** ? A piece of ground spoiled or rendered unserviceable in some way. *Obs.*—[1]

1609 *Mem. Ripon* (Surtees) III. 334 Commons, Wastes, Spoils, Heaths, Moors, Fishings, Woods, Underwoods and Trees and the Spoil of the same woods.

c. Some thing spoiled or imperfectly executed, esp. in the process of manufacture.

1892 *Pall Mall G.* 29 Dec. 3/1 At the termination of the printing the notes are finally counted and packed up for delivery. If there are any 'spoils' they are burned. 1898 *Westm. Gaz.* 7 Mar. 7/1 The Progressives had already given way to the Moderates on two points, but the latter party now declared that this paper was a 'spoil'.

d. In spoil-five: A drawn game.

1891 in *Cent. Dict.*

10. *techn.* Earth or refuse material thrown or brought up in excavating, mining, dredging, etc.

1838 F. W. Simms *Publ. Wks. Gt. Brit.* i. 62 About three hundred thousand yards will be taken from this cutting to the embankment north of New Cross, and the remaining quantity will be placed in spoil. The deposit of the spoil and the formation of the embankment are both proceeding rapidly. 1863 *Edin. Rev.* Apr. 409 Countless mounds,.. which have been gradually formed round the pits, by the accumulation of 'spoil', or rubbish which has been brought up from below. 1894 *Times* 29 Jan. 14/2 The dredged material will be delivered by the buckets..into steel hoppers on either side of the vessel, each of which is capable of containing 7,000 cubic feet of spoil.

11. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, chiefly in sense 10, as *spoil-earth, -ground, -heap*, etc.; also, in sense 1, *spoil-hunting* adj., *-taker*. See also Spoil bank.

1609 Holland *Amm. Marcell.* xxv. viii. 274 The Romans.. when they had..driven away the Saracen spoyle-takers[etc.]. 1848 Buckley *Iliad* 67 The spoil-hunting daughter of Jove averted the deadly weapon. 1883 Gresley *Gloss. Coal-m.* 232 *Spoil-bank* or *Spoil-heap*, the place on the surface where spoil is deposited. 1891 S. C. Scrivener *Our Fields & Cities* 36 A quarry—a very old one, judging by the many large heaps of spoil-earth..over which grass had grown.

b. In sense 1 e (*pl.*); esp. **spoils system**, the system or practice of a successful political party giving government or public offices, etc., to its supporters. See also Spoilsman.

1833 Whittier in Pickard *Life & Lett.* (1895) I. 170 To fall down and do homage to Andrew Jackson with the idolatrous 'spoils party' of the day. 1883 *Nation* XXXVI. 530 According to the old ways of the spoilsmonger. 1888 Bryce *Amer. Commw.* I. xxxiv. I. 521 The practice of dismissing Federal officials belonging to the opposite party, and appointing none but adherents of their own party to the vacant places,..is the so-called Spoils System.

Spoil (spoil), *v.*[1] Pa. t. and pa. pple. **spoiled, spoilt.** Forms: 4 spoili, 4– spoil, 4–6 spoyll, spoill (5 spoillen), 4–7 spoyle (5 -yn), spoile, 4–8 spoyl, 9 *dial.* spile, spwile; 4–5 spuyl(e, 5 spulen, spole. See also Spulyie *v.* [ad. OF. *espoillier* (*espollier*), = It. *spogliare*:—L. *spoliāre*, f. *spolium*: see Spoil *sb.* 5, 6. Perh. also to some extent an aphetic form of Despoil *v.*

There are striking gaps in the continuity of some of the earlier senses (cf. the sb.), and in senses 10–14 *spoil* has taken the place of the earlier Spill *v.* The use of *spoilt* as well as *spoiled* for the pa. t. and pa. pple., dating from the 17th cent., is restricted to senses 11–14.]

I. 1. *trans.* To strip or despoil (a dead or helpless person); *esp.* to strip (a defeated or slain enemy) of arms and armour. (Cf. 6.) Now *arch.*

13.. *Coer de L.* 2058 The Griffons..Grete slaughter of our English maked, And spoiled the quick all naked. *c* 1330 R. Brunne *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 5432 (P.), Þat ylke noble Hamon Romayn Spoiled a Breton Þat was slayn. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 6416 To spoile that spilt kyng he sped ferr. 1450 *Rolls of Parlt.* V. 212/2 The same mysdoers..murdred and slough the seid William Tresham and spoiled him and robbed hym. *a* 1513 Fabyan *Chron.* vi. (1811) 160 The prysoners..were so nere spoylyd, that they were fayne to take vyne leuys to couer with theyr secret membrys. 1600 Holland *Livy* lxxix. 1249 When the conquerour was in disarming and spoiling him whom he had slaine. 1715 Pope *Iliad* iv. 584 The Greeks with shouts press on, and spoil the dead. 1757 W. Wilkie *Epigoniad* ii. 46 To spoil the slain the ardent victor flew. 1870 Bryant *Iliad* iv. I. 129 So did the high-born Ajax spoil the corpse of Simoïsus.

†b. To disrobe, unclothe (a person); to divest of clothes. *Obs.*

c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xlvi. (*Anastasia*) 216 Þare-for he spoylit Þaim in hy, Þat he mycht nakit se Þare flesch. *c* 1386 Chaucer *Clerk's T.* 318 (Petworth MS.), He bade Þat wommen shulden spulen hir riȝt þere. 1388 Wyclif 2 *Cor.* v. 4 For that we wolen not be spuylid, but be clothid aboue.

†c. *refl.* To unclothe, undress, or disarm (oneself). Also with double object. *Obs. rare.*

1382 Wyclif *Song Sol.* v. 3, I spoilede me my coote. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 4962 Þe kyng at his comaundment with his knȝtis him spoilis, Puttis of to Þe selfe serke.

†d. To strip or take off (arms). *Obs.*—[1]

c 1611 Chapman *Iliad* xv. 492 While these made-in to spoil his arms.

2. To strip (persons) of goods or possessions by violence or force; to plunder, rob, despoil. Also *fig.* Now *rare* or *arch.*

a 1340 Hampole *Psalter* ii. 9 Þou sall noght be tyraunt til Þaim, to pil Þaim & spoile Þaim. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 1774 With mony a legioun ful large, with ledes of armes, Þat now has spyed a space to spoyle Caldeez. 1382 Wyclif *Exod.* xii. 36 The Lord ȝaf grace to the puple before the Egipciens, that thei wolden leene hem; and thei spuyleden the Egipciens. *c* 1400 *Pilgr. Sowle* (Caxton, 1483) iii. vii. 54 By fals menes and subtyll extorcion they haue spoyled the pore peple. 1526 Tyndale *Acts* ix. 21 Ys nott this he that spoylled them which called on this name? 1585 T. Washington tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* i. v. 4 [They] had robbed & spoyled him. but..had restored vnto him that which was taken from him. 1624 Quarles *Job Militt.* xiii. 55 Thy hands..have spoyl'd The hopelesse Widdow, with her helplesse Child. 1651 Hobbes *Leviath.* ii. xvii. 85 To robbe and spoyle one another, has been a Trade. 1692 Washington tr. *Milton's Def. People Eng.* M.'s Wks. 1738 I. 491 We ought to pray for Highway-men, and for our Enemies...Not that they may plunder, spoil and murder us; but that they may repent. 1851 D. Wilson *Preh. Ann.* iv. i. 490 The native chiefs of the [Orkney] islands and neighbouring coasts who had been spoiled and driven from their possessions by the Vikings. 1884 Rider Haggard *Dawn* xxviii, He might even be able to spoil that Egyptian George.

transf. 1697 Dryden *Virg. Georg.* iv. 268 He spoils the Saffron Flow'rs, he sips the Blues Of Vi'lets.

†b. In *passr* with objective complement. *Obs.*

1432–50 tr. *Higden* (Rolls) IV. 443 Symple men were spoylede theire goodes.

3. To pillage or plunder (a country, city, house, ship, etc.); to clear of goods or valuables by the exercise of superior force; to ravage or sack.

Common in the 17th c.; now *arch.*

1382 Wyclif *Exod.* iii. 22 Whanne ȝe gon out, ȝe shulen not goon out voyd;..and ȝe shulen spoyle Egipte. 1387 Trevisa *Higden* (Rolls) VI. 327 After Þat Þe Danes hadde i-spoylled Londoun and Kent. *Ibid.* VIII. 107 Tweyne of Þe kynges schippes were..i-spoyled by men of Cipres. 1412–20 Lydg. *Chron. Troy* ii. 3873 Þei..cruelly begonne In al hast to spoillen Þe castel. 1442 *Rolls of Parlt.* V. 61/2 The Janueyes..semed..to make the said Sarazynes have good knowledge of the entrees into the said Ile, and there sodenly spoiled it. Shippes. 1535 Coverdale 1 *Macc.* i. 31 When he had spoyled the cite, he set fyre on it. 1597 Beard *Theatre God's Judgem.* (1612) 269 With an armie of fiue hundred thousand men he wasted and spoyled all fields, cities, and villages that he passed by. 1639 Fuller *Holy War* ii. iii. 46 Their rich tents, which seemed to be the exchequer of the East-country, spoiled. 1678 Wanley *Wond. Lit. World* v. ii. § 25. 470/1 In which Tumult the City was sack'd and spoiled. *a* 1727 Newton *Chronol. Amended* (1728) 20 Sesac spoils the Temple, and invades Syria. 1765 Lyttleton *Hist. Hen. II* (1769) II. 339 The enemy ..entered triumphant into Hereford, spoiled and fired the city, razed the walls to the ground [etc.]. 1858 G. Macdonald *Phantastes* (1878) II. 124 They proceeded, by spoiling the country houses around them, to make a quite luxurious provision. 1859 Tennyson *Guinev.* 136 To slay the folk, and spoil the land.

transf. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 23 He spoyleth his barnes for the sede, and spendeth his goodes to sowe his grounde. 1577 B. Googe *Heresbach's Husb.* iv. (1586) 183 b, When you haue thus spoyled your Hiues, you shall carry all your Coames into some handsome place. 1601 Donne *Progr. Soule* xxix, Foules they [i.e. fish] pursue not, nor do undertake To spoile the nests industrious birds do make.

†b. = Harry *v.* 2 b. *Obs.*

c 1400 Maundev. (Roxb.) xiii. 57 Þe same tyme Þat he went till hell and heried it, Þe same tyme sall he spoile Þe werld. *a* 1450 Myrc *Par. Pr.* 509 The eleuenÞe [article of the creed] ys for to telle How he wente to spoyle helle. 1563 *Homilies* ii. *Resurrection*, Thus is death swalowed vp, by Christes victory, thus is hell spoyled for euer. 1659 Pearson *Creed* v. 507 Thus still the Fathers which speak of [Christ's] spoiling hell, of leading captivity captive.

4. To seize (goods) by force or violence; to carry off as spoil; to rob or steal; to take *out of* or away improperly. *Obs.* or *arch.*

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 1285 Alle he spoyled spitously in a sped whyle, Þat Salomon so mony a sadde ȝer soȝt to make. *c* 1380 Wyclif *Sel. Wks.* I. 21 Þei han more bisynes to spuyle fro men Þer worldely goodis. 1529–30 *Rec. St. Mary at Hill* 353 To arrest Fold..for dyuers thinges spoillid out of our said house contrary to the Custom of the Cittie. 1560 Daus tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 400 b, What thinge soever was founde there,..it was spoyled. 1585 T. Washington tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* i. xv. 15 b, [He] put his men there on land to ouerrun, rauish & spoile, all whatsoeuer they shuld find for their aduantage. 1611 Bible *Mark* iii. 27 No man can ..spoile his goods, except he will first bind the strong man. 1781 Cowper *Expost.* 62 Jerusalem a prey, her glory soil'd, Her princes captive, and her treasures spoil'd. 1819 Shelley *'Men of England'* iii, That these stingless drones may spoil The forced produce of your toil?

transf. 1549–62 Sternhold & H. *Ps.* xlix. 5 Or els my foes which at my heeles are prest my life to spoyle? 1560 Bible (Geneva) *Prov.* xxii. 23 For the Lord wil..spoile the soule of those that spoile them.

†b. To detract *from*. *Obs.*—[1]

1553 Eden *Treat. New Ind.* (Arb.) 5 Wherfore if honest commendacions be a iust reward dew to noble enterprises, so much do they robbe and spoyle from ye dignitie therof, which in any poynt diminishe the same.

5. *absol.* To commit or practise spoil or pillage; to plunder, ravage.

c 1400 *Siege Melayne* 986 Þou bygynnes sone for to spoyle, ..Thou settis more by a littill golde..Þan to fighte one goddes foo. 1535 Coverdale *Job* xxiv. 5 The wilde asses in yᵉ deserte go by tymes (as their maner is) to spoyle. 1597 Beard *Theatre God's Judgem.* (1612) 269 On this manner he went spoyling through Fraunce. 1610 Holland *Camden's Brit.* 719 The Danes robbing and spoiling wherever they came. 1816 Scott *Antig.* xxviii, A soldier! then you have slain and burnt, and sacked and spoiled? 1867 Tennyson *Victim* ii, But still the foeman spoil'd and burn'd.

II. (Const. *of*.) **6.** To strip (a person, body, etc.) *of* arms, clothes, or the like. (Cf. 1.) Also *refl.* Now *arch.*

13.. *Seuyn Sages* 500 (W.), He het his sone take, And spoili him of clothes nake. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xlix. (*Thecla*) 204 Son ves tecla..spoylit of hir clathis. 1388 Wyclif *Lev.* vi. 11 He schal be spuylid of the formere clothis. *c* 1440 *Gesta Rom.* iv. 9 (Harl. MS.), Iff ony man weere so hardy for to spoyle him of his armys, after Þat he were y-buried, he shuld lese his life. 1497 Bp. Alcock *Mons Perfect.* C iij, He wol spoyll hymself of all his garmentes to the entent that his adversary sholde haue noo holde of hym. 1514 Barclay *Cyt. & Uplondyshman* (Percy Soc.) 6 They spoyle the lambes and foxys of the skynne. 1590 Spenser *F. Q.* ii. ii. 33 Where they are well receiu'd, and made to spoile Themselues of soiled armes. *c* 1611 Chapman *Iliad* xvi. 462 If I be taken hence Spoiled of mine arms. 1720 Stype *Stow's Surv.* (1754) I. iii. i. 529/2 The parson..caused his Monument to be broken, his Body to be spoiled of his leaden sheet. 1734 tr. *Rollin's Anc. Hist.* (1827) I. 151 Cleonnis killed eight Spartans..and spoiled them of their arms. 1870 Bryant *Iliad* xv. II. 102 See'st thou not how eagerly the Greeks Are spoiling Dolops of his arms?

†b. To strip (a tree) *of* bark. *Obs. rare.*

Cf. Spoiled *ppl. a.* 2.

1578 Lyte *Dodoens* vi. lxxv. 756 The timber waxeth red, assoone as it is spoyled of his rinde. 1653 Blithe *Eng. Improver Impr.* 166 And if you spoil them [beech trees] of their Barque they die.

†7. *refl.* To divest or rid (oneself) *of* sins, etc.

a 1395 Hylton *Scala Perf.* II. xxxi. (W. de W. 1494), Spoyle yourself of the olde man with all his dedes. *c* 1440 *Mor. Wisdom* 1140 in *Macro Plays* 73 Spoyll yow of yowur olde synnys & foly. 1582 N. T. (Rhem.) *Col.* iii. 9 Spoiling your sèlues of the old man.

8. To deprive, despoil, pillage, or rob *of* something. † Also const. *from* (= of).

Very common in the 16th cent.; now *arch.*

a 1400–50 *Alexander* 4419 Ȝe lett men of Þar libertes.. Thryngis Þam in-to thraldom & of thaire Þede spoiles. 1462 *Rolls of Parlt.* V. 478/2 To have spoiled the Coroune of Englond therof, as they didde of the seid Toune. 1526 Skelton *Magnyf.* 1876 Here Magnyfycence is beten downe and spoylyd from all his goodys and rayment. 1570–6 Lambarde *Peramb. Kent* (1826) 145 He overruled the Nobility and outfaced the Clergie, spoiling both the one and the other of their livings. 1613 Purchas *Pilgrimage* (1614) 60 The King..banished him into the vtmost bounds of Chanaan, hauing first spoiled him of all his goods. 1621 Burton *Anat. Mel.* I. ii. iii. xv. (1652) 137 Others..spoile Parsons of their revenews. 1703 Pope *Thebais* 104 My sons their old, unhappy sire despise, Spoil'd of his Kingdom, and depriv'd of eyes. 1838 Arnold *Hist. Rome* I. 44 Many were they whom he spoiled of their goods. 1871 Freeman *Norm. Conq.* (1876) IV. 706 He had spoiled many men wrongfully of their inheritance.

b. To deprive or despoil *of* some quality, distinction, etc.

c 1430 Lydg. *Min. Poems* (Percy Soc.) 195 Wyntir..Spoleth tre and herbe of al ther fresshe bewte. 1495 *Trevisa's Barth. De P. R.* II. xx. (W. de W.) 47 Though fendes ben obstynate in euyll yet they arn not spoylled of sharpe wytte. 1558 Knox *First Blast* (Arb.) 11 God by the order of his creation hath spoiled woman of authoritie and dominion. 1586 T. Rogers *39 Art.* i. (1633) 7 Spoyling so both the Son, and holy Ghost of their deity, and the whole Trinity of their properties. 1630 Prynne *Anti-Armin.* 117 It spoils the Lord of the very glory of his grace. 1691 T. H[ale] *Acc. New Invent.* p. xiii, The 'Constant Warwick'..was in its repairing spoiled of the excellency of its sailing. 1712 Steele *Spect.* No. 263 ¶ 4 Anger spoils the Person against whom it is moved of something laudable in him. 1756 Burke *Subl. & B.* Wks. 1842 I. 40 When you do this, you spoil it of every thing sublime. 1833 Mrs. Browning *Prometh. Bound* Poems 1850 I. 143 Having spoiled the gods Of honours, crown withal thy mortal men. 1858 G. MacDonald *Phantastes* vi. 76 She was giving me, spoiled of my only availing defence, into the hands of my awful foe.

III. †**9.** To carve or cut up (a hen). *Obs.*

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 470 Sp[o]ylyn, or dysmembryn as menn don caponys or other fowlys,..*artuo*. 1486 *Bk. St. Albans* F vij b, An Hen spoylede. 1508–23 *Bk. Keruynge* a j b, Spoyle that henne, frusshe that chekyn. *a* 1661 Holyday *Juvenal* (1673) 78 'Tis no small difference, with what gesture men Of Art Vnlace a Hare and Spoil a Hen. 1739 R. Bull tr. *Dedekindus' Grobianus* 228 To spoil the fattest Hen our Youth was bid, And this anon he literally did.

†**10.** To destroy, bring to an end. *Obs.*

1579 Lyly *Euphues* (Arb.) 44 The birde *Trochilus* lyueth by the mouth of the Crocodile and is not spoyled. 1581 Studley tr. *Seneca's Trag., Hercules Œtæus* iii, I spoylde thy father Hercules; this hand, this hand aleare Hath murdred him. 1590 Shaks. *Com. Err.* v. 37 For Gods sake take a house, This is some Priorie, in, or we are spoyl'd. 1640 tr. *Verderé's Rom. of Rom.* II. 123, I was ready to haue spoiled you, if you had persisted in your malice. 1744 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 6305/1 The Horse..ran down a Precipice and was spoil'd. 1726 Shelvocke *Voy. round World* 241 Our launch being with the head towards the sea, I thought we were irretrievably spoil'd now.

refl. 1616 *Pasquil & Kath.* v. 47 [*Stage direction.* He drawes his Rapier.] *Winif.* Heele spoile himselfe: Let's run and call for helpe!

†b. To inflict serious bodily injury upon (an animal or person). *Obs.* (merged in 11).

1577 B. Googe *Heresbach's Husb.* 119 It must be sene to, that they be euen matched, least the stronger [horse] spoyle the weaker. 1597 Vere *Comm.* 28 The Cap-stain being too strong for my men, cast them against the ships side and spoiled many of them. 1653 H. Cogan *Diodorus Siculus* 176 In closing with the Beast he should be sure to hold him so fast as he should not be able to spoile him with his teeth. 1665 *Voy. E. Ind.* 381 If they strike an Horse, or Camel,.. they will so break their bones, as that they will spoil, nay kill them at one blow.

†c. In *pass.* Of troops: To suffer severely; to be incapacitated for warfare. *Obs.*

1665 Manley *Grotius' Low C. Wars* 155 While they were thus valiantly fighting, they were cut off by the Guns, at a great distance, and so spoiled with shot, that they were glad at last again to quit the place. 1690 Luttrell *Brief Rel.* (1857) II. 101 If our forces had continued longer before it, they had been spoiled [by excessive rain].

d. *slang.* To damage seriously in boxing.

1811 *Sporting Mag.* XXXVIII. 8 There is not a pugilist on the list whom Belcher could not *spoil* by a sort of *gifted* science.

11. To damage, impair, or injure, esp. to such an extent as to render unfit or useless; to destroy (entirely or partially) the good, valuable, or effective properties or qualities of; to mar or vitiate completely or seriously.

1563 Abp. Parker *Articles* A ij b, Whether any man..haue

felled or spoiled any woode or timber in any Churche yarde. 1577 B. Googe *Heresbach's Husb.* 44 Take heede of Swyne, that spoyle..the grounde ilfauoredly. 1602 Marston *Ant. & Mel.* III. Wks. 1856 I. 37 O, you spoyle my ruffe, unset my haire. 1692 Wood *Life* (O.H.S.) III. 391 A great flood, all grass spoyl'd. 1717 Lady M. W. Montagu *Let. to C'tess Mar* 10 Mar., These costly napkins..were entirely spoiled before dinner was over. 1767 T. Hutchinson *Hist. Mass. Bay* II. 162 The harbours this year were much spoiled. 1798 S. & H. Lee *Canterb. T.* II. 415 Supper had been waiting till quite spoiled. 1826 *Art of Brewing* (ed. 2) 181 Of all sorts of old casks, beer vessels are the worst—as they always spoil cider. 1888 *Law Times* LXXXV. 432/2 The tenant for life..is at liberty to fell such trees as are spoiling each other.

b. To ruin in respect of commerce or trade.

1618 in Foster *Eng. Factories India* (1906) I. 14 The Dutch have spoyled the Moluccoes which they fought for, and spent more then they will yeild them, if quiett, in seaven yeares.

†**c.** To ravish or violate (a woman). *Obs.*

1678 Cotton *Scarron.* IV. Wks. (1715) 67/1 I am half afraid lest he Should chance to spoil her Majesty. 1694 Motteux *Rabelais* IV. xlvii, He has spoiled me, I am undone.

d. In *pass.* Of persons: To have the clothes damaged with mud. *rare*—1.

1697 *C'tess D'Aunoy's Trav.* (1706) 132 The Coaches [go] up to the middle, so that it [*sc.* mud] dashes all upon you, and you are spoyled unless you either pull up the Glasses, or draw the Curtains.

12. With immaterial object: To affect injuriously or detrimentally, esp. to an irretrievable extent; to destroy or prevent the full exercise, development, or enjoyment of: **a.** Of things or actions.

1578 Lyte *Dodoens* 420 Al the Crowfootes are dangerous and hurtful,..especially the..*Apium risus*, the whiche taken inwardly spoyleth the senses and understanding. *a* 1586 Sidney *Astr. & Stella* Sonn. xviii, My wit doth striue those passions to defende, Which, for reward, spoile it with vaine annoyes. 1652–62 Heylin *Cosmogr.* III. (1673) 213/1 He was likely to have made himself a good bargain by it; if the sudden coming of the King of Barma, had not spoiled his markets. 1662 Stillingfl. *Orig. Sacræ* III. iii. § 2 The least thought of business would quite spoile his happiness. 1687 A. Lovell tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* III. 96 It is surrounded with ugly shops made of Wood,..which spoils the prospect of it. 1709 *Tatler* No. 136 P 13 The Sale of the said Clothes is spoiled by your Worship's said Prohibition. 1752 J. Gill *Trinity* VII. 144 That beautiful antithesis between Moses and Christ is spoiled. 1812 *New Bot. Gard.* I. 59 It will spoil their flowering. 1866 J. Martineau *Ess.* II. 208 A mistake in arithmetic spoils our accounts. 1885 'Mrs. Alexander' *Valerie's Fate* ii, The notion worried and distracted her and spoiled the rest of her evening.

b. Of persons.

1626 *Haughton's Wom. will have her Will* IV. ii. G iij b, The Rogue is waking yet to spoyle [1616 marre] your sport. 1753 Miss Collier *Art Torment., Gen. Rules* (1811) 197 But if she should object to these things, you may accuse her of affectation, and a design of spoiling company. 1775 Sheridan *Rivals* v. iii, I hope..you won't be so cantankerous as to spoil the party by sitting out. 1801 tr. *Gabrielli's Myst. Husb.* III. 197, 'I caught him just as he was..going out a pleasuring for the day.' 'Then facks, you spoiled his sport.' 1859 Tennyson *Guinev.* 450 Thou hast spoilt the purpose of my life. 1885 'Mrs. Alexander' *At Bay* ix, I never heard of such madness. Why, you will spoil your life.

c. In the phrase *to spoil all* or *everything*.

1653 Walton *Angler* xxi, Be sure that your riches be justly got, or you spoil all. 1686 tr. *Chardin's Trav. Persia* 180 The Queen was a very beautiful Person,..but her demeanor spoil'd all. 1756 A. Murphy *Apprentice* II. ii, Nay, but prithee now—I tell you you'll spoil all—what made you stay so long? 1871 Freeman *Norm. Conq.* (1876) IV. 144 As usual, local and internal dissensions spoiled everything.

13. a. To injure in respect of character, esp. by over-indulgence or undue lenience. Also, in weakened sense, to treat with excessive consideration or kindness.

1694 Congreve *Double-Dealer* III. iii, I swear, my dear, you'll spoil that child. 1749 Fielding *Tom Jones* XIV. viii, One daughter, whom, in vulgar language, he and his wife had spoiled; that is, had educated with the utmost tenderness and fondness. 1796 Mrs. Inchbald *Nature & Art* I. ix. 47 Considering the labour that was taken to spoil him, he was rather a commendable youth. 1826 Disraeli *V. Grey* I. i, It was discovered that he had been spoiled, and it was determined that he should be sent to school. 1838 Lytton *Alice* 14 My dear Evelyn, you are born to spoil every one. 1861 in Mrs. G. Porter *Ann. Publishing Ho.* (1898) III. 60 With every respect and admiration for Tennyson, I think he is childish about criticisms. His adulators spoil him. 1888 J. Payn *Myst. Mirbridge* v, She does not spoil her eldest born.

absol. 1895 *Daily News* 19 Apr. 4/7 It must be owned that even when she does spoil she spoils very nicely.

b. *Cant* and *slang*. (See quots.)

1812 J. H. Vaux *Flash Dict.* s.v., To prevent another person from succeeding in his object,..subjects you to the charge of having spoiled him. 1884 R. C. Leslie *Sea Paint. Log* (1886) 76 Well, it's a pity spoiling a nice gent like 'im. [*Note.*] The expression 'spoil a gent' is used by such men in the sense of disgusting him with the sea and so losing a good customer.

14. *intr.* To lose the valuable properties or qualities; to become unfit for use; to deteriorate; to go bad, decay. Also *transf.*

1692 *Laws Nevis* xv. (1740) 14 The Lesses were not able ..*to* grind off what Canes lay spoiling in the Ground. 1726 Leoni *Alberti's Archit.* II. 109/1 Rain water..soon spoyls if it is kept in any vessel made of wood. 1774 Goldsm. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) V. 4 Lest the feathers should spoil by their violent attrition against the air. 1796 Southey *Lett. fr. Spain* (1799) 457 Cargoes that are liable to spoil, such as all kinds of grain. 1828–32 Webster s.v., Fruit will soon spoil in warm weather. 1857 Hughes *Tom Brown* II. ii, 'That sort of boy's no use here,' said East, 'he'll only spoil'.

b. *To be spoiling for* (a fight, etc.), to long for, to desire ardently or earnestly. Orig. *U.S.*

1865 *Sk. fr. Cambr.* 67 We are in the condition which the Yankees call 'spoiling for a fight'. 1890 Stevenson *Lett.* (1899) II. 192 The native population..chronically spoiling for a fight. 1893 *Nation* (N.Y.) 16 Nov. 368/2 Dr. James Martineau, who, in spite of his eighty-nine years, seemed still to be 'spoiling for an argument'.

15. *techn.* (See quots. and Spoil-*sb.* 10.)

1847 Dwyer *Hydraulic Engineer.* 129 The most rapid method of executing the earthwork of Railways, when the excavation exceeds the embankment, is to throw part of the excavation from the side slope to spoil. 1862 *Rep. E. Ind. Rly. Co.* 30 As the cuttings are comparatively few, it is intended to throw the stuff from them to spoil on either side of the line.

†**Spoil**, *v.*2 *Obs.*—1 In 5 spoylle. [a. MDu. *spoelen* (G. *spülen*).] *trans.* To rinse or wash out.

c 1481 Caxton *Dialogues* 26 *Respaulme la hanap*, Spoylle the cuppe.

†**Spoil**, *v.*3 *Naut. Obs.*—1 [See Spoiling *vbl. sb.*2] *trans.* To measure or adjust.

1794 *Rigging & Seamanship* 22 The other half is then canted on and spoiled for faying.

Spoil-, the stem of Spoil *v.*1 in comb. with sbs., as **spoil-five**, a round game of cards which is said to be 'spoiled' if no player wins three out of a possible five tricks; †**spoil-paper**, a petty author or scribbler; **spoil-pudding** *slang* (see quot.); **spoil-trade**, one who spoils trade. Also Spoil-sport.

1839 Carleton *Fardorougha* xvi, Busy at the game of '*spoil five'. 1841 Lever *C. O'Malley* lxxv, What do you say to a little spoil five, or beggar my neighbour? 1610–11 in J. Davies (Heref.) *Paper's Compl.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 81/2 Nor list I purchase penance at that rate, As some *Spoile-Papers haue deerely done of late. 1788 Grose *Dict. Vulgar T.* (ed. 2), **Spoil Pudding*, a parson who preaches long sermons, keeping his congregation in church till the puddings are over done. 1705 Hickeringill *Priest-cr.* II. viii. 77 Go on, I'll be no *Spoil-Trade, go Cheat and be Cheated, to the end of your Lives. 1854 *Poultry Chron.* I. 222/1 Thinking it best in such barefaced cases to become a 'spoil-trade', I have forwarded you the particulars. 1885 A. Dale *Jonathan's Home* 100 Their American brothers look upon them..as spoil-trades and unscrupulous bargainers.

Spoilable (spoi·lăb'l), *a.* [f. Spoil *v.*1] That can be spoiled; capable of spoiling.

1648 Hexham II, *Schendelich*, Defiowrable, Spoilable. 1815 L. Hunt *Feast Poets* 124 These are not the persons in question,—they are not the spoilable men. 1849 Ld. Cockburn *Jrnl.* (1874) II. 321 This place is not exempted from the doom which makes everything spoilable. 1890 C. Smith *Riddle L. Haviland* II. ii. I. 99 That is the only spoilable thing about me.

Spoilage (spoi·lĕdʒ). [f. Spoil *v.*1 + -age.]

†**1.** The action or fact of plundering or robbing.

1597 Beard *Theatre God's Judgem.* (1612) 249 Not satisfied with the pillage and spoilage of their houses. 1611 Cotgr. s.v. *Tirer*, What hath beene got by miserie and pillage, comes to be subiect to vnthriftie spoylage.

2. The action of spoiling; the fact of being spoilt.

1816 Bentham *Chrestom.* Wks. 1843 VIII. 51 The expence produced by spoilage, during the teaching, is a counter-consideration, which must not be neglected.

3. That which is or has been spoilt; *spec.* in printing (see quot. 1888).

1888 Jacobi *Printer's Vocab.* 130 *Spoilage*, applied to the sheets spoilt in printing, sometimes called 'waste'. 1892 — in *Athenæum* 27 Aug. 289/2 A very small percentage [of extra sheets] to cover waste and spoilage.

Spoil bank. Also **spoil-bank.** [f. Spoil *sb.* 7 c or 10.] A bank or large mound consisting of refuse earth or similar waste material.

1830 Booth *L'pool & Manch. Rly.* 55 The remainder, deposited as spoil banks, may be seen heaped up like Pelion upon Ossa. 1854 *Hull Improv. Act* 9 The piece of land..on the foreshore of the river Humber, near to a spoil bank. 1888 Lees & Clutterbuck *B. C. 1877* xiii. (1892) 126 It was nearly all loose red shale, very much like the burnt spoil-banks common in colliery districts.

Spoiled (spoild), *ppl. a.* [f. Spoil *v.*1]

1. Pillaged, plundered; ravaged. *Obs.* or *arch.*

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 470 Spoylyd, or spolyyd, *spoliatus*. 1550 T. Lever *Serm.* (Arb.) 94 For your charitable pytye of myserable spoiled people. 1598 W. Phillip tr. *Linschoten* 191/2 For that a whole day we could see nothing els, but spoyled men set on shore. 1624 *3rd Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* 32/2 Theophilus, the poor Bishop of miserable spoiled Llandaff. 1637 Marmion *Cupid & Psyche* II. iii, There's not a man forsaken, Or god, for my sake, that bewayles his deare, Or bathes his spoyled bosome with a teare. *absol.* 1611 Bible *Amos* v. 9 The Lord..strengtheneth the spoiled against the strong: so that the spoiled shall come against the fortresse.

b. Taken as spoil. *rare*—1.

1718 Pope *Iliad* XVI. 612 What grief..must Glaucus undergo, If these spoil'd arms adorn a Grecian foe!

†**2.** Of wood: Stripped of bark. *Obs.*—1

c 1515 *King's Coll. Cambr., Estimate*, Tymbre: Remayneth in store of former provision ynowgh redy spoyled to perfourme all the saide Stalles and Rodeloste.

3. Deprived of good or effective qualities or properties by injury, disease, etc.; damaged, impaired, injured; defective.

1597 A. M. tr. *Guillemeau's Fr. Chirurg.* 33 How we ought to extirpate the spoylede & superfluouse fingers. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* I. III. iii, Our new Duke d'Orléans... Never yet made Admiral, and now turning the corner of his fortieth year, with spoiled blood and prospects. 1856 *Brit. Alm.* 94 Spoiled stamps. 1879 *St. George's Hosp. Rep.* IX. 527 The 6 spoiled eyes were found in 3 males and 3 females.

b. *Spoiled five*, = *spoil-five* s.v. Spoil-.

1842 Lever *J. Hinton* xix, The worthy priest..was deep in a game of spoiled five with the farmer.

4. Of persons, esp. children: Injured in character by excessive indulgence, lenience, or deference.

1648 Hexham II. s.v. *Bedorven*, A spoiled child, by giving it his will too much, or by cockering him. *c* 1779 *Whitefoord Papers* (1898) 166 He was..a kind of spoil'd child whom you must humour in all his ways. 1825 Scott *Betrothed* iii, Some of the petty resentment of a spoiled domestic. 1849 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* v. I. 619 The spoiled darling of the court and of the populace. 1884 *St. James's Gaz.* 9 July 6/2 Prince Victor Napoleon is, in almost every sense of the term, a spoiled child.

Spoiler (spoi·lə). [f. Spoil *v.*1 + -er.]

1. One who pillages, plunders, or robs; a ravager, spoliator, despoiler.

1535 Coverdale 2 *Kings* xvii. 20 Therfore dyd ye Lorde cast awaye all ye sede of Israel,..and delyuered them in to the handes of the spoylers. 1598 Barret *Theor. Warres* I. ii. 11 Many disorders doe happen by the disorder of couetous spoilers. 1611 Bible *Isaiah* xxi. 2 The treacherous dealer dealeth treacherously, and the spoiler spoileth. 1680 Otway *Orphan* IV. vii, A cruel Spoiler came, Cropt this fair Rose, and rifled all it's Sweetness. 1760–72 H. Brooke *Fool of Qual.* (1809) III. 65 One tenth for the use of the society.., and the other nine for the benefit of the spoilers. 1790 Burke *Fr. Rev.* Sel. Wks. 1898 II. 192 Can any philosophic spoiler undertake to demonstrate..the comparative evil of having a ..portion of landed property. 1844 H. H. Wilson *Brit. India* II. 81 Driving them into the interior,..leaving their fields and homes to the spoiler. 1877 Miss A. B. Edwards *Up Nile* vii. 181 One can easily imagine how these spoilers sacked and ravaged all before them.

fig. 1821 Lamb *Elia* 1. *My Relations*, I hate people who meet Time half-way. I am for no compromise with that inevitable spoiler. 1824 Praed *Athens* 199 If the flush of youth.. Could bid the spoiler turn his scythe away, Or snatch one flower from darkness and decay.

b. Said of animals, insects, etc.

1774 Goldsm. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) IV. 225 One of them stands centinel upon a tree, while the rest are plundering..: in the mean time, the rest of the spoilers pursue their work with great silence and assiduity. 1779 Cowper *Pine-apple & Bee* 5 On eager wing the spoiler came, And search'd for crannies in the frame.

2. One who or that which spoils, destroys, injures, mars, etc.

1577 B. Googe *Heresbach's Husb.* 35 Chyche..is a great spoyler of land. 1648 Hexham II, *Brodder*,..a Marrer, or a Spoiler of worke. 1694 Motteux *Rabelais* V. (1737) 215 Wheadling Gablers,..Spoilers of Paper. 1733 W. Ellis *Chiltern & Vale Farm.* 297 Camock..is a greater Spoiler of the Corn. 1766 Goldsm. *Vicar* X, The sun was dreaded as an enemy to the skin without doors, and the fire as a spoiler of the complexion within. 1900 *Westm. Gaz.* 28 Nov. 2/1 The sun is a spoiler of intrinsic colour.

Spoil-five: see Spoil-.

†**Spoi·lful**, *a. Obs.* Also 6 **spoylefull.** [f. Spoil *sb.* + -ful.] Causing or characterized by destruction or pillage; plundering, spoliatory.

1590 Spenser *F. Q.* II. x. 63 Having oft in batteill vanquished Those spoylefull Picts, and swarming Easterlings. *c* 1611 Chapman *Iliad* VIII. 180 And he with spoilful fire had burn'd the fleet, if [etc.]. 1615 — *Odyss.* III. 437 But thou ..too long..Thy goods left free for many a spoilfull guest. 1670 Milton *Hist. Eng.* IV. Wks. 1851 V. 179 As if thir landing had bin at the mouth of Humber, and thir spoilfull march far into the Country.

Spoiling (spoi·liŋ), *vbl. sb.*1 [f. Spoil *v.*1]

1. The action of pillaging, plundering, or robbing; spoliation.

c 1380 Wyclif *Wks.* (1880) 425 þey ben not in þis þer vikeris, but in bodily trauel & spuyling of men. 1395 Purvey *Remonstr.* (1851) 155 The spoilinge of the rewme bi beringe out of the tresore to straungeris. *c* 1400 *Apol. Loll.* 7 Felpful curats owen to sorowe..of þe spoling of þer sogetis. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 470 Spoylynge, or spolyynge, *spoliacio, depredacio*. *a* 1548 Hall *Chron., Edw. IV*, 20 The Esterlinges..had done ye last yeres past much preiudice & domage to the Englishe marchantes, both in takyng and spoyling of shippes. 1590 Spenser *F. Q.* II. x. 7 A saluage nation.. That..By hunting and by spoiling liued then. 1612 T. Taylor *Comm. Titus* iii. 2 Yet this sinne is a greater breach of loue then theft, or spoyling of the goods. 1647 Sprigge *Anglia Rediv.* II. iv. (1854) 109 If..you shall surrender it, and save the loss of blood, or hazard the spoiling of such a city. 1726 Leoni *Alberti's Archit.* I. 15/2 After the plunder and spoiling of the Temple. 1829 Scott *Anne of G.* xxxii, So I got into Charles's own pavilion, where Rudolph and some of his people were trying to keep out every one, that he might have the spoiling of it himself. 1869 Boutell *Arms & Armour* vi. 89 The results..of the spoiling of some dead Roman soldier.

b. An instance or occasion of this.

c 1380 Wyclif *Sel. Wks.* III. 348 Bi þis spuylyng þei bilden Caymes castelis, to harme of cuntreis. *c* 1400 *Apol. Loll.* 76 Wat azen batails, azen reseruacouns, azen furst fruits, & oþer spolingis of goodis of þe kirk. *a* 1513 Fabyan *Chron.* VI. clx. (1811) 151 He in wrath..entryd the countrey of Burgoyne,..and executyd therin many spolynges and other inordynate dedys. 1560 Daus tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 405 Spoylynges & robbinges of townes. 1602 J. Wheeler *Treat. Comm.* 87 Manifold robberies, & spoilings at sea. 1692 Washington tr. *Milton's Def. People Eng.* ii. M.'s Wks. 1851 VIII. 67 The Wars that he rais'd, the Spoilings and Plunderings and Conflagrations that he occasioned. 1819 Scott *Ivanhoe* xxxiii, Easing a world of such mis-proud priests as thou art of their jewels..is a lawful spoiling of the Egyptians. 1886 Mrs. Lynn Linton *Paston Carew* xix, It would be a spoiling of the Egyptians perfectly justifiable.

2. The action of destroying, injuring, marring, etc.; an instance or occasion of this.

1479 in *Eng. Gilds* (1870) 321 So..Edmond complayned of spoyllyng of hys gowne and lackyng of his cloth. 1564–78 BULLEIN *Dial. agst. Pest.* (1888) 17 Euen so in tragedie he bewailed the sodaine resurrection of many a noble man before their time, in spoylyng of Epitaphes. 1573 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 105 Make riddance of carriage, er yeere go about, for spoiling of plant that is newlie come out. 1632 SANDERSON *Serm.* 14 Euil manners haue bin the spoyling of many good words. 1695 CONGREVE *Love for L.* II. x, They're all so, Sister, these Men—they love to have the spoiling of a Young Thing. 1712 SWIFT *Let. Eng. Tongue* Wks. 1755 II. II. 188 There is another sett of men, who have contributed very much to the spoiling of the English tongue. 1836 E. HOWARD *R. Reefer* lx, D—n his smooth face!—I should like to have the spoiling of it. 1875 J. C. COX *Ch. Derbysh.* I. 374 At that time..the spoiling of church bells was considered a necessary adjunct to a reformation in religion.

†Spoi·ling, *vbl. sb.*[2] *Naut.* [Of obscure origin.] = SPILING *vbl. sb.*[2]

1794 *Rigging & Seamanship* 5 Let that distance, or speiling, be set off from the surface. *Ibid.* 10 *Spoiling* is taking the greatest distance of the inequalities between any two pieces to be fayed together.

Spoi·ling, *ppl. a.* [f. SPOIL *v.*[1]] Despoiling, ravaging; doing damage.

1565 SHACKLOCK *Hatchet of Heresyes* 87 b, A spoyling tyrant. 1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* 741 It had beene a shameful misery to indure the tyranny of such spoiling beastes. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* (1637) 199 The Danes in their spoyling rage burnt it to the ground. 1611 COTGR., *Spoliatrice*, a spoyling, or despoyling woman.

Spoi·lless, *a.* [f. SPOIL *sb.* 1.] Unaccompanied by spoil or plunder.

1818 HERVÉ *Beauties Paris* I. 30 To the great spoiler of the continent these bloodless victories and spoilless ravages would have proved as profitable..as have his real conquests.

Spoi·lsman. *U.S.* [f. SPOIL *sb.* 1 e.] One who obtains, or seeks to obtain, a share of political spoils.

1850 in T. H. Benton *Thirty Years* (1856) II. 784 The spoilsman that would sell his country for a mess of pottage. 1860 MOTLEY *Netherl.* (1868) I. 38 The spoilsmen, whose purpose was to rob the exchequer and enrich themselves. 1888 BRYCE *Amer. Commw.* III. lxv. II. 487 The extension of examinations will tend more and more to exclude mere spoilsmen from the public service.

Spoil-sport. [f. SPOIL-.] One who acts so as to spoil the sport or plans of others.

1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* xxviii, Mike Lambourne was never a make-bate, or a spoil-sport, or the like. 1855 KINGSLEY *Westw. Ho!* xxx, Spoil-sports! The father of all manner of troubles on earth, be they noxious trade of croakers! 1886 G. ALLEN *Maimie's Sake* xi, Before that spoil-sport Hetty came in and so rudely interrupted us.

attrib. 1886 *Pall Mall G.* 5 Nov. 4/2 He..was prevented ..by a spoil-sport Adelaide merchant.

Spoilt (spoilt), *ppl. a.* [f. SPOIL *v.*[1]] = SPOILED *ppl. a.* in various senses.

1841 BROWNING *Pippa Passes* Poems (1905) 182 The wry spoilt branch 's a natural perfect bow! 1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) I. 264 He is a Thessalian Alcibiades, rich and luxurious—a spoilt child of fortune. 1890 *Science-Gossip* XXVI. 21 The egg had a very patchy and spoilt appearance.

Comb. 1833 HOOD *Publ. Dinner* 174 Wet-footed—spoilt-beaver'd,..You haste home to supper.

Spoilyie, -3ie, obs. ff. SPULYIE *sb.* and *v.*

Spoine, obs. form of SPOON *sb.*

Spojour, obs. variant of SPOUCHER (scoop).

Spoke (spōuk), *sb.* Forms: *a.* 1 **spaca,** 3, *north.* and *Sc.* 4– **spake,** 4–5 **spak,** 6–7, 9 **spaik** (7 **spauk**). *β.* 3– **spoke,** 5 **spook-.** *γ.* 6–7 **spoak(e.** [OE. *spāca* masc., = OFris. *spēke* (WFris. *speake, speak*), MDu. *speke, speec* (Du. *speek*), OS. *spēca* (MLG. and LG. *spēke*), OHG. *speicha* (MHG. and G. *speiche*) fem.; the ultimate etym. is uncertain. The MDu. or MLG. *speke* was adopted in ME.: see SPEKE[2]. Du. *spaak*, LG. *spake*, etc., represent a different word (see sense 4 a).]

1. One of the set of staves, bars, or rods radiating from the hub or nave of a wheel and supporting the felloes or rim.

a. c 888 K. ÆLFRED *Boeth.* xxxix. § 7 Swa swa þa spacan sticiað oðer ende on þære felge oþer on þære nafe. *Ibid.*, þa felga..hongiað on þæm spacan. *c* 1000 ÆLFRIC *Gloss.* in Wr.-Wülcker 106 *Cantus*, felga...*Radii*, spacan. *a* 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 1921 Hat..3arkin fowr hweoles, & let þurh-driuen..þe spaken & te felien mid irnene gadien. 1334–5 *Durh. Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 525 In ij felys, ij spakes positis in rotis longe carecte. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* I. (*Catherine*) 853 All þe spakis..sall be fichit with hukis sere. *c* 1425 *Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 665 *Hic radius*, spake. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* VI. ix. 185 On quhelis spakis speldit vtheris hingis. 1582 *Wills & Inv. N. C.* (Surtees, 1860) 45 In the hen house. Certaine spaikes, j swall, j lose bord [etc.]. 1614 in D. Wedderburne *Compt-bk.* (S.H.S.) 248 Fyve faldomis of burnewod with sum filleis and spaukis. 1815 G. BEATTIE *J. o' Arnha* (1826) 16 The spaiks were like to lift their linen.

fig. 1737 RAMSAY *Sc. Prov.* (1750) 61 It is the best spake in your wheel.

β. c 1275 *Vl Pains of Hell* 69 in *O. E. Misc.*, A þusend spoken beoþ þer-on. *c* 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 208/278 A grislich 3weol with spokene longe i-nowe. *c* 1340 *Nominale* (Skeat) 324 M[an] in the nathe doth spokes. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Somptn. T.* 549 Twelf spokes hath a cart whel comunly. 1426 LYDG. *De Guil. Pilgr.* 12642 Fyrst off alle, the[e] avyse How thys whel hath ...iiij. spokys strechchyd oute. 1523 FITZHERB. *Husb.* § 5 The wheles..be made of nathes, spokes, fellyes, and dowles. 1627 CAPT. SMITH *Seaman's Gram.* xiv. 64 They haue wheeles made with spokes like coach wheeles. and..strongly shod with iron. 1717 ADDISON tr. *Ovid's Met.* Wks. 1758 I. 162 Here fell a wheel, and here a silver spoke, Here were the beam and axle torn away. 1799 G. SMITH *Laboratory* I. 27 Ten or twelve inches will be enough for the diameter of wheels with six spokes. 1873 RICHARDS *Operat. Handbk.* 165 The Blanchard lathe..may turn from five to seven hundred small spokes a day.

γ. 1577 B. GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* II b, The smaller sort [of husbandry necessaries] be these,..Strikes, Spoakes [etc.]. 1594 *Shuttleworths' Acc.* (Chetham Soc.) 89 For setting on towe felkes and towe spoakes in a wheele, v[d]. *c* 1620 Z. BOYD *Zion's Flowers* (1855) 58 The spoakes..still neerer..gather, Till in the Nave their points hard meete together. 1687 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 2272/4 The Good-speed,.. loaden with Iron, Spoaks for Carts, &c.

b. In fig. contexts, esp. in reference to the wheel of Fortune.

1412–20 LYDG. *Chron. Troy* IV. 1757 While she is benygne, By influence graciously tassygne Hir spokes meue vn-to 3oure plesaunce. 1535 LYNDESAY *Satyre* 1139, I dreid 3e spaiks of Spritualitie Sall rew that ever I came in this cuntrie. 1602 SHAKS. *Ham.* II. ii. 517 Breake all the Spokes and Fallies from her wheele. *Ibid.* III. iii. 19 Maiestie..is a massie wheele,..To whose huge Spoakes, ten thousand lesser things Are mortiz'd and adioyn'd. 1644 in Hartlib *Legacy* (1655) 278 If all such dispersed spoaks and vallies were fixed in one Centre (viz. a faithfull, carefull, skilfull Steward). 1813 SHELLEY *Q. Mab.* IX. 153 The restless wheels of being,..Whose flashing spokes..Bicker and burn to gain their destined goal. 1834 MARRYAT *P. Simple* (1863) 69 The wheel of fortune keeps turning for the comfort of those who are at the lowest spoke.

c. One of a set of radial handles projecting from a cylinder or wheel (esp. a steering-wheel).

1648 WILKINS *Math. Magic* I. vi. 37 An axis or cylinder, having a rundle about it, wherin there are fastned divers spokes, by which the whole may bee turned round. [1769 FALCONER *Dict. Marine* s.v. *Helm*, The spokes of the wheel generally reach about eight inches beyond the rim or circumference, serving as handles to the person who steers the vessel.] 1841 R. H. DANA *Seaman's Man.* 181 In relieving the wheel, the man should..go to the wheel behind the helmsman and take hold of the spokes. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.* 729 The helm..has a barrel,..and a wheel with spokes to assist in moving it.

2. A bar or rod of wood, esp. one used or shaped for a particular purpose; a stake or pole; a hand-spike; a weaver's beam.

1467 *Sc. Acts, Jas. III* (1814) II. 87 And at na merchandis gudis be revin nor spilt with vnresonable stollin as with spakis. 1496 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* I. 289 To cary a laid of spakis fra the Castel to the Abbay, to mak pailzoune pynnys. 1513 *Ibid.* IV. 508 Ane dusan akyn speiris to mak wyndes spakis. 1681 W. ROBERTSON *Phraseol. Gen.* (1693) 1162 A weavers spoke, *panus, jugum.* 1869 MCLENNAN *Peasant Life* 1st Ser. 260 She brought him to the weaver's cottage, and pointed out 'the spaik'.

b. A round or rung of a ladder, etc. Also *fig.*

a 1658 LOVELACE *Posth. Poems* (1659) 71 Yet the Spoaks by which they scal'd so high, Gamble hath wisely laid of *Vt Re Mi.* 1833 LOUDON *Encycl. Archit.* § 990 The hay-racks to be made 2 feet and a half wide; the rungs (spokes) of 1 inch and a half deal. 1892 STEVENSON *Across the Plains* 197 Except for the weedy spokes and shafts of the ladder.

c. *Sc.* One of a set of poles adapted for carrying a coffin to the graveside.

a 1670 SPALDING *Troub. Chas. I* (1850) I. 74 Sum..liftis the Marquess corpis vpon litter:..the Marques sone..wes at his heid, the Erll of Morray on the right spaik, the Erll of Seafort on the left spaik [etc.]. 1822 GALT *Sir A. Wylie* civ, When the coffin was borne to the entrance of the sepulchre, the spakes were drawn out. 1861 E. B. RAMSAY *Sc. Life & Char.* Ser. II. vi. 120 It was the old fashion, still practised in some districts, to carry the coffin to the grave on long poles or 'spokes', as they were commonly termed. 1887 P. M'NEILL *Blawearie* 12 It's a gey queer funeral this, ..neither a hearse to draw, nor a spake to carry the deid on.

d. (See quots. and cf. 4 a.)

1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade, Spoke*,..a contrivance for skidding the wheels of a vehicle. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech., Spoke*, a fastening for a wheel to lock it in descending a hill.

3. *fig.* In phrases denoting an attempt to give advice, or have some say, in a matter. Still in colloq. use in *to put in one's spoke* (cf. OAR *sb.* 5 a).

1580 LYLY *Euphues* (Arb.) 291 With that Philautus came in with his spoake, saying [etc.]. *Ibid.* 413 Camilla not thinking to be silent, put in hir spoke as she thought into the best wheele. 1601 B. JONSON *Poetaster* II. i. (1905) 28 You would seeme to be master? You would haue your spoke in my cart? you would aduise me to entertaine ladies?

†b. In uses suggestive of association with SPEAK *v.*: A saying, maxim, remark. *Obs.*

It is doubtful whether mod. dial. *spoke* in the sense of 'speech', 'story', is a survival of this usage.

1594 NASHE *Unfort. Trav.* Wks. (Grosart) V. 108 The spoke was this, *Frustra pius*, as much as to say, as fruitles seruice. 1599 PORTER *Angry Wom. Abingt.* (Percy Soc.) 40 Hee'l answere With some rime rotten sentence or olde saying, Such spokes as the ancient of the parish vse. 1615 *Curry-combe for Coxcombe* iii. 135 Had we a good Townestocke, thou shouldest haue a pension, for thy good spoake.

c. Denoting speech or action intended to advance a person's interests. *rare.*

1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.* s.v., To put a spoke in a man's wheel, is to say something of him to his advantage. 1884 'H. COLLINGWOOD' (W. J. C. Lancaster) *Under Meteor Flag* 50, I shall perhaps be seeing..your new captain..this evening, and, if so, I will put a spoke in your wheel for you.

4. *fig.* **a.** In phrases denoting action which is intended or likely to thwart, obstruct, or impede some person or proceeding; esp. *to put a spoke in one's wheel.*

Possibly a mistranslation of Du. *een spaak* (=bar, stave) *in 't wiel steeken.*

(*a*) 1583 MELBANCKE *Philotimus* G j b, If you haue learnd the eight liberall science, I mean cogging, I will sett a spoke to your cogge. 1661 *Merry Drollery* II. 37 He..look'd to be made an emperor for't, But the Devel did set a spoke in his Cart. *c* 1681 HICKERINGILL *Trimmer* iv. Wks. 1716 I. 377 The reason why I have not been prefer'd, and advanc't according to my merits, is the whispers, and sly insinuations of such Trimmers suggestions, as this is, which has put a spoke in my Ladder.

(*b*) 1617 FLETCHER *Mad Lover* III. vi, I'le put a spoak among your wheels. 1656 LD. BROGHILL in *Thurloe's St. Papers* (1742) V. 295 Argile has been very industryous to be chosen, but we have put a spoke in his wheel. 1712 STEELE *Spect.* No. 498 P 2 They had clapt such a Spoke in his Wheel, as had disabled him from being a Coachman for that Day. 1801 tr. *Gabrielli's Myst. Husb.* III. 164 If you was to attempt to make your escape, I should be obligated to put a spoke in your wheel. 1853 E. FORBES in Geikie *Mem.* xiv. (1862) 527, I trust in you..to put a spoke in the wheels of my opponents if you find them going too fast. 1885 *Manch. Exam.* July 135/1 Capitalists..were trying to put a spoke in the wheel of Socialism.

(*c*) 1607 HIERON *Wks.* I. 411 Shee should not put in her spoke to withstand the motion, but should rather further her husband in such an honest businesse. *a* 1677 BARROW *Serm.* (1687) I. 149 He letteth them proceed on in a full carriere:..then instantly he checketh, putteth in a spoak, he stoppeth, or turneth them backward. 1840 HOOD *Up Rhine* 8, I did hope the policy would haue put a spoke in our tour, but, unluckily, it gives me latitude to travel all over Europe.

b. Some thing, action, or fact which prevents, impedes, or obstructs; an impediment or obstacle. Usually with *in the* (or *one's*) *wheel*: cf. above.

1689 *Mem. God's last 29 Yrs. Wond. Eng.* 64 Both which Bills were such Spokes in their Chariot-wheels, that made them drive much heavier. 1748 FOOTE *Knights* I. Wks. 1799 I. 69 So, Jack, here's a fresh spoke in your wheel... This is a cursed cross incident! 1755 KIDGELL *Card* II. 179 Here Mrs. Walker thought it would be no small Spoke in the Wheel of her present Design, to take up her Residence herself. 1845 DISRAELI *Sybil* (1863) 212 Rely upon it a bold united front at this moment would be a spoke in the wheel. 1855 THACKERAY *Newcomes* ix, And thinks I there's a spoke in your wheel, you stuck-up little old Duchess.

5. *transf.* **†a.** *Bot.* A pedicel or peduncle of an umbel; a radius or ray. *Obs.*

1578 LYTE *Dodoens* 614 The spokes [of *Ammi visnaga*] ..the Italians and Spaniardes doo use as tooth-pickes. 1796 WITHERING *Brit. Plants* (ed. 3) I. 83 *Spokes* (radii), the fruit-stalks of flowers collected into Umbels or Umbellules. *Ibid.* II. 79 Fruit-stalks..forming a sort of umbel, the outer spokes of which are gradually shorter and shorter.

b. A ray or beam of light, sunshine, etc.

1849 CUPPLES *Green Hand* xiv. (1856) 138 The sun had got low, and he shivered his dazzling spokes of light behind one edge of it [a bank of vapour]. *Ibid.* 152 While here and there a broad bright hazy spoke off the sun came cutting down into the forest.

6. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *spoke-flange*; **spoke-bone** *Anat.*, = RADIUS 1 c; **spoke-brush, -river, -wood** (see quots.). Also SPOKE-SHAVE.

A number of technical uses are given and defined in Knight *Dict. Mech.* (1875) and Suppl. (1884), as *spoke-gauger, -clamp, -gage, -groove, -lathe, -wheel; spoke-pointer, -setter, -trimmer; spoke-driving, -facing, -inserting*, etc.

a 1843 *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) VII. 303 [In fishes] there is usually an aperture between the lower edge of the spoke-bone and the upper edge of the ulna. *Ibid.* 326 The Fore-Arm [in birds] consists of two bones, the cubit and spoke-bone, of which the latter is always in a state of semipronation. 1851 MAYHEW *Lond. Labour* I. 362/1 The street-vendors sell wash-leathers,..spoke-brushes (to clean carriage-wheels), and coach-mops. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade, Spoke-river*, a wheelwright, or shaper of spokes or rounds for ladders. 1869 *Archaeol.* XLII. 126 Skewerwood..is also called spoke-wood. 1876 J. GREENWOOD *Low-life Deeps* 218 The sand-paperer..had caught up a spoke-brush, and was poising it for a throw. 1892 *Cycling* 48 The hub should not measure less than 2 in. between the spoke-flanges.

Spoke (spōuk), *v.* [f. the sb.]

1. *trans.* To furnish or provide with spokes or bars; to mark *with* spoke-like lines or rays.

1720 POPE *Iliad* XXI. 45 As from a sycamore, his sounding steel Lopp'd the green arms to spoke a chariot-wheel. 1756 MRS. CALDERWOOD in *Coltness Coll.* (Maitl. Club) 122 Just by the water-pump there was a crib [for chickens] fixt about a yard from the ground; it was spoked in the bottom, so that the filth fell through. 1839 HAWTHORNE *Transform.* xlix, A triumphal car,..its slow-moving wheels encircled and spoked with foliage. 1890 R. BRIDGES *Shorter Poems* II. 5 The white water-lily spoked with gold.

2. To thrust a spoke into (a wheel, etc.) in order to check movement; *fig.* to block, impede, or obstruct.

1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss.* s.v., 'Spoke your cart is a phrase of similar significancy. 1896 *Daily News* 4 June 5/4 Six pages of amendments skilfully handled are sufficient to spoke the wheels of any private Bill.

3. To drive or force (a wheel or vehicle) *forward* by pushing the spokes.

1860 *Chambers's Jrnl.* XIV. 236 Those under the vehicle can 'spoke' the wheels forward. 1882 E. O'DONOVAN *Merv Oasis* I. iii. 54 The waggons, often down to the axle, had to be forcibly spoked forward by the men.

Spoked (spōukt), *a.* [f. SPOKE *sb.*]

†1. Arranged radially; radiate, radiated. *Obs.*

1597 GERARDE *Herbal* 914 There stande at the top tufts or spoked rundles, the flowers whereof are either white or purple. 1652 CULPEPPER *Eng. Physic.* 55 It riseth a little above a foot high, bearing white flowers in spoked tufts.

2. Made or provided with spokes.

1890 H. S. HALLETT *1000 Miles on Eleph. in Shan States* 437 Carts..remarkable for the size of their spoked wheels.

Spo·keless, *a.* [f. SPOKE *sb.*] Destitute of spokes; made without spokes.

c 1449 *Pol. Poems* (Rolls) II. 222 The Carte nathe [i. e. the

Duke of Buckingham] is spokeles, For the counseille that he gaffe. 1842 *P. Parley's Ann.* III. 236 Its wheel tireless and nearly spokeless. 1891 *Bicycling News* 4 Apr. 198 The latest departure in the field of cycling inventions is a spokeless wheel.

Spo·ken, *a. rare.* [f. SPOKE *sb.*] Pertaining to or connected with a spoke or spokes (see quot.).

1790 W. H. MARSHALL *Rur. Econ. Midl.* II. 443 *Spoken chain*, an appendage of a waggon, peculiar to this district; a long strong chain, to be fixed to the spoke of the wheel, when the team is 'stalled' or set fast in a slough.

Spoken (spōu·k'n), *ppl. a.* [Pa. pple. of SPEAK *v.*]

As the second element in combs., *spoken* is used in the sense of 'speaking' or 'given to speaking' in a specified way, as in *blunt-, broad-, civil-, fine-, out-, plain-spoken*, etc. Most of these date from the 17th cent. or later, but *fair-spoken* is found in 1460, ON. and Icel. *talaðr* (pa. pple. of *tala* to speak) is similarly used, even without a qualifying term.

1. With preps.: That is or has been spoken *about, of, to*, etc.

1595 *Drake's Voy.* (Hakl. Soc.) 24 The..adventure she had been at in the glorious spoken-of jorney. 1865 'ANNIE THOMAS' *On Guard* xxi, She may not only speak, but may think, with affection..of the spoken about. 1875 WHITNEY *Life Lang.* x. 207 The speaker and the spoken-to.

2. Of language, words, etc.: Uttered in speech; oral. Also, colloquial as distinguished from *literary*.

1837 P. KEITH *Bot. Lex.* 370 To enable us to appreciate the value of tones, whether they be the modulations of music, or the articulation of a spoken language. 1867 *Trans. Philol. Soc.* Suppl. 1 On Palaeotype, or the representation of spoken sounds..by means of the ancient types. 1885 GLADSTONE in *Westm. Gaz.* 8 June 4/2 Reminding me that spoken words may fulfil a purpose higher than we mostly dream of.

b. Expressed, declared, made known by speech or utterance.

1851 BRIMLEY *Ess., Wordsw.* 164 We should like to have had some record of spoken feelings. 1879 B. TAYLOR *Germ. Lit.* 204 There is a vast difference between the silent and the spoken protest.

c. *ellipt.* Words which are spoken (in place of being sung) in connexion with a song or other musical performance; a part of this nature.

1865 DICKENS *Mut. Fr.* IV. xvi, A comic song..with 'Spoken' in it. 1900 H. LAWSON *On Track* 10 Thus warmed up, Pinter starts with an explanatory 'spoken' to the effect that the song he is about to sing illustrates some of the little ways of woman.

Hence **Spo·kenness,** the fact or quality of having been spoken or uttered.

1805 *Monthly Mag.* XX. 513 The idea of spokenness has been progressively detached from the word 'language'.

Spokeshave (spōu·kʃēv), *sb.* Also 7– spoke-shave. [f. SPOKE *sb.* + SHAVE *sb.*[1] Hence WFlem. *spokschaaf.*] A form of drawing-knife or shave used for shaping and finishing spokes; a carpenter's tool having the blade or plane-bit set between two handles placed lengthwise and used for planing curved work; a transverse plane.

1510 STANBRIDGE *Vocabula* (W. de W.) C j, *Radula*, a spokeshaue or a playne. 1572 in *Midl. Co. Hist. Coll.* (1856) II. 363 A spokeshaue, a wimble, a hammer. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 317/2 A Spoke-shave, is an Iron with a sharp edge set in a piece of Wood with two handles after the manner of a Plain. 1794 *Rigging & Seamanship* 152 *Spoke-shave*,..is a piece of steel, 4 or more inches long, and one inch ½ broad; sharp at one edge as a knife. 1837 W. B. ADAMS *Carriages* 152 The ends being tapered down one after the other with a spoke-shave till the whole amalgamate neatly. 1881 YOUNG *Ev. Man his own Mechanic* § 250. 93 The spokeshave and the drawing-knife are the tools that are comprised in the second division of paring tools.

fig. 1602 MARSTON *Ant. & Mel.* II. Wks. 1856 I. 129 Are you all like the spoke-shaves of the church? Have you no mawe to restitution?

attrib. 1846 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* II. 491 This theoretical cutter would present all the difficulties of the spoke-shave iron.

Hence **Spo·keshave** *v. intr.*, to use a spokeshave.

1887 T. HARDY *Woodlanders* II. viii. 139 The one or two woodmen who sawed, shaped, spokeshaved on her father's premises.

Spokesman (spōu·ksmĕn). Also 6 spokis-man, 7 spoksman, spookesman, spoaksman, spoakesman. [Irreg. f. *spoke*, pa. pple. of SPEAK *v.*, on analogy of *craftsman*, etc. Cf. the earlier SPEAKMAN.]

†1. An interpreter. *Obs. rare.*

1519 HORMAN *Vulg.* 43 b, Mythrydate spake..to men of xxii rymes, euery man in his owne langage, without any spokisman. 1556 T. HOBY tr. *Castiglione's Courtyer* Transl. Ep. A ij, Themistocles..entertayned most honorably with the King of Persia, willed vpon a time to tell his cause by a spokesman.

2. One who speaks for or on behalf of another or others; esp. in later use, one who is chosen or deputed to voice the opinions or represent the views of a body, party, etc.; a mouthpiece.

Freq. from *c* 1550 to *c* 1650 and in recent use.

a 1540 BARNES *Wks.* (1573) 354 Vnto God..wee neede no spokesman nor no mediatour but alonely a deuoute mynde. *c* 1585 *Faire Em* III. 734 He hath been an earnest spokesman in your cause. 1610 J. DOVE *Advt. Seminaries* 22 He would be for him insteed of an interpreter, and a spokesman for him with God. 1651 FULLER *Abel Rediv.* 540 This our Robert, whose zeale for the truth..preferred him without any other friend or spokesman. 1705 HICKERINGILL *Priest-cr.* I. (1721) 28 People cannot join in publick Prayers, except they have a Spokesman or Speaker. 1761 HUME *Hist. Eng.* (1806) IV. ix. 521 The spokesman of the committee, one Duglass, began with a severe aspect [etc.]. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* ix. II. 462 The king gave an audience to all the bishops who were then in London...The primate was spokesman. 1869 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* (1875) III. 297 The Barons prayed him to be their spokesman with the Duke.

b. *transf.* The chief representative or exponent *of* a movement, period, etc.

1828 CARLYLE in *Foreign Rev.* II. 95 [Goethe] made himself the spokesman of his generation. 1840 — *Heroes* iii. (1904) 98 Dante is the spokesman of the Middle Ages. 1867 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* (1877) I. 9 The romantic narrative of which Geoffrey of Monmouth is the chief spokesman.

3. †a. The speaker or chairman of a legislative or administrative body. *Obs. rare.*

1607 in M. H. Peacock *Hist. Wakefield Gram. Sch.* (1892) 55 Of the Spokesman or President Governour:..the Governours beinge come together, the Spokesman..shall delyver up the keyes of his office.

b. A public speaker, esp. one who formally addresses a deliberative or legislative assembly.

Not always clearly distinct from sense 2.

1663 BOYLE *Usef. Exp. Nat. Philos.* I. iii. 58 The Master, or that other person of the Society, who is most capable and the best spoakesman, is by a kind of natural right engag'd to the duty of returning praise. 1693 FREKE *Ess., Apology* 4 There is many an excellent Spokesman that makes a bad Writer. *a* 1704 T. BROWN *Dial. Dead* Wks. 1711 IV. 38, I was long of the Court of Aldermen, and one of the chief Spoaks-men of the Common-Council. 1835 LYTTON *Rienzi* I. ix, A rough table, from which they besought Pandulpho to address the people. The pale citizen, with some pain and shame, for he was no practised spokesman, was obliged to assent. 1863 GEO. ELIOT *Romola* xxii, Some were in close ..discussion; others were listening with keen interest to a single spokesman.

transf. 1885 *Encycl. Brit.* XVIII. 323 *Psittacus erithacus* ..is the most accomplished spokesman of the whole group [of parrots].

Hence **Spo·kesmanship,** the office or position of spokesman.

1870 *Athenæum* 26 Nov. 686 Then had Guðmund Thorgeirsson the spokesmanship-at-law for twelve years. 1889 *Daily News* 25 Jan. 6/4 He felt there was some fitness in his spokesmanship that evening, for he was the representative of an institution [etc.].

†Spokesmate, *Obs. rare.* [f. as prec. + MATE *sb.*[2]] A spokesman and friend.

1583 STANYHURST *Æneis* III. 52 O sacred Troyan,..Of Gods thee spoaks mate [1582 spooks make], thee truchman of hallo'd Apollo. 1640 H. MILL *Night's Search* 162 His spokesmate, or the pander doth finde out Where's money to be lent.

Spokester (spōu·kstəɹ), *rare* —[1]. [f. as prec. + -STER.] A female speaker; a spokeswoman.

1850 THACKERAY *Sk. & Trav. Lond.* Wks. 1898 VI. 699 One of the ladies..begged her companion..to show me in to lunch. The spokester was a stout and tall woman.

Spokeswoman (spōu·ks,wu·măn). [Cf. SPOKESMAN.] A woman who speaks for another or others; a female advocate or representative; a woman speaker.

1654 GAYTON *Pleas. Notes* IV. i. 173, I know not how he had wonne upon my wenches, They were his spokes-women, and high Abetters. 1656 W. DU GARD tr. *Comenius' Gate Lat. Unl.* 229 After hee hath set his affection upon som woman (either by himself, or by a spokesman, or spokeswoman) hee is called a Wooer. 1818 SCOTT *Br. Lamm.* xxiii, 'Did ye ever see the foul thief?' asked her neighbour. 'Na!' replied the other spokeswoman. 1840 P. D. HARDY *Holy Wells Irel.* 25 A most unexpected proposal, which the spokeswoman..undertook to make. 1890 *Athenæum* 11 Oct. 476/3 She [Mrs. Henry Wood] is emphatically the spokeswoman of the middle class.

Hence **Spo·keswomanship.**

1894 SAINTSBURY in *Sat. Rev.* 3 Mar. 230 The spokeswomanship of the *Flower and the Leaf* can no more decide the point than any other dramatic or poetic assumption of character by this or another bard.

Spokewise (spōu·kwəiz), *adv.* [f. SPOKE *sb.* + -WISE.] After the manner of the spokes of a wheel.

1844 KINGLAKE *Eothen* xii, My quilt, and my pelisse, and my cloak were spread out so that I might lie spokewise. 1911 J. WARD *Roman Era Brit.* vii. 115 Six internal walls radiating spoke-wise from a small central hexagonal cell.

Spoking (spōu·kiŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. SPOKE *v.*] The action of fitting with spokes; used *attrib.* in *spoking-machine* (see quot.).

1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2285/1 *Spoking-machine*, one for setting spokes in the hub with a uniform dish.

Spoky (spōu·ki), *a.* Now *rare.* Also 6–7 spokie (6 -ye), 9 spokey; 7 spoaky, 8 -ey. [f. SPOKE *sb.* + -Y.]

†1. *Bot.* **a.** Having or consisting of parts arranged radially like the spokes of a wheel; radiate, radiated. *Obs.*

1551 TURNER *Herbal* I. C vj, Dyll..hath many smal braunches comming furth of a great stalke,..wyth a spokye top as fenell hath. 1578 LYTE *Dodoens* 270 The floures..grow in round spokie tuffets or rundels, at the toppe of the stalkes. 1597 GERARDE *Herbal* I. xix. 24 With a spokie pannicle, somwhat thicker and greater than the common Couch Grasse. 1657 W. COLES *Adam in Eden* 1, The white Flowers grow in spoaky roundels. 1672 JOSSELYN *New Eng. Rarities* 70 The Flowers are Blew, small, and many, growing in spoky tufts at the top. 1713 *Phil. Trans.* XXVIII. 183 Its Leaves very like the Jagged Sow-Thistles, with Spoakey Tufts of Purple Flowers.

†b. Resembling wheel-spokes in form and arrangement. *Obs.*

1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* II. 274 In the top thereof it beareth certaine little heads inuironed with spokie leaues, and those disposed round in manner of a starre.

2. Of a wheel: Having or provided with spokes.

1832 WILSON in *Blackw. Mag.* XXXII. 178 That small, spokey, but rimless wheel.

†Spold. *Obs. rare.* In 1, 3 spald, 5 spolde. [OE. *spáld*, var. of *spádl, spátl* SPATTLE *sb.*[1]] Spittle.

a 900 CYNEWULF *Elene* 300 Ze mid horu speowdon on þæs andwlitan, þe eow eazena leoht fram blindnesse bote ȝefremede..þurh þæt æðele spald. *c* 1260 in Napier *Hist. Holy Rood Tree* 78/1 Þat leueli leor wid spald ischent. *c* 1450 *Mirk's Festial* 83 For þe spolde of a fasting man may sle any eddyr bodyly.

†Spole, obs. variant of SPAULD, shoulder.

a 1723 in Child *Ballads* III. 342/1 Vnder the spole of his right arme Hee smote Sir Andrew quite throw the hart.

Spole, obs. or dial. f. SPOOL *sb.* and *v.*

†Spole-worm. *Obs. rare.* Also spoul-. [ad. older Flem. *spoel-worm* (Kilian), G. *spulwurm*] A tapeworm infesting the human body.

1527 ANDREW *Brunswyke's Distyll. Waters* D j b, The same water dronke..is good for the worme in the body named the spole worme. *Ibid.* E j b, Two ounces dronke fastynge in the mornynge is good for the evyll worme called the spoul worme.

Spo·liage. *rare* —[1]. = SPOLIATION I.

1806 in Owen *Wellesley's Desp.* (1877) 799 The awful instance before us..shows whither an unbridled system of military government..may lead, if founded in the love of war, and military spoliage.

Spo·liary. *rare* —[1]. [ad. L. *spoliārium*, f. *spolium* SPOIL *sb.*] A place in the Roman amphitheatre where the slain gladiators were stripped.

1692 WASHINGTON tr. *Milton's Def. People* v. Wks. 1851 VIII. 154 An Act of the Senate made upon that occasion is extant in Lampridius:.. 'let the Parricide be drawn, let him be torn in pieces in the Spoliary'.

†Spo·liate, *pa. pple. Obs.*[—1] [ad. L. *spoliātus*, pa. pple. of *spoliāre*: see next.] Destitute, devoid.

c 1470 HENRYSON *Mor. Fab., Preach. Swallow* xl, This carle and bond of gentrice spoliate.

Spoliate (spōu·liĕt), *v.* [f. L. *spoliāt-*, ppl. stem of *spoliāre* to spoil, f. *spolium* SPOIL *sb.* Cf. F. *spolier*, Prov. and Pg. *espoliar*, It. *spogliare.*] *trans.* To spoil or despoil; to rob or deprive *of* something.

1722–7 BOYER *Dict. Royal* I, *Spolier*, to spoliate, spoil. 1839 *John Bull* 15 Apr., After having violated and spoliated every other corporation in the country. 1853 *Fraser's Mag.* XLVIII. 710 Spoliating the land of our trees. 1876 *Contemp. Rev.* Jan. 304 Bonaparte was spoliating the Pope.

absol. 1835 *Tait's Mag.* II. 520 The exactions of an alien church, which insults while it spoliates.

Hence **Spo·liating** *ppl. a.*

1840 *Penny Cycl.* XVIII. 321/1 The spoliating parties called a diet to sanction this iniquitous transaction. 1895 *Daily News* 6 Nov. 8/3 The scheme of spoliation which was partially successful under a spoliating Government.

Spo·liated, *ppl. a.* [f. L. *spoliāt-us*: cf. SPOLIATE *ppl. a.*] Despoiled; taken as spoil or booty.

1815 MME. D'ARBLAY *Let.* 2 May, In this starved, spoliated, and sleepless condition, he arrived. 1866 *Pall Mall G.* 18 July 7 The spoliated volumes turned out to be the indexes for those years.

Spoliation (spōuliē·ʃən). Also 5 -acioune, 5–6 -acio(u)n, 6 -atioun. [ad. L. *spoliātiō*, n. of action from *spoliāre* (see SPOLIATE *v.*), or a. F. *spoliation* (16th cent.).]

1. The action of spoliating, despoiling, pillaging, or plundering; seizure of goods or property by violent means; depredation, robbery. Also, the condition of being despoiled or pillaged.

c 1400 *Beryn* 1600 Pere nys within our shippis no þing of spoliacioun, But all trewe marchaundise. *Ibid.* 2979 What nedith..to make such aray? Sith wee been pese-marchantis, & vse no spoliacioune. 1478 *Acta Domin. Conc.* 3/1 Þe accioun..anent þe spoliacioun of certane gudes pundit and takin be þaim. 1503 in Littlejohn *Aberd. Sheriff Crt.* (1904) 47 Patrick..persewit thir persones..for the Spoliacioun of xviii^{xx} bollis of atis. 1566 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* I. 481 The manifest piracie and depredatioun committit be certane Scottismen in the pilleing and spoliatioun of thair schippis and gudis.

1800 COLQUHOUN *Comm. Thames* viii. 267 These guards secure the Revenue of the State from waste and spoliation. 1832 tr. *Sismondi's Ital. Rep.* xii. 277 He brought Rome into a state of poverty and spoliation hitherto unexampled. 1889 JESSOPP *Coming of Friars* vi. 285 A very large proportion of the endowments..came from the spoliation of the parochial clergy.

b. *transf.* (See quot.)

1767 GOOCH *Treat. Wounds* I. 233 Robbing the blood too much of its density or red globules,..by some Physicians, is very significantly called, *spoliation.*

c. An act or instance of despoiling or plundering; a robbery; an exaction of a spoliatory nature.

1800 WEEMS *Life Washington* (1877) 178 But [they] still continued their spoliations. 1843 J. W. CROKER in *C. Papers* (1884) II. 421, I believe that there was a more extensive spoliation of papers than we imagined. 1853 KINGSLEY *Hypatia* Pref. p. ix, It substituted a fixed and regular spoliation for the fortuitous and arbitrary miseries of savage warfare.

2. *Eccl.* A writ or suit brought by one incumbent against another holding the same benefice by an illegal or questionable title (see later quots.).

1498–9 *Plumpton Corr.* (Camden) 133 The best remedy for your incumbent was..to have a spoliacion in the spirituall court agaynst the preyst that now occupyeth, because he is one disturber. 1607 COWELL *Interpr.*, *Spoliation* is a

writ, that ..yeth for an incumbent, against another incumbent, in case where the right of patronage commeth not in debate. 1767 Burn *Eccl. Law* III. 342 The same law is, where one telleth the patron that his clerk is dead; whereupon he presents another; there the first incumbent..may have a spoliation against the other.

b. The action on the part of one incumbent of depriving another of the emoluments of a benefice.

1726 Ayliffe *Parergon* 117 A Benefice is said to be vacant de Facto, and not de Jure, when the Possession thereof is lost by Spoliation or Intrusion. 1768 Blackstone *Comm.* III. III. vii. 91 Spoliation is an injury done by one clerk or incumbent to another, in taking the fruits of his benefice without any right thereunto, but under a pretended title.

3. *Law.* The action of destroying a document, or of injuring or tampering with it in such a way as to destroy its value as evidence.

1752 Mrs. Delany *Autobiogr. & Corr.* (1861) III. 188 My Lord Chancellor..has acquitted D.D. of all guilt of spoliation, but not of the consequences that may attend the destroying or loss of the deed. 1867 Smyth *Sailor's Word-bk.* 644 Spoliation of a Ship's Papers. An act which, by the maritime law of every court in Europe, not only excludes further proof, but does, *per se*, infer condemnation.

4. The action of spoiling, damaging, or injuring.

1867 J. Hogg *Microsc.* (ed. 6) I. iii. 220 The structure of many creatures is so delicate, as to require the very greatest care to prevent mutilation, and the consequent spoliation of the specimen.

Spoliative (spōu·liătiv), *a.* [f. L. *spoliāt-*, ppl. stem of *spoliāre* to spoil, or a. F. *spoliative*: see Spoliate *v.* and -ive.]

1. Spoliatory. *rare* —1.

1875 *Contemp. Rev.* XXV. 190 Political economists..have met all practical inferences of a subversive or spoliative tendency by [etc.].

2. *Med.* Having the effect of seriously diminishing the amount of the blood.

1876 Bartholow *Mat. Med.* (1879) 466 This is a powerfully spoliative and depressing emetic. 1898 P. Manson *Trop. Diseases* x. 293 There was a time when, under a spoliative treatment, by bleeding and calomel, dysentery proved a very fatal disease indeed.

Spoliator (spōu·lieitəɹ). [a. L. *spoliātor*, agent-n. from *spoliāre* (see Spoliate *v.*), or ad. F. *spoliateur* (16th c.).] One who commits spoliation or robbery; a pillager, plunderer a spoiler.

1831 *Examiner* 695/2 The spoliators were gaining admittance to the house. 1845 Petrie *Eccl. Archit. Irel.* 370 It might be, that a successful spoliator thus deprived the possessors of the means of future defence. 1875 Helps *Soc. Press.* iv. 61 The spoliators (such I must call them) would probably be deficient in those powers of imagination which ..would teach men that [etc.].

Spoliatory (spōu·liătəri), *a.* [f. L. *spoliāt-*, ppl. stem of *spoliāre* (see Spoliate *v.*) + -ory 2]. Of the nature of, characterized by, spoliation or robbery; pillaging, plundering.

1790 Burke *Corr.* (1844) III. 143 If I were to adopt the plan of a spoliatory reformation. 1813 J. C. Hobhouse *Journey* (ed. 2) 290 The spoliatory taste of some amateurs. 1857 J. Raine *Mem. J. Hodgson* I. 60 It was dissolved by the first spoliatory statute. 1895 *Daily Tel.* 6 Mar. 7/1 To defend themselves..against spoliatory attack.

Spolt, dial. var. Spalt *a.*, brittle. **Spoltie,** obs. var. Spultie. **Spome,** obs. var. Spume *sb.* **Spon,** obs. form of Spoon *sb.*

† Spon, *v. Obs. rare.* In 6 spone, spoyn. [f. *spon* Spoon *sb.* or MLG. *spōn*: cf. G. *spänen* in the same sense.] *trans.* To secure (wine) from waste by tightening the cask with chips of wood.

1541 *Rutland MSS.* (Hist. MSS. Comm.) IV. 312 Gaskyn wyne:..for spoynyng the same wine jd. 1574 in *Rep. MSS. Ld. Middleton* (Hist. MSS. Comm.) 448 For iij. hh. [=hogsheads] of clarred wyne, xij *li.* xv *s.*;..sponenge the wyne, vj *d.*

† Sponage. *Obs. rare.* [Cf. prec.] The operation of tightening a wine-cask with chips.

1526 in *Househ. Ord.* (1790) 195 Item, Cellaridge, Cranage, Sponage, Romage, and Carriage of Wine, £100 *os.* *od.* 1576 in Nichols *Progr. Jas. I* (1828) II. 48 In cellaring, carriage, cowperage, cranage and sponage of wine.

Sponcing, variant of Sponson.

† Spond, *sb. Obs.*—1 [ad. L. *sponda.*] A bed or couch.

1763 *Brit. Mag.* IV. 196 She lay upon a spond covered with gold tissue, under a canopy of state.

† Spond, *v. Obs.*—1 [f. L. *spond-ēre* to bind or promise.] *trans.* To promise or pledge.

1698 Fryer *Acc. E. India & P.* 369 A time..of Labour and Travel, whereby they approve themselves what their Parents only Sponded for them.

Spondaic (spɒndē·ik), *a.* and *sb.* Also 8 -aick. [ad. F. *spondaïque* (16th c.; =It. *spondaico*, Sp. and Pg. *espondaico*), or L. *spondaic-us* (see Spondiac *a.*). Cf. G. *spondäisch.*]

A. *adj.* **1.** Of verses (or parts of these): **a.** Composed of spondees. **b.** Having a spondee in positions where a different foot is normal; *esp.* of hexameters, having a spondee in the fifth foot.

1722–7 Boyer *Dict. Royal* I, *Spondaïque*,..a spondaick Verse. 1728 Chambers *Cycl.* s.v. *Spondee*, There are also Spondee or Spondaic Verses; that is, Verses composed wholly of Spondees, or at least that end with Two Spondees. 1789 M. Madan tr. *Persius* (1795) 34 *note*, The end of this verse is spondaic. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XV. 254/2 An hexameter line..when regular and not spondaic..never has fewer than thirteen [syllables]. 1847 *Proc. Philol. Soc.* III. 105 The same argument may be drawn from the construction of spondaic anapæstic verses. 1861 Paley *Aeschylus* (ed. 2) *Persians* 32 *note*, On the spondaic termination see Suppl. 7.

2. Characterized by a spondee or spondees.

1751 Johnson *Rambler* No. 94 ¶ 10 This at least was the power of the spondaick and dactylick harmony. 1773 Melmoth tr. *Cicero, Old Age* 193 A certain piece of musick composed in solemn spondaic measures. 1824 L. Murray *Eng. Gram.* (ed. 5) I. 385 The Trochaic, Iambic, or Spondaic [movement]. 1869 Freeman *Norm. Conq.* (1875) III. 225, I do not know the meaning of this strange epithet and spondaic cadence.

3. Of words: Consisting of two long syllables.

a 1849 Poe *Longf.*, etc. Wks. 1864 III. 364 Our spondees, or, we should say, our spondaic words are rare.

B. *sb.* A spondaic foot or line.

1839 T. Mitchell *Aristoph., Frogs* 357 *note*, On the anapæstic spondaics which follow, see Hermann.

† Spondaical, *a. Obs.*—1 [f. as prec. + -al.] =next.

1603 Florio *Montaigne* I. xlvi. 149 A solemne, grave, severe, and spondaicall kinde of musike.

Spondean, *a. rare.* [f. L. *spondē-us* (see next) + -an.] Of music: Characterized by or consisting of spondees.

1776 Burney *Hist. Mus.* I. 35 The first of these [enharmonic melodies] they reckon to have been the nome or melody called Spondean. *c* 1800 R. Cumberland *J. De Lancaster* (1809) I. 287 By the simple recitation of the spondean hymn.

Spondee (spɒ·ndī). Also 4, 6–7 sponde, 6 -ie, spondæ, 7 -æe. [ad. L. *spondē-us*, incorrectly *spondæ-us* (sc. *pes*), ad. Gr. σπονδεῖος, f. σπονδή solemn drink-offering; or a. F. *spondée* (=It. *spondeo*, Sp. and Pg. *espondeo*).]

1. *Pros.* A metrical foot consisting of two long syllables. Also *attrib.*

a. *a* 1390 *Wycliffite Bible, Job* Prol., Vers of sixe feet, rennende with dactile and sponde feet. 1567 Drant *Horace, Ep.* A viij, In the fourth roume and seconde roume Iambus still hath bene. In Ennius or Accius, Spondie is seldom seene. 1596 J. Davies *Orchestra* lxvi, Yet all the feete.. Are onely Spondeis, solemne, graue, and sloe. 1670 Eachard *Cont. Clergy* 13 Upon the first scanning, he knows a sponde from a dactyl. 1746 Francis tr. *Horace, Art of Poetry* 259 *note*, Horace blames Ennius and Accius..for making their Verses hard and heavy by ill-placing the Spondees. 1771 Mackenzie *Man Feel.* xx, It is a spondee, and I will maintain it! 1835 T. Mitchell *Aristoph., Acharn.* 571 *note*, Originally, this kind of address was composed in pure anapæsts, without any mixture of spondees or dactyls. 1888 *Cent. Mag.* Mar. 671/2 Jerry made a spondee of Frank's name [*sc.* Mallard].

β. 1586 W. Webbe *Eng. Poetrie* (Arb.) 81 Thys verse consisteth of these fiue feete, one Chore, one spondæ, one dactyl, and two Choreis. 1603 Holland *Plutarch's Mor.* 1253 Those which were endited to the praise of Mars and Minerva, and with Spondæes. 1666 Dryden *Ann. Mirab., Let. Howard*, The quantity of every syllable, which they might vary with Spondæes or Dactiles.

2. *Mus.* (See quots.)

1861 J. S. Adams *5000 Mus. Terms* 94 *Spondee*, a musical foot consisting of two long notes, accented thus – –. 1875 Stainer & Barrett *Dict. Mus. Terms*, *Spondee*, a musical foot consisting of two long syllables.

† Spondence. *Obs.*—1 [f. L. *spond-ēre* to promise: see -ence.] A pledge or promise.

1657 *Burton's Diary* (1828) I. 412 These are the spondences and undertakings of the Parliament.

‖ Spondeus. *Obs.* Also -æus. Pl. **spondei,** -æi. [L.] =Spondee. Also *attrib.*

1567 Drant *Horace, Art Poet.* A viij b, The stade Spondeus foote. 1586 W. Webbe *Eng. Poetrie* (Arb.) 80 The two first feete, eyther *Dactyli* or *Spondæi* indifferent. 1589 Puttenham *Eng. Poesie* (Arb.) 129 This makes a good Dactill and a good spondeus. 1603 Holland *Plutarch's Morals* 1252 These were the beginnings of the enharmonique Musicke: For first of them they put a Spondæus. 1704 J. Harris *Lex. Techn.* I, *Spondæus*, is the Foot of a Latin Verse, consisting of two Syllables, and both of 'em long, as *Ingens.*

† Spondiac, *a. Obs. rare.* Also 7 spondeiak. [ad. L. *spondiac-us* (less correctly *spondaic-us*), ad. Gr. σπονδειακός.] =Spondaic *a.*

1589 Puttenham *Eng. Poesie* (Arb.) 129 Which words serue well to make the verse all spondiacke or iambicke. 1603 Holland *Plutarch's Morals* 1254 In song they seemed not..proper and fit for the Spondeiak kinde.

† Spondiasm. *Obs. rare.* [ad. Gr. σπονδειασμ-ός, f. σπονδείος Spondee.] In ancient Greek music: (see quot. 1801).

1603 Holland *Plutarch's Morals* 1252 Unlesse a man having an eie unto a vehement Spondiasme, will conjecture ..the same to be a kinde of Diatonos. 1801 Busby *Dict. Mus., Spondiasm*, an alteration in the harmonic genus by which a chord was elevated three dieses above its ordinary pitch, so that the *spondiasm* was precisely the opposite of the eclysis.

Spondulicks (spɒndiū·liks). *slang.* Orig. *U.S.* Also -ics, -ix; spondoolic(k)s, -ix. [Of fanciful formation.] Money, cash.

1857 in R. H. Thornton *Amer. Gloss.* (1912), He lost..All the brass and all the needful, All the spondulix and buttons. 1863 *Ibid.*, Those ordering job work should come down with the spondulicks as soon as the work is done. 1896 J. H. Bloomfield *Cuban Exped.* 20 As long as the Cubans can raise the spondulix, they'll get plenty of people to fit out expeditions for them. 1899 T. M. Ellis *3 Cat's-eye Rings* 32 Oh, I shall pull in the spondulicks,..I tell you.

Spo·ndyl(e. Now *rare.* Forms: *α.* 5– spondyle, 5–7 -dile, 8–9 sphondyle. *β.* 6– spondyl, 6–7 -dyll, 6 -dylle, 6–7 -dille, 7 -dil(l. *γ.* 5–7 spondel, 6 -dele, -delle, 7 spondle. [a. F. *spondyle*, † *spondile*, -*ille* (=Sp. *espondil*, Pg. *espondyl*, It. *spondillo*), or ad. L. *spondylus*, *sphondylus*, ad. Gr. σπ-, σφόνδυλος. Cf. Spondylus.]

† **1.** One or other of the joints of the spine; a vertebra. *Obs.*

α. *c* 1400 *Lanfranc's Cirurg.* 146 Bitwene þe firste spondile & þe secunde. *Ibid.* (Addit. MS. 12056), The firste spondyle ys y-bounden to þe secunde. 1541 R. Copland *Guydon's Quest. Chirurg.* E ij, It descendeth by the spondyles vnto the ende of the backe. 1601 Holland *Pliny* II. 257 The first spondyle or turning joint in the chine of a Dragon. 1653 Urquhart *Rabelais* I. xxvii, To others again he unjoynted the spondyles or knuckles of the neck.

β. 1541 R. Copland *Guydon's Quest. Chirurg.* D iv b, Through the myddes of the spondylles or rydge bones tyll vnto the ende of the backe. 1547 Boorde *Brev. Health* x. 10 b, A senowe the whyche doth growe out of the myddle of the spondyls. 1590 Barrough *Meth. Physick* I. xvii. (1639) 28 It is good also to annoint the first and second Spondill in the neck. 1637 B. Jonson *Sad Shepherd* II. vii, A kind of rack Runs downe along the Spondylls of his back. 1667 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 159/4 A great shot..entring the spondilles of his back.

γ. *c* 1400 *Lanfranc's Cirurg.* 146 In þe necke þer ben .vij. spondelis, þat is to seie whirlboonys. 1548–77 Vicary *Anat.* vi. (1888) 45 The Spondelles of the necke be seuen. 1607 Walkington *Opt. Glass* 120 The spondles or ioynts of the backe-bone. 1615 Crooke *Body of Man* 113 It hath his beginning at the first spondle of the loynes. 1650 Bulwer *Anthropomet.* 194 Being pliant, [it] easily permits the Spondels to slip awry inwards.

† **b.** *transf.* A formation like a vertebra. *Obs.*

1658 Rowland tr. *Moufet's Theat. Ins.* 937 The third species hath four wings;..in the tail there are five red spondils.

† **2.** A joint *of* a wheel, vessel, etc. *Obs.*

1650 Charleton *Paradoxes* 40 You may rejoyne, that.. there succeeds a participation of the substance of the Loadstone in the porosities..of the steel, or spondils of the glasse. 1660 Jer. Taylor *Ductor* Ep. Ded., That every spondyl of the wheels may mark out those vertues which we are then to exercise. 1662 J. Chandler *Van Helmont's Oriat*, 217 The Sea salt..doth stick fast to the spondils or chinks of the vessels.

3. *Zool.* =Spondylus.

1668 Wilkins *Real Char.* 130 Exanguious Testaceous Animals...4. Oyster. Spondyl. 1776 Mendes da Costa *Elem. Conch.* 248 The spondyles are most generally eared shells with unequal valves, rude or uncouth in shape. 1835 Kirby *Hab. & Inst. Anim.* I. viii. 256 Lamarck..observes that the Spondyls have the margin of the mantle furnished with two rows of tentacular threads. 1854 Badham *Halieut.* 42 Such a pond, too, is the best nidus for..balani, and sphondyles.

† **4.** Some kind of fossil. *Obs.*—1

1708 *Phil. Trans.* XXVI. 78 *Ichthyospondylus*, The Spondyl, or Fairy Salt-seller.

Spondyli·tis. *Path.* Also -ilitis. [mod.L., f. L. *spondyl-us* Spondyl(e + -itis. So F. *spondylite.*] Inflammation of the vertebral column.

1849 Craig, *Spondilitis.* 1859 in Mayne *Expos. Lex.* 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* III. 63 Stiff neck due to diseases of the cervical spine, such as caries and..rheumatoid spondylitis.

Spondylo- (spɒ·ndilo), comb. form of Gr. σπόνδυλο-ς or L. *spondyl-us* vertebra, occurring in a few recent terms, chiefly *Path.*, in the sense 'of or pertaining to, connected with, the spine', as *spondylocace*, *-dynia*, *-pyosis*, *-tomy.*

1859 Mayne *Expos. Lex.* 1194/1.

‖ Spondylus (spɒ·ndiləs). *Zool.* Pl. **spondyli.** [L.: see Spondyl(e.] One or other of the species of bivalves belonging to the genus *Spondylus*, characterized by foliaceous spines.

1601 Holland *Pliny* II. 446 The fish likewise called Spondylus, is said to rid away the tertian ague. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl., *Spondylus*,..a kind of oister of an oblong and umbonated form, of which there are several species. 1777 Pennant *Brit. Zool.* (ed. 4) IV. 58 *Spondyli*, a sort of Bivalve, with strong hinges, found in the Mediterranean sea. 1835–6 *Todd's Cycl. Anat.* I. 312/2 The annexed figure of the organs of the *spondylus.* 1840 *Cuvier's Anim. Kingd.* 372 The Spondyli are eaten like Oysters. 1885 Lady Brassey *The Trades* 160 One large cabinet..includes many interesting specimens, especially of the various kinds of spondylus.

Spone, obs. pa. pple. Spin *v.*; obs. f. Spoon *sb.*

† **Spone,** *v. Sc. Obs.*—1 [Aphetic form of Dispone *v.*] *trans.* To spend.

1456 *Burgh Rec. Peebles* (1872) 116 To geyf hym a sufiand lewyn, and the layf be sponyt on the plas qwar mast ned is.

Spong. Now *dial.* [var. of Spang *sb.*3]

1. A long narrow piece or strip (*of* ground or land).

1650 Fuller *Pisgah* II. ix. 185 Shiloh succeeds (in a narrow southern spong of this Tribe). *Ibid.* IV. ii. 22 A spong of ground somewhat nigh a thousand miles,..and not bearing a proportionable breadth. *a* 1800– in dialect glossaries (E. Anglia, Leic., Northampt.).

† **2.** (See quot.) *Obs.*—1

1811 Miss L. M. Hawkins *C'tess & Gertr.* II. 103 A laboring man gave notice that he was going to drive the *tumbril* (two-wheeled cart) to the *spong* (drift-way for cattle).

Sponge (spɒndʒ), *sb.*1 Forms: *α.* 1– sponge (2 spunge). *β.* (Chiefly *north.* and *Sc.*) 4–7 spounge, 5 spoungge, spwnge, 5–6 spownge, 6 spoung, 6, 9 spoonge. *γ.* 6–9 spunge, 7 spundge. [OE. *sponge* (acc. *-ean*) and *spunge* (*spiunge*), ad. L. *spongia*, *spongea*, a. Gr. σπογγιά, later derivative form of σπόγγος sponge. In other Teutonic languages the word appears as OS. *spun-*

sia, MDu. *spongie*, *sponge*, *sponse* (WFlem. *sponsie*, Du. *spons*, WFris: *spons*, *spouns*), and in the Romanic group as OF. *esponge* (16th cent. in Littré), F. *éponge*, Sp. and Pg. *esponja*, It. *spugna*. OE. had also the more popular and older form *spynge*, *spinge*.]

I. 1. The soft, light, porous, and easily compressible framework which remains after the living matter has been removed from various species of porifers (see 3), characterized by readily absorbing fluids and yielding them on pressure, and much used in bathing, cleansing surfaces, etc.

In older Sc. use (see β) app. also 'a brush'.

α. *c* 1000 *Ags. Gosp.* Matt. xxvii. 48 Ða hrædlice arn an heora & ȝenam ane spongean [*c* 1160 ænne spongen], & fylde hig mid ecede. *c* 1160 *Hatton Gosp.* Mk. xv. 36 Þa arn hyre an & fylde ane spunge mid eisile. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 262 Nes his pitaunce o rode bute a sponge of galle. 1387 Trevisa *Higden* (Rolls) I. 185 Sponges i-watred and i-holde at hir nostrilles. *a* 1425 tr. *Arderne's Treat. Fistula*, etc. 26 In þe mornyng be it clensed with hote watre and a sponge. 1497 *Naval Acc. Hen. VII* (1896) 88 Sponges grete ij and small xxvj. 1523 Fitzherb. *Husb.* § 44 Than washe your shepe there-with, with a sponge or a pece of an olde mantell. 1560 Daus tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 204 b, The Crosse,..Nayles, Sponge, launce, Crowne of thorne. 1625 N. Carpenter *Geogr. Del.* II. v. (1635) 68 Others againe..suppose the earth to bee like a sponge to drinke vp the water. 1676 L'Estrange *Seneca's Mor., Anger* xii. (1696) 423 He..caus'd their Mouths to be stopt with Sponges. 1800 *Med. Jrnl.* III. 556, I have constantly recommended cold vinegar..to be applied..by means of a sponge. 1863 Ansted *Ionian Isl.* 255 A considerable fishery for fine sponges, of which many, fully equal to fine Turkey sponges, come into the market. 1876 Harley *Royle's Mat. Med.* 783 The Sponge is imported from the Mediterranean and the Red Sea.

β. 1388 Wyclif *Mark* xv. 36 And oon ranne, and fillide a spounge with vynegre. *c* 1400 Maundev. (Roxb.) iii. 9 [Pai] held to þaire noses spoungez moisted with water. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 356/1 A Spoungge.., *spongia*. 1491 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* I. 288 For a spwnge to the Kingis claythis, ij s. 1501 *Ibid.* II 27 Byrs spowngis for the Kingis bonatis, vj d. 1549 *Ibid.* IX. 353 Item, ane spoung send to Dunfermeling to his graces sone, iiij *s*. 1612 *Halyburton's Ledger* (1867) 329 Spounges or brushes.

γ. 1572 in Feuillerat *Revels Q. Eliz.* (1908) 180 For spunges for snoballs. 1580 Lyly *Euphues* (Arb.) 425 The Spunge is full of water, yet is it not seene. 1661 J. Childrey *Brit. Bacon.* 41 An earth porous like a spunge. 1726 Pope *Odyss.* xx. 189 And let the abstersive spunge the board renew. 1767 Gooch *Treat. Wounds* I. 259 To wipe it dry with a spunge.

fig. 1602 *How Chuse Good Wife* v. ii, For her death The spunge of either eye Shall weep red tears. 1622 Donne *Serm.* xvi. 159 Every man is but a spunge, and but a spunge filled with teares. 1726 Bolingbroke *Study Hist.* vii. (1752) I. 265 Colbert made the most of all these advantageous circumstances, and whilst he filled the national spunge, he taught his successors how to squeeze it.

transf. 1607 Topsell *Four-f. Beasts* 271 With flew or woull of Hares..the Grecians made spunges..to clense the eies of men. 1728 Chambers *Cycl.* s.v., Pyrotechnical Spunges are made of the large Mushrooms or fungous Excrescences growing on old Oaks, Ashes, Firs, &c.

b. As a type of something of small value.

1671 Milton *P. R.* IV. 329 Collecting toys, And trifles for choice matters, worth a spunge.

c. *To throw* (or *chuck*) *up the sponge*, to abandon a contest or struggle; to submit, give in. *colloq.*

1860 *Slang Dict.* 224 'To throw up the sponge,' to submit, give over the struggle,—from the practice of throwing up the sponge used to cleanse the combatants' faces, at a prize-fight, as a signal that the 'mill' is concluded. 1877 T. A. Trollope *Life Pius IX*, II. 130 This tranquil confidence ..degenerated..into inertness, acquiescence in evil, and.. throwing up the sponge. 1889 'R. Boldrewood' *Robbery under Arms* xxiv, If Tim had got this letter..he'd have chucked up the sponge and cleared out for good and all.

2. Without article: The material of which this is composed.

1398 Trevisa *Barth. De P. R.* XIII. xxviii. (Tollem. MS.), It is made harde and turneþ in to sponge. 1683 Salmon *Doron Med.* I. 110 If for Application by Spunge, Cloath, or Stuph. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s.v., A pound of spunge .., on drying carefully.., will be reduced to eleven ounces. *Ibid.*, Burnt spunge is much recommended as a sweetner of the blood. 1813 T. Thomson *Lect. Inflam.* 345 The tent was formed of prepared sponge. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* I. 382/2 Inferior sponge, with a large-holed texture, called horse sponge.

transf. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2286/1 Artificial sponge is made of caoutchouc [etc.].

3. *Zool.* One or other of various species of aquatic (chiefly marine) animals (or colony of animals) of a low order belonging to the group *Porifera*, characterized by a tough elastic skeleton of interlaced fibres.

1538 Elyot, *Achilleum*, a sponge, whiche is verye softe, and hath smalle holes. 1552 *Ibid.*, *Cystiolithi*, certayne stones, whiche growe in spunges, holsome against diseases of the bladder. 1633 G. Herbert *Temple, Providence* xxxiv, Frogs marry fish and flesh; bats, bird and beast; Sponges, non-sense and sense. 1651 Jer. Taylor *Course Serm.* I. 4 We are no more such really, then Mandrakes are Men, or Spunges are living creatures. 1725 *Family Dict.* s.v., The Ancients would have a Spunge to be Zoophite. *Ibid.*, There are two sorts of Spunges, the Male..and the Female. 1774 Goldsm. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) I. 289 Here are seen the madrepores, the sponges, mosses, sea mushrooms, and other marine productions. 1834 M'Murtrie *Cuvier's Anim. Kingd.* II It is a kind of sponge, which has the same form as the body. 1857 Livingstone *Trav.* xiv. 249 Around the reeds..we see fresh-water sponges. 1884 Goode *Nat. Hist. Aquat. Anim.* 843 Nearly all Sponges possess a skeleton or *the rudiments of one*,

b. With distinguishing terms, denoting various species of these.

Glass-rope sponge, *glass-sponge*: see Glass *sb.*[1] 16.

1682 Grew *Museum* II. v. ii. 251 The Hollow Cylindrick or Pipe-Sponge. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s.v., 9. The branched river-spunge. 10. The hairy spunge. 11. The sail spunge [etc.]. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XVII. 708 Branched sponge;..cock's comb sponge;..tow-sponge [etc.]. 1861 Hulme tr. *Moquin-Tandon* II. III. ii. 89 Fine Syrian Sponge. ..Fine Archipelago Sponge...White Sponge of Syria, called also Venetian Sponge. 1883 Adderley *Fisheries Bahamas* 49 The finest type of all, the Levant toilet or Turkish cup-sponge (*Spongia officinalis*).

† **c.** *Sponge of the river*: (see quot.). *Obs.*

1611 Cotgr., *Esponge d'eau douce*, a certaine hearbe, that flotes on riuers, and is called, Spunge of the riuer.

4. A moistened piece of the above substance (sense 1) as used for wiping a surface in order to obliterate writing, etc. Also in fig. context.

1555 Eden *Decades* (Arb.) 196 The leaues, wheron they wryte with any sharpe instrument, and blotte the same againe with a spunge or sum suche other thynge. 1591 Spenser *Ruins Time* 361 Great ones.., Of whome no word we heare, nor signe now see, But as things wipt out with a sponge to perishe. 1644 Sir E. Dering *Prop. Sacr.* c iiij b, *Clavis Mystica* under-went a great deal of Spunge. 1768–74 Tucker *Lt. Nat.* (1834) II. 216 The hand-writing against us is not blotted out; yet..we have a sponge given us to wipe it away ourselves. 1865 Miss Braddon *Only a Clod* iv, Do you think two years' absence won't act as a sponge, and wipe my image out of her thoughts. 1867 Goldw. Smith *3 Eng. Statesm.* (1882) 212 No great nature ever passes a sponge over its former self.

b. *fig.* That which blots out of existence, wipes out of memory, effaces, etc.

1558 Bp. Watson *Sev. Sacram.* xviii. 117 Daylye confession..is..a sponge to wype awaye the fylthynesse of oure synnes. 1657 Trapp *Comm. Ezra* ix. 7 Confession.. is that happy Spunge, that wipeth out all the blottes and blurres of our lives. 1748 Geddes *Composit. Antients* 268 Fear, grief, pain, and desire, are the most effectual spunges. 1799 Han. More *Fem. Educ.* (ed. 4) I. 36 Which fits of charity are made the sponge of every sin, and the substitute of every virtue.

c. A method of cancelling or wiping off debts without payment.

1717 (*title*), Fair Payment no Spunge: or, some Considerations on the Unreasonableness of Refusing to Receive back Money Lent on Publick Securities. 1753 Hanway *Trav.* I. vii. (1762) II. 40 We have an example in France..of a large national debt being paid with a sponge. 1787 Bentham *Def. Usury* xii. 124 A spunge..is the only needful and only availing remedy. 1803 Cobbett in *Pol. Reg.* (1817) 8 Feb. 176 Your tax upon the funds, or..that admirable sponge which you are now about to apply to one twentieth part of the debt.

5. A kind of mop or swab for cleansing a cannon-bore after firing.

a 1625 *Nomencl. Navalis* (MS. Harl. 2301) s.v., The spunge of a peece of Ordnaunce is that which makes it cleane; they are comonlie Sheepeskins putt at the ende of a Staffe. 1627 Capt. Smith *Seaman's Gram.* xiv. 66 A Spunge is such another staffe, with a peece of a Lambe skin at the end.., to thrust vp and downe the Peece. 1669 Sturmy *Mariner's Mag.* v. xii. 45 A Gunner..ought to have in readiness..Sheep-skins to make Spunges. 1769 Falconer *Dict. Marine* s.v. *Cannon*, In the land-service, the handle of the spunge is nothing else than a long wooden staff. 1846 A. Young *Naut. Dict.* 292 For a long gun, the sponge and rammer are fixed each on a separate staff. 1884 'H. Collingwood' (W. J. C. Lancaster) *Under Meteor Flag* 40 A sponge was thrust out of one of the upper deck ports, catching him in the face.

II. 6. † **a.** The fibrous matted root of asparagus shoots. *Obs.*

c 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* IV. 233 This seedis [of asparagus] wol connect intil oon roote, This calle a sponge. 1563 Hyll *Art Garden.* (1593) 58 The small rootes will be so folded and tyed one to an other, that they will seeme to be fastned and ioyned togither in one, and this is named of the ancient Gardner, a Spunge. 1577 B. Googe *Heresbach's Husb.* II. (1586) 54 The rootes haue sundry long threeds, which they call the Spoonge.

b. A spongy gall or excrescence on rose-bushes; = Bedeguar 2.

1608 Topsell *Serpents* 97 A certaine little Worme which is found in the sponge of the Dogge-bryer (called of the Physitions Bedeguar). 1698 *Phil. Trans.* XX. 464 In brief, it is nothing else but the Sponge of the Dogs Rose, called by some Bedeguar. 1861 Hulme tr. *Moquin-Tandon* II. III. v. 153 Bedeguars—commonly called 'Soft Apples' or 'Vegetable Sponges'.

c. Something having the appearance or consistency of a sponge.

1683 K. Digby *Chym. Secr.* 12 The ☉ and ☿ will be precipitated indistinguishible, in the form of a black Spunge. 1893 F. F. Moore *Gray Eye or So* xxvii, Sitting for five or six hours on gigantic spunges (damp) of heather.

d. The soft fermenting dough of which bread is made. Freq. in the phr. *to set* (or *lay*) *the sponge*.

1822 *Imison's Sci. & Art* II. 152 This is called *setting the sponge*. 1830 M. Donovan *Dom. Econ.* I. 355 To this strained matter, one half of the whole quantity of flour is to be added, and well worked up with the hands so as to form sponge. 1857 Miller *Elem. Chem., Org.* 113 The mass swells up, or, as the baker terms it, the sponge rises. 1896 T. Hardy *Jude* v. iii, He was obliged to go to bed at night immediately after laying the sponge.

e. A stretch of ground of a swampy nature.

1856 Olmsted *Slave States* 157, I am aware of but a single attempt, as yet, to cultivate the sponge or true swamp soil. 1890 *Contemp. Rev.* Jan. 137 The 'great sponge', from which the Zambesi and the Congo draw their remote supplies. 1901 *Q. Rev.* July 22 It has been conjectured that some of these sponges may be fed by the waters of the Victoria Nyanza.

f. *techn.* Metal in a porous or sponge-like form, usu. obtained by reduction without fusion.

1861 Sir W. Fairbairn *Iron* 176 M. Chenot makes steel direct from the ore by converting it into a substance he calls *sponge*, in a peculiarly constructed furnace. 1877 Raymond *Statist. Mines & Mining* 389 To remove the silver sponge, which falls to the bottom and is taken out. This sponge is very light. 1884 Knight *Dict. Mech.* Suppl. 844 The sponge ..is plunged in a bath of resin, tar, or some fatty matter.

† **7.** An open-work coat of mail. *Obs.*[—1]

1600 Holland *Livy* IX. xl. 344 Their brest and stomack was fenced with spounges, the left leg armed with a good greeue.

III. *fig.* **8.** An immoderate drinker; a soaker.

1596 Shaks. *Merch. V.* I. ii. 108, I will doe any thing Nerrissa ere I will be married to a spunge. 1693 Bowles in *Dryden's Juvenal* v. 34 For him is kept a Liquor more Divine, You Spunges must be drunk with Lees of Wine. 1708 *Brit. Apollo* No. 73. 2/2 For ever too th' Amphibious Spunge does drink. 1785 Grose *Dict. Vulgar T.*, *Spunge*, a thirsty fellow, a great drinker. 1887 Henley *Villon's Good-night* 3 You spunges miking round the pubs.

9. One who or that which absorbs, drains, or sucks up, in a sponge-like manner.

In various passages of Elizabethan writers the exact sense of the word is not quite clear.

1603 J. Davies (Heref.) *Microcosmos* Wks. (Grosart) I. 63/1 These senslesse spunges of Improbity Are full of pleasure, but it is vnright. 1607 Walkington *Opt. Glass* xii. (1664) 130 We count a Melancholick man the very Spunge of all sad Humors. 1677 Otway *Cheats of Scapin* II. i, Do ye not see every Day how the Spunges [*sc.* the lawyers] suck poor Clients. 1755 Young *Centaur* iii. Wks. 1757 IV. 168 Our thirsty spunges of sensuality, who suck up every drop of it. 1891 O. W. Holmes *Over Teacups* viii. 181 The muscles are great sponges that suck up and make use of large quantities of blood. 1893 Saltus *Madam Sapphira* 219 After hours of that sponge for thought [*sc.* fatigue] which the saddle alone supplies.

b. *spec.* One who or that which appropriates or absorbs material or other advantages, wealth, etc.

1601 Sir W. Cornwallis *Ess.* xl. Cc iv, This spunge sucketh dry the commerce of societies. 1602 Shaks. *Ham.* IV. ii. 12 *Rosin.* Take you me for a Spundge, my Lord? *Ham.* I sir, that sokes vp the Kings Countenances, his Rewards, his Authorities. 1647 Clarendon *Hist. Reb.* I. § 162 Ireland, which had been a Spunge to draw..all that could be got from England.

c. A person, etc., of this kind as a source from which something may be recovered or extracted.

1602 Shaks. *Ham.* IV. ii. 22 It is but squeezing you, and Spundge you shall be dry againe. *a* 1618 Ralegh *Prerog. Parl.* 9 The people,..when they saw hee had squeased those spunges of the Common-wealth,..willingly yeelded to giue him satisfaction. *c* 1670 Hobbes *Dial. Com. Laws* (1681) 156 Empson and Dudley were no Favourites of Hen. the 7th, but Spunges, which King Hen. the 8th did well squeeze. 1722–7 Boyer *Dict. Royal* I, *Presser l'éponge*, ..to squeeze the Spunge, to make one refund. 1779 Earl Carlisle in Jesse *Selwyn & Contemp.* (1844) IV. 256 He is a sponge full of knowledge, which you may squeeze at your leisure.

d. An object of extortion; a source of profit or pecuniary advantage.

1625 Purchas *Pilgrims* II. 1480 Which make Merchants to conceale their Riches lest they should be made Spunges. 1630 Brathwait *Eng. Gentlem.* (1641) 31 Another not so proud as covetous:..such an one makes all his inferiours his sponges. 1781 Cowper *Expost.* 531 Thy monarchs..in distress Found thee a goodly sponge for Power to press. 1821 *Examiner* 744/1 Ireland has been made all along a sponge for sinecurists, a field for jobbers. 1835 James *Gipsy* ii, I will be no sponge to be squeezed for any man's pleasure.

10. One who meanly lives at the expense of others; a parasite, a sponger.

1838 Stephens *Trav. Turkey* 36 As I could only contribute [to the meal] a couple of rolls of bread,..I am inclined to think that he considered me rather a sponge. 1866 Whipple *Character & Charact. Men* 22 That large .. class of our fellow-citizens who are commonly included in the genus 'sponge'. 1883 H. Drummond *Nat. Law in Spir. W.* 350 All social sponges; all satellites of the court; all beggars of the market-place.

IV. *attrib.* and *Comb.* **11. a.** Attrib. in various uses, as *sponge-bag*, *-bank*, *-basin*, *-bath*, *-bed*, etc.

The number of such combs. in recent use is very large, chiefly in the senses 'forming part of, found in, sponges', 'producing or yielding sponges', 'used in fishing for sponges', 'used or intended for holding a sponge'.

1858 Simmonds *Dict. Trade*, **Sponge-bag*, an oil-skin case for a toilet sponge. 1885 Lady Brassey *The Trades* 333 Then we went..to see the **sponge-bank*, where some of the finest specimens of sponge are procured. 1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib., Brit.* II. No. 5825, *Sponge basin, soap box. 1859 *Habits of Gd. Society* i. (new ed.) 106 The best bath for general purposes..is a *sponge bath. 1883 in Adderley *Fisheries Bahamas* 55 The complete exhaustion of the *sponge beds. 1885 Lady Brassey *The Trades* 310 It is through this strait that many if not most of the *sponge-boats go. 1849 *Ann. Nat. Hist.* IV. 87 When living and isolated the *sponge-cell is polymorphous. 1883 Adderley *Fisheries Bahamas* 7 A new *sponge-field was discovered last year. 1867 *Chambers's Encycl.* IX. 57/2 The number of men employed in the Ottoman *sponge-fishery is between 4000 and 5000. 1855 T. R. Jones *Anim. Kingd.* (ed. 2) 28 To this contractile substance..he [M. Dujardin] proposed to give provisionally the name of *Halisarca* (*sponge-flesh). 1883 Adderley *Fisheries Bahamas* 53 To..protect the selected *sponge grounds from robbery. 1674 N. Fairfax *Bulk & Selv.* 128 Drilling through their pores or *spunge-holes. *Ibid.* 185 Any little spungholes or crannies. 1883 Adderley *Fisheries Bahamas* 6 They are taken to Nassau to be sold in the *sponge-market. 1870 H. A. Nicholson *Man. Zool.* v. 70 The so-called '*sponge-particles' or 'sar-

coids'. 1889 *Science-Gossip* XXV. 230 Sometimes casts of the exhalant *sponge pores were made in chalcedony overlaid with quartz. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 821 The free bleeding will be staunched by *sponge-pressure. 1878 Huxley *Physiogr.* xvi. 271 A highly fossiliferous limestone with..*sponge spicules. 1885 J. E. Taylor *Brit. Fossils* i. 17 The various appearances of *sponge structure under the microscope. 1887 *Encycl. Brit.* XXII. 429/2 Recent statistics as to the extent of the *sponge trade. 1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib., Brit.* II. No. 6130, *Sponge tray, soap boxes. 1848 Carpenter *Anim. Phys.* ii. 113 The class of *Porifera*, or the *Sponge tribe. 1883 *Encycl. Brit.* XVI. 689/1 Within the trabeculæ of the *sponge-work blood circulates. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VII. 266 The blood-vessels form an expressible sponge-work. 1885 Lady Brassey *The Trades* 310 Many *sponge-yards, where the process of cleaning and drying sponges is carried on.

b. In the sense 'made of sponge'.

1859 Semple *Diphtheria* 248 The *sponge-brush is moistened with the caustic liquid. 1849 Noad *Electricity* (ed. 3) 490 A rapid series of shocks may thus be communicated..by means of the *sponge directors. 1837 *Penny Cycl.* IX. 27/1 Its interior may be..cleaned by..running *sponge-rammers through the..straight pipes. 1739 S. Sharp *Treat. Surgery* p. xxi, A piece of *Sponge-Tent, which is made by dipping a dry bit of Sponge in melted Wax [etc.]. 1803 *Med. Jrnl.* X. 490 Keeping the abscess open by means of a sponge tent. 1876 *Trans. Clinical Soc.* IX. 106 Sponge-tents are to be used to dilate the wound.

12. *Comb.* **a.** Parasynthetic, as *sponge-coloured, -footed, -leaved,* etc. **b.** With agent-nouns, as *sponge-diver, -fisher, -maker,* etc. **c.** With vbl. sbs. and ppl. adjs., as *sponge-bearing, -farming, -fishing,* etc.

a. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s.v. *Pine*, Sponge-leaved Pine. 1826–7 *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) XVIII. 580 Fluviatile, sponge-shaped. 1845 G. Dodd *Brit. Manuf.* IV. 33 A very curious sponge-coloured slab of stalagmitic marble. 1896 *Westm. Gaz.* 26 Apr. 1/3 The silent sponge-footed camels.

b. 1788 *6th Rep. Dep. Kpr. Pub. Rec.* II. 179 Henry Cook, ..Spunge Maker. 1858 Homans *Cycl. Comm.* 1751 The principal sponge-fishers of the Archipelago and Levant. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* II. 238 The sponge-divers in the Archipelago. 1887 *Pall Mall G.* 23 Feb. 9/1 The prisoner.. was a sponge trimmer.

c. 1861 Miss Beaufort *Egypt. Sepulchres* II. 334 The sponge-gathering is a very lucrative business. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2286/1 On the Barbary coast sponge-fishing is ..actively prosecuted. 1885 J. E. Taylor *Brit. Fossils* i. 16 Fossil sponge-hunting. *Ibid.* 23 Sponge-bearing chalk-flints. 1887 *Encycl. Brit.* XXII. 428/2 The method of sponge-farming.

13. Special Combs.: **sponge-biscuit,** a flour-biscuit of a similar composition to sponge-cake; **sponge-cloth** (see quots.); **sponge-finger,** an elongated form of sponge-biscuit; **sponge-glass,** a device for discovering sponges at the bottom of the sea; **sponge-gold,** gold as it remains after the silver has been removed in the process of 'parting'; **sponge-head,** the top of an artillery sponge-staff; **sponge-hook,** a hook with which sponges are pulled up from the sea-bottom; **sponge-iron,** iron ore rendered light and porous by the removal of foreign matter; **sponge-pole,** = next (*b*); **sponge-staff,** (*a*) the staff of an artillery sponge; (*b*) the staff of a sponge-hook; †**sponge-stone** (see quots.); **sponge-swamp** (see sense 6 e).

1736 Bailey *Househ. Dict.* s.v. *Biscuit*, To make *Spunge Biscuit. 1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib., Brit.* II. No. 3643, Patent *sponge cloths for cleaning machinery and fire-arms. 1876 Voyle & Stevenson *Milit. Dict.* 397/1 *Sponge Cloth*, a peculiar kind of cloth, moist with oil; it is used to clean the screws of Armstrong guns. 1906 *Westm. Gaz.* 11 Sept. 10/2 The biscuits, *sponge-fingers, sultana-cakes [etc.]. 1885 Lady Brassey *The Trades* 301 Their *sponge-glasses.. may perhaps be best described as square buckets with a glass bottom to them. 1887 Goode *Fisheries U. S.* 823 The sponge-glass as originally constructed consisted of a small, square, wooden box having a glass bottom. 1882 *U. S. Rep. Prec. Met.* 648 Pouring melted phosphorus upon hot *sponge-gold. 1828 Spearman *Brit. Gunner* (ed. 2) 177 Number 2 passes his sponge..to 4, who straps on the *sponge-head. 1840 Gen. Mercer in R. J. Macdonald *Hist. Dress R. A.* (1899) 56 Mine [*i.e.* a hat] was one of the low fans, with the *spunge-head feather. 1881 Ingersoll *Oyster-Industr.* (Hist. Fish. Industr. U.S.) 248 **Sponge-hook.*—The bent, two-pronged iron tool at the end of a pole, with which sponges are gathered from the bottom. 1887 Goode *Fisheries U. S.* 823 The sponge-hooks are made of iron, with three curved prongs, measuring in total width about 5 or 6 inches. 1874 J. A. Phillips *Elem. Metall.* 434 The precipitation of copper is very rapidly effected by the use of *sponge-iron. 1881 Ingersoll *Oyster-Industr.* (Hist. Fish. Industr. U.S.) 248 **Sponge-pole.*—The pole by which the hook is operated in gathering sponges. 1772 *Phil. Trans.* LXII. 90, I took..sheet lead..and beat it on a *sponge staff to make it round. 1883 *Fisheries Exhib. Catal.* (ed. 4) 160 Sponge Staffs, with Hook attached, used in obtaining.. sponge. 1668 Charleton *Onomast.* 253 *Lapis Spongiæ*,.. the *Sponge-stone. 1712 tr. *Pomet's Hist. Drugs* I. 100 The Spunge-Stone..is made of the Matter of Spunges petrified. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s.v., The spunge-stone, or tartarous incrustation on this plant. 1901 *Q. Rev.* July 22 There is a '*sponge' swamp, or stream-head.

b. In names of crustacea, insects, etc., as **sponge centre-shell, crab, moth, shrimp.**

1591 Sylvester *Du Bartas* I. v. 378 And so the Sponge-Spy warily awakes The Sponge's dull sense, when repast it takes. 1681 Grew *Museum* I. vi. ii. 148 The Spung-Centre-Shell. *Balanus Spongiarum.* 1848 Maunder *Treas. Nat. Hist.* 197/1 Sponge Crab.—*Dromia vulgaris.* 1888 *Amer. Naturalist* Mar. 256 The Sponge Shrimp. *Alpheus.* 1891 *Cent. Dict.*, *Sponge-moth*, the gipsy-moth.

c. In names of plants, etc., as **sponge-cucumber, gourd, -leather, mushroom, -tree, -wood.**

1891 *Cent. Dict.*, **Sponge-cucumber*, same as *sponge-gourd.* 1861 Bentley *Man. Bot.* 548 The fruit of *Luffa fœtida* is termed the *Sponge Gourd, as it consists of a mass of fibres entangled together, and is used for cleaning guns, &c. 1887 *Cassell's Encycl. Dict.*, *Sponge-leather, .. *Polytrichum commune.* 1681 Grew *Museum* II. iii. iv. 239 The *Sponge Mushroom..hath the substance of a Tree-Mushroom. 1760 J. Lee *Introd. Bot.* App. 328 *Spunge-tree, *Mimosa.* 1829 Loudon *Encycl. Plants* 858 *Acacia farnesiana*, Sponge Tree..[Native of] St. Domin[go]. 1828 *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) XIX. 487/2 One species, *Gastonia spongiosa*, native of the Island of Bourbon; a tree with bark similar to sponge, it is called by the natives *Sponge wood. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1086/2 Spongewood, *Æschynomene aspera.*

Sponge, *sb.*2 Also 7–8 **spunge.** [f. the vb.]

1. The act of living parasitically on others.

1693 *Humours Town* 37 Another..is faine to live upon the Spunge the rest of his days. 1716 C'tess Cowper *Diary* (1864) 105 Lady W. Powlett complains of Mademoiselle Schutz, and says she is so importunate and troublesome, and always upon the Spunge.

2. An act of wetting or wiping (off) with or as by means of a sponge. Also with advs.

1720 A. Hutcheson *Collect. Calcul. S. Sea Scheme* 138 Whether the Parliament..shall now take the Benefit of such a Spunge made by the Directors of the South-Sea Company. 1873 Tristram *Moab* xv. 285 For myself a sponge at that heat was quite enough. 1905 *Daily Chron.* 21 Apr. 4/5 The mildest form of the cold bath is the cold sponge down.

†**Sponge,** *sb.*3 *Obs.* Also **spunge.** [ad. older F. *esponge* (mod.F. *éponge*), alteration of OF. *esponde* :—L. *sponda* frame (of a bed, etc.).] A heel of a horse-shoe.

1580 Blundevil *Horsemanship* IV. 62 b, The Grauelling..commeth by meanes of little grauell stones getting betwixt the hooue, or calking, or sponge of the [horse's] shooe. 1596 Mascall *Cattle* 156 In shooing the fore feete, make your shooes with a broade webbe and with thick sponges. 1607 Markham *Cavel.* VI. (1617) 64 The heeles shal be made with extraordinary long spunges, & those spunges more broad and flat then commonly is vsed. 1726 *Dict. Rust.* s.v., Those who make the spunges of their Horses Shoes too long ..spoil their Feet.

Sponge (spʌndʒ), *v.* Also 6–9 **spunge** (7–8 **spung**), 6 **spundge**; *Sc.* 6, 9 **spounge,** 9 **spoonge.** [f. Sponge *sb.*1, or ad. OF. *esponger* (mod.F. *éponger*), late L. *spongiāre* (rare).]

I. 1. *trans.* To wipe or rub with a wet sponge for the purpose of cleaning. Also with advs., as *down, over, up.*

1392 *Earl Derby's Exp.* (Camden) 178 Et per manus eiusdem pro spongyng j last barello. 1530 Palsgr. 729, I sponge a gowne or any other garment to scoure the fylthe out of it, *je esponge.* 1550 H. Rhodes *Bk. Nurture* in *Babees Bk.* 73 Brush thou, and spunge thy cloaths to, that thou that day shalt weare. 1609 T. Cocks *Diary* (1901) 81 Given to nursse for spunginge my jerkyn ijd. 1612 Drayton *Polyolb.* ii. 440 In their sight to spunge his foame-bespawled beard. 1687 Miége *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II, To spunge a Thing over. 1848 Mrs. Gaskell *M. Barton* vi, Too busy planning how her..gown..might be sponged, and turned. 1889 Gunter *That Frenchman* viii. 89 It [the dress-suit] looks very nice now, and Gretchen can sponge it up to-morrow.

absol. 1853 Kane *Grinnell Exp.* 326 Another.. sponged freely and regularly..in water colored brown by coffee.

fig. 1842 Tennyson *St. Simon Stylites* 156 God hath now Sponged and made blank of crimeful record all My mortal archives.

b. To swab the bore of (a cannon), esp. after a discharge. Also *absol.*

a 1625 *Nomencl. Navalis* (MS. Harl. 2301) s.v., Wee have it also fitted to the ends of a stiff roape..to spunge and lade within Board. We over spung a Peece [etc.]. 1669 Sturmy *Mariner's Mag.* To Rdr., To spunge, lade, and fire a Gun. 1769 Falconer *Dict. Marine* (1780) s.v. *Cannon*, To spunge a piece therefore is to introduce this instrument into the bore, and thrusting it home.., to clean the whole cavity. 1828 Spearman *Brit. Gunner* (ed. 2) 175 Number 1, points and commands; 2, sponges; 3, loads. 1863 Kinglake *Crimea* (1877) III. i. 119 In less time than it took the Russian artillerymen to sponge and load their guns.

c. *spec.* (See quot.)

1775 Ash, *Sponge* (v.t.), .. to take off the gloss of new cloth with a sponge.

d. To wipe, wet, or moisten, *with* some liquid applied by means of a sponge.

1800 *Med. Jrnl.* III. 557, I then directed..the whole surface of his body to be sponged with cold vinegar. 1815 J. Smith *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 742 To make the colour of the sky spread more evenly, it is a frequent practice to sponge the paper with clean water. 1876 Bristowe *Th. & Pract. Med.* (1878) 174 The patient should be..frequently sponged with tepid water. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 780 The best treatment would be to sponge the parts with a one in two thousand perchloride of mercury.

†**2.** With *up*: To make spruce, smart, or trim.

1588 Greene *Pandosto* Wks. (Grosart) IV. 296 His Wife, a good cleanly wenche, brought him all things fitte, and spunged him vp very handsomelie. 1590 Tarlton *News Purgat.* (1844) 83 On goes she with her holiday partlet & spundging herself up went with her husband to church. 1605 Chapman *All Fools* I. i. 73 Undressed, sluttish, nasty, to their husbands; Spung'd up, adorn'd, and painted to their lovers. 1626 Middleton *Women Beware Women* II. ii, When she was invited to an early wedding; She'ld dress her head o'r night, spunge up herself, And give her neck three lathers.

†**b.** Similarly without *up. Obs.*

1592 Greene *Upst. Courtier* Wks. (Grosart) XI. 239 He as neatly spunged as if he had been a bridegrome. 1594 Nashe *Terrors of Night* To Rdr., You shal haue them.. spend a whole twelue month in spunging & sprucing them.

3. a. To apply with a sponge. *rare*—1.

1607 Topsell *Four-f. Beasts* 184 Diuers Authors haue also prescribed these outward medicines against the bitinges of Dogs in generall, namely Vineger spunged, the lees of vineger [etc.].

b. To remove, wipe *away, off,* or *up,* by means of a sponge. Also in fig. context.

1624 Quarles *Job Militant* xii, O! bathe me in his Blood, spunge euery Staine, That I may boldly sue my Counterpaine. 1767 Gooch *Treat. Wounds* I. 258 After the bone is laid sufficiently bare, and the blood well spunged up. 1846 Brittan tr. *Malgaigne's Man. Oper. Surg.* 10 Carefully sponge away the blood or serum which exudes during the application of the caustic. 1906 F. S. Oliver *A. Hamilton* IV. iv. 309 All the old accounts were sponged off the slate.

c. To take *out,* extract, by means of a sponge or in a similar manner.

1686 tr. *Chardin's Trav. Persia* 91 Golden-sand which the People spong'd out of the Water with their sheep-skins. 1894 *Daily News* 17 July 6/3 The collector would not fairly be stigmatised as a Vandal if he sponged out the plate. *Ibid.*, These [book-]plates, containing the names .. of the owners from whose books they have been 'sponged'.

4. To convert (flour or dough) into 'sponge'.

1772 *Ann. Reg.* II. 109/2 So will a thimble-full of barm, by adding of warm water, raise or spunge any body of flour. 1876 *Mid-Yorks. Gloss.* 134/2.

5. *intr.* To issue or rise in a spongy form; to foam; to drip as from a sponge.

1790 J. Fisher *Poems* 93 Sips o' it seem to come spunging Out frae your mouth. 1867 *Stamford Mercury* 20 Sept., She did not even sponge at her mouth. 1880 Lomas *Alkali Trade* iii. 73 The cast-iron burner pipe..should project some 6 or 9 in. into the interior, to prevent any sponging back of the acid. 1884 Burroughs *Locusts & Wild H.* 112 Rain..sponging off every leaf of every tree in the forest and every growth in the fields.

6. *trans.* To throw up the sponge on behalf of (one who is beaten in a fight). *slang.*

1851 Mayhew *Lond. Labour* II. 56 They'll fight on till they go down together, and then if one [dog] leave hold, he's sponged.

II. *fig.* **7.** To rub or wipe out, to efface or obliterate: **a.** With *out* or *out of.*

a 1548 Hall *Chron., Hen. VIII*, 200 b, Which spot no wayes can be sponged out nor recompenced, for shame in a kynred can by no treasure be redemed. 1570 Foxe *A. & M.* 688/1, I trust..yᵗ your dyrtie pen..hath not so bedaubed and bespotted me..but I hope to spunge it out. 1629 Lynde *Via Tuta* 285 After I..had noted six hundred seuerall passages to be spunged and blotted out. 1654 Whitlock *Zootomia* 258 To spunge out prejudicate Notions or Opinions. 1838 Eliza Cook *Lines written at Midn.* vi, Time..That sponges out all trace of truth. 1887 D. C. Murray & Herman *Traveller Returns* v. 69 Its gloom saturated the forest rim, and then sponged it out of sight. 1888 W. Richmond *Chr. Econ.* 232 The difficulty is one to be met in detail. It cannot be sponged out by any general statement.

b. Without adv.

a 1636 Lynde *Case for Spectacles* (1638) 103 Or must we beleeve, that your Inquisitors would take such infinite care and paines to review all Authours for 1600. yeares, and spunge them onely in the Index? 1819 Keats *Otho* I. iii. 44 No, not a thousand foughten fields could sponge Those days paternal from my memory. 1866 Crump *Banking* ii. 70 It would remain in the power of the tribunal..to sponge from their name the least suspicion.

c. With *off.* (Chiefly of debts.)

1720 A. Hutcheson *Collect. Calcul. S. Sea Scheme* 138 Whether the Parliament had, by an express Law, Spunged off Seven Millions of this Debt. 1803 Cobbett in *Pol. Reg.* (1817) 8 Feb. 177 There is none of the debt sponged off by this tax. 1824 *Examiner* 817/2 The debt would be spunged off.

8. a. To divest *of* something. *rare*—1.

1594 Kyd *Cornelia* II. 7 O eyes,..make the blood..trickle by your vaults; And spunge my bodies heate of moisture so, As my displeased soule may shunne my hart.

b. To drain or empty; to clear out. *rare.*

1610 Guillim *Heraldry* III. xvi. 147 When they haue done, and their Clients purses well spunged, they are better friends then euer they were. 1814 Scott *Wav.* xlvi, This the young Highlander performed, not without examining the pockets of the defunct, which, however, he remarked, had been pretty well spunged.

c. To deprive (one) *of* something by sponging; to press (one) *for* money; to squeeze.

1631 R. H. *Arraignm. Whole Creature* i. 11 Those Hogs hee must feed, till they spunge him of all his substance. 1677 Miége *Fr. Dict.* II, To spunge one, to get what one can of him. 1692 South *Serm.* (1697) I. 538 How came such multitudes..to be spunged of their Plate and Money. 1716 *Wodrow's Corr.* (1843) II. 132 Yea, taking the clothes off the people's very backs,..and always spunged them for money. 1724 Ramsay *Vision* xii, By rundging, and spunging, The leil laborious pure [=poor].

9. †**a.** To obtain by pressure or extortion. *Obs.*

1686 tr. *Chardin's Trav. Persia* 95 Their Principal Revenue arising from what they spunge from their Vassals. 1691 T. H[ale] *Acc. New Invent.* p. lxxiv, To spunge Composition out of such as are willing to buy their Peace.

b. To get from another in a mean or parasitic manner. Also with *up.*

1676 Wycherley *Pl. Dealer* Prol., If y'ave any wit, 'Tis but what here you spunge and daily get. 1707 J. Stevens tr. *Quevedo's Com. Wks.* (1709) 369 Any that would spunge a Dinner. 1735 Swift in *Portland Papers* VI. 61 (Hist. MSS. Comm.), I spend six hogsheads every year, which some of my Prebendaries..spunge from me at noon or evening. 1760–2 Goldsm. *Cit. W.* xxvii, They spunged up my money whilst it lasted. 1871 B. Taylor *Faust* (1875) I. 201 Once many a bit we sponged; but now, God help us, that is done with.

10. *intr.* To live on others in a parasitic manner; to obtain assistance or maintenance by mean arts,

1673 R. Head *Canting Acad.* 103 He may Spunge, and have his Leachery for nothing. *a* 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew, Spunge*, to drink at others Cost. 1785 Grose *Dict. Vulgar T., To spunge*, to eat and drink at another's cost. 1849 W. Irving *Goldsm.* xxv. 222 An Irishman, who lived nobody knew how nor where; sponging wherever he had a chance. 1884 G. Moore *Mummer's Wife* (1887) 203 Fearing to look as if she were sponging, Kate insisted on.. standing treat.

b. Const. *on* or *upon* (a person, etc.).

(*a*) 1677 Miége *Fr. Dict.*, To spunge upon one, *écornifler*. 1693 *Humours Town* 101 The poor Curate is fain to Spunge upon the Wealthier Sinners of his Parish. 1706–7 Farquhar *Beaux' Strat.* iv. iii, I had rather spunge upon Morris, and sup upon a Dish of Bohee scor'd behind the Door. 1730 Fielding *Tom Thumb* ii. i, There when I have him, I will spunge upon him. 1824 *Hist. Gaming* 41 Frequenting shabby ale-houses, sponging upon credulous persons. 1857 Ruskin *Pol. Econ. Art* 198 They will cheat the public at their shops or sponge on their friends at their houses. 1887 Miss Braddon *Like & Unlike* x, I hope I shall never be obliged to sponge upon you.

(*b*) 1681–6 J. Scott *Chr. Life* iii. Mortification iii, What man in his Wits would keep such a Company of devouring Lusts about him, that are perpetually spungeing upon his Estate. *a* 1692 Pollexfen *Disc. Trade* (1697) 155 [They] must live by preying, pilfering or spunging upon other Mens Labours. 1855 Trollope *Warden* xx, It was an easy matter to abandon his own income, as he was able to sponge on that of another person. 1902 L. Stephen *Stud. Biogr.* III. iii. 114 Humbugs, ready to..sponge upon his benevolence.

c. With *for* (something).

1719 D'Urfey *Pills* (1872) I. 200 That all Bullies should pay; And sponge no more for recreation. 1735 Sheridan *Let. to Swift* 5 Oct., Do not think to sponge upon me for anything but meat, drink, and lodging. 1837 Lytton *E. Maltrav.* I. xvii, A doubt lest I should some day or other sponge upon his lordship for a place. 1883 Stevenson *Treas. Isl.* I. v, I'm to be a poor, crawling beggar, sponging for rum, when I might be rolling in a coach!

11. To go about in a sneaking or loafing fashion, esp. in order to obtain something.

1825 Jamieson *Suppl.* s.v. 1866 *Lond. Rev.* 3 Mar. 245/2 Soldiers..loafing and spunging from tavern to tavern during the entire day.

III. 12. *intr.* (See quot.)

1881 Ingersoll *Oyster-Industr.* (Hist. Fish. Industr. U.S.) 248 *Sponge*, or *To go Sponging*.—To go on a cruise for gathering sponges.

Sponge-cake. [Sponge *sb.*1] A very light sweet cake made with flour, milk, eggs, and sugar.

1843 Mrs. Carlyle *Lett.* I. 269 A hot jelly, and one modest sponge cake. 1860 *All Year Round* No. 48. 514, I cannot dine on stale sponge-cakes that turn to sand in the mouth. 1874 Burnand *My Time* 97 He returned..with a bottle of lemonade..and two sponge-cakes in a bag.

attrib. 1846 Soyer *Cookery* 565 Have buttered a large sponge-cake mould. 1883 'Annie Thomas' *Mod. Housewife* 9 Some nice soup and a spongecake-pudding.

Sponged (spʊndʒd), *ppl. a.* Also 5 **spounged**, 7 **spunged**. [f. Sponge *sb.*1 or *v.*]

†**1.** Of a spongy texture; porous. *Obs.*—1

1398 Trevisa *Barth. De P. R.* xiv. xxxii. (Bodl. MS.), þouȝ cragges be neuer so hard and rouȝe and scharpe wiþoute, ȝitte wiþin þei beþ somdele sponged [1495 spounged] and bolowȝe.

2. Saturated with moisture like a sponge.

1628 Feltham *Resolves* II. xii. 31 Who can but thinke what a nastie Beast he is in his drunkennesse,..how like a nated Sop spunged, euen to the cracking of a skinne?

3. Wiped or cleansed with a sponge.

1871 Browning *Pr. Hohenst.* Poet. Wks. 1897 II. 296/1 The old plan saved, instead of a sponged slate And fresh-drawn figure?

Spongeful (spʊ·ndʒful). [f. Sponge *sb.*1 + -ful 2.] As much as fills a sponge.

1867 Macgregor *Rob Roy on Baltic* 243 We ran the canoe into a mass of tall reeds, to see if she had got any water. There were only three spongefuls. 1871 Napheys *Prev. & Cure Dis.* II. iv. 537 A spongeful of warm water.

Spo·ngeless, *a.* [-less.] Having no sponge.

1868 Dickens *Uncomm. Trav.* xxv. 149 My sponge being left behind at the last Hotel,..I went spongeless.

Spongelet (spʊ·ndʒlĕt). [f. Sponge *sb.*1 + -let.]

1. *Bot.* = Spongiole 1.

1835 Lindley *Introd. Bot.* (ed. 2) 36 The stigma and the spongelets of the roots. 1841 *Florist's Jrnl.* (1846) II. 210 They will push forth sponglets into the moss. 1870 *Academy* 12 Mar. 155 In the very first phases of vegetation where the primary spongelet..is clearly the absorbent of moisture.

2. A small sponge.

1887 in *Cassell's Encycl. Dict.*

Sponge-like, *a.* [f. Sponge *sb.*1 + -like.] Like or resembling a sponge; spongy.

1594 T. B. *La Primaud. Fr. Acad.* II. 49 The matter of Kernels is more Sponge-like. 1642 H. More *Song of Soul* III. App. xxxix, Wherein they bathe Themselves, and sponge-like suck that vitall flood. 1798 *Hull Advertiser* 1 Sept. 3/3 Plumb-stones had an incrustation attached to them of a spunge-like substance. 1837 P. Keith *Bot. Lex.* 402 The *cutis vera*..is itself chiefly cellular and sponge-like in its structure. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 513/2 The sponge-like masses in which the capsules of *Polyides* are immersed.

Spongeoid, *a. rare*−1 [f. Sponge *sb.*1 + -oid.] = Spongoid *a.* 2.

1822 J. Parkinson *Outl. Oryctol.* 61 The fructiform figures which the spongeoid fossils so frequently possess.

Spongeol, anglicized form of Spongiole.

1832 *Planting* 16 (L.U.K.) III, The fibres of the root, with the minute spongeols. *Ibid.* 32.

Spongeo-piline: see Spongiopiline.

† **Spongeosity,** obs. variant of Spongiosity.

1541 R. Copland *Guydon's Quest. Chirurg.* E j, This bone is perced and hath great spongeosyte to purge the grosse superfluytees.

Spongeous (spʊ·ndʒəs), *a.* Also 6 spoungeous, 6–7 **spungeous**. [ad. L. *spongeōs-us*, f. *spongea* Sponge *sb.*1 Cf. Spongious *a.*]

1. Of the nature or character of a sponge; porous, spongy.

a. 1398 Trevisa *Barth. De P. R.* xiv. xxxii. (Tollem. MS.), Thouȝe cragges be neuer so harde and rouȝe and scharpe withoute, ȝit within þey ben sumdel spongeous. 1541 R. Copland *Guydon's Quest. Chirurg.* E iv, Fro the vaynes and arteres and the spongeous flesshe. 1548–77 Vicary *Anat.* v. (1888) 43 The Uuula is a member made of a spongeous fleshe. 1610 W. Folkingham *Art of Survey* I. viii. 19 A Wood-like rottennesse, viz. drie, spongeous, full of holes. 1698 A. Brand *Emb. fr. Muscovy into China* 21 The Agarius Tree, whose spongeous substance is..carried to Archangel. 1758 J. S. tr. *Le Dran's Observ. Surg.* (1771) 227, I..found a *Caries*..penetrating into their spongeous Texture. 1847 Ansted *Anc. World* x. 233 In the sand associated with the chalk..spongeous bodies..are also met with in a perfect state. 1889 Z. A. Ragozin *Media, Babylon, & Persia* 35 Many are the rivulets..that dribble and trickle through spongeous stone and rocky rifts.

β. 1601 Holland *Pliny* II. 514 It is spungeous and brittle, apt to break or resolue into flakes. 1658 Franck *North. Mem.* (1821) 350 A marly spungeous clay. 1683 K. Digby *Chym. Secr.* 96 To render it more Spungeous. 1728 Chambers *Cycl.* s.v. *Disease*, Spungeous Membranes of the Head.

b. Soft and yielding as a sponge. *rare*−1.

1607 Brewer *Lingua* IV. iv, I lay my head between two spungeous pillowes.

2. Characterized by porousness or sponginess.

c 1600 T. Pont *Topogr. Acc. Cunningham* (Maitl. Club) 6 The surface of the soyle..being of it selve of a spongeous nature, sucking the humiditie. 1822 J. Parkinson *Outl. Oryctol.* 22 That spongeous state which accompanies bituminization.

Sponger (spʊ·ndʒəɹ). Also 7–9 **spunger**. [f. Sponge *v.* or *sb.*1 + -er 1.]

1. One who lives meanly at another's expense; a parasite, a sponge.

1677 Miége *Fr. Dict.* I, *Ecornifleur*,..a Spunger, a smell feast. 1681 T. Flatman *Heraclitus Ridens* No. 74 (1713) II. 203 A Detachment of sorry Spungers from the Suburb Shovel-board Tables and Nine-pin Alleys. 1710 Swift *Lett.* (1767) III. 19, I dined with some friends that board hereabout, as a spunger. 1731 Medley *Kolben's Cape G. Hope* I. 109 My company..only listen'd as Spongers, in order to be treated with the other bottle. 1866 *Cornh. Mag.* Sept. 287 Shameless and impudent spungers. 1888 *Pall Mall G.* 3 Sept. 3/2 The spongers for free hospitality at scientific and other annual congresses.

b. Const. *on.*

a 1732 Gay *Fables* II. viii, Crush'd in his luxury and pride, The spunger on the public dy'd. 1860 Thackeray *Lovel* I, An old sponger on other people's kindness. 1890 *N. Lindsey Star* 9 Aug. 5/3 Those spongers on the nation's earnings are quite happy without work.

2. One who uses a sponge, esp. in order to cleanse the bore of a cannon.

1828–32 Webster, *Spunger*, one who uses a sponge. 1859 Griffiths *Artill. Man.* (1862) 228, 4. The sponger. 3. The loader. 1886 *Cent. Mag.* Apr. 909/1, I was serving on one of the thirty-two pounders, and my sponger was an old man-o'-war's man.

b. One who transfers designs to pottery by means of a piece of sponge.

1881 *Instr. Census Clerks* (1885) 88 Earthenware, China, Porcelain, Manufacture:..Sponger,..Stamper.

3. A gatherer of, a diver or fisher for, sponges.

1880 N. H. Bishop *Sneak-Box* 289 An almost uninhabited region, where only an occasional fisherman or sponger is met. 1887 Goode *Fisheries U.S.* 826 To allow the slimy matter, called 'gurry' by the spongers, to run off easily.

b. A vessel engaged in sponge-fishing.

1885 *Harper's Mag.* Jan. 217/1 We cast longing glances at certain Nassau spongers, trim, shapely cock-boats.

Spongi- (spʊ·ndʒi), combining form, after L. types, of Sponge *sb.*1, occurring in a few terms, as **Spo·ngiculture, Spongi·ferous** *a.*

1833–4 J. Phillips *Geol.* in *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) VI. 656 Traces of spongiferous bodies. 1876 Page *Adv. Text-bk. Geol.* xviii. 353 The spongiferous cherts of the Portland and coralline oolites. 1902 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 10) XXXII. 813/2 Sponges in Commerce, Spongiculture.

Spo·ngiary. *Zool.* [ad. mod.L. *Spongiaria* (pl.), f. L. *spongia* Sponge *sb.*1] A sponge.

1860 *Edinb. New Philos. Jrnl.* XII. 223 The spongiaries..; or skeletons, or remains of the sponge after the death and decomposition of the live jelly, or living being. *Ibid.*, A great many spongiaries are not amorphous, but have very distinct forms.

Spongiform (spʊ·ndʒifɔ̄ɹm), *a.* [f. Spongi-.]

1. Resembling a sponge in structure; light and porous.

1805–17 R. Jameson *Char. Min.* (ed. 3) 97 *Spongiform.* In this figure the cells are cylindrical. 1841 *Penny Cycl.* XIX. 199/2 Cavernous quartz is termed Spongiform quartz or Swimming stone. 1875 *Encycl. Brit.* III. 251/2 An infinite number of minute cavities, which render the product light and spongiform.

2. Zoologically resembling a sponge.

1839 De la Beche *Reṕ. Geol. Cornwall*, etc. ix. 264 This view seems borne out by the alcyonic and other spongiform remains. 1876 Page *Adv. Text-bk. Geol.* xv. 280 Of spongiform organisms we may mention mammillopora.

Spo·ngily, *adv.* [f. Spongy *a.*] In a spongy manner.

1882 *Nature* XXV. 363 Increase of storage capacity can be given to corrugated or to spongily and otherwise roughened lead elements.

Spongin (spʊ·ndʒin). [f. Sponge *sb.*1 + -in.] The horny or fibrous substance found in the skeleton of sponges: = Keratose *sb.*

1868 Watts *Dict. Chem.* V. 404 *Spongin*, Städeler's name for the organic matter of sponge. 1887 Sollas in *Encycl. Brit.* XXII. 416 An axial fibre of organic matter,—probably of the same nature as spongiolin or spongin, the chief constituent of the fibres of horny sponges. 1888 Rolleston & Jackson *Anim. Life* 252 Lamellae of Keratin or Spongin, a substance near akin chemically to silk.

Sponginess (spʊ·ndʒinės). Also 7–8 **spunginess**. [f. Spongy *a.* + -ness.]

1. Spongy or porous character, nature, or quality.

a. 1610 Markham *Masterp.* I. lxiv. 134 It through the sponginesse is apt to sucke in all manner of filth. 1659 H. More *Immort. Soul* II. ix. 214 The sponginess & laxness of the Brain. 1815 J. Smith *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 603 In what the soil extracts from the stream by its sponginess. 1836–41 Brande *Chem.* (ed. 5) 512 Animal Charcoal..often has a peculiar lustre and sponginess. 1883 J. Millington *Are we to read backwards?* 76 The paper should be..free from sponginess.

β. 1611 Florio, *Möllo*,..the soft or spunginesse of any thing, as of crummes of bread. 1707 Mortimer *Husbandry* (1721) II. 20 Because of its spunginess the Rain easily penetrates. 1788 *Med. Comm.* II. 209 A spunginess..of the membrane.

b. *fig.* and *transf.*

a 1631 Donne *Serm.* cii. Wks. 1839 IV. 370 For this plurality..of Sin hath first found a Sponginess in the Soule. 1670 Clarendon *Contempl. Ps.* Tracts (1727) 666 We must have all that looseness and spunginess of our hearts removed. 1852 Mundy *Antipodes* (1857) 29 The size and sponginess of the two Sydney butchers.

2. *Path.* The characteristic soft fungous condition of the gums in scurvy.

1873 F. T. Roberts *Handbk. Med.* 824 Sponginess of the gums with tendency to bleed, and rapid destruction of the teeth are frequently noticed. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* II. 158 It..frequently begins with a simple sponginess of gums.

Sponging (spʊ·ndʒiŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. Sponge *v.* or *sb.*1]

1. The action of washing or wiping with a sponge.

1575 in Feuillerat *Revels Q. Eliz.* (1908) 254 The Charges of this Office grew by meanes of..Brusshing, Spunging,..putting in order..of the garmentes, Vestures [etc.]. 1593 Nashe *Christ's T.* Wks. (Grosart) IV. 208 To see how you torture poore old Time with spunging, pynning and pounsing. 1704 J. Harris *Lex. Techn.* I, *Spunging* of a great Gun, is clearing of her Inside, after she hath been discharged, with a Wad of Sheep-skins, or the like. 1775 Ash, *Sponging*,..the act of wiping away as with a sponge. 1875 B. Meadows *Clin. Observ.* 65 Prescribed animal diet; regular exercise; cold sponging. 1898 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* V. 1031 There should be spongings, first with warm and afterwards with cool water.

attrib. 1859 *Habits of Gd. Society* ii. (new ed.) 122 The hip-bath..or the sponging-bath.

2. The action of living parasitically on others.

1677 Miége *Fr. Dict.* I, *Ecornifleris*,..spunging, or feast smelling. 1693 *Humours Town* 37 There are others whose youthful Extravagancies have driven 'em to the wretched fate of Spunging. 1731 Swift *Let. to Gay* 29 June, This will maintain you, with the perquisite of sponging while you are young. 1838 Longf. in *Life* (1891) I. 300, I have almost given up the Portland plan. It..would look like sponging, in these hard times. 1849 *Knife & Fork* 32 Sponging is a subtle art—so subtle, that few out of its many thousand votaries have attained to any great eminence in it.

attrib. 1707 J. Stevens tr. *Quevedo's Com. Wks.* (1709) 225 Encouraging me to follow the spunging Course of Life.

3. The practice or occupation of gathering sponges. Also *attrib.*

1868 H. D. Grant *Rep. Wrecking in Bahamas* 72 A large number of boats and men are employed in sponging. 1887 Goode *Fisheries U.S.* 823 The Key West sponging-fleet consisted in 1879 of 86 vessels. *Ibid.* 826 When on the sponging-grounds the men breakfast at daylight.

Sponging, *ppl. a.* [f. Sponge *v.* + -ing 2.] That sponges on others; parasitic.

a 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew, A Spunging Fellow*, one that lives upon the rest and Pays nothing. 1707 J. Stevens tr. *Quevedo's Com. Wks.* (1709) 353 There is a sort of Spunging, elemosinary Travellers. 1859 Geo. Eliot *A. Bede* iii, To some of my readers Methodism may mean nothing more than..sponging preachers, and hypocritical jargon. 1889 *Times* 7 Oct. 8/3 The daughter of a 'sponging' drunkard.

Sponging-house. Also 7–9 **spunging-**. [f. Sponging *vbl. sb.* (in the sense of Sponge *v.* 8 c).] A house kept by a bailiff or sheriff's officer, formerly in regular use as a place of preliminary confinement for debtors.

a. a 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew, Spunging-house*, a By-prison. 1722 De Foe *Moll Flanders* 60 In about two Years and a Quarter he Broke, got into a Spunging-House. 1765 *Ann. Reg.* I. 134 It was again debated by several eminent lawyers, whether spunging-houses were to be deemed prisons, and finally determined in the negative. 1802–12 Bentham *Ration. Judic. Evid.* (1827) IV. 636 In jail, or in a spunging-house, his effects..are as much in his power as if he were at home 1871 M. Collins *Marq. & Merch.* I. ix. 283 [We] have been in a spunging-house together.

fig. 1827 Hood *Whims & Oddities, Bianca's Dream* xii, In Death's most dreary spunging-house to lie.

β. 1838 Jas. Grant *Sk. Lond.* 21, I have been arrested, and now locked up in a sponging-house for a debt I am wholly unable to pay. 1855 Thackeray *Newcomes* I. 251 He had made himself much liked in the sponging-house. 1874 L. Stephen *Hours in Library* (1892) II. iv. 135 His creditors..become more pressing, and at last he gets into a sponging-house.

Spongio- (spʊ·ndʒio), combining form, on Greek analogies, of Gr. σπογγιά, L. *spongia*,

SPONGE *sb.*[1], as in **Spo·ngioblast** *Biol.*, one of the embryonic cells of the brain and spinal cord from which the neuroglia is formed; **Spongio-fi·brous** *a.*, provided with sponge-like fibres; **Spongio·logist, -logy,** = SPONGOLOGIST, -LOGY; **Spo·ngioplasm** *Biol.*, a fibrillar or protoplasmic network pervading the cell-substance and forming the reticulum of the cell; hence **Spongiopla·smic** *a.*

1902 *Science* 17 Jan. 103 Mitotic figures are occasionally found in multipolar nerve cells and in *spongioblasts. 1882 J. PARKINSON *Outl. Oryctol.* 56 *Alcyonium incrustans.*—Lobated; *spongio-fibrous within. 1873 *Ann. Nat. Hist.* XI. 245 *note*, The later *spongiologists..almost unanimously refer the sponges to a place among the Protozoa. 1892 *Athenæum* 13 Aug. 228/1 The arguments of other spongiologists. 1895 *Funk's Stand. Dict.*, *Spongiology. 1886 NANSEN *Histol. Elem. Nervous Syst.* 38 The contents of the cells consists, also, of the same two substances of *spongioplasm and hyaloplasm. *Ibid.* 86 What he called fibrillæ, are the *spongioplasmic walls between the real 'primitive fibrillæ'.

Spo·ngioid, *a.* [f. L. *spongi-a* sponge. Cf. SPONGEOID *a.*, SPONGOID *a.*] Like that of a sponge.

1884 *Proc. Zool. Soc.* 178 The curious translucent gelatinous substance known as spongioid tissue so eminently characteristic of rickets.

Spongiole (spɒ·ndʒ-, spɒ·ndʒiəul). [a. F. *spongiole* (De Candolle), ad. L. *spongiola* asparagus-root (Columella), rose-gall (Pliny), dim. of *spongia* SPONGE *sb.*[1]]

1. *Bot.* The tender extremity of the radicle of a plant, characterized by loose sponge-like cellular tissue; a spongelet.

1832 LINDLEY *Introd. Bot.* 77 In Pandanus the spongioles of the aerial roots consist of numerous very thin exfoliations of the epidermis. 1850 DAUBENY *Atomic The.* viii. (ed. 2) 244 The spongioles of the roots always contain an azotized material, which is from them transmitted to all the other parts of the plant. 1870 tr. *Pouchet's Universe* (1871) 264 The water-lentil, which spreads its carpet of verdure on the surface of our pools, possesses nothing but spongioles.

2. = SPONGE *sb.*[1] 6 b. *rare* —[1].

1884 *Evang. Mag.* June 252 There are often seen in rose-bushes, small green mossy-looking tufts called 'spongioles', ..produced by a small insect.

Spongiolin : (see SPONGIN, quot. 1887).

Spongiopiline (spɒ:ndʒiɒpəi·lən, -in). Also **spongio-pilene, -pyline, spongeo-piline.** [f. SPONGIO- + Gr. πῖλ-ος felt + -INE.] (See quot. 1858.)

1851 *Catal. Gt. Exhib.* I. 263 Impermeable Spongio-pilene. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade, Spongiopiline*, a substitute for the ordinary poultice, made of small pieces of sponge and wool or cloth felted together, on an impermeable back. 1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib., Brit.* II. No. 3578, Electro conducting spongeo-pyline. 1876 HARLEY *Royle's Mat. Med.* 250 Soft linen, or spongiopiline, may be saturated with the warm solution and worn as a poultice.

Spongiose (spɒ·ndʒiōu·s), *a.* [ad. L. *spongiōs-us* spongy, f. *spongia* SPONGE *sb.*[1]] Of a spongy texture; porous.

1755 *Dict. Arts & Sci.* IV. s.v., The spongiose or ethmoide bone of the nose. *Ibid.*, The spongiose bodies of the penis. 1826 KIRBY & Sp. *Entomol.* IV. xlvi. 259 *Spongiose*...A soft elastic substance resembling sponge. 1859 W. H. RUSSELL in *Times* 24 Mar. 9/4 Mango, peepul, and other spongiose and heartless timbers are of no good.

† **Spongio·sity.** *Obs.* Also **-iosite**(e. [ad. F. *spongiosité* (14th cent.), ad. med.L. *spongiositas* (13th cent.), f. L. *spongiōsus*: see prec.]

1. Spongy or porous nature; = SPONGINESS 1.

1543 TRAHERON *Vigo's Chirurg.* 65 b/1 It is conuenient, to applie a mollifycatiue..playster,..bycause of the Spongiosite of the dugge. 1678 R. RUSSELL tr. *Geber* II. I. 68 Flowing through the Bowels of the Minera and Spongiosity of the Earth.

2. A sponge-like part.

1543 TRAHERON *Vigo's Chirurg.* I. iii. 4 Thys bone hathe manye holes and spongiositees whych serve to purge the superfluities of the brayne.

Spongious (spɒ·ndʒiəs), *a.* Now *rare.* Also 5 **spongyouse,** 6 **-yous, -ius, -iouse,** 7–8 **spungious.** [ad. L. *spongiōsus* (see SPONGIOSE *a.*). Cf. F. *spongieux*, † *espongieux*, It. *spugnoso*, Sp. *esponjoso.*]

1. Of the nature of a sponge; spongy.

Very common *c* 1550–1700.

a. c 1400 *Lanfranc's Cirurg.* 108 Þei [bones] ben sumwhat spongious [*v.r.* spongyouse] in þe myddis. 1543 TRAHERON *Vigo's Chirurg.* II. xv. 60 Uvula (as the Anatomystes say) is a spongyous membre. 1597 GERARDE *Herbal* I. xxiv. 35 They are full stuft with a spongious substance. 1652 FRENCH *Yorksh. Spa* vii. 70 The ground..is spongious, and drinks in water apace. 1678 R. RUSSELL tr. *Geber* II. I. 98 Solid Woods give a strong Fire, spongious a weak. 1709 *Phil. Trans.* XXVII. 121 There are several spongious *Laminæ* which arise from its lower part. 1778 *Ibid.* LXVIII. 672 In the spongious bones of the upper jaw. 1825 *Examiner* 732/2 Soft, fluid, porous, spongious, but withal tenacious matter. 1869 BLACKMORE *Lorna D.* ii, He came up to me..with a piece of spongious coralline.

β. 1604 E. G[RIMSTONE] *D'Acosta's Hist. Indies* IV. xii. 245 In weight it is diminished five partes of that it was, and is spungious. 1657 HEYLIN *Ecclesia Vind.* 177 An oake.. which was of an hollow or spungious body. 1758 J. S. *Le Dran's Observ. Surg.* (1771) 236 This *Caries* more commonly attacks those Bones that are Spungious.

2. Of or pertaining to a sponge.

1846 *Proc. Berw. Nat. Club* II. 196 Of a..spongious texture. 1851 G. F. RICHARDSON *Geol.* 214 Many of the moss agates are of spongious origin.

Hence † **Spo·ngiousness,** sponginess. *Obs.*

1597 A. M. tr. *Guillemeau's Fr. Chirurg.* 37 b/1 The fleshe in that place is not of such a crassitude and spongiousnes as in the ioyncte. 1611 COTGR., *Spongiosité*, spunginesse, or spungiousnesse; a spungie lightnesse. 1727 BAILEY (vol. II), *Spongiousness*, Spunginess.

Spo·ngite. [a. F. *spongite*: see SPONGE *sb.*[1] and -ITE[1] 2.] 'A fossil apparently identical in structure with sponge' (*Imp. Dict.* 1882).

Spongo- (spɒ·ŋgo), a. Gr. σπογγο-, combining form of σπόγγος sponge, as in **Spo·ngoblast, -clast** *Biol.* (see quots.); **Spo·ngolith,** a fossil sponge; **Spongo·logist,** an authority on sponges; a spongiologist; **Spongo·logy,** the science or knowledge of sponges; **Spo·ngotype** (see quot.).

1888 ROLLESTON & JACKSON *Anim. Life* 252 The hyaline lamellae [in sponges] are secreted by pear-shaped cells or *spongoblasts.., which are probably modified connective tissue or mesodermic cells. *Ibid.* 798 *note*, According to von Lendenfeld,..these cells..are destructive in nature,—hence *spongoclasts. 1860 MAURY *Phys. Geog. Sea* xiv. § 614 *note*, It would not be strange if these fifty-two forms were *spongoliths. 1883 in Adderley *Fisheries Bahamas* 43 Three distinct..Mediterranean forms are usually recognised, both by the trade and scientific *spongologists. 1889 *Athenæum* 13 July 67/3 No more fascinating branch of natural history exists than the new *spongology. 1892 HERKOMER *Etching* 104 A '*Spongotype'. Enough can be seen in this imperfect illustration to gauge the possibilities of the process. It is printed from the untouched (steel-surfaced) electrotype.

Spongoid (spɒ·ŋgoid), *a.* Also **spungoid.** [f. Gr. σπόγγ-ος SPONGE *sb.*[1] + -OID. Cf. Gr. σπογγο-ειδής, σπογγώδης, and SPONGEOID *a.*]

1. *Spongoid inflammation*, a kind of soft cancer or morbid growth. (Cf. FUNGUS *sb.* 2.)

1808 *Med. Jrnl.* XIX. 431 A disease totally different from that affection named by them Fungus Hæmatodes, or Spongoid Inflammation. 1834 COOPER *Good's Study Med.* (ed. 4) II. 579 *note*, The medullary sarcoma of Abernethy,..the spongoid inflammation of John Burns, and the soft cancer of several other writers.

2. Having the form or structure of a sponge.

1833–4 J. PHILLIPS *Geol.* in *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) VI. 659 The abundance of spongoid fossils is a very remarkable character of the English and Westphalian chalk. 1843 *Penny Cycl.* XXVI. 245/1 *Ventriculites*, a genus of spongoid Zoophyta.

3. Resembling that of a sponge.

1847–9 *Todd's Cycl. Anat.* IV. I. 29/2 Its thickness becomes considerably augmented, its texture spungoid.

Spongy (spɒ·ndʒi), *a.* Forms: *α.* 6–9 **spungy,** 6 **-ye,** 6–7 **-ie.** *β.* 6–7 **spongie,** 7–9 **spongey,** 7– **spongy.** [f. SPONGE *sb.*[1] + -Y.]

1. Having a soft elastic or porous texture resembling that of a sponge; deficient in solidity or firmness, so as to be readily compressible: **a.** Of flesh, animal tissue, etc., sometimes with special reference to morbid conditions.

a. 1539 ELYOT *Cast. Helthe* 31 b, The tounge is of a spungy & sanguine substance. 1545 RAYNALD *Byrth Mankynde* 45 Leuing al the grosser part in yᵉ spungye body of the houpecall. 1612 WOODALL *Surg. Mate* Wks. (1653) 15 If the disease be a Kinde of spungie flesh. 1695 J. EDWARDS *Perfect. Script.* 245 The lower part of the ear..is spungy and flexible. 1712 S. SEWALL *Diary* 4 Jan., Major Walley's Left foot is opened underneath, and found to be very hollow, and spungy.

fig. a 1628 F. GREVIL *Alaham* II. iii, The spungie hearts of men Their hollowes gladly fill with women's love.

β. 1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* (1658) 158 It hath in the tongue a spongy and mucous extremity. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) V. 250 The muscular, spongy flesh of the tongue. 1809 *Med. Jrnl.* XXI. 339 The other parts..were very pulpy, soft, spongy, and broken down. 1843 R. J. GRAVES *Syst. Clin. Med.* xvi. 192 His mouth became very sore,..his gums spongy. 1898 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* V. 204 Islets of spongy tissue separate the individual nodules.

b. Of parts of plants, timber, etc.

a. 1589 *Pappe w. Hatchet* C iv, Elders..being fullest of spungie pith, proue euer the driest kixes. 1613 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* (1614) 506 The wood is of a spungie substance. 1710 WHITWORTH *Acc. Russia* (1758) 135 Timber..cut in the spring after the sap is run up, which makes the wood spungy. 1769 E. BANCROFT *Guiana* 47 Their internal substance is white, spungy, and saponaceous. 1807 CRABBE *Birth Flattery* 301 Where spungy rushes hide the plashy green.

β. 1578 LYTE *Dodoens* 181 The roote is white and of a spongie substance. 1671 GREW *Anat. Pl.* (1682) 47 This Inner Coat .. is a very Spongy and Sappy body. 1784 COWPER *Task* III. 522 Then rise the tender germs, upstarting quick, And spreading wide their spongy lobes. 1842 LOUDON *Suburban Hort.* 182 The shoots there are generally more luxuriant and spongy. 1860 RUSKIN *Mod. Paint.* V. VI. vi. § 4. 43 A root [of a tree], properly so called, is a fibre, spongy or absorbent at the extremity. 1884 BOWER & SCOTT *De Bary's Phaner.* 410 Lamellar cavernous parenchyma..; which from this spongy character has also been called 'spongy parenchyma'.

c. Of ground or soil, esp. through excess of moisture.

a. 1652 EARL MONM. tr. *Bentivoglio's Hist. Relat.* 10 The scituation of all the other Provinces is low and spungie. 1677 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1224/3 The ground about the place being very spungy in wet weather. 1708 J. C. *Compl. Collier* (1845) 25 It must of necessity rise through the Spungy Earth. 1799 *Scotland Descr.* (ed. 2) 16 The morasses, of which the soil is either a spungy turf, or a black consistent peat-earth. *c* 1853 KINGSLEY *Misc.* (1859) I. 151 The soft tread of..horse-hoofs upon the spungy vegetable soil.

β. 1732 *Ray's Disc.* (ed. 4) 12 A spongey kind of Earth. 1796 WITHERING *Brit. Plants* (ed. 3) III. 793 Rotten spongy ground. 1818 SHELLEY *Marenghi* xxiv, The coarse bulbs of iris-flowers he found Knotted in clumps under the spongy ground. 1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* I. 507 Where clay is..very spongy, tough, and wet. 1889 F. COWPER *Capt. of Wight* 259 There is not a hole or a spongy place anywhere.

d. In miscellaneous applications.

1616 SURFL. & MARKH. *Country Farme* V. xx. 577 Neither must it [manchet bread] be made too light or spungie. 1672 PETTY *Pol. Anat.* 375 The art of making the excellent, thick, spungy, warm coverlets, seems to be lost. 1713 GAY *Rur. Sports* 135 When floating Clouds their spongy Fleeces drain. 1716 — *Trivia* I. 45 The Frieze's Spongy Nap is soaked with Rain. 1753 HANWAY *Trav.* V. lxix. (1762) I. 314 Their cloths are spungy, but they are thin, light, and soft. 1834 *Brit. Husb.* I. 340 The ashes..produced from soft soap..will be found light and spongy. 1836–41 BRANDE *Chem.* (ed. 5) 109 The rising of fluids in porous and spongy bodies.

2. Of hard substances: Having an open porous structure resembling that of a sponge: **a.** Of bones, *spec.* of certain bones of the skull.

1591 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* I. vi. 573 Whereby the moist Brain's spongy boan doth sup Sweet-smelling fumes. 1594 T. B. *La Primaud. Fr. Acad.* II. 123 It is called by the phisicions the siue-bone, or otherwise (& that more properly) the spungy bone. 1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* 401 A Splent is a spungy harde grissell or bone, growing fast on the inside of the shin-bone of a Horse. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s.v. *Bone*, Bones..which have thin solid sides, and a thick intermediate spongy part. 1854 OWEN in *Orr's Circ. Sci., Org. Nat.* I. 166 Most of the bones of fishes are solid or spongy in their interior. 1876 *Quain's Anat.* (ed. 8) I. 53 The inferior turbinated, *maxillo-turbinal*, or spongy bone, is a slender lamina, attached [etc.].

b. Of stone, ice, minerals, etc.

1615 G. SANDYS *Trav.* 22 The walls..consisting of great square stone, hard, blacke, and spongie. 1694 *Marten's Voy. Spitzbergen* in *Acc. Sev. Voy.* II. 44 This Ice becometh very spungy by the dashing of the Sea. 1796 KIRWAN *Elem. Min.* (ed. 2) I. 13 When it [silex] is exceedingly comminuted, ..it is light and spungy. 1800 tr. *Lagrange's Chem.* I. 333 Hence those tender calcareous, cellular stones, and perhaps also the spungy tufs. 1834 L. RITCHIE *Wand. by Seine* 74 Such stones as were most spungy and defective, and, of course, most easily cut. 1856 KANE *Arct. Expl.* II. xxiii. 231 The falling of some of the party through the spongy ice.

c. Of metals, esp. platinum.

1807 T. THOMSON *Chem.* (ed. 3) II. 64 Spongy alumina, when exposed to a red heat, loses 0·58 parts of its weight. 1827 FARADAY *Chem. Manip.* xiv. (1842) 314 Spongy platina ..causes the union of oxygen and oxide of carbon at common temperatures. 1849 D. CAMPBELL *Inorg. Chem.* 246 [This] leaves the metal, in a highly divided state, as a greyish-black powder, and known as spongy platinum. 1884 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* Suppl. 845/2 The production of spongy platinum..is a task more easy in appearance than in reality.

3. a. Resembling a sponge in respect of moisture or capacity for containing this.

1598 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. i. IV. *Handicrafts* 759 With th' other hand he gripes and wringeth forth The spungy Globe of th' execrable Earth. 1602 MARSTON *Ant. & Mel.* IV, Even this brinish marsh Shall squeaze out teares from out his spungy cheekes. 1611 SHAKS. *Cymb.* IV. ii. 349, I saw ..the Roman Eagle wing'd From the spungy South, to this part of the West. 1659 S. TITUS *Killing no Murder* 5 Had not his Highnes had a faculty to be fluent in his teares..: Had he not had spungie eyes [etc.]. 1872 *Echo* 10 Aug., After plenty of rain, with leaden water and a dismal, spongy look everywhere.

fig. 1599 B. JONSON *Ev. Man out of Hum.* Prol., With a gripe, [to] Crush out the humour of such spongie soules. 1611 COTGR. s.v. *Mer*, When Princes doe squeeze out of their spungie Officers the moisture which they haue purloyned from them.

b. Resembling a sponge in absorptive qualities; absorbent. Chiefly *fig.*

1605 SHAKS. *Macb.* I. vii. 71 What [can we] not put vpon His spungie Officers? 1606 — *Tr. & Cr.* II. ii. 12 There is no Lady..More spungie, to sucke in the sense of Feare. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* I. 438 Oft whole sheets descend of slucy Rain, Suck'd by the spongy Clouds from off the Main.

c. Of the nature or character of a sponger or parasite; = SPONGING *ppl. a.*

1602 MARSTON *Ant. & Mel.* IV, Blowne up with the flattering puffes Of spungy sycophants.

4. *fig.* Deficient in substance or solidity.

1603 FLORIO *Montaigne* III. v. 524 The wordes: no longer windie or spungie, but of fleshe and bone. 1665 J. WEBB *Stone-Heng* (1725) 82 To set a petty Gloss upon a spungy Conjecture. 1680 H. MORE *Apocal. Apoc.* 273 R. H. in his answer..is plainly not so much copious as loose and spungy, and not at all solid. 1829 BEST *Pers. & Lit. Mem.* 171 The puffy, spungy,..washy, style that prevails at the present day. 1896 *St. James's Gaz.* 6 Jan. 4/2 Mr. Olney's English is, as usual, rather spongy.

5. Of texture or other qualities: Resembling that of a sponge.

1612 COTGR., *Spongiosité*,..a spungie lightnesse. 1633 P. FLETCHER *Purple Isl.* IV. xxvii, [The lungs] Built of a lighter frame, and spungie mold. 1733 W. ELLIS *Chiltern & Vale Farm.* 84 Hollow, spungy Texture of Parts. 1765 A. DICKSON *Treat. Agric.* (ed. 2) 69 The soil may be of a spungy nature. 1800 *Med. Jrnl.* III. 199 The sore had an ugly, spungy aspect. 1827 FARADAY *Chem. Manip.* xiv. (1842) 315 The platina in the spongy state. 1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* II. xxvi. 372 The ice on which the dirt-bands rest..appears to be of a spongier character.

fig. 1865 GEO. ELIOT *Ess.* (1884) 202 A spongy texture of mind that gravitates strongly to nothing.

6. Resembling that pressed from a sponge.

1605 G. ELLIS *Lament. Lost Sheep* lxxvii, That spungy moysture, that in deadly thrall For thy pale lips the sonnes of men thought meete. *a* 1864 HAWTHORNE *Amer. Note-bks.* (1879) II. 191 With a spongy moisture diffused through the atmosphere.

7. *Comb.*, as *spongy-flowered, -footed, -looking, -wet, -wooded* adjs.

1825 *Greenhouse Comp.* II. 26 A spongy-wooded greenhouse shrub. 1829 LOUDON *Encycl. Plants* (1836) 600 *Adlumia cirrhosa*; spongy-flower'd. 1835 WILLIS *Pencillings* II. lv. 130 The small donkey..pricking back his long ears as if he were counting his spongy-footed followers. 1855 TENNYSON *To Rev. F. D. Maurice* xi, The lawn as yet Is hoar with rime, or spongy-wet. 1870 H. A. NICHOLSON *Man. Zool.* xiv. (1875) 143 It forms spongy-looking, orange-coloured crusts.

Sponk, obs. form of SPUNK.

†Spon-new, *a. Obs. rare.* [Southern form of SPAN-NEW *a.*] Perfectly new.

13.. *K. Alis.* 4055 Richeliche he dob him schrede, In spon neowe knyhte wede. *a* 1400 *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* 75/586 Heil whos sone has wrouht Al vr hele sponnewe.

Sponsal (spǫ·nsăl), *a.* [ad. L. *sponsāl-is*, f. *sponsus, -a*, spouse.] Of or pertaining to marriage; spousal; wedded, wedding.

1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.*, *Sponsal*, belonging to betrothing or mariage. [Hence in Bailey, etc.] 1840 *Penny Cycl.* XVIII. 197/1 A vase, executed for her majesty, as a sponsal present by her. 1866 J. B. ROSE tr. *Ovid's Fasti* II. 595 O maidens fair, Choose not a sponsal day. *Ibid.* IV. 1097 Tithonia thrice must leave the sponsal bed.

‖ **Sponsalia** (spǫnsē·liă). [L., neut. pl. of *sponsālis*: see prec.] Espousals, marriage.

1535 STEWART *Cron. Scot.* III. 390 That quietlie..Betuix thame selffis *sponsalia* tha maid, Syne in his place ressauit hir as wyfe. 1778 R. WATSON *Chem. Ess.* V. 376 (Jod.), An order, equally determined, is observable in the times of accomplishing the sponsalia of plants.

†Sponsali·tious, *a. Obs.*—° [ad. late L. *sponsālītius, -ĭcius*, f. *sponsālia*: see prec.] = SPONSAL *a.*

1656 in BLOUNT *Glossogr.*

Sponsibi·lity. *rare*—¹. [f. next: see -ITY.] Responsibility, respectability.

1767 COWPER *Let. to Mrs. C.* 3 Apr., Though my friend,.. before I was admitted an inmate here, was satisfied that I was not a mere vagabond, and has since that time received more convincing proofs of my sponsibility, yet [etc.].

Sponsible (spǫ·nsib'l), *a.* Now only *dial.* [Aphetic f. RESPONSIBLE *a.*: cf. next.] Responsible, reliable, respectable.

1721 WODROW *Hist. Suff. Ch. Scot.* (1830) III. 439/1 Till caution was found, by two sponsible persons, [that] she should present herself to the sheriff when called. 1765 COWPER *Let.* 3 July, My woollen-draper, a very healthy, wealthy, sensible, sponsible man. 1810 S. GREEN *Reformist* I. 120 'My Lord,' replied the creditor, 'I am an honest, sponsible shoemaker'. 1836–8 HALIBURTON *Clockm.* Ser. II. xxii. (1839) 276 But John Bull is like all other sponsible folks; he thinks 'cause he is rich he is wise too. 1856 G. HENDERSON *Pop. Rhymes* 97 One of the decent neighbours, and most sponsible man in the company.

Sponsion (spǫ·nʃən). [ad. L. *sponsio*, noun of action f. *spondēre* to promise solemnly, give assurance, etc.]

1. A solemn or formal engagement, promise, or pledge, freq. one entered into or made on behalf of another person.

1677 OWEN *Justif.* vii. Wks. 1850 III. 170 The apostle interposeth himself by a voluntary sponsion to undertake for Onesimus. 1692 BURNET *Disc. Pastoral Care* vi. 54 No Church before ours..took a formal Sponsion at the Altar from such as were ordained Deacons and Priests. 1709 STRYPE *Ann. Ref.* I. xxxiv. 345 Because in the Initiation of Baptism we stuck not to the Abrenuntiations and Sponsions made for us. 1737 WATERLAND *Eucharist* 16 A kind of Sponsion and Security for the present and future Performance of the whole Duty of Man. 1801 NAPLETON *Advice Minister Gosp.* 35 This is a great and weighty sponsion. 1850 R. D. HAMPDEN *Charge Visit. Diocese Heref.* 39 Many children have not been baptized in the Church—have never had those sponsions made for them, which the instructions of the Church Catechism presuppose.

b. *spec.* (See quot. 1853.)

1776 in Sparks *Corr. Amer. Rev.* (1853) I. 258 The agreement entered into by Gen. Arnold was a mere sponsion on his part, he not being invested with powers for the disposal of prisoners not in his possession. 1853 WHEWELL *Grotius* II. 130 *Sponsions* is the term we may use when any persons not having a commission from the Supreme Authority make any engagement which properly touches that authority.

2. *Rom. Law.* An engagement to pay a certain sum to the other party in a suit, in the event of not proving one's case.

1632 SANDERSON *Serm.* 207 The Defendant also making the like sponsion and entring the like bond, in case he should be cast. 1880 MUIRHEAD *Gaius* IV. § 13 In the same way as..the action for a definite sum of money due is perilous for a defender rashly denying his liability, on account of his sponsion.

Hence **†Spo·nsional** *a.*, entering into an engagement or pledge. *Obs.*

a 1684 LEIGHTON *Serm.* Wks. (1859) 526 It is evident that he is righteous, even in that representative and sponsional person he put on.

Sponson (spǫ·nsən), *sb.* Also 9 **sponsing, sponcing.** [Of obscure origin.]

1. One or other of the triangular platforms before and abaft the paddle-boxes of a steamer.

a. 1835 *Naut. Mag.* IV. 154 The 'Lightning' was ran into by a collier, which struck her just abaft her paddle-box... Her sponcings and sponcing-timbers were broken. 1846 A. YOUNG *Naut. Dict.* 292 *Sponsings*, or *Sponcings*, in a steam-ship, the curve of the timbers and planking towards the outer part of the wing before and abaft each of the paddle-boxes.

β. 1838 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* I. 384/2 Breadth over the sponsons, 43 ft. Ditto over the paddle boxes, 48 ft. 1871 KINGSLEY *At Last* i, Then had come..a day of.. watching..the water from the sponson behind the paddle-boxes.

attrib. 1835 [see above]. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.* 644 *Sponson-Rim*, the same as *wing-wale*. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2287 *Sponson-beam*, one of the two projecting beams uniting the paddle-box beam with the ship's side.

2. A gun platform, standing out from the side of a vessel. Also *attrib.*

1862 W. H. RUSSELL *Diary North & S.* I. 291 The ship.. is armed..with rifled field-pieces and howitzers on the sponsons. 1887 *Daily News* 24 Oct. 5/5 The system..of carrying heavy guns..in sponson ports so high on the poop and forecastle. 1897 *Ibid.* 28 July 8/5 Their construction (five sponsons on each side of the upper deck) causes them to roll heavily.

Hence **Spo·nson** *v. trans.*, to support, or set *out*, on a sponson. Also **Spo·nsoned** *ppl. a.*

1895 *Morn. Post* 10 Aug. 4/5 The same may be said of cruisers, part of whose most important armament is sponsoned out on the broadside. 1897 *River & Coast* 4 Sept. 13/1 The sponsoned deck acts as a guard to the hull.

Sponsor (spǫ·nsŏɹ), *sb.* [a. L. *sponsor*, agent-noun f. *spondēre*: cf. SPONSION.]

1. *Eccl.* One who answers for an infant at baptism; a godfather or godmother.

1651 BAXTER *Inf. Bapt.* 153 How could the Sponsors be indangered while there were Parents? *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 6 Oct. 1687, I was godfather to Sir John Chardin's sonn...The Earle of Bath and Countesse of Carlisle, the other Sponsors. 1737 *Gentl. Mag.* VII. 21/1 It is well known, that the Business of Sponsors at Baptism is in general brought to a very scandalous Pass. 1807 CRABBE *Par. Reg.* III. 959 Here, with an infant, joyful sponsors come. 1850 R. I. WILBERFORCE *Holy Baptism* 103 The practice of requiring sponsors at Baptism is of ancient date. 1907 *Verney Mem.* II. 237 When her daughter was born nothing would satisfy Lady Abdy but that Sir Ralph should stand sponsor.

fig. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* xxxiii, His Lordship.. was a credit to his political sponsor.

2. One who enters into an engagement, makes a formal promise or pledge, on behalf of another; a surety.

1677 MIÉGE *Fr. Dict.* II, Sponsor, or surety that undertaketh for another. 1681 J. SCOTT *Chr. Life* I. iv. (1684) 207 Our Mediator is called the *Sponsor*, or Surety of a better Covenant. 1741 C. MIDDLETON *Cicero* VIII. II. 197 Magius, oppressed with debts,..had been urging Marcellus, who was his sponsor for some part of them, to furnish him with money to pay the whole. 1800 *Asiat. Ann. Reg.* V. 58/1 Sponsors also are of two kinds, one for appearance, the other for payment. 1864 D. G. MITCHELL *Sev. Stor.* 107, I found it requisite..to become sponsor for his good conduct. 1880 MUIRHEAD *Gaius* III. § 118 The positions of sponsor and fidepromissor are much the same. *Ibid.* Dig. 535 All.. who failed..to relieve sponsors (sureties) who had paid for them.

b. One who stood surety for the appearance and good faith of either party in a trial by combat.

1825 SCOTT *Talism.* xxviii, The sponsors of both champions went, as was their duty, to see that they were duly armed, and prepared for combat. *Ibid.*, The sponsors, heralds, and squires now retired to the barriers.

3. *transf.* Of things (after sense 1 or 2).

1846 LANDOR *Hellenics* Wks. II. 486 We are what suns and winds and waters make us; The mountains are our sponsors. 1870 EMERSON *Soc. & Solit.* Wks. (Bohn) III. 134 All the good days behind him are sponsors, who speak for him. 1889 GRETTON *Memory's Harkback* 233 In Essex, especially, the aguish climate stood sponsor for the absence of clerics as a rule.

Spo·nsor, *v.* [f. prec.] *trans.* To be surety for, to favour or support strongly. (Common in recent use.)

1884 *L'pool Mercury* 6 June 5/8 The eldest daughter, who has ever sponsored her father's cause. 1888 *Standard* 24 Feb. 5/1 The Company is to be most powerfully sponsored.

Spo·nsoress. [f. SPONSOR *sb.* + -ESS.] A female sponsor.

1871 G. A. LAWRENCE *Anteros* xxi, Lady Montfort, another relative,..offered to be the bride's sponsoress at St. James'.

Sponsorial (spǫnsŏ·ɹiăl), *sb.* and *a.* [f. SPONSOR: see -ORIAL.]

A. *sb.* A baptismal sponsor or name-father.

1836 MARRYAT *Pirate* vii, You will now on the coast meet with a Blucher, a Wellington, a Nelson, &c., who will wring swabs..without feeling that it is discreditable to sponsorials so grand.

B. *adj.* Of or pertaining to a sponsor.

1847 in WEBSTER. 1853 *Chr. Rememb.* No. 79. 62 The clause just quoted of the sponsorial exhortation. 1862 WILBERFORCE in Hopkins *Hawaii* Pref., She..sends out sponsorial gifts befitting England's Queen. 1897 *Daily News* 12 May 4/4 He would rather regard the former in their sponsorial function.

Sponsorship (spǫ·nsŏɹʃip). [f. SPONSOR *sb.* + -SHIP.] The state of being a sponsor; the office of a sponsor.

1809 MALKIN *Gil Blas* XI. i, The governor's lady, wishing to draw the bonds of sponsorship still closer in this friendly party, stood for Scipio's daughter. 1848 KINGSLEY *Saint's Trag.* II. v, It knits them unto me, and me to them, That bond of sponsorship. 1895 *Daily News* 16 Feb. 2/4 To undertake the sponsorship of a resolution which asks the House to put aside this measure.

†Spo·ntal, *a. Obs.*—° [ad. L. *spontāl-is.*] (See quot.) Also **†Spo·ntane** *a. Obs.*—° (Cf. next.)

1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.*, *Spontal, Spontane*,..that doth or is done willingly, naturally, without help or constraint, voluntary.

†Spontaneal, *a. Obs.* [f. L. *spontāne-us* + -AL.] Spontaneous, in various senses.

1602 FULBECKE *1st Pt. Parall.* 58 But curtesie is a free, spontaneal and ingenious quality, to which no inforcement can be used. 1653 R. G. tr. *Bacon's Hist. Winds* 361 Let the seventeenth Motion be the Spontaneall or Willing Motion of Rotation or wheeling. 1669 W. SIMPSON *Hydrol. Chym.* 82 The occasional and spontaneal depravations of their ferments.

Spontaneity (spǫntăne·iti). [ad. L. type **spontāneitas*, f. *spontāne-us*. So F. *spontanéité*, It. *spontaneità*, Sp. *espontaneidad*, Pg. *-idade.*]

1. Spontaneous, or voluntary and unconstrained, action on the part of persons; the fact of possessing this character or quality.

1651 C. CARTWRIGHT *Cert. Relig.* I. 181 Thus we see how Bernard doth agree with Calvin in making the freedome of mans will to consist in a spontaneity, and a freedom from coaction. 1681 FLAVEL *Meth. Grace* xxix. 504 He laid down his life with the greatest chearfulness and spontaneity that could be. 1702 tr. *Le Clerc's Prim. Fathers* 348 Freedom, in his Opinion, is only a meer Spontaneity, and doth not imply a Power of not doing what one doth. 1789 BELSHAM *Ess.* I. ix. 171 Physical liberty; by which he means the principle of spontaneity. 1804–6 SYD. SMITH *Mor. Philos.* xvii. (1850) 251 Actions performed without the spontaneity of the agent, are automatic. 1851 CARLYLE *Sterling* III. vii, The general aspect of him indicated freedom, perfect spontaneity, with a certain careless natural grace. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 302 There is less energy and less spontaneity and originality.

2. Spontaneous or voluntary action or movement on the part of animals (or plants); activity of physical organs in the absence of any obvious external stimulus.

1721 J. CLARKE *Orig. Mor. Evil* 113 Because they [animals] have not the Power of abstract Reasoning..we call it generally Spontaneity. 1789 E. DARWIN *Bot. Gard.* II. (1791) 153 See note on Collinsonia for other instances of vegetable spontaneity. 1793 COWPER *Let.* 23 Feb., Considering more nearly, I found it [a minnow] alive, and endued with spontaneity. 1837 P. KEITH *Bot. Lex.* 340 We regard the term Spontaneity as being less exceptionable than that of Instinct; but still it is a spontaneity that feeling has nothing to do with. 1866 J. MARTINEAU *Ess.* I. 168 The instincts and spontaneities of animals. 1877 M. FOSTER *Physiol.* III. v. (1878) 472 How absolutely devoid of spontaneity or irregular automatism is the spinal cord of the frog.

3. The fact or quality in things of being spontaneous in respect of production, occurrence, etc.

1751 JOHNSON *Rambler* No. 131 ₱ 12 Community of possession must include spontaneity of production. 1794 MRS. PIOZZI *Synon.* II. 361 We cannot commend the opulence of the ground, but its richness and spontaneity. 1823 CHALMERS *Serm.* I. 129 Every constitutional desire would run out in the unchecked spontaneity of its own movements. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VI. 546 The most conspicuous feature of these [tabetic] fractures is their spontaneity.

b. The fact or quality of coming without deep thought or premeditation.

1826 J. GILCHRIST *Lect.* 35 *note*, Many remarks..to which we had given some credit for originality and spontaneity. 1839 HALLAM *Hist. Lit.* III. v. § 7 Poets who, delighted with the spontaneity of their ideas, never reject any that arise. 1873 SYMONDS *Grk. Poets* i. 2 Those poems of nascent nations,..marvellous in their infantine spontaneity.

Spontaneous (spǫntē·ni-ŏs), *a.* [f. L. *spontāne-us*, f. *sponte* of one's own accord, freely, willingly. So F. *spontané(e*, It. *spontaneo*, Sp. and Pg. *espontaneo.*]

1. Of personal actions: Arising or proceeding entirely from natural impulse, without any external stimulus or constraint; voluntary and of one's own accord.

1656 HOBBES *Liberty*, etc. (1841) 79 That all voluntary actions, where the thing that induceth the will is not fear, are called also spontaneous, and said to be done by a man's own accord. 1690 C. NESSE *Hist. & Myst. Test.* I. 43 Her eating therefore was a spontaneous act. 1727 DE FOE *Hist. Appar.* i. (1840) 16 By apparition also I am to understand such appearances of these superior beings, as are spontaneous and voluntary. 1781 J. MOORE *View Soc. It.* (1790) I. ix. 91 The spontaneous respect paid to the antiquity of their families. 1839 HALLAM *Hist. Lit.* II. i. § 29 The resemblance of natural disposition made it a spontaneous act of Muretus to fall into the footsteps of Cicero. 1868 M. PATTISON *Academ. Org.* 6 The movement was by no means a spontaneous one on the part of the House.

b. Of persons: Acting voluntarily and from natural prompting.

1732 BERKELEY *Alciphr.* II. § 21 It was needless to establish professors..while there are so many spontaneous lecturers in every corner of the streets. 1829 I. TAYLOR *Enthus.* iv. 79 The ranks of a numerous body of men can never be filled up by spontaneous labourers of this sort.

c. Of utterances, etc.: Coming freely and without premeditation or effort.

1856 *N. Brit. Rev.* XXVI. 52 The privileged visitor..would ..have heard from him..similar spontaneous expositions of Scripture. 1870 BURTON *Hist. Scot.* lxxii. (1873) VI. 265 A spontaneous thought which he could not help uttering. 1885 *Manch. Exam.* 9 Sept. 3/1 The fun is never strained or beaten out, but is always fresh, spontaneous, and luxuriant.

2. Of motion: Arising purely from, entirely determined by, the internal operative or directive forces of the organism.

1659 H. MORE *Immort. Soul* II. ii. 126 Sense..must likewise Imagine, Remember, Reason, and be the fountain of spontaneous Motion. 1695 J. EDWARDS *Perfect. Script.* 334 Things that had sense and spontaneous motion. 1750 G. HUGHES *Barbados* III. 61 Animals are sensitive organic Bodies, endued with spontaneous Motion. 1807 J. E. SMITH

Phys. Bot. 2 Vegetables..have in some instances spontaneous, though we know not that they have voluntary, motion. 1848 CARPENTER *Anim. Phys.* 17 These two functions,—sensibility and the power of spontaneous motion,—being peculiar to animals, are called the functions of animal life. 1880 BESSEY *Botany* 196 Living protoplasm has everywhere, under proper conditions, the power of spontaneous movement. 1882 VINES tr. *Sachs' Bot.* 871 These movements were termed 'spontaneous nutations'.

3. Of natural processes: Occurring without apparent external cause; having a self-contained cause or origin.

In 19th cent. use esp. of chemical or physical changes: see quots. under (*b*).

(*a*) 1664 POWER *Exp. Philos.* II. 117 The Spontaneous Dilatation and Elastick Rarefaction of that little remnant of Ayr. 1692 BENTLEY *Boyle Lect.* iv. 114 A spontaneous production of Mankind may not possibly have been true. 1751 JOHNSON *Rambler* No. 163 ¶ 3 He expects every moment to be placed in regions of spontaneous fertility. 1765 *Museum Rust.* IV. 200, I suppose there was no corn on it of spontaneous growth. 1831 SCOTT *Cast. Dang.* v, The old man looked with horror at the spontaneous motion of the book. 1859 MILL *Liberty* iv. (1865) 45/2 He suffers these penalties only in so far as they are..the spontaneous consequences of the faults themselves. 1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* II. 292 The spontaneous falling of the stones appeared more frequent this morning.

(*b*) 1805 SAUNDERS *Min. Waters* 338 The spontaneous changes which this water undergoes. 1813 J. THOMSON *Lect. Inflam.* 51 When inflammation occurs..without our being able to trace its production to the action of any obvious cause, it is termed spontaneous inflammation. 1836-41 BRANDE *Chem.* (ed. 5) 561 The aqueous solution..is subject to spontaneous decomposition. 1861 J. R. GREENE *Man. Anim. Kingd., Cælent.* 182 The mode in which spontaneous fission occurs among many other forms of *Actinozoa*.

† **b.** *spec.* Of lassitude. *Obs.*

1675 OWEN *Indwelling Sin* ix. (1732) 105 A spontaneous Lassitude, or a causeless Weariness and Indisposition of the Body. 1732 ARBUTHNOT *Rules of Diet* in *Aliments*, etc. 378 Its Symptoms are a spontaneous Lassitude or Sensation of Weariness.

4. a. *Spontaneous generation*, the development of living organisms without the agency of pre-existing living matter, usually considered as resulting from changes taking place in some inorganic substance. (Cf. EQUIVOCAL *a.* 3.)

The possibility of such development, once generally accepted as a fact and subsequently rejected, has been a subject of debate in more recent times.

1656 COWLEY *Pindar. Odes, Notes* Wks. 1710 I. 278 The Generation of Serpents, which is Spontaneous sometimes. 1665 HOOKE *Microgr.* 141 For the Sea..affords as many Instances of spontaneous generations as either the Air or Earth. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Equivocation*, Equivocal Generation,..which we also call spontaneous, was commonly asserted and believed among the antient Philosophers. 1835 J. DUNCAN *Beetles* 194 Admitting the doctrine of spontaneous generation, it was necessary [etc.]. 1857 HENFREY *Bot.* 543 The idea of a spontaneous generation of organic bodies is now exploded. 1882 VINES tr. *Sachs' Bot.* 944 The first and simplest plants had no ancestors; they arose by spontaneous generation.

fig. 1870 MAX MÜLLER *Sci. Relig.* (1873) 377 You see the spontaneous generation of mythology with every new name that is formed.

b. *Spontaneous combustion*, the fact of taking fire, or burning away, through conditions produced within the substance itself; *spec.* the alleged occurrence of this fact in persons addicted to the excessive use of alcohol.

(*a*) 1809 *W. Nicholson's Jrnl. Nat. Philos.* XXIII. 278 The spontaneous combustion of a large quantity of charcoal. 1863 WATTS *Dict. Chem.* I. 1093 The spontaneous combustion..of masses of tow, cotton, or rags saturated with oil. 1876 VOYLE & STEVENSON *Milit. Dict.* 397/1 Newburnt charcoal, and particularly new ground charcoal, is very liable to spontaneous combustion.

(*b*) 1795 *Repertory of Arts* II. 424, I shall not pass over in silence the spontaneous combustions of human bodies. 1799 *W. Nicholson's Jrnl. Nat. Philos.* III. 305 The apparently spontaneous Combustion of living Individuals of the human Species. 1832 BREWSTER *Natural Magic* xiii. 321 The extraordinary phenomenon of the spontaneous combustion of living bodies. 1853 DICKENS *Bleak Ho.* Pref., It was shewn upon the evidence that she had died the death to which this name of spontaneous combustion has been given. 1882 *Syd. Soc. Lex.* s.v. *Combustion, Spontaneous combustion*...In most of the cases recorded,..either they have been near a fire, or some suspicious circumstances suggestive of murder have been present.

5. Growing or produced naturally without cultivation or labour.

1665 HOOKE *Microgr.* 214 Spontaneous Vegetables seeming a food proper enough for spontaneous Animals. 1684 PENN in *Academy* (1896) 11 Jan. 37/1, I have observed three sorts [of vines]...Thes are spontaneous. 1705 R. BEVERLY *Virginia* II. iv. (1722) 127 Whence they had their Indian Corn, I can give no Account; for I don't believe that it was spontaneous in those Parts. 1725 POPE *Odyss.* IX. 125 Spontaneous wines from weighty clusters pour. 1760-2 GOLDSM. *Cit. W.* xxxi, Spontaneous flowers take place of the finished parterre. 1805 SAUNDERS *Min. Waters* 333 Except the turf, and some scanty heath, no spontaneous vegetation is to be seen. 1837 HT. MARTINEAU *Soc. Amer.* II. 49 We passed 'a spontaneous rye-field'. 1883 DAY *Indian Fish* 8 Fish cured with salt-earth, or spontaneous but untaxed salt.

b. Freq. with *fruits, products, productions.*

a 1727 NEWTON *Chronol. Amended* i. (1728) 183 These several colonies..fed on the spontaneous fruits of the earth. 1751 JOHNSON *Rambler* No. 169 ¶ 4 There are regions of which the spontaneous products cannot be equalled in other soils by care and culture. 1826 SYD. SMITH *Wks.* (1859) II. 67/2 If the English were in a paradise of spontaneous productions, they would continue to dig and plough. 1839 HALLAM *Hist. Lit.* III. iv. § 96 When men lived on the spontaneous fruits of the earth. 1872 MORLEY *Voltaire* 6 The self-raised spontaneous products of some miraculous soil.

c. Produced, developed, coming into existence, by natural processes or changes.

1732 ARBUTHNOT *Rules of Diet* in *Aliments*, etc. 290 Constitutions abounding with a spontaneous alkali, ought to avoid alkaline Substances. 1779 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 2) IV. 2671/2 Mr. Wilcke..distinguishes it by the name of spontaneous electricity. 1826 *Art of Brewing* (ed. 2) 28 Leaving a portion of matter unattenuated, to produce briskness, and, consequently, spontaneous fineness and flavour. 1846 G. E. DAY tr. *Simon's Anim. Chem.* II. 249 The urine which threw down a spontaneous sediment. 1862 MARSH *Eng. Lang.* iii. 59 All the gorgeous spontaneous hues of sun-lit cloud.

6. Quasi-*adv.* = next.

1667 MILTON *P. L.* VII. 203 Chariots wing'd..now came forth Spontaneous. 1720 POPE *Iliad* XVII. 248 The stubborn arms..Conform'd spontaneous, and around him closed. 1780 COWPER *Progr. Error* 364 But we, as if good qualities would grow Spontaneous, take but little pains to sow. 1810 SCOTT *Lady of L.* I. XXXII, Till to her lips in measured frame The minstrel verse spontaneous came.

Spontaneously (spɒntā·nɪəsli), *adv.* [f. prec. + -LY.] In a spontaneous manner.

1. By natural impulse; of a free and unconstrained will; of one's own accord.

1660 R. COKE *Justice Vind.* 7 Therefore Children..have will, and do things spontaneously. 1670 G. H. *Hist. Cardinals* III. II. 266 Considering the offers many had spontaniously made him. 1751 JOHNSON *Rambler* No. 175 ¶ 10 He who is spontaneously suspicious, may be justly charged with radical corruption. 1794 R. J. SULIVAN *View Nat.* I. 130 For what is power or energy? Is it not a disposition to act, either spontaneously, or in consequence of some impression? 1809 SYD. SMITH *Wks.* (1859) I. 161/2 Monk spontaneously sent down some confidential letters, which turned the scale of evidence. 1856 DOVE *Logic Chr. Faith* I. § 2. 37 This is correct so long as the mind acts..spontaneously. 1877 BROCKETT *Cross & Crescent* 456 The Sublime Porte spontaneously informed the prince..that it would spare no effort [etc.].

b. Without thought or premeditation.

1800 S. & HT. LEE *Canterb. T.* (ed. 2) III. 167 [The apology] sprang spontaneously to his lips. 1831 D. E. WILLIAMS *Life & Corr. Sir T. Lawrence* II. 383 In his letters, his opinions and sentiments are poured forth warmly and spontaneously as they arose. 1870 J. H. NEWMAN *Gram. Assent* II. viii. 331 Taste, skill, invention in the fine arts..are exerted spontaneously, when once acquired.

2. By natural action; without apparent or obvious external cause or influence.

1658 EVELYN *Fr. Gard.* (1675) 85 The unripe figs,..if they stay till they spontaneously quit the trees [etc.]. 1664 POWER *Exp. Philos.* II. 143 You shall see the water spontaneously arise..in the Tube. 1764 REID *Inquiry* vi. § 24 Truth goes forth spontaneously if not held back. 1776 ADAM SMITH *W. N.* II. v. (1869) I. 364 If [the capital] was produced spontaneously, it would be of no value in exchange. *a* 1806 HORSLEY *Serm.* xvii. (1816) II. 68 As the inquiry is of the highest importance, and spontaneously presents itself, it is to this that I shall devote the remainder of the present discourse. 1825 J. NEAL *Bro. Jonathan* III. 188 A great bell..far below me, rang out, spontaneously, of itself. 1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) I. 206 If only wisdom can be taught, and does not come to man spontaneously.

b. *spec.* By natural chemical or physical change or development.

1771 *Encycl. Brit.* II. 120/1 Some earths and stones abound so with nitre, that it effloresces spontaneously. 1794 G. ADAMS *Nat. & Exp. Philos.* I. xii. 501 It takes fire spontaneously by the contact of air. 1804 ABERNETHY *Surg. Obs.* 91 It is no uncommon circumstance to meet with wens, that have burst spontaneously. 1837 P. KEITH *Bot. Lex.* 35 The nascent bulbs, which..spontaneously detach themselves from the parent plant. 1878 HUXLEY *Physiogr.* xv. 251 In other cases the coral animal spontaneously splits in two halves. 1892 *Photogr. Ann.* II. 517 This remarkable group of crystals was produced..quite spontaneously.

3. By natural growth; without being specially planted or cultivated.

a 1682 SIR T. BROWNE *Tracts* (1683) 52 This same plant may grow naturally and spontaneously in several countries. 1733 W. ELLIS *Chiltern & Vale Farm.* 84 Young Oaks.. that spontaneously grow up from the Acorns. 1765 *Museum Rust.* IV. 242 Common hay which is mixed with burnet growing spontaneously. 1836 MACGILLIVRAY *Trav. Humboldt* XXV. 384 It is supposed by botanists that it grows spontaneously in the mountainous regions.

b. By natural production; without tillage.

1700 EVELYN *Diary* 13 July, Some foreign country which would produce spontaneously pines, firs,..yew, holly, and juniper. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* I. v. (ed. 4) 61 The soil of the Island is truly luxuriant, producing fruits of most kinds spontaneously. 1830 HERSCHEL *Study Nat. Philos.* 2 The coarse aliments which the earth affords spontaneously.

Spontaneousness (spɒntē·nɪəsnĕs). [f. as prec.] The state or quality of being spontaneous.

a 1649 in *N. & Q.* Ser. I. X. 357 Spontaniousnes, and readines to helpe those who are in distress or suffer injury. *a* 1676 HALE *Prim. Orig. Man.* I. ii. (1677) 49 It is impossible to resolve the spontaneousness of many of their animal motions into those Principles. 1837 HT. MARTINEAU *Soc. Amer.* III. 267 This can only be done by those who do approve and reverence spontaneousness. 1872 SPURGEON *Treas. Dav.* Ps. liv. 6 The spontaneousness of our gifts is a great element in their acceptance.

† **Spontany,** *a. Obs.*[-1] [ad. L. *spontāne-us.*] Spontaneous.

1387-8 T. USK *Test. Love* III. iv. (Skeat) I. 33 Voluntarie or spontanye it is; for by spontanye wil it is do, that is to saye, with good wil not constrayned.

Spontoon (spɒntū·n). Now only *Hist.* [a. F. *sponton* (also *esponton* ESPONTOON), = Sp. *esponton* (Pg. *espontão*), ad It. *spontone, spuntone*, f. *puntone, punto* point.] A species of half-pike or halberd carried by infantry officers in the 18th century (from about 1740).

The It. form *spontone* is used as a foreign word by Barret *Theor. Warres* (1598) IV. iv. 113.

1746 DK. CUMB'LD in *10th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. I. 443, I dare say there was neither Soldier nor Officer.. who did not kill their one or two Men with their Bayonets & Spontoons. 1746 *Lond. Mag.* 242 The Spontoon..is a Weapon used of late Years by the Officers of Foot instead of the Half-Pike. 1769 PENNANT *Brit. Zool.* III. 64 The nose was very long, narrow, and sharp-pointed, not unlike the end of a spontoon. 1786 *Gentl. Mag.* Apr. 350/1 The officers who mounted guard..were paraded with their swords drawn instead of spontoons, for the first time since the regulation took place. 1802 JAMES *Milit. Dict.* s.v., When the spontoon was planted, the regiment halted; when pointed forwards, the regiment marched; and when pointed backwards, the regiment retreated. 1819 SCOTT *Leg. Montrose* xxi, I am just now like the half-pike or spontoon of Achilles, one end of which could wound, and the other cure. 1841 EMERSON *Ess.* Ser. I. xii. (1876) 284 Like the spontoons and standards of the militia, which play such pranks in the eyes and imaginations of school-boys.

transf. 1785 BURNS *Jolly Beggars* xiii, From the gilded spontoon to the fife I was ready; I asked no more but a sodger laddie.

Spoof (spūf), *sb. slang.* [Invented by A. Roberts (1852–), comedian.]

1. A game of a hoaxing and nonsensical character. Also, a trivial round game of cards in which certain cards when occurring together are denominated 'spoof'.

1889 *Pall Mall G.* 14 May 5/1 The Adelphi Club was the birthplace of the mysterious game called "Spoof", was it not?'—'Yes, I invented the pastime.' 1894 D. C. MURRAY *Rising Star* II. 235 There is in theatrical circles an amusement which is known as the game of spoof. 1895 MRS. CROKER *Village Tales* 89 We..were sitting in our dining-room tent fanning ourselves vigorously and playing 'spoof'.

2. Hoax, humbug; an instance of this.

1897 *Westm. Gaz.* 23 Apr. 2/1 There seems just a little too much 'spoof' about the long-talked-of Trickoli. 1905 *Sat. Rev.* 16 Sept. 370 One sees that the whole thing is a clumsy spoof.

3. *attrib.* Hoaxing, humbugging.

1895 A. ROBERTS in *Daily News* 26 Aug. 6/3 My 'spoof French' has often been the subject of amusement. 1899 *Westm. Gaz.* 27 June 7/2 Asking him to..send a 'spoof wire'—meaning any sort of nonsense.

Hence **Spoof** *v. trans.*, to hoax or humbug.

1895 *Punch* 28 Dec. 301/1, I 'spoof' him—to use a latter-day term. 1901 *Daily Mail* 2 Apr. 5/7 The House gave the willing tribute of laughter to the fact that it had been 'spoofed'.

Spook (spūk), *sb.* [ad. Du. *spook*, G. *spuk* (also † *spuch*), app. of LG. origin, appearing first in MLG. *spôk, spoek, spouk, spûk* (whence MSw. *spook*, Da. *spog*), and older Du. *spoocke* (Kilian); other modern forms are LG. *spôk, spôk*, WFris. *spoek*, NFris. *spook, spuk*, Sw. *spöke*. No certain cognates have been traced.] A spectre, apparition, ghost.

First in American usage, which is illustrated separately in the first set of quotations.

(*a*) 1801 *Mass. Spy* 15 July (Thornton), By mine dunder I fly so swift as any spook. 1833 PAULDING *Banks Ohio* III. iii. 40 Who ever heard of a spook eating? *a* 1853 'DOW, JR.' *Patent Serm.* iii. 158 (Thornton), There did I see a Spook, sure enough,—milk-white, and moving round. 1878 W. H. DANIELS *That Boy* i, The corners of New England which spooks and spirits were the last to leave.

(*b*) 1829 AYTOUN & MARTIN tr. *Goethe's Poems and Ball., Magician's Apprentice* 102 Broom, avaunt thee! To thy nook there! Lie, thou spook, there! 1873 STEPHENS *Black Gin*, etc. 11, I am haunted by a spook with oblique eyes and a pigtail. 1892 *Tablet* 19 Sept. 446 To what particular order of spook or spectre may he be assigned?

attrib. 1842 *Spirit of Times* (Philad.) 7 Mar. (Thornton), A-clatterin' the ghosts of dishes..as tho' he was bringin' in a spook-dinner. 1878 AYLWARD *Transvaal To-day* 213, I became acquainted with a 'spooke story',.. which [etc.]. 1896 *Westm. Gaz.* 10 Jan. 3/3 An alleged spook-photo.

Hence (as more or less colloquial or nonce-formations) **Spoo·kery, Spoo·kie(al** *a.*, **Spoo·kiness, Spoo·kish** *a.*, **Spoo·kism, Spookolo·gical** *a.*, **Spooko·logy, Spoo·ky** *a.*

1893 *Athenæum* 18 Feb. 214/1 The writer drags in sundry 'hauntings' and '*spookeries' of a mild nature. 1894 *Contemp. Rev.* LXVI. 651 The spookery business could not have saved him. 1887 *Sat. Rev.* 11 June 823/2 The new *spookie studies have come to stay. 1886 *Ibid.* 11 Dec. 773/2 Those who have watched..the recent outburst of *spookical activity. 1886 *Athenæum* 25 Dec. 858/2 The great thing in the book is the creation of the 'spookical' uncle. 1890 *Critic* 4 Jan. 3/2 An air of *spookiness pervades the volume. 1893 *Athenæum* 18 Mar. 343/2 There is some *spookish mystery about a reappearance. 1886 *Ibid.* 25 Dec. 858/2 By his own rash act he resolved himself into *spookism. 1897 *Westm. Gaz.* 6 July 2/3 Everything happened in the most orthodox *spookological manner. 1893 *Ibid.* 15 July 5 *Spookology in Vienna. 1883 *Harper's Mag.* Nov. 929/1 'Tis a *spooky place, that grave-yard.

Spook (spūk), *v.* [f. SPOOK *sb.* Cf. MLG. *spôken*, Du. *spoken*, G. *spuken* (dial. *spuchen*); also WFris. *spoekje*, NFris. *spooke*, Sw. *spöka*, Da. *spøge*.]

1. *trans.* To haunt (a person or place).

1883 OLIVE SCHREINER *Afr. Farm* I. ii, She heard a rustling,..and knew it was your father coming to 'spook' her.

2. *intr.* To play the spook; to 'walk' as a ghost. Also with *it.*

1890 LOWELL *Fitz Adam's Story* Poems IV. 206 Yet still the New World spooked it in his veins, A ghost he could not lay with all his pains. 1893 HELAND *Mem.* I. 10 The ghost went with them, and there it still 'spooks' about as of yore.

Spool (spūl), *sb.*[1] Forms: α. 4–7 spole, 7 spoole, spowle, 7– spool. β. *north.* and *Sc.* 5– spule (6 spwle). γ. 8–9 spole (8 spoal). δ. 6 spoyle, 8–9 *dial.* spoil. [ad. ONF. *espole* (13th cent.) or the source of this, MDu. **spole, spoele, spuele* (Du. *spoel*), MLG and LG. *spôle* (hence Da. and Sw. *spole*), OHG. *spuola* fem. (G. *spule*) and *spuolo, spuol* masc. (obs. or dial. G. *spul*). In Romanic now represented by F. *espoule*, F. and Sp. *espolin*, It. *spola, spuola.*

The appearance of *spole* beside *spool* in the 18th cent. seems to indicate a second adoption of the word from some Continental source.]

1. A small cylindrical piece of wood or other material on which thread is wound as it is spun, esp. for use in weaving; a bobbin.

α. *c* 1325 *Gloss. W. de Bibbesw.* in Wright *Voc.* 157 *Les tremes*, the spoles. 14.. *Lat.-Eng. Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 613 *Spola*, a Quyl, or a Spole. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 470 Spole, or scytyl, webstarys instrument,.. *spolia, panulea.* 1530 PALSGR. 274 *Spole*, a wevers instrument. 1620 SHELTON *Quix.* IV. xxix. 228 She is skilful in such Works,..never ceasing to handle small Spindles or Spooles. 1681 O. HEYWOOD *Diaries* (1881) II. 173 She..rose up, went to the wheel .., winded half-a-score spooles. 1783 *Specif. Oldham & Prestwidge's Patent* No. 1368, A sliding frame which moves the bobbins..upon the spindles to distribute the yarn equally upon the spools. 1802 MAR. EDGEWORTH *Dun* Tales 1848 IV. 416 He continued to throw the shuttle, whilst his little boy and his wife by turns wound spools for him. 1842 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 7) XXI. 825/1 The yarn destined for the warp is wound off upon little spools of wood called bobbins. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* IV. 274/2 Here the slivers are run side by side upon a wooden spool or bobbin.

β. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 357/1 A Spule, *panus.* 1509 *Burgh Rec. Edin.* (1869) I. 122 The armes of the webstaris, viz. thair signe of the spule to be vmaist in ilk baner. *a* 1568 R. SEMPLE in *Bannatyne MS.* (Hunter. Club) 356 Weill wrocht in the lwmis with wobster gwmis, Bayth thik and nymmill gais the spwle. 1842 *Whistle-binkie* Ser. III. 40 Curlers, gae hame..To your pens, to your spules, or your thummills. 1887 *Jamieson's Sc. Dict.* Suppl. 226/2 A *spule* is a pirn for yarn or a pirn of yarn. Besides, the copes of yarn used in thread-making are called *spules.*

γ. 1757 DYER *Fleece* III. 82 Patient art..has a spiral engine form'd, Which on an hundred spoles, an hundred threads.. twines,..easy-tended work. 1772 in *6th Rep. Dep. Kpr. Pub. Rec.* App. II. 161 A Machine..by which..a great number of Threads may be spun at one and the same time on a number of Spoals. 1789 E. DARWIN *Bot. Gard.* II. ii. 103 Then fly the spoles, the rapid axles glow. 1837 WHITTOCK *Bk. Trades* (1842) 412 (*Spinner*), As the threads become twisted by..a tall wheel which carries round the 'spole'. 1877– in dial. glossaries (W.Yks., Linc., Leic., etc.).

δ. 1796 W. H. MARSHALL *Rur. Econ. Yorksh.* (ed. 2) II. 346 *Spoil*, the weaver's quill.

b. In fig. uses.

1611 J. DAVIES (Heref.) *Wit's Pilgr.* xxvii, The wheeling of the Spheares..Winde vp thy lifes-Threed on the Spowle of yeares. 1821 CLARE *Vill. Minstr.* I. 170 Short is the thread on life's spool that is mine. 1866 GEO. ELIOT *F. Holt* ii, That's a spool to wind a speech on. Abuses is the very word. 1896 C. K. PAUL tr. *Huysmans' En Route* v. 65 The first comer who will wind about me his spool of commonplaces.

c. A small shaped cylinder of wood on which sewing-thread is wound; a reel.

1852 MRS. STOWE *Uncle Tom's Cabin* xx, She tangled, broke, or dirtied her thread, or, with a sly movement, would throw a spool away altogether. 1861 WYNTER *Soc. Bees* 260 The needle..carries a continuous thread wound off a reel or spool. 1890 W. J. GORDON *Foundry* 160 The spool..holds 400 yards of good cotton. It is a good article, and people can pay for it.

d. Any cylinder on which cord, wire, tape, etc., is wound for convenience or for a special purpose.

1864 *Reader* 5 Oct. 483/2 It also actuates the break-piece, ..thereby producing electric induction in the outer coils of the two pairs of spools alternately. 1883 *Cent. Mag.* July 381 Reeling up his line to the snell of the hook, and with his thumb on the spool of the reel. 1889 *Anthony's Photogr. Bull.* II. 76 We want a film thin enough to be used on spools.

2. A mesh-pin used in net-making.

1838 C. BATHURST *Notes on Nets* 17 Large meshes may be made on small spools, by giving the twine two or more turns round them. 1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* II. 72 Spools, being made as broad as the length of the side of the mesh, are of different breadths.

3. *attrib.*, as *spool-cotton, -frame, -pin, -stand, -ticket, -wheel*; †**spool-knave** (see quot. 1688); **spool-wood**, wood for making spools.

1538 *Nottingham Rec.* III. 200 Unum wollenlome cum ryngrathes, warpbarres et spoyle whele. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 288/2 There is another sort of Spool Knave made of Wood..in which there is holes made..for two, three, four, or more Spools to be wound off into Clews. *Ibid.*, He beareth Argent, a Spool Knave, with the Spool Pin therein. 1845 *Glance Interior China* 81 The spool-frame..is provided with two long posts, each two feet high, on the top of which is a transverse beam. 1851–4 TOMLINSON *Cycl. Arts* (1867) II. 470/1 As it is usual to form a rope of three strands, three spole-frames are combined together in this laying machine. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade, Spool-stand*, a rest or support for bobbins. 1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib., Brit.* II. No. 3677, Spool cotton, enamelled and six-cord. *Ibid.* No. 5136, Spooltickets. 1895 *N. B. Daily Mail* 4 Oct. 5/2 The barque Assyria, laden with spoolwood and deals.

Hence **Spoolful.** *rare*[–0].

1611 COTGR., *Fusée*, a spoole-full, or spindle-full, of thread, yarne, &c.

†**Spool,** *sb.*[2] *Sc. Obs.* In 5 spule. [app. an alteration of *spune* SPOON *sb.* 1 b.] *collect.* Wooden roofing-shingles. Also *attrib.*

1496 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* I. 279 Item,..in part payment of theking of the chapell..with spule, iiij li. xij d. *Ibid.* 302 For theking of a rude of spule thak. *Ibid.* 307 Item, giffin to Johne Lam of Leith, in part of payment of nalis to the spule thak of the werkhous and chapel in the Castel of Edinburgh,..iij li. xij s.

Spool (spūl), *v. rare.* [f. SPOOL *sb.*[1] Cf. Du. *spoelen*, LG. *spôlen*, G. *spulen.*] **a.** *intr.* To wind spools. **b.** *trans.* To wind (thread) on spools. Hence **Spooled** *ppl. a.*

1603 HOLLAND *Plutarch's Mor.* 337 A weaver will say that his worke is to make a web.., and not to spoole, winde quils, ..or raise and let fall the weights. 1623 in *Hist. MSS. Comm., Var. Coll.* I. 94 Some of them make..their workfolkes.. spoole their chaines, twist their list. 1845 S. JUDD *Margaret* II. ix. (1871) 271, I spooled on the doorstone for ma. 1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib., Brit.* II. No. 3885, Thrown silks, gum and soft-dyed and spooled.

Spoo·ler. Also 6 spullar, 7 **-er.** [Cf. prec.] One engaged in winding thread on spools.

1554 *Act* 1 *Mary* III. c. 7 § 1 Spinners, Carders, and Spullars of Yarne. [1678 PHILLIPS, *Spullers*, of Yarn, those that try if it be well spun and fit for the Loom.] 1764 BURN *Poor Laws* 156 The weavers supply the office of spooler and warper. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XVII. 341/2 Every lock of wool..becomes the means of support to..spinners, spoolers, warpers. 1877 *Ibid.* (ed. 9) VI. 502/1 It is given.. to the hank-winder, who winds it on a large bobbin, and that in its turn is handed to the spooler. 1893 *Congregationalist* Sept. 14 A spooler from the thread mill and a 'hand' from the laundry.

Spoo·ling, *vbl. sb.* Also 6 spoul-, 6–7 spol-, 7 spoyl-. [f. SPOOL *v.*] The action or employment of winding spools.

c 1640 J. SMYTH *Lives Berkeleys* (1883) I. 167 The Accompts whereof declare the charges in the..spoolinge, warpinge, quillinge,..and the like. 1738 *Gentl. Mag.* VIII. 658 They ..demanded a Note..that they would for ever forward give 15*d.* a Yard for Weaving and 1*s.* for Spooling. 1891 MISS DOWIE *Girl in Karp.* 232 All the..shearing, washing, carding, spinning and spooling.

b. *attrib.*, as *spooling-machine*, †*-turn, -wheel.*

c 1564 in Noake *Worcest. Relics* (1877) 10 A spynynge turne and a spolynge turne xij d. *Ibid.* 12, ij spyninge tournes, a spoulinge tourne. 1598 FLORIO, *Spola*,..a weauers role, spoling wheele or quill turne. 1617 MINSHEU *Ductor*, A Quil-turne, that turnes the quilles, or spoyling Wheele. 1648 HEXHAM II, *Een Garen-kroone*,..a Spoling-wheele. 1841 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* IV. 62 The spooling machine is cited as superior to that used in England. 1862 *Times* 27 Mar., A beautiful automatic spooling machine by Brookes.

†**Spoom,** *v. Obs.* [Alteration of SPOON *v.*[1]] *intr.* To run *before* the sea, wind, etc.; to scud. Also *fig.*

c 1620 FLETCHER & MASS. *Double Marr.* II. i, We'll spare her our main top-sail..Down with the foresail too, we'll spoom before her. 1628 F. FLETCHER *World Encomp. by Sir F. Drake* 40 By no means that we could conceiue could helpe themselues, but by spooming along before the sea. 1653 URQUHART *Rabelais* II. i. 4 If it happened the foresaid members to be..spooming with a full saile bunt faire before the winde. 1687 DRYDEN *Hind & P.* III. 96 When vertue spooms before a prosperous gale, My heaving wishes help to fill the sail. 1830 MORIARTY *Husband Hunter* II. 119 As he skims the broad surface of the vast Atlantic, or spooms along the mighty Southern Ocean.

Spoo·ming, *ppl. a.* [f. prec.]

†**1.** Running before the wind. *Obs.*—[1]

1741 H. BROOKE *Constantia* Poems (1810) 391 The wind fresh blowing from the Syrian shore, Swift through the floods her spooming vessel bore.

2. [By association with *spume.*] Foaming.

1818 KEATS *Endym.* III. 70 O Moon! far-spooming Ocean bows to thee. 1865 *Reader* 4 Nov. 509/3 With a spooming plunge..He wrestles shoreward, paddling piteously.

Spoon (spūn), *sb.* Forms: α. 1 spoon, 1, 4–5 spon, 3–6 spone (5–6 sponne). β. 5 spoune, 6–7 spoun- (6 spown); 5– spoon, 6–7 spoone. γ. 5–6 *north.* and *Sc.* spoyn; *north.* 6 spoine, 9 spooin. δ. *Sc.* 5–6 spwne, 5–6, 9 spune, 9 speen; *north.* 5 spvne, 7, 9 speaun, 9 speun, speean, etc. [Common Teutonic: OE. *spón*, = OFris. *spôn* (WFris. *spoen, spoan*, EFris. *spōn*, NFris. *spön, spön, spūn*), MLG. and LG. *spôn*, ON. and Icel. *spónn* (Norw. *spōn*); the original stem **spānu-* is differently (but normally) represented in ON. *spánn* (MSw. *spān*, Sw. *spån*, Da. *spaan*), OHG. and MHG. *spân* (G. *span*), MDu. *spaen* (Du. *spaan*). In OE., as in most of the Continental languages, the word has only the general sense of 'chip'; sense 2 is specifically Scandinavian (Norwegian and Icelandic), but MLG. *spôn* had also the meaning of 'wooden spatula' as in *botter-spôn.*]

†**1.** A thin piece of wood; a chip, splinter, or shiver. *Obs.*

c 725 *Corpus Gloss.* G 100, *Gingria*, spon. *c* 900 tr. *Baeda's Hist.* III. ii. (1890) 156 Monige ȝen to-dæge of þæm treo þæs halgan Cristes mæles sponas & scefþon neomaþ. *a* 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* II. 292 Ȝenim þone neowran wyrttruman, delf up, þwit nigon sponas on þa winstran hand. *c* 1320 *Sir Tristr.* 2039 Bi water he sent adoun Liȝt linden spon. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) V. 455 Of þe spones of þis croys beeþ i-doo meny vertues and wondres. *Ibid.* VI. 297 Þere was nouȝt oon spone þerof i-seie flete uppon þe water. *c* 1400 *Beryn* 3430 And wee hewe a-mys eny maner spone, We knowe wele ..what pardon wee shull have. *a* 1513 FABYAN *Chron.* v.. cxxx. (1811) 113 Of the spones of yᵗ crosse ar tolde manye wounders, the which I ouer passe.

†**b.** A roofing-shingle. Also *collect. Obs.*

1316–7 *Durham Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 514 In vᶜ. Bord. et Spone colpand., xxvj s. viij d. *c* 1357 *Ibid.* 560 Et in ij mill. Spons faciend. ibidem. 1414–5 *Ibid.* 611 Item in j Mˡ del spone empt. ad dictam Cameram (Prioris). 1475–6 in Swayne *Sarum Church-w. Acc.* (1896) 361 Of William Edyngdon for spones of j elme, ix d.

2. A utensil consisting essentially of a straight handle with an enlarged and hollowed end-piece (the bowl), used for conveying soft or liquid food to the mouth, or employed in the culinary preparation or other handling of this.

Spoons are frequently distinguished according to the material of which they are made, as *horn, silver, wooden spoon*, or the special use for which they are adapted, as *dessert-, marrow-, mustard-, salt-, soup-, table-, tea-spoon.*

α. *c* 1340 *Nominale* (Skeat) 501 *Cotel, saler et culier*, Knyf, saler and spon. *c* 1380 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* I. 299 þei bringen her cuppe and her spone, in tokene þat to drynke and pulment þei ben oblishid bifore oþer. *a* 1400–50 *Bk. Curtasye* 674 in *Babees Bk.*, Two keruyng knyfes,..þe thrydde to þo lorde, and als a spone. *c* 1420 *Liber Cocorum* (1862) 51 Breke ten egges in cup fulle fayre,..And swyng þy ȝolkes with spone. *a* 1529 SKELTON *Bouge of Court* 436 In his other sleue, me thought, I sawe A spone of golde, full of hony swete. 1553 EDEN *Treat. New Ind.* (Arb.) 18 In the stede of spones, they vse leaues of trees.

β. 1426 LYDG. *De Guil. Pilgr.* 23678 And the fatte away thei pulle with the spoon of cruelte ycalled Syngularyte. 1531 *Rec. St. Mary at Hill* (1905) 47, x spowns with dyomond Cnops. 1582 *Wills & Inv. N. C.* (Surtees, 1835) 104 One dossen of silver spoones. 1605 H. PLAT *Delightes for Ladies* II. x, This you muste now and then taste in a spoone. 1651 in *10th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. I. 38 A dissoun of spounis of mother of perill. 1681 BELLON *New Myst. Physick* Introd. 57 This Extract is to be given of it self, in a Spoon. 1756–7 tr. *Keysler's Trav.* (1760) II. 174 Utensils, as spoons, knives, writing instruments, &c. of foreign and distant nations. 1796 H. HUNTER tr. *St.-Pierre's Stud. Nat.* (1799) II. 191 The leaf of the first is rounded in form of a spoon. *c* 1850 *Arab. Nts.* (Rtldg.) 605, I began with some rice, which I took in the common way with a spoon. 1853 SOYER *Pantroph.* 263 The Roman spoons..end on one side by a point, to pick shell-fish from their shell. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2288/1 Ancient Egyptian spoons were made shell-shaped.

transf. 1706 STEVENS *Span. Dict.* s.v. *Cuchara*, When a Man makes a Spoon of a Crust, as soon as he has supp'd his Broath, he eats his Spoon.

γ. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* II. 272 His fostyr modyr..with a spoyn gret kyndnes to him kyth. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 357/1 A spoyn, *cocliar*. 1527 *Knaresb. Wills* (Surtees) I. 21 A sylver spoyn. 1561 *Wills & Inv. N. C.* (Surtees, 1835) 193 A pistola of gold & a sylver spoine.

δ. *c* 1475 *Cath. Angl.* (A) 357/1 A Spvne, *cocliar*. 1492 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* I. 200 To the Dwke of Ross, to bordour a spwne obowte, iij vnicornis. 1543 *Aberd. Reg.* (1844) I. 187 Ane masar of siluer, ane spwne of sylver. 1549 *Compl. Scot.* vi. (1873) 43 Euyrie scheiphird hed ane horne spune. 1684, 1818 [see 3 a]. 18.. *Ballad, The Ram of Diram* iv, The horns that war on the ram's head, Were fifty packs o' speens.

b. In allusion to the gift of a spoon to a child at its christening. *Obs.*

1613 SHAKS. *Hen. VIII*, v. iii. 168 Come, come my Lord, you'd spare your spoones.

3. In proverbial and other phrases:

a. In the proverb *He should have a long spoon that sups with the Devil*, or variations of this.

c 1386 CHAUCER *Sqr.'s T.* 594 Therfore bihoueth hire a ful long spoon That shal ete with a feend. 1539 TAVERNER *Erasm. Prov.* (1552) 9 He had nede to haue a longe spone that shulde eate with the deuyl. 1597 JAS. I. *Dæmonol.* I. v. 16 They that suppe keile with the Deuill, haue neede of long spoons. 1610 SHAKS. *Temp.* II. ii. 103 This is a diuell, and no Monster: I will leaue him, I haue no long Spoone. 1623 WEBSTER *Devil's Law-Case* IV. ii, Here's a latten spoon, and a long one, to feed with the devil! 1684 *Yorkshire Dial.* 55 (E.D.S.), He mun heve a lang-Shafted speaun that sups kail with the Devil. 1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* xlv, He suld hae a lang-shankit spune that wad sup kale wi' the deil. 1838 BARHAM *Ingol. Leg.* Ser. I. *Lay St. Nicholas*, Who suppes with the Deville sholde have a long spoone! 1886 MRS. LYNN LINTON *Paston Carew* XXXVII, He had voluntarily supped with the devil, and his spoon had been too short.

b. In miscellaneous uses (see quots.).

1634 ROWLEY *Noble Soldier* III. iii. in Bullen *Old Pl.* (1882) I, Now! what hot poyson'd Custard must I put my Spoone into? *a* 1635 CORBET *Poet. Strom.* (1648) 69 When private Men gett sonnes they get a spoone, Without Ecclypse, or any Starr at noone. 1722–7 BOYER *Dict. Royal* II. s.v., To be past the Spoon, (to be beyond the State of Infancy). 1825 KNAPP & BALDWIN *Newgate Cal.* IV. 283/2 Throws out with a shovel what he brings in with a spoon. 1859 BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.* (ed. 2) 437 'To do business with a big spoon,' is the same as to cut a big swathe. 1863 TRAFFORD *World in Ch.* I. 296 Miss Sarah was always fond of putting her spoon into other people's broth.

c. *To be born with a silver spoon in one's mouth*, to be born in affluence or under lucky auspices.

1801 *Deb. U.S. Congress* 9 Jan. (1851) 905 It was a common proverb that few lawyers were born with silver spoons in their mouths. 1849 LYTTON *Caxtons* II. iii, I think he is born with a silver spoon in his mouth. 1885 E. GOSSE *Shaks. to Pope* 50 There never was a child so plainly born with the traditional silver-spoon in his mouth as Waller.

d. *To make a spoon or spoil a horn*, to make a determined effort to achieve something, whether ending in success or failure. Orig. *Sc.*

The making of spoons out of the horns of cattle or sheep was common in Scotland till late in the 19th cent.

1818 SCOTT *Rob Roy* xxii, I aye said he was ane o' them

wad make a spune or spoil a horn. 1820 Hogg *Tales* (1866) 262 Cliffy Mackay will either mak a speen or spill a guid horn. 1860 Trollope *Castle Richmond* xv, It's better to make the spoon at once, even if we do run some small chance of spoiling the horn. 1892 *Boy's Own Paper* Dec. 87/1 Your son..will turn out something some day. He'll make a spoon or spoil a horn.

4. An implement of the form described above (sense 2), or something similar to this, used for various purposes: **a.** As a surgical instrument.

a 1425 *Arderne's Treat. Fistula*, etc. 24 Take þe instrument þat is called coclear—a spone. 1895 *Arnold & Sons' Catal. Surg. Instrum.* Index, Spoons, Cataract. Spoons, Enucleation. Spoons, Erasion. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VI. 293 The pus and decomposing clot are scraped away with a sharp spoon.

b. In melting, heating, or assaying substances. † Also, the bowl *of* a ladle.

1496 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* I. 296 For a ladil of irne, for the plumbis getting, and a spune of irne. 1692 *Capt. Smith's Seaman's Gram.* II. vii. 95 Eight, Is the Length of the Spoon of the Ladle. 1827 Faraday *Chem. Manip.* xxiii. (1842) 577 The wires of deflagrating spoons may be passed through them. 1838 T. Thomson *Chem. Org. Bodies* 742 It does not burn by itself when heated in an open spoon. 1881 Raymond *Mining Gloss., Spoon*, an instrument made of an ox or buffalo horn, in which earth or pulp may be delicately tested by washing to detect gold, amalgam, etc.

c. A wooden golfing-club having a slightly concave head.

1814 C. Jones *Hoyle's Games Impr.* 419 The spoon [is used] when in an hollow. 1878 'Capt. Crawley' *Football*, etc. 80 (*Golf*), A variety of clubs, known as the long spoon, short spoon, putter, &c. 1897 *Encycl. Sport* I. 459 Spoons, or wooden clubs of different lengths, with their faces hollowed out at various angles, are now almost obsolete.

d. A kind of artificial bait having the form of the bowl of a spoon, used in spinning or trolling.

1851 G. H. Kingsley *Sp. & Trav.* (1900) 449 In the broken water above I spun my spoon. 1867 F. Francis *Angling* iv. 113 The spoon is an excellent lure; they may be had of all sorts, sizes, fashions, and colours. 1897 *Encycl. Sport* I. 14 There is probably no better all-round artificial spinning-bait for salmon and pike than the spoon.

e. A part of a cotton drawing-frame.

1853 Ure *Dict. Arts* (ed. 4) II. 830 The slivers from these pass over a series of conductors, termed 'spoons'...These instruments are weighted guide levers, mounted so as to be capable of turning upon centres.

5. † **a.** *Spoon of the brisket*, the hollow at the lower end of the breast-bone. *Obs.*

1576 Turberv. *Venerie* 129 The rauens morsell (which is the gryssell at the spoone of the brisket). *Ibid.* 135 There is a little gristle which is vpon the spoone of the brysket, which we cal the Rauens bone. 1637 B. Jonson *Sad Shepherd* I. vi, He that undoes him; Doth cleave the brisket-bone, upon the spoone Of which, a little gristle growes. [1863 Thornbury *True as Steel* III. 3 He scooped out the gristle from the spoon of the brisket.]

† **b.** *Spoon of the stomach*, the pit of the stomach. *Obs.*—[1]

c 1550 H. Lloyd *Treas. Health* I v, Boyle Frankensence ..and make a plaster therof and bynd it to the spone of the stomake.

c. *Zool.* A spoon-shaped part or process.

1725 Sloane *Jamaica* II. 317 Its [a spoonbill's] Head..ended in a round Spoon of two Inches Diameter. 1861 in *Rep. Smithsonian Instit. 1860* 251 Anatina has the spoon [*supra* a spoon-shaped plate] supported by a clavicle at the umbos.

6. The student last in each class in the list of mathematical honours at Cambridge; *spec.* the 'wooden spoon' (see Wooden *a.*).

1824 *Gradus ad Cantabr.* s. v., The last of each class of the honours is denominated *The Spoon*...The Wooden Spoon, however, is κατ' ἐξοχην The Spoon. 1852 C. A. Bristed *Five Yrs. Eng. Univ.* 125 There was more numerical difference between them than between the Second Wrangler and the spoon. *Ibid.* 225 The Senior Wrangler having perhaps 3,000 or 3,500 marks to the Spoon's 200.

7. *slang* or *colloq.* A shallow, simple, or foolish person; a simpleton, ninny, goose.

1799 *Carlton Ho. Mag.* 217 The spoons or novices are permitted from prudential motives to be successful at the commencement. 1812 J. H. Vaux *Flash Dict.* s.v. *Spoony*, It is usual to call a very prating shallow fellow, a *rank spoon*. 1837 Morier *Abel Allnutt* xxii. 130 'None but a spoon would ever think so,' said the stranger. 1882 Mrs. Houstoun *Recomm. to Mercy* ii, There now, you are going to cry!..Now, that is being a spoon.

8. *To be spoons with* or *on*, to be sentimentally in love with (a girl). *slang.*

1860 *Slang Dict.* 224 'When I was spoons with you,' i. e., when young, and in our courting days before marriage. 1863 *E. Arden* (parody) in *Melbourne Punch*, Philip Ray and Enoch Arden, Both were 'Spoons' on Annie Lee. 1883 D. C. Murray *Gate of the Sea* I. i. 7 Tregarthen..has gone spoons on the Churchill.

b. Without const.: Sentimental or silly fondness. Also applied to persons: Sweethearts.

1868 E. Yates *Rocks Ahead* II. ii, This time it's an awful case of spoons. 1882 H. C. Merivale *Faucit of B.* III. II. xii. 42 They were old spoons too when they were young. 1888 Gunter *Mr. Potter* x. 127 The moment he saw Ethel it became a wonderful case of 'spoons' upon his part.

9. *attrib.* **a.** In general use, as *spoon-case*, *-diet*, *-food*, † *-stele*, etc.

1483 *Cath. Angl.* 357/1 A *Spoyn case, *cochliarium*. 1534 *Wells Wills* (1890) 91, ix coclearia argentea, que continentur in quodam loculo vocato 'a spone case'. 1826 in A. C. Hutchison *Pract. Obs. Surg.* (ed. 2) 161 The rigid adherence to *spoon diet. 1799 J. Robertson *Agric. Perth* 185 The meal of it is seldom made into bread;..they use it mostly in *spoon-food. 1896 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* I. 393 In case of mumps spoon-food only is to be given. 1601 Holland *Pliny* II. 296 It is an usuall thing..to bore the same through with a *spoone stele or bodkin. 1880 Spurgeon *Serm.* XXVI. 590 *Spoon victuals and milk must always be in the house.

b. In the sense 'resembling a spoon in shape', as *spoon-apparatus*, *-bonnet*, *-chisel*, etc.

1846 Holtzapffel *Turning* II. 539 The *spoon-bit, is generally bent up at the end to make a taper point. 1863 Kingsley *Water-Bab.* iii. 90 People must always follow the fashion, even if it be *spoon-bonnets. 1902 *Westm. Gaz.* 2 Dec. 9/1 She will have the same *spoon bow and a long overhang aft and a modified fin keel. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2288/1 **Spoon-chisel*, a bent chisel with the basil on both sides, used by sculptors. 1833 J. Holland *Manuf. Metal* II. 23 *Spoon-forks, as those articles,..furnished with four or five prongs, are denominated. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2288/1 **Spoon-gouge*, a gouge with a crooked end, used in hollowing out deep parts of wood. 1799 G. Smith *Laboratory* I. 139 Melt them together in a silver or brass *spoon ladle. 1851 Kingsley *Yeast* iii, We show them where the fish lie, and then..they can't get them out without us and the *spoon-net. 1758 *Elaboratory* 45 *Spoon stoppers must be fitted to these necks. 1858 Lardner *Hand-bk. Nat. Phil.* 139 A horizontal wheel which has been much used in France, called *roue à cuiller*, or *spoon wheel.

10. *Comb.* **a.** In parasynthetic adjs., as *spoon-beaked*, *-billed*, *-bowed*, *-fashioned*, *-formed.*

1597 A. M. tr. *Guillemeau's Fr. Chirurg.* 6 b/2 That instrumente which we call the spoonewyse or spoonefashoned bullet-drawer. 1822 J. Parkinson *Outl. Oryctol.* 178 *Myariæ*—Bivalves;..a spoon-formed tooth on one or both valves. 1896 Lydekker *Roy. Nat. Hist.* V. 513 The spoon-beaked sturgeon (*Polyodon folium*) of the Mississippi. 1900 *Westm. Gaz.* 18 Aug. 6/3 It is so rarely that the..spoon-bowed cruiser of modern build is seen with such a name at her stern.

b. Miscell., as *spoon-maker*, *-manufacturer*, *-warmer*; *spoon-like*, *-wise* adjs.

a 1686 Sir T. Browne *Norf. Birds* Wks. 1852 III. 314 They..are..remarkable in their white colour, copped crown, and *spoon or spatule-like bill. 1708 Sewel II, *Lepelswyze*, spoon-like. 1837 *Penny Cycl.* VII. 430/1 On each side of this spoon-like process..is seen in each valve a large thick tooth. 1881 *Encycl. Brit.* XII. 300/1 Its own point falls into a spoon-like indent. 1490 *Canterb. City Rec.*, Stephanus Rycards, *spoonemaker. 1647 Hexham I, A spoone-maker, *een lepel-maker*. 1881 *Instr. Census Clerks* (1885) 46 Domestic Implement Maker;..Spoon Maker. 1835 *Statist. Acc. Scot.* (1845) III. 166 The *spoon-manufacturer, who must remain stationary to fabricate his wares. 1885 *Catal. Service of Plate* 4 A *spoon-warmer. 1597 A. M. tr. *Guillemeau's Fr. Chirurg.* 7 b/2 With the little *spoonewyse bullet-drawer, we shalbe able to drawe forth the bullets.

11. Special Combs.: **spoon-bait**, = sense 4 d; † **spoon-brod**, brads for nailing roof-shingles; **spoon-child**, a child which has to be fed with a spoon; **spoon-fashion** *adv.*, fitting into each other after the manner of spoons; † **spoon-feather**, **-feathered** *a.* (?); **spoon-fed** *a.*, fed with a spoon like a child; *fig.* artificially nourished or supported; † **spoon-hammer**, **-hand** (see quots.); **spoon-hook**, a spoon-bait; **spoon-nail**, † (*a*) shingle-nails; (*b*) an irregular form of the human nail; † **spoon-tree** (see quot.); **spoonways** *adv.*, = *spoon-fashion*; **spoon-wood** (see quots.).

1883 *Fisheries Exhib. Catal.* 195 *Spoon-baits, trolling-spoons,..and insects for salmon..and pickerel fishing. 1888 Goode *Amer. Fishes* 61 Uncultured brethren who prefer the ignominious method of trolling with hand-line and spoon-bait. 1361–2 *Durham Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 127 In cc *Sponbrod empt.,..xij d. 1868 W. Cory *Lett. & Jrnls.* (1897) 244 The waiter almost feeds one like a *spoon-child. 1856 Kane *Arct. Expl.* II. xxii. 222 Petersen and myself, reclining '*spoon-fashion', cowered among them. 1879 Atcherley *Trip Boërland* 162 All five were fast asleep 'spoon fashion' on the ground. 1648 Hexham II, *Een duyfken*,..a young Dove, or a Pigeon with *spoone feathers. *c* 1340 *Nominale* (Skeat) 852 *Poucynes enbraunchees*, *Spon-fytherede chykenes. 1657 Reeve *God's Plea* 189 When your prosperity crept out of the nest, and first cast the shell from her spoonfeathered head. 1901 *Daily Chron.* 21 May 6 (Encycl. D.), The Conservative papers claim..hath *spoonfed undertakings have no solid commercial basis. 1688 Holme *Armoury* III. 309 The *Spoon hammer..hath round Buttons at both ends. 1785 Grose *Dict. Vulgar T.*, **Spoon hand*, the right hand. 1888 Goode *Amer. Fishes* 465 The latter is taken by trolling with a..minnow bait, or a *spoon-hook. 1894 *Outing* XXIV. 227/1 A swivel and a fluted or kidney-shaped spoon-hook. *c* 1310 *Durham Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 511 In cccc de *Sponayl empt. pro camera Prioris, xij d. 1899 *Hutchinson's Arch. Surg.* X. 148 The nail, instead of presenting a convex surface, is depressed into a slight hollow—'the *spoon nail'. 1772 J. R. Forster *Kalm's Trav.* I. 262 The *Spoon-tree never grows to a great height. ..The Indians..used to make their spoons and trowels of the wood of this tree. 1789 Trotter *Dis. Seamen* 54 They are stowed *spoonways, and so closely locked into one another's arms, that it *is* difficult to move without treading upon them. 1814 Pursh *Flora Amer. Septentr.* II. 362 *Tiliæ glabra*...This tree is known by the name of Lime- or Line-tree; Basswood; *Spoonwood. 1847 Darlington *Amer. Weeds*, etc. (1860) 214 *Kalmia latifolia*. Mountain Laurel. Calico Bush. Spoon-wood.

b. In the names of animals, birds, etc., as **spoon-beak**, **-egg**, **-goose**, **-hinge**, **-muscle**, **-shell**, **-worm** (see quots.).

1893 Cozens-Hardy *Birds Norf.* 49 **Spoonbeak*, Shoveller duck. *c* 1711 Petiver *Gazophyl.* x. xciv, Many girdled *Spoon-egg. 1782 P. H. Bruce *Mem.* VIII. 259 There is another kind called *spoon-geese: their beaks..at the extremity are flat like the mouth of a spoon beaten out. *c* 1711 Petiver *Gazophyl.* x. xciv, Small, white, thin *Spoon-hinge. *Ibid.*, Small, white, thin, *Spoon-Muscle. 1867 Lovell *Edible Mollusks* 155 On some parts of the Devonshire coast it [truncated mya] is known as the *spoon-shell. 1841 E. Forbes *Brit. Star-fishes* 259 Gaertner's *Spoon-worm. *Thalassema Neptuni*. *Ibid.* 263 Common Spoon-worm. *Echiurus vulgaris*. 1855 Kingsley *Glaucus* 83 That curious and rare radiate animal, the Spoonworm. 1879 E. P. Wright *Anim. Life* 580 One..is known on the coast of the South of England as Neptune's Spoon-worm.

Spoon, *v.*[1] *Naut. Obs.* (exc. *arch.*). Also 6 spone, 7 spoone, spoune. [Of obscure origin. See also Spoom *v.*]

1. *intr.* In sailing, to run *before* the wind or sea; to scud. Also with *away*. (Common in 17th cent.)

1576 in *Hakluyt's Voy.* (1904) VII. 206 We had so much wind that we spooned after the sea. 1588 Parke tr. *Mendoza's Hist. China* 301 They sponed before the winde with their foresayle halfe mast hie. 1627 Capt. Smith *Seaman's Gram.* ix. 40 If she will neither Try nor Hull, Then Spoone, that is, put her right before the wind. 1669 Sturmy *Mariner's Mag.* I. ii. 17 The Ship lies very broad off; it is better spooning before the Sea, than trying or hulling. 1694 Motteux *Rabelais* IV. xviii. (1737) 75 The next day we spied nine Sail that came spooning before the Wind. 1722 De Foe *Col. Jack* xviii. (1840) 298 We went spooning away large with the wind for one of the islands. 1726 Swift *Gulliver* II. i. [copying quot. 1669], The ship lay very broad off, so we thought it better spooning before the sea, than trying or hulling. 1769 Falconer *Dict. Marine* (1780), *Spooning*. By the explanation of this term in our dictionaries, it seems formerly to have signified that movement in navigation, which is now called scudding. Be that as it may, there is at present no such phrase in our sea-language. [1886 R. F. Burton *Arab. Nts.* (abr. ed.) I. 151 We ceased not spooning before a fair wind till we had exchanged the sea of peril for the seas of safety.]

fig. 1671 Crowne *Juliana* v, Whilst you set sail..And leave this floating world behind. Till spooning gently on,.. You turn an angel unaware.

2. To move rapidly *on* or *upon* another vessel.

1608 *Admiralty Crt. Exam.* 40, 20 Dec., The sea going high forced the Scottishe shipp to Spoone on borde the Elizabeth. *Ibid.*, [It] came spooning uppon the Elizabeth.

3. *trans.* (See quot.)

c 1635 Capt. N. Boteler *Dial. Sea Services* (1685) 293 They use to set the Fore-sail to make her the steddier, and this is called spooning the Fore-sail.

Spoon (spūn), *v.*[2] [f. Spoon *sb.*]

I. 1. *trans.* To lift or transfer by means of a spoon. Chiefly with preps. and advs., as *into*, *off*, *out*, *up*.

1715 *Disc. Death* 75 How must his meat be chewed for him, and Papp spooned into his Mouth. 1826 Disraeli *V. Grey* II. v, She negligently spooned her soup, and then, after much parade, sent it away untouched. 1845 Alb. Smith *Fort. Scattergood Fam.* xxii, Mr. Bam at the sideboard..spooning up the [salad-]dressing. 1860 Dickens *Uncomm. Trav.* xix, He..spooned his soup into himself with a malignancy of hand and eye that blighted the amiable questioner. 1905 *Rec. St. Mary at Hill* p. lxvii, The spoons were used to spoon out the incense.

fig. and *transf.* 1856 Mrs. Browning *Aur. Leigh* v. 161 A pewter age,..An age of scum, spooned off the richer past. 1870 H. A. Nicholson *Man. Zool.* xxxiv. 193 The expanded epipodite of the second pair of maxillæ, which constantly spoons out the water from..the branchial chamber.

2. In games: **a.** *Croquet.* (See quot. 1896.)

1865 F. Locker *Lond. Lyrics*, *Mr. Placid's Flirtation* vii, Belabour thy neighbour, and spoon through thy hoops. 1872 R. C. A. Prior *Notes Croquet* 56 *Spoon* is a term that could hardly have been suggested by any application of a mallet to a ball. 1896 *Encycl. Sport* I. 254 The following are foul strokes..: To spoon *i. e.* to push a ball without an audible knock.

b. *Cricket.* To hit or lift (the ball) up in the air with a soft or weak stroke.

1879 *Boy's Own Paper* 13 Dec. 168/2 To the younger boys he gave slow balls, which they were induced to 'spoon', and were caught out in consequence. 1882 *Daily Tel.* 17 May, Having made five he spooned one to long off.

c. *Golf.* To hit (a ball) in putting so as to lift it.

1896 W. Park *Game of Golf* 217 The ball must be fairly struck at, and not pushed, scraped, or spooned.

3. To catch (fish) by means of a spoon-bait.

1888 Mrs. H. Ward *R. Elsmere* 346 He had with him all the tackle necessary for spooning pike.

4. *intr.* To lie close together, to fit into each other, in the manner of spoons.

1887 *Harper's Mag.* Apr. 781/2 Two persons in each bunk, the sleepers 'spooning' together, packed like sardines. 1894 *Outing* XXIV. 343/2 The precision with which we could 'spoon' that sad night was truly beautiful to behold.

b. *trans.* To lie with (a person) spoon-fashion.

1887 *Harper's Mag.* Dec. 49/2 'Now spoon me.' Sterling stretched himself out on the warm flag-stone, and the boy nestled up against him.

5. To hollow out, make concave, after the fashion of a spoon.

1897 *Encycl. Sport* I. 459 (*Golf*), The face of the brassy is often 'spooned' or sloped backward, so as to raise the ball in the air.

II. 6. *intr.* To make love, esp. in a sentimental or silly fashion. *colloq.*

1831 Lady Granville *Lett.* (1894) II. 77 The billiard room, in which they spooned. 1864 Meredith *Emilia* xxxvi, You might have—pardon the slang—*spooned*, who knows? 1872 Lever *Ld. Kilgobbin* lxxix, So long as a man spoons, he can talk of his affection. 1898 Wollocombe *Fr. Morn till Eve* vii. 84 Many danced, while others spooned under the influence of the summer moonlight.

b. Const. *on* (a person).

1882 A. Edwardes *Ballroom Repentance* I. 68 The young woman with ribbons, you know, that you were spooning on.

7. *trans.* To court or pay addresses to (a person), esp. in a sentimental manner.

1877 Mrs. Forrester *Mignon* I. 252 It was pleasant to spoon her when there was nothing else to do. 1894 K. Grahame *Pagan Papers* 148 When a Fellow was spooning his sister once, they used to employ him to carry notes.

†Spoo·nage. *Obs.*–[1] [f. Spoon *sb.* + -age.] The practice of feeding with a spoon.

1586 Warner *Alb. Eng.* II. x. 48 Sucke she might a Teat for teeth, And spoonage too did faile.

Spoonbill (spū·nbil). [f. Spoon *sb.* + Bill *sb.*[2], after Du. *lepelaar* (in Kilian *lepeler*, *lepel-gans*), f. *lepel* spoon.]

1. *Ornith.* One or other of various species of birds belonging to the widely distributed genus *Platalea*, characterized by having a long spatulate or spoon-shaped bill; esp. the common white species, *P. leucorodia*.

1678 Ray *Willughby's Ornith.* III. 288 The Spoon-bill. *Platea sive Pelecanus*...The Bill is..of the likeness of a Spoon, whence also the Bird it self is called by the Low Dutch, *Lepelaer*, that is, Spoon-bill. 1681 Grew *Museum* I. iv. 66 The Head of the Shovler or Spoonbill. 1774 Goldsm. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) VI. 6 The Spoonbill..differs a good deal from the crane, yet approaches this class more than any other. 1828 Lytton *Pelham* II. iii, What,..that one foot square of mortality, with an aquatic-volucrine face, like a spoonbill? 1862 J. G. Wood *Illustr. Nat. Hist.* II. 670 The beak of an adult Spoonbill is about eight inches in length, very much flattened. *c* 1880 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* IV. 188 Only half a dozen species of Spoonbills are known.

b. With distinguishing terms.

1678 Ray *Willughby's Ornith.* III. 289 *Tlauhquechul*, or the Mexican Spoon-bill,..feeds only on living fish. *Ibid.*, The Brasilian Spoon-bill...In figure..agrees with the European *Platea*, differing only in colour. 1725 Sloane *Jamaica* II. 317 *Platea incarnata*. The American Scarlet-Pelican, or, Spoon-Bill. 1785 Latham *Gen. Synop. Birds* III. i. 13 White Spoonbill, *Platalea leucorodia*. *Ibid.* 16 Roseate Spoonbill, *Platalea Ajaja*. *Ibid.* V. i. 17 Dwarf Spoon-bill, *Platalea pygmea*. *c* 1835 *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) XXIII. 409/1 *Platalea Tenuirostris*,..Slender-beaked Spoonbill. 1836 *Asiatic Researches* I. i. 71 The Pigmy Spoonbill is ash grey above, and white beneath. 1898 Morris *Austral Eng.* 430 The Australian species are—Royal Spoonbill, *Platalea regia*; Yellow-billed S., *P. flavipes*.

c. *pl.* The genus *Platalea*, to which these species belong.

1819 Stephens *Shaw's Zool.* XI. II. 641 The Spoonbills live in society in the maritime marshes, or near the mouths of great rivers. 1834 M'Murtrie *Cuvier's Anim. Kingd.* 150 The Spoonbills approximate to the storks in the whole of their structure. 1879 E. P. Wright *Anim. Life* 328 The Spoonbills and Ibises form the family called *Plataleidæ*.

2. A spatulate or spoon-shaped bill.

1802 Paley *Nat. Theol.* xv, In the swan, the web-foot, the spoon-bill, the long neck,..bear all a relation to one another.

3. *Ichth.* (See quots.)

1882 *Imperial Dict.* IV. 168/1 *Spoon-bill*,..a name given to a kind of sturgeon (*Polyodon spatula*) found in the Ohio, Mississippi, &c. 1892 J. A. Thomson *Outl. Zool.* 430 The paddle-fish or spoon-bill of the Mississippi.

4. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *spoonbill bonnet, fashion, -like*; **spoonbill cat, duck, snipe** (see quots.).

1881 *Daily News* 10 Mar. 5/1 When the *spoonbill bonnet was abruptly cast aside for the bonnet no bigger than a cheese plate. 1882 Jordan & Gilbert *Syn. Fishes N. Amer.* 83 *Polyodon spathula*, Paddle-fish; *Spoon-bill Cat. 1813 Montagu *Ornith.* Suppl., *Scaup-Duck*...Provincial [name]. *Spoon-bill Duck. 1874 Coues *Birds N. W.* 570 *Spatula clypeata*...Shoveller; Spoonbill Duck. 1883 *Pall Mall G.* Suppl. 2 June, The extraordinarily rare *spoonbill snipe.

Spoon-billed, *a.* [Cf. prec.] Having a spoon-shaped bill. Used in specific names (see quots.).

Also *spoon-billed butterball, heron, teal* or *widgeon*, etc.

1668 Charleton *Onomast.* 99 *Anas Platyrinchos Gesneri*, ..the spoon-bill'd Duck. 1844 *Ann. Nat. Hist.* XIII. 178 This curious bird (a spoon-billed Tringa) described by Dr. Pearson. 1869 *Ibis* V. 430 A full description of the spoon-billed Sandpiper. 1886 Newton in *Encycl. Brit.* XXI. 261/1 The marvellous Spoon-billed Sandpiper, *Eurinorhynchus pygmæus*, whose true home has still to be discovered.

Spoondrift (spū·ndrift). [f. Spoon *v.*[1] + Drift *sb.*] Spray swept from the tops of waves by a violent wind and driven continuously along the surface of the sea. Now commonly Spindrift.

1769 Falconer *Dict. Marine* (1780), *Spoon-Drift*, a sort of showery sprinkling of the sea-water, swept from the surface of the waves in a tempest, and flying according to the direction of the wind like a vapour. 1792 Nairne *Poems* 109 When the bold seaman can no longer brave The dreadful spoondrift of the foaming wave. 1840 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* III. 181/2 A light-vessel..ever and anon submerged in the trough of sea, spray, and spoon-drift. 1847 Sir J. C. Ross *Voy. Antarct. Reg.* I. 51 The violent gusts that rushed along the almost perpendicular coast line, raising the spoon-drift in clouds over us. 1886 R. C. Leslie *Sea Painter's Log* 108 The hard black hills of water..being almost hidden a few hundred yards from the ship by this driving spoondrift. *transf.* 1867 Smyth *Sailor's Word-bk.* 644 Driving snow is also sometimes termed spoon-drift.

Spooned, *a.* [f. Spoon *sb.* + -ed.] Having the shape of, hollowed out like, a spoon.

1890 *Daily News* 14 June 5/1 Why is the 'baffed' or spooned bonnet of one year given up next year in favour of a bird of paradise? 1904 *Westm. Gaz.* 1 Jan. 3/2 It is a confession of inability to get a ball..into the air without the use of a spooned club.

Spoo·ner[1]. [f. Spoon *sb.* + -er 1.]

†1. One who makes spoons. *Obs.*–[1]

c 1515 *Cocke Lorell's B.* 9 Sponers, torners, and hatters.

2. A spoon-holder.

1896 *Advance* (Chicago) 10 Sept., Tea Pot, Sugar-bowl, Creamer and Spooner.

Spoo·ner[2]. [f. Spoon *v.* 5 + -er 1.] One who spoons or makes love sentimentally.

1887 Black *Sabina Zembra* xi, 'Spooners are not very interesting—.' 'I beg your pardon?' said she innocently. 'Lovers, I should say.'

Spoo·nerism. [f. the name of the Rev. W. A. *Spooner* (1844–).] An accidental transposition of the initial sounds, or other parts, of two or more words.

Known in colloquial use in Oxford from about 1885.

1900 *Globe* 5 Feb., To one unacquainted with technical terms it sounds as if the speaker were guilty of a spoonerism.

Spoo·nery. *nonce-word.* [f. Spoon *sb.* 7 + -ery.] Foolishness, silliness.

1824 *Blackw. Mag.* XV. 558 Your lads pretended to respect the constitution—they are not guilty of such spoonery.

Spoon-feed (spū·nfīd), *v.* [f. Spoon *sb.* + Feed *v.* Cf. *spoon-fed* Spoon *sb.* 11.] *trans.* To feed with a spoon. Chiefly *fig.*

1615 Rowlands *Mel. Knight* (Hunterian Cl.) 20 Taught by the prating Nurse which did spoon-feed him. 1864 Browning *Dram. Pers., Death in Desert* 109 So, minds at first must be spoon-fed with truth. 1890 *19th Cent.* Nov. 855 They are anxious to more than spoon-feed the people of Ireland with self-government. 1900 *Athenæum* 28 Apr. 520/3 To urge men to learn is a far higher profession than to spoon-feed them with learning.

Spoonful (spū·nful). [f. Spoon *sb.* + -ful.] As much as fills a spoon; such an amount as can be lifted in a spoon.

α. *c* 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 193 He nadde nouȝt a spone-ful ale. *c* 1380 in *Rel. Ant.* I. 52 Pouder of seede of lanett a sponfull, and of love-ache a sponfull. *a* 1425 tr. *Arderne's Treat. Fistula*, etc. 75 Putte þerin a sponeful of comon salt. *c* 1475 Henryson *Poems* (S.T.S.) III. 152 Thre sponfull of þe blak spyce. 1547 Boorde *Brev. Health* § 207 Drynke halfe a sponeful mornyng and euenynge. 1599 B. Jonson *Ev. Man out of Hum.* IV. i, How cleanly he wipes his spoon at euery spoonfull of any whit-meat he eats. 1625 *Laws Stannaries* iii. (1808) 17 A true note in writing..certifying the just number of pieces, slabs, or spoonfuls of tin above a pound weight. 1669 W. Simpson *Hydrol. Chym.* 328 It gives help..being taken to the quantity of three or four spoonfulls. 1738 *Gentl. Mag.* VIII. 661/1 Sometimes a Spoonful, and sometimes but some few Drops. 1800 tr. *Lagrange's Chem.* I. 430 Throw this mixture by spoonfuls into a crucible. 1890 *Science-Gossip* XXVI. 263 When a spoonful of food is dropped in, the water seems in a moment to be alive with fish.

β. 1527 Andrew *Brunswyke's Distyll. Waters* D j, Dronke of the same water foure spones full at nyght is good agaynste the hote cowgh. 1599 A. M. tr. *Gabelhouer's Bk. Physicke* 145/2 Administre of this water thre spoonesfulle. 1863 Bates *Nat. Amazon* v. (1864) 125 We had brought with us a bag of farinha,..and a few spoonsful of salt. 1897 'Ouida' *Massarenes* xiii, Two spoonsful of Cognac in it.

b. *transf.* A very small quantity or number.

1531 Elyot *Gov.* I. xv, If he haue a spone full of latine, he wyll shewe forth a hoggeshede withoute any lernyng. 1551 T. Wilson *Logike* (1580) 79 One that hath but a spone-full of witte, maie answere to this question. 1652 N. Culverwel *Lt. Nature* I. xv. (1661) 127 Babes in Intellectuals must take in..those spoonfuls of Knowledge. 1894 *Advance* (Chicago) 9 Aug., Those who come [to a service] find only 'a spoonful' present, and no leader.

Spoo·nified, *ppl. a.* [f. Spoon *sb.* 7.] Converted into a 'spoon' or silly fellow.

1838 'Quiz Jr.' *Char. Sk. Young G.* 35 The 'Spoonified Young Gentleman' has a puffy, potatoe-looking phiz.

Spoo·nily, *adv. rare.* [f. Spoony *a.* 1.] In a foolish or silly manner.

1861 Whyte Melville *Tilbury Nogo* 52 Little did I think how spoonily I had managed my good fortune.

Spoo·niness. Also **spoony-.** [f. Spoony *a.*]

1. Foolishness, silliness.

1824 *Blackw. Mag.* XVI. 273 Abating a little spooniness about respect due to the audience,..it appears to us to be a most sensible piece of criticism.

2. The condition of being sentimentally in love.

1864 E. Yates *Broken to Harness* I. v. 80 A sharp attack of what is commonly known as 'spooniness'. 1882 Miss Braddon *Mt. Royal* II. ix. 185 A man in the last stage of spooniness will stand anything.

Spoo·ning, *vbl. sb.* [f. Spoon *v.*[2] 6.] Courting or love-making of a sentimental kind.

1872 Lever *Ld. Kilgobbin* lxx, That coquetry of admiration and flattery which, in the language of slang, is called spooning. 1891 Baring-Gould *In Troubadour Land* ix, Raymond,..not seeing the fun of this romantic spooning of his wife, waylaid and slew him.

attrib. 1880 Miss Braddon *Just as I am* vii, Did the spooning process seem a little flat this evening?

Spoo·nish, *a.* [f. Spoon *sb.* 7.] Foolish.

1833 *Fraser's Mag.* VIII. 627 A more boobyish, spoonish specimen of slip-slop was never submitted.

Spoo·nism. [f. Spoon *sb.* 7.] Foolish conduct or behaviour; silliness.

1839 *Fraser's Mag.* XX. 152 Spoonism and spunging-houses are not usually selected and approved as the main springs of romantic story.

Spoo·nless, *a.* [f. Spoon *sb.* + -less.] Lacking a spoon.

1837 Campbell in *Athenæum* 11 Mar. 174/1 My spoonless fingers whipped considerable portions into my mouth.

Spoo·n-meat. [f. Spoon *sb.* + Meat *sb.*] Soft or liquid food for taking with a spoon, esp. by infants or invalids.

1555 Watreman *Fardle of Facions* II. x. 225 Thei are ware, not to spill any spone meate. 1573 Tusser *Husb.* (1878) 101 No spoone meat no bellifull, labourers thinke. 1639 O. Wood *Alph. Bk. Secrets* 195 Eate neither Milke, Broath, nor spoone meat, salt meats, nor fried. 1675 H. Woolley *Gentlew. Comp.* 71 Do not venture to eat Spoon-meat so hot, that the tears stand in your eyes. 1740 Cibber *Apol.* (1756) II. 114 To shew that he was a child, they fed him on the stage with spoon-meat. 1831 Carlyle *Sart. Res.* I. xi, Did he, at one time, wear drivel-bibs, and live on spoon-meat? 1884 Huxley in L. Huxley *Life* (1900) II. 70 A fortnight's spoon-meat reduced me to inanity.

b. With *a* and pl. A kind of this.

1611 Cotgr., *Ioncade*, a certaine spoone-meat made of creame, Rose-water, and Sugar. 1684 tr. *Bonet's Merc. Compit.* VI. 217 To refresh the Patient with Broths and comfortable Spoon-meats. 1705 tr. *Bosman's Guinea* 106 The best..that the poor Sick can get here, are Culinary Vegetables and Spoon-Meats. 1783 *Med. Comm.* I. 238 It allowed spoon-meats to pass.

c. *fig.* and *transf.*

1589 R. Harvey *Pl. Perc.* (1860) 9 Martin cald his Arguments Spoon Meat in his protest. 1608 Dekker *Belman of London* Wks. (Grosart) III. 166 The fift Iump, is called Spoone-meate, and that is a messe of knauerie serued in about Supper time. 1649 G. Daniel *Trinarch, Hen. IV*, lxxxviii, Aldermen are still Caudle and Custard, Spoon-meat to the Mouth Of present Power. 1879 Geo. Eliot *Theo. Such* v. 113 All human achievement must be wrought down to this spoon-meat.

Spoon-shaped, *ppl. a.* [Spoon *sb.*] Having the shape of a spoon; cochleariform.

1817 Kirby & Sp. *Entomol.* xxiii. II. 331 At the extremity of each tarsal joint these animals are furnished with a spoon-shaped sucker. 1822 *Hortus Anglicus* II. 14 Leaves spoon-shaped. 1884 F. J. Britten *Watch & Clockm.* 94 Drills for tempered steel..are generally rounded, or spoon-shaped, as it is called.

†Spoo·nwort. *Bot. Obs.* [f. Spoon *sb.*, after the Latin name or Du. *lepelblad*, G. *löffelkraut*.] The common scurvy-grass, *Cochlearia officinalis*.

1578 Lyte *Dodoens* 117 Spoonewoorte, at the first his leaves be broade and thicke. 1597 Gerarde *Herbal* II. lxxxii. 323 The common Scuruie grasse or spoonewoort, hath leaues somwhat like a spoone. 1657 S. Purchas *Pol. Flying-Ins.* 94 Bees gather of these flowers following...In March... Spoonwort. 1725 *Fam. Dict.* s.v. *Scurvy-Grass*, Hence it is that they have had the Latin Name as also that of Spoonwort in English. 1760 J. Lee *Introd. Bot.* App. 328 Spoonwort, *Cochlearia*.

Spoony (spū·ni), *sb.* Also 9 **spooney, spoonie.** [f. Spoon *sb.* 7.]

1. A simple, silly, or foolish person; a noodle.

1795 Potter *Dict. Cant* (ed. 2), *Spoony*, a foolish pretending fellow. 1818 *Sporting Mag.* III. 51 He must still race on..and his owner must find spooneys to keep him company at this sport. 1848 Thackeray *Van. Fair* xxxiv, What the deuce can she find in that spooney of a Pitt Crawley. 1865 Le Fanu *Guy Dev.* III. xxv. 264 Time.., if he makes us sages in some particulars, in others, makes us spoonies.

2. One who spoons or is foolishly amorous.

1857 'C. Bede' *Verdant Green* III. iv, You don't mean to say you've been doing the spooney—what you call making love? 1878 Mary C. Jackson *Chaperon's Cares* I. v. 57 Pen calls him a spoony, and ridicules him unmercifully.

Spoony (spū·ni), *a.* Also **spooney.** [f. Spoon *sb.* 7, 8, or *v.* 6, 7.]

1. a. Of persons, etc.: Foolish, soft, silly.

1812 J. H. Vaux *Flash Dict.*, *Spoony*, foolish, half-witted, nonsensical. 1813 Col. Hawker *Diary* (1893) I. 68 We had some prime slang on the road and, of course, blew up every spoony fellow we could meet. 1835 James *Gipsy* xiv, I was spooney enough to let him get off. 1876 *Mod. Christianity* 60 Then you think that Priests are bound to be mild and spoony?

Comb. 1812 J. H. Vaux *Flash Dict.* s.v., A man who has been drinking till he becomes disgusting.. is said to be spoony drunk. 1841 Lever *C. O'Malley* lxxxviii, 'Very singular style of person'—lisped a spooney-looking cornet.

b. Of things: Characterized by foolishness or silliness.

1843 E. FitzGerald *Lett.* (1889) I. 115, I am really at last going to settle in some spooney quarters in the country. 1846 Thackeray *Crit. Rev.* Wks. 1886 XXIII. 236 That picture is more decidedly spoony than, perhaps, any other of this present season. 1850 — *Pendennis* xiii, They [letters] are too spooney and mild.

2. Sentimentally or foolishly amorous.

1836 Marryat *Midsh. Easy* xxii, I never was in love myself, but I've seen many others spooney. 1859 Lever *D. Dunn* lxvi, The man who is not actually in love with you, but only 'spooney'. 1882 B. M. Croker *Proper Pride* I. iii. 52 They are not a bit a spooney couple; at least I never see any billing or cooing.

b. Const. *on* or *upon*.

1828 *Sporting Mag.* XXII. 23, I must confess, I felt rather spoony upon that vixen. 1861 Hughes *Tom Brown at Oxf.* vi, Blake got spooney on a gipsy girl. 1891 Nat Gould *Double Event* 60 Marston's awfully spoony on Kingdon's lass.

c. Expressive of sentimental fondness.

1882 B. M. Croker *Proper Pride* I. v. 85 Not a spooney, love-lorn effusion, but a good, rational, amusing letter. 1884 *Cent. Mag.* Dec. 191/2 The little sighs I sigh, and all the spooney ways and looks I can't help treating them to.

Hence **Spoo·nyship.** *nonce-word.*

1838 *New Monthly Mag.* LIII. 453 To be thrown over.. is such evidence of spooneyship as a man of sense or spirit can never willingly submit to.

Spoo·nyism. Also **spooneyism.** [f. prec. + -ism.] Spoony or foolish state or quality; silliness, spooniness.

1852 *Tait's Mag.* XIX. 340, I discovered her alone,..and.. insensibly found myself reduced to the most absurd state of

spooneyism. 1863 Miss Braddon *Aurora Floyd* xiii, His innate manliness of character preserved him from any taint of that quality our argot has christened spooneyism. 1889 *Illustr. Lond. News* 12 Oct. 454/3 No one since Younge has so understood the 'spoonyism' of the young soldier, his sheep-faced manner in the presence of his adored one.

Spoor (spūəɹ), *sb.*[1] Also 9 spore. [a. Du. *spoor* (in South African use), repr. MDu. *spoor, spor*, = OE., MLG., OHG. and MHG., ON. *spor* (ME. *-spore, -spurre*, WFlem. *speur*, WFris. *spoar*, G. dial. *spor*, Da., Norw., Icel. *spor*, Sw. *spår*), related to MHG. *spür(e, spur*, G. *spur*. The stem is also represented in OE. *spyrian* Speer *v.*[1]]

1. The trace, track, or trail of a person or animal, esp. of wild animals pursued as game.

a. 1823 in Pringle *Eng. Settlers Albany, S. Afr.* (1824) 84 Soon afterwards the *spoor* (foot-prints) of three Caffers was discovered, and of course we then knew where they went. 1849 E. E. Napier *Excurs. S. Afr.* I. 197 Following the 'spoor', or tracking the footmarks of man, or beast, is considered quite a science amongst the border Colonists. 1850 R. G. Cumming *Hunter's Life S. Afr.* xii, At one stream the fresh spoor of a troop of lions was deeply imprinted in the wet sand. 1863 Baring-Gould *Iceland* 103, I rode on ahead, following the spoor of other horses. 1880 R. S. Watson *Visit to Wazan* vii. 120 We several times passed the recent spoor of wild boars.

β. 1852 Thoreau *Lett.* (1865) 66 The vast valley-like 'spore'..of some celestial beast.

b. *transf.* and *fig.*

1865 [W. F. Campbell] *Short Amer. Tramp* 5 Icebergs were seen, and a spoor was followed to St. Louis, on the Mississippi. *Ibid.* 84 Surely the spoor of the Arctic Current was under foot. 1870 Huxley *Lay Serm.* ix. (1874) 179 It is the spoor of the game we are tracking. 1873 J. Geikie *Gt. Ice Age* vi. 78 When we..follow the spoor of those [glaciers] that crept down from the Southern Uplands.

c. *collect.* (without article).

1850 R. G. Cumming *Hunter's Life S. Afr.* xxi, I walked to the fountain to seek for elephants' spoor. 1873 *Routledge's Yng. Gentl. Mag.* May 351, I left my skärm and looked for spoor. 1879 Atcherley *Trip Boërland* 153 They had discovered a water-hole, surrounded with numerous spoor.

2. The track of a vehicle.

Cf. ME. *cart-spore, -spurre*, and *whele-spore*.

1850 R. G. Cumming *Hunter's Life S. Afr.* xiii, Eventually..we discovered the spoor of the waggons. 1861 C. J. Anderson *Okavango* iv. 46 During the first day's march.. we followed the spoor of our waggon.

Spoor, *sb.*[2] ? *dial.* (See quot.)

1837 in *Archaeol.* (1838) XXVII. 299 In this drift the shield was found, being forced to the surface by the spoor (the implement used in ballasting).

Spoor (spūəɹ), *v.* [f. Spoor *sb.*[1] or ad. Du. *sporen*.]

1. *trans.* To trace (an animal) by the spoor.

1850 R. G. Cumming *Hunter's Life S. Afr.* xxi, He could not see those [elephants] we were spooring. 1863 W. C. Baldwin *Afr. Hunting* 122 We spoored them beautifully into a dense thicket. 1899 F. V. Kirby *Sport E. C. Afr.* xvi. 173 An hour later we spoored our rhino into a thick bamboo jungle.

2. *intr.* To follow a spoor or trail.

1865 [W. F. Campbell] *Short Amer. Tramp* i. 5 While thus spooring for some thousands of miles, other things were noticed. 1896 Baden-Powell *Matabele Campaign* iv, One nigger-boy, who can ride and spoor and can take charge of the horses.

Hence **Spoo·ring** *vbl. sb.*

1850 R. G. Cumming *Hunter's Life S. Afr.* xv, I had great faith in the spooring powers of the Bamangwato men. 1863 W. C. Baldwin *Afr. Hunting* 392 Though we..had the benefit of January's spooring, we could never find him. 1895 *Longm. Mag.* July 265 Preparing a fresh supply of snuff against his coming spooring operations.

Spoor(e, obs. forms of Spur *sb.*

Spoorer (spūəɹəɹ). [f. Spoor *v.*] One who follows an animal, etc., by the trace or trail; a tracker.

1850 R. G. Cumming *Hunter's Life S. Afr.* xv, Several of the spoorers affirmed that they had heard the elephants break a tree in advance. 1863 W. C. Baldwin *Afr. Hunting* 259, I followed silently in the rear of the spoorers. 1899 F. V. Kirby *Sport E. C. Afr.* x, 112 As a spoorer I have never known a better.

†Spoorn. *Obs. rare.* Also 6 sporne. [Of obscure origin.] A special kind of spectre or phantom.

1584 R. Scot *Discov. Witchcr.* vii. xv. (1886) 155 They have so fraied us with..Robin goodfellow, the spoorne, the mare, the man in the oke,..and such other bugs, that we are afraid of our own shadowes. 1587 Golding *De Mornay* xxxiv. (1592) 546 Thereupon also did some of the Gentiles surmise, that they had crucified a Ghost or Sporne in steade of him. [*a* 1627 Middleton, etc. *Witch* i. ii, Dwarfs, Imps, the Spoorn, the Mare, the Man i' th' Oak.]

Spor, obs. form of Spur *sb.* and *v.*

Spora·dial, *a. rare*[−0]. [Cf. next and -ial.] Sporadic. (Worcester, 1846, citing *Phil. Mag.*)

Sporadic (spŏræ·dik), *a.* Also 7 -ick. [ad. med.L. *sporadic-us* (13th c.), a. Gr. σποραδικός, f. σποραδ-, σποράς scattered, dispersed, f. the stem of σπορά, σπόρος sowing: cf. σπείρειν to sow, scatter. So F. *sporadique* (1690), It. *sporadico*, Sp. *esporadico*.]

1. *Path.* Of diseases: Occurring in isolated instances, or in a few cases only; not epidemic.

a 1689 Sydenham *Wks.* (1788) I. i. 6 These I call intercurrent or sporadic acute diseases, because they happen at all times, when epidemics rage. 1728 Chambers *Cycl., Sporadic*, in Medicine, an Epithet given to such Diseases as have some special or particular Cause, and are dispersed here and there. 1752 *Phil. Trans.* XLVII. 385 The plague ..has been mostly sporadic, seldom epidemical. 1843 R. J. Graves *Syst. Clin. Med.* xiv. 152 Other sporadic and epidemic fevers. 1845 G. E. Day tr. *Simon's Anim. Chem.* I. 326 A man who died of sporadic cholera. 1884 *Manch. Exam.* 25 June 5/2 The disease is distinctly sporadic, or due to local causes, and therefore unlikely to spread.

2. Scattered or dispersed, occurring singly or in very small numbers, in respect of locality or local distribution.

1830 Lindley *Nat. Syst. Bot.* 90 About 92 genera..are what are called sporadic, or dispersed over different and widely separated regions. 1856 S. P. Woodward *Mollusca* III. 350 Those species which characterise particular regions are called 'endemic'...The others, sometimes called 'sporadic', possess great facilities for diffusion. 1865 Farrar *Chapt. Lang.* 29 In various sporadic families, which some would call Turanian. 1877 M. Foster *Physiol.* I. iii. (1878) 89 In the sporadic ganglia the evidence of automatic action seems more clear.

b. Appearing, happening, etc., now and again or at intervals; occasional.

1847 H. Bushnell *Chr. Nurture* viii. (1861) 206 Sporadic cases of sanctification. 1864 R. F. Burton *Mission to Gelele* II. 71 Sporadic heroines..are found in every clime and in all ages. 1877 Owen *Desp. Wellesley* p. xix, A series of sporadic encounters of a petty and inglorious..character. 1882 *Times* 7 Feb., The continuance of sporadic troubles in Basutoland.

c. Of single persons or things: Accidental; isolated.

1821 Syd. Smith *Wks.* (1850) 316 Has any sporadic squire the right to say, that it shall be punished with death? 1875 H. James *R. Hudson* iv. 129 Rowland began to think of the Baden episode as a mere sporadic piece of disorder. 1878 Stewart & Tait *Unseen Univ.* vii. § 217. 215 This production was..a sporadic or abrupt act.

3. Characterized by occasional or isolated occurrence, appearance, or manifestation.

1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 378/1 The occasional occurrence of diseases..usually epidemic, in a sporadic form. 1852 H. Rogers *Ecl. Faith* (1853) 146 Its manifestation will not be sporadic, but it will be in one race as in another. 1865 Carlyle *Fredk. Gt.* xviii. xiv. V. 368 Meanwhile, the Austrians on front do, in a sporadic way, attack..our batteries. 1881 Westcott & Hort *Grk. N. T.* Introd. § 113 All known MSS. shew..traces of sporadic and casual mixture.

Spora·dical, *a.* Now *rare* or *Obs.* [See prec. and -ical.] = prec.

1654 Vilvain *Theor. Theol.* vi. 142 Som sporadical excerptions shal be presented more plausible. 1665 Needham *Med. Medicinæ* 52 When they are sporadical, here and there sprinkled up and down among the people. 1829 Cooper *Good's Study Med.* (ed. 3) I. 410 It [jaundice] is generally a sporadical complaint.

Spora·dically, *adv.* [f. prec. + -ly 2.]

1. In isolated cases or instances.

1763 *Phil. Trans.* LIV. 78 Some years it is felt sporadically all the winter. 1822–7 Good *Study Med.* (1829) II. 121 We find intermittents..existing..sporadically as well as epidemically. 1872 Cohen *Dis. Throat* 97 Although sometimes appearing sporadically, diphtheria is essentially an endemic disease. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VI. 909 Those cases [of meningitis] which though occurring sporadically, resemble the epidemic..form of the disease.

2. In a scattered or dispersed manner; at intervals; occasionally; here and there.

1852 Th. Ross tr. *Humboldt's Trav.* III. xxxii. 352 No snow falls sporadically in any of the eastern systems. 1875 E. White *Life in Christ* iv. xxvi. (1878) 425 That the belief..lingered in the churches sporadically for several centuries. 1885 *Athenæum* 16 May 623/1 The Septuagint does not exist in a critical edition; its Hebrew original has only been sporadically restored.

Spora·dicalness. *rare*[−1]. [f. as prec. + -ness.] The quality of being sporadic.

1884 Whitney in *Amer. Jour. Philol.* V. 287 The precative active..is rare even to sporadicalness, being..made from only about 60 roots in the whole language.

Sporal (spō·ɹăl), *a. Bot.* [f. Spore + -al.] Consisting of, relating to, spores.

1882 *Encycl. Brit.* XIV. 561/1 Apothecia at first nucleiform, becoming variously dehiscent, with sporal mass.

Sporan, variant of Sporran.

Sporange (spŏræ·ndʒ). *Bot.* [Anglicized f. Sporangium, or a. F. *sporange*.] = Sporangium.

1857 Henfrey *Bot.* 153 Their spores are matured in special organs, called capsules or sporanges, formed from the foliar organs. 1872 Oliver *Elem. Bot.* II. 285 Exposing the minute stalked sporanges of which each sorus is composed.

Sporangial (spŏræ·ndʒiăl), *a. Bot.* [f. Sporangi-um.] Of or pertaining to a sporangium.

1848 *Annals Nat. Hist.* I. 165 The sporangial frustules of the Diatomaceous plant. 1857 M. J. Berkeley *Crypt. Bot.* 488 The spore-sac is sometimes separated from the columella as well as from the sporangial wall. 1881 *Nature* XXIV. 559 In Equisetum the sporangial whorls are naked.

Sporangi·ferous, *a. Bot.* [f. as prec. + -ferous.] Bearing sporangia.

1866 J. Smith *Ferns Brit. & Foreign* 105 Fertile fronds plain, the under side sporangiferous. 1875 Bennett & Dyer tr. *Sachs' Bot.* 375 The deciduous sporangiferous stems of the species just named. 1890 *Athenæum* 29 Nov. 743/2 Sporangiferous and plant-forming hairs.

‖ Sporangiolum (spŏræ·ndʒiō·lŭm). *Bot.* [dim. of Sporangium.] A small sporangium.

Also in anglicized form *sporangiole* (Mayne, 1859).

1824 R. K. Greville *Flora Edin.* p. xxiv, When the sporangium contains distinct bodies inclosing *Sporidia*, the sporangium is said to contain Sporangiola. 1875 Cooke *Fungi* 52 It is still more evident if we sow the spores of the sporangiolum.

Spora·ngiophore. *Bot.* [See -phore.] A structure bearing sporangia.

1875 Bennett & Dyer tr. *Sachs' Bot.* 377 A ring of slender sporangiophores, around each of which were clustered three or four sporangia full of spores.

Spora·ngite. *Geol.* [f. next: see -ite.] A spore-case of various fossil plants.

1889 *Science-Gossip* XXV. 99 The sporangites are highly bituminous, and contain..nearly twice as much carbon as cellulose.

‖ Sporangium (spŏræ·ndʒiŭm). *Bot.* [mod. L., f. Gr. σπορά Spore + ἀγγεῖον vessel.] A receptacle containing spores; a spore-case or capsule.

1821 W. J. Hooker *Flora Scotica* II. 78 Filaments gelatinous,..within filled with elliptical *sporangia*. 1839 Lindley *Introd. Bot.* (ed. 3) 266 If the interior of the sporangium be now investigated. *Ibid.* 267. 1863 M. J. Berkeley *Brit. Mosses* i. 8 In many cases life ceases in the parent plant after the formation of the sporangia. 1881 *Nature* XXIV. 560 Another genus..is allied by the structure of its sporangium to Angiopteris.

attrib. 1875 Cooke *Fungi* 51 The sporangia-bearers are at first always branchless and without partitions.

Spore (spō·əɹ). [ad. mod.L. *spora*, a. Gr. σπορά sowing, seed. So F. *spore*, It. *spora*.]

1. *Bot.* One of the minute reproductive bodies characteristic of flowerless plants.

1836 Berkeley in Smith's *Eng. Flora* V. II. 341 Fertile branchlets..bearing quaternate spores. 1839 Lindley *Introd. Bot.* (ed. 3) 260 The sporangia burst..and emit minute particles named spores or sporules, from which new plants are produced. 1863 M. J. Berkeley *Brit. Mosses* i. 2 The cellular product of the germinating spores..in Mosses consists of more or less branched threads. 1889 *Science-Gossip* XXV. 185 Causing the peristome..to open.., disclosing the interior of the capsule with its beautiful golden spores.

fig. 1862 O. W. Holmes *Old Vol. of Life* (1891) 46 The spores of a great many ideas are floating about in the atmosphere.

2. *Zool.* and *Biol.* A very minute germ or organism.

1876 tr. *Wagner's Gen. Pathol.* 85 The latter represent the cells, which are the germs of new individuals (spores, etc.). 1888 Rolleston & Jackson *Anim. Life* 859 The contained protoplasm gives origin to a single spore..or to a large number.

3. a. *attrib.*, as *spore-capsule, -cell, -dot, -fruit, -germ, -sac, -theca, -wall.*

Also *spore-bud, -cyst, -formation, -membrane*, etc.

1856 W. L. Lindsey *Hist. Brit. Lichens* 69 The spore-wall varies in thickness. 1857 Henfrey *Bot.* 154 The fruits consist of capsules of globular or oval form (sporocarps, or spore-fruits). *Ibid.* 168 The larger (spore-sacs), containing the spore-germs. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 978/1 The spores are formed in a joint or joints of the spore-threads. 1882 Vines tr. *Sachs' Bot.* 233 The entire spore-capsule of a Moss. *Ibid.* 437 The mother-cell splitting up into four spore-cells. 1885 Goodale *Physiol. Bot.* (1892) 164 The formation in ferns of the sori, or spore-dots.

b. *Comb.*, as *spore-bearing, -forming, -producing.*

1857 T. Moore *Handbk. Brit. Ferns* (ed. 3) 10 The involute..segments of the spore-bearing leaf. 1880 Bessey *Botany* 319 Little lateral branches budding out upon the spore-forming hyphæ. 1882 Vines tr. *Sachs' Bot.* 387 In many cases..the spore-producing generation attains great dimensions.

Spore, obs. or dial. f. Spur *sb.* and *v.*

Spore-blind, variant of Spur-blind *a. Obs.*

Spore-case. *Bot.* [f. Spore.] A receptacle containing spores; a sporangium.

1836 *Penny Cycl.* V. 75/1 These tubes are undivided, separable.., and bear asci (spore-cases) on their inside. 1857 T. Moore *Handbk. Brit. Ferns* (ed. 3) 3 Ferns..produce certain peculiar bodies called spore-cases, containing spores or germinating atoms. 1872 H. A. Nicholson *Palaeont.* 489 The fruit was a long cone or spike, bearing spore-cases under scales.

Sporge, obs. form of Spurge *sb.* and *v.*

Sporid, Anglicized f. Sporidium. *rare.*

1847 Webster (citing Lindley), *Sporid*, in botany, a naked corcle, destitute of radicle, cotyledon, and hilum. 1900 *Dundee Advertiser* 24 July 4 The great German botanist de Bary inoculated young barberry leaves with sporids from the black rust of old wheat straw.

Sporidiiferous (spori·diiˈfĕrəs), *a. Bot.* Also **sporidiferous.** [f. Sporidi-um + -(i)ferous.] Bearing sporidia.

a. 1836 Berkeley in Smith's *Eng. Flora* V. II. 353 Sporidia ..naked (without any..asci, or true sporidiferous flocci). 1848 Lindley *Introd. Bot.* (ed. 4) II. 119 Cellular tissue, among which spores, or sporidiferous asci are generated. 1872 Oliver *Elem. Bot.* II. 293 Those of the former Tribe being termed Sporiferous, those of the latter Sporidiferous. *β.* 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 610/1 The transition into the sporidiferous fungi is not so acutely marked. *Ibid.* 613/1 The sporidiiferous series. 1875 Cooke *Fungi* 49 Those ampulla cells are sporidiiferous asci.

Spori·diole. *Bot.* = next.

1863 *N. Syd. Soc. Year-bk. Med. & Surg.* 176 It appears to consist of small globules perfectly round, diaphanous and without sporidioles internally. 1875 Cooke *Fungi* 27 There are to be found also in the species of this genus globose bodies, designated 'sporidioles'.

‖ Sporidi·olum. *Bot.* [mod.L., dim. of next.] A sporule.

1832 Lindley *Introd. Bot.* 209 *Sporidiola* are sporules. 1836 Berkeley in Smith's *Eng. Flora* V. II. 276 The *sporidia* oblong-elliptic, containing three or four round *sporidiola*. 1845 *Encycl. Metrop.* XXV. 836/1 Sporidia nearly globose, unequal, filled with sporidiola.

‖ **Sporidium** (spori·dĭm). *Bot.* [mod.L., dim. (after Gr. types) of *σπορά* SPORE.] **a.** A case or cell containing sporules. **b.** A sporule.

1821 W. J. HOOKER *Flora Scotica* II. 16 Its sporules are included in a sort of capsule..which he [*sc.* Ditmar] calls *sporidium*. 1830 LINDLEY *Nat. Syst. Bot.* 334 Sporules lying either loose among the tissue, or enclosed in membranous cases called sporidia. 1867 J. HOGG *Microsc.* II. i. 272 A gelatinous or membranous pericarp or conceptacle, in which an indefinite number of sporidia are contained. 1887 W. PHILLIPS *Brit. Discomycetes* 444 A filiform sporidium removed from an ascus.

Comb. 1875 COOKE *Fungi* 64 The second section is termed Sporidiifera, or sporidia-bearing.

Sporier, obs. form of SPURRIER.

Spori·ferous, *a. Bot.* [f. mod.L. *spor-a* SPORE + -(I)FEROUS.] Bearing spores. Also **Sporifica·tion,** the process of forming spores. **Spori·genous** *a.*, producing spores. **Spori·gerous** *a.*, bearing spores.

1836 BERKELEY in Smith's *Eng. Flora* V. II. 341 Quaternate..*sporiferous branchlets. *Ibid.*, The sporiferous state. 1857 HENFREY *Bot.* 158 The fructification or sporiferous apparatus of the Ferns is produced upon the leaves. 1882 VINES tr. *Sachs' Bot.* 316 The distribution of the bands of sporiferous filaments in the colourless sterile tissue. 1887 *Challenger Rep.* XVIII. I. p. CXXXVII, *Sporification..has been hitherto observed only in a very small number of genera. 1867 J. HOGG *Microsc.* II. i. 303 Bringing the whole into contact with *sporigenous cells. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 100/1 The distinction from *sporigerous *fungi* is not therefore as definite as might be wished. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* II. 308 Germs or sporules .. which .. rapidly develope into sporigerous bacilli.

† **Sporkenwood.** *Obs.*[1] [ad. older Flem. *sporckenhout* (Kilian).] The black alder.

1599 A. M. tr. *Gabelhouer's Bk. Physicke* 258/1 The moone beinge in the signe Libra, cut then off the hayre, and burye the sayede hayre vnder a tree of Sporckenwoode.

Sporles, obs. form of SPURLESS *a.* **Sporn(e,** obs. forms of SPURN *v.* **Sporne,** var. SPOORN *Obs.*

Sporo- (spō·rō), combining form of Gr. *σπορά* SPORE, employed in a considerable number of recent scientific terms relating to the spores of plants or elementary forms of animal life, as **Sporoblast, -cyte, -derm, -duct, -genous** *a.*, **-gone, -gonic** *a.*, **-gonium, -gony, -phorous** *a.*, **-phyll, -phyllary** *a.*, **-phyte, -phytic** *a.*, **-zoal** *a.*, **-zoan, -zoic** *a.*, **-zoid, -zoite, -zoon.**

1888 ROLLESTON & JACKSON *Anim. Life* 860 The protoplasm..segments..into a number of nucleated *sporoblasts. *Ibid.*, The sporoblast assumes by degrees its definitive shape, elliptical and pointed at the ends. 1891 *Cent. Dict.*, *Sporocyte. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 945 The sporocytes, when mature, divide into spores. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1088/2 **Sporoderm,* the skin of a spore. 1885 *Encycl. Brit.* XIX. 854/1 Sometimes the cyst is complicated by the formation of *sporoducts. 1888 ROLLESTON & JACKSON *Anim. Life* 861 The spores are discharged from the cyst by special tubular sporoducts. 1888 *Encycl. Brit.* XXIV. 126/1 The *carpogonium* or *sporogenous portion. 1897 *Nature* LVII. 44/2 Sporogenous tissue, and its conversion into assimilatory tissue. 1881 *Ibid.* XXIV. 74 This so-called fruit is in reality a distinct plantlet, called a '*sporogone', which by.. simple multiplication gives birth to the spores. 1902 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 10) XXXII. 816/1 There exists a whole group of Coccidiida,..of which only the *sporogonic cycle is known. 1875 BENNETT & DYER tr. *Sachs' Bot.* 295 The asexual generation or *sporogonium is only at first formed in the calyptra [of mosses]. 1882 VINES tr. *Sachs' Bot.* 226 The oosphere..finally developes into a capsule supported on a long stalk, the Sporogonium, in the interior of which are produced numbers of spores. 1888 ROLLESTON & JACKSON *Anim. Life* 749 '*Sporogony,' or development from a non-sexual spore, occurs in a few instances. 1859 MAYNE *Expos. Lex.* 1195/2 *Sporophorus*,..bearing or containing seed: *sporophorous. 1879 *Encycl. Brit.* IX. 828/2 The sporophorous hyphæ are branches of the mycelium. 1888 VINES in *Encycl. Brit.* XXIV. 129/2 The wall of the sporocarp is formed by a portion of the *sporophyll. 1895 — *Textbk. Bot.* 70 A leaf bearing one or more sporangia is termed a sporophyll. 1897 *Nature* 11 Nov. 45/2 The transference of *sporophyllary organs to vegetative ones. 1886 *Athenæum* 25 Dec. 866/3 These take the form of buds similar to the *sporophyte which produced them. 1895 tr. *Kerner's Nat. Hist. Plants* II. 476 The fern-plant bears no sexual organs, and must be regarded as the asexual generation (or sporophyte). 1886 *Athenæum* 25 Dec. 866/3 These..would be termed cases of '*sporophytic budding'. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 946 The transmission of the *sporozoal parasite..of Texas cattle fever. 1888 ROLLESTON & JACKSON *Anim. Life* 862 There are three *Sporozoans included in this sub-class. 1894 *Lancet* 3 Nov. 1025 The shuttle-shaped spores .. so frequent in *sporozoic infection of animals. 1882 OGILVIE, **Sporozoid*,..a moving spore furnished with cilia or vibratile processes. 1888 ROLLESTON & JACKSON *Anim. Life* 861 The contents [of the sporocyst] are resolved into falciform bodies or *sporozoites. 1900 *Brit. Med. Jrnl.* 10 Feb. 301 The skin bitten by the proboscis through which the infected mosquito inoculates its sporozoites. 1885 *Encycl. Brit.* XIX. 855/2 An amœba-like organism,.. either a *Sporozoon or referable to those parasitic spore-producing Proteomyxa.

Spo·rocarp. *Bot.* [f. prec. + Gr. *καρπ-ός* fruit. So F. *sporocarpe*.] A fructification containing sporangia; a spore-fruit or spore-case.

1849 BALFOUR *Man. Bot.* § 1127 In the higher Algæ, the sporocarps..are united together in conceptacles. 1857 [see SPORE 3]. 1880 BESSEY *Bot.* 327 Upon the mycelium there arise..small rounded or oblong masses, the young sporocarps.

Spo·rocyst. [f. SPORO- + CYST *sb.* So F. *sporocyste*.]

1. *Zool.* A cyst or capsule containing spores, forming a stage in the development of Trematodes, etc.

1861 HULME tr. *Moquin-Tandon* II. VII. xiii. 392 The Echinococci are worms which are enclosed in very variable numbers in a membranous cyst (sporocyst). 1877 HUXLEY *Anat. Inv. Anim.* iv. 209 There is, therefore, a very close resemblance between this cestoid embryo and the sporocyst of a Trematode. 1888 ROLLESTON & JACKSON *Anim. Life* 651 The Sporocyst possesses the power..of multiplying either by transverse fission,..or by gemmation.

2. *Bot.* (See quot.)

1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1088/2 *Sporocyst*, the spore-case of algals.

Spo·rophore. *Bot.* [f. SPORO- + -PHORE. So F. *sporophore*.]

1. A spore-bearing process or stalk.

1849 BALFOUR *Man. Bot.* § 1122 The reproductive organs consist of spores or spherical cells..supported often on simple or branched filamentous processes..called sporophores..or basidia. 1861 BENTLEY *Man. Bot.* 387 Each basidium commonly bears four spores,..situated on stalks or branches proceeding from it. These stalks have been termed by some sporophores, a name which has been also used as synonymous with basidia. 1887 W. PHILLIPS *Brit. Discomycetes* 344 Stylospores..produced on the surface of the stroma in tufts between the cups on clavate sporophores.

2. The asexual generation of plants.

1875 DYER in *Encycl. Brit.* III. 692/1 It will be convenient to use the word *Sporophore* for the agamogenetic generation, in which special cells (*spores*) are detached from the parent to serve as a means of propagation. 1882 VINES tr. *Sachs' Bot.* 225 The second stage in the process of development of the plant, or the asexual generation (sporophore).

Spo·rosac. *Zool.* [f. SPORO- + SAC[2].] A simple form of gonophore.

1859 *Annals Nat. Hist.* IV. 140 These medusiform sporosacs. 1861 J. R. GREENE *Man. Anim. Kingd., Cœlent.* 40 The simplest kind of gonophore consists of a well-defined protuberance from the body-wall, the 'sporosac'. 1888 ROLLESTON & JACKSON *Anim. Life* 762 A sporosac..lodged in an ampulla or cavity of the coenosteum.

Sporran (spo·răn). Also **sporan.** [a. Sc. Gael. *sporan*, Ir. *spardn* purse.] A pouch or large purse made of skin, usually with the hair left on and with ornamental tassels, etc., worn in front of the kilt by Scottish Highlanders.

1818 SCOTT *Rob Roy* XXXIV, I advise no man to attempt opening this sporran till he has my secret. 1837 W. F. SKENE *Highlanders Scot.* I. ix. I. 227 The resemblance to the Highland dress is very striking, presenting also considerable indication of the sporran or purse. 1884 W. C. SMITH *Kildrostan* I. i. 170 His gillies..all in the brave tartan, with plaid and sporran. 1891 MRS. J. W. HARRISON *Life Mackay of Uganda* 14 The kilt and sporan and Glengarry bonnet.

Sporring, variant of SPURRING *vbl. sb.*

Sport (spōət), *sb.*[1] Also **5 spoort, 5–6 sporte.** [Aphetic form of DISPORT *sb.*]

I. 1. Pleasant pastime; entertainment or amusement; recreation, diversion.

c 1440 *Ipomydon* 601 Whan they had take hyr sporte in halle, The kynge to counselle gan hyr calle. 1472–5 *Rolls of Parlt.* VI. 156/1 Lordes,..Yomen, and other Comyners, have used the occupation of shotyng for their myrthes and sportes with Bowes of Ewe. *c* 1515 *Cocke Lorell's B.* 3 To searche theyr bodyes fayre and clere, Therof they had good sporte. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VIII*, 69 The Ladies had good sporte to se these auncient persones maskers. 1596 SHAKS. *Tam. Shrew* Induct. i. 91, I haue some sport in hand, Wherein your cunning can assist me much. 1606 — *Tr. & Cr.* I. i. 116 But to the sport abroad, are you bound thither? 1648 GAGE *West Ind.* 193 The good Master thought it bad sport to see Swords at his breast. 1663 S. PATRICK *Parab. Pilgr.* xxii. (1687) 232 Let them see that you can rest from your labours, and yet not spend your whole time in sport and play. 1725 POPE *Odyss.* IV. 850 Aside, sequester'd from the vast resort, Antinous sate spectator of the sport. 1809 MALKIN *Gil Blas* V. i. P 28 If I come across them tomorrow..they shall see such sport as will be no sport to them. 1821 CLARE *Vill. Minstr.* (1823) I. 42 Great sport to them was jumping in a sack. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* xv, 'I'm glad you think it good sport, brother,' she continued.

personif. 1590 SPENSER *Muiopotmos* 290 Before the Bull she pictur'd winged Loue, with his yong brother Sport. 1632 MILTON *L'Allegro* 31 Sport that wrincled Care derides, And Laughter holding both his sides.

† **b.** Amorous dalliance or intercourse. *Obs.*

?*a* 1550 *Freiris Berwik* 170 in *Dunbar's Poems* (1893) 291 Than in hett luve thay talkit vderis till. Thus at thair sport now will I leif thame still. 1570 in Farmer & Henley *Dict. Slang.* 1604 SHAKS. *Oth.* II. i. 230 When the Blood is made dull with the Act of Sport. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* III. 48 Italians love a fearefull wench, that often flies from Venus sport. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* III. 197 When now the Nuptial time Approaches for the stately Steed to climb; Distend his Chine, and pamper him for Sport. 1700–*c* 1796 in Farmer & Henley *Dict. Slang.*

c. *spec.* Pastime afforded by the endeavour to take or kill wild animals, game, or fish. Freq. with adjs. referring to the result achieved.

(*a*) 1653 WALTON *Angler* ii, I am..glad to have so fair an entrance to this day's sport. 1772–84 *Cook's Voy.* II. I. iv. (1842) 371 Some hours after we got on board, the other party returned, having had but indifferent sport. 1787 BEST *Angling* (ed. 2) 130 The higher an angler goes up the Thames,..the more sport, and the greater variety of fish he will meet with. 1838 JAMES *Robber* ii, Sir Walter desired me to compliment you, sir, and to wish good sport. 1875 HAYWARD *Love agst. World* 5 Smoking and discussing the probability of sport. 1885 'MRS. ALEXANDER' *At Bay* iv, Pressing Glynn to come down..for the twelfth of August, promising him good sport.

transf. 1864 BURTON *Scot Abr.* I. iii. 114 The Scots lords were grieved..that these should return without having any sport..which the Border wars afforded.

(*b*) 1735 SOMERVILLE *Chase* III. 141 A chosen few Alone the Sport enjoy, nor droop beneath Their pleasing Toils. 1828 SCOTT *F. M. Perth* viii, I was thinking to see my hawks fly, and your company will make the sport more pleasant. 1860 MAYNE REID *Hunters' Feast* xxiii, The American deer is hunted for its flesh, its hide, and 'the sport'.

d. Participation in games or exercises, esp. those of an athletic character or pursued in the open air; such games or amusements collectively.

1863 *Meliora* Oct. 195 If recreation is found, or pastime is sought in activity or change,..it is called diversion; and if we set ourselves to take part in the amusement,..it constitutes sport. 1885 'MRS. ALEXANDER' *At Bay* iii, I..found he was well up in sporting, or rather turf, matters. There is very little *sport* in them.

2. a. *In sport*, in jest or joke; by way of fun or diversion; not seriously or in earnest.

c 1440 *Alph. Tales* 141 And he knew sho was bod a symple thyng & answsherd halfe in sporte & said [etc.]. 1535 COVERDALE *Prov.* xxvi. 19, I dyd it but in sporte. 1576 FERRERS in Gascoigne *Kenelworth Castle* G.'s Wks. 1910 II. 94 And as my love to Arthure dyd appeere, so shal't to you in earnest and in sport. 1600 SHAKS. *A. Y. L.* I. ii. 30 Loue no man in good earnest, nor no further in sport neyther, then [etc.]. 1784 COWPER *Task* II. 369 He doubtless is in sport, and does but droll. 1829 *Chapters Phys. Sci.* 317 The inexhaustible variety of shades which nature, as in sport, has diffused over the surface of different bodies. 1879 FARRAR *St. Paul* (1883) 210, I have assumed that the name was given by Gentiles, and given more or less in sport.

b. Jest, jesting; mirth or merriment.

1671 MILTON *Samson* 396 Thrice I deluded her, and turn'd to sport Her importunity. 1778 MME. D'ARBLAY *Diary* 26 Aug., Dr. Johnson..in the evening..was as lively and full of wit and sport as I have ever seen him. 1827 CARLYLE *Misc.* (1840) I. 18 He thinks as a humorist, he feels, imagines, acts as a humorist; Sport is the element in which his nature lives and works.

3. *To make sport*: **a.** To provide entertainment or diversion. (Chiefly with dat. of person.)

1481 *Cely Papers* (Camden) 74 3e have a fayre hawke...I trwste to God sche schall make yow and me ryught grehyt sporte. ?*a* 1500 *Chester Plays* I. 1 Interminglinge therewith, onely to make sporte, Some thinges not warranted by any writt. 1588 SHAKS. *L. L. L.* IV. i. 101 This Armado is ..one that makes sport To the Prince and his Booke-mates. 1592 *Arden of Feversham* III. i. 85 He will murther me to make him sport. 1616 LANE *Contin. Sqr.'s T.* XI. 196 Hee that makes them sport shall have their hartes. 1663 COWLEY *Cutter Coleman St.* II. ii, 'Twill make us excellent sport at night. 1784 COWPER *Task* VI. 386 To make him sport.. are causes good And just, in his account, why bird and beast Should suffer torture. 1909 MRS. H. WARD *Daphne* ii. 47 That little Yankee girl had really made good sport all the way home.

b. To engage in, furnish oneself with, or find, recreation or diversion. Chiefly with preps., as *at, of, with*.

1590 SHAKS. *Com. Err.* II. ii. 30 When the sunne shines, let foolish gnats make sport. 1598 — *Merry W.* III. iii. 160 If I suspect without cause, Why then make sport at me, then let me be your iest. 1667 PEPYS *Diary* 28 June, How sad a thing it is, when we come to make sport of proclaiming men traitors. 1699 T. BROWN *Let. to Dr. Brown at Tunbridge* Wks. 1711 IV. 129, I..leave the Dr. and you to make what Sport you shall think fit with me. 1853 J. H. NEWMAN *Hist. Sk.* (1873) II. i. 28 The energy of these wild warriors made sport of walled cities.

c. *To show sport*, to provide pastime by exhibiting spirit and courage in attack or defence.

1834 LYTTON *Pompeii* v. ii, Eumolpus is a good second-rate swordsman;..doubtless they will shew sport. But I have no heart for the game. 1846 JAMES *Heidelb.* i, This seems a wild boar of the forest. We must force him from his lair; and he will show sport, depend upon it.

II. 4. A matter affording entertainment, diversion, or mirth; a jest or joke.

1450 *Paston Lett.* Suppl. 31 If ther myt ben purveyd any mene that it myt ben dasched,..it wer a good sport; for than he wold ben wode. 1515 BARCLAY *Eglogues* i. (1570) A vj, Lo here is a sport, our bottell is contrary To a Cowes vtter [etc.]. 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 119 b, It is a sporte and a pleasaunt syght to see, howe the Ravens wyll stryve amonges them selves for the carion. 1596 SHAKS. *Merch. V.* I. iii. 146 In a merrie sport..let the forfeite Be nominated for an equall pound Of your faire flesh. 1625 BACON *Ess., Boldness* (Arb.) 519 Especially, it is a Sport to see, when a Bold Fellow is out of Countenance. 1671 MARVELL *Corr.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 391 On this they voted it a libel, and to be burned by the hangman. Which was done; but the sport was, the hangman burned the Lords order with it. 1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* xxxix, I was the same David Deans of whom there was a sport at the Revolution.

† **b.** *To make a sport of*, to make a jest of. *Obs.*

1535 COVERDALE *Prov.* x. 23 A foole doth wickedly & maketh but a sporte of it. — 1 *Esdras* I. 51 Leke what God spake vnto them by his prophetes, they made but a sporte of it. 1599 SHAKS. *Much Ado* II. iii. 163 He would but make a sport of it, and torment the poore Lady worse.

5. An occupation or proceeding of the nature of a pastime or diversion.

1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 88 Myrth and sportes maketh the soule remysse, slacke, and neglygent. 1608 SHAKS. *Per.* v. iii. 41 Your present kindness Makes my past miseries sports. 1678 *Yng. Man's Call.* 71 They are too commonly seeming sports, real vexations. 1780 JOHNSON *Lett.* (1892) II. 172 The high sport was to burn the jails. This was a good rabble trick. 1790 COWPER *Let. Y. Hill* 2 May, I am still at the old sport—Homer all the morning, and Homer all the evening. 1831 SCOTT *Ct. Robt.* ii, But I will settle this sport presently.

b. *spec.* A game, or particular form of pastime, esp. one played or carried on in the open air and involving some amount of bodily exercise.

1523 FITZHERB. *Husb.* § 153 If they played smalle games, ..than myght it be called a good game, a good playe, a good sporte, and a pastyme. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* I. xii. 7 The fry of children young Their wanton sports and childish mirth did play. 1604 E. G[RIMSTONE] *D'Acosta's Hist. Indies* VI. XXVIII. 492 The Prelates have laboured to take from them these dances;..but yet they suffer them, for that part of them are but sportes of recreation. 1660 PEPYS *Diary* 18 Sept., Here some of us fell to handycapp, a sport that I never knew before. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Past.* X. 86, I..bend the Parthian Bow: As if with Sports my Sufferings I could ease. 1746 FRANCIS tr. *Horace, Art of Poetry* 546 Monarchs were courted in Pierian Strain, And comic Sports reliev'd the wearied Swain. 1764 GOLDSM. *Trav.* 154 The sports of children satisfy the child. 1800 WINDHAM *Sp.* (1812) I. 338 If we, who have every source of amusement open to us, and yet follow these cruel sports, become rigid censors of the sports of the poor. 1837 DICKENS *Pickw.* vii, I am delighted to view any sports which may be safely indulged in. 1871 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* (1876) IV. xx. 606 In such a state of things hunting might be a sport, as war might be a sport.

c. *pl.* A series of athletic contests engaged in or held at one time and forming a spectacle or social event. (Cf. GAME *sb.* 4 b.)

1594 KYD *Cornelia* IV. i. 134 Like them that (stryuing at th' Olympian sports To grace themselues with honor of the game) Annoynt theyr sinewes fit for wrestling. 1697 DRYDEN *Æneid* V. 84 That day with solemn sports I mean to grace. 1736 GRAY *Statius* I. 35 Oft in Pisa's sports, his native land Admired that arm. 1860 *Chambers's Encycl.* I. 519 Athletic sports were first witnessed at Rome 186 B.C. 1892 *Isis* 27 Apr. 3/1 The Oxford and Cambridge Sports, which were kept at Kensington.

†**d.** A theatrical performance or show; a play.

1571 in Feuillerat *Revels Q. Eliz.* (1908) 129 In sundry Tragedies, Playes, Maskes and Sportes. 1590 SHAKS. *Mids. N.* III. ii. 14 The shallowest thick-skin of that barren sort, Who Piramus presented, in their sport, Forsooke his Scene. 1593 — *Rich. II*, IV. i. 290 Marke..the Morall of this sport.

e. *A sport of terms, wit, words*, a playing upon, trifling with, or fantastical use of terms, etc.; a passage or piece of writing characterized by this. ? *Obs.*

1685 STILLINGFL. *Orig. Brit.* iv. 208, I cannot think Learned Men write these things any otherwise, than as Sports of Wit which are intended for the diversion..of the Reader. 1725 W. BROOME *Notes Pope's Odyss.* IX. II. 329 An Author who should introduce such a sport of words upon the stage, even in the Comedy of our days, would meet with small applause. 1774 J. BRYANT *Mythol.* II. 282 Clemens speaks of this Ogdoas, as the *νοητος κοσμος*: which is certainly a sport of terms. 1830 SIR J. MACKINTOSH *Life More* Wks. 1846 I. 423 Enabling the writer to call the whole a mere sport of wit.

6. *Sport of nature*, = LUSUS NATURÆ. ? *Obs.* (Cf. SPORTING *vbl. sb.* 2.)

1635 HAKEWILL *Apol.* (ed. 3) 230 Cockles, periwinkles and oysters of solid stone: ..whither they have bin shell-fish and living creatures, or else the sports of nature in her works. 1668 CULPEPPER & COLE *Barthol. Anat.* I. XXVII. 64 Spigelius, because he could not somtimes find it, did count it a sport of Nature. 1756–9 A. BUTLER *Lives Saints, St. Keyna* (1821) X. 164 They seem either petrifactions or sports of nature in uncommon crystallizations in a mineral soil. 1773 LANGHORNE *Fables of Flora* ix. 9 Thus Nature with the fabled elves We rank, and these her Sports we call. 1804 PARKINSON *Organic Rem.* I. 31 They described their peculiar forms as the sports of nature. 1822–7 GOOD *Study Med.* (1829) V. 241 It is in this organ more especially, that rudimental attempts at fetal organization, the mere sports of nature, are frequently found produced without impregnation.

b. A plant (or part of a plant), animal, etc., which exhibits abnormal variation or departure from the parent stock or type in some respect, esp. in form or colour; a spontaneous mutation; a new variety produced in this way.

(*a*) 1842 LOUDON *Suburban Hort.* 405 Selecting from accidental variations, or as they are technically termed, sports. 1870 *Henfrey's Bot.* 620 What are termed 'sports' by gardeners, *i.e.* shoots differing in character from those on the other portions of the plant. 1890 *Science-Gossip* XXVI. 32 The nectarine, which is usually regarded as only a sport from the peach.

(*b*) 1854 *Poultry Chron.* I. 282 The common variety [of Pea fowl] and the white, which latter is, I presume, an *albino* 'sport' from the former. 1884 *Harper's Mag.* Aug. 465/1 Dinsmore, born of bony..New England, was yet like a 'sport' of some far-descending Visigoth strain.

fig. 1889 *Daily News* 14 Feb. 4/8 That grotesque 'sport' of scientific development, Professor Tyndall. 1893 *Nation* LVI. 66/1 They belong with Emily Dickinson's verses—the 'sports' of literary decadence.

7. That with which one plays or sports; that which forms the sport *of* some thing or person.

a. That which is driven or whirled about by the wind or waves as in sport.

1667 MILTON *P. L.* II. 181 While we..Caught in a fierie Tempest shall be hurl'd Each on his rock transfixt, the sport and prey Of racking whirlwinds. 1697 DRYDEN *Æneid* VI. 117 But, oh! commit not thy prophetic mind To flitting leaves, the sport of ev'ry wind. 1705 ADDISON *Italy* 7 When the Winds in Southern Quarters rise, Ships from their Anchors torn become their Sport. 1788 *Massachusetts Spy* 2 Oct. 3/3 For 24 hours she was the sport of the waves. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. III. viii, Blown, like a kindled rag, the sport of winds. 1887 BOWEN *Æneid* I. 442 Long tossed on the waves, and a sport by the hurricanes made.

b. An object or subject of amusement, diversion, jesting, mirth, etc.; a laughing-stock, plaything, toy.

1693 *Humours Town* 80 They cannot see how they are the Sport and Laughter of ev'ry Company they come into. 1694 SOUTHERNE *Fatal Marr.* II, Am I then the sport, The Game of Fortune, and her laughing Fools? 1709 POPE *Ess. Crit.* 517 And while self-love each jealous writer rules, Contending wits become the sport of fools. 1746 FRANCIS tr. *Hor., Sat.* II. v. 91 Thus foil'd, Nasica shall become the sport Of old Coranus, while he pays his court. 1796 MORSE *Amer. Geog.* I. 330 Rhode Island was doomed to be the sport of a blind and singular policy. 1853 MAURICE *Prophets & Kings* xii. 205 Those who treated the divine covenant as a fantasy and a fiction, became themselves the sports of every fantasy and fiction. 1898 WATTS-DUNTON *Aylwin* XI. iii, You, whom Destiny..has taken in hand as a special sport.

8. One concerned with or interested in sport:

a. *U.S.* (See first two quots. and SPORTSMAN 2.)

1861 W. H. RUSSELL *My Diary North & South* (1863) I. 40 Some dozen of the most over-dressed men I ever saw were pointed out to me as 'sports'; that is, men who lived by gambling-houses and betting on races. 1874 *Slang Dict.* 305 *Sport*, an American term for a gambler or turfite—more akin to our sporting man than to our sportsman. 1892 *Welsh Rev.* I. 689 'Unhappy Mr. Collings, the victim of a thousand sports,' I murmured, americanising my language for the nonce.

b. One who follows or participates in sport or a particular sport; a sportsman.

1873 LELAND *Egypt. Sketch-Bk.* 69 Such hardened sinners as old pigeon-shooting sports. 1890 *Pall Mall G.* 30 June 3/3 All modern sports will be delighted with the picture of the cosy parlour in which the ancient sports are enjoying themselves after the fatigues of the 'First.' 1894 ASTLEY *50 Yrs. Life* II. 93 There was a houseful of 'sports' of both sexes.

c. *U.S.* A young man; a fellow.

1897 FLANDRAU *Harvard Episodes* 215 'I don't suppose they're "cheap" sports,..not the way you mean.' 'Expensive sports, then?' 1901 D. B. HALL & LD. A. OSBORNE *Sunshine & Surf* i. 4 A small club, called the University, which is chiefly kept up by the young men—the 'sports', as they are called in this part of the world.

III. 9. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *sport breeder, -maker, -meeting*; *sport-affording, -giving, -hindering, -loving, -starved* adjs.

1582 STANYHURST *Æneis* IV. (Arb.) 119 When she the weeds Troian dyd marck, and sporte breder old bed. *a* 1586 SIDNEY *Arcadia* III. (1622) 401 Such a sport-meeting, when rather some song of loue, or matter for ioyful melody was to be brought forth. 1611 COTGR., *Badin*, ..a Iugler, Tumbler, or any such sport-maker. *a* 1625 FLETCHER *Woman's Prize* I. ii, What a grief of heart is't?..to lie and tell The clock o'th lungs, to rise sport starv'd? 1631 MABBE *Celestina* XII. 137 O troublesome and sport-hindring doores. 1860 G. H. KINGSLEY *Vac. Tour* 124 Two or three birds,..affording no sport themselves, and not permitting any sport-affording bird to approach their haunts. 1895 *Daily News* 21 Jan. 7/7 Five dozen..of these sport-giving fish [i.e. perch]. 1897 *Outing* XXIX. 343/2 Four sport-loving young women.

b. In plural, as *sports-editor, outfitter*; *sports-holding* ppl. adj.

1895 *Westm. Gaz.* 29 Apr. 7/2 So now sixteen sports-holding clubs have resolved to form a Scottish Amateur Athletic Union. 1897 *Ibid.* 30 Apr. 5/2 An employé of [a] sports outfitter. 1902 ELIZ. BANKS *Newspaper Girl* 237 The sports-editor devoted his hitherto undiscovered talents to evolving alliterative headlines.

10. Special Combs., as †**sport-earnest**, something which partakes of the nature of both sport and earnest; †**sport-staff** *Sc.*, a quarter-staff.

1615 T. ADAMS *Lycanthropy* Ep. Ded., I have put up the wolfe, tho' not hunted him, judging myselfe too weake for that sport-earnest. 1634 *Burgh Rec. Stirling* (1887) 172 In hambringing and taking agane to Edinburgh the sport stafes and gownes.

†**Sport**, *sb.*[2] *Obs.*[−1] [ad. OF. *esporte, sporte* (=Sp. *espuerta*, Pg. *esporta*, It. *sporta*) :—L. *sporta* basket. Cf. SPORTLET.] (See quot.)

1656 *Act Commw.* c. 20 Rates (1658) 459 Baskets called Hand-baskets or Sports the dozen,..04*ls.*] 00.

Sport (spōɔt), *v.* Also 5–6 **sporte.** [Aphetic form of DISPORT *v.*, or f. SPORT *sb.*[1]]

I. †1. *refl.* To amuse, divert, recreate (oneself); to take one's pleasure. *Obs.*

Fairly common down to the end of the 17th c.

c 1400 *Destr. Troy* 7909 Ector..went Fro the burghe to þe batells of þe bold grekes, For to sport hym a space. 1483 *Pol., Rel., & L. Poems* (1903) p. xlvi, Rydyng a hontyng, hym silff to sporte & playe. 1530 PALSGR. 729, I wyll go sporte me in this gardayne for an houre or twayne. 1579 GOSSON *Sch. Abuse* (Arb.) 58 Many of you whiche were wont to sporte your selues at Theaters. 1638 JUNIUS *Paint. Ancients* 144 Bupalus and Anthermus, to sport themselves,..made the statue of Hipponactes the Poet, who was halfe a Dwarfe. 1653 WALTON *Angler* iv. 63 Some [lambs] leaping securely in the cool shade, whilst others sported themselves in the cheerful sun. 1712 POPE *Ep. to Miss Blount* 14 Cheerful he play'd the trifle, Life, away; Till fate scarce felt his gentle breath suppress, As smiling Infants sport themselves to rest. 1779 *Mirror* No. 64, The gay, whose minds, unbent from serious and important occupations, had leisure to sport themselves in the regions of wit and humour.

†**b.** Const. *with* (=in the company of) some person, *by, in*, or *with* some action, proceeding, or thing. *Obs.*

(*a*) *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 9103 The grekes agayne [might] go to the toune, To sporte hom with speciall, & a space lenge. 1478 *Paston Lett.* III. 237 If it lyke yow that I may come ..and sporte me with yow at London a day or ij. *a* 1533 LD. BERNERS *Huon* liii. 180 Let youre doughter go in to her chambre & sporte her with her damselles. 1586 T. B. *La Primaud. Fr. Acad.* I. 490 Whereas he in the meane while skorned hir, sporting himselfe with Cleopatra in the sight and knowledge of all men.

(*b*) 1477 EARL RIVERS (Caxton) *Dictes* 69 Whan ye shal be wery of studyng, sporte you in redyng goode stories. 1547 BALDWIN *Mor. Philos.* 92 When thou art weary of study, sport thy selfe with reading of good stories. *c* 1590 GREENE *Fr. Bacon* vii, Seeing I have sported me with laughing at these mad and merry wags. 1611 SHAKS. *Wint. T.* II. i. 60 Let her sport her selfe With that shee's big with. 1624 CAPT. SMITH *Virginia* III. v. 59 Our Captaine sporting himselfe by nayling them [fish] to the grownd with his sword. 1670 COVEL in *Early Voy. Levant* (Hakluyt Soc.) 134 After we had sported our selves a while with shooting in these thickets and Plashes. 1733 NEAL *Hist. Purit.* II. 200 The ministers of state sported themselves in the most wanton acts of arbitrary power. 1756 W. LAW *Coll. Lett.* xi. (1760) 161 Pleasing himself with supposed deep Enquiries after strict Truth, whilst he is only sporting himself with lively, wandering Images of This and That. 1781 COWPER *Conversat.* 18 So language..Too often proves..A toy to sport with and pass time away.

c. *transf.* Of things.

1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* 203 Ex growing bigger, and sporting himselfe, as it were, with spreading into many streames. 1668 CULPEPPER & COLE tr. *Barthol. Anat.* III. ix. 149 Nature variously sporting her self in the Muscles of the Ear. 1720 *Lett. Loud. Jrnl.* (1721) 50 Imagination,.. roaming casually from Object to Object, and sporting it self with Phantoms and Non-entities. 1723 P. BLAIR *Pharmaco-Bot.* I. 16 These [varieties] may justly be called sporters.., so many *Lusus Naturæ* sporting themselves from more simple colours. 1746 HERVEY *Medit.* (1818) 127 Here, she [i. e. beauty] indulges a thousand freaks, and sports herself in the most charming diversity of colours.

2. *intr.* To amuse, entertain, or recreate oneself, *esp.* by active exercise in the open air; to take part in some game or play; to frolic or gambol.

c 1483 *Pol., Rel., & L. Poems* (1903) 290 When I wolde sporte with company also, I dare not out I am so sore agast. 1526 SKELTON *Magnyf.* 80 [If] you haue not your owne fre lyberte To sporte at your pleasure, to ryn and to ryde. *c* 1590 MARLOWE *Faustus* 3 Not marching now in fields of Thracimene,..Nor sporting in the dalliance of loue. 1645 HARWOOD *Loyal Subj. Retiring-room* 29 Doe you not see the Keeper sport with his Lion, when the Spectatour will scarce trust his chaine? 1662 J. DAVIES tr. *Olearius' Voy. Amb.* 54 Having sported two or three Hours, we were treated with a Collation. 1746 FRANCIS tr. *Horace, Epist.* II. i. 200 As the Year brought back the Jovial Day, Freely they sported, innocently gay. 1803–6 WORDSW. *Intimat. Immortality* ix, See the Children sport upon the shore. 1856 *N. Brit. Rev.* XXVI. 133 The lobajjy..dance and sing and sport whenever they have a moment's leisure. 1882 OUIDA *Maremma* I. 147 Cupa and Horta sported amidst the flowers.

b. Of animals, insects, etc.

1667 MILTON *P. L.* IV. 343 Sporting the Lion rampd, and in his paw Dandl'd the Kid. *Ibid.* VII. 405 Of Fish that ..sporting with quick glance Show to the Sun thir wav'd coats dropt with Gold. 1735 SOMERVILLE *Chase* IV. 115 Alone to range the Woods, or haunt the Brakes where dodging Conies sport. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) II. 20 These little animals, which thus appear swimming, and sporting, in almost every fluid we examine. 1846 SAMOUELLE *Direct. Collect. Insects & Crust.* 27 Numbers [of these insects] will be seen sporting in the noontide sun. 1889 *Science-Gossip* XXV. 197 The winged atoms sporting in the golden beams.

c. *transf.* and *fig.* Of things.

1593 SHAKS. *Lucr.* 907 Advice is sporting while infection breeds. 1641 SUCKLING *Poems* (1709) 24 Her Beams.. Part with her Cheek, part with her Lips did sport. 1732 POPE *Ep. Cobham* 46 When Sense subsides, and Fancy sports in sleep. 1742 YOUNG *Nt. Th.* I. 105 For human weal, heav'n ..Dull sleep instructs, nor sport vain dreams in vain. 1818 *La Belle Assemblée* XVII. 40/6 A few ringlets that are made to sport round the face. *a* 1864 HAWTHORNE *Amer. Note-bks.* (1879) II. 101 The wind sported with her gown. 1878 BROWNING *La Saisiaz* 39 Knowledge stands on *my* experience: all outside its narrow hem, Free surmise may sport and welcome!

d. With *it*.

1793 W. ROBERTS *Looker-on* No. 57 (1794) II. 355, I..shall.. study to surprise her in those moments when she is sporting it with Zephyr and Flora. 1837 *Tait's Mag.* IV. 492 I'll foot it and sport it by fountain and rill.

e. To engage in, follow, or practise sport, esp. field-sport; to hunt or shoot for sport or amusement.

1812 in Col. Hawker *Diary* (1893) I. 42 Any fellow who has sported on the estate at Bradford Wood. 1850 BIGSBY *Shoe & Canoe* II. 130 In summer my friends performed the functions of country gentlemen. They farmed, fished, and sported. ?1860 DARWIN *More Lett.* (1903) I. 143, I should think no one beside yourself has ever sported in Spitzbergen and Southern Africa. 1890 *Spectator* 13 Dec., The 'sporting' section of society was anxious to be sure whether it could 'sport' in buildings of its own without interference from the police.

3. To indulge in sport, fun, or ridicule, *at, over*, or *upon* a person or thing. Also with *it*.

a 1533 LD. BERNERS *Gold. Bk. M. Aurel.* (1546) N iiij b, I find there simple folke, at whom I maie sport. 1623 BINGHAM *Xenophon, Lipsius' Compar. Wars* 4, I come to Daris, which they likewise sport at. 1684 WOOD *Life* 6 Aug., Dr. George Reynell..thrust in among them, upon whome some of the company sported. 1850 BLACKIE *Æschylus* II. 135 A barbarian truly Art thou, if o'er the Greek to sport it thus The fancy tempts thee.

b. To deal *with* in a light or trifling way; to trifle, dally, or play *with* something.

1630 PAGITT *Christianogr.* I. iii. (1636) 137 They sport after the same manner, with by-past offenses, forgiving the sinnes of dayes, monthes, or yeeres. 1663 S. PATRICK *Parab. Pilgrim* xxix. (1687) 349 You could not have well gratified me more than you do, in sporting with that which others more morose would have taken for a reproach. 1769 *Junius Lett.* xxix, (1788) 152 To sport with the reputation..of another, is something worse than weakness. 1796 HUNTER *St.-Pierre's Stud. Nat.* (1799) III. 678 The opinions of the People should not be sported with. 1832 SCOTT *Cast. Dang.* xiii, In irritating a madman you do but sport with your own life. 1850

Merivale *Rom. Emp.* xxxvii. (1865) IV. 267 Though he had sported with her feelings for the furtherance of his settled policy. 1861 Reade *Cloister & H.* lxxx, My misery is too great to be sported with.

4. † a. Of Nature: To produce or develop abnormal or irregular forms or growths as if in sport.

1760 Sterne *Tr. Shandy* IV. (1903) 234 Nature, though she sported.—she sported within a certain circle. 1769 E. Bancroft *Guiana* 23 The surrounding forests, where Nature sports in primaeval rudeness. *Ibid.* 227 It seems as if Nature sported in variety.

b. Of plants, animals, etc.: To deviate or vary abnormally from the parent stock or specific type; to exhibit or undergo spontaneous mutation.

Cf. the early reflexive use in 1 c, quot. 1723.

1768 R. Dossie *Mem. Agric.* I. 444 Seminal varieties [of cabbage] sport, to use the gardener's phrase. 1840 *Penny Cycl.* XVIII. 164/2 In the Malay Archipelago it acquires an enormous size, and sports into a variety called the double pine-apple. 1854 *Poultry Chron.* II. 23 The silver spangles 'sport' less frequently than any variety I have met with. 1882 Grant Allen in *Nature* 27 July 302 All flowers, as we know, easily sport a little in colour.

c. *trans.* Of a plant: To produce (variations) by mutation. *rare*—1.

1841 *Florist's Jrnl.* (1846) II. 89 Even in the garden, the Pansy retains its tendency to sport varieties of bloom.

† 5. *trans.* To amuse or divert (a person); to provide with sport or amusement; to cheer, enliven. *Obs.*

1577 Hanmer *Anc. Eccl. Hist., Euseb.* VIII. xxiv, He beeing brought out of prison, and linked with malefactors to pastime and sport the people. 1579 Gosson *Sch. Abuse* (Arb.) 31 Yet will they seeke when they neede not, to bee sported abrode at playes and Pageauntes. 1612 J. Davies (Heref.) *Muse's Sacr.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 25/2 There's nought hath being got On, or in Earth, in Water, or in Aire, That eyther feedes, or heales, or sports me not. 1638 Sir T. Herbert *Trav.* (ed. 2) 13 We..were sported all the way (till we dropt anchor) by Whales. *a* 1763 Shenstone *Economy* II. 4 Nor grove nor stream Invites thee forth to sport thy drooping Muse.

6. † a. To express or represent in music or poetry. *Obs.*—1

1693 Dryden *Persius* VI. 9 Now, sporting on thy Lyre the Loves of Youth, Now Virtuous Age, and venerable Truth.

† b. To play or toy with (something). *Obs. rare.*

1709 Mrs. Manley *Secr. Mem.* (1736) IV. 106 She would ..sport his Lips with her Fingers. 1807–10 Tannahill *Poems* (1846) 29 He baits the trap—catches a mouse—He sports it round the floor.

c. To pass, spend, or enjoy (time) in sport or amusement. Also with *away*.

1760 Fawkes, etc. *Anacreon, Odes* xlix. 6 First draw a Nation blithe and gay, Laughing and sporting Life away. 1793 Burns '*When wild war's deadly blast was blawn*' iii At length I reach'd the bonie glen, Where early life I sported. 1871 R. Ellis *Catullus* lxviii. 16 Whiles in jollity life sported a spring holiday.

7. To take or cast *away* in or as in sport; to throw *away* wantonly or recklessly; to scatter or squander. Now *rare*.

1713 *Guardian* No. 72, Let him who wantonly sports away the peace of a poor lady, consider what discord he sows in families. 1763 Wilkes in *N. Briton* (1772) III. 17 The liberty of an English subject is not to be sported away with impunity. 1778 *Ann. Reg., Hist. Eur.* 136/1 He had sported away thirty thousand lives. 1798 *Geraldine* I. 76 Since we could find money to sport away at this rate, he would wait no longer. 1869 Freeman *Norm. Conq.* (1875) III. 39 The wealth of Eadward's shrine was borne away to be sported broadcast among the minions of Henry's court.

II. In slang or colloquial uses.

† 8. To read (an author) for sport or amusement. *Obs. rare.*

1693 *Humours Town* 16 Then for Books, 'tis only to sport an Author in a Bookseller's Shop. *a* 1704 T. Brown *Lond. & Lacedem. Oracles* Wks, 1709 III. iii. 122 Last Night being very restless in my Bed, I thought fit to divert the Time with Sporting an Author.

† 9. To invest or stake (money) in some sport or in a highly speculative undertaking; to bet or wager. Also, to lay or make a (bet). *Obs.*

1707 *Refl. upon Ridicule* 386 She mingles with the Rascality, to sport the little Money she has got. 1784 *New Spectator* No. 10. 2 The man who ventures to sport that money in a lottery which ought to be appropriated to other uses, is but too apt to fly to the private gaming table. 1802 *Spirit Publ. Jrnls.* VI. 333 During the time allowed before starting,..great clamour ensued, and much money was sported. 1806 *Ibid.* X. 60 Not a few bets were sported on the occasion. 1850 Thackeray *Pendennis* xix, The chaps will win your money as sure as you sport it.

fig. 1826 Hood *Backing the Favourite* ii, At dear O'Neil's first start, I sported all my heart.

† b. *absol.* To engage in betting; to speculate.

1760 C. Johnston *Chrysal* (1822) I. iv. 29 Sporting upon private adventures, taking in unwary confidence, flinging the fair trader,..were now too small a game for me. 1813 *Ann. Reg., Chron.* 44 He..for some years had sported considerably on the turf.

c. To spend (money) freely or extravagantly and with ostentation.

1859 H. Kingsley *G. Hamlyn* xxxi, I took him for a flash overseer, sporting his salary, and I was as thick as you like with him. 1896 Farjeon *J. Fordham* III. 279 Louis had plenty of money to sport; e'd been backin' winners.

10. To display or exhibit, esp. in public or company. Freq. with implication of some degree of parade, ostentation, or show.

Very common from *c* 1770 to *c* 1830. The groups of quotations illustrate variation in the object.

(*a*) 1712 Steele *Spect.* No. 366 ₱3 The Numbers..are as loose and unequal, as those in which the British Ladies sport their Pindaricks. 1768 [W. Donaldson] *Life Sir B. Sapskull* I. iv. 31 My grandfather [might have] missed the opportunity of sporting his historical abilities. 1784 *New Spectator* No. 22. 3 The consequence of Miss Pedant's so universally sporting her knowledge is, that she is forsaken by all the world. 1800 Coleridge *Lett.* (1895) 323 He sported of his own account a theologico-astronomical hypothesis. 1844 E. FitzGerald *Lett.* (1889) I. 145 Don't suppose I think it good philosophy in myself to keep here out of the world, and sport a gentle Epicurism. 1867 Froude *Short Stud.* I. 138 If a man..sports loose views on morals at a decent dinner party,..he is not invited again.

(*b*) 1768 [W. Donaldson] *Life Sir B. Sapskull* II. xx. 158 [He] bought a set of horses..and sported the gayest equipage at all public places. 1785 Trusler *Mod. Times* I. 146 Here's Parson Rawbones...I shall sport him..at a day lecture, or an early sacrament. 1819 Crabbe *T. Hall* xv. 206 Then I shall hear what Envy will remark When I shall sport the ponies in the park. 1838 Dickens *Nickleby* xxiii, A pilot, who sported a boat-green door, with window-frames of the same colour. 1868 Miss Braddon *Run to Earth* i, You sported your pocket-book too freely last night.

(*c*) 1784 *New Spectator* No. 22. 4 Mamma, and a Constant Admirer, sported their conspicuous..presence in the upper-boxes. 1819 *Metropolis* III. 132 She may be seen, when highly dressed, sporting her fine figure at her balcony.

b. To display on the person; to wear.

Very common from *c* 1780.

1778 *The Love Feast* 30 Some macaroni Barristers have presumed to sport Bags and Pig-Tails. 1786 Mrs. A. M. Bennett *Juvenile Indiscr.* I. 144 The regimentals,..stiff plaited chitterling, and silk stockings, were sported at church. 1805 T. Harral *Scenes of Life* III. 64 One of his fingers, however, sported a ring. 1849 Col. Hawker *Diary* (1893) Sported my Peninsular medal this day at the Queen's Levée. *a* 1868 M. J. Higgins *Ess.* (1875) 161 His ostensible luggage is small, yet he sports a wonderful variety of garments. 1893 Vizetelly *Glances Back* I. i. 6 A country gentleman, sporting the orthodox blue coat,..and top-boots.

c. To set up, go in for, keep, support, or use (a carriage, etc.).

1806 Surr *Winter in London* I. 24 To retain the coach and black geldings which old Sawyer had sported before him. 1813 Hor. Smith *Horace in London* 127 With a low bow I'll quit the stage, And sport a villa near Parnassus. 1819 *Metropolis* III. 124 She is not, however, the only one..who sports her wax-lights from the retrenchment in coals. 1858 E. B. Ramsay *Remin.* v. (1867) 119 We hope some day to sport buttons.

d. In other uses (see quots.).

1770 *Gentl. Mag.* XL. 560 It is said by the sons of science at Oxford, of a man in ebrious circumstances, That he cannot sport a right line. 1788 Grose *Dict. Vulgar T.* (ed. 2), *To sport or flash one's ivory*, to shew one's teeth. 1794 *Gentl. Mag.* LXIV. 1085/2 They sported knowing, and they sported ignorant; they sported an ægrotat...They sported an exeat, they sported a dormiat. 1877 *Five Years Penal Servitude* 82 If a man wishes to see the governor, the doctor, or the chaplain, he is to 'sport the broom', lay his little hair-broom on the floor at the door, directly the cell is opened in the morning.

11. (Chiefly *Univ. slang.*) **a.** *To sport oak* or *timber*, to keep one's door shut. Also *fig.* ? *Obs.*

1785 Grose *Dict. Vulg. T.* s.v. *Oak.* 1788 *Ibid.* (ed. 2), *To sport timber*, to keep one's outside door shut: this term is used in the inns of courts to signify denying one's self. 1806 J. Beresford *Miseries Hum. Life* VI. xxxv, Seeing the sun quietly slink behind a mass of black clouds, where he *sports oak* for the rest of the day. 1828 [H. D. Best] *Italy* 275 There was no need, in the college phrase, to *sport oak*.

b. To close or shut (a door), esp. from the inside and as a sign that one is engaged.

c 1803– [see Oak *sb.* 4 c]. 1824 *Blackw. Mag.* Oct. 460 *note*, The door being *sported*, simply means that it was *shut*. 1850 Kingsley *A. Locke* xiii, Stop that till I see whether the door is sported. 1889 Gretton *Memory's Hawkback* 59 His door was always sported; he had but little intercourse with the other Fellows.

c. To shut (a person) *in* by closing the door.

1825 Hone *Every-day Bk.* I. 291 Shutting my room door, as if I was 'sported in'. 1852 Bristed *Five Yrs. Eng. Univ.* (ed. 2) 336 Generally..your Cantab takes care to guard against such a surprise by 'sporting' himself in.

† 12. To open (a door) with some force or violence; to force open. *Obs.*

1806 J. Beresford *Miseries Hum. Life* XIV. vi, Your half-fastened door is unceremoniously sported by a billow, which completely swamps your dressing-room. 1815 Scott *Guy M.* xlviii, Gae down and let loose the dog;..they're sporting the door of the Custom-house.

13. To entertain or treat (a person) with food or drink by way of compliment or hospitality. Also with double object. *rare.*

1828 Lytton *Pelham* III. xvi. 277 He kept his horses, and sported the set to champagne and venison. 1830 — *P. Clifford* iv, I doesn't care if I sports you a glass of port.

Hence **Sported** *ppl. a.* (in sense 11 b).

1872 'A. Merion' *Odd Echoes Oxf.* 38 No more buttery, beer, and grub, No more rows with sported oak! 1887 Jessopp *Arcady* 171 Outside the 'sported door' of some college magnate.

Sportabi·lity. [f. next + -ity.] Capacity for being sportive or playful.

1768 Sterne *Sent. Journ., Passport*, I have something within me which cannot bear the shock of the least indecent insinuation; in the sportability of chit-chat I have often endeavoured to conquer it. 1782 Eliz. Blower *Geo. Bateman* III. 105 Assuming an air of juvenile sportability. 1835 *Fraser's Mag.* XII. 235 We see the Greek girl preparing to sing with a languishing sportability of air.

† Sportable, *a. Obs.*—1 [f. Sport *v.* + -able.] Capable of being sportive.

1767 Sterne *Tr. Shandy* IX. vi, He had lost the sportable key of his voice, which gave sense and spirit to his tale.

Sportance. *rare.* [f. Sport *v.* + -ance.] Sport, play; sportive or frolicsome activity.

c 1440 *Cast. Persev.* 141 in *Macro Plays*, Dere Frendys, we thanke 30u of all good dalyaunce & of all 3oure specyal sportaunce. 1584 Peele *Arraign. Paris* I. iii, The rounde in a circle our sportance must be; Holde handes in a hornepype, all gallant in glee. 1891 F. Thompson *Sister-Songs* (1895) 45 Where sprites of so essential kind Set their paces, Surely they shall leave behind The green traces Of their sportance in the mind.

† Sporteer. *Obs.*—1 [f. Sport *sb.*1] One who is given to sport.

1654 *Citie Matrons* 3 Renegado Wives, Ladies of Pleasure, Sporteers, and starch'd Exchangers.

Sporter (spō·ɹtəɹ). Also 6 *Sc.* **sportour.** [f. Sport *v.* + -er 2. Cf. Disporter.]

† 1. *Sc.* One who amuses or diverts others; a buffoon or jester. *Obs.*

1536 Bellenden *Cron. Scot.* (1821) I. 199 He tuk sic delite in singaris, sportouris, and menstralis. 1596 Dalrymple tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* II. 14 To seik out..all persounis, minstrelis, gemsteris, sportouris, gyuen till ydlenes. *Ibid.* 30 Be a certane sportour [L. *morione*] he was spyet.

2. One who is given to, or takes part in, sport of any kind; a gamester; a sportsman or sporting man.

1611 Cotgr., *Joueur*, a player, gamester; dallier, sporter. 1658 E. Phillips *Myst. Love* 89 There was a Gallant in the Town, a brave and jolly Sporter. 1684 D'Urfey *Races at New-market* in *Bagford Ball.* (1876) 80 Run and endeavour to bubble the sporters. 1709 *Brit. Apollo* No. 44. 2/2 The Sporters in Venus's Garden. 1751 Smollett *Per. Pickle* viii, The beast [a horse] was too keen a sporter to choose any other way than that which the stag followed. 1768 *Woman of Honor* III. 36 The great sporters at the races have no.. idea of keeping up the breed of horses. 1810 *Splendid Follies* III. 192 This illustrious-hearted young sporter.

b. A sporting dog.

1825 Loudon *Encycl. Agric.* § 6643 The trouble occasioned to the master will be trifling, because connected with a pleasing employ to him as a sportsman, and who will thus have his own sporters for nothing.

c. As a moth-name.

1832 J. Rennie *Consp. Butterfl. & Moths* 81 The Sporter (*Diphtheraludifica*).

† 3. *transf.* = Sport *sb.*1 6 b. *Obs. rare.*

1723 P. Blair *Pharmaco-Bot.* I. 16 These [varieties] may justly be called Sporters or Strollers, so many *Lusus Naturæ* sporting themselves from more simple Colours [etc.].

4. One who trifles *with* something serious.

1834 J. Brown *Sanctification* vii. 330 A sporter with my misery, he would have but tormented me before the time.

5. *colloq.* One who sports or wears a garment.

1892 *Daily News* 6 July 3/6 The sporters of special blazers and dainty flannels look hardly less miserable.

Sportful (spō·ɹtfŭl), *a.* [f. Sport *sb.*1 Freq. in the 17th c.; in the 19th chiefly used by Carlyle.]

1. Yielding sport, diversion, or entertainment; having an element of recreation, play, or frolic.

c 1400 *Beryn* 294 Othir beddis [of herbs]..ful fressh i-dight For comers to the hoost, riʒte a sportful sight. 1436 *Pol. Poems* (Rolls) II. 155 Hyt was a sportfulle sygthe, How hys darttes he did schak. 1591 Sylvester *Du Bartas* I. iii. 259 If neere unto the Eleusinian Spring, Som sport-full Jig som wanton Shepheard sing. 1611 Middleton & Dekker *Roaring Girle* D.'s Wks. 1873 III. 163 Lets away. Of all the yeare this is the sportfulst day. 1657 S. Purchas *Pol. Flying-Ins.* 289 The Drones are a lazie and carelesse generation, delighting themselves in sportfull recreations. 1700 Rowe *Amb. Step-Moth.* III. i, Where the sportful Chace had call'd us forth. 1760 Home *Siege of Aquileia* v, If from Rome thou went'st A sportful journey to the Baian shore. 1798 Ferriar *Illustr. Sterne*, etc. 242 They tempt the reader..into pleasing and sportful fields of narration. 1830 Carlyle *Misc. Ess.* (1888) III. 25 A view of man and man's life not less cheerful, even sportful, than it is deep and calm. 1858 — *Fredk. Gt.* x. ii. (1872) II. 580 A young fool, bent on sportful pursuits instead of serious.

b. Devised or carried on merely in sport; not earnest or serious.

1601 Shaks. *Twel. N.* v. i. 373 How with a sportfull malice it was follow'd, May rather plucke on laughter then reuenge. 1606 — *Tr. & Cr.* I. iii. 335 Though 't be a sportfull Combate, Yet in this triall much opinion dwels. 1651 H. More *Second Lash* in *Enthus. Tri.*, etc. (1656) 185, I shall now begin the game of my personated Enmitie, or sportfull Colluctation with him.

c. Of movements: Lively, frolicsome.

1691 Ray *Creation* (1714) 41 This sportful dance of atoms. 1713 *Guardian* No. 71, He couches and frisks about in a thousand sportful motions. 1848 *Fraser's Mag.* XXXVIII. 71 The sportful leap of a trout.

2. Of persons, their minds, etc.: Having an inclination or tendency to engage in sport or play; sportive, playful.

a 1593 Marlowe *Edw. II*, I. i. 64 Crownets of pearle about his naked armes, And in his sportfull hands an Oliue tree. 1593 Shaks. 3 *Hen. VI*, v. i. 18 Oh vnbid spight, is sportfull Edward come? 1632 Massinger *Emperor of East* I. ii, There I am call'd The Squire of Dames,..And by the allowance of some sportful ladies, Honour'd with that title. 1671 Wood *Life* (O.H.S.) II. 238 She not pleasing him, being not sportfull enough. 1755 *Man* No. 23. 2 The powers of the imagination, and the sportful wits of men are rouzed..by..nature in the Spring. 1767 Sir W. Jones *Seven Fountains* Poems (1777) 37 But when the sportful train beheld from far The nymphs returning with the stately car. 1827 Carlyle *Germ. Rom.* II. 110 They who were then sportful on the green are now serious in the church. 1827 — *Misc.* (1857) I. 332 With a heart at once of the most earnest and the most sportful cast.

transf. 1633 P. Fletcher *Purple Isl.* IV. xiii, Here sportfull Laughter dwells, here ever sitting, Defies all lumpish

griefs, and wrinkled care. 1707 *Curiosities in Husb.* 41 Figures..which we admire as the Work of sportful Nature.

b. Of animals, birds, fishes, etc.

1607 TOPSELL *Four-footed Beasts* 6 They [i.e. monkeys] are very sportful, and giuen to imitate the actions of men like apes. 1650 FULLER *Pisgah* II. xiii. 271 And the most sportfull fishes dare not jest with the edged-tools of this Dead-Sea. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* I. 497 When sportful Coots run skimming o'er the Strand. 1768–74 TUCKER *Lt. Nat.* (1834) I. 91 The poet beholds shady groves, sportful flocks, and verdant lawns. 1768 SIR W. JONES *Solima* 96 The camels bounded o'er the flowery lawn, Like the swift ostrich, or the sportful fawn. 1862 D. CAMPBELL *Lang., Poet., & Music Highland Clans* 145 Sportful in his proud career, he [the salmon] springs at the midges.

Sportfully, *adv.* Now *rare.* [f. prec.] In a sportful manner; in sport; jestingly; sportively.

a 1586 SIDNEY *Arcadia* III. xvii. (1912) 452 And [this] unfathered Lady could sportfully put on the Lions skin upon her owne faire shoulders. 1632 G. HERBERT *Priest to Temple* ix, He..talks..also in a serious manner, never jestingly, or sportfully. 1681-6 J. SCOTT *Chr. Life* II. iii. 130 Now there is nothing more surprising..than to see or hear a serious thing sportfully represented. 1782 J. BROWN *Nat. & Rev. Relig.* VI. i. (1796) 447 This commandment forbids..our profaning and abusing his name..in angrily or sportfully cursing. 1831 CARLYLE *Misc. Ess.* (1888) III. 179 Nor in his satire does he ever lose pleasure but rebukes sportfully.

Sportfulness. Now *rare.* [f. as prec.] The quality or state of being sportful; sportiveness.

1581 SIDNEY *Apol. Poetrie* (Arb.) 65 So as neither the admiration and commiseration, nor the right sportfulnes, is by their mungrell Tragy-comedie obtained. *a* 1631 DONNE *Let.* Wks. (1633) 371 When sadnesse dejects me,..I kindle squibs about mee againe, and flie into sportfulnesse and company. 1667 H. MORE *Div. Dial.* II. xiii. (1713) 126 The birth of Monsters; which I look upon but as a piece of Sportfulness in the order of things. 1710 R. WARD *Life H. More* 48 It is hard to represent the Wit, Reason, Zeal, Phancy, Sportfulness, and Seriousness,..there is contain'd in this Writing. 1780 *Mirror* No. 100, A sportfulness of external behaviour. 1831 CARLYLE *Misc. Ess.* (1888) III. 98 Majesty rather than grace, still more than lightness or sportfulness, characterises him. 1898 *Christian Herald* (N.Y.) 12 Jan. 24/1 That which opened in sportfulness ended in violence.

Sportiness. *colloq.* [f. SPORTY *a.*] Sporty quality or tendency.

1896 *Daily Chron.* 31 Oct. 8/2 We should have ruthlessly stamped out the first symptom of 'sportiness' in our nursing staff.

Sporting (spō·ɹtiŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. SPORT *v.*]

1. The action of the verb; engagement or participation in sport.

1483 *Vulgaria* 4 Thoos chylder..which are gouen so muche to play & sportyng. 1581 A. HALL *Iliad* II. 41 His mates.. in diuers mirth the shore in sporting fil. 1582 T. WATSON *Centurie of Love* xcii, Hebe,.. Goddesse of youth, and youthlie sporting. 1638 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* (ed. 2) 159 The higher roomes are garnisht with variety of landskips, and represents their way of sporting, hawking,..and other fancies. 1662 J. CHANDLER *Van Helmont's Oriat.* 95 Let us feign by sporting, and grant a heat to be actually under the Earth and Water. 1796 WINDHAM *Speeches* (1812) I. 286 Dogs kept for sporting, were peculiar to the rich, and though he did not mean to arraign sporting, he thought it not the highest sort of amusement. 1827 D. JOHNSON *Ind. Field Sports* 178 From this time their sporting was conducted on a much more grand and formidable scale. 1838 LYTTON *Alice* II. v, Maltravers..had neither outshone the establishment, nor interfered with the sporting of his fellow-squires.

b. An instance or occasion of this; † a sport.

1490 CAXTON *Eneydos* xv. 59 Passynge the tyme in grete playsaunces, festes, playes & sportynges. 1598 MARSTON *Pygmal. Sat.* xxxv, Could he abstaine mid'st such a wanton sporting From doing that, which is not fit reporting? 1614 GORGES *Lucan* III. 86 The common sort to sportings bent. 1687 AYRES *The Swallow* Wks. (1906) 322 Dear Bird thy tunes and sportings here, Delight us all the day.

transf. 1666 BP. S. PARKER *Free & Impart. Censure* (1667) 76 The Quaintest plays and sportings of wit. *Ibid.* 79 Metaphors being only the sportings of Fancy.

2. † a. The action on the part of Nature of producing an abnormal form or variety; an instance or occasion of this. *Obs.* Cf. SPORT *sb.*[1] 6.

1695 WOODWARD *Nat. Hist. Earth* I. (1723) 40 They are no Shells, but meer Sportings of active Nature. 1696 WHISTON *Th. Earth* III. iv. 201 [To] ascribe the plainest remains of the Animal and Vegetable Kingdom to the sportings of Nature,..as some persons are inclinable to do. 1746 *Phil. Trans.* XLIV. 317 The *Lusus Naturæ* or sportings of Nature is a general solution too often brought in. 1756 C. LUCAS *Ess. Waters* III. 119 The infinite diversity..may be looked upon as so many sportings of nature.

† b. Irregular diffusion or deposition *of* pollen.

1763 *Ann. Reg., Nat. Hist.* VI. 73 Thus..amongst apple-trees, a mixture of fruit hath been observed on the same tree, supposed by the sporting of the farina.

c. The action on the part of plants, etc., of deviating or varying from the parent stock or type by spontaneous mutation; an abnormal form or variation so produced; a sport.

1841 *Florist's Jrnl.* (1846) II. 176 It is doubtful whether any of these sportings will produce a permanent variety. 1842 *Ibid.* III. 84 This is remarkably the case in the natural 'sporting of varieties', as it is called. 1865 GOSSE *Land & Sea* (1874) 371 That ferns are more liable to what is technically called 'sporting', than other plants. 1882 *Garden* 14 Jan. 32/3 The lecturer then alluded to sporting from seed as another method of raising new forms.

3. *attrib.* and *Comb.* a. In older usage, as *sporting device, game, matter, place, time,* etc.

1480 *Coventry Leet-bk.* 458 Þe people maken þe same seuerall grounde a sportyng place with shotyng & other games. 1565 COOPER *Thesaurus, Ludicrum certamen,* a sportyng game. 1579 L. TOMSON *Calvin's Serm. Tim.* 310/1 It is no sporting matter when the Lorde calleth vs to serue him in this office. 1587 GOLDING *De Mornay* xiv. (1592) 220 So the Soule which is in the Jaile of his souereine Lord God, hath no respit or sporting time to come tell vs what is done there. 1597 SHAKS. 2 *Hen. IV,* IV. ii. 105 Like a Schoole broke vp, Each hurryes towards his home, and sporting place.

b. In later and mod. use, as *sporting celebrity, party, purpose*; freq. in senses 'formed or undertaken for sport', 'concerned with or interested in sport', as *sporting association, magazine, newspaper, tour,* and 'used in or for sport', as *sporting bullet, cartridge, dog, gear, gun.*

1728 RAMSAY *Anacreontic on Love* 25 If that the rain Has wrang'd aught of my sporting-gear. 1789 WHITE *Selborne* cii, No sporting dogs will flush woodcocks till inured to the scent and trained to the sport. 1793– (*title*), The Sporting Magazine; or Monthly Calendar of the Transactions of the Turf. 1815 *Ann. Reg., Chron.* 110 Several persons of fashion as well as sporting celebrity. 1818 SCOTT *Rob Roy* v, The uniform of a sporting association. 1820 W. TOOKE *Lucian* I. 109 My little sporting-dog..began to bark. 1825 T. HOOK *Sayings* Ser. II. *Man of Many Fr.* (Colburn) 87 Dyson could always make up a little sporting party. 1860 DICKENS *Uncomm. Trav.* x, If I cherished betting propensities, I should probably be found registered in sporting newspapers [etc.]. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* I. 271/1 The stout pasteboard sporting cartridges. 1885 'MRS. ALEXANDER' *At Bay* ii, A little further conversation on financial and sporting topics.

c. Special Combs., as **sporting-box,** a small residence for use during the sporting season (see BOX *sb.*[2] 14); **sporting door** *Univ. slang* (see quot. and SPORT *v.* 11 b); **sporting-house,** a house, hotel, or inn frequented by sportsmen; *U.S.* a betting or gambling house; a brothel or disorderly house; † **sporting-piece,** a plaything; † **sporting stock,** a laughing-stock; a butt.

1840 HOWITT *Visits Remark. Places* 1st Ser. 210 The Duke of Devonshire's house..serves for a *sporting-box, when his Grace comes hither in autumn to the moors. 1852 BRISTED *Five Yrs. in Eng. Univ.* (ed. 2) 58 Be it premised, for the benefit of the uninitiated, that Oxonians call the *sporting door 'the oak'. 1857 HUGHES *Tom Brown* I. iv, It is a well-known *sporting-house, and the breakfasts are famous. 1894 STEAD *If Christ came to Chicago* 5 The novice in the sporting house, as well as the hardened old harridan who drives the trade in human flesh, are herded together. 1740–1 RICHARDSON *Pamela* II. 36 Here I am again! a pure *Sporting-piece for the Great! a mere Tennis-ball of Fortune. *a* 1553 UDALL *Royster D.* III. iii, We do hym loute and flocke, And make him among vs, our common *sporting stocke.

Sporting (spō·ɹtiŋ), *ppl. a.* [f. SPORT *v.*]

1. Engaged in sport or play.

1653 HOLCROFT *Procopius, Vandal Wars* I. 22 It was then accounted as an idle riddle among sporting boys. 1725 POPE *Odyss.* VI. 112 O'er the green mead the sporting virgins play.

† b. Sportive; playful. *Obs. rare.*

1600 J. PORY tr. *Leo's Africa* I. 40 [An elephant] will in a sporting maner gently heave up with his snowte such persons as he meeteth. 1656 W. DU GARD tr. *Comenius' Gate Lat. Unl.* 311 They shall feed not upon Ambrosia and Nectar (as the sporting poets did fain) but on hidden..sweets. 1712 SWIFT *Wonderful Prophecy* Wks. 1751 III. I. 173 Think not that this baleful dog-star only shaketh his tail at you in waggery. ..It is not a sporting tail, but a fiery tail.

c. Of plants, etc. (See SPORT *v.* 4 b.)

1850 *Beck's Florist* 211 We would recommend a trial of the seed from these sporting flowers. 1859 DARWIN *Orig. Spec.* i. (1860) 9 'Sporting plants'; by this term gardeners mean a single bud or offset, which suddenly assumes a new and sometimes very different character from that of the rest of the plant. 1886 *Field* 6 Mar. 303/2 The sporting character of roses was as much observed at that time as now.

2. Interested in, accustomed to take part in, field sports or similar amusements.

1748 C'TESS SHAFTESBURY in *Priv. Lett. Ld. Malmesbury* (1870) I. 71 There we met several sporting gentlemen. 1828 LYTTON *Pelham* II. xxiv, Sporting characters .. were a species of bipeds that I would never recognise as belonging to the human race. 1859 THACKERAY *Virgin.* vi, Harry was away from home with some other sporting friends. 1885 Miss BRADDON *Wyllard's Weird* iv, 'I can't think what has come to Grahame,' muttered a sporting squire to his next neighbour.

b. Esp. *sporting man*; now used to denote a sportsman of an inferior type or one who is interested in sport from purely mercenary motives.

1840 BARHAM *Ingol. Leg.* Ser. I. *St. Odille* vi, Now I think I've been told,—for I'm no sporting man,—That the 'knowing-ones' call this by far the best plan. 1853 R. S. SURTEES *Sp. Tour* (1893) 235 'Is he inclined to go the pace?' 'Oh, quite,' replied Jack; 'his great desire is to be thought a sportsman.' 'A sportsman, or a sporting man?' asked Soapey. 1889 *Pall Mall G.* 21 Oct. 6/1 Every sporting man is flattered if termed a sportsman, but it would be almost an insult to speak to a sportsman as a sporting man.

3. Characterized by sport or sportsmanlike conduct; affording or producing sport.

1867 F. FRANCIS *Angling* iv. (1880) 136 It is the most sporting way of fishing for them. 1893 *Times* 29 Apr. 11/4 The debate was naturally too one-sided to afford any sporting interest either to the combatants or to the spectators. 1897 Miss KINGSLEY *W. Africa* 617 Those very sporting vessels, the British and African, and the Royal African steamers.

b. *Sporting chance,* a chance such as is met with or taken in sport; one of an uncertain or doubtful nature. *collog.*

1897 Miss KINGSLEY *W. Africa* 252 One must diminish dead certainties to the level of sporting chances along here.

Sportingly (spō·ɹtiŋli), *adv.* [f. prec.]

1. As a matter of amusement or diversion; in or with jesting words or speech; not earnestly or seriously. ? *Obs.*

1576 FLEMING *Panopl. Epist.* 212 Pythagoras..first toucheth the condition and estate of him, whether seriously or sportingly, it is vncertaine. 1582 SIDNEY *Apol. Poetrie* (Arb.) 44 The Satirick..Who sportingly neuer leaueth, vntil hee make a man laugh at folly. 1652 H. MORE *Second Lash* in *Enthus. Tri.,* etc. (1656) M j b, Thus Reader, is your argument against laughing as solidly argued as sportingly laughed out of countenance. 1674 BP. BROWNRIG *Serm.* II. 5 The mysteries of Religion are not slightly..or sportingly to be handled. 1768 STERNE *Sent. Journ., Passport, Versailles,* Besides, continued I, a little sportingly—I have come laughing all the way from London to Paris. 1848 S. WARREN *Now & Then* iv. 173, I sportingly said 'No, come with us'.

2. With sportive, playful, frolicsome, or lively action or demeanour.

c 1630 RISDON *Surv. Devon* § 107 The river Ex sportingly disperseth itself into branches. *a* 1639 W. WHATELEY *Prototypes* II. xxvi. (1640) 22 Sports must be done sportingly, not with the like seriousnesse..as serious matters. 1776 S. J. PRATT *Pupil of Pleas.* (1777) I. 46 Catching up a myrtle-sprig, [I] kept it, sportingly, as if to conceal a new sigh. *c* 1789 *New Liverpool Songster* 337 How echoes the horn in the vale, Whose notes do so sportingly dance on the gale.

b. Towards sport or enjoyment.

a 1643 LD. FALKLAND, etc. *Infallibility* (1646) 156, I told you the applying of it to that place would have afforded some game if I had beene so sportingly disposed.

3. In or after the manner characteristic of sport; in sporting language or terms; like a sportsman.

1798 *Sporting Mag.* XI. 57 Fertile fabrications so sportingly portrayed. 1831 *Blackw. Mag.* XXIX. 872 He was beat by three good lengths...But to speak less sportingly [etc.]. 1844 W. H. MAXWELL *Sports & Adv. Scot.* iii. (1855) 38 No man rode more sportingly to hounds. *Ibid.* xx. 173 A salmon..took the fly sportingly. 1883 *Pall Mall G.* 21 Dec. 4/2 Next to good sport, the honest English sportsman likes to dress sportingly.

† **Sporting-wise,** *adv. Obs.*[-1] [f. SPORTING *ppl. a.* + -WISE.] In sport or jest; jestingly.

1579–80 NORTH *Plutarch* (1895) IV. 207 There were some which sporting-wise did openly call him Alexander.

Sportive (spō·ɹtiv), *a.* and *sb.* [f. SPORT *sb.* or *v.* + -IVE.]

A. *adj.* 1. Inclined to jesting or levity; disposed to a playful lightness of thought or expression.

1590 SHAKS. *Com. Err.* I. ii. 58, I am not in a sportiue humor now: Tell me, and dally not, where is the monie? 1593 NASHE *Christ's T.* Wks. (Grosart) IV. 260 They are nought els but cleanly coyned lyes, which some pleasant sportiue wittes haue deuised, to gull them most groselie. 1676 GLANVILL *Seasonable Refl.* 31 'Tis equally absurd to be sportive about affairs that are serious. 1778 MME. D'ARBLAY *Diary* 26 Aug., Two little productions..full of a sportive humour. 1782 V. KNOX *Ess.* (1819) III. 238 With a rich and sportive fancy he combined a solid judgment. 1837 DISRAELI *Venetia* I. ii, A curious fountain carved..in one of those capricious moods of sportive invention. 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* III. 541 Three generations of serious and of sportive writers wept and laughed over the venality of the senate.

b. Characterized by lightness or levity; not earnest or serious.

1593 NASHE *Christ's T.* Wks. (Grosart) IV. 109 The younge men in their merry-running Madrigals, and sportiue Base-bidding Rundelayes. 1655 *Musarum Deliciæ* Title-p., Conteining severall select Pieces of sportive Wit. 1742 GRAY *Spring* 42 Methinks I hear in accents low The sportive kind reply. 1743 FRANCIS tr. *Hor., Odes* II. xii. 17 In raillery the sportive jest. 1813 HOR. SMITH *Horace in London* 46 Whom Echo..Shall chaunt in sportive numbers? 1826 F. REYNOLDS *Life & Times* II. 166 The ensuing sportive anecdotes may appear frivolous. 1882 OUIDA *Maremma* I. 32 Of sportive love offered and returned.

2. Of the nature of, inclined to, amorous sport or wantonness. Now *arch.*

1594 SHAKS. *Rich. III,* I. i. 14, I, that am not shap'd for sportiue trickes, Nor made to court an amorous Looking-glasse. *c* 1600 — *Sonn.* CXXI. 6 For why should others false adulterat eyes Giue salutation to my sportiue blood? 1855 BROWNING *Fra Lippo Lippi* 6 Where sportive ladies leave their doors ajar.

3. Disposed to be playful or frolicsome.

a 1637 B. JONSON *Horace, Art Poet.* 150 Stuff'd menacings [ht] The angry brow, the sportive, wanton things. 1651 JER. TAYLOR *Serm. for Year* II. x. 129 The bait is in their mouths, and they are sportive; but the hook hath strook their nostrils, and they shall never escape the ruine. *a* 1721 PRIOR *To Madam K. P.* 7 Lively the Nymphs and sportive are their Swains. 1762 FALCONER *Shipwr.* II. 70 Beneath the lofty stem A shoal of sportive dolphins they discern. 1807 CRABBE *Par. Reg.* II. 417 There, Werter sees the sportive children fed. 1819 SHELLEY *Cyclops* 92 This sportive band of Satyrs near the caves. 1865 ALEX. SMITH *Summer in Skye* I. 259 He cannot be sportive for the fear that is in his heart. *transf.* 1697 POTTER *Antiq. Greece* (1715) II. xx. 401 Then tow'rds the Wind the sportive Ashes cast Upon the Sea. 1784 COWPER *Task* I. 346 So sportive is the light Shot through the boughs, it dances as they dance. *Ibid.* 567 The sportive wind blows wide Their flutt'ring rags. 1798 WORDSW. *Five years have past* 16 Little lines Of sportive wood run wild. 1827 R. POLLOCK *Course of Time* III, Its breath was cold, and made the sportive blood Heavy and dull and stagnant.

b. Of qualities, etc.

1743 FRANCIS tr. *Hor., Odes* III. xviii. 13 See my flocks in sportive vein Frisk it o'er the verdant plain. 1812 J. WILSON *Isle of Palms* II. 450 A gaudy flag..Hung up in sportive joy by those Whose sports and joys are past. 1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 222 Exhibiting a kind of dance, performed with the most sportive vivacity.

4. Of or pertaining to, marked or characterized

by, sport; of the nature of sport or amusement; affording or providing sport or diversion.

1705 HICKERINGILL *Priest-cr.* I. (1721) 52 They go to Bowls, and other sportive Exercises every Sunday. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) V. 358 He then placed them in a cage at his chamber window, to be amused by their sportive flutterings. 1810 SCOTT *Lady of Lake* I. xviii, The sportive toil..Had dyed her glowing hue so bright. 1839 T. MITCHELL *Frogs of Aristoph.* 148 *note*, A die (the sportive instrument of playful youth). 1874 MAHAFFY *Social Life Greece* xi. 351 The Greeks made their serious pursuits, especially their religion, sportive.

b. Undertaken, given, etc., in (mere) sport.

1743 FRANCIS tr. *Hor., Odes* I. viii. 16 Where are now the livid scars Of sportive, nor inglorious, wars? 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* xlvii, The apparition of the dead comes not on light or sportive errands. 1837 W. IRVING *Capt. Bonneville* II. 105 Quickened by a sportive volley which the Indians rattled after him. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* iii. I. 400 It was now not a sportive combat, but a war to the death.

5. Produced in, or as in, sport; *spec.* of the nature of a sport or abnormal variation; anomalous. Now *rare* or *Obs.*

1796 H. HUNTER *St.-Pierre's Stud. Nat.* (1799) 277 Examine, on their gowns and handkerchiefs, the sportive productions of their imagination. 1799 *Med. Jrnl.* I. 73 The mineral kingdom, with all the riches, beauties, and sportive productions it contains. 1804 PARKINSON *Organic Remains* I. 24 The *vis plastica*, the *vis formativa*, and the sportive creations of nature, were terms yet in frequent use. 1822–7 GOOD *Study Med.* (1829) I. 458 By what means they are rendered subservient to such an infinite variety of sportive and anomalous effects.

b. Of plants, etc.: Liable to sport or vary from the true type; characterized by sporting.

(*a*) 1850 *Beck's Florist* 24 *Duchess of Sutherland*..is a feathered rosy byblœmen, rather sportive. 1868 DARWIN *Anim. & Pl.* I. 315 [He] was forced to reject some of his new sub-varieties, which he suspected had been produced from a cross, as incorrigibly sportive. 1892 *Gardeners' Chron.* 27 Aug. 250/2 P. aculeatum, though far less sportive than P. angulare, afforded material for a fine selection.

(*b*) 1891 W. ALLAN *Dis. Skin* iv. (ed. 3) 52 It is this sportive tendency manifested by skin diseases which adds so much to the difficulty of their diagnosis.

6. Taking part in, following or interested in, sport or sports.

1893 C. G. LELAND *Mem.* I. 37 Uncle William was a kind-hearted 'sportive' man, who took *Bell's Life*.

†B. *sb.* A thing merely amusing or diverting and not of a serious character. *Obs.*—1

1616 E. BOLTON *Hypercritica* (1722) 237 If they have seen that incomparable Earl of Surrey his English translation of Virgil's Æneids.., [they] will bear me witness that those others were Foils and Sportives.

Spo·rtively, *adv.* [f. prec. + LY 2.]

1. With the lively movements characteristic of sport; playfully.

1597 DRAYTON *Heroical Epistles* 68, I saw the soft ayre sportiuely to take it. 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* xxxvi, Now she moved with solemn steps,..and now tripped sportively along the path. 1797 — *Italian* xvii, As they sportively threw about their sugar-plums. 1807–8 W. IRVING *Salmag.* (1824) 340 The females that passed in review before me, tripping sportively along. 1812 CARY *Dante, Purg.* xvi. 88 Forth from his plastic hand..the soul Comes like a babe, that wantons sportively.

2. In or with sportive or jesting words; jocosely, facetiously.

1631 HEYLIN *St. George* 90 Therefore sportively accoasting him,..said [etc.]. 1762 STERNE *Tr. Shandy* v. xxxix, Well, my good Doctor, cried my father, sportively. 1780 MME. D'ARBLAY *Diary* June, A sportively complimentary conversation took place. 1807–8 W. IRVING *Salmag.* (1824) 217 In the play of his fancy [he] will sportively say Some delicate censure that pops in his way. 1842 BROWNING *Rudel to the Lady of Tripoli* i, Men call the Flower the Sunflower, sportively. 1871 FREEMAN in W. R. W. Stephens *Life* (1895) II. vii. 46 We were all much troubled to hear..about your own accident. You were able to speak sportively about [etc.].

3. In sport or jest.

1793 MISS H. M. WILLIAMS *Lett. France* II. 43 One day Lewis XV. sportively created him governor of Lucienne.

Spo·rtiveness. [f. as prec.] The fact, quality, or condition of being sportive.

1601 YARINGTON *Two Trag.* III. ii. in Bullen *O. Pl.* IV, Pick out mens eyes, and tell them thats the sport Of hood-man-blinde, without all sportiveness. 1653 WALTON *Angler* i, Shall I conclude her simple, that has her time to begin, or refuse sportiveness as freely as I myself have? 1756–7 tr. *Keysler's Trav.* (1760) III. 95 The virgin mother's looks most exquisitely express her sweet complacency at their innocent sportiveness. 1779 *Mirror* No. 2, In the first character I may sometimes indulge a sportiveness to which I am a stranger in the latter. 1838 DICKENS *Nickleby* xviii, Some very pretty sportiveness ensued. 1858 DORAN *Court Fools* 132 The warrant being drawn up in sportiveness, he signed the document. 1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) V. 223 The young of all creatures..are always..overflowing with sportiveness and delight at something.

Spo·rtless, *a.* [f. SPORT *sb.*1 + -LESS.] Destitute or devoid of sport; marked by the absence of sport.

1621 G. SANDYS *Ovid's Met.* II. (1626) 28 The Fishes to the bottom diue: nor dare The sportlesse Dolphins tempt the sultrie Ayre. 1631 P. FLETCHER *Pisc. Ecl.* vii. 1 Her weeping eyes in pearled dew she steeps, Casting what sportlesse nights she ever led. 1895 *Baily's Mag.* May 356 The use of the minnow..is a method of taking fish which is sportless, artless, and as bad as anything I know.

†**Sportlet.** *Obs.*—1 [Cf. SPORT *sb.*2 and -LET.] A small basket or hand-basket.

1447 BOKENHAM *Seyntys* (Roxb.) 142 Wyth thre rosys and thre applys in hys hand he hade A sportelet, and doun up on hys kne He hym set and offryd it on to Dorothe.

Spo·rtling. *rare.* [f. SPORT *sb.*1 or *v.* + -LING.]

1. A small sportive or playful animal, bird, etc.

c 1720 A. PHILIPS *Odes, To Miss Carteret* 20 When again the lambkins play, Pretty sportlings full of May. *c* 1720 SWIFT *On Rover* [in ridicule of prec.] 34 Where the linnets sit and sing, Little sportlings of the spring.

†2. A sport or abnormal variation. *Obs.*—1

1723 P. BLAIR *Pharmaco-Bot.* I. 16 All the other are only sportlings from them.

†**Spo·rtly,** *a. Obs.* [f. SPORT *sb.*1 + -LY 1].

1. Of or pertaining to, connected with, sport; sporting; sportsmanlike.

1682 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1741/3 As many as wish well to their Town, or are Incouragers of Sportly Meetings. 1711 SHAFTESB. *Charac.* (1737) III. 217 As little favourable..as these sportly gentleman are..towards the care or culture of their own species. 1781 P. BECKFORD *Th. Hunting* (1802) 185 You also object to my saying *catch* a fox: you call it a bad expression, and say that it is not sportly.

2. Sportive, frolicsome, playful. *rare*—1.

1696 A. DE LA PRYME *Diary* (Surtees) 78 Turneps..make them so sportly, lively, and vigorous that they play and leap like young kidds.

Sportsman (spō·ɹtsmăn). [f. SPORT *sb.*1]

1. A man who follows, engages in, or practises sport; esp. one who hunts or shoots wild animals or game for pleasure.

Also *transf.*, in recent use, one who in his conduct or dealings displays the typical good qualities of a sportsman.

1706–7 FARQUHAR *Beaux' Strat.* I. i, *Aim.* A sportsman, I suppose? *Bon.* Yes, sir, he's a man of pleasure; he plays at whisk and smokes his pipe eight-and-forty hours together sometimes. 1727 GAY *Begg. Op.* I. ii, A good sportsman always lets the hen-partridges fly. 1776 GIBBON *Decl. & F.* xi. (1782) I. 367 His nephew..presumed to dart his javelin before that of his uncle...As a monarch and as a sportsman Odenathus was provoked. 1856 KANE *Arctic Explor.* II. xxviii. 277 Our sportsmen would clamber up the cliffs and come back laden with little auks. 1894 *Outing* XXIV. 476/1 Some have been true sportsmen—and as I take it, the phrase true sportsmen includes everything that is manly and gentlemanly.

transf. 1831–3 CAPT. B. HALL *Frag. Voy. & Trav.* Ser. II. I. 244 This skilful sea-sportsman [a dolphin] arranged all his springs..[so] that he contrived to fall, at the end of each, just under the very spot on which the exhausted Flying-fish were about to drop!

b. *Sportsman's companion, knife* (see quots.).

1863 *Athenæum* 19 Dec. 841/3 Mr. Baskcomb exhibited an ancient nut-cracker, and a sportsman's companion, found at Tutbury Castle. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2288/1 *Sportsman's Knife*, one containing a number of tools, to be used in emergencies.

c. *Electr.* (See quots.)

1842 FRANCIS *Dict. Arts & Sci.* s.v., *Electrical Sportsman*, an amusing and ingenious instrument, to illustrate the fact that a charged electrical jar will discharge itself if the outer and inner coating approach too closely. 1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib., Brit.* II. No. 5598, Gas pistol, thunder house, sportsmen, and other instrument[s] for showing the proportion of frictional electricity.

2. *U.S.* A gambler, betting-man.

1848 in BARTLETT.

Sportsmanlike (spō·ɹtsmănlaik), *a.* Also **sportsman-like.** [f. prec. + -LIKE.] Resembling a sportsman; like that of a sportsman; consonant with the character or conduct of a sportsman.

1816 SCOTT *Antiq.* xxii, He indulges his sportsman-like propensities by shooting my pigeons. 1824 MISS MITFORD *Village* Ser. I. (1863) 240 Having something smart and sportsman-like in his appearance. 1853 KANE *Grinnell Exped.* I. (1856) 483 If he has with him the light javelin.. he may be tempted to use it now: but this, I believe, is not altogether sportsmanlike. 1889 RIDER HAGGARD *Allan's Wife* 296 The lion is a sportsmanlike animal, and..prefers to kill his own dinner.

b. *colloq.* Honourable, straightforward.

1899 E. PHILLPOTTS *Human Boy* 119 Freckles, who was an awfully sportsmanlike chap really.

Sportsmanly (spō·ɹtsmănli), *a.* [f. as prec. + -LY 1.] Worthy of, becoming or befitting, a sportsman; sportsmanlike. So **Spo·rtsmanliness.**

1778 [W. H. MARSHALL] *Minutes Agric.* 9 Sept. 1776, But the rules of Sportsmanliness are not so generally understood as those of Good-Breeding. *Ibid.*, It is sometimes sportsmanly to suffer the huntsman to pursue the hounds, where it would be unsportsmanly in any other horseman to follow. 1912 *Nation* 5 Oct. 9/1 My sportsmanly approval was misplaced.

Sportsmanship (spō·ɹtsmănʃip). [f. as prec. + -SHIP.] The performance or practice of a sportsman; skill in, or knowledge of, sport; conduct characteristic or worthy of a sportsman.

1745 FIELDING *Tom Jones* III. x, He had..greatly recommended himself..by leaping over five barred gates, and by other acts of sportsmanship. 1826 MISS MITFORD *Village* II. 308 The boys showed great sportmanship (*sic*) on this occasion. 1842 *Edinb. Rev.* LXXIII. 382 He was not one of the Brummell set, or he would scarcely attribute the origin of Melton to their sportsmanship. 1897 *Outing* XXX. 239/2 If this advance..in oarsmanship can be accompanied with an advance in sportsmanship.

†**Spo·rtsome,** *a. Sc. Obs.* [f. SPORT *sb.*1 + -SOME.] Amusing, diverting, sportive.

1533 BELLENDEN *Livy* I. ii. (S.T.S.) I. 19 Be þis evander was institute ane sportsum play, þat ȝoung men suld ryn nakit..to wourschip pan Liceus. *Ibid.* I. xvi. 90 In þe mene tyme ane of þame begouth to schaw ane sportsum fabil.

Sportswoman (spō·ɹtswumăn). [f. SPORT *sb.*1] A woman who follows or practises, is addicted to or interested in, sport, esp. field-sport.

1754 SHEBBEARE *Matrimony* (1766) II. 206 My good Dame is a very unfair Sportswoman. 1796 *Sporting Mag.* VII. 288 The celebrated Miss Barlow, well known as an accomplished sportswoman. 1810 LADY LYTTELTON *Corr.* iv. (1912) 93, I used to hate hunting talk; but .. I grew a complete sport's-woman in theory before we left the country. 1865 *Sat. Rev.* 11 Mar. 281/2 A quarry worthy of the aim of an ambitious sportswoman. 1896 *Cath. News* 9 May 15/3 The dashing sportswoman who used to hunt like a man.

†b. A loose woman or harlot. *Obs.*

1816 *Sporting Mag.* XLVIII. 161 A great bustle..has been made by the police among the sportswomen of the lowest rank.

Spo·rtulary, *a. Obs.*—1 [f. L. *sportula* little basket, dole, gift, dim. of *sporta* SPORT *sb.*2] Supported by, dependent or subsisting on, the doles or gifts of patrons.

1649 BP. HALL *Cases Consc.* III. vii. (1650) 231 Hereupon it is, that these sportulary preachers are faine to sooth up their many maisters.

†**Spo·rtule.** *Obs.*—1 [a. F. *sportule* or ad. L. *sportula* (see prec.).] A dole, gift, or present.

1726 AYLIFFE *Parergon* 173 The Bishops who consecrated this Ground, were wont to have a Spill or Sportule for the same from the credulous Laity.

Sporty (spō·ɹti), *a. colloq.* or *slang.* [f. SPORT *sb.*1] Sportsmanlike, sportsmanly; sporting.

1889 *Daily News* 11 Mar. 2/3 The very 'sporty' little venture was watched with much interest. 1893 *Weekly Express & Mail* (N. Y.) 28 June, This is the 'sporty' way to capture them, but the professional frog hunters go for their prey..with scoop nets and long poles. 1897 *Outing* XXX. 484/2 It's awfully sporty of them to lend fresh ponies to their opponents.

Comb. 1896 *Gody's Mag.* Feb. 152/1 A sporty-looking drummer.

Sporular (spɒ·rĭŭlăɹ), *a.* [f. SPORULE + -AR.] Having the character of, pertaining to, a sporule.

1819 LINDLEY tr. *Richard's Observ.* 42 If some part only have received the sporular matter. 1840 HARVEY *Brit. Algae* Introd. p. xxiii, I am more disposed to consider them viviparous capsules, in which the sporular map has been converted into minute filaments.

Sporulate (spɒ·rĭŭlēit), *v.* [f. as prec. + -ATE 3.]

1. *trans.* To convert into spores.

1885 LANKESTER in *Encycl. Brit.* XIX. 854/1 A part of the protoplasm is not sporulated but forms a capillitium.

2. *intr.* To form spores or sporules.

1891 in *Cent. Dict.* 1897 *Nature* 21 Oct. 601/1 In a cell about to sporulate the nucleus is found in the centre of the cell. 1898 MANSON *Trop. Diseases* i. 16 The non-flagellated plasmodium..sporulates in the human blood-corpuscle.

Hence **Spo·rulated, Spo·rulating** *ppl. adjs.*

1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* II. 749 The breaking up of the sporulating parasite. 1898 P. MANSON *Trop. Diseases* iii. 79 The breaking down of the sporulated plasmodium.

Sporulation (spɒrĭŭlē·ʃən). [f. as prec. + -ATION.] Conversion into spores; spore-formation.

1876 tr. *Schutzenberger's Fermentation* 55 The sporulation and budding differ in no respect from the analogous phenomena which are observed in yeast. 1896 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* I. 761 As soon as sporulation commences the segments become more perfectly marked out.

Sporule (spɒ·rĭŭl). *Bot.* and *Zool.* [a. F. *sporule* or ad. mod.L. *sporula* (Hedwig): see SPORE and -ULE.]

1. A spore or spore-granule.

a. *Bot.* 1819 LINDLEY tr. *Richard's Observ.* 42 Sporules differ from seeds,..above all, in their want of embryo. *Ibid.*, The rudiment of a sporule. 1845 DARWIN *Voy. Nat.* i. 5 After this fact one need not be surprised at the diffusion of the far lighter and smaller sporules of cryptogamic plants. 1875 *Zoologist* X. 4416 The matter contained in the sporules of the genus Fucus is of a glutinous nature.

attrib. and *Comb.* 1830 LINDLEY *Nat. Syst. Bot.* 313 Any sporule-case in Cellulares. *Ibid.*, A cluster of sporule-like areolæ.

b. *Zool.* 1836–9 *Todd's Cycl. Anat.* II. 433/2 In some animals these sporules are formed in all parts of the body indiscriminately. *Ibid.*, The sporules of some Zoophytes. 1846 J. D. DANA *Zooph.* v. (1848) 91 The sporules..which constitute the surface dots alluded to.

2. *fig.* A germ.

1861 *Q. Rev.* CX. 368 Mere words..necessarily contain the sporules of mighty principles.

Hence **Sporuli·ferous** *a.*, bearing sporules.

1824 R. K. GREVILLE *Flora Edin.* p. lxxiii, Sporuliferous pulp not spontaneously emitted. 1847 *Proc. Berw. Nat. Club* II. 214 The erect filaments are two lines in height,.. with a hoary sporuliferous head.

Sporyar(e, -er, obs. forms of SPURRIER.

Sposage, -aile, obs. forms of SPOUSAGE, -AL.

†**Spose,** obs. variant of SPOUSE *sb.*

App. intended to distinguish the masc. from the fem.

1604 T. WRIGHT *Passions Mind* I. vii. 29 The Spose sayd vnto his Spouse,..Thou hast wounded my heart with one of thine eyes.

Spose, obs. form of SPOUSE *v.*

Posh (spɒʃ). *U.S.* [Imitative.] Slush, mud.

1845 in Bartlett *Dict. Amer.* (1848) 325 The streets were one shining level of black posh. 1846 CHEEVER *Wand. Pilgrim* xxiv. (1848) 134 Making our way..in this penetrating *posh*. 1884 BURROUGHS *Birds & Poets* 109 Yellow posh and mud and water everywhere.

Hence **Spo·shy** *a.*, soft and watery.

1884 S. O. JEWETT *Country Doctor* iii. 22 The sposhy apples that grows in wet ground.

Spot (spɒt), *sb.*[1] Also 3–7 **spotte**, 4–7 **spott**, 4–6 **spote**. [ME. *spot*, = MDu. *spotte*, *spot* (WFlem. *spotte*), LG. (EFris.) *spot*, MDa. **spot* (pl. *spottæ*), speck, spot, NFris. *spot*, *spöt*, Norw. *spott*, speck, spot, piece of ground; also ON. and Icel. *spotti* (*spottr*) small piece, bit. It is doubtful whether the word is original in all these languages.]

I. 1. *fig.* A moral stain, blot, or blemish; a stigma or disgrace.

a 1200 *Vices & Virtues* 95 Wepeð forð mid me..& waschen ðe spottes of ure euele ðeawes! *c* 1340 Hampole *Pr. Consc.* 2646 He suld..Mak him redy and clense hym clene Of al spottes of syn þat mught be sene. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* A. 764 Cum hyder to me, my lemman swete, For mote ne spot is non in þe. *c* 1400 *Apol. Loll.* 53 He schal draw spott of good þing iuel tane. *c* 1450 tr. *De Imitatione* III. lxi. 144 Lete us putte no spotte in our glory in fleyng fro þe crosse. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 185 b, This spot of synne god dothe away. 1560 Daus tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 129 To the intent they myght washe out this spotte, they invente an other waye more easye. 1639 S. Du Verger tr. *Camus' Admir. Events* 45, I had rather dye a thousand deaths, then to set such a spot on my blood, and posterity. 1650 Hubbert *Pill Formality* 104 Neither should their spot have been differenced or known from the spot of the wicked. 1784 Cowper *Tiroc.* 685 Safe under such a wing, the boy shall show No spots contracted among grooms below. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* III. II. i, The Gironde has touched, this day, on the foul black-spot of its fair Convention Domain.

b. Without article, esp. in *without spot*.

a 1340 Hampole *Psalter* xiv. 2 He þat ingase wiþouten spot. 1390 Gower *Conf.* II. 22 Goodlihiede and innocence Withouten spot of eny blame. 1404–8 *26 Pol. Poems* vii. 54 [Let] No fende spot vppon the spyze. 1548–9 (Mar.) *Bk. Com. Prayer* 126 b, Without spot of sinne. 1580 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* III. 281 His guidsire .. and himself .. hes faithfullie servit his Hienes..without spot or reproche. 1611 Bible 1 *Tim.* vi. 14 Keepe this commandement without spot. 1781 Cowper *Expost.* 261 Thy services, once holy without spot, Mere shadows now. 1821 Shelley *Adonais* xlv, Sublimely mild, a Spirit without spot. 1844 Dickens *Chimes* II, As to character,..[they] will have it as free from spot and speck in us afore they'll help us.

† **c.** *The spot of*, the stain or stigma of (something disgraceful). *Obs.*

a 1548 Hall *Chron., Edw. IV*, 49 Lest he..should be noted with the spot of Nygardshyp. 1567 in *5th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* 642/1 Quhairin gif we failȝe, we ar content to vndirly the spot of vntrewth, ingraitnes and defamatioun. 1603 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* VI. 524 The perpetuall spott of perjurie dew to thame for thair violatioun of the said assuirance. 1647 N. Bacon *Disc. Govt. Eng.* I. xxxviii. (1739) 57 First Twelve men enquired of the fame and ground thereof; which if liked, rendred the party under the spot of delinquency.

d. Applied to persons.

1526 Tindale 2 *Pet.* ii. 13 Spottes they are and filthynes. — *Jude* 12 These are spottes which..feast togedder. 1606 Shaks. *Ant. & Cl.* IV. xii. 35 Follow his Chariot, like the greatest spot Of all thy Sex. 1616 R. C. *Times' Whistle* (1871) 79 By some devill got, For man could never, sure, beget a spot Of such vncleannesse. 1673 Wycherley *Gentl. Dancing-Master* v. i, Thou spot, sploach of my family and blood!

2. A small discolouring or disfiguring mark; a speck or stain.

1340 *Ayenb.* 228 Þe huite robe huerinne þe spot is uouler and more yzyenne þanne in anoþer cloþ. 1377 Langl. *P. Pl.* B. xiii. 315 Þi best cote..Hath many moles and spottes, it moste ben ywasshe. 1509 Hawes *Past. Pleas.* xxxviii. (Percy Soc.) 196 Ful lyke the gold that is moost pure and fyne, Withouten spotte of blacke encombremente. 1591 Harington *Orl. Fur.* xxxiii. lxx, The Moone was like a glasse all voyd of spot. 1617 Moryson *Itin.* III. 174 They cannot bee more provoked, then by casting any spot upon their heads. 1698 Fryer *Acc. E. India & P.* 213 The Diamond..Without Spots or Foulness, is called a Paragonstone, and in full Perfection. 1784 Cowper *Task* IV. 554 The stain Appears a spot upon a vestal's robe, The worse for what it soils. 1827 Faraday *Chem. Manip.* vii. (1842) 200 All retorts with spots..in the part to be heated should be rejected.

b. Const. *of* the substance causing the stain or disfigurement. (Passing into sense 7.)

c 1400 Maundev. (Roxb.) ix. 36 Ȝit þe spottes of þe qwhit mylk er sene apon þe stanes. *c* 1440 *Alph. Tales* 150 Onone as þo tuchid it þer apperid a dropp & a spott of blude. *Ibid.* 335 Þer was not on all his clothis a drope of myre nor a spott of clay. 1595 Shaks. *John* IV. ii. 253 An innocent hand, Not painted with the Crimson spots of blood. 1677 Miège *Fr. Dict.* II, A spot of oyl on a sute of cloaths. 1736 Bailey *Household Dict.* s.v., To take a Spot of Oil out of Sattin, &c. 1820 Shelley *Œd. Tyr.* II. ii. 77 A spot or two (of ditchwater) on me would do no harm. 1825 Scott *Talism.* xxviii, What signifies counting the spots of dirt that we are about to wash from our hands?

3. In special senses: † **a.** A mark or speck on the eye; also, a disease characterized by these.

a 1400 *Stockholm Med. MS.* fol. 98, For a spot in þe eye. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 356/1 A Spotte in ye eghe.., *glaucoma*. 1500 *Ortus Vocab.*, *Glaucoma*, a spott in the eye. *c* 1623 Lodge *Poor Mans Talent* C 2, The spotts in the eies may easily bee cured in the yonger sort. 1639 O. Wood *Alph. Bk. Secrets* 59 This cureth Spot, Pearle, Web, or any thing else in the Eye.

b. An eruptive or other disfiguring mark on the skin.

a 1425 tr. *Arderne's Treat. Fistula*, etc. 50 Al spottez or filþez of þe skyn which giffeþ oute watre. *c* 1440 *Alph. Tales* 82 So þe pestelence come;..& when he had þe spottys þe fadur held hym vp in his armys. 1560 Bible (Geneva) *Lev.* xiii. 4 If the white spot be in y⁰ skin of his flesh [etc.]. 1621 Cotgr., *Rousseurs*, little, red, wan, or blackish pimples or spots in the face, &c. 1669 [see Blotch *sb.* 1]. 1725 N. Robinson *Th. Physick* 296 Scorbutic Spots and Blotches emboss the Legs, Arms, and Thighs. 1789 *Massachusetts Spy* 15 Jan. 1/4 For common spots, or bunched cancers, put some of the salts on lint. 1818–20 E. Thompson tr. *Cullen's Nosology* 319 *Spilosis*...Spots. 1843 Abdy *Water Cure* 53 A girl..had..several spots in the face.

fig. 1782 Cowper *Expost.* 105 His unsuspecting sheep.. Catch from each other a contagious spot, The foul forerunner of a gen'ral rot.

c. A dark mark on the face of the sun, moon, or a planet. (Cf. *sun-spot*.)

1605 Camden *Rem., Epigr.* 15 Of the fiery colour of the Planet Mars, And the spotts in the Moone he giueth this reason. *c* 1641 Bp. Mountagu *Acts & Mon.* (1642) 117 It is lately discovered that spots are in the Sun: and if our sight deceive us not, there be in the Moone. 1706 E. Ward *Wooden World Diss.* (1708) 48 You discover him by his Phrases, as apparently as you can the Spots of the Moon with a Telescope. 1784 Cowper *Task* I. 714 Where finds Philosophy her eagle eye, With which she gazes at yon burning disk Undazzled, and detects and counts his spots? 1854 Tomlinson tr. *Arago's Astron.* 79 The spots, which have served for determining the period of the rotation of Mars. 1872 Ruskin *Eagle's N.* § 206 Science does its duty, not in telling us the causes of spots in the sun; but [etc.].

d. A discoloration produced upon the leaves or fruit of a plant by various fungi.

1852 *Beck's Florist* 140 How to prevent the 'spot', and some other diseases to which Pelargoniums are heir. 1905 *Daily News* 14 Apr. 4 That dread disease of cucumber and melon plants, known as 'spot'.

e. *colloq.* (See quot.)

1894 *Daily News* 1 Feb. 7/1 The eggs..are what we call 'spots', half good and half bad.

II. 4. A small, usually roundish, mark of a different colour from the main surface.

c 1220 *Bestiary* 736 in *O. E. Misc.*, He is blac so bro of qual, mið wite spottes sapen al. *c* 1400 Maundev. (Roxb.) xxii. 101 Þai hafe on þaire heuedes a reed spotte. *c* 1480 Henryson *Test. Cres.* 260 Hir gyse was gray, and full of spottis blak. 1535 Coverdale *Jer.* xiii. 23 Like as the man of Inde may̆e chaunge his skynne, & the cat of the mountayne hir spottes. 1590 Shaks. *Mids. N.* II. i. 11 The Cowslips tall, her pensioners bee, In their gold coats, spots you see. 1638 Junius *Paint. Ancients* 94, I shall but mention here..the partie-coloured spots of pretious stones. 1736 Gray *Statius* II. 25 A tiger's pride..With native spots and artful labour gay. 1774 Goldsm. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) II. 151 While we distinctly behold the black spots that are to the right and left. 1844 Mardon *Billiards* 111 The marked ball should have but one spot, and that as small as possible. 1892 *Photogr. Ann.* II. 578 The usual series of masks, upon which are placed the two white spots.

transf. 1632 Lithgow *Trav.* VI. 292 The Countrey..ouercled heere and there with spots of Sheepe and Goates. 1884 Stables *Our Friend the Dog* vii. 61 *Spot*—A hollow between the eyes, marking the union of the frontal with the nasal bones.

fig. 1634 Milton *Comus* 5 Above the smoak and stirr of this dim spot, Which men call Earth. 1781 Cowper *Expost.* 694 A world is up in arms, and thou, a spot, Not quickly found if negligently sought [etc.].

† **b.** A patch worn on the face; a beauty-spot.

1579 Lyly *Euphues* (Arb.) 116 Their shadowes, their spots, their lawnes,..their ruffes, their rings. 1592 — *Midas* I. ii, Eararings, borders, crippins, shadowes, spots, and so many other trifles. 1665 Pepys *Diary* 13 Jan., The first time that ever I saw her to wear spots. 1667 L. Stucley *Gospel Glass* xxi. (1670) 214 Are not some puff'd up with their fine Clothes,..Ribbons, Dressings, yea with their very Spots? 1735 Pope *Ep. Lady* 43 Ladies, like variegated Tulips, show; ..Their happy Spots the nice admirer take.

c. Phr. *To knock the spots off* or *out of*, to beat thoroughly, surpass, excel. Orig. *U. S.*

1867 Latham *Black & White* 125 We did knock the spots off them that time. 1887 F. Francis *Saddle & Mocassin* 152 She can knock the spots out of these boys at that game. 1888 *Pall Mall G.* 24 Feb. 5/1 The breezes blowing..in a way which 'knocked spots'..out of the fragrance of the hayfields.

5. a. A variety of domestic pigeon, having white plumage with a spot of another colour above the beak.

a 1672 Willughby *Ornith.* (1676) 133 *Spots*, Anglicè, quoniam in fronte supra rostrum maculam habent singulæ. 1725 *Fam. Dict.* s.v. *Pigeon*, There are, indeed, many Sorts of Pigeons, such as..Barbs,..Owls, Spots, Trumpeters. 1765 *Treat. Dom. Pigeons* 132 The Spot..is about the size of a small runt, and was brought hither from Holland. 1834 Mudie *Feathered Tribes* I. 74 The principal ones [*sc.* pigeons] are..the Smiter, the Spot, the Tumbler [etc.]. 1861 Darwin *Orig. Spec.* (ed. 3) 26, I also crossed a barb with a spot, which is a white bird with a red tail and red spot on the forehead. 1881 Lyell *Pigeons* 73 The spot has been described by every English writer, including Willoughby, and is common on the Continent.

b. A spotted textile material.

1798 Jane Austen *Lett.* (1884) I. 186 My coarse spot I shall turn..into a petticoat very soon. 1839 Ure *Dict. Arts* 1232 The draught and cording of a spot whose two sides are similar, but reversed.

c. In moth-names (see quots.).

1832 J. Rennie *Consp. Butterfl. & Moths* 94 The Gold Spot ..appears the middle of August. *Ibid.* 97 The Marbled White Spot. *Ibid.* 153 The Diamond Spot.

d. *U.S.* With numbers: A dollar (-bill).

1848 Lowell *Biglow P.* Ser. I. ix. 176 He said He'd give a fifty spot right out, to git ye, 'live or dead. 1896 *Y. Lillard's Poker Stories* 246 But one single dollar remained of that five spot.

e. *U.S.* The red fish or red drum.

1882 Jordan & Gilbert *Syn. Fishes N. Amer.* 574 *Liostomus xanthurus*, Spot; Goody; Oldwife. 1885 *Harper's Mag.* Jan. 221/1 It might be a spot..or a tarpon. 1902 Jordan & Evermann *Amer. Food & Game Fishes* 260 For bait use live mullet, spot, grunt, or other small fish.

6. *Billiards.* **a.** One or other of the three marked places on a billiard-table, esp. the one at the upper end of the table upon which the red ball is placed. **b.** *ellipt.* The spot-ball, or the person who plays it; a spot-stroke, or the score obtained by this.

18.. *Laws of Billiards* xiii. in Mardon *Billiards* (1844) 115 If the red ball has been put into a pocket, it must not be placed on the spot till the other balls have done rolling. 1856 Crawley *Billiards* (1859) 5 Three spots will be found on all good tables;..the third a distance of thirteen inches from the Cushion. This is called *the spot*. 1857 'C. Bede' *Neaver & Dearer* I. 1 'How is the game?' 'Twenty spot; ten striker.' *Ibid.* II. 14, I can't make out the red from the spot. 1880 *Times* 28 Sept. 11/5 He kept possession of the table until he had added up 151 (40 spots).

III. 7. A small piece, amount, or quantity; a particle, a drop. Usu. with *of* (cf. 2 b).

c 1400 *Laud Troy Bk.* 17137 For he lefft not of hir a spot That he ne hit hewe as flesch to pot. 1662 Hibbert *Body Divinity* I. 284 The whole course of life is but..a little spot of time between two eternities. 1738 Wesley *Ps.* CIII. iv, As high as Heaven its arch extends, Above this little Spot of Clay. 1799 Wordsw. *Ruth* 71 As quietly as spots of sky Among the evening clouds. 1840 *Florist's Jrnl.* (1846) I. 219 That most numerous class of growers, who grow but a little spot. 1849 Cupples *Green Hand* xvi. (1856) 157 'Twas no use looking as yet for a spot of room. 1881 Jefferies *Wood Magic* II. ii. 66 A few spots of rain came driving along.

† **b.** A piece *of* work. *Obs.* (Cf. Piece *sb.* 7.)

1689 *Andros Tracts* III. 303 Whether it would not be a fine spot of work..to restore them to their former places? 1723 Mrs. Centlivre *Wonder* III. 31 Zounds! she here! I have made a fine spot of work on't. 1777 Dibdin *Quaker* I. i, A very pretty spot of work this! 1821 Scott *Nigel* xxvii, Here is a bonny spot of work, and me alone, and on foot too!

c. *In spots*, occasionally, at intervals; to some extent. *U.S.*

1852 Mrs. Stowe *Uncle Tom's C.* xvi, Mammy has a kind of obstinacy about her, in spots, that everybody don't see as I do. 1859 Bartlett *Dict. Amer.* (ed. 2) 437 A boatman on the Mississippi, being asked how he managed to secure sleeping time, answered, 'I sleep in spots'; that is, at intervals, by snatches. 1872 De Vere *Americanisms* 636 The phrase 'He is clever in spots', gives a man credit for fragmentary ability.

d. *colloq.* A drop *of* liquor.

1885 D. C. Murray *Rainbow Gold* ii, A little spot of rum, William, with a squeeze of lemon in it. 1896 *Evesham Jrnl.* 11 Jan. (E.D.D.), Defendant..said he never had a spot of beer.

8. A particular place or locality of limited extent.

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* A. 13 Syben in þat spote hit fro me sprange, Ofte haf I wayted [etc.]. *Ibid.*, To þat spot..I entred in þat erber grene. 1667 Milton *P. L.* IX. 439 Spot more delicious then those Gardens..of reviv'd Adonis, or renownd Alcinous. *a* 1700 Evelyn *Diary* Apr. 1646, The most pleasant spot in Italy. 1743 Bulkeley & Cummins *Voy. S. Seas* 106 Having publickly declar'd, that he will never go off this Spot. 1857 Livingstone *Trav.* iii. 54 Our next station is a lovely spot in the otherwise dry region. 1891 Farrar *Darkn. & Dawn* xlvii, There was one spot in Rome which was calm amid all tumults.

b. A small space or extent *of* ground, etc.

c 1440 *York Myst.* xxxii. 332 A spotte of erthe for to by, wayte nowe I will, To berie in pilgrimes. 1677 W. Hubbard *Narrative* (1865) II. 70 Some Spots and Skirts of more desirable Land upon the Banks of some Rivers. 1697 Dryden *Virg., Georg.* IV. 191 Lab'ring well his little Spot of Ground. 1726 Swift *Gulliver* II. vii, Whoever could make ..two blades of grass to grow upon a spot of ground [etc.]. 1765 *Museum Rust.* IV. 259 You must not sow lucerne without corn, unless your spot of land is too small to use a harrow in. 1811 *Regul. & Orders Army* 137 A Tent.. pitched upon the best dry Spot of ground in the vicinity. 1845 J. Coulter *Adv. in Pacific* v. 42 Nearly at the summit ..there is a spot of excellent land, of four or five acres in extent. 1891 Mary E. Wilkins *Humble Romance* 53 The products of his garden spot were his staple articles of food.

transf. 1779 Forrest *Voy. N. Guinea* 122 Off the rock of Sipsipa, are three spots of breakers,..one without another.

c. *north. dial.* A place of employment; a situation.

1877– in northern glossaries, etc. 1892 M. C. F. Morris *Yorksh. Folk-talk* 206 Martinmas was the season for the lads and lasses to change their spots, as they call their situations.

9. *On* (or *upon*) *the spot*: **a.** Without having time to move from the place; straightway, at once.

1677 Miège *Fr. Dict.* II, To die on the spot, *mourir sur la place*. 1686 tr. *Chardin's Trav. Persia* 229 Had I drank as much as my neighbours, I had dy'd upon the spot. 1709 Steele *Tatler* No. 40 ₱ 10 In which Engagement there were Eighteen Hundred Men kill'd on the Spot. 1760–72 H. Brooke *Fool of Qual.* (1809) II. 151, I shall..run mad on the very spot for joy. 1835 I. Taylor *Spir. Despot.* iii. 94 Punishing the refractory either on the spot or in the persons of their posterity. 1856 Reade *Never too Late* xi, They had not yet .. murdered a single one *on the spot*. 1885 'Mrs. Alexander' *Valerie's Fate* iii, I invited them both on the spot to afternoon tea on Saturday.

b. At the very place or locality in question.

1687 Miège *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II, I was upon the spot, *j'ai été sur les Lieux*. 1699 Bentley *Phal.* 209 The Prizes..for those that perform'd best, were ready upon the spot, and made part of the Procession. 1719 De Foe *Crusoe* I. (Globe) 309 The two Merchants..who liv'd just upon the Spot, and who..were very rich. 1740–1 Challoner *Mem. Missionary Priests* Pref., Grave contemporary writers, informed by such as were upon the spot, or themselves eye-witnesses of what they write. 1811 *Regul. & Orders Army* 80 Officers who may be ordered..to return Home from a Foreign Station, are to apply for a Passage to the principal Agent of the

Transport Board, on the Spot. 1881 L. B. WALFORD *Dick Netherby* xxii, Mischief was brewing..and he ought to be on the spot to counteract it.

c. Doing exactly what is necessary; precise and accurate. Also *off the spot*, inexact, irrelevant.

1884 *Daily News* 16 Feb. 5/2 His county..will miss Midwinter sorely next summer, especially as he appears to be well on the spot. 1884 *Lillywhite's Cricket Ann.* 6 Our ground fielding was well on the spot. 1886 *Athenæum* 27 Mar. 420/3 Mr. Lang's new book..is his..in its tendency to be 'off the spot' and to make mistakes.

10. A particular small area, part, or definite point in any surface or body.

1827 FARADAY *Chem. Manip.* vii. (1842) 215 Delivering the products of the distillation through minute apertures, and upon particular spots. 1860 WRAXALL *Life in Sea* viii. 181 The Sea-snails have their gills at very different spots. 1884 tr. *Lotze's Metaph.* 498 The many stimuli which at one and the same time excite the spots *p q r* ... of the retina.

b. *transf.* with adjs.

Also ellipt. *the spot*, the affected part or important point.

1859 *Habits of Gd. Society* (new ed.) 48 Those dreams which to some [people] are the only bright spots of their lives. 1887 H. S. CUNNINGHAM *Cæruleans* I. 165 Mr. Ambrose touched a very tender spot in Camilla's heart. 1902 *Westm. Gaz.* 12 July 10/1 Lord Kitchener has a particularly soft spot for pets.

11. *Comm.* (From 9.) a. *ellipt.* as *adv.* At immediate cash rates; for cash payment.

The full phrase *on the spot* (or *on spot*) is also in use.

1884 *York Herald* 23 Aug. 7/2 Cottonseed steady, at £8 5s. od. to £9 on the spot...Linseed oil..spot and up to the end of the year 18s. 7½d. 1900 *Daily News* 13 June 2/3 Silver remained nominally at 27⅞d. per ounce spot, and 27 9-16d. forward.

b. *pl.* Goods at immediate cash rates.

1890 *Pall Mall G.* 3 Sept. 6/2 He was supposed to have held from 130,000 to 150,000 bales—spots and futures.

IV. *attrib.* and *Comb.*

12. Simple attrib. a. In terms relating to the weaving of spotted fabrics, as *spot-leaf*, *-thread*, *-treadle*.

1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 1233 The spot threads..[are represented] by marks in the intervals. *Ibid.*, The spot-treddles on the right hand work the row contained in the first six spot-leaves.

b. In sense 3 c, as *spot-cavity*, *-cycle*, *-display*, etc.

1867–77 G. F. CHAMBERS *Astron.* I. i. 30 At epochs of minimum spot-display. 1885 AGNES CLERKE *Hist. Astron.* 200 The absolute depth of spot-cavities..was determined by Father Secchi. 1903 — *Astrophysics* 18 The mode of their conformity to the spot-cycle. *Ibid.* 92 It is commonly taken for granted that the widened lines constitute the spot-spectra.

c. In sense 6, as *spot-break*, *-hazard*, *-stroke*, etc.

1844 E. R. MARDON *Billiards* Pl. xxviii: The 'Spot' Stroke. 1869 ROBERTS *Billiards* 137 Spot hazard: Whenever the red is cut or driven off the spot into any pocket. 1873 BENNETT & CAVENDISH *Billiards* 12 His largest spot-break 57 hazards. *Ibid.* 25 One ball is coloured red; the other two are white, but one of the white balls has a black spot on it, and is called the Spot-white. 1875 *Encycl. Brit.* III. 676/2 The spot-stroke is a winning hazard made by pocketing the red ball in one of the corners from the spot.

d. In sense 11, as *spot parcel*, *price*, *sale*, etc.

1881 *Standard* 14 Sept. 4/7 The 'spot' transactions..form the smallest proportion of the operations of the market. 1882 *Times* 22 Feb., A similar succession of movements has taken place in the spot price of No. 2 Spring. 1887 *Pall Mall G.* 20 June 10/2 The spot sales at Liverpool on Saturday were only 5,000 bales. 1887 *Daily News* 16 July 6/8 Spot parcels continue in good demand, and prices steady. 1888 *Times* 26 June 12/1 There has been no alteration in the value of spot oil during the past week.

13. In parasynthetic adjs., as *spot-billed*, *-eared*, *-lipped*, *-winged*.

1713 PETIVER *Aquat. Anim. Amboinæ* Tab. iv, Smooth spot-lipt Casket. 1809 SHAW *Gen. Zool.* VII. II. 328 Spot-winged Shrike. 1811 *Ibid.* VIII. I. 244 Spot-eared Creeper. 1905 *Westm. Gaz.* 9 Oct. 6/3 The spot-billed toucanet (*Selenidera maculirostris*), now to be seen..at the 'Zoo'.

14. Special Combs.: **spot-barred** *a.*, *Billiards* (see quot.); †**spot-dial**, a sun-dial indicating the time by means of a spot; **spot fairy**, a variety of domestic pigeon; **spot-lens**, a lens having the central portion obstructed by a spot; **spot-like** *a.*, resembling a spot; **spot-made** *a.*, made on the spot, makeshift; **spot pigeon**, = sense 5 a; **spot-removing** *a.*, taking out stains; **spot-skin** *a.*, having spotted skins; **spot snapper**, an American fish (see quot.); **spot stitch** (see quot.).

1885 *Rules Billiards* § 43 In a *spot-barred game only one winning hazard is allowed to be made in the top pockets. 1687 G. CLERKE *Spot-dial* 5 The *Spot-Dial is of two sorts; in the one the Lines go to a black Spot, in the other a bright Spot goes to the Lines. 1734 WATTS *Relig. Fwv.* lxvii. 295 On a Ceiling Dial, usually called a Spot-Dial. 1881 LYELL *Pigeons* 88 The stork..has been already described in a late publication, under the name of '*Spot Fairy'. 1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib., Brit.* II. No. 2948, That portion of the light of the ordinary *spot lens, which really tends to obliterate the shadows.., is stopped. 1847–9 *Todd's Cycl. Anat.* IV. I. 69 The species begins as a *spot-like crust of uniform texture. 1887 W. PHILLIPS *Brit. Discomycetes* 360 Sporidia hyaline; cups seated on a spot-like crust. 1894 *Outing* XXIV. 173/2 The bridles were mostly *spot-made with a bit of cord doing service as reins. 1783 LATHAM *Gen. Synop. Birds* II. II. 615 *Spot Pigeon. This is remarkable, from having on the forehead, above the bill, a spot, which is of the same colour as the tail. 1670 EACHARD *Cont. Clergy* 56 Many a good-wife..knows not any thing of the all-powerfulness of aqua-fortis, how that it is such a *spot-removing liquor. 1871 BROWNING *Balaust.* 1318 With them fed in fellowship..*spot-skin lynxes. 1876 GOODE *Fishes Bermudas* 55 The *Spot snapper and the Yellow-tail correspond doubtless to *Mesoprion unionotatus*..and to *Ocyurus chrysurus*. 1882 CAULFEILD & SAWARD *Dict. Needlework* 125/2 **Spot stitch*, a stitch made with a Foundation of Double Crochet with spots upon it in Treble Crochet.

Spot, *sb.*[2] [f. SPOT *v.* 8.] A person employed by an omnibus company to keep secret watch on its employees.

1894 *Daily Graphic* 24 Mar. 11/2 The men were continually being harassed, and 'spots' were jumping on their 'buses at all times to spy on them.

Spot (spɒt), *v.* Also 5-6 spotte, 6-7 spott. [f. SPOT *sb.*[1] Cf. WFlem. *spotten* to mark or stain, NFris. *spotte* to fix, settle.]

I. 1. *trans.* To stain, sully, or tarnish, in respect of moral character or qualities.

c 1412 HOCCLEVE *De Reg. Princ.* 3766 His disciples loued so clennesse..Hir eyen they out of hir heedes brente, Lest sighte of hem spotte myght her entente. *c* 1450 LYDG. *Secrees* 741 That ther Imperial magnanymyte Shulde nat be spottyd..Towchyng the vice of froward Coveityse. 1502 ATKYNSON tr. *De Imitatione* I. i. (1893) 154 For them that folowe sensuall pleasure,..they spot theyr conscience, & lese the grace of god. 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 8 b, Neither to suffer so greate an evill to spot & blemishe that noble house of Saxonie. 1623 FLETCHER *Rule a Wife* v. Wks. 1906 III. 231 You rob two Temples,..You ruine hers, and spot her noble Husbands. 1669 DRYDEN *Tyrannic Love* v. i, Be all the Discords of our Bed forgot, Which, Virtue witness, I did never spot. 1855 MOTLEY *Dutch Rep.* I. iii. (1866) 113 Who might be spotted merely with the errors introduced by Luther. 1858 H. BUSHNELL *Nat. & Supernat.* xv. (1864) 498 He spots with blemish the religion that already has a right to his faith.

refl. 1577 tr. *Bullinger's Decades* (1592) 128 If..wee doe spot our-selues with a filthie and uncleane life. 1599 SANDYS *Europæ Spec.* (1632) 18 Some,..not content to spott themselves with all Italian impurities, proceed on to empoyson their country also.

†**b.** To stain with some accusation or reproach; to asperse or vilify. *Obs.*

a 1542 WYATT in *Tottell's Misc.* (Arb.) 58 Mistrust me not, though some there be, That faine would spot my stedfastnesse. 1623 T. SCOTT *Tongue-Combat* 9 Those of the Reformed Religion whom..you spot with three or foure crimes. 1652 BROUGH *Preserv. agst. Schism* 27 St. Jude spots them thus; There they feed themselves without feare. *a* 1718 PENN *Tracts* Wks. 1782 I. 492, I do not mention it to spot that Doctor.

2. To mark with spots of some defiling or discolouring substance; to stain in spots.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 470 Spotton, *maculo*. 1530 PALSGR. 729 Who hath spotted your shyrte sleve with ynke? 1549 LATIMER *5th Serm. bef. Edw. VI* (Arb.) 151 He yat medleth wyth pitch is like to be spotted with it. 1600 SURFLET *Countrie Farme* 502 It spotteth and staineth the linnen so mightily, as that such staines will neuer be got out. 1675 HOBBES *Odyssey* VI. (1686) 71 Your Cloths..(Which in the house sulli'd and spotted lie). 1763 MILLS *Syst. Pract. Husb.* II. 415 Two..kinds of mildew, one of which spots the blades and stems of corn. 1798 COLERIDGE *France* 69 Ye that, fleeing, spot your mountain-snows With bleeding wounds. 1832 SCOTT *Ct. Rob.* xvii, The blood which we have shed may spot our hand,..but it shall scarce stain our forehead. 1870 MORRIS *Earthly Par.* III. 91 With rust his armour bright was spotted o'er.

b. *absol.* (in fig. use).

a 1743 SAVAGE *False Historians* Poems (1790) 292 Sure of all plagues with which dull prose is curst, Scandals, from false historians, spot the worst.

3. *intr.* To be subject or liable to spots; to become spotted.

1879 *Warehousemen & Drapers' Trade Jrnl.* 13 Dec. 594 Even those [gloves] which have been so treated continue to 'spot'. 1882 *Garden* 11 Mar. 168/2 A damp, cool atmosphere, with little artificial heat, causes the flowers to spot.

II. 4. *trans.* To mark, cover, or decorate, with spots.

1591 GREENE *Conny Catch.* (1592) II. 4 They will straight spot him by sundry pollicies, and in a blacke horse, marke saddle spots. 1687 MIÈGE *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II, To spot Gawze-Hoods, *broder des Coifes de Gaze*. [See also SPOTTER *sb.* 1.] 1713 *Guardian* No. 10 P 5 Sometimes I take a Needle, and spot a Piece of Muslin for pretty Patty Cross-stitch. 1720 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 5914/1 If any Person..shall file, square, or new spot any Dice. 1818 *Art Bookbinding* 51 This colour is for spotting the edges. 1864 *Athenæum* 854/2 He spots the other spear-bearers [with blood] in a similar manner. 1885 D. GLASGOW *Watch & Clock Making* 118 The art of spotting such small pieces by hand is not easily acquired.

b. To ornament (the face) with a patch or patches.

1666 M. M. *Solomon's Prescr.* 82 Go, Gallants, get to your Glass; Powder and Curle, Paint and Spot, Deck and Adorn you, as you were wont. 1711 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 81 P 1 The Faces on one Hand, being spotted on the right Side of the Forehead, and those upon the other on the Left.

c. *U.S.* (See quots.)

1792 BELKNAP *Hist. New Hampsh.* III. 75 Where they find the land suitable for a road, the trees are spotted by cutting out a piece of the bark. 1828–32 in WEBSTER. 1859 BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.* (ed. 2), *Spot*, to mark a tree by cutting a chip from its side.

d. *New Zealand.* To form by selecting the choicest spots or parts of a piece of land.

1898 MORRIS *Austral Eng.* s.v. *Spotting*, The squatter spotted his run, purchasing choice spots.

5. Of things: To form, appear as, spots upon (a surface); to stud.

1801 SOUTHEY *Thalaba* I. xi, No palm-tree rose to spot the wilderness. 1817 SHELLEY *Rev. Islam* IX. iii, Many ships spotting the dark blue deep. 1822–7 GOOD *Study Med.* (1829) V. 568 Pimples very minute..; chiefly spotting the limbs. 1892 'M. FIELD' *Sight & Song* 22 Pinks and gentians spot her robe.

b. *intr.* Of rain: To fall in large, scattered drops, esp. before a shower or storm.

1849– in dial. glossaries. 1909 *Westm. Gaz.* 21 Aug. 2/2 It began to spot with rain.

6. *Billiards.* To place (a ball) on some particular spot.

1844 E. R. MARDON *Billiards* 99 Missing the balls, the player must spot a ball. 1873 BENNETT & CAVENDISH *Billiards* 139 Spot the white just behind the left-hand corner of the D. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 258 If they play billiards, they let their adversary spot the red and take the balls out of the pockets.

7. With *out*: To free from spots or small defects; to remove or efface (small marks).

1885 C. G. W. LOCK *Workshop Rec.* Ser. IV. 382/2 After the prints are mounted, dried, and spotted out, roll them upon a hot steel plate. 1896 *Kodak News* Sept. 87/1 Any little holes or scratches..should be carefully spotted out with a fine sable brush and stiff water colour.

III. 8. *Cant.* To mark or note as a criminal or suspected person.

1718 *Acc. Trial Isaac Rabbins* 1 Isaac, You have been spotted before, How came you to go so far from your own Home now? 1851 MAYHEW *Lond. Lab.* I. 484 At length he became 'spotted'. The police got to know him. 1859 *Slang Dict.* 99 *Spotted*, to be known or marked by the police.

b. To inform against, split upon (a person).

1865 DICKENS *Mut. Fr.* I. xii, This man had 'spotted' the other, to save himself and get the money.

9. *colloq.* a. To single out or guess beforehand (the winner in a horse race).

1857 *Morn. Chron.* 22 June (Encycl. Dict.), Having met with tolerable success in spotting the winners. 1866 G. A. LAWRENCE *Sans Merci* xix, It was quite a sight to see those two, conning over the handicaps, and 'spotting' probable 'good things'. 1888 E. J. GOODMAN *Too Curious* xi, I spotted a few winners.

b. To catch sight of; to mark or note; to recognize or detect.

1860 O. W. HOLMES *Elsie V.* xxi, The inside Widow having 'spotted' the outside one through the blinds. 1868 MISS BRADDON *Run to Earth* I. i. 17, I saw the landlord spot the notes and gold. 1880 J. PAYN *Confid. Agent* II. 271 Honest John had known him to be a policeman—'spotted him', as he had expressed it—at the first glance.

c. To hit in shooting.

1882 B. HARTE *Flip* ii, It's an even thing if she wouldn't spot me the first pop [i. e. with a revolver].

†**Spote.** *Obs. rare.* [f. OE. **spát-*, stem of *spátl* SPATTLE *sb.*[1], *spǽtan* SPETE *v.*] Spittle.

c 1315 SHOREHAM II. 142 As a mesel þer he lay, A-stouned, in spote and blode. *c* 1320 *Cast. Love* 1147 Al was his face bi-foulet wt spot, And eke grete boffetes among me him smot. *a* 1800 PEGGE *Suppl. Grose*, *Spote*, spittle. Lanc.

Spotel, -il, spotle, obs. varr. SPATTLE *sb.*[1]

Spotless (spɒ·tlés), *a.* Also 4 -leꝛ, 6 -les, 6-7 -lesse. [f. SPOT *sb.*[1] Cf. WFlem. *spotteloos.*]

1. Free from spot or stain; not marked with, or disfigured by, spots; of a pure or uniform colour.

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* A. 856 Of spotlez perlez þay beren þe creste. 1588 SHAKS. *Tit. A.* I. i. 182 The people of Rome ..Send thee..This Palliament of white and spotlesse Hue. 1606 MARSTON *Parasitaster* IV. G 4, Vntrodden snow is not so spotless. 1653 R. SANDERS *Physiogn.* 157 The body being clear, fair, pure, neat, and spotless. 1726–46 THOMSON *Winter* 812 Fair ermines, spotless as the snows they press. 1853 C. BRONTE *Villette* xxiii, The bed seemed to me like snow-drift and mist—spotless, soft, and gauzy. 1876 MISS BRADDON *J. Haggard's Dau.* II. 15 The red-brick floor spotless as if it were a floor in a picture.

b. In specific names.

1827 GRIFFITH tr. *Cuvier* V. 274 The Ai seems to vary considerably as the Spotless Ai, the Yellow-faced Ai. 1832 J. RENNIE *Consp. Butterfl. & Moths* 19 The Spotless Brown (*Polyommatus Titus*). *Ibid.* 188 The Spotless Straw (*Depressaria immaculana*).

2. *fig.* Free from stain or blot; immaculate, pure.

1577 [see SPOTTINESS]. 1590 SPENSER *Tears Muses* 388 Sweete Loue deuoyd of villanie..But pure and spotles. 1634 W. TIRWHYT tr. *Balzac's Lett.* 318, I..do protest unto you..that my fidelity is spotless. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* IV. 318 How have ye..banisht from mans life..Simplicitie and spotless innocence. 1738 WESLEY *Ps.* CXXI. vi, Like thy spotless Master thou, Fill'd with Wisdom, Love and Power. 1781 GIBBON *Decl. & F.* XXXIII. III. 333 The people applauded his spotless integrity. 1836 THIRLWALL *Greece* xiv. II. 228 His mother's reputation was not deemed spotless. 1875 MANNING *Mission H. Ghost* xii. 331 So, I may say, all are bound to live a life that is spotless before God.

absol. 1850 THACKERAY *Pendennis* liv, O you spotless, who have the right of capital punishment vested in you.

b. Guiltless or innocent *of* something. *rare*[−1].

1619 FLETCHER, etc. *Knt. Malta* II. v, Ye fight for her, as spotless of these mischiefs, As heaven is of our sins.

Spotlessly (spɒ·tlésli), *a.* [f. prec. + -LY[2].] In a spotless manner; without spot or stain; immaculately.

1852 HAWTHORNE *Blithedale Rom.* xxiv. (1885) 236 Toadstools,..some spotlessly white. 1855 KINGSLEY *Westw. Ho!* ii, So Mr. Frank was arrayed spotlessly. 1888 MISS BRADDON *Fatal Three* I. ii, The room was spotlessly clean. *fig.* 1887 *Pall Mall G.* 12 Oct. 4/1 The whole of Donegal, Fermanagh, and Monaghan, are as spotlessly Nationalist as any part of Connaught.

Spotlessness (spɒ·tlésnés). [f. as prec. + -NESS.] The quality or state of being spotless.

1624 DONNE *Devot.* 305 Lord, if thou looke for a spotlessnesse, whom wilt thou looke vpon? *a* 1684 LEIGHTON *Wks.* (1835) I. 116 As for this Blood, it is nothing but purity and

Spotlessness. 1727 in Bailey (vol. II). 1865 W. H. Gillespie *Arg. Being & Attrib. God* iv. ii. (1871) 142 Holiness is moral stainlessness, spotlessness, unsulliedness. 1888 Honnor Morten *Hosp. Life* 16, I confess that a little less light and air and spotlessness, would have made me feel more at home.

Spotlunge, obs. form of Spattling *vbl. sb.*[1]

Spo·tsman. [f. Spot *v.*] A smuggler.

1895 'Q' (Quiller Couch) *Story of Sea* I. xxvii. 651 Our spotsman had employed a Mount's Bay boat for his voyage; and one fine evening..he landed his cargo of kegs at the foot of the cliffs.

Spotted (spo·tĕd), *a.* and *ppl. a.* Also 5 **spottid, -yd,** 6, 9 *Sc.* **-it,** 7 **spotede.** [f. Spot *sb.*[1] and *v.* Cf. NFris. *spoted.*]

1. Marked or decorated with spots.

c 1250 *Gen & Ex.* 1721 And if of ðo spotted cumen, ðo sulen him ben for hire numen. 1388 Wyclif *Gen.* xxx. 35 He departide..the geet and scheep geet buckis, and rammes, dyuerse and spottid. *c* 1400 Maundev. (Roxb.) xxxi. 143 Þer er also wilde swyne,..dappeld and spotted, as it ware founez of daes. 1513 Douglas *Æneid* I. vi. 32 [She was] cled into the spottit linx hyde. 1582 in Brown *Abstr. Somerset Wills* (1887) 93 Let my son Thomas have the spotted colt. *c* 1611 Chapman *Iliad* xvii. 15 (1887) 223 Not any lion...Nor spotted leopard, nor boar. 1648 Hexham II, *Gespickelt laken,* Speckled or Spotted cloath. 1697 Dryden *Virg. Georg.* iii. 415, I pass the Wars that spotted Linx's make With their fierce Rivals. 1750 tr. *Leonardus' Mirr. Stones* 87 This sort is spotted and purple. 1799 [A. Young] *Agric. Linc.* 148 Best eating potatoes are spotted lemons. 1854 *Poultry Chron.* II. 176 Their spotted plumage resembling the spotted markings on the neck and breast of a common cock pheasant. 1874 H. H. Cole *Catal. Ind. Art S. Kens. Mus.* 251 A very quaint flower pattern on a spotted white ground.

b. Const. *with* (some colour, etc.).

1555 Eden *Decades* I. vii. (Arb.) 91 They were all paynted and spotted with sundry coloures. 1604 Shaks. *Oth.* III. iii. 435 A Handkerchiefe Spotted with Strawberries. 1660 F. Brooke tr. *Le Blanc's Trav.* 187 Girafes..are docile beasts, white and spotted with red. 1703 Dampier *Voy.* III. II. 32 Very remarkable Hills.., their sides all spotted with Woods and Savannahs. 1774 Goldsm. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) VII. 224 This animal..is finely spotted with various colours. 1828 Stark *Elem. Nat. Hist.* I. 189 Plumage of a clear brown, spotted with deeper colour. 1855 Whitman *Leaves of Grass. Sea-Drift* (1884) 197 Four light-green eggs spotted with brown.

c. With adverbial or other addition.

1585 T. Washington tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* iv. xiii. 126 b, A Leopardes skynne well spotted. 1685 Burnet *Lett.* (1686) 240 Marble beautifully spotted. 1687 A. Lovell tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* I. 237 No Lynx could be more exactly spotted, nor any Skin of a Tygre so pretty. 1774 Goldsm. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) VII. 223 The skin..being rough, hard, and variously spotted. 1816 Tuckey *Narr. Exped. R. Zaire* iii. (1818) 121 The domestic animals are sheep spotted black and white.

d. *Mining.* Having the ore irregularly distributed through the workings.

1874 Raymond *Statist. Mines & Mining* 365 The ground is spotted and very rich in places. 1895 *Times* 19 Feb. 3/6 This reef..appears to be what..is called 'spotted', the ore varying greatly in value in the distance of a few feet.

2. Disfigured or stained with spots.

1532 More *Confut. Tindale* Wks. 740/1 Syth that al the iustice of man is as the scripture sayeth like a fowle spotted clowte. 1619 West *Bk. Demeanor* 167 in *Babees Bk.,* Keep it neat and cleane, For spotted, dirty, or the like, is lothsome to be seene. 1649 E. Reynolds *Hosea* iii. 23 The Moon returnes but a faint and spotted light upon the world. 1765 *Museum Rust.* IV. 417 For every pound weight of Cocoons..of a weaker, lighter, spotted, or bruised quality. 1903 *Smart Set* IX. 19/1 One spotted peach will contaminate a whole basket.

b. *fig.* Morally stained or blemished.

1522 More *De quat. Novissc.* Wks. 83/1 The perilous pride of them that for theyr few spotted vertues..take themself for q·uick saintes. 1560 Becon *New Catech.* v. Wks. 1564 I. 445 b, All creatures were founde spotted in the syght of God. 1637 R. Ashley tr. *Malvezzi's David Persecuted* 52 Always egged on by the bitter touches of their spotted beginning. 1691 Hartcliffe *Virtues* 67 Tho they are the most filthy and spotted Crimes. 1742 Young *Nt. Th.* v. 50 The flow'rs of eloquence, profusely pour'd O'er spotted vice, fill half the letter'd world. 1817 Coleridge *Zapolya* Prel. 114 Do you press on, ye spotted parricides! 1891 H. Lynch *Meredith* 68 Richard's undertaking in the reform of spotted woman.

absol. 1891 Meredith *One of our Conq.* xxxv, The white he was ready to take for silver,..the spotted had received corruption's label.

c. Const. *with* (something disgraceful).

a 1548 Hall *Chron., Rich. III,* 29 b, That note of infamie with the whiche his fame was iustely spotted and stayned. 1578 Banister *Hist. Man* viii. 102 With no small negligence is he spotted in this point. *a* 1629 Hinde *J. Bruen* xxx. (1641) 95 Seldome any such meetings, but are either sprinkled with blood, or spotted with some grosse filthinesse. 1754 H. Walpole *Lett.* (1846) III. 76, I have scarce an idea left that is not spotted with clubs, hearts, spades, and diamonds. 1808 Bentham *Sc. Reform* 2 The abuses, with which the regular system of procedure is spotted.

d. Marked, suspected.

1864 *Daily Tel.* 17 May, Because the defaulter becomes a 'spotted' man, whose word can never more be trusted.

3. *Spotted fever,* a fever characterized by the appearance of spots on the skin; now *spec.* epidemic cerebro-spinal meningitis, and typhus or petechial fever.

1650 in *Verney Mem.* (1907) I. 474 Sr Charles his sickness was a spotted feaver. 1672 Salmon *Syn. Med.* I. lv. 147 The Spotted Feaver, is a continual malignant burning Feaver [etc.]. 1747 tr. *Astruc's Fevers* 344 The first [class] comprehends those of a true spotted fever, the second those of a spurious one. 1775 *Ann. Reg.* II. 4/1 Her Majesty's illness, which was a most malignant spotted fever, baffled every endeavour. 1822–7 Good *Study Med.* (1829) II. 239 While, from the purple or flea-bite spots,.. this variety has been very generally treated of at home, under the name of Spotted Fever. 1842 [see Petechial *a.*]. 1896 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* I. 667 Petechiæ were so common and so abundant in the earlier American Epidemics that the name 'spotted fever' was applied to the disease.

b. Similarly *spotted death, pestilence, sickness.*

1666 Dryden *Ann. Mirab* cclxvii, When spotted Deaths ran arm'd thro' every Street. 1783 Waldron *Contn. B. Jonson's Sad Sheph.* III. 64 The spotted pestilence his bow'r surround! 1825 Scott *Talism.* iii, How few can they deliver From lingering pains,..Red Fever, spotted Pestilence! 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 853 The 'spotted sickness' of tropical America.

4. In specific names: **a.** Of animals, as *spotted axis, boa, cavy, cougar, deer,* etc.

Also in a number of moth-names given by Rennie *Consp. Butterfl. & Moths* (1832).

1781 Pennant *Hist. Quadrup.* I. 105 The *Spotted Axis.. will bear our climate. *c* 1880 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* III. 49 The Spotted Axis; the Hog Deer, and the Roebuck. 1802 Shaw *Gen. Zool.* III. II. 343 The *spotted Boa is sometimes scarcely inferior in size to the Constrictor. 1781 Pennant *Hist. Quadrup.* II. 363 The *Spotted Cavy..inhabits Brazil, and Guiana. 1860 Mayne Reid *Hunter's Feast* vii, Some naturalists speak of *spotted cougars—that is, having spots that may be seen in a certain light. 1699 in Yule & Burnell *Hobson-Jobson* (1886) 651/2 There being conveniency in this place for ye breeding up of *Spotted Deer. 1698 Fryer *Acc E. India & P.* 71 Being here presented with *Chitrels,* or Spotted Deer. 1894 Lydekker *Roy. Nat Hist.* II. 353 The Indian Spotted Deer, or Chital (*Cervus axis*). 1754 Catesby *Carolina* II. App. 110/1 The *Spotted Eft. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) IV. 149/1 The..harnessed antelope..is frequent at the Cape, where it is called the bonte-bok, or *spotted goat. 1818–32 *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) XIV. 671/1 Spotted Goat of the Cape. *c* 1880 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* III. 59 The *Spotted Hog Deer is a rare species. 1781 Pennant *Hist. Quadrup.* I. 252 The *Spotted Hyæna..inhabits Guinea, Æthiopia, and the Cape. 1893 Lydekker *Roy. Nat. Hist.* I 488 The Spotted Hyæna (*Hyæna crocuta*).. is by far the largest and most powerful of the three living species. 1751 *Spotted Lizard [see Lizard 1 b]. 1831 Griffith tr. *Cuvier* IX. Syn. 34 Spotted Lizard, *Lacerta Guttulata.* 1789 A. Phillip *Voy. Bot. Bay* 276 *Spotted Martin. The species is about the size of a large polecat. 1781 Pennant *Hist. Quadrup.* I. 186 *Spotted Monkey. 1789 A. Phillip *Voy. Bot. Bay* 147 The *Spotted Opossum. 1879 E. P. Wright *Anim. Life* 402 The pretty *Spotted Salamander.. inhabits the greater part of Central and Southern Europe. *c* 1880 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* IV. 371 The Spotted Salamander, ..*Salamandra maculosa,*..is the type of this genus. 1865 Gosse *Land & Sea* (1874) 67 The common *spotted seal (*Phoca vitulina*). 1648 Hexham II, *Een Plack-slange,* a *spotted Snake or Adder. 1802 Shaw *Gen. Zool.* III. II. 446 Spotted Snake. *c* 1880 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* IV. 301 Taking the Common English Spotted Snake as an example. 1802 Shaw *Gen. Zool.* III. I. 47 The Testudo guttata, or *Spotted Tortoise. 1884 Goode *Nat. Hist. Aquat. Anim.* 158 The 'Spotted Tortoise' or 'Speckled Turtle', *Chelopus guttatus.* *c* 1880 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* II. 59 The *Spotted Wild Cat..is of a grey colour, spotted with black.

b. Of birds, as *spotted bower-bird, crake, cuckoo, eagle, emu falcon,* etc.

Many others occur in Latham's *Gen. Synop. Birds* (1781–85), as *spotted boat-bill, booby, bunting, buzzard,* etc.

1865 *Intell. Observ.* No. 38. 103 The *spotted Bower-bird. 1879 E. P. Wright *Anim. Life* 254 Equally interesting are the habits of the Spotted Bower Bird (*Chlamydera maculata*). 1824 Stephens in Shaw's *Gen. Zool.* XII. I. 223 *Spotted Crake. 1879 E. P. Wright *Anim. Life* 321 The Spotted Crake (*Porzana maruetta*) is another native species. 1782 Latham *Gen. Synop. Birds* I. II. 539 *Spotted Cuckow;..inhabits Cayenne. 1895 Lydekker *Roy. Nat. Hist.* IV. 2 The great spotted cuckoo (*C. glandarius*) has twice occurred in England. 1781 Latham *Gen. Synop. Birds* I. I. 38 *Spotted Eagle... The length of this bird is two feet. 1845 Yarrell *Brit. Birds* 1st Suppl. 11 The Spotted Eagle, *Aquila nævia.* 1895 Lydekker *Roy. Nat. Hist.* IV. 230 The spotted eagle (*Aquila maculata*) of Central Europe. *c* 1880 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* IV. 235 The *Spotted Emu (*Dromæus irroratus*) has often bred in captivity in this country. 1770 Pennant *Brit. Zool.* IV. 8 *Spotted Falcon. ..Size of a buzzard. 1783 Latham *Gen. Synop. Birds* II. I. 323 *Spotted Flycatcher;..frequents the warmer parts of the European continent. 1879 E. P. Wright *Anim. Life* 243 The Spotted Fly-catcher (*Muscicapa griseola*) can hardly be said to be a song-bird. 1772 *Phil. Trans.* LXII. 389 *Tetrao Grous,* *Spotted Grous. 1831 Wilson, etc. *Amer. Ornith.* IV. 193 The red grouse,..and *Tetrao canadensis,* or spotted grouse, have but sixteen [feathers in the tail]. 1768 Pennant *Brit. Zool.* II. 357 The *Spotted Redshank..in size..is equal to the preceding [i.e. Green Shank]. 1829 Griffith tr. *Cuvier* VIII. 78 *Spotted Ring Pigeon,.. *Columba Arquatrix.* 1768 Pennant *Brit. Zool.* II. 369 The *Spotted Sandpiper..is common to Europe and America. 1872 Coues *N. Amer. Birds* 260 *Tringoides,* Spotted Sandpiper. 1802 Montagu *Ornith.* s.v. *Snipe,* *Spotted Snipe, *Scolopax Totanus.* 1772 *Phil. Trans.* LXII. 410 *Scolopax,..*Spotted Woodcock. 1782 Latham *Gen. Synop. Birds* I. II. 569 Canadian *Spotted Woodpecker;..wing coverts and quills spotted with white. 1802 Montagu *Ornith.* s.v., The Spotted Woodpecker is less frequent in England than the Green. 1890 *Science-Gossip* XXVI. 47/1 The great spotted woodpecker (*Picus major*).

c. Of fishes, as *spotted bass, blenny, cat, dogfish, goby, grunt,* etc.

1876 Goode *Anim. Resources U.S.* in *Smithsonian Coll.* XIII. vi. 62 Red fish or *spotted bass (*Sciænops ocellatus*). 1805 Barry *Orkney* 292 The *Spotted Blenny.. is found under stones among the sea-weed. 1881 Day *Fishes Gt. Brit.* I. 208 *Centronotus Gunnellus.*.. Spotted blenny. 1796 *Spotted cat [see Cat *sb.*[1] 4 b]. 1861 *Spotted Dogfish [see Dogfish 1]. 1883 Day *Fishes Gt. Brit.* II. 309 *Scyllium *canicula,*.. Spotted dog-fish. *Ibid.* 310 Spotted, small-spotted, and lesser-spotted dog-fish. 1770 *Spotted Goby [see Goby]. 1881 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* V. 98 The Spotted Goby ..differs from the other species in wanting the silk-like pectoral fins. 1876 Goode *Fishes Bermudas* 54 The fishermen recognize several others, as the Yellow, Streaked, *Spotted, and Black Grunts. 1884 Goode *Nat. Hist. Aquat. Anim.* 412 The *Spotted Hind, *Epinephelus Drummond-Hayi,*..has been but recently discovered. 1836 Yarrell *Brit. Fishes* II. 448 *Petromyzon marinus,* *Spotted Lamprey. 1881 Day *Fishes Gt. Brit.* I. 306 *Spotted-ling, white-ling, and stake. 1804 Shaw *Gen. Zool.* V. II. 316 *Spotted Ray. 1881 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* V. 42 This species ..is sometimes known as the Spotted Ray and as the Painted Ray. 1884 Goode *Nat. Hist. Aquat. Anim.* 266 *Spotted Black Rock-Fish (*Sebastichthys melanops*). *Ibid.* 267 *Spotted Rock Trout (*Hexagrammus decagrammus*). 1883 *Harper's Mag.* Dec. 101/1 The *spotted sunfish..is more democratic, affecting muddy streams. 1884 Goode *Nat. Hist. Aquat. Anim.* 365 The Spotted Squeteague..is usually known on the Southern coast as the 'Salmon' or '*Spotted Trout'. *Ibid.* 177 *Lophopsetta maculata,* is sometimes called the *Spotted Turbot. 1881 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* V. 75 The Cook Wrasse (*Labrus mixtus*)..is also known..as the Red Wrasse, Striped Wrasse, and *Spotted Wrasse.

d. Of plants, as *spotted archangel, arse-smart, cat's-ear(s), cowbane,* etc.

1822 *Hortus Anglicus* II. 89 *L[amium] Maculatum,* *Spotted Archangel. 1731 Miller *Gard. Dict.* s.v. *Persicaria,* Dead, or *Spotted Arsmart. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s.v. *Persicaria,* The common mild or spotted arsmart. 1796 Withering *Brit. Plants* (ed. 3) II. 691 *Hypochæris maculata...*Spotted Cats-ears. 1848 [see Cat *sb.*[1] 19 b]. 1855 Pratt *Flower. Pl.* III. 193 Spotted Cat's-ear..is a rare plant. 1846–50 A. Wood *Class-bk. Bot.* 286 *Cicuta maculata.* Water Hemlock. *Spotted Cowbane. 1597 Gerarde *Herbal* I. xcviii. 157 *Spotted Dogs Stones bringeth foorth narrow leaues. 1847 *Spotted Gum [see Gum *sb.*[2] 5]. 1889 Maiden *Usef. Pl.* 242 *Eucalyptus hæmastoma...*Spotted Gum. 1731 Miller *Gard. Dict.* s.v. *Pulmonaria,* Common *spotted Lungwort, by some call'd Sage of Jerusalem. 1829 T. Castle *Introd. Bot.* 68 As in the spotted and officinal lung-wort. 1796 Withering *Brit. Plants* (ed. 3) II. 28 *Orchis maculata...*Female-handed Orchis. *Spotted Orchis. 1898 Morris *Austral Eng.* 431 *Spotted-Orchis,* Tasmanian name for the Orchid *Dipodium punctatum.* 1855 Pratt *Flower. Pl.* V. 210 *Spotted Palmate Orchis. 1882 *Garden* 11 Feb. 89/1 The Spotted Palmate Orchis is found, I believe, in every part of the Kingdom. 1855 Pratt *Flower. Pl.* IV. 303 *Spotted Persicaria. 1796 Withering *Brit. Plants* (ed. 3) II. 381 *Persicaria...*Spotted Snakeweed. 1874 *Treas. Bot.* Suppl. 1344/1 *Spotted Tree of the Queensland colonists. *Flindersia maculosa,* the trunk of which is remarkably spotted by the falling off of the outer bark in patches. 1889 Maiden *Usef. Pl.* 216 *Flindersia maculosa...*Spotted or Leopard Tree. 1846–50 A. Wood *Class-bk. Bot.* 379 *Chimaphila maculata,..*Spotted Wintergreen.

5. *Comb.,* as *spotted-beaked, -bellied, -billed,* etc. (in specific names).

1829 Griffith tr. *Cuvier* VIII. 620 *Spotted-beaked Duck, *Anas Maculirostris.* 1782 Latham *Gen. Synop. Birds* I. II. 494 *Spotted-bellied Barbet;..the plumage beneath rufous white, spotted with black. 1829 Griffith tr. *Cuvier* VII. 472 Spotted-bellied Tamatia, *Bucco Tamatia.* 1785 Latham *Gen. Synop. Birds* III. II. 487 *Spotted-billed Duck, *Anas poecilorhyncha.* 1824 Stephens in *Shaw's Gen. Zool.* XII. II. 134 Spotted-billed Wigeon. 1811 Shaw *Gen. Zool.* VIII. I. 223 *Spotted-breasted Creeper. 1829 Griffith tr. *Cuvier* VI. 72 *Spotted-eared Owl, *Strix maculosa.* 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s.v. *Orchis,* The white-flowered *spotted-leaved palmated meadow orchis. 1782 Latham *Gen. Synop. Birds* I. II. 772 *Spotted Necked Humming Bird. 1783 *Ibid.* II. II. 645 Spotted-necked Turtle. 1829 Griffith tr. *Cuvier* VIII. 65 Spotted-necked Quail. 1894 Lydekker *Roy. Nat. Hist.* II. 97 The spotted-necked otter (*Lutra maculicollis*). 1781 Latham *Gen. Synop. Birds* I. I. 106 *Spotted-tailed Hawk;..on each tail-feather.., are three white spots. 1809 Shaw *Gen. Zool.* VII. I. 196 Spotted-Tailed Hobby. 1781 Latham *Gen. Synop. Birds* I. I. 68 *Spotted-winged Falcon. 1783 *Ibid.* II. I. 345 Spotted Winged Flycatcher.

6. Special collocations: **Spotted Dick** (also *spotted dog*), a suet pudding made with currants or raisins; **spotted metal, stems** (see quots.).

1849 Soyer *Modern Housewife* 350 Plum Bolster, or *Spotted Dick.—Roll out two pounds of paste.., have some Smyrna raisins well washed [etc.]. 1892 *Pall Mall G.* 15 Dec. 2/3 The Kilburn Sisters..daily satisfy hundreds of dockers with soup and Spotted Dick. 1876 Hiles *Catech. Organ* iv. (1878) 22 A mixture is often used [for organ pipes] called '*Spotted Metal', from the surface being covered with spots, or mottled. 1881 C. A. Edwards *Organs* 125 'Spotted metal' is the name given to a compound of tin and lead, in the proportion of one-third of the former to two-thirds of the latter. 1851 Mantell *Petrifactions* i. 35 Specimens of certain fossil vegetables which are abundant in most coal fields, and are commonly known as *Spotted-stems, or Stigmariæ.

Spottedness (spo·tĕdnĕs). [f. prec. + -ness.] The quality or state of being spotted.

1611 Cotgr., *Mouscheture,* a spottednesse, or spotting. 1642 J. Eaton *Honey-c. Free Justif.* 177 We see and feel nothing but fouleness and spottednesse. 1727 Bailey (vol. II), *Speckledness,* Spottedness. 1881 C. A. Young *Sun* 145 The state of the sun as to spottedness. 1883 *Science* II. 72/2 A maximum of solar spottedness seems to have passed.

Spotter (spo·tə1). [f. Spot *v.* or *sb.*[1]]

1. One who makes spots.

1611 Cotgr., *Barbouilleur,*..a blotter, spotter, smutter, besmearer of. 1687 Miège *Gt. Fr. Dict.* I, *Brodeuse de Gaze,* a Spotter of Hoods, a Woman that spots Hoods. 1755 Johnson, *Spotter,* one that spots; one that maculates. 1881 *Instr. Census Clerks* (1885) 70 [Persons employed in] Lace Finishing:..Spotter, Stamper [etc.].

b. A device for making spots on watch-plates.

1884 F. J. Britten *Watch & Clockm.* 245 This upright spindle carrying the spotter is kept constantly rotating by a band from a foot wheel.

2. *U.S.* A spy or detective, esp. one employed by a company to keep watch on employees, or one who watches for infringements of prohibition-laws.

1878 O. W. Holmes *Motley* 139 He was a paid 'spotter', sent by some jealous official to report on the foreign ministers. 1883 *American* VI. 333 A conductor..had a private detective arrested for following him about, and the 'spotter' was fined ten dollars by a magistrate.

b. In target practice, one who notes the point where a shot strikes; a marker.

1893 *Daily News* 21 July 5/6 Surridge got a bull 'just in at ten o'clock', to use the spotter's descriptive slang.

Spo·ttily, *adv.* [f. Spotty *a.*¹ + -ly².] In a spotty manner; without uniformity.

1890 *Pall Mall G.* 16 Jan. 6 The missions work spottily. Many..are doing good work; but it is, as I say, only done ineffectively, in patches.

Spottiness (spo·tinės). [f. Spotty *a.*¹ + -ness.] The character or state of being spotty.

1577 *St. Aug. Manual* I vij, O light whiche hatest all spottinesse, in asmuch as thou art most cleane & spotlesse.' 1611 Cotgr., *Papillotage*, a spatling, or spottinesse. 1820 L. Hunt *Indicator* No. 37 (1822) I. 292 How we like to see a couple of legs..splashed unavoidably..till their horrid glare is subdued into spottiness. 1863 *Gd. Words* Apr. 281/1 Nine times in a century the sun passes through all its states of purity and spottiness. 1892 *Photogr. Ann.* II. 227 The evil of spottiness, patchyness, and confusion.

Spotting (spo·tiŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. Spot *v.* + -ing¹.] 1. The action or process of making spots; the fact of becoming spotted.

c 1430 *Pilgr. Lyf Manhode* II. lxv. (1869) 100 That keepeth him from sinne, and from spottinge of rust. 1530 Palsgr. 274 Spottyng with colour, *taincture.* 1591 Percivall *Sp. Dict.*, *Espanzimiento*, sprinckling or spotting. *a* 1610 Healey *Theophrastus* (1636) 43 To put in good store of Fullers earth, to keepe them from soile and spotting. 1711 Addison *Spect.* No. 81 ¶ 3 This artificial Spotting of the Face. 1838 *Penny Cycl.* XI. 358/1 To this disparity of temperature..may be certainly ascribed the bad setting, spotting, and shrivelling of grapes. 1846 J. Baxter *Libr. Pract. Agric.* (ed. 4) II. 381 To prevent the spotting of the fruit produced by the action of the sun. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* IV. 222/2 The defects [in varnishing coaches]..are those of 'spotting', 'blooming', 'pin-holing'.

b. *spec.* (See quot.)

1884 F. J. Britten *Watch & Clockm.* 245 Spotting..[is] the process of finishing chronometer and occasionally watch plates by polishing thereon equidistant circular patches.

c. With *out*: The removal of spots.

1892 *Photogr. Ann.* II. 877 A series of colours in tubes specially prepared for painting, spotting out, &c.

2. A set or number of spots; a marking composed of spots.

1600 Surflet *Countrie Farme* III xxviii. 486 The best of all the rest, is the short shanked apple, which is marked with spottings. 1649 Ogilby tr. *Virg. Georg.* III. (1684) 95 *note*, Of the Marks of a good Heifer..(that is, Sowrness of Look,..Spotting of the Body) [etc.]. 1721 Bradley *Philos. Acc. Wks. Nat.* 57 The various Colouring and Spotting of their Eggs. 1841 *Florist's Jrnl.* (1846) II. 131 The spotting is smaller, but in every other particular they are very like. 1898 Meredith *Odes Fr. Hist.* 33 Along drear leagues of crimson spotting, white With mother's tears of France.

3. The action of placing on a spot.

1849 Mardon *Billiards* (ed. 2) Pl. 74 A break would have followed the spotting of the red ball that must have yielded the number of points required.

4. *U.S.* (See quot.)

1904 *Electr. World & Engin.* 24 Sept. 506 (Cent. Suppl.), This breaking up and switching of the trains into sections, which is called 'spotting'.

5. *attrib.*, as *spotting colour, machine, shuttle, woof.*

1805 *Trans. Soc. Arts* XXIII. 241 The spotting shuttles save clipping, and the waste of spotting yarn. 1839 Ure *Dict. Arts* 1233 In working spots, one thread, or shot of spotting-woof, and two of plain, are successively inserted. 1884 C. G. W. Lock *Workshop Rec.* Ser. III. 15/1 A mottled appearance is produced on brass by a 'spotting' machine. 1892 *Photogr. Ann.* II. 221 With the spotting colour we can carefully erase the other people's hands.

Spo·tting, *ppl. a.* [f. Spot *v.* + -ing².] Making or causing spots. Also *fig.*

1650 Bulwer *Anthropomet.* 158 The discreeter sort of Ladies who are not guilty of this spotting vanity. 1827 Clare *Sheph. Cal.* 56 The streaking sugar and the spotting plum.

Spottle, obs. variant of Spattle *sb.*¹

Spo·ttle, *v. rare.* [f. Spot *v.* + -le.] *trans.* To spot or dot thickly; to bespatter.

1847–*in* midland dial. glossaries. 1859 F. E. Paget *Curate Cumberworth* 15 He delighted in making maps of Asia Minor, and could spottle an impromptu Ægean with wriggling islands.

Spotty (spo·ti), *a.* and *sb.* Also 5 spotti, 6–7 spottie. [f. Spot *sb.*¹ + -y.]

A. *adj.* 1. Full of, marked with, spots; spotted.

1340 *Ayenb.* 192 Þou ne sselt nazt maky none sacrefice to God of oxe ne of sseep þet by spotty. 1382 Wyclif *Gen.* xxx. 35 He seuerde..the wetheres, dyuerse and spotti. *c* 1400 *Pilgr. Sowle* (Caxton, 1483) IV. xxvi. 71 A clere myrroure wyll more playnly represente the fourmes..of thynges..than wylle another that is fowle and spotty. *c* 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* VIII. 74 Yf hit [*sc.* the ram's tongue] be spotty, that a man may wite Yf he bigete hym spotty lombis yonge. 1513 *Act* 5 *Hen. VIII*, c. 4 § 1 If the same Worsted..taketh any Wet, incontinent it will shew spotty and foul. 1587 Mascall *Govt. Cattle, Sheep* (1627) 200 The spottie Rams will commonly be seene in the Lambes. 1620 Venner *Via Recta* ii. 40 The colour of the face becommeth pale.., and the skin ..polluted with a white spotty deformity. 1667 Milton *P. L.* I. 291 To descry new Lands, Rivers or Mountains in her spotty Globe. 1816 Singer *Hist Cards* 95 *note*, All the impressions are similar to that of the frontispiece, being spotty or greyish. 1822–7 Good *Study Med.* (1829) V. 567 The spotty and minutely tubercular lichens. 1874 Ruskin *Fors Clav.* xlvi. 229 A dozen of the fattest, shiniest, spottiest trout I ever saw.

Comb. 1598 Sylvester *Du Bartas* II. i. III. *Furies* 391 He strangled His spightfull stepdam s Dragon spotty-spangled. 1884 Coues *N. Amer. Birds* 625 *Actodromas*, .. Spotty-throat Sandpipers.

b. *fig.* or in fig. context.

a 1400 *Leg. Rood* (1871) 213 A white lambe, with senn blak Spotty myȝt he neuere bene. 1561 T Norton *Calvin's Inst.* IV. viii. (1634) 569 The Church,..whereof all the members are spotty and very uncleane. 1631 R. Byfield *Doctr. Sabb.* 112 You would prove of Christians, spotty feasters. 1675 N. Lee *Nero* II. ii, The Gods rain curses on me..If e're I harbour'd..a thought But what was Noble, of your spotty loves.

2. Patchy; lacking in uniformity or harmony:

a. Of painting.

1812 *Examiner* 25 May 329/1 The lights..are sometimes spotty. 1884 *Bazaar* 22 Dec. 664/1 Walters is showing a disposition for more lively colouring, but..this year's paintings..are hard and spotty.

b. Of literary work.

a 1849 Poe *Lit. Crit., Mr. Ward* Wks. 1865 III. 160 In no other supposition can we reconcile the spotty appearance of the whole with a belief in the sanity of the author. 1870 Lowell *Study Wind.* 261 The true artist in language is never spotty, and needs no guide-boards of admiring italics.

3. Occurring in spots; characterized by such occurrence.

1812 *Examiner* 284/2 Their spotty and crowded arrangement. 1892 Stevenson *Across the Plains* 79 A rough, spotty undergrowth partially conceals the sand.

B. *sb.* A small wrasse of New Zealand, *Labrichthys bothryocosmus.*

1872 in Morris *Austral Eng.* s.v. *Poddly.* 1878 *Trans. New Zeal. Instit.* XI. 384 Wrasse, Parrot-fish, and Spotties were often in the market.

Spotyl, obs. variant of Spattle *sb.*¹

Spou·cher. Now *Sc.* (and *Ir.*). Forms: 4 spojour, spogeour, 5 spougeour; 4 sp(o)uchour, 6 *Sc.* spowcheour, 9 spoucher, spoocher. [ad. ONF. *espuchoir* (= OF. *espusoir, espuisoir*), f. *espuchier, espuichier* (= OF. *espuicier, espuisier*, mod.F. *épuiser*) to drain, empty of water.] A wooden vessel for baling out or conveying water; a water-scoop. In early use *Naut.*

1336–7 *Acc. Exch. K. R.* 19/31 m. 5 In ij. spojours emptis ad eandem [galeam] ad aquam in dictis Wyndingbaties ponendam..viiij. d. 1338 *Roll* 'T. G.' *11,007* in Nicolas *Hist. R. Navy* (1847) II. 475 Un ketill, un spogeour, ii. seilyngnedeles, un dyall. 1352 *Excheq. Acc. Q. R.* Bundle 20. no. 27, Pro quodam instrumento ligneo vocato 'spuchour' pro aqua fundanda et defendenda de nave. *Ibid.*, Pro quodam vase vocato 'spouchour'. 1420 *For. Acc.* 3 *Hen. VI*, F/2 b, ij lanternys, j spougeour, ij poleys pro le shroude et j sketfat.

1548 *Extr. Aberdeen Reg.* (1844) I. 259 Certane wther varklummes, sic as spowttis, spowcheouris [*printed* spowth-], and cruikis. 1890 in Simmons *Donegal Gloss.* (E.D.D.). 1898 *Proc. Philos. Soc. Glasgow* XXX. 45 Fire water—fire a spoucher full.

Spouis(s, obs. Sc. ff. Spouse *sb.* **Spoult,** dial. var. Spalt *a.* **Spoul worme,** var. Spoleworm *Obs.* **Spoune,** obs. f. Spoon *sb.* and *v.* **Spounge,** obs. f. Sponge *sb.* and *v.* **Spourge,** obs. f. Spurge *sb.* and *v.* **Spourtlit,** obs. Sc. f. Spurtled *ppl. a.*

Spou·sage. *Obs.* exc. *arch.* Forms: 4 sposage, 5–6 spowsage, 5– spousage (6 spousag). [ad. AF. *espousage*, OF. *espousage* (cf. Espousage), f. *espo(u)ser* Spouse *v.*]

1. Wedlock; = Spousal *sb.* 1 and 1 b.

Freq. const. with preps., as *in, into, of,* or *out of,* with reference to the legitimacy of children.

13.. *Evang. Nicod.* 730 Þat quest þat gan him deme Trew in sposage borne. 13.. *Cursor M.* 3043 (Gött.), Þou[s] ismael be noght of sposage [*Trin.* Of Ismael out of spousage]. *a* 1395 Hylton *Scala Perf.* II. xliv. (W. de W. 1494), That it myghte come to theffecte of true spousage. *c* 1400 Maundev. (Roxb.) viii. 28 To proue þaire childer, wheder þai be geten in leel spousage or noght. *c* 1460 *Towneley Myst.* xxx. 277 An vsage, swilk..makys theym..lif in syn for hir sake, And breke thare awne spowsage. *c* 1500 *Lancelot* 1331 For bow was not byget in to spousag. 1508 Dunbar *Tua Mariit Wemen* 155 Or how ȝe like lif to leid in to leill spousage? *c* 1550 Rolland *Crt. Venus* III. 221 Quene Iocasta..Tuik hir awin sone of spowsage in the band.

2. = Spousal *sb.* 2.

1338 R. Brunne *Chron.* (1810) 153 Whan þei were trouth plight, & purueied þe sposage, Helianore forth hir dight to Rouhan hir menage. 14.. *Sir Beues* (M) 277 Thou mvst kepe Vppon the ffeld all my shepe, Till the spousage be brought to end. *c* 1450 *Cov. Myst.* (Shaks. Soc.) 90 Every damesel .. Xulde be browght in good degre Onto her spowsage. 1501 Douglas *Pal. Hon.* III. xxxv, Of duke Pirithous the spousage in that tide, Quhair the Centauris reft away the bride, Thair saw I. *a* 1548 Hall *Chron., Hen. VI*, 148 b, It should seme that God with this matrimony was not content. For after this spousage the Kynges frendes fell from hym. *c* 1555 Harpsfield *Divorce of Hen. VIII* (Camden) 248 The very true, perfect, and full marriage is the same company..and living together which is consecrate by the league or bond of spousage or promise that one doth make to the other. 1656 Blount *Glossogr.*, *Spousage*,..the contract or betrothing before full marriage. 1720 Wheatly *Bk. Com Prayer* (ed. 3) x. 407 In the old Manual for the use of Salisbury, before the Minister proceeds to the marriage, he is directed to ask the Woman's Dowry, *viz.* the Tokens of Spousage.

transf. and *fig.* 1497 Bp. Alcock *Mons Perfect.* D iij, The weddynge and spousage of the lambe. 1513 Bradshaw *St. Werburge* I. 1548 Kynge Vulfer, her father, at this ghostly spousage Prepared great tryumphes and solempnyte. 1550 Bale *Image Both Ch.* II. G ij, Not the spousage of their soules haue they broken by no fylthye traditions of men. 1888 *Ecclesiologist* 1 June 6 Spousage of a virgin to Christ.

b. Const. *of* (betrothal or matrimony). *rare.*

a 1591 R. Greenham *Wks.* (1599) 288 *note*, The spousage of betrothing before full mariage. 1596 Dalrymple tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* II. 392 The King hes obteinet her haly spousage of matrimonie.

3. A spouse, wife. *rare* —¹.

1513 Douglas *Æneid* XI. vi. 109 The Goddis eik sa far dyd me invy, That in my natiue land neuer sall I spy My chaist spousage.

Spousal (spau·zăl), *sb.* Forms: *a.* 4 spusail(e, -eil, spusseayl; sposayle, -eyl, -eil, 4–5 -ail(e; spousaile, 4–6 -ayl(e, 4–7 -ail; 4–5 spousaille, 5 -ayll(e; 4–5 spowsail(e, -ayle, etc. *β.* 5 spousel(le, *pl.* spouselx, 5–6 spousale, 5– spousal, 6–7 spousall. [ad. OF. *espus-, espos-, espousaille* (freq. in pl.): see Espousal.]

†1. The condition of being espoused or married; the married state; wedlock. *Obs.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 13710 Þis womman þe band has broken of hir sposail. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* x. (*Matthew*) 333 For gud spousale is plesand thinge to god. *c* 1386 Chaucer *Clerk's T.* 115 Boweth youre nekke vnder the blisful yok Of soueraynetee..Which þat men clepeth spousaille or wedlok. *c* 1430 Lydg. *Min. Poems* (Percy Soc.) 31 Thou seist thou haddist in yong age wantonnesse, Therfore in olde age the nedithe have trewe spousaille. 1590 Spenser *F. Q.* II. x. 75 Whose emptie place the mightie Oberon Doubly supplide, in spousall, and dominion.

fig. *c* 1450 *Myrr. our Ladye* 138 That speketh of the spousayle that ys betwene oure lorde Iesu cryste and holy chyrche. 1599 Shaks. *Hen. V*, v. ii. 390 So be there 'twixt your Kingdomes such a Spousall, That neuer may ill Office or fell Iealousie..Thrust in betweene the Pa[c]tion of these Kingdomes.

Comb. 1621 Brathwait *Nat. Embassie* (1877) 280 One spousall-lothing, one her honour louing.

†b. In vbl. phrases, as *to break* or *spill spousal,* to be unfaithful to the marriage vow, to commit adultery; *to hold spousal,* to keep the marriage vow.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 28486 Mi spuseil haf i broken rife, And ledd þe wers my spused wife. 1303 R. Brunne *Handl. Synne* 1622 Grete mede he getyþ with-oute fayle þat wele wyl holde hys spousayle. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 12736 While he, faryn was to fight in a fer lond, Sho spilt hade hir spousaile. 1430–40 Lydg. *Bochas* II. v. (MS. Bodl. 263), How trewe spousaile..In your cite was broke.

2. The action of espousing or marrying; the celebration of a marriage or betrothal; an instance or occasion of this. Now *arch.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 10781 Thoru þe spusail þat was mad þar Was mani broght to ioi fra care. 1338 R. Brunne *Chron.* (1810) 308 As þe courte of Rome had ordeynd þat spousale, Right opon þat dome he weddid his sanzfaile. 1390 Gower *Conf.* I. 181 Envie tho began travaile In destourbance of this spousaile. 1447 Bokenham *Seyntys* (Roxb.) 51 And yf þe knot be now undo Of oure spousayle. 1458 *Paston Lett.* I. 425 The seyd Kyng ys decesed wythynne thys vj. wekes, or the spouselle was made. 1544 tr. *Littleton's Tenures* 85 Where..after the spousayle he hath yssue by the same woman a sonne. 1590 Spenser *F. Q.* I. ii. 23 My hoped day of spousall shone. 1667 Milton *P. L.* VIII. 319 Till the amorous Bird of Night Sung Spousal, and bid haste the Evning Starr. 1833 Mrs. Browning *Prometh. Bound* Poems 1850 I. 169 Why lengthen out thy maiden hours, when fate Permits the noblest spousal in the world? 1871 R. Ellis tr. *Catullus* lxiv. 158 Hadst not a will with spousal an honour'd wife to receive me?

b. Freq. in pl. *spousals.*

a 1325 *MS. Rawl. B. 520* fol. 61 Ȝif matrimonie or sposailes weren forth lad in assise. 1390 Gower *Conf.* III. 308 Now have I told of the spousailes. *c* 1430 Lydg. *Min. Poems* (Percy Soc.) 40 Al that wedlok asketh and spowsayles, Al was redy to plesaunt apparailes. 1492 *Rolls of Parlt.* VI. 450/1 After the Spouselx betwene him and the said Anne. 1531 Elyot *Gov.* II. xii, Not withstandyng any ceremonye doone at the time of the spousayles, the mariage..is not confirmed, vntyll at nyght. 1590 Swinburne *Testaments* 48 Al the goods and cattels personal that the wife had at the time of the spousals, or celebration of the mariage. 1613 Purchas *Pilgrimage* (1614) 649 You may feast with them at their spousals, and againe, after a view of their liues, at their funerals. 1669 Dryden *Tyrannic Love* v. i, Ethereal music did her death prepare, Like joyful sounds of spousals in the air. 1743 Francis tr. *Hor., Odes* III. v. 9 Could they to foreign spousals meanly yield, Whom Crassus led with honor to the field? 1805 Southey *Madoc* II. 94 Four maids, the loveliest of the land, are given In spousals. 1832 Lytton *Eugene A.* II. i, By the end of the ensuing month it was agreed that the spousals of the lovers should be held. 1874 Symonds *Sk. Italy & Greece* (1898) I. xiii. 279 With the morrow the Church blessed the spousals. *fig.* 1857 Emerson *Poems* 48 Knowing well to celebrate.. The spousals of the new-born year.

†c. Performance of the marriage ceremony. *Obs.*

a 1450 Myrc *Par. Pr.* 532 þe .vij. sacramentes of holy chyrche,..Ordere of prest, and spousayle, And þe laste elynge.

†3. A wedding gift or present; a dowry. *Obs.*

1382 Wyclif 1 *Kings* xviii. 25 The kyng nedith no sposelliis [L. *sponsalia*], but oonli an hundrid tersis of Philisteis. 14.. *Sir Beues* 4277 (M.), Vnto sir Myles was she wed. The kyng gaue Myles in spousayll The Erle-dome of Cornwayll.

Spousal (spau·zăl), *a.* Also 6 *Sc.* -ale, 6–7 -all. [attrib. use of prec., or ad. L. *sponsāl-is* by assimilation to this.]

1. Of, pertaining or relating to, espousal or marriage; nuptial, matrimonial.

1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* VII. x. 39 Lat thaim begyne Sik wedlok to contrak and spousale feyst. 1517 TORKINGTON *Pilgr.* (1884) 12 The spousall words be *In signum veri perpetuique Domini.* 1577–87 HOLINSHED *Chron.* III. 1097/2 When I was wedded to the realme..(the spousall ring whereof I haue on my finger). 1588 SHAKS. *Tit. A.* I. i. 337 There shall we Consummate our Spousall rites. 1635 PAGITT *Christianogr.* III. (1636) 28 Concerning cases spousal and matrimonial. 1647 TRAPP *Comm. Rev.* ii. 4 That spousall-love that God so well remembreth. 1671 MILTON *Samson* 387 Spousal embraces, vitiated with Gold. 1725 POPE *Odyss.* VI. 31 Thy spousal ornament neglected lies. 1726 *Ibid.* XVIII. 334 Till Hymen lights the torch of spousal love. 1821 SOUTHEY *Exped. Orsua* 60 A large robe of rich silk..was given her as the spousal present. 1877 BRYANT *Sella* 318 There already stood The priest prepared to say the spousal rite. 1888 DOUGHTY *Arabia Deserta* I. 471 The spousal money that the Moor had given to..her half-brother.

2. Of a hymn, poem, etc.: Celebrating or commemorating an espousal or marriage.

1596 SPENSER (*title*), Prothalamion, or a Spousall Verse made..in Honour of the Double marriage of..the Ladie Elizabeth and the Ladie Katherine Somerset. *a* 1599 — *F. Q.* VII. vii. 12 Where Phœbus self,..They say, did sing the spousall hymne full cleere. 1761 J. SCOTT (*title*), A Spousal Hymn, or an Address to His Majesty on his Marriage. [1841 D'ISRAELI *Amen. Lit.* (1867) 476 A spousal hymn on the double marriage of two ladies.]

Hence **Spou·sally** *adv.*, by espousal or marriage; in the manner of a spouse; as a spouse. *rare.*

1501 in *Antiq. Rep.* (1808) II. 255 They now were in their either other presens spousally ensured. 1898 MEREDITH *Odes Fr. Hist.* 48 Not deigning spousally entreat, But harsh.

Spouse (spauz), *sb.* Forms: 3–4 **spus, spuse,** 3– **spouse,** 4 **spouce**; 4 **spows,** 5 **spowce,** 5–8 **spowse,** 6 **spowze**; also *Sc.* 5 **speys,** 6 **spouis(e,** 6–7 **spous,** 8 **spuse.** [a. OF. *spus, spous* masc., *spuse* fem., varr. of *espus, espouse,* etc.: see ESPOUSE *sb.* In some early ME. instances (see 3) the masc. *spus* is distinct from the fem. *spuse.*]

1. A married woman in relation to her husband; a wife; †a bride. Usually with possessive pronouns, *of,* or *to.*

c 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 135 Elizabet þi spuse shal hauen a cnauechild. *c* 1250 *Owl & Night.* 1527 Þat were gulte þat leof is oþer wymmon to pulte..& hauep atom his rich[t]e spuse. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 3043 Þof ysmael be noght o spus, O him sal gret men cum and crus. 13.. *Sir Beues* 143 And þow schelt after her wedde to spouse, To þin amy. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 2677 Þare fand he..þe trew spouse Of ser Dary. *c* 1430 LYDG. *Min. Poems* (Percy Soc.) 40 To you, dere herte, my veray trouthe I plihte As to my spouse. *a* 1553 UDALL *Royster D.* v. i, Sir,..doe not ye therfore your faithfull spouse mystrust. 1596 SHAKS. *Tam. Shr.* IV. v. 67 So qualified, as may beseeme The Spouse of any noble Gentleman. *c* 1614 SIR W. MURE *Dido & Æneas* I. 200, I,..Jove's spowse, and sister, heaven's arch-empresse great. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* IV. 169 The fishie fume, That drove him, though enamourd, from the Spouse Of Tobits Son. 1711 S. SEWALL *Diary* 1 Feb., He thanks me for my Respect to him and his Spouse. 1782 COWPER *Gilpin* ii, John Gilpin's spouse said to her dear [etc.]. 1833 TENNYSON *Dream Fair Wom.* xli, A name for ever!—lying robed and crown'd, Worthy a Roman spouse. 1870 BRYANT *Iliad* I. I. 30 Thou wilt find the task Too hard for thee, although thou be my spouse. 1877 MARY M. GRANT *Sun-Maid* i, He chose Lady Anna as a fitting spouse because he liked her rank.

fig. 1859 E. FITZGERALD *Omar* xl, [How I] Divorced old barren Reason from my Bed, And took the Daughter of the Vine to Spouse.

b. Used as a term of address. (Also in sense 2.)

c 1386 CHAUCER *Sec. Nun's T.* 144 O sweete and wel biloued spouse deere,..Ther is a conseil Which that right fayn I wolde vn-to yow seye. 1706–7 FARQUHAR *Beaux' Strat.* V. iv, They tell me Spouse that you had like to have been rob'd. *Mrs. Sull.* Truly, Spouse, I was pretty near it. 1821 SHELLEY *Epipsych.* 130 Spouse! Sister! Angel..O too soon adored, by me!

2. A married man in relation to his wife; a husband; †a bridegroom. Usually with possessive pronouns.

c 1200– [see 3] 13.. *Cursor M.* 10170 (Gött.), To samirtale widuten strijf, Be-tuix any spouse and his wijf. *a* 1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* xviii. 5 As spouse cumand forth of his chawmbire. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 301 This wif..sih how that hire seli spouse Was sett. 1447 BOKENHAM *Seyntys* (Roxb.) 57 Thus she gan crye Welkecome dere spouse and god gramercy. *a* 1513 FABYAN *Chron.* (1811) 654 At whiche mariage was no persones present but the spowse, the spowsesse, the duches of Bedforde [etc.]. 1564–5 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* I. 327 George Kennedie, hir pretendit spous. 1597 J. PAYNE *Royal Exch.* 43 So gloriouse and Princely a spowze to take ..so poore and meane an espowzes. 1608 [see SPOUSED *ppl. a.* b]. 1771 SMOLLETT *Humph. Cl.* (1815) 232 To fill the place of the deceased, not only as the son of the sachem, but as the spouse of a beautiful squaw. 1782 COWPER *Mut. Forbearance* 1 The lady thus address'd her spouse. 1844 WILLIS *Lady Jane* I. 82 Ours Are the best wives on earth. They love their spouses. 1856 MRS. BROWNING *Aur. Leigh* II. 412, I am scarcely meek enough To be the handmaid of a lawful spouse.

†**b.** An affianced suitor; one's fiancé. *Obs.*—1

a 1553 UDALL *Royster D.* I. v, I am bespoken: And I thought verily thys had bene some token From my dear spouse Gawin Goodluck.

3. *fig.* In religious use: **a.** Applied to the Church, or to a woman who has taken religious vows, in relation to God or Christ.

(*a*) *c* 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 149 Swiche teares wiep þe holie spuse uppen hire spus. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 2 Louerd! seið Godes Spuse to hire deorewurðe Spus [etc.]. *c* 1380 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* III. 339 Cristis Chirche is his Spouse. *a* 1536 *Songs, Carols,* etc. (1907) 69 The chirche is callid þe spowse of Jhesu Criste. 1570 B. GOOGE *Pop. Kingd.* IV. 51 b, How are the Idoles worshipped, if this religion here Be Catholike, and like the Spowse of Christ accounted dere? 1641 WITHER *Halelviah* I. 1, Thy God, is now thy Father dear; His holy Spouse, thy Mother too. 1782 J. FLETCHER *Lett.* Wks. 1795 VII. 239 The Church, the Spouse of the Son of God. 1827 POLLOK *Course T.* V, The Church, the holy spouse of God.

(*b*) *c* 1230 *Hali Meid.* 5 Swuch wurðschipe, as hit is to beo godes spuse, Ihesu cristes brude. *c* 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 52 Go..to þe Abbesse of þe house, Dame Aldred þat clene Maide, þat is godes spouse. *c* 1430 *Life St. Kath.* (1884) 19 Now myn owne doughter be glad..for now ȝe lak noo thyng þat longeth to an heuenly spouse. *c* 1440 *Gesta Rom.* V. 13 (Harl. MS.), Ony sowle, þe which is spouse of god. *c* 1610 *Women Saints* 83 Their no lesse religious sister Walburge, a moste chaste spouse of Christ. *a* 1700 in *Cath. Rel. Soc. Publ.* IX. 343 God..had perticularly designed her for his especiall Elected and Beloved spowse. 1756–9 A. BUTLER *Lives of Saints, S. Catherine of Bologna,* She looked upon it as the greatest honour to be in any thing the servant of the spouses of Christ. 1886 MONAHAN *Rec. Ardagh & Clonmacnoise* 2 That youthful spouse of Christ [St. Bridget].

b. Applied to God or Christ in relation to the Church (or its members) or to women of religion.

c 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 149 Swiche teares wiep þe holie spuse uppen hire spus. *c* 1220 *Bestiary* 717 in *O. E. Misc.,* He is ure soule spuse. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* XXXIV. (*Pelagia*) 102 We, þat suld god plese maste, oure verray spouse. *c* 1430 LYDG. *Min. Poems* (Percy Soc.) 178 Perpetuelly..Knet to your spouse callid Crist Jhesu. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) G g b, Let the swete odour of deuocyon and prayer spyre out and ascende vp to thy lorde & spouse. 1657 *Penit. Conf.* vii. 117 That the Church would not have made so bold..without express warranty from her Spouse? 1753 CHALLONER *Cath. Chr. Instr.* 207 Because the Church is then in Mourning for her Spouse.

†**4.** The married state; marriage, wedlock. *Obs.*

c 1250 *Owl & Night.* 1334 Þu..me atwist þat ic singe bi manne huse & theche wyue breke spuse. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 3907 Quat of his wiues tuin in spus, And wat of hand wimmen in hus, Tuelue suns had he o þaa. *Ibid.* 11132 Als dos þe men þat liues in spus. 1340–70 *Alex. & Dind.* 393 Alle leccheries lust vs loþeth to founde, Or to bringe vs in brigge for to breke spouce.

5. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *spouse-bed, -faith, -feast*; *spouse-lost* adj.

1550 COVERDALE *Spir. Pride* vii. (1588) 80 Those..matrones, which being sore tempted,..do neuerthelesse kepe their spouse faith toward their husbandes vndefiled. 1591 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* I. vii, Let her, that..Dares spot the Spous-bed with unlawful kisses, Blush. 1598 *Ibid.* II. i, Sith spousebed spotless laws of God allow. 1601 *Downfall Earl Huntington* II. i. in Hazl. *Dodsley* VIII. 129 To this end came I to the mock spouse-feast. 1615 BRATHWAIT *Strappado* (1878) 320 Like spouse-lost Turtles, do we flocke together.

Spouse (spauz), *v.* *Obs.* exc. *arch.* Forms: 3–4 **spuse** (4 **spusen, spus**); 3–4 **spose**; 3–4 **spousi, spousy,** 4–5 **spousen** (5 **spowsyn**), 4–6 **spowse,** 3– **spouse** (9 *Sc.* **spouss**). [ad. OF. *espuser, esposer, espouser*: see ESPOUSE *v.* In some early examples the pa. t. and pa. pple. are formed without *-d.*]

†**1.** *trans.* To join or unite in marriage or wedlock. Chiefly employed in the passive, and usu. const. *to, unto,* or *with* (a person). *Obs.*

c 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 110 So þat heo i-cristned was,..and i-spouse in þe place. *a* 1300 *Floriz & Bl.* 788 He let hem to one Chirche bringe, And spusen hem wip one gold ringe. *c* 1300 *Havelok* 1175 He weren spused fayre and wel, þe messe he deden eueridel. *c* 1330 *Arth. & Merl.* 6566 After mete asked king Ban..Whi Gvenour, his douhter precious, To sun gentil man nere yspouse. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Clerk's T.* 3 Ye ryde as coy and stille as dooth a mayde were newe spoused. *c* 1460 *Brut* CCXXXIX. 338 Yn þis same ȝere come Quene Anne yn-to Engelond, for to be spoused vnto King Richard. 1491 CAXTON *Vitas Patr.* (1495) I. xlviii. 93 b/2 He to whom I shold haue be spowsed and maryed wente his waye secretely. 1565 STAPLETON tr. *Bede's Hist. Ch. Eng.* 58 It was not lawfull for a Christian woman and virgin to be maried, or spoused to a paynime. 1595 *Locrine* I. i, Thou shalt be spoused to fair Guendolen. 1638 BRATHWAIT *Barnabees Jrnl.* II. (1818) 63 Her I sought, but she was spoused.

fig. a 1310 in Wright *Lyric P.* XXV. 72 Jesu, mi soule is spoused to the. *c* 1380 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* I. 142 Clerkis seien þat whan a man is brouȝt þus to Goddis chambre, þan he is fully spousid with God, and dowid [etc.]. 1471 RIPLEY *Comp. Alch.* in Ashm. (1652) 186 Spowsyd wyth the Spryts of lyfe to lyve in love and rest. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 187 So the soule..begynneth to be spoused & coupled to God. 1615 BRATHWAIT *Strappado* (1878) 89 The very hearts of her attendants..Were spous'd to this pure virgin euerywhere. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* V. 216 They led the Vine To wed her Elm; she, spous'd, about him twines Her mariageable arms.

2. To give in marriage; to promote or procure the marriage of; to marry (*esp.* a woman *to* a man).

1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 10839 Seint edmund þo at canterburi spousede to vr kinge þe erles doȝter of prouence elianore to wiue. 1305 in *E. P. P.* (1862) 66 To spouse hire & his sone to-gadere he hadde þoȝt. 1388 WYCLIF 2 *Cor.* xi. 2 Y haue spousid ȝou to oon hosebonde. 1509 BARCLAY *Shyp of Folys* (1570) 97 If that a man of hye or lowe degree Would spouse his daughter vnto a straunge man. 1565 STAPLETON *Fortr. Faith* 85, I haue spoused you to one husband.

refl. 1340 *Ayenb.* 225 Þaȝ hit by zuo þet ha zeneȝi dyadliche þet efter zuych ane beheste him spouseþ. *c* 1430 *Life St. Kath.* (1884) 83 And I haue spoused me to hym. 1528 ROY *Rede me* (Arb.) 91 Their vowes, Wherby theym selves they spowse To god.

†**b.** To betroth; = ESPOUSE *v.* 1. *Obs.*—1

1533 BELLENDEN *Livy* III. xvi. (S.T.S.) II. 90 Appius, I haue spousit my dochter to Icelius and nocht to þe. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* I. x. 4 The eldest two,..Fidelia and Speranza, virgins were; Though spousd, yet wanting wedlocks solemnize.

3. To take (a woman) as a wife; to marry, wed. Freq. from *c* 1300 to *c* 1450; now *arch.*

1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 589 So þat king Iotrin..spouse is doȝter. *c* 1300 *Havelok* 2875, I rede þat þu hire take, And spuse. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Clerk's T.* 386 This Markys hath hire spoused with a ryng. *c* 1450 *Merlin* XXV. 450 He was gon in to Carmelide for to spouse his wif. 1475 *Bk. Noblesse* (Roxb.) 24 King Lowes of Fraunce in his yong age..spoused the said Alienore. *a* 1513 FABYAN *Chron.* (1516) II. 129/2 In ye moneth of Ianuary next ensuynge..kynge Philip spoused his seconde wyfe Blaunche. 1596 SPENSER *F. Q.* V. iii. 2 To Faerie land; Where he her spous'd, and made his ioyous bride. 1663 BUTLER *Hud.* I. ii. 283 He Spous'd in India, Of Noble House, a Lady gay. 1805 tr. *Lafontaine's Hermann & Emilia* II. 5, I will spouse Roslace; but Rolfs shall not possess Emilia.

fig. 1517 TORKINGTON *Pilgr.* (1884) 12 They..Spoused the see with a ryng.

b. *fig.* To devote oneself to, to try (one's fortune). *Sc.*

1822 GALT *Sir A. Wylie* XCIII, Your old companion..they say has spoused his fortune and gone to Indy. 1870 CHAMBERS *Pop. Rhymes* 90 It was time for the wife that had twa sons to send them away to spouss their fortune.

†**4.** *absol.* To take a spouse. *Obs.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 2336 Wit þe lau þat þai liued in Men suld not spuse bot in þer kin. *Ibid.* 10653 Þen did þe biscop command þar, þat all þe maidens..Be send all to þair frendes dere, For to mari and forto spus. 1622 S. WARD *Christ All in All* (1627) 21 Spouse not but in the Lord.

†**Spouse-breach** [1]. *Obs.* Forms: α. 3 **spus-, spousbruche,** 5 **spousebriche, spowsebrige.** β. 3 **spus-,** 4 **spous-,** 4–6 **spouse-,** 5 **spowsebrecne,** 6 **spous-,** 6–7 **spouse-breach.** [f. SPOUSE *sb.* + BREACH *sb.*, after OE. *ǽwbryce,* ME. *ewe-, eu-,* EAUBRUCHE [1].] Adultery.

α. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 56 [David] forȝet him suluen, so þet he dude..one Bersabee spus bruche. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 4504 He..huld hire in spousbruche in vyl flesses dede. 1422 tr. *Secreta Secret., Priv. Priv.* 128 Who so euer were atteyntid of Spowse-brige, he sholde lesse both his eighyn. *c* 1430 *Hymns Virgin* (1867) 47 Oonis he saued a weddid wijf, In spousebriche þat hadde doon mys.

β. *c* 1250 *Kent. Serm.* in *O. E. Misc.* 30 Lecherie, spusbreche, Roberie, Manslechtes. *c* 1315 SHOREHAM IV. 395 Of lecherye comeþ..Commune hordom, spousbreche. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) I. 89 No trespas among hem is ipunisched so grevousliche as spouse breche. *c* 1420 *Chron. Vilod.* 743 þe furst day of his crownyng, In to spousebreche he fell anon. *a* 1476 H. PARKER *Dives & Pauper* (W. de W. 1496) III. x. 373/1 He forbydeth the wyll & the consent of herte to lecherye & to spousebreche. *c* 1550 R. BIESTON *Bayte Fortune* A vj b, Spousebreche with sum is counted not a myte. 1589 WARNER *Alb. Eng.* VI. XXX. (1597) 150 We seuerally are..arayned Of Cuckoldie, of Spous-breach, and of Bastardy. 1637 HEYWOOD *Royall King* IV. iii, Whence might this distaste arise? From any loose demeanor, wanton carriage, Spouse-breach, or disobedience in my daughter?

transf. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XVIII. xliii. (Bodl. MS.), Þei [elephants] fight neuer for females noþer knoweþ spouse breche. *Ibid.* XVIII. lxvi, Leopardus is a cruel beeste and is gendred in spowsebreche of a parde and of a lionas.

†**Spouse-breach** [2]. *Obs. rare.* [Cf. prec. and EAUBRUCHE [2].] An adulterer.

c 1315 SHOREHAM I. 2001 Þat on may spousebreche by-come For defaute of þet oþer. *a* 1325 *Prose Psalter* xlix. 19 Syf þou sest a þef, þou ran wyþ hym, and laid þy porcioun wyþ spouse-breches.

†**Spouse-break,** *sb.* and *a.* *Obs. rare.* In 4 **spus(e-, spows-, spouse-brek(e.** [f. SPOUSE *sb.* + BREAK *sb.*[1]]

A. *sb.* Adultery. (Cf. SPOUSE-BREACH [1].)

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 27940 Spusbrek [*v.r.* spows-brek] es betuix tua, Þat spused ar bath, or an o þaa. 1357 *Lay Folks Catech.* 551 An other [species of lechery] is auoutry; that is spouse-brek.

B. *adj.* Adulterous.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 185 O spouse-brek womman þat þe Iuus dempt to stan. *Ibid.* 27322 Wijf spuse-brek sal dern penance Do.

†**Spouse-breaker.** *Obs.* [f. SPOUSE *sb.* + BREAKER: cf. prec.] An adulterer.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 25778 Spous-breker be þat womman þat juus dempt for to stan. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) III. 157 He made his felawe a spouse brekere. *c* 1400 *Apol. Loll.* 54 Fraudars, misdoars, sortylogers, spousbrekars. *c* 1425 AUDELAY *XI Pains of Hell* 62 in *O. E. Misc.*, Bynd spousebrekers with awouters, And ranegates with raueners. 1548–77 VICARY *Anat.* i. (1888) 15 That he be no spous-breaker, nor no drunkarde. 1562 LEGH *Armory* 105 The Swanne pursueth the cockolde-maker.., & will not leaue the spouse breaker, tyll he kyll or bee killed.

†**Spouse-breaking,** *vbl. sb.* *Obs.* [f. as prec. + BREAKING *vbl. sb.*] = SPOUSE-BREACH [1].

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 26231 Suilk sinnes..Als spous-brecking, and als hordom. *c* 1380 *Lay Folks Catech.* 1400 Anoþer [deadly sin] is avowtri, þat ys spowse-brekynge. *c* 1400 *Apol. Loll.* 89 If ani do mansleing, spowsbrekyng, or ani þing of wrong to man. *a* 1513 FABYAN *Chron.* (1811) 270 [He] sayd that hym had ben leuer to be syke & dye of Goddys honde, than to lyue in spouse brekyng.

†**Spou·sed,** *ppl. a.* *Obs.* [f. SPOUSE *v.*] Espoused, married, wedded.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 10458 Quar-for suld i haue ioi and blis Quen i mi spused lauerd mis? *Ibid.* 28264 Mi spussed wyfe i haue misledd Bath in burdyng and in bedde. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* vii. (*James Less*) 314 A voyce sal be hard wele rath one spowsit men & wemen bath. *c* 1425 *Eng. Conq. Ireland* (1896) 120 [They] mythten neuer haue chyldren of

her spoused wyues. 1521 in *Acts Parlt. Scot.* (1875) XII. 39/1 To seperate himselff fra his avn spousit Wyff. 1588 A. KING tr. *Canisius' Catech.* 116 Vnto ye faithfull spoused persones is..giuen fruictfulnes. 1616 B. JONSON *Epigr.* I. v, The world the temple was,..The spoused pair two realms. 1654 GAYTON *Pleas. Notes* IV. xxiv. 280 Now all the plot and chiefe contrivance, Was how to get his spoused wife—hence.

b. Used *absol.* as quasi-*sb.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 2898 Sibbe ne spused tak yee nan. *Ibid.* 10170 Tuix ani spused and his wijf. 1608 B. JONSON *Masque Ld. Hadington's Marr.* Wks. (1616) 943 In the happy choyce, The spouse, and spoused haue the formost voyce!

†Spousehead. *Obs.* Forms: 4 spous-, 5 spousehed, spous(e)ed, spowse-, 5–6 spousehede, 6 -hedde. [f. SPOUSE *sb.* + -HEAD.] =next.

c 1380 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* III. 162 þei synnen most grevously in brekyng of Gods spousehed. 14.. *R. Glouc. Chron.* 3370 (MS. Digby 205) fol. 51 b, He founde Ioye for þe Countas of spousehed [*v. rr.* spoushed, spousehede] was vnbounde. *c* 1450 *Cov. Myst.* (Shaks. Soc.) 392 When oure Lord comyth in his spoused pure. 1493 *Festivall* (W. de W. 1515) 143 She was wedded to the kynge of heuen & myght not breke that spousehede. 1599 THYNNE *Animadv.* (1875) 68 Yf the storke by anye meanes perceve that his female hath brooked spousehedde, he will no moore dwell with her.

Spousehood (spau·zhud). Now *arch.* Forms: 2 spushad, 3 -hod, 3–4 spoushod (4 -od), 5 -hode, spousehod, -hode (-ode), 5–6 -hoode, 9 spousehood. [f. SPOUSE *sb.* + -HOOD.] The marriage state; matrimony; wedlock.

In Shoreham's poems (1. 1609, 1623, etc.) the ending *-hoþ* (once *-oþ*) is more frequent than *-hod* (*-od*).

c 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 143 Þe sunfulle men þet spushad brekeð. *c* 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 45 Đo þre kinges bitocneð þre hodes of bilefulle men; on is meidhod, þat oðer spushod, þe þridde widewehod. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 1507 He þe emperoures doȝter in spoushod nome. *c* 1315 SHOREHAM I. 1996 In spoushod beþ godnesse þre. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* VI. xiv. (Tollem. MS.), He likeneþ..þe synagogue to an euil wyf þat brekeþ spoushode. 1493 *Festivall* (W. de W. 1515) 167 b, In tyme of peryll of deth fader and moder may crysten theyr owne children without harmynge of theyr spouseholde [*sic*]. 1891 J. WINSOR *Columbus* viii. 166 Such an intimacy as spousehood only can sanction.

Spouseless (spau·zlės), *a.* [f. SPOUSE *sb.*]

1. Of a person: Having no spouse; bereaved or deprived of a spouse.

1460 *Pol., Rel., & Love Poems* (1866) 207 Broþerles, Spouselees, ful wrecchid y-wis. 1610 HEALEY *St. Aug. Citie of God* III. xiii. 122 Here a husband fights, and there a father; Would you be spouselesse (wiues) or fatherlesse? 1725 POPE *Odyss.* I. 315 To tempt the spouseless queen with am'rous wiles, Resort the nobles from the neighb'ring isles. 1818 BYRON *Ch. Har.* IV. xi, The spouseless Adriatic mourns her lord. 1892 MEREDITH *Sage enamoured* ii. Poems 1898 I. 54 Across his path the spouseless Lady cast Her shadow.

2. Characterized by the absence of a spouse.

1812 W. TENNANT *Anster F.* (1838) I. 15 In spouseless solitude without a mate. 1876 SWINBURNE *Erechtheus* 583 She besought him by her spouseless fame.

†Spousess. *Obs.* Forms: 4–7 spousesse, 5–7 spowsesse, 6 speuses. [f. SPOUSE *sb.* + -ESS[1].] A female spouse; a wife, bride. Also, a betrothed or affianced woman.

Chiefly *fig.* in religious use (cf. SPOUSE *sb.* 3).

1388 WYCLIF *Isaiah* lxi. 11 As a spouse made feir with a coroun, and as a spousesse ourned with her brochis. 1395 PURVEY *Remonstr.* (1851) 53 Bi sovereyn wisdom, goodnesse, and love to holi chirche his spousesse. *c* 1430 *Life St. Kath.* (1884) 21 The Spouse loueth the Spousesse, the Sauyour visiteth hir. *c* 1480 in *Lib. Pontif. Bainbridge* (Surtees) 238 To kepe us his true handmaydyns, virgins, and spousessis. 1513 BRADSHAW *St. Werburge* I. 3076 Her spouse Ihesus hauynge pyte and cure Vpon his spouses. 1547 tr. *Abp. Herman's Consultation* H h vj, They whiche haue mutually promised matrimonie betwene themselues shal go both the spouse and spousesse [etc.]. 1615 *Curry-Combe for Coxe-Combe* iv. 157 The Mother of Christians, the Spousesse of the Holy Ghost.

†Spou·sing, *vbl. sb. Obs.* [f. SPOUSE *v.*]

1. The action of the vb. in various senses; marriage, matrimony, wedlock; espousal, betrothal.

a 1250 *Owl & Night.* 1336 Þurh me nas neauer ischend spusing. *c* 1275 *Sinners Beware* 159 in *O. E. Misc.*, Þeos prude leuedies, þat luuyeþ drywories, And brekeþ spusynge. *c* 1315 SHOREHAM I. 1727 Spousynge At seue ȝer me maky may, Ac none ryȝt weddynge. *c* 1430 *How Good Wife taught her Daughter* in *Babees Bk.* 46 Loke to þi douȝtren ..& gadere faste towarde her mariage, And ȝeue hem to spowsynge as soone as þei ben ablee. *c* 1450 *Mirour Saluacioun* (Roxb.) 29 Thogh marie was joynte vnto man be spovsing.

b. With possessives.

a 1250 *Owl & Night.* 1553 He weneþ heo wile anon to-breke Hire spusyng. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 8879 He sede þat heo ssolde is sone to hire spousinge auonge. 1388 WYCLIF *Song Sol.* iii. 11 The diademe, bi which his modir crownede hym, in the dai of his spousyng. 1435 MISYN *Fire of Love* 71 Qwhen þai to weddynge or þe fest of cristis spowsynge ar cald.

c. *attrib.* in *spousing-band, chamber, cloth, garment, girdle, gown.*

a 1250 *Owl & Night.* 1472 Þauh spusyng-bendes byndeþ sore. 1495 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* I. 263, xiiij ellis of quhite dammas, to be the Princis spousing goune. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* X. xi. 113 Of Lavynya the spousyng chalmyr. *a* 1568 in *Bannatyne MS.* (Hunter. Cl.) 770 Thair is no differance Betuix the gallowis and the spowsing claith. *a* 1605 MONTGOMERIE *Devot. Poems, Poets Dreme* i, God give me grace for to begin My spousing garment for to spin. 1666 *Despauterii Gram. Institt.* D 5 b (Jam.), *Cestus*.., a spousing girdle.

2. An instance or occasion of this; an espousal or marriage.

1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 9069 Mid nobleye & prute inou þis spousinge was ydo. *a* 1300 *Havelok* 2888 þat spusinge was [in] god time maked. 13.. *Sir Beues* 4565 þe feste was riale inow, Ase scholde be at swiche a spusinge And at þe kinges couroning.

†Spou·sy. *colloq. Obs.* [f. SPOUSE *sb.* + -Y[4].] A humorous diminutive of SPOUSE.

1797 MRS. M. ROBINSON *Walsingham* IV. 337 The joiner will fly off in a tangent, and you'll get no spousy after all. 1801 *Times* 11 Nov., The Peace is very unpopular with the Lawyers' and Citizens' wives, because spousy and footman must pull the cockades out of their hats. 1818 *Blackw. Mag.* III. 533 They made Braun's spousy..appear a perfect skeleton.

Spout (spaut), *sb.* Forms: 4–6 spowte, 6–7 (9) spowt (6 *Sc.* spowtt-, spowit); 5–7 spoute (5 spute), 6–7 *Sc.* spoutt-, 6– spout. [ME. *spowte, spoute*, of doubtful origin, corresponding to older Flem. *spuyte* (also *spoyte, spoeyte*), Du. (and WFris.) *spuit*, NFris. *spiitj*, spout, squirt, fire-engine; cf. MSw. *eldsputa* a fire-throwing war-engine, Norw. dial. *sputa* cuttle-fish. See SPOUT *v.*]

I. 1. A pipe by which rain-water is carried off or discharged from a roof.

1392 *Mem. Ripon* (Surtees) III. 113 In salario Ricardi de Bettes facientis guturas cum spowtis super quamdam novam cameram..cum plumbo de stauro ecclesiæ. 1412–20 LYDG. *Chron. Troy* II. 697 Gargoyl & many hidous hed, With spoutis þorus, & pipes. *c* 1475 *Pict. Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 800 *Hoc stillicidium*, a spowte. 1538 in *Lett. Suppress. Monast.* (Camden) 198 Dyverse gutteres, spowtes, and condytes. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VIII*, 166 In the fyrst worke were gargylles of golde fiersly faced with spoutes runnyng. 1600 SURFLET *Countrie Farme* I. iv. 7 The cesterne shall be set in such a place, as that it may receiue all that commeth from such spouts as are belonging to rooſes or lower lofts of the house. *c* 1720 PRIOR *Fatal Love* 1 Poor Hal caught his death standing under a spout,..And curs'd was the weather that quench'd the man's flame. 1788 GIBBON *Decl. & F.* I. V. 191 A spout (now of gold) discharges the rain-water, and the well Zemzem is protected by a dome. 1823 *Act 4 Geo. IV*, c. 3 § 42 A Spout..from the Roof down to the Ground, to carry off..the Water. 1845 ALB. SMITH *Fort. Scattergood Fam.* xxxii, The splashing cataracts from the eaves and spouts of the dwellings.

b. A pipe or similar conduit through which water or other liquid flows and is discharged; that part of a fountain, pump, etc., from which the water issues.

1408 in *Eng. Hist. Rev.* (1899) XIV. 517 Les spowtes lignea ducentia aquam a dicto Watergate usque dictam rotam. 1474–5 *Durham Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 95 Factura unius le Spowte inter pandoxatorium et ortum porcorum. 1548 *Extr. Aberdeen Reg.* (1844) I. 259 Certane wther vark-lummes, sic as spowttis, spowcheouris, and cruikis, worth xxxs. 1594 T. B. *La Primaud. Fr. Acad.* II. 122 The nose is giuen to man that it might serue the braine in stead of a pipe and spowt to purge it of flegmatike humours. 1601 SHAKS. *Jul. C.* II. ii. 77 She dreampt..she saw my Statue, Which like a Fountaine with an hundred spouts Did run pure blood. 1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* VII. 316 Betweene the Riuer and this pond, there are sixe passages or spouts digged through the Banke. 1705 ADDISON *Italy* 142 A beautiful Marble Fountain, where the Water runs continually thro' several little Spouts. 1747 WESLEY *Jrnl.* Feb. (1849) I. 444 They brought an hand-engine;..the constable came, seized upon the spout of the engine, and carried it off. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1824) I. xx. 144 A hollow copper ball, with a long pipe;..through this spout it is to be filled with water. 1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 117 The spout of the pump should be opposite the horizontal part of the pipe. 1833 LOUDON *Encycl. Archit.* § 1020 The situation of the spout or trunk of wood..for supplying water to the cisterns. 1858 LARDNER *Hand-bk. Nat. Phil.* 113, G1 is a short tube proceeding from the side of the barrel...K is the spout of discharge.

fig. 1592 TIMME *Ten Eng. Lepers* B iij, Some rashe heades being Conchæ, before they be Canales, that is to say, Spoutes, before they have filled their Cesterne. 1611 SHAKS. *Wint. T.* III. iii. 26 And (gasping to begin some speech) her eyes Became two spouts. 1885 *Sat. Rev.* 3 Jan. 2/1 Another type of Correspondent there is whose function is to serve as spout for this or that Continental statesman.

†**c.** A syringe. *Obs.*[1]

1546 PHAER *Bk. Childr.* X ij, Iuyce of purcelane:..dryue it in wyth a spoute called of the surgions a syrynge.

†**d.** =SPOUT-HOLE 1. *Obs.*

1662 LOVELL *Hist. Anim. & Min.* 197 They have..sharp and little teeth: great eyes. A spout betwixt the eyes. 1681 GREW *Musæum* I. 38 He squirts the water out at his Nostrils, in the same manner as the Dolphin doth at his Spout. 1747 *Gentl. Mag.* 174/2 His spouts are in his fore-head, and not on the hinder part of his head, as in other whales. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1824) III. 27 The cachalot..with a spout in the neck; that with a spout in the snout.

e. *Mining.* A short passage connecting an air-head with a gate-road.

1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 990 Lateral openings, named spouts, are led from the air-head gallery into the side of work. 1853 *Ibid.* (ed. 4) II. 225 A series of 'spouts' or openings are driven upwards from the gate-road. 1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-m.*, *Spout*, a short underground passage in the Thick-coal workings connecting a main road with an air-head.

2. A tubular or lip-like addition to, or projection from, a vessel to facilitate the pouring out of liquid from it.

1444 *Test. Ebor.* (Surtees) II. 101, j laver cum ij spowtes deaurat. pond. vij unc. et dim. 1591 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* I. iv. 278 Mean-while the Skinker, from his starry spout, After the Goat, a silver stream pours out. 1650 BULWER *Anthropomet.* 113 They of Goa..drink out of a Copper-Can with a Spout. 1664 POWER *Exp. Philos.* II. 125 We took a Glass-Cruet, with a small Spout, and fill'd it with Water.

1755 JOHNSON, *Beak*,.. the spout of a cup. 1790 *Act* 30 *Geo. III*, c. 31 § 3 Spouts to China, Stone, or Earthenware Teapots. 1842 LOUDON *Suburban Hort.* 147 The larger rose, *e*, is used without the middle piece of the spout. 1846 DICKENS *Cricket on Hearth* i, The kettle..carrying its handle with an air of defiance, and cocking its spout pertly. 1866 R. M. BALLANTYNE *Shifting Winds* i, He..willed to screw off the spout of the family tea-pot,..and..he did it.

b. In pigeons: (see quots.).

1879 L. WRIGHT *Pigeon Keeper* 85 Carriers..are..peculiarly subject to 'spouts'. *Ibid.* 231 Spouts..consist of a folded corner in the lower eyelid, through which there is a constant gradual drain of fluid.

3. A contrivance having the form of a trough or box with open ends, by which flour, grain, coals, etc., are discharged from, or conveyed to, a receptacle; a shoot.

1557 in Hazl. *E. P. P.* III. 110 The one clarke stode at the spoute Thereas the meale shoulde come out. 1629 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* III. 15 [They] hewed doun to the ground the spouttes of the compleaners said mylne. 1677 YARRANTON *Eng. Improv.* 136 There must be in each side of the Granaries, Three or Four long Troughs or Spouts fixt in the uppermost Loft. 1793 EARL DUNDONALD *Descr. Estate Culross* 55 Shipping the Coal, from an elevated Coal Steath and Spout, instead of by Hand-barrows. 1821 *Acc. Peculations in Coal Trade* 3 The Coals descending from a spout into the vessel. 1860 *Mining Gloss., Newcastle Terms* 64 *Spouts*, boxes down which the coals are run from the waggons into the ships. 1884 *Tyne Improv. Comm. Bye-Laws* 29 Pitch..shall not be boiled..within 40 feet of any staith, drop, spout, warehouse or other erection on or near to the dock.

4. A lift formerly in use in pawnbrokers' shops, up which the articles pawned were taken for storage. Also *transf.*, a pawnshop.

1837 DICKENS *Pickw.* xlii, Spout—dear relation—uncle Tom. 1855 *Gentl. Mag.* Oct. 446 Mr. Hull, pawnbroker,.. committed suicide..by hanging himself within his 'spout'. 1859 SALA *Tw. round Clock* (1861) 286 The half-pence rattle, shillings are tested, huge bundles rumble down the spout. 1866 HOWELLS *Venetian Life* 108 Instead of many pawnbrokers' shops there is one large municipal spout.

b. Hence *To put* (or *shove*) *up the spout*, to pawn. *Up the spout*, pawned, pledged; also *fig.*, in a bad way, in a hopeless condition, out of the question.

1812 J. H. VAUX *Flash Dict.* s.v., To pledge any property at a pawnbroker's is termed..shoving it up the spout. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* xxx, Please to put *that* up the spout, ma'am, with my pins, and rings, and watch and chain, and things. 1886 D. C. MURRAY *Cynic Fortune* vii, I haven't a suit of clothes fit to go in; even my wig and gown are up the spout together.

fig. 1853 DODS *Early Lett.* (1910) 35 The fact is, Germany is up the spout, and consequently a damper is thrown over my hopes for next summer. 1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss.*, 'He's up the spout.' A phrase applied to a person in a state of bankruptcy. 1857 TROLLOPE *Three Clerks* xviii, I shall be up the spout altogether if you don't do something to help me. 1864 — *Small Ho. at Allington* xxxvi, He was regularly up the spout with accommodation bills.

II. 5. *Sc.* A razor-fish.

1525 in *Excerpta e Libr. Domicilii Jacobi Quinti* (Bann. Cl.) 7 Bukes, spouttis, grenbans, podlokis. 1710 SIBBALD *Hist. Fife* 55 The Sheath, or Razor Fish; our Fishers call them Spouts. 1742 RICHARDSON *De Foe's Tour Gt. Brit.* IV. 9 Scollops, and Spouts, are cast up by the Tide in such Numbers on the Isles, that the People cannot consume them. 1793 *Statist. Acc. Scot.* VII. 543 Lobsters, partens, cockles, muscles, and spouts or razor fish. 1806 NEILL *Tour* 93 Besides..rasor-fish or spouts, they have abundance of what are called *cullecks* and smurlins. 1837 R. DUNN *Ornith. Orkney & Shetl.* 8 Razor-fish, commonly called spouts.

6. A waterspout.

Common in 17th and 18th cent.; now *rare*.

1555 EDEN *Decades* (Arb.) 386 They sawe certeyne stremes of water which they caule spoutes faulynge owt of the ayer into the sea. 1570 DEE *Math. Pref.* d iv b, He ought to haue expert coniecture of Stormes, Tempestes, and Spoutes. 1606 SHAKS. *Tr. & Cr.* V. ii. 171 The dreadfull spout, Which Shipmen doe the Hurricano call. 1698 T. FROGER *Voy.* 90 There we saw two of those pillars of water that arise out of the Sea, and which are commonly call'd Spouts. 1719 *Phil. Trans.* XXX. 1097 A vast breach in the Ground, which was made by a Spout, which fell upon Emott-more. 1769 FALCONER *Dict. Marine* (1780) s.v. *Water-spout*, The whirlwinds and spouts are not always..in the day-time. 1819 KEATS *Song of Four Fairies* 82 To the torrid spouts and fountains, Underneath earth-quaked mountains. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 382/2 Some spouts disappear almost as soon as they are formed, and others have been known to continue nearly an hour.

b. A heavy downpour or pelt (*of* rain).

1648 B. PLANTAGENET *Descr. New Albion* Pref. 3 The storm grew far more tempestuous with..terrible gusts and spouts, that made the rivers rise, and my friends to hide. 1692 RAY *Disc.* II. ii. (1693) 74 Of great Spouts of Rain.. that set the whole Countrey in a Flood. 1851 MAYNE REID *Scalp Hunt.* xli. 319 The rain fell, not in drops, but in 'spouts'.

7. A discharge of water or other liquid, in some quantity and with some degree of force, from the mouth of a pipe or similar orifice.

1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* xxxiii. 104 He maid a hundreth nolt all hawkit Beneth him with a spowt. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* I. 153 With the turning of a cocke, spoutes of water rise up in great force. 1718 LADY M. W. MONTAGU *Let. to Mrs. Thistlethwayte* 1 Apr., Marble fountains in the lower part of the room, which throw up several spouts of water. 1793 SMEATON *Edystone L.* § 317 *note*. This momentary Spout of the Edystone may perhaps be best compared with the momentary jet of boiling water..from the Fountain

Geisser in Iceland! 1825 Hone *Every-day Bk.* I. 1044 The most usual form is a simple opening to throw the jet or spout upright. 1851 Mayne Reid *Scalp Hunt.* xxxii. 250 The red spout [of blood] gushed forth, and the victim fell forward. 1877 Black *Green Past.* xxxviii, These spouts and jets increased to a shower.

transf. 1771 *Encycl. Brit.* II. 124/2 The volatile phosphorus continues two hours; after which the little spout of light contracts to the length of a line or two.

b. Spouting power or force. *rare.*

a 1774 Goldsm. *Surv. Exp. Philos.* (1776) I. 405 Thus at b, the water had no spout for want of height to drive it; at c, the water hath no spout for want of room to descend.

c. *Agric.* A spring of water forcing its way up through the soil.

1791 *Statist. Acc. Scotl.* I. 442 The land abounds with boggs and springs, or what husbandmen call *spouts.* 1801 *Farmer's Mag.* Nov. 414 The benefit arising from draining, whether by carrying away surface-water, or freeing the land from spouts, occasioned by water bursting out from higher grounds. 1840 J. Buel *Farmer's Comp.* 96 When wetness is caused by spouts or springs, rising from below, the object is to prevent the water rising to or saturating the soil. 1844 H. Stephens *Bk. Farm* I. 505, 4-feet drains have completely removed the spouts.

d. The column of spray thrown into the air by a whale in the act of respiration.

1824 J. F. Cooper *Pilot* xvii, 'Tis a right whale,..I saw his spout. 1839 T. Beale *Nat. Hist. Sperm Whale* 42 From the extremity of the nose the spout is thrown up. 1850 Scoresby *Cheever's Whalem. Adv.* vi. (1858) 78 Its spout..flashes up from the ocean just like smoke. 1898 F. T. Bullen *Cruise Cachalot* xviii. 217 We flew after a retreating spout to leeward.

8. An outpour or rush of water falling from a higher to a lower level, esp. in a detached stream; a waterfall or cascade of this kind.

a 1700 Evelyn *Diary* 27 Feb. 1644, Before this grotto is a long poole into which ran divers spouts of water. 1775 A. Burnaby *Trav.* 29 Coming to a ledge of rocks, which runs ..cross the river, it divides into two spouts..The spout on the Virginian side makes three falls. 1806 Forsyth *Beauties Scotl.* III. 388 The river rushes over the Auchinlilie Lin or Spout, a tremendous cataract. 1836 G. Back *Arctic Land Exped.* x. 334 The river, from an imposing width, now gradually contracted to about fifty yards...In the language of *voyageurs*, this form is denominated a spout. 1879 Stevenson *Trav. Cevennes* (1886) 126 A streamlet made a little spout over some stones to serve me for a water-tap.

b. A similar fall of earth or rock.

1883 Stevenson *Silverado Sq.* 234 The great spout of broken mineral, which had damned the canyon up. 1883 — *Treas. Isl.* xv, From the side of the hill..a spout of gravel was dislodged.

9. a. *slang.* (See quot.)

1787 Grose *Prov. Gloss.* s.v., He is in great spout, he is in high spirits. 1888 in *Berkshire Gloss.* 153.

b. A recitation or declamation. *rare* —1.

1832 Hood *Stage-Struck Hero* 59 If one should just break out, Perchance, into a little spout, A stick about the skull is.

10. A spurt; a sudden dart.

1787 Burns *Petit. Bruar Water* ii, If, in their random, wanton spouts, They near the margin stray;..They're left.. In gasping death to wallow.

III. 11. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *spout-kind, -like* adj.; **spout-coals,** coals loaded from a spout; **spout-cup,** † (*a*) a cup with a spout; (*b*) the upper end of a rain-spout; **spout-fish,** a mollusc which spouts or squirts out water, *esp.* a razor-fish; **spout-head,** (*a*) a rose on a watering-can; (*b*) a spring or fountain; **spout-mouth,** (*a*) a mouth resembling the spout of a vessel; (*b*) *Mining* (see quot.); **spout-mouthed** *a.*, having a mouth shaped like a spout; † **spout-pen** (see quot.); † **spout-pitcher,** a pitcher with a spout; **spout-plane** (see quot.); † **spout-pot,** a pot with a spout; **spout-road,** *Mining* (see quot.); **spout-shell,** *Zool.* (see quots.); **spout-vessel,** a coal-boat loaded by means of a spout; **spout-well,** a well from which the water issues by a spout; **spout-whale** [cf. older Flem. *spuyt-wal*], a spouting whale.

1821 *Acc. Peculat. in Coal Trade* 5 Certificates..whereby he may see which are *spout or keel coals. 1702 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 3806/8 An old fashioned *Spout Cup mark'd E. L. 1864 Atkinson *Stanton Grange* II A starling built its nest in one of the spout-cups to the eaves-gutters of our house. 1805 Barry *Orkney* 287 The Razor, .. or, as we name it, the *spout-fish, is also found in sandy places. 1895 *Stand. Dict., Spout-fish,* a bivalve that squirts water from its siphons, as the soft clam. 1904 E. Rickert *Reaper* 269 The Spanish treasure-ship..poured her silver among the tang and spout-fish. 1733 W. Ellis *Chiltern & Vale Farm.* 359 Pouring it through the streaming Holes of the *spout Head. 1818 Keats *Endym.* II. 89 As if, athirst with so much toil, 'twould sip The crystal spout-head. 1699 Evelyn *Diary* 26 Mar., A larger [whale] of the *Spout kind, was killed there 40 years ago. 1829 Hood in *The Gem* 182 That damsel thrusting out a pair of pouting lips, still more *spout-like, at a rusty ribbon. 1875 Huxley & Martin *Pract. Biol.* xi. 109 A short open spout-like tube. 1838 Carlyle in Froude *Life in Lond.* (1884) I. 135 Radical Grote .., a man with strait upper lip, large chin, and open mouth *(spout mouth). 1886 J. Barrowman *Sc. Mining Terms* 63 *Spout-mouth,* a place on a level road where the material from a spout road is filled into the hutches. *c* 1711 Petiver *Gazophyl.* VII. lxi, *Spout-mouth'd Condore Button-shell. 1891 Meredith *One of our Cong.* xiv, We have..our spout-mouthed young man, our eminently silly woman. 1713 Petiver *Aquat. Anim. Amboinæ* Tab. xiii, *Strombus tuberosus* ..Knobbed *Spout-pen. 1648 Hexham II, *Een Bespruyt-kruycke,* a Sprinkling, or a *Spout-picher for gardens. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2288/2 **Spout-plane,* a round-soled plane used in hollowing out stuff for spouting and troughs. 1608 Willet *Hexapla in Exod.* 590 Vessels to powre in wine with, like vnto our *spout pots. 1631 in *Wills Doctors' Comm.* (Camden) 93 The deepe silver bason, the spout pott and maudlyn cupp of silver. 1879 Miss Jackson *Shropsh. Word-bk.* 404 **Spout-road,* same as *Cungit* [='a road in a mine driven out of the main road for the convenience of drawing the coals']. 1886 J. Barrowman *Sc. Mining Terms* 63 *Spout-road,*..a road so steep that the mineral slides down of itself to a level. 1861 P. P. Carpenter in *Rep. Smithsonian Instit. 1860* 198 Family Aporrhaidæ. (*Spout Shells.) 1881 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* V. 209 The genus Aporrhais, or the 'Spout-shell', is a shell with an elongated spire. 1822 *Acc. Peculations in Coal Trade* 3 This is the reason why a *spout vessel is preferred to a keel ship. 1875 W. McIlwraith *Guide Wigtownshire* 118 The spring of water..has been diverted into tiles, and forms a *spout-well. 1701 Brand *Descr. Orkney,* etc. iv. (1703) 48 There are likewise a great number of little Whales,..which they call *Spout-Whales or Pellacks.

Spout (spaut), *v.* Also 5–6 **spoute,** 5–7 **spowt.** [ME. *spouten,* corresponding to MDu. *spouten* (*spoyten*), older Flem. *spuyten,* Du. *spuiten* (WFris. *spuitsje*), NFris. *spüte, spütji, spjüte,* MSwed. and Swed. dial. *spüta*: cf. Spout *sb.* (whence senses 7 and 8). The stem *spūt-* appears also in ON. and Icel. *spýta* (Norw. dial. *spyte*) to spit.]

I. *intr.* **1.** To discharge a liquid or other substance in a copious jet or stream; to gush with water, blood, etc. Also const. *with.*

c 1330 R. Brunne *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 8196 When þey [the dragons] hadde longe to-gyder smyten, Spatled, spouted [*v.r.* spouted sperkes], belewed, & byten. *c* 1460 J. Russell *Bk. Nurture* 293 With youre mouthe ye vse nowþer to squyrt nor spout. 1605 Shaks. *Lear* III. ii. 2 Blow You Cataracts, and Hyrricano's, spout, Till you haue drench'd our Steeples, drown the Cockes. 1645 Milton *Tetrach.* Wks. 1851 IV. 242 Is it now at last obscurely drawn forth, only to cure a scratch, and leave the main wound spouting? 1718 Pope *Iliad* XVI. 385 His arm falls spouting on the dust below. 1726 Leoni *Alberti's Archit.* I. 15/1 Coverings should be so disposed..that one may not spout upon the other. *c* 1812 Moore '*Why is a Pump?*' 4 A pump..up and down its awkward arm doth sway, And coolly spout and spout and spout away. 1841 Whittier *St. John* 80 While the walls of thy castle Yet spouted with flame. 1848 Thackeray *Van. Fair* lxiii, There are some huge allegorical waterworks still, which spout and froth stupendously upon *fête* days.

b. *spec.* Of a whale: To throw up spray in the act of respiration; to blow.

1796 Morse *Amer. Geog.* I. 223 When the seamen see a whale spout. 1840 R. H. Dana *Bef. Mast* xviii, He sheered off, and spouted at a good distance. 1861 Holland *Less. in Life* x. 139 When the whales ceased spouting, the earth took up the business.

c. To emit a morbid discharge. (Cf. Spout *sb.* 2 b.)

1879 L. Wright *Pigeon Keeper* 104 There are eye-wattles that develop quickly, as in Carriers, though they are apt to 'spout' at a later date.

2. Of liquids: To issue with some force and in some quantity from a narrow orifice; to spurt copiously.

1500–20 Dunbar *Poems* lxiii. 86, I man..lat the venim ische all out,—Be war, anone, for it will spout. 1582 Stanyhurst *Æneis* III. (Arb.) 90 Thee goare blood spowteth of eeche syde, And swyms in the thrashold. 1608 Middleton *Trick to catch Old One* IV. v, One cup more...Is the sack spouting? 1662 J. Davies tr. *Olearius' Voy. Amb.* 191 At its breaking out of the Earth it spouts higher than the Sea it self. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* II. i. 123 If they are deeply wounded in a dozen places, there will instantly gush out as many fountains of blood, spouting to a considerable distance. *a* 1774 Goldsm. *Surv. Exp. Philos.* (1776) I. 405 It will not spout at all, but drivel down the side of the vessel. 1800 Vince *Hydrost.* i. (1806) 6 Whether the fluid spouts downwards, horizontally, upwards, or in any direction. 1874 T. Taylor *Leic. Sq.* xi. 272 A handsome basin..was planned for a jet d'eau, which..never spouted.

b. With *out* or *up.*

1687 A. Lovell tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* II. 18 There is a Pipe, that throws up a great deal of Water..with so much force that it spouts up almost as high as the Dome. 1722–7 Boyer *Dict. Royal* I. s.v. *Rejaillir,* A Fountain that spouts or spurts out, or up. 1803 *Imison's Sci. & Art* I. 252 If a hole be made in the side of a vessel, the water will spout out [horizontally]. 1885 Rider Haggard *K. Solomon's Mines* iii, A ribbon of white surf, which spouts up in pillars of foam.

c. To spring, bound. Now *dial.*

c 1650 in *Percy's Fol. MS.* (1867) I. 374 He spowted forward as he had beene a deere, till he was passed out of her sight. 1819– in *Eng. Dial. Dict.*

3. *fig.* To engage in declamation or recitation; to make a speech or speeches, esp. at great length or without much matter.

In J. Heywood *Sp. & Flie* (1556) xxxix. 4, and R. Wilson *Coblers Prophesie* (1594) B 2 b, *spout* is used by ignorant speakers in place of *spute* or *dispute.*

1756 *Gentl. Mag.* XXVI. 36 A paltry, scribbling fool—to leave me out—He'll say perhaps—he thought I could not spout. 1780 Mme. D'Arblay *Diary* May, I used to hear him spouting by the hour together. 1787 *Ibid.* 15 Aug., He began to spout, and act, and rattle away, with all his might. 1806 J. Beresford *Miseries Hum. Life* xv. Introd., What are you at now?..spouting to yourself like a mad stroller. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* II. iv. iv, The far-sounding Street-orators cease, or spout milder. 1878 E. Jenkins *Haverholme* 25 A practical man, spouting in the House about our national obligations to liberty.

II. *trans.* **4.** To discharge, cast out, or pour forth (water, etc.) in a stream of some force and volume.

13.. [see 1]. *c* 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* I. 1097 A condit coold into hit bringe aboute, Make pipis watir warm inward to spoute. *c* 1440 *Alph. Tales* 416 He consydurd þe depenes of þis pytt, & he saw þer-in ane vglie dragon spowtand fyre. 1509 Hawes *Past. Pleas.* XVIII. 79 A dragon.. Havyng thre hedes divers in fygure, Whych in a bathe.. Spouted the water. 1543 Traheron *Vigo's Chirurg.* III. i. x. 100 Let thys decoction be spouted into the wounde.. wyth a syrynge. 1599 Dallam in *Early Voy. Levant* (Hakluyt Soc.) 11 We saw 2 or 3 greate monstrus fishis or whales, the which did spoute water up into the eayere. 1635 Heywood *Hierarchy* I. 6 From the dry stones he can water spout. *c* 1645 Howell *Lett.* (1650) II. 25 She took a mouthfull of claret, and spouted it into the poope of the hollow bird. 1739 R. Bull tr. *Dedekindus' Grobianus* 248 b, The Parish Engine spouts excessive Streams To quench the Blaze. 1835 Hawthorne *Tales & Sk.* (1879) 75 It was composed of large logs,..blazing fiercely, spouting showers of sparks into the darkness. 1870 Bryant *Iliad* IV. I. 126 The surge Tosses on high and spouts its foam afar.

fig. 1568 T. Howell *Arb. Amitie* (1879) 51 So where thou thoughtst to spoute thy spite, thou hast hir brought to blisse. 1599 Nashe *Lenten Stuffe* Wks. (Grosart) V. 232 Neuer since I spouted incke, was I of woorse aptitude [etc.]. 1671 Barrow *Duty & Reward Charity* 12 The good Man doth not plant his bounty in one small hole, or spout it on one narrow spot. 1853 Kane *Grinnell Exp.* xxxix. (1856) 359 A group of narwhals, imprisoned by the congelation,.. spouted their release. 1859 Meredith *R. Feverel* xl, Each one..laughed, and looked shocked afterwards, or looked shocked, and then spouted laughter.

b. With *out.*

1398 Trevisa *Barth. De P. R.* XVII. cxii. (Bodl. MS.), ȝif a man is vnder water with oile in his mouþe & spowteþ oute þe oile [etc.]. 1596 Dalrymple tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* I. 44 Sche into the mane sey spoutis out thir v. fludes. 1667 Milton *P. L.* VII. 416 Leviathan..at his Gilles Draws in, and at his Trunck spouts out a Sea. 1756–7 tr. *Keysler's Trav.* (1760) IV. 454 He observed two large holes.., which he imagines to have been the apertures through which the fish spouted out the water. 1839 Darwin *Voy. Nat.* xv. 336 The volcano of Osorno was spouting out volumes of smoke. *fig.* 1596 Dalrymple tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* II. 401 Nouther left thair wod..barbaritie, quhil out tha spoutit it vpon the Carmelitis, dominicanis, and Franciscanis. 1820 Hazlitt *Table-T.* Ser. II. i. (1869) 4 Spouting out torrents of puddled politics from his mouth.

c. With *up.*

c 1386 Chaucer *Man of Law's T.* 487 Who kepte Ionas in the fisshes mawe Til he was spouted vp at Nynyuee? *a* 1700 Evelyn *Diary* 5 May 1645, In one of these..is an Atlas spouting up the streame to a very great height. 1796 T. Twining *Trav. India,* etc. (1894) 17, I distinctly saw and heard these fish spout up the sea to the height of several feet. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* I. v. vi, By a mixture of phosphorus and oil-of-turpentine spouted up through forcing pumps.

5. To wet or drench by a stream of liquid.

1575 Turberv. *Faulconrie* 269 The bathing or spowting hir with water is a meane to make the powder to frette awaye, and containe the hawkes feathers. 1886 C. Scott *Sheep-farming* 135 After draining for a short time, they are passed down shoots to the men at the spouts, where..they are well spouted.

6. To utter readily or volubly; to talk (a language); to declaim or recite.

1612 Beaum. & Fl. *Coxcomb* IV. i, And can you these tongues perfectly?..Pray spout some French. 1627 W. Hawkins *Apollo Shroving* I. i. 7 I'de rather spinne at home, then heare these Barbarians spout Latine. 1667 Dryden *Sir Martin Mar-all* IV. i, I hope I am old enough to spout English with you, sir? 1771 Mme. D'Arblay *Early Diary* (1889) I. 128 Dr. King has been with me all the afternoon, amusing himself with spouting Shakespeare, Pope, and others. 1784 Cowper *Tiroc,* 327 His skill..In bilking tavern bills, and spouting plays. 1808 Scott in *Lockhart* (1837) I. i. 35, I spouted the speech of Galgacus at the public examination. 1852 Jerdan *Autobiog.* I. xix. 144 Doing nothing but teach the wife of his lodging-house host to spout tragedy. 1889 Ruskin *Præterita* III. 57, I heard Macaulay spout the first chapter of Isaiah.

7. [f. Spout *sb.*] *slang.* To pawn.

1811 *Lexicon Balatronicum, Spouted,* pawned. 1812 J. H. Vaux *Flash Dict.* s.v., To pledge any property at a pawnbroker's is termed spouting it. 1850 Thackeray *Pendennis* lxi, He wouldn't spout the fenders and fire-irons —he ain't so bad as that. 1861 Hughes *Tom Brown at Oxf.* xxiv, The dons are going to spout the college plate.

8. To fit or furnish with spouts.

1853 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 8) II. 268/2 To have the eaves of the whole building spouted. 1894 *Westm. Gaz.* 22 Jan. 6/3 Why should they not have houses properly built, properly spouted and roofed to keep out the wet.

Spoutage. *rare* —1. [f. Spout *sb.* I.] Provision of spouts.

1612 Sturtevant *Metallica* 93 Spouteage may more conueniently be made of pipes, brought downe within the middest of the Birch walls.

Spouted, (*ppl.*) *a.* [f. Spout *sb.* and *v.*]

1. Discharged in a spout or stream.

1833 Tennyson *Pal. Art* vii, A row Of cloisters..Echoing all night to that sonorous flow Of spouted fountain-floods. 1867 Morris *Jason* VIII. 102 So to the cage he came, Whose bars now glowed red hot with spouted flame.

2. Provided with a spout or spouts.

1841 *Florist's Jrnl.* II. 34 Use a spouted pot on all necessary occasions. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* IV. 107/2 Small, well-shedded and spouted (troughed) fold-yards. 1912 *Oxf. Excav. Nubia* (Exhib. Guide) 9 A great number of shallow cups, spouted vases for oil, saucepans and jugs.

Spouter (spau·tər). [f. Spout *v.*]

1. † **a.** = Spout-hole I. *Obs.*—1

1622 R. Hawkins *Voy. S. Sea* (1847) 75 The Indian.. thrusteth in a logg into one of his spowters, and..knocketh it in so fast that by no means the whale can get it out.

b. A spouting whale.

1830 N. S. Wheaton *Jrnl.* 519 In a calm to-day, we had a number of whales, and the whole tribe of spouters about the vessel. 1845 *Encycl. Metrop.* VII. 344/1 The Spouters are mostly characterized by width, flatness, shallowness, and equal extent of the jaws. 1867 Smyth *Sailor's Word-bk.* 645 *Spouter*, a whaling term for a South Sea whale.

c. A whaling-vessel. Also *Comb.*

1840 R. H. Dana *Bef. Mast* v, The 'spouter', as the sailors call a whaleman, had sent up his main top-gallant mast and set the sail. *Ibid.* xxv, When we got on board, we found everything to correspond—spouter fashion. 1901 F. T. Bullen *Sack of Shakings* 208 I've been fishing now a good many years in Yankee spouters.

2. †a. A reciter or amateur actor. *Obs.*

c 1760 (*title*), The Spouter's Companion; or Theatrical Remembrancer, containing..Prologues and Epilogues [etc.]. 1779 *Mirror* No. 54 ₱ 14 People may be spouters without culture; but laborious education alone can make perfect actors. 1788 Grose *Dict. Vulgar T.* (ed. 2), *Spouters Club*, a meeting of apprentices and mechanics to rehearse different characters in plays. 1809 Malkin *Gil Blas* x. x. (Rtldg.) 372 The major-domo, a great spouter, undertook to train me for the stage.

b. A fluent or voluble declaimer or speaker.

1782 V. Knox *Ess.* cliii. (1819) III. 170 The judicious observer..despises him..as the mere rival of the noisy spouters at the Forum. 1809 T. Pickering in *M. Cutler's Life*, etc. (1888) II. 317 The other spouters, implicitly confiding in their leaders, are but parrots repeating the notes proceeding from the palace. 1850 Thackeray *Pendennis* xl, Foker..voted Erith a prig and a dullard,..the dreariest of philanthropic spouters. 1884 Spurgeon in *Sword & Trowel* June 262 There's no stopping these foaming spouters—they must just run themselves dry.

3. a. One who, or that which, spouts *out* something.

1796 Lamb in *Final Mem.* (1848) I. i. 201 These mighty spouters out of panegyric waters have..scattered their spray even upon me.

b. A spouting oil-well.

1886 *Pall Mall G.* 13 Oct. 6/1 How long Tagieff's 'spouter' will last, and what its ultimate yield will be, will depend upon circumstances. 1901 *Daily Chron.* 31 May 7/1 There have been some honest companies.., and these have worked to pay dividends by securing a spouter.

4. *pl.* Coals loaded from a spout.

1821 *Acc. Peculat. Coal Trade* 3 Coal merchants..are always anxious to purchase spouters, as the coals are of a larger quality.

Spout-hole. [f. Spout *v.*]

1. The blow-hole or spiracle of a whale or other cetacean.

1694 Narborough *Voy.* II. 126 He hath a Spouthole on his Head..like a Whale. 1725 *Phil. Trans.* XXXIII. 261 Their Way of Breathing is by two Spout-Holes in the Top of the Head. 1770 *Ibid.* LX. 322 The spout-hole..appeared to be provided with a sphincter. 1840 F. D. Bennett *Narr. Whaling Voy.* II. 151 One of this species..expanded its spout-hole, and produced a sucking sound on inspiration. 1845 J. Coulter *Adv. in Pacific* ii. 12 Whales of every kind blowing the water from their spout-holes.

2. A natural opening in rocks through which the sea spouts.

1849 Dana *Geol.* 272 Some of the spout-holes of Koloa are unusually grand.

3. *Mining.* A short siding or narrow heading.

1883 Gresley *Gloss. Coal-m.* 232.

Spou'tiness. *rare.* [f. Spouty *a.*] Tendency to discharge water.

1808 J. Robertson *Agric. Inverness* 26 The extent of spouty land..must be very considerable, and this spoutiness .. demonstrates the great extent of till in the county of Inverness.

Spou'ting, *sb.* [f. Spout *sb.*] Roof-spouts collectively; material for these.

1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2288/2 Hollowing out stuff for spouting and troughs. 1885 *Law Times* 23 May 65/1 It was necessary to put up a ladder to the roof for the purpose of priming some spouting. 1894 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* June 288 The spoutings of the farm buildings contribute a great deal to the contents of all such ponds.

Spou'ting, *vbl. sb.* [f. Spout *v.*]

1. The action of issuing or discharging in a spout or stream.

1611 Cotgr., *Sourgeon*,..the rising, boyling, or spouting vp of water in a spring. 1665 Glanvill *Def. Van. Dogm.* 34 No more difficulty in this Hypothesis, then in the direct spouting of water out of a pipe. 1796 T. Twining *Trav. India*, etc. (1894) 17, I had once considered the spouting of whales as a fabulous exageration. 1839 Beale *Sperm Whale* (ed. 2) 44 At the termination of this breathing time, or as whalers say, when he has his 'spoutings out', the head sinks slowly. 1889 *Nature* 21 Mar. 482 The waste occasioned by 'spouting' [of oil-wells] is at times enormous.

b. *attrib.*, as *spouting-canal, -hole, -tube.*

1835–6 *Todd's Cycl. Anat.* I. 581/1 The orifice of the spouting hole..is situated towards the summit of the head. 1840 F. D. Bennett *Narr. Whaling Voy.* II. 151 The spouting-canal [in the whale] may perform both the offices attributed to it. 1845 *Encycl. Metrop.* VII. 344/1 The Gangetic Dolphin is remarkable for..a roof over the spouting apparatus. *Ibid.*, The passage of the spouting tube.

2. Declamation or recitation; speech-making, speechifying.

1788 Grose *Dict. Vulg. T.* (ed. 2), *Spouting*, theatrical declamation. 1805 M. Cutler in *Life*, etc. (1888) II. 185 There was much spouting, and some handsome speaking. 1848 Thackeray *Van. Fair* xxxiv, To be freed..from the dreary spouting of the Reverend Bartholomew Irons. 1893 Vizetelly *Glances Back* I. xvii. 327 Spouting was a positive passion with Hannay.

attrib. 1802 Mar. Edgeworth *Moral T.* (1816) I. xiv. 110 The spouting action of a player. 1814 Jane Austen *Mansf. Park* xiii, For anything of the acting, spouting, reciting kind, I think he has always a decided taste. 1884 E. Yates *Recoll.* iii, 'The Lays of Ancient Rome' had been favourite spouting-pieces at Highgate.

b. *Spouting club* (or *society*), a society meeting for the purpose of practising recitation, declamation, or oratory.

1756 A. Murphy *Apprentice* I. i, A Spouting-Club, friend Gargle!—What's a Spouting-Club? *Ibid.* II. i, The Spouting-Club,..the Members..roaring out Bravo. 1781 V. Knox *Lib. Educ.* § 20 Neither is it desirable, that he should acquire that love..of declaiming, which may introduce him to spouting clubs, or disputing societies. 1806 H. Siddons *Maid, Wife & Widow* II. 146 He was a great orator at the spouting societies. 1850 Thackeray *Pendennis* lxii, Many a Spouting-Club orator would turn the Bishops out of the House of Lords to-morrow.

Spou'ting, *ppl. a.* [f. Spout *v.*]

1. Issuing in a spout or stream.

1601 Holland *Pliny* I. 91 The same is shadowie, full of woods, and watered with veines of spouting Springs. 1697 Dryden *Æneid* III. 822 With spouting blood the purple pavement swims. 1712 J. James tr. *Le Blond's Gardening* 202 That is called spouting Water, which..forms single Jets, Sheafs, Bubblings of Water, &c. 1720 Pope *Iliad* XXI. 184 One [lance] raz'd Achilles' hand; the spouting blood Spun forth. 1839 tr. *Lamartine's Trav.* 127/1 Guards are placed..to watch over the safety of the khan;..fountains of spouting water keep it always cool.

2. Discharging liquid in a copious stream.

1654 Gayton *Pleas. Notes Quix.* I. 3 That other Knight .., whom I call the Knight of the high Scurrado, or Spouting Pestle. 1693 Evelyn *De la Quint. Compl. Gard.* II. 5, I will say in another place, what Water is in the Pipes of spouting Fountains. 1780 tr. *Von Troil's Iceland* 256 At Geyser is the largest of all the spouting-springs in Iceland. 1896 Kipling *Seven Seas* 25 The wreck that lies on the spouting reef Where the ghastly blue-lights flare.

b. *spec.* Of whales: Throwing up spray in the act of respiration; blowing.

1648 Hexham II, *Een Spuyt-wal*, a Spouting whale. 1668 Charleton *Onomast.* 167 *Balæna Physeter*,..the puffing, or spouting Whale. 1835–6 *Todd's Cycl. Anat.* I. 576/1 The Spouting Whales always feed upon living food. 1843 *Penny Cycl.* XXVII. 287/2 The Zoophagous or Spouting Cetaceans. 1845 *Encycl. Metrop.* VII. 339/2 The Spouting Family, which includes the Porpesse-like and Whale-like Tribes.

3. Given to speech-making; declamatory.

1796 Reynolds *Fortune's Fool* IV. i, In the garret is a spouting author. 1889 *John Bull* 2 Mar. 140 The spouting agitator whose speeches have incited to these criminal deeds.

Spou'tless, *a.* [f. Spout *sb.*] Destitute or deprived of a spout.

1784 Cowper *Task* IV. 776 There the pitcher stands A fragment, and the spoutless tea-pot there. 1824 *Blackw. Mag.* XV. 152 An old squat spoutless china tea-pot. 1857 Geo. Eliot *Ess.* (1884) 73 The spoutless tea-pot holding a bit of mignonette. 1897 Mary Kingsley *W. Africa* 209 These utensils are spoutless and round.

Spou'ty, *a.* [f. Spout *v.*] Given to spouting or discharging water.

1705 Earl Haddington *Forest Trees* (1765) 6, I..find it thrive in rich, poor, middling, heathy, gravelly, spouty, clay and mossy ground. 1708 *Phil. Trans.* XXVI. 62 The place was cover'd with a Scurf of wet spouty Earth about a Foot thick. 1746 *Rep. Conduct Sir J. Cope* 139 A Column of them in Disorder were coming along westwards under a 'spouty' bank. 1844 H. Stephens *Bk. Farm* I. 505, I have frequently made lines of drains across the spouty sloping faces of fields. 1892 *Blackw. Mag.* Oct. 472/2 Oak would root itself firmly in the valleys,..alder in swamps and spouty land.

†Spowe. *Obs.* [Of Scand. origin: cf. Icel. *spói*, Norw. *spoe*, *spue*, Da. *spove*, Sw. *spof*.] A curlew or whimbrel.

1519 in *Archaeol.* (1834) XXV. 422 Item..iij Plovers, iij Spowes, & iij Stynts. *Ibid.* 426 Item iij Spowes of Gist. 1526 T. L'Estrange *Househ. Exp.* (Addit. MS. 27448) fol. 38 b, Item, a spowe, a radshanke, and a snype, ij d. *Ibid.*, viij redshancks viij d, vii spowes x d.

‖Spoye. *Obs. rare.* [ad. MFlem. *spoye*: see Spay *sb.*] A sluice or water-gate.

1528 *Lett. & Pap. Hen. VIII* (1872) IV. II. 2231 Wherfor ..ryvers and spoyes must be made [at Calais]. *Ibid.*, Eight gotes or spoyes of stone.

†Spoyl, obs. variant of Spile *sb.*[2]

1782 Crevecoeur *Lett.* 196 Employ themselves..either in making bungs or spoyls for their oil casks.

Spoyl(e, Spoyll, obs. forms of Spoil *sb.* and *v.*[1]

Spoylle, variant of Spoil *v.*[2] *Obs.*

Sprack (spræk), *a.* Chiefly *dial.* Also **spract.** [Of obscure origin: current mainly in west midland and south-western counties. Cf. Sprackly *adv.* and Sprag *a.*] Brisk, active; alert, smart; in good health and spirits.

1747 Aston *Suppl. Cibber's Lives* 15 Mr. Dogget was a little, lively, spract Man. 1785 Sarah Fielding *Ophelia* II. vi, He will be..glad to hear you set out..so *hoddy* and *sprack*! 1817 Lady Granville *Lett.* (1894) I. 92 She will not shrink from so sprack an adviser. *Ibid.* III She gives life to society, and everything is more sprack. 1856 Miss Mulock *J. Halifax* vii, He observed that 'master looked sprack agin'. 1880 Freeman in W. R. W. Stephens *Life* (1895) II. 195, I am getting mighty sprack, and live as it were with clenched fists.

Hence **Spra'ckish** *a.*

1882 Mrs. Nathan *Langreath* I. 312 Your Ladyship looks quite sprackish this evening!

Sprack-barley, obs. variant of Sprat-barley.

Spra'ckle, *v. Sc.* Also 9 **spraickle.** [Of obscure origin: forms with *ch* are frequent in later use.] *intr.* To clamber.

1786 Burns *Dining w. Ld. Daer* i, Sae far I sprackled up the brae, I dinner'd wi' a Lord. 1822 Scott *Nigel* xxxi, Wad ye have naebody spraickle up the brae but yoursell, Geordie?

Spra'ckly, *adv. rare.* [Cf. Sprack *a.*] Actively, smartly.

1393 Langl. *P. Pl.* C. xxi. 10 Sprakliche [B. xviii. 12 spakliche] he lokede, As is þe kynde of a knyght þat comeþ to be doubed. 1863 Barnes *Poems Dorset Dial.* 3rd Ser. 35 Two sleek-heäir'd meäres do sprackly pull My waggon vull.

Sprad, obs. pa. pple. of Spread *v.*

Spra'ddle, *v.* Now chiefly *dial.* [? f. *sprad*, pa. pple. of Spread *v.*] *intr.* To sprawl. Hence **Spra'ddling** *ppl. a.*

1632 Quarles *Div. Fancies* I. iv, O! what a ravishment 't had beene..To see thy busie Fingers cloathe and wrappe His spradling Limbs in thy indulgent Lappe! 1864 Blackmore *Clara Vaughan* (1872) 76 So those two were allowed to spraddle on the floor. 1889 *Temple Bar* LXXXV. 2 About the floor..spraddled forms of deal.

Sprag, *sb.*[1] Now *dial.* [Of obscure origin: cf. Sw. dial. *sprag*, *spragg*(*e* in the same sense.] A slip; a twig or spray.

1676 Newton *Corr.* (1830) 260 We desire graffs rather then sprags. 1895 P. H. Emerson *Birds Norfolk* 81 He alights on the familiar old hawthorn 'sprag', as the fenmen call a spray.

Sprag, *sb.*[2] [Of obscure origin.]

†1. A lively young fellow. *Obs.*

1706 E. Ward *Wooden World Diss.* (1708) 52 He'll often tell ye what a Sprag he was in the Days of Yore.

2. a. A young salmon.

1790 Grose *Prov. Gloss.* (ed. 2) Suppl., *Sprag*, a young salmon. 1882 Day *Fishes Gt. Brit.* II. 68 Salmon;..from one to two years old..it is known as..sprag..(Northumberland).

b. A young cod.

1875 F. T. Buckland *Log-Bk.* 92 These sprags are a distinct species of Cod. 1886 *Field* 23 Jan. 106/3 Sprags (half-grown cod), 2s. 6d. to 3s. each.

Sprag, *sb.*[3] [Of obscure origin.]

1. *Mining.* A prop used to support the coal or roof during the working of a seam.

1841 Hartshorne *Salop. Ant.* Gloss., *Sprags*, 'uprights,' or pieces of wood placed upright against the sides of a coal pit, to support the 'lids'. 1862 *Chambers's Jrnl.* Apr. 216 They are particularly enjoined..to support the roof..with props or sprags of larch or other wood. 1881 *B'ham Daily Post* 16 Feb. 7/2 The provision of the Mines Inspection Act, which requires that sprags in the workings shall be placed not farther than 5 ft. from each other.

2. A stout piece of wood used to check the revolution of a wheel (or roller), usually by inserting it between two of the spokes.

Also *U.S.*, a rod or bar which can be dropped so as to prevent a vehicle from running backwards.

1878 F. S. Williams *Midl. Railw.* 524 Having armed themselves with a piece of timber called a 'sprag' to be used if required as a brake, they set off. 1886 *Pall Mall G.* 13 Sept., Sprags and other articles were thrown under the wheels without effect. 1890 'R. Boldrewood' *Miner's Right* iii, A 'sprag', being a stout piece of hard wood, was inserted between the rope and the iron roller on which the rope ran.

Sprag, *a. rare.* [app. a mispronunciation of Sprack *a.*] Smart, clever.

The Shakspere passage is the source of later instances, and has app. led to the insertion of the form in some dialect glossaries.

1598 Shaks. *Merry W.* IV. i. 84 *M. Pag.* He is a better scholler then I thought he was. *Eu.* He is a good sprag-memory. 1810 Lamb *Lett.* (1888) I. 263 But the epitaphs were trim, and sprag, and patent. 1830 Scott *Let.* in *Lockhart* (1838) VII. 229, I had, being, as Sir Hugh Evans says, a fine sprag boy, a shrewd idea that his magnetism was all humbug.

Sprag, *v.* [f. Sprag *sb.*[3]]

1. *trans.* To prop up or sustain (esp. coal in a mine) with a sprag or sprags.

1841 Hartshorne *Salop. Ant.* Gloss., *Sprag*, to support or prop up any thing that inclines. 1865 *Even. Stand.* 7 Feb., Several of the men as well as deceased neglected to sprag or spern their work. 1890 *Daily News* 31 May 6/7 As an effect of an overhanging piece of coal not being 'spragged', it might have fallen upon the defendant.

absol. 1894 *Times* 1 Mar. 10/2 Joseph Critchley said that there was plenty of timber for the men to have spragged if they thought proper.

2. To check or stop (a wheel) by inserting a sprag.

1878 F. S. Williams *Midl. Railw.* 525 Mr. Woodiwin.. seized the plank..and tried to sprag the wheel with it. 1892 *Pall Mall G.* 16 Mar. 5/2 The wheels were 'spragged', to prevent the men being lowered too rapidly.

fig. 1887 *Carlisle Jrnl.* 6 Dec. 3/5 The Tories..gave a Hares and Rabbits Bill, and then spragged the trap that was to catch the vermin.

Hence **Spra'gging** *vbl. sb.*; **Spra'gger.**

1865 *Pall Mall G.* 26 Sept. 7/2 Nearly fifty per cent. of the lives lost..proceeded from falls of roof.., a large proportion of which might have been avoided by a more.. methodical system of 'propping' and 'spragging'. 1882 *Instr. Census Clerks* (1885) 84 Ironstone Miner..Token Lad. Pick Carrier. Spragger. 1884 *Times* 8 Jan. 2/6 A 'spragger' is to be found on all mineral railways and tramways, his business being to 'sprag' the wheels when going down an incline.

Spraich. *Sc.* Now *rare* or *Obs.* Also 6 **spreich,** 6–7 **sprache,** 6 **sprauch.** [Imitative.] A scream or outcry.

1513 Douglas *Æneid* XI. i. 82 With hair down schaik, and petuus spraichis and cryis. 1533 Bellenden *Livy* III. xviii. (S.T.S.) II. 16 Cryand with lamentabill spraichis. 1596 Dalrymple tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* I. 186 A spraich ryses from the nerrest, monie of the Scottis..spur with speid

that iniure to reuenge. 1605 in Pitcairn *Crim. Trials* II. 463 Heiring hir and hir said servand gif þe sprache and cry.

Sprain (spr^{e}n), *sb.* Also 7 **sprein.** [prob. f. SPRAIN *v.*]

1. A severe wrench or twist of the ligaments or muscles of a joint, causing pain and swelling of the part. Also *fig.*

1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* II. 334 The ioints if they haue gotten a sprein by any rush, find remedy by the dung of bore or sow, if it be laid to hot in a linnen cloth. 1603 — *Plutarch's Mor.* 124 Anger..resembleth not..the sinewes of the soule, but is like rather to their stretching spreines and..conuulsions. 1677 TEMPLE *Cure of Gout* Misc. (1680) 202, I confest I was in pain, and thought it was with some sprain at Tennis. 1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), *Sprain*, a violent contortion or wresting of the Tendons of the Muscles. 1762–71 H. WALPOLE *Vertue's Anecd. Paint.* (1786) V. 219 He contracted a great lameness from a sprain. 1829 SCOTT *Anne of G.* ix, He still feels the sprain which he received in his spring after yonder chamois. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 383/1 The treatment to be adopted for sprains is the immediate application of leeches. 1882 'EDNA LYALL' *Donovan* xx, 'Only a sprain, I think,' he answered, faintly.

2. Without article: The condition of being sprained.

1805 *Med. Jrnl.* XIV. 459 Dr. Kinglake's last argument ..remains to be examined, the analogy of common sprain to gout. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 174 It is not easily met when it is present as the vague condition called sprain of the back.

Sprain (spr^{e}n), *v.*[1] Also 7 **sprein.** [Of doubtful origin. Connexion with OF. *espreign-*, *espreindre* to squeeze out, is not clear.] *trans.* To wrench or twist (a part of the body) so as to cause pain or difficulty in moving.

1622 MABBE tr. *Aleman's Guzman d'Alf.* II. 101, I was loath to kicke and fling against it, lest..I might loosen my lading,..if not spraine, and hurt my selfe. 1667 PEPYS *Diary* 14 July, I, by leaping down the little bank,..did sprain my right foot, which brought me great present pain. 1673 COLES *God's Sov.* i. 24 By over-grasping we may sprain our Hands, and unfit 'em for Service otherwise within their compass. 1716 GAY *Trivia* I. 38 The sudden Turn may stretch the swelling Vein, The cracking Joint unhinge, or Ankle sprain. 1804 *Med. Jrnl.* XII. 503 The Rev. Mr. Smith..sprained his ancle, and treated it as a sprain with cold applications. 1816 A. C. HUTCHISON *Pract. Obs. Surg.* (1826) 174 In this very dock-yard..a man complained of having sprained his loins. 1861 READE *Cloister & H.* III. 134 He would see my leg. It was sprained sore, and swelled at the ankle.

fig. 1641 MILTON *Reform.* II. Wks. 1851 III. 51 These devout Prelates..for these many years have not ceas't in their Pulpits wrinching, and spraining the text. 1642 FULLER *Holy & Prof. St.* III. xix. 204 And would it not have wrench'd and sprain'd his soul with short turning?

Hence **Sprained** *ppl. a.*; **Spraining** *vbl. sb.*[1]

1606 BP. W. BARLOW *Serm.* 21 Sept. B ij, To heale the infected, to splint the spreined. 1675 WOOLLEY *Gentlew. Comp.* 31 Fops will venture the spraining of their tongues. 1849 CLARIDGE *Cold Water Cure* 132 Sprained Shoulder.—A patient fell down an ice-berg and severely bruised his shoulder. 1875 W. S. HAYWARD *Love agst. World* 97 Who ever heard of any one going to bed for a sprained ankle.

Sprain, *v.*[2] Now *rare* or *Obs.* Also 5 **spreyne.** [app. a back-formation from *spreynd(e*, *spreynt(e*, pa. t. and pa. pple. of SPRENGE *v.*] *trans.* † **a.** To sprinkle. **b.** *Agric.* To sow (seeds, etc.) with the hand. Hence **Spraining** *vbl. sb.*[2]

c 1440 *Palladius on Husb.* XI. 161 That spryngith soone yf aysel on hem reyne—I mene on hem al light yf hit me spreyne.

1750 W. ELLIS *Mod. Husb.* I. i. 51 The other had a Seedsman to sprain his pease in every Thorough or Furrow. 1763 *Museum Rust.* I. 261 A seeds-man carries them in a box, and sprains them thinly out of his hand. 1799 [A. YOUNG] *Agric. Linc.* 130 On other lands he sprains in the seed by hand, in every third furrow. 1847 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* VIII. i. 62 The seed is sown under the furrow in the 'spraining' method; one seedsman to two ploughs.

Spraing, *sb. Sc.* Also 6–7 **sprayng,** 6 **sprang.** [app. of Scand. origin; cf. MIcel. and Norw. *sprang* fringe, lace.] A glittering or brightly-coloured stripe, streak, or ray.

1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* VII. iii. 82 Wyth fyry sparkis lyke to goldin bemys, Or twynkland sprayngis with thair giltin glemys. 1536 BELLENDEN *Cron. Scot.* (1821) I. p. xli, The thrid kind [of hounds] is..reid hewit, or ellis blak, with small spraingis of spottis. 1597 SKENE *De Verb. Sign.* s.v. *Actilia*, Partial gilt, with spranges or streames of Gold fuilȝie. *a* 1670 SPALDING *Troub. Chas. I* (1850) I. 57 Thair wes sein..ane gryt blaseing star like to ane comet,..haueing lang broyndis or sprayngis spredding fra the samen. 1785 RAMSAY *Gentle Sheph.* I. i, A tartan plaid,..the borders blue: With sprainges like gowd, and siller, cross'd with black. 1808 MAYNE *Siller Gun* II. xiv, The mark.. Far glist'ning, circled white and red, Wi' sprainges o' blue. 1813–24 in *Eng. Dial. Dict.*

Spraing, *v. Sc.* Also 6 **spraying, sprang,** 8 **spring.** [f. prec. Cf. MIcel., MSw., and Norw. *spranga* to ornament with fringes or lace.] *trans.* To variegate or diversify with coloured stripes or streaks. Hence **Sprainged** *ppl. a.*

1532 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* VI. 74 For xxiiij elnis reid and ȝallow bucram to spraying the said pailȝeoune. 1539 *Ibid.* VII. 270 Item, deliverit to him to be the uthir half of the saidis cotis and to sprang thair hois, iiij elnis dimmegrane. 1701 BRAND *Descr. Orkney*, etc. (1703) 54 One bird..all stripped or sprainged on the back. 1742 R. FORBES *Jrnl.* in *Ajax' Sp.* (1755) 34, I hae nae mair claise but a sprainɡ'd faikie, or a riach plaidie. 1773 FERGUSSON *Leith Races* xviii, Some liveries red or yellow wear, And some are tartan sprainɡit! 1846 *Whistle Binkie, Songs Nursery* 71 The window's spraing'd wi' icy stars.

Sprain-legged, *a.* [f. SPRAIN *sb.* or *v.*] Having a sprained leg.

1721 D'URFEY *Operas*, etc. 224 The sprainleg'd-Gentleman, whom late I told ye down amongst 'em sate.

Spraints, *sb. pl.* Forms: 5–6 **sprayntes,** 6–7 **spraynts,** 7 **spraintes,** 7– **spraints.** [ad. OF. *espraintes* (14th cent.; mod.F. *épreintes*), f. *espraindre* to squeeze out.] The excrement of the otter.

c 1410 *Master of Game* (MS. Digby 182) x, Men clepeth þat þe stepes or þe marches of þe Otyr...And his fumes tredeleth [*read* -es] oþer sprayntes. 1576 TURBERV, *Hunting* lxxiv. 201 An Otter..must come forth in the night to make his spraynts, *Ibid.*, He may partly perceive it by ye sprayntes. [1616 BULLOKAR *Eng. Expos.*, *Spraints*, dung of an Otter. 1630 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Navy Landsh., Huntsm.* Wks. I. 93/1 It is called a Deeres Fewmets,..a Foxe or a Badgers Feance, and an Otters Spraintes. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* II. 133/2 The Ordure..of..An Otter, its called the Spraynts. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. *App.*, *Spraints*, among sportsmen, a term used for the dung of the otter.] 1801 W. B. DANIEL *Rur. Sports* I. 375 His landing place, which will be found..either by his *spraints*, his seal, or the remains of fish. 1857 KINGSLEY *Two Y. Ago* xviii, Two or three more gentlemen .. are scrambling over the rocks above, in search of spraints. 1885 *Standard* Apr. 5/2 His 'sprainɡts' tell their own tale.

b. In sing. form. *rare.*

1834 MEDWIN *Angler in Wales* II. 159 R— soon descried a spraint, that appeared fresh. 1851 KINGSLEY *Yeast* viii, I haven't seen the spraint of one here this two years.

So † **Spraining.** *Obs. rare.*

c 1410 *Master of Game* (MS. Digby 182) xxiv, Of oþer stynkynge beestes he shall clepe it dyrrite, and þat of þe otyr he shall clepe sprayntynge.

† **Sprainture.** *Obs.*[-1] [ad. OF. *esprainture*, f. as prec.] Sprinkling.

1481 CAXTON tr. *Cicero, Old Age* e viij, The seed is heeted by the naturell moisture of the erthe and thorough the heete of the sonne and also by the spraynture of dewys.

Sprait, var. SPREAT. *Sc.* **Sprakelynge,** obs. var. SPARKLING *ppl. a.*[1] **Sprale, Sprall(e,** obs. ff. SPRAWL *v.* **Sprancle:** see SPRANKLE *sb.*, *v.*

Sprang. *rare.* [Cf. SPRONG, and WFlem. *sprange* the upper part of a popinjay-pole.]

† **1.** A rung or round of a ladder. *Obs.*[-1]

1527 *Churchw. Acc., Yatton* (Somerset Rec. Soc.) 143 Payd for sprangs to church lader, ij^{d}.

2. A shoot or branch.

1847 ALB. SMITH *Chr. Tadpole* xlviii, The walks were choked up..by the long sprangs of the vines and shoots of the standard fruit trees.

Sprang, obs. form of SPRAING *sb.* and *v.*

Sprangle (spræ·ŋg'l), *sb. U.S.* [f. next.] A branching rootlet; a ramification, a sprawl.

1896 *Advance* (Chicago) 21 May 738/1 Skepticism has its roots and spreads its feeding sprangles chiefly in the affections and the will. 1898 *Ibid.* 19 May 662/1 This [Philippine] archipelago lies upon the map a great sprangle of intermingled land and water.

Sprangle (spræ·ŋg'l), *v.* Now *dial.* and *U.S.* [Of obscure origin: cf. SPRANTLE *v.*]

1. *intr.* Of persons or animals: To struggle; to spread out the limbs, to sprawl.

14.. *Sir Beues* (MS. O) 3878 Good game had Sabere to sene, How they lay spranglynge on the grene. 1566 J. PARTRIDGE *Plasidas* (Roxb.) 105 There he layde his sprangling corps, almost deuoyde of breath. 1825 JAMIESON *Suppl.*, *To Sprangle*, to struggle; including the idea of making a spring to get away; Roxb[urghshire].

2. To straggle; to spread out in branches or ramifications.

1881 *Oxfordsh. Gloss.* (E.D.S.) 98 A lot o' greet sprangleɡin' cabbage. 1888 *Cornh. Mag.* May 580 Over its fence sprangles a squash-vine in ungainly joy. 1896 *N. York Whly. Witness* 18 Nov. 3/3 The Mississippi sprangles as it nears the Gulf, as the great volume of water empties through three outlets.

† **Sprangle,** alteration of SPRANKLE *v. Obs.*

1495 *Trevisa's Barth. De P. R.* VII. lxiv. 279 In theym that haue the Lepra..the syght spranglyth. *Ibid.*, Theyr eyen ben more spranglynge.

Spra·ngly, *a. U.S.* [f. SPRANGLE *v.*] Spreading, sprawling.

1891 *Advance* (Chicago) 3 Dec., Far up into this whole section the ocean thrusts its crooked and sprangly fingers.

Sprank[1]. In 6 **spranck(e.** [perh. f. PRANK *v.*[4], but mod. dial. *a good sprank* 'a fair quantity' is associated with *sprank* 'a sprinkling'.] A show or display.

1568 T. HOWELL *Arb. Amitie* (1879) 48 Where oft the flouds doe floe vpon the beaten banck; Their sandes debarre the grasse to groe, to spread his Aprill spranck. 1581 J. BELL *Haddon's Answ. Osor.* 416 b, Besides a number of old notable men and no small spranckе of the newer sort also.

† **Sprank**[2]. *Obs.*[-1] [=MDu. *spranke* (Du. and WFris. *sprank*).] A spark.

1581 J. BELL *Haddon's Answ. Osor.* 326 b, The superstitions thereof [being] wholly rooted out, they would revive the lively sprankes [L. *lumen*] of the auncient Church being vtterly extinct.

† **Sprankle,** *sb. Obs. rare.* [Cf. next and WFris. *sprankel.*] A spark or sparkle.

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XV. cxviii. (Bodl. MS.), Fuyre come downe fro heuen and brend þe countrey to asschen,..and som liknes þerof is ȝitte iseen, in sprankles & iselen on treen. *c* 1475 *Partenay* 4016 With teres makyng sprancles manyon.

† **Sprankle,** *v. Obs.* [=Du. *sprankelen*, WFris. *sprankelje*: cf. prec. and SPRANK 2.]

1. *intr.* To throw out sparks; to sparkle.

1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) II. 237 For the workes of mankynde defouled þe ayer so hiȝe,..by worschippynge of fuyre þat smokede and spranclede vp so hiȝe. 1398 — *Barth. De P. R.* VIII. xxix. (Tollem. MS.), In nyȝte rowynge, yf þe mone lyȝte sprankeleþ on þe oris, þan tempeste schal come in schorte tyme. *Ibid.* XVI. xxix, Crisolitus is a litel stone of Ethiopia schynynge as golde, and sprankelynge as fire.

2. To crackle.

1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) I. 319 Salt Agrigentinus..melteþ in fuyre, and sepeþ and sprankeleþ [*v.r.* sprancleth] in water. 1398 — *Barth. De P. R.* XVII. xxxi. (Bodl. MS.), þe gode [reed] sprankeleþ in þe mouþe and [is] ful swete.

Hence † **Sprankling** *vbl. sb. Obs.*—[1]

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* VIII. xxxiii. (Tollem. MS.), By chaungynge of coloure and sprankelynge of bemis.

Sprant, *a.* ? Error for SPRUNT *a.*

1704 W. KING *Remarks Tale Tub* 16 At last there stood up a sprant Young Man that is Secretary to our Scavenger.

† **Sprantle,** *v. Obs.*[-1] [Cf. SPRANGLE *v.*] *intr.* To struggle or sprawl.

1390 GOWER *Conf.* II. 5 [A swan] wher sche lay Sprantlende with hire wynges tweie, As sche which scholde thanne deie.

† **Sprash.** *Obs.*[-1] [Meaning obscure.]

1775 S. J. PRATT *Liberal Opin.* lxiv. (1783) II. 232 A damned sprash, indeed, cries Nabal, wiping his face, but the man is gone the world over.

Sprat (spræt), *sb.*[1] Also 7 **spratt, sprate.** [Later form of SPROT[1].]

1. A small sea-fish, *Clupea Sprattus*, common on the Atlantic coasts of Europe.

1597 DELONEY *Cancans Calamitie* Wks. (1912) 432 One sprat to us is sweeter gotten gaines, Then so much siluer, as this house can hold. *a* 1625 FLETCHER *Bloody Brother* II. ii, A plump Vintner Kneeling, and offring incense to his deitie, Which shall be only this, red Sprats and Pilchers. 1661 LOVELL *Hist. Anim. & Min.* 225 Sprats..are squalid, leane, and not of copious aliment. 1727 SWIFT *City Shower* Wks. 1755 III. II. 40 Drown'd puppies, stinking sprats,..and turnip tops, come tumbling down the flood. 1789 MRS. PIOZZI *France & Italy* I. 204 Fresh anchovies..dressed like sprats in London. 1800 COLQUHOUN *Comm. Thames* XV. 436 Sprats and Herrings are caught only during a short season. 1870 YEATS *Nat. Hist. Comm.* 320 Forty bushels of sprats serve for an acre of land.

b. *collect.* Fish of this species.

1611 FLORIO, *Affumate*, blote hearings, dried sprate. 1856 *Farmer's Mag.* Jan. 37 In a condition more appropriate to the desired object than when the sprat and herring were thrown over arable land. 1881 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* V. 13 Perch, Gurnards, Smelts, Pike, Herring, Sprat, and Eel.

c. As a specific name.

1769 PENNANT *Brit. Zool.* III. 295 The sprat grows to about the length of five inches. 1837 M. DONOVAN *Dom. Econ.* II. 195 The Sprat very much resembles the herring, except in size. 1865 COUCH *Brit. Fishes* IV. 109 The Sprat is known in the German Ocean and the Baltic, and from thence round the British Islands. 1896 LYDEKKER *Roy. Nat. Hist.* V. 489 The much smaller sprat..differs by the absence of vomerine teeth.

2. One or other of various small fishes, usually one resembling a sprat.

1603 G. OWEN *Pembrokeshire* (1891) 123 Spratte or sand eele. 1871 KINGSLEY *At Last* vi, The yellow-billed sprat [*Alosa Bishopi*]..is usually so poisonous that 'death has occurred from eating it'. 1882 JORDAN & GILBERT *Syn. Fishes N. Amer.* 274 *Stolephorus compressus*, 'Sprat'. 1883 DAY *Fishes Gt. Brit.* II. 232 Sprat..is in places erroneously employed for the young of the herring. 1884 GOODE *Nat. Hist. Aquat. Anim.* 277 *Rhacochilus toxotes*...This species is called 'Alfione' at Soquel, 'Sprat' at Santa Cruz.

3. *fig.* **a.** Applied to persons, usually as a term of contempt.

1601 SHAKS. *All's Well* III. vi. 113 When his disguise and he is parted, tell me what a sprat you shall finde him. 1605 *Tryall Chev.* II. i. in Bullen *Old Pl.* III. 289 Bowyer a Captayne? a Capon,..a lame haberdine, a red beard Sprat, a Yellow-hammer. 1888 *Macm. Mag.* XLV. 394 Bare-legged sprats of all shapes and sizes dance in the surf. 1901 G. DOUGLAS *House w. Green Shutters* 155 It was a downcome ..to pack in among a crowd of the Barbie sprats.

b. A small amount, a mere morsel.

1815 J. ADAMS *Wks.* (1856) X. 129 Five millions would be but a sprat for the nourishment of leviathans.

c. In phrases denoting the venturing of a small expenditure in the hope of a large gain.

1856 READE *Never too Late* lix, Did you never hear of the man that flung away a sprat to catch a whale? 1864 *N. & Q.* 3rd Ser. VI. 495/1 Give a Sprat to catch a Mackarel. 1876 *Chambers's Jrnl.* 1 Jan. 7/2 He is said to have actually sold certain classes of articles below prime cost. That, no doubt, was a little hazardous. It was safe only on the principle of throwing out a sprat to catch a herring.

4. *slang.* A sixpence.

It is doubtful if the application in quot. 1857 is correct.

1839 *Slang Dict.* 34 *Sprat*, sixpence. 1857 *Morn. Chron.* 2 Dec. (Encycl. Dict.), Several Lascars were charged with passing sprats, the slang term applied to spurious fourpenny pieces, sixpences, and shillings. 1902 H. LAWSON *Childr. Bush* 6 The crown [of the hat] was worn as thin as paper by the quids,..bobs and tanners or sprats..that had been chucked into it.

5. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *sprat-catcher*, *-fishery*, *-fishing*, *-gridiron*, *-net*, *-seine*, *-tinning*; **sprat-day** (see quot.); † **sprat-fare, sprat-fishing; sprat-herring, -weather** (see quots.).

1599 NASHE *Lenten Stuffe* Wks. (Grosart) V. 242 Those Colchester oyster-men, or whiting-mungers and *sprat-catchers. 1851 MAYHEW *Lond. Labour* I. 69 Sprats..are generally introduced about the 9th November. Indeed, 'Lord Mayor's day' is sometimes called '*sprat day'. *c* 1568 in *Rep.*

Hist. MSS. Comm. Var. Coll. IV. 302 [300 mariners for the] *spratte fare [taking yearly 3,000 lasts of sprats]. 1883 F. A. Smith *Swedish Fisheries* 9 The revenue of the herring and *sprat fisheries of the whole country may be estimated. 1837 *Penny Cycl.* VII. 277/1 *Sprat-fishing commences in the early part of November. 1858 Simmonds *Dict. Trade*, **Sprat-gridiron*, a gridiron made specially for broiling sprats. 1884 Goode *Nat. Hist. Aquat. Anim.* 579 The '*Sprat' Herring of New York, *Clupea indigena*. 1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib., Brit.* II. No. 3799, Mackerel, herring, pilchard, and *sprat nets. 1883 R. C. Leslie *Sea-painter's Log* ix, From the small mesh required, a *sprat-seine of any size is costly. 1892 *Pall Mall G.* 8 Feb. 7/1 The opening of the *sprat-tinning industry at Deal..has greatly enhanced the value of these fish. 1847 Halliw. s.v., The dark roky days of November and December are called **sprat weather*, from that being the most favorable season for catching sprats.

b. In names of birds, as **sprat-borer, -diver, -loon, -mowe** (see quots.).

1785 Latham *Gen. Synop. Birds* III. II. 342 This bird [Speckled Diver] is pretty frequent..on the river Thames, where it is called by the fishermen Sprat Loon, being often seen in vast numbers among the shoals of that fish. 1802 Montagu *Ornith.* s.v. *Diver*, Sprat Loon. Greatest Speckled Diver. Cobble. 1855 *Trans. Philol. Soc.* 37 (Norfolk words) *Sprat-mowe*, Herring-gull. 1864 Atkinson *Prov. Names Birds*, *Sprat-borer*, Prov. (Essex) name for young of Red-throated Diver—*Colymbus septentrionalis*. 1892 'Son of Marshes' *Lond. Town* ix. 153 To mention a few of the family of the divers, we have the sprat diver [etc.].

Hence **Sprat** *v. intr.*, to fish for sprats. Also **Spra·tting** *vbl. sb.*

1883 R. C. Leslie *Sea-painter's Log* ix, A seine is also used for spratting in bays where the shore is clean. 1893 *Daily News* 14 Jan. 3/4 The spratting season has been a complete failure as far as Essex fishermen are concerned. 1893 *Times* 20 Nov. 10/1 The Walmer lifeboat was also driven into Dover.., after rescuing the Steven and Sarah with two hands, who were out spratting.

†Sprat, *sb.*[2] *Obs. rare.* [Of obscure origin: cf. Scrat *sb.*[1]] An evil spirit.

1432 tr. *Higden* (Rolls) I. 419 Therefore there were ij. Merlynes; oon of them callede Ambrosius, geten of a spratte at Kaermerthyn. 1549 Sir T. Smith *Exam. W. Wycherly* (MS. Lansd. 2) fol. 26, He..hath used the crystal to invocate the sprat called Scariot..; which sprat hath given him knowledge an hundred time.

Sprat, *sb.*[3] *Sc.* [Cf. Spart [2] and Sprot 2.] A kind of rush or rush-like grass.

a 1578 Lindesay (Pitscottie) *Chron. Scot.* (S.T.S.) I. 336 The fluir laid witht greine cherittis, witht sprattis, medwartis and flouris. 1780 Young *Tour Irel.* 137 It kills all sprats (*juncus*) and produces a fine sweet herbage. 1792 *Statist. Acc. Scot.* IV. 518 That species of grass which grows on marshy ground, commonly called spratt, is much used for fodder. 1853 G. Johnston *Bot. East. Borders* 199 There is not much danger of lairing where Sprats grow abundantly.

†Sprat, *sb.*[4] *Obs. rare.* (See quot.)

1756 F. Home *Exper. Bleaching* 211 Lime is by no means fit for discharging the oil in the cloth, but for cleaning it of the dead part, commonly called *sprat*.

Sprat, *v.* : see Sprat *sb.*[1]

Sprat-barley. Also 6 **sprot-**, 8 **sprack-**. [? f. Sprot [1] and Sprat *sb.*[1]] A species of barley, *Hordeum zeocriton*, with short broad ears and long awns.

1523 Fitzherb. *Husb.* § 13 There be thre maner of barleys, ..sprot-barleye, longe-eare, and beare-barley...Sprot-barley hath a flat eare most comonly [etc.]. 1651 R. Child in *Hartlib's Legacy* (1655) 78 There is not onely the ordinary Barley, but big sprat-Barley, which hath lately been sown in Kent with good profit. 1677 Plot *Oxfordsh.* 240 If the Land be rank, [they sow it] with that they call sprat-Barly. 1707 Mortimer *Husb.* (1721) I. 133 The common allowance of Seed is four Bushels to an Acre, though they say that three Bushels of Sprat Barley will do. 1736 Lewis *Hist. Antiq.* 15 Sprack-Barley has formerly been pretty much sown in the rich Land in the Marshes. 1812 Sir J. Sinclair *Syst. Husb. Scot.* I. 314 Barley is apt to lodge, which ruins the seeds, except sprat or battle-door barley is sown. 1846 J. Baxter *Libr. Pract. Agric.* (ed. 4) I. 83 The sprat or battledore barley makes good malt. 1861 Bentley *Man. Bot.* 699 *H. zeocriton*, Sprat or Battledore Barley.

Spratkin. [f. Sprat *sb.*[1]] A little sprat.

1674 N. Fairfax *Bulk & Selv.* 180 He will have set before us such a Hoghen moghen Leviathan, that that of Holy Job would be but a kind of Spratkin to it ward.

Spra·tter. [f. Sprat *sb.*[1]] **a.** *dial.* The guillemot. **b.** A vessel or man engaged in sprat-fishing.

1863 Wise *New Forest* Gloss., *Spratter*, the common guillemot (*Uria troile*). 1883 R. C. Leslie *Sea-painter's Log* ix, She may have been a pleasure-yacht in her day, but can never be so again; for once a spratter, always a spratter. *Ibid.*, Strange to say, spratters, especially in rough weather, rather dread getting the net full of fish.

Spra·ttle, *sb. Sc.* [f. Sprattle *v.*[2]] A struggle or scramble.

1824 Scott *Redgauntlet* ch. xii, We will suppose that any friend like yourself were in the deepest hole in the Nith, and making a sprattle for your life.

†Spra·ttle, *v.*[1] *Obs. rare.* [? Metathetic form of Spartle *v.*[1]] *intr.* and *trans.* To scatter, disperse.

1422 tr. *Secreta Secret., Priv. Priv.* 137 Kynge Richarde out of Irlande into Walis arryuet, ther anoone spratlit al his ryche retenue. *Ibid.* 233 Eyen that bene whit y-freklet, or I-sprotid,..or reede y-spratelid throgh the eyen, bene moste to blame amonge al otheris.

Spra·ttle, *v.*[2] *Sc. rare.* [Cf. Sw. *spratla* in the same sense.] *intr.* To scramble, to struggle.

1786 Burns *To a Louse* iii, There ye may creep, and sprawl, and sprattle. — *A Winter Night* iii, Silly sheep, wha..thro' the drift, deep-lairing, sprattle.

Spra·tty, *a.*[1] *rare.* [f. Sprat *sb.*[1]] Containing or consisting of sprats.

a 1880 F. T. Buckland *Nat. Hist. Brit. Fishes* (1883) 282 Among the whitebait..there are a great many sprats. This is called 'spratty stuff'.

Spra·tty, *a.*[2] *Sc.* [f. Sprat *sb.*[3]] Producing rushes; rush-like, rushy.

1808 J. Veitch in *Edin. Encycl.* I. 253/1 A trial was made ..on a piece of exceeding stiff spratty lee, with two ploughs of Small's construction. 1886 J. Russell *Remin. Yarrow* iv. (1894) 75 Where it [the soil] is wet and spongy, the grass is long, coarse, and spratty.

Sprauchle, Spraughle, later ff. Sprackle *v.*

Sprawl (sprǭl), *sb.* Also 8 *Sc.* **spraul.** [f. Sprawl *v.*]

1. The, or an, act of sprawling; an awkward or clumsy spreading out of the limbs.

1719 Ozell tr. *Misson's Mem.* 25 When the Dog thinks he is sure of fixing his Teeth, a Turn of the [Bull's] Horn.. gives him a Sprawl thirty Foot high. 1820 Keats *Eve of St. Agnes* xli, To the iron porch they glide, Where lay the Porter, in uneasy sprawl. *a* 1847 Eliza Cook *Old Mill-Stream* xiii, And the running,..the pull and the haul, Had a glorious end in the slip and the sprawl. 1857 Mrs. Mathews *Tea-Table T.* I. 188 The triumphant shout which accompanies his awkward sprawl on the carpet.

b. A straggling array or display *of* something.

1827 *Blackw. Mag.* XXII. 474 Through one long wide sprawl of men, women, and children, we wheeled past the Gothic front. 1858 Hawthorne *Fr. & It. Jrnls.* I. 217 The sprawl of nakedness with which Michael Angelo has filled his sky.

c. *The sprawls*, a disease affecting the legs of young ducks. *dial.*

1880– in south-western glossaries.

2. A struggle. *rare*[−1].

1795 A. Wilson *Hollander* Poet. Wks. (1846) 193 Jock and him has aft a spraul Wha'll bring the biggest dark [=day's work] in.

3. *dial.* and *U.S.* Activity, energy, go.

1888– in south-western glossaries and texts. 1894 *Advance* (Chicago) 25 Oct. 124/1 Fact of it is neither of them had sprawl enough to disagree. 1896 T. Hardy *Jude* I. ii, Poor or'nary child—there never was any sprawl on thy side of the family.

Sprawl (sprǭl), *v.* Forms: *α.* 1 **spreawlian,** 2 **spreulen**; *north.* and *Sc.* 5–6, 8–9 **sprewl,** 8 **sprowl,** 9 **spreul, sprule.** *β.* 4–7 **spraule,** 5–7 **spraul.** *γ.* 4 **sprawel,** 5 **sprawlyn,** 6– **sprawl.** *δ.* 6 **spralle** (**sprale**), 6–7 **sprall.** [OE. *spreawlian*, = NFris. *spraweli* in the same sense.]

1. *intr.* To move the limbs in a convulsive effort or struggle; to toss about or spread oneself out; in later use, to be stretched out on the ground, etc., in an ungainly or awkward manner.

a. c 1000 *Prudentius Gloss.* in *Germania* XXIII. 392 *Palpitet*, spreawlige. *a* 1100 in Napier *O. E. Glosses* 216/1 *Palpitat, moritur*, spreulede. *c* 1425 Wyntoun *Cron.* VIII. 1835 Þe kynge saw in to þat tyde A woman slayne, and of hir syde A barne he saw fal out sprewlande. *c* 1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 1957 At þe last sho lay sprewland o brade, Lyke to dye. 1513 Douglas *Æneid* v. viii. 115 Doun duschit the beist, deid on the land gan ly, Sprewland and flikkerand in the deid thrawis. 1722 Ramsay *Three Bonnets* IV. 97 The Peterenians..That gar Fowk lik the Dowps of Priests, Else on a Brander like a Haddock, Be broolied, sprowling like a Paddock. 1781 J. Hutton *Tour to Caves* (ed. 2) Gloss., *Sprewl*, to spurn and kick with both hands and feet when held down. 1825– in Jamieson, etc.

β. a 1300 *Havelok* 475 Þer was sorwe, wo so it sawe! Hwan þe children bi þe wawe Leyen and sprauleden in þe blod. 1388 Wyclif 2 *Sam.* xviii. 14 Whanne he spraulide, yit cleuynge in the ook. — *Tobit* vi. 4 It [the fish] bigan to spraule bifor hise feet. *c* 1400 *Laud Troy Bk.* 16964 He ..sclow hem doun as he were wood; Thei lay & sprauled in her blood. 1530 Palsgr. 729 And you spraule on this facion you shall have the lesse favoure. 1542 Boorde *Dyetary* xxviii. (1870) 292 And let euery man beware..to spraule with the legges out of the bed. 1602 Marston *Ant. & Mel.* I. Wks. 1856 I. 16 Senseless he sprauld, all notcht with gaping wounds. 1623 Markham *Cheap Husb.* (ed. 3) I. ii. 20 If he spraule or paw forth with his feet, you shall..giue him.. a good ierke or two. 1663 Butler *Hud.* I. iii. 731 Some lye sprauling on the ground With many a gash and bloudy wound.

γ. c 1340 Hampole *Pr. Consc.* 475 For þan may he noght stande ne crepe Bot ligge and sprawel, and cry and wepe. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 470 Sprawlyn, *palpito*. 1581 A. Hall *Iliad* III. 54 Then with his knife the two yong lambs he slue, And weakly sprawling in their blood, on ground from him he threw. 1609 C. Butler *Fem. Mon.* (1634) 98 The better part of these brave Soldiers..lay, some dead, some half-dead, sprawling on the ground. 1687 A. Lovell tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* I. 164, I saw one once give a great Dog such a blow with his foot, as left him sprawling with his four legs up in the Air. 1717 Prior *Alma* I. 275 Before the child can crawl, He learns to kick, and wince, and sprawl. 1753 Miss Collier *Art Torment.* I. iii. (1811) 79 If they..afterwards should choose to cool their limbs by sprawling about on the wet grass after the dew is fallen. 1824 W. Irving *T. Trav.* I. 312, I rode over him one day as he and his horse lay sprawling in the dirt. 1870 Rock *Text. Fabr.* Introd. p. cxxi, Rich barons and titled courtiers would sprawl amid the straw and rushes.

δ. '1530 Palsgr. 729, I spralle, as a yonge thing doth, that can nat well styrre, *je crosle*. *a* 1535 Fisher *Serm.* Wks. (1876) 421 The burninge wormes and serpents shal spraile aboue thee. 1567 Drant *Horace, Ep.* xix. F vij, They.. practysde it full well, All night to sprall and stryue with wyne. 1614 Gorges *Lucan* III. 105 The bruised corpes to death doth sprall, And mingles bloud and ioynts withall.

1675 Hobbes *Odyss.* (1677) 232 A fawn, that sprall'd and labour'd to get free.

b. To crawl from one place to another in a struggling or ungraceful manner. Also *fig.*, to proceed, issue.

1582 Stanyhurst *Æneis* II. (Arb.) 47 That this new practise from my old foes treacherye sprauleth. 1663 Heath *Flagellum* To Rdr., All the different Sects and Schisms which He kept in perpetual separation..now run into a coalition; and like divided parcels of dying vipers, spraul towards a union with this their Head. 1692 Bentley *Boyle Lect.* iii. 27 Who were there then in the world, to observe the Births of those First Men,..as they sprawl'd out of Ditches? 1851 Thackeray *Eng. Hum.* v. (1853) 240 The sturdy little painter is seen sprawling over a plank to a boat.

c. With complement: *To sprawl one's last*, to make a last convulsive struggle in death.

1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* III. VII. v, Sansculottism, once more flung resupine, lies sprawling; sprawling its last. 1863 *Reader* 7 Nov. 538 One of them..is sprawling his last as a Japanese..seems able to sprawl it.

2. Of things: To spread out, extend, climb, etc., in a straggling fashion.

1745 H. Walpole *Lett.* (1846) II. 55 Those hands that are always groping, and sprawling, and fluttering. 1815 Scott *Guy M.* ii, His long mis-shapen legs sprawling abroad. 1885 *Manch. Exam.* 17 Jan. 5/4 A great, awkward..goods train lies sprawling across the main artery of traffic. 1890 H. Frederic *Lawton Girl* 31 A broad rickety veranda sprawling its whole width. 1892 Quiller-Couch *Warwickshire Avon* 26 The jasmine and the ivy sprawl up its sad-colored walls.

b. In specific uses (see quots.).

1802 James *Milit. Dict.*, *To sprawl*, to widen out in an irregular and unsoldier-like manner.—This term is chiefly applicable to the cavalry. 1875 *Chambers's Jrnl.* 80 Sportsmen who hope for success must beware of letting their shot sprawl.

c. Of handwriting or written matter.

1840 Thackeray *Shabby-genteel Story* ii, Is it not a sweet name? It sprawls over half the paper. 1858 R. S. Surtees *Ask Mamma* lxvii. 302 The description then sprawled over four sides of letter paper. 1883 F. M. Peard *Contrad.* I. 33 The handwriting, as he noted, was large and rather inclined to sprawl.

3. *trans.* To spread or stretch out (something) in a wide or straggling manner. Usu. with *out*.

1541 Paynell *Catiline* xli. 61r This myschiefe is sprawled abrode further than you thynke; For it hath not onely ouerflowen Italy, but is also runne ouer the mountayns Alpes. 1768–74 Tucker *Lt. Nat.* (1834) I. 438 Though I can sprawl out legs too, I feel neither ground to tread on, nor water to push against. 1815 Scott *Guy M.* xx, Sprawling out his leg, and bending his back like an automaton. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* II. I. xii, Speechless nurselings..sprawl out numb-plump little limbs. 1878 *Fraser's Mag.* XVIII. 385 Is our exuberance of military power so great that we can afford to sprawl our military stations all over the Mediterranean?

Hence **Sprawled** *ppl. a.*

1884 Stevenson *Lett.* (1899) I. 314 The blind man in these sprawled lines sends greeting.

Sprawler (sprǭ·ləɹ). [f. prec.] One who or that which sprawls. Also *spec.* as a moth-name.

1832 J. Rennie *Consp. Butterfl. & Moths* 35 The Sprawler (*Petasia Cassinea*..) appears in October. 1839 Dickens *Nickleby* xxiii, Isn't it enough to make a man crusty to see that little sprawler put up in the best business every night. 1880 *New Virgin.* II. 105 Half-a-dozen black little shiny sprawlers.

Sprawling (sprǭ·liŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. as prec.] The action of the verb in various senses.

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 408 Þenne mourkne in þe mudde most ful nede Alle þat spyrakle in spranc, no sprawlyng awayled. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 470 Sprawlynge, *palpitacio*. 1556 Phaer *Æneid* IV. L iij b, The blade in fomy blood, and hands abrode in sprauling thrown. *c* 1616 Chapman *Batrachom.* 138 Who amids the Fenn Swumme with his brest vp; hands held vp in vaine,..And often with his sprawlings, came aloft. 1822 *Monthly Mag.* LIII. 335 The fairest blossoms of Persian or Arabian poetry..degenerate into extravagant sprawlings.

Sprawling, *ppl. a.* [f. as prec.] That sprawls, in senses of the verb: **a.** Of animals or persons, their actions, etc.

1550 J. Coke *Eng. & Fr. Heralds* § 29 The vyle blacke poysoned spralyng todes. 1577 Stanyhurst *Descr. Irel.* ii. 9/1 If you put the heire of an horse taile in mire..for a certaine space, it will turne to a little thin spraulyng worme. 1598 Marston *Sco. Villanie* III. xi. 225 The whirle on toe, The turne about ground, Robrus spraulyng kicks. 1693 Creech in *Dryden's Juv.* (1697) 333 The Cranes descend, and bear The sprawling Warriors through the liquid Air. 1740 Somerville *Hobbinol.* I. 318 Whirl'd aloft High o'er his Head the sprawling Youth he flung. 1791 Nairne *Poems* 80 Both hands were necessary now, To drag it off to make a sprawling bow. 1802 James *Milit. Dict.* s.v., *A sprawling charge*, a loose and irregular movement of cavalry, instead of a close, compact, forward attack. 1848 Mrs. Jamieson *Sacr. & Leg. Art* (1850) 50 Of the sprawling, fluttering, half naked angels..what shall be said? 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VII. 363 Its gait is of a peculiar sprawling character. *transf.* 1623 Middleton *More Dissemblers* IV. ii, A pretty, womanish, faint, sprawling voice.

b. Of things.

a 1770 C. Smart *Hop Garden* II. 98 Oft I've seen..the mad pickers, tam'd to diligence, Cull from the bin the sprawling sprigs, and leaves That stain the sample. 1844 Dickens *Mart. Chuz.* xxxix, A great black sprawling splash upon the floor. 1884 *Sat. Rev.* 5 July 12/2 The huge sprawling Archdeaconry of Richmond. 1885 Runciman *Skippers & Sh.* 268 Others strolled down the broad sprawling street of the village.

c. Of handwriting.

1826 Disraeli *V. Grey* I. ii, Travelling cases, directed in

a boy's sprawling hand. 1852 Mrs. Stowe *Uncle Tom's C.* xxviii, He..signed his name to it in sprawling capitals. 1907 H. Wyndham *Flare of Footlights* xv, The writing seemed vaguely familiar, but for the moment he could not identify the sprawling feminine hand.

Sprawly (sprɔ̄·li), *a.* [f. as prec.] Of a sprawling character; straggly. Also *Comb.*

1798 Jane Austen *Lett.* (1884) I. 160 Why is my alphabet so much more sprawly than yours? 1897 Blackmore *Dariel* xlix, I fell in with the rear of that sprawly-jointed troop. 1905 *Longman's Mag.* Mar. 443 A sprawly, squirmy, noisy kitten.

†**Sprawne,** obs. variant of Prawn *sb.*

1688 Holme *Armoury* II. 338/1 A Prawne..is vulgarly called a Sprawne.

Spray (sprē), *sb.*[1] Also 4–7 **spraye**, 4–6 **sprai**, 7 **sprey** (8 **spry**). [Of obscure origin. Connexion with Sprag *sb.*[1] is uncertain.]

1. *collect.* Small or slender twigs of trees or shrubs, either as still growing or as cut off and used for fuel, etc.; fine brushwood.

1297 R. Glouc. (Rolls) 11522 Gret fur he made þer aniȝt of wode & of sprai. *a* 1310 in Wright *Lyric P.* vi. 27 Bytuene Mershe ant Averil when spray biginneth to springe. 1615 W. Lawson *Country Housew. Gard.* (1626) 31 If these two kindes thriue, they reforme but a spray, and an vnder-growth. 1652 Wadsworth tr. *Sandoval's Civ. Wars Spain* 351 His souldiers..fetched a great quantitie of sprey, or bavins,..and set fire to them. 1707 *Clergyman's Vade-M.* (1709) 214 With old Stocks, or Trees of above 20 Years old, but some Spry or small Underwood. 1778 [W. H. Marshall] *Minutes Agric.* 7 Apr. 1775, As much prime wood as would, with a little spray, have made three bakers bavins. 1842 Loudon *Suburban Hort.* 631 Pea sticks, which are branches of trees or shrubs well furnished with spray. 1852 Morfit *Tanning & Currying* (1853) 96 Majestic trees ..with spreading tortuous branches and spray. 1887 T. Hardy *Woodlanders* I. vii. 134 All he had required had been a few bundles of spray for his man Robert.

b. With *the* (or *that*).

The sense in the first quot. is somewhat doubtful.

a 1300 *Floris & Bl.* 275 Ho so wonede a moneþ in þat spray, Nolde him neure longen away. *c* 1425 *Thomas of Erceld.* 86 He knelyde downe appone his knee, Vndir-nethe þat grenwode spraye. 1513 Douglas *Æneid* XII. Prol. 90 The spray bysprent with spryngand sproutis dispers. 1577 B. Googe *Heresbach's Husb.* II. (1586) 62 b, All the spraye that springeth aboue the flowre, is commonly cut off. 1707 Mortimer *Husb.* (1721) II. 22 Being gathered Green..and the Spray stripped off in August. 1791 W. Gilpin *Forest Scenery* I. 106 The mode of growth in the spray, corresponds exactly with that of the larger branches, of which indeed the spray is the origin. 1823 Southey in *Q. Rev.* XXX. 3 The tree sheds its leaves not singly, but with the spray from which they spring. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 141/1 The branches are used as fuel..; the spray for thatching.

fig. a 1677 Harrington *Grounds & Reas. Mon.* Wks. (1700) 32 Certainly these People were strangely blind..to admit the spray of such a stock.

†**c.** In the poetic phrase *on* or *upon* (*the*) *spray.*

1375 Barbour *Bruce* XVI. 64 This wes in the moneth of May, Quhen byrdis syngis on the spray. *c* 1386 Chaucer *Sir Thopas* 59 The wodedowue vp on the spray She sang ful loude & clere. 1508 Dunbar *Gold. Targe* 51 A saill, als quhite as blossum vpon spray. 1523 Skelton *Garl. Laurel* 1412 How her ble was bryght as blossom on the spray.

2. A slender shoot or twig.

1387 Trevisa *Higden* (Rolls) IV. 157 Þere herdes fond hym among mory flagges and sprayes, and sente hym to Silla. 1398 — *Barth. De P. R.* XVII. viii. (Tollem. MS.), The beste [Amomum] is þat, þat is..sprad up on reed sprayes. 1503 Hawes *Examp. Virt.* xii. 236 Where byrdes sate on many a spray. 1567 Fenton *Trag. Disc.* v. (1898) I. 201 The pleasant apple, mustering..upon the heyght of the highest spraise. 1578 Lyte *Dodoens* VI. lxxxviii. 771 The branches be harde, and parted into other spraies. 1607 Walkington *Opt. Glass* 115 Like spraies and branches from the stemme of a tree. 1630 Drayton *Muses Eliz.* Nymphal iv. 111 Amongst the liuely Birds melodious Layes, As they recording sit vpon the Sprayes. 1704 Pope *Pastorals, Winter* 56 No more the birds shall..hearken from the sprays. 1785 G. Forster tr. *Sparrman's Voy. Cape G. Hope* (1786) I. 196 The frame of this arched roof..is composed of slender rods or sprays of trees. 1833 Ht. Martineau *Brooke Farm* xii. 135 A few ears dangling from the sprays for gleaners. 1854 S. Dobell *Balder* i. Poet. Wks. 1875 II. 12 Little window in the wall Eye-lashed with balmy sprays of honeysuckle.

fig. c 1400 *Pilgr. Sowle* (Caxton, 1483) v. ix. 100 A blessid floure out of this spray shall sprynge. 1563 *Mirr. Mag., Hastings* ix, None aryse To former type, but they catch vertues spraye, Which mounteth then that clyme by lawfull waye. 1593 Shaks. 3 *Hen. VI*, II. vi. 50 Who..set his murth'ring knife vnto the Roote, From whence that tender spray did sweetly spring, I meane our Princely Father. 1599 — *Hen. V*, III. v. 5 Shall a few Sprayes of vs..Spirt vp so suddenly into the Clouds, And ouer looke their Grafters? 1781 Cowper *Charity* 629 Thus have I sought to grace a serious lay With many a wild, indeed, but flow'ry spray. 1873 Earle *Philol. Eng. Tongue* (ed. 2) § 593 The sprays of language are those phrasal forms which are produced by the combination of symbolic words.

b. *pl.* Hazel, birch, or other twigs used in thatching.

1520 *Churchw. Acc. St. Giles, Reading* (ed. Nash) 11 For Sprayes & thatchyng of the ij° tents at the gravell pytt, ij^{s} xj^{d}. 1677 Plot *Oxfordsh.* 64 In some places Wood is so scarce, that they cannot get spraies to fasten on Thatch. 1733 W. Ellis *Chiltern & Vale Farm.* 162 Great Plantations of Hazel, that..are also of vast Service to the Thatcher, by its Stretchers, Sprays, and Withs. 1854– in midland dialect use.

c. A graceful shoot or twig of some flowering or fine-foliaged plant or tree, used for decoration or ornament; an artificial imitation of this.

1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib., Brit.* II. No. 4848, Manufactured sprays, birds, leaves, seeds, and other artificial florists' materials. 1873 'Ouida' *Pascarel* I. 64 He would never meet me without some spray of roses, or some boughs of lemon. 1885 'Mrs. Alexander' *At Bay* v, Her first ball-dress, a delicious combination of white silk *tulle* and lace, with sprays of wild roses.

3. A metal casting resembling a set of twigs.

1831 J. Holland *Manuf. Metal* I. 270 When the whole has become sufficiently cooled, the boxes are opened, the spray, as the cluster of castings is called, taken out. 1843 Holtzapffel *Turning* I. 332 The whole mass when poured has been compared to a great fern leaf with its leaflets, and is usually called a spray. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* IV. 263/1 The pattern-maker connects a number of them in a 'spray', *i. e.*, a central stem, with branches springing out on either side.

4. *attrib.*, as *spray-bavin, -drain, -faggot*, etc.

1778 [W. H. Marshall] *Minutes Agric.* 31 Dec. 1774, *Spray bavins..10s. a hundred. 1850 Ogilvie, *Spray drain*,..a drain formed by burying the spray of trees in the earth, which serves to keep open a channel. 1687 Miège *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II, *Spray Fagots, *fagots de menu bois.* 1764 *Museum Rust.* II. 382 The small twigs, cut from the ends of spray faggots. 1793 Young *View Agric. Sussex* 33 The spray-faggot of all his extensive woods being cut down as fuel for his kilns. 1808 W. T. Greene *Cage-Birds* 59 White and *spray millet is the correct food for them [the chestnut-eared finches]. 1844 Alb. Smith *Adv. Mr. Ledbury* (1856) I. xix. 147 He carried a long staff,..pulled from some *spray-pile. *a* 1728 Woodward *Fossils* II. 110 A Piece of *Spray Wood. *c* 1730 Haynes *Voc.* in *N. & Q.* (1883) VIII. 45/1 Spray wood, brush wood. 1802 *Trans. Soc. Arts* XX. 170 Cut all the spray wood, and make the tree a perfect skeleton, leaving all the healthy limbs.

Spray (sprē), *sb.*[2] Also 7–8 **spry**(e. [app. related to the forms cited under Spray *v.*[2] Cf. also Sprew [1.]

1. Water blown from, or thrown up by, the waves of the sea in the form of a fine shower or mist.

a. 1621 G. Sandys *Ovid's Met.* II. (1626) 228 Now tossing Seas appeare to front the sky, And wrap their curles in clouds, frotht with their spry. 1719 De Foe *Crusoe* I. (Globe) 42 We were immediately driven into our close Quarters to shelter us from the very Foam and Sprye of the Sea. 1750 G. Hughes *Barbados* 178 These trees..are chiefly planted near the sea-side to shelter the neighbouring fields .. from being blasted by the salt spry of the sea. 1755 Johnson, *Spray*...2. The foam of the sea, commonly written *spry*. 1818 Keats *Endym.* IV. 157 The salt sea-spry.

fig. 1751 Smollett *Per. Pic.* lxxiii, Swab the spry from your bowsprit, my good lad.

β. 1726 Bailey (ed. 3), *Spray* (of the Sea), a sort of watery Mist like a small Rain, occasioned by the dashing of the Waves, which flies some Distance, and wets like a small Shower. 1789 Trotter *Dis. Seamen* 54 The gratings are also half covered when it blows hard, to keep out the salt spray or rain. 1813 Sir H. Davy *Agric. Chem.* (1814) 339 In great storms the spray of the sea has been carried more than 50 miles from the shore. 1887 Fenn *Master of Ceremonies* i, There had been no windy nights when the spray was torn from the tops of waves to fly in showers over the houses.

b. Water or other liquid dispersed by impact or other means in fine mist-like particles.

1750 G. Hughes *Barbados* 124 A large fire..to burn the bark and dry up the Spry and juices that fly from them in cutting. 1824 Byron *Juan* XVI. ix, Like a soda bottle when its spray Has sparkled. 1837 W. Irving *Capt. Bonneville* II. 131 Torrents came tumbling from crag to crag, dashing into foam and spray. 1852 Mrs. Stowe *Uncle Tom's C.* xxviii, He almost fancied that that bright face and golden hair were looking upon him, out of the spray of the fountain. 1877 Miss A. B. Edwards *Up Nile* ix. 251 Still the boats chase each other along the dark river, scattering spray from their bows.

c. In fig. uses.

1796 [see Spouter 3 a]. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* I. IV. iv, One vast suspended-billow of Life,—with spray scattered even to the chimney-tops! 1889 *Spectator* 9 Nov. 630/1 It may even be that..the vanquishers..are sending out a thick spray of roving robbers westward.

2. *Med.* A jet of medicated vapour or the like, used esp. as a disinfectant or a deodorizer.

1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2288/2 *Spray*,..the vapor from an atomizer. 1880 W. MacCormac *Antisept. Surg.* 155 It may prove useful for dressing, and where a steam spray is not available. 1896 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* I. 305 The free application of antiseptic sprays for purifying the atmosphere of sick chambers.

b. An instrument used for applying such a jet.

1881 Richardson in *Good Wds.* XXII. 52 Any servant can at any time use the spray. 1895 *Arnold & Sons' Catal. Surg. Instrum.* 161 Cocaine Spray, complete.

3. a. *attrib.* (in sense 1), as *spray-drop, -pearl, -rainbow, -smoke.*

1826 Mrs. Hemans *Forest Sanct.* I. lxv, Like spray-drops from the strife of torrents flung. 1860 Neale in *St. Margaret's Mag.* (1895) Jan. 247 The spray-rainbow sometimes arching above my head. 1864 Lowell *Fireside Trav.* 286 The white spray smoke of Tivoli that drove down the valley. 1883 A. I. Menken *Infelicia* 32 To lay my crown of spray-pearls at his feet.

b. *Comb.*, as *spray-decked, -spangled, -topped, -wet* adjs.; *spray-like* adj. and adv.

1832 Motherwell *Poems, Witches' Joys* iv, Every labouring wave..Gives them a ghastly lover To wring their white hands over, And tear their spray-wet hair In the madness of despair. 1839 Bailey *Festus* 158 The falling of a fountain's spray-topt stream. 1843 Ruskin *Mod. Paint.* I. II. III. iv. § 6 The legitimate rain-cloud, with its ragged spray-like edges. 1849 Lever *H. Templeton* XX, His fair brown hair spray-washed and floating back with the breeze. 1859 K. Cornwallis *New World* I. 7 The spray-decked waters of the Sound. 1861 E. T. Holland in *Peaks, Passes, & Glac.* Ser. II. I. 21 The one [stream] was broken and feathered in many a spray-spangled fountain.

c. *attrib.* in terms relating to artificial spraying or production of spray, as *spray apparatus, inhalation, instrument, pipe, process*, etc.

1867–72 Burgh *Mod. Marine Engin.* 272/2 The spray pipes, in connection with the injection valves, are secured beyond them, within the condenser. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2288/2 *Spray-instrument*,..one for the administration of an anæsthetic or refrigerant in a finely divided liquid form. 1879 *St. George's Hosp. Rep.* IX. 600 She was ordered spray inhalation of lactic acid..every two hours. 1880 Miss Bird *Japan* I. 303 The odour of carbolic acid pervaded the whole hospital, and there were spray producers enough to satisfy Mr. Lister! 1881 Richardson in *Gd. Words* XXII. 52 For practical purposes..I think the simple spray process is the best. 1896 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* I. 305 The method is the same, whether air be used, as in the well-known hand-ball spray apparatus, or steam.

†**Spray,** *sb.*[3] *Obs. rare.* [Of obscure origin: cf. Spraich *sb.*] Outcry.

13.. *K. Alis.* 2801 (Laud MS.), Spray, and grade, and dismayeyng; Wymmen shrikyng, gyrles gradyng. *Ibid.* 7882 Michel spray, mychel gradyng, Michel weep, mychel waylyng.

†**Spray,** *sb.*[4] *Obs.* Also **sprey.** [var. of Spree *sb.*] A spree or drinking-bout; frolic.

1813 *Ann. Reg., Chron.* 59/2 He said he had had a fine sprey, and was burnt to death in the inside. 1819 Scott *Leg. Montrose* Introd., The Sergeant was apt to tarry longer at the Wallace Arms..than was consistent with strict temperance...After such sprays, as he called them, were over [etc.]. 1826 J. Wilson *Noct. Ambr.* Wks. 1855 I. 206 A feather that's got rumpled by sport and spray.

†**Spray,** *v.*[1] *Obs.* Also 5 **spra.** [? Related to Spray *sb.*[1]] *intr.* To spring, take rise.

c 1425 *Thomas of Erceld.* 335 And mekill bale sall after spraye, Whare joye & blysse was wonte to bee. *c* 1460 *Towneley Myst.* xiv. 449 In bedlem, land of Iuda,..Out of it a duke shall spra. *Ibid.* xvi. 219 Of bedlem a gracyus lord shall spray.

†**Spray,** *v.*[2] *Obs.*[–1] [ad. MDu. *sprayen, spraeyen,* = MHG. *sprœjen, spreien*, in the same sense.] *trans.* To sprinkle.

1527 Andrew *Brunswyke's Distyll. Waters* Liv b, Flesshe or other thynges sprayed with the same water abydeth longe tyme good.

Spray, *v.*[3] *rare.* [f. Spray *sb.*[1]]

1. *trans.* To furnish with sprays or twigs.

1572 Bossewell *Armorie* II. 88 b, And the hande highte *Palma*, when the fingers benne streithte foorthe, as it were boughes, or braunches sprayed.

2. *intr.* To grow *out* into sprays or twigs; to ramify.

1872 C. King *Sierra Nevada* ii. 41 Huge branches which quickly turn down, and spray out. 1891 J. Winsor *Columbus* vi. 131 It became clear that the currents of the Atlantic ..sprayed in a circling fringe in the North Atlantic.

Spray (sprē), *v.*[4] [f. Spray *sb.*[2]]

1. *trans.* To diffuse or send in the form of spray; to scatter in minute drops.

1829 Carlyle *Misc.* (1857) II. 91 A strong beam of light ..sprayed itself into innumerable sparks. 1852 M. Arnold *'Ye Storm-winds'* etc., 49 Where the nich'd snow-bed sprays down Its powdery fall. 1881 *Gd. Words* XXII. 51 The solution may be..sprayed freely into the safe. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* IV. 685 A 5 per cent. solution of menthol should be sprayed up the nostril.

2. To sprinkle with or as with spray; to wet with fine particles of water or other liquid, esp. by means of a special instrument or apparatus.

1861 Ld. Lytton & Fane *Tannhäuser* 57 While from beneath The creeping billow of calamity Sprays all his hair with cold. 1884 E. P. Roe *Nat. Ser. Story* ix, The foliage was..sprayed by a garden syringe. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* IV. 678 An excellent plan of treatment is..to spray the nose with one of the liquid paraffins.

3. *absol.* To scatter or throw up spray.

1891 *Cent. Dict.* s.v., The instrument will either spout or spray. 1906 *Blackw. Mag.* Nov. 664/1 Below, the Porto, a fine trouting stream,..foams and sprays and chafes.

4. *intr.* To issue or rise as spray.

1895 *Funk's Stand. Dict.* s.v., He caused the perfume to spray.

Hence **Sprayed** *ppl. a.*[1]

1892 *Pall Mall G.* 3 May 6/3 The argument that there is not the slightest danger of poisoning in using sprayed apples.

Sprayed, *ppl. a.*[2] [f. *spray* (also *spry, spreathe*, etc.), of obscure origin, common in south-western dialects, chiefly in the pa. pple.] Roughened or made sore by exposure to cold.

1869 Blackmore *Lorna D.* xxxi, It was much worse than Jamaica ginger grated into a poor sprayed finger. 1911 *Kingsbridge Gaz.* 26 May 3/2 For chapped and sprayed hands caused by wind and cold.

Sprayer (sprē·ər). [f. Spray *v.*[4]] One who or that which sprays; *esp.* a machine for diffusing insecticides over plants and trees.

1891 in *Cent. Dict.* 1894 *Times* 19 Nov. 4/4 The machine used was Strawson's standard sprayer. 1900 *Trans. Highl. & Agric. Soc.* 302 The sprayer [of trees], therefore, should not be smoking.

Sprayey (sprē·i), *a.*[1] [f. Spray *sb.*[1]] Having sprays or small twigs; spray-like.

1849 Lever *H. Templeton* xii, The candles were..glittering like stars through the sprayey branches [of the larch-tree]. 1859 — *Dav. Dunn* lviii, Ferns..mingled their sprayey leaves with the wild myrtle. 1882 *Garden* 14 Jan. 25/2 Soft packing..may consist of soft sprayey faggots.

Sprayey (sprē·i), *a.*[2] [f. Spray *sb.*[2]] Casting or carrying spray; of the nature of spray.

1831 *Blackw. Mag.* XXX. 111 The dark-watered fountain shedding its gloomy, or rapid, or sprayey stream, down the cheek of a lofty rock. 1854 G. GREENWOOD *Haps & Mishaps* 69 The roll of heavy seas, the rush of sprayey winds. 1892 MISS BROUGHTON *Mrs. Bligh* viii, A..dark rain-cloud sails up and shakes out three sprayey drops from its skirts upon them.

Spray'ing, *vbl. sb.* [f. SPRAY *v.*4] The action of dispersing as, or sprinkling with, spray; *concr.* a liquid used as a spray.

1891 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* 853 Paris green, used as a spraying for destruction of orchard caterpillars. 1894 *Board of Agric. Circular* No. 10. 3 The solution was made to penetrate the soil by frequent sprayings. 1896 E. G. LODEMAN (*title*), The Spraying of Plants..for..destroying Insects.

attrib. 1884 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* Suppl. 846/2 *Spraying Machine*, a machine..to irrigate growing cotton plants with wet poison to destroy the cotton caterpillar.

Spray'ing, *ppl. a.* [f. as prec.] Casting up or scattering spray.

1877 TALMAGE *Serm.* 49 With rolling rivers..and spraying fountains. 1879 H. DRUMMOND in G. A. Smith *Life* (1899) 161 Green, foaming, spraying, roaring river.

Spray'less, *a.* [f. SPRAY *sb.*2] Having no spray.

1872 *Daily News* 21 Aug., The waves lie in great, green, heavy, almost sprayless masses.

Spread (spred), *sb.* Also 5 **spredd.** [f. the verb. Cf. LG. *spredde, spreide*, G. *spreite.*]

I. †**1.** *A bitter spread*, a hard experience. *Obs.*

c 1440 *Bone Florence* 1843 The maryner set hur on hys bedd, Sche hadd soone aftur a byttur spredd.

2. The act of spreading in space; degree or extent of this.

1626 BACON *Sylva* § 676 No Flower hath that kinde of Spread that the Woodbine hath. 1733 W. ELLIS *Chiltern & Vale Farm.* 129 Many and long Roots, which by their circular spread..are more than ordinarily capacitated to receive the fertile Benefits of the..Dung and Stale. 1784 COWPER *Task* VI. 145 These naked shoots.., more aspiring, and with ampler spread, Shall boast new charms. 1821 JOANNA BAILLIE *Metr. Leg., Wallace* XXXII, Broad grew his breast with ampler spread. 1858 W. ECCLES *Guide Blenheim Palace* (ed. 7) 13 Beeches, which have now attained a growth of such luxuriance and spread of branches. 1865 CAMERON *Malayan India* 171 The trees being of one age are of a uniform height, thickness of trunk, and spread of top.

b. With *the*: The extent, expanse, or superficial area *of* something.

1691 T. H[ALE] *Acc. New Invent.* 125 Determine the number of Men for sailing from the Spread of Canvas. *Ibid.* 127 Equations between the spread of Sails, and the Velocity of the Wind. *a* 1701 MAUNDRELL *Journ. Jerus.* (1749) 142, I measured one of the largest [trees], and found it..thirty seven yards in the spread of its boughs. 1733 W. ELLIS *Chiltern & Vale Farm.* 119 Raise a Border six or twelve Inches high, according to the spread thereof. 1840 DANA *Bef. Mast* XXIII, He knew..the spread of every sail..in feet and inches. 1856 OLMSTED *Slave States* 321, I found that the spread of its branches covered a circle of the diameter of forty-two paces. 1883 STEVENSON *Silverado Sq.* 254 Under the immense spread of the starry heavens.

c. Capacity for spreading or extending; tendency to spread or go apart.

1772 C. HUTTON *Bridges* 58 The..thickness of a pier.. shall just balance the spread or shoot of the arch. 1885 C. T. DAVIS *Manuf. Leather* 558 Skins dressed by this process,..it is claimed, are made soft, pliable, and with elasticity or spread.

d. The point at which something spreads.

1896 *Westm. Gaz.* 25 July 3/1 A beautiful old orchard is full [of mud] to the spread of the trees' branches.

3. With *a*: An expanse or stretch *of* something. Also, a spread-out layer or stream (quot. 1747).

1712 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 549 ₱ 3, I have got a fine Spread of improveable Lands. 1746 HERVEY *Medit.* (1818) 99 Nearer the houses we perceive an ample spread of branches. 1747 *Gentl. Mag.* 311 Which made the corn run in a thin even spread under it. 1824 *Examiner* 71/2 A dark spread of calm water. 1840 BARRET *Water Colour Paint.* 104 The sky at this time of the afternoon frequently exhibits a tender spread of yellow. 1880 BLACKMORE *Mary Anerley* II. 63 He struck into the gill from a trackless spread of moor.

b. *Naut.* A display *of* sails.

1849 CUPPLES *Green Hand* vii. (1856) 64 The whole spread of her mizen and main canvass shining like gold cloth against the fore. 1889 WELCH *Text Bk. Naval Archit.* ii. 40 A mastless ship requires less stability than one carrying a large spread of canvas.

4. The fact of being spread abroad, diffused, or made known; diffusion, dispersion: **a.** With *a.*

1675 R. BURTHOGGE *Causa Dei* 389 Of so large a spread then was the knowledge of God. 1732 NEAL *Hist. Purit.* (1822) I. 18 The translation of the New Testament by Tyndal..had a wonderful spread among the people. 1760-2 GOLDSM. *Cit. W.* lxiii, The period of renewed barbarity began to have an universal spread much about the same time. 1805 SOUTHEY in C. C. Southey *Life* (1850) II. 324 It would yield either to a general spread of knowledge, or to the unrestrained attacks of infidelity.

b. With *the* and *of.* (The common use.)

1750 ABP. HERRING in J. Duncombe *Lett.* (1773) II. 171, I cannot account for the large spread of the story. 1785 COWPER *Let. J. Newton* 24 Sept., While the spread of the gospel continues so limited as it is. — *Let. W. Bagot* 9 Nov., [The Bishop's charge] deserves the most extensive spread. 1855 PRESCOTT *Philip II*, bk. iii. I. 321 It may seem strange that the spread of the reformed religion should so long have escaped..the Holy Office. 1891 *Speaker* 2 May 534/1 The growth of education and the spread of scientific training.

c. Without article.

1864 E. A. PARKES *Pract. Hygiene* ii. xvii. 429 The conditions of spread of [yellow fever in a ship] are probably as favourable as in the most crowded city. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* II. 89 The disease disregards anatomical boundaries,.. the direction of spread being determined .. by contiguity.

II. †**5.** ? A long oar or sweep. *Obs.*—1

1698 FRYER *Acc. E. India & P.* 26 These Boats are as large as one of our Ware-Barges,..but padling with Paddles instead of Spreads, and carry a great Burthen with little trouble.

6. *slang.* Butter.

1812 J. H. VAUX *Flash Dict., Spread*, butter. 1865 *Slang Dict., Spread*, butter, a term with workmen and schoolboys.

7. *colloq.* A banquet, feast, meal.

Common from about 1825.

1822 *Gentl. Mag.* XCII. i. 31 Spreads on the grass for the better sort of people. 1844 J. T. J. HEWLETT *Parsons & W.* vi, I gave very correct feeds—spreads we used to call them. 1893 VIZETELLY *Glances Back* I. xv. 300 He..was a constant attendant at these little spreads.

8. a. A bed-cover, coverlet. Orig. *U.S.*

Prob. after Du. *sprei* (†*sprey, spree*) or G. *spreite* (dial. *spreit, spreet*, LG. *spreed*). Kilian gives *spreeder* and *bedspreeder* as current in Du. and Fris. of his time. The comb. *bed-spread*, given as local U.S. by Bartlett (1848), is now also common in English use.

1852 MRS. STOWE *Uncle Tom's C.* xx, [She would] flourish the sheets and spreads all over the apartment. 1888 *Pall Mall. G.* 1 Nov. 3/2 Each bed .. was provided with a feather tick; but the night being warm these spreads were thrown off.

b. A shawl (*Slang Dict.* 1859).

Spread (spred), *v.* Forms: *Inf.* **a.** 3 **sprede,** 3–6 (9 *dial.*) **sprede** (3–4 **-en,** 5 **-yn**); 5 **spreede,** 7, 9 *dial.* **spread**; 5 **spreyde,** 6 *Sc.*, 9 *dial.* **spreid**; 6 **spreade,** 6– **spread** (9 *dial.* **spreead**). **β.** 4 **spredd,** 4, 6 **spredde** (6 *arch.* **-en**), 4, 6–7 **spred.** **γ.** 4 **sprad,** 6 *Sc.* **spraid,** 9 *dial.* **sprade.** *3rd sing. pres.* 2–4 **spret** (2, 4 **sprat**). *Pa. t.* **a.** 3–5 **spradde,** 4–5 (9 *dial.*) **sprad**; 4, 6 (9 *dial.*) **sprade.** **β.** 3–6 **spredde,** 4 **spredd,** 4–7 (9 *dial.*) **spred,** 7– **spread.** **γ.** 7 **spreded,** 9 *dial.* **spreeded,** *Sc.* **spreidit.** *Pa. pple.* **a.** 2–4 **i-sprad,** 3–4 **y-sprad** (4 **-spradde**), 6 **i-sprode**; 3–6 (9 *dial.* and *arch.*) **sprad** (5 **spradde**). **β.** 2–4 **i-spred** (4 **hi-**), 4 **y-spred,** 5 **e-spred**; 3–4 **spredd,** 3–7 (9 *dial.*) **spred** (4 **sprid**), 4–7 **spredde**; 5 *Sc.* **spreid,** 6 (9 *dial.*) **spreed,** 7 **sprede**; 6 **spreade** (*Sc.* **spraid**), 7– **spread.** **γ.** 5 **spraden,** 9 **spreaden, spredden** (*dial.* **spreeden,** etc.). **δ.** 6 **spredded,** 8 **spreaded.** [OE. *sprǽdan* (in combs., esp. *tō-sprǽdan*, and *sprǽdung*), = OFris. **sprēda* (WFris. *spriede*, NFris. *spriad, spreer*), MDu. *spre(e)den* (WFlem. *spreeden, spreen*), *spreiden*, (Du. *spreiden, spreien*), MLG. and LG. *sprêden, spreiden* (LG. also *spreen, spreien*), OHG. *spreitan* (MHG. and G. *spreiten*, G. dial. *sprêten*); not native in Scand., Da. *sprede* (†*spree*) and Sw. *sprida* (MSw. *spridha, spredha*) being from LG. The ultimate etymology is uncertain.]

I. *trans.* **1.** To stretch or draw out (a cloth, etc.) so as to display more or less fully; to open out or lay out so as to cover or occupy some space.

c 1200 ORMIN 1015 Witt tu þatt an wæþerifft Wass spredd fra wah to wæȝhe. *c* 1205 LAY. 1215 Seoðden he nam þe hude ..of þare hinde, bi-foren þan wefede he heo spradde. *c* 1338 R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (1810) 117 Almerle his banere sprad, & oþer barons mo. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) III. 61 But þe Romayns wyfes..wente wiþ hir heer i-sprad. *c* 1400 *St. Alexius* (Trin. Coll. Oxf. 57) 460 Pat writ anon he gan sprede, And by-fore hem alle rede. *c* 1450 *Mirk's Festial* 115 Wherfor mony..spradden clopys in þe way. 1533 WRIOTHESLEY *Chron.* (Camden) I. 21 Their was a raye cloath, blew, spreed from the highe desses of the Kinges Benche unto the high alter of Westminster. 1594 KYD *Cornelia* I. 74 The golden Sunne, where ere he driue His glittring Chariot, findes our Ensignes spred. 1615 G. SANDYS *Trav.* 227 These two did spread a Turkie carpet on the rocke, and on that a tablecloth. 1652 NEEDHAM tr. *Selden's Mare Cl.* 97 To have.. Nets spread between stakes driven into the Sea. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* IV. 361 Spiders in the Vault their snary Webs have spred. 1733 W. ELLIS *Chiltern & Vale Farm.* 111 Lay, chamber, and spread their Roots, so that the Fibres might not touch one another. 1823 F. CLISSOLD *Ascent Mt. Blanc* 22 A soft breath of wind spread its folds, and floated it gently in the air. 1848 DICKENS *Dombey* xxvi, The Major..sent the Native—who always rested on a mattress spread upon the ground..—to light him to his room. 1902 R. BAGOT *Donna Diana* xvii. 335 He spread the newspaper on the table before him.

transf. and *fig.* 1370–80 *Visions St. Paul* 242 in *O. E. Misc.*, His owne cha[r]tre hab he rad, þat his synnes were inne isprad. *c* 1440 CAPGRAVE *Life St. Kath.* v. 1824 Spreede me in thi mercy, lete me neuere falle In to myn enemyes handes. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 275 b, Holy charite..dilateth & spredeth the herte of man or woman. 1638 *Penit. Conf.* vii. (1657) 128 All sins are not so necessarily to be spread before the Priest. 1671 MILTON *Samson* 1147 Invocate his aid.., spread before him How highly it concerns his glory now To [etc.]. 1715 POPE *Iliad* I. 65 A sudden night he spread, And gloomy darkness roll'd around his head. 1780 *Mirror* No. 101, The toils which her own imagination, and the art of Marlow, had spread for her. 1802–12 BENTHAM *Ration. Judic. Evid.* (1827) V. 123 It is not for the purpose of advocating, but of reprobating exclusion of testimony, that these remarkable cases are spread upon the carpet. 1873 H. C. BANISTER *Music* 17 The notes..are to be played..in Arpeggio,..or spread obliquely, as it is termed.

b. *spec.* To expand, unfurl, or set (sails).

1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 2828 Hor seiles hii spredeþ in þe se & hider hii comeþ iwis. 1570–6 LAMBARDE *Peramb. Kent* (1826) 111 They shall spread their sailes to go towards those parts that the King intendeth. 1582 N. LICHEFIELD tr. *Castanheda's Conq. E. Ind.* I. xxviii, The whole Fleete hauing wayed, did then begin to cut and spread their sayles. 1611 BIBLE *Isaiah* xxxiii. 23 They could not well strengthen their mast, they could not spread the saile. 1697 DRYDEN *Æneid* VI. 418 He spreads his canvas; with his pole he steers. *a* 1721 PRIOR *Dial. betw. Charles & Clenard* 353 A large Ship going out of Port, Charles, with her Sails all spread. 1781 COWPER *Truth* 5 Man, on the dubious waves of error toss'd,..Spreads all his canvass. 1823 SCOTT *Quentin D.* XXV, Not a French banner has been borne down, not a sail spread from England.

c. Const. *on, over, under, upon.*

1382 WYCLIF 2 *Kings* viii. 15 He toke an couerlyte,..and spradde vpon his face. 1535 COVERDALE *Numb.* iv. 13 They shal..sprede a clothe of scarlet ouer it. *Ibid.* 14 They shal sprede a couerynge of doo skynnes theron. 1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* I. 94 Thair heid thay laid vpon..a groffe seck spred vndir thame. 1611 BIBLE *Job* XXVI. 9 Hee..spreadeth his cloud vpon it. — *Isaiah* XXV. 7 He wil destroy..the vaile that is spread ouer all nations. 1746 FRANCIS tr. *Hor., Sat.* II. iv. 102 What!..on foul couches Tyrian carpets spread? 1761 GRAY *Fatal Sisters* 31 Gondula, and Geira, spread O'er the youthful king your shield. 1820 SCOTT *Monast.* x, I should have spread my mantle over the frailties of my spiritual father. 1837 P. KEITH *Bot. Lex.* 399 Each membrane represents a bag or sac, without any opening, spread upon the organs.

d. To display in wide extension.

1600 FAIRFAX *Tasso* VI. xxii, A goodly plaine displayed wide and broad, Betweene the citie and the campe was sprad. 1764 GOLDSM. *Trav.* 411 Where wild Oswego spreads her swamps around. 1766 — *Vicar* viii, Where wilds, immeasurably spread, Seem lengthening as I go. 1807 J. BARLOW *Columb.* I. 220 He saw, thro' central zones, the winding shore Spread the deep Gulph. 1838 THIRLWALL *Greece* XXXIV. IV. 345 The Euxine spread its waters before their eyes. 1889 S. LANGDON *Appeal to Serpent* i. 12 The magnificent vision which lay spread beneath when the great city came up close to the 'holy mountain' itself.

e. To flatten out; to make of a thin flat form.

Used *spec.* with ref. to diamonds: see quots. 1704–6 and 1850.

1704 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4034/4 A seven Stone Diamond Ring, ..the middle Stone weighing about 5 Grains spread. 1706 *Ibid.* 4200/4 The Diamond weighing near 11 Grains, well spread, and of a perfect Water. 1811 PINKERTON *Mod. Geog. Polynesia* (ed. 3) 522 The nose is always spread at the point, perhaps owing to the mode of salutation, in which they press their noses together. 1850 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* III. 1322 This cut is employed upon such stones as are thin, and large on the surface, or, as it is called, much spread. 1900 HASLUCK *Mod. Eng. Handy-bk.* 129 Small drills..are generally made by filing the round steel wire..and then spreading the small end with a single blow from a..hammer.

f. To thrust (walls) out or apart.

1793 SMEATON *Edystone L.* § 274 The whole would lie upon the ledges like a single stone, without any tendency to spread the walls.

2. †**a.** To draw or stretch out (the limbs or a person) in some form of punishment or torture. *Obs.*

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 390 His leoue licome þet was ispred o rode. *a* 1240 *Ureisun* in *O. E. Hom.* I. 185 Hwi nam ich in þin earmes..swa istrahte and isprad on rode. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 16668 Þai..ledd him þan to þe rode tre, and þar-on þai him spred. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* iii. (*Andrew*) 410 Gyf þat I dred þe croice, quhare-in criste wes spred, þe ioy of it I na prechit 3ow. *c* 1450 *Myrr. our Ladye* 249 The mother se her sonne cruelly spredde on the crosse. *c* 1475 HENRYSON *Orph. & Euridyce* 149 Turnand a quhele.., And on it spred a man hecht ixione. 1526 R. WHYTFORD *Martiloge* (1893) 100 So were they sprad vpon a gredyren wt hote coles & broyled.

b. To lay down with the limbs relaxed.

1693 DRYDEN *Juv.* VI. 85 Many a fair Nymph has in a Cave been spread, And much good Love, without a Feather-Bed. 1697 — *Virg. Past.* X. 21 Mænalian Pines the God-like Swain bemoan, When spread beneath a Rock he sigh'd alone.

3. a. To send out in various directions so as to cover or extend over a larger space. Also *fig.*

a 1200 *Vices & Virtues* 45 Carite sprat his bowes on brǽde and on lengðe swiðe ferr. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 400 þe soðe sunne..was forði istien on heih..uorto spreden ouer al hote luue gleames. *c* 1400 *Cursor M.* 27877 (Cott. Galba), Glotony and dronkinhede, ful mani branches out þai sprede. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 30 Than grace spredeth her beames, that all the soule of man is bryght as a lanterne. 1565 COOPER *Thesaurus* s.v. *Pando*, The elme spreadeth the branches or boughes. 1615 W. LAWSON *Country Housew. Gard.* (1626) 23 Looke how far a tree spreads his boughs aboue, so far doth he put his roots vnder the earth. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* IV. 643 Pleasant the Sun When first on this delightful Land he spreads His orient Beams.

b. To hold out, stretch out, extend (the hands or arms).

c 1250 *Kent. Serm.* in *O. E. Misc.* 31 Ure lord him.. spredde his hond, and tok his lepre. *a* 1300 *Havelok* 95 And oþer he reste him hors or wede, Or made him sone handes sprede. *a* 1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* cxlii. 6, I spred my hend till þe. *c* 1450 *Mirk's Festial* 124 He..fell downe to þe grownd, wyth hys armes sprad abrod, as Crist sprad hys armes on þe cros. *a* 1529 SKELTON *'Now synge we'* 60, I hold my armes abrode, The to receyue redy isprode! 1628 MILTON *Vac. Exerc.* 93 Trent, who like some earth-born Giant spreads His thirsty Armes. 1781 COWPER *Charity* 596 Like him, the soul..Spread wide her arms of universal love. 1815 SHELLEY *Alastor* 183 He..spread his arms to meet Her panting bosom. 1842 TENNYSON *Talk. Oak* 225 Then close and dark my arms I spread, And shadow'd all her rest,

c. To extend, open out (the wings, etc.).

1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 173 He sprat his wynge and up he fleth. *c* 1400 *Pilgr. Sowle* (Caxton) v. i. (1859) 69 They rysen, and mounten ferre fro the erthe, and spreydyn theyr wynges. 1663 BP. PATRICK *Parab. Pilgr.* xv, He rejoyced to

spread his healing wings over every place. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* II. 928 At last his Sail-broad Vannes He spreads for flight. 1784 COWPER *Task* III. 135 The fly, That spreads his motley wings in th' eye of noon. 1817 SHELLEY *Rev. Islam* VI. xlv, When the earth..Shook with the sullen thunder, he would spread His nostrils to the blast. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* III. v. iii, Swift-rending is her stroke; look what a paw she spreads.

d. To extend, make larger or wider. *rare.*

1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) VI. 399 He bulde newe citees ..and sprad þe endes of his kyngdom wydder þan dede his fader. *c* 1400 BRAY *Conq. Irel.* (1871) 295 The Pope.. grauntyd the Kyng that he shuld ynto Irland wend for to ..spred the termys of holy Churche. 1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* I. 147 To spred the boundes of that Jmpire baith braid and wyde.

4. To distribute or disperse (a substance or a number of things) over a certain superficies or area; to scatter.

c 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 490 Or or flum noe spredde his fen. *c* 1340 *Nominale* (Skeat) 118 W[oman] scheruth corne and muk spredith. *c* 1394 *P. Pl. Crede* 301 Nou han þei.. spicerie sprad in her purse, to parten where hem lust. 1426 AUDELAY *Poems* 78 Fore blak blood he se e-spred Apon the aschelere even. *c* 1450 *Merlin* xv. 240 Ther sholde ye haue sein grete trouble of tables downcaste and the vitaile I-spredde wide. 1573 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 33 Sawe dust spred thick, makes alley trick. 1592 *Soliman & Pers.* v. ii, Spredding on the boord A huge heape of our imperiall coyne. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* IV. 255 The flourie lap Of som irriguous Valley spread her store. 1687 A. LOVELL tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* I. 36 There you see..men sitting upon a Carpet on the ground, with a great many Books spread round about them. 1727 *Philip Quarll* (1816) 42 He was busy..in turning and spreading the grass. 1742 *London & Country Brew.* I. (ed. 4) 7 When the Malt is dried it must not cool on the Kiln, but be..spreaded wide in an airy Place. 1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 611 For grass land..half as much [marl], thinly and evenly spread, will generally suffice. 1841 LANE *Arab. Nts.* I. 96 He poured out the powder into it, and spread it. 1895 R. W. FRAZER *Silent Gods, Pearl of Temple* (1896) 57 The ryots who spread the water in the fields..lay dead before the rice was ready for reaping.

b. To distribute in a thin layer; *esp.* to smear. Also *fig.* (quot. 1731–8).

1558 WARDE tr. *Alexis' Secr.* 28 Than hauyng put to it the Storax, spredde it vpon a linnen cloth. 1579 FULKE *Refut. Rastel* 783 The residue of the..bread..was giuen to..children.., whether to spredde their butter,..or to eate it with cheese, I cannot saye. 1611 BIBLE 1 *Kings* vi. 32 He..ouerlayd them with gold, and spread gold vpon the Cherubims, and..the palme trees. 1731–8 SWIFT *Polite Conv.* Introd., They [polite speeches] ought to be husbanded better, and spread much thinner. 1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 207 A small quantity of the amalgam, spread upon another piece of leather. 1870 *Pall Mall G.* 23 Sept. 12/1 The unknown genius spreads butter upon his bread.

c. To place in an open or expanded manner; to distribute *over* a certain space, time, etc.

1592 KYD *Sp. Trag.* III. iii. 101 Ile spread the Watch, ..Strongly to guard the place where Pedringano [etc.]. *a* 1631 DONNE *Epithalam. Linc. Inn* 1 The Sun-beames in the East are spred. 1634 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* 209 In some places [a stream] spreads Meanders. 1743 FRANCIS tr. *Horace, Odes* II. i. 5 For whom the triumphs o'er Dalmatia spread Unfading honors round thy laurel'd head. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* II. v. 180 We spread our ships in such a manner, that it was not probable any vessel of the enemy could escape us. 1827 FARADAY *Chem. Manip.* i. (1842) 13 Sometimes it is easy to spread these [flues] over one side or wall of the room. 1855 *Orr's Circ. Sci., Inorg. Nat.* 133 The knowledge needed by the artist..involves various inquiries, spread over many sciences. 1885 *Act* 48–49 *Vict.* c. 50 § 11 The repayment of the money to be borrowed shall be spread over a series of years.

d. To lay out (a meal, banquet, etc.).

1784 COWPER *Task* I. 433 Beneath the open sky she spreads the feast. 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* XXXVIII, At a banquet spread under a gay awning. 1828 DUPPA *Trav. Italy*, etc. 63 The table on which the last supper was spread is in the church of St. John Lateran. 1852 HAWTHORNE *Blithedale Rom.* xxiv, Some old-fashioned skinkers and drawers .. were spreading a banquet. 1868 HOLME LEE *B. Godfrey* xlvii, Tea was spread on the round table.

5. a. In *pass.* of persons, animals, etc.: To be scattered, dispersed, or distributed over or throughout some area.

c 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 650 And or he was on werlde led, His kinde was wel wide spred. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 3264 We ssolleþ hom abbe al uor nost..Vor hii beþ naked & onywar & ysprad wyde. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 6046 O þam it was sua mani bredd, Quer all þe land þan ware þai spredd. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) II. 169 þerfore it is þat þey beeþ i-spred so wyde. *c* 1536 in Thynne *Animadv.* (1875) 80 Thes holy men beyn thus about sperd [*read* spred], thorow all this lond, in euery sled. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 3 Dec. 1657, This sect was now wonderfully spread. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) IV. 302 The other [dromedary] is found spread over all the Desarts of Arabia. 1826 SAMOUELLE *Direct. Collect. Insects & Crust.* 44 He met with a certain species of Papilio in abundance and spread all over the island. 1841 *Penny Cycl.* XX. 148/2 The Rook is spread over the greater part of Europe.

† **b.** To cause to increase or multiply; to beget.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 10684 It was boden in þair ledd Wit mariage þe folk to sprede. 1624 HEYWOOD *Gunaik.* I. 49 Young Epaphus..To Phaeton objects that he was bred Of mortal straine, and not divinelie spred.

6. To disseminate or diffuse; to cause to become prevalent or (more) widely existent, present, known, felt, etc.

Various contexts are illustrated by the separate groups of quotations.

(*a*) *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 6213 Son was in land þe tiþand spredd þe folk was turned again and fledd. *c* 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 3111 Hym schamed sore of his chaunce þat hit was so wyde yspred þat his lemman was a-wey led. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Prioress' T.* Prol. 2 O lord our lord, thy name how merueillous Is in this large worlde ysprad. 1503 HAWES *Examp. Virt.* vii. 94 Of whose noble dedes the brute and sowne Was spred by euery straunge habytacyon. 1595 in *Cath. Rec. Soc. Publ.* V. 350 Yt was spread in the cuntry that he had convinced the minister in diverse pointes of religion. 1662 *Extr. St. Papers Friends* Ser. II. 151 Such base lyes..are now dayly & hourely spread abroad against our present Gracious King. 1678 SIR G. MACKENZIE *Crim. Laws Scot.* I. xxix. § 6 (1699) 151 She having spread these Mis-reports before she was cited. 1725 BERKELEY *Proposal Conv. Savage Amer.* Wks. 1871 III. 217 Missionaries for spreading the gospel among their countrymen. 1746 P. FRANCIS tr. *Horace, Art Poet.* 469 [This] shall.. across the seas To distant nations spread the writer's fame. 1823 SCOTT *Quentin D.* xii, For this Louis promised to provide, by spreading a report that the Ladies of Croye had escaped. 1849 TICKNOR *Span. Lit.* I. 33 His reputation was early spread throughout Europe, on account of his general science.

(*b*) *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 12716 Quen drightin gan to sprad his grace Til his aun choslings treu. *c* 1380 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* I. 246 þis wrong is brood sprad in Cristendom. 1422 tr. *Secreta Secret., Priv. Priv.* 208 The taste is a commyn witte, Spraden throgh the body. 1450–80 tr. *Secreta Secret.* 29 Nature spredith it through alle parties of the body, and therfore the stomak hath litille part of þe hete. 1538 STARKEY *England* I. i. 7 So ys the mynd then most perfyt when hyt communyth & spredyth hys vertues abrode. *c* 1614 SIR W. MURE *Dido & Æneas* II. 106 O how quick doth love..spreed in every parte A furiows flame! 1668 WILKINS *Real Char.* I. i. 3 The present Coptic or Ægyptian ..was probably spred amongst that people in the days of Alexander the Great. 1720 POPE *Iliad* XVII. 770 Cheering his men, and spreading deaths around. 1768 GOLDSM. *Good-n. Man* I, She could spread an horse-laugh through the pews of a tabernacle. 1831 SCOTT *Ct. Rob.* xxvi, Do thy gifts, accomplishments, and talents, spread hardness as well as polish over thy heart? 1854 *Poultry Chron.* II. 266 It seems likely that, by thus spreading the local interest, shows ..might become self-supporting. 1874 GREEN *Short Hist.* iii. § 4. 128 Wandering teachers..crossed sea and land to spread the new power of knowledge.

(*c*) 1743 FRANCIS tr. *Horace, Odes* IV. iv. 27 The Rhætian bands..Were wont to spread their baneful terrors far. 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* XXXIV, It spread a general alarm among Montoni's people. 1831 SCOTT *Quentin D.* Introd., Numerous private emissaries of the restless Louis ..were every where spreading the discontent which it was his policy to maintain. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* vi. II. 157 His arrival spread dismay through the whole English population.

7. *refl.* **a.** To extend, expand, etc., in various senses.

1340 *Ayenb.* 17 þis zenne him to-delþ and spret ine zuo uele deles þet onneaþe me may hise telle. 1400 tr. *Secreta Secret., Gov. Lordsh.* 91 Also þare ys a tree þat hauys leuys of vygour, and his braunches spredyn hem on þe erthe. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 25 b, Remember his extension..on the crosse, and consyder how mekely he spred hym selfe on the same. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* III. i. 20 Before the gate a spatious plaine, Mantled with greene, it selfe did spredden wyde. 1611 TOURNEUR *Ath. Trag.* I. i, Tis true. Had not my Body spredde it selfe Into posteritie; perhaps I should Desire no more increase of substance. 1649 G. DANIEL *Trinarch., Rich. II*, cclxxx, The King now spreads himselfe; and, as a source, Issues in larger Streames, to take in more, Hee fills the Cisterns nere him. 1698 FRYER *Acc. E. India & P.* 141 The Clouds had spread themselves over the Tops of the Hills. 1711 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 129 ¶ 11 This natural Love is not observed in animals to ascend from the Young to the Parent;..it spreads it self downwards. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* III. ii. 309 The mixture of these woods and lawns..as they spread themselves differently through the vallies. 1821 SHELLEY *Adonais* xlii, He is a presence.., Spreading itself where'er that Power may move [etc.]. 1855 KINGSLEY *Westw. Ho!* xxv, They began to spread themselves along the stream. 1871 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* (1876) IV. 202 A city which in the tenth century..had spread itself far beyond the Roman Walls.

b. *U.S.* To exert oneself; also, to make a display, to show off.

1857 S. H. HAMMOND *Wild North. Scenes* 266 (Bartlett), He had promised, to use his own expression, to spread himself in the preparation of this meal. 1891 E. KINGLAKE *Australian at Home* 58 The gentleman who had just 'spread himself' was very angry at having the effect of his speech thus spoiled. 1892 E. REEVES *Homeward Bound* 204, I must (to use your slang) be allowed 'to spread myself' a little, and give you a minute account of everything I see.

absol. 1897 HOWELLS *Landlord at Lion's Head* 376 One of the jays, who was spreading on rather a large scale, wanted Jeff to spread with him.

8. To cover, overlay, deck, or strew, *with* something. Also without const.

a 1300 *Leg. S. Gregory* (1876) 771 On bed he fel hir biside, Yspread it was wiþ grene palle. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 15027 þai spred þe strete wit cloth and flur. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* (D.) 1514 He..arayes all þe cyte, Spredes ouer with bawdkens all þe brode stretes. 1596 SPENSER *F. Q.* VI. ii. 5 On his head [was] an hood with aglets sprad. 1611 BIBLE *Isaiah* xl. 19 The goldsmith spreadeth it ouer with golde. 1693 DRYDEN *Juvenal* XVI. 69 *note*, The Courts of Judicature were hung, and spread, as with us. 1697 — *Æneid* XII. 174 The morn..Had scarcely spread the skies with rosy light. 1718 LADY M. W. MONTAGU *Let. Mrs. Thistlethwayte* 1 Apr., The rooms are all spread with Persian carpets. 1822 BYRON *Ch. Har.* II. vii, Silence spreads the couch of ever welcome rest. 1828 LYTTON *Pelham* I. xxiii, Another table, still spread with the appliances of breakfast.

transf. c 1320 *Sir Tristr.* 442 þe forest was fair and wide, Wiþ wilde bestes y-sprad.

b. To lay (a table) for a meal or other purpose.

c 1460 SIR R. ROS *La Belle Dame* 101 The boordes wer spred in ryght lytell space. 1568 J. PHILLIP *Patient Grissell* (Malone Soc.) 7 She spread the table and made me good cheare. 1672 MILTON *P. R.* II. 340 A Table richly spred, in regal mode, With dishes pil'd. 1697 DRYDEN *Æneid* III. 291 We spread the tables on the greensward ground. 1761 GRAY *Descr. Odin* 41 Tell me.. For whom yon glitt'ring board is spread. 1859 *Habits of Gd. Society* 88 He must be there to talk to the chaperons,..to spread the card-table and form the rubber. 1885 'MRS. ALEXANDER' *Valerie's Fate* iv, Valerie spread her grand-uncle's little table and placed his food before him.

absol. 1590 SHAKS. *Com. Err.* II. ii. 189 Dromio, goe bid the seruants spred for dinner.

c. To cover with a thin layer of some soft substance, esp. butter; to prepare in this way.

1579 FULKE *Refut. Rastel* 783 What so euer remained.. shoulde be giuen to..children..(not spred..with butter) but sprinkled with wine. 1621 T. WILLIAMSON tr. *Goulart's Wise Vieillard* 6 Contenting himselfe to eate..a piece of bread spread with honey. 1707 in Hearne *Coll.* (O.H.S.) II. 43 He eats..Bread and Butter, which he spreads with his Thumb. 1827 SCOTT *Surg. Dau.* i, Every old woman.. can prescribe a dose of salts, or spread a plaster. 1888 *Times* 3 Jan. 9/5 They spread their bread with ox-fat.

9. † **a.** To over-run or overspread (an area). *Obs.*

c 1400 *Brut* lxxxiii, þai..wenten oute of here shippis, and spraden al þe contreye. 1633 T. STAFFORD *Pac. Hib.* I. ii. 22 MacGuire, who with some Horse (likewise dispersed) had spread a good circuit of ground, in hope..to get some bootie. 1654 E. JOHNSON *Wonder-working Provid.* I The multitude of irreligious..affected persons spred the whole land like Grasshoppers. 1720 DE FOE *Capt. Singleton* vi. (1840) 109 Our negroes spread the banks of the lake..for game. 1722 — *Plague* (1884) 78 The Gangren..had spread her whole Body.

b. *poet.* To cover; to extend over.

1700 DRYDEN *Pal. & Arc.* III. 104 Rich tapestry spread the streets. 1725 POPE *Odyss.* I. 173 A purple carpet spread the pavement wide. 1800 MOORE *Anacreon* xvii. 24 Now from the sunny apple seek The velvet down that spreads his cheek! 1821 CLARE *Vill. Minstr.* I. 130 Refreshing greenness spread the plain.

c. To extend or reach along.

1794 *Rigging & Seamanship* 127 The head spreads the topgallant yard.

10. With advs. (*abroad, forth, out, up*), in preceding senses.

a. 1382 WYCLIF *Gen.* xxxii. 12 Thow hast spokun..that thow shuldist sprede abrood my seed as the grauel of the see. *c* 1449 PECOCK *Repr.* 213 A clooth steyned or ymagis sprad abrood in dyuerse placis of the chirche. *a* 1533 LD. BERNERS *Huon* lii. 176, I spred abrode a towel on the grene grasse. 1594 KYD *Cornelia* IV. i. 200 His glory, spred abroade by Fame. 1653 RAMESEY *Astrol. Restored* 199 The credit or applause desired will be the more blazed and spread abroad. 1700 DRYDEN *Ovid's Met., Baucis & Philemon* 49 Baucis,..rakes the Load Of Ashes from the Hearth, and spreads abroad The living Coals. 1825 SCOTT *Betrothed* viii, The morning light was scarce fully spread abroad. 1842 LOUDON *Suburb. Hort.* 392 Fermentation is always most rapid in summer; and if the materials are spread abroad during frost, it is totally impeded.

b. 1388 WYCLIF *Deut.* xxxii. 11 He spredde forth his wyngis. *c* 1400 tr. *Secreta Secret., Gov. Lordsh.* 71 þe kendly hete ys y-drawe þerto and spred forth by al þe body to þe stomak. 1535 COVERDALE 1 *Kings* vi. 27 The Cherubins spred forth their wynges. 1611 BIBLE *Num.* xxiv. 6 As the valleyes are they spread forth, as gardens by the riuer side. *c* 1614 SIR W. MURE *Dido & Æneas* I. 1003 Now silent night spred foorth her sable wings. 1817 SHELLEY *Rev. Islam* X. xxxviii, Fix on high A net of iron, and spread forth below A couch of snakes and scorpions.

c. 1382 WYCLIF *Deut.* xxxii. 11 He sprade out his weengis. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 356/2 To Sprede oute, *dilatare, distendere.* 1571 GOLDING *Calvin on Ps.* lxxi. 19 Our mindes must be spredded out..to conceive yᵉ largenes of it. 1611 BIBLE *Exod.* xxxvii. 9 And the Cherubims spread out their wings..ouer the Mercie seat. 1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* II. (Globe) 523 A third [ship] without any Colours spread out. 1865 CARLYLE *Fredk. Gt.* XVIII. v. (1872) VII. 176, I spread out to you, dear Sister, the detail of my sorrows. 1885 'MRS. ALEXANDER' *Valerie's Fate* vi, The sky spread out a boundless space of deepest blue.

d. 1657 AUSTEN *Fruit Trees* I. 58 The [fig] trees must be set against a South wall, and be spread up with nailes and Leathers.

II. *intr.* **11.** To receive extension or expansion; to cover or occupy a wider space by this means.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 18113 A deu, al for to mak þam hale, On þam sal spred. 1338 R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (1810) 38 A rede cloude in þe skie about Ingland gan sprede. 1523 FITZHERB. *Husb.* § 10 The hyer and farther that ye caste your corne, the better shall it sprede. 1583 MELBANCKE *Philotimus* Q j, A litle sparke spreading burnes a whole Cittie. 1663 GERBIER *Counsel* 10 Nature of Aire being to ascend, and when it meets with a sudden opposition it spreads. 1686 W. HARRIS tr. *Lemery's Course Chem.* (ed. 2) 49 Gold will spread under the hammer more than any other Metal. 1725 DE FOE *Voy. round World* (1840) 332 The water began to spread over the flat ground. 1789 MRS. PIOZZI *Journ. France* I. 400 London spreads chiefly the Marybone way perhaps. 1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* I. 124 The clouds spread more and more. 1885 *Manch. Exam.* 6 July 5/1 A fire broke out and spread with great rapidity.

transf. c 1330 *Amis & Amil.* 1317 So hard thai hewe on helme and side,..That thai sprad al of blod.

b. With advs., as *about, abroad, forth, out.* Also *to spread off*, to withdraw from.

c 1400 *Laud Troy Bk.* 10940 Odemon saw Ector was dede, He saw his blod aboute sprede. 1530 PALSGR. 730, I spredde a brode, as a ryver that breaketh out of his channell or any suche lyke thyng. 1535 COVERDALE *Joel* ii. 2 A stormy daye, like as the mornynge spredeth out vpon the hilles. 1711 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 159 ¶ 8, I saw the Valley opening at the farther End, and spreading forth into an immense Ocean. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. VII. vi, Our straight frondent Avenue..spreads out into Place Royal and Palace Forecourt. 1849 CUPPLES *Green Hand* XV. (1856) 151 The fog spread off the water near us.

c. Of conditions, qualities, etc.

1565 COOPER *Thesaurus* s.v. *Mano*, Runnyng sores: or sores that spread farther and farther. 1611 DONNE *Anat. World* 357 Our blushing red, which us'd in cheekes to spred, Is inward sunke. 1720 DE FOE *Capt. Singleton* xi. (1840) 197 The mortification seemed to spread. 1799 UNDERWOOD *Dis. Childhood* (ed. 4) II. 25 Should the shingles spread and become sore, it should be treated as directed below. 1815 STEPHENS in *Shaw's Gen. Zool.* IX. i. 60 The green becomes gradually more brilliant..and spreads over the coverts of the wings and tail. 1864–8 BROWNING *J. Lee's Wife* III. iv, But why must cold spread? 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VI. 106 The readiness with which it [*sc.* sarcoma] spreads in upon..the pulmonary tissue.

d. To become larger; to increase in size.

1630 *R. Johnson's Kingd. & Commw.* 10 The more they decline from the Æquator, the more they spread in stature and tallnesse. 1756 J. WARTON *Ess. Pope* I. vii. 407 The sybil..is likewise represented as spreading.., and growing larger and larger. 1799 UNDERWOOD *Dis. Childhood* (ed. 4) I. 208 The gums swell, spread, and become hot.

e. To go apart; to separate.

1839 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* II. 146/1 The violent vicissitudes of the seasons soon deranged the foundation.., and caused the [railway] track to spread. 1847 SMEATON *Builder's Man.* 146 The walls of a public building in Paris had spread, or..were thrown out of their perpendicular. 1890 BAKER *Wild Beasts* II. 3 The toes spread widely upon soft ground.

12. Of immaterial things: To become diffused or disseminated.

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 98 Vor ase holi writ seiþ, 'hore speche spret ase cauncre'. *a* 1240 *Ureisun* in *O. E. Hom.* I. 199 Þuruh þine muchele milce þet spert [*read* spret] so swuðe wide. 1340 *Ayenb.* 29 Ouerweninge, þet makeþ to moche sprede þe merci of our lhorde. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 1607 Þur3 þe sped of þe spyryt þat sprad hym with-inne. *c* 1410 HOCCLEVE *Mother of God* 81 Thy gracious bountee spredith al aboute. 1508 KENNEDIE *Flyting w. Dunbar* 348 It was the gud langage of this land, And Scota it causit to multiply and sprede. 1592 SHAKS. *Ven. & Ad.* 903 A second fear through all her sinews spread. *a* 1656 BP. HALL *Rem. Wks.* (1660) 189 Arianisme began in a family, spread over the World. 1697 COLLIER *Ess. Mor. Subj.* I. (1703) 139 The infection spreads like lightning; and 'tis a credit to live counter to reason. 1712 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 265 ¶ 6, I am informed that this Fashion spreads daily. 1782 PRIESTLEY *Corrupt. Chr.* I. i. 75 His opinions are acknowledged to have spread much. 1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 293 This system of nomenclature..spread with great rapidity to other countries. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* iv. I. 457 Discontent and suspicion would spread fast through society. 1874 GREEN *Short Hist.* viii. § 1 (1882) 449 A new moral and religious impulse spread through every class.

b. Of tidings, rumour, fame, etc.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 15062 On þin worthi werkes don Farr spredes þi fame. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* C. 365 Þis speche sprang in þat space & spradde alle aboute. *c* 1400 *26 Pol. Poems* 129 That I dyd in pryuyte, There opynly hit owte shall sprede. 1475 *Bk. Noblesse* (Roxb.) 45 The renome of his noble astate and name sprad thoroughe alle cristyn roiaumes. 1523 LD. BERNERS *Froiss.* I. cccxcvii, It was sayd howe surly they were at Burdeaux,..whiche wordes sprade abrode in the hoost. 1637 MILTON *Lycidas* 81 Fame..lives and spreds aloft by those pure eyes. 1662 J. DAVIES tr. *Mandelslo's Trav.* 96 Which increas'd as the noyse of the attempt spread more and more into the City. 1764 *Museum Rust.* IV. 10 The account of this, spreading into Holland, determined the Dutch to send colonies there. *c* 1807 WORDSW. *Somnambulist* 73 His fame may spread, but in the past Her spirit finds its centre. 1892 FARRAR *Darkn. & Dawn* xlii, The city had hardly been more agitated when the news of Caligula's murder had spread among the citizens.

13. Of flowers, leaves, etc.: To unfold, expand.

a 1250 *Owl & Night.* 437 Þe blostme gynneþ springe & sprede. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* XVI. 67 Lewis on the branchis spredis, And blomys bricht besyd thame bredis. *c* 1385 CHAUCER *L. G. W.* 48 To sen these flouris agen the sunne to sprede. 1423 JAS. I *Kingis Q.* 21 The tender flouris opnyt thame and sprad. 1535 STEWART *Cron. Scot.* II. 530 Flouris spreidand..Of diuers hew, with mony cullour cleir. 1662 J. DAVIES tr. *Olearius' Voy.* 323 As soon as it is put into warm water, it spreads and reassumes its former green Colour. 1686 W. HARRIS tr. *Lemery's Course Chem.* (ed. 3) 523 It is best gathering Roses newly spread a little after Sun-rising. 1765 *Museum Rust.* IV. 94 When the barley begins to spread, (or brewer).

14. To extend by growth; *spec.* of trees, to grow outwards.

c 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 348 Him þouȝte þat þare stod a treo.. þat a-non to þe steorrene it tilde and swyþe wide it spradde (*v.r.* spredde). *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 27877 O glotori and o drunkenhede Fele wick branches se we sprede. 1340 *Ayenb.* 131 Vor uirtue wext an heȝ ase palme..and þanne spret and keste his boȝes an ech half. 1559 *Mirr. Mag., Mowbray's Banishm.* xiv, The deper doth the sounde roote sprede abrode. 1573 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 98 Good hop hath a pleasure to climbe and to spred. 1615 W. LAWSON *Country Housew. Gard.* (1626) 24 The roots..may not goe downeward, nor vpward out of the earth... Therefore they must needs spread far vnder the earth. 1676 MARVELL *Mr. Smirke* 27 When it germinates, spreds, blossomes, and bears fruit. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* IV. 422 A Steer..whose Head Now first with burnish'd Horns begins to spread. 1743 FRANCIS tr. *Horace, Odes* IV. xi. 6 With living wreaths to crown our heads The parsley's vivid verdure spreads. 1796 WITHERING *Brit. Plants* (ed. 3) I. 83 Not rising high, but spreading wide upon the ground. 1802 *Barrington's Hist. N. S. Wales* viii. 283 The she oaks were more inclined to spread than grow tall. 1826 *Art Brewing* (ed. 2) 174 When the trees are full grown, they..injure the crop below; the roots, also, spread to a great distance. 1847 TENNYSON *Princ.* IV. 188 The branches thereupon Spread out at top.

15. To extend over a larger area by increase or by separation; to disperse.

c 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 2567 Ay wex ðat kinde, mor & mor, And ðhogen, & spredden in londe ðor. *c* 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 48 His Men pleiden and arnden bi þe weie, and spradden a-boute ful wide. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 3792 Wit þe i sal be in al þi nede And gar þin oxspring wide spred. *c* 1450 *Merlin* xvii. 272 As soone as the saisnes were logged thai spredde abrode in the contrey to forry. 1523 LD. BERNERS *Froiss.* cccxxi. 498 So the men of armes sprad abrode. 1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* I. 45 Quhair ance it fixis the rute it spredis. 1605 CHAPMAN *All Fools* v. ii. 372 Very well done; now take your severall wives, And spred like wilde-geese. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* I. 354 Her barbarous Sons Came like a Deluge on the South, and spread Beneath Gibraltar to the Lybian sands. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* II. v. 173 By spreading in their cruise, there might be less danger of any of the enemy's ships slipping by unobserved. 1853 J. H. NEWMAN *Hist. Sk.* (1873) I. i. ii. 59 The Romans spread gradually from one central city. 1866 DARWIN *Orig. Spec.* (ed. 4) iv. 152 That those species which spread widely tend generally to spread *very* widely.

b. To arise or spring. *rare*⁻¹.

1642 H. MORE *Song of Soul* II. II. i. 8 How the mixture of their rayes may breed Th' opinion of uncertain quality, When they from certain roots of life do spreed.

16. To stretch out, extend.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 17196 Vnnethes dar i sceu mi nedes Bot wit þe hend to me þou spredis. *a* 1310 in Wright *Lyric P.* XXV. 70 Iesu, of love soth tocknynge, Thin armes spredeth to mankynde. *a* 1327 A. DAVY *Five Dreams* 12/34 Out of boþe his eren [came] Foure bendes;..hij spredden fer & wyde in þe cuntre. *c* 1385 CHAUCER *L. G. W.* Prol. 143 (Cambr.), Lo 3ond he comyth, I se hise wyngis sprede.

1748 GRAY *Alliance* 100 In the sultry climes, that spread Where Nile redundant o'er his Summer-bed From his broad bosom life and verdure flings. 1798 LANDOR *Gebir* Wks. 1846 II. 490 There spreads a marble squared And smoothened. 1816 SHELLEY *Mont Blanc* 65 Broad vales..that spread And wind among the accumulated steeps. 1854 *Poultry Chron.* II. 92 Thin, hackle-like feathers, spreading and drooping all round. 1898 R. BRIDGES *Hymn Nature* Poems (1912) 404 Below their breezy crowns..Spreadeth the infinite smile of the sunlit sea.

Spread (spred), *ppl. a.* Also 6–7 spred. [f. prec.]

1. Extended, expanded; displayed; diffused.

c 1511 *1st Eng. Bk. Amer.* (Arb.) Introd. p. xxxi/2 They seke the holy graue to Iherusalem with open or spred baners. 1609 HOLLAND *Amm. Marcell.* 111 Antoninus.. set his course against our State and Common-wealth..even with spred and full sail. 1611 COTGR. s.v. *Penne*, The spread wings of a bird. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* II. 886 A Bannerd Host Under spread Ensigns marching. 1753 RICHARDSON *Grandison* (1781) III. 7 No, Miss Grandison, said I, laying my spread hand upon the letter. 1771 *Encycl. Brit.* I. 204/2 The shape of a spread fan. 1854 *Poultry Chron.* II. 56 The cock, while playing, sweeps the ground with his spread tail. 1877 RAYMOND *Statist. Mines & Mining* 315 A diverging vein-system..something like the spread fingers of a hand held downward.

b. In predicative use, or with qualifying words.

1626 BACON *Sylva* § 421 How to make the trees themselves, more tall; more spread; than they use to be. 1691 RAY *Creation* (1714) 214 Lofty and towring Trees for Timber, lowly and more spread ones for shade and fruit. 1693 C. MATHER *Wonders Invis. World* (1862) 16 In so spread a Business as this. 1847 HELPS *Friends in C.* I. iv. 64, I think one of the causes sometimes given, that reading is more spread, is a true..one. 1855 *Orr's Circ. Sci., Inorg. Nat.* 162 Others ..occupy evenly spread and little disturbed districts.

c. In comb. with *-out*.

1867 MORRIS *Jason* XVII. 520 Watching the spread-out linen slowly dry. 1877 HUXLEY & MARTIN *Elem. Biol.* 209 A V-shaped notch about the size of a spread-out frog's web.

2. Laid out or prepared for a meal.

1891 T. HARDY *Tess* XXXVI, The spread supper-table, whereon stood the two full glasses of untasted wine.

3. Special collocations: **spread adder**, a blowing adder; **spread brilliant**, a brilliant cut in a thin flat form; **spread charge**, a gun-charge which scatters on being fired.

1750 D. JEFFRIES *Treat. Diamonds* (1751) 26 Of the method of manufacturing, and valuing, spread Brilliants. 1892 in Greener *Breech-Loader* 279, I have used the spread charge with good results in covert shooting. 1902 *Blackw. Mag.* Apr. 494/2 The spread-adder is one of the nastiest-looking customers.

b. **Spread (window) glass**, sheet or cylinder glass.

1805 *Act* 45 *Geo. III*, c. 30 Sched., The making of spread window glass commonly called or known by the name of broad glass. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 576 Next to it in cheapness of material may be ranked broad or spread window glass. *Ibid.* 578 A spread-glass work, where they make British sheet glass, upon the best principles.

Spreada·tion. *rare.* [irreg. f. SPREAD *v.* 8 b.] = SPREAD *sb.* 7.

1810 *Splendid Follies* III. 26 They returned to the Bear, where they found a spreadation of sandwiches, fruit, jelly and cyder. 1884 JEAN MIDDLEMASS *Poisoned Arrows* III. xvii. 193 Have all that absurd spreadation taken away,..and a luncheon as like every day as possible, got ready at once.

Spread-bat. *dial.* [f. SPREAD *v.*] A stick serving to keep apart the traces or chains in ploughing or harrowing. (Cf. SPREADER 3 a.)

1778 [W. H. MARSHALL] *Minutes Agric.* 29 July 1775, One who has more spunk in him, shall attend to the spread-bats, and whippins in future. 1875– in Kent, Surrey, and Sussex glossaries.

Spread eagle, *sb.* Also **spread-eagle.** [SPREAD *ppl. a.*]

1. A representation of an eagle with body, legs, and both wings displayed, esp. as the emblem of various states or rulers, or as an inn-sign.

1570 FOXE *A. & M.* (ed. 2) 388/1 The emperour..caused other mony to be made of leather, which on the one syde had his image, and on the other syde the spread egle. 1590 in *Archaeol.* (1884) XLVIII. 154 One dammaske table clothe wrought with ye Spreed Egle of vij yerdes long. 1602 J. WILLIS *Art Stenographie* E 5, This Character, bearing the similitude of a Spread Eagle, may signifie the Romaine Empire, being the Ensigne thereof. 1685 WOOD *Life* (O.H.S.) III. 160 At the Spread Eagle (commonly called the Spread Crow). 1701 LUTTRELL *Brief Rel.* (1857) V. 81 Some flags are made here with a spread eagle upon them, the arms of his imperial majesty. 1723 *Pres. St. Russia* I. 115 Post-boys..have no Post-Horns, but only the Mark of the Spread-Eagle. 1854 *Poultry Chron.* II. 27 The annual dinner will take place at the Spread Eagle on Thursday.

Comb. 1663 DRYDEN *Wild Gallant* II. i, I use to tell him of his two capon's tails about his hat, that are laid spread-eaglewise to make a feather.

b. A figure in fancy-skating.

1824 MISS MITFORD *Village* Ser. I. (1863) 15 He admired, with an ardour and sincerity never excited by..the spread-eagles of the Seine and the Serpentine. 1868 *Hurst Johnian Mag.* X. 343 As I am writing for young skaters I may as well mention the 'spread eagle', a feat of not much value.

c. A boastful or self-assertive person.

1881 BLACKMORE *Christowell* i, It may be denied by young spread-eagles, of competitive and unruly mind, that this is the highest form of human life.

2. A person secured with the arms and legs stretched out, esp. in order to be flogged.

1785 GROSE *Dict. Vulgar T.*, *Spread eagle*, a soldier tied to the halberts in order to be whipped, his attitude bearing some likeness to that figure, as painted on signs. 1792 *Grose's Olio* 228 Should you be caught, you know the consequence—That the spread eagle is your certain lot. 1834 MARRYAT *P. Simple* (1863) 38 Mr. Jenkins desired the other men to get half-a-dozen foxes and make a spread eagle of me. 1882 *Daily Tel.* 12 Sept. 2/2 The iron-hard pressure of it pins you against the shrouds as if you had been made a spread-eagle.

fig. 1871 FROUDE *Table-T. Shirley* 149, I suppose I shall as usual be made a spread-eagle by the *Saturday* [*Review*].

3. A fowl flattened out for broiling.

1854 'C. BEDE' *Verdant Green* II. vii, Spread-eagle is a barn-door fowl smashed out flat, and made jolly with mush-room sauce. 1865 VISC. MILTON & W. B. CHEADLE *N. W. Passage by Land* ii. (1867) 22 We manage at last to pluck and split open the ducks into 'spread-eagles', roasting them on sticks, Indian fashion.

4. *attrib.* a. High-sounding, grandiloquent.

1839 *Morn. Post* 21 Sept., The notion of lifting him with a spread-eagle title into the chief saloon.

b. *U.S.* Bombastic, extravagant, ridiculously boastful, esp. in laudation of the United States.

In allusion to the figure of the eagle on United States flags, etc.

1848 *Harper's Wkly.* 28 Aug. (Thornton), The sermon was a splendid failure,..and is yet laughed at as the 'Spread Eagle sermon'. 1858 *N. Amer. Rev.* Oct. 454 It pleases our English critics to charge upon American writers in the mass ..what has come to be designated as 'the spread-eagle style' —a compound of exaggeration, effrontery, bombast, and extravagance. 1894 H. GARDENER *Unofficial Patr.* 125 You've read a lot of spread-eagle stuff, I don't doubt.

c. Aggressively assertive of United States interests or claims.

1885 *Pall Mall G.* 2 Jan. 2/1 The new form of spread-eagle policy which the past year had witnessed.

5. *attrib.* Suggestive of the form or appearance of a spread eagle.

Spread-eagle orchid, a popular name (*U.S.*) for the orchid *Oncidium Carthaginense*.

1856 'STONEHENGE' *Brit. Rur. Sports* 376 That 'spread-eagle' style of gallop which destroys a horse's chances at once. 1881 MAHAFFY *Old Gk. Educ.* iii. 32 Wild swinging of their arms, in spread-eagle fashion. 1894 *Daily Tel.* 7 May 5/4 The 'spread-eagle' system adopted by cyclists, who straggle all over the road.

Spread-eagle, *v.* [f. prec.]

1. *intr.* To cut spread eagles in skating.

1826 J. WILSON *Noct. Ambr.* Wks. 1855 I. 102 Mr. Tory, ..a handsome fallow, and as good a skater as ever spread-eagled, 1831 — in *Blackw. Mag.* XXIX. 303 The grand simplicity of the masters that spread-eagled in the age of its perfection.

2. *trans.* To tie up (a person) for punishment. (Cf. prec. 2.) Also *fig.*

1829 MARRYAT *F. Mildmay* xvi, I saw a poor fellow spread-eagled up to the grating. 1891 in *Ch. Bells* (1892) 1 Jan. 93 Too many witnesses are spread-eagled that a court may laugh and cross-examiners be considered clever. 1894 SALA *Things I have Seen* I. 245, I have heard of offending soldiers being 'spread-eagled', that is to say, tied by the wrists and ankles to the wheel of a gun or an ammunition waggon.

b. To fasten, pin firmly, stretch out, etc., in the form of a spread eagle.

1894 RIDER HAGGARD *People of Mist* xxxix, On this surface of ice they were lying spread-eagled. 1895 CROCKETT *Cleg Kelly* xx, His elbows were spread-eagled over the table.

c. To drive apart, scatter.

1905 H. A. VACHELL *Hill* xii. 266 It [i.e. the ball] shot under Scaife's bat, and spread-eagled his stumps.

3. To beat completely, esp. in racing.

1864 *Daily Tel.* 18 July, When poor old Flash-in-the-Pan spread-eagled his field for the Chester Cup. 1883 *Ibid.* 1 Jan. 2/7 He..spread-eagled his opponents for the Hunters' Hurdle Plate. 1887 H. SMART *Cleverly Won* iv, You've heard how she spread-eagled the hunt a month ago?

4. *intr.* To speak or act in a spread-eagle fashion.

1866 *Sat. Rev.* 20 Jan. 77/1 If, when merely spread-eagling, she speaks on her own hook. 1892 *Ibid.* 23 Jan. 86/1 The extent to which President Harrison may 'spread-eagle' in the Chilian business.

Hence **Spread-eagling** *vbl. sb.*

1887 H. SMART *Cleverly Won* iii, Such a spread-eagling of a field had rarely been witnessed.

Spread-eagleism. [f. SPREAD EAGLE *sb.* 4 b.] Extravagant laudation of the United States or assertion of their political importance; tendency to bombast or grandiloquence in this connexion or in similar cases.

1859 G. F. TRAIN (*title*), Spread-Eagleism. *Ibid.* p. ix, We cannot fasten an ism on him (except Spread-Eagleism). 1864 *Realm* 6 July 3 Abuse of England is part of the platform of spread-eagleism: it pleases the Irish element, and produces votes. 1889 J. M. ROBERTSON *Ess. Crit. Method* 104 Napier's account of a Peninsular battle..with its *saugrenu* spread-eagleism.

So **Spread-eagleist,** one who is characterized by spread-eagleism.

1885 *Pall Mall G.* 1 Dec. 5/2 He is little better than a brilliant failure, first among phrasemongers and the champion spread-eagleist of his time.

Spread eaglet. *rare* —1. = SPREAD EAGLE *sb.* 1.

1602 *Met. Tabacco* D iv b, Tabacco had been richer armorie, Then Lions, Crosses, or Spread Eaglets be.

Sprea·ded, *ppl. a.* [f. SPREAD *v.*] Stretched out, extended, expanded.

1565 GOLDING tr. *Ovid's Metam.* VII. (1567) 90 b, Hard by vs as it hapt that time, there was an Oken tree With spreaded armes. 1818 KEATS *Endym.* I. 867 With wings outraught, And spreaded tail. *Ibid.* III. 389 Like a new fledg'd bird that first doth show His spreaded feathers to the morrow chill.

†So **Sprea·den** *ppl. a. Obs.*

1620 QUARLES *Feast Wormes* (1638) 2 Amongst the Hebrewes, where thy spredden fame Fore-runs the welcome of thine honoured name. 1629 — *Argalus & Parthenia* III. Wks. (Grosart) III. 279/2 Her spredden traine did cover His crooper. 1642 H. MORE *Song of Soul* II. i. I. iii, So rais'd upon her spreaden wing, She softly playes, and warbles in the wind.

Spreader (spre·dəɹ). [f. SPREAD *v.*]

I. 1. One who spreads, strews, or scatters.

1483 *Cath. Angl.* 356/2 A Spreder of gresse.., *herbarius*. 1641 BEST *Farm. Bks.* (Surtees) 33 One spreader will spreade as much in a day as sixe goode mowers will mowe. 1712 N. BLUNDELL *Diary* (1895) 105 All my Marlers, Spreaders, ..and Carters din'd here. 1854 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* XV. I. 109 The spreaders carry the manure forward and deposit it in the bottoms of the drills. 1891 *Labour Comm.* Gloss., *Spreaders*, women who spread the softened jute on the card.

2. A diffuser, disseminator, or promulgator *of* something.

1551 CRANMER *Answ. Gardiner* 17 The Papistes..haue ben the chiefe spreaders abrode of it. 1562 *Act* 5 *Eliz.* c. 5 § 40 Such Persons shall be punished as Spreaders of false News are and ought to be. 1641 PRYNNE *Discov. Prelates' Tyr.* II. 152 The spreaders abroad of false, seditious and scandalous newes. 1649 — *Demurrer to Jews' Remitter* 83 The Jews..are the greatest venters, spreaders of abominable Blasphemies. 1710 STEELE *Tatler* No. 225 ¶ 4 He.. would be considered as a Spreader of false News is in Business. 1787 BENTHAM *Def. Usury* xiii. 187 The spreaders of English arts in foreign climes.

3. A piece of wood, metal, or other material, by which things or parts are stretched out or kept asunder: **a.** (See quots. and cf. SPREAD-BAT.)

1839 SIR G. C. LEWIS *Gloss. Heref., Spreader*, a cross-piece of wood, which prevents the traces of the fore-horses of a team from collapsing. 1852 C. W. HOSKYNS *Talpa* i. (1854) 3 Bang goes a trace or a spreader, and the plough comes to a standstill. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2288/2 *Spreader*,..a stick which stretches apart the ends of a chain to which the single-trees are attached.

attrib. 1871 in De Vere *Americanisms* 351 The captain.. was attacked with a spreaderstick (a piece of wood used as a swingle-tree on the tow-track).

b. In misc. uses (see quots.).

1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2004/1 *Runner*,..the slider of an umbrella to which the spreaders are pivoted. 1881 RAYMOND *Mining Gloss., Spreaders*, pieces of timber stretched across a shaft as a temporary support of the walls. 1884 ERICHSEN *Surgery* (ed. 8) I. 68 A wide 'spreader' made of a piece of wood with a hole in it for the rope..to pass through. 1888 FENN *Dick o' the Fens* 88 The net, at whose two ends was fixed a pole as spreader.

c. *Naut.* A bar attached to the mast of a yacht in order to tighten the shrouds.

1895 *Daily News* 11 Sept. 5/5 In weathering it her gaff or spreaders struck Defender's shrouds. 1901 *Daily Chron.* 6 June 7/5 All her wire rigging except the masthead shrouds going over the spreader.

4. a. A machine by which heckled stricks of line are combined and drawn out into slivers.

1853 URE *Dict. Arts* (ed. 4) I. 758 In the preparation of line the first operation is called 'spreading', and the machine employed a 'spreader'. 1884 *Western Morn. News* 9 Aug. 1/5 Cards, spreaders, drawings, rovings.

b. A device for spreading the jet of water issuing from a hose.

1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade, Spreader*, an attachment [to] the branch pipe of a fire-engine for scattering the water over a large surface. 1863 *Appleby's Handbk. Mach. & Iron Work* 59 Copper Branch-pipe...Brass Jet and Spreader extra, 7/6 each. 1894 *Westm. Gaz.* 3 May 3/3 The Spiral Spreaders, which can be..fixed in position as lawn sprinklers, are excellent.

c. An apparatus or device by which something is spread or scattered.

1864 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* XXV. II. 368 Each shaft or inlet should be provided with a louver or 'spreader' within the stable, to prevent occasional down-draughts. 1882 *Rep. Prec. Metals U.S.* 586 The pulp goes on to the distributing board, which is provided with spreaders.

II. †5. *Cant.* Butter. *Obs.* (Cf. SPREAD *sb.* 6.)

1610 ROWLANDS *Martin Mark-all* E iv, *Spreader*, butter.

6. Something which spreads or grows outwards.

a 1639 WOTTON *Surv. Educ.* in *Relig.* (1651) 321 If their Child be not such a speedy spreader, and brancher like the Vine. 1845 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* VI. I. 198 The oak is naturally a wide spreader.

b. A side-channel.

1845 COL. HAWKER *Diary* (1893) II. 252 We then poled up the 'spreader', but the water was too low to allow my gun to bear on the birds.

c. A catch which operates by spreading.

1884 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* Suppl. 827/1 *Socket*, a tool used in well boring.., screwing on to the top of the rod, attaching by gripers, hooks, shoulders, collars, spreaders, etc.

Spreading (spre·diŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. SPREAD *v.*]

1. The action of the verb in various senses:

a. In transitive uses.

a 1000 *Rituale Eccl. Dunelm.* (Surtees) 109 Sprædvng [L. *propagationem*] mennisces cynnes. *a* 1240 *Ureisun* in *O. E. Hom.* I. 185 Wiþ þe ilke spredunge [of the arms]..as þe moder to hire child. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 470 Spredynge, *dilatacio, extencio*. *c* 1465 *Pol., Rel., & L. Poems* (1903) 3 þe egile..Thorowe þe spredinge of his wengis þat neuer begane to flee. 1508 DUNBAR *Flyting* 206 Oft for ane causs thy burdclaith neidis no spredding. 1560 BIBLE (Geneva) *Ezek.* xxvi. 5 Thou shalt be for the spreading of nettes in the middes of the sea. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* I. 508 Touching the spreading of mucke, and mingling it with the mould of a land. 1657 *Attest Innoc. Z. Croston* A iij, Many of his friends considering the spreading of this scandal,..did see the necessity of speaking in his behalf. 1765 *Museum Rust.* IV. 123 The reward of manuring a cold clay with coal-ashes, even in the year immediately following the spreading of it. 1853 [see SPREADER 4 a]. 1900 *Westm. Gaz.* 11 Jan. 2/2 This is the doctrine of 'spreading', that we had over the Clerical Tithes Act.

b. In intransitive uses.

1382 WYCLIF *Ezek.* xxxi. 7 He was moost fayr in his greetnes, and in spredynge of tendre trees. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 470 Spredynge, or streykynge owte, *extencio, protencio*. 1538 STARKEY *England* I. ii. 63 Lyke as the cloudys let the schynyng and spredyng of the sone beamys downe to the erth. 1577 tr. *Bullinger's Decades* (1592) 678 Whose goinges foorth (or spreadinges abroade) haue beene..from euerlasting. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* III. 144 Harts (notable for their greatnesse, and the spreading of their hornes). 1639 O. WOOD *Alph. Bk. Secrets* 134 The water thereof is perfect good to stay the spreading of the Canker. 1683 MOXON *Mech. Exerc., Printing* x. ¶ 4 The spreading of the ends of these two Tennants into the spreading of the Mortesses *in* the Cheeks. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XVIII. 102/1 The patient may suffer from the spreading of the disease. 1832 H. MELVILL in *Preacher* III. 97/1 The creatures whom he hath sent forth to tenant the spreadings of immensity. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VII. 574 A spreading of the fluid into the retro-ocular tissue.

2. *attrib.*, as *spreading commission, knife, place, sheet*; also in mod. technical usage, as *spreading furnace, hammer, machine, room*, etc.

c 1586 C'TESS PEMBROKE *Ps.* XCII. v, Where God doth dwell Shall be his spreading place. 1625 DONNE *Serm.* iii. 26 He hath given us that spreading commission to..preach to every creature. 1648 HEXHAM II, *Een Spreeder*, the Spreding-sheete of a bed. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. xiv. (Roxb.) 3/1 The second..which is called a chopping Knife, or a cookes chopper, or a spreading Knife. 1837 *Penny Cycl.* VIII. 95/1 The spreading-machine is not universally used;..for fine yarns..machine-spreading does not answer so well as hand-spreading. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 578 The spreading furnace or oven is that in which cylinders are expanded into tables or plates. *Ibid.* 611 The French goldbeaters employ besides this hammer..the spreading hammer. 1885 C. G. W. LOCK *Workshop Rec.* Ser. IV. 2/2 (Waterproofing), To make the thick paste into a sheet, what is termed a 'spreading machine' is used. *Ibid.* 5/1 The spreading-rooms of some of the largest establishments.

Spreading (spre·diŋ), *ppl. a.* [f. SPREAD *v.*]

1. Extending or growing outwards; increasing in size or area.

a 1593 MARLOWE tr. *1st Bk. Lucan* 530 Fiery meteors,.. Now spearlike, long; now like a spreading torch. 1651 DAVENANT *Gondibert* I. i. 52 Her spreading stature talness was, not length. 1683 MOXON *Mech. Exerc., Printing* xxiv. ¶ 19 While he is taking the Sheet off the Tympan, he gives a quick spreading glance upon it. 1725 POPE *Odyss.* II. 404 Me from our coast shall spreading sails convey. 1746 HERVEY *Medit.* (1818) 127 Soon arises the anemone, encircled at the bottom with a spreading robe. 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* XXXVI, To see the dipping oars imprint the water, and to watch the spreading circles they left. 1827 KEBLE *Chr. Y., Ordin.*, Through the hallow'd air The spreading cloud of incense soar'd. 1851 RUSKIN *Stones Ven.* (1874) I. ix. 111 The eye always requires, on a slender shaft, a more spreading capital than it does on a massy one. 1897 W. ANDERSON *Surg. Treat. Lupus* 15 In large areas of lupus.., the spreading edge may be excised.

fig. *a* 1647 HABINGTON *Surv. Worcs.* (Worcs. Hist. Soc.) III. 424 The worthy and large spreadinge family of the Throckmortons.

b. Of trees or plants.

1593 SHAKS. 3 *Hen. VI*, v. ii. 14 Whose top-branch ouer-peer'd Ioves spreading Tree. 1611 BIBLE *Wisd.* xvii. 18 A melodious noise of birdes among the spreading branches. 1634 MILTON *Comus* 184 Here to lodge Under the spreading favour of these Pines. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* IV. 216 With spreading Planes he made a cool Retreat. 1720 PRIOR *Truth & Falsehood* 11 Under a spreading beach They sat. 1743 FRANCIS tr. *Horace, Odes* III. i. 14 Others..joy to plant the spreading grove. 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* XXXII, Beneath the dark and spreading branches. 1842 LOUDON *Suburban Hort.* 531 A good bearer, a spreading tree. 1869 TOZER *Highl. Turkey* I. 292 [We] lay down to rest under a spreading ash-tree.

c. *Bot.* Having a gradual outward tendency or direction.

1796 WITHERING *Brit. Plants* (ed. 3) II. 166 Calyx 5-flowered: panicle spreading. 1841 *Penny Cycl.* XXI. 182/2 Five petals, which are usually spreading. 1858 A. IRVINE *Handbk. Brit. Pl.* 753 Teeth with spreading or spreading-erect cartilaginous points. 1890 *Science-Gossip* XXVI. 275 Leaflets ovate, with long spreading hairs near the underside of the mid-rib.

Comb. 1840 *Penny Cycl.* XVIII. 171/2 The spreading-leaved Pine...A lofty tree, with leaves eight or nine inches long. 1846-50 A. WOOD *Class-bk. Bot.* 194 *Talinum patens*, Spreading-flowered Talinum.

2. a. In specific names of plants.

1548 TURNER *Names Herbes* 45 *Lactuca sessilis*, in englishe spredynge Lettis. 1823 CRABB *Techn. Dict.* II, *Scorzonera residifolia*,..Spreading Viper's-Grass. 1836 *Penny Cycl.* VI. 432/1 *Cerasus prostrata*, the spreading cherry. 1859 PRATT *Brit. Grasses* 65 Spreading Millet-grass. *Ibid.* 71 Spreading Silky Bent.

b. *Spreading adder*, the blowing adder. *U.S.*

1891 in *Cent. Dict.*

3. Tending to become (more) widely diffused or prevalent.

1560 BIBLE *Lev.* xiii. 57 If it appeare stil in the garment, ..it is a spreading leprie. 1647 *Power of Keys* v. 119 By the spreading, leprous quality of their example. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* I. 182 Spreading Succ'ry choaks the rising Field. 1746 FRANCIS tr. *Horace, Sat.* II. viii. 98 From bed to bed the spreading whisper flies. 1843 R. J. GRAVES *Syst. Clin. Med.* XXV. 319 The disposition to fresh ulceration of a spreading and intractable character. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 712 'Spreading gangrene'..and pyæmia are natural consequences.

Sprea·dingly, *adv.* [f. prec.] In a spreading manner.

1600 THYNNE *Epigr.* (1876) 82 Thow Bacchus plant,..Why dost thou clyme my howse so spreddinglie? 1602 — in *Chaucer's Wks.* b j, What fame Arpinas spreadingly doth find By Tullies eloquence and oratorie. 1641 MILTON *Reform.* 6 The best times were spreadingly infected.

Sprea·dingness. *rare.* [f. as prec.] Tendency to spread.

1671 *Phil. Trans.* VI. 2211 As for the Spreadingness of the Plague, he esteems..that it is not so Contagious as is commonly believed. 1674 N. FAIRFAX *Bulk & Selv.* Ep. Ded., Though I cannot raise nor greaten the height and spreadingness of your Worth.

†**Spreadle(s.** *Obs. rare.* In 4 **spredeles, spridels.** [repr. OE. **sprædels*, f. *sprædan* SPREAD *v.* Cf. WFlem. *spreedsel* something spread.] A spreading-place (for nets).

1386 *Cart. Abb. Whiteby* (Surtees) II. 503 Item de spredeles de retez. 1387 *Ibid.* 505 Item quant as spridels, nul altre les doits avoir si non labbe.

†**Spread-net.** *Obs.* [f. SPREAD *v.*] (See quot.)

1686 BLOME *Gentl. Recreat.* II. 130/2 Of the Spread-Net, or Drag-Net. There is another way to take Partridges with a Spread-Net, which is by some called a long Tramel-Net.

†**Sprea·dy,** *a. Obs.*—1. [f. SPREAD *v.*] Tending to spread; expansive.

1566 J. PARTRIDGE *Hist. Plasidas* B iij, The lusty fish.. fetching frischoes here and there, With spready finne at sea.

Spreagh (spreχ). [Alteration of SPREATH *sb.*, prob. by association with CREAGH *sb.*] (See quots. and SPREATH *sb.*)

1809 SCOTT *Lett.* (1894) I. 146, I met an old follower of Rob Roy, who had been at many a spreagh (foray) with that redoubted freebooter. 1818 — *Rob Roy* XXVI, Driving a spreagh (whilk is, in plain Scotch, stealing a herd of nowte). 1823 — *Quentin D.* vii, 'You will not deny that they are cattle-lifters?' said Guthrie. 'To drive a spreagh, or so, is no thievery,' said Balafré.

Hence **Sprea·ghery** (also **sprechery**), cattle-raiding; plunder, booty.

1814 SCOTT *Wav.* xli, It is unspeakable the quantity of useless sprechery which they have collected on their march. 1818 — *Rob Roy* XXVI, They lay by quiet enough, saving some spreagherie on the Lowlands.

Spreame, error for *spearme* SPERM *sb.*

1576 TURBERV. *Venerie* 186 If you take a bytche Foxe.. and cut out hir gutte whiche holdeth hir spreame or nature.

Spreat. *Sc.* Also **sprait.** Var. of SPRET.

a 1600 *Lindesay's* (Pitscottie) *Chron. Scot.* (1728) 146 The floors [were] laid with green scharets and spreats, medwarts and flowers. 1802 LEYDEN *Lord Soulis* lxvi, And on the spot, where they boil'd the pot, The spreat and the deer-hair ne'er shall grow. 1837 *Glasgow Courier* in *Boston Herald* 14 Feb. 4/2 The tenant of the farm..lately purchased a quantity of sprait, or coarse hay.

Spreath (sprīθ), *sb. Sc.* Now only *arch.* Forms: 5–6 **spreith,** 5 **spreithe** (6 **spreicht**), 6 **spreth,** 7, 9 **spraith,** 7– **spreath.** [ad. Gael. *spréidh* cattle. Cf. INSPREITH and SPREAGH.]

†**1.** Booty, plunder, spoil. *Obs.*

c 1425 WYNTOUN *Cron.* VIII. 6467 (Cott. MS.), Son eftyr þai Donwart in þe towne helde þar way, And tuk þar spreithe and presowneris. *Ibid.* 6473 Off þat sprethe mony richit war þar. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* II. vii. 27 Our othir feris rubbis, tursing away, fute hait, The spreith of Troy. *Ibid.* xii. 6 Wardanes tway, For to observe and keip the spreith or pray.

†**b.** *spec.* Cattle taken as spoil. *Obs.*—1

1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* I. viii. 62 We com nocht hidder.. To spuilȝe temples or riches of Libia, Nor by the coist na spreicht to drive awa.

2. A herd *of* cattle carried or driven off in a raiding expedition.

1665 J. FRASER *Polichron.* (S.H.S.) 85 He wasted and spulied the whole country, carrying away a vast spreath of their strongest cattle. 1794 *Statist. Acc. Scot.* XIII. 149 A party of the Camerons had come down to carry a spreath of cattle, as it was called, from Moray. 1874 HISLOP *Sc. Anecd.* 273 Taking 'spreaths' or herds of cattle from their hereditary enemies.

3. A cattle-raid.

1773 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Lett. fr. Mount.* (1813) I. 110 Those

plunderers, .. who used to consider making a spreath as a gallant exploit; now, a spreath was carrying away forcibly a herd of cattle, and fighting their way through all opposition. 1836 *Tait's Mag.* III. 426 It was..the scene of continual spreaths, liftings, reavings, and herriments.

So † **Spreath** *v. intr.*, to pillage or plunder. *Obs.*

c 1425 WYNTOUN *Cron.* VIII. 6279 Scottismen wes all þat nycht spreithand, And maid all þairis þat euer þai fand.

Sprechery: see SPREAGHERY.

† **'Sprecious.** *Obs.* Also s'pretious, sprecious. [See GOD *sb.* 14 a and PRECIOUS *a.* 2 b.] Shortened form of *God's precious* used as an asseveration or oath.

1610 B. JONSON *Alch.* II. i, 'Sprecious!—What do you mean? 1614 — *Barth. Fair* I. v, To seeke mee?..S'pretious—to seeke me! 1632 BROME *Crt. Beggar* II. i, Sprecious! How now! my Fob has been fubd to-day of six pieces.

Spre·ckle. *Sc.* and *north.* Also 6 spraikle. [= MHG. *spreckel, sprekel*, obs. or dial. G. *spreckel, spräckel, sprackel*, Sw. *spräckla*, Norw. *sprekla*: cf. next.] A speck or speckle.

1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* v. ii. 90 Of freklit spraiklis all hir bak schone, As golden mailȝeis hir scalis glitterand brycht. 1866- in Sc. and north. dial. glossaries.

Spreckled (spre·k'ld), *ppl. a.* Now *dial.* Also 6 sprekled. [Cf. prec. and G. (obs. or dial.) *gespreckelt* (also *sprecklicht, -lig*, etc.), Da. *spraglet*, MSw. *spräklott*, Norw. *spreklutt*, Icel. *spreklóttr.*] Speckled.

1535 COVERDALE *Jer.* xii. 8 As a spreckled byrde, a byrde of dyuerse coloures. — *Zech.* i. 8 Behynde him were there reade, spreckled and whyte horses. 1786 BURNS *To Mount. Daisy* ii, The bonie Lark,..Wi's spreckl'd breast. 1825- in dial. glossaries (N. Cy., Yks., Lancs., Linc., E. Ang., Nhp., Warw.). 1833 *Wauldby Farm Rep.* 109 in *Husb.* (L.U.K.) III, Three bushels of the spreckled or partridge peas. 1850 J. STRUTHERS *Poet. Wks.* I. p. CXXIV, The spreckled daisy and the pale primrose. *a* 1867 MRS. E. SMITH *Mem. Highl. Lady* x. (1898) 177 He was called the Spreckled Laird on account of being marked with the smallpox.

Spred(e, obs. forms of SPREAD *sb.* and *v.*

Spree (sprī), *sb.* Chiefly *colloq.* [A slang word of obscure origin: cf. SPRAY *sb.*[4]]

1. A lively or boisterous frolic; an occasion or spell of somewhat disorderly or noisy enjoyment (freq. accompanied by drinking).

1804 TARRAS *Poems* 73 I'm blythe to see a rantin spree. 1810 *Sporting Mag.* XXXV. 69 Wednesday — wanted a spree. 1840 E. E. NAPIER *Scenes & Sports For. Lands* II. v. 145 A stanch sportsman, always foremost in a spree of this kind. 1856 B. TAYLOR *North. Trav.* 34 The little public square..was crowded with people, many of whom had already commenced their Christmas sprees. 1878 BESANT & RICE *Celia's Arbd* xxii, We went ashore, the men had a spree, and the officers made themselves agreeable to the young ladies.

transf. 1849 MRS. CARLYLE *New Lett. & Mem.* (1903) II. 4, I have taken a spree of Novel reading, too.

b. *spec.* A more or less prolonged bout or spell of drinking; a drunken carousal.

Not always clearly separable from prec.

1811 *Lexicon Balatronicum, Spree*,..a drinking bout. 1854 *Poultry Chron.* II. 381 The cock was half seas over, or in other words, drunk, and having a regular spree. 1890 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Col. Reformer* (1891) 132 A strong man gets over it.. till the time of the next spree comes round.

c. In the phrases *on a spree, on* or *upon the spree.*

(*a*) 1847 *Illustr. Lond. News* 10 July 27/3 The balloon looked something like the dome of St. Paul's out on a spree. 1865 HOLLAND *Plain Talk* v. 168 It is further complained that operatives drink and go on sprees. 1880 WEBB *Goethe's Faust* II. vi. 144 She's out on a spree!

(*b*) 1851 MAYHEW *Lond. Labour* I. 446 We were too fond of what was called getting on the spree. 1859 *Slang Dict.* 99 'Going on the spree,' starting out with intent to have a frolic. 1892 STEVENSON *Across the Plains* 113 The cheap young gentleman upon the spree.

2. Rough amusement, merrymaking, or sport; prolonged drinking or carousing; indulgence or participation in this.

1808 JAMIESON, *Spree*, innocent merriment. 1828 *Sporting Mag.* XXIII. 34, I will give you a frequent line on the spree of the West. 1899 F. T. BULLEN *Log Sea-waif* 291 The captain..did not return for several days, being supposed ..to have entered upon a steady course of spree.

Hence **Spree** *v. intr.*, to have or take part in a spree; also with *it*. **Spree·ing** *vbl. sb.*, indulgence or participation in a spree or sprees; also *attrib.* **Spree·ish** *a.*, given to indulgence in sprees; slightly intoxicated; also *absol.*

1855 MRS. GASKELL *North & S.* xvii, I've longed for to be a man to go 'spreeing, even if it were only a tramp to some new place in search o' work. 1859 BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.* (ed. 2) 438 *To spree it*, to get intoxicated. 1864 RAMSBOTTAM *Lanc. Rhymes* 38 While aw'd brass, aw'r sure to spree. 1874 ELMSLIE in *Brit. Whly.* (1911) 2 Nov. 138/3 We generally 'spree together', whenever we can find time. 1890 GUNTER *Miss Nobody* x, Paying their spreeing expenses when occasion offered. *Ibid.* xvii, After the wicked has been spreeing, gaming, and tooting all night. 1825 C. WESTMACOTT *Eng. Spy* I. 382 The 'spreeish or the sprightly. 1888 *Times* (weekly ed.) 16 Nov. 3/4 [She was] not drunk, but..a little spreeish.

Spreed(e, obs. or dialect forms of SPREAD *v.* **Spreet**, variant of SPRIT *sb.* **Spreet**(e, obs. varr. SPRITE. **Spreet-sail**, obs. f. SPRIT-SAIL. **Sprein**, obs. f. SPRAIN *sb.* **Spreit**, obs. var. SPRITE. **Spreitles**, var. SPRITELESS *a. Obs.* **Sprencle**, obs. f. SPRINKLE *v.*

† **Spre·ndle.** *Obs.*[-1] [Cf. WFlem. *sprendel* splinter.] ? A split piece of wood.

1465 *Mann. & Household. Exp.* (Roxb.) 566 The said Barkere axsethe alowance for dawbynge, ij,s j.d. Item, for sprendeles, iij.d... Item, for splentes, viij.d.

† **Sprenge,** *sb. Obs.*[-1] [f. next.] Sprinkling.

c 1380 WYCLIF *Serm.* Sel. Wks. II. 287 Sprenge [*v.r.* spryngyng] of salt on þis flour is wisdom þat man haþ to serve God in clennesse.

Sprenge, *v. Obs.* exc. *arch.* in pa. t. and pa. pple. **sprent.** Forms: *Inf.* 1 sprengan, sprængan, 3–5 sprengen, 4–5 sprenge (5 spreinge). *Pa. t.* 1 sprengde; 3 spreinde, 4 sprende, spreynte, 5, 7 sprent. *Pa. pple. a.* 3 y-sprengd(e, 3–4 i-sprengde, 4 i-sprenged; 4 sprengde, sprengd, 4–6 sprenged, 5 sprengid(e, spreyngde. *β.* 3 i-spreind(e, 4 y-spreynd, y-spraind, spreind(e, 4–5 spreynd(e, spreyned, 5 spreined; 4–5 spreynt(e, 5 spreinte, 5, 7 spreint. *γ.* 4 sprende, 5 sprenct, 5–7 sprente, 5–7, 9 sprent, 6 sprant. [OE. *sprengan* (:—**sprangjan*, f. the pret. stem of *springan* SPRING *v.*), = OFris. **sprenga* (EFris. *spræng*, NFris. *sprêng*), **sprenza* (WFris. *springzje*), MDu. and Du. *sprengen*, OHG. *sprengan* (MHG. and G. *sprengen*), ON. and Icel. *sprengja* (MSw. *sprängia*, Sw. *spränga*, Da. *sprænge*) to cause to spring, to sprinkle, etc. Cf. BESPRENGE *v.*]

1. *trans.* To sprinkle (a liquid, etc.). Also *absol.*

a 941 *Laws Athelstan* in Thorpe *Laws* I. 226 Sprænge se mæsse-preost haliȝ-wæter ofer hiȝ ealle. *c* 1000 ÆLFRIC *Lev.* iv. 17 Nime se sacerd his blod, and dyppe his finger þær on, and sprenge seofon siðon on þæt ryft. 1382 WYCLIF *Isaiah* lxiii. 3 Sprengd is the blod of hem vp on my clothis. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Cook's T.* 503 Gamelyn sprengeth holy-water with an oken spire. 1412–20 LYDG. *Chron. Troy* IV. 3668 For she sawe blood spreint so cruelly On hir lordis dredful garnement. *a* 1536 *Songs, Carols*, etc. (1907) 69 The blode..Was sprente on þe people. 1591 WILMOT *Tancred & Gismund* v. i, The bloud..Sprent on his corps, and on his paled face.

b. To scatter, disperse, distribute, spread abroad or about, etc. Also *absol.*

c 1000 *Ags. Gosp.* Matt. XXV. 24 Þu ripst þær ðu ne seowe & gaderast þær ðu ne sprengdest. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 92 Wuteð to soðe þet euer so þe wittes beoð more ispreinde utwardes, se heo lesse wendet inwardes. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 2542 Misbileue in to al þis lond among men was ysprengd. 1382 WYCLIF *Eccl.* iii. 5 Time of sprenging abrod stones, and time of gadering togidere. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Knt.'s T.* 1311 A fewe freknes in his face y-spreynd. 1642 H. MORE *Song of Soul* II. App. xlviii, What then shall hinder but a roscid air With gentle heat eachwhere be 'sperst and sprent. 1834 LD. HOUGHTON *Mem. Many Scenes* (1844) 30 The diligent flock Tracks out the scant grass that is sprent on the rock. 1855 SINGLETON *Virgil* I. 316 Snowy Paros, and, sprent o'er the main, The Cyclades.

† **c.** To produce by sprinkling. *Obs.*[-1]

c 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 319 A swyþe foul þing is þat sed of ȝwan Man is i-spreind [*v.r.* þat man is mid i-sprenged].

2. To sprinkle (a person or thing) with some liquid. Also *fig.*

c 1000 ÆLFRIC *Exod.* xxiv. 8 He nam þæt blod and sprengde þæt folc. *Ibid.* xxix. 21 Þu sprengst Aaron and his reaf. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 16 Hwon ȝe beoð al greiðe sprengeð ou mid hali water. *c* 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 202 Þe prior spreinde [*v. r.* sprende] him with holi water. *c* 1325 *Prose Psalter* l. 8 Þou sprengest me, Lord, wyþ þy mercy. 1382 WYCLIF *Ps.* l. 9 Thou shal sprenge me, Lord, with isope, and I shal ben clensid. 1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* XVII. vii. 699 A grete company of angels..took water whiche was brought be by an angel..and sprente alle the shyp. 1495 *Trevisa's Barth. De P. R.* IX. vi. 352 By nyghte somer bredyth dewe..and sprengyth [*Bodl. MS.* springeþ] therwyth grasse and herbes. 1578 T. PROCTER *Gorg. Gallery* in *Heliconia* (1815) I. 46 For fate..My youthly Yeares with tears hath sprent.

absol. *c* 1380 *Sir Ferumb.* 3291 Þer-wiþ sche mellede vynegre anon..þar þat fyr was setled on þe walle; oueral þer-with sche spreynte.

† **b.** To cleanse by or as by sprinkling. *rare.*

1382 WYCLIF *Heb.* x. 22 We, spreynt [*v. r.* sprengd] the hertis fro yuel conscience,..holde the confessioun of oure hope. [1388 Be oure hertis spreined fro an yuel conscience.]

3. In *pa. pple.* and const. *with*: Besprinkled, besprent.

1382 WYCLIF *Numb.* vii. 19 A silueren fiole..ful of tryed flour spreynt with oyle. *c* 1400 N. LOVE *Bonavent. Mirr.* i. (1908) 265 The crosse of oure lorde that was than spreyned with his preciouse..blood. *c* 1489 CAXTON *Blanchardyn* vi. 25 The gentyl mayde..ful sprenct wyth grete teerys. 1540–54 CROKE *13 Ps.* (Percy Soc.) 6 My bed with tears is over sprent. 1596 SPENSER *F. Q.* IV. ii. 18 Streames of bloud did rayle Adowne,..That all the ground with purple bloud was sprent. 1600 HOLLAND *Livy* IV. xiv. 149 Being spreint with his bloud thus slaine. *a* 1618 SYLVESTER *Maiden's Blush* 516 Hee teares his hoary haire, With Ashes sprent. [1825 BROCKETT *N. C. Gloss., Sprent*, bespattered, splashed with dirt.]

b. With reference to colour.

1382 WYCLIF *Gen.* XXX. 39 The sheep shulden..beere spotty, and speckid, and spreyned with dyuers colour. 1552 *Inv. Ch. Surrey* (1869) 88 A vestment of blewe velvyt with a crosse of redde velvyt sprenged with gold. *c* 1563 *Thersytes* in Hazl. *Dodsley* I. 425 The spere of spanysshe spylbery sprente wt spiteful spottes. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* II. xii. 45 Other where the snowy substaunce [was] sprent With vermell. 1867 M. ARNOLD *Thyrsis* Poems (1877) II. 216 The cheek grown thin, the brown hair sprent with grey. 1883 R. BRIDGES *Prometheus* 1146 Gay-spun garments sprent with gold.

c. In fig. use.

c 1374 CHAUCER *Boethius* (1868) 42 Þe swetnesse of mannes welefulnesse is yspranid [*sic*] wiþ manye bitternesses. *c* 1386 — *Man of Law's T.* 422 To worldly blisse spreynd with bitternesse. ? *a* 1450 LYDG. *Ord. of Fools* (Cott.) 30 Tonge spreynte with suger, the galle kepte secrete. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* IV. i. 43 Quhar that our hous with broderis deid wes sprent.

Hence † **Sprenged** *ppl. a.*, † **Spre·nging** *vbl. sb.*

1382 WYCLIF *Exod.* xii. 34 Thanne the puple tok sprengid meel, or it were sowrid. — *Num.* xix. 9 Thei ben to the multitude..into water of sprengynge. — 1 *Pet.* i. 2 In to halewinge of the spirit, in to obedience, and sprengynge of the blood of Jhesu Crist, grace and pees to ȝou be multiplied.

Sprenge, obs. f. SPRING, SPRINGE *sb.*

† **Sprenges.** *Obs.*[-1] [Of doubtful origin.] A disease of cattle.

The passage does not occur in the Latin original.

1577 B. GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* III. (1586) 134 There is a disease called the Sprenges, wherein he will smite his head backwarde to his Belly, and stampe with his Legges.

† **Sprengles.** *Obs.*[-1] [app. repr. OE. **sprengels*, f. *sprengan* SPRENGE *v.* Cf. G. *sprengel* and SPRINGEL.] A sprinkler.

1395 *E. E. Wills* (1882) 5 An haliwater pot, with the sprengils.

Sprenkle, Sprenkyll(e, obs. ff. SPRINKLE.

† **Sprent,** *sb.*[1] *Obs. rare.* [Of obscure origin.] ? A young turbot or other flat-fish.

1324–5 *Durh. Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 14 In 12 Rayes, 9 Sprentes de t'botes;..3 Sprentes de t'botes, 6 kelinges. *Ibid.*, In..12 torbotes sprentes [*fr.* sprontes. Cf. 1531–2 *Durh. Househ.-bk.* (Surtees) 122, 5 lyngs, 1 but, et 1 butspreynte. 1532–3 *Ibid.*, 3 lyngs et 3 butsprents.]

Sprent, *sb.*[2] *north.* and *Sc.* [f. SPRENT *v.* Cf. Icel. *sprettr* a short gallop, Norw. *sprett* a sprinkle, splash, etc.]

1. † **a.** A sprinkler. *Obs.*[-1]

14.. in J. R. Boyle *Hedon* (1875) App. 120 Pro factura.. iij. sprentes et j. kilpe pro le haliwater.

b. A sprinkle; a spot or stain caused by sprinkling. Chiefly *north. dial.*

1860 HOLME LEE *Leg. fr. Fairy Land* 1 This gossamer was finer than any spider's web, and all over it were sprents of dew. 1865- in Yks. and Lancs. glossaries.

2. a. A spring, leap, bound.

1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* XI. xiv. 68 The serpent..In lowpyt thrawis wrythis wyth mony a sprent. 1887 in DARLINGTON *S. Chesh. Gloss.*

b. A spring of a lock, etc. Also *fig.*

1621 LD. DUNFERMLINE in G. Seton *Mem.* (1882) 130, I find me now far remoued from the springs or sprentis that mouis all the resortis off our gouerment. 1645 RUTHERFORD *Tryal & Tri. Faith* (1845) 31 When there is a stone in the sprent and in-work of the lock, the key cannot open the door. 1808 JAMIESON s.v., The back sprent of a clasping knife.

c. (See quot.)

1710 RUDDIMAN *Gloss. Douglas' Æneis* s.v., We use the word *sprent*, for the spring, or elastick force of any thing.

3. The fastening or hasp of a chest, trunk, etc. Also *attrib.*

1511 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* IV. 276 For expens maid ..one the said organis..in naillis and sprentis of irne. 1570 *Henry's Wallace* IV. 238 Wraithly till it [the door] he went; Be force of handis it raisit out of the sprent [*v.r.* stent]. 1644 in *Trans. Antiq. Soc. Scot.* (1792) I. 174 A key and sprent band. 1808 in JAMIESON. 1855- in Yks. and Northumbld. glossaries. 1875 W. WELSH *Poet. & Prose Wks.* 67 Open that auld kist wi' the sprent.

4. A springe or snare.

1822 *Lonsdale Mag.* III. 13 (E.D.D.) Catching partridges and woodcocks in sprents. 1878- in Cumberland glossaries.

Sprent, *v.* Now only *north. dial.* and *Sc.* Also 9 Sc. **spraint.** [a. early Scand. **sprenta* (ON. and Icel. *spretta*, Norw. *spretta*, Sw. *sprätta*, Da. *sprætte*), the causal weak vb. corresponding to **sprinta* SPRINT *v.*, but in Eng. chiefly used intransitively.]

1. *intr.* Of persons, animals, etc.: To spring, spring forward, jump, leap; to move quickly or with agility.

Freq. in the 15th c.; usually in the past tense and const. with advs. and preps.

a. 13.. *Cursor M.* 12527 (Gött.), A nedder sprent vte of þe sand, And stanged iame. 13.. *Gaw. & Gr. Knt.* 1896 As he sprent ouer a spenné, to spye þe schrewe. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* XII. 49 Than sprent thai sammyn in-till a lyng. ? *a* 1400 *Morte Arth.* 3311 Bot ȝit he sprange and sprente, and spraddene his armes. *a* 1450 *Le Morte Arth.* 1846 To the chambyr dore he sprente. *Ibid.* 1892 The knyghtis sprent as they were wode. 1508 DUNBAR *Gold. Targe* 242 Wyth spirit affrayde apon my fete I sprent. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* XI. xiii. 158 And furth scho sprent as spark of gleid or fyre. 1585–90 J. STEWART *Poems* (S.T.S.) II. 59 Quho mycht be formest, formest sprent away. *Ibid.* 65 Vith na les speid than this my pen may sprent.

β. 1804 TARRAS *Poems* 73 I'm content to see ye spraint, Right free o' dool an' care. 1897 LD. E. HAMILTON *Outlaws Marches* i. 3 Here am I sprainting after ye this mile past.

† **b.** Of things, esp. blood: To spring, fly, spurt *out* or *about. Obs.*

c 1325 *MS. Tiberius E. vii.* fol. 70 Þair mowthes er like a pot welland, Wharof hate dropes ay sprentes out. *c* 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 6814 Thurgh sparkes of fire þat obout sal sprent. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 743 Als sprent of my spittyng a specke on þi chere, þou sall be dist to þe deth. *a* 1470 HARDING *Chron.* CXV. ix, The bloodde..sprent out, all hote and newe, Into his eyen.

† **c.** Of smell: To arise, issue; to be given out or forth. *Obs. rare.*

c 1480 WATTON *Spec. Chr.* 46 b, Their oyle was medled with swete oynement Out of whiche swete sauour sprent.

1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* XII. Prol. 142 Redolent odour vp from Iutis sprent.

† **d.** To sprout or shoot. *Obs. rare*—⁰.

1647 HEXHAM I, To Sprout or sprent; *siet boven* to Spring.

† **2.** To spring by breaking or splitting; to shiver *in* or *into* splinters. *Obs.*

c 1400 *Destr. Troy* 7248 And aither lede full lyuely lachit vpon other, þat his speire alto sprottes sprent hom betwene. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* X. 23 Than speris sone all in to splendrys sprent. *c* 1475 *Rauf Coilzear* 819 Their speiris in splenders away Abufe thair heid sprent.

3. *trans.* To sprinkle, spatter, or splash.

1788 W. H. MARSHALL *Yorksh.* II. 355 To *Sprent*, to splash or smear with small spots. 1835 CLARE *Rural Muse* 36 What hour the dewy morning's infancy..sprents the red thighs of the humble bee. 1855 [ROBINSON] *Whitby Gloss., To Sprint* or *Sprent*, to splash, to bespot, or squirt upon with a fluid. 1894 HESLOP *Northumbld. Gloss.* 680 Yo'r sprentin the watter aal ower the place.

Hence † **Spre'nting** *vbl. sb.*, a springing, a leap.

1432–50 tr. *Higden* (Rolls) I. 369 Also there be in Yrlonde iij. weres,..ouer whom salmones wylle passe þro a sprentenge.

Sprent(e, pa. t. and pa. pple. SPRENGE *v.*

Spreot, obs. form of SPRIT *sb.*[1]

Spret. *Sc.* and *north. dial.* Also **sprett.** [Obscurely related to SPRAT *sb.*[3] See also SPREAT and SPRIT *sb.*[3]] A kind of rush, esp. the joint-leaved rush; coarse, reedy, or rush-like grass; a stalk or stem of this.

1397–8 *Durham Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 215 Pro sprettis et stramine emp. pro tectura. 1777 LIGHTFOOT *Flora Scot.* II. 1131 *Juncus articulatus*,..Sprett. 1794 *Statist. Acc. Scot.* XIII. 583 On part of it grows a coarse kind of grass called sprett, which is cut by the farmers for hay. 1808 in JAMIESON. 1870 *United Presbyt. Mag.* 199 All the houses received a fresh covering of rushes or sprett every year. 1878 *Proc. Berw. Nat. Club* VIII. 452 The earliest plants that appear, which are known by the vernacular names of moss, ling, spret, &c. 1894 in HESLOP *Northumbld. Wds.*

Hence **Spre'tty** *a.*, of the nature of spret; full of, producing or growing, spret.

1808 FORSYTH *Beauties Scotl.* V. 298 Spretty coarse grass is not easily killed by frost. 1878 *Proc. Berw. Nat. Club* VIII. 453 *Spretty-grasses*, a general term for the succulent products of meadow or bog-land, but chiefly for the different rushes (*Juncus*) which are cut for bog-hay. 1882 J. WALKER *Jaunt to Auld Reekie* 240 Our bard Through spretty fields his shining plough-shares drave.

Spret, obs. var. SPRIT *sb.*[1], SPRITE *sb.*, obs. f. 3rd pers. sing. pres. indic. of SPREAD *v.* **Sprete,** obs. var. SPRITE *sb.*[1] and *v.* **Sprete seyle,** obs. f. SPRITSAIL.

† **Spreth,** *a. Obs.*—[1] [prob. related to G. *spröde* (obs. and dial. *spröd*, *spred*, etc.), WFlem. *sprooi*, brittle, weak.] Frail, liable to sin.

c 1315 SHOREHAM IV. 50 Panne ich may wyssy ase ich can, Mi self þaz ich be spreþ, þat [etc.].

Spretlesse, var. SPRITELESS *a. Obs.* **Sprett(e,** obs. var. SPRIT *sb.*, SPRITE *sb.* **Spretuall,** var. SPRITUAL *a. Obs.* **Sprety,** obs. var. SPRITY *a.* **Spreuers,** var. of SPERVER *Obs.* **Spreul,** north. and Sc. var. SPRAWL *v.* **Sprew,** var. of SPRUE.[1]

† **Sprew**[1]. *Obs.*—[1] [Of obscure origin: cf. MHG. *sprêwen*, *spreuwen*, G. *spreuen*, to sprinkle.] Spray.

1633 T. JAMES *Voy.* 117 The Cables began to freeze in the house and the Ship to be frozen over with the sprewe of the Sea.

Sprew[2] (sprū). *S. African.* [ad. Du. *spreeuw* starling.] A bird belonging to the genus *Spreo* (of the family *Sturnidæ*), esp. *S. bicolor*, characterized by its iridescent plumage; a glossy starling.

1897 ANNE PAGE *Afternoon Ride* 58 The golden-green gleam on the wing of a sprew.

Sprewce, Sprews(e, obs. ff. SPRUCE, Prussia(n. **Sprewl,** north. and Sc. var. SPRAWL *v.* **Sprey,** variant of SPRAY, spree. **Spreynd(e, Spreynt(e,** obs. pa. t. or pa. pple. of SPRENGE *v.* **Spreyt(e,** obs. varr. SPRITE *sb.* **Spreytles,** var. SPRITELESS *a. Obs.*

Sprig (sprig), *sb.*[1] Also 4–5 **sprigge,** 5–6 **sprygge, sprygg,** 9 **sprigg.** [Of obscure origin.]

1. A small slender nail, either wedge-shaped and headless, or square-bodied with a slight head on one side. † Also *collect.*

In both senses, but now especially in the second, identical with a *brad.*

1359 [see *transom-nail* TRANSOM 7]. 1426–7 *Rec. St. Mary at Hill* (1905) 65 Also for v^c sprygge þe same day, iiij d. 1480 *Wardr. Acc. Edw. IV* (1830) 122 To Piers Draper for M[l] sprigge price vjd. 1539–40 in *Archaeol. Cant.* (1893) XX. 243, 2 'some' of 'sprygg' 10 s. 1552 *Churchw. Acc. St. Michaels, Cornhill* (MS.), For nayles and sprygs to the setting up of the new pewe. 1653 HOLCROFT *Procopius, Goth. Wars* III. 97 They fit to one another the blunt ends of foure Iron sprigs, of equall length. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 51 Brad is a Nail without a head to floor Rooms withall; it is with us termed a Sprig, and is about the size of a ten penny Nail. 1713 J. WARDER *True Amazons* xiii. 117 Some two-penny Dove Nails, or small Hinges, with some Nails and three-penny Sprigs. 1796 STEDMAN *Surinam* I. 109 After having had iron sprigs driven home underneath every one of his nails on hands and feet. 1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* I. 117 Battens..fastened down to stout joists with Scotch flooring sprigs driven through the feather-edge. 1875 *Carpentry & Join.* 64 The bottom of the drawer is to be..secured by a small brad or sprig to the back.

b. *Naut.* (See quot.)

1794 *Rigging & Seamanship* 10 *Sprig*, a small eye-bolt, ragged at the point.

c. A wedge-shaped piece of tin used to hold glass in a sash until the putty dries.

1823 P. NICHOLSON *Pract. Build.* 422 Large squares should be further secured by small sprigs being driven into the rebates of the sash. 1875 *Carpentry & Join.* 106 Let a sprig be put in under each as it is put in place—before it is puttied.

2. A small projecting part or point.

1679 MOXON *Mech. Exerc.* VII. P 3 Carpenters have their Shank made with an hollow Socket at its top, to receive a strong wooden Sprig made to fit into that Socket. 1683 *Ibid., Printing* XI. P 21 An Iron Stud with a square Sprig under it, to be drove and fastned into a Wooden Horse. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. xxi. (Roxb.) 263/2 The Sprig or Pin of the handle is commonly set into the tip of an Harts Horn for its halve. 1847 HALLIW. s.v., A triangular piece of iron is screwed to their shoe-heels, having three points half an inch long projecting downwards. These are called sprigs.

3. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *sprig-box, maker, -nail*; **sprig-awl,** -bit, a bradawl.

1477–9 *Rec. St. Mary at Hill* (1905) 84 For iij quarters Sprygge nayle, iij d ob. *c* 1480 *Ibid.* 104 For m[l] di. Sprygge nayle. 1609–10 in Swayne *Sarum Churchw. Acc.* (1896) 306 Sprigge nayles for the stepps, 12 d. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 298/1 A Nail, (of some termed a Sprig Nail, because without a Head). 1797 *J. Robinson's Directory Sheffield* 63 Dickinson, Enoch, sprig maker. 1798 W. HUTTON *Life* 17 A fork, with one limb, was made to act in the double capacity of sprig-awl and gimlet. 1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* I. 116 The smallest sort of boring tool is a kind of bodkin, called the brad-awl, or sprig-bit. 1896 'J. ACKWORTH' *Clog Shop Chron.* 34 As he bent over his work a great tear splashed down into the sprig-box before him.

Sprig (sprig), *sb.*[2] Also 4, 6–7 **sprigge** (6 **sprygge**), 7 **sprigg.** [Of obscure origin; relationship to LG. *sprick*, dry twig, is doubtful.]

1. A shoot, twig, or spray of a plant, shrub, or tree; † a rod.

14.. *Langland's P. Pl.* C. VI. 139 Ho so spareþ þe spring [*v.r.* sprigge] spilleþ hus children. 1555 EDEN *Decades* (Arb.) 228 This..sprygge whiche bryngeth foorth the sayde cluster is a hole yeare in growyng. 1578 LYTE *Dodoens* 681 The flowers grow amongst the leaues, vppon the young sprigges or sprayes. 1624 CAPT. SMITH *Virginia* II. 31 Their arrowes are made some of straight young sprigs, which they head with bone. 1676 GREW *Anat. Pl., Anat. Fl.* (1682) 152 Where there are several Sprigs upon one Stem, as in Fenil, Hemlock, and the like. 1728–46 THOMSON *Spring* 162 Herds and flocks Drop the dry sprig, and, mute imploring, eye The falling verdure. 1827 G. HIGGINS *Celtic Druids* 34 The Druids pretended to perform various operations by means of sticks, sprigs, or branches of trees. 1856 in Delamer *Fl. Garden* 122 This beautiful Jasmine is..very useful for cutting for bouquets, and the sprigs will last in water a long time. *fig.* 1580 T. M. *Pref. Verses* 40 in Baret *Alv.*, There grew the floures, that Tullie first did see, There sprang the sprigs on which he first did feed.

b. A small spray *of* a particular plant, etc.

1563 T. GALE *Antidot.* II. 41 You maie in the place hereof vse a sprigge of the Oke. 1599 *Warn. Faire Wom.* II. 1072 There came a sprigge of fearne, borne by the wind Into the roome. 1605 SHAKS. *Lear* II. iii. 16 Sprigs of Rosemarie. 1621 MIDDLETON *Sun in Aries* Wks. (Bullen) VII. 348 Peace [is represented] with a branch of laurel; Patience a sprig of palm [etc.]. *a* 1721 PRIOR *Charity never faileth* V, Then how short-liv'd will be thy Praise Like what thou labour'est for, a sprig of Bayes. 1736 BAILEY *Household Dict.* s.v. *Mint*, Two or three sprigs of this mint being drank with the juice of garden mint. 1837 DICKENS *Pickw.* xxviii, Sprigs of holly with red berries..ornament the window. 1847 H. MILLER *Test. Rocks* (1857) 308 Agate, in some specimens, contains its apparent sprigs of moss.

transf. 1867 F. FRANCIS *Angling* xi. (1880) 411 A few sprigs of green peacock herl.

c. *collect.* (See quot.)

1832 *Planting* 91 in *Husb.* (L.U.K.) III, Sprig of wood.—In some instances understood as the branches of a tree.

2. *fig.* **a.** An offshoot, a minor development, part, or specimen, of something.

1576 FLEMING *Panopl. Epist.* 272 To weede out..the bitter plant of couetousnesse,..that of the same not..one braunch, sprig, leafe nor seede be remaining. 1581 MULCASTER *Positions* XXXV. (1887) 131 Not bowghes and braunches, but euen the twigges and sprigges of the petiest circumstances. 1608 WILLET *Hexapla Exod.* 308 The sprigges and branches of vices. 1660 tr. *Amyraldus' Treat. conc. Relig.* III. iii. 347 So totally rooted out of all the Writings in the World,..as not one slip or sprig to be left of it. 1815 SCOTT *Guy M.* XXXVII, The following sprig of sepulchral poetry. 1878 BROWNING *Poets Croisic* 139 Never hope to graff a second sprig of triumph there!

b. Applied to persons (usually with disparaging force): A scion *of* some person, class, institution, etc.

1601 CHESTER *Love's Mart.* CX, Yet Fortunes vnseene immortalitie Sometimes cuts downe sprigs of a Monarchie. 1646 QUARLES *Judgem. & Mercy* Wks. (Grosart) I. 76/1 A poore Sprig of disobedient Adam. 1721 AMHERST *Terræ Fil.* No. 36. 188 To hear a smart damsel reprimand a young sprig of learning for his rudeness. 1768 *Wom. of Hon.* II. 202 Are even some of the illustrious sprigs of our Nobility clear of that scoundrel-vice? 1810 *Sporting Mag.* XXXV. 28 Our sprigs of fashion are..fond of driving the mail. 1847 H. MILLER *First Impr. Eng.* XX. (1857) 353 A zealous sprig of High-Churchism who preached to them. 1883 *Congregationalist* Sept. 731 The pretensions of a pert young sprig of divinity.

c. Without const.: A stripling; a young fellow.

1661 J. DAVIES *Civ. Warres* 365 A young sprig, who had never..ventured to involve himself in bloud and murthers. 1766 [ANSTEY] *Bath Guide* XI. 127 Th' unfortunate Sprig Seems as if he was hunting all Night for his Wig. 1789 WOLCOT (P. Pindar) *Ep. falling Minister* Wks. 1812 II. 124 Yet was this Youth proclaim'd a pretty Sprig. 1815 SCOTT *Guy M.* IIII, A sprig whom I remember with a whey face and a satchel not so very many years ago. 1879 F. W. ROBINSON *Coward Consc.* II. XVII, When..we were a couple of city sprigs together.

3. † **a.** A branch of a nerve, vein, etc. *Obs.*

1638 A. READ *Chirurg.* XI. 80 If any severall part bee paralytik..the cause is..in the sprig of some nerve inserted in that part. 1684 BOYLE *Porousn. Anim. & Solid Bod.* VII. 61 A vein and artery to bring in and carry back Blood ..by distinct sprigs sent from the great branch. 1730 CHAMBERLAYNE *Relig. Philos.* I. IX. § 8 This Nerve..after having sent some Sprigs to the Plexus Nervosus..ends there.

b. A piece of some substance or material resembling a sprig of a plant.

1660 BOYLE *New Exp. Phys. Mech.* XLII. 384 Half-a-score Sprigs of Coral. 1680 MOXON *Mech. Exerc.* XIII. 222 Some Turners to shew their Dexterity..Turn long and slender Sprigs of Ivory, as small as an Hay-stalk, and perhaps a Foot or more long. 1758 BORLASE *Nat. Hist. Cornw.* 84 The coralline moss,..sprig, and bunchy coral dispersed on the rocks. 1787 WOLCOT (P. Pindar) *Apol. Ode upon Ode* Wks. 1812 I. 456 Commanded of dead Hair the sprigs To do their duty upon Wigs. 1839 DE LA BECHE *Rep. Geol. Cornwall*, etc. ii. 31 A conglomerate with a calcareo-magnesian cement, containing sprigs of copper.

4. An ornament in the form of a sprig or spray; in later use esp. one made of diamonds.

1591 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* I. v. 605 Upon her crown a crest Of starrie Sprigs. 1602 MARSTON *Ant. & Mel.* V. Wks. 1856 I. 58, I ha bought mee a newe greene feather with a red sprig. 1629 SHIRLEY *Wedding* II. i, When thou art at the Peacock, remember to call for the sprig. 1639 in *12th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. IX. 7 One Great Salt with 4 Boxes, 4 Spriggs, and 1 cover. 1718 *Free-thinker* No. 57. 13 The rich Sprig of Diamonds that sparkles in your Hair. 1756–7 tr. *Keysler's Trav.* (1760) I. 259 The queen had a sprig of diamonds which she usually wore on her bosom. 1806 SURR *Winter in Lond.* II. 157 He, having ..the said family plate,..lent me..a sprig for my hair.

b. A design, imitative of a sprig, embroidered, woven, or stamped on a textile fabric, or applied to ceramic ware, etc.

1771 MRS. HARRIS in *Priv. Lett. Ld. Malmesbury* (1870) I. 214 The habit muslin with green and gold sprigs. 1844 G. DODD *Textile Manuf.* VII. 229 In 'sprigged net' the groundwork and a portion of every sprig are made at the machine, and the outline of every sprig is then worked by hand. 1858 LYTTON *What will He do?* I. XIV, What pretty sprigs! Where can such things be got? 1874 H. H. COLE *Catal. Ind. Art S. Kens. Mus.* 250 White ground covered by oval outlined red and green sprigs.

c. A small detached piece of pillow-lace, made separately for subsequent use in composite work.

1851 *Catal. Gt. Exhib.* 560 Brussels and Honiton sprigs, manufactured from cotton thread. 1882 CAULFEILD & SAWARD *Dict. Needlew.* 459/1.

5. *ellipt.* **a.** A silver-sprig rabbit. (See SILVER *sb.* 21 b.)

1859 J. C. ATKINSON *Walks & Talks* 30 The boys understood him to call rabbits of this variety..by the name of 'sprigs' or 'silver-sprigs'.

b. *U.S.* The sprigtail duck, *Dafila acuta.*

1888 G. TRUMBULL *Names Birds* 38. 1895 *Outing* XXVI. 30/2 Making a blind good enough for any duck except sprig, which are as wary as wild geese.

6. *attrib.* and *Comb.* (chiefly in sense 4 b), as *sprig-birch, -crystal, -formed, -pattern, -silk*, etc.

a 1728 WOODWARD *Fossils* 1. 32 This kind the Lapidaries call Peble-Crystal. The Crystallin hexagonal Columns they call Sprig-Crystal. 1748 J. HILL *Hist. Fossils* 172 The common, hexangular, whitish, pellucid Ellipomacrostylum, or sprig Crystal. 1772 *Phil. Trans.* LXII. 399 They feed on grass-seeds, and buds of the sprig-birch. 1775 S. J. PRATT *Liberal Opin.* C. (1783) III. 219 She then mentioned something about sprig silks. 1806 J. GRAHAME *Birds of Scot.* 51 Her sprig-formed nest upon some hawthorn branch Is laid so thinly. 1841 THACKERAY *Gt. Hoggarty Diamond* iii, I recollect I had on..a white sprig waistcoat. 1874 H. H. COLE *Catal. Ind. Art S. Kens. Mus.* 207 The silver pattern, applied in bands of leaves and in a small sprig diaper. *Ibid.* 262 The central portion of the scarf has a sprig pattern.

Sprig, *a.* [Of obscure origin.] Spruce, smart. App. still surviving in dialect use (E.D.D.).

1675 COTTON *Scoffer Scoft* 115 For all he wears his beard so sprig, And has a fine Gold Periwig.

Sprig, *v.*[1] [f. SPRIG *sb.*[1]]

1. *trans.* To fasten with sprigs or brads. Also with *down, on*, etc.

1713 J. WARDER *True Amazons* 120 Let all the Pieces and Frames be well sprig'd to this Head. 1840 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* III. 419/1 On the floor is sprigged down a rib of wood. 1872 *Routledge's Ev. Boy's Ann.* 59 The back may be glued and sprigged on to the frame. 1892 *Labour Comm. Gloss.* No. IX, Boys who cannot fit on the parts but can only sprig them together.

absol. 1902 *How to Make Things* 61/1 Glue and sprig on.

2. *intr.* To drive in sprigs.

1898 J. MACMANUS *Bend of Road* 101 If you spake less an' sprig more he'll have his boot the quicker.

Hence **Sprigged** *ppl. a.*; **Spri'gging** *vbl. sb.*

1883 *Goole Wkly. Times* 14 Sept. 4/5 Men's Sprigged Blucher Boots. 1899 *Daily News* 12 May 3/1 When the sprigging of boots, instead of hand-sewing them, came into operation.

Sprig, *v.*[2] [f. SPRIG *sb.*[2]]

† **1.** *a. intr.* To form rootlets. *Obs.*—⁰

1611 COTGR., *Cheveler*, to sprig, or sprigle; to root, or put forth a hairie, or small root.

b. *trans.* To divide into branches.

1658 BROMHALL *Treat. Specters* I. 68 Those nerves, which are sprigg'd from the back-bone into the joynts all about.

2. *trans.* To decorate or cover with designs representing sprigs.

1731 Mrs. Delany *Life & Corr.* (1861) I. 284 A very fine blue satin, sprigged all over with white. 1745-6 *Ibid.* II. 414 Some are so silly, they tell me, as to have them sprigged with silver. 1761 Mrs. F. Sheridan *Sidney Biddulph* V. 237 Dolly was helping Cecilia to sprig some fine muslin that she is now working for an apron. 1850 Kingsley *A. Locke* ii, Wondering when I..should shine..in a blue satin tie sprigged with gold. 1895 *Daily News* 5 June 5/3 The fleur-de-lys..is used to sprig the wide expanse where there is no other decorative design.

fig. 1830-6 O. W. Holmes *Evening* Poems 1892 I. 21, I can hail the flowers That sprig earth's mantle,

Spri·ggan. *Cornish dial.* [prob. Cornish.] A sprite, a goblin.

1865 R. Hunt *Pop. Rom. W. Eng.* Ser. II 66 The Spriggans are found only about the cairns, coits or cromlechs, burrows, or detached stones. 1891 J. H. Pearce *Esther Pentreath* III. viii, She found Aichel watching her as closely as if he were some gruesome spriggan set to guard the old mill or herself.

Sprigged (sprigd), *ppl. a.* [f. Sprig *sb.*2 or *v.*2] **1.** Adorned or ornamented with sprigs.

†**a.** Of feathers. (Cf. Sprig *sb.*2 4). *Obs.*

1613 Chapman *Maske Inns Crt.* A ij, On their heads high sprig'd-feathers; compast in Coronets, like the Virginian Princes they presented.

b. Of fabrics, etc.

Very common from *c* 1750.

1701 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 3705/4 Two Pieces of white Sprigg'd India Satin. 1724 S. Sewall *Diary* 5 Apr., My Wife wore her new Gown of Sprig'd Persian. 1775 *Pennsylv. Even. Post* 23 Dec. 592/2 A great variety of flowered, striped and sprigged muslin. 1815 *Zeluca* III. 307 To know if the rent in my sprigged dress is darned. 1874 Symonds *Sk. Italy & Greece* (1898) I. xiv. 296 Her bridal dress of sprigged grey silk. 1888 *Daily News* 5 Nov. 7/1 Silk sprigged nets continue to sell with some freedom.

2. Having the form of a sprig or sprigs; minutely branched.

1714 Gay *Sheph. Week* VI. 135 Sprigg'd rosemary the lads and lasses bore. 1847 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* VIII. II. 472 The [flax] stalk will abound in small branches, or become, as it is called, 'sprigged'.

Spri·gger1**.** [f. Sprig *sb.*1 or *v.*1] One who or that which drives in sprigs.

1881 *Instr. Census Clerks* (1885) 76 Boot and Shoe Making:..Pressman. Sprigger. Rivetter. Tacker. Nailer. 1892 *Labour Comm. Gloss.* No. ix, *Sprigger*, a machine used in the boot industry to make and drive rivets or sprigs into the goods to hold the parts together.

Spri·gger2**.** [f. Sprig *sb.*2 or *v.*2] One who ornaments a textile fabric or other material with sprigs.

1888 *Pall Mall G.* 11 July 7/2 Embroiderers, spriggers, and lacemakers.

Spri·gging, *vbl. sb.* [f. Sprig *v.*2]

1. The action or occupation of making sprigs in or on textile fabrics. Also *attrib.*

1775 Ash, *Sprigging*, the act of adorning with sprigs. 1886 *Let. Donegal* 25 The collapse of the 'sprigging' business, by which at one time a good embroideress could earn 1*s.* 6*d.* a day. 1888 *Daily News* 2 June 6/1 The now flourishing industry known as sprigging. Six years ago sprigging as a calling was almost extinct.

2. Ornamentation or needlework consisting of sprigs.

1775 Ash, *Sprigging*,..an ornament of sprigs. 1888 *Daily News* 25 May 2/2 Large quantities of Irish-made lace, embroidery, sprigging, &c., are regularly sent to the Continent.

Spri·gging, *ppl. a.* [Cf. Sprig *v.*2 I.] Growing in the form of a sprig or young shoot.

1583 Melbancke *Philotimus* I iv, Sprigging flowers ar in their baine and tender groweth, better for poesies to delight then medicines for diseases.

Spri·ggy (spri·gi), *a.* [f. Sprig *sb.*2] Abounding in sprigs or small branches; suggestive of a sprig or sprigs.

1597 Gerarde *Herbal* 610 The flowers stand at the top of the spriggie braunches. 1611 Cotgr., *Sciionneux*,..twiggie, spriggie. 1669 W. Simpson *Hydrol. Chym.* 258 Plants.. begin..to shoot forth spriggy roots. *a* 1722 Lisle *Husb.* (1757) 334, I like not..when the ends of the wool on the backs of the sheep twist, and stand spriggy. *Ibid.* 365 When hazle grows spriggy in the body, and shoots forth from the sides of the bark. 1826 *Blackw. Mag.* XIX. 244 A vine-leaf pattern perhaps—or something spriggy. 1854 Meall *Moubray's Poultry* 71 The comb large with very deeply indented ridge, presenting almost a 'spriggy' appearance.

Spright (sprəit), *sb.*1 Also 6 **spryght**(e. [var. of Sprite *sb.*, after native words in *-ight.*]

†**1.** = Spirit *sb.* in various senses. *Obs.*

1536 *Primer Hen. VIII*, 2 Blessed be God,..Wch hath strengthened His feeble flock, Wth stedfast faith & bold spright. 1563 Googe *Eglogs* (Arb.) 54, I..sought the chief-[e]st means I could to helpe my weryed spryght. 1601 B. Jonson *Poetaster* III. i, I drinke, as I would wright, In flowing measure, fill'd with flame and spright. *a* 1649 Drumm. of Hawth. *Flowers Sion* v. Wks. (S.T.S.) II. 41 Of this Light, Eternall, double, kindled was thy Spright Eternallie. *c* 1700 Dryden *Cock & Fox* 104 You groan,.. As something had disturb'd your noble Spright.

†**b.** *pl.* = Spirit *sb.* 17. *Obs.*

1577 *St. Aug. Manual* (Longman) 33 Thou preparest a table..against I come to refresh my appalled sprights. 1596 Spenser *F. Q.* v. iii. 40 Turne we here to this faire furrowes end Our wearie yokes, to gather fresher sprights. 1605 Shaks. *Macb.* IV. i. 127 Come Sisters, cheere we vp his sprights, And shew the best of our delights.

2. A disembodied spirit, a ghost; a supernatural being, goblin, fairy, etc. (Cf. Spirit *sb.* 2 b and 3).

a 1533 Ld. Berners *Huon* CXXXII. 492 Glad was Huon when he had loste the syghte of the spryghte. 1590 Spenser *F. Q.* II. x. 8 Where companing with feends and filthy Sprights, ..They brought forth Giants. 1610 Shaks. *Temp.* I. ii. 381 Foote it featly heere, and there, and sweete Sprights beare the burthen. 1687 A. Lovell tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* I. 176, I lay at the foot of that Eminence, and the Sprights did not at all disturb my rest. 1731-8 Swift *Polite Conv.* Introd. 33 Some scrupulous Persons,..who, by a prejudiced Education, are afraid of Sprights. 1813 Hogg *Queen's Wake* 19 Each glen was sought for tales..Of boding dreams, of wandering spright.

transf. 1570 Googe *Pop. Kingd.* I. 4 An Emprour great of might, Whose necke was stampt and trode vpon by this deformed spright [*sc.* the Pope].

†**Spright,** *sb.*2 *Obs.*–1 (See quot.)

1626 Bacon *Sylva* § 704 It is certaine, that we had in use at one time, for Sea-Fight, short Arrowes, which they called Sprights, without any other Heads, save Wood sharpened; which were discharged out of Muskets.

†**Spright,** *a. Obs.*–1 ? Error for Sprightly *a.*

1658 Earl Monm. tr. *Paruta's Wars Cyprus* 125 A spright youth, who..had carried himselfe gallantly in severall offices.

†**Spright,** *v. Obs. rare.* [f. Spright *sb.*1]

1. *trans.* To haunt, as by a spright.

1611 Shaks. *Cymb.* II. iii. 144, I am sprighted with a Foole, Frighted, and angred worse.

2. To invest with spirit.

1611 J. Davies (Heref.) *Commend. Poems, Coryat* Wks. (Grosart) II. 13/2 To make Eyes delighted With that which by no Art can be more sprighted.

†**Sprighted,** *a. Obs. rare.* [f. Spright *sb.*1] Having a spirit of a specified kind.

1599 Hakluyt *Voy.* II. 75 A well sprighted man and wise. 1600 Rowlands *Lett. Humours Blood* vii. 84 Enuie's the fourth: a Deuill, dogged sprighted.

Sprightful (sprəi·tful), *a.* Now *rare.* Also 5 **spryght-.** [f. Spright *sb.*1 Cf. Spiritful *a.*]

1. Of persons: Full of spirit; animated, lively.

1595 Shaks. *John* IV. ii. 177 Spoke like a sprightfull Noble Gentleman. 1607 Beaum. & Fl. *Woman Hater* IV. iii, I could be far more sprightful, had I eaten. 1658 Bromhall *Treat. Specters* I. 112 The servant..recovering life, and becoming as sprightful as ever he was. 1692 O. Walker *Grk. & Rom. Hist.* 253 Julia Mœsa,..a Subtil, Prudent, and Sprightful Woman. 1780 Mrs. H. Cowley *Belle's Strat.* 45 Parson Dobbins was the sprightfuller man of the two.

transf. 1591 Sylvester *Du Bartas* I. iii. 226 Our sprightfull Pulse the Tide doth well resemble.

†**b.** Of horses: Spirited. *Obs.*

a 1635 Randolph in R. Dover *Ann. Dubr.* (1636) C iv b, A noble Swayne, That spurr'd his spright-full Palfrey ore the playne. 1656 Cowley *Pindar. Odes, Extasie* ix, The Horses were..The noblest, sprightfulst breed. 1674 Flavel *Husb. Spiritualized* ix. 105 If one should give thee a handsom and sprightful horse.

2. Of actions, sounds, etc.: Marked by spirit, animation, or liveliness.

1628 Feltham *Resolves* II. xiv. 40 Light aires turne vs into sprightfull actions; which breathe away in a loose laughter. 1638 Mayne *Lucian* (1664) 238 Who..thinke they haue done nothing great or sprightfull. 1681-4 J. Scott *Chr. Life* 8 The constant, free, and sprightful Exercise of his Faculties. 1807-8 W. Irving *Salmag.* (1824) 321 Striking up the right jolly and sprightfull tune of *Ca Ira*. 1898 J. M. Cobban *Angel of Covenant* i. 3 'See, Alec!' she cried in that sweet, sprightful voice which always moved me.

†**3.** Of liquids, etc.: Impregnated with spirit; spirituous. *Obs.*

1615 Crooke *Body of Man* 238 These bodies..are full of blacke, thicke and sprightfull blood. 1630 J. Taylor (Water P.) *Farew. Tower Bottles* Wks. III. 125/1 Few Ships my visitation did escape, That brought the sprightfull liquor of the Grape. 1669 Worlidge *Syst. Agric.* (1681) 113 The Pear-tree bears almost its weight of Sprightful Winy Liquor.

Hence **Spri·ghtfully** *adv.*; **Spri·ghtfulness.**

1593 Shaks. *Rich. II*, I. iii. 3 The Duke of Norfolke, *sprightfully and bold, Stayes but the summons of the Appealants Trumpet. 1611 Cotgr., *Vivement*, liuelily, quickly, lightly, sprightfully. 1653 Urquhart *Rabelais* II. xxxix. 299 He so sprightfully carried himself. 1905 *Westm. Gaz.* 23 Sept. 12/1 The girl..who 'enjoys life sprightfully, daringly, and glowingly'. 1648 J. Beaumont *Psyche* XV. ci, He who our brave *sprightfulness could make Of dull and sleepy nothing. 1686 Goad *Celest. Bodies* I. ix. 35 In the Competitorship for Sprightfulness, we find one..surpassed by the other. 1708 *Brit. Apollo* No. 16. 1/2 That sprightfullness of Thought, he had been formerly Master of. 1898 J. M. Cobban *Angel of Covenant* p. xii, Ye knew not..the wit and sprightfulness of his speech.

†**Spri·ghtless,** *a. Obs.* [f. Spright *sb.*1] Spiritless; devoid of spirit or animation.

1591 Sylvester *Du Bartas* I. vi. 782 Whoso doth not admire His spirit, is sprightless. 1598 Marston *Sco. Villanie* II. vii. 203 Nay, he is sprightlesse, sense or soule hath none. 1635-56 Cowley *Davideis* I. 139 Are ye grown Benum'd with Fear, or Vertues sprightless cold? 1638 Quarles *Hieroglyphics* XIV. iv, Her sprightlesse flame grown great with snuff. 1710 Steele *Tatler* No. 197 P 2 In pursuit of such cold and sprightless Endeavours to appear in Publick.

Spri·ghtlily, *adv. rare*–1. [f. Sprightly *a.*] In a sprightly or lively manner.

1891 H. Lynch *Meredith* 103 Lively youths, maidens and matrons, who act chorus, wittily, epigrammatically, and sprightlily.

Sprightliness (sprəi·tlinės). [f. next + -ness.] The character or state of being sprightly; liveliness, vivacity, animation.

1650 T. B[aylev] *Worcester's Apoph.* 105 With some sprightlinesse he spake aloud. 1684 Burnet *More's Utopia* 130 They think it a madness for a Man..to corrupt the sprightliness of his Body by Sloth. 1712 Addison *Spect.* No. 446 P 8 The fine Woman is generally a Composition of Sprightliness and Falshood. 1781 Cowper *Conversat.* 635 Youth has a sprightliness and fire to boast, That in the valley of decline are lost. 1832 *Proc. Berw. Nat. Club* I. 5, I was struck with the cries of the birds we noticed: there was no sprightliness in them, nor melody. 1894 Jeaffreson *Bk. Recoll.* II. 237 A lady..delightful by force of her colloquial sprightliness.

Sprightly (sprəi·tli), *a.* and *adv.* [f. Spright *sb.*1 + -ly.]

A. *adj.* **1.** Of persons: Full of vivacity or animation; cheerful, gay, brisk.

1596 Nashe *Saffron Walden* To Rdr., Frisking come aloft sprightly Mercury, that hath wings for his moustachies, wings for his ey-browes, [etc.]. 1602 Marston *Ant. & Mel.* IV. Wks. 1856 I. 52 Seest thou that sprightly youth? 1670 Cotton *Espernon* II. v. 208 Most sprightly and gay Nobility, and Gentry of the Court. 1740 Richardson *Pamela* Pref. (1824) I. 4 To engage the attention of the gay and more sprightly readers. 1766 Goldsm. *Vicar* xxiii, Nor was I displeased at seeing them once more sprightly and at ease. 1807 Crabbe *Birth Flattery* 15 Thee, sprightly siren, from this train I choose. 1874 L. Stephen *Hours in Library* (1892) I. ii. 88 The..old tradesman could be..as sprightly and audacious as the most profligate man about town.

absol. 1734 Watts *Reliq. Juv.* (1789) 18 There are both the sprightly and the stupid, the foolish and the wise. 1751 Johnson *Rambler* No. 174 P 2 The error..is very frequently incident to the quick, the sprightly, the fearless, and the gay. 1825 C. Westmacott *Eng. Spy* I. 382 The spreeish or the sprightly.

b. Of animals: Lively, sportive.

1735 Somerville *Chase* I. 86 To train the sprightly Steed, more fleet than those Begot by Winds. 1742 Young *Nt. Th.* I. 437 The sprightly Lark's shrill Mattin wakes the Morn. 1830 J. Milne *Widow & Son* (1851) I. 141 The crowing of the sprightly cock. 1883 'Annie Thomas' *Mod. Housewife* 24 The mare was as sprightly as a cat.

c. Of plants: Quick-growing. *rare*–1.

1693 Evelyn *De la Quint. Compl. Gard.* 41 The principal Roots of..Raspish-Bushes, and some other very sprightly Shrubs.

2. Characterized by animation or cheerful vivacity: **a.** Of actions, qualities, etc.

1606 Shaks. *Ant. & Cl.* IV. vii. 15, I will reward thee Once for thy sprightly comfort. 1646 Quarles *Judgem. & Mercy* Wks. (Grosart) I. 76/2 My bones are full of unctious marrow, and my blood, of sprightly Youth. *a* 1704 T. Brown *Charms of Bottle* Wks. 1711 IV. 160 Here the sprightly Repartees fly about with the Glass. 1788 Mme. D'Arblay *Diary* 2 Aug., He was himself all ease and sprightly unconsciousness. 1831 Sinclair *Corr.* II. 89 The conversation was sprightly, and well calculated for the lively company. 1868 J. H. Blunt *Ref. Ch. Eng.* I. 111 Her beauty had faded away, her sprightly buoyancy had gone.

b. Of personal bearing, looks, etc.

1606 Shaks. *Ant. & Cl.* IV. xiv. 52 Wee'l hand in hand, And with our sprightly Port make the Ghostes gaze. 1635 Quarles *Emblems* IV. iii. 193 The sprightly voice of sinew-strengthning Pleasure. 1672-5 Comber *Comp. Temple* (1702) 157 Our looks were sprightly and chearful. 1748 Hervey *Medit.* (ed. 4) I. 33 How vain the Lustre of thy sprightly Eye! 1751 Johnson *Rambler* No. 179 P 4 The sprightly trip, the stately walk, the formal strut. 1823 Scott *Quentin D.* ii, The combination of fearless frankness and good-humour, with sprightly looks. 1873 Dixon *Two Queens* XVI. v. III. 212, Her sprightly air..made her an attraction.

absol. 1784 Cowper *Tiroc.* 665 Behold that figure,..His sprightly mingled with a shade of sad.

c. Of mind, disposition, or character.

1673 [R. Leigh] *Transp. Reh.* 12 One of those glorious enterprises..which the bishop's active and sprightly mind was busied in. 1719 De Foe *Crusoe* II. (Globe) 330 The French, whose Temper is allow'd to be more volatile..and more sprightly. 1777 Sheridan *Sch. Scand.* Portr. 108 Such too her talents, and her bent of mind, As speak a sprightly heart by thought refined. 1878 Browning *Poets Croisic* 99 So did her sprightly nature nowise lack Lustre when draped.

d. Of places in respect of social life or gay appearance.

1764 Goldsm. *Trav.* 241 Gay sprightly land of mirth and social ease. 1809 Pinkney *Trav. France* 278 It is well paved,..and the air being clear, it always looks clean and sprightly. 1832 G. Downes *Lett. Cont. Countries* I. 290 It is, altogether, a sprightly, lively place, garnished with pleasing environs. 1875 F. W. Newman in I. G. Sieveking *Mem.* (1909) 315 The gardens are becoming sprightly.

3. Of things: Having lively qualities or properties; naturally brisk; suggestive of animation or gaiety: **a.** Of liquors.

1605 Plat *Delightes for Ladies* III. xxvii, You shall finde the same most excellent and sprightly drinke. 1661 Boyle *Scept. Chem.* VI. (1680) 418 These [crystals] I obtained not from Must, but True and sprightly Wine. 1709 Prior *'If Wine'* i, Let..Bacchus fill the sprightly Bowl. 1748 Thomson *Cast. Indol.* I. xxxiv, Whatever sprightly juice or tasteful food On the green bosom of this earth are found. 1796 H. Hunter tr. *St.-Pierre's Stud. Nat.* (1799) I. 297 In ours, which are sprightly [wines], nothing is at the bottom but mere dregs. 1830 M. Donovan *Dom. Econ.* I. 93 Oats make an excellent malt, which..affords an excellent, mantling, sprightly, sweet drink.

b. In miscellaneous uses.

1621 Quarles *Esther* vii, Sooner shall the sprightly flames of fire Descend, and moysten. 1635-56 Cowley *Davideis* II. 803 A silk Mantle.., Where the most sprightly Azure pleas'd the Eyes. 1665 Boyle *Reflect.* (1848) 79 That pleasant and sprightly scent which makes the Rose so welcome to us. 1704 Pope *Windsor For.* 94 While youth ferments your blood, And purer spirits swell the sprightly flood. 1804 C. Brown tr. *Volney's View Soil U.S.* 271 The winds between east and north are sprightly and cool. 1885-94 R. Bridges *Eros & Psyche* Mar. xvii, Naked he goeth, but with sprightly wings Red, iridescent, are his shoulders fledged. 1901 *Yearbk. U.S. Dep. Agric.* 388 Flesh [of grape] tender, breaking, juicy;..flavor mild, sweet and sprightly.

c. Of sounds.

1648 Crashaw *Poems* (1904) 120 The sprightly notes Of

sweet-lipp'd Angell-Imps. 1670 DRYDEN *Conq. Granada* I. III. i, Methinks it is a noble, sprightly Sound. The Trumpet's Clangor, and the Clash of Arms! 1725 POPE *Odyss.* I. 531 Mean time the Lyre rejoins the sprightly lay. 1752 YOUNG *Brothers* II. i, These sprightly tuneful airs but skim along The surface of my soul, not enter there. 1817 STEPHENS in *Shaw's Gen. Zool.* X. I. 90 Their song is a sprightly warble, and is sometimes continued for a length of time. 1882 J. F. S. GORDON *Hist. Moray* I. 282 There is a sprightly song and dance called 'Kinrara'.

d. Of musical instruments.

1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* III. 131 When he hears from far The sprightly Trumpets, and the Shouts of War. *a* 1721 PRIOR *Colin's Mistakes* ii, The sounding Clarion, and the sprightly Horn. 1757 W. WILKIE *Epigoniad* I. 9 While to the sprightly harp, the voice explains The loves of all the gods. 1791 COWPER *Odyss.* VIII. 127 The herald hanging high The sprightly lyre.

†4. Ghostly, spectral. *Obs.*—1

1611 SHAKS. *Cymb.* V. v. 428 As I slept, me thought Great Iupiter vpon his Eagle back'd Appear'd to me, with other sprightly shewes Of mine owne Kindred.

B. *adv.* In a sprightly manner; with vigour and animation.

1604 DEKKER *Kings' Entertainm.* Wks. 1873 I. 295 Nine Trumpets and a Kettle Drum did very sprightly and actively sound the Danish March. 1642 H. MORE *Song of Soul* IV. 35 Her hid Centralitie So sprightly's quickned with near Union With God. 1654 WHITLOCK *Zootomia* 470 The Chevalry of Verse charges them more sprightly and Irresistibly. *a* 1895 PAGET *Autobiog.* (1896) 80 A vessel sprightly approached with an admiral's flag at the fore.

†**Sprightness.** *Obs.*—1 Sprightliness.

1674 N. FAIRFAX *Bulk & Selv.* 136 A sort of mechanical.. twitchings and animal sprightnesses which are..set on foot.

†**Sprighty,** *a. Obs. rare.* [f. SPRIGHT *sb.*1] = SPRIGHTLY *a.* (1 and 3 a).

1609 *Pimlyco* C iv b, Rosa Solis, Aqua Vitæ, And Nugs of Balme, so quicke, and sprighty. *a* 1625 FLETCHER *Love's Pilgr.* III. ii, A Son of his, a young and hopeful gentleman,.., A sprighty man, of understanding excellent. 1641 J. JACKSON *True Evang. T.* I. 79 The spirit of the sprighty Ascanius in Virgil.

†**Sprigle,** *v. Obs.* (See SPRIG *v.*2 1 a.)

Sprig·let. [f. SPRIG *sb.*2 + -LET.] A little sprig.

1892 E. CASTLE *Eng. Bk.-plates* 73 From the numerous nooks..sprout flowerets and sprigletts.

Sprig tail, sprigtail. [f. SPRIG *sb.*1]

1. A short pointed tail.

1676 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1108/4 A Bay Mare above 14 hands, a Sprig Tail. 1690 *Ibid.* No. 2607/4 He had with him a white Muhgrel crop-ear'd Dog, with a sprig Tail. 1721 *Ibid.* No. 6000/3 A black Gelding..with a Sprig Tail, a little Hair upon it. 1772 *Oxf. Jrnl.* 21 Nov. 1 A black horse with a sprig tail. 1853 R. S. SURTEES *Sponge's Sp. Tour* (1893) 16 There's the little Hirish 'oss with the sprig-tail.

2. *U.S.* A species of duck; = PINTAIL 2.

1782 T. JEFFERSON *Notes St. Virginia* (1787) 118 Ballcoot. Sprigtail. Didapper or Dopchick. 1814 A. WILSON *Amer. Ornith.* VIII. 73 The Sprigtail is an elegantly formed, long-bodied Duck, the neck longer and more slender than most others. 1874 J. W. LONG *Amer. Wild-fowl.* Introd, 16 In the shoal-water class are the mallard, sprigtail or pintail. *Ibid.* 166 Many shots will frequently be had at wood-duck, teal, and sprigtails in this sport.

Sprig-tailed, *a.* [f. as prec.] Having a sharp-pointed tail.

1676 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1141/4 The Horse is a sorrel Guelding, seven years old, sprig tail'd. 1698 *Ibid.* No. 3368/4 Lost..., a sorrel Mare..., mealy Nose,..and also Sprig Tailed. 1853 R. S. SURTEES *Sponge's Sp. Tour* (1893) 34, I was on my little handy, sprig-tailed bay. 1872 COUES *N. Amer. Birds* 39 A cuneate tail..is also called pointed, in contradistinction to rounded, as in the sprig-tailed duck.

Sprincle, obs. form of SPRINKLE *v.*

†**Sprind,** *a. Obs. rare.* [OE. *sprind*, of obscure origin.] Active, vigorous.

c 1000 *Salom. & Sat.* (Kemble) 150 His geðoht he is springdra [*sic*] and swiftra ðonne xii. ðusendu haligra gasta. *a* 1100 in Napier *O. E. Gloss.* I. 3607 *Adultum, i. iuuenem,* ȝeþoȝenne, sprindne. *c* 1315 SHOREHAM I. 22 And be a man neuer so sprind, ȝef he schel libbe to elde, Be him wel siker, þer-to he schel.

Sprindge, obs. form of SPRINGE.

Spring (sprin), *sb.*1 Forms: 1, 3- **spring,** 2, 4-7 **springe**; 1, 4-6 **spryng(e,** 3-4 **sprung,** 4 **sprenge,** 6 **spreng.** [OE. *spring* and *sprynge* masc., formed respectively from the primary and weak grades of the stem *spring-, sprang-, sprung-*: see SPRING *v.*, from which a number of the later senses are directly derived.

In OE. the simple word is comparatively rare, chiefly occurring in senses which have not survived. Sense 1 (more common in the combs. *æ-* and *wyllspring, -sprynge*) is also that of OS. *aha-, gispring*, MDu. (Du.) and MLG. *spring* (MLG. and Du. dial. *sprenge*), OHG. (MHG. and G. dial.) *spring, sprung.* In sense 13 the equivalent forms are MSw. and Da. *spring*, OHG. (MHG. and G.), MLG. and MSw. *sprung*, MDu. (Du. and WFris.), G. dial., *sprong*, MLG. (LG.), MSw. *sprang* (Sw. *språng*).]

I. 1. The place of rising or issuing from the ground, the source or head, *of* a well, stream, or river; the supply of water forming such a source. Now *rare.*

816 in Birch *Cartul. Saxon.* (1885) I. 495 Æt þæs bernes ende æt ðæs wæteres sprynge. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 1314 In middes þe land he sagh a spring Of a well. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XIV. xxxi. (Bodl. MS.), In þeese hiȝe mounteyns is snowe alwey,..and heedes and springes of welles and of greete ryuers. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 470 Sprynge, of a welle, *scaturigo, scatebra.* 1535 COVERDALE 2 *Esdras* xiii. 47 Yͤ Hyest shall holde styll the sprynges of the streame agayne. 1600 E. BLOUNT tr. *C* Great riuers, whose mouthes are knowne, but not their springs. 1604 E. G[RIMSTONE] *D'Acosta's Hist. Indies* II. iv. 88 At what time it is Summer in Egypt,..then is it winter at the springes of Nile. 1665 MANLEY *Grotius' Low C. Wars* 293 The Springs of the Well [might be] stopped, or at least intercepted. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Tides*, So that entering the Mouths of Rivers, it [*sc.* the sea] drives back the River-waters towards their Heads, or Springs. 1815 SHELLEY *Alastor* 478 The sound Of the sweet brook that from the secret springs Of that dark fountain rose.

2. A flow of water rising or issuing naturally out of the earth; a similar flow obtained by boring or other artificial means.

c 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 581 Ilc wateres springe here strengðe undede. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 11699 Vnder þi rote þar es a spring, I wil þat vte þe water wring. *c* 1325 *Chron. Eng.* 191 in Ritson *Metr. Rom.* II. 278 In four sprunges the tonnes liggeth. *Ibid.* 195 The tuo sprunges urneth yfere. *c* 1420 *Contin. Brut* CCXXIV. 292 Þere arose a suche a..wellinge op of wateres and floodes, bothe of þe see and also of fresshe ryvers & sprynges, þat [etc.]. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 356 A Sprynge of water, *scatebra, scatirigo.* 1570 DEE *Math. Pref.* d j b, Being a Spring, standing, or running Water. 1585 T. WASHINGTON tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* II. xxi. 58 A faire fountain ..either of a natural spring or artificial. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* (1637) 497 There are two little Springs, the one fresh, the other somewhat brackish. 1665 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* (1677) 386 It has also some Springs of good Water. 1732 POPE *Ess. Man* I. 137 For me, Health gushes from a thousand springs. 1765 A. DICKSON *Treat. Agric.* (ed. 2) 150 If there are springs in all places,..it will be necessary to make drains at the sides. 1812 PLAYFAIR *Nat. Phil.* I. 285 Springs, in which the water does not considerably change its heat from one season of the year to another. 1855 *Orr's Circ. Sci., Inorg. Nat.* 200 At Vaucluse, there is a spring of water yielding from thirteen to forty thousand cubic feet..per minute. 1878 HUXLEY *Physiogr.* 25 Springs of this simple character, which issue at the junction of permeable and impermeable strata, are extremely common.

fig. c 1440 *Jacob's Well* 2 þanne delve doun..tyl þou fynde vij sprynges of watyr of grace. 1593 SHAKS. *2 Hen. VI*, IV. i. 72 Kennell, .. whose filth and dirt Troubles the siluer Spring, where England drinkes. 1596 SPENSER *F. Q.* IV. ii. 18 Streames of bloud did rayle adowne, as if their springs of life were spent. 1606 TATE & BRADY *Ps.* cxliii. 10 From Mercy's healing Spring Revive me. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* IV. 408 An ancient Legend I prepare to sing, And upward follow Fame's immortal Spring. 1751 CHATHAM *Lett. Nephew* ii. 7 Drink as deep as you can of these divine springs [*sc.* Homer and Virgil]. 1771 *Encycl. Brit.* I. 644 When old age approaches,..the springs of life dry up. 1818 KEATS *Endym.* II. 738 And then there ran Two bubbling springs of talk from their sweet lips. 1851 MAURICE *Patriarchs & Lawg.* vii. (1855) 145 That he should open springs in hearts hitherto ice-bound!

b. A flow of water possessing special properties, esp. of a medicinal or curative nature. Usually with various distinguishing adjs., as *chalybeate, hot, mineral, thermal, warm*, etc.

1787 *Phil. Trans.* LXXVIII. 187 About two leagues to the east of this mass I discovered a brackish mineral spring. 1800 [see THERMAL *a.* 1]. 1819 WARDEN *United States* II. 176 The sweet springs, another mineral water. *Ibid.*, At the distance of a mile are the red springs, which, like the former, have a tonic or bracing quality. 1839 DE LA BECHE *Rep. Geol. Cornwall*, etc. xv. 517 Chalybeate springs are very common. 1847 H. MILLER *First Impr. Eng.* xi. (1857) 189 The underground history of the mineral springs of Great Britain. 1850 *Johnston's Gen. Gazetteer, Bath*, The hot springs..are saline and chalybeate.

c. *pl.* A place or locality having such springs to which invalids or pleasure-seekers resort.

1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* iii. I. 347 In his younger days the gentlemen who visited the springs slept in rooms hardly as good as the garrets which he lived to see occupied by footmen. 1859 SAXE *Poems* (1872) 239 Pray, what do they do at the Springs?

d. *transf.* A jet or spray of water. *rare*—1.

1818 LADY MORGAN *Autoblog.* (1859) 111 All appeared silence and desolation; neither the *grands* nor *petits eaux* threw up their diamond springs in the sunshine.

3. *fig.* A source or origin *of* something. Also occas. without const.

a. Predicated of persons or personifications.

a 1225 *Juliana* 50 Of al þat nuel ipe world..ich am an of þe sprunges, þat hit mest of springeð. *c* 1410 HOCCLEVE *Mother of God* 88 Of al vertu, thow art the spryng & welle! 1412-20 LYDG. *Chron. Troy* I. 1710 Þou3 he [Ovid] of poetis was þe spring & welle. 1509 HAWES *Past. Pleas.* XLIII. (Percy Soc.) 212 And thus I, Fame, am ever magnified,.. The spryng of honour and of famous clarkes. 1605 SHAKS. *Macb.* II. iii. 103 *Macb.* The Spring, the Head, the Fountaine of your Blood Is stopt...*Macd.* Your Royall Father's murther'd. 1685 BAXTER *Paraphr. N. T.* John i. 9 As the Lord and Spring of Nature, he giveth all men their Intellectual Natural Light. 1709 WATTS *Hymn* I My God, the Spring of all my Joys, The Life of my Delights. 1876 MORRIS *Æneid* XII. 166 Father Æneas, spring of the Roman weal.

b. In general use.

1523 CROMWELL in Merriman *Life & Lett.* (1902) I. 30 Suche yerely reuenues and wellyng sprungges as [*read* of] treasure as shuld..be browght into this Realme. 1550 W. LYNNE *Carion's Cron.* 1 That commaundement of God is the springe and beginninge of all lawes. 1582 STANYHURST *Æneis* III. (Arb.) 73 Theare mount Ide resteth, thee springe of progenye Troian. 1612 SYLVESTER *Tropheis Hen. Gt.* cv, This noble Spirit doth to his Spring re-mount, This Bounties Flood retireth to his Fount. 1719 W. WOOD *Surv. Trade* 193, I have discoursed on the African Trade, by reason it is the Spring and Parent whence the others flow. 1730 CHAMBERLAYNE *Relig. Philos.* Dedic., The Gothic, the common Spring of all the Western Languages of Europe. 1817 JAS. MILL *Brit. India* II. v. v. 516 It was not one spring alone of dissension which distracted the government Madras. 1892 WESTCOTT *Gospel of Life* 106 Language reveals the deepest springs of thought.

4. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *spring-level, -nymph, pond, -vein*; *spring-fed, watered*, adjs.; **spring-branch** *U.S.*, a brook or stream fed by or flowing directly from a spring; **spring-hole** *U.S.*, = *spring-pit*; **spring-house** *U.S.*, an outhouse built over a spring or stream and used as a larder, dairy, etc.; **spring-keeper** *U.S.* (see quot.); **spring-pit,** a hole or cavity formed by a spring where it issues or rises; **spring-salt** (see quot.); **spring-teller,** one who finds springs by dowsing, etc.; **spring-tooth** (in allusion to *Judges* XV. 19).

1851 MAYNE REID *Scalp Hunt.* XXVI. 191 Deer and antelopes came to the *spring-branch to drink. 1848 BUCKLEY *Iliad* 136 He came to *spring-fed Ida. 1883 *Cent. Mag.* Sept. 651 These ponds are, of course, spring-fed. 1868 *Rep. U.S. Commissioner Agric.* (1869) 329 Keep her a few days in a pool or *spring-hole. 1874 J. W. LONG *Amer. Wild-fowl.* xi. 171 The mallards..roosting in the small spring-holes and creeks. 1797 F. BAILY *Tour* (1856) 433 This subterraneous cavity would afford an excellent convenience for a *spring house. 1894 *Outing* XXIV. 382/2 To see her at her best was at the butter-making down at the old spring-house. 1859 BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.* (ed. 2) 438 **Spring-keeper,* a salamander, or small lizard-shaped animal, found in springs and fresh water rivulets. 1895 MRS. WILSON *5 Yrs. India* 261 It costs a large sum to make a well where the *spring-level is so deep. 1897 *Edin. Rev.* Apr. 458 The Danaid *spring-nymphs had to carry water in a sieve to prove their virginity. 1862 A. NEWTON *Zool. Anc. Europe* 21 These [fresh-water tortoises] were found..in a peat bog, by the side of a *spring-pit, at East Wretham, about seven feet below the surface. 1711 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4887/4 All well water'd with *Spring Ponds. 1799 J. GIRVIN *Impolicy prohib. Export. Rock Salt* 5 Salt is very properly distinguished by Mineralogists into Fossile-Salt, *Spring-Salt, and Sea-Salt. 1871 *Routledge's Ev. Boy's Ann.* 56 The method used by the '*spring-tellers' or 'water-finders' was simple enough. 1593 G. HARVEY *Pierce's Super.* 172, I barre the Cheeke-bone, for feare of Sampsons tune...But the *spring-tooth in the iawe, will do vs no harme. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* (1637) 402 As for *spring-veines there are none to bee found. 1884 *Mag. Art* March 215/2 The velvety green of *spring-watered field-plots.

II. 5. The action or time of rising or springing into being or existence: **a.** The appearing or coming on, the first sign, *of* day, morning, etc.; the dawn. Also, the beginning of a season.

Fairly common from *c* 1380 to *c* 1600; now *Obs.* exc. *poet.* Cf. DAY-SPRING and OE. *up-spring.*

13.. *K. Alis.* 3586 (Bodl. MS.), For 13th in þe dayes sprynge Tolomeus on hem com flei3eynge. 1382 WYCLIF 1 *Macc.* v. 30 It is maad in spryng of the day, whanne thei reysiden her eeȝen. *c* 1391 CHAUCER *Astrol.* II. § 6 To knowe the spring of the dawing and the ende of the euenyng. 1483 CAXTON *G. de la Tour* I vj b, At the sprynge of the daye they were at the monument. *c* 1530 TINDALE *Jonas* iv. C viij, The lorde ordeyned a worme agenst the springe of yͤ morow morninge. 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 323 To the intent at the springe of the daye..they might invade the City. 1590 SHAKS. *Mids. N.* II. i. 82 Neuer since the middle Summers spring Met we. 1611 BIBLE 1 *Sam.* ix. 26 It came to passe about the spring of the day. 1623 LISLE *Ælfric on O. & N. Test.* Ded., Thou..shalt..Extend thy fame from Set to Spring of day. 1842 TENNYSON *St. Sim. Styl.* 108, I, 'tween the spring and downfall of the light, Bow down one thousand and two hundred times.

†**b.** *Spring of the leaf,* the time when trees begin to burst into leaf again. *Obs.*

1538 in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* Ser. I. II. 98 Whiche I thynke shalbe about the spryng of the lefe. 1670 J. SMITH *Eng. Improv. Reviv'd* 31 A good Labouring man may ditch and quick-set about the Spring or fall of the Leaf a ditch of six foot broad and five foot deep.

†**c.** The increase *of* the moon. *Obs.*—1

1559 MORWYNG *Evonym.* 116 Gather the Plantes..in faire weather, in the spring of the mone.

d. An outburst or fresh development. *rare*—1.

1605 BACON *Adv. Learn.* I. vi. § 15 At one and the same time [the Reformation] it was ordayned by the Divine Providence, that there should attend withall a renovation and new spring of all other knowledges.

6. a. *The spring of the year,* = next. ? *Obs.*

1530 PALSGR. 274 Spring of the yere, *printemps, prin.* 1548 TURNER *Names Herbes* (E.D.S.) 80 In the sprynge of the yere, it hath yealowe floures. 1551 RECORDE *Cast. Knowl.* (1556) 31 From thence [' the eleuenth daye of Marche '] they recken the Springe of the yeare thre monethes. 1665 BOYLE *Occas. Refl.* (1848) 58 If then, in the Spring of the Year, our Reflector see the Gardener pruning a Fruit-tree. 1731 MILLER *Gard. Dict.* s.v. *Brassica*, In the Spring of the Year these Cabbages will shoot out strongly. 1828 *Farmer's Jrnl.* 12 May.

b. The first season of the year, or that between winter and summer, reckoned astronomically from the vernal equinox to the summer solstice; in popular use in Great Britain comprising the months of February, March, and April, in U.S. March, April, and May. Also *transf.*, a season resembling this in some respect.

Used without article or with *the*, and in specialized cases with *a*, etc. Often with initial capital, and in poetry freq. personified.

(*a*) *a* 1547 SURREY in *Tottel's Misc.* (Arb.) 4 Description of Spring, wherin eche thing renewes, saue onelie the louer. 1573 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 100 At spring (for the sommer) sowe garden ye shall. 1596 SPENSER *F. Q.* VII. vii. 28 So, forth issew'd the Seasons of the yeare; First, lusty Spring, all dight in leaues of flowres. 1607 LEVER *Q. Elis. Tears* li, Beauteous floures, (The pretty children of the Earth and Spring). 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* IV. 751 Alone he tempts .. Th' unhappy Climes, where Spring was never known.

A NEW ENGLISH DICTIONARY ON HISTORICAL PRINCIPLES.

(VOLUME IX. FIRST HALF. SI.—ST.)

SPRING—SQUOYLE.

BY

W. A. CRAIGIE, M.A., LL.D.

PREFATORY NOTE.

IN this section of the Dictionary there are 765 Main words, 177 Special Combinations explained under these, 418 Obvious Combinations, and 122 Subordinate entries of obsolete or variant forms; in all 1482 words. Of the Main words 168 are marked † as obsolete, and 10 are marked ‖ as alien or not fully naturalized.

Comparison with Johnson's and some recent Dictionaries gives the following results :—

	Johnson.	Cassell's 'Encyclopædic'.	'Century' Dict.	Funk's 'Standard'.	Here.
Words recorded	120	412	584	529	1482
Words illustrated by quotations	97	164	201	50	1368
Number of quotations	392	293	517	70	8396

In the corresponding portion of Richardson the quotations number 318.

This section comprises, in almost equal portions, the remainder of the words beginning with SP-, and the whole of those with initial SQU-. The former are predominantly of English origin, and include such words as *spring* sb. and v. (which together with derivatives and compounds occupy nearly 30 columns), *sprit*, *sprout*, *spur*, *spurn*, and *spurt*. Various others of obscure history may also be of native stock, as *sprocket*, *sprod*, *spry*, *spud*, *spunk*. Dutch has contributed *springbok*, *sprue*, *spruit*, and *spurrey*, possibly also *sprinkle* and *sputter*. The geographical name *Spruce* (Prussia) is the source of *spruce* (*-fir*), perhaps also of the adj. *spruce*. Compared with these the Romanic element is small, being chiefly represented by *sprite*, *spume* (with derivatives), *spurge*, *spurious*, and *spy*.

Of the words beginning with SQU- a large proportion are not found outside of English, this combination of sounds being rare in other languages, though occurring to some extent in Latin and represented by *skv-* or *sqv-* in the Scandinavian tongues. Those which have an obvious etymology are mainly of Latin origin, and represent either Latin words in *squ-* or Romanic forms in *escu-*, *esqu-* (the latter from earlier *ex* + *qu-*). Among those directly based on Latin the chief are *squalid*, *squalor*, *squama* or *squame* (with *squamate*, *-ose*, *-ous*), *squarrose*, and *squill*. French of various dates has contributed *squad*, *squadron*, *square*, *squash* v.[1], *squat*, *squeamish*, *squire*, and *squirrel*.

A number of SQU- words are obviously imitative of sound or action, as *squall*, *squark*, *squatter* v., *squawk*, *squeak*, *squeal*, *squelch*, *squirm*, *squish*, and a vague feeling of appropriateness may account for such forms as *squab*, *squabble*, *squail*, *squander*, *squeeze*, *squib*, *squid*, *squirt*, and *squize*. In some cases *s-* has been prefixed to words in *qu-*, as in *squeasy*, *squench*.

In addition to these sources, American Indian tongues have supplied a few words, as *squash* sb.[2], *squaw*, and *squeteague*.

A NEW
ENGLISH DICTIONARY
ON HISTORICAL PRINCIPLES.

(VOLUME IX. FIRST HALF. SI.—ST.)

ST—STANDARD

BY

HENRY BRADLEY, HON. D.LITT.

NOTE.

THIS section (65 pages) includes 448 Main words, 241 Special Combinations explained under these, and 106 Subordinate entries; in all 795. The obvious combinations recorded and illustrated number 204, making a total of 999. Of the Main words 98 (22 %) are marked † as obsolete, and 14 (3 %) are marked ‖ as alien or not fully naturalized.

Comparison with Dr. Johnson's and some recent Dictionaries gives the following figures:—

	Johnson.	Cassell's 'Encyclopædic', and Suppl.	'Century' Dict., and Suppl.	Here.
Words recorded, *St—Standard*	80	331	398	999
Words illustrated by quotations	69	137	47	893
Number of illustrative quotations	484	316	672	7732

The number of quotations in the corresponding portion of Richardson is 300.

The words included in this Section are, with comparatively few exceptions, either of native English or of French origin. Numerically the French derivatives slightly preponderate; but the native words occupy much the larger proportion of the space, mainly because of the multitude of the senses and idiomatic uses of the verb *stand*, which fills nearly 13 pages. There are one or two Scandinavian words (*stack*, *stacker*, *staithe*), and a few direct Latin and Greek derivatives (*stadium*, *stagnate* and its cognates, *stalactite*, *stalagmite*, *stamen*, *stamina*). Celtic words are entirely absent, as are also adoptions from non-European languages, which in the previous instalments of S have been abundant.

Among the words in this Section that are remarkable on account of their sense-development may be mentioned *stable* adj., *stack*, *staff*, *stage*, *stain*, *stale* adj., *stall* sb.[1] and sb.[2], *stalwart* (*stalworth*), *stamina*, *stamp* sb. and vb., *stand* sb. and vb., *standard*.

Staddle *sb.* Earlier example of sense 2: 1543 *Act* 35 *Hen. VIII*, c. 17 § 1 (1544) The same stathilles or storers [*elsewhere in the section* standilles or storers]. Earlier example of sense 3 a: *c* 1475 *Pict. Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 785/21 *Hic arcomus* [read *arconius*], a stathele.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS, SIGNS, &c.

a. [in Etymol.] ... = adoption of, adopted from.
a (as *a* 1300) ..... = *ante*, before.
a., *adj.*, adj..... = adjective.
absol., absol. ..... = absolutely.
abst. ..... = abstract.
acc..... = accusative.
ad. [in Etymol.]... = adaptation of.
adv., adv. ..... = adverb.
advb. ..... = adverbial, -ly.
AF., AFr. ..... = Anglo-French.
Anat. ..... = in Anatomy.
Antiq. ..... = in Antiquities.
aphet. ..... = aphetic, aphetized.
app..... = apparently.
Arab. ..... = Arabic.
Arch. ..... = in Architecture.
arch. ..... = archaic.
Archæol. ..... = in Archæology.
assoc. ..... = association.
Astr. ..... = in Astronomy.
Astrol. ..... = in Astrology.
attrib. ..... = attributive, -ly.
bef. ..... = before.
Biol. ..... = in Biology.
Boh. ..... = Bohemian.
Bot. ..... = in Botany.
Build. ..... = in Building.
c (as *c* 1300) ..... = *circa*, about.
c. (as 13th c.)..... = century.
Cat..... = Catalan.
catachr. ..... = catachrestically.
Cf., cf..... = *confer*, compare.
Chem. ..... = in Chemistry.
cl. L. ..... = classical Latin.
cogn. w. ..... = cognate with.
collect. ..... = collective, -ly.
colloq. ..... = colloquially.
comb. ..... = combined, -ing.
Comb. ..... = Combinations.
Comm. ..... = in commercial usage.
comp. ..... = compound, composition.
compl. ..... = complement.
Conch. ..... = in Conchology.
concr. ..... = concretely.
conj. ..... = conjunction.
cons. ..... = consonant.
Const., *Const.* ... = Construction, construed with.
Cryst. ..... = in Crystallography.
(D.) ..... = in Davies (Supp. Eng. Glossary).
Da..... = Danish.
dat. ..... = dative.
def. ..... = definite.
deriv. ..... = derivative, -ation.
dial., *dial.* ..... = dialect, -al.
Dict. ..... = Dictionary.
dim. ..... = diminutive.
Du..... = Dutch.
Eccl. ..... = in ecclesiastical usage.
ellipt. ..... = elliptical, -ly.
e. midl. ..... = east midland (dialect).
Eng. ..... = English.
Ent. ..... = in Entomology.
erron. ..... = erroneous, -ly.
esp., esp..... = especially.
etym. ..... = etymology.
euphem. ..... = euphemistically.
exc..... = except.
f. [in Etymol.] ... = formed on.
f. (in subordinate entries) ..... = form of.
fem. (*rarely* f.) ... = feminine.
fig. ..... = figurative, -ly.
F., Fr..... = French.
freq. ..... = frequently.
Fris. ..... = Frisian.
G., Ger. ..... = German.
Gael. ..... = Gaelic.
gen. ..... = genitive.
gen. ..... = general, -ly.
gen. sign. ..... = general signification.
Geol. ..... = in Geology.
Geom. ..... = in Geometry.
Goth. ..... = Gothic (= Mœso-Gothic).
Gr. ..... = Greek.
Gram. ..... = in Grammar.
Heb. ..... = Hebrew.
Her. ..... = in Heraldry.
Herb. ..... = with herbalists.
Hort. ..... = in Horticulture.
imp. ..... = Imperative.
impers. ..... = impersonal.
impf. ..... = imperfect.
ind. ..... = Indicative.
indef. ..... = indefinite.
inf. ..... = Infinitive.
infl. ..... = influenced.
int. ..... = interjection.
intr. ..... = intransitive.
It. ..... = Italian.
J., (J.) ..... = Johnson (quotation from).
(Jam.)..... = in Jamieson, Scottish Dict.
(Jod.) ..... = Jodrell (quoted from).
L. ..... = Latin.
(L.)(in quotations) = Latham's edn. of Todd's lang. ..... = language. [Johnson.
LG..... = Low German.
lit. ..... = literal, -ly.
Lith. ..... = Lithuanian.
LXX. ..... = Septuagint.
Mal. ..... = Malay.
masc. (*rarely* m.) = masculine.
Math. ..... = in Mathematics.
ME..... = Middle English.
Med. ..... = in Medicine.
med.L. ..... = mediæval Latin.
Mech. ..... = in Mechanics.
Metaph. ..... = in Metaphysics.
MHG. ..... = Middle High German.
midl. ..... = midland (dialect).
Mil. ..... = in military usage.
Min. ..... = in Mineralogy.
mod. ..... = modern.
Mus. ..... = in Music.
(N.) ..... = Nares (quoted from).
n. of action..... = noun of action.
n. of agent ..... = noun of agent.
Nat. Hist. ..... = in Natural History.
Naut. ..... = in nautical language.
neut. (*rarely* n.) = neuter.
NF., NFr. ..... = Northern French.
N. O. ..... = Natural Order.
nom. ..... = nominative.
north. ..... = northern (dialect).
N. T. ..... = New Testament.
Numism. ..... = in Numismatics.
obj. ..... = object.
Obs., *obs.*, obs. ... = obsolete.
occas. ..... = occasional, -ly.
OE..... = Old English (= Anglo-Saxon).
OF., OFr. ..... = Old French.
OFris. ..... = Old Frisian.
OHG..... = Old High German.
OIr..... = Old Irish.
ON. ..... = Old Norse (Old Icelandic).
ONF. ..... = Old Northern French.
Opt. ..... = in Optics.
Ornith. ..... = in Ornithology.
OS. ..... = Old Saxon.
OSl. ..... = Old Slavonic.
O. T. ..... = Old Testament.
OTeut. ..... = Original Teutonic.
orig. ..... = original, -ly.
Palæont. ..... = in Palæontology.
pa. pple. ..... = passive or past participle.
pass. ..... = passive, -ly.
pa. t. ..... = past tense.
Path. ..... = in Pathology.
perh. ..... = perhaps.
Pers. ..... = Persian.
pers. ..... = person, -al.
pf. ..... = perfect.
Pg. ..... = Portuguese.
Philol. ..... = in Philology.
phonet. ..... = phonetic, -ally.
phr. ..... = phrase.
Phren. ..... = in Phrenology.
Phys. ..... = in Physiology.
pl., *pl.* ..... = plural.
poet. ..... = poetic.
pop. ..... = popular, -ly.
ppl. a., ppl. adj.... = participial adjective.
pple. ..... = participle.
Pr. ..... = Provençal.
prec. ..... = preceding (word or article).
pref. ..... = prefix.
prep. ..... = preposition.
pres. ..... = present.
Prim. sign. ..... = Primary signification.
priv. ..... = privative.
prob. ..... = probably.
pron. ..... = pronoun.
pronunc..... = pronunciation.
prop. ..... = properly.
Pros. ..... = in Prosody.
pr. pple. ..... = present participle.
Psych. ..... = in Psychology.
q.v. ..... = *quod vide*, which see.
(R.) ..... = in Richardson's Dict.
R. C. Ch. ..... = Roman Catholic Church.
refash..... = refashioned, -ing.
refl., refl. ..... = reflexive.
reg..... = regular.
repr. ..... = representative, representing.
Rhet. ..... = in Rhetoric.
Rom. ..... = Romanic, Romance.
sb., *sb.* ..... = substantive.
Sc. ..... = Scotch.
sc. ..... = *scilicet*, understand or supply.
sing. ..... = singular.
Skr..... = Sanskrit.
Slav. ..... = Slavonic.
Sp. ..... = Spanish.
sp. ..... = spelling.
spec. ..... = specifically.
subj. ..... = subject, subjunctive.
subord. cl. ..... = subordinate clause.
subseq. ..... = subsequently.
subst. ..... = substantively.
suff..... = suffix.
superl. ..... = superlative.
Surg. ..... = in Surgery.
Sw. ..... = Swedish.
s.w. ..... = south western (dialect).
T. (T.) ..... = in Todd's Johnson.
techn. ..... = technical, -ly.
Theol. ..... = in Theology.
tr. ..... = translation of.
trans. ..... = transitive.
transf. ..... = transferred sense.
Trig. ..... = in Trigonometry.
Typog. ..... = in Typography.
ult. ..... = ultimate, -ly.
unkn. ..... = unknown.
U.S. ..... = United States.
v., vb..... = verb.
v. str., or *w.* ..... = verb strong, or weak.
vbl. sb. ..... = verbal substantive.
var. ..... = variant of.
wd. ..... = word.
WGer. ..... = West Germanic.
w.midl. ..... = west midland (dialect).
WS. ..... = West Saxon.
(Y.)..... = in Col. Yule's Glossary.
Zool. ..... = in Zoology.

Before a word or sense.
† = obsolete.
‖ = not naturalized.

In the quotations.
* sometimes points out the word illustrated.

In the list of Forms.
1 = before 1100.
2 = 12th c. (1100 to 1200).
3 = 13th c. (1200 to 1300).
5–7 = 15th to 17th century. (See General Explanations, Vol. I, p. xx.)

In the Etymol.
* indicates a word or form not actually found, but of which the existence is inferred.
:— = extant representative, or regular phonetic descendant of.

The printing of a word in SMALL CAPITALS indicates that further information will be found under the word so referred to.

1733 TULL *Horse-hoeing Husb.* xi. 106 (Dubl.), If it be not sown before Spring, its Grain will be thin. 1779 *Mirror* No. 16, The effects of the return of Spring have been frequently remarked. 1819 SHELLEY *Ode West Wind* v, O, Wind, If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind? 1848 L. HUNT *Jar of Honey* vii. 84 Thou still..art the same blithe, sweet thing Thou ever wast, O Spring. 1885 J. ASHBY-STERRY *Lazy Minstrel* (1892) 6 Spring's Delights are now returning!

(*b*) *a* 1547 SURREY in *Tottel's Misc.* (Arb.) 15 Like as when, rough winter spent, The pleasant spring straight draweth in vre. 1577 GOOGE tr. *Heresbach's Husb.* 22 Touching the season of your plowing, it must be cheefely in the spring. 1609 DEKKER *Ravens Alm.* Wks. (Grosart) IV. 194 Let vs now try if the spring will prooue any more cheerefull. 1665 BOYLE *Occas. Reft.* (1848) Pref. p. xviii, A dozen ordinary Pictures of the Spring (which yet are wont to charm Vulgar eyes). 1733 TULL *Horse-hoeing Husb.* xi. 128 (Dubl.), The Wheat will have the Benefit of them earlier in the Spring. 1742 GRAY *Spring* 26 The insect-youth are on the wing, Eager to taste the honied spring. 1828 WORDSW. *Morn. Exerc.* 48 Yet might'st thou seem..to sing All independent of the leafy spring. 1842 TENNYSON *Locksley Hall* 20 In the Spring a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love.

(*c*) 1596 SHAKS. 2 *Hen. IV*, I. iii. 38 As in an early Spring, We see th'appearing buds. 1596 — *Rich. III*, III. i. 94. 1604 E. G[RIMSTONE] *D'Acosta's Hist. Indies* II. xiii. 111 Yet those which inhabite there, take it for a delightful spring. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* IV. 179 To sing The Pæstan Roses, and their double Spring. 1726-46 THOMSON *Winter* 1069 The storms of Wintry Time will quickly pass, And one unbounded Spring encircle all. 1742 GRAY *Eton Coll.* 20 The gales..seem..To breathe a second spring. 1830 TENNYSON *Nothing will die* ii, A spring rich and strange, Shall make the winds blow. 1859 — *Merlin & V.* 407 My blood Hath earnest in it of far springs to be.

c. *fig.* The first or early stage or period *of* life, youth, etc.

1590 GREENE *Mourn. Garm.* (1616) Bij b, Sophonos..carried graue thoughts, and in the spring of his youth such ripe fruits, as are found in the Autumne of age. 1591 SHAKS. *Two Gent.* I. iii. 84 Oh, how this spring of loue resembleth The vncertaine glory of an Aprill day. 1621 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Motto* D 3, Who in the Spring, or Summer of his Pride, Was worship'd, honor'd, almost deifi'd. 1742 GRAY *Spring* 49 On hasty wings thy youth is flown; Thy sun is set, thy spring is gone. 1781 BURKE *Correspondence* (1844) II. 437 A storm came upon us in the early spring of our toleration. 1826 DISRAELI *V. Grey* IV. iv, You are blighted for ever in the very spring of your life. 1834 LYTTON *Pompeii* I. vi, Apæcides was in the spring of his years.

d. Contrasted with *fall*, esp. in the phr. *spring and fall* (cf. FALL *sb.*[1] 2). Now *arch.*

1643 R. BAKER *Chron.* (1653) 183 So great oddes there is between the Spring and Fall of Fortune. *c* 1680 HICKERINGILL *Hist. Whiggism* Wks. 1716 I. II. 153 Parliaments are to sit frequently..I do not say, as often as you take Physick (Spring and Fall at least). 1754 J. BARTLET *Gentl. Farriery* (ed. 2) 173 This disease..in some horses shews itself spring and fall. 1764 WARBURTON *Lett.* (1809) 354, I do not wonder that any studious man should in England want physic at Spring and Fall. 1826 [see FALL *sb.*[1] 2].

e. This season in a particular year.

1621 LD. DUNFERMLINE in G. Seton *Mem.* (1882) 139, I haue bein twayis or thrise this spring ellis at Archerie. 1677 PRIDEAUX *Lett.* (1875) 59 We shall goe on buildeing to, as soon as spring begins. 1711 LADY M. W. MONTAGU *Let. to W. Montagu* 24 Mar., I am going to the same place I went last spring. ?*a* 1758 GRAY *Song* 2 Ere the spring he would return. 1801 *Farmer's Mag.* Nov. 465 There can be no scarcity of that grain before the Spring. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* v. I. 659 *note*, Ferguson..was excluded by name from the general pardon published in the following spring. 1855 *Ibid.* xvii. IV. 12 In the spring of 1691, the Waldensian shepherds..were surprised by glad tidings.

f. Used with numerals to mark a definite period, esp. in the age of a person or animal.

1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* III. 299 When to four full Springs his Years advance. 1820 BYRON *Mar. Fal.* II. i. 371 Were I still in my five and twentieth spring.

g. *ellipt.* Spring wheat.

1896 *Daily News* 30 Nov. 2/7 Wheat to-day is very firmly held...English reds, 36s.; American springs, 37s.

7. *attrib.* and *Comb.* **a.** Attrib., passing into adj., in the sense 'of or pertaining to the spring'; 'appearing, happening, occurring, etc., in the spring', as *spring-ague*, *-beam*, *-bird*, *-blood*, *-blossom*, etc.; **spring juices** (see quot.); **spring-pottage, soup,** pottage or soup made of or from fresh green vegetables.

Only the earlier or more important instances are given.

1721 SHAFTESB. *Charac.* (1737) I. 14 They might, instead of making a cure,..turn a *spring-ague or an autumn-surfeit into an epidemical malignant fever. 1684 Z. CAWDREY *Certainty Salvation* 28 The first warm and invigorating *Spring-beam to the Frost-nipt Loyalty of the Nation. 1760 T. SMITH *Jrnl.* (1849) 273 The robin and *spring birds came a week or ten days sooner than usual. 1855 BROWNING *Old Pictures Florence* xxiii, I have loved the season Of Art's *spring-birth. * 1825 J. WILSON *Poems* II. 96 Bright as *spring-blossoms after sunny showers. 1820 KEATS *Isabella* xiii, Even bees, the little almsmen of *spring-bowers. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* III. II. vi, To be concerting measures for the *spring Campaign. 1849 D. J. BROWNE *Amer. Poultry Yd.* (1855) 107 Generally speaking, *spring chickens are more desirable. 1827 LADY MORGAN *France* I. 52 The morning light of an early *spring day. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* I. 313 This Erithace commeth of the *Spring-dew. 1813 SCOTT *Triermn.* I. i, Generous as spring-dews that bless the glad ground. 1818-20 E. THOMPSON *Nosologia* (ed. 3) 321 Lichen; *Spring Eruption, Scorbutic Pimples. 1859 BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.* (ed. 2) 438 **Spring fever*, the listless feeling caused by the first sudden increase of temperature in spring. It is often said of a lazy fellow, 'He has got the spring fever'. *a* 1586 SIDNEY *Arcadia* III. (1629) 387 Thus poesies of the *spring flowers were wrapt vp in a little greene silke, and dedicated to Kalas breasts. 1884 MRS. C. PRAED *Zero* iv, The floor was carpeted with moss and spring flowers. 1765 *Treat. Dom. Pigeons* 110 Their young ones..were as large as middling *spring fowls. 1615 A. NICCHOLS *Marr. & Wiving* x. 30 Lust,..the *Spring-frost of beauty. 1842 LOUDON *Suburban Hort.* 417 Retarding the blossoming of the trees, and lessening the risk of their being injured by spring frosts. 1851 MRS. BROWNING *Casa Guidi Wind.* 129 Until it loose The clammy clods and let out the *spring-growth. 1868 *Rep. U. S. Commissioner Agric.* (1869) 255 As soon as the spring growth, sometimes called the midsummer shoot, is completed. 1824 LOUDON *Encycl. Gard.* (ed. 2) 662 The juice [of water-cress] is decocted with that of scurvy-grass and Seville oranges, and forms the popular remedy called *spring juices. 1831 W. PATRICK *Indigenous Pl. Lanark.* 46 Leaves [of Brooklime]..; generally gathered for medical purposes, and together with scurvy-grass, an ingredient in that nauseous composition called Spring juices. 1818 KEATS *Teignm.* ix, I've gather'd young *spring-leaves, and flowers gay Of periwinkles and wild strawberry. 1872 SYMONDS *Study Dante* 175 Like one of the white *spring-lilies of the Alps. 1765 *Museum Rust.* IV. 279 The *spring litters [of pigs] stand greatly in need of the milk and whey. 1870 H. SMART *Race for Wife* i, The first *spring meeting became his assizes. 1775 ASH, **Springmonths*, the months of the spring quarter. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev* I. IV. ii, Through the spring months, as the Sower casts his corn abroad. 1818 SHELLEY *Marenghi* 124 Many a fresh *Spring morn would he awaken. 1775 ASH, **Springmorning*, a mild growing morning. 1773 *Ann. Reg.* 87 After eating a hearty breakfast of *Spring-pottage. 1836-7 DICKENS *Sk. Boz, Scenes* xii, We wonder what Greenwich Fair is—a periodical breaking out, we suppose, a sort of *spring-rash. *a* 1722 LISLE *Husb.* (1757) 299 Strike fresh sap-roots, or buds preparative to the ensuing spring, and which will the next year be the *spring-roots. 1731 MILLER *Gard. Dict.* s.v. *Melissa*, The variegated Sort makes a..pretty Appearance in the *Spring Season. 1789 T. WRIGHT *Watering Meadows* (1790) 8 Between March and May we are sure of *Spring-seed. 1733 TULL *Horse-hoeing Husb.* xi. 107 (Dubl.), That long Interval betwixt Autumn and *Spring Seed-times. *a* 1746 HOLDSWORTH *Virgil* (1768) 35 Scarce any tree growing faster than a young Alder,..especially in the *spring-shoot. 1763 *Museum Rust.* I. 141 When the ground is properly prepared, it should be planted with sets, being the spring shoots pulled up in a madder-plot. 1763 MILLS *Pract. Husb.* IV. 365 Immediately after a hasty *spring-shower. 1836 FONBLANQUE *Eng. under Seven Administr.* (1837) III. 313 A *spring soup, a turbot, a few made dishes, a dessert, &c. 1859 SALA *Tw. round Clock* (1861) 195 He ..had twice spring soup, and twice salmon and cucumber. *a* 1722 LISLE *Husb.* (1757) 238 The *spring-tillows..do arise from the foot of the root of the winter-stems or shoots. 1641 BROME *Jovial Crew* II. (1652) D iv b, For a *spring-trick of youth, now, in the season. 1837 LOCKHART *Scott* II. 243 As soon as the *spring vacation began. 1612 WEBSTER *White Devil* II. i. 166 Neglected cassia or the naturall sweetes Of the *Spring-violet. 1707 MORTIMER *Husb.* 233 The *Spring winds, which nips the young Buds. 1835 T. MITCHELL *Aristoph., Acharn.* 785 *note*, The ἄνεμοι ὀρνιθίαι, or spring-winds, which bring with them the birds of passage. 1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* II. 482 There is found little or nothing to do till the burst of *spring-work comes.

b. In the sense 'sown or suitable for sowing in the spring', as *spring barley, corn, kale, onion, rye, wheat*, etc.

1861 BENTLEY *Man. Bot.* 699 *H[ordeum] vulgare*, Bere, Bigg, Four-rowed or *Spring Barley. 1733 TULL *Horse-hoeing Husb.* xi. 107 (Dubl.), Wheat..hence having about thrice the time to be maintain'd that *Spring Corn hath. 1763 MILLS *Pract. Husb.* III. 171 Turneps..occupying the whole ground when it should be sowed with spring-corn. 1812 *Examiner* 11 May 292/1 All the spring corn..in a very backward state. 1885 STALLYBRASS tr. *Hehn's Wand. Pl. & Anim.* 450 They, who probably planted only spring-corn. 1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 637 Of the various sorts of cabbage, fit for field culture, the Scotch gray, the open green or *spring kale, and the turnip-rooted, are the hardiest. 1786 ABERCROMBIE *Gard. Assist.* 252 More..on warm borders to stand for *spring lettuces. 1882 *Garden* 28 Jan. 65/3 This land we intend for *Spring Onions. 1765 *Museum Rust.* IV. 226 It seems adviseable to delay the sowing of *spring-rye as long as can be. 1766 *Compl. Farmer* 5 H, Having sown *spring wheat after a crop of madder. 1812 SIR J. SINCLAIR *Syst. Husb. Scot.* 244 A discrimination is highly necessary between winter wheat sown in the spring, and the Siberian, or real spring wheat. 1868 *Rep. U. S. Commissioner Agric.* (1869) 417 They had been in the habit of using too much seed for spring wheat.

c. In the specific or popular names of plants, birds, fishes, insects, etc., as **spring-beauty, -bell, crocus, gentian, -grass**; †**spring-froth, herring, usher, wagtail**: (see quots.).

(*a*) 1846-50 A. WOOD *Class-bk. Bot.* 194 *Claytonia Caroliniana.* *Spring Beauty. *Ibid., C. Virginica.* Virginian Spring Beauty. 1874 *Treas. Bot.* Suppl. 1344 *Springbell, *Sisyrinchium grandiflorum.* 1846-50 A. WOOD *Class-bk. Bot.* 543 *Crocus vernus.* *Spring Crocus. 1829 LOUDON *Encycl. Plants* 202 *Gentiana verna*, *spring gentian. 1713 *Phil. Trans.* XXVIII. 179 Soft Crested Grass..is thicker, softer, and more loose than our common Crested Grass, and in spike more nearly resembles our yellow *Spring Grass. 1771 *Encycl. Brit.* I. 327 *Anthoxanthum..odoratum*, or spring-grass, a native of Britain. 1845-50 MRS. LINCOLN *Lect. Bot.* 139 The sweet scented spring-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*).

(*b*) *a* 1722 LISLE *Husb.* (1757) 449 An account of the cuckow-spit, or *spring-froth. 1868 *Chambers's Encycl.* X. 387/1 The Alewife is called *Spring Herring in some places, and *gasperau* by the French Canadians. 1884 GOODE *Nat. Hist. Aquat. Anim.* 579 The 'Spring' Herring or 'Alewife', *Clupea vernalis.* 1832 J. RENNIE *Consp. Butterfl. & Moths* 102 The *Spring Usher (*Anisopteryx leucophearia*..) appears in oak woods the end of February and March. 1802 MONTAGU *Ornith.* s.v. *Wagtail*, *Spring, or Summer Wagtail.

8. *Comb.*, as *spring-budding, -digging, -dressing, flowering*, etc.; *spring-born, -gathered, -made, -planted*, etc.; **spring green** *a.*, light green.

(*a*) 1852 W. WICKENDEN *Hunchback's Chest* 281 In the *spring-budding meadows. 1763 MILLS *Pract. Husb.* IV. 351 After each *spring digging,..the same care and management of the vines..must be continued. 1795 D. WALKER *View Agric. Hertford* 39 The *spring or top dressings are the leading features of the Hertfordshire farming. 1842 LOUDON *Suburban Hort.* 669 Excepting in the first spring after sowing, no spring dressing is required till May. 1731 MILLER *Gard. Dict.* s.v. *Colchicum*, *Spring-flowering Meadow-Saffron. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 110/1 A pretty spring-flowering plant. 1733 TULL *Horse-Hoeing Husb.* xi. 128 (Dubl.), This thus pulveriz'd Surface turn'd in, in the *Spring-Hoeing, enriches the Earth. 1817 KEATS *Curious Shell* 14 What is it that hangs from thy shoulder, so brave, Embroider'd with many a *spring peering flower? 1782 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 2) IX. 663/1 The *spring planting may be performed the end of January or beginning of February. 1765 *Museum Rust.* IV. 312 If the *spring-ploughing for barley or oats has been nine or ten inches deep. 1846 KEIGHTLEY *Notes Virg., Georg.* I. 43 The poet commences his precepts with the spring-ploughing of the land. 1826 *Art of Brewing* (ed. 2) 168 Soon after the *spring racking, ..the casks may be gradually stopped. 1765 *Museum Rust.* IV. 322 It is very common for grass-seeds to fail on such land, even from the *spring-sowing. 1883 F. A. SMITH *Swedish Fisheries* 5 An essay on the cultivation of *spring-spawning fishes. 1842 LOUDON *Suburban Hort.* 439 A top-dressing of putrescent manure may be..left on the surface till the *spring-stirring.

(*b*) 1868 MORRIS *Earthly Par.* (1890) 55/1 Unscared the *spring-born thrush did pass. 1857 THORNBURY *Songs Cavaliers & Roundheads* 53 The sweet *spring-gather'd flowers fall before his feet in showers. *a* 1722 LISLE *Husb.* (1757) 304 The *spring-made cheese was tarter. 1812 *New Botanic Gard.* I. 32 These *spring-planted roots flower.. after those which were planted in autumn. 1786 ABERCROMBIE *Gard. Assist.* 128 Plant out *spring-raised cabbages. *Ibid.* 137 Begin to weed the general *spring-sowed crops. 1801 *Farmer's Mag.* Nov. 473 The grain of *Spring sown fields. 1868 *Rep. U.S. Commissioner Agric.* (1869) 182 Indeed no grain will yield more than half a crop of poor quality, (on the Pacific slope,) when spring-sown. 1864 SWINBURNE *Atalanta* 2112 As winter's wan daughter Leaves lowland and lawn *Spring-stricken. 1649 G. DANIEL *Trinarch., Hen. IV*, ccxlviii, Northumberland, who like a *Spring-taught Snayle Was crauling to haue Nibbled the fresh leafe. 1855 *Woman's Devot.* II. 299 The fair shadowing green of the *spring-touched larch.

(*c*) 1891 M. E. WILKINS *Humble Romance*, etc. 46 The cottages were painted uniformly white, and had blinds of a bright Spring-green colour!

III. †**9.** A young growth on a tree, plant, or root; a shoot, sprout, or sucker; a small branch, sprig, or twig; the rudimentary shoot of a seed. In early quots. *fig. Obs.* (Freq. *c* 1560–*c* 1650.)

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 27380 Quilk ar þaa sinnes þat scrift sal scau I sal þam recken siþen on rau, wit þair springes herefter heist. *Ibid.* 27737 Vnheind talking,..hurtes grett, and sclander and tene; þir ar þe springes o wreth fythtene. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 470 Sprynge, of a tre or plante,.. *planta, plantula.* 1502 ARNOLDE *Chron.* 62 b/2 Yf thou wylt plante an Almaunde tree..putte many kyrnels togyder in the erth or seuerelly and whan the sprynge is growen oute [etc.]. 1559 MORWYNG *Evonym.* 304 Wet the end of a fether or other lyke thing, as some yong and tender spring of a trie. 1578 LYTE *Dodoens* 4 The roote..putting foorth on every side much encrease of new springs. *Ibid.* 369 Thymelæa hath many smal springs or branches, of the length of a cubite. 1660 SHARROCK *Vegetables* 117 A spring of scarce discernable growth may serve as a foundation to the pedal of the blossom.

†**b.** A growth of this nature cut or slipped off, esp. for planting; a rod or switch; a cutting, set, or slip. Also *fig. Obs.*

1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. v. 41 Who-so spareth þe sprynge spilleth his children. 1387-8 T. USK *Test. Love* III. vi. (Skeat) I. 4 'That tree to sette, fayn wolde I lerne.'..'The first thing, thou muste sette thy werke on grounde siker and good, accordaunt to thy springes.' *c* 1485 *E. E. Misc.* (1855) 67 There is moste connabylle tyme for sedys, graynys, and pepyns, and Autumpe for spryngys, and plantys. 1563 HYLL *Art Garden.* (1593) 85 Between the old plants set yong springs, slipped off from the old. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* II. 196 The same yong springs eaten alone by themselues in a salad, in maner of the tender crops and spurts of the Colewort,..do fasten the teeth. 1657 R. AUSTEN *Fruit-trees* i. 60 After a yeare or two divers young springs may be drawne from the roots.

†**c.** A young tree, esp. one growing from a set or slip; a sapling. *Obs.*

1499 PYNSON *Promp. Parv.* P iv/2 Springe or yonge tre. 1545 in I. S. Leadam *Sel. Cas. Crt. Requests* (1898) 85 To fell & cutt down viij yong Sprynges abowte Alhaloutyd. 1552 HULOET, Arboure or place made with quicke springes. 1563 HYLL *Art Garden.* (1593) 6 That ground .. which naturally bringeth forth of his own accord, both elms and wilde young springs.

fig. c 1535 ELYOT *Educ.* B iv, Good aduertisements and preceptes, wherby the yonge spryng of vertuous maners shall growe streyghte.

†**d.** *transf.* A young man, a youth. *Obs.*

1559 *Mirr. Mag., Earl Northumbld.* iv, A sonne I had.. That being yong, and but a very spring [etc.]. *c* 1586 C'TESS PEMBROKE *Ps.* CV. ix, Their eldest-borne, that countries hopefull spring. 1590 SPENSER *Muiopot.* 292 Winged Loue, With his yong brother Sport;..The one his bowe and shafts, the other Spring A burning Teade about his head did moue.

10. A copse, grove, or wood consisting of young trees springing up naturally from the stools of old ones; a plantation of young trees, esp. one inclosed and used for rearing or harbouring game; a spinney. *Now dial.*

Freq. in the 16th and 17th c., often in local names.

1399 *Fabric Rolls York Minster* (Surtees Soc.) 132 Pro xxj rodis de hegyng circa le spring in Langwath. 1468-9

Durham Acc. Rolls (Surtees) 155 Pro factura liij rod. fossat. circa unam percellam terre juxta parcum de Shynkcley pro salvacione de le Spryng ibidem..xiij *s.* ix *d.* *c* 1490 *Plumpton Corr.* (Camden) 74 To cause suer search to be made, what horse & cattaille ther be, that goes in my spring within my parke at Spofford. 1523 FITZHERB. *Husb.* § 135 So is a spryng beste kepte, where there is neyther manne nor foure-foted beastes within the hedge. 1576 TURBERV. *Hunting* xxxi, In small groues or hewts,..priuily enclosed within the greater springs in the Forests and strong couerts. 1600 FAIRFAX *Tasso* XIII. xxxi, If his courage any champion moue To trie the hazard of this dreedfull spring, I giue him leaue..: This said, his Lords attempt the charmed groue. 1620–6 QUARLES *Feast for Worms* 476 A Herd of Deere are browzing in a spring, With eager appetite. 1652 BLITHE *Eng. Improver Impr.* (ed. 3) 157 Although much dry,.. hungry land doth not many times afford a thick Coppice, or good Spring. *a* 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew* s.v. *Ringwalks*, They go drawing in their Springs at Hart-Hunting. 1788– in dialect glossaries (Yks., Lanc., Linc., Herts., Kent, etc.).

fig. 1591 LYLY *Endym.* v. ii, *Top.* Howe shall I bee troubled when this younge springe shall growe to a great wood! *Epi.* O, sir, your chinne is but a quyller yet.

b. Const. *of* (wood, oak, etc.).

1483 *Cath. Angl.* 356 A Sprynge of wodde, *virgultum*. 1614 *Minutes Archdeacony Essex* (MS.), He had cattle broke into a yonge springe of wood. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* IX. 218, I..In yonder Spring of Roses intermixt With Myrtle, find what to redress till Noon. 1690 in *Hunter MSS.* (Chapt. Durham) VII. 203 A parcell of ground whereon there is a new spring of Oakes growne 3 and 4 yards high. 1732 *N. Riding Rec.* IX. 120 All that spring of wood, adjoining to the last-mentioned close. 1750 W. ELLIS *Mod. Husb.* IV. iv. 28 A Spinny, or Spring of Underwood. 1780 *Newcastle Courant* (E.D.D.), On the estate there are two fine springs of wood.

c. *collect.* Young growth, shoots, or sprouts, esp. the lower or under growth of trees or shrubs. Now *dial.*

1482 *Rolls of Parlt.* VI. 224/1 To save the spryng of their Wood so felled. *Ibid.* The same spryng hath be in tyme passed, and daily ys distroyed. 1523 FITZHERB. *Husb.* § 126 Lay thy small trouse or thornes..ouer thy quickesettes, that shepe do not eate the sprynge nor buddes of thy settes. 1579 SPENSER *Sheph. Cal.* June 53 The byrds, which in the lower spring Did shroude in shady leaues. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* I. 514 The Pine tree also with her shaddow nippeth and killeth the yong spring of all plants within the reach thereof. 1670 EVELYN *Sylva* (ed. 2) xxxiv. 220 When the Spring is of two years growth, draw part of it for Quicksets. 1823, 1854, in Suffolk and Northampt. glossaries.

d. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *spring-fall*, *-felling*, *-shaw*. Chiefly *dial.* Also SPRING-WOOD.

1800 TUKE *Agric. Yks.* 184 What is called 'spring-felling', that is, felling the whole growth of the trees and underwood.., but so as not to injure the crown of the roots. 1856 'STONEHENGE' *Brit. Rural Sports* 58 Pointers or setters which are broken to run in when ordered, may do in open spring-falls,..but they are too large for thick covert. 1887 PARISH & SHAW *Dict. Kent. Dial., Spring-shaw*, a strip of the young undergrowth of wood, from two to three rods wide.

11. A springing up, growing, or bursting forth of plants, vegetation, etc.; a growth or crop; also, a race or stock of persons. Now *rare.*

1624 CHAPMAN *Homer's Hymn Apollo* 554 A most dreadful and pernicious thing, Call'd Typhon, who on all the human spring Conferr'd confusion. 1641 BEST *Farm. Bks.* (Surtees) 10 Some fresh pasture wheare there is a good timely springe appearinge on the grownd. *a* 1652 BROME *Lovesick Crt.* IV. ii, By a perpetual spring of more procere And bigger bladed grass. 1822 W. J. NAPIER *Pract. Store-farm.* 58 Upon the part particularly alluded to, there appears to have arisen a great spring of natural fiorin.

IV. † 12. Rise, beginning, first appearance, or birth (*of* something). *Obs.*

a 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 320 Ah we witen wel þet ure lahen, ure bileaue, & ure lei hefde lahe sprung [L. *primordia*].

1550 BALE *Unchaste Votaries* I. (1560) 17 Ye very spring or fyrst going forth of the Gospel. *a* 1568 ASCHAM *Scholem.* I. (Arb.) 141 The Latin tong,..from the spring, to the decay of the same. 1594 HOOKER *Eccl. Pol.* I. vi. § 1 Men, if we view them in their spring, are at the first without understanding or knowledge at all. 1682 GREW *Anat. Pl.* Introd. 3 Plants have their set and peculiar Seasons for their Spring or Birth.

b. In the phr. *to take* (..) *spring from* or *out of*, to have source or origin in, to rise or originate in.

1585 T. WASHINGTON tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* IV. xv. 129 The riuer of Salef, which takes her spring from the mount of Taur. 1605 B. JONSON *Queen's Masques, Blackness* A iij b, This riuer taketh spring out of a certain Lake, east-ward. 1835 I. TAYLOR *Spir. Despot.* v. 222 The spiritual power.. taking its spring from Christianity.

† c. ? The yolk *of* an egg. *Obs.*[–1]

1600 SURFLET *Countrie Farme* I. xii. 54 Stampe them all togither with the spring of an egge.

13. † a. The rising *of* the sea (to an exceptional height) at particular times. (Cf. next.) *Obs.*

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* VIII. xxix. (Tollem. MS.), Alwey in þe new mone þe sprynge of þe see is heyest, and also in þe ful mope. 1539 *Act* 31 *Hen. VIII*, c. 4, Ouerflowyng ..of..grounde lying by the said riuer, with the high springes of the sea. 1585 T. WASHINGTON tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* II. xxiv. 65 All the whole length of the Citie is washed with the springs of the Sea.

b. = SPRING-TIDE 2. Chiefly pl. (So G. *spring.*)

1584 in J. J. Cartwright *Chapt. Hist. Yorks.* (1872) 268 We say that there ryseth at the sprynge 18 foott water, and at the nepe eleaven foot water. 1622 HAWKINS *Voy. S. Sea* (1847) 180 It seemeth an iland, and in high springes I judge that the sea goeth round about it. 1641 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Last Voy.* B 6 b, The trade..is at the least two hundred Tunnes of all commodities, every spring, which is every fortnight or lesse. 1751 *Anc. & Pres. St. Navig. Lyn, Wisbeach*, etc. 25 The tides then generally run high, by Reason of the Springs putting in. 1779 FORREST *Voy. N. Guinea* 15 The tide rises six feet on the springs. 1820 SCORESBY *Acc. Arctic Reg.* I. 147 The rise of tide may be stated at about six feet during the springs. 1858 *Merc. Marine Mag.* V. 366 The stream runs 5 knots at springs, and 3 knots at neaps. 1892 LOWNDES *Camping Sk.* 211 Only the highest 'springs' could touch us.

transf. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* I. i. 21 But when his [*sc.* the Nile's] later spring gins to auale, Huge heapes of mudd he leaues.

attrib. 1846 MCCULLOCH *Acc. Brit. Empire* (1854) I. 59 There is a bar outside the entrance; but as it has about 13 feet water over it even at the lowest spring ebbs, it [etc.].

c. Without article.

1883 *Encycl. Brit.* XXIII. 353 The difference between the intervals is greater at spring than at neap.

14. An act of springing or leaping; a bound, jump, or leap.

c 1450 in *Rel. Ant.* I. 309 Thy spryngys, thy quarters, thy rabetis also. *c* 1450 *Merlin* i. 15 As she sodenly made a sprynge, the childe fill oute of hir arme. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 20 b, An holy monke, whiche in the poynt of his dethe sodeynly gaue a great sprynge vpwarde. 1674 tr. *Martiniere's Voy. N. C.* 40 Upon which they [*sc.* reindeer] gave such a spring, we thought [etc.]. 1698 FRYER *Acc. E. India & P.* 111 They carry the Leopards on *Hackeries*,..to give them the advantage of their Spring. 1737 BRACKEN *Farriery Impr.* (1757) II. 167 Altho' his Adversary's Horse make a Spring, and run past him. 1820 SCORESBY *Acc. Arctic Reg.* II. 294, I made a spring towards a boat..and caught hold of the gunwale. 1843 R. J. GRAVES *Syst. Clin. Med.* xxxi. 428 Taking two of the large stone stair-steps at each spring. 1869 BLACKMORE *Lorna D.* iii, John Fry..in the spring of fright had brought himself down from Smiler's side.

fig. 1878 STEWART & TAIT *Unseen Univ.* i. § 46. 63 When Science was pausing for the spring she has since made. 1889 *Spectator* 26 Oct., They must have..a certain largeness of view besides, shown in their repeated..springs at colonial empire.

b. A recoil or rebound of something after being bent or forced out of its normal position or form.

1680 MOXON *Mech. Exerc.* 184 Unless..with every Spring of the Pole they should lift their treading Leg so high as [etc.] 1779 COWPER *Human Frailty* 5 The bow well bent, and smart the spring, Vice seems already slain. 1853 KANE *Grinnell Exp.* xxiii. (1856) 196 A startling sensation, resembling the spring of a well-drawn bow.

c. A quick, convulsive, or elastic movement made by certain plants or animals in dispersing or depositing seed, eggs, etc.

1801 *Farmer's Mag.* Nov. 451, I took some of the flies,.. and pressing them a little, they quitted several eggs, which they quit one by one, with a sudden spring. 1837 P. KEITH *Bot. Lex* 112 The pericarp of many fruits, which open when ripe with a sort of sudden spring, ejecting the seed with violence. *Ibid.* 159 The elastic spring with which the anther flies open.

d. A distance capable of being covered by a spring or leap.

1817 SHELLEY *Rev. Islam* II. xxix, Her spirit..far wandering, on the wing Of visions that were mine, beyond its utmost spring. 1831 SCOTT *Ct. Rob.* xvi, A tiger, chained within no distant spring of his bed.

15. A flock *of* teal. Now *arch.*

c 1450 *Egerton MS. 1995* in *Philol. Soc. Trans.* (1909) 51 A sprynge of Telys. *c* 1470 *Hors, Shepe, & G.* (Roxb.) 30 A spryng of teeles. 1486 *Bk. St. Albans* f vj b. [Hence in later lists.] 1856 'STONEHENGE' *Brit. Rural Sports* 78 The following Terms are in Use among Wildfowl-shooters:— A flock..of teal, 'a spring'. 1892 *Cornh. Mag.* Aug. 152 Further out we notice a 'spring' of nine teal.

16. A cut or joint of pork consisting of the belly or lower part of the fore-quarter. *Obs.* exc. *dial.*

1598 FLORIO, *Bambetti*, that ioynt of meate we call a spring or pestle of porke. 1622 FLETCHER *Prophetess* I. iii, Can you be such an Ass..To think these springs of Pork will shoot up Cæsars? 1654 GAYTON *Pleas. Notes* III. 96 Pray hand the Spring of Porke to me. 1708 W. WILSON tr. *Petr. Arbiter* 97 He shall make you..a Turtle of a Spring of Pork. 1771 MRS. HAYWOOD *New Present for Maid* 20 The fore-quarter [of a hog] contains the spring and the fore-loin. 1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* II. 240 The belly or spring [of pork], also fit for pickling, or for rolling up,..for brawn.

17. *Naut.* **† a.** A breach or opening in a vessel through the splitting or starting of a plank or seam. *Obs.*[–1]

1611 B. JONSON *Catiline* III. i, Each petty hand Can steer a ship becalmed; but he that will Govern and carry her to her ends must know..Where her springs are, her leaks; and how to stop 'em.

b. A crack or split in a mast or spar, esp. one of such a size as to render it unsafe to carry the usual amount of sail.

G. *sprung* has the general sense of 'split, crack'.

1744 J. PHILIPS *Jrnl. Exped. Anson* 157 We..discover'd a great Spring in the Foremast. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* II ii. 135 The spring was two inches in depth. 1792 *Trans. Soc. Arts* X. 212 An accident by a shot, a spring, a rottenness. 1846 A. YOUNG *Naut. Dict.* 292 A spar is said to be sprung, when it is cracked or split,..and the crack is called a spring.

18. The quality or capacity of springing; the power inherent in, or possessed by, a thing of spontaneously resuming or returning to its normal state or bulk when pressure or other force is withdrawn; elastic energy or force; elasticity.

a. Of the air.

Freq. from *c* 1660 to *c* 1770; now *rare* or *Obs.*

1660 BOYLE *New Exp. Phys. Mech.* i. 24 There is yet another way to explicate the Spring of the Air. 1687 D. ABERCROMBY *Acad. Sci.* App. IV. 4 By the help whereof [*sc.* the air-pump] he proves the Elastic Power and Spring of the Air. 1719 QUINCY *Phys. Dict.* (1722) 9 The Air..hath been found..by the Force of its own Spring, to possess 13000 times the space it does when pressed by the incumbent Atmosphere. *a* 1774 GOLDSM. *Surv. Exp. Philos.* (1776) II. 84 This pressure is increased by another cause, I mean the air's spring or elasticity. 1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 6 The operation is continued till the spring of the air in the receiver is no longer sufficient to lift the valves *a b*.

b. Of solids.

1674 N. FAIRFAX *Bulk & Selv.* 72 The spring of the earth over-ballancing the weight of it as to power. 1683 MOXON *Mech. Exerc., Printing* xxiv. P 5 Pieces of Felt..will Squeeze and retain their Spring for a considerable time. 1733 CHEYNE *Eng. Malady* II. x. § 2 (1734) 219 There is in all Animal Fibres..an original Mechanism of Elasticity or Spring. 1753 HOGARTH *Anal. Beauty* x. 60 A small wire that has lost its spring, and so will retain every shape it is twisted into. 1789 *Trans. Soc. Arts* VII. 159 There is a spring in the whalebone, which prevents it turning steady. 1874 PITT-RIVERS *Evol. Culture, Princ. Classif.* (1906) 16 Yielding few..woods that have sufficient spring for the construction of the bow. 1879 S. C. BARTLETT *Egypt to Pal.* iv. 73 The knives and daggers had an elastic spring, which ..they retain to this day.

c. Elasticity or springiness as possessed by persons or the limbs; buoyancy and vigour in movement.

a 1700 DRYDEN (J.), Heav'ns! what a spring was in his arm, to throw! 1723 STEELE *Conse. Lovers* III. 48 What a Spring in her Step! 1784 COWPER *Task* I. 135 Th' elastic spring of an unwearied foot That mounts the stile with ease. 1820 HAZLITT *Table-T.* Ser. II. xvi. (1869) 317 Do nothing to take away..the spring and elasticity of your muscles. 1845 BAILEY *Festus* (ed. 2) 235 It is sad To.. Know eyes are dimming, bosom shrivelling, feet Losing their spring. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VI. 678 At first the patient finds that he is losing his spring in walking.

19. *transf.* Buoyancy, activity, vigour *of* mind, temper, etc.; active power or faculty.

1682 SIR T. BROWNE *Chr. Mor.* III. § 20 Persons vitiously inclined..having the Elater and Spring of their own Natures to facilitate their Iniquities. 1714 R. FIDDES *Pract. Disc.* II. 116 If the mind be too long bent upon one thing, twill lose its spring and activity. 1752 HUME *Ess. & Treat.* (1777) I. 192 A selfish villain may possess a spring and alacrity of temper. 1831 SCOTT *Ct. Rob.* xxvii, Ere he has..recovered, in some degree, the spring of his mind, and the powers of his body. 1887 RUSKIN *Præterita* II. 41 Happy journey by the Eastern Riviera began to restore my spring of heart.

20. *Arch.* The point at which an arch or vault springs or rises from its abutment or impost; the commencement of curvature in an arch.

1726 LEONI *Alberti's Archit.* II. 38/2 Columns of height sufficient to reach to the spring of their Arches. 1772 C. HUTTON *Bridges* 63 When the arch stones only are laid, and the pier built no higher than the spring. 1864 BOUTELL *Her. Hist. & Pop.* xix. (ed. 3) 317 The arches recede inwards from their spring from the Circlet. 1875 MERIVALE *Gen. Hist. Rome* lxxix. (1877) 670 There remain on the face of the Palatine some indications of what may have been the spring of the first arch.

attrib. 1735 J. PRICE *Stone-Br. Thames* 4 The Piers,.. under the Chaptrel, or Spring Stones, have a Square Course. 1825 J. NICHOLSON *Operat. Mechanic* 539 The supports of an arch are called the *spring walls*. 1859 T. H. TURNER *Dom. Archit.* III. II. vii. 312 But there are the spring-stones of a fan-tracery vault.

¶ b. The rise of an arch; the ascent or slope *of* a bridge.

1753 *Scots Mag.* Aug. 422/1 The arch..was fifty-five feet wide, and had but eight feet of spring. 1886 STEVENSON *Kidnapped* XXVI, An old, hobbling woman..set forth again up the steep spring of the bridge.

21. **a.** *techn.* (See quot. 1825.) Also *attrib.*

1825 J. NICHOLSON *Operat. Mechanic* 601 The bevel by which the edge of the plank is reduced from the right angle when the plank is sprung, is termed the spring of the plank. 1842 GWILT *Archit.* Gloss., *Spring Bevel of a Rail*, the angle made by the top of the plank, with a vertical plane touching the ends of the railpiece, which terminates the concave side.

b. *Naut.* The sheer, the upward curvature or rise, of the deck planking of a vessel or boat.

So G. *spring* and *sprung*.

1838 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* I. 353/1 The reason why she has such an extraordinary sheer or spring in the fore part of her upper deck. 1881 *Standard* 9 Aug. 6/3 The boat is high at the bow and stern, being built with what is known as a good spring.

V. 22. An elastic contrivance or mechanical device, usually consisting of a strip or plate of steel (or a number of these) suitably shaped or adjusted, which, when compressed, bent, coiled, or otherwise forced out of its normal shape, possesses the property of returning to it.

Springs vary greatly in form, size, and use, but are used chiefly for imparting or communicating motion (either by gradual unwinding, as in the spring of a clock or watch, or by sudden release), for regulating or controlling movement, or for lessening or preventing concussion.

Cf. G. *springfeder*, Du. *-veer*, Da. *-fjær*, Sw. *-fjäder*.

a. In a clock, watch, etc., or in general use.

1428 *Acts Privy Council* (1834) III. 289 Item for amendyng of the spryng of the barell [of a clock] vj *s.* viij *d.* [1472 in Rogers *Agric. & Prices* (1882) IV. 622 A spring to a clock is purchased by King's College, Cambridge, for 2*d.*] 1598 FLORIO, *Molla*, a wheele of a clocke that moueth all the rest called the spring. 1599 T. M[OUFET] *Silkwormes* 35 Ingenious Germane, how didst thou conuey Thy Springs, thy Scrues, thy rowells, and thy flie? 1611 SHAKS. *Cymb.* II. ii. 47 To th' Truncke againe, and shut the spring of it. 1677 MOXON *Mech. Exerc.* ii. 28 The Spring H forces the Bolt forwards when it is shot back with the Key. 1713

Lond. Gaz. No. 5155/4 A Gold Watch,..going with a Spring, Without Fusey, Chain or String. 1771 *Encycl. Brit.* III. 936 The quickness or slowness of the vibrations of the balance depend not solely upon the action of the great spring, but chiefly upon the action of the spring *a, b, c*, called the spiral spring. 1825 SCOTT *Talism.* xii, At the same time was heard the sound of a spring or check, as when a crossbow is bent. 1860 DICKENS *Uncomm. Trav.* xiv, One..rap was rapped that might have been a spring in Mr. Testator's easy-chair to shoot him out of it. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2275/2 A helical spring has coils of decreasing diameter as they approach the center.

b. In a carriage, coach, or other vehicle.

1665 PEPYS *Diary* 5 Sept., After dinner comes Colonel Blunt in his new chariot made with springs. 1706 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4235/3 The sole Benefit of making and vending certain Steel Springs he hath..invented for ease of Persons riding in Coaches. 1794 W. FELTON *Carriages* (1801) I. 72 Short light springs which contain but few plates, have frequently no hoops. 1837 W. B. ADAMS *Carriages* 117 What is technically understood in carriages by the term 'spring' is a plate or plates of tempered steel properly shaped to play in any required mode. 1876 *Encycl. Brit.* V. 137/1 The elliptic springs, upon which nearly all carriages are now mounted.

23. *fig.* That by which action is produced, inspired, or instigated; a moving, actuating, or impelling agency, cause, or force; a motive.

Frequent from *c* 1700, either with direct allusion to the literal sense (*a*), or in a more indefinite use (*b*) which is sometimes not clearly distinguishable from sense 3.

(*a*) *c* 1616 S. WARD *Coal fr. Altar* (1627) 41 They ascribe it either to vaine glory, or couetousnesse; the only springs that set their wheeles on going. 1681 DRYDEN *Abs. & Achit.* 499 By these the Springs of Property were bent, And wound so high, they Crack'd the Government. 1720 OZELL *Vertot's Rom. Rep.* II. xii. 214 The Springs Pompey set at work to deprive all the Commanders of the Commonwealth of their Posts. 1748 GEDDES *Compos. Antients* 15 The spring, the just tone of the soul, is broke. 1767 A. YOUNG *Farmer's Lett. to People* 61 These men are yet more able..to put all the springs of a perfect culture in motion. 1815 J. CORMACK *Abol. Fem. Infanticide Guzerat* xiv. 278 The springs of this mighty political engine, however, have, generally speaking, already lost their elasticity. 1863 KINGLAKE *Crimea* (1876) I. xiv. 255 Morny..prepared to touch the springs of that wondrous machinery by which a clerk can dictate to a nation." 1872 BAGEHOT *Physics & Pol.* 162 At once the fatal clog is removed, and the ordinary springs of progress..begin their elastic action.

(*b*) 1692 RAY *Creation* (1714) 47 What is the Spring and principal Efficient of this Reciprocation. 1717 J. KEILL *Anim. Oeconomy* (1738) 150 Secretion is the Spring of all the animal Functions. 1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* I. (Globe) 177 A strange Impression upon the Mind, from we know not what Springs, and by we know not what Power. 1774 FRANKLIN *Ess.* Wks. 1840 II. 385 The spring or movement of such intercourse is..gain, or the hopes of gain. 1810 S. SMITH in *Edin. Rev.* XV. 309 Instead of hanging the understanding of a woman upon walls,..we would make it the first spring and ornament of society. 1853 MERIVALE *Rom. Rep.* ii. (1867) 39 The love of gold was the sordid spring of the most brilliant enterprises of the republic. 1871 LOWELL *Pope* Wks. 1890 IV. 31 The exposer of those motives .. whose spring is in institutions and habits of purely worldly origin.

b. Freq. const. *of* action (or conduct).

1722 WOLLASTON *Relig. Nat.* ix. 173 The springs of all human actions. 1779 FORREST *Voy. N. Guinea* 285 It is difficult..to come at the true springs of action. 1806 SURR *Winter in Lond.* III. 174 Whether public zeal and patriotic motives, were the springs of his lordship's conduct. 1850 MERIVALE *Rom. Emp.* ii. (1865) I. 73 The real springs of human action were unknown to him, or disregarded by him. 1885 J. MARTINEAU *Types Eth. Th.* II. ii. iii. § 1. 518 Numerous springs of action and modes of feeling which neither interest nor reason could be shown to evolve.

c. In the phr. *springs of life.*

1728-46 THOMSON *Spring* 329 While sickly damps, and cold autumnal fogs, Hung not, relaxing, on the springs of life. 1819 SCOTT *Let.* in *Lockhart* (1837) IV. viii. 268 A grief of that calm and concentrated kind which..gradually wastes the springs of life.

†d. A device; a trick or artifice. *Obs. rare.*

1753 MISS COLLIER *Art Torment.* II. iii. (1811) 164 This method of granting favours in a disgustful manner, is one of our chief springs, and must be practised in as many connections as you possibly can introduce it.

24. *Naut.* A rope put out from the end or side of a vessel lying at anchor, and made fast to the cable. (So G. *spring, springtau.*)

1744 J. PHILIPS *Jrnl. Exped. Anson* 156 We clapt a Spring on the Sheet-cable to prevent her from swinging. 1753 HANWAY *Trav.* III. xlviii. (1762) I. 219 We were obliged to put a spring on our cable, in order to bring our guns to bear on them. 1769 FALCONER *Dict. Marine* (1780), *Spring* is..a rope passed out of one extremity of a ship and attached to a cable proceeding from the other, when she lies at anchor. 1800 *Hull Advertiser* 16 Aug. 1/4 A gun-brig..moored with springs on her cables. 1836 MARRYAT *Midsh. Easy* xxx, He had warped round with the springs on his cable, and had recommenced his fire upon the Aurora. 1882 NARES *Seamanship* (ed. 6) 202 Slip the cable, and then the spring.

attrib. 1806 A. DUNCAN *Nelson* 94 The French fleet.., moored on spring cables.

b. (See quots.)

1769 FALCONER *Dict. Marine* (1780), *Spring* is likewise a rope reaching diagonally from the stern of a ship to the head of another which lies along-side or abreast of her, at a short distance. *Ibid.*, Springs of this sort are..occasionally applied from a ship to a wharf or key. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk., Spring*, a hawser laid out to some fixed object to slue a vessel proceeding to sea.

attrib. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech., Spring-line*, in a ponton-bridge, a line passing diagonally from one ponton to another.

25. *attrib.* **a.** Simple attrib. in various senses, esp. 'fitted with a spring or springs', 'acting like a spring', 'of or pertaining to a spring', as *spring-arbor, -balance, -bar, -barrel, -bed*, etc.

The number of these is very great, and only the more important are illustrated here. Others are recorded and explained by Knight *Dict. Mech.*, and in recent Dicts.

1696 W. DERHAM *Artific. Clock-m.* 2 Next for the Spring. That which the Spring .. laps about, in the middle of the Spring-box, is the *Spring-Arbor. *a* 1788 IMISON *Sch. Arts* I. 273 At the top of the spring-arbor, is the endless-screw, and its wheel. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 385 **Spring-balance*, a machine in which the elasticity of a spring of tempered steel is employed as a means of measuring weight or force. 1889 *Science-Gossip* XXV. 36 If a body were resting on a delicate spring balance. 1856 'STONEHENGE' *Brit. Rural Sports* 394 The *Spring-bar to which the stirrup-leather is attached, and which easily allows this part of the saddle..to be set at liberty the moment the rider is hung by it. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech., Spring-bar*, a bar parallel with the axle and resting upon the middle of the elliptic spring. 1881 W. E. DICKSON *Organ-Build.* v. 65 The spring-bar has a slip of wood..glued or bradded to it. 1850 DENISON *Clock & Watch-m.* 110 It is all wound off the *spring barrel on to a fusee. 1846 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* II. 913 The cloth..passes from a roller over a round bar, and comes in contact with the *spring bed, which is a long elastic plate of steel, fixed to the framing of the machine. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade, Spring-bed*, an elastic or air mattress. 1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib., Brit.* II. No. 3579, Russell's Camp Hospital Spring Bed or Dhoolee Stretcher. 1882 MISS BRADDON *Mt. Royal* III. vi. 102 Jessie Bridgeman touched a *spring bell on the tea-table. 1786 JEFFERSON *Writ.* (1859) II. 74 Your *spring-block for assisting a vessel in sailing cannot be tried here. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech., Spring-block*, a common block..connected to a ring-bolt by a spiral spring. 1634 in *Archaeol.* (1853) XXXV. 199 One two-leaf wyndowe with longe boult, *springe boult, and staples. 1703 R. NEVE *City & C. Purchaser* 33 Ironmongers distinguish those for House-building, into..Plate, Round, and Spring Bolts. 1829 SCOTT *Anne of G.* xvi, 'Enter here then, gentlemen,' said the jailor, undoing the spring-bolt of a heavy door. 1892 *Photogr. Ann.* II. 289 These fit over spring bolts projecting on either side from a block. 1693 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 2896/4 Both wearing light bob Wigs, and..Camblet Coats,..with new *Spring Boots, and Spurs. 1776 R. DANIEL in *Abridgm. Specif. Patents, Wearing App.* III. (1876) 1 New kind of boots called spring boots. 1696 W. DERHAM *Artific. Clock-m.* 2 That which the Spring lies in, is the *Spring-box. 1825 J. NICHOLSON *Operat. Mechanic* 500 The chain, which requires to be uncoiled from the spring-box. 1888 JACOBI *Printers' Vocab.* 130 *Spring-box*, the receptacle at the head of the press holding the spring which acts on the bar-handle. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade*, **Spring-braces*, elastic suspenders for men's trousers. 1888 JACOBI *Printers' Vocab.* 130 **Spring brass*, rules cast in flexible brass—the reverse of 'soft' or 'bending' brass rule. 1838 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* I. 408/1, I claim, as my invention or improvement in carriages,..the peculiar adaptation of *spring buffers and spring fastenings. 1884 F. J. BRITTEN *Watch & Clockm.* 46 *Spring callipers..are useful when it is desired to retain a measurement. 1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* II. 595 It terminates in a handle furnished with a *spring-catch. 1892 *Photogr. Ann.* II. 273 The shutter..is held by a spring catch. 1843 *Penny Cycl.* XXV. 425/1 On the large plate P, is a *spring-click. 1888 RUTLEY *Rock-Forming Min.* 18 The most generally useful contrivances are *spring clips. 1737 *Gentl. Mag.* VII. 67 There are some *Spring Clocks and Watches, so contriv'd by Art as to lose no Time in winding. 1829 *Chapters Phys. Sci.* 92 The wheels in the spring clocks and in watches are urged on by the force of a spiral spring. 1850 DENISON *Clock & Watch-m.* 109 This inequality of force is removed in English spring clocks and watches. 1894 T. W. FOX *Mech. Weaving* ix. 259 *Spring cords..consist of two wooden end-pieces..into which two wires..are driven. 1780 *Mirror* No. 80, The Elastic Cushion and *Spring Curls, which..are as natural and becoming.. [as] the natural hair itself. 1858 GREENER *Gunnery* 323 Take a *spring cushion (something like the spring machine found at all fairs for testing the force of a man pressing against it). 1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-m.* 232 **Spring-dart*, an arrow or fish-headed boring tool for extricating a lost implement, or for withdrawing lining tubes. 1873 SPON *Workshop Receipts* Ser. I. 3/1 The differences of the distances..may be measured by *spring dividers. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2750 The *spring-dog is depressed by a lever. 1886 J. BARROWMAN *Sc. Mining Terms* 63 *Spring-dog*, a spring hook used on a winding or haulage rope. 1826 SCOTT *Woodstock* xiv, He would have Woodstock a trap,..you the *spring-fall which should bar their escape. 1838 *Spring fastening [see *Spring buffer*]. 1812 *Sporting Mag.* XXXIX. 136 The danger attending the use of the *spring-flask in shooting. 1895 *Strand Mag.* 113 In the Hall a *spring floor has been laid over the ordinary hard oak boards. 1846 BRITTAN tr. *Malgaigne's Man. Oper. Surg.* 374 Place in the wound either a canula, or a *spring forceps whose branches hold its edges open. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.*, **Spring-Forelock*, one jagged or split at the point, thereby forming springs to prevent its drawing. 1797 J. CURR *Coal Viewer* 67, 2 of them [double spring beams] go 18 or 20 inches through the main wall for the convenience of fixing the outside *spring frame. 1780 *Mirror* No. 68, The last time I came from London I brought down a parcel of *spring garters. 1841 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* IV. 13/1 A full description of the four instruments employed..to determine the pressure of the steam,..namely, the barometer-gauge,..and the *spring-gauge. 1850 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* III. 1254 Long conical holes, such as axletree boxes, are sometimes ground upon the *spring grinder. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. xxii. (Roxb.) 277 The second is a *Spring Hooke, or Springer; it is a kind of double Hook with a spring,..which being strucken into the mouth of any fish, the 2 hooks fly asunder, and so keeps the fish mouth open. 1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib., Brit.* II. No. 6089, Spring hooks, curb chains, pole chains. 1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-m.* 232 *Spring hook*, an iron hook attached to the end of a winding capstan, or crab rope, fitted with a spring for closing the opening, and thus preventing the kibble, &c., from falling off. 1835-6 OWEN in *Todd's Cycl. Anat.* I. 287/2 It has been denied that the *spring-joint [of birds] ever exists at the knee. 1901 P. MARSHALL *Metal-w. Tools* 14 In this pattern the legs have a spring joint at the top which tends to keep them apart. 1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 325 With the mortar and levigating stone, a *spring-knife is very useful. 1882 *Encycl. Brit.* XIV. 323 The turner giving the rotation by means of the treadle and *spring-lath attached to the ceiling. 1852 SEIDEL *Organ* 128 The palate, together with its spring, must be taken out. For this purpose an instrument called a *spring lever is used. 1858 *Spring machine [see *spring cushion* above]. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.*, **Spring-mattress*, one having metallic springs beneath the hair or moss filling. 1843 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* I. 135 When the elastic tool, or '*spring passer', has been compressed,..it is put in motion. 1831 J. HOLLAND *Manuf. Metal* II. 16 The workman takes what he calls a *spring piercer, a tool..consisting of two somewhat elastic steel blades. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.*, **Spring-pin*, in the English practice, a rod between the springs and axle-boxes, to regulate the pressure on the axles. 1881 GREENER *Gun* 263 It..may be removed by completely turning out the spring pin. 1837 W. B. ADAMS *Carriages* 123 The elasticity of a *spring plate somewhat resembles the elasticity of a common cane. 1888 JACOBI *Printers' Vocab.* 130 **Spring points*, these are a special kind of press points which assist in throwing the sheet off the spur of the point as printed. 1831 J. HOLLAND *Manuf. Metal* I. 87 The cumbersome wooden frame-work of the old forges, including the timber, *spring-pole and hammer beam. 1837 HEBERT *Engin. & Mech. Encycl.* II. 814 The string is fastened to the end of the spring-pole in a similar manner. 1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-m.* 233 *Spring pole*, a fir pole having considerable elasticity, to which the boring rods are suspended. 1662 H. MORE *Antid. Ath.* II. ii. § 10 Which Pressure (as in all flexible Bodies that have a *Spring-power in them) is perpetual. 1853 URE *Dict. Arts* (ed. 4) II. 831 The action of the *spring-presser is to consolidate the roving. 1694 *Phil. Trans.* XVIII. 103 Its shape is not very unlike to a sort of *Spring-Purse (as they are called) which many People use. 1701 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 3739/4 A striped Silk Spring-Purse. 1860 *All Year Round* No. 57. 162 A hundred *spring rattles would not realise the noise. 1850 DENISON *Clock & Watch-m.* 239, I have lately seen some small French clocks with a *spring remontoire on the second wheel. 1836-7 DICKENS *Sk. Boz., Tales* i, There were meat-safe-looking blinds..and *spring-roller blinds. 1687 SMITH *Art Painting* (ed. 2) 11 With a fine *Spring-Saw, cut it into scantlings. 1778 *Life T. Boulter* 57 A certain sum to procure some spring saws. 1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* xxxiii, She had procured..a spring-saw for me. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.*, **Spring-searcher*, a steel-pronged tool to search for defects in the bore of a gun. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade*, **Spring-seat*, a chair or couch with a spring in it. 1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib., Brit*, II. No. 4721, Elliptical spring-seat saddle, and tree showing action of spring. 1884 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* Suppl., *Spring Seat*, the support for the lower part of a spring, shaped according to circumstances. 1839 T. C. HOFLAND *Brit. Angler's Man.* v. (1841) 124 The *spring-snap was formerly much in use. 1856 'STONEHENGE' *Brit. Rural Sports* 256 The *Spring Snap-Bait is..composed of a case which connects and keeps in place the shanks of the hooks .., but which, when drawn out, expand by their own elasticity. *Ibid.*, The snap-hook is either the plain or the *spring snap-hook. 1864 *Athenæum* 27 Feb. 294 Pulling the door quickly after them, so as to hasp the *spring-sneck in the brass lock. 1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 266 Upon the glass arm is cemented a piece of brass *r*, containing a *spring socket. 1871 VOYLE *Milit. Dict.* (ed. 2), **Spring spike*, in artillery, a spike with a spring attached to it, used for rendering a gun temporarily unserviceable. 1837 W. B. ADAMS *Carriages* 126 Leathern braces,, were supported by a bracket or buttress of iron called the '*Spring Stay'. 1841 R. H. DANA *Seaman's Man.* 125 *Spring-stay*, a preventer-stay, to assist the regular one. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk., Spring-Stays*, are rather smaller than the stays, and are placed above them, being intended as substitutes should the main one be shot away. 1833 LOUDON *Encycl. Archit.* § 84 To put an oak solid two-light proper frame..with..*spring stay-irons (irons to keep the window open) to the back kitchen. 1837 W. B. ADAMS *Carriages* 135 For this reason it would be advantageous to use *spring-steel in lieu of iron. 1843 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* I. 192 Its superior elasticity also adapts it to the formation of springs; some kinds of steel are prepared expressly for the same under the name of spring-steel. 1868 JOYNSON *Metals* 78 When blistered steel has to be drawn out or reduced by the rolls, it forms 'spring steel'. 1880 W. CARNEGIE *Pract. Trapping* 50 Arrange the nooses in such a manner that if one of them or the crutched stick is touched the latter falls, and releasing the crosspiece, the *spring-stick flies up, and the bird with it. 1884 C. G. W. LOCK *Workshop Rec.* Ser. III. 74/2 The *spring-studs must of course be insulated from the clock-plate. 1778 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 2) III. 2171 To remove these inconveniencies, some needles are made of one piece of steel of a *spring temper. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2061 They are polished, and then brought to 'spring temper' by heating. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 579 This opening is then enlarged, by introducing the blade of a pair of *spring-tongs. 1859 R. HUNT *Guide Mus. Pract. Geol.* (ed. 2) 103 Several of the tools [for glass-making] are exhibited,..the *spring tool, the shears, &c. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech., Spring-tool*, the light tongs of the glass-blower whereby handles and light objects are grasped. 1616 SURFL. & MARKH. *Country Farme* 648 Some *spring-trappes, to snickle or halter either bird or beast. 1800 MAR. EDGEWORTH *Belinda* xxii, A man whose leg had..been caught in the spring-trap. 1820 T. MITCHELL *Aristoph.* I. 80 There is generally some covert meaning in the names of Aristophanes..; his readers' feet are always treading on spring-traps. 1710 ADDISON *Tatler* No. 224 P 5 Little cuts and figures, the invention of which we must ascribe to the Author of *Spring-Trusses. 1790 *Ann. Reg., Hist.* 115/2 Among these arms were some walking sticks with *spring-tucks concealed within them. 1714 MANDEVILLE *Fab. Bees* (1733) II. 177 If he was wholly unacquainted with the nature of a *spring-watch. *a* 1825 in J. Nicholson *Operat. Mechanic* 523 This locking..has..the advantage..of being firmer, and less liable to be out of repair, than any locking where *spring-work is used. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* IV. 299 'Spring work,'..that is, any articles in which springs are introduced.

b. With the names of vehicles, in the sense 'having springs, hung or suspended on springs', as *spring ambulance, -carriage, -cart, -van, -wagon.*

1864 Sala in *Daily Tel.* 6 April, A couple of *spring ambulances, drawn by four horses apiece. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 386 C-springs..were formerly used for almost all kinds of *spring-carriages. 1848 Thackeray *Van. Fair* xxxix, You'll drive her over in the *spring-cart. 1860 Dickens *Uncomm. Trav.* v, She shall be fetched by niece in a spring-cart. 1900 H. Lawson *On Track* 86 It was her mother an' sister in the spring-cart,..the doctor in his buggy. 1836–7 Dickens *Sk. Boz, Scenes* xii, The charge of having once made the passage in a *spring-van. 1865 — *Mut. Fr.* I. x, A spring van is delivering its load of greenhouse plants at the door. 1837 W. B. Adams *Carriages* 117 The tax to which *spring vehicles are subject. 1794 *Gentl. Mag.* LXIV. II. 1074 The best thing to be done generally..is to put the patient into a *spring-waggon. 1849 F. B. Head *Stokers & Pokers* viii, Each species of goods..is immediately unloaded and despatched by spring waggons to its destination. 1899 Miss B. Harraden *H. Strafford* 101 The spring-waggon had sunk up to the hubs.

c. In similar combs. used attributively or objectively, as *spring-blade knife*, etc.

1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.*, **Spring-blade knife*, a pocket-knife whose blade is thrown out or held out by a spring. 1858 Simmonds *Dict. Trade*, **Spring-blind maker*, a maker of window blinds working on springs. 1853 in *Inquiry Yorksh. Deaf & Dumb* (1870) 30 *Spring-knife manufacturer. 1870 *Ibid.* 34 A spring-knife cutler. 1874 Lawson *Dis. Eye* 94 A *spring-stop speculum..is to be introduced between the [eye-] lids, so as to keep them apart. 1805 Dickson *Pract. Agric.* I. 32 With these *Spring-teeth-Rakes one person is said to do considerably more work than with the common wood rakes. 1890 W. J. Gordon *Foundry* 138 Another *spring tong arrangement, in which the legs are wood. 1867 J. Hogg *Microsc.* I. ii. 157 This consists of a *spring-wire coil acting on an inner tube.

26. *Comb.* **a.** With agent-nouns (denoting persons or implements), as *spring-contractor, -forger, -maker.*

1843 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* VI. 245 Description of Lieutenant D. Rankine's [Railway] *Spring Contractor. 1858 Simmonds *Dict. Trade*, **Spring-forgers*, workmen in the cutlery trade, who form the spring or piece of steel at the back of clasp and folding pocket-knives. 1837 W. B. Adams *Carriages* 81 The *spring-makers assert that steel of a finer quality would not answer so well. 1858 Simmonds *Dict. Trade, Spring-maker*, a manufacturer of steel compound springs for carriages, or of metal springs for easy chairs. 1896 *Daily News* 22 June 11/3 At West Bromwich there is a strike amongst the spring makers.

b. With vbl. sbs. and pres. pples., as *spring-making, -shaping.*

1837 W. B. Adams *Carriages* 123 It is evident that the whole process of spring-making is defective. 1884 Knight *Dict. Mech.* Suppl. 848 Spring Shaping Machine. 1890 W. J. Gordon *Foundry* 151 Two smithies, with over 100 fires, and turning and spring-making shops.

c. With pa. pples. or adjs., as *spring-framed, -jointed, -snecked, -tempered, -tight.*

Spring-heeled Jack, a name given to a person who from his great activity in running or jumping, esp. in order to rob or frighten people, was supposed to have springs in the heels of his boots; *dial.* a highwayman.

1899 *Fortn. Rev.* LXV. 113, I ought also to mention a *spring-framed machine, the Triumph. 1840 Hood *Kilmansegg, Fancy Ball* xi, Tom, and Jerry, and *Spring-heel'd Jack. 1855 Smedley *Occult Sciences* 76 Like the lately popular Spring-heeled Jack. 1887 *S. Cheshire Gloss.* 367 There are so many o' these Spring-heeled Jacks about. 1786 in *6th Rep. Dep. Kpr. Pub. Rec.* II. 174 A Buckle.. with a new-constructed *spring-jointed Plate. 1853 R. S. Surtees *Sponge's Sp. Tour* (1893) 120 He had never been able to accomplish the art of opening a gate, especially one of those gingerly-balanced, *spring-snecked things. *a* 1788 Imison *Sch. Arts* II. 164 A piece of *spring-tempered steel will not retain as much magnetism as hard steel. 1876 Preece & Sivewright *Telegraphy* 82 This is effected by means of a carrier arm fixed '*spring-tight' on an axle.

Spring (spriŋ), *sb.*[2] Forms: 4–6 spryng(e, 6– spring. [Prob. related to OF. *espring(u)er, -ier*, etc., to dance: see Spring *v.*[1] Cf. MHG. *sprung* dance.]

†**1.** Some kind of dance. *Obs.*—[1]

c 1384 Chaucer *H. Fame* III. 145 Pipers of alle Duche tonge To lerne loue Daunces, sprynges, Reus, and these straunge thynges. *c* 1460 *Wisdom* 750 in *Macro Plays* 60 Ye xall se a sprynge of Lechery, þat to me attende. [Cf. *l.* 688.]

2. A tune upon the bagpipes or other musical instrument, esp. a quick or lively tune; a dance-tune. Chiefly, and now only, *Sc.*

c 1475 Henryson *Poems* (S.T.S.) III. 37 Him to reios 3it playit he a spryng. 1508 Dunbar *Poems* vi. 109 A bag pipe to play a spryng. *a* 1536 *Songs, Carols*, etc. (1907) 125, I dide no-thyng to hym this day, But piped hym a sprynge. 1622 Fletcher *Prophetess* v. iii, We will meet him, And strike him such new springs, and such free welcoms, Shall make him scorn an Empire [etc.]. 1725 Ramsay *Gentle Sheph.* I. i, Gie 's a bonny spring, For I'm in tift to hear you play and sing. 1757 Smollett *Reprisal* I. ii, The commander has sent for her to play a spring to the sasenach damsel. *a* 1835 Hogg *Tales & Sk.* (1837) II. 351 Let me strengthen my heart with ae spring on my pipes before I venture. 1886 Stevenson *Kidnapped* xxv, Robin took the pipes, and played a little spring in a very ranting manner.

transf. 1788 Picken *Poems* 17 Frae the sprigs, the sylvan quire War liltan up their early spring.

prov. 1721 Kelly *Sc. Prov.* 20 Another would play a Spring, e're you tune your Pipes. 1737 Ramsay *Sc. Prov.* (1750) 16 Auld springs gi'e nae price.

b. *fig.* or in fig. context. *Sc.*

1578 *Satir. Poems Reform.* xxxviii. 21 Bot now Prouest Marschell in playing this spring;..Beleuis thow this trumprie sall stablische thy style? *a* 1585 Montgomerie *Cherry & Slae* 919 Bot sen 3e think it easy thing To mount aboif the mune, Of 3our awin fidle tak a spring, And daunce quhen 3e haif done. 1637 Rutherford *Lett.* (1891) 350 Christ.. will give you leave to sing as you please, but He will not dance to your daft spring. 1686 G. Stuart *Joco-Ser. Disc.* ii. 27 Experience will this unriddle; Sae take a Spring of thine awn Fiddle. 1784 Burns *Ep. J. R[ankine]* vi, I've play'd mysel a bonie spring, An' danc'd my fill! 1815 Scott *Guy M.* xxxvi, Ou, sir, if the gentleman likes he may play his ain spring first; it's a' ane to Dandie. 1887 *Jamieson's Sc. Dict.* Suppl. 226 'Tak a spring o' your ain fiddle', i. e., Follow your own plan and take the consequences.

Spring, *sb.*[3] *Obs.* exc. *dial.* [Alteration of Springe *sb.*] A snare or noose.

1604 Breton *Grimello's Fortunes* Wks. (Grosart) II. 5/1 Why sir, I set no springs for Woodcocks. *Ibid.* 10/1 To make a meanes, by which to catch this Wood-cocke in a fine spring. 1621 Quarles *Esther* xiv, The rau'ning Fox, that did annoyance bring Vnto thy Vineyard, 's taken in a Spring. 1648 C. Walker *Hist. Independ.* 129 This engine..is better then any spring or trap to catch any active Presbyterian. 1725 *Fam. Dict.* s.v. *Lark*, Country People..make use of Springs..to take Larks with. 1771 Smollett *Humph. Cl.* (1815) 224 My friend, Justice Buzzard, has set so many springs for my life. 1881–6 in Lanc. and Leic. glossaries.

Spring (spriŋ), *v.*[1] Pa. t. **sprang, sprung.** Pa. pple. **sprung.** Forms: *Inf.* 1 springan, 3 (7) springen, 3–6 springe (3 springue, 4 sprinke, 5 sprenge), 4– spring; 4–6 sprynge (5 -yn), 4–5 sprynge. *Pa. t.* 1– sprang (1 sprane, 5 sprank), 4–6 sprange (5 spranke); 1–7 sprong (4 spronk), 4–7 spronge (3 sprongue); 3–4 (*subj.*) sprunge, 6– sprung; *pl.* 1 sprungon, 2–4 sprungen, 3–4 sprongen. *Pa. pple.* 1–4 sprungen (6 *Sc.* sprungin); 3–5 i-sprunge (6 *arch.* i-sprung), 3, 6 sprunge, 6– sprung; 4 y-sprongen, sprongun, 4–6 sprongen (5–6 -yn); 3–4 i-spronge, 4 (h)y-spronge, i-sprong, 6, 8 *arch.* y-sprong; 3–6 spronge, 4–7 sprong, 6 *Sc.* sproung; 8 sprang. [Common Teutonic: OE. *springan* (more commonly *āspringan*), = OFris. *springa* (WFris. *springe*, NFris. *spring*), MDu. and Du.) *springen*, OS. *springan* (MLG. *springen*, usually *sprengen*), OHG. *springan* (MHG. and G. *springen*), ON. (Icel., Norw., Sw.) *springa* (Da. *springe*). Hence OF. *espringuer* to dance, It. *springare* to wag the legs.]

**Intransitive senses.*

I. 1. Of things: To change place or position by sudden and rapid movement without contact; to move with a sudden jerk or bound (in later use esp. by resilient force); to dart or fly. Freq. with advs.

Beowulf 2582 Beorges weard.. wearp wælfyre; wide sprungon hildeleoman. *c* 888 K. Ælfred *Boeth.* xxv, Þeah þu teo hwelcne boh ofdune to þære eorðan..swa sprincð he up & wriȝað wið his ȝecyndes. 993 *Battle of Maldon* 137 He..þæt spere sprengde, þæt hit sprang ongean. *c* 1205 Lay. 23924 Heo..fusden feondliche þat fur him sprong after. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 1804 Þor wrestelede an engel wiþ, Senwe sprungen fro ðe lið. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* A. 13 Syþen in þat spote hit fro me sprange, Ofte haf I wayted. *c* 1384 Chaucer *H. Fame* III. 989 As fire ys wont to quyk and goo From a sparke spronge amys.

1669 Worlidge *Syst. Agric.* 193 A Hasel or other stick.. that being stuck into the ground may spring up like unto the springs they usually set for fowl. 1680 [see Springing *vbl. sb.*[1] 5 b]. 1728 Chambers *Cycl.* s.v. *Elasticity*, The component Parts..must..spring back to their former natural State. 1829 *Chapters Phys. Sci.* 157 The elasticity of water is farther proved by its..springing upward..when poured upon any body. 1870 Morris *Earthly Par.* III. 20 He drew adown the wind-stirred bough, and took The apples thence; then let it spring away.

fig. 13.. *K. Alis.* 3070 (Laud MS.), Þe folkes herte so gan sprynge Aȝeins Alisaunder þe kynge. 1508 Dunbar *Tua Mariit Wemen* 160 With that sprang vp hir spreit be a span hecher. 1829 Scott *Anne of G.* xvii, Arthur Philipson's heart sprung high at the appearance of these strangers.

b. To be resilient or elastic; to shift or move on account of this.

1667– [see Springing *ppl. a.* 4]. 1821 Scott *Nigel* i, A step that sprung like a buck's in Epping Forest. 1869 Rankine *Machine & Hand-tools* Pl. M 2, It is impossible for the tables to spring in the least. 1881 A. A. Knox *New Playground* 121 We delighted in our mule-carriage; if the springs did not spring very much, at any rate the mules were never tired. 1888 Jacobi *Printers' Vocab.* 130 A forme of type or plates is liable to 'spring', or go off its feet, if not properly locked up.

c. To rise suddenly *to*, come suddenly *into*, the eyes, face, etc.

1848 Dickens *Dombey* iii, With tears springing to her eyes. 1873 Black *Pr. Thule* xxvi. 433 A flush of decision sprang into his face. 1885 'Mrs. Alexander' *Valerie's Fate* iii, The quick color that sprang to her cheek at his words. 1891 Farrar *Darkn. & Dawn* xxii, An indignant refusal sprang to his lips.

†**2.** Of fame, rumour, etc.: To spread, extend. Freq. with *wide. Obs.*

(*a*) *Beowulf* 18 Beowulf wæs breme, blæd wide sprang, Scyldes eafera, Scedelandum in. *c* 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 127 Đo sprong þe word of his holi liflode wide into þe londe. *c* 1205 Lay. 6302 Of hire wisdome sprong þat word wide. *c* 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 442 So wide sprong is guode los. *c* 1320 *Sir Tristrem* 22 His name, it sprong wel wide. 1387 Trevisa *Higden* (Rolls) VI. 303 þis word .. sprang wel wyde. 1458 in *Archaeol.* (1842) XXIX. 327 Hys worship spryngethe wyde.

(*b*) *c* 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Matt. ix. 26 Ðe-eade *vel* spranc mersung ðas..in alle eorðo. [*c* 1000 þes hlisa sprang ofer eall þæt land.] *a* 1300 *K. Horn* (Camb.) 211 So schal þi name springe Fram kynge to kynge. *c* 1374 Chaucer *Anel. & Arc.* 74 Thurgh oute the world..so gan her name spryng That her to seen had euery wight likyng. 1390 Gower *Conf.* I. 343 Bot moerdre, which mai noght ben hedd, Sprong out to every mannes Ere. *c* 1425 *Eng. Conq. Irel.* (1896) 40 Her-aftyr spronge tythyngges of the Erle..ynto englond. *c* 1480 Henryson *Orph. & Euryd.* 73 His noble fame so far It sprang & grewe. *a* 1548 Hall *Chron., Hen. IV*, 26 For sodainly sprange out a fame..that king Richard was yet livyng. *a* 1578 Lindesay (Pitscottie) *Chron. Scot.* (S.T.S.) I. 357 The word sprang throw the contrie that the king of Scottland was landit.

†**b.** Of a scent: To be diffused. *Obs.*—[1]

? *a* 1366 Chaucer *Rom. Rose* 1704 The swote smelle spronge so wide, That it dide alle the place aboute [fill].

3. Of persons or animals: To bound or leap.

a. With advs. or preps.

c 1205 Lay. 21481 Cador sprong to horse, swa spærc him doh of fure. *c* 1300 *Havelok* 91 He..sprong forth so sparke of glede. *c* 1330 R. Brunne *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 12839 In to þe most pres Ider þen sprong. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 1318 Alexander..Springis out with a spere. *a* 1425 *Cursor M.* 12527 (Trin.) A nedder sprong out of þe sond. 1484 Caxton *Fables of Æsop* I. x, [The serpent] sprange after his neck for to have strangled hym. 1579 Spenser *Sheph. Cal.* Mar. 79 With that sprong forth a naked swayne. 1632 Lithgow *Trav.* I. 37, I sprung forward through the throng. 1697 Dryden *Virg. Georg.* IV. 339 The pleasing Pleiades appear, And springing upwards spurn the briny Seas. 1788 Cowper *Mrs. Montagu* 26 Like Pallas springing arm'd from Jove. 1797 S. & Ht. Lee *Canterb. T.* (1799) I. 205 [He] lightly sprung over the fence by which they were separated. 1855 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* xvi. III. 670 Some of the English sprang to their arms and made an attempt to resist. 1891 Farrar *Darkn. & Dawn* xliii, His first impulse was to spring forward. *Ibid.* lx, His daughter sprang to his embrace. *fig.* 1817 Jas. Mill *Brit. India* II. v. vii. 610 The whole of the district which owned the sway of the Rajah sprung to arms. 1853 Dickens *Bleak Ho.* xx, Where have you sprung from? 1878 Bosw. Smith *Carthage* 220 Mago was young and adventurous and sprang at the task assigned him.

transf. *a* 1822 Shelley *Triumph Life* 2 Swift as a spirit hastening to his task.., the Sun sprang forth Rejoicing in his splendour. 1871 L. Stephen *Playgr. Eur.* (1894) x. 228 The mighty peaks..spring at one bound to a height of some ten thousand feet.

b. Without const. Also *spec.* of partridges, to rise from cover.

a 1300 *K. Horn* (Camb.) 593 Þe fole bigan to springe, & horn murie to singe. *c* 1440 *York Myst.* xxxvi. 224 Full faste schall I springe for to spede. 1474 Caxton *Chesse* II. ii. (1883) 33 Octauian maad his sones to be taught..to swyme, to sprynge, and lepe. 1530 Palsgr. 730 Marke hym whan he daunseth, you shall se hym springe lyke a yonckher. 1589 R. Robinson *Gold. Mirr.* (1851) 51 The Partridge sprang, my hauke fled from my fist. 1667 Milton *P. L.* VII. 465 The Tawnie Lion..then springs. 1709 O. Dykes *Eng. Prov. w. Mor. Refl.* (ed. 2) 148 The Partridge..always springs afterwards upon the first Sight of a Setter or a Dog in the Field. 1820 Shelley *Arethusa* i, Gliding and springing She went, ever singing, In murmurs as soft as sleep. 1847 C. Bronte *Jane Eyre* xxvi, The lunatic sprang and grappled his throat viciously. 1892 Farrar *Darkn. & Dawn* xxxiv, Nero persuaded himself that his mother was watching him like a tiger-cat in act to spring.

c. To rise quickly, or with a bound, from a sitting or recumbent posture. With advs. and preps.

1474 Caxton *Chesse* III. vii. (1883) 141 Ye kynge..sprang out of his chare and resseyuyd them worshipfully. 1590 Spenser *F. Q.* III. i. 62 The whole family.. Rashly out of their rouzed couches sprong. 1667 Milton *P. L.* VIII. 259 Till rais'd By quick instinctive motion up I sprung, ..and upright Stood on my feet. 1757 W. Wilkie *Epigoniad* IX. 284 Springing from the ground, Both chiefs at once ascend the lofty mound. 1760–72 H. Brooke *Fool of Qual.* (1809) IV. 72 The..monster sprung up and cast himself..upon our hero. 1819 Scott *Leg. Montrose* vi, At an early hour in the morning the guests of the castle sprung from their repose. 1841 Lane *Arab. Nts.* I. 104 When the Sultan heard this lamentation, he sprang upon his feet. 1860 Tyndall *Glac.* I. xx. 137 Good news caused me to spring from my bed.

d. *slang.* To offer a higher price.

1851 Mayhew *Lond. Lab.* II. 28 If the seller finds he can get him to 'spring' or advance no further.

4. To fly asunder or in pieces; to burst, break, crack, or split; to give way. Also *fig.* of the heart.

c 1320 *Cast. Love* 593 Er him ouȝte þe herte to springe, þen he scholde him wrabbe for eny þinge. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 1195 Speires vnto sprottes sprongen ouer hedes. *c* 1420 *Avow. Arth.* xiii, The grete schafte that was longe, Alle to spildurs hit spronge. *a* 1450 *Le Morte Arth.* 3920 An C tymes hys herte nye sprange, By that bors had hym the tale tolde. 1623 in Foster *Eng. Factories Ind.* (1908) II. 345 By reason of a plancke that spronge in hir. 1627 Capt. Smith *Seaman's Gram.* ii. 4 If one of those ends should spring, or giue way, it would be a .. troublesome danger. 1820 Hennen *Princ. Milit. Surg.* (ed. 2) 217 At length an artery sprung, which, in the attempt to secure it, most probably burst under the ligature. 1857 Hughes *Tom Brown* I. ix, Splicing a favourite old fives'-bat which had sprung. 1871 B. Taylor *Faust* (1875) II. II. 153 At once a flood of light I'll fling, Yet softly, lest the glass should spring.

b. In pa. pple. †(*a*) Of horses: Foundered. *Obs.* (*b*) Of planks, masts, etc.: Split, cracked, 'shaken'. (*c*) *slang.* Of persons: Intoxicated.

(*a*) *a* 1400 *King & Hermit* 68 The kyng had folowyd hym so long, Hys god sted was ne sprong. 1676 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1120/4 The Gelding is sprang of the near leg before. 1696 Aubrey *Misc.* xiii. 110 To Cure a Beast that is Sprung, that is poysoned.

(*b*) 1704 J. Harris *Lex. Techn.* I, When a Mast is only crack'd..then they say, The Mast is Sprung. 1745 P. Thomas *Jrnl. Anson's Voy.* 271 The Carpenters discovered the Fore

Mast to be sprung. 1765 J. Byron in Hawkesworth *Voy.* (1773) I. 59 Capt. Mouat, who commanded the Tamar, informed me that his rudder was sprung. 1834 Marryat *P. Simple* (1863) 128 To examine the main-topsail yard, which had been reported as sprung. 1863 W. C. Baldwin *Afr. Hunting* vi. 222 The dissel-boom was sprung, and the hind axle also. 1894 *Times* 29 May 11/1 It will not be possible to race this cutter..owing to her mast being sprung.

(c) 1826 *Sporting Mag.* XVIII. 327 Both himself and his brother dragsman—in the language of the road—were sprung. 1856 Mrs. Stowe *Dred* I. vi. 86 He reckoned they was a little bit sprung. 1901 G. Douglas *House w. Green Shutters* 227 [He] came staggering round the corner, 'a little sprung'.

c. Of mines: To go off, explode.

a 1658 Cleveland *Poor Cavalier* Wks. (1687) 328 At Langport..thy Rear miscarry'd too, And by a strong Intelligence the same time, Thy Hooks and Buttons sprung with Sherburns Mine. 1698 T. Froger *Voy.* 30 On the 22nd the mines sprang, and took very good effect. 1747 *Gentl. Mag.* XVII. 437 The mine will spring by its gallery. 1829 *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) VI. 303/1 If likewise it be wished that one mine shall spring before another, it is only necessary to shorten the hose.

5. To swell *with* milk; to give signs of foaling or calving.

1607 Markham *Cavel.* I. (1617) 5 It must be good ground, because it may make your Mares spring with milke. 1714 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 5233/4 A brown Mare in Foal,..Springs for Foaling, and is 5 Years old. *a* 1722 Lisle *Husb.* (1757) 281 Two understanding farmers..observed a heifer's udder to spring much. *Ibid.* 317 The butcher..found their udders spring with milk. 1828 Carr *Craven Gloss., Spring*,..to give symptoms of calving. 1868 Atkinson *Cleveland Gloss., Spring*, to relax or become flaccid in the parts about the Barren, or 'shape' when the time of calving is drawing close on; of a cow.

II. 6. To issue or come forth suddenly, to break out, esp. in a jet or stream. Freq. with *forth* or *out*.

Beowulf 2966 Him for swenge swat ædrum sprong forð under fexe. *a* 900 *O. E. Martyrol.* 25 Aug. 152 Him sprungon spearcan of þam muðe. *a* 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 2456 Þer sprong ut, mid te dunt, milc imenget wiþ blod. 1297 R. Glouc. (Rolls) 6187 Of þe helmes þat fur sprong out, vor hii were stronge beye. *c* 1375 *Cursor M.* 9702 (Fairf.), His body [to] driue nakid wiþ skourges þorou þat þrange; out of his bak þe blode sprange. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xxvi. (*Nicholas*) 581 Of his body oyle cane spryng, þat helful wes til al sare-thing. *c* 1480 Henryson *Orph. & Eurvd.* 150 The bludy teres sprang out of his eyne.

1822 Shelley *Scenes fr. Faust* II. 110 And near us, see, sparks spring out of the ground. 1829 Scott *Anne of G.* xxxiv, The perspiration which sprung from his brow. 1857 Robertson *Serm.* Ser. III. v. 69 From whose dissevered neck the blood sprung forth.

transf. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 1600 Þis word out of his hert sprang. *c* 1425 *Seven Sages* (P.) 299 Yf ony word hym hadde sprong, That men myght here of his tong. 1535 Coverdale 2 *Chron.* xxvi. 19 The leprosy spronge out of his foreheade in the presence of the prestes.

b. *esp.* Of water: To rise or flow in a stream out of the ground. Freq. with *out* or *up*.

(*a*) *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 141 Þe stan to-chan, and fouwer walmes of watere sprungen ut þer-of. 12.. *Song to Virgin* 26 in *O. E. Misc.* 194 Þe welle springet hut of þe, *uirtutis*. *c* 1290 *St. Brendan* in *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 237 Watur of þis harde stone..Þare sprong out eche daye. 1390 Gower *Conf.* I. 293 Every thing which he can telle, It springeth up as doth a welle. *c* 1400 Maundev. (Roxb.) xii. 51 It commez fra þa mount Liban of twa welles þat springes vp þare. 1611 Bible *Num.* xxi. 17 Israel sang..Spring vp O well. 1730 A. Gordon *Maffei's Amphith.* 168 Pipes, by which..they caused odoriferous Liquor to spring up from the bottom to the top of the Amphitheatre. 1765 A. Dickson *Treat. Agric.* (ed. 2) 138 If..the land is wet, even at some distance above the place where the water springs out. 1832 R. & J. Lander *Exped. Niger* II. xiv. 281 Our own [hut] had positively pools of water springing up out of the ground.

(*b*) *c* 1220 *Bestiary* 62 in *O. E. Misc.*, A welle he sekeð ðat springeð ai boðe bi niȝt and bi dai. *c* 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 318 For þare beoz ase it veynene weren onder eorþe.., and þarof springueth þis wellene ech-on. *c* 1320 *Cast. Love* 843 Þe welle springeþ of alle grace þat fulleþ þe diches in vche a place. 1390 Gower *Conf.* I. 119 Beside a roche.. He syh wher sprong a lusty welle. 1400 tr. *Secreta Secret., Gov. Lordsh.* 79 Waters þat spryngyn yn stony lond..er heuy & noyant. 1470–85 Malory *Arthur* xviii. xxi. 764 There he wold lye doune and see the welle sprynge and burbyl. 1530 Palsgr. 730, I have sene the place where Temmes springeth. 1585 T. Washington tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* II. xi. 45 A very faire fountayne whiche springeth of very good waters through a conduit. 1610 Holland *Camden's Brit.* (1637) 519 Of one hill spring three great Rivers. 1675 E. Wilson *Spadacrene Dunelm.* 17 Such a quantity of water..as springs daily out of the Earth. 1706 Phillips (ed. Kersey), To *Spring*, to rise, come, or spout out, as a River or Water does. 1781 Cowper *Charity* 366 How copious and how clear Th' o'erflowing well of Charity springs here! 1816 Byron *Stanzas Augusta*, '*Through the day*' vi, In the desert a fountain is springing.

† **c.** To gush *with* blood. *Obs.*[–1]

1533 Bellenden *Livy* I. xxii. (S.T.S.) I. 125 Þe wound þat was springand with huge stremes of blude.

7. Of morning, dawn, etc.: To come above the horizon; to begin to appear.

c 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 60 Ðat was ðe firme morgen tid, ðat euere sprong in werlde wid. *Ibid.* 3264 Ðo sprong ðe daiening. *a* 1300 *K. Horn* (Camb.) 124 Al þe day & al þe niȝt, Til hit sprang ðai liȝt. *c* 1380 *Sir Ferumb.* 5259 On þe morȝnyng wan þe day him sprong, Charlis ȝeode ys host among. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 2044 Begynnys sone in þe gray day as any gleme springis. *c* 1440 *Astron. Cal.* (MS. Ashm. 391), To wete euery day what houre & what mynute the day begynneþ to sprynge. 1513 Douglas *Æneid* IV. iv. 1 Furth of the see, with this, the dawing springis. 1577–87 Holinshed *Chron.* I. 49/2 By the light of the daie that then began to spring. 1611 Bible *Judges* xix. 25 When the day began to spring. 1700 Dryden *Pal. & Arc.* III. 121 Phosphor..Promis'd the Sun, ere Day began to spring. 1803 Visct. Strangford *Poems of Camoens* (1810) 54 Dear is the dawn, which springs at last. 1876 Morris *Sigurd* III. 182 But meseems that the earth is lovely and each day springeth anew.

b. In fig. contexts.

1382 Wyclif *Isaiah* ix. 2 To the men dwellende in the regioun of the shadewe of deth, liȝt sprungen is to them. *c* 1400 *Pilgr. Sowle* I. xxii. (1859) 26 To whome is ysprunge veray sterre of trouth. *c* 1450 *Myrr. our Ladye* 255 Lyghte spryngeth in darkenesse, helle ys pryued of robry. *c* 1460 *Wisdom* 1163 in *Macro Plays*, The tru son of ryghtusnes.. Xall sprynge in hem þat drede hys meknes. 1535 Coverdale *Isaiah* lx. 3 The Gentiles shal come to thy light, & kynges to the brightnes yᵗ springeth forth vpon yᵒ. 1579 W. Wilkinson *Confut. Fam. Love* A iv, The light of Gods truth might spryng foorth agayne. 1671 Milton *Samson A.* 584 But God..can as easie Cause light again within thy eies to spring.

† **c.** To ascend in the sky. *Obs.*[–1]

15.. in *Dunbar's Poems* (S.T.S.) 317 The mone sprang nevir abone his kne.

III. 8. Of vegetation: To grow; to arise or develop by growth. **a.** Const. *from, of, out of*.

c 1000 Ælfric *Hom.* II. 314 Swa swa of anum treowe springað manega boȝas, swa gað of anre lufe manega oðre mihta. *c* 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 7 [He] bad him legge þulke kurneles onder is fader tounge ȝwane he were ded, and burien him, and lokie ȝwat þarof sprongue. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 22878 (Edinb.), Þoru his wil dos þat mihti kinge Out of hard tre to spring First þe lef and þan þe flowr. 1387–8 T. Usk *Test. Love* III. vii. (Skeat) I. 5 Thou desyrest to knowe the maner of braunches that out of the tree shulde springe. *c* 1400 Maundev. (Roxb.) ii. 6 Of þase foure graynes schuld spring trees. 1560 Bible (Geneva) 1 *Kings* iv. 33 From the cedar tre..euen vnto the hyssope that springeth out of the wall. 1593 Shaks. *Rich. II*, I. ii. 13 Edwards seuen sonnes ..Were as..seuen faire branches springing from one roote. *a* 1689 Mrs. Behn tr. *Cowley's Plants* C.'s Wks. 1711 III. 391 The noble Flow'r that did from Ajax spring. 1815 J. Smith *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 661 Shoots of the same year's growth, springing from wood of the last year's growth. 1837 P. Keith *Bot. Lex.* 186 It may be regarded as an indubitable fact that all plants spring from seed. 1845 Gosse *Ocean* i. (1849) 35 From a number of little rootlets.. springs a straight olive-brown stem.

fig. *c* 1386 Chaucer *Pars. T.* P 388 Than is Pride þe generall rote of all harmes, for of þis rote spryngen certein braunches, as Ire, Envye [etc.]. 1681–6 J. Scott *Chr. Life* (1747) III. 272 The primitive Root out of which the vast Stock of the Catholick Church sprung. 1813 Shelley *Q. Mab* v. 45 Commerce! beneath whose poison-breathing shade No solitary virtue dares to spring. 1872 Morley *Voltaire* 6 Some miraculous soil from which prodigies and portents spring.

b. Without const.

c 1055 *Byrhtferth's Handboc* in *Anglia* VIII. 312 On lengtentima springað oðde greniað wæstmas. *a* 1250 *Owl & Night.* 437 Þe blostme gynneþ springe & sprede. *Ibid.* 1042 For he is wod þat soweþ his sed þer neuer gras ne springþ ne bled. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 4702 Na corn on erth, ne gress sprang. 1390 Gower *Conf.* I. 53 He syh upon the grene gras The faire freisshe floures springe. *c* 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* XI. 160 Basilicon..spryngith soone yf aysel on hem reyne. *c* 1480 Henryson *Orph. & Eurvd.* 90 Lyke till a flour þat plesandly will spring. 1523 Fitzherb. *Husb.* § 124 Make thy settes..to stande halfe a foote and more aboue the erthe, that they may sprynge oute in many braunches. 1577 B. Googe *Heresbach's Husb.* 22 The weedes..plucked vp by the rootes before they haue seeded, wyll neuer spring agayne. 1653 Ramesey *Astrol. Restored* 312 They begin to bud and shout forth, as the Vine, Fig-tree and others then springing. 1697 Dryden *Virg. Georg.* II. 450 The Grass securely springs above the Ground; The tender Twig shoots upward to the Skies. 1765 *Museum Rust.* IV. 455 It springs well, and its flax is sooner ripe than any other. 1830 Tennyson *Poems* 44 For her the green grass shall not spring,..Till Love have his full revenge. 1883 *Specif. Alnwick & Cornhill Rlwy.* 21 In all cases where the seed does not spring, the Contractor is to re-sow the same.

fig. 1297 R. Glouc. (Rolls) 5966 Here sprong lo þe uerste more [=stock] as of hom of normandye.

c. With *up*.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 20788 In þe toumb..Mai naman find na thing bot flur Springand up of suet sauur. 1382 Wyclif *Matt.* xiii. 5 Anoon thei ben sprungen vp, for thei hadde nat depnesse of erthe. 1500–20 Dunbar *Poems* x. 41 Now spring vp flouris fra the rute. 1565 Cooper *Thesaurus, Germinasco*, to shoote or spryng vp. 1611 Bible *Isaiah* xliv. 4 And they shall spring vp as among the grasse, as willowes by the water courses. *a* 1770 Jortin *Serm.* (1771) I. iii. 40 Among the good seed spring up Tares. 1796 H. Hunter tr. *St.-Pierre's Stud. Nat.* (1799) II. 536 The olive-tree which Minerva had there caused to spring up. 1837 P. Keith *Bot. Lex.* 158 At first a tuft of fungi sprung up accidentally on some particular spot. 1863 W. C. Baldwin *Afr. Hunting* ix. 423, I hear that the young grass is fast springing up.

† **d.** In the pa. pple. used predicatively. *Obs.*

13.. *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* xxviii. 21 Heil spice sprong, þat neuer was spent. 1390 Gower *Conf.* III. 249 The lilie croppes on and on, Wher that thei weren sprongen oute, He smot of. *c* 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* III. 377 Fertile, & fressh, ek knotty, sprongen newe Thy graffes be. 1530 Palsgr. 730 This yere is farre forthe, the hawthorne buddes be sprongе forthe all redy. 1599 Thynne *Animadv.* (1875) 50 The trompettes chapplettes were of oke serriall newly sprongе, and not coome to perfectione. 1667 Milton *P. L.* x. 548 There stood A Grove hard by, sprung up with this thir change.

9. Of conditions, qualities, etc.: To take rise, to originate or proceed. **a.** Const. † *of* or *out of*; *from* or *whence*.

(*a*) *a* 1200 *Vices & Virtues* 63 Of ðesere godes dradnesse springþ ut an oðer godes ȝiue. *c* 1200 Ormin 4936 Forr alle mahhtess springenn ut Off soþ meocnessess rote. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 27538 Vte o þir seuen [sins] all oþer springes, als of þe stouen þe branches hinges. 1377 Langl. *P. Pl.* B. XI. 194 For on Caluarye of Crystes blode, Crystenedome gan sprynge. *c* 1440 *Jacob's Well* 283 It springeth out of compassioun, and of ruthe of an-oþeres synne. 1538 Starkey *England* I. iv. 130 The chefe poynt that perteynyth to theyr honowre,..wych ys ryse and sprongе of a long custume. 1578 in *Hakluyt's Voy.* (1904) VIII. 10, I am glad that it so increaseth, whereof soever it springeth. 1603 G. Owen *Pembrokeshire* (1892) 261 Out of which knott hath sprongе the peace of this lande. 1631 Widdowes *Nat. Philos.* 36 His oyle..helpeth diseases of the brest; and other springing of colde. 1651 Hobbes *Leviathan* I. xii. 58 New Religions may againe be made to spring out of them. 1772–84 *Cook's Voy.* (1790) V. 1625 Some good, however, generally springs up out of evil. 1818 Cruise *Digest* (ed. 2) II. 343 Such a limitation being by way of use, springs out of the estate. 1875 Jowett *Plato* (ed. 2) V. 69 Out of the union of wisdom and temperance with courage, springs justice.

(*b*) *c* 1386 Chaucer *Pars. T.* P 321 It is necessarie to vnderstonde whennes that synnes spryngen, and how they encreessen. 15.. in *Dunbar's Poems* (S.T.S.) 329 Beseiking him, fra quhome all mercy springis, Ws to ressaue. *a* 1586 Sidney *Ps.* x. iv, From his mouth doth spring Cursing and cosening. *a* 1601? Marston *Pasquil & Kath.* (1878) II. 374 From thee doth spring..her cause of sorrowing. 1630 Prynne *Anti-Armin.* 137 From whence then springs this inequality? 1718 *Free-thinker* No. 10. 68 Nothing but Confusion and Immorality can spring from Falsehood, in the End. 1790 Mme. D'Arblay *Diary* Apr., Humour springing from mere dress, or habits,..is quickly obsolete. 1849 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* ii. I. 155 The coalition which had restored the king terminated with the danger from which it had sprung. 1874 Green *Short Hist.* iv. § 4. 192 A yet more important result sprang from the increase of population.

b. Without const. In later use commonly with *up*.

(*a*) 1297 R. Glouc. (Rolls) 5935 After hor daye sone þe sorwes spronge bliue. *Ibid.* 9819 After sein tomas deþe.. þer sprong contek suiþe strong. *c* 1380 Wyclif *Sel. Wks.* II. 338 Among al blasphemes þat ever sprongen, þis is þe moost cursid. 1387 Trevisa *Higden* (Rolls) V. 285 For Pelagius his heresye, þat gan among hem to springe. 1400 tr. *Secreta Secret., Gov. Lordsh.* 73 Hete sprynges þanne yn alle kyngdomes. *c* 1425 *Cast. Persev.* 889 in *Macro Plays*, Sum Pryde I wolde sprongе hyȝe in þi hert. 1508 Dunbar *Gold. Targe* 158 Curage in thame was noucht begonne to spring. 1563 T. Gale *Antidot.* I. 1 The utilitie springinge by the right vse of these [medicines] is great. 1663 Bp. Patrick *Parab. Pilgr.* xiv, New pleasures will be springing forth unto us. 1669 Marvell *Corr.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 292 We have other great matters spring daily upon us. 1711 in *10th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. V. 163, I ask.. whether such an intent ever sprung in the brains of the Irish Commissioners. 1783 Johnson *Lett.* (1788) II. 302, I read your last kind letter with great delight; but when I came to love and honour, what sprung in my mind? 1902 V. Jacob *Sheep-Stealers* xiv, A little rift had sprung between the two brothers.

(*b*) 1560 Daus tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 328 *b*, There sprang up many adversaries. 1610 Holland *Camden's Brit.* 180 There have sprung up also in these later times, two other Courts. 1642 H. More *Song of Soul* I. ii. 99 Sense upon which holy Intelligence And heavenly Reason..Do springen up. 1663 Bp. Patrick *Parab. Pilgr.* xxv, The delight which he perceived began to spring up in him. 1822 Lamb *Elia* I. *Old Actors*, Thought springing up after thought, I would almost say, as they were watered by her tears. 1849 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* iii. I. 342 In a market town which had sprung up near the castle of the proprietor. 1874 Green *Short Hist.* iii. § 4. 128 The scholastic philosophy sprung up in the schools of Paris.

† **c.** In pa. pple. used predicatively. Also with *up*. *Obs.*

(*a*) *c* 1327 in Wright *Pol. Songs* (Camden) 339 Falsnesse is so fer forth over al the londe i-sprunge. 1382 Wyclif *Exod.* xii. 30 Ther was sprongun a greet crye in Egipte. 1452 in *Catal. Anc. Deeds* (1906) V. 350 The cause also of such dyvorce had and movet sprongen or comyn opon the party of the said Margarete. *c* 1460 *Reg. Oseney Abbey* (1913) 93 A thyng i-sprunge late, bitwene religiouse men..of the oone partie, and a worthy man .. of þe oþer. 1502 Arnolde *Chron.* (1811) 138 Syth dyuers opynions and dyuers streyues hade ben sprongen betwene th' Aldermen and the Commounalte. 1545 *Act* 37 *Hen. VIII*, c. 17 Preamb., Heresies,.. idolatrie, ipocrisies, and superstitions sprongen and growing within the same [church]. 1667 Milton *P. L.* VI. 312 If Natures concord broke, Among the Constellations warr were sprung.

(*b*) 1529 *Supplic. to King* (E.E.T.S.) 44 Enormytyes and abuses sprongen vp in the Christen religion. 1536 Olde *Antichrist* 14 The gospell, which was than but grene, & newly sprongen up. 1685 Baxter *Paraphr. N. T.* John i. 1 Whereas there are of late many Heresies sprung up about the person..of Christ.

10. Of persons (or animals): To originate by birth or generation; to issue or descend. Usu. const. *from, of*, or *out of*. **a.** In pa. pple.

c 1175 *Moral Ode* 175 (Lamb. MS.), Alle þo þat isprunge beð of adam and of eue. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 4023 Ðis folc, sprungen of israel, Is vnder god timed wel. *c* 1275 Lay. 25082 Alle þeos weren min eldre, of wan we beoþ i-spronge. *c* 1330 *Arth. & Merl.* 8024 (Kölbing), Þis deuelen felle þat ben ysprongen out of helle. 1377 Langl. *P. Pl.* B. XVI. 196 God..Sent forth his sone..To occupien hym here til issue were sprongе. 1382 Wyclif *Gen.* XXV. 4 Forsothe of Madian was sprongun Epha. *a* 1440 *Found. St. Bartholomew's* (1895) 2 Thys manne, sprongyng or boryne of lowe lynage,..beganne to haunte the housholdys of noble men. *c* 1450 *M. E. Med. Bk.* (Heinrich) 214 Item drynk aisssches mad of ey schelles, þat bryddes were sprong, in whyt wyn. 1585 T. Washington tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* II. viii. 41 The Mahomies .. were the first gentlemen sprung out of the ancient stocke of Iustinian. 1586 Marlowe *1st Pt. Tamburl.* III. iii, Their lims more large..Than all the brats ysprong from Typhon's loins. 1652 Benlowes *Theoph.* VII. xxxi, Sprung of Thyself, or rather no way sprung! Chief Good! *a* 1764 Lloyd *Progr. Envy* Poet. Wks. 1774 I. 135 Fancy, her name, ysprong of race divine. 1791 Cowper *Iliad* XVI. 542 Under yon great city fight no few Sprung from Immortals whom thou shall provoke. 1835 T. Mitchell

Aristophanes, Acharn. 558 *note*, Alcibiades, who, on the mother's side, was sprung from Cœsyra. 1865 SWINBURNE *Atalanta* 36 Thou, sprung of the seed of the seas As an ear from a seed of corn. 1871 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* (1876) IV. 229 Adeliza of Lôwen, sprung from those lands kindred in blood and speech with England.

transf. a 1300 *K. Horn* 548 (Camb.), We beþ kniȝtes ȝonge Of o dai al isprunge [*Harl.* alle to day ysprongе].

b. In other uses.

1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 337 Þer ssolle kinges come and springe of þi blod. a 1300 *Cursor M.* 5599 Þe kinges kin i sal vn-do, O quam sprang of þe sauueur. c 1386 CHAUCER *Pars. T.* ¶ 761 Of soch seed as cherles spryngen, of soch seed spryngen lordes. 1480 CAXTON *Chron. Eng.* cii. 83 Moche peple sprong and come of hem. 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* lxxxvi. 22 Our wicht invinsable Sampson sprang the fra. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* II. x. 8 But whence they sprong, or how they were begot, Yneath is to assure. 1604 E. G[RIMSTONE] *D'Acosta's Hist. Indies* I. xxv. 80 From him sprang two families or linages. 1665 DRYDEN & HOWARD *Ind. Queen* II. i, You grieve to see Your young Prince glorious, 'cause he sprang from me. 1720 OZELL *Vertot's Rom. Rep.* I. I. 3 He consecrated it to the God of War, from whom he would have it thought he sprung. 1752 YOUNG *Brothers* I. i, From this Philip's bed Two Alexanders spring. 1779 *Mirror* No. 32, His father having sprung nobody knows whence. 1837 P. KEITH *Bot. Lex.* 138 Enlarged vesicles that have sprung from a primitive molecule. *Ibid.* 225 Ovid replenishes his post-diluvian world with animals that sprang up out of the earth. 1850 IRVING *Goldsmith* i. 18 He sprang from a respectable, but by no means a thrifty stock. 1891 FARRAR *Darkn. & Dawn* ii, His face was stamped with all the nobility of the Domitian race from which he sprang.

c. To come into being. Also with additions as *forth, to life.*

1667 MILTON *P. L.* III. 334 Mean while The World shall burn, and from her ashes spring New Heav'n and Earth. 1784 COWPER *Task* III. 769 Springs a palace in its stead, But in a distant spot. 1813 T. BUSBY *Lucretius* I. I. 1055 Nought that beneath the etherial concave grows, Had sprang to life, or to perfection rose. 1817 SHELLEY *Rev. Islam* X. xviii, The winds.., as before Those winged things sprang forth, were void of shade. 1820 BYRON *Juan* III. lxxxvi. i, The isles of Greece!..Where Delos rose, and Phœbus sprung!

d. To arise as an offshoot *from* a society.

1782 PRIESTLEY *Corrupt. Chr.* I. I. 114 The Monophysites [were] a sect which sprung from the Eutychians. 1847 PRANDI tr. *Cesare Cantu, Reform. Eur.* I. 214 From the Order of the Benedictines there sprang the Maurines.

11. To grow (*up*); to increase or extend in height or length; to grow out *from* some thing or part.

1382 WYCLIF *Dan.* vii. 20 Of ten hornes whiche it hadde in the hed, and of the tother that was sprungen vp. ?*a* 1400 *Morte Arth.* 3265 The spekes..The space of a spere lenghe springande fulle faire. c 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* XII. 572 Ley vnder laure, and flakis vp let springe [*glossed* exurgere]. 1486 *Bk. St. Albans, Hawking* c ij, Yet have I sene sum fowkys take hem owte of mewe when the sarcell were bot halfe i-sprонge. 1674 RAY *Coll. Words* 115 The cake of Silver after it grows cold springs or rises up into branches. 1882 VINES tr. *Sachs' Bot.* 544 Three or five large broad protuberances..spring from the periphery of the floral axis.

b. To attain to a certain height or point by growth. Also *fig.*

c 1400 *Rom. Rose* 6954 Therof alle perseners be we, And tellen folk where so we go, That man thurgh us is sprongen so. 1530 PALSGR. 730 Howe you be sprонge sythe I sawe you. 1577 B. GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* II. (1586) 51 According to the height that I would haue the Hedge to spring. 1627 MAY *Lucan* VI. 118 Corne as yet not sprong To the full height. 1661 J. DAVIES *Civ. Warres* 365 They could not digest to see a young sprig..sprung up to be a commander. *a* 1861 T WOOLNER *My Beautiful Lady, Day Dream* 13 Beholdest thou Thy babe, *now* sprung a man?

c. Of arches, etc.: To take a curving or slanting upward course *from* some point of support. Also without const.

(*a*) 1739 C. LABELYE *Piers Westm. Bridge* 8 Semi-circular Arches, springing from about 1 Foot higher than Low-water Mark. 1814 SCOTT *Diary* 12 Aug. in *Lockhart*, Doubtless an arched roof sprung from the side walls. 1825 J. NICHOLSON *Operat. Mechanic* 573 The inclined ridges, springing from the angles of the walls, are called hips. 1859 JEPHSON *Brittany* v. 54 A fine massive round tower with a turret springing from it about halfway up its height. 1881 YOUNG *Ev. Man his own Mechanic* § 962, 458 A wall plate is nailed to receive the rafters, one of which springs from each of the front posts.

(*b*) 1776 G. SEMPLE *Building in Water* 14 The Arch..springs at high Water Mark. 1875 MANNING *Mission H. Ghost* xi. 308 The piers rise until the arch begins to spring.

d. In pa. pple.: Set out, extended.

1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* IV. 351/1 The ribs must be well 'sprung' from the spine.

12. With *up.* Of a breeze: To begin to blow.

1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* II. (Globe) 479 A Breeze of Wind springing up the same Evening, we weighed and set Sail for the Brasils. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* II. (ed. 4) 349 When a gale sprung up, it constantly blew off the land. 1805 NELSON 25 Sept. in Nicolas *Disp.* (1846) VII. 50 As the breeze is now springing up from the NW. 1877 MISS A. B. EDWARDS *Up Nile* v. 111 By and by a little breeze springs up.

***Transitive senses.*

IV. 13. †**a.** To sprinkle (a liquid, etc.); = SPRENGE *v.* 1. *Obs.*

1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) II. 23 Reyn is y-seie arered vppon þe hilles and anon i-sprонge aboute in þe feeldes. *Ibid.* V. 7 He ordeyned holy water..to be sprонge in Cristen mennis hous. c 1400 *Lanfranc's Cirurg.* 170 Whanne þou hast sewid þe wounde bineþe..þanne springe þeron poudre consolidatif. c 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* I. 907 Also the fleen wol sleen, on thy pament oildreggis ofte ysprонge. c 1485 *E. E. Misc.* (1855) 78 Sprynge of that water alle abowte.

1581 J. BELL *Haddon's Answ. Osor.* 436 Spryng holy water, sing Masses for the quicke and the dead.

b. To sprinkle (a person or thing); = SPRENGE *v.* 2. Usu. const. *with.* *Obs.* exc. *dial.*

WFlem. *springen* is similarly employed in place of *sprengen.* See also BESPRING *v.*

1382 WYCLIF *Isaiah* lii. 15 He shal springe manye Jentiles. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) II. 331 Israel toke wiþ hem mele and floure i-sprонge wiþ oyle. 1392 in Warner *Antiq. Culin.* (1791) 17 Set hem adoun and spryng hem with vynegar. c 1420 *Liber Cocorum* (1862) 7 Bray hit a lytelle, with water hit spryng. c 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* XII. 569 Olyues that me fyndeth lying crispe, With rugis drawe, in salt it is to sprynge. 1519 HORMAN *Vulg.* 178 b, Take a lytell pece of erthe and spryng it with water. 1576 G. BAKER tr. *Gesner's Jewell of Health* 239 A certaine vessell ..both sprоungen rounde about, and covered with Chimney soote. 1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss.* s.v., To spring clothes is to moisten them a little previous to ironing.

†**14. a.** To grow (a beard). *Obs.*—1

a 1330 *Otuel* 1445 A yong knight, that sprong furst berd, Of no man he nas aferd.

†**b.** To produce, bring forth. *Obs.*

1525 FITZHERB. *Husb.* § 130 There be trees wil..growe well, and sprynge rotes of them-selfe. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* I. 545 The same fig trees when they begin to spring leaf and look green. *a* 1648 LD. HERBERT *Hen. VIII* (1683) 84 A seed which will spring any thing in corrupt minds. 1692 DRYDEN *Cleomenes* III. ii, If, as we dream, Egyptian earth, impregnated with flame, Sprung the first man.

†**c.** In fig. use. Also with *up.* *Obs.*

(*a*) 1475 *Paston Lett.* III. 130 Iff Sporle woode sprynge any sylver or golde, it is my wyll that fyrst of alle ye [etc.]. 1593 LODGE *Phœnix Nest* Misc. Pieces A ij b, Strive no more, Forspoken ioyes to spring. 1598 B. JONSON *Ev. Man in Hum.* I. i, Their indulgence must not spring in me A fond opinion, that he cannot erre. c 1611 CHAPMAN *Iliad* XXIV. 494 Thy tears can spring no deeds To help thee, nor recall thy son. 1649 LOVELACE *Poems* 67 When Joy wip't it [*sc.* the tear] off, Laughter straight sprung 't agen. 1697 COLLIER *Ess. Mor. Subj.* II. (1709) 72 He that has Such a burning Zeal, and springs such mighty Discoveries, must needs be an admirable Patriot.

(*b*) 1624 MASSINGER *Parl. Love* v. i, The too much praise ..Could not but spring up blushes in my cheeks. 1639 — *Unnat. Combat* III. iii, Nor shall the raine of your good counsell fall Upon the barren sands, but spring up fruit.

†**15.** To cast *out* or *in*; to drain *off.* *Obs.*

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XVIII. x. (Bodl. MS.), [The adder] biteþ and springeþ oute venym. c 1440 *Jacob's Well* 248 Þat castyth out synne & springeth in vertewe. 1579 LANGHAM *Gard. Health* 667 Steepe the leaues in cold water, & at night spring off the water.

†**16.** To cause to well up or flow out of the ground. *Obs.*

c 1440 *Jacob's Well* 2 Þanne þi welle is depe ynow..for to springe watyr of grace. *Ibid.* 275 Þis grace in þe ground of equyte, þat spryngeth vp þise vij. stremys of vertuys. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 112 A well whiche..sholde sprynge fayre water & swete. 1667 *Phil. Trans.* II. 485 Lakes, some changing Copper into Iron, and causing storms, when any thing is cast into them; and others, sprung up by Earth-quakes.

†**17.** To cause to appear or rise to view. *Obs.*

c 1400 LOVE *Bonavent. Mirr.* (1908) 50 This day the sonne of rigtwisnesse..sprang openly his bemes of mercy. c 1646 CRASHAW *Poems* (1904) 254 Thine was the Rosy Dawn that sprung the Day Which renders all the starres she stole away.

18. To cause (a bird, *esp.* a partridge) to rise from cover.

1531 ELYOT *Gov.* (1580) 61 The men sprange the Birdes out of the bushes. 1575 PAINTER *Pal. Pleas.* ii. (1890) 4 His spaniells sprong a Partrich. 1592 LYLY *Midas* IV. iii, Thou shouldest say, start a hare, rowse the deer, spring the partridge. 1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* II. ii. III. (1651) 240 A Hawk, ..when the game is sprung, comes down amain, and stoopes upon a sudden. 1682 WHELER *Journ. to Greece* VI. 260 We sprang Ducks and Snipes. 1711 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 108 ¶ 4 Honest Will began to tell me of a large Cock-Pheasant that he had sprung in one of the neighbouring Woods. *a* 1793 G. WHITE *Observ. Birds* in *Selborne* (1833) 293 [The] land-rail..flies in a very..embarrassed manner.., and can hardly be sprung a second time. 1856 'STONEHENGE' *Brit. Rural Sports* 33/1 Before the birds are sprung, he should pat and encourage the dog. 1883 *Cent. Mag.* 487/2 In October and November, the sportsman often 'springs' coveys containing birds too small to be shot.

b. In fig. contexts.

1589 [? LYLY] *Pappe w. Hatchet* (1844) 39 That there is not a better Spanniell in England to spring a couie of queanes than Martin. c 1590 GREENE *Fr. Bacon* (1630) 16 Here's good game for the hawke,..a couie of Cockscombes, one wise man I think would spring you all. 1614 B. JONSON *Barth. Fair* v. iv. (1904) 130, I may perhaps spring a wife for you, anone. 1678 BUTLER *Hud.* III. ii. 1203 Your greedy slav'ring to devour..sprung the Game..Before y' had time to draw the Net. *a* 1721 SHEFFIELD (Dk. Buckhm.) *Wks.* (1753) II. 162 Which can hardly fail of springing some game in such an ample field of fame and glory. 1774 FOOTE *Cozeners* I. Wks. 1799 II. 148 What new game have you sprung? 1812 [see PLANT *sb.*1 7].

c. To make (a horse) gallop.

1737 BRACKEN *Farriery Impr.* (1757) II. 165 A Horse happens to be sprung out at his full Speed. 1837 APPERLEY *Chase, Turf, & Road* (1845) 62 We always spring 'em over this stage. 1874 REYNARDSON *Down Road* (1887) 160, I must spring them a bit,..or we shall never get up the Lodge Hill.

fig. 1849 DE QUINCEY *Eng. Mail Coach* i. Misc. (1854) 302 He unloosed, or, to speak by a stronger word, he *sprang*, his known resources: he slipped our royal horses like cheetahs.

19. *Naut.* Of a vessel, or those on board: To have (a mast, yard, etc.) split, cracked, or started. †Also of the wind: To cause to split.

For the phrases *to spring a butt, one's luff,* see BUTT *sb.*7 and LUFF *sb.*1 3.

1595 *Drake's Voy.* (Hakl. Soc.) 11 The Exchange, a small shippe, sprонge her mast, and was sunke. c 1620 Z. BOYD *Zion's Flowers* (1855) 20 A boisterous wind..Springs the.. mast. 1669 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 421/1 Off the Lizard she sprang her main Mast by the board. 1671 CLARENDON *Hist. Reb.* XIV. § 71 The Ship in which himself was, that sprung a plank in the Indies. 1745 P. THOMAS *Jrnl. Anson's Voy.* 23 We sprung the Main-top-sail Yard. 1799 *Hull Advertiser* 13 July 1/4 St. Joaquim..sprung her foremast;..St. Paulo sprung her tiller. 1820 SCORESBY *Acc. Arct. Reg.* I. 106 The ice which fell, struck the ship so high and so forcibly, that it..sprung the bowsprit. 1840 R. H. DANA *Bef. Mast* XXXV, We snapped off three flying-jib booms..; sprung the spritsail yard.

b. To have or make (a leak) open or start.

1611 [see below.] 1624 [see LEAK *sb.* 1]. 1687 A. LOVELL tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* I. 17 In an hours time, we were got off, without springing the least leak. *a* 1721 PRIOR *Vicar of Bray & Sir T. More* Wks. 1907 II. 252 You would not have stopped that part of the Ship where the Leak was sprung. 1782 [see LEAK *sb.* 1]. 1851 DIXON *W. Penn* xviii. (1872) 159 The vessel sprang a leak. 1894 *Times* (weekly ed.) 2 Feb. 91/3 After she left Swansea she sprang a leak.

fig. 1611 BEAUM. & FL. *Philaster* IV. i. (1620) 40 The wench has shot him betweene wind and water, and I hope sprung a lake. 1623 MASSINGER *Dk. Milan* III. ii, He hath sprung a leak too, Or I am cozened. *a* 1680 BUTLER *Rem.* (1759) I. 206 His Talent has but sprung the greater Leak.

20. a. *Mil.* To explode (a mine).

1637 in *Verney Mem.* (1907) I. 112 As they had sprung there mine. 1677 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1244/2 This morning we Sprung a Mine under a Ravelin.., which did considerable execution. 1712 J. JAMES tr. *Le Blond's Gardening* 108 They..blow them up, by placing..Barrels of Powder at the Foot of them, to which they give Fire,..and this they call Springing a Mine. 1744 M. BISHOP *Life & Adv.* 187 They sprung several Mines and blew up a great Number of our Men. 1810 WELLINGTON in Gurw. *Desp.* (1836) VI. 463 To be prepared to spring the mines in these bridges if the enemy should advance. 1894 WOLSELEY *Marlborough* I. 121 The enemy sprang two mines.

fig. 1679 ALSOP *Mel. Inq.* II. vii. 346 When we are mounted he springs his Mine, and blows us all up with his Retractation. 1792 S. ROGERS *Pleas. Mem.* II. 119 Go, spring the mine of elevating thought. 1816 WORDSW. *Sonn. Liberty* II. xlv. 93 He springs the hushed Volcano's mines. 1823 SCOTT *Quentin D.* XXXIV, I only grieve that I cannot spring it like a mine, to the destruction of them all!

b. To sound (a rattle).

Also in pres. pple. *springing* = being sprung.

1812 *Ann. Reg., Chron.* 26 Mr. Johnston sprung a rattle. 1840 R. H. DANA *Bef. Mast* XIX, We made him [*sc.* the rattlesnake] spring his rattle again, and began another attack. 1842 C. WHITEHEAD *R. Savage* (1845) III. 335 Men calling, rattles springing,..doors unlocking and unbolting in every court. 1887 STEVENSON *Misadv. J. Nicholson* II. 4 He heard the alarm spring its rattle.

21. †**a.** To start (something); to set going. *Obs.*

1611 SPEED *Hist. Gt. Brit.* IX. xvi. 50 The Yorkists.. thought it now a fit season to spring their practice. 1667 PEPYS *Diary* 10 Nov., To spring nothing in the House, nor offer anything but just what is drawn out of a man. 1700 DRYDEN *Ovid's Met., Cinyras & Myrrha* 153 Surpriz'd with Fright, She starts, and leaves her Bed, and springs a Light.

†**b.** To utter or pass (bad coin); to let off (a joke). *Obs.*

a 1658 CLEVELAND *Lond. Lady* 80 Down Fleet-street next she rowls..To spring clip'd-half-crowns in the Cuckow's Nest. 1686 F. SPENCE tr. *Varilla's Ho. Medicis* 234 They saw him..not valuing to lose a Friend, rather than not have the Pleasure of springing a Witticism.

c. *colloq.* To give, pay, or disburse (a sum of money); to buy (a certain amount).

1851 MAYHEW *Lond. Labour* I. 53 It's a feast at a poor country labourer's place, when he springs six-penn'orth of fresh herrings. 1883 J. GREENWOOD *Odd People in Odd Places* 244 In hope that he might spring a few shillings more than he had promised. 1904 MAX PEMBERTON *Red Morn* xi, I'll spring one hundred pounds, sir, if you will tot it up.

d. To bring (an announcement, etc.) suddenly *upon* a person or persons.

1884 *Manch. Exam.* 20 June 5/4 The hole-and-corner arrangement by which Sir Henry Peek's resignation was sprung upon the constituency. 1891 H. HERMAN *His Angel* 167 The threat of springing the naked facts upon the young lady. 1896 'MERRIMAN' *Sowers* XXVII, She was one of those mothers who rule their daughters by springing surprises upon them.

e. To cast or throw suddenly.

1884 E. JENKINS *Week of Passion* I. iv. 110 He must expect to be countermined, to have a thousand ingenious obstacles sprung in his way.

22. To cause (a thing) to spring, move suddenly, fly with a jerk, etc.

1665 HOOKE *Microgr.* 210 These six leggs he [a flea] clitches up altogether, and when he leaps, he springs them all out. 1821 CLARE *Vill. Minstr.* II. 102 If but the breezy wind their floats should spring. 1828 *Examiner* 436/1 The Page's cloak had 'sprung' its shoulder-button. 1831 *Ibid.* 675/2 It blows a gale enough..to spring the teeth from out your jaws. 1878 C. TUTTLE *Border Tales* 73 He mounts up on the platform, and begins to spring it up and down.

fig. 1865 MEREDITH *R. Fleming* xlvi, He uttered a threat that sprang an answer from her bosom in shrieks. 1880 — *Trag. Com.* v, It sprang Clotilde a stride nearer to reality.

b. *Mil.* To shift (a weapon, etc.) smartly from one position to another.

1780 *Encycl. Brit.* VI. 4438 Make ready: i.e. Spring the firelock briskly to the recover. 1796 *Instr. & Reg. Cavalry* (1813) 232 Carbines sprung, and unstrapped. 1833 *Reg. Instr. Cavalry* I. 29 Each man springs his ramrod as the officer passes him, and then returns it. *Ibid.* 98 The carbine is 'sprung' by the right hand seizing the swivel, and securing it through the ring. 1859 F. A. GRIFFITHS *Artill. Man.* (1862) 46 Spring arms—Two. Load.

c. To cause (some mechanism, etc.) to work with a sudden movement; to force open by pressure.

1828 LYTTON *Pelham* III. xix, Until I had hit upon the method of springing the latch, and so winning my escape from the house. 1894 *Cornh. Mag.* Mar. 293 The inquiring bee, on his collecting rounds, can thus see at a glance whether any particular flower has been 'sprung' or not, as we technically call it. 1897 LD. H. TENNYSON *Mem. Tennyson* I. 19 He would spring all their traps.

d. To apply or adjust by force applied to some elastic or resilient body.

1842 BROWNING *Gismond* xi, What says the body when they spring Some monstrous torture-engine's whole Strength on it? 1872 *Routledge's Ev. Boy's Ann.* Apr. 307/1 Pieces of brass tube, on which are 'sprung' lengths of flexible gas tubing.

e. To bend or deflect from a straight line.

1873 *Routledge's Yng. Gentl. Mag.* July 503/2 Don't drive it in too hard, as it will 'spring' the plane-iron, and make it concave. 1887 *Pall Mall G.* 28 May 8/1 It is so stiff that the utmost power of a man is required to spring it even very slightly.

23. *techn.* a. *Arch.* To commence the curve of (an arch).

1703 MOXON *Mech. Exerc.* 273 The level of the place, whence you begin to spring the Arch. 1807 R. C. HOARE *Tour Irel.* 198 The arches which were sprung to support it. 1823 P. NICHOLSON *Pract. Build.* 339 Impost or Springing—The upper part..of a wall employed for springing an arch.

b. *Shipbuilding.* (See quot.)

c 1850 *Rudim. Navig.* (Weale) 151 To *Spring*, is to quicken or raise the sheer.

V. †24. a. = LEAP *v.* 9. *Obs.*

1585 T. WASHINGTON tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* IV. xxxi. 154 [They] sought the fairest stoned horses to spring their mares.

b. To leap over; to cover with a spring.

1825 SCOTT *Talism.* xxvi, He that would climb so lofty a tree, Or spring such a gulf as divides her from thee. 1854 *Orr's Circ. Sci., Org. Nat.* I. 96 The grasshoppers..being capable, with ease, of springing some hundred times their own length. 1907 J. H. PATTERSON *Man-Eaters of Tsavo* viii. 89 If the lion could spring the twelve feet which separated me from the ground.

Spring, *v.*[2] [f. SPRING *sb.*[1], in various senses.]

†1. *trans.* To allow (timber or ground) to send up shoots from the stools of felled trees. *Obs.*

1690 *Let.* in *Hunter MSS.* VII. No. 200, I have ordered the workmen to hedg in two Acres of Ground allready sprung 2 yards high...I shall spring more if you require it.

2. *intr.* To pass or spend the season of spring *at* a place. *rare*—[1].

1835 *Fraser's Mag.* XI. 507 Every third man has wintered at Naples, springed at Vienna.

3. *trans.* To give spring or elasticity to.

1843 E. JONES *Poems, Sens. & Event* 115 To measureless action spring'd by her in a moment. 1875 F. J. BIRD *Dyer's Hand-bk.* 54 The wool will come out of this bath rather dirty and grey-looking. In order to spring it [etc.].

4. To provide or fit with a spring or springs.

1884 F. J. BRITTEN *Watch & Clockm.* 246 Sprung above [or] Sprung over [*is*] a watch in which the balance spring is attached to the staff above the balance. 1905 *Automobile Topics* 27 May 491 (Cent. Suppl.), Having learned to properly spring horse-drawn and railway carriages.

Spring-, the verbal stem used in a few specific names, as **spring-beetle** (see quot.); **spring-hare,** the jumping hare of South Africa; **spring-jack, -lobster** (see quots.).

1835 J. DUNCAN *Beetles* (Nat. Lib.) 159 This operation is attended with a sharp snapping noise, which has caused these insects to be termed click-beetles, in addition to the names of skipjacks and *spring-beetles, by which they are likewise known in England. 1900 *Daily Express* 27 June 7/1 We could hear them probing a suspicious-looking *spring hare's burrow. 1848 *Proc. Berw. Nat. Club* II. 327 A mechanism..which..causes them to rise with a jerk, accompanied with a snapping noise, whence they have been named 'clicks' or '*spring-jacks'. 1879 E. P. WRIGHT *Anim. Life* 533 Here are to be placed the *Spring Lobsters (Palinuridæ), the Cray-fish (Astacidæ).

Springal: see SPRINGLE *sb.*[1] and *sb.*[2]

Spring(d[1]. *Obs.* exc. *Hist.* Forms: α. 4, 6 **spryngalle** (5 -al), 4 **spryngelle,** -ele, 5 -ell; 4 **springal** (-ol), 4, 6 -all. β. 4–5 **spryngald(e** (5 -olde), 4–6 (9) **springald** (5 -alt, -olt). [ad. OF. *espringale, -alle* (cf. ESPRINGAL), or a. AF. *springalde* (Anglo-Lat. *springaldum*), app. f. OF. *espringuer* SPRING *v.*[1] Hence also MDu. and MHG. *springale,* MLG. *springal.*] An engine of the nature of a bow or catapult, used in mediæval warfare for throwing heavy missiles; also, a missile thrown by an engine of this kind.

α. 13.. *Coer de L.* 4346 The Sarezynes..schotte with arweblaste and spryngalles. *c* 1380 *Sir Ferumb.* 3310 Summe springols stipe bente, & schute gleyues scherpe. *c* 1410 *Master of Game* (MS. Digby 182) ii, He smyteth as a stroke of a spryngell, for he hath gret strength in þe hed and in the Body. 1523 LD. BERNERS *Froissart* I. cxliv. 172 This castell..was well fortyfied with springalles, bombardes, bowes, and other artillary.

β. 1305–6 in *Cat. Doc. rel. Scotl.* (1888) 392 Unum springald cum balistis et quarellis. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* XVII. 247 Sprynggaldis and schotis..That till defend castell afferis, He purvait. *c* 1400 *Rom. Rose* 4191 And eke withynne the castelle were Spryngoldes, gunnes, bows, archers. 1422 in Ellis *Orig Lett.* Ser. II. I. 95 Being at the Siege of Harflewe, there smyten with a Springolt through the hede. 1568 GRAFTON *Chron.* II. 281 This Castell..was well fortefied with Springaldes, Bombardes, Bowes, and other Artillery.

Spring(d[2]. Now *arch.* Forms: α. 5 **sprynhold,** 6 **spryngolde,** 6–7 **springold(e,** 6 -hold, -olte, -ol (**springehole**). β. 6 **sprynge-, springalde,** -hald, 6–7, 9 **springald** (9 -alt). γ. 6 **spryngall,** 6–9 **springal,** -all; 8 **springle.** [Of doubtful origin; perh. a formation from SPRING *v.*[1] suggested by prec. In very common use from *c* 1500 to 1650; in 19th cent. revived by Scott.]

1. A young man, a youth, a stripling.

α. *c* 1440 *Alph. Tales* 221 When he was a grete yong sprynhold; sho wold kys hym & halsse hym. 1518 WHITINTON *De Heteroclitis Nom.* A iv, *Pubes,* spryngolde. 1534 — *Tullyes Offices* I. (1540) 48 Marcus Drusus, a yong springolte of synguler grauyte. 1535 *Goodly Primer, Passion* III, A certain young springhold that followed Christ. *a* 1575 tr. *Pol. Verg. Eng. Hist.* (Camden No. 36) 186 He banished this springehole as relagate in Fraunce. 1664 COTTON *Scarron.* I. Wks. (1725) 46 Queen Dido ravish'd to behold The Carriage sweet of this Springold.

β. 1501 DOUGLAS *Pal. Hon.* I. xlv, Lustie Springaldis and mony gudlie lord. 1535 COVERDALE *Dan.* i. 17 God gaue now these foure spryngaldes connynge and lernynge. 1611 BEAUM. & FL. *Knt. Burning Pestle* II. ii, Sure the Devil, God bless us, is in this Springald. 1816 SCOTT *Old Mort.* xiii, 'A pretty springald this, upon my honour!' said Claverhouse. 1824 BYRON *Juan* XV. lxx, Also the younger men too: for a springald Can't, like ripe age, in gourmandise excel. 1892 GUNTER *Miss Dividends* (1893) 197 This will bring your young springald down here very suddenly, I imagine.

γ. 1542 UDALL *Erasm. Apoph.* 123 Beholdyng a certain young spryngall. 1589 [? LYLY] *Pappe w. Hatchet* D iij b, Springalls and vnripened youthes, whose wisedomes are yet in the blade. 1613 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* (1614) 374 This was their education till 17. yeares of age: at which time they were of the second ranke of Springals and youths. 1693 DRYDEN, etc. *Juvenal* (1697) 269 Go, boast your Springal, by his Beauty curst To Ills. 1720 MRS. MANLEY *Power of Love* (1741) 242 The young Springle..promised her all she could ask. 1748–58 MENDEZ *Sqr. Dames* I. xv. in Dodsley *Coll. Poems* (1755) IV. 130 The springal was in wholesom lustihed. 1819 SCOTT *Ivanhoe* xii, This same springal, who conceals his name,..hath already gained one prize. 1890 F. W. ROBINSON *Strange Family* 68, I loved this..warm-hearted, hot-headed springall.

2. *attrib.* as *adj.* Youthful, adolescent.

Cf. Cheshire dial. *springow,* nimble, active.

a 1614 J. MELVILL *Diary* (Wodrow Soc.) 119 To be sa miserablie corrupted in the entress of his springall age. 1633 FORD *Broken Heart* III. ii, Your fiery metal, or your springal blaze Of huge renown.

† Spri·ngant, *a. Her. Obs.*—[0] (See quot.)

1731 BAILEY (ed. 2), *Springant,*..a term apply'd to any beast in a posture ready to give a spring or leap.

Spring-beam. [f. SPRING *sb.*[1] or *v.*[1]] The distinctive name of certain strong timbers forming part of the fittings of an engine or paddle-box.

Other senses are recorded by Knight *Dict. Mech.*

a. 1797 J. CURR *Coal Viewer* 61 Allow proper height for the inside spring beams..and about 6 inches for the springs. 1825 J. NICHOLSON *Operat. Mech.* 180 In engines used for this purpose there are two pieces of wood, called spring-beams, placed across each end of the beam. 1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-m.* 232 *Spring beams,* two stout parallel timber beams built into a Cornish pumping-engine-house, nearly on a level with the engine beam.

b. 1843 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* VI. 70/1 They have no connexion with the spring-beam or frame of the paddle-boxes. 1846 A. YOUNG *Naut. Dict.* 310 The projecting ends of the paddle-beams with a fore and aft beam of wood fitted between them, called a spring beam.

Spring-board. [f. SPRING *sb.*[1] or *v.*[1]]

1. A projecting board or plank, from the end of which a person jumps or dives. Also *fig.*

1866 *Routledge's Ev. Boy's Ann.* 659 A long swimming bath..with spring board to jump off. 1885 MRS. LYNN LINTON *Chr. Kirkland* III. 223 The spring-board whence she took her next leap into the arena of insolence. 1887 *Contemp. Rev.* May 717 He uses truth simply as a spring-board whence to jump into a region created by his own fancy.

attrib. 1898 *Daily News* 31 Mar. 8/6 The display concluded with an exhibition of springboard diving.

2. An elastic board used to assist in vaulting.

1875 in KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 1900 *Daily News* 24 Sept. 6/3 With the aid of a spring-board he vaults with ease over nine men placed in a row.

3. *U.S.* A board on which a wood-feller stands when working at some height from the ground.

1883 E. INGERSOLL in *Harper's Mag.* Jan. 200/2 These [holes] were intended for the insertion of their iron-shod 'spring-boards'—pieces of flexible planking..upon which they were to stand while chopping at a height too great to reach from the ground.

4. *U.S.* A light kind of vehicle.

1883 STEVENSON *Silverado Sq.* 174 A couple in a waggon, or a dusty farmer on a spring-board toiling over the 'grade' to..Calistoga.

‖ Springbok. Also 8–9 -bock, 9 -boc. [Cape Du., f. *springen* to spring + *bok* goat, antelope.] A species of antelope, *Antilope euchore,* abounding in South Africa, characterized by a habit of springing almost directly upwards when excited or disturbed. Cf. SPRINGER[1] 3 b.

α. 1775 *Phil. Trans.* LXVI. 283 We saw some herds of the spring-bocks, a species of antelope. 1777 FORSTER *Voy. round World* I. 84 The spring-bock..live in vast herds in the interior part of Africa. 1827 GRIFFITH tr. *Cuvier* IV. 17 The Springbock, or Pouched Gazelle. 1871 DARWIN *Desc. Man* II. xvii. (1890) 509 The spring-boc..has rather short upright horns.

β. 1785 G. FORSTER tr. *Sparrman's Voy. Cape G. Hope* (1786) II. 83 This animal, which is called by the colonists Spring-bok. 1834 PRINGLE *Afr. Sk.* I A tame springbok followed him. 1850 R. G. CUMMING *Hunter's Life S. Afr.* (1902) 18/1 The extraordinary manner in which springboks are capable of springing is best seen when they are chased by a dog. 1880 *Silver & Co.'s S. Africa* (ed. 3) 171 Immense migratory troops of the graceful spring-bok also cover these plains.

attrib. 1884 *Pall Mall G.* 8 Aug. 3/2 A most successful attempt to bring springbok venison fresh to England.

Springbuck. Anglicized form of prec.

1775 *Phil. Trans.* LXVI. 311 They informed us, they had seen great flocks of the spring bucks. 1824 BURCHELL *Trav.* I. 290 Numbers of that beautiful antelope, the Spring-buck,..were seen. 1857 LIVINGSTONE *Missionary Trav. S. Africa* v. 103 We saw the last portion of a migration of springbucks. 1887 R. HAGGARD *Jess* x, A couple of dozen or so of graceful yellow springbuck.

attrib. and *Comb.* 1895 J. G. MILLAIS *Breath fr. Veldt* 23 The most..successful springbuck shooter of Beaufort West. *Ibid.* 24 A springbuck hunt.

Spring-cleaning. [f. SPRING *sb.*[1] 6 b.] The general cleaning of a house, etc., usually performed in the spring. Also *attrib.*

1887 J. ASHBY STERRY *Lazy Minstrel* (1892) 153 Spring Cleaning's a terrible bore! 1897 MARY KINGSLEY *W. Africa* 79 Things were in a spring-cleaning confusion.

Hence **Spring-clean** *v.*; **Spring-cleaner.**

1889 *Pall Mall G.* 15 July 3/1 There are few points of mutual sympathy between the poet and the spring-cleaner. 1894 *Daily News* 21 Apr. 6/6 Houseboat-owners are at present busily engaged in painting and spring-cleaning their craft.

Springe (sprindʒ), *sb.* Also 3, 6 **sprenge,** 5 **sprynge,** 7–8 **sprindge.** [app. repr. OE. **sprenc,* related to SPRENGE *v.* and SPRING *v.*[1] Cf. the later SPRING *sb.*[3]]

1. A snare for catching small game, esp. birds.

α. *c* 1250 *Owl & Night.* 1066 Þi song mai beo so longe genge, þat þu schalt hwippen on a sprenge. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XIV. xliii, þere beþ manye foulers þat leggeþ and setteþ nettes, springes and grenes. 1594 BARNFIELD *Aff. Shepherd* II. ix. (Arb.) 13 Wilt thou set springes in a frostie Night To catch the long-billd Woodcocke and the Snype? 1598 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. ii. II. *Babylon* 93 He in former quests did use Cals, pit-fals, toyls, sprenges, and baits and glews. 1653 W. RAMESEY *Astrol. Restored* 187 It addeth vigour to the Springes, Nets, Dogs, &c. 1727 SWIFT *Gulliver* IV. ii, I sometimes made a shift to catch a rabbit, or bird, by springes made of Yahoos' hair. 1780 W. COXE *Russ. Disc.* 77 The skins of guillinot [*sic*] and puffin, which they catch with springes. 1815 *Sporting Mag.* XLV. 189 Springes are, I believe, always set in standing wood. 1841 MARRYAT *Poacher* ii, Joey could set a springe. 1908 SIR H. JOHNSTON *Grenfell & the Congo* II. XXVII. 762 They also make use of springes of raphia rind.

β. 1615 CHAPMAN *Odyss.* XXII. 570 A Mauis, or a Pygeon,.. caught with a Sprindge, or Net. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Past.* V. 94 Nor Birds the Sprindges fear, nor Stags the Toils. 1712–4 POPE *Rape Lock* II. 25 With hairy Sprindges we the Birds betray.

2. *fig.* a. In allusions to the catching of woodcocks.

α. 1602 SHAKS. *Ham.* I. iii. 115, I, Springes to catch Woodcocks. 1613 H. PARROT (*title*), Laquei Ridiculosi, or Springes for Woodcocks. 1668 DRYDEN *Even. Love* II. i, So, there's one woodcock more in the springe. 1822 SHELLEY *Chas. I*, II. 39 An idiot in fawn sleeves and a rochet setting springes to catch woodcocks. 1877 TENNYSON *Harold* II. ii, We hold our Saxon woodcock in the springe, But he begins to flutter.

β. 1611 MIDDLETON & DEKKER *Roaring Girl* D.'s Wks. 1873 III. 188 Heere's the springe I ha set to catch this woodcocke in. 1663 DRYDEN *Wild Gallant* III, *Isa.* Alas, poor Woodcock, dost thou go a Birding! Thou hast e'en set a Springe to catch thy own Neck.

b. In other contexts.

1612 WEBSTER *White Devil* V. vi. 132 O I am caught with a springe. 1698 FARQUHAR *Love & a Bottle* I, And have your ladies no springes to catch 'em in? 1748 RICHARDSON *Clarissa* (1811) III. lvi. 309, I had not drawn my springes close about her. *a* 1797 H. WALPOLE *Mem. Reign Geo. III* (1845) I. xix. 276 The lawyers on either side were employed in discovering springes or loop-holes. 1856 MRS. BROWNING *Aur. Leigh* II. 1096 Shall I pardon you If thus you have caught me with a cruel springe? 1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) I. 222 He wanted to catch me in his springes of words.

Springe (sprindʒ), *a.* ? *dial.* Active, agile. App. not recorded in actual dialect use.

1859 GEO. ELIOT *A. Bede* XXV, The lissom'st springest fellow i' the country. 1861 — *Silas Marner* XI, The Squire's pretty springe, considering his weight.

Springe (sprindʒ), *v.*[1] [f. SPRINGE *sb.*]

1. *trans.* To catch in a springe or snare. Also *refl.* Freq. *fig.*

?*a* 1616 BEAUM. & FL. *Q. of Corinth* IV. iii, We springe our selves, we sink in our own bogs. 1812 COMBE *Syntax, Picturesque* XV, And what's still worse, he'll springe a hare. 1856 MRS. BROWNING *Aur. Leigh* VIII. 928 An active poacher ..tired of springeing game so long upon my acres. 1891 *Blackw. Mag.* CL. 243/1 Vast quantities of snipe..are netted or springed.

2. *intr.* To set snares.

1895 OWEN & BOULGER *The Country* Feb. 54 The poor people springe for him [the snipe] in the moister parts.

Springe, *v.*[2] Now *dial.* [var. of SPRENGE *v.*] *intr.* To sprinkle water.

1599 NASHE *Lenten Stuff* Wks. (Grosart) V. 286 Our Norwich..was a poore fisher towne, and the sea spawled and springed vp to her common stayres. [Cf. Forby *Voc. E. Anglia* (*a* 1825) 321 *Springe,* to spread lightly; to sprinkle.]

Springed (sprindʒd), *ppl. a.* [f. SPRING *sb.*[1] or *v.*[2]] Provided with a spring or springs.

1892 E. REEVES *Homeward Bound* 44 First and second carriages,..both being swung on wheels at each end, and well cushioned and springed.

†Springel. *Obs.* Also 5 springill, spryngil(l. [app. f. SPRING *v.*[1] The suffix may be after med.L. *aspergillum.*] A sprinkler for holy water. Also *Comb.* in *springel-stick.*

13.. *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* xxxvii. 730 Siþen he wole wiþ springel-stikke ȝiuen holy water abouten þikke. *c* 1400 *Beryn* 138 A monk, þat toke þe spryngill with a manly chere. *Ibid.* 142 The Frere feynyd fetously the spryngil for to hold To spryng oppon the remnaunt. 1494 *Will of Cumbe* (Somerset Ho.), My grete holy water stop & the springill therto.

Springer[1] (spri·ŋəɹ). [f. SPRING *v.*[1] So MDu. (and Du.), MLG., MHG. (and G.), Da. *springer*, MSw. (and Sw.) *springare.*]

I. †1. A source or origin. *Obs.*—[1]

c 1386 CHAUCER *Pars. T.* P 387 Now ben thay cleped chiveteyns, for als moche as thay ben chief and springers of all othere synnes.

2. a. A growing tree or plant. *rare*—[1].

1706 EVELYN *Sylva* (ed. 4) IV. § 4 The young men and maidens..go out into the woods and copp'ces, cut down and spoil young springers to dress up their May-booth.

b. A variety of mushroom.

1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1088 *Springers*, a local name applied to the variety of *Agaricus arvensis* figured by Bulliard, and distinguished by its elongated pileus, tall stem, and thinner ring.

3. a. A fish which springs or leaps; now *spec.* a newly-run salmon.

1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl., *Springer*, in ichthyology a name given by authors to the grampus, or arca. 1853 PAPPE *Edible Fishes C. Good Hope* 27 *Mugil Multilineatus*...Springer; Leaping Mullet. 1886 *Field* 23 Jan. 106/2 Only one succeeded in landing a fish, viz., Tom Murphy, who got a nice springer [*sc.* salmon), weighing 11½ lb. 1893 *Daily News* 23 Feb. 6/4 The newly run fish which the Irish fisherman calls a 'springer'.

b. *Zool.* The springbok. Also *springer antelope.*

1781 PENNANT *Quad.* I. 82 The Springer Antelope..weighs about fifty pounds, and is rather lesser than a roebuck. 1785 G. FÖRSTER tr. *Sparrman's Voy.* II. 139 This tract of country..harboured a considerable number of springers, quaggas, and hartbeests. 1827 GRIFFITH tr. *Cuvier* IV. 208 The Springer Antelope..is the largest of a small subordinate group. *Ibid.*, The Springer resembles the Dorcas of nomenclators, but is nearly a third larger in size.

4. One who springs or leaps. Also with advs.

1775 ASH, *Springer*,..one that leaps. 1796 MORSE *Amer. Geog.* II. 254 They are also called springers, or leapers, from the agility with which they leap, rather than walk. 1828 SOUTHEY *Lett.* (1856) IV. 89 Which is being interpreted, the Leaper, or the Springer. 1856 *N. & Q.* Ser. II. II. 36/1 'Springers' is the name given to the 62nd regiment.

fig. 1894 DRUMMOND *Ascent of Man* vii. 345 They were only offspring, springers off.

b. *dial.* A youth.

a 1825 in FORBY *Voc. E. Anglia.*

5. *Arch.* The support from which an arch springs; the impost at each end of an arch.

1611 COTGR., *Imposte*,.. the springer of an arched gate, the moulding that bears th' arch. 1751 LABELYE *Westm. Bridge* 75 The N.W. Springers of the middle Arch. 1772 C. HUTTON *Bridges* 60 The height of the pier to the springer 18 feet. 1838 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* I. 127/2 A string-course or springer of stone for the abutments of cast-iron ribs which are to carry the crown of the arch. *a* 1878 SIR G. SCOTT *Lect. Archit.* (1879) I. 60 The ribs, all meeting in a solid springer at the foot, brought down the pressure, and deposited it firmly upon the points of support.

6. a. A spring-hook.

1688 [see *spring-hook* s.v. SPRING *sb.*[1] 25 a].

b. A springe.

1813 MONTAGU *Suppl. Ornith. Dict.* s.v. *Woodcock*, Springes or springers are usually set in moist places on the verge of woods.

7. A cow or heifer near to calving.

1844 [see SPRINGING *vbl. sb.*[1] 8]. 1891 *Australasian* 15 Aug. 320/4 A full number of cattle yarded for the week's supply, comprising milkers, springers, and dry cows.

II. 8. a. 'One who rouses game' (J.).

b. A small variety of spaniel.

1808 *Sporting Mag.* XXX. 41 A beautiful old English Springer. 1829 GLOVER *Hist. Derby* I. 136 The Springer is a lively animal, and very expert in raising woodcocks and snipes from their haunts. 1845 YOUATT *Dog* iii. 45 The largest and best breed of springers is said to be in Sussex. *c* 1880 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* II. 132 The Springer is used for the same purpose as the Cocker, but is a larger, stronger, and steadier Dog.

attrib. 1886 *York Herald* 6 July 3/6 A springer puppy.. was playing near the house.

9. *Springer-up* (see quot. 1859). *slang.*

1851 MAYHEW *Lond. Lab.* I. 51/2 One of these [tailors] is considered somewhat 'slop', or as a coster called him, a 'springer-up'. 1859 *Slang Dict.* 99 *Springer-up*, a tailor who sells low priced ready made clothing...The clothes are said to be 'sprung up', or 'blown together'.

10. One who fires or sets off a mine.

1861 MEREDITH *Evan Harrington* xxxi, The springers of the mine about to explode.

Spri·nger[2]. [f. SPRING *sb.*[1] or *v.*[2]] (See quot.)

1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade, Springer and Liner*, a workman who puts in watch springs.

†Springer[3]. *Obs.*—[1] [f. SPRING *v.*[1] 13 or SPRINGE *v.*[2]] An instrument for sprinkling water.

1601 W. PARRY *Trav. Sir A. Shirley* 25 They have a spowte or springer to spirt some part of their water uppon their privy partes.

†Spri·nget. *Obs.*—[1] [f. SPRING *sb.*[1] 9 + -ET.] A small or young shoot.

1659 GELL *Amendm. Eng. Tr. Bible* 236 In that springet, that sprout of righteousness, by whom..he saveth us.

Spring-flood. [f. SPRING *sb.*[1] + FLOOD *sb.* So Du. *springvloed*, WFris. *-floed*, G. *-flut*, Da. and Sw. *-flod.*]

†1. = SPRING-TIDE 2. Also in fig. context. *Obs.*

c 1386 CHAUCER *Frankl. T.* 342 Thanne shal she been euene atte fulle alway And spryng flood laste bothe nyght and day. *c* 1440 *Jacob's Well* 193 þat ȝe mowe flowe in sprynge-flood of vertuys, hye vp to þe hyll of heuen. 1648 HEXHAM II, *Een Springh, ofte Springh-vloedt*, a Spring-floud, or a Spring-tide.

2. A river-flood occurring in spring-time.

1823 JOANNA BAILLIE *Poems* 30 Then streams, like a spring-flood, her wealth without measure. 1853 MOODIE *Life in Clearings* 29 The spring-floods bring with them a great quantity of waste timber and fallen trees from the interior.

Spri·ngful, *a. rare*—[1]. [f. SPRING *sb.*[1] 2.] Abounding in, full of, springs.

1612 DRAYTON *Poly-olb.* xiv. 306 That most spring-full place Where out of Blockeley's bankes so many Fountaines flowe.

†Spring garden. *Obs.* [f. SPRING *sb.*[1] 2 and 9.] **a.** A nursery for young plants. In quot. *fig.* **b.** A garden having concealed jets of water liable to be set in action by persons treading on the mechanism. **c.** A pleasure-garden frequented by the public.

In later use chiefly as the special name of popular resorts in Hyde Park and at Vauxhall.

1603 FLORIO *Montaigne* II. xxxvi. 431 All..haue made vse of..his Bookes, as of a Seminarie, a Spring-garden or Store-house of all kinds of sufficiency and learning. 1611 BEAUM. & FL. *Four Plays* I, Sophocles would..Like a spring garden shoot his scornfull blood Into their eyes, durst come to tread on him. *a* 1664 KATH. PHILIPS *Country Life* Poems (1667) 90 To Hide-parke let them go, And hasting thence be full of fears, To lose Spring-Garden shew. 1685 *(title)*, The Mysteries of Love and Eloquence,..as they are managed in the Spring Garden, Hyde Park. *c* 1700 CELIA FIENNES *Diary* (1888) 181 Its a place that is used like our Spring Gardens, for the Company of the Town to walk in the Evening. 1751 *(title)*, A Sketch of the Spring-Gardens, Vaux-hall. 1752 *(title)*, The Spring-Garden Journal.

Spring-gun. Also **spring gun.** [SPRING *sb.*[1]]

1. A gun capable of being discharged by one coming in contact with it, or with a wire or the like attached to the trigger; formerly used as a guard against trespassers or poachers, and placed in concealment for this purpose.

1775 SHERIDAN *Duenna* I. iii, Steel traps and spring guns seemed writ in every wrinkle. 1776 BOSWELL *Life Johnson* (Oxf. ed.) I. 659 He should have warned us of our danger.. by advertising, 'Spring-guns and men-traps set here'. 1816 *Sporting Mag.* XLVIII. 29 Till had been killed by a spring-gun on Lord Ducie's liberty. 1825 *Gentl. Mag.* XCV. I. 262 Lord Suffield moved the first reading of the Bill for prohibiting the use of Spring Guns as a means of protection for game. 1865 BARING-GOULD *Were-wolves* xv. 259 It was on the night of the 15th March that the spring-gun shot him.

2. A toy gun in which the missile is discharged by the release of a spring.

1837 W. B. ADAMS *Carriages* 127 The child's spiral spring-gun is a familiar illustration of the mode in which this spring can best act. 1905 A. R. WALLACE *My Life* I. 66 Among our favourite playthings were pop-guns and miniature spring-guns and pistols.

Springhalt. Also 7 **spring-halt**, 8 **-hault.** [app. an alteration of STRINGHALT, through association with SPRING *v.*[1] Cf. WFlem. *springhielde* spavined.] = STRINGHALT. † Also as *adj.*, affected with stringhalt.

1613 SHAKS. *Hen. VIII*, I. iii. 13 They haue all new legs, And lame ones; one would take it.. the Spauen A[nd] Spring-halt rain'd among 'em. 1639 *Crabtree Lect.* 67 Thou [a farrier] art troubled..with..the Spring-halt in thy hippes, ..the Scratches in thy heels. 1718 HUTCHINSON *Witchcraft* ix. 128 Dost thou not..twitch up thy Houghs just like a Springhault Tit? *a* 1843 SOUTHEY *Comm.-pl. Bk.* Ser. II. (1849) 535 Curious Cure for the Springhalt.

attrib. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VII. 871 Sudden flexion of the leg or thigh..has been spoken of as 'Springhalt tic'. *Ibid.* 876 Sudden flexion of the leg or thigh may result in a spring-halt movement.

Spring-head. Also **springhead.** [f. SPRING *sb.*[1] 2 and 22. Cf. the earlier HEADSPRING.]

1. The source or fountain of a stream or river; a well-head; = SPRING *sb.*[1] 2.

1561 DAUS tr. *Bullinger on Apoc.* (1573) 303 b, Finally he sheweth also the originall or springe head of this riuer. 1570 T. NORTON *Nowell's Catech.* (1853) 181 Though dutiful works of godliness be derived from the Spirit of God, as little streams from the spring-head. 1605 BACON *Adv. Learn.* I. iv. § 12 Water will not ascend higher than the levell of the first springhead from whence it descendeth. *a* 1691 BOYLE *Hist. Air* (1692) 140 The place where it works most, is about 40 or 50 yards from the spring-head. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* II. xii. 262 We found the water a little brackish, but..the nearer we advanced towards the spring-head the softer and fresher it proved. 1787 BEST *Angling* (ed. 2) 127 He may with delight observe the spring head..and confluxes of each particular river. 1825 *Beverley Lighting Act* ii. 11 Aqueduct, feeder, pond or spring-head. 1868 *Rep. U.S. Commissioner Agric.* (1869) 328 Close below a spring-head dig a trench,..so that the whole water shall pass through it gently.

b. *fig.* and in fig. context.

1610 J. HEALEY *St. Aug. Citie of God* (1620) 549 We should go to drinke at truths spring-head. 1647 COWLEY *Mistress, The Wish* iii, Here's the Spring-head of Pleasures flood, Where all the Riches lie. 1718 BLACKMORE *Alfred* (1723) II. 38 At the Spring-Head to drink the purest Streams..Of Truth Divine, I all my Hours apply'd. 1816 COLERIDGE *Lay Serm.* (Bohn) 377 Out of which..all our other opinions flow, as from their spring-head and perpetual feeder. 1837 WHEWELL *Hist. Induct. Sci.* (1857) I. 14 When our speculations are duly fed from the spring-heads of Observation,..we may have a living stream of.. Knowledge.

c. The source or fountain *of* some quality, the origin or cause *of* some action, etc.

1555 HARPSFELD in Bonner *Hom.* g* He wayeth ryghtlye hys synnes, from the originall roote and sprynge heade. 1596 G. BABINGTON *Profit. Exp.* 150 God is the author and verie spring head of all good. 1642 *Answ.* '*Plain English*' 5, I can lead them backward to the spring-head of their calamity. 1669 GALE *Ct. Gentiles* I. Introd. 4 Touching the spring-head and Derivations of human Arts and Sciences. 1694 ATTERBURY *Serm.* (1726) I. ii. 63 Love (the Spring-Head of Charity) as it is the sweetest of All Passions, so it is one of the strongest too. 1868 STANLEY *Mem. Westm. Abbey* 140 Those famous 'seven sons' [of Edward III], the spring-heads of all the troubles of the next hundred years. 1896 *Sunday Mag.* Nov. 724 Who made London..the springhead of the world's philanthropies?

2. *techn.* (See quot.)

1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2290/2 *Spring-head*, a box, clutch, or connection at the point of contact of the outer ends of an elliptic spring.

Spring-headed, *a.* [f. SPRING *v.*[1]] Having heads which spring afresh.

1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* II. xii. 23 Spring-headed Hydraes, and sea-shouldring Whales.

Spri·ngily, *adv.* [f. SPRINGY *a.* + -LY[2].]

1. With an elastic or springy step.

1881 MRS. C. PRAED *Policy & P.* III. 44 She stepped springily on to the verandah. 1884 W. D. HOWELLS *Silas Lapham* (1891) I. 60 The mare was springily jolting over the snow.

2. After the manner of a spring.

1884 LATHROP *True & other Stories* II. 229 Were you to place your hand on her shoulder, she would resist springily. 1887 D. C. MURRAY & HERMAN *Traveller Returns* ii. 24 The mere ring of hair which fringed his head was grizzled, but it curled springily still like wire.

Springiness (spri·ŋinės). Also 7–8 **springy-.** [f. SPRINGY *a.* + -NESS.]

1. The quality of being springy or elastic.

1665 *Phil. Trans.* I. 29 Here are found inquiries concerning..Springiness and Tenacity. 1692 BENTLEY *Boyle Lect.* viii. 283 The Air is a thin fluid Body, endued with Elasticity or Springiness. 1751 *Phil. Trans.* XLVII. 300 Their springiness makes them separate when the introductor is mounted on the canula. 1841 B. HALL *Patchwork* I. vi. 86 We passed..along the turf, the springiness of which proved a vast relief. 1862 SMILES *Engineers* III. 229 There was, and still is, a sort of springiness in the road over the Moss.

transf. 1826 DISRAELI *V. Grey* V. vi, The springiness of my mind has gone.

b. Elasticity of movement in persons or animals.

1812 TENNANT *Anster Fair* IV. iii, Th' audacious men of boasted springiness. 1847 L. HUNT *Men, Women, & B.* I. iii. 43 With what a..massy springiness they brush by you. 1869 *Daily News* 6 Nov., There was a cheeriness..and a springiness in their movements that betokened first-rate condition. 1886 MISS BRADDON *One Thing Needful* V, The bays went with a certain springiness, which told Lashmar that they were very fresh.

2. a. Capacity for sprouting or growing. **b.** The characteristic features of spring-time.

1674 N. FAIRFAX *Bulk & Selv.* 129 The seeds of most or all growths, kept beyond their full time,..loose their springinesses. 1824 MISS MITFORD *Village* Ser. I. (1863) 66 Even the early elder shoots, which do make an approach to springiness, look brown.

3. Wet, moist, or spongy condition in land.

1828–32 in WEBSTER.

Springing (spri·ŋiŋ), *vbl. sb.*[1] [f. SPRING *v.*[1]]

I. 1. The action, on the part of seeds, plants, etc., of sprouting or growing.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 9927 It castes lem ouer al sa bright..Als ros þat es als in springing. 1387–8 T. USK *Test. Love* II. i. (Skeat) I. 89 The seed of suche springinge in al places..shulde ben sowe. 1422 tr. *Secreta Secret., Priv. Priv.* 142 The wyntyr helpyth to the Spryngynge and the bourgynge of naturall thyngis. 1568 WITHALS *Dict.* 2/1 The springynge of the leafe, *germinatio.* 1597 GERARDE *Herbal* I. iii. 5 Their time of springing, flowring and fading. 1611 BIBLE *Ps.* lxv. 10 Thou makest it soft with showres, thou blessest the springing thereof. 1633 FLETCHER *Purple Isl.* XII. xiii, Successive storms..The timely yeare in its first springings kill. 1730 BAILEY (fol.), *Germination*, a springing, sprouting, or budding forth. 1889 RUSKIN *Præterita* III. 41, I gathered what wild flowers were in their first springing.

transf. and *fig.* 1576 FLEMING *Panopl. Epist.* A ij, To nothing is graunted a perpetuall springing. 1653 BINNING *Serm.* (1845) 310 How many souls are choked..in the very Springing, by the thorns of the Cares of this World.

b. With *up*, in fig. use.

1538 STARKEY *England* I. i. 15 Excepte ther be joynyd some gud prouysyon for theyr spryngyng vp and gud culture, they schal neuer bryng forth theyr frute. 1587 GOLDING *De Mornay* xxxiii. (1592) 531 Eyther the springing vp of Religion is vpon some great Coniunction,..or els at the springing vp therof [etc.]. 1620–51 I. JONES *Stone-Heng* (1725) 11 Upon the first springing up of Christian Religion here. 1653 H. MORE *Moral Cabbala* IV. ii. 29 The sundry Germinations and Springings up of the works of Righteousness in him are a delectable Paradise to him.

2. † **a.** The first appearance, the rise or dawn, *of* the day, etc. *Obs.*

c 1380 *Sir Ferumb.* 3562 Out ate ȝeate þey rydeþ ryȝt, In þe sprynggyng of þe day. 1382 WYCLIF *Job* iii. 9 The springing of the risende morwetid. *c* 1400 tr. *Secreta Secret., Gov. Lordsh.* 66 To knowe þe sterynge of þe firmament and þe firste risynge or sprynggynge of þe signes. 1495 *Act* 11 *Hen. VII*, c. 22, That..every artificer and laborer be at ther

werke in the springing of the day. 1705 STANHOPE *Paraphr.* I. 25 The Springing of the Morning.

b. The beginning, the early part, of the year, etc.; † the season of spring.

a 1513 FABYAN *Chron.* VII. ccxxiii. 248 In the spryngynge of somer.., Odo, byssop of Bayou,..was delyuered out of pryson by William Conquerour. *a* 1645 STRODE *Poet. Wks.* (1907) 123 Mourne, mourne, yee lovers: sadly singing Love hath his Winter, and no springing. 1889 BARING-GOULD & SHEPPARD *Songs West* 35 (E.D.D.), 'Twas in the springing of the year, In eighteen hundred two.

† **c.** The increase or waxing of the moon. *Obs.*

c 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* I. 218 In spryngynge of the mone [L. *crescente luna*] is best to sowe. *Ibid.* III. 375 While the mone is in sprynggyng.

d. With *up*: (see quot.).

1769 FALCONER *Dict. Marine* (1780), *Tete de vent*, the rising, or springing-up of a breeze.

† **3.** Origin, source. *Obs.*

1382 WYCLIF *Ecclus.* xlix. 19 Ouer alle lif in the springyng [L. *origine*] of Adam. *c* 1425 tr. *Arderne's Treat. Fistula*, etc. 60 Blode is norischyng of al membrez,..and al hab bigynnyng or spryngyng of blode.

4. The action of rising or flowing out of the ground.

c 1420 *Brut* ccxxiv. 292 In wynter þere arose suche a sprynggynge and wellinge op of wateres and floodes. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 471/1 Spryngynge, of a welle or oþer waxynge watyr. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* I. 46 There is a fountaine.., which, according to the springing and issuing forth out of this or that place, signifyeth the change in the price of corne. 1738 *De Foe's Tour Gt. Brit.* (ed. 2) III. 190 This Derwent is famous for its springing out of those Hills called Derwent Fells. 1817 SHELLEY *Rev. Islam* VI. xli, Knowledge, from its secret source enchants Young hearts with the fresh music of its springing.

5. The action of leaping or bounding.

c 1590 in Hazl. *E. P. P.* IV. 199 And after supper they did make good sporte With dauncing and springing. 1611 COTGR., *Grouillis*,..the springing of a child in the wombe. 1898 WATTS-DUNTON *Aylwin* XV. i, She recalled..my springing up and running to the mass of *débris* and looking round it.

b. Resilient or elastic movement or force.

1680 MOXON *Mech. Exerc.* x. 187 The springing up of the Pole makes an intermission in the running about of the work. 1831 J. HOLLAND *Manuf. Metal* I. 339 The springing of a saw is often regarded..as a certain proof of its quality. 1841 BROWNING *Pippa Passes* Poems (1905) 181 As I walk There's springing and melody and giddiness. 1889 *Science-Gossip* XXV. 272 There being no pressure there is no danger of 'springing' when the clips are removed.

6. The action of cracking or giving way.

c 1595 [see SPENDING *vbl. sb.* 4]. 1623 in Foster *Eng. Factories Ind.* (1908) II. 228 Some soddaine leake by the springing of a butt head. 1805 *Naval Chron.* XIII. 344 The springing of her mast.

7. a. *Arch.* = SPRING *sb.*[1] 20.

1703 [see SKEW *v.*[2] 5]. 1735 J. PRICE *Stone-Br. Thames* 7 Up to the springing of the Arches. 1776 G. SEMPLE *Building in Water* 16 The middle Arch is 26 Feet high from the springing. 1833 LOUDON *Encycl. Archit.* § 1105 Elliptical arches to be put across.., with neat wood impost mouldings at the springings. *a* 1878 SIR G. SCOTT *Lect. Archit.* (1879) I. 54 The first idea for obviating it was to lower the springing of the vault.

b. The point of growth from the trunk.

1825 J. NICHOLSON *Operat. Mechanic* 571 The wood is stronger in the middle of the trunk than at the springing of the branches. 1843 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* I. 35 Those parts of wood described as curls, are the result of the confused filling in of the space between the forks, or the springings of the branches.

8. (See quot.)

1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* II. 445 About a fortnight before the time of reckoning, symptoms of calving indicate themselves in the cow...These symptoms are called *springing* in England, and the heifers which exhibit them are *springers*.

II. † **9.** The action of sprinkling. *Obs.*

1388 WYCLIF 1 *Pet.* i. 2 Bi obedience, and springyng of the blood of Jhesu Crist. *c* 1400 *Trevisa's Higden* (Rolls) VII. App. 522 There came a ȝonglinge with a golden chalys ful of water, and aqueynt the stronge heete wit springinge of water.

10. a. The action of causing a mine to explode.

1665 MANLEY *Grotius' Low C. Wars* 287 At the springing of that Mine, Bodies of Men might have been seen hovering piece-meal in the Air. 1709 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4544/2 The Governor..is said to have been killed by the springing of the great Mine. 1785 BURKE *Sp. Nabob Arcot's Debts* Wks. 1842 I. 343 The assignees of his debt, who little expected the springing of this mine,..thought it best to take ground on the real state of the transaction. 1848 DICKENS *Dombey* lv, The springing of his mine upon himself. 1882 HAMLEY *Traseaden Hall* II. 166 An important step..was the springing some heavily charged mines.

b. The action of causing a rattle to sound.

1813 HOR. SMITH *Horace in London* 115 What a discord of bugles and bells, What whistling, and springing of rattles! 1845 *Ann. Reg.* 78/1 He heard the breaking of glass and the springing of the policeman's rattle.

11. The action of causing a bird to rise.

1711 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 108 ¶ 4 The springing of a Pheasant. 1883 *Cent. Mag.* Aug. 492 Often, the best of markers will be baffled in finding the birds..after the springing of the covey.

12. The action of bringing suddenly *on* one.

1888 SMALLEY *London Lett.* I. 227 The springing of the Home Rule Bill on the Liberal party by Mr. Gladstone.

III. 13. *attrib.* and *Comb.* † **a.** *Springing-time*, = SPRING-TIME 1. *Obs.*

1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) I. 65 Þe ȝates of Caspij beeþ ..in springyng tyme faste i-barred for serpentes and addres. 1398 — *Barth. De P. R.* XVII. ii. (Bodl. MS.), Treen þat nedeþ to be sette beþ moste in springinge tyme..for temporat heete and moisture. *c* 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* III. 374 This eyther craft for spryngyng tyme is born. 1523 LD. BERNERS *Froiss.* I. xx. 29 Whan the Spryngyng tyme began. *a* 1533 — *Gold. Bk. M. Aurel.* (1546) B, The fruites in the spryngyng tyme haue not the vertue to gyue sustenaunce.

b. In sense 7 a, as *springing course*, *-high* adj., *-line*, *plate*, *-point*, *stone*, *wall*.

1776 G. SEMPLE *Building in Water* 114 The..Piers..you may begin upon the Platform...But it would do best to begin them on the *springing Course. 1842 GWILT *Archit.* Gloss., *Springing Course*, the horizontal course of stones, from which an arch springs or rises. 1883 *Specif. Alnwick & Cornhill Rlwy.* 5 When stone imposts or springing courses are used, the stones are always to be equal to the full thickness of the arch. 1776 G. SEMPLE *Building in Water* 48 We compleatly finished the North Pier, *springing high. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.*, **Springing-line*,..the line from which an arch rises. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* II. 251 The boundary line or lines of the intrados..are called *springing lines* of an arch. 1853 *J. Nicholson's Operat. Mechanic* 80 The masonry of the North Abutment is fifteen feet thick at the *Springing Plate. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* I. 297/2 This may be said to be the *springing-point of the arches. *Ibid.*, The pier..is surmounted by a cap, or *springing stone. 1838 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* I. 151/1 The thickness of the *springing walls is two bricks, the arch one and a half brick.

c. Misc., as *springing-board, faculty, power, tool.*

1859 *Habits of Gd. Society* (new ed.) 82 To whom a mere word serves as the *springing-board from which to rise to new trains of thought. 1698 PETIVER in *Phil. Trans.* XX. 397 A peculiar species I..call Snap-Beetles, from their elastick or *springing Faculty. 1839 DARWIN *Voy. Nat.* ii. (1879) 31, I amused myself one day by observing the *springing powers of this insect. 1846 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* II. 536 The finishing or hanging tools,..called also *springing tools, which are made of various curves and degrees of strength, yield to these small accidental motions.

Spri·nging, *vbl. sb.*[2] [f. SPRING *sb.*[1] 22 or *v.*[2]] The process of providing with a spring or springs.

1899 *N. & Q.* 17 June 479/2 A practical work on the springing and adjusting of watches. 1906 *Westm. Gaz.* 14 Nov. 9/2 Additional smoothness in running has been secured by certain modifications in the springing.

Spri·nging, *ppl. a.* [f. SPRING *v.*[1]]

1. Of plants, etc.: Sprouting, growing. Also in fig. context.

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* A. 35 So semly a sede mo3t fayly not, þat spryngande spycez vp ne sponne. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* XII. Prol. 90 The spray bysprent with spryngand sproutis dispers. 1592 *Soliman & Pers.* v. iv, Ah, Perseda, how shall I mourne for thee? Faire springing Rose, ill pluckt before thy time. 1592 SHAKS. *Ven. & Ad.* 417 If springing things be anie iot diminisht, They wither in their prime. 1631 P. FLETCHER *Piscatory Eclog.* VII. xix, The starres [change] their courses, flowers their springing pride. 1694 PRIOR *Hymn to the Sun* ii, As His Infant Months bestow Springing Wreaths for William's Brow. 1707 *Curios. Husb.* 208 These springing Leaves require Nourishment. 1743 FRANCIS tr. *Hor., Odes* v. xvi. 62 Nor heats excessive burn the springing grain. 1829 LYTTON *Disowned* 27 A glimpse of the green sward, and springing flowers, of a small garden. 1891 *Science-Gossip* XXVII. 66 When the air grows soft on the springing corn we need no longer sigh over the hidden fate of Romulus.

b. *fig.* Coming into existence; beginning to develop; rising; just appearing or commencing.

1549 COVERDALE, etc. *Erasm. Par.* 1 *Tim.* 5, I persecuted the springing glory of the Gospel. 1605 BACON *Adv. Learn.* II. iii. § 2 Prophecies..are not fulfilled punctually at once, but haue springing and germinant accomplishment. 1639 S. DU VERGER tr. *Camus' Admir. Events* 92 This little child..had so many springing graces..that she promised ere long to be a Paragon of beauty. 1670 COTTON *Espernon* I. I. 12 Neither did he..cultivate his springing fortune with an assiduity and diligence unbecoming his Spirit, and Blood. 1725 POPE *Odyss.* IV. 796 These rites to piety and grief discharged, The friendly gods a springing gale enlarged. 1781 COWPER *Ep. Prot. Lady* 32 Sudden sorrow nips their springing joys. 1821 SHELLEY *Hellas* 56 Thermopylae and Marathon Caught..The springing Fire.

c. *fig.* Of youth, or of persons in respect of this.

1579 SPENSER *Sheph. Cal.* Feb. 52, I scorne thy skill, That wouldest me, my springing youngth to spil. 1592 G. HARVEY *Four Lett.* Wks. (Grosart) I. 219, I speake generally to euery springing wit. *a* 1604 HANMER *Chron. Irel.* (1633) 200 In his springing yeeres hee suckt the sweet milk of good learning. 1649 JER. TAYLOR *Gt. Exemp.* I. § 1 Her person was young, her yeers florid and springing. 1822 LAMB *Elia* I. *Decay Beggars*, The Blind Beggar..seated..with his more fresh and springing daughter by his side.

d. Characterized by growth.

1634 W. TIRWHYT tr. *Balzac's Lett.* 108 You may spend here with us, one of these warm and Springing Winters, laden with Roses.

2. Rising or flowing out of the ground. Also in fig. context.

c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xxvii. (*Machor*) 528 Quhare a fare sted was, enhournyt with treis sere, & spryngand wellis. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 356/2 Spryngynge, *scaturiens*. *c* 1490 R. KEMERSTON in *Itin. W. de Worcester* (1778) 355 The water of Dee begynneth at a springynge welle in a hille side. 1535 COVERDALE *Lev.* xiv. 5 He shall take the lyuynge byrde with the Ceder wodd,..and dyppe them in the bloude of the slaine byrde vpon the springynge water. 1560 ROLLAND *Seven Sages* 97 Thow springand well of vice. 1635 SWAN *Spec. M.* vi. § 2 (1643) 196 The differing qualitie of springing waters. 1704 TRAPP *Abra-Mulé* I. i, The springing Fountains of my Eyes. 1856 STANLEY *Sinai & Pal.* VIII. (1858) 330 Pella, so called by the Macedonian Greeks from the springing fountain.

3. Coming into view; dawning.

1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* II. iii. 1 And Titan..Gan cleare the deawy ayre with springing light. 1648 CRASHAW *Poems* (1904) 144 Taint not the pure streames of the springing Day. 1665 BOYLE *Occas. Refl.* IV. ii. (1848) 174 Among all Birds.., scarce any give so early and so sweet a welcome to the Springing day.

4. Resilient, elastic.

1667 *Phil. Trans.* II. 440 A springing wire C, with a bended end F. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Sounding*, At a little Distance is a piece of Lead or Stone fix'd, by means of a springing Wire. 1743 FRANCIS tr. *Hor., Odes* v. ii. 35 He sets the springing snare, To catch the stranger crane, or timorous hare. 1894 J. BURROUGHS *Locusts & Wild H.* 128 A luxurious couch of boughs upon springing poles was prepared.

5. That springs, leaps, or bounds.

c 1760 SMOLLETT *Ode Leven-Water* 13 The springing trout in speckled pride. 1803 SHAW *Gen. Zool.* IV. II. 623 Springing Gurnard, *Trigla Evolans*. 1836-9 *Todd's Cycl. Anat.* II. 861/2 *Elateridæ*, or springing-beetles, which are commonly known in their state of larvæ, as the *wire-worm*.

6. Of movement, etc.: Characterized by leaping or resilience.

1674 SIR W. PETTY (*title*), Discourse..concerning the use of duplicate proportion..with a new hypothesis of springing or elastique motions. 1810 SCOTT *Lady of L.* III. xiii, With short and springing footstep pass The trembling bog and false morass. 1893 SELOUS *Trav. S. E. Africa* 439 The bull ..went off at once into a springing gallop. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VII. 901 A centre concerned with the co-ordination of springing movements in the legs.

7. Of cows or heifers: Near to calving.

1693 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 2898/4 The red was a Springing Cow, with a small star in the Forehead. 1856 MORTON *Cycl. Agric.* II. 726/1 *Springing* (Warwicks.), applied to heifers in calf; beginning to show signs of milk.

8. *Law.* = CONTINGENT *a.* 9.

1766 BLACKSTONE *Comm.* II. 334 Herein these, which are called contingent or springing, uses differ from an executory devise. 1818 CRUISE *Digest* (ed. 2) V. 274 A springing or shifting use cannot be defeated or destroyed by a fine levied of the estate out of which such springing or shifting use is to arise. *Ibid.* VI. 504 If this springing trust, to arise on the contingency of a marriage, was good, why should not the springing trust in the present case be equally good. 1845 WILLIAMS *Real Prop.* (1877) 290 Executory interests created under the Statute of Uses are called springing or shifting uses.

9. Rising in, or forming, a curve.

1799 [A. YOUNG] *Agric. Linc.* 358 The hind quarters so corresponding, with a springing rib, as to form an oval. 1825 J. NICHOLSON *Operat. Mechanic* 579 It is required to find the curvature of the springing ribs. 1872 SMIPLEY *Gloss. Eccl. Terms* 263 That stone in an arch which is equally distant from its springing extremities.

10. Causing game-birds to rise.

1842 PRICHARD *Nat. Hist. Man* 72 Well-bred and well-taught springing spaniels were abundant.

Hence **Spri·ngingly** *adv.*

1837 VERLANDER *Vestal*, etc. 76 The barb steps not so springingly upon his native plain. 1891 MEREDITH *One of our Cong.* I. xiii. 251 The thought was tonic for an instant and illuminated him springingly.

† **Spri·ngish,** *a. Obs.*[−1] [f. SPRING *sb.*[1] 2 + -ISH.] Of ground: Somewhat wet through springs.

1663 GERBIER *Counsel* 55 Inconveniency of putting Chalk in walls of Houses on Springish ground.

Springle (spri·ŋg'l), *sb.*[1] Also 7 **springal.** [? f. SPRING *sb.*[3]] A springe or snare. Also *fig.*

1602 CAREW *Cornwall* 24 They [woodcocks] arriue first on the North coast, where almost euerie hedge serueth for a Roade, and euerie plashoote for Springles to take them. 1654 VILVAIN *Theorem. Theol.* Supp. 230 Men may catch.. Woodcocks in Springals. *c* 1720 DE FOE *An Apparition* (1841) 259 In the springle their courtship had laid for me. 1869 BLACKMORE *Lorna D.* ix, The..netting of the woodcocks, and the springles to be minded in the garden. 1880 CARNEGIE *Pract. Trap.* vii, The Springe or Springle—Its application in a variety of ways.

attrib. 1875 BLACKMORE *Alice Lorraine* I. xviii. 197 The rod bowed like a springle-bow.

Spri·ngle, *sb.*[2] [? f. SPRING *sb.*[1] 9.] A thatching rod.

1829 LOUDON *Encycl. Plants* 793 The plant [hazel] is of some value for hoops,..wattling-fences, and springles to fasten down thatch. 1841 HARTSHORNE *Salop. Ant.* Gloss., *Springle*, a rod four feet long, generally of hazle or the mountain ash, used in thatching. 1876– in dial. use (Hereford, Essex, Shropsh., Herts.).

Springle (spri·ŋg'l), *v.*[1] Now *rare* or *arch.* [f. SPRING *v.*[1] 13, or var. SPRINKLE *v.*[1] *Bespringle* occurs earlier.] *trans.* To sprinkle. Also *absol.*

1502 ARNOLDE *Chron.* (1811) 168 Than thou most moyst them twyes or thries in the day, not yeting but dewyng or springling. 1561 DAUS tr. *Bullinger on Apoc.* (1573) 100 The postes or dore cheekes of the Israelites were springled with the bloud of the lambe. 1648 HEXHAM II, *Versprengen*, to Strowe, or to Springle here and there. *Ibid.*, *Een versprey-inge*, ..a Scattering, a Springling, or a Sheading abroad. 1799 J. ROBERTSON *Agric. Perth* 172 When the young shoots appear, another springling of earth is given from the trenches. 1910 G. K. CHESTERTON *Alarms & Discursions* 57 Some overflowings from such a fountain of information may therefore be permitted to springle these pages.

† **Spri·ngle,** *v.*[2] *Obs.*[−1] In 5 **sprynggol-**. [var. of SPRINKLE *v.*[2]] *intr.* To sparkle.

c 1400 *Seven Deadly Sins* (MS. Laud 416 fol. 39 b), [They] sette this whele vppon her hede; As eny hote yron yt was sprynggolyng rede.

Springless (spri·ŋlĕs), *a.* [f. SPRING *sb.*[1]]

1. Having no motive power. *rare*[−1].

1684 T. BURNET *Theory Earth* I. 213 Those were springless machines, that act only by some external cause.

b. Of persons: Spiritless; inert.

1885 STEVENSON *Prince Otto* I. i, A springless, putty-hearted, cowering coward!

2. Deprived of the power of springing.

1823 *Blackw. Mag.* XIV. 314 They remind me of a mutch-

kin of wasps in a bottle,..helpless, hopeless, stingless, wingless, springless.

3. Of vehicles, etc.: Lacking springs; having no spring.

1837 *Fraser's Mag.* XV. 639 A long, narrow, and springless caravan. 1860 *All Year Round* No. 73. 550 The heavy vehicle..which..clatters by, as springless as an artillery tumbril. 1880 JEFFERIES *Greene Ferne Farm* 88 A sudden jolt of the springless waggon.

4. Devoid of a spring of water.

1876 RUSKIN *Fors Clav.* lxxii. 380 As the seed by the drought,..so the soul..athirst in the springless sand.

5. Having no spring season. In quot. *fig.*

1909 *Spectator* 5 June 396/2 Springless though my prospect lies, I see God's sunshine when your eyes Smile welcome.

Springlet (sprĭ·nlĕt). [f. SPRING *sb.*[1] + -LET.]

†**1.** A young sprout or shoot. In quot. *fig.* of children. *Obs.*—[1]

a 1750 A. HILL *Wks.* (1753) II. 355 How does the budding springlets of his lovely family?

2. A small spring or fountain.

1808 SCOTT *Marmion* VI. xxxvii, From out the little hill Oozes the slender springlet still. 1844 *Blackw. Mag.* LVI. 212 They shall drive nice and slowly round about the springlet. 1879 J. BURROUGHS *Locusts & Wild H.* 121 Every little rill and springlet.

fig. 1830 J. WRIGHT *Retrospect* I. 48 The soul's dried springlets that now bound along. 1865 A. W. BUCHAN *Song of Rest* v. 142 Its paltry springlets intervene To lure our vision from the heavenly scene.

Spring-like, *adv.* and *a.* [f. SPRING *sb.*[1]]

A. *adv.* As in, like to, the season of spring.

1567 GOLDING *Ovid's Met.* VII. (1593) 160 The ground did spring-like florish there. 1905 *Westm. Gaz.* 2 Feb. 10/1 A new impulse of literary vitality seems to have swept spring-like over the American Continent.

B. *adj.* Resembling that of the spring season; like that prevalent during spring; vernal.

1729 SAVAGE *Wanderer* v, There the last blossoms spring-like pride unfold. 1848 *Hoffmeister's Trav. Ceylon*, etc. v. 195 The climate here is most agreeably temperate and spring-like. 1869 *Routledge's Ev. Boy's Ann.* 391 The weather was cool and springlike. 1885 'MRS. ALEXANDER' *At Bay* iii, Miss Lambert..looked lovely in soft, clear white Indian muslin, over spring-like green.

Spri·ngling, *rare.* [-LING [1].] (See quots.)

1647 HEXHAM I, A Springling or a stripling, *een jongh ghesellecken.* 1881 *Standard* 10 Sept. 2/1 A suite of ponds contains year-old salmon, talked of at the fishery as 'springlings'.

Spring-lock. [f. SPRING *sb.*[1] 25 a.]

1. A common form of lock in which a spring presses the bolt outwards, thus rendering it self-locking except when secured by a catch.

1485 *Rec. St. Mary at Hill* (1905) 29 Also ther be xxx spryng lockes & keyes. 1602 MIDDLETON *Blurt, Master-Constable* II. ii, All the hinges, the spring-locks, and the ring, are worn to pieces. 1677 MOXON *Mech. Exerc.* 21 Chamber-door Locks, called Spring-Locks. 1722 DE FOE *Plague* (1884) 117 The Gate..having a Spring Lock fastened it self. 1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* xli, He had fled to this place of concealment, forgetting the key of the spring-lock. 1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib., Brit.* II. No. 6197, Spring lock for front doors.

2. A lock which opens on pressing a spring.

1820 KEATS *Cap & Bells* lvii, He..Touch'd a spring-lock, and there in wool, or snow,..lay an old And legend-leaved book.

Spring-locked, *a.* [f. SPRING *sb.*[1]] Having the spring or source stopped.

1621 G. SANDYS *Ovid's Met.* xv. (1626) 311 Cool Amasenus, watering Sicily, Now flowes; now spring-lockt, leaues his channell dry.

Springol(d, -olt, obs. forms of SPRINGAL(D.

Spring-tail. *Zool.* Also **springtail, spring tail.** [f. SPRING *sb.*[1] or *v.*[1]] One or other of various species of insects which leap or spring by means of their tail.

1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XV. 169/1 *Podura*, or springtail,..a genus of insects of the order of aptera. 1854 *Orr's Circ. Sci., Org. Nat.* I. 96 The velvet spring-tail..leaps by jerking its tail downwards from under its body. 1879 E. P. WRIGHT *Anim. Life* 491 The springtails had, however, attracted the attention of naturalists long before that date.

Spring tide, spring-tide. [SPRING *sb.*[1]]

1. The season of spring; spring-time.

1530 PALSGR. 306/1 Belongyng to the springe tyde, *vernal.* 1576 FLEMING *Panopl. Epist.* 352 What man is able to affirme, that he euer sawe the Spring tide without Marche Violettes? 1601 R. JOHNSON *Kingd. & Commw.* (1603) 13 It hapneth very often that the northren or western winde.. bringeth springtide before the winter season be fully expired. 1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* III. 85 There is no land more temperate for ayre, for it hath a double spring-tyde. 1795 *Gent. Mag.* July 539 The animalculæ that in spring-tide often almost obscure the sun itself. 1864 SKEAT tr. *Uhland's Poems* 251 Spring-tide reigns o'er stream and field. 1870 LOWELL *Study Wind.* 228 A breath of uncontaminate springtide seems to lift the hair upon my forehead.

b. *fig.* and *transf.*

1596 SPENSER *Astrophel* Epit. ii. 10 His life was my spring tide. 1602 FULBECKE *Pandects* Ded. p. i, Which in one and this very springtide haue in my selfe knowne the force of seasons. 1640 T. CAREW *Poems, To my Cousin* 2 Happy youth, that shalt possesse Such a spring-tyde of delight. 1879 GEO. ELIOT *Theo. Such* xiv. 249 He is no longer in his springtide. 1879 M. COLLINS *Pen Sketches* I. 213 The spring-tide of her youth.

2. A tide occurring on the days shortly after the new and full moon, in which the high-water level reaches its maximum.

Cf. Du. and WFris. *springtij*, NFris. *-tidj*, G. *-(ge)zeit.* In quots. 1689 and 1724 the reference is to the corresponding lowness of the ebb.

a 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VIII*, 209 b, At whiche season was suche a spryng tide, that it brake the walles of Hollande and Zelande. 1573 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 69 At full and at change, spring tides are strange. 1634–5 BREERETON *Trav.* (Chetham Soc.) 97 Here is an haven..whereinto at a spring-tide a ship of 100 ton may enter. 1689 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 2478/1 Whither he would march the next Spring-Tide, the Strand ..not being fordable for Foot till that time. 1724 in Picton *L'pool Munic. Rec.* (1886) II. 52 Which stones..are adry only on spring tydes. 1776 DALRYMPLE *Ann. Scotl.* I. 138 A sudden land-flood, met by a spring-tide, surrounded and overwhelmed the town. 1839 STONEHOUSE *Isle of Axholme* 49 The spring tides run at the rate of nine miles an hour. 1879 FROUDE *Cæsar* xvi, 265 When the full moon brought the spring tide.

b. *fig.* and in fig. context.

c 1620 Z. BOYD *Zion's Flowers* (1855) 42 In a Spring tide Sin doth overflowe. 1679 J. GOODMAN *Penit. Pard.* II. iv. (1713) 222 They [new converts] find they cannot maintain those spring-tides constantly at the same height. 1778 JOHNSON *Lett.* (1892) II. 72 You appear to me to be now floating on the springtide of prosperity; on a tide not governed by the moon. 1809 SCOTT *Let. in Lockhart* (1837) II. vii. 253 The spring-tide may for ought I know, break in this next session of Parliament. 1853 R. S. SURTEES *Sponge's Sp. Tour* xxxi. 188 He once did us the honour..of walking down Bond-street with us, in the spring-tide of fashion. 1890 *Spectator* 29 Mar., It should convince them that there is no spring tide flowing strongly towards Home-rule.

3. *transf.* A copious flow or large quantity *of* something.

1593 NASHE *Christ's T.* Wks. (Grosart) IV. 79 Heere ebbe the spring-tide of my Teares. 1645 QUARLES *Sol. Recant.* VI. 71 If spring tides of Gold should a degree Transcend thy wish, perchance it would want thee. 1660 SECKER *Nonsuch Prof.* Pref. 7 In the highest flood and spring-tides of outward mercies, its hard to keep our hearts within the channell. *a* 1704 T. BROWN *Dial. Dead* Wks. 1711 IV. 27 What of late Years brings daily such Gluts and Spring-Tides of Souls to our Infernal Mansions. 1753 H. WALPOLE *Lett.* (1846) II. 472 This has been quite a spring-tide of diversion. 1808 SCOTT *Marm.* I. Introd. 217 Woe, wonder, and sensation high, In one spring-tide of ecstasy! 1887 KNOX LITTLE *Broken Vow* 163 To check the springtide of my girlish joy.

4. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *spring-tide flood, joy*, etc.

1662 H. HIBBERT *Body Divinity* II. 32 An ebullition or a spring-tide-like overflow. 1748 THOMSON *Cast. Indol.* I. lxiii, When spring-tide joy pours in with copious flood, The higher still th' exulting billows flow. 1785 BURNS *Ep. W. Simpson* xi, At Wallace' name, what Scottish blood, But boils up in a spring-tide flood. 1808 SCOTT *Marm.* III. viii, No thrush Sings livelier from a spring-tide bush. 1819 KEATS *Eve of St. Mark* 10 The chilly sunset faintly told..Of rivers new with spring-tide sedge. 1866 S. B. JAMES *Duty & Doctrine* (1871) 62 That Heavenly spring-tide radiance which can never fade away.

Spring-time. Also **springtime, spring time.** [SPRING *sb.*[1] 6 b.]

1. The season of spring; = SPRING-TIDE 1.

1495 *Trevisa's Barth. De P. R.* (W. de W.) III. xxiv. 73 In the sprynge tyme the calde is temperat and in herueste also. 1538 ELYOT, *Vernus*, freshe, as the spring time. 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 137 b, In the begynning of the spryng tyme. 1600 PORY tr. *Leo's Africa* III. 121 This towne is so durtie in the spring-time, that it would irke a man to walke the streetes. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* I. 769 As Bees In spring time .. Poure forth thir populous youth about the Hive In clusters. 1710 ADDISON *Tatler* No. 218 ¶ 9, I look upon the whole Country in Spring-time as a spacious Garden. 1768 HOLDSWORTH *Virgil* 121 It is the custom..to hough the land in the spring-time. 1855 *Poultry Chron.* III. 422 This [illness in bees] appears most frequently in the spring time. 1864 BOWEN *Logic* ix. 300 How the green herb in the spring-time absorbs inorganic matter and assimilates it to itself.

2. a. The earlier period of a person's life; youth.

1593 SHAKS. *3 Hen. VI*, II. iii. 47, I..now melt with woe, That Winter should cut off our Spring-time so.

1853 TALFOURD *Castilian* I. i, In this season, which renews their spring-time. 1866 S. B. JAMES *Duty & Doctrine* (1871) 65 So ill-advised as to grudge spring-time its rounded cheek and supple limb. 1877 BLACK *Green Past.* ii, She might have been taken for the very type of English girlhood in its sweetest springtime.

b. A time or period comparable in some way to spring. Usu. const. *of.*

a 1764 LLOYD *Song* Poet. Wks. 1774 II. 36 The spring-time of love then employ. 1784 COWPER *Task* II. 512 In vain they push'd inquiry to the birth And spring-time of the world. 1862 STANLEY *Jew. Ch.* (1877) I. vi. 118 With all its faults and shortcomings it was the spring-time of their national existence. 1897 JESSOPP *Donne* ii. 44 Notes..addressed to the great lady in the..happy springtime of her married life.

3. *attrib.*, as *spring-time call, day*, etc.

1563 B. GOOGE *Eglogs* i. (Arb.) 35 My yeares be great, I wyl be gone, for spryngtyme nyghts be colde. 1842 LOVER *Handy Andy* xliv, The old lady..was hailed with a chorus of 'Cuckoo!' by the multitude, one half of which ran after the coach..shouting forth the spring-time call. 1838 MRS. BROWNING *To Miss Mitford* 6 Overleaning them this springtime day. 1886 WINCHELL *Walks Geol. Field* 280 It was during the spring-time empire of water that the Great Lakes stood at their highest levels.

†**Spring-tree.** *Obs.* [f. SPRING *v.*[1]] A bar or cross-piece to which the ends of a horse's traces are attached; a swingle-tree. Also *attrib.*

1623 *Althorp MS.* in Simpkinson *Washingtons* (1860) p. xlii, To Butlin 6 daies paling, and making springtrees for the coach. 1648 WILKINS *Math. Magick* I. iv. 26 At each of its extremities there is a severall spring-tree..to which either horses or oxen may be fastned. *a* 1723 WREN *Disc. Archit.* in Phillimore *Times*, etc. (1881) 346 At the end of this Rope is a Spring-tree (as our Coachmen use for ye two fore Horses). 1766 *Compl. Farmer* s.v. *Madder* 5 I 1/2 The part where the links of the spring-tree bar are fastened. *Ibid.* s.v. *Potatoe* 6 E 3/2, I put a double spring-tree bar to the cultivator, to avoid the poaching of the horses.

Spring-water. Also **spring water.** [SPRING *sb.*[1] 2. Cf. MDu. *springwater*, LG. *springwater*, G. *springwasser.*] Water issuing or obtained from a spring or fountain.

c 1440 *Jacob's Well* 238 Deluyth doun depe in lownesse, tyl 3e fynde a springe watyr of grace. 1587 HARRISON *Descr. Eng.* II. vi, Bruers obserue..the nature of the water: ..the fennie and morish is the worst, and the cleerest spring water next vnto it. 1634–5 BREERETON *Trav.* (Chetham Soc.) 82 Fair spring-water..is an excellent medicine. 1682 K. DIGBY *Chymical Secr.* II. 201 Pour upon them Spring-water. 1758 BORLASE *Nat. Hist. Cornw.* 23 Simple Spring-Water may be considered either as superficial or subterraneous. 1771 *Phil. Trans.* LXI. 510 The weight of spring-water contained in the cube of half that foot..is thus determined. 1849 NOAD *Electricity* (ed. 3) 370 Place on the top of the other binding screw a drop of spring-water. 1886 WINCHELL *Walks Geol. Field* 34 The supplies of spring-water are sometimes sufficient to meet the demands of towns and cities.

attrib. 1833 LOUDON *Encycl. Archit.* § 150 At a short distance from the house, is shown the situation of the spring-water well.

Spring-well. [f. SPRING *sb.*[1] 2 + WELL *sb.*] A spring or well of water; a spring-head or fountain. Also *fig.*

a 1300 in Birch *Cartul. Sax.* II. 473 So bi strete on holedene; endlang denes to springwellen. *c* 1450 *Myrr. Our Ladye* 280 All helthe cometh from god, that ys the sprynge welle of all goodnesse. 1535 COVERDALE *Isaiah* xlix. 10 He..shal lede them, and geue them drinke of the springe welles. 1544 BETHAM *Precepts War* I. ii. B iij, When these two vyces be the spryngwel and heed of al myschefe. 1601 *Reg. Mag. Sig. Scot.* 391/2 The spring-well quhilk is the heid of the burne Tayok. *c* 1845 *Fullarton's Gazetteer Scot.* s.v. *Dornock*, A spring-well on the spot..is still called Sword-well. 1893 O'DONOGHUE *Brendaniana* 171, I discovered these two caves and this spring-well.

Spring-wood. [f. SPRING *sb.*[1] 10 and 6 b.]

1. a. *collect.* Wood growing in a spring or copse of young saplings.

1523 FITZHERB. *Husb.* § 135 To kepe sprynge-wodde. 1893 HEATH *Eng. Peas.* 92 He was employed in cutting down small, or 'spring-wood'..used for the purpose of making supports to the cuttings in the lead mines.

b. A copse or wood of springs or young trees.

1623 in *Fabric Rolls York Minster* (Surtees Soc.) Gloss., One springwood called Hagsett, lately bought of Robert Greaves. *a* 1722 LISLE *Husb.* (1757) 362 For a general rule, newly weaned calves are less hurtful to newly cut spring-woods than any other cattle. 1815 FAREV *Agric. Derbysh.* II. 219 Spring-woods, as those are here called, which bear underwood as well as timber, and are cut at stated periods. 1828 CARR *Craven Gloss., Spring-woods*, young woods fenced off for cattle, and allowed to spring. 1881 *Leicester Gloss.* 252 *Spring-wood*, a wood of young trees.

2. A ring or layer of wood formed round a tree each spring.

1884 BOWER & SCOTT *De Bary's Phaner.* 475 It is..called an annual zone, annual layer, or annual ring, and its limiting layers just mentioned are called spring-wood and autumn-wood. 1885 GOODALE *Physiol. Bot.* (1892) 139 That [wood] which is produced earliest (spring wood) has somewhat larger ducts and wood-cells than that which is formed later (autumn wood).

Spri·ngwort. [ad. G. *springwurz, -wurzel*, f. *springen* SPRING *v.*[1]] A mysterious herb having magic powers.

1889 T. F. THISTLETON-DYER *Folk-lore Plants* 50 There is the magic springwort, around which have clustered so many curious lightning myths and talismanic properties. *Ibid.* 304 The magic springwort..has a mysterious connection with the woodpecker.

Springy (sprĭ·ngi), *a.* [f. SPRING *sb.*[1] and *v.*[1]]

†**1.** Growing in the season of spring. *Obs.*—[1]

1593 Q. ELIZ. *Boeth.* I. metr. vi. 16 Nor seake not thou with gredy hand The springy Palmes [L. *vernos palmites*] to weld. [Cf. SPRINGINESS 2 b.]

2. a. Characterized by the presence of springs of water.

1641 BEST *Farm Bks.* (Surtees) 4 Lowe, moist, and springy groundes are the best to increase milke in an ewe. 1733 W. ELLIS *Chiltern & Vale Farm.* 262 It will greatly improve springy, or over-wet Grounds, if we first drain them. 1799 [A. YOUNG] *Agric. Lincoln.* 245 Many similar springy sides of hills are to be met with all the way to Ranby. 1853 *Trnl. R. Agric. Soc.* XIV. I. 36 Occasional parts of the field were found springy and full of water. 1865 MRS. WHITNEY *Gayworthys* xxvi. (1879) 250 A huge, dry slippery log that lay over a springy spot.

b. Coming from springs. *rare*—[1].

1653 BLITHE *Eng. Improver Impr.* 19 That thou maist goe under that..springie moysture that breeds and feeds the Rush.

3. Endowed with spring or elasticity.

1660 BOYLE *New Exp. Phys. Mech.* i. 27 Though the Air were granted to consist of Springy Particles. 1685 — *Effects Motion* ii. 14 Which depends chiefly upon the Celerity of the springy Corpuscles of the Air. 1709 FLOYER *Cold Bathing* I. iv. 93 The Animal Spirits being compressed, are more lively, springy, and fitter for Motion. 1734 *Phil. Trans.* XXXVIII. 414 Her Hair was long and springy as that of a living Person. 1786 *Med. Comment.* II. 105 The tumor..was a little springy. 1817 KEATS *Sleep & Poetry* 95 A laughing schoolboy..Riding the springy branches of an elm. 1889 FR. A. KEMBLE *Resid. in Georgia* (1863) 36 Moss..as light as horse-hair, as springy, and elastic. 1887 RIDER HAGGARD *Allan Quatermain* 67 A light but exceedingly tough native wood, something like English ash, only more springy.

b. Of the muscles or body, or of persons, etc., with reference to these.

1776 MICKLE tr. *Camoens' Lusiad* 454 Their springy shoulders stretching to the blow. 1822 SCOTT *Peveril* ii, He satisfied himself..that though her little frame was slight, it was firm and springy. 1837 *Fraser's Mag.* XVI. 367 The prompt equerry had led the springy coursers to the gate. 1871 L. STEPHEN *Playgr. Eur.* (1894) xiii. 324 His muscles feel firm and springy.

c. Elastic to the tread.

1797 COLERIDGE *This lime-tree bower my prison* 7 Friends, whom I never more may meet again On springy heath. 1875 W. S. HAYWARD *Love agst. World* 13 Away they thundered over the springy turf. 1886 *Cornh. Mag.* July 58 The stage is..very 'springy'; a condition designed to help acrobatic performances.

4. Marked or characterized by spring, elasticity, or resilience: **a.** In general use.

1669 W. SIMPSON *Hydrol. Chym.* 93 The springy motion of the animal spirits. 1672-3 GREW *Anat. Pl., Roots* II. (1682) 82 The Aer being of an Elastick or Springy Nature. 1710 T. FULLER *Pharm. Extemp.* 249 It..roborates the Springey Tone of the Lungs. 1741 A. MONRO *Anat. Bones* (ed. 3) 171 In raising the Trunk, these Cartilages will assist by their springy Force. 1837 JAMES *Phil. Augustus* I. ii, There was a springy vigour in the atmosphere, as if the wind itself were young. 1888 RUTLEY *Rock-Forming Min.* 193 Then drive a needle, by a sharp, springy tap.., into the mica. 1893 *Brit. Jrnl. Photogr.* XL. 745 Resisting with all its springy power.

b. *esp.* Of the bearing or movements of persons or animals.

1818 *Sporting Mag.* II. 166 His attitude was springy, and ready for quick action. 1820 SCOTT *Monast.* xxxii, The springy step..reminded Henry Warden of Halbert. 1889 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Robbery under Arms* xx, Rainbow [a horse] sailed off with his beautiful easy springy stride.

† **Sprink,** *sb. Obs. rare.* [Cf. SPRINK *v.*, and G. (rare) *sprenke* freckle, NFris. *sprënk* a sprinkle.]

1. A sprinkler or holy water brush.

1566 in Peacock *Eng. Ch. Furniture* (1866) 75 A water tankard for our holy water with sprinck.

2. A sprinkle.

1568 T. HOWELL *Arb. Amitie* A viij b, The Talbot true.. Lost neuer noblenesse, By sprinck of spot distayned.

† **Sprink,** *a. Obs.*[-1] Smart, spruce.

1602 BRETON *Wonders Worth Hearing* Wks. (Grosart) II. 9/1 His apparell most Silke and Ueluet, his cloake and his hat well brushed, his ruffes well set,..a sprinke youth.

Sprink, *v. Obs.* exc. *dial.* [Cf. SPRINKLE *v.*[1], and the synonymous G. (rare) *sprenken*, NFris. *sprënk(e.)* *trans.* To sprinkle.

c 1400 in *Househ. Ord.* (1790) 469 With a feder sprinke and spot the congour. *c* 1440 *Psalmi Penit.* (1894) 28 With holi water thu schalt me sprinke. 1589 FLEMING *Virg. Georg.* III. 40 The adder woonted..to sprincke hir strong poison vpon cattell. 1596 WARNER *Alb. Eng.* XI. lxiv. (1602) 276 With yearely hallowed Mosca, which the Primate hauing blest, He thinks..him in Heauen already whom the primat sprinks with it. 1632 HEYWOOD *Iron Age* II. III. i, Fatall Pyrhus..That in the shadow of this sacred place Durst sprinke the childs blood in the fathers face. 1866-89 in Lincoln dial. glossaries.

Hence † **Spri·nker,** a sprinkler. *Obs.*—[0]

1648 HEXHAM II, *Een Quispel*, a Sprincker, or a thing to cast water upon [*sic*].

Sprinkle (spri·ŋk'l), *sb.*[1] Forms: 4 **sprynkil,** 6 **-kill, sprinkil**(1; 5–6 **sprenkylle** (5 **sprenkle**), 6 **spryn-,** 6–7 **sprinkell**(e; 5 **spryncle,** 6–7 **sprinc**(**k**)**le,** 6– **sprinkle.** [Related to SPRINKLE *v.*[1] Cf. MDu., MLG., obs. G. and Da. *sprinkel*, MDu. and Du., G. *sprenkel*, speckle, spot, freckle.]

† **1.** A sprinkler, *esp.* one for sprinkling holy water. *Obs.*

Also freq. in *holy-water sprinkle*, for other senses of which see HOLY WATER 2.

1382 WYCLIF *Exod.* xii. 22 The litil sprynkil of ysop wetith in bloode. *c* 1475 *Pict. Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 756 *Hoc aspersorium*, a sprenkylle. 1483 CAXTON *Gold. Leg.* 34/1 Four crosses..besprent with Holy Water styck or spryncle. 1519 HORMAN *Vulg.* 16 b, Geue me holy water with the sprinkell. 1582 N. LICHEFIELD tr. *Castanheda's Conq. E. Ind.* I. xvi. 42 b, These men..in their Pagodes, who with a sprinkle tooke water out of a certaine fountaine. 1606 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. iv. 1. *Tropheis* 683 This black Sprinkle, tuft with Virgin's tress, Dipt, at your Altar, in my Kinsman's bloud. 1619 FLETCHER *Mons. Thomas* v. vi, Give me my holy sprinkle...Give me my holy water-pot. 1647 HEXHAM I, A Sprinkle, *een quispel.*

† **2.** A spot or speckle. *Obs. rare.*

1481 CAXTON *Reynard* xxxii. (Arb.) 82 The thirde colour was grene lyke glas, But ther were somme sprynklis therin lyke purpure. 1577 FRAMPTON *Joyful News* I. (1596) 18 The blood stone is a kinde of lasper of diuers colours..full of sprincles like to blood.

3. An (or the) act of sprinkling; a quantity which is sprinkled.

1641 MILTON *Ch. Govt.* II. ii, Baptizing the Christian infant with a solemne sprinkle. 1665 LOCKE in Fox Bourne *Life* (1876) I. iii. 114, I had a good sprinkle of holy water. 1818 *Art Bookbinding* 53 They throw on a finer sprinkle, and save much colour. 1854 GREENWOOD *Haps & Mishaps* 122 Where, ..for baptismal and holy waters, [were] the sprinkle and gush of their blood. 1888 STEVENSON *Black Arrow* 172 A thin sprinkle of snow and thin flakes of foam came flying.

fig. 1862 CARLYLE *Fredk. Gt.* XIV. iv. (1872) V. 188 Is it in a sprinkle of disconnected factions that you will wait Prince Karl?

b. A small number or quantity; a sprinkling.

1768 *Ann. Reg., Projects* 109/1 We had but a small sprinkle of the common turnip cabbage among the whole. 1825 E. HEWLETT *Cottage Comforts* vi. 43 The only tree.. that had a good sprinkle of fruit. 1844 MAITLAND *Dark Ages* 126 A thicker and more extensive sprinkle of better-instructed persons. 1890 *Daily News* 2 Sept. 2/7 There has been a good sprinkle of the new growth on the market to-day.

4. *techn.* A colour effect produced by sprinkling; a mixture for producing this.

1835 HANNETT *Bibliopegia* 101 On the fancy colours and sprinkles it is usual to attach lettering pieces of morocco. 1885 W. J. E. CRANE *Bookbinding* iii. 27 Bole Armenian, for making sprinkle for edges.

Spri·nkle, *sb.*[2] [Imitative.] A light, tinkling sound.

1846 LANDOR *Imag. Conv., Tasso & Cornelia* Wks. II. 183/1 At Sorrento you hear nothing but the light surges of the sea, and the sweet sprinkles of the guitar.

Sprinkle (spri·ŋk'l), *v.*[1] Forms: *α.* 5–6 **sprencle, -kle, sprenkyll**(e, 5 **-kel.** *β.* 5–6 **sprynkil**(l, 6 **sprinkil**(l, **-kel**; 5–6 **spryncle,** 6 **-kle, sprincle,** 6–7 **sprinckle,** 6– **sprinkle.** [Related to Du. *sprenkelen* (Kilian *sprenckelen*), G. *sprenkeln*, NFris. *sprënkeli*, and to WFris. *sprinkelje*, LG. *sprinkeln* (MLG. in pa. pple. *sprinkelt*).]

1. *trans.* To scatter in drops; to let fall in small particles here and there; to strew thinly or lightly.

α. c 1400 MAUNDEV. (Roxb.) xviii. 85 Þai..takes þaire blude and sprenklez it apon þaire mawmets. *c* 1425 tr. *Arderne's Treat. Fistula*, etc. 74 After þe fomentyng be sprenkled aboue puluis of bole, of sanguis draconis,..and sich like. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 470/2 Sprenkelyn, or strenkelyn, *aspergo, conspergo.* 1509 FISHER 7 *Penit. Ps.* li. Wks. (1876) 110 He was made clene..with ysope dypped in the blode of certayne beestes and sprencled vpon hym. 1535 COVERDALE *Exod.* ix. 8 Let Moses sprenkle it [*sc.* ashes] towarde heauen before Pharao.

β. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 179 b, Some of her systers counseyled her to haue holy water euer redy at hande, & to spryncle it vpon hym whan he cometh. 1551 MORE *Utopia* II. v. (1895) 166 They burne swete gummes and speces for perfumes, and pleasaunt smelles, and sprincle about swete oyntmentes and waters. *c* 1613 MIDDLETON *No Wit like Woman's* IV. ii, If I sprinkled on the widow's cheeks A few cool drops. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* I. 118 Sprinkle sordid Ashes all around. 1736 BAILEY *Housek. Dict.* s.v. *Pork*, Sprinkle upon them a little common salt. 1765 *Museum Rust.* IV. 101 Afterwards let water be sprinkled over the shot. 1827 FARADAY *Chem. Manip.* xviii. (1842) 486 It is best mixed by..sprinkling the powder into it. 1891 FARRAR *Darkn. & Dawn* XXV, Some of the poison was sprinkled on a leaf of lettuce.

fig. 1602 SHAKS. *Ham.* III. iv. 124 Oh gentle Sonne, Vpon the heate and flame of thy distemper Sprinkle coole patience. 1706 E. WARD *Wooden World Diss.* (1708) 102 If he sprinkle any Grace over the Platter, it's a plain Symptom, that his Maw's out of order.

absol. 1611 BIBLE *Lev.* xiv. 7 He shall sprinckle vpon him ..seuen times.

b. *fig.* To disperse, distribute, or scatter here and there.

1514 BARCLAY *Cyt. & Uplondyshman* (Percy Soc.) 29 Now are they sprencled & sparcled abrode, Lyke wyse as shyppes be docked in a rode. 1530 PALSGR. 730/1 He sprenkylleth his monay abrode as thoughe he cared nat for it. 1591 HARINGTON *Orl. Fur.* Pref. ¶ vi b, Some things that Virgill could not haue,..you finde, in my anthor sprinckled ouer all his worke. 1650 FULLER *Pisgah* II. ix. 187 Besides cities, many private dwellings were sprinkled on mount Ephraim. 1686 SNAPE *Anat. Horse* II. vii. 82 Small branches do spring from this coronary vein, and are dispersed or sprinkled all down the surface or outside of the Heart. 1719 YOUNG *Busiris* v. i, Behold thy troops are thin, Thy men are rarely sprinkled o'er the field. 1827 KEBLE *Chr. Y.* 6 Sprinkled along the waste of years Full many a soft green isle appears. 1879 SPENCER *Data of Ethics* x. 184 There are sprinkled throughout society men to whom active occupation is a need.

2. To bedew, bespatter lightly, or powder (a thing or surface); to besprinkle. Usu. const. *with.*

14.. *R. Glouc. Chron.* 2761 (MS. Digby 205), Þe werke with his blode..men schulde sprencle. 1414 BRAMPTON *Penit. Ps.* (Percy Soc.) 23 Sprenkle me, Lord! with watyr of terys. 1495 *Trevisa's Barth. De P. R.* XVII. xcvii. 663 The threde is..wasshe and sprynclyd wyth water vntyll that it be whyte. 1544 *Supplic. Hen. VIII*, 41 Whom the blynde prestes doo bothe sence & spryncle with holy water. 1602 *Kyd's Sp. Trag.* III. xii a. 67 Duly twice a morning Would I be sprinkling it with fountaine water. 1613 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* (1614) 588 There are diuerse which..sprinkle the streets twice a daie because of the heat and dust. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* IV. 553 She sprinkl'd thrice, with Wine, the Vestal Fire. 1727 SWIFT *Descr. Morning* Wks. 1755 III. II. 41 The slipshod 'prentice from his master's door Had par'd the dirt, and sprinkled round the floor. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) VII. 311 Care should be used..to sprinkle them with salt if they continue to adhere. 1825 J. NEAL *Bro. Jonathan* I. 307 She had sprinkled the face of her baby all over with large tears. 1853 SOYER *Pantroph.* 67 Let the whole stew, and then sprinkle it lightly with pepper. 1878 T. HARDY *Ret. Native* v. viii, The floor was merely sprinkled with rain, and not saturated.

refl. 1535 COVERDALE *Jer.* vi. 26 Gyrde a sacke cloth aboute the,..sprynkle thy self with aszshes. 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 153 It is no newes to the Bishoppes..to sprincle, and defile them selves with innocent bloude. 1607 TOPSELL *Fourf. Beasts* 185 For remedy, they wash their hands and sprinckle themselues..with that water.

fig. 1576 FLEMING *Panopl. Epist.* 17 If so be my discredit ..had been equal..to theirs, which sprinckle us with these blottes of blame. 1581 G. PETTIE tr. *Guazzo's Civ. Conv.* I. (1586) 23, I meant those, who though sprinckled with some imperfections, yet wrie rather to the good, then the euill. 1614 B. JONSON *Barthol. Fair* I. i, Why! we were all a little stained last night, sprinkled with a cup or two. 1836 H. COLERIDGE *North. Worthies* (1852) I. 25 He takes care to sprinkle his letters with loyalty.

b. To dot, intersperse, or diversify *with* something. Usu. in *pass.*

1591 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* I. iv. 208 The Firmament.. Spreads his blew curtain,..Sprinkled with eyes, speckled with Tapers bright. 1596 SPENSER *State Irel.* Wks. (Globe) 675/2 Wherby you wished the Irish to be sowed and sprinckled with the English. 1781 COWPER *Task* I. 164 A level plain Of spacious meads with cattle sprinkled o'er. 1804 C. B. BROWN tr. *Volney's View* 332 An irregular savannah..sprinkled with a few trees. 1859 JEPHSON *Brittany* vi. 67 A wide extent of country..sprinkled with farmhouses. 1892 MRS. R. T. RITCHIE *Rec. Tennyson* III. iv. 187 A road ..ran across commons sprinkled with geese and with lively donkeys.

c. To colour with small specks or spots.

Chiefly in passive, or *techn.* in bookbinding.

1750 tr. *Leonardus' Mirr. Stones* 94 Dionysia has a brown or iron colour, sprinkled over with snow, spots. 1818 *Art Bookbinding* 19 The edges may now be coloured, sprinkled, or marbled, to fancy. 1855 *Poultry Chron.* III. 374 He may perhaps observe it sprinkled over with black spots. 1885 C. G. W. LOCK *Worksh. Rec.* Ser. IV. 241/2 Books may be sprinkled so as to resemble a kind of marble by using 2 or 3 different colours.

absol. 1835 HANNETT *Bibliopegia* 90 Sprinkle very finely with black and then with brown. *Ibid.*, Put about a teaspoonful of vitriol to a cup of the black, and sprinkle coarsely over.

† **3.** To cleanse or purify. *Obs. rare.*

1535 COVERDALE *Heb.* x. 22 Sprenkled in oure hertes from an euell conscience.

4. *intr.* **a.** To spring or fly *up* in fine drops.

1594 NASHE *Unfort. Trav.* Wks. (Grosart) V. 174 Bloud spilt on the ground sprinkles vp to the firmament. 1626 BACON *Sylva* § 8 It will make the Water friske and sprincle vp, in a fine Dew.

b. To rain or fall in fine or infrequent drops.

1778 W. H. MARSHALL *Minutes Agric.* Observations 129 It began..to sprinkle. [*Note*] To *sprinkle* (or *spit*), to rain slow in largish drops. 1828 in WEBSTER. 1858 HAWTHORNE *Fr. & It. Note-bks.* II. 249 The rain..continued to sprinkle.

† **Spri·nkle,** *v.*[2] *Obs.* Also 5 **sprenkle,** 6 **spryncle, sprincle** (*Sc.* **sprink-, sprynkill**), 7 **sprinkel-.** [app. related to SPRANKLE *v.*]

1. *intr.* To sparkle.

c 1400 MAUNDEV. (Roxb.) xxxi. 139 His eghen er so fast stirrand and sprenkland as fyre. 1535 *Trevisa's Barth. De P. R.* XVI. xxix, Crisolitus is a lityll stone of Ethiopia shyninge as golde, and sprinkling as fyre. 1542 BOORDE *Dyetary* x. (1870) 254 Wyne..must spryncle in the cup whan it is drawne or put out of the pot. 1573 TWYNE *Æneid* XII. 26 From his face with rage that boyles The sparkles sprinckling flie. 1600 FAIRFAX *Tasso* XVIII. xvi. 318 The heau'nly dew was on his garments spred,..And sprinkled so, that all that palenesse fled. 1630 D. DYKE *Myst. Selfe-Deceiuing* 201 The wine sprinkling and leaping in the glasse.

2. *Sc.* To wriggle; to dart quickly.

1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* XI. xiv. 71 Allthocht scho [a serpent] wreill, and sprynkill, bend, or skyp, Evir the sarar this ern strenis his gryp. *Ibid.* XII. Prol. 56 The syluer scalyt fyschis on the greit Ourthwort cleir stremis sprynkland for the heyt.

Sprinkled (spri·ŋk'ld), *ppl. a.* [f. SPRINKLE *v.*[1]]

1. Besprinkled (with moisture, colour, etc.). Also *absol.*

1382 WYCLIF *Gen.* xxxi. 12 Se alle the malis,..varye, and sprynklid, and spottid. 1781 COWPER *Charity* 609 Relenting forms would lose their pow'r,..And ev'n the dipt and sprinkled live in peace. 1832 J. RENNIE *Consp. Butterfl. & Moths* 88 The Sprinkled Wainscot (*Leucania suffusa*) appears in June. 1888 JACOBI *Printers' Vocab.* 130 *Sprinkled edges*, cut edges of books are sometimes finely sprinkled with colour to prevent them getting soiled.

2. Dispersed by, or as by, sprinkling.

1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* I. vii. 32 With sprincled pearle, and gold full richly drest. 1647 H. MORE *Minor Poems, Cupid's Conflict* xlii, So Natures carelesse pencill..With sprinkled starres hath spattered the Night. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* IV. 335 With sprinkl'd Water first the City choak. 1700 — *Pal. & Arc.* III. 76 Some sprinkled Freckles on his Face were seen. 1862 B. TAYLOR *Poet's Jrnl.* (1866) 31 The sprinkled drops of moonshine flashed.

Sprinkler (spri·ŋklə1). [f. SPRINKLE *v.*[1]]

1. A vessel or other device used for sprinkling water or other liquid.

1535 COVERDALE *Jer.* lii. 18 They toke awaye also the Cauldrons, shouels, .. sprinklers, spones & all the brasen vessell. 1686 GOAD *Celest. Bodies* II. iii. 192 They are the Sprinklers, the Water-Pots of Heaven. 1874 H. H. COLE *Catal. Ind. Art S. Kens. Mus.* 137 Bottle, or Rose-water Sprinkler. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2292/1 A glass sprinkler found in Pompeii. 1882 *Rep. Prec. Metals U. S.* 152 Cold water..is forced through a fine sprinkler and falls upon them in a spray.

b. A machine or vehicle used for this purpose, esp. one for watering the roadway.

1879 COMSTOCK *Rep. Cotton Ins.* 252 Robinson's combined sprinkler and duster for destruction of the cotton worm. 1893 *Scribner's Mag.* June 708/1 In freezing weather the sprinkler is run [to make a frozen surface]. 1895 R. W. CHAMBERS *King in Yellow, Rue Barrée* ii, The watering carts and sprinklers spread freshness over the Boulevard.

c. An apparatus for extinguishing fires.

1887 *Pall Mall G.* 4 June 12/1. 1901 *Westm. Gaz.* 18 Oct. 7/1 When the Manchester cotton-spinners..first had sprinklers installed in their premises.

2. A brush for sprinkling holy water.

1577 tr. *Bullinger's Decades* (1592) 376 The holie cleansing water.., which they did sprincke with a sprinckler made of hysope. 1656 W. DU GARD tr. *Comenius' Gate Lat. Unl.* 303 To sprinkle with Holy-water (taken out of a pot with a sprinkler). 1698 MOTTEUX *Quix.* (1733) I. 42 The House-keeper..return'd immediately with a Holy-water pot and a Sprinkler. 1816 [see HOLY WATER 2]. 1862 BORROW *Wild Wales* vi, Then drawing forth his sprinkler, he flung the

holy water in the faces of the king and his people. 1896 tr. *Huysman's En Route* viii. 106 Dom Etienne took the sprinkler which a priest handed him.

3. A person who sprinkles.

1613 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* (1614) 150 The Merissœans or Merists, which were (as the name importeth) sprinklers of their holy-water. 1818 in TODD. 1843 TIZARD *Brewing* Index 517 Sprinklers of malt, a majority. [*Ibid.* 68 Completely contradicting the assertion of the non-sprinklers.]

b. One who baptizes by sprinkling as opposed to immersion; an adherent of this practice.

1895 M. MATHER *Idylls* 321 (E.D.D.), Betty were a dipper an' I were a sprinkler. 1896 *Ch. Times* 1 May 505/1 Our reputation as 'the sprinklers' has been maintained..by the chaplains of the English congregations.

Spri·nklet. [f. SPRINKLE *sb.*1] A slight sprinkle.

1882 *Garden* 11 Mar. 156/3 Deluge every position they [*sc.* crickets] occupy, not with mere sprinklets of water, but with sufficient to lie in pools.

Spri·nkling, *vbl. sb.*1 [f. SPRINKLE *v.*1]

1. The action of the verb in various senses.

c 1440 *Alph. Tales* 83 With þe sprenclyng of his wengis, þe peper & þe sauce light vppon bathe thies gosseps. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 470/2 Sprenkelynge, or strenkelynge, *aspercio, conspercio.* 1535 COVERDALE *Heb.* xii. 24 The sprenklynge off bloude, that speaketh better then the bloude of Abel. 1608 BP. HALL *Epist.* 4 Your clericall shauings,..your crossings, creepings, censings, sprinklings, your cozening miracles. 1611 COTGR., *Espardement*, a scattering, sprinkling, dispersing, dissipation. 1726 AYLIFFE *Parergon* 103 Immersion is not strictly necessary unto Baptism; but it may be perform'd even by Effusion or Sprinkling. 1846 BAXTER *Libr. Pract. Agric.* II. 59 The frequent sprinkling of the gypsum upon stable floors. 1874 H. H. COLE *Catal. Ind. Art S. Kens. Mus.* App. 288 Rosewater Stand, surmounted by eight squirts for sprinkling.

2. A small quantity sprinkled or to be sprinkled.

1657 DAVENANT *Gondibert* II. i. 35 Bring Sprinklings, Lamp, and th' Altar's precious breath. *a* 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew* s.v. *Dash*, A soft Shower, or a sprinkling of Rain. 1727 SWIFT *City Shower* Wks. 1755 III. II. 38 Such is that sprinkling, which some careless quean Flirts on you from her mop. 1760 R. BROWN *Compl. Farmer* II. 72 A little sprinkling of dung or mud upon rye-land will mightily advance a crop. 1835 W. IRVING *Tour Prairies* 125 As could be seen by sprinklings of blood here and there on the shrubs. 1842 LOUDON *Suburban Hort.* 667 A sprinkling of salt, or of wood ashes,..may be scattered on the surface of the beds. 1872 BLACK *Adv. Phaeton* iv. 36 A sprinkling of rain about his big brown beard.

3. *fig.* A small or slight quantity or amount.

1594 NASHE *Terrors of Night* Wks. (Grosart) III. 247 Men which haue had some little sprinkling of Grammer learning in their youth. 1600 HOLLAND *Livy* XLIV. XXVI. 1186 Himselfe brought with him..some litle sprinkling of gold to deale among a few of them. 1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Epid.* 32 It containeth strange and singular relations, not without some spice or sprinckling of all learning. 1693 DRYDEN *Disc. Satire* Ess. (Ker) II. 108 Some sprinklings of this kind I had also formerly in my plays; but they were casual, and not designed. 1706 A. BEDFORD *Temple Mus.* iii. 62 The Noise may seem to pretend to a dash and sprinkling of Art. 1798 *Hull Advertiser* 23 June 4/4 Corn Exchange. We had a pretty sprinkling of wheat fresh in this morning. 1840 *Florist's Jrnl.* (1846) I. 152 We require a little sprinkling of philosophy. 1844 *Mem. Babylonian Princess* II. 190 Few of these people are without some sprinkling of knowledge.

b. A small number scattered or distributed here and there.

1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* I. ii. III. XV. 182 We haue a sprinkling of our Gentry, heere and there one, excellently well learned. 1706 E. GIBSON *Assize Serm. Popery* 3 A sprinkling of gray hairs foretels the approaches of old age. 1721 MORTIMER *Husb.* (ed. 2) II. 125 You may sow..a sprinkling of Carrots or Lettice between them the first Year. 1809 *European Mag.* LV. 20 There was a pretty good 'sprinkling' of genteel company..in the promenades. 1854 H. MILLER *Sch. & Schlm.* (1858) 51 My native town had possessed.. its sprinkling of intelligent, book-consulting mechanics and tradesfolk. 1876 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* V. XXV. 545 Every man..to whom a sprinkling of foreign words seemed an ornament of speech.

4. *attrib.*, as *sprinkling-brush, -cart, glass, -machine, -pitcher, water.*

1596 NASHE *Saffron Walden* Wks. (Grosart) III. 142 Following him, with his sprinkling glasse,..from place to place. 1648 HEXHAM II, *Een Bespruyt-kruycke*, a Sprinkling, or a Spout-picher for gardens. *a* 1653 GOUGE *Comm. Heb.* ix. 9 There was also a sprinkling water to sprinkle on such as should be unclean. 1859 HOLMES *Aut. Breakf.-t.* ii. 24 A man driving a sprinkling-machine. 1876 L. STEPHEN *Eng. Th. 18th C.* I. IV. vi. 256 Even the same form of sprinkling-brush was retained. 1896 *Harper's Mag.* XCII. 812/2 He ..got a job at driving a sprinkling-cart.

† **Spri·nkling,** *vbl. sb.*2 *Obs.* [f. SPRINKLE *v.*2] The fact of sparkling.

1548 ELYOT, *Scintillatio*,..a sprynclyng vp as newe wyne dooeth in the cuppe. 1582 BATMAN *Barth. De P. R.* VIII. XXXIII. 135 b/2 By chaunging of coulour, and sprincklyng of beames.

Spri·nkling, *ppl. a.* [f. SPRINKLE *v.*1]

1. Scattering small drops or particles.

In quot. 1567 perh. 'sparkling', f. SPRINKLE *v.*2

1567 TURBERV. *Epit., Upon Death of R. Edwards* 78 b, Welles..Whose sprinckling springs and golden streames ere this thou well didst knowe. 1621 W. SANDYS *Ovid's Met.* (1626) 110 Back to the shore she casts a heauy eye;.. And from the sprinkling waues..shrinks her trembling feete. 1716 GAY *Trivia* II. 421 When..dex'trous damsels twirl the sprinkling mop. 1757 DYER *Fleece* I. 464 Lo! in the sprinkling clouds your bleating hills Rejoice with herbage. 1859 TENNYSON in Ld. H. Tennyson *Mem.* (1897) I. 456 A few sprinkling springlets by the wayside.

2. Falling in scattered drops.

1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* IV. 137 [Her] pittifull lookes, and sprinkling teares. 1666 BOGHURST *Loimographia* (1894) 29 There being no raine at all, but a litle sprinkling Showre.

Hence **Spri·nklingly** *adv.*

1615 H. CROOKE *Body of Man* 898 They offer also small shootes sprinklingly vnto the skin of the chest. 1657 J. SERGEANT *Schism Dispach't* 286 He speaks his non-sence, sleightly, sprinklingly.

Sprint (sprint), *sb.*1 [f. SPRINT *v.*]

1. *dial.* (See quots.)

a 1790 PEGGE *Derbicisms* I. 66 A man layd hold of a hare upon her form, and she gave a sprint. *a* 1800 — *Suppl. Grose, Sprunt*, or *Sprint*, a spring in leaping, and the leap itself. Derb.

2. A short spell of running, rowing, etc., at full speed.

1865– in Lanc. and Derb. glossaries. 1871 'STONEHENGE' *Brit. Rur. Sports* (ed. 9) II. VII. i. 539/1 At the commencement of training for sprints. 1887 *Field* 19 Feb. 247/3 A strong wind..blowing down the straight, greatly interfered with the runners in the sprints. 1903 *Times* 14 Mar. 14/5 [They had] a few rowing sprints to vary their ordinary exercise work.

transf. 1895 *Westm. Gaz.* 23 Oct. 3/2 It may still seem.. that there is too much of a 'sprint' in the last act.

3. *attrib.*, as *sprint course, race, -racing*, etc.

1864 *Saunders News Letter*, Sprint Race between Ford and Rogers. 1867 WAUGH *Owd Blanket* 82 Kempy..was a famous 'sprint-runner',..well known all over the country side. 1883 *Standard* 18 June 2/4 He..may..be dubbed the champion of the equine world over sprint courses. 1885 *Longman's Mag.* VI. 508 Summoning all my memories of the science of sprint-racing, I tore along. 1886 *Encycl. Brit.* XXI. 61/1 Sheffield..may be termed the home of sprint running.

Sprint, *sb.*2 *dial.* [var. of SPRENT *sb.*2]

1. A springe or snare.

1781 HUTTON *Tour to Caves* (ed. 2) Gloss., *Sprint*, a gin for catching birds with. 1892 *Fauna* 87 (E.D.D.), Used to set scores of sprints when a boy. 1897 MACPHERSON *Hist. Fowling* 246 The 'Sprint' employed in the north of England for catching Woodcock.

2. A spring. (Cf. SPRENT *sb.*2 2 b.)

1897 W. JAMIE in *Bards of Angus & Mearns* 235/1 Some queer auld knives wi' double sprint.

Sprint (sprint), *v.* [a. early Scand. **sprinta* (ON. and Icel. *spretta*, Sw. *spritta*): cf. SPRENT *v.*]

† 1. *intr.* To dart or spring. *Obs.*–1

1566 Is. W. *Copy of a Letter*, etc. xxix, Thy felowes chance that late such prety shift did make; That he from Fishers hooke did sprint before he could him take.

2. a. *dial.* (See quot.)

1862 C. C. ROBINSON *Dial. Leeds* 418 *Sprint*, to run on the toes. The sort of running practised in-doors.

b. To run, row, etc., at full speed, esp. for a short distance; to race in this manner.

1871– [implied in *Sprinting* vbl. sb.]. 1889 H. O'REILLY *50 Yrs. on Trail* 177 By running and walking, or rather sprinting, the whole time. 1897 *Scotsman* 7 Oct. 7/1 He.. sprinted at a good pace to where the observatory pathway commences.

transf. 1899 C. SCOTT *Drama of Yesterday* I. xvi. 555 If a journalist has trained himself to 'sprint', he is naturally employed..on other departments of the paper.

3. *Sc.* To sprout or grow. (Cf. SPRENT *v.* 1 d.)

a 1878 AINSLIE *Land of Burns* (1892) 303 Rare plants that beautify the Spring Aft sprint frae roughest spot.

4. *dial.* To spirt in small drops. Also *trans.*, to sprinkle.

1855– in dial. glossaries (Cumb., Yks., Notts., Linc.).

Hence **Spri·nting** *vbl. sb.*

1871 'STONEHENGE' *Brit. Rur. Sports* (ed. 9) II. VII. i. 539/1 At Sheffield, the birthplace and nursery of professional sprinting. 1884 *Harper's Mag.* Jan. 302/2 They would do well to go in for..long-distance running rather than for sprinting.

Sprinter (spri·ntəɹ). [f. SPRINT *v.*] One who sprints or engages in sprint-racing.

1871 'STONEHENGE' *Brit. Rur. Sports* (ed. 9) II. VII. i. 539/2 The best amateur sprinters of the present day. 1889 GUNTER *That Frenchman* vi. 65 He..runs wildly down the street, proving himself..a sprinter of first-rate speed. 1895 *Windsor Mag.* 120 [He] is probably the fastest sprinter ever seen on a safety.

transf. 1899 C. SCOTT *Drama of Yesterday* I. xvi. 555 The dramatic art has..suffered much at the hands of the 'sprinters' on the press.

† **Sprintle.** *Obs.*–1 A twig or shoot.

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 276 Ofte druie sprintles bereð winberien?

Sprisle, Sprissel, obs. forms of SPRITSAIL.

Sprit (sprit), *sb.*1 Forms: *α.* 1, 4 **spreot,** 4–5 **sprete,** 7–9 **spreet.** *β.* 4, 7 **spret,** 5–7 **spritt**(*e*. *γ.* 5–6 **spryt, sprytt, sprite** (7 **spright**), 5, 7–8 **spritt,** 6– **sprit.** [OE. *sprēot*, = MDu. (Du. and WFris.) *spriet*, MLG. *spryet, spriet* (hence G. *spriet*) and *spreet*, NFris. *sprit, spret*, ultimately related to SPROTE[1] and SPROUT *v.*[1]]

1. A pole, *esp.* one used for propelling a boat; a punting-pole; † a spear.

a. c 725 *Corpus Gloss.* C 609 *Contis*, spreotum. *c* 1000 ÆLFRIC *Gloss.* in Wr.-Wülcker 143 *Trudes, uel amites*, spreotas. 1023 in Thorpe *Charters* 318 Anes mannes lenge þe healt anne spreot on his hand and strecþ hine swa feor swa he mæg æræcan into þere sæ. 13.. *St. Cristofer* 300 in Horstm. *Altengl. Leg.* (1881) 458 A lang sprete he bare in hande To strenghe him in þe water to stande. 13.. *K. Alis.* 858 (Linc. MS.), þe þrid day þey gan aryue, þey swymmed wiþ spreot,..And bryngiþ schipes to þe lond. *c* 1400 *Laud Troy Bk.* 12653 Thei brende bothe mast & wynlase, Sterne & stere, ore & spretes. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 470/2 Sprete, or qvante,..*contus.*

β. c 1350 *Will. Palerne* 2754 Sone as þe schipmen seie him out lepen, hastili hent eche man a spret or an ore. *a* 1400 *Octovian* 601 A sprette ouyr the bord they caste. 1530 PALSGR. 274/2 Sprette for watermen, *picq.* 1609 HOLLAND *Amm. Marcell.* XVIII. V. 111 Antoninus..set his course against our State and Common-wealth, not (as they say) with spret nor oare, with shooving, or haling,..but even with spred and full sayle. 1687 SHADWELL *Tenth Sat. Juvenal* 38 *Contus* signifies a Quant or Sprett, with which they shove Boats.

γ. c 1435 *Torr. Portugal* 181 Torrent undyr hys spryt [=spear] he sprent, And abowght the body he hyme hente. *a* 1450 *Octavian* 469 Some hente an oore,..some a spryttt, The lyenas for to meete. 1583 STOCKER *Civ. Warres Lowe C.* III. 126 b, This Arke..was rowed neither with sprites, nor ores,., but [driven] by wheeles wrought within her. 1606 HOLLAND *Sueton.* 116 A number of mariners, who with their sprits, poles and oares should beate..their carkasses. *a* 1825 FORBY *Voc. E. Anglia* 321 *Sprit*, a pole to push a boat forward. 1903 *Longman's Mag.* Jan. 216 You could not perceive when the flat bit of wood at the end of the sprit touched it [i. e. the bottom of a mere].

2. *Naut.* a. 'A small boom or pole which crosses the sail of a boat diagonally from the mast to the upper hindmost corner of the sail, which it is used to extend and elevate' (Falconer).

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* C. 104 Wiȝt at þe wyndas [they] weȝen her ankres, Sprude spak to þe sprete þe spare bawe-lyne. 1399 *Rolls of Parlt.* III. 444/2 Par le rumper d'un cabel, rope, sprete, ou mast d'ascun Shoute. 1417 in *For. Acc.* 8 *Hen. V*, G/1, j dialle, j Soundynglyne, j Roffe Sprite in Balingera Regis. 1536 in Marsden *Sel. Pl. Crt. Adm.* (1894) I. 54 Possessione virge, Anglice a yard or a spyryt [*sic*]. 1726 *Phil. Trans.* XXIX. 497 This Machine I suspended from the Mast of a Ship, by a Spritt which was sufficiently secured by Stays to the Mast-head. 1769 FALCONER *Dict. Marine* (1780) s.v., The lower end of the sprit rests in a sort of wreath or collar called the snotter. 1856 KANE *Arct. Expl.* I. xxiv. 316 A stouter mainsail of fourteen-feet lift with a spreet eighteen feet long. 1913 *Act* 2 & 3 *Geo. V*, c. 31 § 39 A pilot flag..to be placed at the mast head, or on a sprit or staff.

b. (See quot.)

1846 YOUNG *Naut. Dict.* 293 A *Sprit*, or *Spur*, in a sheer-hulk is a spar for keeping the sheers out to the required distance.

3. *attrib.*, as *sprit pole, rig, staff, topmast, top-sail, yard.*

1485 *Naval Acc. Hen. VII* (1896) 49 Spritt yerds, j; Spritte sailes, j. 1497 *Ibid.* 300 Fore yerdes, j; sprete yerdes, j. 1611 COTGR., *Miquelot*,..a poore, pettie, vagabond Pedler, that with a spritstaffe crosses from place to place. 1627 CAPT. SMITH *Seaman's Gram.* vii. 31 Your Spret and Spret top-saile. 1769 FALCONER *Dict. Marine* (1780) s.v. *Yard*, Sprit-topsail yard equal to the fore top gallant-yard. 1894 *Outing* XXIV. 84/2 The sprit rig cannot be said to be pretty. 1903 *Longman's Mag.* Jan. 216 Under the influence of the silent sprit-pole it seemed to move by some voluntary self-contained power.

Sprit (sprit), *sb.*2 [f. SPRIT *v.*1 Cf. SPIRT *sb.*3 and SPURT *sb.*2] a. A young shoot of a plant or tree. b. A sprout of a seed or root.

1622 *Jrnl. Eng. Plantation Plymouth New England* 7 As we wandred we came to a tree, where a yong Spritt was bowed downe over a bow, and some Acornes strewed vnder neath. 1682 *Houghton's Lett. Husb. & Trade* I. 67 Sometimes..I have known our Maltster stir his Barly-Couches ..till the Sprit begins to fork, five or six times a day. *Ibid.* 68 When the Sprits come forth at the Root end of the Corn, another Sprit, which we call the Acrospire, begins to stir at the same end. 1851 STERNBERG *Northampt. Dial.*, *Sprit*, a sprout; the awn of barley. 1886 HOLLAND *Cheshire Gloss.* 334 *Sprit*, a sprout from the eye of a potato, or the young radicle of corn when it first begins to grow.

Sprit, *sb.*3 *Sc.* = SPRET. Also *collect.*

1799 J. ROBERTSON *Agric. Perth* 268 It becomes instantly filled with sprits, rushes and other aquatics. 1807 *Ess. Highl. Soc.* III. 469 Bog ground is for the most part covered with sprit, of the smaller sort of which they make what they call bog hay. 1866 *Chambers's Encycl.* VIII. 373/2 Many marshy and boggy places abound in some of the species having leafy stems and the leaves jointed internally, popularly called Sprots or Sprits. 1883 G. M'MICHAEL *Notes Way thr. Ayrshire* 90 The Afton descends between rocky banks, mostly covered with bent and sprit.

Sprit, *sb.*4 *techn.* (See quot. 1880.)

1812 DUBOURDIEU *Antrim* 107 This substance, howsoever it may be acquired, and which by bleachers is called sprit, adheres so closely to the rind..as to have eluded all the ..processes..of the old mode of bleaching. 1880 *Spons' Encycl. Manuf.* I. 518 The object of the rubbing..is to remove small specks of brownish matter called 'sprits', which may appear here and there throughout the piece.

Sprit, *ppl. a.* [f. SPRIT *v.*1] (See quots.)

1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 73/2 *Spritt*, or *Blasted*, when it [grass or grain] is beaten down by Rain, and through moisture begins to grow again. 1790 W. H. MARSHALL *Rur. Econ. Midl.* II. 443 *Sprit*, sprouted, as corn in the field. 1808 H. HOLLAND *Cheshire* 147 A potatoe is said to be well sprit, when it has a shoot from two to four inches long.

Sprit (sprit), *v.*1 Now *dial.* Forms: 1 **spryttan,** 3 **sprutten,** 7– **sprit.** [OE. *sprytlan* :– **sprutljan*, f. the weak grade of the stem represented by SPROUT *v.*1 Cf. SPIRT *v.*2 and SPURT *v.*2] *intr.* To sprout or shoot; to germinate.

c 900 tr. *Bæda's Eccl. Hist.* I. XXI. (*heading*), Eft sprytendum [*v. r.* sprutendum] þam twigum ðæs Pelagianiscan woles. *c* 1000 *Saxon Leechd.* II. 148 Þonne treow & wyrta ærest up spryttað. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 86 Ase þe wiði þet sprutteð ut þe betere þet me hine ofte cropped.

1669 WORLIDGE *Syst. Agric.* (1681) 60 Some affirm that Corn spritted a little,..and then sowen, came up speedily. 1844 *Phytologist* I. 584 Do the seeds of pasture grasses ever germinate in the husk, like wheat, when it is said to 'sprit'? 1886–7 in Cheshire glossaries.

Sprit, *v.*[2] ? *Obs.* [Of obscure origin : cf. SPIRT *v.*[3]] *intr.* To spring, dart.

13.. *Gaw. & Gr. Kn.* 2316 He sprit forth spenne fote more þen a spere lenþe. 1836 HOOTON *Bilberry Thurland* I. vii. 142 The rabbits..would..sprit across to the field-sides in search of better herbage.

Sprite (sprəit), †**sprit,** *sb.* Forms: *α.* 4, 5–7 *Sc.*, **spreit** (5 spreyt, spreyte), 5–6 **sprete,** 6 **spreet(e** ; 5–6 **spret,** 6 **sprette.** *β.* 5, 7 **spryt** (6 **sprijt**), 5–7 **spryte,** 5– **sprite.** (See also SPRIGHT *sb.*[1]) *γ.* 5 **spritte,** 5–7 **sprit,** 8 **sp'rit.** [ad. OF. *esprit,* or similarly reduced from OF. *esperit(e,* AF. *spirit(e* SPIRIT *sb.* Cf. SPIRT *sb.*[1]]

1. †*a.* = SPIRIT *sb.* in various senses. *Obs.*

a. a 1300 *Cursor M.* 15667 Þof þe spreit ai redi be þe flesche be fus to plight. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xxxiii. (*George*) 796 As he hyr þis had talde, þe spret vn-to god scho 3ald. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 5099 Eneas..spake full dispitously with a sprete felle. *c* 1450 HOLLAND *Howlat* 620 That terrible felloun my spreit affrayd. 1526 TINDALE *Acts* xvii. 16 His sprete was moved in hym. 1535 COVERDALE *Haggai* i. 14 So the Lorde waked vp the sprete of Zorobabel ..and the sprete of Iesua. 1584 HUDSON *Du Bartas' Judith* II. 467 Whose living spreet Reviving spreads, and through all things doth fleet. *c* 1615 SIR W. MURE *Misc.* Wks. (S.T.S.) I. 30 Erect my puir dejected spreit, Prostrat befoir thy mercies feete.

β. c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xxii. (*Lawrence*) 450 Fore contryt spryt euir 3et was to my god thankful sacrifice. *c* 1400 tr. *Secreta Secret., Gov. Lordsh.* 66 Rightwys philosophers ..lightend with godys spryt of wyt. 1502 ATKYNSON tr. *De Imitatione* I. v. (1893) 157 To rede the scripture with as great fervour of spryte as it was receyued firste. 1578 LYTE *Dodoens* 229 It is profitable for those that are..troubled in sprite or minde. 1607 ROWLANDS *Earl of Warwick* (Hunterian Cl.) 7 This man compos'd of courage, full of sprite, Of hard adventures, and of great designs. 1669 STURMY *Mariner's Mag.* c 4[1] Lord of Light, Without whose gracious Aid and constant Sprite No Labours prosper. 1730 SHENSTONE *Ode to Health* 43 Forth with jocund sprite, I run. 1761 GRAY *Odin* 29 Who thus afflicts my troubled sprite? [1847 S. JUDD *Margaret* III. (1851) 417 So speaks my sprite.]

γ. 14.. *Chaucer's L. G. W., Ariadne* 2069 (Camb. MS.), For whiche myn sprit goth to do me shame. 1442 *Cursor M.* 170 (Bedford MS.), Iesus after his fastyng long was temtid wiþ þe sprit [of] wrong. 1565 STAPLETON *Fort. Faith* 122 We see how farre the faith of the first vj. C. yeares, and the sprit of Protestants do agree. 1605 *1st Pt. Jeronimo* III. i. 73 This should not be mong men of vertuous sprit. Pay trybute thou, and receiue peace and writ. *a* 1649 DRUMM. OF HAWTH. *Poems* Wks. (1711) 44/1 To his fair Spoils his Sprit again yet give.

† b. *pl.* = SPIRIT *sb.* 17. *Obs.*

a. c 1470 HENRY *Wallace* XI. 176 He agayn in greiff him grippyt sayr, Quhill spretis failȝeid ner. 1533 BELLENDEN *Livy* Prol. (S.T.S.) I. 1 Quykin þe spretis of my dull Ingyne. 1566 DRANT *Horace, Sat.* IV. C, How say you, haue not comedies theyr vigors, and their spreets?

β. 1567 DRANT *Horace, Ep.* II. i. G vij, That poet..That can stere vp my passions or quicke my sprytes at all. *c* 1586 C'TESS PEMBROKE *Ps. David* CXIX. iii, I the pleasures of my sprites Will unto thy doctrine bind.

C. = SPIRIT *sb.* 9. *rare* —[1].

1844 DISRAELI *Coningsby* IV. xii, He generally contrived.. to steal down with some congenial sprites to the magical and illumined chamber [*sc.* the billiard-room].

2. = SPIRIT *sb.* 2 b and 3, SPRIGHT *sb.*[1] 2.

a. a 1400–50 *Alexander* 4779 He was sodanly sesid & slane with a sprete. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* XI. 1262 Quhar art thow, spreyt? answer, sa God the sawe. 1526 TINDALE *Mark* vi. 49 They supposed yt had bene a sprete and cryed oute. 1575 *Gamm. Gurton* I. ii, As though they had been taken with fairies, or else with some ill spreet. 1611 SIR W. MURE *Misc.* Wks. (S.T.S.) I. 11 For he, now Cupid, now a spreit, did liue me.

β. 1340–70 *Alex. & Dind.* 623 God is spedful in speche & a spryt clene. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* ix. (*Barthol.*) 88 Wikit spryt, trawale hym no mare! *c* 1460 FORTESCUE *Absol. & Lim. Mon.* vi. (1885) 121 Wherfore the holy sprites and angels..haue more poiar than we. *a* 1513 FABYAN *Chron.* (1811) 325 Fyry dragons, and sprytys, were seen fleynge in the ayer. 1555 EDEN *Decades* (Arb.) 100 *marg. note,* A remedye ageynst walkyng sprites. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* 530, I wot not what sprites and fearefull apparitions. 1675 COTTON *Burlesque upon B.* 51 Where must I lye anights? For I am monstrous fraid of Sprites. 1728 YOUNG *Love of Fame* V. 509 In vain the cock has summon'd sprites away, She walks at noon. *a* 1796 BURNS '*As on the Banks*' vi, 'Nae eastlin blast,' the sprite replied. *a* 1845 BARHAM *Ingol. Leg.* Ser. III. *House-warming* 118 She verily thought that hobgoblins and sprites were there. 1877 MRS. FORRESTER *Mignon* I. 12 The most arch, mischievous, impertinent little sprite in the world.

Comb. 1609 SIR E. HOBY *Let. to Mr. T. H.* Pref. p. iii, They will not stick to set out our Ladies picture (as one of your sprite-speakers did) with one of your best faces.

γ. c 1400 *Destr. Troy* 4297, I will tell..How sprittis in hom spake to qwho þat spirre wold. 1565 STAPLETON *Font. Faith* 85 The whole churche..by no strength of wicked sprits..can be ouerthrowen. 1728 RAMSAY *Monk & Miller's Wife* 245 Syne as the sp'rit gangs marching out, Be sure to lend him a sound rout.

†**3.** = SPIRIT *sb.* 6 and 6 b. *Obs.*

13.. *Coer de L.* 394 Upon his schelde a dove whyte, Sygnyfycaciǫun of the holy spryte. 1526 TINDALE *Eph.* iv. 30 Greve not the holy sprete ǒff God. 1538 STARKEY *England* II. i. 143 By Hys Holy Spryte, from whom..commyth al gudnes. *c* 1600 FORMAN in *MS. Ashmole 802* fol. 143 b, Governe me with thy holy sprite.

†**Sprite,** *v. Obs.* In 6 *Sc.* **sprete.** [f. prec.] *trans.* To inspire *with* courage.

1536 BELLENDEN *Cron. Scotl.* (1821) II. 97 Aidane..spretit thame with sic curage, that thay..put the Saxonis..to flicht. *Ibid.* 389 This victorie was sa plesand..that every man wes spretit with new curage.

†**Spri·ted,** *a. Obs.* [f. SPRITE *sb.*]

1. = SPRIGHTED *a.*

1535 COVERDALE *Ps.* XXXVI. 11 The meke spreted shal possesse the earth. 1577 B. GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* III. (1586) 115 b, The whol body..large, hie, liuely sprited, and well trussed. 1607 T. CAMPION *Maske* B 4 b, Mild sprited Zephyrus haile.

2. Having the form of a sprite.

a 1586 SIDNEY *Astroph. & Stella* (1598) XCVI, In night, of sprites the gastly powers to stur; In thee, or sprites or sprited gastlinesse.

†**Spri·teful,** *a. Obs.* [f. as prec.]

1. = SPRIGHTFUL *a.* 1.

c 1650 HOWELL *Fam. Lett.* (1753) 458 The French nation is quick and spriteful. 1697 EVELYN *Numismata* IX. 308 Spriteful and Vigorous, striving to get the better of his little body.

b. = SPRIGHTFUL *a.* 1 b.

c 1611 CHAPMAN *Iliad* XI. 246 His readie chariotere did scourge his spritefull horse.

2. = SPRIGHTFUL *a.* 2.

1606 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. iv. II. *Magnificence* 1053 A thousand Flowrs spring in his spritefull pases. 1624 J. GEE *Foot out of Snare* 45 Considering, it hath been..bedewed with their last spritefull breath. 1662 PLAYFORD *Skill Mus.* I. ii. (1674) 45 But much more spriteful will it appear..by holding of a Note that falls not by one degree.

Hence †**Spri·tefully** *adv.*; †**Spri·tefulness.**

c 1611 CHAPMAN *Iliad* XIII. 616 The Phthian and Epeian troopes did spritefully assaile The God-like Hector. 1651 JER. TAYLOR *Serm. for Year* II. ix. 113 Its memory was lost in the joyes and spritefulnesse of the morning.

Spri·tehood. [f. as prec.] The condition or state of being a sprite.

1882 NICHOL *Amer. Lit.* xi. 359 The same fascinating impishness, or spritehood, in both is allayed by a similar healing or converting process.

†**Spri·teless,** *a. Obs.* [f. as prec.] = SPRIGHTLESS *a.*

α. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* IX. iii. 187 Quhilkis in thar weris previt sa spreytles men That Hector thaime delayit 3eris ten. 1531 TINDALE *Expos. 1 John* (1537) 82 We..beynge spretlesse..serue God in the body. 1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* (S.T.S.) I. 314 Ane abiecte and spreitles harte.

β. a 1547 SURREY *Æneid* IV. 896 Her sister Anne, spritelesse for dread to heare This fearefull sturre. *a* 1618 J. DAVIES (Heref.) *Wit's Pilgr.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 36/2 It often proues such spritelesse heauy Stuffe. 1661 *Sir A. Haslerig's Last Will & Test.* Suppl. 6 So soon was his spriteless valour resolved into fear.

†**Spri·telike,** *a. Obs.* [f. as prec.] Resembling a sprite or that of a sprite.

c 1611 CHAPMAN *Iliad* XXI. 18 The Worthy,..spritelike, did with his sword aduance Vp to the riuer. 1658 ROWLAND tr. *Moufet's Theat. Ins.* 924 Such spritelike courage hath Nature planted in them.

Spri·teliness. Now *rare.* [f. SPRITELY *a.*] = SPRIGHTLINESS.

1666 H. STUBBE *Mirac. Conformist* 2 A vivacitie and spritelinesse that is nothing common. 1710 F. FULLER *Pharmacop.* 125 It..puts new spritelinesse into the clog'd Spirits. 1779 JOHNSON *L. P., Pope* Wks. 1787 IV. 45 A Preface, written with great spritelinesse and elegance. 1805 *Brathwait's Barnabees Jrnl.* Introd. (1818) 45 A very pleasing effusion of spritelinesse. 1909 *Contemp. Rev.* Lit. Suppl. Nov. 6 Marred by the elephantine spritelinesse of the style.

†**Spri·tely,** *a.* and *adv. Obs.* Also 6 **spritly,** 7 **-lye, sp'ritly.** [f. SPRITE *sb.*]

A. *adj.* **1.** = SPRIGHTLY *a.* 1.

1606 SHAKS. *Tr. & Cr.* II. ii. 190 Yet nere the lesse, My spritely brethren, I propend to you In resolution to keepe Helen still. 1670 COTTON *Espernon* I. IV. 141 But the Commanders and Souldiers were such, that it was not possible to see any where a more complete, nor a more spritely Body. 1752 FIELDING *Amelia* Wks. 1755 X. 213, I fancy Mrs. Bennet hath been a very spritely woman : for..she discovers by starts a great vivacity in her countenance.

b. = SPRIGHTLY *a.* 1 b.

1653 A. WILSON *Jas. I,* 246 Being a Spritlye Horse..he saved both himself, and his Rider. 1680 *Spirit of Popery* 56 Not daring to Attack the Coachman, because his Whip did fright his spritely Horse. 1752 YOUNG *Nt. Th.* I. 437 The spritely lark's shrill mattin wakes the morn.

2. = SPRIGHTLY *a.* 2.

1654 WHITLOCK *Zootomia* 342 No doubt the Soule needs ..a well organiz'd Body, to exercise it[s] Functions with spritely Vigor. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 10 Mar. 1685, An aire of spritely modestie not easily to be described. 1774 MITFORD *Ess. Harmony Lang.* 149 Where this is the case a monosyllabic line may be spritely in its motion.

3. = SPRIGHTLY *a.* 3 a.

1602 ROWLANDS *Tis Merrie when Gossips meete* (Hunterian Cl.) 3 Not penny a quart, dull ale, nor drowsie Beere But spritely wine. 1669 DIGBY *Closet Opened* (1677) 7 It [the mead] will be very spritely, and quick and pleasant.

b. = SPRIGHTLY *a.* 3 b.

1598 MARSTON *Pygmal., Sat.* IV, I see Th'art falne to wits extreamest pouerty, Sure in Consumption of the spritly part. 1638 BRATHWAIT *Barnabees Jrnl.* I. E, Furnish'd with their spritely weapons. 1821 LAMB *Elia* Ser. I. *Mrs. Battle's Opinions on Whist,* She could not conceive a *game* wanting the spritely infusion of chance.

C. = SPRIGHTLY *a.* 3 c.

c 1611 CHAPMAN *Iliad* XVIII. 449 Youthes, and maides,..To whom the merrie Pipe and Harp the spritely sounds adnanc't. 1662 PLAYFORD *Skill Mus.* I. (1674) 60 Such effectual melody..in such excellent Fug's and Spritely Ayres. 1789 BURNEY *Hist. Mus.* III. vii. 410 A Consort..in 4 parts of a spritely kind such as were then called Fancies.

d. = SPRIGHTLY *a.* 3 d.

1662 PLAYFORD *Music* (1674) 109 The Treble-Violin is a cheerful and spritely Instrument. 1670 in *Term Catal.* (Arber) I. 49/2 Directions to learn to play upon that pleasant and spritely Instrument, the Flagollet.

B. *adv.* = SPRIGHTLY *adv.*

1606 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. iv. II. *Magnificence* 924 There the Lord Zedec him more spritely bears, Milde, fair and pleasant. 1657 F. COCKIN *Div. Blossomes* 48 So lively glorious,..So Sp'ritly vigorous and Soul-reviving.

†**Spri·ten,** *v. Obs.*[-1] [f. as prec.] *trans.* To put spirit or life into ; to enliven.

1614 C. BROOKE *Ghost Rich. III,* Poems (1872) 75 Griefe cast not downe, joy spritned not their eyes.

†**Spri·tiness.** *Obs.*[-1] [f. SPRITY *a.*] Sprightliness.

1607 MARKHAM *Cavel.* II. (1617) 260 You shal then..by the moouing of your bodie and legs forward with a liuelie spritines, thrust your horse into his galloppe.

Spri·ting, *vbl. sb. rare.* [f. SPRITE *sb.*] Acting as sprites; action appropriate to sprites.

? *c* 1570 *Buggbears* II. iv, Syng hegh hoe..a sprityng go we. 1610 SHAKS. *Temp.* I. ii. 298, I will be correspondent to command And doe my spryting, gently.

†**Spri·tish,** *a. Obs.* [f. as prec.] Impish, malicious, mischievous.

1569 in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* Ser. III. III. 367 To defend.. you from the malitious practises of all your spritishe fooes. 1572 *Treat. Treas. agst. Q. Eliz.* 56 Euery man may..take al his whole tale for a wicked spritish lye. 1600 W. WATSON *Decacordon* (1602) 238 Thou daily dost minister new matter to increase our home persecutions, by thy spritish cruelty.

Hence †**Spri·tishly** *adv. Obs.*

1592 G. HARVEY *Four Lett.* 58 Ignis fatuus [was] never so spritishly busy.

Spritsail, sprit-sail (sprɪ·tsəl, sprɪ·ts'l). *Naut.* Forms: (see SPRIT *sb.*[1] and SAIL *sb.*[1]; also) 7 **sprissel, sprisle.** [f. SPRIT *sb.*[1] Cf. Du. *spriet-zeil,* WFris. *-seil,* NFris. *spritseil, spretsaiel,* Da. *spritsejl,* Sw. *-segel,* G. *sprietsegel.*]

1. A sail extended by a sprit; formerly also a sail attached to a yard slung under the bowsprit of large vessels.

a. 1466 *Mann. & Househ. Exp.* 344 My mastyr paid to Willyam Elyse for to carye his sprete seyle of the kervelle to Yipswyche. 1497 *Naval Acc. Hen. VII* (1896) 303 Tyes for the Sprette Sayle. 1616 CAPT. SMITH *Descr. New Eng.* 49 Onely her spret saile remayned to spoon before the wind, till we had reaccommodated a Iury mast. 1627 — *Seaman's Gram.* vii. 32 The Spret-saile is ⅔ parts the depth of the fore saile. 1694 MOTTEUX *Rabelais* IV. xviii. (1737) 76 He ..made them .. take in their Spreet-sail. 1750 BLANCKLEY *Naval Expos.* 150 Smacks are necessary Transporting Vessels, with one Mast and half Spreet-sail.

β. 1485 *Naval Acc. Hen. VII* (1896) 41 Spritt sailes feble, j. 1582 N. LICHEFIELD tr. *Castanheda's Cong. E. Ind.* I. xxix. 72 b, The Captaine generall commanded..to fardle up their sprits sailes. 1598 LODGE *Looking Gl. Lond. & Eng.* F ij b, Our topsailes vp, we trusse our spritsailes in. 1655 HEYWOOD & ROWLEY *Fortune by Land & Sea* IV, Our Sprightsayl, Top-sail, and Top-gallant..are hung with waving pendants. 1671 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 621/1 With great difficulty the Swallow,..having onely a Mainsayl and Spritsayl left,..performed her Voyage. 1745 P. THOMAS *Jrnl. Anson's Voy.* 107 We unbent the Mizzen and Sprit-sail. 1794 *Rigging & Seamanship* 42 Barges, Pinnaces, and Yawls, with Sprit-sails. 1839 MARRYAT *Phant. Ship* viii. (Rtldg.) 66 She carried a square spritsail and sprit-topsail. 1891 *Spectator* 7 Feb. 211/1 The spritsail, the object of which is to get the advantage of a lofty peak and retain a short mast.

b. *ellipt.* A spritsail barge.

1881 *Standard* 22 June 3/7 The leading topsail barges at this part of the race overhauled the spritsails.

2. *attrib.* **a.** In the sense 'of or belonging to a spritsail', as *spritsail brace, brails, clewline,* etc.

1599 DALLAM in *Early Voy. Levant* (Hakluyt Soc.) 59 Myssen top, sprid saile top. 1626 CAPT. SMITH *Wks.* (Arb.) II. 293 The spret sayle top mast, the spret sayle top sayle yard. 1627 — *Seaman's Gram.* 31 *marg.,* Spretsaile top-Saile. 1669 STURMY *Mariner's Mag.* 16 Let go the Sprit sail Breales, and hale aft the Sheets. *Ibid.* 17 Vere out.. your Fore and Main-sheets, and Sprisle-sheets. 1676 WISEMAN *Surgery* VI. v. 425 Our men bravely quitted themselves of the Fire-ship by cutting the Sprit-sail-Tackle off with their short Hatchets. 1692 *Smith's Seaman's Gram.* I. xiv. 65 Spritsail Clewlines. 1698 in *MSS. Ho. Lords* New Ser. III. (1905) 34 The..rope was expended..for mizen top gallant mast and spritsail top gallant mast. 1711 W. SUTHERLAND *Shipbuild. Assist.* 112 Sprit-sail Lifts. 1750 BLANCKLEY *Naval Expos.* 12 Spritsail Sheat Blocks are turn'd. 1769 FALCONER *Dict. Marine* (1780) s.v., Formerly the spritsail-topsails were set on a mast, which was erected..on the end of the bowsprit. 1794 *Rigging & Seamanship* 135 Spritsail-Topgallant-sail is quadrilateral,..and is bent on the head, to the spritsail-topgallant-yard. *c* 1810 ADM. PATTON in *19th Cent.* (1899) 723 A seaman..let go the sprit-sail brace. 1860 *All Year Round* No. 66. 382 'Which knot?' asked Toby. 'Single or double wall,..spritsail-sheet, stopper, or shroud?' *c* 1860 H. STUART *Seaman's Catech.* 3 Spritsail gaff on bowsprit.

b. *Spritsail yard,* a yard slung under the bowsprit to support a spritsail. Also *attrib.*

1627 CAPT. SMITH *Seaman's Gram.* iii. 16 The spret-saile Yard [must be] 16. yards long, and but 9. inches thicke. 1687 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 2246/4 A Sally Man of War,..with his Men on his Bowsprit and his Sprissel-yards along Ships. 1745 P. THOMAS *Jrnl. Anson's Voy.* 281 We..got our Spritsail yard fore and aft,..which is an infallible Sign of a Design to board the Enemy. 1797 S. JAMES *Narr. Voyage* 28 The boatswain, and others of the English seamen, were sitting at the spritsail yard. *c* 1810 ADM. PATTON in *19th Cent.* (1899) 723 Five of the enemy had got upon our starboard sprit-sail yard-arm. 1840 R. H. DANA *Bef. Mast* XXV. 83 The spritsail yard sprung in the slings.

c. In the sense 'carrying a spritsail', as *spritsail barge, vessel.*

1798 *Ann. Reg.*, *Chron.* 40/2 As a sprit-sail vessel..was coming up the river. 1885 *Daily Tel.* 27 Oct. (Encycl. Dict.), The well-known sprit-sail barge, a vessel with a mainsail that sets on a sprit.

Hence **Spritsail-yard** *v. trans.*, to disable (a shark, dog-fish, etc.) by thrusting a spar or piece of wood through the snout or gills.

1835 MARRYAT *Pacha of Many Tales* ix. (Rtldg.) 111 The shark..had been caught and *spritsail-yarded*, as the seamen term it. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.* 646 *Sprit-sail yarding*, a cruelty in which some fishermen wreak vengeance on sharks, dog-fish, etc., that encroach on their baits, and foul their nets.

† Spri·ttle, *sb. Obs.*—[1] In 4 spritell. [f. the stem of SPRIT *v.*[1] Cf. OE. *sprytele* chip, OHG. *spruzil* bar, MHG. *spriʒʒel* stave, G. dial. *sprüssel* young shoot, stave (of a ladder).] A shoot or young twig.

a 1400 *Stockh. Med. MS.* i. 445 in *Anglia* XVIII. 306 Take to handfull of ȝonge elerne-spritell And schrape of þe ouerest bark with a qwetyll.

Spri·ttle, *v. Obs.* exc. *dial.* [Of obscure origin.] *trans.* To scrape or pick with some instrument; to dig *up* in this way.

1575 BANISTER *Chyrurg.* I. (1585) 254 Then with a brasse or yron pipe..thrust into the bottome of it, [they] do sprittle it up by the roots. 1904 in *Eng. Dial. Dict.* (Notts., Linc.).

Sprittled: see SPRUTTLED *a.*

Sprit-topsail: see SPRIT *sb.*[1]

Spritty (spri·ti), *a. Sc.* [f. SPRIT *sb.*[3] + -Y.] Abounding in sprits or rushes.

1786 BURNS *To Auld Mare* xii, 'Till sprittie knowes wad rair't an' risket, An' slypet owre. 1823 J. HOGG *Sheph. Cal.* (1829) I. 27 His dead master, who..was lying in a little spritty hollow. 1885 A. MUNRO *Siren Casket* 42 Large spritty clods from tearing hoofs In showers around them flew.

† Spri·tual, *a. Obs.* Forms: α. 5 **sprytwalle,** 6 **-ual**; 5–6 **spritual** (6 **-all**), 8 **sp'ritual.** β. 5–6 **spretuall.** [Reduced form of SPIRITUAL *a.*] Spiritual.

α. *c* 1420 *Chron. Vilod.* 1617 Two sprytwalle ladyus he ordeynede þo To ocupy þat worshipfulle state in hurre absens. 1526 TINDALE 1 *Cor.* ii. 15 He that is sprituall discusseth all thynges. 1538 STARKEY *England* I. iv. 122 Wherfor..we may procede to the fautys in the sprytual parte. 1789 BURNS *Kirk's Alarm* xvii, Calvin's sons! Seize your sp'ritual guns.

β. 1498 *Reg. Privy Seal Scotl.* (1908) I. 34/2 Ony uther courtis spretuall or temporall. 1526 TINDALE 1 *Cor.* ii. 13 Makynge spretuall comparesons of spretuall thinges. 1554–9 H. SPONNER in *Songs & Ball., Phil. & Mary* (1860) 8 Musyck in spretuall rimes and psalms.

Hence **† Spritua·lity; † Spri·tually** *adv. Obs.*

1526 TINDALE 1 *Cor.* ii. 14 Nether can he preceave them because he is spretually examyned. 1567 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* I. 537 Diverse of the Nobilitie, Spritualitie, and Commissaris of burrowis.

Spri·ty, *a.* Now *dial.* Also 7 **sprytie; *Sc.*** 6 **sprety,** 8–9 **spritty.** [f. SPRITE *sb.*] **a.** Spirited. **b.** Spirituous.

1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* XI. viii. 26 For eith it is for till assay, and se Quhat may our sprety fors in the melle. 1607 MARKHAM *Cavel.* II. (1617) 126 Till you see him euen with a sprytie furie and an actiue nimblenes, passe and repasse in his stalle. 1715 PENNECUIK *Misc. Sc. Poems* 10 Such spritty Liquor, cures us of all Sorrow. 1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss.*, *Sprity*, a term applied to wine or beer when the Mother or concreted matter is separated, and floats about in small particles.

Sproat (sprōut). *Angling.* [f. the name of the inventor, W. H. *Sproat* of Ambleside.] *Sproat-bend* (*hook*), *sproat hook*, a light fish-hook with a wide and slightly flattened bend, short front, and point set well inwards.

[1866 W. H. SPROAT in *Field* 1 Dec., I send .. salmon hooks made by Messrs. Hutchinson and Son, of Kendal. They have affixed my name to them.] 1871 'STONEHENGE' *Brit. Rur. Sports* (ed. 9) I. v. 276 The sproat-bend, which is intermediate between the round-bend and the Limerick, has also come a good deal into use of late for trout. 1883 *Cent. Mag.* July 378/1 He attached a sproat hook, No. 1½, with a gut snell eight inches long. 1888 GOODE *Amer. Fishes* 20 Thirty or forty yards of braided silk or linen line, and a Sproat-bend hook.

Sprocket (sprǫ·kĕt), *sb.* Also 6 **sprokett,** 6, 9 **sproket.** [Of obscure origin.]

1. *Carp.* and *Build.* A triangular piece of timber used in framing, esp. one fastened on the foot of a rafter in order to raise the level of the eaves.

1536 *MS. Acc. St. John's Hosp., Canterb.*, To Nycoles & Horton for makyng sprokettis & a grunsyll att Arnoldes, ij d. 1593 *MS. Churchw. Acc. St. Andrew's, Canterb.*, For setting vp a forme, nayles and sproketes, xiij d. 1703 [R. NEVE] *City & C. Purchaser* 121 A Coving-cornish..has a great Casement, or Hollow in it, which is commonly Lathed and Plaister'd upon Compass, Sprockets, or Brackets. 1880 LEANING *Quantity Survey.* 61 Sprockets.—State what size two are cut out of.

2. A projection (either forked or simple) from the rim of a wheel, engaging with the links of a chain.

1750 BLANCKLEY *Naval Expos.* 126 Sprockets are made not unlike a large Horse Shoe, drove into the Wheel, and the Chain works on them. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 522/1 The sprockets on the wheel are adapted to receive the links of the chain successively. *Ibid.* 2292/2 The sprockets may be forked, and thus made to partially embrace the links of the chain. 1897 *C. T. C. Monthly Gaz.* Jan. 21 A roller-chain passing over ordinary sprockets.

b. *attrib.* in *sprocket-wheel.*

1769 FALCONER *Dict. Marine* (1780) s.v. *Pump*, The sprocket-wheels, employed to wind it up from the ship's bottom. 1792 J. TOWNSEND *Journ. Spain* I. 170 It [the noria] consists of a band or girdle passing over a sprocket wheel. 1846 A. YOUNG *Naut. Dict.* 239 Above the upper extremities of these tubes there is fixed a sproket-wheel worked by crank-handles. *c* 1860 H. STUART *Seaman's Catech.* 54 It is rove round the sprocket-wheel of the capstan. 1896 *Westm. Gaz.* 21 Nov. 7/2 The chain, instead of acting direct on the driving wheel, passes from the sprocket wheel to another at the back of the saddle.

c. *ellipt.* A sprocket-wheel, esp. that of a cycle.

1886 J. M. CAULFEILD *Seamanship Notes* 3 Parts of the Capstan. Drum head, barrel, sprocket. 1893 *Fortn. Rev.* No. 314. 241 The elliptical sprocket, or lower chain-wheel, has caused much discussion.

attrib. 1897 *Outing* XXX. 277/2 A wheel, from handle-bar to sprocket-chain. *Ibid.* 370/2 A sprocket-lock, which was guaranteed to prevent any sprocket from revolving. *Ibid.* 371/1, I snapped in its place my sprocket-guard.

3. *Naut.* One of the teeth of a pawl-rim.

1903 *Speaker* 7 Feb. 452/1 The Hermione capstans are of the dangerous old-fashioned type, fitted with the antiquated pawls and sprockets. 1906 *Temple Bar* Jan. 59 The little iron pawls..begin to click and clatter, as they pass over their sprockets.

Hence **Spro·cketed** *a.*, furnished with sprockets.

1895 *Queenslander* 7 Dec. 1071/1 The chain runs on and engages sprocketed wheels.

Sprod. *north. dial.* [Of obscure origin.] A salmon in its second year.

1617 *Shuttleworths' Acc.* (Chetham Soc.) 218 A salmon and sprodes and troutes. *a* 1672 WILLUGHBY *Hist. Pisc.* (1686) IV. iv. 189 Nostratibus in fluvio Ribble agri Eboracensis Salmones primo ætatis anno *Smelts* dicuntur; secundo *Sprods*. 1677 JOHNSON in Ray *Corresp.* (1848) 127, I am a little jealous that their Sprods are but Scurves. 1861 *Act* 24 & 25 *Vict.* c. 109 § 4 All migratory fish of the genus salmon,..that is to say salmon,..tubs, yellow fin, spred, herling [etc.]. 1884 *Westmorl. Gaz.* 1 Nov. 5/5 A good many morts and sprods have been landed from the lower reaches of the Kent.

Sprong. Now *dial.* Also 5 **spronge.** [Of obscure origin: cf. PRONG *sb.*[2]] = PRONG *sb.*[2] 1 and 2. Hence **Sprongful.**

1492 RYMAN *Poems* lxxxv. 5 in *Archiv Stud. neu. Spr.* LXXXIX. 255 When dredefull deth to the shal come And smyte the with his spronge. 1756 TOLDERVY *Hist. 2 Orphans* I. 146 She threw a fork at me that had three sprongs. 1870 KENNEDY *Fireside Stories* 58 (E.D.D.), For every sprong-full he threw out, two came in. 1888 ELWORTHY *W. Somerset Word-bk.* 704 One o' the sprongs is a-brokt out o' the dung clow. *a* 1904 in *Eng. Dial. Dict.* (Kent and Somerset).

Sprong, obs. f. pa. t. and pa. pple. SPRING *v.*

Spronk[1]. *Obs.* exc. *dial.* Also 1 **spranca,** 5 **spronke.** [OE. *spranca*; cf. WFlem. *spranke* branch of a vein or artery.]

† 1. A shoot, sprout. *Obs. rare.*

c 1000 ÆLFRIC *Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 139 *Stirps*, styb, *uel* spranca. *Ibid.* 149 *Plante*, treowes sprancan. *a* 1100 in Napier *O. E. Glosses* 54/2 *Labruscas*, sprotu, sprancan. *c* 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* XII. 116 After dayes vij vp hem [peaches] take; By thenne out wol a spronke of hem be lette Vppon the shelle.

2. *dial.* The stump of a tree or tooth.

1838 in HOLLOWAY. 1847– in dial. glossaries (Kent, Sussex, Surrey).

† Spronk[2]. *Obs.*—[1] [Cf. SPRANK [2].] A spark.

c 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 205 Anon so he hadde þis word i-seid, þat fuyr aqueinte ech spronke.

† Sprot[1]. *Obs.* Forms: α. 1–2, 4–7 **sprot,** 1, 4–6 **sprott,** 5–6 **sprotte.** β. 5–7 **sprote.** [OE. *sprot*, = Fris., MDu. and Du., MLG. *sprot* (hence G. *sprott*, † *sprotte*, obs. Da. *sprot*, *sprøt*, *spryt*).] **a.** = SPRAT *sb.*[1] 1. **b.** A smelt.

α. *c* 1000 ÆLFRIC *Lives Saints* xxxi. 1271 Hi ealle ne mihton, Ne fisceras ne he sylf, ȝefon ænne sprot. *c* 1055 *Byrhtferth's Handboc* in *Anglia* VIII. 310 Ða myclan hwælas and ða lytlan sprottas and eall fisc kynn. *c* 1110 in Napier *Contrib. O. E. Lexicog.* 14 *Silurus*, sprot, *glaucus*, hwitling. 1309–10 *Durh. Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 8. 1328–9 *Exch. K. R. Mem.* m. 125, Piscem qui dicitur sprot. 14.. *Piers of Fulham* in Hartshorne *Anc. Metr. T.* 119 The cely fisshes can nat hem selff excuse; Tyll it be spitted like a sprotte. 1502 ARNOLDE *Chron.* (1811) 263 Rede sprottis: x cades maketh a last. 1535 *Act* 27 *Hen. VIII*, c. 3 Fisher men..vse commonly to conducte and conuey their hearing, sprottes, and other fyshe to..Kyngstone. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* II. 434 Sprots salted haue a special propertie to heal the biting of the beetle or venomous fly Prester.

β. *c* 1475 *Cath. Angl.* 357/1 Sprote, *epimera*, *piscis est*. 1557 W. TURNER *Ep.* in Gesner *Hist. Anim.* (1558) 1296 Apua quæ a Cantabrigensibus uocatur a Spirlyng, a Londinensibus, dum recens est, a Sprote; et infumata a rede Sprote, aut a dryed Sprote. 1583 *Shuttleworths' Acc.* (Chetham Soc.) 7 Rede herynges and a hundrethe of sprotes, xij[d]. 1609–10 *Ibid.* 186 A hundreth of sprotes, xj[d].

attrib. 1499 *Maldon Court Rolls* Bundle 58 No. 2 b, Pro le mesurage v. chaldre colys pro j sprotebote. 1500 *Ibid.* Bundle 59 No. 2, De custum. j sprotbote, iii. *d.*

Sprot[2]. *Sc.* (and *north.*). Also 9 **sprote, sprott.** [Cf. SPRAT *sb.*[3]] A coarse kind of rush or rush-like grass.

c 1600 *Lindesay's* (Pitscottie) *Chron.* (S.T.S.) I. 336 *note*, The fluir layd with greine scheirrittis, with sprottis, medwartis, and flouris. 1808 JAMIESON s.v. *Sprat*, They are called sprotes [in] Ang[us]. 1825 *Ibid.* Suppl., *Fosset*,..a mat of rushes or *sprots*, laid on a horse. 1853 G. JOHNSTON *Nat. Hist. E. Borders* 199 *Juncus acutiflorus*. Sprat or Sprot. 1883 G. M'MICHAEL *Notes Way thr. Ayrshire* 78 All east of this is moorland, clad with bent, heath, and sprotts.

Sprot[3]. *rare.* [Of obscure origin.] (See quot.)

1846 E. JESSE *Anecd. Dogs* 269 The otter swims and dives with great celerity, and in doing the latter, it throws up *sprots* or air bubbles.

Sprot-barley, obs. variant of SPRAT-BARLEY.

Sprote[1]. *Obs.* exc. *dial.* Forms: 1 **sprota,** 4–5, 9 **sprote,** 5, 9 **sprot,** 9 **spro(o)at.** [Common Teut.: OE. *sprota*, = MDu. *sprote*, *sproot* (Du. *sport*), MLG. *sprote*, *sprate*, OHG. *sprozzo* (MHG. *sprozze*, G. *sprosse*), ON. *sproti*, related to SPROUT *v.* OE. had also *sprot* neut., which may be partly represented in the later form with short vowel.]

† 1. A shoot, sprout, twig, rod. *Obs.*

c 1050 in Wr.-Wülcker 378 *Clauus*, nægl oððe sprota. *a* 1100 in Napier *O. E. Glosses* 83 *Sarmentorum*, sprotena. *a* 1300 *Havelok* 1142, I ne haue hws, y ne haue cote, Ne I ne haue stikke, y ne haue sprote. *c* 1425 *Noah's Ark* in *Non-Cycle Mystery Plays* 22 For I have neither ruff nor ryff, Spyer, sprund, sprout, no sprot [*rime* boat]. *c* 1460 *Townley Myst.* ii. 290, I wold that it were in thi throte, Fyr, & shefe, and ich a sprote.

b. *pl.* Small sticks or twigs; bits of branches blown from trees. Also *sprote-wood.*

1825 in JAMIESON *Suppl.* 1847 in HALLIWELL. 1854– in dial. glossaries (Northampt., Yks., Sc.).

2. A chip, shiver, or splinter.

Freq. *c* 1400, in phr. *in, into, on sprotes.*

c 1400 MAUNDEV. (1839) xxii. 238 The Tronchouns flen in sprotes and peces alle aboute the Halle. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 5783 Speiris into sprottes spronge ouer hede. *c* 1400 *Sege Jerus.* (E.E.T.S.) 554 Spakly her speres on sprotes þey ȝeden.

1825 JAMIESON *Suppl.*, *Sprot*, a chip of wood, flying from the tool of a carpenter.

† Sprote[2]. *Obs.* [= MLG. (and LG.) *sprote*, *sprute*, MDu. *sproete* (Du. *sproet*), G. *sprosse*, † *sprusse*, perhaps related to prec.] A spot on the skin; a freckle. Hence **† Sproted** *ppl. a.*, spotted. *Obs.*

a 1400–50 *Stockholm Med. MS.* 145 A good watir to purgyn a mannys face of sprotys. 1422 tr. *Secreta Secret., Priv. Priv.* 233 Eyen that bene whit y-freklet, or i-sprotid, or blake.

† Sproty, *a. Obs.*—[1] [? f. SPROTE [1].] Small, thin, weak.

c 1425 *Eng. Conq. Irel.* 54 The Erl..was samroed, with grey eghen, wommanes vysage, & sproty smal spech [L. *voce exili*], short nek.

† Sprounting, *vbl. sb. Obs.*—[1] Spouting.

1691 MRS. D'ANVERS *Academia* 31 I've seen..Maudlin walks and Christ-Church Fountain, A thing that makes a mighty sprounting.

Sprout (sprout), *sb.*[1] Also 4, 6 **sproute,** 7 **sprowt(e, sproot(e.** [Related to SPROUT *v.*[1] Cf. MDu. *sprute*, *spruyte* (Du. *spruit*, WFris. *sprút*), MLG. *sprute*, *spruut*, NFris. *spröt*, *spröd.*]

1. A shoot from a branch, root, or stump of a tree, shrub, or plant; a new growth developing from a bud into a branch, stalk, sucker, etc.

a 1300 *E. E. Psalter* lxxix. 12 He streked his pal[m]tres to þe se, And his sproutes to þe streme to be. 1602 FULBECKE *2nd Pt. Parall.* 53 If certaine sprowtes or braunches doe grow vpon the stocke, the cutting of these sprowtes or braunches or the destroying of them is wast. 1638 WILKINS *New World* xiv. (1707) 126 The Experiment of Trees cut down which will of themselves put forth Sprouts. 1693 EVELYN *De la Quint. Compl. Gard.* II. Refl. Agric. 63 The New Sprouts which shoot out at the Extremities of a Pruned Branch. *a* 1722 LISLE *Husb.* (1757) 376 Peach-trees are so difficult to be kept..if the gardener does not perfectly understand the way of cutting them, and taking their sprouts away. 1784 COWPER *Task* III. 528 He pinches from the second stalk A pimple, that portends a future sprout. 1849 CUPPLES *Green Hand* xvi. (1856) 159 The ferny sprouts of young cocoas. 1856 OLMSTED *Slave States* 76 A large, square yard, growing full of Lombardy poplar sprouts, from the roots of eight or ten old trees.

fig. 1673 O. WALKER *Educ.* viii. 68 No Nation civil or barbarous..that express not their joy and mirth by it [*sc.* dancing], which makes it seem a sprout of the Law of Nature. 1871 R. H. HUTTON *Ess.* (1877) I. 64 All human minds are but sprouts from the same infinite source.

b. A rudimentary shoot of a seed; the acrospire of grain.

1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* 485 The best barly, of which steeped in water and lying wet therein untill it spurt againe, then, after the said sprout is full come, dried and parched over a kill, they make store of mault. 1673–4 GREW *Anat. Pl., Anat. Trunks* II. i. (1682) 124 A Sprout from a Seed.

fig. 1640 BP. HALL *Episc.* II. 167 So the rest of the Churches show, what sprouts they have of the Apostolike seed.

c. *pl.* Young or tender shoots or side-growths of various vegetables, esp. of the cabbage-kind.

1639 O. WOOD *Alph. Bk. Secrets* 229 The juyce of young Sprowts of Nettles snuffed. 1698 M. LISTER *Journ. Paris* (1699) 150, I never saw in all the Markets once Sprouts, that is, the tender Roots of Cabages. 1712 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 317 ¶ 17 Dined on a Knuckle of Veal and Bacon. Mem. Sprouts wanting. 1721 BAILEY, *Sprouts*, a Sort of young Coleworts. 1726 *Dict. Rust.*, *Sprouts*, small shoots of old Cabbage, in Winter, when they begin to Bloom and Head. 1842 LOUDON *Suburban Hort.* 649 The roots, more especially those of the Swedish turnip,..will produce an abundance of delicate sprouts through February and March. 1858 GLENNY *Gard. Everyday Bk.* 99/2 You may now clear away all the stems and remains of cabbages that have supplied you with sprouts. 1887 *Amer. Naturalist* XXI. 441 The tall [variety of Brussels sprouts] is quite distinct in habit and leaf from the dwarf, the former having less crowded 'sprouts'.

d. *ellipt.* for *Brussels sprouts* (see BRUSSELS).

1858 GLENNY *Gard. Everyday Bk.* 271 Turnips, Sprouts, Spinach, Savoys.

e. *U.S.* A variety of potato.

1868 *Rep. U. S. Commissioner Agric.* (1869) 240 Michigan White Sprouts.

2. *transf.* a. Something resembling a sprout in appearance, formation, or growth.

1597 A. M. tr. *Guillemeau's Fr. Chirurg. 22/2* An excrescence of fleshe, havinge divers small sprouutes. 1822–7 Good *Study Med.* (1829) V. 611 The tegumental laminæ..sometimes giving rise to sprouts or branches of a very grotesque appearance.

† b. A branch of a river. *Obs.* (Cf. Sprout *v.*[1] 5.)

1794 Morse *Amer. Geog.* 378 To build a bridge over the sprouts of Mohawk river.

3. *fig.* Applied to persons: A scion.

1725 Ramsay *Gent. Sheph.* I. ii, When round the ingle-edge young sprouts are rife. 1779 J. Moore *View Soc. Fr.* II. l. 9 This kind of poison, being often poured upon the young sprouts of fortune and quality, gradually blasts the vigour of the plants. 1819 Scott *Ivanhoe* xxxii, The noble Athelstane,..the last sprout of the sainted Confessor! *Ibid.* xlv, That resuscitated sprout of Saxon royalty. 1875 Tennyson *Q. Mary* I. v, Then the bastard sprout, My sister, is far fairer than myself.

4. *To put through a course of sprouts*, to beat, birch, or flog; to subject to a course of severe discipline or training. *U.S.*

1851 Mayne Reid *Scalp-Hunt.* ii. 15 See that he be put through a 'regular course of sprouts'. 1858 in Bartlett (1859) s.v., Any gentlemen who want to be put through the necessary course of preliminary sprouts. 1897 *Outing* XXIX. 484/1 He put the ladies [*sc.* dogs] through a course of sprouts which ultimately developed brilliant..working qualities.

5. The action of sprouting or of putting forth new growths. *rare.*

1586 T. B. *La Primaud. Fr. Acad.* I. 666 Every evill (as Cicero saith) in the first sprout thereof may be easily stopped. 1824 Lamb *Elia* II. *Blakesmoor in H—shire*, All Ovid on the walls, in colours vivider than his descriptions. Actæon in mid sprout, with the unappeasable prudery of Diana.

6. Special Combs.: † **sprout cauliflower**, sprouting broccoli (*obs.*); **sprout flow** *U.S.*, the first flow or flood of water sluiced into a rice-field, causing the seed to sprout; **sprout-hill** (see quot.); **sprout-land** *U.S.*, land covered with the sprouts of trees or shrubs.

1728 Bradley *Dict. Bot.* s.v. *Brocoli*, I call it in English, the Sprout Cauliflower, because the Brocoli..is the Flower stalk with the Flower bud at the End of it. 1766 *Museum Rust.* VI. 317 In wet weather these insects [*sc.* ants] accumulate cavernous heaps of sandy particles amongst the grass, called by the labourers, sprout-hills. 1856 Olmsted *Slave States* 471 This is termed the 'sprout flow', and the water is left on the field until the seed [i. e. rice] sprouts. 1862 Thoreau *Excurs.* (1914) 219 About the second of October, these trees [i. e. maples]..are most brilliant, though many are still green. In 'sprout-lands' they seem to vie with one another.

† **Sprout,** *sb.*[2] *Obs. rare.* Also **sprut**(t. [? Cf. Norw. *spruta* (Da. *blæksprutte*) cuttle-fish.] Some kind of fish.

c 1340 *Durh. Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 36 In j sprutt et merling empt., xxjd. *Ibid.* 37, iiij kyling, j sprut, iijs. iijd. *Ibid.*, xxx keling, j leng, j sprout, et vij kodeling.

Sprout (sprɑut), *v.*[1] Forms: α. 3 **spruten**, 4, 6 **sprute**, 6 **spruit, spruyt.** β. 5 **sproutyn**, 6–7 **sproute, sprowt**(e, 6– **sprout.** [OE. **sprútan* (cf. *ásproten* pa. pple.), = WFris. *sprute* (NFris. *spröt*), MDu. *spruten, spruyten* (Du. *spruiten*), MLG. *spruten*, MHG. *spriezen* (G. *spriessen*, † *spreussen*). Cf. OE. *sprýtan* (rare) and *sprýttan* Sprit *v.*[1] The 16th cent. forms *spruit, spruyt*, are due to Du. *spruiten.*]

1. *intr.* To grow, issue, or proceed as a sprout or sprouts; to shoot forth or spring up by natural growth. Freq. in fig. context, and const. *of, out of, from*, etc.

c 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 217 An ȝerd sal spruten of iesse more. *c* 1230 *Hali Meid.* 11 Meidenhad is te blosme þat, beo ha eanes fulliche forcoruen, ne sprute6 ha neauer eft. 1535 Coverdale *Song Sol.* iv. 13 The frutes that sproute in the, are like a very paradyse of pomgranates with swete frutes. *c* 1572 Gascoigne *Fruites Warre* xvii, The bough, the braunch, the tree, From which do spring and sproute such fleshlie seedes. 1597 Shaks. 2 *Hen. IV*, II. iii. 60 To mine vpon Remembrance with mine Eyes, That it may grow, and sprowt, as high as Heauen. 1611 Coryat *Crudities* 87 These vines I haue seene grow so high, that they haue sprowted cleane aboue the toppe of the tree. 1662 J. Tatham *Aqua Triumph.* 1 A *Cornu-copia* out of which all sorts of Flowers seem to sprout. *a* 1708 Beveridge *Priv. Th.* II. (1730) 65 If the Love of Money be the Root of so many Sins of Omission, how many Sins of Commission must needs sprout from it. 1762 Foote *Orator* I, The luscious fruit sprouting from the apex of each of my ramifications. 1879 B. Taylor *Germ. Lit.* 141 Verse sprouting from verse as simply as leaf from leaf. 1882 Vines tr. *Sachs' Bot.* 282 Since the filaments which produce the antheridia and oogonia sprout from it. 1904 Hichens *Garden of Allah* Prel. iv, A straggling black moustache sprouted on his upper lip.

transf. 1832 G. Downes *Lett. Cont. Countries* I. 4 A light-blue striped pair of pantaloons, sprouting from an enormous pair of wooden boots.

b. Const. with adverbs, as *forth, out, up.*

1530 Palsgr. 730/2, I sprowte out, or spring out, as yonge floures, or buddes, or the grasse doth, *je poings.* 1604 E. G[rimstone] *D'Acosta's Hist. Indies* IV. viii. 228 Like as out of the great armes of trees, there commonly sprowt foorth lesse. 1626 Bacon *Sylva* § 407 That Leafe faded, but the young Buds did sprout on. 1665 Hooke *Microgr.* 40 Neer the root of this Plant, were sprouted out several small Branches. 1774 Goldsm. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) I. 293 Among their clifts..various substances sprout forward, which are either really vegetables, or the nests of insects. 1837 P. Keith *Bot. Lex.* 92 The shoots or branches..are no sooner browsed or bitten off than an increased number of new ones begin to sprout up in their place. 1861 J. R. Greene *Man. Anim. Kingd., Cœlent.* 171 In most *Zoantharia* either five or six tentacles first sprout forth.

fig. 1596 Dalrymple tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* I. 210 The ruites of the Pelagian hæresie, now spruitting vpe litle and litle. 1641 Milton *Prel. Episc.* Wks. 1851 III. 84 The warme effusion of his last blood, that sprouted up into eternall Roses to crowne his Martyrdome. 1660 F. Brooke tr. *Le Blanc's Trav.* 14 From this cursed Doctrine are sprouted forth many diverse Sects. 1677 Yarranton *Eng. Improv.* 22 Out of such a Bank will sprout out many Lumber houses and smaller Banks, to quicken Trade. 1732 Berkeley *Alciphr.* II. § 23 You shall see natural and just ideas sprout forth of themselves.

transf. 1870 Rock *Text. Fabr.* 63 Gold thread sprouting up like loops.

c. Of persons: To originate or spring.

1582 Stanyhurst *Æneis* III. (Arb.) 75 From whence [*sc.* Hesperus] oure auncetrye sprouted. 1612 T. Taylor *Comm. Titus* Ded., Cham, of whome quickely sprowted that cursed race of the Cananites. *a* 1653 Gouge *Comm. Heb.* ii. 17 The stock whence all men sprout was most impure and unholy.

2. Of a tree, plant, seed, etc.: To put forth, throw up or out, a sprout or sprouts; to develop new growths or shoots; to bud.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 11216 He þat þe walud wand moght ger In a night leif and fruit ber,..And in a night sua did it sprute To flur and fruit. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 471/1 Sproutyn, or burionyn,..*pululo.* 1562 Turner *Herbal* II. (1568) 156 Tribulus that hath the prickes in the leaues doth spruit or bud oute later. 1626 Bacon *Sylva* § 604 There be very few Creatures, that participate of the Nature of Plants, and Metalls both; Corall is one..: Another is Vitriol, for that is aptest to sprout with Moisture. 1632 Sanderson *Serm.* 554 An egge may be hatched into a bird, and a kirnell sprowt and grow into a tree. 1765 *Museum Rust.* IV. 288 According to the time each sort of seed may require to sprout. *c* 1787 G. White *Selborne* ii, The tree sprouted for a time, then withered and died. 1832 Ht. Martineau *Life in Wilds* ii. 27 Robertson lets the seed fall into the ground, and it sprouts. 1847 Tennyson *Princ.* IV. 187 But his brows Had sprouted, and the branches thereupon spread out at top. 1862 Goulburn *Pers. Relig.* ii. (1873) 11 If a branch does not sprout, and put forth leaf and blossom in the spring, we know that it is a dead branch.

fig. 1655 Fuller *Ch. Hist.* III. 25 Let him now get but the stump of a Crown, and with wise watering thereof, it would sprout afterwards. 1856 Boker *Poems*, etc. (1857) II. 1 Should his money sprout and yield a thousand fold. 1878 T. L. Cuyler *Pointed Papers* 6 The evangelist let fall the only seed that can sprout into a true regeneration.

b. Const. with adverbs, as *forth, out, up.*

1589 R. Robinson *A Golden Mirrour* (Chetham Soc.) 20 Each spray was sprouted out with buds. 1610 Holland *Camden's Brit.* 227 The Hawthorne, which upon Christmas-day sprouteth forth as well as in May. 1651 French *Distill.* v. 117 Untill the Wheat begin to germinate, or to sprout forth. 1711 Addison *Spect.* No. 98 ¶ 1 Like Trees new lopped and pruned, that will certainly sprout up and flourish with greater Heads than before. 1765 *Museum Rust.* IV. 256 The remaining part of the herb must be mowed close to the ground; after which it continueth to sprout out again. 1842 Loudon *Suburban Hort.* 686 If they are cut off close to the collar of the plant, it will sprout out again. 1846 J. Baxter *Libr. Pract. Agric.* (ed. 4) I. 259 The young plants..are thus encouraged to sprout out. *fig.* 1657 *North's Plutarch, Add. Lives* (1676) 2 The Christians being settled in Peace again, the Church began to sprout out and flourish anew. 1743 J. Davidson *Æneid* (1826) II. 135 Into so many shapes she turns herself,..with so many snakes the grim Fury sprouts up.

c. *spec.* To germinate, begin to grow, prematurely.

1685 *Rector's Bk. Clayworth* (1910) 70 The Harvest was wett, weh caused our wheat to sprout. 1763 Mills *Pract. Husb.* II. 305 The error of sowing wheat that had sprouted. 1846 J. Baxter *Libr. Pract. Agric.* (ed. 4) II. 213 Occasionally brushing off the eyes [of potatoes] if they have a tendency to sprout. 1860 *All Year Round* No. 74. 560 To lift some corn that was sprouting in the field in consequence of wet weather. 1886 *Pall Mall G.* 8 Nov. 2/2 Many a field of corn is sprouted which by a little more promptitude would have been saved with ease.

3. *transf.* Of earth, a surface, etc.: To bear, bring forth, or produce sprouts or sprout-like growths. Freq. const. *with* (a growth).

1591 Sylvester *Du Bartas* II. i. *Chaos* 555 The Night.. Moistens our Aire, and makes our Earth to sprout. 1822–7 Good *Study Med.* (1829) I. 479 Thus the strumous modification is sometimes found to have sprouted with fungous caruncles. 1854 Allingham *Day & Nt. Songs, Dirty Old Man* iii, The window-sills sprouted with mildewy grass. *a* 1884 T. Winthrop *Love & Skates* (Cent.), After a shower a meadow sprouts with the yellow buds of the dandelion.

4. *trans.* To cause (branches, leaves, etc.) to grow or shoot; to bear or develop, to put or throw *forth* or *out*, as sprouts.

1601 Dolman *La Primaud. Fr. Acad.* (1618) III. 793 These mountaine Pines sprout their branches out of their foote close to the earth. 1626 Bacon *Sylva* § 585 [These trees] are more lasting than those which sprout their leaues early or shed them betimes. 1733 W. Ellis *Chiltern & Vale Farm.* 198 That will cause it in a little time to sprout out a small Radicle. 1818 Keats *Endym.* I. 14 Trees old, and young, sprouting a shady boon For simple sheep. 1827 Hood *Mids. Fairies* ii, I..bade that bounteous season bloom again, And sprout fresh flowers in mine own domain.

b. *transf.* and *fig.*

1598 Barret *Theor. Warres* IV. i. 120 Wealth bred their pride; their pride sprouted ambition. 1659 Hammond *On Ps.* ciii. 5 The new or young feathers, which the old Eagle yearly sprouts out. 1684 *Contempl. St. Man* I. v. (1699) 52 The Earth..sprouts out Miseries and Deaths even of whole Cities. 1711 W. Sutherland *Shipbuild. Assist.* 2 How curiously their Fins are furl'd up, and again sprouted out at pleasure. 1819 Lamb *Elia* Ser. I. *On Acting of Munden*, When you think he has exhausted his battery of looks,.. suddenly he sprouts out an entirely new set of features, like Hydra. 1865 Carlyle *Fredk. Gt.* XXI. iii. (1872) IX. 309 Several Lernean Hydras..getting their heads lopped off, and at the same time sprouting new ones.

† **5.** *refl.* To divide or ramify. *Obs.*–[1]

1705 tr. *Bosman's Guinea* 426 This River sprouts it self into innumerable Branches.

6. a. To cause or induce (plants, seeds, etc.) to develop sprouts or shoots, esp. before planting or sowing them.

1770 *A. Hunter's Georg. Ess.* (1803) I. 62, I have sprouted all kinds of grain in a variety of steeps. 1840 J. Buel *Farmer's Companion* 248 Another mode of preventing failure..in the growth of certain seeds—and that is, by *sprouting* them before they are planted. 1895 *Outing* XXVII. 18/2 The plants are sprouted within doors.

b. *dial.* and *U.S.* (See quot.)

1828 Carr *Craven Gloss.*, *Sprout*, to rub or break off the sprouts of potatoes. 1891 in *Cent. Dict.*

Sprout, *v.*[2] *Obs.* exc. *dial.* [Cf. Norw. and Sw. *spruta*, Da. *sprude*, in sense I, related to LG. *sprutten, spritte* (hence Da. *sprutte*), MHG. and G. *sprützen*, and perh. identical in stem with prec.]

1. *trans.* To send forth in a spout or gush; to spout or pour *out*; to squirt.

1592 R. D. *Hypnerotomachia* 34 Her [the statue's] smal teates..did sprowt out smal streamings of pure..water. 1646 J. Hall *Poems* I. 65 What dost thou thinke I can retaine All this and sprout it out againe? As a surcharged Whale doth spew Old Rivers to receive in new. 1886– in Lanc. and Yks. dialect use.

2. *intr.* To issue in a spout or gush. Also *transf.* of the sun: To pour down rays.

1611 Cotgr., *Ialtir*, to spurt out, sprowt vp,..as water forced out of a spout. 1614 Gorges *Lucan* VI. 242 The wether-beaten paunch she cast Out of the corpes, and then at last She lets the sunne thereon to sprout. 1624 Wotton *Arch.* 112 By the turning of a cocke, they [i. e. pipes] did sprout ouer interchangeably from side to side. 1650 Bulwer *Anthropomet.* 181 Who had such abundance of milk in his breasts, as was not only sufficient to suckle a Child, but it moreover sprouted out exuberantly.

Sprou·tage. *rare.* [f. Sprout *sb.*[1] + -age.] Sprouts collectively; new growth. In quot. *fig.*

1860 Masson in *Macm. Mag.* II. 7 The rate of the [literary] growth, the amount of fresh sproutage that shall appear.

Sprout-cale. (See quot.)

An erroneous rendering of older Flem. *sprock-kelle* (Du. *sprokkelmaand*, G. dial. *sporkel, spurkel*).

1778 G. White *Selborne* lxxix, Our Saxon ancestors certainly had some sort of cabbage, because they call the month of February sprout-cale.

Sprouted (sprɑu·tĕd), *ppl. a.*[1] [f. Sprout *v.*[1]] That has developed a sprout or sprouts; *spec.* of corn that has germinated prematurely.

1483 *Cath. Angl.* 357/1 Sprowtyd benys, *fabefrese.* 1583 Stubbes *Anat. Abus.* II. (1882) 47 In the middest shall be neuer a good corne, but such as is mustie sprouted, and naught. 1763 Mills *Pract. Husb.* II. 306 This was likewise sowed with sprouted corn. 1766 *Complete Farmer* s.v. *Madder*, I likewise sowed at the same time some of this sprouted seed. 1832 *Scoreby Farm Rep.* 8 in *Husb.* III. (L.U.K.), This..is not unfrequently the cause of a crop being sprouted and damp. 1842 Loudon *Suburban Hort.* 641 Planting either sets, or sprouted sets,..will produce potatoes fit to gather about the end of May. 1883 *Knowledge* 20 July 43/2 It is..far better to plant sprouted [beet] seeds.

† **Sprouted,** *ppl. a.*[2] *Obs.* [f. Sprout *v.*[2]] Spouted, sprayed.

1644 Digby *Nat. Bodies* viii. § 1. 53 And the like is of mistes; as also of the sprouted water to make a perfume.

Sprou·ter. *rare.* [f. Sprout *v.*[1]] One who or that which causes plants, etc., to sprout.

1585 Jas. I *Ess. Poesie* (Arb.) 14 And first, ô Phœbus, when I do descriue The Springtyme sproutar of the herbes and flowris.

Sprouting (sprɑu·tiŋ), *vbl. sb.*[1] [f. Sprout *v.*[1]]

1. The action of the verb, in various senses; an instance or occasion of this.

1547 Boorde *Brev. Health* ccxc. 96 A sprowtyng or burstyng out in the secret places of manne and woman;..some doth name it ych for the pacient must crache and clawe. 1580 Hollyband *Treas. Fr. Tong, Germement*, a budding, a sprouting. 1635 Swan *Spec. M.* vi. § 1 (1643) 183 The third [matter] is pertinent to the sprouting and springing of the earth. 1677 Gilpin *Demonol.* (1867) 41 These sacrificings were used ..at the sprouting of their corn. 1763 Mills *Pract. Husb.* II. 336 The autumn was..favourable to the sprouting of the corn. 1813 Sir H. Davy *Agric. Chem.* (1814) 216 The process of malting should be carried on no farther than to produce the sprouting of the radicle. 1846 J. Baxter *Libr. Pract. Agric.* (ed. 4) I. 87 A second sprouting [of cabbages] takes place at the end of March. 1906 *Brit. Med. Jrnl.* 13 Jan. 63 A periodical sprouting of irregular pale excrescences. *fig.* 1640 Bp. Reynolds *Passions* xv. 144 Though perhaps Feare may prevent the exercise and sproutings, nothing but Love can pluck up the root of sinne. 1673 O. Walker *Educ.* ii. 19 Prevent the very first beginnings, and sprowtings of bad actions. 1768–74 Tucker *Lt. Nat.* (1834) II. 630 Nor can you be too vigilant to watch the sprouting of evil weeds that may start up in them from time to time.

b. *attrib.*, as *sprouting condition, time.*

1601 Holland *Pliny* I. 501 Winter raine principally is seasonable and good for all plants: and next to it the dewes and showers that fal immediatly before their sprouting time. 1733 W. Ellis *Chiltern & Vale Farm.* 211 It is brought into a sprouting Condition.

2. A sprout, new growth, or shoot. Also *transf.*

1578 LYTE *Dodoens* 380 It hath small tender branches or spruytinges. *Ibid.* 383 The first springes or sprutinges are very good to be eaten. 1665 HOOKE *Microgr.* 194 Like the strings or sproutings of the herb Horse-tail. 1728 GARDINER *Kapin on Gardens* II. 70 The tender Sproutings only let them spare, For Shoots yet weak require protecting Care. 1762 R. GUY *Pract. Obs. Cancers* 123 In another Week the Sproutings of Flesh began to go away. 1822–7 GOOD *Study Med.* (1829) V. 612 The incrustation accompanied with horn-like, incurvated sproutings.

fig. 1649 BP. REYNOLDS *Hosea* vi. 87 The tender buds and sproutings of piety that are wrought within us. 1838 TUPPER *Proverb. Philos.* (1849) 245 Neither were the sproutings of his soul seared by the brand of superstition.

3. The spitting or sputtering of molten metal.

1891 in *Cent. Dict.*

Sprou·ting, *vbl. sb.*[2] *rare*—°. [f. SPROUT *v.*[2]] The action of spouting.

1611 COTGR., *Ialissement*, a spurting, sprowting, spouting, or spinning vp (of water).

Sprou·ting, *ppl. a.* [f. SPROUT *v.*[1]] That sprouts, in senses of the verb.

1. Of buds, plants, etc.

1590 GREENE *Never too late* (1600) 20 His graue wisdom exceedes thy greene wit, and his ripened fruits thy sprouting blossomes. 1633 P. FLETCHER *Poet. Misc., To Master W. C.*, Here thou and I, under the sprouting vine,.. Will sit. 1641 G. SANDYS *Paraphr. Song Solom.* II. iv, Green Figs on sprouting trees appear. 1721 RAMSAY *Content* 2 When genial beams..from the clod invite the sprouting corn. 1870 BRYANT *Iliad* VI. I. 189 The sprouting wood Puts forth another brood.

b. *Sprouting broccoli*, a kind of broccoli producing sprouts.

1852 G. W. JOHNSON *Cottage Gard. Dict.* 149 Purple or Green Brocoli:.. 4 Sprouting. *Syn.*, Italian Sprouting, Grange's Early Purple Sprouting [etc.]. 1895 *Daily News* 20 April 5/4 Sprouting broccoli and turnip tops are the cheapest green vegetables.

2. Of outgrowths from animal bodies.

1681 DRYDEN *Abs. & Achit.* 542 But a whole Hydra more Remains of sprouting heads too long to score. 1739 S. SHARP *Surg.* p. xix, Since Sloughs are flung off by the sprouting new Flesh underneath. 1771 *Encycl. Brit.* III. 644 Dry lint..at the same time is an easy compress upon the sprouting fungus. 1822–7 GOOD *Study Med.* (1829) I. 394 The hemorrhoidal vessels..that form or supply the sprouting tumours. 1888 E. GERARD *Land beyond Forest* II. xlv. 236 He..had a small sallow face, a sprouting moustache, and dark eyes.

Sproutling (sprau·tliŋ). [f. SPROUT *sb.*[1] Cf. WFlem. *spruiteling.*] A little or young sprout. Also *attrib.* In quots. *fig.*

1838 *Blackw. Mag.* XLIII. 314 When Thiers the sproutling rebel began his career of rebellion at the soirées of M. Lafitte. 1876 T. S. EGAN tr. *Heine's Atta Troll*, etc. 30 My child, thou latest sproutling Of my loins.

Sprowese, variant of SPRUCE *sb.*

Sprowl, obs. Sc. variant of SPRAWL *v.*

Spruce (sprūs), *sb.* Also 4 **Sprws, Sprwys,** 5 **Sprewse,** 6 **Sprewce**; 5–7 **Sprusse,** 5–6 **Spruse,** 6 **Sprus,** 7 *Sc.* **Spruch.** [Alteration of PRUCE, Prussia: cf. SPRUCIA.]

†**1.** The country of Prussia. Also *Spruce-land.* See also PRUCE 2 a, quot. 1377.

1378 *Durh. Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 47 In xxiiij piscibus de sprws empt., ij *s.* 14.. *Chaucer's Dethe Blaunche* 1025 (MS. Bodl. 638), She wolde not..send men yn-to Walakye, To Sprewse & yn-to Tartarye. 1521 in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* Ser. II. I. 292 The expedition of the Gentlemen of Spruce. *c* 1550 BALE *K. Johan* (Camden) 9 In Sycell, in Naples, in Venys and Ytalye, In Pole, Spruse and Berne. 1639 FULLER *Holy War* V. iii. 233 They busied themselves in defending of Christendome,..as the Teutonick order defended Spruce-land against the Tartarian. 1656 G. ABBOT *Descr. World* 69 On the east and north corner of Germany lyeth a country called Prussia, in English Pruthen or Spruce.

†**b.** *attrib.* in the sense of 'brought or obtained from Prussia', as *Spruce board, canvas, chest, coffer*, etc. *Obs.*

In some instances implying 'made of spruce fir'.

1497 *Naval Acc. Hen. VII* (1896) 321, vj *spruce bordes. 1545 *Rates of Customes* a v b, Canuas called *sprewce canuas the hundreth elles xx *s.* 1640 in Entick *London* (1766) II. 167 Linnens: Gutting and spruce canvas. 1656 *Act Commw.* c. 20 Rates (1658) 470 Packing Canvas, Guttings, and Spruce Canvas. 1461 *Paston Lett.* II. 37 On of the canvas baggis in the gret cofir, or in the *spruse chest. 1540 *North Country Wills* (Surtees) 174 The spruse chest which is in my litle chamber. 1445 *Test. Ebor.* (Surtees) II. 195 j cistam vocatam *sprusse coffre. 1522 *Wills & Inv. N. C.* (Surtees, 1860) 106, I bequeathe to my said Wyffe..a spruse coffer. 1489 *Will of R. Parbrich* (P.C.C., 1 Dogett), My *spruce Compter and Euidences in the same. 1523 in *Visit. Southwell* (Camden) 121 A *spruse countre & a cup boorde. 1614 GENTLEMAN *Engl. Way to Wealth* 13 Tarre, mastes, and *Spruce-deales. 1626 CAPT. SMITH *Accid. Yng. Seamen* 10 Laying that Decke with spruce deale of 30 foot long. 1670 J. SMITH *Eng. Improv. Revivʼd* 190 Neer the Water are severall small Hutches made of boards for the *Spruce Ducks to lay their Eggs in. 1524 in *Rep. MSS. Ld. Middleton* (1911) 372 Item paid..for vj *spruce elles,..vj s. 1378 *Durh. Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 47 In xl *sprwysfisc emp. vj *s.* viij *d.* 1493 *Bury Wills* (Camden) 82, I beqwethe to Anneys my doughter a litell *spruce forcer. 1550–1600 *Customs Duties* (B.M. Addit. MS. 25097), Iron. voc. Lewkes, or *spruse iron. 1649 *Eng. Farrier* xiii, Make your shooe of spruse or Spanish Iron. 1597 *N. Country Wills* (Surtees) II. 175 My best gowne and a *spruce jerkyn. 1464 *Mann. & Househ. Exp.* (Roxb.) 195 My mastyr lent hym a payr brelether, *besane*. 1593 NASHE *Four Lett. Conf.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 221 A Broker, in a spruce leather ierkin with a great number of golde Rings on his fingers. 1656 G. ABBOT *Descr. World* 70 The English do..bring from thence a kinde of leather, which was wont to be used in Jerkins, and called by the name of Spruce-Leather-Jerkins. 1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), *Spruce-Leather*, a sort of Leather corruptly so call'd for Prussia Leather. 1553 in Daniel-Tyssen *Surrey Ch. Goods* (1869) 106 For vj dossen of *spruse oker. 1687 J. SMITH *Art Painting* (ed. 2) 22 Yellow-Oaker is of two sorts, one called Plain-Oaker, and the other Spruce-Oaker. 1875 BEDFORD *Sailor's Pocket Bk.* x. (ed 2) 367 Stained with burnt umber, and spruce ochre ground in oil. 1570 in Raine *Richmondshire Wills* (Surtees) 228 For ij *sprowese skynes. 1656 *Act Commw.* c. 20 Rates (1658) 475 Spruce skins tawed. 1588 *Shipping Lists Dundee* (S.H.S.) 225 Ihone Jak hes of takill 14 *spruiss stains. 1597 SKENE *De Verb. Sign.* s.v. *Serplath*, Ilk Spruisse stane conteinis twentie aucht pound Trois weicht. 1497 *Naval Acc. Hen. VII* (1896) 241 A maste of a *spruce tree..bought for the foremast of the seid ship. *Ibid.*, An other Spruce tre mast. 1511 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* IV. 284, lxiiij pulleis of coppir, weyand vj^cl^xxxj pund of *Spruse wecht. 1656 *Act Commw.* c. 20 Rates (1658) 477 *Spruce or Muscovia-yarn. 1711 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4898/2 Polonia-Wool, Hogs-Bristles, Spruce-Yarn. 1572 in Feuillerat *Revels Q. Eliz.* (1908) 178 Wylliam Lyzarde for syze,..*spruce yolow,..Gowlde [etc.].

2. *ellipt.* †**a.** A Spruce coffer or chest. †**b.** Spruce leather. **c.** Spruce beer. †**d.** Spruce ochre.

a. 1481–90 *Howard Househ. Bks.* (Roxb.) 273 Item a sprusse conteining ij. coffres of my Lordes. 1507 *Pilton Churchw. Acc.* (Som. Rec. Soc.) 54 Item one spruc.

b. 1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 182 Spruce, *corium pumicatum.* 1611 J. DAVIES (Heref.) *Sco. Folly* Wks. (Grosart) II. 63/1 What present haue we here? A booke... What stuffe containes it? Fustian, perfect spruce.

c. 1741 G. BERKELEY in *C'tess Suffolk's Lett.* (1824) II. 182, I may hope to drink a bottle of spruce with you on Saturday night. 1793 PEARCE *Hartford Bridge* II. i, *Waiter.* I'll be as brisk, your honour, as bottled spruce in warm weather. 1826 J. F. COOPER *Mohicans* vi, 'Come, friend,' said Hawk-eye, ..'try a little spruce'. 1837 DICKENS *Pickw.* xx, Printed cards, bearing reference to Devonshire cyder and Dantzic spruce. 1891 *Daily News* 23 Sept. 3/5 Witness gave him some hot spruce and ginger brandy, which eased him.

d. 1761 J. WHITE *Art's Treasury* 75 Spanish brown, burnt spruce, and umber.

†**3.** *collect.* The Prussian people. *Obs.*

1640 SIR W. MURE *Counter-Buff* 101 Wks, (S.T.S.) II. 6 All vaste Teuton's states, the Spruch, the Dan, Dispatch.. some trustie man, Stercovius to pursue.

4. *ellipt.* = SPRUCE FIR.

Freq. with specific epithets, as *black, red, white, hemlock, Canadian, Norway, Sitka spruce.*

1670 EVELYN *Sylva* (ed. 2) xxii. 103 For masts, &c., those [firs] of Prussia, which we call Spruce, and Norway.. are the best. 1717 *Petiveriana* III. 213 Spruce or Hemlock-tree. 1772 *Phil. Trans.* LXII. 390 In Winter they taste strongly of the pine spruce, upon which they feed. 1792 BELKNAP *Hist. New Hampsh.* III. 110 The black spruce is used only for beer... Of this spruce, is made the essence, which is as well known in Europe as in America. 1824 SCOTT in *Lockhart* (1839) VII. 258 One set of insects is eating the larch, another the Spruce. 1846 J. BAXTER *Libr. Pract. Agric.* (ed. 4) II. 331 The larch, spruce, and pine, require less space than the oak, chestnut, elm, &c. 1874 STEWART & BRANDIS *Flora N. West India* 526 On the south side of the Alps the Spruce forms large forests in Friaul.

b. A species, or a single tree, of spruce fir.

1832 *Planting* (L. U. K.) 124/2 The white, black, and red spruces are of inferior value to the Norway. 1857 A. GRAY *First Less. Bot.* (1866) 25 The main stem of Pines and Spruces..is carried on in a direct line throughout the whole growth of the tree. 1904 'Q' (QUILLER COUCH) *Fort Amity* xxvii, The fragrance of the young spruces.

c. The wood of the spruce fir.

1853 SIR H. DOUGLAS *Milit. Bridges* (ed. 3) 39 The balks are of white pine, or spruce;..the chesses also are of spruce or white pine. 1894 *Outing* XXIV. 191/1 The white spruce is a tough, springy timber, similar to ash.

d. An oar made of this wood.

1892 *Sporting Life* 26 March 7/5 They were to use the new Ayling oars, and the 'spruces' went much better than on the preceding day.

5. *attrib.* (in sense 4), as *spruce bark, -bough, -cone, forest*, etc.; **spruce grouse, partridge,** the spotted Canada grouse.

Also *U.S.* in names of insects which attack spruce trees, as *spruce-borer, bud worm, saw-fly.*

1784 M. CUTLER in *Life*, etc. (1888) I. 101 Our ax-men.. built us a very comfortable tent with *spruce bark. 1888 MEREDITH *Poems* (1898) II. 145 Seeing..Our household's twinkle of light Through *spruce-boughs. 1783 LATHAM *Gen. Synop. Birds* II. II. 736 In winter [they] feed on *spruce-cones and juniper-berries. 1874 STEWART & BRANDIS *Flora N. West India* 529 Silver Fir is found in some of the *Spruce forests of Saxony and Thuringia. 1874 COUES *Birds N. W.* 394 *Tetrao Canadensis*,..Franklin's *Spruce Grouse. 1868 *Rep. U.S. Commissioner Agric.* (1869) 176 Frames of canoes ..covered with its bark, sewed with spruce or tamarack.. roots, and the seams calked with *spruce gum. 1894 *Outing* XXIII. 391/2 The seams are payed with melted spruce-gum, which effectually prevents leakage. 1774 *Phil. Trans.* LXIV. 377 The red-game, with a smaller sort which resemble them, called the *spruce-partridge. 1783 LATHAM *Gen. Synop. Birds* II. II. 736 These [Spotted Grouse] are met with at Hudson's Bay, where they are called Wood or Spruce Partridges. 1872 COUES *N. Amer. Birds* 232 *Tetrao falcipennis* of Siberia, the representative of our spruce partridge. 1882 *Chambers's Encycl.* IV. 334/1 The true *Spruce Rosin flows spontaneously from the bark. 1872 RAYMOND *Statist. Mines & Mining* 152 A mountain thickly covered with pine and *spruce timber. 1870 MORRIS *Earthly Par.* II. III. 76 Midst rank grass a *spruce-tree stood. 1792 BELKNAP *Hist. New-Hampsh.* III. 265 In some of the new towns a liquor is made of *spruce twigs, boiled in maple sap. 1868 MORRIS *Earthly Par.* (1870) I. I. 171 Then with their melancholy sound The odorous *spruce woods met around.

Spruce (sprūs), *a.* and *adv.* Also 6–7 **spruse,** 7 **sprewse,** 8–9 *Sc.* **sprush.** [perh. from SPRUCE *sb.* 1 b in the collocation *spruce (leather) jerkin*: cf. quot. 1609 in sense 2 b.]

†**1.** Brisk, smart, lively. *Obs.*

In early quots. probably implying sense 2.

1589 R. HARVEY *Pl. Perc.* 14 There steps me in a third tricksie, neat, nimble, spruse Artificer. 1598 E. GUILPIN *Skial.* (1878) 21 Fine spruce young Pansa's growne a malcontent. 1606 WARNER *Alb. Eng.* XVI. ci. (1612) 399 The sprewsest Citie-Lads for her would faine the Countrie-aire. 1692 WOOD *Ath. Oxon.* II. 496 He was a person..of a quick, warm, spruce and gay-fancy. 1705 HICKERINGILL *Priest-cr.* II. vii. 68 A Young Gentleman (of Spruce Natural Parts, and Ingenuous Disposition).

transf. 1634 MILTON *Comus* 985 Along the crisped shades and bowres Revels the spruce and jocond Spring. 1642 H. MORE *Song of Soul* IV. x, Here Aristophanes Doth maken sport with some spruce Comedy. 1749 CHESTERF. *Lett.* ccii. (1792) II. 265 A spruce, lively air, fashionable dress; and all the glitter that a young fellow should have.

2. Trim, neat, dapper; smart in appearance: **a.** Of persons, in respect of dress, etc. Also *transf.*

a. 1599 B. JONSON *Ev. Man out of Hum.* Charact. Persons, A Neat, spruce, affecting Courtier, one that weares clothes well, and in fashion. 1602 BRETON *Wonders Worth Hearing* Wks. (Grosart) II. 12/2 These youths of the parish, that are so spruse in their apparell, haue little money in their purses. *a* 1680 BUTLER *Rem.* (1759) II. 111 He fancies himself a dainty spruce Shepherd, with a Flock and a fine silken Shepherdess, that follows his Pipe. 1718 *Free-thinker* No. 29. 206 Notwithstanding the Gilt Chariot,..the spruce Figure within is but an Idol. 1796 MME. D'ARBLAY *Camilla* IV. 163 He'll make himself so spruce, he says, we sha'n't know him again. 1818 CREEVEY in *C. Papers* (1904) I. 279 He was singularly smug and spruce in his attire,..in new cloaths from top to bottom. 1876 T. HARDY *Ethelberta* I. 209 Making themselves as spruce as bridegrooms of a mild kind, according to the rules of their newly-acquired town experience.

β. 1719 W. HAMILTON *Ep.* II. xii. in *Ramsay's Poems*, And then thou'd be sae far frae shabby, Thou'd look right sprush. *a* 1774 FERGUSSON *On Seeing a Butterfly* Poems (1845) 18 Kind Nature lent, but for a day, Her wings to mak ye sprush and gay. 1840 A. LAING *Wayside Flowers* (1878) 144 Mak' the bridegroom sprush and gay.

b. Of apparel, appearance, etc.

1609 DEKKER *Gull's Horn-bk.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 202 Euen he that iets vpon the neatest and sprucest leather.. will be glad to fit themselues in Will Sommer his wardrob. 1653 W. RAMESEY *Astrol. Rest.* 242 [They] shall endeavour to live neatly and in a comely spruce manner. 1709 STEELE *Tatler* No. 49 ₱ 8 The spruce Nightcap of his Valet. 1755 YOUNG *Centaur* ii. Wks. 1757 IV. 148 Your spruce appearance is a perfect forgery. 1828 SCOTT *F. M. Perth* viii, Altogether exhibiting an aspect..unlike the spruce and dapper importance of his ordinary appearance. 1853 C. BRONTË *Villette* v, Her spruce attire flaunted an easy scorn to my plain garb.

Comb. 1602 *2nd Pt. Return fr. Parnass.* II. v. 765 Wold it not gal a man to see a spruse gartered youth..be a broker for a liuing.

c. Of places, buildings, etc.

1639 FULLER *Holy War* V. xxii. 267 Norway in that age the sprucest of the three kingdomes of Scandia, and best tricked up with shipping. 1642 — *Holy & Prof. St.* II. xxiii. 147 Commonly some new spruce town, not farre off, is grown out of the ashes thereof. 1682 WHELER *Journ. Greece* VI. 439 The Houses are more spruce here than ordinary. 1781 HAYLEY *Triumphs Temper* (1807) 30 Where spruce in motley pride, his villa stands. 1792 A. YOUNG *Trav. France* 249 What would a Watson..or a Priestley say, upon a proposal to have their laboratories brushed out clean and spruce? 1856 EMERSON *Eng. Traits, Stonehenge* Wks. (Bohn) II. 127 The Cathedral [of Salisbury], which was finished 600 years ago, has even a spruce and modern air. 1865 DICKENS *Mut. Fr.* I. vi, Many a sprucer public-house.

d. In miscellaneous uses.

1648 J. BEAUMONT *Psyche* VI. xciii, Of younger Serpents an intangled fry Thick in the sprucer Networks twisted were. 1657 G. THORNLEY *Daphnis & Chloe* 171 These were encompassed with a spruce, thin hedge. 1706 J. PHILIPS *Imit. Milton* 121 Small need of art To form spruce architrave or cornice quaint. 1840 DICKENS *Old C. Shop* xl, Kit rubbed down the pony and made him as spruce as a race-horse. 1863 KINGLAKE *Crimea* (1877) III. i. 248 The spruce beauty of the slender red line.

e. Of immaterial things.

1602 MARSTON *Ant. & Mel.* Induct., He speakes with a spruce attick accent of adulterate Spanish. 1658 SIR T. BROWNE *Hydriot.* Ded., He that will illustrate the excellency of this order, may easily fail upon so spruce a Subject. 1687 MIÈGE *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II. s.v., A spruce Phrase, for a fine Phrase, *une belle Phrase.* 1822 HAZLITT *Table T.* xxvi, My sensations are all glossy, spruce, voluptuous, and fine.

Comb. 1721 RAMSAY *Answer to Burchet* 22 When the pride of sprush-new words are laid.

3. *adv.* = SPRUCELY *adv.*

a 1618 J. DAVIES (Heref.) *Wit's Pilgr.* xci, He speake more spruce, yet call a Spade, a Spade. *a* 1796 BURNS *Tither Morn* ii, His bonnet he, a thought ajee, Cock'd sprush when first he clasp'd me. 1824 SCOTT *Redgauntlet* ch. ix, Cock up your beaver, and cock it fu' sprush.

Spruce (sprūs), *v.* Also 7 spruse. [f. prec.]

1. *trans.* To make spruce, trim, or neat.

1594 NASHE *Terrors of Night* To Rdr., You shal haue them..spend a whole twelue month in spunging & sprucing them. 1642 H. MORE *Song of Soul* I. II. 39 Then gan the learn'd and ag'd Don Psittaco..To spruse his plumes, and wisdome sage to show. 1671 tr. *Palafox's Cong. China* iv. 90 To cut off their hair which the Chinese love..and take great care to spruce and perfume it. 1756 *Gentl. Mag.* XXVI. 444 Paid Lavender's man for sprucing my garden. 1772 NUGENT *Hist. Fr. Gerund* I. 362 Our Friar Gerund was so..smugged, and spruced, that it was a delight to behold his face.

refl. 1637 HEYWOOD *Pleas. Dial.* No. 4 Wks. 1874 VI. 191 Himselfe he spruceth, studieth to be fine. 1683 tr. *Erasm Moriae Encomium* 44 Another shall spruce himself in a light periwig. 1703 *Rules Civility* 57 An old Man or Woman trimm'd up like young People of Eighteen, would make us believe they had spruc'd themselves so for no other end. 1903 J. CONRAD & HUEFFER *Romance* v. 40 He had spruced himself, but I seemed to see the rags still flutter about him.

b. With *up*.

1676 ETHEREDGE *Man of Mode* III. iii, I took particular notice of one that is alwaies spruc'd up with a deal of dirty sky-colur'd Ribband. *a* 1704 T. BROWN *Lett. Ser. & Com.* Wks. 1709 III. 126 Madam D—, whom you are so angry with for .. sprucing up her decay'd Person. 1748 LADY LUXBOROUGH *Lett. Shenstone* 27 June, My slovenly garden, which cannot be weeded, nor in the least spruced up, till my hay is all in. 1853 FELTON *Fam. Lett.* xlv. (1865) 336, I do not think you would have known my coat, hardly me, so spruced up were both of us. 1894 H. NISBET *Bush Girl's Rom.* 135 When washed and spruced up they looked and talked not unlike gentlemen.

fig. 1672 EACHARD *Lett.* 21 Out comes the Vindicationer, and spruces up this objection.

refl. 1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* III. ii. IV. i, Salmacis would not be seen of Hermaphroditus, till she had spruced up her self first. 1674 tr. *Scheffer's Lapland* III Woollen Cloth-Garments (such as they use to spruce themselves up withal, at their public Festivals, or more solemn affairs). 1749 MRS. DELANY *Life & Corr.* (1861) II. 532 Mrs. Foley's, where I was to spruce myself up a little before dinner. 1862 SALA *Seven Sons* II. v. 138 [She] spruced herself up to the extent of putting on..a black silk jacket. 1895 SNAITH *Mistress Dorothy Marvin* xli, Go spruce yourself up a bit.

†**2.** *intr.* With *it*: To be spruce or trim. *Obs. rare.*

1611 COTGR., *Faire la fringue*, to iet, brag, spruce it, wantonnize it. *Ibid.* s.v. *Garber*.

3. With *up* (or † *out*): To make oneself spruce.

1709 MRS. MANLEY *Secret Mem.* I. 176 His Father and grandfather are..profess'd Sparks, and spruce up in Cherry and other gaudy colour'd silk Stockings. 1746 MRS. DELANY *Life & Corr.* (1861) II. 443 We return home at two and spruce out, dinner at half an hour after two. 1833 [SEBA SMITH] *Lett. J. Downing* ii. (1835) 35 To-night we're goin to a quiltin at Uncle Josh's. Miss Willoby..is sprucin up for it. 1869 MRS. STOWE *Old Town* xvii, All of a sudden, Dench..seemed to kind o' spruce up and have a deal o' money to spend.

Spruce beer. Also **spruce-beer.** [SPRUCE *sb.* The modern use is app. not due to, but rather the source of, the synonymous G. *sprossenbier*, f. *sprosse* shoot, sprout.] †**a.** Beer from Prussia. *Obs.* **b.** A fermented beverage made with an extract from the leaves and branches of the spruce fir.

c 1500 *Colyn Blowbols Test.* 331 in Hazl. *E.P.P.* I. 106 Spruce beer, and the beer of Hambur, Whyche makyth oft tymes men to stambur. 1591 NASHE *Prognostication* 11 Many shall haue more Spruce Beere in their bellies, then wit in their heads. 1690 CHILD *Disc. Trade* (1698) 77 Foreign liquors made of corn, commonly called Mum, Spruce-Beer, and Rosteker-Beer. 1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), *Spruce-Beer*, a kind of Physical Drink, good for inward Bruises, &c. 1744 BERKELEY *Sec. Let. Tar-water* § 4 Spruce-beer made of molasses, and the black spruce-fir. 1766 W. STORK *Acc. East-Florida* 44 The spruce fir here is quite a different tree from that to the northward, but answers the same end for making the spruce beer. 1834 T. J. GRAHAM *Dom. Med.* (ed. 6) 180 Spruce beer is a powerful diuretic and antiscorbutic, and is a wholesome beverage for the summer. 1893 LELAND *Mem.* I. 13 Selling doughnuts, spruce-beer, and gingerbread.

Spruce fir. Also **spruce-fir.** [SPRUCE *sb.*] **1.** A distinct species of fir (*Pinus* or *Abies*) comprising several clearly-marked varieties (cf. SPRUCE *sb.* 4); one or other of these varieties.

1731 MILLER *Gard. Dict.* s.v. *Abies*, The Common Firr, or Pitch Tree; sometimes called, The Norway or Spruce Firr. 1799 [A. YOUNG] *Agric. Lincoln.* 214 The spruce fir also grows well and large. 1812 J. SMYTH *Pract. of Customs* (1821) 85 This essence is extracted from the small twigs or sprouts of the black and white Spruce Fir. 1861 BENTLEY *Man. Bot.* 109 The whole will be shaped like a cone or pyramid, as in the Spruce Fir.

2. A tree belonging to this species.

1768 PENNANT *Brit. Zool.* II. 262 The last spring we discovered the nest of this bird in a spruce fir. 1774 GRAY *Corr.* (1843) 173 There you may see larches, Weymouth pines, and spruce firs that have risen by magic. 1842 LOUDON *Suburban Hort.* 317 Those remarkable rows of spruce-firs which line some of the avenues at Meudon. 1896 *Lloyd's Nat. Hist.* 58 The ordinary Crossbill devours the seeds of the larch and spruce-firs.

Sprucely (sprūˑsli), *adv.* [f. SPRUCE *a.* + -LY 2.] In a spruce manner; smartly, trimly, neatly.

1598 MARSTON *Pygmal., Sat.* iii, Under that fayre Ruffe so sprucely set Appeares a fall, a falling-band forsooth. 1626 T. H[AWKINS] *Caussin's Holy Crt.* 186 We see men..who wast all their tyme..in striuing to haue their stockings sprucely put on. 1673 E. BROWN *Trav. Germ.* (1677) 179 Every Bastion is sprucely kept and covered within with green Turf. 1806 J. BERESFORD *Miseries Hum. Life* IV. xxxiii, As you walk forth freshly and sprucely dressed. 1854 EMERSON *Lett. & Soc. Aims, Poet. & Imag.* Wks. (Bohn) III. 160 A small, well-worn, sprucely brushed vocabulary serves him.

Spruceness (sprūˑsnés). [f. SPRUCE *a.*] The character or quality of being spruce; neatness.

1611 MIDDLETON & DEKKER *Roaring Girl* To Rdr., Now in the time of sprucenes, our plaies followe the nicenes of our Garments. 1653 W. RAMESAY *Astrol. Rest.* 60 An exceeding well-shaped body throughout, loving neatness, spruceness, trimming and the like. 1748 CHESTERF. *Lett.* clvi. (1792) II. 57 A spruceness of dress is also very proper and becoming at your age. 1833 HT. MARTINEAU *Briery Creek* v. 108 Not all his spruceness could hide it, if he was as spruce as ever.

1884 *Sat. Rev.* 7 June 745/2 There is an offensive spruceness about the whole picture.

Spruˑcery. *rare*—[1]. [f. as prec. + -ERY.] = prec.

1844 *Fraser's Mag.* XXX. 351/2 There was a sprucery about almost every thing he did.

‖ **Spruˑcia.** *Obs.* Also 8 **Sprutia.** [Alteration of *Prucia* PRUCE: cf. SPRUCE *sb.*] The country of Prussia; also *attrib.* in *Sprucia deals.*

In Latin context the form occurs as early as 1419 in *North Country Wills* (Surtees) 23.

1614 GENTLEMAN *Engl. Way to Wealth* 6 For the Hollanders..are compelled to fetch..their hoopes and Barrell-boords out of Norway and Sprucia. 1705 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4101/3 Friday the 16th, for Plank and Sprutia Deals.

†**Spruˑcier.** *Obs.*—[1] [f. med.L. *Sprucia* (see prec.) or SPRUCE *sb.*] A Prussian.

1443 *Acts Privy Counc.* (1835) V. 233 My Lord Tres. hath declared..hou þat þe Spruciers & Hansze beth freer here in Ingland þan þe Kynges subgittes.

†**Spruˑcify,** *v. Obs.* [f. SPRUCE *a.*] *trans.* To make spruce. Also with *it* in refl. sense.

1611 COTGR., *Pimper*, to sprucifie, or finifie it; curiously to pranke, trimme, or tricke vp himselfe. 1661 K. W. *Conf. Charac., Cambr. Minion* (1860) 78 An emblematicall ass sprucefyed with the gorgeous trappings of a lofty beusephalus. 1676 *Poor Robin's Intell.* 15–22 Aug. 1/2 Sprucifying himself like a Country Bridegroom he came up to her brush'd and powder'd.

†**Spruˑcy,** *a. Obs.*—[1] = SPRUCE *a.* 2 a.

1774 LANGHORNE *Country Justice* 121 Long had that anxious daughter sigh'd to know What Vellum's sprucy clerk, the valley's beau, Meant by those glances.

†**Sprude,** *v. Obs.*—[1] [Of obscure origin.] *trans.* ? To attach, secure.

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* C. 104 Cables þay fasten, Wiȝt at þe wyndas weȝen her ankres, Sprude spak to þe sprete þe spare bawe-lyne.

Sprue [1] (sprū). *Path.* Also **sprew**, *Sc.* **sproo.** [ad. Du. *spruw*, *sprouw* (older Flem. *sprouwe*, WFlem. *sproe*, = MLG. and LG. *spriiwe*), perh. related to Flem. *spruwen*, *sproeien* to sprinkle (cf. SPREW [1]).]

1. = THRUSH [2] 1. ? *Obs.*

Erroneously defined by Webster (1828–32) as 'a matter formed in the mouth in certain diseases'.

1825 JAMIESON *Suppl., Sproo*, a disease affecting the mouths of very young children. 1847 WEBSTER, *Sprew*, a disease of the mucous membrane, consisting in a specific inflammation of the muciparous glands. *Ibid., Sprue*,..this is sometimes a vicious orthography of *Sprew*, the name of the disease otherwise called *thrush*. 1899 *Syd. Soc. Lex.* s.v. *Thrush, Parasitic stomatitis*. Also called aphthæ, sprew, sprue.

2. A disease characterized by sore throat, raw tongue, and digestive disturbance, occurring esp. in tropical countries; psilosis.

1888 THIN (*title*), Psilosis or 'Sprue': its nature and treatment. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* III. 777 Amongst the remoter causes of sprue prolonged residence in hot climates must be reckoned as the first.

attrib. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* III. 778 One who has resided in a sprue country. *Ibid.* 790 In the debilitated condition of sprue patients. *Ibid.* 793 Nostrums used in Java by a class of charlatans who profess to be 'sprue doctors'.

Sprue [2] (sprū). *Founding.* [Of obscure origin.] (See quots.) Also *attrib.*

Webster's definition is probably erroneous.

1828–32 WEBSTER, *Sprue*, in Scotland, that which is thrown off in casting metals; scoria. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 1084/2 *Head*,..the sprue, sullage-piece, or riser on a casting, which is knocked off. 1884 *Ibid.* Suppl., *Sprue Hole*, a gate, ingate, or pouring-hole in a mold. 1884 W. H. GREENWOOD *Steel & Iron* 201 The smaller passages, often two or three in number, leading from the skimming gate to the mould are called sprues or sprue gates.

Sprue [3] (sprū). [Of obscure origin.] A poor or inferior quality of asparagus. Also *sprue grass.*

1846 SOYER *Cookery* 41 Throw in the sprue and let it boil very fast until tender. *Ibid.*, Get some fresh sprue grass. 1884 *Girl's Own Paper* Feb. 219/3 Long, thin straggling asparagus, commonly known as sprue. 1895 *Times* 3 April 3/4 Sprue, 9d. to 1s.; asparagus, 1s. 6d. to 3s. per bundle.

Sprug, *sb. Sc.* and *north. dial.* Also **sproug, sprog.** [Of obscure origin: the form *spug* (with variant *spyug*) is also common in Sc. and Eng. dial.] A sparrow.

1815 SCOTT *Guy M.* xi, John Wilson was a blustering kind of chield, without the heart of a sprug. 1886– in *Eng. Dial. Dict.*

Sprug, *v. dial.* [? f. Sussex dial. *sprug* adj., smart, spruce: cf. SPRIG *a.*] *trans.* To deck or dress *up* smartly; to make smart or trim.

1622 T. STOUGHTON *Chr. Sacrif.* xv. 214 Some daintie Dames, euen sprugd vp of nothing, that are so long in dressing and attiring themselues in the morning. 1847 HALLIW., *Sprug up*, to dress neatly. *Sussex.* 1875 PARISH *Sussex Dial.* 112 *Sprug*, to smarten.

‖ **Spruit** (sprüit, sprœit). *S. African.* [Du. *spruit* SPROUT *sb.*[1]] A small stream or watercourse, usually almost or altogether dry except in the wet season.

1863 W. C. BALDWIN *Afr. Hunting* 207, I scraped my finger-nails off in making large holes in the dry spruits, but not one drop came. 1876 LADY BARKER *Year's Housekeeping S. Africa* viii. 150 A real river, not..a capricious spruit, sometimes a ditch, and sometimes a lake. 1889 F. OATES *Matabele-Land* 66 Where we outspanned the boys made a fire in the hollow bed of a spruit.

Sprule, north. or Sc. variant of SPRAWL *v.*

Sprun. *north. dial.* [app. a metathetic var. of SPURN *sb.*[2] 1 b.] (See quot. 1828.) Also *attrib.* in *sprun-vein.*

1737 BRACKEN *Farriery Impr.* (1756) I. 338 Bleeding in the Sprun-Vein. 1828 CARR *Craven Gloss., Sprun*, 1. The fore part of a horse's hoof. 2. A sharp piece of iron fixed to the fore point of a horse's shoe to prevent him slipping on ice.

†**Sprund.** *Obs.*—[1] [Cf. MSw. *sprund*, app. in a similar sense.] A spar or pole.

c 1425 *Noah's Ark* in *Non-Cycle Mystery Plays* 22 For I have neither ryff nor ruff, Spyer, sprund, sprout, nȝo sprot.

Sprung (sprʊŋ), *ppl. a.* [pa. pple. of SPRING *v.*[1]] **1.** That has sprung up or arisen. In combs. as *first-, high-, new-sprung.* Also with *up.*

1575 GASCOIGNE *Flowers, Dan Bartholmew* Wks. 1907 I. 101 God he knoweth..who pluckt hir first sprong rose. 1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* IX. 415 The high-sprung Woods, threatning the clouds. 1661 J. DAVIES *Civil Warres* 373 This utterly dissipated the power of the new sprung Committee of Safety. 1842 J. AITON *Domest. Econ.* (1857) 150 The progress of his crops, from the scarce sprung-braird to the whitening harvest. 1895 *Daily News* 25 March 8/6 The newly sprung-up competition from the United States makers of this..tool.

2. Cracked, split.

1597 J. PAYNE *Royal Exch.* 33 Besyde myne acquayntans with your sprung masts, torne sales from the yarde. 1666 DRYDEN *Ann. Mirab.* cxliii, Tall Norway Fir, their masts in Battel spent, And English Oak sprung Leaks and Planks restore. 1781 *Naval Chron.* XI. 289 The main mast is a sprung mast. 1852 H. NEWLAND *Tractarianism* 133 Some mixing mortar,.. some strengthening the sprung beams. 1899 EDEN PHILLPOTTS *Human Boy* 12 Browne..made that noise in his throat like a sprung bat.

3. Made to fly up.

1598 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. ii. III. *Colonies* 431 Our amaz'd first Grand-sires faintly fled, And, like sprung Partridge, every-where did spred.

4. *techn.* (See quot.)

1825 J. NICHOLSON *Operat. Mechanic* 601 The bevel..is termed the *spring of the plank*, and the edge thus bevelled is called the *sprung edge.*

†**Sprunk.** *Obs.*—[1] [app. f. Du. *pronk*, or G. *prunk*: cf. next.] A display of wealth or grandeur.

c 1753 *The King's Disguise* xii. in Child *Ballads* III. 221/1 With fryars and monks, with their fine sprunks, I make my chiefest prey.

†**Sprunking,** *vbl. sb. Obs.* [f. Du. *pronken* or G. *prunken*: cf. prec.] Personal adornment or beautifying. Also *attrib.* in *sprunking glass.*

1690 EVELYN *Mundus Muliebris* 6 The Pocket Sprunking Looking-Glass. *Ibid.* 19 The Table, Toilet, or Pocket Sprunking-Glass. 1694 N. H. *Ladies Dict.* 12 *A Sprunking Glass*, this sprunking is a Dutch word, the first as we hear of that Language, that ever came in fashion with Ladies.

Sprunny. Now *dial.* [Of obscure origin: some dialects have *sprunny* adj., spruce, smart.] A sweetheart.

1762 *Collins's Misc.* 111 Where if good Satan lays her on like thee, Whipp'd to some Purpose will thy Sprunny be. *a* 1800 PEGGE *Suppl. Grose, Sprunny*, a sweetheart of either sex. 1814– in midland and eastern dialects.

Sprunt, *sb.*[1] Now *dial.* [f. SPRUNT *v.*] A convulsive movement; a start; a spring or bound.

1693 *Phil. Trans.* XVII. 876 Then (having just only opened her Eyes and made Two Sprunts, without speaking one word) [she] dyed immediately. *a* 1800 PEGGE *Suppl. Grose, Sprunt*, or *Sprint*, a spring in leaping, and the leap itself. *Derb.* 1847–79 in dial. glossaries (Derby, Northampt., Shropsh., Warw.).

†**Sprunt,** *sb.*[2] *Obs.*—[0] [cf. next.] 'Anything that is short and will not easily bend' (Johnson, 1755). In the quot. applied to an obstinately curly lock of hair.

c 1710 CONGREVE *Poems Sev. Occas., Impossible Thing*, This Sprunt its Pertness sure will lose When laid (said he) to soak in Ooze.

Sprunt, *a.* ? *Obs.* [prob. related to next.] Brisk, active, smart, spruce.

1616 [implied in SPRUNTLY *adv.*]. *a* 1652 BROME *Mad Couple* v. ii, *La.* Pray Mr. Thrivewell entertaine the Lady. *Car.* Another sprunt youth. 1653 H. MORE *Antid. Ath.* I. xi. § 8 That little sprunt Piece of the Brain which they call the Conarion. 1668 G. C. in H. More *Div. Dial.* Pref. I. p. xii, This little sprunt Champion, called the Conarion,.. within which the Soul is entirely cooped up. [1687 MIÉGE *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II, Sprunt, wonderful active. 1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), *Sprunt*, wonderful active, lively, or brisk. (Hence in Bailey.)] 1719 D'URFEY *Pills* I. 146 Nell dress'd as sprunt as a Daizy. *a* 1828 T. BEWICK *The Upgetting* (1850) 13 Thou can get on thee sister's shoun..and mheyk thee sell leuk varra sprunt wouth them.

Sprunt (sprʊnt), *v.* Now *dial.* [app. related to SPRENT *v.* and SPRINT *v.*] *intr.* To spring or start; to move in a quick or convulsive manner; to dart or run.

1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* XXIII. vi, No sooner tast they of them, but the childe doth stir and sprunt in their wombe. 1603 — *Plutarch's Mor.* 1277 The armie of Alexander, after it had lost and forgone him, did no more but sprunt, pant, struggle and strive for life. 1656 TRAPP *Matt.* iv. 2 Beasts that have their death's wound, bite cruelly, sprunt exceedingly. 1690 C. NESSE *Hist. & Myst. O. N. Test.* i. 216 Those twins spurned and sprunted in her womb. 1740 SOMERVILLE *Hobbinol.* III. 393 See! this sweet-simp'ring Babe, Dear Image of thyself; see! how it sprunts With Joy at thy Approach! 1789 MRS. PIOZZI *Journ. France* II. 193 Wonderfully indeed did the players struggle, and bounce, and sprunt. 1823 in *Spirit Public Jrnls.* 528 He sprunted about among their legs lustily. 1854– in dialect glossaries (Yks., Derby, Northampt., Warw.). 1897 LD. E. HAMILTON *Outlaws of Marches* xvii. 187 I'll just sprunt up the water and cross abune the forkings.

Hence **Spru·nting** *vbl. sb.*

1643 TRAPP *Gen.* xxxii. 28 Their faint oppositions, and sprunting before death. 1647 — *Rev.* xii. 8 Their late utmost endeavours..were but as the last sprunting, or bitter-bites of dying beasts.

Spru·ntly, *adv.* [f. SPRUNT *a.*] Smartly, sprucely, trimly.

1616 B. JONSON *Devil an Ass* IV. ii, How do I look to-day? Am I not drest Spruntly? 1651 H. MORE *Enthus. Tri.* (1656) 205 Provided thou wilt not prick up thy eares too, and look too spruntly upon the businesse. 1704 D'URFEY *Hell beyond Hell* 75 The pug appear'd, tall, spruntly dress'd, Powder'd all o'er, head, back, and breast.

† **Sprusado.** *Obs.*—[1] [app. f. *spruse* SPRUCE *a.* + -ADO 1.] A smartly-dressed person.

1665 BRATHWAIT *Comment Two Tales* (1901) 13 They put me in mind of the pregnant and present Answer of that Sprusado to a Judge in this Kingdom,..who seeing a neat Finical Divine come before him in a Cloak lined through with Plush [etc.].

Spruse, Sprush : see SPRUCE *sb.* and *a.*

Sprut, *v.* Now *dial.* [var. of SPRIT *v.* Cf. SPURT *v.*?] **a.** *intr.* To sprout, germinate. † **b.** *trans.* To put forth by sprouting.

1523 FITZHERB. *Husb.* § 13 Whan rayne cometh, than sprutteth that [corn] that lyeth aboue. 1559 *Mirr. Mag., Owen Glendour* xix, For like as drops engender mighty flouds, litle seedes sprut furth great leaues and buds. 1886– in dialect glossaries, etc. (Lanc., Yks., Notts.).

Sprut(t, variant of SPROUT *sb.*[2]

† **Spru·ttle,** *sb. Sc. Obs.* In 6 **sprutill.** [a. MLG. *sprut(e)le, sprotele, sprottel,* older Flem. *sproetel,* freckle.] A small spot; a speckle.

1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* V. ii. 90 (1553), Of flekkit sprutillis [*v.r.* freklit spraiklis] all hir bak schone.

Spru·ttled, *a. Sc.* Also 8–9 **sprit(t)led.** [f. prec. See also SPURTLED *a.*] Speckled.

1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* II. iv. 32 (1553), Bot thay..twys faldit thare sprutillit [*v.r.* spurtlit] skynnis, but dout, About his hals. *Ibid.* VII. iv. 91 (Small), Circes..in ane byrd him turnit, fut and hand, Wyth sprutlit wyngis. 1721 RAMSAY *Poems* Gloss., *Sprutl'd,* speckled, spotted. *a* 1779 D. GRAHAM *Writ.* (1883) II. 35 Did I not send you my guid sprittled hen? 1807–10 TANNAHILL *Poems* (1846) 136 Mild blue spritled crowflower, nor wild woodland lily.

Spry, *sb. Kentish dial.* [Special use of *spry* SPRAY *sb.*[1]] A flat broom made of birch twigs.

1796 BOYS *Agric. Surv. Kent* 84 Wheat..is universally in Kent, cleaned with a casting-shovel, and flat broom, called a spry.

Spry (sprəi), *a.* and *adv.* Also *dial.* 8 **sprey,** 9 **sprae,** *Sc.* **spree.** [Of obscure origin. Current in English dialects, but more familiar as an Americanism.]

1. Active, nimble, smart, brisk; full of health and spirits.

Eng. and Sc. dial. instances are given under (*a*) and (*c*).

(*a*) 1746 *Exmoor Courtship* (E.D.S.) 579 A comely sprey vitty Vella vor enny keendest Theng. *Ibid.* 581 Thare's net a spreyer Vella in Challacomb. 1825 JENNINGS *Observ. Dial. W. Eng.* 72 *Spry,* nimble, active. 1844 W. BARNES *Poems* 48 Jump'd to zee who wer the spryest. 1866 *Gilbert Rugge* I. ii. 31 She's one o' them sort who's down one day and up and spry the next. 1870 VERNEY *Lettice Lisle* XX, He's so lusty and so spry he may give 'em all the slip.

(*b*) 1789 *Maryland Jrnl.* 10 Mar. (Thornton), [The snakes] were not so spry as in summer season, so none escaped being killed. 1815 *Massachusetts Spy* 28 June (Thornton), Pray be spry, sir, said I, for there's no knowing what my wife may do. 1833 [SEBA SMITH] *Lett. J. Downing* ii. (1835) 30 'And now,' says I, 'all on you be spry, and don't stop stirrin till the pudden's done'. 1869 SPURGEON *John Ploughman's Talk* 14 If some of the members..were a little more spry with their arms and legs when they are at labour. 1888 R. BUCHANAN *Heir of Linne* xiii, I'll have to be pretty spry, or they'll begin to discuss me.

(*c*) 1837 R. NICOLL *Poems* (1843) 164, I once was loved,— I loved again The spreest lad in a' our glen. 1892 J. LUMSDEN *Sheeph. & Trotters* 76 The wagtail, sae spree, In the golden evenings here shall linger.

b. Alert, clever.

1849 CUPPLES *Green Hand* xi. (1856) 106 And says Job Price,..'You're too cust spry for playin' jokes on, I calc'late, squire,' he says.

2. *dial.* Spruce, neat, smartly dressed.

1806 A. DOUGLAS *Poems* 144 Syne hame they gang..To busk themsels fu' trig and spree; For raggit they're an' dirty. 1854– in dialect glossaries.

3. As *adv.* Nimbly, actively.

1855 HALIBURTON *Nature & Hum. Nat.* I. 227 They call us shakers, from shaking our feet so spry.

Hence **Spry·ly** *adv.*; **Spry·ness.**

1865 *Reader* No. 145. 393/2 A spryness of legs quite remarkable. 1905 MARY E. WILKINS *Debtor* 417 Then she hopped off as spryly as a sparrow.

Spry (sprəi), *v. rare.* [f. prec.]

1. *trans.* To smarten *up.*

1878 S. SMILES JERDAN *Ess. & Lyrics* 199 Robbie Bell, spried up and clean Wi' weel-spun hose and buckled shoon.

2. *intr.* To bustle or stir.

1885 *Harper's Mag.* April 707/2 She'll get over it, and be spryin' around to marry again.

Spry(e, obs. forms of SPRAY *sb.*[2]

† **Spualine.** *Obs.*—[0] (See quot.)

1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. xvi. (Roxb.) 73/1 The principall games at cards:..Spualine an Irish game.

Spuchour, obs. form of SPOUCHER.

Spud (spʊd), *sb.* Also 5–6 **spudde,** 7 **spudd.** [Of obscure origin.]

† **1.** A short and poor knife or dagger. *Obs.*

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 471/1 Spudde, *cultellus vilis.* *c* 1450 *Cast. Persev.* 1402 With my spud of sorwe swote, I reche to pyne herte rote. 1530 PALSGR. 274/2 Spudde. 1589 FLEMING *Virg. Georg.* II. 24 The Volces also bearing darts (or spuds in shape like spits). 1609 HOLLAND *Amm. Marcell.* XXIX. i. 352 The one..with a spud or dagger was wounded almost to death. 1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), *Spud,* a short scurvy knife. 1823–4 in Poole *Wexford Gloss.* (1867) 69 *Spud,* a knife.

† **2.** An iron head or blade socketed on or fixed to a plough-staff. *Obs.*—[1]

1613 MARKHAM *Eng. Husbandman* C, The Husbandman which liueth in durty and stiffe clayes, can neuer goe to plough without..the Aker-staffe,..a pretty bigge cudgell, of about a yarde in length, with an Iron spud at the end.

3. a. A digging or weeding implement of the spade-type, having a narrow chisel-shaped blade.

1667 PEPYS *Diary* 10 Oct., We..begun with a spudd to lift up the ground. 1728 SWIFT *Past. Dial.* Wks. 1755 III. II. 203 My spud these nettles from the stones can part; No knife so keen to weed thee from my heart. 1773 MRS. DELANY *Life & Corr.* (1861) I. 570, I sally'd out in a rage, arm'd with a spud. 1805 R. W. DICKSON *Pract. Agric.* II. 748 In making the pits or holes, the earth is taken out by a spade or spud. 1856 A. ANDREWS *Eighteenth Cent.* 24 It was of the ength and size of the 'spud', an agricultural weapon which old farmers persist in carrying about with them in their war upon weeds. 1877 BLACKMORE *Cripps* XXXI, The Squire still looking very pale and feeble, but with the help of his favourite spud, managing to get along.

fig. a 1876 M. COLLINS *Pen Sketches* (1879) II. 51 They reappear inevitably, though the heavy harrow of argument, and the light spud of wit have both been used upon them.

Comb. 1891 MISS DOWIE *Girl in Karp.* 226 She shook a bannock carefully from the spud-shaped spade to bake.

b. A digging fork with three broad prongs.

1805 R. W. DICKSON *Pract. Agric.* II. 757 The labourer makes use of a three-pronged fork, which in some places is termed a spud,..each prong being about an inch and a half in breadth. 1848 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* IX. 551 Digging is done with a strong three-forked tool called a hop-spud. 1883 J. Y. STRATTON *Hops & Hop-pickers* 22 Kentish labourers dig with a spud or fork with three blade-like prongs.

attrib. 1848 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* IX. II. 560 Letting the earth fall loosely between the spud-spens.

c. *techn.* (See quot.)

1864 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* II. 813 As the veneer is sawn off, the attendant leads the veneer on to the guide, by means of a spud, or a thin blunt chisel.

d. A small instrument with enlarged end used in ocular and other surgery. Also *attrib.*

1869 G. LAWSON *Dis. Eye* 57 The foreign body..may be easily removed by a spud..or by a broad needle. 1895 *Arnold & Sons' Catal. Surg. Instrum.* 144 Spud and Gouge (combined), in screw ivory case. *Ibid.,* Spud Knife.

e. *U.S.* (See quots.)

Some other senses are recorded in recent American Dicts.

1871 *Trans. Amer. Inst. Min. Engin.* I. 378 If the [surveying] station was intended to be a permanent one, a spud, as it is called, that is, a nail resembling a horseshoe nail with a hole in the head, is driven into the timbers over the station. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2292/2 *Spud,*..a spade-shaped implement, used in fishing for broken tools in a well.

4. A short or stumpy person or thing.

1687 MIÉGE *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II, A Spud, or little Fellow. 1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), *Spud,*..a Short-arse, or little despicable Fellow. *a* 1825– in dialect glossaries (E. Angl., Essex, Devon, Cornw.). 1847 HALLIW., *Spud,* a baby's hand. *Somerset.* 1900 *Daily News* 26 Apr. 3/1 That baby ..everlastingly holds out its spuds of arms.

5. *slang* and *dial.* A potato.

Cf. *Spuddy* as a nickname for 'a seller of bad potatoes' in Mayhew *Lond. Lab.* (1851) I. 24/2.

1860 *Slang Dict.* 225 In Scotland, a spud is a raw potato; and roasted spuds are those cooked in the cinders with their jackets on. 1868 *Good Wds.* Xmas No. 6/1 My..neighbour stretched out his hand to help himself to 'spuds'. 1898 *Westm. Gaz.* 6 Oct. 7/2 Three-quarters of a pound of meat and a pound of bread are the rations, spuds and pudding being thrown in.

Spud (spʊd), *v.* [f. prec. 3.]

1. *trans.* To dig *up* or *out,* to remove, by means of a spud.

1852 BLITHE *Eng. Improver Impr.* 121, I have found out a more certaine way which will destroy them at once, spudding up..I caused them to be spudded up by the root. 1839 E. FITZGERALD *Lett.* (1889) I. 50 Then a ride over hill and dale: then spudding up some weeds from the grass. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXIV. 21 He waits till the dog indicates the presence of the mole, and then spears or spuds the animal out as it moves in its run. 1884 *American* IX. 183 If he had spent a whole day in 'spudding' the thistles out of a small field.

2. To dig with a spud. Also *intr.*

1828–32 WEBSTER, *Spud,* v. t., to dig or loosen the earth with a spud. 1889 C. EDWARDES *Sardinia & the Sardes* 127 They spudded among the vines.

3. To drill (a hole) by a special process in the early stages of sinking an oil-well.

1886 *Sci. American* 21 Aug. 116 A 12 inch hole is usually drilled or spudded down to the rock.

Hence **Spu·dding** *vbl. sb.*

1891 *Daily News* 12 Sept. 3/6 This is followed by regular day work..made up of thistle spudding,..hop-branching, hay-making, harvesting, &c. 1901 *Munsey's Mag.* XXV. 746/2 The start is made by 'spudding', which is done by attaching the drill proper to the rope, and then skilfully tightening and loosening the coils on the drum by hand, thus raising the drill and letting it fall within the tube.

Spu·dder. *rare.* Now *dial.* Also 7 **sputher.** [Alteration of *pudder, puther* POTHER *sb.*] Fuss, disturbance, bother.

1650 A. B. *Mutat. Polemo* 38 These are to advance and keep some spudder in the North, to draw down a considerable party thitherward. 1661 BROME *Songs & Poems* 171 When we know all the Pretty sputher, Betwixt the one house and the other. 1880–2 in Cornwall glossaries.

Spu·ddle, *v.* Now *dial.* [Alteration of PUDDLE *v.*; in later use partly f. SPUD *sb.* 3.]

1. *intr.* To puddle, in various senses; to work feebly or ineffectively.

1630 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Water Cormorant* Wks. III. 1/3 Hee grubs and spuddles for his prey in muddy holes and obscure cauernes. 1704 J. PITTS *Acc. Moham.* vii. 103 In the very place where the Child spuddled with his Feet, the Water flowed out. 1830 COBBETT *Rur. Rides* (1885) II. 314 The labourers who spuddle about the ground in the little *dips* between those sand-hills. 1883– in dialect glossaries (Hants., Wilts., Som., Dev.).

2. *trans.* To turn over, dig up, stir or work at, lightly or superficially.

1805 R. W. DICKSON *Pract. Agric.* II. 600 This purpose is well accomplished..by spuddling the land with a kind of plough. 1856 MORTON *Cycl. Agric.* II. 726 *Spuddling* (Kent); see *Broad-sharing* ['ploughing shallow and wide with a broad share, without turning it over']. 1875– in dialect glossaries (Warw., Suss., Som., Dev.).

Spu·ddy, *a.* [f. SPUD *sb.* Cf. PUDDY *a.*] Short and stumpy or plump; thick-set.

a 1825 in FORBY *Voc. E. Anglia.* 1854 in MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss.* 1862 BORROW *Wales* II. xiii. 142 The other was a short spuddy fellow, with a broad ugly face. *Ibid.* 143 He was father of the spuddy military puppy. 1863 W. W. STORY *Roba di R.* II. ii. § 29 [Jewesses] who fill..the wide chair on which they sit, while they rest their spuddy hands on their knees.

Spue, variant of SPEW *v.*

Spu·ffle, *v. E. Angl. dial.* [Imitative.]

1. *intr.* To fuss or bustle; to be in a flurry or in breathless haste.

a 1825 FORBY *Voc. E. Anglia* 321 I saw Mr. A. spuffling along. 1862 BORROW *Wales* xix, He spuffled and sputtered in a most extraordinary manner. 1869 *Spectator* 25 Dec. 1518 When a Suffolk man means to tell his friend that he is making..too much fuss about anything,..he says quietly, 'Now don't spuffle'.

2. *trans.* To utter thickly or indistinctly.

1861 *Temple Bar* III. 292 He finds her with her mouth crammed full of food, and incapable of spuffling out a word.

Hence **Spu·ffling** *vbl. sb.* and *ppl. a.*

1893 COZENS-HARDY *Brd. Norf.* 30, I am not sure whether spuffling is a practice peculiar to East Anglia. 1897 W. RYE *Norfolk Songs* 56 His spuffling overbearing ways did him harm.

Spug (sparrow): see SPRUG.

Spuilyie, -zie, variants of SPULYIE.

Spule. *Sc.* [Of obscure origin: not a normal variant of SPAULD.]

1. A shoulder, esp. of an animal.

1803 SCOTT *Christie's Will* vi. in *Minstrelsy,* The spule o' the deer on the board he has set, The fattest that ran on the Hutton Lee.

2. *attrib.* in *spule-blade, -bone.*

1802 [see SPEAL-BONE]. 1828 SCOTT *Br. Lamm.* xviii, Then for dinner..there's no muckle left on the spule-bane. 1824 — *Redgauntlet* let. xi, His left hand [was] always on his right spule-blade, to hide the wound that the silver bullet had made.

Spullar, -er, obs. forms of SPOOLER.

† **Spult,** *north.* and *Sc. Obs. rare.* [Cf. WFlem. *spulten* to spout.] A spout.

1470–72 *Durh. Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 643 Pro factura iiij^{or} spultes eneis pro aqueducta hoc anno, xvj d. 1487–8 *Ibid.* 651 iiij^{or} spultes cum j lavatory stone ad vj d. 15.. *Aberdeen Reg.* (Jam.), Ane spult of leyd. 1595 in *Scott. Hist. Rev.* Apr. (1913) 303 Item cheis shelf. Item ane brewing spult.

† **Spulyiation.** *Sc. Obs. rare.* In 7 **spuilzi-.** [f. SPULYIE *v.*] Spoliation.

a 1688 G. DALLAS *Stiles* (1697) 266 Summonds of Spuilziation of Teinds. *Ibid.* 267 The said Pursuer having sufficient Right and Interest to prosecute..the Action of Spuilziation after-specified.

Spulyie (spö·lyi, spö·li), *sb. Sc.* Now *arch.* Forms: *a.* 5 **spolȝe,** 6 **-ȝie, spoylȝe, -ȝie, spoillȝe, -ȝie, spoilȝe, -ȝie** (7, 9 **-zie**), **-ȝy**; 6 **spoylie, -llie, spoilie, spollie,** 8 **spoolie.** *β.* 6 **spulȝe** (**spuleȝe, -iȝe, spullȝe**), 7– **spulzie** (8 **-zy**), 9 **spulyie**; 6 **spuilȝe** (**spwilȝe**), **-ȝie,** 7– **spuilzie**; 8 **spulie, spuilie,** 9 **spuilly.** [ad. OF. *espoille, espuille* SPOIL *sb.*]

1. The action of despoiling; spoliation; an instance of this.

1464–5 *Sc. Acts Parlt.* (1875) XII. 31/2 Þe lordis..sall knaw apone..all spolȝeis mayde sene the tyme of þe cessing of þe last sessionis. 1507 *Reg. Privy Seal Scot.* I. 205/1 Actioun..for the spulȝe of the teynd schevez of the personage of Petcokkis. 1588 A. KING tr. *Canisius' Catech.* 39 All vnlauchfull..vsurping of vthir mens geir be thift, spollie,.. iniust winning. 1678 SIR G. MACKENZIE *Crim. Laws Scot.* I. xxxi. § iii. (1699) 156 Like as by the constant Custom, many Actions of Spulzie were founded upon this Act. 1715 RAMSAY *Christ's Kirk Gr.* II. i, There had been mair blood and skaith, Sair harship and great spulie. 1765–8 ERSKINE *Inst. Law Scot.* III. vii. § 16 When a spuilzie is committed, action lies against the delinquent [etc.]. 1814 SCOTT *Wav.* lxv, Doubtless officers cannot always keep the soldier's hand from depredation and spulzie. 1877 MISS YONGE *Cameos* III. i. 7 Graham further collected three hundred caterans in the Highlands, men always ready for bloodshed and spulzie. 1898 PATON *Castlebraes* 44 The yin o' us 'll mak' a spuilly, or ma name's no Heather Jock.

† **b.** *Law.* An action for spoliation. *Obs.*

1678 SIR G. MACKENZIE *Crim. Laws Scot.* I. xxvi. § iv. (1699) 132 If the Executor did any wrong, he was lyable to

a spuilzie, and his sentence was reduceable. 1686 in J. J. Vernon *Parish of Hawick* (1900) 197 Thomas Briggs..was onlawed and amerciatt..in ane Spuylyea for abstracting and resetting of lyme from the church style building. 1765-8 Erskine *Inst. Law Scot.* IV. i. § 15 Spuilzie is not only competent against the *spoliator*,..but against all abettors.

2. Spoil, booty, plunder.

1507 *Acc. Ld. High Treas.* III. 393 To Marchemond herald and his fallowis for the spulȝe of the feild, xx Franch crounis. 1513 Douglas *Æneid* I. v. 106 Quham,..Chergit with the spuilȝe of the orient, Amang the numer of goddis resaue thou sall. 1596 Dalrymple tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* II. 280 Thay..tak thair schipis to Ingland ladne with spoylȝie. 1719 Hamilton *Ep. to Ramsay* III. viii, We'll bring aff but little spulzie In sic a barter. 1720 Ramsay *Rise & Fall of Stocks* 120 There was odd scrambling for the spulzy. 1789 Davidson *Seasons* 122 He got the spuilie to himsel' As they fled hame to toon. 1819 W. Tennant *Papistry Storm'd* (1827) 192 Ha! Satan's toy-shop now is taen! Look up and see your spulzie! 1882 J. F. S. Gordon *Hist. Moray* II. 319 The *spulzie* taken or destroyed..gives a good idea of the plenishing of a wealthy baron's residence in those days.

Spu·lyie, *v.* Chiefly *Sc.* Now *arch.* Forms: *α.* 4 spoly, 5 spolyon, 6 spolȝe (spoll-, spoulȝe), 7 spolze; 5 spoilȝe, 6 spoillȝe, -ȝie, spoylȝe, -ȝie, 6–7 spoylie, 7 spoilyie. *β.* 5–6 spulȝe (5 spwl-, 6 spvl-), 6 spuleȝe, -iȝe, spullȝe, 7 spulze; 6 spulȝie (spull-), 7– spulzie, 9 spulyie, -ye; 6 spuilȝe (spwil-), spuilȝie (spuill-), 8 spuilzie. [ad. OF. *espoillier* Spoil *v.*]

1. *trans.* To despoil or plunder (persons, etc.).

1375 Barbour *Bruce* XIII. 459 Quhen thai nakit spulȝeit war That war slayne in the battale thar. *c* 1375 *Cursor M.* 2503 (Fairf.), Siben þai spred to spoly þe lande. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 470/1 Spoylyn, or spolyon,..*spolio, dispolio.* *c* 1470 Henry *Wallace* III. 211 The Scottis..Spoilȝeid the feld, gat gold and othir ger. 1533 Bellenden *Livy* III. ii. (S.T.S) I. 247 At last he ischit at þe grete porte of his tentis, and spuleȝete his inemyis liand but ordoure. 1567 *Gude & Godlie B.* (S.T.S.) 59 He..spolȝeit Sathan, hell and sin, And heuinlie gloir to vs hes win. 1588 A. King tr. *Canisius' Catech.* 151 That widoues might becum thair pray, and that thay might spulȝie the fatherles. *a* 1670 Spalding *Troub. Chas. I* (1850) I. 4 Thay..first began to rob and spoilyie the Erllis tennentis. 1791 J. Learmont *Poems* 46 He spulzied fock and did them hang.

b. To despoil or deprive *of* something.

1508 Dunbar *Tua Maritt Wemen* 397, I spittit quhen I saw That super spendit euill spreit, spvlȝeit of all vertu. 1513 Douglas *Æneid* v. iv. 119 Syne Gyas schip..gaif hym place alswa, For scho wes spulȝeit of hir sterisman. 1562 Winȝet *Wks.* (S.T.S.) I. 72 Qvhy spulȝe and denude ȝe ws of this part of our Catholik beleif? 1609 Skene *Reg. Maj.* 55 He qvha is spolzeid of his possession, sould be first restored. 1834 H. Miller *Scenes & Leg.* xxii. (1857) 316 Spulyieing women of their yarn.

2. To take as spoil or plunder.

c 1470 Henry *Wallace* IV. 95 Syne spoilȝied thai the harnais or thai wend. 1508 Kennedie *Flyting w. Dunbar* 277 Than spulȝeit thay the haly stane of Scone. 1587 in *Scott. Hist. Rev.* July (1905) 358 He reft, spulzied, and took certaine wairs, guids, and geir out of a bark. 1609 Skene *Reg. Maj.* ii. 16 The moueable gudes (spulzeit) or the land. 1754 Erskine *Princ. Sc. Law* (1809) 451 It is a relevant defence, that the defender..made voluntary restitution..of the goods spuilzied.

3. *intr.* To commit spoliation.

1834 H. Miller *Scenes & Leg.* xxii. (1857) 317 They ate and drank, and then rose to spulzie. 1894 Latto *Tam. Bodkin* i, The haill lot o' them reivin' an' thievin' an' spulyiein'.

Hence **Spu·lyied** *ppl. a.*

1838 W. Bell *Dict. Law Scot.* 934 The spuilzied property may be evicted from *bona fide* purchasers. 1875 *Sc. Acts Parlt.* Index 1137/2 The lords of session to have power to order the restoration of spulzied goods.

Spu·lyieing, *vbl. sb.* [f. Spulyie *v.*] Spoiling, despoiling; spoliation.

1375 Barbour *Bruce* XIII. 457 Thai dispendit haly that day In spoulȝeing and riches taking. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 470 Spoylynge, or spolyynge, *spoliacio, depredacio.* 1647 *Extr. Burgh Recs. Stirling* 193 The actis and ordinances..anent slotting and spuilyeing of flesche. 1691 *Jedburgh Council Records* 19 March (MS.), For his wrongous spulzieing and awaytakeing of certaine stones out of the Minister's yeard dyke.

Spu·lyier. *rare.* Also 5 spoliar, 6 spulyear. [f. as prec.] A spoiler.

c 1400 *Apol. Loll.* 7 Feiþful curats owen to sorowe as wel of þe spoling of þer sogetis, as also of þe synne of þe spoliars. 1562-3 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* I. 231 The ressait..makis the said Thomas expres spulyear and approvar of the spulye libellit. 1819 W. Tennant *Papistry Storm'd* (1827) 62 They forc'd and flappit to the yird That spulyier and fae.

Spume (spiūm), *sb.* Also 5 spome. [ad. OF. *spume, espume* (It. *spuma*, Sp. and Pg. *espuma*), or L. *spūma.*]

1. Foam, froth, frothy matter.

1390 Gower *Conf.* II. 265 Sche sette a caldron on the fyr, ..And let it buile in such a plit, Til that sche sawh the spume whyt. *c* 1440 *Alph. Tales* 153 Þou seis I hafe no burnyng een, nor no spome at my mouthe. 1547 Boorde *Brev. Health* xxxiii. 18 b, Take of the white of ii egges, beat it to a waterishe spume. 1576 G. Baker *Gesner's Jewel of Health* 181 As soon as..purple spumes or fomes swell or rise up to the brymme, increase the fyre. 1612 Woodall *Surg. Mate* Wks.(1653) 37 English honey..yeelding little spume in decocting. 1669 Boyle *Cont. New Exp.* II. (1682) 96, I thrust a snail into it, who put forth much spume or froth. [*c* 1706 J. Philips *Poems Style of Milton* (1762) 109 Sulphur, and nitrous spume, enkindling fierce.] 1710 T. Fuller *Pharm. Extemp.* 280 Both [litharges] are but a Spume blown off in the refining of Silver from Lead. 1727-46 Thomson *Summer* 1108 Thence nitre, sulphur, and the fiery spume Of fat bitumen. 1826 Kirby & Sp. *Entomol.* xl. IV. 120 The abundant spume with which the larva..envelopes itself. 1871 T. R. Jones *Anim. Kingd.* (ed. 4) 253 Two of these animals.. joined to each other by a quantity of frothy spume.

b. *spec.* Foam of the sea, etc.

Common from about 1850.

c 1440 *Gesta Rom.* xciv. 425 (Add. MS.), For all thing that are in the worlde are not but as a spume in the see. 1599 Nashe *Lenten Stuff* Wks. (Grosart) V. 209 They would no more liue vnder the yoke of the Sea, or haue their heads washt with his bubbly spume. 1615 G. Sandys *Trav.* 93 He [Nile] laves The stars with spume, all tremble with his waves. *a* 1687 Cotton *Night Quatrains* ii, His Steeds their flaming Nostrils cool In Spume of the Cerulean Pool. 1760 *Phil. Trans.* LII. 136 This bird therefore dipping so frequently into the spume of the sea, is probably for the food swimming amongst it, rather than to feed upon the spume itself. 1805 *Naval Chron.* XIII. 394 My forehead was wet with the spume of the spray. 1871 Longf. *Wayside Inn* II. *Musician's T.* IV. vii, A great rush of rain, Making the ocean white with spume. 1885 *Manch. Exam.* 2 May 6/2 Breezy seaside effects that breathe of the salt spume.

c. In fig. uses.

1608 Middleton *Trick to catch Old One* II. ii, A midnight surfeiter The spume of a brothel-house. 1651 Baxter *Inf. Bapt.* 124, I answer to this Objection, that it being but the spume of humane reason, I needed not to have given any other answer. 1836 Ruskin *Essay on Lit.* Wks. 1903 I. 374 These foul snails.., leaving their spume and filth on the fairest flowers of literature. 1861 Ld. Lytton & Fane *Tannhäuser* 14 That so august a Spirit..Should..Decline, to quench so bright a brilliancy In Hell's sick spume.

† **2.** = Litharge 1, 1 b. *Obs.*

c 1400 Maundev. (Roxb.) xviii. 84 Þai take alde peper.. and strewez apon it spume of siluer or of leed. 1570 Levins *Manip.* 188 Ye spume of lead, *molybditis.* *Ibid.* Ye spume of syluer, *argyritis.* 1589 Fleming *Virg. Georg.* III. 51 They doo mingle therewith all The spume of argent, sulphur quicke, (or brimstone naturall). 1661 Lovell *Hist. Anim. & Min.* 118 With ceruse, or the spume of silver, it helps the colours of cicatrices.

3. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *spume-flake, -flecked* adj.; **spume-stone,** ? pumice-stone.

1831 Hodgson in Raine *Mem.* (1858) II. 217 There is much spume-stone like cinders and scoria in the middle. 1845 Browning *How they brought the Good News* v, The thick heavy spume-flakes which aye and anon His fierce lips shook upwards in galloping on. 1877 L. Morris *Epic Hades* I. 36 The spume-flecked waters..Left dry the yellow shore.

Spume (spiūm), *v.* [ad. L. *spūmāre* (hence It. *spumare*, Sp. and Pg. *espumar*, OF. *espumer*), f. *spūma* Spume *sb.*]

1. *intr.* To foam or froth. Also with *out.*

13.. [see Spuming *ppl. a.*]. 1582 Stanyhurst *Æneis* I. (Arb.) 41 At a blow hee lustelye swapping, Thee wyne fresh spuming with a draught swild vp to the bottom. 1610 Healey *St. Aug. Citie of God* (1620) 382 The fetching downe of the Moone, till (saith Lucan) she spume upon such hearbes as they desire. 1721 Bailey, *To Spume*, to froth or Foam. 1822 W. Irving *Braceb. Hall* (1845) 132 A small door, through the chinks of which came a glow of light, and smoke was spuming out. 1860 Mayne Reid *Wild Huntress* XXXV, A rushing torrent, that spumed against the banks. *fig.* 1904 *Blackw. Mag.* Apr. 588/1 Moore preferred that his should spume in his diary rather than his life.

2. *trans.* To send or cast *forth* like foam.

1859 Sala *Tw. round Clock* (1861) 173 Bedfordbury,.. whose tumble-down tenements and reeking courts spume forth plumps of animated rags. 1865 *Daily Tel.* 4 Dec. 5/4 Thus do these little people..spume forth their venom day after day. 1883 R. Bridges *Prometheus* 599 The mountains ..from their swelling flanks spumed froth of fire.

Hence **Spu·ming** *ppl. a.*

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 1038 Þe spumande aspaltoun þat spyserez sellen. 1881 J. F. Keane *Six Months in Meccah* v. 105 While being laden it [the camel] gives vent to spuming, spluttering, bellows and whines. 1894 Sala *London up to Date* ii. 33 The spuming chalices..having made the hearts of the guests glad within them. 1894 Max Pemberton *Sea Wolves* x, To plunge into the cavern of spuming water which lay between the crags.

† **Spu·meous,** *a. Obs.* [f. L. *spūme-us* (hence It. *spumeo*, Pg. *espumeo*), f. *spūma* Spume *sb.*] Foamy, frothy; spumous, spumy.

1635 Person *Varieties* II. 55 These spumeous exhalations are such as are combustible and capable to bee kindled. 1664 Power *Exp. Philos.* I. 28 That spumeous froth or dew which here in the North we call Cuckow-Spittle. *a* 1670 Hacket *Cent. Serm.* (1675) 512 Far be it from us to think that it was not water,..but a spumeous phlegmatic humour.

Spumescence (spiūme·sĕns). [See next and -ence.] Frothiness; the state of being foamy. Also *fig.*

1796 Kirwan *Elem. Min.* (ed. 2) I. 208 Before the blowpipe it melts with a moderate spumescence into a white semitransparent enamel. 1903 *Speaker* 7 Feb. 489/2 His prose style always tends to spumescence.

Spume·scent, *a.* [See Spume *v.* and -escent.] 'Having the appearance of foam or froth.'

1856 Henslow *Bot. Terms* 181.

† **Spu·mid,** *a. Obs.*—° [ad. L. *spūmid-us.*] 'Frothy or foamy' (Blount *Glossogr.*, 1656).

Hence *Spumidness* in Bailey, 1727 (vol. II).

† **Spumi·ferous,** *a. Obs.*—° [f. L. *spūmifer.*] 'That bears foam, froth, or scum' (Blount).

Spumification. *rare*—¹. [See Spume *sb.* and -fication.] Production of froth.

1615 Crooke *Body of Man* 307 The least time of this processe of Nature is thirty dayes, sixe for Spumification, two for Delineation [etc.].

Spu·miform, *a. rare*—¹. [See Spume *sb.* and -form.] Froth-like, frothy.

1805 Weaver tr. *Werner* 201 The external form of friable fossils is..spumiform, as Red and Brown Scaly-Iron-Ores.

Spu·miness. *rare*—°. [f. Spumy *a.*] 'Frothiness' (Bailey, vol. II, 1727).

Spumose (spiūmōu·s), *a. rare.* [ad. L. *spūmōs-us* (hence It. *spumoso*, Sp. and Pg. *espumoso*), f. *spūma* Spume *sb.*] = Spumous *a.*

1576 G. Baker *Gesner's Jewel of Health* 222 b, At any tyme..may this water be drawne, and converted after into a spumose substaunce. 1683 Ray *Corr.* (1848) 132 A little spike of bright purple or red flowers, which afterwards turned to spumose vesicles. 1826-8 W. Clark *Van der Hoeven's Zool.* I. 798 A vesicular or spumose organ adhering to foot.

Spumoso-, comb. form of L. *spūmōs-us* (see prec.), as in *spumoso-cellular* adj.

1846 Dana *Zooph.* (1848) 361 Texture of the sides and usually of the whole corallum spumoso-cellular.

Spumous (spiū·məs), *a.* [ad. L. *spūmōs-us*: see Spumose *a.*- and cf. OF. *spumeux.*]

1. Of the nature of, having the appearance of, froth or foam.

c 1400 *Lanfranc's Cirurg.* 164 Þe blood þat goiþ out of þe wounde wole be spumous & cleer. *Ibid.* 201 Þere is engendrid þere a maner spumous substaunce. 1612 Woodall *Surg. Mate* Wks. (1653) 86 If..the excrement which is voided from the mouth be spumous, pale, and crude. 1646 Sir T. Browne *Pseud. Ep.* 237 That spumous, frothy dew or exudation, or both, found upon Plants. 1710 T. Fuller *Pharm. Extemp.* 376 The Mass of Blood..render'd spumous and sparkling. 1808 *Med. Jrnl.* XIX. 296 Had the blood proceeded from the lungs, he judged it would have been spumous, or mixed with air bubbles. 1846 Dana *Zooph.* (1848) 400 Corallum with very short calicles, truncate, rising from a spumous base.

2. Marked by foam; foaming.

1854 Dickens *Hard T.* II. i, Down upon the river..rowed a crazy boat, which made a spumous track upon the water. 1876 R. F. Burton *Gorilla L.* II. 62 The fierce rollers of the spumous sea broke and recoiled.

Spumy (spiū·mi), *a.* Also 6 spumye, 7 spumie. [f. Spume *sb.*]

1. Covered with, throwing up, of the nature of, sea-foam.

1582 Stanyhurst *Æneis* III. (Arb.) 87 Thee rocks sternelye facing with salt fluds spumye be drumming. 1697 Dryden *Virg. Georg.* III. 368 The spumy Waves proclaim the watry War. 1741 H. Brooke *Constantia*, The Tiber now their spumy keels divide. 1797 T. Park *Sonn.* 7 High o'er the beech froths up the spumy spray. 1819 H. Busk *Banquet* II. 164 The spumy Rhone, or easy-winding Loire. 1894 *Outing* XXIV. 264/2 Great rollers, with their crest torn into spumy wreaths, rose higher and higher.

2. Of a frothy character or consistency; characterized by the presence of froth.

a 1618 Sylvester *Maiden's Blush* 1122 Swelling Clusters .., Whose spumy Juice in Pharao's cup I crush. 1621 G. Sandys *Ovid's Met.* VII. (1626) 137 Cerberus..on the grasse his spumy poyson sheds. 1641 Wilkins *Mercury* Pref. (1707) 4 Though what the Author write prove spumy Froth. 1740 Somerville *Hobbinolia* III. 89 Matrons sage.. Grasp the capacious Bowl; nor cease to draw The spumy Nectar. 1788 Burns *Ep. R. Graham* iii, Some spumy, fiery, *ignis fatuus* matter. 1819 Keats *Song of Four Faeries* 16 Let me see the myriad shapes..wrought by spumy bitumen.

Spun (spŭn), *ppl. a.* [Pa. pple. of Spin *v.*]

1. That has undergone the process of spinning; formed, fabricated, or prepared by spinning: **a.** Of wool, silk, or other material. (Cf. Spun-yarn.)

Also in earlier use as the second element in combs., as *evil-, ill-spun* (see those words).

1486 *Bk. St. Albans, Her.* f iij b, For as mych as weueris vse sich fusillys made of sponnyn woll. 1570 Levins *Manip.* 188 Spunne, *filatus.* 1608 Willet *Hexapla Exod.* 575 Women did spinne with their hands and brought the spunne worke. 1759 *Phil. Trans.* LI. 390 The stockings..were wove of carded and spun silk. 1779 *Ibid.* LXX. 51 Long filaments of a vitrified matter like spun-glass. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXIV. 401/1 Two or more yarns, or simple spun threads, firmly united together by twisting. 1868 *Rep. U. S. Commissioner Agric.* (1869) 291 The Murray mill..will be employed in weaving broad goods of net warps and 'spun' fillings. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2292/2 *Spun-silk*, a cheap article produced from short-fibered and waste silk, in contradistinction to the long fibers wound from the cocoon and *thrown.*

Comb. 1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib., Brit.* II. No. 3900, Velvet and plush, made from spun silk waste. 1887 *Encycl. Brit.* XXII. 66/1 The spun-silk industry has chiefly developed in the Yorkshire and Lancashire textile centres.

b. *Spun gold, silver*, a silk thread wound with gold, silver-gilt, or silver wire.

1728 Chambers *Cycl., Gold Thread*, or Spun Gold, is the flatted Gold wrapp'd, or laid over a Thread of Silk, by twisting it with a Wheel, and Iron Bobins. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2292/2.

c. Of butter or sugar: Drawn out or worked up into a thread-like form, esp. for ornamenting confectionery or other dishes.

1834 Ht. Martineau *Farrers* ii. 20 A yellow lamb of spun butter. 1846 Soyer *Cookery* 549 You have previously formed some ropes of spun sugar. 1861 Geo. Eliot *Silas M.* iii, Spun butter in all its freshness. 1872 O. W. Holmes *Poet Breakf.-t.* iv, If you don't leave your spun-sugar confectionery business.

d. *elliptic.* Spun silk or yarn.

1868 *Rep. U. S. Commissioner Agric.* (1869) 290, 60,000 pounds of thrown silk, 60,000 pounds of 'patent spun', 100,000 pieces of belt ribbons [etc.]. 1892 *Daily News* 24 Sept. 2/6 Yarns, no improvement yet noted in position of dry spuns, wet spuns are in pretty good demand.

2. With *out.* Unduly prolonged or protracted.

1879 *Grove's Dict. Mus.* I. 645/2 We can pardon a few awkward or tedious phrases, a few spun-out passages.

Spundge, obs. f. SPONGE *sb.*[1] and *v.*

Spune, Sc. variant of SPOON *sb.*

Spung (spʊŋ), *sb. Sc.* [? Alteration of the earlier PUNG *sb.*[1]] A purse; a fob.

1728 RAMSAY *Last Sp. Miser* xiv, They bid us draw Our siller spungs, For this and that, to mak' them braw. 1728 — *General Mistake* 167 [He] rarely has a shilling in his spung. 1836 M. MACINTOSH *Cottager's Daughter* 195, I to death hae some withstood To mak my spung and coffers guid. 1892 J. LUMSDEN *Sheephead & Trotters* 14 [He] took an enormous gold watch from his 'spung' and handed it toward me.

Spung, *v. Sc.* [? f. prec.] *trans.* To rob.

1719 RAMSAY *Ep. to Hamilton* II. xii, If that the gypsies dinna spung us. 1788 R. GALLOWAY *Poems* 94 If you be not very sly, They'll spung you of your watch.

Spunge, -eous, -er, -iness, etc., obs. forms of SPONGE, -EOUS, SPONGER, SPONGINESS, etc.

Spunk (spʊŋk), *sb.* Forms: *α.* 6 **sponke,** 6–8 **sponk,** 7 **sponck.** *β.* 6 **spounk,** 6–7 **spunck,** 7 **spunke,** 6– **spunk.** [Of obscure history; prob. related to FUNK *sb.*[1] Cf. also PUNK *sb.*[3]]

1. *Sc.* and *dial.* A spark, in various senses.

Chiefly in fig. use: cf. SPARK *sb.*[1] 1 d and 2.

a. With *of* (some quality, fire, light, etc.).

α. 1536 BELLENDEN *Cron. Scot.* (1821) I. 211 For ane sponk of small occasioun of unkindness. *a* 1572 KNOX *Hist. Ref.* Wks. 1846 I. 10 How mercyfullie God hath looked upoun this Realme, reteanyng within it some sponk of his light, evin in the tyme of grettast darkness. 1590 DAVIDSON *Reply Bancroft* in *Wodrow Misc.* (1844) 508 If there had beene a sponke thereof [*sc.* charity] within him. *c* 1614 SIR W. MURE *Dido & Æneas* III. 446 Seazing on her death-seal'd lipps to knowe If any sponk of breath as yit remain'd.

β. 1599 A. HUME *His Recantation* 10, I feel no spunk of faith in me. 1629 SIR W. MURE *True Crucifix* 681 Loe, while ev'n his life's last spunke is spent, The Temple's vaile is to the bottome rent. 1647 TRAPP *Com. Rev.* vi. 3 A Sea-coal fire, if not stirred up, will die of it self, so will our spark and spunk of light. 1653 BINNING *Serm.* (1845) 622 He hath no more religion than a Spunk of desire. 1724 RAMSAY *Vision* ii, Ilk creature..That had a spunk of sense. 1785 BURNS *1st Ep. J. Lapraik* xiv, O for a spunk o' Allan's glee. 1808 STAGG *Misc. Poems* 77 At length a wee bit spunk o' light Transfix'd his wand'ring eyes. 1886 STEVENSON *Kidnapped* xviii, He has some spunks of decency.

b. Without const.

c 1585 MONTGOMERIE *Misc. Poems* xiii. 40 Fy on that freik that can not love! He hes not worth a sponk of spreit. 1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* II. 57 He slokned out all occasioun of ciuil weir, and nychtbour fead, spunk and spark. 1669 R. FLEMING *Fulfilling Script.* (1801) I. 172 That little spunk now under ashes must assuredly revive and blow up to a flame. 1818 SCOTT *Br. Lamm.* xxvi, Not a gleed of fire, then, except..maybe a spunk in Mysie's cutty-pipe. 1823– in dial. glossaries. 1827 J. WILSON *Noct. Ambr.* Wks. 1855 II. 31 As an Editor, he is, compared wi' Christopher North—but as a spunk to the Sun!

c. A small fire. Also in phr. *a spunk of fire.*

1802 SIBBALD *Chron. S.P.* Gloss. s.v., Spunk of fire, a very small fire. 1806 J. NICOL *Poems* I. 18 (Jam.), I see thee shiverin, wrinklet, auld, Cour owre a spunk that dies wi' cauld. 1815 SCOTT *Guy M.* xi, Ye may light a spunk o' fire in the red room. 1870 VERNEY *Lettice Lisle* xx, What, ain't there a spunk of fire?

d. *Sc.* and *north.* Applied to persons (see quots.).

1808 JAMIESON s.v., *A mere spunk,* a lively creature; especially applied to one who has more spirit than bodily strength, or appearance of it. 1894 HESLOP *Northumbld. Gloss.* s.v., He's a wee spunk o' a thing.

2. Touchwood; tinder, match, or amadou prepared from this.

1582 STANYHURST *Æneis* I. (Arb.) 23 In spunck or tinder thee quick fyre he kindly receaued. 1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* II. v. 89 To make white powder:..The best I know is by the powder of rotten willowes; spunck, or touchwood prepared, might perhaps make it russet. 1651 in *Hartlib's Legacy* (1655) 97 His Lordship told me the way of making of Spunk, or Touchwood. *a* 1691 BOYLE *Hist. Air* (1692) 208 The burning of Match, Touchwood, Sponck, &c. 1723 *Pres. St. Russia* II. 13 They cure their wounds with Spunk or Tinder. 1754 *Phil. Trans.* XLVIII. 811 Of which [*sc.* fungus] touchwood or spunk, and the *amadoue ordinaire* of the French, is usually prepared. 1796 *Hist. Ned Evans* II. 141 By rubbing them with pounded gun-powder a little damped, he formed a kind of spunk, which kindled like a squib. 1841 CATLIN *N. Amer. Ind.* xx. (1844) I. 147 It contained also his flint and steel, and spunk for lighting. *Ibid.* xxiii. I. 189 A spark of fire is seen and caught in a piece of spunk. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade* s.v. *Amadou,* Amadou..dipped in a solution of saltpetre, forms the spunk or German tinder of commerce.

3. One or other of various fungi or fungoid growths on trees, esp. those of the species *Polyporus,* freq. used in the preparation of tinder. Cf. TOUCHWOOD b.

1665 HOOKE *Microgr.* 139 A kind of Jews-ear, or Mushroom, growing..on several sorts of Trees, such as Elders, Maples, Willows, etc.,..commonly called by the name of spunk. 1674 JOSSELYN *Two Voy.* 70 There is an excrescence growing out of the body of the Tree called spunck, or dead mens Caps. 1822–7 GOOD *Study Med.* (1829) I. 63 The best ordinary styptic is pressure with an elastic substance, as..touchwood, spunk, or some other spongy boletus. 1845–50 MRS. LINCOLN *Lect. Bot.* 199 The genus *Boletus* contains the touchwood, or spunk, which is sometimes used as tinder. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1089/1 Spunk, *Polyporus igniarius.*

4. *Sc.* (and *north.*). A slender slip of wood tipped with brimstone and used for conveying or producing fire; a match, a lucifer.

1755 JOHNSON, *Sponk,* a word in Edinburgh which denotes a match, or any thing dipt in sulphur that takes fire: as, any *sponks* will ye buy? 1788 G. WILSON *Coll. Masonic Songs* 52 The spunks tipt with brimstone he gropt for, In order to light him a candle. 1821 SCOTT *Pirate* vii, There is a gathering peat on the kitchen fire, and a spunk beside it—ye can light your ain candle. 1842 J. AITON *Domest. Econ.* (1857) 263 The prowling thief enters the byre with a bag and brimstoned *spunk.* 1893 G. TRAVERS *Mona Maclean* II. 127 Come and put a spunk to this fire.

5. Spirit, mettle; courage, pluck.

1773 GOLDSM. *Stoops to Conq.* I, The squire has got spunk in him. 1775 S. J. PRATT *Liberal Opin.* CXVII. (1783) IV. 94 Those grave persons, who want taste, or (as these young gentlemen more elegantly term it) *spunk,* for such exercises. 1781 R. KING *Mod. Lond. Spy* 24 They allowed that I had blood, but wanted spunk and spirit. 1802 BENTHAM *Panopt.* Wks. 1843 XI. 131 If Lord Henry had stuff and spunk enough in him for such business. 1857 HOLLAND *Bay Path* xxiv. 285, I like your spunk, but it don't count in a fight with crazy folks and fools. 1890 CLARK RUSSELL *My Shipmate Louise* I. x. 213 Neither of them wanting spunk, at it they went!

transf. 1822 GALT *Provost* xxxi, The bailie, like a bantam cock in a passion, stotted out of his chair with the spunk of a birslet pea.

b. In phr. *fellow, man,* etc., *of* (..) *spunk.*

1774 *Westm. Mag.* II. 10 He is a fellow of Spanish spunk, and will run any man through the body, who dares to censure his portraits. 1785 BURNS *Jolly Beggars* xliv, With an air That showed a man of spunk. 1812 *Sporting Mag.* XXXIX. 245 'Twas a shame That a lad of my spunk should be coop'd up so tame. 1833 [S. SMITH] *Lett. J. Downing* xxii. (1835) 127 You are a man of spunk, Major, and I like you for it.

6. *attrib.,* chiefly in sense 4, as *spunk-maker, -seller, -wood;* **spunk-box,** a tinder-box or match-box; **spunk-fencer** *slang,* a match-seller; **spunk-flask,** a tinder-flask.

1721 RAMSAY *Lucky Spence* v, Gin he likes to light his match At your spunk-box. 1828 MOIR *Mansie Wauch* xx, Hiring beds at twopence a-night to..spunk-makers, and such like pick-pockets. 1835 MONTEATH *Dunblane* (1887) 122 His Spunk-flask at his hurdies hung. 1839 *Slang Dict.* 34 *Spunk-fencers,* match sellers. 1888 BARRIE *Auld Licht Idylls* xii, An itinerant matchseller known..as the literary spunk-seller. 1888 WARDROP *Poems & Sk.* 213 I'll ding the business into spunkwood.

† **Spunk,** *a. Obs.* = SPUNKY *a.*

1788 J. PALMER in *Parl. P.* (1812–3) IV. 69, I hope the old woman may be spunk, and refuse to apologize. 1810 *Spirit Publ. Jrnls.* XIII. 177 Every thing spunk and giggish.

Spunk (spʊŋk), *v.* [f. SPUNK *sb.*]

1. *intr.* To leak *out,* to become known. *Sc.*

1808 in JAMIESON. 1820 HOGG *Sheph. Cal.* (1829) I. 28 It at last spunkit out that Rob Dodds had got hame safe enough. 1822 GALT *Sir A. Wylie* xxxviii, It might be detrimental if ony thing were to spunk out. 1857 STEWART *Scot. Charact.* 43 (E.D.D.), It spunkit oot I'd gat a letter frae Dr. Quibbles.

2. With *up.* **a.** *U.S.* To show spunk or spirit; to stand up, assert oneself spiritedly or courageously.

c 1850 'DOW JR.' in Jerdan *Yankee Hum.* (1853) 109 Just spunk up to the old codger—let him know you are not afraid of him. 1866 *Harvard Mem. Biogr.* II. 7 Sometimes I feel as if I must lie down;..but I 'spunk up' and have thus far held out. 1898 WESTCOTT *David Harum* xxii, Then he spunked up some an' says [etc.].

b. *Sc.* To blaze or fire up in anger or passion.

1898 N. MUNRO *J. Splendid* viii. 86 He spunked up like tinder. 'Do you call me a liar?' he said.

Spunkie (spʊ·ŋki). *Sc.* Also 8 **spunkey,** 9 **spunky.** [f. SPUNK *sb.*]

1. A will o' the wisp.

1727 P. WALKER *Life R. Cameron* in *Biogr. Presbyt.* (1827) I. 243 Some Willies with the Wisps, or Spunkies of Wild-fire. 1785 BURNS *Addr. to Deil* xiii, An' aft your moss-traversing Spunkies Decoy the wight that late an' drunk is. 1816 SCOTT *Bl. Dwarf* ii, The scene of it had been avoided..by all human beings, as being the ordinary resort of kelpies, spunkies, and other demons. 1895 SMEDLEY *Occult Sciences* 75 The wily spunkie manœuvred so dexterously that the unhappy wanderer was speedily decoyed into the nearest morass. 1884 W. SIME *To and Fro* 170 The spunkie which showed the signal for freedom has disappeared.

Comb. 1898 SPENCE *Poems* 139 The spunkie-haunted bog, Where sank the shepherd and his dog.

2. Whisky or other spirituous drink. *rare.*

1786 BURNS *Epist. J. Kennedy* iii, Gie me just a true good fallow,..And spunkie ance to make us mellow, And then we'll shine.

3. a. A spirited, mettlesome, or courageous person; a smart or lively fellow.

1806 J. NICOL *Poems* I. 148 (Jam.), An' frae his bow, the shafts, fu' snack, Pierc'd monie a spunkie's liver. 1901 G. DOUGLAS *House w. Gr. Shutters* 182 Logan..thought him a hardy young spunkie.

b. A fiery, hot-tempered, or irritable person.

1821 GALT *Ann. Parish* xxvi, He was himself..a perfect spunkie of passion.

Spu·nkily, *adv.* [f. SPUNKY *a.*] In a spunky manner; angrily, irritably.

1890 CLARK RUSSELL *Ocean Trag.* II. xxiii. 228 The old chap very spunkily bestowed several emphatic nods upon her.

Spu·nkless, *a.* [f. SPUNK *sb.*] Destitute of spunk; spiritless.

1882 J. WALKER *Jaunt to Auld Reekie,* etc. 183 He disdained the spunkless martyrs. 1896 SNOWDEN *Web of Weaver* vi, They all looked white in the face, and round-shouldered, and spunkless.

Spunky (spʊ·ŋki), *a.* Also 8 **spunkey,** 8–9 **spunkie.** [f. SPUNK *sb.* + -Y.]

1. Full of spunk or spirit; courageous, mettlesome, spirited.

(*a*) 1786 BURNS *Earnest Cry & Prayer* xiv, Erskine, a spunkie norland billie. 1793 in W. Roberts *Looker-on* (1794) II. 312 A strapping lassie, So spunky, brazen, bold, and saucy. 1805 LAMB *Lett.* (1888) I. 221 Vittoria Corombona, a spunky Italian lady, a Leonardo one, nicknamed the White Devil. 1829 LANDOR *Imag. Conv.* Wks. 1853 I. 520/1 They are grown again as young and spunky as undergraduates. 1884 *Cent. Mag.* 428 Spunk will sometimes carry a man through, and you can't say he ain't spunky.

(*b*) 1804 CHARLOTTE SMITH *Conversations,* etc. I. 26, I always get him upon a spunky horse, and the fun is to see his contrivances to stick fast, while I dash on, on purpose. 1856 AIRD *Poet. Wks.* 130 All the year she sings..,The spunky little bird. 1873 C. GIBBON *Lack of Gold* x, He's a spunky wee beggar, that bantam.

b. Characterized by animation or spirit.

1831 WILSON in *Blackw. Mag.* XXX. 408 He..has repartee at his command, and occasionally rises into spunky declamation.

2. *Sc.* and *north.* Sparkling; burning or shining brightly.

1791 NAIRNE *Poems* 131 For rotton wood will give i' th' dark The spunkey semblance of a spark. 1802 R. ANDERSON *Cumbld. Ball.* 32 How neyce the spunky fire it burns. 1825 BROCKETT *N. C. Gloss., Spunky,* sparkling.

3. *dial.* and *U.S.* Angry, irritable, irascible.

1809 *Debates in Congress* (1853) 31 Jan. 1259 It may be a spunky spiteful child, but will have no strength. 1822 GALT *Provost* xxvi, The spunky nature of Mr. Hirple was certainly very disagreeable often to most of the council. 1873 W. CARLETON *Farm Ball.* 7 We was both of us cross and spunky, and both too proud to speak.

Spun-yarn, spunyarn. Also 4 *north.* **sponegarn.** [f. SPUN *ppl. a.*]

1. Yarn fabricated by the process of spinning.

1376 *Durh. Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 584 In ij lib. de Sponegarn empt. per plumbar. pro aqua ductu ligand. iij *s.* 1541–2 *Invent.* in *Lanc. & Chesh. Wills* (Chetham Soc.) 81, xxx pond of sponnen fyne wollen yorne,..xx[li] pound of spennen yorne. 1844 G. DODD *Textile Manuf.* i. 21 The business of working up the spun-yarn into woven fabrics. 1856 LEVER *Martins of Cro' M.* 78 A staid country-woman exchanging her spunyarn..for various commodities.

2. *Naut.* Line composed of two or more rope-yarns not laid but simply twisted together by a winch or by hand.

1627 CAPT. SMITH *Seaman's Gram.* v. 25 Spunyarne is nothing but rope yarne made small at the ends, and so spun one to another so long as you will with a winch. 1711 W. SUTHERLAND *Shipbuild. Assist.* 155 Spun Yarn, for every Inch the Main Stay is in Di[ameter], allow 5 Hundred Weight. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* II. ii. 133 We had not a sufficient quantity of junk to make spun-yarn. 1769 FALCONER *Dict. Marine* (1780) s.v. *Pudening,* It is..served with spun-yarn throughout its whole length. 1840 R. H. DANA *Bef. Mast* iii, He has to furnish them with spunyarn, marline, and all other stuffs that they need in their work. 1853 KANE *Grinnell Exp.* xxvii. (1856) 226 Although the chains of captivity, made of spun-yarn and leather, set hardly upon him. *Comb.* 1772–84 *Cook's Voy.* (1790) IV. 1381 The bolt belonging to the spun-yarn winch. 1840 R. H. DANA *Bef. Mast* iii, Every vessel is furnished with a 'spun-yarn winch'. 1846 A. YOUNG *Naut. Dict.* 368 A small winch with a fly wheel is used in making rope or spunyarn: it gets the name of a spunyarn-winch.

b. A line or cord of this kind.

1685 BOTELER *Dial. Sea Service* 163 As for the Spun-yarns, they are a kind of Rope-yarn [etc.]. 1805 *Naval Chron.* XIII 80 She did not strain a spun-yarn.

Spur (spɜi), *sb.*[1] Forms: *α.* 1–2 **spora,** 2–6 (9 *dial.*) **spore,** 4 **spor,** 5–6 **sporre.** *β.* 1 **spura,** 2–5, *north.* and *Sc.* 6–7 **spure** (5 *north.* **spvyre**), 6 **spoore.** *γ.* 6–7 **spurre** (7 **spirre**), 5– **spur** (6–7 **spurr**). [Common Teutonic: OE. *spora, spura,* = OFris. **spora* (WFris. *spoar,* NFris. *spöör*), OS. *spora* (MDu. *spore, spoor*; Du. *spoor,* WFlem. *spoore, sporre*), MLG. *spore, spare,* OHG. *sporo* (MHG. *spore, spor,* G. *sporen,* now *sporn*), ON. and Icel. *spori* (Norw. and Da. *spore,* Sw. *sporre*). The stem is possibly the same as that of SPOOR *sb.*[1]]

I. 1. A device for pricking the side of a horse in order to urge it forward, consisting of a small spike or spiked wheel attached to the rider's heel.

α. c 725 *Corpus Gloss.* (Hessels) C 93 *Calcar,* spora. *a* 1175 *Cott. Hom.* 243 Þu abst to habben..swrd and spere, Stede and twei sporen. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 1280 He smot stede wiþ þe spore. 13.. *K. Alis.* 818 (Laud MS.), At þe yssue of þe doren Tholomeus dude on his sporen. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 40 Whan the scharpnesse of the spore The horse side smit so sore, It grieveth ofte. 1422 tr. *Secreta Secret., Priv. Priv.* 165 He smote the mule wyth the sporis. 1484 CAXTON *Chivalry* 62 The spores ben gyuen to a knyght to sygnefye dylygence and swyftnesse. 1526 SKELTON *Magnyf.* 575 Alasse, where is my botes and my spores? *a* 1533 LD. BERNERS *Huon* lxxxxi. 292 He strake the good horse with the sporres.

β. c 1000 ÆLFRIC *On O. & N. Test.* (Grein) 18 Iohannes þa heow þæt hors mid þam spuran. *c* 1205 LAY. 23772 He..dude on his uoten spuren swiðe gode,..[and] leop on his stede. *c* 1300 *Havelok* 1676 Þe stede, þat he onne sat, Smot Ubbe with spures faste, And forth awey. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* VIII. 79 With spurys he strak the steid of pris. 14.. *Nom.* in Wr.-Wülcker 703 *Hec calcar,* a spure. *c* 1475 *Cath. Angl.* 357/1 Spvyre,..*calcar.* 1547 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* IX. 68 Brydill, spures, gyrthis, stirrep irnis. 1588 *Lanc. & Cheshire Wills* (Chetham Soc.) 149 One pair of spures. *c* 1657 SIR W. MURE *Ho. of Rowallane* Wks. (S.T.S.) II. 243 For yearlie payment of..ane paire of spures.

γ. c 1400 *Destr. Troy* 10942 Two spurres full spedely [they] spent on his helis. *c* 1470 *Gol. & Gaw.* 25 With spurris spedely thai speid Our fellis. 1523 LD. BERNERS *Froiss.* I. CXXXIV. 161 He toke his horse with the spurres, and came on the skirmysshe warde. 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 235 He hearde the spurres strike on the stayres whan the murtherer ranne hastely downe. 1604 E. G[RIMSTONE] *D'Acosta's Hist. Indies* III. ix. 147 Beasts..stay there, so as

there is no spurre can make them goe forward. 1661 J. Childrey *Brit. Baconicæ* 44 They found nothing, but an old Spur. 1726 *Dict. Rust.* s.v., Obedience to the spurs is a necessary Quality of a good Horse. 1781 Cowper *Anti-Thelyphth.* 191 He spoke indignant, and his spurs applied.. to his good palfrey's side. 1815 Wellington in Gurw. *Desp.* (1838) XII. 552 A pair of Spurs taken from Buonaparte. 1863 Geo. Eliot *Romola* xvi, The horse wanted no spur under such a rider.

Prov. 1618 *Hist. Perkin Warbeck* in *Select. Harl. Misc.* (1793) 62 Little needed a spur, saith our proverb, to a forward horse.

b. Used in sing. in generalized sense.

1297 R. Glouc. (Rolls) 8169 Hor hors..nolde after wille Siwe noþer spore no bridel. *c* 1300 *Havelok* 2569 For he him dredde swiþe sore, So runci spore, and mikle more. 1390 Gower *Conf.* I. 321 This knith..With spore made his hors to gon. 1580 Blundevil *Horsemanship* T v, If he be more slowe..in his trotting, or gallopping, harder of spurre than he was woont to be. 1596 Mascall *Govt. Cattle* 189 If spurre and wande will not profit. 1611 Shaks. *Wint. T.* I. ii. 96 You may ride's With one soft Kisse a thousand Furlongs, ere With Spur we heat an Acre. *a* 1802 *Kinmont Willie* xvii. in Scott *Minstrelsy*, He has called him forty Marchmen bauld With spur on heel, and splent on spauld. 1831 Youatt *Horse* 49 The [race-] horse, .. without whip or spur, will generally exert his energies to the utmost to beat his opponent. 1859 Tennyson *Elaine* 455 They..Set lance in rest, strike spur, suddenly move.

Prov. c 1380 Wyclif *Sel. Wks.* III. 436 It is to hard to kyke aȝen þe spore. [Cf. Prick *sb.* 13.] 1579 Tomson *Calvin's Serm. Tim.* 636/1 They..will get nothing by it, for they kicke against the spurre.

c. *Gilt* (or †*gilded*) *spurs*, as the distinctive mark of a knight. Now *Hist.*

13.. *Coer de L.* 5346 Syxty thousand ther wer telde, Off gylte spores in the felde. 1377 Langl. *P. Pl.* B. xviii. 14 þe kynde of a knyȝte þat cometh to be dubbed, To geten hem gylte spores. 1480 Caxton *Polychronicon* viii. xxvi, He toke sire Umfrayes salade and his brygantyns..; and also his gylt spores. *a* 1548 Hall *Chron., Edw. IV*, 191 He was disgraded of the high ordre of knighthode..by cuttyng of his gylt sporres. 1604 Marston & Dekker *Malcontent* I. iii, As your knight courts your city widow with jingling of his gilt spurs. 1641–54 Mennis & Smith *Mus. Delicíæ* (1817) II. 32 Gilded spurres do jingle at his heeles. 1728 Chambers *Cycl.* s.v., Anciently the Difference between the Knight and Esquire was, that the Knight wore gilt Spurs,..and the 'Squire silver'd ones. 1828 Scott *F. M. Perth* xxxii, Here, strike me this man's gilt spurs from his heels with thy cleaver. 1879 *Encycl. Brit.* IX. 544 The 'Day of the Spurs' was a fitting name for a carnage after which four thousand gilt spurs were hung as trophies in Courtrai cathedral.

attrib. 1642–54 Mennis & Smith *Mus. Delicíæ* (1817) II. 176 Battas believed..That yonder guilt-spur spruce and velvet youth Was some great personage.

d. With distinguishing terms, denoting various makes or kinds.

a 1400 *Octouian* 1447 A peyre sporys of Speyne. 1625- [see Rippon]. 1688 Holme *Armoury* III. 304/1 A Scotch Spur...This is an old way of making Spurs;..their Spurs were only armed with a sharp point like a Cocks Spur. *Ibid.* 325/1 Some term it a Gag Spur, others a Prick Spur. 1785 Grose in *Archæol.* (1787) VIII. 111 The rouelle, or wheel spur (so called from the revolution of the spicula about its axis). 1824 Meyrick *Antient Armour* I. Introd. p. lxv, The [Anglo-Saxon] spur was formed..with a much longer neck, and was called the spear-spur. 1824, 1839 [see Prick *sb.* 21]. *a* 1866 Fairholt *Costume* (1885) II. 377 The rowelled spur first appears..on the brass of Sir John de Creke, 1325.

†**e.** Used in some game or sport. *Obs.*—1

c 1440 *Jacob's Well* 134 þe v. inche is harlotrie, makyng iapys a-forn folk, in pleying at þe spore, at þe bene, at þe cat, in ledyng berys & apys.

f. *Battle* (also *day* or †*journey*) *of* (*the*) *spurs*: (see quots. 1831 and 1837).

(*a*) *a* 1548 Hall *Chron., Hen. VIII*, 33 b, The Frenchemen call this battaylle the iourney of Spurres because they ranne awaye so faste on horssebacke. 1643 Baker *Chron., Hen. VIII*, 8 It was called the Battell of Spurres, for that they used more their Spurres in running away, then their Launces in fighting. 1831 Mackintosh *Hist. Eng.* II. iv. 118 [Hen. VIII] defeated the French army in an engagement [near Guinegate] on the 4th of August, 1513, afterwards called the Battle of the Spurs.

(*b*) 1837 *Penny Cycl.* VIII. 113/1 The Flemyngs, in 1302, ..encountered a French army near to Courtray, and found on the field, after the battle, about 4000 gilt spurs, which caused it to be called the battle of spurs. 1842 Longf. *Belfry of Bruges* xv, I beheld the Flemish Weavers..Marching homeward from the bloody battle of the Spurs of Gold. 1879 [see 1 c].

g. *Her.* The representation of a spur.

1688 Holme *Armoury* III. 304/1 He beareth Gules, a Scotch Spur, Or. *Ibid.*, He beareth Vert, a Spur, Or; Leathered, Argent. *a* 1773 [see Spurred *a.* 1 c]. 1882 Cussans *Her.* 122 *Spur*: This Charge may either be represented in its modern form, with a revolving rowel, or with a single point.

h. *transf.* One who wears spurs.

1821 Scott *Kenilw.* iii, I can..fling my gold as freely about as any of the jingling spurs and white feathers that are around me.

2. a. In various prepositional or elliptical phrases denoting speed, haste, eagerness, etc.

c 1374 Chaucer *Troylus* II. 1427 Tristith wele that I Wole be her champioun with spore and yerd. 1592 Shaks. *Rom. & Jul.* II. iv. 73 Swits and spurs, Swits and spurs, or Ile crie a match. 1601 — *All's Well* II. v. 40 You haue made shift to run into't, bootes and spurres and all. 1604 Dekker *Honest Wh.* Wks. 1873 II. 96 Wee shall ride switch and spurre. 1679 V. Alsop *Melius Inq.* Pref., As if they rod Post, all upon the switch and spur for a presentation to a warm Parsonage. 1708 Sewel II, *Spoorslaags ryden*,..to ride switch and spur, to gallop with full speed. 1742 Pope *Dunciad* IV. 197 Each fierce Logician..Came whip and spur, and dash'd thro' thin and thick. 1782 Cowper *Mutual Forbearance* 22 What if he did ride whip and spur, 'Twas but a mile. 1900 *Daily Mail* 1 Feb. 4/3 The Government would have turned tail but for the fact that Lord Rosebery, in his famous Epsom speech, rode it 'with spurs'.

†**b.** *At the spur, at spurs*, = next. *Obs. rare.*

c 1450 *Merlin* xviii. 282 Than will we go down this ryver at the spore. 1535 *State P., Hen. VIII* (1834) II. 232 Wher Thomas Fittz Gerolde..was dreuen to flye at sporres, and lost dyvers of his men.

c. *On* or *upon the* (†*spurs* or) *spur* (also †*upon spur*), at full speed, in or with the utmost haste, in lit. or fig. use.

(*a*) 1525 Ld. Berners *Froiss.* II. viii. 18 Whan we be in the feldes, lette vs ryde on the spurres to Gaunte. 1577–87 Holinshed *Chron.* II. 537 He was rescued by certeine horssemen, which..came on the spurs..to the succour of their fellowes.

(*b*) 1560 Daus tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 428 Ryding upon the spurre, [he] setteth upon them quickely. 1623 Bingham *Xenophon* 23 Lucius .. returned and told him, that the enemie fled vpon the Spur. 1655 *Clarke Papers* (Camden) III. 30 The French Ambassadour seemes not to be all together uppon the spur to be gone. 1693 *Humours Town* 3 By this time our Horses must be ready, and we lose time till we are on the Spur. 1710 Shaftesb. *Charac.* (1737) III. 26 He is not presently upon the Spur, or in his full Career. 1775 S. J. Pratt *Liberal Opin.* xlviii. (1783) II. 31 The servant rode away on the spur, to alarm the family at the mansion-house. 1825 Scott *Betrothed* Concl., News are come on the spur from the Garde Doloureuse. 1847 Tennyson *Princ.* I. 150 And there, All wild to sound an University For maidens, on the spur she fled.

(*c*) 1606 G. W[oodcocke] *Hist. Ivstine* XI. 49 Alexander.., following vpon spurre, had intelligence that [etc.]. 1643 Cromwell in Carlyle *Lett. & Sp.* (1861) IV. 252 Haste,—ride on spur. *Ibid.* 253 Haste, haste, on spur.

d. *On* (or *upon*) *the spur of the moment* (or *occasion*, etc.), without premeditation or deliberation; on a momentary impulse; impromptu, suddenly, instantly.

(*a*) 1806 A. Duncan *Nelson's Funeral* 43 The contrivance of Mr. Wyatt, on the spur of the moment. 1831 Blakey *Free Will* 152 A speaker who gives us a ready reply upon the spur of the moment. 1891 'J. S. Winter' *Lumley* x, There's nothing like acting on the spur of the moment.

(*b*) 1809 Malkin *Gil Blas* II. iii. P 2 He carried me home on the spur of the occasion. [1836 Sir H. Taylor *Statesman* xxxi. 237 Though compliments should arise naturally out of the occasion, they should not appear to be prompted by the spur of it. 1882 Hinsdale *Garfield & Educ.* II. 312 Do not trust to what lazy men call the spur of the occasion.]

(*c*) 1834 Ht. Martineau *Moral* II. 58 The utmost extent that ingenuity can devise on the spur of a great occasion. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* II. III. vii, The Church..has been consecrated, by supreme decree, on the spur of this time, into a Pantheon.

3. In phrases with verbs: **a.** *To win* (*one's* or †*the*) *spurs*, to gain knighthood by some act of valour; hence, to attain distinction, to achieve one's first honours. Chiefly *fig.* Also const. *against, from, of.*

c 1425 Lydg. *Assembly of Gods* 980 These xiiii knyghtes made Vyce that day; To wynne theyr spores they seyde they wold asay. 1539 Abp. Parker *Corr.* (1853) 13 The one to labour to win sporis of the other, and to allure the people's minds. 1551 T. Wilson *Logike* (1580) 74 b, Sennacherib that wicked kyng, thought..to winne his spurres against Jerusalem. 1595 *Enq. Tripe-wife* in Grosart *Eliz. Eng.* (1881) 171 It sufficeth that yee haue wonne the spurres from them all. 1600 Holland *Livy* XXX. xxxii. 762 Resolute that day either to winne the spurres or loose the saddle. 1837 *Penny Cycl.* IX. 291/2 His father nevertheless took him [the Black Prince] along with him to win his spurs..in July, 1346. 1862 Thornbury *Turner* I. 399 The painter..executed his task with a patience..worthy of one who had to win his spurs.

b. *To put* or *set* (†*the*) *spurs to*, to impel or urge on by spurring; = Spur *v.*1 1. Also *fig.*

(*a*) 1553 Brende *Q. Curtius* B b iij, He put spurres to his horse. 1561 Eden *Arte Navig.* Pref. ♭ iv b, I may..seme to put the spurres to a runnyng horse, as saith the Prouerbe. 1603 Knolles *Hist. Turkes* (1621) 313 He..put spurres to his horse, and fiercely charged the front of Scanderbegs armie. 1770 Langhorne *Plutarch* (1851) II. 739/2 At the same time they put spurs to their horses. 1818 Scott *Br. Lamm.* xxi, I must have spurs put to Lady Ashton's motions. 1857 Holland *Bay Path* xix. 221 A motive force, by which the spurs were put to resolution. 1889 'V. Fane' *Helen Davenant* I. 16 He put spurs to his horse as soon as he got outside upon the high road.

(*b*) 1565 Cooper *Thesaurus* s.v. *Incito*, Settyng spurres to his horse to gallop amonge his ennemies. 1588 Kyd *Househ. Phil.* Wks. (1901) 239 Seeing the ayre wexe blacke,..I began to set spurs to my Horse. 1609 J. Pory tr. *Leo's Africa* II. 70 Setting spurs to his horse-side, he cast himselfe..downe headlong. 1623 Lisle *Ælfric on O. & N. T.* 36 Iohn set spurs to his horse, and made after him. 1818 Scott *Br. Lamm.* xxii, The Captain proceeded..to set spurs to her resolution. 1889 Conan Doyle *M. Clarke* xxx. 313 He set spurs to his horse.

elipt. 1598 Shaks. *Merry W.* IV. v. 70 They..set spurres, and away; like three Germane-diuels. 1652 J. Wright tr. *Camus Nat. Paradox* vii. 139 Hee set Spurs and hasted after his Companions. *a* 1700 Evelyn *Diary* (Chandos) 187 We set spurrs and endeavour'd to ride away. 1811 W. R. Spencer *Poems* 19 My spurs are set; Away, away. 1849 James *Woodman* xviii, Quick, spurs to your horse, and away for Sir William.

†**c.** *slang.* (See quot.) *Obs.*

1770 *Gentl. Mag.* XL. 560 To express the Condition of an Honest Fellow and no Flincher, under the Effects of good Fellowship, he is said to [have]..Got a spur in his head; this is said by brother jockies of each other.

4. A stimulus, incentive, or incitement. Also const. *of* (the particular influence, etc.) and *to* (a person or persons).

[1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 240 b, It is as a prycke or a spurre to set the slouthfull body forwarde in the seruyce of god.] 1551 Wilson *Logike* Ep. A iij, I professe it to be but a spurre, or a whetstone, to sharpe the pens of some other. *a* 1586 Sidney *Arcadia* III. viii. (1912) 393 With the spurre of Courage, and the bitte of Respect. 1676 W. Mountagu in *Buccleuch MSS.* (Hist. MSS. Comm.) I. 323 It will not be proper..to make him any acknowledgments .., lest it be looked at for a spur, which I assure you his Lordship needs not. 1726 Shelvocke *Voy. round World* 28, I had no spur that they would be sensible of, but double allowance of brandy. 1771 *Junius Lett.* lix. (1788) 319 The spur of the press is wanted to give operation to the bounty. 1821 Lamb *Elia* I. *Grace before meat*, Our appetites, of one or another kind, are excellent spurs to our reason. 1842 S. Lover *Handy Andy* iii, How Andy runs! Fear's a fine spur. 1871 Blackie *Morals* I. 129 Human beings,..acting in masses, under the spur of great political or religious excitement.

b. Const. *to* or † *towards* (some quality, course of action, etc.). Also with inf.

1548 Udall *Erasm. Par.* Pref. 12 An encouragyng and spurre towardes ferther industrie. *a* 1593 H. Smith *Serm.* (1637) 585 Praise and honour are spurres to virtue. 1611 Shaks. *Wint. T.* IV. ii. 10 Which is another spurre to my departure. 1663 Patrick *Parab. Pilgrim* x. (1687) 54 The thoughts of this misery would be a sufficient spur to you to quicken the execution of it. 1716 Bentley *Serm.* xi. 382 Implanted in our Nature as a spur to mutual Beneficence. 1779 J. Moore *View of France* (1789) I. xxxi. 273 Emulation, the chief spur to diligence. 1800 Wellington in Gurw. *Desp.* (1837) I. 181 This will give a spur to the negotiation at Hydrabad. 1855 Bain *Senses & Int.* II. iv. § 31 The remembrance..is one source of the spur to preserve the stability of one's footing. 1888 Bryce *Amer. Commw.* II. xlvi. 195 This advantage..is a constant spur to the efforts of national politicians.

c. Similarly with *of* (= to).

Cf. 'þe spore of loue' as the title of a poem in the Vernon MS. (*Minor P.* I. 269).

1591 Spenser *Tears of Muses* 454 Due praise, that is the spur of dooing well. 1639 Fuller *Holy War* v. xiii. 252 Had the emulation betwixt those equall Princes onely been such as is the spurre of vertue. 1752 Hume *Ess. & Treat.* (1777) I. 96 Avarice, the spur of industry. 1824 Lamb *Elia* II. *Capt. Jackson*, With many more such hospitable sayings, the spurs of appetite.

II. 5. *Zool.* A sharp, hard process or projection on the tarsus of the domestic cock and certain other fowls and birds; a back-claw.

1548 Elyot, *Calcaria*, the spurres of a cocke or an henne. 1577 B. Googe *Heresbach's Husb.* IV, (1586) 158 Their legges strong, wel armed with sharp and deadly spurres. 1601 Holland *Pliny* I. 276 As if they knew, that naturally they had spurs, as weapons, giuen them about their heeles, to try the quarrell. 1624 Capt. Smith *Virginia* II. 31 Arrowes.. headed with..the spurres of a Turkey, or the bill of some bird. 1661 Lovell *Hist. Anim. & Min., Isagoge* b 3 b, Amongst Birds,..some have spurs, but not the crooked clawed. 1725 *Fam. Dict.* s.v. *Hen*, Those Hens that have Spurs break their Eggs, and generally will not hatch them. 1834 M'Murtrie tr. *Cuvier* 143 Their wings are short... Their thumb, reduced to a spur, cannot reach the ground. 1899 W. T. Greene *Cage-Birds* 38 The Woodlark..differs from it in having a shorter tail and 'spur'—that is, the nail of the hind toe.

fig. 1571 R. Edwards *Damon & Pithias* (1906) 54 Though we are cockerels now, we shall have spurs one day. 1770 Langhorne *Plutarch* (1851) II. 858/1 If you design doing anything..you must do it quickly, before the spurs of this cockerel be grown.

b. *Zool., Anat.*, and *Path.* A sharp-pointed or spur-like process, formation, or growth on some part of the body.

1681 Grew *Musæum* I. v. iii. 116 On each side his nether [jaw], two great Spikes or Spurs, hard and very sharp. 1722–7 Bover *Dict. Royal* I, *Les ergots..d'un Chien*, a.. Dog's Spurs. 1760 [see *spur-fish* in 14 b]. 1785 Latham *Gen. Synop. Birds* III. i. 247 On the bend of the wing [are] two or three spurs half an inch in length. 1848 Stark *Elem. Nat. Hist.* II. 362 *Hesperides*. Posterior legs with two pairs of spurs. 1850 R. G. Cumming *Hunter's Life S. Afr.* (1902) I. 262 One of his [a buffalo's] hind legs being shot off above the spurs. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 686 Those [cicatrices] occurring after syphilis are said to be softer, less liable to encroach on the neighbouring skin or to produce spurs.

6. a. A sharp-pointed projection from the prow of a war-vessel.

1604 E. Grimstone *Siege Ostend* 171 One of them tooke him right vpon the sterne with his spurre or pointe. 1877 W. H. White *Man. Nav. Archit.* (1882) 320 Gaining such a depth below water as will enable the spur to pierce an enemy below the armour. 1889 Welch *Text Bk. Naval Archit.* vii. 98 Below water the stem is formed into a spur or ram, with a view to..piercing the thin bottom plating of an enemy's ship.

b. A metal needle or gaff for fastening to the leg of a gamecock for fighting purposes.

1688 R. Holme *Armoury* II. 252/2 Gablocks are Spurs made of Iron, or Brass, or Silver, and are fixed on the Legs of such Cocks as want their natural Spurs; some call them Gaffs. 1706 Phillips (ed. Kersey), *Gaff*, an artificial Spur for a Cock. 1801 Strutt *Sports & Past.* III. vii. 250 We frequently meet with paintings, representing cocks fighting; but I do not recollect to have seen in any of them the least indication of artificial spurs. 1841 Marryat *Poacher* iii, Having put on the animal his steel spurs, he..would..throw down his gallant bird.

c. *Whaling.* One of a number of metal spikes in a boot-sole to prevent slipping.

1820 Scoresby *Acc. Arctic Regions* II. 298 The harpooners, having their feet armed with 'spurs',..to prevent them from slipping, descend upon the fish.

d. Any sharp or short projection, point, or spike

suggestive of a spur. Freq. specific in technical use.

1872 J. RICKARDS *Wood-working* 193 The power is needed mainly to cross-cut the fibre with the spores. *Ibid.*, The spores [1873 spurs] require frequent sharping. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2293/1 *Spur*, a prong on the arm of some forms of anchor, to assist in turning the lower arm from the shank. 1881 YOUNG *Ev. Man his own Mechanic* § 399. 175 The two spurs, one on each section of the plane. 1888 JACOBI *Printers' Vocab.* 130 *Spur*, the short pin at the end of the point which pricks the hole in the sheet for registering purposes. 1889 WELCH *Text Bk. Naval Archit.* xiii. 138 The lower pintle .. being received into a spur projecting from the lower part of the sternpost.

7. a. A short or stunted branch or shoot, esp. one likely to produce fruit.

c 1700 *Compl. Gardiner* in *Dict. Rust.* (1726) s.v. *Pruning*, Tho' the Spurs are common and proper to be preserved, yet the Branches growing from them, will never be good for any thing. 1764 *Museum Rust.* IV. 15 Those little spurs which are only an inch or two long. 1796 C. MARSHALL *Gardening* xii. (1813) 162 The mode of bearing in pear trees is on short spurs, which..form themselves all along the branches. 1842 LOUDON *Suburban Hort.* 339 The great object in producing spurs is to obtain blossom-buds. 1858 GLENNY *Everyday-Bk. Gardening* 23/1 If they were to cut every inch of new wood back to a short spur, there would be fruit. *transf.* 1912 F. BOND *Cathedrals* 287 The western bases have a 'spur' of leafage, a sign of late date.

b. *Bot.* A tubular expansion, resembling a cock's spur in form, of some more or less foliaceous part of a flower; a calcar.

1731 MILLER *Gard. Dict.* s.v. *Delphinium*, Many dissimilar Petals.., the uppermost of which is contracted, and ends in a Tail or Spur. 1796 WITHERING *Brit. Pl.* (ed. 3) II. 8 Bloss[om] gaping, ending in a spur. 1830 LINDLEY *Nat. Syst. Bot.* 141 Sepals .. unequal; the lowermost elongated into a spur. 1855 MISS PRATT *Flower. Pl.* IV. 214 Spur conical, shorter than the limb of the corolla. 1874 LUBBOCK *Wild Fl.* iii. 53 The honey is in some cases .. situated at the end of a long spur.

c. A disease in rye and certain other cereals, in which the blighted ear resembles a cock's spur in form; = ERGOT I.

1763 MILLS *Pract. Husb.* II. 405 The grains which have the spur are thicker and longer than the sound ones. 1828 A. NEALE (*title*), Researches respecting the Natural History ..of the Spur, or Ergot of Rye. 1837 P. KEITH *Bot. Lex.* 153 The most mysterious of all the maladies attacking the cereal grasses is that of the Ergot or Spur.

III. 8. A short strut or stay set diagonally to support an upright timber; a shore, prop, or sustaining pillar; a sloping buttress.

1529 *Sel. Cases Star Chamber* (Selden) II. 41 [They] cut vpp the yates, postes, and spores of the yates. 1594 PLAT *Jewell-ho.* III. 26 Two strong pillers..well propped with spurres. 1652 J. ENDECOTT in *Manip. Progr. Gosp. among Indians N. Eng.* 34 They have also built a foot bridge..with Groundsells and Spurres to vphold it. 1687 A. LOVELL tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* II. 174 A thick Wall, almost two Fathom broad, supported by two spurs of the same thickness. 1712 J. JAMES tr. *Le Blond's Gardening* 211 The..Wall should be supported..with Buttresses, or Spurs of Masonry. 1834 SOUTHEY *Doctor* (1862) 376 Murlooz is the name which they give to such spurs or stay-pillars. 1844 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* VII. 19/2 The spur [=prop] is then disengaged, and the wagon resumes its level position ready to be removed. 1851 TURNER *Dom. Archit.* II. iii. 91 The term spur is now applied to the carved timber work of the doorways of ancient houses supporting projecting upper stories. 1893 COZENS-HARDY *Broad Norf.* 25 He..supports his wall with a spore not a shore.

b. *Naut.* (See quots.)

1769 FALCONER *Dict. Marine* (1780) s.v. *Deck*, The spurs of the beams; being curved pieces of timber serving as half-beams to support the decks, where a whole beam cannot be placed on account of the hatch-ways. 1841 R. H. DANA *Seaman's Man.* 125 *Spurs*, pieces of timber fixed on the bilge-ways, their upper ends being bolted to the vessel's sides above the water. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.* 647 *Spurs of the Bitts*, the same as standards.

c. *techn.* (See quots.)

1833 LOUDON *Encycl. Archit.* § 1075 The spurs (lower stones of the raking part of the gable, called in England the summer stones). 1860 WHITE *Wrekin* p. xxvii, Stilts and spurs—bits of fireclay by means of which earthenware articles are kept separate during firing. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* s.v. *Pottery*, The *stilts* or *spurs* are generally of triangular form, and have sharp projecting points.

9. One of the principal roots of a tree. Cf. SPURN *sb.*[2] 2.

1610 SHAKS. *Temp.* v. i. 47 The strong bass'd promontorie Haue I made shake, and by the spurs pluckt vp The Pyne, and Cedar. 1677 PLOT *Oxfordshire* 159 The Tree without being 25 foot round above the spurs. 1740 SOMERVILLE *Hobbinolia* II. 89 If chance The cruel Woodman spy the friendly Spur, His only Hold. 1791 COWPER *Yardley Oak* 117 Yet is thy root sincere,..A quarry of stout spurs, and knotted fangs, Which..clasp The stubborn soil. 1800– in dial. glossaries (North Cy., Nhp., Chesh., Warw.).

fig. 1611 SHAKS. *Cymb.* IV. ii. 58, I do note, That greefe and patience rooted in them both, Mingle their spurres together.

10. †a. *Fortif.* An angular outwork or projection from the general face of a curtain or wall, to assist in the defence of this. *Obs.*

1575 CHURCHYARD *Chippes* (1817) 153 They did lose the Spurre, a place ful strong Which sore anoid the towne. 1598 BARRET *Theor. Warres* 125 The parts of a Bulwarke are ..the front or Curtine; the Counter front or Spurres. 1604 E. G[IRMSTONE] *D'Acosta's Hist. Indies* v. xiii. 364 Fortefied with great and large spurres or platformes. 1669 STAYNRED *Fortification* 12 In the middle of the Curtain you may make a Spur, or Point of a Bastion. 1687 J. RICHARDS *Jrnl. Siege of Buda* 12 We observ'd the Enemy at work on the East-Port, to which place they had advanc'd a Spurr. 1702 *Milit. Dict.* (1704), *Spurs*, are Walls that cross a part of the Rampart, and joyn to the Town Wall.

†b. An angular end of the pier of a bridge. *Obs.*

1736 HAWKSMOOR *London Bridge* 26 That the Becks or Spurs ought to be made in right Angles. 1742 LEONI *Palladio's Archit.* I. 92 The angle of the spurs, that cut the water, is a right angle.

c. An artificial projection from a river-bank serving to deflect the current.

1818 GARSTIN tr. *Frisi's Treat. Rivers* III. iii. 130, I have examined different sorts of spurs, and have found but few of them that were not shaken and damaged by the current. 1873 MEDLEY *Autumn Tour U. S. & Canada* ix. 149, I saw a large Spur which had been built to divert the stream under the bridge.

11. A range, ridge, mountain, hill, or part of this, projecting for some distance from the main system or mass; an offshoot or offset.

Freq. since 1850.

1652 HEYLYN *Cosmogr.* I. 37 The Alpes, and the Apennine, of which the residue in a manner are but spurs and branches. 1791 W. BARTRAM *Observ. Trav. Pennsylv.*, etc. 338 The upper end of this spacious green plain is divided by a promontory or spur of the ridges before me, which projects into it. 1796 MORSE *Amer. Geog.* I. 183 From these several ridges proceed innumerable nameless branches or spurs. 1837 W. IRVING *Capt. Bonneville* I. 96 A low and very rocky ridge, one of the most southern spurs of the Wind river mountains. 1863 KINGLAKE *Crimea* (1877) III. i. 198 A spur or rising ground at the base of the hills. 1874 H. R. REYNOLDS *John Bapt.* I. v. 48 The glittering palaces and flourishing cities in the Spurs of Lebanon.

b. An outshoot or projecting piece *of* ground, land, etc.

1851 MAYNE REID *Scalp Hunters* xxxii. 244 A spur of willows running out from the timber indicated the presence of water. 1852 GROTE *Greece* II. lxx. (1862) VI. 264 A spur of high and precipitous ground.

c. A branch of a lode, railway, etc.

1833 DARWIN *Jrnl.* 29 Jan. in *Voy. Beagle*, One side of the creek was formed by a spur of mica-slate. 1878 F. S. WILLIAMS *Midl. Railw.* 588 As we leave Newark we see the spur of line that runs down to the Great Northern Railway. 1881 RAYMOND *Mining Gloss.*, *Spur*, a branch leaving a vein, but not returning to it.

IV. 12. *attrib.* **a.** In sense 1, as *spur-buckle*, *-haste*, *-mark*, etc.

1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 304/2 The Second is termed a *Spur Buckle. *a* 1649 DRUMM. OF HAWTH. *Hist. Jas. II*, Wks. (1711) 23 These with *spur-haste advanced the celebration of it. 1875 WHYTE MELVILLE *Riding Recoll.* iv, You may look in vain for a *spur-mark on their horses sides. 1688 C. TRENCHFIELD *Cap Grey Hairs* 52 'Tis no wise part of a man, *succumbere difficultatibus*,..but..like true *Spur-Nags,..strain hardest against the Hill. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 304/2 A Buckle, with a *Spur Neck and Rowel fixed thereunto. 1842 'NIMROD' *Horse & Hound* 331 The back-ribs..should also be deep, as in a strong-bodied horse, of which we say, when so formed, that he has a good '*spur place'. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 325/1 A *Spur shank, with a Nail or sharp point. 1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib., Brit.* II. No. 6151, Spurs and *spur sockets. 1814 SCOTT *Lord of Isles* VI. xxxiii, The *spur stroke fail'd to rouse the horse.

b. In senses 6 d, 8–11, as *spur-brace*, *-buttress*, *-cog*, *-dike*, *-fork*, *-piece*, etc.

1776 G. SEMPLE *Building in Water* 50 On those set-off's stretch your Plates, and on them rest your *Spur-braces. 1859 TURNER *Dom. Archit.* III. II. vii. 373 They are furnished with a variety, adapted to the shape, of the *spur-buttress. 1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 230 A horizontal wheel .. with *spur-cogs. 1892 *Trans. Amer. Soc. Civ. Eng.* XXVI. 697 Where the velocity of the current is dangerous, we have sometimes used *spur-dikes. 1747 HOOSON *Miner's Dict.*, **Spur-fork*, a small sort of Fork, of Use only to keep some other Timber in its Place,..and sometimes used to hold Doorsteds in Drifts or at Sumpheads asunder. 1833 LOUDON *Encycl. Archit.* § 889 Into grooves chiseled out of the *spur pieces..spiked to the sill and posts. 1825 J. NICHOLSON *Operative Mechanic* 73 The rollers..may..be formed into *spur pinions to fit the teeth. *Ibid.* 159 A *spur-rail, for strengthening the frame-work of the mill. 1871 KINGSLEY *At Last* xi, Around its great *spur-roots lay what had been its trunk and head. 1846 A. YOUNG *Naut. Dict.* 281 **Spur-shores*,..a name for shores placed in a horizontal position, or set up diagonally. 1889 *Daily News* 9 Oct. 6 The cost of the main thoroughfare..; the cost of the *spur street. 1871 *Routledge's Ev. Boy's Ann.* Sept. 535 Spaces between the links, into which the *spur-teeth fit. 1884 *Boston* (Mass.) *Jrnl.* 13 Sept., A *spur track from the Eastern Railroad freight yard. 1692 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 2774/3 They attack'd a kind of *Spur-work with Pallisadoes.

13. *Comb.*, with ppl. adjs. and vbl. sbs., as *spur-finned*, *-heeled*, *-shaped*, *-tailed*; *spur-clad*, *-driven*; *spur-bearing*, *-jingling*, *-making*, etc.

1842 LOUDON *Suburban Hort.* 614 Shortening such wood on *spur-bearing trees. 1871 DARWIN *Desc. Man* II. xv. (1890) 450 The female progenitors of the existing spur-bearing species. 1847 WEBSTER, **Spur-clad*, wearing spurs. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. v. iii, The tired nag, *spur-driven, does take the River Sorgue. 1804 SHAW *Gen. Zool.* V. I. 110 *Spur-finned Pike, *Esox Chirocentrus*...Native of the Indian seas. 1803 *Ibid.* IV. II. 563 *Spur-gilled Holocentrus, *Holocentrus Calcarifer*...Native of Japan. 1829 H. HAWTHORN *Visit Babylon* 111 A tall,..*spur-heeled 'dead-weight' man. 1894 DU MAURIER *Trilby* iii. 42 The brutal sword-clanking, *spur-jingling aristocrats. *a* 1613 OVERBURY *A Wife*, etc. (1638) 173 The trade of *spurre-making had decay'd long since. 1837 P. KEITH *Bot. Lex.* 271 A *spur-shaped process issuing immediately from the corolla. 1894–5 LYDEKKER *Roy. Nat. Hist.* III. 245 *Spur-tailed Wallabies..having the extreme tip of the tail furnished with a horny spur or nail. 1896 *Ibid.* V. 286 The *spur-toed frogs (*Xenopus*).

14. Special Combs.: **spur-bow**, the solid spur-like prolongation of the lower part of the bow in certain warships; **spur box**, a special form of horseman's boot-heel, to which the rims of the spur are affixed; **spur centre**, a lathe-centre provided with spurs; **†spur-fire** *Pyrotech.* (see quots.); **spur gear, gearing** *Mech.*, gearing consisting of spur-wheels; **†spur money**, a fine imposed by the choristers of certain privileged chapels on anyone entering with spurs on; = *spur silver*; **spur-nut** *Mech.*, a small spur-wheel; **spur pruning**, = SPURRING *vbl. sb.*[1] 2; **spur-road, -shell** (see quots.); **†spur silver** *Sc.*, = *spur money*; **spur-stone**, a stone fixed in the ground to support a post or to keep vehicles away from the footway, etc.; **†spur trochus**, a species of shell (cf. *spur-shell*); **†spur-vein**, a blood-vein in a horse's side where the spur usually strikes; **spur-way** *dial.* (see quot.); **spur-whang** *Sc.* and *dial.*, = SPUR-LEATHER I.

1877 W. H. WHITE *Man. Nav. Archit.* 232 Under-water projections, like the *spur-bows of ironclad rams, may also produce some limitation of pitching and 'scending. 1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib., Brit.* II. No. 5007, The old *Spur Box, in which the boot heels are unsightly and the spur inconveniently near the ground. 1881 YOUNG *Ev. Man his own Mechanic* § 592. 274 The following pieces are supplied with the lathe:..two plain centres, one *spur-centre for wood. 1765 R. JONES *Fireworks* ii. 27 When any of these *spur-fires are fired singly, they are called artificial flower pots. *Ibid.* 29 Called the spur-fire,..because the sparks it yields have a great resemblance to the rowel of a spur. 1823 BUCHANAN *Millwork* 28 By *spur geers is understood wheels acting together, and in the same plane, with their axes parallel. 1867–72 BURGH *Mod. Marine Engin.* 294 Spur gear motion for working slide valves. 1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* III. 794 The motion of the main rollers..is communicated to the seed-distributor by means of *spur-geering. 1566 in *N. & Q.* 1st Ser. I. 494/1 Every quorister sholde bringe with him to Churche a Testament..rather than spend their tyme in talk and hunting after *spur money. 1864 C. KNIGHT *Passages Work. Life* I. 77 Thus have I seen a stranger civilian stalk into the choir of St. George's Chapel. The spur was instantly detected; and when the bewildered man was surrounded by a bevy of white surplices..there was no help for him but to pay the spur-money. 1803 *Imison's Sci. & Art* I. 94 In common *spur-nuts, divide the pitch-line ..into twice as many equal parts as you intend teeth. 1825 J. NICHOLSON *Operative Mechanic* 131 The four spur-nuts.. at the end of the spindle..roll round the spur-wheel. 1842 LOUDON *Suburban Hort.* 541 *Spur Pruning, sixth year. 1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-m.* 233 **Spur road*, a branch way leading from a main level. 1891 *Hartland Gloss.* 73 *Spur road*, a bridle path. Now obsolete in this sense, although the word remains in the name of a bye-road. 1713 PETIVER *Aquat. Anim. Amboinæ* Tab. xi, *Calcar minor*,..Small *Spur-shell. *Cassis verrucosa*,..Great Spur-shell. 1752 HILL *Hist. Anim.* 129 The Spur-shell, with short spines. The gold-yellow Spur-shell, with a silvery white umbo. 1883 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* V. 214 Genus *Imperator*. The shell is like a *Trochus*;..seen from above, it resembles the rowel of a spur, hence the name Spur-shell. 1500 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* II. 97 Item, to the barnis in the Queir of Strivelin, of *spur silver, be the Kingis command, vs. 1545 *Ibid.* VIII. 411 Item, to the barnis of the quere in spur sylver, vs. 1848 *Gentl. Mag.* I. 248 An obelisk,..part of it..having been above ground as a *spur-stone. 1880 *Daily News* 27 July 3/3 Accidents to the vehicles..owing to the 'spur stones' that are fixed to..the refuges..at dangerous crossings. 1882 JEFFERIES *Bevis* I. x. 172 A small sarsen or boulder.. put there as a spur-stone to force the careless carters to drive straight. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s.v. *Cochlea*, II. The *spur trochus, with spines disposed in a regular circle. 12. The less aculeated spur trochus. 1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* 351 Let him bleed in his *spur vains, and his breast vaines. 1735 BURDON *Pocket Farrier* 38 Take..Blood from the Spur Vein on each Side. 1691 RAY *S. & E. Co. Words* (ed. 2) 114 A **Spurre-way*, a Horse-way through a Man's Ground, which one may ride in by right of Custom. 1787– in dial. glossaries (Norfolk, Essex, E. Anglia). 1684 in *Cloud of Witnesses* (1871) 393, I had not the worth of a *spur whang of any man's. 1820 SCOTT *Monast.* xxxvi, There are strapping lads enough would have rid us of him for the lucre of his spur-whang.

b. In the specific names of birds, fishes, or flowers, as **spur dog, -fish, -fowl**, etc. (see quots.).

1862 COUCH *Brit. Fishes* I. 49 *Spur Dog. Bone Dog... Pre-eminently this fish is called The Dogfish. 1760 EDWARDS *Glean. Nat. Hist.* II. 153 The larger Fish I call the *Spur-fish, from the two odd pectinated sharp-pointed spurs on its upper and under sides. 1804 SHAW *Gen. Zool.* V. I. 194 Rondeletian Carp, *Cyprinus Rondeletii*...Spur-Fish. 1845 *Penny Cycl.* Suppl. I. 35/1 Guinea-fowls, *spur-fowls, quails, and bustards are very numerous [in Adal]. 1865 *Intellect. Obs.* No. 39. 224 Galloperdix Lunulosa,.. generally called the Spur-fowl. 1895 LYDEKKER *Roy. Nat. Hist.* IV. 416 The Indian spur-fowl are more pheasant-like. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 550/1 Sea *spur grass, *Glyceria distans*. 1803 SHAW *Gen. Zool.* IV. II. 595 *Spur Mackrel. *Scomber Calcar*...Native of the African seas. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 219 The shrubby Capsicum, or *Spur Pepper (*Capsicum frutescens*), is a native of the East Indies. 1910 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 11) XII. 203/2 Birds [of the Gold Coast]..include.. swallows, vultures and the *spur plover (the last-named rare). 1864 GRISEBACH *Flora Brit. W. Ind.* 787/2 *Spur-tree, *Petitia domingensis*. 1855 MISS PRATT *Flowering Pl.* III. 161 *Spur Valerian. Corolla 5-cleft, spurred at the base. 1863 HOGG & JOHNSON *Wild Fl. Gt. Brit.* II. Pl. 140 *Centranthus Ruber*, Red Spur-Valerian. Syn. Red Valerian. 1749 W. ELLIS *Shepherd's Guide* 144 At Sidbury, Devonshire, 'they have a weed called *Spurwood or Spearwort, that they say runs up like a pike'. 1640 Franking *spurwort [see SPURREY 1 b]. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* II. 98/2 Francking Spurry, or Spurwort, [has] .. small narrow leaves. 1796

WITHERING *Brit. Pl.* (ed. 3) II. 185 *Sherardia arvensis*... Little Field Madder. Little Spur-wort.

†Spur, *sb.*[2] *Obs.* [f. SPUR *v.*[1] 5.] A sharper's method of marking playing-cards.

1674 COTTON *Compl. Gamester* (1680) 95 In dealing these Rooks have a trick they call the *Spurr*, and that is, as good Cards come into their hand..they give them a gentle touch with their nail. 1711 PUCKLE *Club* 23 The bent, the slick, the breef, the spur. [*Note*] Marking Putt-cards on the edge with the nail as they come to hand.

†Spur, *sb.*[3] *dial. Obs.* Also 7 spurre. [Of obscure origin.] The common tern, *Sterna hirundo* (or *fluviatilis*).

a 1672 WILLUGHBY *Ornith.* (1676) 269 In insula Caldey meridionali Cambriæ littori adjacente Spurres eas vocant, communi cum Argentinensibus nomine; et insulam ubi simul nidificant Spurre-Island. [Hence in Ray and later writers.]

Spur, *sb.*[4] *techn.* [Of obscure origin.] A set of folded sheets of paper.

1885 *Encycl. Brit.* XVIII. 225/1 After this the [hand-made] paper is hung in a drying loft on cow-hair ropes in spurs of three to five sheets thick until dry.

Spur (spəːr), *v.*[1] Forms: *α.* 3 spurie, 4–5 spure(n), 6–7 spurre, 6– spur (9 spurr), 8 spir. *β.* 4–6 spore, 5–6 sporre. [ME. *spure, spore*, f. SPUR *sb.*[1] Cf. MDu. and Du. *sporen*, MHG. *sporn, sporen* (obs. G. *sporen, spören*, G. *spornen*), NFris. *spòre*, Sw. *sporra*.]

I. *trans.* **1.** To prick (a horse, etc.) with the spur, in order to urge to a faster pace; to urge on by the use of spurs.

α. c 1205 LAY. 26480 Þe eorles gunnen riden & spureden heore steden. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 3970 Balaam it spured and smit ðor-on; And god vndede ðis asses mud. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* x. 417 For to fle he tuke no taryage; Spuryt the hors, quhill ran in a gud randoun Till his awn folk. 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* xxvii. 67 Thay spurrit thair hors on adir syd. 1530 PALSGR. 731/1, I dare not spurre my hors, he is so wylde. 1612 *Two Noble K.* III. i, When I spur My horse, I chide him not. 1679 DRYDEN *Troil. & Cress.* II. iii, Heaven made them horses, And thou..rid'st and spurr'st them. 1740 SOMERVILLE *Hobbinolia* II. 218 He spur'd his sober Steed, grizled with Age. 1770 LANGHORNE *Plutarch* (1851) I. 408/1 He could scarcely make his horse go, though he spurred him continually. 1850 'H. HIEOVER' *Pract. Horsemanship* 193 The horse being whipped, spurred, and rated at while galloping, of course supposes he is doing something wrong.

absol. 1607 MARKHAM *Cavel.* II. (1617) 133 To bring your horse to a quicknesse vpon the spurre, is to spurre seldom, but when you spurre, to spurre most surely. 1823 SCOTT *Quentin D.* x, I am sure I spurred till his sides were furrowed.

β. c 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 12719 He sporede his hors, forþ faste gan schake. *c* 1440 *Generydes* 217 He sporyd his hors and theder toke the way. *c* 1475 *Partenay* 4214 Gaffray that tyme..his coursere spored. *a* 1532 LD. BERNERS *Huon* lviii. 198 He spored blanchardyn & cam agynst Gerames. *Ibid.* lxxxxi. 292 He sporred his horse that anone he ouer toke Huon.

b. With advs., as *away, forth, on, up*; or preps., as *against, at, into, through*, etc.

c 1450 *Merlin* xviii. 282 And whan thei saugh the cristin come thei sporred theire horse ouer the brigge at a brunt. *c* 1530 LD. BERNERS *Arth. Lyt. Bryt.* (1814) 82 He sporred forth hys horse, and ranne into the thyckest of the prease. 1588 SHAKS. *L.L.L.* IV. i. 1 Was that the King that spurd his horse so hard, Against the steepe vprising of the hill? 1664 H. MORE *Myst. Iniq.* 474 They gore and spurre up the Ass to goe that way. 1687 A. LOVELL tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* III. 45 When the Rider spurs on his Horse to a full speed. 1770 LANGHORNE *Plutarch* (1851) I. 117/1 They spurred their horses to the encounter. 1788 GIBBON *Decl. & Fall* li. V. 357 He spurred his horse into the waves. 1812 BYRON *Ch. Har.* II. lvii, Some high-capp'd Tartar spurr'd his steed away. 1848 LYTTON *Harold* I. iii, Edward spurred his steed up to the boor. 1894 BARING-GOULD *Des. S. France* II. 253 He spurred his horse to the side of the river.

c. *fig.* or in fig. context.

1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* xxi. 13 Quhen trewth gois on his fute abowt, And lak of spending dois him spur. 1575 GASCOIGNE *Glasse of Govt.* Wks. 1910 II. 26 Let shame of sinne, thy Childrens bridle be, And spurre them foorth, with bounty wyselye used. 1602 MARSTON *Antonio's Rev.* I. v, Does thy hart With punching anguish spur thy galled ribs? 1846 PRESCOTT *Ferd. & Isab.* II. vi. II. 371 This same impulse..spurs guilty ambition along his bloody track. 1864 TENNYSON *Aylmer's F.* 290 Him, glaring, by his own stale devil spurr'd, And, like a beast hard-ridden, breathing hard.

d. To make (one's way) by spurring.

1842 LOVER *Handy Andy* xxxvii, The rider..still spurred and plashed his headlong way through the heavy road.

2. *fig.* To drive on or hasten; to incite, impel, or stimulate; to urge or prompt. Freq. const. *to* (do something, or some course of action).

a 1225 *Juliana* 59 Heo as þe deonel spurede ham to donne, duden hit unsparliche. *c* 1230 *Hali Meid.* 13 Þe ilke sari wrecches..beoð þe deuelles eaueres, þat rit ham & spureð ham to don al þat he wile. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VI*, 99 b, The Duke,..somwhat spurred and quyckened with these noueltyes, retired backe. 1587 GOLDING *De Mornay* xx. (1592) 319 A desire of honor whereby we be spurred to do well. 1588 SHAKS *L.L.L.* II. i. 119 *Ber.* You must not be so quicke. *Rosa.* 'Tis long of you yᵗ spur me with such questions. 1633 G. HERBERT *Temple, Storm* ii, A throbbing conscience spurred by remorse Hath a strange force. 1663 PATRICK *Parab. Pilgrim* xxvii. (1687) 304 If these Joys do not spur you to Obedience,..they are not of such value as you imagine. 1733 CHEYNE *Eng. Malady* II. ix. (1734) 209 Any thing that will stimulate, rouze, and spur the dead and languishing Solids. 1769 E. BANCROFT *Guiana* 371 They are spurred to industry by the whip of correction. 1803 VISCT. STRANGFORD *Poems of Camoens, Lusiad* VI. xl. (1810) 111 Some tale of joy, To spur the time that now so stilly stands. 1850 DOBELL *Roman* IV, I spur my soul all day With thought of tyrants, woes and chains. 1874 GREEN *Short Hist.* i. § 5. 48 The mention of Nero spurs him to an outbreak on the abuses of power.

absol. 1576 GASCOIGNE *Philomene* cciii, The flesh may spurre to euerlasting fire. 1611 B. JONSON *Catiline* III. iii, When need spurres, despaire will be call'd wisdome. 1738 WARBURTON *Div. Legat.* I. iv. I. 60 Self-interest..spurring to Action, by Hopes and Fears.

b. With *on.*

1582 STANYHURST *Æneis* II. (Arb.) 53 Too shock in coombats..Mee my wyl on spurreth. 1624 CAPT. SMITH *Virginia* III. x. 83 With shame to spurre on the rest to amendment. 1663 PATRICK *Parab. Pilgrim* xxiv. (1687) 259 And yet they spur on their hours, and would have them flye away faster than they do. 1672 MARVELL *Reh. Transp.* I. 67 Two Friends who..spurr'd him on perpetually with commendation. 1711 SWIFT *Jrnl. to Stella* 16 Nov., To spur on the French to be easy and sincere. *a* 1720 SEWEL *Hist. Quakers* Pref., I was the more spurr'd on thereby to set down in due Order..what I knew of the Matter. 1812 CARY *Dante, Parad.* IV 14 Ire, that spurr'd him on to deeds unjust. 1854 *Poultry Chron.* I 39/1 Spurred on with the certainty of a prize. 1874 SYMONDS *Sk. Italy & Greece* (1898) I. xii. 231 He is..spurred on by yearnings after an unsearchable delight.

c. With *up.*

1645 QUARLES *Sol. Recant.* XII. xi, The wise mans words are like to Goads, that doe Stir up the drowzy, and spur up the slow. 1656 EARL MONM. tr. *Boccalini's Advts. fr. Parnass.* II. vi. (1674) 145 Riches made proud, and spurr'd him up to commit faults. 1710 SWIFT *Jrnl. Stella* 9 Dec., Why did not you..first spur up his recommendation to the height. 1732 LAW *Serious C.* (ed. 2) xviii. 331 A youth that has been spurr'd up to all his industry by ambition. 1852 MRS. STOWE *Uncle Tom's C.* ix, Spurring up the Legislature..to pass more stringent resolutions against escaping fugitives. 1871 BURR *Ad Fidem* xv. 305 A strong faith, spurred up by approaching death.

3. To provide with a spur or spurs; to furnish with gaffs.

13.. *K. Alis.* 6650 (Laud MS.), His spere takeþ Perdicas; His helys sporeþ Emudus. 1694 MOTTEUX *Rabelais* v. xxvii. (1737) 119 They..began to boot and spur one another. 17.. *Young Hunting* in Child *Ball.* II. 144/2 She has booted an spird Young Hunting As he had been gan to ride. 1832 MARRYAT *N. Forster* xlv. (Rtldg.) 246 The proper way in which they [cocks] should be spurred...Two pairs of spurs were..made.

4. Of a bird: To strike or wound with the spur. Also *transf.*

1631 T. DRUE *Dutches of Suffolk* iv, Why the Cocke ale has spurd thee already. 1805 [see LARK-SPURRED *a.*] 1863 COWDEN CLARKE *Shaks. Char.* vi. 145 That man's wife.. would so peck and spur him, that he was a totally different man when in her company.

†5. *Card-sharping.* (See quot.) *Obs.*[—1]

1674 COTTON *Compl. Gamester* (1680) 95 They always fix half a score Packs of Cards..by slicking them or spurring them, that is, giving them such marks that they shall certainly know every Card in the Pack.

II. *intr.* **6.** To ride quickly by urging on one's horse with the spur. Also with *it.*

1593 SHAKS. *Rich. II*, II. i. 36 He tyres betimes, that spurs too fast betimes. 1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* II. 137 [He] than spurit with speid to Scotland, with lettres of commendatioun. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* III. 49 The Parthians..spurring from the Fight, confess their Fear. — *Æneid* XI. 923 Spurring at speed, to their own walls they drew. 1816 BYRON *Siege Corinth* xxii, Mount ye, spur ye, skirr the plain. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* IX. II. 436 Not a day passed on which he was not seen spurring from his villa to the Hague. 1891 *Cornhill Mag.* Oct. 416 His troop would spur it over the drawbridge with clatter of hoofs.

b. With advs., as *after, away, forward(s, on, up.*

1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* III. i. 18 But all spurd after fast, as they mote fly. 1642 FULLER *Holy & Prof. State* IV. i. 241 He doth not alwayes spurre up close to the Kings side. 1697 DRYDEN *Æneid* V. 872 Ascanius took th' alarm,..And, spurring on, his equals soon o'erpass'd. 1795 SOUTHEY *Joan of Arc* III. 81 Saying thus, he spurr'd away. 1829 SCOTT *Anne of G.* XXXV, Two or three Stradiots then spurred on to examine this defile. 1883 PENNELL-ELMHIRST *Cream of Leicestersh.* 235 [He] spurred forward to check the solitary hounds.

fig. a 1659 BP. BROWNING *Serm.* (1674) I. xxx. 386 Obstinacy spurs on in spight of all perswasions. 1673 MARVELL *Reh. Transp.* II. 82 The Gentleman thought it necessary to spur up again the next year with another new book.

c. *transf.* To hasten; to proceed hurriedly.

1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* II. xi. 31 A fair brycht sterne.. Markand the way quhidder at we suld spur. *Ibid.* VII. iv. 19 He..fast gan spur..To mark the fundment of his new citie. 1666 *Extr. St. Papers rel. Friends* Ser. III. (1912) 256, I shall be able to do more, goeing my owne way then by spurring to Fast. 1677 W. MOUNTAGU in *Buccleuch MSS.* (Hist. MSS. Comm.) I. 324 The reason I had to spur on was, that..I found Sir John Robinson there.

7. a. To strike out with the foot; to kick.

1590 NASHE *Martin Marprelate* Wks. (Grosart) I. 232 What is this,.. but to fall groueling to the earth.., and beeing downe,..to kicke and spurre. *a* 1835 HOGG *Tales* (1866) 150/2 After gluthering and spurring a wee while, they cam to again. 1870 EMERSON *Soc. & Sol., Domestic Life*, All day, between his three or four sleeps, he [an infant] sputters and spurs.

b. Of cocks, etc.: To fight with the spur; to strike *at.* Also *transf.*

a 1722 LISLE *Husb.* (1757) 346 If a sheep should come so near to a lark's nest as to tread on it, the lark will fly out, and spur at the sheep. 1838 T. MITCHELL *Clouds of Aristophanes* 172 Two fighting-cocks..spurring at each other. 1887 MCNEILL *Blawearie* 179 Examining the..paws of the dog to see if he might be expected to spurr well.

c. *Sc.* (See quot.)

1825 JAMIESON *Suppl., To Spur*, v.n., *to* scrape, as a hen or cock on a dunghill.

III. *trans.* **8.** To support or prop up (a post, etc.) by means of a strut or spur; to strengthen with spurs.

1733 TULL *Horse-Hoeing Husb.* xxiii. 361 (Dubl.), These Standards ought to be braced (or spurr'd) before and behind. 1750 W. ELLIS *Mod. Husb.* VI. i. 126 By spurring up a gate or stile-post before they are quite damaged, he may save a landlord a considerable charge. 1828– in dial. glossaries (Yks., Chesh., Sussex, Hamps.).

9. To prune in (a side-shoot, etc.) so as to form a spur close to the stem. Chiefly with *in* or *back.*

1840 *Florist's Jrnl.* (1846) I. 104 Instead of being spurred-in closely,..the shoots of the selected trees should be left somewhat longer. 1846 BAXTER *Libr. Pract. Agric.* I. 184 Good lateral shoots may be spurred as before directed. 1849 *Beck's Florist* 54 Spur them back in a way best calculated to form a bushy head.

10. To affect with the disease spur or ergot.

1896 LINA ECHENSTEIN *Woman under Monasticism* 286 Bread containing rye spurred or diseased with ergot. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* II. 796 Wagner reported one-fifth of a bulk of rye to be spurred.

Spur, *v.*[2] *north. dial.* Also 5 spirr, spyrr. [Special senses of *spir, spur* SPEER *v.*[1] Cf. ASK *v.* 20.]

1. *trans.* **†a.** To publish (the banns of marriage) in church. *Obs.*[—1]

c 1400 *York Manual* (Surtees) p. xvi, Yet I spyrr yᵉ beynis off yᵉ forsayde N. and N.

b. In pa. pple. Of persons: To be proclaimed in church as having a purpose of marriage.

c 1400 *York Manual* (Surtees) p. xvi, N. and N...hase bene spirred thre solemne dayes in yᵉ kirke. 1705 THORESBY *Diary* (1830) I. 460 There were also two-and-twenty couples spurred (to use the local word) in order to marry this day. 1828– in dial. glossaries, etc. (Yks., Lan., Der., Lincs.). 1852 *N. & Q.* 1st Ser. VI. 329/2 'To be spurred up' is to have had the banns published for three Sundays.

2. (See quot.) *Obs.*[—0]

1674 RAY *N. Co. Words* 44 *To sparre*..or *spurre*, to..cry at the Market.

Spur, obs. variant of SPEER *v.*[1]

†Spurblind, *a. Obs.* Forms: *α.* 6 spurr-, 6–7 spur(re)-. *β.* 6 spore, spoore-. [App. an alteration of *purblind.*] = PURBLIND *a.*

α. 1508 STANBRIDGE *Vulgaria* (W. de W.) B j b, *Luscus*, spurblynde. 1552 LATIMER *Serm. Lord's Prayer* i. 4 They be spurre-blynd and sande blynd, they can not see so farre. 1584 LYLY *Sappho* II. ii, Madame, I craue pardon, I am spurblind, I could scarce see. 1603 FLORIO *Montaigne* III. vii. 552 And such as flattered Dionysius in his owne presence did run and iustle one another,..to inferre that they were as short-sighted or spur-blinde as he was.

fig. 1611 CHAPMAN *May Day* Wks. 1873 II. 370 O spurblind affection. 1612 *Pasquil's Night-Cap* (1877) 16 Now if these spurre-blind Peasants could but see How much themselues they blemish and disgrace.

β. 1547 BOORDE *Brev. Health* cclv. 86 There may be many impedimentes in the eye, as a blered eye,..spore blynde, gogyll eyes. 1557 NORTH *Gueuara's Dial. of Pr.* I. xlvi. (1568) 79 b, He was deformed in his face, spoore blynde of his eyes, and exceading couetous of riches.

†Spurch. *Obs. rare.* Also 9 *dial.* spursher. [Of obscure origin.] (See quot. 1823.)

1295 *Acc. Exch. K. R.* 5/8 memb. 8 Empcio meremii...Et xij. d. in .vij. spurches emptis de Roberto le piper. 1336–7 *Ibid.* 19/31 memb. 5 Et in xxviij. spurch' emptis, vij. s. Et in lvj. boltis ferri videlicet pro quolibet spurch' ij.ᵈ, iiij. s viij. d. 1823 E. MOOR *Suffolk Words, Spurshers*, straight young fir-trees, the same, I believe, as firbauks and gofers.

†Spurcidical, *a. Obs.*[—0] [f. L. *spurcidic-us*, f. *spurcus* foul, and *dicĕre* to speak.] (See quot.)

1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr., Spurcidical*.., that speaks dishonestly or uncleanly, bawdy in talk.

†Spurci·tious, *a. Obs. rare.* [See next and -OUS.] Filthy, foul, obscene.

1628 FELTHAM *Resolves* II. i. Wks. (1677) 157 Loose and unrins'd expressions are the putulent and spurcitious exhalations of a corrupted mind. 1638 J. JONES *Ovid's Ibis* To Rdr., This Ibis was a spurcitious unclean bird of Egypt.

†Spurcity. *Obs.*[—1] [ad. L. *spurcitia*, f. *spurcus* dirty, foul, impure.] Impurity, obscenity.

1608 H. CLAPHAM *Errr. Left Hand* 34 Rome is a Gehinnon for bloud-shed, a Sodome for all spurcicity [*sic*], an Hell for damnation.

Spure, obs. variant of SPEER *v.*[1]

†Spur-gall, *sb. Obs.* [f. next.] A gall caused or produced by the spur. Also *fig.*

1655 T. WHITE *Obed. Gov.* 117, I do not understand those spurgalls of honour, which disquiet their fiery humours. 1656 HEYLIN *Surv. France* 160 The very spur-gals had made such casements through their skin.

Spur-gall, *v. Obs.* exc. *arch.* Also 6–7 spur-gal, 7 spurrgal, *Sc.* spurgaw. [f. SPUR *sb.*[1] + GALL *v.*[1]]

1. *trans.* To gall (a horse, etc.) with the spur in riding; to injure or disable in this way.

Common from *c* 1590 to *c* 1690, freq. in fig. context.

1565 COOPER *Thesaurus* s.v. *Calx, Cruentare equum ferrata calce*, to spurgall. 1580 BLUNDEVIL *Horsemanship* T iiij b, When a Horse is shouldered by meanes of some outward cause,..or his sides spurgalled. 1603 DEKKER *Wonderfull Yeare* Wks. (Grosart) I. 80 These are those ranck-riders of Art, that haue so spur-gald your lustie winged Pegasus, that now he begins to be out of flesh. 1650 B. *Discolliminium* 17 Over-will'd Men, who, if they once Plot a Designe studiously, and conclusively, will spurgall all possibilities to the Bones. 1689 D. GRANVILLE *Lett.*

(Surtees) 42 Our present Low Country cavaliers, who have mounted us (and shewn themselves allready soe ill riders as to have spur-galled us). **1705** HICKERINGILL *Priest-cr.* (1721) a. 55 Lest the Jade be spur-gall'd and tired, and throw us down. **1820** SCOTT *Monast.* xxiv, The lazy monks that have ridden us so long, and spur-galled us so hard.

absol. **1685** A. PEDEN in Walker *Biog. Presbyt.* (1827) I. 59 If I were uppermost again, I shall ride hard and Spurgaw well.

2. *fig.* To gall severely, in various senses.

a **1555** RIDLEY *Wks.* (Parker Soc.) 148 If I were as well learned as was St. Paul, I would not bestow much against them, further than to gall them, and spurgall too. **1596** NASHE *Saffron Walden* Wks. (Grosart) III. 187 Againe with the Atheist he spurgals mee, in that I iested at heauen. **1601** SIR W. CORNWALLIS *Ess.* II. xxviii. (1631) 22 Wee misuse all our actions, wee spur-gall and tyre them. **1630** J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Wks.* III. 16/2 Like to a Post I'le runne through thicke and thin To scourge Iniquity and spurgall sinne. **1719** BAYNARD *Health* (1740) 46 For one half that dies Are spur-gall'd by his flies, And flay'd out of their lives.

Hence **Spur-galling** *vbl. sb.*

1580 BLUNDEVIL *Horsemanship* E eiiij, The Farcin .. is..ingendred in the bodie, or else of some outward hurt, as of spurgalling. **1602** *2nd Pt. Ret. fr. Parnassus* II. vi. 973 He is one..that cannot ride a horse without spur-galling. **1639** T. DE GRAY *Compl. Farrier* 41 How commeth the farcin to the creature?..sometimes by enter-firing, and hewing, and lastly by spur-galling. **1641** MILTON *Animadv.* Wks. 1851 III. 240 Spare your selfe, lest you bejade..your owne opiniaster wit, and make the very conceit it selfe blush with spurgalling.

Spur-galled, *ppl. a. Obs.* exc. *arch.* [f. prec.] Galled by spurs; having or suffering from a gall or galls caused by the spur.

1608 MACHIN *Dumbe Knt.* III, I am at my wits' end, and am made Duller than any spurgal'd, tyred Jade. **1641** J. DAY *Parl. Bees* v. (1881) 35 Tho' this, and such gald jades, Were [? *read* Mere] spurre-gald-hackneyes, kick at their betters. **1688** *Lond. Gaz.* No. 2382/4 A black Gelding, about 14 hands, ..spur gall'd on both sides. **1691** *Ibid.* 2709/4 A Spur gall'd, old poor Mare. **1821** LAMB *Elia* I. *My Relations*, A broken-winded or spur-galled horse is sure to find an advocate in him.

b. Freq. in fig. use.

c **1590** MONTGOMERIE *Misc. Poems* iii. 31 Then spurgald sporters they began to speill. *a* **1618** RALEIGH *Prerog. Parl.* (1628) 42 Your Lordship doth remember the spurgald proverbe, that necessitie hath no law. **1635** LAUD *Wks.* (1860) VII. 117, I am sorry the Bishopric of Fernes is so spurgalled. **1705** HICKERINGILL *Priest-cr.* IV. (1721) 225 When nothing will serve them but to get up and Ride the Spur-gall'd Laiety.

Spurge (spɒ̈ɹdʒ), *sb.*^{1} Forms: α. 3– **spurge.** β. 5 **spowrge,** 5–6 **spourge.** γ. 5–6 **sporge.** [ad. OF. *espurge* (F. *épurge*), f. *espurgier* SPURGE *v.*^{1}]

1. One or other of several species of plants belonging to the extensive genus *Euphorbia*, many of which are characterized by an acrid milky juice possessing purgative or medicinal properties.

α. **1387** *Sinon. Barthol.* (Anecd. Oxon.) 11 *Anabulla*, spurge. *c* **1410** *Master of Game* (MS. Digby 182) v, þei wroteth so depe in þe grounde, tille þei fynde þe rootes of þe ferne and of þe spurge and of oþer rootes. *c* **1450** *M. E. Med. Bk.* (Heinrich) 219 Tak betoyne, sawge, heihoue, vyolet, spurge, egrimoyne & hony. **1562** TURNER *Herbal* II. (1568) 31 Spurge purgeth thynne fleme vehemently. **1585** H. LLOYD *Treas. Health* K iij, Adde thereto Scamony, the herbe called spurge, and an ox gall. **1625** HART *Anat. Ur.* II. xi. 125 It was nothing else but a certaine kind of Spurge. **1651** BIGGS *New Disp.* ₱ 79 Celandin weepeth a golden juice, and spurge a milky one. **1762** B. STILLINGFLEET *Misc. Tracts* 98 The spurge, that is noxious to man, is a most wholesome nourishment to the caterpillar. **1794** GISBORNE *Walks Forest* (1796) 6 Changeful spurge, On redden'd stem with poisonous milk imbued. **1813** SIR H. DAVY *Agr. Chem.* (1814) 245 When a stalk of spurge..is separated by two incisions from its leaves and roots, the milky fluid flows through both sections. **1872** TENNYSON *Last Tourn.* 356 That he can make Figs out of thistles,..milk From burning spurge.

β. *c* **1425** *Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 645 *Hic tintimalius*,.. spowrge. *c* **1440** *Gesta Rom.* xlviii. 368 (Addit. MS.), Then the Crow toke Onyonus and Spourge, and made þerof a playster. **1483** *Cath. Angl.* 356/1 Spowrge, *herba est.* **1539** ELYOT *Cast. Helthe* (1541) 84 b, Spourge of the garden one handful. **1578** LYTE *Dodoens* 358 All the kindes of Tithymal or Spourge are most commonly in flower in June and July.

γ. **14..** *Nom.* in Wr.-Wülcker 713 *Hec spurgia*, a sporge. **1486** *Bk. St. Albans, Hawking* cv, Also take smale flambe rotis and polipodi and the cornes of sporge. **1530** PALSGR. 274/2 Sporge an herbe, *espovrge*.

b. With various distinguishing epithets.

For *caper*, *Cypress*, *myrtle*, *Portland*, *sea*, *sun*, *wood spurge*, etc., see these words.

1578 LYTE *Dodoens* 363 Peplos..is called in English of some Wartwurt,..also Pety Spurge. **1597** GERARDE *Herbal* cxxxii. 407 The sixt [kind of spurge is called] Pine Spurge; the seuenth shrub Spurge, the eight tree Mirtle Spurge..; the eleventh tree Spurge; the twelfe Broad leafed Spurge; the thirteenth and fowerteenth Quacksaluers Spurge. **1607** TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* (1658) 202 If a woman be..troubled with a fever, let her take half a chœnix of pettispurge, and..nettle-seed. **1611** COTGR., *Espurge*, Garden Spurge. **1671** SKINNER *Etymol.* I iii 2/2 Land-leapers-Spurge, *Esula major.* *a* **1705** RAY *Synop. Stirp.* (1724) 312 *Tithymalus segetum longifolius*, .. Long-leaved Corn Spurge. *c* **1711** PETIVER *Gazophyl.* VIII. § 80 Luzone Dwarf Spurge. **1760** J. LEE *Introd. Bot.* App. 328 Spurge, Bastard, *Euphorbia.* **1777** JACOB *Catal. Plants* 113 *Euphorbia Exigua*, Dwarf Spurge, Small annual Spurge. *Ibid.* 114 *Euphorbia platyphyllos*, Broad leaved Spurge. **1796** WITHERING *Brit. Pl.* (ed. 3) II. 447 *Euphorbia peplis*, Purple Spurge. *Ibid.* 450 *E. hyberna*, Knotty-rooted Spurge. *Ibid.* 451 *E. characias*, Red Spurge. **1865** THOREAU *Cape Cod* vi. 101 The plants which I noticed here and there on the pure sandy shelf,.. were Sea Rocket,..Saltwort,..Seaside Spurge (*Euphorbia polygonifolia*.

2. A particular species or plant of this. Chiefly in pl.

1715 *Phil. Trans.* XXIX. 281 Dr. Tournefort says the Root of this Spurge is a proper Cathartick in Hydropick and Cachectic Bodies. **1741** *Compl. Family-Piece* II. iii. 374 Double Lady's-smock, Spurges of several kinds. **1785** MARTYN *Lett. Bot.* xx. (1794) 283 Spurges having little beauty, they are seldom cultivated in gardens. **1846** LINDLEY *Veget. Kingd.* 275 If..we consider the separation of sexes a great physiological character, the Order of Spurges will join that of Nettles. **1886** *Pall Mall G.* 27 Aug. 4/1 If the stem or leaf of one of these spurges be broken, a fluid as white as milk will immediately run from it.

3. Applied, with distinguishing epithet, to a few plants related to or resembling spurge.

1854 GRISEBACH *Flora Brit. W. Ind.* 788/1 Spurge, branched, *Ernodea litoralis.* **1891** *Cent. Dict.* s.v. *Pachysandra*, The plant [*P. procumbens*] has also been called Alleghany-mountain spurge. *Ibid.*, *Slipper-spurge*, the slipper-plant.

4. As a moth-name (cf. *spurge-moth* in 5).

1832 J. RENNIE *Consp. Butterfl. & Moths* 80 The Spurge (*Acronycta Euphorbiæ*)..feeds on the Euphorbia esula, and E. cyparissias.

5. *attrib.*, as *spurge family*, *genus*, *oil*, *order*, etc.; † **spurge comfit,** a purgative comfit or sweet; **spurge Daphne,** the spurge laurel; **spurge flax, hawk, -moth, -nettle** (see quots.); **spurge-olive,** the shrub *Daphne mezereum*; † **spurge thyme,** petty spurge, *Euphorbia peplis.*

1619 DALTON *Countr. Just.* xciii. (1630) 241 So if one giveth to another *Spurge Comfits or other such thing in sport and not in malice. **1872** OLIVER *Elem. Bot.* II. 226 The berries of..*Spurge Daphne are also said to be poisonous to all animals excepting birds. **1849** BALFOUR *Man. Bot.* § 1016 *Euphorbiaceæ*, the *Spurge Family. **1678** PHILLIPS (ed. 4), **Spurge-flax* (Thymelæa), a sort of shrub, whereon grows that rich berry called *Coccum Gnidium.* **1796** WITHERING *Brit. Pl.* (ed. 3) II. 377 Mezereon. Spurge Olive. Spurge Flax. **1887** BENTLEY *Man. Bot.* 660 The bark of *Daphne Gnidium*, Spurge Flax, is likewise official in the Paris Codex. **1866** *Treas. Bot.* 476 *Euphorbia*, the *spurge genus, which gives its name to the order *Euphorbiaceæ*, comprises a very large number of species. **1832** J. RENNIE *Butterfl. & Moths* 25 The *Spurge Hawk (*Deilephila Euphorbiæ*)..feeds on various kinds of spurge. **1849** KINGSLEY *Misc.* (1859) II. 269 The great white *spurge-moths..whirred like humming-birds over our heads. **1868** J. G. WOOD *Homes without H.* xiv. 293 These are moths, belonging to the genus Acronycta, and popularly called Spurge Moths on account of the plant on which they reside. **1847** DARLINGTON *Amer. Weeds* (1860) 289 *Cnidoscolus stimulosa*.., Stinging Cnidoscolus. *Spurge-nettle. Tread-softly. **1836** J. M. GULLY *Magendie's Formul.* (ed. 2) 162 Physical Properties of *Spurge Oil. It very much resembles castor oil, and has even the same colour. **1668** WILKINS *Real Charact.* 109 Bacciferous sempervirent shrubs:..*Spurge Olive (*Thymælæa*). *a* **1689** MRS. BEHN tr. *Cowley's Plants* C.'s Wks. 1711 III. 339 Two lofty Plants or flowery Giants stand, Spurge-Olive one [etc.]. **1760** J. LEE *Introd. Bot.* App. 328 Spurge Olive, *Daphne.* **1796** [see *spurge flax* above]. **1802–3** tr. *Pallas's Trav.* (1812) I. 36 The most remarkable, perhaps, are..the *Daphne mezereum*, or spurge-olive; and the mistletoe. **1887** BENTLEY *Man. Bot.* 672 *Euphorbiaceæ*, the *Spurge Order. **1548** TURNER *Names Herbes* (E.D.S.) 60, I neuer sawe peplum but once in Bonony; it had litle smal leaues lyke tyme, and in other facion lyke spourge, wherfore it may be called *spourge tyme in englishe, tyl we can fynde a better name.

† **Spurge,** *sb.*^{2} *Obs.*$^{-1}$ [f. SPURGE *v.*^{2}] A shoot or sprout.

1630 BRATHWAIT *Eng. Gentlem.* 138 Cabbages of such huge proportion, as the very leaves thereof (so largely extended were the spurges) might..give shadow to five hundred men.

Spurge, *v.*^{1} *Obs.* exc. *dial.* Forms: 4–6 **spourge,** 5 **spowrge,** 6 **sporge;** 5 **spurgyn,** 5–7, 9 *dial.* **spurge.** [ad. OF. *espurgier*:—L. *expurgāre*: cf. PURGE *v.*^{1}]

† **1.** *trans.* To cleanse, purify (a person, the body, etc.); to free from or rid *of* impurity. Also *fig.*, to clear of guilt (= PURGE *v.*^{1} 5). *Obs.*

1303 R. BRUNNE *Handl. Synne* 10917 Of flyes men mow hem weyl spourge. *a* **1320** *Sir Tristr.* 2226 At londen on a day Mark wald spourge þe quen. **1483** in *Lett. Rich. III & Hen. VII* (Rolls) I. 3 When that a king annoynted ys deceassed,..his body [is] spurged. **1530** PALSGR. 729/1, I sporge, I clense, *jespurge.* *Ibid.*, I shall do the best I can to sporge it. **1546** in Strype *Ann. Ref.* (1824) VI. 267 Commandment was given to the apothecaries..and others, to do their duties in spurging, cleansing, bowelling [etc.],.. the said corps.

† **2.** With *away* or *out.* To remove by some cleansing or purifying process. *Obs. rare.*

a **1395** HYLTON *Scala Perf.* II. xxix. (1494), Vntyll the wyne hath boylled & spourged oute all vnclennesse. **1483** CAXTON *G. de la Tour* i ij, Another ensample I shalle telle yow of Mary Magdalene whyche dyd wasshe and spurge awey her synnes and mysdedes by the water of her eyen.

3. *intr.* Of ale, wine, or other fermenting liquor: To emit or throw off impure matter by fermentation; to cleanse or purify itself in this way; to ferment or 'work'. Cf. PURGE *v.*^{1} 7.

c **1440** *Promp. Parv.* 32/2 Bermyn, or spurgyn as ale, or other lyke, *spumo.* *c* **1440** *Gesta Rom.* xlv. 364 (Addit. MS.), A mouse on a tyme felle into a barell of newe ale, that spourgid, and myght not come oute. **1530** PALSGR. 731/1 This ale spurgeth a great deale better for the cariage. **1577** GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* (1586) 184 The hony,..after the straining,..worketh like newe wine, and spurgeth. **1658** tr. *Porta's Nat. Magick* IV. xi. 135 When these liquors are incorporated together, they wax hot, and begin to spurge. **1854** MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss.*, *Spurge*,..to emit yeast from beer, when it is first tunned.

fig. **1626** B. JONSON *Staple of N.* Induct. (1905) 7 Yonder he is within,..rowling himselfe vp and downe like a tun, i' the midst of 'hem, and spurges, neuer did vessel of wort or wine worke so!

b. *refl.* Of a vessel.

14.. *Medical MS.* in *Anglia* XIX. 85 Take of eytherys water and put it in-to sondre vessell; sythen put to eyþer barlyche and horssys dong, and whether wessel sporgyth hym, is noȝt bareyn.

† **c.** To come or rise *up* in fermentation or 'working'. *Obs.*$^{-1}$

1634 LEVETT *Ordering of Bees* 50 And if any rosse worketh or spurgeth up.

4. To empty or relieve the bowels by evacuation. Cf. PURGE *v.*^{1} 4 b.

1530 PALSGR. 729/1, I sporge, I have a great laxe, *jay la foyre.* *Ibid.* 730/2, I spurge, as a man dothe at the foundement after he is deed. *a* **1643** CARTWRIGHT *Siege* v. vi, The body's something noysome; 'tis a stale one; Good troth it spurgeth very monstrously.

† **Spurge,** *v.*^{2} *Obs.* Also **spourge.** [Ultimately ad. L. *exporgĕre*, *-porrigĕre* (cf. It. *sporgere*): see PURGE *v.*^{2}]

1. *intr.* Of a tree: To shoot or sprout. *rare*$^{-1}$.

1422 tr. *Secreta Secret., Priv. Priv.* 243 In that tyme [spring] al thynnges begynnyth to renoue;..the tren clothyn ham wyth lewis, botonyth and spourgyth.

2. To spout or gush *out* in a stream. **b.** *trans.* To cast *forth* copiously.

c **1470** HENRY *Wallace* VI. 167 Than fra the stowmpe the blud out spurgyt fast. **1582** STANYHURST *Æneis* II. (Arb.) 59 Not so great a ruffling the riuer strong flasshye reteyneth Through the breach owt spurging. *Ibid.* III. 77 They gripte in tallants the meat and furth spourged a stincking Foule carrayne sauoure.

† **Spurgel.** *Obs. rare.* [? Related to prec.] A water cistern or tank.

c **1450** in *Archaeologia* (1902) LVIII. 306 Þis spurgell stondiþ in þe diche of þis same medue.

Spurge laurel. Also **spurge-laurel.** [SPURGE *sb.*^{1}] One or other of the shrubs belonging to the genus *Daphne*, esp. *D. laureola*, the dried bark of which is used in medicine.

1597 GERARDE *Herbal* 1218 Spurge Laurell is a shrub of a cubit high, oftentimes also of two. *Ibid.* 1219 *Laureola florens*, Laurell, or Spurge Laurell flowring. **1611** COTGR., *Laureole*, Lowrie, Lauriell, spurge Laurell, little Laurell. **1668** WILKINS *Real Char.* 109 Bacciferous sempervirent shrubs..: Spurge Laurel. **1725** *Fam. Dict.* s.v. *Laurel*, The Female Spurge Laurel, has Boughs which grow four Foot high. **1760** J. LEE *Introd. Bot.* App. 328 Spurge Laurel, *Daphne.* **1845** LINDLEY *Sch. Bot.* 113 *Daphne pontica* (Long-flowered Spurge Laurel). **1882** *Garden* 18 Feb. 112/1 The Spurge Laurel and Mezereon have highly fragrant flowers.

† **Spu·rger.** *Obs.*$^{-1}$ [f. SPURGE *v.*^{1}] A purger or purgative.

1681 T. FLATMAN *Heraclitus Ridens* No. 3 (1713) I. 15 These are swinging Spurgers indeed, a weak stomach'd Conscience is not able to bear them.

Spurget, variant of SPIRGET *Obs.*

Spurge-wort. [f. SPURGE *sb.*^{1} or *v.*^{1}]

† **1.** The plant *Iris fœtidissima. Obs.*

1562 TURNER *Herbal* II. (1568) 171 This herbe is called in the yle of Purbek Spourgewurt, because the iuyce of it purgeth. **1578** LYTE *Dodoens* 195 This herbe is called..in English Stinking Gladyn, Spourgeworte, and wilde Ireos. **1588** L. M. tr. *Bk. Dyeing* 63 Take the yelow flag, some doe call it spurgewort.

2. *Bot.* Any plant belonging to the order *Euphorbiaceæ.* Also *attrib.*

1647 HEXHAM I. (Herbs), Spurge wort, *Duyvels Melckkruydt.* **1845** LINDLEY *Sch. Bot.* 114 *Euphorbiaceæ.* Spurgeworts. **1846** — *Veg. Kingd.* 275 In general the structure of Spurgeworts is very uniform. **1859** CAPERN *Ballads & Songs* 129 Where spurgewort and dog-mercury And cuckoo-flowers were found. **1866** *Treas. Bot.* 379/2 *Dactylostemon*, a genus of the spurge-wort family.

† **Spu·rging,** *vbl. sb. Obs.* [f. SPURGE *v.*^{1}]

1. The action on the part of ale, wine, etc., of throwing off impurities by fermenting; fermentation. *Obs.*

c **1440** *Promp. Parv.* 470/1 Sporgynge, of ale or wyne *spumacio.* **1502** ARNOLDE *Chron.* (1811) 85 By cause such ale and biere hathe taken wynde in spurgyng. **1577** B. GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* I. (1586) 28 b, That whiche commeth of the spurging, is kept both for brewing and baking. **1601** HOLLAND *Pliny* II. 153 The liquor of wine gets all the force and strength that it hath by working, spurging, and seething..in the lees while it is Must. **1720** STRYPE *Stow's Surv.* v. xi. (1754) II. 289/1 Such [vessels] as were carried in drays..would by reason of spurging and working in the Carriage want near a gallon in every barrel.

2. Purgation, purging; matter purged out or exuded. *rare.*

a **1548** HALL *Chron., Hen. VIII*, 50 b, Without any dreuelyng or spurgyng in any place of his body. **1609** B. JONSON *Masque of Queens* Wks. (1640) 166 The spurgings of a dead-mans eyes.

† **Spu·rging,** *ppl. a. Obs. rare.* [f. SPURGE *v.*^{1}]

1. Fermenting, spuming.

1566 ADLINGTON *Apuleius* 44 The Goddesse whom..the froth of the spurging waves had nourished. **1570** GOOGE *Popish Kingd.* III. 38 b, Saint Vrban makes the pleasant wine, and doth preserue it still, And spourging vessels all with Must continually doth fill.

2. Purging; purgative.

1632 BROME *Crt. Beggar* IV. ii, The Devill fright him next for a spurging skitterbrooke. *a* **1652** — *Queenes Exch.* v. i, You do not remember How I behav'd my self upon the eating of Spurging Comfects.

Spurio·sity. *rare.* [f. next: see -OSITY.] The state or condition of being spurious; a spurious thing or production. Also *Comb.*

1863 KINGSLEY *Water-Babies* 168 A heavy tax on words over four syllables, as heterodoxy,..spuriosity, &c. 1894 *Athenæum* 6 Oct. 457/3 The horn-book..is at last receiving attention from the 'spuriosity' maker. *Ibid.*, How this spuriosity came into existence forms an amusing story.

Spurious (spiŭə·riəs), *a.* [f. L. *spuri-us* illegitimate, false. Cf. It. *spurio*, Sp. *espurio.*]

1. Of persons: Begot or born out of wedlock; illegitimate, bastard, adulterous.

1598 Bp. HALL *Sat.* VI. i, But can it be aught but a spurious seed That grows so rife in such unlikely speed? 1604 T. WRIGHT *Passions* 166 Commonly such spurious ympes [bastards] follow the steppes of their bad parents. 1635 QUARLES *Embl.* I. v, Froth-born Venus and her brat, With all that spurious brood young Iove begat. 1651 W. G. tr. *Cowel's Inst.* 26 A spurious Issue may by silence and patience be rendred legitimate. 1734 tr. *Rollin's Rom. Hist.* (1827) III. 66 All children that were spurious and illegitimate were exempted from the same duty. 1768 WALPOLE *Hist. Doubts* 77 Henry came of the spurious stock of John of Gaunt. 1815 SOUTHEY *Roderick* VI. 89 The spurious race Whom in unhappy hour Favila's wife Brought forth for Spain. 1885 *Law Rep.* 14 Q. B. Div. 792 Adultery by the wife followed by the birth of a spurious child.

absol. 1628–30 Bp. HACKET in Plume *Life* (1865) 30 The Lutherans..baptized none at home but the sick and the spurious.

b. *fig.* or in fig. context.

1598 MARSTON *Sco. Villanie* I. ii. 175 Pert Gallus slily slips along to wage Tilting encounters with some spurious seed Of marrow pies, and yawning Oysters breede. 1608 D. T. *Ess. Pol. & Mor.* 89 That love is but the spurious, and adulterate issue of a conscious and guilty feare. 1665 GLANVILL *Def. Van. Dogm.* 73 'Tis doubtful whither they are not the spurious issue of some more modern Author. 1764 REID *Inquiry* i. § 2. 99 In those regions the offspring of fancy is legitimate, but in philosophy it is all spurious.

c. Characterized by bastardy or illegitimacy.

1770 LANGHORNE *Plutarch* (1851) II. 707/2 Aridæus..was of spurious birth. 1838 LYTTON *Calderon* i. 64 He knew not for what end Calderon had forced upon him the honours of spurious parentship. 1868 MILMAN *St. Paul's* viii. 203 Edmond Bonner was of obscure, according to his enemies.., of spurious birth, the son of a priest.

d. Suppositious. *rare.*

1833 MARRYAT *P. Simple* (1863) 214, I cannot help surmising, that my brother..has resolved to produce to the world a spurious child as his own.

2. Having an illegitimate or irregular origin; not properly qualified or constituted.

1601 B. JONSON *Poetaster* v. iii, Teach thy *incubus* to poetize; And throw abroad thy spurious snotteries, vpon that puft-vp lumpe of barmy froth. 1633 MASSINGER *Guardian* II. ii, I apprehend what thou wouldst say: I want all As means to quench the spurious fire that burns here. 1660 R. COKE *Power & Subj.* 2 That Providence should so direct those spurious and imperfect animals, and but of yesterdays being,..to fear and avoid those who are enemies and prey upon them. 1699 POMFRET *On a Marriage* 21 Achates' choice..from no spurious passion came, But was the product of a noble flame. 1781 GIBBON *Decl. & F.* xvii. (1787) II. 18 That a spurious race of strangers and plebeians was left to possess the solitude of the ancient capital.

Comb. 1668 H. MORE *Div. Dial.* IV. xxxiii. (1713) 384 An Adulterous Generation seeketh after a Sign, and a spurious-hearted Christian after a Prophecy.

3. Superficially resembling or simulating, but lacking the genuine character or qualities of, something; not true or genuine; false, sham, counterfeit: a. Of material things.

Freq. in more or less specific use in *Anat.*, *Bot.*, etc.

1615 H. CROOKE *Body of Man* 394 They are diuided into true or legitimate, & bastard or spurious ribs. 1665 *Phil. Trans.* I. 107 Making them a kind of Spurious Planets. 1668 CULPEPPER & COLE *Barthol. Anat.* IV. xvii. 353 The..bastard Ribs..do stick one to the other,..the last excepted, which is the least, and sticks to none, and therefore 'tis truly spurious. 1782 COWPER *Self-diffidence* 37 Spurious gems our hopes entice, While we scorn the pearl of price. 1796 KIRWAN *Elem. Min.* (ed. 2) II. 57 Carbon bituminated, impregnated with a notable proportion of stony matter. Spurious Coal. 1807 J. E. SMITH *Phys. Bot.* 284 There are several spurious kinds of berries, whose pulp is not properly a part of the fruit, but originates from some other organ. 1827 ROBERTS *Voy. Centr. Amer.* 47 Traders..are often cheated, by having a kind of spurious, or bastard wood without dye, imposed upon them. 1857 HENFREY *Bot.* 123 False or spurious dissepiments occur occasionally both in compound and simple ovaries. 1892 GREENER *Breech-Loader* 52 The spurious gun may be either a gun represented as being of a quality it is not, or as a production of a maker other than the real one.

b. Of qualities, conditions, etc.

1646 MAXWELL *Burden of Issachar* 28 This scourge, which is gilded with the specious, but spurious compellation of a glorious, thorow, second Reformation. 1658 T. WALL *Charac. Enemies Ch.* 6 When this comes into competition that spurious concord which is knit by secular respects..is suddenly overthrown. 1713 SWIFT *Cadenus & Vanessa* Wks. 1751 III. II. 8 That spurious virtue in a maid, A virtue but at second-hand. 1728 MORGAN *Algiers* II. i. 211 The City known to us under the spurious name of Algiers. 1791 BURKE *Lett. Member Nat. Assembly* Wks. I. 483 Statesmen..exist by every thing which is spurious, fictitious, and false. 1820 IRVING *Sketch Bk.* I. 205 It is only spurious pride that is morbid and sensitive. 1863 WHYTE MELVILLE *Gladiators* III. 152 He could lash himself into a spurious anger. 1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) III. 483 There appear to be three pleasures, one genuine and two spurious.

c. In the specific names of animals, birds, etc.

1781 PENNANT *Hist. Quad.* II. 37 In the southern and western provinces of Russia is a mixed breed of hares, between this and the common species. [*marg.*] Spurious [Hare]. 1787 LATHAM *Gen. Synop. Birds* Suppl. I. 214 The Wood Grous, as well as the Spurious Grous, were extant in Scotland. 1801 SHAW *Gen. Zool.* II. II. 476 Spurious Narwhal (*Monodon Spurius*), a species most allied to the Narwhal, but not perhaps, strictly speaking, of the same genus. 1889 MAIDEN *Usef. Pl.* 579 *Notelæa ligustrina*,..'Spurious Olive'.

d. In medical or pathological use.

1693 tr. *Blancard's Phys. Dict.* (ed. 2), *Spurii Morbi*, as Spurious fevers, a Pleurisie, a Bastard Quinsie, and the like. 1790 *Med. Comm.* II. 455 A woman in labour is to be treated as if suffering spurious pains, so long as the os uteri ..remains..close. 1803 *Med. Jrnl.* IX. 69 That sort of cow-pock, which had all the characteristics of the spurious kind. 1860 TANNER *Pregnancy* 126 Spurious pregnancy is by no means an unfrequent disorder. 1877 ROBERTS *Handbk. Med.* I. 29 It is necessary to mention certain morbid conditions which are known as spurious dropsies.

4. Of a writing, etc.: Not really proceeding from its reputed origin, source, or author; not genuine or authentic; forged.

1624 GATAKER *Transubst.* 43 Authors and writings, either justly suspected, or evidently spurious and counterfeit. 1682 BURNET *Rights Princes* ii. 72, I insist not on the spurious Treatises that are ascribed to him. *a* 1719 ADDISON *Evid. Chr. Relig.* I. vii, As for the spurious *Acts of Pilate*, now extant. 1790 PALEY *Horæ Paul.* i. 2 A situation in which it is more difficult to distinguish spurious from genuine writings. 1847 EMERSON *Repres. Men, Plato*, The vexed question concerning his reputed works—what are genuine, what spurious. 1868 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* (1877) II. App. 579 The writ is clearly spurious, but it is one of those cases in which a spurious document proves something.

b. Similarly of words or passages.

1651 BAXTER *Inf. Bapt.* 155 Though the place be most express for Infant Baptism,..yet it is either spurious or interpolate. 1699 BURNET *39 Articles* vi. (1700) 79 That he should be able to distinguish what is Genuine in them from what is Spurious. 1759 DILWORTH *Pope* 91 The lines, or even the words supposed to be spurious. 1861 PALEY *Æschylus, Choeph.* (ed. 2) 519 *note*, The words καὶ τὸν νίκιον had been marked as spurious in a former edition of this play.

5. Characterized by spuriousness or falseness.

c 1840 DE QUINCEY *Bentley* Wks. 1859 VII. 41 When instances of spurious pretensions came in his way. 1860 W. G. WARD *Nat. & Grace* I. 36 We may distinguish these true primary premisses from spurious counterfeits. 1892 *Photogr. Ann.* II. p. ci, Messrs...caution buyers against Spurious Imitations of their well-known Apparatus.

Spuriously (spiŭə·riəsli), *adv.* [f. prec.] In a bastard or spurious manner; with pretence or simulation; falsely.

1755 JOHNSON, *Bastardly*, in the manner of a bastard; spuriously. *a* 1818 in Todd s.v., The deposition..confessing that the child had been spuriously passed upon Virginius for his own. 1845 BAILEY *Festus* (ed. 2) 83 How faith and fancy, in the mind of man, Have spuriously mingled. 1879 TROLLOPE in *19th Cent.* Jan. 39 She who is made interesting by exhibition of bold passion [will] teach others to be spuriously passionate.

b. *spec.* in *Bot.*

1830 LINDLEY *Nat. Syst. Bot.* 83 In Amelanchier the simple ovaria are spuriously 2-celled. 1861 BENTLEY *Man. Bot.* 547 Ovary inferior.., 1-celled, or spuriously 3-celled. 1872 OLIVER *Elem. Bot.* II. 133 The floral receptacle, which develops around, and adnate to the carpels, so that they become united into a spuriously syncarpous pistil.

Spuriousness (spiŭə·riəsnės). [f. as prec.]

1. Bastardy, illegitimacy. *rare.*

1668 WILKINS *Real Char.* 28. 1730 BAILEY (fol.), *Illegitimateness*, unlawfulness, baseness of Birth, spuriousness. 1828–32 in WEBSTER.

†2. ? Irregular or abnormal condition. *Obs.*[-1]

1674 R. GODFREY *Inf. & Ab. Physic* 67 By enabling my stomach to master the food, whilst it destroy'd all inclinations to Spuriousness.

3. The state or quality of being spurious, false, or counterfeit: a. Of documents, writings, etc.

1678 CUDWORTH *Intell. Syst.* I. iv. 321 Several other Books ..being unquestionably distinct from the Pæmander, and no signs of Spuriousness or Bastardy discovered in them. 1699 BENTLEY *Phal.* Introd. 20 The Spuriousness of Phalaris's Epistles. 1723 WATERLAND *Sec. Vind.* 124 Some considerable Testimonies in Ruinart's select Acts of Martyrs, which tho' not so certainly genuine..have yet no certain Mark of Spuriousness. 1790 PALEY *Horæ Paul.* i. 15 The internal marks of spuriousness and imposture which these compositions betray. 1830 D'ISRAELI *Chas. I*, III. vi. 91 [He] has been particularly anxious to assert the spuriousness of some writings assigned to the King. 1884 *Manch. Exam.* 4 Nov. 5/1 The wretched article from the Paris paper, which carries the brand of spuriousness on its face.

b. In other contexts.

1818 BENTHAM *Parl. Ref. Catech.* 65 The necessity of secrecy, for securing freedom, and preventing spuriousness of suffrage. 1822–7 GOOD *Study Med.* (1829) I. 325 The pierres de Goa..were, at least generally, factitious bezoars of this kind; and their spuriousness was capable of proof. 1878 DOWDEN *Stud. Lit.* 40 In his romantic poems there is ..a note of spuriousness.

Spurk, *v. E. Anglian.* [Of obscure origin. Cf. SPIRK.] *intr.* To shoot or spring *up.* Also of persons: To brighten or cheer *up.*

1691 RAY *S. & E. Co. Words* 115 To *Spurk* up, to Spring, shoot or brisk up. 1823 E. MOOR *Suffolk Words* s.v., Come spurk up, here's your sweet-hart a coming. 1847 HALLIW., *Spurk*, to rise up quickly. *East.*

†**Spurket.** *Obs.* Also -ett, -it. (See quots.)

From one or other of these 17th cent. quots. the word and explanation are copied into subsequent dictionaries, the form being latterly altered to *spirket*, prob. by association with SPIRKETTING.

a 1625 *Nomenclator Navalis* (Harl. MS. 2301), Spurketts are the holes or spaces betwixt the Rungs by the Ships sides fore and aft above and below. 1627 CAPT. SMITH *Seaman's Gram.* ii. 3 The Spurkits are the spaces betwixt the timbers alongst the ship side in all parts, but them in Howle below the Sleepers are broad boords, which they take vp to cleare the Spurkits, if any thing get betwixt the timbers. *c* 1635 CAPT. BOTELER *Dial. Sea Services* (1685) 99 The Spaces betwixt the Futtocks, or betwixt the rungs by the Ships side, fore and aft, above and below, are named the Spurkets.

Spurl, *v. Sc.* [Of obscure origin.] *intr.* To sprawl; to scramble.

1821 LIDDLE *Poems* 100 It kick'd and spurl'd sae Wi' its feet i' the air. 1825 in JAMIESON *Suppl.* 1891 *Blackw. Mag.* CL. 85 We mount up a steep crag.., slipping and spurling right over the ruined line of the Wall.

Spur-leather. [f. SPUR *sb.*[1] + LEATHER *sb.* Cf. OE. *spurleþer*, OHG. *sporleder* (G. *spornleder*), MDu. *spore-*, *spoorleder*, Da. *sporelæder*, Sw. *sporrläder.*]

1. A leather strap for securing a spur to the foot.

1598 B. JONSON *Ev. Man in Hum.* II. i, I could eate my very spur-lethers for anger! 1620 J. WILKINSON *Courts Leet* 124 No man except he..is worth 200*l.* in goods ought to weare..girdle, scabberd, or spurleathers. 1673 [R. LEIGH] *Transp. Reh.* 122 When the rats gnaw'd his spur-leathers. 1890 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Col. Reformer* (1891) 279 From the well-brushed hat to lower spur-leather..he justified their appreciation.

2. *Under spur-leather*, a subordinate, an attendant, a menial. Now *arch.*

1685 in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* Ser. II. IV. 83 The whole discourse both in the City, and amongst the under-spurr-leathers of the Court, is that Hambden is to die on Friday. 1707 J. STEVENS tr. *Quevedo's Com. Wks.* II. x, In came a parcel of strapping Scoundrels to wait at Table, whom the topping Bullies call Under-spurleathers. 1717 DENNIS *Rem. on Pope's Homer* P.'s Wks. 1751 V. 112 A notorious idiot,..who from an under-spur-leather to the law is become an under-strapper to the playhouse. 1816 SCOTT *Bl. Dwarf* xii, I have opened house, not only for the gentry, but for the under spur-leathers whom we must necessarily employ. 1886 *Athenæum* 4 Sept. 300/1 It was an imitation of Swift's..manner by one of his 'under spur-leathers'.

Spurless (spə·rlės), *a.* Also 4 **sporeles**, 5 **sporles.** [f. SPUR *sb.*[1] + -LESS. Cf. G. *spornlos.*]

1. Lacking a spur; having no spurs. Also in fig. context.

a 1300 *Pol. Songs* (Camden) 71 Thou shalt ride sporeles o thy lyard. *c* 1400 *Pilg. Sowle* (Caxton, 1483) V. x. 101 There come pryke forthe sporles Humylyte and ranne ageyne pryde.

1864 LOWELL *Fireside Trav.* 266 Digging at the sides of his mule with his spurless heels. 1880 in Mrs. Power O'Donoghue *Ladies on Horseback* (1881) 251 A spurless boot.

2. Of birds or their legs: Devoid of spurs.

1819 STEPHENS in Shaw's *Gen. Zool.* XI. I. 243 Argus:..the tarsi spurless: the tail ascending. 1849 D. J. BROWNE *Amer. Poultry Yd.* (1855) 141 Bill and spurless legs less stout. 1859 DARWIN *Orig. Spec.* iv. (1860) 88 A horniess stag or spurless cock.

3. *Bot.* Having no spur or calcar.

1839 LINDLEY *Sch. Bot.* iv. 36 Petals 4;..two convex and spurless. 1849 CRAIG, *Spurless-violet*, the plant Erpeton reniformis. 1855 MISS PRATT *Flower. Pl.* V. 196 Spurless Coral root.

4. Of branches: Destitute of fruiting-spurs.

1868 *Rep. U.S. Commissioner Agric.* (1869) 122 These long, spurless branches can be thinned out by removing them entirely.

Spurlet. *rare*[-1]. [f. SPUR *sb.*[1] + -LET.] A small spur of a mountain or mountain-range.

1894 R. S. FERGUSON *Hist. Westmorland* 5 The waters from these two spurs and their subordinate spurlets (to coin a word) drain northwards.

Spur-like, *a.* [f. SPUR *sb.*[1] + -LIKE.] Like or resembling a spur.

1829 T. CASTLE *Introd. Bot.* 83 Calcarate or spur-like [figure]—as in the larkspur, columbine, and snap-dragon. 1876 PAGE *Adv. Text-bk. Geol.* ii. 43 Stretching southward in long spur-like projections. 1896 LYDEKKER *Roy. Nat. Hist.* V. 286 Each of the three inner-toes is furnished with a sharp, spur-like nail.

Spurling 1. ? *Obs.* [var. of SPIRLING.] The smelt or spirling, *Osmerus eperlanus.* Also *attrib.*

a 1471 in N. F. Hele *Aldeburgh* (1870) vi. 65 Every boat.. going to fishing for sperling in spurling tyme. 1566 GASCOIGNE *Supposes* II. iv, A pennieworth of cheese, and halfe a score spurlings. 1573 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 28 All Saints doe laie..for sprats and spurlings for their house. 1602 CHESTER *Love's Mart.* (1878) 100 Here swimmes the Shad, the Spitfish, and the Spurling. 1655 MOUFET & BENNET *Health's Improv.* 169 Spurlings are but broad Sprats, taken chiefly upon our Northern coast. 1844 *Peter Parley's Ann.* V. 123 The little smelts or spurlings run up the softened rivers to spawn.

Spurling-line. *Naut.* (See quots.)

(*a*) 1823 CRABB *Technol. Dict.* II, *Spurling Line* (Mar.), the line which forms the communication between the wheel and the telltale. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.* 646 [The] Spurling-line..went round a small barrel, abaft the barrel of the wheel, and made the pointer show the position of the tiller.

(*b*) 1863 A. YOUNG *Naut. Dict.* (ed. 2) 365 *Spurling-line*, a line extended athwartships between the two foremast shrouds of a vessel, with thimbles spliced into it to serve as fairleaders for the running-rigging.

Spur-maker. [f. SPUR *sb.*[1] + MAKER. Cf. MDu. *spor-*, MDu. and Du. *spoormaker*, *sporenmaker*, G. *spor(e)nmacher*, Da. *sporemager*, Sw. *sporrmaker.*] One who makes spurs; a spurrier.

1586 T. B. *La Primaud. Fr. Acad.* I. 698 So consequently armorers,..spur-makers, smithes, and such like, are necessarie. 1598 FLORIO, *Sperouiero*, a spurrier or spurmaker. 1676 *Dunfermline Kirk Session Rec.* (1865) 68 A complaint against W^m bell spurrmaker. 1686 PLOT *Staffordsh.* 376 The Head or Spurr-maker that makes the body of the Spurr..with swan-necks. 1708 J. CHAMBERLAYNE *Pres. St. Gt. Brit.* (1710) 23 Rippon [is noted] for Clothiers and Spurmakers. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XV. 37/1 [Silver-] Plating ..is said to have been invented by a spur-maker. 1881 *Instr. Census Clerks* (1885) 57 Harness:..Spring Bar Maker, Spur Maker.

Spurn (spɜːn), *sb.*[1] Also 4–7 **spurne**, 4–5 **sporn**. [f. SPURN *v.*[1]]

†**1.** A trip or stumble. *Obs.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 4324 Qua folus lang, wit-outen turn, Oft his fote sal find a spurn. *Ibid.* 4329. *a* 1375 *Joseph Arim.* 581 He hedde no space spedly him-seluen forto do him no dispit; þe sporn was his owne. ?*a* 1500 *Chester Pl.* I. 136 Beware yow of this Chayre, lest that yow have a fowle spurne. 1535 STEWART *Cron. Scot.* II. 150 Nocht wittand weill quhome to that tyid to turne, For lidder speid cumis of airlie spurne.

†**2.** a. *To hold* (*a*) *spurn*, to make successful resistance. *Obs.*[—1]

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 19414 Wit spec[h]e þai gaue him mani turn, Bot nan gain him moght hald spurn [*Gött.* a spurn].

†b. A pace or course (on horseback). *Obs.*[—1]

c 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 12759 Wawayn.. byheld þat he cam so gret a spurne, He had no leyser his hors to turne.

†c. An encounter, fray. *Obs. rare.*

a 1500 *Chevy Chase* 136 in Child *Ballads* III. 310 At Otterburn begane this spurne, vppone a Monnynday.

3. A stroke with the foot; a kick.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 23780 Qua herd a caitiuer crachun, þat will noght bide to giue a spurn? *c* 1440 *Gesta Rom.* lxx. 323 (Harl. MS.), He lifte vp his foote, and gafe him a spurne aȝen þe brest. 1542 UDALL *Erasm. Apoph.* b iij b, When a certain feloe had..geuen him a spurne on the shynne, as he was gooyng on his waye in the strete. 1579 LYLY *Euphues* (Arb.) 145 A young man beeing peruerse in nature,..gaue Socrates a spurne. 1622 MABBE tr. *Aleman's Guzman d'Alf.* II: 30 Hee should haue..many a spurne and kicke with the foot. 1679 C. NESS *Antichrist* 46 Is not this like one of the spurns or kicks of the beast? 1708 SWIFT *Rem. upon Book* Wks. 1841 II. 182 Like the sick old lion in the fable, who..took nothing so much to heart as to find himself at last insulted by the spurn of an ass. 1851 HELPS *Comp. Solit.* iv. 46 Alnaschar,..who with an imaginary spurn .. disposed at once of all his splendid fortunes.

fig. *c* 1430 in *Reliq. Antiq.* I. 1 He gafe my mayden-hed a spurne. 1577 *F. de L'isle's Legendarie* F iij b, By this meanes they gaue so shrewd a spurne at the estate of this realme that it feleth it yet. 1612 WITHER *Juvenilia, Prince Hen. Obsequies* (1633) 297 'Tis true, I know, Death with an equall spurn The lofty Turret and low Cottage beats,

b. The act of kicking or spurning.

1641 MILTON *Reform.* II. Wks. 1851 III. 71 Where under ..the trample and spurne of all the other Damned..they shall remaine in that plight for ever. 1650 BAXTER *Saints' R.* IV. iii, The spurn of a man's foot destroys all their labour. 1842 *Fraser's Mag.* XXVI. 479 The sweep of the arms and the spurn of the legs must always be made under the water. 1893 F. THOMPSON *Poems* 49 With flying lightnings round the spurn o' their feet.

Comb. 1676 *Doctrine of Devils* 196 The Magical Seals, &c., whereby men might be preserved Shot-free, and consequently Stick-free, Cane-free, Spurn-free, Kick-free.

4. The act of treating with disdain or contemptuous rejection; an instance of this.

1602 SHAKS. *Ham.* III. i. 73 The insolence of Office, and the Spurnes That patient merit of the vnworthy takes. 1646 JENKYN *Remora* 9 Do the rowlings of a fathers bowels deserve our spurn? *a* 1680 CHARNOCK *Attrib. God* (1834) II. 200 It is a spurn at God's sovereignty, and a slight of his goodness. 1875 LOWELL in *N. Amer. Rev.* CXX. 370 There is an exulting spurn of earth *in* it, as of a soul just loosed from its cage.

Spurn (spɜːn), *sb.*[2] Also 6–7 **spurne**, 9 **spern**. [var. of SPUR *sb.*[1], prob. after prec. or SPURN *v.*[1]]

†**1.** a. The beak of a war-galley. *Obs.*[—1]

1553 BRENDE *Q. Curtius* G ij, They came agaynste her wyth two galeies crosse upon her side: wherof the one strake ful with her Spurne.

b. A sharp projection or edge on a horse-shoe. Now *dial.* or *Obs.* (Cf. SPRUN.)

1717 SIR W. HOPE *Solleysell's Compl. Horseman* I. xxxi. 301 He makes him a pair of hinder Shoes with long Spurns or Plates before the Toes. 1834 KNOWLSON *Cattle Doctor* (1843) 154 Some horses cut with the spurn of the foot, and some with the heel. 1849 *Teesdale Gloss.* 123 *Spurn.* The toe of a horse's shoe, when sharpened in time of frost, is so called.

†**2.** An outward-growing root or rootlet; one of the main roots *of* a tree. *Obs.* exc. *dial.*

1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* I. 368 These Trees loue..to haue the superfluous spurnes rid away from the root. 1613 MARKHAM *Eng. Husbandman* II. II. iv. (1635) 60 From the spurnes of the roote will arise new Spiers. 1793 *Trans. Soc. Arts* XI. 195 The butt or stem of an ash-tree, having the spurns left to it in felling. 1796– in dialect glossaries, etc. (Midl., Chesh., Shropsh., Warw.).

fig. 1620 SANDERSON *Serm.* I. 160 If there be any sprigs or spurns of that root here. 1648 *Ibid.* II. 241 The flesh..is ever and anon putting forth spurns of avarice, ambition, envy.

3. A slanting prop or stay; a spur or spur-stone.

1620–1 in *North Riding Soc.* (1885) III. 110 That a Wickham man be committed to the House of Corr[ectio]n for cutting downe a windemille spurne. 1847 in HALLIWELL (Linc.). 1866 PEACOCK *Eng. Ch. Furniture* 180 *note*, The fastenings or wooden supports—spurns, as a Lincolnshire man would say, of the 'shafte' or May-pole.

b. *Mining.* (See quots.)

1837 HEBERT *Engin. & Mech. Encycl.* I. 375 The spern, a small piece of coal left as a support to many tons above, which fall when this is taken away. 1860 *Eng. & For. Mining Gloss.* (ed. 2) 79 *Spurns*, small ties or connections, left between the coals hanging and the ribs and pillars. 1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-m.* 233 *Spurns*, narrow pillars or webs of coal between each holing, not cut away until the last thing before withdrawing the sprags.

†**Spurn**, *sb.*[3] Variant of SPOORN. *Obs.*

1614 SELDEN *Titles Honor* 164 The spurne Lilith..mentioned in holy Writ, which the Iews say is a Spirit very Dangerous to yong Children or Women in Childbirth. 1790 GROSE *Prov. Gloss.* (ed. 2), *Spurne*, an evil spirit. Dorsetsh[ire].

Spurn (spɜːn), *v.*[1] Forms: 1 **spurnan**, **spornan**, 3–6 **sporn(e**, 3–7 **spurne** (5–6 **spourne**, 6 *Sc.* **spwrne**), 4– **spurn** (4 **spourn**, 5 *Sc.* **spwrn**, 6 **spvrn**). [OE. *spurnan*, *spornan* str. v. (pa. t. *spearn*, pa. pple. *-spornen*), = OS. *spurnan*, ON. **sporna* (pa. t. *sparn*), related to the weak vbs. OHG. *spornôn*, ON. *sporna*, OHG. *spurnan*, *-en*, ON. *spyrna*, and OHG. (*fir*)*spirnen*, ON. *sperna*, MSw. and Sw. *spjärna*. The stem is prob. that of SPUR *sb.*[1] In OE. the simple verb is less frequent than the compound *ætspurnan*.]

I. *intr.* †**1.** To strike against something with the foot; to trip or stumble. Also *fig.* *Obs.*

c 1000 *Ags. Psalter* (Thorpe) xc. 12 Þe læs þu frægne on stan fote spurne. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 186 A child, ȝif hit spurneð o stumme þing, oðer hurteð him, me bet þet þing þet hit hurteð on. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 7710 As he rod an hontep & par auntre is hors spurnde. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 3575 Quen þat [a man] sua bicums ald,..þan es eth þe fote to spurn. 1388 WYCLIF *Jer.* xxxi. 9 Y schal brynge them..in a riȝtful weie, thei shulen not spurne therynne. *c* 1400 *Beryn* 2862, I shall make hem spurn, & have a sore falle. *c* 1449 PECOCK *Repr.* v. viii. 525 Lest if..the hors were left to his fredom ..he schulde be in perel forto the ofsir spurne. 1549–62 STERNHOLD & H. *Ps.* xci. 12 So that thy foote shall never chaunce to spurne at any stone. 1603 *Proph. of T. Rymour* (Bann. Cl.) 12 Where the water runnes bright and sheene Thair shal many steides spurne. 1639 FULLER *Holy War* IV. xxi. (1840) 218 And their legs so stand in men's way that few can go by them without spurning at them. 1714 GAY *Trivia* II. 231 How can ye Laugh, to see the Damsel spurn, Sink in your Frauds and her green Stocking mourn? 1734 ARBUTHNOT, etc. *Mart. Scriblerus* viii. (1756) 39 The maid ..ran up stairs, but spurning at the dead body, fell upon it in a swoon;

†**b.** In proverbial contrast with *speed.* Chiefly *Sc.*

1423 JAS. I *Kingis Q.* clxxxi, Quhen thai wald faynest speid, that thai may spurn. *c* 1440 *York Myst.* xxxix. 15, I sporne þer I was wonte to spede. *a* 1500 *Ratis Raving* II. 362 That garris thaim spwrn quhen thai suld speid. 1535 STEWART *Cron. Scot.* III. 226 Quha spurnis airlie cumis lidder speid.

†**2.** To strike or thrust with the foot; to kick (*at* something). *Obs.*

?*c* 1400 LYDG. *Æsop's Fab.* i. 52 [The cock] On a smal dunghill..Gan to scrape and sporn. 15.. *Smith & his Dame* 301 in Hazl. *E. P. P.* III. 212 Than she spvrned at hym so, That hys shynnes bothe two In sonder she there brake. 1592 NASHE *P. Penilesse* (ed. 2) 3 b, Who spurneth not at a dead dogge? 1598 *Mucedorus* Induct. 32 Where I may see them wallow in there blood, To spurne at armes and legges quite shiuered off [etc.]. 1690 [see SPRUNT *v.*]. 1740 SOMERVILLE *Hobbinolia* II. 295 His Iron Fist descending crush'd his Skull, And left him spurning on the bloody Floor.

fig. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. V*, 81 This prince was a capitaine against whome fortune never frowned nor mischance once spurned.

†**b.** In allusive phrases. *Obs.* (Cf. KICK *v.*[1] I c.)

c 1390 CHAUCER *Truth* 11 Bywar þerfore to spurne aȝeyns an al. *c* 1480 HENRYSON *Test. Cres.* 475 Quhy spurnis thow aganis the Wall? 1483 *Vulgaria* 26 It is a foly to sporn ageyns the pryk. 1513 MORE *Rich. III*, Wks. 70/2, I purpose not to spurne against a prick. 1562 HEYWOOD *Prov. & Epigr.* (1867) 116 Folly to spurne or kycke against the harde wall. 1573 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 205 What profit then..Against the prick to seeme to spurne? 1605 CAMDEN *Rem.* (1623) 268 Folly it is to spurne against a pricke. [1816 SCOTT *Old Mort.* Introd., Waste not your strength by spurning against a castle wall.]

†**c.** To strike *at* with a weapon. *Obs.*[—1]

c 1400 *Destr. Troy* 4744 The grekes..With speris full dispitiously spurnit at the yates.

†**d.** To dash; to drive quickly. *Obs.*

a 1400–50 *Alexander* 786 Now aithire stoure on þar stedis strikis to-gedire, Spurnes out spakly with speris in hand. *c* 1440 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 4706 Thre grete wawes in spurned. *Ibid.* 6796 Þe shipp agayn to land spurned.

3. *fig.* To kick *against* or *at* something disliked or despised; to manifest opposition or antipathy, esp. in a scornful or disdainful manner.

(*a*) 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 17 b, Than they wyll sporne agaynst god,..and vtterly refuse and forsake the batayle of vertue. 1559 *Mirr. Mag., Owen Glendour* xiii, Was none so bold durst once agaynst me spurne. 1605 STOW *Ann.* (ed. 2) 683 Wel knowing that the Queene would spurne against the conclusions. 1633 BP. HALL *Hard T., N.T.* 145 It is no boot for thee to struggle and spurne against my almighty power.

(*b*) 1549 LATIMER *3rd Serm. bef. Edw. VI*, G vi, They that be good wyl beare, and not spourne at the preachers; they that be faultye .. must amende, and neyther spourne, nor wynse, nor whyne. 1594 SHAKS. *Rich. III*, I. iv. 203 Will you then Spurne at his Edict, and fulfill a Mans? 1603 KNOLLES *Hist. Turks* (1621) 1321 Spurning at their bread and rice which was given them for their daily entertainement. 1660 *Extr. State Papers rel. Friends* Ser. II. (1911) 120 Anabaptists..will make advantage of the first opportunity to fly out, and spurne att his Maiesties Gouerment. 1753 H. WALPOLE in *World* No. 10, One must be an infidel indeed to spurn at such authority. *a* 1781 R. WATSON *Philip III* (1839) 119 They spurned at danger, and made several vigorous sallies on the enemy. 1839 T. MITCHELL *Frogs of Aristoph.* Introd. p. cxi, That parent required sacrifices of him, at which his genius evidently spurned.

II. *trans.* †**4.** To strike (the foot) against something. *Obs.*

a 1300 *E. E. Ps.* xc. 12 Þat thurgh hap þou ne spurn þi fote til stane. *c* 1430 *Hymns Virgin* (1867) 43 Lest þou spurne þi foot at a stoon.

5. To strike or tread (something) with the foot; to trample or kick.

In later use freq. with implication of contempt.

1390 GOWER *Conf.* II. 72 The ground he sporneth and he tranceth. *a* 1500 *Lyttel Geste of Robyn Hode* III. clxi, He sporned the dore with his fote. 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 295 The people came running to it, jobbed it in with their daggers, and spurned it with their fete. 1609 HOLLAND *Amm. Marcell.* XIV. vii. 15 The foresaid governour..they layed at and spurned with their heeles. 1634 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* 20 With their Feet they spurne the yeelding sands. 1735 SOMERVILLE *Chase* III. 335 Wounded, he rears aloft,.. then bleeding spurns the Ground. 1743 FRANCIS tr. *Hor., Odes* III. v. 36 When..the hind shall turn Fierce on her hunters, he the prostrate foe may spurn In second fight. 1810 SCOTT *Lady of Lake* I. v, With flying foot the heath he spurned. 1848 MRS. JAMESON *Sacr. & Leg. Art* 219 Mary is spurning with her feet a casket of jewels. 1875 LONGF. *Masque of Pandora* IV, With one touch of my..feet, I spurn the solid Earth.

b. With advs. or advb. phrases, as *away*, *down*, *off*, *up*, etc. Also *fig.*

c 1386 CHAUCER *Sqr.'s T.* 608 He with his feet wol spurne adoun his cuppe. *c* 1450 *Merlin* xiii. 199 Galashin with his fote spurned his body to grounde. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 264 Auaunce thy spirituall courage, and spurne away all dulnesse & slouth. 1590 SHAKS. *Com. Err.* II. i. 83 You spurne me hence, and he will spurne me hither. 1609 ROWLANDS *Knaue of Clubbes* (Hunterian Cl.) 6 Then with her feete she spurn'd them out of bed. 1642 D. ROGERS *Naaman* 30 The Pope treading on his necke, and spurning off his Crowne with his foot. 1700 DRYDEN *Cock & Fox* 85 If, spurning up the Ground, he sprung a Corn. 1727 SWIFT *Country Post* Wks. 1751 III. i. 178 The grave-stones of John Fry, Peter How, and Mary d'Urfey were spurned down. 1793 T. BEDDOES *Demonstr. Evid.* 110 It is said, that the statesman..is apt to spurn away the ladder by which he has mounted to power. 1836 H. ROGERS *J. Howe* ii. 30 There is no barrier to such inter-communion,..which the genuine spirit of charity will not spurn down. 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xiii. III. 360 The few who were so luxurious as to wear rude socks of untanned hide spurned them away. 1878 BROWNING *Poets Croisic* lii, To learn..how fate could puff Heaven-high .., then spurn To suds so big a bubble in some huff.

6. To reject with contempt or disdain; to treat contemptuously; to scorn or despise.

c 1000 ÆLFRIC *Saints' Lives* vii. 64 Æfter þæs mædenes spræce þe hine spearn mid wordum. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 3533 We sall neuer spise 3ow ne sporne in speche ne in dede. 1435 MISYN *Fire of Love* 44 Þat, vanite spisyd & spurnyd, to trewth vnpartyngly we draw. 1502 *Plumpton Corr.* (Camden) 155 He..wyll abyde by yt for his dede,..& so will shew to all men that spurns him any wher. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VI*, 98 b, Well knowyng, that the Quene would spurne and impugne the conclusions. 1591 SHAKS. *Two Gentl.* IV. ii. 14 The more she spurnes my loue, The more it growes. 1635 QUARLES *Embl.* v. 13 O how my soul would spurn this ball of clay, And loathe the dainties of earth's painful pleasure. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* IV. 339 The pleasing Pleiades appear, And springing upward spurn the briny Seas. 1791 BOSWELL *Johnson* II. 117 When he suspected that he was invited to be exhibited, he constantly spurned the invitation. 1848 DICKENS *Dombey* liii, I came back, weary and lame, to spurn your gift. 1868 FREEMAN *Norm. Cong.* (1877) II. 144 Every offer tending to conciliation had been spurned.

Hence **Spurned** *ppl. a.*

1805 WORDSW. *Prelude* v. 278 He..draws..sweet honey out of spurned or dreaded weeds.

†**Spurn**, *v.*[2] *Obs.* [Alteration of SPUR *v.*[1], after prec.] *trans.* To spur; to urge or incite.

1583 GOLDING *Calvin on Deut.* cxvii. 1114 Here Moses meant to spurne forward the slothfulnesse of the Jewes. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* III. i. 5 The Faery quickly raught His poinant speare, and sharpely gan to spurne His fomy steed. 1612 CAPT. SMITH *Proc. Virginia* 80 To encourage the good, and with shame to spurne on the rest to amendment.

†**Spurn**, *v.*[3] *Obs.* [Of obscure origin. Modern south-western dialects have *spurl* and *spur* in the same sense.] *trans.* To spread or scatter.

a 1722 LISLE *Husb.* (1757) 21 Farmer Bond..flung no dung, in the spurning or spreading it, into the furrows. *Ibid.* 30 Spurning is throwing it [*sc.* lime] abroad on the earth just before sowed.

Spurn, *v.*[4] Also 9 **spern**. [f. SPURN *sb.*[2] 3.]

1. *intr.* To serve as a prop or stay.

1783 J. OGDEN *Manchester* 16 Sawing strong deal balks through the middle, and letting in oak spars to spurn at obtuse angles upward.

2. *trans.* To prop or support with spurns.

1865 *Even. Standard* 7 Feb., Several of the men as well as deceased neglected to sprag or spern their work.

Spurn-cow, *rare*[—1]. [f. SPURN *v.*[1]] A cowherd, 'cow-puncher'.

1614 RALEIGH *Hist. World* IV. (1634) 158 The Title and Charge of a Captaine hath been bestowed on euery Prique Bœuf or Spurn-Cow.

Spurner (spɜːnəɹ). [f. SPURN *v.*[1] Cf. OE. *spornere* 'fullo' (Ælfric).]

†**1.** One who strikes with the foot. *Obs.*

1562 J. HEYWOOD *Prov. & Epigr.* (1867) 166 Ageynst soft walles spurners spurne and kyck all. 1611 COTGR., *Regimber*, a winser, kicker, spurner.

2. One who rejects or despises; a scorner.

1863 KINGLAKE *Crimea* (1880) VI. xii. 420 Far from being

a spurner of rules, she had so deep a sense of their worth. 1880 TENNYSON *Battle of Brunanburh* xi, Traitor and trickster And spurner of treaties. 1899 COULSON *Jester's Jingles* 50 Now bold grows the learner, Of fear quite a spurner.

Spurning (spɔ̈·nin), *vbl. sb.*[1] [f. SPURN *v.*[1] Cf. OE. *spórning* 'offendiculum'.] The action of the verb, in various senses.

1382 WYCLIF *Rom.* ix. 33 Sothli thei offendiden in to the stoon of offencioun, or spurnynge. ?*c* 1400 LYDG. *Æsop's Fab.* i. 85 With scrapyng and spornyng al the long day The Cok was busy hym..to feede. · *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 470/1 Spornynge, or spurnynge, *calcitracio*. 1591 PERCIVALL *Sp. Dict., Puntillazo*, spurning with the feete. 1611 COTGR., *Regimbement*, a kicking, winsing, spurning. 1648 GAGE *West Ind.* 15 All our ships galleries would have been torn from us with the spurnings and blowes of that outragious Golfe. *Ibid.* 140 Some with blowes, some with spurnings, some with boxes on the ear. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. III. v, Accelerated by ignominious shovings, .. by smitings, twitchings,—spurnings *à posteriori*. 1853 ROBERTSON *Serm.* Ser. IV. xviii. (1876) 204 There is love instead of spurning for him.

†**Spu·rning,** *vbl. sb.*[2] *Obs.*—[1] [f. SPURN *v.*[2]] Spurring.

1672 *Chaucer's Ghoast* 114 Then was there hot spurning and plucking up of Horses, and right so they came to the Fire.

Spu·rning, *ppl. a.* [f. SPURN *v.*[1] Cf. OE. *spornende* stumbling.] That spurns.

1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Past.* III. 135 A Bull he bred With spurning Heels, and with a butting Head. 1788 BURNS *Ep. R. Graham* v, Mark how their lofty independent spirit Soars on the spurning wing of injur'd merit!

†**Spurn-point.** *Obs.* [f. SPURN *v.*[1]] An old game, perh. of the nature of hop-scotch.

1532 MORE *Confut. Tindale* Wks. 576/2 Albeit the old kindenesse of the father cannot lette the good chyld vttrely dyspayre, for all that he hath played at spurne poynte by the waye in goynge at scholewarde. 1627 W. HAWKINS *Apollo Shroving* III. iv. 49 If he were here, he would intreat Apollo to play at Quoits with me, or checkestone, or spurne-point. *a* 1643 LD. FALKLAND, etc. *Infallibility* (1646) 9 The Reader might almost think they had beene fallen out at Spurn-point or Ketle-pins.

Spurn-water. *Naut.* [f. SPURN *v.*[1]] (See latest quot.)

1347–9 *Acc. Exch. K. R.* 25/32 Spornewaters. 1407 *Ibid.* 44/11 m. 6 In iij peciis maeremii..pro spurnewaters inde faciendis. 1828–32 in WEBSTER. *c* 1850 *Rudim. Navig.* (Weale) 151 *Spurn-water*, a channel left above the ends of a deck to prevent water from coming any farther.

Spurre, obs. var. SPEER *v.*[1]; obs. f. SPUR.

Spurred (spɔ̈d), *a.* [f. SPUR *sb.*[1]]

1. Wearing or provided with a spur or spurs: **a.** In pred. use, chiefly in the phr. *booted* (or †*hosed*) *and spurred.*

c 1400 *Brut* cc. 227 In maner of an Erl, worthely arraied, ..and hosede and spored. *c* 1450 *Contin. Brut* 561 pe Duyk of Burgeyn..was..slayne,..and after, put in-to a pitte, botit and spurret. 1632 MASSINGER *City Madam* II. ii, May the Great Fiend, booted & spurr'd,..Ride headlong down her throat. 1668 H. MORE *Div. Dial.* I. xxii. (1713) 47, I, and that booted and spurred too. 1678–1833 [see BOOTED *ppl. a.* 1 b]. 1864 *Chambers's Encycl.* VI. 296/2 Three legs of man in armour,..garnished and spurred. 1869 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* (1875) III. 138 Others came forth on foot, booted and spurred.

b. In attrib. use.

1688 J. GRUBB *Brit. Heroes* vii, Castor the flame of fiery steed With well spur'd boots took down. 1842 LYTTON *Zanoni* VII. xv, With his spurred heels on the table. 1900 *Times* 29 Jan. 10/3 In their..riding knickers, with brown..riding leggings, spurred boots [etc.].

c. *Spurred groat*: (see quot.).

a 1773 SNELLING *View Silver Coin Scot.* (1774) 6 From the mullet or spur in the quarters of the cross of this [David Bruce, 1329] and the two following kings, they were afterwards called Spurred Groats.

2. Furnished with sharp and hard spikes, claws, or the like.

1611 COTGR., *Ergoté*, spurred, or hauing spurres. 1648 HEXHAM II, *Als een Haen gespoort*, Spurred as a Cock. 1803 SHAW *Gen. Zool.* IV. II. 563 Subargenteous Holocentrus, with brownish back, large scales, and spurred gill-covers. 1884 *St. James's Gaz.* 27 Nov. 2/2 Spurred hens are often excellent hens.

b. In specific names, as *spurred centropyx, chameleon, lapwing, towhee bunting, tree frog.*

1831 GRIFFITH tr. *Cuvier* IX. Syn. 31 Spurred Centropyx, *Teius Calcaratus*. *c* 1882 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* IV. 365 The Spurred Tree Frog has a flat, depressed triangular head. 1884 COUES *N. Amer. Birds* 397 *Pipilo maculatus megalonyx*, Spurred Towhee Bunting. 1887 *Cassell's Encycl. Dict.* s.v., Spurred-chameleon, *Chameleon calcarifer*, from the country round Aden. 1891 *Cent. Dict.* s.v. *Spur-winged*, Represented in South Africa by the black-backed spurred lapwing, *Hoplopterus speciosus*.

3. Of rye, etc.: Affected with ergot or spur.

1763 MILLS *Pract. Husb.* II. 405 When a spurred grain is broken. 1822–7 GOOD *Study Med.* (1829) V. 54 Spurred rye, or rye vitiated by being infested with the clavis or ergot, a parasitic plant. 1832 *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) VI. 51/1 On breaking a spurred seed you find within it a matter of a dull white colour, adhering to the violet skin which surrounds it. 1876 BRISTOWE *Th. & Pract. Med.* (1878) 120 Amongst endemic affections may be included ergotism from the use of spurred rye as food.

4. *Bot.* Of the nature of, provided with, a spur or calcar; calcarate.

1824 R. K. GREVILLE *Flora Edin.* p. xlviii, A prominent or spurred nectary at the base. 1849 CRAIG, *Spurred valerian*, a plant belonging to the genus Centranthus. 1861 BENTLEY *Man. Bot.* 512 Sepals more or less valvate in æstivation, upper one spurred.

5. Of ships: Provided with a beak or ram.

1805 DUCKWORTH in Nicolas *Disp. Nelson* (1846) VII. 44 The Admiralty..giving me a spurred and doubled ship, the Formidable, yesterday out of dock.

Spurred (spɔ̈id), *ppl. a.* [f. SPUR *v.*[1]] Pricked or urged on with a spur or spurs. Also *fig.*

1868 HEAVYSEGE *Jezebel* I. 258 Thine utmost speed will lag behind The spurred impatience whereon rides my soul. 1898 M. HEWLETT *Forest Lovers* xxviii, Prosper was abroad on a spurred horse.

Spu·rrer. [f. SPUR *sb.*[1] and *v.*[1] Cf. (in sense 1) MHG. *sporære* (G. *sporer*, †*spörer*).]

†**1.** A spurrier. *Obs.*—[0]

1499 *Promp. Parv.* (Pynson), Sporer, *calcarius*.

2. One who spurs or urges. Also with *-on.*

1632 SHERWOOD, A spurrer, *piqueur*. 1728 SWIFT *Let. to Pope* 16 July, I doubt you want a spurrer-on to exercise and to amusements. 1848 BUCKLEY *Iliad* 83 Rush on, ye Trojans, spurrers of steeds!

Spurrey, spurry (spɔ·ri). Forms: 6 **sperie,** 6–7 **spury,** 6–**spurry,** 7– **spurrey.** [a. Du. *spurrie* (MDu. *sporie*; older Flem. *speurie, spurie*; WFris. *sparje, sparre*), prob. related in some way to med.L. *spergula* (whence G. *spergel, spörgel*, etc.).]

1. One or other of various species of herbaceous plants or weeds belonging to the genus *Spergula*, characterized by slender stems and very narrow leaves; esp. the common species corn spurrey (*S. arvensis*), occas. used as fodder for sheep and cattle; also, the genus to which these species belong.

a. 1577 B. GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* I. 38 b, The common people call it Spury, or Sperie. *Ibid.* 39 Such thinges as neede not muche moysture, are best sowed in lyght ground, as the great Clauer, Sperie, Chich. 1652 R. CHILD in *Hartlib's Legacy* (1655) 71 So we are ignorant what their Far or fine Bread Corn was, what their Lupine, Spury, and an hundred of this kind.

β. 1578 LYTE *Dodoens* 56 Spurry hath round stalkes, with three or foure knots or ioyntes. 1611 COTGR., *Spurrie*, Spurrie, or Franke; a Dutch hearbe, and an excellent fodder for cattell. 1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), *Spergula*,..an Herb call'd Spurry, or Frank; Wood-rose, a kind of Liver-wort. 1799 W. TOOKE *View Russian Emp.* III. 192 The pastures are richly furnished with spurry and golden clover. 1837 *Flemish Husb.* 37 in *Husb.* III. (L.U.K.), Spurry..is a plant which grows very rapidly in light sandy soils. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* III. 28/1 Spurry..is used on the Continent as a winter food for sheep.

γ. 1671 PHILLIPS (ed. 3), *Spurrey*, a sort of herb called in Latin *Spergula*. 1683 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1806/4 An excellent new sort of Grass-Seeds, called Spurrey. 1764 *Museum Rust.* IV. 45 Spurrey, by them [*sc.* Flemings] called Marian-grasse. 1766 *Compl. Farmer, Spurrey*, the name of a weed common in many parts of England. 1837 *Flemish Husb.* 14 in *Husb.* III. (L.U.K.), Those [seeds] which grow rapidly between the reaping of one crop and the sowing of another, such as spurrey or turnips. 1880 JEFFERIES *Hodge & Masters* I. 27 The spurrey that filled the spaces between the stalks below.

b. With distinguishing terms (see quots. and 2).

1640 PARKINSON *Theat. Bot.* 562 Both the Dutch and we in England call it Spurry or Franck Spurry, for the causes aforesaid, but I do a little more explaine the names, in calling it Francking Spurrewort. 1688 HOLME *Armorie* II. 98 Francking Spurry, or Spurwort. 1756 HILL *Hist. Plants* 185 Among the other useful plants cultivated in the neighbouring countries is the common spurrey. 1771 *Encycl. Brit.* III. 621/1 *Spergula arvensis*, or corn-spurrey. *Ibid.*, *Spergula pentandria*, or small spurrey.

c. *attrib.*, as *spurrey-sandwort, -seed.*

1644 G. PLATTES in *Hartlib's Legacy* (1655) 257 The Spurry-seed which you have gotten out of the Low-Countries. 1669 WORLIDGE *Syst. Agric.* (1681) 31 In the Low-Countries they usually sowe Spurrey-seed twice in a Summer. 1736 BAILEY *Househ. Dict.* s.v. *Poultry*, When fowls are near their laying-time, spurry seed, and buck wheat is an excellent strengthening for them. 1856 A. GRAY *Man. Bot.* (1860) 61 *Spergularia*, Spurrey-Sandwort...Low herbs, growing on or near the sea-coast. 1894 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* June 329 Adulterated..with spurry and other weed seeds.

d. *pl.* Plants of this genus.

1882 GRANT ALLEN *Colours of Flowers* ii. 39. Stitchworts ..and cornspurries.., which have open flowers of a very primitive character.

2. Applied, with distinguishing terms, to various species of plants allied to or resembling (and some formerly classed with) the genus *Spergula* (see quots.).

1828 SIR J. E. SMITH *Engl. Flora* II. 339 *Spergula saginoides*, Smooth *Awl-shaped Spurrey. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 333/2 *Spergula saginoides*, pearl-wort spurrey, and *S. subulata*, awl-shaped spurrey, are also natives of Great Britain. 1858 A. IRVINE *Handbk. Brit. Plants* 768 *Sagina saxatilis*...Smooth Awl-shaped Spurrey. 1887 *Field Spurrey [see *Sandwort spurrey*]. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s.v. *Alsine*, The chickweed called the *greater spurry. 1771 *Encycl. Brit.* III. 621/1 *Spergula nodosa*, or *knotted spurrey. 1891 *Cent. Dict.* s.v., Knotted spurry, more properly called knotted pearlwort, is *Sagina nodosa*. The *lawn-spurry (or properly lawn-pearlwort) is *Sagina glabra*. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XVII. 688/1 *Spergula saginoides*, *pearl-wort spurrey, has smooth, linear, opposite leaves. 1777 JACOB *Cat. Plants* 111 *Arenaria rubra*, *Purple Spurrey. 1796 WITHERING *Brit. Pl.* (ed. 3) II. 422 *Arenaria rubra*,..Purple Spurrey, or Sandwort, [grows in] sandy meadows and cornfields. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1089/1 *Sand Spurry. *Spergularia.* 1887 *Cassell's Encycl. Dict.* s.v. *Spergularia*, Two [species] are British: *Spergularia rubra*, Field, and *S. marina*, Seaside *Sandwort Spurrey. Both have red flowers. 1756 HILL *Hist. Plants* 185/2 There is another species, the common *sea spurrey. 1777 JACOB *Cat. Plants* 110 *Arenaria marina*, Small flowered Sea-spurrey.

Spur rial. Now *Hist.* Forms: 6 **spurr reyall,** spurr(e) **ryall,** 7 (9). **spur ryal,** 8– **spur rial** (9 **riall**); 6 **spur-rial,** 7 **-ryal**(1; 6 **spurriall** (8 **-al**), 7 **spurryal**(1. [f. SPUR *sb.*[1] + RIAL *sb.*[1]]

1. = SPUR-ROYAL.

1588 in *Aston's Manch. Guide* (1804) 26 A spurr reyall and an oulde piece of money, oo 16 oo. 1593 NASHE *Christ's T.* 82 They must haue..a few Spur-Rials to remedy deafnes. 1609 DEKKER *Gull's Horn-bk.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 263 Two such Elizabeth twenty-shilling peeces, or foure such spurryals..rid away amongst the rest. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* I. 283 Pieces of fifteene shillings called Spur Ryals. 1745 FLEETWOOD *Chron. Prec.* 18. 1853 HUMPHREYS *Coin Coll. Man.* II. 465 Spur rials at 15 shillings each. *Ibid.*, The motto on the reverse of the rose rial and spur rial. 1899 GRUEBER *Coins Gt. Brit. & Irel. in B. M.* 102 The spur ryal ..received its name from the pointed form of the rays of the sun on the reverse, which looks like a spur.

¶ **2.** *Her.* = SPUR-ROWEL 2.

1680 MACKENZIE *Sci. Her.* 97 Though Bailzie of Lamingtons Arms are by some blazoned Mollets (Spurryals) yet.. they are Starrs.

Spurrier (spɔ·riəɹ, spɔ̈·riəɹ). Forms: *α.* 4–6 **sporyer,** 5 **-ier, sporyȝere,** 5 **sporyare,** 6 **-ar.** *β.* 5 **sporior, -iour, -your.** *γ.* 6 **spurriour, spouryor.** *δ.* 6 **spurryar,** 6– **spurrier.** [f. SPUR *sb.*[1] + -IER. Cf. SPURRER 1.] A spur-maker.

α. 1389 in *Eng. Gilds* (1870) 42 Pese ordenaunce of fraternyte of Sadeleres and Sporyeres. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 470 Sporyare (*H.* sporyȝere), *calcarius*. *c* 1449 PECOCK *Repr.* I. x. 50 As sporiers in Londoun gilden her sporis whiche thei maken. *c* 1500 *Cocke Lorell's B.* 8 Mercers, fletchers, and sporyers. 1575 *Gamm. Gurton* II. iv. 10 My goodly tossing sporyars neele chaue lost.

β. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 1595 Sporiors, Spicers, Spynners of clothe. 1483 *Act* 1 *Rich. III*, c. xii. P1 The Artificers in greate nombre of this Royalme of Englond,..that is to say, ..Blacksmythes, Sporiours [etc.].

γ. 1500 *Nottingham Rec.* III. 82 Georgius Othehay, spurriour. 1546 *Yorks. Chantry Surv.* (Surtees) 69 A chaumber ..in the tenure of Rychard Tomson, spouryor.

δ. 1530 PALSGR. 274/2 Spurryar, *esperonnier*. 1570 *Wills & Invent. N. C.* (Surtees, 1835) 332 Will'm Dagg of the towne of Gatisshed spurrier. 1609 *Shuttleworths' Acc.* (Chetham Soc.) 184 To the spurrier of Padiham, for a paire of spurres to my M^r, ij^s. 1688 R. HOLME *Armoury* III. 304/1 From the Smith and Farrier, we proceed to the Spurrier and Loriner or Bit-maker. 1718 BP. HUTCHINSON *Witchcraft* 260 A Black Dog..that belong'd to one Clark, a Spurrier. 1764 R. BURN *Hist. Poor Laws* 10 Horse smiths, spurriers, tanners..and other workmen, artificers and labourers. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* I. iii. 380 It was vehemently argued ..that saddlers and spurriers would be ruined by hundreds. 1881 *Instr. Census Clerks* (1885) 57 Harness;..Spurrier, Stirrup Maker.

†**Spurriery.** *Obs.*—[1] In 5 **sporiorie.** [f. prec. + -Y.] The art or craft of a spurrier.

c 1449 PECOCK *Repr.* I. x. 50 As thou3 therfore sporiorie and cutell[illegible]. enterfereden with goldsmyth craft.

Spu·rring, *sb.* [f. SPUR *sb.*[1] 11 c.] A railway side-track.

1842 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* V. 85/2 The sub-contractor ..had to..lay down the temporary road, including turn-outs, shunts, crossings, boxes, spurrings, &c.

Spurring (spɔ̈·riŋ), *vbl. sb.*[1] [f. SPUR *v.*[1]]

1. The action of pricking with a spur or spurs. Also *transf.*

a 1591 H. SMITH *Wks.* (1867) II. 211 This gall will not hold spurring. 1593 SHAKS. *Rich. II*, II. iii. 58 Here come the Lords of Rosse and Willoughby, Bloody with spurring, fierie red with haste. 1607 MARKHAM *Cavel.* II. (1617) 74 These flancke spurrings,..are the most preposterous motions that can be seen in a horseman. 1708 SEWEL II, *Prikkeling*, a Pricking, a spurring on. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. v. iii, The tired nag..sticks in the middle of it;..and will proceed no further for spurring! 1893 F. C. SELOUS *Trav. S. E. Africa* 172, I gave my sulky horse a good spurring.

attrib. 1677 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1170/4 A black Mare 15 hands high,..and on the off-side no hair in the spurring place.

b. The action of stimulating, inciting, or urging.

1611 COTGR., *Stimulation*, a pricking, or spurring forward; a prouoking, egging, instigating, vrging. 1617 HIERON *Wks.* II. 276 When a man is so clay-like,..and must haue a continuall spurring and prouoking,..it is a wofull thing.

2. *Spurring-in*, a mode of pruning fruit-trees in which side-shoots are shortened to a spur likely to produce fruit. Also *attrib.*

1829 LINDLEY *Encycl. Plants* 793 Hence the spurring-in method of pruning is the most successful in the production of fruit. 1846 BAXTER *Libr. Pract. Agric.* (ed. 4) II. 381 A mode of pruning by spurring-in,..as recommended by Mr. Griffin. 1852 G. W. JOHNSON *Cottage Gard. Dict.* 60 A regular series of these [side branches] should be left up the stem,..practising what is termed 'spurring-in' by our nurserymen.

b. Similarly without *in.*

1844 *Florist's Jrnl.* (1846) V. 92 These evils are entirely obviated by short spurring, in doing which it is the practice ..to cut them in to the one nearest the stem. 1852 G. W. JOHNSON *Cottage Gard. Dict.* 842/2 *Spurring* is cutting the lateral or side-shoots, so as to leave only a few buds in length of them projecting from the main branches.

Spu·rring, *vbl. sb.*[2] *dial.* Also 9 **sporring.** [f. SPUR *v.*[2]]

1. *pl.* The banns of marriage published in church.

1787 GROSE *Prov. Gloss.*, *Spurrings*, bans of marriage. 1829– in dial. glossaries, etc. (Yks., Lanc., Derby, Linc., Rutland, Nottingham, Cornwall). 1862 *Life amongst Colliers* 172 Our maids were comely and apt, the young colliers gallant, so many spurrins went from our house.

2. (See quot.)

1888 T. NORTH *Bells & Bell Lore* 94 At Barnoldby-le-

Beck, Lea, and other places this ringing is called giving the [newly-wedded] couple their 'spurrings', or 'sporrings'.

Spurring (spɔ̄·riŋ) *ppl. a.* [f. SPUR *v.*1]

1. That spurs or pricks with a spur. Also *fig.* and *transf.*

1599 MIDDLETON *Micro-cynicon* Wks. (Bullen) VIII. 135 A resolute ass! O for a spurring rider! 1649 G. DANIEL *Trinarch.* To Rdr. 92 Hee without Cloake Is a Witt in Hutts, a pretty spurringe Cocke. 1819 KEATS *Otho* I. iii, That unknown Mussulman After whose spurring heels he sent me forth. 1869 LD. LYTTON *Orval* 240 The spurring hour Posts to the bourne. 1881 J. F. KEANE *Journ. Medinah* i. 15 The halters of such camels..are fitted with an ingenious spurring-curb.

2. That impels, incites, or urges.

1648 J. BEAUMONT *Psyche* XXI. vii, Since by The spurring fervor of its natural Bent Above the third [stage] it aims. 1852 DISRAELI *Ld. G. Bentinck* v. (1872) 61 So keen was the feeling of the Protectionists, and so spurring the point of honour.

Spur-rowel. Also 7 -rowl, 8 *Sc.* -roll. [f. SPUR *sb.*1 + ROWEL *sb.*]

1. The rowel or revolving pricking wheel of a spur. Also *Comb.*, and in fig. context.

1611 COTGR., *Tartriere*, the Spurre-rowell-like instrument wherewith Pastissiers make indented iags. 1649 DAVENANT *Love & Hon.* I. i. 45 These bald chinnes are as familiar With their good starrs as with spur-rowells. *a* 1724 in Ramsay *Tea-table Misc.* (1876) II. 161 Curse on the spur-roll, Confounded be the upper-leather. 1816 SCOTT *Antiq.* xxi, Driving the spur-rowels o' the law up to the head into Sir Arthur's sides to gar him pay it. 1830 SKELTON *Meyrick's Antient Arms & Armour* II. Pl. lxxxi, Spur-rowels were never of six points before the reign of Henry VI, nor of five till that of Charles I. 1866 *Even. Standard* 13 July 6 The more experienced Hungarian Hussars, jingling their monstrous spur-rowels.

2. *Her.* = MULLET 2 1.

1820 SCOTT *Monast.* Introd. Ep., The arms on the dexter side are those of Glendinning,..and on the sinister three spur-rowels for those of Avenel.

Spur-royal. Now *Hist.* or *arch.* Forms: 7 **spur(re) roial, 7- spur royal**; 6-7 **spur-roiall, 7- spur-royal** (7 **-all, spurroyal**). [f. SPUR *sb.*1 + ROYAL *sb.* Cf. SPUR-RIAL.] A gold coin of the value of fifteen shillings, chiefly coined in the reign of James I; so called from having on its reverse the form of the sun with rays, resembling a spur-rowel.

1600 HOLLAND *Livy* 1424 *Aurei Romani*, Peeces of gold coine..in round reckoning equivalent to our spur-roiall of 15 sh. 1639 MAYNE *City Match* II. iii, Spur-royals, Harry-groats, or such odd coin Of husbandry, as in the King's reign now Would never pass. 1657 W. RAND tr. *Gassendi's Life Peiresc* I. 132 The *Solidus aureus*..came at last..to the Value of our usuall Shilling or Spur-roiall. 1704 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4072/6 A red Sattin Purse, in which was a 5 Guinea Piece with a Spur Royal. 1711 HEARNE *Collect.* (O.H.S.) III. 134 A small Gold Spur-royal shew'd me [of] Hen. VI. 1834 MRS. BRAY *Warleigh* xl. (1884) 298 A hundred spur royals must be your ransom: for I know your wealth. 1853 HUMPHREYS *Coin Coll. Man.* II. 465 The old noble..which was now termed a *spur* royal, from the resemblance of the rays to the rowels of a spur.

fig. a 1618 SYLVESTER *Little Bartas* 616 Wks. (Grosart) II. 90 Then was the Heav'n's Azure Pavilion spred, And with Spur-Royals spangled over-head.

Spurry (spɔ̄·ri), *a.* [f. SPUR *sb.*1 + -Y.] † **a.** Radiating like the points of a spur-rowel. *Obs.* **b.** Of the nature of a spur or prop. **c.** Having spur-like projections.

c 1611 CHAPMAN *Iliad* XIX. 368 His crested helmet..like a star..cast a spurry ray. 1863 W. LANCASTER *Prætorita* 91 When the sick racking trees..Tear up their spurry fastenings. 1875 BLACKMORE *Alice Lorraine* III. ix. 146 He quietly descended from the window, with the help of.. a spurry pear-tree.

Spurt (spɔ̄t), *sb.*1 [var. of SPIRT *sb.*2]

1. † **a.** A short spell *of* (something). *Obs.*

a 1566 R. EDWARDS *Damon & P.* F ij, It is very..trimme, Tis Musselden ich weene; of fellowship let me haue an other spurt, Ich can drinke as easly now as if I sate in my shurte. 1613 DAY *Dyall* (1614) 241 O how great injustice is it..to ..deliver up that Soule to thy adversary the Divell, and all for a spurt of pleasure. *a* 1699 BONNELL in W. Hamilton *Life* (1703) II. 91 Those Qualities of Vanity and Worldliness, which I have contracted in this spurt of Health.

b. A short space of time; a brief period. Esp. in phr. *for a spurt.*

Freq. in the 17th c.; now *dial.* Not always clearly separable from next.

a 1591 H. SMITH *2nd Serm. Lord's Supper* (1611) 90 To amend thy euill life, not when age commeth, or for a spurt, but to begin now, and last till death. *a* 1618 RALEIGH *Rem.* (1644) 121 To dispatch the whole manage of all eternity..in so short a spurt. 1694 W. SALMON *Bate's Dispens.* (1713) 282/2 And such kind of Medicines are not to be given only for a little while, for a Spurt and away, but assiduously for several Weeks together. 1706 T. BAKER *Tunbridge Walks* I. i, But this course of life, sister, is but for a spurt: we must now think of settling our condition. 1798 MME. D'ARBLAY *Lett.* 10 Dec., Herschel has been in town for short spurts, and back again, two or three times. 1894 *Trans. Amer. Folk-lore Soc.* (E.D.D.), Excuse me for a spurt.

2. A brief and unsustained effort; a sudden outbreak or spell of activity or exertion.

a 1591 H. SMITH *Serm.* (1592) 874 Some come to God as if they did fetch fire, a spurt and away, like a messenger which is gone before he haue his answeare. 1643 TUCKNEY *Balm of Gilead* 30 A short spurt doth not try me, but the length and hardnesse of the way will at last tell me what leg I halt on. 1654 FULLER *Comm. Ruth* (1868) 154 After a spurt in their calling for some few hours, they relapse again to laziness. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* II. 115 Although the savages held out,..yet, for a spurt, the Englishmen were more nimble and speedy. 1883 *Pall Mall G.* 20 Dec. 2/1 Not with a fitful spurt, but year in, year out, do these thousands of..lay helpers toil. 1885 HUXLEY in *Life* (1900) II. vi. 90 Quinine ..has given me a spurt for the last two days.

b. Const. *of.*

1791 R. MYLNE *and Rep. Thames* 11 The Millers having a spurt of Business to do, were using all the Water as fast as possible. 1792 MARY WOLLSTONECR. *Rights Wom.* vii. 293, I do not forget the spurts of activity which sensibility produces. 1867 TROLLOPE *Chron. Barset* II. lx. 172 One of those men who seem born to surprise the world by a spurt of prosperity. 1868 *Daily News* 8 July, Weak governments are like weak people; they put on spurts of energy and independence now and then.

c. A short spell of rapid movement; a marked or sudden increase of speed attained by special exertion.

1787 'G. GAMBADO' *Acad. Horsem.* (1809) 46 The Doctor went off at a spurt. 1858 O. W. HOLMES *Aut. Breakf.-t.* xi, An easy gait—two, forty-five—Suits me;..Perhaps, for just a single spurt, Some seconds less would do no hurt. 1861 HUGHES *Tom Brown at Oxf.* xiv. (1889) 134 Their boat ..dipped a little when they put on anything like a severe spurt. 1898 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* V. 844 It is hard to say what happens during [bicycling] spurts or at the outset of an excursion.

d. *transf.* A marked increase or improvement in business; a sudden advance or rise of prices, etc.; also, the period during which this lasts.

1814 *Stock Exchange Laid Open* 25 When the Jobbers find the spurt, as they call it, is over. 1880 *Sat. Rev.* 1 May 565 Men of business instinctively felt what was coming, and, buying up large stocks at the lowest quotations, realized fortunes when the spurt came. 1898 *Westm. Gaz.* 17 Nov. 10/1 It is clear that the recent spurt in the price of the shares was unwarranted.

e. A spell of gaiety; a frolic.

1885 'MRS. ALEXANDER' *At Bay* ix, After that spurt I went back to Melbourne. 1890 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Colonial Reformer* (1891) 286 Puts me in mind of one of our Hurry-ghur dances. We used to have such jolly spurts at the old station.

3. *By spurts*: **a.** In or with brief unsustained or spasmodic efforts; fitfully, spasmodically. † Also *by fits and spurts*, by fits and starts.

1605 CHAPMAN *All Fooles* II. i, [He] hath stolne, By his meere industry, and that by spurts, Such qualities as no wit else can match With plodding at perfection every houre. 1653 in *Verney Mem.* (1907) I. 523, I am like to bee 3 or 4 months in a yeare at Claydon & that only by fits & spurts. 1660 R. COKE *Just. Vind.* 21 Forsooth it is by spurts, and not long enough to be accounted a settled Magistrate. 1882 *Atlantic Monthly* L. 753 He [a negro] can work hard for a while by spurts.

b. In intermittent jets. (Cf. SPURT *sb.*3 1.)

1644 DIGBY *Nat. Bodies* XXVI. (1658) 293 When a wound is made in the heart, blood will gush out by spurts at every shooting of the heart. 1789 W. BUCHAN *Dom. Med.* (1790) 507 A sudden constriction takes place, and the urine is voided by spurts, and sometimes by drops only.

4. *Naut.* A short spell *of* wind; = SPIRT *sb.*2 2.

1699 DAMPIER *Voy.* II. III. iv. 37 When we come abreast of the Head-Lands, we..see the Breez curling on the Water on both sides of us, and sometimes get a spurt of it to help us forward. 1745 P. THOMAS *Jrnl. Anson's Voy.* 148 We made the best of every little Spurt of Wind.

5. *slang* or *dial.* A small amount or quantity.

1859 in *Slang Dict.* 100. 1889 in *Surrey Gloss.* (1893) 39, I had a little spurt of drink, that was all.

6. *U.S.* A quick and sudden dash on the part of wild-fowl; a flight of this nature.

1874 J. W. LONG *Amer. Wild-fowl* i. 37 It is often desirable, where ducks are flying in spurts,..to load as fast as possible.

Spurt, *sb.*2 Now *dial.* and *rare.* [Cf. SPIRT *sb.*3] A shoot or sprout.

1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* II. 27 The Garden Sperages..send out at first certaine greene spurts or buds peeping forth of the ground. *Ibid.* 196 The same yong springs eaten.. in a salad, in manner of the tender crops and spurts of the Colewort,..do fasten the teeth.

Spurt (spɔ̄t), *sb.*3 [f. SPURT *v.*1 (cf. SPIRT *sb.*4), and perhaps partly from SPURT *sb.*1 3 b.]

1. A stream or shower of water, etc., ejected or thrown up with some force and suddenness.

1775 ASH, *Spurt*, a sudden stream. 1828-32 WEBSTER, *Spurt*, a sudden or violent ejection or gushing of a liquid substance from a tube, orifice, or other confined place. 1868 MORRIS *Earthly Paradise* (1870) I. I. 111 Then from light feet a spurt of dust there sprang. 1871 ROSSETTI *Poems, Dante at Verona* XXVIII, The conduits round the gardens sing..Where wearied damsels rest and hold Their hands in the wet spurt of gold. 1877 BLACK *Green Past.* XXXVIII, As the Esquimaux began to receive shooting spurts of spray from the rocks overhead.

fig. 1864 CARLYLE *Fredk. Gt.* XVI. xii. IV. 443 Thrice-private *Œuvre de Poésies*, in which are satirical spurts affecting more than one crowned head.

transf. 1881 RUSKIN *Bible of Amiens* ii. § 25 The rocks all the way from Rhine, thus far, are jets and spurts of basalt through irony sandstone. 1890 *Times* 17 May 13/3 An adaptation of the dots and dashes of the Morse alphabet to flashes of light and spurts of sound.

b. A spatter or splash made by a pen.

1871 G. STEPHENS in *Archaeologia* XLIII. 101 The spurts have been taken away in my woodcut.

2. A sudden outbreak or outburst *of* feeling, action, etc.

In this sense freq. suggestive of SPURT *sb.*1 2.

1859 TENNYSON *Merlin & V.* 374 A sudden spurt of woman's jealousy. 1879 FROUDE *Cæsar* ix. 104 A spurt of insurrectionary fire had broken out in Italy. 1880 MISS BRADDON *Just as I am* xix, Little spurts of angry feeling flashed out of her now and then in her talk.

Spurt, *sb.*4 *Coal-mining.* (See quot.)

1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-m.* 233 *Spurt*, a peculiar kind of stone, much disintegrated and mixed with colouring matter.

Spurt (spɔ̄t), *v.*1 [var. of SPIRT *v.*1]

1. *intr.* = SPIRT *v.*1 1. Freq. with *out* and *up.*

1570 FOXE *A. & M.* 2287/1 He was..so manacled that ye bloud spurt out of his fingers endes. 1578 LYTE *Dodoens* 76 Round huskes, the which do open of themselves, and the seede being ripe, it spurteth and skippeth away. 1611 COTGR., *Surgeonner*, to shoot out, spring, spurt vp. 1684 tr. *Bonet's Merc. Compit.* XIV. 502 Hardly any [blood] would spurt out of the opened Vein. 1699 DAMPIER *Voy.* II. II. 89, I perceived two White Specks in the middle of the Boil; and squeezing it, two small white Worms spurted out. 1722-7 BOYER *Dict. Royal* I. s.v. *Rejaillir*, He made the Dirt spurt up, or fly into his Face. 1800 COLERIDGE *Piccolomini* I. iv, My blood shall spurt out for this Wallenstein. 1833 HT. MARTINEAU *Brooke Farm* vii. 89 The milk went on spurting and fizzing into the pail. 1887 BOWEN *Æneid* V. 469 A crimsoning flood Spurts from his lips in a torrent.

fig. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. I. i, Some sharpness of temper, spurting at times from a stagnating character. 1858 — *Fredk. Gt.* IX. v. II. 453 Rumours are rife and eager, occasionally spurting-out into the Newspapers.

b. To sputter. *rare*—1.

1854 EMERSON *Lett. & Soc. Aims* iv. 119 Christmas hemlock spurting in the fire.

2. *trans.* = SPIRT *v.*1 2. Also const. *out, up.*

1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* I. 441 The remedie to keepe Wespes from them, is to spurt or squirt oile out of a mans mouth vpon them. 1653 H. COGAN tr. *Pinto's Trav.* li. 201 The Chaubainhaa then took water in his mouth and spurted it on his wife. 1687 A. LOVELL tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* II. 82 At every two fathoms distance there are Pipes which spurt up Water very high. 1725 *Fam. Dict.* s.v. *Headach*, In the next Place spurt Wine..into his Nostrils. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1862) II. 166 They often fill their trunks with water..to divert themselves by spurting it out like a fountain. 1886 SHELDON tr. *Flaubert's Salammbô* i. 7 A Lusitanian .. stalked about the tables, the while spurting fire from his nostrils.

fig. 1699 BENTLEY *Phal.* 122 His boyish Witticisms and doggeril Rhimes, which he has spurted here. 1827 CARLYLE *Misc.* (1840) I. 34 His stream of meaning..will not flow quietly along its channel; but is ever and anon spurting itself up into epigrams and antithetic jets.

Hence **Spu·rted** *ppl. a.*; **Spu·rter.**

1693 EVELYN *De la Quint. Compl. Gard.* II. 102 That Gum is nothing but a spurted Sap. 1890 *Blackw. Mag.* CXLVII. 420/2 It is only sentimentalists and spurters of rose-water that object to it.

Spurt, *v.*2 Now *dial.* and *rare.* [var. SPIRT *v.*2 Cf. SPURT *sb.*2] *intr.* To sprout or shoot.

1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* II. 22 By this means indeed last they [*sc.* onions] will longer without spurting. 1606 MARSTON *Fawne* II. i, *Nym.* But is not Faunus prefer'd with a right hand? *Her.* Did you euer see a fellow so spurted vp in a moment? 1610 [see SPROUT *sb.*1 1 b].

Spurt (spɔ̄t), *v.*3 [f. SPURT *sb.*1 2. Cf. SPIRT *v.*3]

1. *intr.* To make a spurt; to put on increased speed, to make greater exertions, for a short time.

1664 H. MORE *Myst. Iniq.* 549 To spurt out and run on in a career without attending the direction of their Superiours. [1793 BURNS *Let. to Ainslie* 26 Apr., I have written many a letter;..but then—they were original matter —spurt-away! zig, here; zag, there.] 1861 HUGHES *Tom Brown at Oxf.* XXVII, The crowd on both sides cheered, as the..boat spurted from the Cherwell, and took the place of honour. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* II. 841 It [i.e. alcohol] may enable a man 'to spurt' but not 'to stay'.

2. *trans.* To cause to spurt; to overtake by means of a spurt. *rare.*

1888 P. FURNIVALL *Phys. Training* 7 If..he decides to wait on the goer all through, and try to spurt him at the end, he should practise short, sharp bursts of speed,..always finishing up with a sharp spurt.

Spu·rting, *vbl. sb.* [f. SPURT *v.*1] The action of the vb., in various senses.

1611 COTGR., *Iallissement*, a spurting, sprowting, spouting, or spinning vp (of water). *Ibid. Seringuement*, a squirting; an iniecting, or spurting of liquor by a Siringe. 1676 WISEMAN *Surg. Treat.* (J.), If from a puncture.., the manner of the spurting out of the blood will shew it. 1677 MIÈGE *Fr. Dict.* I, *Rejaillissement*, a spurting up. 1708 SEWEL II, *Uytspatting*, a Spurting out, lanching out. 1822 SHELLEY *Scenes fr. Faust* ii. 213 What glimmering spurting, stinking, burning, As Heaven and Earth were overturning. 1844 EMERSON *Ess.* II. *Nature*, The crackling and spurting of hemlock in the flames. 1869 DAY *Puddling* 5 in Rankine *Mach. & Hand-tools*, The spurting about of the metal.

Spu·rting, *ppl. a.* [f. SPURT *v.*1] That spurts; spirting.

1821 CLARE *Vill. Minstr.* II. 187 The..spurting dash Of muttering fountain. 1861 PALEY *Æschylus, Choeph.* 260 *note*, Burning in the spurting pitch of the pyre of pine-wood. 1871 STEPHENS in *Archaeologia* XLIII. 101 What with the loose paper and the running ink, and the spurting pen.

b. *Spurting cucumber*: see SPIRTING *ppl. a.* 1 b. ..Cucumber, spurting.

Spurtle (spɔ̄·t'l), *sb.*1 *Sc.* and *north.* Also 6 **spurtill,** 9 **-il, -el, spirtle, spurkle,** etc. [Of doubtful origin: cf. SPARTLE *sb.*]

1. † **a.** A flat implement used for turning oat-cakes, etc. *Obs.* **b.** A wooden stick for stirring porridge, etc.; a potstick or 'thivel'.

15.. in *Bannatyne MS.* (Hunter. Club) 388 Ane spurtill

braid, and ane elwand. *a* 1572 KNOX *Hist. Ref.* Wks. 1846 I. 38 The preast (said he)..standis up on Sounday, and cryes, 'Ane hes tynt a spurtill'. 1677 NICOLSON in *Trans. R. Lit. Soc.* (1870) IX. 320 *Spurtle*, a piece of wood for turning oaten cakes. 1725 in Herd *Sc. Songs* (1776) II. 143 A spurtle and a sowen mug. 1776 '*Our Goodman*' Ibid. 173 Muckle hae I seen; But siller-handed spurtles Saw I never nane. *Ibid.* Gloss. 266 *Spurtle*, a flat iron for turning cakes. 1808 JAMIESON s.v., A wooden or iron spattle, for turning bread, is called a *spirtle*, Ang[us]. 1839 WILSON *Tales* V. 370/1 The lid of the pot in one hand, and the 'spurtle' in the other. 1894 CROCKETT *Raiders* xxi. 190 [She was] standing with the porridge spurtle in her hand.

2. *transf.* A sword. Also *attrib.*

1670 J. FRASER *Polichron.* (S.H.S.) 486 Then the King will say,..If't please your Grace put up your spurtle, Peter! 1789 BURNS *On Capt. Grose* v, But now he's quat the spurtle-blade, And dog-skin wallet. 1822 GALT *Sir A. Wylie* lxxvi, 'The spurtle,' as he peevishly called the sword.

Spurtle (spɜ·ɪt'l), *sb.*[2] [f. next. Cf. SPIRTLE *sb.*] The action or an act of spurtling.

1894 'FIONA MACLEOD' *Pharais* i, The spurtle of the sea-wrack,..the cries of the gulls.

Spurtle (spɜ·ɪt'l), *v.* [f. SPURT *v.*[1] + -LE. Cf. SPIRTLE *v.*]

1. *trans.* a. To besprinkle or bespatter. *rare.*

1633 J. FISHER *True Trojans* III. vii, The conduits of his vitall spring being ript, Spurtled my robes, solliciting Reuenge. 1868 R. W. HUNTLEY *Cotswold* (Glouc.) *Dial., Spurtle*, to sprinkle with any fluid.

b. To cause to spurt or spatter. *rare.*

1858 CASWALL *Poems* 111 Around thee swarm Spirits of darkness fresh from yawning hell, Spurtling their fiery insatiate wrath on thy defenceless head.

2. *intr.* a. To burst or fly out in a small quantity or stream with some force or suddenness; to spirt or spurt.

1651 OGILBY *Æsop* (1665) 37 Whilst warm Blood spurtles in his face and eyes. 1656 W. COLES *Art of Simpling* 39 The seed will spurtle forth suddenly. 1899 J. G. FRAZER in *Fortn. Rev.* April 660 Some young men,..opening veins in their arms, allow the blood to spurtle over the edge of the rock.

b. To sputter.

1671 GREW *Anat. Pl.* I. (1682) 17 So Fenil-Seeds, held in the flame of a Candle, will spit and spurtle, like the Serum of Blood.

†Spu·rtled, *a. Sc. Obs.* [Metathetic form of SPRUTTLED *a.*] Speckled, spotted, variegated.

1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* II. iv. 32 (Small), Thai..twyse faldis thair spurtlit skynnis, but dowt, About his hals. *Ibid.* VII. iv. 91 (1710), Ane byrd..Wyth spourtlit wyngis, clepit ane Specht wyth vs.

Spu·rty, *a. rare.* [f. SPURT *sb.*[1] + -Y.] Characterized by spurts; intermittent, spasmodic.

1894 *Forum* May 305 In the relations of exercise to regimen and exposure, in the dangers of a spurty and erethic diathesis.

Spur-wheel. Also **spur wheel.** [SPUR *sb.*[1]] A gear-wheel which has cogs or teeth on the periphery, projecting radially from the centre; a cog-wheel.

1731 *Phil. Trans.* XXXVII. 10 The Spur Wheel. 1764 J. FERGUSON *Lect.* 78 A cog or spur-wheel may be placed upon each side of the water-wheel. 1805 DICKSON *Pract. Agric.* I. Pl. xiv, On the axle of this water-wheel is fixed a large spur-wheel..of 160 cogs. 1861 SMILES *Engineers* III. 97 The power of the two cylinders was combined by means of spurwheels. 1884 W. H. GREENWOOD *Steel & Iron* xi. 215 A spur-wheel, gearing into a pinion which is connected with a train of gearing driven by a small steam-engine. *fig.* 1870 MRS. RIDDELL *Austin Friars* iv, Love sets in motion the spur-wheel which turns all the other wheels of existence.

Spur-wing, spurwing. *Ornith.* [Cf. next.] A spur-winged water-hen, goose, etc.

1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 389/2 *Spur-wing*, the English name for species of the Genus *Parra*. 1855 OGILVIE *Suppl., Spur-wing*; geese of the genus Plectropterus are also so called. They are natives of Africa, and have two strong spurs on the shoulder of the wing. 1900 GROGAN & SHARP *Cape to Cairo* xxiii. 294 At my first shot I killed two large spurwings, and a few more rounds provided geese for all the camp. *attrib.* 1897 HINDE *Congo Arabs* 270 The spur-wing geese seemed to be flocking preparatory to migrating.

Spur-winged, *a. Ornith.* [f. SPUR *sb.*[1]] Having one or more stiff claws or spurs projecting from the pinion-bone of the wing. In specific names (see quots.).

a. 1668 CHARLETON *Onomast.* 116 *Anser Chilensis*,..the Spur-wing'd Goose of America. 1785 LATHAM *Gen. Synop. Birds* III. II. 452 Spur-winged Goose, *Anas Gambensis*. 1865 LIVINGSTONE *Zambesi* xxi. 431 Occasionally we saw ..spurwinged geese. 1879 E. P. WRIGHT *Anim. Life* 333 The Spur-winged Goose (*Plectropterus gambensis*) is a native of West Africa.

b. 1755 G. EDWARDS *Glean. Nat. Hist.* II. Pl. 280 The black-brested spur-winged Plover. 1785 LATHAM *Gen. Synop. Birds* III. I. 213 Spur-winged Plover, *Charadrius spinosus*. 1825 WATERTON *Wand. S. Amer.* I. (1903) 32 The spur-winged plover, and a species of the curlew,..frequently rise before you. 1899 F. V. KIRBY *Sport E. C. Africa* i. 4 The spur-winged plovers not only warn the crocodiles,..but act as tooth-picks for the saurians.

c. 1716 *Petiveriana* I. 284 The Spur-wing'd Lapwing. 1743 G. EDWARDS *Nat. Hist. Birds* I. Pl. 48 The spur-winged Water Hen. 1824 *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) XVI. 537/1 The Jacana, or spur-winged water-hen (*Parra Chilensis*), is a beautiful bird with very long feet. 1829 GRIFFITH tr. *Cuvier* VIII. 600 Spur-winged Swan, *Anas Gambensis*. 1897 *Daily News* 16 Nov. 6/2 The Spur-winged Lapwing of La Plata.

Spus(e, obs. ff. SPOUSE *sb.* and *v.* **Spusbreche, -bruche,** varr. SPOUSE-BREACH [1] *Obs.*

†Sput, *v. Obs. rare.* [Of obscure origin.] *trans.* To urge, incite.

c 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 123 He hit forgulte..þa þe he tuhte and spuhte [*sic*] þet folc to cristes cwale. *a* 1225 *Juliana* 58 (Royal MS.), Heo as þe feond sputte [*v.r.* spurede] ham te don hit, duden hit unsparlich. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 196 þet flesch put [*v.r.* sput] propremen touward swetnesse & touward eise.

Sput, pa. t. and pa. ppl. (now *dial.*) of SPIT *v.*[2]

‖ **Sputa,** pl. of SPUTUM.

† Sputa·minous, *a. Obs. rare.* [f. L. *spūtāmin-*, *spūtāmen*, f. *spūtāre* to spit.] Of the nature of spittle; characterized by the presence or flow of saliva.

1597 A. M. tr. *Guillemeau's Fr. Chirurg.* 25 b/2 They retayne in them a certayne sputaminous humiditye which descendeth out of the heade. *Ibid.* 51/1 Those which haue passede through the driveling or sputaminouse climate [=climacter].

† Sputania. *Obs.* Also **-anta.** (See quots.)

1588–1617 GREENE *Alcida* C, He became halfe lunaticke, as if hee had eaten of the seed of sputanta, that troubleth the braine with giddinesse. *Ibid.* G iv, Shee seemed to haue eaten of the herbe Sputania, which shutteth vp the stomake for a long season.

† Sputa·tion. *Obs.* [a. F. *sputation*, ad. L. **spūtātio*, f. *spūtāre*, frequentative of *spuĕre* to spit.] The action of spitting; expectoration.

1657 TOMLINSON *Renou's Disp.* 166* Which may be easily excluded by frequent sputation. 1666 G. HARVEY *Morb. Angl.* (1672) 89 This simple bloody sputation of the Lungs is differenced from that, which concomitates a Pleurisie.

† Spu·tative, *a. Obs. rare.* [f. L. *spūt-āre*: see -ATIVE.] Of, characterized by, given to (excessive) spitting or salivation.

a 1639 WOTTON in *Relig.* (1672) 370 To see whether..I could pick out any counsel to allay that Sputative Symptome which yet remaineth upon me from my obstruction of the spleen. 1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.*, *Sputative*, that spits often or much.

Sputcheon (spʊ·tʃən). [Of obscure origin.] (See quots.)

1842 BURN *Naval & Mil. Techn. Dict.* I, *Batte de la cuvette*, sputcheon of the mouth-piece of a sword-scabbard, or that part which retains the wooden scabbard. 1878 *Times* 19 Nov. 10/2 The metal 'sputcheon' or 'cup-lining' of the scabbard's mouth must come in contact with the blade-edge when the sword is drawn.

Sputе, obs. form of SPOUT *sb.*

Sputе, *v.*[1] *Obs.* or *dial.* Also 4 **spoute,** 6 **speut.** [Aphetic form of DISPUTE *v.*] *intr.* To dispute; to contend in disputation. Usu. const. *with.*

Modern instances from south-western dial. and U.S. are possibly of recent formation.

a 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 1308 Ne funde we nowhwer nan swa deope ilearet þat durste sputin wið us. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 19407 Vp þar ras to spute him with Men þat war o sundri kyth. 13.. *E. E. Allit P.* B. 845 Whatt! þay sputen & speken of so spitous fylþe. *a* 1400 *Hymns Virgin* (1867) 46 And ȝit oonis y siȝ him spute in þe scoole halle. *c* 1450 *Mirk's Festial* 109 Oure lady sputyd wyth þe angell of þe maner, and how scho schuld conceyue. 1556 J. HEYWOOD *Spider & Fly* xxxix. 4, I forbad here all spouting in souostrie [=sophistry]. Now thei speut, in speuting who may speut most hie.

So **† Spu·ting,** disputing, disputation. *Obs. rare.*

c 1250 *Owl & Night.* 1574 Þu ne schalt..Onswere non þar-to fynde; Al þis sputing schal aswinde. 1556 [see above].

† Sputе, *v.*[2] *Obs.*[—1] [ad. L. *spūt-āre* to spit.] *trans.* To spit on (a person, etc.).

1382 WYCLIF *Job* xxx. 10 To spute [L. *conspuere*] my face they shame not.

Sputher, variant of SPUDDER.

† Spu·tisoun. *Obs.*[—1] [Aphetic form of DISPUTISOUN.] Disputation.

a 1375 *Joseph Arim.* 343 He sprong in his sputison, and speek harde wordes.

† Spu·tous, *a. Obs.*[—1] In 4 **sputus, -wys-.** [var. of SPITOUS *a.*, perh. under the influence of SPUTE *v.*[1]] = DESPITOUS *a.* Hence **† Spu·tously** *adv. Obs.*[—1]

c 1420 *Chron. Vilod.* 4495 For Williham was a full sputus mon, y-wys, & nomely bokke-hunters in his tyme nad no rest. *c* 1450 *Mirk's Festial* 145 He..grynd his teþe, and rebuked sputwyslyche þys oþyr Iew.

Sputter (spʊ·tər), *sb.* [f. SPUTTER *v.*]

1. Noisy or violent and confused speech or discourse; angry, excited, or fussy argument or protest; fuss, clamour; = SPLUTTER *sb.* 1 b.

1673 WYCHERLEY *Gentl. Dancing Master* v. i, All the sputter I made was but to make this young man..believe ..that it was not with my connivance or consent. 1676 MARVELL *Mr. Smirke* 40 But he must make some sputter rather then be held to the terms of the Question. 1706 BAYNARD *Cold Baths* II. 275 Z[oun]ds it will kill you (quoth he in Sputter and Passion). 1721 STEELE *Conscious Lovers* IV. iii, What a deal of pother and sputter here is between my mistress and Mr. Myrtle from mere punctilio. 1760–72 H. BROOKE *Fool of Qual.* (1809) III. 35 Weak or vapid tempers..boil over in..factious sputter and turbulence. 1812 D'ISRAELI *Calam. Auth.* (1867) 91 He has..chronicled his suppressed feelings..with all the flame and sputter of his strong prejudices. 1884 *Chr. Commonw.* 23 Oct. 20/3 What is there left when the chaff of sputter and jangle of platitude and puerility has been sifted away?

b. An instance or occasion of this. *rare.*

1692 WAGSTAFFE *Vind. Carolinæ* vi. 64 [He] makes such a Sputter about the old Law. 1721 WODROW *Ch. Hist.* (1828) I. 340/1 [They] made a terrible sputter against private meetings and societies for prayer.

c. A state of bustling confusion or excitement.

1823 in *Spirit Publ. Jrnls.* 150 He will live in a sputter, And die in a gutter. *a* 1898 in *Eng. Dial. Dict.* s.v., *In a sputter*, in a fuss.

2. Matter ejected in or by sputtering. *rare.*

1748 RICHARDSON *Clarissa* (1768) V. xxxi. 290 She pouted out her blubber-lips, as if to bellows up wind and sputter into her horse-nostrils. 1818 TODD, *Sputter*, moisture thrown out in small drops.

3. The action or an act of sputtering; the emission of small particles with some amount of explosive sound; the sound characteristic of or accompanying this. Freq. *fig.* or in fig. context.

1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. III. v, It is a quite new kind of contest this with the Parlement: no transitory sputter, as from collision of hard bodies. 1845 ALB. SMITH *Fort. Scattergood Fam.* XXX. (1887) 97 Nothing breaking the silence but the occasional sputter of the rushlight. 1894 *Rev. of Reviews* Apr. 403/1 The peaceful partition of Africa ..is evidently going to be carried out amid a constant sputter of little wars.

b. A spattering or sprinkling.

1887 RUSKIN *Præterita* II. 150 But, outside the ramparts, no more poor. A-sputter, perhaps,..along the Savoy road.

Sputter (spʊ·tər), *v.* [=Du. *sputteren*, WFris. *sputterje*, NFris. *sputteri*, *spütere*, of imitative origin.]

1. *trans.* To spit out in small particles and with a characteristic explosive sound or a series of such sounds. Also in fig. context.

1598, 1602 [see SPUTTERING *ppl. a.* 1]. 1697 DRYDEN *Æneid* II. 279 Two serpents..lick'd their hissing jaws, that sputter'd flame. 1720 POPE *Iliad* XXIII. 921 Thus sourly wail'd he, sputt'ring dirt and gore. 1791 COWPER *Iliad* XXIII. 972 He grasp'd his horn, and sputt'ring as he stood The ordure forth, the Argives thus bespake. 1835 T. MITCHELL *Aristoph. Acharn.* 1041 *note*, A habit which he had of sputtering his saliva on bystanders.

b. *transf.* To scatter, throw up or about, in small particles.

1845 S. JUDD *Margaret* I. xvii, One [sled] went giddying round and round, fraying and sputtering the snow, and dashed against a tree.

2. To utter hastily and with the emission of small particles of saliva; to ejaculate in a confused, indistinct, or uncontrolled manner, esp. from anger or excitement. Cf. SPLUTTER *v.* I.

a 1677 BARROW *Serm.* Wks. 1716 I. 170 Nor out of..inadvertency should we sputter our reproachful speech. 1681 H. NEVILE *Plato Rediv.* 260, I have known some men so full of their own Notions, that they went up and down sputtering them in every Mans Face. 1753 FOOTE *Englishm. in Paris* 1, Our pretty gentlemen..sputter nothing but bad French in the side-boxes at home. 1817 BYRON *Beppo* xliv, Like our harsh northern whistling, grunting guttural, Which we're obliged to hiss, and spit, and sputter all. 1841 BROWNING *Pippa Passes* Poems (1905) 169 So Luca..lives to sputter His fulsome dotage on you. 1891 S. C. SCRIVENER *Our Fields & Cities* 172 Don't be a fool when you are talking to the managing clerk.., and go sputtering any of this rot to him.

b. With *out.*

1730 SWIFT *Vindic. Ld. Carteret* Wks. 1841 II. 113/2 Without the least pretended incitement [to] sputter out the basest and falsest accusations. 1783 MISS BURNEY *Early Diary* (1889) II. 310 This speech he sputtered out just as if his mouth had been full of beef and pudding. 1877 *Smith & Wace's Dict. Chr. Biog.* I. 469 Another desperate attempt to sputter out the guttural, Phthasuarsas, is found in Theophanes.

3. *intr.* Of persons: To eject from the mouth, to spit out, food or saliva in small particles with some force and in a noisy explosive manner.

1681 H. MORE *Expos. Dan.* 285 The Welch-man..bit the Rine of the Orange into his mouth together with the Pulp, which made him sputter and make hard faces. 1683 TRYON *Way to Health* 305 They feed them till they sputter out of their Mouthes, and also cast it up. 1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* I. (Globe) 216 Putting a little [salt] into his own Mouth, he seem'd to nauseate it, and would spit and sputter at it. 1792 MME. D'ARBLAY *Diary* V. VII. 319 Putting her face close to mine, and sputtering at every word from excessive eagerness. 1845 WHITEHEAD *R. Savage* 350 As a child sputters and wawls when physic is forced upon it. 1878 P. BAYNE *Pur. Rev.* ii. 28 His tongue was too large for his mouth; he stuttered and sputtered.

4. To speak or talk hastily and confusedly or disjointedly.

Freq. with implication of prec. sense.

1681 T. FLATMAN *Heraclitus Ridens* No. 48 (1713) II. 53 He storms and sputters like—like any think. 1696 W. MOUNTAGU *Holland* 4 The Servants..sputter'd in Dutch, which they understood not. 1730 SWIFT *Traulus* I. 9 Why must he sputter, spawl, and slaver it In vain against the People's Fav'rite? *Ibid.* 63 Though he sputter through a session, It never makes the least impression. 1831 TRELAWNY *Adv. Younger Son* II. 160 Sputtering about the ignorance of womankind. 1852 H. ROGERS *Eclipse of Faith* 167 They began to sputter at one another, on the supposition that each was mocking his neighbour. 1871 TENNYSON *Last Tourn.* 65 Then, sputtering thro' the hedge of splinter'd teeth,..said the maim'd churl.

transf. 1828 SCOTT *F. M. Perth* vii, The sea-gull, which flutters, screams, and sputters most at the commencement of a gale of wind.

5. To make or give out a sputtering sound or sounds, esp. under the influence of heat.

1692 DRYDEN *Cleomenes* I. i, Like the Green Wood That sputtring in the Flame works outward into Tears. 1706 E. WARD *Wooden World Diss.* (1708) 79 Vex him then, and he shall swell and sputter like a roasted apple. 1866 WHITTIER *Snow-bound* 172 The mug of cider simmered slow, The apples sputtered in a row. *fig.* 1879 MCCARTHY *Own Times* xviii. II. 16 Chartism bubbled and sputtered a little yet in some of the provincial towns.

b. Of a candle, fire, etc. (Cf. the *ppl. a.* 2.)
1845 Alb. Smith *Fort. Scattergood Fam.* xxxii. (1887) 109 The candle .. was sputtering with the rain-drops. 1850 Dickens *Dav. Copp.* xx, The newly-kindled fire crackled and sputtered. 1889 D. C. Murray *Dangerous Catspaw* 20 A gas jet, which shrieked and sputtered as he applied the match.

Spu·tterer. *rare* −°. [f. Sputter *v.*] One who or that which sputters.
1687 Miége *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II, Sputterer, ..*une personne qui crachote à force de parler vite.* 1755 in Johnson.

Spu·ttering, *vbl. sb.* [f. as prec.] The action of the verb in various senses; an instance of this.
1719 Boyer *Dict. Royal* I, *Crachotement*, .. Sputtering, Spitting often. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* II. III. iv, A continual crackling and sputtering of riots from the whole face of France. 1844 Dickens *Mart. Chuz.* iii, Such a smoking and sputtering of wood newly lighted in a damp chimney. 1884 *Fortn. Rev.* Mar. 326 Feeble little sputterings of mutual admiration or inane twaddle.

b. *pl.* Small particles sputtered out or emitted with some force and noise.
1894 Hall Caine *Manxman* iv. xiv, Then Nancy began to fly about the kitchen like sputterings out of the frying-pan.

Spu·ttering, *ppl. a.* [f. as prec.]
1. Emitting or ejecting saliva or spittle. Also in comb. *venom-sputtering.*
1598 Marston *Sco.Villanie* III. xi. 229 Avaunt lewd curre, presume not speake Or with thy venome-sputtering chaps to barke Gainst well-pend poems. 1602 Dekker *Satiro-m.* Wks. 1873 I. 244 Thy sputtering chappes yelpe, that Arrogance, and Impudence, ..are the essentiall parts of a Courtier.

2. Characterized by, burning with, making or giving out, a succession of explosive sounds accompanied by the emission of small particles, sparks, or bursts of flame.
1649 G. Daniel *Trinarch., Hen. V*, cxx, The Despaireing flame Resigns its Sputtering light, ere the Time came. 1697 Dryden *Æneid* xii. 762 The laurels crackle in the sputt'ring fire. 1743 Davidson *Æneid* viii. 251 Others dip the sputtering Metals in the Trough. 1794 Schmeisser *Syst. Min.* I. 219 The so called sprudel stone or sputtering stone, from Carlsbad. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* III. v. vi, The wheels of Langres scream, amid their sputtering fire-halo. 1848 Thackeray *Van. Fair* lxi, A sputtering tallow candle. 1880 Grant *Hist. India* vi. 33/2 A sputtering fire of musketry was kept up for two hours.

b. Of sound, etc.
1825 Jamieson *Suppl.*, *Sotter*, ..the bubbling, crackling, or sputtering noise made by any thing in boiling or cooking. 1860 Tyndall *Glac.* I. xxv. 189 My lamp..carried on a sputtering combustion. 1874 L. Stephen *Hours Libr.* (1892) I. iii. 94 His writings resemble those fireworks which., suddenly break out again into sputtering explosions.

3. Of speech, etc., or of persons with reference to this: (see Sputter *v.* 4).
1691 *New Disc. Old Intreague* xxxiii. 33 Sir W—m W—ms first the Cause espous'd, And all his sputtering Eloquence he rous'd. 1756 Mrs. Delany *Life & Corr.* (1861) III. 411 To make out sputtering Hampden's observation. 1812 Combe *Tour Picturesque* xxiii, Then..his shrill and sputt'ring speeches. *c* 1825 Ld. Cockburn *Mem.* iii. (1874) 135 His voice..got sputtering and screechy when he became excited. 1835 T. Mitchell *Aristoph. Acharn.* 1041 *note*, It would have afforded the angry chorus a very appropriate quotation against their parsimonious and sputtering provider.

Hence **Spu·tteringly** *adv.*, in a sputtering manner; with a sputter or sputters.
1833 Lamb *Elia* II. *Barbara S—*, When she crammed a portion of it into her mouth, she was obliged sputteringly to reject it. 1861 *Temple Bar* III. 359 'But—but'—I exclaimed sputteringly.

Sputtery (spʊ·təri), *a. rare.* [f. Sputter *v.* + -y.] Inclined to sputter or burst out explosively; of a sputtering nature.
1858 Carlyle *Fredk. Gt.* III. v. I. 232 This youth, very full of fire,..had been rather sputtery upon his Uncle. 1864 *Ibid.* xvi. ix. IV. 384 D'Argens..Has abundance of light sputtery wit, and Provençal fire and ingenuity. 1867 — *Remin.* (1881) II. 59 His mood had really been splenetic, sputtery, and improper.

‖ **Sputum** (spiū·tŭm). *Med.* Pl. **sputa** (spiū·tă). [L. *spūtum* spit, spittle, neut. pa. pple. of *spuĕre* to spit.] Saliva or spittle mixed with mucus or purulent matter, and expectorated in certain diseased states of the lungs, chest, or throat; a mass or quantity of this.
sing. 1693 tr. *Blancard's Phys. Dict.* (ed. 2), *Sputum*, a Liquor thicker than ordinary Spittle. 1784 *Med. Comm.* I. 397 The qualities of the sputum. 1803 *Med. Jrnl.* IX. 378 Although the cough continues, the expectoration is more free, the sputum being of a thicker consistence and milder quality. 1881 *Tablet* 28 Feb. 358 Some of the sputum left on the edge of the cup.
pl. 1829 Cooper *Good's Study Med.* II. 470 Frequently the characteristic sputa are observed only at the very beginning of the disease. 1876 Bristowe *Th. & Pract. Med.* (1878) 438 With the advance of the disease..the sputa usually become increased in quantity.

Spuwe, obs. form of Spew *v.*

Spuying, obs. form of Spewing *vbl. sb.*

Spuyl(e, obs. forms of Spoil *sb.* and *v.*1

Spy (spəi), *sb.* Also 4–7 **spie, spye.** [ad. OF. *espie* (=Sp. and Pg. *espia*, It. *spia*) Espy *sb.*; hence also MDu. *spie.* In sense 4 partly f. Spy *v.*]
1. One who spies upon or watches a person or persons secretly; a secret agent whose business it is to keep a person, place, etc., under close observation; esp. one employed by a government in order to obtain information relating to the military or naval affairs of other countries, or to collect intelligence of any kind.
c 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 2169 It semet wel ðat ȝe spies ben, And in-to ðis lond cumen to sen, And..for to spien ur lord ðe king. *Ibid.* 2174 Spies were we neuer non. *c* 1380 Wyclif *Wks.* (1880) 272 God hab ȝouen a prest to be a spie to aspie þe soũl disceitis of þe fend & warne þe peple of hem. *c* 1384 Chaucer *H. Fame* II. 196 Though that Fame had al the pies In al a Realme, and al the spies. *c* 1400 Maundev. (1839) xi. 131 Whan the Spyes seen ony Cristene men comen upon hem, thei rennen to the Townes. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 469/1 Spy, or watare.., *explorator.* 1508 Dunbar *Tua Mariit Wemen* 161 To speik, quoth scho, I sall nought spar; ther is no spy neir. 1592 Shaks. *Ven. & Ad.* 655 This sour informer, this hate-breeding spy. 1617 Morvson *Itin.* III. 13 Theeves have their spies commonly in all Innes, to inquire after the condition of passengers. 1667 Milton *P. L.* II. 970, I come no Spie With purpose to explore or to disturb The secrets of your Realm. 1706–7 Farquhar *Beaux' Strat.* III. i, Why some think he's a Spy, some guess he's a Mountebank. 1797 Mrs. Radcliffe *Italian* xiii, They are certainly spies from the Monastery. 1855 Prescott *Philip II*, II. iii. I. 172 His spies were everywhere, mingling with the suspected and insinuating themselves into their confidence. 1882 J. H. Blunt *Ref. Ch. Eng.* II. 122 John Hooper..and ..William Latimer .. informed against him to the Privy Council, having no doubt been sent as official spies.
transf. and *fig.* 1590 Spenser *F. Q.* I. ii. 17 Each others equall puissaunce enuies, And through their iron sides with cruell spies Does seeke to perce. *Ibid.* III. i. 36 And whilest he bath'd, with her two crafty spyes, She secretly would search each daintie lim. 1654 Whitlock *Zootomia* 560 Testimonies of dying Saints:..we may call them Intelligence from the Spies of Eternity, seeing .. the Grapes of that Canaan. 1663 Patrick *Parab. Pilgr.* xxi, If there be any thing of greater force than other to bring you acquainted with the joy and peace of Jerusalem,..this must be that happy Spy.

b. Const. *on, upon* (rarely *of*). Also *transf.*
1375 Barbour *Bruce* VII. 386 He to Carleill than vald ga, And a quhill thar-in soiorn ma, And haf his spyis on the kyng. 1623 Wotton in Pearsall Smith *Life & Lett.* (1907) II. 237, I conceive it a duty to tell your Lordship first how we stand here at this date. For ambassadors (in our old Kentish language) are but spies of the time. 1680 N. Tate *Loyal General* Addr. E. Tayler A v, He was a most diligent Spie upon Nature. 1725 De Foe *Voy. round World* (1840) 35 They had presently three Dutchmen, set by the Dutch captain, unperceived by them, to be spies upon them, and to mark exactly what they did. 1797 Mrs. Radcliffe *Italian* ii, He suspected that this man was at once the spy of his steps and the defamer of his love. 1833 Hr. Martineau *Loom & Lugger* I. iii. 38 But these men are spies only upon those who break the laws. 1849 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* v. I. 533 There is strong reason to believe that he provided for his own safety by pretending at Whitehall to be a spy on the Whigs.

c. As the title of various periodicals, etc.
1644 The Spie, communicating Intelligence from Oxford. 1706 E. Ward, The London Spy. 1712 Swift *Let. Eng. Tongue* Wks. 1751 II. i. 189 Those monstrous productions, which under the name of trips, spies, amusements, and other conceited appellations, have over-run us for some years past. 1739 The Universal Spy, or London Weekly Magazine. 1810–1 [Hogg], The Spy. A periodical paper of literary amusement and instruction. 1854 *Poultry Chron.* II. 174 The 'Worcester Spy' says that the corn crop in Central Massachusetts, will be nearly or quite an average one.

† **d.** *Black spy*, the Devil.
a 1700 in B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew.*

2. *Mil.* A person employed in time of war to obtain secret information regarding the enemy; in early use esp. one venturing in disguise into the enemy's camp or territory.
13.. *K. Alis.* 3530 (Linc.), Þe spies on boþe sydes goþ, An tellip tales for soþ, Of Alisaundre, and eke Darie. 1338 R. Brunne *Chron.* (1810) 241 Had þei had a spie among þe Walssh oste,..þei had bien men lyuand, þat þer to dede went. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xl. (*Ninian*) 905 Þe Inglis.. vend þar spy betraisit had þame to þe knycht. *c* 1420 Lydg. *Assembly of Gods* 1022 Er he came at the felde he sent yet pryuyly Sensualyte before, in maner of a spy. *c* 1450 *Merlin* xviii. 290 On the morowe erly Gawein sente a spie for to se what the saisnes diden. 1533 Tindale *Lord's Supper* Wks. (1573) 472/1 As if a souldier of our aduersaries part shoulde come in among vs with our Lordes badge,..we would..take him for a spye. *a* 1548 Hall *Chron., Hen. VIII*, 25 b, At a certayn foord shewed to them by a spy which serued ye yoman of ye tentes of vitailes. 1665 Manley *Grotius' Low-C. Wars* 267 Then they considered their danger, especially upon the Return of some that had been sent as Spies. 1699 Temple *Hist. Eng.* 113 Upon approach of his Enemies he sent Spies into the Norman Camp, who were taken. 1777 in Sparks *Corr. Amer. Rev.* (1853) I. 428 My scouts and spies inform me, that the enemy's head-quarters and main body are at Saratoga. 1846 Wright *Ess. Mid. Ages* II. xiii. 87 In the early romances, no disguise is so frequently used by a spy as that of a minstrel. 1899 *The Hague Conference* Art. 29, An individual can only be considered a spy if, acting clandestinely, or on false pretences, he obtains or seeks to obtain information in the zone of operations of a belligerent, with the intention of communicating it to the hostile party.

† **3.** An ambush, ambuscade, snare. *Obs. rare.* Cf. Espy *sb.* 1 b.
c 1380 *Antecrist* in Todd *Three Treat. Wyclif* (1851) 116 He sitteþ in spies wiþ riche men þat he slee an innocent man in privee. 1382 Wyclif 1 *Kings* xvi. 20 The remnaunt..of the wordis of Zamry, and of the spies [1388 tresouns] of him, and of the tyraundise.

4. The action of spying; secret observation or watching; an instance or occasion of this. Chiefly in phrases.
c 1450 *Knt. de la Tour* (1868) 7 Hit happed that the lorde made spie how the gentill-woman was gone to hide her. 1605 Shaks. *Mach.* III. i. 130, I will aduise you where to plant your selues, Acquaint you with the perfect Spy o' th' time, The moment on 't. 1751 *Female Foundling* I. 143 This young Baggage was on the Spy, and cannot hold her Tongue when she has done. 1857 A. Mayhew *Paved with Gold* II. viii, But he's always at the window looking over your way, and if you keep a spy on her, there'll be some fun.

5. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *spy-hunting, -knave, -like* adj., *-mania, -system, -work*, etc.; † **spy-boat,** a vessel used for purposes of observation; **spy-money,** payment for the services of a spy; **spy-ship,** = *spy-boat*; **Spy Wednesday,** in Irish use, the Wednesday before Easter (in allusion, it is said, to Judas).
1637 Heywood *Royall Ship* 10 A kind of *Spie-boates which waited upon a fleete at sea. 1693 Luttrell. *Brief Rel.* (1857) III. 52 The German spy boat came upon the coast of France with a fleet of 16 French merchant men. 1704 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4019/2 Her Majesty's Spy Boat the Chatham Prize. 1871 N. Sheppard *Shut up in Paris* 58 Crowd dissolves to wreak its wrath in *spy-hunting. 1622 Fletcher *Beggar's Bush* III. iii, You are sent here, Sirra, To discover certain Gentlemen, a *spy-knave. 1599 B. Jonson *Cynthia's Rev.* Prologue, *Spie-like suggestions, privie whisperings, And thousand such promooting sleights as these. 1668 *Extr. State Papers rel. Friends* Ser. III. (1912) 276 He may be imployed about busines from Holland, and soe spy like carry intelligence there. 1894 *Daily News* 21 Nov. 5/4 The recrudescence of the *spy-mania in France. 1713 Addison *Guard.* No. 97 P 4 *Spy-money to John Trott her footman, and Mrs. Sarah Wheedle, her companion. 1858 tr. *Life of Xavier* 188 The *spy-ships which he had sent.. to ascertain the fate of the contest between the Acheens and Portuguese. 1880 McCarthy *Own Times* IIII. IV. 137 The *spy system was soon flourishing in full force. 1842 Lover *Handy Andy* xxiii, She spakes like a French spy,..and she was missin', I remember, all last *Spy-Wednesday. 1804 J. Larwood *No Gun Boats* 23 Her Emissaries are at the secret *spywork of observation and information. 1818 Cobbett *Pol. Reg.* XXXIII. 50 It appears..that the Duke of Montrese..highly approved of his spy-work.

Spy (spəi), *v.* Forms: 3–4 **spien,** 4–7 **spie** (4, 6 **spi**); 4–6 **spye** (4 **speȝe,** 5 **spyȝe, spyyn**), 4– **spy.** Also 5 *pa. pple.* **spyne.** [ad. OF. *espier* Espy *v.* Cf. MDu. *spien* (Du. *spieden*), MLG. *spên*, MSw. *speia, speya* (Sw. *speja*), ON. *speja, spæja.*]
I. *trans,* **1.** To watch (a person, etc.) in a secret or stealthy manner; to keep under observation with hostile intent; to act as a spy upon (one).
c 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 2172 Cume ȝe for non oðer ðing, but for to spien ur lord ðe king. 1338 R. Brunne *Chron.* (1810) 40 Eilred ȝede þorgh his lond, prively to spie Euerilkon þe Danes. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* ii. (*Paul*) 22 In Ierusalem he wes bofte, spyit, waitit, and bundyn ofte. *a* 1400 *Sqr. Lowe Degre* 641 The steward was ordeyned to spy And for to take them utterly. 1456 Sir G. Haye *Law Armis* (S.T.S.) 164 Men may..barate thair inymyes.., or ȝit ger spy thame, and se quhen thay ar in disaray. *a* 1533 Ld. Berners *Huon* clix. 612 The same tyme there was on the mountayne .vi. theues who laye to spye the marchauntes. 1617 Morvson *Itin.* II. 111 Sir Francis Staffords Lieutenant of his horse, sent by Sir Henri Daners to spy the rebels proceedings. 1870 *Pall Mall G.* 22 Oct. 12 Since the commencement of the Empire one half of France spied the other half. 1884 tr. *Gaboriau's Little Old Man* i, Indignantly declaring that he was not in the habit of 'spying' the tenants of the house.

b. To make stealthy observations in (a country or place) from hostile motives. Also with *out.*
a 1300 *Cursor M.* 4824 Þan said Ioseph,..'Bot er yee comen þe land to spi?' 13.. *Coer de L.* 718 With velanye Ye be come my londe to spye, And sum treson me for to don! 1457 Harding *Chron.* in *Eng. Hist. Rev.* Oct. (1912) 751 [He] gafe me in commaundement Scotlonde to spye..How that it myght bene hostayed and distroyed. *c* 1470 Henry *Wallace* v. 490 The toune he spyit, and that forthocht we sone. 1535 Coverdale *Numb.* xiii. 16 The men, whom Moses sent forth to spye out the lande. *Ibid.* 21 They went vp, & spyed the lande. 1626 Gouge *Serm. Dignity Chivalry* § 3 Those choice men which were..sent to spie the Land of Canaan. 1653 H. Cogan tr. *Pinto's Trav.* xxii. 77 He sente two small Barques,..to spy the Port, and sound the depth of the river.

c. To (seek to) discover or ascertain by stealthy observation. Usu. with dependent clause.
1338 R. Brunne *Chron.* (1810) 83 Robert about did spie, if Malcolme wild haf wrouht. 1375 Barbour *Bruce* XV. 114 Thai gert spy That mony of schir Eduardis men War scalit in the cuntre then. *c* 1386 Chaucer *Frankl. T.* 778 For wel he spyed whan sche wolde go Out of hir hous to eny maner place. *a* 1400 *Pistill of Susan* 122 Spyes now specialy if þe ȝatis be sperid. *c* 1460 *Towneley Myst.* ix. 110 Luke that thou spy, both far and nere,..If thou here any saghes sere ..Of that lad. *c* 1470 Henry *Wallace* VI. 467 Spyand full fast, quhar his awaill suld be. 1611 Bible 2 *Kings* vi. 13 Goe and spie where he is, that I may send and fetch him. 1828 Lytton *Pelham* III. xix, Thornton..said he would go alone, to spy whether we might return. 1864 Tennyson *Aylmer's F.* 569 Some low fever ranging round to spy The weakness of a people or a house.

2. To look out for, to seek an opportunity for, in a close or stealthy manner. Now *rare.*
13.. *K. Alis.* 6998 (Laud MS.), Queed & harme he wil me spye. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 1774 Þe prowde prynce of perce ..with ledes of armes, þat now has spyed a space to spovle Caldeez. 1382 Wyclif *Ecclus.* xii. 15 In his herte he spieth, that he turne thee vp so doun in to the dich. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 5085 In speche may men spie the speker to know, And wete, by his wordes, the wit þat he beires. *a* 1425 *Cursor M.* 19715 Nizte or day whenne þei myȝt spie Bi murþerment to do him dize.
1859 Meredith *Juggling Jerry* i, One that outjuggles all 's been spying Long to have me, and he has me now.

3. To look at, examine, or observe closely or

carefully; to see or behold; in mod. use *spec.*, to investigate with a spy-glass or telescope.

c 1325 *Metr. Hom.* 13 His sawel gern spied he [*sc.* Satan], Yef he moht se or find thar inne Any filth or spotte of sinne. 1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. II. 225 Spiceres spoke with hym, to spien here ware. *c* 1440 *Ipomydon* 1730, I haue the spyed, sythe þou oute 3ede: Thou arte my lemman, as I haue thoght. 1508 DUNBAR *Tua Mariit Wemen* 70, I suld at fairis be found, new faceis to spy. 1549 *Compl. Scot.* Prol. 11 Quhen he hed contemplit & spyit the proportions & propreteis of nature. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* I. iv. 5 And all the hinder partes, that few could spie, Were ruinous and old, but painted cunningly. 1812 H. & J. SMITH *Rej. Addr.* 35 Thy rival staggers; come and spy her Deep in the mud as thou art in the mire. 1871 B. TAYLOR *Faust* (1875) II. 52 Great Pan in cheerful mood stands by, Rejoiced the wondrous things to spy. 1893 EARL DUNMORE *Pamirs* II. 78, I spied the whole ground, and never saw a beast.

4. To catch sight of; to descry or discover; to notice or observe. Cf. ESPY *v.* 2.

13.. *K. Alis.* 2183 (Laud MS.), A jolyf kyng ycleped barrys Spyeþ Alisaundres prys. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* XIX. 528 The lord Dowglas has spyit a vay, How that he mycht about thame ryd. *c* 1380 *Sir Ferumb.* 1295 It mi3te hermye 3ow alle in cas if my fader mi3t it spie. 1404-8 *26 Pol. Poems* 29 [Let] No fende spot vppon þe spy3e. *a* 1450 *Knt. de la Tour* (1868) 60 The theef..gothe and comithe till he be spied, and thanne is take. 1480 *Robt. Devyll* 823 in Hazl. *E. P. P.* I. 251 Themperoure..bade hys seruaunte throwe hym a bone. So he dyd, and whan Robert yt had spyne [etc.]. 1575 *Gamm. Gurton* II. iv, Good lord! shall never be my luck my nee'le again to spy? 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* I. i. 7 A shadie grove not farr away they spide. 1626 in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* Ser. I. III. 216 In my passage, spying a doore guarded by one,..I went, and..found an easie entrance. 1687 A. LOVELL tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* I. 166 When they spie that Fish, they strike him on the back with Harping-Irons. 1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* I. 80 Looking out to Sea in hopes of seeing a Ship, then fancy at a vast Distance I spy'd a Sail. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) V. 138 By dilating the pupil, the animal..is enabled to spy its prey..in the dark. 1849 *Sk. Nat. Hist., Mammalia* III. 13 There is great danger if the hippopotamus spies the huntsman before he can throw his spear. 1885-94 R. BRIDGES *Eros & Psyche* May XXV, It must end our love If they should hear or spy thee from above.

transf. *a* 1704 T. BROWN *Dk. Ormond's Recovery* Wks. 1730 I. 51 His mind enlarg'd, and boundless as the sky, Shall unknown worlds and heaven's recesses spy.

b. With immaterial object.

c 1315 SHOREHAM I. 1851 3yf þet one weddeþ þe þral,..And 3yf a spyet þat soþe þrof [etc.]. *c* 1400 *Vwain & Gaw.* 3013 Our kyng..Passed thurgh many cuntre, Aventures to spir and spy. 1508 DUNBAR *Tua Mariit Wemen* 271 Thought I dispytit thaim agane, thai spyit it na thing. 1549 E. ALLEN *Paraphr. Rev.* 4 Whan they spye any thing amysse in them selves. 1598 DRAYTON *Heroical Ep.* (1619) XXII, Feare seeing all, feares it of all is spy'd. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* IV. 1005 The latter..kickt the beam; Which Gabriel spying, thus bespake the Fiend. 1734 WATTS *Reliq. Juv.* (1789) 95 Does nature find so much convenience, or spy so much decency in it? 1780 COWPER *Let.* 8 June, If you spy any fault in my Latin, tell me, for I am sometimes in doubt. 1810 SCOTT *Lady of L.* I. xix, Her kindness and her worth to spy, You need but gaze on Ellen's eye. 1813 — *Trierm.* Introd. v, Too oft my anxious eye has spied That secret grief thou fain wouldst hide.

c. With clause as object.

c 1325 *Song of Yesterday* in *E. E. P.* (1862) 137 Whon þat he wol þe assayle, þat wost þou not, ne neuer may spye. *c* 1350 *Will. Palerne* 3399 Ac spacly þe spaynoles speiled he was slayne. *c* 1400 *Gamelyn* 490 Now I haue spied þat frendes haue I none. 1509 HAWES *Past. Pleas.* XXXV. 181 Besyde a ryver and a craggy roche This gyaunt was whyche spyed me approche. 1573 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 60 Let Christmas spie yard cleane to lie. 1590 LODGE *Euphues Gold. Leg.* I 2 b, Aliena..spied where the hare was by the hounds, and could see day at a little hole. 1628 MILTON *Vac. Exerc.* 61 Thy drowsie Nurse hath sworn she did them spie Come tripping to the Room. 1859 TENNYSON *Guinevere* 31 For Sir Launcelot passing by Spied where he couch'd.

5. To find *out*, to search or seek *out*, by observation or scrutiny.

1530 TINDALE *Prol. Romans* P 2 No man could spy out the intent, and meanyng of it. *a* 1533 LD. BERNERS *Huon* lv. 188 As Huon foughte he spyed out the paynym that had gyuen him his swerde. 1584 POWEL *Lloyd's Cambria* 151 The Normans began to spie out the Commodities of Wales. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* III. 1 The senses..are (as it were) our Sentinels and Watch-men, to spie out all dangers. 1650 HUBBERT *Pill Formality* 69 They might spie out the Saints liberty. 1706 E. WARD *Wooden World Dist.* (1708) 72 He can spy out the Faults in the Structure of a Boat, sooner than those of himself. 1782 MME. D'ARBLAY *Diary* 28 Oct., Lady Shelley, who spied us out, sent us an invitation to her party. 1848 THACKERAY *Lett.* 28 July, I felt ashamed of myself for spying out their follies. 1893 MRS. F. ELLIOT *Diary Constantinople* vi, One little black-eyed child..spied me out as I left the carriage.

II. *intr.* **6.** To make observations (now *spec.* with a spy-glass); to keep watch; to be on the look out.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 27372 þe preist bi-gin þan his franyng, Sua o ferrum for to spi Til he find quar þe roting ly. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 780 Þere in longyng al nyȝt he lengez in wones, Whyl þe souerayn to Sodamas sende to spye. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xiii. (*Mark*) 137 And sa eftyre spyit þai, þat þai fand hyme one pasck-day. *c* 1430 *Syr Gener.* (Roxb.) 2563 So long he spied day and night Til he hapened to haue a sight. 1508 DUNBAR *Tua Mariit Wemen* 427 That I may spy, vnaspyit, a space me beside. 1530 PALSGR. 728/2, I spye for one, I lye awayte for hym, *je aguette.* *a* 1631 DONNE *Songs & Sonnets, Break of day* ii, If it [*sc.* light] could speake as well as spie, This were the worst that it could say.

1883 *Longm. Mag.* Nov. 73 After a very cursory glance round with my own glass, I shut it up and began talking as Charlie spied.

b. Const. *at* (a thing).

1806 BERESFORD *Miseries Hum. Life* v. ix, While there was nothing in the house worth spying at. 1826 HOOD *Mermaid of Margate* ii, On Margate beach,..Where urchins wander to pick up shells, And the Cit to spy at the ships.

7. To make stealthy or covert observations; to play the spy; to pry.

1456 SIR G. HAYE *Law Arms* (S.T.S.) 238 [They may] travaill in were and pes..sa that thare be na coverit malice under, as to spy. 1593 SHAKS. *Lucr.* 1086 Revealing day through every cranny spies. 1604 — *Oth.* III. iii. 147 As I confesse it is my Natures plague To spy into Abuses. 1611 COTGR., *Mouscher*, to spy, pry, sneake into corners, thrust his nose into euery thing. *a* 1637 B. JONSON *Sad Sheph.* I. ii, But spy your worst, good spy, I will dispose of this where least you like!

b. Const. *on* or *upon* (a person, etc.).

1626 DONNE *Lett.* (1651) 314 But this evening I will spie upon the B[ishop]. *a* 1774 GOLDSM. *Hist. Greece* II. 102, I am come to spy upon your vanity and ambition. 1883 G. J. CAYLEY *Las Alforjas* II. 141 What do you mean, sir, by spying upon my movements? 1891 FARRAR *Darkn. & Dawn* xiv, It is no such pleasure to be Emperor with you to spy on me.

Spy-, the stem of the vb. used in combs., in the sense of 'that spies' as *spy-all*, *-fault*, *-maiden*, or 'from or through which one may spy' as *spy-hole*, *-house*, *-tower*, *-window*. Also SPY-GLASS.

(*a*) 1555 WATREMAN *Fardle Facions* II. xi. 256 Thei haue also certaine spiefaultes ordinarilie appointed..that spie in eueryshiere suche as be necligent. 1593 *Passionate Morrice* 80 This Honestie is such a pestilent spie-fault. 1631 DONNE *Polydoron* 117 A Criminal shall have faultie Spy-faults Enough going to Prison. 1706 E. WARD *Wooden World Diss.* (1708) 11 The first Thing he peeps at, thro' this trusty Spy-all, is, the Chase's Port-Holes. 1791 COWPER *Iliad* XI. 469 Archer shrew-tongued! spie-maiden! man of curls!

(*b*) 1717 BERKELEY *Jrnl. Tour Italy* Wks. 1871 IV. 542 Towers..along the coast, being spy-towers against the Turks. 1867 P. KENNEDY *Banks of Boro* XXXVII. 288, I got a..tumbler of punch sitting in my corner inside the spy-hole. 1888 STEVENSON *Black Arrow* 125 Here and there, were spyholes, concealed, on the other side, by the carving of the cornice. 1896 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* I. 312 *L* is a glass spy-hole through which the inmates can be watched. 1896 R. G. MOULTON *Bk. Job* Introd. 38 The eagle in her spy-house of inaccessible crags. 1903 W. WARD *Probl. & Persons* 308 Another room at Moorfields, with a spy window.

† **Spy**, variant of SPI *int.* *Obs.*

c 1315 SHOREHAM I. 2035 Spy, felþe! þer hy myȝte hyt do kendelyche, On-kende hys hare onselthe.

Spyal, Spyar, obs. forms of SPIAL, SPIER.

Spycarie, obs. form of SPICERY.

† **Spyccard.** *Obs.*—[1] (Origin and meaning obscure. Cf. SPITTARD.)

1486 *Bk. St. Albans* f iv b, Ther be beestys of the chace of the swete fewte. And tho be the Bucke, the Doo, the Beere, the Reyndere, the Elke, the Spyccard, the Otre, and the Martron.

Spyce, obs. form of SPICE.

Spy·dom. [f. SPY *sb.*] Spying; espionage; the world of spies.

1859 *Times* 27 Dec. 6/5 Should the practice of spydom become universal, farewell to all domestic confidence and happiness. 1862 *Morning Star* 18 June, The notion of spydom is so abhorrent to the English feeling. 1899 *Daily Tel.* 2 Sept. 10/5 The happy family of spydom assembled in Panizzardi's dining-room.

Spyer, variant of SPIER. **Spyere,** obs. form of SPHERE *sb.* **Spyghtful(l,** obs. ff. SPITEFUL *a.*

Spy-glass. Also **spyglass.** [f. SPY *v.* + GLASS *sb.*] **10.** Cf. SPYING-GLASS.]

1. A telescope; a field-glass.

1706 E. WARD *Wooden World Diss.* (1708) 11 He's never without a swinging large Spy-glass. 1753 *Phil. Trans.* XLVIII. 227 Turning the little end of a spy-glass, it appeared something like the ruins of Palmyra. 1814 SCOTT *Diary* 31 Aug. in *Lockhart* (1837) III. viii. 252 The whole, as seen with a spyglass, seems ruinous. 1840 MARRYAT *Poor Jack* xxi, A telescope, or spy-glass, as sailors generally call them. 1875 W. MCILWRAITH *Guide Wigtownshire* 50 Here with a spy-glass one may discern the entrance to Dirk Hatterick's cave.

2. *dial.* An eye-glass.

1883 R. CLELAND *Inchbracken* xi. 86, I have lost my gold spy-glass, something has caught the chain and broken it.

Spy·ing, *vbl. sb.* [f. SPY *v.*] The action of the verb, in various senses.

1338 R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (1810) 338 Sir Jon de Waleis taken was in a pleyn, þorgh spiyng of Norreis. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* VIII. XXVIII. (Bodl. MS.), Liȝt..destroieth fals waitinges and spyinges. *c* 1430 *Syr Gener.* (Roxb.) 9138 But thei be armed in al maners,..For auenture of ony spiyng. 1495 *Trevisa's Barth. De P. R.* XIV. XIII. 473 Mount Fasga is the hyll of spienge, of syghte, and of byholdynge. 1523 LD. BERNERS *Froiss.* I. liii. 75 None coulde yssue out without spyeng. *a* 1568 ASCHAM *Scholem.* II. (Arb.) 148 The spying of this fault now is not the curiositie of English eyes. 1611 COTGR., *Speculation*,..a viewing, watching, or spying out from a high place. 1883 *Longm. Mag.* Nov. 72 The Hill of Badeney..on ordinary days gave us our first vantage-ground for spying. 1907 *Athenæum* 6 July 6/2 His suspicions and spyings and petty meddlings certainly had required extraordinary patience.

b. *attrib.*, as *spying-hole*, *-mission*, *-place.*

1791 BENTHAM *Panopt.* I. Postscr. 97 A thin partition..with blinded spying-holes running in the line level with the Inspector's eye. 1848 W. H. KELLY tr. *L. Blanc's Hist. Ten Y.* II. 448 Confident..that there was no truth in the spying mission attributed to Conseil. 1894 WEYMAN *Man in Black* 79 The closet was a spying-place, and these were Judas-holes.

Spying-glass. [f. prec.]

1. = SPY-GLASS 1. Now *rare.*

1682 tr. *Glanius' Voy. Bengala* 28 Thus did they appear to us through our Spying-Glass, and every one..believed they saw very distinctly with it. 1739 *Wks. of Learned* I. 85 From whence Servius might conclude that he knew the Use of Spying-Glasses. 1770 BARETTI *Journ. Lond. to Genoa* I. x. 59, I saw through my spying-glass a ship that seemed to make towards us. 1803 *Naval Chron.* IX. 477 By the help of my spying-glass I had made a drawing. 1885 R. BUCHANAN *Annan Water* ix, I was up on the tower wi' my spying-glass.

† **2.** An opera-glass; an eye-glass. *Obs.*

1767 WARBURTON in W. & Hurd *Lett.* (1809) 405, I was accosted by a little, round, well-fed gentleman, with..a spying-glass dangling in a black ribbon at his button. 1780 *Ann. Reg.* II. 4 As they are masked, they do not scruple to reconnoitre the company with their spying-glasses. 1795 WOLCOT (P. Pindar) *Convention Bill* Wks. 1812 III. 380 And will it not be deem'd a daring thing To ogle through a spying-glass the King.

Spy·ism. [f. SPY *sb.*] Espionage.

1847 in WEBSTER. 1902 A. W. MARCHMONT *Sarita the Carlist* vi. 59 The episode was a part of that spyism she had declared so prevalent.

Spy·ler. *rare*—[1]. [? f. SPILE *v.*[2]] (See quot.)

1844 H. STEPHENS *Book of Farm* III. 921 This process is easiest done by inserting rolls of moulded cheese, extracted by the scoop or *styler*, into holes previously made in the new cheese by the same scoop, an instrument usually employed by cheesemongers to taste cheese.

Spylt, obs. form of SPELT *sb.*[1]

† **Spynist,** *ppl. a. Sc. Obs.*—[1] [For *spanist*: see SPANISH *v.*[1]] Expanded, opened.

1508 DUNBAR *Tua Mariit Wemen* 29 New vpspred vpon spray, as new spynist rose.

Spyr(e, Spyrr, obs. forms of SPEER *v.*[1]

Spyse(r, obs. forms of SPICE, SPICER.

Spy·ship. [f. SPY *sb.*] The office or occupation of a spy.

1779 WARNER in Jesse *Selwyn & Contemp.* (1844) IV. 43 So, sir, there is an end of my affair and my spyship, for I do not think I can have anything else to say to you about it. 1825 LD. COCKBURN *Mem.* 327 The inconvenient fact of his having received considerable sums..from Government—not for his spyship. 1865 *Athenæum* No. 1956. 554/2 Personal spyship on the part of Jonson.

Spysorye, obs. f. SPICERY. **Spyte,** obs. f. SPIT *sb.*[1] and *v.*[1] **Spyttarde,** var. SPITTARD *Obs.*

Spytuously, -wysly, varr. SPITOUSLY *adv. Obs.*

† **Sqawde,** var. of SCAWED *a. Obs.*

1578 WHETSTONE *2nd Pt. Promos & Cass.* IV. ii, What seekes thou good fellow? *Iohn.* My sqawde Mare.

Squab (skwɒb), *sb.* Also 7, 9 *dial.*, **squob,** 8 **squobb, squabb.** [Of uncertain origin: cf. QUAB *sb.*[1] and Sw. dial. *sqvabb* loose fat flesh, *sqvabba* a fat woman, *sqvabbig* flabby, Norw. dial. *skvabb* a soft wet mass.]

† **1.** A raw, inexperienced person. *Obs.*—[1]

1640 BROME *Sparagus Gard.* II. ii, I warrant you, is he a trim youth? We must make him one lacke, 'tis such a squab as thou never sawest; such a lumpe, we may make what we will of him.

2. A newly-hatched, unfledged, or very young bird. Also *fig.* of a person.

1682 SHADWELL *Medal John Bayes* 69 Should all thy borrow'd plumes we from thee tear, How truly Poet Squab would'st thou appear! *a* 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew, Squab*,..a new Hatcht Chick. 1736 W. ELLIS *New Experf.* 95 The earliest young ones [*i.e.* goslings] are commonly sent to London in March,..called squabs. 1838 HOLLOWAY *Prov. Dict., Squab*, an unfledged bird. 1853 KANE *Grinnell Exp.* xix. (1856) 146 Some of the men succeeded in reaching the squabs [=young auks] by introducing their arms. 1865 KINGSLEY *Herew.* v, At the bottom of each [pie] a squab or young cormorant.

b. *spec.* A young pigeon.

1694 MOTTEUX *Rabelais* IV. lix. 234 Pigeons, Squobbs, and Squeakers. 1765 *Treat. Dom. Pigeons* 50 This article, and the young squabs, will nearly, if not quite, maintain your Pigeons in food. 1854 *Poultry Chron.* I. 573/2 It is generally considered that a cock [pigeon] homes quickest when driving to nest, and a hen when she is feeding squabs. 1867 AUGUSTA WILSON *Vashti* xxvi, The gale blew down my pigeon-house and mashed all my squabs. 1902 R. W. CHAMBERS *Maids of Paradise* i, Among which generations of pigeons had built nests and raised countless broods of squealing squabs.

c. A young rabbit. *rare*—[0].

1838 HOLLOWAY *Prov. Dict., Squab*,..a young rabbit, before it is covered with hair.

3. A short fat person.

a 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew, Squab*, a very fat, truss Person. 1710 POPE *Lett.* (1735) I. 152 We shall then see that the Prudes of this World..are naturally as arrant Squabs as those that went more loose. 1791 O'KEEFFE *Wild Oats* IV. i, Your figure is the most happy comedy squab I ever saw. 1809 MALKIN *Gil Blas* v. i. P 29 A fat laughing squab of a woman. 1823 LADY GRANVILLE *Lett.* (1894) I. 240 He is a fat, sallow squab of a man. 1897 BARTRAM *People of Clopton* vii. 201 A great fat squab loike Lucy.

4. A sofa, ottoman, or couch.

1664 *Verney Mem.* (1907) II. 211 For a drawing-rome i should have 2 squobs, & 6 turned woden chars of the haith of the longe seates. 1689 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 2495/4 The Covering of a large Squab, the upper side of Cloth of silver, the Ground white and toward a Filamot. *a* 1710 POPE *Imit.; Artemisia* 10 On her large squab you find her spread, Like a fat corpse upon a bed. 1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* I. 178 Under this I had made me a Squab or Couch, with the Skins of the Creatures I had kill'd, and with other soft Things. 1788 W. H. MARSHALL *Yorksh.* II. 355 *Squab*, a couch, common in most farm 'houses'. 1867 *Morn. Star* 1 Jan. 2 In consequence of the fullness of the house the deceased was compelled to sleep on a sofa or squab in the bar. 1892 M. C. F.

Morris *Yorksh. Folk Talk* 377 The squab is a roughly-made couch or long-settle with cushions, differing from the ordinary long-settle in that it has one arm instead of two.

5. A thick or soft cushion, *esp.* one serving to cover the seat of a chair or sofa.

1687 Miége *Gt. Fr. Dict.*, A Squab, or very soft Cushion, *coussin fort mol.* 1706 Phillips (ed. Kersey), A *Squab*, a soft stuffed Cushion or Stool. 1730 *Inv. R. Woolley's Goods* (1732) 8, 3 Pair of Window Curtains and 3 Squabs of the same. 1748 Richardson *Clarissa* VI. 158 An old broken-bottomed cane couch, without a squab, or coverlid, sunk at one corner [etc.]. 1819 H. Busk *Vestriad* IV. 1051 Bolstering his head with squabs, his mind with hope. 1839 Dickens *Nickleby* x, Chairs, with turned legs and green chintz squabs to match the curtains. 1881 G. Macdonald *Mary Marston* xxxvii, She was poking the little fists into the squab of the sofa.

transf. 1860 Mayhew *Upper Rhine* v. 272 The apparatus appears to be more like a large squab of a watch-pocket.

b. A cushion forming part of the inside fittings of a carriage.

1794 W. Felton *Carriages* (1801) I. 145 A squab, or sleeping cushion; ..occasionally added to the insides of those carriages, for the head or shoulders to incline against. 1844 Hewlett *Parsons & Widows* vii, He looked into the carriage, turned up the squabs. 1888 Farr & Thrupp *Coach Trimming* vi. 75 Back Squabs are not usually fastened at the sides, and it is the custom to make the sides curving out from the straight line, that the squab may not when fixed appear narrower across the middle.

6. *attrib.* **a.** In sense 2, as *squab-condition, -gull, -pigeon, -virtuoso.*

1686 F. Spence tr. *Varillas' Ho. Medicis* 227 He nurs'd up these Squab-virtuoso's in Literature almost from the very Cradle. 1741 *Compl. Fam.-Piece* I. iii. 219 To pickle Sparrows or Squab-Pigeons. 1856 Kane *Arct. Expl.* I. xxiv. 320 The squab-gull of Hans Island has a well-earned reputation..for its delicious juices. 1877 Newton in *Encycl. Brit.* VI. 407 The young (of the cormorant)..remain for some time in the squab-condition.

b. In senses 4 and 5, as *squab chair, cushion, -seat, sofa.*

1837 Marryat *Dog Fiend* xxiv, Seated on the squab sofa. 1849 Alb. Smith *Pottleton Legacy* (1854) 263 There were squab seats all round the room. 1860 *All Year Round* No. 63. 306 An old mahogany Empire arm-chair, with squab cushion. 1864 *N. & Q.* 3rd Ser. VI. 136/2 Upholsterers make sofa and couch seats of three kinds, called respectively squab-seats, spring seats, and stuffed tight seats. 1867 O. W. Holmes *Guardian Angel* ii, Nurse Byloe let herself drop into a flaccid squab chair.

Squab (skwɒb), *a.* Also 7 squob, 8 squabb. [Cf. prec.]

1. Of persons: Short and stout; squat and plump.

1675 Wycherley *Country Wife* IV. iii, I am now no more interruption to 'em..than a little squab French page who speaks no English. 1682 Flatman *Heracl. Ridens* (1713) II. 234 Do you know that same Squab Blade with the light Peruke? 1703 Farquhar *Inconstant* I. ii, A Dutch woman is squab. 1760 Goldsm. *Cit. W.* lxviii, As Rock is remarkably squab, his great rival, Franks, is remarkably tall. 1827 T. Hamilton *Cyril Thornton* (1845) 47 His lordship was a little squab man. 1865 *Reader* No. 122. 489/2 The squab yellow Hottentots. 1884 Besant *Dorothy Forster* I, His eyes were large, his figure short and squab.

b. Having a thick clumsy form.

1723 Chambers tr. *Le Clerc's Archit.* I. 46 The Capital..wou'd be too flat and squab. 1818 Scott *Hrt. Midl.* xliv, Turning his squab nose up in the air. 1885 Clark Russell *Strange Voy.* v, A large three-masted ironclad, with low squab funnel. 1894 *Idler* Sept. 134 That ancient ship..with her..artillery running the fat squab length of her.

c. *Comb.*, as *squab-faced, -looking, -shaped* adjs.

1781 Mme. D'Arblay *Diary* May, The Attorney-General, a most squat and squab-looking man. 1795 Southey *Lett. from Spain* (1799) 9 Its fountain ornamented with a squab-faced figure of Fame. 1865 Alex. Smith *Summer in Skye* ii, Comical squab-faced deities in silver and bronze. 1889 C. Edwardes *Sardinia & the Sardes* 103 Mostly its buildings are low, squab-shaped, and of sun-dried brick.

2. Young and undeveloped; *esp.* of young birds, unfledged or not fully fledged, newly or lately hatched.

1706 Phillips (ed. Kersey), A *Squab Rabbet* or *Chick*, one so young that 'tis scarce fit to be eaten. 1709 *Brit. Apollo* No. 46. 3/1 A Glazier..Came like a Squab-Rook flutt'ring down. 1774 G. White *Selborne* lxi, I..found in each nest only two squab, naked *pulli*. 1789 *Ibid.*, The squab young we brought down and placed on the grass-plot. 1807-8 W. Irving *Salmag.* (1824) 269 A nest-full of little squab Cupids.

†**3.** Reserved, quiet. *Obs.*—1

1689 N. Lee *Princ. Cleve* III. i, Your demure Ladies that are so Squob in company, are Divels in a corner.

†**4.** Abrupt, blunt, curt. *Obs.*

1737 Hervey *Mem.* II. 340 Most people blamed the Duke of Argyll for so squab an attack. *a* 1743 Savage *An Author to be let* P 8 Thus have I caused his Enemies..to libel him for my squab compliment. 1756 H. Walpole *Lett. Mann* (1833) III. 125 We have returned a *squab* answer, retorting the infraction of treaties. 1759 *Ibid.* 338 Lord Ligonier in words was more squab. 'If he wanted a court-martial, he might go seek it in Germany.'

Squab (skwɒb), *v.* Also 9 *dial.* squob. [Cf. Squab *sb.* and *a.*]

1. *trans.* To knock or beat severely; to squash, squeeze flat. Now *dial.*

1668 Wilkins *Real Char.* Dict., *To Squab*, break, sp. by down casting. 1687 Miége *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II, To Squab, or squelch one, to beat him to mash, *applatir quêcun de coups.* 1847- in midl. and southern dial. use.

2. *refl.* To squat (oneself).

In mod. Leic. and Warw. dial., 'to squeeze (oneself) into a small space'.

1680 R. L'Estrange *Erasm. Colloq.* (1711) 9 The Sea-Priest..squabs himself down directly upon our Shoulders.

3. *trans.* With *off*: To reject bluntly.

1812 *Sporting Mag.* XL. 41 Maslen..having most friends on the hill, he squabbed off these evasions.

4. To stuff or stuff up.

1819 H. Busk *Dessert* 37 Ye whose divans, recesses, and whose piers, Are squabb'd with ottomans and chiffoniers. 1891 *Cent. Dict., Squab*, v.t., to stuff thickly and catch through with thread at regular intervals, as a cushion.

5. *intr.* To fall or hang in a full or heavy manner.

1755 Johnson, *To Squab*, v.n., to fall down plump or flat. 1845 S. Judd *Margaret* II. xi, Ladies in..short cloaks with hoods squabbing behind, known as cardinals.

Squab, *int.* and *adv.* Also 9 *dial.* squob. [Imitative.] **a.** *int.* (See quot.)

a 1625 Fletcher *Women Pleas'd* I. i, I should be loath to see ye Come fluttering down like a young Rook, cry squab, And take ye up with your brains beaten into your buttocks.

b. *adv.* With a heavy fall or squash.

1692 R. L'Estrange *Fables, Eagle & Tort.* 192 The Eagle took him up a matter of Steeple-high into the Air, and..dropt him down, Squab upon a Rock. 1847 Halliw. s.v. *Squob*, He throwed him down squob. *Sussex.* 1890 *Glouc. Gloss.* 149 Er came down squob.

Squaba·sh, *sb.* [A fanciful combination of *squash* and *bash*, prob. due to Prof. Wilson.] A crushing blow; a squashing.

1818 *Blackw. Mag.* III. 250 The Author of 'The Dentist' is most rash; If printed, 'twould secure him a squabash. 1832 Wilson *Ibid.* XXXI. 281 Here are some verses that give all such shallow and senseless critics the squabash!

Squabash (skwɒbæʃ), *v.* [f. prec.] *trans.* To crush, squash, demolish.

1822 *Blackw. Mag.* XI. 88 When their darling was squabash'd At glorious Waterloo. 1827 Scott *Jrnl.* 17 Jan., His satire of the Baviad and Maeviad squabashed at one blow a set of coxcombs. 1843 Barham *Ingoldsby Leg.* (ed. 2) Pref., In order utterly to squabash and demolish every gainsayer. 1886 *Pall Mall G.* 23 Feb. 4/1 Mr. Ruskin is right in saying that J. S. Mill has been squabashed.

Hence **Squaba·sher.**

1827 *Blackw. Mag.* XXI. 650 That was a squabasher to the Elchee, who tried to back out of the argument. 1841 *Ibid.* L. 66 Sidney Smith,..squabasher of the cowardly..invention of the ballot-box.

Squabbed, *a.* Also 7 squobb'd. [f. Squab *a.* or *v.*] Squat, dumpy.

1694 Mottreux *Rabelais* IV. ix. 38 A strapping, fusty squobb'd Dowdy. 1822 *Blackw. Mag.* XII. 70 What, that squabb'd thing? that's none of mine. 1893 *Westm. Gaz.* 7 Mar. 9/2 A 'squabbed' shape dome and an ordinary 'Ramsbottom' safety valve.

Squa·bbing. [f. Squab *sb.* 5 b.] Cushioning used in carriages.

1888 Farr & Thrupp *Coach Trimming* 6 Brown buckram, which is well adapted for marking purposes and the linings of squabbings. *Ibid.* vi. 73 Recesses..causing the sinking of the squabbing.

Squa·bbish, *a. rare.* [f. Squab *a.*] Somewhat squab or squat.

1666 G. Harvey *Morb. Angl.* xii. 135 The dyets of two Nations..rendring those of a squabbish lardy habit of body; us of a thinner..appearance. 1784 J. Barry *Lect. Art* ii. (1848) 94 Excesses and deficiencies in the human form,..squabbish and short

Squabble (skwɒ·b'l), *sb.* Also 7 squable, squabel, scwable. [prob. imitative: cf. next and Sw. dial. *sqvabbel.*] A wrangle, dispute, brawl; a petty quarrel.

1602 *How Chuse Good Wife* A iv b, Hoping Mistresse you will passe ouer all these Iarres and squabels in good health. *a* 1652 Brome *Mad Couple* II. i, I..have undersold a parcell of the best Commodities my husband had. And should hee know't wee should have such a scwable. 1690 C. Nesse *Hist. O. & N. Test.* I. 367 Whom possibly in some rude squabble ye have kill'd. 1748 H. Walpole *Corr.* (1846) II. 208 Except elections, and such tiresome squabbles,..it is all harmony. 1788 Jefferson *Writ.* (1859) II. 440 The squabbles, in which the pride, the dissipations, and the tyranny of kings, keep this hemisphere constantly embroiled. 1832 Ht. Martineau *Ireland* I. 8 The disputes..became so virulent that the agent could get no rest from squabbles and complaints. 1874 Green *Short Hist.* vii. 353 Politics were dying down into the squabbles of a knot of nobles.

Squabble (skwɒ·b'l), *v.* Also 7 squob(b)le, 7-8 squable. [See prec.]

1. *intr.* To wrangle or brawl; to engage in a petty quarrel or dispute; to argue disagreeably or with heat. Freq. const. *about, for, over*, etc.

1604 Shaks. *Oth.* II. iii. 281 Drunke? And speake Parrat? And squabble? Swagger? *a* 1677 Barrow *Serm.* Wks. 1716 I. 171 It agreeth to children..to squabble; to women of meanest rank to scold. 1693 *Humours Town* 46 They are launching out into the Sea of Politicks,..squabling to be Burgesses. 1730 *Lett. to Sir W. Strickland rel. to Coal Trade* 28 To deliver all the Coals out of the Ship first, and then squabble about the price. 1789 Wolcot (P. Pindar) *Ep. to falling Minister* Wks. 1812 II. 118 Good places For which so oft the people squabble. 1839 Thackeray *Fatal Boots* Dec., Her temper was dreadful, and we used to be squabbling from morning till night! 1873 Mrs. Whitney *Other Girls* xxi, They've been squabbling over it these five minutes.

b. Const. *with* (another or others).

1655 Capel *Tentations* IV. iii. 27 As brethren out of envy will squabble one with another about a party coloured coat. 1660 H. More *Myst. Godl.* To Rdr. 15 My forbearing..to squable with every petty Sect. 1677 W. Hughes *Man of Sin* II. ix. 148 The Devil comes again, and squabbles with him. 1740 Cibber *Apol.* (1756) I. 290 They had forgot their former fatal mistake of squabling with their actors. 1831 Trelawny *Adv. Younger Son* I. 156 A yâk, or little cow, which was squabbling with the children about some fruit. 1889 *Cornh. Mag.* Feb. 118, I feel too miserable and too dejected to squabble with Frances.

c. *transf.* Of a stream. (Cf Brawl *v.*[1] 3.)

1868 G. Macdonald *R. Falconer* I. 241 On the grassy bank of the gently-flowing river, at the other edge of whose level the little canal squabbled along.

2. *trans.* In *Typog.*, to throw (type) out of line; to disarrange or disorder; to twist or skew so as to mix the lines.

1674 Blount *Glossogr.* (ed. 4), *Squobble*, is a term among Printers, when the Compositor has set a Form, before it is Imposed, some lines happen to fall out of their order, they say it is squobled. 1683 Moxon *Mech. Exerc., Printing* xxii. P 3 He spreads and Squabbles the Shanks of the Letters between his Fingers askew. *Ibid.* 391 A Page or Form is Squabbled when the Letter of one or more Lines are got into any of the adjacent Lines; or that the Letter or Letters are twisted about out of their square Position. 1784 B. Franklin in *Ann. Reg., Chron.* (1817) 385 Every page of it being squabbled, and the whole ready to fall into pye. 1888 Jacobi *Printers' Vocab.* 130 *Squabble*, to break or upset type and thus make 'pie' of it.

b. *intr.* Of type: To get into disorder.

1683 Moxon *Mech. Exerc., Printing* xxii. P 2 Letter is less subject to Squabble between Line and Line..than it is between side and side.

Hence **Squa·bbled** *ppl. a.*

1886 *Science* VIII. 254 The letters do not range well, giving an irregular or 'squabbled' appearance to the line. 1888 Jacobi *Printers' Vocab.* 130 *Squashed*, another term for 'squabbled' type.

Squa·bblement. [f. Squabble *v.*] Squabbling; petty quarrelling.

1731 *Gentl. Mag.* I. 125 Any..Rablement, Brabblement, or Squabblement. 1884 *Blackw. Mag.* Feb. 235 Cheating, swindling, peculation, Squabblement of Church and State.

Squabbler (skwɒ·blə*r*). [f. as prec.] One who squabbles or quarrels.

In quot. 1631 perh. a misprint for *squabbe* Squab *sb.* 1.

1631 T. Powell *Tom All Trades* 38 If he attaine..the knowledge of languages, and dispositions of forreigne Nations where he travailes and trades, he may rise from a Squabler to a Master. 1687 Miége *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II, Squabbler, *querelleur.* 1702 *Burl. L'Estrange's Vis. Quev.* 65 Who in their Writings are such Squabblers, That they torment me Day and Night. 1876 L. Stephen *Eng. Th. 18th C.* II. x. § 9. 234 It was possible..that the great families should become mere squabblers for place.

Squabbling (skwɒ·blin), *vbl. sb.* [f. as prec.] The action of the verb, in various senses.

1611 Cotgr., *Noisètte*, .. a squabling, or small debate. 1664 H. More *Myst. Iniq.* 554 Their childish squabling about Nut-shells, Counters and Cherry-stones. 1683 Moxon *Mech. Exerc., Printing* xxii. P 7 The Breaking, Squabbling, or Hanging, &c. of the Page. 1740 Richardson *Pamela* I. 239 Nothing offers these Days but Squabblings between Mrs. Jewkes and me. 1817 J. Scott *Paris Revisit.* (ed. 4) 181 The squabbling in Athens whether Demosthenes had passed his accounts properly. 1868 *Daily Tel.* 25 July, The usual squabbling ended with the usual postponement at a late hour.

Squa·bbling, *ppl. a.* [f. as prec.]

1. Engaging in, given to, petty quarrelling or wrangling.

1632 Sherwood, Squabbling, *noiseux, rioteux.* 1665 Glanvill *Def. Van. Dogm.* p. vi, In a squabbling and contentious Age. 1771 Beattie *Minstr.* I. xvii, Nor cared [he] to mingle in the clamorous fray Of squabbling imps. 1841 Dickens *Barn. Rudge* xliii, A dozen squabbling urchins made a very Babel in the air. 1894 Roosevelt in *Forum* Apr. 198 A squabbling multitude of revolution-ridden States.

2. Of the nature of, characterized by, dispute or wrangling.

1664 Power *Exp. Philos.* III. 184 Ignorance..varnish'd over with a little squabling Sophistry. 1833 T. Hook *Parson's Dau.* III. xii, There had arisen some squabbling differences amongst his noble passengers. 1879 Farrar *St. Paul* (1883) 51 The partisans..thrust their squabbling Judaism even into the intercourse between a Paul and a Peter.

Squabbly (skwɒ·bli), *a.* [f. Squabble *v.*] Given to squabbling; of a squabbling character.

1887 Baring-Gould *Golden Feather* V, I do not like her to be at home with all those dirty, squabbley..savages. 1895 *Pall Mall G.* 11 Oct. 11/2 A family meeting where both parties..have a squabbly bargain.

Squabby (skwɒ·bi), *a.* [f. Squab *sb.* or *a.*] Low and stout; squat, thick-set.

1754 *Connoisseur* No. 5. 28 A short squabby gentleman of a gross and corpulent make. 1780 *Mirror* No. 88, Mrs. Deborah is..in her person thick and squabby. 1841 J. T. J. Hewlett *Parish Clerk* I. 64 Judy was a good-looking girl, though of the species called squabby. 1845 *Tait's Mag.* XII. 39 The squabby cob maintained his even pace. 1875 G. Macdonald *Malcolm* III. xv. 302 Over the kitchen-fire, like an evil spirit of the squabby order, crouched Mrs. Catanach.

Comb. 1848 Geo. Eliot in Cross *Life* (1885) I. 171 You chubby-faced, squabby-nosed Europeans owe your commerce, your arts, your religion, to the Hebrews.

Squa·bly, *adv. rare* —1. [f. Squab *a.*] Bluntly, abruptly.

1737 Hervey *Mem.* II. 447 It was better to insinuate what those words meant than to express it so squabbly [*sic*].

Squab-pie. Also squob-pie. [Cf. Squab *sb.* Chiefly current in western and south-western counties.] A pie chiefly composed of mutton, pork, apples, and onions, with a thick crust.

1708 W. King *Cookery* 164 Cornwall squab-pye, and Devon white-pot brings. 1778 Mores *Diss. Typogr. Founders* 69 *note*, Probably he was a Gloucestershire man

and remembered squab-pie, an *olla podrida* of horrible ingredients. 1800 SOUTHEY in Cottle *Rem. Coleridge & S.* (1847) 22 Neither Pilchards, White-ale or Squab-pie were to be obtained. 1865 KINGSLEY *Herew.* v. Most savoury of all the smell of fifty huge squab pies. 1880 *Adam & Eve* 281 Laden with the remnants of a squab-pie..and a couple of apple pasties.

fig. 1897 JANE *Lordship* xix. 209 The great matter being that I had made squob-pie of Robert.

Squa·cco. *Ornith.* Also 7–9 **sguacco.** [Local Italian *sguacco.*] A small crested species of heron, *Ardea ralloides* or *comata.*

α. [*a* 1672 WILLUGHBY *Ornith.* (1676) 206 Ardea quam Sguacco vocant in Vallibus dictis Malalbergi. Hence in Ray's translation (1678) 281.] 1785 LATHAM *Gen. Synop. Birds* III. i. 76 Castaneous Heron... It seems a mere variety of the Sguacco, if not differing in sex.

β. 1752 J. HILL *Hist. Anim.* 465 The yellowish Ardea, with the head and neck variegated with black, white, and yellow. [*Marg.*] The Squacco. 1785 LATHAM *Gen. Synop. Birds* III. i. 74 Squacco Heron...Size of the blue Heron. 1834 MUDIE *Feathered Tribes* II. 148 The Squacco Heron.. has been more frequently met with in England than any of the former [species]. 1879 E. P. WRIGHT *Anim. Life* 327 The Squacco Heron (*A. comata*) is found in Asia, North Africa, South Europe, and a rare straggler now and then visits England.

Squach, variant of SQUATCH *v. Obs.*

Squad (skwɒd), *sb.*[1] [ad. F. *escouade*, earlier *esquade* (*esquouade*), var. of *esquadre* SQUADER.]

1. *Mil.* A small number of men, a subdivision or section of a company, formed for drill or told off for some special purpose.

1649 G. DANIEL *Trinarch., Hen. V*, clxxxv, The Ragged Squad, whose Pay, ill-husbanded, Gives him nor Shooes nor Shirt. 1673 *Reg. Privy Counc. Scotl.* IV. 98 The commander of that squad of his Majesties troup of guardes, quartered at Bathgate. 1757 WASHINGTON *Writ.* (1889) I. 468 Divide your men into as many squads as there are Sergeants. 1811 *Regul. & Orders Army* 244 The Commanding Officer will cause them, by Squads of 20 or more, to move round the Vessel in double quick time, each Squad for ten or twelve minutes. 1844 *Ibid.* 133 The Subaltern Officers, to whom the Squads are entrusted, are responsible for the same to the Captain. 1877 *Field Exerc. Infantry* 4 Recruits formed into a Squad should be directed to observe the relative places they hold with each other.

b. *Awkward squad*: (see quot. 1802).

1796 BURNS in Cunningham *Wks. & Life B.* (1834) I. 344 John, don't let the awkward squad fire over me. 1802 JAMES *Milit. Dict.* s.v., The aukward squad consists not only of recruits at drill, but of formed soldiers that are ordered to exercise with them, in consequence of some irregularity under arms. 1842 MACAULAY *Ess., Fredk. Gt.* (1877) 659 The household regiments of Versailles and St. James's would have appeared an awkward squad. 1878 BESANT & RICE *Celia's Arb.* v, The march and movement of troops,.. the drill of the awkward squad, delighted his soul.

transf. 1797 S. JAMES *Narrative Voy.* 205 The butchers here are a truly aukward squad. 1816 [see AWKWARD *a.* 4 b]. 1856 P. THOMPSON *Hist. Boston* Provincialisms, They're a dirty squad, an awkward squad.

c. Without article.

1833 *Regul. & Instr. Cavalry* I. 9 Each Recruit must be trained..in squad.

†2. = SQUADRON *sb.* 3. *Obs. rare.*

1673 in *10th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. I. 80 On Monday the fleets ingadged;..a whole squad surroundit Sir Edward Sprag, who was in the Royal Prince. 1676 ROW *Contin. Blair's Autobiog.* xii. (1848) 509 All that the King was able to do was to set out some squads of small-ships.

3. A small number, group, or party of persons.

1809 MALKIN *Gil Blas* IV. ix. P 2 In my mistress's female squad there was a nymph named Portia. 1830 SCOTT *Demonol.* ix. 284 The witches of Auldearn were so numerous that they were told off into squads, or covines. 1841 CATLIN *N. Amer. Ind.* xxiv. (1844) I. 201 The same intelligence was soon communicated by little squads to every family. 1856 KANE *Arct. Expl.* I. xx. 243, I cannot realize that some may not yet be alive; that some small squad or squads..may not have found a hunting-ground.

b. Const. *of.*

1818 KEATS *Lett.* Wks. 1889 III. 115, I am in a high way of being introduced to a squad of people, Peter Pindar, Mrs. Opie, Mrs. Scott. 1825 COBBETT *Rur. Rides* 83 We saw ..squads of labourers..migrating from tract to tract. 1857 BORROW *Romany Rye* xlii, He had a very shabby squad of animals, without soul or spirit. 1896 E. A. KING *Ital. Highways* 91 A large squad of liveried servants.

c. In the phr. *in squads.*

a 1848 O. W. HOLMES *Stethoscope Song* 64 They every day her ribs did pound In squads of twenty. 1852 MOTLEY *Corr.* (1889) I. v. 132 People..making excursions into the country in small squads. 1869 TH. ROGERS *Hist. Gleanings* I. 84 In the Georgian era men and women were hanged in squads.

4. A particular set or circle of people.

1786 BURNS *To Y. S.* xxviii, The halrum-scairum, ramstam boys, The rambling [1787 rattling] squad. 1809 MALKIN *Gil Blas* III. xi. P 8 To study the feelings of authors.. would only be the way to spoil them. I know that contemptible squad. 1818 *Blackw. Mag.* III. 533 Tho' used by Hunt, and Keats, and all that squad.

5. *attrib.*, as *squad-dance, drill, instructor*, etc.; **squad bag** (see quot. 1876).

1844 *Regul. & Ord. Army* 121 In other Corps a Troop, Company, or Squad Police has been introduced. 1859 *Musketry Instr.* 46 The squad instructor opposite the 50 yards point. 1864 *Daily Tel.* 14 March, A suttler..is dispensing beer from squad barrels to a knot of thirsty labourers. 1865 E. BURRITT *Walk to Land's End* 171 Inaugurating a new term of service with..squad-dances in the public street. 1869 E. A. PARKES *Pract. Hygiene* (ed. 3) 403 Squad bags are issued to infantry, four to each company. 1876 VOYLE & STEVENSON *Milit. Dict.* 398/1 *Squad Bags*, canvas bags provided for troops (one for every 25 men), for the purpose of relieving a soldier from carrying a complete kit on the line of march or in the field. 1899 BALDOCK *Cromwell as a Soldier* 24 The drill consisted of what we should now call 'squad drill'.

†Squad, *sb.*[2] *Mining. Obs. rare.* Also 8 **squod.** = SHOAD.

1674 RAY *Coll. Words* 120 The tinners [in Cornwall] find the Mine by the Shoad (or as they call it *Squad*) which is loose stones of tin mixed with Earth. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s. v. *Shoaled*, Sometimes it [shoad] is called Squad, and Squod. *c* 1830 MAR. EDGEWORTH *Lame Jervas* ii, Loose ore of tin mixed with the earth, which in those days we used to call shoad or squad.'..'We call it squad to this day, master,' interrupted one of the miners.

Squad, *sb.*[3] *dial.* Soft slimy mud.

1847 in HALLIWELL. 1866– in dial. glossaries, etc. (Lincs., Leics.). 1880 TENNYSON *Northern Cobbler* iv, I coom'd neck-an-crop..down i' the squad an' the muck.

†Squad, *a. Obs. rare.* [Cf. SQUAB *a.* and SQUAT *a.*] = SQUADDY *a.*

1675 COVEL in *Early Voy. Levant* (Hakluyt Soc.) 216 First there was a *bastanjé*, a middle-sized squad fellow, who shew a vast strength in tossing about weights. 1729 T. COOKE *Tales* 96 A short squad Figure, with a wadling Pace.

Squad (skwɒd), *v.* [f. SQUAD *sb.*[1]]

1. *trans.* To divide or form into squads; to draw up in a squad.

1802 JAMES *Milit. Dict.*, *To Squad*, to divide a troop or company into certain parts, in order to drill the men separately, or in small bodies. 1841 LEVER *C. O'Malley* lxxxvi. 416, I say, lads, squad your men and form on the road. 1884 *Pall Mall G.* 16 July 8/2 A few Lancashire and metropolitan corps are squadded first this morning.

2. To assign or allocate to a squad.

1802 JAMES *Milit. Dict.* s.v., Recruits should always be quartered and squadded with old soldiers who are known to be steady and well behaved. *Ibid.*, The stables must likewise be squadded entire; that is, no one stable must be allotted to two separate squads.

Hence **Squa·dded** *ppl. a.*

1896 *Daily News* 18 July 6/4 Three Squadded Competitions have been finished this evening.

Squa·dding, *vbl. sb.* [f. SQUAD *sb.*[1] or *v.*] The action of forming into or drawing up in squads. Also *attrib.*

1802 JAMES *Milit. Dict.* s.v., The same rules for squadding hold good on a march, and in all situations whatever. 1868 *Daily News* 15 July, The squadding lists for the morning.. are scanned..so as to give every competitor a change of time ..when he fires at the different ranges.

Squa·ddy, *a.* Now *dial.* and *U.S.* [Cf. SQUAD *a.*] Short and thick-set; squat, squab.

1593 RICH *Greenes Newes* G 3 b, He was a fatte squaddy Monke, that had beene well fedde in some Cloyster. 1840 SPURDENS *Suppl. Voc. E. Anglia, Squaddy*, squoddy; short of stature, and sturdy. *a* 1848 'MAJ. J. DOWNING' *May-day* (Bartlett), I had hardly got seated, when in come a great, stout, fat, squaddy woman.

†Squa·der. *Obs.* [ad. older F. *esquadre* (*escoadre, escoydre*; also *squadre, scouadre*), mod. F. *escadre*, ad. It. *squadra* (Pg. *esquadra*, Sp. *escuadra*) square, company, squadron.] A squadron, company, squad.

1590 *Ordonances & Instructions for Musters* 31 Euery companie or squader of any companie. 1606 BIRNIE *Kirk-Buriall* (1833) xix, The next squader that commes in, are captanes of cheef. 1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* x. 449 The Fleete was diuided in three Squaders. *Ibid.* 481 There being a Squader of his Maiesties Ships lying in the Road.

†Squa·drant, *sb.* and *a. Obs.* [ad. It. *squadrante*, pres. pple. of *squadrare* to square.]

A. *sb.* **1.** A square piece of something; a side of a square. Cf. QUADRANT *sb.*[2] 2 and 2 b.

1595 *Locrine* II. v. 5 How brauely this yoong Brittain.., Mouing the massie squadrants of the ground, Heapes hills on hills. 1599 A. M. tr. *Gabelhouer's Bk. Physicke* 128/2 Put all this together in a little bagge, a qu. of an Elle in his squadrant.

2. A squadron of soldiers or ships.

1614 SIR R. DUDLEY in *Fortescue Papers* (Camden) 11 His Majesty maye make as manye of these as he please for his safetye and strenthe, but lesse then 6 were no fitt squadrant.

B. *adj.* Of a square form.

1599 A. M. tr. *Gabelhouer's Bk. Physicke* 310/2 Applye.. theron a squadrante boulster moystened in wine. 1642 BIRD *Mag. Hon.* 136 A List shall be made in an even and plain ground, then Squadrant, that is to say, every Square 60 foot East, West, North, and South.

†Squa·drate, *a. Obs. rare.* Also 7 *Sc.* **squadrat.** [ad. It. *squadrato, -ata*, pa. pple. of *squadrare* to square. Cf. QUADRATE *a.* 1.] Square-shaped; rectangular.

1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* (1906) 386 At every spacious squadrat corner, there is a high Turret erected. *Ibid.* 387 A rotundo, with a wide leaden top, and on each side thereof a squadrat Steeple. 1784 J. BARRY *Lect. Art* iii. (1848) 133 The hands ..are a little mannered and squadrate.

†Squa·drature. *Obs.*[−1] [ad. It. *squadratura.* Cf. QUADRATURE 1.] A square figure or shape.

1592 R. D. *Hypnerotomachia* 42 b, Statues of fine mettal ..Which were fastened in a Marble, cut into a squadrature.

Squadron (skwɒ·drən), *sb.* Also 6 **squadrone, -onne,** 7 *Sc.* **squadroun.** [ad. It. *squadrone* (f. *squadra* square), whence also Sp. *escuadron*, Pg. *esquadrão*, older F. *squadron* (*scadron*) and *esquadron* (mod.F. *escadron*).]

I. †1. *Mil.* A body of soldiers drawn up or arranged in square formation. *Obs.*

1562 J. SHUTE tr. *Cambini's Turk. War* Ep. Ded. *iiij b, There shalbe a squadrone ordered and in the myddest of the same shalbe a voyde space throughoute the squadrone. 1581 STYWARD *Mart. Discipl.* II. 156 The poore Swizers,..not beeing able to furnishe themselues with horse, were the first deuisers of the pike and the Squadronnes. 1616 BULLOKAR *Eng. Expos., Squadron*, a square forme in a battell. 1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr., Squadron*,..a certain number of Soldiers ranged into a square Body or Battalion. This word is most commonly appropriated to Horsmen.

2. *Mil.* A relatively small body or detachment of men.

1579 DIGGES *Stratiot.* 91 That euery Squadron or bodie of the watche haue theyr Armour..in readinesse. 1579 FENTON *Guicciard.* I. (1599) 27 His army contained little lesse then a hundreth squadrons of men at armes, accounting xx. men to a squadron. 1590 SIR J. SMYTH *Disc. Weapons* 3 b, A squadron of armed men in the field being readie to encounter with another squadron. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* II. 66 Leaving his foot in two squadrons of 250 each, himselfe with the horse passed to Dundalke. 1672 VILLIERS (Dk. Buckhm.) *Rehearsal* v. (Arb.) 121 To have a long relation of Squadrons here, and Squadrons there: what is that but a dull prolixity? 1720 POPE *Iliad* xx. 414 Through yon wide host this arm shall scatter fear, And thin the squadrons with my single spear. 1776 MICKLE tr. *Camoen's Lusiad* III. 111 The mountain ecchoes with the wild affright Of flying squadrons. 1810 SCOTT *Lady of L.* I. xxxi, Trump nor pibroch summon here Mustering clans, or squadrons tramping. 1878 B. TAYLOR *Deukalion* II. iii. 68 In one squadron set To fight the world's long battle.

fig. 1656 COWLEY *Pindar. Odes, Plagues Egypt* xi, All the full-charg'd clouds in ranged Squadrons move, And fill the spacious Plains above.

b. *spec.* A body of cavalry, usually composed of between one and two hundred men.

1702 *Milit. Dict.* (1704), *Squadron*, a Body of Horse, the number not fixt, but from an hundred to two hundred Men. 1768 PENNANT *Brit. Zool.* I. 3 The enemy was broken through by the impetuous charge of our squadrons. 1832 *Regul. & Instr. Cavalry* III. 45 Two or more Squadrons compose a Regiment. Squadrons are called 1st, 2d, 3d, &c., counting from the right of the Regiment. *Ibid.* 57 March past by Squadrons. 1893 *Times* 11 July 11/4 The march past followed, first in column of squadrons at a walk,..next at a canter by squadrons.

3. A division of a fleet forming one body under the command of a flag-officer; a detachment of warships told off for some particular duty. *Flying squadron*: see FLYING *ppl. a.* 4 d.

Also, in recent use, a number of aeroplanes or airships acting together.

1588 ARCHDEACON tr. *True Discourse Army K. Spain* 17 Squadron of the Galeons of Portugall. *Ibid.* 19 There is in this Squadron 12 Vesselles. 1607 DEKKER *Whore Babylon* Wks. 1873 II. 257 In the first Squadron twelue great Galeons Floate like twelue mooving Castles. 1670 LASSELS *Voy. Italy* II. 271 [The kingdom of Naples'] ordinary squadron of gallyes are but 20. 1703 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 3937/3 He ordered the Captain of the Nonsuch to stretch a-head of the Squadron. 1743 BULKELEY & CUMMINS *Voy. S. Seas* 6 We judged this to be Admiral Pizarro's Squadron, sent out in Pursuit of Commodore Anson. 1800 WELLINGTON in Gurw. *Desp.* (1834) I. 135 The troops destined to sail with the squadron under Admiral Rainier. 1849–50 ALISON *Hist. Europe* V. xxxiii. § 17. 494 A squadron of nine sail of the line, four bombs, and five frigates, was despatched to the Sound. 1865 H. PHILLIPS *Amer. Paper Curr.* II. 91 It was known that a French squadron was coming to America.

transf. 1807 J. BARLOW *Columb.* IV. 90 From Tago's bank, from Albion's rocky round, Commercing squadrons o'er the billows bound. ? 1878 B. HARTE *Man on Beach* 13 Low down the horizon still lingered a few white flecks—the flying squadrons of the storm.

†4. A squad (of a ship's company). *Obs.*

1626 CAPT. SMITH *Accid. Yng. Seamen* 7 Then diuide them into squadrons according to your numbers and burthen of your ship. 1627 — *Seaman's Gram.* ix. 38 These are to.. doe all duties each halfe, or each squadron for eight Glasses or foure houres which is a watch.

5. A comparatively large group or number of people, etc.; an organized body of persons. Also const. *of.*

1617 MORYSON *Itin.* I. 116 They say that Christ with the squadrons of the Fathers, passed this way when hee ascended from Hell. 1640 SIR W. MURE *Counterbuff* 96 That Esterne clyme..Where Squadrons of our Nation did abound. 1684 *Contempl. St. Man* II. ii. (1699) 173 The Hallelujahs which.. the Squadrons of those blessed Spirits sing. 1713 J. WARDER *True Amazons* 25 They [*sc.* bees] send forth a Squadron to fetch in Honey. 1792 JEFFERSON *Writ.* (1830) IV. 470 These measures had established corruption in the legislature, where there was a squadron devoted to the nod of the Treasury. 1824 SOUTHEY *Sir T. More* (1831) I. 384 To join one or other of the numerous squadrons of dissent. 1897 MARY KINGSLEY *W. Africa* 484 The whole district will come, not in a squadron, but just when it suits them.

b. *transf.* A multitude *of* some thing or things.

1668 CULPEPPER & COLE *Barthol. Anat.* II. vi. 99 Yet that is false which Fallopius tells us, that a great Squadron of Nerves is spread up and down the Basis of the heart. 1680 ALSOP *Mischief Imposit.* xii. 96 He has..First, a Squadron of Considerations, and secondly, a Pacquet of Advices.

†6. *U.S.* A division or ward of a town, community, or district. *Obs.*

1636 in *Cent. Dict.* s.v. 1672 *Town Records, Groton, Mass.* (Cent.), Agreed upon by the selectmen for the..calling out of their men to work, that is within their several squadrons. 1749 *Town Records, Marlborough, Mass.* (Ibid.), A committee of seven men to apportion the school in six societies or squadrons,..taking the northwesterly corner for one squadron.

7. A body of cardinals hovering between the main factions in a conclave. (Cf. SQUADRONIST.)

1670 G. H. *Hist. Cardinals* II. II. 161 He manag'd him-

self so with his flying Squadron, that it gave no little disgust to the Crowns. 1906 *Edin. Rev.* Oct. 346 Cardinal de Retz and Cardinal Azzolino were of the squadron.

8. *attrib.*, as *squadron ball, form*, etc.

1592 KYD *Sp. Trag.* I. ii. 32 Our battels both were pitcht in squadron forme. 1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* II. 49 When they enter the gates, they must deliuer their weapons to the Corporall of the Squadron company. 1796 *Instr. & Reg. Cavalry* (1813) 230 Some of the squadron flank officers who are otherwise disposed of. 1832 *Regul. & Instr. Cavalry* II. 20 The Squadron-Leader advances two horses' lengths. 1862 *London Rev.* 16 Aug. 139 The squadron which is to go down Channel on the day after the squadron ball. 1894 *Outing* Sept. 477/2 These three gentlemen thoroughly understand the handling of a regatta and a squadron cruise.

II. †**9.** A right-angled area, figure, etc.; a side of a square. *Obs.* Cf. SQUADRANT *sb.* I.

1599 HAKLUYT *Voy.* II. 221 They sell the earth within the wall, for so much a squadron. 1599 A. M. tr. *Gabelhouer's Bk. Physicke* 153/2 About a quar. of a yarde in the squadrone therof.

†**10.** A square parenthesis-mark. *Obs.*—1

1618 *Worthington's Anker Christian Doctr.* Printer to Rdr. 18 Because the holie Scriptures are very much cited in this Booke, I haue thought it better..to include them within two squadrons [ ].

Squa·dron, *v. rare.* [f. the sb.] *trans.* To form into, or as into, a squadron or squadrons.

1862 D. GRAY *Luggie*, etc. 19 By a furious wind Squadron'd, the hurrying clouds range the roused sky.

Squa·dronal, *a.* [f. SQUADRON *sb.* + -AL.] Of or pertaining to a squadron or squadrons.

1898 J. S. CORBETT *Drake & Tudor Navy* II. v. 177 Here we have the first trace of any squadronal organization. 1902 *Westm. Gaz.* 23 July 3/1 A diagram showing the squadronal flags of the English ships in colour.

‖ **Squadrone** (skwadrō·ne). Now *Hist.* Also 8 *Sc.* -ronie, -rony. [a. It. *squadrone* (*volante*): cf. SQUADRON *sb.* 7.] A Scottish political party in the early years of the 18th century.

1707–14 *Lockhart Papers* (1817) I. 294 In the main the united Tories and Squadrone did not succeed so weel as they expected. 1708 *Caldwell Pap.* (Maitland) 215 If ye court be generous they'll at least procure for him y^r fines for a wrongous imprisonment that is due by the squadrony. 1800 A. CARLYLE *Autob.* 40 By good-luck for the clergy, there was another party distinction among them,..viz., that of Argathelian and Squadrone.

†**b.** As *adj.* Hovering between two parties.

c 1720 WARDEN in *Wodrow's Corr.* (1843) II. 538, I am squadronie in that matter, being sometime on one side and sometime on another.

Squa·droned, *ppl. a.* [f. SQUADRON *sb.*] Formed into squadrons; drawn up in a squadron. Also *transf.*

1667 MILTON *P. L.* XII. 367 They gladly thither haste, and by a Quire Of squadrond Angels hear his Carol sung. 1726 POPE *Odyss.* XXIV. 289 Thy squadron'd vineyards well thy art declare. 1792 J. BARLOW *Conspir. Kings* 85 See the long pomp in gorgeous glare display'd, The tinsel'd guards, the squadron'd horse parade. 1841 TUPPER *Twins* XXIV, As if the squadroned cavalry of heaven had charged across the seas. 1864 NEALE *Seatonian Poems* 65 Squadron'd forests, marshall'd as for fight, March o'er the land.

†**Squa·dronist.** *Obs.* [ad. F. *squadroniste* or It. *squadronista*, f. *squadrone* (*volante*): see SQUADRON *sb.* 7.] One of the cardinals belonging to the unattached party in a conclave.

1670 G. H. *Hist. Cardinals* III. III. 319 The Squadronists are all unanimously for Rospigliosi. 1670 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4038/2 These Cardinals from France, who..have already gained to their party divers of the Squadronists.

†**Squage,** *v. Obs.*—1 [Of obscure origin.] *trans.* To dirty (? with handling).

a 1500 *Receipt* in *Rel. Ant.* I. 163 For to make clene thy boke yf yt be defowlyd or squaged.

Squail (skwēl), *sb.* [Of doubtful origin: cf. SQUAIL *v.*[2] and SKAYLES.]

1. *pl.* The game of ninepins; skittles. *s.w. dial.*

1847 in HALLIWELL (*Somerset*). 1883, 1888 in Hampshire and Somerset glossaries.

2. *pl.* A table-game in which counters or disks are propelled towards some mark by snapping.

App. introduced in 1857 by Mr. John Jaques, London.

1862 POLLOCK *Pers. Remembr.* (1887) II. 105 Drank tea with Faradays at Royal Institution, and played at squails. 1865 *Pall Mall G.* 12 June 11 Squails, or some such frivolous game, often serves to banish *ennui*.

b. A disk or counter used in this game.

1862 CALVERLEY *Verses & Transl.* 16 Or anon..Urge towards the table's centre, With unerring hand, the squail. 1900 UPWARD *Eben. Lobb* 153 An overcoat..with a driver's cape, and eighteen buttons, the size of squails, down the front.

3. = SQUAILER. (See also SQUOYLE.)

1883– in dial. glossaries (Hamps., Berks., Wilts.). 1899 *Outlook* 7 Jan. 714/1.

†**Squail,** *v.*[1] *Obs.*—1 [Imitative: cf. SQUEAL *v.*] *intr.* To make a shrill noise.

1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 158 b, Not syngynge in y^e nose as pygges, nor in the tethe as many women do, ne squaylynge, as maremaydes.

Squail, *v.*[2] Chiefly *dial.* Also 7 squayle, 8– squale, 9 squoil, etc. [Of obscure origin.]

1. *intr.* To throw a (loaded) stick or similar missile (*at* some object).

c 1626 *Dick of Devon* II. iii. in Bullen *Old Pl.* (1883) II, Not soe much as the leg of a Spanyard left to squayle at their owne appletrees. 1787 GROSE *Prov. Gloss.*, *Squale*, to throw a stick as at a cock. 1795 in Mrs. Sandford *T. Poole & Friends* (1888) I. 112 They happened to meet some men carrying a hen up the street with the intention of squalling [*sic*] at her. 1821 SOUTHEY *Life & Corr.* (1849) I. 54 The boys were employed also to squail at the bannets. 1823– in s.w. dial. glossaries (Somerset, Wilts., Dorset, Hamps., Isle of Wight). 1882 JEFFERIES *Bevis* II. v. 67 In the orchard Bevis and Mark squailed at the pears with short sticks. 1896 *Westm. Gaz.* 2 Dec. 2/1 The Marquis's gamekeepers did not love us, but we squailed in spite of them.

2. *trans.* To strike or hit by throwing a stick or squailer.

1844 W. BARNES *Poems Dorset Dial.* 143, I squâil'd her, though; an' miade her run. 1884 *Contemp. Rev.* Mar. 343 They 'squailed' fowls—that is to say, they tied them to stakes and hurled cudgels at them..on Shrove Tuesday, for a treat.

3. To cast or throw. Also *fig.*

1876 T. HARDY *Ethelberta* II. 240 These easterly rains.. come wi' might enough to squail a man into his grave.

Squai·ler. Orig. *s.w. dial.* [f. prec.] A loaded stick, esp. used for throwing at small game or apples.

1847 in HALLIWELL. 1879 JEFFERIES *Amateur Poacher* iii, For making a 'squailer' a tea-cup was the best mould. 1896 *Westm. Gaz.* 2 Dec. 2/1 We used to use squailers at Marlborough...You held your squailer by the small end.

Squai·ling, *vbl. sb.* Also 8 **scailing.** [f. as prec.] The action of throwing a loaded stick (*at* a cock or other object).

1756 B. MARTIN *Misc. Corr.* Jan. 229 Cock-scailing, Cock-fighting, Bull-baiting, &c. are of a criminal Nature. 1795 *Sporting Mag.* VI. 157 The custom of squailing at cocks is very prevalent in the part of the country in which I reside [Ipswich]. 1825 JENNINGS *Observ. Dial. W. Eng.* 31 *Cock-squailing*, a barbarous game, consisting in tying a cock to a stake, and throwing a stick at him from a given distance, so as to destroy the bird. 1847 HALLIWELL s.v., Squailing therefore is often very awkwardly performed, because the thing thrown cannot be well directed. 1888 *Longman's Mag.* XIII. 516 Birds'-nesting, egg-stringing, squailing at birds,..these of course were common.

Squaimish(e, -ous, obs. ff. SQUEAMISH, -OUS.

Squake, obs. variant of SQUEAK *v.*

†**Squa·lder.** *Obs. rare.* [Of obscure origin.] Some species of jelly-fish.

1659 DR. R. ROBINSON in Sir T. Browne *Wks.* (1835) I. 423 About us they [jelly-fish] are generally called squalders, but are indeed evidently fishes, although not described in any Ichthyology I have yet mett with. *a* 1682 SIR T. BROWNE *Norf. Fishes* Ibid. IV. 333 Sea stars in great plenty... Whether they be bred out of the urticus, squalders, or sea jellies, as many report, we cannot confirm.

†**Squaleote,** *v. Obs.*—1 (Meaning obscure.)

1562 LEIGH *Armorie* Pref. P iv b, His cote..was of cloth with a burgunian garde of bare velute, well bawdefied on the halfe placard, and squaleoted in the fore quarters.

Squalid (skwo·lid), *a.* Also 6–8 **squallid,** 7 **-ed.** [ad. L. *squālid-us*, f. *squālēre* to be dry, rough, dirty, etc. So It. *squallido*, OF. *squalide, scalide*, Pg. *esqualido*.]

I. 1. Naturally foul and repulsive by the presence of slime, mud, etc., and the absence of all cultivation or care.

1591 SPENSER *Virg. Gnat* 543 The squalid lakes of Tartarie, And griesly Feends of hell him terrifie. 1664 H. MORE *Myst. Iniq.* 565 Those that seek for Inspirations and Revelations in By-holes amongst the squallid Sepulchers of the dead. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* IV. 686 All these Cocytus bounds with squalid Reeds, With muddy Ditches, and with deadly Weeds. 1743 FRANCIS tr. *Horace, Odes* II. ix. I. 221 Nor everlasting Rain deforms The squalid Fields. 1887 RUSKIN *Præterita* II. 150 No squalid fields of mud and thistles.

b. In general use: Repulsive or loathsome to look at.

1620 DEKKER *Dreame* (1860) 31 Then clapping their obstreperous squallid wings, Each of them on the frozen ruffian dings Such bitter blasts. 1822–7 GOOD *Study Med.* (1829) III. 211 The skin will..be covered over with ecthyma, impetigo, or some other squalid eruption.

2. Foul through neglect or want of cleanliness; repulsively mean and filthy: **a.** Of clothing.

1596 SPENSER *F. Q.* v. i. 13 They saw a Squire in squallid weed, Lamenting sore his sorrowfull sad tyne. 1616 CHAPMAN *Homer's Hymn Pan* 131 Although a God he were Clad in a squallid sheepskinn. 1623 MASSINGER *Dk. Milan* III. i, Nor come I as a slave, Pinioned and fettered, in a squalid weed. 1726 POPE *Odyss.* XVII. 412 A figure despicable, old, and poor, In squalid vests, with many a gaping rent.

b. Of dwellings or similar places.

1628 T. MAY in Le Grys *Barclay's Argenis* 107 Those valiant Chiefes..In a darke squallid Dungeon must not dye. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 3 Aug. 1654, 'Tis a squalid den made in the rock. 1829 LYTTON *Disowned* 53 Some squalid and obscure quarter of the city. 1845 DISRAELI *Sybil* (1863) 198 The general appearance of the room, however, though dingy, was not squalid. 1891 FARRAR *Darkn. & Dawn* xii, The squalid taverns and lodging-houses of the poorest of that vast and mongrel populace.

c. Of persons, their appearance, etc.

1642 H. MORE *Song of Soul* III. App. lxii, Why gaze you thus on my sad squalid face. 1662 HIBBERT *Body Divinity* II. 17 When God beholds us as we are in our selves we appear vile and squallid. 1729 SHELVOCKE *Artillery* v. 338 Together with the Inferior Prisoners all Dirty, Dejected, Squallid, and as it were half starved. 1780 *Mirror* No. 70, The squalid and death-like appearance of the good old man. 1834 PRINGLE *Afr. Sk.* 302 The prisoners..exhibited a strange array of wild and swarthy visages, squalid with neglect and misery. 1847 EMERSON *Poems, Monadnoc* Wks. (Bohn) I. 433 Is yonder squalid peasant all That this proud nursery could breed? 1875 FARRAR *Silence & Voices* Ser. I. 5 The poorest and most squalid savage.

absol. 1840 HOOD *Kilmansegg, Marriage* xiii, Bravely she shohe..As she sailed through the crowd of squalid and poor. *Comb.* 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* III. I. iv, Phantasms, squalid-horrid, shaking their dirk and muff.

3. Of qualities, conditions, etc.: Marked or characterized by filth, dirt, or squalor.

1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* I. ii. II. v, Winter is like vnto it, vgly, foule, squalid. 1638 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* (ed. 2) 242 Out of squallid wantonnesse they would overcharge their wide mouthes with pelo or other meat. 1784 COWPER *Task* I. 579 Strange! that a creature rational..should..prefer Such squalid sloth to honourable toil! 1822 SHELLEY *Chas. I*, I. 163 Here is health Followed by grim disease,.. wealth by squalid want. 1849 MISS MULOCK *Ogilvies* xvii, While squalid poverty grovels in between. 1875 HELPS *Soc. Press.* iii. 51 Without which in great towns the life of man will always be barbarous, squalid, and most unsatisfactory.

4. *fig.* Wretched, miserable, morally repulsive or degraded.

a 1660 *Contemp. Hist. Irel.* (Ir. Archæol. Soc.) I. 277 To giue a luster unto the author and his squalled inuentions. 1797 BURKE *Regic. Peace* iii. Wks. 1808 VIII. 313 The rest of the squalid tribe of the representatives of degraded kings. 1856 EMERSON *Eng. Traits, Literature*, Squalid contentment with conventions..betray[s] the ebb of life and spirit. 1890 *Spectator* 16 Aug., What a morally squalid Session we have had!

II. †**5.** Dry, parched; marked by drought. *Obs.*

1615 CROOKE *Body of Man* 541 In a marrish and weeping ground no grasse is brought forth neither yet in a squallid and hot soile. 1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* I. i. I. i, If the earth be barren then for want of raine, if dry and squalid, it yeeld no fruit. 1661 LOVELL *Hist. Anim. & Min.* 194 They are great in autumne, and are best in a squalid yeare.

†**6.** Rough; shaggy; unkempt. *Obs.*

1628 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* (ed. 3) I. iii. II. iv. 193 The skin is many times rough, squalid, especially..about the armes. 1631 P. FLETCHER *Piscatory Eclog.* vi, [Diana] with a mighty spear Flings down a bristled bore, or els a squalid bear. 1664 EVELYN *Sylva* 3 Divers of those [young trees] which are found in Woods..being overdripp'd become squalid and mossie. 1722 WOLLASTON *Relig. Nat.* i. 17, I do not by this deny them to be poor, any more than I should deny a man to have a squalid beard by not shaving him.

7. Having a pinched and miserable appearance. Of complexion: Having a dull unhealthy look.

1661 LOVELL *Hist. Anim. & Min.* 225 Sprats. They are squalid, leane, and not of copious aliment. 1753 *Scots Mag.* Oct. 516/1 Such as were of a squallid, or pale swarthy complexion. *a* 1776 R. JAMES *Fevers* (1778) 123 [It causes] an uneasy sensation on the left side,..attended with a squalid countenance. 1823 J. BADCOCK *Dom. Amusem.* 31 Loaves made of adulterated flour are always low and squalid; *i. e.* they appear small for their weight. 1828 LYTTON *Pelham* li, His complexion sallow and squalid.

Hence **Squa·lidly** *adv.*

a 1704 T. BROWN *Walk round Lond., Upon Compters* Wks. 1709 III. III. 53 Their Dress [was] squallidly neglected. 1847 WEBSTER, *Squalidly*, in a squalid, filthy manner.

Squalidity (skwǫli·dĭti). [ad. L. *squāliditās*, or f. SQUALID *a.* + -ITY.] The quality or character of being foul or squalid; filthiness, squalidness.

1668 H. MORE *Div. Dial.* III. xxiii. (1713) 227 That horrid Squalidity in the Usages of the barbarous Nations presseth hard toward that Conclusion. 1721 BAILEY, *Squalidity*, filthiness, nastiness, ill-favouredness. 1773 *Observ. State Poor* 34 Rags and vermin, squalidity and disease. 1823 *Blackw. Mag.* XIV. 252 He has no keeping about him, excepting a sort of medium tint of squalidity. 1857 KINGSLEY *Misc.* (1859) II. 340 Ill-built rows of undrained cottages,.. left to run into squalidity and disrepair. 1875 HELPS *Soc. Press.* iii. 53 The hideous difficulty and squalidity which beset those who are placed low down in the world.

Squa·lidize, *v. rare*—1. [f. SQUALID *a.* + -IZE.] *trans.* To render squalid or filthy.

1837 *New Monthly Mag.* L. 430 Rather than..squalidise himself into the Lazarus that had so long sat at his gate.

Squa·lidness. [f. SQUALID *a.* + -NESS.] = SQUALIDITY.

1727 BAILEY (vol. II), *Squalidness*, Foulness, Nastiness, Slovenliness. 1751 F. COVENTRY *Hist. Pompey* II. x. 219 The cunning little Animal..made his Escape from this Scene of Misery, Squallidness, and Poetry. 1812 SHELLEY in Hogg *Life* (1858) II. 101 A spectacle of squalidness and misery. 1851 HELPS *Comp. Solit.* xii. (1853) 226 The poor should have some place free from..the squalidness of home. 1877 PLUMPTRE *Trag. Sophocles* 106 And this his garb, whose time-worn squalidness Matches the time-worn face.

†**Squalino,** *v. slang. Obs.*—1 [f. SQUALL *v.*[1]] *intr.* To squeal or squall.

1810 *Sporting Mag.* XXXV. 147 While Blowzy squalino'd like entrapped rat.

†**Squall,** *sb.*[1] *Obs.* [Of obscure origin.]

1. A small or insignificant person. Usu. as a term of abuse.

1570 *Marr. Wit & Sci.* v. iii, This it is that makes me loke so leane, That lettes my groth, and makes me seeme a squall. 1589 E. A. *Triumphs Love & Fortune* E, But, sirra, you must know this same squall is the Dukes sonne. 1591 HARRINGTON *Orl. Fur.* XLIII. iv, Some miser, base deformed squall That save his riches hath no worthy parts. 1607 MIDDLETON *Michaelmas Term* III. i, Who would think now this fine sophisticated squall came out of the bosom of a barn, and the loins of a hay-tosser? *c* 1630 EDW. FORD *Ballad Norfolk Farmer's Journ. London* xi, A woman that is mighty tall, And yet her spouse a little squall.

transf. 1614 GORGES *Lucan* IX. 405 As his owne breed those [young ones that can look at the sun] he [the Eagle] affects: But euery wincking squall reiects.

2. Applied to a girl: (see quots.).

1607 MIDDLETON *Michaelmas Term* I. ii, Wouldst thou, a pretty, beautiful, juicy squall, live in a poor thrummed house i' th' country? 1611 COTGR., *Obeseau*,..a young minx, or little proud squall. 1630 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Wks.* II. 112 The rich Gull Gallant calls her Deare and Loue, Ducke, Lambe, Squall, Sweetheart, Cony, and his Doue.

Squall (skwǭl), *sb.*[2] Also 8 **squawl**. [f. SQUALL *v.*[1]]

1. A discordant or violent scream; a loud, harsh cry.

1709 W. KING *Misc.* 518 Betty distorts her Face with hideous Squawl, And Mouth of a Foot wide begins to bawl. 1768–74 TUCKER *Lt. Nat.* (1834) II. 443 Very bad music, badly executed, being rather roars or squalls than songs. 1782 WOLCOT (P. Pindar) *Odes to R.A.'s* xiii. Wks. 1812 I. 42 My lovely strangers, one and all, Gave, all at once, a diabolic squawl. 1821 CLARE *Vill. Minstr.* I. 94 The crowing pheasant..Betrays his lair with awkward squalls. 1833 HT. MARTINEAU *Manch. Strike* vi. 69 The passing squalls of the baby, who, however, allowed himself to be quickly hushed. 1883 *Century Mag.* XXVIII. 189 Away up the cañon, a wild-cat welcomed us with three discordant squalls.

b. The action or habit of squalling or talking in a shrill voice.

1755 *Connoisseur* No. 51 ¶3 He was determined, that the babe..should be put out to nurse,—he hated the squall of children. 1825 CREEVEY in *C. Papers* (1904) II. 87 Altho' these young ladies..have all more or less of the quality squall, yet their manners are particularly correct.

† 2. *Cant.* (See quot.) *Obs.*

1725 *New Cant. Dict., Squawl*, a Voice; as, *The Cove as a bien Squawl*, the Fellow has a good Voice.

Squall (skwǭl), *sb.*[3] [Of obscure origin: perhaps connected with prec.]

1. A sudden and violent gust, a blast or short sharp storm, of wind. Orig. *Naut.*

1719 *Boyer's Dict. Royal* I, *Rafale, Rafal*, .. squall. 1725 DE FOE *Voy. round World* (1840) 128 It blew..not only by squalls and sudden flaws but a settled terrible tempest. 1745 P. THOMAS *Jrnl. Anson's Voy.* 346 A very violent and sudden Squall took us quite a-head. 1820 SCORESBY *Acc. Arctic Reg.* I. 402 The squalls continued from five minutes to half an hour at a time. 1841 ELPHINSTONE *Hist. Ind.* II. 7 He was drowned, with all his family, in a sudden squall on the Indus. 1886 *Pall Mall G.* 4 Oct. 8/2 A fishing boat..was upset by a squall on the same day, and its three occupants perished.

Comb. 1898 *Daily News* 19 April 3/2 The squall-beaten shores of the Basque Provinces.

b. Const. *of* (wind, rain, snow, etc.).

1748 *Anson's Voy.* I. viii. 78 We had frequent squalls of rain and snow. 1777 ROBERTSON *Hist. Amer.* (1783) I. 55 A sudden squall of wind..landed them on an unknown island. 1844 H. H. WILSON *Brit. India* I. 347 Captain Cole landed..in a heavy squall of wind and rain, which effectually concealed his movements. 1879 BEERBOHM *Patagonia* v. 68 We encountered squalls of hailstones of unusual size.

transf. and *fig.* ? 1878 B. HARTE *Man on Beach* i. 7 A sudden flurry and gray squall of sand pipers. 1887 STEVENSON *Y. Nicholson* vi, Squalls of anger and lulls of sick collapse.

c. With distinguishing terms (see quots.).

1801 *Naval Chron.* VI. 91 A white squall passed over. 1823 CRABB *Technol. Dict.* s.v., A *black squall* is attended with a dark cloud, in distinction from a *white squall*, where there are no clouds, and a *thick squall*, accompanied with hail, sleet, &c. 1846 A. YOUNG *Naut. Dict.* 293 The Arched Squall..is usually distinguished by the arched form of the clouds near the horizon. *Ibid.*, The Descending Squall issues from clouds which are formed in the lower parts of the atmosphere near the observer. 1889 STEVENSON *Lett.* (1899) II. 136 We had a black squall astern on the port side and a white squall ahead to starboard.

2. *fig.* A disturbance or commotion; a quarrel; a storm: a. In general use. (Chiefly *Sc.*)

1813 BRUCE *Poems* II. 19 (E.D.D.), Keep out o' ilka squall aye. 1826 D. ANDERSON *Poems* 69 (E.D.D.), In raisin' or in reddin' squals [they] Met wi' their death. 1900 'ALLEN RAINE' *Garthowen* i, There was a squall when that was found out.

b. In the phr. *look out for squalls*. Orig. *Naut.*

1837 MARRYAT *Dog Fiend* xxiv, Look out for squalls, that's all. 1850 SMEDLEY *Frank Fairlegh* xxxi, Mind your eye, and look out for squalls, for that's a rasper and no mistake. 1902 ELIZ. BANKS *Newspaper Girl* 299 Ah! Now, I suppose, we must look out for squalls. I suppose in this book you..are going to pay off old scores.

c. *U.S.* A bad temper.

1807–8 W. IRVING *Salmag.* (1824) 96 The old gentleman came home in quite a squall.

Squall, *sb.*[4] *local.* [Of obscure origin.] A boggy or springy piece of ground.

1784 *Young's Annals Agric.* II. 43 In many of their fields they are troubled with springs; they call the wet spots *squalls*. 1794 [see SPEW *sb.* 3]. 1794 GRIGGS *Agric. Essex* 21 Where there are squails [*sic*], with sand or drift gravel, the passages are apt to choak in a short time.

Squall (skwǭl), *v.*[1] Also 7–9 **squawl** (8 **squawll**). [Imitative: cf. SQUEAL *v.* It is doubtful whether there is any direct connexion with some Scand. forms having the stem *skval-* and denoting noise of various kinds.]

1. *intr.* To scream loudly or discordantly: a. Of birds or animals.

a 1631 DRAYTON *Noah's Flood* Wks. (1748) 467/1 The raven croaks, the carrion crow doth squall, The pye doth chatter, and the partridge call. *a* 1721 PRIOR *Turtle & Sp.* 422 Begone..And hear thy dirty Off-spring Squawl From Bottles on a Suburb-Wall. [1759 *Ann. Reg.* 65 They said, that as he squalled like a cat, they would dispatch him likewise.] 1842 TENNYSON *Day-Dream* 144 The parrot scream'd, the peacock squall'd. 1859 MISS CARY *Country Life* (1876) 263 A flock of geese swimming in a shallow pond and squalling when he comes near. 1883 STEVENSON *Treas. Isl.* III. xiii, They..gave a cheer that..sent the birds once more flying and squalling round the anchorage.

b. Of persons, esp. children.

The common usage. Freq. with a touch of contempt.

1687 MIÉGE *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II. s.v., The least Thing that ails him makes him squawl. *a* 1790 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew, Squawl*,..to cry aloud. 1724 SWIFT *Corinna* Wks. 1751 III. II. 154 She seem'd to laugh and squawl in rhymes. 1760 GOLDSM. *Cit. W.* lxxxv, If they be for war,..I should advise them to have a public congress, and there fairly squall at each other. 1835 *Politeness & Gd.-breeding* 76 If any thing unpleasant happens at table,..do not squall out. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* xxxix, Seated at the piano with the utmost gravity, and squalling to the best of her power. 1883 STEVENSON *Treas. Isl.* I. v, Don't stand here squalling.

2. *trans.* To utter or sing in a loud discordant tone. Also with *out*.

1703 T. BAKER *Tunbridge-Walks* I, To hear a parcel of Italian Eunuchs, like so many Cats, squawll out somewhat you don't understand. 1762 *Phil. Trans.* LII. 475 The woman squalled out, all of a sudden, that an adder..had stung her by the finger. 1779 *Mirror* No. 34, She sung, or rather squalled, a song of Sacchini's. 1835 *Court Mag.* VI. 25/1 One of the common-place psalm tunes, squalled by charity children.

† **Squall,** *v.*[2] *Obs. rare.* Also 8 **squawl**. [Of obscure origin.]

1. *intr.* To turn the feet outwards in walking.

a 1661 FULLER *Worthies, Monmouth.* IV. (1662) 54 He was not onely what the Latines call *compernis*, knocking his knees together, and going out squalling with his feet, but also haulted a little.

2. *trans.* (See quot.)

a 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew, Squawl*, to throw a wry.

Squaller (skwǭ·ləɹ). [f. SQUALL *v.*[1] + -ER[1].] One who squalls or screams; one addicted to squalling; *esp.* a screaming child.

1687 MIÉGE *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II, Squawler, *Celui..qui crie.* 1760 *Ann. Reg.* 220 Italian squallers oft disgrace the stage. 1796 HUNTER tr. *St.-Pierre's Stud. Nat.* (1799) II. 538, I don't mind nosegays, nor these little squallers [nightingales]. 1816 MRS. SHELLEY in Dowden *Life Shelley* (1887) II. 62 Tell me, shall you be happy to have another little squaller? 1841 HEWLETT *Parish Clerk* I. 24 Mothers always sent for him to calm refractory squallers. 1872 'A. MERION' *Odd Echoes Oxf.* 42 Fifty babies too, Warranted loud squallers.

Squallery. *rare*[−1]. [f. SQUALL *sb.*[2] + -ERY.] Loud and shrill singing.

1895 MEREDITH *Amazing Marriage* xxxix, The goodly number of honest fellows in the house of music who detested 'squallery'.

Squalling (skwǭ·liŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. SQUALL *v.*[1]] The action of the verb; loud discordant screaming.

1677 MIÉGE *Fr. Dict.* II, Squeaking, or squalling. 1712 STEELE *Spect.* No. 509 ¶2 With the Din of Squalings, Oaths and Cries of Beggars. 1740 RICHARDSON *Pamela* xxvi. (1824) I. 40, I intended no harm to her..if you'd have left your squallings. 1788 WESLEY *Wks.* (1872) VII. 93 That disagreeable noise, the squalling of young children. 1911 *Blackw. Mag.* Feb. 271/1 The squalling of a thousand cats.

Squa·lling, *ppl. a.* [f. SQUALL *v.*[1]] That squalls or screams.

Chiefly said of children, with contemptuous force.

1712 STEELE *Spect.* No. 479 ¶2 The Noise of those damned Nurses and squawling Brats. 1822–7 GOOD *Study Med.* (1829) I. 563 Squeaking voice. The voice shrill and squalling. 1828 SCOTT *F. M. Perth* xxii, I am glad I saved the squalling child's life. 1852 THACKERAY *Esmond* III. v 140 Send that squalling little brat about his business.

† **Squa·lly,** *a.*[1] *Obs.* [Of obscure origin.]

1. Of cloth: Defective (in some specific manner).

1552 *Act* 5–6 *Edw. VI*, c. 6 § 19 Any Clothe whiche shalbe cockley, pursey, bandy, squally, rewy,..evill burled [etc.]. 1601 *Act* 43 *Eliz.* c. 10 § 1 The same Clothes being put in Water, are found to shrink, be rewey, pursey, squally, cockling, bandy, light, and notably faulty.

2. (See quot.)

1787 W. H. MARSHALL *Norfolk* Gloss. s.v. *Squally*, A crop of turneps, or of corn, which is broken by vacant unproductive patches, is said to be squally.

Squally (skwǭ·li), *a.*[2] Also 8 **squalley**. [f. SQUALL *sb.*[3]]

1. Characterized by the prevalence of squalls.

a. Of places, seasons, etc.

1719 *Boyer's Dict. Royal* I. s.v. *Rafale, Cote sujette aux rafales*, a squally Coast. 1830 HODGSON in Raine *Mem.* (1858) II. 175 The hills..in a squally evening look very black and dismal. 1848 CLOUGH *Amours de Voy.* III. 48 In the squally seas as we lay by Capraja and Elba. 1876 BLACK *Madcap Violet* xlv. 388 The day was squally enough, and might turn to showers.

b. Of weather.

1727 BAILEY, *Squalley*, inclinable to sudden Storms of Wind and Rain. 1745 P. THOMAS *Jrnl. Anson's Voy.* 25 Squally Weather, with Hail and Snow. 1782 NELSON 22 July in Nicolas *Disp.* (1846) VII. p. iv, I imagine we are just getting into the Gulf stream by its being so very squally. 1866 R. M. BALLANTYNE *Shifting Winds* xiv, The weather became thick and squally, and continued so for several days. 1890 *Science-Gossip* XXVI. 283 It was very squally at the time, with occasional showers of hail.

2. Of the wind: Blowing in sudden and violent gusts or blasts.

1748 *Anson's Voy.* III. i. 303 The wind proved squally, and blew so strong off shore [etc.]. 1797 NELSON 12 Apr. in Nicolas *Disp.* (1845) II. 379 The wind is either in from the sea, or squally with calms from the mountains. 1810 SHELLEY *Zastrozzi* xii, The towering pine-trees waved in the squally wind. 1883 STEVENSON *Silverado Sq.* 168 The wind veered ..and began to blow squally from the mountain summit.

3. *fig.* Stormy, troublous, threatening. Chiefly *U.S.*, esp. in the phr. *to look squally*.

1814 W. IRVING in *Life & Lett.* (1864) I. 315 Affairs, I am afraid, are about to look squally on our Canada frontier. 1833 'MAJ. J. DOWNING' (Seba Smith) *Lett.* (1835) xiv. 87 The times are now gittin pretty squally, and if we don't look out sharp, things will go all to smash. 1853 KANE *Grinnell Exp.* xlv. (1856) 418 But for some hours things looked squally enough. 1876 MRS. H. WOOD *Parkwater* (1879) 284 In the midst of her squally bargaining with the fish-vendor.

† **Squalm.** *Obs.*[−1] (Meaning obscure.)

c 1530 *Calisto & Melebea* 422, I haue..sene her trynkettys For payntyng, thyngys inumerable, Squalmys & balmys.

Squalodon (skwē̆·lŏdǫn). *Palæont.* [mod.L. *Squalodon*, f. L. *squalus* SQUALUS + Gr. *ὀδοντ-*, *ὀδούς* tooth.] A genus of fossil cetaceans found in Miocene and early Pliocene formations; a cetacean belonging to this genus.

1872 DARWIN *Orig. Spec.* (ed. 6) xi. 302 The tertiary Zeuglodon and Squalodon..are considered by Professor Huxley to be undoubtedly cetaceans. *c* 1880 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* II. 247 The Squalodons are known chiefly from the skull.

So **Squa·lodont.** Also *attrib.*

1889 NICHOLSON & LYDEKKER *Palæontology* (ed. 3) II. 1306 The extinct Squalodonts were formerly classed with the Zeuglodontidæ. 1899 *Proc. Zool. Soc.* 919 There is one detached tooth remaining, which is of the same Squalodont type.

Squaloid (skwē̆·loid), *a.* and *sb.* [f. L. *squalus* SQUALUS: see -OID.]

A. *adj.* Shark-like; comprising the sharks.

1836 BUCKLAND *Geol. & Min.* xiv. § 13 (1837) I. 289 *note*, In the third, or Squaloid division of fossils of the family. 1852 ANSTED *Phys. Geog.* xii. in *Man. Geog. Sci.* I. 380 With the exception of the Squaloid, or Shark family.

B. *sb.* A fish of the shark family.

1836 BUCKLAND *Geol. & Min.* xiv. § 13 (1837) I. 287 The third family of *Squaloids*, or true Sharks, commences with the Cretaceous formation. 1863 DANA *Man. Geol.* 278 The squaloids have an elongated body.

Squalor (skwǫ·lŏɹ, skwē̆·lŏɹ). Also 7 **squalour**, 7–8 **squallor**. [a. L. *squālor*, f. *squālēre* to be dry, rough, dirty, etc. So It. *squallore*, OF. *squalleur*.]

1. The state or condition of being physically squalid; a combination of misery and dirt.

1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* 207 What can poverty giue els, but beggery, fulsome nastinesse, squalor,..drudgery, labor, vglinesse? 1635 SWAN *Spec. M.* vii. § 3 (1643) 320 Without light ..each parcel of the worlds fabrick [would] lie buried in..dismall squalour. 1650 BULWER *Anthropomet.* 172 The Vice of this denominated Vertue is Squalor. 1714 MANDEVILLE *Fable Bees* (1733) I. 361 The dirt and squallor,..his pastimes and recreations would be all abominable. 1858 HAWTHORNE *Fr. & It. Note-bks.* II. 198 Hovel piled upon hovel,—squalor immortalized in undecaying stone. 1877 BLACK *Green Past.* vii, These wretched people living in squalor and ignorance and misery.

b. *fig.* The quality of being morally squalid.

1860 EMERSON *Cond. Life* vi. *Worship*, In creeds never was such levity; witness the..squalor of Mesmerism, the delira-tion of rappings.

† 2. Aridity or roughness. *Obs.*[−1]

a 1637 B. JONSON *Discov.* Wks. (1641) 116 Let them..no lesse take heed, that their new flowers and sweetnesse doe not as much corrupt, as the others drinesse, and squallor.

† **Squalper,** *v. Obs. rare*[−1]. [Cf. MSw. and Sw. *sqvalpa*, MDa. *sqvalpe*, to shake, agitate (a liquid).] *trans.* To agitate, disorder.

c 1530 *Judic. Urines* II. xii. 40 b, The humours..which afore were so squalpred & so distrublyd in ye body.

‖ **Squalus** (skwē̆·lŏs). Pl. **squali.** [L. *squalus*, some sea-fish.] A shark.

1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s.v., The *squalus* with a long-pointed and bony snout. *Ibid.*, The smooth *squalus* with granulous teeth. 1784 *Ann. Reg.* 241 The squalus or true tyger shark, uncommon on our coasts. 1816 TUCKEY *Narr. Exped. R. Zaire* ii. (1818) 40 We also took a small squalus, of a species new to us. 1854 BADHAM *Halieut.* 416 The ancients have left us many lively representations of the sanguinary proceedings of these ill-omened Squali.

† **Squam.** *Obs. rare.* Also 7 squamm. [ad. L. *squāma*: see next and cf. SQUAME.] A scale.

1661 LOVELL *Hist. Anim. & Min.* 12 Therefore burnt, together with the floures, rust, and squamms it's kept by apothecaries to dry and bind. 1729 *Evelyn's Sylva* II. iii. 118 The Kernels and Nuts, which may be gotten out of their.. Cones, clogs,.and squams by exposing them to the sun.

‖ **Squama** (skwē̆·mă). Pl. **squamæ.** Also 8 **squamma.** [L. *squāma* scale (in various senses): cf. SQUAME. So It. *squama, squamma.*]

1. *Zool.* A scale as part of the integument of a fish, reptile, or insect.

1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), *Squama*, the Scale of a Fish, Serpent, &c. 1728 [see 2]. 1817 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* II. xvii. 77 This species .. borrowing the abdominal squama from the former [genus], and the sting from the latter. 1819 SAMOUELLE *Entomol. Compend.* 250 Very squamous, the squamæ porrected in bundles. 1856 W. CLARK *Van der Hoeven's Zool.* I. 321 Poisers covered with large squamæ.

b. *Path.* A small portion of epidermis morbidly developed in the form of a scale.

1876 BRISTOWE *Th. & Pract. Med.* (1878) 311 The squamæ also vary in colour, consistence, thickness and form.

2. *Anat.* A thin scaly portion of a bone, esp. of the temporal bone.

1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl., Squammous*, in Anatomy, an Epithet given to the Spurious or false Sutures of the Skull; because composed of *Squammæ* or Scales like those of Fishes. 1866 HUXLEY *Prehist. Rem. Caithn.* 96 The upper part of the occipital squama is produced into a protuberance. 1877 BURNETT *Ear* 41 The canal is represented at that point by the curved lower edge of the squama.

3. *Bot.* = SCALE *sb.*[2] 3 d.

1738 *Gentl. Mag.* VIII. 140/2 As the Virtues of the Hop reside in the Squammæ, or subtile transparent Leaves. 1775 J. JENKINSON tr. *Linnæus' Brit. Pl.* 240 The cup..is a *squama*,

growing out of the leaf. 1830 LINDLEY *Nat. Syst. Bot.* 277 The one-flowered species of Schœnus, in which a single naked flower is surrounded by several imbricated squamæ. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 393/2 Examples of the squama are seen in those parts of the amentum or catkin which contain the organs of reproduction. 1861 BENTLEY *Man. Bot.* 190 The bracts of that kind of inflorescence called an Amentum or Catkin..are termed *squamæ* or *scales*.

Hence **Squama·ceous** *a.*, furnished with scales. 1857 A. GRAY *First Less. Bot.* (1860) 231.

Squamash, erron. variant of QUAMASH. 1849 BALFOUR *Man. Bot.* § 1078 In the Oregon and Missouri districts of North America, the bulbs of *Gamassia esculenta*, Gamass or Squamash, are also employed in a similar manner.

Squamate (skwē·mĕt), *a.* [ad. L. *squāmāt-us*, f. *squāma* SQUAMA.] Provided or covered with squamæ or scales.

a. *Zool.* and *Ent.* 1826 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* IV. 338 *Squamate*,..wings covered with minute scales. Ex. *Lepidoptera*. 1841 *Penny Cycl.* XX. 460/2 Other very remarkable extinct terrestrial species of gigantic squamate Saurians. 1870 ROLLESTON *Anim. Life* Introd. 58 In the Squamate Reptiles..in which the heart has not four..separate cavities.

b. *Bot.* 1848 LINDLEY *Introd. Bot.* (ed. 4) I. 314 The undisputed affinity with bulbs, whether tunicate or squamate. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1089/2 *Squamate*, covered with small scale-like leaves.

So **Squamated** *a.* (In 8 squamm-.) *rare*⁻¹. 1752 J. HILL *Hist. Anim.* 58 The body is formed of eight squammated joints, or has so many separate folds.

Squama·tion. *Zool.* [f. SQUAMA. See -ATION.] The condition or character of being covered with scales; a special mode or form of this.

1881 *Nature* No. 627. 2/1 A Palæoniscoid fish showing a condition of squamation almost identical with that of *Polypodon*. 1889 NICHOLSON & LYDEKKER *Palæontology* (ed. 3) II. 987 A fish from the Muschelkalk..has been made the type of the genus Prohalecites on account of peculiar features in its squamation. 1900 *Nature* 20 Sept. 507/1 *Eurynotus* ..still retains the palæoniscid squamation.

Squamato-, combining form, after L. types, of SQUAMATE *a.*, in the sense 'scaly and —', as **squamato-granulous, -tuberculate.**

1852 DANA *Crust.* I. 423 The hand is minutely squamato-granulous. *Ibid.* I. 517 Surface of body without spines, squamato-tuberculate.

Squame (skwē·m). Also 5 **swame**, 7 **squamme.** [ad. OF. *esquame* (*escame*, also *scame*, *squamme*, mod.F. *squame*) or L. *squāma* SQUAMA.]

†**1.** A scale (of iron, or on the skin or eyes). *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Can. Yeom. Prol. & T.* 206 What schulde I..besy me to telle yow the names, As orpiment, brent bones, yren squames, That into poudre grounden ben ful smal? *c* 1400 *Lanfranc's Cirurg.* 189 Furfurea ben a maner of squamis, i. schellis þat comeþ of brennyng þat is in þe skyn. *a* 1470 HARDING *Chron.* lxiii, In whose bloodde bathed he should haue been, His leprous swames [*v.r.* squamys] to haue washed of clene. *c* 1485 *Digby Myst.* (1882) II. 298 The swame ys fallyn from my eyes twayne. 1661 LOVELL *Hist. Anim. & Min.* 12 The flouers bind, represse excrescencies, and cleare the eyes of the Squamme.

fig. 1483 CAXTON *Gold. Leg.* 127/2 Take thynfirmytees of humanyte and caste away the squames of pryde.

†**2.** App. some species of fish or shell-fish. *Obs.* 1393 *Earl Derby's Exp.* (Camden) 215 Item pro pikerell et creuez, j duc. lxviij s; item pro squames, xl s; item pro kokkel, xxij s. *Ibid.* 216 Item pro squamez, xl s.

3. *Zool.* = SQUAMA 1.

1877 HUXLEY *Anat. Inv. Anim.* vi. 339 In these genera the scaphocerite, or squame, usually attached to the base of the antenna, is absent. 1888 ROLLESTON & JACKSON *Anim. Life* 169 The second joint..bears an exopodite in the shape of a scale or 'squame'.

Squame·llate, *a.* *Bot.* [f. mod.L. *squāmella*, dim. of *squāma* SQUAMA.] 'Furnished with little scales.'

1857 A GRAY *First Less. Bot.* 231.

Squa·meous, *a.* Now *rare* or *Obs.* Also 7, 9 squamm-. [ad. L. *squāmeus*, f. L. *squāma* SQUAMA.] Furnished or covered with scales; scaly.

1676 GREW *Anat. Pl., Anat. Fl.* (1682) 175 Leaves are Membraneous, as the greater part; Squameous, as *Abies*, or Filamentous. 1677 PLOT *Oxfordsh.* 114 Such are the bones of Whales, Sea-horses, and the bones of all the squammeous kind. 1721 BAILEY, *Squameous*, scaly or like Scales. 1829 GRIFFITH tr. *Cuvier* VIII. 85 Squammeous Pigeon, *Columba Squamosa*.

Squami·ferous, *a.* *Zool.* and *Bot.* [f. L. *squāmifer*: see SQUAMA and -FEROUS.] Bearing or provided with scales; squamigerous.

1748 MARTIN *Inst. Lang.*, *Squamiferous*, bearing scales. 1856 W. CLARK *Van der Hoeven's Zool.* I. 246 Feet destitute of squama..alternate with squamiferous feet. 1866 J. SMITH *Ferns Brit. & For.* (1879) 78 Fronds..rarely simple, smooth, villose, or squamiferous.

Squa·miform, *a.* *Zool.* and *Bot.* [ad. mod. L. *squāmiformis*: see SQUAMA and -FORM. So F. *squamiforme*.] Having the shape of a scale or scales.

1828-32 WEBSTER, *Squamiform*, having the form or shape of scales. 1828 STARK *Elem. Nat. Hist.* II. 165 The peduncle with squamiform teeth. 1852 DANA *Crust.* I. 518 The gastric [spine] has three or four squamiform tubercles, posterior to it.

Squa·mify, *v.* In 9 squamm-. [f. SQUAM-A + -(I)FY.] To make scales; to cover with scales.

1850 D. KING *Geol. & Relig.* 175 Until he became covered with scales from the squammifying power of the sea.

Squami·gerous, *a.* [f. L. *squāmiger*: see SQUAMA and -GEROUS.] Scale-bearing; squamiferous.

1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.*, *Squamigerous*, that hath or beareth scales; scaly. 1826 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* III. xxxvi. 711 The pedicle is..squamigerous in *Formica*. 1835 KIRBY *Hab. & Inst. Anim.* II. xvii. 151 The various piligerous, plumigerous, pennigerous, and squamigerous animals.

Squamo- (skwē·mo), used as comb. form of SQUAMA, chiefly in terms of *Anat.* relating to the squamous bones, as *squamo-occipital*, *-parietal*, *-sphenoidal*, *-temporal*; also in the sense of 'scaly', as *squamo-epithelial*. Cf. SQUAMOSO-.

1846 OWEN *Vertebrate Animals* I. 112 The squamo-temporal bone and the malar bone of higher animals. 1855 HOLDEN *Human Osteology* 93 The squamous part of the temporal is connected..to the great wing of the sphenoid by the 'squamo-sphenoidal' suture. 1878 T. BRYANT *Pract. Surg.* I. 135 Squamo-epithelial cancer extends to the glands, but not generally to the viscera. 1904 DUCKWORTH *Morphol. & Anthropol.* x. 229 The..point of confluence of the lambdoid, squamo-parietal and squamo-occipital sutures.

Squamosal (skwămō·săl), *a.* and *sb.* *Anat.* [f. next + -AL.]

A. *adj.* **1.** *Squamosal bone*, the squamous bone. 1849-52 *Todd's Cycl. Anat.* IV. 940/1 In all the mammalia it articulates..with the squamous element of the temporal —the squamosal bone. 1875 HUXLEY in *Encycl. Brit.* I. 754/1 The T-shaped squamosal bone..sends a broad, flat process inwards.

2. Of or pertaining to the squamous bone. 1863 HUXLEY *Evid. Man's Place Nat.* III. 142 Notwithstanding the great length of the skull..the squamosal suture is very straight. 1870 ROLLESTON *Anim. Life* Introd. 43 The lower jaw articulates directly with the squamosal element of the cranial walls.

B. *sb.* The squamosal bone or squamous portion of the temporal bone. 1848 OWEN *Homol. Vertebr. Skel.* 146 The chief bulk of this segment of the brain is protected..by the intercalated squamosals. 1866 HUXLEY *Prehist. Rem. Caithn.* 86 The upper contour of the squamosal is nearly straight. 1884 COUES *N. Amer. Birds* 157 The Squamosal..bounds the brain-box laterally.

Squamose (skwămō·s), *a.* Also 7-9 **squammose.** [ad. L. *squāmōs-us*, f. *squāma* scale.]

1. Covered or furnished with scales; scaly. 1661 LOVELL *Hist. Anim. & Min.* Isagoge a 3, Fishes, which are..Marine and Fluviatile both, and are squammose, or scaled. 1695 WOODWARD *Nat. Hist. Earth* I. 32 The Teeth and Bones of the cartilaginous and squammose Fishes. 1752 J. HILL *Hist. Anim.* 221 There always stands a large fleshy and squammose apophysis at the top of each of these [fins]. 1826 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* IV. 274 *Squamose*, covered with minute scales. 1854 BADHAM *Halieut.* 259 No fish of the same inches is more broadly squamose than the Carp. 1856 W. CLARK *Van der Hoeven's Zool.* I. 298 Body depressed, squamose, not saltatory, terminated by 3 subequal setæ.

2. *Anat.* = SQUAMOUS *a.* 1 a, 1 b.

[1699 *Phil. Trans.* XXI. 142 The Squammosa part of the Temporal Bones was wanting.] 1708 *Phil. Trans.* XXVI. 173 It was in the interior part of the Squamose Bone. 1758 J. S. *Le Dran's Observ. Surg.* (1771) Expl. Fig. i, The Squamose Suture of the Temporal Bones. 1847 H. MILLER *Test. Rocks* vi. (1857) 214 It overrode by a squamose suture the lower plates with which it came in contact.

3. *Bot.* = SQUAMOUS *a.* 3.

1731 P. MILLER *Gard. Dict.* s.v. *Abies*, Soaking them all Night in Water..will cause their squamose Cells to open. 1760 J. LEE *Introd. Bot.* II. xxxi. (1765) 152 *Fritillaria*, with a squamose Bulb. 1857 HENFREY *Bot.* § 47 Bulbs are named, according to the character of their leaf-scales, scaly or squamose, when these only partially overlap. 1857 M. J. BERKELEY *Cryptog. Bot.* 337 The outer coat assumes various forms, being floccose, furfuraceous, or squamose. 1879 A. GRAY *Struct. Bot.* (ed. 6) 40 The squamose (scale-like) character of this covering.

4. *Path.* = SQUAMOUS *a.* 6.

1822-7 GOOD *Study Med.* (1829) V. 547 Hence a great variety of superficial eruptions, papulous, pustulous, and ichorous, squammose, or furfuraceous. *Ibid.* 613 Various other species of squamose or leprous affections of the skin.

Hence **Squamo·sely** *adv.*; **Squamo·seness.**

1727 BAILEY, *Squamoseness*, Scaliness. 1822 J. PARKINSON *Outl. Oryctol.* 217 Backs squamosely serrated. *Ibid.* 223 Sides squamosely scabrous.

Squamo·sity. *rare.* [f. SQUAMOSE *a.* + -ITY.] The state or character of being covered with scales. 1775 in ASH. 1904 *Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist.* Aug. 107 Their series of punctures more regular and distinct, squamosity more infuscate.

Squamoso- (skwămō·sō), used as combining form of SQUAMOSE *a.*, in the sense 'squamous and —', as *squamoso-dentated*, *-imbricated*, *-radiate*; or in terms of *Anat.* relating to the squamous bones, as *squamoso-maxillary*, *-parietal*, *-temporal*, *-zygomatic*.

1822 J. PARKINSON *Outl. Oryctol.* 217 Ribs carinated, squamoso-dentated, rather rough. *Ibid.* 223 With twenty squamoso-imbricated rays. 1843 *Penny Cycl.* XXV. 269/2 The whorls turgidly convex, squamoso-radiate at the margin. 1875 *Encycl. Brit.* I. 874/1 The squamoso-temporal region of the skull.

Squamous (skwē·məs), *a.* Also 6 **scamous**, **squamus**, 8 **squammous.** [ad. L. *squāmōsus*, f. *squāma* SQUAMA. So It. *squamoso*, Sp. *escamoso*, OFr. *scamoux*, *scammeux*, F. *squam(m)eux*.]

1. *Anat.* a. *Squamous bone, part, portion*, the thin and scaly part of the temporal bone, situated in the temple.

1541 R. COPLAND *Guydon's Quest. Chirurg.* Div b, Ye bones that are called Petrous..Also they be called Scamous .., for they be conioynte in maner of the scales of a fysshe with the sayde parietalles.

1778 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 2) I. 345/2 One [part of the bone] ..is called the squamous, or scaly part. 1808 *Med. Jrnl.* XIX. 395 The Squamous portion of the Temporal Bone. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 79/1 The squamous bone or portion has a roundish form. 1876 *Trans. Clinical Soc.* IX. 16 The skull narrows, leaving..prominent ridges which mark the junction between the squamous and parietal bones.

b. Of a suture: Formed by thin overlapping parts resembling scales.

1709 *Phil. Trans.* XXVII. 104 From thence it [the *Os Maxilla*] runs obliquely backward, and is articulated with the *Os Palati* by a broad squamous Suture. 1741 A. MONRO *Anat.* (ed. 3) 73 The Squamous Agglutinations or False Sutures are one of each Side, a little above the Ear. 1836 BUCKLAND *Geol. & Min.* II. 55 The overlapping, or squamous suture by which the Collar is fitted to..the calcareous Sheath of the Siphon. 1866 HUXLEY *Prehist. Rem Caithn.* 151 The contained cerebral substance could only expand at the sides in the situation of the squamous sutures.

c. (See quot.)

1854 OWEN in *Orr's Circ. Sci., Org. Nat.* I. 173 In the cod ..most of the bones..have what, in anatomy, is called the 'squamous' character and mode of union, being flattened, thinned off at the edge, and overlapping one another.

2. Containing scale-like particles. *rare*⁻¹.

1547 BOORDE *Brev. Health* lxxiii. 23 b, In this matter take good hede that thou do marke a furfurous uryne from a squamus water, and a squamus water from a skaly water.

3. *Bot.* Furnished or covered with, composed of, squamæ or scales.

1658 SIR T. BROWNE *Gard. Cyrus* iii, In the squamous heads of Scabious Knapweed,..and in the Scaly composure of the Oak-Rose. 1668 WILKINS *Real Char.* 73 Many squamous shining hollow heads hanging upon slender stalks. 1731 P. MILLER *Gard. Dict.* s.v. *Virga*, The Calyx (or Flower-cup) is squamous. 1785 MARTYN *Lett. Bot.* (1794) I. 24 [The root] of the lily is squamous, or composed of scales. 1861 HULME tr. *Moquin-Tandon* II. III. v. 152 The Squamous Gall, which Reaumur called Artichoke Gall, is..found on the English Oak. 1870 BENTLEY *Man. Bot.* (ed. 2) 182 The bracts are described as *squamous* or *scaly*.

4. = SQUAMOSE *a.* 1.

1668 WILKINS *Real Char.* 142 Squamous River Fish. 1747 *Gentl. Mag.* XVII. 461 Others [*sc.* squares of skin] irregular and rough, and even squamous, like tubercles. 1796 MORSE *Amer. Geog.* I. 218 Blue bellied, squamous lizards, several varieties. 1819 H. BUSK *Vestriad* II. 84 The brawny Tritons, with their weedy hair, Their squamous tails, and slimy shoulders bare. 1854 S. P. WOODWARD *Mollusca* II. 281 The lower valves of some Spondyli are squamous or spiny,—the upper, plain.

5. Of substances: Composed of scales.

a 1728 WOODWARD *Fossils* I. 57 The squamous or foliaceous Talc and Mica. 1835-6 *Todd's Cycl. Anat.* I. 208/2 He considers each little band as being composed of two substances, one fleshy, which contracts upon drying, the other squamous. 1860 TANNER *Pregnancy* ii. 79 The epithelium of the mucous coat..is of the tesselated or squamous variety. 1872 HUXLEY *Physiol.* xii. 275 Squamous epithelium generally consists of many layers of cells, one over the other.

6. *Path.* Of skin-diseases: Characterized by the development of scales or laminæ of skin.

1843 R. J. GRAVES *Syst. Clin. Med.* xx. 247 *note*, A copious eruption often combining the lichenous and the squamous forms. 1875 B. MEADOWS *Clin. Observ.* 60 A squamous eruption, not confined to any particular part, but especially affecting the chest. 1876 DUHRING *Dis. Skin* 164 Squamous eczema may be..merely an ephemeral stage of the disease. *Comb.* 1891 MOULLIN *Surg.* 139 The fatty change is common..in squamous-celled epitheliomata.

7. Of armour: Scaly, scaled; laminated.

1845 C. H. SMITH in KITTO *Cycl. Bibl. Lit.* s.v. *Arms*, The term..'scales', in the case of Goliath's armour, denotes the squamous kind. 1858 KITTO *Daily Bible Illustr.* III. 225 The squamous arrangement of the pieces of metal.

Hence **Squa·mously** *adv.*; **Squa·mousness.**

1775 ASH, *Squamousness*, the state of being squamous. 1822 PARKINSON *Outl. Oryctol.* 223 *Pecten scabrellus*: suborbicular,..squamously denticulated.

‖ **Squamula** (skwē·miŭlă). *Zool.*, *Ent.*, and *Bot.* [L., dim. of *squāma* scale.] A small scale; a squamule.

1754 *Dict. Arts & Sci.* s.v. *Lepidoptera*, Four wings, which are covered with imbricated squamulæ. 1822 J. PARKINSON *Outl. Oryctol.* 15 The central part assumes the figure of a squamula. 1830 LINDLEY *Nat. Syst. Bot.* 294 In certain other genera, as Bambusa, and Stipa, a third squamula exists.

Squamula·tion. [f. prec. or next.] An arrangement of small scales. 1886 P. L. SCLATER *Catal. Birds Brit. Mus.* XI. 122 Neck- and breast-feathers black edged with green or blue, forming squamulations.

Squamule (skwē·miŭl). *Zool.* and *Bot.* [Anglicized f. SQUAMULA.] = SQUAMULA.

1858 W. CLARK *Van der Hoeven's Zool.* II. 71 Skin naked in the interstices, rough with small dispersed squamules. 1887 W. PHILLIPS *Brit. Discomycetes* 23 Stem .. granular with minute squamules.

Squa·muliform, *a.* [ad. mod.L. *squāmuliformis*: see SQUAMULA and -FORM.] Having the shape or character of a squamula. 1882 *Encycl. Brit.* XXII. 561/1 Thallus..squamuliform or granulose with the gonimia subsolitary.

Squamulo·se, *a.* *Bot.* Also squamm-. [ad. mod.L. *squāmulōs-us*: see SQUAMULA and -OSE.] Furnished or covered with small scales. 1846 *Proc. Berw. Nat. Club* II. 174 Veil..thickly covered with the same powder as the pileus, but more distinctly squammulose. 1857 M. J. BERKELEY *Cryptog. Bot.* 418

Many other forms are assumed by the crusts of Lichens;.. the squamulose form an analogous hypertrophy. 1887 W. Phillips *Brit. Discomycetes* 3 Stem..soft, white, squamulose on the surface.

†**Squa·my**, *a.* *Obs. rare.* [f. L. *squāma* Squama.] Covered with scales; scaly.

1592 R. D. *Hypnerotomachia* 28 b, A Dragon,..her squamy ..hide trailing upon the flowerd pavement. 1599 Nashe *Lenten Stuffe* 27 This captaine of the squamy cattell [*sc.* the herring]. 1612 Shelton *Quix.* II. vi. I. 97 The dreadful Howls Of ravening Wolf, and Hissing terrible Of squamy Serpent.

Squander (skwɒ·ndəɹ), *sb.* [f. next.] The act of squandering; extravagant expenditure; an instance of this. Also *fig.*

1709 Mrs. Manley *Secret Mem.* (1736) I. 27 Will he one Day set it all at Stake upon a Royal Cast, an Imperial Squander? Or descend to his Grave, choak'd with greediness of Gain? *Ibid.* IV. 136 He..did not care to make an ostentatious Squander of his own Person and Valour, and therefore would be manag'd. 1806 *Ing. St. Nation* 92 (Todd), The waste of our resources, and the squander of our opportunities. 1859 Cornwallis *New World* I. 27 He is a prodigal paymaster, and in the school of squander, completely takes the shine out of the 'Britishers'. 1893 F. F. Moore *Gray Eye or So* II. 118 There's not much of a squander in the deal when I get value for it.

Squander (skwɒ·ndəɹ), *v.* [Of obscure origin.]

1. *trans.* In pa. pple. **a.** Of things: To be scattered over a comparatively wide surface or area.

1596 Shaks. *Merch. V.* I. iii. 22 He hath a third [ship] at Mexico, a fourth for England, and other ventures hee hath, squandred abroad. *c* 1645 Howell *Lett.* (1650) I. 267 The present condition of the Jews,..now grown contemptible, and strangely squandered up and down the world. *Ibid.* II. 20 In many thousand Islands that lye squandred in the vast Ocean. 1847 Halliwell s.v., 'His family are all grown up, and squandered about the country,' i.e. settled in different places. 1882 C. Elton *Orig. Eng. Hist.* ix. 223 The fallen timber obstructed the streams, the rivers were squandered in the reedy morasses.

b. Brought to disintegration or dissolution.

1610 *Gaultier's Rodomontados* D j b, She shall no sooner be falne downe there, but she shall be squandered into dust & pow[d]er. 1653 H. More *Antid. Ath.* II. vii. § 4 And so they would rot upon the Ground before they be spent, or be squander'd away in a moment of Time.

2. To drive off in various directions; to cause to scatter or disperse.

1657 Sanderson *Serm.* (1674) 37 To tend his Forces.. against the strongest Troops of the enemy; and to squander and break through the thickest ranks. 1666 Dryden *Ann. Mirab.* lxvii, They charge, recharge, and all along the sea They drive and squander the huge Belgian fleet. 1697 — *Æneid* II. 571 The troops we squander'd first, again appear From sev'ral quarters, and inclose the rear. 1818 Wilbraham *Chesh. Gloss.* s.v., To squander a covey of partridges. 1892 Atkinson *Last of Giant-killers* 96 The stones that had been laid in course, had been squandered about anyhow.

b. *Mining.* (See quot.)

1883 Gresley *Gloss. Coal-m.* 233 *Squander*, to beat or kill (extinguish) an underground fire.

3. To spend (money, goods, etc.) recklessly, prodigally, or lavishly; to expend extravagantly, profusely, or wastefully. Also const. *on*.

The most common usage. Freq. since 1810.

1593 Nashe *Christ's T.* 45 Fooles shall squander in an houre, all the auarice of their ambitious wise Auncesters. 1623 Cockeram I, *Squander*, lauishly to consume ones estate. 1727–46 Thomson *Summer* 1638 The cruel wretch, Who.. has squandered vile, Upon his scoundrel train, what might have cheered A drooping family of modest worth. 1783 Burke *Rep. Aff. India* Wks. 1842 II. 33 The cultivators.. would squander part of the money, and not be able to complete their engagements to the full. 1849 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* iii. I. 323 Of the great sums..part had been embezzled by cunning politicians, and part squandered on buffoons and foreign courtesans. 1881 W. G. Marshall *Through Amer.* i. 10 Millions of dollars..have been squandered over the work.

absol. 1710 Swift *Change in Queen Anne's Ministry* Wks. 1841 I. 283 He was grown needy by squandering upon his vices. 1863 Geo. Eliot *Romola* ix, To squander with one hand till they have been fain to beg with the other.

b. With *away*.

1611 Cotgr., *Fricasser*,..to spend, or squander all away. 1661 *Verney Mem.* (1907) II. 170, I have noe great mind to squander away £100. 1687 A. Lovell tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* I. 264 Don Philippo..soon squandered away two or three Thousand Crowns, that were lent him. *a* 1763 W. King *Polit. & Lit. Anecd.* (1819) 17 The public money is squandered away in pensions. 1789 J. Williams *Min. Kingd.* I. 204 Our schemes..will..squander away the public money upon unnecessary projects. 1855 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* xx. IV. 489 Neale,..after squandering away two fortunes, had been glad to become groom porter at the palace. 1885 Miss Braddon *Wyllard's Weird* I. i. 19 He squandered every shilling of his small patrimony away.

4. To spend or employ (time) wastefully; to waste. Also with *away*.

1693 Stillingfl. *Serm.* (1698) III. x. 409 How much time is squandred away in Vanity and Folly? *a* 1721 Prior *Vicar of Bray & Sir T. Moor* 232 Alas how we squander away our Days without doing our Duty. 1757 Chesterf. *Lett.* cccxxiii. (1792) IV. 99 Have I employed my time, or have I squandered it? 1842 Borrow *Bible in Spain* i, They considered the time occupied in learning as so much squandered away. 1871 B. Taylor *Faust* (1875) I. 110 Such time I've squandered o'er the history.

5. To spend profusely, without securing adequate return; to use in a wasteful manner.

1716–7 Bentley *Serm.* xi. 389 If he squander his Talents in Luxury. 1758 Johnson *Idler* No. 1 ¶ 11 No words are to be squandered in declaration of esteem, or confessions of inability. 1795 Burke *Regic. Peace* (1892) 89 If they were to send us far from the aid of our King,..to squander us away in the most pestilential climates. 1842 Lover *Handy Andy* xlvii, The extraordinary capers Tom cut on the occasion, and the unheard-of lies he squandered. 1857 Buckle *Civiliz.* I. xi. 625 The resources of the country were squandered to an unprecedented extent. 1900 G. T. Stokes *Worthies Irish Church* xii. 232 Much valuable enthusiasm was squandered.

6. *intr.* To roam about; to wander.

1630 J. Taylor (Water P.) *Wks.* I. 131/2 But at last (I squandring vp and downe)..I happened into a Caue. 1850 *Bentley's Misc.* Jan. 37 The way they squander about in pairs and single ones is edifying.

7. To disperse in various directions; to scatter.

1823 Jefferson *Writ.* (1830) IV. 367 Each shifted for himself, and left his brethren to squander and do the same as they could. 1827 Scott in *Croker Papers* (1884) I. xi. 319 The disposition seems as if some Yankee general had given the command, 'Split and Squander'. 1861 Metcalfe *Oxonian in Iceland* 156 His reverence continues his mad career among the horses, who squander right and left in alarm.

Squa·ndered, *ppl. a.* [f. prec.]

1. Dispersed; scattered.

c 1645 Howell *Lett.* (1650) I. 329 This once select nation of God..is become now a scorned squandered people all the earth over. 1681 Dryden *Span. Friar* I. i, Upon the Skirts Of Arragon our squander'd Troops he rallies. 1692 Bentley *Boyle Lect.* vii. 231 'Tis necessary that these squander'd Atoms should convene and unite. 1820 Clare *Rural Life* (ed. 2) 118 Beckoning hints..That guide the squander'd covey home. 1883 Pennell-Elmhirst *Cream of Leicestersh.* 236 Six men were a quarter of a mile to the good of their squandered field.

2. Spent profusely or extravagantly.

1801 Southey *Thalaba* I. xxxii, What was to him the squander'd wealth? 1851 Helps *Comp. Solit.* x. 195 He sees what he might have done with the squandered resources.

transf. 1897 *Westm. Gaz.* 4 Sept. 2/3 Squandered love was never blessed.

Squanderer (skwɒ·ndərəɹ). [f. as prec.] One who squanders or spends extravagantly.

1611 Cotgr., *Sacre*,..a spendall, vnthrift, squanderer. 1656 Earl Monm. tr. *Boccalini's Advts. fr. Parnass.* I. xix. (1674) 20 By giving past number or measure, they deserve rather to be esteemed foolish squanderers, than vertuously Liberal. 1741 Richardson *Pamela* IV. 369 This would.. instruct him..to avoid being a Squanderer or Waster. 1791 Cowper *Odyss.* xiv. 117 Witness how fast the squanderers use his wine. 1863 Cowden Clarke *Shaks. Char.* xvi. 406 Squanderers and gamblers have no sense of justice.

transf. *c* 1830 Landor *Prose Pieces* Wks. 1846 II. 465 Far differently ought we to estimate the squanderers of human blood, and the scorners of human tears.

Squa·ndering, *vbl. sb.* [f. as prec.] The action of spending lavishly or prodigally. Also with *away*.

1632 Sherwood, A squandering, *bobance, bobans.* 1677 Miège *Fr. Dict.* II. s.v., A Squandering away. 1721 Bailey, *Profuseness*, a..lavishness or squandering of Money. 1753 *Scots Mag.* XV. 79/1 Our granting of a subsidy..would be worse than squandering. 1817–8 Cobbett *Resid. U.S.* (1822) 228 This squandering causes heavy taxes. 1859 Holland *Gold Foil* xxvi. 316 The squandering of precious means by organized bands of sane business men.

transf. and *fig.* 1763 D. Arnot in *Life M. Bruce* (1914) vii. 100 Nothing is more shameful than the squandering away of time. 1839–40 W. Irving *Chron. Wolfert's Roost* (1855) 65 He had experienced..its dissipation of the spirits, and squanderings of the heart.

Squa·ndering, *ppl. a.* [f. as prec.]

1. a. Of persons: Given to squander; spending lavishly or extravagantly.

1589 Warner *Alb. Eng.* VI. xxx. 134 My wife..Shall not ywis be bused by the squandring Pollo so. 1668 Wilkins *Real Char.* II. i. § 5. 42 Transcendental relations of Action. ..Squandring, lavish, profuse. 1708 King *Cookery* Wks. 1776 III. 78 Squandering of wealth, impatient of advice. 1845 Disraeli *Sybil* (1863) 53 All was certain;..the oaks [had not] to tremble at the axe of the squandering heir.

b. Of conduct, etc.: Characterized by extravagant expenditure.

1726 Bolingbroke *Study Hist.* viii. Wks. 1754 II. 472 The reign of false and squandering policy..will finally compleat our ruin. 1849 Craig, *Squanderingly*, in a squandering manner.

2. Straying, straggling; spreading abroad. Now *dial.*

1600 Shaks. *A. Y. L.* II. vii. 57 The Wise-mans folly is anathomiz'd Euen by the squandring glances of the foole. 1854– in dial. glossaries (Nhp., Leics., Rutland). 1866 *N. & Q.* 3rd Ser. X. 27 It's a squandering farm; a field here and a field there; it don't lie together. 1886 *S. W. Linc. Gloss.* 140 It's a very squandering place.

Hence **Squa·nderingly** *adv.*

1847 in Webster.

†**Squanging**, *ppl. a.* *Obs.*[1] ? Sweeping.

1688 Holme *Armoury* III. 115/1 Swash Letters, are Italick Capitals, which have generally long dashing squanging stroaks in them, either at the head or foot.

†**Squanter-squash.** *U.S. Obs. rare.* Also 7 **isquouter, squonter-.** [ad. Narragansett Indian *asquutasquash*: see Squash *sb.*[2]] A squash.

1634 W. Wood *New Eng. Prosp.* 67 In Summer, when their [*sc.* the Indians'] corne is spent, Isquouter squashes is their best bread, a fruite like a young Pumpion. 1672 Josselyn *New Eng. Rarities* 57 Squashes, but more truly Squonter-squashes, a kind of Mellon, or rather Gourd. 1705 R. Beverley *Virginia* II. iv. (1722) 124 The Clypeatæ are sometimes call'd Cymnels..., from the Lenten Cake of that Name, which many of them very much resemble. Squash, or Squanter-Squash, is their Name among the Northern Indians, and so they are call'd in New-York and New-England.

Squappe, obs. variant of Swap *v.*

Squarable (skwēə·răb'l), *a.* and *sb.* [f. Square *v.*] **a.** *adj.* Capable of being squared. **b.** *sb.* A person who can be 'squared'.

1706 Phillips (ed. Kersey) s.v. *Contradictory Opposition*, The Circle is squarable, The Circle is not squarable. 1840 Riddle *Hutton's Recreat.* 169 This would be true, even if the figure A B C F A were not absolutely squarable. 1898 *Contemp. Rev.* Aug. 200 The receiver would be known by every promoting gang, as one of the 'squareables'.

Square (skwēəɹ), *sb.* Forms: *α.* 4 **sqwyr** (**swyer**), 4–6 **squyre**, 4–7 **squire** (4 **suire**), 5 **squir, sqvyȝer, sqvyyre, sqvyer**, 5–6 **squyer**, 6 **sqwier**, 6–7 **squier**; 6 **squere**. *β.* 5 **skwar, sqvar, sqware**, 6 **squair**(**e**, 5– **square**. [ad. OF. *esquire* (*esquierre*) and *esquare* (*es-*, *equarre*, also *escuerre*, *equerre*, mod.F. *équerre*) :–pop.L. **exquadra* (see Quadra), whence also It. *squadra*, Pg. *esquadra*, Sp. *escuadra*. Also (in sense 16) f. Square *a.* The early form *squire* is chiefly employed in senses 1 and 3.]

I. 1. An implement or tool for determining, measuring, or setting out right angles, or for testing the exactness of artificers' work, usually consisting of two pieces or arms set at right angles to each other, but sometimes with the arms or sides hinged or pivoted so as to measure any angle; esp. one used by carpenters or joiners. Freq. without article in phr. *by square.*

Bevel-, mitre-, set-, T- or *tee-, trial-* or *try-square*: see these words.

α. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 2231 Do we wel and make a toure Wit suire [*v.rr.* squire, squyre] and scantilon sa euen, þat may reche heghur þan heuen. *c* 1391 Chaucer *Astrol.* I. § 12 Next the forseide cercle of the A. b. c...is Marked the skale, in Maner of 2 Squyres. 1426 Lydg. *De Guil. Pilgr.* 4906 Fyrst ye shal a squyre take, A Squyre off a carpenter; And ye shal vse thys maner. *c* 1449 Pecock *Repr.* II. i. 135 This werk is to be mad by cumpas, and thilk werk..bi squyer and suche othere. 1474 Caxton *Chesse* III. ii. (1883) 86 The carpenters ben signefyed by the dolabre or squyer. 1553 in *Archaeol.* (1796) XII. 341 John Keyme, smith, for 40 socketts, 8 sqwiers, withe other necessaries. 1599 T. M[oufet] *Silkwormes* 35 Holding his file in right hand hansomly, In left his paire of compasses and squire. 1626 Bacon *Sylva* § 373 Take a Turreted Lamp of Tinne, made in the forme of a Squire. 1656 W. Du Gard tr. *Comenius' Gate Lat. Unl.* 155 They search out..the straightness of a line, with a squire. *fig.* 1582 Stanyhurst *Æneis* Ep. Ded. (Arb.) 5 Hauing no English writer beefore mee in this kind of poetrye with whose squire I should leauel my syllables. 1590 Spenser *F. Q.* II. i. 58 But temperance..with golden squire Betwixt them both can measure out a meane. 1620 Quarles *Feast of Wormes* (1638) 29 Fate..tels when dayes, and moneths, and termes expire, Meas'ring the lives of Mortals by her squire.

β. 1412 *York Fabric Rolls* (Surtees) 432/1 Pro levells, Squares, et reules, xxd. *a* 1562 in *Norf. Antiq. Misc.* II. 5 A square and a compass. 1579 Gosson *Sch. Abuse* (Arb.) 57 This inforceth Magistrates..with vnskilful Carpenters, to vse the Square and the compasse,..not to builde, but to ouerthrow. 1618 *Barnevelt's Apol.* E 2 b, I beseech you, that the stone is to be fitted to the square, not the square to the stone. 1660 Barrow *Euclid* I. prop. XI The practice of this and the following is easily performed by the help of a square. *a* 1763 Shenstone *Elegies* x. 35 The poor mechanic wanders home, Collects the square, the level, and the line. 1781 Cowper *Convers.* 789 A poet does not work by square or line, As smiths and joiners perfect a design. 1826 *Art Brewing* (ed. 2) 196 When you have made the face of the roller as true as the square and the chisel can render it. 1872–4 Jefferies *Toilers of Field* (1892) 173 A somewhat superior description is built in the shape of a carpenter's 'square'.

†**b.** *fig.* In phr. *by the square*, with extreme accuracy or exactness; precisely, exactly. *Obs.*

1570 T. Norton tr. *Nowel's Catech.* 51 b, He will not deale with vs after extremitie of lawe, nor call our doinges to exacte accompt, nor trie them as it were by the squire. 1588 Shaks. *L. L. L.* v. ii. 475 Do not you know my Ladies foot by th' squier? 1633 B. Jonson *Tale Tub* IV. ii, Why you can tell us by the squire, neighbour, Whence he is call'd a constable.

†**c.** As a heraldic bearing. Also *per square*, used to denote that a shield is divided by a line in the form of a carpenter's square. *Obs.*

1572 Bossewell *Armorie* II. 117 He beareth Sable, a Squire direct from the chiefe, to the dexter parte of the shield de Argent. *Ibid.*, Note also, that there may be vsed partition per Squere, although it be rare seene. 1610 Guillim *Her.* 208 He beareth Argent, a Cheueron betweene three Carpenters Squires, Sable.

†**d.** A piece of ironwork, etc., having the form of a carpenter's square. *Obs.*

1530–1 *Rec. St. Mary at Hill* (1905) 354 Paid to the Smyth for a dogg of Iron for þe Roodloft...Paid for a Squyer for the same. 1551–2 in Feuillerat *Revels Edw. VI* (1914) 72, ij longe plates and two squiers for a geblot.

2. *fig.* A canon, criterion, or standard; a rule or guiding principle; a pattern or example. (Very common *c* 1550–1650.) **a.** Const. *of* (the thing serving as a standard, etc.). Now *rare* or *Obs.*

1549 E. Allen *Par. Leo Jude Rev.* 9 As the Christen religion shalbe restored and reformed after the rule and square of holy scripture. 1579 W. Wilkinson *Confut. Fam. Love* B ij, Judge all thinges according to the ballance of equitye, and trying squaire or measure line of righteousness. 1604 T. Wright *Passions* I. iii. 13 To governe the body..by the square of prudence, and rule of reason. 1654 Whitlock *Zootomia* 24 Let thy Actions be justified by the Square of Religion and Justice. 1688 Bunyan *Jerusalem Sinner Saved* (1886) 75 Upon the square, as I may call it, of the

worthiness of the blood of Christ, grace acts. 1730 *Humourist* 64 My Countrymen must excuse me, if I say, upon the Square of right Reason we make as ill a Figure as they do in Italy or Asia. 1809 Malkin *Gil Blas* x. viii. (Rtldg.) 357 They would not deal with Antonia upon the square of modern law and gospel.

† b. Const. *of* (the thing regulated or judged).

1567 Jewel *Def. Apol.* v. 556 Syluester Prierias saith, that the Romishe Church is the Squier, and Rule of Truthe. 1594 West *and Pt. Symbol., Chancerie* § 23 Lawes appointed to be rules and squares of mens actions. 1627 Collins *Def. Bp. Ely* II. viii. 322 The square of our faith is the Scripture, not the Fathers. 1642 Fuller *Holy & Prof. St.* III. xxv. 233 Is merit everywhere else made the exact square of preferment? *a* 1684 Leighton *Serm.* Wks. (1868) 678 It is not the way to advance their Master's Kingdom, which end should be the Square of all their Contrivances.

† c. Without const. *Obs.*

c 1550 Rolland *Crt. Venus* III. 536 For in sic luif is nother reull nor squair..Bot blindid lufe. 1571 Golding *Calvin on Ps.* i. 6 Whose duetye it is to settle the state of the world according to the right squyre. 1603 Daniel *Panegyric Congratulatory* xxviii. Wks. (Grosart) I. 152 And all will seeme compos'd by that same square By which they see the best and greatest are. 1616 Breton *Good & Badde, Worthy Judge* Wks. (Grosart) II. 7/1 His study is a square for the keeping of proportion betwixt command and obedience. 1640 Carew *Poems* Wks. (1824) 84 A life so straight, as it should shame the square Left in the rules of Katherine or Clare.

† d. Const. *of* (the person, etc., setting the standard). Also with possessives. *Obs.*

1602-3 Daniel *Musophilus* 101 Wks. (Grosart) I. 228 Ignorance will liue By others square, as by example lost. 1607 J. Davies (Heref.) *Summa Totalis* Wks. (Grosart) I. 8/1 This Truth is not squar'd by Platoes squire. 1643 W. Stampe *Serm.* 18 *Apr.* 18 The naturall square of the very Indians, is enough to condemne our want of obedience.

† 3. *Geom.* a. A plane figure having the form of a carpenter's square. *Obs.*

1551 Recorde *Pathw. Knowl.* I. No. 21 When any two quadrates be set forth, howe to make a squire about the one quadrate, whiche shall be equall to the other quadrate. *Ibid.* Defin., A syseangle..whose vse commeth often in Geometry, and is called a squire, is made of two long squares ioyned togither, as this example sheweth.

† b. *In a square*, at right angles. *Obs.*

1571 Digges *Pantom.* I. xviii. F j, E is the fourth staffe running sydewise orthogonally or in a squire from the third.

II. † 4. Rectangular or square shape or form. Chiefly without article in prep. phrases, as *in* or *to square*. *Obs.*

1382 Wyclif *Ezek.* xlviii. 20 Alle the premisses of fyue and twenti thousandis, by fyue and twenti thousandis in sqware [L. *in quadrum*], shuln be departid in to primisses of the sayntuarie. *a* 1513 Fabyan *Chron.* Prol. 3 The Prentyse that hewyth the rowgth stone, And bryngeth it to square, with harde strokes and many. 1591 Spenser *Visions Bellay* iii, Then did a sharped spyre of Diamond bright, Ten feete each way in square, appeare to mee. 1615 Tomkis *Albumazar* II. iii, I haue a parler Of a great square and height, as you desire it. 1663 Gerbier *Counsel* 77 The sawing, and bringing of the Timber to a square.

† b. *fig.* In phrases with preps. or verbs.

In some cases not clearly distinct from sense 2.

1576 Fleming *Panopl. Epist.* 91 Such be the present troubls and turmoyles, that nothing is left in iust square. 1597 Breton *Wit's Trenchmour* Wks. (Grosart) II. 19/1 Her thoughts keepe the square of such discretion, that no idle humour dare enter the list of her conceit. 1606 Shaks. *Ant. & Cl.* II. iii. 7, I haue not kept my square, but that to come Shall be done by th' Rule. 1610 Healey *St. Aug. Citie of God* II. 80 Budæus .. was neuer drawne from his true square with any profit or study to augment his estate. *a* 1641 Bp. Mountagu *Acts & Mon.* (1642) 111 They have a Rule which will not hold square with his Position.

5. † a. A side of a square, rectangle, or polygon; a face of a cube. *Obs.*

c 1400 Maundev. (Roxb.) vi. 21 It was made foure square, and ilka square contened sex myle or more. *c* 1440 *Jacob's Well* 91 þis wose of wrethe is foure-square: o sqware of wrethe is a-3ens god. *Ibid.*, An-oþer sqware of wrethe is a3ens þi-self. *Ibid.*, Þe iij. sqware of wretthe is a3ens þi meyne. *c* 1593 *Rites Durham* (1903) 22 A foure squared stonn,..in euerye square a faire large Image. 1617 Moryson *Itin.* I. 86 It is built foure square, each square containing forty foot. 1634 Sir T. Herbert *Trav.* 112 The Sepulchre..is of foure Æquilaterall squares. 1656 Heylin *Surv. France* 396 The figure of it [a tower] is six square, every square of it being nine paces in length. 1753 Hanway *Trav.* III. xxxiv. (1762) I. 157 This city is inclosed within a wall above a mile in each square.

b. The measurement of each side of a square object. *rare*⁻¹.

1771 Luckombe *Hist. Printing* 294 Four inches..is the square of the Hind-post.

6. A square or quadrilateral space, esp. one of several marked out on a board, paper, or other surface for playing certain games or for purposes of measurement, etc.; a square surface or face.

Magic, Nazik squares: see Magic *a.* 3, Nazik. *Square of Pegasus*: see Pegasus 1 c.

c 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* II. 110 An aker lond..therout of may be tolde Of squaris x feet wide,..ccc square of x, and twyes twelue. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 357/1 A Square,..*quadra.* 1551 Sir J. Williams *Accompte* (Abbotsf. Cl.) 101 For cutting and slyppinge of two greate saphures into many squares. 1611 Cotgr., *Marelle*, a square in a chesse-boord. 1667 Milton *P. L.* v. 393 Rais'd of grassie terf Thir Table was,..And on her ample Square from side to side All Autumn pil'd. 1694 Motteux *Rabelais* v. xxiv. 108 So that the Golden King was on a White Square, the Silver'd King on a Yellow Square. 1735 Bertin *Chess* 55 The queen gives a check in the black queen's second square. 1832 L. Hunt *Hero & Leander* ii. 104 The casement, at the dawn of light, Began to show a square of ghastly white. 1847 Tennyson *Princ.* IV. ix, When unto dying eyes The casement slowly grows a glimmering square. 1898 *Eclectic Mag.* LXVII. 653 All white squares..belong to the government, and can be homesteaded.

fig. 1834 Mar. Edgeworth *Helen* iv, Whatever I may have been..on the great squares of politics, I believe I never have been accused..of being a manœuvrer on the small domestic scale.

† b. *fig.* Affairs, events, matters, proceedings. Only in the phr. *how* (*the*) *squares go*. Now *Obs.*

Very common in the 17th c.

1607 Middleton *Fam. Love* I. iii, How goes the squares. 1642 Howell *True Informer* 2, I pray be pleased to make me partaker of some forraigne news, and how the squares goe betwixt France and Spaine. 1678 J. Phillips tr. *Tavernier's Trav.* V. ii. 203 Sha-Abbas,..to know how squares went in his kingdom,..oft'n disguis'd himself, and went about the City..to discover whether Merchants us'd false weights. 1692 R. L'Estrange *Josephus, Antiq.* XVI. xvii. (1733) 451 He first gave him an account of what had passed at Berytus; and then ask'd him how Squares went at Rome. 1828 Carr *Craven Gloss.* II. 158 'How gang squares?' a familiar form of salutation, equivalent to 'how d' ye do'.

7. *Geom.* A plane rectilinear and rectangular figure with four equal sides; † a rectangle with unequal sides (cf. next).

1551 Recorde *Pathw. Knowl.* II. No. 36 If a right line be parted into ij. partes..the square that is made of that whole line, is equall to bothe the squares that are made of the same line, and the twoo partes of it seuerally. 1571 Digges *Pantom.* I. B iij, If all the sides be equall, and al the angles right, than is that Paralelogramme called a square. 1660 Barrow *Euclid* I. Def. 29 Of Quadrilateral, or four-sided figures, a Square is that whose sides are equal, and angles right. 1728 Chambers *Cycl.* s.v. *Geometry*, They observ'd, that God and Nature affect Perpendiculars, Parallels, Circles, Triangles, Squares, and harmonical Proportions. *a* 1777 Fawkes *Voy. to Planets* 32 An astrologer..decks the wall with triangles and squares. 1815 J. Smith *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 713 To obtain the perspective of a circle EFGH, ..draw round it the square ABCD. Divide the square into small squares. 1854 *Poultry Chron.* II. 151 In shape the body divested of head, tail, and legs should give a square. 1881 Routledge *Science* ii. 36 To find..the length of the side of a square which has precisely the same area as the circle.

fig. 1852 Bailey *Festus* 493 Peace, piety, and innocence, and joy Made up the square of Being.

b. With qualifying term; esp. *long* or *oblong square*, a rectangle. ? *Obs.*

1551 Recorde *Pathw. Knowl.* II. No. 39 Nowe by the theoreme, that longe square F.G.M.O, with the iuste square L.M.O.P, muste bee equall to the greate square E.K.Q.L. 1611 Cotgr., *Parralelogramme*, a Parralelogramme, or long Square. 1723 Chambers tr. *Le Clerc's Archit.* I. 105 Windows..are usually long Squares; their height being sometimes double their width, or very nearly so. 1726 Leoni *Alberti's Archit.* II. 26/2 An equilateral and right-angled square. 1791 Newte *Tour Eng. & Scot.* 61 This castle formed an oblong square. 1842 Loudon *Suburban Hort.* 159 They are made in frames in the following manner:—An oblong square..is formed of four laths [etc.].

† c. *Geometrical square*: see Quadrat 1 b. *Obs.*

1571 Digges *Pantom.* I. xxix. I j b, The other plate wherein youre square Geometricall and Theodelitus was described. *Ibid.* I ij, The double scale is compound of two Geometricall squares. 1728 Chambers *Cycl.*, *Quadrat*, call'd also Geometrical Square and Line of Shadows, is an additional Member on the Face of the common Gunter's and Sutton's Quadrants.

d. *Logic.* A square diagram used to illustrate the four kinds of logical opposition.

1864 Bowen *Logic* vi. 168 That the various points in the doctrine of this sort of Immediate Inference might be more easily remembered, the old logicians contrived..the accompanying ingenious diagram, which may be called the Square of Opposition. 1891 *Pall Mall G.* 5 May 2/2 It is a logical square, and its squareness is supposed to carry some metaphysical virtue.

8. *Arith., Alg.*, and *Geom.* The product of a number multiplied by itself; a second power.

1557 Recorde *Whetst.* G iij b, Twoo multiplications doe make a Cubike nomber. Likewaies 3. multiplications doe giue a square of squares. 1571 Digges *Pantom.* I. xxx. K, Now square 2400 pase, so haue you 5760000, wherevnto yf you adioyne the square of HD the product will amount to 5763600. 1674 Jeake *Arith.* (1696) 193 Then set down the Square of this Quotient figure. 1715 tr. *Gregory's Astron.* Pref. (1726) I. p. xii, He understood..that the Gravity of the Planets towards the Sun..were reciprocally as the Squares of their Distances from the Sun. 1764 J. Ferguson *Lect.* ii. 21 The squares of the times of their going round are as the cubes of their distances from the centers of the circles they describe. 1838 De Morgan *Ess. Probab.* 62 Hence it follows, that when the number is large, the preceding fraction..is very nearly one half the square of that number. 1869 Rankine *Machine & Hand-tools* App. 9 The square of the proof stress, divided by the modulus of elasticity, is called the Modulus of Resilience. 1885 Watson & Burbury *Electr. & Magn.* I. 258 The law of the inverse square in electric action.

9. *Mil.* A body of troops drawn up in a square formation, either with solid ranks or leaving an open space in the centre (see b).

1591 *Garrard's Art Warre* 1160 To defend and flanke the maine square. 1599 Shaks. *Hen. V*, IV. ii. 28 Our superfluous Lacquies, and our Pesants, Who in vnnecessarie action swarme About our Squares of Battaile. 1602 Marston *Ant. & Mel.* III. Wks. 1856 I. 33 Huge troups of barbed steeds, Maine squares of pikes, millions of harguebush. 1606 Shaks. *Ant. & Cl.* III. xi. 40 He alone Dealt on Lieutenantry, and no practise had In the braue squares of Warre. 1770 Langhorne *Plutarch* (1851) II. 599/2 He drew up the legions in a close square. 1791 Cowper *Iliad* XV. 751 In even square compact so firm they stood. 1815 Wellington in Gurw. *Desp.* (1838) XII. 529, I had the infantry for some time in squares. 1847 Tennyson *Princ.* V. 236 When we saw the embattled squares, And squadrons of the Prince, trampling the flowers With clamour. 1896 R. S. S. Baden-Powell *Matabele Campaign* vi, The square halted, and each man lay down to sleep just where he stood.

b. *Hollow, solid square* (see quots. 1702, 1802).

1702 *Milit. Dict.* (1704) s.v., *Hollow Square*, a Body of Foot drawn up with an empty space in the middle for the Colours, Drums and Baggage, facing and cover'd by the Pikes every way, to oppose the Horse. 1711 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4817/5 He..form'd the Foot..into hollow Squares. 1802 James *Milit. Dict.* s.v., *Solid Square*, is a body of foot, where both ranks and files are equal. 1845 Syd. Smith *Wks.* (1859) II. 334 It is..to be discussed in hollow squares, and refuted by battalions four deep. 1876 Voyle & Stevenson *Milit. Dict.* 398 The solid square, which faces outwards ..to resist cavalry; and the hollow square, in which the men face inwards, for the purpose of hearing orders, &c. read.

c. Without article in phr. *into square*.

1859 F. A. Griffiths *Artill. Man.* (1862) 27 Men are formed into square to resist attacks of cavalry. *Ibid.*, A battalion may be formed into square two deep to protect baggage or treasure against infantry only.

10. † a. A square piece of material covering the bosom; the breast-piece of a dress. *Obs.*

1579 Hake *Newes out of Powles* iv. (1872) Div b, She must haue Partlet, Square & Lace, with Chaine about hir neck. 1600 Fairfax *Tasso* XII. lxiv, Betweene her brests the cruell weapon riues Her curious square, embost with swelling gold. 1611 Shaks. *Wint. T.* IV. iv. 212. 1614 in 10th *Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. I. 43 As for lace to be a band and cuffs, and square with long peaks, pleas yoor ladyship know that it is not the fashon to weare such now. *c* 1710 in J. Ashton *Reign Q. Anne* (1882) I. 173 A round Sable Tippet,..with a piece of black Silk in the Square of the neck.

b. An object of a square (or approximately square) form or shape; a square or rectangular piece, block, etc.

1601 Holland *Pliny* II. 447 Likewise morimals .. and those sores which be filthy..are commonly healed with the old squares of the Tunie fish. 1662 J. Davies tr. *Mandelslo's Trav.* 4 The Sepulchre is in a little Chappel built of white marble, upon a high square of free-stonework. 1698 M. Lister *Journ. Paris* (1699) 124, I saw a Picture here of about 6 inches over, finely painted in Mosaic, the very little squares were scarce visible to the naked Eyes. 1756 *Phil. Trans.* L. 111 Then they cut out the true peat,..in long pieces, vulgarly called long squares, about three inches and a half broad every way, and four feet long. 1794 Mrs. Radcliffe *Myst. Udolpho* xliv, The floor inlaid with small squares of fine marble. 1815 Scott *Guy M.* xx, He..bolted his food down his capacious throat in squares of three inches. 1857 Miller *Elem. Chem., Org.* vi. § 1. 375 The distilled fat is..distributed in layers..upon squares of cocoa-nut matting. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* IV. 338/1 The moulds themselves correspond in shape to the familiar tapering form of the 'squares' of salt, as they are called in shops.

† c. A surveying instrument made in the form of a square. *Obs. rare.*

1600 Surflet *Countrie Farme* 655 In this figure you see the Squire and the Staffe each of them by themselues. 1712 J. James tr. *Le Blond's Gardening* 82 The Square, or whole Circle,..an Instrument much made use of in..Surveying of Land.

d. A rectangular pane of glass.

1687 Miége *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II, A Square of glass. 1714 S. Sewall *Diary* 16 July (1882) III. 10 It..lifted up the Sash window, broke one of the squares. 1775 W. Williamson *Trials at York* 13/1 There were two squares of the window broke. 1842 Loudon *Suburban Hort.* 219 Thus directing all the water..down the centre of the squares. 1877– in Linc., Somerset, and Cornw. glossaries and texts.

11. A square or rectangular area or piece of ground; *spec.* a garden plot of this shape.

1615 W. Lawson *Country Housew. Gard.* (1626) 10 If within one large square the Gardner shall make one round Labyrinth or Maze. 1623 Markham *Country Housew. Gard.* III. i, This is the cause..that Gardners raise their squares. *a* 1700 Evelyn *Diary* 27 Feb. 1644, On one of these walkes, within a square of tall trees, is a basilisc of copper. 1706 London & Wise *Retir'd Gard.* I. i. x, I now want to know how many Dwarfs I ought to have in the Squares of my Garden. 1746 Francis tr. *Horace, Art Poetry* 47 One happier Artist of th' Æmilian Square. 1791 Washington *Lett.* Writ. 1892 XII. 90 It is of great importance..that the city should be laid out into squares and lots. 1800 Wordsw. *Hart-leap Well* 103 It chanced that I saw standing in a dell Three aspens at three corners of a square. 1850 Tennyson *In Mem.* CXV, Now burgeons every maze of quick About the flowering squares. 1867 Morris *Jason* V. 38 But Jason and his fair folk..Came to a square shaded about by trees.

attrib. 1719 London & Wise *Compl. Gard.* 288 Sow for the last time, your Square Peas in the middle of July.

12. An open space or area (approximately quadrilateral and rectangular) in a town or city, enclosed by buildings or dwelling-houses, esp. of a superior or residential kind, freq. containing a garden or laid out with trees, etc.; more generally, any open space resembling this, esp. one formed at the meeting or intersection of streets; also, the group of houses surrounding an area of this kind.

1687 A. Lovell tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* II. 79 There are many squares in Ispahan, but of all, that which is called the Meidan ..is the greatest and finest place in the World. *a* 1700 Evelyn *Diary* 18 Apr. 1680, Going early from his house in the square of St. James. 1716 Gay *Trivia* I. 9, I..the silent Court, and opening Square explore. 1782 Miss Burney *Cecilia* X. vii, She told the coachman, therefore, to drive to the corner of the square. 1816 Southey *Poet's Pilgr. iv. liii*, Methought

that in a spacious Square Of some great town the goodly ornament, Three statues I beheld. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* iii. I. 358 We should greatly err if we were to suppose that any of the streets and squares then bore the same aspect as at present. 1886 C. E. PASCOE *Lond. of To-day* xxxiv. (ed. 3) 303 There is little to engage the wayfarer's interest westward of the Circus if we except some of the squares.. lying on the north side.

attrib. 1883 BESANT *All in Garden Fair* II. iii, To end as his uncle was ending, with a square house and a one-horse carriage! 1893 *Daily News* 12 Jan. 3/1 Square-gardens innumerable will occur to every one—in Bloomsbury, in Mayfair, in Belgravia.

b. A rectangular building or block of buildings; *U.S.* a block of buildings bounded by streets.

a 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 23 May 1645, The house is a square of 4 pavilions. 1725 in Foley *Rec. Eng. Prov. S. J.* VII. Introd. p. xl, From thence it [the fire] communicated itself to the great square, or new building of the College on both sides. 1867 LATHAM *Black & White* 16 A square at Philadelphia means a solid block of houses, not an open space enclosed by buildings. 1891 *Cent. Dict.* s.v., The house is four or five squares further up-town.

13. An area of a hundred square feet, forming the measure or standard by which the price of flooring, roofing, tiling, or similar work is reckoned.

1663 GERBIER *Counsel* 63 Old Tiling at thirteen shillings foure pence a square. New Tiling at 1. pound 5 shillings a square. 1667 PRIMATT *City & C. Builder* 59 Carpenters do for the most part deal by the square, which is ten foot every way, and an hundred in all. 1703 R. NEVE *City & C. Purchaser* 23, 4*s.* per Square for Sawing the Boards.. and..3*s.* 6*d.* per Square for Framing the Carcass. *c* 1738 in E. B. Jupp *Carpenters' Co.* (1887) 567 To do the new plain tyleing att £1. 6. o per square, and the Pan tyleing att 18*s.* per square. 1825 J. NICHOLSON *Operat. Mechanic* 550 A square of plain tiling will require a bundle of laths. 1883 *Law Times Rep.* XLIX. 139/1 The deceased had slated seven or eight houses,..and..had been paid..upon the terms that he was to have 4*s.* a square. 1894 *Times* 31 May 10/5 The flooring..fetched 5*s.* 'a square'.

†14. *Astrol.* and *Astr.* Quartile aspect; quadrature. *Obs.*

1667 MILTON *P. L.* x. 659 Thir planetarie motions and aspects In Sextile, Square, and Trine, and Opposite. 1686 GOAD *Celest. Bodies* I. xv. 97 Other causes may help to irritate that Passion, which the) in Square to the Sun inclineth to. 1690 LEYBOURN *Curs. Math.* 449 Mars..is observed by Kepler, when in Square with the Sun, to be Dichotomous,.. at other times, between its Square and Opposition to the Sun to be Gibbous.

15. In various special or technical senses:

†a. (See quots.) *Obs.*—o †b: *Arch.* A square moulding; an abacus. *Obs.* c. The squared part at the top of an anchor-shank. d. (Miscellaneous uses: see quots.) e. A thin piece of wood or metal, in the shape of a right-angled triangle, used as a bell-crank or connected with a tracker of an organ. f. *U.S.* A group of bracts surrounding the flower of the cotton-plant. Hence *square-borer* (an insect).

a. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. xviii. (Roxb.) 134/2 The seuerall parts of the Barrell of a Muskett. The Barrell. The squares. The mullets. *Ibid.* 135/1 A screwed barrell, is when the bore is of six or eight squares, or thrids, all throughout.

b. 1703 T. N. *City & C. Purchaser* 5 Annulet...'Tis the same Member as the Sieur Mauclerc, from Vitruvius, calls a Fillet,..and Brown from Scamozzi a..Square, and Rabit.

c. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 44 In fig. 7 A is the shank [of the anchor]:..E, the square; F, the nut. 1852 BURN *Naval & Mil. Techn. Dict.* II. s.v., Square of an anchor, *carré de la verge.*

d. 1841 HARTSHORNE *Salop. Ant.* Gloss., *Squares*, broad hoops of iron which are used to hold coal in 'the Baskets', whilst being drawn up a pit. 1844 PARNELL *Appl. Chem.* II. 65 The furnaces for the melting-pots, and for the pots called the 'squares' or 'cuvettes',..are placed in a range along the middle of the room lengthways. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2294/2 *Square* (Horology), that portion of the arbor on which the winding-key is placed; a similar part on the arbor of the hands of a watch, whereby they are set. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* IV. 398/1 The 'square' (the strong iron plate which connects the two parts of the carriage at the headstock).

e. 1881 C. A. EDWARDS *Organs* 74 Backfalls are dispensed with, and squares inserted in their stead. 1884 *Encycl. Brit.* XVII. 834/1 In square and trackerwork..the old squares were made of wood. They resemble in function the squares used for taking bell-wires round a corner.

f. 1895 in *Funk's Stand. Dict.* 1906 E. W. HILGARD *Soils* 503 The writer found a 'patch' of cotton with luxuriant stalks .., but almost devoid of 'squares' or blooms. 1906 *Westm. Gaz.* 19 Dec. 2/1 The devastation caused by..the cotton aphis, the web-worm, and the square-borer.

16. Elliptical uses of the adj.: A square piano; a square dance; a square drink, etc.

1883 *Daily News* 19 Sept. 1/7 A number of superior Secondhand Instruments,..including Grand Squares for India. 1893 *Family Herald* 131/1 'Which is the next [dance]?' 'A square, I think.' 1896 'H. S. MERRIMAN' *Flotsam* xii. 136 The stoutest and most middle-aged civil servant, provided he was single, was accorded a 'square'. 1899 *N. & Q.* 7 Jan. 8/1 In several parts of Glamorgan 'a square of beer', measuring two-thirds of a pint, is also a favourite drink, so called, I have heard it said, because it is a 'square drink'.

III. †17. A quarrel, dispute, wrangle; discord, dissension, quarrelling. *Obs.* (Cf. 18 and SQUARE *v.* 8.)

1545 *St. Papers Hen. VIII*, X. 721 We talked sumwhat vively, but without any square. 1579–80 NORTH *Plutarch* (1676) 66 Afterwards they fortuned to fall at jar one with the other,..yet this square bred no violent inconvenience betweene them. *a* 1603 T. CARTWRIGHT *Confut. Rhem. N. T.* (1618) 434 Thus through a perpetual square and iar, of the voice and of the hart, there can be no musique. 1607 MAGEOGHAGAN tr. *Ann. Clonmacnois* 39 They did agree without any Square at all.

IV. In various phrases.

To break a square, no square, etc.: see BREAK *v.* 46.

†18. *At square*, in a state of disagreement, discord, or dissension; at variance; esp. *to be* or *to fall at* (*a*) *square*, to quarrel, differ, or wrangle. *Obs.*

Freq. from *c* 1545 to *c* 1600.

(*a*) 1545 *St. Papers Hen. VIII*, X. 724 The Scottes, with whom they had amytie,..and never..but twyse wer at any square togithres. 1559 *Mirr. Mag., Malin* vi, My yongest brother,..Whose hauty minde and mine were still at square. 1566 STAPLETON *Rct. Untr. Jewel* II. 47 M. Jewell is so at square with all Writers. *a* 1602 FORMAN *Diary* (Halliw.) 10 Oftentymes they too were also at square, insomuch that twise he had like to have killed hir.

(*b*) *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VI*, 140 Yet their children and cosyns..fell so far at square, that the house of Burgoyne was spoyled of the fairest flower of his garland. 1568 GRAFTON *Chron.* II. 99 The Monkes of Cauntorbury now hauyng the whole election in their owne handes, fell also at a square among themselues. 1577–87 HOLINSHED *Chron.* I. 40/2 She falling at square with hir husband, married Uellocatus. 1602 CAREW *Cornwall* (1764) 103 She and hers fell at square, which discord..brake forth into a blow. [1632 J. HAYWARD tr. *Biondi's Eromena* b 4, What? laid aside thy Compasse?..with the Circle art thou fallen at square?]

(*c*) 1549 COVERDALE, etc. *Erasm. Par. Rom.* 1 Leste either sectes or names of countreys put you now at square. 1577–87 HOLINSHED *Chron.* II. 54 Diuerse in Normandie desired nothing more than to set the two brethren at square.

19. *Out of square*, out of the true, proper, or normal state or condition; out of (right) order or rule: a. In predicative use.

Very common from *c* 1540 to *c* 1630.

1542 UDALL *Erasm. Apoph.* 72 Neither shall the sense bee out of square, if ye take ye greke vocable λόγον..for reason. 1556 OLDE *Antichrist* 25 b, How great (and how out of square) this errour of ye world is. 1612 *Two Noble K.* IV. iii. 109 This may..reduce what's now out of square in her, into their former law, and regiment. 1621 BP. MOUNTAGU *Diatribæ* 224 There are in Porphyrie two sorts of men irregular and out of square in the seruice of their gods. 1661 J. STEPHENS *Procurations* 129 That which..in him..seemeth *absonum*, untunable and out of square, and friendly compasse. 1850 CARLYLE *Latter-d. Pamph.* viii. (1872) 253 Something must be wrong in the inner man of the world, since its outer man is so terribly out of square!

b. With various verbs. In later use passing into the sense 'in or into disorder, irregularity, or confusion'.

1555 EDEN *Decades* 346 Wherin he speaketh not greatly owt of square. 1596 SPENSER *F. Q.* v. Introd. i, Me seemes the world is runne quite out of square. 1622 PEACHAM *Compl. Gent.* v. (1906) 39 The least disorder or ranknesse of any one flower, putteth a beautifull bed or well contrived knot out of square. 1650 HOWELL *Giraff's Rev. Naples* I. 50 Had not a secret Treaty..against Masaniello, and his followers, bin discovered, which put all things again out of square. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* III. I. vii, This shrieking Confusion of a Soldiery, which we saw long since fallen all suicidally out of square, in suicidal collision. 1864 — *Fredk. Gt.* IV. 74 All things..much fallen out of square.

c. In literal sense.

1576 FLEMING *Panopl. Epist.* 377 There was nothing in him that was out of square, but every joynte and limme, both in measure and in place,..passing hansome. 1603 FOWLDES *Homer's Battle Frogs & Mice* (1634) D 6 b, Exceeding were their [crabs'] shoulders out of square.

Square (skwēə1), *a.* Also 4–7 squar, 5 squware, squyer, 6 squear, *Sc.* squair, squayr; 4–6 sware (4 suare, 6 suar). [ad. OF. *esquarré* (*escarré*), pa. pple. of *esquarrer* SQUARE *v.*, assimilated to this and to SQUARE *sb.*]

I. 1. Having a rectilinear and rectangular form of equal length and breadth; contained by four equal sides at right angles to each other; quadrate.

In early use freq. FOUR-SQUARE *a.* Cf. also THREE-, SIX-, EIGHT-SQUARE.

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* A. 837 Lesande þe boke with leuez sware. *Ibid.* B. 1386 þe place..Was longe & ful large & euer ilych sware. *c* 1391 CHAUCER *Astrol.* I. § 13 Thanne hastow a brod Rewle, þat hath on either ende a Square plate perced with a certein holes. *c* 1400 *Rom. Rose* 4158 Aboute it was founded square, An hundred fademe on every side; It was alle liche longe and wide. *c* 1440 *Palladius on Husb.* II. 107 A tabul square an aker lond to holde, Feet scoris nyne in lengthe, as fele in wide. 1509 HAWES *Past. Pleas.* XXXV. 179 On the thirde head, in a banner square, All of reade was wrytten Discomfort. 1557 in Feuillerat *Revels Q. Mary* (1914) 236 A square pece of waynscott. 1589 PUTTENHAM *Eng. Poesie* II. xi. (Arb.) 113 It will grow into the figure Trapezion, which is some portion longer then square. 1611 BIBLE 1 *Kings* vii. 5 And all the doores and postes were square, with the windowes. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* II. 1048 To behold..th' Empyreal Heav'n, extended wide In circuit, undetermind square or round. 1715 tr. *Gregory's Astron.* (1726) I. 442 Because this given Rectangle..wants of a square Figure. 1784 COWPER *Task* I. 21 A massy slab, in fashion square or round. 1835 J. DUNCAN *Beetles* (Nat. Lib.) 128 The elytra..approach more to a square shape than is usual among the carabideous tribes. 1859 *Handbk. Turning* 127 Square patterns require great care in working them. 1892 *Photogr. Ann.* II. 489 An apparatus for trimming paper and prints..and enabling the user to be sure that they will be true and square.

transf. 1648 HEXHAM II, *Teerlingh-wijse*, after a Square manner. 1869 RANKINE *Machine & Hand-tools* Pl. P 8 The ordinary methods of hand or square centering now in general use. 1892 *Daily News* 28 July 6/7 The artillery moved up by square movements instead of in line.

b. *Square inch, foot, yard*, etc., a rectangular space measuring an inch, foot, etc., either way.

In quot. 1667 'square Inches' are = 'cubic inches' (cf. 3 b), and in quot. 1715 the sense is 'of 36 square inches'.

1625 N. CARPENTER *Geogr. Del.* I. viii. (1635) 200 The product will shew the number of square miles in the face of the Terrestriall Globe. 1667 PRIMATT *City & C. Builder* 36 If you would let it by the square Foot,..it is worth twelve pence a Foot *per ann. Ibid.* 165 A Foot solid measure hath seventeen hundred twenty eight square Inches. 1691 T. H[ALE] *Acc. New Invent.* 59 To do the Work per Yard square. 1715 DESAGULIERS *Fires Impr.* 161 There are but few Cavities in this Construction, and those but 36 Inches square. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) I. 302 A weight of fifteen pounds upon every square inch. 1837 J. T. SMITH tr. *Vicat's Mortars* 92 An absolute resistance of $5^k.43$ per centimetre square. 1846 BAXTER *Libr. Pract. Agric.* (ed. 4) II. 437 The result, in square chains and links, is converted into acres by a simple division by ten. 1868 G. DUFF *Pol. Surv.* 48 His territories in Asia cover 668,580 English square miles.

c. *Square measure*, a unit of measurement consisting of a square space; a system of measures based on such units.

1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Measure*, English Square or Superficial Measures are raised from the Yard of 36 Inches, multiplied into itself. 1854 *Orr's Circle Sci., Math.* 19 Measures of Surface, or Square Measure.

2. *Square number*, the product of a number multiplied by itself.

1557 RECORDE *Whetst.* C iij b, Square nombers are those, whiche maie be diuided by some one number, and haue the same number for the quotiente. 1570 BILLINGSLEY *Euclid* VII. def. 19. 187 It is called a square number, because..it representeth the figure of a square in Geometry. 1621 T. WILLIAMSON tr. *Goulart's Wise Vieillard* 41 Plato iudged the yeare eightie one, which is compounded of nine times nine, to be the Climactericall yeare,..which hee calleth the square number. 1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* 215 Though it containeth both numbers..7. and 9. yet neither of them square or quadrate. 1674 JEAKE *Arith.* (1696) 193 Which Square Number set thereunder, and substract therefrom. 1751 JOHNSON *Rambler* No. 181 P 5, I..considered even the square and cubick numbers through the lottery. 1846 DE MORGAN *Arith.* vii. § 161 *note*, By square number I mean a number which has a square root. Thus 25 is a square number, but 26 is not.

b. *Square root*, the number or quantity constituting such a base of a given number or quantity as to produce this when multiplied by itself.

1557 RECORDE *Whetst.* G iv, The roote of a square nombere, is called a Square roote. 1571 DIGGES *Pantom.* I. xxxiii. K ij b, The roote square of the remaynder ye must compare wyth the distaunce of the fyrste shyppe. 1633 MASSINGER *Guardian* I. i, They would have me..let him know No more than how to cipher well, or do His tricks by the square root. 1674 JEAKE *Arith.* (1696) 193 The Square Root of a Number is extracted commonly thus. 1715 tr. *Gregory's Astron.* (1726) I. 53 The Celerities of the Bodies are reciprocally as the Square Roots of the Radii. 1812–6 PLAYFAIR *Nat. Phil.* (1819) I. 195 The area of the orifice multiplied into the square-root of the depth. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 394/1 The rule for the extraction of the square root is a tentative inverse process very much resembling division.

c. *Square party*, a party of four persons.

In the first quot. after F. *partie carrée*, a party of two men and two women.

1851 WOLFF *Pict. Spanish Life* vi. 176 Remaining a 'square party',..we all four embarked in the little boat. 1893 G. ALLEN *Scallywag* I. vi. 79 The square party of pedestrians turned away along the sea-front.

3. Having an equilateral rectangular section.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 3664 A wessel..sal be wroght o suare tre. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Knt.'s T.* 218 Many a barre Of iren greet and squar as eny sparre. *c* 1407 LYDG. *Reson & Sens.* 5415 And arwes eke..With which, wher they be square or rounde, He kan hurte. 1459 *Paston Lett.* I. 490 Item, ij. grete square spittys. 1508 DUNBAR *Gold. Targe* 111 Wyth bow in hand..And dredefull arowis grundyn scharp and square. 1523 FITZHERB. *Husb.* § 9 To plow a square forowe, the bredthe and the depenes all one. 1677 [see *square-bore* in 14]. 1788 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Stairs*, Square winding Stairs are such as wind round a square Newel, either Solid or open. 1796 WITHERING *Brit. Plants* (ed. 3) III. 531 Stems square, hairy. 1832 BREWSTER *Nat. Magic* viii. 188 One being a square rod, another a bent cylindrical one. 1846 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* II. 824 Square files, are used for small apertures, and those works to which the ordinary flat files are from their greater size less applicable. 1900 *Jrnl. Sch. Geog.* (U. S.) Jan. 11 A 'square tube' or long narrow box with an inside measurement of one inch square.

fig. 1862 MISS BRADDON *Lady Audley* XXV, The square men in the round holes are pushed into them by their wives. *c* 1870 TENNYSON in *Athenæum* 5 Nov. (1892) 631/1, I should but be..the square man in the round hole.

b. Having a form more or less approximating to a cube; rectangular and of three dimensions.

c 1420 *Liber Cocorum* (1862) 38 Cut [the mallard] in peses, as I þe kenne; Square as dises þou shalt hit make. 1600 *Sir John Oldcastle* IV. i, Giue vs square dice, weele keepe this courte of guard For al good fellowes. 1621 in Foster *Eng. Factories Ind.* (1906) I. 291 The squar basketts are not made all of one biggnesse. 1650 BULWER *Anthropomet.* 11 These occidental Indian square-heads. 1726 LEONI *Alberti's Archit.* I. 38/1 Whether square Stone, or uneven Scantlings. 1760 R. BROWN *Compl. Farmer* II. 42 Steelmarle, which..is of it self apt to break into square cubical bits. 1832 BREWSTER *Nat. Magic* xi. 269 A large square chest or box, three feet and a half long, two feet deep, and two and a half high. 1884 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* Suppl., *Square Tank Coil*, a condensing coil of rectangular shape.

4. Of limbs, the body, etc.: Approximating to a square section or outline; stoutly and strongly built; solid, sturdy.

1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* III. 581 Newys that stalwart war & squar, That wont to spayn gret speris war. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 3967 A hard brest hade þe buerne, & his back sware. *c* 1430 LYDG. *Min. Poems* (Percy Soc.) 200 Here greet shulderys, square and brood. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* V. vii. 107 His lymmis squair, Baith big bonis and brawnis, [he] maid all bair. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Rich. III*, 3 b, To him he ioyned one John Dighton,..a bygge, broade, square, &

strong knaue. 1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* II. 44 Quhen Æneas Syluius walde expreme the coniunctioun of his memberis, with the Maiestie of his persoune, he calis him squair. 1625 HART *Anat. Ur.* II. viii. 103 Yet was he of a reasonable square and corpulent body. 1709 *London Gaz.* No. 4536/4 He is a Square well-set Man. 1720 *Ibid.* No. 5898/9 A ..well built, and square Mare. 1802 MAR. EDGEWORTH *Moral T.* (1816) I. x. 76 A square, thick, hard-working man. 1854 *Poultry Chron.* I. 239 What a glorious old hen she was! Large, wide, short-legged, square and compact.

5. Of (a stated) length on each of the four sides forming a square.

Regularly placed after the words giving the measurement. The usage in quot. 1448 is obsolete.

c 1400 MAUNDEV. (1839) v. 41 That Tour conteyned gret Contree in circuyt: For the Tour allone conteyned 10 Myle sqware. 1448 in Willis & Clark *Cambridge* (1886) II. 8 The Someres..shall be one side xij inch squar and on the other part xiiij inch squar; and all the Gistes shall be on the one part squar vi inches and on the other part viij inches. 1449 in *Cal. Proc. Chanc. Q. Eliz.* (1830) II. Pref. 55 þe gurdyng someres of þe same flore shull be xj inchis square. *a* 1550 *Droichis Part of Play* 44 in *Dunbar's Poems* (S.T.S.) 315 His teith wes ten myle squair. 1594 R. ASHLEY tr. *Loys le Roy* 41 b, In the midst there was an other place made of Carpenters worke, .. and was large a hundred foote square, which is fower hundred foote round. 1619 in Foster *Eng. Factories Ind.* (1906) I. 163 Those peeces which content 30 ells square fall out but 20 covados square. 1659 LEAK *Waterwks.* 18 A straight Axeltree of wood, a foot square, and 60-foot high. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Diamond*, A Hole is made in a Wall, a foot-square. 1790 W. WRIGHTE *Grotesque Archit.* 4 An hermit's cell..eight feet square in the inside. 1842 LOUDON *Suburban Hort.* 427 This block, which may be six inches square, need not rise more than an inch above the surface. 1854 *Poultry Chron.* II. 142 The whole were reared in a back-yard not ten feet square. 1900 [see 3].

6. †a. Of an angle: Right. *Obs.*

1551 RECORDE *Pathw. Knowl.* I. Def., A blunt or brode corner, is greater then is a square angle, and his lines do parte more in sonder then in a right angle.

b. At right angles; rectangular in position or direction; perpendicular (*to* something).

1571 DIGGES *Pantom.* I. i. C, Thus drawe your plumbe or squire line FCG. *Ibid.* xxii. G ij, Drawe foure lines perpendiculare or squire the one to the other. 1656 H. PHILLIPS *Purch. Patt.* (1676) B viii b, In the square meeting of the Table. 1715 DESAGULIERS *Fires Impr.* 86 Whose sides are all square to one another. *Ibid.*, Draw HP square or perpendicular to GHA. 1769 FALCONER *Dict. Marine* (1780), *Square*, a term peculiarly appropriated to the yards and their sails, implying that they hang at right angles with the mast or keel. 1797 J. CURR *Coal Viewer* 11 In the main roads underground..square turns are not necessary. 1833 M. SCOTT *Tom Cringle* xv. (1842) 379 A long low vessel,.. with immensely square yards. 1833 *Regul. & Instr. Cavalry* I. 49 Bodies to be quite square to the front. 1857 LIVINGSTONE *Trav.* ii. 40 The Bakwains have a curious inability to make or put things square. 1868 AIREY *Pop. Astron.* i. 15 *note*, When the expression perpendicular to the surface of the glass is used, it means what a workman would probably call square to the surface of the glass.

† c. *fig.* Diverging or deviating *from* something.

1549 L. COXE *Erasm. Par. Titus* 28 Teaching shamefull thinges and far square from the veritie of the gospell.

7. Even, straight, level. Also const. *with*.

1814 D. H. O'BRIAN *Captivity & Escape* 7 On our arrival on board, the water was nearly square with the combings of the lower deck. 1884 F. J. BRITTEN *Watch & Clockm.* 201 Brass surfaces are..rubbed square with blue stone.

b. *fig.* On equal terms; with all accounts settled. Freq. const. *with*.

1859 *Slang Dict.* 100 'To be square with a man,' to be revenged. 1867 TROLLOPE *Chron. Barset* I. xxxvii. 326 He's only going to give me my little bit of money..and then he and I will be all square. 1883 *Contemp. Rev.* Sept. 358 Acred squires, who lay their heads..on their pillows with self-approval that they are square with the world. 1892 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Nevermore* III. 68 I've got square with you so far, and..I'll be more than even with you yet.

c. *Golfing.* Having equal scores.

1887 in *Jamieson's Sc. Dict.* Suppl. 227/1. 1898 *Daily News* 22 Oct. 9/4 They were all square at the 18th, and no fewer than five extra holes had to be played before the Huddersfield man could claim a victory.

II. 8. Of actions: Just or equitable; fair, honest, honourable, straightforward: a. In the phrases *square play* or *dealing*, *the square thing*.

(*a*) 1591 GREENE *Conny Catch.* (1859) 7 For feare of trouble I was fain to try my good hap at square play. 1604 TERILO *Fr. Bacon's Proph.* 214 in Hazl. *E. P. P.* IV. 276 And faire square plaie with yea and naie, Who lost the game would quickly paie. 1677 WYCHERLEY *Pl. Dealer* I. i, Why, don't you know..that telling truth is a quality as prejudicial to a man that wou'd thrive in the World, as square Play to a Cheat? 1708 *Brit. Apollo* Supern. Paper No. 4. 1/2 Venturing my Money in any sort of Traffick, is much the same, as at Square Play.

(*b*) 1633 GERARD *Descr. Somerset* (1900) 115 Theis come as neere unto them as possibly with square dealing they can. 1692 BENTLEY *Boyle Lect.* i. 38 Would there then be kept that square-dealing in such a monstrous den of Thieves? 1884 *Harper's Mag.* June 56/2 Reputation for integrity and square dealing.

(*c*) *c* 1860 MRS. SPOFFORD in *Casquet of Literature* IV. 25/1 He had come to question..whether it was just the square thing to..shut her up all by herself. 1890 *Cent. Mag.* Feb. 527/1 You know I've tried to do the square thing by you.

b. In general use. (Cf. FAIR AND SQUARE *a.*)

1606 SHAKS. *Ant. & Cl.* II. ii. 190 She's a most triumphant Lady, if report be square to her. 1607 — *Timon* V. iv. 36 For those that were, it is not square to take On those that are, Reuenge. 1679 HARBY *Key Script.* ii. 27 Much more must his Antitype..be far from giving or receiving any right Counsel, and from all practice of Square Right. 1812 J. H. VAUX *Flash Dict.* s.v. 1885 *American* IX. 278 A desire to do something which, as they think, will be square all around. 1892 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Nevermore* xi, I may have doubted whether everything was quite square about him [a horse]; but I never theught for a moment that he was stolen.

9. Of persons: †a. Not readily moved or shaken in purpose, etc.; solid, steady, reliable. *Obs.*

1589 PUTTENHAM *Eng. Poesie* II. xi[i]. (Arb.) 113 [Aristotle] termeth a constant minded man .. a square man. 1612 T. TAYLOR *Comm. Titus* i. 7 This doctrine sheweth what a square and furnished man he had need be, who must stand vnder such a burden as this is. 1635 in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* Ser. II. III. 283 To make sure to keepe my self close and squaire in all to his Ma[ties] service. 1710 S. SEWALL *Diary* 3 Apr., I did not think him so square and stable a man.

†b. Solid or steady (at eating or drinking). *Obs.*

1611 COTGR., *Vn ferial beuueur*, a square drinker, a faithfull drunkard; one that will take his liquor soundly. *a* 1616 BEAUM. & FL. *Bonduca* II. iii, By — squire eaters, More meat I say:..how terribly They charge upon their victuals.

c. Honest or straightforward in dealing with others; honourable, upright.

1646 QUARLES *Judgem. & Mercy* Wks. (Grosart) I. 93/2 Mistaking a lying or cousening knave for a square or honest man. 1667 TEMPLE *Let. Ld. Arlington* Wks. 1720 II. 49, I found him as plain, as direct, and square in the course of this Business, as any Man could be. *a* 1716 BLACKALL *Wks.* (1723) I. 165 When he sees that those Christians with whom he trades, are not..so square and honest in their Dealings. 1811 *Lexicon-Balatronicum*, *Square*, honest, not roguish. 1852 MRS. STOWE *Uncle Tom's C.* i. 2 I've trusted him, since then, with everything I have—money, house, horses,— ..and I always found him true and square in everything. 1883 F. M. CRAWFORD *Dr. Claudius* ix, He amuses me, and he is very square on settling days.

10. †a. Precise, prim, solemn. *Obs.*

c 1590 *Sir T. More* (Malone Soc.) 1425 Oh what formalitie, what square obseruance: liues in a little roome. 1599 B. JONSON *Cynthia's Rev.* II. iii, A serious, solemne, and supercilious face, full of formall and square gravitie. 1601 — *Poetaster* IV. vi, And all their square pretext of grauitie [is] A meere vaine glorie.

† b. Solidly or firmly constituted; free from flaw or defect. *Obs.*

1628 STRAFFORD in Browning *Life* (1891) 293 We must apply a square courage to our proceedings, not fall away as water spilt upon the ground. 1672 OWEN *Disc. Evang. Love* v, Every undue presumption hath one or other lameness accompanying it: it is truth alone which is square and steady.

c. Precise, exact; † certain.

1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* v. 199 My conduct [=guide] still deceaued me, made it square Another Carauan, O! would come there. *Ibid.* IX. 415 Fit to gouerne others, and to direct him selfe with the square rules of wisdome and iudgement. *a* 1684 LEIGHTON *Wks.* (1868) 675 Framing them to an external and square carriage whereby the world..is much advantaged. 1858 HAWTHORNE *Fr. & It. Note-bks.* (1872) II. 65 His ideas being square, solid and tangible, and therefore readily grasped and retained. 1884 J. PARKER *Apost. Life* II. 153 This is a square Gospel; it will have all things at right angles.

d. Straight, direct.

1804 M. CUTLER in *Life*, etc. (1888) II. 162 It was..a square fight between the all-important head man of the party and another who ranks as his second. 1873 HALE *In His Name* vi. 57 [He] could not answer the square question put to him. 1896 *Daily News* 11 April 3/5 It may be..foolish of the Transvaal to refuse the opportunity for a square talk, but it is strictly within its rights.

e. Right; in good order; on a proper footing. *To call* (*it*) *square*, to regard as balanced or settled.

1836 MARRYAT *Midsh. Easy* xviii, If she is unhappy for three months, she will be overjoyed for three more when she hears that I am alive, so it will be all square at the end of the six. 1853 DICKENS *Bleak Ho.* xx, I had confident expectations that things would come round and be all square. 1891 C. ROBERTS *Adrift Amer.* 163 Although he was willing to call it square, in reality he ought to make a claim.

f. Of meals: Full, solid, substantial. Of a drink: Copious; of full measure.

Orig. *U.S.*; common from about 1880.

1868 *All Year Round* 19 Sept. 354/2 Roadside hotel-keepers .. calling the miners' attention to their 'square meals': by which is meant full meals. 1876 *Daily News* 24 Oct. 1/3 This pot simmers from early morn till noon, when the one 'square meal' of the day is eaten. 1884 E. F. KNIGHT *Cruise Falcon* xi. 186 Mr. Wynn..had prepared a good square supper for the travellers. 1899 [see SQUARE *sb.* 16].

III. *ellipt.* **11.** *On* or *upon the square.* a. With a square front; face to face; directly, openly. Now *rare*.

c 1611 CHAPMAN *Iliad* XIII. 138 But when he fell into the strengths the Grecians did maintain, And that they fought upon the square [Gr. ἀντίοι], he stood as fetter'd then. 1677 WYCHERLEY *Pl. Dealer* IV. i, Prithee bid 'em come up.. captain, for now I can talk with her upon the square. 1691 DRYDEN *K. Arthur* v. i, How's this, a sally? Beyond my hopes, to meet them on the square. 1737 WHISTON *Josephus, Hist.* VI. vii. § 2 Nor were [they] strong enough to fight with the Romans any longer upon the square. 1821 LAMB *Elia* I. *Old & New Schoolm.*, He is awkward, and out of place, in the society of his equals..He cannot meet you on the square.

b. In a fair, honest, or straightforward manner; without artifice, deceit, fraud, or trickery.

Very common from *c* 1670, freq. with reference to playing or gaming.

(*a*) 1667-8 DR. NEWCASTLE & DRYDEN *Sir Martin Mar-all* I. i, Scarce one woman in an hundred will play with you upon the square. 1680 COTTON *Compl. Gamester* (ed. 2) 4 These Rooks can do little harm in the day time at an Ordinary, being forc'd to play upon the Square. 1718 *Free-thinker* No. 135, In an Age, wherein it is almost become the Glory of States to circumvent each other, who does not see the Necessity of playing upon the Square? 1748 SMOLLETT *R. Random* ix, He had played on the square with them. 1822 SCOTT *Nigel* xiii, While Lord Glenvarloch chose to play, men played with him regularly, or, according to the phrase, upon the square. 1844 THACKERAY *Barry Lyndon* xiii, No man could play with me through Europe, on the square.

(*b*) 1667 DRYDEN *Maid. Q.* IV. i, 'Gad, I love upon the square, I can endure no tricks to be used to me. 1689 T. R. *View Govt. Europe* 62 They no longer treated on the square with their people. 1701 [DE FOE] *Villany of Stock-Jobbers* (ed. 2) 15 Then we shall Trade upon the square; Honesty and Industry will be the method of Thriving. 1736 LILLO *Fatal Curiosity* I. i, And he, who deals with mankind on the square,..undoes himself. 1750 JOHNSON *Rambler* No. 75 § 11 The greater part had indeed always professed to court, as it is termed, upon the square. 1809 MALKIN *Gil Blas* VIII. xii. P 3, I shall act upon the square with you. 1851 MAYHEW *Lond. Lab.* I. 378 Some of the fraternity..do not always deal 'upon the square'. 1866 G. MACDONALD *Ann. Q. Neighb.* xiii. (1878) 255, I could not help doubting if everything was done on the square, as they say.

† c. Upon terms of equality or friendship *with* another or others; also, even or 'quits' *with* another. *Obs.*

1692 WASHINGTON tr. *Milton's Def. People* x. M.'s Wks. 1851 VIII. 227 They chose rather to be lorded over once more by a Tyrant..than endure their Brethren and Friends to be upon the square with them. 1693 DRYDEN *Juvenal* III. 179 We live not on the Square with such as these: Such are our Betters who can better please. 1707 *Reflex. upon Ridicule* 99 No body ventures to say in general, that he's upon the Square with Men of a great Merit. 1709 MRS. MANLEY *Secret Mem.* (1736) III. 30 They are now upon the Square with one another.

d. In predicative use without const.: Free from duplicity or unfairness; honest, straightforward, upright. Now *slang*.

1682 PENN in Dixon *Life* xxiii. (1872) 207 Keep upon the square, for God sees you. 1709 STEELE *Tatler* No. 39 P 2 They us'd Seconds, who were to see that all was upon the Square. 1731 MEDLEY *Kolben's Cape G. Hope* 262 All of them trade..in the most upright and friendly manner..with the Europeans, whenever the latter are upon the square. 1839 in 'Ducange Anglicus' *Vulg. Tongue* (1857) 34 *On the square*, honest, square. 1867 TROLLOPE *Chron. Barset* I. xxxvii. 325 I'm not going to throw you over. I've always been on the square with you. 1892 E. REEVES *Homeward Bound* 53 An unfortunate stowaway, who..was 'peached' on by a steerage passenger who he thought was 'on the square'.

e. *To set on* or *upon the square*, to set or put right, or in proper order. *rare*.

1846 TRENCH *Mirac.* 255 Awaiting the great day when all things shall be set on the square. 1860 — *Serm. Westm. Abbey* xxiii. 262 Leaving much..to be redressed and adjusted and balanced, and finally set upon the square, on that great coming day.

f. In literal sense: At right angles; in a square or solid form.

1883 *Specif. Alnwick & Cornhill Rlwy.* 44 This Bridge is to be built under the Railway, on the square. 1904 *Daily Chron.* 1 Sept. 4/5 The Japanese soldier is never weedy. He is built on the square.

IV. *attrib.* and *Comb.*

12. In parasynthetic combs., as *square-barred*, *-based*, *-bladed*, *-bodied*, etc., or with pa. ppples., as *square-built*, *-ground*, *-hewn*, *-made*, etc.; also *square-looking*.

1832 J. RENNIE *Consp. Butterfl. & M.* 164 *Square-barred Single Dot. 1857 MILLER *Elem. Chem., Org.* 605 It is deposited in *square-based anhydrous octohedra. 1611 COTGR., *Sang-de-dez*, little *square-bladed pocket daggers. 1643 R. BAKER *Chron.* (1653) 580 Sir Francis Drake,..a short *square-bodied man. 1752 J. HILL *Hist. Anim.* 204 The square-bodied Syngnathus. 1843 JAMES *Forest Days* ii, A tall, powerful, and *square-browed man. 1687 MIÈGE *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II, *Square built, *bâti en carré*. 1825 J. NEAL *Bro. Jonathan* I. 191 He stood..regarding his .. square-built brother opposite. 1891 *Tablet* 12 Sept. 437 Of contemporaneous design, like a square-built house. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.*, **Square-Butted*, the yard-arms of small shipping so made that a sheave-hole can be cut through without weakening the yard. 1731 P. MILLER *Gard. Dict.* s.v. *Lotus*, Red *square-codded Birds-Foot Trefoil. 1849 CUPPLES *Green Hand* xix, As *square-countered and flat-breasted a ten-gun model as ever ran her nose under salt-water. 1805 R. W. DICKSON *Pract. Agric.* I. 540 The *square-eared wheat is a very productive kind. 1832 *Scoreby Farm Rep.* 9 in *Husb.* (L.U.K.) III, The square-eared, or some other of the coarse descriptions [of barley]. 1611 COTGR., *Escappe*, a small *square-edged circle, or fillet in a piller, &c. 1850 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* III. 1319 Applying the stone longitudinally upon a square-edged mill. 1792 MARY WOLLSTONECR. *Rights Wom.* iv. 145 The *square-elbowed family drudge. 1884 F. M. CRAWFORD *Rom. Singer* I. 108 This *square-faced boy of mine was more than a match for her. 1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* 460 The face of a Lyon is not round,..but rather it is *square figured. 1879 MRS. A. E. JAMES *Ind. House-Managem.* 11, I actually once saw *square-fronted night-dresses! *c* 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 15836 A wel longe pyk *Squar grounden, scharp, euenlyk. 1899 MARG. BENSON & GOURLAY *Temple of Mut* I. 2 The *square-hewn doorways of the tombs hollowed out in the face of the cliff. 1892 GUNTER *Miss Dividends* ix. 117 Two or three *square-jawed, full-lipped Mormon friends of his. 1833 LOUDON *Encycl. Archit.* § 914 They are all to be *square-jointed at least 2 inches from the face. 1853 LYNCH *Self-Improv.* 11 A rude *square-looking country lad. 1820 SCOTT *Monast.* xxxv, Saunders was a short *square-made fellow. 1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib.*,

Brit. II. No. 6963, *Square-mouthed travelling bags. 1894 Lydekker *Roy. Nat. Hist.* II. 479 The largest of the group is the square-mouthed, or Burchell's rhinoceros (*R. simus*). 1677 Moxon *Mech. Exerc.* i. 5 The *Square Nos'd Hand-Vice. 1592 Greene *Upst. Courtier* (1871) 31 A *square set fellow, well fed and briskly appareled. 1888 Eggleston *Graysons* i. 6 Henry Miller was a square-set young fellow, without a spark of romance in him. 1816 Scott *Antiq.* xvii, That stretch of wall with *square-shafted windows. 1825 J. Neal *Bro. Jonathan* II. 108 A dark, tall, *square-shouldered man. 1704 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 3984/4 A Neat's Leather Saddle, *square Skirted. 1860 Hawthorne *Fr. & It. Note-bks.* II. 303 Wig, square-skirted coat,..and all the queer costume of the period. 1822 *Hortus Anglicus* II. 71 *H. Nepetoides*, *Square-stalked Hyssop. Stem sharply quadrangular. 1872–4 Jefferies *Toilers of Field* (1892) 311 In the ditches the *square-stemmed figwort is conspicuous by its dark green. 1838 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* I. 279/2 The thread of a *square threaded screw. 1848 Rickman *Styles Archit.* 49 If it be *square-topt, it is called a tower. 1882 O'Donovan *Merv Oasis* I. 327 This village..consisting of little more than fifty square-topped huts. 1898 J. A. Gibbs *Cotswold Village* 3 A tiny village with its *square-towered Norman church.

b. *Square-maker* (see quot.).

c 1850 *Rudim. Navig.* (Weale) 151 *A square-maker*, a shipwright who cuts the butts to receive the oakum, and prepares the work ready for the caulkers.

13. In collocations used attributively, as *square-house, square-thread screw*, etc.

1819 Samouelle *Entomol. Compend.* 421 *Noctua obeliscata*. The square-spot Dart. 1859 Boyd *Recreat. Country Parson* v. 188 The square-box house comes forward humbly. 1867 Smyth *Sailor's Word-bk.*, *Square-Topsail Sloop*, sloops which carry standing yards. 1868 *Rep. U. S. Commissioner Agric.* (1869) 252 Specimens of square-top Osage thorn. 1869 Rankine *Machine & Hand-tools* Pl. Q 16. 2 It is worked..by square-thread screws. 1893 *Times* 14 July 3/1 The same square-sett system of timbering.

14. In special collocations: **square battalion, battle, body** (see quots.); † **square book**, some variety of church song-book; † **square-bore** (see quot.), **bracket** (see Bracket *sb.* 5), **coupling, cut, -face, frame, gin** (see quots.); **square-header**, a square-headed sail; **square hit**, a hit at right angles to the wicket, esp. to square-leg; **square-joint, -knot** (see quots.) **square-leg**, the position in the cricket-field to the left of the batsman and nearly in a line with the wicket; the fielder stationed at this point also *attrib.*; hence *square-leg* vb.; **square main-sail, mark**, *Naut.* (see quots.); † **square muscle**, one of the quadrate muscles of the loins; **square-net**, a fine net suspended so as to enclose a square, used in trapping hawks; † **square-pair**, *Mining* (see quot. 1747); **square pianoforte**, a piano of a rectangular form, now superseded by the upright or cottage piano; **square ribbon, -rig**, *Naut.* (see quots.); **square-rigger**, a square-rigged vessel; a sailor on such a vessel; **square-roof** (see quot.); † **square rule**, = Square *sb.* I; **square sets, shoot, staff, -stern, -tailing, timbers, tuck, twelves, work** (see quots.); **square-wright** *Sc.*, a carpenter whose work requires much use of the square; also *attrib.*; **square yards**, *Naut.* (see quots.)

Some special uses also arise by ellipse, as *square Chaldee* or *Hebrew* (sc. *characters*); also *square manuscripts* (i. e. written with these characters).

1710 J. Harris *Lex. Techn.* II, **Square Battel* or *Battalion* of Men, is one that hath an equal number of Men in Rank and File. 1770 Langhorne *Plutarch* (Rtldg.) 259/1 Not..accustomed to draw up in a spiral form, but in the square battalion. 1711 *Milit. & Sea Dict.*, A **Square* Body; Which has as many Men in File as in Rank, and is equal whatsoever Way it faces. *c* 1850 *Rudim. Navig.* (Weale) 151 *Square body*, the figure which comprehends all the timbers whose areas or planes are perpendicular to the keel, which is all that portion of a ship between the cant bodies. 1537–8 *Rec. St. Mary at Hill* (1905) 378 Paid..for carolles for cristmas and for v *square bookes. 1538 *Accs. Wells Cath. Chapter* (MS.) 13 May, Libros cantuum crisporum sive diversorum, vulgariter nuncupatos square books and pricke song books. 1677 Moxon *Mech. Exerc.* 48 The *Square-bore, is a square Steel Point or shank, well temper'd, fitted into a square Socket in an Iron wimble...Its use is to open a Hole [etc.]. 1891 *Daily News* 14 May 5/2 They place notes of interrogation..or notes of exclamation within *square brackets. 1831–3 *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) VIII. 110/1 Even in small machines, the *square coupling has been in many cases supplanted by the cylindrical box. 1855 Ogilvie *Suppl.*, *Square-coupling*, in mill-work, a kind of permanent coupling, of which the coupling-box is made in halves and square. 1850 Holtzapffel *Turning* III. 1323 The *square cut, or trap cut, is the most simple form of cutting facets. 1906 A. E. Knight *Complete Cricketer* ii. 77 Cuts are generally termed forward cuts, late cuts, and square cuts. 1879 Forbes in *Daily News* 13 June 5/5 That potent fluid..that goes by the endearing name of '*Squareface', and that in reality is the rankest of schiedam. 1846 A. Young *Naut. Dict.* 294 **Square frames*, in shipbuilding, those frames which are square with the line of the keel, having no bevelling upon them. 1888 Churchward *Blackbirding* 102 What they called the wine of the country —*square gin. 1892 'R. Boldrewood' *Nevermore* II. xvi, A glass of spirits, be it sound cognac,..or..good square gin. 1882 *Standard* 11 Aug. 6/6 Lorna and Chittywee last, the latter with a large jackyard topsail set, the others having working *squareheaders. 1837 *New Sporting Mag.* XI. 196 By swinging the bat nearly in the direction in which the umpire stands, making a *square hit. 1882 *Daily Tel.* 24 June, A square hit for 2 by Grace followed, which made up the century. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2294/2 **Square-joint*, a mode of joining wooden stuff in which the edges are brought squarely together, without rabbeting, tongue, or feather. 1867 Smyth *Sailor's Word-bk.*, **Square-Knot*, the same as *reef-knot*. 1851 Lillywhite *Guide Cricketers* 21 The Long Leg for a '*square leg hitter' should stand parallel to the wicket. 1873 *Routledge's Young Gentlm. Mag.* May 378/1 [He] was very nearly had at square leg the first 'slow' he got. 1894 *Times* 28 May 7/3 He made one particularly fine square-leg hit to the boundary. 1882 *Daily Tel.* 8 Sept. (Encycl. Dict.), [He] continued..by *square-legging both bowlers for a couple each time. 1867 Smyth *Sailor's Word-bk.* 462 *Main-sail.* This, in a square-rigged vessel, is distinguished by the so-termed **square main-sail. Ibid.*, **Square* or *Squaring Marks*, marks placed upon the lifts and braces [as guides in squaring the yards]. 1615 Crooke *Body of Man* 802 The first payre are called *Quadrati* the *square muscles;..they..lye as it were square vpon the rackes of the loynes. 1856 'Stonehenge' *Brit. Sports* I. IV. i. 222 Haggards may be trapped in this country with the *square-net, or the bow-net. 1747 Hooson *Miner's Dict.* Q 3, *Raising-Pair*. These differ from a *Squarepair in this, that instead of a Collar made on the Forks, we make Tenners, so that the Forks are Tennered at both Ends, and the Sliders are Slotted at both Ends to receive the Forks. 1799 Young in *Phil. Trans.* XC. 135 A *square piano forte. 1840 *Penny Cycl.* XVIII. 139/2 The square piano-forte.. was taken from the clavichord, but..retains only its shape. 1875 Stainer & Barrett *Dict. Mus. Terms* s.v. *Pianoforte*, Upright pianos have been called giraffes from their tall appearance, and horizontal ones have been called couched harp, or square pianoforte. 1867 Smyth *Sailor's Word-bk.*, **Square Ribbons*, a synonym of horizontal lines, or horizontal ribbons. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.*, **Square-rig*, that rig in which the lower sails are suspended from horizontal yards, as distinguished from *fore-and-aft* rig. 1886 *Daily Tel.* 23 Apr. 2/3 There are many old *square-riggers..who will be curious to know what there is for Jack on board a steamer to put his hand to. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.*, **Square-roof*, one in which the principal rafters meet at a right angle. 1726 Leoni *Alberti's Archit.* I. 38/2 In making these Angles we must use a *Square Rule. 1881 Raymond *Mining Gloss.*, **Square sets*, a kind of timbering used in large spaces. 1842 Gwilt *Archit.* Gloss., **Square Shoot*, a wooden trough for discharging water from a building. *Ibid.*, **Square staff*, a piece of wood placed at the external angle of a projection in a room to secure the angle. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.*, **Square-stern*, a build in which the wing-transom is at right angles to the stern-post, in contradistinction to *round* stern. 1881 *Gentl. Mag.* Jan. 62 Every five or six years there was a general muster technically termed *square-tailing,..to ascertain the precise number of cattle upon the station. *c* 1850 *Rudim. Navig.* (Weale) 151 **Square timbers*, the timbers which stand square with, or perpendicular to, the keel. 1846 A. Young *Naut. Dict.* 355 When the after part of the ship terminates in a straight plane which is nearly vertical, instead of the plank running up to the counter, she is said to have a *square tuck. 1888 Jacobi *Printers' Vocab.* 130 **Square twelves*, twelvemo laid down in imposition the 'short' or 'square' way, in contradistinction to 'long twelves'. 1883 Gresley *Gloss. Coal-m.* 233 **Square work*, an old system of working the Thick coal by getting the upper beds first and then the lower ones. *Ibid.*, *Square work*, a system of working a seam of coal by cutting it up into square blocks or pillars. 1752 *Records of Elgin* (New Spald. Cl.) I. 464 All chests, chairs, stools, spades, staves and other *squarewright work. 1825 Jamieson *Suppl.*, *Squarewricht*, a joiner who works in the finer kinds of furniture. Lanarks. 1769 Falconer *Dict. Marine* (1780), **Square*, a term peculiarly appropriated to the yards and their sails, implying..that they are of greater extent than usual. 1794 *Rigging & Seamanship* 257 **Square*. This term is applied to yards that are very long.

b. In specific or distinguishing names of plants, animals, etc., as **square barley, dory, -ear, fish, flipper, mussel**, etc.

a 1722 Lisle *Husb.* (1757) 152 *Square-barley, or winter-barley..is commonly sown in the mountainous parts of northern countries. 1731 P. Miller *Gard. Dict.* s.v. *Hordeum*, Winter or Square Barley, or Bear Barley; by some call'd Big. 1803 Shaw *Gen. Zool.* IV. II. 291 *Square Dory. *Zeus quadratus*. 1805 R. W. Dickson *Pract. Agric.* I. 540 The new sorts of wheat in that county are..the *square-ear, and the hoary brown. 1681 Grew *Museum* I. V. ii. 110 The *Squar-Fish. *Piscis quadrangularis*. 1883 *Fisheries Exhib. Catal.* (ed. 4) 173 Hooded or Bladder Nose... *Square Flipper. 1884 Goode *Nat. Hist. Aquat. Anim.* 65 *note*, The Bay Seal,..the Hooded Seal,..and the 'Square Flipper' (probably *Halichærus grypus*). 1681 Grew *Museum* I. VI. ii. 146 The *Square-Muscle. *Concha Rhomboidea*. 1548 Turner *Names Herbes* 22 Bunium..may be called in englishe *square perseley. *Ibid.* 17 Ascyron..maye be called in english *square saint Johans grasse. 1832 J. Rennie *Consp. Butterfl. & Moths* 56 Dahl's *Square Spot...Wings..with a dusky square spot between the stigmata. 1843 Lowe *Fishes Madeira* 129 *Tetragonurus Atlanticus*...The *Square-tail, or Sea-raven. 1896 Lydekker *Roy. Nat. Hist.* V. 398 The curious Mediterranean and Atlantic fish known as Cuvier's square-tail (*Tetragonurus cuvieri*). 1548 Turner *Names Herbes* 36 Euonymus..maye be called in englishe Spyndle tree or *square tree. 1681 Grew *Museum* I. vi. i. 130 The *Square-Wilk. *Buccina Rhomboidea*.

Square (skwēə1), *adv.* [f. prec.]

† **1.** So as to be squared (by multiplication). *Obs.*

1557 Recorde *Whetst.* E ij, And so moche doth 15 make, being multiplied square.

† **2.** Steadily, copiously. *Obs.*

1570 B. Googe *Pop. Kingd.* IV. 47 b, Foure dayes long they tipple square, & feede and neuer reast. 1603 Florio *Montaigne* II. ii. 198 Iosephus reporteth that by making an Ambassador to tipple square whom his enemies had sent unto him, he wrested all his secrets out of him. 1608 Armin *Nest Ninn.* G 3, Hee..got downe into the Seller, and fell to it tipple square, till he was lost, and quite drunck.

3. Fairly, honestly; in a straightforward or direct manner. In later use *slang* or *colloq.*

1577–82 Breton *Toyes of an Idle Head* Wks. (Grosart) I. 29/1 If that Coggers all were barde,..And euery Gamster would play square: Then some men would hope well to fare.

1661 Feltham *Resolves* II. xlii. 266 Nature implants a Moral Justice, which, unperverted, will deal square. 1851 Mayhew *Lond. Lab.* I. 324, I never thought of selling anything but tins. How could I, if I wished to do the thing square and proper? 1883 *Harper's Mag.* Jan. 212/1 He'll wonder what sort of a beast I be, When I tell him square out how it seemed to me. 1891 H. Herman *His Angel* 140, 'I reckon the boy means square,' muttered the old man.

Comb. 1891 C. Roberts *Adrift Amer.* 8 The old fellows ..were what I should call very decent square-dealing men.

b. *colloq.* Solidly, without reserve.

1867 F. W. Newman in Sieveking *Mem.* (1909) ix. 198 N. C. comes out 'square' for the Republican party.

c. *colloq.* Properly, in correct form.

1889 'R. Boldrewood' *Robbery under Arms* xxviii, Here they were married, all square and regular, by the Scotch clergyman.

4. So as to be square; in a rectangular form or position; directly in line or in front.

1631 Chapman *Cæsar & Pompey* III. i, Free minds, like dice, fall square whate'er the cast. 1678 Moxon *Mech. Exerc.* 66 Two edges of two boards, when thus shot, ly so exactly flat and square upon one another, that light will not be discerned betwixt them. 1683 — *Printing* x. P 9 The upper-sides of the Holes in the Iron Plates being square Bored. 1768 Sterne *Sent. Journ.*, *The Dwarf*, The German stood square in the most unaccommodating posture that can be imagined. 1821 Lamb *Elia* 1, *Old Benchers*, He walked burly and square. 1852 Hawthorne *Blithedale Rom.* xxiv, Logs.., piled up square. 1852 Mrs. Stowe *Uncle Tom's C.* xvi, 'Well, cousin, are you ready to go to meeting?' said Miss Ophelia, turning square about on St. Clare.

5. At right angles. Freq. const. *to, with*, etc.

1680 Moxon *Mech. Exerc.* 213 To cut straight down all the way; that is, to cut it square down at right Angles with the outside of the Work. 1728 Chambers *Cycl.* s.v. *Roof*, Sometimes the roof,..instead of terminating in a Ridge or Angle,..is cut square off at a certain Heighth. 1792 Jefferson *Writ.* (1859) III. 337 In a position square with the streets. 1802 James *Milit. Dict.* s.v. *Gun*, The carriage.. must be cast loose, and trained athwart-ship, square with the ship's sides. 1847 *Infantry Man.* (1854) 74 Pivot men ..face square into the new direction. 1856 Olmsted *Slave States* 61 You'll find a path going square off to the right. 1878 Huxley *Physiogr.* xix. 332 The shadows of objects are distorted when the light does not fall square upon their surfaces.

Square (skwēə1), *v.* Also 5 squaryn, sqvare, sqware, 6 squyer. [ad. OF. *esquarrer* (*escarrer, equarrer*), = Pg. *esquadrar*, Sp. *escuadrar*, It. *squadrare* :—pop.L. **exquadrāre*, f. L. *ex* out + *quadra* square. OF. had also *esquarrir* (*escarrir*, etc., mod.F. *équarrir*).]

I. *trans.* **1.** To make (a thing) square; to reduce to a square or rectangular form, by cutting or some similar process; to shape by reduction to straight lines and right angles.

Freq. implying the production of a form approaching to a cube.

1382 Wyclif 1 *Kings* v. 17 The kyng comaundide, that thei shulden take the greet stoonus..and thei shulden square hem. 1398 Trevisa *Barth. De P. R.* xvi. lxxiv. (Bodl. MS.), Stones..itake oute of quarers and þanne þei beþ ihewe, planed and sqwared. *c* 1407 Lydg. *Reson & Sens.* 6100 The poyntes [were] squared eke so pleyn That the Ioynyng was nat sene. *c* 1460 J. Russell *Bk. Nurture* 52 The iij. [knife] sharpe & kene to smothe þe trenchurs and square. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 142 b, The people of Israell..buylded a solemn temple..of stones precyous & quadrat or squared. 1555 Eden *Decades* (Arb.) 263 The Rubies..are scoured and made cleane... Yet can they not square and polyshe them. 1592 Greene *Def. Conny Catching* Wks. (Grosart) XI. 72 His beard squared with such Art. 1653 *Apol. for Goodwin* 4 But this Stone is so ill squar'd, that one way it will be found to narrow, and the other to broad. 1691 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 2668/4 Crown Window Glass..; which may be squared into all Sizes of Sashes for Windows and other Uses. 1754 *Dict. Arts & Sci.* s.v. *Book-binding*, After which the paste-boards are squared. 1801 Southey *Lett.* (1856) I. 169 A square hedge of thicksett, squared most trimly by the shears of the garden-barber. 1849 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* iii. I. 415 Those who.., squared the Portland stone for Saint Paul's.

fig. 1647 N. Bacon *Disc. Govt. Eng.* I. xliii. (1739) 70 It was a regular frame in every part, squared and made even by Laws.

b. To make (timber, etc.) square or rectangular in cross-section.

1412–20 Lydg. *Chron. Troy* IV. 2432 With a spere, squared for to byte,..Þe myȝty duke..Rood lyne riȝt..To Anthenor. 1503 *Acc. Ld. H. Treas. Scot.* II. 275 To the wrichtis that squarit the tymir in the Hieland. 1530 Palsgr. 731/1, I wyll square thyse ookes to make tymber of. 1560 Pilkington *Expos. Aggeus* (1562) 59 A carpenter which is not cunning to make the house, yet may he square trees. 1663 Gerbier *Counsel* 78 The Timber being squared before it be brought to London. 1725 Pope *Odyss.* v. 316 He smooth'd, and squar'd 'em [*sc.* trees], by the rule and line. 1791 W. Bartram *Carolina* 312, I have some men at work squaring Pine and Cypress timber for the West-Indian market. 1810 Scott *Lady L.* I. xxvi, [He] Lopp'd off their boughs, their hoar trunks bared, And by the hatchet rudely squared. 1869 Rankine *Machine & Hand-tools* Pl. H 8 The other end [of the tube] being squared to receive the handle.

c. To mark out as a square or in rectangular form; to convert into, draw up in, a square; to mark *off* or *out* in squares.

c 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* II. 109 A tabul square, .. Feet scoris nyne in lengthe, as fele *in* wide; Let square hit so. 1530 Palsgr. 731/1, I squyer, I rule with a squyer, as a carpynter doyth his worke or he sawe it out, *je esquarre*. 1556 J. Heywood *Spider & Fly* xvii. 27 Whiche sqwyre shall square me, a scantlin well bent, For a right rewle, to show me innocent. 1667 Milton *P. L.* VIII. 232 Squar'd in full Legion (such command we had) To see that none

thence issu'd forth a spie. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XVII. 392/1 Take also the round aft,..and square it down to the pencil line last drawn. 1800 *Phil. Trans.* XC. 541 The Master General has been pleased to issue his directions for the survey of Devonshire, and as much of Somersetshire and Cornwall as will square the work. 1864 Lowell *Fireside Trav.* 288 What frame..ever enclosed such a picture as is squared within the groundsel, side-posts, and lintel of a barn-door. 1877 Miss A. B. Edwards *Up Nile* vii. 176 The soil, squared off as usual like a gigantic chess-board.

d. With *out* (or *up*), in above senses.

1565 Cooper *Thesaurus* s.v. *Exascio*, It is rough hewed or squared out, or it is begunne. 1632 Lithgow *Trav.* x. 443 This Pallace standeth alone, and founded vpon the skirt of a..hill.., squared out from a deualling steepnesse. 1642 H. More *Song of Soul* I. ii. lviii, A large green turf squar'd out, all fresh and fine. 1837 W. B. Adams *Carriages* 96 Two holes are then bored in each mortice in succession, after which they are squared out with proper chisels. 1869 Rankine *Machine & Hand-tools* Pl. Q 16. 2 Mortises are chased, and the ends squared-out. 1875 *Carpentry & Join.* 58 Take care to square up accurately the boards to form the front, back, and sides.

e. To form by making square; to cut in square or rectangular form. Also with *out*.

1584 B. R. tr. *Herodotus* II. 94 Of the body of this thorne they sawe and square out certaine boardes two cubits longe. 1601 R. Johnson *Kingd. & Commw.* 133 Of the timber of these trees are squared all necessaries, as well for buildings as all other vses. 1606 *Choice, Chance*, etc. (1881) 38 For his proportion he was squared out of a timber logge, which was crooked at both ends. 1833 Loudon *Encycl. Archit.* § 742 It is not intended that this wood shall be cut out of large trees, but that it shall be squared from young trees or branches.

2. a. To multiply (a number) by itself.

1571 Digges *Pantom.* I. xxx, Now square 2400 pase, so haue you 576000. *Ibid.* II. xii, The number proceeding of the perches squared. 1614 W. Bedwell *Nat. Geom. Numbers* iv. 65, I square the quotient 2, that is, I multiply it by it selfe. 1674 Jeake *Arith.* (1696) 193 Then do I square 6, and it is 36. 1766 *Compl. Farmer* s.v. *Surveying*, To square the diameter, and to multiply that square by 7854. 1804 Hutton *Course Math.* (ed. 4) I. 8, 7^2 denotes that the number 7 is to be squared. 1894 *Act* 57 & 58 *Vict.* c. 60 Sch. 2 (2), To half the girth thus taken add half the main breadth; square the sum.

b. To convert (a circle) into an equivalent square; to measure exactly in terms of a square. Also *fig.*

1624 Donne *Serm.* 14 Goe not Thou about to Square eyther circle [*sc.* God or thyself]. 1674 Boyle *Excell. Theol.* I. iii. 104 Mr. Hobbs, after all the ways he has taken, and those he has proposed, to square the circle [etc.]. *a* 1704 T. Brown *Amusem. Ser. & Com., Voy.* Wks. 1709 III. i. 12 You may as soon square the Circle, as reduce the several Branches..under one single Head. 1717 Prior *Alma* III. 366 Circles to square, and Cubes to double, Would give a Man excessive Trouble. 1798 Hutton *Course Math.* II. 311 To square the circle, or find its area. 1871 C. Davies *Metric Syst.* III. 68 The legislator..cannot square the circle.

c. To reduce (measurements) to an equivalent square; to calculate in square measure.

1821 P. Kelly *Univ. Cambist* I. 260 In squaring the dimensions of artificers work, the Inch is divided into 12 parts. 1828 Moore *Pract. Navig.* 26 In like manner may any dimensions be squared, and the content be found.

3. a. *Naut.* To lay (the yards) at right angles to the line of the keel by trimming with the braces; to set at right angles to, or parallel with, some other part.

a 1625 *Nomenclator Navalis* (MS. Harl. 2301) s.v. *Yard*, Wee square the Yards, that is make them hang either a Crosse and one Yard-arme not traversed more then th' other. 1669 Sturmy *Mariner's Mag.* I. ii. 17 Hawl home the Top-sail Clue-lines, square the Yeard. 1769 Falconer *Dict. Marine* (1780) s.v. *Lifts*, The yards are said to be squared by the lifts, when they hang at right angles with the mast. 1806 T. Moore *Steersman's Song* iii, But see.., All hands are up the yards to square. 1832 Marryat *N. Forster* xii, The Estelle had squared her mainyard as a signal of submission. 1867 Smyth *Sailor's Word-bk., Squaring the Dead-Eyes*, bringing them to a line parallel to the sheer of the ship. *Ibid., Squaring the Ratlines*, seeing that all are horizontal and shipshape. 1894 *Times* 10 July 11/1 Booms were squared off and spinnaker booms rigged.

b. To adjust so as to make rectilinear or rectangular or to set at right angles to something else. Also with *up*.

1690 in *Inchaffray Reg.* (Bann. Cl.) 140 To divide and appropriat the same..as shall be necessary to square marches amongst the saids adjacent Heritors. 1796 *Instr. & Reg. Cavalry* (1813) 120 He..gives his words,..Halt! Dress! and corrects and squares his division. 1814 Scott *Lord of Isles* VI. xiii, The Monarch rode along the van,..His line to marshal and to range, And ranks to square, and fronts to change. 1837 J. Morier *Abel Allnutt* lvii, The clergyman drew forth his book and squared the table with two candles upon it. 1851 Mayne Reid *Scalp Hunt.* xxiii. 171 Having squared her [*sc.* the mare's] hips to the camp, he whispered something at her head. 1890 *Anthony's Photogr. Bull.* III. 206 To 'square' a print upon a mount turn it face down.

fig. 1814 Cary *Dante, Parad.* xvii. 25, I feel me on all sides Well squar'd to fortune's blows.

(*b*) 1794 *Rigging & Seamanship* 19 The butts of the coaks are then squared up. 1883 *Specif. Alnwick & Cornhill Rlwy.* 8 The stones to be roughly squared up in the beds and joints. 1892 *Photogr. Ann.* II. 369 This should be a useful appliance for squaring up hand cameras.

c. *Astrol.* To stand in quartile aspect in relation to (another sign).

1697 Creech *Manilius* II. 70 The Icy Goat, the Crab which square the Scales. 1852 'Zadkiel' *Grammar Astrol.* 394 [On] June 4th, 1738, Mars was on the cusp of the meridian, squaring the ascendant.

d. To set or place (some part of the body) squarely.

1819 Scott *Ivanhoe* v, The Saxon domestics squared their shoulders. 1824 — *St. Ronan's* xxxi, She does so stoop and lollop,..so cross her legs and square her arms. 1829 Lytton *Disowned* 149 Square your body a little more to your left. 1881 T. A. M'Carthy *Calisth. & Drilling* 19 Square the heels and stand perfectly steady.

II. 4. *fig.* To regulate, frame, arrange, or direct, *by, according to*, or *on* some standard or principle of action.

(*a*) 1531 Tindale *Exp. 1 John* (1537) 2 To consente unto yᵉ law that it is ryghteous, and good;..and to rule and square all thy dedes therby. 1589 Nashe *Anat. Absurdity* Wks. (Grosart) I. 16 To eschew womens counsaile, and not to square our actions by their direction. 1620 E. Blount *Horæ Subs.* 506 The very rules, by which all the actions of our life be squared and disposed. 1673 Penn *Christ. Quaker* vi. 540 A Light within, to know their Duty and Square their Lives by. 1712 Berkeley *Pass. Obed.* § 13 He who squares his actions by this rule can never do amiss. 1756 C. Lucas *Ess. Waters* I. Ded., He squared all his political conduct by their counsil. 1823 Scott *Quentin D.* xiii, The path of royal policy cannot be always squared..by the abstract maxims of religion and of morality. 1864 Hawthorne *S. Felton* (1883) 418 The habits of Sibyl Dacy were so wayward, and little squared by general rules, that nobody..tried to account for them.

(*b*) 1603 Shaks. *Meas. for M.* v. i. 487 Thou art said to haue a stubborne soule That apprehends no further then this world, And squar'st thy life according. 1682 Norris *Hierocles* 83 Having his mind always intent upon the Law of God, squares his life accordingly. 1705 tr. *Bosman's Guinea* 170 According to this Rule, I squared my Conduct in my Judges Office. 1752 Fielding *Amelia* XII. v, The bailiff had squared his conscience exactly according to law. 1809 Malkin *Gil Blas* X. vi. P 13 They..have squared their conduct for a length of time according to the maxims of their order. 1830 W. Irving *Goldsmith* xxiii. 239 Peter was poor but punctilious, squaring his expenses according to his means.

(*c*) 1818 Scott *Hrt. Midl.* viii, An accommodating conscience of a military stamp, and which squared itself chiefly upon those of the Colonel and paymaster. 1850 W. Irving *Mahomet* II. 104 He had shrewd maxims on which he squared his conduct.

b. To adjust or adapt, to cause to correspond *to*, or harmonize *with*, something.

(*a*) 1583 Melbancke *Philotimus* Civ, If thou canst..square thy life to her direction, she will allowe thee two seruants. 1634 Milton *Comus* 329 Eie me, blest Providence, and square my triall To my proportion'd strength. 1682 Norris *Hierocles* Pref. 29 Those Heathens who squared their actions to the law of natural reason. 1747 Richardson *Clarissa* II. 166, I should not know how to square it to my own principles. 1819 Keats *Otho* II. i, I cannot square my conduct to time, place, Or circumstance. *a* 1855 J. J. Blunt *On Early Fathers* (1857) vi. 406, I am led to doubt if the testimony of the Fathers can be squared to it.

refl. 1715 M. Davies *Athen. Brit.* I. 169 The same Resolves, most of the Protestant Reformers Abroad, as well as our Protestant Dissenters at Home, thought themselves oblig'd to square themselves to.

(*b*) 1856 *N. Brit. Rev.* XXVI. 36 Not staying..to square his belief with the stern realities of criticism. 1884 *Manch. Exam.* 19 Dec. 8/4 The promoters do not seek..to square their mission with sociological theory. 1904 H. Paul *Hist. Mod. Eng.* II. iv. 61 Evidence was produced which could not be squared with this plea.

c. To arrange, adjust, render appropriate or exact, etc.

1596 Nashe *Saffron Walden* Wks. (Grosart) III. 195 Your booke being readie for the Presse, Ile square & set it out in Pages. 1669 *Phil. Trans.* IV. 1134, I had no thought of squaring the comparison to agree in all circumstances. 1861 Max Müller *Sci. Lang.* Ser. I. (1864) 340 Any attempt at squaring the classification of races and tongues must necessarily fail. 1888 Bryce *Amer. Commw.* I. xi. I. 144 When the majority belongs to the same party as the President, appointments are usually arranged, or to use a familiar expression, 'squared,' between them.

d. With *out* in above senses.

1578 *Chr. Prayers* in *Priv. Prayers* (1851) 514 That we..may square out all our doings, words and thoughts, by thee. 1592 *Conspir. Pretended Ref.* 86 Doe not they..exact and seeke to square out..all ciuill policies..vnto the Iudicials of Moyses. 1603 H. Crosse *Vertues Commw.* C 2 b, No man is wise, happy, or any thing worth, if Temperance square not out the course of his life. 1628 Prynne *Love-lockes* 21 The rules for naturall, must regulate and square out the length of artificiall Haire. *a* 1661 Fuller *Worthies* (1662) I. xv. 45, I hope..both being put together, may square out the most eminent of the Antient Gentry, in some tolerable proportion.

5. To bring to an equality on both sides; to make even so as to leave no difference; to balance.

a. With *accounts* as object. Freq. *fig.*

1815 *Ann. Reg., Gen. Hist.* 22 For the purpose of squaring the civil list accounts. 1860 Thackeray *Lovel* iv, She would accept benefits,..but then she insulted her benefactors, and so squared accounts. 1888 Symonds *Life of B. Cellini* I. Introd. p. xlvii, He left the land of his adoption before he had properly squared accounts with King Francis.

b. With other objects.

1825 Scott *Jrnl.* 7 Dec., Square the odds, and good-night Sir Walter about sixty. 1828 *Ibid.* 23 Feb., On squaring his books and making allowance for bad debts [etc.]. 1853 R. S. Surtees *Sponge's Sp. Tour* xviii. 87 If he couldn't square matters at short notice, he would have no better chance with an extension of time. 1868 Chesney in *Wellesley's Desp.* 813 The Directors..still clung to trade as the only means of squaring their balance-sheet.

c. *colloq.* To put (a matter) straight; to settle satisfactorily, to compound.

1853 Dickens *Bleak Ho.* xxii, 'I have squared it with the lad,' says Mr. Bucket, returning, 'and it's all right'. 1872 *Routledge's Ev. Boy's Ann.* 615 We always square it with the usher.

d. With *up*: To settle (a debt, etc.) by means of payment.

1862 Mrs. H. Wood *Mrs. Hallib. Troub.* III. xiv, I can square up some of my liabilities here. 1868 Dickens *Lett.* (1880) II. 393 Square up everything whatsoever that it has been necessary to buy.

absol. 1904 *N. & Q.* 10th Ser. I. 62 It was high time for the young gentleman in the parlour to square up or to seek accommodation elsewhere.

6. *slang* or *colloq.* To conciliate, satisfy, or gain over (a person), *esp.* by some form of bribery or compensation; to get rid of (one) in this way.

1859 *Slang Dict.* 100 *Squaring his nibs*, giving a policeman money. 1861 Hughes *Tom Brown at Oxf.* xlix, I told him the truth of the..story, and I think he is squared. 1885 *Manch. Exam.* 7 Jan. 5/4 Rich offenders..'square' the reporters' by giving them bribes on condition that their names shall not be printed in the newspapers.

b. To dispose of by murder.

1888 Churchward *Blackbirding* vii. 128 His 'getting square', meant cutting throats; and if he didn't lie, it would have taken a big ship to carry all the people he'd 'squared' up to date.

III. *intr.* †**7.** To deviate or diverge, to vary (*from* something). *Obs.*

c 1450 in Aungier *Syon* (1840) 294 Sober, demewre, and chereful to speke to,..who[se] sadnes is not wonte to suffer them notably to square in their demenynge. 1483 Caxton *Gold. Leg.* 93/1 The blessyd Lucye hath..Rightful goyng and deuocion to god with out squaryng out of the way. 1521 Fisher *Serm. agst. Luther* iv. Wks. (1876) 337 The prophetes somtyme left vnto themselfe dyd square from the trouthe. 1549 Coverdale, etc. *Erasm. Par. Rom.* 19 Whiche froward minde,..synce it squareth from Gods pleasure, cannot be but against him. 1582 Stanyhurst *Æneis* To Rdr. (Arb.) 15, I made a prosodia too my selfe squaring soomwhat from thee Latin. 1609 Holland *Amm. Marcell.* 204 Yet there is not a definitive sentence of his touching any controversie known, squaring from the truth.

†**b.** To digress from one's subject. *Obs.*

1567 Maplet *Gr. Forest* 29 That thereby they might understand..that I had not greatly squared, if I had pursued many moe diuisions. 1570 Googe *Pop. Kingd.* II. 18 The Preacher..oft leauing it [*sc.* the Word], doth square And spend the tyme about complaints [etc.].

†**c.** To fall *out of* order. *Obs.*—[1]

1583 Stocker *Civ. Warres Lowe C.* IV. 66 b, The enemie [was]..so handled, as that his Souldiers squared somewhat out of order.

†**8.** To fall out, to be at variance or discord, to disagree or quarrel, *with* a person, etc.

1530 Palsgr. 731/1 Of all the men lyvyng I love not to square with hym. 1548 Udall, etc. *Erasm. Par. Acts* 24 Sence your prohibicions doe vtterly square with his commaundementes, and that we cannot satisfie both the one and eke the other. 1561 T. Hoby tr. *Castiglione's Courtyer* III. (1577) R viij, See Madam, our enimies begin to breake and to square one wyth another.

†**b.** Without const. *Obs.*

1542 Udall *Erasm. Apoph.* 255 Touchyng the stuffe wherof every of the saied garlandes was made, Gellius & Suetonius dooe square & disagree. 1580 Sir H. Gifford *Poems* (Grosart) 103 When men doe square for euery fly, To make them friends the women runne. 1593 Nashe *Christ's Tears* Wks. (Grosart) IV. 201 Lyke the Geometritians, they square about poynts and lynes, and the vtter shew of things. 1607 Middleton *Fam. Love* IV. iii, Answer me roundly to the point, or else I'll square.

†**c.** To dissent or differ *from* a person. *Obs.*—[1]

1600 Holland *Livy* XXXIX. lii. 1056 But I accord neither with them nor with Valerius. From them I square, because I find [etc.].

9. To accord, concur, or correspond, to agree or fit, *with* something.

1592 Wyrley *Armorie* 3 Wherein I may peraduenture not square in opinion with some others. 1608 D. T. *Ess. Pol. & Mor.* 118 b, True Vertue is alwaies like herselfe, she squares with euery accident. 1695 Woodward *Nat. Hist. Earth* I. (1723) 42 The present Circumstances of these Marine Bodies do not square with those Opinions. 1745 P. Thomas *Jrnl. Anson's Voy.* 139 When any other Person's Account happens not to square exactly with what himself has observed. 1781 Cowper *Charity* 559 All disguises shall be rent away That square not truly with the scripture plan. 1843 Le Fevre *Life Trav. Phys.* II. ii. ii. 185 The apartment which he occupied squared well with its tenant. 1885 Clodd *Myths & Dr.* I. iii. 45 The theory may be pushed to extremes in compelling every fact to square with it.

†**b.** Const. *to* or *unto*. *Obs.*

1593 Abp. Bancroft *Daungerous Pos.* IV. xv. 185 Thinges had not squared to their likings. 1642 Sir T. Browne *Relig. Med.* 8 There is no Church, whose every part so squares unto my Conscience. *a* 1691 Boyle *Hist. Air* (1692) 71 These two notions..square to all other the instruments and phenomena in nature. 1724 A. Collins *Gr. Chr. Relig.* 251 Yet cannot this prophesy be made to square to the event.

c. Without const.

1600 W. Watson *Decacordon* (1602) 29 In matters of life .., seeing they both square and differ herein from the Protestants [etc.]. 1687 Dryden *Hind & P.* II. 178, I set 'em by the rule, and as they square Or deviate from undoubted doctrine there, This Oral fiction, that old Faith declare. 1800 Coleridge *Piccolom.* v. ii, A joy it is To exercise the single apprehension Where the sums square in proof. 1849 Cupples *Green Hand* xiii. (1856) 133 Of all things in the world, that is the very thing where your views and mine happen to square.

10. To strut or swagger. *Obs.* exc. *dial.* †Also with *it* and *out*.

(*a*) 1590 Greene *Neuer too Late* Wks. (Grosart) VIII. 165 Squaring in the streetes when thou shouldest bee meditating in thy chamber. 1591 Savile *Tacitus, Hist.* II. lxxx. 105 The Tribunes also and other captaines in terrible sort, with

multitudes of armed men, went squaring and ietting the streetes. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* II. 115 Whereby .. those gallants againe, squaring and ruffling thus in their colours, might court faire ladies. 1847– in dial. glossaries (Devon, Lincs., Yorks.).

(*b*) 1592 GREENE *Upst. Courtier* B 3 b, As quayntlye as if some curious Florentine had trickte them vp to square it vp and downe the streetes before his Mistresse. 1626 BRETON *Fantastickes* Wks. (Grosart) II. 11/1 Now plummes and spice, Sugar and Honey, square it among pies and broth.

(*c*) *a* 1600 DELONEY *Gentile Craft* II. v, O the passion of my heart, how the villaine squares it out? 1605 CAMDEN *Rem.* (1623) 204 At another time, malapert boldnesse will square it out.

11. To put oneself into a posture of defence; to assume a boxing attitude.

1820 HOGG *Bridal Polmood* vi, He spit upon his hand and squared. 1823 MRS. SHERWOOD *Henry Milner* (ed. 2) III. xvi, Then beginning to square (to use an expression of Mr. Claydon's) the enemy took to his heels. 1861 HUGHES *Tom Brown at Oxf.* xi, Selecting the one most of his own size, he squared and advanced on him.

b. Const. *at* or *up to* (a person). Also *fig.*

1827 DE QUINCEY *Murder* Wks. 1854 IV. 24 Berkeley, feeling himself nettled by the waspishness of the old Frenchman, squared at him. 1848 in Bartlett *Dict. Amer.* 327 There were Polk and Cass fidgetting and squaring up to Queen Victoria. 1893 SELOUS *Trav. S. E. Africa* 3 He squared up to his adversary and..struck him a heavy blow.

c. To draw oneself *up* into a more compact attitude.

1897 *Westm. Gaz.* 26 Feb. 7/1 Mr. Rhodes..pulled himself together and squared up.

12. a. To measure (so much) on each of four sides forming a square; to yield a square of (the dimensions specified).

1789 *Trans. Soc. Arts* VII. 10 Spanish Chestnut Trees of a large size (one of them squared upward of two feet). 1792 *Ann. Reg., Nat. Hist.* 386 If it be cut when it squares only six inches, it will be as durable as an oak of six times its size and age. 1807 VANCOUVER *Agric. Devon* (1813) 255 The alder..frequently squaring a foot for twenty feet in height. 1840 SCHOMBURGK *Brit. Guiana* 93 Some of the blocks would square ten to twelve feet.

b. To increase in amount by squaring; to become square in form.

1854 *Chambers' Jrnl.* II. 280 The extravagant accounts.. seem not only to square, but to cube spontaneously. 1902 RICKART *Cypress Swamp* 46 His face had squared and hardened in its lines.

c. *Naut.* To sail *away* with the yards squared.

1887 in *Cassell's Encycl. Dict.* 1894 *Outing* XXIV. 422/2 There, he rounds the buoy and squares away. 1899 F. T. BULLEN *Log Sea-Waif* 313 We squared away to a spanking breeze.

13. *colloq.* With *it*: To live or act honestly.

1873 in Taylor *Life David* vii. 91 Give a poor fellow a chance to square it for three months.

Square cap. Also **square-cap.** [SQUARE *a.*]

1. An academic cap with a square top; a mortar-board, trencher.

1584 LYLY *Sappho* I. iii, A square die in a pages pocket, is as decent as a square cap on a Graduates head. 1695 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 3049/4 Lost.., a Surplice, with a Doctors Hood and Square Cap, in a Past-board-Box. 1720 in *Leyborne-Popham MSS.* (Hist. MSS. Comm.) 261, I had [in 1677] a square cap given me for speaking, and was the first commoner, I think, that ever wore one in Oxford. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Cap*, Churchmen, and the Members of Universities, Students in Law, Physick, &c., as well as Graduates, wear square Caps. 1778 in *Lett. Radcliffe & James* (O.H.S.) 44 See me strutting in my new robes, with my square cap and tossel. 1796 [see TRENCHER-CAP].

†**2.** *transf.* A University man. *Obs.*

1642 [H. PEACHAM] (*title*), Square-Caps turned into Round-Heads: or the Bishops Vindication and the Brownists Conviction. 1651 CLEVELAND *Poems, Square Cap* i, Her suiters are many But shee'l have a Square-cap if ere she have any.

Square-cut, *a.* [SQUARE *a.* or *adv.*]

1. Cut to or into a square form. Also *fig.*

1622 DRAYTON *Poly-olb.* xxiii. 192 Mosses, fleets, and fells, ..Whose turf, and square-cut peat, is fuel good enough. 1820 KEATS *Cap & Bells* xvii, There's the square-cut chancellor, His son shall never touch that bishopric. 1848 CLOUGH *Bothie* I. 22 The grave man, nicknamed Adam, .. with square-cut antique waistcoat. 1879 MRS. A. E. JAMES *Ind. Househ. Managem.* 14 One good black silk, made with high, low, and square-cut bodices, you will certainly require.

2. *absol.* A coat with square skirts.

1893 *Westm. Gaz.* 21 Dec. 2/1 That one which you are looking at is a George I :..it is a true square-cut.

Squared (skwēəd), *ppl. a.* [f. SQUARE *v.*]

1. Made or fashioned square; reduced to a square form.

1382 WYCLIF 1 *Kings* vi. 35 And alle he couerde with goldyn platis, with squaryd werk at rewle. *c* 1410 *Master of Game* (MS. Digby 182) xiv, A grehounde shulde haue.. þe thies gret and swared [*Bodl. MS.* squared] as an hare. 1416 *York Memo. Bk.* (Surtees) I. 213 Pur overer et faire.. flat salere, cowped salere, sqward salere. 1520 in *Archaeol.* (1892) LIII. 18 A pyxe of Every..havyng a squared steple yn the topp. 1577 B. GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* II. (1586) 106 b, The squared, and the round, or the whole timber. 1656 *Rites of Durh.* (1903) 84 A fair Ivory squared table covered with a green cloth. 1685 TEMPLE *Ess. Her. Virtue* Wks. 1720 I. 211 Another very long and large [highway], paved all with cut or squared Stone. 1707 SIBBALD *Scotland* (1739) I. 28 A Wall of squared and cut Stones. 1778 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 2) II. 1389/2 It is all of squared free stone, strong and lofty. 1809 CAMPBELL *Gert. Wyom.* III. xviii, Deep roars the innavigable gulf below Its squared rock. 1869 RANKINE *Machine & Hand-tools* Pl. H 6, The screw, Z, which is likewise formed with a squared end to receive a winch handle or key. 1875 *Carpentry & Join.* 126 There can be 18 in. of the squared support above the pedestal.

fig. 1586 FERNE *Blaz. Gentrie* 83 Men seeming of such a squared conscience that they pretend all to run either to maintenance of superstition or vaine glory. 1594 *Selimus* Greene's Wks. (Grosart) XIV. 286 Your squared words And broad-mouth'd tearmes, can neuer conquer vs.

b. Drawn up in a square or squares.

1667 MILTON *P. L.* I. 758 Thir summons call'd From every Band and squared Regiment By place or choice the worthiest. 1798 in *Unit. Services Mag.* XIX. 464 They rushed on against our squared battalions. 1807 J. BARLOW *Columb.* III. 581 The troops in squared array Wait the wild hordes loose huddling to the fray. 1812 CARY *Dante, Purg.* XXIV. 64 Like as the birds, that winter near the Nile, In squared regiment direct their course.

c. Marked with squares.

1902 *Westm. Gaz.* 21 June 3/1 Take on the squared paper two perpendicular lines.

2. Multiplied by itself.

1557 RECORDE *Whetst.* G iv, That roote is called a Squared square roote, which maketh a square of squares in nomber. 1571 DIGGES *Pantom.* IV. xi. Y ij b, For the superficies ye shall augmente the squared square of the side by 3. 1613 TAPP *Pathw. Knowl.* 293 A squared square number is the product of any number multiplyed 3 times into it selfe. 1664 E. BUSHNELL *Compl. Shipwright* 31, 5 times 5 is a squared number. 1787 *Phil. Trans.* LXXVII. 228 The 4th power, or squared squares of the sines of the latitudes.

3. Adapted, suited. *rare.*

1698 FRYER *Acc. E. India & P.* 112 Such a subtile Generation is this, and so fitly squared a Place is Surat to exercise their Genius in. *Ibid.* 224.

Hence † **Squa·redly** *adv. Obs. rare.*

1613 TAPP *Pathw. Knowl.* 322 Sq. of squ. squaredly square. 1674 JEAKE *Arith.* (1696) 272 A..Square of Squares Squaredly Squared. *Ibid.* 645 The Quotient shall be squaredly Quadratical.

Square-headed, *a.* [SQUARE *a.* 12.] Having the head or top fashioned or cut in a square form:

a. *Arch.* Of doors, windows, etc.

1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* I. 169 An example of the square-headed door of the Perpendicular style. 1837 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* I. 19/1 Even the arch of the porch is not enclosed by a square-headed label. 1861 JAS. CAMPBELL *Balmerino & its Abbey* II. xii. 154 This apartment was originally lighted by two square-headed windows.

b. Of bolts or nails.

1825 SCOTT *Betrothed* iv, A volley of..square-headed bolts of great size and thickness. 1862 MISS BRADDON *Lady Audley* i, Old oak, studded with great square-headed iron nails.

c. In other applications.

1857 HUGHES *Tom Brown* i, They are a square-headed and snake-necked generation. 1883 *Harper's Mag.* Aug. 450/1 A large square-headed topsail. 1903 C. F. A. WILLIAMS *Notation* 93 The virga had become the square-headed note ■, and the punctum either a square ■ or a lozenge ◆.

Square-leg: see SQUARE *a.* 14.

Squarelike, *a. rare.* Also 7 **squire-.** [f. SQUARE *sb.*] Resembling a square; rectangular.

1557 RECORDE *Whetst.* G j b, Some menne delite more to call them squarelike figures. 1570 BILLINGSLEY *Euclid* I. def. 31. 5 A figure on the one syde longer, or squarelike, or as some call it, a long square. 1611 COTGR., *Buveau*, a kind of Squire, or Squire-like Instrument;..some call it a Beuell.

Squarely (skwēə·rli), *adv.* [f. SQUARE *a.*]

1. So as to be squared (by multiplication).

1557 RECORDE *Whetst.* Diij, The other sides beyng multiplied squarely (that is, by them selfes). 1594 BLUNDEVIL *Exerc.* I. (1636) 96 Which Root if you Multiply into it selfe squarely, the Product will be like unto the Number given. 1613 TAPP *Pathw. Knowl.* 303 Multiply the roote nearest found squarely. 1674 JEAKE *Arith.* (1696) 297 Then must 10 be multiplyed Squarely and 8 Cubically.

2. Honestly, fairly, in a straightforward manner.

1564 in Tytler *Hist. Scotl.* (1864) III. 138 To speak squarely our opinion, we think you could in fewer lines have comprehended matter more to our contentation. 1624 SANDERSON *Serm.* I. 247 Let us therefore deal squarely, as wise and honest merchants should do. 1640 HARSNET *Repent.* 166 True it is that many doe carry themselves very squarely and plausibly to the Eye of the World. *a* 1704 T. BROWN *Decl. Adv.* Wks. 1730 I. 41 If they dealt squarely with me..they'd scarce at all wonder. 1767 *Spirit Public Jrnls.* (1806) IX. 247 Act fairly and squarely,..For honesty sure is by far the best policy. 1876 STEDMAN *Victorian Poets* 59 The pleasure which comes from being in harness, and from duty squarely performed. 1884 *Chicago Times* 13 Jan., Lord Falmouth, one of the few sportsmen who never bet and who ran his horses squarely.

†**3.** Freely, copiously. *Obs.*—1

1611 COTGR. s.v. *Donné, Il s'en est bien donné*, he hath tipled squarely.

†**4.** Precisely, exactly. *Obs.*

1626 T. H[AWKINS] *Caussin's Holy Crt.* 6 The works are likewise the more feeble, not squarely answering to the modell of knowledge. 1637 GILLESPIE *Eng. Pop. Cerem.* Prol. C 2 b, Blindly to followe every opinion which is broached, and squarely to conforme unto every custome. 1684 OTWAY *Atheist* I. i, My Orders are to meet her fairly and squarely this Evening at Seven.

5. In a position directly square with, or opposite to, some line or object; in a straight or direct manner.

1802 JAMES *Milit. Dict.* s.v. *March*, The front-directing serjeant, after having placed himself perfectly and squarely in the rank, must [etc.]. 1883 B. HARTE *Carquinez Woods* viii. 186 She looked him squarely in the eyes without a word. 1894 MRS. F. ELLIOT *Roman Gossip* iv. 113 He sits squarely on his war-horse.

fig. 1867 AUGUSTA WILSON *Vashti* xv, She set this conjecture squarely before her, and forced herself to contemplate it. 1873 HALE *In His Name* ii. 8 They refuted it squarely.

b. At right angles to the length or height.

1873 SPON *Workshop Rec.* Ser I. 7/1 The brush requires to be squarely and evenly cut. 1883 *Harper's Mag.* Jan. 200/2 We..saw that a bole fully six feet in diameter had broken squarely across.

c. *fig.* Plainly, unequivocally, firmly, solidly. Chiefly *U.S.*

1860 in Thornton *Amer. Gloss.* (1912) II. 845 [This] means simply and squarely, that you intend..to rule or ruin this Government. 1885 *Cent. Mag.* XXIX. 511 He stands squarely upon observation, experience, induction. 1900 LAPSLEY *Durham* 44 He..based his demand squarely on his royal power.

6. In a square form; so as to be square.

1828 W. FIELD *Mem. Dr. Parr* II. 355 He was about the middle height, squarely built, of strong athletic frame, not much inclined to corpulency. 1861 *Engl. Wom. Dom. Mag.* III. 219 Holding a squarely-folded note at arm's length before my eyes. 1864 MISS YONGE *Trial* II. 310 The squarely made,..handsome Averil Ward. 1882 *Jrnl. Linn. Soc.* XVI. 232 Aperture-papillae large and squarely oval.

Squa·reman. *Sc.* [SQUARE *sb.* I.] A carpenter, stone-cutter, or other workman who regularly uses a square for adjusting or testing his work.

c 1790 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) VI. 171/2 The incorporated trades [of Dumfries],..viz. square-men, smiths [etc.]. 1808 MAYNE *Siller Gun* I. xxvi, The squaremen follow'd i' the raw, And syne the weavers. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* III. v. i, How many hammermen and squaremen, bakers and brewers..must ply their old daily work. 1879 *Encycl. Brit.* IX. 750/1 There was probably a pass-word, such as the squareman word used in the 'brithering' of the wrights and slaters.

Squareness (skwēə·nės). [f. SQUARE *a.*]

1. The quality of being square in form.

c 1400 MAUNDEV. (1839) xiv. 159 The Dyamand, be vertu of God, takethe squarenesse. 1474 CAXTON *Chesse* IV. i. (1883) 158 The seconde is wherfore the bordeur aboute is hyher than the squarenes of the poyntes. 1530 PALSGR. 201/1 Brede or squarenesse, *croisure*. 1590 STOCKWOOD *Rules Constr.* 48 The depth, length, thicknes, squarenes, roundnes of a thing. 1613 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* (1614) 433 They made a thing being foure square, and in height and squarenesse of a chaire. 1690 LOCKE *Hum. Und.* II. xxi. § 14 Liberty being as little applicable to the will, as swiftness of motion is to sleep, or squareness to vertue. 1768–74 TUCKER *Lt. Nat.* (1834) I. 278 When the wax is new moulded, the squareness it had is totally lost. 1818 *Art Bookbinding* 14 The beauty and squareness of the book greatly depend on having it well backed. 1855 *Poultry Chron.* II. 410 We should like to see amateurs .. address great attention to compact squareness of form and shortness of leg. 1897 *Chr. Herald* (N. York) 15 Dec. 970/2 The shoulders had the awful squareness of a skeleton.

transf. 1873 H. C. BANISTER *Music* 175 Such devices serve to avert squareness, or tameness, especially in the development of musical ideas. 1885 *Mag. Art* Sept. 467 The determined character and consistent squareness of the touch.

2. Conformity to good principles.

1642 QUARLES *Observ. Princes & St.* lxiv, Let Princes be very carefull in the Choyce of their Counsellors, choosing.. by the Squarenesse of their actions. 1780 BURKE *Corr.* (1844) II. 356, I hope you will..bring the squareness, the manliness, and the decision of a judicial place into the house of parliament. 1817 KEATS *Lett.* Wks. 1889 III. 69, I am sure you are confident of my responsibility, and in the sense of squareness that is always in me.

3. Rectangular position in relation to some line or object.

1796 *Instr. & Reg. Cavalry* (1813) 11 On this squareness of man and horse both dressing and movement must essentially depend. 1802 JAMES *Milit. Dict.* s.v. *March*, Regularity of step, squareness of body, and precision of movement. 1847 *Infantry Man.* (1854) 3 The equal squareness of the shoulders and body to the front is the first..principle of the position of a soldier. 1875 *Carpentry & Join.* 44 Plane this level, and then test its squareness to the first.

Squarer (skwēə·rəɹ). [f. SQUARE *v.*]

1. a. One who reduces wood, stone, etc., to a square form.

1422–3 *Foreign Acc.* 1 *Hen. VI*, i, Carpentarii vocati fellers & squarers. 1440 *Found. St. Bartholomew's* (E.E.T.S.) 29 Hewerrys of wode with axe and squarerys of tymbyr with chippynge axe. 1565 COOPER *Thesaurus, Quadratarius*, a squarer of marble. *c* 1601 KEYMOR *Observ. Dutch Fishing* (1664) 7 She imployeth..at Land..also Squarers of Timber, ..Carpenters, Shipwrights, Smiths. 1611 COTGR., *Esquarrisseur*, a squarer of stones, or timber.

b. With *out* (see quot.).

1611 FLORIO, *Squadra mondi*, a squarer out of worlds, an Astrologer.

c. One who aims at squaring the circle.

1852 DE MORGAN in Graves *Life Sir W. R. Hamilton* (1889) III. 350 A squarer of the circle said to me..about some lines [etc.]. 1865 — in *Athenæum* Oct. 504 The new squarer who advertises..that, having read that the circular ratio was undetermined [etc.]. 1879 *Fortn. Rev.* Aug. 293 Mathematicians do not stop to argue with squarers of the circle or with reasoners that the earth is flat.

†**2.** A contentious or quarrelsome person. *Obs.*—1

1599 SHAKS. *Much Ado* I. i. 82 Is there no young squarer now, that will make a voyage with him to the diuell?

3. *Sc.* 'One who squares his elbows for fighting; a sparrer' (Ogilvie, 1850).

Square-rigged, *a.* [SQUARE *a.* 12.]

1. *Naut.* Having the yards and sails placed across the masts in contrast to fore and aft; †having exceptionally long yards (Falconer).

1769 FALCONER *Dict. Marine* (1780) s.v. *Xebec*, The crew of every xebec has..the labour of three square-rigged ships. 1802 *Hull Dock Act* 1503 Capable of containing seventy sail of ships or square-rigged vessels. 1840 R. H. DANA *Bef. Mast* xxiii, [He] was making his first voyage in a square-rigged vessel. 1895 *Oracle Encycl.* I. 503/2 *Brig*, the

general term for a vessel with two masts, having a boom-mainsail, and otherwise square-rigged.

2. *transf.* (See quot.)

1851 MAYHEW *Lond. Lab.* I. 251/1 George and his two fellow-labourers were 'square-rigged'—that is, well dressed.

Square sail. [SQUARE *a.*] **a.** A four-sided sail supported by a yard slung across the vessel. **b.** A flying sail set on the fore-mast of a schooner or the mast of a sloop or cutter.

1600 E. BLOUNT tr. *Conestaggio* 309 For which cause they shortned their yardes, prouiding square sailes. 1743 BULKELEY & CUMMINS *Voy. S. Seas* 117 As the Cutter was coming up to us, her square Sail splitted. 1769 FALCONER *Dict. Marine* (1780) s.v. *Scudding*, A ship..scuds with a sail extended on her fore-mast...In sloops and schooners, and other small vessels, the sail employed for this purpose is called the square-sail. 1794 *Rigging & Seamanship* 127 The cross-jack, or square-sail. 1846 McCULLOCH *Acc. Brit. Empire* (1854) I. 37 The barges which navigate the Severn ..carry a square-sail, and have a mainmast and topmast. 1886 *Encycl. Brit.* XXI. 604/2 *Square sails*, those set upon such yards as have lifts and braces, regardless of their proportions.

attrib. 1794 *Rigging & Seamanship* 162 The Square-sail-boom is lashed across the deck of vessels with one mast, to spread the foot of the square-sail. 1823 CRABB *Technol. Dict.* II. s.v., A sloop's or cutter's sail, which hauls out to the lower yard, called the square-sail-yard. 1863 A. YOUNG *Naut. Dict.* 109 *Cross-jack-yard*..in a sloop or schooner also gets the name of the square sail yard. *Ibid.* 366 *Square sail boom*, a boom hooked on to an eye-bolt in the fore part of the foremast in any fore-and-aft-rigged vessel, for the purpose of booming out the square-sail, and setting the lower studding-sail.

† **Square-square,** *a.* and *v.* *Obs.* [SQUARE *a.* and *v.*] **a.** *adj.* Biquadrate. **b.** *v. trans.* To biquadrate by multiplication.

1662 HOBBES *Seven Prob.* Wks. 1845 VII. 67 There be some numbers called plane, others solids, others plano-solid, others square, others cubic, others square-square. 1669 NEWTON in Rigaud *Corr. Sci. Men* (1841) II. 284 To which 6½ square-squared, or multiplied three times into itself, is about equal.

Square-sterned, *a.* [SQUARE *a.* 12.] Of vessels: Having a square stern (see quot. *c* 1850).

1676 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1130/4 St Teresa of Dunkirk, Burthen 20 Tuns,..a square stern'd Sloop with a Deck. 1690 *Ibid.* No. 2562/4 The Ship Delight, English Built, Square-sterned, 130 Tuns. 1769 FALCONER *Dict. Marine* (1780), *Bastardes*, or *Batardelles*, square-sterned row-gallies. 1791 W. HUTCHINSON *Pract. Seamanship* 27 As square sterned ships..are found to answer all trades and purposes better than round or pink sterned ships. *c* 1850 *Rudim. Navig.* (Weale) 151 *Square-sterned*, a term applied to ships whose wing transom is at right angles, or nearly at right angles, with the stern-post...All British ships are now built upon this principle. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.* 648 *Square-Sterned and British Built*, a phrase to express the peculiar excellence of our first-class merchantmen.

Square-tailed, *a.* [SQUARE *a.* 12.] Having a square tail: **a.** Of animals, birds, etc.

1781 PENNANT *Hist. Quadrup.* II. 482 Square-tailed Shrew of a dusky cinereous color. 1819 *Pantologia* s.v. *Sorex*, The white footed, square tailed, carinated, and unicolor shrews. 1827 GRIFFITH tr. *Cuvier* V. 102 *Sorex Tetragonurus* (Square-tailed Shrew). 1891 *Science-Gossip* XXVII. 80/1 The Square-tailed Worm...Among our native worms there is one with a square tail (*Allurus tetraedrus*, Eisen). 1895 LYDEKKER *Roy. Nat. Hist.* IV. 54 The square-tailed bee-eaters (*Melittophagus*) are all of small size.

b. Of a coat.

1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* III. VII. ii, Young Valour in square-tailed coat eyes Beauty in Greek sandals.

Square-toe. *attrib.* = SQUARE-TOED *a.* 1.

1706 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4257/4 A pair of Square Toe Shoes.

Square-toed, *a.* [SQUARE *a.* 12.]

1. Of shoes: Having broad square toes.

1785 GROSE *Dict. Vulgar T.* s.v. *Square toes*, Square-toed shoes were anciently worn in common, and long retained by old men. 1803 *Censor* 1 Apr. 47 In a superfine coat with waistcoat, and..hessian boots, or square-toed shoes. 1897 'H. S. MERRIMAN' *In Kedar's Tents* xi, The priest had walked thither, as the dust on his square-toed shoes and black stockings would testify.

2. *fig.* Old-fashioned, formal, precise.

1795 BURKE *Regic. Peace* iv. (C.P.S.) 294 We old people must retain some square-toed predilection for the fashions of our youth. 1803 PEGGE *Anecd. Eng. Lang.* 131 Square-toed and old fashioned as it may be, it certainly weeds the sense at once of all equivocation. 1846 MRS. GORE *Eng. Char.* (1852) 127 There are two leading classes of London Bankers—the square-toed and the pointed. 1880 MORLEY in *Daily News* 26 Mar. 2/6 A system of square-toed humdrum.

Hence **Square-toedness.**

1846 MRS. GORE *Eng. Char.* (1852) 127 As regards this important distinction, however, neither square-toedness nor pointed-toedness is to be relied on.

Square-toes. [SQUARE *a.*]

1. A precise, formal, old-fashioned person; one having strict or narrow ideas of conduct. Usu. qualified by *old*, and with initial capital.

1771 SMOLLETT *Humph. Cl.* (1815) 164, I could hardly keep my gravity on this ludicrous occasion; but old Squaretoes was differently affected. 1785 G. A. BELLAMY *Apology* (ed. 3) I. 195 He was sorry that old Square-toes was obliged..to go out of town immediately. 1819 'RABELAIS THE YOUNGER' *Abeillard & H.* 219 Finding old Square-toes in the study Stern, gloomy, sulky, dark, and muddy. 1857 HUGHES *Tom Brown* Pref. p. xvi, Giving the idea that Arnold turned out a set of young square-toes. 1889 STEVENSON *Master of Ballantrae* 99 Even Square-Toes has a certain vivacity when his stake is imperilled.

2. Square-toed shoes.

1852 THACKERAY *Esmond* I. viii, The Doctor made a low bow..and walked off on his creaking square-toes after his patron.

Squarewise, *adv.* Also **square-wise**; 6 **squyre-**, 6–7 **squirewise.** [f. SQUARE *a.*]

†1. After the fashion of a carpenter's square; at right angles, rectangularly. *Obs.*

1546 *State Papers Hen. VIII*, XI. 231, 2 boordes [=tables] being set squyrewise. 1571 DIGGES *Pantom.* I. xviii. F b, Then go from it Orthogonally or Squirewise..200 foote. 1593 T. FALE *Art of Dialling* 13 Let the line of Contingence be drawn squarewise by the point F. 1598 R. HAYDOCKE tr. *Lomazzo* I. 111 From which point..vnto the great gate at the west ende, it woulde be extended square wise so much more. 1669 STURMY *Mariner's Mag.* VII. xxvii. 40 Draw the Line FBA squire wise to the Substiler Line. 1692 *Capt. Smith's Seaman's Gram.* II. 156 Two Sticks..joyned together, Square-wise. 1725 *Fam. Dict.* s.v. *Cutting*, You must upon some Occasions cut Square-wise, and that is to be done to busby dwarf Trees.

2. In the form of a square; squarely.

1611 SPEED *Theat. Gt. Brit.* (1614) 125/1 It lieth somewhat square-wise, not much different in length and breadth. 1725 *Fam. Dict.* s.v. *Watering*, You shall..knock four or five strong Stakes into the bottom of the Water, setting them Squarewise. 1853 G. J. CAYLEY *Las Alforjas* II. 254 By folding a silk handkerchief square-wise into a broad belt. 1891 CAYLEY *Math. Papers* (1897) XIII. 179 A circle is squarewise contractible into a point.

† **Squa·rier.** *Obs. rare.* [f. SQUARE *a.* or *v.*]

1. A square; a rule or standard.

1581 J. BELL *Haddon's Answ. Osor.* A vj b, The right squaryer of Christian fayth. *Ibid.* 411 b, If Luthers rule be agreably apporcioned accordyng to the infallible squarier of that holy standard.

2. A sort of false dice.

1591 GREENE *Conny Catch.* I. (1859) 4 Therefore had I cheates for the very sise, of the squariers, langrets, gourds, stoppe-dice, high-men, low-men, and dice barde for all advauntages.

Squa·ring, *vbl. sb.* [f. SQUARE *v.*]

1. The action of making square or of reducing to a square form.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 471 Squarynge, *quadracio, conquadracio.* 1476–7 *Sarum Ch.-w. Accs.* (Swayne, 1896) 363 The fellyng of ij Elms and swaryng, iiijd. 1529 MORE *Dyalogue* I. Wks. 155/1 Now consider, that ye make him by & by fall to yᵉ squaryng of his stones. 1552–3 in Willis & Clark *Cambridge* (1886) II. 52 Thomas Watson carpender for yᵉ squarynge, framynge, and settinge up..a wall of.. timbre. 1634 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* 198 Ordnance of brasse .. very well proportioned in bore and squaring. 1683 MOXON *Mech. Exerc., Printing* xii. ¶ 6 The Squaring the Face and Stems of the Punch. 1725 W. HALFPENNY *Sound Building* 32 Enough for squaring of this Rail. 1841 R. H. DANA *Seaman's Man.* 125 Squaring by the lifts makes them [*sc.* yards] horizontal.

attrib. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.*, *Squaring Marks*, marks placed upon the lifts and braces [as guides in squaring the yards]. 1870 SAUZAY *Marvels Glass-making* 92 This ..fragile glass..[is] placed on wheels and rails, which will convey it still unpolished to the squaring room, where it will be examined, classified [and] cut. 1884 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* Suppl. 849/2 *Squaring Plow*. For squaring paper in book-work. *Ibid.*, *Squaring Shears*,..a machine for squaring up tinned plate.

b. With *off*, *out*, or *up*. Also *attrib.*

(*a*) 1611 COTGR., *Equarrissement*, a measuring, or squaring out, by a Squire.

(*b*) 1846 A. YOUNG *Naut. Dict.* 294 *Squaring-off*, in ship-building, signifies plugging off and otherwise tightening the treenails [etc.]. 1884 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* Suppl., *Squaring-off Saw*, a circular saw,..to square the ends of work.

(*c*) 1846 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* II. 501 When the works are planed with rebates, grooves, or mouldings, the squaring up of the four sides is always the preliminary step. 1869 RANKINE *Machine & Hand-tools* Pl. Q 16. 1 It is capable of performing..grooving, tongueing, and squaring-up. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2813/2 The squaring-up and facing tables are on the other side.

c. The manner in which a thing is squared or set square.

1832 MARRYAT *N. Forster* xxxvi, Look at..the squaring of her topsails.

†2. Dissension, wrangling, contention. *Obs.*

1580 NORTH *Plutarch* (1595) 197 Hanniball hearing of their iarre and squaring together [etc.]. 1598 FLORIO, *Rissa*, ..a quarrell,..a strife, a squaring. 1600 HOLLAND *Livy* XXIV. ix. 515 All the centuries besides without any squaring and variance elected the very same. 1621 J. REYNOLDS *God's Revenge* I. 153 Hee desired and sought some pretext ..to bolster out and apologize his iarring and squaring with his wife.

3. Multiplication of a number by itself.

1579 DIGGES *Stratiot.* 52 Multiplication of moytie in itselfe whiche I name Squaring. 1694 [see BIQUADRATE *v.*].

4. The process of finding a square equivalent to another magnitude.

1704 J. HARRIS *Lex. Techn.* I. s.v., The Quadrature or Squaring of the Circle, is the finding a Square equal to the Area of a Circle. 1798 HUTTON *Course Math.* II. 95 It seems intended to make an allowance for the squaring of the tree. 1855 BREWSTER *Newton* I. ii. 22 Several articles on angular sections, and the squaring of curves. 1881 ROUTLEDGE *Science* ii. 36 This is the celebrated problem of the Squaring of the Circle.

5. Adaptation, adjustment.

1702 *English Theophrastus* 362 The squaring of a man's thoughts, wishes, and desires to the lot that providence has set out for us, is both a blessing and a duty. 1838 LYTTON *Alice* III. ii, I do not understand this new-fangled policy—this squaring of measures to please the Opposition.

6. Assumption of a boxing attitude.

1850 THACKERAY *Pendennis* xxxviii, He..started..into what is called an attitude of self-defence, and..began the operation which is entitled 'squaring'.

Squa·ring, *ppl. a.* [f. SQUARE *v.*]

†1. Given to contention or wrangling. *Obs.*

1515 BARCLAY *Egloges* iii. (1570) C ij b/1 If thou be busy or squaring of language Thou mayst peradventure walke in the same passage. 1583 MELBANCKE *Philotimus* S j b, Nay holla squaring Dick, I am no but for euerie boult. 1598 FLORIO, *Dissentioso*,..contentious, squaring, quarrelsome.

2. *Squaring band, piece* (see quots.).

c 1860 H. STUART *Seaman's Catech.* 74 The topmasts have squaring pieces at the heel, to fit the mast hole. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* IV. 399/1 Upon the under side of the carriage there are wheels placed in a horizontal position, round which the 'squaring bands' are passed.

Squa·rish, *a.* [f. SQUARE *a.*] Somewhat, more or less, or approximately, square.

1742 *De Foe's Tour Gt. Brit.* (ed. 3) I. 313 Rugemont-castle..is of a squarish Figure, not very large. 1763 *Phil. Trans.* LIII. 170 The mouth is a foot in width, and of a squarish form. 1784 J. BARRY *Lect. Art* iii. (1848) 141 The dry, lean, and (if such a term be allowable) squarish character and outline. 1815 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* (1816) I. 464 The habitation of a third larva..is composed of squarish pieces of the leaves of grass. 1843 *Florist's Jrnl.* (1846) IV. 200 The leaves narrow, ovate, with a squarish base, and serrated at the margin. 1872 COUES *N. Amer. Birds* 2 The rhachis is squarish, and tapers to a point.

Squark (skwāɹk), *sb.* [Imitative.] A harsh croak; a squawk.

1860 SIMEON *Fishing* 244 If..a jay happens to catch sight of you, at his first warning squark every pheasant will..be off instanter. 1894 *Horse & Hound* II. 226 Perhaps the squarks of those young herns frightened that fox.

Squark (skwāɹk), *v.* [Imitative: cf. prec. and QUARK *v.*]

1. *intr.* Of birds: To croak harshly; to squawk.

1871 W. MORRIS in Mackail *Life* (1899) I. 235, I heard a heron 'squark' just now. 1897 MARY KINGSLEY *W. Africa* 236 By no means all the birds here only screech and squark. Several of them have very lovely notes.

2. *trans.* To utter in croaks.

1891 *Chambers' Jrnl.* 31 Oct. 703 The crows will come and sit round, squarking sarcastic remarks.

Hence **Squa·rking** *vbl. sb.*

1897 MARY KINGSLEY *W. Africa* 92 Save for this squarking of the parrots the swamps are silent all the day.

† **Squa·rken,** *v. Obs. rare.* [Of obscure origin.] *trans.* To burn or scorch.

1530 PALSGR. 731/1, I squarkyn, I burne the utter part of a thyng agaynst the fyer, or roste mete unkyndly, *je ars. Ibid.*, This mete is nat rostyd, it is squarkynned.

Squarrose (skwærōᵘ·s, skwǫrōᵘ·s), *a.* [ad. L. *squarrōs-us* (rare), scurfy, scabby.]

1. *Bot.* **a.** Composed of, covered with, scales or other processes standing out at right angles or more widely.

1760 J. LEE *Introd. Bot.* I. xi. (1765) 23 *Squarrose*, that is, composed of Scales divaricated on all Sides. 1785 MARTYN *Lett. Bot.* xxvi. (1794) 398 An imbricate calyx, rather squarrose, or having a ragged appearance from the spreading of the tips of the scales. 1806 GALPINE *Brit. Bot.* 390 Spike oblong, somewhat decompound, squarrose. 1856 A. GRAY *Man. Bot.* (1860) 196 Scales of the hemispherical squarrose many-ranked involucre. 1870 HOOKER *Stud. Flora* 408 Spikelets few green squarrose.

b. Of scales: Standing out at right angles or to a greater degree.

1829 LOUDON *Encycl. Plants* (1836) 662 Invol[ucre] imbricated, the exterior scales somewhat squarrose. 1866 M. J. BERKELEY in *Intellectual Obs.* No. 50. 96 Covered with rough squarrose scales.

2. *Ent.* (See first quot.)

1826 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* IV. xlvi. 296 *Squarrose*, cut into laciniæ that are elevated above the plane of the surface. 1846 DANA *Zooph.* (1848) 452 Margin of the corallum squarrose.

Hence **Squarro·sely** *adv.*

1849 CRAIG s.v., *Squarrosely-imbricated*, laid on in a squarrose manner. 1856 HENSLOW *Bot. Terms* 182 The incisions of laciniate and of pinnatifid leaves are squarrosely disposed.

Squarro·so-, combining form of prec., as in *squarroso-dentate* (Worcester, 1860), *-laciniate*, *-pinnatipartite*, *-pinnatisect* (*Treas. Bot.* 1866) adjs.

Squa·rrous, *a. Bot. rare.* = SQUARROSE *a.* 1.

1806 GALPINE *Brit. Bot.* 355 Cal[yx] squarrous; spines subulate. 1828–32 WEBSTER, A *squarrous* calyx consists of scales very widely divaricating; a *squarrous* leaf is divided into shreds or jags, raised above the plane of the leaf.

Squarrulo·se, *a. Bot. rare.* [Dim. of SQUARROSE *a.*] Slightly squarrose.

1857 A. GRAY *First Less. Bot.* (1866) 231.

Squarson (skwāɹsən). [A jocular combination of SQUIRE *sb.* and PARSON.] A clergyman who also holds the position of squire in his parish.

The word is commonly attributed to Bishop Wilberforce (1805–73), but has also been credited to Sydney Smith and others. Cf. L. A. Tollemache *Old & Odd Mem.* (1908) 174. *Squishop*, similarly formed from *squire* and *bishop*, has also had some currency.

1876 FREEMAN in W. R. W. Stephens *Life & Lett.* (1895) II. 141 James Davies,..squebendary (cf. squarson and squishop) of Hereford. 1877 *Sat. Rev.* 10 March, A learned Bishop..instead of saying that they were squires and parsons combined was in the habit of joining the two words in one and defining them as squarsons. 1879 ESCOTT *England* I. 14 That combination of minister of the Church of England and territorial potentate which Sidney Smith has called Squarson. 1890 BARING-GOULD *Old Country Life* 136 A certain Bramston Staynes, who was a squarson in Essex.

attrib. 1895 *Q. Rev.* April 554 The average clergyman of the Squarson era.

Hence **Squa·rsonage, Squarsono·cracy.**

1886 A. LANG *Mark of Cain* ix. 109 She left the gray old squarsonage and went to town. 1893 *Westm. Gaz.* 22 March 1/2 The disestablishment of the Squarsonocracy.

Squary (skwē·ri), *a.* [f. SQUARE *sb.* + -Y.] Square-shaped; squarish.

1602 CAREW *Cornwall* 35 Some gutted and kept in pickle, as the lesser Whitings, Pollocks, Eeles, and Squarie Scads. *Ibid.* 320 Of flat [fish there are] Brets, Turbets, Dories,.. Squary Scad, Seale, Tunny, and many others. 1822 [G. WILKINS] *Body & Soul* (1824) I. 216 One whose broad and squary form had once ranked him among the strong. 1898 *Leeds Merc.* Suppl. 19 March, A squary piece of wood.

Squasche, obs. form of SWASH (drum).

Squash (skwǫʃ), *sb.*[1] [Related to, or directly from, SQUASH *v.*[1]]

I. 1. The unripe pod of a pea. Also applied contemptuously to persons. *Obs.* exc. *arch.*

1590 SHAKS. *Mids. N.* III. i. 191, I pray you commend mee to mistresse Squash, your mother, and to master Peascod your father. 1601 — *Twel. N.* I. v. 166 As a squash is before tis a pescod. 1611 — *Wint. T.* I. ii. 160 This Kernell, This squash, this Gentleman. [1887 RUSKIN *Præterita* II. 34 The whole time..my mind was simply in the state of a squash before 'tis a peascod.]

b. *dial.* (See quot.)

1895 RYE *E. Angl. Gloss.* 210 *Squash*,..pea-pods which look full but are really empty.

† **2.** *Squash pear*, a variety of pear. *Squash perry*, a beverage made from this. *Obs.*

1678 WORLIDGE *Cyder* 219 Pears that are esteemed for their vinous juice in Worcestershire, and those adjacent parts, are the Red and Green Squash-pears. 1699 EVELYN *Kal. Hort.* (ed. 9) 170 Pears:..Red Squash, Bosbery, Watford, for Perry. 1766 *Compl. Farmer* s.v. *Perry*, Of these the Bosbury pear, the Bareland pear, and the horse pear, are the most esteemed for perry in Worcestershire, and the squash pear, as it is called, in Gloucestershire. 1826 *Art Brewing* (ed. 2) 167 Squash perry, in ordinary seasons, [sells] from £4 to £8 the hhd.

3. A soft india-rubber ball used in a form of the game of rackets (orig. at Harrow). Also *attrib.*, as *squash-ball*, *-court*, *racket(s*, etc.

1886 *Pall Mall G.* 17 May 14/1 The game in question, termed 'squash' rackets at Harrow if my memory serves me...There are the 'squashes'—that is, soft indiarubber balls—to be purchased. 1899 MILES *Lawn Tennis* 87 Turn that wall into a squash-racket court. 1899 *Westm. Gaz.* 10 Aug. 8/2 Mr. John Jacob Astor has built a private 'squash' court.

II. 4. a. The act of squashing; the fact or sound of some soft substance being crushed or dispersed.

1611 COTGR., *Escachure*, .. a squash, crush, knock, or squeeze (wherby a thing is flatted, or beaten close together). 1739 R. BULL tr. *Dedekindus' Grobianus* 249 Anon, our Hero's Boots, well-soak'd with Wash, At ev'ry Step return'd a dreadful Squash.

b. The shock or impact occasioned by a soft heavy body falling upon a surface; the sound produced by this. Also in *with a squash.*

1654 GAYTON *Pleas. Notes* III. ii. 74 The place, the fall, the squash, the hugge,..did so confound our Votary, that he could not containe. 1712 ARBUTHNOT *John Bull* II. xvi, I shall throw down the burden with a squash among them, take it up who dares. 1726 SWIFT *Gulliver* II. viii, My fall was stopped by a terrible squash that sounded louder to my ears than the cataract of Niagara. 1811 *Ora & Juliet* III. 131 This uncommon mass of mortality rolled on to a seat next to Zaire, on which she sunk with a mighty squash. 1812 H. & J. SMITH *Rej. Addr., The Stranger*, Hearing a squash, he cried, Damn it, what's that?

c. *To go to squash*, to become squashed or ruined.

1889 FROUDE *Table-t. Shirley* 205 It has all gone to squash.

5. a. *College Football slang.* = SCRIMMAGE *sb.* 4.

1857 SYMONDS *Let.* in H. F. Brown *Life* iii. (1903) 58 A squash is a large collection of boys, about twenty, with the football in the midst of them. 1867 *Routledge's Handbk. Football* 51 A disputed 'touch-down', in consequence of the ball having been carried in by a squash or otherwise.

b. A crush or crowd of persons, etc.; a large number.

1884 *Pall Mall G.* 27 May 4 Young Lord Horsewhipborough is just passing as slowly as the modern squash compels one to progress. 1884 W. C. SMITH *Kildrostan* I. ii. 178 Your father made a will, Only there was not anything to will Except a squash of sermons.

6. Something which is squashed or crushed.

1888 *Harper's Mag.* Dec. 80/2 It seemed churlish to pass him by without a sign, especially as he took off his squash of a hat to me.

7. Short for *lemon-squash* LEMON *sb.*[1] 7.

1894 MRS. DYAN *Man's Keeping* (1899) 203 A smaller table held ices, squashes, and such. 1904 SLADEN *Lovers Japan* II. iv, She..kept her mouth intently on the straw in her squash.

Squash (skwǫʃ), *sb.*[2] Also 8 **squosh.** [Abbreviation of Narragansett Indian *asquutasquash*, f. *asq* raw, uncooked: cf. SQUANTER-SQUASH. (The *-ash* is a plural ending, as in *succotash.*)]

1. A gourd produced by one or other of various species of trailing herbaceous annual plants belonging to the genus *Cucurbita* or N. O. *Cucurbitaceæ*, esp. a fruit of the bush gourd, *C. Melopepo.*

1643 R. WILLIAMS *Key Ind. Lang.* 103 Askutasquash, their Vine aples, which the English from them call Squashes, about the bignesse of Apples, of severall colours, sweet, light, wholesome, refreshing. 1669 W. SIMPSON *Hydrol. Chym.* 259 In a weighed quantity of digged earth..he set the seed of a squash. 1721 MORTIMER *Husb.* (ed. 4) II. 174 Squashes are a small sort of Pumpkin lately brought into request. 1764 T. HUTCHINSON *Hist. Mass.* I. (1765) 35 A dearth..caused them to fall upon their pompions, squoshes, &c. before they were ripe. 1857 A. GRAY *First Less. Bot.* (1866) 10 If we strip off the coats from the large and flat seed of a Squash or Pumpkin, we find nothing but the embryo within. 1877 W. MATTHEWS *Ethn. & Phil. Hidatsa Ind.* 26 Squashes are cut in thin slices and dried; the dried squash is usually cooked by boiling.

b. Used in sing. with *the*, or without article.

1764 HARMER *Observ.* iv. § xxxii. 205 Dr. Russell tells us that the squash comes in towards the end of September, and continues all the year. 1878 BLACK *Green Past.* xl, Not at all desirous of eating at one and the same time boiled beans,..green corn, squash and sweet potatoes. 1902 *Fortn. Rev.* June 1007 The divine 'sweet corn', and 'squash', and 'sweet potatoes'.

2. One or other species of *Cucurbita* producing the above fruit; the genus as a whole.

1661 BOYLE *Scept. Chem.* II. 107 A selected seed of..Squash, which is an Indian kind of Pompion, that Growes a pace. 1731 P. MILLER *Gard. Dict., Melopepo*, The Squash. 1766 J. BARTRAM *Jrnl.* 6 Jan. 26 Here is a native gourd or squash, which runs 20 foot up the trees. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 358/1 *Cucurbita melopepo*, the Squash, forms a bush about 3 ft. high. 1884 *De Candolle's Orig. Cultivated Pl.* 252 The *Cucurbitaceæ* called squash by the Anglo-Americans.

3. With distinguishing terms: (see quots.).

1731 P. MILLER *Gard. Dict.* s.v. *Melopepo*, The common or flat Squash...The large white Squash...The Citron-shap'd Squash...The warted Squash. 1791 W. BARTRAM *Carolina* 137 It is exceedingly curious to behold the Wild Squash climbing over the lofty limbs of the trees. 1845-50 MRS. LINCOLN *Lect. Bot.* App. 95/2 *Cucurbita ovifera*, egg-squash. *Ibid.* 96/1 *C. verrucosa*, club squash. 1846-50 A. WOOD *Class-bk. Bot.* 272 *Cucurbita Melopepo.* Flat Squash. *Ibid.*, *C. verrucosa.* Warted Squash. Club Squash. Crook-neck Squash. 1847 DARLINGTON *Amer. Weeds*, etc. (1860) 142 *Cucurbita Melopepo*...Round Squash. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 359/1 The Custard Marrow Squash, and the improved Custard Marrow or Bush Squash. 1874 *Ibid.* Suppl. 1344/1 Summer Squash, *Cucurbita Pepo.* Winter Squash, *Cucurbita maxima.*

4. *attrib.*, as *squash bed, pie, seed, vine*, etc.; **squash-bug**, one or other of various insects infesting or injurious to squashes; **squash gourd, (-melon) pumpkin**, the common bush gourd or squash, *Cucurbita Melopepo.*

Also, in recent Amer. Dicts., *squash-beetle*, *(-vine) borer*, *flea-beetle*, *ladybird*, and *ladybug*, as names of insects infesting squashes.

1847 WEBSTER, **Squash-bug*, the common name of a bug injurious to squashes. 1866 MRS. STOWE *Little Foxes* 124 In the actual garden there are..squash-bugs for all the melons. 1872 O. W. HOLMES *Poet Breakf.-t.* ix, Dor-bugs and squash-bugs and such undesirable objects of affection to all but naturalists. 1823 CRABB *Technol. Dict.* s.v., *Squash-gourd, the *Cucurbita melopepo* of Linnæus. 1842 LOUDON *Suburban Hort.* 605 The *Squash-melon pumpkin, or bush gourd. 1883 *Harper's Mag.* Jan. 213/1 Cranberry sauce, and thick *squash pies. 1823 SOUTHEY *Lett.* (1856) III. 391 With regard to these said quasheys (which, I believe, is their name,—first cousins to the *squash pumpkin). 1708 S. SEWALL *Diary* 15 Jan., This day Mr. Belchar brings me *Squash-Seeds from Dedham. 1725 S. WILLARD in *Early Rec. Lanc., Mass.* (1884) 238 They found 2 wigwarms;..they also found a paddle and some *squash shells in one of them. 1751 J. BARTRAM *Observ. Trav. Pennsylv.*, etc. 62 We dined on Indian corn and *squash soop, and boiled bread. 1857 A. GRAY *First Less. Bot.* (1866) 39 The Cucumber and *Squash tribe. 1750 G. HUGHES *Barbados* 137 The *Squash-vine is long and trailing. 1855 *Poultry Chron.* III. 297 They will nearly get their living on insects without injuring the vegetables. Among squash vines they are indispensable.

† **Squash,** *sb.*[3] *Obs.* [Aphetic f. MUSQUASH.] The musk-rat or musquash, *Fiber zibethicus.*

1678 PHILLIPS (ed. 4), *Squash*, a little Creature in some parts of America, somewhat resembling an Ichnumon or Indian Rat. 1699 DAMPIER *Voy.* II. ii. 59 The Squash is a four-footed Beast, bigger than a Cat. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* III. 380 But the smell of our weasels, and ermines, and polecats, is fragrance itself when compared to that of the squash and the skink. 1796 MORSE *Amer. Geog.* I. 201 Another stinkard, called the Squash, is said by Buffon to be found in some of the southern states. 1824 [see SKINK *sb.*[5]].

Squash (skwǫʃ), *v.*[1] [ad. OF. *esquasser* (*escasser*), *esquacer* (*escacier*), = It. *squassare*:—pop. L. **ex-quassāre*: see QUASH *v.* In some senses, however, perhaps partly or mainly of imitative origin.]

1. *trans.* To squeeze, press, or crush into a flat mass or pulp; to beat to, or dash in, pieces, etc. Also with preps., as *in, to.*

1565 STAPLETON tr. *Bede's Hist. Ch. Eng.* 61 Ye must, I saye, teare them, rent them, and squashe them to peeces. 1579-80 NORTH *Plutarch* (1895) III. 350 But the top of the gallery fell downe apon the boyes that were left, and squashed them all to death. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* I. 289 The hennes..hide themselues from their males the cocks; for..they would squash their egs. 1622 MABBE tr. *Aleman's Guzman d'Alf.* II. 277 Squashing and beating them vpon some stone,..shee made our cloathes reasonable white. 1670 EVELYN *Sylva* (ed. 2) ix. 58 Note, that in sowing the Berry 'tis good to squash and bruise them with fine siefted Mould. 1726 SWIFT *Gulliver* II. i, One of the reapers..made me apprehend that..I should be squashed to death under his foot. 1806 J. BERESFORD *Miseries Hum. Life* III. xxvi, In shuffling the cards,..squashing them together, breaking their edges [etc.]. 1827 HARE *Guesses* (1859) 144 There have indeed been..men who have piled such a load of books on their heads, their brains have seemed to be squasht by them. 1897 MARY KINGSLEY *W. Africa* 327 There were eight elephants killed that day, but three burst through everything, ..squashing two men and a baby.

fig. 1613 tr. *Mexio's Treas. Anc. & Mod. Times* 24/1 More cleerly will we yet reueale their grosse absurditie, and.. squash in pieces their unexcusable error. 1863 KINGSLEY *Water-bab.* 60 Between crinolines and theories, some of us would get squashed.

b. With advs., as *down, up.*

1611 COTGR., *Escraser*, to squash downe, beat flat. 1698 T. FROGER *Voy.* 105 A sort of wrought lime, which being squashed down upon the bridge..has a most terrible effect. 1893 EARL DUNMORE *Pamirs* II. 320, I was not able to accompany my host, but had to be squashed up in the crowd.

c. To quash; to suppress or put down; to undo or destroy in a complete or summary manner.

Also, in recent colloq. use, to silence, discomfit, or repress (a person) in a very decisive or crushing way.

1762 FOOTE *Orator* II, I therefore humbly move to squash this indictment. 1850 KINGSLEY *A. Locke* xviii, I, to squash my convictions, to stultify my book for the sake of popularity, money, patronage! 1852 BRISTED *Five Yrs. Eng. Univ.* (ed. 2) 258 The report spread that I had broken down completely, or, as a Johnian elegantly expressed it, was squashed. 1895 *Law Times* XCVIII. 280/2 The Pharmaceutical Society made a strenuous attempt to squash the Stores as vendors of drugs.

† **2. a.** To press or squeeze *out. Obs. rare.*

1599 T. M[OUFET] *Silkwormes* 59 Now squashing out their bellies soft and round. 1600 HOLLAND *Livy* 372 The battalions troden under foot and their guts squashed out.

† **b.** To splash or dash (water) *upon* a person; to wet by splashing. *Obs. rare.*

a 1602–3 Q. ELIZ. in I. H. Jeayes *Cat. Charters Berkeley Castle* (1892) 323, I somewhat still doute that ther hath bene to greate abundance of the same [*sc.* water] squassched upon you. *a* 1825 FORBY *Voc. E. Anglia* 321 *Squash*, v., to splash; to moisten by plentiful affusion.

3. *intr.* To emit or make a splashing sound; to move, walk, etc., in this way; to splash.

1671 SALMON *Syn. Med.* I. lv. 142 *Asciles* is when much Water is heaped up between the Peritoneum and the Bowels, so that when it is struck it doth squash as it were. 1839 HOOD *Ode to St. Swithin* vii, Why upon snow-white tablecloths and sheets..Come squashing? 1859 DICKENS *T. Two Cities* I. ii, Once more, the Dover mail struggled on, with the Jack-boots of its passengers squashing along by its side. 1893 *Outing* XXII. 139/1 Our feet 'squashing' as we step, for our boots are full of rain-water.

4. To be pressed into a flat mass on impact; to flatten *out* under pressure.

Cf. Florio's use of *squashing* ppl. a. (quot. 1611 below).

1858 GREENER *Gunnery* 121 Some other mixtures..sufficiently strong to resist all tendency to squash; as the softer metals would inevitably do. 1893 *Scribner's Mag.* June 710/1 There must be the most skilful handling, lest the load 'squash out'.

Hence **Squashed** *ppl. a.*; **Squa·sher**; **Squa·shing** *vbl. sb.* and *ppl. a.*

1598 FLORIO, *Squaccio*, a squashing, a hauocke. 1611 *Ibid.*, *Squala*,..a kind of soft squashing Hazle-nut. 1611 COTGR., *Quasseur*, a squasher, breaker. *Ibid.*, *Escrasement*, a crushing flat, a squashing downe. 1857 DICKENS *Dorrit* ix, Such squashed hats and bonnets..never were seen in Rag Fair. 1865 S. FERGUSON *Forging of Anchor* ii, A hailing fount of fire is struck at every squashing blow.

Squash, *v.*[2] *rare*—[1]. [f. SQUASH *sb.*[1] 5 b.] *intr.* To frequent crowded assemblies.

1867 MOTLEY *Corr.* (1887) II. 269 How anything can be done in London but breakfast, lunch, dine, and squash, if one really goes in for 'promiscuous Ned', I can't comprehend.

Squash, *adv.* [f. SQUASH *v.*[1]] With or as with a squash. Freq. in *to go squash* (also *transf.*).

1766 [ANSTEY] *Bath Guide* iv. 55 His Wig had the Luck a Cathartic to meet, And Squash went the Gallipot under his Feet. 1859 F. E. PAGET *Curate Cumberworth* 246 He came down, in less than no time, squash on his nose, and broke it. 1886 G. ALLEN *Kalee's Shrine* ii, Some cottages may really go squash before long.

Squash-, the verbal stem used in combs., in the sense 'having the appearance of being squashed', as **squash hat** (cf. SQUASHED *ppl. a.*), **nose.**

1861 MEREDITH *Evan Harrington* vi, I don't get took in again by a squash hat in a hurry. 1882 STEVENSON *New Arab. Nts.* (1884) 247 Admiring imbecility breathed from his squash nose and slobbering lips. 1900 *Daily News* 30 June 4/6 The million are going in for the broad-brimmed squash hat.

Squashable (skwǫ·ʃăb'l), *a.* [f. SQUASH *v.*[1]] Capable of being squashed. Hence **Squashabi·lity,** capability of being crushed together.

1875 GREEN *Lett.* (1901) IV. 416 The wonderful squashability of Roman buildings. 1902 *Contemp. Rev.* Oct. 502 It might be something squashable in the berry or jelly-fish line.

Squa·shiness. [f. SQUASHY *a.*] The condition or character of being squashy.

1846 LANDOR *Imag. Conv.* Wks. I. 79/2 Give a trifle of strength and austerity to the squashiness of our friend's poetry.

Squash pear: see SQUASH *sb.*[1] 2.

† **Squa·shy,** *sb. Obs.*—[1] [Cf. SQUASH *sb.*[1] 1.] (See quot.)

1828 *Life Planter Jamaica* 211 A very small pea denominated by the negroes, okra, a kind of what is called squashies.

Squashy (skwǫ·ʃi), *a.* [f. SQUASH *v.*[1] or *sb.*[1]]

1. Of fruit, etc.: Having a soft or pulpy consistency; lacking in firmness.

1698 FRYER *Acc. E. India & P.* 130 Having gone near Fifty Miles without eating more than a few squashy Figs. *Ibid.* 182 The Fruit..squashy, of a better Relish than Smell. 1712 J. MORTON *Nat. Hist. Northamptonsh.* 478 The Ear [of wheat] was seemingly full and good; but it prov'd to be squashy, and had no Kernel. 1837 HOOK *Jack Brag* xx, A squashy French pie, made by a Cowes confectioner. 1847 HALLIW., *Squashy*, soft, pulpy, watery. *Warw[ick].* 1883 MISS WORBOISE *Sissie* xix, Squashy roly-poly pudding, with all the jam boiled out, and the water boiled in.

fig. 1859 GEO. ELIOT *A. Bede* xv, Them young gells are

like th' unripe grain; they'll make good meal by-and-by, but they're squashy as yet.

2. Of ground, etc.: Soft with, full of, water; soaking, marshy.

1751 *England's Gazetteer* s.v. *Daventry*, The banks in it resemble those of ponds and canals, with a watry squashy ground between them. 1818 KEATS *Lett.* Wks. 1889 III. 163, I was damped by slipping one leg into a squashy hole. 1822 *Blackw. Mag.* XII. 335 A squashy knowe in an undrained quagmire. 1889 *Longman's Mag.* Aug. 379 Away we go again, floundering heavily through the squashy ground.

transf. 1877 W. S. GILBERT *Foggerty's Fairy* (1892) 302 We had a squashy walk over a pathless and furzy common.

3. Of the nature of a squash or squashing.

1865 E. BURRITT *Walk to Land's End* 284 That child.. comes down..in a squashy concussion with its forehead against the floor. 1873 *Spectator* 23 Aug. 1069 Alongside of you comes up an oozy, squashy sound of the advancing tide.

4. Having a squashed or flattened look.

1895 ZANGWILL *Master* II. iv, Matt pointed out that the eyes were wrong, that pupils should be round, not squashy.

†Squass. *Obs.*—[1] In 6 **sqwasse.** [Related to SQUASH *v.*[1] Cf. It. *squasso* a severe shake.] Pressure, squeezing.

1528 BP. CLERK *Let. to Wolsey* (MS. Cott. Cal. D. x. 227), He cannott ryed, his feett being n[ot able to] abyde the sqwasse of the sterope.

†Squassation. *Obs.*—[1] [f. It. *squassare* to shake severely: see SQUASH *v.*[1]] A severe shaking.

1731 CHANDLER tr. *Limborch's Hist. Inquis.* II. 219 As to Squassation, 'tis thus performed:..on a sudden he is let down with a Jirk,..by which terrible Shake, his Arms and Legs are all disjointed.

Squat (skwɒt), *sb.*[1] Also 4 **squate**, 5, 7 **squatte**, 7 **squatt**, **sqat**, **squot**, 9 *dial.* **swat.** [f. SQUAT *v.* Cf. QUAT *sb.*[2]]

1. A heavy fall or bump; a severe or violent jar or jolt. Now *north. dial.*

c 1350 *Ipomedon* (Kölbing) 4352 Yche myghte se, where he laye. I trowe, here leman had a squate [*rime* that]. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneid* x. vii. 108 [He] tumlyt from hys hie cart chargit quhar he sat, And on the grund reboundis wyth a squat. 1545 RAYNALD *Byrth Mankynde* Hh iij, Thone by a fal from her horse, the other by a violent thrust and squat on the buttocks vpon the hard stones. *Ibid.*, By the force of the fall and squat, the matrice vaynes brake. *a* 1633 G. HERBERT *Wks.* (1859) II. 298 Bruises and squats and falls which often kill others can bring little grief or hurt to those that are temperate. 1675 J. S[MITH] *Horolog. Dial.* 24 It might be some accidental injury in the conveiance from one place to another, as sometimes happens by jogs or Squats which loosen either pins, wedges or screws. 1812 *Sporting Mag.* XXXIX. 46 But ambling round an ugly post, A squat poor Bobby made. 1847– in N. Cy. and Cumbld. glossaries (in form *swat*).

b. A bruise, contusion, or wound, esp. one caused by a fall; a dent or indentation. Now *dial.*

1578 LYTE *Dodoens* 238 The same herbe..is good to be layde on with wool upon squats or bruses. *a* 1692 AUBREY *Wilts.* (Royal Soc. MS. p. 127) (Halliw.), In our Western language squat is a bruise. 1697 R. PEIRCE *Bath Mem.* I. ix. 186 His Illness first came after a Sqat upon his Hand; to which fell a Humour, and made it a Running Sore. 1775 ASH, *Squat*,..a bruise, a hurt by falling; but this is a local sense. 1868– in dial. glossaries (Glouc., Som., Wilts., Berks.).

† **c.** A heavy shower. *Obs.*—[1]

c 1630 RISDON *Surv. Devon* (1810) 121 Haldon-Hill..; whereof the borderers..had this adage: When Haldon hath a hat, Let Kentowne beware a squat.

† **2.** A company *of* daubers. *Obs.*—[0]

Only in lists of 'proper terms'.

c 1450 *Porkington MS.* 10 in *Philol. Trans.* (1909) 54 A squat of davberis. 1486 *Bk. St. Albans* f vj b.

† **3.** *At* (*the* or *a*) *squat*, in a squatting or crouching attitude, esp. that assumed by a hare when sitting. *Obs.*

1580 LYLY *Euphues* (Arb.) 421 One runneth so fast you will neuer catch hir, the other is so at the squat, you can neuer finde hir. 1622 BRETON *Strange Newes* Wks. (Grosart) II. 6/1 Hunting they vse little, but to finde a Hare at squat. 1670 J. SMITH *Eng. Improv. Revivʼd* 191 You may chance to see..on the ground a brace or two of Hares at squot. 1693 DRYDEN, etc. *Juvenal* x. (1697) 261 An old Grandam Ape, when, with a Grace, She sits at squat, and scrubs her leathern Face.

fig. 1623 WOTTON *Lett.* (1907) II. 280 The Rhetian business and the League depending thereon, which made so full a cry is, methinks, at a squat. 1732 POPE *Ep. Cobham* 56 And ev'ry child hates Shylock, tho' his soul Still sits at squat, and peeps not from its hole.

4. The act of squatting, crouching, or sitting down close to the ground, *spec.* on the part of a hare.

1584 in Cl. Robinson *Handful Pleas. Delights* (Arb.) 29 To see..Her [i. e. the hare's] trips and skips,..With squats and flats, which hath no pere. 1601 DEACON & WALKER *Spirits & D.* 208 You are like to the hunted Hare which scuddeth hither and thether, and standeth in feare at euerie squat. 1615 MARKHAM *Country Contentm.* I. i, The Huntsman cunning to undoe intricate doubles, Skips, Squats and windings. 1806 BLOOMFIELD *Wild Flowers* 43 Grace by the tumbril made a squat. 1838 HOLLOWAY *Prov. Dict.* s.v., A hare is said to Squat or go to Squat when she lies up in the chase. 1872 C. KING *Sierra Nevada* x. 214, I noticed one mule after another give a little squat.

† **5. a.** *To take squat*, to seek safety by squatting or hiding. *Obs.*

1580–3 GREENE *Mamillia* Wks. (Grosart) II. 63 The Foxe seeing his marrow almost kild with the dogges, is a foole, if he take not squat. 1592 — *Philomela* Wks. (Grosart) XI. 138 Though the Hare take squat she is not lost at the first defaute.

† **b.** The place where an animal squats or crouches down in order to escape observation; *spec.* the form or lair of a hare. Also *fig. Obs.*

1590 COKAINE *Treat. Hunt.* B iv b, The Huntsman should blowe a call, that all that be in the field may repayre to him, and beate for the squat of the Hare. 1601 DEACON & WALKER *Answ. Darel* 163 You are to too afraid to tarrie ouer long in a squatte: the following crie of the Hounds is so hotte in your eares. 1624 QUARLES *Job Militant* xiii, Their deepe-mouth'd Art..ne'r could start..That Game, from squat, they terme, Felicity. 1673 HICKERINGILL *Greg. F. Greyb.* 8 Thou hadst better have sat For ever on thy squatt.

6. A squatting attitude or posture.

1886 *Bicycling News* 24 Sept. 767/2 The cross-legged 'squat' is as natural an attitude to the sovereign as to the meanest beggar.

7. The fact of settling down in the water.

1905 *Sci. Amer.* 7 Jan. 7/1 To the loaded draft there should be added about four feet for 'squat', when running at full speed.

Squat, *sb.*[2] *Cornw.* [Perh. the same word as prec.] (See quots.)

1671 *Phil. Trans.* VI. 2098 Squatts are certain distinct places in the earth, not running in veins, differing from Bonnys..in this only that Squatts are flat, Bonnys are roundish. 1778 PRYCE *Min. Cornub.* 81 This kind of Fissure..is wrongly called by the Tinners, a Floor or a Squat, which properly speaking is a hole or chasm impregnated with Metal, that makes no continued line of direction, or regular walls. 1860 *Eng. & For. Mining Gloss.* (ed. 2) 6 *Bunch*, or *Squat of ore*, a quantity of ore of small extent; more than a stone, and not so much as a course.

Squat, *sb.*[3] *U.S.* [Of doubtful origin.] The angel-fish, *Squatina angelus*.

1884 GOODE *Nat. Hist. Aquat. Anim.* 675.

Squat (skwɒt), *pa. pple.* and (*ppl.*) *a.* Also 5 **sqwat**(e, 7, 9 *dial.*, **squot**, 9 *dial.* **swat.** [Pa. pple. of SQUAT *v.* Cf. QUAT *a.*]

I. 1. In predicative use: Seated in a squatting or crouching posture; sitting close to the ground.

a. Of a hare or other animal.

c 1410 *Master of Game* (MS. Digby 182) xxxiv, If it happe..þat ony hunter fynde her sqwat,..he shall blowe a moot and rechate and stirt her. *Ibid.*, If it happe þat she be sqwate to fore hem. 1526 SKELTON *Magnyf.* 1315 So how,.. the hare is squat! 1556 J. HEYWOOD *Spider & Fly* xxiv. 26 Neuer was there yet any larke or wat, Before hawke or dog, flatter darde or squat Then by this answere. 1602 ROWLANDS *Greenes Ghost* 43 The tumbler, who lies squat in the brakes till the Conie be come forth out of her burrow. 1695 BLACKMORE *Pr. Arth.* VI. 647 A Toad, squat on a Border, spies The Gardner passing by. 1795 WOLCOT (P. Pindar) *Royal Tour* Wks. 1816 III. 49 Squat on his speckled haunches gapes the Toad, And frogs affrighted hop along the road. 1897 *Christian Herald* (N. Y.) 4 Aug. 592/1 Does not the panther, squat in the grass, know a calf when he sees it?

b. Of persons.

In some contexts approaching to an advb. use.

1582 STANYHURST *Æneis* III. (Arb.) 73 Then to vs squat grooueling in this wise the oracle aunsword. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* IV. 800 Him there they found Squat like a Toad, close at the eare of Eve. 1675 HOBBES *Odyssey* (1677) 268 Ulysses, to be sure that none remain Alive, and under seats or tables squat, Searcht well the hall. 1730 FIELDING *Tom Thumb* II. x, While the two stools her sitting-part confound, Between 'em both [to] fall squat upon the ground. 1748 SMOLLETT *R. Random* xxxix, Where I found her sitting squat on her hams on the floor. 1851 MAYNE REID *Scalp Hunt.* xxxi. 235 The earless trapper was sitting upon the prairie, squat on his hams. 1878 P. BAYNE *Purit. Rev.* v. 168 Satan, squat at his ear in the form of a sycophant priest, had told him [etc.].

Comb. 1897 GUNTER *Susan Turnbull* ii. 18 The..Eastern potentate, who sits squat-legged indulging in his nargileh.

c. Of things. *rare.*

1757 *Mrs. Montagu's Lett.* IV. 160 She has made them lie squat with some ivory thimbles. 1853 G. JOHNSTON *Nat. Hist. E. Bord.* I. 76 The shrub lies squat to the ground.

2. *dial.* Hidden from observation; quiet, still.

1841– in various dial. glossaries and texts (N. Cy., Yks., Lancs., Notts., E. Anglia, etc.).

II. † **3.** Contused, crushed. *Obs.*—[1]

1600 SURFLET *Countrie Farme* II. xliii. 280 This ointment..is singular good in the curing of..brused or squat nailes, wounds old and new [etc.].

4. Short and thick; disproportionately broad or wide; podgy; thick-set: **a.** Of persons, animals, or their limbs, etc. *Squat lobster* (see quot. 1902).

1630 *R. Johnson's Kingd. & Commw.* 12 The Tartar is a stubbed squat fellow, hard bred, and such are their horses. 1678 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1308/4 A broad squot white beagle Bitch. 1717 PRIOR *Alma* I. 16 The Mind,..Throughout the Body squat or tall Is, *bonâ fide*, All in All. 1740 RICHARDSON *Pamela* (1824) I. 61 She is a broad, squat, pursy, fat thing, quite ugly. 1779 *Mirror* No. 2, A short squat man, with a carbuncled face. 1826 SCOTT *Woodst.* i, A squat broad Little John sort of figure. 1849 H. MILLER *Footpr. Creat.* iii. (1874) 34 Squat, robust, strongly-built fishes. 1879 D. M. WALLACE *Australasia* v. 86 The nose.. becomes broader and somewhat squat further down. 1902 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 10) XXXII. 111/1 Amongst other crustacea, the squat lobster (*Themis orientalis*) is..obtained by trawling in the southern waters.

b. In general use.

1684 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1933/4 She is square before, with a square squat Stem. 1714 MANDEVILLE *Fab. Bees* (1733) I. 333 Little squat bibles clasp'd in brass. 1760 J. LEE *Introd. Bot.* Explan. Terms 389 *Sessiles*, squat, having no Footstalk. 1861 *Sat. Rev.* 21 Sept. 305 The [printing] type..is somewhat squat and angular. 1865 DICKENS *Mut. Fr.* III. vi, One of those squat, high-shouldered, short-necked glass bottles. 1885 RUNCIMAN *Skippers & Sh.* 103 Wilfrid joined a squat brig that crossed the Bay. 1891 E. GOSSE *Gossip in Library* I. 10 A squat volume published two centuries ago.

c. Of buildings or parts of these.

1687 MIÈGE *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II, A squat (or well compacted) House. *a* 1771 GRAY *Wks.* (1843) V. 329 The capitals.. are all in general too squat and too gross for the pillars which they are meant to adorn. 1828 DUPPA *Trav. Italy*, etc. 122 The arches are circular, and the columns squat. 1861 BERESF. HOPE *Eng. Cathedr. 19th C.* vi. 224 The nave..looks absolutely squat, owing to the lowness of the arcade. 1889 *John Bull* 2 Mar. 147/2 It must either be very low and squat in proportion, or it must be of such a scale in elevation as to rival the Abbey.

5. Characterized by squatness of form or structure.

1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* IV. 39 From its [*sc.* the marmot's] squat muscular make, it has great strength joined to great agility. 1789 MRS. PIOZZI *Journ. France* II. 82 [The palace] presents ideas rather of squat solidity, than of princely magnificence. 1858 HAWTHORNE *Fr. & It. Note-bks.* I. 133 The roof..gives a very squat aspect to the temple. 1879 GREEN *Readings fr. Eng. Hist.* xxi. 108 Their buildings.. retained their primitive squat, low and meagre proportions.

6. *Comb.*, as *squat-bodied*, *-built*, *-hatted.*

1705 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4137/4 A dapple brown bay squat Bodied Mare. 1873 GREENWOOD *In Strange Company* 202 A sinister-looking, squat-built old gentleman. 1902 'LINESMAN' *Words Eyewitness* 220 A string of cattle..driven by dark, squat-hatted figures on horseback.

Squat (skwɒt), *v.* Forms: 4–5 **sqwat**, 5 **sqwate**, 5–6 **squatte**, 6 **sqwatte**, 7 **squatt**, 9 **squot**, 5– **squat.** [ad. OF. *esquatir*, *esquater*, f. *es-* EX- + *quatir* QUAT *v.*[1] Cf. the early combs. *out-squat* OUT- 15 and TO-SQUAT *v.*]

I. 1. *trans.* To crush, flatten, or beat out of shape; to smash or squash; to bruise severely. Now *dial.*

a 1300 *E. E. Psalter* cix. 6 Sqwat sal he heuedes, blode and bane, In þe land of mani-ane. *c* 1380 WYCLIF *Serm.* Sel. Wks. II. 68 þis stoon shal falle on siche men, and squatte hem al to poudir. 1382 — 2 *Sam.* xxii. 8 The foundementis of hillis ben togidir smyten and squat. 1570 REDFORD *Marriage Wit & Sci.* 216 In twenty gobbetes I showld have squatted them. 1578 LYTE *Dodoens* 86 The same..is good for such as are squatte and brused with falling from above. 1674 RAY *Coll. Words* 77 *To Squat*, to bruise or make flat by letting fall... *Suss.* *a* 1722 LISLE *Husb.* (1757) 189 Iron-clayted shoes do not well to thresh wheat in, especially if it be new corn; for such shoes squat and bruise it much. *Ibid.* 282 It often happens, that such a cow's knees fall against the side or flank of the cow with calf, and so squat the calf. 1825– in many dial. glossaries and texts.

b. To dash down heavily or with some force; also, † to knock (gently). Now *dial.*

a 1400 *Leg. Rood* (1871) 142 But whon þe Roode ros and doun was squat, þe nayles renten him hondes and feete. 1519 HORMAN *Vulg.* 178 b, If it be gluishe..and squatted on the grounde scatereth nat; it is a token of a fatte grounde. 1538 ELYOT, *Allido*, to squatte or throw any thing agaynst the grounde or walles. 1599 T. M[OUFET] *Silkwormes* 59 Now squatting them vppon the floore or ground, Now squashing out their bellies soft and round. 1609 BUTLER *Fem. Mon.* x. K vj, The Bees being dead, squat the hiue softly against the ground. 1828– in Yks. glossaries.

† **c.** To knock *out* by smashing. *Obs.*—[1]

1553 *Respublica* (Brandl) v. vii. 28 Woulde ye have om sqwatte owt ous braine?

† **d.** To drive, force, or thrust violently or abruptly. *Obs.*

1655 GURNALL *Chr. in Arm.* II. 554 He saw the King like to recover, and he squatted his disease..to his heart by the wet cloth. 1686 F. SPENCE tr. *Varilla's Ho. Medici* 110 The Cardinal-Nephew's continual Riots had squatted him in his Coffin at twenty-eight years old.

† **2.** *fig.* To suppress; to repress. *Obs. rare.*

1577 STANYHURST *Descr. Ireland* iii. 11 b/1 in *Holinshed*, Saying that although lawes were squatted in warre, yet notwithstanding they ought to be reuiued in peace. 1582 — *Æneis* I. (Arb.) 24 His grief deepe squatting, hoap he yeelds with phisnomye cheereful.

† **3.** *intr.* To fall or dash with some force or violence. *Obs. rare.*

1587 DAYE *Daphnis & Chloe* (1890) 141 The yoong youth ..shooke the raskall off, and that so rudelie, as his pampered drunken carcas squatted against the ground. *c* 1590 in Hazl. *E. P. P.* IV. 218 Thou shalte be handled for the nonce, That all thy braynes on the ground shall squat.

II. 4. *refl.* To seat (oneself) upon the hams or haunches; to take one's seat in a crouching attitude or posture.

c 1410 *Master of Game* (MS. Digby 182) xxxiv, And if it happe..þat she sqwat not her a forne þe houndes. 1737 GRAY *Lett.* in Poems (1775) 24 At the foot of one of these squats me I. 1775 MME. D'ARBLAY *Early Diary* 6 Dec., The Prince at last squatted himself on the corner of a form. 1836 W. IRVING *Astoria* II. 29 An old man..squatted himself near the door. 1842 LOVER *Handy Andy* xxiii, He followed the cat, and off she went and squatted herself under the hedge.

fig. 1603 FLORIO *Montaigne* I. xxiii. (1632) 59 And seeking to squat himselfe [Fr. *se desrober*], hee the more enflamed and called them upon him.

b. Similarly with *down.* (Cf. 6 b.)

a 1535 MORE *Wks.* 1359/2 When thou hadest ietted thy fil, squat the down fair & wel in a chaire. 1583 GOLDING *Calvin on Deut.* 1050 Yet will they squatte them downe in their filthinesse. 1641 SMECTYMNUUS *Answ. Humb. Rem.* (1653) Post. 88 The Archbishop of York, striving to sit above Canterbury, squatts him down on his lap. 1771 SMOLLETT *Humph. Cl.* (1815) 172 Curtseying so low, that I thought she intended to squat herself down on the floor. 1772–84 *Cook's Voy.* (1790) IV. 1389 At the conclusion of each combat, the victor squatted himself down before the chief. 1806 J. BERESFORD *Miseries Hum. Life* IV. viii, Two friends, perfect strangers to you, squatting themselves down at your right

and left hand. 1852 MRS. STOWE *Uncle Tom's C.* xviii, She set down her basket, [and] squatted herself down.

c. With quasi-reflexive object. Also, to let (the tail) droop or fall.

1727 A. HAMILTON *New Acc. E. Ind.* I. xxii. 262 Assoon as he saw me, he squatted his Belly to the Ground, .. and crawled slowly towards me. 1739 R. BULL tr. *Dedekindus' Grobianus* 102 When Eloquence your Wrath has overcome, Then offer in a Chair to squat your Bum. 1801 SURR *Splendid Misery* I. 172 Foul imps of ignominy will squat their loathsome forms on my unbruised bones. 1825 *Mirror* V. 30/1 A mad dog..generally goes..in a straight line..and never squats his tail.

5. *intr.* Of hares: To sit close to the ground in a crouching attitude; to crouch or cower down, esp. in order to avoid observation or capture.

c 1410 *Master of Game* (MS. Digby 182) i, And somtyme [the hare runs] a litell while and thenn abydith and squattith, and that done they ofte. 1576 TURBERV. *Venerie* lix. 163 If she come to the side of any yong spring or groue, she will.. squat vnder the side thereof. *Ibid.* lxi. 172 Yet they will squatte vpon the outsides of the wayes or very neare to them. 1605 *Tryall Chev.* III. ii. in Bullen *Old Pl.* (1884) III, If they were hares as they are men, I should think them squatted. 1660 W. SECKER *Nonsuch Prof.* 56 The fearful Hare squats at every noyse. 1711 BUDGELL *Spect.* No. 116 ¶ 7 The Hare now, after having squatted two or three Times, and been put up again as often [etc.]. 1731 FIELDING *Grub St. Op.* I. iv, Poor puss's cunning, and shifting, and shunning !.. First this way, then that; First a stretch, and then squat. 1821 CLARE *Vill. Minstr.* II. 196 The coy hare squats nestling in the corn. 1838 [see SQUAT *sb.*[1] 4].

fig. 1653 A. WILSON *Jas. I*, 248 Two great Favourites though of different Kingdoms could not well squat in one form. 1676 HOBBES *Iliad* 333 So coursed Hector was, Nor suffer'd was to double or to squat.

b. Of other animals, birds, etc.

c 1410 *Master of Game* (MS. Digby 182) ii, Þen he [the hart] maketh a ruse..and þere he stalleth or squatteth. 1599 T. M[OUFET] *Silkewormes* 36 Did euer thing do Cupid so much ill As once a Bee which on his hand did squat? 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* I. 262 He [*sc.* the ram-fish] squatteth close under the shade of bigge ships. 1611 COTGR., *Blotir*, to squat, skowke, or ly close to the ground, like a daring Larke. 1665 HOOKE *Microgr.* 184 It [*sc.* a fly] presently squats down, as it were, that it may be the more ready for its rise. 1826 HOOD *Irish Schoolm.* vi, Also he schools some tame familiar fowls, Whereof, above his head, some two or three Sit darkly squatting. 1865 LIVINGSTONE *Zambesi* xv. 306 Then the Crocodiles squat on them till they are drowned. 1895 J. G. MILLAIS *Breath fr. Veldt* (1899) 92 If then suddenly approached with a pointer, they become confused and squat well.

6. Of persons: To sit down with the legs closely drawn up beneath the hams or in front of the body; *esp.* to sit on the ground in this way or in a crouching attitude. Also jocularly, to sit (down).

Freq. const. with preps., esp. *on* or *upon* (the ground, hams, etc.).

1573 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 43 Then squatteth the master, or trudgeth away, and after dog runneth as fast as he may. 1784 RUSSELL *Hist. Mod. Europe* (1818) V. 186 Canadians and Indians..squatted below bushes, or skulked behind trees. 1796 MORSE *Amer. Geog.* II. 37 Men and women squat round this mat, which is covered with dishes. 1806 J. BERESFORD *Miseries Hum. Life* x. vi, Squatting plump on an unsuspected cat in your chair. 1865 LIVINGSTONE *Zambesi* viii. 174 The operator squatting, places his great toes on each end to keep all steady. 1878 BOSW. SMITH *Carthage* 437 With groups of camels..tended all night long by some swarthy Arab squatting on his haunches. 1883 STEVENSON *Treas. Isl.* III. xiv, I crawled under cover of the nearest live-oak, and squatted there.

transf. 1895 ZANGWILL *Master* I. viii. 93 The rock that squatted on guard at the mouth of the harbour. 1906 SIR F. TREVES *Highways Dorset* viii. 115 A commonplace town squatting soberly in the meadows.

b. With *down*. (Cf. 4 b.)

1609 DEKKER *Gull's Horn Bk.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 207 Teach them both how to squat downe to their meat, and how to munch..like Loobies. 1687 A. LOVELL tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* I. 33 They squat down upon their heels, like Taylors, about the *Soffta*. 1768–74 TUCKER *Lt. Nat.* (1834) I. 128 She squats down upon a chair. 1812 COMBE *Syntax, Picturesque* III, Down on the grass the Doctor squatted. 1840 R. H. DANA *Bef. Mast* xiv, The lazy Indians..squatting down upon their hams. 1901 D. B. HALL & LD. A. OSBORNE *Sunshine & Surf* vi. 60 We would all squat down cross-legged, which is the correct way to sit at a native meal.

fig. 1760 FOOTE *Minor* II, Your gettings should be added to his estate, and my cousin Margery and I squat down together in the comfortable state of matrimony.

c. In pa. pple. used predicatively.

1577 GRANGE *Golden Aphroditis* L iij b, Thus squatted vpon this pleasaunt mount from mornyng to euenyng they spende their tyme. 1798 O'KEEFFE *Wild Oats* v. iv, Leaving me, a chubby little fellow, squatted on a carpet. 1816 TUCKEY *Narr. Exped. R. Zaire* iv. (1818) 137 The assembly was composed of about fifty persons squatted in the sand. 1867 LADY HERBERT *Cradle L.* i. 15 The guests being seated, or rather squatted, on the divan. 1886 C. SCOTT *Sheep-farming* 82 Catch the ewe gently with the crook; lay her on her left side, yourself being squatted at her back.

† d. To crouch or lie down (*upon* the belly).

1650 T. B[AYLEY] *Worcester's Apoph.* 88 As soon as ever he came in sight of the enemy, he squatted upon his belly.

7. *trans.* To cause to squat; to put into, place in, a squatting attitude or posture. *rare.*

1600 BRETON *Pasquil's Fooles-cap* lxxvi, Hee that squats a Hare within a furrowe, And sees how shee within her Muce doth Nuzzle. 1744 GRAY in Gosse *Gray* (1882) 74 He came to meet me.., [and] squatted me into a fauteuil. 1850 *Bentley's Misc.* Nov. 507 They next squatted Sam upon the ground, and began to divest him of the hair of his head.

8. *intr.* † a. *fig.* To sink *into* (something lower or less important). *Obs.*[−1]

1641 MILTON *Ch. Govt.* I. vi, The lofty minds..thought it a poor indignity, that the high-rear'd Government of the Church should so on a sudden..squat into a Presbytery.

† b. With *in*: To remain hid; to retire from view. *Obs.*

1655 GURNALL *Chr. in Arm.* xi. (1669) 43/2 Peter, whose grace that squatted in for a while, came forth with such a force [etc.]. *Ibid.* xv. 165/2 It makes all the joy which flusht out before, squat in on a sudden.

c. To sink in or down, in various uses.

1687 A. LOVELL tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* II. 54 These Borrachios must be wet every half quarter of an hour, for fear they should squat for want of Wine. *a* 1722 LISLE *Husb.* (1757) 80 The inner parts of these lands bind and squat together below the harrow tinings. 1846 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* VII. II. 591 The peas soon shake hands across the furrow, and to attempt to hoe after they have done so, or have squatted, will [etc.].

9. To settle upon new, uncultivated, or unoccupied land without any legal title and without the payment of rent. Orig. *U.S.*

Freq. const. *on* or *upon* (land).

1800 *Mississippi Territorial Archives* (1906) 212, I wish also to be instructed for my Conduct towards those people Squatting or establishing themselves upon the Public Lands. 1829 MARRYAT *F. Mildmay* xxi, He was a Kentucky man, of the Ohio, where he had 'squatted', as we say. 1854 THOREAU *Walden* (1863) 70 As for a habitat, if I were not permitted still to squat, I might purchase one acre. 1884 *St. James's Gaz.* 20 June 6/1 The ancestors of many of the present freeholders began to squat upon the uncultivated slopes of the hills.

transf. 1879 DIXON *Windsor* IV. xxix. 269 Paupers had squatted in many of the towers.

b. *Austr.* To rent or take up government or crown land for pasturage as a squatter.

1828 P. CUNNINGHAM *N. S. Wales* (ed. 3) II. 154 They have therefore..much to gain by new settlers 'squatting' near their locations. 1852 EARP *Gold Col.* 98 The remaining mode of occupying land in New South Wales is to 'squat', i.e. to lease a large tract from the Government for purposes purely pastoral. 1870 *Daily News* 15 Feb., A tract of 160 acres of Government land, on which he 'squatted', with the right to buy it at five English shillings an acre.

Squatarole (skwæ·tărōul). *Ornith.* Also **-olle.** [ad. mod.L. *Squatarola*, a. local It. *squatarola*.] The grey or Swiss plover, *Squatarola helvetica.*

1819 STEPHENS in Shaw *Gen. Zool.* XI. 505 Squatarolle with the body grey. 1870 GILMORE tr. *Figuier's Reptiles & Birds* 348 There are in Europe two species of this genus, the Lapwing and the Swiss Lapwing or Squatarole.

† **Squatch,** *v. Obs.* Also 4 **squach, swatche.** [ad. OF. *esquachier* (*escachier*), to crush, break.] *trans.* To squash or smash; to quash or annul.

a 1325 *MS. Rawl. B. 520* lf. 55 Lo nou is for te segge of þe ansueres ant of excepciouns þat squachez þe writ of Mort de auncestre. *c* 1380 in Horstm. *Altengl. Leg.* (1875) 224 Heo haþ sumwhat squached his tour þat we mihte not meue wiþ no stour. *a* 1400 *E. E. Psalter* cix. 7 Sqwat [*v.rr.* squatche, swatche] sal he heuedes, blode and bane.

Squa·tly, *adv.* [f. SQUAT *a.*] In a squat manner.

1894 CROCKETT *Lilac Sunbonnet* 257 [It] plunged down squatly among the dock-leaves.

Squa·tment. *rare.* [f. SQUAT *v.* 9.] The act of squatting; land occupied by squatting.

1860 *Chambers's Jrnl.* XIV. 39 The ghost of a squatter might prove a less unpleasant neighbour than the squatter himself, dispossessed of his squatment. 1887 F. W. MAITLAND in H. L. Fisher *Biogr. Sk.* (1910) 41 If ever I saw an untitled squatment it is now.

† **Squatmore.** *Obs.* [f. SQUAT *sb.*[1] I b + MORE *sb.*[1]] The yellow horned poppy, *Glaucium luteum.*

In 19th c. southern dial. recorded as *squatls.*

1691 AUBREY in *Ray's Corr.* (1848) 238 By the salt pits at Lymington..grows a plant called Squatmore, of wonderful effect for bruises. 1698 *Phil. Trans.* XX. 263 *Papaver Corniculatum Luteum*, or Horned Poppy, with a Yellow Flower, vulgarly called in Hampshire and Dorsetshire, Squatmore, or Bruseroot.

Squa·tness. [f. SQUAT *a.*] The quality of being squat.

1824 MISS MITFORD *Village* Ser. I. (1863) 119 Each of which artificial elevations..served equally to add to the squatness of the real machine. 1897 A. BALFOUR *Stroke of Sword* xv, This same squatness has served you well.

Squattage (skwǫ·tĕdʒ). [f. SQUAT *v.* 9.]

1. A holding occupied by a squatter.

1862 G. DUFFY *Land Law Victoria* 10 Those..will necessarily desire to prevent any unfair absorption of the land, which must be speedily replaced out of their own squattages. 1864 W. WESTGARTH *Colony of Victoria* 272 The great Riverine district, which is one vast series of squattages. 1891 *Daily News* 11 Sept. 2/4 Their holdings being originally squattages or small enclosures made on commons and waste lands.

2. The occupation of ground, etc., by squatting.

1901 *Pall Mall G.* 1 July 3/1 The Piccadilly newsvendor, whose rights of squattage..that Office had not been prepared to acknowledge.

Squatted (skwǫ·tĕd), *ppl. a.* [f. SQUAT *v.*]

1. Pressed down, crushed.

a 1678 MARVELL *Wks.* (1786) III. 215 The nightingale.. adorns With music high the squatted thorns.

† **2.** *Bot.* = SESSILE *a.* 1 a. *Obs.*

1760 J. LEE *Introd. Bot.* I. xix. (1776) 53 A compound Flower is an aggregate one, comprehending many Florets that are sessile, squatted, or without Peduncles.

3. Settled down in a squatting posture.

1818 KEATS *Endym.* I. 264 To surprise The squatted hare while in half-sleeping fit. 1895 J. G. MILLAIS *Breath fr. Veldt* (1899) 49 A squatted covey, taken by surprise, will often rise singly or in pairs.

Squatter (skwǫ·təɹ), *sb.*[1] [f. SQUAT *v.*]

1. *U.S.* A settler having no formal or legal title to the land occupied by him, *esp.* one thus occupying land in a district not yet surveyed or apportioned by the government.

1788 J. MADISON in Sparks *Corr. Amer. Rev.* (1853) IV. 207 Many of them and their constituents are only squatters upon other people's land, and they are afraid of being brought to account. 1809 KENDALL *Trav.* III. lxxiv. 160 Upon visiting his lands, he finds..possession taken by a race of men, (the settlers and lumberers,) who in this view are called squatters. 1834 PRINGLE *Afr. Sk.* iii. 162 Engelbrecht is what in America would be called a Squatter. He has no land of his own. 1856 WHITTIER *Panorama* 478 The hunted bison tires, And dies o'ertaken by the squatter's fires.

b. An unauthorized occupant of land.

1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* iii. I. 359 At another time an impudent squatter settled himself there, and built a shed for rubbish. 1860 G. H. K. *Vac. Tour* 156 Hundreds of squatters from the neighbouring parts of Sutherland and Ross. 1874 JEFFERIES *Toilers of Field* (1892) 68 Commonly the squatters pitched on a piece of land..running parallel to the highway or lane.

c. In fig. uses.

1821 COLERIDGE in *Blackw. Mag.* X. 250 An intrusive supernumerary or squatter in the same tenement and workshop. 1897 BAILEY *Princ. Fruit-growing* 342 It will..be necessary to begin hunting for borers, and other squatters and campers.

2. *Austr.* One occupying a tract of pastoral land as a tenant of the crown; a grazier or sheep-farmer, esp. on a large scale.

In early Australian use (*c* 1835-) the term was employed as in sense 1.

1840 G. ARDEN *Austr. Felix* 109 Under this license the squatter is protected. 1847 LEICHHARDT *Jrnl.* Introd. p. xiv, We were received with the greatest kindness by my friends the 'Squatters', a class principally composed of young men of good education, gentlemanly habits, and high principles. 1889 MRS. C. PRAED *Rom. Station* 12, I am glad to have married a squatter instead of a townsman.

3. A squatting person or animal.

1824 CHALMERS in *Mem.* (1851) III. ii. 17 Dr. Haldane was not one of the squatters, but somehow his dusty back got into the view of the audience. 1872 SPURGEON *Treas. Dav.* Ps. lxviii. 13 Their enemies may have called them squatters among the pots. 1894 *Athenæum* 3 Feb. 144/1 The portrait of a toad 'from life' is creditable alike to the artist and the sitter—or rather *squatter.*

b. *Austr.* A variety of pigeon.

1872 C. H. EDEN *In Queensland* 122 On the plains you find different kinds of pigeons, the squatters being most common, ..crouching down to the ground quite motionless as you pass.

4. *attrib.*, as *squatter magistrate*; **squatter pigeon** *Austr.*, = sense 3 b; **squatter sovereignty** *U.S.*, the right claimed by the inhabitants of newly-formed territories to settle for themselves the question of slavery or other institutions; **squatter state** (see quot.).

1894 H. NISBET *Bush Girl's Rom.* 214 To congratulate the *squatter magistrate on his good fortune. 1881 *Gentl. Mag.* Jan. 69 For the first time I saw the *squatter pigeon, a pretty little brown dove, that derives its name from its habit of squatting on the ground. 1854 in *Rep. 200, Ho. Representatives* 34th Congr., 1st Sess. 954 We are in favor of bona fide *squatter sovereignty. 1860 LOWELL *Election in Nov.* Prose Wks. 1890 V. 25 The Pro-Slavery party..here..represents Squatter-Sovereignty, and there the power of Congress over the Territories. 1894 J. FISKE *Hist. Amer.* 342 The doctrine of 'squatter sovereignty'; not Congress, but the 'squatters' were to be the supreme authority on the great question. It was the principle of 'local option' applied to slavery. 1872 DE VERE *Americanisms* 659 It [Kansas] appears occasionally as *Squatter State, from the pertinacity with which the squatter-sovereignty was discussed there.

Squa·tter, *sb.*[2] *Sc.* [f. SQUATTER *v.*] Sputtering, spatter; a loud fluttering noise.

1792 A. WILSON *Poems & Lit. Prose* (1876) II. 38 Frae his devilish mouth the froth Flew aff wi' squatter. 1834 M. SCOTT *Cruise Midge* (1859) 415 Such a squatter as a flock of a thousand teal..rose into the air with a loud rushing noise.

Squatter (skwǫ·təɹ), *v.* [Prob. imitative.]

† **1.** *intr.* ? To be fussily busy. *Obs.*[−1]

1593 G. HARVEY *New Letter* Wks. (Grosart) I. 282, I haue not bene squattering at my papers for nothing, and..I can dawbe with my incke like none of the Muses.

† **2.** = SQUITTER *v.* 2. *Obs.*[−0]

1598 FLORIO, *Squaccarare*, to squatter, to squirt or lash it out behind after a purgation. 1611 COTGR., *Aller long*, to haue a squirt, to squatter out behind.

† **3.** *trans.* To scatter, disperse, spill. *Obs.*

1611 COTGR., *Escarter*, to sheed, squatter, throw about, or abroad. *Ibid.*, *Espancher*, to squatter, spill, sheed, or poure out disorderedly, or in hast. 1653 URQUHART *Rabelais* I. xxvii, To some others he..squattered into pieces the boughts or pestles of their thighs.

4. *intr.* To fly or run, to struggle along, to make one's way, among water or wet with much splashing or flapping. Const. *away, out of, through,* etc.

1785 BURNS *Address to Deil* viii, Awa ye squatter'd, like a drake, On whistling wings. 1790 A. WILSON *Poems & Lit. Prose* (1876) II. 103 Three years thro' muirs an' bogs I've squattert. 1825 SCOTT *Let.* in *Lockhart* (1839) VII. 354, I climbed Bennarty like a wild goat,..and squattered through your drains like a wild duck. 1853 C. BRONTE *Villette* xxv, A little callow gosling squattering out of bounds without leave. 1863 KINGSLEY *Water-Bab.* ii, Where the wild ducks squatter up from among the white water lilies 1886 RUSKIN *Præterita* I. v. 143 He pitched the boy..into the canal,..but I believe the lad squattered to the bank without help.

b. To flutter, flap, or struggle among water or soft mud.

1808 JAMIESON, *To Squatter*, to flutter in water, as a wild duck, &c. 1833 M. SCOTT *Tom Cringle* i, A six-pound shot drove our boat into staves, and all hands were the next moment squattering in the water. 1897 MARY KINGSLEY *W. Africa* 259 We..were all soon squattering about on our own account in the elephant bath.

Squa·tterarchy. *Austr.* [f. SQUATTER *sb.*1 2.] = SQUATTOCRACY.

1881 MRS. C. PRAED *Policy & P.* I. 51 The squatterarchy of the Koorong rose up in a body. 1893 — *Outlaw & Lawmaker* I. 246, I am not altogether at one with the squatterarchy, as you know.

Squa·tterdom. *Austr.* [f. SQUATTER *sb.*1 2.] The collective body of squatters.

c 1866 *Political Parody* (Morris), The ranks of squatterdom. 1873 *Contemp. Rev.* XXII. 701 The enormous domains of the old squatterdom. 1890 *Spectator* 22 Nov. 741/2 The scene is laid in Victoria, and from the picture of squatterdom given by the book [etc.].

Squa·ttering, *vbl. sb.* [f. SQUATTER *v.*] The action of the verb, in various senses.

1598 FLORIO, *Squacquarata*,..a squattring, a squirting. 1611 COTGR., *Espanchement*, a disordered, or hastie squattering, spilling, sheeding, or pouring out. 1694 MOTTEUX *Rabelais* v. xvi. 68 The Devil of any thing we do, but fizzling, farting, funking, squattering, dozing. 1894 CROCKETT *Raiders* xiii. 121 We could hear..multitudinous squatterings in the water as of a thousand wounded wild ducks.

Squa·ttering, *ppl. a.* [f. as prec.] That squatters, in senses of the verb.

1598 FLORIO, *Squacchera*, a squattring soft turd. 1603 — *Montaigne* II. xvii. (1632) 361 It is a language..squattering, dragling, and filthie. 1694 MOTTEUX *Rabelais* IV. lxvii. 270 From Eighteen squattering Bonasi. 1865 ALEX. SMITH *Summer in Skye* I. 108 As we approached, a duck burst from its face on 'squattering' wings.

Squa·ttily, *adv.* [f. SQUATTY *a.*] In a squattish manner; somewhat squatly.

1859 MISS CARY *Country Life* (1876) 151 Two clumsy chimneys of stone showed squattily above the steep red gables.

Squa·tting, *vbl. sb.* [f. SQUAT *v.*]

1. The action of crushing or flattening. *rare.*

a 1400 *E. E. Psalter* cv. 29 Finees stode and quemed wele, And þe scatthinge [*H.* swacching, *E.* sqwattinge; *L. quassatio*] lefte ilkadele. 1703 R. NEVE *City & C. Purchaser* 161 When 'tis laid on Sand, a very little Squating, *viz.* by jumping upon it with the Heals of ones Shooes will dent it.

2. The action of crouching or sitting close to the ground.

c 1410 *Master of Game* (MS. Digby 182) xxxiv, So þat.. at þe laste she be abyte with houndes notwithstondynge her rusyng, swattynge, and reiectynge. 1611 COTGR., *Tapissement*,..a lurking, squatting, lying close. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) IV. 17 The hare seems to have more various arts.. to escape its pursuers by doubling, squatting, and winding. 1782 J. WARTON *Ess. Pope* II. x. 166 The squatting down among the dead bodies till Dolon had passed. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* III. 116 The child in squatting or crawling, begins to lean its weight on its hands.

attrib. c 1645 HOWELL *Lett.* I. xxxii, I do not like those squatting unseemly bold postures upon ones tail.

3. The action or fact of occupying land as a squatter.

1832 *New England Mag.* III. 199 Tenants..who occupied the land.. under that prescriptive tenure which we quaintly term squatting. 1839 MARRYAT *Diary Amer.* Ser. I. II. 75 Squatting, that is taking possession of land belonging to government and cultivating it. 1880 *Silver's Handbk. Australia* 146 But Victorian squatting is no occupation for the man of small capital. 1887 JESSOPP *Arcady* Introd. p. xiii, Days when squatting was not unusual.

b. *attrib.*, as *squatting district, life*, etc.

1845 DISRAELI *Sybil* II. ii. (1863) 131 At the beginning of the revolutionary war, Wodgate was a sort of squatting district. 1847 J. D. LANG *Cooksland* 268 The large extent of land occupied by each Squatting Station. 1859 CORNWALLIS *New World* I. 155 Stations now were very different to what they had been in the early stage of squatting life. 1880 *Gentl. Mag.* CCXLVI. 64 He..is now largely engaged in squatting pursuits in Queensland.

Squa·tting, *ppl. a.* [f. SQUAT *v.*]

1. Occupying land as a squatter or squatters.

1839 W. IRVING *Chron. Wolfert's Roost* (1855) 4 The losel Yankees of Connecticut, those swapping, bargaining, squatting enemies of the Manhattoes. 1887 *Times* (weekly ed.) 25 Feb. 9/3 The numerous sub-tenants or squatting crofters.

2. Sitting closely to the ground; crouching.

1871 *Daily News* 5 Jan., Come nearer and look inside that ring of squatting men. 1883 *Congregationalist* Oct. 848 Further digging uncovered two parts of the statue of a squatting man.

Squa·ttingly, *adv. rare* −0. [Cf. prec.] In a squatting posture.

1659 TORRIANO, *Catellone*, squattingly, closely, as a bitch upon her whelp. *Ibid.*, *Coccolone*, squattingly on the ground, as women do on their heeles.

Squa·ttish, *a.* [f. SQUAT *a.*] Somewhat or slightly squat.

1809 J. A. ANDERSEN *Dane's Excurs.* I. 10 He bent his squattish body into a most graceful curve. 1865 CARLYLE *Fredk. Gt.* XXI. iv. VI. 449 It is grace in a squattish form.

Squa·ttle, *v. rare.* [f. SQUAT *v.* + -LE.] **a.** *intr.* To squat closely; to nestle. **b.** *trans.* To settle down squatly.

1786 BURNS *To a Louse* iii, Swith, in some beggar's haffet squattle. 1897 BLACKMORE *Dariel* xlvii, As a young cuckoo ..squattles his empty body down, and distends himself into one enormous gape.

Squatto·cracy. [f. SQUAT *v.* Cf. SQUATTERARCHY.] The class of squatters as a body possessed of social and political importance.

1846 C. P. HODGSON *Reminisc. Austr.* 118 Throughout the colony generally, English are the most numerous, then the Scotch, then the Irish, amongst the squattocracy. 1864 *Sat. Rev.* 19 Nov. 616 The aristocratic element of a large landed proprietary, which is already designated by the ingenious colonial title of a squattocracy. 1886 MRS. C. PRAED *Miss Jacobsen* I. i. 7 Female members of the squattocracy.

So **Squa·ttocratic** *a.*, of or pertaining to the squattocracy.

1854 *Melbourne Morning Herald* 18 Feb. 4/5 (Morris), Squattocratic Impudence.

Squatty (skwǫ·ti), *a.* [f. SQUAT *v.*] Somewhat squat; squattish.

1881 BURROUGHS *Pepacton* iii. (1884) 100 A few yards away stood another short, squatty hemlock. 1884 J. G. BOURKE *Snake Dance of Moquis* xxiii. 259 A low squatty plant, with thick, broad, dark-green leaves. 1890 W. R. NICOLL *J. MacDonell* i. 7 Every room in the low squatty Gordon Arms.

Comb. 1888 FENN *Dick o' the Fens* 110 A number of flat-looking squatty-shaped pochards.

Squa·twise, *adv.* [f. SQUAT *a.*] (See quot.)

1778 PRYCE *Min. Cornub.* 42 Pyritæ are to be met with.. Squat-wise, or in a horizontal position.

Squaw,te, pa. t. of SQUETCH *v. Obs.*

Squaw (skwǭ), *sb.* (and *a.*). Also 7–9 **squa,** 8 **squaa.** [a. Narragansett Indian *squaws*, Massachusetts *squa*, woman, with related forms in many other Algonquin dialects.]

1. A North American Indian woman or wife.

1634 W. WOOD *New England's Prosp.* II. xix, If her husband come to seeke for his Squaw. 1652 J. WILSON in *Progr. Gosp. among Indians* 18 The *Saneps* or men by themselves, and the *Squaes* or women by themselves. 1672 JOSSELYN *New Eng. Rarities* 99 The Indian Squa, or Female Indian. 1701 WOLLEY *Jrnl. New York* (1860) 36 Their Squaws or Wives and Female Sex manage their Harvest. 1756 WASHINGTON *Jrnl.* Writ. 1889 I. 401 Captn. Pear is came to town the other day with six Cherokees and two squaws. 1836 *Backwoods Canada* 160 The Indians are very expert in.. fishing; the squaws paddling the canoes with admirable skill. 1877 G. GIBBS *Tribes W. Washington* 193 The prairies are dotted over with squaws, each armed with a sharp stake and a basket.

b. Applied by Indians to white women.

1642 LECHFORD *Plain Dealing* 49 And when they [*sc.* Indians] see any of our English women sewing with their needles, or working quoifes, or such things, they will crie out, Lazie *squaes*! 1837 W. IRVING *Capt. Bonneville* III. 147 They..were especially eloquent about the white squaws.

c. In general use: A wife or spouse. *rare.*

1823 BYRON *Juan* XIII. lxxix, Mrs. Rabbi, the rich banker's squaw.

† **2.** Used as *adj.* Female. *Obs.*−1

1634 W. WOOD *New England's Prosp.* II. xv, They posted to the English to tell them how the case stood or hung with their squaw horse.

3. *transf.* An effeminate or weak person.

1807 PIKE *Sources Mississ.* (1810) 20, I directed my interpreter to ask how many scalps they had taken, they replied 'none'; he added they were all squaws, for which I reprimanded him. *c* 1890 A. WELCKER *Tales West* 24 By way of expressing their utter contempt for him they called him a 'squaw'.

4. *Old squaw*, the long-tailed duck.

1884 E. P. ROE *Nat. Ser. Story* vi, There is the old squaw, or long-tailed duck. 1894 [see OLD WIFE 2].

5. *attrib.*, as *squaw-axe, dance, hitch, mistress*; **squaw-man,** a white (or negro) who marries a North American Indian woman; †**squaw-sachem,** a squaw chief in certain American Indian tribes; **squaw winter,** a short spell of winter-like weather which freq. precedes the Indian summer of Canada and the northern United States.

1896 *Harper's Mag.* XCII. 707/1 Such a settler.., watching his chance, fell on his captors..and slew them 'with a *squaw-axe'. 1894 *Outing* XXIV. 83/1 The short, choppy stepping of most *squaw dances elsewhere. *a* 1901 A. ADAMS *Log Cowboy* iii, He showed me what he called a *squaw hitch, with which you can lash a pack single-handed. 1884 *Pall Mall G.* 26 Aug. (Encycl. D.), The *squaw-man—the miserable wretch of European blood who marries a Crow or a Blackfoot in order to take up land in the Indian Reservation. 1894 *Outing* XXIV. 87/2 A negro squaw-man (that is, one having an Indian wife) who went by the name of 'Smoky'. 1707 in Sewall *Diary* (1879) II. 60* She sent then unto a French Priest, that he would speak unto her **Squa* Mistress. 1622 *Relat. Plantation Plymouth, New Eng.* 57 Also the **Squa Sachim*, or Massachusets Queene was an enemy to him. 1716 B. CHURCH *Hist. Philip's War* (1865) I. 6 Amongst the rest he sent Six Men to Awashonks Squaw-Sachem of the Sogkonate Indians, to engage her in his Interests. 1901 in *Cent. Dict.* Suppl. (1909) s.v. *Winter*, *Squaw winter is giving us a good long visit.

b. In names of plants, as **squaw huckleberry, -root, -weed, whortleberry** (see quots.).

Also *squaw-berry, -bush, -carpet, -flower, -grass, -mint, -vine*, in recent Amer. Dicts.

1856 A. GRAY *Man. Bot.* (1860) 248 *Vaccineum stamineum*, Deerberry. *Squaw Huckleberry. 1848 BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.* 328 **Squaw-root*,..a medicinal plant put up by the Shakers. 1856 A. GRAY *Man. Bot.* (1860) 280 *Conopholis.* Squaw-root. Cancer-root. 1847 DARLINGTON *Amer. Weeds*, etc. (1860) 193 *Senecio aureus*...Golden Senecio. Golden Ragwort. *Squaw-weed. *Ibid.*, The var. *obovatus* (called 'Squaw-weed') has been denounced..as being poisonous to sheep. 1872 DE VERE *Americanisms* 62 Squaw Root..and Squaw Weed..hold their place among the medicinal plants of the country, but owe their names to modern, not to Indian, usage. 1845–50 MRS. LINCOLN *Lect. Bot.* II. 181/1 *Vaccinium stamineum*, *squaw whortleberry.

c. **Squaw-fish,** a fresh-water cyprinoid fish (*Ptychocheilus Oregonensis*) of the Western U.S.

1888 LEES & CLUTTERBUCK *B. C. 1887* (1892) xv. 147 We.. fished with fair success for the white-fish and squaw-fish which abound in it.

Hence **Squawed** *pa. pple.*, married to a squaw.

1904 E. ROBINS *Magnetic North* 324 The old miners had nearly all got 'squawed'.

Squawk (skwǭk), *sb.* Also **skwawk.** [f. next.]

1. A loud grating call or cry; a hoarse squall.

1850 R. S. HAWKER *in* C. E. Byles *Life & Lett.* (1905) xiii. 212 There is..the Squawk of the demon on every platform. 1863 READE *Hard Cash* II. 337 At sight of this lowering figure Hannah uttered a squawk, and fled with cheeks red as fire. 1889 CLARK RUSSELL *Marooned* (1890) 283 The harsh squawk of the macaw or some such fowl came like the edge of a saw out of the..forest.

2. *U.S.* (See quot.)

1872 COUES *N. Amer. Birds* 269 *Nyctiardea*, Night Heron. Qua-bird. Squawk.

Squawk (skwǭk), *v.* Also **squauk.** [Imitative. Cf. SQUARK *v.*]

1. *intr.* To call or cry with a loud harsh note; to squall or screech hoarsely.

1821 [implied in SQUAWKING *ppl. a.*]. 1847 HALLIWELL, *Squawk*, to squeak. 1879 MISS YONGE *Magnum Bonum* I. 120 A stately black Spaniard [fowl]..squauking and curtseying. 1881 RAE *White Sea Peninsula* v. 56 Clouds of gulls were hovering about,..all hungry, some squawking hoarsely.

b. Of things: To give out a discordant sound; to creak or squeak harshly.

1859 MRS. STOWE *Min. Wooing* xxix. 275 That bedroom door squawks like a cat. 1869 'MARK TWAIN' *Innoc. Abr.* iv. 29 A disreputable accordion, that had a leak somewhere and breathed louder than it squawked.

2. *trans.* With *out*: To utter with or as with a squawk.

† 1856 MRS. WITCHER *Widow Bedott Papers* 208 (Bartlett), The way she squawked it out was a caution to old gates on a windy day.

Squawk-duck. [f. prec.] (See quot.)

1831 RENNIE *Montagu's Ornith. Dict.* 493 *Squauk Duck*, a name for the Bimaculated Duck.

Squaw·ker. [f. SQUAWK *v.* + -ER.]

1. A toy wind-instrument for producing squawks.

1874 J. W. LONG *Amer. Wild-fowl* ix. 157, I like 'calling by mouth' much better than with a 'squawker', especially if the ducks are passing reasonably close. 1886 *Sci. Amer.* 25 Sept. 199 The small inflatable balloons applied to the toy squawkers.

2. One who squawks.

1891 in *Cent. Dict.*

Squaw·king, *ppl. a.* [f. SQUAWK *v.*] That squawks, or utters hoarse squeaks; characterized by squawks or squawking.

1821 CLARE *Vill. Minst.* I. 90 Cow-boy's whoops, and squawking brawls, To urge the straggling heifers back. 1847 HALLIW., *Squawking-thrush*, the missel-thrush. *I. Wight.* 1899 F. T. BULLEN *Log Sea-waif* 208 The watch, up to their waists in water, splashed about collecting the squawking chickens.

Squaw·ky, *a.* [f. SQUAWK *sb.* or *v.* + -Y.] Of the voice: Loud and harsh; hoarsely squeaky.

1898 *Westm. Gaz.* 12 May 1/3 She is to be married..to.. a squawky-voiced curate.

Squawl(er, obs. forms of SQUALL, SQUALLER.

Squaymose, obs. f. SQUEAMOUS *a.* **Squayne,** obs. var. SWAIN. **Squdde,** obs. f. SCUD *v.*

Squeak (skwīk), *sb.* Also 8 **squeek.** [f. the vb.]

1. The act of squeaking. † *To put to the squeak*, to cause to squeak.

1664 ETHEREDGE *Comical Revenge* IV. iii, (The women shriek within.) Hark! he puts them to the squeak. *a* 1700 *Songs Lond. Prentices* (Mackay) 92 They took my py-ball'd mare And put the carrion wench to th' squeak.

2. A short or slight sound, of a thin high-pitched character, made by animals or persons.

1700 DRYDEN *Fables, Cock & Fox* 732 With many a deadly Grunt and doleful Squeak, Poor Swine, as if their pretty Hearts would break. 1710 STEELE *Tatler* No. 157 ¶ 7 With a great many skittish notes, affected squeaks, and studied inconsistencies. 1775 MME. D'ARBLAY *Early Diary* 14 Dec., We asked if he had been to the Opera? He immediately began a squeak, by way of imitation. 1827 SCOTT *Jrnl.* 17 April, Our party was enlivened by the squeaks of the wenches. 1866 R. M. BALLANTYNE *Shifting Winds* xxx. (1881) 342 The squeak of the pig caused the rest of the family to turn and fly from the fatal spot.

fig. 1847 L. HUNT *Men, Women, & B.* II. x. 252 There is something in the..frivolous and fragile celibacy of his life, which..gives a peculiarly revolting character to the perpetual squeak of his censoriousness.

b. A thin, sharp sound produced by a musical instrument, etc.

1805 H. K. WHITE *Lett.* (1837) 276 The vile squeak of the Italian fiddle. 1832 BREWSTER *Nat. Magic* ix. 229 Vibrations of such frequency afford only a shrill squeak or chirp. 1883 J. GILMOUR *Mongols* XXVI. 309 Shrill above the boom of the temple drums..would come the squeak of the *thlinba*.

3. a. A slight, narrow, or bare chance *for* something.

1716 M. DAVIES *Athen. Brit.* II. 303 If we have success, you shall.., perchance, have a squeek for the renewing a great part, at least, of your old Hereditary Lease. 1737 BRACKEN *Farriery Impr.* (1757) II. 104 To convince my Readers, that they do not too hastily condemn what I advance, but to give me a Squeak for my Life (as the Saying is). 1806 J. BERESFORD *Miseries Hum. Life* XVI. Introd., I will give you—though I'm a fool for my pains—however I will give you one squeak more for your inheritance. 1868

Chambers's Jrnl. Oct. 675/2 See all ready with the boat,.. it may give us a squeak for our lives, if a little one.

b. A narrow escape, a close shave. Usually with qualifying adjs. *narrow, near, tight.* Also const. *for* (one's *life*, etc.).

1822 Scott *Fam. Lett.* (1894) II. xviii. 149, I became extremely feverish myself, and had the disorder not terminated in a general rash..I should have had a squeak for it. 1833 M. Scott *Tom Cringle* xii, I have had more than one narrow squeak for it. *a* 1860 Alb. Smith *Med. Student* (1861) 98, I had a tight squeak for it. 1867 Trollope *Chron. Barset* II. 339 'It was a very narrow squeak,' Mr. Crawley said when his friend congratulated him on his escape. 1889 Stevenson *Lett.* (1899) II. 136 We had a near squeak, the wind suddenly coming calm.

†**4.** *Cant.* (See quot.) *Obs.*

1795 Potter *Dict. Cant* (ed. 2), *Squeak*, a thief, who when taken up confesses and impeaches the rest of his companions.

5. *attrib.* as *adj.* Squeaky.

1818 Moore *Mem.* (1853) II. 167 The Duke said, in his high, squeak tone of voice [etc.].

Squeak (skwīk), *v.* Also 4–6 **squeke**, 6–7 **squeake**, 7 **sqweake**, 7–8 **squeek**; 6–7 **squake**. [Imitative. Cf. Sw. *sqväka* to croak.]

1. *intr.* To emit a short or slight sound of a thin high-pitched character: **a.** Of persons.

1387 Trevisa *Higden* (Rolls) VII. 117 It byfel..þat a duke ..passynge þerby herde þe childe squeke. 1604 Shaks. *Ham.* I. i. 116 (Q.^{2}), The sheeted dead Did squeake and gibber in the Roman streets. 1634–5 Brereton *Trav.* (Chetham Soc.) 6 Others..sung, screaming, and squeaking, and straining their voices. 1675 Hobbes *Odyssey* (1677) 219 Ulysses Irus struck just under th' ear:..He fell, squeakt, shed his teeth. 1733 Pope *Donne's 4th Sat.* 99 He lifts his hands and eyes, Squeaks like a high-stretch'd lutestring, and replies. 1831 Trelawny *Adv. Younger Son* I. 240 He never squeaked, or made a wry face. 1899 *Westm. Gaz.* 28 Aug. 3/1 There are also English girls who croak and squeak and chirp.

b. Of animals or birds.

1547 J. Harrison *Exhort. Scottes* e viij, His aucthor is bewraied, as a Ratte is by squekyng. 1576 Gascoigne *Steele Gl.* Wks. 1910 II. 147 Since every janglyng byrd, Which squeaketh loude, shall never triumph so. 1634 Sir T. Herbert *Trav.* 213 Bats..sqweake and call one the other. 1663 Butler *Hud.* I. i. 52 Beside, 'tis known he could speak Greek, As naturally as Pigs squeek. 1693 Dryden *Persius* I. Prol., Pies, Crows, and Daws, Poetick Presents bring: You say they squeak; but they will swear they Sing. 1774 G. White *Selborne* lxi, Several [swifts].. squeaking as they go in a very clamorous manner. 1823 Scott *Quentin D.* iv, They loved better to hear the lark sing than the mouse squeak. 1848 Dickens *Dombey* xxiii, Rats began to squeak and scuffle in the night time.

c. Of things.

1602 Marston *Ant. & Mel.* v. Wks. 1856 I. 59 My voice squeakes like a dry cork shoe. *c* 1628 Donne *Serm.* 576 As a Cart that hath a plentifull load Squeaks and Whines the more for that Abundance. 1740 Somerville *Hobbinolia* I. 323 Shrill Fiddles squeak, Hoarse Bag-pipes roar. 1798 Ferriar *Eng. Historians* 228 Till each attendant bagpipe squeak'd for fear. 1847 Halliw., *Squeak*, to creak, as a door, &c. 1876 'L. Carroll' *Hunting the Snark* v. vii, The sound so exactly recalled to his mind A pencil that squeaks on a slate! 1892 Greener *Breech Loader* 49 In cocking the locks, one will 'squeak', the other will make no sound.

2. *slang.* To confess; to turn informer; to 'split' or 'peach'. (Cf. Squeal *v.* 3.)

1690 Dryden *Don Sebastian* iv. i, If he be obstinate, put a civil Question to him upon the Rack, and he squeaks I warrant him. *a* 1734 North *Examen* I. iii. (1740) 218 In continual Expectation that..some pusillanimous Wretch.. would squeak, as they called it, and own the Guilt. 1757 Foote *Author* I, Don't be afraid; I'll keep council;..when I was in the treasonable way, I never squeak'd. 1805 *European Mag.* XLVII. 122 Unless he had been allowed to squeak, i. e. turn evidence, it had been impossible to take his deposition. 1816 *Sporting Mag.* XLVIII. 30 Greenaway..confessed to him..that if any one squeaked he should be hanged. 1834 Ainsworth *Rookwood* III. v, Never blow the gab, or squeak. 1874 *Slang Dict.* 307 *Squeak on a person*, to inform against, to peach.

3. *trans.* To utter, sing, or play in a squeaking manner or with a squeaky voice. Usu. derisively. Freq. with *out*.

1577 tr. *Bullinger's Decades* (1592) 241 For laughter is blame-worthy, if it be..childishly squeaked. 1592 Nashe *P. Penilesse* Wks. (Grosart) II. 108 The light vnconstaunt Multitude, that will..prefer a blinde harper that can squeake out a new horne-pipe. 1601 Shaks. *Twel. N.* II. iii. 97 Ye squeak out your Coziers Catches without any mitigation or remorse of voice. 1687 Miége *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II, To squeak out a sermon. 1700 Congreve *Way of World* v. v, Prophane Musick-meetings where the lewd Trebles squeek nothing but Bawdy, and the Bases roar Blasphemy. 1778 Miss Burney *Evelina* xxi, One of these outlandish gentry may.. come on, and squeak out a song or two, and then pocket your money without further ceremony. 1840 Dickens *Old C. Shop* xix, Fiddles..were squeaking out the tune to staggering feet.

b. With clause as object. Also with *out*.

1594 Shaks. *Rich. III*, I. iv. 54 (Q.), He squakd out alowd, Clarence is come. 1828 Scott *F. M. Perth* vii, 'The Provost being himself a nobleman—' squeaked the Pottingar. 1848 Thackeray *Van. Fair* lxvi, 'I will not hear it, I say,' squeaked out Jos at the top of his voice.

†**c.** *To squeak beef*: (see quot.). *Obs.*

a 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew*, *They Squeek beef upon us*, cry out Highway-men or Thieves after us.

4. To make (way) with squeaking.

1878 Mrs. Stowe *Poganuc People* ix, The roads, through which the ox-sleds of the farmers crunched and squeaked their way.

Squeaker (skwī·kəɹ). [f. the vb.]

1. a. One who plays on a squeaking instrument.

1641 Cowley *Guardian* v. xi, Stay at the door, ye sempiternal squeakers. 1663 — *Cutter Coleman St.* v. vi, Go home?..no, we'l Dance home; afore us Squeakers, that way.

b. One who squeaks.

1671 Eachard *Obs. Answ. Cont. Clergy* 132 Mimical squeakers and bellowers, and the vain-glorious admirers only of themselves. 1702 Motteux *Prol. to Farquhar's Inconstant*, Your rarity for the fair guest to gape on, Is your nice squeaker, or Italian capon. *c* 1753 Fox in *Trevelyan* (1880) ii. 45, I..found Harry in his nurse's arms...I called him Squeaker. 1823 Byron *Juan* XI. lxxxv, I have seen the country gentlemen turn squeakers.

c. *slang.* (See quot.)

1676 Coles *Dict.*, *Squeeker*, a Barboy; also a Bastard, or any other child.

2. A bird or animal which squeaks: **a.** A young pigeon, partridge, etc.

1654 Gayton *Pleas. Notes* IV. ii. 179 Thou shalt lie upon thy pallat, and call to thy cook-maid, and say, dresse me that Squeeker for my breakfast. 1694 Motteux *Rabelais* IV. lix. 234 Pigeons, Squobbs, and Squeakers. 1829 Col. Hawker *Diary* (1893) II. 2, I actually brought home 24 partridges, 20 of which were old ones..and two squeakers. 1854 *Poultry Chron.* I. 263 Squeakers will often return home from long distances though they may have been kept in a considerable time. 1881 Greener *Gun* 535 Mr. Campbell ..succeeded in bagging 220 grouse by evening; every 'squeaker' was, however, counted.

b. *Ornith.* One or other of various birds characterized by their squeaking call.

1817 T. Forster *Nat. Hist. Swallow-tribe* (ed. 6) 9 *Hirundo Apus*,..Black Swallow, Squeaker, Screamer, Deviling, or Shriek Owl. 1848 J. Gould *Birds Australia* II. pl. 45 *Strepera Anaphonensis*, Grey Cow-Shrike;.. Squeaker of the Colonists. Its note is a piercing shriek. 1896 A. J. North *List Insectiv. Birds N.S.W.* I. 1 For instance, *Corcorax melanorhampus*, *Xerophila leucopsis*, and *Myzantha garrula* are all locally known in different parts of the Colony by the name of 'Squeaker'.

c. *slang.* A foxhound.

1828 *Sporting Mag.* XXII. 23 He was often alone with the squeakers, and sometimes racing with the leaders.

d. *colloq.* A (young) pig.

1861 Dickens *Gt. Expect.* iv, If you'd been born a Squeaker. 1889 Baden-Powell *Pigsticking* 28 At this period of his existence he is called a 'squeaker' and is not ridden.

e. *Zool.* (See quots.) Also *attrib.*

1887 Goode *Fisheries U.S.* 651 The lady crab, sand crab, or squeaker crab (*Platyonichus ocellatus*)..occurs on most sandy shores from Cape Cod to Mexico. 1899 D. Sharp *Insects* 209 The adult *Pelobius tardus* is remarkable for its loud stridulation...The Insects are called squeakers in the Covent Garden market.

3. a. *slang.* (See quot.)

1796 *Grose's Dict. Vulgar T.* (ed. 3) s.v., Organ pipes are likewise called squeakers.

b. A device or toy instrument for producing a squeaking sound. Cf. Squawker 1.

1878 *Grove's Dict. Music* I. 124 The 'squeaker' which children in the fields fashion out of joints in tall grass. 1894 *Westm. Gaz.* 8 March 6/3 A small wooden squeaker..attached to an indiarubber balloon.

4. *collog.* A heavy blow. *rare*$^{-1}$.

1877 in *Casquet of Literature* I. 245/2 We must give him a squeaker quickly or all will go wrong, I tell you.

Squeakery. [f. Squeak *v.* + -ery.] Squeaking character or quality.

1826 Miss Mitford *Village* Ser. II. (1863) 377 It was the genuine man of puppets, the true squeakery, the 'real Simon Pure'. 1834 Beckford *Italy* II. 222 All these virtuosi.. were either contraltos of the softest note, or sopranos of the highest squeakery.

Squeaking, *vbl. sb.* [f. Squeak *v.*] The action of emitting or producing a squeak or squeaks.

1596 Shaks. *Merch. V.* II. v. 30 (Q.1), When you heare the drumme, And the vile squeaking of the wry-neckt Fife. 1653 H. More *Antid. Ath.* III. xiv. (1712) 130 The squeaking and roaring of tortured Beasts. *c* 1680 in *Verney Mem.* (1907) II. 321 There was fine squeeking and squeeling for a minute or two. 1770 Langhorne *Plutarch* (1851) I. 336/2 The squeaking of a rat..[was] heard. 1786 Mme. D'Arblay *Diary* 25 Dec., Now for the fiddlers!..I..hear over and over again all that fine squeaking, and then fall fast asleep. 1820 Hazlitt *Table-T.* xxviii, There is a mighty bustle at the door, a gibbering and squeaking in the lobbies. 1855 *Poultry Chron.* III. 536 It will save an incredible amount of..squeaking, harsh grating, dismal creaking.

Squeaking, *ppl. a.* Also 6 **sweaking.** [f. Squeak *v.*]

1. Of the nature of a squeak or squeaks; characterized by squeaking.

1576 Fleming *Panopl. Epist.* 277 Among these people,.. one..made a harsh squeaking noyse. 1592 Chettle *Kindharts Dr.* (1841) 15 The one in a sweaking treble, the other in an ale-blowen base. *a* 1704 T. Brown *Praise Drunkenness* Wks. 1730 I. 37 The drunkard's voice is hoarse and manly, not like the squeaking trils of an Eunuch. 1854 Emerson *Lett. & Soc. Aims*, *Social Aims* Wks. (Bohn) III. 176 It seems to require several generations of education to train a squeaking ..habit out of a man.

b. Of the voice: Thin and shrill.

1803 *Med. Jrnl.* IX. 563 At an early period the voice was altered, and grew squeaking. 1828 Scott *F. M. Perth* viii, Said Dwining, with his squeaking voice. 1878 W. A. Wright *Shaks. Jul. Cæsar* Notes 141 That ghosts had thin and squeaking voices was a belief in the time of Homer.

2. That squeaks; uttering squeaks.

1606 Shaks. *Ant. & Cl.* v. ii. 220 And I shall see Some squeaking Cleopatra Boy my greatnesse. 1652 Benlowes *Theoph.* v. viii. (1905) 368 Can squeaking reeds sound forth the organ's full delight. 1682 Dryden *Medal* 35 The loudest bagpipe of the squeaking train. *c* 1760 Smollett *Burlesque Ode* 26 The squeaking pigs her bounty own'd. 1763 Churchill *Poems*, *Apol.* Wks. 1767 I. 57 Italian fathers thus, with barb'rous rage, Fit helpless infants for the squeaking stage. 1802 Mar. Edgeworth *Moral T.* (1816) I. xiii. 106 The sound of a squeaking fiddle. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* II. iv. vii, A fanfaronading hollow Spectrum and squeaking and gibbering Shadow!

Hence **Squeakingly** *adv.*

1611 Cotgr., *Greslement*,..shrilly, or sq[u]eakingly. *a* 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew*, *To Whine*, to cry squeekingly, as at Conventicles.

Squeaklet. [-let.] A little squeak.

1832 Carlyle in *Fraser's Mag.* V. 379 Grating harsh thunder, or vehement shrew-mouse squeaklets.

Squeaky (skwī·ki), *a.* [f. Squeak *sb.* or *v.*] Characterized by squeaking sounds; tending to squeak.

1862 Miss Yonge *C'tess Kate* xii. (1880) 133 The loud squeaky key of the voice..showed that she had worked herself up into a state of excitement. 1869 Tozer *Highl. Turkey* I. 219 They sang in nasal and squeaky tones. 1885 *Harper's Mag.* Dec. 78/1 What a scene of squeaky gossip in the moonlight! 1899 Doyle *Duet* 238 An excellent piano.., but it is getting so squeaky in the upper notes.

b. Of the voice: = Squeaking *ppl. a.* 1 b.

1863 Kingsley *Water-Bab.* iii. 102 The tiniest, shrillest, squeakiest little voice you ever heard. 1881 Mrs. Molesworth *Adv. Herr Baby* 36 My little voice must have sounded very faint and squeaky from out of the trunk.

Hence **Squeakyish** *a.*

1832 Wilson in *Blackw. Mag.* XXXII. 865 Performers with..punyish figures that must strut, and squeakyish voices that must crack.

Squeal (skwīl), *sb.* Also 8–9 **squeel**; *north. dial.* 8–9 **sweel**, 9 **sweeal.** [f. the vb.]

1. A more or less prolonged sharp cry; a shrill scream. Also *fig.*

1747 Relph *Misc. Poems* 2 The shearers aw brast out In sweels of laughter. 1776 Pennant *Brit. Zool.* (ed. 4) I. 85 It is observable that the male otters never make any noise when taken: but the pregnant females emit a most shrill squeal. 1786 Burns *Holy Fair* xiii, His lengthen'd chin, his turn'd up snout, His eldritch squeel an' gestures. 1835 Marryat *J. Faithful* xix, All of a sudden we heard a rustling in the furze, and then a loud squeal. 1853 R. S. Surtees *Sponge's Sp. Tour* ix. 42 Some of the more lively of the horses..evinced their approbation of the move, by sundry squeals and capers. 1894 Birrell *Ess.* viii. 82 There is nothing..[they] like better than to hear the squeal of some self-torturing atom of humanity.

b. A sharp shrill sound.

1867 Macgregor *Voy. Alone* (1868) 16 The shrill squeal of a pulley thrills my ear with pleasure. 1897 Mary Kingsley *W. Africa* 583 The shrill squeal of the wind, the roar of the thunder, and the rush of the rain.

2. *Sc.* A quarrel or broil.

1788 Picken *Poems* 65 Ye needna gang sae far afiel' To tell how Tea has bred a squeel.

Squeal (skwīl), *v.* Forms: 4–5, 7 **squele** (*north.* 4 **suele**, 5 **swele**), 6 *Sc.* **squeil**(**l**, 7–9 **squeel**, 7 **squeale**, 7– **squeal.** [Imitative.]

1. *intr.* To utter (or give *out*) a more or less prolonged loud sharp cry, esp. by reason of pain or sudden alarm; to scream shrilly: **a.** Of persons.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 1344 A new born barn lay in þe croppe, ..þar him þoght it lay suelland [*Gött.* squeland]. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xxvii. (*Machor*) 145 He..squelyt gret & raryt ȝarne, as kynd gaf to sic a barne. 1508 Kennedie *Flyting w. Dunbar* 39 Baith Iohne the Ross and thow sall squeill and skirle. 1535 Stewart *Cron. Scot.* II. 525 He ran..Fra place to place,..With mony schout ay squeilland like a kid. 1601 Shaks. *Jul. C.* II. ii. 24 Ghosts did shrieke and squeale about the streets. 1671 Skinner, To Squall or Squeal out. 1676 Hobbes *Iliad* 339 Enrag'd she..threw it from her, tore her hair, and squeal'd. 1740 Richardson *Pamela* I. 235 She.. took hold of my Arm, so roughly, and gave me such a Pull, as made me squeal out. 1778 Miss Burney *Evelina* xlii, They hide themselves, and run away, and squeel and squall, like any thing mad. 1846 Landor *Imag. Conv.* Wks. II. 92 He pinched my ear so bitterly, I was fain to squeel. 1851 D. Jerrold *St. Giles* xxxv, But for appearances,..she'd have squealed no more than a rose-bud pulled from a bush.

b. Of animals or birds.

a 1400–50 [see Squealing *vbl. sb.*]. 1513 Douglas *Æneid* VIII. vi. 112 The catell eik..Baith squeill and low in thai ilk plenteus gatis. 1535 [see prec.]. 1684 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1903/4 A Blood bay Stone Horse, between 14 and 15 hands high, being much given to bite and strike and squeel. 1688 R. Holme *Armoury* II. 134/2 When he sendeth forth his Cry,..a Rat Squeleth, or Squaketh. 1798 Edgeworth *Pract. Educ.* (1811) II. 450 He bit off the ear of a pig because it squealed when he was ringing it. 1856 Kane *Arct. Expl.* I. xxiii. 290 Tern were very numerous, hundreds of them squealing and screeching in flocks. 1879 Black *Macleod of D.* I. 167 You hear the rabbit squealing with fright long before the weasel is at him.

2. Of things: To emit or produce a shrill or strident sound.

1596 [see Squealing *vbl. sb.*]. 1658 tr. *Porta's Nat. Magic* XIX. 386 The voice is changed in divers tunes, one note is sweet and pleasant, two, squele and jar. 1727 Somerville *Fables* XIV. i, Here tortur'd cats-gut squeals amain, Guittars in softer notes complain. 1824 Heber *Jrnl.* (1828) I. ix. 239 Different musical instruments were strumming, thumping, squeeling and rattling. 1859 Jephson *Brittany* vii. 99 Then the biniou or bagpipe squeals and grunts.

3. *slang.* To turn informer; to inform or 'peach' *on* a person. (Cf. Squeak *v.* 2.)

1865 *Slang Dict.* 244 *Squeal*, to inform, peach. A north country variation of squeak. 1892 *Montreal Gaz.* 5 Nov. 8/2 This revelation led Gideon to 'squeal' and he to-day fortified his statement..by much documentary evidence. 1896 *Boston* (Mass.) *Jrnl.* 29 Dec. 2/1 His pal,..who is now serving time for counterfeiting, and who squealed on him.

4. *trans.* To utter or produce with a shrill, grating, or squeaking sound. Also with *out*.

1675 COVEL in *Early Voy. Levant* (Hakluyt Soc.) 211 There are trumpets, which come in onely now and then to squeel out a loud note or two. 1833 M. SCOTT *Tom Cringle* xii, 'Here, sir,' squealed Timothy. 1871 L. STEPHEN *Playgr. Eur.* xii. (1894) 294 Pigs..squeal emphatic disapproval of their enforced journey. 1883 LD. R. GOWER *My Remin.* I. vii. 130 The fiddle squealed the old dance music of the old-fashioned quadrille.

5. Quasi-*adv.* With a squeal.

1849 MRS. CARLYLE *Lett.* II. 56 Squeal went the engine; we were off.

Squeal, *a. sw. dial.* ? *Obs.* [? Related to QUEAL *v.*] Feeble, frail.

1794 WOLCOT (P. Pindar) *J. Ploughshare's Royal Visit Exeter* Wks. 1816 III. 367 That he was weak, and ould, and squeal, And zeldom made a hearty meal. 1795 — *Pindariana* Ibid. 336 Why should [he] be afraid of horns, Who married a poor squeal, starv'd cat, for money?

Squealer (skwī·ləɹ). [f. SQUEAL *v.*]

1. In bird-names: (see quots.).

1854 J. WARTER *Last of O. Squires* vii. 66 In the summer nothing broke the silence that reigned around, save the voice of the squealers—the country-name for swifts. 1879 Miss JACKSON *Shropsh. Word-bk.* 223 The Swift...This bird's loud piercing cry has obtained for it the name of *squealer*. 1888 G. TRUMBULL *Names Birds* 91 Harlequin Duck,..known also as Squealer at Machias Port, Me. *Ibid.* 196 Golden Plover...Mr. Browne records Squealer in his list of gunners' names at Plymouth Bay.

2. One who or that which squeals. Also *transf.*

1865 *Slang Dict.* 244 *Squealer*,..an illegitimate baby. 1897 *Daily News* 25 May 2/4 In one village a venerable squealer [a pig] was driven past a whole line of soldiers by a dog.

b. *slang.* An informer.

1865 in *Slang Dict.* 244. 1901 *Daily Chron.* 17 Sept. 7/2 It will not reap many 'squealers', because the men who might tell things to cause damage will not dare.

c. A complainer.

1889 *Columbus* (Ohio) *Dispatch*, In nine cases out of ten the editor gives the squealer more privileges in the way of reply than he is entitled to by equity.

Squea·ling, *vbl. sb.* [f. SQUEAL *v.*] The action of the verb, in various senses.

c 1325 *Metr. Hom.* 167 For quen the childe es born, sal I Do it of daw sa priuely, That na wiht sal the squeling here. *a* 1400–50 *Alexander* 4112 For with þe sweling of þe swyne we sall þaim all voide. 1596 SHAKS. *Merch. V.* II. v. 30 The vile squealing of the wry-neckt Fife. *c* 1680 in *Verney Mem.* (1907) II. 321 There was fine squeeking and squeeling for a minute or two. 1791 HUDDESFORD *Salmagundi* 123 Upon a trestle Pig was laid And a sad squealing sure It made. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. II. ii, The cries, the squealings of children, of infirm persons, and other assistants. 1878 BLACK *Green Past.* xvi, They heard the squealing of a young cock outside.

Squea·ling, *ppl. a.* [f. as prec.]

1. That utters or emits squeals; screaming.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 5626 þe kings doghter..sagh þe vessel on þe flodd;..A squeland child þer-in sco fand. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xvi. (*Magdalene*) 484 To þis squeland barne ȝe [suld] spare. 1642 J. BALL *Answ. to Can* i. 143 Cathed. Churches .. where .. Singing men, .. Squealing Choristers, Organ-Players, .. &c. live in great idlenesse. 1689 R. Cox *Hibernia Angl.* I. Apparatus 1 b, A Bagpipe, which is a squealing Engine, fit only for a Bear-Garden. 1709 STEELE *Tatler* No. 15 P 2 She pinch'd me, and called me squealing Chit. 1879 GEO. ELIOT *Theo. Such* ii. 35 A small squealing black pig. 1897 MARY KINGSLEY *W. Africa* 586 A terrific rain-storm..accompanied by a squealing, bitter cold wind.

b. *Squealing hawk*: (see quot.).

1884 *Harper's Mag.* March 622 The red-tailed hawk..by some is called the squealing hawk.

2. Of the nature of a squeal.

1879 JEFFERIES *Wild Life* 338 Now and then a peculiar squealing sound may be heard proceeding from the grass. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VII. 506 Peculiar squealing cry.

Squeam, *sb. rare.* [Back-formation from SQUEAMISH *a.*] A qualm or scruple (*of* conscience).

1798 *Geraldina* II. 240 Do not let any squeams of conscience prevent your attentions. 1888 *Interior* (Chicago) 5 Apr., Without squeam or apology,..the mutual bearings of truths are to be..unshrinkingly maintained.

† Squeam, *v. Obs. rare.* [f. as prec., or from SQUEAMOUS *a.*] *intr.* To turn sick or squeamish.

1576 TURBERV. *Venerie* 363 And as for gaines men dive in every streame, All frawdes be fishe, their stomachs never squeame. 1765 C. SMART tr. *Phædrus* IV. vi, This threat is to the fools, that squeam At every thing of good esteem.

Squea·mer. *rare*—[1]. [Cf. prec.] One who turns squeamish or faint.

1887 W. S. GILBERT *Ruddigore* II, Coward, poltroon, shaker, squeamer.

Squeamish (skwī·miʃ), *a., adv.,* and *sb.* Forms: *a.* 5 **squaymysch,** 6 **-ysh, -ish**(e, 6–7 **squaimish**(e; 6 **squeim-, squeymish, skeymishe**; 6–7 **squamish,** *north. dial.* 8–9 **swaimish,** 9 **swamish.** *β.* 6–7 **squemish**(e, 7 **squeemish** (9 *dial.* **skeemish**), 6– **squeamish**; *north. dial.* 7, 9 **sweamish,** 9 **sweemish.** [var. of *squaymes, squemes* SQUEAMOUS *a.*, by alteration of suffix.]

I. 1. Readily affected with nausea; easily turned sick or faint; physically unable to support or swallow anything disagreeable.

a. Of persons. † Also const. *of.*

c 1450 *Trevisa's Barth. De P. R.* v. xiv. (Bodl. MS.), And þerefor me schal not be squaymysch of vrine, for in many þinges it is profitable and leefe. 1584 GREENE *Arbasto* Wks. (Grosart) III. 198 Art thou so squemish that thou canst not see wine but thou must surfet? 1684 tr. *Bonet's Merc. Compit.* VI. 164 Purging Potions, taken by squeamish Persons,..cause a Shivering. 1702 GAY *Achilles* III, She is so squeamish and so frequently out of order. 1744 BERKELEY *Siris* § 3 Wks. 1871 II. 367 For children and squeamish persons it may be made weaker. 1777 COOK *Voy., Pacific* (1784) II. III. x. 186 We found that he was too squeamish to drink turtle's blood.

fig. 1614 RALEIGH *Hist. World* II. (1634) 486 Yet am I not so squeamish, that I can well enough digest a good Booke. 1740 CIBBER *Apol.* (1756) I. 11 As his patron knew the patient was squeamish, he was induced to sweeten the medicine to his taste.

transf. a 1677 BARROW *Serm.* Wks. 1686 III. 88 Thou hast a squeamish conscience, which cannot relish this, cannot digest that advantageous course of proceeding.

b. Of the stomach.

1620 VENNER *Via Recta* ii. 152 It is very good for such as haue squamish & waterie stomacks. *a* 1707 BP. PATRICK *Comm. 2 Sam.* xiii. 5 He would have him pretend that his stomach was so nice and squeamish, that he would like nothing that his servants dressed. 1851 THACKERAY *Eng. Hum.* v. (1876) 318 Their squeamish stomachs sickened at the rough fare.

fig. 1642 FULLER *Holy & Prof. State* v. ii. 363 The stomach of his Holinesse not being so squeamish, but that he would take a good almes from dirty hands. 1760 STERNE *Tr. Shandy* IV. xxxii, Nor do I value whose squeamish stomach takes offence at it. 1843 LOWELL *Glance behind the Curtain* 85 But now the uneasy stomach of the time Turns squeamish at them both.

2. Slightly affected with nausea; sickish, qualmish.

1660 PEPYS *Diary* 7 April, This day..the wind grew high, and..I began to be dizzy and squeamish. 1689 *Muses Farew. Popery* 81 When Satan was squeamish, and long'd for a Dainty, The Pope Fricasseed him this New Four-and-twenty. 1756 MRS. CALDERWOOD in *Coltness Collect.* (Maitland Club) 128 Then down I must go, and into bed as soon as possible, very very squeamish. I could not keep my feet in the cabin. 1817 J. EVANS *Excurs. Windsor*, etc. 485 Passed the North Foreland with a little swell, and most of the passengers were squeamish. 1887 *Poor Nellie* (1888) 411 You're feeling squeamish, I see, so take my advice and have a brandy-and-soda.

†3. Apt to produce qualms; = QUALMISH *a.* 3.

a 1571 JEWEL *Serm.* i. Wks. (1611) 974 When they had manna in their mouths, they thought it a loathsome and a squeamish meat.

4. Characterized by a sickish feeling. *rare.*

1670 COVEL in *Early Voy. Levant* (Hakluyt Soc.) 102 Our Freshmen passengers were all in a miserable, squeamish, and puking condition. 1748 THOMSON *Cast. Indol.* I. lxxvii, Fast by her side a listless maiden pin'd, With aching head, and squeamish heart-burnings.

II. † 5. Averse, unwilling, or backward *to* do something. *Obs.*

1553 *Respublica* I. iii. 278, I shall tell Respublica ye can beste governe: bee not ye than skeymishe to take in hand the stern. 1589 PUTTENHAM *Eng. Poesie* I. viii. (Arb.) 38 Let none other meaner person..be any whit squeimish to let it be publisht vnder their names, for reason serues it, and modestie doth not repugne.

6. Averse to freedom or familiarity of intercourse; distant, reserved, coy, cold.

Also, in mod. dial., modest, bashful, diffident, shy.

a. 1561 T. HOBY tr. *Castiglione's Courtyer* III. (1577) N vij, This woman ought not therefore..[to] be so squeimish and make wise to abhorre both the company & the talke. 1565 COOPER *Thesaurus* s.v. *Delicium, Delicias facere*, to make strange and dally, because he would be intreated: to be squaymish. *a* 1586 SIDNEY *Arcadia* I. (1912) 118 Yet for countenance sake, he seemed very squeimish, in respect of the charge he had of the Princesse Pamela. 1788– in northern dial. glossaries (in form *swaimish* or *swamish*).

β. 1580 HOLLYBAND *Treas. Fr. Tong, Desdaigneux*, squemish, coye, disdainfull. 1584 LYLY *Sappho* I. iv. 7 Proud elfe! how squeamish he is become alreadie, vsing both disdaineful lookes, And imperious words. 1607 DEKKER & MARSTON *Northw. Hoe* IV. D.'s Wks. 1873 III. 59 A comely country mayd, not squeamish nor afraid, To let Gentlemen touch. *c* 1665 *Roxb. Ball.* (1886) VI. 256 Virgins, take my advice, be not disdainful; Neither be coy and nice, squemish nor scornful. 1710 PALMER *Proverbs* 115 A woman of virtue keeps a guard upon her eye, and yet don't affect to look soure, squeamish, and suspicious.

transf. 1583 MELBANCKE *Philotimus* C j b, As for Pallas, she is dainty, but not squemish, hard to be found, but easy to be intreated.

Comb. 1603 FLORIO *Montaigne* II. i. (1894) 166 Fair and soft, as squemish-honest as she seems,..conclude not rashly an inviolable chastitie to be on your Mistresse.

† b. Const. *of*: Averse to being free or generous with (something). *Obs.*

1566 PAINTER *Pal. Pleas.* I. (1569) 195 The more she proved the King inflamed with her love, the more squeymish she was of her beautie. 1576 FLEMING *Panopl. Epist.* 37 You haue shewed your selfe..not squemish or deintie of your singular beneuolence. *a* 1625 FLETCHER *Woman's Prize* v. i, *Petro.* I think 'twere well you would see her. *Row.* If you please, Sir; I am not squeamish of my visitation.

† c. Of actions, etc.: Characterized by coldness or coyness. *Obs.*

1577 STANYHURST *Descr. Irel.* Ep. Ded. in *Holinshed*, I was by them weied not to beare my selfe coy, by giuing my entier friends in so reasonable a request a squemish repulse. 1600 J. LANE *Tom Tel-troth* (1876) 119 Some gogle with the eyes, some squint-eyd looke, Some at their fellowes, squemish sheepes-eyes cast. 1603 FLORIO *Montaigne* I. xx. (1632) 42 Their wanton, squeamish, quarellous countenances, which setting us a fire, extinguish us.

7. Readily offended by anything approaching immodesty or indecency; easily shocked; prudish.

1567 HARMAN *Caveat* (1869) 55 Because the sight shoulde not abash her shamefast maydens, nether loth her squaymysh sight. 1677 W. HUGHES *Man of Sin* II. v. 94 If the good Man blush'd,..he may be pardon'd for this once, being not so squeamish often. 1742 FIELDING *J. Andrews* I. xii, This the maid readily promised to perform, .. being .. not so squeamish as the lady. 1842 LOVER *Handy Andy* xvi, 'I'm not squeamish, sir,' said Miss Augusta; 'but it's dreadful to be shut up with a man who has no clothes on him'. 1858 HAWTHORNE *Fr. & It. Note-bks.* I. 217 As to the nudities,.. they might well have startled a not very squeamish eye. 1892 BARING-GOULD *Strange Survivals* x. 220 Riddles more or less good, some coarse, and some profane; but the age was not squeamish.

† b. Sensitive; shrinking from contact with anything rude or rough. *Obs.*

1707 *Curios. in Husb. & Gard.* 61 Sulphureous Matters that compose the Flowers..are soon devour'd by the open Air, which destroys those frail and squeamish Beauties. 1782 COWPER *Poet, Oyster & Sensit. Pl.* 55 And, as for you, my Lady Squeamish, Who reckon ev'ry touch a blemish. 1785 BURKE *Sp. Nabob of Arcot's Debts* Wks. I. 345 The person so squeamish, so timid, so trembling lest the winds of heaven should visit too roughly.

8. Sensitively or excessively fastidious, scrupulous, particular, or punctilious, with regard to standards of action or belief.

1581 T. NEWTON *Seneca's Trag.* Ded., And whereas it is by some squeymish Areopagites surmyzed that the reading of these Tragedies .. cannot be digested without great danger [etc.]. 1602 MARSTON *Antonio's Rev.* II. i, High honour'd blood's too squemish to assent, And lend a hand to an ignoble act. 1676 W. ALLEN *Addr. Non-Conform.* 135 When they are nice, curious, and squeamish about undetermined circumstances in forms of administration. *c* 1690 LD. DELAMER *Disc. Incouragers of Popery* Wks. (1694) 93 Let then the high Church be more charitable, and the Dissenters less stiff and sweamish. 1724 WELTON *Chr. Faith & Pract.* 70 They were so squeamish upon the literal, and so loose and moderate in the moral sense. 1768–74 TUCKER *Lt. Nat.* (1834) I. 272 Another, who had not the same squeamish disposition, might have found enjoyments enow under general censure..to make life desirable. 1829 A. CUNNINGHAM *Brit. Painters* I. 41 If Laud had not doated on trifles, and the Presbyterians had been squeamish about them. 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xiii. III. 274 Where enthusiasts are ready..to be destroyed for trifles magnified into importance by a squeamish conscience. 1882 *Scribner's Mag.* XXII. 144 Some of the early American statesmen, doubtless, were not any too squeamish in their political maneuverings.

Comb. 1582 STUDLEY *Seneca's Agamemnon* A iij, Although as squemishe hearted men those priests in bedlem rage.

b. With preps., as *about, as to, at, of.*

1581 J. BELL *Haddon's Answ. Osorius* 417 But I will not be so squemish about these trifles. 1582 N. T. (Rhem.) p. xx, Why should we be squamish at newe wordes or phrases in the scripture which are necessarie. *a* 1660 *Contemp. Hist. Irel.* (Ir. Archæol. Soc.) I. 276 Neuer squemishe of any your proceedings. 1662 STILLINGFL. *Orig. Sacræ* III. i. § 3 Those whose minds are so coy and squeamish as to any thing of Divine revelation. 1865 BRIGHT *Sp., Canada* 67 They are not so squeamish as to what they say about us. 1872 E. YATES *Castaway* II. vii, I don't pretend..to be squeamish about such matters.

c. Marked or characterized by fastidiousness or scrupulousness.

1593 G. HARVEY *Pierce's Super.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 158 All resteth vpon a case of conscience, as nice and squeamish a scruple [etc.]. *a* 1658 CLEVELAND *Wks.* (1687) 99 Your pen is coy, and you ware the Holy Ground and Holy Coyn with a squeamish Pretention. 1776 COWPER *Let.* Wks. 1837 XV. 36 You perceive I have not made a squeamish use of your obliging offer. 1824 W. IRVING *T. Trav.* I. 10 In a bachelor's house..there is no lady to stand upon squeamish points about lodging gentlemen in old holes and corners. 1884 BROWNING *Ferishtah* (1885) 73 So, with thy squeamish scruple.

9. Fastidious or dainty with respect to what one handles, uses, or comes in contact with.

1608 TOPSELL *Serpents* 789 If we would..not be so squeamish as to refuse those wholesome medicines which are easie to be had. 1697 VANBRUGH *Prov. Wife* III. i, I'll warrant it's some squeamish minx as my wife, that's grown so dainty of late, she finds fault even with a dirty shirt. 1746 FRANCIS tr. *Hor., Sat.* II. vi. 176 If delicacies could invite My squeamish courtier's appetite, Who turn'd his nose at every dish. 1800 MISS EDGEWORTH *Belinda* xxii, I have heard..that the passion of love, which can endure caprice, vice, [etc.] is notwithstanding so squeamish as to be instantaneously disgusted by the perception of folly in the object beloved. 1860 W. H. G. KINGSTON *Pirate Medit.* I. 12 He's the fellow to make your kid-glove wearing gentlemen dip their hands in the tar-bucket..if he sees they are in any way squeamish about it. 1871 L. STEPHEN *Playgr. Eur.* (1894) ix. 206 Our nerves..are unduly delicate, and our tastes too squeamish.

absol. 1828 (*title*), The Adventures of Doctor Comicus;.. a Comic Satirical Poem, for the Squeamish and the Queer.

† 10. a. Having aversion or antipathy *at* or *towards* something. *Obs.*

1581 J. BELL *Haddon's Answer to Osorius* 249 b, Beyng squeymish at Luthers speache. 1654 WHITLOCK *Zootom.* 360 Squemish towards the present, and longing for Innovation.

† b. *To make squeamish*, to hesitate or shrink; to show dislike. *Obs.*

1611 SPEED *Hist. Gt. Brit.* VII. xliii. § 4. 355 This great Oracle..made it not squemish to giue them this aduice. *a* 1617 BAYNE *Lect.* (1634) 197 If he [God] delight in us, what matter if the world make squemish of us?

Squea·mishly, *adv.* [f. prec.]

† 1. In a reserved or distant manner; coldly, disdainfully. *Obs.*

1571 GOLDING *Calvin on Ps.* lxxi. 15 Not to taste Gods goodnes lyghtly, and as it were squeymishly. 1580 HOLLYBAND *Treas. Fr. Tong, Par Mespris*, disdainefullye, squemishly. 1598 HAKLUYT *Voy.* I. i. 8 Squemishly, frowningly, or skornefully shunning the ragged and tattered sleeue of any suppliant. 1647 HEXHAM I, Squaimishly, *verachtelick ofte onwaerdighlick.*

2. Fastidiously, delicately, daintily.

1616 B. JONSON *Masques* Wks. 911 Howsoeuer some may squemishly crie out. *a* 1670 HACKET *Cent. Serm.* 219 But I marvel at those expositors who are squemishly conceited against that opinion. 1768–74 TUCKER *Lt. Nat.* (1834) II. 498 If the plea of conscience was admitted..we should grow so squeamishly conscientious [etc.]. 1782 T. WARTON *Rowley Enq.* 70 The modern delicacy of the writer.., who thus squeamishly introduces this tale of Saxon perfidy. 1838 DICKENS *Pickw.* xxxi, If she had been less proudly and squeamishly brought up. 1845 CAMPBELL *Lives Chancellors* (1857) V. cx. 148 Bolingbroke..squeamishly says: 'The first regulation..is decency'.

3. With a tendency to nausea or sickness.

1843 LE FEVRE *Life Trav. Phys.* III. i. III. 89, I sought my cot..rolled about for an hour rather squeamishly, and then fell asleep.

Squea·mishness. [f. as prec. + -NESS.]

1. The state of being affected with nausea or qualms; sickishness.

a 1586 SIDNEY *Arcadia* II. (Sommer) 165 Mopsa..at the first for squeamishnes going vp & downe, with her head like a boate in a storme. 1655 CULPEPPER, etc. tr. *Riverius* I. vii. 30 These are forerunners of our Epilepsy; disdain of meat, or immoderate Appetite, Squeamishness, heart-burning. 1692 E. WALKER tr. *Epictetus, Mor.* xxxv, You should consider..Whether that Squeamishness you can forget, That makes you keep an Almanack for Meat. 1756 C. SMART tr. *Horace, Sat.* II. ii. (1826) II. 97 When exercise has worked off your squeamishness..then let me see you despise mean viands. 1822–7 GOOD *Study Med.* (1829) I. 359 Pains in the stomach, nausea, squeamishness. 1878 J. MACGREGOR in F. Balfour *Life* (1912) xi. 331 We had a desperately rough passage, which in spite of one day's squeamishness I greatly enjoyed.

b. Const. *of* (the stomach). Also *fig.*

1648 GAGE *West Ind.* 102 The women of that City it seems pretend much weaknesse and squemishnesse of stomach. 1712 STEELE *Spect.* No. 286 ¶ 1 A good Constitution appears in the Soundness and Vigour of the Parts, not in the Squeamishness of the Stomach. 1715 tr. *Pancirollus' Memor. Things* I. Pref. 6 A voluminous Paraphrase not agreeing with the squeamishness of an Oxford Stomach.

† 2. a. Disdainfulness; haughty reserve. *Obs.*

1580 HOLLYBAND *Treas. Fr. Tong, Desdaing*, disdaine, despite, squeamishnesse. 1611 COTGR. s.v. *Boutique*, A prouerbe taxing th' enuie, or squeamishnesse of cunning Artists, who..conceale from the world their excellent gifts. 1647 HEXHAM I, Squaimishnesse, *verachtinge*.

† b. Modest reserve or coyness. *Obs.*—1

1720 MRS. MANLEY *Power of Love* (1741) I. 41 If her Vertue and Squeamishness should reject the Offers of his Heart.

3. The quality or condition of being highly or excessively fastidious or dainty in some respect.

1654 WHITLOCK *Zootomia* 261 It being a Squeamishnesse to forbeare satisfying his Appetite..because somewhat may be wanting in some Dishes Preparation. 1693 *Apol. Clergy Scott.* 106 A Fanatick Squeamishness that will not allow the Title of Doctor to any Clergy Man. 1711 *Countrey-Man's Lett. Curat.* 58 They address'd His Majesty, and Roundly Condemn'd the Bishops for their Squeamishness. 1782 MISS BURNEY *Cecilia* VI. iv, Now pray speak the truth without squeamishness. 1839 DICKENS *Nickleby* xvi, I have undergone too much..to feel pride or squeamishness now. 1885 *Law Times* LXXIX. 223/2 The squeamishness of certain judges has contributed not a little to the result.

Squea·mous, *a.* Now *north. dial.* Forms: α. 4 scoymus, 5 -es, -os, -ous; 4–5 squoymous, 6 squymouse; 4–5 skoymus, 4–6 -ous, 4 -os, 5 -es, 6 -ys, -ose, 9 skymous. β. 4–6 squeymous (5 sqwey-), 4 squaymus, 5–6 -ous, 5 squaymes, -os(e, scaymes, skeymous, -ows(e; 5 sweymows, *north. dial.* 8 swamas, 8–9 swamous, 9 -us, swaim-, swaymous. γ. 5 squemes, 6 -ous. [a. AF. *escoymous, escomos*, of obscure origin. Cf. ESQUAYMOUS *a.*

Forms without initial *s* also occur, as *queymous* (see QUEIMISH *a.*) and *coymous* (see sense 3 β).]

1. = SQUEAMISH *a.* 1 a.

13.. *Coer de L.* 3485 Was non off hem that eete lyste; Kyng Richard .. sayde: Frendes, be nought squoymous. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* VII. lxvii. (Bodl. MS.), Þey þat beþ y-bete with a wode hounde..dredeþ watere most ..and beþ agrised þer of fulle sore and scoymos also. 1566 DRANT *Horace, Sat.* iv. G viij b, There must be brothe for squaymous folke, and spices all of pleasure. 1882 *Lanc. Gloss.* 243 *Skymous*, squeamish, fastidious in eating.

2. Distant, disdainful, fastidious.

c 1325 *Lai le Freine* 62 A proude dame and an envieous, ..Squeymous and eke scorning; To ich woman sche hadde envie. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 21 Nif he nere scoymus & skyg & non scaþe louied, Hit were a meruayl. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 457/2 Skeymowse, or sweymows, .. *abominativus*. 1847 HALLIWELL, *Squemous*, saucy. *Lanc.* 1886 *Rochdale Gloss.* 80 *Skymous*, squeamish; over-nice.

b. *north. dial.* Modest, shy.

1483 *Cath. Angl.* 357/1 Squaymose, *verecundus*. 1703 THORESBY *Let. to Ray, Swamous*, modest. 1790 MRS. WHEELER *Westmld. Dial.* (1821) 43 Ise nae way swamas. 1828 CARR *Craven Gloss.* II. 307 Poor Williams is a swamous, cowardly chap. 1847– in dial. glossaries (Cumb., Yks.).

† 3. Having or feeling abhorrence, repugnance, or detestation *of* something. *Obs.*

α. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 598 He is so skoymos of þat skaþe, he scarrez bylyue. *Ibid.* 1148 So is he scoymus of scaþe þat scylful is euer. *a* 1400 *Prymer* (1891) 102 Wickednesse y hadde in hatrede and y was skoymes þer of. 1495 *Trevisa's De P. R.* VIII. xii. (W. de W.) 319 They that ben subgette to Saturnus..ben not skoymous of foule and stynkyng clothynge.

β. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Miller's T.* 151 He was somdel squaymous [*Camb.* coymous] Of fartyng, and of speche daungerous.

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* VII. xxiii. (Tollem. MS.), Not skeymous of foule and stynkynge clobynge. 15.. *Piers of Fullham* 70 in Hazl. *E. P. P.* II. 4 Be alway squaymous of suche sklaunders.

γ. *c* 1410 LOVE *Bonavent. Mirr.* vi. (Gibbs' MS.), Þei were not squemes of þe stable..nor of heye nor of suche oþer abiecte sympolnes.

† 4. = SQUEAMISH *a.* 5. *Obs.*

1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) VII. 461 Sche..was nouȝt squaymus to wasche seke mennis feet. *c* 1400 *Prymer* 7 Thou were not squoymous to take þe maidenes wombe to delyuere mankynde. *a* 1450 *Knt. de la Tour* 155 Atte sum tyme she wolde haue..he right scoymous to haue do the seruice. 1535 in Loftie *Mem. Savoy* (1878) 10 Whether he be..lovyng to the poore, and not skoymys or lothesome to visite theym. *c* 1550 BALE *K. Johan* (E.E.D.S.) 184 Thou are not skoymose thy fantasy for to tell.

† **Squean,** *v. Obs. rare.* [Cf. SQUINNY *v.*[1] and dial. *squine* in the same sense.] *intr.* To look askance, to squint (*at* one).

1608 ARMIN *Nest Ninn.* (1880) 45 As the Philosopher squened at his curst wife in some feare, because of quiet. 1609 — *Ital. Taylor* (1880) 175 As .. men amazde their sorrow flouts, by squeaning with the eye.

† **Squea·sy,** *a. Obs.* Forms: 6 squeasye, 6–7 -ie (7 squeaysie), 8 squeasy; 7 squeazy, -ie. [Alteration of QUEASY *a.*]

1. Of times: Troublous; disturbed.

1583 MELBANCKE *Philotimus* D ij b, But now we are come to the last age, which as Ouid deuids it, is y° 4, and the woorst, squeasye & dogged, & wrought of hard iron. *a* 1662 HEYLIN *Laud* (1668) 256 None of them in those squeasie and unsettled times being questioned for it.

2. Of the stomach: Readily nauseated, easily upset; = SQUEAMISH *a.* 1 b.

1596 LODGE *Wits Miserie* N iiij, He driues him to be dainty of his meats, telling him his stomack is squeasie. 1640 HOWELL *Dodona's Gr.* 21, I use to have a squeazie stomacke on salt Water. 1655 FULLER *Ch. Hist.* VI. 299 My weak and squeazie stomack will hardly digest the wing of a small rabbet or chicken.

fig. 1620 MASON *Newfoundland* 5 Peraduenture some squeasie stomake will say, Fishing is a beastly trade and unseeming a Gentleman. 1656 EARL MONM. tr. *Boccalini's Advts. fr. Parnass.* I. ix. (1674) 11 It proves hard of digestion to the squeasie stomacks of modern weak-wits.

Comb. 1655 CULPEPPER, etc. tr. *Riverius* XIV. i. 372 These Patients are commonly squeazy stomached.

b. Readily unsettled or disturbed.

1611 *Coryat's Crudities, Panegyr. Verses*, The squeazie humour of his braine Before he parted from this maine Neare perished his skull.

3. Sparing *of* something.

1628 EARLE *Microcosm.* (Arb.) 56 Hee is as squeazy of his commendations as his courtesie.

Hence † **Squea·siness,** squeamishness. *Obs.*

a 1660 HAMMOND *Sermons* viii. Wks. 1684 IV. 614 A squeasiness and rising up of the heart against any mean.. condition of men. 1687 T. W. *Lett. to Dissenter* 6 After the squeaziness of starting at a Surplice, you must be forced to swallow Transubstantiation.

Squebald, variant of SKEWBALD *a.*

1884 *Liverpool Echo* 2 May, Thoroughbred Horse,..beautifully spotted red roan, squebald and piebald.

Squechon, obs. form of SCUTCHEON *sb.*[1]

† **Squeck.** *Obs.* [? Imitative.] A disease affecting fowls.

1577 B. GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* IV. (1586) 167 b, The greatest disease, that they are subiect vnto, as the Pippe and the Squecke, which must be holpen in like sorte as the Hennes.

Squeege (skwīdʒ), *v.* Also 8–9 **squeedge.** [Strengthened form of SQUEEZE *v.*]

1. *intr.* To press; to make one's way by pressure.

1782 MRS. H. COWLEY *Which is the Man?* v. ii, Such clattering, and squeedging down the gangway staircase. 1852 HOSKYNS *Talpa* xxi, Every time I see it [a plough], on stiff land, a-squeeging and pressing, and kneading its way along.

2. *trans.* To compress; to squeeze.

1787 in GROSE *Prov. Gloss.* 1848 DICKENS *Dombey* lii, Can't you be fond of a cove without squeedging and throttling of him! 1851 MAYHEW *Lond. Lab.* (1861) II. 530, I went, and I was nearly squeeged to death.

Squeegee (skwī·dʒi, skwīdʒī·), *sb.* [? f. prec. Cf. SQUILGEE *sb.*]

1. A scraping implement, usually consisting of a straight-edged blade of india-rubber, gutta-percha, or the like, attached to the end of a long handle, for removing water, mud, etc.

1844 MRS. HOUSTON *Yacht Voy. Texas* I. 39 Holy-stoning the decks..is the worst description of nervous torture of which I ever heard, excepting perhaps, the infliction of the squee gee. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.* 648 *Squeegee*, an effective swabbing instrument, having a plate of gutta-percha fitted at the end of a broom handle. 1884 *Law Times Rep.* L. 635/2 They had swept mud in a state of batter to the side of a road by means of 'squeegees'.

2. *Photogr.* A strip of rubber mounted on a wooden frame which serves as a handle, for squeezing moisture from a print, pressing a film closer to its mount, etc.; a rubber roller serving this purpose; a squeezer.

1878 ABNEY *Photogr.* 170 The plate is then placed on a small low stool..and the excess of water squeezed out by means of a squeegee. 1892 *Photogr. Ann.* II. 57 Use a Roller Squeegee.—After the print is applied to the mount,.. gently roll the squeegee over it.

Squeegee, *v.* [f. the sb.]

1. *trans.* To press, squeeze, or force, with a squeegee.

1885 C. G. W. LOCK *Workshop Rec.* Ser. IV. 346/2 When cold, squeegee the emulsion..through muslin. *Ibid.* 411/2 A piece of American cloth to protect the print while squeegeeing. 1892 *Photogr. Ann.* II. 49 Take a print, put it face down on the glass and lightly squeegee it until it lies flat.

b. With advs. and preps., as *on, out, together.*

1883 *Hardwick's Photogr. Chem.* 347 It is then 'squeegeed' down on the glass and developed. 1889 *Anthony's Photogr. Bull.* II. 324 The two surfaces can be brought into contact and squeegeed together. 1890 *Ibid.* III. 259 It can be turned over and squeegeed out flat.

2. To scrape with a squeegee; = SQUILGEE *v.*

1886 *All Year Round* 4 Sept. 104 The decks were persistently holystoned, scrubbed, 'squeegéed', and swabbed.

Hence **Squeegeed** *ppl. a.*, **Squeegeeing** *vbl. sb.*

1892 *Photogr. Ann.* II. 435 The squeegeeing process..is unsuitable for it. 1894 *Brit. Jrnl. Photogr.* XLI. 11 The squeegeeing is then gone on with. 1904 W. P. DRURY *Per-adventures Priv. Pagett* 10 A sloppy road between two squeegeed banks of mud.

Squeezabi·lity. [f. next.] The condition or quality of being squeezable.

1882 in *Imperial Dict.* (citing *Spectator*). 1885 *Spectator* 25 July 961/1 There could be no worse policy than to show fresh squeezability in order to prevent being squeezed. 1893 *National Observer* 9 Sept. 418/2 Experiments on Ministerial squeezability as to Welsh Disestablishment.

Squeezable (skwī·zăb'l), *a.* [f. SQUEEZE *v.*]

1. Capable of being compressed or squeezed. Also *transf.*

1813 SIR W. W. PEPYS in Roberts *Mem. Han. More* (1835) III. 398 One would like to keep it in squeezable order. 1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* III. 1043 They must feel moist and clammy, and be squeezable in the hand.

b. Impressionable; susceptible.

1852 SAVAGE *R. Medlicott* I. i. v. 130 You are too versatile and too squeezable,..you take impressions too readily.

2. Capable of being constrained or coerced to yield or grant something.

1837 *Ann. Reg., Hist.* 390/1 The ministers, at least, he regarded as squeezable commodities, out of which something good might, by compression, be extracted. 1852 W. JERDAN *Autobiog.* II. i. 7 As unlucky and squeezable by their more cunning competitors..as the literary man. 1884 *Manch. Exam.* 23 Aug. 5/2 He hoped that China would be squeezable, and that the objects he had in view would be attained without war.

b. *esp.* From which money may be extracted.

1840 *Frazer's Mag.* XXI. 243 Not a farthing beyond what they could squeeze from any quarter squeezable. 1880 L. OLIPHANT *Land of Gilead* vi. 190 The result of their industry is only that they become more squeezable for taxes.

3. Capable of being extracted by pressure.

1843 *Tait's Mag.* X. 805 Their necessities compel them to exact the last penny squeezable out of the unfortunate tenantry.

Hence **Squeezableness,** = SQUEEZABILITY.

1844 *Blackw. Mag.* LV. 119 The issuing of that order would depend entirely on the strength or the necessity of the Minister: on his 'squeezableness'. 1871 *Standard* 12 Apr. 6 Mr. Gladstone's 'squeezableness'.

Squeeze (skwīz), *sb.* [f. SQUEEZE *v.*]

1. An act of squeezing; an application of strong or heavy pressure, or of force sufficient to compress.

1611 COTGR., *Escachure*,..a squash, crush, knock, or squeeze, (wherby a thing is flatted, or beaten close together). 1708 J. PHILIPS *Cyder* II. 75 Let the tuneful Squeeze Of labouring Elbow rouze them [*sc.* 'imprison'd winds' of the bagpipes], out they fly Melodious. 1806 A. HUNTER *Culina* (ed. 3) 63 When sufficiently stewed, give it a gentle squeeze. 1835 SIR J. ROSS *Narr. 2nd Voy.* viii. 121 In attempting to pass between two large pieces of ice, they suddenly closed, so as to give us a considerable squeeze, but without any injury. 1843 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* I. 134 The final squeeze is given by the entire force of three men. 1869 RANKINE *Machine & Hand-tools* Pl. P 20, The punch;..as it retires, after having given its squeeze, the point is lubricated.

b. In fig. use.

1711 SWIFT *Lett.* (1767) III. 227 A rogue that writes a newspaper..has reflected on me in one of his papers; but the secretary has taken him up, and he shall have a squeeze extraordinary. 1835 T. MITCHELL *Acharn. of Aristoph.* Introd. p. viii, A squeeze and a gripe too often advertised the towns beneath, that..Athens had as much need of external as of native resources. 1850 LONGF. *Life* (1891) II. 182 It begins again, the old pressure and squeeze of books and old routine. 1887 *Spectator* 21 May 675/2 A gentle squeeze to the Sultan might effect some improvement.

c. The pressure *of* a crowd of persons; a crush.

1802 BEDDOES *Hygëia* v. 55 Tea and coffee..are frequently taken in the very stew and squeeze of a fashionable mob. 1805 BARONESS BUNSEN in Hare *Life* I. iii. 72, I never could have imagined what a real squeeze was until I found myself in the passage. 1854 *Poultry Chron.* I. 141, I shall never again believe what ladies say against a mob, after witnessing how many high-born, gentle, and feeble old ladies endured the squeeze at Birmingham.

d. *colloq.* A strong financial or commercial demand or pressure.

1890 *Daily News* 26 June 2/2 The middlemen who happened to have provided themselves with money in view of a 'squeeze'. 1894 *Times* 7 Mar. 5/4 The business of the New York Stock Market was marked to-day by a 'squeeze' in Sugar Trust certificates.

2. A strong or firm pressure of the hand as a token of friendship or affection.

In quot. 1736 with allusion to the surreptitious passing of money in order to bribe.

1736 FIELDING *Pasquin* I. i, I never had a civiller squeeze by the hand in my life...Ay, you have squeezed that out pretty well. 1760–72 H. BROOKE *Fool of Qual.* (1809) III. 133 Harry seized him by the hand, and gave him..the squeeze and the look of love. 1819 BYRON *Juan* I. cxi, Yet there's no doubt she only meant to clasp His fingers with a

pure Platonic squeeze. 1841 THACKERAY *Gt. Hoggarty Diamond* iii, Lady Fanny..held me out her little hand, and gave mine such a squeeze. 1888 BURGON *Twelve Good Men* II. 265 Giving him an honest, hearty squeeze of the hand.

b. A close embrace; a hug.

1790 WOLCOT (P. Pindar) *Epist. J. Bruce* Wks. 1812 II. 354 What bade the charming Lady Mary fly Marchesi's squeeze, for Pacchierotti's sigh? 1818 KEATS *Endym.* III. 574 My tenderest squeeze is but a giant's clutch. 1848 DICKENS *Dombey* xlvi, Drying the tears upon her shrivelled face, and giving him a tender squeeze. 1899 DOYLE *Duet* 207 She threw her arms round his neck and gave him a hearty squeeze.

3. a. A (small) quantity or amount squeezed out; a few drops pressed out by squeezing.

1761 *Ann. Reg., Characters* 4/2 A little pimento, and the squeeze of an orange their only sauce. 1849 MACAULAY in *Trevelyan* xii. (1913) II. 233 They are more than sufficiently eulogistic. In both there are squeezes of acid. 1864 *Reader* 12 Mar. 324/3 It is much relished with a squeeze of lemon-juice. 1907 *Westm. Gaz.* 12 Apr. 4/2 For the nearer colouring he would still serve himself out a liberal squeeze of burnt-sienna.

b. *techn.* in *Screw-cutting* (see quot.).

1846 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* II. 587 It appears..to be quite impolitic, entirely to expunge the surface-bearing, or squeeze, from the taps and dies, when these are applied to the ductile metals.

c. A forced exaction or impost made by Asiatic officials or servants; a percentage taken upon goods bought or sold; an illegal charge or levy.

1858 *Merc. Mar. Mag.* V. 42 The Transit Levies, or Mandarin 'Squeeze'. *Ibid.* 44 We should get our teas at a duty of..one thirty-fifth part of the present 'squeeze'. 1880 MISS BIRD *Japan* I. 51 The practice common among native servants of getting a 'squeeze' out of every money transaction. *c* 1890 [A. MURDOCH] *Yoshiwara Episode* 10 In his foolishness he was dreaming of 'squeezes', of looting temples, of marrying Japanese Princesses.

4. *colloq.* A crowded assembly or social gathering.

1779 MRS. BARBAULD *Wks.* (1825) II. 22 There is a squeeze, a fuss, a drum, a rout, and lastly a hurricane, when the whole house is full from top to bottom. 1793 [EARL DUNDONALD] *Descr. Estate of Culross* 53 Scots Coal and Wax Tapers forming two of the indispensably necessary attendants of Drums, Routs, and Squeezes. 1808 LADY S. LYTTELTON *Corr.* (1912) i. 13 The weather is getting terribly hot for squeezes. 1818 LADY MORGAN *Autob.* (1859) 191 Morgan swears I'll suffocate them all, as the French are wholly unused to a squeeze. 1893 F. F. MOORE *I Forbid Banns* (1899) 149 He said he'd be hanged if he'd go to Madame Darius' squeeze—meaning this joyous entertainment.

5. *Coal-mining.* **a.** A gradual coming together of the floor and roof of a gallery or working; a place where this has occurred; a creep or nip.

1789 J. WILLIAMS *Min. Kingd.* I. 348 They are always sure that the vein will open again,..when they have cut through that squeeze or twitch. 1881 RAYMOND *Mining Gloss., Squeeze*, the settling, without breaking, of the roof over a considerable area of workings. 1898 *Daily News* 5 July 2/5 Squeezes and falls are taking place in the levels and headings throughout the coalfield.

b. (See quot.)

1882 *Standard* 19 Aug. 3/5 There is no room for doubt that the explosion..was caused by the diffusion of a sudden 'squeeze' or outburst of gas.

6. *slang* or *Cant.* **a.** The neck.

1812 in J. H. VAUX *Flash Dict.* 1821 *Sporting Mag.* IX. 27 A prime yellow-man round his squeeze. 1828 EGAN *Boxiana* IV. 158 Abbot appeared on the ground, with a blue bird's-eye round his squeeze. *c* 1866 in Farmer & Henley s.v. *Squeezer.*

b. Silk; an article made of this, a silk tie. Also *attrib.*

1839 'DUCANGE ANGLICUS' 34 *Squeeze*, silk. 1877 *Five Years' Penal Servitude* 240 He'd tog himself up in black, with a white 'squeeze', on a Sunday. 1877 in Farmer & Henley s.v., We got some squeeze dresses, and two sealskin jackets. 1888 *Times* 1 Dec. 4/4 He there saw Fife, who said, 'Did you hear about the load of "squeeze" (meaning silk) that was lost?'

c. (See quot.)

A few other slang uses are given by Farmer & Henley.

1865 *Slang Dict.* 241 'Precious rum squeeze at the spell,' *i. e.* a good evening's work at the theatre.

7. A moulding or cast of an object obtained by pressing some plastic substance round or over it; *spec.* in *Archæol.*, an impression or copy of an inscription, design, etc., taken by applying wet paper or other soft material in this way.

1857 BIRCH *Anc. Pottery* (1858) II. 277 Lamps were manufactured by means of moulds, which were modelled from a pattern lamp, in a harder and finer clay than the squeeze or pattern. 1870 GEO. ELIOT in Cross *Life* III. 112, I saw squeezes of this [Moabite] stone for the first time. 1884 W. WRIGHT *Hittites* iv. 45 Professor Sayce visited these sculptures. He made careful squeezes and copies of the inscription. 1890 W. J. GORDON *Foundry* 213 The wood..is used merely as a source of electrotypes. A squeeze in wax or some such substance is taken from it.

fig. 1894 *Times* 14 Mar. 7/3 Now we know that the policy of Lord Rosebery is the 'squeeze' of the policy of Mr. Gladstone.

8. Without article: The action of squeezing or the fact of being squeezed; pressure; constraint used to obtain a concession, gift, etc.

1862 THACKERAY *Philip* xxvi, After four-and-twenty hours of squeeze in the diligence. 1898 *Westm. Rev.* May 479 It is on the knowledge of this fact that the policy of squeeze is based.

9. *colloq.* **a.** An escape, a 'squeak'.

1875 WOOD & LAPHAM *Waiting for M.* 24 Jack had had.. a still more narrow squeeze, for, had he been one minute sooner at the windlass, nothing could have saved him.

b. *At* or *upon a squeeze*, at a pinch.

1892 W. S. GILBERT *Mountebanks* I, I assist As soloist, Upon a squeeze. 1897 *Windsor Mag.* Jan. 277/2 The.. garden..contains only one..tennis-court, but at a squeeze could almost take in two.

10. *attrib.* and *Comb.* in sense 7, as *squeeze impression, -taker*; in sense 3 c, as *squeeze system*; **squeeze clout** *Cant* (see quot.); **squeeze room**, a room in which 'squeezes' or assemblies are held.

1795 POTTER *Dict. Cant* (ed. 2), *Squeeze clout*, a neck-cloth. 1850 MRS. TROLLOPE *Petticoat Gov.* 157 She ventured to whisper as they stood together in the squeeze room. 1871 *Q. Statem. Amer. Palest. Explor. Soc.*, We did not succeed in getting squeeze impressions. 1883 *Quiver* Dec. 89/1 Tourists' fingers, squeeze-takers, and the whole body of destroyers have done their work. 1898 *Morning Post* 9 Nov. 5/5 The official class, which religiously adheres to the time-honoured 'squeeze' system.

Squeeze (skwīz), *v.* Also 7 **squeez, squeaze, squease, squese**, 7–8 **squeese.** [perh. a strengthened form of QUEASE *v.*[1] Cf. also SQUIZE *v.*]

1. *trans.* To press or compress hard, esp. so as to flatten, crush, or force together.

a 1601 *Pasquil & Kath.* (1878) I. 117, I long not to be squeas'd with mine owne waight. 1634 BRERETON *Trav.* (Chetham Soc.) 26 The devil..squeezed and bruised his body so as his death was thereby occasioned. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* IV. 208 He therefore first among the Swains was found, To..squeese the Combs with Golden Liquor crown'd. 1727 *Philip Quarll* (1816) 81 He opened his windpipe by squeezing it the contrary way. *c* 1750 COVENTRY *Hist. Pompey* XV, A servant..heard him raving at the landlord because the bur was gone, and there was no lemon ready to squeeze over it. 1823 J. BADCOCK *Dom. Amusem.* 30 By your seizing a handful briskly, and squeezing it half a minute, it preserves the form of the cavity of the hand. 1892 *Photogr. Ann.* II. 397 Upon squeezing the ball the charge is blown very exactly through the flame.

fig. 1648 J. BEAUMONT *Psyche* XI. CXXVIII, A Stone more ponderous he found Squeazing his Soul with full Damnation's Weight. 1681 FLAVEL *Method of Grace* V. 102 An unprincipled professor must be squeezed by some weight of affliction, ere he will yield one tear. 1823 W. COBBETT *Rural Rides* (1885) I. 320 The six hundred millions of Debt ..are now squeezing the borough-mongers. 1845 DISRAELI *Sybil* (1863) 312 You know something about somebody; I couldn't squeeze you then, but..I will have it out of you now.

†**b.** *To squeeze wax*, to impress wax with a seal; to set one's seal to a document. *Obs.*

1658–9 in *Burton's Diary* (1828) III. 133 The people are not like a young heir that hath squeezed wax, by which being once bound, it is too late after for him to repent. 1677 WYCHERLEY *Pl. Dealer* IV. i, *Wid.* When thou'rt of Age, thou wilt sign, seal and deliver too, wilt thou? *Jer.* Yes marry will I...*Wid.* O do not squeeze Wax, Son.

c. With complement: To reduce to, or bring into, a specified condition by pressure. *To squeeze out* (or †*forth*), to drain or exhaust in this way.

1660 H. MORE *Myst. Godl.* III. xiii. 85 The more Zealous of the people lye in the way to be squeezed to death by the wheels. 1683 SALMON *Doron Med.* I. 140 The fresh leaves of Asarabacca; bruise them,..squeez them forth strongly, and take it with care. 1697 DAMPIER *Voy.* I. 79 We caught several great Sharks;..and eat them all, boyling and squeezing them dry. 1825 HAZLITT *Spirit of Age* 142 He has ransacked old chronicles,..he has squeezed out musty records. 1848 BAILEY *Festus* (ed. 3) 180 They have squeezed me black and blue. 1859 DICKENS *T. Two Cities* I. v, Even with handkerchiefs..which were squeezed dry into infants' mouths. 1871 G. W. CURTIS *Potiphar P.* i, To be squeezed flat against a wall.

fig. 1871 M. COLLINS *Marq. & Merch.* II. x. 293 When the [morning] paper was squeezed dry, the old lady usually settled down to take a nap. 1886 *World* 17 Nov. 14 The writer ..says that Archer, by a fine bit of riding, squeezed Childeric home by a neck.

d. With advs., as *down, together, up.*

1716 LADY M. W. MONTAGU *Let. to C'tess Mar* 14 Sept., In order to that ceremony, I was squeezed up in a gown. 1833 LARDNER *Manuf. Metal* II. 241 Placing them..between polished pasteboards, and then squeezing them down very closely. 1852 MRS. STOWE *Uncle Tom's C.* I. 5 She squeezed up her child in her arms. 1884 BOWER & SCOTT *De Bary's Phaner.* 573 They press against the bast-plate, and squeeze it together, displacing and destroying its elements.

e. To press (the hand) in token of friendship or affection.

1687 MIÉGE *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II. s.v., I squeezed her hand. 1751 JOHNSON *Rambler* No. 191 P 6 Him that had once squeezed her hand. 1823 SCOTT *Quentin D.* xiv, The poor youth whose hand he squeezed affectionately. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* xliv, Becky seized Pitt's hand... 'Thank you,' she said, squeezing it.

2. To force by pressure. With advs. and preps., as *in, into, out* (*of*), *through*, etc.

1683 K. DIGBY *Chym. Secr.* 67 Mix these two Mercuries together and squeeze them through a leather. 1716 LADY M. W. MONTAGU *Let. to Lady X—* 1 Oct., A man, a little more slender than ordinary, might squeeze in his whole person. 1779 *Mirror* No. 12, Their bosoms..were squeezed up to their throats. 1829 *Chapters Phys. Sci.* 4 Squeezing the air into a small space in the upper part of the goblet. 1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* I. ix. 62 The half-formed ice is squeezed through a precipitous gorge. 1892 ZANGWILL *Bow Myst.* 110 Crowl was squeezed into a corner behind a pillar.

refl. 1847 TENNYSON *Princ.* Prol. 112 He had climb'd across the spikes, And he had squeezed himself betwixt the bars. 1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* I. xix. 134 We had to squeeze ourselves through narrow fissures. 1883 *Cent. Mag.* Aug. 492 The frightened birds..crouch..so as to squeeze themselves into the smallest compass.

b. In more or less fig. use.

1658–9 in *Burton's Diary* (1828) IV. 225 Amidst that debate of Scotland was squeezed out a question about their withdrawing. 1694 in *Lett. Lit. Men* (Camden) 230 We shall be able to squeeze it into one [volume]. 1777 F. BURNEY *Early Diary* (1889) II. 210 She immediately complied, and I squeezed in my laughter with great decency. 1818 CRUISE *Digest* (ed. 2) II. 239 This is not so strong as the case of tacking a third incumbrance to a first, in order to squeeze out a second. 1861 GEN. P. THOMPSON *Audi Alt. Part.* III. clxxvi. 211 It will very likely happen, that those who afterwards join, will squeeze him out of partnership. 1892 *Photogr. Ann.* II. 453 In last year's Annual I was just able to squeeze in a notice of this cheap and convenient erection.

c. To force or push (one's way).

1864 CARLYLE *Frederick Gt.* XVI. xiii. (1872) VI. 298 His poor Wife had twice squeezed her way into the Royal Levee at Kensington. 1912 D. CRAWFORD *Thinking Black* ii. 18 The terror o' mornings is to squeeze your way through this wet, matted tangle.

3. a. To press upon (a person, etc.) so as to exact or extort money; to fleece. Also const. *of.*

Cf. the fig. use illustrated s.v. SPONGE *sb.*[1] 9 c.

1639 FULLER *Holy War* III. vi. (1840) 124 He made a new seal, wherewith he squeezed his subjects, and left a deep impression in their purses. 1674 MILTON *Hist. Moscovia* i. Wks. 1851 VIII. 478 Being well enricht, he is sent at his own Charge to the Wars, and there squeez'd of his ill got wealth. 1700 J. TYRRELL *Hist. Eng.* II. 904 The Church had been so often squeezed by him. 1741 MIDDLETON *Cicero* (1742) II. vii. 184 This King Ariobarzanes..had been miserably squeezed and drained by the Roman Generals and Governers. 1879 FROUDE *Cæsar* ix. 99 Squeezing the people ..of all the wealth that could be drained out of them. 1894 BARING-GOULD *Deserts S. France* II. 193 The old corsair so squeezed these towns as to completely exhaust them.

†**b.** To subject to severe treatment. *Obs.*[—1]

1691 SIR R. COX in *Sydney Papers* (1746) I. 168, I squeezd them hard, having killd and hangd not less than 3000 of them.

c. *slang.* To bring into trouble. ? *Obs.*

1804 *Revol. Plutarch* III. 232 The snuff-box for which I am now pinched, interrupted my career to the consulate for life, in the same manner as a gold bracelet squeezed me in 1796, and prevented me from being a Director.

d. To subject to strong constraint or pressure.

1888 *Christian Leader* 28 June 403/2 The sense of being squeezed makes even a pliant man stiffen his back and become obstinate. 1898 *Times* 15 Nov. 9/4 The notion that England can be 'squeezed' indefinitely and will submit to any humiliation.

4. With *out*: To press or force out; to cause to ooze or flow out by the application of pressure.

1599 B. JONSON *Ev. Man out of Hum.* Prol., To seize on vice, and..Squeeze out the humour of such spongie soules As lick up every idle vanity. 1602 MARSTON *Ant. & Mel.* IV. Wks. 1856 I. 49 Even this brinish marsh Shall squeaze out teares. 1696 BP. PATRICK *Comm. Exod.* XXVII. (1697) 526 Pure Oyl-olive,..not squeezed out by a Press or by a Mill,..but..bruised with a Pestel. 1746 FRANCIS tr. *Hor., Sat.* II. v. 171 Squeeze out some teares. 1789 J. WILLIAMS *Min. Kingd.* I. 64 These troubles sometimes squeeze out one third, and at other times one half or more of the thickness of the coal. 1829 N. ARNOTT *Physics* (ed. 4) II. 12 It becomes instantly sensible on the condensation of any material mass, as if then squeezed out from the mass. 1854 THACKERAY *Newcomes* XXVIII, Lady Kew could..squeeze out a tear over a good novel too. 1892 *Garrett's Encycl. Cookery* II. 40 Squeeze out all the juice from the selected quantity of Seville Oranges.

b. In fig. use.

1642 SIR T. ROE in *Eng. Hist. Rev.* (1910) Apr. 273 My last remonstrance hath squeezed out an answere both from the emperor and the Spanish ambassador. 1704 SWIFT *Tale Tub* Author's Apol., From whence some have endeavoured to Squeeze out a dangerous meaning. 1811 V. KNOX *Spirit of Despotism* (ed. 2) 36/1 *note*, Speeches in favour of the emperor, which the dread of impending evil squeezed out of many against their will and better judgment. 1835 *Gentl. Mag.* Nov. IV. 492 No old maids with their mouths, like purses, Squeezing out compliments like curses. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. I. ii, Poverty invades even the Royal Exchequer, and Tax-farming can squeeze out no more.

5. a. To extort or exact, to obtain by force or pressure, *from* or *out of* a person, etc. Also rarely without const.

(*a*) 1602 MARSTON *Antonio's Rev.* II. v. Wks. 1856 I. 103 Ile wring what may be squeas'd from out his use. 1693 *Humours Town* 24 The Jilt squeezes out of him a new Petticoat. 1700 DR. WALLIS *Collect.* (O.H.S.) I. 325 The rest serves..for a pretense to squeeze the more money from the gentleman. 1771 NICHOLLS in *Corr. w. Gray* (1843) 121 In four months I have only been able to squeeze two [letters] from you. 1802–12 BENTHAM *Ration. Judic. Evid.* (1827) IV. 65 *note*, The above..was the sum squeezed by the judge out of the clerk. 1848 MILL *Pol. Econ.* I. v. § 9 (1876) 51 Food and necessaries, which they either go without, or squeeze by their competition from the shares of other labourers. 1865 DICKENS *Mut. Fr.* III. i, When it comes to squeezing a profit out of you.

(*b*) 1800 WELLINGTON in Gurw. *Desp.* (1834) I. 273 The Nizam's horse are going about the country squeezing what they can get. 1898 *Daily News* 15 July 7/7 In cases where holders are pressed concessions can be squeezed.

b. To extract (juice, etc.) by pressure. (Cf. 4.)

1611 COTGR., *Escrager*, to crush, or squeeze out of. 1700 DRYDEN *Flower & Leaf* 419 They squeez'd the juice, and cooling ointment made. 1710 ADDISON *Tatler* No. 131 P 1 They can squeeze Bourdeaux out of the Sloe. 1758 REID tr. *Macquer's Chym.* I. 136 To squeeze out of them all such parts of their substance as they will..part with. 1845 BUDD *Dis. Liver* 359 From some of them a little pus, as well as bile, could be squeezed. 1892 CODRINGTON *Melanesians* xvi. 316 The cream squeezed out from grated cocoa-nut.

c. To put or drop *in* (a fluid extracted by pressure).

1725 *Fam. Dict.* s.v. *Potage*, Squeezing in some Lemon Juice when served up. 1794 G. ADAMS *Nat. & Exper. Philos.* III. xxxii. 301 A viscous or slimy liquor that is squeesed in, as if from a sponge, between every joint.

d. To succeed in purchasing *out of* a sum.

1768 STERNE *Sent. Journ., Le Dimanche*, He had squeez'd out of the money, moreover, a new bag and a solitaire.

6. *absol.* **a.** To press hard; to exert pressure, esp. with the hand.

1692 R. L'ESTRANGE *Æsop* lv. 55 He [the fox] squeez'd hard to get out again; but the Hole was too Little for him. 1768 GRAY *Comic* 3 For thee does Powell squeeze, and Marriot sputter. 1775 [FITZPATRICK] *Dorinda* (ed. 2) 6 And oh! what bliss, when each alike is pleas'd, The hand that squeezes, and the hand that's squeez'd! 1819 SCOTT *Leg. Montrose* xiii, If he offer to struggle or cry out, fail not.. to squeeze doughtily.

b. To take a squeeze or facsimile impression.

1890 *Athenæum* 4 Oct. 455/1 The overhang of the rock makes it extremely difficult to 'squeeze' satisfactorily.

7. *intr.* To yield to pressure; to admit of being squeezed. Also *fig.*

1683 MOXON *Mech. Exerc., Printing* xi. ¶ 1 Every Joynt between these are subject to squeeze by the force of a Pull. *Ibid.* xxiv. ¶ 5 Solid Blocks of Wood..will scarce Squeeze by the strength of a Pull. 1771 LUCKOMBE *Hist. Print.* 327 Bran squeezes much more—But plaister of Paris not at all. 1844 DICKENS *Mart. Chuz.* xliii, 'He's the sort of man,' added Mr. Tapley, musing, 'as would squeeze soft, I know'. 1892 *Labour Commission Gloss.* No. 3 s.v. *Creep*, The tendency of the roof, floor, and sides..in a mine to 'creep, crush, or squeeze together.

8. To force a way; to press or push; to succeed in passing by means of compression. With advs. and preps. as *in, into, out (of), through, up (to)*, etc.

1704 NEWTON *Optics* II. iii. prop. 8 (1721) 242 A concave Sphere of Gold filled with Water..has, upon pressing the Sphere with great force, let the Water squeeze through it. 1710 *Brit. Apollo* No. 83. 3/1 We squeez'd up the Stair-Case. 1738 *Gentl. Mag.* VIII. 34/1 There is always a confused Crowd about him...Now and then a Poet squeezes in. 1771 SMOLLETT *Humph. Cl.* (1815) 117 The old duke..squeezing into the circle with a busy face of importance. 1810 LADY S. LYTTELTON *Corr.* (1912) iv. 95, I saw Hartington as we were squeezing out of the theatre. 1831 MACAULAY in *Trevelyan* iv. (1913) I. 235, I contrived to squeeze up to Lord Lansdowne. 1848 L. HUNT *Jar of Honey* iv. 48 Don't stir an inch; and so We'll all squeeze in together. 1897 MARY KINGSLEY *W. Africa* 255 We squeeze through between the stakes so as not to let the trap off.

Squeeze-, the verbal stem used (transitively) in combs., as **squeeze-crab, -grape, -wax** (see quots.).

1622 MABBE tr. *Aleman's Guzman d'Alf.* II. 330 Hee was a notable squeeze-grape, a huge quaffer. 1785 GROSE *Dict. Vulgar T., Squeeze crab*, a sour looking shrivelled diminutive fellow. *Ibid., Squeeze wax*, a good-natured foolish fellow, ready to become security for another, under hand and seal. 1879 Miss JACKSON *Shropsh. Word-bk., Squeeze-crab*, a person of shrunk and withered appearance.

Squeezed (skwīzd), *ppl. a.* [f. SQUEEZE *v.*]

1. Subjected to pressure or compression.

1598 FLORIO, *Mizzi frutti*, rotten, withered, bruzed or squeazed fruites, mellowe. 1599 B. JONSON *Cynthia's Rev.* IV. i, His face is like a squeezed orange. 1648 J. BEAUMONT *Psyche* XV. lxii, That strange Pressure which the Rebel now Felt sealed sure upon his squeazed Brow. 1706 E. WARD *Wooden World Diss.* (1708) 99 More sapless than a squeez'd Lemon. 1784 COWPER *Task* VI. 672 The theatre too small, shall suffocate Its squeezed contents. 1800 Mrs. HERVEY *Mourtray Fam.* I. 152 The gentleman was a little, thin, squeezed figure, with a pale peaked face. 1822 [see ORANGE *sb.*[1] 1 b]. 1856 KANE *Arctic Explor.* II. xxiv. 246 There are ridges of squeezed ice between us and it.

transf. 1828 WALKER *Pron. Dict.* 18/1 The squeezed sound of *ee* in *seen*.

fig. 1898 *Daily News* 21 Feb. 4/6 British Governments.. are squeezable, no doubt. But there comes a point at which even a squeezed Salisbury will turn.

b. With advs., as *in, up*.

1838 DICKENS *O. Twist* iv, A short, thin, squeezed-up woman. 1889 GUNTER *That Frenchman* xi. 132 One great, black mass of squeezed-in humanity.

2. Extracted or obtained by pressure. Also *fig.*, produced with difficulty, not spontaneous.

1601 B. JONSON *Poetaster* Prol., Take my snakes.., and eate, And while the squeez'd juice flowes in your blacke jawes, Helpe me to damne the Authour. 1683 TEMPLE *Mem.* Wks. 1720 I. 471 Much more than any of those squeez'd or forced Strains of Wit that are in some Places so much in request. 1880 BROWNING *Dram. Idyls, Pan & Luna* 10 Fresh-squeezed yet fast-thickening poppy-juice.

Squee·zekin. [f. SQUEEZE *sb.* + -KIN.] A slight squeeze or pressure.

1862 THACKERAY *Philip* xvii, A look or two, a squeezekin, perhaps, of a little handykin.

Squeezer (skwī·zəɹ). [f. SQUEEZE *v.*]

1. One who squeezes, in various senses.

1611 COTGR., *Pressoireur*, a pressor, strainer, squeezer of iuyce, or liquor, out of things. 1679 T. JORDAN *Lond. in Luster* 16 In that Scene below, I saw a fellow carried in a throng of Squeezers, upon Men's backs like a Pageant for the space of thirty Yards. 1694 MOTTEUX *Rabelais* IV. xxxii. (1737) 136 Grinders and Squeezers of Livings. 1818 *Blackw. Mag.* III. 518 Item, 7 sitters, or rather squeezers, in the inside. 1824 Miss MITFORD *Village* Ser. I. 178 'Aye,' rejoined the squeezer of lemons, 'poor Sidney!' 1825 J. NICHOLSON *Operat. Mechanic* 466 The moulds..are kept dry..so that the squeezer can often separate his work from them readily. 1894 *Daily News* 17 Feb. 5/4 Though the patrician 'squeezers' of the Coreans cannot apparently be 'mended' [etc.].

2. †**a.** A crowded assembly; a squeeze. *Obs.*[—1]

1756 Mrs. F. BROOKE *Old Maid* No. 16. 128 The day after my arrival, I went to the countess of ——s Squeezer, where I was sure of meeting her.

b. *slang.* The hangman's rope; the noose.

1836 MAHONY *Rel. Father Prout* II. 115 For Larry was always the lad, When a friend was condemned to the squeezer.

c. A squeezing pressure.

1822 *Blackw. Mag.* XII. 101 Give the lemons a squeezer.

3. A mechanical device or apparatus, an implement, by which pressure can be applied. Also *attrib.*

1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 133 The squeezing rollers or squeezers, for discharging the greater part of the water from the yarns and goods in the process of bleaching. *Ibid.* 233 The piece is drawn through by a pair of squeezer cylinders at the end of the trough. 1846 HOLTZAFFEL *Turning* II. 919 This machine has also two squeezers for moulding pieces of iron when red-hot to the particular forms of the dies. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* III. 327/1 A scraper or 'squeezer', made by securing a slip of india-rubber between two slips of wood.

b. *spec.* An apparatus by which a ball of puddled iron is reduced to a compact mass.

1843 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* I. 187 The shingling is sometimes performed by large squeezers, something like huge pliers. 1868 JOYNSON *Metals* 74 The loupes are then removed successively from the furnace, and placed either under the hammer or squeezer. 1890 W. J. GORDON *Foundry* 60 Drilling-machines, punchers, squeezers, shearers, all of mighty size.

Squeezibi·lity. *rare*[—1]. =SQUEEZABILITY.

1848 *Westm. Rev.* Jan. 347 The Reform Act increased the squeezibility of the Legislature.

Squee·zing, *vbl. sb.* [f. SQUEEZE *v.*]

1. The action of pressing or compressing; the fact of being compressed. Also with *out*.

1611 COTGR., *Pressement*, a pressing, squeezing, thrusting ..together. *Pressoirée*, a pressing, straining, squeezing out. 1648 WILKINS *Math. Mag.* I. ix. 57 It is chiefly applied to the squeezing or pressing of things downewards. 1683 MOXON *Mech. Exerc., Printing* xi. ¶ 1 The reason..for this coming down, is the squeezing of the several parts in the Press. 1730 BAILEY (fol.), *Ecpiesmus*, a straining, wringing, or squeezing out. 1800 *Med. Jrnl.* IV. 330 The oppression and squeezing of the chest he felt during the greater part of the night. 1855 BAIN *Senses & Intell.* II. ii. § 5 That the squeezing or pinching of a nerve can produce sensibility is proved in many experiments. 1884 Q. VICTORIA *More Leaves* 317 There was a great crowding and squeezing, and some children screamed with fright.

fig. *a* 1700 *Dict. Cant. Crew, Squeezing of Wax*, being bound for any Body; also sealing of Writings.

b. That which is squeezed out.

a 1683 OLDHAM *Wks. & Rem.* (1686) 25 Heavens just pow'r thought fit To scourge this latter, and more sinful age With all the dregs, and squeesings of his rage. *a* 1719 ADDISON tr. *Virg. Georg.* IV. Wks. 1721 I. 23 His Bees first swarm'd, and made his vessels foam With the rich squeezing of the juicy comb.

2. The action of oppressing by exactions or extortion; the practice of extorting excessive or illicit gain.

1681 R. L'ESTRANGE *Tully's Offices* 147 Publique Cheats, Oppressions, Squeezing of the people. 1693 *Humours Town* 32 Being better acquainted with the squeezing and harassing of their tenants. 1697 J. COLLIER *Ess. Mor. Subj.* II. (1709) 74 Let there nothing be said against..Spinning out of Causes, Squeesing of Clients. 1768 FOOTE *Devil* I. Wks. 1799 II. 252 He only suggested their cent. per cent. squeezings, and prompted the various modes of extortion and rapine. 1864 *Athenæum* No. 1923. 297/2 The squeezing, or black mail,..of the mandarins. 1892 *Daily News* 26 Oct. 5/7 From the highest official to the lowest all practise a system of unblushing robbery, called 'squeezing'.

3. *attrib.*, as *squeezing action, noise, process*; **squeezing-box** (see quot. 1875); † **squeezing watch**, ? a repeating watch operated by pressing the mechanism.

1708 *Brit. Apollo* No. 30. 4/2 Lost..a Gold Squeezing-watch, with a Gold Chain to it. *Ibid.* No. 40. 4/2 Lost.., a Gold Sweezing Watch. 1853 KANE *Grinnell Exped.* xxxiii. (1856) 283 We could hear a squeezing noise among the ice-fields. 1868 *Rep. Munitions War* 285 Close the breech by a squeezing action. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2295/2 *Squeezing-box*, a metallic cylinder having a hole in the bottom, through which clay is pressed for shaping the handles, etc., of earthenware. 1900 *Daily News* 24 Sept. 2/2 Now I hope the squeezing process has come to an end.

Squee·zing, *ppl. a.* [f. as prec.] That squeezes, in various senses; also, indicative of effort.

a 1687 VILLIERS (Dk. Buckhm.) *Poems* (1775) 144 His squeezing looks, his pangs of wit accuse, The very symptoms of a breeding muse. *a* 1726 in P. Walker *Life R. Cameron* in *Biogr. Presbyt.* (1827) I. 291 With squeezing Boots malignant Malice sported. 1727 SWIFT *Wonder of Wonders* Wks. 1751 II. II. 52 He hath the reputation to be a close, griping, squeezing fellow. 1839 [see SQUEEZER 3]. 1853 KANE *Grinnell Exped.* xxxix. (1856) 358 Followed by the peculiar swash of squeezing ice. 1897 *Westm. Gaz.* 15 Feb. 3 Would she..remain fixed to be crushed by the squeezing masses?

Squeezy (skwī·zi), *a.* [f. as prec.] Suggestive of, characterized by, squeezing; having a compressed or confined character. Also *fig.*

1751 GRAY *Lett.* (1900) I. 216 The Women are few here, squeezy & formal, and little skill'd in amusing themselves or other People. 1759 *Compl. Lett.-writer* (1768) 217 After her, ..by Way of Contrast, the squeezy Mrs Ellen Risborough, contracting her Minuteness to a Shadow, with Stays.. pinching her like [a] Pair of Nutcrackers. 1825 T. LISTER *Granby* xvii. (1836) 110 And then another squeezy quadrille, and so on. 1843 Mrs. ROMER *Rhone, Darro*, etc. II. 142 A squeezy little room just large enough to contain my bed. 1866 Miss BRADDON *Lady's Mile* vii, The deliciously-squeezy little drawing-rooms and ante-chambers..in Mayfair.

Squelch (skweltʃ, skwelʃ), *sb.* Also 8 **squelsh**. [Imitative.]

1. A heavy crushing fall or blow acting on a soft body; the sound produced by this.

1620 SHELTON *Quix.* III. iv. 25 The Stakes fail'd, and I got a good Squelch upon the Ground. 1656 EARL MONM. tr. *Boccalini's Advts. fr. Parnass.* I. xliii. 59 Giving their Adversaries such deadly squelches as they shall never rise again. 1719 OZELL tr. *Misson's Mem. Trav. Eng.* 25 A Turn of the [Bull's] Horn..puts him in Danger of a damnable Squelch when he comes down. 1760–72 H. BROOKE *Fool of Qual.* (1809) II. 18 His shoulders and head came with a squelch to the earth. 1829 MARRYAT *F. Mildmay* xix, I heard a heavy squelch and a howl. 1854 H. MILLER *Sch. & Schlm.* xxi. (1858) 467, I heard a peculiar sound,—a *squelch*, if I may employ such a word.

fig. 1685 F. SPENCE tr. *Varilla's Ho. Medicis* 301 The house of Medici now seem'd humbled by so terrible a squelch, that it cou'd not..get up again.

b. *fig.* A disconcerting surprise.

1815 LAMB *Corr.* 278 Just such a cold squelch as going down a plausible turning and suddenly reading 'No thoroughfare'.

2. A thing or mass that has the appearance of having been squelched or crushed. Also *fig.*

1837 CARLYLE *Misc. Ess.* (1888) V. 195 A mangled squelch of gore, confusion and abomination. 1849 D. G. ROSSETTI *Let. to W. M. Rossetti* 24 Sept., Your surgeon..is a wretched sneak—quite a sniggering squelch of a fellow.

3. The sound made by a liquid when subjected to sudden or intermittent pressure.

1895 SNAITH *Dorothy Marvin* xxviii, 'Twas sickening to feel the squelch of the blood at your sword point. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* III. 476 To the expert physician the sounds are not closely alike; that of gastralgia is a squelch.

Squelch (skweltʃ, skwelʃ), *v.* Also 7 **squelche**, 8–9 **squelsh**. [f. as prec. Cf. QUELCH *v.*]

1. *trans.* To fall, drop, or stamp upon (something soft) with crushing or squashing force; to crush in this way.

1624 MIDDLETON *Game at Chess* v. iii, The Fat Bishop hath so overlaid me, So squelch'd and squeezed me, I've no verjuice left in me! *a* 1625 FLETCHER *Nice Valour* v. i, Oh 'twas your luck and mine to be squelch'd, Mr. 'Has stamped my very puddings into Pancakes. 1719 BAYNARD *Health* (1740) 30 Besides your guts, if fat, it squelches, And causes fumes, and sour belches. 1825 HONE *Every-day Bk.* I. 1198 His left leg stood upon another dog squelched by his weight. 1850 KINGSLEY *Alton Locke* xxxvi. (1879) 377 My cousin, as he turned away, thrust the stone back with his foot, and squelched me flat. 1880 *Daily Tel.* 9 Dec., The smallest of the family of steam hammers will squelch it as thin as a sixpence at a single blow.

refl. 1859 *Blackw. Mag.* LXXXV. 302/1 Each man squelching himself..in the corner that best pleased him.

fig. 1862 CARLYLE *Fredk. Gt.* XII. xi. (1872) IV. 250 Ambitious persons often..get squelched to pieces by bringing the Twelve Labours of Hercules on Unherculean backs.

b. *fig.* To squash or crush; to put down or suppress thoroughly or completely.

1864 *Temperance Spectator* 1 Dec. 184 We readily concede that the doctrine..has been utterly squelched by the Doctor's weighty arguments. 1872 H. W. BEECHER *Chr. World Pulpit* I. 207/3 The time is coming when you cannot squelch a barbarian horde in Pennsylvania without having it known throughout..the world. 1878 HUXLEY in *Life* (1900) I. xxxiii. 488 It would be so nice to squelch that pompous impostor. 1890 *Spectator* 8 Nov., The movement for 'reciprocity' in Canada..will be squelched at once.

2. *intr.* †**a.** To make squelchy sounds, *Obs.*[—1]

1709 *Brit. Apollo* No. 38. 3/2 Still Coughing or Squelching, ..[She] is all that is ugly and old.

b. To fall with a squelch.

1755 JOHNSON, *To Squab*, v.n., to fall down plump or flat; to squelsh or squash. 1825 BRITTON *Beauties Wilts* III. 378 *Squelch*, to fall heavily. 1865– in dial. glossaries, etc. (Derby, Warw., Wilts.).

c. To emit a squelch or squelches; to spout in squelches.

1834 J. WILSON *Noctes Ambr.* Wks. 1856 IV. 25 Their sodden corpses squelchin at every spang o' the flying dragons. 1892 STEVENSON & OSBOURNE *Wrecker* v. 68 My boots began to squelch and pipe along the restaurant floors. 1905 McCARTHY *Dryad* 263 Water was squelching and oozing and bubbling over his horse's fetlocks.

d. To walk or tread heavily in water or wet ground, or with water in the shoes, so as to make a splashing sound.

1849 ALB. SMITH *Pottleton Legacy* xxiv. 254 You'd..pass all your time in squelching about soppy fields. 1851 HAWTHORNE *Amer. Note-Bks.* (1883) 404 He squelching along all the way, with his india-rubber shoes full of water. 1881 *Blackw. Mag.* July 110 In another moment [we] were squelching over the sloppy ground.

Hence **Squelched** *ppl. a.*

1837 CARLYLE *Misc.* (1840) V. 98, I behold thee..a squelched Putrefaction, here on London pavements. 1867 F. HARRISON *Autobiogr. Mem.* (1911) I. xviii. 343 Unmistakably..the squelched rats will squeal.

Squelch, *adv.* [f. as prec.] With or as with a squelch or heavy squash.

1772 R. GRAVES *Spir. Quix.* (1783) III. 202 When he was got about seven or eight feet high, he made a sudden pause; and, squelch, he came down again. 1820 *Glenfergus* I. iv. 93 The maid lay squelch on the floor, rolled together, and blubbering and bawling hideously. 1823– in dial. glossaries (Suffolk, Nhp., Leics., Hamps., Warw., Wilts.). 1851 BORROW *Lavengro* lxxxviii, He lost his wind, and falling squelch on the ground, do you see, he lost the battle.

Sque·lcher. *colloq.* [f. SQUELCH *v.*] One who, or that which, squelches; a squelching or crushing blow, leading article, etc.

1854 'C. Bede' *Verdant Green* II. iv, There's a squelcher in the bread-basket, that'll stop your dancing! **1876** Besant & Rice *Gold. Butterfly* xviii, I went back to the editor's room. He was going on again with his usual occupation of manufacturing squelchers. **1893** *Microcosm* (N. Y.) X. 192 He then asserts..that he has demolished our law by an overwhelming 'squelcher'.

Sque·lching, *vbl. sb.* [f. Squelch *v.*] The action of the verb, in various senses.

1709 *Brit. Apollo* No. 38. 3/2 Her Coughing and Squelching, Her F..ting and Belch[in]g, Ye Gods, what a Consort is here! **189.** Kipling *Soldiers Three, Only a Subaltern,* There was an undecided squelching of heavy boots.

Sque·lching, *ppl. a.* [f. as prec.]

1. *dial.* Unusually big; burly.

1854 Miss Baker *Northampt. Gloss.* s.v., A great squelching man. *a* **1904** in *Eng. Dial. Dict.* (Warw., Hants.).

2. That squelches under treading or pressure; emitting a squelchy sound.

1869 'Bradwood' [W. B. Woodgate] *The O. V. H.* I. xii. 210 The soil was rather holding and squelching. **1894** Jane Barlow *Kerrigan* 110 He stepped up in his squelching brogues. **1895** K. Grahame *Golden Age* 14, I dug glad heels into the squelching soil.

3. Of sounds: Of the nature of a squelch; suggestive of squelching.

1881 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* V. 177 When removed from the water they emit a peculiar 'squelching' noise. **1885** *Pall Mall G.* 5 May 4/2 Portions are dabbed on the plates with a slapping, squelching sound.

4. Crushing; squashing.

1885 *New Bk. Sports* 123 A straight downward blow, is delivered with a peculiarly 'squelching' effect.

Squelchy (skwe·ltʃi, skwe·lʃi), *a.* [f. Squelch *sb.* or *v.*]

1. Liable to squelch or to emit a squelching sound. Cf. Squelching *ppl. a.* 2.

1843 [James] *Commissioner* 48 The peer was seen struggling to raise the squelchy rotundity of his abdomen over the wall. **1899** *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 153 It is to be remembered that the squelchy stomachs, as I have called them,..of many neurasthenics may be taken for dilated organs.

2. Of sounds: = Squelching *ppl. a.* 3.

1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* III. 475 Squelchy sounds on manipulation are not certain signs of ectasis. **1904** *Westm. Gaz.* 4 Feb. 1/3 At each stamp his shoes had made a squelchy squeak.

Squelery, obs. form of Scullery.

† Squelter, obs. variant of Swelter *v.*

1595 *Locrine* II. vi, The slaughtered Troians, squeltring in their blood. *Ibid.* III. iv, The trecherous Scithians squeltring in their gore.

Squench, *v.* Now *dial.* Also 6 sqwenche, 9 squinch. [f. Quench *v.* with prosthetic *s-*.]

1. *trans.* To extinguish, put out (a fire, etc.). Also *absol.*

1535 Layton in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* Ser. III. III. 165 The gret dynyng chambre.. was sodenly fierede by sum fierbronde...Asson as I hade sett men to sqwenche and to labor, I went into the Churche. **1541** Paynell *Catiline* vii. 11 Rather wyll a womanne squenche flame in a burnynge mouthe than kepe counsayle. **1600** *1st Pt. Contention* G 2 b, London bridge is a fire. Runne to Billingsgate, and fetch pitch and flaxe and squench [1619 quench] it. **1698** Fryer *Acc. E. India & P.* 152 One of the Factors..was blown up by a Cartrige of Pow[d]er, and squenched his Cloathes a-flame in the Ocean. **1823** E. Moor *Suffolk Words, Squench,* to quench—fire or thirst. **1889** Tennyson *Owd Roa* lix, I'll coom an' I'll squench the light.

2. To suppress, put an end to; to quell or stifle.

1577 Grange *Golden Aphrod.* M iv b, Our sorrowes are squenched, with pleasaunt delight. **1606** Warner *Alb. Eng.* xv. xcvi. 384 Babel is falne, Vr-Caldick squencht, Delphos in no request. *c* **1610** Beaum. & Fl. *Philaster* v. i, They'l flea him, and make Church Buckets on's skin to squench rebellion.

3. To satisfy (the appetite, etc.); to slake (one's thirst).

1598 T. Bastard *Chrestoleros* (1880) 53 Whome all the worlde which late they stood vpon Could not content nor squench their appetites. **1803** Mary Charlton *Wife & Mistress* IV. 50 Forbidding her a dish of tea to squinch her thirst. **1840** Dickens *Old C. Shop* lviii, I wouldn't have taken much..—only enough to squench my hunger. **1876–** in various dial. glossaries.

4. To slake (lime).

1643 J. Steer tr. *Exp. Chyrurg.* vi. 24 Water, wherein Lime hath been squenched, is good for the same purpose.

5. *intr.* To become extinguished.

1643 J. Steer tr. *Exp. Chyrurg.* v. 14 Coals doe quickly squench if they are scattered about.

Hence **Sque·ncher,** that which quenches.

1871 Black in W. Reid *Biogr.* (1902) iii. 95 If I had merely taken a squencher at Simpson's in Oxford Street. **1894** Heslop *Northumberland Gloss.* 682 *Squinsher,* an extinguisher for a candle.

Squene, variant of Squean *v. Obs.*

† Squetch, obs. variant of Quetch *v.*

13.. *Sir Beues* 1753 þe medwe squaußte of [*v.r.* quakyd with] her dentes, þe fur fleȝ out, so spark o flintes.

Squeteague (skwetī·g). *U.S.* [Narragansett Indian.] The weak-fish or sea-salmon, *Cynoscion regalis* († *Otolithus regalis,* † *Labrus Squeteague*), of the eastern United States. *Spotted squeteague* (see quot. 1884).

1838 in D. H. Storer *Rep. Fishes Mass.* (1839) 33 The squeteague, or weak fish, have disappeared since the return of the blue fish, who are their avowed enemy. **1848** Bartlett *Dict. Amer.* 328 *Squeteague,* or *Squetee,*..a very common fish in the waters of Long Island Sound and adjacent bays. **1871** in Good *Amer. Fishes* (1888) 113 Scup have disappeared from Narragansett Bay, but Squeteague have taken their place. **1884** Goode *Nat. Hist. Aquatic Anim.* 365 The Spotted Squeteague, *Cynoscion maculatum.* This fish is..in every respect very unlike a trout, and the name 'Spotted Squeteague' has been proposed for it.

Squetee: (see prec., quot. 1848).

Squib (skwib), *sb.* Forms: 6 squyb(e, sqwybe (skwybe, skuybe, scuibe, skybb), 7 squybb, 6–7 squibb(e (7 sqib, squip), 6– squib. [Of obscure origin; perh. intended as imitative of an explosive sound.]

1. A common species of firework, in which the burning of the composition is usually terminated by a slight explosion.

'Squibs are straight cylindrical cases about 6 inches long, firmly closed at one end, tightly packed with a strong composition, and capped with touch-paper' (**1886** *Encycl. Brit.* XX. 136).

a **1530** Heywood *Play of Love* 1293 (Stage-dir.), Here the vyse cometh in..with a hye copyn tank on his hed full of squybs fyred. **1551–a** in Feuillerat *Revels Edw. VI* (1914) 67 One hollowe clubb to burne squibbes in. **1582** N. Lichefield tr. *Castanheda's Conq. E. Ind.* I. xii. 31 Our men made them a great feast, with much pastime also of Squibs, Gunne shot, and great and lowde cryes. **1623** in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* Ser. I. III. 160 Every College had a speech and one dish more at supper, and bonefires and squibbes in their Courts. **1673** Boyle *Ess. Effluviums* II. 28 The irregular and wrigling motion of those fired Squibs that Boys are wont to make by ramming Gunpowder into Quills. **1721** Amherst *Terræ Fil.* No. 22 (1756) I. 124 Several squibs were thrown in at the window, which burnt some of their cloaths. **1774** *Ann. Reg.* 151 Several people amused themselves with throwing squibs about the gates of the palace. **1808** *Beverley Lighting Act* 18 Crackers, squibs, serpents, rockets, or other fireworks. **1847** Alb. Smith *Chr. Tadpole* i. (1879) 20 The literary gentleman having finished, like a damp squib with a good bang, resumed his seat. **1873** E. Spon *Workshop Receipts* Ser. I. 139/1 For squibs, before filling the case, ram in hard a thimbleful of coarse gunpowder.

b. In fig. context. (Cf. sense 3.)

1599 *Broughton's Lett.* 47 Your bookes [are] but squibs, compounds of gunpowder and pisse. **1623** Hexham *Tongue-combat* 50 [It] sets all Christendome in combustion, with a Romish squib of reseruation. **1644** Quarles *Whipper Whipt* Wks. (Grosart) I. 164/1 If he cast no squibs in a Princes face,..they say he hath nó holy Fire in him. **1753** Richardson *Grandison* (1781) II. 282, I could then throw my little squibs about me at pleasure; and not fear..the singeing of my own cloaths! *a* **1771** Smollett *Humph. Cl.* (1815) 236 He..even threw such squibs at the immortality of the soul, as singed a little the whiskers of Mrs. Tabitha's faith. **1861** *Sat. Rev.* 30 Nov. 554 A talker of the highest order ought not to encourage the expectation of squibs and crackers as often as he opens his mouth. **1882** A. W. Ward *Dickens* iii. 68 In 1841 he had thrown a few squibs in the Examiner at Sir Robert Peel and the Tories.

† c. In fig. allusions to the display of such fireworks on a rope or line. *Obs.*

1647 Cleveland *Charac. Lond.-Diurn.* (1653) 81 But the Squib is run to the end of the Rope. **1649** G. Daniel *Trinarch.* To Rdr. 39 Some Squibbs prepareing are, the Ropes are laid To entertaine the Gapers. **1679** Dryden *Limberham* v. i, Well, the squibs run to the end of the line, and now for the cracker.

2. † **a.** An explosive device used as a missile or means of attack. *Obs.*

1589 R. Harvey *Pl. Perc.* (1590) 7 Not to cast them like squibs & wild fire within your owne hatches. **1591** Raleigh *Last Fight 'Revenge'* A 3 b, Their Nauy..consisting of 240 saile of ships.. were..driuen with squibs from their anchors. **1598** Florio, *Petardo,* a squib or petard of gun powder vsed to burst vp gates or doores with. **1610** B. Jonson *Alch.* IV. iii, He speakes out of a fortification. 'Pray god, he ha' no squibs in those deepe sets. **1686** tr. *Chardin's Trav. Persia* 3 The Admiral coming to an Anchor, fir'd several Squibs from his Main-Top-Mast.

b. *slang.* A gun.

1839 G. W. M. Reynolds *Pickw. Abroad* xxvi. *Song,* A double-tongued [=double-barrelled] squib to keep in awe The chaps that flout at me.

c. *Mining.* (See quots.)

1881 Raymond *Mining Gloss., Squib,* a slow-match or safety-fuse, used with a barrel. **1883** Gresley *Gloss. Coal-m.* 234 *Squib,* a straw, rush, paper, or quill tube filled with a priming of gunpowder,..and ignited by means of a smift.

3. A smart gird or hit; a sharp scoff or sarcasm; a short composition of a satirical and witty character; a lampoon.

c **1525** in Thoms *Anecd.* (Camden) 15 Purposing to put a grave slye squibbe upon him, 'Sir,' sayes he, 'this does not well'. **1593** Nashe *Four Lett. Conf.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 277 Thou must haue one squibbe more at the Deuils Orator, ..or thy penne is not in cleane life. **1607** Hieron *Defence* I. 224 Observe..his squibb at M. B. for saying Austin not S. Austin. **1654** Vilvain *Theorem. Theol.* iii. 87 'Tis a silly Sophisters squib to say, Bishops are caled Elders, and contrarily. **1739** Pope *Let. to Warburton* 4 Jan., I see by certain squibs in the Miscellanies, that [etc.]. **1775** Bindley in *J. Granger's Lett.* (1805) 387 The little squib you sent me I thank you for; I think it lively enough. **1844** Disraeli *Coningsby* I. ii, No one was more faithful to his early friends.., particularly if they could write a squib. **1882** Sergt. Ballantine *Exper.* xiii. 127 His tendency to uphold technical views gave rise to a very clever squib.

4. Applied to persons: † **a.** A mean, insignificant, or paltry fellow. *Obs.*

1586 Abp. Loftus in Froude *Eng.* (1870) XII. 201 *note,* They are all of them but a sort of beggars and squibbes, puppies, dogs, dunghill churles. **1591** Spenser *M. Hubberd* 371 Its an hard case, when men of good deseruing Must ..be..asked for their pas by euerie squib, That list at will them to reuile or snib. **1599** Nashe *Lenten Stuff* Wks. (Grosart) V. 288 Out steps me an infant squib of the Innes of Court. *a* **1653** G. Daniel *Idyll* i. 39 Away! Squibbs of Scurrilitie; 'twas Shame First taught vs cloths.

† **b.** A subordinate decoy in a gambling-house.

1731 *Gentl. Mag.* I. 25 A Squib is a Puff of a lower Rank, who serves at half salary.

c. A firer or thrower of squibs. *rare*[−1].

1759 H. Walpole *Lett.* (1846) III. 471 Every squib in town got drunk, and rioted about the streets till morning.

d. *Oxford slang.* (See quot.)

1866 *St. James's Mag.* Oct. 366 The simple seeming 'squib' was..a phrase used..by the privileged Christ Church man to designate any member of the university not a member of the..House. *Ibid.* 367 The supercilious *soubriquet* of 'squib' is practically extinct.

5. A squirt or syringe. Now *dial.*

1583 Stubbes *Anat. Abus.* II. (1882) 36 A squirt, or a squibbe, which little children vsed to squirt out water withall. **1854–** in dial. glossaries (Nhp., Leics., Worc., Kent, Glouc., Warw.).

† **6.** (See first quot.) *Obs.*

1611 Cotgr., *Petereau,* a little fart, or Squib. **1653** Urquhart *Rabelais* I. xxv, Often-times thinking to let a squib, they did all-to-besquatter..themselves.

7. a. A small measure or quantity (*of* strong drink). Now *dial.*

1766 Amory *Buncle* (1770) III. 208 He got me a good supper of trouts, fine ale, and a squib of punch. **1805** in *Spirit Public Jrnls.* IX. 312 We raised our spirits with a snack of the bacon, and a squib of gin each. **1844** W. H. Maxwell *Wand. Highl.* iii. (1855) 52 You..rode your..match without a *squib.* **1869–** in dial. glossaries, etc. (Lancs., Yks., Westm.).

b. *slang.* A head of asparagus.

1851 Mayhew *Lond. Lab.* I. 93/1, I buy all mine at Covent-garden, where it's sold in bundles,..containing from six to ten dozen squibs (heads).

c. *colloq.* A kind of sweet made up in a form resembling a squib.

1851 Mayhew *Lond. Lab.* I. 203/2 'Hardbake', 'almond toffy', 'half-penny lollipops', 'black balls', the cheaper 'bulls eyes', and 'squibs' are all made of treacle.

d. *slang.* (See quot.)

1865 *Slang Dict.* 244 *Squibs,* paint-brushes.

8. *attrib.* and *Comb.,* as (in sense 1) *squib-crack(er, -light, -maker, -powder;* (in sense 3) *squib-teller, -writer;* † squib-pear (see quots. 1664–76).

c **1610** Beaum. & Fl. *Philaster* II, They talk of Jupiter, he's but a squib cracker to her. **1630** J. Taylor (Water P.) *Laugh and be Fat* Wks. I. 70 With squib-crack lightning, empty hogshead thundring, To maze the world with terror & with wondring. **1647** (*title*), A Fresh Whip for all scandalous Lyers; or, a true Description of the two eminent Pamphliteers, or Squib-tellers of this Kingdome. **1659** *England's Conf.* 16 Hab. Morley Squib-maker. **1664** Evelyn *Kal. Hort.* 80 Fruits in Prime, and yet lasting..The Squib-pear, Spindle-pear, Virgin. **1676** Worlidge *Cyder* (1691) 216 Dead mans pear, Bell-pear, the Squib-pear,..are all very good winter pears. **1837** W. B. Adams *Carriages* ii. 47 Their own poet Taylor..now and then assisted by a stray pamphleteer or squib-writer. **1893** *Westm. Gaz.* 7 Nov. 3/2 A sort of Lord Mayor's Show by torchlight and squib-light.

Squib (skwib), *v.* Also 7 squibb(e. [f. the sb.]

I. *intr.* **1.** To use smart or sarcastic language; to utter, write, or publish a squib or squibs. Freq. const. *against, at, on, upon.*

1579–80 G. Harvey *Lett.* Wks. (Grosart) I. 80 For squibbing and declayming against many fruitlesse Artes, and Craftes. **1607** Hieron *Defence* I. 224 Why is M. B. squibbed at, who obserueth that course? **1682** Bunyan *Greatness Soul* Wks. 1855 I. 138 It is a sport now to taunt and squib and deride at other men's virtues. **1718** *Entertainer* No. 40. 276 He has a deal of reason to be perpetually a squibbing upon the Romish Clergy. **1797** Wolcot (P. Pindar) *Ode Sir J. Banks* Wks. 1812 III. 454 What a joke! ye certainly are squibbing. **1825** *New Monthly Mag.* XVI. 312 Now artists and actors the bardling engage To squib in the journals, and write for the stage. **1852** W. Jerdan *Autobiog.* II. iii. 26, I argued, and fought, and squibbed, and abused, with the hottest of my contemporaries.

2. a. To let off squibs; to go *on* doing this. In the quot. a stage-direction for thunder.

1691 J. Wilson *Belphegor* I. i, I'd make him know, I fill my Orb my self...—Squib on—and say [etc.].

b. To fire a gun, etc.; to shoot. Also *fig.*

1831 *Lincoln Herald* 22 July 4/4 To go squibbing about with their guns, and putting in jeopardy the lives of his majesty's subjects. **1839** G. W. M. Reynolds *Pickw. Abroad* xxvi. *Song,* And if the swells resist our 'Stand!' We'll squib without a joke.

3. To move *about* like a squib.

1760–a Goldsm. *Cit. World* lxxviii, A battered unmarried beau, who squibs about from place to place. **1886** *S. W. Linc. Gloss.* 140 Mary Ann does squib about; she nips about when she is playing.

4. To make a report like that of a squib.

1886 Kipling *Departm. Ditties,* etc. (1899) 83 A Snider squibbed in the jungle.

II. *trans.* **5. a.** To cast or throw *forth, off, out* (a remark, quip, etc.) after the manner of a squib.

1596 Nashe *Saffron Walden* Wks. (Grosart) III. 184 Anie Frezeland, Dutch, or Almain scribe..that hath but squibd foorth a Latin *Puerilis* in Print. **1602** Dekker *Satirom.* Wks. 1873 I. 235, I could make thine eares burne now that thou wouldst never squib out any new Salt-peter jestes against honest Tucca. **1649** G. Daniel *Trinarch., Rich. II,* cccxli, The Arch-Bishop still Flirting Divinitie against the Throne,..Squibs the Worne moralls, Hope and Patience. **1853** W. Jerdan *Autobiog.* IV. xiii. 237 Hook squibbed off a few pleasantries.

b. To let off (a squib); to fire (a gun, etc.), esp. with the priming or powder only; † to shoot (an arrow).

1603 Sir C. Heydon *Def. Jud. Astrol.* ii. 22 A child squibbes his arrows at random into the aire. 1811 *Spirit Public Jrnls.* XVI. 5 Squibbed our guns over the bridge. 1829 W. H. Maxwell *Stories Waterloo, F. Kennedy* 223 The customary bows were formally interchanged between the respective belligerents,..pistols squibbed, loaded, and delivered to the principals. 1892 B. Hinton *Lord's Return* 194, I shall have all the squibs squibbed if I don't go.

† c. *fig.* To throw *in* as a squib. *Obs.*—1

1655 Fuller *Hist. Camb.* 14 When Matthew Parker.. reports, how many deserting Oxford removed to Cambridge, he [Twine] squibs in this Parenthesis.

6. To assail or attack (a person) with squibs or witty sarcasm; to lampoon or satirize smartly.

1631 May tr. *Barclay's Mirr. Minds* II. 20 They..are squibbed with iests and taunts, which like little darts, are in daily discourse throwne against them. 1758 J. Adams *Diary* 29 Dec. Wks. 1850 II. 53 Lambert will laugh, no doubt, and will tell the story to every man he sees, and will squib me about it whenever he sees me. 1830 *Examiner* 2/1 He suffered himself to be squibbed to death. 1868 Green *Lett.* (1901) II. 202 The mendicant parson, whom I am so fond of squibbing. 1880 Disraeli *Endym.* xxxiii, There is a cabinet minister;..I have been squibbing him for these two years.

7. To spatter with a squib or squirt.

1840 Barham *Ingol. Leg.* Ser. II. *Nurs. Rem.* vi, Billy Hawkins..with his pewter squirt Squibb'd my pantaloons and stockings Till they were all over dirt.

† **Squibals,** *sb. pl. Obs. rare.* [ad. med.L. *squibala*, ad. Gr. σκύβαλα (sing. σκύβαλον).] Hard excrement.

a 1425 tr. *Arderne's Treat. Fistula*, etc. 76 Water alon & salt boiled togidre and 3ette in by a clistrye bringeþ out squiballez. *Ibid.* 77 Þe egestions, wheþer it be blode or putride flemme &c, or wormes or squiballez indurate.

Squi·barchy. [f. Squib *sb.* 4 d.] The predominance of 'squibs'.

1866 *St. James's Mag.* Oct. 366 Professor-canons..who, in their persons, introduced Squibarchy into those sacred precincts.

Squi·bber. [f. Squib *v.*] One who writes or utters squibs.

1824 *Blackw. Mag.* XVI. 347 Never disturb yourself about little squibs...If you want to annoy the squibber, pretend never to have heard of them. 1863 *Athenæum* 11 July 45/3 Of course we speak of Hook the novelist, not of the political squibber of the *John Bull*.

Squibbery (skwi·bəri). [f. Squib *sb.* + -ery.]

1. The writing or production of squibs; satire in the form of squibs.

1820 Miss Mitford in L'Estrange *Life* (1870) II. 115, I did not go to Reading; the squibbery there was too much to encounter. 1824 *Examiner* 739/1 Some allowable squibbery was delivered in the way of a candid admission of the absence of conveniences for a stud of horses. 1834 Moore *Mem.* (1856) VII. 59 The verses having been declined in the usual quarter through which I discharged my squibbery.

2. Squibs (*sc.* fireworks) collectively.

1824 Miss Mitford *Village* Ser. I. (1863) 57 The loyal conflagration of the arch traitor Guy Vaux,..accompanied with as much of squibbery and crackery as our boys can beg or borrow.

Squi·bbing, *vbl. sb.* [f. Squib *v.*]

1. The utterance or writing of squibs.

1607 S. Collins *Serm.* (1608) 70 Their squibbing at the Prelacie, yea and glancing sometimes at the soueraign authority. *a* 1849 Poe *Thou art the Man* Wks. 1895 I. 148 Hereupon some little squibbing and bickering occurred among various members of the crowd. 1856 J. W. Croker in *C. Papers* (1884) I. i. 5, I was an early dabbler in political squibbing.

2. The action of firing or letting off squibs, shooting with a gun, etc. Also with *off*.

1697 in *14th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. II. 592 The Governors of the city have been very diligent to prevent the squibbing. 1729 Swift *To Delany* Wks. 1751 III. ii. 228 When with squibbing, flashing, popping, He cannot see one creature dropping. 1814 *Sporting Mag.* XLIV. 108 Nothing is more absurd, if a gun has been washed, than dirtying it long before its time, by what is called 'squibbing'. 1830 *Poor Man's Guardian* 25 Dec. 5/1 The squibbing off a few pistols after the meeting. 1841 *Peter Parley's Annual* II. 63 He was thoughtless enough to go on the Green in the midst of the squibbing, with this large quantity of squibs and crackers about him.

b. In fig. context.

1825 T. Hook *Sayings* Ser. II. *Doubts & F.* vii, Under the heavy fire of her self-gratulation, supported by the auxiliary squibbing of her dependant. 1840 Mrs. Gore in *New Monthly Mag.* LX. 53 The solemn minute-guns of a quarterly review compared with the squibbings of a daily paper.

Squi·bbing, *ppl. a.* [f. Squib *v.*]

1. Uttering or composing squibs; of the nature of a squib or squibs; characterized by smart or satirical remarks.

c 1650 in Langbaine *Acc. Eng. Dram. Poets* (1691) 258 The squibbing Middleton, and Heywood Sage, Th' Apologetick Atlas of the Stage. *a* 1652 Cleveland *Poems* 41 But you're inchanted, Sir, you're doubly free From the great Guns and Squibbing Poetry. 1825 T. Hook *Sayings* Ser. II. *Passion & Princ.* x, A squibbing conversation, which was carrying on between the mother and daughters at the top of the table.

2. Acting as squibs; explosive.

1710 J. Dunton *Life & Err.* (1818) II. xv. 704 Our squibbing *Boutefeus*, that fill the Church with endless noise, and heat, and pother.

3. Moving in a jerky irregular manner.

1895 *Outing* XXVII. 195/2 When I tried to take him on with a squibbing pony for half a mile.

Squibbish (skwi·biʃ), *a.* [f. Squib *sb.*] Having something of the character of a squib.

1676 Mace *Musick's Mon.* 129 Toys, or Jiggs, are Light Squibbish Things. 1822 *Examiner* 697/2 The squibbish breadth of humour in the encounter is highly diverting. 1826 Disraeli *V. Grey* III. viii, I had expected..something juvenile and squibbish, when lo! I was introduced to a corpulent individual.

† **Squi·bbler.** *Obs.*—1 [Alteration of Quibbler, perh. after Squib.] A quibbling writer.

1671 Eachard *Obs. Answ. Cont. Clergy* 4 He must be bound over to Westminster Squibblers, hard Thrusters and Reputation Wounders.

† **Squi·bbling,** *ppl. a. Obs.*—1 [Cf. prec.] Of the nature of a quibble; equivocal.

1674 Bunyan *Peaceable Princ.* Wks. 1853 II. 649 Your artificial squibbling suggestions to the world about myself.

Squi·blet. *rare.* [f. Squib *sb.* + -let.] A little squib; a jeu d'esprit.

1820 *Blackw. Mag.* VIII. 123, I enclose you a squiblet which was written when Sir J. E. Smith..made his grand charge on our Botanical Chair.

Squi·bling. *rare*—1. [-ling.] = Squiblet.

1884 *Sat. Rev.* 8 Nov. 590/2 A burnt out and by no means clean squibling like Mr. Thorold Rogers's comparison of the House of Lords to the Cities of the Plain.

† **Squi·bster.** *Obs.*—1 [f. Squib *sb.* + -ster.] One who fires or throws squibs.

1625 Purchas *Pilgrimes* II. 1823 After them came Squibsters, but how many in number I could not vnderstand.

Squich, obs. f. Squitch *v.*; obs. var. Such *a.*

Squid (skwid), *sb.* Also 7 **squide.** [Of obscure origin.]

1. One or other of various species of cephalopods belonging to the family *Loliginidæ, Teuthididæ*, or *Sepiidæ*, more esp. to the genus *Loligo*; a calamary, cuttle, or pen-fish: **a.** With *a* and pl.

1613 Purchas *Pilgrimage* (1614) 747 Smelts and Squids.. come on shore in great abundance, fleeing from the deuouring cod. 1620 Mason *Newfoundland* 5 What should I speake of..Squides a rare kind of fish at his mouth squirting mattere forth like Inke. 1791 *Phil. Trans.* LXXXI. 44, I send you..some of the bills of the fish called Squids (which are supposed to be the food of spermaceti whales). 1809 *Naval Chron.* XXI. 22 Squids, a squalid kind of fish. 1863 Couch *Brit. Fishes* II. 46 From one example I took two Gobies and a Launce: from another a Squid, (*Loligo media*), five inches in length. 1888 Goode *Amer. Fishes* 27 Hunting for crabs, shrimps, squids, and other invertebrate animals.

b. With *the*, in generic use.

1839 T. Beale *Hist. Sperm Whale* 34 An animal of the cuttle-fish kind, called by sailors the 'squid', and by naturalists the 'sepia octopus'. 1859 Huxley in *Macm. Mag.* I. 145 'Loligo,' the squid of modern seas, appears in the lias, or at the bottom of the mesozoic series. 1880 in Morris *Austral. Eng.* (1898) 435 The squid (*Sepioteuthis australis*) is highly appreciated.

c. Without article, esp. as a bait or food-stuff.

1865 Thoreau *Cape Cod* vi. 107 Their bait was a bullfrog or several small frogs in a bunch, for want of squid. 1880 Miss Bird *Japan* II. 213 These lights are much used in fishing, specially for squid. 1883 *Cassell's Fam. Mag.* July 469/1 Neat little cuttle-fish .. are dried whole, for inland carriage, and others are salted and sold as squid.

2. With distinguishing terms, denoting various species.

1840 F. D. Bennett *Whaling Voy.* I. 269 The flying-squid rose from the sea in large flocks. 1851 S. P. Woodward *Mollusca* I. (1856) 73 The sailors call them 'sea-arrows' or 'flying squid' from their habit of leaping out of the water. 1861 *Chambers's Encycl.* II. 724/2 The Hook-squids of the South Seas.

3. a. A squid-bill (see quot.).

1822–7 Good *Study Med.* (1829) I. 334 The mass is usually loaded with hard bony fragments, by the seamen called squids, which are the beaks of the cuttle-fish, on which the whale is known to feed.

b. *Bone-squid*, an artificial bait made to imitate a squid.

1883 *Cent. Mag.* 383 Whether spoon-bait, bone-squid or other like lure.

4. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *squid-beak, -bill, -family, line, school, -tentacle*; *squid-catching, -jigging*; **squid fish,** = sense 1; **squid-hound, jig, -jigger, -thrower** (see quots.).

1884 Goode *Nat. Hist. Aquat. Anim.* 18 *Squid-beaks enough to fill two water-buckets were taken from the stomach. *Ibid.* 11 *note*, As *squid-bills are sometimes found in the lumps of ambergrease, it may be inferred, that ambergrease is some of the excrement from squid-food. 1881 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* V. 170 In many stations more than a dozen boats are engaged in *Squid-catching. 1883 in Morris *Austral Eng.* (1898) 435 None of the *Squid family seems to be sought after, although certain kinds are somewhat abundant in our waters. 1725 *Phil. Trans.* XXXIII. 262 The Sperma Ceti Whale, besides other Fish, feeds much upon a small Fish that has a Bill; our Fishermen call them *Squid Fish. 1884 Goode *Nat. Hist. Aquat. Anim.* 11 *note*, Squid-fish, one of the Newfoundland baits for cod, are sometimes in Newfoundland cast ashore in quantities. 1812 Southey *Omniana* I. 274 Accounts of the *squid-hound from people who have been on the southern whale fishery. 1884 Goode *Nat. Hist. Aquat. Anim.* 425 The Striped Bass. ..Large sea-going individuals are sometimes known in New England by the names 'Green-head' and 'Squid-hound'. 1883 *Fisheries Exhib. Catal.* 195 *Squid jigs used by Grand Bank Cod fishermen in the capture of squid for bait. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2295/2 *Squid-jigger*, a trolling-hook for catching squids for bait. 1881 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* V. 710 The fishermen go out in punts *Squid-jigging of an evening, to catch bait required for the next day's fishing. 1867 F. H. Ludlow *Little Brothers* 96 He can man his main-sheet with one hand, feel his *squid line with the other, and tend his tiller between his knees. 1884 Goode *Nat. Hist. Aquat. Anim.* 201 The '*Squid School' of Nantucket and other parts of the coast. 1897 Kipling *Capt. Cour.* 145 A little shiny piece of *squid-tentacle at the tip of a clam-baited hook. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2295/2 *Squid-thrower*, a device .. for throwing a fishing-line seaward, carrying the squid-bait.

Hence **Squid** *v. intr.*, to fish with squid-bait. *U.S.*

a 1859 in Bartlett *Dict. Amer.* (1859) 442 The bluefish is taken by squidding in swift tideways. 1894 *Outing* XXIV. 54/1 The fly-fisher scoffs at squidding, trolling, bait-fishing, spearing and at..everything save fly-fishing.

† **Squi·ddle,** *v. Obs.* = Quiddle *v.* 1 a.

1824 Lady Granville *Lett.* (1894) I. 322, I sat squiddling with them for some time. 1834 *Ibid.* II. 157 Mrs. Damer and many others sit and squiddle in the first room.

Squidge (skwidʒ). [Imitative. In dial. use also denoting 'a shove' and, as vb., 'to squeeze'.] The sound made by soft mud yielding to sudden pressure.

1897 Mary Kingsley *W. Africa* III My companion.. steers the boat up to it, and jumps out with a squidge into the black slime. 1905 D. Blackburn *K. Hartley* xvii, The moment he..heard the squidge of the mud, he realised his position and peril.

Squidgy (skwi·dʒi), *a.* [Cf. prec.] Short and plump; podgy. Also *Comb.*

1892 Kipling *Barrack Room Ball.* 23 Yon squidgy-nosed old idol. 1893 — *Many Invent.* 131 Come an' look at these squidgy ham-shanked beggars.

Squier(e, obs. ff. Square *sb.*, Squire *sb.*

Squiery : see Squiry.

† **Squiff.** *Obs.* [ad. F. *esquif*.] = Skiff *sb.*1 1.

1594 R. Ashley tr. *Loys le Roy* 8i [Marius] hid himself in the marish about Minturnes, and went to sea in a squiffe without victuals. 1620 tr. *Boccacio* 52b, What with the Tempests violence and ouerlading of the Squiffe, it sunke.

Squiffy (skwi·fi), *a. slang.* [Of fanciful formation.] Intoxicated; drunk.

1874 *Slang Dict.* 307 *Squiffy*, slightly inebriated. 1884 Mrs. C. Praed *Zéro* viii, At night she is generally a little squiffy. 1894 G. W. Appleton *Co-Respondent* ii. 42 You're a bit squiffy, aren't you, Dick? No, I'm as sober as a water-spout.

Squi·ggle, *sb.*1 [Imitative.] A giggle or sniggle.

1898 B. Capes *Adv. Comte de la Muette* v. 92, I was betrayed into a squiggle of laughter.

Squiggle (skwi·gl), *sb.*2 [f. next.] A wriggly twist or curve.

1902 W. W. Jacobs *Lady of Barge* 10 'How does my hair look?' 'All wavy,..all little curls and squiggles.'

Squi·ggle, *v.* Chiefly *dial.* and *U.S.* [Imitative: cf. Sniggle *v.*3 and Wriggle *v.*] **1.** *intr.* ? To work wavy or intricate embroidery. Hence **Squi·ggling** *vbl. sb.*

1804 in *Francis Lett.* (1901) II. 536 A pink velvet on her head—a good many necklaces—a vast deal of squiggling. *Ibid.* 549 Emily who had before thought her success depended very much on squiggling on a Worked Habit Shirt every afternoon.

2. To writhe about; to squirm or wriggle.

1816 Pickering *Vocab. U.S.*, *To Squiggle*, to move about like an eel. 1895–9 in *Eng. Dial. Dict.*

3. *trans.* To shake about (a liquid).

a 1825– in dial. glossaries (E. Anglia, Essex, Nhp., Warw.).

Squi·ggly, *a.* [f. prec.] Wavy, wriggly.

1902 Kipling *Just So Stories* 32 The squiggly things on the Parsee's hat are the rays of the sun.

Squilgee (skwi·ldʒī, skwildʒī·), *sb. Naut.* Also squillage, squiligee. [Of obscure origin.] (See quots. 1867–75, and cf. Squeegee *sb.* 1.)

1867 Smyth *Sailor's Word-bk.* 648 *Squilgee*, or *Squillage*, a small swab made of untwisted yarns. Figuratively, a lazy mean fellow. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2295/2 *Squilgee*, an instrument like a hoe, covered with leather, to rub the decks after washing. 1890 W. C. Russell *Ocean Trag.* II. xvi. 68 Swabs and squiligees had been flung down.

• Hence **Squilgee** *v.*, to use a squilgee; to swab, clean, press, etc., with a squilgee. Also **Squilgeeing** *vbl. sb.*

1840 R. H. Dana *Bef. Mast* xiv, The washing, swabbing, squilgeeing, etc., etc. lasts..until eight o'clock.

Squilk, variant of Swilk *a. Obs.*

Squill (skwil). Also 5 **squylle, squylle,** 6 **squyll,** 7 **squille,** 6–8 **squil.** [ad. L. *squilla*, var. *scilla*, a. Gr. σκίλλα. So F. *squille*, It. *squilla*, Pg. *esquilla*, Sp. *escila*.]

1. A bulb or root of the sea-onion or other related plant (see 2). Chiefly in pl.

c 1400 *Lanfranc's Cirurg.* 195 Froting wiþ squillis is good þerfore. *Ibid.* 196 Þou schalt frote wel þe place wiþ squillis in a stewe. 1561 Hollybush *Hom. Apoth.* 20 Thrust a squill dipped in oyle into hys throte, to cause him perbreake. 1600 Surflet *Countrie Farme* 143 As for cornes and apostumes they must be killed with strong leauens, onions, lillies, or squils and vineger. 1626 Bacon *Sylva* § 445 Put them into a Squill, (which is like a great Onion,) and they will come up much earlier than in the Earth it self. 1697 Dryden *Virg. Georg.* III. 689 Add to these..Hellebore, and Squills deep rooted in the Seas. 1725 *Fam. Dict.* s.v. *Venice-Treacle*, In the other part of the Wine infuse..green Squills for some time. 1738 Chambers *Cycl.* (1752) s.v. *Scilla*, There are two kinds of squills, the male and female,..also distinguished by the appellations of white squills..and red squills. 1807 Robinson *Archæol. Græca* III. iv. 211 By drawing round the person purified a squill, or sea-onion. 1838 Thomson *Chem. Org. Bodies* 716 Macerate dry squills

in alcohol, decant, and distil. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1194/2 It has been supposed that the Red Squills are the produce of another species, *Urginea Pancration*, but this seems doubtful.

b. In the names of various preparations made from these bulbs.

1652 FRENCH *Yorkshire Spa* ix. 82 Let him..take some easie vomit, as of Oxymel, or wine of Squils. 1684 [see OXYMEL]. 1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), *Scillites acetum*, Vinegar of Squills. 1712 tr. *Pomet's Hist. Drugs* I. 172 Galen ..gave it to a Dram in Oxymel or Honey of Squills. 1778 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 2) I. 311 A solution of gum ammoniac in vinegar of squills. 1810 CRABBE *Borough* vii. 248 A potent thing, 'twas said, to cure the ills Of ailing lungs—the oxymel of squills. 1879 *St. George's Hosp. Rep.* IX. 551 Oxymel of squills and compound tinct. of camphor.

c. *Pharm.* Without article, as a substance.

1725 *Fam. Dict.* s.v., Vinegar made of Squill or Scillitick Oximel. 1836 *Pharm. R. Coll. Phys.* 56 Squill contains a peculiar vegetable product to which the name of scillitin has been given. 1875 H. C. WOOD *Therap.* (1879) 480 Clinical experience has established the fact that in small repeated doses squill is diuretic as well as expectorant.

2. *Bot.* The bulbous-rooted sea-shore plant *Scilla* (or *Urginea*) *maritima*; the sea-onion; also, any other species of the genus *Scilla*.

c 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* I. 856 Eek figtre askis oon on rukul throwith, Another hangith vp or sowith squylle. *Ibid.* IV. 340 To sowe ek squylle is kynde On euery side. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 471/1 Sqwylle, herbe, *cepa maris, bulbus*. 1516 *Grete Herball* ccccxiii. (1529) V iv, A squyll or see onyon. 1562 TURNER *Herbal* II. (1568) 62 It is meruelus that chanseth vnto the Squill or se vnyon & to Narcissus. 1629 PARKINSON *Parad.* xi. 134 The Squill or Sea Onion is wholly vsed physically with us, because wee can receiue no pleasure from the sight of the flowers. 1725 *Fam. Dict.* s.v., Squill is of a sharp and corrosive Nature; they wrap up its Root in Paste or Fullers Earth, and bake it in an Oven. 1760 J. LEE *Introd. Bot.* App. 328 Squill, *scilla*. 1862 ANSTED *Channel Isl.* II. viii. (ed. 2) 177 The picturesque little squill (*Scilla autumnalis*) will be found on the high ground. 1868 GORRIE *Summers & W. Orkneys* v. 222 The field-gentian, the bird's-eye primrose, and the squill.

b. With distinguishing terms.

1629 PARKINSON *Parad.* (1656) 133 To taste of the red Squil. 1731 MILLER *Gard. Dict.* s.v. *Scilla*, Common Red Squil. *Ibid.*, The White Squil. 1796 WITHERING *Brit. Plants* (ed. 3) II. 338 Autumnal Squill. *Ibid.*, Vernal Squill. 1811 A. T. THOMSON *Lond. Disp.* (1818) 362 There are two varieties of the officinal squill, one with a white bulb and the other with a reddish bulb. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 396/1 *Squilla maritima*, the maritime squill, has large roundish ovate bulbs. *Ibid.*, Roxburgh's Indian Squill (*Scilla Indica*). 1848 JOHNS *Week at Lizard* 279 *Scilla autumnalis*, Autumnal Squill, a plant very like the vernal species. 1901 *Speaker* 20 Apr. 86/2 The meagre turf was spangled with the vernal squill.

c. A plant of the sea-onion or related species. Chiefly *pl.* as a collective term.

1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* II. 19 These Squilles or Sea-onions grow in exceeding great abundance..throughout all Spaine. 1698 FRYER *Acc. E. India & P.* 178 Near the Sea grow Squills, or Sea-Onions. 1718 OZELL tr. *Tournefort's Voy.* I. 152 The rest of the Mountain is spread with Cretan Thyme,..Lentisques, Squills. 1767 ABERCROMBIE *Ev. Man own Gardener* (1803) 727/2 Squills, sea onion, or lily hyacinth. 1846 LINDLEY *Veg. Kingd.* 202 With the *Scillæ* or Squills, we reach a division of the Order [etc.]. 1882 *Garden* 4 Mar. 139/3 The early Squills, too, assert themselves boldly.

3. One or other of certain plants resembling the squill (see quots.).

1760 J. LEE *Introd. Bot.* App. 328 Squill, Lesser white, *Pancratium*. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1089/2 Chinese Squill, *Barnardia*. *Ibid.*, Roman Squill, *Bellevalia*.

4. *Zool.* The mantis-shrimp, *Squilla mantis*.

1710 SIBBALD *Hist. Fife* 54 The Crustate Animals comprehend under them several Species, such as the Squills, the Crabs, the Lobsters, and the Sea-Vrchin. 1879 E. P. WRIGHT *Anim. Life* 536 Here would be placed the curious Squill, so common in the Mediterranean (*Squilla mantis*).

5. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *squill bulb, pill, vinegar*; *squill-like*; †**squill-fish**, = sense 4; †**squill-head** (see quot.); †**squill-insect**, = SQUILLA 3.

1650 BULWER *Anthropomet.* 7 Sirnaming him Joult-headi and Onions head, or as we should say Squil-head. 1681 GREW *Museum* I. VII. iii. 176 The Squill-Insect...So called from some similitude to the Squill-Fish. *c* 1790 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) I. 622/2 Ammoniac..is an ingredient also in the squill pills. *Ibid.*, A plaster made of it and squill vinegar. 1811 A. T. THOMSON *Loud. Disp.* (1818) 362 The squill bulb is inodorous. 1822 GOOD *Study Med.* IV. 402 When mixed, however, with the squill pill .. it often succeeds. 1825 *Greenho. Comp.* I. 109 *Ixia scillaris*, squill-like flowers.

‖ **Squi·lla.** Pl. **squillæ.** [L. (see prec.).]

†**1.** The squill or sea-onion. *Obs.*

1516 *Grete Herball* ccccxiii. V iv, Squilla hath vertue to deuyde and sprede humours. 1539 ELYOT *Cast. Helthe* (1541) 60 Digestiues of fleume,.. Hony, Gynger, Squilla. 1563 HYLL *Art Garden.* (1593) 30 Certaine rather will, that you sow his hearbe in fashion to a big Onion, and named of the Apothecaries Squilla in the Garden. 1601 R. CHESTER *Love's Martyr* (1878) 87 And Squilla, that keepes men from foule despaire. 1611 COTGR., *Scille*, the Squilla, or sea Onion.

†**b.** A plant or bulb of this. *Obs.*

1562 TURNER *Herbal* II. (1568) 130 Take the squilla, and couer it round about wyth clay.., and put it into an ouen.

2. = prec. 4.

1658 ROWLAND tr. *Mouffet's Theat. Insects* II. XXXVII. 1125 They leap quickly one upon the other as the Fishes Squillæ doe in coupling. 1752 J. HILL *Hist. Anim.* 28 The Squilla has ten legs, the foremost pair cheliform, or made for pinching and holding things. *Ibid.*, The long-tailed Squilla. 1818 SCORESBY in *Life* (1861) vii. 140 The squillæ are very abundant in the Greenland Sea. 1839 T. BEALE *Hist. Sperm Whale* 189 The common black whale's food, that consists of 'squillæ' and other small animals.

†**3.** *Zool.* (See quot.) *Obs.*

1658 ROWLAND tr. *Mouffet's Theat. Insects* II. XXXVII. 1124 The Squilla an Insect differs but little from the fish Squilla, but that it hath the sail-yards much shorter, and a more red colour, or rather a more earthly colour.

†**Squillatic,** var. of SQUILLITIC *a. Obs.*

1516 *Grete Herball* ccccxiii. Y iv, Agaynst dropsy drynke oximel squillatyke.

†**Squillecte.** *Obs.*—[1] [ad. OF. **escuillelte*, = *cuillette, cueillette* CULET [1] and QUELET. Cf. OF. *escueillir* = *cueillir* to collect.] A collection (of money).

14.. *Forest Laws* in *MS. Douce 335*, fol. 72 b, If ther be ony forster or minister of the forest, that maketh ony congregaciour, skotfalles, squillectes, or extorcions.

†**Squi·ller.** *Obs.* Forms: 4 squyler, 5 sqwyllare, swyllere, 6 squyllare. [a. AF. *sculer* (in the same sense), = OF. *esculier, escuillier, esquelier*, maker or seller of dishes, f. *escuele* (mod.F. *écuelle*) :—L. *scutella* salver, dish-stand (whence med.L. *scutellarius*).] A servant having charge of the scullery.

1303 R. BRUNNE *Handl. Synne* 5911 þe porter..þys meruęyle tolde hem alle, How þe squyler of þe kechyn [etc.]. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 471/1 Sqwyllare, dysche wescheare, *lixa*. 1469 in *Ord. R. Househ.* (1790) 93 The lardener, the squiller. *c* 1475 *Pict. Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 769 *Hic lixa*, a swyllere. 1522 *Rutland P.* (Camden) 100 To send thether a purveiour for cooles, and all suche other as shall long vnto the squyllare.

Squillerie, obs. form of SCULLERY.

Squi·llian. [f. SQUILLA 3 + -IAN.] A stomapod of the family *Squillidæ*; a squill.

1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXIII. 82/2 M. Milne Edwards divides this family into two small tribes, Erichthians and Squillians.

†**Squilli·tic,** *a. Obs.* Forms: 6 squilytyke, squilityke, squilliticke, -ike, 7–8 -ick. [ad. med.L. *squilliticus*, var. of *scilliticus* SCILLITIC *a.*] Made of squills; containing squill.

1544 PHAER *Regim. Life* (1553) F viij, The pacyente must drynke euerye mornynge the syrupe of oximell squilytyke. 1576 BAKER *Gesner's Jewell Health* 88 Take of..squilliticke vinegar fower partes. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* II. 376 A decoction of this kind of wormes sodden in squillitick vinegre. 1610 BARROUGH *Physick* III. xi. (1639) 116 Also squillitick vineger is good to soupe [in hiccup]. 1725 *Fam. Dict.* s.v. *Honey*, The Anacardine [Honey], made of Anacardins, and the Squillitick made of Squills.

Squi·lloid, *a.* and *sb. Zool.* [f. SQUILLA 3 + -OID.] **a.** *adj.* Resembling the *Squilla* or mantis-shrimp. **b.** *sb.* A shrimp resembling the *Squilla*.

1852 DANA *Crust.* I. 613 In the Squilloids, the ophthalmic and two antennary segments are distinctly marked. *Ibid.* 614 There is only a single type, the Squilloid, divisible.

†**Squimble-squamble,** obs. var. SKIMBLE-SKAMBLE *adv.*

1611 COTGR., *Griffe graffe*, by hooke or by crooke, squimble squamble, scamblingly, catch that catch may. [1694 MOTTEUX *Rabelais* v. xiv. 64 They all began to bestir their Claws, like a parcel of Fiddlers running a Division; and then fell to't, squimble squamble, catch that catch can.]

Squin, local var. of QUIN (scallop).

1864 P. H. GOSSE in *Good Words* 95/1 She had never heard them called by any other name than 'Squins', though she understood they were called Scallops in some places.

†**Squin.** *Obs.*—[1] In 5 skwyn. [Related to SQUINT *a.*: cf. ASKOYNE *adv.*] *Of squin*, obliquely, slantingly.

c 1440 *York Myst.* viii. 74 Take high trees and hewe þame cleyne, All be sware and noght of skwyn.

Squinacy. Now *dial.* Forms: 3 swinacie, 4 swynacy; 4–5 squynacy (4 -asie), 4 -acie, 5 -ye, sqwynacye, skwynecy; 5 squinaci, -acye, -aseye, 5, 7 squinacie, -asie, 7, 9 squinacy. [var. of SQUINANCY, by early elision of the second *n.*] = SQUINSY.

c 1250 *Gen. & Exod.* 1188 His wif and oðere birðe beren, ða ðe swinacie gan him nunmor deren. *c* 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 2999 Som for glotoni sal haf þare, Als þe swynacy, þat greves ful sare. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) III. 335 Demoscenes come forþ wiþ wolle aboute his nekke, and seide þat he hadde the squynacy. *c* 1425 *St. Mary of Oignies* II. iii. in *Anglia* VIII. 157 A ful perlyous yuel, þat is aposteme of þe þroot, þat is callid þe squynacy. *c* 1450 *M. E. Med. Bk.* (Heinrich) 215 For þe squinaseye. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 357/2 þe Squynacy, *squinancia, guttura*. 1615 H. CROOKE *Body of Man* 766 These inward muscles being inflamed the most acute and sharpe Squinasie is ingendred. 1629 Z. BOYD *Balm of Gilead* 70 There he will set down a squinacie, crowels, or boils. 1670 T. BROOKS *Wks.* (1867) VI. 426 That one man dies..of an apoplexy in the head,.. one of a squinacy in the throat. 1880 *Antrim & Down Gloss.* 98 *Squinacy*, a quinsy. *a* 1904 in *Eng. Dial. Dict.*

†**Squinance.** *Obs.* Also 5–6 squynance. [See next and -ANCE. So older F. (*e*)*squinance* (16th c.). Cf. SQUINCE.] = SQUINSY.

c 1450 *Trevisa's Barth. De P. R.* VII. xxviii. (Bodl. MS.), þere beþ þre manere squynances. 1539 ELYOT *Cast. Helthe* III. vii, It helpeth squynances, or quynces in the throte. 1578 LYTE *Dodoens* 272 It swageth the squinance. 1584 COGAN *Haven of Health* ccxi. 188 They shall be fettered with gowtes,..strangled with Squinances [1596 Squinancies]. 1730 *Phil. Trans.* XXXVI. 451 The first..recorded History I can find of this Operation..is in the learned Anton. Musa Brasavolus,..who performed it in a desperate Squinance.

Squi·nancy. Now *rare.* Forms: *a.* 4 squyn-, 7 squinansy, 5–6 squynancy (5 sqyn-, sqwyn-), 5 -anci, 5–7 -ancie, 6– squinancy. *β.* 6 squinantie, -tye. [ad. med.L. *squinancia*, *-antia*, app. formed by confusion of Gr. συνάγχη and κυνάγχη CYNANCHE, both denoting diseases of the throat. Hence also F. *esquinancie*, † *squinancie*, *-tie* (MDu. *squinancie*, *-tie*), It. *squinansia*, Sp. *esquinancia*, Pg. *esquinencia*.]

1. Quinsy; = SQUINSY 1.

a. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* v. xxiv. (Bodl. MS.), þis yuel mater..bredith sqynancy þat sleeþ in on day. *a* 1400 in *Rel. Antiq.* I. 51 For hym that haves the squynansy. *c* 1530 *Judic. Urines* II. vii. 30 Humours that torneth in to apostume that is called *Squinancia* the squinancie. 1562 TURNER *Herbal* II. (1568) 164 It that is purple in the floure ..is good for the squinancie or choukes. 1642 FULLER *Holy & Prof. State* V. XII. 408 A good cure for the squinancie, but no satisfaction for lying. 1676 *Phil. Trans.* XI. 672 The Squinancy,..frequent there among Children. 1748 tr. *Vegetius Renatus' Distempers of Horses* 70 From which arises a loathing of their Food, suffocation in the Chops, and the Squinansy. 1753 N. TORRIANO *Gangrene Sore Throat* 63 John Anthony Soglia..gave his Observations on the gangrenous Squinancy in 1563.

β. 1597 A. M. tr. *Guillemeau's Fr. Chirurg.* 6/1 A vehemente and great squinantie. *Ibid.* 29 b/2 Shee may be opened agaynst the Squinantye.

2. A form or attack of quinsy; = SQUINSY 2.

1596 [see SQUINANCE]. 1611 in Birch *Crt. & Times Jas. I* (1849) I. 134 The lord chamberlain was dangerously sick on the sudden of a squinancy, or quinsey. 1653 W. RAMESEY *Astrol. Restored* 170 If necessity inforceth, thou needest not stand to elect a time (as in Apoplexies and Squinancies). 1684 BOYLE *Porous. Anim. Bod.* iii. 29 The same Febril matter..causes in the first case a Pleurisie, in the 2d, a Squinancy.

3. Special Combs.: **squinancy berry**, the black currant, *Ribes nigrum*; **squinancy-wort** (also †-woodruff), the quinsy-wort or small woodruff, *Asperula cynanchica*.

1782 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 2) IX. 6712/1 The fruit [black currants] is often called *squinancy berries. 1863 PRIOR *Plant-n., Squinancy berries*, black currants, from their use in the sore throat, *Ribes nigrum*. 1796 WITHERING *Brit. Pl.* (ed. 3) II. 186 *Asperula cynanchica*...*Squinancy Woodroof. *c* 1710 PETIVER *Cat. Ray's Eng. Herbal* § 30, *Squinancy wort. 1763 *Museum Rusticum* I. 307 A wild madder that grows in Wales and England on barren grounds, called *Squinancy-wort*; formerly used by the apothecaries, for the cure of a sore throat. 1777 JACOB *Catal. Plants* 98 *Asperula Cynanchica*, Squinancy Wort. 1813 BREWER *Beauties Engl. & Wales* XII. II. 21 The botanist will find here a great quantity of the Squinancy wort, or *Synanchia Lugdunensis*. 1900 W. H. HUDSON *Nature in Downland* 54 Woodruff,.. curiously named squinancy-wort.

†**Squinant.** *Bot. Obs.* Also 6 squynant, 6–7 squinanth. [ad. med.L. *squinantus*, *-anthus*, ad. late Gr. σχοίνανθος. So obs. F. *squinant*, It. *squinante*, *-anto*.] = SCHŒNANTH.

a. 1548 TURNER *Names Herbes* (E.D.S.) 45 Juncus odoratus sive rotundus, is called in greeke Schenos, in englishe squinant, in duche Kamelhewe. 1562 — *Herbal* II. (1568) 24, I neuer sawe squynant growinge, sauinge only dryed. 1597 GERARDE *Herbal* I. XXIX. 40 Camels haie is called..in English Camels haie, and Squinant. 1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.*, *Squinant*,..the sweet rush, which is very medicinable: Camels meat. *a* 1693 URQUHART *Rabelais* III. XXXII. 275 There is neither Squinant, Ginger nor Grains in it. 1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), *Squinanthus*, Squinant, a sweet-smelling Arabian Plant, otherwise call'd the sweet Rush and Camel's-Hay.

β. 1598 FLORIO, *Squinance*, squinanth, cammels meate, or sweet rush, which is very medicinable. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* II. 101 The medicinable vertues of the sweet Rush called Squinanth...Squinanth is round, of an hote and fiery taste. 1616 BULLOKAR *Eng. Exp.*, *Squinanth*, a kinde of round rush, which is sweet, and hath flowers very medicinable.

†**Squinantic,** *a. Obs.*—[1] In 6 squynantyke. [ad. med.L. **squinantic-us*, f. *squinantia* SQUINANCY.] That cures or allays the quinsy.

1516 *Grete Herball* ccviii, Herbe or grasse of vyne is otherwyse called herbe squynantyke.

†**Squince.** *Obs.* Also 6 squynce. [Abbreviated form of SQUINANCE or of *squincie* SQUINSY. Cf. mod. dial. *squinches* and *squinges*.] = SQUINSY.

1538 ELYOT, *Cynanche*, a syckenes called the squynce, whiche is in the throte and iawes. 1563 HYLL *Arte Garden.* (1593) 64 The distilled water..aswageth the dangerous swelling of the throte, called the Squince. *a* 1610 G. BABINGTON *Wks.* (1622) II. 94 Demosthenes..pretended the disease in his throat called the Squince.

Squinch (skwinʃ), *sb.*[1] *Arch.* [var. SOUNCH *sb.*]

†**1.** A stone cut to serve as a souncheon. *Obs.*

c 1500–18 *Acc. Building Louth Spire* in *Archaeol.* (1792) X. 80 Also paid to Nicholas Brancell for 100 foot achlere, and squinches of 18 inches high and 15 at the least.

2. A straight or arched support constructed across an angle in order to carry some superstructure.

It is not clear whether Parker had any authority for this use of the term.

1840 PARKER *Gloss. Arch.* (ed. 3) I. 203. 1850 *Ibid.* (ed. 5) I. 441 Because they have no tendency to expand the walls, which is always to be feared when the arched squinch is used. *Ibid.*, The straight squinch is often employed externally. 1886 *Archaeol. Cant.* XVI. p. lxvii, The squinch in the north-east corner of the tower, supporting the staircase. *attrib.* 1850 PARKER *Gloss. Arch.* (ed. 5) II. 79 In the first example two of the squinch arches for carrying the octagonal faces of the spire are shewn. 1895 *Edin. Rev.* Apr. 466 The squinch-arch method is more elastic in this respect.

3. A small structure, with two triangular faces, sloping back from an angle of a tower against the superimposed side of a spire.

1848 RICKMAN *Architecture* p. xxxi, A good specimen of a plain tower, and broach-spire, with squinches and spire-lights. 1849 *Arch. Notes Ch. Archdeaconry Northampt.* 102 [The spire's] great height, the very small size of the squinches connecting it with the square Tower [etc.].

Squinch, *sb.*[2] [Of doubtful origin.]

1. A slit or narrow opening in a building. Cf. SQUINT *sb.* 5.

1602–3 in *Hartland Gloss.* (1891) 73 Item pd to Hughe the glasier for glasse for the litle Squinches of the Tower, *xd.* 1848 *Continental Ecclesiology* 95 Some open squinches looking into the synagogue, in three stages, are from the women's galleries. 1879 *Temple Bar* Aug. 470 Many of these little churches..are of very massive construction, with a squinch or hagioscope practised in the thickness of the wall.

2. *dial.* A crevice between floor-boards or the like; a crack.

1837– in Devonshire glossaries, etc.

Squinch, *sb.*[3] A strong grip, twist, or wrench.

1893 BARING-GOULD *Cheap Jack Zita* II. 18 That squinch of the wrist you gave me.

Squinch, *v. U.S.* [Cf. prec. and SQUINT *v.*] *trans.* To screw or distort (the face).

1840 HALIBURTON *Clockm.* Ser. III. (1862) 443 Lord! how she'll kick and squeel when I spread her out on the close-horse. How it will make her squinch her face, won't it?

†**Squi·ncing,** *ppl. a. Obs.* (Probably a purely fanciful formation without definite meaning.)

1641 COWLEY *Guardian* II. iii, Which of your spruce mincing squincing dames can make bonelace like her?

Squink, obs. form of SWINK *v.*

Squink-eyed, variant of SQUINT-EYED *a.*

Cf. '*Squink*, to squint or wink', in dialect use.

1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* (1906) 278 Whereat the squink-eyed Gunner perceiving his time drew the string;..off went the piece, and shot the Crocodile.

Squi·nny, *sb.*[1] ? *Obs.* [Cf. SQUINNY *a.*[1]] (See quot. 1840.)

1716 *Coll. State Songs, Poems*, etc. 19 Soon a Pack was chose..Of Quacks and Squinnys, Rakes and Ninnys, Green and Grizled Beaus. 1840 SPURDENS *Suppl. Forby, Squinny*, a contemptible fellow.

Squi·nny, *sb.*[2] [f. the vb.] A squint, glance.

1881– in dial. glossaries (Leic., Notts., Warw.). 1902 *Daily Chron.* 23 Sept. 3/4 Now and then heads were deliberately turned from us, and not a creature gave us more than a side-long squinny.

Squinny (skwi·ni), *a.*[1] [Of obscure origin.] Very thin or slender; lean, meagre; narrow.

a. In the comb. *squinny-gut(s.* Also *Comb.*

1742 FIELDING *Andrews* II. iii, The coachman..was asked ..what passengers he had in his coach? A parcel of squinny-gut b——s (says he). 1791 CHARLOTTE SMITH *Celestina* (ed. 2) I. 134 Mayn't I talk to a handsome girl I wonder without your putting in your squinnygut opinion? 1823 E. MOOR *Suffolk Words, Squinny-guts*, a thin person. 1886 W. H. LONG *Isle of Wight Gloss.* 73 A regler squinny guts.

b. In general use.

1784 MME. D'ARBLAY *Early Diary, Lett.* 16 Jan., A German doctor..with a club [of hair] as thick as my two hands, and two squinney curls. 1838 [MISS MAITLAND] *Lett. fr. Madras* (1843) 175, I am very busy now, translating a story with my little squinny Moonshee. 1866 *Daily Tel.* 22 Feb. 5/4 The eleven thousand windows want height; they are mostly of 'squinny' proportions. 1871 KINGSLEY *At Last* iv, Those figures and faces, small, scrofulous, squinny, and haggard, which disgrace the so-called civilization of a British city.

Squi·nny, *a.*[2] [Cf. next.] Squinting; looking askance; peering.

a 1825 FORBY *Voc. E. Anglia* 322 We talk also of having 'squinny eyes', and of being 'squinny-eyed'. 1850 *Poor Artist* v. 65 Don't sit all of a shrug up there, peering over with your squinny eyes. 1885 W. B. FORFAR *Poems* 20 We saw the queer Chineese. Their fa-aces are so white as milk, With little squinney eyes.

Squinny (skwi·ni), *v.*[1] Also **squiny.** [Cf. SQUIN *a.*]

1. *intr.* To squint, look askance; to peer with partly closed eyes. Also const. *at* or *to*.

1605 SHAKS. *Lear* IV. vi. 140, I remember thine eyes well enough: dost thou squiny at me? 1608 ARMIN *Nest of Ninnies* (1842) 6 The World, queasie stomackt,..squinies at this, and lookes as one scorning. 1783 MME. D'ARBLAY *Diary* 4 Jan., Mr. P—, at last, spied me out, and came squinying up to me. 1838 MISS MAITLAND *Lett. fr. Madras* (1843) 201 Squinnying cunningly at me the whole time, to see if I look as if I believe them. 1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss., Squiny*, to look askance.

2. *trans.* To direct (the eyes) obliquely; to close *up* partly in a short-sighted manner.

a 1825 FORBY *Voc. E. Anglia* 322 Child, do not squinny your eyes so. 1890 W. A. WALLACE *Only a Sister?* 35 So he 'squinnied' up his eyes, and pulled his huge moustaches.

Squinny (skwi·ni), *v.*[2] [Of obscure origin.] *intr.* To weep or cry; to fret.

1847– in dial. glossaries (Hants, I. Wight). 1861 G. MEREDITH *Evan Harrington* xxi, You are crying!..And you show the marks twice as long as any other, you fair women. Squinnying like this! – 1885 RUNCIMAN *Skippers & Sh.* 245 Who'd have thought of seeing us two squinnying? Blowed if I didn't cry harder than you.

Squinny-eyed, *a.* Chiefly *dial.* Also **squin(n)ey-.** [f. SQUINNY *a.*[2]] = SQUINT-EYED *a.*

a 1825– in dial. glossaries (E. Anglia, Cornwall, Somerset, Devon). 1864 SALA in *Daily Tel.* 2 July, The bandy-legged columns,..the splay-footed pedestals,..the squinney-eyed windows of the Manhattan Hotel de Ville.

Squinsy. Now *dial.* Forms: 5 **sqwynsy,** 6 **squynsie,** 6– **squinsy,** 6–9 **-sey,** 7 **squinsie,** 7–8 **squinzie,** 7 **-zy;** 6–8 **squincy,** 6–7 **squincie.** [Reduced form of SQUINANCY.]

1. *Path.* Quinsy; suppurative tonsillitis.

Silver squinsy (fig.): see SILVER *sb.* 21.

1499 *Promp. Parv.* (Pynson), Sqwynsy, sekenesse, *squinancia.* 1547 BOORDE *Brev. Health* xxi. 14 In englyshe it is named the Squincy. 1551 TURNER *Herbal* (1568) 2 Walnuttes..are good to be laide to the Squynsie wyth rue & oyle. 1606 HOLLAND *Sueton.* 201 Alleadging for an excuse the Squinsie whereof hee was sicke. 1694 WESTMACOTT *Script. Herb.* 223 Wormwood leaves discuss Tumors and Wind particularly in the Squinsie. 1725 *Fam. Dict.* s.v., Squincy, an Inflamation of the Throat. *Ibid.* s.v. *Violet*, A Sovereign Remedy against..the Squinsy. 1869– in dial. glossaries (Lanc., Som., Devon).

2. A form or attack of this.

1591 PERCIVALL *Sp. Dict., Esquinancia*, ..a squincie. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* II. 301 Æschines, a Physitian of Athens, was wont to cure squinsies ..with the ashes of a man or womans body burnt. 1688 ROKEBY *Mem.* (Surtees) 23 My sister Smithson is well recovered of a dangerous Squinsey which the doctor was afraid would have choked her. 1894 HALL CAINE *Manxman* 280 He'd break your face with laughing if it was bursting itself with a squinsey.

† b. *transf.* A halter; a rope. *Obs.*—[1]

1629 RANDOLPH *Jealous Lovers* III. xiv, Shall not we be suspected for the Murther, And choke with a hempen Squincy?

Squint (skwint), *sb.* [f. SQUINT *a.* or *v.*]

1. A permanent tendency in the eye to look obliquely or askant; defective coincidence of the optic axes; strabismus.

a 1652 BROME *Queenes Exch.* II. i, The dulnesse of the Eye, which here shews deadly But for a little squint it has. 1712–3 SWIFT *Jrnl. to Stella* 8 Feb., He has favoured her squint admirably; and you know I love a cast in the eye. 1764 REID *Inquiry* vi. § 15 In the retinæ of those who have an involuntary squint. *Ibid.*, In those who have no squint. 1815 SCOTT *Guy M.* xxxiii, A stout bandy-legged fellow, with ..a most portentous squint of the left eye. 1839 THACKERAY *Fatal Boots* Jan., Nurse says that, when he is older, he will get rid of his squint. 1879 HARLAN *Eyesight* ii. 30 The operation for squint, or 'cross eye', consists in weakening the overacting muscle by cutting it.

fig. 1687 MIÉGE *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II, A disingenious Squint, that looks with an evil eye upon every Thing. 1875 *Galaxy* Apr. 560 Still, sometimes we manage to see things without a party squint, especially after election.

b. *Path.* With distinguishing terms.

1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 396/2 Inward Squint, or *Strabismus convergens. Ibid.*, Outward Squint, or *Strabismus divergens.* 1867 *Chambers's Encycl.* IX. 69/1 The squint is said to be *convergent* when the eye or eyes are directed towards the nose, and *divergent* when they are directed towards the temple, and is termed *single* or *double* according as one eye or both are displaced. 1872 T. BRYANT *Man. Pract. Surg.* (1884) I. 409 Ordinary convergent or 'concomitant' squint has to be distinguished from..'paralytic' squint. 1884 *Encycl. Brit.* XVII. 786/1 In periodic squint glasses to correct the hypermetropia ought to be given. 1887 *Brit. Med. Jrnl.* 23 Apr. 874/2 He had a well-marked external squint of the left eye. *Ibid.*, There was a slight internal squint.

c. *attrib.* in *squint-scissors* (used in operating for strabismus).

1879 *St. George's Hosp. Rep.* IX. 492 The mass was..so tough as to resist the insertion of the point of an ordinary pair of squint-scissors.

2. A directing of the eyes obliquely; a sidelong look or glance; a hasty or casual look; a peep.

1673 [R. LEIGH] *Transp. Reh.* 14 Lacys best Grimaces were never so Artificial as the Squints of a Humiliation Saint. 1736 SWIFT *Propos. Regul. Quadrille* Wks. 1846 II. 131 To give damages for all opprobrious language, and especially for all hints, squints, innuendoes, leers, and shrugs. 1824 LADY GRANVILLE *Lett.* (1894) I. 245 He hopes to have another squint at me before I go. 1861 DICKENS *Gt. Expect.* xxxii, I have been down the road taking a squint at the scene of action. 1894 G. M. FENN *In Alpine Valley* I. 223 Better get back to him as soon as you've had your squint round.

3. An inclination or tendency towards some particular object; a drift or leaning; a covert aim.

1736 WEST *Let.* in *Gray's Poems* (1775) 15 The prophecy has certainly a squint that way. 1891 EGGLESTON *Faith Doctor* iv. 43 He lost interest even in the dinner parties, with a business squint, that he had been so fond of giving. 1895 *Funk's Stand. Dict.* s.v., A squint towards radicalism.

4. An oblique or perverse bent or tendency.

1774 ELIZ. CARTER *Lett.* 30 May (1809) IV. 112 Wit is a squint of the understanding which is mighty apt to set things in a wrong place. 1840 HARE *Vict. Faith* (1847) 45 This warping bent, this squint of our understandings.

5. *Arch.* = HAGIOSCOPE.

1839 [see HAGIOSCOPE]. 1850 PARKER *Gloss. Archit.* (ed. 5) I. 442 There seems to be no good or ancient authority for the name of squint applied to these openings, but it has been long in use. 1879 J. C. COX *Ch. of Derbysh.* IV. 21 At the east end of the south aisle is a genuine squint.

attrib. 1881 MACPHAIL *Relig. Ho. Pluscardyn* xix. 165 The squint window opening into the Lady's Chapel.

b. *transf.* (See quot.)

1891 *Science Gossip* XXVII. 39 We placed ourselves at squints, or peeping-holes, formed by thrusting short sticks through the reed fence.

Squint (skwint), *a.* [f. SQUINT *adv.*, or by inference from SQUINT-EYED *a.*]

1. Of eyes: Looking obliquely; having a cast or squint; affected with strabismus. Now *rare.*

In early quots. freq. implying envy or malice.

1579 SPENSER *Sheph. Cal.* Aug. 129 Heardgrome, I feare me, thou haue a squint eye. [*Gloss*, partiall iudgement.] 1590 GREENE *Mourn. Garm.* (1616) 68 Zoilus with his squint eyes will finde fault with the shape. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* I. 161 He was surnamed already Strabo, for his squint eyes. 1602 *How to Choose a Good Wife* D 4, Gold can make limping Vulcan walke vpright, Make squint eyes looke strait. 1658 CRESHALD *Legacy* 15 The Sürvey and malevolent Aspect of some Squint and Blood-shot Eye. 1775 ADAIR *Amer. Ind.* 437 Hired speakers, who use their squint eyes and forked tongues like the chieftains of the snakes. 1903 LUMHOLTZ *Unknown Mexico* I. 245 Squint-eyes also afford them much amusement.

b. *fig.* (with *eye* = 'look, regard', and usually hyphened).

1623 FLETCHER *Rule a Wife* III, The pleasure I shall live in and the freedom Without the squint-eye of the law upon me. 1638 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* (ed. 2) 85 He beholds.. his inferiors with a squint and supercilious eye of scorne and tyranny. 1715 J. CHAPPELOW *Rt. way Rich* (1717) 142 Now and then casting a squint-eye upon his money-bags. 1901 *Westm. Gaz.* 11 Dec. 9/2, I..hope to end my days without having used the squint-eye of prejudice in examining any fact whatever.

2. a. Of looks: Characterized by oblique vision.

1611 COTGR. s.v. *Gar, Vn regard à gar*, a squint looke. 1626 tr. *Boccalini's New-Found Politicke* 71 Her looke is squint, with which wishly beholding one, she fixedly looketh vpon another. 1714 R. SMITH *Poems of Controversy* (1853) 38 Thy squaint [*sic*] looks makes thee miss the mark. 1808 JAMIESON, *Gley*, a squint look.

b. *fig.* Of suspicion. *poet.*

In last quot. passing into next.

1634 MILTON *Comus* 413 My nature is That I encline to hope, rather then fear, And gladly banish squint suspicion. 1744 THOMSON *Tancred & Sigismunda* v. i, Henceforth, noble Osmond,..honour more my truth, Nor mark me with an eye of squint suspicion. 1784 COLMAN *Prose on Sev. Occas.* (1787) III. 250 While squint Suspicion holds her treacherous lamp.

c. Of persons: Squinting, squint-eyed.

1643 TRAPP *Comm. Gen.* xxix. 17 Leah was tender-eyed), Purblinde or squint, as one interprets it.

† 3. Indirect. *Obs.*

1619 J. DYKE *Counterpoyson*, etc. (1620) 50 Out of a squint respect to your owne gaine. 1654 WHITLOCK *Zootomia* 370 To cleare ourselves of these Squint Aspects in our Services of Heaven, is a Perfection too Seraphicall for Earth. 1681 *Relig. Clerici* 56 Though 'tis not much to the purpose,.. yet you may perceive it bears some squint relation to this discourse.

4. a. Characterized by obliquity of action.

c 1610 DONNE *Let. to C'tess of Bedford* Wks. 1912 I. 189 As although a squint left-handedness Be ungracious, yet we cannot want that hand.

b. Oblique; slanting.

1703 in E. Henderson *Ann. Dunfermline* (1879) 374 One squint gutt on one of the hinder legs. 1724 SIR W. HOPE *Vind. Art Self-defence* 131 The slop or squint motion of your arm near to the body. 1852 BURN *Naval & Mil. Techn. Dict.* II. s.v., Squint-quoin, *encognure oblique.* 1858 *Skyring's Builders' Prices* 66 Squint quoins, per foot run.

5. *Squint-minded,* having a perverse or depraved mind.

1653 URQUHART *Rabelais* II. xxxiv. 220 You and I both are farre more worthy of pardon, then a great rabble of squint-minded fellowes, dissembling and counterfeit Saints.

Squint, *adv. rare.* [Aphetic for ASQUINT *adv.*] With a squint; obliquely, askant. Also in comb. *squint-looker.*

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* v. vi. (Tollem. MS.), Nabeles not euery squyntloker seþ so, þey his yen ben vneuen. 1621–31 LAUD *Serm.* (1847) 198 If 'justice and judgment' roll this eye aside,..they begin to look squint, and in part leave God.

Squint (skwint), *v.* [Aphetically f. ASQUINT *adv.* Cf. prec. and SQUINT *a.*]

1. *intr.* To have the axes of the eyes not coincident, so that one or both habitually look obliquely; to be affected with strabismus.

1611 COTGR., *Louscher*, to squint, sken, or looke askew. 1677 WYCHERLEY *Pl. Dealer* II. i, Can any one be call'd beautiful that squints? 1709 STEELE *Tatler* No. 5 ¶ 2 It is certainly a Mistake..to draw..Love, as a blind Boy; for his real Character is, a little Thief that squints. 1764 REID *Inquiry* vi. § 15 Of those who squint, the far greater part have no distinct vision with one eye. 1808 *Med. Jrnl.* XIX. 314 The reason why those persons who squint, generally turn the weak eye towards the nose. 1852 THACKERAY *Esmond* I. vii, My lady's own waiting-woman squinted, and was marked with the smallpox. 1881 H. SMART *Race for Wife* ii, I heard one hideous old woman confide..that you squinted.

transf. 1829 *Chapters Phys. Sci.* 335 In this experiment the fingers may in a manner be said to squint.

b. Of the eyes.

1836 MARRYAT *Japhet* vi, One of his assistants had only one eye, the other squinted horribly. 1862 BORROW *Wild Wales* xxxiii, His eyes were grey and looked rather as if they squinted.

2. To look with the eyes differently directed; to glance obliquely or in other than the direct line of vision; also, to glance hastily or casually, to peep.

1610 G. FLETCHER *Christ's Vict.* II. xxvii, He..ever, as he crept, would squint aside, Lest him, perhaps, some Furie had espide. 1640 BROME *Asparagus Gard.* III. iv. 159 He gets a crick in his neck oft-times with squinting up at Windowes and Belconies. 1707 J. STEVENS tr. *Quevedo's Com. Wks.* (1709) 89 He drew near,..squinting upon the bundle. 1727 SWIFT *Further Acc. E. Curll* Wks. 1751 III. i. 157 Some turning away their heads..; others squinting with a leer that shewed at once fear and indignation. 1802 MRS. E. PARSONS *Myst. Visit* IV. 38 Squinting at Sir William with no little disdain. 1849 CUPPLES *Green Hand* xi. (1856) 107 Well, we squints up the hatchway, and see'd a young midshipman a-standing with his back to us. 1892 *Photogr. Ann.* II. 41 Without having to squint at the ground glass with your nose nearly touching it.

fig. 1622 HAKEWILL *David's Vow* iii. 103 Hee could not at once intend two such distant objects; hee might glance,

or squint upon both: but directly fix his eyes upon both hee could not. 1768–74 Tucker *Lt. Nat.* (1834) I. 106 This we do by the power we have over our ideas to overlook, or, as it were, squint upon some, and hold others in a steadier view.

b. *fig.* To have a private eye to something. Const. *at* or *upon*.

1642 Fuller *Holy & Prof. St.* III. xxv. 233 Pity but his eyes were out that squints at his own ends in doing Gods work. 1692 Southerne *Fatal Marriage* I. i, That has a face of good nature, but it squints with both eyes upon your own interest. 1782 Cowper *To Rev. Wm. Bull* 12 Not meaning ..His pleasure, or his good alone, But squinting partly at my own.

c. *fig.* To glance *at*, *on*, or *upon* (a person or thing) with dislike or disapproval, or by means of some covert allusion, hint, or suggestion.

(*a*) 1652 Benlowes *Theoph.* x. xlix. 185 He hates Superiors,..And on his Fellows squints, that are in joynt Command. 1654 Whitlock *Zootomia* 429 They will come to a bad Market too, in Times that squint on Ingenious Labours. 1706 *Drake's Secr. Mem. Earl of Leicester* Pref., [He] does not in the least squint upon the Earl as guilty of the fact.

(*b*) *a* 1732 Gay *Fables* II. iv, In prudence, too, you think my rhymes Should never squint at courtiers' crimes. 1742 Fielding *J. Andrews* III. x, I hope you have a better opinion of my taste than to apprehend that I squinted at yourself. 1779 Lovell in J. Adams *Wks.* (1854) IX. 481 R. H. Lee with H. Laurens are squinted at as two monsters ..who pursue points in which the Southern States have no interest. 1894 Birrell *Ess.* ix. 99 The dramatists he squinted at were worse than they had any need to be.

3. *fig.* To have a side or covert reference, implication, bearing, or aim; to refer or bear indirectly; to incline or tend. Const. with *toward(s, that* (or *this*) *way*, or *at*.

1599 Nashe *Lenten Stuff* Wks. (Grosart) V. 243 There is a foule fault in the print escapt, that curstly squinteth and leereth that way. 1624 Mountagu *New Gagg* 58 What neede I produce authority of Fathers?.. Name me but one that squinteth that way, 'nedum' that saith it positiuely. 1644 Bulwer *Chiron.* 62 The Rubriques of the Romish Rites, which seeme a little to squint this way, prescribe three formes of Benediction. 1716 M. Davies *Athen. Brit.* III. 54 There be some short Passages in the holy Fathers, that seem to squint towards some of the Articles of Popery. 1768 *Woman of Honor* II. 54 Happened to drop something that squinted towards a reproach to his Lordship. 1895 *Funk's Stand. Dict.* s.v., The document squints toward treason. 1898 *Daily News* 26 Feb. 5/5 The President is prepared to veto any clap-trap measure which squints at war. 1902 J. F. Rusling *European Days & Ways* 343 A goodly Wesleyan chapel,..not ambitious to be called a church yet, but squinting that way.

4. To move or branch off in an oblique direction.

1721 Wodrow *Hist. Suff. Ch. Scot.* (1830) II. 30/2 Dalziel sends out a party of about fifty horse to squint along the edge of the hill, and attack their left wing. 1799 Kirwan *Geol. Ess.* 288 That the vein in the inferior stratum of limestone..squints 4 or five yards from the superior vein.

5. *trans.* To give a permanent or temporary cast to (the eye); to cause to look asquint or obliquely.

1605 Shaks. *Lear* III. iv. 22 The foule Flibbertigibbet.. giues the Web and the Pin, squints the eye, and makes the Hare-lippe. 1637 Heywood *Pleas. Dial.* xiii. Wks. 1874 VI. 226 Let him but use An unsway'd eye, not squinted with affections. 1852 R. S. Surtees *Sponge's Sp. Tour* xxxiii, Our friend..was now squinting his eyes inside out with anger. *fig.* 1622 Bacon *Hen. VII* (1876) 166 Perkin..marched to Taunton; beginning already to squint one eye upon the crown, and another upon the sanctuary.

b. To cast or direct (a look, etc.) in a sidelong manner.

1631 Chapman *Cæsar & Pompey* IV. v, What wild looks Are squinted at me from men's mere suspicions That I am wild myself. 1748 Thomson *Cast. Indol.* I. xv, On others' ways they never squint a frown, Nor heed what haps in hamlet or in town.

6. a. To divert obliquely.

1789 J. Pilkington *Derbyshire* I. 58 In the language of the miners these veins are squinted 4 or 5 yards northwardly from their former direction, that is, they have departed so much from their perpendicular range.

b. To cross (a surface) obliquely.

1884 Q. Victoria *More Leaves* 97 We first went along the road and then on the heather 'squinting' the hill.

† **Squint-a-pipes.** *slang. Obs.*[−o] (See quot.)

1788 Grose *Dict. Vulgar T.* (ed. 2), *Squint-a-pipes*, a squinting man or woman.

Squi·nted, *ppl. a.* [f. Squint *sb.* or *v.*] Affected with strabismus or squint.

1591 Florio *2nd Fruites* 129 She is..halting of one foote, squinted of one eye, and the other goggled. 1596 Spenser *F. Q.* IV. i. 27 Her face most fowle and filthy was to see, With squinted eyes contrarie wayes intended. 1637 G. Daniel *Genius of this Isle* 602 Turne in your Squinted Eyes, and Seriouslie Learne how to prize the blessing you enioye.

Squinter (skwi·ntəɹ). [f. Squint *v.*]

1. One who squints. Also *fig.*

1738 *Corr. betw. C'tess Hartford & C'tess Pomfret* (1805) I. 32 He bestows them on such a squinter as thou, and on such a halting cripple as myself. 1771 Warton *Oxford Newsman* Poet. Wks. 1802 II. 217 Nor more..The triumphs of the patriot Squinter..Shall croud each column of our Journal. 1827 *Blackw. Mag.* XXI. 662, I was now a squinter... I squinted like an owl. 1861 J. G. Sheppard *Fall Rome* vi. 280 The son of Triar, or the 'Squinter', as he was sometimes called, one of the best captains of the age.

2. A squint eye.

1873 Blackmore *C. Nowell* xliii. (1883) 284 The cunning gleam from the black deep ambushed squinters.

Squint-eye(s. [See Squint *a.* 1.] A person who has squinting eyes.

1653 R. Sanders *Physiogn.* 173 Beware squint-eyes, for, of a hundred, there are not two faithfull. 1687 Miège II, A squint-Eye, or one that is squint-eyed. 1839 Thackeray *Fatal Boots* Apr., The men, though they affected to call me a poor little creature, squint-eyes, knock-knees, red-head, and so on, were evidently annoyed by my success.

Squint-eyed (skwi·nt,əid), *a.* [f. Squint *adv.*]

1. Of persons: Having squint eyes; affected with squint or strabismus.

1589 Puttenham *Eng. Poesie* I. xiv. (Arb.) 48 He was squint eyed and had a very vnpleasant countenance. 1602 Breton *Wonders Worth Hearing* Wks. (Grosart) II. 8/1 Though she were squinte eyed,..wry bodyed, and splay footed. 1656 Earl Monm. tr. *Boccalini's Advts. fr. Parnass.* II. viii. (1674) 147 Those glass-eyes which squint ey'd-people wore. 1726 Leoni *Alberti's Archit.* I. 6/2 People humpback'd, squint-eyed, crooked and lame. 1753 Torriano *Gangr. Sore Throat* 37, I have since learned, that this Patient..became squint-ey'd and deformed. 1848 Buckley *Iliad* 165 Daughters, halt, and wrinkled, and squint-eyed. 1872 Black *Adv. Phaeton* xix. 261 That squint-eyed publican who thrashes his wife.

b. In allusive or fig. use.

1563 A. Nevill in Googe *Eglogs* (Arb.) 23 Defye them all. μισάνθρωποι and squynteyd Monsters ryght They are. 1591 Harington *Orl. Fur.* Pref., Euerie blind corner hath a squint eyed Zoilus, that can looke a right vpon no mans doings. 1620–6 Quarles *Feast for Worms* 855 Wks. (Grosart) II. 17 Others, whom the squint-ey'd world counts holy. *Ibid.* 1482 (p. 22), Heart-gnawing Hatred, and Squint-ey'd Suspition. 1647 N. Ward *Simple Cobler* 21 All the squint-ey'd, wry-neck'd, and brazen-faced Errors that are..of that litter. 1712 Parnell *Spect.* No. 460 ₱ 3 Upon the broad Top of it resided squint-eyed Errour, and Popular Opinion with many Heads. 1755 Brown *Barbarossa* I. i, In these walks..wakeful suspicion dwells, And squint-eyed jealousy.

2. Characterized by squint or oblique vision. Also *fig.*

1598 Marston *Pygmal., Sat.* ii, Who would imagine that such squint-eyd sight Could strike the worlds deformities so right. 1626 R. Carpenter *Larum Love* 49 That squint-eyd partialitie, so much condemned by the Apostle. 1656 Earl Monm. tr. *Boccalini's Pol. Touchstone* 401 A squint-ey'd look, wherewith while she seem to look fixedly upon one, she is very intent on observing another. 1661 Hickeringill *Jamaica* 71 To which squint-ey'd Mode in war Scanderbeg stands endebted for most of his Victories against the Ottomanes.

Hence **Squint-eyedness.**

1591 Percivall *Sp. Dict., Entortadura*, .. squinteidnes, crookedness.

Squint-hole. [f. Squint *sb.* 5 or *v.*] (See quots.)

1889 W. Rye *Cromer* 111 A hagioscope or squint-hole. 1890 *Glouc. Gloss.* 149 *Squint-holes*, the long slits in the walls of barns to admit light and air.

† **Squintifego.** *Obs. rare.* Also **-efuego.** [f. Squint *a.* or *v.*] (See quot. *a* 1700.)

1693 Dryden *Persius* v. 271 The Timbrel, and the Squintifego Maid Of Isis, awe thee. *a* 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew, Squinte-fuego*, one that Squints very much.

Squi·nting, *vbl. sb.* [f. Squint *v.*]

1. The action of looking with a squint or sideglance. Also *fig.*

1611 Cotgr., *Louschement*, a squinting, or looking askew. 1654 Whitlock *Zootomia* 181 The Physitian halfe a Fee; the Mountebanke more than hee asketh, &c. with such like squintings on Desert. *a* 1721 Prior *Dial. Locke & Montaigne* ₱ 39 If again your Eyes were continually endeavoring [to] look one upon an other, you would only get a habit of Squinting. 1887 *Scottish Leader* 22 Nov. 6/1 A little political squinting might be allowable.

2. *spec.* The eye-disease strabismus; = Squint *sb.* 1.

1626 Bacon *Sylva* ₱ 867 Both Eyes will moue Outwards; As affecting to see the Light, and so induce Squinting. 1763 Foote *Mayor of G.* I. Wks. 1799 I. 163 She has been cured of..squinting, by the Chevalier Taylor. 1799 Underwood *Dis. Childhood* (ed. 4) II. 248 Another, and a very common blemish is that called Squinting. 1822 Good *Study Med.* III. 237 It is obvious, therefore, that strabismus may have three varieties:..Habitual squinting...Atonic squinting...Organic squinting. 1851 Carpenter *Man. Phys.* 595 If..the conformity of the two eyes be restored (as by the operation for the cure of squinting). 1883 Millington *Are we to read backwards?* 23 Squinting..is usually produced by an abnormally flattened shape of the eyeball.

Squi·nting, *ppl. a.* [f. Squint *v.*]

1. Of persons, the eyes, etc.: Looking obliquely or with a squint; affected with strabismus.

1611 Cotgr., *Biglesse*, a squinting wench. 1646 J. Hall *Satire* Poems (1906) 190 What rocks of diamonds presently arise In the soft quagmires of two squinting eyes. 1688 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 2371/4 Sam Cowling.., a squat bow-legged squinting Fellow. 1756 Mrs. Calderwood in *Coltness Collect.* (Maitland Club) 201 She was a little squinting beauty, very well painted. 1807 *Med. Jrnl.* XVII. 525 The focal points of direct vision do not ever correspond anatomically in squinting persons. 1848 Dickens *Dombey* xii, He..saw ..squinting faces leering in the squares and diamonds of the floorcloth. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* I. 160/1 The patient again suppresses the image of the squinting eye.

† **b.** Looking opposite ways. *Obs. rare.*

1598 Marston *Sco. Villanie* I. i. 173 Mylo doth hate Murder, Clodius Cuckolds, Marius the gate Of squinting Ianus shuts. 1651 Cleveland *Poems* 35 As in a picture, where the squinting paint Shews Fiend on this side, and on that side Saint.

2. Of looks, etc.: Characterized or accompanied by a squint or squints; oblique.

1600 Marlowe tr. *Lucan* I. 55 Whence thou shouldst view thy Roome with squinting beams. 1713 Berkeley *Guardian* No. 4, They all agreed in a squinting look, or cast of their eyes towards a certain person in a mask. 1822 Good *Study Med.* II. 332 The eye has a look peculiarly oblique or squinting. 1865 Dickens *Mut. Fr.* I. i, A man with a squinting leer.

3. That squints, in fig. senses of the verb.

1648 Fanshawe *Il Pastor Fido* (1676) 158 With a strait look, a squinting heart; and least Fidelity where greatest was profest. 1661 Boyle *Style of Script.* (1675) 136 Those dark and squinting oracles, that came..from the Prince of darkness and father of lies. 1693 *Humours Town* 74 You are lash'd in a Preface with a squinting Reflection that looks a hundred ways at once. 1826 Lamb *Conf. Drunkard* in *Elia* (1869) 393 To give pleasure and be paid with squinting malice.

So **Squi·ntingly** *adv.*

1593 Nashe *Christ's Tears* Wks. (Grosart) IV. 183 O why should I but squintingly glance at these matters, when they are so admirably expatiated by auncient Writers? 1611 Cotgr., *Biglement*, squintingly, skenningly, askew. 1708 Sewel II, *Loens*, asquint, squintingly. 1820 Hogg *Adv. Basil Lee* Tales (1866) 264 Her gray eyes softly and squintingly turned on me.

† **Squi·ntly,** *adv. Obs.* [f. Squint *adv.* + -ly 2.] In a squinting manner. Also *fig.*

1655 Emmot *Northern Blast* 12 The people who are not of the same opinion with us, we look squintly upon them. *a* 1677 Barrow *Treat.* (1680) 413 Looking squintly on others, or not well affected to them.

† **Squi·ntness.** *Obs.* [f. as next.] Strabismus.

1656 Blount *Glossogr.*, *Strabism*, the squintness in the eyes. 1661 R. Lovell *Hist. Anim. & Min.* 417 The strabisme, or squintness, caused by evil conformation, custome, or disease.

† **Squi·nty,** *a. Obs.*[−o] [f. Squint *a.*] Oblique.

1598 Florio, *Bieco*, squintie, sidelin, crooked, twart, awrie.

Squip, obs. f. Squib *sb.*, var. Squire *v.*

Squirage (skwəi·rédʒ). Also **squireage.** [f. Squire *sb.* + -age.] The body of country squires; a book containing a list or account of these.

1837 J. Sinclair *Life Sir J. Sinclair* I. 187 Some one asked Mr. Bosville whether he intended purchasing 'the new Baronetage?'—'No,' replied the humourist, 'I am waiting till the *Squirage* comes out'. 1872 De Morgan *Budget of Paradoxes* 46 The old French aristocracy would have been as prosperous at this moment as the English peerage and squireage.

Squiral (skwəi·răl), *a. rare.* [f. Squire *sb.*] Of or belonging to, befitting, a squire; squirely.

1791 Anna Seward *Lett.* (1811) III. 99 The whole wide expanse is dotted over by white rough-cast cottages, and here and there a village-spire and squiral chateau. 1804 *Ibid.* VI. 198 The residence of squiral opulence.

Squira·lity. *rare*[−1]. = next (in sense b).

1759 Sterne *Tr. Shandy* I. xviii, I would effectually provide,..that such weight and influence be put thereby into the hands of the Squirality of my kingdom, as should counterpoise what..my Nobility are now taking from them.

Squiralty (skwəi·rălti). Also **squirealty.** [f. Squiral *a.* + -ty.] **a.** The existence of squires as an institution. **b.** The body or class of squires. **c.** The position or status of a squire.

c 1856 *Denham Tracts* (Folk Lore Soc.) I. 332 It seems to have referred to the golden age of squirealty. 1886 Ruskin *Præterita* I. xi. 351 As a rule, the best of her [*i.e.* England's] squirealty passed necessarily through Christ Church. 1888 P. Cushing *Blacksmith of Voe* I. v. 144 It ..went with the hall, and the crest,..and other notes of squiralty.

Squire (skwəiəɹ), *sb.* Forms: *a.* 3–7 squier (4 -are, 5 -ere), 3–6 squyer (4 sqyer, squy3er, 5 sqvy3er), 4–5 squyere (4 -eer), squyar; 4–5 sqwyer (5 sqwier), sqwyar (5 *Sc.* sqwhyare), 5–6 sqwyere; 4 sowyer, scwier, scoyer, skwier, skuyer (4–5 -ere), 5 skyer; 4 suier, 4–6 swyer, 5 swier(e, -ar. *β.* 4 squeyer, 4–5 squeer; *Sc.* 5 squear, sqwear, squere, 6 sqwere. *γ.* 5 swyr, 6 swyre; 5 squir, 5–6 squyre, 6– squire. *δ.* 7– 'squire. [ad. OF. *esquier, escuier*, etc., whence also the later form Esquire *sb.*[1]]

1. In the military organization of the later middle ages, a young man of good birth attendant upon a knight (= Esquire 1 a); one ranking next to a knight under the feudal system of military service and tenure.

a. c 1290 *Beket* 2427 in *S. Eng. Leg.* 176 For-to honouri þis holi man þer cam folk i-nov3;..Of Eorles and of barones and manie kniȝtes heom to; Of seriaunz and of squiers. 1297 R. Glouc. (Rolls) 7801 He let gadery is kniȝtes & is squiers al so. 13.. *K. Alis*, 6022 Theo kyngis ost..amounted fyve hundrod thousand Knyghtis.., withowte pages and skuyeris. 13.. *Gaw. & Gr. Kn.* 824 Kny3tez & swyerez comen doun þenne. *c* 1380 Wyclif *Wks.* (1880) 362 Fro þe hi3est kny3te..to þe lowest sqwyer þat by wai of office of his state betiþ þe swerde. 1414 *Rolls of Parlt.* IV. 58/2 The freest Knight or Squyer of the Rewme..may be put in prison. *c* 1425 *Eng. Cong. Irel.* (1896) 8 He hade purueied hym of xxx^ti knyghtes and lx skyers. *c* 1530 Ld. Berners *Arthur Lyt. Bryt.* 134 He was served rychely with many goodly squyers, who dyd nothing elles but..served hym alwayes. 1568 Grafton *Chron.* II. 296 The Lord James Audeley with the ayde of his foure squiers, fought alwayes in the chiefe of the battayle.

β. a 1400 *R. Gloucester's Chron.* 3878 (Harl. MS. 201), Boþe kynges and dukes, and erles echon, Barons and kny3tes, squeers monyon. *c* 1440 *Ipomydon* 320 And euery man sayd to other there, 'Will ye se þe proude squeer, Shall serue my lady of þe wyne?' 1474 *Acc. Ld. H. Treas. Scotl.* I. 69 For certane expensis maid..vpon the squere, the were man of the King of Denmarkis. 1490 *Exch. Rolls Scotl.* X. 663 Our traist and velebelovit cosingis and counsallouris, clerkis, and squearis.

γ. 1449 *Paston Lett.* I. 87 He harde sey of j. swyr of ij. c. marc be ȝere that [etc.]. *c* 1450 *Merlin* xiii. 191 Thei were wele armed, and hadde on hattes of stile as squyres vsed in tho dayes. 1515 *Scottish Field* (Chetham) 484 Many swyres full swiftelle were swapped to the deathe. *a* 1548 Hall *Chron., Hen. IV*, 16 b, Owen Glendor a squire of

Wales, perceiuyng the realme to be vnquieted,..entised and allured the wilde and vndiscrite Welshmen. 1595 SHAKS. *K. John* I. i. 177 Goe, Faulconbridge.., A landlesse Knight makes thee a landed Squire. 1611—*Cymb.* II. iii. 128 A Hilding for a Liuorie, a Squires Cloth, A Pantler. 1682 BURNET *Rights Princes* v. 147 Those of the better sort in the provinces, that were bound to come and serve as Auxiliary Troops, which was the Original of the Titles of Squires and Gentlemen. 1788 GIBBON *Decl. & F.* lviii. VI. 65 Each knight was attended to the field by four squires or archers on horseback. 1814 SCOTT *Lord of Isles* I. xxix, Where squire and yeoman, page and groom, Plied their loud revelry. 1859 TENNYSON *Merlin & V.* 322, I once was looking for a magic weed, And found a fair young squire.

† b. Placed after the surname as a designation of rank. *Obs.*

Chiefly in formal documents.

1382 in Riley *Mem. Lond.* (1868) 456 [The said William Soys was attached to make answer to] Walter Begood, Squyer. *c* 1440 *Brut* II. 370 To hym come Iohn Standisch, Squyer. *c* 1460 *Eng. Reg. Oseney* (1913) 138 Come John Wilcotys, squier, and all his tenauntes of þe Moore Barton. 1541 *Knaresborough Wills* (Surtees) I. 81 *note*, Thomas Middleton, squier, and John Pullayne, gentleman, supervisors. 1586 *Brasenose College Muniments* 22. 7 Richard Pultenham Squier, prisoner in the King his Bench.

c. A personal attendant or servant; a follower. Also *transf.*

c 1380 WYCLIF *Wks.* (1880) 148 Þei passen grete men in here gaye pellure..& tatrid squeyeres & obere meyne. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Somp. T.* 535 Now stood the lordes squier at the bord, That carf his mete. *c* 1410 *Master of Game* (MS. Digby 182) ii, Somtyme a gret hert hath an other felawe, þat is called his squyer. 1531 *Dial. on Laws Eng.* O iiij, The same is to be holden of a Captayne, that he shall be bounde for the offence of hys squyers. 1540 tr. *Verdare's Rom. of Rom.* I. 104 They boorded the Pagans ship all three together, leaving their Squires in guard of their bark. 1831 MACAULAY *Biog., Johnson* (1860) 122 Boswell importuned him to attempt the adventure and offered to be his squire. 1835 W. IRVING *Tour Prairies* 35 He must have the young Osage as a companion and squire in his expedition into the wilderness. 1887 RUSKIN *Præterita* II. 192 At Oxford, when it was thought becoming in a gentleman-commoner to have a squire to manage his scout.

† d. In contemptuous use. *Obs.*

Cf. *trencher-squire* s.v. TRENCHER[1] 7.

1573 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 62 Get trustie to tend them, not lubberlie squire, that all the day long hath his nose at the fire. 1596 NASHE *Saffron Walden* Wks. (Grosart) III. 71 O scabbed scald squire (Scythian Gabriell) as thou art. *a* 1618 SYLVESTER *Tobacco battered* 20 Wks. (Grosart) II. 267 Indian Tobacco, when due cause requires; Not the dry Dropsie, of Phantastick Squires.

† e. = APPLE-SQUIRE. *Obs.*

1610 B. JONSON *Alch.* Prol., No clime breeds better matter, for your whore, Bawd, squire, impostor,..Whose manners ..feed the stage. 1617 MIDDLETON & ROWLEY *Fair Quarrel.* IV. iv, When thou art dead, may twenty whores follow thee, that thou mayst go a squire to thy grave! 1622 BRETON *Strange Newes* Wks. (Grosart) II. 6/2 Other kinde of close mates there are,..and they are called Squiers, but they are onely of the order of the Apple.

2. Applied to personages of ancient history or mythology regarded as holding a position or rank similar to that of the mediæval squire.

Freq., esp. in or after Biblical use, with the literal sense 'shield-bearer' or 'armour-bearer'.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 6279 King ne knight, suier ne suain, O þam come neuer a fote again. *Ibid.* 7717 Þe squier hight abysai, þat to þe tent com wit daui. 1382 WYCLIF 1 *Chron.* x. 4 And Saul seyde to his squyer, Drawȝe out thi swerd. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 6221 [They] were gouernet by a gome, ..A fyne squier & a fuerse,—Eufemius he hight. *c* 1450 *Mirour Saluacioun* (Roxb.) 132 Abymalech .. saide þus til his squyere..out with thi swerde quod he and slee me hastily. 1483 CAXTON *Gold. Leg.* 65 b/2 And his squyer wente to for hym & cryde ayenst them of Israhel. 1509 FISHER 7 *Penit. Ps.* Wks. (1876) 281 A squyer also of kynge Saul whan he sawe his lorde & mayster deed..slewe hymselfe. 1582 STANYHURST *Æneis* II. (Arb.) 46 Then the squire emboldned dreadles thus coyned an aunswer. 1648 J. BEAUMONT *Psyche* XX. lxxxi, Bacchus's wrangling Squires, whose strange Contest Was, who should prove the best at being Beast. 1692 DRYDEN *St. Euremont's Ess.* 358 Except Ajax,..there was no considerable Warriour, that had not his God upon his Chariot, as well as his Squire: the God to conduct his Spear, the Squire for the management of his Horses. 1720 POPE *Iliad* XX. 565 The squire, who saw expiring on the ground His prostrate master.

3. † a. *Squire of* (or *for*) *the body* (or *household*), an officer charged with personal attendance upon a sovereign, nobleman, or other high dignitary. *Obs.* Cf. ESQUIRE *sb.*[1] 1 c.

Used jestingly by Shaks. 1 *Hen. IV.* I. ii. 27.

1450 *Rolls of Parlt.* V. 190/1 John Hampton Squier for oure body. 1477 *Exch. Rolls Scotl.* IX. 101 *note*, Our lovit familiare squear of houshald Johne of Ballone. 1536 *MS. Rawl. D.* 780 fol. 58 b, A new kay for the squyers of the bodys chambre. 1642 MILTON *Apol. Smect.* Wks. 1851 III. 286 Some Squire of the body to his Prelat, one that serves not at the Altar only, but at the Court cupboard. 1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), *Armiger*,..a Title of Dignity, properly an Armour-bearer to a Knight, an Esquire, a Squire of the Body. 1825 SCOTT *Betrothed* ii, Two squires of his body, who dedicated their whole attention to his service, stood at the Prince's back.

fig. and *transf.* 1649 FULLER *Just Man's Funeral* 17 A guiltie conscience, that Squire of the bodie, alwayes officious to attend a malefactour. 1665 R. HEAD *Eng. Rogue* (1874) I. ix. 71 From what Dunghil didst thou pick up this Shakerag, this Squire of the body?

b. *transf.* In various humorous or jocular phrases.

†*Squire of the gimlet*, a tapster. †*Squire of the pad*: see PAD *sb.*[2] 2. †*Squire of the placket*, a pimp. *Obs.*

1611 COTGR., *Escuyer trenchant*, a caruer, or squire of the mouth. 1636 DAVENANT *Wits* II, Squires of the placket, wee know you thinke us. 1679 T. JORDAN *Lond. in Luster* 20 And a Drawer that Hath a good Pallat Shall be made Squire of the Gimlet. *a* 1721 M. PRIOR *Thief & Cordelier* ii, There the 'Squire of the Pad, and the Knight of the Post, Find their Pains no more balk'd, and their Hopes no more crost.

4. A man, esp. a young man, who attends upon, accompanies, or escorts a lady; a gallant or lover.

1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* II. i. 21 Archimago..eke himselfe had craftily deuisd To be her Squire, and do her seruice well aguisd. *a* 1625 BEAUM. & FL. *Wife for a Month* I. i, Has your young sanctity done railing, Madam, Against your innocent 'Squire? 1648 J. BEAUMONT *Psyche* XXII. xlvi, Is not brave Phylax forc'd to be her Squire, And dance attendance on that Brat's desire? 1664 COTTON *Scarron.* IV. (1715) 77 Turning strait his Eyes to Tyre, To look for Dido, and her Squire. 1676 WYCHERLEY *Pl. Dealer* II. E iv b, You are to pretend only to be her Squire, to arm her to her Lawyers Chambers.

b. *Squire of dames* or *ladies*, one who devotes himself to the service of ladies or pays marked attentions to them. † Also allusively, a pimp or pander.

1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* III. vii. 51 As for my name, it mistreth not to tell; Call me the Squyre of Dames, that me beseemeth well. 1619 FLETCHER *Mons. Thomas* I. i, *Val.* What, the old 'squire of Dames still! *Hyl.* Still the admirer of their goodness. 1624 MASSINGER *Parl. Love* IV. iii, And how, my honest squire o' dames? 1632—*Emp. East* I. ii, You are The squire of dames, devoted to the service Of gamesome ladies, ..their close bawd. 1886 *Illustr. Lond. News* 9 Jan. 31/2 Such attentions as would have been considered marked even in a 'Squire of ladies'. 1900 R. H. SAVAGE *Brought to Bay* vi. 105 It was no light-minded squire of dames who sat alone in the smoking-room.

5. Employed as a title and prefixed to the surname of a country gentleman, freq. forming part of his customary appellation. Now chiefly *colloq.*

Orig. applied to those having the rank of a squire in sense 1: (cf. 1 b).

1645 SYMONDS *Diary* (Camden) 169 The King lay at Bisbury,..where Squire Gravenor (as they call him) lives. 1669 W. SIMPSON *Hydrol. Chym.* 363 That great naturalist, Squire Boyl. 1712 E. COOKE *Voy. S. Sea* 456 The principal Officers of the three Ships went ashore with 'Squire Hollidge. 1765 FOOTE *Commissary* I. Wks. 1799 II. 14 Our 'Squire Wou'd be is violently bent upon matrimony. *c* 1795? BURNS *Poem on Pastoral Poetry* iv, Squire Pope but busks his skinklin patches O' heathen tatters! 1812 CRABBE *Tales* xii. 1 'Squire Thomas flatter'd long a wealthy aunt. 1857 HUGHES *Tom Brown* i, Here..lived and stopped at home, Squire Brown, J.P. for the county of Berks. 1882a [see SQUIRESHIP 2].

b. A country gentleman or landed proprietor, *esp.* one who is the principal landowner in a village or district.

Broom-squire: see BROOM *sb.* 6.

γ. 1676 WYCHERLEY *Plain Dealer* Dramatis Pers., Jerry Blackacre, a true raw Squire under Age,..bred to the Law. 1718 LADY M. W. MONTAGU *Lett.* 31 Oct. (1763) III. 129, I think the honest English squire more happy, who verily believes the Greek wines less delicious than March beer. 1771 SMOLLETT *Humph. Cl.* I. 17 And in the mean time I bobbled after the squire. 1818 SCOTT *Rob Roy* xiv, A bet or two..placed me on an easy and familiar footing with all the young squires, except Thorncliff. 1855 *Poultry Chron.* II. 281/2 It was unanimously decided that 'the squire', who also was member for the borough, should be asked to act as patron. 1875 HAYWARD *Love agst. World* 2 The old squire held his head high among the aristocracy of the county.

δ. 1711 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 112 ¶7 The Parson is always preaching at the 'Squire, and the 'Squire..never comes to Church. 1750 JOHNSON *Rambler* No. 30 ¶6, I was looked upon in every country parish as a kind of social bond between the 'squire, the parson, and the tenants. 1783 CRABBE *Village* II. 55 Here too the 'squire, or 'squire-like farmer, talk. 1826 in *Sheridaniana* 331 Sheridan was once on a visit to a great Norfolk 'Squire. 1841 E. MIALL *Nonconf.* I. 242 Little ignorant puffy 'squires propose to blow themselves out to these dimensions.

c. In various slang uses (see quots.).

[1688 SHADWELL (*title*), The Squire of Alsatia.] *a* 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew, Squire of Alsatia*, a Man of Fortune, drawn in..and ruin'd by a pack of poor,..spunging, bold Fellows that liv'd..in White-Fryers. *Ibid., The Squire*, a Sir Timothy Treat-all; also, a Sap-pate...*A fat Squire*, a rich Fool. 1785 GROSE *Dict. Vulgar T., Squire of Alsatia*, a weak profligate spendthrift; *squire of the company*, one who pays the whole reckoning, or treats the company, called standing squire. 1834 H. AINSWORTH *Rookwood* IV. ii, I must insist upon standing Squire [*later edd.* Sam] upon the present occasion.

6. *U.S.* A Justice of the Peace; also, a lawyer or judge.

1817 J. BRADBURY *Trav. Amer.* 320 He is not in the least danger of receiving a rude or uncivil answer, even if he should address himself to a *squire* (so justices are called). 1822 J. FLINT *Lett. fr. Amer.* 143 Squire, the appellation designating a Justice of the Peace, or Magistrate, is commonly retained for life, although out of office. 1859 BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.* (ed. 2) 442 *Squire*, the title of magistrates and lawyers. In New England it is given particularly to justices of the peace and judges. In Pennsylvania, to justices of the peace only.

7. *Austr.* (See quot.)

1883 E. P. RAMSAY *Food Fishes N. S. Wales* 10 The carnivorous Sparidæ include the Schnapper, *Pagrus unicolor*, the immature young of which are known respectively as the 'squire' and red bream.

8. *attrib.* and *Comb.* a. Appositive, in early use chiefly in senses related to 3 a, as *squire beadle* (see BEADLE 3), *carver*, *fruiterer*, *priest*, *saddler*; in recent use in sense 5 b, as *squire-farmer*, *-parson*, *-priest*.

(*a*) 1601 F. TATE *Househ. Ordin. Edw. II* (1876) 13 The squire fruiterer shal receve electuaries, confections, and other spiceries. 1615 *Caution-Book of Balliol Coll.* (MS.) fol. 11, I John Bell in the University of Oxon Squirebedle. 1618 *Stow's Surv.* 184 M. Thomas Cure, Sadler, and Squire Sadler to Queen Elizabeth. 1643 *Plain English* 14 They..have.. made good Squire Priests prophesie. 1686 tr. *Chardin's Trav.* 227 From whence other Officers carry'd em [*sc.* dishes] before the Squire-carvers.

(*b*) 1850 THACKERAY *Pendennis* XXVI, The wine-merchants', ..solicitors', squire-farmers' daughters. 1863 A. BLOMFIELD *Mem. Bp. Blomfield* I. iv. 104 The treatment of the mere curate,..and of the independent squire-parson of good family. 1888 DOWDEN *Transcripts* 189 The Chartist-peer, the lord-loving democrat, the squire-priest.

b. Misc., as †**squire-hart** (see quot. and sense 1 c, quot. *c* 1410); **squire-errant**, a squire who acts like a knight-errant; hence *squire-errant* vb., *-errantry*; **squire-trap**, a soft spot or piece of ground into which one may sink while riding after hounds.

1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* 135 Vntill he see..the great Hart hauing..his little squier-hart to attend him. 1733 FIELDING *Don Quix. in Eng.* II. i, The extreme difficulties ..of knight-errantry..and of 'squire-errantry. *Ibid.* II. vi, I hate your squire-errants that carry arms about them. *Ibid.* III. ix, Ah, sir, I have been a squire-erranting to some purpose. 1859 G. A. LAWRENCE *Sword & Gown* ii. 14 Old Heathfield, who, when he is up to his girths in a squire-trap, never halloas 'ware bog', till five or six more are in it. 1861 WHYTE MELVILLE *Market Harb.* 88 Miss Dove was fast luring him into a country which..was very cramped and blind, full of 'doubles', 'squire-traps', and other pit-falls for the unwary.

Squire, obs. f. SQUARE *sb.*; var. SWIRE *Obs.*

Squire (skwəiəɹ), *v.* Forms: 4, 6 squier, 5 squyer (swyer), sqwier, 6 squyre, 6– squire, 8 'squire. [f. SQUIRE *sb.*]

1. *trans.* Of a man: To attend (a lady) as, or after the manner of, a squire; to accompany, conduct, or serve as escort to; to escort. (Freq. in the 17th and 18th c.) a. With adverbs and preps.

c 1386 CHAUCER *Wife's Prol.* 305 And for he squiereth me bothe vp and doun, Yet hastow caught a fals suspecioun. 1588 E. D. *XIth Idyl Theocritus* A 4, When I as Vsher, squirde you [*i. e.* Galatea] all the waie. 1606 DEKKER *Seven Deadly Sins* Wks. (Grosart) II. 45 Hee walkes vp and downe the streetes squiring old Midwiues to anie house. 1668 SHADWELL *Sullen Lovers* v, Will you please to squire me along? 1711 SWIFT *Jrnl. to Stella* 1 Oct., I squired his lady out of her chaise to-day, and must visit her in a day or two. 1751 ELIZA HEYWOOD *Betsy Thoughtless* I. 56 [She] suffered herself to be..squir'd about to all public places, either by the rake, the man of honour, the wit, or the fool. 1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* iv, Manhood enough to squire a proud dame-citizen to the lecture at Saint Antonlin's. 1857 DICKENS *Dorrit* II. vi. 373 Mr. Sparkler humbly offered his arm. Miss Fanny accepting it, was squired up the great staircase. 1866 R. CHAMBERS *Ess.* Ser. II. 93 He was..fond of..visits from ladies, whom..he would squire about his garden.

transf. 1686 GOAD *Celest. Bodies* III. iii. 456 That [star] of 1365..was squired in by a Comet.

b. Without const.

1530 PALSGR. 731, I squier, I wayte upon, *je baille attendauce*. *Ibid.*, Is he your servant, he can squyre you as well as ever you were in your lyfe. 1599 B. JONSON *Ev. Man out of Hum.* Dram. Pers., His chiefe exercises are taking the Whiffe, squiring a Cockatrice. 1639 MAYNE *City Match* II. vi, A Gentleman of valour who has been In Moore-fields often..to squire his sisters. *a* 1652 SHADWELL *Volunteers* II. i. (1693) 20 Pray if you see my Daughter, do you Squire her. 1731 SWIFT *To Gay* Wks. 1751 IV. I. 168 To 'squire a royal girl of two years old. 1751 SMOLLETT *Per. Pickle* lxxx, Not a lady of fashion in the kingdom scrupled..to be squired by him. 1800 A. CARLYLE *Autobiog.* 187 Lady Catherine Lyon, whom I squired that night, and with whom I danced. 1855 KINGSLEY *Westw. Ho!* xii, 'Escort me, sir.' 'It is but too great an honour to squire the Queen of Bideford,' said Cary, offering his hand. 1887 T. A. TROLLOPE *What I remember* I. xii. 254, I have since squired many fairer and younger dames.

transf. 1838 MRS. BRAY *Trad. Devonsh.* I. 214 Some ladies who are not afraid of singularity, will occasionally squire one another when they are in want of a beau. 1896 *Westm. Gaz.* 28 Apr. 5/2 Sir Richard Webster, squired by Mr. Cuffe and Mr. Angus Lewis, made his appearance also in good time.

† c. *transf.* To act or serve as an escort or guard to; to convoy. *Obs.*

a 1578 LINDESAY (Pitscottie) *Chron. Scot.* (S.T.S.) I. 366 The king of France..gart..prepair schips and gallayis..to squyre the king of Scottland his sone and his douchter throw the sie. 1599 NASHE *Lenten Stuff* Wks. (Grosart) V. 249 Robin hoode and little Iohn..are industrious and carefull to squire and safe conduct him in. 1632 HOLLAND *Cyrupædia* 175 To imagine that we ought to entertaine others for the guard and safetie of our persons, and be not a guard to squire and defend ourselves.

2. *intr.* With *it*: To act as a squire; to play the squire; to rule or domineer *over* as a country squire.

1672 MARVELL *Reh. Transp.* I. 69 It were a wild thing for me to Squire it after this Knight. 1739 'R. BULL' tr. *Dedekindus' Grobianus* 91 Survey the Great, in City, Town, or Court, Who 'squire or lord it o'er the meaner Sort.

3. *trans.* To entitle or call 'Squire' or 'Esquire'.

1832 TENNYSON in Ld. H. Tennyson *Mem.* (1897) I. 91 The title-page may be simply 'Poems By Alfred Tennyson' (don't let the printer squire me).

Squirearch (skwəiəɹaɹk), *sb.* (and *a.*). [Back-formation from SQUIREARCHY, after *monarch*, etc.] A member of the squirearchy; a squire as a local magnate.

1831 LYTTON *E. Aram* II. ii, The wealthier but less honoured squirearchs of the county. 1848—*Caxtons* I. II

ix, The proudest of the neighbouring squirearchs always spoke of us as a very ancient family. 1893 MEREDITH *Lord Ormont* ii, Aldermen not at the feast, squirearchs not in the saddle.

b. *adj.* Squirearchal. *rare.*

1893 *Temple Bar Mag.* XCVII. 244 Portly and squirearch was her spouse.

Squirearchal (skwəi·rā·ɪkăl), *a.* Also **squirarchal.** [f. prec. + -AL.] Of or belonging to, characteristic of, the squirearchy or a squirearch.

Clark (1855) gives *squirarchial*, and Worcester (1860, citing Clark) *squirarcheal.*

α. 1838 LYTTON *Alice* IV. x, We were all a squirearchal, farming, George the Third kind of people! 1864 *Reader* 8 Oct. 458/2 Deep, indeed, is the satire on the squirearchal administration of justice. 1867 FITZGERALD *75 Brooke St.* II. 1 Sir John had been carried to his resting-place with all the pomp of squirearchal show.

β. 1830 CARLYLE *Misc.* (1857) II. 146 A certain fashionable, knowing, half-squirarchal air. 1889 MISS BETHAM-EDWARDS *A. Young* p. xxx, Nothing can be more squirarchal than the well-wooded park. 1897 H. S. COWPER *Register Bk. Hawkshead* p. lxxvi, Many representatives of the squirarchal families.

Squirearchical, *a.* Also **squirarchical.** [f. as prec. + -ICAL.] = prec.

1845 *Tait's Mag.* XII. 67 The first move in the last campaign against squirearchical domination. 1855 *Househ. Wds.* XII. 172 The class I mean are respectably descended from old squirearchical families. 1893 G. ALLEN *Scallywag* iii, A large-built, well-dressed man of military bearing and most squirarchical proportions.

Squirearchy (skwəi·raɪki). Also α. 'squirearchy, squire-archy. β. **squirarchy,** 'squirarchy. [f. SQUIRE *sb.* after *hierarchy, monarchy*, etc. The spelling with *e* has been by far the more usual.]

1. The collective body of squires, landed proprietors, or country gentry; the class to which squires belong, regarded especially in respect of its political or social influence.

α. 1804 *Spirit Public Jrnls.* VIII. 55 We look to the admiration and support of the Squirearchy of Old England. 1854 WARTER *Last of O. Squires* xvi. 167 He had lived amongst the old squirearchy of the midland counties. 1899 BARING-GOULD *Bk. of West* I. ii. 40 A very large number of old mansions, belonging to the squirearchy of Elizabethan days, remain.

β. 1819 SYD. SMITH in *Edin. Rev.* March 308 The new class of punishments which the Squirarchy have themselves enacted against depredations on game. 1861 FITZGERALD *Lett.* (1889) I. 277 We are split up into the pettiest possible Squirarchy, who want to make the utmost of their little territory.

b. Without article.

1858 BAILEY *Age* 5 Law, army, navy, physic, state and squirearchy. 1885 *Illustr. Lond. News* 14 Feb. 184/1 Keeping upon good terms with Squirearchy.

c. A class, body, or number of squires.

1830 *Examiner* 789/1 A gorgeous aristocracy, a pampered squirarchy, and a magnificent parson-archy. 1853 W. JERDAN *Autobiog.* IV. 146 The surrounding Cheshire gentry, about the..best informed squirearchy in the kingdom. 1874 GREEN *Short Hist.* iv. § 2. 167 To check this growth of a squirearchy the statute provided [etc.].

2. The position or dignity of a squire. *rare.*

1854 WARTER *Last of O. Squires* xii. 118 Always ready to explode when thwarted in his squirearchy, he not only could, but did, look inward continually.

3. Rule or government by a squire or squires.

1861 PYCROFT *Agony Point* (1862) 127 The form of polity in Brendon was a kind of Squirearchy.

Squiredom (skwəi·rdəm). [f. SQUIRE *sb.* + -DOM. Cf. ESQUIREDOM.]

1. The dignity, position, or status of a squire.

1650 B. *Discollim.* 34 The utmost title we must now expect, is a Gentleman; it may be if we straine hard, we may hap to vent a few Squiredomes. 1838 LYTTON *Alice* IV. x, I suppose you have been enjoying the sweet business of a squiredom. 1842 FITZGERALD *Lett.* (1889) I. 88, I always direct to you as 'Mr. Barton' because I know not if Quakers ought to endure Squiredom. 1897 LD. H. TENNYSON *Mem. Tennyson* I. v. 138 His son Charles Tennyson d'Eyncourt pressed to be installed in the squiredom.

2. The body of squires; squires collectively.

1842 *Blackw. Mag.* LI. 147 Groves, pheasantries, pineries, and the other fine things of modern squiredom. 1847 *Ibid.* LXI. 424 He never hunted..with the squiredom of the country. 1874 LISLE CARR *Judith Gwynne* I. i. 17 That tall..man..was an indubitable stranger, far removed from the ranks of ordinary squiredom.

Squireen (skwəiərī·n). [f. SQUIRE *sb.* + *-een*, Ir. Gael. *-in* diminutive suffix.] A petty squire; a small landowner or country gentleman.

The first group of quots. illustrates the orig. Irish usage.

(*a*) 1809–12 MAR. EDGEWORTH *Absentee* vii, Squireens are persons who, with good long leases or valuable farms, possess incomes from three to eight hundred a year, who keep a pack of hounds, take out a commission of the peace [etc.]. 1825 LOCKHART in *Scott's Fam. Lett.* (1894) II. 297 Warned by a Mr. Hutcheson (apparently a squireen) not to travel on the Drogheda road after 7 p.m. 1846 J. KEEGAN *Leg. & Poems* (1907) 421, I..said I would no longer be a slave to any squireen of them all. 1883 S. C. HALL *Retrospect* II. 314 The 'half-sirs' or 'squireens', a class peculiar to Ireland, are, I believe, unknown now.

attrib. 1841 LEVER *C. O'Malley* x, There were scores of squireen gentry.

(*b*) 1834 MEDWIN *Angler in Wales* II. 264 A young lout of a squireen took yesterday, with worms,..thirty pound of trout in one rapid. 1878 tr. *Dumas' Three Musketeers* ii, A reserve of courage, wit, and shrewdness, which often makes a Gascon squireen better off than the richest gentleman of other provinces. 1898 J. A. GIBBS *Cotswold Village* 67 Hunting, shooting, coursing, and sometimes fishing are enjoyed by most of these squireens.

Hence **Squireeness,** a female squireen.

1872 *Contemp. Rev.* XX. 106 Can we not endeavour to dissociate the Irish nation from those Hibernian squireens and squireenesses?

Squirehood (skwəi·ɹhud). [f. SQUIRE *sb.*]

1. The position or status of a squire or esquire; squireship. Also used as a title.

α 1680 BUTLER *Rem.* (1759) II. 91 To which Purpose he brings his Squirehood and Groom to vouch. 1721 SWIFT *Lett. King at Arms* Wks. 1841 II. 70/2 If this should be the test of squirehood, it will go hard with a great number of my fraternity. 1801 *Spirit Pub. Jrnls.* V. 376 The rage of Squire-hood is now so universal, that one of my humble race, a simple Gent. is hardly to be met with in his Majesty's dominions! 1814 SCOTT *Chivalry* (1874) 34 The sumptuary laws of squirehood were not particularly attended to.

2. The body of squires; the squirearchy.

1792 BURKE *Corr.* (1844) III. 438 In the governing people, the old false principles were quite worn out. In the squirehood, the pretence of them..still existed. 1831 GEN. P. THOMPSON *Exerc.* (1842) I. 331 Neither the squirehood nor the priesthood can persuade anybody to prop open his gates, that the pigs may run into his potato-field. 1850 SCARGILL *Eng. Sketch-Bk.* 6 Both these gentlemen had their intimacies among the squirehoods of their respective neighbourhoods.

Squireless (skwəi·ɹlĕs), *a.* [f. SQUIRE *sb.* + -LESS.] Unattended by a squire; having no squire or landed proprietor.

1828 S. ROGERS *Italy* II. 10 And thou, Sir Knight, hadst traversed hill and dale, Squire-less. 1887 *Macm. Mag.* Nov. 60 The vicar of a squireless parish denounces Dives with absolute impunity. 1897 *Westm. Gaz.* 9 Mar. 2/2 Some other school may get less [money] to enable the squireless school to go on.

Squirelet (skwəi·ɹlĕt). [f. as prec. + -LET.] A petty squire or small landowner; a squireling.

1832 CARLYLE *Misc.* (1857) III. 56 A Scottish squirelet, full of gulosity and gigmanity. 1862 — *Fredk. Gt.* XII. xiii. (1872) IV. 288 A man born poor: son of some poor Squirelet in the Ruppin Country. 1891 G. PEACOCK *Narissa Brendon* I. 82 The little squirelets of the county would be proud to know him.

Squire-like, *a.* and *adv.* [SQUIRE *sb.*]

A. *adj.* Like a squire or that of a squire.

1749 FIELDING *Tom Jones* XII. ii, The two squires met, and in all squire-like greeting saluted each other. 1783 CRABBE *Village* II. 55 Here too the 'squire, or 'squire-like farmer, talk.

B. *adv.* In the manner of a squire or attendant; humbly, submissively. *rare* —1.

1605 SHAKS. *Lear* II. iv. 217, I could as well be brought To knee his Throne, and Squire-like pension beg, To keepe base life a foote.

Squireling (skwəi·ɹlĭŋ). [f. SQUIRE *sb.*]

1. A petty squire; a squirelet.

1682 T. FLATMAN *Heraclitus Ridens* No. 80 (1713) II. 242 Great Care is desired in the Matter, because the Squirelings need the Commodity [*sc.* wit] extreamly. 1843 F. E. PAGET *Warden of Berkingholt* 31 The very thing to suit the idle tastes of a shooting, boozing squireling. 1855 TENNYSON *Maud* I. xx. ii, Our ponderous squire will give A grand political dinner To half the squirelings near. 1886 *Sat. Rev.* 11 Dec. 789 She succumbed to the blandishments of a pecunious squireling.

2. A young squire.

1834 *Tait's Mag.* I. 439 The country squire..despatches his squireling to a neighbouring grammar-school. 1834 *New Monthly Mag.* XLI. 327 The academic squireling would have been promenaded over half Europe.

Squirely (skwəi·rli), *a.* [f. as prec. + -LY 1.] Of, belonging or relating to, a squire or the squirearchy; befitting a squire.

1612 SHELTON *Quix.* I. i. iv, One very fit for this purpose, and Squirely function, belonging to Knighthood. 1620 *Ibid.* II. ii. xxviii. 188 Thou Preuaricator of the Squirely Laws of Knight-Errantry. 1834 *Fraser's Mag.* X. 126 He looked on the squirely family of Mr. Scott of Harden as the head of his house. 1850 *Tait's Mag.* XVII. 423/2 Some rural squirely squabble. 1892 *Review of Rev.* 15 July 36/2 Estates of squirely magnitude are sought.

Squirely, *adv. rare.* [f. as prec. + -LY 2.] In the manner of or befitting a squire.

c 1400 *Rom. Rose* 7415 His looking was..meke and ful peesible. About his necke he bar a Bible, And squierly forth gan he gon.

Squireship (skwəi·ɹʃip). [f. SQUIRE *sb.* + -SHIP. Cf. ESQUIRESHIP.]

1. The state, position, or dignity of a squire or esquire; squirehood.

1613 OVERBURY *Charact., Common Lawyer* Wks. (1856) 85 Then he begins to sticke his letters in his ground chamber-window; so that the superscription may make his squire-ship transparent. 1620 SHELTON *Quix.* II. IV. xxv, What profit hast thou reaped by this thy Squireship? 1698 FARQUHAR *Love & a Bottle* v. iii, I had only a mind to convince you of your squireship. 1730 SWIFT *Lett.* Wks. 1841 II. 633 By the terror of squireship frighting my agent to take what you graciously thought fit to give. 1799 *Spirit Pub. Jrnls.* III. 279 Is not this enough to sicken us of Squireship. 1868 LANIER *Poems, Jacquerie* ii. 137 Thou art first Squire to that most puissant knight, Lord Satan, who thy faithful squireship long Hath watched.

b. The estate of a squire.

1824 R. POLLOK in D. Pollok *Life* 236 He was more like an heir to a country squireship than a student in theology.

2. The personality of a squire. Chiefly with possessive pronouns.

1786 BURNS *On dining with L.d. Daer* ii, When mighty Squireships of the quorum, Their hydra-drouth did sloken!

1828 SCOTT *F. M. Perth* xxiv, And now, Buncle,..your valiant squireship knows your charge. 1882 *Pall Mall G.* 5 July 6/1 The waggonette of Squire Calthorpe..is driven up, bearing his squireship's butler, gardener, and groom.

Squiress (skwəi·res, skwəiəre·s), *sb.* [f. as prec. + -ESS 1. Cf. ESQUIRESS.] A female squire; the wife of a squire or country gentleman.

Freq. in 19th c., esp. coupled with *squire.*

1823 T. MOORE *Fables Holy Alliance* 176 The Squires and their Squiresses all, With young Squirinas just come out. 1834 RITCHIE *Wand. Seine* 68 An attorney's wife who suddenly finds herself..the squiress and lady of the manor. 1880 BURGON *Twelve Good Men* (1888) II. 35 The squiress who was also the Lady-Bountiful of the village.

So **Squiress** *v. intr.* (with *it*), to play the squiress. *rare* —1.

1786 ANNA SEWARD *Lett.* (1811) I. 109 Your old acquaintance,..who married a Warwickshire squire,..squiresses it with much loquacious importance.

Squiret (skwəi·rĕt). [f. as prec. + -ET.] A squirelet, squireling.

1838 *Blackw. Mag.* XLIII. 372 He had in many a town in England assumed the character of a spruce, knowing squiret. 1841 J. T. HEWLETT *Parish Clerk* I. 82 Whom he..considered perfect models of squirets.

Squire-wise, obs. form of SQUAREWISE *adv.*

† **Squi·rgliting,** *a. Obs.* (Meaning obscure.)

1602 *Contention betw. Lib. & Prod.* Prol., As for the quirks of sage Philosophie, or points of squirgliting scurrilitie.

Squiri·ferous, *a.* [Irreg. f. SQUIRE *sb.*] Partaking of the character of squires.

1796 CHARLOTTE SMITH *Marchmont* I. 203 Squiriferous Parsons, young men in orders, who shoot, hunt, etc.

Squirilitie, obs. variant of SCURRILITY.

Squiri·na. *nonce-word.* [f. SQUIRE *sb.* + -INA 1.] The daughter of a squire.

1823 [see SQUIRESS].

Squi·ring, *vbl. sb.* [f. SQUIRE *v.*] The action of attending as a squire or escort.

1599 B. JONSON *Cynthia's Rev.* Palinode, From squiring to tilt-yards, play-houses, pageants, and all such publique places. 1639 MAYNE *City-Match* III. iv, I will cut your wizzel, And spoil your squiring in the dark. 1859 *Athenæum* 12 Mar. 349 Hand-kissings and effeminate squirings of ladies.

Squirish (skwəi·rĭʃ), *a.* [f. SQUIRE *sb.* + -ISH.]

† **1.** (See quot.) *Obs.*—0

a 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew, Squirish,* foolish; also one that pretends to Pay all Reckonings, and is not strong enough in the Pocket.

2. Characteristic of or befitting a squire.

1755 SMOLLETT *Quix.* Pref. (1803) I. 8 Sancho Panza, in whom I think are united all the squirish graces. 1881 DUFFIELD *Don Quix.* I. cxxii, Plain attire and squirish speech.

3. Having the deportment, appearance, or character of a country squire.

1814 in *Parr's Wks.* (1828) VIII. 366 Nothing squirish, though so great a country gentleman. 1826 *Westm. Rev.* VI. 263 When lords were still more lordly, and squires still more squirish than they are at present. 1883 R. G. WHITE *W. Adams* 67 He's settled down into a mere squire, and has grown burly and squirish.

Comb. 1855 F. FRANCIS *Newton Dogvane* (1888) 260 Various yeoman-like and squirish-looking gentlemen.

Squirism (skwəi·rĭz'm). [f. as prec. + -ISM.] Squiredom.

1819 W. S. ROSE *Lett.* I. 97 A trait of genuine squirism in the life of Obizzo. 1843 J. STERLING in Carlyle *Life* (1851) II. xiii. 327 Squirism had already, in that day, become the *caput mortuum* that it is now.

Squirk. [Imitative.] **a.** A half-suppressed laugh. **b.** A sharp squeaking sound.

1882 'F. ANSTEY' *Vice Versa* iv. 64 Little gurgles and 'squirks' of laughter. 1902 P. FOUNTAIN *Mts. & Forests S. Amer.* ix. 260 [A thrush] occasionally uttering a squirk to attract my attention.

† **Squirle.** *Obs.*—1 [A comb. of *lec* LEEK *sb.* (cf. ME. *garle* garlick), with obscure first element.] A plant of the leek-kind.

a 1400 *Stockh. Med. MS.* ii. 616 in *Anglia* XVIII. 322 Garlec þe ton, lec þe toþer, Squirle is þe grete broþer.

Squirm (skwɔ̄m), *sb.* [f. the vb.] **a.** A squirming or writhing movement; a wriggle. **b.** *Naut.* A twist in a rope.

1839 *Havana* (N. Y.) *Republican* 21 Aug. (Thornton), [The whale gave] a squirm, and roll'd over and over. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.* 648 *Squirm,* a wriggling motion like that of an eel. Also, a twist in a rope. 1883 BARING-GOULD *J. Herring* II. xxiii. 39 The squirms and languishings of the redeyelashed heiress..were grotesque.

Squirm (skwɔ̄m), *v.* [app. imitative.]

1. *intr.* To wriggle or writhe: **a.** Of reptiles, etc. Chiefly *U.S.* and *dial.*

1691 RAY *S. & E.C. Words* 115 To *Squirm,* to move very nimbly about, after the manner of an Eel. It is spoken of an Eel. 1743 CATESBY *Nat. Hist.* II. 47 This harmless snake frequents the branches of Trees and very nimbly squirms among the leaves. 1828 WEBSTER s.v., *Squirm..* signifies to move as a *worm.* 1859 HAWTHORNE *Transform.* (1878) 156 He should press his foot hard down upon the old serpent,..feeling him squirm mightily. 1885 H. C. MCCOOK *Tenants Old Farm* 389, I have seen specimens..hanging by a thread and squirming, bending and snapping their bodies in the oddest ways.

fig. 1885 *Pall Mall G.* 5 May 4/1 If you want definite ideas [about vermin] that will squirm in your brain for a lifetime.

b. Of persons.

1756 CLUBBE *Misc. Tracts, Physiognomy* (1770) I. 24 Let

them squirm about as much as they will, and struggle to support their heads from sinking. 1860 Holmes *Prof. Breakf.-t.* 177 They find out the red-handed..undergraduate of bucolic antecedents as he squirms in his corner. 1879 G. Macdonald *Sir Gibbie* I. x. 154 At length he could..bear his thirst no longer, and, squirming round on the floor, crept softly towards the other end of the loft. 1890 Huxley in *19th Cent.* XXVII. 9 These poor little mortals who have not even the capacity to do anything but squirm and squall.

c. Of things.

1872 *Routledge's Ev. Boy's Ann.* 25/1 If there are a few trees near, and the long leafless twigs of one of them twitters and squirms against the window panes. 1888 Abp. Benson in *Life* (1899) II. 220 Leighton said he found it vain to try to remember the turns and angles at which these branches squirmed about. 1905 Catherine I. Dodd *Vagrant Englishwoman* 78 The sausage squirmed, spluttered, and sang as the lively flames leapt around it.

2. To move, proceed, or go with a wriggling or writhing motion. Const. with advs. and preps., as *along, forward, in, out, round, to, up.*

1759 *Compl. Lett.-writer* (ed. 6) 224 Mrs. Langford..puddled herself into a minuet, and squirmed round and round the room. 1882 *Cent. Mag.* July 348/1 If you insist upon going to the end.., you must squirm along on all fours. 1883 *Harper's Mag.* Jan. 186/2 The shark squirmed out, thrashing about and snapping its jaws. 1891 C. Ll. Morgan *Anim. Sketches* 235 Wriggling and squirming up a dark green vertical wall.

3. *fig.* To be painfully affected or sharply touched by something; to writhe under reproof, sarcasm, or the like.

1804 [see the *vbl. sb.*]. 1849 *Knickerb. Mag.* Jan. 64 The gambler 'squirmed' under the gospel truth; yet..he contrived to sit the sermon out. 1894 G. M. Fenn *In Alpine Valley* I. 36 I'll write my Lord..such a letter as shall make him squirm.

4. *trans.* With *out*: To utter with a squirm.

1889 Gunter *That Frenchman* xxi. 286 Here Zamaroff squirms out: 'Do I look like a man who would kill anything?'

Hence **Squirming** *vbl. sb.* and *ppl. a.*

1804 *Balance* 25 Dec. 410 (Thornton), Some of the late victorious party have discovered *squirmings of resentment. 1858 O. W. Holmes *Aut. Breakf.-t.* (1883) 96 A terrible squirming and scattering of the..population. 1887 *Spectator* 15 Oct. 1378 The British will, after many delays and much squirming, ultimately pay the money. 1859 Hawthorne *Transform.* xv, What a spirit is conveyed into the ugliness of this strong, writhing, *squirming dragon under the Archangel's foot! 1865 *Cornh. Mag.* July 46 When a great nation..is stirred and shaken..we all know what squirming, slimy things run forth helter-skelter. 1885 *Harper's Mag.* Jan. 223/2 A squirming alligator some three feet long.

Squirmy (skwɔ̄·rmi), *a.* [f. Squirm *v.*]

1 Given to squirming or writhing; wriggly.

1836 Haliburton *Clockm.* Ser. I. xv, It makes them as squirmy as an eel. 1906 *Macm. Mag.* Sept. 810 You've got to put horrid squirmy things on to hooks.

2. Of the nature of a squirm.

1885 Mrs. C. Praed *Affinities* I. ii. 29 You can drive away the queer, squirmy sensation that has taken hold of me.

Squiro·cracy. *rare.* [f. Squire *sb.* + -ocracy.] = Squirearchy.

1834 *Tait's Mag.* I. 276 How little of community of interest ..exists between the people and the Squirocracy. 1890 C. Martyn *W. Phillips* 159 Half a dozen prominent and elderly squires dominated it [Concord, Mass.]..The squirocracy naturally sympathized with the slavocracy.

Squirr, *v.* Also squir. [var. of Skirr *v.*] *trans.* To throw or cast with a rapid whirling or skimming motion. Also with *away.*

1710 Addison *Tatler* No. 249 ₱7 Having taken me [a shilling] in his Hand, and cursed me, he squirred me away from him as far as he could fling me. 1711 Budgell *Spect.* No. 77 ₱1, I saw him squirr away his Watch a considerable way into the Thames. 1803 Couper *Tourifications* I. 102, I squirred the card into the fire. 1847 Halliw. s.v., Boys *squir* pieces of tile or flat stones across ponds or brooks to make what are denominated *Ducks and drakes.* 1876 *Whitby Gloss.* 173 *Skew'd*, or *Squirr'd*, whirled away; squandered.

Squirrel (skwi·rĕl), *sb.* Forms: *a.* 5 **squirel**, sqwirel, squyrel(l, -elle, -ylle, sqvyrelle, 6 squirell, 8 *north. dial.* swirl; 5 squyrrel, 6 -ell, 6–7 squirrell (7 sqirrell), -ill, -ile, 7 -il, skuyrrell, 9 *north. dial.* swirrel; 5– **squirrel.** *β.* 5 squerel, 5–6 -ell(e, 5 sqwerylle, 9 *north. dial.* swerill; 7 squerrel, -ell, 9 *dial.* squerril. *γ.* 5 scorel, scurelle, *Sc.* skurel (6 skarale). [ad. AF. *esquirel*, OF. *esquireul, escureul, -ol*, etc. (mod.F. *écureuil*), = Prov. *escurols*, Sp. *esquirol*, med.L. (*e*)*scurellus, scurellius, scuriolus*, diminutives from pop. L. **sciūrius*, for L. *sciūrus*, ad. Gr. *σκίουρος*, app. f. *σκιά* shade + *οὐρά* tail.

The pron. (skwi·rĕl) is not recognized by the earlier lexicographers of the 19th cent., who vary between (skwe·rĕl) and (skwʌ·rĕl).]

1. One or other of various species of slender, graceful, agile rodents (characterized by a long bushy tail, furry coat, and bright eyes), belonging to the genus *Sciurus*, or to the widely-distributed sub-family *Sciurina* including this; *esp.* the common species *Sciurus vulgaris*, native to Britain, Europe, and parts of Asia.

a. ?*a* 1366 Chaucer *Rom. Rose* 1402 There myght menne does and roes y-se And of squyrels ful great plente, From bowe to bowe alwaye lepyng. *c* 1381 — *Parl. Foules* 196 (Camb.), Squyrelis & bestes smale of gentil kynde. *c* 1400 Maundev. (1839) xix. 206 Thei wolde lepen als lightly in to Trees..as it were Squyrelles. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 357/2 A Squyrelle,..*sirogrillus*. 1530 Palsgr. 275/1 Squyrrell a beest, *escureul, escuireau*. *c* 1592 Breton *C'tess Pembroke's Passion* xcviii, The lambes and rabbots sweetlie rune at base, Whilst highest trees the litle squiriles clime. 1624 Capt. Smith *Virginia* II. 27 Their Squirrels some are neare as great as our smallest sort of wilde Rabbets, some blackish or blacke and white, but the most are gray. 1687 A. Lovell tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* III. 12 Its Muzle is round and of a Flesh-colour, and hath a Tail like a Squirrel. 1726 Swift *Gulliver* IV. i, They climbed high Trees, as nimbly as a Squirrel. 1784 Cowper *Task* VI. 315 The squirrel, flippant, pert, and full of play. 1815 Shelley *Alastor* 100 The doves and squirrels would partake From his innocuous hand his bloodless food. 1855 *Orr's Circle Sci., Org. Nat.* III. 467 In the United States of America,..Squirrels abound to an extraordinary extent, and often cause great loss to the farmer. *c* 1880 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* III. 87 Squirrels appear to be strictly monogamous, pairing for life, and constantly inhabiting the same dwelling.

β. 14... *Chaucer's Parl. Foules* 196 (Harl.), Squerellis smale, and bestes of gentil kynde. 1423 Jas. I. *Kingis Q.* clv, The lytill squerell, full of besynesse. 1555 Eden *Decades* (Arb.) 215 As it weare a grehounde shulde ouerturne a squerell. 1598 Manwood *Lawes Forest* v. (1615) 49 Any wild beast that is killed by hunting, as a squerrel. 1630 Higgeson *New Engl. Plantation* B 3 b, Also here are great store of squerrels, some greater, and some smaller and lesser. 1860 Geo. Eliot *Mill on Fl.* III. vi. 86 Bob Jakin..as you went arter the squerrils with. 1876 *Whitby Gloss.* 191 *Swerill*,..the squirrel.

γ. c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 450/1 Scorel, or squerel, beest, *esperiolus*. *c* 1475 *Pict. Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 759/29 *Hic scurellus*, a scurelle.

b. Without article, in collective sense; also = squirrel-skin, squirrel-fur.

1436 *Libel Eng. Policy* in *Pol. Poems* (Rolls) II. 186 Skynnes of otere, squerel,..Of shepe, lambe, and fox. 14.. in *Sc. Acts Parl.* (1844) I. 667 Of þe tymmyr of skurel [*c* 1575 skarale], ij d. *Ibid.*, Of ane hundreth gray gryse and skurel dycht and letheryt, viij d.

c. Applied to other animals or to persons, usu. with contemptuous force.

c 1566 *Merie Tales of Skelton* in S.'s Wks. (1843) I. p. lxvi, Skelton dyd harnesse the doughtye squirell [a cobbler]. 1591 Shaks. *Two Gent.* IV. iv. 59 The other Squirrill was stolne from me...And then I offer'd her mine owne, who is a dog As big as ten of yours. 1865 A. Smith *Summer in Skye* I. 124 Lachlan Roy was a little, cheery, agile, red squirrel of a man.

2. With *the*, in generalized sense; also, the genus *Sciurus* or the sub-family *Sciurina* to which this belongs.

Many species or varieties are distinguished by specific epithets, as *Alpine, Barbary, Brazilian, Carolina*, etc., *black, grey, red, striped*, etc., *cat-, fox-, palm-squirrel.* See also Flying squirrel, Ground squirrel.

1591 Sylvester *Du Bartas* I. vi. 142 There skips the Squirrill, seeming Weather-wise. 1607 Topsell *Four-f. Beasts* 656 Of the Squirrell. 1668 Charleton *Onomast.* 21 *Sciurus*,..the Squirrel. 1768 Pennant *Brit. Zool.* I. 93 Those vast leaps the squirrel takes from tree to tree. 1774 Goldsm. *Nat. Hist.* (1824) II. 71 A few of the numerous varieties of the squirrel. 1801 Shaw *Gen. Zool.* II. I. 136 The Squirrel feeds on the buds and young shoots of trees, and is said to be particularly fond of those of the fir and pine. 1834 M'Murtrie *Cuvier's Anim. Kingd.* 80 In the Squirrel, properly so called, the hairs of the tail are arranged on the sides, so as to resemble a feather.

b. *pl.* = prec.

1834 M'Murtrie *Cuvier's Anim. Kingd.* 80 It is probable that we shall have to separate from the Squirrels certain species which have cheek pouches like the Hamsters. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 397/2 The geographic range of the Squirrels is very wide both in the Old and New World. *c* 1880 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* III. 91 The true Ground Squirrels (*Tamias*) are distinguished from the rest of the Squirrels (*Sciurinæ*), and approach the Marmots.

c. *ellipt.* A variety of squirrel skin.

1904 *Westm. Gaz.* 1 Dec. 8/2 This Russian squirrel..makes an excellent coat.

† 3. *U.S.* The prairie dog. *Obs. rare.*

1808 [see Prairie-dog]. 1814 Brackenridge *Views of Louisiana* 239, I happened on a village of barking squirrels, or prairie dogs, as they have been called.

4. *Ichth.* One or other of various species of fish belonging to the family *Holocentridæ*, esp. *Holocentrus erythræus* (*Holocentrum sogo*).

1734 *Phil. Trans.* XXXVIII. 315 *Perca marina rubra.* The Squirrel. It is a good eating Fish. 1876 Goode *Fishes of Bermudas* 50 Their voracity is very great, and the tyro in angling usually finds his first prize to be a 'Squirrel'.

5. *techn.* (See quot.)

1839 Ure *Dict. Arts* 348 Some cards [for carding cotton] consist entirely of cylinders, the central main cylinder being surrounded by a series of smaller ones called urchins or squirrels.

6. *attrib.* and *Comb.* **a.** Simple attrib., as *squirrel bell, gun, hole, hunt*, etc., or appositive, as *squirrel family, tribe.*

1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib., Brit.* II. No. 6364, Clang bells for cattle; ferret bells; *squirrel bells. 1894-5 Lydekker *Roy. Nat. Hist.* III. 70 The *Squirrel family..includes the true flying squirrels, ordinary squirrels, marmots, and susliks. 1902 *Munsey's Mag.* XXVI. 513/1 Men armed with *squirrel guns..from the back counties of Georgia. 1851 *Zoologist* IX. 3298 There is a bird here which lives in the *squirrel-holes in the ground. 1817 J. Bradbury *Trav. Amer.* 289 The squirrels..are prevented from an inordinate increase by the frequency of *squirrel hunts by the riflemen. 1860 Mayne Reid *Hunters' Feast* xix, To make a successful squirrel-hunt two persons at least are necessary. 1902 *Scribner's Mag.* XXIX. 389/1 Garnett himself fell with a bullet from a mountaineer's *squirrel rifle. 1844 Emerson *Ess.* Ser. II. *Experience* (1901) 245 Western roads, which opened stately enough,..and ended in a *squirrel-track. 1860 Mayne Reid *Hunters' Feast* xix, The naturalist stated many facts in relation to the *squirrel tribe, that were new to most of us.

b. In the sense 'made of, obtained from, the squirrel', as *squirrel fur, lock, pie, skin.*

1882 Caulfeild & Saward *Dict. Needlew.* 459/1 **Squirrel Fur*...There are seven varieties of this Fur. *Ibid.* 459/2 **Squirrel Lock*..is that portion of the grey squirrels' fur that grows..on the belly. 1788 M. Cutler in *Life*, etc. (1888) I. 419 Dined..on venison steak and *squirrel pie; very good dinner. 1883 *Sunday Mag.* Oct. 628/1 Squirrel-pie is a well-known luxury in some parts of England, and is far superior to rabbit-pie. 1689 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 2498/4 Stolen.., a red and white *Squirrel-skin Peticoat. 1710 *Tatler* No. 245 ₱2 A musk-coloured velvet mantle lined with squirrel skins. 1832 McCulloch *Dict. Commerce* (1834) 203 *Calabar Skin*,..the Siberian squirrel skin.

c. Comb. with vbl. sbs., (ppl.) adjs., and agent nouns, as *squirrel-coloured, -limbed, -trimmed; squirrel-hunting, -shooting, -stoning; squirrel-hunter*; also *squirrel-like.*

1876 T. Hardy *Ethelberta* vi, The east gleamed upon Ethelberta's *squirrel-coloured hair. 1860 Mayne Reid *Hunters' Feast* xix, The height..is one of those marvels witnessed by every *squirrel-hunter. 1667 Cotton *Scarron.* IV. 78 Æneas and the Queen have made..A match to go.. Into the Woods a *Squirrel hunting. 1704 *Dict. Rust.* (1726), *Squirrel-hunting.* The proper time to hunt this little Animal, is at the fall of the Leaf. *c* 1790 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) VI. 666/1 Squirrel-hunting is a noted diversion in country places [in New England]. 1847 Halliw., *Squirrel-hunting*, a curious Derbyshire custom [etc.]. 1849 *Sk. Nat. Hist., Mammalia* IV. 22 They lift their food to their mouths while sitting *squirrel-like. 1862 Lytton *Str. Story* II. 271 The squirrel-like opossums frolicked on the feathery boughs. 1626 B. Jonson *Staple of N.* v. iii, H' has almost kill'd his maid,..But that she's Cat-liu'd, and *Squirrill-limb'd, with throwing bed-staues at her. 1860 Mayne Reid *Hunters' Feast* xix, *Squirrel-shooting is by no means poor sport.

7. Special combs.: **† squirrel's brains** (see quot. and cf. *squirrel-minded*); **squirrel-cage**, a cylindrical cage in which squirrels are confined, and which revolves as they move; also *transf.* a structure resembling this; **squirrel card** (see quot. and sense 5); **squirrel-dog**, a dog used for hunting squirrels; **squirrel eyes**, sharp eyes like those of a squirrel; **squirrel-fish**, = sense 4 (*Cent. Dict.* 1891); **squirrel-headed, -minded**, shallow-brained.

1647 Ward *Simple Cobler* 26 Having nothing..but a few *Squirrils brains to help them frisk from one ill-favour'd fashion to another. 1821 Scott *Kenilw.* xxxviii, We shall never find them to-night amongst all these..*squirrel-cages and rabbit-holes. 1831 *Ann. Reg.* (1832) 323 He had a cage like a squirrel-cage, and two white mice in it. 1835 Ure *Philos. Manuf.* 163 Over this casing..a fan is placed,.. which sucks out the dust through the wire or squirrel cage. 1887 W. Cory *Lett. & Jrnls.* (1897) 526 In a revolving squirrel-cage way. 1851 *Art Jrnl. Illust. Catal.* p. iv**½ The large card-drum is generally surmounted by urchin or *squirrel cards instead of tops. 1860 Mayne Reid *Hunters' Feast* xix, A good *squirrel-dog is a useful animal. 1600 Rowlands *Lett. Humours Blood* ii. 53 With narrow brow, and *Sqirrell eyes, he showes. 1637 J. Williams *Holy Table* 59 That *Squirrel-headed young man, that..would throw the Communion-table out of doores, and build him a close Altar, out of faction and singularity. 1837 Syd. Smith *Lett. Singleton* Wks. 1859 II. 276/2 What a strange thing it is that such a man..should be so *squirrel-minded as to wish for a movement without object or end!

b. *Bot., Zool.*, and *Ichth.*, as **squirrel-corn, -cup, -fish, flying phalanger, hake, hawk, monkey, mouse, opossum** (see quots.).

1856 A. Gray *Man. Bot.* (1860) 27 *Dicentra Canadensis*... *Squirrel-Corn. 1877 Bryant *Poems, Twenty-Seventh of March* 30 The *squirrel cups [= liverleaf], a graceful company, Hide in their bells, a soft aërial blue. 1803 Shaw *Gen. Zool.* IV. II. 439 Squirrel Sparus...Size of a common Perch: native of the American seas, where it is known by the name of the Grunt, or *Squirrel-fish. 1867 Latham *Black & White* 122 Bastard snappers and squirrel-fish, the like of which I had never seen before. 1888 Goode *Amer. Fishes* 46 The Squirrel fish, *Serranus fascicularis*, is a beautifully colored species. *c* 1880 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* III. 207 The *Squirrel Flying Phalanger,..*Petaurus sciureus. Ibid.* 207 Probably it..has been called the Squirrel Flying Phalanger by mistake. 1882 Jordan & Gilbert *Syn. Fishes N. Amer.* 799 *Phycis tenuis*, Codling; White hake; *Squirrel-hake. 1884 Coues *N. Amer. Birds* 551 *Archibuteo ferrugineus*,..California *Squirrel Hawk. 1773 *Gentl. Mag.* XLIII. 219 Of these I noticed the following, viz. the *Squirrel Monkey [etc.]. 1827 Griffith tr. *Cuvier* I. 307 The Saïmiri, or Squirrel monkey, is a beautiful and elegant little animal found in Brazil, Cayenne, etc. 1879 E. P. Wright *Anim. Life* 49 The genus Saimaris (Chrysothrix) contains but three species. These Squirrel Monkeys are active little creatures. 1607 Topsell *Four-f. Beasts* 533 There is a flying Ponticke or Scythian Mouse, which we may call the broad *Squerrell-Mouse. 1800 Shaw *Gen. Zool.* I. II. 498 *Squirrel Opossum. *Didelphis Sciurea.* 1827 Griffith tr. *Cuvier* V. 200 Norfolk Island Squirrel,..Squirrel Opossum.

Hence **Squi·rrelish, Squi·rrelline, Squire·llian** *adjs.*

1834 Beckford *Italy* II. 363 Timoni, with his prying, squirrelish look, and malicious propensities. 1872 Ruskin *Fors Clav.* xviii, These three moist-throated men and the squirrelline boy. 1874 *Ibid.* xliv, This is..their work in the world. When they rest from their squirrellian revolutions, ..these are what will follow them.

† Squi·rrel, *v. Obs.* [f. the sb.] **a.** *intr.* To hunt squirrels. Also *fig.* **b.** *trans.* To hunt or chase like squirrels. Hence † Squi·rreling *vbl. sb.* and *ppl. a.*

1589? Lyly *Pappe w. Hatchet* B ij, Obscenitie? Naie, now

I am too nice, squirrilitie were a better word: well, let me alone to squirrell them. 1594 LYLY *Mother Bombie* II. ii, I thinke Lucio be gone a squirelling, but Ile squirell him for it. *a* 1603 T. CARTWRIGHT *Confut. Rhem. N. T.* (1618) 540 Which we might worthely call a phrensie if it had not some support of grauer men, then are those squirriling Iesuits. 1667 COTTON *Scarron.* IV. 83 But young Ascanius, hops o' th' house, Car'd not for Squirreling a Louse.

Squirrel-tail. Also **squirrel's tail.**

1. The tail of a squirrel. In quot. *collect.*

c 1400 *Seuyn Sag.* (W.) 2777 He let him make a garnement, ..And heng theron squirel taile, A thousand and mo, withouten fail.

2. A species of lob-worm. ? *Obs.*

Walton's wording is repeated by later writers.

1653 WALTON *Angler* 94 There be also of lob-worms, some called squirel-tails (a worm which has a red head, a streak down the back, and a broad tail). 1787 BEST *Angling* (ed. 2) 16. 1839 T. C. HOFLAND *Brit. Angler's Man.* ii. (1841) 9.

3. *Squirrel-tail grass*, one or other of various species of grasses belonging to the genus *Hordeum*.

1777 W. CURTIS *Flora Lond.* (1798) II. Pl. 23, We have been informed..that in the Isle of Thanet this grass [*Hordeum murinum*] is well known to the inn-keepers, who call it *Squirrel-tail Grass.* 1796 WITHERING *Brit. Pl.* (ed. 3) II. 172 *Hordeum maritimum.* This is the true Squirrel-tail Grass of the Isle of Thanet, and not as Mr. Curtis says, the *Hord. murinum.* 1846-50 A. WOOD *Class-bk. Bot.* 620 *Hordeum jubatum.* Squirrel-tail Grass. 1851 *Phytologist* IV. 10 *Hordeum pratense*...In the Monckton meadows [near Ryde]..the herbage consists mainly of the 'Squirrel-tail grass' [etc.].

b. *ellipt.* =prec.

1796 WITHERING *Brit. Pl.* (ed. 3) II. 172 The stunted habit of the true Squirrel-tail. 1899 *Cumberland Gloss.* 310/2 *Squirrel's tail*, sea barley, *Hordeum maritimum.*

4. *Zool.* (See quot.)

1850 Miss PRATT *Comm. Things of Sea-side* iv. 250 Another [polyp] is called Squirrel's Tail, (*Sertularia argentea*), because it is so like the tail of our woodland animal.

Squirrel-tailed, *a.* [f. SQUIRREL *sb.* Cf. prec.] Having a tail resembling that of the squirrel in form or character.

1840 HODGSON *Hist. Northumb.* III. II. 361/2 *Leucodon sciuroides*, Squirrel-tailed Leucodon. 1856 'STONEHENGE' *Brit. Rur. Sports* 236/1 The tail [of the dew-worm] tapers somewhat, but in the squirrel-tailed variety it is flattened. 1894-5 LYDEKKER *Roy. Nat. Hist.* III. 107 Of the European species the largest is the squirrel-tailed dormouse (*Muscardinus glis*).

Squirrilitie, -ility, obs. varr. SCURRILITY.

Squi·rry, *v. rare* −1. =SQUIRE *v.*

1825 *Examiner* 721/1 Mazurier..followed with his impossible contortions; we fully expect some night to see him twitch off one of his legs, and squirry it up into the slips.

Squirt (skwɔ̄ɪt), *sb.* Forms: 5 **scqwyrt,** 6 **skurt, squyrt(e, squerte, squirte,** 6– **squirt** (9 *north. dial.* **swirt**). [f. SQUIRT *v.*]

1. a. Diarrhœa; looseness or laxity of the bowels. Now *dial.* in *pl.*

c 1460 *Promp. Parv.* (Winch. MS.), Scqwyrt, *idem quod* flyx, *supra.* 1527 ANDREW *Brunswyke's Distyll. Waters* Kj b, The same is good for the squyrt, a cloute wet in the same and put behynde in the fondament. 1530 PALSGR. 317/1 Laxe as one that hath the flyxe or squyrte. *a* 1600 DELONEY *Gentle Craft* II. ix. Wks. (1912) 197 If euer I come to giue him Phisicke, if I make him not haue the squirt for fiue dayes, count me the veriest dunce. *a* 1651 CLEVELAND *Model of New Rel.* 40 A costive Dover gives the Saints the Squirt. 1719 D'URFEY *Pills* V. 311 The Cramp, the Stitch, the Squirt, the Itch. 1883 *Hampshire Gloss.* 88 To have the squirts. 1886 ELWORTHY *W. Somerset Word-bk.* 707 *Squirts*, diarrhœa...Called also *Wild-squirts.*

fig. 1639 SHIRLEY *Ball* v. i, Your wit has got the squirt too. 1691 WOOD *Ath. Oxon.* I. 356 He would preach and pray extempore..insomuch that many were pleased to say he was troubled with the Divinity squirt.

† **b.** Thin excrement. *Obs.*

1580 HOLLYBAND *Treas. Fr. Tong, Foire*, thin dung, skurt. 1611 COTGR., *Foire*, squirt, thinne dung; a laske.

c. With *a*: An attack of diarrhœa.

1611 COTGR., *Aller long*, to haue a squirt, to squatter out behind. 1641 (*title*), Taylor's Physicke has purged the Divel; or the Divell has got a Squirt. By Voluntas Ambulatoria. 1828 CARR *Craven Gloss.* II. 185 *Swirt*,..a diarrhœa.

2. A small tubular instrument by which water may be squirted; a form of syringe.

1530 PALSGR. 275/1 Squyrt an instrument, *esguissovere.* 1552-3 in Feuillerat *Revels Edw. VI* (1914) 107, vj great woodden squertes by him turned and made for the combat of the lorde of misrule. 1632 tr. *Bruel's Praxis Med.* 90 If the patient bee vnwilling to take any medicines, wee must labour to put them into him with a squirt. 1697 J. LEWIS *Mem. Dk. Glocester* (1789) 57 While we four men were to ply him well, in the Duke's sight, with syringes, and squirts of all sorts. 1712 J. JAMES tr. *Le Blond's Gardening* 175 A little Pump or Squirt. 1828 CARR *Craven Gloss.* II. 185 *Swirt*, a syringe. 1840 BARHAM *Ingol. Leg.* Ser. II. *Nurs. Rem.* vi, Billy Hawkins Came, and with his pewter squirt Squibb'd my pantaloons. 1871 L. STEPHEN *Playgr. Eur.* (1894) xiii. 316 To them..foaming waterfalls are like streams from penny squirts.

fig. 1730 YOUNG *Ep. Pope* I. 224 But when they have bespatter'd all they may, The statesman throws his filthy squirts away! 1734 POPE *Let. to Swift* 6 Jan., There is a woman's war declared against me by a certain lord; his weapons are..a pin to scratch, and a squirt to bespatter.

transf. 1855 CHAMIER *My Trav.* I. xviii. 321 The fountains were nothing but squirts. 1890 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Col. Reformer* (1891) 81 Casting the revolver away..he..said, 'Damn the—squirt!'

b. A larger instrument of the same type, used esp. as a fire-extinguisher.

In quot. *a* 1685 referring to the plunger-pump of Sir Samuel Morland.

1590 LUCAR *Lucar Solace* 157 A squirt which hath been devised to cast much water upon a burning house. 1643 *Seasonable Adv. preventing Fire* in *Harl. Misc.* (Malh.) V. 348 Also it is necessary that every parish should have hooks, ladders, squirts, buckets, and scoops, in readiness, upon any occasion. 1667 in *Strype's Surv. Lond.* (1754) I. I. xxviii. 291/2 That every Alderman..provide four and twenty buckets and one hand squirt of brass. *a* 1685 DUKE *Ep. to Otway*, For once a squirt was rais'd by Windsor wall. 1866 C. F. T. YOUNG *Fires, Fire Engines*, etc. vi. 69 Fire engines..seem to have been altogether forgotten in the 'dark ages', and 'squirts' or portable syringes appear to have been the only contrivances in use.

† **c.** A kind of inflater or air-pump. *Obs.*−°

1598 FLORIO, *Gonfiatoio*,..a squirt of brasse that Balloniers vse to blowe their ballones full of winde.

3. A small quantity of liquid that is squirted; a small jet or spray; an act of squirting.

1626 BACON *Sylva* § 500 The Watring of those Lumps of Dung, with Squirts of an Infusion of the Medicine in Dunged water. 1760 STERNE *Tr. Shandy* III. xxviii, How different from the rash jerks and hare-brained squirts thou art wont ..to transact it with in other humours,..spurting thy ink about thy table and thy books. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. v. iii, And now in these new days such issues do come from a squirt of the pen by some foolish rhyming René. 1858 HAWTHORNE *Fr. & It. Note-bks.* I. 96 The water makes but the smallest part—a little squirt or two. 1878 STEVENSON *Inland Voy.* 78 The rain kept coming in squirts and the wind in squalls.

b. *Math.* (See quot.)

1878 W. K. CLIFFORD *Elem. Dynamic, Kinem.* 214 The point *s* is called a *source* of strength μ when the fluid streams out in all directions; when μ is negative, so that the fluid streams inwards, it is called a *sink.* The whole velocity-system here described may be called a *squirt.*

4. †**a.** The squirting or spirting cucumber. *Obs.*−1

1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s.v. *Cucumis*, The wild cucumber, or squirt, called by authors, *cucumis asinus*, or the ass cucumber.

b. *slang.* (See quot.)

1859 *Slang Dict.* 100 *Squirt*, a doctor, or chemist.

c. *Zool.* An ascidian or sea-squirt.

1891 in *Cent. Dict.*

5. *colloq.* A paltry or contemptible person; a whipper-snapper; a fop. (Chiefly *U.S.* and *dial.*)

a 1848 *Maj. Jones's Courtship* 160 (Bartlett), If they won't keep company with squirts and dandies. 1887 *S. Cheshire Gloss.* 370 What do I care for a little squirt like thee?

6. *U.S.* A display of rhetoric; a piece of fine writing verging on bombast.

1872 O. W. HOLMES *Poet Breakf.-t.* ix, That sounds..like what we college boys used to call a 'squirt'. *Ibid.*, I know what you are thinking—you're thinking this is a squirt.

Squirt (skwɔ̄ɪt), *v.* Also 5–6 **squyrt,** 6 **squyrte, squirte,** 9 *north. dial.* **swirt.** [Of obscure origin. Cf. LG. *swirtjen, swiirtjen* (also EFriesl. *kwirtjen*) in senses 1 and 2.

For earlier evidence see SQUIRTING *vbl. sb.* In the 14th cent. *Nominale* (Skeat) 408 the F. *esclauotee* is rendered by 'be-squireid', prob. an error for 'be-squirtid'.]

I. *intr.* **1.** To eject or spirt out water in a jet or slight stream.

c 1460 J. RUSSELL *Bk. Nurture* 293 in *Babees Bk.*, With youre mouthe ye vse nowþer to squyrt, nor spowt. 1530 PALSGR. 731/2, I holde the a grote that I squyrt over yonder wall with my squyrt. 1580 HOLLYBAND *Treas. Fr. Tong, Caner*, to squirte. 1711 *New Map Trav. of High Church Apostle* 7 Two Cirenges hanging at his Saddle,..to squirt in the Eyes of his Lowflyers. 1740 CIBBER *Apol.* (1756) I. 35 It generally flew back into their faces as it happens to children when they squirt at their playfellows against the wind. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. v. vi, The Firemen are here, squirting with their fire-pumps on the Invalides cannon, to wet the touchholes; they unfortunately cannot squirt so high. 1862 MISS YONGE *Countess Kate* iv, I squirted right through the window.

b. To void thin excrement; to have diarrhœa.

1530 PALSGR. 731/2, I squyrt, I have a lax, *jay le va va.* 1598 FLORIO, *Squaccarare*, to squatter, to squirt or shit it out behind after a purgation. 1611 COTGR., *Foirer*, to squirt, to shite thinne as in a laske. 1653 URQUHART *Rabelais* I. xxv. 115 For those that are costive..it will make them.. squirt the length of a Hunters Staffe.

2. To move swiftly or quickly; to dart or frisk. Chiefly with advs., as *about, in, up and down*, or preps., as *among.*

1570 FOXE *A. & M.* 1243/1, I thought..to haue made easie iourneys,..and now come you squirtyng in post, and trouble all. 1607 MIDDLETON *Fam. Love* IV. i, Comes master doctor Glister, as his manner is, squirting in suddenly. *a* 1652 BROME *Covent Garden weeded* II. i, Let me see you squirting about without a weapon,..and I'le weapon you. 1692 L'ESTRANGE *Fables* (1694) 251 You are so..given to squirting up and down, and chattering, that the world would be apt to say I had chosen a Jackpudding for a Prime Minister. 1859-76 in dial. glossaries, etc. (Westm., Lancs., Yks.).

† **b.** ? To move jerkily up and down. *Obs.*

1611 COTGR. s.v. *Chevaucher, Chevaucher à la genette*, to sit squirting on horseback with legs drawn vp almost vnto the saddle.

3. To issue or be ejected in a jet-like stream; to spirt or spurt.

1858 HAWTHORNE *Fr. & It. Note-bks.* (1872) I. 57 The water squirts out of some fantastic piece of sculpture. 1863 READE *Hard Cash* I. i. 22 The oars seemed to lash the water savagely,..and the spray squirted at each vicious stroke. 1893 W. R. MACKINTOSH *Orkney Peat Fires* (1908) iii. 266 The blood was squirting from his finger-tips.

II. *trans.* **4.** To cause (liquid) to issue or stream (*out*) in a jet from a squirt or syringe.

1583 STUBBES *Anat. Abus.* II. (1882) 36 A squirt, or a squibbe, which little children vsed to squirt out water withall. 1590 LUCAR *Lucar Solace* IV. x. 157 This kinde of squirt may be..made to squirt out his water with great violence upon the fire. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* VIII. xxvii. I. 210 This bird having a crooked and hooked bill, useth it in steed of a syringe or pipe, to squirt water into that part. 1664 H. MORE *Myst. Iniq.* I. xvii. 64 This..will sooner quench all the fiery darts of the wicked, then whole pots of Holy-water squirted against him. 1688 WOOD *Life* (O.H.S.) III. 270 Mr. Philip Lewis appeared in the pulpit in the chappell and preached grining and laughing, and [they] had water squirted on them. 1712 ARBUTHNOT *John Bull* (1755) 32 She used to hire fellows to squirt kennel water upon him, as he passed along the streets. 1825 JAMIESON *Suppl.*, To *Skoot*,..to squirt any liquid.

b. To eject or propel in a stream from a small orifice, etc. Chiefly with advs. or preps.

1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* I. 441 The remedie to keepe Wespes from them, is to spurt or squirt oile out of a mans mouth vpon them. 1607 TOPSELL *Fourf. Beasts* 207 They.. would through their trunks squirt or cast a litle of their drink vpon their attendants. 1742 YOUNG *Nt. Th.* IX. 919 What childish toys, Thy watry columns squirted to the clouds! 1765 *Museum Rust.* IV. 332 Putting a bit of salt and butter up the cod instead of squirting up a little salt water. 1837 P. KEITH *Bot. Lex.* 376 It takes in a portion of water, which it has the power of squirting out again with considerable force. 1849 CUPPLES *Green Hand* I. (1856) 3 The emphatic way in which..they squirted their tobacco-juice on the deck.

c. In fig. uses.

1606 J. DAY *Ile of Gulls* III. i, I had paraphrasticall admonitions of all sortes,—some against couetous Landlords, and that I would squirt amongst beggerlie Tennants. 1678 OTWAY *Friendship in Fashion* III. i, Comedy! no, I scorn to write comedy. I know several that can squirt comedy. 1702 BOYER *Dict. Royal* I, *Il chie de peur*,..he squirts [his] wits, his heart is sunk into his breech. 1768-74 TUCKER *Lt. Nat.* (1834) II. 157 Versifiers squirting out careless rhapsodies of harmonious billingsgate. 1781 H. WALPOLE *Let. to H. S. Conway* 6 May, He lifted up his leg, and just squirted contempt on them. 1872 BLACKIE *Lays Highl.* 123 And you, poor shell-fish, squirt your spiteful ban [etc.].

5. To inject (a liquid) by means of a squirt or in a similar manner.

c 1550 H. LLOYD *Treas. Health* Cj, The joyce..put or squyrted into the eye doth put awaye the blemysshes of the same. 1577 B. GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* III. (1586) 122 Some woulde haue the licour of the lime Bitumen squirted in. 1610 [see SQUIRTFUL]. 1721 BAILEY, *To Syringe*, to squirt Liquors into the Ears, Sores, &c. 1841 HOOD *Tale of Trumpet* 144 The almond-oil she had tried,..Dabb'd, and dribbled, and squirted in. 1884 *Marshall's Tennis Cuts* 126 The bystanders took so lively an interest in his matches as to squirt tobacco-juice in his eyes.

6. To moisten or cover (a surface) with liquid by means of spirting or squirting; to bring into a certain state in this way.

1601 B. JONSON *Poetaster* To Rdr., They know, I dare To spurne, or baffull 'hem, or squirt their eyes With inke, or vrine: or I could doe worse. 1610 MARKHAM *Masterp.* II. xxii. 256 Either wash or squirt the soare place with it. 1909 *Daily Chron.* 1 April 4/4 Your first desire on beholding the outside of the building is to order up a few fire hoses and squirt it clean.

7. To cause to squirt or give out liquid.

1622 DRAYTON *Poly-olb.* xxiii. 262 Quoth warlike Warwickshire, 'I'll bind the sturdy Bear'. Quoth Worstershire again, 'And I will squirt the Pear'.

8. *techn.* To force or press (a viscous or ductile material) through a small orifice; to form or fashion in this manner.

1881 R. W. RAYMOND *Mining Gloss., Squirting*, forcing lead by hydraulic pressure into the form of rods or pipes.

Squirt- (skwɔ̄ɪt), the verbal stem in combination, chiefly in the sense 'that squirts, capable of squirting', as **squirt clam, -fish, -gun, -ring**; also † **squirt-fire,** a musket; **squirt-swimming,** swimming by propulsion produced by squirting of liquid; † **squirt-wit** (see quot. and SQUIRT *v.* 4 c).

Also *squirt-can, -oilcan*, in recent use.

1887 G. B. GOODE, etc. *Fisheries U. S.* II. 581 *Mya arenaria*...In Long Island Sound and at New York it is most spoken of as the 'long clam' and '*squirt clam'. 1678 BUTLER *Hud.* III. ii. 1169 One single Red-Coat Sentinel.. with his *Squirt-fire, could disperse Whole Troops. 1860 WRAXALL *Life in Sea* v. 310 The Javanese *Squirt-fish (*Chætodon rostratus*) catches its prey in a similar fashion. 1803 *Poet. Petit. agst. Tractorising Trumpery* 87 With glyster-pipe and *squirt-gun There will be dev'lish deal of hurt done. 1878 *Scribner's Mag.* Nov. 76/2 [He] made squirt-guns of the hollow metal pen-handles. 1877 W. JONES *Finger-ring* 494 In the Waterton Collection is a bronze *squirt-ring. 1861 P. P. CARPENTER in *Rep. Smithsonian Instit. 1860* 278 The *squirt-swimming of the Cuttles. 1632 HAUSTED *Rival Friends* Pref. A ij b, These *squirt-wits, who are able onely to bring forth a paper of verses in a yeere.

† **Squirtel.** *Obs.*−° In 5 **s(q)wyrtyl.** [f. SQUIRT *v.*] A squirt or syringe.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 473/1 Sqwyrtyl, or swyrtyl,...*sifon.*

Squirter (skwɔ̄·rtəɹ). [f. as prec.]

† **1.** One who shoots jerkily with the bow. *Obs.*−1

1545 ASCHAM *Toxoph.* I. Wks. (1904) 59 If he giue it ouer, and not vse to shote,..he shal become of a fayre archer, a stark squyrter and dribber.

† **2.** One who has or suffers from diarrhœa. *Obs.*

1600 SURFLET *Countrie Farme* I. iv. 11 It oftentimes causeth bloudie fluxes,..if we beleeue Galen and them which for this cause call the inhabitants of Paris, squirters.

3. One who squirts or plies a squirt. Also *transf.*

1712 ARBUTHNOT *John Bull* III. vii, The Squirters were at it with their kennel water; for they were mad for the loss of their bubble. 1872 O. W. HOLMES *Poet Breakf.-t.* v, An over-dressed woman..at any rate..is better than the oil of

vitriol squirter. 1878 *Scribner's Mag.* Nov. 76/2 [He] was a mysterious squirter of ink for four days before he was found out.

4. An apparatus for squirting.

1888 *Pall Mall G.* 21 Sept. 10/2 The patent oil squirter for calming the sea proved a failure.

Squi·rtful. [f. SQUIRT *sb.*] The fill of a squirt.

1610 MARKHAM *Masterp.* I. lxxx. 165 With a large serring or squirt, squirt in three or foure squirtfull.

Squi·rtical, *a. nonce-word.* [f. as prec.] Concerned with a squirt or syringe.

1760 STERNE *Tr. Shandy* III. viii, Obadiah's was..a mixed case; for it was obstetrical,—scriptical, squirtical, papistical.

Squirting (skwə·ɹtiŋ), *vbl. sb.* Also 4 **swirting.** [f. SQUIRT *v.*] The action of the verb; that which is squirted or spirted. Also *fig.*

c 1325 *Gloss. W. de Bibbesw.* in Wright *Voc.* 173 *Asset avera de esclautez,* of swirtingges. *Ibid., Un garsoun esclaté,* bilagged wit swirting. 1598 FLORIO, *Squacquarata,* a dashing or blurring, a squattring, a squirting. 1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* 361 Betwixt euery squirting, giue him liberty to hold downe his head. 1611 COTGR., *Injection,*..a squirting, or conueying of a liquid medicine, by Syringe, &c. into some part of the bodie. 1678 PHILLIPS (ed. 4), *Siringe,*.. an Instrument for the squirting of liquor into any wound. 1768–74 TUCKER *Lt. Nat.* (1834) II. 295 Party zeal..makes its last retreat in..occasional squirtings of the press.

Squirting (skwə·ɹtiŋ), *ppl. a.* [f. as prec.]

1. Mean, contemptible, insignificant, trifling.

a. Of persons. Now *dial.*

1592 NASHE *P. Penilesse* Wks. (Grosart) II. 92 Our Players are not as the players beyond sea, a sort of squirting baudie Comedians. 1602 *2nd I't. Return Parnass.* v. iv. 2174 Thou and thy squirting boy Endimion, Lies slauering still vpon a lawlesse couch. *a* 1658 CLEVELAND *Cl. Vind.* (1677) 107 Not such a squirting Scribe as this, that's troubled with the Rickets, and makes penny-worths of History. 1719 BOYER *Dict. Royal* II, A squirting (or pitiful) Fellow, *un pauvre homme, un petit genie.* 1803 T. CREEVEY in *C. Papers* (1904) I. 14 Such pitiful, squirting politicians as this accursed Apothecary. 1887 *S. Cheshire Gloss.* 370 A little squirtin' homnithom [=dwarf].

† b. Of things. *Obs. rare.*

1589 ? LYLY *Pappe w. Hatchet* E b, These fellowes can abide no pompe, and yet you see they cannot be without a little squirting plate. *a* 1625 FLETCHER *Love's Pilgr.* I. i, Did I or Mr. Dean of Civil..Ere reach our dignities in *cuerpo,* thinkst thou? In squirting hose and doublet? 1628 WITHER *Brit. Rememb.* 185 Their noblest mark is dieting a brace Of handsome Nags, to run a squirting race.

2. Issuing in a squirt or jet.

a 1694 *Urquhart's Rabelais* III. xxv. 211 On condition that he..should instantly with his squirting Spittle inluminate his Mustaches.

3. That ejects a jet-like stream of liquid.

1735 CLARE *Motion Fluids* 63 The common squirting Fire-Engine..is the Frame of a Lifting-pump, wrought by.. Leavers. 1744 DESAGULIERS *Exper. Philos.* II. 510 Which sort of Engines throwing the Water by Spirts are commonly, and not improperly, called Squirting Engines. 1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* xxxviii, We shall never find them to-night amongst all these squirting funnels, squirrel-cages, and rabbit-holes. 1833 CHALMERS in Hanna *Mem.* (1851) III. xix. 375 Princess Victoria,..when asked on her visiting Chatsworth some months ago, which of all the things she had seen she liked best,..said it was the squirting tree.

4. *Squirting cucumber,* the spirting cucumber, *Ecbalium agreste* († *Momordica Elaterium*).

1802 PINKERTON *Mod. Geogr.* I. 278 The Momordica elaterium, squirting cucumber,..occurs in a truly wild state ..in Provence and Languedoc. 1849 BALFOUR *Man. Bot.* § 872 The Wild or Squirting Cucumber is so called on account of the force with which its seeds are expelled when ripe. 1898 *Rev. Brit. Pharm.* 4 There are other articles in this category—*e.g.,* chalk, cevadilla, and squirting-cucumber.

Squi·rtish, *a. U.S.* [f. SQUIRT *sb.* 5.] Foppish, dandified.

1847 ROBB *Squatter Life* 73 These squirtish kind a fellars ..allers goes in fur aristocracy notions.

† **Squi·ry.** *Obs.* Forms: 4–6 **squierie** (4 -ye), 5 **squrie,** *Sc.* **squyary,** 6 **squyry.** [ad. OF. *escuierie, esquirie,* etc., f. *escuier* SQUIRE *sb.*] Squires collectively; a body or set of squires.

c 1327 *Pol. Poems* (Camden) 336 A new taille of squierie is nu in everi toun. *c* 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 2405 My fader [Lear] in elde dotes To halde swylk a squierye. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* XX. 320 With ane nobill cumpany Of knychtis and of squyary. *c* 1475 *Rauf Coilyear* 273 The King buskit him sone with scant of Squyary. Wachis and Wardroparis all war away. 1525 LD. BERNERS *Froiss.* II. clxxi. 505 It was nedefull for them within to make good defence, for against them was the floure of chyvalry and squyry.

Squish (skwiʃ), *sb.* [f. the vb.]

1. *Univ. slang.* Marmalade.

1874 *Slang Dict.* 307 *Squish,* common term among University men for marmalade. 1900 G. SWIFT *Somerley* 114 That *finale* of all college breakfasts and lunches, 'squish', otherwise known as marmalade.

2. A squishing sound.

1902 SNAITH *Wayfarers* xvi, The only sound from the great darkness that covered the land was the squish of the water under our feet.

Squish (skwiʃ), *v.* [Imitative: cf. SQUISH-SQUASH. In sense 1 perh. a modified form of SQUISS *v.* or SQUIZE *v.*]

1. *trans.* To squeeze, to squash. Now *dial.*

1647 HEXHAM I, To Squise or squish, *wrijven.* 1888– in dial. glossaries, etc. (Berks., Glouc., Hamps.).

2. *intr.* Of water, soft mud, etc.: To give out a peculiar gushing or splashing sound when walked in or on; to gush up, squirt out, with such a sound.

a 1825 FORBY *Voc. E. Anglia* s.v., The water squishes under our feet in the grass, if it be walked on too soon after rain. 1861 MISS YONGE *Young Stepmother* iii, She had made but few steps before the water squished under her feet. 1892 'Q.' (QUILLER COUCH) *I saw three Ships* 35 The water in her shoes squishing at every step.

Hence **Squi·shing** *vbl. sb.*

1647 HEXHAM I, A squising or squishing together. *Ibid.,* A squising or squishing out.

Squishop: see note to SQUARSON.

Squish-squash, *adv., sb.,* and *v.* [Imitative.]

A. *adv.* With the splashing or squashing sound made in walking through water or soft mud.

1789 CHARLOTTE SMITH *Ethelinde* I. 43, I thof of all things we should have been killed;..and then squish squash through such a deal of water! 1792 *Elvina* I. 150 Now we may go squish squash in the dark. 1881 in EVANS *Leics. Gloss.*

B. *sb.* The sound made in this way. Also *attrib.*

1821 CLARE *Vill. Minstr.* I. 23 He heard a squish-squash sound, As when one's shoes the drenching waters fill. 1838 HOLLOWAY *Prov. Dict., Squish-squash* is a term used to express the noise made by the feet in walking over a loose, swampy, piece of ground. 1881 in EVANS *Leics. Gloss.*

C. *v.* = SQUISH *v.* 2.

1836 HALIBURTON *Clockm.* Ser. I. xxiii. (1839) 86 There he stands, all shiverin and shakin, and the water a squish-squashin in his shoes.

Squishy (skwi·ʃi), *a.* [f. SQUISH *v.* + -Y.] Of a soft or wet nature; making, emitting, or characterized by a soft splashing sound or sounds.

1847 HALLIW., *Squishy,* sloppy and dirty. *East.* 1879 JEFFERIES *Wild Life* vii. 147 The ploughing-engine be stuck fast up to the axle, the land be so soft and squishey. 1901 PRIOR *Forest Folk* xii. 128 The squishy tread of passing feet on the sodden grass.

† **Squiss,** *v. Obs. rare.* [Of obscure origin: cf. SQUISH *v.* 1 and SQUIZE *v.*] *trans.* To squeeze or crush. Hence † **Squissed** *ppl. a.*

1558 WARDE tr. *Alexis' Secr.* (1568) 17 When ye have pressed and squissed them well,..cast them away. 1629 Z. BOYD *Last Battell* 701 My heart within me is so tossed to & fro, that it is come like a squissed egge, whose yolke is mingled with its white.

Squit (skwit), *sb.*[1] *dial.* [perh. related to SQUIT *v.* Cf. also SKIT *sb.*[2]]

1. A diminutive or insignificant person.

a 1825 FORBY *Voc. E. Anglia* 322 *Squit,* a word of supreme contempt for a very diminutive person. 'A paltry squit!' 1847 HALLIW. s.v., 'A little squit of a thing' is said disparagingly of a somewhat diminutive and not pleasing young woman. 1889 'F. ANSTEY' *Pariah* III. viii, He's not half a bad little squit.

2. Stupid or silly talk; nonsense.

1893 COZENS-HARDY *Brd. Norf.* 55 Some people may look upon this correspondence as a lot of squit and slaver.

Squit (skwit), *sb.*[2] *U.S.* [? Shortened form of SQUETEAGUE or SQUETEE.] = SQUETEAGUE.

1884 GOODE *Nat. Hist. Aquat. Anim.* 362. 1902 D. S. JORDAN & B. W. EVERMANN *Amer. Food & Game Fishes* 260 It is done either from a sail-boat or row-boat, and a squit is a choice bait.

Squit, *v.* Now *dial.* [? Imitative. Cf. SQUITTER *v.*] *trans.* To squirt.

1594 O. B. *Quest. Profit. Concern.* C iij, I doubt not but once in the yeare you squit out a commoditie to ingrate vpon the Gentlemans necessitie you meane. 1873– in *Eng. Dial. Dict.*

Squitch (skwitʃ), *sb.* [Altered form of QUITCH *sb.*[1] See also SCUTCH *sb.*[3]]

1. Couch-grass, *Triticum repens*; = COUCH *sb.* 2.

1785 *Young's Annals Agric.* IV. 415 A small close,.. fuller I think of squitch than any field I had ever seen before. 1805 DICKSON *Pract. Agric.* I. 564 *Couch,* or what in many districts is better known by the name squitch, is a weed that is highly injurious to wheat crops. 1851– in general dial. use (*E. D. D.*). 1885 *Pall Mall G.* 26 May 5/1 The time to burn rubbish is after the stubbles have been broken up, and the land cleaned of squitch and other weed. *attrib.* 1846 LANDOR *Exam. Shaks.* Wks. II. 265 Two or three crops a year of that rank squitch-grass which it has become the fashion of late to call the people.

2. Applied to other plants of similar growth or habit, esp. to certain species of *Agrostis* (see quots.).

1792 *Young's Ann. Agric.* XVII. 38 Squitch, *Agrostis vulgaris.* 1796 WITHERING *Brit. Pl.* (ed. 3) II. 131 The 2d. 3d. and 4th [varieties of *Agrostis alba*], constitute the greater part of what is called squitch in light arable lands. In some places it is called white squitch, to distinguish it from the Agrostis nigra, and stolonifera, which are called black squitch, or couch. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1090/1 Squitch,.. *Agrostis stolonifera.*

Squitch, *v.*[1] Now *dial.* Also 6 squich. [Variant of *quitch* QUETCH *v.*]

† 1. *intr.* To move suddenly and quickly; to flinch or wince. *Obs.*

1570 *Marr. Wit & Sci.* v. iii, Mark how he from place to place will squich. 1592 *Soliman & Pers.* IV. ii. 24 They lopt a collop of my tendrest member. But thinke you Basilisco squicht for that?

2. *trans.* To twitch or jerk (*away*).

1680 *Honest Hodge & Ralph* 23 Do'st mind how he squitches the Church of England away too? calling it that Church that is rude to the Saints. 1880 *Cornwall Gloss.* 55 *Squitch,* to twitch; to jerk out of one's hand.

† **Squitchin,** obs. form of SCUTCHEON.

1569 *Reg. Coll. Merton.* 1 June, A greate salte duble gylte with a cover square havinge a mane holdinge a squitchin with W. M.

Squi·tchy, *a. rare.* [Cf. dial. *squich,* var. of SQUISH *v.*] = SQUISHY *a.*

1851 MELVILLE *Whale* I. iii. 16 A boggy, soggy, squitchy picture truly, enough to drive a nervous man distracted.

Squi·tter, *sb.* Now *dial.* [f. the vb. Cf. SKITTER *sb.*[1]] Diarrhœa. Usually in pl.

1664 COTTON *Scarron.* I. (1715) 7 It Bounces, Foams, and Froths and Flitters, As if 'twere troubled with the Squitters. 1691 MRS. D'ANVERS *Academia* 45 Then, as if troubled with the Squitters, Away they feque it to St. Peters. 1823 E. MOOR *Suffolk Words* 357 *Skutta, Skitta, Squitter,* these words are pretty nearly the same; and imply a lashness or diarrhœa, especially in a horse or cow. 1841– in midland and southern dial. glossaries (in form *squitters*).

Squi·tter, *v.* Now *dial.* [Imitative (cf. SQUIT *v.*), or alteration of SKITTER *v.*[1]]

1. *trans.* and *intr.* To squirt; to spatter, splutter.

1596 NASHE *Saffron Walden* 102 Inck-squittring and printing against me. 1809 BATCHELOR *Anal. Eng. Lang.* 144 *Skwitter,* scatter, or sputter. 1828– in dial. glossaries (Yks. and Som.). 1897 D'ESTERRE-KEELING *Return to Nature* viii, Then he said, looking at the squirt, 'This squittered'. 'You didn't make it squitter, did you?'

2. *intr.* To void thin excrement.

1611 FLORIO, *Squaccarare,* to squatter, to squirt or lash it out behind after a purgation; to squitter. 1671 SKINNER, To squitter, *foirre.* 1719 D'URFEY *Pills* III. 313 And here the Mob make 'em squitter and tremble. 1719 BOYER *Dict. Royal* I, *Foirer,*..to squitter. 1886– in dial. glossaries (Som., Devon, Derby).

Hence **Squi·tterer, Squi·ttering** *vbl. sb.*

In quot. 1902 as imitative of a sound.

1611 FLORIO, *Squacchera,* a squattring soft turde, a squittring. 1737 OZELL *Rabelais* I. 255 *note,* The laxative Quality of the White Grape, called for that very Reason *Foirard* (Squitterer). 1902 SIR H. JOHNSTON *Uganda* I. i. 16 Hissings and squitterings and splashings..of those [birds] who are starting on flight.

† **Squi·tter-,** the verbal stem used in comb., as **squitter-book, -pulp, -wit,** a scribbler, a copious but worthless writer; **squitter-breech,** one who has or suffers from diarrhœa.

1594 NASHE *Unfort. Trav.* Wks. (Grosart) V. 70 The scolasticall *squitter bookes clout you vp cannopies & foot-clothes of verses. 1600 — *Summers Last Will* 1bid. VI. 149 All this would not make me a squitter-booke. 1611 BEAUM. & FL. *King & No K.* II. ii, How now, goodman *squitter-breech, why do you lean on me? 1607 DAY *Parl. Bees* v. Wks. (1888) 235 Some lousy ballad! I cannot choose but laugh At these poor *squitter-pulps. 1615 J. H. *Worlds Folly* B iij, Those mercenary *squitter-wits, miscalled Poets.

Squi·ttling, *vbl. sb.* [Variant of SCUTTLING *vbl. sb.*[1]] Scuttling; hurried or rapid movement.

1862 MISS MULOCK *Dom. Stories* 190 Hearing, as I passed the landing, much rustling of dresses and squittling away of little feet.

† **Squize,** *v. Obs.* Forms: 6 **squyse,** 6–7 **squise,** 7 **squize.** [Of obscure origin: cf. SQUEEZE *v.*, SQUISS *v.*] *trans.* To squeeze, in various senses. Common from *c* 1560 to *c* 1620.

a. 1548 ELYOT, *Presso,*..to presse or thruste together, to squise. 1574 HELLOWES *Gueuara's Fam. Ep.* (1577) 146, I began againe to squise out the matter. 1582 STANYHURST *Æneis* II. (Arb.) 50 Hee with his hands labored theyre knots too squise. 1614 GORGES *Lucan* IV. 159 He..with his teeth the throate doth squise, Not where the lurking poyson lies. 1647 HEXHAM I, To Squise out, *wt-wrijven.* 1648 *Ibid.* II, *Douwen,* to Presse, to Squise.

β. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* XVIII. xxxi. I. 606 Now when they purposed to squize out the grapes, they laid certain lids or planks thereupon. 1609 — *Amm. Marcell.* 178 Some with stones that came tumbling downe upon them, were bruised and sore squized together. 1615 BRATHWAIT *Strappado* (1878) 216 To squize the poore that thou may better spend On wanton consorts. 1648 HEXHAM II, *Tsamen douwen,* to Presse, to Straine, Squize, or Wring together.

Hence † **Squized** *ppl. a*, † **Squi·zing** *vbl. sb.* and *ppl. a.*

1565 COOPER *Thesaurus, Collisus,* a squisinge, knockyng or thrustyng together. *Ibid., Expressio,* a streignyng; a squising out. 1582 STANYHURST *Æneis* III. (Arb.) 89 Men say that Enceladus..here harbrouth, Dingd with this squising and massiue burthen of Ætna. 1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* III. ii. III, Every lover admires his mistress, though.. she looks like a squised cat. 1648 HEXHAM II, *Een douwinge,* a Pressing, a Squising.

Squnck, obs. form of SKUNK *sb.*

Squob, obs. or dial. f. SQUAB *sb., a., v.*, etc.

Squobble, obs. form of SQUABBLE *v.*

Squonyng, obs. form of SWOONING.

Squorge, Squourge, obs. ff. SCOURGE *sb.* and *v.*

Squoyle, local var. of SQUAIL *sb.* 3.

1863 WISE *New Forest* xvi. 182 *Squoyle* in the New Forest..properly signifies a short stick loaded at one end with lead,..and is distinguished from a 'snog', which is only weighted with wood. 1865 TYLOR *Early Hist. Man.* vii. 186 The throwing cudgel, or, as a Hampshire man would call it, the squoyle of the Egyptian fowler. 1881 — *Anthrop.* (1889) 193 Even in England the fowler's throwing-cudgel is not unknown in country parts, where it is called a squoyle.

Squrd, obs. form of SWORD.

Squuncke, obs. form of SKUNK *sb.*

Squylery, Squyllary, obs. ff. SCULLERY.

Squylyon, obs. form of SCULLION.

Squyngyl, obs. form of SWINGLE *v.*

Squythe, obs. form of SWITHE.

Squytherly, obs. form of SWITHERLY *adv.*

Sqw-, occas. ME. variant of SW-.

Sqwyche, obs. form of SUCH *a.*

Sr-, occas. ME. or dial. variant of SHR-.

Sraddha: see SHRADDHA.

Ss-, freq. ME. variant of SH-.

St.

St (st), *int.* Also 7 **'st.** [repr. a checked sibilation, instinctively felt as expressive; less exactly rendered by HIST, † IST *ints.* Cf. L. *st* (Plautus, Terence, etc.).]

1. An exclamation used to impose silence; = HUSH, WHIST.

1552 HULOET, *St*, a voyce of silence or taciturnitye or thus husht, or else it maye be sayde st, st, wherby dogges incited or prouoked to fight. 1598 FLORIO, *Zita*, an aduerbe to commaund or perswade silence, as we say isse, whosht or st. 1762 STERNE *Tr. Shandy* V. i. 14 St, st,—said a second,—hush, quoth a third. 1841 BROWNING *Pippa Passes* I, St—st!

† **b.** Used as *adj.* Hushed, silent. Cf. WHIST *a.*

1654 H. L'ESTRANGE *Chas. I* (1655) 69 For three dayes all was so 'st, so calm on both sides.

2. An exclamation used to drive away an animal, or to urge it to attack.

1552 [see 1]. 1841 S. WARREN *Ten Thou. a Year* III. ii. 36 Off! off!..Go home! ah! ah!..St! St!

St, 'st: see SHALL *v.* A 5 *b.*

1675 COTTON *Scoffer Scoft* 59 Hee st give me kisses half a score.

St. Abbreviation for various words: **a.** (with cap.) for SAINT prefixed to a name; **b.** (with cap. or small initial) for STREET preceded by a defining word, forming the name of a street; **c.** (chiefly with small initial) in references (*a*) for STANZA; (*b*) for STATUTE; **d.** (with small initial) for STONE (weight).

Staal, obs. var. STALE *sb.*; obs. pa. t. STEAL *v.*

Staan, obs. variant of STONE *sb.* and *v.*

Staar, obs. variant of STARE, a starling.

Staare, obs. form of STARE *v.*

Staat, Staately, obs. ff. STATE *sb.*, STATELY.

Stab (stæb), *sb.*[1] Also 5–7 **stabbe,** 6 **stappe.** [Related to STAB *v.* Cf. mod.Sc. *stab*, a large needle, a prickle.]

The form *stappe* in quot. 1583 may possibly be a distinct word, but has not been found elsewhere.

1. A wound produced by stabbing.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 471/1 Stabbe, or wownde of smytynge, *stigma.* 1605 SHAKS. *Macb.* II. iii. 119 His gash'd stabs, look'd like a Breach in Nature, For Ruines wastfull entrance. 1826 S. COOPER *First Lines Surg.* (ed. 5) 134 An important punctured wound, such as the stab of a bayonet. 1841 DICKENS *Barn. Rudge* vi, You found me with this stab and an ugly bruise or two.

2. An act of stabbing; a thrust dealt with some sharp-pointed instrument producing a wound in the flesh.

1530 PALSGR. 275/1 Stabbe with a daggar, *coup destoc.* 1583 STOCKER *Civ. Warres Lowe C.* IV. 58 b, After he was dead, the enemie gaue hym many a stappe with his dagger. 1610 SHAKS. *Temp.* III. iii. 63 The Elements..Of whom your swords are temper'd, may as well..with bemockt-at-Stabs Kill the still closing waters, as [etc.]. 1644 SIR E. DERING *Prop. Sacr.* b iiij b, A young fellow..did aim the stabbe of his knife into the Kings belly. 1722 DE FOE *Moll Flanders* (1840) 203 A stab that touched the vitals. 1746 HERVEY *Medit.* (1818) 27 A poisonous draught, or a deadly stab. 1830 TENNYSON *Oriana* 50 Oh! deathful stabs were dealt apace. 1867 F FRANCIS *Angling* iii. (1880) 95 Master Perch..will resent rough..handling by a smart stab or two.

b. *fig.*

1594 SHAKS. *Rich. III*, III. ii. 89 This sudden stab of Rancour I misdoubt. 1746 WESLEY *Princ. Methodist* Pref., After many Stabs in the Dark, I was publickly attacked.. by my own familiar Friend. 1796 BURKE *Let. to Mrs. Crewe* Corr. IV. 335 A stab was attempted on my reputation. 1894 WEYMAN *Man in Black* 201 This stab, that a little earlier would have pierced her very heart-strings, did but prick her. 1909 EDITH RICKERT *Beggar in Heart* 24 She remembered, with a stab of pain, the quiver in his voice.

c. *The stab*: death by stabbing. Also *fig.*

1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* (1637) 124 With too silly arguments goeth about to give them the deadly stab. 1818 SCOTT *Br. Lamm.* xx, To kill one [raven] in their presence, is such bad luck that it deserves the stab. 1891 FARRAR *Darkn. & Dawn* xxxviii, Life—death—to-morrow; the *rudis* or the stab? Which shall it be?

d. *transf.* A vigorous thrust as if to stab some one.

1902 MABEL BARNES-GRUNDY *Thames Camp* 196 Sewing is rather restful; and you can give such vent to your feelings with each stab of the needle.

e. *fig.* A flash of bright colour against dark surroundings.

1894 *Superfl. Woman* (ed. 4) III. 4 The moving stabs of colour in passing trams and other vehicles. 1903 *Speaker* 17 Oct. 64/2 The blackbird in his jet-black dress, the stab of colour of his bill accentuating the hue.

3. *Billiards.* A short, stiff stroke which causes the striker's ball to remain dead or to travel but slowly after striking the object ball; more fully *stab stroke*; hence *stab cannon, screw,* a cannon or screw made with this stroke.

1873 BENNETT & 'CAVENDISH' *Billiards* 192 There is another screw stroke called stab screw...If the striker desires to stop his own ball dead as soon as it strikes the object ball full,..the object is to be attained by means of stab. *Ibid.* 281 The best chance left is a stab cannon... The effect of the stab..is to carry the white slowly on to the spot-white. 1885 *Billiards Simplified* (1889) 157 The way to play the stroke is by means of what is known as a stab stroke.

4. *Comb.* **stab-awl,** a shoemaker's tool used for piercing leather; **stab-cannon** (see sense 3); **stab-culture,** a CULTURE (3 c) in which the medium is inoculated by means of a needle thrust deeply into its substance; **stab-screw, -stroke** (see sense 3); **stab-wort,** the Wood-sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*), believed to be so called with reference to its supposed healing properties (also STOBWORT, STUBWORT); **stab-wound,** a punctured wound produced by an act or the action of stabbing. Also *stab-like* adj.

1840 *Life Adam Clarke* iv. 94 He borrowed a *stab awl and a hammer from a shoe maker. 1889 *Science* 20 Dec. 418 The mere production of a direct *stab-culture from one organ, such as the spleen..affords very incomplete..information. 1887 CHRISTINA TYRRELL tr. *E. Werner's Her Son* I. 79 The contemptuous glance of those eyes penetrated with a *stab-like pain to his heart's core. 1640 PARKINSON *Theat. Bot.* 747 We [call it] in English Wood Sorrell.. *Stabbewort. 1665 LOVELL *Herbal* (ed. 2) 419 Stubwort or Stabwort, see Wood sorrell. 1897 *Brit. Med. Jrnl.* 27 Mar. 774 A *stab wound in the right loin.

Stab (stæb), *sb.*[2] *Sc.* and *dial.* [? Sc. variant of STOB *sb.*: cf. *tap* = top. But cf. also Da., Norw., Sw. dial. *stabbe*, mod. Icel. *stabbi* tree-stump, block, Da. dial. *stabb* peg.]

1. A stake, a wooden post.

Stab and rice = *stake and rice*: see STAKE *sb.*[1] 2 a. *Stab and stow*: completely, entirely.

1680 *Invent.* in *Scott. N. & Q.* IX. 95 Ane wall of stab and ryce..ane chimnay of stab and ryce. 1722 W. HAMILTON *Wallace* 259 (Jam.) Who set their lodgings all in a fair low About their ears and burnt them stab and stow. 1821 GALT *Ann. Parish* vi, The plantations supplied him with stabs to make stake and rice between his fields. 1842 J. AITON *Dom. Econ.* (1857) 160 The minister of a village..requested that a wall should be built round his glebe. 'Would stabs and railings not answer the purpose equally well?' asked one present. 1907 EPPIE FRAZER *Clodhopper* I. ii. 8 They've drawn the loosened paling stab.

2. A stump.

c 1800 HOWLETT in *Young's Agric. Essex* (1807) I. 180 As soon as the hedge is cut down, most of which [is] within an inch or two of the old stabb. *Ibid.*, With the young shoots of the parts cut off close to the stabbs.

3. A block (of wood, etc.) used as a seat.

1805 MCINDOE *Poems* 10 (E.D.D.) The seat, a stab, the heel pins rotten.

Stab (stæb), *sb.*[3] *dial.* [Of obscure origin.] (See quot. 1838.)

1838 HOLLOWAY *Prov. Dict.*, *Stab*, a hole in the ground, in which the female rabbit secures her litter while they are very young. 1875 PARISH *Sussex Gloss.* s. v. *Stalled*, The old dog..found a stab out in the field. 1888 *Sat. Rev.* 5 May 530/2 The rat..will draw the young rabbits out of the 'stabs'.

Stab (stæb), *sb.*[4] *Printers' slang.* Also **'stab.** [Short for *establishment.*] = ESTABLISHMENT 10. Also *attrib.*

1865 *Hotten's Slang. Dict.* 244 On the stab. 1875 SOUTHWARD *Dict. Typogr.* s. v., A man who is 'on 'stab' receives establishment wages. 1888 JACOBI *Printers' Vocab.* 130 *Stab*, a term applied to establishment hands, i.e. workmen paid by the week and not by piece-work. 1890 *Scott. Leader* 10 June 5 Fleming was known as a stab man, as opposed to a man who was paid by the result of his labours. *Ibid.* 6 When he was dismissed he was a society-man, and was paid a stab wage of £2 3s a week.

Stab (stæb), *v.* [Related to the synonymous STOB *v.*

The vb. has been found before 1530 only in Sc. writers; the related STAB *sb.*[1] occurs in *Promp. Parv.* (1440).]

1. *trans.* To wound (often to kill) with a thrust of a pointed weapon (chiefly, with a short weapon, as a dagger). Phrase, *to stab to* († *at, into*) *the heart.*

1530 PALSGR. 731/2 He stabbyd hym with a daggar. 1585–7 KYD *Sp. Trag.* IV. i. 125 She..Did stab herselfe. 1588 SHAKS. *Tit. A.* v. ii. 47 Stab them, or teare them on thy Chariot wheeles. 1605 *Nottingham Rec.* IV. 276 A daggar to stabbe and kill Hugh Lenton. 1641 J. JACKSON *True Evang. T.* III. 201 Iohn Iames..did stab into the breast Peter Heywood Esquire. 1647 CLARENDON *Hist. Reb.* I. § 9 Stabbed to the heart by the hand of an obscure villain. 1678 WANLEY *Wond. Lit. World* v. i. § 100. 468/2 Henry the fourth King of France was stab'd by Ravilliac. 1713 ADDISON *Cato* III. ii, Think, thou seest thy dying brother Stabb'd at his heart. 1718 HEARNE *Collect.* (O.H.S.) VI. 247 A Stag..meeting a Man as he was running along, he stabbed him with his Horns. 1764 *Museum Rust.* IV. 33 Some Remarks on stabbing Cattle hoved with Clover. 1771 BURROW *King's Bench Rep.* V. 2795 John Taylor instantly ..stabbed the said James Smith. 1830 TENNYSON *Oriana* 55 They should have stabb'd me where I lay. 1891 FARRAR *Darkn. & Dawn* xlv, Scipio..stabbed himself.

† **b.** *To stab* (a person) *in* = sense 1. *Obs.*

1530 PALSGR. 731/2, I stabbe in with a dagger or any other scharpe wepyn, *je enferre.* 1561 NORTON & SACKV. *Gorboduc* IV. ii. 190 While slumbring on his carefull bed he restes His hart stabde in with knife is reft of life. 1565 COOPER *Thesaurus, Confossus*..wounded: stabbed in. 1587 HIGGINS *Mirr. Mag., C. I. Cæsar* xlix, Hee stabde mee in, and so with daggers did the rest. 1587 GOLDING *De Mornay* xii. (1592) 173 This proud Peacocke [Cæsar]..is in one day stabbed in with infinite wounds.

c. *fig.*

1686 HORNECK *Crucif. Jesus* xxiv. 803 If he have often stabbed his neighbours by slanders. 1784 COWPER *Task* IV. 617 'Tis universal soldiership has stabb'd The heart of merit in the meaner class. 1813 SHELLEY *Q. Mab.* III. 200 He fabricates The sword which stabs his peace. *c* 1850 LOWELL *Leg. Brittany* II. xxiv, Her silence stabbed his conscience through and through.

d. *transf.* In various occasional uses.

a 1652 BROME *Queen & Concubine* III. viii. (1659) 64 Thou hear'st me say, I dare not speak her name, Yet thou dar'st stab mine Ears again, with it. *a* 1721 KEN *Psyche* Poet. Wks. IV. 234 As the Morning Cloud decays, When stab'd by the encroaching Rays. *a* 1800 *Dk. Athole's Nurse* xi. in Child *Ballads* IV. 152 O they stabbed the feather-bed all round and round. 1834 MAR. EDGEWORTH *Helen* II. ix, When they had stabbed the cushions, and torn the inside of my carriage all to pieces. 1895 *Outing* XXVI. 40/2 Fireflies stabbed the gloom with their darting flame.

† **e.** *slang.* (See quot.) *Obs.*

a 1661 FULLER *Worthies, Dorset* (1662) 278 Stab'd with a Byrdport Dagger. That is, hang'd...The best..Hemp.. growing about Byrdport.

† **f.** With obscene reference. *Obs.*

1597 SHAKS. 2 *Hen. IV*, II. i. 15. 1601 — *Jul. C.* I. ii. 277.

2. *absol.* and *intr.* To use a pointed weapon to wound or kill.

1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* XIX. 545 Than suld the laiff that forouth ar Stab doune with speres sturdely. *Ibid.* 565 Thai stabbit, stekit, and thai slew. 1597 SHAKS. 2 *Hen. IV*, II. i. 13 It may chance cost some of vs our liues: he wil stab. 1607 *Lingua* II. i, If they heare my name abused, they stab for my sake. 1700 DRYDEN *Pal. & Arc.* III. 509 None shall dare With shortned Sword to stab in closer War. 1819 SHELLEY *Mask* lxxxiv, Let them ride among you there, Slash, and stab, and maim, and hew. 1847 TENNYSON *Princess* Concl. 61 The little boys begin to shoot and stab. 1887 GUNTER *Mr. Barnes* xxiii. 178 'My husband's body lies behind those curtains!' She stands with uplifted arm a moment, pointing to the draperies through which Tomasso has stabbed.

fig. 1597 SHAKS. 2 *Hen. IV*, IV. v. 109 Thou hid'st a thousand Daggers in thy thoughts,..To stab at halfe an howre of my Life. 1599 — *Much Ado* II. i. 255 Shee speakes poynyards, and euery word stabbes. 1762 LLOYD *Epist. to Churchill* 14 Critics of old..Boldly persu'd the free decisive task, Nor stabb'd, conceal'd beneath a ruffian's mask. 1769 *Junius Lett.* xxvi. 122 Suspicion is the foul weapon with which you..stab. 1871 MACDUFF *Mem. Patmos* xxi. 290 They stab at their neighbour's good name and reputation. 1883 *Harper's Mag.* Feb. 352/2 The baffled sun stabs wildly at the gale.

† **b.** *Sc.* To make thrusts with a staff or club.

1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* III. x. 6 Poliphemus..A monstir.. Wanting his sycht, and com to stab and graip With his burdoun, that wes the greit fir tre [orig. *truncа manum pinus regit et vestigia firmat*].

c. To suffer a 'stab' of pain. ? *nonce-use.*

1865 ANNIE THOMAS *On Guard* xxxix, The reels of cotton danced aloud within it, making Stanley's head stab.

d. *nonce-use.* To make a hole *through* something.

1897 KIPLING *Capt. Cour.* v. 112 The foregaff stabbed and ripped through the staysail.

3. *trans.* To thrust (a weapon) into a person.

c 1610 ROWLANDS *Terrible Batt.* 10, I stab'd my dart, thus deepe into his side. 1639 S. DU VERGER tr. *Camus Admir. Events* 250 Liberat..gets upon him, stabs his poignard three or foure times in his belly. 1912 *19th Cent.* Dec. 1195 Women stab the daggers to their throats immediately.

4. To prick. Now *dial.* Cf. STOB *v*

1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 1/26 To stab, pricke, *pungere, stimulare.* 1864 J. ROGERS *New Rush* II. 33 [He may] stab himself upon a Porcupine.

5. To hammer or pick (a hard surface) with a sharp tool, to roughen (a wall) with a pick before applying a coat of plaster.

1846 *Penny Cycl.* Suppl. II. 431/1 The surface of the brick-work must be stabbed or picked over to make it rough.

6. *Bookbinding.* To pierce (a collection of sheets)

in order to make a hole for a binding thread or wire; to fasten the sheets of (a pamphlet, etc.) together in this way instead of by sewing.

1863 *Reader* 21 Nov. 600/1 Nor even stitched like a book, but 'stabbed' as an auction catalogue now is. 1888 JACOBI *Printer's Vocab.* 130 *Stabbed*, a form of stitching by piercing or stabbing, used mostly for cheap pamphlet work. 1901 *19th Cent.* Apr. 662 When enough sheets have been brought together they are stabbed at the open ends and form a volume.

† Staba·do. *Obs. rare*⁻¹. In pl. stabadoes. [f. STAB *v.* + -ADO.] A stab.

1607 WALKINGTON *Optic Glass* 47 This is a true wit..hauing a priuy coate of pollicy and subtilty to shend it from all the intended stabadoes of any acute obiectionist.

‖ Stabat Mater (stā·bæt mā·təɹ, stā·bat mā·təɹ). [From the opening words, L. *stabat mater dolorosa*, 'Stood the mother, full of grief'.] A sequence, composed by Jacobus de Benedictis in the 13th c., in commemoration of the sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Also a musical setting of this sequence.

There are other sequences beginning with the same words: 'Stabat mater regis nostri' (13–14th c.), 'Stabat mater anxiata' (1519), 'Stabat mater speciosa' (late 15th c.). None of these are in regular liturgical use, but some of them have well-known musical settings.

1867 LADY HERBERT *Cradle L.* iv. 120 While the low chant of the 'Stabat Mater' echoed through the deserted streets. 1883 ROCKSTRO in *Grove's Dict. Mus.* III. 684 The 'Stabat Mater' of Josquin des Prés, founded upon the Canto fermo just mentioned. *Ibid.*, Haydn's 'Stabat Mater' is a treasury of refined and graceful Melody.

Stabbed (stæbd), *ppl. a.* [f. STAB *v.* + -ED¹.]

1. Wounded by stabbing.

1599 B. JONSON *Cynthia's Rev.* v. iv, S'foot, he makes a face like a stab'd Lucrece. 1884 'V. LEE' *C'tess Albany* iii. 28 The Pretender's bride must often have met a knot of people conveying a stabbed man..to the nearest barber or apothecary.

Comb. 1612 CHAPMAN *Rev. Bussy d'Ambois* I. ii. 75 These tortur'd fingers and these stabb'd-through arms Keep that law in their wounds yet unobserv'd, And ever shall.

† b. Of a wound: Produced by stabbing. *Obs.*

1653 T. BRUGIS *Vade Mecum* (ed. 2) 57 It is good in wounds either incised, contused, or stabbed.

2. Perforated with punctured holes.

1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib., Brit.* II. No. 6384, Stabbed iron for malt-kiln plates.

3. *Bookbinding.* (See STAB *v.* 6.)

Stabber (stæ·bəɹ). [f. STAB *v.* + -ER¹.]

1. One who stabs.

1589 *Pappe w. Hatchet* in *Lyly's Whs.* 1902 III. 399 One hath been an old stabber at passage. 1682 OTWAY *Venice Preserved* III. ii, Mix with hired Slaves, Bravoes, and Common stabbers? 1752 YOUNG *Brothers* III. i, Blood-thirsty stabbers. 1813 SCOTT *Rokeby* I. xxii, Despite his craft, he heard with awe This ruffian stabber fix the law. 1865 KINGSLEY *Herew.* I, Whoever called me stabber to you, lies.

b. *transf.*

1834 MAR. EDGEWORTH *Helen* II. ix. (1848) 240, I set at defiance all the searchers and stabbers and custom-house officers.

c. *fig.*

1603 DEKKER *Wonderf. Yr.* D 3 b, How sudden a stabber this ruffianly swaggerer, Death, is. 1737 *Gentl. Mag.* VII. 205/1, I leave the Reader to guess what such a Stabber of Reputations would stick to perpetrate. 1858 O. W. HOLMES *Two Armies* 23 The bloodless stabber [Death] calls by night. 1872 SPURGEON *Treas. David* Ps. lix. 12 Wretches who are persecutors in talk, burners and stabbers with the tongue. 1910 GOLDW. SMITH *Remin.* x. 181 The genius of the political stabber.

2. Something which stabs, a knife, dagger, etc.

1581 DERRICKE *Image Irel.* II. F ij, Long stabbers plucke thei forthe, in steede of handsome kniues. 1585 HIGINS *Junius' Nomencl.* 275/1 *Sica*,..a priuye or close dagger: a stabber. 1913 *Engl. Rev.* Nov. 516 We've got his stabber and he can't do us any harm.

b. *spec.* (See quots.)

1794 *Rigging & Seamanship* I. 87 *Holes* in sails are made with an instrument, called a stabber or a pegging-awl. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade, Stabber*, a marling-spike; a sailmaker's pricker. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech., Stabber*, 1. (*Leather.*) A pegging-awl. A pricker. 2. (*Nautical.*) A marlinspike. 3. (*Domestic.*) A lady's awl for opening holes for eyelets.

3. (See quot.)

1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss., Stabber*, a person (generally a boy) who is employed to stitch the upper leathers of boots and shoes with an awl. 1881 *Leicestersh. Gloss.*

Stabbing (stæ·biŋ), *vbl. sb.* [-ING¹.]

1. The action or an act of STAB *v.* in various senses.

1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* XVII. 785 (Edinb. MS.) Off stabing, [*Camb. MS.* staffing], stoking, and striking Thar maid thai sturdy defending. *c* 1425 WYNTOUN *Cron.* VIII. 6534 For his hors rycht weill armyt was, That he bare stabyng dred weill les. 1604 SHAKS. *Oth.* III. iv. 6 He's a Soldier, and for me to say a Souldier lyes, 'tis stabbing. 1765 *Museum Rust.* IV. 90, I was obliged to perform the operation of stabbing in three several parts of the belly before the ox was relieved. 1769 BLACKSTONE *Comm.* IV. 193 This statute was made on account of the frequent quarrels and stabbings with short daggers.

b. *attrib.*

1837 W. B. ADAMS *Carriages* 152 An awl called a *stabbing awl. 1894–5 KIPLING *2nd Jungle Bk.* 155 Kadlu..crossed the hut for his *stabbing-harpoon. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.*, **Stabbing-machine*, a machine for perforating a pile of folded and gathered signatures for the insertion of the stitching-thread. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade*, *Stabbing-press. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech., Stabbing-press*, a bookbinder's press, in which pointed rods are driven through the folded sheets near the back, to stitch them together. 1892 RIDER HAGGARD *Nada* 33 Armed with the short *stabbing-spear.

† 2. *Dicing.* (See quot.) *Obs.*

1680 COTTON *Compl. Gamester* (ed. 2) 12 Lastly, by *Stabbing*, that is, having a Smooth Box, and small in the bottom, you drop in both your Dice in such manner as you would have them sticking therein by reason of its narrowness [etc.].

Stabbing (stæ·biŋ), *ppl. a.* [-ING².]

1. Of a weapon: That stabs.

1611 SHAKS. *Wint. T.* IV. iv. 748 They often giue vs (Souldiers) the Lye, but wee pay them for it with stamped Coyne, not stabbing Steele. 1813 SCOTT *Rokeby* VI. XXXIII, But still his struggling force he rears, 'Gainst hacking brands and stabbing spears.

b. *fig.*

1599 B. JONSON *Ev. Man out of Hum.* IV. iv, Come, you'le never leave your stabbing similes. 1682 OWTRAM *Serm.* 403 That's a black and stabbing thought. *a* 1704 T. BROWN *Lett. to Gentl. & Ladies* Wks. 1709 III. II. 107, I dare trust my self no longer with such stabbing Ideas. 1745 ELIZA HAYWOOD *Female Spect.* No. 13 (1748) III. 15 Instead of reasoning with Zimene, and perswading her to moderation in so stabbing a circumstance.

2. Of pain: Sharp and sudden, characterized by twinges comparable to the effect of a stab.

1763 COLEBROOK in *Phil. Trans.* LIII. 347 She complained of most excruciating stabbing pains in both breasts. 1896 MARY BEAUMONT *Joan Seaton* 175 Unconscious of the stabbing pain in his foot.

Hence **Sta·bbingly** *adv.*

1673 S. PARKER *Reproof Reh. Transp.* 287 This intimation ..is as stabbingly suggested as the story of Sardanapalus.

Stabble (stæ·b'l), *sb. dial.* [f. the verb.] Liquid mud caused by continuous traffic or treading with the feet; also dirty footmarks.

1825 COBBETT *Rur. Rides* 10 The street..has been kept in a sort of stabble by the flocks of sheep passing along. 1863 WISE *New Forest* Gloss., *Stabble*, marks, footprints, always used in the plural.

Stabble (stæ·b'l), *v. dial.* [Perhaps a frequentative f. STAB *v.*: see -LE. (For the assumed sense-development cf. POACH *v.*² 4, 5; see also STABLE *v.*³)] a. *trans.* To soil (a place) by treading dirt about. b. *intr.* To tread dirt *about*. c. *trans.* To reduce (ground) to mire or liquid mud by continual treading.

1838 HOLLOWAY *Provinc.*, To *stabble*, to dirty any place, by walking on it with wet and filthy shoes. *Hants.* 1856 MISS YONGE *Daisy Chain* XV. 148 The woman said she would not take half-a-crown a week to have a lot of children stabbling about, as she called it. 1858 HUGHES *Scour. White Horse* vii, 'T'aint a mossell o' use to bide stabbleing here [*Footnote.* 'Stabble'—to tread dirt about]. 1893 *Wiltshire Gloss., Stabble*,..to poach up [ground] by continual treading, as near a field gateway.

Stabile (stā·bil), *a.* [ad. L. *stabilis*: see STABLE *a.*

The examples of *stabile, stabill* occurring before English spelling became settled are to be referred to STABLE *a.*]

1. Firmly established, enduring, lasting. *rare.*

Used by a few writers to express more unequivocally the etymological sense of STABLE *a.*

1797 W. TAYLOR in *Monthly Rev.* XXIV. 524 That stabile conviction, which terminates the sweet toil of investigation. 1814 — in *Monthly Mag.* XXXVII. 236/1 The poem is divided into short chapters,..it proves the stabile popularity of the first crusade. 1826 LANDOR *Imag. Conv., Johnson & Tooke* Wks. 1846 I. 153 *Johnson.* You reformers will let nothing be great, nothing be stabile. 1864 SWINBURNE *Atalanta* 688 There is nothing stabile in the world But the gods break it. 1880 — *Songs of Springtides, Thalassius* 71 This poor flash of sense in life,..More stabile than the world's own heart's root seems, By that strong faith.

2. Fixed in position; *spec.* in *Electro-therapeutics*, held firmly upon one point or over one part (as opposed to LABILE *a.* 4).

1896 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* I. 364 An active electrode..is then moved over the affected region (labile application) or held firmly over one part (stabile method). 1899 *Ibid.* VII. 586 A stabile pupil on the same side as the abscess is an important sign.

Stabilify (stābi·lifəi), *v. rare*⁻¹. [f. L. *stabili-s* (see STABLE *a.*) + -FY.] *trans.* To make stable.

1871 BROWNING *Pr. Hohenstiel* 280 To..render solid and stabilify Mankind.

† **Stabiliment.** *Obs.* In 4 stablyment. See also STABLEMENT. [ad. L. *stabilimentum*, f. *stabilī-re* to render stable, f. *stabili-s*: see STABLE *a.* and -MENT. Cf. OF. *establiment, establement.*] Something which gives stability or firmness; stay, support. *lit.* and *fig.*

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XVIII. xii. (1495) 768 The thyrde tyme they set more greter matere and thycke, and that is the stablyment and fastnynge of the hony combes. 1578 BANISTER *Hist. Man* I. 16 As a ground worke, or stabiliment to susteyne the whole worke. 1639 AINSWORTH *Annot. Ps. cv.* 16. 151 Staffe or stay, stabiliment: so bread is called. 1660 JER. TAYLOR *Duct. Dubit.* II. iii. rule 14 § 37 Traditions..are no necessary or competent stabiliment of doctrine or manners, or if they were, themselves have no stabiliment. 1673 GREW *Anat. Plants* I. iii. (1682) 27 In the Trailing of the Trunk, they [the Claspers] serve for stabiliment, propagation and shade. 1684 PELLING *Serm.* 30 Jan. 30 The same laws which are the stabiliment of the church.

Stabilimeter (stæbili·mĭtəɹ). *Aeronautics.* [f. STABILI-TY + -METER.] A contrivance for ascertaining the stability of a model airship or aeroplane.

1907 G. H. BRYAN in *Cornhill Mag.* May 619 A stabilimeter..would enable any experimenter to test the stability of a complete model of his own flying machine. 1911 WEBSTER.

Stabilitate (stābi·litēt), *v. rare.* [L. *stabilitāt-* ppl. stem of *stabilitāre*, f. *stabilitās* STABILITY.] *trans.* To give stability to.

1642 H. MORE *Song of Soul* II. I. ii. 43 The soul about it self circumgyrates Her various forms, and what she most doth love She oft before herself stabilitates. 1657 BILLINGSLY *Brachy-Martyrol.* xxi. 73 Do you then..still think good For to stabilitate your throne with blood? 1804 W. TAYLOR in *Ann. Rev.* II. 335 These arguments all tend to stabilitate his institutions. 1835 *Blackw. Mag.* XXXVII. 280 Many sacred sympathies that will yet survive all this hubbub, and stabilitate the structure of social life. 1850 W. H. RUSSELL *Diary in India* xii. I. 180 The work reserved for him who shall come to stabilitate our empire in the East.

Stability (stābi·liti). Forms: *α.* 4 **stabylte, stabulte**, 4–5 **stablete**, 5 **stabiltee**. *β.* 5 **stabilite, stabilitee**, 5–6 **stabylyte**, 6–7 **stabilitie** (*Dict.* **stabylitie**), 7– **stability**. [ME. *stablete*, a. OF. *(e)stableté*, semi-popular ad. L. *stabilitās*, f. *stabili-s* STABLE *a.*: see -TY. The *β* forms (= F. *stabilité*, from 12th c.) are assimilated to the Latin form.] The quality or condition of being stable.

1. In physical senses. a. Power of remaining erect; freedom from liability to fall or be overthrown.

1426 LYDG. *De Guil. Pilgr.* 23472 Thyng that is maad by rule and lyne, In it self hath more beaute tendure, and mor stabilite. 1691 RAY *Creation* I. (1704) 119 The Roots [of a tree] for its stability and drawing Nourishment from the Earth. 1700 C. NESSE *Antid. Armin.* (1827) 22 The temple stood firmly upon those two pillars, Jachin and Boaz, i. e. stability and strength. 1712 BLACKMORE *Creation* I. 24 These subterranean Walls dispos'd with Art, Such Strength, and such Stability impart, That Storms..and Earthquakes ..Break not the Pillars. 1746 HERVEY *Medit.* (1748) 231 The Strength of an Oak, or the Stability of a Pyramid. 1894 H. DRUMMOND *Ascent of Man* 414 The true function of the root is to give stability to the tree.

fig. 1585 C. FETHERSTONE tr. *Calvin on Acts* XV. 36. 381 There ought nothing..to bee more firme, than the spirituall building of faith, whose stabilitie is grounded in the very heauen. 1910 J. W. HARPER *Social Ideal* X. 117 Social jerry-building has no stability.

b. Fixity of position in space; freedom from liability to changes of place.

1625 N. CARPENTER *Geog. Del.* I. v. (1635) 115 The stability is an affection of the earth whereby the Terrestriall Spheare is firmely settled in his proper place. 1664 POWER *Exp. Philos.* III. 168 An Intrinsecal Tendency that it [the Magnet] has of its own, to bring all its parts to their right and determinate points, there to remain in a perfect Stability. 1681 COTTON *Wond. Peake* 45 He..began to try This, and that hanging stone's stability, To prove their firmness. 1831 BREWSTER *Newton* X. 136 *note*, The doctrine of the motion of the earth and the stability of the sun. 1853 SIR H. DOUGLAS *Milit. Bridges* 19 The gradual progress of rivers to their present state of comparative stability.

c. Ability to remain in the same relative place or position in spite of disturbing influences; capacity for resistance to displacement; the condition of being in stable equilibrium, tendency to recover the original position after displacement. Also, of a body in motion: Freedom from oscillation, steadiness.

a 1542 WYATT *Ps. xxxviii.* 13 Such is thi hand on me, y^t in my fleshe for terrour of thy yre Is not on poynt of fermе stabilite. 1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* II. ii. 57 Had they been acquainted with this principle, Anaxagoras, Socrates and Democritus had better made out the ground of this stability... Now whether the earth stand still, or moveth circularly, we may concede this Magneticall stability. 1794 G. ADAMS *Nat. & Exp. Philos.* III. xxviii. 162 Our motions .. serve .. to preserve constant stability amidst a variety of causes which tend to destroy it. 1796 *Phil. Trans.* LXXXVI. 52 When a solid body floats..and external force is applied to incline it from its position, the resistance opposed to this inclination is termed the stability of floating. 1799 *Monthly Rev.* XXX. 501 A method..for ascertaining the degree of stability or stiffness of a ship. 1855 D. K. CLARK *Railway Mach.* 165/2 By steadiness or stability is meant the property of moving along the rail without any inclination from the centre-line of progression. 1877 W. H. WHITE *Man. Naval Archit.* iii. 63 The statical stability of a ship may be defined as the effort which she makes when inclined by external forces acting horizontally, and held steadily at that inclination, to return towards her natural position of equilibrium. *Ibid.* iv. 131 On this assumption..dynamical stability may be defined as the 'work' done in heeling the ship from her upright position to any angle of inclination. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* II. 86/2 The spinning motion [of a top] gives a stability to the axis of rotation. 1883 *Encycl. Brit.* XV. 751/1 (art. *Mechanics*) Safety against displacement by turning is called stability of position; safety against displacement by sliding, stability of friction.

† d. 'Fixedness; not fluidity' (J.). *Obs. rare.*

1661 BOYLE *Physiol. Ess.* (1669) 208 Since fluidness and stability being contrary qualities, are to be apprehended under contrary notions, we may conceive that the firmness or stability of a body consists principally in this, that the particles [etc.].

e. Of a system of bodies: Permanence of arrangement; power of resisting change of structure.

1855 BREWSTER *Newton* I. xiii. 358 This grand discovery.. securing the stability of the system, is doubtless one of the noblest in physical astronomy. 1869 HUXLEY in *Scientific Opinion* Apr. 464/2 Whereby all perturbations eventually reduced themselves to oscillations on each side of a mean position, and the stability of the solar system was secured.

f. Of a chemical compound or combination: Capacity to resist decomposition or disruption.

1862 MILLER *Elem. Chem., Org.* (ed. 2) 41 Such combinations are usually of small stability and are decomposed as rapidly as they are formed. 1877 J. CLERK MAXWELL in *Encycl. Brit.* VI. 313 Now if such groups [of molecules] of greater stability are disseminated through the substance [etc.]. 1878 W. H. WARDELL *Explosives* ibid. VIII. 808/1 The fulminates are among the most violent of all explosive compounds, their chemical stability being very small.

g. Of a colour: Permanence.

1791 HAMILTON *Berthollet's Dyeing* I. i. i. iii. 45 The stability of colour consists in its power of resisting the action of acids, alkalis, &c.

2. Of an immaterial thing: Immunity from destruction or essential change; enduring quality.

a. of government, institutions, customs, etc.

1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* xx. xviii. 829, I wote wel in me was not alle the stabylyte of this realme. *c* 1475 HENRYSON *Poems* III. 171/38 Now is stabilitee fundyn in na stage.. Peas is away, all in perplexitee. 1584 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* III. 699 The cuntrie being brocht to a greittar stabilitie. 1624 CAPT. SMITH *Virginia* IV. 148 Where there was no honesty..in such a Countrey..there can bee no stabilitie. 1655 *Nicholas Papers* (Camden) II. 355 A progresse in the old way workes stability. 1767 A. YOUNG *Farmer's Lett. to People* 15 The difference in stability of a commerce founded on the necessities or superfluities of life. 1800 MARQ. WELLESLEY in Owen *Desp.* (1877) 732 The stability of our Government will bear a due proportion to its wisdom, liberality, and justice. 1858 EMERSON *Lett. & Soc. Aims, Pers. Poetry* Wks. (Bohn) III. 237 Oriental life and society ..stand in violent contrast with the..secular stability..of the western nations. 1859 F. W. NEWMAN *Let.* 5 May in Sieveking *Mem.* (1909) 172 He [Louis Napoleon] covets stability and the glory of liberating Italy. 1867 SMILES *Huguenots Eng.* xix. (1880) 354 That enterprising and industrious middle class which gives stability to every state. 1873 C. ROBINSON *N. S. Wales* 32 The stability and expansiveness of this industry is proved by its steady and uniformly progressive development. 1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) V. 123 He [Plato] is deeply struck with the stability of Egyptian institutions. 1882 FREEMAN *Lect. Amer. Audiences* II. v. 396 What I see in England, in America, in Switzerland, is stability, the power to make changes.. without pulling the whole political fabric down on the heads of the reformers.

b. of the Divine nature or attributes. ? *Obs.*

1594 HOOKER *Eccl. Pol.* I. iii. § 4 The naturall generation and processe of all things receyueth order of proceeding from the setled stabilitie of diuine vnderstanding. 1707 NORRIS *Treat. Humility* iii. 84 When he compares himself with the central stability and immoveable subsistence of that great and glorious Being.

c. of worldly estate, financial affairs.

a 1628 PRESTON *New Covt.* (1629) 63 If you looke for stabilitie in your estate, and wonder why a change should come,..why didst thou expect stabilitie in that which is subject to vanitie? 1732 *Belle Assemblée* II. 295 Those devoted to Ambition; who seem, methinks, in a continual Whirl, are never in a state of Stability, or perfect Ease. 1814 WORDSW. *Excurs.* III. 386 [The hermit craving] a life of peace, Stability without regret or fear; That hath been, is, and shall be evermore! 1833 HT. MARTINEAU *Brooke Farm* v. 69 It is the resource on which the proprietor mainly relies for the stability of his fortune. 1865 LEVER *Luttrell* xl, A great London banking firm was associated with the enterprise, which, of course, gave the air of stability to the operation. 1865 MISS BRADDON *Only a Clod* xv, [He] suspends payment upon the first failure that affects his stability.

d. of a science, theory, covenant, etc.

1655–60 STANLEY *Hist. Philos.* v. ii. (1687) 181/2 Science ..hath certitude, and Stability as being conversant in things certain and stable. *a* 1687 H. MORE *Def. Cabbala* App. ii. (1713) 119 Which number [eight] being the first cube, is a fit hieroglyphick of the Stability of that Covenant made with the Jews in Circumcision. 1750 JOHNSON *Rambler* No. 158 ¶ 1 Criticism..has not yet attained the certainty and stability of science. 1751 BP. THOMAS in *10th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. i. 306 The only Thing that could give Stability to their Proceedings. 1837 P. KEITH *Bot. Lex.* 108 He will not admit that it shakes the stability of Mr. Knight's theory in the slightest degree. 1876 MOZLEY *Univ. Serm.* iv. 107 The Gospel language throws doubt upon the final stability of much that passes current here with respect to character. 1883 *Manch. Guard.* 22 Oct. 5/4 Some of his verses are purely occasional and have no claim to stability.

e. of natural laws or sequences of natural phenomena.

1836 EMERSON *Nature, Idealism* Wks. (Bohn) II. 160 The frivolous make themselves merry with the Ideal theory, as if it affected the stability of nature. 1860 MAURY *Phys. Geog.* (Low) iv. 100 The two systems of trade-winds are very unequal both as to force and stability. 1880 A. R. WALLACE *Isl. Life* 225 The result would be an epoch of exceptional stability of species. 1881 J. HOOKER in *Nature* No. 619. 445 The belief in the stability of climatal conditions during the lifetime of the existing assemblages of animals and plants.

†f. Put for: Source or cause of stability. *Obs.*

1678 CUDWORTH *Intell. Syst.* 45 The Essential Goodness and Wisdom of the Deity is the only Stability of all things.

g. Something fixed or settled.

1833 CHALMERS *Constit. Man* I. i. i. § 1. 57 Just as much as the properties of a triangle are the enduring stabilities of mathematical science. 1847 EMERSON *Repr. Men, Montaigne* Wks. (Bohn) I. 340 Adaptiveness is the peculiarity of human nature...We are golden averages, volitant stabilities, compensated or periodic errors.

3. Of a person, his character or dispositions: The condition of 'standing fast'; fixity of resolution or purpose; firmness, steadfastness. (The earliest recorded sense.)

13.. in *Hampole's Wks.* I. 75 Ihesu..Take my hert in till þi hand, sett me in stabylte. *a* 1400 *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* xxxii. 616 In al þe preyers he scholde in be Nis þer wiþ him [Lecherie] no stabulte. *c* 1400 *Rom. Rose* 2940 And alle lovers that wole be Feithful, and ful of stabilite. *Ibid.* 5532 And for nought ellis wol he flee, If that he love in stabilitee. 1426 LYDG. *De Guil. Pilgr.* 1934 Look that ye In trouthe, & in stablete Yee loue to-gydre. 1535 STEWART *Cron. Scot.* II. 537 Tha war..So full of wisdome, gentres, and discretioun, With fredome, faith, and greit stabilitie. 1693 OWEN *Holy Spirit* 71 It is hereon that our stability in Believing doth depend. 1784 COWPER *Task* I. 383 His firm stability to what he scorns. 1813 J. JEBB *Let.* 11 July in C. Forster *Corr. Jebb & Knox* (1834) II. 142 Whoever truly loves what is stable, will adhere to it with stability of affection. 1856 EMERSON *Eng. Traits, Character* Wks. (Bohn) II. 63 The stability of England is the security of the modern world. If the English race were as mutable as the French, what reliance?

b. In the Benedictine order (tr. L. *stabilitas*): see quots.

1516 *Rule St. Benet* lviii. F 6 b, Whan she shall be reseyued she must..make a promisse of hir stabilite. 1657 CRESSY *Father Baker's Sancta Sophia* III. iv. § 18. 187 Let him that is to be receiued to a Religious Profession, promise ..1. A constant Stability in that state. 2. A conuersion of his Manners, and 3. Obedience...And as for Stability, it regards both these [2 and 3], adding to them a perseuerance and a continuall progresse in both to the end. 1883 R. F. LITTLEDALE in *Encycl. Brit.* XVI. 704/1 The method adopted [to extirpate irregular and vagrant monks] was the addition of a fourth vow, that of 'stability'...This fourth vow bound the monk to continuance in his profession, and even to residence for life at the monastery in which he was professed.

Stabilizator (stā·bilәizē·tәr). *Aeronautics.* Also **-isator.** [ad. F. *stabilisateur*, f. *stabiliser*: see STABILIZE *v.* and -ATOR.] = STABILIZER.

1902 SANTOS-DUMONT in *Lond. Mag.* June 461 How much resistance will the guide-rope, which I shall use as a stabilizator, offer as it trails in the water? 1912 T. F. FARMAN in *Blackw. Mag.* Jan. 139/2 Securing its horizontal and lateral stability by working the stabilisator and the mechanism for warping the wings.

Stabilize (stā·bilәiz), *v.* [ad. F. *stabiliser*, f. L. *stabili-s*: see STABLE *a.* and -IZE.]

1. *trans.* To give stability to (a ship).

1861 W. FROUDE *Rolling of Ships* (1862) 14 The ship, whether stabilised by breadth of beam or by deeply stowed ballast, would [etc.].

2. To give a stable character or value to.

1875 WHITNEY *Life & Growth Lang.* ix. 158 Such forces.. fairly dominate the history of speech. The language is stabilized. 1907 *Daily Chron.* 7 Jan. 3/7 The Mexican dollar, which formerly varied in value from 35 cents to 50 cents, has been stabilised at 50 cents gold. 1909 [see STABILIZING *vbl. sb.* below].

Hence **Sta·bilizing** *vbl. sb.*; **Sta·bilized** *ppl. a.*; **Stabiliza·tion,** the action or process of stabilizing.

1887 *Mind* Oct. 602 With this 'fixation of force' goes the 'stabilisation of matter'. Psychologically, what corresponds to 'fixed' force or 'stabilised' matter is [etc.]. 1909 *Q. Rev.* Oct. 533 The pernicious effects of the fluctuations of exchange demand the stabilising of the gold value of currency.

Sta·bilizer. [f. STABILIZE *v.* + -ER[1].]

1. *Aeronautics.* A stabilizing apparatus or device.

1909 C. C. TURNER *Aerial Navig. To-day* (1910) 315 *Stabilizer*, the tail of a flying-machine. 1910 *Times* 1 Nov. 4/5 The men removed the propellers, the 'stabilizer', and various parts of the fittings.

2. A substance added to an explosive to render it less liable to spontaneous decomposition (Webster, 1911).

Stabilizing (stā·bilәizing), *ppl. a.* [f. STABILIZE *v.* + -ING[2].] That stabilizes or gives stability; *spec.* in *Aeronautics*, that gives stability (to an aeroplane, etc.); that acts or may be used as a stabilizer.

1911 *Encycl. Sport* I. 16/2 In the Voisin machine there are vertical panels in the main planes, which..automatically check these oscillations, and a stabilising box at the rear. *Ibid.* 17/2 No really satisfactory stabilising device has yet been invented. 1911 *Daily Mail* 28 Oct. 5/7 A large stabilising vane fixed to the front of his aeroplane.

Stable (stē·b'l), *sb.*[1] Forms: 4–5 **stabille,** (5 **-ylle**), 4–5 **stabul,** 5 **stabull(e,** *Sc.* **stabill,** 5–6 **stabil,** 6 **stabell,** 7 **stabel,** 3– **stable**: *pl.* 4 **stablen,** 5 **stablis, stablez,** 6 **stabullys,** *Sc.* **stabulez,** 6– **stables.** [a. OF. *estable* masc. and fem., stable, also applied to a cowhouse, pigsty, etc. (mod.F. *étable* fem. cowhouse) :—L. *stabulum* (also pop.L. *stabula* pl. used as fem. sing.) stable, stall, enclosure or fold for animals, lit. standing place, f. *sta-* root of *stāre* to stand. Cf. Sp. *establo*, Pg. *estabulo* stable, It. *stabbio* sheepfold, Rumanian *staul* (whence mod.Gr. σταῦλος).]

1. A building fitted with stalls, loose-boxes, rack and manger and harness appliances, in which horses are kept. Formerly used in a wider sense: † a building in which domestic animals, as cattle, goats, etc. are kept.

c 1250 *Owl & Night.* 629 Vor hors a stable, & oxe a stalle, boþ al þat hom wule þar falle. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 5669 And þe hous of malmesbury..He made hit stable to his hors. 1340 *Ayenb.* 210 Huo..þet mest heþ hors mest him fayleþ gromes and stablen. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Prol.* 168 Ful many a deyntee hors hadde he in stable. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) IV. 153 Also bestes þat were i-woned to lyve among men forsoke stable and lesewe. 1463 *Mann. & Househ. Exp.* (ROXB.) 152 My mastyre alowyd hys fermour..ffor otys.that he toke to my lordys stable..v. s. x. d. 1511 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* IV. 262 Item, to ane grume of the stabulez of Falkland..xiij.s. 1538 STARKEY *Dialogue* I. iii. (1871) 133 Wher hath byn many housys and churchys..you schal fynd no thyng but schypcotys and stabullys. 1588 *Exch. Rolls Scot.* XXI. 360 David Murray, ane of the kingis majesties maisteris of stabill. 1611 BIBLE *Ezek.* xxv. 5 And I will make Rabbah a stable for camels. 1660 F. BROOKE tr. *Le Blanc's Trav.* 139 'Twas thought the King distributed the best part of the horses in his stable. 1764 COWPER *Task* III. 463 The stable yields a stercoraceous heap. 1818 SCOTT *Br. Lamm.* xviii, I shall choose a better stable for my horse than the Kelpie's quicksand. 1840 DICKENS *Old C. Shop* xvi, The whole house hurried away into an empty stable where the show stood. 1864 TENNYSON *Aylmer's F.* 126 When they ran To loose him [a dog] at the stables.

b. See AUGEAN *stable.*

1903 *Westm. Gaz.* 28 Jan. 9/1 Because the financiers..have set themselves to clear up the stable, and put things upon a more honest and reputable footing. 1909 SIEVEKING *Mem. F. W. Newman* xiv. 301 Here is indeed the mind of a modern Hercules in its strong rational suggestions as to how this particular 'stable' must be swept out.

c. *To talk stable*: to talk of 'horsy' matters.

1855 SMEDLEY *H. Coverdale* viii, We shall have him on our hands, talking stable, and wishing we were dogs and horses, for a whole week!

2. A collection (of horses) belonging to one stable.

1576 FLEMING *Panopl. Epist.* 373 If you take learning and knowledge from among men, what doe you else make of a publique bodye, but a stable of Asses. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* Apr. an. 1646, He then shew'd us a stable of brave horses. 1776 in *Peterson Mag.* Jan. 60/1 The Congress seem to stumble at every step. I do not mean one or two of the cattle, but the whole stable.

3. An establishment where race-horses are trained; a racing-stable. Also, the horses belonging to a particular racing-stable; the proprietors and staff of such an establishment.

1810 *T. Holcroft's Mem.* xvi. (1856) 62 As the prize to be obtained was great, the whole stable was on the alert. 1865 LEVER *Luttrell* lvi, These were painful reflections, and made him think that very probably he had 'been backing the wrong stable'. 1868 *Field* 11 July 29/2 De Vere disappointed her stable very much by being the first beaten. 1884 H. SMART *Post to Finish* vi, William Greyson's is not a large stable; still he has a tolerable good string.

4. *Mil.* Used in *pl.* for: Duty or work in the stables; also the bugle-call for this duty, stable-call.

1885 *Morning Post* 5 Feb. (Cass.), They seem always at stables, on parade, or out doing field-firing. 1908 *Animal Management* (Vet. Departm., War Office) 83 The usual hours for stables at Home are [etc.]. *Ibid.*, As soon as this is done 'Stables' should sound, when every man should be with his horse. *Ibid.* 84 At evening stables the horses are to be watered.

5. attrib. and Comb.: simple attrib., as *stable-bail* (BAIL *sb.*[3] 4), *broom, brush, bucket,* †*chamber, -court, -door,* †*fee* (Sc.), *fittings, -fork, -gate, guard* (Mil.), *-jacket, lantern, -litter, loft, management, people, plank, post, stuff, suit, -wench, work*; *stable-like* adj.; locative, as *stable-born,* adj.

1737 HOPPUS *Salmon's Country Build. Estim.* (ed. 2) 103 Pins, Hooks, Chains, &c. to *Stable-Bails. 1648 J. BEAUMONT *Psyche* x. clx, A *stable-born and manger-cradeled Thing. 1819 SCOTT *Leg. Montrose* xviii, A bed as hard as a *stable broom. 1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib.* Brit. II. No. 4535, *Stable brushes. 1842 LOVER *Handy Andy* i, But that's not nigh the full o' the *stable-bucket! 1582 *Durham Wills* (Surtees) II. 45 In the *stable chaumbre. In the chaumbre within the stable; one bedsteade [etc.]. 1816 *Gentl. Mag.* LXXXVI. i. 38 On the right, the chapel, *stable-court,..&c. 1850 THACKERAY *Pendennis* iv, Pen.. was presently heard riding out of the stable-court. 1529 *Extracts Burgh Rec. Edin.* (1871) 6 At thai tak na *stabill fee fra the personis that lugis with thame 1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib.* Brit. II. No. 6106, *Stable fittings. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. iv. vi, The very Ostlers have *stable-forks and flails. 1602 *Narcissus* (1893) 264 It is too late, When steede is stolne to shutt the *stable gate [cf. STABLE DOOR.] 1908 *Animal Management* (Vet. Departm., War Office) 84 A *stable guard should invariably be posted while the men are away from stables. 1884 H. SMART *Post to Finish* vi, A..lad, attired in a grey tweed *stable-jacket, moleskin trousers,..and a tweed cap. 1892 ZANGWILL *Childr. Ghetto* i, The *stable-like doors of the kitchen. 1808 J. C. CURWEN *Econ. Feeding Stock* 242 Fresh *stable-litter being made use of. 1851 MAYHEW *Lond. Labour* I. 357/2 He allowed me..to sleep in the *stable-loft. 1856 'STONEHENGE' *Brit. Rural Sports* II. i. ix. 349 Clothing, Dressing, and *Stable Management. 1800 MRS. HERVEY *Mourtray Fam.* IV. 195 He met one of the *stable people. 1595 SHAKS. *John* v. ii. 140 To crowch in litter of your *stable plankes. 1781 J. RIPLEY *Sel. Orig. Lett.* 101, I would have..tied both your hands together with a strong halter to one of the *stable-posts. 1551–2 in Aungier *Syon* (1840) 93 And the *stable stuffe and apparell for horsses to be delivered to thands of..our..officers of our stable. 1849 *Bentley's Misc.* XXVI. 465 Stable-boys..at eight guineas a year, and a *stable-suit. 1847 TENNYSON *Princess* I. 223 A plump-arm'd Ostleress and a *stable wench Came running at the call. 1881 *Encycl. Brit.* XII. 193/1 *Stable work should commence early.

b. Special comb.: **stable-boy,** a boy or man employed in or about a stable; **stable-call** *Mil.*, a bugle-call to stables (see 4); **stable-cleaner** (see quot.); **stable companion,** a horse from the same stable; **stable-dung,** dung from stables as distinguished from that collected in the fold-yard or in the streets; **stable-fly** (see quots.); **stable groom** = GROOM *sb.*[1] 5; **stable-help, helper** = HELPER 2 *spec.*; **stable-horse** (see quot.); **stable hours,** the fixed times for work in the stable; **stable-keeper,** one who keeps a stable; one who provides stable-accommodation

for horses; **stable-lad** = *stable-boy*; **stable-language**, the parlance of those who have the care and training of horses; **stableman**, one who is employed in a stable to groom, feed and otherwise look after the horses; **stable-meal** [MAIL *sb.*2] *Sc.*, 'the liquor consumed in an inn by farmers by way of remunerating the innkeeper for accommodating their horses during the day' (Jamieson, *Suppl.*); **stable room**, accommodation for horses or a horse in a stable; stabling; **stablewards** *adv.*, towards the stable or stables; **stable-yard**, the yard attached to a stable. Also STABLE DOOR.

1729 SWIFT *Direct. Serv.* v. (1745) 66 Deliver your Horses to the *Stable-boy, and let him gallop them to the next Pond. 1898 J. ARCH *Life* ii. 33 A wealthy banker..took me into his stables, made me a sort of stable-boy. 1889 *Century Mag.* Apr. 900 Will you go down to *stable-call and pick out a mount? 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.*, **Stable-cleaner*, a manure-drag for removing used litter from stables. 1868 *Field* 11 July 29/3 Chatelherault winning..by a head from his *stable companion. 1763 *Museum Rust.* I. 257 Lime is a much sweeter manure than *stable-dung. 1842 LOUDON *Suburban Hort.* 65 Street manure..has been used in forcing-gardens as a substitute for tanners' bark and stable-dung. 1862 T. W. HARRIS *Insects Injur. Vegetation* (ed. 3) 16 The stinging *stable-flies (*Stomoxys*). 1884–5 *Riverside Nat. Hist.* (1888) II. 430 A very common and wide-spread species is the stable-fly, *Stomoxys calcitrans*... The larvæ live in fresh horse manure. 1910 *Encycl. Brit.* X. 584/1 The *Stomoxys calcitrans*, or stable-fly;..*Muscina stabulans*, another stable-fly. *c* 1485 *Digby Myst.* II. 120 Now, *stabyll grom, shortly bryng forth away The best horse. 1638 FORD *Lady's Trial* II. ii, And stable-grooms [have] reacht to some fair ones chambers. 1836 HALIBURTON *Clockm.* Ser. I. xxii. (1862) 105 Give up blood horses to them that can afford to keep *stable-helps to tend 'em. 1807 E. S. BARRETT *Rising Sun* III. 30 Mrs. Secondhand.. sent one of the *stable-helpers to fetch a chair. 1802 C. JAMES *Milit. Dict*, **Stable horse*, Ind. That part of Tippoo Sultaun's cavalry, which was best armed, accoutred, and most regularly disciplined. 1810 *T. Holcroft's Mem.* xii. (1856) 37 [The groom] was so attentive to *stable-hours, that ..he was always to be found. 1844 *Regul. & Ord. Army* 352 The face, eyes, and nostrils of each horse are to be washed with a sponge and sea-water, at the regular stable-hours. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 471/2 *Stabul kepar, or hors kepar, *stabularius*. 1811 *Regul. & Ord. Army* 161 The Hay and Straw for Horses in Quarters..are furnished by the Stable-Keepers, &c. on whom they are billeted. 1856 'STONEHENGE' *Brit. Rural Sports* II. I. ix. 352/2 Mischief..if not prevented will be indulged in by the *stable-lad towards his charge. 1856 WHYTE MELVILLE *Kate Coventry* xv, They were, what is termed in *stable language, very much above themselves. 1729 SWIFT *Direct. Serv.* i. (1745) 32 Get the Cook, the House-maid, the *Stable-men, etc...to stand in his Way to the Hall in a Line. 1786 BURNS *To Auld Mare* viii, When thou an' I were young an' skeigh An' *stable-meals at fairs were dreigh. 1585 *Knaresb. Wills* (Surtees) I. 150 To my brother..sufficient hay for his horse..and *stable roome in my stable. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl., When there is stable-room enough, partitions are to be made for several horses to stand in. 1838 DICKENS *Nich. Nick.* v, [He] then lounged *stablewards. 1703 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 3899/4 Enquire at the *Stable Yard in St. Alban's street. 1837 DICKENS *Pickw.* xxiii, In the vicinity of the stable-yard..sat Mr. Weller senior.

Stable (ste'b'l), *a.* Also 3 **stabell**, 3, 5 **stabel**, 3–6 **stabul**, **stabil**, 4, 6 **stabile**, 4–6 **stabyll**, 5 **stabyl(le**, **stabull**, 5–6 **stabill**, (**sstabylle**), 5 (*Caxton*) **estable**. [a. OF. *stable*, *estable* (mod.F. *stable*):—L. *stabilem* f. *sta-* root of *stāre* to stand: see -BLE. Cf. Sp. *estable*, Pg. *estavel*, It. *stabile*.

The L. adj. has two primary etymological meanings: (1) with passive force of the suffix, that a person or thing can stand upon, firm as a support or foundation; (2) actively, able to stand, not liable to fall, secure; also (esp. of persons) standing one's ground, not to be driven back, steadfast. In figurative uses these senses are often blended. The Eng. word has most of the meanings of the Latin.]

1. Able to remain erect; secure against falling or being overthrown.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 10121 Do me to passe þe dikes ouer, þar þe castel standes stable [*v. r.* stabil, stabul]. *a* 1592 H. SMITH *Serm.* (1637) 268 He which is tottering himselfe, had neede leane unto a stable thing. 1872 BLACKIE *Lays Highl.* 76 The master-builder-bold Who reared this stable pile. 1909 C. C. TURNER *Aerial Navig. of To-day* viii. (1910) 123 The bicycle is not stable. It depends upon motion and the manipulation of the handles.

fig. 1599 DAVIES *Nosce Teipsum* VIII. xxxvii. (1714) 58 The perfect Angels were not stable, But had a Fall more desperate than we. 1869 MCLAREN *Serm.* Ser. II. vii. 120 If we are to be stable amidst earthquakes and storms, we must be built on the Rock and build rock-like upon it.

Comb. 1725 ARMSTRONG *Imit. Shaks.* 185 That rock the stable-planted towers.

b. Of a support or foundation: Firm, not likely to give way. *lit.* and *fig.*

1340–70 *Alex. & Dind.* 587 3e were alle..bred of þat modur þat is stable to stonde..And þe erþe is called. 1604 EARL STIRLING *Aurora* Song iii. D 1, Hauing followed ore the stable ground. 1788 PRIESTLEY *Lect. Hist.* v. xlix. 364 The only stable foundation of most of the improvements in social life is Agriculture. 1801 STRUTT *Sports & P.* III. i. 126 The ground within hard, stable, and level. 1811 PINKERTON *Petral.* II. 338 Such pieces of scoriæ as..were capable of affording a stable support. 1820 SCORESBY *Acc. Arctic Reg.* I. 256 It often affords a stable mooring to a ship. 1845 DARWIN *Voy. Nat.* viii. (1879) 144 A government which as yet has never rested on any stable foundation. 1871 BLACKIE *Four Phases Morals* i. 24 A stable physical platform to stand on.

c. Firm in consistency, solid. Now *rare*.

1666 BOYLE *Orig. Formes & Qual.* 76 The Texture, is.. vnlesse it be very stable and permanent,..very much alter'd. *Ibid.* 422 Alterations..mixtures can perform among Bodies, both of them fluid, as well as among those that were either both of them stable, or one of them stable and the other consistent. 1691 RAY *Creation* I. (1704) 70 Providence hath given to the solid and stable parts a two-fold Power. 1878 STEVENSON *Inland Voy.* 103 The shadows lay as solid on the swift surface of the stream as on the stable meadows.

2. Stationary, keeping to one place.

†a. of persons or their dwellings. *Obs.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 15154 Iesus þam prechand ilk a dai Stable in temple stod. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* A. 597 He þat stod þe long day stable. 1422 YONGE tr. *Secreta Secret.* 215 Sum of the hoste shall stabill bene in oone Place. 1687 P. AYRES *Lyric Poems*, '*Spring*' (1906) 311 The stable mother [the sea] of those straggling sons [the rivers]. 1775 R. CHANDLER *Trav. Asia M.* (1825) I. 136 A people..not forming villages or towns with stable habitations, but flitting from place to place.

b. Of material things: Not shifting or fluctuating in position.

1853 KANE *Grinnell Exp.* xxxviii. (1856) 353 Some seventy miles from the nearest stable ice. 1861 BUCKLE *Civiliz.* II. vii. 368 The surface of our planet, even where it appears perfectly stable is constantly undergoing most extensive changes. 1862 DANA *Man. Geol.* 390 It, however, did not reach north to the Azoic of New York, which was still a portion of the stable part of the continent.

3. Of a material thing or its condition: Able to maintain its place or position; presenting resistance to displacement; not easily shaken or dislodged. *Stable equilibrium*: see EQUILIBRIUM I.

1560 BIBLE (Geneva) 1 *Chron.* xvi. 30 Surely the worlde shal be stable and not moue. 1829 *Nat. Philos., Mechanics* I. iv. 18 (U. K. S.) Of these two positions in which it is possible for the body to rest, the former is called instable, and the latter stable, equilibrium. 1871 B. STEWART *Heat* 43 That the particles may have time to assume their most stable position. 1889 WELCH *Text Bk. Naval Archit.* ii. 19 If a ship when slightly inclined in any particular direction from her position of rest returns towards that position when the inclining forces are removed, it is said to be in stable equilibrium.

b. Of a system of bodies: Having a permanent structure or constitution; not liable to disintegration.

1839 MOSELEY *Astron.* lxxvii. (1854) 216 The system of Planets is stable, the System of Comets is unstable. 1845 WHEWELL *Indic. Creator* 32 The state of the solar system is stable.

c. Of a chemical compound or combination: Not at once decomposing.

Stable dextrin: the fifth or remaining amylin group after the other four amylin groups in starch have been split off by the action of diastene.

1850 DAUBENY *Atom. Theory* vii. (ed. 2) 190 These compounds are..much less stable, being decomposed by very slight causes. 1862 SPENCER *First Princ.* II. xiii. § 101 (1875) 293 Stable compounds contain comparatively little molecular motion. 1900 *Jrnl. Soc. Dyers* XVI. 6 Causing the indigo white to separate out in a stable condition.

4. Not liable to fail or vary.

a. Of government, institutions, customs, etc.: Securely established; not liable to destruction or essential change. Often with fig. notion of 1.

c 1290 *St. Oswold* 5 in *S. Eng. Leg.* 45 For he was king are cristindom puyrliche stable were. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* III. 233 Thei [pity and justice]..ben of vertu most vailable To make a kinges regne stable. *c* 1520 NISBET *N. T.*, *Epist. O. Test.* (S. T. S.) III. 277 And thar salbe na mark nor na terme of his kingdom, and he sal mak it stabile in the wed of beleue. 1574 *Mirr. Mag., Albanact* lvi, But..as no state can stable stande for aye. *c* 1610 *Women Saints* 37 It was thought that this new kingdome would not be stable and firme for long continuance, vnlesse they had wiues of their owne nation. 1849–50 ALISON *Hist. Europe* I. iv. § 18. 446 Men..deemed present institutions stable, because they had never seen them shaken. 1856 FROUDE *Hist. Eng.* (1858) I. v. 412 His kingdom demanded the security of a stable succession. 1911 SELIGMANN *Veddas* i. 25 Vijaya found some sort of stable political organization on his arrival in the island [of Ceylon].

†b. Of a law, covenant, promise, etc.: Firm, not to be repealed or retracted. Phrases, *to hold* (something) *stable*, *to stand stable*. *Obs.*

1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 6430 þis word was iholde stable & iloked uor dom. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Clerk's T.* 663 But now I woot youre lust and what ye wolde Al youre plesance ferme and stable I holde. *c* 1450 *Godstow Reg.* 31 Holdynge ferme & stable what euyr he wolde do ther-with, & neuyr to haue more clayme, ne eny of hys eyrys, for euyr-more. 1464 *Rolls of Parlt.* V. 529/2 That almaner Yeftes and Grauntes..made, stand ferme and stable. 1474 CAXTON *Chesse* II. i. (1883) 21 Therfore hym ought to saye no thynge but yf hit were veritable and stable. 1533 *City Lond. Let. Bk. O* lf. 213 in *Vicary's Anat.* (1888) App. xiv. 264 This present graunte..shall..be contynewed ferme and stable as concernyng the sayde Barbour-surgeons. 1543–4 *Act* 35 *Hen. VIII*, c. 9 The which order..shall stande firme and stable, and for a full determinate order. 1759 in *Nairne Peerage Evid.* (1874) 65 All which I oblige me to hold firm and stable without revocation.

†c. Of faith, resolve, love, friendship, etc.: Not changing, constant. *Obs.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 26158 We hope he sal flaue for-giuenes, For þe trouth and stabil fai þat he was in in his last dai. *c* 1340 HAMPOLE *Prose Treat.* 7 And for-thy I had na stabyll purpos in gude, na perfite contrycyone. 1402 HOCCLEVE *Let. Cupid* 447 In womman regneth stable constance. *c* 1450 *Mirk's Festial* 74 Full contricion wyth schryft, full charite wythout feynyng, and stabull fayth wythout flateryng. 1549–62 STERNHOLD & H. *Ps.* li. 10 (2nd vers.) Within my bowels Lord, renue a stable sprite. 1568 GRAFTON *Chron.* II. 484 There shal be from henceforward..stable friendship, betwene the same realmes. *c* 1610 *Women Saints* 51 An husband immortall, whose death may not grieue me, and whose loue shall be constant and stable.

†d. Of counsel, judgement, intellect: Trustworthy, sound. *Obs.*

1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 1245, & as he & is conseil stable conseil nome þe lettres he sende to Iuli þe emperour of rome. *Ibid.* 11489. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 1423 Yche wegh þat is wise & of wit stable. 1477 NORTON *Ordin. Alch.* i. in Ashm. (1652) 14 For his Trewth, Vertue, and for his stable Witt.

e. Of a doctrine, theory, conclusion: Securely established, not likely to be disproved or found wanting.

1480 CAXTON *Myrr.* I. xiii. 42 Thus ben not the sciences muable but alleway ben estable and trewe. 1862 RUSKIN *Unto this Last* Pref., It was..the first object of these papers to give an accurate and stable definition of wealth. 1891 *Hardwicke's Sci. Gossip* XXVII. 73/1 Even if with further research it led to no good and stable result.

†f. Permanent; of durable nature or quality.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 26770 Bot þat þi stabil pes mai last To crist þou hald þi penance fast. *c* 1400 tr. *Secreta Secret., Gov. Lordsh.* 57 Gete þe stabyl richesse, a lyf þat may noght be chaungyd, a kyngdome ay lastand dilatable. *Ibid.* 62 Brekand allyance stabyl ffor welfare and profyt of men. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* III. 113 They bestow their money in stable things, to serve their posteritie. *c* 1645 HOWELL *Lett.* (1655) I. iv. vii. 172, I am not setled yet in any stable condition, but I lie Windbound at the Cape of Good Hope. 1660 STANLEY *Hist. Philos.* (1701) XIII. 615/1 Some pertain ..to..the pleasure which consists in motion; others to felicity itself, (as that of indolence and tranquility or stable pleasure). 1683 SNAPE *Anat. Horse* (1686) App. I. i. 11 At the end of the fourth day, the Stalk tending upwards, (the outer or Sheath-leaf being loosened) puts forth the Stable-leaf [L. *folium stabile*] that is green and folded. 1742 YOUNG *Nt. Th.* I. 168 How I dreamt Of stable pleasures on the tossing wave?

†g. Of a language: Having fixed meanings. *Obs. rare.*

1679 DRYDEN *Troilus & Cr.* Ep. Ded., I am often put to a stand..And have no other way to clear my doubts, but by translating my English into Latine, and thereby trying what sence the words will bear in a more stable language.

†h. *Math.* = CONSTANT *a.* 5. *Obs.*

1727–41 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s. v. *Calculus*, Stable Quantities being always express'd by the first Letters of the alphabet.

i. Of properties, movements, agencies, etc.: Persisting without essential or permanent change of character.

1742 HUME *Ess. & Treat.* (1777) I. 115 When the event is supposed to proceed from certain and stable causes. 1878 TAIT & STEWART *Unseen Univ.* vi. § 179. 182 Two kinds, one of which makes use of the stable forces of nature and the other of the unstable. 1884 tr. *Lotze's Logic* 32 In..metal where there is no difficulty in regarding the marks of colour, brilliancy, and hardness as stable properties of that which they describe.

j. Of animal or vegetable species: Unvarying.

1889 A. R. WALLACE *Darwinism* (1890) 42 Wild animals and plants, it is said, are usually stable.

†5. Of look or countenance: Steady, unabashed.

c 1440 *Generydes* 1988 Beholdyng them with countenaunce right stabill. *c* 1475 *Babees Bk.* 65 And yf they speke withe yow at youre kómynge, Withe stable Eye loke vpone theym Rihte. 1635 R. N. tr. *Camden's Hist. Eliz.* III. 329 The Queene of Scots..with a stable and stedfast countenance.. gave thanks to God.

6. Of persons and their dispositions.

a. Steadfast in purpose or resolution; settled in character, not fickle, changeable, or frivolous. In early use also, †Trustworthy, sound in counsel or judgement. Phrase, † *To stand stable.*

a 1275 *Prov. Alfred* 673 in *O. E. Misc.*, Ac nim þe to þe a stable mon, þat word and dede bi-sette con. *c* 1290 *Beket* 240 in *S. Eng. Leg.* 113 Of þe Ercedekne Thomas, Men tolden him sone i-nouȝ, hov he was stable Man and wis, and to alle guodnesse drouȝ. 1362 LANGL. *P. Pl.* A. x. 110 Hold þe stable and studefast And strengþe þi-seluen. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* VI. xii. (1495) 196 Men ben more wyse and wyity, more stedfaste and stable than wymmen. *c* 1400 *Rule St. Benet, Ord. Nuns* 142 To þam þat..standis stabill in-to þe purpose þat þa be-gane, it is [etc.]. *c* 1450 HOLLAND *Howlat* 174 Stable and steidfast, tender and trewe. 1500 *Ortus Vocab., Continens*, stable or chaste. 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* xx. 43 Hald God thy freind, evir stabill be him stand. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 86 b, Let vs be stable and neuer loke backwarde agayne to the worlde. 1588 A. KING tr. *Canisius' Catech.* 46 It is the Apostolicke doctrine, to stand firme, and stabill in ye traditions also quhilk ar nocht within.

†b. const. *of*, *in* (thoughts, purposes, words, etc.): cf. senses 4 c, 4 d. *Obs.*

c 1290 *St. Michael* 675 in *S. Eng. Leg.* 319 Ho·so hath of þe eorþe mest he is slouȝ ase þe Asse,..Sone old and nouȝt willesfol stable and studefast of mod. *c* 1320 *Cast. Love* 384 þou art also so trewe a kyng, And stable of þouȝt in alle þyng. *a* 1375 *Joseph Arim.* 245 Bote beo ȝe stable in oure fei and folowe þ vre werkes. *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (Roxb.) xxxi. 139 All gude Cristen men, þat er stable in þe faith, may ga in to þat valay. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 10654 Ector..was stithist of stoure, stabill of hert. *c* 1477 CAXTON *Jason* 97 Considering the..promesse that he had made with Medea [Jason] abode ferme and stable in his firste purpoos. *c* 1500 *Lancelot* 1671 And of thi wordis beis trew and stable. 1552 *Bk. Com. Prayer, Ordering of Deacons*, Continuing euer stable and strong in thy sonne Christe. 1698 BUNYAN *Pilgr.* I. 34 Things to make me stable In what I have began to take in hand.

†c. Constant in affection. Const. *to*. *Obs.*

13.. *Cato* 214 in *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* 570 Hose feyneþ him frend with word And not wiþ herte stable.

c 1374 CHAUCER *Compl. Mars* 281 Ye, my ladyes, that ben true and stable. c 1386 — *Clerk's T.* 931 And to hire housbonde euere meke and stable. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* II. 16 The god of love is favorable To hem that ben of love stable.

†**d.** In a bad sense: Persistent. *Obs.*

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 471/2 Stable, and a-bydyng yn malyce, *pervicax, pertinax.*

†**e.** Strong, capable of endurance. *Obs.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 13 His [*sc.* King Arthur's] knythes..Als wawan, cai, and other stabell. 13.. *Evang. Nicod.* 150 (MS. Harley) He bad þam tak men more myghty, Strang and stabyll of state. c 1430 LYDG. *Min. Poems* (Percy Soc.) 98 Holy Helyas..Made stronge in spirite fourty dayes went In his journay, the brede made hym so stable. c 1470 *Gol. & Gaw.* 741 Ane sterne knyght, stalwart and stabill.

†**f.** Of God or a deity: Unchangeable. *Obs.*

c 1385 CHAUCER *L. G. W.* 346 A god ne sholde nat be thus agreued But of hys deitee he shal be stable. c 1386 — *Frankl. T.* 143 That semen rather a foul confusion Of werk than any fair creacion Of swich a parfit wys god and a stable. 1700 DRYDEN *Pal. & Arc.* III. 1046 He perfect, stable; but imperfect We, Subject to Change, and diff'rent in Degree.

†**Stable,** *v.*[1] *Obs.* Also 3-4 **stablen,** 3-6 **stabil,** 3, 5-6 **stabul,** 4 **stabil(l)e,** 4-5 **stabel, stabulle,** 4-6 **stabill, -yl, -yll(e, (stabelyn).** [Variant of ESTABLE *v.*, a. OF. *establir* :—L. *stabilīre*, f. *stabili-s* STABLE *a.* Cf. ESTABLISH, STABLISH *vbs.*]

1. *trans.* To make stable, in various senses; to strengthen, render firm or fixed; to render steadfast; to bring into a secure or permanent condition; to confirm, ratify.

a 1300 *Birth of Jesus* 110 in Horstm. *Alteng. Leg.* (1875) 70 (Ashm. MS.) Vche ȝer also ioachim to þe temple wende þre siþe, to stable [*v. r.* stablen] his biheste, ȝif god him eny sende. a 1300 *Cursor M.* 19262 Cristen kirc, þan it bigan, Veit was it noght stablid [*Fairf.* stabeled] þan. 1338 R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (1725) 244 Wardeyns gode he sette, to stabille þe lond. c 1380 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* II. 178 Þis bileve shulde stable men to stonde stifly in Goddis cause. c 1386 CHAUCER *Merch. T.* 1161 (Harl. MS. 1758) Till that your sight stablid [*v. rr.* y-stabled, I-stabled, ysatled] be a while Ther may full many a sight you be-gile. a 1400–50 *Bk. Curtasye* 169 in *Babees Bk.*, When þou ministers at þe heghe autere, With bothe hondes þou serue þo prest in fere, þe ton to stabulle þe toþer Lest þou fayle, my dere broþer. c 1400 *Beryn* 1976 Sith I the fynde in suche plyte, our bargain for to stabill, Wee woll tofore þe Steward, þere we both shull have riȝte. c 1400 LOVE *Bonavent. Mirr.* (1907) 212 In feithe also he enformed hem and stabled hem more perfitely in byleue of his godhede. c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 471/2 S(t)abelyn, or make stable and stede..*stabilio, solido.* c 1450 *Myrr. our Ladye* 297 Forsothe god hathe stabeled the erthe, whiche shall not be meued. c 1485 *Digby Myst.* (1882) II. 569 Stabyll your syghtes, and look ye not stunt. 1501–2 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* II. 140 To David Grame, to pas to Glasgo to stabill his procuratouris and to mak his expens on his pley, lvj s. 1538 STARKEY *England* I. ii. 42 Man, stablyd and confyrmyd wyth perfayt and sure hope. 1545 RAYNALD *Byrth Mankynde* 148 To stable & stedfast the teathe and to kepe the gumms in good case.

b. To base or ground (an argument, etc.) *upon.*

1521 FISHER *Serm. agst. Luther* i. Wks. (1876) 313, The fyrst .iij. instruccyons..shall vndermyne .iij. great groundes wher vpon Martyn doth stable in maner all his articles.

2. To put or set up in a certain position or place, or in a safe or firm place. *To stable up*: to collect and place; *pass.* to have taken one's stand.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 24628 Fra me ne wald þai na wight tuin, Til i com til mi cosin in, Þar stabild þai mi stall. c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xliv. (*Lucy*) 163 My patrimone haf I stablit in sa sekire place quhare foule corrupcion neuir ves. a 1400–50 *Wars Alex.* 1091 May þou oȝt, lede, þe ȝonder lawe lyft on þi schulder, And stire it oute of þe stede & stable in a-nothire? *Ibid.* 1367 To stable vp a grete strenthe all on store schipis, Hugir be þe halfe dele & hiȝere þan þe toþire. c 1475 *Hunting Hare* 109 When that ye bin stabult up, I wylle ryde and putt her [the hare] vp.

3. To ordain permanently, establish, fix, institute; to appoint, settle.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 25429 Þou þat has þis werld all wroght, And stabuld it in skill. 1303 R. BRUNNE *Handl. Synne* 1604 Þys [sixth] comaundment ys of prys, For hyt was stabled yn paradys. 1389 in *Eng. Gilds* (1870) 54 In septembre yis fraternite is funded & stabeled. 1423 *City Lond. Cal. Let. Bk. I* (1909) 294 It is ordeyned and stabled that payement be made anon upon such purveaunce made. 1516 in *Eng. Gilds* (1870) 328 Be hit [the ordinance] ordeynyd and stablyd, by þe M. and Wardens. 1538 STARKEY *England* I. i. 16 The same law.. ys so stablyd and set, that [etc.]. 1538 ELYOT *Dict.*, *Statuo*, to ordayne, to determyne, to set faste, to stable a thinge.

4. To establish, install or secure in a possession, office, or dignity, etc.

1300–1400 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) App. xx. 400 Þis king duc henri to sone þo nom & stablede him þer his eir of þis kinedom. a 1340 HAMPOLE *Ps.* ii. 6, I am stabild kynge [Vulg. *constitutus sum rex*]. 1473 *Rental Bk. Cupar-Angus* (1879) I. 190 Gif he thinks he ma do better to stabil hym in othir placis. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* v. xii. 182 Ane hallowit schaw..as sanctuar, Plantit thai haif, and stabillit preistis thair.

b. To secure *to* (a person, or oneself).

1536 BELLENDEN *Cron. Scot.* III. vii. (1821) I. 87 This Guiderius, seing the realme stabillit to him, thocht hevy, that the Britonis suld leif under servitude of Romanis. *Ibid.* VI. xvii. 238 We mon othir be vincust..or ellis to be victouris, and stabill oure landis to us with glore, honoure, and permanent eis.

5. ? To hold fast.

c 1440 *York Myst.* xxiii. 187 Sir, oure strength myght not stabill tham stille. a 1593 MARLOWE *Ovid's Elegies* I. ix. 39 Mars in the deed the black-smithes net did stable.

6. *intr.* **a.** To come to a stand, cease from action; to refrain (from tears).

1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. I. 120 Til god of his goodnesse gan stable [*v. r.* stablisse] and stynte. c 1400 *Destr. Troy* 3386 Who might stithly absteyne, or stable of teris, þat prestly were pricket with paynes so fele?

b. To become stable.

1399 LANGL. *Rich. Redeles* I. 10 Of alegeaunce now lerneth a lesson oþer tweyne Wher-by it standith and stablithe moste—By drede, or by dyntis or domes vntrewe [etc.]. *Ibid.* III. 249 Iche rewme vndir roff of þe reyne-bowe Sholde stable and stonde be þese þre degres.

Stable (stē·b'l), *v.*[2] Also 5 **stabel,** 5–6 **stabil,** (6 **stabble**). [f. STABLE *sb.*[1] Cf. OF. *establer* (perh. the source); also L. *stabulāre, -ārī* intr.]

1. *trans.* To put (a horse) into a stable, or into a place which is used as a stable. Formerly also with *up* (rare).

13.. *Coer de L.* 6770 At the gate he sette porters, And stablede up hys destrers. c 1380 *Sir Ferumb.* 3753 Wan þay had mad fast aboute & y-stablyd þe stede. 1475 *Bk. Noblesse* (Roxb.) 75 He on a tyme..stabled his hors in Salamon is Temple. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* VI. iv. 102 The Centawris wer stabillit at this port. 1557 TUSSER 100 *Points Husb.* xxxviii, When pasture is gone,..then stable thy plough horse. 1598 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. ii. IV. *Columnes* 461 Stabbling Thy smoaking Coursers under th' Earth, to bait. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* VIII. xliii. I. 223 Wheresoever they [asses] bee stabled, they love to lie at large and have roume ynough. 1688 CLAYTON in *Phil. Trans.* XVIII. 121 They never Shoe them, nor Stable them in general. a 1791 *Lochmaben Harper* iv. in Child *Ballads* IV. 18/2 Gae stable up the harper's mare. 1820 SCOTT *Monast.* xiv, Art thou there, old Truepenny? here, stable me these steeds, and see them well bedded. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* iii. I. 293 A third could never go into his parish church without being reminded..that Oliver's redcoats had once stabled their horses there. 1890 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Col. Reformer* (1891) 117 As soon as I have stabled the horses.

b. Of a building: To afford stabling for.

1903 TALLENTYRE *Voltaire* xxxii. (1905) 338 An immense barn which stabled fifty cows and their calves.

2. *intr.* Of an animal: To live in a stable.

1508 *Extracts Burgh Rec. Edin.* (1869) I. 117 With..sufficient lokkis..for thair duris, for the sure keping of the hors that stabillis with thame. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* IV. xi. I. 78 There, stood the towne Tinda, terrible for the horses of Diomedes that stabled there. 1878 BOSW. SMITH *Carthage* xxi. 423 The domestic animals of the Arabs are found stabling in the very buildings which may once, perhaps, have sheltered the Carthaginian Elephants.

b. *transf.* To live as in a stable.

1651 N. BACON *Disc. Govt. Eng.* II. xxx. 239 Forgetting their ancient yoke fellows the rural Presbyters, they stable with the King. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* XI. 748 In thir Palaces.. Sea-monsters whelp'd And stabl'd. 1774 J. BRYANT *Mythol.* I. 470 All the monsters of the sea stabled in the cavities at the foot the mountain. 1817 SHELLEY *Revolt Islam* II. iv, Tyrants dwelt side by side, And stabled in our homes. 1909 R. BRIDGES *Ibant obscuri* Poet. Wks. (1913) 449 [*Æneid* VI. 286] And many strange creatures of monstrous form and features Stable about th' entrance.

†**3.** To turn into a stable. *Obs. rare*—[1].

1649 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Wand. West* 19 Exeter..is a faire sweete City, a goodly Cathedrall Church (not yet quite spoyled or stabled).

†**Sta·ble,** *v.*[3] *Obs.* [Perh. f. STABLE *a.* (in sense 2, stationary); but cf. the later STABBLE *v.*, which has some affinity of sense.] *passive* and *refl.* To stick fast in the mud. Also *fig. Obs.*

In quot. 1640 app. associated with STABLE *v.*[2]

1569 CAMPION *Hist. Irel.* II. ix. (1633) 113 This is a doughty kinde of accusation, which they urge against mee, wherein they are stabled and myred at my first denyall. 1598 FLORIO *Dict.* Ep. Ded. 3, I many times in many words haue beene so stal'd and stabled. 1627 DRAYTON *Moon-calf, Batt. Agincourt*, etc. 184 They..In the stiffe mud are quickly stabled fast. 1629 GAULE *Holy Madn.* 196 Thoul't either jade, or stable thyselfe. 1640 E. DACRES tr. *Machiavelli's Prince* 268 The bottom proving rotten and miry, some of the Horse came over and over on their riders, and many stuck so fast in the mud that they were there stabled.

Stable, obs. form of STAPLE.

Stable, variant of STABLY *sb. Obs.*

†**Sta·bled,** *ppl. a.*[1] *Obs.* [f. STABLE *v.*[1] + -ED[1].] In senses of the verb.

c 1400 *Secreta Secret., Gov. Lordsh.* 66 Wete also þat stablyd planetys vnmooable ar a þousand twenty and nyne. c 1449 PECOCK *Repr.* II. iv. 156 For noon such fonnys opiniouns..is eny long bifore stabilid gouernaunce to be left and to be leid aside. 1568 T. HOWELL *Arb. Amitie* (1879) 25 Then manhood makth a stabled minde, none youthly prancks we haue.

Stabled (stē·b'ld), *ppl. a.*[2] [f. STABLE *sb.* or *v.*[2] + -ED.] Put into a stable, sheltered in a stable.

1634 MILTON *Comus* 534 He and his monstrous rout are heard to howl Like stabl'd wolves. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. IV. iii, Motionless, as the brave stabled steed when conflagration rises.

Stable door. The door of a stable. Prov. *to shut* (*lock*, etc.) *the stable door when the horse is stolen*, to take preventive measures too late.

13.. *Sir Beues* 2152 At stable dore to him ȝhe sede [etc.]. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* xxxii, Isidor watched the stable-door constantly.

1390 GOWER *Conf.* II. 32 For whan the grete Stiede Is stole, thanne he [Negligence] taketh hiede, And makth the stable dore fast. c 1450 *Lat. & Eng. Prov.* (MS. Douce 52) lf. 16 When þe hors is stole steke þe stabull dore. 1509 WATSON *Ship of Fools* xii. (1517) D iv, The foole..shytteth the stable doore whan the horse is stolen. 1523 SKELTON *Garl. Laurel* 1435 When the stede is stolyn, sparr the stable dur. 1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* II. (Globe) 387 It was only shutting the Stable Door after the Stead was stoln. 1887 D. C. MURRAY *Old Blazer's Hero* iv, To lock the stable-door when the mare is stolen.

Stableful (stē·b'lful). *rare.* [f. STABLE *sb.* + -FULL.] As much or as many as fills a stable.

1858 TROLLOPE *Dr. Thorne* v. (1859) 63 The stableful of horses which had belonged to himself.

†**Stablehead.** *Obs. rare*—[1]. [f. STABLE *a.* + -HEAD.] Stability.

c 1380 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* I. 69 Þere is more stabilhede in wordis þat ben seid of Crist.

†**Sta·blement.** *Obs.* Also 5 **stabilement, establement.** [a. OF. *establement*, f. *establir*: see STABLE *v.* and -MENT. Cf. L. *stabilimentum.*]

a. An ordinance, regulation: = ESTABLISHMENT.

b. Something that establishes or supports.

c 1400 tr. *Secreta Secret., Gov. Lordsh.* 55 First soueraynly it fallys to a kynge þat he attempre hym with trewe stablements & lawes. 1423 *City Lond. Cal. Let. Bk. I* (1909) 290 And if ony..wolde take onything ageyn this stabilement, no man be bounden to obeye to him. *Ibid.* 291 If any fele him greved ageyn this establement. 1481 *Tully of Old Age* (Caxton) i. 1 b (R.), The life to come is the stablement and the propre house of myne undedly soule. a 1603 T. CARTWRIGHT *Confut. Rhem. N. T.* (1618) 554 The Church of Rome is the pillar and stablement of truth.

Stableness (stē·b'lnés). Now *rare.* Also 4–5 **stablynesse,** 6 **stablynes.** [f. STABLE *a.* + -NESS.] The quality or condition of being stable: = STABILITY.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 23541 Bot in þat mikel stabilnes [*v. r.* stablenes, stabulnes], Sal nan yerne be bot þat he es. c 1374 CHAUCER *Boeth.* IV. vi. 30 Al that moeveth in any manere, taketh his causes..of the stablenesse of the divyne thoght. c 1400 *Rule St. Benet* (Prose) lxii. 40 Þe reule of stabilnes. 1421 HOCCLEVE *Compl.* 9 Stablenes in this worlde is there none; there is no thinge but chaunge and variaunce. 1561 T. HOBY tr. *Castiglione's Courtyer* III. (1577) O iv, I impute it to the surenesse and stablenesse of the woman, and wauering of the man. 1605 SHAKS. *Macb.* IV. iii. 92. 1646 P. BULKELEY *Gospel Covt.* V. 360 He grounds the truth and certainty of the promise upon the stablenesse of God's counsell. 1702 EARL OF MARCHMONT in *Lond. Gaz.* No. 3819/3 Her Stableness in, and Fidelity to, the Protestant Religion. 1909 *19th Cent.* Oct. 677 Disconcerting to our sense of stableness and identity.

Stabler (stē·blə1). Now *Sc.* Forms: 5 **stabyler, (stabyller),** 6 **stabulare, stabillar,** 7 **staibler.** [a. OF. *establier, f. estable* : see STABLE *sb.* and -ER[2]. Cf. L. *stabulārius.*] A stable-keeper.

14.. *Nom.* in Wr.-Wülcker 684/41 *Hic stabularius*, a stabyler. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 357/2 A Stabyller, *stabularius.* 1508 *Extracts Burgh Rec. Edin.* (1869) I. 117 That all stabulares within this burgh haif thair stabilles weill and sufficientlie furnist with hek [and] manyger. 1529 *Ibid.* (1871) II. 6 All maner of stabillar within this burgh. 1611 *Extracts Rec. Convent. Burghs Scot.* (1870) II. 317 His maiesteis lieges wer gritlie abusit be the staiblers. 1676 ROW *Contin. Blair's Autobiog.* ix. (1848) 147 A pursuivant calling to a stabler, to provide against tomorrow morning two horses. 1722 DE FOE *Col. Jack* (1840) 109 The stabler, so they call the people at Edinburgh that take in horses to keep. 1821 *Blackw. Mag.* IX. 331 The humble dwelling of a stabler in the Grassmarket. a 1864 HAWTHORNE *Amer. Note-bks.* (1879) II. 173 They appear to be busy men, these stablers.

†**Stable-stand.** [f. *stable* var. STABLY *sb.* + STAND *v.*] See quot.

The word was conjecturally substituted by Hanmer (1744) for *stables* in *Winter's Tale* II. i. 134; the passage with Hanmer's reading is quoted by Johnson as Shakspere's.

1598 MANWOOD *Laws of Forest* xviii. § 9. 114 b, By the Assises of the Forrest of Lancaster [*margin* Assisa forestæ de Lancast. fol. 63], Taken with the maner, is when one is found in the kings Forrest in any one of these 4. degrees, viz. Stable stand Dogge drawe Back Beare and Bloudy hand. Stable stande is, when a man is found in any Forrest at his standing, with a Crosse bowe bent, ready to shoote at any Deere, or, with a long bow, or els, standing close by a tree with Greyhounds in his lease, ready to let slip.

†**Sta·blet.** *Obs.*—[0] [a. OF. *establete*, dim. of *étable* : see STABLE *sb.*[1] and -ET.] A small stable, stall, pen.

1585 HIGINS *Junius' Nomencl.* 191/2 Stabulum..Estable, a stablet, a stal: a place for fodder.

†**Sta·bling,** *vbl. sb.*[1] *Obs.* [f. STABLE *v.*[1] + -ING[1].] The action of STABLE *v.*[1]

c 1380 WYCLIF *Wks.* (1880) 229 Þei techen opynly for worschipe of god & profit of þe reume and stablynge of þe kyngis power & distroynge of synne. c 1449 PECOCK *Repr.* I. xvi. 91 The firme stabiling of al the chirche. 1538 STARKEY *England* II. iii. 209 So the confyrmyng and stablyng of thys celestyal doctryne stondyth chefely in the offycerys therof.

Stabling (stē·blin), *vbl. sb.*[2] [f. STABLE *v.*[2] (? and *sb.*) + -ING[1].] The action of placing or accommodating (horses) in a stable; stable accommodation; stable-buildings collectively.

1481–90 *Howard Househ. Bks.* (Roxb.) 322 Item. for the stabilling of iiij. cartes iiij.d. 1494 in Aungier *Syon* (1840) 79 Fyndynge..to theym..mete, drynke, horsmete, loggynge, stablenge, and all other thyngs necessary. 1586 *Exch. Rolls Scot.* XXI. 617 The expensis requisit to his hienes hous and stabling. 1683 CHAS. II in *Buccleuch MSS.* (Hist. MSS. Comm.) I. 439 For whom our Harbingers are to provide lodging and stabling near our Court. 1735 THOMSON *Liberty* III. 370 A Stabling now for Wolves. 1782 R. CUMBERLAND *Anecd. Emin. Painters* II. 171 His Majesty is now adding wings and a corps of stabling, which are far advanced. 1813 *Sporting Mag.* XLII. 53 A very beautiful engraving of the Stabling at Errol House. 1841 DICKENS *Barn. Rudge* x, You can give my horse good stabling, can you. 1850 THACKERAY *Pendennis* lxxv, Excellent stabling and loose boxes for horses at the 'Clavering Arms'. 1886 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 10 Apr. 5/2 The chapel, guard-room,

entrance tower, and stablings. 1890 'R. Boldrewood' *Col. Reformer* (1891) 276 The long range of stabling at no inconvenient distance.

attrib. 1899 *Daily News* 23 June 8/5 Comfortable stabling quarters.

Stablish (stæ·bliʃ), *v.* Now *arch.* Forms: 3–5 **stablis**, 4 **stablys**, **stablisce**, 4–5 **stablisse**, 4, 6 **stablische**, 4–6 **stablisshe**, 5 **stablice**, **-esshe**, **-ych**, **-ysh**, 5–6 **stablysche**, **-ysshe**, 6 **stablyshe**, **-ishe**, (**stablysszhe**), 8–9 **'stablish**, 4– **stablish**; also *pa. t.* and *pa. pple.* 3–4 **stablist**, 4 **stablyste** (*Sc.* **stabelaste**), 4, 6 **stabliste**. [Variant of Establish *v.*] = Establish *v.* in various senses.

From the 16th c. there seems to have been a tendency to confine the use of the form *stablish* to those uses in which the relation of meaning to *stable* adj. is apparent, i. e. where the notion is rather 'to strengthen or support (something existing)' than 'to found or set up'. The modern currency of the word is purely literary, and reminiscent of the Bible or Prayer Book.

1. *trans.* To place or set (a material thing) firmly in position; to station (a person) in a place. *Obs.* exc. in figurative context.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 21288 Tuin axils [of an allegorical 'wain'] er tuin laghs, i-wiss,..þe carter self is iesus crist, His bodi es yock he has stablist. *a* 1325 *Prose Ps.* xxx[i]. 10 Ne þou ne shettest me nouȝt in þe hondes of þyn enemy; þou stablisced my fete in large stede. *c* 1450 *Merlin* iii. 59 Ye shall stablisshe the thirde table in the name of the trinite. *c* 1500 *Melusine* i. 17 There the lady Pressyne stablysshed a stronge geaunt to the sauegarde of the tresoure. 1650 *Sc. Psalms* xciii. 5 The world is also stablished, that it can not depart. 1845 Bailey *Festus* (ed. 2) 198 Heaven's eternal base, Whereon God's throne is stablished.

2. To set (a person, etc.) permanently in an office, dignity, or condition.

c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xii. (Mathias) 318 Spedful thinge vare & gud, þat we stablyste ane in þe place, þe quhyle to supple of Iudas. 1439 *Charters*, etc. *Edin.* (1871) 64 We.. be thir present lettres makis, stablissis, and ordanis..schir Robert Logane .. oure baileye off fee. 1470–85 Malory *Arthur* iii. xv. 118 The kyng stablysshed all his knyghtes and gaf them that were of londes not ryche he gaf them londes. 1483 Caxton *G. de la Tour* h j b, God chose and stablysshed [*c* 1450 lxxxvii. 111 ordeyned] hym [Moses] mayster and gouournour ouer alle his people. 1738 Wesley *Ps.* cxxxii. iv, I will thy faithful seed increase, And 'stablish them on David's Throne. 1805–6 Cary *Dante*, *Inf.* ii. 24 Both which..were ordain'd And stablish'd for the holy place, where sits Who to great Peter's sacred chair succeeds.

†**3.** To ordain permanently (a law, rule, etc.)

c 1386 Chaucer *Knt.'s T.* 2137 That same prince..Hath stablissed in this wrecched world adoun Certeyne dayes and duraciouη [etc.]. 1387–8 T. Usk *Test. Love* i. v. (Skeat) 58 Wiste thou not wel that al the lawe of kynde is my lawe, and by god ordayned and stablisshed to dure by kynde resoun? *c* 1417 Hoccleve *De Reg. Princ.* 2232 By sotilte Brekynge bondes þat stablisshed were Mankynde to profite. *a* 1483 *Liber Niger* in *Househ. Ord.* (1790) 18 Hardeknoute was the furst that began iiii meales stablyshed in oon day. 1530 Palsgr. 731/2, I stablysshe, I make by acte, *je actifye*. 1561 T. Norton *Calvin's Inst.* Pref. A v b, This bound they forgot, when they stablished..so many maisterly determinations without any woord of God. 1615 Sylvester *Joh Triumphant* iii. 329 For the raine hee stablisht a Decree.

†**4.** To set up or found securely (a government, a condition of things). *Obs.*

1591 Shaks. *1 Hen. VI*, v. i. 10 And stablish quietnesse on euery side. 1612 T. Taylor *Comm. Titus* iii. 1 We haue stablished the regal power ouer all persons Ecclesiastical as well as others. 1855 Singleton *Virgil* II. 493 In suchlike words between them stablished they [*firmabant*] The leagues amid the nobles' view.

†**5.** To bring into settled order (a country, affairs, etc.). *Obs.*

1375 Barbour *Bruce* x. 303 He wex so wiss and avise, That his land first weill stablist he. 1470–85 Malory *Arthur* i. vii. 44 Whanne..the kyng had stablisshed alle the countreyes aboute london. 1600 E. Blount tr. *Conestaggio* 221 He now laboured to stablish the affaires.

6. To render indubitable, support by proof or testimony.

a 1325 *MS. Rawl. B.* 520 lf. 57 ȝif he stablisseth him to be lasse he ne sal nouȝt ansuerien of ani tenement for acheson of possession or of prosprete are he be of plener age. 1530 Palsgr. 731/2 What so ever he saye, I wyll stablysche it. 1550 Cranmer *Def. Bath. Doctr.* title-p., A confutation of sundry errors concernyng the same, grounded and stablished upon Goddes holy woorde. 1561 T. Norton *Calvin's Inst.* iv. 50 That whatsoeuer they shal determine on the one side or the other, maye be stablished and certayne to our mindes. 1885–94 R. Bridges *Eros & Psyche* July x, It is true That much hath hapt to stablish what ye teach.

7. To make secure, strengthen, reinforce.

1382 Wyclif *Rom.* iii. 31 Therefore distrye we the lawe by the feith? Fer be it; but we stablischen [Vulg. *statuimus*] the lawe. *a* 1513 Fabyan *Chron.* i. (1811) 11 When Brute..sawe that he was stablysshed in his Realme quyetly, he..commaundyd [etc.]. 1586 Marlowe *1st Pt. Tamburl.* iv. iv. (*ad fin.*), When holy Fates Shall stablish me in strong Egyptia. 1600 Fairfax *Tasso* x. liii, My weake estate to stablish come thou art. 1611 Bible 1 *Chron.* xviii. 3 As hee went to stablish his dominion. 1667 Milton *P. L.* xii. 347 Remembring..his Cov'nant sworn To David, stablisht as the dayes of Heav'n. 1696 Tate & Brady *Ps.* xciii. 2 How surely stablisht is thy Throne! 1820 Southey *Kehama* xviii. vi, Over Earth and Heaven my reign Is stablish'd. 1869 M. Arnold *Cult. & An.* ii. 92 It is stablishing the State on behalf of whatever great changes are needed.

8. To render stable in faith, virtue, etc.

1447 Bokenam *Seyntys, Christina* 77 In þis [*sc.* faith] me stablych, lorde, I þe preye. 1535 Coverdale *Ps.* li. 12 O geue me the comforte of thy helpe agayne, and stablish me with thy fre sprete. 1568 Grafton *Chron.* II. 662 For he himselfe, whether he were past all feare, or was not well stablished in his perfite minde,..boldely entred into Englande. 1611 Bible 1 *Thess.* iii. 13 To the end hee may stablish your hearts vnblameable in holinesse. 1738 Wesley *Ps.* li. xiii, Stablish, and keep my faithful Heart. 1784 Cowper *Task* ii. 343 He stablishes the strong, restores the weak. 1841 Emerson *Ess.* Ser. i. viii. (1876) 208 Let him go home much, and stablish himself in those courses he approves. 1862 Trench *Poems, Justin Martyr* 15, I thought to arm my soul, And stablish it in self control.

Hence **Stablished** *ppl. a.*, †**Stablishing** *vbl. sb.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 27151 Wit stablising of hali kirck. *a* 1470 Tiptoft *Cæsar* v. xiii. (1530) 16 Dt nyghtys were shorter there than they be in the stablysshed lande [*in continente*]. 1570 T. Norton tr. *Nowell's Catech.* 2 b, All these thinges serue..to the orderly stablishyng of the outward gouernance of the Chirch. 1655 G. Firmin (*title*) Stablishing against Shaking, or a Discovery of the Prince of Darknesse. 1709 Cobb *Poems* (ed. 2) 5 Whose bold Presumption dares transgress Thy stablish'd Articles of Peace, Or disobey thy Law? 1885 R. Bridges *Nero* iii. iv. 162 Thou..yet would'st dare ..to thwart My stablished purpose?

†**Sta·blisher.** *Obs. rare.* [f. Stablish *v.* + -er 1.] One who stablishes.

1535 Coverdale *Heb.* vii. 22 Thus is Iesus become a stablischer of so moch a better Testamente. 1545 Brinklow *Compl.* 12 b, Thow art a stablissher of wicked lawes.

Stablishment (stæ·bliʃmĕnt). *arch.* [var. of Establishment. Cf. Stablish *v.* and -ment.]

1. The action of stablishing or establishing; the condition of being established.

1444 *Rolls of Parlt.* V. 75/2 For the perpetuell stablesshement of the same College. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 133 b, So the stablysshmentes in vertue, & the delectacyons in good workes..ben the fruytes of the holy goost. 1617 Hieron *Penance for Sin* Wks. 1620 II. 268 'Stablish mee with Thy free Spirit'. Here two things:..First, the particularity of the fauour which Dauid craues, stablishment, confirmation in good. 1677 Gale *Crt. Gentiles* iv. i. iv. 144 Not to be punished for sin is the stablissement of Sin. *a* 1721 Ken *Hymns Festiv.* Poet. Wks. 1721 I. 338 May we..Thy sacred Truth embrace, With strength of Faith, and Stablishment in Grace. 1898 S. Evans *Holy Graal* 103 Prayer to God that He would recover back the walls in such stablishment as they were aforetime.

b. Confirmed possession.

1606 Shaks. *Ant. & Cl.* iii. vi. 9 Vnto her He gaue the stablishment of Egypt.

†**2.** Something established, a statute, ordinance.

1387–8 T. Usk *Test. Love* iii. i. (Skeat) 132 Under whiche lawe..bothe..arn..bounden..as by knotte of loves statutes and stablissment in kynde. 1473 *Rolls of Parlt.* VI. 83/1 Any other Acte, Statute, Stablisshement or Ordenaunce, made or to be made in this present Parlement.

3. A means of establishing or strengthening.

1533 More *Confut. Tindale* viii. Wks. 665/1 To thentent that his catholike church may be to euery man that wil learne therof & giue credence therunto as himself commaundeth eueri man to do, a very sure stablishment and a stronge pyller of trouthe.

†**Sta·blishness.** *Obs. rare*—°. [f. Stablish *v.* + -ness.] Stability.

1530 Palsgr. 275/1 Stablysshnesse, *estableté*.

†**Sta·bly,** *sb. Obs.* Also 4–5 **stable.** [a. AF. *establie* (latinized *stabilia, stabilea, stablea*: see G. J. Turner, *Sel. Pleas of Forest*, Gloss.), f. *establir* to station, Establish. Cf. med.L. *stabilitiones venationum* (Domesday Book).]

1. *Hunting.* A besetting of a wood with men, hounds in leash, nets, etc. for the purpose of taking deer, etc.

13.. *Gaw. & Gr. Kn.* 1153 Bot heterly þay were Restayed with þe stablye, þat stoutly ascryed. *c* 1400 *Master of Game* (MS. Digby 182) xxxv, And if þe sette be wyde, þe forseyd forster..shulde warne þe Sherefe of þe Shyre.. forto ordeyne stable suffisaunte and kartes eke forto brynge þe deer þat shulde be slayne. *c* 1425 Wyntoun *Chron.* vi. xvi. 1609 As he past..In til huntynge hym to play,..On his gamyn al thouchty, þe stable [*MS. Wemyss* staill] and þe setis set.

2. A stand, halt (of armed men).

c 1450 *Merlin* xxii. 386 And ffrolle the Duke of Almayne come oute after and made his stablie vpon a litill river that is cleped Aroaise.

†**Sta·bly,** *a.*[1] *Obs. rare*—[1]. [a. OF. *establi*, pa. pple. of *establir*: see Stable, Stablish, Estable, Establish *vbs.*] = Stable *a.*

13.. in *Herrig's Archiv* LXXIX. 448/10 They stoode with stably steven in mayntenance of Moises law.

Stably (stē·bli), *a.*[2] *rare.* Also **stabley.** [f. Stable *sb.* + -y.] Characteristic of, having to do with, or pertaining to a stable or stables.

1864 *All Year Round* 30 Jan. 539 The boots..belonged to short-haired stably gentlemen in large white overcoats. 1884 Yates *Recoll.* I. vii. 251 Fresh air..which..seemed to me to have a somewhat stably twang.

Stably (stē·bli), *adv.* Forms: 3–4 **stabliche**, 3, 5 **stabili**, 3–5 **stabeliche**, 4 **stab(e)li**, 4–5 **stabely**, **stabilly**, **stabilli**, 5 **stabelike**, **stabelly**, **stabyly**, **stabully**, 6 **stabilie**, 4– **stably.** [f. Stable *a.* + -ly 2.] In a stable manner, firmly, †steadfastly, †constantly.

1297 R. Glouc. (Rolls) 2611 þe king..bed hom..þat hii hom vnderstode & stabeliche helde to gadere to sauy þat lond. *c* 1300 *Beket* (Percy Soc.) 2172 Ac bihet hem stabliche [*Laud MS.* studefastliche] to stonde al at here rede. 1338 R. Brunne *Chron.* (1725) 126 þat Steuen..suld bere coroun & his gyft certeyn be holden stabilly. *c* 1380 Wyclif *Wks.* (1880) 75 A man þat meyntene þ goddis lawe paciently & stably. *c* 1400 *Rule St. Benet* (Prose) xlvii. 32 Sho þat þabbes cumandis þis office [of reading], wid mekenes sal sho do it, And stabelike wid-vten pride. *c* 1400 *Master of Game* (MS. Digby 182) xxvi, And if he se an herte stondynge stabely, he muste looke wele what cuntre he shall goo to his leyr. *c* 1440 *York Myst.* xvii. 140 So shall ȝe stabely vndirstande þer mynde and þer menyng. *a* 1450 *Le Morte Arth.* 2663 By-twene you for to make pees Stabully euer for to stonde. 1488 Caxton *Chastysing Goddes Chyld.* xi. 28 He only beholdeth hymselfe and stondeth stably upon his owne propre wyll. 1563 *Homilies* II. *Rogation Week* i. 236 Consider the huge substaunce of the earth...Howe coulde it so stande stably in the place as it doth, yf [etc.]? 1695 Ld. Preston *Boeth.* iv. 193 Those are such things as are stably fixed near to the Divinity. 1895 Jas. Orr in *Advance* (Chicago) 25 Apr. 1066/1 Rome, stably seated on her seven hills. 1907 *Times* 5 Feb. 3/5 The Dean..contends that the teaching..ought to be stably standardized.

Staboy, *v. U.S. nonce-wd.* [f. *sta boy* (also *stu boy*, *stub-boy*), an exclamation addressed to hounds (*Amer. Dial. Notes* 1900–4 II. 347–8); cf. *hist-a-boy*, Hist *int.* 2.] *trans.* To urge on (hounds) with the cry 'sta boy'.

[1848 Lowell *Biglow P.* Ser. i. *Pious Editor's Creed*, As.. feeder of certain theologic dogmas, which, when occasion offers, he unkennels with a *staboy*.] 1850 Lowell *Unhappy Lot Mr. Knott* 60 Like dogs let loose upon a bear, Ten emulous styles *staboyed* with care, The whole among them seemed to tear.

Stabula·rian, *a. nonce-wd.* [f. L. *stabulāri-us* (f. *stabul-um*) + -an.] Belonging to a stable.

1829 *Sport. Mag.* XXIII. 289, I must listen for half an hour to stabularian sibilations before I sit down to my own steak.

†**Sta·bulate,** *v. Obs.*—° [f. L. *stabulāt-*, *stabulāre*, *-ārī*, f. *stabulum*: see Stable *sb.*] *intr.* (See quot.)

1656 Blount *Glossogr.*, *Stabulate*, to stand or be as Cattell in a Stable or Stall, to be housed as Beasts are, to keep or stall up ones self.

Stabula·tion. *rare.* [ad. L. *stabulātiōnem*, f. *stabulāre*, *-ārī*: see prec.] †'A harbouring of beasts' (Cockeram 1623). (*obs.*) Also, manner of housing in a stable.

1892 *Baily's Mag.* Apr. 225 The bad habits and vices of the horse..are more or less common and frequent. And many of them are due to, or consequent upon, stabulation.

Sta·bulist. *rare*—[1]. [f. L. *stabul-um* Stable *sb.* + -ist.] ? One learned in stable management.

1826 *Sport. Mag.* XVII. 388 No stabulist taketh ought from it, since all it proves is the necessity of riding well-bred hunters.

Stac, obs. var. Stack *sb.*; obs. pa. t. of Steek, Stick *vbs.*

†**Stacca·do.** *Obs.* Also 7–8 **stacado.** [Incorrectly ad. Sp. *estacada* (whence F. *estacade*, Estacade), f. *estaca*, of Teut. origin: see Stake *sb.*] A palisade or fencing of strong stakes, a Stockade.

1612 Shelton *Quix.* II. v. (1620) 94 He entred into the Fortresse of Chiualrie..by leaping ouer the Staccado like a robber and a thiefe. 1688 Holme *Armoury* iii. xvi. (Roxb.) 97/1 Palizados: of which there are two sorts, those for a wall which stand with their sharp ends forwards...These for a gate which stand with the points vpright...Some terme these stacados or pickados erected. *a* 1774 Goldsm. *Hist. Greece* I. 287 Gylippus,..not able to return into the staccado, landed. 1777 Watson *Philip II*, xix. (1812) III. 12 This part of the work, called the stacados or estacados.

transf. 1707 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4349/3 To fortifie the Harbour, by..making in the midst of it a Staccado of Six Men of War of between 70 and 80 Guns.

‖**Staccato** (stăkā·to), *a.* (*adv.*, *sb.*) *Mus.* [It., pa. pple. of *staccare*, shortened form of *distaccare*: see Detach *v.*] Detached, disconnected, *i. e.* with breaks between successive notes. Used *adj.* or *advb.* as a direction to a performer to render a passage in this style; also as *sb.*, a succession of disconnected notes. Also *transf.* in all these uses.

1724 *Explic. For. Wds. in Mus. Bks.*, *Staccato*, or *Stoccato*. See the word *Spiccato*. 1787 Beckford *Italy*, etc. (1834) II. 40 The monotonous staccato of the guitar. 1806 J. Odell *Ess.* 146 A certain staccato utterance of the emphatic syllables. 1844 Hood *More Hullah-baloo* 54 A van with iron bars to play *staccato*. 1877 Morley *Crit. Misc.* Ser. ii. 397 Turn to a page of Macaulay, and wince under..its unlovely staccato. 1883 Black *Shandon Bells* xxx, The staccato remarks about the probability of another..war,..developed into..abuse of the foreign policy.

b. Path. *Staccato speech, utterance*: see Scanning *ppl. a.* 2.

1898 *Syd. Soc. Lex.*, *Staccato utterance.* The same as *Scanning utterance.* 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VII. 144 The staccato speech.

Hence **Stacca·to,** *v. trans.* To play (a piece of music) in a staccato manner; **Stacca·toed,** *ppl. a.*

1814 J. T. Coleridge in Ld. Coleridge *Story Devon. Ho.* xvi. (1905) 231 It is always as if one should staccato a slow and pathetic air. 1818 Busby *Gram. Mus.* 445 By the intervention of *staccatoed* notes or short rests. 1882 Mrs. A. Edwardes *Ballroom Repent.* I. 147 The exclamation comes in staccatoed accents from Mrs. Dormer.

‖**Stachys** (stē·kis). [L. *stachys* (Pliny), a. Gr. στάχυς (Dioscorides), a transferred use of στάχυς ear of corn.

The plant called *stachys* by Pliny is described as resembling a leek, with longer and more numerous leaves, a yellowish colour, and an agreeable smell; used as an emmenagogue. The reason for the modern application of the name is obscure.]

†**a.** In early use app. a name for Clown's

Woundwort, *Stachys palustris*. *Obs.* b. *Bot.* A genus of plants of the N.O. *Labiatæ*, of which there are two British species, *S. palustris* (see a.) and *S. sylvatica*, popularly Hedge Nettle. Also a plant of this genus.

1562 TURNER *Herbal* II. 146 Stachis is a little bushe lyke vnto hore hounde. 1682 WHELER *Journ. Greece* I. 52 A kind of small Stachys, with silver leaves. 1882 *Garden* 28 Oct. 385/3 The only species of Stachys that can really be termed a garden plant. 1876 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 18 Oct. 4/1 These places are where the corn stachys has overspread the ground.

Stacioner, -cioun, obs. ff. STATIONER, STATION.

Stack (stæk), *sb.* Forms: 3, 6 **stac**, 3–7 **stak**, (4 **stagge**), 5 **sstakke**, 5–6 **stakk**, **stake**, 5–7 **stacke**, 6 **stayke**, 4– **stack**. [a. ON. *stakk-r* hay-stack (MSw. *stakker*, Sw. *stack*, Da. *stak*, Norw. dial. *stakk*) :—OTeut. type **stakko-z*, prob. :—pre-Teut. **stogno-s* : cf. Russian стогъ *stog* haystack.]

1. A pile, heap or group of things, esp. such a pile or heap with its constituents arranged in an orderly fashion.

a 1300 *Havelok* 814 He..cast a panier on his bac, With fish giueled als a stac. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 471/2 Stacke, or heep, *agger*. Stacke, *acervus*. 1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 5/20 A stacke, *strues*. 1581 LAMBARDE *Eiren.* I. vii. (1588) 37 Not Loades, but Stackes of Statutes. 1596 NASHE *Saffron Walden* 40 A stack of salt fish. 1698 FRYER *Acc. E. India & P.* 341 An huddled Stack of Buildings expatiated into a large Square in the middle of the Area. 1724 *Ramsay's Tea-T. Misc.* (ed. 9) I. 76, I ha' a good ha' house, a barn and a byer, A stack afore the door. 1856 KANE *Arctic Expl.* II. xiii. 132 Stacks of jointed meat are piled upon the ice-foot. 1888 JACOBI *Printers' Vocab.* 131 *Stacks*, paper or printed work arranged in 'stacks'.

b. *fig.* A quantity, a 'pile'.

1894 A. ROBERTSON *Nuggets* 64 His uncle had left him a stack of money. 1896 MRS. CAFFYN *Quaker Grandmother* 126 You're a stack of conventions.

2. A pile of grain in the sheaf, of hay, straw, fodder, etc., gathered into a circular or rectangular form, and usually with a sloping thatched top to protect it from the weather.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 6760 If fire be kyndeld and ouertak Thoru feld, or corn, or mou, or stak. *c* 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 14690 In eueses þey crepte, & in þe þakkes, & in hey & in corn stakkes. *c* 1400 *Brut* cxcii. 212 þe Scottes sette in fire iij stackes of hey. 1426 LYDG. *De Guil. Pilgr.* 17475, I resemble vn-to that hound Wych lyggeth in a stak off hay, Groynynge al the longe day. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 471/2 Stacke, *arconius*. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* II. viii. 108 The corne graingis, and standand stakkis off hay. 1546–7 *Test. Ebor.* VI. 254 The pese stacke that I have bought. 1608 WILLETT *Hexapla Exod.* 495 The corne reaped and gathered into shockes or stackes. 1632 MILTON *L'Allegro* 51 While the Cock..to the stack, or the Barn dore, Stoutly struts his Dames before. 1795 COWPER *Needless Alarm* 23 But corn was hous'd, and beans were in the stack. 1816 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 624 The stacks should not be thatched till they have had about a week or a fortnight to settle. 1867 J. HATTON *Tallants* xv, The big yellow stacks peered out amongst the trees.

3. A pile of sticks, faggots, firewood, poles, etc.

1390 *Earl Derby's Exped.* (Camden) 66/9 Pro j stak focalis. *c* 1460 *Brut* ccli. 507 This same yere also, on Newyere day, at Baynard castell, fill down A stakk of wod sodenly at afternone. 1523–34 FITZHERB. *Husb.* § 131 Whan thou shalt bryng them home to make a stacke of them [faggots], set the nethermoste course vpon the endes. 1625 BACON *Ess., Custom & Educ.* (Arb.) 369 The Indians (I meane the Sect of their Wise Men) lay Themselves quietly upon a Stacke of Wood, and so Sacrifice themselves by Fire. *a* 1693 *Urquhart's Rabelais* III. lii. 427 A..Stack of Timber. 1711 *MS. Sessions Roll Durham* Oct. 1 Duas Strigas Ericarum anglice Stacks of Whinns. 1811 A. T. THOMSON *Lond. Disp.* (1818) 300 The stacks are generally built on the slope of a hill, so that the tar is easily collected, and put into barrels. 1838 JAMES *Robber* I. vi, On the edge of the moor was a low shed and a stack of fern. 1854 RONALDS & RICHARDSON *Chem. Techn.* (ed. 2) I. II An ordinary stack or pile of American wood. 1886 *Manch. Exam.* 8 Jan. 6/2 The stacks of timber, which are in close proximity, being saved from destruction.

†b. A pyre or burial pile. *Obs.*

a 1547 SURREY *Æneis* IV. 866 She rusheth in, and clam vp, as distraught, The buriall stack.

c. A measure of volume for wood and coal, usually 4 cubic yds. (108 cubic feet).

1651 *Publ. Gen. Acts* 1326 Such..of the said Coals as have been, or usually are sold by the Stack, Ruck, Fathom, or other uncertain Denomination. 1674 BLOUNT *Glossogr.* (ed. 4), *Stack of Wood*, in Essex, is fourteen foot in length, three foot in heighth, and three in breadth. 1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), *Stack of Wood*, (among Husband-men) a pile of Wood 3 Foot long, as many broad, and 12 Foot high. 1733 W. ELLIS *Chiltern & Vale Farm.* 92 Twenty one Stack of Fire-wood Billet, nine Stack of Roots. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade* s. v., A stack of wood is 108 cubic feet.

4. *Brickmaking.* = CLAMP *sb.*3 1.

1816 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* I. 186 The stacks or clamps are built of the bricks themselves.

5. A number of chimneys, flues, or pipes, standing together in one group.

1667 PEPYS *Diary* 29 Nov., She..heard a noise in the great stack of chimnies that goes from Sir J. Minnes's through our house. 1746 HERVEY *Medit.* (1818) 26 A stack of chimneys may tumble into the street, and crush the unwary passenger. 1823 P. NICHOLSON *Pract. Builder* 434 When walls contain a great number of flues, they are called stacks of chimnies. 1842 LOUDON *Suburban Hort.* 197 It occupied a smaller space in the centre of the floor, with a stack of flues rising over it. 1882 *Worc. Exhib. Catal.* III. 5 One coil-end for stack of 2-in. pipes.

b. A chimney of a house, factory, etc.; the chimney or funnel of a locomotive or steamship; also, = *stack-furnace*. Cf. STALK *sb.*1

1825 J. NICHOLSON *Oper. Mech.* 357 In smelting by the reverberatory-furnace..the flame passes over the hearth, and enters into an oblique chimney, which terminates in a perpendicular one, called a stack, of considerable height. 1908 MISS ROBINS *Come & Find Me* 294 The big yellow stack belched out clouds of smoke.

†**6.** A set (of corn mills). *Obs.*

1772 *Jackson's Oxf. Jrnl.* 24 Oct., To be let—A compleat Stack of Corn Mills.

7. *dial.* [Cf. Færoese *stakkur* 'high solitary rock in the sea'.] A columnar mass of rock, detached by the agency of water and weather from the main part of a cliff, and rising precipitously out of the sea.

[1701 J. BRAND *Descr. Orkney* etc. viii. (1883) 164 At a little distance from Papa Stour, lyes a Rock encompassed with the Sea called *Fraw-a-Stack*, which is a Danish word, and signifieth, *our Ladys Rock*.] 1769 PENNANT *Tour Scot.* (1771) 152 Great insulated columns, called here Stacks. 1822 HIBBERT *Descr. Shetl. Isl.* 568 After many unsuccessful attempts to bring the boat close in to the stack the unfortunate wight was left to his fate. 1851 STERNBERG *Northampt. Gloss.* s. v., In Pembrokeshire the insular rocks of the coast are locally termed 'stacks'. 1878 HUXLEY *Physiogr.* 168 [Rocks] completely isolated in the form of 'needles', 'stacks', and 'skerries'. 1889 *Hardwicke's Sci. Gossip* XXV. 205 On the coast [of Sutherland] the sea has deeply eroded and tunnelled into the land..leaving.. numerous stacks, islets, and spiry rocks.

8. *attrib.* and *Comb.* a. Obvions combs.: simple attrib., as (sense 2) *stack-cloth*, *-cover*, *-fire*, (sense 4 b) *stack-pipe*, *-process*; objective, as *stack-firer*, *-firing*; also *stack-wise* adv.

1832 *Boston Herald* 31 July 1 *Stack-Cloths of the same highly-approved-of description. 1799 *Hull Advertiser* 12 Oct. 2/1 Mill sails, waggon, cart, and *stack covers. 1898 *Westm. Gaz.* 16 Sept. 7/3 *Stack fires and the demolition of cottages owing to the thatch firing. 1831 *Lincoln Herald* 29 July 4/1 Serjeant Wilde has absolutely defended the magistracy against the bellowing of the *stack-firers. 1887 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 6 Sept. 6/2 A man..was charged yesterday at Arrington, Cambs, with *stack firing. 1833 LOUDON *Encycl. Archit.* § 854 To put 3 inches lead rain-water *stack pipes, with cistern heads to bring the water to the ground in the angle of the north front. 1849 *Ecclesiologist* IX. 356 The stack-pipes will communicate with these main drains. 1884 *Chamb. Jrnl.* 8 Mar. 158/2 The old '*stack' process of white-lead manufacture. 1881 R. BUCHANAN *God & Man* III. 41 This [turf] I arranged *stack-wise.

b. Special comb.: **stack-bar**, a hurdle for fencing a stack (sense 2) standing in an open field; **stack-furnace**, a tall circular blast-furnace for smelting; **stack-guard** (see quot. 1875); **stack-pole**, ?a pole round which sheaves are piled to form a stack; **stack-room**, a room in which books are stacked; **stack-stand** (see quot. 1875); **stack-wood**, a faggot, usually *collect. sing.* a load of firewood; also *attrib.*; **stack-yard**, a rick-yard.

1657 *Knaresb. Wills* (Surtees) II. 223, 5 *stackbarrs. 1788 W. H. MARSHALL *Yorksh.* II. 355 *Stackbars*, large hurdles with which hay stacks in the field are generally fenced. 1877 RAYMOND *Statist. Mines & Mining* 289, 1 slag-furnace, and 2 *stack-furnaces. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.*, **Stack-guard*, a temporary roof capable of elevation, and designed to protect a stack or rick of hay or grain in process of formation. 1816 *U. S. Coast Survey*, Deb. in Congress (1818) 2456, I began by erecting a signal..in form of a tripod, made of a ladder and two *stack-poles. 1893 OPIE READ *Emmett Boulore* 343 He was almost as high as a stackpole, an' so slim. 1884 *Harper's Mag.* Nov. 828/1 The *stack-rooms, in which the body of the collection..is packed. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.*, **Stack-stand*, a device for supporting a stack of hay or grain at a sufficient distance above the ground to preserve it dry beneath and prevent the ravages of vermin. 1664 EVELYN *Sylva* 101 A round hole, which is to be formed in working up the *stack-wood, for a tunnel. 1785 J. PHILLIPS *Treat. Inland Navig.* 17 Stack-wood, for the London bakers. 1569 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* II. 33 To teind, gadder, leid and place the saidis teind schaves in the *stak yaird. 1788 *Trans. Soc. Arts* VI. 82 Exposed to view in barns and stackyards. 1887 JESSOPP *Arcady* II All that this good man could make out of his stackyard in the best years.

Stack (stæk), *v.*1 Forms: see the sb. [f. STACK *sb.*]

1. *trans.* To pile (corn, fodder, etc.) into a stack; to make a stack of, to pile (something) up in the form of a stack.

c 1325 *Gloss. W. de Bibbesw.* in Wright *Voc.* 154 [*Dehors la graunge vos blez tassez* glossed,] stacke thi corn. *c* 1460 *Promp. Parv.* (Winch.) 464 Stakkyn, *arconiso*. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 358/2 To Sstakke, *arconizare*. 1573 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 132 Stack pease vpon houell abrode in the yard. 1592 *Shuttleworths' Acc.* (Chetham Soc.) 74 Stackinge turfies towe dayes iij*d*. 1657 BILLINGSLY *Brachy-Martyrol.* II. viii. 211 Being in Harvest stacking of his corn. 1797 J. CURR *Coal Viewer* II, I have adopted this mode of conveying coals above the ground also for stacking them. 1801 *Farmer's Mag.* Jan. 99, I do not think it proceeds from the crop yielding beyond what it had the appearance of when stacked. 1833 LOUDON *Encycl. Archit.* § 1584 The boards to be prepared and stacked (horsed) by the 1st of September. 1859 GEO. ELIOT *Adam Bede* vi, At the far end, fleeces of wool stacked up. 1861 HUGHES *Tom Brown at Oxf.* x, The port which Tom employed the first hour after his return in stacking carefully away in his cellar. 1894 FENN *Real Gold* 314 Something serious was evidently going on by the spot where the packages had been stacked.

2. *absol.* and *intr.* To put corn or hay into stacks; to make a stack or stacks.

a 1722 FOUNTAINHALL *Decis.* I. 548 The Lords found little matter of riot in the master's hindering his tenant to stack in that barn-yard. 1801 *Farmer's Mag.* Nov. 479 Some loss has occurred, from stacking too hastily. 1883 M. P. BALE *Saw-Mills* 237 If it [timber] is to be used for fencing posts and rails, &c., split at once and stack where there is a free circulation of air. 1894 HALL CAINE *Manxman* III. v. 137 It was her father stacking in the haggard.

3. *trans.* To make a pile of (weapons, etc.) by leaning one against another. (Cf. PILE *v.*2 1 b.)

1841 CATLIN *N. Amer. Ind.* xx. (1844) I. 144 The leader of the party with his arms stacked behind him. 1887 *Times* 9 Apr. 5/5 The men [military cyclists], having dismounted and stacked their machines.

4. *To stack up*: to pile materials on, to make up (a fire).

1892 RIDER HAGGARD *Nada* ix. 67 We stacked up the fire.

5. To fill with stacks of.

1652 BENLOWES *Theoph.* VI. xxvi, Whose Hands did stack The studded Orbs with Stars. 1913 *19th Cent.* Jan. 67 Calcutta was stacked with the rupees of 1907 still unissued.

Stack (stæk), *v.*2 *Coal-mining.* [? f. LG. *stack* dam.] *trans.* See quot. 1883. (Chiefly with *out*.)

1832 HT. MARTINEAU *Hill & Valley* iv. 62 There is much labour in..stacking and loading the mine. 1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-mining* 234 *Stack out*, to dam off or shut up the entrance to a goaf by building a wall of stone or coal in front of it.

Stack: see STICK *v.*, STAKE.

†**Sta·ckage.** *Obs. rare.* [f. STACK *sb.* + -AGE.] A tax levied on stacks.

1587 HARRISON *England* II. v. (1877) 113 His Prædia in like manner were tributes, tolles,..stackage..& such like.

Stacked (stækt), *ppl. a.* [f. STACK *v.* + -ED 1.]

1. Piled together.

1833 LOUDON *Encycl. Archit.* Gloss., *Stacked*, horsed. 1870 *Standard* 12 Dec., Those battalions that still remained and paced briskly to and fro by their stacked arms to warm themselves. 1905 TREVES *Other Side of Lantern* II. vii. (1906) 65 A place for stacked spears.

2. Piled into a 'stack' (senses 2, 3).

1901 *Westm. Gaz.* 17 Dec. 2/1 Clearings with stacked-up wood. 1908 MARY JOHNSTON *Lewis Rand* I. 10 Stretches of stacked corn appeared like tented plains.

3. Piled with goods.

1908 *Academy* 8 Feb. 441/1 A stacked trolley obsessed the tram-lines.

Stacken-cloud. [App. arbitrarily f. STACK *sb.* + -EN.] A cloud which appears as though composed of piled up masses, a CUMULUS.

1823 T. FORSTER *Res. Atmospheric Phenomena* I. § 3 (ed. 3) 9 Of the Cumulus or Stackencloud. 1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* I. 246 Why the heap should be called the *stacken-cloud*,..is by no means obvious. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk., Stacken Cloud*, the same as *cumulus*.

Stacker (stæ·kəɹ), *sb.*1 [f. STACK *v.*1 + -ER 1.]

1. One who builds up a stack or pile.

1757 MRS. GRIFFITH *Lett. Henry & Frances* (1767) I. 249, I am, at present, sitting in the midst of a large field of barley, which I reaped the other day, and am taking care of the binders and stackers. 1834 *Brit. Husb.* I. 494 The common number of workpeople is five hay-makers to each mower, including tedders, loaders, pitchers, and stackers. 1880 *New Virginians* I. 180 None of the Virginians working for him were good stackers. 1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-mining* 234 *Stacker*, one who stacks coals, etc.

2. (See quot. 1875.)

1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.*, *Stacker*, a machine adapted for delivering straw from the threshing machine on to the stack, or hay from a wagon on to a stack or into a loft. 1887 *Sci. Amer.* 14 May 314/1 A hay stacker and loader. 1905 *Contemp. Rev.* July 98 There..the thresher and stacker has its home and works with long surges of droning sound which I love to hear.

Stacker (stæ·kəɹ), *sb.*2 *dial.* Also 7 *pl.* **stakers**, 9 **stacher.** [f. STACKER *v.*]

1. *pl.* = *staggers*: see STAGGER *sb.*1 2.

1610 *Shuttleworths' Acc.* (Chetham Soc.) 188 For letting the grissell mare blode for the stakers and giving her a drincke, xiiij*d*. 1828 [CARR] *Craven Gloss., Stackers*, the staggers, a disease in horses, etc.

2. A reeling or tottering movement of the body, = STAGGER *sb.*

1870 J. K. HUNTER *Life Studies* xliv. 271 An attempt to ease the foot produced a stacher. 1877 'SAXON' *Galloway Gossip* 358 He gied a great stacher and fell spraucheling on the floor.

Stacker (stæ·kə), *v.* *Obs.* exc. *dial.* Forms: 3–6 **staker**, 4–6 **stakker**, 5 **stakar**, (**stakeryn**), **stakyr**, 5–6 **stakir**, 6 **stakkir**, 5–7, 9 (*dial.*) **stacker** (*Sc. dial.* 8–9 **stacher**, 9 **staucher**). [a. ON. *stakra* to stagger; freq. of *staka* to push, to stagger. The Sc. form *stacher* (sta·χəɹ) is difficult to account for. STAGGER *v.* is an altered form of *stacker*.]

1. *intr.* To totter, reel in one's gait, to stagger.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 24032, I stakerd sua i moght not stand. *c* 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 12377 Arthur was stoneyd, stakered, & stynt, But 3ut fel he nought for þat dynt. *c* 1385 CHAUCER *L. G. W.* 2687 She rist 3it vp & stakerith her & ther. *c* 1400 *Song of Roland* 730 Then euery of them brest vpon other, that þer stedes stakered right euyn þer. *c* 1440 *York Myst.* xxx. 84 For scho may stakir in þe strete But scho stalworthely stande. 1535 COVERDALE *Ps.* cvi. 27 They stacker like a droncken man. *c* 1550 BALE *K. Johan* 1997 Of terryble deathe thu wylt stacker in the plashes. 1597 G. HARVEY *Trimming Nashe* Wks. (Grosart) III. 57 He eate the poyson, and presently (drunkard-like) stackered vp and downe, reeling backward and forward.

1597 MONTGOMERIE *Cherrie & Slae* 303, I stakkerit at the windilstrayis. 1785 BURNS *Death & Dr. Hornbook* iii, I stacher'd whyles but yet took tent ay To free the ditches. 1825 BROCKETT *N. C. Gloss., Stacker*, to stagger.

b. *transf.*

1597 J. KING *On Jonas* (1618) 287 When hee had shipt himselfe, the vessell that bare him, stackered like a drunken man to and fro.

†**2.** To stammer, hesitate in speech. *Obs.*

1440 [see STACKERING *vbl. sb.*]. 1538 ELYOT *Dict., Offensator*, He that stakereth in redinge, as if he were not perfyte in reding. *Ibid., Titubo*, To stacker in speking or going, as a man being drunke or sycke.

†**3.** *fig.* **a.** To be insecure or in danger of ruin. **b.** To waver, to hesitate mentally in a state of indecision. *Obs.*

1402 *Pol. Poems* (Rolls) II. 40 Every state stakerth unstable in him silfe. 1526 TINDALE *Rom.* iv. 20 He stackered nott at the promes off God thorowe vnbelefe. 1533 MORE *Apol.* xxii. 134 b, Calanius perceuyng them begyn in the mater somwhat to staker and staye, persuaded them [etc.]. 1549 COVERDALE *Erasm. Par., Jas.* 32 He..whiche stackreth not to auenture in hys onely sonne whome he loued so syngularly.

Stackering (stæ·kərin), *vbl. sb.* [f. STACKER *v.* + -ING 1.] The action of STACKER *v.*

c 1440 CAPGRAVE *Life St. Kath.* v. 1510 Make now noo stakeryng As in this mater. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 471/2 Stakerynge, in mevynge, *vacillacio. Ibid.*, Stakerynge, yn speche (or stamerynge), *titubacio.* 1555 WATREMAN *Fardle Facions* II. x. 229 Then must ye of necessitie be redy to do whatsoeuer I commaunde ye..without staieng or stackering.

Stackering (stæ·kərin), *ppl. a.* [f. STACKER *v.* + -ING 2.] = STAGGERING *ppl. a.*

c 1550 ROLLAND *Crt. Venus* II. 363 Vp he rais into ane stakkerand stait. 1558 G. CAVENDISH *Poems* (1825) II. 170 My quaking hand my penne unnethe can hold, So dombe I ame of doctryn, lame of experience, Stakeryng in style, onsavery of sentence. 1566 DRANT *Horace, Sat.* II. vii. I iv b, Thy stackeringe stumpes thy corsey corps at lengthe will hardlie beare. 1584 HUDSON *Du Bartas' Judith* VI. 51 Then each of them, with stackring steps out went. 1597 MONTGOMERIE *Cherrie & Slae* 213 O quhat an stakkering stait! *c* 1600 *Burel's Pilgr.* in *Watson's Collect.* (1709) II. 34 Quhat stakren stait was this to me, To be in sick obscuritie? 1872 J. YOUNG *Lochlomond* 166 (E.D.D.) When staucherin' fou He fell an' brack his leg.

† **Sta·cket,** *sb. Sc. Obs.* [a. Du. *staket* (whence G. *stacket*); of Fr. origin, though the precise source is uncertain. Cf. OF. *estacade* (see STACCADO), also *estachete, estaquete* cord fencing in the lists, also post, stake.] A palisade.

1637 R. MONRO *Exped.* I. 51 We brake downe the Stacket, and the Towne not walled, we entred the broade side. 1819 SCOTT *Leg. Montrose* x, I would advise you to fortify the said sconce, not only by a foussie, or graffe, but also by certain stackets, or palisades.

Hence **Sta·cket** *v. trans.*, to raise a palisade about.

1637 R. MONRO *Exped.* II. 8 We did worke all of us night and day, till we had Stacketed the Wall about, the height of a man above the Parapet.

Stackfreed (stæ·kfrīd). *Hist.* [Of obscure origin; presumably corrupt Ger. or Du.

The word appears in the *Encyclopédie* (1756), s. v. *Fusée*, in the form *stochfred*. Berthoud *Hist. de la Mesure du Temps* (1802) I. 77 has *stackfreed*, and *staak-freed* occurs in a Fr. work of 1811 quoted in *Archæologia* XXXIII. 27 *note*.] (See quot. 1884.)

1819 REES *Cycl.* VIII. 3 S 1, s.v. *Clock*, This piece of mechanism..was a German invention,..and was called *stack-freed*. 1884 F. J. BRITTEN *Watch & Clockm.* 246 *Stack freed*, an eccentric wheel or cam attached to the barrels of watches before the invention of the fusee in order to equalize the force transmitted.

attrib. 1899 F. J. BRITTEN *Old Clocks & Watches* 352 In 1764 Frederick Kehlhoff, of London, patented a centre seconds and going barrel watch with a stackfreed remontoire.

Stackful (stæ·kful). [f. STACK *sb.* + -FUL.] As much as is contained in a stack.

1868 SWINBURNE *Ess. & Stud.* (1875) 314 The huge mass of original designs..heaped and huddled in portfolios by the loose stackful.

Stack-garth. *north.* Also 6–9 **staggarth**; 9 *dial.* **stagarth**, etc.: see *Eng. Dial. Dict.* [a. ON. *stakkgarð-r*: see STACK *sb.* and GARTH 1.] A stack-yard, rick-yard.

1293 *Durham Chapter MSS.*, Le Stakgarth in villa nostra de Hemingburg. 1402–3 *Durham Acc. Rolls.* (Surtees) 182 In alloc Rectori de Hemmyngburgh pro le Stakgarth, 2s. 1470–71 *Durham Chapter MSS.* 643 Circa inclusionem de lez Stakgarthez de Billyngham [etc.]. 20 d. 1546 *Yorks. Chantry Surv.* (Surtees) 339 A stacke garthe, with a lee, iiij^{s}. 1582 *Durham Wills* (Surtees) II. 45 In the staggarth, Sextene thraves of wheate. 1641 BEST *Farm. Bks.* (Surtees) 39 Of these [grasse cockes] the little Staggarth had seaven. *Ibid.* 60. 1842 GEN. P. THOMPSON *Exerc.* III. 42 *note*, He may know every part of it, as a farmer knows the corners in his own stack-garth. 1891 ATKINSON *Moorland Par.* (ed. 2) 357 Mighty loads of corn or hay as they are piled up in order to be taken..into the stack-garth.

Stacking (stæ·kiŋ), *vbl. sb.* Also 6 **staghynge.** [f. STACK *v.* + -ING 1.] The action or an act of STACK *v.* in various senses.

1531–2 *Durham Househ. Bk.* (Surtees) 128 Pro le stakkynge [of corn] ibidem, per 2 dies 16d. 1532–3 *Ibid.* 165 Operantibus in collectione et staghynge decimarum de Harton. 1591 *Exch. Rolls Scot.* XXII. 145 For mawing, winning, leiding, stacking, and howsing of the hay of the new medowis of Falkland. 1707 MORTIMER *Husb.* (1721) II. 66 The Prices of which, and the stacking up of Wood, Roots, stumps of Timber Trees, &c. I shall give you an Account of hereafter. 1805 R. W. DICKSON *Pract. Agric.* I. 46 Where thrashing machines, and the practice of stacking, are properly held in estimation, large barns are quite unnecessary. 1880 [A. J. MUNBY] *Dorothy* 46 Reaping in harvest time; haymaking, stacking an' all.

b. *attrib. stacking-stage, -swivel* (see quots.); **stacking-elevator** = STACKER *sb.*1 2.

1890 *Univ. Exhib. Guide* June 30/1 A *Stacking Elevator for straw, hay, sheaf corn, beans, &c., was shown. 1805 R. W. DICKSON *Pract. Agric.* II. 799 It may likewise be useful, in building large corn ricks, to have a *stacking stage, so contrived as to be capable of standing close to their sides. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.*, *Stacking-stage*, a scaffold used in building stacks. *Ibid.*, *Stacking-swivel*, a swivel attached to the upper band of a breech-loading rifle or carbine, to enable stacks to be formed without attaching the bayonet or using the wiper.

Stackless (stæ·klės), *a.* [f. STACK *sb.* + -LESS.] Without a 'stack' or chimney.

1883 *Harper's Mag.* Aug. 332/2 Eighteen locomotives [are] kept,..and several stackless ones for running into the ..mines.

† **Sta·cklet.** *Obs. rare*—1. [f. STACK *sb.* + -LET.] A small stack (of wheat, etc.).

1796 W. H. MARSHALL *West Eng.* II. 9 About Bodmin, the Wheat in general seems to be made into 'arrish mows', or field stacklets, of about a load each.

‖ **Stacte** (stæ·ktī). Also 4–5 **stacten,** 7 **stact,** 8 **stackten.** [L. *stactē*, a. Gr. στακτή fem. of στακτός distilling in drops, f. στάγ-, στάζειν to drop. The form *stacten* represents the accus., treated in med.L. as indeclinable. (So G. *stacten.*)]

a. A fragrant spice referred to by ancient writers; properly, the finest kind of myrrh, the exudation of the living tree (Pliny *N. H.* XII. XXXV), but the name was also applied to a mixture of storax with fat. In the Bible used (after LXX and Vulgate) as the translation of Heb. *nāṭāph*, one of the ingredients of the incense prescribed for the Tabernacle worship, variously conjectured to be opobalsamum, myrrh, storax, or tragacanth. † **b.** *Pharmacy.* Formerly applied arbitrarily to LIQUIDAMBAR and perh. other preparations (the meaning in quot. 1715 is obscure).

1382 WYCLIF *Exod.* XXX. 34 Tak to thee swete smellynge thinges, stacten [1535 COVERDALE stacte] and onycha, galbantum of good smel [etc.]. 1483 CAXTON *Golden Leg., Joseph* 51 b, And gyue ye & presente to that man yeftes, a lytyl reysyns & hony, Storax, scacten [*read* stacten], therebinthe & dates. 1600 B. JONSON *Cynthia's Rev.* v. iv, Stacte, opobalsamum, amomum, storax. 1632 WIDDOWES *Nat. Philos.* 33 The distilled liquor of fresh Myrrh was once called Stact, but now it is named Storax. 1715 LADY G. BAILLIE *Househ. Bk.* (1911) 98 For stacktens drops 2s. 1844 HOBLYN *Dict. Terms Med.* (ed. 2), *Stacte*,..Also, a more liquid kind of amber than is generally met with in the shops. 1887 BENTLEY *Man. Bot.* 506 The Stacte or Liquid Myrrh of the ancients.

Stactometer (stækt^{o}mĭtəɹ). Also **stakto-.** [f. Gr. στακτό-ς (see prec.) + -METER.] (See quot.)

1842 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 7) XII. 25/1 (*Hydrodynamics*), Brewster's Staktometer. The Staktometer, or dropmeasurer..is a glass vessel four or five inches long, having a hollow bulb about half an inch in diameter. The instrument is filled by suction...The fluid is then allowed to discharge itself..by drops, and the number of them is counted till the surface of the fluid descends to another fixed point.

Stacyoner, obs. form of STATIONER.

‖ **Stad** (stat). *S. Africa.* Also **stadt.** [Du.] A town or village.

1896 *Daily News* 28 Dec. 5/3 The principal Stadt is in flames. 1900 *Ibid.* 23 May 5/6 Three hundred of the enemy entered and set fire to the native stad. 1906 *Blackw. Mag.* Sept. 390/2 The chief stad—as the native villages are curiously enough called in this country.

Stad, obs. variant of STEAD *sb.*

Stad(d, obs. pa. pple. of STEAD *v.*

Stadda (stæ·dă). Also 7 **staddow.** [Of obscure origin.] (See quot. 1846.)

1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 383/2 Two Tools belonging to a Comb-maker, *viz.*, the Turn-File, and the Staddow. 1846 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* II. 723 The comb-cutter's double saw..is called a 'stadda', and has two blades so contrived as to give, with great facility and exactness, the intervals between the teeth of combs. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* *

Staddle (stæ·d'l), *sb.* Forms: 1 **staðol, -ul, steaðel,** 1–3 **staðel,** 6 **stathell(e, stadell,** 7 **staddel(l,** 6, 8–9 **stadle,** 8–9 **stathel,** 9 **stathle, steddle, stadel, staidel,** etc. (for other *dial.* forms see *Eng. Dial. Dict.*), 6– **staddle.** Also 8 **stavel** (whence STAFFOLD). [OE. *staðol* masc., foundation, base, support, trunk of a tree, also fixed position or state, corresponds formally to OFris. *-stathul* masc. foundation (WFris. *steal*, NFris. *stāl*), OS. *stađal* standing (MLG. *stadel*), OHG. *stadal* barn (MHG., mod.G. dial. *stadel* barn, storehouse, ON. *stǫðull* masc., milking-place (Norw. *støl*) :—OTeut. **staþlo-z* :—pre-Teut. **statlo-s* f. *sta-* to STAND + *-tlo-* instrumental suffix.]

† **1.** A foundation. *lit.* and *fig. Obs.*

Very common in OE.: see examples in Bosworth-Toller.

a 900 tr. *Bæda's Eccl. Hist.* III. xxiii. (E.E.T.S.) 230 Se Drihtnes wer..in þære stowe þa staðolas sette þæs mynstres. *a* 1000 *Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 247/1 *Fundamentum uel fundamen, s. dictum quod fundus sit domui*, stapol. *c* 1225 *Juliana* 72, & buldeð ower boldes uppon treowe staðele.

2. A young tree left standing when others are cut down. Also *dial.* the root or stump of a tree that has been felled.

1559 *Boke Presidentes* 56 He..shal leaue standyng in and vpon the foresaid landes..competent and sufficient stathelles and storers. 1573 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 105 Leaue growing for stadles the likest and best. 1574 in Lipscomb *Hist. Bucks* (1847) III. 206 [Q. Elizabeth devised to Paul Wentworth] parcel of the monastery of Burnham except the great trees and staddells sufficient in every acre. 1577 HARRISON *England* II. xvi. 91 b, Those yong staddles which we leaue standing. 1612 BACON *Ess., Greatness Kingdoms* (Arb.) 476 Like as it is in copices, where if you leaue your staddels too thick, you shal neuer haue cleane vnderwood, but shrubbes and bushes. 1669 WORLIDGE *Syst. Agric.* 276 *Staddles*,..Trees reserved at the Felling of Woods, for growth of Timber. 1733 *Lease* in *N. W. Linc. Gloss.* (1877) s. v. *Steddle*, Reserving all timber trees..and also sufficient staddles in every acre of the said woodlands. *a* 1763 in *Century Mag.* (1884) Jan. 448/1 To stubb all staddles. 1766 *Complete Farmer* s. v., *Stadle*,..also signifies a tree suffered to grow for coarse and common uses, as posts or rails. 1845 JUDD *Margaret* II. v, At the edge of the woods, a rude structure had been thrown up, of staddles interlaced with boughs. 1863 *Trans. Essex Archæol. Soc.* II. 187 *Staddle*, the stump left by the wood cutters for the next crop of underwood to grow from. *appos.* 1548 *Merton Coll. Rec.* No. 1071, All suche standers or stathell okes.

† **b.** ? A tree-trunk, ? a staff. *Obs. rare*—1.

1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* I. vi. 14 His weake steps gouerning, And aged limbs on Cypresse stadle stout.

† **c.** *fig.*

1611 SPEED *Hist. Gt. Brit.* IX. XX. § 66 Concerning his courses holden with his wiues kindred, (the laterall issues and staddles of the Plantagenets) it fell out thus.

3. a. The lower part of a stack of corn, hay, etc. [Cf. STALL *sb.*9; also the following passage, where the word means the underside of a turf:—

c 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* I. 398 Ȝenim feower tyrf..Nim ele.. and drype on ðone staðol ðara turfa.]

1581 *Durham Wills* (Surtees) II. 28 A stadle of ottes.., covered with pease 24s. 1613 MARKHAM *Eng. Husbandman* II. II. vii. (1635) 73 The best [manure] is the rotten staddell of bottomes of Haystacks. 1623 — *Eng. Housew.* v. [II. vii.] 216 Some being old Corne, some new Corne, some of the heart of the stacke, and some of the stadle. 1641 BEST *Farm. Bks.* (Surtees) 35 One goinge afore with a forke and makinge the staddle, and the other comming behinde with a rake. 1828 [CARR] *Craven Gloss., Staddle*, the bottom of a stack. 1894 *Northumbld. Gloss., Steadle, Steidel, Styeddle*, a portion of a stack begun and left unfinished on account of wet or other causes; or the part left standing after a portion has been carried into the barn.

b. A platform of timber, stone, etc. on which a stack or rick is placed. Also, in some districts, one of the stones with tapering tops and round flat under-surfaces, a number of which are placed on posts beneath ricks and granaries to raise them from the earth and keep rats out; also called *staddle-stones* or *rick-staddles.*

1729 P. WALKDEN *Diary* (1866) 30, I sodded the turf stack top, and dressed the mull from beside it, and from the staddle of our old one. 1735 SOMERVILLE *Chase* II. 56 His Barns are stor'd, And groaning Staddles bend beneath their Load. 1799 J. ROBERTSON *Agric. Perth* 52 The farmers have their stacks built upon stathels laid on pillars of stone or wood. 1805 R. W. DICKSON *Pract. Agric.* I. 67 It will be necessary to have proper stands or staddles provided for securing the corn. 1809 KENDALL *Trav.* II. 177 To protect the [hay] stacks, they are either built upon high ground, or, if in the marshes, upon stadles or piles. 1833 LOUDON *Encycl. Archit.* § 1149 Two open lodges..with stack staddles over their flat stone roofs. 1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* I. 155 Stack-stools, or *stathels*, or *staddles*, as they are variously called, are sometimes made of cast-iron. 1848 LOWELL *Biglow P.* Ser. I. IX. 112 Lonesome ez steddles on a mash without no hay-ricks on. 1851 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* XII. II. 392 Few of the Lincolnshire ricks are built upon frames—a layer of straw being the usual 'steddle' or foundation. 1862 *Ibid.* XXIII. 215 Prepare your staddles (or stathels or brandreths, brandreys, or by whatever name the place for the stack is called) in the field. 1874 HARDY *Far fr. Mad. Crowd* vi, The corn stood on stone staddles.

c. *gen.* A supporting framework.

a 1800 PEGGE *Suppl. Grose, Staddle*, anything that supports another is a staddle. 1823 E. MOOR *Suffolk Words, Staddle*, what any thing stands on..the horse for casks, etc. 1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-mining* 234 *Staddle*, the foundation of a pack in iron-stone workings.

d. *Agric.* (see quots.) *dial.*

1749–50 W. ELLIS *Mod. Husbandm.* (E.D.D.), We put it [the grass] into staddles, load it and carry it away into a barn. 1798 J. MIDDLETON *View Agric. Middlesex* 239 The grass-cocks are to be well shaken out into staddles (or separate plats) of five or six yards diameter. 1881 *Leicestersh. Words* s. v., When hay-cocks are spread out and turned, the hay is said to be thrown into staddle.

† **4.** An upright timber, a post. *Obs.*

1633 T. JAMES *Voy.* 66 The Carpenter had set vp 17. ground timbers: and 34. Staddles.

† **5.** 'A building of timber standing on legs or *steddles*, to raise it out of the mud' (*Kent. Gloss.* 1887). *Obs.*

c 1563 in *Archæol. Cant.* (1874) IX. 115 De viginti sex domibus que vulgariter vocantur the old staddeles or six and twentie houses.

6. *dial.* (See quots.)

1692 RAY *N. C. Words* 68 A *Staddle*; a mark or impression made on any thing by somewhat lying upon it. So scars or marks of the Small-Pox are called *Staddles.* 1825 BROCKETT *N. C. Gloss., Staddle*,..a mark left in the grass by the long continuance of the hay in bad weather. 1828 [CARR] *Craven Gloss., Staddle*,..the marks or scars left by the small-pox. 1847 HALLIWELL, *Staddle*, the stain left on metal after the rust is removed. *West.* 1856 P. THOMPSON *Hist. Boston*

725 The mark of anything remaining after the thing itself has been removed, is called its steddle.

† **7.** 'A place marked out on the surface of a field by a groove or course of sods' (*Eng. Dial. Dict.*). *Obs.*

1770–1803 A. Hunter *Georg. Ess.* I. 385 Mark out a staddle, in proportion to the quantity of mud taken out.

8. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as † **staddle barn, granary,** a barn supported on staddles; **staddle-burnt, -mark, -roof, -row, -stand** (see quots.); **staddle-stead,** † (*a*) the place where a stack or shock has stood; (*b*) *dial.* a mark, stain or blemish; **staddle-stones,** the stones on which a staddle or stack-frame is supported.

1794 T. Davis *Agric. Wilts* 96 A '*stavel barn' for wheat, built on stone pillars, to keep out rats and mice. 1889 *N. W. Linc. Gloss.*, **Steddle-burnt*, said of the seat of a hay-cock which has remained so long covered that the grass has dried or become bleached. 1816 *Ann. Reg., Chron.* 165/1 The lioness..on hearing the voice of the keeper retired underneath a *staddle granary. 1876 *Mid-Yorksh. Gloss.*, *Staddle*, an impression left on a surface by any object,..the print being often called a *staddlemark. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.*, **Staddle-roof*, a protection for a stack. 1847 Halliwell, **Staddle-row*, a large row of dried grass ready for quiling or carrying. *Derby.* 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.*, **Staddle-stand*, a stack stand. 1641 Best *Farm. Bks.* (Surtees) 51 They..gather togeather..that which is lefte in the *staddle-stead wheare the stooke stoode. 1868 Atkinson *Cleveland Gloss.*, Staddlestead. 1785 *Jackson's Oxf. Jrnl.* 5 Feb. 3/4 A Stump of Hay, Sets of *Staddle Stones..and sundry other Articles. 1881 *Leicestersh. Words.*

Staddle (stæ·d'l), *v. dial.* Also **stadle, sted(d)le.** [f. Staddle *sb.* Cf. Stathel *v.*, to found, establish (*Obs.* after early ME.).]

† **1.** *trans.* (See quots.) *Obs.*

1573 Tusser *Husb.* (1878) 105 First see it well fenced er hewers begin, then see it well stadled, without and within. *Ibid. marg.*, Stadling of woods. 1787 Grose *Prov. Gloss., To stadle a wood*; i. e. in cutting a wood, to leave at certain distances a sufficient number of young plants to replenish it.

2. To stain, mark, leave an impression on.

1828 [Carr] *Craven Gloss.* s. v., A person's face is said to be staddled with measles. 1866 Brogden *Prov. Lincs.* 196 Don't stedle the cloth... How steddled my dress looks! 1892 M. C. F. Morris *Yorksh. Folk-Talk* 377 Inferior 'blue' is said to go *staddled* upon the linen.

Staddling (stæ·dlin). Now *dial.* Forms: 5 **stadelyng, -ing,** 9– **staidlin, staddlen, stadelin, stadlin(g, steadlin, steddling,** etc. (see *Eng. Dial. Dict.*). [f. Staddle *sb.* + -ing [1]. OE. had *staðolung, -ing*, vbl. sb. f. *staðolian* Stathel *v.*]

† **1.** The starling or pier of a bridge. *Obs. rare.*

1461 in C. Welch *Tower Bridge* (1894) 89 For fishing next the stadelynges. 1481 *City Lond. Letter Bk. L* lf. 163 b, By casting of ankers in the Goleis and Stadelynges vnder þe brygge. 1482 in C. Welch *Tower Bridge* (1894) 89 Stadelinges and ground workys of the same brigge.

2. The materials used to form a foundation for a stack; the stand or foundation of a stack. Also (see quot. 1825).

?*a* 1700 in Hodgson *Water Mellock* (1883) 33 (E.D.D.) None shall grave any turves for stadeling. 1825 Brockett *N. C. Words, Staidlin*, a part of a corn stack left standing. 1848 W. Barnes *Poems Rural Life* (ed. 2) 390 *Staddlen, Staddling*, stuff to make a staddle. 1866 Brogden *Prov. Lincs.* 194 *Staddling*, the bed or foundation upon which stacks of agricultural produce is placed.

Staddow, obs. form of Stadda.

Stade [1] (stēd). [Anglicized form of Stadium. Cf. F. *stade* and Stadie; also Stage *sb.*]

1. a. An ancient measure of length; = Stadium **1.**

c 1537 Paynel in De Benese *Measurynge Lande* Pref. + iiij, Famouse quantytes, as a fynger..a pase, a perche, a stade and a myle. 1554 W. Pratte *Aphrique* D viij b, Meroe..is an Ilonde in forme of a tryangle..and dothe extende almost thre thousand Stades. 1600 J. Melvill *Autobiog. & Diary* (Wodrow Soc.) 420 A mightie erthquak..reased the halff of the montean Eroge,..and caried it four stades, that is, halff a myll. 1642 H. More *Song of Soul* II. App. 41 Distances..such as were of yore, Measur'd by leagues, miles, stades. 1800 Rennell *Geogr. Syst. Herodotus* ii. 13 In common acceptation we find a stade commensurate to a furlong. *Ibid.*, The Grecian itinerary stade. 1838 Leake in *Jrnl. R. Geog. Soc.* IX. 1 On the Stade, as a Linear Measure. 1869 Tozer *Highl. Turkey* II. 128 Strabo says that the ruins..were situated above Demetrias, at seven stades distance from it. 1885–94 R. Bridges *Eros & Psyche* Jan. xxix, On the eastern coast, some forty stades, There stood a temple of her goddess foe.

b. A stadium or course for foot-racing. Also *attrib. rare.*

1875 Browning *Aristoph. Apol.* 16 When he had run life's proper race and worked Quite to the stade's end. *Ibid.* 18 He..Turned stade-point but to face Activity.

† **2. a.** A stage in a journey. **b.** A stage in the progress of a disease: = Stadium **3.** *Obs.*

1616 J. Lane *Contn. Sqr.'s T.* vi. 91 Post horse he laid at everie fittinge stade. 1710 T. Fuller *Pharm. Extemp.* 274 Such a Consumption as is not yet gone beyond its first Stade.

† **Stade** [2]. *Obs.* [ad. Sp. *estado*:—L. *status* standing: see State *sb.*] A fathom.

1604 E. G[rimstone] tr. *Acosta's Hist. Indies* III. xxi. 187 Of fifteene stades deepe, (which is the height of a man or more). *Ibid.* IV. vi. 223.

† **Stade** [3]. *Obs. rare*[−1]. [a. Du. *stad* (MDu. *stat*, inflected *stade*.] Chief town.

1481 Caxton *Reynard* i. (Arb.) 5 The lyon..wolde in the holy dayes of thys feeste holde on open Court at stade.

† **Stade** [4]. *Obs.* [? *Stade*, name of a town in Hanover.] Some textile fabric.

1714 *French Bk. Rates* 82 Stuffs Stades per Piece of 18 Ells 08 00.

Stadholder, stadtholder (stæ·dhōuldəɹ). *Hist.* Forms: 6–8 **statholder,** 7 **state-holder,** (8 **stadhouder**), 7– **stadtholder,** 8– **stadholder.** [ad. Du. *stadhouder* (= G. *statthalter*) one who occupies another's place, a 'locum tenens', lieutenant, f. *stad* place (= G. *statt*; in Du. the word survives only in the sense 'city', = G. *stadt*, which is a mere graphic variant of *statt*) + *houder* Holder.]

† **1.** The governor of a fortress. *Obs. rare*[−1].

1591 Horsey *Trav.* (Hakl. Soc.) 190 The centinell brought me to the statholder or liftenant of the castell.

2. *Netherlands Hist.* **a.** Originally, a viceroy or lieutenant governor of a province or provinces. **b.** The title borne by the chief magistrate of the Dutch republic.

In the latter use, the title was first conferred by the States-General on William of Orange in 1580, and implied a nominal recognition of the sovereignty of the king of Spain. When the independence of the republic was acknowledged, the title of the office (hereditary in the house of Orange) remained unchanged. The stadholdership was abolished in 1802.

1668 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 226/4 Zealand and Friezland are as yet for his admission as Stadtholder. 1673 H. Stubbe *Further Vind. Dutch War* To Rdr. 11 Twice we find the State-holders to have acted Authoritatively. 1701 Grew *Cosmol. Sacra* III. i. 90 The United Provinces with their Statholder, and the Venetians, with their Doge. 1753 Hanway *Trav.* II. I. ix. (1762) 49 William, sirnamed the great, was the first stadtholder, and may be properly called the founder of the republic. 1825 Macaulay *Ess., Milton* (1850) I. 21 [Cromwell] demanded indeed the first place in the commonwealth; but with powers scarcely so great as those of a Dutch stadtholder or an American president. 1876 Bancroft *Hist. U.S.* xxii. II. 36 The friends of the stadholder asserted sovereignty for the states-general.

3. Used to render the etymologically equivalent G. *statthalter*, Da. *statholder*, lieutenant-governor, viceroy.

1704 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4015/2 The Emperor has Appointed the Count de Louvenstein,..to be Stadholder of the Upper Palatinate. 1886 T. Michell *Scot. Exped. Norway in 1612* I. vii. 52 The Norwegian Stadtholder.

Hence **Stadholderess,** a female stadholder; the wife of a stadholder.

1737 [G. Smith] *Cur. Relat.* I. 141 A free Pardon from Queen Mary, Sister to the Emperor Charles, then Stadtholderess.

Stadho·lderate. Also **stadt-.** [+ -ate [1].]

1. The office or dignity of stadholder.

1786 *Ann. Reg., St. Papers* 67/1 The Stadtholderate became extinct by the death of William III of England. 1825 Jefferson *Autobiog.* Wks. 1859 I. 75 He would take no part in the quarrel, unless an entire abolition of the Stadtholderate should be attempted. 1880 Green *Hist. Eng. People* IV. ix. iii. 300 The restoration of the Dutch Statholderate.

2. A state ruled by a stadholder, or by a chief with the status and powers of a stadholder.

1889 *Academy* 20 July 32/1 Making the revolted colonies into a stadtholderate under the Count of Broglie.

† **Stadholde·rian,** *a.* and *sb. Obs.* [f. Stadholder + -ian.] **a.** *adj.* Pertaining to a stadholder or to the office of stadholder; attached to the party of the stadholder. **b.** *sb.* A partisan of the stadholder.

1784–5 *Ann. Reg., Hist. Europe* 102/1 The hereditary enemies of the stadtholderian system of government. 1787 *Ibid., Chron.* 225/2 The houses of the Stadtholderians were not exempt from ravage. 1796 *Ibid., St. Papers* 194 The Netherlands were no longer under the stadtholderian yoke.

Sta·dholdership. [f. Stadholder + -ship.]

1. The office or dignity of a stadholder.

1668 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 238/3 The Deputies from the States General sent into Vriesland about the business of the Stateholdership. 1673 H. Stubbe *Further Vind. Dutch War* To Rdr. 7 The Election of Great Maurice to the said Stateholdership was purely a provincial act. *a* 1715 Burnet *Own Time* (1724) I. 273 To try what offices the King would do in order to his advancement to the Stadtholdership. 1723 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 6153/1 The Stadtholdership of that Province. 1837 *Foreign Q. Rev.* XIX. 173 The maintenance of the stadtholdership in the Netherlands. 1913 Willcock *Sir H. Vane* xii. 203 During the time of his minority the Statthaltership was in abeyance.

† **2.** A district ruled by a stadholder. *Obs.*

1811 Pinkerton *Mod. Geog.* (ed. 3) 142 Of these twenty-three provinces [of Russia], forty-two stadtholderships were formed.

Stadia (stā·diă). [Of obscure history; prob. derived from Stadium, and perhaps from the plural *stadia*. Cf. F. *stadia* (Littré *Suppl.*, with quot. of 1876).

It is doubtful in what country the word originated; the statement in the first quot. below lacks confirmation.]

An apparatus for measuring distance by optical means. **a.** *Mil.* An instrument consisting of a glass plate, or a brass plate with an opening of the form of an isosceles triangle, marked with figures showing the distance at which a foot- or horse-soldier will be when his image covers a certain height on the instrument held at arm's length.

b. *Surveying.* An apparatus consisting of a rod or staff placed at one end of the distance to be measured and a pair of horizontal lines, hairs or wires on the diaphragm of a telescope placed at the other end. Also *attrib.* as in *stadia hairs, lines, measurement, method, -rod, -surveying, telescope.*

By British surveyors *stadia* is commonly used as equivalent to 'stadia rod'; in the U. S. this use appears to be rare. The 'stadia method' has two varieties: in the one the staff is graduated and the telescope hairs fixed at a known distance apart; in the other the staff is of known length and the hairs are movable.

1865 Mayer in *Jrnl. Franklin Inst.* Jan. 4 The idea to measure the distances by a scale and the micrometer of a telescope was proposed by an Italian engineer about 45 years ago, and the name of Stadia (scale) was given by him to that kind of measure. *Ibid.* 5 Construction of a Stadia. *Ibid.*, To..compute the error of the reading on the Stadia scale. 1865 S. W. Robinson *Ibid.* Feb. 74 The error of the stadia measurement has been found to be about one foot in 800 or 1000. *Ibid.* 75 A much more convenient arrangement than the rod and targets, is a flat surface of three or four inches width and the required length, painted in such a manner that the distance can be read to a foot by the observer himself. By the French this is called a *stadia.* 1871 *Trans. Amer. Inst. Min. Engin.* I. 377 An extra pair of hairs for stadia purposes. 1890 W. F. Stanley *Surv. Instrum.* 321 For convenience the tangent is more generally taken upon a graduated stadia or staff which is erected for measurement perpendicularly to the horizon. 1899 W. G. Bligh *Notes Instrum. Engin. Field-work* 122 The telescope fitted with stadia lines on a stop glass. *Ibid.* 124 Stadia hairs are horizontal lines, either hairs fixed to the diaphragm or else marked on a stop glass. 1900 H. M. Wilson *Topogr. Surveying* xii. 238 The stadia is a device for determining the distance of a point by means of a graduated rod, and the distance subtended on it by auxiliary wires in the telescope of a transit or alidade. *Ibid.*, The term *stadia surveying* is used to include not only the measurement of the horizontal distance, but also the determination of heights by means of vertical angles observed to a fixed point on the rod.

Stadia: pl. of Stadium.

† **Sta·dial,** *a. Obs. rare*[−1]. [ad. L. *stadiāl-is*, f. *stadi-um*: see Stadium and -al.] Pertaining to a stadium in length.

1398 Trevisa *Barth. De P. R.* xix. cxxix. (1495) 937 The Stadiall felde conteyneth syxe score pace and fyue.

Stadic (stā·dik), *a. rare.* [f. Stad-ia + -ic.] Pertaining to a stadia.

1901 A. P. Davis *Elevation and Stadic Tables* in *Nature* (1901) 28 Mar. 514/1 [Tables] for obtaining differences of altitude for all angles and distances, horizontal distances in stadic work, &c.

† **Stadie.** *Obs. rare*[−1]. [Anglicized form of Stadium. Cf. Stade [1].] = Stadium **2.**

c 1374 Chaucer *Boeth.* IV. pr. iii. (1868) 119 Yif a man renneþ in þe stadie or in þe forlonge for þe corone, þan lieþ þe mede in þe corone for whiche he renneþ.

Stadiometer (stādiɒ·mĭtəɹ). [f. Gr. *στάδιο-ν* Stadium + -meter. Cf. F. *stadiomètre*, according to Bouillet (1896) an improved stadia invented in 1861 by Dupuy de Podio.]

a. *Mil.* = Stadia **a.** **b.** (See quot. 1884.) **c.** *U. S. Surveying.* 'A modified theodolite in which the directions are not read off, but marked upon a small sheet, which is changed at each station' (*Cent. Dict.* 1891).

1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib.* II. xi. 8 The stadiometer, for judging distance, has been adopted by Government. 1871 Heather *Math. Instrum.* III. 84 Edgeworth's Stadiometer or surveying instrument. 1884 Knight *Dict. Mech.* Suppl. s. v., The geographic stadiometer..is designed to show at a single reading the measure of any line, right, curved, or broken, on maps or charts executed on any scale.

† **Stadionicest.** *Obs. rare*[−1]. [irreg. f. Gr. *σταδιονίκης*, f. *στάδιο-ν* Stadium + *νῑκᾶν* to conquer.] A winner in the stadium or foot-race.

a 1656 Ussher *Ann.* (1658) 90 The Catalogue of the Stadionicests.

‖ **Stadium** (stā·diŏm). Pl. **stadia** (stā·diă); also 6 **stadias, stadios,** 8 **stadia's,** 7 **stadiums, stadium's.** [L., ad. Gr. *στάδιον*.

A plural form *stadii* (after Gr. *στάδιοι*, L. accus. *stadios*) used by Byron *Sardanapalus* v. i, has been corrected in posthumous editions to *stadia*.]

1. An ancient Greek and Roman measure of length, varying according to time and place, but most commonly equal to 600 Greek or Roman feet, or one-eighth of a Roman mile. (In the English Bible rendered by *furlong*.)

1398 Trevisa *Barth. De P. R.* xix. cxxix. (1495) 937 The Stadium is the eyghte parte of a myle. 1585 T. Washington tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* iv. xxix. 151 Amicle, distant twentie stadias from Lacedemon. 1600 Pory tr. *Leo's Africa* Introd. 11 Meroe..in length three thousand stadios or furlongs. 1601 Holland *Pliny* II. xxiii. I. 14 A Stadium or Furlong maketh of our paces 125... Posidonius saith, That from the earth it is no lesse than fortie stadia to that height ..wherein..clouds doe engender. 1621 Burton *Anat. Mel.* III. ii. I. i. (1624) 357 Two Palme trees..which were barren.. till they came to see one another by growing vp higher, though many Stadiums asunder. 1657 G. Thornley *Daphnis & Chloe* 82 When he had born off to sea about ten stadium's. 1730 A. Gordon *Maffei's Amphith.* 325 The Circus..was three Stadia's in length.

2. A race-course for foot-racing, originally a stadium in length; hence *occas.* foot-racing as an exercise. In mod. use often in extended sense, a place for athletic exercises.

1603 Holland *Plutarch* Explan. Words, *Stadium*, a race

or space of ground, conteining 625. foote. 1676 H. VERNON in *Phil. Trans.* XI. 579 There is the stadium yet to be seen. 1749 G. WEST *Pindar's Odes, Diss. Olympic Games* i. (1753) II. 10 Homer..introduces his greatest Heroes contending in the very same kind of Exercises, with those practised in the Stadium of Olympia. *Ibid.* vii. 61 The simple Foot-Race, named the Stadium, from the Length of the Course. 1833 SIR H. ELLIS *Elgin Marbles* I. 26 One of the greatest of the public works of Athens was the stadium of Herodes Atticus. 1834 BARON BERENGER (*title*) Particulars and Recommendations of the Stadium, or British National Arena for Manly and Defensive Exercises, Equestrian, Chivalric and Aquatic Games..at the Residence of the late Lord Cremorne. 1847 GROTE *Greece* II. xxviii. IV. 96 Kylon..had gained the prize in the Olympic stadium. 1866 ALGER *Solit. Nat. & Man* II. 51 We always think of the oracles of the gods as dropping in grove and grotto, not in street and stadium. 1901 *Westm. Gaz.* 27 Feb. 8/2 The stadium for sports, covering ten acres, is one of the chief features of the [Pan-American] Exposition [at Buffalo].

3. A stage of a process, disease, etc.

1669 W. SIMPSON *Hydrol. Chym.* 190 The several Stadiums of this Salt gives the various apparencies of growth, maturity, and old age of Plants. 1725 *Phil. Trans.* XXXIII. 391 Hence those Deliriums, Coma's, &c. so frequently threatening at this Stadium of the Disease. 1822–29 *Good's Study Med.* (ed. 3) IV. 77 Hence different stadia of life seem to exercise some control [over insanity]. 1860 GEO. ELIOT in Cross *Life* (1885) II. 282 We are still far off our last stadium of developement. 1876 BARTHOLOW *Mat. Med.* (1879) 176 Its good effects are limited, however, to that stadium of these maladies in which the morbid action is confined to the nasal passages. 1878 DOWDEN *Stud. Lit.* 36 A new stadium in the advance of the revolutionary idea commenced. 1888 J. MARTINEAU *Study Relig.* II. ii. II. 26 As the later stadia of her [Nature's] developments rise above the earlier. 1895 D. SHARP *Insects* I. 158 The intervals between the ecdyses are called stadia, the first stadium being the period between hatching and the first ecdysis.

4. *Surveying.* (See quots.) Cf. STADIA.

1861 in *Abridgm. Specif. Patents, Opt.* etc. *Instrum.* (1875) 363 An improved stadium or telemetre. 1871 HEATHER *Math. Instrum.* III. 79 The Stadium for measuring distances in rifle practice. 1884 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.*, Suppl., *Stadium*, the leveling rod of a surveyor.

Stadt, variant of STAD.

‖ **Stadthaus** (stat,haus). [G., f. *stadt* town + *haus* HOUSE *sb.*] A German town-hall. Cf. STADTHOUSE.

1839 BARHAM *Ingold. Leg., St.Gengulphus,* They stuck up placards on the walls of the Stadthaus. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* lxiii, Georgy Osborne..came to the Stadthaus' ball in company of his uncle's courier.

Stadtholder, variant of STADHOLDER.

Stadthouse (stat,haus). Also: 7 **stat-**, 8 **stadhouse.** [ad. G. *stadthaus* and Du. *stadhuis*, f. G. *stadt*, Du. *stad* town + G. *haus*, Du. *huis* HOUSE *sb.*] A town-hall, esp. one in a Dutch town (or Dutch colony).

1646 HOWELL *Lewis XIII*, ii. 42 A Stat-House in Delph in Holland, which had bin burnt in like maner and reedified. 1673 TEMPLE *Observ. United Prov.* ii. 86 The Magnificence of their Publique Buildings, as Stadthouse and Arsenals. 1704 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4077/3 Having shewn his Grace their Famous Stadhouse. 1766 *Ann. Reg., Chron.* 94/1 A most terrible fire at Muskau in Upper Lusatia, which reduced to ashes, two churches, the stadthouse [etc.]. 1809 W. IRVING *Knickerb.* (1861) 131 A great banquet was served up in the stadthouse. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* v. I. 550 The Stadthouse of Amsterdam.

Staeg, obs. form of STAG *sb.*[1]

† **Sta·fador.** *Obs. rare*[−1]. [ad. Sp. *estafador*, agent-n. f. *estafar* to swindle.] An impostor.

1638 W. M. *Garcia's Sonne Rogue* 246 For the first are the Robbers, next the Stafadours, then the Grumets, after these the Hobgoblins. *Ibid.* 249 A Robber, Staffador or Grumet.

Stafesagre, obs. form of STAVESACRE.

Staff (staf), *sb.*[1] Pl. **staves** (stēvz), **staffs** (stafs). Forms: 1 stæb, (sæb-, steb-), 1–2 stef, 1–4 stæf, 1–6 **staf**, 3 *oblique* stæve, **steave**, 3–4 *oblique* **stave**, 4–7 **stafe**, 4–8, (9 *arch.*) **staffe**, 5–6 *Sc.* **staif**, 6 **stayffe**, *Sc.* **staif**, (**stafte**), 4–7 *genit. sing.* **staves**, 3– **staff**; *pl.* 1 **stafas**, 2 **stafen**, 2–5 **stafes**, 3 **staven**, *Ormin* **stafess**, 4 **stafs**, **steves**, (**stavenes**), 4–5 **stafis**, **stawis**, 4–6 **stavis**, **-ys**, 5–6 **staffes**, 6 **stavez**, *Sc.* **staiffis**, **sta(l)ffis**, 3–9 **staves**, 8– **staffs**. [Com. Teut.: OE. *stæf* masc. corresponds to OFris. *stef*, OS. *-staf* (MLG., MDu., Du. *staf*), OHG., MHG. *stap*, genit. *stabes* (mod.G. *stab*). ON. *staf-r* (Sw. *staf*, Da. *stav*) :—OTeut. **staðo-z*; a variant type **staði-* appears in Goth. **staf-s* (in dat. pl. *stabim*) rendering στοιχεῖον element; a third type, possibly ancient, is represented by early mod.Du. *stave*, now *staaf* fem., bar. Other probable derivatives from the Teut. **staþ-* (? to be firm or fixed) are Da. *stabbe* (Icel. *stabbi*) STAB *sb.*[1]; ON. *stef* neut. (:—**staðjon-*) set or recurring time, refrain, *stefja* (:—**staðjon-*) to prevent, *stefna* fem. appointed time (:—**staðnjōn-*), STEVEN *sb.*; OHG. *stabên* (MHG. *staben*) to become stiff. The pre-Teut. type might be either **stapo-* (? f. **stă-* to stand, with suffix of causative import as in Sk. *sthāpāyati* makes to stand), or **stabho-*.

The plural form *staves* is now somewhat archaic, exc. in certain senses in which a sing. form STAVE has been developed from it; but it is still preferred in those senses that are confined to literary use.]

I. 1. A stick carried in the hand as an aid in walking or climbing. Now chiefly *literary* (e. g. in reference to 'pilgrims').

c 725 *Corpus Gloss.* 1441 *Olastrum*: stæb. *c* 888 ÆLFRED *Boeth.* xxxvi. § 6 Ða cild ridað on hiora stafum. *c* 897 — *Gregory's Past. C.* xvii. 126 Mid ȝierde mon bið beswungen, and mid stæfe he bið awreðed. *c* 1205 LAY. 30754 Þene staf he nom an honde and ferde ouer þan londe. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 3149 Stondende, and staf on hond. 1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. XVII. 36 Þe gome þat goth with o staf, he semeth in gretter hele þan he þat goth with two staues to sy3te of vs alle. *a* 1533 BERNERS *Huon* cxlvi. 545 Huon..aparelyd hymselfe lyke a pylgryme, with a stafe, and a bage abought his necke. *c* 1539 in Aungier *Syon* (1840) 131 They bare small staves in their honds to lepe over the watery playshes. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* I. viii. 30 An old old man..That on a staffe his feeble steps did frame. 1666 PEPYS *Diary* 20 July, He did present me with a varnished staffe, very fine and light to walk with. 1760–72 H. BROOKE *Fool of Qual.* (1809) IV. 139 With their staffs in their hands. 1803 JANE PORTER *Thaddeus* i, When we possessed no other property than the staffs which we hold in our hands. 1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* I. xiv. 95, I..dug my staff deeply into the snow. 1857 J. G. HOLLAND *Bay Path* vi. 78 Two or three pedestrians..swinging their sturdy staves. 1907 *Verney Mem.* I. 50 A curious pilgrim's staff.

b. *jocularly* as a type of thinness or leanness.

c 1386 CHAUCER *Prol.* 592 Ful longe were his legges and ful lene, Ylyk a staf, ther was no calf ysene. 1597 SHAKS. 2 *Hen. IV*, v. i. 71 If I were saw'de into Quantities, I should make foure dozen of such bearded Hermites staues, as Master Shallow.

† **c.** Applied to a crutch. *Obs.*

1483 CAXTON *Gold. Leg.* 432/2 He coude not goo ne stande wythoute he had two crutches or staues under hys armes.

† **d.** A stick or rod, esp. one with a hooked end, used for tending sheep; a shepherd's crook. *Obs.*

For *shepherd's staff* used as a plant-name, after L. *virga pastoris*, see SHEPHERD *sb.* 7 d.

c 1475 *Pict. Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 814 *Hoc pedum*, a scheperdes stafe. 1530 PALSGR. 266/2 Schepherdes staffe, *houlette*. 1538 ELYOT *Dict.*, *Agolum*, a staffe to dryue cattell with. 1577 GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* III. 141 They must be well ware in the driuing of them..that they guide them with theyr voyce, and shaking of theyr staffe.

e. A rod or wand used as an instrument of magic or divination.

1610 SHAKS. *Temp.* V. 54 I'le breake my staffe. 1656 S. HOLLAND *Don Zara* 67 Her Rod, Staff, and other implements of Sorcery stood by her on a Table of Abstersive Ebony. 1770 LANGHORNE *Plutarch, Camillus* (Rtldg.) 109/2 They discovered under a great heap of ashes the augural staff of Romulus. This staff is crooked at one end, and called *lituus*. 1836 THIRLWALL *Greece* xiv. II. 197 Diviners..who drew their knowledge of the future from the position of staves thrown on the ground.

f. *By staff and baton*: a formula of Scots Law, used when the vassal resigns his feu into the hands of his superior. (Cf. ROD *sb.*[1] I c.)

1499 *Reg. Privy Seal Scot.* I. 43/2 Resignit he his procuratouris in our soverane lordis handis..be staf and bastoun. 1596 in T. Morris *Provosts of Methven* (1875) 86 Thair in my name..be staff and bastoun, as vse is, to resigne..in our said Squerane lordis handis..my mansioun. 1762 in *Nairne Peerage Evid.* (1874) 92 To resign surrender overgive and deliver duely and lawfully by staff and baton as use is all and haill the foresaids parts and portions of his baronies.

2. A stick, pole or club used as a weapon. (Cf. QUARTERSTAFF.)

The constable's staff (quot. 1583, etc.) is at once a weapon and a badge of office: see sense 7 and TIPSTAFF 1.

c 1000 ÆLFRIC *Gram.* ix. (Z.) 55 *Fustis* sazol oððe stæf. *c* 1250 *Owl & Night.* 1167 Her-uore hit is þat me þe shuneþ, & þe to-toruep & to-bunep Mid staue & stone & turf & clute. *c* 1290 *St. Lawrence* 114 in *S. Eng. Leg.* 343 He het heom with grete staues leggen on him to grounde. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 7528 His arms fra him did he suing, And tok bot a staf and a sling. 1340 *Ayenb.* 156 Þe sergons..nome steues and byete þane asse riȝt to þe uolle. 1382 WYCLIF *Mark* xiv. 48 As to a thef ȝe han gon out with swerdis and staues, for to take me. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Knt.'s T.* 1652 Yemen on foote and communes many oon With shorte staues. 1421 *Cov. Leet Bk.* 28 That no bocher..ber no billys, ne gysarnez, ne no grett stauys within the Cite...Saue leefull be hit to euery bocher and othur man..comyng to market to dryve hur beestis with smale stavys and non othur. 1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* I. ix. 47 Thenne the comyns of Carlyon aroos with clubbis and stauys and slewe many knyghtes. 1583 *Nottingham Rec.* IV. 201, XXX. Cunstable stavez at xvd. a pece. 1663 KILLIGREW *Parson's Wedd.* IV. i, Constables staff, and Lanthorn. 1671 MILTON *Samson* 1123, I only with an Oak'n staff will meet thee. 1742 *Col. Rec. Pennsylv.* IV. 621 The Constables interposing with their Staves for some time kept off the Rioters. 1778 *Learning at a Loss* I. 103 In his Hand [was] a very inimical Oak staff of at least two Inches diameter. 1821 COMBE *Syntax, Wife* I. (1869) 267 But warrants, staves and mastiffs wait To guard the approaches to his gate. 1847 MRS. A. KERR tr. *Ranke's Hist. Servia* 32 We find them armed only with long staves.

fig. 1541 CROME in Strype *Eccl. Mem.* (1721) III. xi. 104 But, alack! this bold Beggar's Staf hath this Beggar of Rome left here behind him. Which Staf beateth both the Bodies and Souls of Men. 1577 *F. de Lisle's Legendarie* G vij, She looked to finde in him a new staffe wherewith to suppresse the Guisians.

3. a. The shaft of a spear or lance. *arch.* † **b.** A spear, lance, or similar armed weapon. *To break a staff*, to tilt or contend *with* (an antagonist). *Obs.*

c 1205 LAY. 8155 Euelin..mid þan stæue to-draf, and smat Herigal a þon ribben þat þe stæf to-bræc amidden. *c* 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 14806 Eyber þorow pleyn bataille in feld, Or wyþ chaumpion staf & scheld. *c* 1400 *Brut* CCXXIII. 276 He fonde in a chambre aboue v C of grete stafes [CAXTON staues] of fyne oke, with longe pikes of yren and of stele. 1471 CAXTON *Recuyell* (Sommer) 157 Ther was ..many an arowe shotte and many a staffe and guysarme broken. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* VIII. xi. 45 Twa javilling speris, or than gyssarn stavis. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VIII*, 6 There wer broken many staues and great praise geuen to the twoo straungers. 1597 SHAKS. 2 *Hen. IV*, IV. i. 120 Their armed Staues in charge, their Beauers downe. 1599, 1624 [see TAINT *v.* A. 5 b]. 1600 HOLLAND *Livy* VIII. vii. 285 Wilt thou then..break a staffe with me in the meane time. 1605 SHAKS. *Mach.* V. iii. 48 Come, put mine Armour on: giue me my Staffe. 1611 BIBLE 1 *Sam.* xvii. 7 The staffe of his speare was like a weauers beame. 1611 COTGR. s. v. *Manche, Le manche d'un espieu*, the staffe of a Borespeare. 1868 MORRIS *Earthly Par., Man born to be King* 1226 Who bore armed staves and coats of fence.

† **c.** with defining word, indicating some kind of spear or javelin, as *horseman's, hunter's, hunting, Jedburgh (Jedworth, Jedwood* etc.) *staff. Obs.*

1515–6 *Exchequer Rolls Scot.* XIV. 141 Halbertis, Leith axis, et Jedworth stauis [*printed* stanis]. 1538 ELYOT *Dict., Venabulum*, a huntynge staffe. *a* 1547 SURREY *Æneid* IV. 167 The hunting staues with their brod heads of steele. 1560 WHITEHORN *Ord. Souldiours* xl. 45 Howe to make certayn fyreworke to tye at the poinctes of pykes or horsemenstaues. 1561 in *Maitland Club Misc.* III. 278 And for ye sam caws of set purpos ye person had Jedwod staiffis in ye qweyr. 1567 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* I. 578 Stryking and schuting of culveringis and Jedburgh staffis. 1579–80 NORTH *Plutarch, Pelopidas* (1595) 309 Taking houndes with them, and hunters staues in their handes. 1611 COTGR., *Espieu*, a Boare-speare; a hunting staffe, or Iauelin. *a* 1625 FLETCHER *Hum. Lieut.* I. i, And on Our Horsemans Staves, Death lookes as grimly as on your keene-edgd Swords. 1680 *Lyon Office Register of Arms* (MS.), A kynde of Launce (called the Jedburgh staff). 1708 MOTTEUX *Rabelais* V. ix. (1737) 35 Troutstaves,..and Hunting Staffs.

† **d.** *Judas staff* [cf. Mark xiv. 43] = JUDAS 2.

1488 in *Archæologia* XLV. 119 Ther bith vi Judas Staves for torches peynted.

4. *fig.* Something which serves as a support or stay.

1390 GOWER *Conf.* II. 145 Therof the Jelous takth non hiede, Bot as a man to love unkinde, He cast his staf, as doth the blinde, And fint defaulte where is non. *a* 1489 CAXTON *Blanchardyn* 213 And is she gon, the comfort of my youth, the staffe of my age. *a* 1591 H. SMITH *Serm.* (1637) 496 Take heed is a good staffe to stay upon. 1596 SHAKS. *Merch. V.* II. ii. 70 The boy was the verie staffe of my age, my verie prop. 1606 — *Ant. & Cl.* III. xiii. 68 It much would please him, That of his Fortunes you should make a staffe To leane vpon. 1642 FULLER *Holy & Prof. St.* V. xiv. 415 Having lost his own legs, he relyes on the staff of his kinred. 1721 DE FOE *Mem. Cavalier* (1840) 256 They were the staff of the party. 1820 W. IRVING *Sketch Bk.* I. 223 They had one son, who had grown up to be the staff and pride of their age. 1830 SCOTT *Introd. Last Minstrel* P 13, I determined that literature should be my staff, but not my crutch. 1876 HARDY *Ethelberta* xiii, Long before he adopted music as the staff of his pilgrimage.

b. In the Biblical phr. *to break the staff of bread* (literally from Heb. *maṭṭēh leḥem*, Vulg. *baculum panis*), to diminish or cut off the supply of food.

1382, 1388 WYCLIF *Lev.* xxvi. 26. 1560 BIBLE (Geneva) *Lev.* xxvi. 26. *Ps.* cv. 16. *Ezek.* iv. 16. [And so 1611.] *c* 1586 C'TESS PEMBROKE *Ps.* cv. iv, Scarse had he spoken, When famine came, the staff of bread was broken. 1596 BARLOW *Three Serm.* i. 121 God in his lawe threatneth that he will breake the staffe of bread, that is, bread shall not nourish them that eate it.

c. Hence *the staff of life* = bread (or similar staple food).

1638 PENKETHMAN *Artach.* A j b, Bread is worth all, being the Staffe of life. 1656 J. HAMMOND *Leah & Rachel* (1844) 9 Corn (the main staffe of life). 1698 FRYER *Acc. E. India & P.* 35 For Corn, they have Rice the Staff of the Land. 1860 *All Year Round* No. 45. 440 Barley bannocks and oat cake long remained the staff of life in villages in Scotland. 1901 D. SLADEN *In Sicily* I. 372 Broad beans form one of the staves of life in Sicily.

d. *Staff and staple*: the chief elements or ingredients.

1869 BUCKLE *Civiliz.* II. 171 Events of this sort though neglected by ordinary historians are among the staff and staple of history.

5. In proverbs and proverbial phrases. † **a.** Various phrases of obvious meaning. *Obs.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 7322 Þat þai desire, þai sal it haue, To þair aun heued a staue. 1444 LYDG. in *Pol. Poems* (1859) II. 219 Whoo hath noon hors on a staff may ride. *a* 1450 *Knt. de la Tour* XV. 21, And sum saide it hadd be beter for her to holde her pees..and that she had bete her selff with her owne staffe. 1508 DUNBAR *Tua Mariit Wemen* 384 All thus enforsit he his fa And maid a stalwart staff to strik him selfe doune. 1546 J. HEYWOOD *Prov.* (1867) 21 The walkyng staffe hath caught warmth in your hand. 1579 FULKE *Heskins' Parl.* 519 These be all as good reasons as yt comon iest: The staffe standeth in the corner, therefore ye good man is not at home. 1593 SHAKS. 2 *Hen. VI*, III. i. 171 A Staffe is quickly found to beat a Dogge. 1594 NASHE *Unfort. Trav.* Wks. (Grosart) V. 27, I warrant you are made while you liue, you neede not care which waie your staffe falles. 1659 N. R. *Prov., Eng. Fr.*, etc. 67 If you would know a knave give him a staff. *Ibid.* 74 Lean not to a broken staff. 1681 FOULIS *Rom. Treasons* 82 And though the Rule be but obscure, they are apt to take the staff by the wrong end, and apply it to their own pleasures.

† **b.** *At (the) staves end* or *staff-end*: at a distance, away from close quarters or familiarity, on unfriendly terms. Chiefly in phr. *to keep* or *hold* (a person) *at staves end, to stand at staves end with* (a person). (Cf. *at arm's end*, ARM *sb.*[1] 2 b.) *Obs.*

c 1374 CHAUCER *Anel. & Arc.* 184 (Fairf. MS.) His new lady holdeth him vp so narowe Vp by the bridil at the staves ende, That euery worde he dred hit as an arowe. 1546 J. HEYWOOD *Prov.* I. xi. (1867) 34 And now without them, I liue here at staues end. 1601 DENT *Pathw. Heauen* 175 So that

wee both keepe Satan at the staues end, and also much sinne out of our soules. 1601 SHAKS. *Twel. N.* v. 292. 1640 HARSNET *God's Summons Repentance* 218 Hee keepes them a-while at the staves end, and speakes harshly unto them. 1650 I. AMBROSE *Ultima* (1654) 193 Whosoever they are that stand at the staffes end, he desires them to lay aside their weapons and come in. 1657 S. PURCHAS *Pol. Flying-Ins.* II. 322 Vaine and wicked thoughts..will presse..into the heart, but a good heart will not owne them,..but stands at staves end with them. 1680 BUNYAN *Mr. Badman* (1905) 66 Had I been his Father, I would have held him a little at staves-end, till I had had far better proof of his manners to be good. *a* 1780 SHIRREFS *Poems* (1790) 215 Fowks that ha'e power to mak' an' men', Sud keep sic lads at the staff-en'. 1816 SCOTT *Antiq.* xvi, I expect him here one of these days; but I will keep him at staff's end, I promise you.

† c. *To have, get*, etc., *the better* (or *worse*) *end of the staff*: to come off best (or worst) in a contest, disputation, etc.; to have the advantage or the contrary. *Obs.* (NOW STICK *sb.*)

1542 UDALL *Erasm. Apoph.* 306 As often as thei see theim selfes to haue the wurse ende of the staffe in their cause. 1546 J. HEYWOOD *Prov.* II. iii. (1867) 48 Who had the wurs ende of the staffe (quoth I) now? 1616 in *Cal. Colon. Papers, E. Ind.* 465 If others will be so foolish to cut their bellies for love (or rather lust) after whores, the worst end of the staff will be their own. 1626 JACKSON *Creed* VIII. viii. 71 He having gotten (as wee say) the better end of the staffe, did wrest our wills at his pleasure. *c* 1645 HOWELL *Lett.* (1650) II. II. 20 He was sure to keep the better end of the staff still to himself. 1688 BUNYAN *Christ as Advocate* 94, I am ashamed my self of mine own doings, and have given mine Enemy the best end of the Staff. 1753 RICHARDSON *Grandison* (1754) II. ii. 12 Miss Byron, I have had the better end of the staff, I believe?

† d. *To set down* (*the* or *one's*) *staff*: to take up a fixed or settled position; to abide stedfastly by an opinion, decision, etc.; similarly *to fix the staff* (obs.). *To set up* (or † *in*) *one's staff* (*of rest*): to settle down in a place, take up one's abode.

1584 GREENE *Arbasto* Wks. (Grosart) III. 217 Setting downe the staf therefore on this secure periury thus it fell out. *a* 1610 HEALEY *Epictetus* (1636) 61 But sette downe thy staffe at this, whatever the end bee, it noway concerneth thee. 1642 D. ROGERS *Naaman* 175 Yet till she rests there, and sets downe her stafe upon the promise, shee shall haue no rest. 1667 O. HEYWOOD *Heart-Treasure* xiv. 165 A sober solid wel-taught Christian hath fixt the Staffe, and you know where to finde him, and he knows where to finde his own Principles. 1828 [CARR] *Craven Gloss.* s. v., 'To put down one's staff in a place', to settle or take up his residence in it.

1590 SHAKS. *Com. Err.* III. i. 51 Haue at you with a prouerbe, Shall I set in my staffe. 1594 NASHE *Unfort. Trav.* Wks. (Grosart) V. 46 Here I was in good hope to set vp my staffe for some reasonable time. 1609 BODLEY *Life* (1647) 15, I concluded at the last to set up my Staffe at the Library doore in Oxford. 1760–72 H. BROOKE *Fool of Qual.* (1792) III. 71 This gentleman who has done us the honour to set up his staff of rest in our house. 1765 H. WALPOLE *Let. to Earl Strafford* 3 Sept., The Countesses of Carlisle and Berkeley..will set up their staves there [in Paris] for some time. 1815 SCOTT *Guy M.* xix, Here, then, Mannering resolved, for some time at least, to set up the staff of his rest. 1840 DICKENS *Sk. Yng. Couples* 75 Old Mrs. Chopper, when her daughter married,..set up her staff of rest with Mr. and Mrs. Merrywinkle. 1860 TROLLOPE *Framley P.* xlviii, They appeared in London and there set up their staff.

† e. (*One's*) *staff stands next the door*: it is (one's) turn next. *Obs.*

1548 HALL *Chron.*, 3 *Hen. VII.* (1550) 13 The Prouerbe that sayth, when thy neighboures house is a fyer, thy staffe standeth nexte the dore. 1577–87 HARRISON *England* II. iii. 152/2 in *Holinshed*, For when the lands of colleges be gone, it shall be hard to saie, whose staffe shall stand next the doore.

† f. *To argue from the staff to the corner*: to shift a discussion to another issue. *Obs.*

1656 BRAMHALL *Replic.* ii. § 9. 107 This is an argument from the Staffe to the Corner. I speak of a succession of holy Orders, and he of a succession of Opinions.

g. *To have the staff in* (*one's*) *own hand*: see quot. 1828.

1828 [CARR] *Craven Gloss.* s. v., 'To have the staff in one's own hand', to keep possession of his property, and, of consequence, to retain authority and obedience. 'To part with one's staff', the very reverse of the former phrase. 1852 MRS. STOWE *Uncle Tom's C.* xviii, And, of course, they know the staff is in their own hands. 1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss.* s. v., To keep the staff in your own hand.

6. (Cf. sense 1 c.) Part of the insignia of the episcopal office, consisting of a rod or pole of wood, metal or ivory supporting a crook, or, in the case of metropolitans, a cross. See CROSE, CROSIER, CROSS-STAFF 1, and cf. PASTORAL *a.* 3.

The staff represents the possession of jurisdiction and was one of the insignia connected with INVESTITURE.

a 1122 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1047 Vlf biscop com þær to, & for neah man sceolde tobrecan his stef. *Ibid.* an. 1102, Manige Francisce & Englisce þær heora stafas & rice for luron. *c* 1205 LAY. 22105 Þene ærchebiscopes staf þer he Piram azaf. *c* 1400 *Apol. Loll.* 56 Prelats, wiþ þer stafis & oþer ornaments. 1535 STEWART *Cron. Scot.* II. 424 How the Bischopis Stalf tuke Neidfyre. 1535 BP. HILSEY in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* Ser. III. II. 352 Yff hytt may plese your Mastershypp to be soe good unto me as to geve my predecessours Myttre, Staff, and Seale. 1643 BAKER *Chron., Hen. I*, 55 That the King should receive homage of Bishops elect; but should not invest them by Staffe and Ring. 1851 MRS. BROWNING *Casa Guidi Wind.* I. 1006 With his pastoral ring and staff.

7. A rod or wand, of wood or ivory, borne as an ensign of office or authority; *spec.* as the badge of certain chief officers of the Crown.

Cf. *leading-staff* s. v. LEADING *vbl. sb.*[1] 6.

1535 COVERDALE *Ezek.* xix. 11 Hir stalkes were so stronge, that men might haue made staues therof for officers. 1593 SHAKS. *Rich. II*, II. ii. 59 The Earle of Worcester Hath broke his staffe, resign'd his Stewardship. 1605 *1st Pt. Jeronimo* I. i. 8 For honering me..With this high staffe of office. *a* 1618 RALEIGH *Prerog. Parl.* 32 In his fifth yeare was the Treasurer againe changed, and the Staffe giuen to Segraue, and the Lord Chancellour was also changed, and the staffe giuen to the Lord Scroope. 1640 in *3rd Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* 80/2 Mr. Treasurer would not accept of the secretary's place until he was assured of holding his white staff also. 1642 G. MOUNTAGU in *Buccleuch MSS.* (Hist. MSS. Comm.) I. 299 These Lords, Holland and Essex, ..accordingly delivered their key and staff respectively to the Lord Falkland. 1711 SWIFT *Jrnl. to Stella* 31 May, I was bit about the two staves, for there is no new officer made to-day. 1716 HEARNE *Collect.* (O.H.S.) V. 283 By this Resignation of the..place..of Beadle..I kept Possession of the Library, laying down the Staff before I went out. 1813 GEO. [IV] in Gurw. *Wellington Desp.* (1838) X. 552 You have sent me..the Staff of a French Marshal, and I send you in return that of England. 1827 HALLAM *Const. Hist.* (1876) I. iv. 204 He kept the white staff of treasurer down to his death. 1843 PUGIN *Apol. Rev. Chr. Archit.* 52 A verge or cantor's staff. 1863 H. COX *Instit.* III. vii. 694 Lord Godolphin, the Earl of Oxford, and the Duke of Shrewsbury successively received the Treasurer's staff.

8. A pole from which a flag is flown.

a 1613 [see FLAG-STAFF]. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* I. 535 Who forthwith from the glittering Staff unfurld Th' Imperial Ensign. 1702 [see JACK *sb.*[2]]. 1769 FALCONER *Dict. Marine* (1780) *Staff*, a light pole erected in different parts of a ship, whereon to hoist and display the colours. 1774 M. MACKENZIE *Maritime Surv.* 39 Setting perpendicular in a level Ground three Poles, or Staves, between four and five Feet high, with Flags flying at each, so as to form a Triangle. 1816 BYRON *Siege Cor.* xi, The banners droop'd along their staves. 1836 W. IRVING *Astoria* III. 228 They would willingly have nailed their colours to the staff, and defied the frigate. 1894 *pl.* staves [see JACK *sb.*[2]].

b. A rod or pole on which a processional cross was borne.

1431 *Rec. St. Mary at Hill* 27, ij staues [*printed* stanes] for þe principall crosses. *a* 1529 SKELTON *Ware the Hauke* 114 Cros, staffe, lectryne, and banner.

† 9. A strong stick, pole, bar, rod or stake used for various purposes; e. g. for carrying burdens, to support a canopy, the stems of plants, etc. *Obs.*

c 1000 *Lamb. Psalter* cvi. 16 *Vectes ferreos confregit*, stafas *vel* sahlas isenne tobræc. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 2677 Ac some þat ofscapede..mid staues of hegges defended hom aboute. 1382 WYCLIF *Exod.* xxv. 13 And thow shalt make berynge staues of the trees of Sychym. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* II. 294 Doun goth the corde into the pet, To which he hath at ende knet A staf, wherby, he seide, he wolde That Adrian him scholde holde. 1485 in *Rutland Papers* (Camden) 5 A seele of cloth of gold baudekyn with iiij staves gilte, to be borne alweis by iiij noble knights. 1523–34 FITZHERB. *Husb.* § 21 Than muste ye haue a wedynge-hoke with a socket set vpon a lyttel staffe of a yarde longe. 1530 PALSGR. 275/1 Staffe to beare two peyles on, as they do in Fraunce, *une courge*. 1538 ELYOT *Dict., Phalangæ*, staues, whereon men doo carye packes, playne staues. 1552 in Daniel-Tyssen *Invent. Ch. Goods Surrey* (1869) 14 Item a canype with iiij staves. 1572 MASCALL *Plant. & Graff.* (1592) 13 How to set small staues by, to strengthen your Cions. 1643 BAKER *Chron., Rich. II*, 1 To beare the Kings Canopy, upon foure staves of silver, over the Kings head. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 320/1 A Bearing Staff by which empty Barrels are carried by Servants from place to place. 1708 *Constit. Watermen's Co.* XXV, No Waterman..shall stick up and lay his Boat at his Staff, so as to hinder..due and orderly passing..but shall..stick up their said Staves clear of the said Stairs or Landing-places.

† b. A CHURN-STAFF; also = *pump-staff* (see PUMP *sb.*[1] 6). *Obs.*

1559 in *Richmond Wills* (Surtees) 134 A chirn with a staf. 1593 [see SHOE *sb.* 5 b]. 1609 *Balliol Coll. Acc.* (MS.), Item, staffe for mendinge the quadrangle pumpe.

† c. = PLOUGH-STAFF. *Obs.*

1538 ELYOT *Dict., Rulla*, the staffe, wherwith the ploughman clenseth his culter. 1565 COOPER *Thesaurus, Rallum*, the staffe wherewith plough men in tillyng put the earth from their share. 1577 GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* I. 21 With the Rodde or Staffe well poynted, the plowman maketh cleane his Coulter.

† d. = BOWSTAFF. *Obs.*

1545 ASCHAM *Toxoph.* II. (Arb.) 116 The boole of ye tree is..best for a bow, yf the staues be euen clouen. 1583 *Rates Custom Ho.* A vj, Bowestaues the bundel containing xvi staues v s. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 105/2 A Staff, the first cleeving out of the Timber, to make the Shaft. 1868 KIRK *Charles the Bold* III. IV. viii. 136 And 'bowiers' [were ordered] to make their staves into bows with all possible haste.

e. ? Each of two sticks fastened to the extremities of a fishing-net.

1823 J. F. COOPER *Pioneers* xxiii, Benjamin prided himself greatly on his skill in throwing the net...A loud splash in the water, as he threw away the 'staff', or 'stretcher'. *Ibid.*, 'I see the "staffs",' shouted Mr. Jones;—'gather in, boys, and away with it'...Elizabeth strained her eyes and saw the ends of the two sticks on the seine.

10. *Surveying.* A rod for measuring distances and heights. Cf. JACOB'S STAFF 2 b; also *levelling staff* s. v. LEVELLING *vbl. sb.* 4.

[1538 ELYOT *Dict., Pertica*, a staffe, a cogell, a perche or polle, wherwith grounde is mette.] 1556 DIGGES *Tecton.* (1592) title-p., An Instrument called the profitable Staffe. 1571 — *Pantom.* I. xiv. D iv b, Heightes are ingeniously searched out by a staffe. 1590 BLAGRAVE (*title*) Baculum Familliare, Catholicon siue Generale. A Booke of the making and vse of a Staffe, newly invented by the Author, called the Familiar Staffe. As well for that it may be made vsually and familiarlie to walke with, as for that it performeth the Geometrical mensurations of all Altitudes, Longitudes, Latitudes, Distances and Profundities. 1610 A. HOPTON (*title*) Baculum Geodæticum, sive Viaticum. Or The Geodeticall Staffe. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl., *Staff.* This is used as an instrument for taking accessible, or inaccessible heights. *Ibid.* s.v., *Station-Staff*, in surveying. 1835 *Lond. Jrnl. Arts & Sci.* Conj. Ser. VI. 330 The graduated staffs or measuring rods being thus placed at the stations. 1880 L. D'A. JACKSON *Aids Surv.-Practice* 11 Telemetrical observation on graduated staves. A graduated staff is held vertically at the required distant point [etc.].

† b. (See quot. and cf. JACOB'S STAFF 2 c.)

For other uses see BACKSTAFF, CROSS-STAFF 2, FORE-STAFF, JACOB'S STAFF 2 a.

1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl., Staff*, in Surveying, a kind of Stand, whereon to mount a Theodolite, Circumferentor, plain Table, or the like, for use. It consists of Three Legs of Wood, joyned together at one End, whereon the Instrument is placed; and made pecked at the other, to enter the Ground.

† c. = *half-breadth staff* (see HALF- f).

1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XVII. 407/1 The half breadth staff may be one inch square, and of any convenient length. ..Two sides of the staff are marked half breadths, and the other two sides heights of the sheer.

d. The gnomon of a sun-dial.

1669 STURMY *Mariner's Mag.* VI. iii. 123 The shadow being 83, the Gnomon or Staff 100. 1829 *Chapters Phys. Sci.* ix. 89 The sun dial, which marks the time by the shadow of a stile or staff.

11. *Her.* A representation of a stick, stake, bar, etc.; *spec.* = BATON 3, FISSURE *sb.* 2 c. See also RAGGED STAFF 1.

1486 *Bk. St. Albans, Her.* e vij b, Ther be fyssuris or stauys playn ingradyt inueckyt and fusyllatit. 1874 PAPWORTH & MORANT *Dict. Coats of Arms* s. v. *Staff*, Arg. a hawk ppr...standing on a staff couped and raguled vert. *Ibid.*, Az. eight staves fretty and raguly or.

12. *Surg.* † a. The piston of a syringe. *Obs.*

1653 T. BRUGIS *Vade Mecum* (ed. 2) 148 In dangerous fluxes when we give comfortable Clysters, we oftentimes force them up as far as we can, I mean the Liquor by thrusting the staffe harder.

b. A grooved steel instrument used to guide the knife in lithotomy.

1698 LISTER *Journ. Paris* (1699) 233 He boldly thrusts in a broad Lancet..till he joins the Catheter or Staff, or the Stone betwixt his Fingers. 1720 J. DOUGLAS *Lithotomia Douglas.* 14 That [operation] which Surgeons call Cutting on the Staffe, i. e. when a furrow'd Probe is pass'd into the Bladder, upon which they afterwards Cut. 1726 — *Hist. Lateral Operation* 30 The Instruments he made Use of were first a Catheter or Staff. 1839 *Hooper's Lex. Med.* (ed. 7) 1216. 1895 *Arnold & Sons' Catal. Surg. Instrum.* 572 Stricture Staff (Syme's). *Ibid.* 625 Lithotomy Instruments ..Six Staffs, grooved.

13. *Arch.* a. = RUDENTURE.

1817 RICKMAN *Styles Archit.* 95 The square pedestal of the pinnacle being set with an angle to the front, is continued down, and on each side is set a small buttress of a smaller face than this pedestal, thus leaving a small staff between them..this small staff at each set-off has the moulding to it.

b. (See quot. 1812.)

1812 P. NICHOLSON *Mech. Exerc.* 202 *Staff*, a piece of wood fixed to the external angle of the two upright sides of a wall for floating the plaster to, and for defending the angle against accidents. 1902 STURGIS *Dict. Archit.* III. 593.

14. a. A rung of a ladder. ? *Obs.* Cf. STAVE.

c 1325 *Gloss. W. de Bibbesw.* in Wright *Voc.* 168 (Camb. MS.) [En les reideles vount les roilouns *glossed*] staves. *a* 1400–50 *Wars Alex.* 1438 On ilka staffe of a staire stike wald a cluster. *c* 1440 *Gesta Rom.* xlvi. 367 The goldyn laddere; of the which the fyrste staffe is contricion of herte. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 68 b, Saynt Bernarde compareth them to a ladder of vii staues. 1563 *Homilies* II. *Repentance* II. 279 The first staffe or steppe of this ladder. *a* 1657 R. LOVEDAY *Lett.* (1663) 273 How many mount Fortunes ladder, and break the staves as they go up. 1657 J. WATTS *Scribe, Pharisee*, etc. III. 99 They fall off the Ladder at the lower staffe or step again. 1850 G. L. BANKS (*title*) Staves for the Human Ladder. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade.* 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.*

b. A round cross-bar connecting the handles or stilts of a plough, or the legs of a chair; = ROUND *sb.*[1] 3 d. Also, each of the handles of a plough. *Obs.* or *dial.* Cf. STAVE.

1523–34 FITZHERB. *Husb.* § 3 There be two roughe staues in euery ploughe in the hynder ende, set a-slope betwene the ploughe-tayle and the stilt, to holde out and kepe the plough abrode in the hynder ende, and the one lenger than the other. 1652 BLITH *Eng. Improver Improv.* II. xxviii. (1653) 190 But for the Plough-handles, some call them.. Hales, and some Staves. 1851 STERNBERG *Northampt. Gloss., Staff*, the spar or 'round' of a chair.

† c. A spoke of a wheel. *Obs.* exc. *Her.* (also applied to the 'rays' of a carbuncle).

1642 D. ROGERS *Naaman* 296 As then the spokes and staves cannot be wanting to a wheele. 1754 BOYER *Gt. Theat. Honour* (ed. 2) 116 Staves (is said of the Rays of the Carbuncle), *Rais, ou Bâtons d'Escarboucle*. 1847 *Gloss. Heraldry* 294 *Staff*, a word applied by some to the rays of an escarbuncle, and the spokes of a wheel.

† d. *Weaving.* = LAM *sb.*[2]

1338 in Dugdale *Monasticon* (1819) II. 585/2 Item pro weblomes emptis xx[s]. Et pro staves ad easdem vj[d]. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XVIII. 835/1 The lams..or, as they are called in some parts of Scotland, the hiddles, and in others the staves.

† e. A bar or rail used in the construction of a gridiron, gate, cart, cage, etc. *Obs.*

1459 *Paston Lett.* I. 468, j. roste iren with vij. staves. 1523–34 FITZHERB. *Husb.* § 5 The bodye of the wayne of oke, the staues..the keys and pikstaues. *Ibid.* § 70 Make

standynge cratches, to caste theyr fodder in, and the staues set nyghe ynough togyther, for pullynge theyr fodder to hastely out. *Ibid.* § 141 If any gate be broken down, or want any staues. 1596 MASCALL *Cattle, Horses* 120 When thou dost take any iourney, with thy horse and cart, thou must..see the rath staues and struts be whole and sound & wel furnished, with staues of good strong holly, hasell, or oak. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* XXX. x. II. 388 The staves and windings, whereof the said cages are made.

†f. Each of the thin narrow pieces which compose a cask, barrel, tub, etc. *Obs.* (Now STAVE *sb.*)

The sing. has always been rare; for examples of pl. from 1398 onwards, see STAVE *sb.*

1532-2 *Act* 23 *Hen. VIII*, c. 4 § 8 If any personne..do mynysshe..any maner of barrell..by reason of..takyng oute of any Staffe out or frome any suche vessell. 1599 DALLAM in *Early Voy. Levant* (Hakl. Soc.) 35 Ther weare marvalus greate peeces that weare made of hammered Iron, everie stafe at the leaste 3 inches square, and houped aboute lyke a barrell.

†g. The shank of an anchor. *Obs. rare*[−1].

1611 COTGR., *Stangue d' un' ancre*, the staffe of an Anchor.

h. *Mech.* Each of the cylindrical bars forming the teeth of a trundle or lantern; cf. STAVE *sb.*

1659, 1812-16 [see LANTERN *sb.* 7 d]. 1764, 1805 [see ROUND *sb.*[1] 3 d]. 1825 J. NICHOLSON *Oper. Mech.* 24 The semi-diameter of a staff of the trundle.

i. *Watchmaking.* An arbor or axle.

1860 E. B. DENISON *Clocks & Watches* (ed. 4) 285 The staff or arbor of the balance. 1885 LOCK *Workshop Rec.* Ser. IV. 339/1 Centre the point so that the body of the staff runs perfectly true. 1902 *Daily Chron.* 13 May 10/5 All Jobbers requiring pivots, staffs, cylinders, and complicated watch repairs.

†15. A pair (of cocks), a set of three (hawks).

1688 HOLME *Armoury* II. 252/2 Four staves of Cocks (or 16 Cocks). *Ibid.* 311/1 Three a staff of Hawks. 1691 RAY *S. & E. C. Words* 115 A Staffe of Cocks, a pair of Cocks. 1790 GROSE, *Prov. Gloss.* (ed. 2), A *staffe* of cocks; a pair of cocks.

16. A bundle of 50 bunches of the heads of the teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*) used for teasing cloth. (See also STAVE *sb.*, which occurs in Mortimer 1707.)

1794 GRIGGS *Agric. Essex* 19 These heads [of teasel] are.. bound up in small bunches, or gleans, of five and twenty heads each; the like number of which bunches, or gleans, constitute half a staff; which, after a few days sun, to harden and dry them, are tied together upon a stick or staff, of two feet and a half long, and in this form, carried to market. 1856 MORTON *Cycl. Agric.* II. 1126/2 *Staff*, of teazles (Essex), 50 bunches, or gleans of 25 each = 1250.

17. a. An enclosure or plot of pasture ground.

b. A measure of nine feet.

1786 *Jackson's Oxf. Jrnl.* 3 June 1/3 A Ham or Staff of rich Meadow Ground, in Kelmscott, containing ten Acres and a Half. 1796 W. H. MARSHALL *West Eng.* I. 330 *Staff*: a measure of nine feet; half a customary rod.

II. Letter, verse, musical staff.

These senses are here placed together because of their similarity of application, but it is doubtful whether they have any immediate connexion.

†18. A written character, a letter. *Obs.* Cf. BOCSTAFF, RUNE-STAVE.

c 888 ÆLFRED *Boeth.* xix, Hwæt is heora nu to lafe, butan ..se nama mid feaum stafum awriten? *c* 1000 ÆLFRIC *Gram.* ii. (Z.) 4 Littera is stæf on englisc. *c* 1200 ORMIN 16403-5 & off patt name toc Drihhtin An staff Allfa 3ehatenn, To timmbrenn till þe firrste mann Hiss name off stafess fowwre.

†b. A mark made by, or as by writing. *Obs.*

c 1050 *Voc.* in WR.-WÜLCKER 346/27 *Apicibus*, stafum. *c* 1205 LAY. 21154 Þer wes innen igrauen mid rede golde stauen an on-licnes deore of drihtenes moder.

19. †a. A line of verse. *Obs.*

c 1450 in *Herrig's Archiv* CIV. 309 All be it the frenssh in foure staves be, The ynglissh sevyn kepith in degree. *c* 1475 *Partenay* 6555 As ny as metre can conclude sentence, Cereatly by rew in it haue I go. Nerehand stafe by staf. *Ibid.* 6581 Als the frensh staffes silabled be More breueloker and shorter also Then is the english lines. *c* 1540 *Pilgryms T.* 739 in Thynne *Animadv.* (1875) App. i. 98 Thes vi stauis..whiche be chaucers own hand work.

†b. A stanza or set of lines. *Obs.* Cf. BASTON 2.

[There is no ground for the common statement that this is from ON. *stef* set or recurring time, refrain of a poem.]

a 1530 J. HEYWOOD *Weather* (Brandl) 179* At thende of this staf the god hath a song played in his trone. *a* 1577 GASCOIGNE *Certayne Notes* P 14 Wks. 1907 I. 471 Rythme royall is a verse of tenne sillables, and seven such verses make a staffe. *Ibid.*, The firste twelve do ryme in staves of foure lines by crosse meetre. 1582 T. WATSON *Hekatompath.* lxxxviii. (Arb.) 124 The two first staffes (excepting onely the two first verses of all). 1586 W. WEBBE *Eng. Poetrie* (Arb.) 59 Some of many rymes in one staffe (as they call it). *Ibid.* 62 The diuersities of the staues (which are the number of verses contained with the diuisions or partitions of a ditty). 1607 R. C[AREW] tr. *Estienne's World of Wonders* 199 *marg.*, A staffe of eight verses. 1656 COWLEY *Pindaric Odes, To Dr. Scarborough* Note ii, In the ninth staffe of the Nemeæan Ode. 1697 DRYDEN *Æneid* Ded. (f) 1 b, Mr. Cowley had found out that no kind of Staff is proper for a Heroick Poem; as being all too lirical.

c. A 'verse' or stanza of a song. Now STAVE.

1598 YONG *Diana* 257 These two last staeffs [sic] so liuely touched Parthenius that sung them. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* x. xxix. I. 286 Yee shall have them listen attentively to the old birds when they sing, and to take out lessons as it were from them, whom they would seem to imitate staffe by staffe. 1601 B. JONSON *Poetaster* II. ii, I can sing but one staffe of the dittie neither. 1667 C. SIMPSON *Compend. Mus.* 21 The second Staff or Stanza is the same as the first; only it is broken into Crochets.

20. *Mus.* A set of horizontal lines (now five in number) on which, and in the spaces between, notes are placed so as to indicate pitch. Also STAVE.

In harmonic or concerted music two or more staffs are used together, connected by a brace.

1662 PLAYFORD *Skill Mus.* I. i. 4 But [for all] Lessons for the Organ, Virginals, or Harp, two staves of six lines together are required. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 157/1 [Follows Playford and adds:] They are called a Staff or Stansa. 1776 BURNEY *Hist. Mus.* (1789) II. 87 The regular staff of four lines. 1806 CALCOTT *Mus. Gram.* 1 The lines and spaces of the Staff are counted upwards. 1842 *Westm. Rev.* Jan. 34 *note*, There is a schism among musicians, whether this should be *staff* or *stave*, pronounced by some *staaf*. Authorities are mostly in favour of 'stave' but custom may be pleaded for 'staff' and 'staves' in the plural. 1873 H. C. BANISTER *Mus.* 2 Musical characters are written upon a series of parallel lines, termed a Stave or Staff.

attrib. 1881 BROADHOUSE *Mus. Acoustics* 365 The ordinary musical notation, or, as it is called, the staff notation'.

III. (Pl. always *staffs*.)

21. *Mil.* A body of officers appointed to assist a general, or other commanding officer, in the control of an army, brigade, regiment, etc., or in performing special duties (as the *medical staff*). *General staff*, a body of officers controlling an army from headquarters under the commander-in-chief. [App. of continental Teut. origin. Cf. the like use of G. *stab* (also *generalstab, regimentsstab*, etc.), DU. *staf*; prob. developed from the sense 'baton' (= 7 above).]

[1700 J. A. ASTRY tr. *Saavedra Faxardo* II. 249 The Germans call a Regiment, and all that belongs to it, the Colonel's Staff, (den Regiment oder Colonelstab,) for with that Soldiers are to be ruled.]

1781 SIMES *Milit. Guide* (ed. 3) 7 Staff of the Army. *Ibid.*, The Staff properly exists only in the time of war. 1790 *Debates in Congress* 18 Jan. (1834) 2146 The legionary staff ..the brigade staff..the regimental staff. *Ibid.* 2152 The United States to make an adequate provision..for the following general staff. 1795 in *Ld. Auckland's Corr.* (1862) III. 328 My destiny is finally to act on the staff in the island of Corsica. 1801 *Med. Jrnl.* V. 185 The Medical Staff of the Armies acting in the West Indies. 1844 *Queen's Regul. Army* 5 Any Officer of the Regimental Staff. 1844 H. H. WILSON *Brit. India* II. 112 Several conferences ensued, not only with the Governor-General, but with members both of his civil and military staff. 1871 *Ann. Reg.* II. 95 The Duke of Cambridge, with his staff and the foreign officers attending the manœuvres, looked on from Bisley Common. 1875 *Encycl. Brit.* II. 577 Officers for the General Staff are selected exclusively from the regular army, and except in cases of proved abilities in the field, must have passed through the Staff College...Officers appointed to the Personal Staff are not required to pass through the Staff College.

22. *gen.* A body of persons employed, under the direction of a manager or chief, in the work of an establishment or the execution of some undertaking (e.g. a newspaper, hospital, government survey).

1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. v. v, Subterranean Rivarol has Fifteen Hundred Men in King's pay..; what he calls 'a staff of genius': Paragraph-writers, Placard Journalists;.. one of the strangest Staffs ever commanded by man. 1849 J. J. BLUNT *Four Serm.* iii. (1850) 84 With what a staff would our colleges be furnished to carry on the same work! 1857 TROLLOPE *Barchester T.* xliii, Those caterers for our morning repast, the staff of the Jupiter. 1875 DAWSON *Dawn of Life* iii. 38 One of the explorers on the staff of the Survey. 1879 M. ARNOLD *Mixed Ess.* 152 The teaching staff have to furnish guarantees of their capacity to teach the matters of instruction confided to them. 1884 *Times* (weekly ed.) 26 Sept. 13/1 Besides their staff of clerks, book-keepers, &c., they employed about 300 ordinary hands. 1894 CONAN DOYLE *Mem. S. Holmes* 149 A coachman and two maids form the staff of servants.

23. *Staff* (*of Government*): in the Isle of Man, a court of justice presided over by the governor; since 1883 a Division of the High Court.

a 1700 *34th Customary Law* in Keble *Life Bp. Wilson* xvi. 511 No appeal shall be made from Church censures to the Staff, and none to be privileged from them. 1900 A. W. MOORE *Hist. Isle of Man* 836 The courts existing prior to 1883, viz., the Staff of Government, Chancery, Exchequer ..[etc.] were united and formed into 'Divisions' of the 'High Court of Justice of the Isle of Man'...The 'Staff of Government Division'..was deprived of all its original jurisdiction, and is now solely an appellate court.

IV. *attrib.* and *Comb.*

24. Objective, as *staff-bearer, -holder, -maker*; instrumental, as *staff-supported* adj.

1553 in Kempe *Losely MSS.* (1836) 44 Touching the staf-maker..I wyll see hym contented. 1611 COTGR., *Bastonnier*, a staffe-bearer, or Vergier. 1814 WORDSW. *White Doe* I. 217 That bearded, staff-supported Sire. 1880 L. D'A. JACKSON *Aids Surv. Pract.* 98 The staff-holders must..be capable of holding the staff truly vertical.

25. In sense 'of or belonging to a military staff' (see 21), as *staff appointment, duty, parade, pay, surgeon, uniform*; **staff cap**, a flat-topped cap with a peak, such as forms part of various uniforms: **staff college**, a school in which officers are trained for staff appointments; **staff corps**, a body of officers and men organized to assist the commanding officer and his staff in various special departments; in India, a corps formed in each of the three presidencies to supply officers for service; **staff-ride** (see quot. 1902); hence *staff-rider*; **staff sergeant** (see quot. 1876). Also STAFF OFFICER.

1825 T. HOOK *Sayings* Ser. II. *Passion & Princ.* iii. II. 303 The Captain, habituated to India, 'held on', with *staff appointments, as long as he could. 1875 *Encycl. Brit.* II. 577/2 Staff appointments are held for five years only. 1902 *Westm. Gaz.* 16 June 8/2 His Majesty,..with hand raised to *staff-cap, in military salute. 1904 *Daily Chron.* 23 Aug. 8/1 The woman who depends upon a motor-car for recreation..wears a staff-cap just as much as she who goes yachting. 1868 *Queen's Regul. Army* § 220 No Officer will be appointed to the Staff, who shall not have passed the final examination of the *Staff College. 1811 *Regul. Army* 121 The Royal *Staff Corps. 1813 WELLINGTON in Gurw. *Disp.* (1838) XI. 122, I have therefore had cut out the sheets..containing the maps of the country immediately in my front, which I have had pasted upon linen by the Staff corps. 1853 SIR H. DOUGLAS *Milit. Bridges* (ed. 3) 241 Two companies of the Staff Corps were accordingly sent, with a strong working party, to Baragona, to make a bridge across the Tietar. 1880 GEN. ADYE in *19th Cent.* No. 38. 698 All officers now seeking what is called an Indian career in any capacity—regimental, staff, or civil—must enter one of the three Staff Corps. 1909 *Blackw. Mag.* Apr. 568/2 The adjutant inspected the *Staff parade. 1876 VOYLE & STEVENSON *Milit. Dict.* 401/1 **Staff Pay*, pay given to officers and soldiers in the government service, who perform duties either on the permanent staff of an army or in regimental or departmental employment. 1898 E. S. MAY *Field Artillery* 25 We have done the same sort of thing in this country in the form of '*staff-rides'. 1902 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 10) XXXIII. 7/1 '*Staff-rides', as exercises on the ground without troops have come to be called, are just as effective a means of teaching strategy as field-days are of teaching tactics. 1910 *Contemp. Rev.* Jan. 46 No one had seen the alleged *staff riders. 1811 *Regul. Army* 147 *Staff Serjeants. 1851 *Ord. Royal Engin.* § 26. 121 On no account is any Non-Commissioned Officer acting as a Staff-Serjeant to be employed as a Pay-Serjeant. 1876 VOYLE & STEVENSON *Milit. Dict.* 401/1 *Staff Sergeants*, non-commissioned officers employed on the staff of a regiment, district, or division. 1794 *Gentl. Mag.* Nov. 995/2 Whilst the regimental surgeons are thus engaged in the field of battle ..the new *staff-surgeons..are to be found at the general hospital, perhaps..20 or 30 miles..from the scene of action. 1803 WELLINGTON in Gurw. *Disp.* (1844) I. 539 Mr. Gilmour, the Staff surgeon with this division of the army. 1809 BYRON *Ch. Har.* II. lxii. *note*, I was dressed in a full suit of *staff uniform.

b. In the Navy used to designate a senior grade of officers, as *staff captain, commander, surgeon.*

1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk., Staff-Captain*, a designation conferred in 1863 upon masters of the fleet. *Ibid., Staff-Commanders*, a designation conferred in 1863 on masters of fifteen years' seniority. 1875 BEDFORD *Sailor's Pocket Bk.* v. (ed. 2) 150 *note*, Staff-Commander Thomas A. Hull, R.N. 1913 *Times* 13 Aug. 4/1 The first paper..was read by Staff-Surgeon Stewart, R.N.

c. In sense 'belonging to the staff of a hospital, hotel, or other large establishment' (see 22).

1888 HONNOR MORTEN *Sk. Hosp. Life* 6 An intelligent and capable woman can expect to rise by gradations from 'staff-nurse' to 'sister'. 1902 *Daily Chron.* 13 May 10/7 Woman (Strong, active) as staff maid...Apply Housekeeper, Hotel Windsor.

26. Special comb. (see also 25): **staff-angle, -bead** = 13 b (cf. *angle-staff, angle-bead* s.v. ANGLE *sb.*[2] 8); hence **staff-beaded** *a.*; **staff-bismar**, a kind of steelyard; †**staff-drive** *v.* = *staff-herd*; **staff-head**, the upper end of a staff, carved, tipped with metal, etc.; the top of the tripod which supports a theodolite or other measuring-instrument; **staff-herd** *v. trans.*, to depasture sheep in charge of a shepherd upon common or forest land; **staff-hook**, 'a sharp hook fastened to a long handle to cut peas and beans and to trim hedges' (*I. of Wight Gloss.* 1881); **staff-land** *Isle of Man* [= med.L. *terra de baculo*], certain land in the parish of St. Maughold, also formerly in that of St. Patrick, the holder of which had the custody of the patron saint's pastoral staff; **staff-man** †(*a*) a man who wields a staff or cudgel; (*b*) a workman employed in silk-throwing (Simmonds *Dict. Trade* Suppl. 1883); †**staff-shide**, a billet of wood for fuel; †**staff-striker**, a sturdy beggar, tramp; †**staff-torch**, a tall thick candle used for ceremonial purposes; **staff-tree**, the genus *Celastrus*; **staff-vine**, *Celastrus scandens* of U.S.

1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.*, **Staff-angle.* 1833 LOUDON *Encycl. Archit.* § 239 The angles of the chimney breasts to have proper *staff beads. 1842 GWILT *Archit.* Gloss., Angle Bead, or Staff Bead. 1833 LOUDON *Encycl. Archit.* § 1598 Fix 1-inch deal tongued and splayed and *staff-beaded linings to three windows. *a* 1733 *Shetland Acts* 31 in *Proc. Soc. Ant. Scot.* (1892) XXVI. 200 That none use *staff bismers, nor any other save such as are adjusted and marked to buy and sell on. 1566 in Hyslop *Ch. Stretton* (1904) II. 178 [John Nichols, who had taken cattle] cum baculis, videlicet, *Staff-dryve [over Whittington Heath to the injury of the townshipl. 1506 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* III. 355, xij *staf hedis. 1766 *Complete Farmer* s. v. *Surveying* 7 1 1/2 Turn about the table upon the staff-head. 1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib., Brit.* II. No. 2947 (Theodolite) The tripod and its staff-head. 1888 in *Archæologia* LI. 373 A staff-head of wood, coloured and gilded. 1563 in W. Nicolson *Leges Marchiarum* (1705) 138 If it shall happen the Cattel or Sheep of the one Realm to be *staff-herded, or to remain depasturing upon the ground of the opposite Realm. *Ibid*[A] *marg.* Staffherding of Cattel. 1595 in C. W. Hatfield *Hist. Notices Doncaster* (1866) I. 168 Doncaster time out of mind have made drives..and staff hearded upon the moor. 1828 [CARR] *Craven Gloss.*, *Staff hird*, to have sheep under the care of a shepherd. 1523 FITZHERB. *Husb.* § 29 Pees and benes be..reped or mowen some with sickles, some with hokes, and some with *staffe-hokes. 1890 A. W. MOORE *Surnames* etc. *Isle of Man* 122 *Staff lands. 1659 TORRIANO, *Bastonière*..also a cudgeler, a *staff-man. 1411 *Rolls of Parlt.* III. 665/2 Tout le maresme & fuaile, autrement appelle *Staffes-hides [*sic*] & Kides. 1376 *Ibid.* II. 340/2 Et plusours de eux devenent

*stafstrikers. 1468 *Maldon* (Essex) *Liber B.* lf. 12 b, Nyght-walkeres, stastrykeres [*sic*], and evesedropperes. 1532–3 *Rec. St. Mary at Hill* 361 Item, paid for iij *staf torches of wex, to hold at the levacion ijs vjd. 1556 *Chron. Grey Friars* (Camden) 54, ij C. powre men in blacke gownes holdynge staffe torches. 1580–1 *Act* 23 *Eliz.* c. 8 § 3 Wares wrought with Waxe, as in Lightes, Staftorches. 1633 Johnson *Gerarde's Herbal* App. 1600 *Celastrus Theophrasti.* The *staffe tree. 1771 J. K. Forster *Flora Amer. Septentr.* 11 Celastrus bullatus. Staff tree, elegant. Virginia. 1884 W. Miller *Plant-n.* 130 *Staff-vine, *Celastrus scandens.*

Staff (staf), *sb.*[2] [Of obscure origin.] A building material consisting of plaster mixed with fibre, used for temporary ornamental work.

1892 *Advance* (Chicago) May 19 When mixed the staff is rolled out into slabs to be nailed to the sides of buildings, or made up in blocks..for statues, friezes or cornices. 1892 *Times* (weekly ed.) 21 Oct. 10/1 They [the Exhibition buildings at Chicago] are..covered with the composition of plaster, cement, and hemp, or similar fibre, known as 'Staff'. *Ibid.*, The sculpture and decorations on the buildings are also chiefly of 'staff', being first modelled in clay. 1893 *Offic. Guide World's Columbian Expos.* 21 Staff was invented in France about 1876, and was first used in the buildings of the Paris Exposition in 1878.

Staff (staf), *v.* [f. Staff *sb.*[1]] *trans.* To provide with a staff of officers, teachers, servants, etc.

1859 *Times* 20 Aug. 7/6 We end by being efficiently and sensibly equipped, commanded and staffed. 1881 *19th Cent.* Apr. 656 Two or three such women, a care-taker, and a cook would adequately staff each home. 1888 Mrs. H. Ward *R. Elsmere* v. xxxiii, A powerful church of the new type, staffed by friends and pupils of Pusey. 1895 *Naturalist* 132 It is a satisfaction to note how well the museum is staffed. 1904 *Catholic Times* 1 Jan. 8/3 To furnish and staff some three or four first class day schools for boys.

Hence **Sta·ffing** *vbl. sb.*

1882 *19th Cent.* Nov. 788 The Board schools..have..many advantages, derived from..their superior staffing, and more highly paid teachers. 1901 *Scotsman* 30 Oct. 12/4 The staffing of the offices at Castle Terrace.

‖ **Staffage** (sta·fāʒ). [Ger.: a pseudo-Fr. formation after G. *staffiren* to fit out, garnish, believed to be corruptly ad. OF. *estoffer*, f. *estoffe* Stuff *sb.*] The accessories of a picture. Also *transf.* and *fig.*

1872 B. Taylor in *Life & Lett.* (1884) II. 594 A forge where he [Schiller] studied the *staffage* for his ballad of 'Fridolin'. 1887 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 22 Nov. 3/1 The *staffage* to the little love-story is a fertile little oasis in the wide, bleak Cossack steppes. 1906 *Academy* 10 Nov. 480/1 But the seated figure is a needless piece of *staffage*. 1908 A. M. Hind *Short Hist. Engraving* 230 The *staffage* of some of Piranesi's dullest subjects..discloses an irrepressible instinct for life.

Staffage, Sc. variant of Staffish *a. Obs.*

Staffed (staft), *ppl. a.* [f. Staff *sb.*[1] + -ed[2].] In *Her.* (see quot. and Staff *sb.*[1] 11).

1891 *Century Dict.* s. v., An amulet staffed, a ring from which staffs or scepters radiate.

† **Sta·ffer.** *Obs. rare*[−1]. [? f. Staff *sb.*[1] + -er[1].] ? A kind of peashooter.

1688 Holme *Armoury* III. xvi. (Roxb.) 82/2 Playes with Instruments...Shooting in a trunk staffer or spitter.

Staffette (stæfe·t). *Obs.* exc. *Hist.* Also 7 **staffett, staffeto.** [ad. It. *staffetta*, dim. of *staffa*, stirrup. Cf. Estafette.] A mounted courier.

1545 Wotton in *St. Papers Hen. VIII*, X. 487, I have written thryse to you, twyse by the ordynarye staffette that goith weekelye to Andwerpe. 1633 *Cal. St. Papers, Dom.* 28 Jan. 521 [Orders..to erect] staffette [or packet posts at fit stages]. *Ibid.* Apr. 39 [That letters should be sent by] staffeto. 1635 in *Rep. Secret Comm. Post-Office* App. (1844) 55 A Proposition for setling of Staffets or pacquet posts betwixt London and all parts of his Maiesties dominions. 1714 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 5263/2 We have Advices from Vienna which say, that a Staffette was arrived there with Letters from Constantinople. 1858 Carlyle *Fredk. Gt.* IV. v. (1865) I. 307 Brief weekly report to his Majesty will be expected; staffettes, should cases of hot haste occur.

† **Staff-full,** *a. Obs.* [? f. Staff *sb.*[1] + Full *a.* The original notion was perh. 'full to the brim but not heaped up', as when a staff has been passed across the brim. But cf. Norw. *staffull* crammed full (Aasen), f. *staffa* to stamp, crush.]

Quite full.

13.. *Gaw. & Gr. Knt.* 494 Now ar þay stoken of sturne werk staf-ful her hond. *a* 1400–50 *Wars Alex.* 1543 A Mitre..Stiȝt staffull of stanes þat straȝt out bemes. *c* 1420 *Liber Cocorum* 34 And do hit in a barel þenne; þe barel staf ful as I þe kenne.

Sta·ffian, *a. nonce-wd.* [f. Staff *sb.*[1] + -ian.] Suited for making staffs.

1820 L. Hunt *Indicator* No. 35 (1822) I. 279 The ash..hath been famous, time immemorial, for its staffian qualities.

† **Staffier.** *Obs.* Forms: 6 **stafyre,** 7–8 **staffier.** [ad. It. *staffiero*, *-ere*, f. *staffa* stirrup, a. OHG. *stapho*: see Step *v.* Cf. F. *estafier*.] 'A lacquey, that attends the stirrup' (Blount *Glossogr.*, 1674); a footman. Chiefly with reference to Italy.

1532 Boner in *St. Papers Hen. VIII*, VII. 396 The said old Abbot of Ferfa..hath been of late at Rome with 3 score in companye, besides 20 stafyres. 1664 Butler *Hud.* II. ii. 650 Before the Dame, and round about, March'd Whifflers, and Staffiers on foot. *a* 1668 Lassels *Voy. Italy* I. (1670) 12 The Italians..value no bravery but that of Coach and Horses and Staffiers. 1673 Ray *Journ. Low C., Charac. Italians* 396 The Nobility..chuse..to spend their revenues in..keeping coaches and horses and a great retinue of servants and staffiers. *a* 1734 North *Exam.* III. vii. § 89. 574 These figures were brought by the Mob in grand Procession, from the further End of London, with honourable Attendance of Staffiers and Link-Boys.

† **Sta·ffish,** *a. Obs.* Also 6–9 *Sc.* **staffage.** [f. Staff *sb.*[1] + -ish.] **a.** Rigid, stiff, hard. **b.** *fig.* Stubborn, unmanageable.

1500–20 Dunbar *Poems* lx. 17 Stuffettis, strekouris, and stafische strummellis. 1513 Douglas *Æneis* XII. vi. 134 Thymetes, a man of full gret fors, Castyn from hys staffage, skeich and hedstrang hors. 1545 Ascham *Toxoph.* II. (Arb.) 118 An unfit and staffysh bow. *a* 1568 — *Scholem.* I. (Arb.) 34 A witte in youth, that is not ouer dulle, heauie, knottie and lumpishe, but hard, rough, and though somwhat staffishe. *a* 1568 A. Scott *Poems* xxi. 17, I fand hir of ane staffage kynd, Bath staidly, strange, and he. 1802 J. Sibbald *Chron. Scot. Poetry* IV. Gloss., *Staffage, Staffisch*, obstinate, obdurate, dry in the mouth, or not easily swallowed, like pease meal bannocks.

Sta·ffless, *a. rare.* Without a staff.

a 1661 Fuller *Worthies, Kent* (1662) 67 Hereat the Queen in some passion snatching the staff out of his hand...The Lord waited Stafflesse almost a day..before the same was reconferred upon him.

† **Sta·ffly,** *a. Obs.* [OE. *stæflic*: see Staff *sb.*[1] and -ly[1]. Cf. ON. *staflígr.*] Literal. So † **Sta·ffly** *adv.* [see -ly[2]], literally.

c 1000 Ælfric *Saints' Lives* XXV. 73 Hi..nellað understandan butan þæt steaflice [*v.r.* stæflice] andȝit. *c* 1200 Ormin 11117 Forr to drinnkenn gastliȝ witt Ut off stafflike fetless. *Ibid.* 14419 Aȝȝ whil þatt menn þurrh flæshliȝ witt Stafflike itt unnderrstodenn. *Ibid.* 15055 Þa takesst tu gastlike witt Off staffliȝ witeþunnge.

Staff officer.

† **1.** A high officer of the royal household, or minister of state, bearing a white staff. See Staff *sb.*[1] 7. *Obs.*

1702 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 3862/1 The Duke of Ormond, being the Staff-Officer in waiting. 1728 Chambers *Cycl.* s. v. *Officer, Staff Officers* are such as in the King's Presence bear a white Staff; and at other times, going abroad, have a white Staff borne before them by a Footman bare-headed. Such are the Lord Steward, Lord Chamberlain, Lord Treasurer, &c.

2. *Mil.* † **a.** A non-commissioned officer. *Obs.*

1702 *Milit. Dict.* (1704) s. v. *Officer, Warrant, and Staff-Officers*, those who have not the King's Commission, but are appointed by the Colonels and Captains, as Quartermasters, Serjeants, Corporals. [*ed.* 4, 1711, *adds*: and in the same Number are included Chaplains and Surgeons]. 1706 Farquhar *Recruiting Officer* v. v, *Kite.* [A sergeant, addressing a constable] And then we are both staff-officers. 1709 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4590/3 Forty-four Staff-Officers. 1727 H. Bland *Milit. Discipl.* v. 61 The Staff-Officers, viz. Chaplain, Adjutant, Quarter-Master, Surgeon and Mate.

b. An officer doing duty with the general or departmental staff of an army, division, or brigade. Cf. G. *stabsoffizier.*

1777 Sheridan *Sch. Scand.* IV. i, Why then, he shall have him for ten pounds, and I'm sure that's not dear for a staff-officer. 1802 C. James *Milit. Dict.* Fff 3/1 No officer must ride between the divisions on a march, except General and Staff officers. 1811 *Regul. & Orders Army* 29 Aides-de-Camp, Brigade-Majors, and other Staff Officers. 1864 [see Sashery]. 1912 Trevelyan *Geo. III & Fox* I. iii. 112 When he was a young staff officer on active service.

c. In the United States navy, an officer not exercising military command. 1891 in *Century Dict.*

Staffold. *dial.* [Corrupt form (? after *scaffold*) of *stavel* Staddle *sb.*] = Staddle *sb.*

a 1722 Lisle *Husb.* (1757) 182 This method is not to be used where the wheat is designed for a staffold. 1764 *Museum Rust.* II. 221 Your said correspondent justly recommends the reek staval, or staffold, a frame of wood for the mow, placed on stones.

Stafford (stæ·fə̇d). The name of a town in England (the county town of Staffordshire); also a surname derived from this. Used *attrib.* as in † **Stafford blue,** some kind of blue cloth; **Stafford('s) knot** *Her.*, a knot used as a badge of the Stafford family; hence, a form of knot resembling this; † **Stafford law,** 'club law', with pun on *staff*; so † *Stafford court.* Also used for Staffordshire, as in **Stafford brick** (see quot. 1908).

c 1460 *Towneley Myst.* iii. 200 Thou were worthi be cled In *stafford blew; ffor thou art alway adred. 1908 *Animal Management* (Vet. Departm., War Office) 48 'Candy', 'blue *Stafford', 'Dutch', and 'adamantine clinkers' being the names of familiar varieties [of vitrified bricks]. 1611 Cotgr. s. v. *Festin, Il a esté au festin de Martin baston*, He hath had a triall in *Stafford Court. 1552 *Invent. Ch. Goods York*, etc. (Surtees) 49, iij sewtes of vestmentes with *Staffordе knotes. 1828–40 Berry *Encycl. Her.* I, *Stafford Knot*, a badge used by the family of *Stafford.* 1847 *Gloss. Heraldry* 197 *Stafford's Knot.* 1868 Walcott *Sacred Archæol.* 507 A true-love-knot..was the well-known Stafford knot. 1589 *Hay any Work* Aiij, I threatned him with blowes, and to deale by *stafford law. 1599 Breton *Will of Wit*, etc. (Grosart) 29/1 And among souldiours Stafford law, martiall law, killing or hanging is soone learned. 1615 Bedwell *Moham. Impost.* I. § 26 The Alkoran of Mohammed established by Stafford law. 1647 M. Corbet *Sp.* 31 July 5 We have unlawfully erected Marshall Law, Club Law, Stafford Law, and such lawless Laws as make most for Treason.

Staffordshire (stæ·fə̇dʃəɹ). The name of a county of England, used *attrib.* as **Staffordshire coke, slack** (see quots.); **Staffordshire ware,** earthenware and porcelain made in Staffordshire, hence *Staffordshire warehouseman.* Also **Staffordshire knot** [? error for *Stafford knot*], 'a knot used to ligature the pedicle in ovariotomy' (*Syd. Soc. Lex.* 1898).

1784 H. Walpole *Descr. Strawberry H.* Wks. 1798 II. 414 Four green leaves of Staffordshire-ware. *Ibid.* 501 A Staffordshire Etruscan vase. 1813 *Examiner* 22 Feb. 119/1 J. Clarke, Tottenham-court-road, Staffordshire warehouseman. 1827 Faraday *Chem. Manip.* iv. (1842) 99 Of this kind is the Staffordshire coke, which may be obtained at some of the wharfs on the canals near London. 1857 J. Marryat *Pottery & Porcelain* (ed. 2) 149 The earliest specimens extant of the Staffordshire ware are the 'Butter-pots', and the Tygs or Tiggs. 1869 Day *Puddling* 4 in Rankine *Machine & Hand-tools*, The thick coal called 'Staffordshire slack'.

b. *ellipt.* = *Staffordshire ware.* Also *sb. pl.* = *Staffordshire bricks.*

1898 *Daily News* 8 Feb. 3/5 Little stacks of various kinds of bricks—from London stocks to Staffordshires. 1908 *Daily Report* 25 Aug. 8/3 The 'Fitz-Gerald' sale of Staffordshire ware..came as a revelation, both as to the quality of old Staffordshire and the prices it now obtains.

Staff-sling. *Obs.* exc. *Hist.* [f. Staff *sb.*[1] + Sling *sb.*[1] Cf. OHG. *stapaslinga*, G. *stabschlinge.*] A sling (Sling *sb.*[1] 1) the cords or strings of which are attached to the end of a staff, used for hurling larger stones than the ordinary 'cord-sling'.

13.. *Coer de L.* 5226 (W.), With staffe-slynges that smyte wel. 1375 Barbour *Bruce* XVII. 344 Instrumentis..As scaffatis, ledderis..Pykis, howis, and ek staff-slyngis. *c* 1386 Chaucer *Sir Thopas* 118 This geant at hym stones caste Out of a fel staf slynge. 1432–50 tr. *Higden* (Rolls) I. 297 Vsenge dartes and crosse bawes or staffe slynges. 1530 Palsgr. 275/1 Staffe slyng made of a clyftestycke, *ruant.* *c* 1550 Rolland *Crt. Venus* II. 226 Alswa he slew the Giant Golyas, In the foirheid with ane stane and stafsling. 1557–8 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* X. 336 To big dikis and fowseis and to have stafe slungis in the reddines to the portis thairof. 1825 Fosbroke *Encycl. Antiq.* 780 The Staff-sling, the Classical *Fustibalum.*

Hence † **Staff-slinger.**

13.. *Coer de L.* 4454 (W.), Foremeste he sette hys arweblasteres, And aftyr that hys good archeres And aftyr hys staff-slyngeres And othir with scheeldes and with speeres.

† **Staff-sword.** *Obs.* [Cf. OHG. *stapaswert*, MHG. *stab-*, *stapswert*, Du. *stafsweerd* (Kilian), etc.] A sword-stick.

c 1000 Ælfric *Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 143/21 *Dolones*, stæfsweord. *c* 1470 Henry *Wallace* III. 178 With a staff suerd Boyd stekit him that tyde. *Ibid.* VI. 737 With a staff suerd off steill. *a* 1603 T. Cartwright *Confut. Rhem. N. T.* (1618) 543 Neither Aristotles..one shooe for both feet, nor Platoes staffe-sword.

Stafisagre, obs. form of Staveacre.

Stag (stæg), *sb.*[1] Forms: *α.* ? 2 *accus.* **staggon,** 4–7 **stagge,** (4 **staghe**), 6–8 **stagg,** 4– **stag.** *β.* 5–7 **stage**; also (sense 2 only) 6 *north.* **staige,** 7 **staeg,** 5– *Sc.* **staig.** [Prob. repr. OE. * *stacga* (*stagga*) wk. masc.; cf. various other names of animals, *docga* dog, *frocga* frog, * *picga* pig, *wicga* beetle. The word seems to have meant properly a male animal in its prime; cf. the various senses below and the cognate ON. *steggi*, *stegg-r* (Norw. *stegg*) male bird, mod. Icel. *stegg-r* tom-cat, formerly also male fox: see Steg *sb.*

There is no ground for the current statement that *stag* is of Scandinavian origin, though some of the senses below may be due to confusion with Steg.]

1. The male of a deer, esp. of the red deer; spec. a hart or male deer of the fifth year. (In the 15th c. † *stag of a hart.*)

α. ? *c* 1185 Pseudo-Cnut *Constit. de Foresta* xxiv. in Liebermann *Gesetze der Ags.* (1903) I. 624 (Stowe MS., late 16th *c.*) Regalem feram, quam Angli a staggon [*Camb. MS. c.* 1570 Astaggon, *Harrison* 1577 staggon] appellant. *c* 1400 *Master of Game* (MS. Digby 182) ii, Þe first yere þat thei [harts] be calfede, þei be ycalle a calfe þe secund yere a bulloke..þe thred yere a broket, þe iiii. yere a stagard, þe v. yere a stagge, þe vi. yere an herte of .x. 14.. *Chaucer's Sqr.'s T., heading of Part* II, *MSS. Petworth & Corpus*, The Stag of an hert. 1473 *Rolls of Parlt.* VI. 98/2 Oure Graunte..., of a Tonne Wyne, and a Stagge of an Hert. 1576 Turberv. *Venerie* xxii. (1908) 62 If you find together the footing of two stagges. *Ibid.* lxxix. 237 An Hart is called the firste yeare a Calfe.. the fourth a Staggerd, the fifth a Stagge, and..the sixth..an Hart. 1584 Powell *Lloyd's Cambria* 157 William Rufus was slaine by an Arrowe shot at a Stagge. 1596 Shaks. *Tam. Shr.* Induct. ii. 50 Thy gray-hounds are as swift As breathed Stags I fleeter then the Roe. 1613 Drayton *Polyolb.* XII. 523 Those fallow Deere, and huge-hancht Stags that graz'd Vpon her shaggy Heaths. *c* 1643 Ld. Herbert *Autobiog.* (1824) 88 Forests and Chases which were well stored with wild Boar and Stag. 1667 Milton *P. L.* VII. 469 The swift Stag from under ground Bore up his branching head. 1735 Somerville *Chase* I. 283 [The] stately Stag, that o'er the Woodland reigns. 1821 Shelley *Hellas* 537 The tiger leagues not with the stag at bay Against the hunter. 1863 Lyell *Antiq. Man* 23 Venison, or the flesh of the stag and roe, was more eaten. 1877 *Encycl. Brit.* VII. 23/2 The Red Deer or Stag..the largest of the British deer, is a native of the temperate regions of Europe and Northern Asia. 1908 *Blackw. Mag.* July 105/2 A herd of fourteen reindeer was seen...The horns of the entire band —for the hinds carry them as well as the stags—were still in velvet.

β. 1546 *Plumpton Corr.* (Camden) 250, I must..ride to Tankerslay..& se a showt at a stage, as my keper hath sent me wourd. *c* 1550 *Battle of Otterburn* iii. in Child *Ballads* III. 295/1 Vpon Grene Lynton they lyghted dowyn, Styrande many a stage [*rime* crage].

b. *fig.* Also in phrases † *To go in stag*: To go naked. † *To make* (a husband) *a stag, to make to wear the stag's crest* = to cuckold. (*Obs.*)

1591 Florio *2nd Frutes* 143 What dooth she make him weare the staggs crest then? 1602 Dekker *Satiromi.* F 3, No, come my little Cub, doe not scorne mee because I goe

in Stag, in Buffe, heer's veluet too. 1610 B. JONSON *Alch.* I. ii, *Dap.* Yes, but I'ld ha' you Vse Mr Doctor, with some more respect. *Fac.* Hang him proud Stagg, with his broad veluet head. 1659 T. PECKE *Parnassi Puerp.* 30 Paulina her first husband made a Stag.

c. In the names of various species of the genus *Cervus*, as *Axis Stag*, an Indian deer (*C. axis*), *Carolina Stag*, the North American Wapiti (*C. canadensis*); see also quot. 1896.

1859 WOOD *Illustr. Nat. Hist.* I. 693 The Wapiti or Carolina Stag. 1895 *Outing* Apr. 4/2 An axis stag glanced across the nala. 1896 LYDEKKER *Brit. Mammals* 242 Of the allied species, we may mention by name the..Thian Shan Stag (*C. eustephanus*), the Kashmir Stag (*C. cashmirianus*)..and the Lhasa Stag (*C. thoroldi*).

d. The flesh of the stag; venison. *rare*—[1].

1787 A. C. BORRER *Diaries & Corr.* (1903) 71 He has given us twice Stag since I have been here.

e. The horn of the stag, as a material for handles of cutlery. Also *attrib.*

1876 CALLIS *Cutlery* (Brit. Manuf. Industr.) 173 Scales of wood and composition, pressed to imitate stag and buffalo, have been introduced for common goods.

† f. transf. *Flying stag*, the STAG-BEETLE. *Obs.*

1658 MOUFET *Theat. Ins.* I. xxi. 1005 The πλατύκερως, or Harts horn Beetle...Some call it the Bull, others the flying Stag...The French, *Cerf volant*; the English, Stag-fly, or Flying-fly.

2. *north.* and *Sc.* A young horse, esp. one unbroken.

a. 1318 *Durham Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 373 In primis sunt.. 2 stagges masculi, 1 pullanus masculus. 1346–7 in *Finchale Priory Charters*, etc. (Surtees) p. xxvi, Item unus staggus masculi unius anni. 1363 *Ibid.* p. lxi, ij staghes ætatis duorum annorum. 1439–40 *Durham Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 409 Item 1 equa cum 1 stag ij^or annorum. *c* 1460 *Towneley Myst.* xxx. 227 Vnethes may I wag, man for wery in youre stabill Whiles I set my stag, man. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 358/1 A sstagge, *pullus*. 1514 *Test. Ebor.* (Surtees) V. 60 To Thomas, my sone, a stagge to make hym an horrse off. 1522 *Wills & Inv. N. C.* (Surtees) I. 106 To John Cowndon..a colt stagge. 1565 *Ibid.* 245 Item I gyue to thomas pereson my graye fillie stagg. 1684 MERITON *Praise Ale* (1685) 105 A Stag is a young Colt. 1778 J. MILL *Diary* (S.H.S. 1889) 55 [The losses of horses and cattle] were soon supplied by the purchase of three cows and two pretty young staggs. 1788 W. H. MARSHALL *Yorksh.* II. 355 *Stag*; a young horse.

β. 1478 in *Acta Audit.* (1839) 82/1 For a meire & a staig xl s. 1540 *N. C. Wills* (Surtees) 170 To Mathew Hynde, xl s., a fely stage. 1558 in J. Croft *Excerpta Anat.* (1797) 28 Item, a Bay Stoned Staige. *a* 1585 MONTGOMERIE *Flyting w. Polwart* 395 Some [witches], on steid of a staig, ouer a starke monke straide. 1617 in *Extracts Rec. Convent. Burghs Scot.* (1878) III. 47 Ilk ox, kow, horse, stote, meir, staeg. 1654 *Ibid.* III. 388 Item, of ilk hors, meir or stage, going to the mercat, 1s. 1792 BURNS *Kellyburn Braes* iv, It's neither your stot nor your staig I shall crave..But gie me your wife, man. 1812 CHALMERS *Let.* in *Life* (1851) I. 309 The staigs were returned to the glebe.

Proverbs. 1857 J. MILLER *Alcohol* (1858) 123 Keep strong drink from the lad and the boy, 'Corn is not for staigs'. 1899 J. SPENCE *Shetl. Folk-lore* 228 There's aye watter whaar the staig smores.

3. An animal castrated when full grown. **a.** A bull; more fully *bull stag*. Now *dial.*, *Sc.* and *Australian.*

a. 1680, 1776 Bull stag [see BULL *sb.*[1] 11]. 1787 WINTER *Syst. Husb.* 284 A dairyman's six heavy bull stags..broke over a well secured fence into my field of wheat. 1884 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Melb. Mem.* xvii. 123, I just recollect that blue stag. ..Was he in the mob you saw? 1886 *W. Somerset Word-bk.*, *Stag*, a castrated bull. The term is applied to any animal emasculated after maturity. 1894 *Harper's Mag.* Feb. 354 They require work-steers to do their ploughing and Mr. Bell has brought up half a dozen old 'stags'.

β. 1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* xiv, He returned..muttering that he thought he heard the 'young staig loose in the byre'. 1822 — *Pirate* xxx, The air and bearing of a bull-dog, whilk I have seen loosed at a fair upon a mad staig. 1856 MORTON *Cycl. Agric.* II. 726/1 In Scot., *Staig. Bull-staig* is a castrated bull.

b. A boar, hog, or ram. *dial.*

1784 [cf. *stag-hog* in 8 b]. 1811 T. DAVIS *Agric. Wilts* 260 Boar stag, a castrated boar. 1851 STERNBERG *Northampt. Gloss.*, *Stag*, an old boar. 1863 W. BARNES *Dorset Gloss.*, *Stag*, a castrated male animal; as, a ram-stag, a boar-stag, a bull-stag.

4. Applied to the male of various birds. (Cf. STEG.) **a.** A cock. *dial.* Also *spec.* in *Cockfighting*, a cock less than one year old.

1730 CHENY *Hist. List Horse-matches*, etc. 168 Each side shew'd some Cocks and some Staggs. 1758 [cf. *stag-match* in 9]. 1770 *Newcastle Chron.* Advt., To be fought for..on the 31st of December, Fifty pounds by cocks and stags, 3lbs. 14oz. 1815 *Sporting Mag.* XLVI. 59 The practice of running stags with cocks is unavoidable. 1823 'JON BEE' *Dict. Turf.* s. v., A young game cock—is a stag. 1886 *Live Stock Jrnl.* 23 July 99/1 [Letter from *Devonshire*] Many people who keep hens for their eggs alone do not allow a stag with them. 1894 BARING-GOULD *Kitty Alone* I. 96 Bramber learned that day that a cock in Devonshire is entitled stag. 1902 *Lindsey & Lincolnsh. Star* 29 Nov. 5/2 Fowl stealing... In one case a fine buff Orpington stag has been taken.

b. A turkey-cock of two years and upwards.

1819 W. & H. RAINBIRD *Agric. Suff.* (1849) 300 (E. D. D.). *a* 1825 FORBY *Voc. E. Anglia*, *Stag*, a cock turkey, killed for the table in his second year. 1849 D. J. BROWNE *Amer. Poultry Yd.* (1855) 165 *note*, When a cock turkey arrives at the age of two years, he is called a 'stag'.

† c. A young swan. *Obs.* (Cf. STEG-*swan*.)

1544 *Will R. North* (Somerset Ho.), My Swanne marke w^t all the Swannes Stagges & Signettes callid the Crowfote.

5. *dial.* The wren.

a 1825 FORBY *Voc. E. Anglia*, *Stag*, a wren. 1885 SWAINSON *Prov. Names Birds* 35 Wren (*Troglodytes parvulus*), Stag, Tope (Norfolk; Cornwall). 1893 in Cozens-Hardy *Broad Norfolk* 51, Stag, Common Wren.

6. *slang.* [Prob. from sense 1; but the reason for the use is obscure.] **a.** An informer; esp. in phrase *to turn stag*. Also see quot. 1725.

1725 *New Canting Dict.*, *Stag*,..as, *I spy a Stag*, used by ..Shepherd, lately executed, when he first saw the Turnkey of Newgate, who pursu'd and took him. 1785 GROSE *Dict. Vulgar T.*, *Stag*, to turn stag, a rogue who impeaches his confederates. *a* 1826 J. HOLT *Mem.* (1838) II. 52 We had two disturbers of the harmony of the ship; I mean two stags or informers. 1834 AINSWORTH *Rookwood* I. viii. 217 As to clapping him in quod, he might prattle—might turn stag. 1846 J. KEEGAN *Leg. & Poems* (1907) 367 My father ..became a deserter, but he was not a coward, nor..a stag.

b. (See quots.)

1823 'JON BEE' *Dict. Turf*, s. v., Queer bail are 'stag': those men who being hired at a guinea or two per oath, to swear they are worth vast sums, stand about judges' chambers in term-time. 1848 BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.* 329 In the New York courts, a stag is the technical name for a man who is always ready to aid in proving an alibi, of course 'for a consideration'.

c. (See quot. 1857.)

1857 *Slang Dict.* 20 *Stag*, shilling. 1887 HENLEY *Villon's Straight Tip* 15 You cannot bank a single stag.

7. *Comm. slang.* A person who applies for an allocation of shares in a joint-stock concern solely with a view to selling immediately at a profit.

1845 THACKERAY in *Punch* IX. 191 All the Stags in Capel Court. 1846 *Punch* X. 139 The bubble has in the mean time burst, the deposit is not paid, and the Stag..gives himself no more trouble about the scheme. 1857 SMILES *Stephenson* xxx. 408 Noble lords were pointed at as 'stags' ..in the share markets. 1904 *Westm. Gaz.* 13 Apr. 9/1 Another point in the prospectus is the attempt to discriminate between the stag and the bona-fide investor.

b. (See quot.)

1854 H. AYRES *Fenn's Eng. & For. Funds* 109 A Stag is one who is not a Member of the Stock Exchange, but deals outside, and is sometimes called an 'Outsider'.

8. *attrib.* and *Comb.* **a.** similative, as *stag-eyed*, *-necked*, *-sure* adjs.

1826 HOOD *Stag-Eyed Lady* 42 Therefore he chose a lady for his love, Singling from out the herd one stag-eyed dear. 1793 HOLCROFT *Lavater's Physiogr.* xl. 213 The stag-necked horse. 1896 N. MUNRO *Lost Pibroch* 69 Girls..not with a flat slouching foot on the soil, but high in the instep, bounding and stag-sure.

b. quasi-*adj.* (*a*) = male, as *stag-bird*, *hartebeest*, *-hog*, *-moose*, *-swan*, *-turkey*. Also in sense 2, as *stag-bay*, *-foal*, *-horse*.

1606 *N. Riding Rec.* (1883) I. 55 Unum equum testiculatum, anglice a stoned *stagg bay. 1886 *W. Somerset Word-bk.* s. v. *Stag*, When applied to poultry *stag-bird is the usual term for a male kept for breeding purposes. 1883 R. M. FERGUSSON *Rambl. Sk. Far North* xv. 97 May a' your mares be well to foal, An' every ane be a *staig foal. 1850 R. G. CUMMING *Hunter's Life S. Afr.* (ed. 2) I. 188 He had observed an old *stag hartebeest standing in the shade of some tall green bushes. 1784 YOUNG *Ann. Agric.* I. 124 in Britten *Old Country Words* (1880) 110 **Stag-hog*, a boar. Suff. 1857 BORROW *Romany Rye* I. xi. 166, I..goes into a field, suppose by night, where there is a very fine *stag horse. 1721 DUDLEY *Moose-Deer* in *Phil. Trans.* XXXI. 166 Our Hunters have found a Buck, or *Stagg-Moose, of fourteen Spans in heighth from the Withers. 1892 TENNYSON *Church-Warden* vii, An' 'e torn'd as red as a *stag-turkey's wattles.

c. *U.S. slang.* = pertaining to or composed of males only, as *stag-dance*, *devilry*, *-dinner*, *-party*.

1848 BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.* 330 **Stag-dance*, a dance performed by males only, in bar-rooms, &c. 1873 JOAQUIN MILLER *Life among Modocs* viii. 94 In one of the saloons.. men were wont to..have stag-dances. 1911 H. S. HARRISON *Queed* xv. 185 Buck Klinker, returning from some *stag devilry at the hour of two A.M. 1889 *Thompson St. Poker Club* 59 Mr. Tooter Williams had been to a *stag dinner in the early evening. 1856 *Knickerbocker Mag.* Apr. 407 (Thornton *Amer. Gloss.*) A party of old bricks [*read* bucks], who, under pretence of looking at the picture, are keeping up a small *stag-party at the end of the room.

9. Special comb.: **stag-book** *Comm. slang*, a book in which was entered the names of the stags or bogus shareholders (see 7); **stag-cart** = *deer-cart*, DEER 4 b; **† stag-chase** = *stag-hunting*; **stag-evil**, **-fever** (see quots.); **† stag-fly**, the stag-beetle; **stag-hafted**, **-handled** *adjs.*, furnished with a haft or handle of stag-horn; **stag-hog** = BABIROUSSA; **stag-hunt**, the chasing of a stag as a sport; **stag-hunter**, one who hunts the stag; also, a horse used in stag-hunting; **stag-hunting**, the sport of chasing the stag; an instance of this; **stag-like** *a.*, resembling a stag or that of a stag; **† stag-match** *Cock-fighting*, a match for young cocks (see 4 a); **† stag-skin**, the prepared hide of a stag; **† stag-snake** = ELAPS; **† stag-worm** (see quot.).

1854 *Househ. Words* VIII. 470 You allotted to a great many stags, sir...Didn't you have any *stag-books when you allotted? 1894 *Daily News* 8 Feb. 2/6 A *stag-cart of the Mid-Kent staghounds. 1725 *Portland Papers* (Hist. MSS. Comm.) VI. 87 This [park] the Duke designed as the chief nursery for his *stag-chase. 1717 SOLLEYSELL *Compl. Horsem.*, *Stag's Evil. 1759 WALLIS *Farrier's Dict.*, s. v. *Convulsions*, Solleysell calls this malady the stag's evil, or palsy in the jaws. 1823 PURSGLOVE *Pract. Farriery* 81 In convulsions, or stag evil, the horse appears full of spirit. 1911 B. HOLLAND *Life Dk. Devonshire* II. xxiv. 237 He is said to have suffered at critical moments of the sport from the excitement known as *stag fever. 1634 MOUFET *Insect. Theatrum* I. xxi. 134 Anglis *Stag-flie. 1693 DALE *Pharmacol.* 538 Scarabæus cornutus, *Schrod.*..The Stag-fly. 1797 *J. Robinson's Directory of Sheffield* 45 *Stag hafted penknife cutler. 1827 GRIFFITH tr. *Cuvier's Anim. Kingd.* III. 332 The Babiroussa, or *Stag Hog. 1842 LOVER *Handy Andy* lii, There was a *stag-hunt on the lake. 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xx. IV. 401 Without exposing himself to any risk greater than that of a staghunt at Fontainebleau. 1709 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4540/8 Stoln or strayed.., a ..Bay Gelding,..hath been a known and constant *Stag-Hunter in the Forest of Sherwood for 2 or 3 Years past. 1722 *Ibid.* No. 6112/1 There was a general *Stag hunting. 1845 VOUATT *Dog* iii. 86 Since the death of George III.. stag-hunting has rapidly declined. 1627 MAY *Lucan* II. D 1 b, Along the hauens *stagge-like Hornes they runne Swiftly to shore. 1838 LYTTON *Leila* I. i, The small erect head and stag-like throat. 1758 *Lond. Chron.* 29 June 614/2 The *Stag Match between Sir Henry Grey, Bart., and Jennison Shafto, Esq. 1657 THORNLEY *Longus' Daphnis & Chloe* (1893) 60 She gave him a new Scrip of *Stag-skin. 1668 CHARLETON *Onomast.* 32 *Elaps*..the *Stag-Snake. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl., **Stag-worms*,..a name given to a species of worms produced of the eggs of a fly, and lodged..behind, and under the palate of the stag.

b. In the names of plants: **stag bush** (see quot.); **stag fern** = staghorn fern (see STAG-HORN 2 c); **† stag's garlic** (see GARLIC 1 b).

1884 SARGENT *Rep. Forests N. Amer.* 94 *Viburnum prunifolium*..Black Haw. *Stag Bush. 1884 *Missionary Chron.* Apr. 102 Huge *stag ferns of fantastic shapes.

Stag (stæg), *sb.*[2] ? variant of STACK *sb.* 6.

1775 *Ann. Reg.*, *Chron.* 185 The Abby,..having lately gone to pieces on the Stags near Kenrule, in Ireland, the captain, mate, and two common men..were cast upon the lower stags. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.*, *Stag*, a name given to a rock..as off the Lizard, Castlehaven, &c.

Stag (stæg), *sb.*[3] [? variant of STAKE *sb.*[1]]

1. A stake, pile. (Cf. STAG *v.*[2]) *dial.*

1881 *Leicestersh. Gloss.*, *Stag*, var. pron. of 'stake'. 1887 *Jamieson's Sc. Dict.* Suppl. 227/1 *Stag*, a stake, pile, fixed or for fixing in the ground. West of S., Aberd[een].

† 2. A tinman's tool = STAKE *sb.*[1] 5 a.

1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. xxii. (Roxb.) 269/2 He beareth Azure, a Small Stag, or a Round Stag, Argent. This..is for the raiseing of round filletts in Tyn for the Adornement of their Works. The second thing in this square is called a Creesing Stag.

† Stag, *a. Obs.* Also **stagg(e, stage.** [Of obscure origin.] Of furs: Raw, unseasoned.

1545 *Rates Custom Ho.* a vij b, Callabre stagg. 1545 *Ibid.* b ij b, Foyne stagge. *Ibid.* d ij, Stagge the thousande. Stagge the hundreth. 1583 *Ibid.* A viij, Callaber stage. *a* 1618 *Rates of Merchandizes* G 2 b, Foynes wombes seasond..Foynes wombes stage. 1640 in Entick *London* II. 177 Coney skins grey, tawed, seasoned or stag.

Stag, *v.*[1] Also 9 **steg.** [Prob. related to STAGGER *v.* Cf. ON. *staka* to push, stagger (whence *stakra* STAGGER *v.*). The identity of the word in the various senses below is uncertain.]

† 1. *intr.* To stagger, waver. *Obs.*

1561 T. NORTON *Calvin's Inst.* III. ix. 156 b, For euen the Prophete confesseth that his fete stagged.

b. ? To flinch, yield, give way. *rare.*

1831 *Fraser's Mag.* III. 652 The House of Lords..are now making a loud clattering of their determination to stand against the bill—but it is no go. I lay you the long odds..that their Lordships stag.

2. To walk with long strides. Hence *stagged-up*, tired out with walking. *Sc.* and *dial.*

1823 MACTAGGART *Gallov. Encycl.* 311 His ghaist..was seen by many stegging about the estate. 1866 E. WAUGH *Ben an' th' Bantam* 66 Aw let on her [a traveller] o' tother side Yealey Ho'; quite stagged up. 1888 *Sheffield Gloss.*, *Stag*, to walk quickly. 1895 CROCKETT *Men of Moss-haggs* xix, Auld Anton went stegging over the hills, till I was fair driven out of my breath.

† Stag, *v.*[2] *Sc. Obs. rare*—[1]. [? f. STAG *sb.*[3]; or var. of STAKE *v.*] *trans.* To support with piles.

1610 *Aberdeen Reg.* (1848) II. 300 The said brig to be staggit and branderit sufficiently in deipnes vnder the channall, to mak a sufficient ground to big vpoun.

Stag (stæg), *v.*[3] [f. STAG *sb.*[1]]

1. *slang.* **a.** *trans.* To observe; to take particular notice of; to watch; also, to find out or discover by observation, to detect. Also *absol.* or *intr.*

1796 *Grose's Dict. Vulgar T.* (ed. 3), To *Stag*, to find, discover, observe. 1806 SURR *Winter in Lond.* (ed. 3) II. 120, I shall soon stag who they are. 1823 'JON BEE' *Dict. Turf* s. v., To 'stag' a thief, to look on, and spoil his sport; 'What's that cove a stagging there for? Down him, Billy'. 1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss.* s. v., When workmen are taking beer clandestinely, one of them keeps on the look out, to watch or 'stag the master'. 1859 H. KINGSLEY *Geoffrey Hamlyn* v, So you've been stagging this gentleman and me, and listening, have you? 1897 G. BARTRAM *People of Clopton* v. 130 Who set ye on to watch me?..And at last..he admitted that Master John had told him to keep an eye on me and Jenny—to 'stag' us if he saw us out together—and to get a witness to what went on between us.

b. (See quots.)

1811 *Sporting Mag.* XXXVII. 11 'I stagged him my Lord'.—'Stagged him, what do you mean by stagged him?'—'Why, my Lord, I mean I was down upon him'. 1870 *Daily News* 13 July, In the event of a man refusing or sloping, as it was termed, his line was what was called 'stagged', and when he went for an advance it was resolutely refused.

c. *intr.* To turn informer; to inform *against*.

1839 W. CARLETON *Fardorougha* xi. (1848) 161 But to stag against his companion and accomplice—this was looked upon as a crime. 1846 J. KEEGAN *Leg. & Poems* (1907) 380 She imagines that I played foul at New Ross,—that I stagged and betrayed as well as deserted.

d. (See quot.)

1860 *Hotten's Slang Dict., Stag*, to demand money, to 'cadge'...Also, to dun, or demand payment.

2. *Comm. slang.* To deal in shares as a stag (see STAG *sb.*[1] 7).

1845 THACKERAY in *Punch* IX. 191 What! are ladies stagging it? 1845 —[Implied in the *vbl. sb.* and *ppl. a.*].

3. *dial.* (See quot. Cf. STAG-HEADED *a.*)

1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss., Stag*, to take off the top of a hedge without laying it down.

Hence **Sta·gging** *vbl. sb.* and *ppl. a.*

1845 THACKERAY in *Punch* IX. 191 Her appearance created quite a sensation among the stagging gents. 1851 KINGSLEY *Yeast* ii, The Stock-Exchange and railway stagging,..and the frantic Mammon-hunting. 1905 A. J. SHAND *Days of Past* ix. 162 Everything went automatically to a premium, and systematic stagging was a profitable business. 1905 *Daily Chron.* 13 July 5/6 A peculiarity of the applications is the enormous number of them for £100. A great many of these are obviously of the 'stagging' order.

Stag, Stagard: see STEG, STAGGARD.

Stagarth: see STACK-GARTH.

Stag-beetle. [STAG *sb.*[1]] A beetle of the genus *Lucanus*, the males of which have large denticulated mandibles resembling the horns of a stag; esp. *L. cervus*, and, in U.S., *L. elaphus*.

1681 GREW *Museum* I. § vii. ii. 163 The Stag-Beetle..hath his Name from his two Horns, which are branched like those of a Stag. 1816 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* xxi. (1818) II. 224 The terrific and protended jaws of the stag-beetle (*Lucanus Cervus*, L.) in Europe. 1859 DARWIN *Orig. Species* iv. 88 Male stag-beetles often bear wounds from the huge mandibles of other males. 1896 LYDEKKER *Roy. Nat. Hist.* VI. 141 The common stag-beetle (*Lucanus cervus*), one of the largest of European beetles.

Stage (stēdʒ), *sb.* Also 6 *north.* **stayge**, *Sc.* **staige**; pl. **stagies.** [ad. OF. *estage* masc. (mod.F. *étage*) = Pr. *estatge* (also *estatga* fem.), It. *staggio* station, dwelling (*obs.*), support for a net, side of a ladder, etc. :—popular L. **staticum*, f. L. *stāre* to stand (OF. *ester*, Prov. *estar*). From the etymological meaning standing, station, standing place, were developed in OF. many special senses, which passed into ME.; the only senses that have survived into mod.Fr. are 'story of a building' (= 1 a) and certain fig. applications of this. Mod.F. *stage*, the 'terms' to be kept before admission to certain professions, is ad. med.L. *stagium*, ad. OF. *estage*. In OF. *estage* was taken as the etymological equivalent of L. *stadium*, and used to render that word as denoting an ancient measure of distance (hence sense 7 below). Branch IV represents an English development of meaning, which seems to have begun about 1600, and for which it is not easy precisely to account. It may in some degree have been influenced by the notion of an etymological connexion of the word with L. *stadium*; at any rate this notion is distinctly traceable in the medical use 11 b.]

I. Standing-place; something to stand upon.

1. Each of the portions into which the height of a structure is divided; a horizontal partition.

a. A story or floor of a building.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 1679 It [the ark] sal be made wit stages sere, Ilkon to serue o þair mistere. *Ibid.* 1691 In þe ouermast stage þi self sal be. *c* 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 4579 He..dide hym make a merueyllous tour... Selcouþe stages ar þer-ynne. 1382 WYCLIF *Acts* xx. 9 He ledd by sleep fel down fro the thridde stage [Vulg. *de tertio cenaculo*]. *c* 1440 *York Myst.* viii. 127 Dyuerse stages must þer be [in the ark]. *c* 1477 CAXTON *Jason* 101 b, The ladyes and Damoyselles mounted & wente vpon the hyghe stages of the palays. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* XII. Prol. 47 And like fair cite, Stude payntit, euery fyall, fane, and stage, Apon the plane grund, by thar awin vmbrage. 1828 DUPPA *Trav. Italy*, etc. 88 The Temple appears to have been divided into three stories or stages. 1870 F. R. WILSON *Ch. Lindisf.* 65 The lowest stage of a tower raised for the benefit of seafarers. 1884 W. ARMSTRONG tr. *G. Perrot & C. Chipiez' Hist. Art Chaldea & Assyria* I. iv. 386 Nothing but the first two stages..now remain at Nimroud of..the chief temple of Calah.

†b. *Hall of stage*: an upper chamber. *Obs.*

1485 in *Descr. Cal. Anc. Deeds* (1890) I. 358 A mancion with a hall of stage. 1493 *Festivall* (W. de W. 1515) 44 [The apostles] wente in to the cyte of Jerusalem and there they were in an halle of stage.

c. *Arch.* (See quot. 1836.)

a 1400-50 *Wars Alex.* 4897 þe windows on þe selfe wyse [of gold]..And þai ware coruen full clene & clustrid with gemmes, Sti3t stafful of stanes stagis & othire. *c* 1450 *St. Cuthbert* 4146 þe preste, graped felgyld vysage, As he saide, thurgh a wyndowe stage. *c* 1450 *Robin Hood & the Monk* xxxix. in Child *Ballads* III. 98/2 Litul John stode at a wyndow in þe mornyng, And lokid forþ at a stage. 1817 RICKMAN *Styles Archit.* 94 These [buttresses] differ very little from those of the last style, except that triangular heads to the stages are much less used. 1836 PARKER *Gloss. Archit.* (1850) I. 443 *Stage*,..the term is particularly applied to the spaces or divisions between the set-offs of buttresses in Gothic architecture, and to the horizontal divisions of windows which are intersected by transoms. 1891 FREEMAN *Sk. Fr. Travel* 268 A single corner buttress, finished with an oddly corbelled stage.

†d. A 'bank' or tier of rowers. *Obs. rare*[−1].

1382 WYCLIF *Isa.* xxxiii. 21 Ne the grete ship of thre stagis [L. *triȇris*] shal not ouergon it.

†e. One of a series of levels rising stepwise one above the other; a step. *Obs.*

a 1500 *Assembly of Ladies* 477 And there I saw..A chayre set...And fyve stages it was set fro the ground. 1533 BELLENDEN *Livy* I. xv. (S. T. S.) I. 85 The ymage..was sett..risand on certane stagis [L. *in gradibus ipsis*] towart þe left hand of þe counsel houss.

†f. A shelf or one of a series of shelves or horizontal divisions in a cupboard, etc.

1465, 1472 *Durham Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 243, 245 Item j armoriolum cum sex stagys [1465 *is doubtfully read* stage-*rum*] duplicatis [= lined] pro cartis et munimentis conservandis. *a* 1505 in Kingsford *Chron. Lond.* (1905) 250 A cupbourde of 6 stages height..garnysshed wt gilt plate. 1540 *Test. Ebor.* (Surtees) VI. 94 One gret arke with a stayge in the middle thereof. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VIII* 96 A Cupperd of xii stages, all set with greate mightie plate al of golde. 1551 in *Rep. Comm. Publ. Rec. Irel.* (1815) 38 *note*, That [in the said Library] Presses or Stages..and all other necessaries shall be provided [for the Records and Muniments]. 1817 J. BRADBURY *Trav.* 139 The stages whereon they deposit the bodies of their dead.

g. A tier of shelves or platform for plants, esp. in a greenhouse; hence, a display of flowers on such a stage.

1802 MAR. EDGEWORTH *Dun* Wks. 1848 IV. 412 He sat down upon the corner of a stage of flowers [in Covent Garden]. 1824 LOUDON *Encycl. Gardening* § 6166 In the interior of the green-house the principal object demanding attention is the stage, or platform for the plants. 1850 GLENNY *Handbk. Flower Garden* 8 A stage of these flowers is a beautiful sight. 1881 F. YOUNG *Ev. Man his own Mech.* § 930 The simple stage [for flower-pots] of three, four, or more straight shelves rising one above another is easily made.

h. One of a series of layers or shelves of any material.

1837 P. KEITH *Bot. Lex.* 212 If you take a parcel of oranges, and place upon your table a first stage of six,..and over that a second stage, and over that a third stage. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 981 Another method of working coal of uncommon thickness, is by scaffoldings or stages of coals. 1869 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* (1876) III. xii. 151 Waterfalls bounding from one rocky stage to another.

i. *Geol.* (Variously used: see quots. 1881, 1910.)

1859 DARWIN *Orig. Species* ix. 308 M. Barrande has lately added another and lower stage to the Silurian system, abounding with new and peculiar species. 1881 *Q. Jrnl. Geol. Soc.* XXXVIII. Proc. 3 The conclusions arrived at [by the International Commission for the Unification of Geological Nomenclature, 1880] were..that the term Group should be applied to the largest geological division of rocks, ..Series to the third in order of magnitude, Stage to the fourth. 1910 GEIKIE *Geol.* in *Encycl. Brit.* XI. 668/1 Two or more sets of beds or assises similarly related form a group or stage; a number of groups or stages make a series.

j. *U.S.* A level (of water).

1814 BRACKENRIDGE *Views Louisiana* 43 There is a surprising difference in the navigation of this..river, in the ordinary stages of water and during..the floods. 1846 J. C. FREMONT *Narr. Explor. Exped. Rocky Mts.* 56 Even at its low stages, this river cannot be crossed at random. 1890 *Times* 14 Mar. 5/1 The Government officials report..that the stage of the Mississippi river from Cairo to Vicksburg..will be one of the highest known.

†2. Station, position, seat, esp. with reference to relative height; each of a number of positions or stations one above the other. *Obs.*

1340 *Ayenb.* 122 And al alsuo ase ine heuene heþ þri stages of uolke ase zayt saynt denys huer-of þe on is heȝere þe oþer men þe þridde loȝest. *c* 1384 CHAUCER *H. Fame* 122 In whiche ther were moo ymages Of golde stondynge in sondry stages. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* III. 109 The Mones cercle so lowe is, Wherof the Sonne out of his stage Ne seth him noght with full visage. 1423 Jas. I *Kingis Quair* lxxix, Me thoght I sawe..martris and confessouris, Ech in his stage. *Ibid.* lxxxiii, A voce..said..ȝonder thou seis the hiest stage and gree Off aȝit folk. 1451 CAPGRAVE *Life St. Kath.* v. xx. 1151 Ye may haue wurship, ye may be sette in stage Ryght as a goddesse. 1509 BARCLAY *Ship of Fools* (1874) II. 262 Yet at the table another vse we se Whiche.. ought nat vsed be That folys at the borde haue oft the hyest stage. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* x. xii. 20 Bot he, lyke to a ferm rouk,..dois hym self defend,..Remanand onremovyt ferm in his stage. 1536 *Primer Engl. & Lat.* (Rouen) 80 The father..In this worlde gyues them wages, And a place in yᵉ heuenly stages, In the kyngdome of excellence. 1625 BACON *Ess., Viciss. Things* (Arb.) 573 The Changes and Vicissitude in Warres are many; But chiefly in three Things; In the Seats or Stages of the Warre [etc.].

†3. A degree or step in the 'ladder' of virtue, honour, etc.; a 'step' on Fortune's wheel. *Obs.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 25973 Thrifald aght þis soruing be, for it es sett in stages thre Bitter,..bitterer,..alþer-bitterest. *c* 1360 *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* xxiii. 704 In to heuene vs up liftyng þorwh vertus, stage vp stage. 1500-20 DUNBAR *Poems* xxxv. 18 Vp-on my [Dame Fortune's] staigis or that thow ascend, Trest weill thy truble neir is at ane end. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* x. v. 152 Bot Turnus hardy, stalwart, hie curage, For all this feyr demynist nevyr a stage. 1559 *Mirr. Mag., Warwick* i, Among the heauy heape of happy knyghtes, Whom Fortune stalde vpon her stayles stage [etc.]. 1622-34 PEACHAM *Compl. Gentl.* x. (1906) 78 From the highest Stage of Honour, to the lowest staire of disgrace.

†b. A grade in rank. *Obs. rare*[−1].

1801 G. ROSE *Diaries* (1860) I. 348 He had thought it advisable to delay..to recommend any stage in the peerage to Lord Nelson.

4. A raised floor, platform, scaffold. a. A floor raised above the level of the ground for the exhibition of something to be viewed by spectators. Now *rare* or *Obs.* Cf. 5 a.

13.. *K. Alis.* 5569 (Laud MS.), And þer hij founden..two grete ymages In þe Cee stonden on brasen stages. *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (Roxb.) xi. 42 Ymiddez of þe temple es a stage of xxiiii. greces hie. 1536-7 *Rec. St. Mary at Hill* 373 Item, paid to Wolston ffor makyng of yᵉ stages ffor yᵉ prophettes vj d. 1553 EDEN *Treat. New Ind.* (Arb.) 30 They founde certayne lowe cotages made of trees, lyke vnto stagies. 1602 SHAKS. *Ham.* v. ii. 389 Giue order that these bodies High on a stage be placed to the view. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* (1637) 297 Athelstan, Edwin, and Etheldred were crowned kings upon an open stage in the market place. 1710 STEELE *Tatler* No. 240 P 8, I have seen the whole front of a Mountebank's stage..faced with patents, certificates, medals, and Great Seals.

†b. A scaffold for execution or exposure in the pillory. *Obs.*

c 1400 *Brut* 240 He was draw and hongede on a stage made in mydes þe forsaide Sir Hughes galwes. 1586 *Verses of Praise of Joy, Kyd's Wks.* (1901) 341 For chaire of state, a stage of shame, and crows for crownes they haue. 1760 H. WALPOLE *Let. G. Montagu* 6 May (1857) III. 303 Lord Ferrers..was executed yesterday...There was a new contrivance for sinking the stage under him. 1781 COWPER *Hope* 556 Leuconomus..Stood pilloried on infamy's high stage.

†c. *fig. To bring to, keep on the stage*: cf. STAGE *v.* 4. *Sc. Obs.*

1681 in J. H. Thomson *Cloud of Witnesses* (1871) 127, I ..being sentenced to die..thought fit to set down..the causes wherefore I suffer...I have never gotten the certainty of what hath brought me to the stage. 1725 in *Portland Papers* (Hist. MSS. Comm.) VI. 116 This staging process is made use of against any of the ministry..when..there is a *Fama Clamoza* against any person..and as the Kirk may be moved thereunto, he may be kept on the stage a year or more longer.

†d. Applied to a pulpit. *Obs. rare*[−1].

1483 *Wardr. Acc.* in Grose *Antig. Repert.* (1807) I. 34 The stage otherwise called the pulpitt in Westminster.

e. A scaffold for workmen and their tools, materials, etc.; also (after sense 1) each of the levels of scaffolding.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 471/2 Stage, or stondynge vp on (*v.r.* stage to stond on), *fala, machinalis, machinis*. 1535 in Willis & Clark *Cambridge* (1886) II. 453 Item to..carpenters..and laborers for syttyng vp the stage xxiij^{s} ij^{d}. 1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* II. (Globe) 524 Our Men who were at Work on her Bottom, with Stages. 1739 LABELYE *Short Acc. Piers Westm. Bridge* 18 Ballast was stow'd to make the Engine and its floating Stage as steady as possible. 1840 R. H. DANA *Bef. Mast* viii. 18 The outside is painted by lowering stages over the side by ropes. 1878 F. S. WILLIAMS *Midl. Railw.* 341 The gigantic travelling scaffold..made in 3 divisions, so that each part of either stage could be moved separately. 1906 *Westm. Gaz.* 4 Sept. 5/1 Two Blondin stages..have been erected to transport blocks of concrete.

f. An erection at a fishing station consisting of a platform and other apparatus for drying fish.

1535 in Weaver *Wells Wills* (1890) 132 Wᵐ Yonge..ij stagis of fysshinge with iiij netts to them belongynge. 1634 W. WOOD *New Eng. Prosp.* (1865) 35 Those which have had stages and make fishing voyages into those parts. 1698 *Act* 10 *Will. III*, c. 14 § 1 [With] Liberty to goe on Shore on any part of Newfoundland..to cut downe Wood and Trees there for building..Stages Shiprooms [etc.]. 1733 P. LINDSAY *Interest Scot.* 218 The Cod and Ling..might be dried on our Beeches and Stages. 1820 SCORESBY *Acc. Arctic Regions* II. 175 Two men..then carried it [blubber] piece by piece to a stage or platform erected by the side of the works, where a man, denominated a 'stage cutter'..sliced it into pieces. 1899 *19th Cent.* Aug. 236 Stages being used simply for the drying of cod-fish.

g. A platform used as a gangway, landing place, support or stand for materials, etc.

1773 *Cook's 1st Voy.* III. iii. vii. 589 The bank so steep.. that a ship may lie..so near the shore as to reach it with a stage. 1793 *Act* 33 *Geo III*, c. 96 § 81 To be..unloaded without a Stage being laid upon the Gunwale of such.. Vessel to the Bank of the said Canal. 1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-mining* 234 *Stage*, 1, A platform upon which trams stand. 2. The pit bank. 1888 JACOBI *Printers' Vocab.* 131 *Stage*, a wooden platform a few inches high used for building stacks of paper or printed work on.

h. A raised plate, ledge, or shelf to support an object, slide, etc. in a microscope or other instrument.

1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XI. 711/2 The magnifier..may be easily made to traverse over any part of the object that lies on the stage or plate B. 1849 NOAD *Electricity* 60 To the knob of a large jar A..screw a small metallic stage C, on which place a small jar B. 1875 HUXLEY & MARTIN *Pract. Biol.* (1879) 23 Place on the hot stage, and gradually warm up to 50° C. 1892 *Photogr. Ann.* II. 535 By means of a double changing stage, working vertically, any framed slides..can be shown.

5. The platform in a theatre upon which spectacles, plays, etc. are exhibited; esp. a raised platform with its scenery and other apparatus upon which a theatrical performance takes place.

To take the stage (Theatr.): of an actor, to walk with dignity across the stage after concluding an impressive speech.

1551 R. ROBYNSON tr. *More's Utopia* I. (1895) 98 Whyles a commodye of Plautus is playinge,..yf yowe shoulde sodenlye come vpon the stage in a philosophers apparrell. 1553 EDEN *Treat. New Ind.* (Arb.) 16 The Romaynes.. were wont to put them [Rhinoceros and Elephants] together vpon the theater or stage for a spectacle. 1567 R. EDWARDS *Damon & Pithias* (1906) 19 Pythagoras said, that this world was like a stage Whereon many play their parts. 1589 PUTTENHAM *Eng. Poesie* I. xvii. (Arb.) 51 When Tragidies came vp they deuised to present them upon scaffoldes or stages of timber. 1593 SHAKS. *Rich. II*, v. ii. 24. 1623 B. JONSON in *Shaks. Wks.* A 4, To heare thy Buskin tread, And shake a Stage. 1632 MILTON *L'Allegro* 131 Then to the well-trod stage anon, If Jonsons learned Sock be on. 1774 GOLDSM. *Retaliation* 101 On the stage, he was natural, simple, affecting: 'Twas only that when he was off, he was acting. 1858 [H. AÏDÉ] *Rita* I. x. 229 And having done

what this virtuous woman considered to be her duty, she 'took the stage', as actors say, and swept to the further end of the room, with an air that said [etc.]. **1867** D. Cook *Nts. at the Play* (1883) I. 7 Miss Fanny Kemble used to rush from the back of the stage to the proscenium, as though driving the apparition before her. **1905** *Grand Mag.* Oct. 463 What we call 'taking the stage' on a heroic line is certain to induce a burst of applause;..but if one takes but one step too far down the stage..the applause will not be forthcoming.

b. In generalized use, e.g. *To go on the stage*, i. e. to take up the profession of an actor. Hence (chiefly with *the*), the theatre, the acted drama, the dramatic profession.

1589 Puttenham *Eng. Poesie* I. xi. (Arb.) 41 There were also Poets that wrote onely for the stage, I meane playes and interludes. **1623** B. Jonson in *Shaks. Wks.* A 4 b, Shine forth, thou Starre of Poets, and with rage, Or influence, chide, or cheere the drooping Stage. **1693** Dryden *Juvenal* (1697) Ded. 3 Shakespear, who created the Stage among us. **1728** Pope *Dunc.* I. 109 Bays, form'd by nature Stage and Town to bless, And act, and be, a Coxcomb with success. *Ibid.* III. 142 And a new Cibber shall the stage adorn. **1781** Cowper *Retirem.* 685 Books..in which the stage gives vice a blow. **1822** Lamb *Elia* Ser. I. *On Artific. Comedy*, The artificial Comedy, or Comedy of manners, is quite extinct on our stage. **1849** Thackeray *Pendennis* iv, The stage had its traditional jewels as the Crown and all great families have. **1886** Adel. Sergeant *No Saint* I. xii. 229 If he had gone on the stage he would have made a good actor.

c. *To bring* (a person) *on* or *to the stage*: to present (him) as a character in a play; to represent dramatically. *To bring, put* (an opera, a tragedy, etc.) *on the stage*: to produce (it) in public.

1601 B. Jonson *Poetaster* III. iv, I heare, you'll bring mee o' the Stage there; you'll play mee, they say: I shall bee presented by a sorte of Copper-lac't Scoundrels of you. **1602** Dekker *Satirom.* C 2, They sweare they'll bring your life and death vpon'th stage like a Bricklayer in a play. *Ibid.* I 3 b, What could I doe, out of a iust reuenge, But bring them to the Stage? **1721** *Lond. Gaz.* No. 6015/1 A new Opera..will be brought upon the publick Stage here. **1849** Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* vi. II. 74 A dramatist would scarcely venture to bring on the stage a grave prince, in the decline of life, ready to sacrifice his crown [etc.].

†**d.** The scene in which a play is set or the locality in which its events were supposed to have occurred. *Obs. rare.*

1639 Drumm. of Hawth. *Conv. betw. B. J. & W. D.* Wks. (1711) 224 [Ben Jonson] had also a design to write a Fisher or pastoral play, and make the stage of it in the Lomond lake.

e. *fig.*

1548 Udall, etc. *Erasm. Par. Matt.* v. 14–16 Ye haue a parte to playe in the stage of the whole world. **1581** Mulcaster *Positions* xxxix. (1887) 191, I do take publike [schools] to be simply the better: as being more vpon the stage, where faultes be more seene. **1600** Shaks. *A. Y. L.* II. vii. 139 All the world's a stage, And all the men and women, meerely Players. **1638** Sir T. Herbert *Trav.* (ed. 2) 72 We are now to present you upon the Asiatique stage, various scaenes compos'd of a miscelany of subjects. **1703** Maundrell *Journ. Jerus.* (1732) 38 A plain Field near the Sea, which is said to be the Stage on which St. George duell'd and kill'd the Dragon. **1780** Cowper *Progr. Error* 23 Plac'd for his trial on this bustling stage. **1823** Scott *Quentin D.* i, Actions for which his happier native country afforded no free stage. **1861** Bright *Sp., Amer.* 4 Dec. (1876) 88 There is no greater object of ambition on the political stage on which men are permitted to move. **1873** Burton *Hist. Scot.* VI. lxx. 186 The stage on which this scene was enacted was the Greyfriars' Churchyard.

†**II. 6.** A period of time; a fixed or appointed date. *Obs.*

a **1300** *Cursor M.* 7339 þat þai wit-in a tuel-moth stage, War put vte o þair heritage. *Ibid.* 21609. *a* **1325** in Horstm. *Altengl. Leg.* (1878) 143 Afterward a gret stage In his visage it was ysene. **1338** R. Brunne *Chron.* (1810) 164 Isaac wille not grante, to oblige him to þe, No to..3eld at terme & stage rent mykelle no lite. *Ibid.* 324. *a* **1400** *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* xxxii. 641 Glotenye deseyueþ hym in luytel stage. *c* **1400** *Ywaine & Gaw.* 1068 Bot i have a wele rinand page, Wil stirt thider right in a stage. *Ibid.* 2501. *c* **1500** in Horstm. *Altengl. Leg.* (1881) 419 As they that gan approchen to the stage Off decrepitus.

†**III. 7.** = Stadium I. *Obs. rare.*

c **1375** *Sc. Leg. Saints* xvi. (Magdalene) 815 A cawe..þat twelfe stage was fra þe place,..& ilke stage,..Is of a myle þe auchtand parte. **1552** Lyndesay *Monarche* 2725 One hundreth and fyftye stagys That Citie wes of lenth. *Ibid.* 2731 The wallis..Four hundreth stageis and four score In circuit.

IV. Division of a journey or process.

8. A place in which rest is taken on a journey; a roadside inn for the accommodation of travellers riding post or by stage-coach; *esp.* a regular stopping place on a stage-coach route where horses are changed and travellers taken up and set down.

1603 in *Rep. Secret Comm. Post-Office* App. (1844) 38 That the postemasters of every stage be aided..with fresh and able horses. *Ibid.* 39 Nor [to] ride them [*sc.* horses] further then the next immediate stage without changing, without the knowledge and consent of the Post of the stage. **1623** Massinger *Dk. Milan* IV. ii, He, that at euerie stage keeps liuerie Mistresses. **1635** in *Rep. Secret Comm. Post-Office* App. (1844) 56 The 8d Portmantle is to goe from Stage to Stage, night and day, till it shall come to Edenburgh. **1687** Lovell tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* I. 172 We..came to rest..at the place which we had made our first Stage, when we came from Suez. **1746** Francis tr. *Horace, Epist.* I. xv. 12 The Road we now must alter, and engage Th' unwilling Horse to pass his usual Stage. **1815** Scott *Guy M.* xlv, About three pounds of cold roast mutton which he had discussed at his mid-day stage. **1890** 'R. Boldrewood' *Col. Reformer* (1891) 273 He discovered that there was no other stage available without over-riding Osmund.

b. *transf.* and *fig.*

1770 Luckombe *Hist. Printing* 132 If any desire to know the motions and stages of the press, which printed these books; know, it was first set up at Moulsey,..thence conveyed to Fawsley, [etc.]. **1825** Scott *Betrothed* xxv, A small level plain, forming a sort of stage, or resting-place, between two very rough paths. **1851** T. T. Lynch *Lett. to Scattered* (1872) 143 Our Sundays are resting stages in the journey of life.

9. As much of a journey as is performed without stopping for rest, a change of horses, etc.; each of the several portions into which a road is divided for coaching or posting purposes; the distance travelled between two places of rest on a road.

1603 R. Johnson *Kingd. & Commw.* 162 They returne back againe towards the south (where they continue all the winter) by 10 miles a stage. **1622** Mabbe tr. *Aleman's Guzman d'Alf.* I. 48 Like your Post-horses when they haue runne their stage. **1703** Maundrell *Journ. Jerus.* (1732) 2 Our whole Stage this day was about five hours. **1792** Mme. D'Arblay *Diary* 5 Oct., Bradfield Hall..was but one stage of nineteen miles distant. **1828** Scott *Tapestr. Chamb.* (*init.*), In the conclusion of a morning stage, he found himself in the vicinity of a small country town. **1886** Ruskin *Præterita* I. vi. 183 Horses at each post-house..ready waiting, so that no time might be lost between stages. **1896** Baden-Powell *Matabele Campaign* xiii, Leaving Poore and the patrol..to follow on by slow stages. **1898** J. B. Crozier *My Inner Life* i. 6 We proceeded leisurely and by easy stages. **1907** *Verney Mem.* I. 465 He..had ridden a stage with Sir Henry on his journey back to Paris.

b. *transf.*

1660 Boyle *New Exp. Phys.-Mech.* xvii. 109 We were quickly hindred from accurately marking the Stages made by the Mercury in its descent, because it soon sunk below the top of the Receiver. **1664** Power *Exp. Philos.* I. 10 A Wood-Louse..has a swift motion and runs by starts or stages. **1687** Norris *Misc.* 71, I cannot like the Sun Each day the self same stage, and still unwearied, run. **1860** *Eng. & For. Mining Gloss., S. Staff. terms, Stage*, a particular distance that a horse travels along the gate-road and where candles are regularly placed.

c. Short for Stage-coach. Also '*U.S.* an omnibus' (*Cent. Dict.*).

1671 in *Wood's Life* (O.H.S.) II. 221 The Stage begins Munday next. **1747** B. Hoadly *Suspicious Husb.* I. iii, It looks better than being drag'd to Town in the Stage. **1781** Cowper *Convers.* 305 'Tis like a parcel sent you by the stage. **1848** Thackeray *Van. Fair* xli, The London lamps flashed joyfully as the stage rolled into Piccadilly. **1883** Stevenson *Silverado Sq.* 179 The first of the two stages swooped upon the Toll House..in a cloud of dust.

10. A period of a journey through a subject, life, course of action, etc.

1608 Shaks. *Per.* IV. iv. 9 To teach you, The stages of our storie. **1621** T. Williamson tr. *Goulart's Wise Vieillard* 24 God hath appointed euery mans race of life how long it shall be, and the stages hee must passe before he come to the end of it, whereof old age is the last stage of all. **1648** W. Juxon in *Chas. I.'s Wks.* (1662) I. 456 There is but one Stage more, yet..it will carry you from Earth to Heaven. **1672** Cave *Prim. Chr.* III. v. 355 Having travelled through the several stages of the Subject. **1742** Young *Nt. Th.* ix. 674 In thy nocturnal rove, one moment halt, 'Twixt stage and stage, of riot and cabal. **1782** Cowper *Mut. Forbearance* 49 The love that cheers life's latest stage.

11. A period of development, a degree of progress, a step in a process.

1818 Hallam *Mid. Ages* (1872) I. 146 Such as travellers have found among nations in the same stage of manners throughout the world. **1852** Thackeray *Esmond* I. xii, 'Tis not to be imagined that Harry Esmond had all this experience at this early stage of his life. **1855** Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* xix. IV. 327 At every stage in the growth of that debt it has been seriously asserted by wise men that bankruptcy and ruin were at hand. **1862** Miller *Elem. Chem., Org.* (ed. 2) 155 It is difficult to prevent the oxidation from going a stage further. **1863** H. Cox *Institt.* I. vi. 43 It is necessary that at some stage of the Bill the consent of the Crown should be signified. **1875** Jowett *Plato* (ed. 2) IV. 13 The distinction..belongs to a stage of philosophy which has passed away. **1878** Browning *La Saisiaz* 49 As in one or other stage Of a torture writhe they. **1889** *Pall Mall Gaz.* 16 Oct. 1/2 Gradual development by stages, not complete transformation at a bound, is the law in the political, as in the natural, world.

b. *Med.* A definite period in the development of a disease, marked by a specific group of symptoms. = Stadium 3.

1747 tr. *Astruc's Fevers* 281 This stage holds from the fourth, and sometimes from the eighth day after the eruption, till the tenth or twelfth day. **1780** *Mirror* No. 70, I found him in the last stage of a dropsy. **1804** Abernethy *Surg. Observ.* 65 In the advanced stage of this disease. **1843** R. J. Graves *Syst. Med.* x. 113 During the stage of rigor. **1878** L. P. Meredith *Teeth* 154 The pulps of the teeth would..be exposed in the early stages of the disease.

c. *Biol.* Each of the several periods in the development and growth of animals and plants, frequently with qualifying word prefixed.

1882 G. Allen in *Nature* 17 Aug. 371 The flowers of gymnosperms (in their blossoming stage) are mostly composed of green scales or leaves. **1909** E. A. Mills *Wild Life Rockies* 186 When this forest is in a sapling stage.

12. attrib. and Comb.: **a.** obvious combinations (senses 5, 5 b) 'pertaining to the stage', as *stage-action, apparatus, -attire, boards, business, -carpenter, -clothes, -curtain, -hand, legend, machine, -novel, -performer, -performance, -piece, -poet, -poetry, -sentiment, -side, -tradition, -trap,* †*-trotter,* †*-walker, -wardrobe, -writing*, etc.; that is seen on the stage or represented in drama as distinguished from what is seen in real life, as *stage death, distraction, fighting, -gesture, hero, heroine, libertine, -lion, murderer, -villain, -whisper*, etc. Also rarely with adjs., as *stage-mad.*

1697 Dryden *Æneid* Ded. (a) 2, There is no absolute necessity that the time of a *Stage-Action shou'd so strictly be confin'd to Twenty Four Hours. **1780** T. Davies *Garrick* (1781) I. xiv. 168 The second musick..put him [an actor] in mind, that it was time to think of the *stage-apparatus. **1669** Gale *Crt. Gentiles* I. I. ii. 13 Poets have borrowed their best *stage-attire from the glorious Wardrobe of Israel. **1831** Lamb *Elia* Ser. II. *Elistoniana*, That harmonious fusion of the manners of the player into those of everyday life, which brought the *stage boards into streets and dining-parlours. **1825** *Ibid.*, *Stage Illusion*, In tragedy.. this undivided attention to his *stage business seems indispensable. **1856** Dickens *Lett.* (1880) I. 459 *Stage-carpenters. **1630** *Stage-clothes [see Stager 3]. **1659** *Lady Alimony* I. ii, Be your *Stage-curtains artificially drawn. **1897** *Month* Apr. 363 If the death of Cæsar is but *stage-death, the murderer of Cæsar is but a stage-murderer. **1804** *European Mag.* XLV. 58/2 The youth..finding how he is abused, exhibits all the usual *stage distraction on the occasion. **1851** Helps *Comp. Solit.* v. 73 Like the dialogues in a book, where, after much *stage-fighting, the author's opinion is always made to prevail. *a* **1774** Goldsm. in Hawkins *Life Johnson* (1787) 418 Sheridan the player, in order to improve himself in *stage-gestures, had looking-glasses,..hung about his room. **1907** *Westm. Gaz.* 5 Feb. 7/2 As the accredited representatives of the artists, *stage-hands, and musicians. **1751** Warburton *Note* Pope's Wks. (1751) IV. 165 (Jod.), Ranting, the common vice of *stage heroes. **1844** Marg. Fuller *Wom. 19th C.* (1862) 45 She had not the air and tone of a *stage-heroine. **1849** Thackeray *Pendennis* iv, He was attired in the tight pantaloons and Hessian boots which the *stage legend has given to that injured man. **1822** Lamb *Elia* Ser. I. *On Artific. Comedy*, We see a *stage libertine playing his loose pranks of two hours' duration. **1862** Meredith *Mod. Love* xv. Wks. (1912) 139 The Poet's black *stage-lion of wronged love. **1693** Dryden *Juvenal* IV. (1697) 86 So did [he] the Scenes and *Stage Machines admire. **1758** *Theatr. Rev.* 5 This *stage-mad age. **1897** *Stage-murderer [see *stage-death*]. *a* **1816** Sheridan *Rivals* Pref., Dram. Wks. 1902 I. 291, I..might..have boasted that it [this comedy] had done more real service in its failure than the successful morality of a thousand *stage-novels will ever effect. **1714** Fiddes *Pract. Disc.* II. 379 Our *stage-performances, comedies especially,..have tended..to corrupt ..the bravest nation under heaven. **1801** Strutt *Sports & Past.* III. v. 179, I may here mention a *stage-performer whose show is usually enlivened with mimicry, music, and tumbling; I mean the mountebank. **1912** F. Harrison in *Engl. Rev.* Apr. 34 All this is enough to spoil any *stage-piece. **1658** Sir A. Cokain *Poems* 186 Here Lies the *Stage-Poet Philip Massinger. **1693** Dryden *Juvenal* (1697) Ded. 10 [As the age] of Euripides..[was noted] for *Stage-Poetry amongst the Greeks. **1829** Carlyle *Crit. & Misc. Ess.* (1840) II. 93 It is fair, well-ordered *stage-sentiment this of his. **1758** Johnson in Boswell *Life* (1909) I. 217 Doddy..went every night to the *stage-side, and cried at the distress of poor Cleone. **1823** Scott *Quentin D.* xxvi. *note*, This gesture..is also by *stage-tradition a distinction of Shakespeare's Richard III. **1852** Mundy *Our Antipodes* (1857) 94 The 'poor ghosts' who..sink pale and silent through the *stage-trap of the cabin-stairs. **1614** R. Tailor *Hog hath lost Pearl* I. i. B 3, *P[layer]*. Nay, I pray sir be not angry; for as I am a true *stage-trotter, I meane honestly. **1896** *Peterson Mag.* Jan. 103/2 With a *stage-villain glance at the speaker. **1602** Dekker *Satirom.* I 3 b, These part-takers..(Players I meane) Theaterians pouch-mouth *Stage-walkers. **1837** Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* I. I. ii, He has..his very Troop of Players, with their..*stage-wardrobes [etc.]. **1778** Theobald *Shaks. Wks.* VIII. 558 *note*, I never heard it so much as intimated, that he had turned his genius to *stage-writing before he associated with the players.

b. (sense 9, 9 c), as *stage-boat, -carriage, -cart, -fly, -horn, -line, post, -road, -route, -track, vehicle*; objective, as *stage-driver, -robber.*

1753 Hanway *Trav.* (1762) II. I. ix. 46 These *stage-boats are extremely commodious. **1839** W. Pennefather *Let.* 7 Sept. in R. Braithwaite *Life* (1878) 79 The *stage car [Ireland] proceeded slowly. **1832** *Act* 2 & 3 *Will. IV* c. 120 § 5 That every Carriage used..for..conveying Passengers for Hire,..and which shall travel at the Rate of Three Miles or more in the Hour, shall be deemed and taken to be a *Stage Carriage within the meaning of this Act. **1837–8** *Act* 1 & 2 *Vict.* c. 79 § 1 And the Words 'Metropolitan Stage Carriage' shall include [etc.]. **1812–16** J. Smith *Panorama Sci. & Art* I. 374 The London common *stage-carts have large wheels. **1825** J. Neal *Bro. Jonathan* II. 36 Hourra! *stage-driver's blowin' away like fun. **1821** *Blackw. Mag.* X. 656 In going in the *stage-fly from my own parish to Kilmartin. **1825** J. Neal *Bro. Jonathan* II. 112 A sound, like that of a *stage-horn, arose from the valley. **1877** Raymond *Statist. Mines & Mining* 341 The route of the Butterfield *stage-line..was through it. **1882** L. D'A. Jackson *Mod. Metrol.* 43 The German *stage-miles do not follow this type. **1690** *Lond. Gaz.* No. 2601/4 Late Servant at the Crane Inn at Edgworth.., and riding the *Stage Post between that Town and London. **1872** Raymond *Statist. Mines & Mining* 11 A distance of 42 miles by *stage-road. **1907** *Putnam's Monthly* July 486/1 Money..that was taken from Heinz by the *stage-robber. **1874** Raymond *6th Rep. Mines* 307 This valley is located on the *stage-route from Denver to Fair Play. **1890** L. C. D'Oyle *Notches* 61 Crossing the river at the old *stage-track. **1808** Han. More *Cælebs* I. xxiii. 338 An over stuffed *stage vehicle.

c. (sense 4 h), as *stage condenser, forceps, micrometer, plate.*

1856 W. B. Carpenter *Microscope* § 66. 143 Every Microscope should be furnished with a pair of Stage-forceps for holding minute objects beneath the object-glass. *Ibid.* § 67. 144 Glass Stage-Plate. **1857** Beale *How to Work with Microscope* 22 Placing..the stage micrometer..under the object-glass. **1862** *Catal. Internat. Exhib., Brit.* II. No. 2947, Stage forceps,..stage condenser. **1864** *Chamb. Encycl.*

VI. 443/1 Stage-plate, on which the object is placed [in a microscope].

13. Special comb.: **†stage-blanks**, dramatic blank verse (see BLANK *sb.* 8); **stage-box**, each of the boxes over the proscenium of a theatre; **†stage cloth**, a carpet for the 'stage' or platform of an altar; **stage-craft**, that part of the art of dramatic composition which is concerned with the conditions of representation on the stage; **stage critic**, a critic of the drama; **†stage-cutter** (see quot. 1820 in sense 4 f); **stage direction**, a direction inserted in a written or printed play where it is thought necessary to indicate the appropriate action, etc.; **†stage-doctor**, a quack doctor who practised on a stage (see 4 a) in public; **stage-door**, the entrance to that part of a theatre used by the players as distinguished from the public entrance; also *attrib.*; **stage-effect**, (*a*) effect on the spectators of what is shown on the stage; also *fig.*; (*b*) a spectacular effect exhibited on the stage; **stage-fever**, †(*a*) = *stage-fright* (*obs.*); (*b*) an intense desire to adopt the stage as a profession; **stage-fright**, nervousness experienced by an actor when appearing before an audience, esp. on his first appearance; **stage-gangway** (see quot.); **stage-head**, the head of a fishing stage (see 4 f); **stage-house**, †(*a*) a play-house, theatre (*obs.*); (*b*) *U.S.* a house of accommodation used as a regular stopping place for stage-coaches; **†stage-keeper**, (*a*) one who keeps or carries on a theatre; (*b*) ? a servant in a theatre employed to keep the stage in order; **stage-kiln** (see quot.); **stage-land**, the 'world' of the stage and its occupants; **stage-like** *a.*, resembling that of drama or the stage; **theatrical**; **stageman**, †(*a*) an actor (*obs.*); (*b*) a workman engaged about the stage; **stagemanship** *nonce-wd.*, the profession of a stage-coachman; **stage-name**, a professional name assumed by an actor; **stage-place**, the place where a play is acted (*obs.* or *arch.*); **stage-property** = PROPERTY *sb.* 3, also *attrib.*; **stage pumping** (see quot.); **stage-right** (see quot.); **stage-room**, the locality or setting of a play; **stage-scene**, †(*a*) the scenery of a stage (*obs.*); (*b*) a scene in a play; **stage-setter**, a practitioner of the art of stage-setting; **stage-setting**, the disposition of the persons of a play and the accessories on the stage; **†stage-smitten** *a.* = *stage-struck*; **stage-stand** *U.S.*, a place on a stage-coach route where horses are changed; **stage-stricken** *a. rare* = next; **stage-struck** *a.*, smitten with love for the stage or drama or with the desire to become an actor; **†stage-wagon**, one of the wagons belonging to an organized system of conveyance for heavy goods and passengers by road; **stage-wait**, a delay or hitch in the course of a theatrical performance; **stage-whisper**, a conventional whisper used on the stage, purposely made audible to the spectators; **stage-work**, †(*a*) 'play-acting', histrionic ceremony (*obs.*); (*b*) the work of an actor or of a theatrical company; dramatic representation; also, a dramatic work; (*c*) the framework of a stage; (*d*) stage-coach work; **stage working** (see quot.); **stage-worthy** *a.*, worthy of representation on the stage; **stage-wright**, a dramatist, playwright.

1635 MASSINGER *On death Chas. Ld. Herbert* 7, I..bit my star-crossed pen, Too busy in *stage-blanks and trifling rhyme. 1739 CIBBER *Apol.* (1889) II. xii. 85 The former lower Doors of Entrance for the Actors were brought down between the..Pilasters; in the Place of which Doors now the two *Stage-Boxes are fixt. 1552 in *Archæologia* XLIII. 236, vj *stage clothes for the aulter, iij of blew, j of redd, vj of whight. 1888 *Society* 7 Oct. 12/1 Their ingenuity and knowledge of *stagecraft is wonderful. 1780 T. DAVIES *Garrick* (1781) I. i. 17 That gross illiberality which often disgraces the instructions of modern *stage criticks. 1790 MALONE *Pref. to Shaks.* I. p. lviii, The very few *stage directions which the old copies exhibit. 1858 THACKERAY *Virgin.* I. xvii. 130 But Lady Castelwood could not operate upon the said eyes then and there, like the barbarous monsters in the stage-direction in King Lear. 1774 ADAM SMITH *Let.* 20 Sept. in J. Thomson *Life W. Cullen* I. 476 *Stage-doctors do not much excite the indignation of the faculty; more reputable quacks do. 1778 JOHNSON *L. P., Fenton* (1781) III. 114 They determined all to see the Merry Wives of Windsor..; and Fenton, as a dramatick poet, took them to the *stage door. 1885 JEROME *On the Stage* 26 The mere announcement of my name had no visible effect upon the stage-door keeper. 1795 S. ROGERS *Words to be Spoken by Mrs. Siddons* 20 Every Woman studies *stage-effect. 1835 T. MITCHELL *Acharn. of Aristoph.* 164 *note*, The Σποῦδαι are here evidently introduced on the stage, as mutes, characteristically habited. The same stage-effect occurs in the Equites, 1387–1395. 1861 MAYHEW *Lond. Labour* III. 142/1 Some of the young chaps..get the *stage-fever and knocking in the knees. We've had to shove them on to the scene. 1882 ASHTON *Soc. Life Q. Anne* II. 21 He caught stage fever, ran away from school.. and joined the theatre at Dublin. 1878 MRS. COWDEN CLARKE *Recoll. Writers* 300 It proved to them that I was not liable to *stage-fright. 1885 JEROME *On the Stage* viii. 72 Strange to say, I never experienced stage-fright at any time. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.* s. v. *Brow*, A *stage-gangway for the accommodation of the ship-wrights, in conveying..articles on board. 1677 W. HUBBARD *Narrative* II. (1865) 46 Coming too near the *Stage head, they presently found themselves in danger of a surprizal. 1638 in Willis & Clark *Cambridge* (1886) II. 55 Tiles for ye new *Stagehouse. 1788 M. CUTLER in *Life*, etc. (1888) I. 431 Put up my horse at the stage-house in the street leading from Ordway's Market to Powles Hook Ferry. *a* 1586 SIDNEY *Apol. Poetrie* (Arb.) 44 Perchance it is the Comick, whom naughtie Play-makers and *Stage-keepers, have iustly made odious. 1637 SHIRLEY *Example* Prol., They..on whom, i' the Roman state, Some ill-looked stage-keepers, like lictors, wait, With pipes for fasces. 1910 *Encycl. Brit.* V. 655/1 (*Cement*) There are also *stage kilns..which consist of two vertical shafts, one above the other..connected by a horizontal channel. 1885 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 15 May 5/1 Mr. Jerome [in *On the stage—and off*] describes from a humorous point of view those lower levels of *stageland. 1893 *N. Amer. Rev.* Aug. 168 She had the convulsions which stageland arsenic brings on. 1561 T. NORTON *Calvin's Inst.* IV. 105 Leauing *stagelike pompes, which dasell the eyes of the simple. 1694 F. BRAGGE *Disc. Parables* xiv. 466 A strange kind of humiliation, that..does indeed look too Stage-like to be thought real by any discerning man. 1589 BRABINE in *Greene's Menaphon* In praise of Author, You witts that..striue to thunder from a *Stagemans throate. 1887 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 9 Sept. 2/1 The class of stagemen employed in such places as these [theatres]. 1845 TALFOURD *Vacat. Rambles* I. 67 The departing race of English stage-coachmen, who shed a half-genteel grace on the last days of English *stagemanship. 1847 L. HUNT *Men, Women, & B.* (1876) 298 Lavinia Fenton sounds like a *stage-name. *a* 1564 BECON *Articles Chr. Relig.* xiv. Wks. II. 143 b, When thys Theatre or *stage place be once dissolued, then is there nomore deseruyng of Crownes. 1902 SIR E. ARNOLD *Nativity* xiv. in *Delineator* LX. 967 This Was scene and stage-place of the immortal story. 1850 DYCE *Marlowe's Wks.* I. Introd. 17 *note*, Among the *stage-properties of the Lord Admiral's men we find 'j. dragon in fostes'. 1863 LE FANU *Ho. by Churchyard* I. x. 108 [He] viewed the wiglet with the eye of a stage-property man. 1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-mining* 234 **Stage Pumping*, draining a mine by means of two or more pumps placed at different levels. 1860 READE *8th Commandm.* 61 The copyrights only of French authors, not the *stage-rights, were to be protected. Copyright is the sole and exclusive right of printing. Stage-right the sole and exclusive right of representation on a public stage. 1642 MILTON *Apol. Smect.* 10 Whom no lesse then almost halfe the world could serve for *stage roome to play the Mime in. 1814 SCOTT *Let.* in *Lockhart* (1837) III. ix. 293 Reducing the knowledge I have acquired of the localities of the islands into scenery and stage-room for the 'Lord of the Isles'. 1664 POWER *Exp. Philos.* Pref. 18 Outside Fallacies; like our *Stage-scenes, or Perspectives, that shew things inwards, when they are but superficial paintings. 1822 SHELLEY *Chas. I*, i. 35 That stage-scene in which thou art Not a spectator but an actor. 1865 KINGSLEY *Herew.* xxvi, [A fire] breaking the bones of its prey with a horrible cracking uglier than all stage-scene glares. 1888 *Century Mag.* Feb. 544/2 M. Sardou is a born *stage-setter. 1905 C. F. KEARY in *Author* 1 Feb. 145 There is no harm in M. Antoine's realism of *stage-setting. 1682 MRS. BEHN *City Heiress* 8 Our *Stage-smitten Youth fall in love with a woman for Acting finely. 1856 MRS. STOWE *Dred* II. xii. 127 He pushed forward,..and, at the first *stage-stand, changed him [the horse] for a fresh one. 1838 DICKENS *Mem. Grimaldi* i, The *stage-stricken young gentlemen who..long to embrace the theatrical profession. 1813 SCOTT *Trierm.* II. ii, Or *stage-struck Juliet may presume To choose this bower for tiring-room. 1761 *Ann. Reg., Chron.* 184 For robbing the Bath *stage waggon on the highway. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* iii. I. 376 Heavy articles were, in the time of Charles the Second, generally conveyed from place to place by stage waggons. 1865 MISS BRADDON *Only a Clod* II. i. 23 There were the usual number of dead pauses in the drama, technically known as '*stage-waits'. 1865 *Hotten's Slang Dict.* 244 **Stage-whisper.* 1883 HOWELLS *Register* ii. in *Harper's Mag.*, Dec. 79/2 *Miss Reed*, in a stage-whisper. 1649 MILTON *Eikon.* xix. 172 But the King and his Party..Canonize one another into Heav'n; ..but, as was sayd before, *Stage-work will not doe it. 1829 *Sporting Mag.* XXIII. 194 The antediluvian principle of 'any thing's good enough for stage-work'. 1898 *Daily News* 25 Oct. 8/5 Two large joists..had been placed in position in the stagework. 1906 *Macm. Mag.* June 595 The musical comedy..has wrought grave injury to all intelligent stage-work. 1913 *Illustr. Lond. News* 22 Feb. 230/2 That happiest and liveliest of all Oscar Wilde's stage-works. 1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-mining* 235 **Stage working*, a system of working minerals by open hole in which the various beds are removed in steps or stages. 1820 BYRON *Mar. Fal.* Pref., Were I capable of writing a play which could be deemed *stage-worthy. 1630 *Stage-wright* [see STAGER 3]. 1897 *Tablet* 18 Sept. 457 [Shakespere] our greatest stage-wright and philosopher.

Stage (stēdʒ), *v.* [f. STAGE *sb.*]

†1. *trans.* To erect, build. *Obs. rare*[-1].

c 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 3090 Brugges ouer watres dide he stage.

2. To furnish with a stage or staging; in quots. with *about*. Now *rare* or *Obs.* †Also *absol.* Or *intr.*, to set up a platform or scaffolding.

1506 *Jousts of May & June* in Hazl. *E. P. P.* (1866) II. 114 A lady fayre..With seruauntes foure brought was into a place Staged about Whereon stode lordes and ladyes a grete route. 1526 *Dunmow Churchw. MS.* lf. 5 To purvay syce stufe as the workemen showlde nede, and to sett them a-worke, and helpe to stage. 1598 STOW *Surv.* 388 The great Hall..was richly hanged with Arras, and Staged about on both sides. 1879 J. D. LONG *Virgil's Æneid* IX. 690 A far-outlooking tower, staged high about, Stood in the way.

3. To put (a person) into a play; to satirize in drama; to represent (a character, an incident) on the stage. Sometimes in phr. *to stage to the crowd* or *show*.

1601 B. JONSON *Poetaster* III. iv, Death of Pluto, and you Stage mee, Stinkard; your Mansions shall sweate for't.

1606 SHAKS. *Ant. & Cl.* III. xiii. 30 Hye battel'd Cæsar will ..be Stag'd to'th'shew Against a Sworder. *Ibid.* v. ii. 217 The quicke Comedians Extemporally will stage us. 1607 MIDDLETON *Five Gall.* IV. viii. H 3, *Gold.* What if we fiue presented our full shapes In a..maske? *Frip.* Some Poet must assist vs. *Go.* Poet? Youle take the direct line to haue vs sta'gde? 1621 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Superbia Flagellum* C 6 b, Cudgeld and bastinadoed at the Court, And Comically stag'de to make men sport. 1721 SOUTHERNE *Disappointment* III. i, O! may I be that hateful thing I scorn! The common, ridden cuckold of the Town, Stag'd to the crowd on publick theatres. 1879 SWINBURNE *Stud. Shaks.* (1880) 273 The next two scenes, in which the battle of Poitiers is so inadequately 'staged to the show'. 1898 G. WYNDHAM *Poems Shaks.* Introd. 61 Jonson staged Marston in Every Man out of His Humour (1599), as Carlo Buffone: —'a public, scurrilous and profane jester'.

b. *fig.*

1603 SHAKS. *Meas. for M.* I. i. 69 Ile priuily away: I loue the people, But doe not like to stage me to their eyes. 1784 BAGE *Barham Downs* II. 4 Too long I had staged me to their eyes in these my true habiliments.

c. To put (a play, etc.) upon the stage.

1879 *Theatre* Nov. 209 If an..author..permits a play of his to be mounted and staged without his permission. 1887 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 12 Sept. 5/2 As pretty a pastoral scene as has ever been staged, even at the Lyceum. 1894 *Times* 10 Sept. 10/3 The piece is staged in the most sumptuous manner imaginable.

†4. *Sc.* To bring (a person) to trial for an offence (esp. before the ecclesiastical courts). Cf. STAGE *sb.* 4 c. Const. *for*, *with* (an offence). Also *fig. Obs.*

1671 [R. MACWARD] *True Nonconf.* 223 All the regard to the powers, whereof..you..boast, doth not here in the least restrain you from staging these two Kings with us, as Monstruous imposers. 1681 in J. H. Thomson *Cloud of Witnesses* (1871) 119, I [Isobel Alison: see quot. 1722] told them, If they had staged me, they might remember my name. 1682 FOUNTAINHALL *Diary* Aug., in *Law's Memor.* (1818) 236 *note*, Kepperminshoo accused him of perjury. He was also staged with bribery. 1722 WODROW *Hist. Ch. Scot.* (1830) III. III. v. 275/2 Upon the 17th of January, I find Isabel Alison..and Marian Harvey..staged for their lives before the justiciary. 1729 in *Wodrow's Corr.* (1843) III. 429 He thought Mr Simson was staged for heretical opinions.

5. To put (plants) on a stage; to exhibit (plants or other objects) at a show. Also *absol.*

1850 *Beck's Florist* 249 There were several useful flowers staged, but few novelties. 1881 F. YOUNG *Ev. Man his own Mech.* § 930 For staging auriculas the distance between the rows of shelves need not be so great as for pelargoniums. 1883 *Goole Weekly Times* 7 Sept. 8/2 With holyhocks, he has taken first and second prizes every time he has staged them. 1897 *C. T. C. Monthly Gaz.* Jan. 24 A few silver-plated models were staged.

6. *intr.* To travel by stage or stage-coach; to travel by stages; to journey *over* by stages; also *to stage it*.

1695 *Phil. Trans.* XIX. 144 This way..we assented to, as more eligible, than..to wander so far out of the Road, to have the same Ground to stage over again the next morning. 1698 FRYER *Acc. E. India & P.* 34 A Set of these Rascals [Coolies]..bait them generously shall stage it a Month together. 1713 [W. DARRELL] *Gentl. Instr.* III. vi. (ed. 5) 420 [A traveller]..learns the great Mystery of Foreign Governments;..he stages (if I may say so) into Politicks, and rides Post into Business. 1819 COLERIDGE *Lett., Convers.*, etc. I. 19 Riding, driving, or staging to London. 1840 MRS. TROLLOPE *Widow Married* xv, I wonder how the old lady came, whether she staged it, or posted? 1882 D. PIDGEON *Engineer's Holiday* I. 228, I staged three miles from its terminus to Leadville.

Stage, variant of STAG *a. Obs.*

Stageable (stēˈdʒăbˈl), *a. rare.* [f. STAGE *v.* + -ABLE.] That can be put upon the stage. Hence **Stageabiˈlity.**

1907 *Mod. Lang. Notes* XXII. 225 (*title*) The stageability of Garnier's Tragedies. *Ibid.* 226 The play is stageable.

†Staˈgean, *a. nonce-wd.* [f. STAGE *sb.* + -AN.] Appropriate to the stage.

1600 W. WATSON *Decacordon* (1602) 15 A stagean countenance, as actors in the Pageant of a play.

Stage-coach. [STAGE *sb.* 9.] A coach that runs daily or on specified days between two places for the conveyance of passengers, parcels, etc.

1658 *Mercurius Politicus* 1 Apr. 433 From the 26 day of April 1658, there will continue to go Stage Coaches from the George Inn. 1666 PEPYS *Diary* 26 Feb., Kate Joyce, in a stage-coach going towards London, called to me. 1781 COWPER *Retirem.* 492 And, if a shower approach, You find safe shelter in the next stage-coach. 1812 *Examiner* 28 Dec. 827/2 A stage-coach..usually carries six inside passengers, and is drawn by four horses. 1881 BESANT & RICE *Chapl. of Fl.* (1883) I. iii. 17 We came to the roadside inn where the stage-coach changed horses.

b. *U.S.* ? The name of a game in which the players scramble for new places.

1892 *Nation* (N. Y.) 24 Nov. 397/3 What happened on the demise of the Grand Prince resembled a game of 'stage-coach', with swords thrown in.

c. *attrib.*

1791 O'KEEFFE *Wild Oats* II. iii, They've got your name down to the *stage-coach book. 1803 *Censor* 1 Mar. 27 A *stage-coach conveyance. 1840 DICKENS *Old C. Shop* xlvi, They allowed me..outside *stage-coach hire all the way. 1838 *Penny Cycl.* XII. 309/1 The horse of quick work, the *stage-coach horse and the poster. 1749 SMOLLETT *Gil Blas* II. iii. F 2 The clerk of a *stage-coach office registers those who take places.

Hence **Stage-coaching** *vbl. sb.*, the running or driving of stage-coaches (also *attrib.*); travelling by stage-coach. **Stage-coachman,** the driver (also **†** the proprietor) of a stage-coach.

1756-7 tr. *Keysler's Trav.* (1760) I. 349 The *vetturini*, or stage-coachman, must..not go out of the country without a pass. 1757 Ld. Mansfield in Burrow *Settlem. Cases* (1768) II. 424 This..is no more than the Case of the Oxford Stage-Coachman's Servant who gained a Settlement in Chipping-Wicomb. 1837 Dickens *Pickw.* lv, They..wore as many clothes as possible, which is..a stage-coachman's idea of full dress. 1844 — *Mart. Chuz.* xiii, A large stage-coaching establishment. 1856 Olmsted *Slave States* ix. 547 Partly by rail and partly by rapid stage-coaching..I crossed the State. 1884 Sala *Journ. South* (1887) I. viii. 108 The virtual state of perfection to which English stage-coaching had attained.

Staged (stēdʒd), *ppl. a.* [f. Stage *sb.* and *v.* + -ed.]

1. † **a.** That acts on or as on a stage. *Obs.*

1569 J. Sanford tr. *Agrippa's Van. Artes* xxi. 32 b, [This Histrionical Rhetorike] is yet obserued of some staged Freers [*à scenicis aliquot fraterculis*]. 1586 J. Hooker *Giraldus' Hist. Irel.* Pref., in *Holinshed*, But yet as a staged man can not alwaies dissemble and cloke himself, so this man, who [etc.].

b. Of a play: That is put upon the stage.

1904 N. Howard *Savonarola* Scenes, The Author has..permitted himself a fuller development, both of Theme and Character, than the staged Drama would require.

2. Of a building: Having a series of floors or stories one above another.

1884 W. Armstrong tr. *G. Perrot & C. Chipiez' Hist. Art Chaldea & Assyria* I. iv. 369 Herodotus declares plainly that it [*i. e.* the temple of Bel] was a staged tower. 1885 *Athenæum* 21 Mar. 381/3 The lofty, staged towers of the Euphrates valley..must have been glorious to behold.

3. Of feathers: ? Arranged in order of length.

1828 Stark *Elem. Nat. Hist.* I. 208 Wings with the five first feathers staged; the sixth or seventh longest.

† **Sta·gely,** *a. Obs. rare.* [f. Stage *sb.* + -ly 1.] Resembling (that of) the stage.

1656 *Artif. Handsom.* 168 Nor may this be called an histrionike parada, or stagely visard and hypocrisie.

Stage-manager. One whose office it is to superintend the production and performance of a play, and to regulate the arrangements of the stage. Also *fig.*

1817 J. A. Williams *Mem. Kemble* 21 His appointment to the situation of stage-manager..in 1788. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* I. III. vii, The World shall see one other Historical Scene; and so singular a man as Loménie de Brienne still the Stage-manager there. 1885 Jerome *On the Stage* 35, I don't know why stage managers are always surly, but they are.

Hence **Stage-managership,** the post of stage-manager. So **Stage-management,** the business of a stage-manager. **Stage-manage** *v. trans.* to arrange with a view to stage effect.

1817 Coleridge *Let. to J. Murray* Lett. (1895) 667 Mr. Dibdin..was likewise removed from the stage-managership. 1879 *Theatre* Nov. 209, I have never seen them stage-manage a play. *Ibid.*, Stage-management. 1906 *Daily Chron.* 8 May 5/1 The meeting was well stage-managed, care being taken to fill the front part of the hall with ticket-holders.

Stage play. A dramatic performance; also, a dramatic composition adapted for representation on the stage. (Cf. Play *sb.* 15.)

1513 More *Rich. III* (1883) 79 And in a stage play all the people know right wel that he that playeth the sowdayne, is percase a sowter. 1605-6 *Act* 3 *Jas. I*, c. 21 For the preventing and avoyding of the greate Abuse of the Holy Name of God in Stageplayes..and such like. 1693 Dryden *Juvenal* (1697) Ded. 79 Stage-Plays, which are all of one Action, and one continu'd Series of Action. 1843 *Act* 6 & 7 *Vict.* c. 68 § 23 The Word 'Stage-Play' shall be taken to include every Tragedy, Comedy, Farce, Opera, Burletta, Interlude, Melodrama, Pantomime, or other Entertainment of the Stage, or any Part thereof.

b. Dramatic acting, play-acting.

1872 Morley *Voltaire* (1886) 9 The contest was real, and not our present pantomimic stage-play.

c. attrib.

1819 Keats *Otho* I. ii, I do not personate The stage-play emperor to entrap applause. 1908 *Stage Year Bk.* 26 Many provincial theatres also have..a stage play licence and a music and dancing licence.

Stage-player. = Player 4.

1556 Hoby *Courtier* II. (1561) M b, A noble Stageplaier..that..would alwaies be the first to come furth to playe his parte. 1617 Moryson *Itin.* III. 8 Rude Stage players, who ..spend more time in putting on their apparrell, then in acting their Comedy. 1765 Tucker *Lt. Nat.* (1834) II. 624 Tasks..which seem needful only to qualify them for stage players.

fig. 1561 T. Norton *Calvin's Inst.* IV. 150 In what point therfore wil these stageplaiers [*ces basteleurs*] say that they follow the Apostles.

Stage-playing. Playing on the stage as an actor; play-acting.

1597 in *Engl. Studien* XLIII. 345 Wheras yor highnes said Subiectes..haue of longe tyme vsed and professed the Arte of Stageplayinge. 1643 Baker *Chron., Jas. I*, 151 Edward Allin..having gotten his wealth by Stage-playing, converted it to this pious use. 1823 J. Gillies tr. *Aristotle's Rhet.* III. i. 366 Stage-playing and rhetorical elocution are things highly natural.

Stager (stēˑdʒəɹ). [f. Stage *sb.* + -er 1.

It is not wholly impossible that in the expression *old stager* (sense 1 below) the word may be ad. OF. *estagier* an inhabitant, resident (f. *estage* Stage *sb.*), or med.L. *stagiārius* (see Stagiary 1) which is used in English monastic records (e. g. *Cust. St. Augustine's, Canterbury*, Henry Bradshaw Soc. Publ. XXIII) for an aged monk who was lodged permanently in the infirmary. Derivation from Stage *sb.* is, however, more probable, but the precise notion seems difficult to determine. The usual explanation that the theatrical stage is alluded to ('one who has been long on the stage of life') finds no support in the 16th and 17th c. examples; the primary sense may be that indicated in the definition of sense 2, but this is supported only by a single quotation.]

1. *Old stager*: one who has become graduated or qualified by long experience; one who has been long employed *in* an office, a profession, course of life, etc.; a veteran, an old hand. Also occas. of animals.

1570 Foxe *A. & M.* III. 1756/1 [They] betooke them to theyr legges..resembling in some part a spectacle not much vnlike to the old stagers of Oxford, worse feared then hurt, when as the Church there was noysed to be on fier. 1577 Googe *Heresbach's Husb.* IV. 181 They..doo..disdayne ye gouernment..of the old Bee..when the swarmes be great and lusty, and that the old stagers [orig. L. *veteres*] are disposed to send abroade their Colonies. 1648 Heylin *Relat. & Observ.* I. 10 It was worth observing to see how officiously some of the old Stagers took leave of the Publique Purse, before it came into Hucksters hands. 1665 M. Nedham *Med. Medicinæ* 284 The next Digestion..the old Stagers will needs have to be in the Veines of the Mesenterie. 1669 *Hist. Pope's Nephews* II. (1673) 135 'Tis a tedious thing to Princes Ministers, who are old Stagers in Councils and Affairs, to have to do with raw, unexperienced Persons. *a* 1734 North *Life Ld. Keeper Guilford* (1742) 146 Some of the old Stagers of his Party told him plainly, he might take his Ease. 1737 Bracken *Farriery Impr.* (1756) I. 17 A young Horse, though he be more subject to Diseases than an old hardened Stager. 1748 Chesterf. *Lett.* clxxii. (1792) II. 137 But here let me, as an old stager upon the theatre of the world, suggest one consideration to you. 1786-89 Bentham *Princ. Internat. Law* Wks. 1843 II. 549 True—but there are young beginners as well as old stagers. 1815 Scott *Guy M.* xxxv, You never come down to see your old acquaintance..you would find most of the old stagers still stationary there. 1833 Marryat *P. Simple* xxx, I'm an old stager in the West Indies, and I'll let you into a secret. 1841 Prescott in *Life Longfellow* (1891) I. 411, I do not know that an old stager in authorship, like you, cares for anybody's opinion. 1895 Scully *Kafir Stories* 169 My horse was a steady old stager, not at all given to shying.

b. Hence *stager* simply, and with other adjs., as *cunning, sly.* Also (rarely) *young stager*, one of small experience, a beginner.

1664 Butler *Hud.* II. i. 297 Quoth She, I've heard old cunning Stagers Say, Fools for Arguments use wagers. 1687 Dryden *Hind & P.* III. 497 'Tis true, some stagers of the wiser sort Made all these idle wonderments their sport. 1692 L'Estrange *Fables* lxxxi. 79 At last, One Experienced Stager [a mouse] that had Baffled Twenty Traps and Tricks Before, Discover'd the Plot. 1709 Swift *Project Adv. Relig.* Misc. (1711) 190 The pert Pragmatical Demeanor of several young Stagers in Divinity. 1836 J. Struthers *Dychmont* IV. Poet. Wks. (1850) II. 101 Where's the sly stager Gizzy Rags?

† **2.** One who has attained a definite stage or rank in his profession. *Obs. rare.*

1583 *Execution for Treason* 4 And them to send..under secret maskes,..with titles of Seminaries for some of the meaner sort, and of Iesuites for the stagers and ranker sort.

3. A stage-player. *Obs.* exc. *arch.*

1580 *2nd & 3rd Blast Plays & Theatres* 111 As for those stagers..are they not commonlie such kind of men in their conuersation, as they are in profession? 1602 B. Jonson *Poetaster* I. ii, What? shall I haue my son a Stager now? an Enghle for Players? a Gull? a Rooke? a Shot-clog? *Ibid.* III. iv, Suffer him not to droop, in prospect of a Player, a Rogue, a Stager. 1602 Dekker *Satirom.* D 1 b, Thou borrowedst a gowne of Roscius the Stager,..and sentst it home lowsie. 1630 B. Jonson *New Inn* (1631) H 2 (*Just Indign. Author*), And safe in your stage-clothes, Dare quit, vpon your oathes, The stagers, and the stage-wrights too (your peeres) Of larding your large eares. 1873 Browning *Red Cott. Nt.-cap* 1264 Sganarelle,..That stager in the saint's correct costume.

† **4.** One who runs a stage or course. *Obs.*

1638 Brathwait *Barnabee's Jrnl.* III. T 4, Thence to Towlerton, where those Stagers [*Stadiodromi*] Or Horse-coursers run for wagers. 1687 Norris *Misc.* 138 The Antient Stager of the Day Has run his minutes out, and number'd all his way.

b. A stage-coach or stage-coach horse.

1852 *Tait's Mag.* XIX. 656 The shock was so violent that the crazy stager, its conductor, its two horses and a single passenger rolled pell-mell in the..road. 1858 Simmonds *Dict. Trade, Stager*, a horse running in a stage carriage.

Hence † **Sta·geress** *Obs. rare*$^{-1}$, a play-actress.

1633 Prynne *Histrio-m.* 649 Hee who hath married a strumpet, or a woman-actor or stageresse, cannot be an Elder, a Bishop, or Deacon.

† **Stagerite.** *jocular. nonce-wd.* [f. Stager + -ite; possibly with allusion to Stagirite.] An inhabitant of 'Stageland'.

1602 Dekker *Satirom.* G 4, Thou hast forgot how thou ..took'st mad Ieronimoes part, to get seruice among the Mimickes: and when the Stagerites banisht thee into the Ile of Dogs thou turn'dst Ban-dog.

Stagery (stēˑdʒəri). [f. Stage *sb.* + -ery.] Exhibition on the stage; stage arrangements or contrivances.

1642 Milton *Apol. Smect.* 9 [He] likening those grave controversies to a piece of Stagery, or Scene-worke where his owne Remonstrant whether in Buskin or Sock must of all right be counted the chiefe Player. 1886 Hardy *Mayor Casterbr.* I. i. 22 To watch it was like looking at some grand feat of stagery from a darkened auditorium.

Stagese (stēdʒīˑz). [f. Stage *sb.* + -ese.] The 'dialect' peculiar to the stage.

1876 *Times* 6 Jan. 11/3 Such phrases as..'I would have speech with thee'..may..be described as accepted stagese. 1882 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 6 Dec. 4 The rest mopping and mowing in what was not to be called English but rather stagese.

Stagey, Stageyness: see Stagy, Staginess.

Staggard (stæˑgăɹd). *arch.* Also 5 **stagard,** 6-7 **staggerd,** 7 **staggarde,** 9 **staggart.** [f. Stag *sb.*^{1} + -ard.]

1. A stag in its fourth year.

c 1400 *Master of Game* (MS. Digby 182) ii, Þe first yere þat thei be calfede, þei be ycalle a calfe.., þe iiii. yere a stágard. *Ibid.* xxii, An hynde commonlyche hathe hir traces more holowe þenne a staggard or a stagge. 1576 Turberv. *Venerie* 235 An hart is called the firste yeare a Calfe, the seconde a Brocket, the thirde a spayde, the fourth a Staggerd the fifth a stagge. 1782 Elphinston *Martial* I. II. xxxi. 26 The staggard [L. *cervi*] champs the golden bit. 1847 Marryat *Childr. N. Forest* iv, A stag is called a brocket until he is three years old; at four years he is a staggart. 1859 *Todd's Cycl. Anat.* V. 517/2 At this stage he [i. e. the deer] is styled a 'staggard'. 1891 Conan Doyle *White Company* iii, A lordly red staggard walked daintily out from among the tree-trunks.

† **2.** A swan (? above one year old). *Obs. rare*$^{-1}$.

1619 in Coates *Reading* (1802) 59 Swans..the signetts at 4*s.* 6*d.* a-piece, and the staggards at 6*s.* a-piece.

Staggard, -arth, dial. var. ff. Stack-garth.

Stagged (stægd), *a.* [f. Stag *sb.* + -ed 2.] = Stag-headed *a.* 2.

1891 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 30 Oct. 6/3 One or two 'old stagers' are no doubt decrepit, but, inasmuch as none are 'stagged' in the branches, their vitality cannot be seriously impaired.

Staggeen (stægīˑn). *Anglo-Irish.* [f. Stag *sb.*^{1} (sense 2) + Irish *-ín* dim. suffix.] A colt.

1899 Somerville & Ross *Irish R. M.* 113 Is it that little staggeen from the mountains?

Stagger (stæˑgəɹ), *sb.*^{1} [f. Stagger *v.*]

1. An act of staggering; a tottering or reeling motion of the body as if about to fall, as through feebleness, tripping, giddiness or intoxication.

1600 Rowlands *Lett. Humours Blood* ii. 8 Thus doth Sir Launcelot in his drunken stagger, Sweare, curse, & raile, threaten, protest, and swagger. 1615 T. Adams *Sacrif. Thankf.* 26 Their trepidations are more shaking then cold Ague-fittes; their staggers worse then a Drunkards. 1816 J. Scott *Vis. Paris* Pref. (ed. 5) 38 This throne has tumbled down like rotten wood under her stagger and fall. 1842 Lover *Handy Andy* v, Making a sloping stagger towards the wall, [he] contrived by its support to scramble his way to the door. 1862 Sala *Ship-Chandler* iv. 72 The individual ..advanced with a motion that alternated between a reel and a stagger, far more resembling that of a drunken man than of a labouring ship.

transf. 1599 B. Jonson *Cynthia's Rev.* v. iv, He hobbles too much.—'Tis call'd your court-staggers, sir.

b. *fig.* (Cf. Stagger *v.* 2.)

1602 Shaks. *All's Well* II. iii. 170, I will throw thee from my care for euer Into the staggers, and the carelesse lapse Of youth and ignorance. 1642 D. Rogers *Naaman* 133 The ignorance of this causes the soule to bee in as deep a stagger after Christ is revealed, as it was before. 1782 Paine *Let. Abbé Raynal* (1791) 55 Without shewing the least stagger in their fortitude. 1869 J. Eadie *Galat.* 70 The unbelief ascribed to Peter and Thomas was a momentary stagger.

2. *pl.* (const. as *sing.*) Used as a name for various diseases affecting domestic animals, of which a staggering gait is a symptom. Also with various defining words, indicating the characteristics or the supposed cause of the disease, e.g. *blind, grass, mad, sleepy, stomach staggers.* Cf. Staver *sb.*

The staggers in sheep is caused by the presence of a hydatid (*Cœnurus*, the larva of a tapeworm) in the brain.

1577 Googe *Heresbach's Husb.* III. 134 If the [a bullock] haue the staggers, he wyl looke very red about the eyes. 1596 Mascall *Bk. Cattell, Hogges* 277 For the staggars in a hog. 1628 Wither *Brit. Rememb.* VIII. 820 Some sheep..get the staggers; some the scab. 1667 Pepys *Diary* 18 Aug., One of our coach-horses fell sick of the staggers, so as he was ready to fall down. *a* 1722 Lisle *Husb.* (1757) 413 The long-legged hogs, as it were double-jointed at the knee, are of a breed subject to the staggers. 1737 Bracken *Farriery Impr.* (1757) II. 279 A sort of Frenzy, resembling the Mad-staggers. 1753 Bartlet *Gentl. Farriery* ix. 77 Farriers generally include all distempers of the head under two general denominations, viz. Staggers, and Convulsions. 1831 Youatt *Horse* vi. (1847) 113 The attack is usually sudden—the horse is dull, lethargic, and almost as comatose as in stomach-staggers. 1843 Lefevre *Life Trav. Phys.* II. I. xv. 72 Three of them [horses] were seized with the staggers, and..fell down dead. 1847 W. C. L. Martin *Ox* 130/2 Inflammation of the brain, phrensy, mad staggers or sough (phrenitis), and apoplexy. 1849 D. J. Browne *Amer. Poultry Yd.* (1855) 41 A correspondent in the London Agricultural Gazette..admits, that, ..he had 'never brought up but two to be a'most hens', and that they took the megrims (staggers,) and died. 1858 J. Hogg *Microsc.* II. iii, (ed. 3) 441 If a lamb is the subject of a feeding experiment with *Tænia serrata*..within a fortnight symptoms of a disease known as 'staggers' are manifested. 1860 E. Mayhew *Horse Doctor* 7 Sleepy staggers. 1868 *Rep. U. S. Commissioner Agric.* (1869) 41 Blind staggers has been somewhat fatal in the south and west. 1883 W. Robertson *Equine Med.* 382 Grass staggers. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* II. 1106 The allied organism Cœnurus, which produces the 'gid' or 'staggers'.

b. *allusively.* (*To have*) *the staggers*: inability to walk steadily.

1599 Porter *Angry Wom. Abington* (Percy Soc.) 44 He [the butler] hath got a horses desease, namely the staggers. 1603 Dekker *Wonderf. Yr.* Wks. (Grosart) I. 136 This setter-vp of Malt-men, being troubled with the staggers, fell into the selfe-same graue. 1608 Heywood *Lucrece* I. i, Heere's a giddie world, it Reeles, it hath got the staggers. 1611 Shaks. *Cymb.* V. v. 233. 1620 *Hic Mulier* (title-p.) Being a Medicine to cure the Coltish Disease of the Staggers in the Masculine-Feminines of our Times. 1621 J. Taylor (Water P.) *Motto* A 4 b, Some with the staggers, cannot stand vpright. 1688 Bunyan *Disc. Build. Ho. God* Wks.

1853 II. 582/1 Let them but feel your pulse, and they will tell You quickly whether you are sick or well. Have you the staggers? They can help you there. 1861 Sir T. Munro in Gleig *Life* ix. (1849) 165 It has given me the staggers, for I often reel when I get up as if I were drunk. 1837 Tennyson in Ld. Tennyson *Mem.* (1897) I. 159 A nervous, morbidly-irritable man..stark-spoiled with the staggers of a mis-managed imagination.

3. *dial.* and *slang.* (See quots.)

1880 *Antrim & Down Gloss.*, *Stagger*, an attempt. 1887 I. K. Funk in *N. Y. Voice* (Extra) 1 Sept., It is a temperance party between drinks, and it makes a stagger at temperance reform. 1895 *Funk's Stand. Dict.*, *Stagger* (Telegrapher's Slang), a guess at an illegible word in a telegram. 1900 A. M'Ilroy *By Lone Craig-Linnie Burn* iii. 30 They gave their consent to the marriage, remarking to the neighbours that 'Oor Bessie's makin' a wunnerfu' stagger'.

4. *attrib.* **stagger-bush** *U.S.*, the shrub *Andromeda mariana*, supposed to give the staggers to sheep; **stagger-grass**, 'the atamasco-lily, *Zephyranthes Atamasco*: so called as supposed to cause staggers in horses' (*Cent. Dict.* 1891); **stagger-juice** *Austral. slang*, strong drink; **stagger-weed** (see quot.); **staggerwort**, the ragwort, *Senecio Jacobæa*, supposed to cure staggers in horses.

1847 Darlington *Amer. Weeds* (1860) 213 *A[ndromeda] Mariana*...*Stagger-bush...The farmers..allege that it is injurious to sheep, when the leaves are eaten by them,—producing a disease called the staggers. 1907 A. Macdonald *In Land of Pearl & Gold* 22 Lor! Boss! if we didn't drink the *stagger-juice no one would. 1855 Dunglison *Med. Lex.*, *Staggerweed, *Delphinium*. 1597 Gerarde *Herbal* II. xxvi. 219 The countrey people do call it [*Jacobea*] *Stagger woort, and Stauerwoort, and also Ragwoorte. 1665 Lovell *Herbal* (ed. 2) 415 Stagger wort or Stanner wort, see Rag wort.

† **Sta·gger,** *sb.*[2] *dial. Obs.* [? Connected with Stake *sb.*[1]; but cf. Staver.] (See quot. 1879.)

1739 Tull *Horse-hoeing Husb.* i. (1762) 5 *note*, This Witch-Elm is a very old decay'd Stump, which is here called a Staggar. 1793 *Bailiff's Diary* 13 Dec. in Miss Jackson *Shropsh. Word-bk.* 408 Began to repair our fences, which is much wanted. Bought a load of staggers from Nuttree Bank to put in barren gapes. 1879 Miss Jackson *Shropsh. Word-bk.*, *Staggers*, strong, well-grown thorn-bushes, hollybushes, &c.,—cropped for hedgerow purposes—taken up by the roots and replanted, sometimes to make a new fence, but more frequently to fill up gaps in an old one.

Stagger, *sb.*[3] [f. Stag *sb.*[1] + -er [1].] One who hunts stags; *pl.* a pack of staghounds.

1865 *Dublin Univ. Mag.* II. 19 To wind up the season with a day or two after the 'staggers'. 1894 Astley *50 Years Life* I. 113 The 'Surrey staggers' always met within easy reach.

Sta·gger, *sb.*[4] *slang.* [f. Stag *v.*3 + -er [1].]

1859 *Hotten's Slang Dict.*, *Stagger*, one who looks out, or watches.

Stagger (sta·gəɹ), *v.* Also 6 **stagar, 6–7 stager, staggar,** (8 **staggir**). [Altered form of Stacker *v.* Cf. early mod.Flem. *staggeren* (Kilian), Du. *staggelen* to stagger, G. *staggeln* to stammer.]

I. Intransitive uses.

1. Of a person or animal: To sway involuntarily from side to side when trying to stand or walk erect; to totter or reel as if about to fall; to walk with a swaying movement of the body and unsteady and devious steps, as from weakness, giddiness, intoxication, or the carrying of a heavy burden. Often with adv. or phrase indicating the direction of movement.

In mod. use always implying more or less movement from the spot; formerly this notion was sometimes absent: cf. sense 3.

1530 Palsgr. 732/1 Ar you nat a shamed to staggar thus as you go by the stretes. 1598 R. Bernard tr. *Terence, Eunuch.* II. iii. 133 He comes running to me..very crooked, staggering and stammering for age. 1600 Fairfax *Tasso* xii. lxxx, Thither he staggred, reeling to and froe. 1611 Bible *Job* xii. 25 Hee maketh them to stagger like a drunken man. 1613 Purchas *Pilgrimage* (1614) 282 A wounded and halfe-dead Souldier..comming staggering as it were to begge his life. 1621 J. Taylor (Water P.) *Praise of Beggery* C 1 b, Drinke That neuer makes men stagger, reele and winke. *c* 1730 Ramsay *Vision* xix, Staggirrand, and swaggirrand, They stoyter hame to sleip. 1810 Crabbe *Borough* i. 286 The tippling sailor, staggering home. 1860 Tyndall *Glac.* I. xxv. 191 He..staggered like a drunken man, and fell upon the snow. 1886 G. R. Sims *Ring o' Bells* Prol. 3 A young woman..staggered towards the landlady, and then fell down in a swoon.

b. said of the legs or feet.

1665 Boyle *Occas. Reft.* iv. xviii. (1848) 277 My Head began to grow giddy, and my Leggs to stagger towards the River. 1828 Lytton *Pelham* lxv, His feet staggered as he approached us.

c. In figurative context.

1579 J. Field tr. *Calvin's 4 Serm.* i. 10 b, For without this, man cannot come directly to God: but they stagger & reele, not knowing which way to turne themselues. 1598 Florio *Dict.* Ep. Ded. 3, I haue seene the best, yea naturall Italians, not onely stagger, but euen sticke fast in the myre. 1652 Bp. Hall *Height Eloquence* p. xix, Great minds in their declination stagger into Fabling. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* II. v. v, The thing which the King's Government did do was to stagger distractedly from contradiction to contradiction. 1860 Emerson *Cond. Life*, *Worship* Wks. (Bohn) II. 397 The churches stagger backward to the mummeries of the dark ages. 1887 L. J. Jennings *Gladstone* iii. 93 The 'greatest of orators' had once more staggered into a war which he was impotent to conduct.

d. As the result of a blow or encounter, or of carrying a heavy load. Const. *under. lit.* and *fig.*

1547 Boorde *Brev. Health* II. (1557) 6 b, Gyue that knaue or drabbe a phylyp with a club that they do stagger at it. *a* 1548 Hall *Chron., Hen. VIII*, 49 b, The duke..with the but ende of the spere strake the Almayne that he staggared. 1682 Bunyan *Holy War* 164 For the grace, the benefit.. was sudden, glorious, and so big, that they were not able without staggering to stand up under it. 1707 Addison *Pres. State War* P 14 The enemy staggers; if you follow your blow, he falls at your feet; but if you allow him respite, he will recover his strength. 1752 Fielding *Amelia* 44 Without use and experience, the strongest minds and bodies both will stagger under a weight which habit might render easy and even contemptible. 1759 *Ann. Reg.* 48/1 This stroke, under which he was yet staggering. 1761 Hume *Hist. Eng.* lxxi. (1806) V. 299 The..King, who was already staggering with the violent shocks which he had received. 1823 Scott *Quentin D.* x, The first impulse of his surprise was to free his harquebuss by a violent exertion, which made the King stagger backward into the hall. 1850 R. G. Cumming *Hunter's Life S. Afr.* (1902) 62/2 The eland staggered for a moment, and subsided in the dust. 1863 Geo. Eliot *Romola* (1880) II. II. ii. 25 He had staggered under the weight of the thrust. 1874 L. Stephen *Hours in Library* (1892) I. x. 368 The bearers stagger under the heavy coffin and cry for help. 1896 Baden-Powell *Matabele Campaign* xii, Finding that their horses were but staggering on under them.

e. *transf.* Of a ship: To move unsteadily and with difficulty; esp. *under* a press of sail.

1840 R. H. Dana *Bef. Mast* xxv, With as much sail as she could stagger under. 1853 Kane *Grinnell Exp.* xxiii. (1856) 184 We are staggering along under all sail. 1867 Smyth *Sailor's Word-bk.*, *Staggering under it*, a ship's labouring under as much canvas as she can bear. 1872 Blackie *Lays Highl.* 9 The whorry staggered through the fretted deep. 1890 Conan Doyle *White Company* xvii, The cog, battered and torn and well-nigh water-logged, staggered in for this haven of refuge.

f. Of the senses: To become unsteady. *rare.*

1826 Hood *Fairy Tale* 117 The change was quite amazing; It made her senses stagger for a minute. 1846 Landor *Imag. Conv., Galileo, Milton & Dominican* (1891) IV. 384 My sight staggers; the walls shake; he must be—do angels ever come hither?

† g. To 'stumble' or blunder *into* (a place).

1803 J. Bristed *Pedestrian Tour* II. 518 The lady soon gave us to understand, that we had staggered into a bagnio.

2. *fig.* To begin to doubt or waver in an argument, opinion, or purpose; to become less confident or determined; to hesitate or waver *at.* Now *rare.*

1533 More *Answ. Poysoned Bk.* IV. viii. Wks. 1112/1 Then the disciples and apostles..must nedes haue woondered, stonned, and staggered, and haue been more inquisitiue therin then they were. 1582 N. T. (Rheims) *Matt.* xxi. 21 If you shal haue faith, and stagger not. 1593 Bilson *Govt. Christ's Ch.* 96 They..caused the strong to stagger at the truth of Paules doctrine. 1628 Prynne *Cens. Cozens* 40 Wee need not doubt nor stager at this Conclusion. 1634 Sir T. Herbert *Trav.* 158 Mahomet promised them his second glorious comming after a thousand yeares, which they seriously lately looking for, and seeing themselues guld by such credulity began to stagger. 1738 J. Fisher *Inestimable Value Div. Truth* (1803) 46 They who once begin to stagger are at the next Door to Apostasy. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* I. iv. i, They stagger at the Double Representation, at the Vote by Head. 1883 J. Gilmour *Mongols* xvii. 202 A Buddhist..seems to stagger at the idea of a hell to the duration of which no period is assigned.

† b. const. *in, about.* Also with clause. *Obs.*

1555 Bonner *Homilies* 62 No appearaunce of reason to ye contrary thereof, shoulde cause vs once to doute or stagger in any part of the same. 1570–6 Lambarde *Peramb. Kent* (1826) 486 Of latter yeers there hath beene some strong opposition, and seeing that now at this day some doe incline, and others doe stagger therein, I [etc.]. 1603 Shaks. *Meas. for M.* I. ii. 169 Whether the Tirranny be in his place, Or in his Eminence that fills it vp I stagger in. 1606 Wotton in *Life & Lett.* (1907) I. 353 A..letter..which I dare not adventure by the ordinary post; and I must confess I am at the present somewhat staggering whether I shall send it by an especial messenger. 1619 Hieron *Penance for Sin* xii. Wks. II. 194 To stagger about either of which, is no little sinne. 1642 D. Rogers *Naaman* 6, I stagger much about this opinion. 1648 Gage *West Ind.* 1 The people should not stagger in any lawfull doubts. 1686 tr. *Chardin's Coronat. Solyman* 100 They began to stagger in their Answers.

c. of purpose, opinion, faith, etc.

1627 Moryson *Itin.* II. 64 Seeing no reason, why the Counsels of the warre should stagger upon his wel or ill doing. 1675 *Machiavelli's Prince* vi. (Rtldg.) 40 Their faith begins to stagger. 1800 Mrs. Hervey *Mourtray Fam.* IV. 204 Lady Bingfield's opinion staggered—she felt quite bewildered. 1813 Shelley *Q. Mab* i. 267 At whose immensity Even soaring fancy staggers.

3. Of an army, line of battle, etc.: To waver, become unsteady, give way.

1544 Betham *Precepts War* I. lxv. D iv b, To succour those companyes y^t begynne to stagger and faynte. *a* 1660 *Contemp. Hist. Irel.* (Ir. Archæol. Soc.) I. 155 Causinge the bould enemie to stager. 1719 De Foe *Crusoe* II. (Globe) 568 The Chineses, our Guard on the Front,..who had talk'd so big the Day before, began to stagger. 1829 [implied in Staggered *ppl. a.*]

4. Of a material thing: To sway or rock from side to side; to shake, rock, or swing violently; to totter.

1530 Palsgr. 731/2 This house staggareth with every wynde. 1611 Bible *Ps.* xcix. 1 He sitteth betweene the Cherubims, let the earth be mooued [*marg.* Hebr. stagger]. 1633 P. Fletcher *Purple Isl.* IV. vii, Her steddy race Staggers awhile, at length flies back apace. 1652 Crashaw *Carmen Deo Nostro* Wks. (1904) 252 When starres themselves shall stagger. 1681 Wittie *Surv. Heavens* II The Earth is so firmly establisht..in its proper place, that it cannot stagger. 1851 Longf. *Golden Leg.* i, Beneath me I can feel The great earth stagger and reel.

† 5. To stammer or falter in speaking. (Cf. Stacker *v.* 2.) *Obs.*

1565–98 [see Staggering *vbl. sb.*]

II. Transitive uses.

6. To cause (a person or animal) to reel or totter, esp. from a blow.

1593 Shaks. *Rich. II*, v. v. 110 That hand shall burne in neuer-quenching fire, That staggers thus my person. *c* 1611 Chapman *Iliad* v. 299 It staggerd him vpon his knees, and made th' Heroe stay His strooke-blind temples on his hand, his elbow on the earth. 1749 Fielding *Tom Jones* xvi. x, Jones was a little staggered by the blow, which came somewhat unexpectedly. 1750 Carte *Hist. Eng.* II. 474 Eustace de Ribaumont..staggered him twice with the force of his blows. 1836 Marryat *Japhet* xlv, I received a blow on the head from behind, which staggered me. 1863 W. C. Baldwin *Afr. Hunting* viii. 331 My second barrel staggered him, and in fifty yards he fell. 1872 Tennyson *Gareth & Lynette* 530, I have stagger'd thy strong Gawain in a tilt For pastime. 1879 Stevenson *Trav. Cevennes* (1886) 114 It was a furious windy morning..and I wandered until dinner..sorely staggered and beaten up by the gale.

b. *transf.* and *fig.*

1602 Marston *Antonio's Rev.* iv. i, I could not thus run mad, As one confounded in a maze of mischiefe, Staggerd, starke feld with brusing stroke of chance. 1647 Lilly *Chr. Astrol.* To Rdr. 1 That yeer which afflicts me will stagger a Monarch and Kingdome. *a* 1711 Ken *Hymnotheo* Poet. Wks. 1721 III. 327 Both with like sensual Pleasure eat their Fill, Intoxicating Mind, and staggering Will. 1822 Shelley *Tri. Life* 197 Then like one who with the weight Of his own words is staggered, wearily He paused. 1872 Spurgeon *Treas. Dav.* Ps. lxxv. 6 That cup of spiced wine of vengeance, one draft of which shall stagger all his foes.

7. *fig.* a. To bewilder, perplex, nonplus; to render helpless by a shock of amazement (or *occas.* horror). In *passive*, to be perplexed or astonished *at.*

1556 J. Heywood *Sp. & Flie* lxi. 81 Spiders harts it so perst, That it stagard and stonide all that hole bend. 1613 Shaks. *Hen. VIII*, II. iv. 212 The question did at first so stagger me,..that [etc.]. 1653 Ramesey *Astrol. Restored* 108 It hath staggered the learnedst Writers in Divinity. *a* 1700 Evelyn *Diary* 6 Dec. 1680, The consideration of this and some other circumstances began to stagger me. 1711 Addison *Spect.* No. 117 P 8 Sir Roger was several times staggered with the Reports that had been brought him concerning this old Woman. 1737 Fielding *Hist. Reg.* I. i, I am a little stagger'd at the name of your piece. 1760–72 H. Brooke *Fool of Qual.* (1809) III. 38 This last argument staggered me. 1787 Mme. D'Arblay *Diary* 16 Feb., He was staggered by this question. 1815 J. Cormack *Abol. Fem. Infanticide Guzerat* viii. 121 The first aspect of the difficulties..was such as might be allowed to stagger the stoutest heart. 1865 Dickens *Mut. Fr.* I. viii, 'Well!' said Mr. Boffin a little staggered. 1883 Sir T. Martin *Ld. Lyndhurst* xi. 298 The Ministry were for the moment staggered by the magnitude of their defeat. 1913 Sir T. Barlow in *Times* 7 Aug. 8/2 We are staggered by the.. calculated audacity of our brethren when sinuses of the skull are drained, cerebral abscesses evacuated, [etc.].

b. To shake the stability of (a country, a condition of things).

1613–18 Daniel *Coll. Hist. Eng.* Wks. (Grosart) IV. 198 The report of Roberts returning from the Holy warres.. might be noysed abroad to stagger the State. 1656 Heylin *Two Journ. France* 75 She will rather choose to leave her fine house uninhabited..then give the least opportunity to stagger her greatnesse. 1657 in *Burton's Diary* (1828) II. 41 Nor would I have any man's estate to be staggered or shaken by it. 1769 Robertson *Chas. V*, III. viii. 70 Such events..soon occurred, as staggered the credit which the Protestants had given to the Emperor's declarations. 1884 *N. Amer. Rev.* Dec. 515 Then strikes and lock-outs occur, which stagger the prosperity, not of the business merely, but of the state. 1889 Stevenson *Edinburgh* 19 A dash that staggered Scotland to the heart.

c. Phrase. *To stagger belief*: to be incredible.

1756 Burke *Vind. Nat. Soc.* Wks. I. 30 Which shocks our humanity, and almost staggers our belief. 1796 Morse *Amer. Geog.* I. 758 A scene of barbarity..which shocks the human mind and almost staggers belief. 1802–12 Bentham *Ration. Judic. Evid.* (1827) V. 555 *note*, The technical system presents..enough to stagger belief. 1837 Whittock *Bk. Trades* (1842) 409 (Soap Boiler) Such matters have been introduced to the Boilers as almost 'staggered' belief.

d. To shake, unsettle, cause to waver or falter (a person's faith, opinion, purpose, etc.).

1617 Fletcher *Valentinian* III. i, *Ætius.* I have seen enough to stagger my obedience. 1659 Rushw. *Hist. Collect.* I. 140 The notice of a sharp Petition against Popish Recusants..did a little stagger his Resolution. 1704 Trapp *Abra-Mule* III. i. 1194 Your good Opinion of my Truth was stagger'd E'er you knew all. 1732 Berkeley *Serm. S. P. G.* Wks. III. 246 The prevailing torrent of Infidelity, which staggers the faith of some. 1823 Scott *Quentin D.* xxi, His courage was not staggered, even for an instant. 1857 Maurice *Epist. St. John* xiii. 204 Do not let this stagger your faith.

e. To cause (a person) to falter or waver (*in* his faith or purpose).

1627 in *Cri. & Times Chas. I* (1848) I. 268 My Lord of Holland..hath been a little staggered in the resolution of his journey. 1645 Chas. I in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* Ser. I. III. 318 It nowais staggars me in that good opinion which I have ever had of you. 1667 Pepys *Diary* 26 Mar., The Judge ..did stagger us in our hopes, so as to make us despair of the success. 1709 Addison *Tatler* No. 108 P 4 The son.. began to establish a new religion in the family..; in which he succeeded so well, that he had..staggered his eldest sister. 1746 Francis tr. *Horace, Sat.* II. v. 128 Whom all the Suitors amorously strove, In vain, to stagger in her plighted Love. 1792 'Gambado' *Ann. Horsem.* ix. (1809) 105, I am a good deal stagger'd in my belief, and dare not, at present, make public my opinion. 1825 Scott *Talism.* xv, Richard..was once more staggered in his purpose by the dauntless determination of the criminal. 1848 Gallenga

Italy (1851) 271 The king and his advisers were not staggered in their warlike resolution. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* vi. II. 92 One of his parishioners who had been staggered by the arguments of Roman Catholic theologians.

†f. To cause to waver or fail *from* or *into*. *Obs.*

1658 WOMOCK *Exam. Tilenus* 14 And if they be not drunk with..strong drink, they think 'tis no matter though the spirit of pride and disobedience stagger them into any schisme or heresie. 1679 *Established Test* 7 Many were recalled whom the fear of Persecution had staggered from the Romish Religion.

†g. To throw doubt upon (a doctrine). *Obs.*

1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* I. x. 42 He..staggereth the immortality of the soul. 1833 LAMB *Elia* Ser. II. *Barrenness Mod. Art*, The paintings..of a modern artist, have been urged as objections to the theory of our motto. They are of a character, we confess, to stagger it.

†h. To bring to nought, confound (plots, counsels). *Obs.*

1629 N. CARPENTER *Achitophel* II. (1640) 69 They would have heard the Lord often threatening..to stagger the counsell of the wicked. 1683 *Lond. Gaz.* 1856/5 Hereby the Machivilian contrivances of imbitter'd, envenom'd Mal-Contents..are Providentially detected, stagger'd, [etc.].

8. To cause to waver, throw into confusion (a line or body of troops).

1721 DE FOE *Mem. Cavalier* (1840) 178 He broke through the first line, and staggered the second. 1726 SHELVOCKE *Voy. round World* 262 This unexpected warm reception staggered a great many of my men. 1775 *Ann. Reg., Hist. Europe* 134* The king's forces seem to have been unusually staggered in this attack. 1778 COOK *3rd Voy.* IV. iii. (1784) II. 331 At this they were so much staggered, that they plainly discovered their ignorance of the effect of fire-arms.

9. *Mech.* To arrange in zig-zag order, or in positions alternately on the one side and the other of a median line. (See also quot. 1902.)

1856 *Patent Office Specif.* No. 1560 The other wheel on the shaft in question (staggered with the relation to the first wheel) closes a circuit through one of the two pairs of electro-magnets which work the indicator. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech., Stagger*, to set spokes in a hub so that they are alternately on the respective sides of a median line, in order to give them a broader base, and a consequently greater stiffness to the wheel against lateral strain. 1902 STURGIS *Dict. Archit.* III. 593 *Stagger* (v.), to arrange in alternate order...By extension, to dispose floors so that each one is not continuous throughout the building, but so that they are arranged in two or more vertical series, each with its own independent system of heights. 1913 J. B. BISHOP *Panama Gateway* v. vi. 381 The lamps are staggered so as to illuminate both lock chambers.

Hence **Sta·ggered** *ppl. a.* in senses of the verb.

1622 MALYNES *Anc. Law-Merch.* 434 Some cannot choose to become weake in faith, staggard or desperate, when there is no man to speake a word of comfort in due season. 1829 SCOTT *Anne of G.* xxxvi, A stately form, conspicuous in the front of the staggered column, raised up the fallen banner. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech., Staggered Wheel*, one whose spokes are set in and out alternately where they enter the hub. 1905 J. HORNER *Tools Engineers* 143 The tool is of the notched, or staggered type. 1911 *Blackw. Mag.* July 19/2 There was a staggered silence.

Staggerd, obs. form of STAGGARD.

Staggerer (stæ·gərəɹ). [f. STAGGER *v.* + -ER 1.]

1. One who staggers. *lit.* and *fig.*

1552 HULOET, Staggerer, *titubator*. 1597 J. PAYNE *Royal Exch.* 17 These staggerers..do call Gods providens and his regiment over all into question. *a* 1633 G. HERBERT *Jacula Prudentum* 517 The Lame goes as farre as your staggerer. 1642 D. ROGERS *Naaman* 92 Let me abhorre to play the timeserver,..staggerer, and revolter from Gods way.

2. Something that causes one to stagger; *fig.* a disconcerting incident, an argument admitting of no reply, etc.

1832 MARRYAT *N. Forster* xlvii, That broadside was a staggerer. 1872 C. KING *Sierra Nevada* v. 98 This was something of a staggerer to Susan and her father. 1874 HARDY *Far fr. Mad. Crowd* v, He knew *to* a hair's breadth the rate of trotting back from the ewes' tails that each call involved, if a staggerer with the sheep-crook was to be escaped. 1909 *Truth* Christmas No. 22/2 Still staggerer followed unceasing on staggerer.

Staggering (stæ·gəriŋ), *vbl. sb.* [-ING 1.]

1. In intransitive senses of STAGGER *v.* a. Reeling, tottering, etc.

1530 PALSGR. 275/1 Stageryng or leanyng of an house, *branle*. 1580 BLUNDEVIL *Horsemanship, Horses Dis.* xxi. 10 b, Dimnesse of sight the reeling and staggering of the Horse. 1598 SHAKS. *Merry W.* III. iii. 12 Without any pause or staggering take the basket on your shoulders. 1628 DUDLEY LD. CARLETON in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* Ser. I. III. 256 In his staggering he turn'd about, uttering onely this word 'Villaine'! 1732 ARBUTHNOT *Rules of Diet* iii. (1736) 370 The immediate Forerunners of an Apoplexy are commonly a Vertigo, Staggering, Loss of Memory [etc.]. 1867 RUSKIN *Sesame* ix. § 47 The howlings and staggerings of men..in intoxication.

†b. Stammering, faltering in speech. *Obs. rare.*

1565 COOPER *Thesaurus, Volubilitas linguæ*, round or quicke speakyng, without impediment or staggerynge. 1575 R. B. *Apius & Virginia* C iv, And angerly to me (quoth he) wher hast thou ben walking. Without any staggeryng, I had ready my lye. 1598 GRENEWEY *Tacitus, Ann.* (1603) 99 Tiberius..cunningly premeditating his words, and with staggering and stammering delivering his minde.

c. *fig.* Wavering, vacillating; †a state of wavering or uncertainty.

c 1555 HARPSFIELD *Divorce Hen. VIII* (Camden) 235 Mr. Rowland.., being in a great dump and staggering, came to the King. 1565 JEWEL *Repl. Harding* (1611) 279, I thinke it best..they be abolished, and put away without scruple or staggering. 1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* 96 If the mists of raine or sand, do neuer so much obscure the way from the rider, yet doeth shee remember the same without all staggering. 1681 FLAVEL *Meth. Grace* vii. 140, I have many staggerings and doubtings about the certainty and reality of these things. 1756 BURKE *Subl. & B.* Wks. I. 195 In this staggering and hurry of the mind. 1874 T. TAYLOR *Leic. Square* ii. 35 [He] complains of the staggering and irresolution of his nature.

2. In transitive senses.

a. Causing to totter or waver; unsettling.

a 1661 FULLER *Worthies* I. xvii. (1662) 51 The same Name hath been so often disguised unto the Staggering of many, who have mistook them for different. 1675 J. OWEN *Indwelling Sin* xvi. (1732) 223 The Power that the Holy Ghost puts forth by the Word, in the staggering and conviction of Sinners. 1686 F. SPENCE tr. *Varilla's Ho. Medicis* 26 The only persons from whom he need fear a second staggering of his fortune.

b. See STAGGER *v.* 9. Comb. *staggering-tool.*

1905 J. HORNER *Tools Engineers* 73 The staggering of teeth is variously done. 1905 *Athenæum* 26 Aug. 280/1 His [*sc.* J. Horner's] section on chisels..leads us..to the Fox-trimmer,..and other shearing and staggering tools.

Sta·ggering, *ppl. a.* [-ING 2.]

1. That staggers, in intransitive senses of the verb.

a. *lit.* Reeling, tottering, etc.

1575 GASCOIGNE *Posies, Flowers* (1907) 43 My stagring steppes eke tell the trueth, that nature fadeth fast. 1614 GORGES *Lucan* II. 73 Not trusting to his staggering troopes. 1684 BUNYAN *Pilgr.* II. Introd. 118 For Young, for Old, for Stagg'ring, and for Stable. 1797 DOWNING *Disord. Horned Cattle* 11 This giddiness and swimming in the head..gives a wavering and staggering motion of the body. 1818 SHELLEY *Homer's Hymn Castor & P.* 16 The staggering ship. 1839 THACKERAY *Fatal Boots* vi, We heard a heavy staggering step on the flags. 1895 SCULLY *Kafir Stories* 118 A disorganised mob of staggering men.

b. *transf.* and *fig.* In early use often, † Hesitating, undecided.

1576 GASCOIGNE *Kenelworth Castle* Wks. 1910 II. 115 To prop up so thy stagring mind, Which in these sorrowes slides. 1597 J. PAYNE *Royal Exch.* 18 These new Saduces wth there staggeringe disciples. 1614 EARL STIRLING *Doomsday* I. lxxxv, A staggering courage, ruine still succeeds. 1627 E. F. *Hist. Edw. II* (1680) 14 Their staggering irresolution. 1654 in *Nicholas Papers* (Camden) II. 128 Our frends are very staggering till remedy in this point confirme them. 1678 CUDWORTH *Intell. Syst.* 745 St. Austine himself, is sometimes Staggering in this Point. 1742 RICHARDSON *Pamela* IV. 95 The staggering Doubts and Distress of Hermione, after she had ingaged Orestes in the Murder of Pyrrhus. 1838 LOCKHART *Scott* lxxix. VII. 235 Except the staggering penmanship,..there was scarcely any thing to indicate decayed vigour. 1867 SMILES *Huguenots Eng.* v. (1880) 84 The sack of Antwerp..gave the last blow to the staggering industry of that great city.

†c. Characterized by staggering. *Obs. rare*—1.

1573 G. HARVEY *Letter-bk.* (Camden) 29 A kind of palsi.., or sum the like quivering and staggering diseases.

d. **Staggering Bob** *dial.* (see quots.)

1776 YOUNG *Tour Irel.* (1780) II. 274 Vast numbers of calves are killed at two or three days old for an execrable veal they call staggering bob, I suppose from the animal not being old enough to stand steady on its legs. 1818 WILBRAHAM *Chesh. Gloss., Staggering Bob*, or Yellow Slippers, names given by butchers to very young calves.

2. In transitive senses: Causing to reel or totter; confounding, perplexing.

1565 J. PHILLIPS *Patient Grissell* (Malone Soc.) I. 63 The wandring Bucke by staggring strocke, of launch from blody boe..hath caught the ouer throe. 1769 BURKE *Corr.* (1844) I. 176 In this staggering situation, I imagine they [the ministers] would derive great comfort..by finding [etc.]. 1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 73 The remark..is rather staggering, and is calculated to throw the veil of doubt over all the rest. 1836 E. HOWARD *R. Reefer* xli, By noon we had a staggering breeze. 1840 DICKENS *Old C. Shop* xiii, He found himself complimented with two staggering blows. 1894 JEAFFRESON *Recoll.* II. 28 This rumour was a painful and staggering surprise. 1900 P. C. SIMPSON *Fact of Christ* iv. (1902) 115 The idea is utterly staggering and overwhelming.

Sta·ggeringly, *adv.* [f. STAGGERING *ppl. a.* + -LY 2.] In a staggering manner; unsteadily, totteringly; also (*rarely*) so as to stagger or shock.

1575 GASCOIGNE *Posies, Jocasta* III. i, To stay our state that staggringly doth stand. 1682 SIR T. BROWNE *Chr. Mor.* XXX. (1716) 36 While we are but staggeringly evil, we are not left without..merciful interventions, to recal us unto our selves. 1878 'OUIDA' *Friendship* II, Staggeringly and audaciously impossible. 1898 B. GREGORY *Side Lights* 489 We bore up staggeringly against wind and tide.

Staggery (stæ·gəri), *a. colloq.* [f. STAGGER *sb.* and *v.* + -Y.] a. Of an animal: Affected with staggers. b. Liable to stagger; unsteady.

1778 [W. H. MARSHALL] *Minutes Agric.* 15 Oct. 1776, I found an exceedingly fine breed [of swine] upon the Farm.—But they were staggery. 1837 DICKENS *Pickw.* xvi, If I felt less like a walking brandy-bottle, I shouldn't be quite so staggery this mornin'. 1892 J. WILKINS *Autobiog. Gamekeeper* 225 Before he has got a hundred yards he [the dog] begins to feel very queer and staggery. 1907 C. D. STEWART *Partners of Providence* xxxiv. 436 A tired-out looking frame building that was as staggery as its shed.

Staggon: see STAG *sb.*1 and STAGON.

Staggy (stæ·gi). *Sc.* In 8–9 **stagie, staggie.** [dim. of STAG *sb.*1 + -IE, -Y.] A colt.

1786 BURNS *To Auld Mare* i, Thou could hae gaen like ony staggie Out owre the lay. 1792 G. GALLOWAY *Poems* 42 Guide honest John ride frae Kilbagie, Upon a bonny dappl'd stagie. 1803 [SIR A. BOSWELL] *Songs* 13 When ilka bit laddie maun ha'e his bit stagie. 1910 *Blackw. Mag.* Feb. 263/1 One of them is only a wee bit staggie.

Staghe, obs. form of STAG *sb.*1

Stag head, stag's head. [STAG *sb.*1]

1. The head or skull and antlers of a stag.

1812 CRABBE *Tales* iv. 176 A stag's-head crest adorn'd the pictured case. 1908 HARPER *Rambles in Galloway* II. 28 Large stag heads..have been found in the bed of the loch.

2. *Stag-head* or *stag's head moss* = *stag-horn moss* (see STAG-HORN 2 b).

1869 W. CORY *Lett. & Jrnls.* (1897) 266 Picking staghead moss and flowers. 1885 LADY BRASSEY *The Trades* 234 On the banks..daisies and buttercups,..stag's-head moss, and all kinds of familiar wild flowers flourished.

Stag-headed, *a.*

1. Of an animal: Having a head shaped somewhat like that of a stag.

1683 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1802/4 A Chesnut Nag, 14 hands high,..Stag-headed. 18.. *Young's Annals Agric.* XXX. 333 in Britten *Old Country Words* (1880) 110 The horn is found neither drooping too low, nor rising too high, nor with points inverted, called here [Somerset] stag-headed.

2. Of a tree or forest of trees: Having the topmost branches bare and withered.

1769 *Phil. Trans.* LIX. 28 This grove of chesnuts..begin to decay very much at the tops, being what the woodwards term stag-headed. 1790 W. H. MARSHALL *Midland Counties* II. 441 Stagheaded, as an old overgrown oak; having the stumps of boughs standing out of its top. 1843 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* IV. II. 396 Sometimes trees, which at first were good bearers, become stag-headed and unfruitful. 1882 *Garden* 14 Jan. 27/3 Some oaks are old and stag-headed at 100 years, while others are vigorous at 300 years.

Stag-horn. Also **stag's horn.** [STAG *sb.*1]

1. a. In *pl.* The horns of a stag. b. In *sing.* The horn of a stag, as a material.

1663 BOYLE *Consid. Usef. Nat. Philos.* II. App. 356 In case Stags Horns cannot be procured for the preparation. 1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 499 Stag's horn and ivory are nearly the same as bone. 1843 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* I. 121 When short pieces of stag-horn are used entire, as for the handles of table-knives, the hollow cellular part is concealed. 1864 J. HUNT tr. *Vogt's Lect. Man* x. 263 When the articles became scarce they provided themselves with worked staghorns.

attrib. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade, Stag-horn cutter*, a worker up of deer horn for knife handles, etc.

c. *transf.* in *pl.* The bare upper branches of a tree. *nonce-use.* Cf. STAG-HEADED *a.* 2.

1879 BROWNING *Ned Bratts* 172 That tree art thou!..Thy stag-horns fright the sky, thy snake-roots sting the turf!

2. In the names of plants. a. The American or Virginian sumach, *Rhus typhina*. More fully *stag('s horn tree, sumach.*

1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. App., Stag's horn-tree, a name sometimes given to the rhus, or sumach. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XVI. 228/1 The young branches [of the Virginian sumach] are covered with a soft velvet-like down,.. from whence the common people have given it the appellation of stag's horn. 1868 *Rep. U. S. Commissioner Agric.* (1869) 201 Stag-horn sumach (*Rhus typhina*). 1882 *Garden* 19 Aug. 163/3 The Stag's-horn Sumach..has a very singular appearance just as the flower-spikes become prominent.

b. A kind of moss, esp. *Lycopodium clavatum*. More fully *stag's horn* (also *staghorn*) *moss.*

1741 DILLENIUS *Hist. Muscorum* 310 Hypnum cupressiforme vulgare, foliis obtusis. The blunt Cypress-like Hypnum...Hisque notus est nomine Stags-Horn Moss. 1800 WORDSW. *Idle Shepherd-boys* 19 Or with that plant which in our dale We call stag-horn, or fox's tail, Their rusty hats they trim. 1844 E. NEWMAN *Brit. Ferns* etc. 353 The Common Club-moss, Wolf's-claw, or Stag's-horn, is the only species of Lycopodium that can be spoken of as abundant in Britain. 1855 M. ARNOLD *Tristram & Iseult* III. 24 Their little hands Are busy gathering..streams Of stagshorn for their hats. 1882 *Good Words* 265 Staghorn Moss.

c. A fern of the genus *Platycerium*. (In full *staghorn fern.*)

1882 J. SMITH *Dict. Pop. Names Plants* 390 *Staghorn Fern* is represented by several species of Platycerium. 1893 MRS. C. PRAED *Outlaw & Lawmaker* II. 32 It was covered with a wonderful growth of ferns, birdsnests, and staghorns, with branching, antler-like fronds.

d. (See quot.)

1884 W. MILLER *Plant-n.* 122 Stag's-horn Saxifrage, *Saxifraga ceratophylla.*

3. In the names of insects, etc. (See quots.)

1816 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* xxi. (1818) II. 225 The stag-horn capricorn beetle (*Prionus cervicornis*, F.) in America. 1884 GOODE *Nat. Hist. Aquatic Anim.* 841 Among the true stony corals are the Stag-horn Corals (*Madrepora cervicornis, prolifera*, and *palmata*). 1896 LYDEKKER *Roy. Nat. Hist.* VI. 72 A curious representative from the Malay Archipelago, known as the staghorn-fly (*Elaphomyia*), takes its name from the development of the sides of the head into large branching horns.

Hence **Stag-horned** *a.* a. Epithet of a beetle (cf. prec. 3). b. = STAG-HEADED *a.* 2.

1853 MRS. GORE *Dean's Daughter* III. i. 6 The oldest of the trees;—its branches, staghorned at the summit. 1867 R. S. HAWKER *Wks.* (1893) 127 A solemn grove of stag-horned trees. 1881 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* V. Plate 59 The Stag-horned Longicorn (*Acanthophorus serraticornis*).

Staghound (stæ·ghaund). [f. STAG *sb.*1 + HOUND *sb.*] = DEER-HOUND.

1707 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4322/4 Lost.., a Couple of young Stag-hounds. 1810 SCOTT *Lady of Lake* II. vi, With..his dark stag-hounds by his side. 1893 LYDEKKER *Roy. Nat. Hist.* I. 532 The true English staghound was a considerably larger animal than the foxhound.

Stagiary (stā·dʒiări), *sb.*1 *Eccl. Hist.* [ad. med.L. *stagiārius*, f. *stagium* term of residence of a canon, ad. OF. *estage*: see STAGE *sb.*] A canon residentiary.

1868 MILMAN *St. Paul's* vii. 149 Still more important to

the Revenues of the Dean and Stagiaries, so the Residentiaries were called. 1877 W. J. Loftie *London* vii. (1892) 154 The 'stagiaries' or resident canons conducted the services of the church. 1881 *8th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. 634/1, 45 Edw. III. Compotus of dom. Amand Fithing, canon and stagiary of the church of St. Paul, London..of moneys received from the box.

Stagiary (stē'·dʒiări) *sb.*[2] and *a.* [ad. F. *stagiaire*, f. (after med.L. *stagiārius*: see prec.) *stage* period of probation, esp. terms to be kept by a student before admission to the bar, ad. med.L. *stagium*, ad. OF. *estage*: see Stage *sb.*] **a.** *sb.* A French law student (see quot. 1836). **b.** *adj.* In *stagiary school*, a school in which, according to the French law of 1850, assistants could be employed who had no certificate of capacity, but only a certificate of three years' service (F. *stage*).

1836 *Blackw. Mag.* XL. 592 The Stagiaries form societies of their own body, under the title of conferences, in which they exercise themselves in pleading imaginary cases, and in discussing questions of law. 1861 M. Arnold *Pop. Educ. France* 143 Few departmental councils consented to authorise any stagiary schools at all.

Stagily (stā'·dʒili), *adv.* [f. Stagy *a.* + -ly [2].] In a stagy manner.

1867 *Athenæum* 26 Oct. 542/1 Weak, because stagily antipathetic, is the figure of the mother who places her child's body among the branches of a tree. 1900 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 13 Nov. 4/2 The rather perfunctory and stagily improbable rescue of Lance Carlyon from a watery grave.

Staginess (stā'·dʒines). Also **stageyness.** [f. Stagy *a.* + -ness.]

1. Stagy character or style; the quality of being stagy; theatrical mannerism.

1864 *Reader* 7 May 598 There is not a trace of staginess to be detected. 1878 Jevons *Methods Soc. Reform* 10 The crudeness and staginess of the play need to be subdued. 1882 A. W. Ward *Dickens* vii. 206 In his earlier writings.. there is much stageyness.

2. Of a seal or its skin (see Stagy *a.* 2).

1887 H. W. Elliott in G. B. Goode *Fish. Industr. U. S.* v. II. 488 These [sea-otter] skins..never show at any season those signs of shedding and staginess so marked in the seal. 1898 D. S. Jordan *Fur Seals* I. 66 The trouble here arises from a misunderstanding of what is meant by 'staginess'. It does not designate any marked difference in quantity of the fur.

Staging (stā'·dʒiŋ), *vbl. sb.* Also 9 **stageing.** [f. Stage *sb.* and *v.* + -ing [1].]

1. *concr.* **a.** A temporary platform or structure of posts and boards for support; scaffolding.

1323-4 *Ely Sacr. Rolls* (1907) II. 47 In xxiij arboribus de sapin empt. pro stagyngg *xl. 8s. od.* 1390-1 in W. Hudson *Leet Jurisd. Norwich* (Selden Soc.) 70 Rogerus Smyth depredavit c latthis de Herveo Skott et maremium et stagyngg murorum Civitatis. 1521 *Bury Wills* (Camden) 122 For a beme and stagyng in ye chyrche, vij s. 1835-6 P. Barlow in *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) VIII. 87/1 A stageing is erected about seven feet above the deck. 1842 *Niles' Reg.* LXIII. 169/2 Governor Metcalfe appeared upon a staging erected upon the capitol steps, and returned his thanks. 1883 *Law Rep.* 11 Q. B. Div. 503 He supplied and put up the staging necessary to enable the outside of the vessel to be painted and repaired when in the dock. 1884 *Manch. Exam.* 7 Oct. 5/1 At the mass meetings..two of the stagings gave way.

attrib. 1535 in Willis & Clark *Cambridge* (1886) II. 453 Oon load of stagyng tymber. 1912 *Blackw. Mag.* Sept. 354/2 The slow waters of the river, purring around the stays and staging-piles.

b. *Arch.* The stages of a buttress collectively.

1865 *Athenæum* No. 1942. 57/3 Mediæval buttresses with their stagings.

2. †**a.** The action of mounting a stage. *Obs.*

1670 Eachard *Cont. Clergy* 39 If getting into the pulpit were a kind of staging, where nothing was to be considered, but how much the sermon takes, and how much star'd at.

b. The action, process, or art of putting a play on the stage; stage-setting.

1884 *Sat. Rev.* 12 July 48 *Twelfth Night*..was as brilliant and well ordered a piece of staging. 1884 *Times* (weekly ed.) 26 Sept. 6/1 The staging of a play is in itself a work of true art. 1901 Skrine *Life Sir W. W. Hunter* xviii. 380 He did full justice to the staging [of 'Faust'], which was then unsurpassed in London.

3. The business of running or managing stage-coaches; the action of travelling by stage-coach or by stages. Also *attrib.* (Chiefly *Anglo-Indian.*)

1850 Ogilvie. 1854 *Househ. Words* VIII. 367/2 A Dawk bungalow, or, as it is called officially, a staging bungalow. 1896 Sir R. Temple *Story My Life* I. 29 Halting in the hot hours of daylight, generally in the solitude of staging rest-houses. 1912 *Chamb. Jrnl.* Christmas No. 18/2, I jolted along in an old *dak ghari* (staging-carriage).

†**Stagi·rian,** *a.* and *sb. Obs. rare.* In 6 **Stagyrian.** [f. L. *Stagīra*: see next and -ian.] **a.** *adj.* Of or pertaining to Stagira or to Aristotle. **b.** *sb.* = Stagirite.

1591 Sylvester *Du Bartas* I. iii. 360 The Stagyrian Sage. *Ibid.* I. vii. 651 For house-hold Rules, read not the learned Writs Of the Stagyrian (glory of good Wits). *a* 1618 — *Sonn.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 122/1 Little needs Hee the Stagyrian's store.

Stagirite (stæ·dʒĭrəit). Also 8-9 *erron.* **Stagyrite.** [ad. L. *Stagīrītēs* (also *Stagīrites*), ad. Gr. Σταγειρίτης, f. Στάγειρος, also Στάγειρα (L. *Stagīra*) neut. pl.: see -ite.] A native or inhabitant of Stagira, a city of Macedonia; *spec.* the philosopher Aristotle, who was born there.

c 1620 T. Robinson *Mary Magd.* 630 Y^e^ Stagirite by water came. 1656 Cowley *Motto* 27 Welcome, great Stagirite, and teach me now All I was born to know. *a* 1680 Butler *Rem.* (1759) I. 215 The Stagyrite, unable to expound The Euripus, leapt into it, and was drown'd. 1709 Pope *Ess. Crit.* 280. 1824 Byron *Juan* XV. XXV, No lofty wing, Plumed by Longinus or the Stagyrite.

attrib. or *adj.* 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* II. I. iii, The *Antre de Procope* has now other questions than the Three Stagyrite Unities to settle.

¶ **b.** Used for: ? An authority on poetics (compared to Aristotle). *rare*[−1].

1834 Campbell *Life Mrs. Siddons* II. ix. 219 The stagyrite, Augustus Wilhelm Schlegel, wrote this diatribe on Kotzebue.

Hence **Sta·girism,** the philosophy of Aristotle; †**Stagiri·tic** *a.*, of or pertaining to Aristotle.

a 1711 Ken *Hymnotheo* Poet. Wks. 1721 III. 302 A sage.. Who stagiritick Errors had imbib'd, And to the World Eternity ascrib'd. 1875 *Encycl. Brit.* I. 466/2 But in those times of false Aristotelianism the *Stagirism* of Paracelsus was pitted against the *Stagyrism* of Aristotle.

‖ **Sta·gma.** *rare*[−0]. [mod.L. a. Gr. στάγμα, f. σταγ-, στάζειν to drop, distil.] (See quots.)

1681 tr. *Willis' Rem. Med. Wks.* Vocab., *Stagmas*, the mixtures of metals, or other chymical things set together to ferment and operate one upon the other. 1693 tr. *Blancard's Phys. Dict.* (ed. 2), *Stagma*, Juices of Plants mixt together in order to Distillation. 1820 R. Hooper *Lex.-Med.* (ed. 4) 838 *Stagma*, any distilled liquor. The vitriolic acid.

Stagmoid (stæ·gmoid), *a. rare*[−0]. [f. Gr. στάγμα drop (Stagma) + -oid.] (See quot.)

1859 Mayne *Expos. Lex.*, *Stagmoides*,..resembling a drop; stagmoid.

Stagnal (stæ·gnăl), *a. Nat. Hist.* [f. mod.L. *stagnālis*, f. L. *stagn-um* Stagne, Stagnum + -al.] 'Living, growing, or delighting in a pond, marsh, or fen' (Mayne *Expos. Lex.* 1859).

Sta·gnance. *rare.* [see -ance.] = next.

1850 S. Dobell *Roman* vii. Poet. Wks. 1875 I. 122 The stagnance of the fosse.

Stagnancy (stæ·gnănsi). [f. Stagnant *a.*: see -ancy.]

1. The condition of being stagnant or without motion, flow, or circulation.

1659 Hammond *On Ps.* cx. 7 The stagnancy or standing still of these waters. 1665 Nedham *Med. Medicinæ* 410 The bloud should be preserved from Stagnancy. 1853 Ruskin *Stones Ven.* III. i. § 47. 31 We would not wantonly..stay the mountain winds into pestilential stagnancy. 1873 Morley *Rousseau* I. vii. 263 Suddenly heated stagnancies of the blood. 1885 J. Payn *Luck Darrells* II. xxiv. 161 The sleepy moat, preserved from stagnancy by a thread of running stream.

b. *transf.* and *fig.*

1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* I. v. v, When the long-enthralled soul, from amid its chains and squalid stagnancy, arises. 1849 Robertson *Serm.* Ser. I. ii. (1866) 19 It stirs the stagnancy of our existence. 1903 F. W. H. Myers *Human Personality* I. 6 That unseen world appeared..as a realm of law; a region not of mere emotional vagueness or stagnancy of adoration, but of definite progress.

2. Anything stagnant.

1681 Cotton *Wond. Peak* 55 For, though the Country People are so wise To call these Rivers, they'r but Stagnancies, Left by the flood. 1699 L. Wafer *Voy.* (1729) 310 The Stagnancies and Decliuities of the ground, and the very droppings of the trees, in the wet season, afford water enough. 1818 Coleridge *Let. to Mrs. Gillman* Lett. (1895) 692 The number of unnecessary fish ponds and other stagnancies immediately around the house.

b. *transf.* and *fig.*

1871 Carlyle in Mrs. Carlyle *Lett.* I. 147 Those sad currents and sad stagnancies of thought. 1902 [see Peccancy 1].

Stagnant (stæ·gnănt), *a.* [ad. L. *stagnant-em* pres. pple. of *stagnāre*: see Stagnate *v.* Cf. F. *stagnant* (1611 Cotgr.), It. *stagnante.*]

†**1.** Of a fluid: That is at rest in a vessel. *Obs.*

1666 Boyle *Orig. Formes & Qual.* 32 A parcel of Stagnant Quicksilver. 1719 F. Hauksbee *Phys. Mech. Exper.* v. (ed. 2) 101 The Orifice of that shorter Leg of such a Tube, must always be at least as far below the Surface of the stagnant Fluid, as that Height amounts to. 1721 *Phil. Trans.* XXXI. 206 The Needle so touch'd, being laid gently on the Surface of a stagnant Water, floated.

2. Not flowing or running, of water, air, etc.; without motion or current, as a pool. Often involving unwholesomeness.

1669 W. Simpson *Hydrol. Chym.* 326 Oaken vessels..if the water..were stagnant, could not move thereon half so well. 1699 Dampier *Voy.* II. II. iii. 82 Alligators..remain here till the Water drains off from the Land; and then confine themselves to the stagnant Ponds. 1773 *Cook's 1st Voy.* III. xii. in Hawkesw. *Voy.* III. 723 All but Tupia fell a sacrifice to the unwholesome, stagnant, putrid air of the country. 1862 Miss Braddon *Lady Audley* i, The stagnant well. 1872 Yeats *Techn. Hist. Comm.* 308 Experience teaches that in a small level the air and powder-smoke lie stagnant. 1880 W. MacCormac *Antiseptic Surg.* 100 A stagnant and impure atmosphere and other such things were observed to influence their progress.

b. Applied to earth holding standing water.

1851 Glenny *Handbk. Fl. Gard.* 10 These plants [Hepatica] require a well-drained border, and never succeed well in moist or stagnant earth.

3. *fig.* Void of activity, excitement, or interest.

1749 Johnson *Irene* III. viii, Immur'd, and buried in perpetual Sloth, That gloomy Slumber of the stagnant Soul. 1812 Crabbe *Tales* xxi. 274 To me refer the choice [of books], and you shall find The light break in upon your stagnant mind! 1827 Pollok *Course of Time* VI. 204 The stagnant, dull, predestinated fool. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* I. IV. ii, Trade is stagnant. 1883 Hardy *Dorsetsh. Labourer* in *Longm. Mag.* July 263 It is too much to expect them to remain stagnant and old-fashioned.

4. *Comb.*

1843 Dickens *Chr. Carol* iii. 82 The very gold and silver fish..though members of a dull and stagnant-blooded race. 1857 Grindon *Life* xx. (ed. 2) 250 New doctrines always displease the small and stagnant-souled.

Hence **Sta·gnantly** *adv.*

1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* I. I. ii, To pine stagnantly in thick obscuration, in squalid destitution and obstruction. 1847 Webster, *Stagnantly*, in a still, motionless, inactive manner.

†**Sta·gnate,** *a. Obs.* [ad. L. *stagnāt-us*: see Stagnate *v.* and -ate [2].] = Stagnant *a.*

1706 De Foe *Jure Div.* v. 13 The stagnate Vapours of the Flood. *Ibid.* 30 When..the Stagnate Brain Resolves on Death, our Application's vain. 1731 T. Gordon *Tacitus, Agricola* II. 360 This Sea [the Orkneys] they report to be slow and stagnate. 1761 *Ann. Reg., Charac.* 41/1 The air becomes grosser and grosser until it becomes torpid and stagnate. 1794 Mary Wollstonecraft *View Fr. Rev.* I. 520 Lazy friars are driven out of their cells as stagnate bodies that corrupt society. 1813 J. C. Hobhouse *Journ.* (ed. 2) 683 The ancient port of Troas, a small circular basin, half choked up and stagnate. 1818 *Ann. Reg., Chron.* 570 A large pool of stagnate water. *a* 1845 Hood *Lamiæ* vii. 4 Such a calm As a shipmate curses on the stagnate sea Under the torrid zone.

Stagnate (stæ·gnēit), *v.* [f. L. *stagnāt-* ppl. stem of *stagnāre* to stagnate, to be overflowed, f. *stagn-um* pool: see -ate [3].]

1. *intr.* To be or become stagnant; to cease to flow, to stand without motion or current.

a. of water, air, etc.

1669 W. Simpson *Hydrol. Chym.* 326 Motion keeps water from stagnating. 1681 J. Scott *Chr. Life* I. iii. § 1 (1684) 55 Their unexercised Reason will..like standing water, stagnate and gather mire. 1682 Wheler *Journ. Greece* VI. 453 We past by a Fountain, that presently seems to stagnate into the Lake of Marathon. 1691 Ray *Creation* I. (1704) 88 The Air that stagnated in the Shaft. 1769 E. Bancroft *Guiana* 20 The water..stagnates and corrupts during those months in which the rains intermit. 1789 W. Buchan *Dom. Med.* (1790) 77 Wherever air stagnates long, it becomes unwholesome. 1805-6 Cary *Dante, Inf.* IX. 111 Where Rhone stagnates on the plains of Arles. *a* 1845 Barham *Ingol. Leg., House-warming*, The valley, where stagnates Fleet Ditch. *transf.* 1783 Crabbe *Village* I. 271 Or wipes the tear that stagnates in his eyes. 1866 *Cornh. Mag.* Aug. 137 The tea stagnating on a small table.

b. of the blood or other liquids of the body.

a 1687 Cotton *Anacreontick* Poems (1689) 88, I am fifty Winters old, Bloud then stagnates and grows cold. 1706 Phillips (ed. Kersey), To *Stagnate*, to lie still after such a manner, to want a free Course, as the Blood does, when grown too thick. 1789 W. Buchan *Dom. Med.* (1790) 125 By stagnating in the bladder it [urine] becomes thicker. 1818 Scott *Hrt. Midl.* i, Nursing their revengeful passions just to keep their blood from stagnating. 1845 Budd *Dis. Liver* 281 When it..causes the bile to stagnate in it, by narrowing the cystic or the common duct. 1878 Bristowe *Th. & Pract. Med.* 115 The blood tends to accumulate and to stagnate in the capillaries and veins.

2. *fig.* and in figurative context.

1709 Steele & Swift *Tatler* No. 68 P 1 Without this Impulse to Fame and Reputation, our Industry would stagnate. 1756 Burke *Subl. & B.* I. xix, Nothing tends more to the corruption of science than to suffer it to stagnate. 1799 Ht. Lee *Canterb. T., Frenchm. T.* (ed. 2) I. 312 The stream of life now seemed to stagnate. 1818 Byron *Juan* Ded. xv, Its very courage stagnates to a vice. 1850 Tennyson *In Mem.* XXVII. 12, I envy not..The heart that never plighted troth But stagnates in the weeds of sloth. 1866 G. Stephens *Runic Mon.* I. 16 Dialects may stagnate for centuries, or may rapidly change, according to circumstances. 1874 H. R. Reynolds *John Bapt.* viii. 517 The faith of the Church would have stagnated.

b. Of a person or people: To subside into a stagnant mode of existence.

1774 Nicholls *Let.* in *Gray's Wks.* (1843) V. 175, I wish at my return very much to run down to you before I sit down to stagnate on the bank of my lake. 1838 Prescott *Ferd. & Is.* Pref. (1846) I. 15 Better be hurried forward for a season on the wings of the tempest, than stagnate in a death-like calm. 1878 Liddon in J. O. Johnston *Life* viii. (1904) 222 Mahommedanism condemns the races which it curses to stagnate in evil. 1911 Marett *Anthropol.* iv. 120 The net result was that, despite a very fair environment.. man [in Australia] on the whole stagnated.

c. *nonce-uses.* To be delayed in transit; to pass sluggishly *along.*

1787 Jefferson *Writ.* (1859) II. 255, I have sometimes suspected that my letters stagnate in the post-offices. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* I. VII. xi, [The procession] slow; stagnating along, like a shoreless Lake, yet with a noise like Niagara, Like Babel and Bedlam.

3. *trans.* To cause to be or become stagnant.

1693 J. Edwards *Author. O. & N. Test.* I. 134 Whence gushed out an Inundation of Water, that is here stagnated, and become a filthy Lake. 1708 *Brit. Apollo* No. 89. 2/2 The Blood is in a Manner stagnated. 1745 P. Thomas *Jrnl. Anson's Voy.* 9 The Country being so very woody that the Air must needs be stagnated. 1750 G. Hughes *Barbados* 3 We have neither bogs nor marshes to stagnate our waters. 1801 Southey *Let. to Lieut. Southey* 28 Mar. in C. C. Southey *Life* (1850) II. 130 The one river with its rush almost stagnates the other. 1806 *Med. Jrnl.* XV. 476 In which blood..remaining stagnated in its proper vessels, did not coagulate. 1818 Keats *Endym.* II. 954 Cruel god, Desist! or my offended mistress' nod Will stagnate all thy fountains. 1842 Loudon *Suburb. Hort.* 68 The power which these bodies have of stopping the transmission of heat depends on the air which is stagnated in their vacuities.

b. *transf.* and *fig.*

1745 *De Foe's Eng. Tradesman* vii. (1840) I. 47 His credit, the life and blood of his trade, is stagnated. 1756 Washing-

TON *Lett.* Writ. (1889) I. 331, I am so weak-handed here, that I could not, without stagnating the public works, spare a man to these people's assistance. 1906 *Daily Chron.* 18 Oct. 4/7 There is a tendency for age to stagnate a man's initiative, invention and energy.

4. To astonish, stagger. *dial.* and *U.S.*

1784 BELKNAP *Tour to White Mts.* (1876) 16 *note*, The most romantic imagination here finds itself surprized and stagnated. 1829 BROCKETT *N. C. Gloss.* (ed. 2), *Stagnate*, to astonish. 'I'll stagnate her wi' my story'. 1864 J. C. ATKINSON *Stanton Grange* 198 It was Bob's turn to be stagnated now.

Stagnated (stæg'nēitĕd), *ppl. a.* [f. STAGNATE *v.* + -ED 1.] Rendered stagnant.

1703 R. NEVE *City & C. Purchaser* 58 A stagnated Pool. 1733 W. ELLIS *Chiltern & Vale Farm.* 235 They can emit a stagnated pestiferous Vapour. 1746 W. THOMPSON *R. N. Adv.* (1757) 42 So hanging them up to be ready for salting, with the stagnated..Blood for the Salt to purge out. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* II. v. 183 Tainted or stagnated air..is often produced by the continuance of great heats. 1805 LOUDON *Improv. Hot-Houses* 74 Heat passes..through wood or stagnated air more slowly than through any other body. 1846 J. BAXTER *Libr. Pract. Agric.* (ed. 4) II. 75 This method sets the stagnated bed in a fermentation, which makes the moisture run out of it. 1873 RALFE *Phys. Chem.* 103 Owing to the escape of the free carbonic acid..from the stagnated fluids of the part, the calcium salt is precipitated.

Sta·gnatile, *a.* ? *Obs. rare.* [ad. late L. *stagnātilis* (Plinius Valerianus), f. L. *stagn-um* pool.] Of a bird: Stagnicolous.

1829 GRIFFITH tr. *Cuvier's Anim. Kingd.* VIII. 387 Stagnatile Snipe..*Totanus Stagnatilis*.

Stagnating (stæg'neitiŋ), *ppl. a.* [f. STAGNATE *v.* + -ING 2.] Becoming or remaining stagnant.

1678–9 NEWTON *Let.* 28 Feb. in Birch *Life Boyle* (1744) 235 The cause of filtration, and of the rising of water in small glass pipes above the surface of the stagnating water they are dipped into. 1707 FLOYER *Physic. Pulse-Watch* 16 It gives that motion to the stagnating Blood which shakes the Artery and distends it. 1715 DESAGULIERS *Fires Impr.* 136 The..unwholsomness of stagnating and vitiated Air. 1891 *Nature* 20 Aug. 370/2 A moory soil with stagnating and high-standing ground water. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* IV. 35 In stagnating bile the bile salts were apt to undergo decomposition.

b. *fig.*

1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. I. i, Some sharpness of temper, spurting at times from a stagnating character. 1848 GALLENGA *Italy* I. p. xxxii, The stagnating age that preceded the French revolution. 1905 A. I. SHAND *Days of Past* iii. 37 The dead-alive towns of stagnating Germany.

Stagnation (stægnēi·ʃən). [f. STAGNATE *v.*: see -ATION.]

1. The condition of being stagnant; an instance of this. **a.** of water or air.

1665 NEDHAM *Med. Medicinæ* 267 The Liquor is vindicated from Putrefaction, and Stagnation, that is to say, defect of motion. 1671 BOYLE *Three Tracts* III. 16 Sometimes at the Bottom of the Deep waters there seem'd to be a stagnation of the Sea for a great depth. *a* 1677 BARROW *Serm.* Wks. 1686 III. 205 If the water runneth, it holdeth clear, sweet, and fresh; but stagnation turneth it into a noisome puddle. 1702 SAVERY *Miner's Fr.* 74 Stagnation of air is the sole cause of this Inconvenience in Mines. 1783 JUSTAMOND tr. *Raynal's Hist. Indies* VIII. 82 A plain parcelled out and cut into channels by the stagnations of a small gulph, upon the slope of a low land. 1797 R. HERON *Scotland Descr.* 5 Some of them [i. e. the lakes] are formed by the stagnation of rivers in particular parts of their course. 1829 *Chapters Phys. Sci.* xiv. 147 Hydrostatics..denotes that science which treats of the mechanical properties of all fluids, considered more especially in a state of stagnation. 1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* I. 518 The chief injury now sustained by the soil of Scotland arises from the stagnation of rain-water upon an impervious subsoil.

transf. 1834 MARRYAT *P. Simple* xlvi, There appeared a total stagnation in the elements. 1913 *Times* 7 Aug. 8/4 The chances of the stagnation among the teeth of cereal food are enormous..Where coarse stagnation only was possible caries was far less frequent.

b. *Phys.* of blood, sap, etc. in a living body.

1707 FLOYER *Physic. Pulse-Watch* 65 They are subject to a Stagnation of Blood. 1816 T. A. KNIGHT in *Trans. Horticult. Soc.* II. 200 The stagnation in the branches and stock of a portion of that sap, which [etc.]. 1876 tr. *Wagner's Gen. Pathol.* 193 The causes of thrombosis consist either in stagnation of the blood, or in changes in the wall of the vessel.

attrib. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VI. 167 Thrombi attributed to slowing of the blood current..are called stagnation-thrombi.

2. *fig.* Unhealthy absence of activity, energy, etc.

1711 STEELE *Spect.* No. 260 P 1 The Decay of my Faculties is a Stagnation of my Life. 1732 in *10th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. I. 249 There will be a kind of Stagnation of all Business. 1798 SOPHIA LEE *Canterb. T., Yng. Lady's T.* II. 448 Such a collection of books as secured the mind from stagnation. 1869 TOZER *Highl. Turkey* I. 359 In an empire like Turkey..we see everywhere—neglect, stagnation, and decay. 1907 *Verney Mem.* I. 441 The dulness and stagnation of a French country town.

Stagnator. *nonce-wd.* [f. STAGNATE *v.* + -OR.] One who denies the motion (of the earth).

1863 DE MORGAN in *Athenæum* 10 Oct. 467/3 Any squarer of the circle,..constructor of perpetual motion, subverter of gravitation, stagnator of the Earth, builder of the universe, &c.

Stagnatory (stægnēi·tŏri), *a. Path.* [f. STAGNATE *v.*: see -ORY.] Produced by stagnation of the circulation.

1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 461 Hyperæmia is divided into two classes, congestive hyperæmia or erythema, and stagnatory hyperæmia or cyanosis. *Ibid.* 663 Unna..classifies it [i. e. fœtal ichthyosis) among 'stagnatory tumours'.

Stagnature. *nonce-wd.* [f. STAGNATE *v.* + -URE.] The state or condition of being stagnant.

1837 LOFFT *Self-formation* I. 122 You will find..his paper covered..with scratches, and blotches, and ink-puddles, signifying, by no obscure type, the coagulation and stagnature of his thoughts. *Ibid.* II. 106 Albeit the spirit may drag back and sink in stagnature.

† Stagne, *sb. Obs.* [a refashioning of *stang*, STANK *sb.*, after L. *stagnum* pond. Cf. OF. *stagne* (one example in Godef.).] A pond, esp. a fish-pond; also, a weir or dam. = STANK *sb.*

c 1470 HARDING *Chron.* IV. iii, They gatte eche daye with nettes,..The fyshe in stagnes. 1471 CAXTON *Recuyell* (Sommer) 38 Menerue..shewid her self in this tyme by the stagne or riuer callid triton by the gretenes and subtilte of her engyne. 1483 — *Golden Leg., St. Andrew* 83 b/2 After thys he called them the seconde tyme by the stagne of genezareth, whyche is named the see of galylee. 1512 *Helyas* in Thoms *Prose Rom.* (1828) III. 50 He arived nigh to a stagne or ponde where as he sawe vi. fayre swannes. 1562 *Act* 5 *Eliz.* c. 21 § 1 Noblemen..have..made..Pooles, Stagnes, Stewis, Motes, Pittes or Pondes for thonelye encrease of Fishe. 1627 H. BURTON *Baiting of Pope's Bull* To Rdr. 4 Becomming as a stagne or pond, not stirring, for feare of discovering mine owne filth. 1636 *5th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* 419/2 Bulkley..and Cheadle..have stayed and diuerted the said river by means of a stagne, placed across and athwart the stream. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.*, *Stagnes*, a statute term for pools of standing water.

† Stagne, *v. Obs. rare*—1. [ad. L. *stagnāre* to STAGNATE.] *intr.* To form a pool.

a 1552 LELAND *Itin.* (1769) V. 90 Thes Pooles for the most part in Morisch Groundes..dreane the moist Places about them, and so having no Place to issue owt stagne there.

Stagnicolous (stægni·kŏlŏs), *a.* [f. mod.L. *stagnicol-us* (f. L. *stagn-um* pool + *col-ĕre* to inhabit) + -OUS.] Of a bird: Living in or inhabiting stagnant water.

1891 in *Century Dict.*; and in later Dicts.

† Sta·gnize, *v. Obs. rare*—1. [f. L. *stagn-um* pool: see -IZE.] *trans.* To render stagnant: = STAGNATE *v.* 3.

1694 I. TURNER in *Phil. Trans.* XVIII. 16 The Blood in the Abdominal Vessels, had been stagniz'd for some time past.

‖ Sta·gnum. *Obs. rare.* [mod.L. use of L. *stagnum* pool.] The mercury-cistern of a barometer.

1705 ADDISON *Italy, Antiq. near Naples* 232, I borrow'd a Weather-glass, and so fix'd it in the Grotto, that the *Stagnum* was wholly cover'd with the vapour. *a* 1734 NORTH *Life Ld. Keeper Guilford* (1742) 293 This must draw down the Tube into the Stagnum, till so much of the Glass Tube is immersed, as shall answer that Encrease of Weight.

† Sta·gon, sta·ggon. *Obs. rare.* [a. late OE. *staggon* (12th c.) accusative of **stacga* STAG *sb.*1 Treated as mod. Eng. by Harrison and later writers.] A stag or staggard.

[1577 HARRISON *England* III. vii. 108 b/1 in *Holinshed*, The male of the red Deare was sometime called among the Saxons a staggon.] 1587 *Ibid.* III. iv. 226/1 In examining the condition of our red deere, I find that the yoong male is called in the first yeere a calfe..the fourth a stagon or stag.

Sta·gship. *nonce-wd.* [f. STAG *sb.*1 + -SHIP.] The condition, dignity or state of being a stag.

1899 *Academy* 7 Oct. 375/2 From his [a red deer's] baby calfhood up to the later years of the proud stagship.

Stagy, stagey (stēi·dʒi), *a.* [f. STAGE *sb.* + -Y.]

1. Of or pertaining to the stage; theatrical in appearance, manner, style, etc. (Chiefly in a depreciatory sense.) **a.** Resembling that used on the stage; dramatically artificial or exaggerated.

1860 *All Year Round* No. 71. 496 The foot-light air and stagey look which clings to the person of even the first tenor. 1862 F. W. ROBINSON *Owen* I. iii. 74 The woman..came hastily forth, and flung up both arms in rather a stagy manner. 1865 MEREDITH *Rhoda Fleming* xxii, He fooled and frowned like a stage hero in stagey heroics. 1882 J. C. MORISON *Macaulay* iv. 118 The stagey declamation which Macaulay has put into the mouth of Virginius.

b. Of a person: Given to the use or affectation of theatrical mannerisms in everyday affairs.

1864 F. W. ROBINSON *Mattie* III. 230 The Italian doctor was a man with a love of effect, one of those stagey beings whom we meet..more often on the Continent. 1870 LONGF. in *Life* (1891) III. 144 Lunched with Fields, to meet Fechter, the tragedian,—an agreeable man, and not at all stagey.

c. Of or pertaining to the stage. *rare.*

1895 MARIE CORELLI *Sorrows of Satan* XXX, Your place was the stage, Madam!..You would have..had as many lovers, stagey and private as you pleased.

2. Of a seal or its skin: Out of condition from undergoing the change of coat.

1885 *Times* 22 May 3/3, 183 Japanese 'stagey' or immature seal skins. 1898 D. S. JORDAN *Fur Seals* I. 65 The stagy season. Between the middle of August and the middle of October the adult animals shed their hair and get a new coat. During this season the skins of seals are said to be stagy, and they are not taken on land..It has been held by those interested that no stagy seals were found at sea.

Stagyrite, erroneous form of STAGIRITE.

Stahlian (stā·liăn), *a.* and *sb.* [f. the name of G. E. *Stahl*, a German chemist 1660–1734 + -IAN.]

A. *adj.* Pertaining to Stahl or his doctrines.

a 1790 CULLEN *Wks.* (1827) I. 405 The Stahlian principle. *Ibid.* 406 The Stahlian system. 1822–9 *Good's Study Med.* (ed. 3) II. 72 Hoffman..omitted the metaphysical part of the Stahlian hypothesis. 1832 J. THOMSON *Life* etc. *Cullen* I. 179 The Stahlian practice.

B. *sb.* A follower of Stahl; an animist.

a 1790 CULLEN *Wks.* (1827) I. 22, I am equally remote from the materialists on the one hand, and the Stahlians on the other. 1839 *Hooper's Lex. Med.* (ed. 7) 1217 The Stahlians are also called Animists, and their school is called the Dynamic school. 1876 F. H. BUTLER in *Encycl. Brit.* V. 461/1 The Stahlians, however, met the difficulty by declaring that substance [phlogiston] to be the principle of levity or negative weight.

Stahlianism (stā·liăniz'm). *rare.* [f. prec. + -ISM.] The theory of vital action and of disease propounded by Stahl, animism.

1855 DUNGLISON *Med. Lex.*, *Stahlianism*, the doctrine of Stahl, which considered every vital action under the direction and presidency of the soul.

Stahlism (stā·liz'm). *rare.* [f. *Stahl* (see STAHLIAN) + -ISM.] = prec. 1891 in *Century Dict.*

Staid (stēid), *a.* Forms: 6 sta(i)de, (steyed), 6–7 staied, stayd, 6–9 staid, stayed. [Adjectival use of *stayed*, pa. pple. of STAY *v.*]

1. Of beliefs, institutions, etc.: Fixed, permanent; settled, unchanging. Of a person's gaze: Fixed, set. Now *rare.*

1541 COPLAND *Guydon's Quest. Cyrurg.* Q iv, Than beholde ..yf his [the lazar's] loke be steyed and horryble [orig. *aspectus fixus & horribilis*]. 1559 FECKNAM in Strype *Ann. Ref.* App. IX. (1709) I. 24 Your Honours must observe which of bothe these is the most stayed Religion, and allwayes forthe one, and agreeable with it self. 1584 POWEL *Lloyd's Cambria* 20 This was a troublesome time and as yet no staied government established in Wales. 1611 SPEED *Hist. Gt. Brit.* IX. iii. § 2 The variable inclination of his owne mind carryed his actions past the limits of any staied compasse. 1863 COWDEN CLARKE *Shaks. Char.* xvi. 303 His staid opinion. 1867 MACGREGOR *Voy. Alone* (1868) 38 That staid glazy eye which a hard-worked seaman generally has.

b. Of persons: Settled in faith, purpose, etc. ? *Obs.*

1631 WEEVER *Anc. Funeral Mon.* 104 So stayed in sacred resolutions as was Henry the fourth. 1812 CARY *Dante, Parad.* V. 73 Be ye more staid, O Christians! not like feather, by each wind Removeable.

2. Settled in character; of grave or sedate deportment; dignified and serious in demeanour or conduct; free from flightiness or caprice.

a. of a person, his actions, attributes, etc.

1557 NORTH *Gueuara's Diall Pr.* Ded. A j, By his stayed life God hath bene glorified. 1574 HELLOWES *Gueuara's Fam. Epist.* (1577) 285 A physician that is learned, wise, stayed, and of experience. 1579 SPENSER *Sheph. Cal.* June 38 But ryper age such pleasures doth reproue, My fancye eke from former follies moue To stayed steps. 1620 SHELTON *Don Quixote* II. xlii. 273 Hee..with a stayed voyce [orig. *con reposada voz*] said: I giue infinite thankes, friend Sancho, that [etc.]. 1638 BP. MOUNTAGUE *Art. Eng. Norwich* B 1 b, For his person and deportment, is he [your Minister] stayed, grave, humble, modest [etc.]? 1709 STEELE *Tatler* No. 61 P 4 Not that she is against a more stay'd Conduct in others. 1756 WESLEY *Wks.* (1872) II. 360 The whole congregation appeared stayed and solid. 1807 CRABBE *Par. Reg.* I. 528 On widow fair and staid, He fixed his eye. *a* 1834 LAMB *Good Clerk* Misc. Wks. (1871) 386 His whole deportment is staid, modest, and civil. 1864 TENNYSON *En. Arden* 112 A grave and staid God-fearing man.

Comb. 1872 C. GIBBON *For King* iii, There spoke a lover, and not a staid-minded husband.

b. of things personified, their attributes, etc.

1622 DRAYTON *Poly-olb.* xxii. 18 Ouze hauing Ouleney past, From her first stayder course immediately doth gad. 1632 MILTON *Penseroso* 16 Ore laid with black staid Wisdoms hue. *a* 1839 PRAED *Poems* (1864) II. 335 Staid Order, gentle Peace, Twin-born of Justice, smiled.

c. of animals.

1618 BARET *Horsemanship* I. 13 There must be a time to reforme the will of the Horse, and after that to giue him a stayed body, and an euen carriage of the same. 1655 FULLER *Ch. Hist.* VI. 289 Thus husbandmen couple young colts with staid horses, that both together may draw the better. 1823 SCOTT *Quentin D.* ix, A staid and quiet palfrey.

d. Characterized by or indicating sedateness.

1567 DRANT *Horace, Art Poetry* A viij b, The stade Spondeus foote [*spondeos stabilis*]. 1820 L. HUNT *Indicator* No. 19 Prudence..Humanized into Pru. We suspect that these prodigiously staid names are apt to overshoot themselves, and disgust the possessor. 1865 LE FANU *Guy Deverell* xl. II. 169 Monsieur Varbarriere entered the staid mansion.

3. Of the intellect and intellectual operations: Sober, steady, well-regulated; free from extravagance or caprice.

1555 HOOPER in Coverdale *Lett. Martyrs* (1564) 160 Such as be of a right and stayed iudgement. *a* 1568 ASCHAM *Scholem.* II. (Arb.) 110 This exercise may bring moch profite to ripe heads, and stayd iudgementes. 1664 FLECKNOE *Discourse Engl. Stage* G 6, Wit being an exuberant thing.. but Judgement a stayed, and reposed thing. *a* 1676 HALE *Prim. Orig. Man.* I. ii. 57 Deliberation; a staid and attentive consideration of things to be known. 1870 J. BRUCE *Gideon* xiv. 246 A staid and considerate understanding.

Staid, Sc. f. STADE; pa. t. and pple. of STAY *v.*

Staidlin, variant of STADDLING *dial.*

Staidly (stēi·dli), *adv. rare.* [f. STAID *a.* + -LY 2.] In a staid manner; † constantly, fixedly (*obs.*); sedately, soberly.

1571 GOLDING *Calvin on Ps.* xxiii. 1. 85 Scarce the hundreth man keepeth himself stayedly in the feare of God. 1620 SHELTON *Don Quixote* II. xliii. 279 Walke softly, and speak stayedly. 1621 FLETCHER *Wild-Goose Chase* IV. ii, *Bel.* 'Tis well ye have manners: That Court'sie again, and hold your Countenance stai'dly; That look's too light. 1846 LANDOR *Exam. Shaks.* Wks. II. 263 His worship did look thereupon most staidly.

Staidness (stēi·dnĕs). [f. STAID *a.* + -NESS.] The quality or fact of being staid (see the adj.)

1. Stability, permanence, constancy.

1553 GRIMALDE *Cicero's Offices* I. (1558) 57 b, Wherof comes a great presumption that they haue no staiednesse. 1581 PETTIE tr. *Guazzo's Civ. Conv.* II. (1586) 95 b, Her stayednesse in sticking to her friends. 1594 T. B. *La Primaud. Fr. Acad.* II. 155 This facultie of the fantasie is ..so farre from stayednes, that euen in the time of sleep it hardly taketh any rest. 1613 J. DAVIES (Heref.) *Muse's Tears* Wks. (Grosart) I. 13/2 Good Kings are least alone, when most alone; For stillnesse is the staidnesse of their Throne. 1631 LENTON *Charact.* G 12, He is a man of *no* staidnesse, for he leaues a Rocke to build vpon the Sand. 1661 GLANVILL *Van. Dogm.* 111 That serenity and fixed stayedness, which is necessary to so seuere an intentness. 1710 PRIDEAUX *Orig. Tithes* App. *Reasons for Bill* 8 Before they have..stayedness of Mind to withstand Temptations.

2. Sobriety of character, manner, or conduct.

1561 HOBY tr. *Castiglione's Courtier* Vy 4 b, Staidenesse, noble courage [etc.]. 1571 GOLDING *Calvin on Ps.* xviii. 26. 62 His accustomed stayednesse. 1626 MIDDLETON *Anything for Quiet Life* I. i. 46 A matron's sober staidness in her eye. 1650 R. STAPYLTON *Strada's Low C. Wars* I. 19 His dexterity of wit, and staiedness of judgement, far riper then his years. 1685 CROWNE *Sir C. Nice* I. 5 Will you never learn staidness and gravity? *a* 1720 SEWEL *Hist. Quakers* (1795) I. 11 Endued with a gravity and staidness of mind, that is seldom seen in children. 1825 MRS. SHERWOOD *Old Times* I. 11 It compelled her to observe a stayedness of manner. 1842 BROWNING *In Gondola* 132 Where's a trace Of the staidness and reserve..In the same child's playing-face? 1884 MAY CROMMELIN *Brown-Eyes* iv. 42 A sweet staidness noticeable in all the women of Markeu.

Staie, obs. form of STAY *sb.* and *v.*

Staig, staige, Sc. and north. forms of STAG *sb.*[1]

Staigh(e, obs. forms of STAY *sb.*

Staik, Sc. form of STAKE *sb.* and *v.*

Stail(e, variant forms of STALE *sb. dial.* handle.

Staill(, Sc. variant forms of STALE *sb.* and *v.*

Staill, Sc. var. STALL *sb.*[4], obs. Sc. f. STELL *v.*

Stain (stān), *sb.* Also 6–7 **staine, stayne,** 7 **steine, steigne.** [f. STAIN *v.*]

†1. The action of staining; pollution, disgrace.

1563 GOOGE *Cupido* Eglogs etc. (Arb.) 114 Vnhappy wretche that wolde Haue forced the Ladye of this forte with stayne of Royaltie To haue consented to his wyll in fylthye Lecherye. 1587 GREENE *Euphues* Wks. (Grosart) VI. 174 The staine of the one did ad a disgrace to the glorie of the other. 1607 SHAKS. *Timon* v. i. 176 Giuing our holy Virgins to the staine Of contumelious, beastly..warre.

2. A discoloration produced by absorption of or contact with foreign matter; usually, one that penetrates below the surface and is not easily removable.

1583 L. M[ASCALL] *Prof. Bk.* 12 A good way to helpe all staynes in thinne silkes and woollen clothe. 1592 *Arden of Feversham* II. ii. 113 Seest thou this goare that cleaueth to my face? From hence nere will I wash this bloody staine, Til Ardens hart be panting in my hand. 1592 SHAKS. *Rom. & Jul.* II. iii. 75 Lo here vpon thy cheeke the staine doth sit, Of an old teare that is not washt off yet. *c* 1610 BEAUM. & FL. *Philaster* v. i. [iii], May their false lights..discover presses, holes, stains, and oldness in their Stuffs. 1687 A. LOVELL *Thevenot's Trav.* I. 53 If by mischance Wine should be shed upon their cloaths, the greatest Drunkard that is, endeavours to get out the stain. 1798 FERRIAR *Illustr. Sterne* iii. 57 He should produce the portrait..with all the stains and mouldiness of the last century. 1849 CUPPLES *Green Hand* xx. (1856) 193 Rusty stains at her hawse-holes. 1856 'STONEHENGE' *Brit. Rural Sports* I. I. i. § 4. 4/2 The coops ought to be moved daily, as the stain of the birds is injurious to them. 1877 'RITA' *Vivienne* II. iii, I have not even waited to remove the stains and dust of my long journey before coming to see you.

b. A mark or discoloration on the skin; a blotch or sore.

1595 SHAKS. *John* III. i. 45 If thou..wert grim Vgly..Full of vnpleasing blots, and sightlesse staines,..Patch'd with foule Moles..I would not care. 1611 — *Cymb.* II. iv. 139 You do remember This staine [a mole] vpon her? 1819 SHELLEY *Cenci* IV. i. 130 Let her food be Poison, until she be encrusted round With leprous stains! 1845 BUDD *Dis. Liver* 144 This [jaundice] had lessened a good deal, but there was still a light yellow stain of the skin. 1898 J. HUTCHINSON in *Arch. Surg.* IX. 334, I make him undress, and find him covered on limbs and trunk with blotches and papules and stains.

c. *Agric.* A spot (in an ear of corn) produced by mildew or damp.

1731 in *6th Rep. Dep. Kpr. Publ. Rec.* App. II. 119 A new Machine for cleaning Wheat..contrived to take away the stains, smut bags, and other trumpery.

d. *transf.* A spot or patch of colour different from the ground. Common in *Nat. Hist.*

In fine stain: said of garden flowers with the characteristic markings finely shown.

1704 POPE *Windsor For.* 145 Swift trouts, diversified with crimson stains. 1712 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 412 ₱ 5 Those different Stains of Light that shew themselves in Clouds of a different Situation. 1784 COWPER *Task* VI. 241 Not a flow'r But shows some touch, in freckle, streak, or stain, Of his unrivall'd pencil. 1842 *Florist's Jrnl.* (1846) III. 130 In the bed were several Claudianas in very fine stain. 1880 RUSKIN *Mod. Paint.* VI. x. § 25 V. 103 The gathering orange stain upon the edge of yonder western peak. 1890 R. BRIDGES *Shorter Poems* v. *Larks*, They In sunlight swim; above the furthest stain Of cloud attain.

†e. *fig.* A slight trace or tinge *of*. *Obs.*

1601 SHAKS. *All's Well* I. i. 123 You haue some staine of souldier in you. 1606 — *Tr. & Cr.* I. ii. 27.

f. *Hunting.* = FOIL *sb.*[4] (Cf. STAIN *v.* 4 d.)

1832 *Q. Rev.* XLVII. 238 A short check from the stain of sheep makes everything comfortable; and the Squire having hit off his fox like a workman, thirteen men [etc.].

3. *fig.* (Often in phrases like *to wash, purge a stain.*) a. A morally defiling effect on the character or conscience; a grave blemish on a person's reputation; a mark of infamy or disgrace, a stigma.

1591 SHAKS. *1 Hen. VI*, IV. v. 42 Thy Fathers charge shal cleare thee from y[t] staine. 1593 — *Lucr.* 1701 How may this forced staine be wip'd from me? 1598 R. BERNARD tr. *Terence, Phormio* v. ii, Studying to avoid the staine of niggardlines. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* (1637) 525 A right ancient race of the Digbyes, which..hath now caught a deepe steine by Sir Everard Digby drawne into that cursed crew. *c* 1610 *Women Saints* 55 Washing away the staynes of secular pleasures with flouds of teares. 1632 MILTON *Penseroso* 26 His daughter she (in Saturns raign, Such mixture was not held a stain). 1640 NABBES *Unfort. Mother* IV. G 1, A truth cleere as the innocence Of babes: after the holy ceremony Hath purg'd th' originall staine. 1781 COWPER *Expost.* 74 Till penitence had purg'd the public stain. 1800 MAR. EDGEWORTH *Moral T., Prnss. Vase* (1816) I. 224 No stain affixes to his honour from the accusation. 1838 JAMES *Robber* v, He would never speak so boldly and so tenderly of his mother, if there were any stain upon her name. 1871 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* (1876) IV. xviii. 143 The probable stain on their birth could hardly be thrown in their teeth in the days of William the bastard. 1882 J. H. BLUNT *Ref. Ch. Eng.* II. 484 But the stain of blood could not be washed out.

b. A person or thing that causes disgrace. Now *rare* or *Obs.*

1589 NASHE *Anat. Absurd.* Wks. (Grosart) I. 35 To send them to some other mechanicall Arte, that they might not thus be the staine of Arte. 1591 SHAKS. *1 Hen. VI*, IV. i. 45 Staine to thy countrymen, thou hear'st thy doom. 1598 BRANDON *Octavia* II. C 5, Stain of thy sexe, thy poisoned speech surcease.. 1602 FULBECKE *Pandectes* vi. 31 b, Antiphon that vicious varlet, and steigne of Athens. 1649 DAVENANT *Love & Hon.* III. ii. 85 Hence from my sight, Thou birth ill gotten, and my marriage stain. 1725 POPE *Odyss.* XVIII. 4 A surly vagrant.., The stain of manhood.

†c. One who eclipses or casts into the shade.

a 1586 SIDNEY *Arcadia* I. xiv. (1912) 95 Hereby I will..lead her that is the prayse, and yet the staine of all womankinde. 1592 SHAKS. *Ven. & Ad.* 9 Staine to all Nimphs, more louely then a man. 1605 EARL STIRLING *Alex. Trag.* III. ii, My sonne that was the glorie of his time, Staine of times past, and light of times to come.

†4. *Her.* (See quot.; and see STAINAND *a.*). *Obs.*

1586 FERNE *Blas. Gentrie* I. 163 Notwithstanding I do with the french men, condemne the two last colours: that is to say, Tawney and sanguine, as no colours. But we will vouchsafe, to haue them called staines.

5. *Glass-painting.* (See quot. 1832.)

1832 G. R. PORTER *Porcelain & Gl.* xiv. 298 There are only three colours..which can be floated on, and which are called stains to distinguish them from others which must be laid on by the strokes of a brush. These stains are orange, red, and lemon-yellow. *Ibid.*, Orange stain...In floating this stain upon the glass, a large camel-hair pencil..must be used. 1838 *Civil Engin. & Arch. Jrnl.* I. 156/1 The stains are then put in, with the lights and shadows in enamel, and again passed through the fire.

6. A dye or colouring matter used in staining.

a. A liquid preparation used to colour wood, etc., differing from paint in being thinner, and in being absorbed into the pores of the material instead of forming a coating. (See also quot. 1880.)

1758 [DOSSIE] *Handmaid Arts* 435 A bright red stain for wood. 1875 E. A. DAVIDSON *House-painting*, etc. 364 The stain is to be applied with a sponge or large brush. 1880 *Cooley's Cycl. Pract. Receipts* (ed. 6) II. 1552 Stains, Confectioner's. *Ibid.* These stains are also used for cakes and pastry. 1895 ELEANOR ROWE *Chip Carving* 73 Should a very large quantity of the stain be required it would be cheaper to purchase the colours in powders. *Ibid.* 74 French polish must be used for oil-stains, but for water-stains..wax and turpentine are simpler.

b. A dye or pigment used to render minute and transparent structures visible, or to differentiate tissue elements by colouring, for microscopic observations; or to produce specific microchemical reactions.

1880 GIBBES *Histol.* 23 Some tissues take in the stain very rapidly, others slowly. 1881 W. B. CARPENTER *Microscope* § 202 (ed. 6) 248 A good blue stain..is also given by the substance termed Indigo-Carmine. 1900–13 DORLAND *Med. Dict.* (ed. 7) 893/2 Anilin blue-black, an anilin dye used as a stain for the study of the central nervous system.

7. *attrib.* and *Comb.* as in *stain reaction, -spot*; *stain-bemoaned* adj.; †**stain-cloth** = STAINED *cloth.*

a 1711 KEN *Hymnarium* Poet, Wks. 1721 II. 79 Before the Judge enthron'd, Plead my Guilt, self-condemn'd, and *stain-bemoan'd. 1547 in *Archæol. Cant.* (1874) IX. 226 Item rec. of James Lake for a *staynе clothe that he bought, xvjd. Item rec. of John Sharpe for iij stayne clothes that he bought, xvjd. 1553–4 in Swayne *Sarum Churchw. Acc.* (1896) 98 Mr. Shorte ffor a stayne cloth iiij[d]. 1839 *Penny Cycl.* XV. 428/2 The effect of it [mosaic] may be obtained, and the beauty of its patterns produced, in stain-cloth flooring. 1898 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* V. 413 *Stain reactions of the blood in diabetes. *a* 1670 HACKET *Life Abp. Williams* (1693) I. 159 But rip up all his Actions..shew any *Stain-Spot in his Fidelity.

Stain (stān), *v.* Forms: 4–6 **steyne,** 5–6 **steyn, stene,** 6 **steane,** 6–7 **stane,** 7 **stein**; 5 **stenyyn,** 6 *Sc.* **stenzie, stainyie, steinzie, steingyie, staingze, stinzie**; 5–6 **stayne,** 6 **staine,** 6– **stain.** [aphetic a. OF. *desteign-, desteindre* (mod. F. *déteindre*), f. *des-* DIS- + *teindre* to dye: see DISTAIN *v.*, which appears in our quots. at the same time as the aphetic form. The vb. in Fr. and in the other Rom. langs. has only its etymological sense 'to remove the dye from', intr. 'to lose colour, fade, be washed out'. Some of the Eng. senses, both of *stain* and *distain*, are difficult to account for; it is possible that in AF. the prefix *des-* in *desteindre* may sometimes have been taken in the sense 'diversely, differently'; it is also possible that the verb of Fr. origin may have coalesced with an adoption of ON. *steina* to paint, f. *stein-n* paint, prob. identical with *steinn* stone.]

†1. *trans.* To deprive of colour. *Obs.*

[1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 65 Whan his visage is so desteigned.] *c* 1477 CAXTON *Jason* 42 b, I haue a seknes and maladye right secrete which shal first slee me er my face may be stayned or discouloured. 1530 PALSGR. 734/1, I stayne a thynge, I marre the colour, or glosse of it, *je destayns.* 1589 LODGE *Scillaes Metam.* E 2 b, Whereas vermillion hue Is stained in sight.

†b. Of the sun, etc.: To deprive (feebler luminaries) of their lustre. Also *fig.* of a person or thing: To throw into the shade by superior beauty or excellence; to eclipse. *Obs.* (Very common in the 16th c.)

1557 *Tottel's Misc.* (Arb.) 163 For here at hande approcheth one Whose face will staine you all. *a* 1586 SIDNEY *Arcadia* III. (1598) 344 O voice that doth the Thrush in shrilnesse staine. *c* 1586 C'TESS PEMBROKE *Ps.* LXXII. viii, The sunne..all lights shall stayne. 1608 TOPSELL *Serpents* 94 In largenesse of body and greatnes of his hart..he staineth all the rest. 1610 *Histrio-mastix* III. 137 This those excells as farre As glorious Tytan staines a silly Starre. 1613 HEYWOOD *Braz. Age* II. ii, How hath thy valour with thy fortune ioyn'd, To make thee staine the generall fortitude Of all the Princes we deriue from Greece. 1642 FULLER *Holy & Prof. St.* IV. ix. 282 He stains all other mens lives with the clearnesse of his own. *a* 1649 CRASHAW *Carmen Deo Nostro* Wks. (1904) 254 Thy Son Whose blush the moon beauteously marres And staines the timerous light of stares.

†c. To obscure the lustre of. *lit.* and *fig. Obs.*

1589 GREENE *Menaphon* (Arb.) 81 Sweete Natures pompe, if my deficient phraze Hath staind thy glories by too little skill, Yeeld pardon. 1594 J. DICKENSON *Arisbas* (1878) 41 A small cloude in a cleare day may somewhat stayne, not wholy stop the Sunnes light. 1596 DALRYMPLE *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* II. 45 O Detestable personnis, quha sa bricht a lycht blew out, stinzeit sa honorable an ornament! 1634 PEACHAM *Compl. Gentl.* i. (1906) 10 Thirdly, whether Poverty impeacheth or staineth Nobility. 1657 AUSTEN *Fruit Trees* II. To Rdr., God..is pleased to staine the pride of men.

†2. *intr.* To lose colour or lustre. *Obs.*

1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) II. 15 Þe redenesse þerof is wonder fyn and stable, and steyneþ neuere wiþ colde ne with hete. *a* 1568 *Sat. Poems Reform.* xlviii. 15 My clayth will nocht stenzie, Suppois ze weit it nycht and day. 1579 LYLY *Euphues* (Arb.) 82, I finde it nowe for a setled truth.. that the purple dye will neuer staine, that the pure Cyuet will neuer loose his sauour [etc.]. *a* 1609 SHAKS. *Sonn.* XXXIII, Suns of the world may staine when heauens sun staineth. 1614 T. GENTLEMAN *England's Way* 42 Wet and cold can not make them shrinke nor staine, that the North-seas.. haue dyed in graine, for such purposes.

3. Of something dyed or coloured: To impart its colour to (something in contact). Also in wider use (e. g. said of a chemical reagent), to alter the colour of (something to which it is applied).

[Cf. F. *déteindre sur quelque chose.*]

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 473/2 Steynyn, or stenyyn, as clothe þat lesythe hys coloure, *fuco, proprie in tertia persona tantum.* 1553 EDEN *Treat. New Ind.* (Arb.) 22 *Lacha, Laccæ* or *Lacta*, which steyneth silke and cloth in high redde or crimison coloure. 1566 DRANT *Horace, Sat.* II. iv. H j b, To rubbe thynges with thy purple cloth, I wis it wouldе them steane. 1567 MAPLET *Gr. Forest* 37 Celedonie is an Herbe ..whose flower..dyeth and stayneth the gatherers hande. 1576 FLEMING *Panopl. Epist.* 382 His lippes are alwayes staynd with the Juice of Bacchus his berries. 1583 L. M[ASCALL] *Prof. Bk.* 14 Against clothes staynde with wine or vineger. 1750 *Leonardus' Mirr. Stones* 145 It stains the encircling air with its greenness. 1838 T. THOMSON *Chem. Org. Bodies* 790 Sap of the *musa paradisica*..stains linen. 1844 G. BIRD *Urin. Deposits* (1857) 188 Several calculi..with layers of urate of ammonia deeply stained with purpurine. 1901 TROWBRIDGE *Lett. her Mother to Elis.* ii. 5 The rouge on her neck had stained her collar.

absol. 1805 WITHERING tr. *Werner's Ext. Char. Fossils* 191 Solid fossils that stain are not very common. 1887 'MARK RUTHERFORD' *Revol. Tanner's Lane* ii. (ed. 8) 31 Tea doesn't stain; I hope it has not gone on your coat.

b. with complement denoting colour.

1750 *Apol. Life B. M. Carew* xi. (ed. 2) 132 They paint themselves with a Pecone-Root, which stains them of a reddish Colour. 1827 FARADAY *Chem. Manip.* xii. (1842) 280 Paper stained yellow by rhubarb. 1844 G. BIRD *Urin. Deposits* (1857) 443 Urates, stained pink with purpurine. 1863 LYELL *Antiq. Man* xi. 203 There were many human bones, in old Indian graves in the same district, stained of as black a dye. 1900–13 DORLAND *Med. Dict.* (ed. 7) s. v. *Stains*, Ehrlich's triacid stain..stains erythrocytes orange. 1912 W. G. SMITH in *Man* XII. 197 It [the flint] is white in colour, but in parts very slightly stained ferruginous from adjacent red clay.

c. *transf.* Of the blood: To suffuse with colour. Also in *passive*, to be (naturally) spotted or streaked with colour.

1557 SURREY in *Tottel's Misc.* (Arb.) 6, I know how that the blood forsakes the face for dred: And how by shame it staines again the chekes with flaming red. 1567 MAPLET *Gr. Forest* 76 He is bespotted and stayned dyuersely with diuers colours in a maner like ye Libard. 1768 STERNE *Sent. Journ.* (1778) II. 81 (Passport), That..which stains thy face with crimson, to copy in even thy study. 1831 JAMES *Phil. Augustus* I. iv, His blue eyes would have been fine..had they not been..stained, as it were on the very iris, by some hazel spots in the midst of the blue.

d. *intr.* To absorb colouring matter, take a stain.

1877 HUXLEY & MARTIN *Elem. Biol.* 8 The protoplasm

stains brown; the rest of the cell remains unstained. 1879 *St. George's Hosp. Rep.* IX. 691 They were of a very faintly granular appearance, staining feebly with log-wood. 1880 GIBBES *Histol.* 23 When the sections appear to have stained thoroughly remove them.

4. *trans.* To damage or blemish the appearance of (something) by colouring a part of its surface; to discolour by spots or streaks of blood, dirt, or other foreign matter not easily removed. In poetic use occasionally: To colour, defile (a river) with blood.

1382 WYCLIF *Gen.* xxxvii. 31 Thei token the coote of hym, and in the blode of a kyde that thei hadden slayn steyneden [Vulg. *tinxerunt*]. *c* 1450 *Merlin* xxvii. 554 He and his horse were steyned with blode as he hadde fallen in a blody river. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* III. i. 55 The blak droppis of bluide Distillit thairfra, that all the erd quhar it stuide Was spottit of the filth, and stenyt, alaik. 1535 COVERDALE *Isa.* lxiii. 3 And their bloude sprange vpon my cloothes, & so haue I stayned all my rayment [So later versions]. *Ibid.* lxiv. 6 All oure rightuousnesses are as the clothes stayned with the floures of a woman. 1538 ELYOT *Dict., Squalco*, to be..soiled or stainid with som vnclene thing. 1596 SPENSER *F. Q.* III. iii. 22 Those same antique Peres..Which Greeke and Asian riuers stained with their blood. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* III. 742 Scarcely the Knife was redden'd with his Gore, Or the black Poison stain'd the sandy Floor. 1718 ROWE tr. *Lucan* I. 550 See what Reward the grateful Senate yield, For the lost Blood which stains yon Northern Field. 1774 J. BRYANT *Mythol.* II. 214 The birds were found to return with their feet stained with soil. 1792 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Rom. Forest* viii, Upon a closer view it was spotted and stained with rust. 1839 DICKENS *Nich. Nick.* viii, The walls were stained and discoloured. 1879 FARRAR *St. Paul* (1883) 402 That bent and weary Jew..so stained with the dust of travel.

† **b.** To spoil (hay, grain) with damp. *Obs.*

1787 WINTER *Syst. Husb.* 229 My barley, which was stained by the inclemency of the season in 1785, I had ground. *c* 1830 *Glouc. Farm Rep.* 15 in *Libr. Usef. Knowl., Husb.* III, The hay that has got stained.

† **c.** To spoil by intermixture. *Obs.*

1575 GASCOIGNE *Glasse Govt.* II. Chor., Wks. 1910 II. 43 Such wicked meanes, malitious men can make The frutfull seede, with worthles weedes to stayne.

d. *Hunting.* = FOIL *v.*[1] **2.**

1798 *Sporting Mag.* XI. 87 The ground so stained by running the foil that the scent lay with no certainty. 1897 *Encycl. Sport* I. 583/1 *Stained*, injured as regards scent by the previous passage of hounds, horses, or of cattle, &c.

5. *fig.* **a.** To defile or corrupt morally; to taint with guilt or vice.

1446 LYDG. *Nightingale P.* i. 287 Moch peple viciously Were in this age..thorgh theire vice destreied sore & steyned. 1570 GOOGE *Pop. Kingd.* I. 8 b, Lest that he shoulde be periurde calde, and staynde with heresie. 1657 *Attest. Innocency Zach. Crofton* 14 A Master of a family this twelve year, or thereabouts, never stained with the least disorder or incivility. 1777 W. CAMERON in *Sc. Paraphr.* XVII. vii, Though your guilty souls are stain'd with sins of crimson dye. 1847 YEOWELL *Anc. Brit. Ch.* x. 104 The British kings were stained with every vice. 1841 ELPHINSTONE *Hist. India* II. 649 Intrigues and combinations, which were stained with treachery and assassinations.

† **b.** To impair the beauty or excellence of. *Obs.*

1575-85 ABP. SANDYS *Serm.* xiii. 219 Ought not we to doe the best we can to cast out all that steineth and marreth the perfect beautie of his Church? 1584 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* III. 702 To blott and stainyie the gude word of God. 1633 P. FLETCHER *Purple Isl.* II. xv, Which my rude pencil will in limming stain.

c. To be or inflict a permanent reproach to or stigma upon; to blemish, soil (a person's reputation, honour, conscience, etc.); † to charge *with* something disgraceful. Also *intr.* of the conscience: † To suffer stain.

1513 MORE *Rich. III* (1883) 76 With which infami he wold not haue his honoure stayned for anye crowne. 1540-1 ELYOT *Image Gov.* 32 If a knight..had used any unseemly thyng, appairing or steyninge the estimacion of the degree, whiche he represented. 1577 KENDALL *Flowers of Epigr.* 102 Thei would not haue y' Popedome staynde, with any more Pope Iones. *a* 1605 MONTGOMERIE *Misc. Poems* ii. 5 Conscience stenzies if he steill. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* (1637) 545 Shee that by her light behaviour had not a little steined her good name. 1678 DRYDEN *All for L.* III. i. 44, I have..stain'd the glory of my Royal House. 1682 FOUNTAINHALL *Hist. Observes* (Bannatyne Club) 80 It was also at this tyme..designed to stain him with briberie. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 17 Oct. 1644, This beautiful Citty [Genoa] is more stayn'd with such horrid acts of revenge.. than any one place in Europ. *a* 1763 W. KING *Polit. & Lit. Anecd.* (1819) 166 The bloody executions which he [Augustus] ordered..must stain his memory as long as his name shall be remembered. 1797 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Italian* iii, One who did not scruple to stain the name of the innocent. 1869 FARRAR *Fam. Speech* i. 28 One of the most infamous and arbitrary acts which stain the name of Napoleon. 1879 FROUDE *Cæsar* vii. 63 He won for himself a reputation which his later cruelties might stain, but could not efface.

d. Often used with double metaphor, esp. with reference to 'blood' = bloodguiltiness.

1577-87 HARRISON *England* II. xxi. (1877) I. 335, I held it unworthie that anie good man should staine his paper with such frivolous matters. *a* 1615 MURE *Wks.* I. 23 O spair In guiltles blood thy hands to stayne! 1700 PRIOR *Carmen Sec.* iii, Holding his Fasces stain'd with Filial Blood. 1865 KINGSLEY *Herew.* xxxiii, 'Heaven forbid,' he said, 'that the Church should stain her hands with the blood of the worst of sinners.' 1868 J. H. BLUNT *Ref. Ch. Eng.* I. 365 After Wolsey's fall, every week of Henry's reign was stained with the blood of his subjects.

† **e.** *To stain* (a person's) *blood*: (*a*) to prove (him) of base descent; (*b*) to cause 'corruption of blood' (see CORRUPTION 2 b). *Obs.*

1568 GRAFTON *Chron.* II. 530 If he sayde contrarie, he.. slaundered his mother, shamed himselfe, and steyned his blood. 1628 [see CORRUPT *v.* 1 b]. 1679 [see ATTAINT *v.* 6]. 1766 BLACKSTONE *Comm.* II. xv. 252 The doctrine of escheat upon attainder,..is this: that the blood of the tenant, by the commission of any felony..is corrupted and stained.

† **f.** To vilify in words, abuse. *Obs.*

c 1450 *Cov. Myst.* (Shaks. Soc.) 385 Thorow here fayre speche oure lawys they steyn. 1642 H. MORE *Song of Soul* II. I. ii. 41 The busie soul thus doth her reason strain To write or speak what envious tongue may never stain. 1691 *d'Emilianе's Frauds Rom. Monks* 63 The Officer very dexterously and freely stain'd the Priest with his Tongue.

† **g.** To 'obfuscate', make tipsy. *Obs.*

1614 B. JONSON *Barth. Fair* I. iii, Why? we were all a little stain'd last night, sprinckled with a cup or two.

† **6.** To ornament with coloured designs or patterns. *Obs.*

1426-7 *Rec. St. Mary at Hill* (1905) 64 Payd for betyng & steynynge of þe same penouns, vj s. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 473/2 Steynyn, as steynyowrys, *polo*. 1466 in *Archæologia* L. 42 Item j Rydyl steyned wt a chalix and the figur of the sacrament on hyt and ij angell. 1482 *Cely Papers* (Camden) 118 The cortens be stayned bot on the ton syde. 1488 in *Archæologia* XLV. 117 Item, ij Clothes for the sepulchre, oon with the Passion and the other steyned full of whyte leves. 1506 in G. Oliver *Lives Bps. Exeter*, etc. (1861) 359, 1 front de lineo, stayned cum scriptura 'Honor Deo'. 1 front cum tuello annexo, stayned cum Crucifixo, Maria et Johanne, Petro et Paulo. 1555 in Feuillerat *Revels Q. Mary* (1914) 181, v longe garmentes the vpper Bodyes vpper baces of white cloth of syluer stayned with Collours. 1615 G. SANDYS *Trav.* 133 The brests of divers [mummies] being stained with Hieroglyphicall characters.

absol. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 225, I wol me noght therof excuse, That I with such colour ne steyne.

† **b.** To depict in colour. *Obs.*

1519 *Registr. Aberdon.* (Maitland Club) II. 174 Ane grite arres bed..with þe kingis armes and bischoipe Willeam Elphinstone's stenzeit be [blank]. *a* 1642 KYNASTON *Leoline & Syd.* 1820 A carpet..On which the hyacinth and narcissus blue So naturally were stain'd, as if they grew.

fig. 1569 G. B. *Shippe Safegarde* D vij b, A follie therefore were it here for me, To touch that he with pencell once did staine.

7. To colour (esp. textile fabrics, paper, wood, stone) by the application of pigment that more or less penetrates the substance instead of forming a coating on the surface, or by means of chemical reagents. In microscopical and histological research: To colour (tissues, etc.) with some pigment so as to render the structure clearly visible.

1655 TERRY *Voy. India* iii. 115 That pretty art of staining, or printing and fixing those variety of Colours in that white Cloth, the People of Asia have engrossed to themselves. 1660 F. BROOKE tr. *Le Blanc's Trav.* 44 There are also made Calicoes, stained of divers colours. 1675 COVEL in *Early Voy. Levant* (Hakl. Soc.) 236 Her nails were stein'd (as the custome is here) with *aleanna* of a golden red. 1712 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 5018/4 Any Person who..shall Print, Paint, or Stain, any Paper to serve for Hangings. 1712 *Ibid.* No. 5025/2 Any Person who shall Print, Paint, Stain or Dye any Callicoes, Silks or Stuffs. 1799 G. SMITH *Laboratory* I. 338 An artificial marble formed by staining white marble with corrosive tincture. 1799 *Med. Jrnl.* I. 204 Experiments, made by Professor Beckmann, on staining wood. 1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 398 Magistery of bismuth is sometimes mixed with pomatum for the purpose of staining the hair of a dark colour. 1873 J. MATTHEWS *T. Davis's Prepar. Microsc. Obj.* (ed. 2) 8 The tissue may be subsequently stained with iodine. 1881 YOUNG *Ev. Man own Mechanic* § 1638. 731 Let us see what wallpaper is and how it is painted or technically speaking 'stained'. 1891 FARRAR *Darkn. & Dawn* vii, There were rolls of vellum or papyrus, stained saffron-colour at the back. 1892 *Photogr. Ann.* II. 455 Finished in an altogether superior style..and the whole stained and varnished in imitation mahogany, 21/-.

b. To colour (glass) with transparent colours. Also *rarely* to depict in stained glass.

1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) VII. 779/1 The first thing to be done, in order to paint or stain glass..is to design..the whole subject on paper. 1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 757 Of the Colours used in staining Glass. 1832 G. R. PORTER *Porcelain & Gl.* xiv. 289 The invention of the art of painting on and staining glass..is..known to have existed for many centuries. 1893 KATH. L. BATES *Engl. Relig. Drama* 26 Some Christian hero, whose martyrdom was stained in window, carved in canopy.

Stain, obs. form of STONE.

Stainable (stē·năb'l), *a.* [f. STAIN *v.* + -ABLE.] Capable of being stained. Hence **Stainabi·lity.**

1884 *Proc. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist.* XXIII. 59 Two substances, one readily stainable, and one staining with difficulty. 1885 *Encycl. Brit.* XIX. 833/1 A very simple homogeneous corpuscle or vesicle of more readily stainable protoplasm. 1890 *Lond. Med. Recorder* 20 Apr. 144/2 Sometimes they appear in greater numbers within the nuclei, which thereby are puffed up and lose their stainability. 1898 P. MANSON *Trop. Diseases* viii. 148 Those [plague bacilli] occurring in the blood..are stainable by Gram's method.

† **Stainand,** *a. Her. Obs.* Also 6 **staynand,** 7 **staynant,** 7, 9 **stainant.** [app. a pres. pple. of STAIN *v.* (either northern ME. or repr. OF. *desteignant*).] An epithet of certain colours.

The precise sense and correct application are very doubtful, most of the successive writers having apparently copied from their predecessors with little understanding. The Book of St. Albans (quot. 1486 s.v. STAINING *ppl. a.*) seems to use 'steining colowre' for any tincture (whether 'colour' or 'metal') which presents a uniform tint in contradistinction to spots, etc.; according to this authority the 'steining' colours are the only ones that may appear on the shield of a gentleman. On the other hand, according to Legh (1562), 'staynande' colours are those which may *not* be used in armory; *tawny* or *tenné*, being the 'surest' of all the mixed colours, is the only one of them that is not 'staynande'; we may perhaps hence infer that Legh took the adj. to mean 'fugitive' (cf. STAIN *v.* 2), or rather 'indeterminate'. Guillim (1610) says that some heralds disallow the use of *tawny* and *murrey* (or *sanguine*) for fields, regarding them as 'staynande' (Ferne in 1586 speaks of these two as 'stains', not colours), but it is not clear how he interpreted the adj. The later notion that *staynand* means 'disgraceful', designating tinctures that are used for the purpose of 'abatement', appears to be entirely unfounded.

1562 LEGH *Armory* 19 Tawney,..blazed by thys woorde, Tenne. It is a worshipfull colour..But very fewe Englishe men beare the same. Yet it is armorye, and so are all coloures, that are not staynandes. *Ibid.* 19 b, Tenne..is the surest colour..beeyng componed. For it is made of two bryghte coloures, whiche is Redde, and Yellowe. And ye shall not haue any colour so made emongest all y^t may be deuysed, and not to be staynande. 1610 GUILLIM *Heraldry* I. iii. 11 [Copies Legh and continues thus:—] The last of the seuen mixed colours, we doe commonly call Murrey, but in Blazon, Sanguine, and is (as most truly saith Leigh) a Princely Colour, being indeed one of the colors appertaining of ancient time to the Prince of Wales..Some Heralds of approued iudgement doe hardly admit these two last mentioned for Colours of Fields, in regard they are reckoned Staynand Colours. 1658 PHILLIPS, *Stainand*-colours, in Heraldry are tawney and murrey. 1673 A. WALKER *Lex Lachrym.* 25 Though a rough Herald would have found blots enough in Abner's Scutcheon, and a rude Pencil would have painted it with staynant Colours, or a Scotch Coal. 1689 SMITHURST *Britain's Glory* 167 *Tenne*, Orange Colour; a Colour Stainant. 1845 LOWER *Curios. Heraldry* 313 The stainant or disgraceful colours, tenné and sanguine.

Stainch, obs. Sc. form of STANCH *v.*

Stainchell, obs. Sc. form of STANCHEL[1].

Staincher, var. STANCHER[2].

Staine, obs. form of STONE.

Stained (stēⁱnd), *ppl. a.* [f. STAIN *v.* + -ED[1].]

1. Discoloured with blood, dirt, etc.; having stains or blemishes. Also *fig.*, tainted with guilt, disgraced, etc. Often in comb. with a prefixed sb., as BLOOD-STAINED, EARTH-STAINED, GUILT-STAINED, TRAVEL-STAINED, etc.

1382 WYCLIF *Isa.* lxiii. 1 Who is this that cam fro Edom, with steyned clothes from Bosra? 1538 ELYOT *Dict., Infectus*, infected, dyed, stayned, poysoned. 1592 *Arden of Feversham* III. vi. 85 Then softly drawes she foorth her handkercher, And modestly she wypes her teare staind face. 1607 LEVER *Crucifix* (Grosart) 49 O what is man whome Thou regardest so! A stayned cloth, a beauty withered. *a* 1628 F. GREVIL *Monarchy* ccccclxxiv, Let Princes..Reform that common stained Discipline, Which is the Base of unprosperity. 1889 *Hardwicke's Sci. Gossip* XXV. 228/2 The chalk is full of iron-stained fissures. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 701 Patches of stained skin may be due to various local irritants.

† **2.** Ornamented with pictures or designs in colour: esp. in *stained cloth. Obs.*

1397 in *Finchale Priory Charters* etc. (Surtees) p. cxvii, Item j lectus stewynd cum tapete. 1413-14 *Durham Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 224 Cum 2 steyned clothes emptis pro dicta capella. *c* 1449 PECOCK *Repr.* II. xviii. 258 In this steyned clooth ridith Hector of Troie; and here in this steyned clooth King Herri leieth a sege to Harflew. 1463 *Bury Wills* (Camden) 23 The steynyd clooth of the Coronacion of oure lady. *c* 1474 *Invent.* in *Paston Lett.* III. 407 Item, vj. steyned paperis, xij d. 15.. in *Northumbld. Househ. Bk.* (1770) 440, 1 Steyned Cloth of the Ymage of St. Nicholas. 1552 in Daniel-Tyssen *Invent. Ch. Goods Surrey* (1869) 15 Item one roode cloth of stayned canvas. 1627 BP. HALL *Charac. Virtues & Vices* I. 181 He can make his cottage a Mannor;..his staind-cloth Arras. 1696 *MSS. Ho. Lords* (N.S.) II. 238 The wearing of wrought Silks, Bengals, and dyed, printed, or stained Calicoes, imported into the kingdom.

† **b.** *Comb.* (Cf. PAINTER-STAINER). *Obs.*

a 1618 J. DAVIES (Heref.) *Wit's Pilgr.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 96/2 Beauty..is the Signe where Grace doth vse to lie But if thrust out, the Inne is most amisse..And hath but meerely stained-painted Walls.

3. Coloured with liquid pigments that penetrate below the surface.

1562 J. HEYWOOD *Prov. & Epigr.* (1867) 179 Walles, Som seeld,..som painted, som staind. 1712 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 5025/2 Such Printed, Painted, Stained or Dyed Silks. 1884 *Health Exhib. Catal.* 38 The stained leather is then taken to the drying-rooms [in glove-manufacture].

b. Prepared with a staining preparation, esp. for microscopic observation.

1889 *Hardwicke's Sci. Gossip* XXV. 31/1 A double stained-section of the plane wood. 1890 *Ibid.* XXVI. 101/2 Stained human muscle. 1899 tr. *Jakseh's Clin. Diagn.* viii. (ed. 4) 407 Such forms [of microbe] are to be discriminated by the behaviour of stained preparations in the presence of alcohol.

4. *Stained glass*: transparent coloured glass, formed into decorative mosaics, used in windows (esp. of churches). Also, less correctly, glass which has been decorated with vitrified pigments. See also *stained window.*

1791 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Rom. Forest* ii, Whose pointed arches still exhibited fragments of stained glass. 1834 L. RITCHIE *Wand. by Seine* 159 The stained windows are very beautiful. 1859 GULLICK & TIMBS *Painting* 136 *Stained* glass must not be confounded with *painted* glass. In stained glass the colouring is not superficial, but pervades the substance of the glass. 1890 W. J. GORDON *Foundry* 142 The making of stained windows.

fig. 1909 J. WELLS *Stewart of Lovedale* iii. 18 Though a zealous idealist, he did not look at present things through the stained glass of the imagination.

attrib. 1838 *Civil Engin. & Arch. Jrnl.* I. 155/2 The present want of encouragement to the stained glass artist. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 1159 Stained-glass pigments. 1849 ROCK *Ch. of Fathers* I. v. (1903) I. 280 Our stained-glass windows. 1881 W. S. GILBERT *Patience* II. (*Song, Bun-*

thorne), I am not fond of uttering platitudes In stained-glass attitudes.

Stainer (stē·nəɹ). Forms: 4–6 **steynour**, 5 **staynour, stener, stenyoure**, 6 **steyner**, 6–7 **stayner**, 6– **stainer**. [agent-n. f. STAIN *v.*: see -OR 2 b, -ER 1.]

1. One whose employment is staining; one who colours wood, etc. with pigments which penetrate below the surface; †a worker of 'stained cloths' (see STAINED *ppl. a.* 2). See also PAINTER-STAINER, PAPER-STAINER.

1388 WYCLIF *Exod.* xxxv. 35 That thei make the werkis of carpenter, of steynour [Vulg. *polymitarii*], and of broiderere. *c* 1430 LYDG. *Min. Poems* (Percy Soc.) 81 Peyntour, steynour, mason, nor carpentere. 1471 *Little Red Bk. Bristol* (1900) II. 131 John Sutton, Goldsmyth, and John Body, Staynour. 1489 *Acc.* in Sharp *Cov. Myst.* (1825) 196 Paid to the stener for workemanship ther-off [buckram for standards], x s. viij d. *a* 1513 FABYAN *Chron.* VII. 364 The tayllours helde ye craft of stayners. 1538 ELYOT *Dict.*, *Rhyparographus*, a paynter of tryfles, a Stayner. 1589 LODGE *Scillaes Metam.* Ep. Ded., From the shop of the Painter, shee is falne into the hands of the stainer. 1712 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 5018/4 All Printers, Painters and Stainers of Paper. *Ibid.* No. 5025/2 Silks, Callicoes, Linens and Stuffs which shall..be in the Possession of any private Painter, Stainer or Dyer to be printed.

2. One who or something which stains or calumniates.

1647 J. NORRIS (*title*) A Lash for a Lyar; Or, The Stayner Stayned, Being An Answer to a false and scandalous Pamphlet.

3. A tincture of colouring matter used in staining.

1891 in *Century Dict.*

Hence †**Stai·neress**, a female stainer.

c 1430 *Pilgr. Lyf. Manhode* III. xxvii. (1869) 150 þis hand is a steynowresse of corteynes and a makere. [A mistranslation; the orig. has *estendresse* stretcher.]

Stai·nful, *a. rare*—1. [f. STAIN *sb.* or *v.* + -FUL.] Polluting, disgraceful.

1765 J. BROWN *Chr. Jrnl.* 55 Where the thoughtless fops keep their stainful plays.

Staining (stē·niŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. STAIN *v.* + -ING 1.] The action of the verb STAIN, in various senses; also *concr.* a result of this action.

1382 WYCLIF *Job* xxviii. 19 Ne ther shal be maad euene to it topasie of Ethiope, ne to the most clene steynyng [Vulg. *tincturæ mundissimæ*] shal be comparisound 1530 RASTELL *Bk. Purgat.* III. viii. 2 The spottes and tokens of the steynynge whych remayne be than a great deformyte and eye sore. *c* 1586 C'TESS PEMBROKE *Ps.* LI. i, Clense still my spotts, still wash awaie my staynings. 1630 *R. Johnson's Kingd. & Commw.* 598 Their Painting is meere steyning or trowelling in respect of ours. 1652 CULVERWEL *Lt. Nature* xv. (1661) 128 Far be it from me to drop one word, that should tend to the staining, and eclipsing of that just glory. 1799 G. SMITH *Laboratory* II. 79 This method of using watercolours is called painting; the other is called washing, or staining [*i.e.* tinting]. 1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 753 The colouring of maps is in fact only a species of staining. 1842 LOUDON *Suburban Hort.* 529 The wood ..is well adapted..for staining. 1871 *Amer. Encycl. Printing* (ed. Ringwalt), *Staining*, in bookbinding, the coloring of the edges, fly-leaves, and backs of books, either in solid shades, or in the process styled marbling. 1881 W. B. CARPENTER *Microscope* § 202 (ed. 6) 247 For blue and green staining, the various Aniline dyes are principally used. 1907 J. A. HODGES *Elem. Photogr.* (ed. 6) 70 A more or less deep staining of the film results.

†**b.** A pigment used for staining. *Obs.*

1541 *Aberdeen Reg.* (1844) I. 175 Item, ane galkoit of stenyng, the price x s.

c. *attrib.*

1870 POWER tr. *Stricker's Man. Histol.* I. Introd. p. xxxiii, The staining fluid. 1880 GIBBES *Histol.* 22 Of the staining agents, logwood is the most useful. 1884 *Health Exhib. Catal.* 38 Photograph No. 3 shows the men at work at the staining tables, and a portion of the staining room [glove-manufacture].

Staining (stē·niŋ), *ppl. a. rare.* [f. STAIN *v.* + -ING 2.] That stains, in senses of the verb.

For the use in quot. 1486 see STAINAND *ppl. a.*

1486 *Bk. St. Albans, Her.* b iij b, A gentilman mai not wear tokynys of armys bot of steining colowre, that is to say his cootarmure ynyat or ellis y geratt with preciouse stonys. 1601 SHAKS. *All's Well* III. vii. 7, I..would not put my reputation now In any staining act. 1789 J. WILLIAMS *Min. Kingd.* I. 386 The better species of iron ores are generally accompanied with red staining soft soil, by which they are easily distinguished. 1880 MEREDITH *Tragic Com.* (1881) 281 She had no feminine horror of the staining epithet for that sex.

Stainless (stē·nlĕs), *a.* [f. STAIN *sb.* + -LESS.] Without stain, spot, or blemish. **a.** *lit.*

a 1586 SIDNEY *Arcadia* II. xi. (1912) 221 The Phœnix wings are not so rare For faultlesse length, and stainelesse hewe. 1613–16 W. BROWNE *Brit. Past.* II. iii. 61 The Hare-bell for her stainlesse azur'd hue, Claimes to be worne of none but those are true. 1813 SHELLEY *Q. Mab* vi. 7 The stainless mirror of the lake Re-images the eastern gloom. 1867 AUGUSTA WILSON *Vashti* XXXV, Robed in a soft stainless white muslin.

b. *fig.*

1592 SHAKS. *Rom. & Jul.* III. ii. 13 Learne me how to loose a winning match, Plaid for a paire of stainlesse Maidenhoods. 1602 — *Twel. N.* I. v. 278 Of fresh and stainlesse youth. 1743 FRANCIS tr. *Hor., Odes* III. ii. 17 With stainless Lustre Virtue shines. 1814 BYRON *Lara* II. viii, But that long absence from his native clime Had left him stainless of oppression's crime. 1819 CRABBE *Tales of Hall* VIII. 231 The very care he took to keep his name Stainless. 1889 BARRIE *Window in Thrums* 176 Leeby, that stainless young woman. 1893 *Cath. News* 11 Nov. 2/3 The stainless Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Hence **Stai·nlessly** *adv.*, **Stai·nlessness.**

1862 *Edin. Rev.* CXVI. 200 When the divorce was threatened, she again avowed her affection for Königsmark, and offered to take the sacrament on its stainlessness. 1882 FARRAR *Early Chr.* I. 106 To represent the Christian Church as ideally pure, as stainlessly excellent and perfect, would be altogether a mistake. 1887 *Academy* 1 Jan. 16/3 Purity of heart, absolute stainlessness of soul.

Stainy (stē·ni), *a. rare.* [f. STAIN *sb.* + -Y.] Like a stain or something stained. Hence **Stai·niness.**

1864 MRS. A. GATTY *Parab. Nature* Ser. IV. 23 The beets had an odd stainy look. 1905 HOLMAN-HUNT *Pre-Raph.* I. 276 To correct the qualities of thinness and staininess which, over a dry ground, transparent colours would exhibit.

Stainyell, Sc. var. STANIEL (bird).

Stair (stēəɹ), *sb.* Forms: 1 **stæger**, 2–5 **steire**, 4–5 **steier** (5 **steiar**), 4 **steygere**, 4–6 (9 *dial.*) **steyre**, 5–6 **steyr**, 4–6 **steyer**, 6 **steare, stare**, (7 **starre**), 6–7 **steer**(e, 4–8 **stayer** (6 **staigher, staygher**, 7 **stayor**), 4–7 **stayre**, 5–7 **stayr**, 6 **staier**, 5–7 **staire**, 6– **stair**. [OE. *stæger* fem. :—OTeut. type **staigrī*, f. **staig-* : **stīg-* to climb: see STY *v.* Cf. (M)Du. *steiger* (WFlem. *steeger* staircase), LG. *steiger*, *steger* masc., scaffolding, landing-stage.]

1. An ascending series or 'flight' of steps leading from one level to another, esp. from one floor to another in a house; a staircase.

Still the ordinary use in Scotland, where 'up the stair', 'down the stair' are the usual equivalents for *upstairs, downstairs*, and '(to go up) six stairs' means what in England would be expressed by 'six flights of stairs'. (The whole series of steps between two successive floors counts, however, as a single 'stair', even when it consists of two or more 'flights' or portions separated by a landing.) In England the sing. in this sense is now very rare, exc. in phr. *on the stair*, which is itself slightly archaic.

c 1000 ÆLFRIC *Gloss.* in Wr.-Wülcker 126/9 *Ascensorium*, stæger. *c* 1000 — *Saints' Lives* (Skeat) v. 438 Sebastianus ..astah þa up to þære stægre þe stod wiþ ðæs caseres botl. *Ibid.* xviii. 232 He feoll of anre stægre, and forþy gelæg. *c* 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 165 þis holie maiden..þo hie was þreo 3ier heold, [steȝh] biforen þe temple on þe steire of fiftene stoples..wiðute mannes helpe. *c* 1374 CHAUCER *Troylus* II. 813 Adoun þe steyre a-noon right þo she wente. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) III. 115 [Tarquinius] þrewe hym doun of a staire [L. *per gradus*]. 1427 *Rec. St. Mary at Hill* (1905) 66 For a mason & his man a day to make a stayer with iij stappes, xij d ob. 1449 in *Cal. Proc. Chanc. Q. Eliz.* (1830) II. Pref. 54 To the seid hous shullen be ij covenable steiers, þe on ledyng up from the ground in to þe furst flore, and that other [etc.]. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* VI. 248 The scherand suerd glaid til his coler bayne, Out our the stayr amang thaim is he gayne. *a* 1490 BOTONER *Itin.* (1778) 176 A hygh grese called a steyr of XXXII steppys. *a* 1500 *Chaucer's Dreme* 1311, I..walkt..Til I a winding staire found. 1503 HAWES *Examp. Virt.* VII. cl, Than hardynes and fortune went downe the stayre. 1551 ASCHAM *Let.* 23 Feb., Wks. 1865 I. II. 280 The houses be eight or nine stairs high, that a wonderful number of people may look out of windows. 1597 DRAYTON *Heroic. Epist., Q. Isab. to Mortimer* 39 Forth from my Pallace by a secret staire, I steale to Thames. 1632 in *10th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. v. 480 The stayer of [the] little gate, and the stayer on the north syde of the greate gate. 1730 A. GORDON *Maffei's Amphith.* 290 A Stair of 20 Steps. 1755 JOHNSON s.v., *Stair* was anciently used for the whole order of steps; but *stair* now, if it be used at all, signifies, as in Milton, only one flight of steps. 1771 SMOLLETT *Humph. Cl.* 1 July, There were two stairs in the house. 1781 J. MOORE *View Soc. Italy* (1790) I. v. 53 The principal entrance is by a spacious stair called the Giant's stair. 1823 P. NICHOLSON *Pract. Build.* 441 A stair contained within a circular or elliptical wall is called a winding stair. 1831 SCOTT *Cast. Dang.* xvii, At length she became sensible that he descended by the regular steps of a stair. 1832 MACGILLIVRAY *Trav. Humboldt* xxiv. 372 A great stair of 57 steps conducts to the truncated summit. 1849 M. ARNOLD *Sick King Bokhara* 220 While I speak, O King, I hear the bearers on the stair. 1859 TENNYSON *Marr. Geraint* 320 High above a piece of turret stair..wound. 1907 *Verney Mem.* I. 3 A concealed door leading to a small private stair.

†**b.** Vaguely used for: Something on which one ascends. *Obs.*

13.. *Disput. Mary & the Cross* 77 in *Min. Poems Vernon MS.* 614 Cros! he stikeþ nou on þi steir, Naked azeyn þe wylde wynde.

†**c.** A ladder. *Obs.*

a 1400–50 *Wars Alex.* 1438 Sum stepis vp on sties to þe stone wallis, On ilka staffe of a staire stike wald a cluster. 1567–9 JEWEL *Def. Apol.* IV. vii. § 3 (1611) 376 *Cum Papa per Scalam ascendit*, &c. When the Pope taketh his staires to mount on Horsebacke.

d. *fig.* A means of ascending in rank, power, moral excellence, etc.

1570–6 LAMBARDE *Peramb. Kent* (1826) 422 Now hath he climbed the seconde steppe of this staire to the crowne. 1621 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Superbiæ Flagellum* D 6 Humility is a most heauenly gift, The Stayre that doth (to Glory) men vp lift. 1627 E. F. *Hist. Edw. II* (1680) 9 Caring not what succeeds, so he may make it the Stair of his Preferment. 1677 GILPIN *Demonol.* (1867) 397 Pride was the stair by which he knew they must ascend to it.

†**e.** An ascending series, scale. *Obs.*

1643 SIR T. BROWNE *Relig. Med.* I. § 33. 73 There is in this Universe a Staire, or manifest Scale of creatures, rising not disorderly..but with a comely method and proportion.

2. One of a succession of steps leading from one floor of a building to another.

Occurring earliest in figurative uses: see **d.**

1530 PALSGR. 275/1 Stayre or grece, *degré*. 1555 EDEN *Decades W. Ind.* III. xi. 150 To the fyrste porches of their houses..they ascend by ten or twelue steares. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* I. 145, I ascended the same by two hundred and forty staires of marble. 1624 WOTTON *Archit.* I. 57 That the breadth of euery single Step or Staire bee neuer lesse then one foote. 1846 DICKENS *Pict. Italy, Rome* 226 This man touched every stair with his forehead. 1854 tr. *Hettner's Athens* 8 The roof [of the Propylæa] is in ruins,..the stairs are scattered about in isolated fragments.

†**b.** A step of a ladder. *Obs. rare.*

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* C. 513 Wymmen vnwytte þat..Bitwene þe stele and þe stayre disserne noȝt cunen.

†**c.** Applied to a step cut in rock, to one of the successive levels in the ascent of a pyramid, etc.

1471 CAXTON *Recuyell* (Sommer) 330 They fonde a rooche entaillid and cutte in to steyers or grees..hewyd out with chyselles. 1584 B. R. tr. *Herodotus* II. 104 They deuised certayne engines..to heaue vp stones from the grounde to the fyrst stayre. 1600 PORY tr. *Leo's Africa* V. 240 They descend by certaine staires hewen out of the rocke.

†**d.** *fig.* A step or degree in a (metaphorical) ascent or in a scale of dignity. *Obs.*

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 284 Þolemodnesse..haueð þreo steiren—heie, & herre, & alre heixt, & nexst þe heie heouene. 1549 LATIMER *2nd Serm. bef. Edw. VI* (Arb.) 67 The thyrd stayer is thys. How shal they beleue in hym of whom they neuer heard? 1628 EARLE *Microcosm., Child*, The elder he growes, hee is a stayer lower from God. 1640 FULLER *Joseph's Coat* (1 Cor. xi. 21) 27 So *Summa hilaritas*, is *Ima ebrietas*, the highest staire of mirth, is the lowest step of drunkennesse.

†**e.** A high position. *Obs.*

1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* I. ii. 23 My dearest Lord fell from high honours staire Into the hands of his accursed fone. 1627 MAY *Lucan* V. 441 And..yields at the peoples prayer To be dictator, honour's highest staire.

†**f.** A degree of a circle. *Obs.*

c 1374 CHAUCER *Compl. Mars* 129 He passeth but a steyre in dayes two.

3. *collective plural* (of sense 2). = sense 1. Also, in generalized sense, the steps of staircases. (In the latter use, the plural of sense 2 coincides in application with that of sense 1, and in many examples it is difficult to determine which of the two was intended by the writer.)

Pair, flight of stairs: see PAIR *sb.*1 6 b, FLIGHT *sb.*1 7. *Back stairs*: see BACKSTAIRS. *Above, below stairs*: see the preps. *Down, up stairs*: see DOWNSTAIRS, UPSTAIRS.

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XVII. CLXV. (1495) 710 Thina ben certen trees..and therof Salomon made steyers and grece [Vulg. *gradus* 2 Chron. ix. 11] and postys [Vulg. *fulcra* 3 Kings x. 12] in the house of our lorde. *c* 1489 CAXTON *Blanchardyn* XLVII. 180 [They] brought her doun the stayers of the paleys. 1556 in W. H. Turner *Select. Rec. Oxford* (1880) 247 The..Coroners wer not thrust downe the stayers. 1565 COOPER *Thesaurus* s. v. *Conjicio*, *Sub scalas tabernæ librariæ se conjcere*, to hyde him selfe vnder the stayers. 1577–82 BRETON *Flourish upon Fancie* (Grosart) 21/1 Why didst thou throw him downe the Steares in such a sorte? 1631 GOUGE *God's Arrowes* IV. § 15. 395 The whole garret..and top of staires were as full as could be. 1660 F. BROOKE tr. *Le Blanc's Trav.* 313 Not able to rest for ratlings and jinglings, both upon the stairs and in the Chamber. 1711 HEARNE *Collect.* (O. H. S.) III. 237 At the bottom of the Stayers. 1711 W. SUTHERLAND *Shipbuild. Assist.* 65 In lieu of such Stairs most Ships..have only Ladders. 1712 J. JAMES tr. *Le Blond's Gardening* 126 The first Figure is the great Stairs in the Garden..at S. Cloud. 1768 STERNE *Sent. Journ.* (1778) II. 44 (Address) The secretary look'd towards the stairs, as if he was about to leave me. 1825 T. HOOK *Sayings* Ser. II. *Passion & Princ.* IX. III. 154 At the foot of the stairs, the company was joined by Mr. Rodney. 1839 *Lamartine's Trav.* 116/1 Not far from the entrance of the temple, we found large openings and subterranean stairs which led us into lower constructions.

transf. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* III. 510 The Stairs were such as whereon Jacob saw Angels ascending and descending.

†**b.** construed as *sing.* A flight of steps, a staircase. *Obs.*

1536 *MS. Rawl. D. 780* lf. 62 Makyng of a new stayers for the Colehouse. 1565 COOPER *Thesaurus, Gradus*,..a griese or steppe: a stayres. 1663 GERBIER *Counsel* 23 The composing of a fit and easy Staires being a Masterpiece. 1697 EVELYN *Architects & Archit.* Misc. Wks. (1825) 378 The perpendicular post of a winding staires. 1776 S. J. PRATT *Pupil of Pleas.* II. 242 It is a good way to any bed-chamber, and the stairs is steep. 1830 JAMES *Darnley* XXVI, He led the way up a little narrow stairs.

c. *fig.* and in fig. context; *esp.* applied to the means by which a person rises in rank or power. Now *rare* or *Obs.*

1576 GASCOIGNE *Steele Gl.* 16 Which..make my backe, a ladder for their feete, By slaundrous steppes and stayres of tickle talke, To clyme the throne, wherin my selfe should sitte. 1600 HEYWOOD *If you know not me* (1605) A 3 b, The suffolke men my Lord, was to the Queene The very stayres, by which she did ascend. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* (1637) 397 Tyrants very often hew downe the staires and steps whereby they ascended. 1631 R. BOLTON *Comf. Affl. Consc.* XIV. (1635) 299 In a word to climbe up more merrily those staires of joy which are prest upon us by the holy Prophet. 1642 FULLER *Holy & Prof. St.* IV. iii. 249 By the stairs of a Parsonage or two he climbed up at last into the notice of FOX, Bishop of Winchester. 1648 J. BEAUMONT *Psyche* VIII. CXXXVII, By Virtue's daily Progress they shall build Up to the gate of Bliss their mystick stayers.

†**d.** *Dutch stairs*: app. a light winding staircase. *Obs.*

1649 in *Archæologia* X. 411 A roome within the turret of the west stayres, having a payre of round Dutch stayres, arising into the very midle of it. 1701 FARQUHAR *Sir H. Wildair* II. i, My bones ache this morning as if I had lain all night on a pair of Dutch stairs.

†**e.** Applied to the outside steps leading to the door of a building. *Obs.*

c 1481 CAXTON *Dialogues* 14/32 So goo to the halle Whiche is in the market; So goo vpon the steyres [Fr. *sy montes les*

degrets]; There shall ye find the clothes. 1548 UDALL *Erasm. Par., Acts* xxi. 31–6 As Paule came to the stayghers of the castell. *Ibid.*, The multitude..folowed, euen to the veray staighers of the castell.

4. *pl.* (rarely † *sing.*). **a.** A landing-stage, esp. on the Thames in and near London.

1517 in *Archæologia* XLVII. 312 For makyng of an upright steyer of assheler from the Themys as highe as the grounde afore the wacchehouse. 1555–6 in Feuillerat *Revels Q. Mary* (1914) 202 The blacke fryers stayre. 1598 DRAYTON *Heroic. Epist., El. Cobham to Duke Humph.* 54 When my Barge was launched from the stayre. 1643 BAKER *Chron., Hen. III*, 125 He commanded to be set ashore at the next Staires. 1687 LOVELL *Thevenot's Trav.* I. 20 This Town hath two and twenty Gates,..five on the streight of the Propontis, having all their landing Places and Stairs. 1698–9 *Act* 11 *Will. III*, c. 21 § 4 The said Rulers..shall..appoint the Watermen..Stairs and Places of plying..betweene Gravesend and Windsor. 1801 STRUTT *Sports & Past.* II. ii. 71 A vessel is moored at a distance from the stairs. 1904 A. GRIFFITHS *50 Yrs. Publ. Serv.* xiv. 205 Just opposite, on the riverside, were the Millbank stairs.

b. A flight of stone steps, or a steep lane or alley with steps at intervals, forming a passage from one street to another at a different level.

1585 T. WASHINGTON tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* IV. xv. 129 b, You doe discend by a faire stare, about 3. quarters of a myle. 1649 W. G. *Surv. Newcastle* 20 Neer this Street is two wayes which goes down into the Close, the long Staires and Tudhill Staires.

5. *attrib.* and *Comb.* **a.** simple attrib. as *stair-arch, -baluster, -carpet, -carpeting, -door, -newel, -rail, -top*, etc.; *stair-like* adj.; *stair-wise* adv.; *stair-builder, -building, -climbing*. (Rarely *stairs-*.)

1883 *Good Words* July 422/1 Marvellous 'bits' of broken *stair-arches. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade*, **Stair-baluster manufacturer*. 1859 EASTERBROOK & MONCKTON (*title*) American *Stair Builder. 1892 *Nation* (N. Y.) 11 Aug. 99/2 Two stairbuilders from Boston. 1900 W. & A. MOWAT (*title*) A Treatise on *Stairbuilding and Handrailing. 1834 DICKENS *Sk. Boz, Boarding-ho.* ii, Mending a piece of *stair-carpet off the first landing. 1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib., Brit.* II. No. 4237 Twilled *stairs carpeting. 1874 H. H. COLE *Catal. Ind. Art S. Kens. Mus.* 249 Piece of stair-carpeting. 1898 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* V. 893 All *stair-climbing being strictly forbidden. 1891 MEREDITH *One of our Conq.* XXV, A slam of the kitchen *stair-door restored her. 1896 A. MORRISON *Child Jago* i. 9 [He] climbed and reckoned his way up the first *stair-flight. 1848 RICKMAN *Archit.* 154 Windows in staircases, or *stair-lights, are also of a distinct character in all styles. 1863–65 J. THOMSON *Sunday at Hampstead* vii, Broad terrace-gardens *stairlike sank away. 1876 HARDY *Ethelberta* xx, She leant against the *stair-newel. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* lxvi, The narrow *stair passage. 1846 DICKENS *Cricket on Hearth* i, Deal doors, dressers, *stair-rails, bedposts. 1802 G. COLMAN *Br. Grins, Elder Bro.* (1819) 125 Being much nearer the *stair top. 1542 UDALL *Erasm. Apoph.* 50 b, The places, where open fightes wer exhibited, wer made circlewise round about with settles or benches of marble, *staier wise one aboue an other. 1871 W. KAY *Psalms* 403 The rhythmical structure of these Psalms [cxx. to cxxxiv] (in which one line is built up upon another stair-wise).

b. Special comb.: **stair-beak**, a Brazilian bird of the genus *Xenops*; **stair-cloth**, a fabric for covering stairs; **stair-maid**, a maid-servant employed about the staircase in an hotel; **stair-pit** *Mining* (see quot. 1883); **stair-rod** (see quot. 1858); † **stairs-shell** ? = *staircase-shell*; † **stair-shide**, ? a side-piece for a stair-case; **stair-step** *sb.*, one of the steps in a flight of stairs, also *attrib.* in *stair-step curve*; **stair-step** *v.*, to furnish with a range of steps; **stair-tower**, a stair-turret; **stair-tree**, † (*a*) the sloping timber on or in which the ends of the steps of a wooden staircase are fixed; (*b*) (see quot. 1688); (*c*) a tree with steps in it to serve as a staircase; **stair-turret**, a turret with a staircase in it; **stair-wire**, a slender stair-rod of metal; **stair-work**, work made or done on or in connexion with stairs. See also STAIRCASE, STAIR-FOOT, STAIR-HEAD, STAIRWAY.

1869–73 T. R. JONES *Cassell's Bk. Birds* III. 19 The *Stair-beaks (*Xenops*) are a group of Brazilian birds. 1771 MRS. HAYWOOD *New Present* 254 If hair *stair-cloths are used. 1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib., Brit.* II. No. 4247, Floor-cloths, table-covering, and stair-cloths. 1895 *Daily News* 13 Feb. 10/7 Basementmaid or *Stairmaid..in hotel or business house. 1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-mining*, **Stairpit*, a shallow shaft or staple in a mine fitted with a ladder or steps. 1887 MCNEILL *Blawearie* 95 We descended a stair-pit and breathed the peculiar air of the mines. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade*, **Stair-rods*, metal rods, usually of brass, fixed in eyes, to secure and keep a stair-carpet smooth in the bend of each step. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* IV. 298/2 Stair rods are of solid iron, plated. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* VII. 10 The *Stairs shell. 1477–9 *Rec. St. Mary at Hill* (1905) 85 For ij pecis for *Steir shides, vj d. 1833 LOUDON *Encycl. Archit.* § 1089 Soles and lintels, *stair-steps, crow-steps. 1904 *Brit. Med. Jrnl.* 10 Sept, 568/1 The neutralization, instead of the stair-step curve, as used by Ehrlich in his spectrum, could be represented by a very regular curve. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. i. xi, Then our huge pyramidal Fatherland's-Altar, *Autel de la Patrie*, in the centre, also to be raised and *stair-stepped. 1886 STEVENSON *Kidnapped* iv. 32 The key of the *stair-tower at the far end of the house. 1374 in Willis & Clark *Cambridge* (1886) I. 238 Ac etiam steires et *steyretres. 1688 HOLME *Armory* III. 340/2 The Stair Tree is the Post on which the Wheel [of the windmill] turns. 1848 tr. *Hoffmeister's Trav. Ceylon*, etc. xi. 437 The houses rest on basements of masonry, and the ascent to the low door-way is by means of a stair-tree. 1854 PETIT *Archit. Stud. France* 73 The western piers are carried up and form *stair-turrets. 1834 DICKENS *Sk. Boz., Boarding-ho.* i, The very *stair-wires made your eyes wink, they were so glittering. 1611 SHAKS. *Wint. T.* III. iii. 75 This [child] has beene some *staire-worke, some Trunke-worke, some behinde-doore-worke. 1903 *Daily Mail* 11 Sept. 2/7 Many wives stay indoors more than they would through being tired by stair work.

† **Stair,** *a. Obs.* exc. *dial.* In 4 **stayre**, 4–5 **staire**, 9 *dial.* **stair, steer**, etc.: (see *Eng. Dial. Dict.*) [OE. **stæger* (in comb. *wiðer-stægre* 'prerupti', *Voc. c* 1050 in Wr.-Wülcker 470):—OTeut. type **staigrjo-*, f. **staig-*: see STAIR *sb.*] Steep.

a 1175 *Twelfth Cent. Hom.* (E.E.T.S.) 110 þe wæȝ is swiðe heah & swiðe stæȝer þe lædeþ us to heofene. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* A. 1022 Þise twelue de-gres wern brode & stayre. *a* 1400–50 *Wars Alex.* 4828 Till he was comen till a cliffe at to þe cloudis semed, þat was so staire & so stepe þe store me tellis. 16.. *As it befell one Saturday* 26 in *Percy Fol. MS.* (1867) I. 244 As I went vp Kelsall wood, & vp that banke that was soe staire, I looked ouer my left sholder where I was wont to see my deere.

† **Stair,** *v.*[1] *Obs. rare.* [perh. f. STAIR *sb.*]

1. *trans.* To ascend.

a 1400–50 *Wars Alex.* 3923 Stayrand on þe staunke þe stour to asaill. *Ibid.* 4834 With þat stairis he forth þe stye þat streȝt to þe est.

2. *trans.* To make in the form of stairs.

? *a* 1412 LYDG. *Two Merchants* 635 Though to richesse ther be no grees i-steyred Tascenden vp.

† **Stair,** *v.*[2] *Obs. rare. north.* and *Sc.* [? a. ON. **steyra* (mod.Norw. *steyra* to prick), f. *staur-r* stake.] *trans.* To thrust (a person) *through*; to thrust (a weapon, etc.) into a person or thing.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 7667 Dauid him gleud wit his harp, þe king þan hent a sper scarp To stair him thoru vnto þe wau. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* III. iv. 56 All bair Full prevalie thair swerdis in thai stair. *Ibid.* XII. v. 197 On ane altar a birnand schyde hes hynt, And gan it rycht amyd his vissage stair, That blesit vp his lang berd of hair.

Stair, obs. form of STAR *sb.*[2]

Staircase (stēə·rkēs). [f. STAIR *sb.* + CASE *sb.*[2]]

1. Originally, 'The inclosure of a pair of Stairs, whether it be with Walls, or with Walls and Railes and Bannisters, &c.' (Moxon *Mech. Exerc.*, 1679, p. 172); now usually a flight (or sometimes a whole series of flights) of stairs with their supporting framework, balusters, etc.

1624 WOTTON *Archit.* I. 57 Of Staire-cases. 1634 BRERETON *Trav.* (Chetham Soc.) 32 Here is a dainty stair-case, there being two pair of stairs which come out of the hall. 1726 LEONI *Alberti's Archit.* I. 17 b, Stair-cases therefore are of two sorts..that which has no Steps, but is mounted by a Sloping Ascent, and the other is that which is mounted by Steps. 1762 J. WESLEY *Jrnl.* 29 Mar., Who lived in the same staircase with me at Christchurch. 1777 ROBERTSON *Hist. Amer.* II. VII. 297 The ascent to it was by a stair-case of a hundred and fourteen steps. 1823 P. NICHOLSON *Pract. Build.* 184 The wall which supports the ends of the steps is called the stair-case. 1826 LAMB *Elia* Ser. II. *Pop. Fallacies* xi, The true Lady Marys and Lady Bettys..are consigned to the staircase and the lumber-room. 1848 DICKENS *Dombey* xliii, Florence..crept down the staircase. 1878 BROWNING *La Saisiaz* 15 Till the landing on the staircase saw escape the latest spark.

b. *transf.*

a 1668 LASSELS *Voy. Italy* (1698) I. 46 When we came to Mount Sampion, one of the great stair-cases of Italy, we were forced..to go afoot. 1687 LOVELL *Thevenot's Trav.* I. 140 This Stair-case hath been made very easie to go down and up, for the convenience of the Oxen that go down to labour. 1781 GIBBON *Decl. & F.* xix. II. 156 A secret.. staircase, scooped out of the rock that hangs over the stream of the Tigris. 1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* II. xi. 290, I therefore took my axe,..and cut an oblique staircase up the wall of ice.

c. *fig.*

1641 BAKER *Apol.* 19 Doth not the whole staire case by which all Learning..is ascended up by, lye open before them? 1650 FULLER *Pisgah* IV. i. 17 Climax the mountain.., whose figure like that figure in Rhetorick ascends like a staire-case by degrees.

† **2.** = *staircase-shell* (in 4). *Obs.*

1713 PETIVER *Aquat. Anim. Amboinæ* Tab. ii, *Buccinum scalare verum*..Royal Stair-Case. *Ibid.* Tab. xiii, *Buccinum scalare*..Small Stair-case. 1815 S. BROOKES *Conchol.* 157 Staircase. Trochus perspectivus.

3. *Phys.* A continuous series of responses to nerve stimuli, varying from a minimal to a maximal intensity. (*Syd. Soc. Lex.* citing Romanes.)

[1871 BOWDITCH in *Ber. d. k. Sächs. Gesellsch. d. Wissensch., Math.-Phys.* XXIII. 669 Wir wollen eine so beschaffene Reihe von Zuckungen unter dem Namen einer Treppe zusammenfassen.] 1882 GASKELL in *Jrnl. Physiol.* IV. 106 In both the strip from the tortoise's auricle and the frog's ventricle..a series of single stimulations produces a 'staircase'. 1885 MCWILLIAM *Ibid.* VI. 209 This phenomenon has been termed a 'staircase of beats (aufsteigende Treppe)'.

4. *attrib.* and *Comb.*: *staircase-gallery, -head*; *-like* adj.; **staircase-shell**, a shell of the genus *Solarium*, any member of the family *Solariidæ*.

1848 DICKENS *Dombey* xlvii, She paced her own room, opened the door and paced the *staircase-gallery outside. 1802 G. COLMAN *Br. Grins, Elder Bro.* (1819) 123 Crow, in the dark, now, reached the *stair-case head. 1881 MRS. HOLMAN HUNT *Childr. Jerus.* 102 They made their way up and down such *staircase-like rocks as in England would seem impossible. 1830 SAY *Amer. Conchol.* Pl. 27 *Scalaria*.., a genus of very pretty shells, known by the name of *staircase shells by some collectors. 1896 LYDEKKER *Roy. Nat. Hist.* VI. 387 The so-called staircase-shells (*Solariidæ*).

Hence **Stai·rcased** *a.*, furnished with a staircase; **Stai·rcasing** *vbl. sb.*, supplying or providing with a staircase or staircases.

1729 in Willis & Clark *Cambridge* (1886) I. 563 At a Congregation..agreed to proceed in Covering flooring sashing staircasing of the new Building. 1909 *Engl. Rev.* Jan. 223 Each of the two balconied and staircased belfries.

Staired (stēə·rd), *a. rare.* [f. STAIR *sb.* + -ED[2].] Arranged like stairs, with one step above another; supplied with stairs or stairways.

1650 FULLER *Pisgah* II. v. 126 Our guesse is seconded by plenty of *Gradati montes*, Staired mountains, which goe up by degrees. 1804 COLERIDGE *Lett.* (1895) 482 Many of them [the streets of Malta] very steep—a few staired all across, and almost all..having the footway on each side so staired.

† **Stai·rer.** [f. STAIR *sb.* + -ER[1].] The keeper of the stairs (of a public building.)

1695 WOOD *Life* (O.H.S.) III. 496 Some rabble and townesmen that had got in by the connivance of the stairers.

Stair-foot. Also *rarely* **stairs-, stair's-.** The foot of a staircase; the level space in front of the lowest step of a flight of stairs.

1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* XVIII. vii. 736 The other knyghte wente streyghte to the steyer foote where sat Kyng Arthur. 1513 MORE in *Grafton's Chron.* (1568) II. 804 He caused ye murtherers to bury them at the stayre foote. 1598 B. JONSON *Ev. Man in Hum.* III. iii, Or sit in the cold at the staire-foot for her. 1667 DRYDEN & DK. NEWCASTLE *Sir M. Mar-all* V. i, The gentle Guinea..which us'd as duly to steal into our hands at the Stair-foot, as into Mr. Doctor's at parting. 1722 DE FOE *Col. Jack* XV, I waited on her then to the stairfoot. 1848 DICKENS *Dombey* xliii, He had led her back to the stair-foot.

a 1562 G. CAVENDISH *Wolsey* (1893) 264 Whome they brought on his mewle to the stayers foote of his chamber, and ther lighted. 1757 *Hist. 2 Mod. Adventurers* II. 196 Waddling to the Stairs-foot; 'Moll, Moll', said she. 1868 'HOLME LEE' *Basil Godfrey* V, She did not hear her mother call from the stair's-foot.

b. *attrib.*

1573–5 GASCOIGNE *Ferd. Jeronimi* Wks. 1907 I. 407 He having a large base court to passe over before he could recover his staire foote dore. 1607 TOURNEUR *Rev. Trag.* II. iii. 10 He and the Duchesse By night meete in their linnen, they haue beene seene By staire-foote pandars! 1665 WOOD *Life* (O.H.S.) II. 45 For a key to the starefoot door, 8*d*.

Stair-head, stai·rhead. Also formerly *rarely* **stairs-.** The level space at the top of a staircase or flight of stairs.

1534–5 *MS. Rawl. D.* 777 lf. 72 The Stayer bede goyng to the Quen's Juell hous. 1569 *Inv. Lanc. & Chesh. Wills* (Chetham Soc.) 36 In the chamber at the steare head. 1607 WOTTON in *Life & Lett.* (1907) I. 379 [The Doge of Venice] brought him afterwards down to the last stairhead of the place. 1634 BRERETON *Trav.* (Chetham Soc.) 32 Here is a dainty stair-case, there being two pair of stairs which come out of the hall, and land both at one stair-head, and lead into the best rooms. 1702 SAVERY *Miner's Friend* 43 This Pipe..must be long enough to reach from the Landing-place or Stair-head. 1820 KEATS *Cap & Bells* lxx, He.. scarce upright could reach The stair-head. 1849 CUPPLES *Green Hand* XV. (1856) 152 She stood with one little foot on the stair-head behind me. 1894 HALL CAINE *Manxman* V. iv. 294 He..crept out on to the stairhead, and listened.

1551–60 in H. Hall *Soc. Eliz. Age* (1886) 150 An olde cubbord standing at the Stayers headd. 1588 PARKE tr. *Mendoza's Hist. China* 126 The first hall of the pallace which is at the staires heade. 1655 tr. *Sorel's Com. Hist. Francion* XII. 22 They took their ready way to the stairs head. 1748 RICHARDSON *Clarissa* VI. 258 She shot to the stairs-head to receive him.

attrib. 1851 MAYHEW *Lond. Labour* (1861) II. 378/2, I pay him 2*s*. 9*d*. a week for a little stair-head place with a bed in it. 1910 *Q. Rev.* Apr. 385 She was not a mere stairhead hostess.

Stairless (stēə·rlés), *a. rare.* [f. STAIR *sb.* + -LESS.] Having no stairs.

1868 MACDONALD *R. Falconer* I. 283 Out at his eyes it would go, traverse the dim stairless space, and sport with the wind-blown monster. 1897 MARY KINGSLEY *W. Africa* 422 The population..has been..employed in hauling and hoisting the furniture on to the stairless verandah.

Stairway (stēə·rwē). [f. STAIR *sb.*, + WAY *sb.*] A way up a flight of stairs, a staircase.

1767 T. HUTCHINSON *Hist. Mass.* (1795) II. iv. 387 Officers had planted themselves at the head of the stair-way with loaded carbines. 1847 PRESCOTT *Peru* IV. v. (1850) II. 339 Running down to the first landing on the stairway. 1872 M. COLLINS *P'cess Clarice* II. 92 He walked up the grim stairway of the hotel. 1892 BOYLE *County of Durham* 261 They were reached by a stairway from the triforium. 1906 MARJ. BOWEN *Viper of Milan* XX, It [the door] opened immediately on a black marble stairway.

b. *transf.*

c 1820 S. ROGERS *Italy, Jovasse* (1838) 23 His ancient carbine from his shoulder slung, His axe to hew a stair-way in the ice. 1894 *Westm. Gaz.* 1 Jan 2/1 Here the old Duke of Bridgewater's canal makes junction with the Ship Canal by two long stairways of locks.

c. *fig.*

1879 E. ARNOLD *Lt. Asia* VIII. (1881) 229 Make golden stairways of your weakness. 1886 C. A. BRIGGS *Messianic Proph.* I. 26 The prophets as an order of..teachers constitute a grand stairway. 1909 *Edin. Rev.* July 40 Thus the soul ranges up and down the stairway of existence.

† **Stai·ry,** *a. Obs. rare.* [f. STAIR *sb.* + -Y.] Ascending or mounting like a flight of stairs.

1599 NASHE *Lenten Stuffe* 13 With wooden galleries in the Church that they haue, and stayry degrees of seates in them. 1602 [see CLIMACTERICAL *a.* 1].

Stait(e, obs. forms of STATE *sb.*

Staithe (stēɪð), *sb.* Now *local.* Forms: 1 stæþ (*dat.* staþe, stæþe), 2 steþ, 3 staþe, 5–8 (9 *Dicts.*) **stathe**, 6 **stath**, 7 **stayth**, 8 **steath**(e, 6–9 **staith**, 6– **staithe**; also 9 *dial.* **steeth, stay**, etc.: see *Eng. Dial. Dict.* [In sense 1, repr. OE. *stæþ* neut.

(? once masc.) = OS. *stad* bank, shore, OHG. *stad* masc., neut. (MHG. *stat*, inflected *stad-*, mod.G. dial. *staa*), Goth. *staþa* dat. (masc. or neut.):—OTeut. **staþo-* f. **sta-*: see STAND *v.* In senses 2 and 3, which are not evidenced in OE. and are current only in districts where Scandinavian influence is strong, the word prob. represents (or has coalesced with) the cognate ON. *stoð* fem. (:—**staþwō*) landing-stage (Norw. *stød*). Cf. also OHG. *stado* wk. masc. (MHG. *stade*, mod.G. dial. *staden*) and MHG. *gistat* neut. (mod.G. *gestade*) landing-place.]

† **1.** The land bordering on water, a bank, shore.

c 893 ÆLFRED *Oros.* I. i. § 22 Of ðæm mere ðe Truso standeð in stæðe. *O. E. Chron.* (Parker MS.) an. 894, Æt Butting tune on Sæferne staþe. *a* 1000 *Riddles* iii. 6 (Gr.) Streamas staþu beatað. *Ibid.* xxiii. 19 Brohte hwæþre beornas ofer burnan & hyra bloncan mid from stæðe heaum. *c* 1050 *Suppl. Ælfric's Gloss.* in Wr.-Wülcker 177 *Ripa*, stæþ. [11.. *Ibid.* 546 steþ.] *c* 1205 LAY. 7 He wonede at Ernleȝe..vppen Seuarne staþe.

2. A landing-stage, wharf; esp. a waterside depôt for coals brought from the collieries for shipment, furnished with staging and shoots for loading vessels.

1338 *Orig. Chartulary of Tinmouth Monastery* 172 in Brand *Hist. Newcastle* (1789) II. 255 Domus quam predictus prior et suus conventus..habent in predicta villa Novi Castri super le Stathes. *c* 1390 in Gross *Gild Merch.* II. 169 [Lynn Regis] *Unam communem placeam vocatam* le commen stathe *cum pertinenciis.* 1420 *Eng. Misc.* (Surtees) 17 We, serchours of the masons and wryghtes of the cite of York..awarde and deme yᵗ a lyne be drawn straight fra ye corner of ye stathe of ye chauntery..un to ye nexte corner of ye stathe of ye common place. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 473/1 Stathe, waterys syde, *stacio.* 1519 in *Archæologia* XXV. 418 For caryeng of yᵉ same ij cads [of Red Heryngs] to yᵉ Common Stathe, ij d. 1653 *Lilburn Tryed & Cast* 4 [He] sold a thousand pounds worth of Coales that were upon the Staithes. 1667 PRIMATT *City & C. Build.* 26 You may consider what Stayths or Wharffs there be upon the River. 1708 J. C. *Compl. Collier* (1845) 49 The Rivers are not Navigable for Ships, so high as they Keys or Coal-Steaths. 1833 HT. MARTINEAU *Tale of Tyne* i. 1 Train after train of coal-waggons slid by on the rail-road from the pit to the staithe. 1862 SMILES *Engineers* III. 11 Arrived at the staiths, the waggons are emptied at once into the ships waiting alongside for cargo. 1905 *Times* 4 Mar. 9/6 At midnight last night the River Tyne Commissioners' new staithes..were totally destroyed by fire.

3. An embankment.

1698 DE LA PRYME *Diary* (Surtees) 185 Their tyde..is fenced out with huge stathes, for if all the water might be suffered to come in that would, it would..dround..the whole Levels. 1839 STONEHOUSE *Axholme* 52 The fertility of the soil..would induce the inhabitants..by means of staiths and embankments, to reclaim the land thus formed. 1876 *Whitby Gloss.* s.v. *Steeath, Staithes*, masonry to prevent the ground as a foundation from being washed away.

Staithe (stēiðˑ), *v. dial.* [f. prec. sb.] *trans.* To furnish with a staithe; to embank.

1839 STONEHOUSE *Axholme* 20 Considerable attempts must have been made, even at this early period to staith and embank the Trent. 1876 *Whitby Gloss.* s. v. *Steeath*, It was well steeath'd; i.e. strengthened by masonry.

Staithman (stā·ðmăn). Also **staithsman.** [f. STAITH *sb.* + MAN *sb.*] (See quots.)

1667 PRIMATT *City & C. Build.* 27 By the Staithsmens accompts..you may find what quantity of Coles there hath been wrought. 1710 *Act* 9 *Anne* c. 28 § 9 No Coal-Owner ..or his..Overman or Overmen, Staithman [etc.]. 1893-4 *Northumbld. Gloss., Staithman, steethman*, the man who overlooks the shipping of coals.

Staitly, obs. Sc. form of STATELY.

Staive, Staiver: see STAVE, STAVER *vbs.*

Stak, obs. f. STACK *sb.*; obs. pa. t. of STICK *v.*

Stake (stēk), *sb.*[1] Forms: 1 **staca,** 5, 7 **stak,** 5–6 *Sc.* and *north.* **staik** (6 **steyk**), 6 **stack,** 6–7 **stacke,** 3– **stake.** [OE. *staca* wk. masc. corresponds to OFris., MDu. *stake* masc. and fem. (Du. *staak* masc.), (M)LG. *stake* (whence MHG., mod.G. *stake, staken*, and prob. MSw. *staki*, Sw., Norw. *stake*, Da. *stage*), f. **stak-* ablaut-var. of **stek-* to pierce, thrust in: see STEKE, STICK *vbs.* The Teut. word was adopted in Rom. as Pr., Sp., Pg. *estaca*, OF. *estaque, estache*, It. *stacca*: see STACKET, ESTACADE.]

1. A stout stick or post, usually of wood, with a pointed end for driving into the ground; used e.g. to mark a boundary or site, to support a plant, to secure an animal, to form one of the component parts of a fence, hedge, or the like.

c 893 ÆLFRED *Oros.* v. v, Ac þære ilcan niht þe mon on dæȝ hæfde þa burȝ mid stacum ȝemearcod, swa [etc.]. *c* 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* I. 395, & sleah ænne staca on middan þam ymbhaȝan & leȝe þone stan on uppan þam stacan. *c* 1340 *Nominale* (Skeat) 338 On a stake of pere-tre. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* II. 83 A tente of cloth with corde and stake He sette up ferst. *c* 1420 *Avow. Arth.* xvii, The hed of that hardy, He sette on a stake. *a* 1440 *Sir Degrev.* 1120 Syxty stedus he wan, And brouȝth to stak. *c* 1440 [see STAKING *vbl. sb.* b]. 1523 *Act* 14 & 15 *Hen. VIII*, c. 13 Dyvers newe Weris, Gores, Stakes and Engyns have bene levyd and enhauncid; By reason wherof, the said Haven is greatly decayed ageyn. 1534 in J. Croft *Excerpta Ant.* (1797) 17 For a Steyk of vj Nyks for Stapys to a Grese, ij d. 1667 PRIMATT *City & C. Build.* 93 The Ground is not firm to build on, but doth require stakes to be droven. *a* 1674 CLARENDON *Hist. Reb.* XV. § 144 The man was drawn by a horse to the gallows..and buried under it, with a stake driven through him, as is usual in the case of self-murderers. 1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* I. (Globe) 117, I set my Dog to guard it in the Night, tying him up to a Stake at the Gate. 1784 COWPER *Task* IV. 437 The farmer's hedge, Plash'd neatly, and secur'd with driven stakes Deep in the loamy bank. 1897 MARY KINGSLEY *W. Africa* 255 We find it completely fenced across with stout stakes.

fig. 1567 *Gude & Godlie Ball.* 186 O cankerit carionnis, and o ye rottin stakis. 1594 HOOKER *Eccl. Pol.* Pref. ii. § 3 As the truth is, their ministers forrein estimation hitherto hath beene the best stake in their hedge. 1630 PRYNNE *Anti-Armin.* 123 Thus to plucke vp all the stakes, the bounds of Gods eternal Decrees.

Proverbial uses. a 1300 *Cursor M.* 7526 Bot þar he stod als still os stake. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* III. 8, I fro hire go Ne mai, bot as it were a stake, I stonde. 1546 J. HEYWOOD *Prov.* (1867) 29 For any great courtesie he doth make, It seemth the gentill man hath eaten a stake. *a* 1637 B. JONSON *Underwoods, Celebr. Charis* ix, Dressed, you still for man should take him! And not think h' had eat a stake.

b. A post upon which persons were bound for execution, esp. by burning. Hence *the stake* is used as a name for the punishment of death by burning.

c 1205 LAY. 16684 Samuel nom Agag þene king..& lette hine swiðe sterke to ane stake binde. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Knt.'s T.* 1694 And he that is at meschief shal be take And noght slayn but be broght vn to the stake That shal ben ordeyned. *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (Roxb.) ix. 35 Scho was..bun by a stake and fagotes of thornes..laide aboute hir. 1563-83 FOXE *A. & M.* II. 1623 When they came to the stake in Smithfielde to bee burned, M. Bradford lying prostrate on the one side of the stake, and..John Leafe on the other side. 1591 SHAKS. *1 Hen. VI*, v. iii. 44 Curse Miscreant, when thou comst to the stake. 1600 *Aberdeen Reg.* (1848) II. 209 The persoun convict thairof..sall be bund to ane staik within the floode merk during the space of thre houris, quhill the water flow round about him. 1642 FULLER *Holy & Prof. St.* II. xix. 225 When Religion is at the stake, there must be no lookers on. 1722 DE FOE *Moll Flanders* (1840) 277 To be burnt to death at a stake. 1829 HOOD *Eugene Aram* 204 And my red right hand grows raging hot, Like Cranmer's at the stake. 1852 THACKERAY *Esmond* I. v, 'I know I would go to the stake for you,' said Harry. 1872 MORLEY *Voltaire* (1886) 7 When..the fortunes of the fight do not hurry the combatant to dungeon or stake.

c. The post to which a bull or bear was fastened to be baited.

1546 J. HEYWOOD *Prov.* I. ix. (1867) 17 With as good will as a beare goth to the stake. 1601 SHAKS. *Jul. C.* IV. i. 48 *Octa.* Let vs do so: for we are at the stake, And bayed about with many Enemies. 1616 W. BROWNE *Brit. Past.* II. iv. 98 Saw you a lusty Mastiue at the stake Throwne from a cunning Bull.

d. A post pointed at both ends for use in military defensive work (see quot. 1876).

1297 R. GLOUC. *Chron.* (Rolls) 11711 Stakes of ire monion he piȝte in temese grounde Aboue ssarpe & kene inou bineþ grete & rounde. *c* 1450 *Brut* II. ccxliv. 378 He bade euery man to orden hym a stake of tre, and scharp both endis, þat þe stake myȝt be pyght yn the erthe a-slop, þat hir enymyez schulde not ouyr-ryde hem. 1634 MILTON *Comus* 491 Com not too neer, you fall on iron stakes else. 1876 VOYLE & STEVENSON *Milit. Dict., Stakes*, small pieces of wood..used as an obstacle against the advance of an attacking force, being sharply pointed and driven into the ground until only 1 foot or 2 feet project.

e. *Phrases.* (U.S.) *To pull up, move stakes*: to move one's habitation. Similarly *to drive stakes, to stick one's stakes*: to pitch one's camp or tent, to settle.

1830 *Massachusetts Spy* 15 Dec. (Thornton *Amer. Gloss.* s. v. *Pull*), Our departed emigrants pulled up stakes, and returned post haste to the good old town of Springfield. 1869 BRET HARTE *Luck of Roaring Camp* 178 He built the shanty..lest titles should fall through, and we'd have to get up and move stakes farther down. 1872 DE VERE *Americanisms* 184 Where he settles, there he stakes or sticks his stakes. 1906 *Outing* (U.S.) Feb. 605/2 After drifting about several years I finally drove stakes on the Spokane River.

2. *collect. sing.* Stakes used as a framework or support in fencing and hedging; esp. as a basis for the intertwining, wattling, or plashing of brushwood or other materials.

a. *Stake* (earlier † *stakes*) *and rice* (RICE[1] 2) *Sc.* and *north.*: a fence, hurdle, or partition made with these materials; also *attrib.*

1457 *Sc. Acts Jas. II*, § 30 (1814) II. 51/2 Þt na man mak gardes nor heggis of dry staikes na Rys or stykis. 1471-2 *Durh. Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 644 Pro posicione del stakez et ryss. 1536 BELLENDEN *Cron. Scot.* (1821) I. 260 To big the wal betwix Abircorne and Dunbritane, with staik and rise. 1584 HUDSON *Du Bartas' Judith* iv, On stake and ryce hee knits the crooked vines, And snoddes their bowes. 1799 J. ROBERTSON *Agric. Perth* 278 Hurdles, (vulgarly called stake and rice) may be made round the links. 1821 [see STAB *sb.*[2] 1]. 1858 R. S. SURTEES *Ask Mamma* lxv. 295 Giving his horse a good dig with his spurs, he lifted him over a stiff stake-and-rice fence.

b. *Stake and band, bond, bound*: see quot. 1805.

1805 R. W. DICKSON *Pract. Agric.* I. Plate xxxiii, The form of dead hedge usually termed stake and band, and sometimes stake and rise. In it the dead materials are wattled in between strong stakes. *Ibid.* 141 A stake and band hedge. 1857 G. A. LAWRENCE *Guy Livingstone* iv, Instead of taking the stake-and-bound at the weakest place, he rode at the strongest. 1902 CORNISH *Naturalist on Thames* 161 This is the universal 'stake and bond' hedge of the shires, impenetrable to cattle.

c. *Stake and rider* (see RIDER 12 d), a fence made of stakes with a top bar; also *attrib.*; hence *stake-and-ridered* adj. *U.S.* and *Colonial.*

1829 *Massachusetts Spy* 11 Feb. (Thornton *Amer. Gloss.*), [He met] a man in a lane with a stake-and-rider fence on each side. 1859 BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.* (ed. 2) 443 Stake and rider, a species of fence higher and stronger than a 'worm fence'. 1895 *Century Mag.* Aug. 625/2 The stake-and-ridered fences everywhere.

† **3.** A rung (of a ladder). *Obs. rare.*

c 1440 *Jacob's Well* xxxiii. 215 He sytteth on þe netherest stake of þis laddere in helle. *Ibid.*, Iche of hem sytteth a-bouyn oþer on þis leddere on dyuers stakys.

† **4.** ? A stick (of a fan). *Obs. rare.*

1640-1 *Kirkcudbright War-Comm. Minute Bk.* (1855) 44 Delyverit..ane silver coupe, ane stak of ane fann, [etc.].

5. Technical uses.

a. A small anvil used by metal-workers, esp. one with a tang for fitting into a socket on a bench. Also, a tool used by watchmakers and jewellers (see quot. 1884).

1660 in *Archæologia* XI. 101 Armorers Tooles..Tramping Stakes. Round stake. Welting stakes. 1677 MOXON *Mech. Exerc.* ii. 20 The Stake is a small Anvil..which either stands upon a broad Iron foot..on the work-bench..or else it hath a strong Iron spike at bottom, which..is let into..the work-bench. 1843 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* I. 386 The smaller anvils, which are called stakes,..are of progressively smaller sizes. 1884 F. J. BRITTON *Watch & Clockm.* 214 *Polishing Stake*, a square polished surface of steel on which red-stuff and other polishing material is mixed. It is usually enclosed in a box. *Ibid.* 228 *Riveting Stake*, a cube of steel..pierced with a series of different sized holes for the reception of arbors...A jointed stake..hinged at one end.. is handy in some cases. *Ibid.* 246 A stake with a beak to it.., a form much used by jewellers.

b. *Leather-manuf.* (See quot. 1897.)

1853 URE *Dict. Arts* (ed. 4) II. 63 The workman holding the extremities of the skin with both hands, pulls it in all directions..against the smoothing 'stake'. 1897 C. T. DAVIS *Manuf. Leather* XX. (ed. 2) 274 The hand stake..was an upright wooden stake, some two feet in length and eight inches in width into the tapering top of which was fixed a broad steel blade. The skin was drawn across this blade.

c. Each of the stanchions or posts which fit into sockets or staples on a trolley, wagon or boat to prevent the load from slipping off.

1875-84 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.*

d. *Basket-making.* Each of the longest foundation-rods of a basket or the like. (Webster, 1911.)

6. In the Mormon Church: A territorial division; the see or jurisdiction of a Mormon bishop. [? Suggested by Isa. liv. 2, 3.]

[1833 J. SMITH in Linn *Story of Mormons* (1902) 120 It is expedient in me that this Stake that I have set for the strength of Zion be made strong. 1839 *Ibid.*, I have other places which I will appoint unto them, and they shall be called Stakes for the curtains, or the strength of Zion.] 1882-3 *Schaff's Encycl. Relig. Knowl.* II. 1578 Every city, or 'stake', including a chief town and surrounding towns. 1883 *Encycl. Brit.* XVI. 828 The [Mormon] church is made up of 23 stakes, each having a president.

7. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *stake-beetle* (BEETLE *sb.*[1] 1), *-hedge, -pole, -rest*; **stake-boat,** a boat moored or otherwise fixed to serve as a starting-point or mark for racing boats; **stake-driver** *U.S.*, the bittern, *Botaurus mugitans*; **stake-fellow,** a fellow-sufferer at the stake; **stake-hang** *dial.*, **stake-head** (see quots.); **stake-iron,** (*a*) a nail-maker's stake (sense 5 a); (*b*) = sense 5 c; † **stake nail** (see quot.); **stake-net,** a fishing net usually set between tide-marks or in shallow water, secured in a vertical position by means of stakes; **stake-pocket,** a socket for a stake of a platform car (*Cent. Dict.* 1891); **stake-presidency,** the presidency of a Mormon stake (see sense 6); † **stake-stubber,** one who removes (boundary) stakes; † **stake-stuck** *a.*, that stands like a stake; † **stake willow,** a kind of willow used for the making of stakes.

1638-40 *Min. Archdeaconry of Essex* (MS.) 140 b, He tooke two stakes and knockt them in with a *stake beetle. 1884 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 4 Apr. 8 The Cambridge crew..paddled away..to their *stake-boat on the Middlesex side of the river. 1872 COUES *N. Amer. Birds* 269 *Botaurus.* Bittern, ..*Stake-driver. 1889 H. SAUNDERS *Brit. Birds* 374 The note of the male..is..like the noise made by driving a stake in boggy soil, whence its common name of 'Stake-' or 'Post-driver'. 1577-87 HOLINSHED *Chron.* III. 1148/1 [He] bad his bedfellow and sworne *stakefellow..maister Saunders farewell. 1825 J. JENNINGS *Observ. Dial. W. Eng.* 141 A knaw'd all about tha *stake-hangs Tha zalmon vor ta catch. *Ibid.* Gloss., *Stake-hang*, .. a kind of circular hedge made of stakes, forced into the sea-shore..for the purpose of catching salmon, and other fish. 1828-32 WEBSTER, **Stake-head*, in *rope-making*, a stake with wooden pins in the upper side to keep the strands apart. 1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss.*, **Stake-hedge*, one made of thorns or wood,..wattled or ethered from three to four feet high. 1832 BABBAGE *Econ. Manuf.* i. 14 He puts this [piece of red-hot iron] into a hole in a small *stake-iron immediately under a hammer connected with a treadle. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.*, *Stake-iron Bender*, a machine for bending stake-irons for the bolsters of wagons. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 300/1 *Stake Nails, or Sadlers Tacks. 1836 YARRELL *Brit. Fishes* II. 23 It is not unusual to have *stake-nets placed in the reverse position, with the courts open to the ebb-tide. 1883 MOLONEY *W. Afr. Fisheries* (Fish. Exhib. Publ.) 24 These baskets are secured to *stake-poles or sticks, laid out in parallel lines. 1900 *Century Dict.* Suppl., **Stake-presidency.* 1891 *Century Dict.*, **Stake-rest*, on a railway platform-car, a device for supporting a stake when turned down horizontally. 1562 J. HEYWOOD *Prov.* (1867) 161 But if *stake stoobbers will not let stakis stand, Blame not the stake. 1741 in C. Whibley *In Cap & Gown* (1898) 37 Ev'n *stake-stuck Clarians strove to stoop. 1577 GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* II. 103 b, The other kinde [of

willow]..seruing for stayes to Vines..or stakes of Hedges, and is called *stake Wyllowe [L. *quæ perticalis dicitur*].

Stake (stēik), *sb.*[2] [Of uncertain etymology.

Perh. f. STAKE *v.*[3] On the alternative supposition that the sb. is the source of the vb., the former may be the same word as STAKE *sb.*[1] The peculiar use might have been developed from the phrase *on the stake*, which may originally have referred to a custom of placing on a 'stake' or post the object (an article of clothing or the like) hazarded on the event of a game or contest. There is, however, no evidence of the existence of such a custom; and in our quots. the first example of the phrase is dated 1592, while the use of the sb. to denote the money risked on a game of dice is more than half a century older.]

1. That which is placed at hazard; esp. a sum of money or other valuable commodity deposited or guaranteed, to be taken by the winner of a game, race, contest, etc.

1540 PALSGR. *Acolastus* IV. iii. T j, All the stakes and settynges that be sette within the dyce borde, whiche lye on lyttell heapes. 1611 SHAKS. *Wint. T.* I. ii. 248 A Foole, That seest a Game play'd home, the rich Stake drawne, And tak'st it all for ieast. 1630 *R. Johnson's Kingd. & Commw.* 41 He that winnes the game, gets not only the maine Stake, but all the Bets by follow the fortune of his hand. 1673 [R. LEIGH] *Transp. Reh.* 88 Let who will be the gamesters, he is sure to sweep the stakes. 1808 SCOTT *Marmion* I. xxii, Full well at tables can he play And sweep at bowls the stake away. 1821 — *Kenilw.* ii, Our landlord here shall hold stakes. 1878 H. GIBBS *Ombre* 9 Even at low stakes one may lose or gain enough to give interest to the game. 1884 TENNYSON *Cup* I. iii. 79 [I] am no such gamester As, having won the stake, would dare the chance Of double or losing all.

b. *fig.* and in figurative context.

1581 J. BELL *Haddon's Answ. Osor.* 403 b, Upon what grew this inequabilitie and parcialitie of dispensation [of pardons], if there were no stakes layed doune for the game? 1601 LD. MOUNTJOY in *Moryson's Itin.* (1617) II. 145 For now *Facta est alea* between England and Spaine and we that doe play the game have least interest in the stake. 1681 DRYDEN *Abs. & Achit.* I. 457 The Sword, Which for no less a Stake than Life you Draw. 1784 COWPER *Tiroc.* 863 Can't thou..Lay such a stake upon the losing side, Merely to gratify so blind a guide? 1827 HALLAM *Const. Hist.* (1876) II. x. 278 The royalists in England, who played so deep a stake on the king's account. 1878 BOSW. SMITH *Carthage* 121 The prize was small..and the stake large, but they staked and lost it.

c. fig. *To have a stake in* (an event, a concern, etc.): to have something to gain or lose by the turn of events, to have an interest in; esp. in *to have a stake in the country* (said of those who hold landed property).

1784 SIR A. DICK in *Boswell's Johnson* (1904) II. 526 With my most affectionate wishes for Dr. Johnson's recovery, in which his friends, his country, and all mankind have so deep a stake. 1807 WINDHAM *Sp. Ho. Comm.* 22 July in *Hansard* IX. 897 Those entrusted with arms..should be persons of some substance and stake in the country. 1865 LIVINGSTONE *Zambesi* Introd. 8 And will probably always have the largest commercial stake in the African continent. 1911 *H.* BROWN *Hist. Scot.* I. iv. viii. 281 Scotland came to have a stake in this struggle.

d. Phrases. † *To part stakes*: see PART *v.* 10 b. Similarly † *to share, divide stakes. To draw stakes*, to withdraw what is staked as a wager, etc.

1554 PHILPOT in Coverdale *Lett. Martyrs* (1564) 246 Communicate your necessities to me, and to others of his people, and God will make vs to deuide stakes. 1594 J. DICKENSON *Arisbas* (1878) 56 But belike the god himselfe ment to share stakes. 1653 W. RAMESEY *Astrol. Restored* 186 But after a tedious dispute they shall leave off and draw stakes. 1662 J. DAVIES tr. *Olearius' Voy. Ambass.* 300 The King of Persia farms out the Mint to private Persons, who gain most by it, and share stakes with the money-changers. 1708 [see DRAW *v.* 37]. 1758 GOLDSM. *Mem. Protestant* (1895) I. 43 After two or three Conferences, he drew Stakes and declined the Dispute.

2. In certain phrases: The condition of being staked. *lit.* and *fig.*

In some of the early quots. the sb. in these phrases is taken (either by misapprehension or conscious word-play) as STAKE *sb.*[1] 1 b.

† **a.** *To be, lie at* or *on the stake, to put, lay, lay down* or *set* (a thing) *at stake* or *at the stake.*

1592 GREENE *Conny Catch.* 7 So they vie and reuie til some ten shillings be on the stake. 1601 SHAKS. *All's Well* II. iii. 156 *King.* My honor's at the stake. 1602 — *Twel. N.* III. i. 129 Haue you not set mine Honor at the stake, And baited it with all th' vnmuzled thoughts That tyrannous heart can think. 1604 — *Oth.* IV. ii. 13 *Æmil.* I durst (my Lord) to wager, she is honest: Lay downe my Soule at stake. 1622 BACON *Hen. VII* (1876) 34 He..saw plainly that his kingdom must again be put to the stake, and that he must fight for it. *a* 1660 *Contemp. Hist. Irel.* (Ir. Archæol. Soc.) III. 9 All that is deere unto us and our posteritie is now at the last fatall stacke. 1663 BUTLER *Hud.* I. i. 735 Are not our Liberties, our Lives, The Laws, Religion, and our Wives Enough at once to lye at stake? 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Past.* III. 40 My Brinded Heifer to the Stake I lay;..Now back your Singing with an equal Stake.

b. *fig.* (To be) *at stake, to have at stake.*

1606 SHAKS. *Tr. & Cr.* III. iii. 227, I see my reputation is at stake My fame is shrowdly gored. 1722 STEELE *Consc. Lovers* II. i, I have more than Life at stake on your Fidelity. 1851 DIXON *W. Penn* x. (1872) 85 His private case was nothing, while so great a principle was at stake. 1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) IV. 227 He may be fairly appealed to, when the honour of his master is at stake.

3. *pl.* in *Horse-racing, Coursing*, etc., the sums of money staked or subscribed by the owners who enter horses or dogs for a contest, the whole to be received as the prize by the owner of the winner or divided among the owners of the animals 'placed', as declared in the conditions of the contest. Hence in *sing.* (cf. SWEEPSTAKE) a race for money thus staked or subscribed. Also in *pl.* with defining words as the designation of particular races or classes of races in which the sum of money staked is the prize as distinguished from a Plate (see PLATE *sb.* 17), Cup, or the like.

Produce stakes: (*a*) in *Horse-racing*, a race in which the runners must be the offspring of horses named and described at the time of entry; a produce race; (*b*) in *Coursing*, a race for puppies, i. e. for dogs of from one to two years of age; also called *Puppy stakes*. *Sapling stakes*: in *Coursing*, a race for saplings, i. e. dogs of less than one year old (see SAPLING 4 b). *Subscription stakes*: in *Horse-racing*, a race for which subscribers of a fixed amount annually have the right to enter one or more horses.

1696 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 3175/4 Strangers for the 30 l. Plate are to put in 4 l. and for the 20 l. Plate, 2 l. The Stakes are to go to the 2d Horse. 1730 J. CHENY *List Horse-Matches* 86 On..the following Day was a Purse of 20 l. Sterling,..en. 2 Guineas, Stakes 10 Guineas. 1734 *Ibid.* 1 The following five Year Olds started for a Purse of 600 Guineas, call'd the Wallasey Stakes. 1778 in J. S. Fletcher *Hist. St. Leger Stakes* ii. 40 Tuesday, September 22.—The St. Leger Stakes of 25 gs. each, for three-year olds. 1833 APPERLEY *Turf* (1852) 124 The system lately adopted of produce-stakes for half-bred horses. *Ibid.* 129 There are upwards of a hundred horses besides himself named for the stake [*i. e.* the Derby]. 18.. *Turf Expositor* in Blaine *Encycl. Rural Sports* (1840) § 1268. 364 Cocktails are horses which appear as racers, but are understood not to be thoroughbred..They run for hunters' stakes, and also for what are called half-bred stakes. 1840 BLAINE *Ibid.* § 1288. 369 By the winning of stakes alone, if honesty did but conduct the race, much money might be won, so as to remunerate..the vast sums which are expended in breeding, rearing, and training the best blood. 1856 'STONEHENGE' *Brit. Rural Sports* I. III. viii. 205/2 Puppy Stakes...In all produce stakes, the description of the puppy to contain its name, age, and pedigree [etc.]. 1895 *Westm. Gaz.* 30 Nov. 7/2 The cost [of horse-racing] is positively frightful in these days of heavy subscription stakes. 1898 *Encycl. Sport* I. 201/2 (Coursing), It was in the year 1836 that the proprietor of the Waterloo Hotel in Liverpool improvised an eight-dog stake, which he styled the Waterloo Cup.

4. *slang.* (See quot. 1812.)

1812 J. H. VAUX *Flash Dict.* s.v., A booty acquired by robbery, or a sum of money won at play, is called a stake, and if considerable, *a prime stake, a heavy stake*; a person alluding to any thing difficult to be procured..would say, I consider it a stake to get it at all. 1891 C. ROBERTS *Adrift Amer.* 114 He had made a pretty good stake, and wanted to go east for the winter.

5. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *stake-money*; **stake-holder**, one who holds the stake or stakes of a wager, etc.; also *transf.* (quot. 1858).

1708 *Brit. Apollo* No. 55. 2/1 Which will oblige Your Humble Servant **Stake Holder*. 1815 *Sporting Mag.* XLV. 231 A Bank of England note, which was lodged in the hands of a stake-holder as a deposit. 1858 LD. ST. LEONARDS *Handy-bk. Prop. Law* IV. 20 Where the deposit is directed to be paid to the auctioneer, he is entitled to retain it until the contract is completed,..because he is considered as a stakeholder or depositary. 1810 *Sporting Mag.* XXXVI. 123 He fought Dutch Sam for his own *stake money.

Stake (stēik), *v.*[1] [f. STAKE *sb.*[1] MDu. (mod. Du. dial., WFlem.), G. *staken.*]

1. *trans.* To mark (land) with stakes.

c 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 1852 Þey..mesured lond, & dide hit stake Þat ilkon dide his owen knowe. 1338 — *Chron.* (1810) 309 [They] Þat Þorgh Þe reame suld go, Þe boundes forto stake. 1523 FITZHERB. *Surv.* 41 [Meadows] ought to be well staked bytwene euery mannes dole. 1715 *Maryland Laws* vi. (1723) 20 The Surveyor..shall have.. Fees and Rewards of laying out and staking the Towns and Lots. 1716 in *Hist. Northfield, Mass.* (1875) 139 Each man's several quantities being set out and staked.

b. with advs. *off, out*; esp. to mark *out* (land, a building site, etc.) with stakes or pegs. Also *fig.*

1445 in Willis & Clark *Cambridge* (1886) II. 404 The enlarging of garit hostell, as hit is now staked out. 1624 CAPT. SMITH *Hist. Virginia* VI. 232 We went to measure out the grounds: and so we cast lots where euery man should lie, which we staked out. 1710 in Picton *L'pool Munic. Rec.* (1886) II. 49 Thomas..has survey'd and stak'd out the same. 1876 R. BRIDGES *Growth of Love* viii. Poet. Wks. (1912) 191 And against her shames Imagination stakes out heavenly claims. 1885 *Manch. Exam.* 6 May 4/7 It will only remain to stake off the boundary through the intermediate districts.

2. To protect, support, or obstruct with stakes.

a 1500 *Bale's Chron.* in Flenley *Six Town Chron.* (1911) 130 And they hadde mervelously staked all Þe feeld aboute Þeym that no power of horsmen shuld com and override theym. 1530 PALSGR. 732/1, I stake a hedge, *je mets des espieux en vne haye.* 1576 in W. H. Turner *Select. Rec. Oxford* 382 The water corse going to the howse of offyce..shalbe staked and stopped uppe. 1591 SAVILE *Tacitus, Hist.* II. xix. 63 Order was giuen that the camp should be entrenched and staked. 1602 LD. MOUNTJOY in *Moryson's Itin.* (1617) II. 213 Long traverses..staked on both sides with pallisades watled.

b. with advs. To close *up* or *in*, to keep *out*, to shut *off* with a barrier of stakes.

1597 BP. HALL *Sat.* v. iii. 73, I shall praise thee all the while So be, thou stake not vp the common stile; So be thou hedge in nought, but what's thine owne. 1627 DRAYTON *Agincourt* 19 The Duke of Glocester..Then caus'd his Ships the riuer vp to Stake, That none with Victuall should the Towne relieue. 1644 MILTON *Divorce* II. xvi. 62 No marvell any thing if letters must be turn'd into palisadoes to stake out all requisite sense from entring to their due enlargement. 1861 DICKENS *Gt. Expect.* iii, On the bank of loose stones above the mud and stakes that staked the tide out. 1883 H. DRUMMOND *Nat. Law in Spir. W.* (ed. 2) 71 This world of natural men is staked off from the Spiritual World by barriers which have never yet been crossed from within.

c. To put stakes or a stake to (a plant).

1664 EVELYN *Kal. Hort.* Mar. (1679) 13 Stake and bind up your weakest Plants and Flowers against the Winds. 1733 W. ELLIS *Chiltern & Vale Farm.* 90 They staked each Tree with four Poles, of about ten Foot long. 1812 SIR J. SINCLAIR *Syst. Husb. Scot.* I. 255 Beans answer excellently, to stake the tares intended for seed. 1846 J. BAXTER *Libr. Pract. Agric.* II. 200 All open standards should be staked as soon as planted.

3. To secure with or as with a stake. **a.** To bind or tie up (an animal) to a stake; to bind (a person) to the stake for execution. Also with *out.*

1544 in I. S. Leadam *Sel. Cases Crt. Requests* (1898) 79 His seruauntes dyd tedre and stayk thar horses vpon vj hawyns of Stokeleys. 1772 T. SIMPSON *Vermin-Killer* 22 The only method that can be taken is..by staking a chicken by the leg. 1845 DARWIN *Voy. Nat.* iv. 74 He ordered two soldiers to catch and stake me...This is a very severe punishment; four posts are driven into the ground, and the man is extended by his arms and legs horizontally, and there left to stretch for several hours. 1851 MAYNE REID *Scalp Hunt.* xlii. 328 Our horses were unsaddled and staked on the open plain. 1895 *Outing* (U.S.) XXVI. 403/1 We rode up as far toward the top of the ridge as we dared go and then staked out the ponies.

fig. 1846 LANDOR *Imag. Conv., Southey & Landor* Wks. 1853 II. 156/1 The poet is staked and faggoted by his surrounding brethren.

b. To fasten (a thing) *down, on* with a stake or with stakes.

1621 MARKHAM *Fowling* 114 These Nets being thus stakt downe with strong stakes. 1852 R. F. BURTON *Falconry Valley Indus* viii. 80 Strong fishing-nets, carefully staked down. 1825 J. NICHOLSON *Oper. Mech.* 44 In fixing the wheels and pullies upon a shaft, which is mostly done by driving wedges in the bush of the wheel or pulley, called staking them on.

† **c.** *fig.* To fasten securely as by a stake. Chiefly with *down. Obs.*

1592 SHAKS. *Rom. & Jul.* I. iv. 16, I haue a soale of Lead So stakes me to the ground, I cannot moue. 1596 NASHE *Saffron Walden* Wks. (Grosart) III. 195 Nere tell me of this or that he sayes I spake or did, except hé particularize and stake downe the verie words. 1691 NORRIS *Pract. Disc.* 12 Men..that seem to be staked down and nailed fast to the Earth. 1702 C. MATHER *Magn. Chr.* II. vii. (1852) 147, I know not whether the terrors of my dreadful voyage hither might not be ordered by the Divine Providence to stake me in this land. *a* 1734 NORTH *Life L.d. Keeper Guilford* (1742) 14 His Mind was so airy and volatile, he could not have kept his Chamber, if he must needs be there staked down purely to the Drudgery of the Law.

4. To impale (a person) on a stake. Also with *up.* Also, to transfix and fasten down (a person) with a stake.

1577 HOLINSHED *Hist. Scot.* 203/2 *marg.*, The procurers of the murder were staked. *a* 1593 MARLOWE & NASHE *Dido* IV. i, That with the sharpnes of my edged sting, I might haue stakte them both vnto the earth. 1641 J. JACKSON *True Evang. T.* I. 24 Others [Nero] staked through, rosined and waxened over their bodies, and so set them lighted up, as torches. 1657 BILLINGSLY *Brachy-Martyrol.* vii. 26 Seven sons she had, all stak'd, rack'd and at last Thrust through, were into a deep pit cast. 1680 OTWAY *Caius Marius* I, Stake me, ye Gods, with thunder to the Earth. 1716 B. CHURCH *Hist. Philip's War* (1867) II. 129 His body being staked up, his head cut off, and a hogs head set in the room. 1786 WOLCOT (P. Pindar) *Odes to R.A.'s* i. Wks. 1812 I. 128 Stak'd through the body like a paltry Thief.

b. *pass.* Of a horse, etc.: To be injured by impalement on a hedge or fence stake. Also *refl.*; hence *trans.*, to cause a horse to stake himself.

1687 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 2281/4 A bright bay Gelding.., a.. Scar on the far side near the Flank, (where he had been stak'd). 1741 *Compl. Fam.-Piece* II. i. 326 If any of these Dogs should happen to stake themselves, by brushing through Hedges. 1884 *Law Times* LXXVIII. 100/1 The animals..attempted to jump a fence. The foal was staked and had to be killed.

† **5.** To drive *in* (a pile, etc.) *Obs. rare*[−1].

1612 SIR D. CARLETON *Let.* 13 Apr. in *10th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. I. 572 Hee hathe pulled up the piles, that y[e] Ferraresi had staked in.

6. *Leather-manuf.* (See quot. 1853.)

1686 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 2124/4 Stolen.., about 350 of the best Kids, some ready pared, and some in the Crust not staked. 1853 URE *Dict. Arts* (ed. 4) II. 63 The tawed skins, when dry, are 'staked', that is stretched, scraped, and smoothed by friction against the blunt edge of a semi-circular knife.

7. 'To push with a stake or a pole, as a railroad car' (Webster, 1911). ? *U.S.*

† **Stake,** *v.*[2] *Sc. Obs. rare*[−1]. [? Cf. (M)Du. *staken* to fix, place, prob. related to OFris. *stak* stiff, firm.] *trans.* To place.

1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* XII. iii. 72 And glaidy eik haue I nocht stakyt the Intill a party of the hevin alssua? [L. *scis ut te..cæli libens in parte locarim*].

Stake (stēik), *v.*[3] [Of uncertain origin.

The verb appears in our quots. a little earlier than the related STAKE *sb.*[2], and may be its source. On this view it may be a. MDu. *staken* to fix, place (see prec.). On the other hand, it is possible that the vb. may be f. the sb.]

1. *intr.* To wager, hazard money, on the event of a game or contest. Now apprehended as absol. use of sense 3.

1530 PALSGR. 732/1, I stake in a play, *je boute.* I wyll nat play, except every mans take. 1591 [see 3]. 1631 HAUSTED *Rival Friends* II. ii, *Vrs.* What shall we play for? *Mer.* Two pinnes a game. *Vrs.* Stake then. 1708 *Yorkshire Racers* 10 And Tandem stakes both for himself and friend.

1896 *Spectator* 10 Oct. 480/1 As a rule a woman who plays cards for money feels like the cashier who is staking out of his master's till.

2. trans. *To stake down*: to deposit (a sum of money) as a wager or stake on the result of a game or contest. Also *absol.*

1565 COOPER *Thesaurus*, s. v. *Contendere, Pignore aliquo contendere*, to gage or stake downe somwhat and pay for it. 1596 SHAKS. *Merch. V.* III. ii. 218 *Gra.* Weele play..for a thousand ducats. *Ner.* What and stake downe? 1622 MALYNES *Anc. Law-Merch.* 198 So Wagers made by lookers on vpon other mens games are disallowed, which is the cause that Stipulations are made, putting the pawne or money downe, which is called, to stake downe. 1663 BUTLER *Hud.* II. i. 294 And if you doubt it to be true I'll stake myself down against you 1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* ii, Our landlord here shall hold stakes, and I will stake down gold till I send the linen.

3. To put at hazard (a sum of money, an article of value, etc.) upon the cast of dice, the result of a competition or game, the event of a contingency, etc.; to wager.

1591 FLORIO *2nd Fruites* 25 *T.* Let vs keepe the lawes of the court. *G.* That is, stake money vnder the line... *H.* Here is my monie, now stake you. 1611 SHAKS. *Cymb.* v. v. 188 He..No lesser of her Honour confident..stakes this Ring. 1754 JOHNSON *Connoisseur* No. 44 P 1 Other Ladies of the family are staking their half-pence at Put or All-Fours in the kitchen. 1802 MAR. EDGEWORTH *Moral T., Forester, Bet*, Sir Philip staked his handsome horse Sawney against Archibald's sorry pony. 1847 TENNYSON *Princess* Prol. 168 I'll stake my ruby ring upon it you did. 1885 *Spectator* 25 July 977/2 The believer had the courage of his opinions and staked ten dollars on a magician whom he knew.

4. *fig.* To risk the loss of, to hazard.

1670 COTTON *Espernon* I. IV. 147 Men of Quality, who had generously stak'd their persons for the good of their fellow Citizens. 1766 GIBBON *Decl. & F.* v. (1782) I. 148 They had staked their lives against the chance of empire. 1868 STANLEY *Westm. Abbey* iv. 248 On it the sculptor Gibbs staked his immortality. 1874 GREEN *Short Hist.* vii. § 4 (1882) 378 Mary had staked all on her union with Darnley.

† **Stake,** *v.*[4] *Sc. Obs.* Also **staik.** [Of obscure origin; cf. STOCK *v.*, which has a similar sense, though etymological connexion is inadmissible.] *trans.* To supply the needs of; to stock or furnish sufficiently with something.

1547 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* I. 80 And ordains the said Abbot and his convent religious men be honestlie stakit and furnist. 1565-6 *Ibid.* 426 That thai, on na wayis, sell ony part..of the samyn wynis..unto the tyme thair Hienessis, the prelattis..and baronis be first stakit of thair necessaris thairof. 1573 *Satir. Poems Reform.* xlii. 162 Quhilk number [of preachers]..is sa small The Kirkis can not be stakit all. *a* 1578 LINDESAY (Pitscottie) *Chron. Scot.* (S.T.S.) II. 319 Collectouris maid in everie towne quhair salt vas maid to take vp sa mikill as to staik the cuntrie. 1583 *Leg. Bp. St. Androis* 170 in *Satir. Poems Reform.*, Perceaving weill St Androis vaikit and syne how sone the knave was staikit. 1641 D. FERGUSON *Sc. Prov.* (1785) 16 He's well staikit there-ben, that will neither borrow nor len.

b. Of a thing: To supply the wants of, to be sufficient for, to satisfy.

1550 *Rec. Elgin* (New Spalding Club 1903) I. 104 It salbe lesum to skynneris to pull samone voll skynnis as will staik tham to mak vark of within thair bothis. 1563 *Sc. Acts Mary* (1814) II. 539/1 That thay that ar appointit..haue the principall mans.., or samekill thairof as salbe fundin sufficient for staiking of thame. *a* 1568 A. SCOTT *Poems* xi. 32 3e suld considdir or 3e taik thame [*i. e.* lovers] That littill scheruice will no[t] staik thame. 1589 R. BRUCE *Serm. Sacrament* ii. (1590) G 2, Be the naked and simple preaching of the worde 3ee get faith; sa the simple word may staike 3ou.

c. *intr.* To suffice.

1572 *Satir. Poems Reform.* xxx. 213 This Tragedie may staik, to tell the Lordis,..The thrid of marche was worthy Methwen slane. 1583 *Leg. Bp. St. Androis* 642 in *Sat. Poems Reform.*, To London Lowrie tuke the geat, With traine my[t] staik for his esteat. 1585 JAS. I *Ess. Poesie* (Arb.) 31 Abusers, staikes it not to lurk in lust, Without [etc.].

Hence **Sta·king** *vbl. sb.*, (one's) fill.

1577-95 *Descr. Isles Scot.* in W. F. Skene *Celtic Scot.* (1880) III. App. 431 [They] saltis na fisches, but eittis thair staiking and castis the rest on the land.

Stake, obs. form of STEAK.

Stake, obs. pa. t. of STEEK, STICK *vbs.*

Staked (stēikt), *ppl. a.* [f. STAKE *v.*[1] + -ED[1].] In senses of the verb. *Staked-and-bound*: cf. STAKE *sb.*[1] 2 b.

1531 *Rec. St. Mary at Hill* (1905) 37 Item, a stakyd flforme vjd. 1852 R. S. SURTEES *Sponge's Sp. Tour* (1893) 375 Now for the wall! It's five feet high..in the staked-out part. 1861 WHYTE MELVILLE *Mkt. Harb.* xxv, The last obstacle..consists of two ditches and a strong staked-and-bound fence on a bank. 1863 LYELL *Antiq. Man* 30 A staked inclosure had been raised round the cabin. 1865 A. SMITH *Summer in Skye* I. 155 Women in white caps..sat beside a staked cow or pony.

Staker[1] (stē·kəɹ). [f. STAKE *v.*[1] + -ER[1].] One who drives in a stake; one who uses a stake.

1486 [see SENTRE]. 1897 C. T. DAVIS *Manuf. Leather* xx. (ed. 2) 274 Should this occur, the staker's balance would be lost, and he would be in danger of being impaled upon his stake.

† **b.** (See quot.) *Obs.*

1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 261/1 Terms of Art used by Brick-Makers..Staker, is him that puts the Clay off the Ground, upon the Board.

Staker[2] (stē·kəɹ). [f. STAKE *v.*[3] + -ER[1].] One who stakes or wagers money, etc.

1660 HEXHAM, *Een wedder*, A Wagerer, or a Staker. In mod. Dicts.

Staker: see STACKER *sb.*[2] and *v.*

Staking (stē·kiŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. STAKE *v.*[1] + -ING[1].] The action of driving in a stake; the action of piercing with or impaling on a stake.

1... *Poenit. Ecgberti* iv. 17 in Thorpe *Ags. Laws* (1840) II. 208 And gif se man for þære stacunge dead bið þonne fæste he .vii. gear. 1420 in *For. Acc. 3 Hen. VI.* H, In diuersis peciis maeremii et ferri emptis..et expenditis circa stakyng, Pyling et shoyng diuersorum pilorum in portu. 1630 LENNARD tr. *Charron's Wisd.* I. xlii. (1670) 156 Those tortures of the wheel, and staking of men alive, came from the North. 1664 EVELYN *Sylva* (1679) 12 To leave nothing omitted which may contribute to the stability of our Transplanted Trees, something is to be premis'd concerning their staking. 1707 MORTIMER *Husb.* (1721) II. 7 They will neither require staking nor watering. 1842 LOUDON *Suburban Hort.* 637 Very abundant crops of the scarlet runner are obtained without staking. 1897 *Outing* (U.S.) XXX. 137/2 If you coves'll lend me a hand at the 'staking', as he termed the fence building.

† **b.** A stake. *Obs. rare*[—1].

c 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* IV. 82 A sadder vyne a bigger stake olofte Mot holde; a lighter vyne is with a lesse Stakynge vpholde.

c. *Leather-manuf.* The action or process of drawing skins over the stake.

1852 MORFIT *Tanning & Currying* (1853) 411 The tanned skins..are subjected to what is technically termed staking.

d. Comb.: **staking-iron,** a leather-dresser's stake (*Cent. Dict. Suppl.* 1909); **staking jaws,** the jaws of a staking-machine; **staking-machine,** a machine for softening leather by means of a blade drawn backwards and forwards over the skin.

1897 C. T. DAVIS *Manuf. Leather* xx. (ed. 2) 273 Staking machines...In addition they have two other sets of staking jaws, all different and giving different results.

Stakker, obs. form of STACKER *v.*

Staktometer: see STACTOMETER.

Stal, obs. f. STALL; obs. pa. t. of STEAL *v.*

Stalactic (stălæ·ktik), *a.* [ad. Gr. *σταλακτικός*, dropping, dripping, f. *σταλακ-*, *σταλάσσειν* to let drop, intr. to drop, drip.] Deposited by dripping water; pertaining to or consisting of stalactites. Cf. STALACTITIC *a.*

1756 P. BROWNE *Jamaica* (1789) 26 Most of the hills..are chiefly composed of stalactic matter. 1828-32 WEBSTER. 1900 *Westm. Gaz.* 1 Sept. 4/2 Arrays of stalactic forms.

Stalactical (stălæ·ktikăl), *a.* Now *rare.* [Formed as prec. + -AL.] Of the nature of a stalactite; resembling or pertaining to stalactites.

1714 DERHAM *Phys.-Theol.* II. i. (ed. 2) 64 A Cave, which ..was lined with those Stalactical Stones. *Ibid.*, This Sparry, Stalactical Substance. 1755 AMORY *Mem.* (1766) II. 212 The most elegant and beautiful stalactical figures the water has made. 1802 ACERBI *Trav.* I. 41 Stalactical ornaments of the same kind [*sc.* icicles]..were also attached to his nose and mouth. 1805 SAUNDERS *Min. Waters* 132 Natural caverns..whose stalactical grottoes are great objects of curiosity to..visitors. 1869 PHILLIPS *Vesuvius* v. 149 Salts of different kinds hang in stalactical shapes from the caverns.

Stalactiform (stălæ·ktifōm), *a.* [f. STALACTITE + -(I)FORM.] Having the form of a stalactite.

1839 DE LA BECHE *Rep. Geol. Cornwall*, etc. ix. 262 The siliceous matter having infiltrated while in solution into cavities, and being there deposited in a stalactiform manner. 1853 TH. ROSS tr. *Humboldt's Trav.* III. xxix. 168 Stalactiform chalcedonies.

Stalactital (stælæktəi·tăl), *a.* Also 8 *erron.* stall-. [f. STALACTITE + -AL.] = STALACTITIC.

1789 J. WILLIAMS *Min. Kingd.* II. 378 Some of the stalactital productions. 1867 BAILEY *Univ. Hymn* 12 Huge halls Where stalactital mountains hang. 1874 *Hartwig's Aerial World* x. 154 The most magnificent stalactital grotto.

Stalactite (stælæktəit, stălæ·ktəit). Also 9 **stalactyte.** [Anglicized form of STALACTITES. Cf. F. *stalactit* (1752 in Hatz.-Darm.), G. *stalaktit.* Here and in STALAGMITE the U.S. Dicts. recognize only the second of the two pronunciations given.]

1. An icicle-like formation of calcium carbonate, depending from the roof or sides of a cavern and produced by the dropping of waters which have percolated through, and partially dissolved, the overlying limestone.

1677 PLOT *Oxfordsh.* 96 Such are the stones made of nothing but such water, as it drops from the roofs and caverns of the Rocks, and therefore called Stalactites. 1789 MILLS in *Phil. Trans.* LXXX. 93 Some calcareous stalactites pendent from the roof. 1793 *Phil. Trans.* LXXXIV. 405 In one of them rises a stalactite of uncommon bigness. 1819 SHELLEY *Ode to Heaven* 31 Like weak insects in a cave, Lighted up by stalactites. 1847 DISRAELI *Tancred* v. v, With pendants of daring grace hanging like stalactites from some sparry cavern. 1877 W. BLACK *Green Past.* xxxvii. 295 They seem to be a stupendous semicircular wall of solid and motionless stalactites.

b. A similar formation of other material.

1801 J. BARROW *Trav. S. Africa* I. 164 From the under surfaces of the..rotten sand-stone were suspended a great quantity of saline stalactites. 1802 ACERBI *Trav.* I. 44 All the rooms..were embellished by long stalactites of multifarious shapes..composed of the treacle and congealed water. 1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* I. xi. 77 A vertical precipice, from the coping of which vast stalactites of ice depended. 1890 E. S. DANA in *J. D. Dana's Charac. Volcanoes* 322 The delicate stalactites and stalagmites of lava which occur in the caverns. 1902 CORNISH *Naturalist on Thames* 101 Stalactites of finest meal-dust hung from every nail..on the walls.

2. A general term for limestone found in this formation.

1796 KIRWAN *Elem. Min.* (ed. 2) I. 88 Stalactite, alabaster, sinter. 1823 BUCKLAND *Relig. Diluv.* 10 The roof and sides were found to be partially studded and cased over with a coating of stalactite. 1839 DE LA BECHE *Rep. Geol. Cornwall*, etc. xiii. 413 More or less filled by loam, sand, or stalactite. 1908 *Blackw. Mag.* July 102/1 White crusts of stalactite.

3. *Arch.* (See quot. 1895.)

1895 *Funk's Stand. Dict., Stalactite*, A downward-projecting ornament of a vaulted surface.

4. *attrib.* and *Comb.*: **stalactite-work** *Arch.* (see quot. 1902.)

1864 J. HUNT tr. *Vogt's Lect. Man* ix. 247 A stalactite roof. 1881-2 CLARA BELL tr. *Ebers' Egypt* I. 227 The stalactite ornament, as it has been called—from a false idea that it was an imitation of those fantastical natural formations which [etc.]. *Ibid.* 228 Perso-Turkish Stalactite Capital [figured]. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* IV. 798 Small stalactite-like projections. 1897 W. MILLAR *Plastering* 422 A stalactite-shaped cornice. *Ibid.* 425 Other mosques, palaces, and monuments with stalactite domes and cornices. 1902 STURGIS *Dict. Archit.* III. 612 *Stalactite work*, a system of corbelling of peculiar form or the imitation of such corbelling in wood and plaster.

Stalactited (stælæktəitĕd), *a.* [f. STALACTITE + -ED[2].] **a.** Covered or filled with stalactites. **b.** 'Formed in more or less semblance of stalactites' (*Cent. Dict.*).

1891 TALMAGE in *Voice* (N.Y.) Jan. 1, From cellar of stalactited cave, clear up to the silvery rafters of the star-lit dome. 1895 *Funk's Stand. Dict., Stalactited*, 2. Ornamented in imitation of icicles: said of masonry.

‖ **Stalactites** (stælæktəi·tīz). Now *rare.* Pl. **stalactitæ** (-tī). [mod.L. (Olaus Wormius *a* 1654), f. Gr. *σταλακτ-ός* dropping, dripping (vbl. adj. f. *σταλακ-*, *σταλάσσειν* to let drip, intr. to drip), after names of stones in *-ītēs*: see -ITE[1].] = STALACTITE.

[*a* 1654 O. WORMIUS *Mus.* I. II. vi. (1655) 50 De Stalactite, Stalagmite, Osteocolla,..&c. Ad molliorum lapidum classem referimus Stalactitem, Norvegis Berg-drab]. 1681 GREW *Museum* III. § i. v. 301 The Larger Hollow Stalactites, or Water-Pipe. 1695 WOODWARD *Nat. Hist. Earth* IV. 202 Sometimes Spar, and other crasser Minerals, are thus mounted up, and..form Stalactitæ, or Sparry Icycles hanging down from the Arches of the Grotto's. 1794 R. J. SULIVAN *View Nat.* I. 421 In caverns and fissures, stalactitæ, ..and other substances, crystallize in various forms.

Stalactitic (stælæktī·tik), *a.* [f. STALACTITE + -IC.]

1. Having the form or structure of a stalactite, resembling or pertaining to stalactites.

1778 *Ann. Reg., Nat. Hist.* 103/1 A kind of sparry stalactitick shell. 1799 KIRWAN *Geol. Ess.* 127 Stalactitic concretions of modern formation. 1823 BUCKLAND *Relig. Diluv.* 49 A hollow stalactitic tube. 1830 LYELL *Princ. Geol.* I. 384 It is of a hard stalactitic nature. 1877 *Erichsen's Surg.* (ed. 7) II. 228 Stalactitic masses of bone. 1886 G. P. MERRILL in *Ann. Rep. Smithsonian Inst.* II. (1889) 525 *Stalactitic marble*..is a marble which is formed by the deposit of lime carbonates from waters percolating into cavities or caves.

2. Covered with, containing or consisting of stalactites.

1845 HIRST *Poems* 67 Stalactitic islands ever rise from out the waves of sound. *a* 1849 H. COLERIDGE *Ess.* (1851) I. 253 Stalactitic caves. 1849 DANA *Geol.* 272 The roof was very rough, though not stalactitic. 1872 W. S. SYMONDS *Rec. Rocks* ix. 351 A thin stalactitic floor, the results of the droppings of water.

Stalactitical (stælæktī·tikăl), *a.* [f. STALACTITE + -IC + -AL.] = prec.

1770 LLOYD in *Phil. Trans.* LXI. 253 Some small stalactitical drops hanging from the roof. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XII. 72/2 Stalactitical gypsum. *Gipsum sinter.* 1833-4 J. PHILLIPS *Geol.* in *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) VI. 767/2 Calcedony..sometimes appears in a stalactitical form hanging downwards. 1869 — *Vesuvius* iii. 65 With a channelled surface and stalactitical shapes.

Hence **Stalacti·tically** *adv.*

1830 LYELL *Princ. Geol.* I. 384 From whence calcareous particles may be deposited stalactitically.

Stalactitiform (stælæktī·tifōm), *a. rare.* [f. STALACTITE + -(I)FORM.] = STALACTIFORM.

1805 WITHERING tr. *Werner's Ext. Char. Fossils* 255 Stalactitiform (tropfsteinartig). 1823 W. PHILLIPS *Introd. Min.* (ed. 3) p. xcv, Stalactitiform minerals greatly resemble icicles in shape.

Stalactitious (stælæktī·ʃəs), *a. rare*[—1]. [f. STALACTITE + -IOUS.] Containing stalactites.

1799 COLERIDGE in *New Monthly Mag.* (1835) XLV. 213 An enormous cavern..dripping, stalactitious.

Stalage, variant of STALLAGE.

‖ **Stalagma** (stălæ·gmă). [mod.L., a. Gr. *στάλαγμα*, drop, drip, f. *σταλακ-*, *σταλάσσειν*: see STALACTIC *a.*]

1. A distilled liquor. *rare*[—0].

1693 tr. *Blancard's Phys. Dict.* (ed. 2), *Stalagma*, that which is Distilled from *Stagma*. 1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey). 1855 DUNGLISON *Med. Lex.*, *Stalagma*, stagma.

2. = STALAGMITE 2.

1903 R. BRIDGES *Poems Class. Prosody* I. 358 Caves..abandon'd Ages since to the drift and the drip, the cementing accretions Whence we now separate his bones buried in the stalagma.

Stalagmite (stæ·lăgməit, stălæ·gməit). Also 7 **stalagmites.** [a. mod.L. *stalagmītēs* (Olaus Wormius: see STALACTITES), f. Gr. *στάλαγμα* STALAGMA or *σταλαγμός* a dropping, f. *σταλακ-*, *σταλάσσειν*: see STALACTIC *a.* Cf. F. *stalagmite.*]

1. An incrustation or deposit, more or less like an inverted stalactite, on the floor of a cavern, formed by the dropping from the roof of some material in solution.

1681 Grew *Musæum* III. § i. v. 295 The Cluster'd Stalagmites. 1758 Platt in *Phil. Trans.* L. 527 The stalactites and stalagmites, of which there is great variety. 1841 Catlin *N. Amer. Ind.* (1844) II. lii. 148 The rich stalagmites that grew up from the bottom reflected a golden light through the water. 1878 Huxley *Physiogr.* viii. 122 As the stalagmite grows in height, it approaches the stalactite above which continues to grow downward.

2. Limestone deposited in this manner.

1815 Aikin *Min.* (ed. 2) 159 Stalagmite occurs mammillated. 1823 Buckland *Reliq. Diluv.* 12 The effect of the loam and stalagmite in preserving the bones from decomposition ..has been very remarkable. 1882 Geikie *Text-bk. Geol.* II. II. vi. 113 The crust-like deposit known as stalagmite.

3. *attrib.* **Stalagmite marble**, onyx marble.

1851 D. Wilson *Preh. Ann.* (1863) I. iv. 122 Extinct fauna buried beneath its stalagmite flooring. 1864 J. Hunt tr. *Vogt's Lect. Man* ix. 237 The stalagmite crust. 1895 *Funk's Stand. Dict.*, Stalagmite marble.

Stalagmitic (stælăgmi·tik), *a.* [f. Stalagmite + -ic. Cf. F. *stalagmitique.*] Formed in the same way as a stalagmite, composed of stalagmites or having their form or character.

1772 Banks in *Pennant's Tour Scot.* (1774) 302 A yellow stalagmitic matter has exuded. 1811 Pinkerton *Petral.* II. 501 More commonly this calcareous substance lines the cavities under the stalagmitic form. 1824 *Ann. Reg.* 238* A stalagmitic incrustation. 1862 D. Wilson *Preh. Man* iii. 46 A thick stalagmitic flooring. 1883 Rudler in *Encycl. Brit.* XV. 529 Stalagmitic marbles.

Stalagmitical (stælăgmi·tikăl), *a.* [f. Stalagmite + -ic + -al.] = prec.

1809 J. Kidd *Min.* I. 15 Stalagmitical Marble. *Ibid.* 46 Stalagmitical depositions constituted the alabaster of the ancients. 1833-4 J. Phillips *Geol.* in *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) VI. 695/2 Stalagmitical carbonate of lime.

Hence **Stalagmi·tically** *adv.*

1823 Buckland *Reliq. Diluv.* 111 Ochreous concretions, formed stalagmitically.

Sta·lagmo·meter. [f. Gr. *σταλαγμό-s* (see Stalagmite) + -meter.] An apparatus for measuring drops. So **Stala·gmoscope**, [-scope], an instrument for viewing drops.

1864 Guthrie in *Proc. Roy. Soc.* XIII. 477 In the cases of the still more proximate identity of isomeric bodies mentioned above..the stalagmometer may be used rather as a stalagmoscope, to render evident rather than to measure a difference of drop-size.

Stalan(d, stala(u)nt, obs. forms of Stallion.

Stalboat, obs. form of Stall-boat.

†**Stalch.** *Mining. Obs. rare.* [Of obscure origin.] A piece of ground left uncut though all around has been worked.

1747 Hooson *Miner's Dict.* T 4, *Stalch*, a Piece of Wholes that is left uncut, yet we know it to be cut over the Top of it, and under, and at both Ends.

Stald, var. *staled, stalled*: see Stale, Stall *vbs.*

Stalder (stɔ·ldəɹ). Also 7 **staulder.** [app. f. *stal-* root of OE. *stellan* to place.]

†1. (See quot. 1611.) *Obs.*

1611 Cotgr., *Buchier*, a stalder, wood-house, or wood-pile. *Ibid.*, *Chantier de bois*, a staulder, woodstacke, pile of wood.

2. *dial.* A 'horse' or frame for casks to stand on.

1736 J. Lewis *I. of Tenet* (ed. 2) 39 *Stalder*, a Stilling, or Frame to put Barrels on. 1853 W. D. Cooper *Sussex Gloss.* (ed. 2) 78. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.*

Stalding, erron. form of Scalding *sb.*[2]

1577 Holinshed *Chron.* II. 835/2 Pollardes, Crocardes, Staldinges, Egles.

†**Stale,** *sb.*[1] *Obs.* Forms: 1 **stalu,** *Northumb.* **stalo,** 2 **stala,** 2–4 **stale.** [OE. *stalu* str. fem. = OHG. *stala* fem. (mod.G. *-stahl* in *diebstahl* masc., theft), f. OTeut. **stal-* : **stel-* : see Steal *v.*]

1. Theft, stealing.

c 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Matt. xix. 18 Ne doe ðu ðiofonto vel stalo. 971 *Blickling Hom.* 75 Þis þu cwist for þinre ȝitsunge & for þinre stale. *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 13 Stala and steorfa swiðe eow scal hene. *a* 1200 *Moral Ode* 253 Þa..þe luueden tening [*v.r.* reuing] and stale. 1340 *Ayenb.* 9 Ine þise heste is vorbode roberie, þiefþe, stale, and gavel.

2. *By stale* = by stealth.

a 1240 *Sawles Warde* in *Cott. Hom.* 249 Hire wune is to cumen bi stale..hwen me least cweneð.

Stale (stēl), *sb.*[2] Now *dial.* Forms: 1 **stalu,** 7 **staile, stayl,** 7, 9 **stail,** 3– **stale.** See also Steal *sb.*[1] [OE. *stalu* str. fem., related by ablaut to the synonymous *stela* Steal *sb.*[1] Cf. MFlem. *stael* (Kilian), WFlem. *staal* (De Bo), NFris. *stal, staal* masc., handle, WFris. *stâlle.*

The words *stale* and *steal* cannot be completely separated, as the spellings *stale, stail* may represent a dialectal pronunciation of *steal*, and on the other hand the sound which would be given in some dialects to *stale* would naturally be written *steal* by outsiders. For convenience, the examples with the spelling *staile stale* are placed here, and those with the spelling *steal, steele*, etc. under Steal *sb.*[1]]

†1. Each of the two upright sides of a ladder (*obs.*). Also (now *dial.*), a rung or step of a ladder. Also, the stave of a rack in a stable.

Cf. OE. *hearpanstala* 'ceminigi' (*a* 1000 in Wr.-Wülcker 203/36), perh. the side-pieces of a harp.

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 354 Scheome and pine..beoð þe two leddre stalen þet beoð upriht to þe heouene, and bitweonen beos stalen beoð þe tindes ivestned of alle gode þeawes, bi hwuche me climbeð to þe blisse of heouene. *c* 1315 Shoreham *Poems* I. 49 Þis ilke laddre is charite, þe stales gode þeawis. 1714 Savage *Art Prudence* 172 The first Stale of this Ladder of Fortune. 1887 *Kent. Gloss.*, *Stales*, the staves, or risings of a ladder, or the staves of a rack in a stable. 1892 *Daily News* 13 Apr. 6/5 [Letter from a former labourer in Kent.] Give the labourer easy access to the land, and thereby put the stails very close together in the bottom of the social ladder.

† b. *fig.* Position in a series. *Obs. rare*[–1].

[This may perh. belong to Stall *sb.*[1]]

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* A. 1002 Iasper hyȝt ȝe fyrst gemme.. Saffer helde þe secounde stale.

2. A handle, esp. a long, slender handle, as the handle of a rake, etc. Also, the stem of a pipe, etc.

a 1200 *Sidonius Glosses* in *Anecd. Oxon.* I. v. 59/22 *Ansae* et *ansulae* alicuius rei sunt illa eminentia in illa re per quam capi possit .i. 'stale'. *c* 1393 Langl. *P. Pl.* C. xxii. 279 (Vesp. MS.) And lerede men a ladel bygge with a long stale [*v.r.* stele]. 1547 *MS. Harl.* 1419 lf. 145 b, Twoo forkes of mettall guilte, the stales beinge of glasse. 1624 in Simpkinson *Washingtons* (1860) p. lvii, Pitch forke stailes. 1649–53 Blithe *Eng. Improv. Impr.* (ed. 3) 72 Thy Stail need not be so long as a naturall Spade-stail. *a* 1652 Brome *Covent Gard.* I. i. stage-dir., A Table bottle, light, and Tobacco stales. 1675 Worlidge *Syst. Agric.* (ed. 2) 251 Which Net you hold strongly against the place, by the help of a Stail or handle that is fixed athwart the Bow. 1688 Holme *Armoury* III. 343/1 The Mallet when it is large, and a long Stail or Handle, is termed a Maul by Wood Men. *Ibid.* III. xxi. (Roxb.) 253/2 He beareth Sable a Dung fork,.. Argent, the shank or staile. 1742 *Lond. & Country Brew.* I. (ed. 4) 61 In Case your Cask is a Butt,..have ready boiling ..Water, which put in, and, with a long Stale and a little Birch fastened to its End, scrub the Bottom. 1828 *Mech. Mag.* IX. 238 They are set like unto a hoe for a stroke with a straight stail (handle). 1890 *Manch. Guardian* 4 Feb. 12/3 You came to me with the axe head in one hand and the stale in the other.

3. A stalk or stem.

c 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* XI. 194 And theryn do pistacis iij by tale, And of hem all vp wol ther ryse a stale [*germen*]. 1854 Miss Baker *Northampt. Gloss.*, *Stail*, the stalk of a flower or fruit.

4. The stem of an arrow or spear.

1553 Brende *Q. Curtius* ix. 192 The Surgians cut of the stale of that shaft in suche wise, that they moued not the heade that was wythin the fleshe. 1585 Higins *Junius' Nomencl.* 276/1 *Hastile*,..a speare staffe or the shaft and stale of a iaueline. *c* 1611 Chapman *Iliad* IV. 173 Seeing th'arrowes stale without.

Stale (stēl), *sb.*[3] [Prob. a. AF. *estale, estal* (only in Bozon, 13th c.), applied to a pigeon used to entice a hawk into the net; that this word is not an adoption from English is rendered probable by the occurrence of the extended form *estalon* in continental Fr. with the same sense (Cotgrave 1611; Godefroy gives earlier instances spelt *estolon, etelon*). Of Teut. origin; cf. OE. *stælhrán* decoy reindeer, *stællo* (Northumbrian) catching (of fish), prob. from the root of *steall* place (Stall *sb.*[1]) *stellan* to place; for the sense cf. the rendering of *stale* by 'stacionaria' in the *Promptorium*, and G. *stellvogel* decoy-bird.

It has been usual to regard the *stæl-* in *stælhrán* as identical with the combining form of *stalu* theft (as in *stælgiest* predatory guest, *stælhere* plundering army); but the difference of meaning renders this unlikely; and the current identification of ONorthumb. *stællo* with *stalu* seems inadmissible on grounds both of form and sense.]

1. A decoy-bird; a living bird used to entice other birds of its own species, or birds of prey, into a snare or net. Also, a stuffed bird or figure of a bird used for the same purpose. *Obs.* (? exc. *dial.*)

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 472/1 Stale, of fowlynge or byrdys takynge, *stacionaria*. *a* 1542 Surrey *Song*, '*Eche beast can chose*' in *Tottel's Misc.* (Arb.) 220 As a faucon free.. Which..for no stale doth care. 1552 Huloet, Stale that fowlers vse, *incitabulum, mentita auis*. 1579–80 North *Plutarch, Sylla* (1595) 515 Like vnto the fowlers, that by their stales draw other birdes into their nets. 1608 [Topte] *Ariosto's Sat.* IV. (1611) 52 A wife that's more then faire is like a stale, Or chanting whistle which brings birds to thrall. 1621 Markham *Fowling* 31 You shal stake downe here and there a liue Stale, being either a Mallard, or a Widgon, or a Tayle. 1624 Quarles *Job Militant* v. med. xxv, As the treacherous Fowler..doth first deuise To make a Bird his stale, at whose false Call, Others may chance into the selfe-same Thrall. 1675 Worlidge *Syst. Agric.* (ed. 2) 322 *Stale*, a living Fowl, put in any place to allure other Fowl, where they may be taken. 1681 Flavel *Meth. Grace* xxxv. 588 'Tis the living bird that makes the best stale to draw others into the net. 1768 Pennant *Brit. Zool.* II. 365 The birds, enticed by a stale or stuffed bird, come under the nets. 1888 Fenn *Dick o' the Fens* 53 If my live birds aren't all drownded and my stales spoiled.

attrib. 1725 *Bradley's Fam. Dict.* s. v. *Day-net*, When you have placed..your Gigs and Stales, go to the further End of your long Drawing-lines and Stale-lines, and [etc.].

b. in figurative context.

1579 Stubbes *Discov. Gaping Gulf* B 4 b, Her daughter Margerit was the stale to lure..them that otherwise flewe hyghe..and could not be gotten. 1584 Stafford in *Eng. Hist. Rev.* (1913) Jan. 44 *note*, I am more than half afraid that he [Sidney] is made but a stale to take a bird withal. 1614 Jackson *Creed* III. ix. 97 Bellarmines distinctions.. may hence be described to be but meere stales to catch guls. 1645 F. Thorpe in *Hull Lett.* (1886) 120 But five yeares experience hath taught English men another lesson than to be Catcht twice with one Stale.

†2. *transf.* and *fig.* A deceptive means of allurement; a person or thing held out as a lure or bait to entrap a person. *Obs.*

a 1529 Skelton *E. Rummyng* 324 It was a stale to take the devyl in a brake. 1530 Tindale *Pract. Prelates* B ij, The chefest stale wherwith the cardinall caught the kynges grace. 1577 Holinshed *Hist. Eng.* I. 79/2 The Britaynes woulde oftentimes..lay their Cattell..in places conueniente, to bee as a stale to the Romaynes, and when the Romaynes should make to them to fetch the same away..they would fall vpon them. 1610 Shaks. *Temp.* IV. i. 187 The trumpery in my house, goe bring it hither For stale to catch these theeues. 1615 G. Sandys *Trav.* I. 66 Beautifull boyes, who serve as stales to procure them customers. 1670 Eachard *Cont. Clergy* 88 Six-pence or a shilling to put into the Box, for a stale to decoy in the rest of the Parish. 1692 [J. Wilson] *Vindic. Carol.* xxvi. 132 Which yet they made use of but as a Stale to the Faction.

†3. A person who acts as a decoy; esp. the accomplice of a thief or sharper. *Obs.*

1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 119 Theyr mynystres be false bretherne or false systerne, stales of ye deuyll. 1579 Gosson *Sch. Abuse* (Arb.) 36 Every Vawter in one blinde Tauerne or other, is Tenant at will,..and playes the stale to vtter their victualls. 1591 Greene *Conny Catching* I. Wks. (Grosart) X. 38 He that faceth the man, the Stale. 1610 Rowlands *M. Mark-all* G 2, [He] was faine to liue among the wicked,..a stale for a foyst. 1622 J. Taylor (Water P.) *Water-Cormorant* D 2 b, He..Can play the Foist, the Nip, the Stale. 1633 Marmion *Fine Companion* III. iv, This is Captain Whibble, the Towne stale, For all cheating imployments.

†4. More fully *common stale*: a prostitute of the lowest class, employed as a decoy by thieves. Often (? associated with Stale *a.*) used *gen.* as a term of contempt for an unchaste woman. *Obs.*

1593 *Tell-Trothe's N. Y. Gift* (1876) 35 Can women want wit to frustrate a common stale. 1599 Shaks. *Much Ado* II. ii. 26 Spare not to tell him, that hee hath wronged his Honor in marrying the renowned Claudio..to a contaminated stale. *Ibid.* IV. i. 66, I stand dishonour'd that haue gone about, To linke my deare friend to a common stale. 1605 Daniel *Queen's Arcadia* II. i, But to be leaft for such a one as she, The stale of all, what will folke thinke of me? *a* 1641 Bp. Mountagu *Acts & Mon.* (1642) 265 Detesting as he said the insatiable impudency of a prostitute Stale. *fig.* 1641 Milton *Reform.* I. to The Bishops..suffer'd themselvs to be the common stales to countenance with their prostituted Gravities every Politick Fetch that was then on foot.

†5. A person or thing made use of as a means or tool for inducing some result, as a pretext for some action, or as a cover for sinister designs. Cf. Stalking-horse. *Obs.*

1580 Grindal in Strype *Life* (1710) 252 That of the two nominated, one should be an unfit Man, and as it were a Stale, to bring the Office to the other. 1593 Shaks. 3 *Hen. VI*, III. iii. 260 Had he none else to make a stale but me? 1598–9 B. Jonson *Case Altered* v. iii, Was this your drift? to vse Fernezes name? Was he your fittest stale? 1606 Hieron *Truth's Purch.* ii. 45 Not to be (as it were) a stale, vnder the shadow whereof we may the more boldly giue our selues ouer to vngodlinesse. 1614 Raleigh *Hist. World* IV. iii. § 19. 239 Eurydice..meaning nothing lesse than to let her husband serue as a Stale, keeping the throne warme, till another were growne old enough to sit in it. 1620–6 Quarles *Feast for Worms* 158 Lawyers arise, make not your righteous Lawes, A stale for Bribes. 1624 [Scott] *2nd Pt. Vox Populi* 14 Spaine hath..vsed their alliance and friendshippe but as a stale or stalking-horse ouer their backes to shoote at others. *c* 1640 Suckling *Brennoralt* II. i, Her health, is a stale, And helps us to make us drinke on. 1652 Peyton *Catastr. Ho. Stuarts* (1731) 11 Giving it out for a Stale, that the Earl, with others, would have killed him. 1711 Puckle *Club* (1817) 20 A pretence of kindness is the universal stale to all base projects. 1774 *Ann. Reg., Hist. Europe* 20/1 Those people were only used as a stale for ambition and rapacity.

†6. A lover or mistress whose devotion is turned into ridicule for the amusement of a rival or rivals.

Some examples suggest allusion to some unknown sense relating to deer.

1579 Lyly *Euphues* (Arb.) 96, I perceiue Lucilla (said he) that I was made thy stale, and Philautus thy laughing stocke. 1588 T. Hughes *Arthur* I. ii. 3 Was I then chose and wedded for his stale? 1590 Shaks. *Com. Err.* II. i. 101 [A neglected wife says:] But, too vnruly Deere, he breakes the pale And feedes from home; poore I am but his stale. 1611 Middleton & Dekker *Roaring Girl* IV. ii. 154 Did I for this lose all my friends..to be made A stale to a common whore? *a* 1616 Beaum. & Fl. *Little Fr. Lawyer* III. i, This comes of rutting; Are we made stales to one another? 1635 Rutter *Sheph. Holyday* v. ii. G 1 b, She would say, You have another mistresse, go to her, I wil not be her stale.

†**Stale,** *sb.*[4] *Obs.* Also 4–6 **staill,** 6 **stayll, stail(e, steill,** (6–7 **stall,** 7 **stal**). [a. OF. *estal*, used in many specific applications of the senses (1) place, position, (2) something placed or fixed (mod.F. *étal* butcher's stall), a. OHG. *stal*: see Stall *sb.*[1]]

1. A fixed position or station. *To hold or keep (one's) stale* [= OF. *tenir (son) estal*]: to maintain one's position in battle.

1375 Barbour *Bruce* XVII. 97 [Thai] ordanit, that the mast party Of thair men suld gang sarraly *With thar* lordis, and hald a staill. *c* 1450 in Kingsford *Chron. London* (1905) 123 And at pavelen..þe Erle of Dorzet helde is stale, and þer he toke prisoners. 1470–85 Malory *Arthur* v. xi. 179 And syr Florence with his C knyghtes alwey kepte the stale and foughte manly.

2. An ambush. *In stale*: in ambush.

c 1425 Wyntoun *Cron.* IX. viii. 811 And he in stale howyd al stil. 1513 Douglas *Æneis* XI. x. 96 It is a stelling place and sovir harbry, Quhar ost in staill or embuschment may ly. *a* 1548 Hall *Chron., Hen. IV* (1809) 43 While he stode in a stale to lie in waite [1568 Grafton *Chron.* II. 439 He lay in stale to waite] for the relefe that myght come from Caleis. 1557 Edgeworth *Serm.* 231 God badde him [Joshua]

Pone insidias vrbi post eam, laye a stale behynde the citie. 1577 HOLINSHED *Hist. Eng.* II. 1479/2 The erle of Essex..with .ii. C. speares was layde in a stale, if the Frenchmen had come neerer. 1627 *Taking of Ship 'St. Esprit'* in *Harl. Misc.* (1810) V. 111 Which two noblemen ..were drawn within danger by a stale made by twenty common soldiers.

3. A body of armed men posted in a particular place for ambush or otherwise, or detached for reconnoitring or other special service. Also (? chiefly *Sc.*) the main body of an army.

c 1350 in Nicolas *Hist. Royal Navy* (1847) II. 491 [Every time that it shall be ordered..that armed men..shall land on the enemy's coast to seek victuals.., then there shall be ordained a sufficient 'stale' of armed men and archers who shall wait together on the land until the 'forreiours' return to them]. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xl. (Ninian) 1096 Brocht [þar pray] nere to þar stale þat þar abad nocht ful lang. ?*a* 1400 *Morte Arth.* 1355 [Gawayne] sterttes owtte to hys stede, and with his stale wendes. *c* 1400 *Laud Troy Bk.* 9647 Thei of Grece were gadered alle With-oute the diche be-fore the walle, In-myddis the feld ther standis her stale. 14.. in Nicolas *Hist. Royal Navy* (1847) II. 491 That no maner man goe for no forage, but it be with a stale, the whiche shall fowrth twise a weeke. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* v. 32 Schyr Garrat Herroun in the staill can abide. 1513 LD. DACRE in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* Ser. I. I. 94 And I come with a stale to a place called the Dungyon. 1530 PALSGR. 275/1 Stale of horsmen in a felde, *guectevrs*. 1532 *St. Papers Hen. VIII*, IV. 626 Neveryeles I knaw aswell by Englisemen as Scottishmen that their stale was no les then thre thowsand men. 1543 *Ibid.* V. 315 Litle regardinge the service done by the foote men remayninge in the staile, but attributing all the prayse to theim selfes. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VIII*, 127 Sir Willyam FitzWillyam..in great haste sent for his stale of horsemen that he had left couered. 1565 GOLDING *Cæsar* v. 118 For they neuer fought in great companyes..,but scatterynge..,and had stales lying in diuers places one to serue anothers turne. 1577 HOLINSHED *Hist. Scot.* 471/2 The lard of Drunlanrig lying al thys while in ambush..forbare to breake out to gyue any charge vppon his enimies, doubting least the Earle of Lennox hadde kept a stale behynde. *a* 1578 LINDESAY (Pitscottie) *Chron. Scot.* (S.T.S.) I. 74 George Earl of Ormond was in the staill him self. 1579 CHURCHYARD *Gen. Rehearsal Wars* I j, He remained with the whole power of footemen nere the Blacke Neastes, as a stale to annoye the enemie.

b. *In stale* : in battle array.

1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* IV. viii. 123 King Pentheus, in his wod rage dotand, Thocht he beheld gret rowtis stand in staill Of the Ewmenydes.

c. *Flying stale* : a body of troops ordered to move rapidly to any part of the field in which help is required.

a 1500 *Harding's Chron.* ccxl. add. Harl. MS. (1812) 417 With fotemen in tho two erledomes with fleynge stales to releue theym. 1532 *St. Papers Hen. VIII*, IV. 628 And I did send for there strenght my cousyn Sir Arthur Darcy, being accompaned with 6 hundreth and above in a fleyng stale.

d. *transf.* A band of hunters.

c 1425 WYNTOUN *Cron.* VI. 1609 (Wemyss MS.) As he past apon a day In till his hunting him to play..The staill and þe settys set. 1536 BELLENDEN *Cron. Scot.* (1821) II. 298 The staill past throw the wod with sic noyis..that all the bestis wer rasit fra thair dennis.

Stale (stēl), *sb.*5 Also 7 **stall.** [? f. STALE *v.* But cf. Du. *stalle*, MLG. *stal*, G. *stall.*]

1. Urine; now only of horses and cattle.

a 1400 *Stockh. Medical MS.* in *Anglia* XVIII. 299 In werd ben men & women..þat þer stale mown not holde. 1530 PALSGR. 275/1 Stale pysse, *escloy.* 1535 COVERDALE *Isa.* XXXVI. 12 That they be not compelled to eate their owne donge, and drinke their owne stale with you? 1548 RECORDE *Urin. Physick* xi. 89 The stale of Camels and Goats..is good for them that have the dropsie. 1583 MELBANCKE *Philotimus* O iij b, Or annoint thy selfe with the stale of a mule. 1606 SHAKS. *Ant. & Cl.* I. iv. 62 Thou did'st drinke The stale of Horses. 1662 GERBIER *Principles* 34 That his Stall doth not remain under him. 1698 FRYER *Acc. E. India & P.* 242 Mice and Weasels by their poysonous Stale infect the Trees so, that they produce Worms. 1733 W. ELLIS *Chiltern & Vale Farm.* 122 Sheep, whose Dung and Stale is of most Virtue in the Nourishment of all Trees. 1805 R. W. DICKSON *Pract. Agric.* I. 51 The stale of mares.

b. *To have a rod in stale* (? Anglo-Irish) : = to have a rod in pickle : see PICKLE *sb.*1 1 b.

1837–8 KEEGAN *Leg. & Poems* (1907) 65, I have a rod in stale for him ever since the night he offinded me at the wake.

2. *Blood-stale, stale-foul* a disease (see quot.).

1816 TOWNE *Farmer & Grazier's Guide* 21 The Blood-Stale in Horses, the Stale-foul, in Oxen, and the Red Water in Sheep, are Diseases..derived from very similar causes.

Stale (stēl), *sb.*6 *Chess.* [a. AF. *estale*, perh. vbl. n. f. *estaler* STALE *v.*3] = STALEMATE.

1423 JAS. I *Kingis Q.* clxix, 'Off mate?' quod sche.. 'thou has fundin stale This mony day'. *c* 1470 *MS. Ashmole 344* lf. 18 b, Þan draw thi fers in to e & þi other fers in to f as nye thy knyght as thow mayst savyng stale. 1591 FLORIO *and Fruites* 75 It is no check-mate, but a stale. 1625 BACON *Ess., Of Boldness* (Arb.) 519 They stand at a stay; Like a Stale at Chesse, where it is no Mate, but yet the Game cannot stirre. 1647 WARD *Simple Cobler* 57 When the Parliament shall give you a mate, though but a Stale. 1656 BEALE *Biochimo's Roy. Game Chess-play* 13 A stale is given when one King hath lost all his men and hath but one place left to fly into, if then the adversary bar him of that place without checking him, so that he being now out of check cannot remove but into check, it is then a stale, and he that giveth it to the distressed King loseth the Game.

Stale (stēl), *a.*1 [Of obscure history, but prob. ultimately f. the Teut. root **sta-* to STAND. Cf. Flem. *stel* in the same sense, said of beer and urine (Kilian; still used in WFlem., see De Bo).]

† 1. Of malt liquor. mead, wine : That has stood long enough to clear; freed from dregs or lees; hence, old and strong. *Obs.*

c 1300 *K. Horn* 383 (Laud) Bi forn þe king abenche Red win to schenche And after mete stale Boþe win and ale. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Sir Thopas* 52 Notemuge to putte in ale, Whether it be moyste or stale. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XIX. lvii. (1495) 896 Yf meth is well sod and stale it is lykynge to the taste. *a* 1400 *Stockh. Medical MS.* in *Anglia* XVIII. 310 Good reed wyn þat be stale. 1421 *Cov. Leet Bk.* (1907) 25 When hit [ale] is good and stale. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 338/1 Sstale As Ale, *defecatus.* *a* 1529 SKELTON *E. Runnyng* 367 And ye will gyve me a syppet Of your stale ale. *a* 1553 UDALL *Royster D.* I. iii. (Arb.) 19 Where good stale ale is will drinke no water I trust. 1586 COGAN *Haven Health* CCXVIII. 221 Good ale..must be..made of good corne, well sodden, stale and well purged. 1709 ADDISON *Tatler* No. 162 ₱ 1, I daily live in a very comfortable Affluence of Wine, Stale Beer, Hungary Water, Beef, Books, and Marrow-Bones. 1743 *Lond. & Country Brew.* IV. (ed. 2) 294 To turn Ale into stale Beer presently.

fig. 1709 O. DYKES *Eng. Prov. & Refl.* (ed. 2) Pref. 16 Proverbs scatter'd through all the Works of the Learned, like Salt, to give them a Relish, and to make them keep stale.

2. That has lost its freshness; altered by keeping.

a. of food or drink.

Usually in disparaging sense; but when said of bread it is the ordinary opposite of *new*, without necessarily implying inferiority.

1530 PALSGR. 325/2 Stale as breed or drinke is, *rassis.* Stale as meate is that begynneth to savoure, *viel.* *c* 1550 *Wyll of Deuill* (*c* 1825) C 2 b, New freshe blood to ouersprinkle their stale mete that it may seme..newly kylled. 1580 LYLY *Euphues* (Arb.) 386 Gestes and fish..are euer stale within three dayes. 1606 SHAKS. *Tr. & Cr.* V. iv. 11 That stole [*read* stale] old Mouse-eaten dry cheese, Nestor. 1726 SWIFT *Gulliver* II. v, To let out the Water when it began to grow stale. 1727 — *Past. Dial. Richm. Hill* 53 To cry the Bread was stale, and mutter Complaints against the Royal Butter. 1759 R. BROWN *Compl. Farmer* 78 [A chicken will be] tender and green in the vent if stale. 1829 *Chapters Phys. Sci.* 251 The egg becomes stale or addled. 1845 JAMES *Arrah Neil* ii, I would as soon..eat stale cabbage. 1878 M. L. HOLBROOK *Hygiene Brain* 61 The bread should be stale. 1888 F. HUME *Mme. Midas* I. Prol., His companion collected the stale biscuits which had fallen out of the bag.

b. of urine, manure, straw, etc.

1577 GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* II. (1586) 83 Stale vrine. 1765 *Museum Rust.* IV. 255 Where dung is made use of, it must be very stale and rotten. 1865 DICKENS *Mut. Fr.* III. xi, An early public-house, haunted by unsavoury smells of musty hay and stale straw.

† c. of wounds. *Obs.*

1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* 495 A very excellent remedy for the curing of wounds which are old and stale, and ful of putrifaction.

d. *Agric.*

a 1722 LISLE *Husb.* (1757) *Gloss., Fallows-stale*, ground that has been ploughed some time, and lies in fallow. 1764 *Museum Rust.* II. 306 Lime would do very little or no good on stale ploughed lands. 1805 R. W. DICKSON *Pract. Agric.* II. 590 So that the crop may be put in upon a stale furrow.

3. *fig.* Of an immaterial thing: That has lost its freshness, novelty, or interest; hackneyed, worn out, out of date; effete. (Frequent in Shaks.)

1562 J. HEYWOOD *Prov. & Epigr.* (1867) 95 Better is..be it new or stale, A harmelesse lie, than a harmefull true tale. 1579 G. HARVEY *Letter-bk.* (Camden) 60 Doist thou smyle to reade this stale and beggarlye stuffe. 1596 SHAKS. *Merch. V.* II. v. 55 A prouerbe neuer stale in thriftie minde. 1602 — *Ham.* I. ii. 133 How weary, stale, flat, and vnprofitable Seemes to me all the vses of this world? 1638 BAKER tr. *Balzac's Lett.* (vol. II) 16 A novelty that will quickly grow stale. 1716 ADDISON *Freeholder* No. 9 ₱ 11 The Parliament of Great Britain, against whom you bring a stale accusation which has been used by every minority in the memory of man. 1780 MME. D'ARBLAY *Lett.* June, I hardly know what to tell you that won't be stale news. 1822 LAMB *Elia* I. *Distant Corresp.*, A two-days-old newspaper. You resent the stale thing as an affront. 1874 L. STEPHEN *Hours in Libr.* (1892) I. iii. 100 The commonplaces in which Pope takes such infinite delight have become very stale for us. 1880 *Macm. Mag.* No. 246, 518 She thought her chances of marriage at home were grown rather stale. 1908 *Outlook* 14 Nov. 651/1 When the memory of the last few weeks has grown stale.

b. *Law.* Of a claim or demand : That has been allowed to lie dormant for an unreasonable time.

1769 BLACKSTONE *Comm.* IV. xv. 211 The jury will rarely give credit to a stale complaint. 1884 *Law Rep.* 26 Chanc. Div. 119 The claims of the Plaintiffs had been barred..by the rules against stale claims. *Ibid.* 27 Chanc. Div. 530 Obligations .. which he would never have incurred if he had had any reason to believe that this stale claim would be prosecuted.

† 4. Of persons: Past the prime of life; having lost the vigour or attractiveness of youth. Of a bachelor or spinster : Past the fitting season for marriage. *Obs.*

c 1580 JEFFERIE *Bugbears* I. ii. 108 in *Archiv Stud. neu. Spr.* XCVIII. 309 Rosimunda..hathe an vncle a stale batcheler. 1585 HIGINS *Junius' Nomencl.* 19/1 *Virgo exoleta*,..an old stale maide past mariage. 1589 NASHE *Martin Marprelate* Wks. (Grosart) I. 108 Therein they are like to a stale Curtizan. 1598 HAKLUYT *Voy.* I. 99 Somtimes their maids are very stale before they be maried: for their parents alwaies keep them till they can sel them. 1609 ROWLANDS *Dr. Merrie-man* 10 An old stale Widdower, quite past the best. *a* 1643 CARTWRIGHT *Siedge* I. iv, I'm for your tender Maidenheads: I would not Venture my self with a stale Virgin, or A season'd Widow for a Kingdom. 1711 RAMSAY *On Maggy Johnstoun* xiv, She was..Right free of care, or toil, or strife, Till she was stale. 1742 SHORT *Dropsy* in *Phil. Trans.* XLII. 226 In barren Women, and stale Maids, Tapping should be very cautiously undertaken. 1748 SMOLLETT *Rod. Random* I. (1760) II. 136, I talked in raptures to the stale governante. 1858 HOGG *Life Shelley* I. 176, I found only two stale women; a stale middle-aged woman who acted as waiter and chambermaid, and an older and still staler woman, the landlady.

† b. of attributes. *Obs.*

1612 *Two Noble K.* V. i. 91 That may'st..induce Stale gravitie to daunce. 1771 SMOLLETT *Humph. Cl.* 5 May (1815) 63 The rancour of stale maidenhood.

5. *Sport.* Of an athlete, a racing animal, etc. : Out of condition through over-severe training or exertion too long continued. Phr. *to go stale.*

1856 'STONEHENGE' *Brit. Rural Sports* II. I. vi. § 7. 335 By this means the [horse's] legs are not made more stale than necessary. 1868 *Field* 4 July 15/1 In the third heat [rowing], Mair of Magdalen, easily beat Willan of Exeter, who seemed stale and gone off. 1885 *Truth* 28 May 853/2 Dame Agnes will probably be stale after her exertions in the Derby. 1889 D. C. MURRAY *Dang. Catspaw* 38 William, though a little stale, turned out to be a past master in the art.

transf. 1894 *Nation* (N. Y.) 22 Mar. 209/1 It sometimes happens that, in the strain of this part of the race [for Cambridge honours], the boy outgrows the brilliant precocity which put him ahead of his rivals, and emerges merely an ordinary young man with no further possibilities of use. This disaster is technically known as 'going stale'. 1903 W. T. STEAD in *Rev. of Rev.* May 574 (Cent. Suppl.) In 1892, the Unionist administration having gone stale, it was turned out.

b. Of a bird : See quot.

1897 *Encycl. Sport* I. 301/1 (Decoys) *Stale birds*, fowl that have frequently visited the decoy, but have lost interest in the actions of the dog.

6. *Comb.*

1823 EGAN *Grose's Dict. Vulgar T.* s. v., A person is said to be *stale drunk when they feel languid after a night's debauch. 1641 MILTON *Animadv.* Wks. 1851 III. 234 O *stale-growne piety! O Gospell rated as cheap as thy Master, at thirtypence. 1819 SHELLEY *Cenci* III. i. 159 Lay all bare So that my unpolluted fame should be With vilest gossips a *stale mouthed story. 1593 NASHE *Christ's T.* Wks. (Grosart) IV. 92 Often reiterating hys *stale-worne note.

† Stale, *a.*2 *Chess. Obs.* [f. STALE *sb.*6] Stalemated.

c 1470 *MS. Ashmole 344* lf. 21 b. Then drawith he & is stale.

Stale (stēl), *v.*1 *Obs.* exc. *arch.* and *dial.* Also 5 *Sc.* **stal,** 6 **staale,** *Sc.* **stail**; 7–9 *rare* **stall.** [Proximate source uncertain; perh. a. OF. *estaler* (once in Godef., with erroneous explanation) = It. *stallare*; either adopted from, or the source of, the Teut. word which appears as Du., LG., HG. *stallen* (MHG. in 14th c.), Sw. *stalla*, Da. *stalle*, to make water (said of horses).

Attempts have been made to identify the Teut. word with G. (Du., etc.) *stallen* to place in a stall, be lodged in a stall, also to come to a stand (see STALL *sb.* and *v.*). For objections to these explanations see Grimm s. v. *stallen.*]

1. *intr.* To urinate, said esp. of horses or cattle.

14.. *Lawis Gild* x. in *Anc. Laws Scot.* (Burgh Rec. Soc.) 68 Gif ony stal in the yet of the gilde..he sall gif iiijd. to the mendis. *c* 1450 *Merlin* XXVII. 526 He turned be-side the wey to make his horse stale. 1530 PALSGR. 732/1 Tary a whyle, your hors wyll staale. 1596 NASHE *Saffron Walden* Wks. (Grosart) III. 206 Bringing in his great horse..into his Banquetting-house; to dung and stale amongst his guests. 1614 B. JONSON *Bart. Fair* I. iv, Why a pox o' your boxe, once again: let your little wife stale in it, and she will. *c* 1630 in *Law's Memor.* (1818) Introd. p. lv, He should pluck up a nettle by the root..and stale upon it three severall mornings. 1663 KILLIGREW *Parson's Wedd.* I. iii, I wonder he [the knight's son] doth not go on all four too, and hold up his Leg when he stales. 1735 BURDON *Pocket-Farrier* 22 Sometimes a Horse cannot stall, and will be in great Pain. 1795 T. MAURICE *Hindostan* I. ix. (1820) I. 285 Observing the baboon to stale twelve times in the day. 1812 SKELLETT in H. Stephens *Bk. Farm* (1844) II. 477 She will be frequently dunging, stalling, and blaring. 1886 *W. Somerset Word-bk., Stale*, to void urine—of horses only. 1891 HARDY *Tess* lii, While the horses stood to stale and breathe themselves. 1903 KIPLING *5 Nations* (1903) 150 Cattle-dung where fuel failed; Water where the mules had staled; And sackcloth for their raiment.

† 2. *trans.* To pass (blood) in the urine. *Obs.*

?*a* 1550 *Droichis Part of Play* 62 in *Dunbar's Poems* (S.T.S.) 316 Scho tuke the gravall and staild Craig Gorth. 1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* 132 Anatolius approued beane meale sifted and sod with Harts marrow to be giuen to a horse which stalleth blood. 1647 J. C[LEVELAND] *Char. Lond.-Diurn.* 2 For it casts the water of the State, ever since it staled bloud.

Stale (stēl), *v.*2 Also 6 *Sc.* **stail,** (7 **staule**). [f. STALE *a.*1]

1. *trans.* To render (beer or ale) 'stale'.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 472/1 Stalyn, or make stale drynke, *defeco.* 1616 B. JONSON *Devil an Ass* I. i, You haue some plot, now, Vpon a tonning of Ale, to stale the yest. 1743 *Lond. & Country Brew.* IV. (ed. 2) 294 Like old October Beer staled through Time. 1826 *Art of Brewing* (ed. 2) 106 A stock of old porter should be kept, sufficient for staling the consumption of twelve months.

b. *intr.* Of beer : to become 'stale' or old.

1742 *Lond. & Country Brew.* I. (ed. 4) 64 The Drink from that Time flattens and stales. 1743 *Ibid.* IV. (ed. 2) 303 Secure a Butt of Beer from staling too soon.

2. *trans.* To render stale, out of date or uninteresting; to diminish interest in.

1599 B. JONSON *Cynthia's Rev.* Induct., He goe tell all the argument of his play aforehand, and so stale his inuention to the auditorie before it come forth. 1601 SHAKS. *Jul. C.* IV. I. 38 Which out of vse, and stal'de by other men, Begin his fashion. 1606 — *Ant. & Cl.* II. ii. 240 Age cannot wither her, nor custome stale Her infinite variety. *a* 1616 BEAUM. & FL. *Q. Corinth* I. iii, He not stale them By giving vp their

characters, but leave you To make your own discoveries. 1768 *Woman of Honor* I. 10 Shame, that great engine of education, she employed with..attention not to stale its effect. 1822 LAMB *Elia* Ser. II. *Detached Thoughts*, It may be, that the latter [names, Milton and Shakespeare] are more staled and rung upon in common discourse. 1863 W. W. STORY *Roba di Roma* I. i. 7 Pictures and statues have been staled by copy and description. 1914 MARETT in *Edin. Rev.* Apr. 397 Perhaps Dr. Frazer's theories have become for himself a little staled by dint of repetition.

† **b.** To lower (oneself, one's dignity) in estimation by excessive familiarity. *Obs.*

1598 B. JONSON *Ev. Man in Hum.* II. i. 57 Not content To stale himselfe in all societies, He makes my house here common as a mart. 1606 SHAKS. *Tr. & Cr.* II. iii. 201 This..right valiant Lord, Must not so staule his Palme. 1843 LYTTON *Last Bar.* II. ii, Henry the Fourth staled not his majesty to consultations with the mayor of his city.

c. *intr.* To grow stale; get out of fashion, become uninteresting.

1897 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 10 Nov. 2/3 The malicious tit-bit which he was treasuring with such eager anticipation would only stale by further delay. 1893 Q. (Quiller-Couch) *Delect. Duchy* 325 Philanthropy was beginning to stale.

† **3.** *Sc.* To affect with loathing or satiety. [Perh. another word: cf. STALL *v.*]

1709 WODROW *Corr.* (1842) I. 49 The abjuration oath.. will..stale a great many that we might otherwise have depended upon as friendly parties to us. 1717 E. ERSKINE *Serm.* Wks. (1791) 50/1 They have got so much of Christ as to be staled of his company.

Stale, *v.*[3] *Chess. rare.* Also 6 *Sc.* **stail.** [Perh. a. AF. *estaler*, ? of English origin: cf. STALL *v.*]

a. *trans.* = STALEMATE *v.*

c 1470 *MS. Ashmole 344* lf. 7 He shall stale þe black kyng in the pointe þer the crosse standith. *Ibid.* lf. 17 Drau thou ther as thy pon stode, ande stale hym. 1903 H. J. R. MURRAY in *Brit. Chess. Mag.* 283 In China, however, a player who stales his opponent's King, wins the game.

b. *intr.* To undergo stalemate.

a 1585 MONTGOMERIE *Cherrie & Slae* 216 For vnder cure I gat sik chek, Quhilk I micht nocht remuif nor nek, Bot eyther stail or mait.

† **Stale,** *v.*[4] *Obs. rare*[−1]. [f. STALE *sb.*[2]] *trans.* To put rungs in (a ladder).

1492 in *Archæol. Cant.* XVI. 304 For stalyng of the ladders of the Churche xx d.

† **Stale,** *v.*[5] *Obs. rare.* [f. STALE *sb.*[3]] *trans.* To decoy, lure.

1557 *Tottel's Misc.* (Arb.) 198 The eye..Doth serue to stale her here and there where she doth come and go.

Stale: see STALL *sbs.*[1, 4]; obs. pa. t. of STEAL.

Staled (stēⁱld), *ppl. a. rare.* [f. STALE *v.*[1] + -ED.[1]] Rendered stale.

1862 EARL LYTTON in Lady B. Balfour *L's. Lett.* (1906) I. 127 The staled and the spoiled experience. 1888 STEVENSON *Across the Plains, Beggars* iii, The rant and cant of the staled beggar. 1897 F. THOMPSON *New Poems* 168 Once more A dull, new, staled amaze!

Sta·lely, *adv. rare.* [f. STALE *a.*[1] + -LY [2].] In a stale, commonplace or hackneyed manner.

1598–9 B. JONSON *Case Altered* II. iii, I will not sue stally to be your seruant, But a new tearme, will you be my refuge? 1611 — *Catiline* II. iii, Tut, all your promis'd Mountaines, And Seas, I am so stalely acquainted with.

Stalemate (stēⁱ·lmēⁱt), *sb. Chess.* [f. STALE *sb.*[6] + MATE *sb.*[1]

Strictly a misnomer, as the 'stale' (so called until 18th c.) is not really a mate.]

A position in which the player whose turn it is to move has no allowable move open to him, but has not his king in check.

According to modern rules, the game which ends in stalemate is drawn. In England from the 17th c. to the beginning of the 19th c. the player who received stalemate won the game. Various other rules have been in vogue at different times; sometimes the player giving stalemate won, either wholly or to the extent of half the stake; sometimes the last few moves had to be played over again until a mate resulted; sometimes the piece causing the obstruction was removed.

1765 LAMBE *Hist. Chess* 91 When the King has no man whom he can play, and is not in check, yet is so blocked up, that he cannot move without going into check, this position is called a stale-mate, or Pat, in this case the King who is stale-mated wins the game. 1847 STAUNTON *Chess-Player's Handbk.* 33 He places the adverse King in the position..of stalemate.

b. *fig.*

1885 *Times* 15 Dec. 5 The Prince..will not..consent to the stalemate of mutual evacuation proposed by Servia. 1912 *Standard* 20 Sept. 6/4 So far as the public can see the match [between the two armies] ended in stalemate.

c. *attrib.*

1886 *Contemp. Rev.* Sept. 444 It would be disgraceful indeed if a great country like Russia should have run herself into such a stale-mate position. 1903 H. J. R. MURRAY in *Brit. Chess Mag.* 285 Several mediæval problems involve the condition that the one player forfeits his power of moving when his King is in a stalemate position.

Stalemate (stēⁱ·lmēⁱt), *v. Chess.* [f. STALEMATE *sb.*] *trans.* To subject to a stalemate.

1765 LAMBE *Hist..Chess* 91 In this case the King who is stalemated wins the game. 1813 SARRATT *Wks. Damiano* etc. 235 White cannot take the Rook without stalemating his adversary. 1879 MEREDITH *Egoist* xlvii, At the game of Chess it is the dishonour of our adversary when we are stale-mated.

fig. 1861 HUGHES *Tom Brown at Oxf.* xli, You never saw a fellow look more puzzled, I had regularly stale-mated him. 1872 GEO. ELIOT *Middlem.* I. xii, He spoke rather sulkily, feeling himself stalemated. 1910 *Edin. Rev.* Jan. 65 Pitt undertook to stalemate the French fleet.

Hence **Stalemated** *ppl. a.*

1903 H. J. R. MURRAY in *Brit. Chess Mag.* 282 Here [in Indian Rule] then we have the earliest convention: the stalemated King wins.

Staleness (stēⁱ·lnės). [f. STALE *a.*[1] + -NESS.] The condition of being stale, in any sense of the adj.

1552 HULOET, Stalenes, *vetustas.* 1577–87 HOLINSHED *Hist. Eng.* I. 53/2 So that more than necessitie compelled him he could not eat, by reason that the stalenesse tooke awaie the pleasant tast thereof, and lesse prouoked his appetite. 1602 T. PHELIPPES in *St. Papers, Dom.* 1601–3 (1870) 227, I shall send you what [report] comes to hand, if staleness make it not like Rye fish, unfit for market. 1608 SHAKS. *Per.* v. i. 58. 1620 VENNER *Via Recta* ii. 39 If it [beer] be kept vntouched, till that it hath gotten a sufficient stalenesse. 1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* II. 725 Failures in hatching arise from want of impregnation in the egg—from age, commonly called staleness. 1868 *Field* 4 July 14/2 Probably his continued rowing at Oxford nearly the whole year through may have tended to produce staleness. 1891 *Law Times* XCII. 127/2 The defence based on the staleness of the claim could not..prevail.

† **b.** *pl.* quasi-*concr.* Stale remarks or arguments.

1617 COLLINS *Def. Bp. Ely* II. vi. 227 He is not ashamed to renew such motheaten stalenesses.

Stalenge, var. STALLENGE *dial.*

Stalewarde, Staleword: see STALWART, STALWORTH.

† **Sta·ling,** *sb. Obs. rare*[−1]. [f. STALE *sb.*[3] + -ING [1].] = STALE *sb.*[3] 1.

1601 DEACON & WALKER *Spirits & Divels* 230 [Like to] the craftie bird-catcher: who (while the silie poore birdes sit prying at, and playing with the whirligig, or staling before them) doth cunningly clap them..in his net.

Staling (stēⁱ·lin), *vbl. sb.* [f. STALE *v.*[1] + -ING [1].] The action of urinating; † *concr.* urine, esp. of horses or cattle.

c 1420 *Prose Life Alexander* (1913) 68 Sum ware at so grete meschefe þat þay dranke þaire awen stalynge. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* VIII. xlii. I. 222 Their [mares'] staling is no hinderance to their pace in running their carriere, as it doth the horse who must needs then stand still. 1613 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* (1614) 311 A fountaine of water, which they say, sprang vp of the staling of Chederles horse. 1765 *Museum Rust.* IV. 185 That the staling of them [cattle] may not waste in its course. 1846 J. BAXTER *Libr. Pract. Agric.* (ed. 4) I. 327 Mix a small quantity of salt with the food when feeding on furze, particularly for horses, as it..will sometimes affect their staling, which the salt will counteract.

attrib. 1759 *Brit. Chron.* 14 Sept. 261 The prisoner..has for many years been noted for begging at the staling-place for horses [*Ann. Reg.* (1759) 117/1 staling places].

Stalk (stȯk), *sb.*[1] Also 4–7 **stalke,** 7 **staulk,** 8 *Sc.* **stawk.** [ME. (14th c.) *stalke*, app. a dim. with *k* suffix f. *stal-* in STALE *sb.*[2] (? OE. *stalu*). The exact formal equivalent does not occur in the other Teut. langs., but a parallel formation from the ablaut-variant *stel-* (in OE. *stela* STEAL *sb.*, stem, handle, etc.) is found in NFris. *stelk*, MSw. *stälke, stälker* (mod.Sw. *stjelk, stjälk*), Norw. *stylk, stilk, stelk, stalk*, Da. *stilk*, mod.Icel. *stilk-ur.* Cf. Eng. dial. *stelch*, post, stake.]

1. The main stem of a herbaceous plant, bearing the flowers and leaves; also, a scape or flower-stem rising directly from the root.

a 1366 CHAUCER *Rom. Rose* 1701 The stalke [Fr. *la coe*] was as rysshe right And theron stode the knoppe vpright. 1382 WYCLIF *Hosea* viii. 7 A stondynge stalk [Vulg. *culmus stans*] is not in hem. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XVII. clxvi. (1495) 711 The mydyll stalke of an herbe or of a tree highte Tirsus. 1412–20 LYDG. *Troy Bk.* I. 3106 Floures.. Vp-on her stalke gan splaie her levis wyde. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 359/1 A Sstalke, *calamus.* 1538 ELYOT *Dict., Frutex*, that which hath a great stalke and yet it is no tree, as fenelle. 1577 GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* I. 33 Beanes..both the Coddes and the stalke, is a foode that cattel muche delightes in. 1591 SPENSER *Bellay's Ruines Rome* XXX, Like as the seeded field..from greene grasse into a stalke doth spring, And from a stalke into an eare forth-growes. 1597 GERARDE *Herbal* II. li. 269 Dwale, or sleeping Night-shade hath round blackish stalks sixe foote high. 1624 CAPT. SMITH *Virginia* II. 28 Every stalke of their corne commonly beareth two eares. 1640 T. BRUGIS *Marrow Physicke* II. 147 To dry Lettice Stalkes, Artichocke Stalkes, or Cabbage Stalkes. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* v. 480 So from the root Springs lighter the green stalk, from thence the leaves More aerie. *c* 1680 BEVERIDGE *Serm.* (1729) I. 548 Having filled a sponge with vinegar..they put it upon a stalk of hyssop. *c* 1730 RAMSAY *To D. Malloch* vii, Misty minds that plod And thresh for thought, but ne'er advance Their stawk aboon their clod. 1776 J. LEE *Introd. Bot.* Expl. Terms 378 Scapus, a Stalk, elevating the Fructification and not the Leaves. 1779 COWPER *Olney H.* I. lxxxv, We find a tall and sickly stalk But not the fruitful ear. 1833 HT. MARTINEAU *Briery Creek* iv. 92 The stalk of flax that waves in my field. 1839 FR. A. KEMBLE *Resid. Georgia* (1863) 87 It is a long green reed, like the stalk of the maize. 1910 *Blackw. Mag.* Feb. 263/2, I looked through the rough tangle of stalks and stems.

b. The woody core of hemp and flax.

1577 GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* I. 39 b, The Shales or Stalkes [of hemp] serue for the heating of Ouens. 1838 [see BOON *sb.*[2]].

† **c.** ? *nonce-use.* A bit of straw, a 'mote'.

c 1386 CHAUCER *Reeve's Prol.* 65 He kan wel in myn eye seen a stalke But in his owene he kan nat seen a balke.

2. The comparatively slender connecting part by which a vegetable organ is attached to the plant; the petiole of a leaf, the peduncle or pedicel of a flower, fruit, or inflorescence, the stipe of an ovary, or the like.

c 1325 *Gloss. W. de Bibbesw.* in Wright *Voc.* 159 Outez l'estiche et la parure [*gloss* the stalke and the paring], E lour donez la morsure [*gloss* the body of the appel]. *c* 1374 CHAUCER *Boeth.* I. met. vi. (1868) 26 Þe stalkes of þe vine [L. *palmites*]. 1530 PALSGR. 275/1 Stalke of any frute, *queve.* 1538 ELYOT *Dict., Pediculus*,..the stalke of an apple or peare, or other frute. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* III. 82 They gather a darke or blackish kind of cherry, and casting away the stalkes, put them into a great cauldron. 1632 MARMION *Holland's Leaguer* II. v, Have my love Shak'd off because 'tis ripe, but let me hang by The stalk of your mercy. 1808 SCOTT *Marm.* III. xvii, I on its stalk had left the rose. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1090/2 *Stalk*, the stem or support to an organ; as the petiole of a leaf, the peduncle or pedicel of a flower, &c. 1884 BOWER & SCOTT *De Bary's Phaner.* 105 The half-spindle-shaped ones [*sc.* cystoliths of Acanthaceæ] are attached by a very thin short stalk. 1909 G. K. CHESTERTON *Orthodoxy* iv. 89 The man of science says: Cut this stalk and the apple will fall.

b. A similar slender connecting part by which an animal organ or structure is attached or supported.

1826 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* III. xxxiii. 357 *Stipes* (the Stalk). The corneous base of the Maxilla, below the Palpus. 1866 TATE *Brit. Mollusks* iii. 47 The head bears two ..tentacles..with the stalks bearing the eyes attached to them on the outside. 1899 D. SHARP *Insects* II. 317 When a portion of a nervure beyond the basal or primary portion serves as a common piece to two forked parts external to it, it is called a stalk. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 824 The 'stalk' of the tumour.

† **3.** The SHANK of a hawk. *Obs.*

c 1575 *Perf. Bk. Kepinge Sparhaukes* (1886) 5 Tokens of a good Hawke:..stalke short and bygg:..foot large, wyde, [etc.]. *Ibid.* 31 Good for any swellinge in fote or stalke.

4. Applied to various erect slender objects.

† **a.** The upright of a ladder: = STALE *sb.*[2] 1.

c 1386 CHAUCER *Miller's T.* 439 His owene hand made laddres thre To clymben by the ronges and the stalkes In to the tubbes hangynge in the balkes.

b. The shaft of a chimney. Cf. STACK *sb.* 5 b.

1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* iii, Twisted stalks of chimneys of heavy stone-work. 1838 *Civil Engin. & Arch. Jrnl.* I. 406/2 Vast improvements have been made..in building stalks for steam boilers and chemical furnaces. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 280 To..increase the solidity of an insulated stalk of this kind, it is built with three or more successive plinths, or recedures. 1885 R. L. & F. STEVENSON *Dynamiter* 134 A great stalk of chimneys.

c. A columnar rock; = STACK *sb.* 7. *local.*

1806 *Gazetteer Scot.* (ed. 2) 149 The Stalks of Dungisbay, as they are called, are two pyramidal pillars, of naked free-stone rock.

5. The main part of anything long and slender, as distinguished from the extremities.

1530 PALSGR. 275/1 Stalke of a shafte, *fust.* 1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* 221 The tops of the hair appeare blacke, the foot and stalke being white.

† **b.** The shaft of a quill; a quill. *Obs.*

c 1440 LYDG. *Hors, Shepe & G.* 183 Men plukke stalkes out of my weengis tweyn, Some to portraye, somme to noote & write. 1665 HOOKE *Microgr.* 172, I tried it by fixing the leggs of a Fly upon the top of the stalk of a feather. 1681 GREW *Musæum* I. § 2. ii. 22 The Plume or Stalk of a Quill.

† **c.** The stem of a fork or spoon. *Obs.*

a 1423 in *Archæologia* LXI. 173, j fork of siluer w[t] a Dragouns hede holding up the stalk for grenynges. 1496 *Will of Dynham* (Somerset Ho.), A forke of siluer with a stalke of corall for grene ginger. 1522 *Will of P. Baynard* (ibid.), A doseyn sponys where p is in the stalk.

d. The tube or stem of a thermometer.

1833 N. ARNOTT *Physics* (ed. 5) II. 111 It is easy to proportion the bulb and the stalk to each other, so that [etc.].

6. A slender upright support; the stem of a wine-glass.

a 1864 HAWTHORNE *Amer. Note-Bks.* (1879) II. 88 Old drinking-glasses, with tall stalks. 1882 J. G. PHILLIP in *L. Shaw's Hist. Moray* I. 202 It is a chalice or cup [of the Bronze Period]...Its great peculiarity was that it had neither handle nor stalk. 1884 F. J. BRITTEN *Watch & Clockm.* 72 The teeth rise on stalks from the body of the escape wheel.

† **7.** *Sc.* Some appendage to a halter. *Obs.*

1497 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* I. 328 Item, for ane doubil helter with tua stalkis. 1501 *Ibid.* II. 29, ij..heltir stalkis.

8. *Ironfounding.* (See quot.)

1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech., Stalk*, an iron rod armed with spikes, forming the nucleus of a core.

9. *Arch.* (See quot.)

1842 GWILT *Archit.* Gloss., *Stalk*, an ornament in the Corinthian capital, which is sometimes fluted, and resembles the stalk of a plant; from it spring the volutes and helices.

10. *attrib.* as *stalk-like* adj.; **stalk-borer** *U.S.*, the larva of a moth, *Gortyna nitela*, destructive to plants; **stalk-cutter** *U.S.*, an implement for cutting old maize stalks in the ground; **stalk-eyed** *a.*, having the eye at the end of a stalk, podophthalmate; **stalk-fruited** *a.* = PEDUNCULATE *a.*; † **stalk-legged** *a.*, long-legged, spindle-shanked; **stalk-puller,** an implement for pulling cotton and hemp stalks from the ground.

1885 *Riverside Nat. Hist.* (1888) II. 451 The *stalk-borer, 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.*, **Stalk-cutter.* 1853 T. BELL (*title*) A history of the British *stalk-eyed Crustacea. 1869 RANKINE *Machine & Hand-tools* App. 68 The old English Oak, or *Stalk-fruited Oak (*Quercus robur* or *Quercus pedunculata*), in which the acorns grow on stalks. 1659 TORRIANO, *Fuscello*, a spindle-shank, or *stalk-legged fellow. 1839–47 TODD *Cycl. Anat.* III. 678/1 The crura cerebri are seen..to enter *stalk-like, into the inferior surface of the cerebral hemispheres. 1888 RUTLEY *Rock-forming Min.*

184 Stalk-like or reedy forms are likewise of frequent occurrence. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.*, Stalk-puller.

Stalk (stǭk), *sb.*[2] Also 5–7 **stalke**, † **stauk**. [f. STALK *v.*]

1. An act of stalking game.

c 1450 in *Trans. Philol. Soc.* (1909) III. 53 A Stalke of ffostersse. 1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* XVIII. xxi. 764 They were shoters and coude wel kylle a dere bothe at the stalke & at the trest. 1621 MARKHAM *Fowling* viii. 53 Also you must observe in the Stalke to turne that side [of the stalking-horse] euer vpon the Fowle which is plaine without spients. 1873 G. C. DAVIES *Mount. & Mere* x. 83 A careful stalk might have brought a shooter within shot. 1885 W. H. RUSSELL in *Harper's Mag.* Apr. 770/1 There may be a deer drive or a stalk at Glenmuick. 1907 J. H. PATTERSON *Man-Eaters of Tsavo* xx. 225 My stalk was crowned with success, the beautiful animal being bagged without much trouble.

b. *attrib.*, as † *stalk-hound.*

1663 KILLIGREW *Pars. Wedd.* IV. i, A pox upon them for a couple of Stauk-hounds; have they killed at last?

2. A striding gait; a stately or pompous mode of walking.

1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* II. vii. 26 An vgly feend,..The which with monstrous stalke behind him stept, And euer as he went, dew watch vpon him kept. 1599 B. JONSON *Cynthia's Rev.* V. iv, Leave him not so much as a looke, an eye, a stalke, or an imperfect oth, to expresse himselfe by. 1694 ADDISON *Greatest Brit. Poets* 56 Milton next, with high and haughty stalks, Unfetter'd in majestick numbers walks. 1751 JOHNSON *Rambler* No. 179 P 4 The sprightly trip, the stately stalk, and the lofty mien. 1787–89 WORDSW. *Even. Walk* 242 Then issuing often with unwieldy stalk, They [the swans] crush with broad black feet their flowery walk. 1869 LOWELL *Study Wind., Gard. Acquaint.* (1871) 11 Their [the crow-blackbirds'] port is grave, and their stalk across the turf as martial as that of a second-rate ghost in Hamlet.

Stalk (stǭk), *v.*[1] Also 4–7 **stalke**, 6 **stawk**, 7 **staulke**, 7, 9 *dial.* **stauk**. [ME. *stalke*:—OE. **stealcian* (implied in *bistealcian* = sense 1 and *stealcung* STALKING *vbl. sb.*):—prehistoric **stalkōjan*, frequentative f. **stal-* (= **stel-*, see STEAL *v.*). Sense 4, which first appears in the 16th c., is perh. due to association with STALK *sb.*[1]; cf. Florio 1611, '*Fuscello*, a stub, a sprig, a stalk .. also spindle shankes or stalkeing legges'; also Norw. *stelk*, Icel. *stelkur*, a long-legged bird, the redshank.]

†**1.** *intr.* To walk softly, cautiously, or stealthily.

In quot. *a* 1300 either *refl.* or with dative of the subject.

[*c* 1000 ÆLFRIC *Saints' Lives* xxxii. 40 Hinguar færlice swa swa wulf on lande bestalcode and þa leode sloh. *c* 1000 : see STALKING *vbl. sb.*] *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 3601 Esau..Ga lok þi tacle be puruaid, And faand to stalk þe sa nere þat þou mai drep me sum dere. *c* 1300 *K. Horn* 1129 (Laud) He lokede in eche halke; Sey he nowere stalke Ayol hys trewe felawe. *a* 1320 *Sir Tristrem* 2578 Tristrem and þe quen Stalked to her play. *c* 1350 *Will. Palerne* 2728 þan hiȝed þei hem to þe hauen..And stalkeden ful stilly þer stoden fele schippes. *c* 1374 CHAUCER *Troylus* II. 519 Tho gan I stalke softly hym by-hynde. *a* 1375 *How to hear Mass* 530 in *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* 507 Whon he [*sc.* the priest] haþ waschen..Prieuliche and stille he stalkes To his Auter aȝeyn. *a* 1380 *Eufrosyne* 390 in Horstm. *Altengl. Leg.* (1878) 178, I stunte, I stonde, vnstabli I stalke. *c* 1400 *Beryn* 282 Madam! wol ye stalk pryuely into the garden to se the herbis grow. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 472/1 Stalkyn ..*serpo*. 1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* VII. xix. 243 He cam stylly stalkyng behynde the dwerf and plucked hym fast vnder his arme. *c* 1530 *Crt. of Love* 1030 And stalking soft with easy pase, I saw About the king ther stonden environ, Attendaunce, Diligence,..and many oon. 1587 TURBERV. *Trag. Tales* (1837) 30 There stalkte he on, as softe as foote could tread.

† **b.** said of an animal. *Obs.*

1456 SIR G. HAYE *Law of Arms* (S.T.S.) 234 Quhen he herd ony wilde beste stalkand besyde him.

2. † To go stealthily *to, towards* (an animal) for the purpose of killing or capturing it (*obs.*). Hence, to pursue game by the method of stealthy approach, esp. by the use of a stalking-horse or of some device for concealing oneself from the view of the hunted animal.

a 1400 *King & Hermit* 321 Now, Crystes blyssing haue sych a frere, That þus canne ordeyn our soper, And stalke vnder þe wode bowe. *c* 1460 J. RUSSELL *Bk. Nurture* 21 His bowe he toke in hand toward þe deere to stalke. 1503–4 *Act* 19 *Hen. VII*, c. 11 That no person from hensforth stauke or cause eny other person to stalke with eny boussh or bestys to eny Deere. 1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 16/13 To stalke, *venari*. 1575 TURBERV. *Faulconrie* 193 Lette him..carrye his hawke unhooded..stawking towardes them untill he haue gotten reasonably neare them. 1621 MARKHAM *Fowling* 55 To stalke with a Horse where no Horses liue or are bred..is absurde and losse of labor. 1622 DRAYTON *Poly-olb.* XXV. 141 One vnderneath his Horse, to get a shoot doth stalke. 1624 CAPT. SMITH *Virginia* II. 32 Thus shrowding his body in the skinne [of a deer] by stalking, he approacheth the Deere. 1815 SCOTT *Ld. of Isles* III. xiii, Awhile their route they silent made, As men who stalk for mountain-deer. 1819 *Sporting Mag.* V. 118 A gamekeeper, who may be stalking, which is going behind a horse, whose head is kept down that he may appear to be grazing. 1863 W. C. BALDWIN *Afr. Hunting* iii. 77, I came up with the troop, stalked in upon them, and shot a fine young bull. 1907 J. H. PATTERSON *Man-Eaters of Tsavo* vi. 67 The roars completely ceased, and we knew that they [the lions] were stalking for their prey.

fig. 1599 SHAKS. *Much Ado* II. iii. 96 O I, stalke on, stalke on, the foule sits. I did neuer thinke that Lady would haue loued any man. 1603 B. JONSON *Sejanus* III. ii, His franke tongue Being lent the raines, will take away all thought Of malice, in your course against the rest. We must keepe him to stalke with. 1647 J. C[LEVELAND] *Char. Lond.-Diurn.* 5 He stalkes with Essex, and shoots under his belly. 1662 STILLINGFL. *Orig. Sacræ* III. i. § 9 As well then may an Atheist say..that religion is nothing but a design, because men may make it stalke to their private ends. 1692 R. L'ESTRANGE *Josephus, Antiq.* XVII. vii. (1733) 462 To get the Reputation of a tender and dutiful Son..and so, to stalk under that Cloak, up to the King himself.

† **b.** *trans.* ? To involve by cunning devices, inveigle. *Obs. rare*[—1].

1626 in Rushw. *Hist. Coll.* (1659) I. 269 By the Artifices of the said Duke of Buckingham..the said Earl hath been insensibly involved and stauked into the troubles he is now in.

3. *trans.* **a.** To pursue (game) by stealthy approach. *To stalk down*: to follow or track (an animal) stealthily until one comes within range.

1823 SCOTT *Peveril* XXV, And for shooting him from behind a wall, it is cruelly like to stalking a deer. 1845 *Zoologist* III. 971 He immediately proposed to a friend to get a horse and stalk them [wild swans]. 1847 MARRYAT *Childr. New Forest* IV, I intend to buy you a gun, that you may learn to stalk deer yourself. 1859 DARWIN *Orig. Spec.* VII. (1873) 178 No animal is more difficult to stalk than the giraffe. 1907 J. H. PATTERSON *Man-Eaters of Tsavo* II. 25 Lions always stalk their prey in complete silence. *Ibid.* XXVII. 309 We dismounted and stalked them [the eland] carefully through the long grass.

transf. and *fig.* 1855 THACKERAY *Newcomes* II. 68 As he was pursuing the deer, she stalked his lordship. 1861 — *Philip* IX, Mrs. Matcham's girl fished for Captain Woolcomb last year in Scotland,..and stalked him to Paris. 1884 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 13 Nov. 5/2 Their [*sc.* torpedo boats'] special function is to stalk ironclads at night time. 1892 *Photogr. Ann.* II. 188 One would hardly care to make a study of animal photography with a larger-sized apparatus than 1/1-plate. To stalk a flock of sheep with a 15×12..would ..be worse than futile. 1903 MORLEY *Gladstone* (1905) I. III. viii. 435 Whigs and Peelites..were all ready at last to stalk down their crafty quarry.

b. To go through (a tract of country) stalking game.

1860 G. H. K. in Galton *Vac. Tour.* (1861) 122 The hills I am going to stalk are under sheep. 1890 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Col. Reformer* (1891) 211 The troopers, deciding to stalk the bush on foot,..passed..silently through the trees.

4. *intr.* To walk with stiff, high-measured steps, like a long-legged bird. Usually with disparaging notion, implying haughtiness, sullenness, indifference to one's surroundings, or the like. Also † *to stalk it.*

In dialect use, the predominant notion is often that of ungainliness.

1530 PALSGR. 732/1, I stalke, I go softly and make great strides, *je vas a grans pas*. He stalketh lyke a crane. *c* 1535 REDFORD *Play Wit & Sci.* (1848) 8 Yt is he playne That thus bold doth make hym Wythowt my lycence To stalke by my doore. 1576 GASCOIGNE *Steele Gl.* Epil. 21 The elder sorte, go stately stalking on. 1591 H. SMITH *Pride Nabuch.* 4 Then was hee stalking in his galleries, and thinking what sinne should be next. 1609 B. JONSON *Sil. Wom.* IV. i, Others that will stalke i' their gait like an Estrich. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* (1637) 491 Who stalking high upon stilts, apply their minds to grasing, fishing and fowling. 1612 *Benvenuto's Passenger* I. iv. 317 He replied that it was they, which there stalke it,..with Ruffes, and blacke apparrell. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* IV. 402 About them round A Lion now he [Satan] stalkes with fierie glare. 1695 BLACKMORE *Pr. Arth.* VIII. 656 Like one of Anak's mighty Sons he stalk'd. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* June 1645, The noblemen stalking with their ladys on *choppines*. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* III. x. 540 A soldier of unusual size..stalkt about on the parapet. 1768 BEATTIE *Minstr.* I. xxxix, The whistling ploughman stalks afield. 1787 GROSE *Prov. Gloss.* L 3 b, Cambridgeshire camels... Some have supposed this term to have originated from the Fen-men, stalking through the marshes on their stilts. 1815 SCOTT *Guy M.* VIII, The Dominie..might be seen stalking about with a mathematical problem in his head, and his eye upon a child of five years old. 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* XIII. III. 343 It was remembered but too well how the dragoons had stalked into the peasant's cottage, cursing and damning him, themselves, and each other at every second word. 1862 C. C. ROBINSON *Dial. Leeds* 421 *Stauk*, to walk in an awkward manner, unmindful of appearances. 1906 SIR F. TREVES *Highways Dorset* xi. 169 Its arched doorway, where pikemen stalked on guard.

fig. 1710 ADDISON *Whig-Exam.* No. 4 P 5 It stalks upon hard words and rattles through polysyllables. 1852 HAWTHORNE *Grandfather's Chair* II. iii. (1879) 85 One urchin shall hereafter..stalk gravely through life. 1864 D. G. MITCHELL *Sev. Stor.* 264 Why should my fancy go stalking through that great Rubens Museum?

b. said of a bird or animal.

1600 *Maydes Metam.* I. in Bullen *O. Pl.* (1882) I. 113 Marke the Deare how they begin to stalke; When each.. Pricks vp his head and bears a Princely minde. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* X. xxiii. I. 281 These Cranes..will..run the round with their long shankes staulking full untowardly. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* III. 383 The Mother Lion.. Scours o'er the Plain;..Demanding Rites of Love; she sternly stalks. 1820 W. IRVING *Sketch Bk.* II. 195 A vagrant deer stalking like a shadow across the opening. 1825 SCOTT *Betrothed* XXIII, No heron was seen stalking on the usual haunts of the bird. 1865 LIVINGSTONE *Zambesi* IV. 99 The stately stepping Marabout stalks slowly along the almost stagnant channels.

c. often said of ghosts, and *fig.* of quasi-personified maleficent agencies, as pestilence, famine, etc.

a 1593 MARLOWE tr. *1st Bk. Lucan* 570 Fowle Erinnis stalkt about the wals, Shaking her snakie haire and crooke pine With flaming Toppe. 1656 COWLEY *Misc., On death W. Hervey* 22 As sullen Ghosts stalk speechless by Where their hid Treasures ly. 1719 YOUNG *Busiris* I. i, Illustrious shades! who nightly stalk around The tyrant's couch. *a* 1796 BURNS *Tam Glen* VII, The last Halloween I was waukin My drouket sark-sleeve, as ye ken; His likeness cam up the house staukin —The very grey breeks o' Tam Glen! 1826 DISRAELI *Viv. Grey* I. ix, That wild spirit of speculation which is now stalking abroad. 1846 MILL *Diss. & Disc.* (1859) II. 306 Ate..is represented as a gigantic figure, who stalks forth furiously, diffusing ruin. 1850 HAWTHORNE *Scarlet L.* xiii, None so self-devoted as Hester, when pestilence stalked through the town. 1889 JESSOPP *Coming of Friars* v. 226 The plague was stalking grimly up and down the land.

d. *trans.* To march proudly through (a country, etc.). Also quasi-*trans.* with advb. accusative.

1610 G. FLETCHER *Christ's Tri.* I. xlvii, Two bloudy sunnes stalking the duskie sphear. 1612 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Sculler* D 4 b, With stately gate the peopled Burse he stalkes. 1742 COLLINS *Ode to Fear* 12 Danger..Who stalks his round, an hideous form! 1841 W. H. AINSWORTH *Old St. Paul's* I. i, Like a hideous phantom stalking the streets at noon-day.

Stalk (stǭk), *v.*[2] [f. STALK *sb.*[1]]

1. *intr.* To put forth stalks. *rare*[—1].

1666 J. DAVIES *Hist. Caribbee Isles* 5 There is not strength enough left in the root to force it to staulk and knit in the ear.

2. *trans.* To remove the stalks from (fruit).

1902 *Daily Chron.* 5 July 8/4 Stalk three-quarters of a pound of fine fresh fruit, rub them through a hair sieve [etc.].

Stalkable (stǭ·kăb'l), *a.* [f. STALK *v.*[1] + -ABLE.] That may be stalked; admitting of stalking.

1893 EARL DUNMORE *Pamirs* II. 68, I observed two lots of Ovis Poli..in a fairly stalkable place. 1899 *Blackw. Mag.* Aug. 186/2 They seemed in a kind of stalkable place. 1905 A. J. R. GLASFURD *Rifle in Ind. Jungle* 307 Our game may have shifted into some more stalkable position.

Stalked (stǭkt), *a.* [f. STALK *sb.*[1] + -ED[2].] Having a stalk or stalks; in *Nat. Hist., Pathology*, etc. opposed to *sessile*. Also in parasynthetic combs., *long-stalked, red-stalked*, etc. (see the first element); in some of these some writers have ignorantly substituted an adv. for the first element, as *firmly, shortly stalked.*

1731 MILLER *Gard. Dict.* s. v. *Aloe*, The African stalk'd Aloe. 1806 J. GRAHAME *Birds Scot.* 19 A flower..firmly stalked, of form Pyramidal. 1840 PEREIRA *Elem. Mat. Med.* II. 1266 *Sinapis nigra*,..Lower leaves lyrate;..stalked. 1847 STEELE *Field Bot.* 123 Flowers in stalked clusters. 1857 T. MOORE *Handbk. Brit. Ferns* (ed. 3) 68 Pinnæ opposite, the lower pair largest, obliquely triangular, shortly stalked. 1863 WOOD *Illustr. Nat. Hist.* III. 648 One species of Stalked Barnacle. 1874 LUBBOCK *Orig. Metam. Insects* iii. 59 The stalked Crinoids. 1883 *Encycl. Brit.* XVI. 669/2 The suckers are stalked and strengthened by a horny ring. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* III. 955 Frequently they [i. e. islets of mucous membrane caused by ulceration] are more or less stalked because of the ulceration which undermines them.

b. *Her.* Of a plant: Having the stalk of a specified tincture.

1864 BOUTELL *Her. Hist. & Pop.* xix. (ed. 3) 304 A rose or, stalked ppr.

c. *Comb.*: **stalked-eyed** *a.* = *stalk-eyed* (see STALK *sb.*[1] 9).

1882 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* VI. 206 Many species, both of the *Podophthalmia* (or stalked-eyed) and *Edriophthalmia* (or sessile-eyed) Crustacea.

Stalker (stǭ·kəɹ). [f. STALK *v.*[1] + -ER[1].] The identity of the word in sense 1 is questionable.]

†**1.** A kind of net used by poachers. Also *stalker net. Obs.*

1389 *Act* 13 *Rich. II*, Stat. I. c. 19 § 1 Qe null pescheor ..ne mette..en les ewes de Thamise..ascuns rees appelez stalkers..par les quelles le frie..des salmons..purra..pris ou destruit. 1584 [see TRINK *sb.*[1] d]. 1667 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 183/4 [They] did no more hurt then only by the taking up some few Stawkers or Nets laid for Lobsters.

† **2.** One who prowls about for purposes of theft.

1508 DUNBAR *Flyting* 156 And lyk twa stalkaris steilis in cokis and hennis, Thow plukkis the pultre, and scho pullis off the pennis.

3. One who stalks game. In early use only *Sc.*, one who stalks game illegally, a poacher (cf. sense 1). Also *fig.*

1424 *Sc. Acts* 2 *Jas. I*, § 13 (1814) II. 7 It is ordanyt þat þe Justice clerk sall inquyre of stalkaris þat slais dere.. And als sone as ony stalkar may be conuict of slauchter of der he sal pay to þe king xl s. *c* 1575 in *Balfour's Practicks* (1754) 542 Stalkeris that slayis hart, hind, dae, rae. 1675 J. SMITH *Chr. Relig. App.* I. 21 Had it [the World] wanted the eye of Theology, a cunning Stalker might possibly have catcht it on its blind side. 1790 GROSE *Prov. Gloss.* (ed. 2) Suppl., *Stalker*, a fowler. 1872 *Daily News* 8 Oct. 3 The assembled stalkers and gillies. 1902 *Times* 13 Nov. 13/6 Self-denying stalkers..have devoted several seasons to.. sparing the better class animals.

4. One who walks with long measured steps.

1585 HIGINS *Junius' Nomencl.* 522 *Grallator*..a stalker: a goer vpon stilts or crutches. 1601 B. JONSON *Poetaster* III. iv, You, player, rogue, stalker, come backe here. 1604 *Meeting Gallants at Ordinarie* C 1 b, Away he went with himselfe as coragiously, as the best stalker in Europe. 1631 ANCHORAN *Comenius' Gate Tongues* 215 *Grallator*...A stalker makes great long strides with scatches or stilts and crowches. 1865 DICKENS *Mut. Fr.* IV. ix, The stately stalker stalked back.

b. † Used as the name of a bird found in N.W. Africa (*obs.*). Also in *Ornithology*, as the rendering of mod.L. *Gradatores*, an order of birds in certain now disused systems of classification.

Macgillivray (*Brit. Birds*, 1852) adopted the word as the rendering of *Aucupatores* (the name of an order in his own system), evidently associating it with sense 3.

1623 JOBSON *Golden Trade* 154 The greatest bird or fowle we see, is called a Stalker; who by reason of his long legs and necke, when he stands vpright, is in height taller then a man. 1872 COUES *N. Amer. Birds* 240 The birds stand in wait, or stalk stealthily along; hence they are sometimes called *Gradatores* (stalkers).

Stalking (stǭ·kiŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. STALK *v.*[1] + -ING[1].] The action of STALK *v.*[1]; † stealthy

movement (*obs.*); pursuit of game by the method of stealthy approach.

c 1000 Ælfric *Hom.* (Th.) II. 138 On sumere nihte hlosnode sum oðer munuc his færeldes and mid sleaccre stalcunge his fotswaðum filigde. 1398 Trevisa *Barth. De P. R.* II. xix. (1495) 46 Yf the fende maye not dysceyue wyth stalkynge he puttyth to ferfull gastness and drede. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 472/1 Stalkynge, or soft and sly goynge, *serptura*. *c* 1460 *York Myst.* xxx. 257 With no stalkyng nor no striffe be ye stressed. 1503-4 *Act* 19 *Hen. VII*, c. 11 The grettest destruccion of Reed Deere and Falowe..is with Nettis.. and stalking with beestis. 1533 in *Archæologia* XXV. 522 Item delyvered to my hosbond..when he went a stalkynge for master tresurer. 1553 *Respublica* I. iii. 160 Theare was.. such herkenynge, suche stalking, suche watching, such spyinge. 1853 Kane *Grinnell Exped.* xii. (1856) 86 The Esquimaux..by a patient process of stalking, succeed in getting within rifle shot.

b. *attrib.* as *stalking engine, gelding, -ground, ox, -shoe, -system.* Also Stalking-horse.

1531 *Privy Purse Exp. Hen. VIII* (1827) 112 Paied to a servant of my lorde Iisles in Rewarde for bringing of the Stalking Oxe, xs. *Ibid.* 132 For the mete of the kingis white stalking guelding. 1621 Markham *Fowling* x. 64 The last of these stalking Engines is the dead hedge of two or three yards long. 1850 R. G. Cumming *Hunter's Life S. Afr.* (1902) 77/2, I resolved to try the stalking-system with these, and to hunt the troop of bulls with dogs and horses. 1860 G. H. K. in Galton *Vac. Tour.* (1861) 116 When we reach the stalking-ground. 1900 Pollok & Thom *Sports Burma* 253 My stalking shoes.

Stalking (stɔ̄·kiŋ), *ppl. a.* [f. Stalk *v.*[1] + -ing [2].] That stalks.

†**1.** Stealthy. *Obs.*

a 1400 *Pol., Rel., & L. Poems* (1903) 254 [Death is] Stille and eke stalkinge.

2. Walking with great strides.

1560 Phaer *Æneid* IX. (1562) F fij b, With stalking doubtful steps. 1581 A. Hall *Iliad* III. 45 Paris with stalking pace aduauncde himself to the Greekes warde. 1590 Spenser *F. Q.* I. vii. 10 His [the giant Orgoglio's] stalking steps are stayde Vpon a snaggy Oke. 1607 *Puritan* III. v. 84 Haue you neuer seene a stalking-stamping Player. 1700 Dryden *Ovid's Met.* XIII, *Acis, Pol. & Gal.* 44 Thus, warn'd in vain, with stalking pace he strode. 1757 Smollett *Reprisal* I. vi. 18 That proud, stalking Highlander. 1909 Crockett *My Two Edinburghs*, A long-legged, stalking, wonder-stricken boy of fifteen.

b. said of long-legged birds.

1697 Dryden *Virg. Georg.* I. 413 That's the proper Time ..For stalking Cranes to set the guileful Snare. 1847 *Gloss. Heraldry* 294 *Stalking*, walking: a term applied to long-legged birds.

c. of ghosts. Also *fig.* of baleful agencies.

1697 Dryden *Virg. Past.* VIII. 142 To call from tombs the stalking Ghosts. 1792 Mary Wollstonecraft *Rights Wom.* vi. 266 Like some other stalking mischiefs. 1832 Gen. P. Thompson *Exerc.* (1842) I. 363 The grand stalking wrong, that was at the bottom of the well or ill directed resistance of the community.

†**d.** *fig.* Of style, etc.: Pompous, grandiloquent. *Obs.*

1601 B. Jonson *Poetaster* III. iv, Goe, he pens high, loftie, in a new stalking straine. 1806 W. Taylor in *Ann. Rev.* IV. 612 The stalking pomp of theatrical declamation.

Hence **Sta·lkingly** *adv.*

1891 Meredith *One of Conq.* II. v. 124 Contempt of any supposed affectation, which was not ostentatiously, stalkingly practised to subdue the sex.

Sta·lking-horse. [Stalking *vbl. sb.*]

1. A horse trained to allow a fowler to conceal himself behind it or under its coverings in order to get within easy range of the game without alarming it. Hence, a portable screen of canvas or other light material, made in the figure of a horse (or sometimes of other animals), similarly used for concealment in pursuing game.

1519 in *Archæologia* XXV. 420 Item p[d] for Shoyng of Thomas Lawes Stawkyng horse..iij d. 1607 Topsell *Fourf. Beasts* 133 This is a beast standing amazed at euery strange sight, euen at the hunters bow and Arrowe, comming behind a stalking Horsse. 1611 Cotgr., *Tonnelle*, a Tunnell, or staulking horse for Partridges. 1621 Markham *Fowling* viii. 47, 49–50 The Stalking-Horse..is any old Iade trayned vp for that vse, which..will gently..walke vp and downe in the water..; and then..you shall shelter your selfe and your Peice behind his fore shoulder. Now forasmuch as these Stalking horses..are not euer in readinesse...In this case he may take any pieces of oulde Canuasse, and hauing made it in the shape or proportion of a Horse.., let it be painted as neere the colour of a Horse as you can deuise. 1621 Burton *Anat. Mel.* II. ii. iv. (1624) 226 Fowling.., be it with guns, lime, nets, glades..stawking horses, setting-dogges, &c.. *a* 1698 Blundell *Cavalier's Note Bk.* (1880) 106 The use of stalking-horses is great..Horses are easily taught. Some do use to have a painted horse carried upon a frame. 1706 *Art Painting* (1744) 134 Giovanni d'Udine.. is thought to have been the inventor of the stalking-horse, which poachers now use. 1780 Pitt *Let.* in Stanhope *Life* (1863) I. i. 36 Your moor must be in the perfection of winter beauty; but I suppose with hardly any cattle upon it, except stalking horses. 1875 'Stonehenge' *Brit. Rural Sports* I. I. i. § 5 He is enabled to drop his net over the place without the trouble of using the stalking-horse. 1908 Cornish *Naturalist Thames* 7 The flats of the Upper Thames, where..the wild duck are stalked with the stalking-horse, as of old.

2. *fig.* **a.** A person whose agency or participation in a proceeding is made use of to prevent its real design from being suspected. ? *Obs.*

1612 Webster *White Devil* III. i. 41 You..were made his engine, and his stauking horse, To undo my sister. 1693 Congreve *Double Dealer* II. iv, Do you think her fit for nothing but to be a Stalking-Horse to stand before you, while you take aim at my Wife? *a* 1763 Shenstone *Progr. Taste* I. 78 Let me provide Some human form to grace my side: At hand,..An useful, pliant, stalking-horse!

b. An underhand means or expedient for making an attack or attaining some sinister object; usually, a pretext put forward for this purpose.

1579 W. Wilkinson *Confut. Fam. Love* 70 b, Abusing the pretence of the Gospell as a stalking horse to leuell at others by. 1594 *Order for Prayer* To Rdr. A 4, Certaine who.. serue themselues of that idolatrous Romish religion, as of a Maske and stalking horse, therewith to couer the vnsatiable ambition..of vsurping the kingdoms of other Princes. 1600 Shaks. *A. Y. L.* v. iv. 111 He uses his folly like a stalking-horse. 1624 Gee *New Shreds of Old Snare* 14 They made Religion a stalking horse to intend their own profit. 1792 Ld. Auckland in *Corr.* (1861) II. 423 The cause of Poland..is..thought a good *mot de guerre*; and under that stalking-horse, the dissenters and levellers are preparing to attack us. 1827 Scott *Napoleon* Introd., Wks. 1870 VIII. 207 His..popularity had..been the stalking-horse, through means of which, men..had taken aim at their own objects. 1835 Sir W. Hamilton *Discuss.* (1852) 520 Their conscience is merely a stalking-horse, moved by their interest, and to conceal it. 1865 Dickens *Lett.* (1880) II. 240 The cattle plague is the butcher's stalking-horse. 1880 L. Stephen *Pope* ii. 55 His [Pope's] indefensible use of Addison's fame as a stalking-horse in the attack upon Dennis.

Stalkless (stɔ̄·klĕs), *a.* [f. Stalk *sb.*[1] + -less.] Having no stalk; chiefly of vegetable organs, sessile.

1698 Petiver in *Phil. Trans.* XX. 400 They [*sc.* the leaves] are sharp at each end and stalkless. *c* 1711 — *Gazophyl.* x. 95 Broad-leaved stalkless Dwarf-Moss. 1894 *Persian Pict.* 47 Stalkless jesamine blossoms.

Stalklet (stɔ̄·klĕt). [f. Stalk *sb.*[1] + -let.] A small stalk; in *Bot.* = Pedicel.

1835 Lindley *Introd. Bot.* (1848) I. 272 Sometimes the leaflets themselves are subdivided. In this case..the small supports of the leaflets themselves [are called] stalklets. 1883 Nasmyth *Autobiog.* xviii. 343 To see all the delicate veins and stalklets thus brought to light again.

Sta·lko. *Anglo-Irish.* ? *Obs.* [? a. Irish *stócach* idler.] (See quot.)

1802 Mar. Edgeworth *Rosanna* iii. (1832) 332 Soft Simon had reduced himself to the lowest class of stalkoes or walking gentlemen, as they are termed; men who have nothing to do, and no fortune to support them, but who style themselves esquire. 1817 — *Ormond* i. Wks. 1848 IX. 231.

Stalky (stɔ̄·ki), *a.* [f. Stalk *sb.*[1] + -y.] Consisting of or abounding in stalks; of the nature of a stalk or stalks; long and slender like a stalk.

1552 Huloet, Stalkye or stemmye herbes which be no trees and yet growe in height, as cawles, fenel, hollockes, hunnlockes and suche like. 1607 Topsell *Four-f. Beasts* 13 The *Bacchæ* or Satyres [are pictured] shaking togither their staulkie Iaulelines and Paulmers. 1658 Sir T. Browne *Gard. Cyrus* iii. *Hydriot.* etc. 135 The folious and stalky emission distinguisheth herbs and trees. 1731 Miller *Gard. Dict.* s.v. *Aloe*, The African stalky Aloe. 1825 E. Hewlett *Cottage Comforts* viii. 104 Any pinks or carnations growing old and shabby, showing their brown stalky roots above the ground. 1887 *Daily News* 1 Dec. 3/8, Penang [*sc.* cloves]..; middling stalky at 11½d to 11⅝d. 1891 Hardy *Tess* v, Tess..marching on upon long stalky legs.

Stall (stɔ̄l), *sb.*[1] Forms: 1 **steall, steal, stal,** 3–7 **stal, stalle,** 3 **steal,** 3–4 **stel,** 4–6 **stale,** (5 **stayle, stawll**), 6 **staull, stawle, stawyll,** 6–7 **staule,** 7 **staul,** 6–9 *Sc.* **staw,** 3– **stall.** [Com. Teut. (wanting in Gothic): OE. *steall* masc. standing, state, place, stall for cattle, corresponds to OFris. *stal* (WFris. *stâl*, NFris. *stal, staal*), MDu., mod.Du. *stal* masc., MLG. *stal* masc., neut. stall for cattle, OHG., MHG. *stal* masc., neut. place, dwelling, stall for cattle (mod.G. *stall* masc.), ON. *stall-r* masc. supporting block or slab, pedestal, stall for horse (MSw. *stalder*, Sw. *stall*, Da. *stald* stable) :—OTeut. *stallo-*. The word passed into Romanic: It. *stallo* place, *stalla* stable, OF. *estal* place, position, stall for merchandise, etc. (mod.F. *étal* butcher's stall). Several of the English senses were probably adopted from Anglo-French, but this is not absolutely certain.

The OTeut. **stallo-*, according to the now prevailing view, represents an older **staðlo-*, f. root **sta-* to Stand. The pre-Teut. form of the suffix may have been either *-dhlo-* or *-tlo-*; on the former supposition the word would correspond formally to L. *stabulum* Stable *sb.*; on the latter it would be a variant of **staplo-* Staddle *sb.*]

†**1.** *gen.* Standing-place, place, position; place in a series, degree of rank; in OE. occas. state, condition. *Obs.*

In stead and stall (? corruptly *in street and stall*), everywhere, continually (see Stead *sb.*).

c 1000 Ælfric *Gloss.* in Wr.-Wülcker 150 *Carceres*, horsa steal. 1042, *c* 1220 [see Stead *sb.*]. *c* 1200 Ormin 2145 Þatt stannt wiþþ hire sune i stall þær heȝhesst iss inn heoffne. *Ibid.* 11854 To beon abufenn oþre menn I stalless & i sætess. *c* 1230 *Hali Meid.* 6 Of se swiðe heh stal, of se muche dignete,..as hit is to beo godes spuse. *a* 1240 *Sawles Warde* in *Cott. Hom.* 263 Hȝ liuieð..euer mare in a steal in al þat eauer god is. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 396 In þe ouermast element of all; þer þe fir he has his stall. *c* 1400 *Ywaine & Gaw.* 695 Als he was stoken in that stall, He herd byhind him, in a wall, A dor opend. *c* 1450 *Robin Hood & Monk* lxxxix. in Child *Ballads* III. 101/2 Robyn Hode is euer bond to hym, Bothe in strete and stalle. *c* 1460 *Towneley Myst.* ii. 375 In hell I wote mon be my stall. 1481 Caxton *Godfrey* Prol. (1893) 3 The noble Godefroy of Boloyne whiche..was stalled in the thyrde stalle of the moost worthy of Cristen men. *a* 1618 Sylvester tr. *Panaretus* 1306 He found her out in a hot-humid Cell..The Angell..Made little stay in this unholesome Stall.

†**2.** Phrases. **a.** [Cf. OF. phrases with *estal*: see Godefr.] *To bring to stall*: to bring to a stand, to fix, settle. *To hold one's stall*: to stand firm, keep one's position. *To make, take,* etc., *stall, to keep at stall*: to make a stand, take up a position, stop. *To take* (a tree) *to stall*: to take up one's position (there). *Obs.*

c 1205 Lay. 1671 Þa Freinsce weoren isturmede & noðelas he stal makeden. *Ibid.* 21294 Whar Colgrim at-stod & æc stal wrohte. *c* 1330 R. Brunne *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 5077 For eche man tok a tre to stal, As tristi as a castel wal. *Ibid.* 14144 Temese & Londone he passed al, At Wynchestre þer tok he stal. 1338 — *Chron.* (1725) 146 Now has he brought to stalle, his lond stabled redy. *Ibid.* 156, I salle bring him to stalle, bot he mak me acquitance. *c* 1450 *Merlin* xviii. 286 Gaheries with his warde..kepte at stall a longe while, but in the fyn he mote yeve grounde a litill. 1523 Berners *Froiss.* I. lxxxi. 42 b/2 Yᵉ englysshmen drewe sagely to yᵉ dykes, and ther made a stall tyll all their men wer in sauegard.

†**b.** [Perh. a distinct word (? OE. *stæl*): cf. OE. *on nánum stale béon* to be no help (to), Ælfred *Orosius* v. ix.] *To stand* (*much, great,* etc.) *stall, to stand much in stall*: to afford great help, be of use or service (const. *dative* of person). *Obs.*

c 1250 *Owl & Night.* 1632 Ah þu neuer mon to gode Lyues ne deþes stal ne stonde. *a* 1272 *Lune Ron* 200 in *O. E. Misc.* 99 Hwo so cuþe hit to þan ende hit wolde him stonde muchel stel. 13.. *K. Alis.* 2748 (Laud MS.), It was no wonder gret stal he stood Amonge hem alle was non so good. *c* 1315 Shoreham *Poems* i. 746 Þe bone þat swych prest þer by3t No stel ne schel hym stonde. 1399 *Pol. Poems* (Rolls) I. 365 The bag is ful of roton corne, So long ykep, hit is forlorne, hit wille stonde no stalle. *c* 1420 *Sir Amadace* (Camden) xxxix, A mon that hase alle way bynne kynde, Sum curtas mon ȝette may he fynde, That mekille may stonde in stalle. *c* 1440 *Ps. Penit.* (1894) 22 Envye and wrathe of herte..Schul stonde a man yn lytul stal, Whan he is clothed yn a clowt, To wone withynne a wormes wal.

3. [Cf. mod. F. *stalle.*] A standing-place for horses or cattle; a stable or cattle-shed; also each division for the accommodation of one animal in a stable, cattle-shed or cow-house; also, a manger.

c 725 *Corpus Gloss.* (Hessels) S 512 *Stabulum*, stal. *c* 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 113 On [stride he makede] of heuene into þe maidenes inneðe, Oðer þenne in to þe stalle. *c* 1250 *Owl & Night.* 629 Vor hors a stable & oxe a stalle. *c* 1300 *K. Alis.* 1885 For Alisaundre..Heom to sakyn heo gon calle, So bocher the hog in stalle. *c* 1390 Chaucer *Truth* 18 Forþe, pylgryme, forþe, forþe beste out of þi stal. *c* 1420 *Anturs of Arth.* 447 His stede was sone stabillede, and lede to þe stalle. *c* 1440 *Ps. Penit.* (1894) 27 But seth thi flesch lord was perceyved, Ther hit was leid ful streit yn stalle Was ther no synful man deceyued That wolde to thy mercy calle. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 472/1 Stalle, of beestys stondynge, *boscar, presepe.* 1500-20 Dunbar *Poems* lxi. 33 Great court horss puttis me fra the staw, To fang the fog be firthe and fald. 1596 Shaks. *Tam. Shr.* II. i. 360, I haue ..Sixe-score fat Oxen standing in my stalls. 1615 Chapman *Odyss.* XIV. 156 Then fed he here, Eleuen faire stalles of Goats. 1697 Dryden *Virg. Georg.* III. 331 The youthful Bull must wander in the Wood; Or, in the Stall at home his Fodder find. 1782 *Phil. Trans.* LXXII. 370 At the west end is a stall for one horse. 1856 Froude *Hist. Eng.* I. i. 23 The art of fatting cattle in the stall was imperfectly understood. 1870 Rossetti *Poems, Stratton Water* ix, The Kine were in the byre that day, The nags were in the stall.

fig. 1601 B. Jonson *Poetaster* III. i. 114 This tyrannie Is strange, to take mine eares vp by commission, (Whether I will or no) and make them stalls To his lewd solœcismes, and worded trash.

b. *transf. U.S.* (See quot.)

1890 *T. M. Cooley's Railw. Amer.* 232 The earlier locomotives, like horses, were given proper names..; the compartments in the round-houses for sheltering locomotives are termed stalls.

†**4.** [So OF. *estal.*] A seat of office or dignity.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 8582 Þar was he sett in king stall. 1399 Gower *Praise of Peace* 383 Sette ek the rightful Pope uppon his stalle. 14.. *Sir Beues* (C.) 1283 He broght hym yn to the halle And set hym at mete yn knyȝtes stalle. 1568 Grafton *Chron.* II. 663 He was set in the sure stall, stable throne, and vnmoueable Chayre of the crowne of his realme. 1638 W. Lisle *Heliodorus* x. 167 Persina [the Queen].. (rising from her stall) Entreats the King.

fig. *a* 1586 Sidney *Astroph. & Stella* lxxx, Sweet-swelling lip,..Nature's praise, Vertue's stall; Cupid's cold fire, Whence words, not words but heav'nly graces slide.

†**b.** Assigned quarters, privilege of residence (in an almshouse). *Obs.*

1595 in *Maitl. Club Misc.* (1833) I. 75 That gif evir heire-after David Moreson or Johnne Wilsoun sall injure be wordis Sir Bartilmo Simsone [the Master], thay salbe deposed fra thair stallis in the almousehous of Glasgw.

5. [Cf. med.L. *stallus, stallum, stalla*, OF. *estal(e*, mod.F. *stalle.*] A fixed seat enclosed, either wholly or partially, at the back and sides, esp. each of a row of seats in the choir of a church for the use of the clergy or religious, and, in a chapter-house, for the canons; also, each of the seats appropriated to knights of the higher orders of chivalry (e.g. the Knights of the Garter in St. George's Chapel, Windsor, the Knights of the Bath in Henry VII's Chapel, Westminster). Hence *occas.* the office, status, dignity or emolument connected with the occupancy of a (cathedral) stall; a canonry or the like.

a 1400–50 *Wars Alex.* 4543 Þe kirke of cupido is clenly a-rayed, Þe stallis & in all stedis strowid with Rose. *c* 1400 *Vesp. Ritual-Ord. Nuns* in *Rule St. Benet* 145 Att þe bygyn-

ayng of þe mese þe madyn þat salbe mayde nun sal sit in þe quere a-pon a stole be-for þe priores stayle. *c* 1450 in *Maitl. Club Misc.* III. 201 Item ane salter befor the Licentiatis stal strenyeit. 1522 [see STALLATION]. 1556 *Chron. Grey Friars* (Camden) 61 In the qwere in the byshoppes stalle that he was wonte to be stallyd in. 1571 GRINDAL *Injunct.* B ij b, Where the Churches are very small, it shall suffise that the Minister stande in his accustomed stall in the Queere. 1691 WOOD *Ath. Oxon.* I. 269 He was made Canon or Prebendary of the twelfth and last Stall in the collegiate Ch. at Westminster. 1756–7 tr. *Keysler's Trav.* (1760) IV. 84 The stalls of the monks in the choir are admirably carved. 1781 COWPER *Truth* 120 Though plac'd in golden Durham's second stall. 1788 *New Lond. Mag.* May 279/2 The eleven vacant stalls of the Most Honorable Order of the Bath. 1842 TENNYSON *Galahad* 31, I hear a voice, but none are there; The stalls are void, the doors are wide, The tapers burning fair. 1873 DIXON *Two Queens* XIX. ii. IV. 11 But Wolsey was not satisfied..with six prebendary stalls.

b. A long seat or doorless pew in a church; also a 'sitting'.

1580 *Churchw. Acc. Pittington*, etc. (Surtees) 119 Item of John Carter for a staule for himselfe, iiij d. 1584 *Ibid.* 15 Item for George Tayler, James Huntlye, John Wilkinson, and Jarrat Swalwell, the shorte stall on the north side of the quere doore. 1748 RICHARDSON *Clarissa* (1811) III. lxiii. 366, I have not been at church a great while; we shall sit in different stalls. 1788 W. H. MARSHALL *Yorksh.* II. 355 *Stall*; a doorless pew of a church. 1874 MICKLETHWAITE *Mod. Par. Churches* iii. 28 Of the pews. *Note.* I am quite aware that this word is dreadfully 'incorrect'... The 'correct' word is stalls, but unfortunately nave seats never are stalls.

c. [? After F. *stalle*, It. *stallo*.] Each of the chair-like seats arranged in rows in front of the pit in a theatre; also each of the corresponding seats in other places of entertainment.

1828 in *Sala's Jrnl.* (1892) 30 Apr. 22 An orchestra has been constructed [at the Lyceum]: that is, a separation of the best part of the pit to the extent of about one-third; each row divided into 'stalls' or single seats at half-a-guinea each. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* lxii, From our places in the stalls we could see our four friends..in the loge. 1892 KIPLING *Barrack-room Ballads, Tommy* 12 They sent me to the gallery, or round the music-'alls, But when it comes to fightin', Lord! they'll shove me in the stalls! 1902 TROWBRIDGE *Lett. her Mother to Eliz.* xviii. 89 The boxes were empty, and only a few of the orchestra stalls were taken.

6. [Cf. OF. *estal* (mod.F. *étal*), Flemish *stal*.] A bench, table, board or the like, esp. one in front of a shop, upon which goods are exposed for sale; a booth or covered stand for the sale of wares at a market, fair, or in the open street; a stand at a Fancy Fair.

1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. XVI. 128 And knokked on hem with a corde and caste adown her stalles. *a* 1400 in *Engl. Gilds* (1870) 353 Also, no wollemongere, ne no man, ne may habbe no stal in þe heye-stret..bote he do war-fore. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 1580 There were stallis by þe strete stondyng for peopull, Werkmen into won, and paire wares shewe. *c* 1450 *Godstow Reg.* 412 Iohn Curcy of Oxenford yaf..to hugh hore of Oxenford, mercer, a selde, with the stalle afore and a Celer vndir. 1581 FULKE in *Confer.* III. (1584) X iiij, I heard you at *Garbranges* staule in Oxenforde aske for *Irenæus* Epistles. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* I. v. 49 All these together in one heape were throwne, Like carkases of beasts in butchers stall. 1592 *Arden of Feversham* II. ii, *Prentise.* Tis very late; I were best shute vp my stall. 1644 DIGBY *Nat. Bodies* xix. (1658) 209, I have oftentimes seen in a Mercers shop, a great heap of massie gold lace lie upon their stall. 1714 GAY *Sheph. Week, Saturday* 73 How pedlar's stalls with glitt'ring toys are laid, The various fairings of the country maid. 1762–71 H. WALPOLE *Vertue's Anecd. Paint.* (1786) III. 124 The pocket-books were lost, but seven of them a friend of Vertue's met with on a stall, bought, and lent to him. 1822 SCOTT *Nigel* xiv, Though I was bred at a flesher's stall, I have not through my life had a constant intimacy with collops. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* lxvii, She is always having stalls at Fancy Fairs for the benefit of these hapless beings. 1894 HALL CAINE *Manxman* v. i, The market-place was covered with the carts and stalls of the country people.

? *Proverbial phrase.* 1697 *Verdicts conc. Virgil & Homer* i. 1 Sublime Notions,..which are not to be found in every Stall, are the Paterns to be imploy'd there [i. e. in an Heroic Poem].

† b. The booth or shed to shelter a cobbler at his work. *Obs.*

1692 R. L'ESTRANGE *Fables* II. cccci. 376 A Cobler turn'd Doctor,..What was it but the Brazen Face of the Quack.. that Advanc'd this Upstart from the Stall to the Stage? 1760–2 GOLDSM. *Cit. W.* lxv, A poor cobbler sat in his stall by the way-side.

†7. A stand for a cask. (Cf. STALLAGE 2 b, STELL *sb.*)

1538 in *Archæologia* XLIII. 226 The Buttery..j bread huche; j stalle to ley drynke on. 1630 *Maldon* (Essex) *Docum.* Bundle 217 No. 22, In the buttery, i beer stalle.

8. Applied to a sheath or receptacle of various kinds. a. Each of the several compartments or sheaths for the fingers in a glove.

1483– [cf. FINGER-STALL]. 1568 *Jacob & Esau* IV. viii, [*Rebecca to Jacob*] I haue brought sleues of kid...They be made glouelike, and for eche finger a stall.

† b. *Hammer stall*: see quots. *Obs.*

1802 C. JAMES *Milit. Dict.* s. v. *Stall, Hammer stall*, a piece of leather, which is made to cover the upper part of the lock belonging to a musquet. It is useful in wet weather. 1876 JAS. GRANT *Hist. India* I. lxv. 332/2 They had French firelocks, with a leather cover for the lock, known then, in our service, as a 'hammer-stall'.

c. Each of a set of cases for holding cartridges, attached to a tunic or waistcoat.

1906 *Advt.*, Automatic Stall Cartridge Holder...Each stall holds three cartridges, and the usual number of stalls on a coat or waistcoat is eight.

†9. Each of a series of 'screen' book-cases set at right angles to the walls of a library, each pair forming a bay or an alcove. *Obs.*

1709 HEARNE *Collect.* (O. H. S.) III. 318 All ye Inner Part of ye Library [of Exeter College] was quite destroy'd [by fire] & only one stall of Books or thereabouts secur'd. 1886 WILLIS & CLARK *Cambridge* II. 97 The Library..had seven 'stalls' or bookcases. We may assume that these were set at right angles to the walls,..with a window between each pair of cases.

10. *Metallurgy.* A 'walled area' or compartment between low walls in which ores are roasted.

1887 RÖHRIG *Technol. Wörterbuch* I. 586/1, *Röst-stadel* (Met.), stall, mound, walled-in area. 1891 *Century Dict.* 1911 WEBSTER.

11. [? A distinct word; cf. G. *stollen* (perh. the source).] *Coal-mining.* (See quot. 1883.)

Pillar and stall: see PILLAR *sb.* 7. *Post and stall*: see POST *sb.*[1] 7 d. So also *stall and room.*

1665 D. DUDLEY *Metallum Martis* (1851) 36 When they have wrought the Crutes or Staules, (as some Colliers call them) as broad and as far in under the ground, as they think fit. 1686 PLOT *Staffordsh.* iii. 148 In this Level He had five wallings or Stauls, out of which they dug the coal in great blocks. *Ibid.* Staules. 1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-mining* 237 *Stall*, a working place in a mine, varying in length from a few feet to 80 yards or more, according to the thickness of the seam and system of working adopted. *Stall and Room work*, working the coal in compartments, or in isolated chambers or pillars.

12. [f. STALL *v.*[1] 14.] *Sc.* A surfeit, disrelish.

1782 SIR J. SINCLAIR *Observ. Sc. Dial.* 129 A staw. 1895 CROCKETT *Men Moss-Haggs* v, He had gotten a staw of the red soldiers.

13. *attrib.* and *Comb.* a. simple attrib., as *stall-back, -collar, -drain, -elbow, -end, post, -produce, -ring, -woman*; *stall-like* adj.

1895 M. R. JAMES *Abbey S. Edmund* 131 The legends of saints are painted upon the wooden *stall-backs. 1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* I. § 31. 127 Each horse should be bound to his stall with a leather *stall-collar...Iron chains make the strongest stall-collar-shanks. 1805 R. W. DICKSON *Pract. Agric.* I. 51 The main drain, into which all the *stall-drains should empty themselves. 1882 *Archæol. Cant.* XIV. 115 Remnants of two *stall-elbows. 1512 *Test. Ebor.* (Surtees) V. 37 My body to be buried in the midd alye [of the church], at my *stale end. 1895 C. HOLLAND *My Japanese Wife* vii, The shops..have *stall-like extensions, encroaching upon the roadway. 1828 DARVILL *Race Horse* I. i. 31 Each *stall-post behind the horse's quarters should be placed at a distance from the north wall of the building ..of ten feet, which will form the length of the stall. 1887 *Dict. Archit.* (Archit. Publ. Soc), *Stall post*, or hindpost of a stall. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* xxxviii, His grandpapa ..promised..not to give the child any cakes, lollipops, or *stall-produce whatever. 1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* I. § 31. 127 The best hempen cords..are..soon apt to wear out in running through the smoothest *stall-rings. *c* 1811 FUSELI *Lect. Art* iv. (1848) 441 The child had seen many *stall and market women.

b. Special comb.: **stall-board**, (*a*) the board in front of or behind a shop-window upon which goods are exposed for sale; (*b*) a hat-maker's ironing-board; (*c*) (see quot. 1875); (*d*) (see quot. 1887); **stall-edition**, a cheap edition of a work offered for sale on the bookstalls (cf. *stall-literature*); † **stall-epistle** (*nonce-use*), an 'open letter' or pamphlet sold on the stalls; **stall gate**, the road from a stall to the main road in a coal-mine; **stall-holder**, (*a*) the holder of an ecclesiastical stall; (*b*) one who is in charge of a stall at a bazaar, etc.; **stall keeper**, †(*a*) one who provides stable accommodation for horses; †(*b*) (see quot. 1868); (*c*) one who keeps a stall for sale of goods; †**stall-learning**, learning acquired by the perusal of books on a bookstall; **stall-literature**, the cheap literature of the bookstalls (cf. *stall-edition*); **stall-man**, (*a*) a keeper of a book-stall; (*b*) a man who contracts for and works a stall in a coal-mine; also each of a company of men associated for that purpose; †**stall-master** [= G. *stallmeister*], a master of the horse; **stall-plate** = *garter-plate* (see GARTER *sb.* 8 and cf. quot. 1522 in STALLATION); **stall-reader**, one who peruses the books on a bookstall; **stall vicar**, ? a resident canon who also performed parochial duties, as distinguished from a parochial vicar; **stall-wages**, the payment due by a canon to the vicar who took charge of his parish during his term of residence; **stall-whimper** *slang* (see quot.); **stall-work** (*a*) the construction of choir stalls; (*b*) the working of coal in stalls.

1598 STOW *Surv.* 278 Before this Mountgodard streete, *stall boords were set vp by the Butchers, to shewe and to sell their flesh meate vpon. 1666 *Act* 18 & 19 *Chas. II*, c. 8 § 12 It shall be lawfull for the Inhabitantes to suffer their Stall boards (when their Shop windowes are set open) to.. extend eleaven inches and noe more. 1745 *De Coetlogon's Hist. Arts & Sci.* II. 107/2 When steamed sufficiently and dried, we'll put it again off the Block, brush it, and iron it on our Stall-board. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech., Stall-boards*, a series of floors on to which soil or ore is pitched successively in excavating. 1887 *Dict. Archit.* (Archit. Publ. Soc.), *Stall board*, the division between the housing places in a stable. 1898 FLETCHER *Carpentry & Joinery* xx. 222 [A ventilator] to prevent the condensation of the atmosphere against the glass, which would prevent the goods or articles on the stall-board being seen. 1854 H. MILLER *Sch. & Schm.* iii. (1857) 40 A common *stall-edition of Blind Harry's 'Wallace'. 1642 MILTON *Apol. Smect.* Wks. 1851 III. 297 So just is it in the language of *stall epistle *non sense*, that if [etc.]. 1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-mining* 237 *Stall gate. 1881 LADY M. E. HERBERT *Edith* vi, The *stallholders [of the bazaar] were presented. 1895 *Dublin Rev.* July 217 The secular canons did not displace the ancient stall-holders before 1309. 1591 PERCIVALL *Sp. Dict., Establerizo*, a horsekeeper, a *stall keeper, *Stabularius.* 1865 J. B. HARWOOD *Lady Flavia* xvi, Tiresome men, they declared, expected *stall-keepers [at a fancy-fair]..to smile incessantly at every coxcomb who might affect to cheapen a penwiper. 1868 WALCOTT *Sacred Archæol.* 360 At Lincoln they [the subsacrists] were called stall-keepers. 1914 *Daily News* 29 July 5 In several markets stall-keepers were assaulted. 1673 (R. LEIGH) *Transp. Reh.* 76 How well they have behav'd themselves..let..the Avenue-Readers, the Wall-Observers, and those that are acquainted with *Stall-Learning..testifie. 1831 CARLYLE *Sart. Res.* II. iii, My very copper pocket-money I laid out on *stall-literature. 1762 STERNE *Tr. Shandy* III. XXXV, There are not three *Bruscumbilles* in *Christendom*,—said the *stall-man. *a* 1608 DEE *Relat. Spir.* I. (1659) 230 Octavius Spinola, Chamberlain and *Stall-master. 1829 SCOTT *Anne of G.* xi, [They] scarce wondered at the fears of Caspar, the stall-master, when he found such a person in the stable. 1855 FRANKS in *Archæologia* XXXVI. 214 The *Stall-plate of Sir William Parr. 1864 BOUTELL *Her. Hist. & Pop.* xiii. (ed. 3) 129 The Stall-Plates of the Garter are amongst the most interesting..of Historical records. *c* 1645 MILTON *Sonn.* xi, A Book was writ of late call'd Tetrachordon;..Cries the *stall-reader, bless us! what a word on A title page is this! 1876 HARDY *Ethelberta* xli, Regarding her as a stall-reader regards the brilliant book he cannot afford to buy. 1898 A. F. LEACH *Beverley Acc. Bk.* (Surtees) I. Chapter Act Book 77 Though the parish was very large and many places in it very far off no regular vicarages had been instituted..; though *stall Vicars could not properly attend to them. 1868 WALCOTT *Sacred Archæol.* 330 At Hereford, where the Miserere was always sung after the *investiture* [of a canon]; and a bond to pay *stall-wages to his vicar was signed. 1676 COLES *Dict.*, **Stall-whimper*, a bastard, 1811 MILNER *Eccl. Archit. Eng.* Pref. 16 An..arcade of the most elegant *stall-work. 1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-mining* 237 Stall work. 1886 WILLIS & CLARK *Cambridge* I. 321 No attempt was made to complete the stall-work until the reign of Charles I.

Stall (stɔ̄l), *sb.*[2] Also 6 **staul(e**, 7 **stal.** [a. AF. *estal*, var. of *estale*: see STALE *sb.*[3]]

†1. A decoy-bird. Chiefly *fig. Obs.*

? *a* 1500 *Chester Pl.* 102 (MSS. B. W. h) Send forth women of thie countrye, namely those that beautifull be, and to thie Enemyes lett them draw nye, as stalles to stand them before. 1577 KNEWSTUB *Confut.* (1579) 8 b, They seduce some goodly and zealous men..placing them at the porch of their Synagogue..to stand there as baites and stalles to deceiue others. 1584–7 GREENE *Carde of Fancie* Wks. (Grosart) IV. 91 Did I disdaine to looke at the lure, and shall I now stoope without stall? 1592 — *Disput. He & She Conycatchers* F 2, Sitting or standing at the doore [of a whore house] like a staule, to allure or draw in wanton passengers.

2. A pickpocket's helper who distracts the attention of the victim whose pocket is being rifled; also the action or an act of stalling (see STALL *v.*[2] 1).

1591 GREENE *Conny Catching* II. Wks. (Grosart) X. 103 They see him drawe his purse, then spying in what place he puts it vppe, the stall or the shadowe beeing with the Foist or Nip, meets the man at some straight turne and iustles him. 1607 DEKKER & WILKINS *Jests* D.'s Wks. (Grosart) II. 328 The stall..gets before you, &..raggles himself too & fro, while the foyst dooing as much behind, they both disquiet you, & the one picks your pocket. 1812 J. H. VAUX *Flash Dict., Stall*, a violent pressure in a crowd, made by pickpockets. 1881 *Daily Tel.* 30 Dec., I saw a woman..put her purse in her gown pocket, so I..said to my pal, 'Chuck me a stall, and I'll have that.' *Ibid.*, They go out with the clever ones, and do the 'stall' business for them.

3. *slang.* A pretext or something used as a pretext for thieving or imposition.

1851 MAYHEW *Lond. Labour* I. 254/1 He induced a woman to let him have a halfpenny for a 'stall', that is, as a pretext with which to enter a shop for the purpose of stealing. 1889 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Robbery under Arms* xli, Well, but how did they know it was true?..It might have been only a stall.

4. *Stall off*: an act of stalling off (see STALL *v.*[2] 2); an evasive story or trick. *slang.*

1812 J. H. VAUX *Flash Dict., Stall off*,..generally it means a pretence, excuse, or prevarication—as a person.. entering into some plausible story, to excuse himself, his hearers or accusers would say, O yes, that's a good stall off. 1851 MAYHEW *Lond. Labour* I. 424/1 Women [fortune-tellers] who go about with a basket and a bit of driss (lace) in it, gammy lace, for a stall-off (a blind), in case they meet the master.

† **Stall**, *sb.*[3] *dial. Obs.* [Perh. a dialectal variant of *stavel*, STADDLE *sb.*

Cf. Sc. *stale, stail*, bottom of a stack (see *Eng. Dial. Dict.*), which is prob. a. ON. *stáli* (Norw. *staal*) inside of a stack (? ultimately cogn. w. STADDLE *sb.*).]

(See quot.)

1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 72/2 Terms used by the Mower and Haymaker...Raking the Bottom Stalls, is to Rake up all the scattered Hay about the Cocks, and cast it thereon.

Stall (stɔ̄l), *sb.*[4] Forms: *a. north.* and *Sc.* 6, 9 **stale**, 9 **staill**; *β.* 6–8 **stall**, 6–7 **stal.** [Prob. related to STADDLE *sb.*] A hive of bees; a 'stock' of bees in or for a hive; also, a bee-hive. (Cf. STALLER 3.)

a. 1505 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* III. 159 Item, to the gardinar of Linlithgw to by viij stales of beis, viij Franch crounis. 1588 *Wills & Inv. N. C.* (Surtees) II. 312, iij wynter stales of bees, and the planck, 12s and empty hyves 4d. 1808 JAMIESON, s. v. *Stale, Staill*, or adj. *staill skep of bees*, S. denominated perhaps as being the principal skep,

or mother-hive. 1824 MACTAGGART *Gallovid. Encycl.* 94 A bee-man lang the chiel had been, Keep'd mony a winter stale.

β. 1531 ELYOT *Gov.* (1534) 7 b, For if..the bees may issue out of theyr stalles, with out peryl of raine..in the mornynge erely he callethe them. 1531 in Weaver *Welle Wills* 139 A stall of beyes. 1609 C. BUTLER *Fem. Mon.* iii. § 23 Moue them not without urgent occasion: for often lifting vp the hiue..doth discourage the stall. 1670 J. SMITH *Eng. Improv. Reviv'd* 180 On or at the North-west side of the Physick-garden..is built a Bee-house to contain 200 Stals, Stools, or Hives of Bees. 1743 WESLEY in *Wks.* (1872) XIII. 179 They destroyed five stalls of bees.

†**Stall**, *a. Obs. rare.* [cogn. w. STALL *sb.*¹] Stubborn, resolute.

c 1205 LAY. 1841 Mid stocken & mid stanen stal [*c* 1275 strang] feht heo makeden. *Ibid.* 4143. *Ibid.* 10463 Heo nomen here uerden & comen to stal fehte. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 9789 Noght stird hym þo stith in his stalle hert.

Stall (stǭl), *v.*¹ Forms: 3–6 **stal**, (5 **stol**), 4–6 **stalle**, 6–7 **stawl(e, staule**, 3– **stall**. [Several distinct formations appear to have coalesced. The vb. partly represents a ME. adoption of OF. *estaller, estaler* (see STALE *v.*), ultimately f. Teut. **stallo-* STALL *sb.*¹, and partly an English formation on STALL *sb.*¹ It is probable also that in some uses it was a back-formation from ME. *i-stald*, pa. pple. of *stellen* to place (see STELL *v.*), OE. *stellan*, f. Teut. **stallo-* STALL *sb.*¹, and in others a shortening of INSTALL and FORESTALL. (OE. had *forþsteallian* intr., to take place, but the simple vb. is not recorded).]

I. To place.

1. *intr.* To have one's abode, dwell. *Obs.* exc. *dial.* in *To stall with*, to tolerate the presence of (another), to get on with.

c 1315 SHOREHAM *Poems* III. 30 Þat hys þe blysse of heuene aboue, Þar holy soulen stalleþ. 1606 SHAKS. *Ant. & Cl.* v. i. 39 *Caesar* Oh Anthony..I must perforce Haue shewne to thee such a declining day, Or looke on thine: we could not stall together, In the whole world. 1897 J. GORDON *Village & Doctor* [iv.] 138 Varney wondered whether the pious farmer was after the mother or daughter. 'Depend on it,' he said to me one day, 'it is the young 'un; 'e never could stall with the old cat.'

2. *trans.* To assign a particular place to (a person or thing); to place.

1415 HOCCLEVE *Hen. V & Knts. Garter* 32 Dooth so and god in glorie shal yow stalle. 1423 JAS. I *Kingis Q.* 170 [Thow that] has all thing within thy hert[e] stallit, That may thy 3outh oppressen or defade. 14.. LYDG. *Order of Fools* 116 in *Q. Elis. Acad.* (1869) 83 Who..lowde lawghys whan he dothe morne, Amonge foles of riȝt he may be stallyd. *c* 1460 *Towneley Myst.* xxi. 202 Shall I neuer ete bred to that he be stald In the stokys. 1481 CAXTON *Godfrey* Prol. 2 But thystorye of the sayd Arthur is so gloryous and shyny-ng, that he is stalled in the fyrst place of the moost noble, beste and worthyest of the cristen men. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* x. iv. 124 The mekle houk hym bayr was Tryton callit; For in hir foirstam was the monstre stallit. 1557 PHAER *Æneid* VI. (1558) R j b, All her sisters out she calles, Infernall hideous haggs, and to their turmentes them she stalles. *Ibid.* VII. T j, Now hie in heauen he sitts, and on the golden starrs is stalde. 1581 DERRICKE *Image Irel.* II. F j b, In highest place of all: The Cheeftaine then this traitrous knaue, like honest man doeth stall. 1594 R. C[AREW] *Tasso* III. 134 To Dudon..A Sepulchre of Cipresse sweete they stall, Their Barricados neere.

†**3.** To fix, appoint beforehand. *Obs.*

14.. *Beryn* 2610 For hir lawis been so streyt, & peynous ordinaunce Is stallid [*but perh. read* stablid] for hir falshede. 1532 *Dice Play* (Percy Soc.) 5 As I roamed in the Church of Pauls..looking for certain my companions, that hither might have stalled a meeting. *a* 1555 GARDINER in Foxe *A. & M.* (1563) 739, I know your Grace cannot staye these matters so sodenly, and I esteme it a great matter that thinges be stauld hetherto thus.

†**4.** To agree to the payment of (a debt) by instalments; to fix (days) for payment by instalments. Cf. ESTALL *v. Obs.*

1491 in Studer *Oak Bk. S'hampton* (1910) I. 153 That ..no Meire, ne Auditours shall stall' no dayes with no persone, withoute graunte of comune Assemble. 1525 *St. Papers Hen. VIII*, VI. 462 *marg.*, They be also sufficiently instructed, howe they shal ordre themself for stalling of days for part of the money due by thEmperour. 1558–9 *Cal. Anc. Rec. Dublin* (1889) 484 The somme of sixe score eight pounds, eleven shillings, seven pence, stallid as a debt to this citte. 1585–6 EARL LEYCESTER *Corr.* (Camden) 45 Hir majesty refuseth ether to pardon hym..or to stall his dett. *c* 1640 J. SMYTH *Lives Berkeleys* (1883) I. 107 And the residue of his debts..were stalled to bee payd by this lord at fower-score pounds a yeare. *a* 1670 J. HACKET *Abp. Williams* II. (1693) 128 He petition'd, that His Majesty would stall his Fine, and take it up as his Estate would bear it, by a Thousand Pounds a year.

fig. 1591 SPENSER *M. Hubberd* 1245 And his false counsellor..[he chose] To damne to death, or dole perpetuall, From whence he neuer should be quit, nor stal'd. *a* 1631 DONNE *Serm.* Wks. 1839 IV. 154 Thou canst never promise thyself to sin..thriftly..and stall the fine; for thy soul, that is the price, is indivisible, and perishes entirely; and eternally at one payment.

†**5.** *To stall forth, out*: to display or expose to view. *Obs. rare.*

1547 *Bk. Merchauntes* C v b, They go fro town to town.. to make their mustres and stall theyr marchandise. 1580 HOLLYBAND *Treas. Fr. Tong, Estaler*, to stalle out, or shew wares. 1608 D. T[UVILL] *Ess. Pol. & Mor.* 101 Desirous (as it were) to stall foorth her treasures.

†**6.** To strengthen, stablish. *Obs.*

c 1400 *Destr. Troy* 5186 We mightily to Messam our men send, To fecche vs som fode..And abundantly broght with buernes betwene For to stall our astate and our strenght hold.

II. To place in a 'stall'.

†**7.** To induct formally into a seat of rule or dignity; to enthrone (a king, a bishop, etc.); *spec.* to induct (a canon, a knight of the Garter or Bath) into his 'stall'. Hence, to place in a high office or dignity. = INSTALL *v.* I. *Obs.*

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 1334 Bot þenne þe bolde Baltazar, þat was his barn aldest, He was stalled in his stud, & stabled þe rengne. *c* 1384 CHAUCER *H. Fame* 1364 But al on hye, above a dees, Sitte in a see imperial,..Y saugh perpetually y-stalled A femynyne creature. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) VIII. 183 He was i-stalled at Lyncoln by þe archedecon. *c* 1407 LYDG. *Reson & Sens.* 253 For this is she that is stallyd And the quene of kynde called. *c* 1440 *Brut* 466 Sir Robert Fitzhugh was stalled Bisshop of London in the see of Seint Paules. 1522 *Stat. Order Garter* xiii. in Ashmole *Inst.* etc. (1672) App. g 2/b And that all such straungers ..shall sende..a sufficient Deputie..to be stalled in his place. *a* 1562 G. CAVENDISH *Wolsey* (1893) 97 They had a specyall commyssion to creat and stalle the Kyng's Majestie in the Royall Order of Fraunce. 1565 JEWEL *Def. Apol.* (1611) 473 He..that being a wretched sinfull man, hath stalled himselfe in the place of God. *a* 1591 H. SMITH *Six Serm.* (1625) 91 When one stalleth vp another into Moses chaire, not hauing Moses Rod, nor Moses Spirit. 1594 SHAKS. *Rich. III*, I. iii. 206 Long may'st thou liue..And see another, as I see thee now, Deck'd in thy Rights, as thou art stall'd in mine. 1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* VI. 189 Where Kings were stall'd, disthron'd..,and crown'd. 1661 MORGAN *Sph. Gentry* IV. iii. 40 This favour is done and shewed to them which may not well come in their proper persons that they might be stalled by attourneys.

†**b.** *Cant.* esp. in *to stall* (a beggar) *to the rogue.*

1567 HARMAN *Caveat* ii. (1869) 34 And if he mete any begger..he wyll demaund of him, whether euer he was stalled to the roge or no. If he saye he was, he wyll know.. his name that stalled hym. 1610 ROWLANDS *Martin Markall* F 4, He ordered, that euery one..taking vpon him the occupation of begging, shal be stauled to the order of rogues. 1622 FLETCHER *Beggars Bush* III. iii, *Higgen* [a beggar]. I..stall thee by the Salmon into the clows, To mand on the pad.

8. To put (an animal) in a stall; to keep or confine in a stall, esp. for fattening; also *to stall to* (a particular kind of food), *to stall up.*

1390 GOWER *Conf.* III. 124 A Monthe, which..The Plowed Oxe in wynter stalleth; And fyr into the halle he bringeth. 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* lxi. 28 (*Petit. Gray Horse*) I wald at 3oull be housit and stald. 1530 PALSGR. 732/1, I stall an ox to fede him fatte, *je mets en estal.* 1588 KYD *Househ. Philos.* Wks. (1901) 246 The flesh of wild Beasts.. is not so soone puft vp and fattened as those Beasts that commonly are stald and foddered. 1641 J. JACKSON *True Evang. T.* III. 205 So farre from..stalling the Oxe and Lyon together. 1764 *Museum Rust.* III. 7 As to oxen, we have them to the full as good, when stalled to turneps, carrots, etc. as if they were fed in the finest fatting grounds. 1837 *Flemish Husb.* 62 in *Libr. Usef. Kn., Husb.* III, An ox kept stalled up for six or eight months and well fed, will double his original weight. 1850 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* XI. I. 89, I much prefer penning to stalling the sheep. 1894 K. GRAHAME *Pagan Papers* 79 On the other hand, can you stall the wild ass of the desert?

transf. and *fig.* 1553 EDEN *Treat. New Ind.* (Arb.) 30 *marg.*, Young men stalled to be made fatte. 1582 MULCASTER *Positions* vi. (1887) 41 Olde Asclepiades is by Galene confuted, and stawled for an asse. 1601 SHAKS. *All's Well* I. iii. 231 Praie you leaue mee, stall this in your bosome, and I thanke you for your honest care. 1839 BAILEY *Festus* (1848) 61, I saw the sun-god stall his flaming steeds In customary splendour.

b. *intr.* Of cattle: To be lodged in stalls.

1805–6 CARY *Dante, Inf.* XXV. 28 He [Cacus]..here must tread A different journey, for his fraudful theft Of the great herd that near him stall'd.

III. To come or bring to a stand.

†**9.** *intr.* **a.** Of a beast of the chase: To come to a stand. **b.** Of an army: To take up a position for combat. *Obs.*

c 1400 *Master of Game* (MS. Digby 182) ii, And þen he maketh a ruse in some side and þere he stalleth or squatteth. *Ibid.* xxvi, Sometyme an herte wille stalle and looke aboute a gret while. *c* 1450 *Merlin* x. 161 And ther thei stalleden and foughten the ton vpon the tother. *a* 1562 G. CAVENDISH *Wolsey* (1893) 89 The boore issued owt of his denne, chaced with an hound in to the playn, and beyng there, stalled a whyle gasyng uppon the people.

†**10.** *trans.* To bring (a hunted animal) to a stand. Also *transf.* (Cf. FORESTALL *v.* I.) *Obs.*

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* A. 188, I dred..Lest ho me eschaped þat I þer chos, Er I at steuen hir mo3t stalle. 1599 SHAKS., etc. *Pass. Pilgr.* xix, When as thine eye hath chose the dame, And stall'd the deer that thou shouldst strike.

†**11.** To bring to a standstill, render unable to proceed. *lit.* and *fig. Obs.*

c 1591 *Epit. Sidney* 2 in R. S. *Phœnix Nest* (1593) 10 Stald are my thoughts, which lou'd, and lost, the wonder of our age. 1598 FLORIO *Ital. Dict.* Ep. Ded. a 4, If I, who many yeeres haue made profession of this toong,..in many wordes haue beene so stal'd, and stabled, as such sticking made me blushinglie confesse my ignorance [etc.]. 1603 B. JONSON *Sejanus* III. i. 393 [Silius stabs himself.] *Tib.* We are not pleased in this sad accident That thus hath stalled, and abus'd our mercy. 1650 MAY *Old Couple* III. (1658) 24 The time will be too short To get a pardon, specially as I Have lay'd some friends to stall it underhand. 1656 BAXTER *Reformed Pastor* viii. 465 See that you preach to such auditors as these, some higher points, that stall their understandings, and feed them not all with milk, but sometime with stronger meat. 1675 — *Cath. Theol.* II. 98 And he that is stalled with the question, 'Can a Sinner leave his Sin, and love goodness?' would easily answer, [*sc.* if he understood the question to mean] 'Whether he be willing to do it? Yea.'

b. esp. in *pass.* To become stuck (in mud, mire, a snowdrift, etc.). Now only *U.S.* or *dial.*

c 1460 *Towneley Myst.* III. 525 These floodis ar gone fader, behold...As still as a stone oure ship is stold. 1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* II. i. II. i. 291 Like him in Æsope, that when his cart was stalled, lay flat on his backe and cryed aloud helpe Hercules. 1790 W. H. MARSHALL *Midlands* II. 443 To be stalled; to be set fast in a slough, or bad road. 1821 CLARE *Vill. Minstr.* xliv, He knew no troubles waggoners have known, Of getting stall'd, and such disasters drear. 1864 LOWELL *McClellan's Rep.* Prose Wks. 1890 V. 100 He plunged into that Dismal Swamp of constitutional hermeneutics, in which the wheels of government were stalled at the outbreak of our rebellion. 1897 H. PORTER *Campaign. Grant* x. 164 A teamster whose waggon was stalled in a place where it was somewhat swampy.

c. *Mech.* (See quot.)

1914 HAMEL & TURNER *Flying* x. 198 He permitted the machine to lose speed until it had become what is known as 'stalled',—that momentary pause before the machine turns over on its side or nose and falls.

12. To take away (a person's) appetite; to satiate, surfeit *with, of.* Now *dial.* and *Sc.*

Prob. sometimes associated with sense 8; cf. the definition '*Stall*, to over-feed, to make fat, to stuff, etc.' (Dyche & Pardon, 1735).

1583 MELBANCKE *Philotimus* M j b, Sith..you were stauled with yester dayes Disputation, I will prescribe you certaine Inductions to be performed at the Vniuersitie. 1690 W. WALKER *Idiomat. Anglo-Lat.* 139, I can never be stalled with that delight. 1787 BURNS *To Haggis* v, Is there that owre his french ragout, Or olio that wad staw a sow. 1816 SCOTT *Old Mort.* i, Which of them would sit six hours on a wet hill-side to hear a godly sermon? I trow an hour o't wad staw them. 1875 W. D. PARISH *Sussex Gloss.* s. v. *Stalled*, Aint you fairly stalled of waiting?

b. To cause aversion in, cause to turn away; also with *off.* Now *rare.*

1642 FULLER *Holy & Prof. St.* II. vii. 74 Mathematicks he moderately studieth to his great contentment. Using it as ballast for his soul, yet to fix it not to stall it. 1856 DICKENS *Lett.* (1880) I. 448 It conveyed..an idea of incompleteness ..and is likely to stall some readers off. 1874 *Slang Dict.* 308 *Stall*, to frighten or discourage.

†**13.** = FORESTALL *v.* 2 b. *Obs.*

1474 *Coventry Leet-bk.* 401 That no maner of man nor woman schall not stalle nor Regrate no markett.

IV. **14.** To furnish (a choir, chancel) with stalls as seats.

1516 in Willis & Clark *Cambridge* (1886) II. 243 The Qwyer..shall be double staulled. 1857 *Yorksh. Archæol. Jrnl.* XV. 490 The chancel is stalled.

Stall (stǭl), *v.*² *slang.* [f. STALL *sb.*² Cf. STALE *v.*⁵]

1. *trans.* To screen (a pickpocket or his operations) from observation; also with *off.* Also, to close *up* or surround and hustle (a person who is to be robbed).

1592 GREENE *Disput. Conny-Catcher* Wks. (Grosart) X. 210, I either nip or foyst, or els staule an other while hee hath stroken, dispatcht, and gone. 1812 J. H. VAUX *Flash Dict.* s. v., *Stall off*, I wish you'd stall me off from that crib, ..meaning, walk in such a way as to cover or obscure me from notice. *Ibid.* s. v. *Stall up*, To stall a person up, (a term used by pickpockets) is to surround him..and by violence force his arms up, and keep them in that position while others of the gang rifle his pockets at pleasure. 1839 in 'Ducange Anglicus' *Vulgar T.* (1857) 34 To *stall*, to screen a robbery while it is being perpetrated.

2. *To stall off.* **a.** To get rid of by evasive tactics, a trick, plausible tale or the like; also, in sporting parlance, to keep the upper hand of (a competitor).

1812 J. H. VAUX *Flash Dict.* s. v., To avoid or escape any impending evil or punishment by means of artifice, submission, bribe, or otherwise, is also called stalling it off. 1821 *Sporting Mag.* VIII. 151 The hardy mountaineer would not be stalled off. 1862 SALA *Seven Sons* III. viii. 157 [He] did his best..to..stall off the awful truth with discreet shrugs and simpers. 1883 *Daily News* 12 Sept. 6/1 To-day she ran very fast, but could not stall off the challenge by Florence, who won very easily at last. 1905 *Athenæum* 7 Oct. 464/2 His very preface should have stalled off denunciations of this kind.

b. To get off or extricate (a person) by artifice.

1812 J. H. VAUX *Flash Dict.* s. v., To extricate a person from any dilemma or save him from disgrace, is called stalling him off. 1828 LYTTON *Pelham* lxxxiii, Plant your stumps, Master Guinea Pig; you are going to stall off the Daw's baby in prime twig, eh?

Stall, obs. pa. t. of STEAL *v.*

Stallage (stǭ'lĕdʒ). Also 4 **stalage**, 6 **stallege**. [ad. Anglo-L. *stallagium*, A.F. *estalage* (mod.F. *étalage*), f. *estal* STALL *sb.*¹ In sense 3 formed on STALL *sb.*¹ + -AGE.]

1. A tax or toll levied for the liberty of erecting a stall in a fair or market; also attrib., as *stallage rent.*

[*c* 1250 *Faringdon Acc.* (MS. Balow 49 [2] lf. 29), Reddit compotum..de vj s. viij d. de tolneto stallagiorum.]

1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) II. 97 Stalage, custom for stondynge in stretes in feyre tyme. *c* 1450 *Godstow Reg.* 665 And they shold be quyte þurgh all Ingelond by watir fro tol and passage and pountage and stallage and lastage and of all other customs. 1516 *Churchw. Acc. St. Marg., Westm.* (Nichols 1797) 8 Paid..for 24 ton of barnestone, with the pylage ankarage stallage custom and water carriage. 1705 HEARNE *Collect.* (O.H.S.) I. 28 Ye Toll and Stallage of Swyndon Market. 1763 in Picton *L'pool Munic. Rec.* (1886) II. 232 Rents, Dues and Stallage..And that all per-

sons erecting stalls..do pay the customary stallage rents to the Corporation. 1774 *Ibid.* 227 The stallage Rents and other reversionary interest. 1833 *Boston* (Linc.) *Herald* 5 Feb. 4/2 The..right of the Lessee of the Corporation of this Borough, to his charge of one penny per foot for Stallage, upon all persons except freemen occupying ground with stalls in the Market-place..is at length decided.

2. [Cf. Du. *stellazje*, scaffold, stage.] †**a.** A stand, stage. *Obs. rare.* **b.** *dial.* A stand or support for a cask. (Cf. STALL *sb.*[1] 7, STILLAGE.)

c 1500 *Melusine* xvii. 54 And thenne the spouse & many other ladyes were sett vpon the scaffold or stalage. 1541 in W. H. Turner *Select. Rec. Oxford* (1880) 164 The howses, shoppys, stallys, stallagis, and standyngs now made..for the said fayre. 1838 HOLLOWAY *Prov. Dict.*, Stallage, a wooden trough, on which casks are placed, for the purpose of letting beer work. 1875 W. D. PARISH *Sussex Gloss. Stalder*, the stool on which casks are placed in a cellar. *Stallage*. (Same as Stalder.)

3. Accommodation for stalling (horses). *rare*—[1].

1861 WYNTER *Soc. Bees* 216 There are two of these [stables], containing stallage for 130 horses.

Stalland, stallant, obs. forms of STALLION.

Stallange: see STALLENGE.

Sta·llar, sta·llary.[1] *Scottish Eccl. Hist.* Also staller. [ad. med.L. *stallārius*, f. *stallum*, *stalla* STALL *sb.*[1]] (See quots.)

1561–2 in G. Chalmers *Caledonia* (1824) III. vi. viii. 664 [Out of this revenue, he had to pay a vicar pensioner, who did the parochial duty, and a] stallar [or vicar, who served for him in the choir of the cathedral]. 1861 C. INNES *Sk. Early Sc. Hist.* 82 The bishop and dignitaries were bound to provide priests as their cathedral vicars or stallers. 1875 A. SMITH *Hist. Aberdeensh.* I. 607 In 1437, the prebendary of Philorth was required to find a sub-deacon as his vicar, or 'stallar', to serve in the cathedral. 1885 R. NAISMITH *Stonehouse* 110 The 'stallers' or prebendaries of Bothwell. 1910 J. DOWDEN *Medieval Ch. Scot.* iv. 66 This deputy, was known as the canon's 'Vicar of the Choir', or 'Vicar Choral'. Another name frequently applied to this official is 'stallary' (*stallarius*), that is, vicar attached to the canon's stall in the cathedral, as distinguished from the vicar in charge of the canon's parish.

†**Sta·llary**[2]. *Sc. Obs.* [ad. med.L. *stallāria*, f. *stallārius*: see prec.] The office or position of a stall-vicar.

1612 *Sc. Acts Jas. VI* (1816) IV. 481/2 With..right of patronage of all benefices Chaiplanreis and Stallaries foundit and lyand within the boundis of Orknay and Zetland. 1624 *Reg. Mag. Sig. Scot.* 238/2 Cum..vicariis, capellanitis, prebendis, altaragiis et *lie stallaries*, decimis garbalibus, aliis decimis [etc.].

†**Stalla·tion.** *Obs.* Also -cion, -tioun. Aphetic form of INSTALLATION.

1447 *Shillingford Lett.* (Camden) 95 Byfore the stallacion of Leofrik in the said Cathedrall Chirch. 1522 *Stat. Order Garter* xxv. in Ashmole *Inst.* etc. (1672) App. h b/1 Every Knyght within the yere of his stallation shall cause to be made a Scouchon of his armes, and hachementis in a plate of metall.., and that it be surely sett upon the backe of his stall. 1537 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* VI. 315 The tyme he was in Ingland for stallatioun of the Kingis grace in the ordour of the garter. 1661 MORGAN *Sph. Gentry* IV. iii. 44 In case that the said Soveraign be out in the country, to the which he cannot in propper person do that shall appertain to the Stallation, he may give power..to two of the fellows.. to exercise it in his name. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 54/1 The same Admission and Ceremonies shall be used at the Stallation of the said Noble Order to every Knight.

†**Stall boat.** *Obs.* In 5 stallboote, 6 stal-boat, 7 stale-boat, 8 (*Dict.*) stall-boat. [Prob. f. STALL *sb.*[1], in the sense of 'fixed station'.] A kind of fishing-boat, placed at anchor at the mouth of a river.

1328–9 *Exch. K. R. Memor.* m. 125 Quolibet piscante cum batello vocato stalbot. 1488 *Act 4 Hen. VII*, c. 22 § 2 For a singuler covetyse and lucre in takyng of a fewe grete fysshes certeyne persones have used to set and ordeyne certeyne botes called Stallbotes festened with ankres. 1558 *Act 1 Eliz.* c. 17 § 1 No person..withe any..Trimmenet, Trymebote, Stalbote, Weblyster..shall take..Spawne or Frye of Eeles, Salmon, Pyke or Pyckerel. 1584–5 *Act 27 Eliz.* c. 21 By the contynewall standinge of the saide Stalboates & usinge of the saide Nettes..the saide Haven and Gull..are become of muche lesse depthe. 1614 T. GENTLEMAN *England's Way* 19 These men..do set forth stale-boates, amongst the sands in the Theames mouth, for to take sprats, with great stale-nets. *Ibid.* 21 If that these men will needs vse their stale-boates and nets, let them go where the good Sprats be. 1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), *Stall-boat*, a kind of Fisher's Boat. 1720 STRYPE *Stow's Surv.* I. I. xv. 71/1 The Stal-boats, which are wont to belong to the Constable; and as yet do belong..[*margin* Ex Rotul. Claus. 9 R. II.].

Stalle, obs. pa. t. of STEAL *v.*

Stalled (stɔ̄ld), *ppl. a.* [f. STALL *sb.*[1] and *v.*[1] + -ED.]

†**1.** Payable at fixed periods. Cf. STALL *v.*[1] 4.

1553 *Act 7 Edw. VI* c. 1 § 8 Collectoures of Customes, or certeyne and stalled Subsidies within any Porte [etc.].

2. Of a person: Endowed with or occupying a (church) stall. ? *Obs.*

1630 *R. Johnson's Kingd. & Commw.* 388 Certaine select & stalled persons. 1742 YOUNG *Nt. Th.* IV. 74 Was I as plump, as stall'd theology. 1829 I. TAYLOR *Enthus.* x. 262 Infidelity aggravated by stalled hypocrisy.

3. Of an animal: Confined to a stall; fattened in a stall for killing. *lit.* and *fig.*

1560 BIBLE (Geneva) *Prov.* xv. 17 Better is a dinner of grene herbes where loue is, then a stalled oxe and hatred therewith. 1638 PENKETHMAN *Artachthos* I 3 b, A fat stalled Cow 12s. 1734 tr. *Rollin's Anc. Hist.* XVII. ii. (1768) V. 511 To die a death worthy of Sparta, and not to wait as stalled victims, till it was thought proper to sacrifice them. 1886 STEVENSON *Prince Otto* I. iv. 56 About the stable all else was silent but the stamping of stalled horses. 1895 SIR H. MAXWELL *Dk. of Britain* xv, Stalled venison braised with prunes.

4. Divided into stalls or compartments for animals.

1825 HAZLITT *Spirit of Age* 6 He proposed at one time.. to make Milton's house..a thoroughfare, like a three-stalled stable. 1839 BAILEY *Festus* (1852) 139 Through the foul-stalled stable of this world. 1898 J. K. FOWLER *Rec. Old Times* 108 The stables were stalled.

5. Of a vehicle, etc.: That has stuck fast.

1839 BAILEY *Festus* (1852) 335 It is they Who set their shoulders to the stalled world's wheel And give it a hitch forwards. 1851 MAYNE REID *Scalp-Hunt.* iii. 24 Now and then we were halted to help a 'stalled' wagon from its miry bed.

6. Glutted, satiated.

1740 DYCHE & PARDON *Dict.* (ed. 3), *Stalled*,..also surfeited, or made to loath any particular food, by eating too much often of it. 1788 W. H. MARSHALL *Yorksh.* II. 355 *Stalled*; satiated with eating. 1798 ROSCOE tr. *Tansillo's Nurse* I. (1800) 33 Heedless what venom taints the stream she gives, So your stall'd offspring vegetates and lives.

†**Sta·llenge, sta·llange.** *Sc. Obs.* [Alteration of STALLAGE, after STALLENGER.] The fee, tax or toll paid by a STALLENGER = STALLAGE 1.

1509 *Reg. Mag. Sig. Scot.* (1882) 712/2 Et 3 merc[atas] ant[iquæ] ext[entæ] de Thanyfad..cum *le Stallangis* edificiorum de dictis terris de Lokanis in via publica existen[tibus]. 1597 SKENE *De Verb. Sign.* (1641) s. v. *Stallangiatores*, And in the auld forme of customes, it is called, the stallenge of the mercat. 1605 *Reg. Mag. Sig. Scot.* (1890) 596/2 Unam croftam..cum the stallange for brewing.

Sta·llenger. *Sc.* and *north. Obs.* exc. *Hist.* Forms: 4 **stallangear**, 5 **stallangar**, 7 **stallanger**; 5–7, 9 *Hist.* **stallenger**; 6 **stalinger**, 6, 9 *Hist.* **stallinger.** [Alteration of **stalager* (with inserted *n* as in *passenger*) a. OF. *estalagier*, f. *estalage* STALLAGE. (In Sc. Law-Latin *stallangiarius*, *stallangiator*.)] A stall-keeper, a petty trader who paid to the burgh a small sum for the privilege of setting up his stall in fair or market; also, a person not a freeman who paid a small sum to the corporation for the privilege of carrying on his business for one year. Also *attrib.*

a 1400 *Burgh Laws* xxxvii. (*Sc. Stat.* I). Of stallangearis and mersaris tol. Ilke stallangear sall mak fyne with þe borow greffis eftyr as þai may accord or ellis he sall geyf a halpeny ilke marcate day. 1433 *Seill of Caus*, Edin. 2d May, MS. (Jam.) Giue he beis sufficient of his craft, and not of power to mak his expenssis haistelie wpon his fredome, he sall bruik the priviledge of ane stallanger for ane yeir. 1523 *Morpeth Rec.* in *Archæol. Æliana* (1889) XIII. 214 And if it fortine anye stalinger to maike a fraye w[th]in the said boroughe, that then the officers aforesaid shall sett the same offenders in the Stox. 1597 SKENE *De Verb. Sign.* (1641) *Stallangiatores, à stallo*, Cremers, or Forraine merchandes, quha within Burgh, in the time of Faire or Mercat, payis certaine dewty for their stal or stand, in the quhilk place they sel their merchandice: For it is ordained, that ilk stallanger sal either agree with the Provest of the Burgh, in the best forme as he may; or else ilk mercat-day, sal pay to him ane halfe-pennie. 1857 *Gentl. Mag.* I. 351/1 [Sunderland.] It appears..that one of the duties of the 'Grassmen', who were generally two or three of the defunct body of freemen and stallingers, was anciently to look after the hedges.

attrib. 1478–9 *Extracts Burgh Rec. Edin.* (1869) I. 36 Ilk stallenger puir body that occupeis the fredome of the towne ..and all stallangers that may be burges. 1481 *Ibid.* 40 Stallangars. 1598 *Aberd. Reg.* (Jam.) To pound all vnfremen for thair stallinger sylver.

Staller[1] (stɔ̄·ləɹ). *Hist.* [ad. late OE. *stallere*, **steallere* (in genit. contracted *stealres*, *steallres*), prob. f. *steall* STALL *sb.*[1], in imitation of L. *stabulārius*. Cf. ON. *stallari*, the title of a Norwegian court officer from the 10th c.] The title of a high officer in the reign of Edward the Confessor, equivalent to CONSTABLE I.

a 1100 *O. E. Chron.* an 1047 (MS. D.) Her man utlagode Osgod stallere. 11.. *Charter* in Kemble *Cod. Dipl.* IV. 291 On Esgeres stealres, and on Raulfes steallres..3e witnesse on Lincolne. *c* 1200 in Michel *Chron. Anglo-Norm.* II. 234 Esegarus regie procurator aule, qui et anglice dictus stallere, i. e. regni vexillifer. 1620 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* I. 439 Wee reade in the private historie of the place, The Kings Staller, that is, Standard Bearer..first founded it. 1875 STUBBS *Const. Hist.* xi. (1897) I. 383 The constable..succeeded to the duties of the Anglo-Saxon staller.

¶ Used vaguely for: Officer.

1638 H. SHIRLEY *Martyr'd Souldier* II. iii, Sit downe by me your Officiall: Or to come nearer to the efficacy of the word, Your undermost laylor, or staller; The word is Lordly and significant.

Hence **Sta·llership,** the office of a 'staller'.

1868 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* (1876) II. App. 684 A mere lad would hardly have been invested with a stallership.

Staller[2] (stɔ̄·ləɹ). *slang.* [f. STALL *v.*[2] + -ER[1].] *Staller up*: one who 'stalls up' or acts as confederate to a pickpocket (see STALL *v.*[2] 1).

1812 J. H. VAUX *Flash Dict.*, s. v. *Stall*, The stallers up are gratified with such part of the gains acquired as the liberality of the knuckling gentlemen may prompt them to bestow.

†**Sta·ller**[3]. *Obs.* [f. STALL *sb.*[4] + -ER[1].] = STALL *sb.*[4]

1713 J. WARDER *True Amazons* iii. (1742) 44 In the Staller are left old sufficient Warriors to train up and discipline the young Amazons. *Ibid.* xiv. 135 You had better chuse a Staller of two Years old, than a light Swarm.

Staller: see STALLAR.

Sta·ll-fed, *a.* Also 6 staulfed, stalfed, (7 stale feed). [f. STALL *sb.*[1] + FED *a.*] Of an animal to be fattened: Kept and fed in a stall.

1554 J. BRADFORD *Lett.* in Coverdale *Lett. Martyrs* (1564) 326 If you were for the Faire, you shoulde bee staulfed and wante no weale. 1557 TUSSER *100 Points Husb.* xxxiii, For Easter, at Martilmas hange vp a biefe: for pease fed and stall fed, play pickpurse the thiefe. 1615 CHAPMAN *Odyss.* XIV. 161 One beast, (the most fat, and best Of all the Stall-fed). 1688 HOLME *Armoury* II. 173/2 We call a fat Ox, a stale feed Ox. 1777 *Mass. Statute* 25 Jan., Stall-fed beef, well fatted, at fourpence a pound. 1890 *Farmer's Gaz.* 4 Jan. 1/1 Stall-fed cattle will now be on full keep.

b. *transf.* Of a person.

1589 GREENE *Masqverado* Wks. (Grosart) V. 243 Monkes, Friers,..stall-fed with ease, and gluttony. 1626 B. JONSON *Staple of News* I. vi, You shall haue stall-fed Doctors, cram'd Diuines Make loue to her. 1635 BRERETON *Trav.* (1844) 51 We saw a man..so stall-fed as that his legs were not able to support and carry his body. 1895 W. JAMES in *Will to believe*, etc. (1904) 43 Times..when stall-fed officials of an established church could prove by the valves in the heart [etc.].

Stall-feed, *v.* [f. STALL *sb.*[1] + FEED *v.*]

1. *trans.* To feed (an animal) in a stall.

1763 MILLS *Pract. Husb.* III. 173 [The crop] will be sufficient to stall-feed four bullocks during the three winter months. 1861 WYNTER *Soc. Bees* 143 We stall-feed milch cows in upper stories in London houses.

2. Of an animal: To undergo feeding or fattening in a stall.

1766 *Complete Farmer* s. v. *Turnep* 7 Q 2/2, I have now two bullocks which are stall-feeding upon turnips.

Hence **Stall-feeding** *vbl. sb.*

1805 R. W. DICKSON *Pract. Agric.* II. 1045 This..is..less advantageous in the point of fattening than that of wholly confining them to the stalls, or what is usually termed stall-feeding. 1865 TROLLOPE *Belton Est.* iv, The building of a shed for winter stall-feeding.

Stalling (stɔ̄·liŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. STALL *v.*[1] + -ING[1].]

†**1.** Induction into a stall; installation. *Obs.*

1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) VIII. 183 Whan he was i-stalled at Lyncoln by þe archedecon, me axede an hors oþer a kow for his stallynge. *c* 1440 *Alphabet of Tales* 60 This archedekyn was made bisshopp and made a grete feste at his stallyng. *c* 1535 in Gutch *Coll. Cur.* (1781) I. 207 Unto the first stalling of the Dean and Canons in the said College.

†**2.** The action of agreeing for the payment of a debt by instalments, or of fixing dates for payment; also, an instance of this. (See STALL *v.*[1] 4.) *Obs.*

1525 *St. Papers Hen. VIII*, VI. 462 They be also sufficiently instructed, howe they shal ordre themself for stalling of days for part of the money due by the Emperour. 1563 *Repert. City Lond.* XV. f. 258 in *Eng. Hist. Rev.* (1900) July 451 My lord mayor &..justices..shall..meete here for the stallynge & ratynge of the wages of artyficers & laborers according to the Acte. *a* 1631 DONNE *Serm.* Wks. 1839 V. 522 Yea it is not here only that they shall perish, in the future; that were a reprieve; it were a stalling of a debt. *c* 1640 J. SMYTH *Lives Berkeleys* (1883) I. 130 Of an other dett..[he] could obtayne noe more, then the stallenge thereof to be payd by twenty marks a yeare.

3. The action or process of furnishing (a place) with stalls as seats; also concr., stall-work.

c 1515 in Willis & Clark *Cambridge* (1886) I. 482 The said werk is..accomplished, except the pavyng, and stallyng and glasyng of the same. 1519 in *Fabric Rolls York Minster* (Surtees) 272 Our wher stallyng is defectiff in gronsoll. Our wher pavyng is fawty in stone.

4. Stall-accommodation (of or for an animal).

1535 COVERDALE *Isa.* lxv. 10 Saron shalbe a shepefolde, and the valley of Achor shal geue stallinge for the catell of my people, that feare me. 1600 SHAKS. *A. Y. L.* I. i. 11 Call you that keeping for a gentleman of my birth, that differs not from the stalling of an Oxe? 1859 TENNYSON *Geraint & Enid* 238 But hire us some fair chamber for the night, And stalling for the horses.

†**Sta·lling-ken.** *Thieves' cant. Obs.* Also 6 **stawlinge-, staulinge-, 7 stawling-, stuling-.** [f. *stalling*, vbl. sb. f. STALL *v.*[2] + KEN *sb.*] (See quots.)

1567 HARMAN *Caveat* 32 Whych [pigs or poultry] they brynge to their stawlinge kens, which is their typplyng houses. *Ibid.* 83 A staulinge ken, a house that wyll receaue stolen ware.. 1621 B. JONSON *Masque Gypsies* (1640) 48 Till ..he be able to beate it on the hoofe to the bene bouse, or the stauling Ken. 1624 BP. MOUNTAGU *Gagg* Pref. 17 They and their Trulls may meet at their stawling kenns with such clapper dogeons as your selfe. 1676 COLES *Dict., Stallingken*, a brokers, or any house that receives stolen goods. *a* 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew*, *Stalling-ken*. Ibid., *Stulingken*. Also in later Dicts.

Stallion (stæ·lyən). Forms: *α.* 4 **stalun**, 4–5 **staloun**, 4–6 **stalon**, (5 **stalan**, **stolon**, 6 *erron.* **stalume**), 6 **stallon**(**e**; *β.* 6 **stal(l)ant**, **stalland**(**e**, **staulande**, **stalaunt**; *γ.* (5 **stalyone**), 6–7 **stalion**, (7 **stallian**, **stallyon**), 6– **stallion.** [a. OF. *estalon* (mod.F. *étalon*), whence Anglo-L. *stalōnus*; corresp. to It. *stallone*:—popular L. **stallōnem*, f. Teut. **stallo-* stable, STALL *sb.*[1] The *β* forms appear to be due to confusion of the ending with the ppl. suffix -ANT (cf. *gallande*, *gallante* GALLON); the influence which produced the *γ* forms is obscure.]

1. A male horse not castrated, an entire horse, esp. one kept for the purpose of serving mares.

α. 1388 WYCLIF *Eccl.* xxxiii. 6 An hors a staloun, so and a frend a scornere, neiȝeth vndur ech sittynge aboue. *Ibid.*

Jer. v. 8 Thei be maad horsis, and stalouns, louyeris to wymmen. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* III. 280 Bot as a cock among the Hennes, Or as a Stalon in the Fennes, Which goth amonges al the Stod. *c* 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* IV. 799 Fed stalons faat goth now to gentyl maris. *Ibid.* 802 Let euery stolon haue as he is abul. 14.. *Nom.* in Wr.-Wülcker 697/40 *Hic emissarius*, a stalan. 1530 PALSGR. 275/1 Stalume horse, *haras*. 1537 DARCY in *Lett. Suppress. Monasteries* (Camden) 158 For ssurly the breed of Gervayes ffor horses was the tryed breed in the northe, the stallones, and mares well ssoortyd.

β. 1519 HORMAN *Vulg.* 176, I wyll not sylle my stalant. 1530 PALSGR. 275/1 Stallant a horse, *haras*. 1541 *Act* 33 *Hen. VIII*, c. 5 Nobles..hauing parkes, should kepe mares, and finde staulandes for breed and encrease of horses. 1592 TIMME *Ten Eng. Lepers* I 3, In the desire of uncleane lust, they are become like unto stallandes.

γ. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 472/1 Stalyone, hors, *emissarius*. 1577 GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* III. (1586) 126 The stallion that you meane to haue for your race of moiles, must be as faire as you can get. 1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* 297 The King of Babilon..had eight hundreth Stalions, which were admitted to couer sixe thousand Mares. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* III. 118 The Colt that for a Stallion is design'd, By sure Presages shows his generous Kind. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) II. 352 March,..at which time the mares are given to the stallion. 1842 LONGF. *Slave's Dream* iv, At each leap he could feel his scabbard of steel Smiting his stallion's flank. 1861 *Times* 11 July, The first and highest legitimate vocation of a thorough-bred stallion is as a sire.

b. *transf.* Applied to a male dog or sheep with reference to its use for breeding.

1802 DANIEL *Rur. Sports* II. 490 Dash [a dog]..had the misfortune to break his leg, and was sent to Col. T. who.. considered him in that state a great acquisition as a stallion to breed from. 1842 [see *stallion-breeder* in 5].

c. As the name of a plant (see quot.).

1878 BRITTEN & HOLLAND *Plant-n.*, Stallions (Yks. W. Riding), or Stallions and Mares. Yks. (Wensleydale). *Arum maculatum*, L.

2. Applied to a person. †**a.** A begetter. *Obs.*

c 1305 *Land Cokaygne* 167 Þe monke þat wol be stalun gode..He schal hab wibute danger .xii. wiues euche 3ere. 1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* I. ii. I. vi. 85 When no choice is had, but still the eldest must marry, as so many stallions of the Race.

†**b.** A man of lascivious life; in later use, a woman's hired paramour. *Obs.*

1553 tr. *Gardiner's De Vera Obed.* To Rdr. B j, [They] thinke it more mete for wanton wagtaile weston to be turned out for a stalaunt,..than to vse ani kinde of communication among worthi ladies. 1623 MASSINGER *Dk. Milan* IV. ii, He. that at euerie stage keeps liuerie Mistresses, The stallion of the State! 1676 SHADWELL *Virtuoso* IV, What are you, her Stallion, and her Bravo too? 1680 R. MANSELL *Narr. Popish Plot* 99 Her Mistress had got an ill Repute, by keeping Willoughby for her Stallion. 1714 T. LUCAS *Mem. Gamesters* (ed. 2) 193 A Marchioness in Naples.. kept him as her Stallion. 1755 *Monitor* I. No. 15. 129 It was a complaint in our wars with Holland, that our losses were owing to the stallions and bastards of lewd women, who had interest at court. 1796 *Grose's Dict. Vulgar T.* (ed. 3), *Stallion*, a man kept by an old lady for secret services.

†**3.** A courtesan. *Obs.*

[Perh. another word: cf. F. *estalon* (Cotgr.) a decoy; also STALE *sb.*[3] 4.]

1575 LANEHAM *Let.* (1871) 24 Then folloed the worshipfull Bride... But a stale stallion..God wot, and an il smelling, waz she. 1584 B. R. tr. *Herodotus* II. 102 b, Willing her ..to abandon chastity for the time, making hirselfe a common stalant for all that would come. *Ibid.* 107. 1604 SHAKS. *Ham.* II. ii. 616 (2nd Qo.) That I..Must like a whore vnpacke my hart with words, And fall a cursing like a very drabbe; a stallyon, fie vppont, foh. [1603, 1st Qo. *reads* a scalion. *Ff. read* scullion.] 1635 *Life Long Meg of Westminster* iii. (1816) 6 Marry Master Vicar, quoth Meg, just fiue shillings and three pence. Fiue shillings and three pence, quoth he; why I tell thee foule Stallion, I owe but three shillings and a penny. *a* 1670 HACKET *Cent. Serm.* (1675) 600 Doth the Adulterer look for impunity that he walks to his stallion by twilight?

4. ? A stand for showing goods.

[Possibly a distinct word, connected with STALL *sb.*[1] or OF. *estaler* to display. But cf. HORSE *sb.* 7.]

1752 *Gentl. Mag.* XXII. 348 Plate. The Porcelain Manufactory at Worcester. 10. (*b*). The eight windows in two large chambers, in which the ware is placed on stallions.

5. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, chiefly appositive, as *stallion ass, horse, hound,* †*pen* (fig.), *steed*; objective, as *stallion-breeder*; similative, as *stallion-like* adv.; †**stallion teeth, the eye-teeth of a horse.**

1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* 558 It is most commodious and necessary to gett such a *Stalion Asse to the procreation of Mules. 1842 BISCHOFF *Woollen Manuf.* (1862) II. 385 There are a great many tup or *stallion-breeders too ready to omit this essential ceremony of inspection. 1889 T. T. STODDART *Angling Songs* 272 A merry fish on a *stallion hair 'Tis a pleasant thing to lead On May-days. 1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* 297 Therefore it behooueth that a *Stalion Horsse be not vnder three yeares old when he couereth a Mare. 1826 J. COOK *Fox-hunting* 10 A word now on the subject of *Stallion-hounds. 1904 J. A. THOMSON *Eighty Years Remin.* II. 134 A hound show took place at Haddington in July, 1876. In the class for..stallion hounds, Fife were first with 'Woodman'. 1605 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. iii. I. *Vocation* 1155 Those..*Stalion-like, after their beauties neigh'd. 1737 M. GREEN *Spleen* 347 Nor, hir'd to praise with *stallion pen, Serve the ear-lechery of men. 1597 BP. HALL *Sat.* IV. i. 112 Some snout-fayre stripling..Whom staked vp like to some *stallion-steed They keepe with Egs and Oysters for the breed. 1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* 285 It is a hard thing for a Horsse to haue a good mouth, except his *stallion teeth bee pulled out, for when he is chafed or heated, he cannot be helde backe by his rider.

† **Sta·llionize,** *v. Obs. rare.* [f. STALLION + -IZE.] *To stallionize it*, to act the stallion.

1694 MOTTEUX *Rabelais* v. viii. 38 Don't you [horses] Stallionize it sometimes here among your metal'd Fillies?

Stallite (stǭ·lait). [f. STALL *sb.*[1] + -ITE.] One who occupies a theatre-stall.

1887 *Sat. Rev.* 18 June 866/2 A rush from the dress-circle down these stairs would meet the rush of stallites.

† **Stall net.** *Obs.* In 3 stalnett, 6 stalnette, 7 stale-net, stall nett. [Prob. f. STALL *sb.*[1]; cf. STALL-BOAT.] A stationary net laid across a river, esp. for sprat-fishing.

1246 *Charter Roll* 31 *Hen. III.* m. 13 in *Cal.* (1903) 310 [To fish in] hetun, dreynett, flodnett et stalnett. 1552 HULOET, Stalnette, *semitlagium*. 1614 T. GENTLEMAN *England's Way* 19 These men..do set forth stale-boates, amongst the sands in the Theames mouth, for to take sprats, with great stale-nets, with a great poake. *a* 1642 Sir W. MONSON *Naval Tracts* VI. (1704) 524/2 They are..entrapped by the Stale Nets, that use to take the Sprats. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. xxii. (Roxb.) 276/2 The Fourth..is termed a Stall Nett; these are netts of great length and breadth which are generally layd cross a River.

† **Stallon.** *Obs. rare*[−1]. [? Misspelling of STOLON.] A slip, scion.

In the alleged earlier example from Palladius given in some Dicts. for *stalon* read *scalon* SCALLION.

1587 HARRISON *England* II. xix. [xx.] 210/2 in *Holinshed*, Such a one [*i. e.* rose] was to be seene in Antwarpe 1585.. and I know who might have had a slip or stallon thereof, if he would haue ventured ten pounds.

Stalloy (stălŏi·). [App. arbitrarily f. ST(EEL) + ALLOY.] (See quots.)

1906 *Daily Chron.* 8 Dec. 3/5 The remarkable new steel alloy called 'stalloy'. 1911 J. A. FLEMING in *Encycl. Brit.* XXVII. 173/2 [The iron] must possess extremely small hysteresis loss, and various trade names, such as 'stalloy', 'lohys', are in use to describe certain brands.

Stallworthe, var. form of STALWORTH *a.*

† **Stalment.** *Obs.* Also **stallment.** [a. AF. *estallement* (Anglo-L. *stallamentum*), f. *estaller* STALL *v.*[1] (sense 4): see -MENT. Cf. ESTALLMENT.] The action of fixing terms of payment by instalments. Also, an instalment.

1484 in *Lett. Rich. III & Hen. VII* (Rolls) I. 81 No persone accomptable, ne other persone being in dette to the king, [shall] have any respet, stalment, or favor in the said court. 1491 in Studer *Oak Bk. S'hampton* (1910) I. 153 *marg.*, Townes monye in the Coffers and no stallmentt butt by comon Assentte. 1550 *Patent Roll* 4 *Edw. VI*, v. membr. 34 [Sir Philip Hobbye and Sir Thomas Speake stand bound in the sum of 200 mks. for surety of payment of 100 l. part of 1100 l. due] upon the stalment of the debts of the said Sir Phillip, to be paid [at Michaelmas]. 1657 HOWELL *Londinop.* 371 He (the Kings Remembrancer) taketh the stallment of Debts, and entreth them. 1721 STRYPE *Eccl. Mem.* II. I. xxxiii. 277 All which the King now forgave him ..acquitting..him, his heirs..and divers others standing bound with him for 1100 l. due to the King for stalment of his debts.

b. *fig.* Apportionment.

1581 W. I. in *Rich's Farew. Milit. Profession* C ij b, Who seekes by Ladie fame to reape renoune, Must aske consent of worthie vertues grace: To her belonges the staulement of the croune.

Stalon, obs. form of STALLION.

† **Stalp.** *Sc. Obs.*[−1]. [Cf. WFris. *stap* trap, and STAMP *sb.*[5]] ? Some kind of trap.

1505 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* III. 171 Item, for bigging of the deir fald in Faukland, xviij s. Item, for making of ane stalp and the irn graith to the samyn,..to sla foxes in the park of Faukland, vj s. vj d.

Stalth(e, obs. forms of STEALTH.

† **Sta·ltic,** *a. Obs. rare*[−1]. [ad. late L. *staltic-us* (Du Cange), a. Gr. σταλτικός capable of contracting, f. σταλ-, στέλλειν in sense to bring together, gather up, make to shrink.] Styptic.

1748 tr. *Vegetius' Distempers Horses* 166 The Wounds, may be thoroughly cured with Staltick Medicines.

Stalume, obs. erron. form of STALLION.

Stalwart (stǭ·lwɑrt, stæ·lwărt), *a.* Now *literary.* Forms: 4 **stalouart, -wart,** (**stawlouart**), **stalawrt,** 4–5 **stallwart,** 5 **stal(l)uart, stalwert,** 4–6, 9 **stalwart.** [A 16th c. Sc. form of STALWORTH *a.*, brought into Eng. use by Scott.]

A. *adj.*

1. Of persons (†and animals): Strongly and stoutly built, sturdy, robust.

c 1450 HOLLAND *Howlat* 697 The Stork, stallwart and styth. *c* 1470 *Gol. & Gaw.* 555 On stedis stalwart and strang. 1825 BROCKETT *N. C. Gloss., Stalwart*, stout, strong, hale. 1837 LOCKHART *Scott* IV. vi. 189 A tall and stalwart bagpiper. 1846 MISS MULOCK *J. Halifax* I. I How would I not have given to have been so stalwart and so tall.

2. Of inanimate things: Firmly made or established, strong. Now *rare.*

1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* III. 732 A rycht stalwart castell. *Ibid.* XIII. 14 With wapnys stalwart of steill Thai dang on thame with all thar mycht. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* V. 1136 Tre wark thai brynt..Wallis brak doun that stalwart war off stanys. 1508 DUNBAR *Tua mariit wemen* 384 He..maid a stalwart staff to strik him selfe doune.

1858 HAWTHORNE *Fr. & It. Jrnls.* II. 80 Its old walls, however, are stalwart enough to outlast another set of frescos.

3. Of persons, their attributes, etc.: Resolute, unbending, determined. Chiefly *modern.*

c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* I. (*Katherine*) 695 Bad hir be of stawlouart will.

1840 BARHAM *Ingol. Leg., Black Mousquetaire*, The form whose stalwart pride But yester-morn was by his side.

1903 MORLEY *Gladstone* I. 69 The duke made his stalwart declaration in the House of Lords against all parliamentary reform. 1905 E. CLODD *Animism* § 17. 99 The stalwart opponents of superstition refused his request.

†**b.** Of a fight: Stoutly contested, severe. *Obs.*

1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* I. 68 The Machabeys, That..Faucht into mony stallwart stour, For to delyvir thair countre. *c* 1420 WYNTOUN *Cron.* VIII. xxxiii. 5836 He fande þar hard [*v. r.* stalwart] barganynge. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* X. v. 164 The tyme of batale reddy is at hand, Quhar strenth beis schawyn in stalwart stowr to stand.

4. Valiant in fight, brave, courageous.

c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xxix. (*Placidas*) 250 For-þi mon þu, as stalawrt knycht, to resist hym mak þe bown. *c* 1470 *Gol. & Gaw.* 353 Wondir staluart and strang, to striue in ane stour. ? *a* 1550 *Freiris Berwik* 507 in *Dunbar's Poems* II. 302 Sumthing effrayit, thocht stalwart was his hart.

1810 SCOTT *Lady of L.* I. xxviii, Whose stalwart arm might brook to wield A blade like this in battle-field. 1859 TENNYSON *Vivien* 332 But afterwards He made a stalwart knight.

†**5.** Of a storm, weather: Violent, tempestuous.

1528 LYNDESAY *Dreme* 80 With stalwart stormes hir sweitnes wes suprisit. 1827 TENNANT *Papistry Storm'd* vi. 187 Siccan stalwart weather.

6. *Comb.*

1848 B. D. WALSH *Aristoph., Kuts.* IV. i, The stalwart-fathered goddess. 1871 PALGRAVE *Lyr. Poems* 51 Red-faced and stalwart-fashioned Point-blank they came on their foes.

B. *sb.*

1. A strong and valiant man.

Now only as nonce-use, after 2.

c 1470 *Gol. & Gaw.* 642 Thair wes na staluart vnstonait, so sterne wes the stound. *Ibid.* 767 Thair with the stalwartis in stour can stotin and stynt. 1891 *Academy* 3 Jan. 7/2 Emin's 'stalwarts'..proving to be for the most part brutal ruffians and abject cravens in the presence of danger.

2. A sturdy uncompromising partisan; esp. as a political designation.

In U.S. politics 1877 and subsequently, an extremist of the Republican party.

1881 *Nation* (N. Y.) XXXII. 415 The epithet 'Stalwart' as applied to a class of politicians was first used by Mr. Blaine in 1877 to designate those Republicans who were unwilling to give up hostility and distrust of the South as a political motive. 1890 *Times* 11 July 9/3 The 'stalwarts' of the Radical party, supported the resolution.

attrib. 1888 BRYCE *Amer. Commw.* II. xlvi. II. 203 The 'Stalwart' and 'Half-breed' sections of the Republican party. 1907 *National Church* 15 Oct. 262/1 The 'stalwart' section of militant Dissent.

b. One who is disposed to take an uncompromising position with regard to political, religious, and social questions in general; a 'doctrinaire'. *rare.*

1899 PATTEN *Developm. Engl. Thought* i. 27, I shall call them stalwarts from their love of doctrines, dogmas, and creeds, and from their inclination to subordinate policy to principle. *Ibid.* 28 Stalwarts are always impressed by ideals that are clear and simple, by principles that are bold and definite, by creeds that are rigid and exact, and by platforms that are plain and unmistakable.

Stalwartism (stǭ·lwɑrtiz'm). [f. STALWART + -ISM.] The principles or policy of the 'stalwarts'; the disposition characteristic of a 'stalwart' (see STALWART *sb.* 2, 2 b).

1879 *Nation* (N. Y.) 27 Nov. 355 (Cent.) Stalwartism. 1899 PATTEN *Developm. Engl. Thought* i. 29 In the eighteenth century, stalwartism became a political force through the democratic ideals which developed in harmony with frugal ideas.

Stalwartize (stǭ·lwɑrtəiz), *v. nonce-word.* [f. STALWART + -IZE.] *trans.* To turn (a political party) into 'stalwarts' (see STALWART *sb.* 2).

1882 *N. Y. Tribune* 12 Apr., An attempt is being made.. to stalwartize the Republican party,..to convert its majority against its will from Garfield to Stalwart Republicanism.

Sta·lwartly, *adv.* Now *rare.* [f. STALWART *a.* + -LY 2.] In a stalwart manner, strongly, bravely.

1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* II. 66 [The king] swour In Ire, full stalwartly, That he suld drawyn and hangit be. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 6873 Þen gird in þe grekys with a grete wyll, Restoret þe stithe fight stalwertly þen. *c* 1475 *Rauf Coilzear* 32 His steid aganis the storme staluartlie straid. 1887 in *Cassell's Encycl. Dict.*; and in later Dicts.

Stalwartness (stǭ·lwɑrtnĕs). *rare.* [f. STALWART *a.* + -NESS.] The quality or condition of being stalwart; robustness, strength.

1859 GEO. ELIOT *Adam Bede* I. i, In his tall stalwartness Adam Bede was a Saxon. 1888 *Athenæum* 14 Jan. 57/1 The glossy, well-filled skin of the cart-horse, his stalwartness and vigour.

Sta·lworth. *a.* and *sb. Obs.* exc. *arch.* Forms: *a.* 1 **stælwierðe, -wyrðe,** 2 **stele-,** 3 **stealewurðe**; 3 **stalwarþe,** 5– **warth**; 3 **stalewurðe**; 3–4 **stalwrthe**; 3–5 **stalworþe,** 4–6 **-worthe,** (5 **staloworth**), 6 **stalwoorth**; 4–5 **stallworthe, stalwurþe, -wurthe,** (5 **stalwort**), 4–7, 9 *arch.* **stalworth.** β. 3–5 **stalword(e.** γ. 3–5 **stalwarde,** 3 **stalewarde,** 4, 6, 8 *Sc.* **stalward.** (See also STALWART *a.*) δ. 3 **stalðelwurðe.** [OE. *stælwierðe,* f. *stæl* place + *wierðe* WORTH *a.*

The length of the vowel in the first syllable seems to be authenticated by some of the early ME. forms; the shortening of *á* to *ă* in the first element of a compound is normal. The OE. *stæl* (the quantity of which is certain from the three occurrences in poetry) appears not to be immediately connected with the synonymous *stæl* with short vowel (dat. *stale*); according to some scholars it represents a contraction of OTeut. **stapl-* or **stadl.*, the relation of OE. *stæl* to *staðol* foundation (see STADDLE *sb.*) being considered

parallel with that of *mǽl* speech to the synonymous *mǽdel*. The 13th c. form *staðelwurðe*, occurring only once (see 3 δ) strongly confirms this view.

The early ME. forms with medial *e*, *stele-*, *steale-*, *stalewurðe* are difficult to account for.]

A. *adj.*

†1. (OE.) Of things: Serviceable. *Obs.*

O. E. Chron. an. 896, Þa [scipu] þe þær stælwyrðe wæron binnan Lunden byriȝ [hie] ȝebrohton. *c* **897** ÆLFRED *Gregory's Past. C.* xvii. (1871) 115 Se ðe ȝeornlice conn onȝietan ðæt he of him gadriȝe ðat him stælwierðe sie [L. *quod adjuvat*]. *a* **1000** *Ælfred's Blooms* in Cockayne *Shrine* (1864) 192 He ȝyfð..gooda ȝifa on þissa wurlda þeah hi eca ne sien hi beoð þeah stælwyrða þa hwile þe we on on þisse wurlde beoð.

2. Of persons, and animals: Strongly and stoutly built, sturdy, robust.

a. c **1175** *Lamb. Hom.* 25 He..þenchet ic em hal and fere and strong and stelewurðe ȝet ic mei longe libben and alle mine sunne timliche ibeten. *c* **1350** *Will. Palerne* 1950 Alle on stalworth stedes stoutliche i-horsed. **13**.. *Gaw. & Gr. Knt.* 846, On stal-worth schonkez. **1387** TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) I. 263 Þerfore þey haueþ stalworþe children and stronge. **1494** FABYAN *Chron.* v. lxxii. (1811) 50 Maximian ..was stalworth and mighty of his handes. **1565** GOLDING *Ovid's Met.* I. (1593) 25 A staleworth stripling strong and stout. **1600** FAIRFAX *Tasso* VII. xxvii, His stalworth steed the champion stout bestroad.

1847 LONGF. *Evang.* I. i. 43 Stalworth and stately in form was the man of seventy winters. **1864** LE FANU *Uncle Silas* I. xv. 168 The stalworth lady. **1890** D. C. MURRAY *John Vale* xxiv, We're a pretty stalworth set o' people.

β. **1375** BARBOUR *Bruce* XVIII. 310 Apon a stalward horss he raid.

3. Of persons, their actions, etc.: Brave, courageous, valiant, mighty.

a. a **1225** *Juliana* 44 Þeo ilke þat beoð stalewurðe [*MS. Bodl.* stealewurðe]. *a* **1225** *Leg. Kath.* 702 A stalewurðe deð. *c* **1300** *Havelok* 25 He was þe stalworþeste man at nede, þat may riden on ani stede. **1303** R. BRUNNE *Handl. Synne* 9833 Þat blessyng..makeþ vs stalwurþe yn batayle whan þe fende wyl vs asayle. *c* **1400** *Rule St. Benet* (Verse) 276 For god makes þam so mekli of mayne And stalworth to stand him [þe deuel] a-gayne. *c* **1400** *Destr. Troy* 365 Mony stalworth in stoure. **1577** HOLINSHED *Hist. Eng.* I. 286/1 Harolde aunswered, that they were not Priestes, but stalwoorth and hardie Souldiours. *a* **1650** *Turke & Gowin* 25 in *Percy Fol. MS.* (1867) I. 91 Giue thou be neuer soe stalworth of hand I shall bring thee to the ground.

1808 SCOTT *Marm.* I. v, He was a stalworth knight, and keen. **1853** ROCK *Ch. Fathers* I. ix. (1903) III. 251 England's most stalworth knights.

β. **1297** R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 3960 Þe kniȝtes þe stalwordore & þe betere in hor dede. **1398** TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XV. lxxxvi. (1495) 522 The men..ben stalword men, stronge werryours and fyers. *a* **1400–50** *Wars Alex.* 3937 Þa foule Backes, Als store & as stalword as þire sedill dowis.

γ. *a* **1225** *Ancren R.* 272 Hwon hit unstrencðeð, þet schulde beon monlich & stalewarde & kene ine treowe bileaue. **1297** R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 428 Vor godes loue stalwarde men armieþ 30w vaste. **1375** BARBOUR *Bruce* XVI. 356 T'ill withstand Men that thame soucht vith stalvard hand. **1595** J. DAVIDSON in C. Rogers *Three Sc. Reform.* (1874) 104 John Knox that valyant Conqueror, That stood in many stalward stour. *c* **1750** D. GRAHAM *Hist. Rebell.* iii. Writ. 1883 I. 109 That stalward Duke.

δ. a **1225** *Ancr. R.* 272 (Cleop. MS.) Staðelwurðe [cf. γ].

† 4. = STRONG in various applications. *Obs.*

a. a **1300** *Cursor M.* 17342 Þai ledd ioseph..To prisun in a stalworth hald. *a* **1340** HAMPOLE *Ps.* ii. 9 Þis wand..stalworth & lastand. **1340–70** *Alisaunder* 1230 Þat stalworthe sted [Constantinople]. *c* **1400** tr. *Secreta Secret., Gov. Lordsh.* 68 Whanne a stomake ys hoot, stalworthe, and good.

γ. **1375** BARBOUR *Bruce* X. 491 Douglass the castell sesit all, At than wes closit vith stalward vall. *c* **1750** D. GRAHAM *Hist. Rebell.* ix. Writ. 1883 I. 158 Spey..That rapid river and stalward stream.

†B. *sb.* A strong and valiant man. *Obs.*

13.. *Gaw. & Gr. Knt.* 1659 Wyth stille stollen countenance þat stalworth to plese. *? a* **1500** *Chester Pl.* (Shaks. Soc.) II. 41 Suche a stalwarde before me never stood So stowte and stearne is he.

†Sta·lworthhead. *Obs.* In 3 **stalwardhede.** [f. STALWORTH *a.* + -HEAD.] Stalwartness, courage.

1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 4337 Þo hii to þe king come & ssewede hor stalwardhede. *Ibid.* 5548. *Ibid.* 5937.

†Sta·lworthly, *adv. Obs.* [+-LY [2].]

1. Stoutly, strongly, etc.

c **1200** ORMIN 5520 To fihhtenn stallwurrliȝ Onnȝæn þe flæshess lusstess. *a* **1340** HAMPOLE *Ps.* xxvi. 12 With þe whilke i criyd till þe stalworthly. *a* **1400–50** *Wars Alex.* 1149 It was..sa strang & stalworthly wallid. *c* **1440** *York Myst.* xxx. 85 Scho may stakir in þe strete But scho stalworthely stande. **1508** DUNBAR *Tua mariit wemen* 485 Sum stalwardly steppis ben, with a stout curage.

¶ 2. ? Misused (through association with STALE *sb.*[1]) for: Clandestinely, secretly.

The interpretation is not quite certain: the sense may be 'rigorously', 'resolutely' (in the second quot. designedly substituted for the 'secretly' of the older texts).

a **1300** *Cursor M.* 4310 Quen þou seis him busk to þe, þou do þe stallworthli to flei. *c* **1375** *Ibid.* 2517 (Fairf.) He dide to-gedder samyn his men..and stalworþly [*v.rr.* Cott. dernlik; Gött. priuili] he made ham bide, til agayne þe euen-tide. *c* **1550** *Batt. Otterburn* vi. in Child *Ballads* III. 295/2, I rede we ryde to Newe Castell, So styll and stalworthlye.

†Sta·lworthness. *Obs.* [f. STALWORTH *a.* + -NESS.] The quality of being 'stalworth'.

a **1340** HAMPOLE *Ps.* xvii. 40 Ay waxand in stalworthnes. **1382** WYCLIF *Jer.* xvi. 19 Lord, my strength and my stalwrthenesse. *c* **1425** *Eng. Cong. Irel.* (1896) 52 Geraud & Alexander..throgh kynd stalwardnesse hertly smytten out to the formest, & many dydden to deth.

†Sta·lworthy, *a. Obs.* [Altered from STALWORTH *a.* after WORTHY *a.*] = STALWORTH *a.*

c **1250** *Gen. & Ex.* 864 Ðre hundred men..Alle stalwurdi and witter of fiȝt. *c* **1300** *Havelok* 24 Haueloк, A stalworthi man in a flok. *c* **1400** *Secreta Secret., Gov. Lordsh.* 71 Þanne ys þe stomak mad stalworthy to defye mete. *c* **1440** *Promp. Parv.* 472/1 *Stal[]wurthy*, idem quod stronge, infra. **1522** *World & Child* 239, I am lorde bothe stalworthy and stoute. *c* **1522** SKELTON *Why not to Court?* 346 A stalworthy stryplyng.

Hence **†Sta·lworthily** *adv.*, **†Sta·lworthiness.**

1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) III. 289 Riȝtwisnesse stalworþynesse and temperure. *Ibid.* V. 331 To fiȝte stalworthiliche in batayle.

† Stam, *sb.*[1] *Obs.* Also 4 **stampne, stamyn(e.** [ME. **stamne*, a. ON. *stamn* stem, prow (also applied to the poop); for the ulterior etymology see STEM *sb.* Cf. FORESTAM.] The stem or prow of a ship. Also *attrib.* in *stampneloker* (? LOCKER *sb.*[1])

1336–7 *Acc. Exch. K. R.* 19/31 m. 5 Et in vno ligno empto pro..i. Stampneloker. *Ibid.*, In ij leopardis emptis..cum puturacione eorundem positis super les stampnes. **13**.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 486 On stamyn ho stod. *? a* **1400** *Morte Arth.* 3659 [They] Standis styffe one the stamyne, steris one aftyre. *Ibid.* 3664 So stowttly þe forsterne one þe stam hyttis. **1513** DOUGLAS *Æneis* VIII. xii. 22 A crovne wyth stammys sik as schippis beris [L. *tempora navali fulgent rostrata corona*].

Stam (stæm), *sb.*[2] *dial.* [Belongs to STAM *v.*; possibly cogn.w. OE. *stamm* adj., stammering: see STAMMER *v.*] A state of bewilderment.

1638 W. LISLE *Heliodorus* II. 32 O, then in what a stam Was theeuish, barb'rous, loue-sicke, angrie minde, That how to wreak his wrath could no way finde. **1674** N. FAIRFAX *Bulk & Selv.* 143 To break off from this so great a stamme to the mind. *a* **1825** FORBY *Voc. E. Anglia.*

Stam (stæm), *sb.*[3] *dial.* Also **stom, staum.** [Related to STEM *sb.*] A stem or stalk; a trunk or stump of a tree.

1839 SIR G. C. LEWIS *Heref. Gloss.*, *Stam*, or *Stom*, a stem. **1854** MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss.*, The bean staums run in my hand. **1892** 'SON OF THE MARSHES' *Within Hour of Lond.* xi. 209 No moss grows on their trunks, or 'stams', as they are generally called in woodland dialect.

b. *attrib.* **stam-wood,** the roots of trees removed from the earth.

1681 WORLIDGE *Syst. Agric.* (ed. 3) 332 *Stamwood*, the Roots of Trees grubbed up. **1851** STERNBERG *Dial. Northampt.* 104.

Stam (stæm), *v. dial.* [See STAM *sb.*[2]] *trans.* To astonish; to overcome with amazement.

Hence **Sta·mming** *ppl. a.*, fine, excellent; **Sta·mmingly** *adv.*, extremely, excellently.

1578 *In Prayse rare beauty* in T. Proctor *Gorg. Gallery* H iiij, They with their Muses could not haue pronounst the fame, Of D. faire Dame, lo, a staming stock, the cheefe of natures frame. *a* **1800** PEGGE *Suppl. Grose, Stam'd*, amazed. Norf. and Suff. **1814** in Glyde *New Suffolk Garl.* (1866) 271 How stammin cow'd 'tis now-a-days. *Ibid.*, We're all stammenly set up about that there corn bill. *a* **1825** FORBY *Voc. E. Anglia* s. v. *Stam*, It is a stamming story indeed! **1893** in Cozens-Hardy *Broad Norf.* 7 Her wise husband would perhaps be stammed that she should be so careless.

Stamber, obs. form of STAMMER.

‖ Sta·m-book. *Obs. rare*[−1]. [ad. G. *stammbuch*, orig. a family register, f. *stamm* STEM *sb.* + *buch* BOOK *sb.*] A memorandum book.

1662 GERBIER *Princ.* 10 The Germane Travellers..did put in their Stam-books the Dimensions of..the Amphitheaters.

Stambouline (stæmbulī·n), *a.* and *sb.* (Also **Stamboline, Stamboulina.**) [f. *Stamboul*, Turkish name of Constantinople + -INE.] **a.** *adj.* (with capital.) Of or pertaining to Stamboul. **b.** *sb.* A long frock-coat worn by Turkish officials.

1811 BYRON *Ch. Har.* II. App. D ii, *note*, Any of his Stamboline acquaintance. **1884** *Graphic* 4 Oct. 358/2 The ordinary Turkish or Stamboulina dress. **1886** *Pall Mall Gaz.* 22 Sept. 13/2 The gentry, dressed in coloured stambouline or black caftans and fez, occupied the pit. **1900** *Harper's Mag.* Jan. 254 The stambouline..is a queer single-breasted frock-coat, designed for all state occasions.

† Sta·mbuck. *Obs. rare*[−1]. [a. F. *stambouc* (*stanbouque*, Cotgr.), ad. G. *steinbock*, f. *stein* STONE *sb.* + *bock* BUCK *sb.*[1]] A wild goat.

1591 FLORIO *and Fruits* 143 What matter is it for him then to bee a goate, or a stambuck [It. *stambecco*], a kid or a chamoise. **1694** MOTTEUX *Rabelais* IV. xxxii, He..caught there..Stamboucs [Fr. *Stamboucqs*].

Stamele, -ell: see STAMMEL [1].

Stamen (stē·mĕn). **Pl. stamens**; also (now *rarely*) **stamina** (stæ·minā). [a. L. *stāmen*, neut. (pl. *stāmina*) 'the warp in the upright loom of the ancients' (L. & Sh.), a thread of the warp, a thread or fibre in general, also (Pliny) applied to the stamens of the lily; corresponding formally to Gr. *στήμων* masc. warp, *στῆμα* neut., some part of a plant (Hesychius), Goth. *stōma* wk. masc., Skr. *sthāman* station, place, also strength:—Indo-germanic **st(h)āmon-, -en-*, f. **st(h)ā-* to STAND. Cf. It. *stame*, F. *étamine* (1690 in Hatz.-Darm.; repr. L. pl. *stamina*), Sp. *estambre*, Pg. *estame.*]

‖ 1. The warp of a textile fabric. Also *transf. Obs. rare.*

1650 FULLER *Pisgah* II. vi. i. 190 As in a web, the stamen, or Warp, is fast fixed, through which the woofe is cast, or woven. **1681** GREW *Museum* I. § 1. i. 6 Those whitest Fibers which..make the stamen or warp of every Muscule.

†2. a. The thread spun by the Fates at a person's birth, on the length of which the duration of his life was supposed to depend. Hence, in popular physiology, the measure of vital impulse or capacity which it was supposed that each person possessed at birth, and on which the length of his life, unless cut short by violence or disease, was supposed to depend. **b.** The supposed germinal principle or impulse in which the future characteristics of any nascent existence are implicit. **c.** The fundamental or essential element of a thing. *Obs.* Cf. STAMINA.

a. 1701 C. WOLLEY *Jrnl. New York* (1860) 26 A person seemingly of a weakly Stamen and a valetudinary Constitution. **1709** *Tatler* No. 15 ¶ 1 All, who enter into human life, have a certain date or Stamen given to their being, which they only who die of age may be said to have arrived at. *a* **1745** J. RICHARDSON *Note on Milton's Lycidas* 75 Of the three fatal sisters the first prepar'd the flax upon the distaff, the stamen of human life. **1753** L. M. *Accompl. Woman* I. 246 Bad example hath not less influence upon education than a bad stamen upon the constitution.

b. 1718 CHAMBERLAYNE *Relig. Philos.* I. xvi. § 9. 306 All the Great Naturalists..have been convinced..that the Beginning of all Creatures consist in a *Stamen*. **1725** J. REYNOLDS *View Death* 16 *note*, Some suppose, that the soul takes away with it, the animal spirits, as the *stamen*, or ground of the vehicle, it is to assume.

c. 1758 BORLASE *Nat. Hist. Cornw.* 61 Earth is the general food and stamen of all bodies. **1794** R. J. SULIVAN *View Nat.* I. 305 Philosophers..looked upon water as the elemental matter, or stamen of all things.

3. *Bot.* The male or fertilizing organ of a flowering plant, consisting of two parts, the *anther*, which is a double-celled sac containing the pollen, and the *filament*, a slender footstalk supporting the anther.

Although the L. *stamen* was applied by Pliny to the stamens of the lily, the technical use of the word in botany app. began with Spigelius (Adriaan van den Spieghel, died 1625), who defines *stamina* as 'partes oblongæ tenues veluti capillamenta..quæ stylum (partem similiter oblongam sed paulo crassiorem)..ambiunt' (*Isagoge in Rem Herbariam*, ed. 1633, I. vi. p. 37).

a. sing.

1668 WILKINS *Real Char.* II. vi. 170 [Parts of the flower.] Stamen, tuft. **1764** BERKENHOUT *Clavis Angl. Bot.* s.v., Each *Stamen* consists of two distinct parts, viz. the *Filamentum*, and the *Anthera*. **1845** LINDLEY *Sch. Bot.* i. (1858) 15 The Stamen is one of the parts which stand next the corolla in the inside.

β. plural *stamina.*

1668 [see STAMINEOUS *a.*] **1683** RAY *Corr.* (1848) 131 A thrum of small flowers, which are vulgarly mistaken for stamina. **1760** J. LEE *Introd. Bot.* I. iv. (1765) 30 The Stamina are the Male Part of the Flower. **1858** BRIGHTWELL *Life Linnæus* 25 A close examination of the stamina and pistils. **1879** J. GRANT in *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* IV. 95/1 He showed that the *stamina*, or dust-threads, were the male..parts of the plants.

γ. plural *stamens.*

1785 MARTYN tr. *Rousseau's Bot.* i. 25 Between the pistil and the corol [of a Lily] you find six other bodies..called the Stamens. **1807** J. E. SMITH *Phys. Bot.* 470 Class 21. *Monoecia.* Stamens and Pistils in separate flowers, but both growing on the same individual plant. **1875** BENNETT & DYER tr. *Sachs' Bot.* 791 The stamens of Berberis..lose their irritability *in vacuo.*

b. *Comb.*

1821 S. F. GRAY *Brit. Plants* I. 159 Gynophore...Stamen-bearing,..supporting the stamens also. **1829** T. CASTLE *Introd. Bot.* 170 The barren or stamen-bearing flowers. **1877** HUXLEY & MARTIN *Elem. Biol.* 84 The union of the filaments for three-fourths of their length to form the stamen-tube.

Stamened (stē·mĕnd), *a.* [f. STAMEN + -ED [2].] Having stamens. (In recent Dicts.)

[**1840** *Florist's Jrnl.* (1846) I. 124 All the florist's geraniums are pelargoniums having seven stamened flowers.]

Stameniferous, variant of STAMINIFEROUS.

† Sta·min. *Obs.* Forms: 3–7 **stamin,** 4–5 **stamyn,** 5–6 **stamyne,** 6 **-yng,** 6–7 **en,** 7–8 **stamine,** 6–7 **stammyne,** 6–7 *Sc.* **stem(m)yng, -ing, stemnyn,** 7 *Sc.* **steimming.** See also ESTAMIN, ETAMINE, TAMIN. [Early ME. *stamin* (= Anglo-Latin *staminum*) a. OF. *estamin* (not in Godef. before 16th c.), parallel with *estamine* (12th c.; hence mod. F. *étamine*), app. a derivative (with suffix *-in, -ine*) of *estame*:—L. *stāmina* pl., warp threads (see STAMEN). The other Rom. langs. have in the same sense a cognate word of differing formation: Pr., Pg. *estamenha*, Sp. *estameña*, Cat. *estamenya*:—L. *stāminea* fem. of *stāmineus* adj., f. *stāmin-* STAMEN. Med.L. had *stāminea, -eum, stāmen*, a rough woollen undergarment worn by monks.]

1. a. A coarse cloth of worsted; in earliest use usually an under garment made of this worn by ascetics. Cf. STAMMEL [1] 1.

a **1225** *Ancren R.* 418 Stamin habbe hwose wule. *c* **1290** *Beket* 2204 in *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 169 [Beket wore] Monekene Abite with Inne..boþe Covele and stamin. *c* **1385** CHAUCER *L. G. W.* 2360 She hadde I-wouyn In a stamyn large How she was brought from Athenys in a Barge. *c* **1386** — *Pars. T.* 1052 In werynge of heyres or of stamyn, or of haubergeons on hire naked flessh. **1387** TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) VII. 307 Þey were þ nevere lynnen cloop, noþer stamyn [L. *stamine*], but þe heer next þe flesche. *Ibid.* 401 Þei schal were no..wollen þat is smal and softe as stamyn [L. *subtile quale est staminum*]. *c* **1425** *St. Mary of Oignies* I. xi. in *Anglia* VIII. 147 She vsed not next hir flesche a lynnen smok, but an harde sakke, þat is callid *in* open

tunge stamyne. 1483 CAXTON *Golden Leg.* 432 b/2 He.. ware for a shyrte a stamyn or streyner clothe.

b. In later use, a kind of woollen or worsted cloth, for outer garments, curtains, etc. for which Norfolk was formerly noted; = TAMIN, TAMMY.

*c*1440 *Promp. Parv.* 472/1 Stamyn, clothe, *stamina.* 1493 *Will* in Cullum *Hawsted* (1784) 118 My payer of stamyns. 1495 *Act* 11 *Hen. VII*, c. 11 § 2 Ther shuld no man take upon hym to shere Worstedes, called ten yerdes Stamyns ne any other Worstedes. 1496–7 *Act* 12 *Hen. VII*, c. 1 The due occupacion of makyng of Worstedys Sayes and Stamyns. 1533–4 *Act* 25 *Hen. VIII*, c. 5 § 2 Any worstedes stamens or sayes. 1535 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* VI. 246 Ane pair of hois, vj quarteris quhite steming. 1540 in *Archæologia* XLVI. 216 For stamyn & thred & gerdels v d. ob. 1579 *Extracts Burgh Rec. Edin.* (1872) IV. 117 Thre elnes of blak inglis stemyng to be thair hois. 1585 T. WASHINGTON tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* II. xxi. 58 b, Hee hath well soaped and rubbed your bodie..wyth a purse of Stammin, or Chamblet. 1594 BLUNDEVIL *Exerc.* v. iv. (1636) 539 The Merchandixes sent from England..are these, broad Clothes, Carseyes, Stamines. 1603 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* 520 Fusteanis, stemingis, grogranis and other kynde of stuffe. 1621 *Sc. Acts Jas. VI* (1816) IV. 669/2 All Cloath stemming stuffes and Stokkingis maid in þ^r^ said burgh. 1657 HOWELL *Londinop.* 60 Woolsteads, Jayes, Stamins. 1708 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4482/4 For Sale.....50 Pieces of Norwich Crapes..11 Pieces of Stamines. 1775 ASH, *Stamen, Stamin* (obsolete) [wrongly explained]. [1818 in TODD; and in mod. Dicts.]

attrib. 1525 DK. NORFOLK in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* Ser. III. I. 379 The living of theim of the Citie [of Norwich] was moste by worsted and stamen making. 1553 *Richmond Wills* (Surtees) 77 My blew stamyng jacket. 1570 *Satir. Poems Reform.* xxviii. 69 My Stemming Sark & Rokket was laid doun. 1574 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* II. 374 Ane hors laid of Inglis steming clayth. 1580 *Aberdeen Reg.* (1848) II. 36 Thrie pair of steming breikis, ane blak, ane gray, ane browne. 1605 CHAPMAN etc. *Eastward Hoe* I. A 4, Your Stamen peticoate with two guardes. 1624 in *Archæologia* XLVIII. 144 A whole peece of 15 yardes and a halfe of stamin Carsey for a bed. 1664 in *Maitl. Club Miscell.* (1840) II. 509, 2 stemming petticoatis.

2. Used to render F. *étamine*, a strainer.

1725 *Bradley's Fam. Dict.* s. v. *Blanc-manger*, You must pour it into a Stamine or thick Linnen-cloth.

Stamina (stæ·minä). [a. L. *stāmina*, pl. of *stāmen*: see STAMEN 2. For *stamina* = stamens (*Bot.*) see STAMEN 3.

The senses explained below arise partly by direct metaphor from the original Latin sense 'warp of cloth', and partly from the frequent classical application of the word to the threads spun by the Fates (see STAMEN 2 a). In some examples the two notions appear to be blended.]

†**1.** (As *plural.*) The native or original (as distinguished from the adventitious) elements and constitution of anything; the nature, structure and qualities of an organism, as existing potentially in its nascent state; the rudiments or germs from which living beings or their organs are developed.

a 1676 HALE *Prim. Orig. Man.* 294 The greater and more comprehensive Rudiments and Stamina are laid..before the lesser and derivative parts are formed and compleated; as we shall have occasion to observe when we come to consider the *processus generationis* of Man and Brutes. 1684 T. BURNET *Th. Earth* I. 191 Others have thought that the long lives of those men of the old world proceeded from the strength of their stamina, or first principles of their bodies. 1692 BENTLEY *Boyle Lect.* v. 20 They must have had some rude kind of Organical Bodies, some *Stamina* of Life, though never so clumsy. 1728 CHAMBERLAYNE *Relig. Philos.* I. xvi. § 10. 308 In almost all kinds of Plants and Living Creatures..the former have their Origin in a Seed, and the latter in *Stamina.* 1741 A. MONRO *Anat.* (ed. 3) 156 Different Stamina or Rudiments of Teeth are to be observed. 1768 STERNE *Sent. Journ.* (1775) I. 68 Every third man a pigmy!—from the first rudiments and *stamina* of their existence, never meant to grow higher. 1772 FLETCHER *Appeal* Wks. 1795 I. 14 Original sin..is as old as the first *stamina* of our frame. 1774 COOPER in *Phil. Trans.* LXV, 320 It.. probably has its existence..originating,..in the first stamina of the embryo. 1801 *Med. Jrnl.* V. 568 The stamina of the teeth..are situated in the alveoli.

† **b.** *transf.* and *fig. Obs.*

1691 BAXTER *Nat. Ch.* Pref. A 2, They may yet become the Agents and *stamina* of a happy concordant Reformation. 1724 WATERLAND *Athan. Creed* xi. 158 Some few of the main *Stamina*, or chief Lines, were taken care of from the first, and made up the first Creeds: particularly the Doctrine of the Trinity briefly hinted. 1741 WARBURTON *Div. Legat.* II. 530 Job's whole dramatic life lies here in its *Stamina.* 1752 FIELDING *Amelia* IX. v, I am convinced there are good Stamina in the Nature of this very Man. 1779 JOHNSON in *Boswell* (1791) II. 300 Pope may have had from Bolingbroke the philosophick stamina of his Essay. 1795 BURKE *Reg. Peace* iv. (1892) 333 Enmity to us..is wrought into the very stamina of its constitution. 1798 *Monthly Mag.* June 430 One [charity]..whose growth, from its god-like stamina, has been gigantic..This is the orphan-house. 1816 *Sporting Mag.* XLVII. 295 In this group we do not see any thing very good, except certain hints, happy passages, and the *stamina* of possibly better pictures. 1816 J. GILCHRIST *Philos. Etym.* 238 He had the *stamina* of a good writer as well as sound thinker.

† **c.** *humorously. Obs.*

1824 LAMB *Elia* Ser. II. *Capt. Jackson*, A bare scrag.. carving could not lessen, nor helping diminish it—the stamina were left—the elemental bone still flourished.

†**2.** (As *plural*; rarely as *sing.*) The congenital vital capacities of a person or animal, on which (other things being equal) the duration of life was supposed to depend; natural constitution as affecting the duration of life or the power of resisting debilitating influences. *Obs.*

In 1665 Dr. R. Willis, 'being called to consult for one of his [the Duke of York's] sons, gave his opinion in these words, *mala stamina vitæ*, which gave such offence, that he was never called for afterwards' (Bp. Burnet, *Hist. Own Time*, ed. 1823 I. II. 228). Cf. the following:—

1542 LELAND *Naeniae* A v b, Atropos has illi laudes inuidit acerba, Infestaque manu vitalia stamina rupit.

1701 C. WOLLEY *Jrnl. New York* (1860) 60 Such as have the natural Stamina of a consumptive propagation in them. 1771 FOOTE *Maid of Bath* III. Wks. 1799 II. 230 Men have survived many years such disproportionate marriages as these...But then their stamina must be prodigiously strong. 1782 H. WALPOLE *Let. C'tess Ossory* II July, Though the relapse will be much more dangerous to Mr. Fox than to Mr. Fitzpatrick, whose stamina are of stouter texture. 1791 BOSWELL *Johnson* an. 1770, I. 344 He said..it was the bad stamina of the mind, which, like those of the body, were never rectified. 1806 *Med. Jrnl.* XV. 102 Persons with strong..constitutions..are much more slowly acted upon by medicine than those with weakly constitutions...This patient being of the former stamina, may [etc.]. 1823 GILLIES *Aristotle's Rhet.* I. v. 180 If the stamina are not sound, disease will soon ensue.

† **b.** *transf.* and *fig. Obs.*

1775 A. BURNABY *Trav.* 91 The northern colonies are of a stronger stamina. 1812 *Ann. Reg., Gen. Hist.* 107 Expressing his conviction that the stamina of the nation were still unimpaired. 1816 J. SCOTT *Vis. Paris* (ed. 5) p. xxv, Here thrive, beyond parallel, by means solely of the popular stamina, institutions for..improving the condition of mankind. 1862 MERIVALE *Rom. Emp.* lxviii. (1865) VIII. 359 The stamina of ancient life were healthier and stronger.

3. (Orig. as *plural*; now chiefly as *sing.*) Vigour of bodily constitution; power of sustaining fatigue or privation, of recovery from illness, and of resistance to debilitating influences; staying power.

1726 SWIFT *Let. Sheridan* 27 July Wks. 1841 II. 588/1, I indeed think her stamina could not last much longer when I saw she could take no nourishment. 1777 SHERIDAN *Sch. Scandal* I. i, Who avoid the least breath of air, and supply their want of stamina by care and circumspection. 1818 BYRON *Juan* I. cxxv, Some old lady or gentleman..Who've made 'us youth' wait..For an estate..Still breaking but with stamina so steady That all the Israelites are fit to mob its Next owner for their..post-obits. 1834 M. SCOTT *Cruise Midge* viii, Why, Sir Oliver, the man is exceedingly willing, ..but his stamina is gone entirely. 1853 ROBERTSON *Serm.* Ser. IV. xviii. (1876) 195 Those whose constitutions had less stamina than our own. 1865 DICKENS *Dr. Marigold* viii, Advising him to spend his legacy in getting up his stamina. 1880 COLBORNE *Hicks Pasha* 181 Had he been possessed of less stamina and less vitality he must have succumbed. 1880 W. DAY *Racehorse in Training* 225 Has he deteriorated in speed, size, or stamina? 1884 *Times* 28 Apr. 4/2 Lord Falmouth's horses seemed to possess more speed than stamina.

b. *transf.* and *fig.* In various applications: Intellectual or moral robustness and vigour; capacity for perseverance or endurance; also (of things, institutions, etc.) capacity for permanence.

1803 *Edin. Rev.* Jan. 452 Productions, which have scarcely *stamina* to subsist until their fruitful parent has furnished us with a new litter. 1828 ALFORD in *Life* (1873) 33, I have no stamina as yet of religious principle. 1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* III. 1230 The stamina of the soil..is..its power of endurance under any system of cropping. 1860 W. COLLINS *Wom. White, V. Gilmore* iv. (1861) 121, I can't quarrel..I haven't stamina enough. 1861 T. A. TROLLOPE *La Beata* xix. II. 252 Not..calculated to encourage the growth of intellectual stamina. 1865 *Q. Rev.* CXVII. 549 The British Constitution has considerable stamina. 1869 GOULBURN *Purs. Holiness* vii. 63 It requires some stamina of character to feel this moral esteem for anyone. 1895 W. B. THOMSON *Remin. Med. Mission Work* xvii. 157 The stamina of the people was tested by a persecution that lasted for thirty years.

†**4.** (As *plur.* and *sing.*) Source of strength, main support, 'backbone'. *Obs.*

1779 A. HAMILTON *Wks.* (1886) VII. 577 The stamina of their military establishment are in this country. 1781 E. RUTLEDGE in Sparks *Corr. Amer. Rev.* (1853) III. 389 The Continentals, whom I consider as the stamina of the army. 1792 MARY WOLLSTONECRAFT *Vind. Rights Wom.* 110 The stamina of immortality, if I may be allowed the phrase, is the perfectibility of human reason. 1799 J. ROBERTSON *Agric. Perth* 450 The soil is the public stock, the great capital, the stamina of the nation.

Staminal (stæ·minăl), *a.* [f. L. *stāmin-* STAMEN, STAMINA + -AL.]

1. † **a.** Forming part of the 'stamina' or original structure of the body. *Obs.*

1785 CULLEN *Instit. Med.* I. (ed. 3) 230 The gluten of the blood..is thus conveyed to every staminal fibre of the system.

b. Belonging to the stamina or natural constitution of a person or thing.

1798 J. BARRY *Let. Dilettanti Soc.* 32 The absurdity..of magnifying its accidental casual connexion with patronage, into something staminal and essential to its growth and perfection. 1805 SOUTHEY in *Robberds' Mem. W. Taylor* II. 77, I know myself to be free from these staminal defects. 1824–9 *Good's Study Med.* (ed. 3) V. 137 Where the intercourse has been so incessantly repeated as to break down the staminal strength. 1857 MILLER *Elem. Chem.* III. 738 The staminal principles or constituents of food may be further arranged as proposed by Liebig, according to the uses for which they are destined in the animal ecopomy.

c. Constituting the 'stamina' or main outlines of a subject.

1845 J. MARTINEAU *Misc.* (1852) 92 An exposition of his staminal ideas on this subject.

¶ **d.** As the trade designation of a class of prepared foods recommended as giving 'stamina' or bodily vigour.

1896 *Daily News* 3 Nov. 2/3 The supplies remaining over from the expedition, and consisting chiefly of large quantities of provisions, vegetables, staminal foods, and pemmicans, will be sold..on Monday.

†**2.** Pertaining to the fibrils of muscle. *Obs.*

1830 R. KNOX *Béclard's Anat.* 78 This last power also receives the names of fibrillar or staminal contractility, and tonicity.

3. *Bot.* Pertaining to or consisting of stamens.

1845 LINDLEY *Sch. Bot.* viii. (1858) 136 b, Staminal scales oblong-lanceolate acuminate. 1877 HUXLEY & MARTIN *Elem. Biol.* 70 Each of which [flowers] consists of a calyx, a corolla, a staminal tube and a central pistil. 1875 BENNETT & DYER tr. *Sachs' Bot.* 426 A leaf which bears pollen-sacs may be termed a Staminal Leaf or Stamen.

Staminate (stæ·minēit), *a. Bot.* [ad. L. *stāmināt-us* consisting of threads (mod.L. furnished with stamens), f. *stāmin-*, *stāmen*: see STAMEN and -ATE 2.] Furnished with or producing stamens. Of certain flowers: Having stamens but no pistils.

1845–50 MRS. LINCOLN *Lect. Bot.* Vocab., *Staminate*, having stamens without pistils. 1861 BENTLEY *Man. Bot.* 413 *Monœcia*, with staminate, pistillate, and hermaphrodite flowers on the same plant. 1870 LOWELL *Study Wind.* (1886) 141 There are staminate plants in literature, that make no fine show of fruit. 1883 *Science* I. 432/2 Staminate and pistillate flowers maturing at the same time.

† **Sta·minate,** *v. Obs. rare*—^1^. [f. L. *stāmin-*, STAMEN + -ATE 3.] *trans.* To imbue with 'stamina' or vital force.

1720 S. PARKER *Biblioth. Biblica* I. 258 Persons..form'd and staminated, by the immediate hand of God, with peculiar Principles of Vitality.

Stamineal (stămi·nĭăl), *a. Bot.* [f. L. *stāmine-us* (see next) + -AL.] (See quot.)

1856 HENSLOW *Bot. Terms, Stamineal*, having some marked reference to the stamens. As where the stamens are very prominent; or where perfect, and the corolla wanting. 1900 B. D. JACKSON *Gloss. Bot. Terms.*

Stamineous (stămi·nĭəs), *a.* [f. L. *stāmine-us*, consisting of threads, f. *stāmin-*: see STAMEN and -EOUS.]

†**1.** (See quot.) *Obs.*

1661 BLOUNT *Glossogr.* (ed. 2), *Stamineous* (*stamineus*) pertaining to hemp or flax, or that hath shreds in it.

2. *Bot.* Consisting of, bearing, or pertaining to a stamen or stamens. Also of a flower: = STAMINEAL *a.*

1668 WILKINS *Real Char.* II. IV. § 4. 81 [Herbs] Stamineous; whose flower doth consist of threddy filaments or Stamina. 1704 J. HARRIS *Lex. Techn.* I, The Botanists call that a *Stamineous Flower*, which is so far imperfect, as to want.. *Petala*, and consist only of the *Stylus* and *Stamina.* 1750 G. HUGHES *Barbados* 118 They discover innumerable small pale yellow stamineous flowers. 1760 J. LEE *Introd. Bot.* I. xii. (1765) 30 *Stamineous Nectaria*, such as attend the stamina. 1841 *Penny Cycl.* XXI. 174/1 Stamineous crown 5-leaved, with the leaflets compressed laterally.

‖ **Staminidium** (stæmini·dĭŏm). *Bot.* pl. **-ia.** [mod.L., f. L. *stāmin-*, STAMEN + Gr. *-ιδιον* dimin. ending.] The antheridium of cryptogamic plants, corresponding to a stamen.

1839 LINDLEY *Introd. Bot.* (ed. 3) 266 At the summit of some of the branches of many species are seated certain organs, which are called male flowers, but the true nature of which is not understood...By Hedwig they were called *spermatocystidia*; by others *staminidia* or *antheridia.* 1856 HENSLOW *Bot. Terms, Staminidium*, organs in some cryptogamous plants, which have been considered analogous to the anthers of Phanerogamic species.

Staminiferous (stæmini·fĕrəs), *a. Bot.* Also **stameniferous.** [f. L. *stāmin-* STAMEN: see -FEROUS.] Having or bearing stamens, applied to a flower having stamens but no pistils; also applied to a nectary having stamens growing on it.

1761 STILES in *Phil. Trans.* LV. 264 If the flowers of these plants be hermaphroditic, the staminiferous part doubtless falls off as soon as the impregnation is over. 1785 MARTYN *Rousseau's Bot.* ix. (1794) 95, I beg leave to coin two words, and to call those which have only the stamens staminiferous. 1796 WITHERING *Brit. Plants* (ed. 3) I. 371 The section of a stameniferous flower cut through perpendicularly. 1829 LOUDON *Encycl. Plants* 300 Nect[ary] 8-valved, staminiferous. 1889 *Hardwicke's Sci. Gossip* XXV. 130/2 The number of bees on stameniferous and pistiliferous plants.

Staminigerous (stæmini·dʒĕrəs), *a. Bot.* [Formed as prec.: see -GEROUS.] = prec.

1866 in *Treas. Bot.*

Staminode (stæ·minōud). *Bot.* Anglicized form of next.

1857 HENFREY *Bot.* Index, Staminode, 113 [*text* staminodia]. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* Staminode. 1870 HOOKER *Stud. Flora* 350 Stratiotes, Water Soldier..Female. Staminodes many, a few antheriferous. 1896 G. HENSLOW *Wild Flowers* 36 It is represented without anthers or staminodes in some other members of the primrose family.

Staminodium (stæminō·dĭŏm). *Bot.* [mod.L., f. L. *stāmin-* STAMEN + mod.L. *-ōdium* (see -ODE).]

a. A sterile or abortive stamen, or an organ resembling an abortive stamen, without its anther.

1821 S. F. GRAY *Brit. Plants* I. 158 *Staminodium*, appendages which appear to be abortive anthers. 1829 CLINTON tr. *A. Richard's Elem. Bot.* (ed. 4) 297 In general, these stamina are replaced by appendages which have received the name of staminodia. 1847 W. E. STEELE *Field Bot.* 142 Staminodium roundish, entire. 1859 MAYNE *Expos. Lex., Staminodium*, Term by L. C. Richard for appendages of the *gynostemium* of the *Orchideæ*, which appear to be the rudiments of aborted stamens.

b. The antheridium of a cryptogam.

1848 A. GRAY *Man. Bot.* p. xxxvi, (Jackson).

Staminody (stæ·minŏdi). *Bot.* [f. L. *stāmin-* STAMEN, after PHYLLODY.] The metamorphosis of other organs into stamens.

1869 M. T. MASTERS *Veget. Teratol.* 298 Staminody of the bracts... Staminody of the sepals and petals. 1880 A. GRAY *Struct. Bot.* 435 *Staminody*, name for the metamorphosis of other floral organs into stamens.

Staminose (stæ·minōus), *a. Bot.* [ad. mod.L. *stāmināsus*, f. L. *stāmin-* STAMEN: see -OSE.] Applied to a flower 'when the stamens form a marked feature of the flower' (B. D. Jackson *Gloss. Bot. Terms* 1900). = STAMINEAL *a.*

†**Staminous**, *a. Bot. Obs.-rare*⁻¹. [ad. mod.L. *stāminōs-us*: see prec. and -OUS.] = prec.

1786 ABERCROMBIE *Gard. Assist., Arrangem.* 35 Staminous, or long stamened.

Stammel[1] (stæ·měl). Now only *arch.* or *Hist.* Also 6 **stamele, -ill,** ? *erron.* **stanel(l,** 6–7 **stamel(l, stammell.** [Corresponds to F. *estamel* (1611 in Godef.), mod. dial. *estamelle*, either f. *estame* + *-el*, *-elle*, or f. *estamine* STAMIN, by substitution of suffix; cf. the OF. synonyms *estamet*, *estamot*, formed with other dim. suffixes. The Eng. word may be a. F. *estamel(le* (though recorded earlier), but it may be an independent alteration of STAMIN.]

1. A coarse woollen cloth, or linsey-woolsey, usually dyed red; an under-garment of this material, worn by ascetics. Cf. STAMIN.

1530 PALSGR. 275/1 Stamell fyne worstede, *estamine.* 1534 in *Lett. Suppress. Monasteries* (Camden) 16 Another that had betyn hym zelfe so with roddes that his stamell was blody. 1542 BOORDE *Dyetary* viii. (1870) 249 In sommer use to were a skarlet petycote made of stamele or lynsye-wolsye. 1552 *Invent. Churches Surrey* 58 Item one cope of red stamill. 1606 CHAPMAN *Mons. D'Olive* II. i, Changeable creatures..now in Satten, To morrow next in Stammell. 1621 G. SANDYS *Ovid's Met.* XII. (1626) 239 Like a bull.. Whose dreadfull hornes the stammell, which prouokes His furie, tosse with still deluded strokes. 1623 COCKERAM *Dict.*, III, *Cutchoneale*,..wherewith Stammell is died. 1665 BRATHWAIT *Comm. Chaucer* 50 His Table with Stammel, or some other Carpet, [was] neatly covered.

fig. 1631 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Sudden Turn Fortune's Wheel* Advt. to Rdr., Knowinge the cause to be good, I adventured to piece a scarlet roabe with my coarse stammell; and though my lines are farr short of the other in elocution and ornate, still yet mine are more in number.

2. More fully *stammel colour*: the shade of red in which the cloth was commonly dyed. Also *attrib.* or as adj. (Sometimes vaguely = 'red'.)

In the 17th c. often spoken of as cheaper than 'scarlet'.

1567 *Wills & Inv. N. C.* (Surtees) I. 273 Two peticotts thone of skerlet th'other of stamell XXXVˢ. 1578 LYTE *Dodoens* II. iv. 151 The floures be..sometimes Carnation, Stamell, or Scarlet colour. *a* 1585 in *Eng. Hist. Rev.* (1914) XXIX. 518 Stanell Redes and lustie gallantes. *Ibid.* 519 You must have light skye collors..., fyne Redes and Stanells. 1591 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* I. iii. 612 The Violet's purple, the sweet Rose's stammell. 1598 FLORIO, *Scarlatino*, the colour we call stammell red. 1633 B. JONSON *King's Entert. Welbeck* (1640) 276 Red-hood the first that doth appeare In Stamel. *Acc.* Scarlet is too deare. 1642 FULLER *Holy & Prof. St.* IV. xii. 296 As if the scarlet robes of their honour had a stain of the stamell die in them. 1657 LIGON *Barbadoes* 70 The body of a mixt red, partly Crimson, partly Stammell. 1658 W. SANDERSON *Graphice* 84 Wit i breaks of Scarlet, or Stammell-colour. 1674 MILTON *Hist. Moscovia* iv. Wks. 1851 VIII. 493 They were spread under-foot with Cloth of Gold..the Bridges with Scarlet and Stammel-cloth. 1725 SLOANE *Jamaica* II. 54 Anoto-Berries dye a very fine Stammel colour. 1890 Æ. PRINCE *Palomide* 40 Comes a knight On lusty stammel steed. 1893 *Athenæum* 18 Nov. 706/1 Miss Gertrude Kingston, whose stammel tresses..are unbecoming and out of harmony with her face.

3. *attrib.* 'Of stammel', as *stammel-weaver*; 'made of stammel', as *stammel breeches, cloak, petticoat* (but here often referring to the colour: see 2).

1591 HORSEY *Trav.* (Hakl. Soc.) 197 The ambassador..with his 30 men livored in stamell cloakes. 1596 *Unton Invent.* (1841) 3 Five stamell cotes. 1601 MARSTON *Jack Drums Entert.* II. C 2, Mistresse Snuffe..hath newly put on her stamell petticoat. 1612 R. DABORNE *Christian turn'd Turke* 2143 That fellow in the stammell hose is one of them. 1615 G. SANDYS *Trav.* I. 48 The skirts of their coates..are gathered within long stammell broges. 1620 FLETCHER *Fr. Lawyer* I. i, But I'll not quarrell with this Gentleman For wearing stammell Breeches. 1634 EARL OF CORK *Diary* in *Lismore Papers* Ser. I. (1886) IV. 11 One whole peece..of very choice stamell cloath. 1820 SCOTT *Abbot* xix, She has a stammel waistcoat.

†**Sta·mmel**[2]. *slang. Obs.* [In the first quot. perh. a use of prec. (with sense 'wearer of a stammel petticoat'); but cf. STRAMMEL.] (See quots.)

1597 DELONEY *Gentle Craft* II. Wks. (1912) 150 Out vpon her foule stammell (quoth she) he that takes her to his wife shall be sure of flesh enough. *a* 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew, Stammel*, a brawny, lusty, strapping Wench. 1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), *Stammel* or *Stammel-Jade*, a great flouncing Mare; an over-grown bouncing Wench. 1725 DYCHE & PARDON *Dict.*, *Stammel* or *Strammel*, a large flouncing Mare, or overgrown robust Wench.

Stammer (stæ·mər), *sb.* [f. STAMMER *v.*] A stammering mode of utterance.

1773 GOLDSM. *Stoops to Conq.* II. i, This stammer in my address,..can never permit me to soar above the reach of a milliner's prentice. 1835 DICKENS *Sk. Boz, Parish* i, The beadle..states the case without a single stammer. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 429/1 Stammer with this spasm distorts the utterance by an involuntary extension of some part of the syllable. *Ibid.*, In the looseness of language..all kinds of difficult and defective utterance are misnamed stammer... 1895 R. H. SHEPHERD in *N. & Q.* Ser. VIII. VII. 503 Lamb.. made the..witty retort, conveyed in his usual roll of stammers: 'I n-nev-never-h-heard-you-d-do-anything else'.

transf. 1898 KIPLING *Fleet in Being* iv. 45 The little demon [a Maxim gun] set up the 'irritating stammer' that the nine point two gun found so objectionable.

Stammer (stæ·mər), *v.* Forms: *a.* 1 **stamerian, stomrian,** 2 **stamerie,** 4–5 **stamere,** 5 **stammery,** *Sc.* **stemer, stummer,** 4–7 **stamer,** 5– **stammer.** *β.* 6 **stamb(b)re, stambur,** 6–7 **stamber.** [OE. *stamerian, stǫmrian* = WFris. *stammerje*, NFris. *stamere*, (M)LG., (M)Du. *stameren*:—WGer. **stamrōjan*, f. **stamro-* (OE. *stamor* adj., NFris. *stamer* stammering) f. **stam-* (see STAM *a.*). A parallel formation with suffix *l* instead of *r* is found in (M)LG., (M)Du. *stamelen*, OHG. *stamalôn* (mod.G. *stammeln*) to stammer, f. WGer. **stamlo-* adj. (OHG. *stamal*), stammering. Other synonymous verbs from the same root are OHG. *stam(m)ên*, ON. *stama*, OE. *stǫmmettan.*]

1. *intr.* To falter or stumble in one's speech; *esp.* to make one or more involuntary repetitions of a consonant or vowel before being able to pass from it to the following sound. Cf. STUTTER *v.*

Stammering may be the result of indecision, or of sudden emotion (as fear, anger, delight, or grief), or may proceed from pathological conditions of the organs of speech or of the nervous system.

a. c 1000 *Prudentius Glosses* in *Germania* N. S. XI. 392/2 *Balbutit*, stamarað. *a* 1200 *Sidonius Glosses* in *Anecd. Oxon.* I. v. 43/15 *Balbutire* .i. stamerie. *c* 1330 *Arth. & Merl.* 2854 Ac he stamered a litel wiȝt. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* v. xxi. (1495) 128 Dronken men stamere whan they ben tomoche in moysture in the brayne. 1412–20 LYDG. *Chron. Troy* II. 4648 Neptolonius..in speche stamered whan he spak. 14.. *Lat.-Eng. Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 567/19 *Balbutio*, to stamery. 1522 *World & Child* 231, I shall myghtly make hym to stamer and stowpe. *a* 1529 SKELTON *E. Rummyng* 339 Her felow did stammer and stut. 1530 PALSGR. 732/1 It is a worlde to here hym stammer whan he is angryd. 1574 A. L. *Calvin's 4 Serm.* ii. D iiij, When he stammereth so in himself that he cannot draw foorth one only woord. 1638 JUNIUS *Paint. Ancients* 315 They..going about to tell a tale doe nothing but stutte and stammer. 1654 H. LESTRANGE *Chas. I*, 1 His vocall impediment..was ..to wise men an index of his wisdome:..since there was never, or very rarely, known a fool that stammered. 1710 STEELE *Tatler* No. 244 ¶ 2 A Man that stammers, if he has Understanding, is to be attended with Patience. 1818 BYRON *Juan* I. clxiii, He stood in act to speak, or rather stammer. 1834 MACAULAY *Ess., Pitt* (1897) 311 He stammered, stopped, and sat down. 1848 DICKENS *Dombey* xli, Stammering and blushing, Mr. Toots affects amazement. 1879 FROUDE *Cæsar* xviii. 305 The eloquent tongue forgot its office. Cicero stammered, blundered, and sat down.

β. c 1500 *Col. Blowbol's Test.* 332 in Hazl. *E.E.P.* I. 106 Beer..Whiche makyth oft tymes men to stambur. 1526 TINDALE *Mark* vii. 32 They brought vnto him won that was deffe, and stambred [1557, *Geneva*, stambbred] in hys speche. 1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 79/6 To stamber, *titubare.*

b. *fig.* Also † *to stammer it out.*

1616 R. JOHNSON *Kingd. & Comm.* 61 Neither doth he [*sc.* the Grand Seignor] stammer in his comparison of twenty Bashawes within his conquests [*i.e.* does not hesitate to assert each of them to be greater than our king]. 1653 LD. VAUX tr. *Godeau's St. Paul* 351 Although in his rapture he had seen the most profound mysteries of God, yet he accommodated himself to the weakness of his disciples, and stammered it out with them. 1818 KEATS *Endym.* I. 134 That I may dare, in wayfaring, To stammer where old Chaucer used to sing. 1822 BYRON *Vis. Judgem.* lvii, The grammar Of the last phrase, which makes the stanza stammer. 1837 EMERSON *Address Amer. Schol.* Wks. (Bohn) II. 183 Long he must stammer in his speech; often forego the living for the dead.

c. said of the tongue.

c 1050 *Malchus* in Assmann *Ags. Hom.* xviii. 380 Me þincð, þæt me sio tunge stomrige. 14.. *Pol. Rel. & L. Poems* (1903) 253, & his Tonge shal stameren oþer famelen. 1628 WITHER *Brit. Rememb.* viii. 2545 The tongue, that stammers now, shall then speak plain. 1855 TENNYSON *Maud* I. vi. ix, The new strong wine of love, That made my tongue so stammer and trip.

d. *Path.* (See STAMMERING *vbl. sb.* 2.)

2. *trans.* To utter or say with a stammer.

a. 1810 SCOTT *Lady of L.* III. x, Childhood's babbling trill Of curses stammer'd slow. 1825 T. HOOK *Sayings* Ser. II. *Passion & Princ.* vii. III. 83 He stammered a few words which were as unintelligible as unmeaning, and resumed his chair. 1897 PEMBERTON *Queen of Jesters* iii. 118 The bailiff stammered an answer.

β. 1608 ARMIN *Nest Ninn.* (1880) 52 Playes on thoughts as girls with beads, When their masse they stamber.

b. with quoted words or clause as object.

1847 TENNYSON *Princess* iii. 190, I stammer'd that I knew him. 1859 — *Elaine* 419 [It] Abash'd Lavaine..But left him leave to stammer, 'is it indeed?' 1897 'O. RHOSCOMYL' *White Rose Arno* 12 'Why—no,' stammered the young man. 'I—that is, sir——'.

c. with *forth, out.* Also *fig.*

1587 HIGGINS *Mirr. Mag., Pinnar* Lenuoye ii, If hee vnstatelike stammer out the same, With staylesse staggering footed verse, by ame. 1782 Miss BURNEY *Cecilia* VIII. i, Cecilia..stammered out, 'No, no——.' 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xvii. IV. 17 The judges..had roared down the arguments feebly stammered forth by the prisoners. 1874 BURNAND *My time* viii. 68, I was about to stammer out an excuse. 1902 VIOLET JACOB *Sheep-Stealers* x, 'I was—I mean—I have been trying to get introduced to you for ever so long,' he stammered out at last.

transf. 1825 LAMB *Elia* Ser. II. *Superannuated Man*, I stammered out a bow, and..went home.

3. *intr.* To stagger in walking; said especially of horses. Now *dial.*

c 1400 *Anturs Arth.* 109 Hit stemered, hit stonayde, hit stode as a stone. *c* 1440 [implied in STAMMERING *vbl. sb.* 1]. *c* 1470 *Gol. & Gaw.* 624 Thair stedis stakkerit in the stour, and stude stummerand. 1607 MARKHAM *Caval.* IV. (1617) 27 Giue him a good chocke in the mouth, that you may make him stammer and shuffle his legs confusedly together. 1707 J. STEVENS tr. *Quevedo's Com. Wks.* (1709) 380 My Legs naturally stammer. *a* 1774 R. FERGUSSON *Hallowfair* Poems (1845) 16 But if a birkie's oure weel sair'd [*i.e.* served (with drink)] It gars him often stammer To ploys that bring to the Guard And eke the Council Chammer. 1825 BROCKETT *N. C. Gloss., Stammer*, to stagger. 1831 BLAKEY *Free Will* 62 The shot plied like hailstones round the old veteran..But he had the good fortune to escape unhurt, and when he was stammering back the Russians gave him three cheers.

†**4.** *trans.* To nonplus; = STAGGER *v.* 7. *Obs.*

1640 SANDERSON *Serm. Ad Aulam* xii. (1660) 232 If they should take away his life, that were indeed a sure course; but Nicodemus had stammered them all..when he told them that they could not do it by law.

Hence **Sta·mmered** *ppl. a.*

a 1858 BRYANT *Burial of Love* vi, We shall..miss..The patter of his little feet, Sweet frowns and stammer'd phrases sweet. 1913 QUILLER-COUCH *Hetty Wesley* III. iii. 297 He would rise from the table on some stammered excuse.

Stammerer[1] (stæ·mərəɹ). [f. STAMMER *v.* + -ER[1].] One who stammers.

a. a 1513 *Fabyan's Chron.* VI. clxxiii. (1811) 170 Lodowycus Balbus, whiche is to meane Lewys ye Stamerer. 1547 BOORDE *Brev. Health* xli. 21 If it [*i.e.* stuttering] do come with beyng in the company of a stutter or stamerer, a man must refrayne the company of a stutter. 1611 BIBLE *Isa.* XXXII. 4. *a* 1637 B. JONSON *Discoveries, De vita humana* (1640) 105 Like Children, that imitate the vices of Stammerers so long, till at last they become such. 1738 *Gentl. Mag.* VIII. 35/1 A Stammerer is generally of a Fiery Temper. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VII. 212 Cardiac defects are frequent in stammerers.

β. 1552 HULOET, Stambrer, *titubator.* Stambrer in readynge, *offensator.*

b. *fig.*

1580 G. HARVEY *Three Proper Lett.* iii. 45 A fewe suche stammerers as haue not the masterie of their owne Tongues. 1654 WHITLOCK *Zootomia* 150 What mighty lines hath Isaiah?..read, and confesse Demosthenes and Cicero, but Stammerers at Eloquence. 1780 *Mirror* No. 97 She..is a very stammerer in infidelity. 1868 GEO. ELIOT *Span. Gipsy* I. 135 Poor eager hope is but a stammerer.

†**Sta·mmerer**[2]. *Sc. Obs.* [Of obscure origin; cf. northern Sc. *stammerel* 'friable stone' (Jam.).] *pl.* Detached pieces of limestone.

1793 URE *Rutherglen* 259 Besides the regular strata, a great number of detached pieces, called Stammerers, are, in many places of the parish, found imbedded in clay. 1800 HEADRICK in *Commun. Board Agric.* II. 256 There are, however, water-worn limestones scattered here and there through land, called stammerers.

Stammering (stæ·mərin), *vbl. sb.* [-ING[1].]

1. The action of the verb STAMMER; hesitation and involuntary repetition in speech; also (now *dial.*) staggering and stumbling in gait. Also *fig.*

1337 *Lay Folks Catech.* (T.) 541 For idelnesse is enmy to cristen man saule Stepmodir and stameryng agayne gode thewes. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 472/1 Stamerynge, yn speche. *Ibid.*, Stamerynge, in goyng. 1584 LYLY *Campaspe* Epil. at Blacke Fryers, As Demosthenes with often breathing vp the hill amended his stammering. 1589 R. BRUCE *Serm. Sacr.* v. (1843) 148 He forgives thir doutings, he forgives thir stammerings. 1607 MARKHAM *Caval.* IV. (1617) 49 When you have brought him to the perfitnes of his pace, so that he will doe it..without anie stammering or straining of his tramels. 1621 — *Fowling* 270 That then presently he [the dog] doe the same, without any stamering, stay, or amazement. 1790 GOUV. MORRIS in Sparks *Life & Writ.* (1832) II. 15 There is also a confusion of language which resembles the stammering of one who endeavours to excuse a misdeed which he resolves to commit. 1856 SIR B. BRODIE *Psychol. Inq.* I. ii. 53 Cases of stammering, in which..the organ of speech is more or less imperfect.

2. *transf.* in certain Pathological uses.

1855 DUNGLISON *Med. Lex.*, Stammering of the Fingers. 1868 PAGET in *Brit. Med. Jrnl.* 24 Oct. 437/1 The stammering with the bladder occurs in just the same conditions as the stammering speech. *Ibid.* 437/2 The characters of stammering with the organs of deglutition may..be recognised by their likeness to those of urinary stammering.

Stammering (stæ·mərin), *ppl. a.* [-ING[2].] That stammers. Often *transf.* and *fig.*

Stammering micturition: see STAMMERING *vbl. sb.* 2.

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* v. xxi. (1495) 128 Kyndly stameryngе men stamere for tomoche moisture of the brayne other of the tongue. *a* 1529 SKELTON *Sp. Parrot* 212 Parrot is no stameryng stare, that men call a starlyng. 1560 BIBLE (Geneva) *Isa.* XXVIII. 11 A stammering tongue. 1579 G. HARVEY *Letter-bk.* (Camden) 74 Lett this stammringe letter suffize for a dutifull sollicitour. 1689 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 2453/4 He had a Scar in his left Cheek, and stammering Speech. 1704 STEELE *Tender Husb.* I. ii, I saw you.. prompt a stammering witness in Westminster Hall. 1818 COBBETT *Pol. Reg.* XXXIII. 273 Those maudling, stammering effusions which they call speeches. 1868 PAGET in *Brit. Med. Jrnl.* 24 Oct. 437/1 Stammering urinary organs. 1888 CHIENE in *Encycl. Brit.* XXIV. 191 The condition termed by Sir James Paget stammering micturition. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VII. 419 There may be a sort of stammering articulation for days.

Hence **Sta·mmeringly** *adv.*, **Sta·mmeringness.**

1545 ELYOT *Dict.*, *Titubanter*, stameringly. 1637 LD. WARISTON *Diary* (1911) 276 Lord, thou knouest the stammeringnes, or rather the unskraiped overhaistings of my tongue. 1785 MME. D'ARBLAY *Diary* 16 Dec., I stammeringly answered—'I thought—sir—it would look very well in print!' 1868 BROWNING *Ring & Bk.* X. 53 Then one..

Spoke as he dared, 'set stammeringly forth... How nowise lacked there precedent for this.

† **Sta·mmet.** *Obs.* Forms: 6 *Sc.* **stemmet(t,** 7 **stam(m)ett.** [a. OF. *estamet*, f. *estame* + *-et* dim. suffix: see STAMMEL. Cf. Du. *stamet*, woollen yarn.] Some woollen fabric.

1531 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* VI. 20 Ane pair of hois.. of..broune stemmett. 1532 *Ibid.* 24, vij quartaris blak stemmet. 1618 in Foster *Eng. Factories Ind.* (1906) I. 43 Six pees of stametts. 1627 *Ibid.* III. 180 Most stammetts [reds].

‖ **Stamnos** (stæ·mnɒs). *Gr. Antiq.* [Gr. *στάμνος*, f. *στα-*, *ἱστάναι* to cause to stand.] A vessel resembling a hydria, but with a shorter neck.

1845 BIRCH in *Classical Museum* III. 418 On a stamnos of the more finished class, Medeia appears as before, holding up her hand. 1889 *Athenæum* 28 Sept. 424/2 A large double-handled vase, not unlike the shape of a *stamnos*.

Stamock(e, obs. forms of STOMACH.

† **Stamp,** *sb.*[1] *Obs. rare.* Also 4 **staumpe.** [ad. OF. *estampie*, corresp. to Pr., Sp., Pg. *estampida*, It. *stampita* song with accompaniment, also noise, f. Pr. *estampir* to resound, perh. cogn. w. Pr. *estampar* STAMP *v.*] Some kind of dance-music.

13.. *Sir Beues* 3908 Þe hadde lerned of minstralcie, Vpon a fipele for to play Staumpes, notes, gariples gay. *c* 1407 LYDG. *Reson & Sens.* 5573 For ther wer..Songes, stampes, and eke daunces, Dyuers plente of plesaunces.

† **Stamp,** *sb.*[2] *Obs. rare*—[1]. [Altered form of STANK *sb.*] A stank, pool (of water).

1338 R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (1725) 288 Sir James of Beauchamp ..In a water stampe he was dronkled fleand.

Stamp (stæmp), *sb.*[3] [Partly f. STAMP *v.*, and partly ad. MF. *estampe* (mod.F. *estampe*, *étampe*), vbl. n. f. *estamper*: see STAMP *v.*]

I. An act of stamping.

1. A forcible downward blow with the foot.

1590 SHAKS. *Mids. N.* III. ii. 25 So at his sight, away his fellowes flye, And at our stampe, here ore and ore one fals. 1626 MIDDLETON *Women Beware Women* v. i, When thou hear'st me give a stamp, down with't. 1718 *Free-thinker* No. 17. 116 She rises with a Stamp and a loud Crack of her Fan. 1818 SCOTT *Br. Lamm.* xxxv, The repeated stamps of the heel of his heavy boot. 1827 HONE *Every day Bk.* II. 467 The 'tipsy toss' of that actor's head, his rollocking look, his stamps..were worth the entirety of the drama. 1897 MARY KINGSLEY *W. Africa* 481 A dance..which consists of a wriggle and a stamp.

b. *Fencing.*

1705 H. BLACKWELL *Engl. Fencing-Master* 16 For every Longe that is made, the Right Foot comes with a Stamp. 1809 ROLAND *Fencing* 100 Observe, that in making the appel or stamp, that it should be done upon a firm, steady position of the guard.

† **2.** A blow with the pestle in pounding. *Obs.*

1598 *Epulario* D j, Put it into a morter to beat, but giue it but two stampes.

3. *Dicing.* (See quot. 1777.)

1772 FOOTE *Nabob* II. (1778) 28 Seven, Sir, is better nicked by a stamp...When you want to throw six and four..you must take the long gallery, and whirl the dice to the end of the table. 1777 [T. SWIFT] *Gamblers* 22 *note*, The Stamp is, when the caster, with a certain elastic spring of the wrist, rappeth the cornet or box with vehemence on the table, the dice not as yet appearing from under the box.

4. A place where horses stand (cf. *stamping ground*: STAMPING *vbl. sb.*). *U.S. rare.*

1791 W. BARTRAM *Carolina* 355 A grand forest..which we penetrated on foot a little distance to a horse-stamp.

II. An instrument for stamping.

5. An instrument for making impressions, marks, or imprints, on other bodies; a stamping-tool, an engraved block or die for impressing a mark, figure, design or the like, upon a softer material.

In quot. 1465 perh. =a branding-iron.

1465 *Finchale Priory Charters* etc. (Surtees) p. ccxcix, j hewyryn, j stampe, ij ponchonz [etc.]. 1548 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* IX. 281 Item for ane stampe maid to my lorde governour. 1564 *Extracts Burgh Rec. Edin.* (1875) III. 187 That thair be maid ane stamp and the tounis armis thairapoun [for stamping cloth]. 1644 *Docq. Lett. Pat. at Oxf.* (1837) 123 To make and engraue Irons and Stampes with his Majestys Effigies..and therewith to instampe and inprint all such Ingott Bullyon and plate of Gold. 1751 *Act* 24 *Geo. II*, c. 31. § 21 Every Maker and Cutter of Stamps or Seals of any Kind for stamping of Cloth. 1827 SCOTT *Surg. Dau.* v, No, no—my old silver stamp, with the double G upon it, will serve my turn. 1837 R. HILL *Post Office Reform* 35 The marks being given by a tell-tale stamp, which would count the letters. *Ibid.* 58 It would be quite practicable to construct a stamp which at one blow should impress both the date and the required charge [etc.]. 1891 SLOANE *Rubber Hand Stamps* xiv. (1900) 113 Stamps made from a mixture of glue, glycerine, and molasses..are adopted by the United States government for making dating stamps for use in the Post Office Department. 1904 BUDGE *3rd & 4th Egypt. Rooms Brit. Mus.* 109 A collection of wooden stamps used by plasterers and brickmakers.

b. *esp.* A die or the apparatus used in stamping a device upon a coin, token, medal or the like.

1572–3 in Swayne *Sarum Churchw. Acc.* (1896) 287 Altering of the stampe and striking of ye tokins 6d. 1575 FENTON *Gold. Epist.* (1582) 280 In it was alwayes kept the stampe or minte of all the monie that serued the prouince. 1600 [see SEAL *sb.*[2] 3]. 1614 CAMDEN *Rem.* (ed. 2) 203 Mendlesham in Suffolke..held in fee to make the coyning stampes seruing for all England. 1662 PEPYS *Diary* 24 Nov., Mr. Slingsby did show the King..the stamps of the new money that is now to be made by Blondeau's fashion.

c. *transf.* and *fig.*

1607 SHAKS. *Cor.* II. ii. 111 His Sword, Deaths stampe, Where it did marke, it tooke from face to foot. 1645 WALLER *Loving at first sight* Poems 82 Some other Nymph with colours faint And pencil slow may Cupid paint..; She has a stamp and prints the Boy.

d. *Printers' slang.* (See quot.)

1875 SOUTHWARD *Dict. Typogr.*, *Stamp*, a colloquial synonym for types. *Stamps*, types. A common expression in the printing-office is 'picking up stamps', *i.e.* composing. 1888 in JACOBI *Printers' Vocab.*

† **6.** ? A printing press. *To put* (a book) *to stamp*: to print (it). *Obs.*

a 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VIII*, 186 b, It will neuer be better as long as thei haue the letters and stampes, therefore it wer best for your lordshippe to bye the stampes to. *Ibid.* 221 b, A greate boke..in a faire hand, redy to bee a copie to the printer, when the saied boke should be put to stampe. 1596 NASHE *Saffron Walden* L 4 b, The Doctor had some ierking Hexameters or other shortly after to passe the stampe. 1603 DANIEL *Def. Ryme* G 3, That mightie confluence of Learning..which,..heere meeting then with the new inuented stampe of Printing, spread it selfe [etc.].

7. A bookbinder's tool for embossing bindings. Also *transf.* an ornament produced by this.

1811 *Art Bookbinding* 40 A tool, or stamp, may be added between the bands, emblematic of the subject. 1818 *Ibid.* 2 Brass tools...Ornamental stamps and volume stamps. 1875 in KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.*

8. A machine for shaping articles made of sheet-metal; a drop-hammer, stamping-machine.

1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 999 Every one [of the shaped vessels of plated metal] of simple form is now made in dies struck with a drop-hammer or stamp. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* IV. 263/1 It will be long before the 'old process of casting' is superseded by the stamp and die.

9. An iron-shod pestle of a mill for crushing ores, esp. each of the several pestles, usually five in number, forming the battery of a stamp-mill; chiefly in *pl.*, a battery of stamps, a stamp-mill.

1674 RAY *Collect. Words, Smelting Silver* 116 The slags or cinders of the first smelting they beat small with great stamps lifted up by a wheel moved with water, and falling by their own weight. 1875 J. H. COLLINS *Princ. Metal Mining* 107 The ore being broken down about the size of road stone, is now in a fit state for the action of the 'stamps'. 1901 *Munsey's Mag.* XXV. 662/2 A quartz mill..with a varying number of stamps—beams of iron that are lifted and let fall in a sort of long mortar, in which are thrown the ore, water, and quicksilver.

10. A machine for pounding hides to soften them. (Cf. STAMPER 3 e.) 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.*

11. *slang.* pl. (See quots.)

1567 HARMAN *Caveat* (1869) 82 Stampes, legges. 1609 DEKKER *Lanth. & Candle Lt.* c iij b, He sweares To put our stamps in the Harmans. 1785 GROSE *Dict. Vulgar T., Stamps*, legs. 1812 J. H. VAUX *Flash Dict., Stamps*, shoes.

III. The result of stamping.

12. The mark, impression, or imprint made with an engraved block or die.

a. An impressed mark used to certify or give validity to a document; an official mark certifying the quality or genuineness of goods.

1542 *Acts Privy Council* (1837) VII. 324 A lettre was sent under the stampe to the President and Counsell in the northe for the giving to Sir Richarde Long his oth. 1545 in Rymer *Fœdera* XV. 81/2 Such Warrants as our said Counsail..shall undre our Stamp being sealed wyth our Signet, make [etc.]. 1578 *Extracts Rec. Convent. Burghs Scot.* (1870) I. 76 Thair wechtis..to be maid of bras, and markit with the tovnis stamp. 1621 in Foster *Eng. Factories India* (1906) I. 263, I having first told over all the bars of lead and carefully taken the contents of each bar according to the stampe marked on them. 1712 ARBUTHNOT *John Bull* I. iv, He sold goods, that were not marketable without the stamp. 1726 *Act* 13 *Geo. I*, c. 26. § 19 It shall..be lawful to..the said Trustees [for the Linen Manufacture]..from Time to Time to direct such Stamp or Stamps to be made use of, as they shall think proper. 1771 *Junius Lett.* xlix. (1820) 254 The King had..affixed his stamp and given it currency among his subjects. 1800 tr. *Lagrange's Chem.* II. 126 The refiner has to deliver his opinion on a large mass of silver, and to attest its quality by a stamp. 1875 FORTNUM *Maiolica* i. 10 Remains of furnaces and fragments of Roman time and tiles with the stamp of Theodoric.

b. The design or combination of marks stamped by authority on a piece of metal in the process of minting or coining into money; the impressed design characteristic of a particular issue of coins of a certain value.

1555 EDEN *Decades* (Arb.) 211 The double ducades..are diminisshed of the goodnesse of their golde, with the stampe of youre maiestye chaunged. 1585 HIGINS *Junius' Nomencl.* 322/2 To coyne monie: to giue it the stampe. *Ibid.* 330/1 A crosse penie, so called of the stampe which it bare, being a crosse. 1628 in Foster *Eng. Factories Ind.* (1909) III. 241 All rup[ees] of Noor Jehann Beagams stampe are called in and not to bee uttered. 1660 F. BROOKE tr. *Le Blanc's Trav.* A 2, A Patron..whose Name in the Front, like a Princes stamp upon Lead, might give authority and make it currant coyne. 1665 GLANVILL *Scepsis Sci.* xxii. 139 The Stamp of Authority can make Leather as current as Gold. 1696 B. KENNETT *Romæ Antiq. Notitia* II. v. xiii. (1717) 372 Afterwards it had on one side the Beak of a Ship, on the other a Janus, and such were the Stamps of the As. 1712 J. MORTON *Nat. Hist. Northamptonsh.* 500 Eight or Nine [coins] of this very Prince of different Stamps. 1871 C. DAVIES *Metric Syst.* III. 150 The dollar, under its new stamp, has preserved its name and circulation. 1883 *Encycl. Brit.* XVI. 724/2 There are two distinct stages in the introduction of coining. In the first, only the quality or fineness of the metal is denoted by the stamp...In other words, the *stamp* acts as a kind of hall-mark...The second step was to certify the weight as well as the fineness of the metal.

in figurative context. 1596 SHAKS. *1 Hen. IV*, IV. i. 4 Such attribution should the Dowglas haue, As not a Souldiour of this seasons stampe, Should go so generall current through the world. 1603 — *Meas. for M.* II. iv. 46. 1690 LOCKE *Hum. Und.* III. xi. (1695) 293 For Words..being no Man's private possession, but the common measure of Commerce and Communication, 'tis not for any one, at pleasure, to change the Stamp they are current in. 1781 COWPER *Anti-Thelyph.* 156 Vice passing current by the stamp of law. 1795 BURNS *For a' that* i, The rank is but the guinea's stamp—The man's the gowd for a' that.

c. *gen.* Applied, e.g., to a postmark.

1661 H. BISHOPP in Hendy *Hist. Postmarks* (1905) Introd. 3 A stamp is invented, that is putt upon every letter shewing the day of the moneth that every letter comes to the office. 1867 AUGUSTA WILSON *Vashti* xxix, My letters always came back unopened, and bearing the London stamp.

13. In various figurative applications. **a.** A certifying or distinguishing mark or imprint.

1611 SHAKS. *Cymb.* v. v. 366 *Cym.* Guiderius had Vpon his necke a Mole...*Bel.* This is he, Who hath vpon him still that naturall stampe. *a* 1646 BURROUGHES *Exp. Hosea* viii. (1652) 289 When God hath set his stamp upon any thing, wee must take heed wee presume not to set our own stamp. 1781 COWPER *Expost.* 685 Blessings..giv'n Mark'd with the signature and stamp of heav'n, The word of prophesy. 1817 SHELLEY *Rev. Islam* 1060 Truth its radiant stamp Has fixed..Upon her children's brow. 1874 SAYCE *Compar. Philol.* vi. 227 Conventional custom sets its stamp upon spoken speech.

b. The imprint or sign (*of* what is specified).

1596 SHAKS. *Merch. V.* II. ix. 39 For who shall goe about To cosen Fortune, and be honourable Without the stamp of merit. 1609 HEYWOOD *Troia Brit.* XII. l. 314 Great Hector ..fals vpon the next Greeke that he finds, And prints on him the bloudy stamp of death. *a* 1684 LEIGHTON *Comm. 1 Pet.* i. 10–12 (1693) 113 It carries the lively stamp of divine Inspiration. 1781 COWPER *Hope* 153 Hope sets the stamp of vanity on all That men have deem'd substantial since the fall. 1839 THIRLWALL *Greece* VI. lii. 271 In its leading outlines it bears the stamp of truth. 1891 F. HALL in *Nation* (N. Y.) LII. 297/2 Everything that had passed before me bore, to my apprehension, the stamp of intellectual obliquity.

c. 'Value derived from suffrage or attestation; authority, currency' (J.).

1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* Ded., Your auspicuous Fauour, shall leaue a greater stampe to the Worke. 1686 W. HOPKINS tr. *Ratramnus* Dissert. iii. (1688) 53 Paschasius his Doctrine had not received as yet the stamp of publick Authority. 1738 SWIFT *Pol. Conversat.* Introd. 13 There is not one single witty Phrase,..which hath not received the Stamp and Approbation of at least one hundred Years. 1803 SYD. SMITH *Wks.* (1859) I. 19/1 The uproar even, and the confusion and the clamour of a popular election in England have their use: they give a stamp to the names, Liberty, Constitution, and People.

d. simply: Imprint, impression, mark.

a 1652 J. SMITH *Sel. Disc.* iv. 69 They are apt to acquire such deep stamps of material phantasms to themselves, that they cannot imagine their own being to be any other than material and divisible. 1673 DRYDEN *Marr. à la Mode* IV. i, You aggravate my griefs, and print them deeper In new and heavier stamps. 1817 SHELLEY *Rev. Islam* IV. viii. 2 The dead, who leave the stamp Of ever-burning thoughts on many a page. 1822 — *Triumph Life* 409 The wolf.. Leaves his stamp visibly upon the shore. 1838 CARLYLE *Misc.* (1857) IV. 206 Rahel Varnhagen von Ense..did not write...She left no stamp of herself on paper. 1858 HAWTHORNE *Fr. & It. Note-bks.* (1872) II. 29 The stamp of each new impression helps to obliterate a former one.

e. Character, kind; fashion, make; cast, type.

1573 G. HARVEY *Letter-bk.* (Camden) 9, I cannot tel how mani mo of this stamp frivolus and dogged liests. 1575 GASCOIGNE *Glass of Govt.* Wks. 1910 II. 37 Is shee of the right stampe? 1611 BIBLE *Transl. Pref.* ¶ 13 When the aboue named Radulphus happened to be at Rome, he found all the bookes to be new (of the new stampe). 1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* II. iii. 67 But certainly false it is what is commonly affirmed [etc.]...Of the same stampe is that which is obtruded upon us by Authors..that an Adamant [etc.]. 1666 BOYLE *Orig. Forms & Qual.* 44, I would be understood to mean by it [Forme], not a real Substance distinct from Matter, but onely the Matter it selfe of a Natural Body, consider'd with its peculiar manner of Existence, which..may..be call'd.., if you would have me expresse it in one word, its Stamp. 1709 HEARNE *Collect.* 1 Sept. (O. H. S.) II. 247 'Tis likely he is of the true Stamp for Principles. 1773 GOLDSM. *Stoops to Conq.* I. i, His acquaintance give him a very different character among creatures of another stamp. 1796 BURKE *Let. to Dudley North* Corr. IV. 551 He was exactly what we conceive of an English nobleman of the old stamp. 1831 D. E. WILLIAMS *Life & Corr. Sir T. Lawrence* II. 382 Men whose different stamps of genius and characters of intellect, were more singularly calculated to view their subjects through curious and diversified media. 1869 LECKY *Europ. Mor.* I. i. 161 Men of the stamp of a Washington or a Hampden. 1878 BOSW. SMITH *Carthage* 322 He struck a blow which showed that a general of a new stamp had appeared upon the scene.

f. Physical or outward form, cast.

a 1586 SIDNEY *Arcadia* III. (1598) 343 A yong maid, truly of the finest stamp of beautie. 1607 SHAKS. *Cor.* I. vi. 23 *Com.* Whose yonder. That doe's appeare as he were Flead? O Gods, He has the stampe of Martius. *a* 1704 T. BROWN *1st Sat. Persius* Wks. (1730) I. 53 A strange..birth: A glimpse of human stamp it has, the rest Is serpent fish and bird. 1877 MISS A. B. EDWARDS *Up Nile* xxi. 630 These early European settlers are seen with the Asiatic stamp of features.

14. An embossed or impressed mark placed by a government office on paper or parchment to certify that the duty chargeable in respect of what is thereon written or printed has been paid. Hence also, in recent times, an adhesive label (printed with a distinctive device) which is issued by the government for a fixed amount, and which when affixed to a document or other dutiable object serves the same purpose as an impressed stamp.

1694 *Act* 5 & 6 *Will. & Mary c.* 21. § 5 [Stamp Act] And

the said Commissioners shall..provide Six severall Markes or Stamps..for the severall and respective dutyes hereby granted with which severall Markes or Stamps all Velum Paper and Parchment upon which any of the severall and respective thinges herein before charged shall be ingrossed or written shall be stampt and impressed. 1712 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 445 ¶ 1, I am afraid that few of our weekly historians..will be able to subsist under the weight of a stamp. 1712 SWIFT *Jrnl. to Stella* 7 Aug., Have you seen the red stamp the papers are marked with? Methinks the stamping is worth a halfpenny. 1713 — *Imit. Hor. Ep.* I. vii. 43 Of late indeed the Paper-Stamp Did very much his Genius cramp. 1802 *Med. Jrnl.* VIII. 136, I question whether an apothecary, who should make up parcels of ingredients..would not render himself liable to a confiscation..for selling them without stamps. 1817 W. SELWYN *Law Nisi Prius* (ed. 4) II. 886 It was holden that it [*sc.* a marine insurance policy] might be rectified by inserting the true name, without a fresh stamp. 1841 THACKERAY *Gt. Hoggarty Diamond* ii, Twenty-one pun five, Roundhand, and nothing for the stamp! There it is, sir, *re*-ceipted. 1846 *Daily News* 21 Jan. 4/1 The stamp on newspapers is not like the stamp on Universal Medicine-Bottles, which licenses anything, however false and monstrous. 1881 BESANT & RICE *Chapl. Fleet* I. xiii, Your marriage is entered in my Register; I have the lines on a five-shilling stamp! 1911 *Act* 1 & 2 *Geo. V*, c. 55. § 7 Subject to the provisions of this [National Insurance] Act, the Insurance Commissioners may make regulations providing for..payment of contributions whether by means of adhesive or other stamps affixed to or impressed upon books or cards, or otherwise.

b. *The Stamps* = the Stamp Office. ? *Obs.*

1820 BYRON *Blues* II. 59 *Sir Rich.* But this place —... *Lady Bluem.* Excuse me—'tis one in the 'Stamps': He is made a collector. 1825 HONE *Every-day Bk.* I. 2 January 1. A close holiday at all public offices except the Excise, Customs, and Stamps.

c. *spec.* = POSTAGE STAMP.

1837 R. HILL in *Life* (1880) I. 271 Perhaps the difficulty [of the sender being unable to re-address the stamped cover purchased by him at the Post Office] might be obviated by using a bit of paper just large enough to bear the stamp, and covered at the back with a glutinous wash, which the bringer might..attach to the back of the letter. 1839 — (*title*) On the Collection of Postage by means of Stamps. 1850 MRS. CARLYLE *Lett.* II. 105, I have little to tell you worth even a penny stamp. 1863 *Stamp-Collector's Mag.* I. 3/1 We cannot congratulate the designer of our penny and twopenny stamps on the display of any taste. 1896 *Punch* 7 Mar. 112/3, I have been writing letters broadcast. I prefer stamps to post-cards.

d. *pl.* (*U.S. slang.*) Money (properly, paper money).

1872 DE VERE *Americanisms* 296 Among the less generally known terms [for 'money'] are..*dyestuffs, charms*, and also the more modern designation of *stamps*. 1876 BESANT & RICE *Gold. Butterfly* x, 'But no Hand, dead or alive, shall ever get hold of my stamps.' 'Your stamps?' 'My stamps, sir; my greenbacks, my dollars.' 1885 R. L. & F. STEVENSON *Dynamiter* 195, I have neglected to supply myself with funds;..and without what is coarsely if vigorously called stamps,..it is impossible for me to pass the ocean.

†**15.** Something marked with a device; a coin, medal. *Obs.*

1598 SHAKS. *Merry W.* III. iv. 16, I found thee of more valew Then stampes in Gold, or summes in sealed bagges. 1605 — *Macb.* IV. iii. 153 People..The meere dispaire of Surgery, he cures, Hanging a golden stampe about their neckes. 1608–9 MIDDLETON *Widow* II. i, I will consume my self to the last stamp, Before thou gett'st me.

fig. 1588 SHAKS. *Tit. A.* IV. ii. 69 Here is the babe as loathsome as a toad,..The Empresse sends it thee, thy stampe, thy seale. 1594 — *Rich. III*, I. iii. 256 *Queene Mother.* Peace Master Marquesse, you are malapert, Your fire-new stampe of Honor is scarce currant. 1633 G. HERBERT *Temple, Ch. Porch* lxiv, Man is Gods image; but a poore man is Christs stamp to boot; both images regard.

†**16.** A picture produced by printing from an engraved plate, an engraving, print. *In stamp*: by means of engraving. [After It. *stampa*, F. *estampe*.] *Obs.*

1613 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* v. ii. (1614) 463 He that will not onely reade, but in manner see,..may resort to Theodoricke and Israel de Bry, who haue in liuely stampes expressed these Nauigations. 1662 EVELYN *Sculptura* I. i. 9 The French call it [Etching] in particular *Taille douce*... The Italians *Intaglia*, or stamp, without Adjunct. *Ibid.* I. iv. 47 Ugo de Carpi did things in stamp, which appear'd as tender as any Drawings. 1705 ADDISON *Italy* 88 When I was at Venice they were putting out very curious Stamps of the several Edifices that are most famous for their Beauty. 1720 PRIOR in *Swift's Lett.* (1766) II. 11 Richardson..has made an excellent picture of me; from whence lord Harley (whose it is) has a stamp taken by Vertue. 1756 NUGENT *Gr. Tour, Italy* III. 26 At Rome, all sorts of fine stamps or prints, as of antiques, palaces..plans of towns, &c. 1780 J. ADAMS in *Fam. Lett.* (1876) 380 It is a description and a copper-plate of all the engravings upon precious stones... The stamps are extremely beautiful, and are representations of the gods and heroes of antiquity.

17. *Mining.* (See quots.)

1851 GREENWELL *Coal-trade Terms, Northumb. & Durh.* 50 *Stamp*, a hole made with a pick in the coal, in which to place a wedge. 1860 *Eng. & For. Mining Gloss.* (ed. 2) 80 (*S. Staffordsh. Terms*), *Stamp*, a mark cut in the roof or sides of the mine, as a point of reference, to show the amount of work done.

18. *Metallurgy.* (See quots.)

1880 *Encycl. Brit.* XIII. 319 (*Iron*) The first rough forged slabs are cut into pieces termed 'stamps', which are then reheated. 1881 RAYMOND *Mining Gloss., Stamps*, S. Wales. The pieces into which the rough bars shingled from the finery ball are broken, to be piled for subsequent rolling into sheet-iron.

IV. *attrib.* and *Comb.*

19. Obvious combinations, as *stamp-mark, -seal*; objective, as *stamp-maker*; *stamp-selling* adj.

1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade*, **Stamp-maker*, a die-sinker; a manufacturer of adhesive receipt or postage stamps. 1813 SHELLEY *Q. Mab* IV. 230 Red glows the tyrants *stamp-mark on its bloom. *Ibid.* V. 188 A public mart Of undisguising selfishness, that sets On each its price, the stamp-mark of her reign. 1758 J. BLAKE *Plan. regul. Marine Syst.* 3 Let her be provided with a screw *stamp-seal, having a device thereon. 1908 *Daily Chron.* 18 Apr. 4/6 An automatic *stamp-selling machine.

20. Special comb.: **Stamp Act**, each of the various Acts of Parliament for regulating the stamp duties; esp. that of 1765 (5 Geo. III, c. 12) for levying stamp duties in the American colonies; also, that of 1712 (10 Anne, c. 19, § 101) imposing a stamp duty on newspapers; **stamp-album**, a book for the orderly arrangement and preservation of a collection of postage stamps; **stamp-battery**, a series of stamps in a stamp-mill; **stamp-bed**, the bed or bottom of a stamping machine upon which the lower die is placed; **Stamp-Bill**, a bill for imposing or regulating stamp duties; **stamp book** = *stamp-album*; **stamp-box** (*a*) a receptacle for unused postage stamps; (*b*) the box in which the ore is pounded in a stamp-mill; **stamp-collecting** (*a*) *sb.* = PHILATELY; (*b*) *adj.*, that practises philately; **stamp-collector**, (*a*) a collector or receiver of stamp duties; (*b*) a PHILATELIST; **stamp copper**, copper ore which is to be or has been crushed by stamping (*Funk's Stand. Dict.* 1895); **stamp-cutter** (see quot.); **stamp-dealer**, a dealer in postage stamps for collectors; **stamp-distributor**, an official who issues or sells government stamps; hence *stamp distributorship*; **stamp duty**, any of the duties collected by means of stamps impressed on or affixed to the articles taxed; **stamp gold**, gold ore for stamping; **stamp-hammer**, the hammer of a stamping machine; **stamp-head** (*a*) the head of a pestle of a stamp-mill; (*b*) the head of a cask upon which the brands are made (*Funk's Stand. Dict.*); †**stamp-house**, a house containing machinery for crushing ore; **stamp-machine** *Paper-manuf.*, a machine for pulping rags (*Cent. Dict.* 1891); †**stamp-man** = *stamp-collector* (*a*); **stamps-man**, one who helps to work an ore-crushing stamp-mill; **stamp-master**, (*a*) an official appointed by the Trustees for the linen manufacture in Ireland (see quot. 1726); (*b*) an official appointed to administer the Stamp Act; **stamp-mill** (*a*) the apparatus used to crush ores by means of a pestle, or series of pestles operated by machinery, also *attrib.*; (*b*) an oil-crushing mill of similar construction; **stamp note**, a permit from a Custom House official granting permission for the loading of goods on board ship; **stamp office**, an office where government stamps are issued and where stamp duties are received; **stamp officer**, one appointed to administer the Stamp Act; **stamp paper** (*a*) paper having the government revenue stamp impressed on or affixed to it; (*b*) the marginal paper of a sheet of postage stamps (often used as sticking plaster, etc.); **stamp-press** (see quot.); **stamp rock**, ore suitable for treatment by stamping; **stamp-stem**, the stem of the pestle of a stamp-mill; **stamp-tax**, a tax imposed by a stamp act; **stamp-work** (see quot.).

1765 J. ADAMS *Diary* 18 Dec., Wks. 1850 II. 154 That enormous engine, fabricated by the British Parliament, for beating down all the rights and liberties of America, I mean the *Stamp Act. 1793 *Blackstone's Comm.* (ed. 12) I. 324 *note*, If each stamp-act declared the whole amount of the stamp at the time, it would prevent much confusion. 1862 *All Year Round* July 447/1 My *stamp album is worth twenty pounds. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.*, **Stamp-battery*. 1877 RAYMOND *Statist. Mines & Mining* 451 The..advantage in substituting a systematic crushing by steel rolls for stamp-batteries. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* IV. 263/1 This block the stamper lays on the *stamp-bed, immediately under the descending hammer. 1765 J. INGERSOLL *Lett. Stamp-Act* (1766) 11 The *Stamp-Bill that has been preparing to lay before Parliament for taxing America. 1862 F. BOOTY *Stamp Coll. Guide* Introd., The *stamp book..has also its utilitarian side. 1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib., Brit.* II. No. 5825, Match-box, *stamp-box, and paper-knife, all *en suite*. 1872 W. W. SMYTH *Mining Statistics* 65 The amalgam obtained inside and outside the stamp boxes. 1862 F. BOOTY *Stamp Coll. Guide* Introd., It is curious to see how much public opinion has been modified lately, upon the subject of *stamp collecting. 1867 *Philatelist* I. 1/2 Not only in England, but in other *stamp-collecting countries. 1710 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4673/3 All such Indentures..to be sent..either to the head Stamp-Office, or to some of the *Stamp Collectors. 1863 (*title*) The Stamp-Collector's Magazine. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade*, **Stamp-cutter*, an engraver of dies on wood, stone, or metal. 1863 *Stamp-Collector's Mag.* I. 39/2 The *stamp dealers of Paris. 1765 *Universal Mag.* XXXVII. Suppl. 377/1 The *stamp distributor, or informer, may unrighteously get, from his Majesty's good American subjects, more than his Majesty, upon a balance, may get by the stamps. 1904 SPENCER *Autobiog.* II. 39 Of all posts likely to answer my purpose, that of stamp-distributor was the most promising. *Ibid.*, The *stamp-distributorship for Derby fell vacant, and I made an effort to obtain it. 1704 EVELYN *Diary* 16 Jan., The Lord Treasurer gave my grandson the office of Treasurer of the *Stamp duties. 1765 J. INGERSOLL *Lett. Stamp-Act* (1766) 28 'Tis said that it is intended to give the Business of collecting and paying the Stamp-Duty, to Americans. 1894 *Act* 57–8 *Vict.* c. 30. § 6(1) Estate duty shall be a stamp duty collected and recovered as hereinafter mentioned. 1911 *Encycl. Brit.* XXV. 771/2 The death duties, the corporation duty, the duties on patent medicines and playing cards, and postage duties, are also technically 'stamp duties'; but in ordinary use the expression is limited to those imposed on the various classes of legal instruments, such as conveyances, leases,..&c., on bills of exchange,..bills of lading, and a few other documents. 1877 RAYMOND *Statist. Mines & Mining* 293 The Quartz Hill mines have furnished during the year about one-third of the *stamp-gold product of the county. 1837 HEBERT *Engin. & Mech. Encycl.* II. 190 By means of a blow from the *stamp hammer, the two needles between the dies are exactly impressed on both sides with the grooves. a1758 BORLASE *Nat. Hist. Cornw.* 178 The lifters..are armed at the bottom with large masses of iron..called *Stamp-heads. 1890 *Goldf. Victoria* 15 A battery of 26 stampheads. 1684 *Phil. Trans.* XVII. 745 Several persons were employed to bring the Refuse [copper ore] to the *Stamp-house, where it was stamped. 1765 *Universal Mag.* XXXVII. 217/1 The *Stampman for that colony had appointed his Deputies. 1876 BANCROFT *Hist. U.S.* III. xx. 532 In Boston, the people dealt first with Andrew Oliver, who had received his commission as stamp-man. 1891 J. H. PEARCE *Esther Pentreath* I. i, The news of the accident spread like wildfire among..the *stamps'-men and spallers. 1712 in D. D. Black *Hist. Brechin* (1839) 125 [They were appointed by the council] to be *stamp-masters of this burgh for stamping all linen cloth. 1726 *Act* 13 *Geo. I*, c. 26. § 20 All Dealers in Linen Cloth, before..they shall sell..any Linen Cloth.. shall carry the same..to the Place where such Lapper or Stamp-master..shall reside, there to be inspected, marked, lapped up and stamped by him. 1749 *Phil. Trans.* XLVI. 226 After this Preparation it is brought to the *Stamp-mills. 1874 RAYMOND *6th Rep. Mines* 292 The stamp-mill ore is passed through the mill belonging to the mine. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade*, *Stamp-note. 1710 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4673/3 All such Indentures..to be sent..to the *Stamp-Office. 1712 STEELE *Spect.* No. 555 ¶ 5 The tax on each half-sheet has brought into the stamp-office one week with another above 20 *l.* 1765 *Universal Mag.* Oct. 218/2 His son, then in London, was appointed a *Stamp Officer for the said province. 1765 *Ibid.* XXXVII. Suppl. 378/2 A design..to promote the taking of the *stamp-papers. 1814 SCOTT *Wav.* lxxi, It certainly related to stamp-paper and parchment. 1892 *Photogr. Ann.* II. 61 Get some gummed stamp paper, and punch through six or eight thicknesses at a time. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.*, **Stamp-press*, one for attaching stamps to letters, envelopes, or other articles. 1872 RAYMOND *Statist. Mines & Mining* 314 The *stamp-rock, it is said, yields about one ounce of retorted amalgam per ton. 1882 *Rep. Precious Metals U.S.* 572 There is a momentum given to the stamp, *stamp-stem, and piston. 1825 J. NEAL *Bro. Jonathan* I. 160 We rose up as one man, against a paltry *stamp-tax. 1881 RAYMOND *Mining Gloss.*, **Stamp-work*, Lake Superior. Rock containing disseminated native copper.

†**Stamp**, *sb.*4 *Obs. rare*—1. [Of obscure origin; cf. ON. *stamp-r* large tub, LG. *stampe* drinking-glass with a thick stem, G. *stampf* mortar, also swill-tub.] Some kind of vessel for oil.

1552 *Invent. Ch. Goods* (Surtees) 65, ij pypes of everye, one with litle silver, the ole and creme in a stampe of latten, and the oyntment in a boke [? *read* boxe] covered with lether.

Stamp (stæmp), *sb.*5 *dial.* [Of obscure origin: cf. STALP.] A trap.

1788 PICKEN *Poems* 53 Mony a trap, an' stamp, an' snare, They hae their prey to catch in. 1827 *Sporting Mag.* XXI. 111 Some people catch foxes in stamps, and say it is done accidentally.

Stamp (stæmp), *v.* Also 3–7 **stampe**, 4–5 **staumpe**, 6 **stampp**. [Early ME. *stampen* (? OE. **stampian*) = (M)LG., (M)D., WFris. *stampe*, NFris. *stampi* to stamp with the foot, to pound, OHG. *stampfôn* to pound (only once, gl. *comminuere*; MHG., mod.G. *stampfen* to stamp with the foot, to pound, bray in a mortar), ON. *stappa* (:—**stampa*) to stamp with the foot, to bray in a mortar, (M)Sw. *stampa*, (M)Da. *stampe* :—OTeut. **stampôjan*, f. **stampo-z* masc., pestle, mortar (MLG. *stamp*, OHG., MHG., mod.G. *stampf* masc.) A parallel formation from the same base is OE. *stęmpan* to bray in a mortar (occurring only once; cf. *á-stęmpan* to stamp with a die, *stęmping-isern* stamping-iron) = MLG. *stempen*, WFris. *stimpe*, NFris. *stemp*, MHG., mod.G. (? obs.) *stempfen* :—OTeut. type **stampjan*; cf. MLG., mod.G. *stempel*, MHG. *stempfel* stamp, die. The Teut. **stamp-* is the source of the Com. Rom. verb represented by It. *stampare* to tread, press, print, Pr., Sp., Pg. *estampar* to stamp, print, OF. *estamper* (mod.F. *estamper*, in some technical senses *étamper*) to stamp; whence the verbal noun It. *stampa* press, printing-press, Sp., Pg. *estampa*, F. *estampe* engraving, *estampe*, *étampe* stamp, die.

The view stated above seems on the whole more likely than the alternative supposition that the verb did not exist in OE., but is solely an adoption of OF. *estamper* (see above). At the same time there can be little doubt that the sense-development of the Eng. verb has been influenced by the uses of its Fr. cognate.

The Teut. root **stamp-* is prob. a nasalized form of **stap-* to tread; if so the primary sense of the verb would seem to be that of branch II below, from which the other senses

might easily be derived. Some scholars regard the root (pre-Teut. **stomb-*) as cogn. w. Gr. στέμβ-ειν ? to shake, ? to maltreat (occurring only once); radical connexion with STUMP *sb.* has also been suggested.]

I. †**1.** *trans.* To bray in a mortar; to beat to a pulp or powder; to pound. Also *absol. Obs.*

[*c* 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* I. 378 Nim readstalede harhuna & ysopo, & stemp & do on ænne neowan pott.] *c* 1200 *Vices & Virtues* Hie [*sc.* rihte ȝeleaue] is ȝelich ðe seneuies corne. ..Æure ðe mann ðe hit more [*read* ðe more ðe hit mann] bat and stampeþ, ðe hit strengere and betre is. 13.. *K. Alis.* 332 Herbes he tok in an herber, And stamped heom in a morter. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Pard. T.* 210 This Cookes, how they stampe and streyne and grynde, And turnen substaunce in to Accident. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XVIII. lxxxix. (1495) 838 Coloquintida..helpyth ayenst fleen yf it is stampyd and medlyd wyth water and spronge in the place there as many fleen ben. *c* 1400 *Lanfranc's Cirurg.* 56 Take malowe leues & leues of violet, & þe rote of holihocke; sepe hem weel in water, & staumpe hem. 1483 CAXTON *Gold. Leg.* 112 b, Yf all the espyces of the world had ben stamped to gydre it shold not haue smellyd so well. *c* 1489 — *Sonnes of Aymon* vii. 169 Thenne toke Mawgis an herbe, & stamped it vpon a stone wyth the pomell of his swerde and tempered it wyth water. 1579 LANGHAM *Gard. Health* (1633) 602 Stamp good store of ripe Sloes. 1594 PLAT *Jewell-ho.* II. 46 Malaghie reasons..either stampt or unstampt. 1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* 386 Pelagonius would haue him to drink Parsly stampt with wine. 1613 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* (1614) 650 They stamp their milia as we do spice. 1626 BACON *Sylva* § 45, I conceiue that some Decoction of Bones, and Sinewes, stamped, and well strained, would bee a very Nourishing Broth. 1683 SALMON *Doron Med.* I. 113 Pultise is made of green Herbs stampt or of their juyces. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 24 Aug. 1678, They cull the raggs..then they stamp them in troughs to a papp with pestles. 1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* I. (Globe) 123 A Stone Mortar to stamp or beat some Corn in. 1747 WESLEY *Prim. Physick* (1762) 116 A Plaister of Ground Ivy stampt. 1764 ELIZ. MOXON *Eng. Housew.* (ed. 9) 165 Stamp your berries and throw them into your water as you stamp them.

†**b.** To crush or press (fruit, esp. crabs) to extract the juice; to press (wine) out of grapes.

1387–8 T. USK *Test. Love* III. v. (Skeat) 114 But it the better be stamped, and the venomous jeuse out-wrongen, it is lykely to enpoysonen al tho that therof tasten. *c* 1450 *Mirour Saluacioun* (ROXB.) 134 Out of grapes stampyng the wyne. 1573 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 46 Stamp crabs that may, for rotting away. 1594 LYLY *Mother Bombie* III. iv, It was crabbs she stampt, and stole away one to make her a face. 1597 DELONEY *Gentle Craft* Wks. (1912) 151 Would you haue him to stampe the crab. 1618 W. LAWSON *New Orchard & Gard.* xvi. (1623) 52 Dresse euery Apple,..stamp them, and straine them [etc.].

c. To thresh. *Obs.* exc. *dial.* 'to beat or break the awns from barley, etc., to thresh flax' (*Eng. Dial. Dict.*).

1388 WYCLIF *Isa.* XXV. 10 Moab schal be threischid vndur hym, as chaffis be stampid [Vulg. *teruntur*] in a wayn. 1856 MORTON *Cycl. Agric.* II. 103/2 Ordinarily the grain [barley] is spread on the floor of the barn, and stamped by either of the instruments [depicted].

d. To crush (ore); in mod. use, by means of the machine called a 'stamp'.

1568 in *Sel. Charters Trading Co.* (Selden Soc.) 18 The same ores..to drain break stamp wash boil [etc.]. 1859 R. HUNT *Guide Mus. Pract. Geol.* (ed. 2) 261 The dressing floors, where the ores are stamped and prepared for the market.

e. To drive in (a blasting charge).

1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VII. 277 While engaged in stamping a blasting charge in a rock with a pointed iron bar..the charge suddenly exploded.

II. To bring down the foot heavily. (Cf. STRAMP *v.*)

2. *intr.* **a.** To bring the sole of one's foot suddenly and forcibly down (*upon* the ground or floor, or some other object), with the object of crushing or beating down something.

1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 8590 Þe devels salle ay opon þam gang, And ay on þam stamp with þair feth omang. 1384 CHAUCER *H. Fame* 2154 Tho behynde..troden fast on other heles And stampen as men doon aftir eles. 1719 YOUNG *Revenge* I. i, This usage is like stamping on the murder'd, When life is fled. 1818 SCOTT *Br. Lamm.* xxxiii, Stamping upon the coals with the heel of his boot.

b. To strike the ground or floor forcibly with the sole of one's foot, in order, e.g. to make a noise that will serve as a signal, to emphasize a command or an expression of firm resolve, to warm one's feet, etc. Phrase, *to stamp with one's foot.*

1535 COVERDALE *Ezek.* vi. 11 Smyte thine hondes together, and stampe with thy fete. 1538 ELYOT *Dict., Supplodo*, to stampe or make noise with the fete. 1548 HALL *Chron., Edw. IV* (1550) 43 b, The sayd Lewes conterfeited the fashion and gesture of the duke of Burgoyn, & began to stampe with his fote on the ground. 1662 GREENHALGH in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* Ser. II. IV. 15 When mention was made of the Edomites, Philistines, or any enemies of..Israel's, they stamped strongly with their feet. 1705 H. BLACKWELL *Engl. Fencing-Master* 16 Must I stamp with my Foot when I make those Faints? 1756–7 tr. *Keysler's Trav.* (1760) III. 143 As far as can be conjectured from the sound caused by stamping with the foot against the bottom, there is another cavity under it. 1801 SOUTHEY *Thalaba* IX. XXVIII, Thrice on the floor she stampt. 1815 SCOTT *Guy M.* liii, She paused an instant..and stamped upon the ground, which..shewed vestiges of having been recently moved. 1823 ROLAND *Fencing* 27 To ascertain whether you are firmly and correctly placed in this posture, it will be necessary to make an Appel. This is performed by stamping twice with the right foot. 1850 MERIVALE *Rom. Emp.* xiii. (1865) II. 114, I have only to stamp with my foot, he said,..to raise legions from the soil of Italy. 1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* I. xi. 78, I again resorted to stamping to secure a footing.

c. *esp.* as an instinctive expression of fury; formerly often † *to stamp and stare.* Hence (now only *U.S.*), To be very angry.

c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* I. (Catherine) 1028 He..rathly ruschit to and fra,..& sturly stampit als, & steryt. 1530 PALSGR. 732/2, I stampe, I stare, as one doth that taketh on in his angyr, *je me demayne.* You never sawe man stampe as he dyd. *a* 1534 *Coventry Corpus Chr. Plays* I. 779, I stampe ! I stare ! I loke all abowt ! 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 185 Many men stamped [L. *fremebant enim plerique*] for the murther of Rincon and Fregose. 1577 KENDALL *Flowers of Epigr., Trifles* 24 b, He stamps, he stares, he taketh on: he knowes not what to doe. 1657 BILLINGSLY *Brachy-Martyrol.* xii. 39 How he did stamp, did stare like one distracted. 1681 [DURFEY] *Progr. Honesty* viii. 9 And as a stubborn Child..Vext at some trifle, stamps, lies down and cries. 1712 STEELE *Spect.* No. 429 P 17 The Petitioner swore, stamped, and threw down his Cards. 1842 LOVER *Handy Andy* xix, O'Grady stamped and swore with rage. 1866 'L. CARROLL' *Alice in Wonderland* viii, The Queen..went stamping about, and shouting 'Off with his head!' 1872 DE VERE *Americanisms* 552 *Stamp*, to, commonly pronounced *stomp*, has, in the South especially, the meaning of being very angry. 1891 FARRAR *Darkn. & Dawn* liv, He stamped, and cursed the Christians by all his gods. 1891 E. ROPER *By Track & Trail* ii. 21 The Colonel stamped and groaned and swore.

d. said of a horse.

1509 HAWES *Past. Pleasure* xxviii. (Percy Soc.) 134 My stede Galantyse..began to stampe full marveylously. *c* 1611 CHAPMAN *Iliad* VIII. 72 The paine, so sore the courser stung, (Pierc't to the braine) he stampt and plung'd. 1810 SCOTT *Lady of L.* I. XXXI, Shouting clans or squadrons stamping. 1865 A. SMITH *Summer in Skye* II. 107 The horses stamped and pawed in their stables.

e. To walk with a heavy, 'pounding' tread; to walk noisily or laboriously, tramp.

c 1489 CAXTON *Sonnes of Aymon* iii. 93 Reynawde..asked who was there that maketh thys noyse?..It is evyl doone for to go thus stampyng at this houre. 1523 BERNERS *Froiss.* I. cccxv. 725 Yonder men of armes..haue all this laste day traueyled, and all this nyght stamped in the myre. 1582 PETTIE tr. *Guazzo's Civ. Conv.* II. (1586) 56 Men, who ..come stamping in with their high clouted shooes, yet one of good understanding. 1753 MISS COLLIER *Art Torment.* I. ii. (1811) 63 Tell her you wonder how she can stamp about the floor in such a manner, as if she had wooden shoes on. 1833 M. SCOTT *Tom Cringle* iii, The capstan was manned, and the crew stamped round to a point of war. 1859 FITZ-GERALD *Omar* xvii, And Bahrám, that great Hunter—the Wild Ass Stamps o'er his Head, and he lies fast asleep.

f. Used *transf.* of a marine engine.

1892 KIPLING *Barrack-r. Ballads, L'Envoi* ix, And the engines stamp and ring, and the wet bows reel and swing. 1897 MARY KINGSLEY *W. Africa* 124 The *Moré*..stamps steadily along past the wooded shore.

3. *trans.* **a.** With complementary adv. or phrase: To affect in the specified way by stamping; *esp.* to trample violently *down, to the ground.*

c 1470 HENRY *Wallace* v. 270 Ane othir sone doune fra his hors he bar, Stampyt to grounde, and drownyt with outyn mar. 1552 HULOET, Stampe vnder fete, *pessundo.* 1659 D. PELL *Impr. Sea* 127 When..divisions are made in your ships, salve them up again, or else couragiously stamp them down. 1883 *Harper's Mag.* Dec. 51/2 Leonard was.. heard stamping the snow from his boots. 1894 HALL CAINE *Manxman* III. xii, 'The Lord's blessing, Master Philip——' she began, but the horse's feet stamped out everything.

b. To bring down the sole or heel forcibly upon. Now somewhat *rare.* † Also with *off.*

1602 *Span. Trag.* Addit. III. xii *a.* 19, I..Beat at the bushes, stampe our grandam earth Diue in the water, and stare vp to heauen, Yet cannot I behold my sonne Horatio. 1700 DRYDEN *Pal. & Arc.* I. 446 He frets, he fumes, he stares, he stamps the Ground. 1815 SCOTT *Guy M.* x, The short turf..was much trampled, as if stamped by the heels of men in a mortal struggle. 1892 *Daily News* 20 May 5/7 Hundreds of feet angrily stamped the ground. 1892 RIDER HAGGARD *Nada* 216 The Halakazi are no more a tribe, since Umslopogaas stamped them with his feet.

c. *To stamp one's foot* = sense 2.

1821 CLARE *Vill. Minstr.* I. 123 She furious stampt her shoeless foot aground. 1865 TROLLOPE *Belton Est.* XX. 229 He would stamp his foot on the ground. 1875 B. TAYLOR *Faust* I. xiii. 146 Faust (stamping his foot). 1866 G. MACDONALD *Ann. Q. Neighb.* XXVII, She stamped her little foot.

d. *To stamp out*: to extinguish (a fire) by trampling on it. Hence, *transf.* to extirpate (a disease, a heresy, etc.), suppress (a rebellion) by resorting to vigorous measures; *occas.* to exterminate (a people).

1851 MRS. BROWNING *Casa Guidi Wind.* 107 Ye stamp no nation out, though day and night Ye tread them with that absolute heel which [etc.]. 1866 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* Ser. II. II. I. 271 Measures..by which, to use a now prevalent expression, the disease was 'stamped out'. 1868 SIR J. Y. SIMPSON in *Med. Times & Gaz.* 4 Jan. 5/2 The public mind has during the last two or three years become familiarised with the idea of 'stamping out' a disease, in the instance of the rinderpest. 1868 G. DUFF *Pol. Surv.* 78 The Taeping insurrection was stamped out utterly three years ago. *a* 1873 DEUTSCH *Lit. Rem.* 289 The very remembrance of it was stamped out. 1883 *Manch. Guardian* 17 Oct. 5/2 Earl Spencer..remarked that in Scotland they had, by a strict enforcement of the rules, stamped out the disease altogether. 1892 RIDER HAGGARD *Nada* 208 If these demands were granted, then he would spare them,..if not, he would stamp them out. 1899 J. MATHEW *Eaglehawk & Crow* ix. 117 Some fires had to be stamped out by the youths with their naked feet.

III. To strike an impression on something.

4. To impress with an embossed or intaglio device or lettering by means of a die and the impact of a hammer or machinery; to make (a coin, a medal) by this process.

1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 415 b, In his letters and coyne, that he stamped [*in..moneta quam cuderet*], used stil the name of elector. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* (1637) 75 He stamped certaine golden pieces of coine. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* I. 284 Also they [the Irish] had silver groats, called crosse-keele groats, stamped with the Popes tripple Crowne. 1638 JUNIUS *Paint. Ancients* 177 Among many..sorts of coine anciently famous, the Cyziceni stateres were most of all renowned as being well stamped. 1670 PETTUS *Fodinæ Reg.* 41 Lastly, the Moniers, who are some to sheer the Monie,.. some to stamp or coin it. 1697 MAUNDRELL *Journ. Jerus.* (1707) 126 It's Gates are vastly large, and cover'd with Brass, stampt all over with Arab Characters. 1710 W. KING *Heathen Gods* vii. (1722) 15 Money of Brass was stamp'd, with a Ship on the one side..and the Figure of Janus with a double Face on the other. 1736 *Gentl. Mag.* VI. 683/2 There having been a great scarcity of Copper and Silver Coin in Ireland..Traders..bit on a Method of stamping Pieces of Silver bearing a promissory Note of three Pence each. 1818 STODDART *Gram.* in *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) I. 156/1 A preposition is not like a piece of money stamped to pass for a certain value. 1862 STANLEY *Jew. Ch.* (1877) I. iii. 59 The pieces of money..are stamped with the earliest mark of coinage. 1865 STREET *Gothic Archit. Spain* 218 All the Moorish decorative work..was evidently cut and carved as if it had been stone, and seldom, if ever, I think, stamped or moulded, according to the mistaken practice of the present day.

transf. and *fig.* 1611 SHAKS. *Cymb.* II. v. 5 That most venerable man, which I Did call my Father, was, I know not where When I was stampt. Some Coyner with his Tooles Made me a counterfeit. 1614 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Nipping Abuses* B 3 b, My pulsiue braine no Art affoords, To mint, or stampe, or forge new coined words. 1799 CAMPBELL *Pleas. Hope* I. 498 Nature stamp'd us in a heavenly mould.

b. To impress (a device, lettering, etc.) by means of a die.

1613 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* (1614) 598 The Cyrenæans to sooth this proud King..stamped his shape in their coynes. 1705 ADDISON *Italy, Rome* 351 But it is very well known that an Emperor often stamp'd on his Coins the Face or Ornaments of his Collegue. 1823 SCOTT *Quentin D.* viii, He now wore a hat, the band of which was garnished with ..a dozen of little paltry figures of saints stamped in lead.

transf. and *fig.* 1589 GREENE *Menaphon* (Arb.) 43 So deepe were the characters stamped in my inwarde senses, that obliuion can neuer race out the forme of her excellence. *a* 1631 DONNE *Serm.* vii (1640) 62 God stampeth his Image upon us, and so God is *Statuarius*, our Minter, our Statuary. 1692 R. L'ESTRANGE *Fables* CCXXVI. 198 She had the Flower-de-Luce Stamp'd, we must not say Branded upon her Shoulder. 1812 BYRON *Ch. Har.* II. xcviii. What is the worst of woes that wait on age? What stamps the wrinkle deeper on the brow?

c. *Bookbinding.* To impress a pattern on (leather) by means of dies.

1863 HOTTEN *Hand-bk. Topogr.* 103/2, 4to, old calf gilt, sides stamped.

d. To make by cutting out with a die.

1798 *Hull Advertiser* 18 Aug. 3/3 A man has invented an engine that will stamp or cut two hundred horse shoes in one hour. 1862 MORRALL *Needle Making* 17 In 1811, Abel and Michael Morrall..commenced stamping needles, and introduced the first eye into the needles by means of the stamp. What is meant by the first eye is an indenture half through the head of the needle.

e. *To stamp out*: to make (paste) into 'rounds', to fashion ('rounds' of paste) by pressure with a circular cutter.

1845 ELIZA ACTON *Mod. Cookery* (ed. 2) 457 Small rounds of bread stamped out with a plain..paste-cutter. 1877 *Cassell's Dict. Cookery* 17 Stamp out with a small cup-plate as many rounds as you wish to make pasties. *Ibid.* 19 Make a light sweet crust, stamp it out in small rounds.

5. To mark (paper or textile material) with a device either impressed in relief or intaglio, imparted to the surface by ink or pigment, or produced by both processes combined). Also, to impress (a device) on paper, etc. by means of a die or engraved plate. † Also with *off.*

1604 E. G[RIMSTONE] *D'Acosta's Hist. Indies* VI. v. 442 To make their impressions, they grave a boord or plank with the figures they will print, then do they stampe as many leaves of paper as they list. 1630 [see STAMPING *vbl. sb.* 1]. 1753 *Scots Mag.* Feb. 100/2 Each dozen of..handkerchiefs..are stamped twice. 1782 V. KNOX *Ess.* CXXXVII. P 6 A few other books are extant, which are, on good reasons, judged to have been stamped, not printed *secundum artem.* 1828 LYTTON *Pelham* LXXXV, A letter was brought me, stamped with the foreign post mark. 1879 G. GLADSTONE *Calico Printing* in *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* I. 197/2 Block printing ..consists in stamping the calico with a pattern raised in relief. 1885 'MRS. ALEXANDER' *At Bay* XI, I know the paper and the crest stamped outside. 1885 'H. CONWAY' *Family Affair* VIII, This jacket..was stamped in various places with the government broad arrow. 1908 R. BAGOT *A. Cuthbert* XXI. 261 The address..was there in full, and she noticed that it was also stamped on the envelope.

†**b.** To print (a book, etc.). *Obs.* [Cf. It. *stampare.*]

1555 R. BRAHAM *Lydgate's Chron. Troy* To Rdr. 1/2 With ..great paynes causing the same to be perfected and stamped as it is nowe read. 1556 *Charter Stationers Co.* in Entick *London* (1766) IV. 225, Several seditious and heretical books,..are daily published, stamped and printed by divers ..persons. 1609 W. BEDELL *Let. to Newton* 1 Jan. in *Two Biog. W. B.* (1902) 245 He told me further of a deliberation he had to remove himself..into Germany..to stamp that and sundry other things of the like nature. 1624 — *Lett.* iv. 79 Wee had an Epistle stampt at Venice, pretended to bee written at Rome. *Ibid.* v. 85 These wordes Posseuine stamps in his former *Relation* in Capitall letters.

6. To impress with a device or lettering indicating

genuineness, quality, or official inspection and approval; to impress (a device, etc.) on merchandise, weights or measures, or the like, for this purpose.

1564 *Extracts Burgh Rec. Edin.* (1875) III. 187 Quha.. sall stamp samekill [cloth] as beis sufficient thairof with the said stamp in leid. 1631 *Letters patent Sir W. Russell* etc., That a stamp..to bee engraven with a Rose and Crown shall be stamped, sealed or marked on all the soapes..the better to distinguish the said soape from all counterfett soape. 1638 *Reg. Mag. Sig. Scot.* 315/1 To mark and stamp all firlottis, peckis, pund-wechtis, staine-wechtis, elnewandis [etc.]. 1795 FRANKLAND in *Phil. Trans.* LXXXV. 296 The Sheffield artists, who stamp much low-priced work with the title of cast steel. 1846 GREENER *Sci. Gunnery* 209 Such barrels are, of course, sent back unmarked. Those that are found satisfactory are duly stamped and taken home. 1885 KAY in *Law Times' Rep.* LIII. 490/2 The words..were never stamped on goods, or advertised as a trade mark. 1892 *Photogr. Ann.* II. Advt. p. cxxi, Messrs. —— warn customers before purchasing to see that every Lens is stamped with their Trade Mark.

7. To impress with an official stamp or mark indicating that a duty or tax has been paid. In later use also, to attach an adhesive 'stamp' to.

1765 BLACKSTONE *Comm.* I. viii. 313 A fifth branch of the perpetual revenue consists in the stamp duties...These impasts are very various, according to the nature of the thing stamped. 1837 R. HILL *Post Office Reform* 19 The duties of the Clerks in the London Office..are..to stamp the letters; to assort them for delivery [etc.]. 1854 *Poultry Chron.* II. 147 If you need a reply, send .. an envelope directed and stamped. 1885 'MRS. ALEXANDER' *At Bay* iii, He wrote a hasty line to the effect that [etc.]..When this had been sealed, stamped, and directed to Lambert, he rang and ordered his bill. 1892 HOLYOAKE *60 Yrs. Agitator's Life* I. iiii. 287 Mr. Lloyd..was at once told he must stop or stamp. He stamped, raised his paper to twopence, and lost his circulation. I neither stopped nor stamped. 1907 G. JOHN *Voice from China* xi. 240 We..made another attempt to get the deed stamped.

8. In various uses, orig. figurative of senses 4–6.

†a. To fabricate (an inference) *out of* something. *Obs.*

1581 J. BELL *Haddon's Answ. Osor.* 82 b, Out of these two monstruous falsely forged propositions, he stampeth a conclusion..no lesse false then malicious. *Ibid.* 152, I awayte what this choppelogicke will stampe out hereof.

b. To declare or show to be of a certain quality or nature; sometimes in bad sense, to stigmatize.

1599 SHAKS. *Much Ado* I. ii. 7 *Leo[nato]* Are they [*sc.* the newes] good? *Old* [*Man*]. As the euents stamps them, but they haue a good couer. *a* 1720 SEWEL *Hist. Quakers* (1722) I. Pref. 3 Their Fear of doing or omitting anything which they judged would displease God, often hath been stampt with the odious Denomination of Stubbornness. 1853 MAURICE *Proph. & Kings* xix. 339 Their literal accomplishment..stamped them as sure decrees for Jerusalem and for euery other city of the earth in all generations to come. 1863 M. HOWITT tr. *Bremer's Greece* II. xii. 22 And this stamps them really as Greek islands. 1871 BLACKIE *Four Phases* i. 137 The death of Socrates must be stamped by the impartial historian as a great social crime. 1885 *Truth* 28 May 837/1 Not to like the picture is to stamp oneself as being no judge of painting.

c. To give a mark of authoritative approval to; †to convert by authorization *into*.

1681–6 J. SCOTT *Chr. Life* (1747) III. 450 By his own inherent Authority, as he was a King, he stamped those Doctrines into Laws which he taught and delivered as a Prophet. 1688 COMBER *Comp. Temple* (ed. 3) Pref. 2 Having..undervalued these Devotions stampt by publick Authority. 1778 MME. D'ARBLAY *Diary* Sept., The sanction of his good opinion..would in a manner stamp the success of my book. 1809 PINKNEY *Trav. France* 268 Time has stampt his reputation. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* xlviii, No lady ..can possess this desideratum, until she..has been presented to her Sovereign at Court. From that august interview they come out stamped as honest women. 1852 — *Esmond* II. v, The famous Mr. Congreve had stamped with his high approval..this delightful person. *a* 1853 ROBERTSON *Serm.* Ser. III. xxi. 273 He has been stamped by his master's eulogy.

d. To impress with some permanent and conspicuous characteristic.

1780 BENTHAM *Princ. Legisl.* xiii. § 4. 6 Falsehood stamps a character with a deep and degrading stain. 1836 J. MARTIN *Discourses* xv. 302 The Jewish priesthood must have seemed stamped by God with something of the mystery of His own nature. 1838 LYTTON *Leila* I. ii, Its beauty was singularly stamped with a grave and stately sadness. 1838 — *Alice* II. i, The book that Evelyn could admire was sure to be stamped with the impress of the noble, the lovely, or the true!

e. To be a distinctive mark of; to characterize.

1833 TENNYSON *Lady Clara* 40 Her manners had not that repose which stamps the caste of Vere de Vere. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. iii. i, With that frankness of speech which stamps the independent man.

f. To impress or fix permanently (an idea, etc.) on the mind or memory.

1662 STILLINGFL. *Orig. Sacræ* III. i. § 10 If God hath stamped an universal character of himself upon the minds of men. 1690 LOCKE *Hum. Und.* I. ii. § 1 It is an established Opinion..That there are..some primary Notions,..Characters; as it were stamped upon the Mind of Man. 1725 WATTS *Logic* IV. ii. (1726) 353 Give all Diligence..that your Words, as fast as you utter them, may stamp your own Ideas exactly on the Mind of the Hearer. 1818 BYRON *Ch. Har.* IV. xviii, And Otway, Radcliffe, Schiller, Shakspeare's art, Had stamp'd her image in me. 1872 MORLEY *Voltaire* (1886) 1 A new type of belief..was stamped by the impression of his character and work into the intelligence and feeling of his own and the follwing times. 1885 'MRS. ALEXANDER' *At Bay* vi, The picture of the streets through which he was conducted..remained forever stamped upon his memory.

g. To impose permanently (an immaterial mark or sign); to impress the signs or traces of (some quality, event, etc.) *on* a person or thing; to place permanently *on* a record or the like.

1641 J. JACKSON *True Evang. T.* III. 211 The character of Antiquity, that is now stamped upon them. 1684 *Contempl. St. Man* II. vi. (1699) 191 This Infamy, by some Mark of Ugliness and Deformity, shall be stamped upon their Faces and Bodies. 1756 C. SMART tr. *Horace, Epist.* II. i. (1826) II. 275 If length of time makes poems better, as it does wine, I would fain know how many years will stamp a value upon writings. 1822 HAZLITT *Table-t.* I. xi. 249 Conquerors, statesmen, and kings live but by their names stamped on the page of history. 1826 DISRAELI *Vivian Grey* V. x, Despair was stamped on his distracted features. 1848 J. H. NEWMAN in W. Ward *Life* (1912) I, 240, I believe those long years of anxiety have stamped themselves on my face. 1850 MERIVALE *Rom. Emp.* (1865) I. i. 3 The native ferocity of the people is stamped upon its earliest traditions. 1867 J. H. PARKER *Introd. Gothic Archit.* (ed. 3) 256 The character of each century is stamped upon its architecture.

Stampable (stæ·mpăb'l), *a.* [f. STAMP *v.* + -ABLE.] That may be stamped; (of goods) liable to stamp duty.

1803 *Med. Jrnl.* X. 168 Numbers of people..sold..stampable articles without stamps or licence.

Stampage (stæ·mpēdʒ). [f. STAMP *v.* + -AGE. Cf. F. *estampage, étampage.*]

1. The crushing (of tin-ore).

1910 *Cal. Close Rolls* an. 1365, 113, 1,000 marks every year to be taken of the issue of the stampage of tin in Cornwall.

2. A copy or impression (of an inscription) made by stamping.

1880 *Encycl. Brit.* XIII. 118/2 No copy was obtained [of the rock inscription] until October 1838, when the traveller Masson..made a calico stampage and an eye copy.

3. The amount charged or paid for the stamp or stamps of a postal packet; postage.

1887 *Taken-in* 88, I must not forget the stampage expenses ..two miles out of Christ Church, your letter will be *2d.* 1888 *Athenæum* 16 June 762/1 It..costs..two or three times the amount of stampage for parcel post.

Stamp and go. *Naut. phr.* [The vbs. in *imperative.*] An order given to sailors for the performance of certain duties (see quot. 1867); also, the action of performing such duties.

1830 MARRYAT *King's Own* xix, To stop my ears against the infernal stamp-and-go of the marines and after-guards, over my head, 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk., Stamp and Go!* the order to step out at the capstan, or with hawsers, topsail-haliards, &c., generally to the fife or fiddle. *transf.* 1899 KIPLING *Stalky* 38 The floor shook to the stamp-and-go of the ballet.

Sta·mpant *a.* [formed after *rampant.*] Stamping.

c 1730 RAMSAY *Vision* v, A stampant, and rampant, Ferss lyon in his hand.

Stamped (stæmpt), *ppl. a.* [f. STAMP *v.* + -ED[1].]

1. Crushed by stamping; pounded with pestle and mortar; crushed or pounded in a stamp-mill; trodden hard with the feet.

1600 DEKKER *Shoomakers Holy-day* (1610) C j b, *Rose*... No doue was euer halfe so mild as he. *Sibil.* Mild? yea as a bushel of stampt crabs [*sc.* apples]. 1626 BACON *Sylva* § 768 Putting it into great Jars of Stone, and Stirring it about with a few Stamped Almonds. 1778 PRYCE *Min. Cornub.* 238 Halvans stamped small, and then washed..is termed Stampt Ore. 1888 GERARD *Land beyond Forest* I v. 356 A heap of grey wood-ashes in the centre of the stamped earth floor.

2. Marked with a stamp or device. a. Of coin.

1581 *Cal. Laing Charters* (1899) 254 Stampit penneis and plakis being exceptit. 1611 SHAKS. *Wint. T.* IV. iv. 747 They often giue vs (Souldiers) the Lye, but wee pay them for it with stamped Coyne, not stabbing Steele. 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xxii. IV. 705 Nor did all the newly stamped silver pass into circulation.

b. Of paper: Furnished with a government revenue stamp; spec. in slang *stamped paper* = promissory notes. Of a National Health Insurance card: Having the required stamps affixed.

1710 SWIFT *Jrnl. Stella* 3 Oct., He is discovered to have counterfeited stampt paper, in which he was a commissioner. 1765 *Universal Mag.* XXXVII. Suppl. 375/2 A gallows was erected; on one end of which was suspended the effigy..; in his right hand he held a stamped bill of lading. 1809 R. LANGFORD *Introd. Trade* 5 Bills of Exchange..must be written on stamped paper. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* xxx, But since I'm married..I've not touched a bit of stamped paper. 1855 *Literary Gaz.* 6 Jan. 1 *heading*, Price Fourpence. Stamped Edition, Fivepence. 1864 *Once a Week* 25 June 5/2 The money was paid, and the stamped warranty was given. 1913 *Times* 7 Aug. 3/3 They had become mere agents of the State for the receipt of stamped contribution cards.

c. Of an envelope or other postal wrapper: Having a postage stamp embossed or printed upon it or (in later use) attached to it.

1837 R. HILL in G. B. Hill *Life* (1880) I. 270 Let stamped covers and sheets of paper be supplied to the public from the Stamp Office or Post Office..and sold at such a price as to include the postage. 1839 — *On the Collection of Postage by means of Stamps* ibid. 346 Small stamped detached labels—say about an inch square—which, if prepared with a glutinous wash on the back, may be attached without a wafer. 1852 *U.S. Stat.* X. 141 *margin*, Stamped letter envelopes to be printed. *Ibid.* X. 256 Stamped envelope,..stamped or printed envelopes..stamped letter envelope. 1854 *Poultry Chron.* II. 242 All letters requiring a reply, must contain a stamped envelope.

d. Of notepaper: Having a device printed or embossed upon it.

1907 GALSWORTHY *Country Ho.* I. i. 1 A half-sheet of stamped and crested notepaper.

3. Ornamented with an embossed pattern or design. *Stamped leather*: an expensive kind of wall-hanging used in the 16th–17th c. consisting of leather covered with silver leaf, varnished with a yellow lacquer to represent gold, and embossed with figures, a pattern, etc., and painted.

1756 MRS. CALDERWOOD in *Coltness Collect.* (Maitl. Club) 264 The curtain..is made of a red stamped English stuff. 1818 SCOTT *Br. Lamm.* xxvi, The inferior landholders and clergy, who usually ornamented their state apartments with hangings of a sort of stamped leather, manufactured in the Netherlands, garnished with trees and animals executed in copper foil. 1865 WAY *Promp. Parv.* Pref. p. li, This MS. is in the original stamped binding with boards, probably of oak. 1874 H. H. COLE *Catal. Ind. Art S. Kens. Mus.* 150 Sword, iron hilted, with stamped leather scabbard. 1882 CAULFEILD & SAWARD *Dict. Needlework* 459/2 Stamped Velvet is employed for the making of dress bodices and trimmings. *Ibid.*, Stamped velvet work, a modern Embroidery that is both effective and easy.

4. Of a device, name, etc.: Impressed by means of a stamp.

1865 ANNIE THOMAS *On Guard* xxxv, Thinking the seal or stamped monogram would tell from whom it came. 1881–6 GROSART in *Greene's Whs.* V. Note to title of *Planetomachia*, Our text of 'Planetomachia' is from that in the Bodleian, which bears the well-known stamped name of 'George Steevens'.

5. Of metal-ware: Pressed into shape by means of a stamping machine.

1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* IV. 263/1 The introduction of stamped brass-foundry created a new era in the trade.

Stampede (stæmpī·d), *sb.* Also †stampedo. [Originally U.S.; ad. Mexican Sp. *estampida*, a peculiar use of Sp. *estampida*, also *estampido* crash, uproar: see STAMP *sb.*[1]] A sudden rush and flight of a body of panic-stricken cattle.

a. 1834 *U. S. Exec. Docum.* 2nd Sess., 23rd Congr. I. 74 (Stanford) A stupid sentinel last night..alarmed the the camp and sent off in a stampedo the rest of the horses. 1835 W. IRVING *Tour Prairies* xxvi. 230 About two hours before day there was a *stampedo*, or sudden rush of horses, along the purlieus of the camp. 1867 BURTON *Hist. Scot.* III. xxxi. 276 These visitations produced a serious practical result in a stampedo of horses.

β. 1844 G. W. KENDALL *Narr. Texan Santa Fé Exped.* I. 96 'A *stampede!*' shouted some of the old campaigners, ..running towards their frightened animals. *a* 1864 HAWTHORNE *Dr. Grimshawe* xviii. (1891) 227 Then, tossing their horns, they [the deer] set off on a stampede. 1884 *Times* 3 Mar. 5/1 The shells..fortunately doing no damage, only causing a stampede among the mules and horses.

b. *transf.* A sudden or unreasoning rush or flight of persons in a body or mass; in American politics, a sudden unconcerted rush of a political convention for a candidate who seems likely to win.

a. 1862 T. A. TROLLOPE *Lenten Journ. Umbria* I. 4 The great lines, trodden smooth by the annual stampedo of northern travellers.

β. 1846 LONGF. *Life* (1891) II. 69 There is a great 'stampede' on Parnassus at the present moment. 1859 K. CORNWALLIS *Panorama New World* I. 352 A sort of stampede or unreasoning rush of about twelve thousand men, principally from Victoria, was the speedy consequence. 1883 LORD R. GOWER *Reminisc.* I. xiii. 236 We were stopped by a stampede of peasants, some on foot, others in carts and on horseback. 1888 BRYCE *Amer. Commw.* II. lxx. 568 [When the break comes, i. e. when the weaker factions, perceiving that the men of their first preference cannot succeed, transfer their votes to .. one..likely to succeed]..battalion after battalion goes over to the victors...In the picturesquely technical language of politicians, it is a Stampede. 1893 *Nation* (N. Y.) 24 Aug. 140/3 Ward did not share the sanguine expectations of those converts who looked for an Anglican stampede into the Roman Church.

Stampede (stæmpī·d), *v.* Also †stampedo (*rare*). [f. STAMPEDE *sb.*]

1. *trans.* To cause a stampede amongst (cattle); to cause a stampede of (a person's) cattle.

a. 1848 *Blackw. Mag.* Nov. 593 The Chases [*i. e.* a family named Chase]..were stampedoed upon the waters of the Platte.

β. 1847 RUXTON *Adv. Mexico* xxii. 187 During the night our mulada, which was grazing at large in the prairie, was stampeded by the Indians. 1896 GEN. H. PORTER in *Century Mag.* Nov. 23 The mules, stampeded by the sound of battle raging about them, had broken loose..and run away. 1897 *Cavalry Tactics* 139 Against cavalry in bivouacs..the party should be divided, some being told off to stampede the horses.

b. *transf.* and *fig.* To cause (a body of persons) to fly or rush away through fear or common impulse; in American politics, to induce (a political convention) to vote suddenly in a body (for a particular candidate). Cf. STAMPEDE *sb.* b.

1868 VISCT. STRANGFORD *Select.* (1869) I. 204 The aforesaid people are as likely as not to go by default and be stampeded into rebellion. 1888 BRYCE *Amer. Commw.* II. lxx. 568 To stampede a convention is the steadily contemplated aim of every manager who knows he cannot win on the first ballot. 1889 *Boston* (Mass.) *Jrnl.* 7 Mar. 2/4 Efforts of the Bears to Stampede the New York Market. 1898 *Educat. Rev.* XV. 412 The crazes by which teachers are periodically stampeded.

2. *intr.* Of a herd of cattle: To become panic-stricken and take to flight.

1859 MARCY *Prairie Trav.* xi. 69 My entire herd of about two hundred horses and mules all stampeded in the night. 1879 *Daily News* 1 Mar., If the Zulus attack they always try to make the cattle within the park stampede.

b. Of a company of persons: To rush with common impulse.

1849 *N. Y. Tribune* 12 June (Bartlett *Dict. Amer.*), The Virginia Legislature, becoming frightened at the approach of the cholera, have finally stampeded toward the White Sulphur Springs. 1884 A. Forbes *Chinese Gordon* xi. 108 The new regiment broke, stampeded into the other, and threw it into confusion.

Hence **Stampe·ded** *ppl. a.*; **Stampe·ding** *vbl. sb.* and *ppl. a.* Also **Stampe·der.**

1884 Stanwood *Hist. Presid. Elections* xxiv. 315 Another rule [of the Republican convention of 1876] put an end to the practice of 'stampeding'. 1885 *Suakin* ix. 216 The enemy were still pursuing the stampeded camels. 1885 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 4 Nov. 4/2 He was nearly forced over a precipice by a stampeding herd of wild horses. 1891 *Daily News* 23 Sept. 5/1 In a short time we shall learn how many of Tuesday's stampeders found room in the new region.

† Stampee·. *Obs.* [? Corruptly a. F. *estampille* stamp, seal, a. Sp. *estampilla* dim. of *estampa* Stamp *sb.*3] A counterfeit coin formerly circulated in the West Indies.

1795 W. Bullock in *Naval Chron.* IX. 457 You was to have the stampees at 3*s.* per gross. 1797 *Ibid.* X. 128 Negro money called stampees, or black dogs.

Stamper (stæ·mpəɹ), *sb.* [f. Stamp *v.* + -er 1.]

1. One who stamps with the feet; † one who treads (grapes). Also with *out* (cf. Stamp *v.* 3 d).

1388 Wyclif *Amos* ix. 13 And the stampere [1382 treder] of grape schal take the man sowynge seed. 1913 E. C. Bentley *Trent's Last Case* 6 He stood in every eye as the unquestioned guardian of stability, the stamper-out of manipulated crises. 1914 J. H. Skrine *Pastor Futurus* xxii. 180 Breaker of bruised reeds and stamper on smoking flax.

b. *Med.* (See quot.)

1901 Dorland *Med. Dict.* (ed. 2) *Stamper*, a person affected with locomotor ataxia; so called because of the peculiar stamping gait of that disease.

c. *Ornith.* (See quot.)

1872 Coues *N. Amer. Birds* 240 Forced to rise by stamping with the feet on the ground; from this latter circumstance, the birds have been named *Calcatores* (stampers).

2. One who uses a stamp or works a stamping machine; one who marks an impression (on something) with a stamp. (In several trades the designation of a special class of workmen.) Also *fig.*

1556 *Charter Stationers' Co.* in Entick *London* (1766) IV. 227 Any stamper, printer, binder or seller of any manner of books. 1621 J. Archbold *Beauty of Holiness* 6 The Holy Ghost, as the immediate stamper of this impression of holinesse in the spirits of men. 1735 J. Chamberlayne *Pres. St. Gt. Brit.* II. III. (ed. 31) 90 [Officers for the Stamp Duties.] The Names of the Thirty-Nine Stampers. 1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib. Brit.* II. No. 6449, The stampers [in needle manufacture] make a perforation partly through the wires. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* IV. 263/1 The early stampers were timid, and used only shallow dies.

b. A postal employé who applies the postmark and obliterates the postage stamps on letters and postal packets.

1850 Ogilvie s. v., In the Glasgow post-office there are four stampers. 1901 *Scotsman* 26 Dec. 8/1 The swiftest stamper in the office..has obliterated [with the machine] the stamps of 268 faced letters in a minute.

3. An instrument used in stamping.

a. A pestle, rammer.

1483 Caxton *G. de la Tour* f ij, He..took a stamper and brake the two legges of his wyf. 1600 Surflet *Country Farm* III. lii. 551 Lay nutmegs on heapes, bray them with a woodden stamper. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s. v. *Beetle*, For the military use, beetles, called also stampers, are thick round pieces of wood...Their use is for beating or settling the earth of a parapet. 1869 A. R. Wallace *Malay Archip.* vi. (1874) 92 [The Dyak woman] has an hour's work every evening to pound the rice with a heavy wooden stamper.

b. (Chiefly *pl.*) The pestle or each of several pestles in a crushing or pounding machine, esp. in a stamping mill = Stamp *sb.*3 9.

1602 Carew *Cornwall* 12 Of late times they mostly vse wet stampers, and so haue no need of the crazing mils for their best stuffe. 1674 Petty *Dupl. Proportion* 64 Water gushing out upon the floats of Under-shot Mills; as may be seen in the Stampers of Paper-Mills. 1791 Smeaton *Edystone L.* (1793) § 201 It is beat by iron-headed Stampers upon an iron bed. 1872 W. W. Smyth *Mining Statist.* 51 The crushing machine has 48 stampers, in twelve batteries of four stampers each. Each stamper weighs 6 cwt.

c. A hat-maker's tool: See quots.

1688 Holme *Armoury* III. 386/1 The Felt-makers, (or more generally termed Hat-makers) Instrument called a Stamper. 1745 *De Coetlogon's Hist. Arts & Sci.* II. 106/2 A Stamper ..is a Piece of Iron or Copper, bent. *Ibid.* 107/1 We'll proceed to give it the proper Form, by laying the conical Cap on a wooden Block of the intended Size of the Crown of the Hat; and thus tie it round with the Commander, which we'll beat and gradually drive down all round with the Stamper. 1837 Whittock *Bk. Trades* (1842) 295 (*Hatter*), These inequalities are reduced..in which the assistance of a copper instrument called a 'stamper' is found available.

d. An instrument for beating leather. (Cf. Stamp *sb.*3 11.)

1852 Morfit *Tanning & Currying* (1853) 227 The stamper leaves the surface of the leather [etc.].

4. *slang.* pl. Shoes; feet. ? *Obs.*

1567 Harman *Caveat* (1869) 83 Stampers, shooes. 1652 Brome *Joviall Crew* I. Wks. III. 366 Strike up Piper a merry merry dance That we on our stampers may foot it and prance. 1673 R. Head *Canting Acad.* 20 From thy stampers then remove Thy Drawers [*i. e.* stockings]. 1676 Coles *Dict., Stampers*, shoes or carriers. *a* 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew, Deuseavile-Stampers*, County-Carriers. 1819 *Sporting Mag.* V. 123 Coster-mongers, in all their gradations, down to the Stampers. 1828 Egan *Boxiana* IV. 164 The leaky stampers gave symptoms of ague touches to their miserable owners, who had not better soles for the trying occasion.

5. *Conch.* In book-names of certain shells. ? *Obs.*

c 1711 Petiver *Gazophyl.* x. 98 Marbled Luzone Stamper, with a flesh-coloured and black Mouth. 1713 — *Aquat. Anim. Amboinæ* Tab. ii, *Cylindrus*.. Prince Stamper. *Voluta Musicalis*..Horn-Book Stamper.

6. *attrib.*, as *stamper battery, box, press.*

1890 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 21 May 2/1 In a *stamper battery the stone is thrown into an oblong iron box, in which five bars of iron..are made to rise and fall alternately. 1872 W. W. Smyth *Mining Statist.* 51 The *stamper boxes are fitted with false bottoms. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.*, **Stamper-press*, a press for stamping sheet metal. 1911 *Encycl. Brit.* XX. 47/1 The Dutch or stamper press, invented in Holland in the 17th century, was up to the early years of the 19th century almost exclusively employed in Europe for pressing oil-seeds.

† Sta·mper, *v. Obs. rare*−1. [? var. of Stammer *v.*] *intr.* To waver.

c 1425 *St. Eliz. of Spalbeck* in *Anglia* VIII. 114/28 Ȝit stumbiþ sche neuere ne stamperþe ne waggiþ.

Stampian (stæ·mpiăn), *a. Geol.* [f. med.L. *Stamp-æ* Étampes (France).] = Rupelian *a.*

1893 Geikie *Text-bk. Geol.* (ed. 3) 989 Above it comes the Stampian [group]. 1910 *Encycl. Brit.* XI. 670 Oligocene... In continental Europe the following subdivisions have been established in descending order: (1) Aquitanian, (2) Stampian (Rupelian), 3 Tongrian (Sannoisian).

† Stampine. An alleged name of a bird.

1579 Hake *Newes out of Powles* iv. (1872) D ij b, Stent, Stockard, Stampine, Tanterueale, and Wigeon of the best.

Stamping (stæ·mpiŋ), *vbl. sb.* [-ing 1.]

1. The action of Stamp *v.*, in various senses.

1375 Barbour *Bruce* VII. 269 Bot he had schort quhil at the met Sittyn, quhen he herd gret stampyng About the hous. *a* 1400–50 *Wars Alex.* 781 Quat of stamping of stedis & stering of bernes, All dymed þe dale & þe dust ryses. 1550 Edw. VI *Jrnl.* in Burnet *Hist. Ref.* II. II. II. (1681) 35 The Lords at London having tryed all kinds of Stamping,..proved that without any loss, but sufferable, the Coin might be brought to eleven ounces fine. 1630 *R. Johnson's Kingd. & Commw.* 598 (China) Their Printing is but stamping, like our great Letters or Gaies cut in wood; for they cut many words in one peece, and then stampe it off in paper. 1720 Swift *Poems, Irish Feast*, A mercy the ground Did not burst with their stamping. 1882 Caulfeild & Saward *Dict. Needlework, Stamping*..is a method adopted for producing a pattern on cotton, silk, or woollen stuffs, having a stiff raised pile on the face. 1897 Flandrau *Harvard Episodes* 184 Such a cruel stamping out of youth and strength and happiness at the very beginning.

¶ The imposition of a stamp tax (on a country).

1766 Franklin *Exam.* Wks. 1887 III. 450 While the stamping of America was under consideration, and before the bill was brought in.

2. *concr.* a. *pl.* The materials pounded or crushed.

1594 Plat *Jewell-ho.* 71 Take the stampings of Crabs after the verjuice is expressed. 1678 *Evelyn's Pomona* (ed. 5) 403 For Water-cider, take your stampings when you press them from the first liquor, and put them into tubs. 1839 Ure *Dict. Arts* 707 The balls [of iron] are first worked under the forge-hammer; and these stampings being afterwards heated..are passed through the roughing rollers.

b. An article fashioned by stamping.

1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib., Brit.* II. No. 6189, Stampings and pressings of iron and steel for a variety of purposes. 1893 *Daily News* 10 Apr. 6/4 There is a brisk business..in large stampings in the shape of bowls, lard tins, &c.

c. Ornamentation produced by stamping; stamped work.

1889 *Amer. Publ. Weekly* 30 Mar. 489 The Work is.. elegantly bound in imported cloth, gilt edge, with rich stamping in gold and silver. 1892 *Photogr. Ann.* II. 281 The fancy stamping all over the brasswork adding also considerably to a handsome appearance.

3. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *stamping-die, -engine, hammer*, † *-house, -iron* (= pestle), *-machine, -mill, -press, -rod*; **stamping ground** *U.S.*, an animal's habitual place of resort; also *transf.*; **stamping shop,** the 'shop' in a needle-factory containing machinery for punching the eyes of needles.

With *stamping-iron* cf. OE. *stempingisern* 'celon' (Wr.-Wülcker 203).

1845 *Penny Cycl.* Suppl. I. 221/2 Above is a press, to the lower end of which is attached the *stamping-die or device, face downwards. 1840 *Mechanics' Mag.* XXXIII. 504/1 On the *Stamping Engines in Cornwall. 1839 [H. R. Howard] *Hist. Virgil A. Stewart* 70 (R. H. Thornton *Amer. Gloss.*) I made my way from Milledgeville to Williamson County, the old *stamping-ground. 1883 W. M. Baker *New Timothy* 176 (Cent.) It's with them fellows as it is with wild animals. You can just keep clear of them if you want, stay far out of their stamping-ground. 1834–6 Barlow in *Encycl. Metrop.* VIII. 676/2 All but the very largest [utensils] are raised or sunk by the *stamping hammer. 1706 J. Stevens *Span.-Eng. Dict.* s. v. *Plata*, [The silver] is cast into Bars, and carry'd to the King's *Stamping-house, where it is try'd, and the Mark set upon it according to its Fineness. 1552 in P. H. Hore *Wexford* (1901) [II.] 243, 4 *Stamping Irons [for the stamping mill]. 1778 Pryce *Min. Cornub.* 284 The Tin is..cool enough to sustain the stamping iron. 1839 Ure *Dict. Arts* 1162 A *stamping-machine with dies. 1884 Knight *Dict. Mech.* Suppl. *Stamping Machine*, for stamping the soles of boots and shoes with monogram or trade-mark. 1552 in P. H. Hore *Wexford* (1901) [II.] 243, 2 gret pecs of Iron for the *stampying myll. 1855 J. R. Leifchild *Cornwall* 27 A stamping mill, worked by steam, was erected at the very bottom of the excavation. 1858 Simmonds *Dict. Trade*, **Stamping-press*, a press for imprinting, by a sunken die, bills of lading, notes, envelopes, drafts, etc.; [also] a crushing mill for ores. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* III. 55 The rags, after macerating for many days.., were beaten by means of *stamping-rods shod with iron..; these worked in strong oak or stone mortars. 1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib., Brit.* II. No. 6449, The wires are taken to the '*stamping shop', where the first germ of an eye is given to each half of every wire.

Stamping (stæ·mpiŋ), *ppl. a.* [-ing 2.] That stamps with the feet; characterized by stamping with the feet. Hence **Sta·mpingly** *adv.*

1594 Nashe *Unfort. Trav.* E 2, One as if he had ben playning a clay floore stampingly trode the stage so harde with his feete, that [etc.]. 1596 — *Saffron Walden* O 2, Hee cald all the World asses..with the stampingest cursing and tearing he could vtter it. 1599 Breton *Wil of Wit* (Grosart) 18/2 The gallant shewe of stamping steeds. 1709 Steele *Tatler* No. 166 P 8 The Stamping Dances of the West-Indians or Hottentots. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VII. 876 A stamping movement of the foot. 1903 Kipling *Five Nations, White Horses* vi, By day with stamping squadrons,..Creep up the wise White Horses.

Sta·mpoma·nia. The mania for collecting postage stamps. Hence **Sta·mpoma·niac.**

1865 *Morning Star* 28 Aug., A few years ago, grey-haired people, as well as little children, were seized with the stampomania. 1886 *Daily News* 9 Dec. 5/2 In the other branches.. the collector may be eager..for good things, but he can never know the passion of the stampomaniac.

Stam-wood: see Stam *sb.*3 b.

Stan, obs. and dial. form of Stand *sb.* and *v.*; obs. var. Stone *sb.* and *v.* and Stend *sb.* (*dial.*).

Stancarian (stæŋkē·riăn). *Hist.* [f. *Stancar-us* (see below) + -ian.] One of those Protestants in the 16th c. who adopted the opinion of Stancarus (Francesco Stancari of Mantua, 1501–74) that the Atonement of Christ was wrought by His human nature only. Also *attrib.* or *adj.* (Cf. Osiandrian.)

1565 Harding *Confut. Apol.* III. iv. 141 b, The Osiandrines teach that Christ iustifieth a man by his diuine nature only. The Stancarians..by his humaine nature only. 1655 J. Owen *Vind. Evang.* Pref. 11, I do plainly Detest every Heretical blasphemy .. whether it be Arian, Servetian, Eunomian or Starcarian [*sic*].

So **Stanca·rist.**

1882–3 Schaff *Encycl. Rel. Knowl.* III. 2235 [Stancaro] gathered some pupils, called 'Stancarists'.

† Stance, *sb.*1 *Obs.* Also 5 **stawnce,** 6–7 **staunce.** [Aphetic form of Distance *sb.*] Dissension, dispute: = Distance *sb.* 1. *Withouten stance*: without dispute, undoubtedly.

14.. *Merita Missæ* 151 in *Lay Folks Mass Bk.* 152 Charlys wane All frawnce, And cristende spayne with owtyn stawnce. 1566 Gascoigne *Supposes* II. iv, I will set such a staunce [It. *tanta discordia*] betweene him and Pasiphilo that all this towne shall not make them friendes. 1566 J. Heywood *Spider & F.* xxxix. 11 Beginning of their comnicashin arose, Wherin they argde and fell at arging stance.

Stance (stans), *sb.*2 Also 6 **stanse** (sense 4), 7 **staunce,** 9 **stanch** (sense 1 c). Now chiefly *Sc.* and *north.* [a. F. *stance* (now only in the sense 'stanza': see 4), ad. It. *stanza* station, stopping place, room, etc.: see Stanza.]

1. A standing-place, station, position.

1532 Boner in *St. Papers Hen. VIII*, VII. 396 Beyng at a stance, where oon way turneth to the Popes lodging, and the other to the Emperours, the Pope departed from the Emperour. *a* 1618 Sylvester *Panaretus* 473 If in Earth shee yet have any Stance, 'Tis with the Cynois, Turks, or Scythians. 1640 R. Baillie *Canterb. Self-convict.* 108 Yet now in our book it must change the place, and be brought to its owne old stance. 1816 Scott *Antiq.* iv, From this stance it is probable.., that Julius Agricola beheld what our Beaumont has so admirably described! 1822 Galt *Provost* xxxiii, Getting out the fire-engine from its stance under the stair. 1862 Beveridge *Hist. India* IV. iv. II. 143 One chapter is devoted to..stances for deities. 1891 Atkinson *Moorland Par.* 319 One of my lads..shot fifteen of these depredators from one stance. 1895 Crockett *Sweetheart Trav.* 259 An empty stone-breaker's stance cut deep into the edge of the wood.

† b. *At a stance*: at a standstill. So *to put to a stance. Obs.*

c 1678 in *Kirkton's Hist. Ch. Scot.* (1817) 388 *note*, It seems your French trade, sir, is at a stance. 1697 W. Cleland *Poems* 11 (Jam.) But here my fancie's at a stance. 1722 W. Hamilton *Wallace* 167 (Jam.) Their sad misfortunes, and unlucky chance,..Had put their measures to a stance.

c. A platform for a workman to stand on.

1811 *Naval Chron.* XXV. 219 With a stanch six feet wide on the top, for the workmen to stand upon. 1886 Barrowman *Sc. Mining Terms* 63 *Stance*, a platform on which the men stand when working the lever in mineral boring.

d. In *Golf* and other games: The position of the player's feet in playing a stroke.

1897 *Outing* XXX. 426/1 The stance, the grip, the swing, that together make up, what they call a good style. 1897 *Encycl. Sport* I. 473/2 (Golf). 1913 *Blackw. Mag.* Dec. 832/2 When Jessop does not come off in batting, the peculiarities of his style and stance are calculated to accentuate the failure.

† 2. A room, cell, cabinet. Also, a compartment in a shield. *Obs.* (Cf. Stanza 2.)

1632 Lithgow *Trav.* X. 462 The Corregidor came out of his adioyning stance. *Ibid.* 476 The young English Priest entered my melancholly staunce. *Ibid.* 502 The third ioynd Staunce denotes to me a Galley.

3. A site; esp. an area for building upon. Also *building-stance.*

1631 *Reg. Mag. Sig. Scot.* 633/1 Molendinum..lie..wattirgang et stance ejusdem. 1649 *Presbyt. Rec.* in Campbell *Ch. & Par. Kirkcaldy* (1904) 161 The stance of the Kirk intendit to be built. 1793 *Statist. Acc. Scot.* VIII. 253 Every man had a dry gravellish stance whereon to found his house. 1823 Scott *Peveril* xi, The higher part of the level

ground afforded a stance for an old house. 1844 H. Stephens *Bk. Farm* III. 972 A large oblong hay-stack should be built in this way:..The stance should be raised 1 foot above the ground. 1884 *North Brit. Daily Mail* 5 Aug. 6/5 Paisley Race Meeting...A few stances of Ground for Tents are still to let.

†**4.** = Stanza 1. *Obs. rare.*

1596 Harington *Apol. Ajax* Cc 6 b, They had quoted a stanse in Hary Osto beginning thus [etc.]. 1598 Florio, *Stanze*,..a stance or staffe of verses or songs. 1613 Chapman *Mask Inns of Court* D 3, The Phœbades sing the first Stance of the second song.

Stance (stans), *v. Sc.* [f. Stance *sb.*2] *trans.* To place or station; to pen (cattle) for sale.

17.. *Sheriff-Muir* in *Ritson's Sc. Songs* (1794) II. 66 He ne'er advanc'd From the place he was stanc'd. 1887 *Scott. Leader* 19 Oct. 4 Three thousand head of cattle of all breeds were stanced at Dalkeith yesterday. *a* 1893 in R. Ford *Harp Perthsh.* 371 The fiddler loon..Was cannily stanced in his seat on a hill.

Stanch, staunch (stanʃ, stɔ̄nʃ), *sb.*1 Also 8 *Sc.* **stench.** [f. Stanch *v.*, or ad. the equivalent F. *estanche* (Cotgr. 1611; now *étanche*), which prob. existed in OF.]

†**1.** That which stops or allays, also a stopping. *a* 1400–50 *Stockh. Med. MS.* 28 Staunch of lecherye. 1557 Grimalde in *Tottel's Misc.* (Arb.) 110 O frendship,..O sacred bond of blisfull peace, the stalworth staunch of strife. 1567 *Diurn. Occurr.* (Bannatyne Club) 110 It was rather done for the stanche of the mouthes of the peopill. 1613 Jackson *Creed* I. x. § 3 As it were, an ebbe or staunch in the affaires of the Kingdome of Israel. 1790 D. Morison *Poems* 18 (E. D. D.) E'er their cravings got a stench, His pulse fu' sair was beatin'.

2. Something used for stanching blood, a styptic.

†**a.** (Application uncertain). **b.** *dial.* Selenite or powdered gypsum. [Cf. F. *pierre d'estanche*, 'the bloud-stone' (Cotgr.).] **c.** *Anglo-Irish.* The leguminous plant *Anthyllis vulneraria.*

a. 1392 *Earl Derby's Exped.* (Camden) 164 Johanni leche pro camfor et staunche.

b. 1712 J. Morton *Nat. Hist. Northamptonsh.* 178 Its Use in stopping excessive Bleeding has been try'd with very good Success at Kettering; on which Account it [*sc.* a variety of selenite] has there the Name of Stanch. 1748 Hill *Hist. Fossils* 129.

c. 1726 Threlkeld *Synopsis Stirp. Hibern.* A 6 b, *Anthyllis Leguminosa*..is sold in our Markets by the Name of Stanch, being astringent, as most of the Pulse Kind are.

†**3.** ? Driving effect (of fire). *Obs. rare*−1.

1643 Steer tr. *Fabricius' Exper. Chirurg.* iii. 8 Sore by reason of the stretching of the skin, which is stretched and drawne together by the stanch of the fire.

4. A kind of after-damp in mines, etc.

1693 G. Pooley in *Phil. Trans.* XVII. 674 In ancient Works,..Damps and Staunches sometimes arise. 1847 Hallıwell, *Staunches*, damps or offensive vapours arising in underground works, mines, &c.

5. *Comb.*: **stanch-air** = sense 4; **stanch-grass** *Sc.* yarrow, *Achillea Millefolium.*

1768 Ross *Helenore* 9 A' her washing cud na stench the bleed, In haste then Nory for the stench-girss yeed. 1874 R. Buchanan *Poet. Wks.* I. 196 No stanchgrass ever heal'd a wound so deep. 1883 Gresley *Gloss. Coal-mining* 237 Stanch-air.

Stanch, staunch (stanʃ, stɔ̄nʃ), *sb.*2 [a. OF. *estanche*, related to *estanc* Stank *sb.*] A lock or dam in a river.

1767 *Hull Navig. Act* 1054 Bridges, sluices, staunches, locks. 1866 Brogden *Prov. Lincs., Stanch*, a lock or stop for water, much used in the fen districts. 1879 *Edin. Rev.* CL. 447 Rude temporary stanches, or flush-weirs. 1890 *Fishing Gaz.* 8 Nov. 242/3 This rather fast-running and weedy river—the staunches were up. *Ibid.* The swims at the first and second staunch.

Comb. 1794 Rennie *Rep. Surv. Thames* 10 All the old stanch locks should be purchased, and proper gauge or pen wiers substituted in their place.

Stanch, staunch (stanʃ, stɔ̄nʃ), *v.* Forms: 4–6 **stanche, staunche,** 4–5 **stawnche, stonch,** 5 **staunge,** 6 **stainch, staynche, stenche, stinch,** 6–7 **stench,** 4– **stanch, staunch.** [ad. OF. *estanchier* (mod.F. *étancher*) to stop the flow of (water), stanch (blood), stop up (a leak), make (a vessel) watertight, to quench (thirst), corresponding to Pr., Sp., Pg. *estancar* in similar senses (Pg. also to exhaust, weary), It. *stancare* to weary:—Com. Rom. **stancare*, according to some scholars a contraction of popular L. **stagnicāre*, f. *stagn-um* pool, pond (whence Stagnate *v.*, Stagnant *a.*]

1. *trans.* To stop the flow of (water, etc.). Now only *poet.* (*rare*). Also, †to dam *up.*

1481 Caxton *Myrr.* II. xxv. 118 Thus groweth the rayne And whan it is alle fallen to therthe & the grete moisture is staunched the clowde hath lost his broun colour. 1535 Coverdale *Ezek.* xxxi. 15, I will staunch his floudes. 1576 Fleming *Panopl. Epist.* 26 Those thinges, which could staunche the streames of my teares. 1642 Bridge *Wound. Consc. Cured* ii. 19 That Justice..may run down like water which hath been stanched up. 1876 Swinburne *Erectheus* 426 A living well of life nor stanched nor stained.

†**b.** *fig.* To dry up the springs of; to exhaust (one's credit). *Obs.*

1338 R. Brunne *Chron.* (1725) 197 For to stanch his foysoun homward haf I ment. 1380 *Lay Folks Catech.* (L) 1390 Ydylnesse is..stoppynge and staunchyng grace and good thewys. 1568 Fulwel *Like will to Like* E ij, My credit also is now quite staunched.

†**c.** *intr.* for *refl.* To cease flowing. *Obs.*

c 1400 tr. *Secreta Secret., Gov. Lordsh.* 90 Water ys ouercomand in Planetys, and staunches noght but by dounshedyng. 1588 A. King *Canisius' Catech.* in *Cath. Tract.* (S. T. S.) 187 The raine staincheit the 40 day efter Noa entereit in the ark.

2. *trans.* To stop the flow of (blood or other issue from the body); to stop the flow of blood from (a wound).

In the first two quots. possibly *intr.* for *refl.*: see c.

13.. *Seuyn Sag.* (W.) 1136 For al that heuer he mighte do, His menesoun might nowt staunche tho. ? *a* 1400 *Morte Arth.* 2577 For alle þe barbours of Bretayne salle noghte thy blode stawnche! 14.. *Sir Beues* (M.) 534 To the freshe erth he laid hym flatt, For to staunche his woundus with that. *a* 1425 tr. *Arderne's Treat. Fistula*, etc. 47 þe fluxe or þe rynnyng þer y-dried, or stopped, or staunched, þai dye sone after. 1599 Breton *Will of Wit*, etc. (Grosart) 39/1 First the blood must bee stinched. 1610 G. Fletcher *Christ's Vict. Earth* lix. *Ode*, Not all the skill his wounds can stench. 1684 tr. *Bonet's Merc. Compit.* II. 379 The flux could be stenched by no other Remedies. 1718 Pope *Iliad* IV. 229 Now seek some skilful Hand, whose pow'rful Art May stanch th'Effusion, and extract the Dart. *a* 1721 Prior *Dial. Locke & Montaigne* 657 A Cobweb is good..to..stanch cut thumbs. 1781 Cowper *Retirem.* 322 [To] staunch the bleedings of a broken heart. 1819 Scott *Ivanhoe* xxxvii, The bleeding was stanched, the wound was closed. 1859 Tennyson *Elaine* 519 Then came the hermit out and.. stanch'd his wound. 1872 Dixon *Switzers* xxxi. 315 They learn to staunch the flow of blood. 1890 R. Bridges *Shorter Poems* I. *Elegy* vii, The branches..bleed from unseen wounds that no sun stanches.

†**b.** To stop the bleeding or diarrhœa of (a person). *Obs.*

1470–85 Malory *Arthur* XVII. xi. 706 Two felawes..lyfte her vp and staunched her but she had bled soo moche that she myght not lyue. 1530 Palsgr. 732/2 He fell a bledyng, but none coulde stanche hym tyll he was dede. 1561 Hollybush *Hom. Apoth.* 35 But if the siege be by reason a man hath eaten ought that is unwholsom, then ought he not to be staunched so sone.

c. *intr.* for *refl.*

c 1489 Caxton *Sonnes of Aymon* I. 57 Whiche corps neuer staunched of bledynge by the space of viii myles. 1526 Tindale *Luke* viii. 44 Immediatly her issue off bloud staunched. 1655 Culpeper, etc. *Riverius* IV. vii. 118 Presently the blood stanched. 1599 A. M. tr. *Gabelhouer's Bk. Physiche* 317/1 Strewe of this pouldre theron, and keepe it alwayes on the wounde; if with the first time it will not stench, applye it theron the seconde time. 1850 Robertson *Serm.* Ser. II. iii. (1864) 43 The heart will bleed, and stanch when it has bled enough.

†**3.** *trans.* To quench, allay, satisfy (thirst, hunger, desire, etc.); also, to repress, extinguish (appetite, hatred, anger, etc.). *Obs.*

c 1315 Shoreham *Poems* II. 96 Ine hys pyne hys stronge þerst Stanchede hy wyþ ȝalle. *c* 1374 Chaucer *Boeth.* II. pr. ii. (1868) 34 þe couetyse of men þat may not be staunched [L. *inexpleta cupiditas*]. *c* 1375 Wyclif *Sel. Wks.* I. 183 If he staunche þis love and seie to þis þing þat he wole not love it so myche. *c* 1430 Lydg. *Min. Poems* (Percy Soc.) 14 The wyne of Mercy stanchithe be nature The gredy thristis of cruelle hastynes. *c* 1430 *Pilgr. Lyf Manhode* I. lxxxiii. (1869) 48 Fulfille it and saule it and staunche it [his desire] might not al the world. 1456 Sir G. Haye *Law of Arms* (S. T. S.) 27 Ane unfillable gredy appetite..{that} never may be stanchit. 1513 Douglas *Æneis* XII. vi. 9 O, stanch ȝour wraith for schame, or all is lorn! 1532 *Psalter of Jesus* ✠✠ j, The desyre of my vnstable herte in tyme of prayer staunche I beseche the. 1581 N. Burne *Disput.* 143 b, This maist honest refusal could nather stench his lust nor ambition. *c* 1610 *Women Saints* 80 Stanching hir hunger with herbes and barlie bredd, and her thirst with onelie water. 1679 Dryden *Œdipus* I. i, So will I seize and stanch The hunger of my love on this proud beauty. 1755 R. Forbes *Ajax' Sp., Shop Bill* 39 Perhaps I may their greening stench, ere I hae done.

†**b.** To satisfy the appetite of. Also, to appease or cure (a person) *of* a desire or passion. *Obs.*

1340 *Alex. & Dind.* 938 Þanne wol he..wexe wilde of his wil & wikke to staunche. 1390 Gower *Conf.* III. 11 For tastinge is defended me, And I can noght miselven stanche. 1440 Shirley *Dethe K. James* (1818) 7 The..kynge..noght stanchid of his unsacionable and gredi avarice, ordeynd that tallage..upon his people, gretter..then ever..afore. *c* 1450 *Bk. Curtasye* 273 in *Babees Bk.*, Helpe to staunche hom of malice. 1486 *Bk. St. Albans, Hawking* c j b, Take hede the first day of to moch eetyng unto tyme that she be stawnchid.

4. To quench (a fire). *arch.*

c 1450 Lovelich *Grail* liii. 279 God with hym schal senden his grace, and In this diche stawnchen this feer. *a* 1513 *Fabyan's Chron.* VII. (1811) 512 Whiche fyre was scantly stenchyd in .viii. dayes after. 1860 M. Arnold *St. Brandan* 69, I stanch with ice my burning breast.

5. To arrest the progress of (a disease); to allay (pain); to relieve (a person) *of* pain.

c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xliv. (Lucy) 20 Na scho mycht get na medycine, þat cuth hire stanche of þat pyne. 1398 Trevisa *Barth. De P. R.* XVII. clxxxii. (1495) 723 Grene grapes haue the vertue to binde and to staunche Coleryk perbrakynge. *a* 1400 in *Rel. Ant.* (1841) I. 190 Fro basylica..A branche veyn spryngeth..The cardiacle he wol stanche. 1551 Turner *Herbal* I. B vj, Aloe..stancheth the heade ake. 1809–10 Coleridge *Friend* (1865) 212 The patriot's sword may cut off the Hydra's head; but he possesses no brand to stanch the active corruption of the body. 1862 Goulburn *Pers. Relig.* III. i. (1873) 155 Unless the moral malady be stanched in us by the Blood and Grace of Christ..salvation is for us out of the question. 1863 D. G. Mitchell *My Farm of Edgewood* 52, I haue sometimes availed myself of a curious bit of old narrative to staunch the pain of a sting.

†**6.** To put an end to (strife, enmity, rebellion, or any mischievous agency or condition). *Obs.*

1338 R. Brunne *Chron.* (1725) 253 If..holy kirke wild stanche sibred bituex þam tuo. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xxvi. (Nicholas) 329 Sic were to gere stanchit be, þe emperoure send princes thre. *c* 1400 *26 Pol. Poems* iv. 17 Men may not staunche a comoun noys. 1409 *Exch. Rolls Scot.* IV. p. ccx, Gif thar happynnis ony discorde..{thai} sal lelily do thair power on aythir part to ger it be stanchit in lufely manere. *c* 1430 *Life St. Kath.* (Roxb.) 5 He staunged soo by hys manly and vertuouse gouernaunce þat rebelliour. 1473–4 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* I. 51 Lettres..to stanche thare gadering for the court of Forfare. 1533 Bellenden *Livy* II. 164 The Ire of goddis mon be first mesit to stanche þe said pest. 1573 G. Harvey *Letter-bk.* (Camden) 40 [He] cam downe himself..to stenche this strife. 1828 Scott *F. M. Perth* xiii, Their feud would be stanched by the death of one, or probably both, of the villains.

†**b.** To restrain *from* turbulence or violence; to put down, suppress (rebels, lawbreakers). *Sc.*

1513 Douglas *Æneis* I. ii. 21 The hie fadir Gaif thame {*sc.* the winds} ane kyng, quhilk as thar lord and juge, At certane tyme thame stanching and withhald. 1547 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* IX. 75 With charges to the Maister of Maxwell..to remane in Moffet ane moneth for stancheing of thevis. 1559 *Extracts Burgh Rec. Edin.* (1875) III. 50 All actis [etc.]..set furth for stanching of sturdy beggeris. *a* 1578 Lindesay (Pitscottie) *Chron. Scot.* (S. T. S.) I. 92 This wickit man that cuild na wayis be stenchit fra reffe and oppressioun. *Ibid.* 196 The king wschit out..to stenche thir twa lordis of thair combat and tuilzie. 1596 Dalrymple tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* I. 10 Quha nathir in peace or weire can be stainchet from takeng the pray. *Ibid.* 172 He stanchet all seditious personnes.

†**c.** *intr.* for *refl.* Of storm, war, dissension: To come to an end, be allayed. Of persons: To cease from violence. *Obs.*

c 1420 *Chron. Vilod.* 4549 And þe wynde stonchede & blew nomore. 1508 Kennedie *Flyting w. Dunbar* 543 Sterand the potis of hell, et newir stanchis. 1513 Douglas *Æneis* I. v. 110 The cruell tyme sone thereftir sall ceis, And weris stanch, all sal be rest and pece. *c* 1560 Rolland *Seven Sages* 96 The first to spend he neuer stanches.

7. To stop up, to render water-tight or weather-proof. [After F. *étancher.*]

1776 G. Semple *Building in Water* 34 We got our Dam staunched as before mentioned. 1847 Emerson *Poems, Threnody* 84 The gathered sticks to staunch the wall Of the snow-tower, when snow should fall. *a* 1862 O'Curry *Manners Anc. Irish* (1873) III. 32, I cannot say how they staunched the walls.., whether with clay, moss, or skins. 1892 P. H. Emerson *Son of Fens* xiv. 112 We'll go put the other board in now. I think we're stanched one.

8. *Comb.* †**stanch-blood** (*a*) a blood-stone; (*b*) yarrow, *Achillea Millefolium.*

1567 Maplet *Gr. Forest* 7 b, Ematites..is called of some stench bloud. 1601 Holland *Pliny* XXVI. xii. II. 263 *marg.*, Stanch-bloud, a kind of Yarrow.

Hence **Stanched** *ppl. a.* (in first quot. = ? cured of passion: see *vb.* 3 b), **Sta'nching** *ppl. a.*

1628 H. More *Annot. Glanvill's Lux O.* xiv. 147 It is unbeseeming either a sober and stanched man or a good Christian. 1852 Wiggins *Embanking* 19 Peat or bog is also a good material for a sea-bank, not only by reason of its staunching but also its adhesive qualities when packed. *Ibid.* 22 Such a material may also be..very hard and staunching when dry. 1865 A. Smith *Summer in Skye* I. 318 When the stanched rain-clouds were burning into a sullen red at sunset.

Stanch, variant of Stance *sb.*2

Stanchel1 (sta·nʃĕl). *Sc.* and *north.* ? *Obs.* Also 5 **stanchal,** 6 **sta(i)nchell,** 9 *dial.* **stanchil.** [An unexplained variant of Staniel:—OE. *stǽngella.*] The Staniel or Kestrel, *Tinnunculus alaudarius.*

c 1450 Holland *Howlat* 652 The hobby..Stanchalis, steropis. 1500–20 Dunbar *Poems* xxxiii. 82 The tarsall gaif him tug for tug, A stanchell hang in ilka lug. 1585 Jas. I *Ess. Poesie* (Arb.) 46 The Rauin, the Stainchell, and the Gled. ? *c* 1730 in Maidment *N. C. Garland* (1824) 52 O Sir, ye're but a stanchel or else a ring-tail'd kite. 1818 Hogg *Brownie of Bodsbeck* I. xi. 208 That ever I sude hae lived to see.. the stanchel and the merlin chatterin' frae the cushat's nest!

Stanchel2 (sta·nʃĕl). Now only *Sc.* Forms: 6 **stanchell, (stanshel,** 7 **stenchall,** 8 **-el,** 9 *dial.* **stanchil, staneshel),** 7, 9 **stanchel.** [? a. OF. *estanchele, estancele* (dim. of *estance* prop), recorded as the name of an object, variously of wood or iron, used in some game.] = Stanchion *sb.*

1586 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* IV. 95 [They] hes brokin doun and distroyit the haill corbellis, gestis and stanchellis of the rest of thair houssis. 1592 Greene *Def. Conny Catching* Wks. (Grosart) XI. 60 She nayled one eare fast to the windowe, and the other to the stanshel. 1658 in Campbell *Balmerino* (1899) 410 Ane new cupill,..half-doore,..easeboards, and thereon stenchalls. 1687 G. Clerke *Spot-dial* 13 For the Length of the Frame and Glass that must be as the Jaume of the Window and *Stanchel* will give leave. 1727 P. Walker *Life Cameron* Biog. Presbyt. (1827) I. 300 Hanging some of them at the Stenchels of Windows. 1827 Tennant *Papistry Storm'd* 53 Some grippet..Great iron stanchels in their wraith. 1900 'R. Guthrie' *Kitty Fagan* 48 Meg was still at the door, half-leaning on the stanchel.

¶ ? Misused for: A large nail.

1832 G. Downes *Lett. Cont. Countries* I. 235 An old gate studded with stanchels.

Stancher1 (sta·nʃəɹ). [f. Stanch *v.* + -er1.] One who or that which stanches.

1453 in *14th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. III. 9 Reddaris and stanchearis of euill and debatis. 1611 Cotgr., *Estancheur*, a stancher. 1658 A. Fox tr. *Wurtz' Surg.* IV. iv. 320 This is the first and chiefest Bloud stencher. *a* 1849 Mangan *Poems* (1859) 80 Friendship, stancher of our wounds and sorrows.

†**Sta·ncher**2. *Sc. Obs.* Forms: 5 **stanssour,** 6 **stanch(e)o(u)r,** 7–8 **staincher,** 9 **stainsher.** [? altered form of Stanchion *sb.* Cf. Stanchel 2.]

1. = Stanchion *sb.* 1.

c 1470 HENRY *Wallace* IV. 507 Out off wyndowis stanssouris all thai drew. 1559 *Extracts Burgh Rec. Edin.* (1873) III. 78 To put in greit stancheouris of irne in all the wyndois. 1667 *Rec. Justiciary Crt. Edin.* (S. H. S.) I. 214 The stenchers of the windows. 1792 G. GALLOWAY *Poems* 52 For standin' good for Willie Baird, He whistles through the stenchers, In Jail this day. 1823 GALT *Gilhaize* iii, A wicket was opened in the doors, ribbed with iron stainchers on the outside.

2. = STANCHION *sb.* 2.

a 1500 *Medulla Gram., Calamarium*, an ynk horne or a stauncher.

† Sta'nchgrain. *Obs.* Forms: 5 **staunche greine**, 6 **-grayne, stounchegrey**, 7 **stainshgraine.** [f. STANCH *sb.*[1] + GRAIN *sb.*[1]] **a.** A composition used in preparing the smooth surface of parchment. **b.** ? *erron.* (see quot. 1530).

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 472/2 Staunchegreyne, for wrytarys, *planula*. *a* 1500 *Sloane MS.* 2584 lf. 10 (Promp. Parv. *note*) For to make staunchegreine. 1530 PALSGR. 275/2 Staunche grayne, an herbe. 1610 FOLKINGHAM *Art of Surv.* II. vi. 58 It shal not be amisse to pounce the ground with a Stainsh-Graine of burnt Allome and a double quantity of pounded Rossin both finely searced.., thereby to preserue the Paper or Parchment from thorowe-piercing with the Colours.

† Sta'nchier. *Obs.* In 5 **staunchier.** [? Anglo-Fr., f. OF. *estanchier* STANCH *v.*] ? An extinguisher.

1432 *Nottingham Rec.* II. 130 Torches, tortes, staunchiers, piketes et pierchiers.

Stanching (sta·nʃiŋ), *vbl. sb.* [-ING.[1]] The action of the vb. STANCH in various senses.

1387-8 T. USK *Test. Love* III. i. (Skeat) 50 It is nedeful and noble in staunching of bloode, there els to moche wolde out renne. *c* 1400 *Brut* LXXV. (1906) I. 74 His breþ shal bene stanchyn of þerst to ham þat bene apreste. 1456 SIR G. HAVE *Law of Arms* (S. T. S.) 19 Thare is twa maner of fontaynis of the cristyn faith, ane is cummand fra God him self, that is but stanching. 1520 in *Charters*, etc. *Edin.* (1871) 204 For stancheing of troubile hereftir. 1553 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* I. 149 For..stancheing of malefactouris and ordoryng of the Bordouris. 1621 N. WARD in *14th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. II. 14 The keeper..att the stenching of the blood, dyed. 1822 SCOTT *Nigel* ix, To.. drink a blithe cup of kindness..to the stanching of feud, and perpetuation of amity. 1845-6 TRENCH *Huls. Lect.* Ser. II. vi. 234 A binding up of hurts, a stanching of wounds.

Comb. 1658 A. Fox tr. *Wurtz' Surg.* IV. iv. 321 Then another broad and thin piece must be laid on the wound, or else Cotton wool, mingled with a little of stenching powder. [orig. Ger. *Pulver von Blutstellungen.*]

Stanchion (sta·nʃən), *sb.* Forms: 4-6 **stanchon** (5 **stanzon**), 6 **stancon**; 5-6 **stauncheon** (5 **staunceyon, -son, stawncion**), 9 **stauncheon, -ion** (*Sc.* **-on**); 6 **stancion, -cyon**, 6 **stanchinge**, 7-9 **stantion**, 9 **stanchient, stantient**, 8-9 *dial.* **stansion**; 7 *Sc.* **stenchen**, 8, 9 **stancheon**, 7- **stanchion.** [a. OF. *estanchon, estançon* (mod.F. *étançon*), f. *estance* prop :—popular L. **stantia*: see STANCE *sb.*]

1. An upright bar, stay, prop or support. **a.** *gen.* [1343 in *Archæologia* LXIV. 148 In ij hominibus facientibus lacch' et stanchons ad idem.] 1433-4 in *Fabric Rolls York Minster* (Surtees) 53 Et iiij peciis pro stanzones. 1530 PALSGR. 275/2 Stauncho a proppe, *estancon*. 1532 in Bayley *Tower Lond.* I. App. p. xxij, A larder hous..w[t] planks rownde by the walls, and stancions w[t] pyns and hoks to hange the flesshe on. 1553 BRENDE *Q. Curtius* A a iij, Least the earth washed upon with the raine might fall altogether, there were stanchinges of timbre putte betwixte to staie the whole worke. 1760-72 tr. *Juan & Ulloa's Voy.* (ed. 3) I. 181 The posts or stancheons by which the building is supported. 1791 SMEATON *Edystone L.* (1793) § 97 The iron stanchions and particularities of each step. 1865 *Morn. Star* 3 Feb., Huge piles of balks were hurled with terrific violence from the stanchions which supported and held them in their places. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech., Stanchion*, 2. (Machinery) a principal post of a frame; especially one giving lateral support.

b. *spec.* of a window. Also see quot. 1836.

1472-3 *Durham Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 247 Pro factura vij stawncions ferri pro nova fenestra ad scaccariam Elemos., vij d. 1530 in J. Croft *Excerpta Ant.* (1797) 16, vi Stancons for a bay Window. 1565 *Richmond Wills* (Surtees) 178, j stancyon of iron and a barre. 1609 BIBLE (Douay) 2 *Kings* i. 2 Ochozias fel through the stanchions of his upper chamber. 1815 SCOTT *Guy M.* xxxiii, The stancheons on the window of the strong room..are wasted to pieces. 1836 PARKER *Gloss. Archit.* (1850) I. 444 *Stanchion*, the upright iron bar between the mullions of a window, screen, &c...The name is also sometimes applied to mullions, and apparently to the quarters or studs of wooden partitions. 1840 BARHAM *Ingol. Leg.* Pref., An antiquated Manor house of Elizabethan architecture, with its gable ends, stone stanchions [etc.].

c. *Shipbuilding.*

1591 HORSEY *Trav.* (Hakl. Soc.) 186 Everie shipe caries.. stancions for fights. 1627 CAPT. SMITH *Seaman's Gram.* vii. 32 The Roufe-trees..are..supported by Stantions that rest vpon the..Decke. 1703 DAMPIER *Voy.* III. i. 19 To keep the Boat thus with the Head to the Shore,..there are two strong Stantions set up in the Boat. 1769 FALCONER *Dict. Marine* (1780), *Stanchion*, a sort of small pillar of wood or iron used for various purposes in a ship; as to support the decks, the quarter-rails, the nettings, the awnings, &c. 1805 *Shipwright's Vade-M.* 134 Stantions or Stantients. 1835 MARRYAT *Jacob Faithful* ix, At last the captain crawled up, and clung by the stanchions. *c* 1850 *Rudim. Navig.* (Weale) 152 Stanchions or Stanchients.

d. *Mining.*

1855 LEIFCHILD *Cornwall* 154 An upper joist..resting on two lateral upright posts, or stanchions. 1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-mining* 237.

e. (See quot.)

1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech., Stanchion.* 5. The vertical bars of a stall for cattle.

† 2. A case for an inkhorn. *Obs.*

1404-5 *Durham Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 400 Pro j stanchon' pro incausto pro scaccario, 18 d. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 473/1 Staunchon, to set yn an ynke horne, *forulus*.

3. *attrib.* and *Comb.*: as *stanchion-bar, -post, -rope, -waste* (= *-rope waste*); **stanchion-gun**, a gun mounted in a boat for wild-fowl shooting.

1833 LOUDON *Encycl. Archit.* § 239 Window frames..with one-inch iron *stanchion bars. 1815 COL. HAWKER *Diary* (1893) I. 140 Building a new canoe and *stanchion gun. 1889 A. CHAPMAN *Bird-Life Borders* Pref., A long apprenticeship to rod, fowling-piece and stanchion-gun. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech., Stanchion.* 5. The vertical bars of a stall for cattle. In the example, the *stanchion-post is pivoted so as to swing horizontally. 1750 BLANCKLEY *Naval Expos.* 136 *Stantion Ropes reeved through the Eyes of the Stantions. 1711 W. SUTHERLAND *Shipbuild. Assist.* 131 Ropes..*Stancheon Waste, worn.

Stanchion (sta·nʃən), *v.* [f. STANCHION *sb.*]

1. *trans.* To provide with stanchions, strengthen or support with stanchions.

1528 [see *vbl. sb.*]. 1802 *Trans. Soc. Arts* XX. 289 The thwarts are firmly stanchioned. 1853 RUSKIN *Stones Ven.* II. vi. § 70. 202 Cramped and stanchioned into such weight of grisly wall, as might..beat back the utmost storm of battle. 1871 BROWNING *Pr. Hohenst.* 1335 And see his system that's all true, except The one weak place that's stanchioned by a lie! 1907 H. TRENCH *New Poems* 4, I think some arm of the sea-gods Framed us her stormy frame, And ribbed and beamed and stanchioned her.

2. To fasten to, or by a stanchion.

1884 ALLEN *New Amer. Farm Bk.* 380 The cows tied, or stanchioned, as in their winter feeding.

Hence **Sta'nchioning** *vbl. sb.*

1528 *MS. Acc. St. John's Hosp., Canterb.*, Paid to a tyler for stanchonyng dobyng & vnderpynnyng of the store house.

Stanchioned (sta·nʃənd), *ppl. a.* [f. STANCHION *sb.* or *v.* + -ED.] Provided with stanchions.

1839 W. CHAMBERS *Tour Rhine* 59/1 Most of the best houses have strongly staunchеoned windows. 1852 THACKERAY *Esmond* II. i, Leaning against the great stanchioned door which the jailer had just closed upon them. 1914 *Blackw. Mag.* Mar. 368 The stanchioned under-story.

Stanchless (sta·nʃlés), *a.* Also 9 **staunch-**. [f. STANCH *v.* + -LESS.] That may not be stanched.

1605 SHAKS. *Mach.* IV. iii. 78 A stanchlesse Auarice. 1612 DRAYTON *Poly-olb.* I. 379 Where stanchlesse furie rap't The Grecians in so fast, that scarcely one escap't. 1820 WIFFEN *Aonian Hours* (ed. 2) 82 We..cannot heal the stanchless wound. 1821 SHELLEY *Epipsych.* 320 Each word would be The key of staunchless tears.

Stand (stænd), *sb.*[1] Also 4-5 **stonde**, 6 *arch.* **stond**, 7 **stande.** [f. STAND *v.*

OE. had *stond* masc., *stondo* (? fem.), delay (only once, see sense 1); equivalent formations, with the general sense 'standing, station, state', are LG., Du. *stand* masc. (in MLG. neut.), OHG. *-stand* in compounds (MHG., mod.G. *stand* masc.), Da., Norw., Icel. *stand*, Sw. *stånd* neut.).

I. Action or condition of standing.

† 1. A pause, delay. (OE. *rare*[−1].)

c 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Mark vi. 35 Miððy..stando monigo wæs (L. *cum..mora* (bad reading for *hora*) *multa fieret*). *c* 975 *Rushw. Gosp.* ibid., Miððy..stondas monige werun [L. *cum horæ multæ fierent*].

2. The action or an act of standing or coming to a position of rest; a pause, halt, esp. in the phrases *to make a stand* (rarely *to make stand*). † *Fight of stand*, a hand-to-hand encounter (*nonce-use*: cf. *stand-fight* in 32 b). Now *rare* or *Obs.* (cf. 4).

1592 SHAKS. *Rom. & Jul.* I. v. 52 The measure done, Ile watch her place of stand. 1596 — *Merch. V.* II. vi. 2 This is the penthouse vnder which Lorenzo Desired vs to make a stand. 1602 MARSTON *Ant. & Mel.* I, Beeing entred, they make a stand in divided foyles. 1606 SHAKS. *Tr. & Cr.* III. iii. 252 Why he stalkes vp and downe like a Peacock, a stride and a stand. *c* 1611 CHAPMAN *Iliad* XIII. 290 Teucer..is great in fights of stand [Gr. ἐν στασίῃ ὑσμίνῃ]. 1622 FLETCHER *Beggars Bush* IV. v, Why dost thou make These often stands? thou saidst thou knewst the way. 1622 F. MARKHAM *Bk. War* V. iii. § 4. 171 To make stands (which some call Altoes or Hallts)..whereby the souldier may be refresht. 1633 P. FLETCHER *Purple Isl.* v. lvii, The idle Sunne stood still.., And pale-fac'd Cynthia at her word made stand. 1700 DRYDEN *Pal. & Arc.* 191 At ev'ry Turn she made a little Stand, And thrust among the Thorns her Lilly hand To draw the Rose. 1787 BURNS *Death & Dr. Hornbook* viii, It seem'd to mak a kind o' stan', But naething spak. 1807-8 WORDSW. *White Doe* vi. 29 He..made a sudden stand. 1827 D. JOHNSON *Ind. Field Sports* 208 He made a stand at one of them, and appeared to deposit something.

b. *fig.* A stop or pause (in speech, action, etc.).

1595 SHAKS. *John* IV. ii. 39 And we are all well pleas'd, Since all, and euery part of what we would Doth make a stand, at what your Highnesse will. *a* 1642 BP. MOUNTAGU *Acts & Mon.* (1642) 536 Had these narrators made a stand here,..they had found nor contradiction nor discommendation. 1709 STEELE *Tatler* No. 33 P 7 But by Heaven, and all that's Sacred! If you could——. Here he made a full Stand. 1726 BUTLER *Serm. Rolls Chapel* vii. 127 He run on headlong in Vice and Folly, without ever making a stand to ask himself what he was doing.

† c. ? A stage in a statement or argument. *Obs.*

1616 BP. ANDREWES *Serm. Holy Ghost* ix. Serm. (1629) 689, I proceed now to the second Combination, of breath, and the Holy Ghost...(I make two stands of it:) Breath and the Spirit: Christ's breath and the Holy Spirit. 1674 [see TEW *sb.*[2] 2].

† d. = EPODE 2. *Obs. rare*[−1].

a 1637 B. JONSON *Pindaric Ode Mem. Sir L. Cary*, The Turne...The Counter-turne...The Stand.

e. *Theatr.* Each of the halts made on a tour to give performances.

1896 *Peterson Mag.* N.S. VI. 273/2 Her managers, only depend on the one-night 'stands' to recoup their losses in the larger towns. One-night-stand audiences are not critical. 1900 *Free Lance* 6 Oct. 20, I (Farmer) This year I'm going with Grady—north and south—right through the big two week stands. 1910 *Stage Year Bk.* 49 In New Zealand, it may here be mentioned, the actor must be prepared for a number of one-night stands.

† 3. A standing in ambush or in cover. *Obs.*

1593 SHAKS. 3 *Hen. VI*, III. i. 3 For through this Laund anon the Deere will come, And in this couert will we make our Stand. 1616 B. JONSON *Poetaster* Apol. Dial., Thefts, notable As Ocean pyracies, or high-way stands. 1621 MARKHAM *Fowling* 66 Now for these deade Engines [such as trees, bushes, hedges] which carry not the shape of any liuing creature, they are not altogether so necessary for the Stalke as the Stand. *Ibid.*, You must be carefull not to mooue them at all but to lye at the stand watching behinde them.

4. A holding one's ground against an opponent or enemy; a halt (of moving troops) to give battle or repel an attack; esp. in the phrase *to make a* (or *one's*) *stand.*

1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* II. xi. 15 On th'other side, th'assieged Castles ward Their steadfast stonds did mightily maintaine. 1607 SHAKS. *Cor.* I. vi. 2 Wel fought, we are come off, Like Romans, neither foolish in our stands, Nor Cowardly in retyre. 1609 HOLLAND *Amm. Marcell.* XVIII. xi. 118 We.. made a stand, and cast our selves into a round ring, as thinking it our safest way, neither to flye..nor to joyne battaile with them. 1736 *Milit. Hist. Pr. Eugene & Marlborough* I. 85 Instead of making any Stand they retreated continually. 1790 BEATSON *Nav. & Mil. Mem.* I. 269 He had raised a breast-work at a narrow pass, behind which he resolved to make his stand. 1817 JAS. MILL *Brit. India* II. v. vii. 613 After a slight stand at the outer intrenchment, the enemy fled through the fort. 1839 THIRLWALL *Greece* VI. xlvii. 115 The besieged made a short stand in the market-place. 1869 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* (1876) III. xii. 239 His last stand was made at Dinan.

b. *transf.* and *fig.*

1602 MARSTON *Ant. & Mel.* I, Take spirit;..make a firme stand. 1749 CHESTERF. *Let.* 12 Dec. (1870) 158 Mr. Hampden, to whose brave stand against the illegal demand of shipmoney, we owe our present liberties. 1815 MME. D'ARBLAY *Diary* (1876) IV. lxiii. 286 He hoped a stand would be made against any obstinate revolt. 1833 HT. MARTINEAU *Brooke Farm* i. 13 We at once determined to make a stand against oppression. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* x. II. 668 Now, if ever, we ought to be able to appreciate the whole importance of the stand which was made by our forefathers against the House of Stuart. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* IV. 13/1 Endeavouring..to make a public stand against it.

c. *Sporting.* A prolonged resistance. In *Cricket*, a prolonged stay at the wicket.

1812 *Sporting Mag.* XXXIX. 187 [The pugilist] having made some good stands against first-raters. 1884 *Lillywhite's Cricket Ann.* 60 The longest stand ever made by two batsmen.

5. A state of checked or arrested movement; a standstill; spec., the rigid attitude assumed by a dog on finding game. Chiefly in the phrases *to be at a stand, to come to a stand, to bring* or *put to a stand.*

1618 W. LAWSON *New Orch. & Garden* (1623) 20 At the fal of the leafe..about that time is y[e] greatest stand (but not descent) of sap. 1649 CROMWELL in Carlyle *Lett. & Sp.* (1850) II. 243 He could reach them with nothing but his horse, hoping to put them to a stand until his foot came up. 1698 FRYER *Acc. E. India & P.* 10 The Winds shrank upon us from off the Coast of Ginea..and had left us at a stand. *a* 1774 GOLDSM. *Hist. Greece* I. 139 Nor could he ever be persuaded to believe..that at the first pass he came to, his whole army would be put to a stand. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. IV. vii, For five-and-thirty minutes..the Berline is at a dead stand. 1856 STONEHENGE *Brit. Rural Sports* I. I. iii. 33 By increasing the encouragement in proportion to the increased length of stand, the dog becomes hourly improved. 1857 LIVINGSTONE *Trav.* xvii. 310 We were.. brought to a stand on this very plain by severe fever. 1883 *Century Mag.* Aug. 492 On our approach to the field, the dogs quartered it, but they did not come to a stand.

b. *Hunting phrase. U.S.*

1885 T. ROOSEVELT *Hunting Trips* 274 (Cent.) Occasionally these panic fits..make them [buffalo] run together and stand still in a stupid, frightened manner...When they are made to act thus it is called in hunters' parlance getting a stand on them.

6. A state of being unable to proceed in thought, speech, or action; a state of perplexity or nonplus. Nearly always in the phrases *to be at a stand, to put to a stand,* † *to set* (*a person*) *in a stand* (rare[−1]).

1599 SANDYS *Europæ Spec.* (1632) 71 Friers..being men of great marke..drew theyr Convents..with them; and thereby set the rest in such an amazement and stand, that the Pope grew in a generall great jealousie of them all. 1625 BACON *Ess., Truth* (Arb.) 499 One of the later Schoole of the Grecians, examineth the matter, and is at a stand, to thinke what should be in it, that men should loue Lies. 1652 G. HERBERT *Priest to Temple* xxii. (1671) 73 The Countrey Parson being to administer the Sacraments, is at a stand with himself, how or what behaviour to assume for so holy things. 1657 E. D'OYLEY in *Thurloe Papers* VI. 834 The prints telling me, that the heads of their people are..accounted conspirators..hath put me to some stand how to carry myself towards them. 1734 tr. *Rollin's Anc. Hist.* IV. IX. 321 There is one point however that puts me to a stand. 1790 BURKE *Fr. Rev.* Sel. Wks. 1898 II. 276 It remains only to consider the proofs of financial ability... Here I am a little at a stand; for credit, properly speaking, they have none. 1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* xii, He is very ill at ease. The leeches are at a stand, and many of his household suspect foul practice. 1821 SHELLEY *Boat on Serchio* 85 With a bottle in one hand, As if his very soul were at a stand, Lionel stood.

7. A state of arrested progress (of affairs, institutions, natural processes or the like). Chiefly in the

phrases *to be at a stand, to come to a stand*; also †*to put* (a hawk) *unto a stand* (rare⁻¹). Cf. STOND *sb.*

1614 LATHAM *Falconry* I. xi. 41 You shall find it wil suddenly put the soundest hawke that is vnto a stand, and by this onlie meanes, surfetted and spoiled manie a hawke. 1625 BACON *Ess., Of Usury* (Arb.) 543 The Greatest Part of Trade, is driuen by Young Merchants, vpon Borrowing at Interest: So as if the Vsurer, either call in, or keepe backe his Money, there will ensue presently a great Stand of Trade. *c* 1645 HOWELL *Lett.* (1650) I. 385 Nor did the pure Latin tongue continue long at a stand of perfection in Rome..but she received changes and corruption. 1664 FLECKNOE *Discourse Engl. Stage* G 4 b, We began before them [the French], and if since they seem to have out-stript us, 'tis because our Stage ha's stood at a stand this many years. *a* 1722 LISLE *Husb.* (1757) 141 My wheat, for want of rain, was at a stand in it's growth. 1789 *Ann. Reg., Hist.* 10 Public business was at a stand. 1796 MORSE *Amer. Geog.* I. 324 The effect [of attempting by law to regulate prices] was, a momentary apparent stand in the price of articles. 1814 SIR H. DAVY *Agric. Chem.* 255 In the northern winter, not only vegetable life, but likewise vegetable decay must be at a stand. 1833 NYREN *Yng. Cricheter's Tutor* (1902) 107 Then there was a dead stand for some time, and no runs were made. 1842 HAWTHORNE *Amer. Note-bks.* (1868) II. 143 Vegetation has quite come to a stand.

8. Manner of standing (of a thing). Now only *technical.*

a 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 23 July 1679, The stande [of the house], somewhat like Frascati as to its front. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* IV. 190/1 To ensure the correct 'stand' of the timbers in relation to the keel.

9. A standing or upright posture (as distinguished from a crouching attitude). *rare.*

1893 *Outing* May 154/1 In the present season, scarcely a sprinter is to be found who runs from a stand.

10. *Leather-manuf.* (See quot.)

1883 R. HALDANE *Workshop Rec.* Ser. II. 372/1 The leather may have the quality known as Stand, that is to say, may be strongly stretched in either length or breadth without springing back.

II. Place of standing.

11. A place of standing, position, station; also in phr. *to take one's stand*, poet. *to take stand.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 1694 Siþen efter alþernest hand þe meke beistes sal haue þair stand. *c* 1450 *Mirk's Festial* 249 Come now wyth me, and stond on 3ondyr stonde befor þe and loke downeward. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* v. 56 The stand thei [*sc.* competitors in a foot-race] leif, and flaw furth with a crak As windis blast. 1592 *Reg. Mag. Sig. Scot.* 697/1 Cum arca anguillarum et loco ejusdem (lie eill-ark and stand thairoff). 1599 DANIEL *Musophilus* 212 As if themselues had fortunately found Some stand from off the earth beyond our sight. 1601 SHAKS. *Jul. C.* II. iv. 25 *Por.* Is Cæsar yet gone to the Capitoll? *Sooth.* Madam, not yet, I go to take my stand, To see him passe. 1603 — *Meas. for M.* IV. vi. 10 Come, I haue found you out a stand most fit, Where you may haue such vantage on the Duke He shall not passe you. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* IV. 395 Then from his loftie stand on that high Tree Down he alights. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* I. 498 Watchful Herons leave their watry Stand. 1704 POPE *Windsor Forest* 137 Beneath the quivering shade,..The patient fisher takes his silent stand. 1714 PARKYNS *Inn.-Play* (ed. 2) 48 Shift your stand a little towards your Left. 1781 COWPER *Retirem.* 434 [He] Begins a long look-out for distant land, Nor quits, till ev'ning watch, his giddy stand. 1827 J. F. COOPER *Prairie* i, The low stands of the spectators exaggerated the distances. 1827 SCOTT *Surg. Dau.* iii, He saw from his lofty stand all the dumb show of gallantry. 1885–94 R. BRIDGES *Eros & Psyche* Mar. xxiii, She pass'd, and taking stand Upon its taper horn of furthest land, Lookt left and right.

b. *fig.*

1595 S. DANIEL *Civ. Wars* III. cxxv. 66 Nay father since your fortune did attaine So hye a stand: I meane not to descend, Replyes the Prince. 1648 G. DANIEL *Ode vpon Liricke Poesie of G. Herbert* 32 Wks. (Grosart) I. 214 This Stand, of Lirecks, Hee, the vtmost Fame Has gain'd. 1819 SIR J. MACKINTOSH *Sp. Ho. Comm.* 2 Mar., in Hansard *Parl. Deb.* 782 Accepting..the noble lord's concession,..here I might take my stand, and challenge him to drive me from this ground. 1850 *Tait's Mag.* XVII. 428/2 Their opponents take their stand on a quibble. 1874 GREEN *Short Hist.* vii. § 4. 375 He [Philip] was preparing..to take a new political stand as the patron of Catholicism throughout the world.

†c. *Through lands and stands*: through many countries. *Obs.*

1380 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* III. 27 þei schulen go þoru liȝt of þin arrowis þat is, of þi þurlinge wordis, þoru londis and stondis.

d. The resting place of a salmon.

1886 *Q. Rev.* Oct. 359 *note*, A salmon is said to be swimming when he is moving up the river from pool to pool. At other times he is usually resting in his 'stand' or 'lie'.

12. The post or station of a soldier, sentinel, watchman, or the like.

1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* IX. xi. 1 Endlang the wallis kyrnellis euery stand, The bruyt and clamour rais fra hand to hand. 1593 SHAKS. 3 *Hen. VI*, IV. iii. 1, *1 Watch.* Come on my Masters, each man take his stand. 1624 CAPT. SMITH *Virginia* II. 37 At every halfe houre one from the *Corps du gard* doth hollow..; vnto whom every Sentinell doth answer round from his stand. 1760 JOHNSON *Idler* No. 95 P 12 He ..comes home..with such thunders at the door as have more than once brought the watchmen from their stands.

13. The standing-place from which a hunter or sportsman may shoot game; also in phr. *to take a* or *one's stand.*

c 1400 *Master of Game* (MS. Digby 182) XXXV, And þanne þe mayster forster or parker oweth to shewe hym þe kynges stonde. 1588 SHAKS. *L. L. L.* IV. i. 10 *For.* Hereby vpon the edge of yonder Coppice, A Stand where you may make the fairest shoote. 1611 — *Cymb.* III. iv. 111 Why hast thou gone so farre To be vn-bent? when thou hast tane thy stand, Th' elected Deere before thee? 1639 FULLER *Holy War* III. xxii. (1640) 148 Using Gods cause as hunters do a stand, in it the more covertly to shoot at what game they please. 1679 BLOUNT *Anc. Tenures* 165 *Ad stabliamentum pro venatione capienda.* For driving Deer to a stand in order to shooting them. 1720 DE FOE *Capt. Singleton* XV. (1840) 257 Like an old decayed oak.., where the keepers in England take *a stand*, as they call it, to shoot a deer. 1791 W. GILPIN *Forest Scenery* II. 24 Here too, he had a banquetting-room built, like a stand, in a large tree. 1876 *Field* 9 Dec. in Greener *Breech-Loader* (1892) 270 My usual practice in grouse driving is to take two guns into *the* 'stands' (called by some butts). 1913 *Times* 12 Sept. 12/6 Equalization of sport by the drawing of numbers for each gun's stand.

†**14.** *Hawking.* An elevated resting place of a hawk; *spec.* as a 'fault', a position of rest from flight, esp. in the phrases *to take stand, go to stand*, to settle. *Obs.*

1579 LYLY *Euphues* (Arb.) 80 Lucilla..fearing he would take stand if the lure were not cast out, toke him by the hand, and..began thus to comfort him. 1611 MARKHAM *Country Contentm.* I. viii. (1615) 93 If your long-winged hawke flying..in champaine fields vse to take stand which is a foule fault you shal..shunne flying neere trees or couert: ..when the hawke offers to goe to the stand, let him which is next her cast out his traine. *Ibid., margin*, Helps for faults in long winged hawkes, and first of the stand. 1678 RAY *Willughby's Ornithol.* 409.

15. A stall or booth.

1508 *Extracts Burgh Rec. Edin.* (1869) I. 114 [The fleshers] sall haif thair stall and standis weill tentit with fair canves. 1568 *Sat. Poems Reform.* xlviii. 88 To pay my buth maill and my stand. 1845 DISRAELI *Sybil* v. vi, The gas was beginning to glare in shops..and the paper lanterns to adorn the stall and the stand. 1867 J. K. HUNTER *Retrospect Artist's Life* xxxi. (1912) 333 The shoe stands being erected in the Kirkyard.

b. A street-vendor's habitual station or pitch.

1742 RICHARDSON *Pamela* III. 361 If I see them [beggars] often..and so much in the same Place, as if they were as tenacious of their Stand, as others of their Freehold.

16. a. *U.S.* A position, site or building for a business.

1787 *Maryland Jrnl.* 25 Dec. (Thornton *Amer. Gloss.*), A Bargain will be given in that excellent stand now occupied by Mr. Mark Pringle. 1788 *Ibid.* 25 July (Ibid.), [Notice] to those who would wish for the best Stand for a Dry or Wet Store. 1856 EMERSON *Eng. Traits, Land* Wks. (Bohn) II. 17 The shopkeeping nation, to use a shop word, has a good stand. 1867 LOWELL *Study Wind., Gt. Publ. Char.* (1871) 64 Their historians..have succeeded to the good-will as well as to the long-established stand, of the shop of glory.

b. *S. Afr.* A plot of land, a site (see quot. 1896).

1895 *Westm. Gaz.* 6 Sept. 6/1 It is announced by the British South Africa Company that the annual sale of stands in Rhodesia has now been completed. Township stands.. realised a total of £204,280. 1896 MÉLIOT *Eng.-Fr. Dict. Terms Finance*, etc. 222 In the Transvaal, a stand is a portion of any land measuring 150×150 feet, sold or let. 1914 *19th Cent.* Sept. 592 As far back as the year 1886 a township was surveyed and laid out in stands by the Government of that day.

17. A station for a row of vehicles plying for hire; also, the row of vehicles occupying a station.

1692 LUTTRELL *Brief Rel.* (1857) II. 411 A lieutenant of the marine regiment quarrelling with a coachman in the stand. 1768 *Act 8 Geo. III*, c. 21 § 25 It shall..be lawful.. for the said [Paving] Commissioners..to direct..how many Coaches shall be plied at each Stand. 1820 SHELLEY *Let. Maria Gisborne* 265 But what see you beside?—a shabby stand Of Hackney coaches. 1833 *Act* 3 & 4 *Will. IV*, c. 46 § 113 Rules..regulating the said hackney coaches..and for fixing and altering their stands. 1841 DICKENS *Barn. Rudge* xvi, Long stands of hackney-chairs and groups of chairmen..obstructed the way. 1865 RUSKIN *Arrows of Chase* (1880) II. 81 The just price of a cab at a stand involves an allowance to the cabman for having stood there.

18. A raised platform for spectators at open-air sports as race-meetings, football matches and the like, or for a company of musicians or performers. *Band stand*: see BAND *sb.*[3] 7. *Grand stand*: see GRAND *a.* 12.

1615 in W. Sheardown *Doncaster Races, Hist. Notices* (1861) 4 It is agreed that the stand and the stoopes shall be pulled upp and imploied to some better purpose, and the race to be discontinued. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 20 July, 1654, Neere this is a pergola or stand, built to view the sports. 1842 *Nites' Reg.* 15 Oct. LXIII. 103/3 From a stand erected on Main Cross street, Mr. Clay..reviewed a part of the procession. 1876 O. W. HOLMES *How old Horse won the Bet* 110 As..The old horse nears the judges' stand. 1884 YATES *Recoll.* x. II. 47 Her Majesty then took up her station in the royal stand,..and the entire mass of Volunteers marched past.

19. An elevated platform or standing place for a speaker; a rostrum, pulpit; *U.S.* the place where a witness stands to testify in court, more fully *witness-stand.*

1840 *Niles' Reg.* 26 Sept. LIX. 56/2 Upon the stand, general Harrison was welcomed to Dayton, on behalf of the citizens..by judge Crane. 1843 *Ibid.* 18 Nov. LXV. 184/2 Dr. Davis then again took the stand [at a barbecue in Indiana], and stated that [etc.]. 1865 LOWELL *Study Wind., Thoreau* (1871) 156 He had watched Nature like a detective who is to go upon the stand. 1885 W. WILSON *Congressional Govt.* ii. 128 Members [of the French Chamber] do not speak from their seats,..but from the 'tribune'..a box-like stand.

†**20.** The landing of a staircase. *Obs. rare*⁻¹.

1709 STEELE & ADDISON *Tatler* No. 86 P 3 The simple Esquire made a sudden start to follow; but the Justice of the Quorum whipp'd between upon the Stand of the Stairs.

III. An appliance to stand something on.

21. A base, bracket, stool or the like upon which a utensil, ornament, or exhibit may be set; the base upon which an instrument is set up for use.

1664 in *Verney Mem.* (1907) II. 211 Be pleased to by a tabel and stands of the same coler. 1686 tr. *Chardin's Coronat. Solyman* 39 As we set our Candlesticks upon Tables or Stands. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 316/1 An Oven..having..a stay or stand on the left side of it, to rest or set any thing out of the Oven thereon. *Ibid.* 346/1 He beareth Sable on a round foot or stand of two heights Argent, a pair of Broad Yarringle Blades. 1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), *Stand*,..a Frame to set a Candle-stick on, or a Vessel in a Cellar, &c. 1727 DE FOE *Eng. Tradesm.* (1841) I. xxii. 207, 12 large high stands of rings, to place small dishes for tarts, jellies, at a feast. 1797 HT. LEE *Canterb. T., Frenchm. T.* (1799) I. 229 Stands for flowers were fixed on each side the dressing table. 1827 FARADAY *Chem. Manip.* xiii. (1842) 295 Stands of common earthenware are sold with crucibles; or the stand may be a small crucible about one inch and a half high, turned upside down. 1851 *Butler, Wine-dealer* etc. 9 In storing wine, the casks should be placed on stands. 1855 *Poultry Chron.* III. 206 Hives last several years; the same of covers and stands. 1878 ABNEY *Photogr.* XXX. 220 The essentials of a stand for landscape work consist of rigidity, lightness, and compactness when folded up. 1884 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* Suppl., *Stand*, I. For holding materials for drawing or painting...2. (*Microscopy.*) The framework of a microscope, usually implying all save the object glasses and the accessory apparatus.

b. *dial.* (See quot.)

1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss.*, *Stand*, a small round pillar-and-claw table. 1862 C. C. ROBINSON *Dial. Leeds* 420.

22. A frame or piece of furniture upon which to stand or hang articles.

1692 DRYDEN *Cleomenes* Life 10 After Supper, a Stand was brought in with a brass Vessel full of Wine, two silver Pots, ..a few silver Cups. 1822 [M. A. KELTY] *Osmond* I. 256 Ornamented..with stands of flowers and plants. 1823 J. BADCOCK *Dom. Amusem.* 100 A wooden stand, which has several ribs across to sustain the tobacco. 1839 DICKENS *Nich. Nick.* x, Some dresses, were arranged on stands. 1867 AUGUSTA WILSON *Vashti* xviii, She slowly descended the stairs, and took her hat from the stand in the hall. 1869 DICKENS *Mut. Fr.* III. iv, There were shelves and stands of books. 1875 SOUTHWARD *Dict. Typogr., Stand*, otherwise frame. 1882 C. PEBODY *Eng. Journalism* xxii. 167 The *Times*..and the *Daily Telegraph* are..read at a stand in a club.

IV. Something which stands.

23. A complete set (of things).

a. *Sc.* (and *Anglo-Irish*). A set (of vestments, armour, or utensils); a suit (of clothes).

c 1450 *Reg. Vestments* etc. *St. Andrews* in *Maitland Club Misc.* III. 195 Of haill standis. Item in the fyrst of rede claith of gold, 1 stand. *Ibid.* 196 Of syngyll standis. *Ibid.* Item for lentryn iij singell standis of fustian. 1471 in *Acta Audit.* (1839) 12/2 The compleite stand of harnes quhilk he borrowit. 1516 in *3rd Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* 418/2 All the haill stand of the Mess except the Book. 1534 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* VI. 185 To ane stand of bellis for the Kingis son, XX s. 1535 STEWART *Cron. Scot.* (Rolls) II. 425 And vestimentis of mony sindrie stand. *a* 1578 LINDESAY (Pitscottie) *Chron. Scot.* (S. T. S.) I. 367 He..gart cheise out money standis of harneise that was dowbill owergilt. 1597 *Compt Buik D. Wedderburne* (S.H.S.) 164, 42 stand of gad iron. 1615 in *Reg. Privy Seal, Scot.* LXXXV. fol. 124 in *Proc. Soc. Ant. Scot.* (1896) XXX. 56 Ane honest stand of Cleithing 3eirlie. 1642 in *10th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. I. 51 And trewli for the pressent we hau not on stand of good curtteins. 1827 SCOTT *Chron. Canongate* vi, A full stand, as it is called in Scotland, of garments of a dark colour. 1880 *Antrim & Down Gloss.* s. v., Four knitting needles are a stand. 1896 CROCKETT *Grey Man* xvi. 122, I judged he wore a stand of chain mail underneath. 1898 J. PATON *Castlebraes* 302 They wummilt a staun' o' new Cairt rapes aneath his oxters, an' pooed him oot.

b. *Mil.* A set (of arms, colours).

Sometimes unchanged in plural (after numerals).

1721 DE FOE *Mem. Cavalier* (1840) 160 He had..not a stand of arms. 1746 M. HUGHES *Jrnl. Late Rebell.* 14 They came riding into Edinburgh with the Stands of Cope's colours flying. 1794 LD. HOOD in Nicolas *Disp.* (1845) I. 401 *note*, By the first Ship..I shall have the honour of sending the several stand of colours taken at Bastia. 1800 WELLINGTON in Gurw. *Desp.* (1837) I. 84 I will write to the Military Board, and recommend that I may be permitted to issue to Purneal 1000 stand of the repairable arms. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* III. I. i, Beaumarchais..has commissioned sixty thousand stand of good arms out of Holland. 1876 VOYLE & STEVENSON *Milit. Dict., Stand of Arms*, a single rifle or musket with bayonet complete. 1878 BOSW. SMITH *Carthage* 389 LONG lines of waggons brought to the consuls..two hundred thousand stands of arms.

24. *Stand of pikes*: a compact group of pikemen. *Obs.* exc. *Hist.*

1598 BARRET *Theor. Warres* 69 Any troupe of shot, hauing no stand of pikes to succour them. 1647 CLARENDON *Hist. Reb.* VII. § 89 Major general Chudleigh..himself advanced, with a good stand of pikes, upon that party which was led by sir John Berkely. 1819 SCOTT *Leg. Montrose* xiv, And, comrade, you will be sure to keep your musketeers in advance of your stand of pikes.

transf. 1598 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* I. iii. 843 The seed, to shut the wastefull Sparrows out, (In Harvest) hath a stand of Pikes about. *c* 1650 DENHAM *Of Old Age* III. 118 Drawn up in rancks, and files, the bearded spikes Guard it from birds as with a stand of pikes.

25. A drove or stud (of horses). ? *Obs.*

1721 P. H. *View 2 late Parlts.* 256 A milk-white virgin Palfrey was chosen out of the best Stands, to mount this Undefiled Prophet on.

26. *Sporting.* An assemblage or group (of certain game birds).

1881 J. P. MAHAFFY in *Academy* 20 Aug. 133/3 But the

bird is then always solitary..and never in stands, as sportsmen call them. 1882 BLACK *Shandon Bells* iii, Fitzgerald knew a great deal..about the habits of a 'stand' of golden plover.

†**27.** *slang.* A thief's assistant who stands on watch. *Obs.*

1591 GREENE *Conny Catching* II. Wks. (Grosart) X. 128 The Black Arte is picking of Lockes, and to this busie trade two persons are required, the Charme and the Stand: the Charm is he that doth the feate, and the Stand is he that watcheth. *Ibid.* III. 157 A game, qd. he to his fellows, marke the stand. 1622 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Water-Cormorant* D 2 b, He..Liues like a Gentleman, by sleight of hand; Can play the Foist, the Nip, the Stale, the Stand.

28. A young tree left standing for timber.

1787 W. H. MARSHALL *Norfolk* (1795) II. 389 *Stands.* Young Timber-trees under six inches timber girt, or twenty-four inches in circumference. 1823 E. MOOR *Suffolk Words*, *Stand* is also a young tree, unpolled.

29. *U.S.* A standing growth or crop (of wheat, cotton, etc.).

1868 *Rep. U. S. Commissioner Agric.* (1869) 414 In the gullies and clayey places the stand [of wheat] was injured. 1887 *Century Mag.* Nov. 111/2 By the middle of April there should be a good 'stand' of the young sprouts [of sugar cane]. 1904 *Daily Record & Mail* 11 May 5 Reports of poor stands in the early planted cotton continue.

†**30.** A standing water. *Obs. rare*—[1].

[Possibly an error for, or etymologizing corruption of, *stang*, STANK *sb.*]

1612 *Benvenuto's Passenger* I. ii. 201 Not corrupted by the fogs, nor vapours of lakes, stands, marrishes [It. *laghi, stagni, e paludi*], caues, durt, nor dust.

31. *attrib.* and *Comb.*: **a.** simple attrib., as *standholder, stand man, stairs, ticket.*

1887 *Daily News* 29 June 2/7 The London Grocery and Provision Exchange...There are already 140 *standholders. 1860 MAYNE REID *Hunters' Feast* xxiii, The '*stand men' remain quiet, with their guns in readiness. 1852 R. S. SURTEES *Sponge's Sp. Tour* (1893) 375 He swung down the *stand stairs, rushed to his horse, and..struck across country. 1874 J. A. THOMSON *Remin.* (1904) II. iv. 105 As to the stand at Ascot..you can have the satisfaction of giving me a *stand-ticket.

b. Special comb., some of which may be combinations of the verb-stem: †**stand bed,** = *standing bed* (see STANDING *ppl. a.*); †**stand board** *Sc.*, a standing table, as opposed to a folding one (Jam.); **stand camera,** a camera for use on a tripod or other stand, as distinguished from a hand camera; **stand cask** *U.S.*, a cask for spirits to be set up and drawn from on the premises of a liquor dealer (*Funk's Stand. Dict.* 1895); **stand cock** = STAND-PIPE; **stand development** *Photogr.* (see quot.); †**stand-fight** (*nonce-wd.*), a hand-to-hand encounter (cf. *fight of stand* in sense 1 above); **stand-hand,** in the card-game of Napoleon, the player who 'stands' (see STAND *v.* 13) or declares how many tricks he will play for; **stand hawk** *dial.* (see quot.); **stand-heck** *Sc.* and *north.* = HECK *sb.*[1] 3; **stand-house,** the grand stand of a race-course with the buildings attached to it; †**stand ladder,** a step ladder; †**stand mail** *Sc.*, rent paid for a stand in a market; †**stand measure** *Sc.*, standard measure; **stand-rest** (see quot.); †**stand watch,** a guard of sentries. Also STAND-PIPE.

1489 *Acta Audit.* (1839) 132/1 For the w*haldin fra him of a hors & harnes,..a *stand bed, a pot [etc.]. 1658 *Knaresb. Wills* (Surtees) II. 243, 1 stand bed which I lye in. 1580 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* III. 320 In the hall, thre *stand burdis sett on brandirs with thair furmes. 1892 *Photogr. Aun.* II. 280 Hand cameras..have appeared in battalions, although there is but little change to report in *stand cameras. 1844 *Civil Engin. & Arch. Jrnl.* VII. 86/1 The first experiment took place..by having lengths of..hose..attached to 6 *standcocks, placed into plugs. 1906 *Westm. Gaz.* 30 June 14/2 *Stand development, a method by which, say, a dozen plates may be developed together. Stand development is usually associated with the use of very dilute solutions, and subjecting the plates to these for an increased time. *c* 1611 CHAPMAN *Iliad* III. 258 Castor, the skilfull knight on horse, and Pollux, vncontrold For all *stand fights, and force of hand. 1884 *Encycl. Brit.* XVII. 229/1 If the *stand-hand succeeds in making at least the number of tricks he stood for he wins. 1885 SWAINSON *Provinc. Names Birds* 140 Kestrel (*Tinnunculus alaudarius*)...From its well-known habit of..hovering and poising itself over a particular spot, are derived the names *Stand hawk (West Riding) [etc.]. 1570 *Richmond Wills* (Surtees) 229 One *stand hecke. 1576 *Ibid.* (Surtees) 260, ij stand hecks. 1620 [see HECK *sb.*[1] 3]. 1731 *Inventory of G. Bamforth, Sheffield,* Stand hecks. 1856 MORTON *Cycl. Agric.* II. 726/1 *Stand-heck* (Yorks.), a rack for straw in a farm-yard. 1859 LEVER *Dav. Dunn* lvi, You must be declared winner at the *stand-house before you have been seen on the ground. 1902 *Daily Chron.* 29 Apr. 7/1 Charles II..built a stand house, or what we should now call a grand stand [at Newmarket]. 1721 MORTIMER *Husb.* (ed. 2) I. 194 If they [hop-binds] forsake the Poles, a *Stand-Ladder is very useful in tying them up again. 1603 *Reg. Mag. Sig. Scot.* 515/1 With..*standmaillis baith of the land mercat, meill merket and clayth merket, with all uther custumes. 1654 *Extracts Rec. Convent. Burghs Scot.* (1878) III. 388 For ilk stand maill of ane daill length one thair weiklie mercat dayes, ttelue penyes. 1586 *Ibid.* (1882) IV. 475 As agreand to the awld and greitt *stand mesoure of this burgh. 1882 OGILVIE, *Stand-rest,* a kind of stool which supports a person behind while standing almost in an upright position at a desk, an easel, &c. 1579 DIGGES *Stratioticos* 100 It were requisite that a *stande watch be maintayned within and about the Ordinance.

Stand (stænd), *sb.*[2] *Obs.* exc. *dial.* Also 3–5 **stonde,** 4–5 **stoond(e,** 6 **stande** (6 *pl.* **stannes**). [a. or cognate with (M)LG. *stande,* Flem. *stande* (16th c. in Kilian; mod. WFlem. in De Bo) = OHG. *stanta, standa* wk. fem. (MHG., mod.G. dial. *stande* fem.); f. the root of STAND *v.*]

1. An open tub; a barrel set on end.

c 1250 *Death* 110 in *O. E. Misc.* 174 Hwer is þi bred and þin ale, þi tunne and þine stonde. *a* 1390 WYCLIF *Jer.* lii. 19 Stoondis [1382 stenes, 1388 watir pottis, Vulg. *hydrias*]. *c* 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* I. 1051 Or make an hyue of boordis lyk a stonde [L. *more cuparum*]. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 477/1 Stonde vessel (*v.rr.* ston vessel, stoonde vessel), *futula, cumula* [etc.]. *c* 1490 *5th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* 445/2 Two stondys full of ale each of them conteyning 13 galons. 1559 in Nichols *Progr. Eliz.* (1823) I. 71 Item, for a stande of small ale 2s. od. 1582 *Inventory R. Best* in *Best's Farm. Bks.* (Surtees) 172 One gialfatte, 3 stannes 3 s. 1588 *Marprel. Epist.* (Arb.) 38 At length sir Jefferie bethought him of a feat whereby he might both visit the alestond and also keepe his othe. 1594 LYLY *Mother Bombie* II. v, My wag-halter..shall learne the oddes betweene a stand and a hogs-head. 1603 DEKKER *Wonderf. Yeare* Wks. (Grosart) I. 124 The Tapster..rapping out fiue or sixe plaine Country oathes, that hee would drowne himselfe in a most villanous Stand of Ale. 1673 SHADWELL *Epsom-Wells* I. 8, I have the rarest stand of Ale to drink out in the afternoon, with three or four honest Country fellows. 1679 *Lett. Gentl. Romish Rel. to his Brother* 28 That he may have leave to meet some few Neighbours to dust a stand of Ale. 1775 ADAIR *Amer. Ind.* 395 All his war store of provisions consisted in three stands of barbicued venison. *a* 1791 *Tom Line* xxxiv. in Child *Ballads* I. 344 First dip me in a stand o milk, And then a stand o water. 1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss., Stand,* a large barrel set on end under a spout for the purpose of receiving rain-water. 1899 DICKENSON & PREVOST *Cumbld. Gloss., Stand,* the large washing tub in which the dolly is worked.

b. Comb.: †**standfat** = prec.

1593 *Wills & Inv. N. C.* (Surtees) II. 229 In the new house. One leade, ij standfattes, j troughe.

2. A certain weight (of pitch, coal).

1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), *Stand of Burgundy-Pitch,* (in Merchandize) a quantity from two and a half to three Hundred Weight. 1729 SWIFT *Lett. Irish Coal* 4 Aug., Wks. 1824 VII. 222 The common rate of the Kilkenny coal, at the pits, is sixteen pence the stand; the stand is five hundred, one quarter weight. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade, Stond,*..a weight for pitch of 2½ to 3 cwt.

Stand (stænd), *v.* Forms: see below. [A Com. Teut. strong verb, in most of the Teut. langs. more or less defective, certain parts being supplied by a synonymous defective verb from the same ultimate root (see below). The OE. *standan* (*stondan*), pa. t. *stōd, stōdon,* pa. pple. *gestanden,* corresponds to OFris. *stōnda,* pa. t. pl. *stōdon,* pa. pple. *stenden*; OS. *standan,* pa. t. *stōd* (*stuod*), *stōdun* (*stuodun*), pa. pple. *-standan*; MLG. imp. *stant,* pa. t. *stōt, stōden,* also nasalized *stunt, stunden* (mod.LG. pa. t. *stund, stunden*); MDu. *standen,* pa. t. *stond, stonden,* Flem. *stoet, stoeden,* pa. pple. †*gestanden* (mod.Du. pa. t. *stond, stonden*); OHG. *stantan,* pa. t. *stuont,* pl. *stuondum, -stuotun,* pa. pple. *-stantan* (MHG. inf. rare *standen,* pa. t. *stuont,* pa. pple. *gestanden*; mod.G. imp. †*stand,* pa. t. *stand,* pl. *standen,* earlier †*stund*(e etc., pl. †*stunden* etc., pa. pple. *gestanden*); ON. *standa,* pa. t. *stōð,* pl. *stōðom,* pa. pple. *staðenn* (Norw. *standa,* pa. t. *stod,* pa. pple. *stadet, stande* etc.; MSw. *standa,* pa. t. *stōþ,* pl. *stōpo,* pa. pple. *standin,* also *staþin*; mod.Sw. pa. t. *stod,* pl. *stodo,* pa. pple. *stånden*; Da. †*stande, stonde,* pa. t. *stod,* pl. *stode,* pa. pple. †*standet*); Goth. *standan,* pa. t. *stōþ,* pl. *stōþum* (pa. pple. unrecorded).

In OTeut. the forms of the verb were probably as follows: pres.-stem *stand-,* perfect sing. *stōþ-,* plural *stōđ-*; formed, with suffix *-nd-* (:—pre-Teut. *-nt-*) in the present-stem, and-*þ-, đ* (:—pre-Teut. *-t-*) in the perfect stem, on the root **sta-* : *stō-*:—Indogermanic **st(h)ə-* : *st(h)ā-,* found in all branches of the family exc. Armenian and Albanian with the senses 'to stand', 'to cause to stand': cf. Skr. *sthā* (pres. ind. *tiṣṭhati,* inf. *sthātum*), Avestic *hištaiti,* Gr. ἵστάναι, L. *stāre, sistĕre,* Lith. *stoju* I set myself, OSl. *stojati, stati,* OIrish *táu, tó* I am (:—OCeltic **stāō*).

In Ger. and Du. the *n* of the present stem has within historical times passed into the pa. t. The pa. pple., which this vb. prob. did not possess in OTeut., has been variously supplied in the different langs.: the type **staðono-,* which conforms to the general rule of the *a, ō* conjugation, is represented in ON., Norw., MSw.; the other Teut. langs., so far as they do not take their pa. pple. from the shorter form of the verb (see below) have a formation based on the present stem, as in OE. *(ge)standen.* In English the regular form of the pa. pple., *standen* (with the variants *stande,* etc.) continued until the 16th c., when its place was taken by *stood* from the pa. t. A few examples of a weak form *standed* occur in writings of the 16th c.; in compounds (*understanded, withstanded*) this formation was less rare, and survived into the 17th c.

In all the Teut. langs. exc. English, Gothic, and Old Norse, the present stem has a shorter form, the OTeut. type of which varies between **stai-* and **stǣ-* (WGer. **stā-*); in some of the langs. this is used exclusively, and in others along with the longer form **stand-*. In some of the languages the earlier form of pa. pple. has been wholly or partially superseded by a new formation from the shorter present stem. The dialectal range of the shorter type will appear from the following list of typical forms (minor variations being omitted): OS. inf. *stān* (rare; MLG. inf. *stān,* pa. pple. *gestān*; mod.LG. inf. *staan,* pa. pple. *staan*), OLow Frankish inf. *stân* (MDu. inf. *staen,* 3 pres. ind. *staet, steet,* pa. pple. *gestaen*; mod.Du. inf. *staan,* pa. pple. *gestaan*); OFris. inf. *stān, stēn,* 3 pres. ind. *steet,* pa. pple. *stēn* (WFris. inf., 1 pres. ind. *stean*); OHG. inf. *stān, stēn* (MHG. inf. *stān, stēn,* mod.G. *stehen, stehn*); MSw. inf. *stå* (mod.Sw. *stå,* pa. pple. wk. *stådd*); Da. inf. *staa,* pa. pple. *staaet*; Norw. inf. *staa,* pres. *staar, stær.*

The remarkable parallel between the verbal stems **stǣ-, stai-, stand-* and **gǣ-, gai-, gang-* (see GO, GANG *vbs.*) strongly suggests that one of the two series has been assimilated to the other. The relation between the two, however, and the precise mode of formation of the shorter verbal stems from the roots, is very uncertain. For an outline of the different views, with references, see *Deutsches Wb.* ('Grimm') X. II. 1433.]

A. Illustration of Forms.

1. *Infinitive* (and Present stem). *α.* 1–2 **standan,** 3 *Orm.* **stanndenn,** 3–5 (7 *arch.*) **standen,** 4 **stan, standd,** 4–6 **stande,** (*mod. dial.* **stan**), 4– **stand.**

c 888 ÆLFRED *Boeth.* xxxvi. § 3 Her ic wille nu standan fæste. *c* 1220 *Bestiary* 655 Hopeð he sal him don ut standen. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 10956 He..sagh an angel be him stand [*Gött.* standd]. *Ibid.* 23043 Þe formast rau sal stan him nere. 1642 H. MORE *Song of Soul* II. I. iii. 20 What things decay and cannot standen sure.

β. 1 **stondan,** 2–5 **stonden,** (4–5 **-yn**), 2–6 **stonde,** 4–5 **stonnd(e, stoond(en,** 5 **ston, stone,** 4–7 **stond.**

c 825 *Vesp. Psalter* xvii. 39 Ne hie maȝun stondan. *c* 1220 *Bestiary* 621 In water ȝe sal stonden. 1382 WYCLIF *Gen.* xxi. 29 The which thow hast maad stoond [1388 stonde] asyde. *a* 1400–50 *Wars Alexander* 681 (Dubl.) As he by hym stonndes. *c* 1449 PECOCK *Repr.* III. xvii. 394 Alle the peple..stoonden in caas of the firste trouthe. 1468 *Cal. Anc. Rec. Dublin* (1889) I. 329 The wiche [covenants] shall stone ferme and stable. 1469 *Yatton Church-w. Acc.* (Somerset Rec. Soc.) 105 Received of a chapman to ston in the porche, ob. 1543 *Star Chamber Cases* (Selden Soc.) II. 261 Others..dyd refuse to stond to part of the covenauntes. 1642 H. MORE *Song of Soul* II. App. 54 A peck of peasen rudely poured out..To sight do in as seemly order stond.

2. *Pres. Indic.* (special forms). **a.** *2nd sing.* 3 **stonst, stondes,** 4 **standes,** 6 *Sc.* (*erron.*) **stant.**

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 236 Iðet tentaciun þet tu stonst ayean. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 2782 Þu stondes seli stede up-on. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 903 And þou, womman, þat standes her. 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* lxxxviii. 11 Imperiall as thou stant [*rime* Troynouaunt].

b. *3rd sing.* (contr.). 1–5 **stent,** 1, 3–5 **stond,** 2–4 **stand,** 2–5 **stont,** 3 **stænt, stend, steond, stunt,** 3–6 **stant,** (3 *Orm.* **stannt**), 4 **standt,** 4–5 **stante, stande, stonte, stonde,** 6 **standth.**

c 888 ÆLFRED *Boeth.* xxxix. § 2 Sio unsælð stent on yfelra monna ȝeearnunga. *c* 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* III. 32 Stond heo wið attre. *c* 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 175 He..ne stont neure on one stede. *c* 1205 LAY. 4330 Nu stond [*c* 1275 steond] al þis muchele lond a Bailenes aȝere hond. *Ibid.* 15623 stunt. *Ibid.* 18850 stænt. *c* 1220 *Bestiary* 1 Þe leun stant on hille. 1362 LANGL. *P. Pl.* A. x. 129 Þorw wedlac þe world stont. 1382 WYCLIF *Numb.* v. 18 Whanne the womman stondith [*v.rr.* stonte, stonde] in the siȝt of the Lord. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* II. 302 Or elles time com noght yit, Which standt upon thi destine. *c* 1420 *Chron. Vilod.* 3548 Ryȝt as hit stonte ȝet in-to þis same day. 1426 LYDG. *De Guil. Pilgr.* 4956 In the corner that stent lowe. 1471 CAXTON *Recuyell* (Sommer) 177 In the place where now stante the capytole of rome. *c* 1557 ABP. PARKER *Ps.* xlv. 132 As mete it stant. 1562 J. HEYWOOD *Prov. & Epigr.* (1867) 184 He standth well in his owne conceyte.

3. *Past Indic.* **a.** *sing.* 1 **stód,** 2–5 **stod,** 3 **stot,** 4 **stoed,** 4–6 **stode, stoode,** 5 **stodde,** 6 **stoade, stoud,** 3– **stood**; *north.* and *Sc.* 4–9 **stud(e,** 5–9 **stuid,** 6 **studd, stuide.**

Beowulf 1570 Leoht inne stod. *c* 1200 ORMIN 3340 Þatt enngell comm & stod hemm bi. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 432 Wið dead him stood hinke and aȝe. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 1852 Þe streme it stud [*Gött.* stod, stode] ai still in-an. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Prol.* 555 A werte, and ther on stood a toft of herys. *a* 1400 *St. Alexius* 439 (Laud 463) Out of his mouþ þer stoed a leom. *c* 1420 *Chron. Vilod.* 2160 Hurre modur stodde stylle. 1503 DUNBAR *Thistle & Rose* 97 On feild of gold he stude full mychtely. 1576 LAMBARDE *Peramb. Kent.* 92 While Priams state, and kingdome vpright stoade. 1595 in *Cath. Rec. Soc. Publ.* V. 289 [He] stoud to it manfully. 1611 SIR W. MURE *Misc. Poems* ii. 11, I stuid astonisch'd. 1789 BURNS *Laddies by Banks o' Nith* ii, The day he stude his country's friend.

b. *pl.* 1 **stódun, -on,** 1–2 **-an,** 2–5 **stoden,** 3 *Orm.* **stodenn,** 3–6 **stode,** 4–5 **stodyn, stooden, stod,** 4–6 **stoude,** 4–7 **stoode,** 7 **stowed** (sense B. 36), 4– **stood**; *north.* and *Sc.* as *sing.*

Beowulf 328 Garas stodon. *a* 1000 *Guthlac* 696 Ȝearwe stodun hæftas hearsume. *a* 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 2033 As ha stoden & seten þer abuten. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 3622 Þe saxons in hor syde stode [*v. r.* stoden] euere aȝen vaste. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* XIV. 174 Thai stude with baneris all displayit. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Clerk's T.* 1049 Of hem þat stooden [*v.rr.* stoden, stodyn] hire bisyde. 1557 in *Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* Var. Coll. IV. 223 The said writynges obligatorie wher in they stoude bounden. *a* 1578 LINDESAY (Pitscottie) *Chron. Scot.* (S.T.S.) I. 111 Thir men that stud about him. 1633 [see B. 36].

4. *Present Participle.* 1 **standende**, 1–4 **stondende**, 3 **stondinde**, 5 **-and(e**; *north.* and *Sc.* 4 **stan(n)and**, 4–5 **standande**, 4–6 **standand**, 5 **standdand**, 6 **standant**; 4–5 **stondeynge**, 5 **-eng**, 4–6 **standyng(e**, **stonding**, **stondyng(e**, 6 **standeng**, 4– **standing**.

c 900 *Bæda's Hist.* IV. iv. 571 þa stondendan munecas þær. *c* 1000 *Ags. Gosp.* xx. 6 He..funde oþre standende. *a* 1225 Stondinde [see B 1]. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 4062 Hys breþer schaues he sagh lutand Til his allan þat was standand. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* ii. (Paul) 1034, & fand a multytud wele greit of Iowis, stanand at his yhat. 1382 WYCLIF *Ecclus.* l. 13 And he stondende biside the auter. *c* 1440 *Alphabet of Tales* 389 He contynued iij yere in his prayers, and all-way standdand. 1549 *Compl. Scot.* i. 20 At this tyme ther is nocht ane stane standant on ane vthir. *a* 1578 LINDESAY (Pitscottie) *Chron. Scot.* (S.T.S.) I. 188 Thair they fand the doore standand oppin.

5. *Past Participle.* 1–6 **standen**, 1–5 **stonden**, 2–5 **istonde**, 3 **istonden**, 3–5 **ystonde**, 4–5 **istounde**, **standyn(e**, 4–6 **stand(e**, **stond(e**, 5–6 **stondyn**; 6 **standed**, **stoode**, **stode** (*Sc.* and *north. dial.* **stooden**, **studden**), 6– **stood**.

a 1122 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1070 In þære cyrce..þet ær hæfde standen fulle seofeniht for utan ælces cynnes riht. *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 47 þa he hefede þer ane hwile istonde. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 9193 þe tune o niniue..þat standen [*vvrr.* stondyn, stonden] had..Fourten hundret yeir. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Merch. T.* 250, I haue stonden in ful greet degree. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 178 Hath standed & stedfastly perseuered therin. *c* 1530 *Judic. Urines* I. ii. 3 Whan it hath well rested & stondyn. 1535 COVERDALE *Ps.* cv. 23 Had not Moses..stonde before him. 1577 GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* IV. (1586) 184 b, The waxe will be verie white after it hath stand in the sunne. 1579 Stode [see B. 72 d]. 1579 J. FIELD tr. *Calvin's 4 Serm.* I. 6 This article is much stoode vpon. 1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* I. VI. 310 Because stoutlie they had stande with him in his defence.

B. Signification and uses.

I. Of persons and animals, in lit. and fig. senses.

1. *intr.* To assume or maintain an erect attitude on one's feet (with distinction, expressed or understood, from *sit*, *lie*, *kneel*, etc.).

c 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* John xx. 14 *Videt Iesum stantem* gesæh one hælend stondende. *c* 1205 LAY. 5863 Lihteð of eowre blanken and stondeð on eowre sconken. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 34 Sigged stondinde þesne psalm. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 3149 Sod and girt, stondende, and staf on hond. *c* 1330 *Arth. & Merl.* 9276 Arthour, he seyd, þi kinde it nis To stond o fot. 1382 WYCLIF *2 Kings* xiii. 21 The man quyckened azeyn, and stode vpon his feet. *c* 1400 *Rule St. Benet* (Prose) 16 Standande alle for þe onur of the holy trinite. *Ibid.*, þan sal alle stande for þe reuerence. 1529 RASTELL *Pastyme* (1811) 43 He ordeynid that men shuld stand while the gospell was reding. 1577 GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* 141 The shepheard..must be well ware in the driuing of them,..that they neyther lye, nor sitte: for yf they goe not forwarde, they must stand. 1594 HOOKER *Eccl. Pol.* IV. xiii. § 7 On all the Sundayes..their manner was to stand [*sc.* instead of kneeling] at prayer. 1610 SHAKS. *Temp.* III. ii. 47 Kneele, and repeate it, I will stand, and so shall Trinculo. 1629 WADSWORTH *Pilgr.* iii. 16 When they have ended the meale, the Rector..stands and sayes Grace. 1830 *Forrester* II. III Sit down, Ellen..see, you are keeping Lord Borrodale and Mr. Beamish standing. 1862 C. KNIGHT *Pop. Hist. Eng.* VIII. xvi. 299 He kept the two peers standing, contrary to usage, during their audience.

b. said of the feet.

c 825 *Vesp. Psalter* cxxi. 2 Stondende werun foet ure in ceafurtunum ðinum. *c* 1391 CHAUCER *Astrol.* II. § 42 a. 57 Whan þou seest þe top of þe tour, sett a prikke þere-as þi foot stont. *c* 1430 *Prymer* (1895) 45 We schulen worschipe in þe place where hise feet stoden. 1535 COVERDALE *Ps.* cxxi. 2 Oure fete shal stonde in thy gates, O Jerusalem.

c. *To stand to*, *up to*, †*in to the knees* (or other specified part): to stand *in* water, mud, etc. which reaches to the knees (or other part).

c 1330 *Arth. & Merl.* 5195 In blod he stode..Of hors & man in to þe anclowe. *c* 1425 AUDELAY *Pains of Hell* 68 in *O. E. Misc.* 212 Sum stod vp to þe kne, And sum to þe armes a lytil lazghere, And sum to þe lippis moche deppere. 1590 SIR J. SMYTHE *Disc. Weapons* Ded. 10 b, Where their souldiors in their watches and centinels stoode to the mid legges in dirt and myre.

d. With predicate: To be of a (specified) height when holding oneself upright. Said also of quadrupeds, etc.

1831 YOUATT *Horse* ii. 10 The Dongola horses stand full sixteen hands high. 1835 DICKENS *Sk. Boz*, *Mr. Watkins Tottle* i, He..stood four feet six inches and three-quarters in his socks. 1855 TENNYSON *Maud* I. XIII. i, Six foot two, as I think, he stands. 1884 *Graphic* 30 Aug. 219/2 He [the elephant] only stands five feet high. 1889 F. C. PHILIPS & WILLS *Fatal Phryne* I. 4 He only stood five feet ten in his stockings.

2. Used *fig.* in many phrases with literal wording; as *to stand on one's own feet* or *legs*, *upon a* (specified) †*foot* or *footing*, *not to have a leg to stand on*, *to stand in a person's* or *one's own light* (see LIGHT *sb.* 1 g), *in* (another person's) *shoes* (see SHOE *sb.* 2 k), *in the way* (*of* a person or thing: see WAY *sb.*).

c 1330 *Arth. & Merl.* 9271 Al þat in his way stode, He bi-heueded hem & lete hem blode. ?*c* 1450 LYDG. *Fl. Courtesy* 85 The whiche twayne ay stondeth in my wey Maliciously. *a* 1568 ASCHAM *Scholem.* I. (Arb.) 34 [They] stand by other mens feete, and not by their own. 1623 MASSINGER *Dk. Milan* II. i, The Duke stands now on his owne legs, and needs No nurse to leade him. 1666, 1818 [see LEG *sb.* 2 c]. 1738 SWIFT *Pol. Conversat.* Introd. 66 Upon what Foot I stand with the present chief reigning Wits. 1767 [see SHOE *sb.* 2 k]. 1831 SCOTT *Nigel* Introd., The footing on which the bullies and thieves of the Sanctuary stood with their neighbours. 1872 H. KINGSLEY *Hornby Mills*, etc. I. 65 I cannot at present see that we have a leg to stand on. 1893 *Law Jrnl.* 4 Feb. 88/1 Courts of equity would not grant relief to under lessees unless they consented to stand in the shoes of the original lessees. 1893 *Nat. Observer* 7 Oct. 529/2 Cricket and football stand not upon the same footing.

3. Of a horse: To be kept in a stable or stall. Phr. *To stand at livery* (see LIVERY I c and *fig.*).

1465 *Paston Lett.* II. 254 As touching a stabil, Sir John Sparham and I have gote yow on ther your hors stode the last tyme ye were in this town. 1482 *Cely Papers* (Camden) 122 Lette hym [a horse] ron in a parke tyll Hallowtyd and then take hym wpe and ser hym and lette hym stand in the dede of whyntter. 1538 ELYOT *Dict.*, *Stabulo*, to stande as cattayle dothe in a stable. 1577 GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* 120 Laying fresh litter, so as they stand hard. 1607 TOPSELL *Fourf. Beasts* 374 Bring him into the stable, and ther let him stand on the bit..the space of two houres. 1676 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1072/4 Gentlemens Accompts, for Horses standing in the Kings Head near Charing-cross. 1828 DARVILL *Race Horse* I. x. 240 The race-course, at Richmond..is the most convenient for horses which stand in the town to sweat over. 1892 *Field* 2 April 469/3 A horse standing at livery would always have the best of food.

4. To remain motionless on one's feet; to cease walking or moving on. More explicitly *to stand fast*, *still*, etc.: see esp. STILL *adv.*

c 888 ÆLFRED *Boeth.* XXXV. § 7 Wildu dior ðær woldon to irnan & stondan swilce hi tamu wæren. *Ibid.* XXXVI. § 3 Her ic wille nu standan fæste; nelle ic nu næfre hionon. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 17131 Duell a quile and fond to stan, Bi-hald mi fote, bi-hald mi hand. *c* 1300 *K. Horn* 745 (Laud MS.) Ne stod he nowt to longe And 3yede forþ ricte To reymyld þe bricte. 1362 LANGL. *P. Pl. A.* IV. 143 [They] stareden for studiing and stooden as Bestes. *c* 1475 *Rauf Coilzear* 121 Quhen thay come to the dure, the King begouth to stand. 1611 BIBLE *Ezek.* i. 21, 24 When those went, these went, and when those stood, these stood. 1615 CHAPMAN *Odyss.* VI. 202 All but Nausicaa fled; but she fast stood. 1842 BROWNING *Pied Piper* xiii, The Mayor was dumb, and the Council stood As if they were changed into blocks of wood, Unable to move a step.

b. In imper., a command to come to a halt, e. g. as a sentry's challenge, a command to a horse, a highwayman's order to his victim (also *stand and deliver!*).

1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* VIII. iii. 38 To tham he callis: Stand, 3ing men, How! 1591 SHAKS. *Two Gent.* IV. i. 3 Stand sir, and throw vs that you haue about'ye. 1592 — *Ven. & Ad.* 284 What recketh he his riders angrie sturre, His flattering holla, or his stand, I say? 1598 BARRET *Theor. Warres* IV. i. 103 Neither Captaine, Alferes, nor any other officer to passe the word, *stand*..vnlesse the necessitie be so vrgent [etc.]. 1635 *Long Meg of Westminster* ix. (1816) 17 One of the theeues with a good sword and buckler stept before, and said, Stand. 1714 A. SMITH *Lives Highwaymen* (ed. 2) I. 38 He order'd him to Stand and Deliver. 1727 H. BLAND *Milit. Discipl.* xii. 175 The Centinel..when he is answer'd by the Sergeant who attends the Round..is to say, *Stand Round*...No Round is to advance after the Centinel has Challeng'd and order'd them to stand. 1810 SCOTT *Lady of L.* V. xviii, 'Stand, Bayard, stand!'—the steed obeyed. 1821 — *Kenilw.* xxiv, Are we commanded to stand and deliver on the King's highway? 1897 *Encycl. Sport* I. 610/1 (Lacrosse) The ball is dead when the referee calls 'stand'.

c. *Hunting.* Of a dog: To point. Const. *upon* (game).

1823 'JON BEE' *Dict. Turf* s.v., 'To *Stand* is also the position of pointers when they perceive their game. 1858 LEWIS in *Yonatt's Dog* (N.Y.) ii. 53 He [the dog] might have been tutored..even sufficiently well to stand upon game.

5. With predicative extension: To remain erect on one's feet in a specified place, occupation, position, condition, etc.

For many phrases, e. g. *stand at attention*, *at ease*, *at gaze*, *on one's own bottom*, (*on*) *tiptoe*, *perdu*, *upright*, see the various words.

c 1000 *Ags. Gosp.* Matt. xx. 3 He ʒeseah oþre on stræte idele standan. *c* 1200 ORMIN 141 & all þe follc þær ute stod þatt while onn heore bene. 1297 R. GLOUC. 6816 A witesoneday as seint edward at is masse stod. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* III. 297 A Fisshere..sih a man ther naked stonde. 1530 PALSGR. 732/2, I Stande a strydlyng with my legges abrode. 1554 MACHYN *Diary* (Camden) 75 The xxiij day of November was a man and a woman stode on the pelery. 1678 J. S. *Unerrable Church* 327 When you stood with one foot in the grave. 1721 N. BLUNDELL *Diary* (1895) 93, I saw Peter Slinhead stand in ye Pillery at Leverp[ool]. 1786 tr. *Beckford's Vathek* (1883) 118 The woodmen..stood aghast at the command of Carathis to set forward. 1878 BROWNING *La Saisiaz* 5 At last I stand upon the summit.

b. With inf. expressing the purposed or accompanying action.

c 1000 *Ags. Gosp.* Mark xi. 25 Þonne ʒe standað eow to gebiddenne. *c* 1200 ORMIN 3894 Enngless stanndenn a33 occ a33 To lofenn Godd & wurrþenn. 1591 NASHE *Prognost.* D 2, Diuerse spirites in white sheetes shall stand in Poules.. to make their confessions. 1630 in Binnell *Descr. Thames* (1758) 72 No Trinck shall stand to fish above nine Tides in the Week. 1643 in *Fasti Aberd.* (1854) 422 [The college porter] shall suffer no children..to stand neir the yeat to mack urine. 1742 GRAY *Eton* 58 Ah, shew them where in ambush stand To seize their prey the murth'rous band! 1813 SCOTT *Triermn.* I. xiii, Upon the watch-towers airy round No warder stood his horn to sound. 1850 'BAT' *Cricket Man.* 44 Long Leg..usually stands to save four runs. 1891 HARDY *Tess* lii, While the horses stood to stale and breathe themselves.

c. The accompanying action is often expressed by a verb in co-ordination, *to stand and* (do something).

So in many Bible passages, rendered literally from the Vulgate or the original.

c 1000 ÆLFRIC *Exod.* xiv. 13 Standað and ʒeseoð drihtnes mærða. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 1019 Abraham stod and quamede hem wel. 1426 LYDG. *De Guil. Pilgr.* 4407 As a chaumberere, The syxte gate I stonde & kepe. 1601 SHAKS. *Jul. C.* IV. iii. 249 So please you, we will stand, And watch your pleasure. *c* 1655 MILTON *Sonn.* xvi, They also serve who only stand and waite. 1842 TENNYSON *St. Sim. Styl.* 34, I ..sometimes saw An angel stand and watch me, as I sang. 1905 R. BAGOT *Passport* ii. 7 Don Agostino stood and gazed.

d. With pres. pple. as predicate.

a 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 743 Heo stod hercnende. 1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* IX. XXVII. 381 They stode thus talkynge at a bay wyndowe. 1566 *Pasquine in Traunce* 83 After I had stande a whyle diligently beholding such as entred in. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Past.* VIII. 4 The salvage Linxes listning stood. 1737 [S. BERINGTON] *G. de Lucca's Mem.* (1738) 32 It was a Shame to stand all Day firing at five Men. 1842 MACAULAY *Horatius* lx, Friends and foes in dumb surprise..Stood gazing where he sank.

e. With sb. as predicate, e. g. *to stand sentinel*, *sentry* (see SENTINEL *sb.* 1, SENTRY *sb.*[1] 2), *umpire*. *To stand model*, to pose to artists. *To stand pad*: see PAD *sb.*[2]

1866 *Routledge's Ev. Boy's Ann.* 322 [He] had consented to stand umpire. 1890 *Cornhill Mag.* Sept. 253 She has stood model to her mother's lodgers. 1890 *Universal Rev.* 15 Nov. 452 I've stood model in all the studios worth naming in London. 1898 J. A. GIBBS *Cotswold Village* xi. 229 His eldest son, Tom..generally stands umpire.

6. In various specific uses, contextual or arising from ellipsis:

a. To take up a position for fishing (*for*). In full, *to stand to fish* (cf. 5 b).

1630 in Binnell *Descr. Thames* (1758) 72 No Trincker shall stand for Smelts till the 21st Day of October...In Lent Time, they may stand every Day.

b. *Cricket* and other games: To act as umpire in the field. (Cf. 5 e.)

1846 W. DENISON *Sk. Players* Ded. 5 In almost every [cricket] match..where the Mary-le-bone, or equally .. impartial umpires do not stand. 1906 A. E. KNIGHT *Compl. Cricketer* vi. 195 No umpire who is the nominee of a particular county is eligible to stand in a game in which that county figures.

7. With an adverb or advb. phr. implying change of place, distance, or the like, there often enters in the notion of movement as a preliminary to the static position; e. g. in *to stand aside*, *back*, *down*, *forward*, *off*, *out*, *out of*, *up* (see branch VII).

c 1520 SKELTON *Magnyf.* 763 Gyue this gentylman rome, syrs, stonde vtter! 1597 SHAKS. *2 Hen. IV*, IV. iv. 116 Stand from him, giue him ayre. 1691 *Humble Addr. Publicans New Eng.* in *Andros Tracts* (1869) II. 236 [At end of Proem] Stand clear, here comes the Address. 1731–8 SWIFT *Pol. Conversat.* 39 Come, pray, stand out of my spitting Place. *a* 1814 *Fam. Politics* V. iii. in *New Brit. Theatre* II. 247 Stand out of the way, Miss. 1852 BURN *Nav. & Milit. Dict.* II. s. v., Stand clear of the cable! 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.*, *Stand from under!* a notice given to those below to keep out of the way of anything being lowered down, or let fall from above.

8. *To stand on one's head*: to take up an acrobatic position, with the crown of the head on the ground and heels in air; also *fig.* (to be ready) to do this as a sign of extreme delight. *Not to know whether one is standing on one's head or one's heels*: to be in a state of utter bewilderment.

1617 MORYSON *Itin.* I. 22 A Tumbler came in, and..stood upon his head. 1816 M. G. LEWIS *Jrnl. W. Ind.* (1834) 127 Cubina..having never heard a harsh word from me before, scarcely knew whether he stood upon his head or his heels. 1833 NYREN *Yng. Cricketer's Tutor* (1902) 58 The glory of this reward made me scarcely to know whether I stood on my head or my heels. 1886 MISS BROUGHTON *Dr. Cupid* II. iv. 103 Two years ago he would have stood on his head with joy at having the chance of going.

9. To remain firm or steady in an upright position, to support oneself erect on one's feet. Often in negative contexts. Also with adj. or adv., as *fast*, *firm*, *stiff*.

c 825 *Vesp. Psalter* xvii. 39 Ic swencu hio ne hie magun stondan. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 24618 On fote vnethes moght i stand, sua lam in lime and lith. 1362 LANGL. *P. Pl.* A. v. 196 He hedde no strengþe to stonde til he his staf hedde. *Ibid.* A. IX. 28 For stonde he neuere so stif he stumbleþ in þe waggyng [of the boat]. 1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* X. XXXVI. 472 This Malgryne..wounded hym wonderly sore that it was merueylle that euer he myghte stande. 1530 PALSGR. 733/1 Stande fast, for and you fall you ar but gone. 1592 in J. Morris *Troubles Cath. Forefathers* Ser. III, (1877) 17 The old man..by cold taken at that being in the hole, was never after able to go or stand. 1681 PRIDEAUX *Lett.* (Camden) 102 When they came unto him for their answer he could scarce speake or stand. 1897 A. E. HOUGHTON *Gilbert Murray* xiv. 230 His feet touched the floor before he knew, and to his amazement he found that he could stand.

b. *fig.* To remain stedfast, firm, secure, or the like. Also with adj. or adv.

c 1200 *Moral Ode* 316 in *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 229 For hit is strong te stonde longe and liht hit is to falle. *a* 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 1861 Beo stalewurðe & stond wel. 1362 LANGL. *P. Pl.* A. IX. 42, He strengþeþ þe to stonde, he sturep þi soule. *c* 1380 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* III. 345 þes monkes stoden awhile, and turneden souner to coveitise. *c* 1421 *26 Pol. Poems* XXI. 67 In goddis dome he stondis stable, þat wrekiþ not all his owen wronges. 1552 HULOET, Stande stiffe or wilfull in opinion, *obstinare*. *c* 1588 in J. Morris *Troubles Cath. Forefathers* Ser. II. (1875) 318 Having heard much of the present..persecution of England and martyrdoms of such as have stood. 1605 BACON *Adv. Learn.* I. iii. § 6 If they stand in seditions and violent alterations. 1687 BILLINGSLY *Brachy-Martyrol.* xi. 35 Though some thus fell away,

others stood fast, Remaining glorious Martyrs to the last. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* III. 99, I made him just and right, Sufficient to have stood, though free to fall. 1697 DRYDEN *Ded. Æneid* (e) 4 They had great success at their first appearance; but, not being of God (as a Wit said formerly), they cou'd not stand. 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xvii. IV. 53 If it had seemed certain that William would stand, they would all have been for William. 1888 *Times* (weekly ed.) 29 June 8/1 They had stood true to the honour of Ireland. 1890 TOUT *Hist. Eng. fr. 1689*, 164 Eldon exhorted the king to stand firm.

c. *To stand or fall*: often used *fig.* of a person or thing, to indicate that his or its fate is contingent on the fate of another person or thing, or must be governed by some event or rule. Const. *with* (a person or thing), *together*, also *by* (a rule, an uncertain event).

1683 D. A. *Art Converse* Pref., It shall stand or fall by your Verdict. 1743 BULKELEY & CUMMINS *Voy. S. Seas* 87 To be governed by the Rules of the Navy, and to stand or fall by them. 1771 *Junius Lett.* lix. 308, I know we must stand or fall together. 1818 CRUISE *Digest* Tit. xxxviii. vi. § 37 The original and duplicate being but one will, they must stand or fall together. 1832 *Examiner* 82/1 We have Lord Grey's pledge to stand or fall with the bill. 1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) I. 402 The pre-existence of the soul stands or falls with the doctrine of ideas. 1885 *Law Times Rep.* LIII. 481/2 In my opinion..the solicitors must stand or fall by the bills they have sent in.

10. To take up an offensive or defensive position against an enemy; to present a firm front; to await an onset and keep one's ground without budging. Of soldiers: To be drawn up in battle array.

Chiefly contextual or with predicative extension, as *to stand and fight*; *to stand fast, firm*, †*adversar*; *to stand at bay, at defiance, in the breach, in*, (†*at*, †*on*) *defence, on* or *upon one's guard, on* or *upon the defensive* or *offensive*. See also *stand against* (67), *stand before* (69).

971 *Blickl. Hom.* 225 Ic mid þinum wæpnum getrymed on þinum feþan fæste stande. *c* 1205 LAY. 1601 Nes þer nan swa stæðeli þat lengore mihte stonden. 13.. *Guy Warw.* 6751 Per he [the boar] stod at a bay. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Clerk's T.* 1139 Ye Archiwyues, stondeth at defense. *c* 1470 *Gol. & Gaw.* 575 Thoght thai war astonait, in that stour stithly thai stude. 1530 PALSGR. 732/2 Let them come, I shall stande at my defence. 1533 BELLENDEN *Livy* II. xx. (S.T.S.) I. 210 Incontinent þir twa fabis ruschit fordwart on þe first man þat stude aduersare to þame. 1577, 1610 [see GUARD *sb.* 5a] 1587 GOLDING *De Mornay* i. (1592) 11 Whosoeuer shoulde tell thee to the contrary, thou wouldest stand at defiance against him. 1611 [see BREACH *sb.* 7 c]. 1634 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* 32 [Queen Normall] immediately put into Battaglia, and stood in her owne defence. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 24 June 1690, It seemes the Irish in K. James's army would not stand, but the English-Irish and French made greate resistance. 1759 *Ann. Reg.* 52 M. Conflans had two choices, either to fly, or to stand and fight it out. 1793 R. HALL *Apol. Freedom Press* 43 They stood firm against a host of opponents. 1816 SCOTT *Old Mort.* xliii, Bidding foemen on the farther side stand at defiance. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. v. v, Hearing of which the Felons at the Châtelet..stand on the offensive. 1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) I. 92 The Lacedaemonians..are said not to have been willing to stand and fight, and to have fled. 1890 TOUT *Hist. Eng. fr. 1689*, 8 The last Irish army stood at bay at Limerick.

11. a. *To stand upon one's trial*, †*to stand in doom* or *judgement*: to submit to judicial trial or sentence. See also *stand at* 68 a, *stand to* 76 a. *To stand to the bar*: of an accused person, to stand up and come forward to hear the verdict of the court.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 9492 Ne in na curt aght thral be herd, Ne stand in dom to be ansuerd. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 91 How so thou be to wyte Of Branchus deth, men schal respite As now to take vengement, Be so thou stonde in juggement Upon certein condicioun. 14.. *Burgh Lawis* xxxi. in *Anc. Laws Scot.* (Burgh Rec. Soc.) 16 Ilke spousyt man may ansuer for his spousyt wyff and stande in iugement [*et stare in iudicio*] and do for hir all thyng at the court demys hym. *a* 1596 *Sir T. More* I. ii. 158 Lifter, stand to the barre: The jurie haue returnd thee guiltie. 1771 E. LONG in *Hone's Everyday Bk.* II. 202 The prisoner..stands upon his trial.

†**b.** *To stand* (*in judgement*), said of the judge or court: To hold session. *Obs.*

1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 7 b, That he [God] stand not in judgement agaynst us lest we be damned. *c* 1800 *Laird o Logie* xiv. in Child *Ballads* III. 453 The morn the Justice Court's to stand.

12. To appear as a candidate; to offer oneself as a candidate. Const. *for* (a post, office, †university degree); †*to be* (an office-holder); *against* (a rival candidate). †In early use *to stand for the election* (*of*), *to stand in election* (*for*), *stand to be elected*; also *to stand candidate*.

1551 ROBINSON tr. *More's Utopia* II. iii. (1895) 136 Owte of the .iiii. quarters of the citie there be .iiii. chosen..to stande for the election. 1562 in W. H. Turner *Select. Rec. Oxford* (1880) 291 The two fyrste persons..shall stonde.. for the eleccyon of the Mayer. 1607 SHAKS. *Cor.* II. i. 248 Were he to stand for Consull. *Ibid.* II. ii. 2 How many stand for Consulships? 1631 WEEVER *Anc. Funeral Mon.* 540 Who stood in election for the Popedome. *a* 1635 NAUNTON *Fragm. Reg.* (Arb.) 54 None durst appear to stand for the place. 1674 WOOD *Life* (O.H.S.) II. 279 Thomas Thyn chose burgher for Oxon...Sir Ch. Wren stood against him. *Ibid.* Sir Georg Croke stood but he had very few votes. 1678 WALTON *Life Sanderson* b 1 b, In the year 1614. he stood to be elected one of the Proctors...They perswaded him, that if he would but stand for Proctor,..he would infallibly carry it against any Opposers. 1690 LOCKE *3rd Let. Toleration* i. (1692) 25 Had you stood to be Constable of your Parish. 1705 HEARNE *Collect.* 6 Oct. (O.H.S.) I. 52 Mr. Ellison stands Candidate for Fellow. *Ibid.* 17 Nov. 85 Dr. Hudson stood to be Library-Keeper. 1709 *Ibid.* 27 Oct. II. 293 [He] stood for ye Degree of Master of Arts. 1720 OZELL *Veriot's Rom. Rep.* II. xiii. 278 Those that stood Candidates brought their money openly to the Place of Election. 1803 *Gradus ad Cantabr.* 131 To stand for an honour. 1879 FROUDE *Cæsar* iv. 39 Marius began to be spoken of as a possible candidate. Marius consented to stand. 1890 *Blackw. Mag.* CXLVIII. 589/2 He did not stand for a fellowship.

b. *To stand for a constituency* or *for Parliament*: to offer oneself for election as the representative of a constituency in the House of Commons; originally †*to stand for burgess*, etc. (*obs.*). †*To stand double*: of two candidates, to contest an election (*obs.*).

1676 LD. ROOS in *12th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. v. 35 My uncle Mr. John Grey standing for Burgess for Leicester. 1690 LUTTRELL *Brief Rel.* (1857) II. 16 We hear from all parts the great contests that are about the election of parliament men, that there is hardly any county or town but they stand double. 1713 *Guardian* No. 58 ₱ 5, I design to stand for our Borough the next Election. 1714 LADY M. W. MONTAGU *Let. to W. Montagu* (1887) I. 89, I agree with you of the necessity of your standing this Parliament. 1844 DISRAELI *Coningsby* IV. xi, Tadpole wants me to stand for Birmingham. 1867 TROLLOPE *Last Chron. Barset* I. viii. 68 Dr. Thorne intended to stand for the county on the next vacancy. 1890 *Sat. Rev.* 3 May 526/2 Sir Charles..had never stood for Parliament.

13. *Card-playing.* To be willing, or announce one's willingness, to play with one's hand as dealt. Opposed to *pass*.

1824 MACTAGGART *Gallovid. Encycl.* 36 When one of the gamblers stands, that is to say, will play. 1879 H. JONES ('Cavendish') *Card Ess.* 58 [In the game of Prime,] Each then examined his hand and either stood or passed.

14. *U.S.* **To stand pat**; (*a*) [Cf. prec. and *pat hand* s.v. PAT *adv.* and *a.* 3 b.] In *Poker*, to play, or declare one's intention of playing, one's hand just as it has been dealt, without drawing other cards. (*b*) *transf.* To adhere to an existing state of things or to an avowed policy (esp. a high tariff), refusing to consider proposals for change or reform. Hence **Stand-pat** *sb.* and *a.*; **Stand-patter, Stand-pattism.**

1882 *Poker; how to play it* 12 The gentleman..failed to better his hand. The other stood pat. 1903 M. A. HANNA *Sp. at Akron, Ohio*, Now I say, Stand pat; you are not on the defensive. 1903 *Public Opin.* (U. S.) 8 Oct. 451/2 The Republican platform is principally noteworthy for the vehemence with which its framers 'stand pat' upon the tariff. The father of 'stand pattism' himself could not find fault with the declaration that no revision is needed now. 1904 *Evening Transcript* (Boston, Mass.) 16 Feb. 11/2 He..was an avowed stand-patter on the tariff. 1910 *Ibid.* 18 Aug. 10/5 The standpats in Iowa have been licked, and hereafter will either vote with the standpat Democrats or change their views.

15. Uses in which the force of the verb is weakened and approaches that of a copula, the stress being on the complement or predicative extension. **a.** With sb. as complement: To take or hold the office, position, responsibility, etc. indicated by the sb.; to act as; e.g. *to stand security, surety*; †formerly, *to stand captain, king, officer*, etc. Also, to be ranked or regarded as, to have legal status as. Occas. with *as* before the sb.

1429 in *Cal. Pat. Rolls* 8 *Hen. VI*, 31 Non of the xxiiij aldermen xal..concentyn to be chosen er standen as an arbitrour..aghens any of the said xxiiij aldermen. 1442 in *Proc. King's Council Irel.* (Rolls) 275 For the tyme that they haue stonde your officers there. 1455 *Rolls of Parlt.* V. 308/2 All the tyme that the seid Duke stode Capitayn. *c* 1470 HARDING *Chron.* xxxi. vii, When he had stond so kyng by fourty yere. 1681 DRYDEN *Abs. & Achit.* 776 Then Kings are Slaves to those whom they command, And Tenants to their Peoples pleasure stand. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 1 May 1680, This yeare I would stand one of the collectors of their rents, to give example to others. 1713 STEELE *Englishman* No. 5. 31 The Pretender stands in our Law a Traytor to this Nation. 1776 *Trial of Nundocomar* 22/1 If I can get any one else to stand my security. 1857 J. W. DONALDSON *Chr. Orthod.* 116 Christianity stands surety for the divine origin of all that is spiritual in the creed of Moses. 1884 PIRKIS *Judith Wynne* III. xx. 238 Oscar,..in the event of Wolf's decease, stood next heir. 1894 H. NISBET *Bush Girl's Rom.* 199 The future hope of standing an honest man.

b. *To stand godfather, godmother, sponsor*; also *to stand as* or *for godfather*, etc.; also simply *to stand* = to act as sponsor (*for* a child).

Sometimes †to be proxy *for* another person as sponsor.

1676 LADY CHAWORTH in *12th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. v. 28 Mr. Hide is going..to Poland to stand for our King at the King's child's cristening. 1706 N. BLUNDELL *Diary* (1895) 44 My Doughter Frances was Christoned, Collo[nel] Butler stood Godfather for my Brother Lang. and Mrs. Mills stood for my Lady Gerard. 1709 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4560/2 The King of Denmark and King Augustus stood as Godfathers to a Son of the Velt-Marshal. 1710–11 SWIFT *Jrnl. to Stella* 16 Jan., A girl..and died in a week ..and was poor Stella forced to stand for godmother? 1742 RICHARDSON *Pamela* IV. 142 The Earl and Countess of C—, and Lord and Lady Davers, are here, to stand in Person at the Christening. 1766 GOLDSM. *Vic. W.* xx, To stand godfather to all the butler's children. 1809 MALKIN *Gil Blas* XI. i. (Rtldg.) 392 The governor's lady..stood for Scipio's daughter. 1846 D. JERROLD *Mrs. Caudle* xvi, Then she'd no right to stand for the child. 1856 MISS YONGE *Daisy Chain* I. viii, Richard hoped they would find sponsors by that time; and there Mrs. Taylor gave little hope;..there was no one she liked to ask to stand. 1877 — *Cameos* Ser. III. xv. 132 Edward..stood as the godfather.

c. *To stand one's friend*, to act the part of a friend to another. †Formerly in other similar phrases, as *to stand good prince* (*to*), *to stand* (one's) *good lord*.

1461 *Mem. Hexham* (Surtees) I. Illustr. Docum. p. ci, Supposyng..that..Humfray hade stonde trew liegeman to Kyng Edward. 1483 in *Acts Parlt. Scotl.* (1875) XII. 32/1 That his hienez sal stand jn tyme tocum gude & graciouse prince to him. 1538 LONDON in *Lett. Suppress. Monasteries* (Camden) 217 Doctor Baskerfelde, to whom I do humblie besek your lordeschippe to stonde gudde lorde. 1571 in Feuillerat *Revels Q. Eliz.* (1908) 408 May it please your honour..to stand my good Lorde for the obtayning of the sayd office. 1598 R. BERNARD tr. *Terence, Phormio* v. iii, I pray thee stand my friend, and lend me a little mony once againe. 1605 SHAKS. *Lear* II. i. 42 Coniuring the Moone To stand auspicious Mistris. 1607 — *Cor.* II. iii. 198 Standing your friendly Lord. 1662 HIBBERT *Body Divinity* II. 7 He stood our friend without flinching. 1677 DUGDALE in *Hatton Corr.* (Camden) 140 To intreate that you will please to stand my freind to his Matie. 1714 TYLDESLEY *Diary* (1873) 148 But honest Dick and Ben stud my ffreind. 1890 TOUT *Hist. Eng. fr. 1689*, 109 George II. and Queen Caroline stood his firm friends. 1890 *Murray's Mag.* Dec. 824 I'll stand your friend, and see you through it.

d. With pa. pple. as complement: To be or remain in the specified condition; e.g. *to stand committed, indebted, pledged*. Also with adj. of state or condition, e.g. *to stand free, to stand alone* (in an opinion, a contest, course of action, etc.); *to stand mute* (see MUTE *a.* 1).

Usually with reference to a condition resulting from an engagement or a decision, or ascertained by survey of a situation. *I stand corrected*: I accept or acknowledge the correction; so *I stand reproved*.

c 1386 CHAUCER *Man of Law's T.* 557 An emperoures doughter stant allone. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* III. 317 Thus stant this lady justefied. *c* 1400 *Beryn* 2636 So stond I clene desperat, but ye con help ou3t. 1442 *Rolls of Parlt.* V. 57/2 Tenementz that they stode enfeffed ynne. 1537 in *Archæologia* XXV. 506 A certen obligacyon wheryn my husband.. stode bownde. 1590 *Knaresb. Wills* (Surtees) I. 168, 20 markes which he standethe indebted unto me. 1591 SHAKS. *Two Gent.* I. iii. 60 And how stand you affected to his wish? *a* 1593 MARLOWE *Edw. II*, IV. i, Stand gratious gloomie night to his deuice. 1643 H. LESLIE *Serm. St. Mary's, Oxford* 9 Feb. 26 Of all these crimes they stand indited by the Prophets. 1668 DRYDEN *Maiden Queen* v. i, I stand corrected, and myself reprove. 1717 in *Nairne Peerage Evid.* (1874) 29 He had been and stood attainted of high treason. 1720 WATERLAND *Eight Serm.* 109 To Him the very Angels owe..whatever Excellencies and perfections they stand possess'd of. 1829 *Examiner* 756/1 We stand almost alone in this expression of taste. 1849 GROTE *Greece* II.. lv. (1862) V. 30 Alkibiades stood distinguished for personal bravery. 1868 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* (1876) II. vii. 147 Let the meeting stand adjourned. 1877 MISS YONGE *Cameos* Ser. III. iv. 37 Gloucester seems to have stood free from all suspicion. 1881 GARDINER & MULLINGER *Study Eng. Hist.* I. vi. 122 The Catholics stood alone in looking for direction to a head beyond the seas. 1891 *Murray's Mag.* Apr. 433 The delegates..stand pledged to a series of resolutions.

e. With adv. or advb. phrase: To be, to continue or remain in a specified state, position, etc.

e.g. *to stand in doubt, danger*; *to stand in a* (certain) †*office, relation*; *to stand well* or *high* (= to be in high favour or esteem) *with* a person; *to stand fair* (= to be favourably situated, to have good chances) *for* something or *to do* something; *how do you stand* (financially)? For *to stand in awe* see 45.

c 1386 CHAUCER *Prol.* 88 In hope to stonden in his lady grace. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 147 The more he caste his wit aboute, The more he stant therof in doute. *c* 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* I. 23 If bit be cleer and hool, stond out of fere. 1453 *Cov. Leet Bk.* 275 Dureng the tyme that ye stonde in the seide offices. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 20 b, Than the brother demaunded of hym in what case he stode. 1530 PALSGR. 733/1, I stande in dowt of a thyng, *je me doubte*. *a* 1578 LINDESAY (Pitscottie) *Chron. Scot.* (S.T.S.) I. 84 He stuide nocht lang in this credit. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* (1637) 329 Hee never stood in feare of them. 1662 J. DAVIES tr. *Mandelslo's Trav.* 112 They stood faire to become Master of the Island. 1697 COLLIER *Ess. Mor. Subj.* II. (1703) 117 Men naturally desire to stand fair in the opinion of others. 1723 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 6125/1 Baron Lagerberg..seems to stand fairest for that important Post. 1760–72 H. BROOKE *Fool of Qual.* (1809) II. 128, I stood at a high rent. 1823 BYRON *Juan* XIII. xxiv, Juan stood well, both with Ins and Outs. 1844 J. T. HEWLETT *Parsons & W.* xxi, I stand remarkably well for the Derby. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* xxi, Old Osborne stood in secret terror of his son. 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xi. III. 14 The relation in which the King stood to his Parliament and to his ministers. 1856 *Titan Mag.* Dec. 551/2, I stood very high with him; he was as fond of me as a son. 1890 CONAN DOYLE *Firm of Girdlestone* x. 78 How do you stand for money? 1893 *Ludgate Monthly* Jan. 244/2 Nobody quite knew how he stood financially; he might be rich or he might be poor.

16. Various figurative uses with *to* and infinitive.

†**a.** In a negative clause (or with *if*, etc.): To stay, stop, wait (in order to do something); to make a point of, insist upon (doing something).

1563 *Homilies* II. *Passion* II. 199 b, A thousande such examples are to be founde in Scripture, yf a man woulde stande to seeke them out. 1597 BEARD *Theatre God's Judgem.* (1612) 46 The truth of which storie, though I will not stand to auow, yet I doubt not but it might be true. 1605 BACON *Adv. Learn.* II. xxii. § 8 The reason whereof we cannot nowe stande to discusse. 1652 J. WRIGHT tr. *Camus' Nat. Paradox* x. 261, I should swell this Volume too much, if I stood to relate the particulars. *a* 1676 HALE *Contempl.* I. 30, I do not stand to justifie this Opinion in all particulars. 1730 *Let. to Sir W. Strickland rel. to Coal Trade* 28 How rare a thing was it to hear of any body who stood to talk about the Price before-hand at all? 1766 *Complete Farmer* s. v. *Surveying*, Which we cannot stand here

to treat of. 1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss.* s. v., 'I never stand to do it': i. e. I do not take the trouble, I am not so particular.

†**b.** In a negative clause: To hesitate, scruple, refuse, be slow (to do something). *Obs.* (chiefly *Sc.*).

1563 J. DAVIDSON in *Wodrow Soc. Misc.* (1844) 211, I wyll nocht stand to give Mr. Quintine the First part of this reasone grantit. 1698 *Season. Admon. Gen. Assembly* (1699) 11 Mr. John Hepburn standeth not to say, that some of them make a mock of serious Persons. 1712 *Caldwell Papers* (Maitl. Club) I. 229 He promised, that..he would not stand to help him to purchase a place. 1728 RAMSAY *Lure* 61 T' oblige ye, Friend, I winna stand. *a* 1800 *Dk. Athole's Nurse* xi. in Child *Ballads* IV. 152 And the curtains they neer stood to tear them.

†**c.** To have opportunity (to do something). Said of persons and things. *Obs.*

1589 PUTTENHAM *Eng. Poesie* II. i. (Arb.) 78 That all things stand by proportion, and that without it nothing could stand to be good or beautiful. 1605 DANIEL *Philotas* I. i, Seeing your owne designes not stand to square With your desires. 1612 BRINSLEY *Lud. Lit.* x. (1627) 158 Orations..wherein Schollers stand to shew most art.

d. In betting, commercial speculation, etc.: To be in the position of being reasonably certain *to* (win or lose something or a specified amount); to have *to* (win or lose a certain amount in a specified contingency).

1861 *Temple Bar* II. 150 He stands to lose twenty thousand. 1871 *Punch* 19 Aug. 67/1 So hedging your bets..that you stand to win sufficient gloves to last you the whole season. 1880 MRS. LYNN LINTON *Rebel of Family* i, She stood to lose all round. 1891 *Chamb. Jrnl.* 27 June 404/1 He stands to win either way. 1892 *Ibid.* 8 Oct. 648/1 If a man were reckless,..he stood to dismast his ship and hopelessly ruin his chances of a smart passage.

II. Of things.

* To be set upright, to be in a definite position, etc.

17. To be in an upright position with the lower part resting on or fixed in the ground or other support; opposed to *lie*. Const. *on, upon* (the ground, a base, etc.). Cf. sense 1.

971 *Blickl. Hom.* 239 He þær ʒeseah ṡwer standan. *c* 1200 ORMIN 14412 Þa sexe waterrfetless Þatt stodenn wiþþ þatt waterr þær. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* XVII. 135 Quhan thai the baner saw sympilly Swa standand. 1382 WYCLIF *2 Kings* vi. 31 Thes thingis do to me God, and thes thingis adde, ȝif the heued of Helisee, the sone of Saphath, schulde stonden vpon hym to day. [Similarly 1611, 1884; lit. from Hebrew.] *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Monk's T.* 419 But litel out of Pize stant a tour. 1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* I. xvii. 62 One of the castels that stondyn in the forest of Sherewood. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* VI. x. 59 Thair speris stikking in the erd did stand. 1529 MORE *Dyaloge* II. ix. 59/1 How longe that ymage had stande in that olde tabernacle that coulde no man tell. 1585 HIGINS *Junius' Nomencl.* 183/2 *Textrina*,..a weauers shop or workehouse where his loomes stand. 1594 NASHE *Unfort. Trav.* E 4 b, Wks. 1904 II. 256 Her house stood vppon vaultes. 1694 *Acc. Sev. Late Voy.* II. 22 When the Skies are not very clear, the Mountains stand, to about the middle, in the Clouds. 1710 HEARNE *Collect.* (O.H.S.) III. 42 It [a volume] stands 4[to] T. 14. Art. 1735 JOHNSON *Lobo's Abyssinia* Descr. x. 103 Two rows of sharp Teeth, standing wide from each other. 1750 GRAY *Long Story* 2 In Britain's Isle, no matter where, An ancient pile of buildings stands. 1823 SCOTT *Quentin D.* v, A flagon of champagne stood before them. 1886 MISS SERGEANT *No Saint* I. i. 16 Behind the town-hall..stood the parish church. 1889 *Century Mag.* June 177/2 One of its [the prison's] longer sides stands flush with the line of the street.

b. Of plants: To grow erect. Also with complement, *to stand high, thick, thin*, etc. Said esp. of grass, corn, etc. when left uncut to ripen.

c 888 ÆLFRED *Boeth.* xxv. 57/21 Swa bið eac þam treowum þe him ʒecynde bið up heah to standanne. *c* 1205 LAY. 26058 And sturte him biaften ane treo þe þer stod [*c* 1275 stot] aneouste. *c* 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* 18/598 A fair herbe, þat men cleopez letuse, heo i-saiȝ stonde bi þe weiȝe. 1382 WYCLIF *Exod.* xxii. 6 If fyer..cacche..the corn stondynge in feeldis. 1573 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 79 Such fewell as standing a late ye haue bought, now fell it. 1585 HIGINS *Junius' Nomencl.* 107/1 *Seges*,..corne standing and vncut downe. 1618 W. LAWSON *New Orch. & Gard.* viii. (1623) 22, I haue seene many trees stand so thicke, that one could not thriue for the throng of his neighbours. 1700 DRYDEN *Ovid's Met., Acis & Galatea* 110 Red Strawberries, in shades, expecting stand. 1765 *Museum Rust.* IV. 216 If the corn on this good land stood thin, we may safely conclude, that it was sown thin. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. I. ii, The blossom of French Royalty..was still standing with all its petals. 1842 LOUDON *Suburban Hort.* 313 If the tree is to stand four or more years. 1847 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* VIII. I. 75 White wheats should stand somewhat longer. 1858 *Ibid.* XIX. I. 189 A piece of clover which was first mown and then allowed to stand for seed.

c. Hence, by hypallage, of land, *To stand thick with* or *deep in*: To be covered with a rich standing crop. (Cf. 27 b.)

1535 COVERDALE *Ps.* lxiv. (lxv.) 13 The valleys stonde so thicke with corne [Luther *stehen dick mit Korn*] y[t] they laugh and synge. 1641 J. JACKSON *True Evang. T.* iii. 214 The lands stand thick with corn. 1899 MARG. BENSON & GOURLAY *Temple of Mut* i. 3 The fields..stand deep in corn.

d. Of the hair: To grow stiff and erect like bristles. *To stand on end, up, upright*: to rise up on the head as a result of fright or astonishment.

c 1386 CHAUCER *Prol.* 555 Ther on stood a toft of herys Reed as the brustles of a sowes erys. 1530 PALSGR. 733/2 Whan I passed by the churche yarde my heares stode upright for feare. 1547 BOORDE *Brev. Health* (1870) 75 The .183. Chapitre dothe shewe of standyng vp of mannes heare. 1592 GREENE *Defence Conny-catching* Wks. (Grosart) XI. 72 His mustachies..standing as stiffe as if he wore a Ruler in his mouth. *c* 1611 CHAPMAN *Iliad* V. 593 This sight, when great Tydides saw, his haire stood vp on end. *a* 1691 BOYLE *Hist. Air* (1692) 174 Their Horses Hair stood upright, like Bristles, with the vehement Cold. 1778 MISS BURNEY *Evelina* (1791) I. xl. 200 As for the particulars, I'm sure they'd make your hair stand on end to hear them. 1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) I. 249 When I speak of horrors, my hair stands on end.

e. To project in relief. (Cf. *stand out*, 99 i.)

1683 MOXON *Mech. Exerc., Printing* xiii. ¶ 4 [He] Sculps out the Steel between the..Marks..on the Face of the Punch, and leaves the Marks standing on the Face.

18. More loosely: To be set, placed or fixed; to rest, lie (with more or less notion of firmness and steadiness). Of a dish or its contents: To rest flat or on a flat base.

c 1200 ORMIN 1030, & bi þatt allterr stodenn aȝȝ Þatt follkess haliȝdomess, Þatt wærenn inn an arrke þær Wel & wurrþlike ȝemmde. *c* 1420 ? LYDG. *Assembly of Gods* 357 A gymlot and a fauset theropon stood. 1459 *Paston Lett.* I. 490 Item, iij. pyllowes stondyng on the autre off rede felwet. 1551 SIR J. WILLIAMS *Accompte* (Abbotsf. Club) 24 Two collettes of golde, wherin standeth two course emeraldes. 1613 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* (1614) 200 Milk must not stand on the table with flesh, nor touch it. 1681 GREW *Musæum* I. § 5. i. 100 At the top of his Head, just under the Horn, stand his Eyes. 1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* xvii, Some food stood on the table. 1902 R. BAGOT *Donna Diana* v. 42 On which [table] stood an inkstand. 1908 [MISS E. FOWLER] *Betw. Trent & Ancholme* 24 A dial, of wood, stands upon an old hewn stone in the middle.

19. Of a place, country, piece of ground, dwelling, etc.: To be situated in a specified position or aspect. Now chiefly of a town or village (? as consisting of erect edifices).

c 893 ÆLFRED *Oros.* (1883) 19 He seʒlode on fif daʒan to þæm porte þe mon hæt æt Hæþum; se stent betuh Winedum & Seaxum & Angle. 971 *Blickl. Hom.* 77 Gaþ on þa wic þe beforan inc stondeð. *c* 1205 LAY. 125 Ful neh þan ilke stude þar Rome nou stondeð. 1297 R. GLOUC. 3 Þe see geþ him al aboute, he [England] stond [*v. rr.* stont, stant] as in an yle. 13.. *K. Alis.* 3269 Theo cite upon the see stod. 1340–70 *Alex. & Dind.* 114 Þanne he farus to a feld..Þat stod on an hie stede. *c* 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* I. 28 Ek se thy londe Be fertile, and commodiously stonde. 1471 CAXTON *Recuyell* (Sommer) 188 She and her susters soiourned in a cyte whiche stode on the ryuage. 1548 HALL *Chron., Edw. IV*, 233 b, The toune standeth lowe, and the Ryver passeth thorough. 1550 CROWLEY *Epigr.* 208 A Marchaunte ..Returned to his contrey, whiche in Europe standes. 1607 W. S. *Puritane* III. iv. 36 *Put.* O, it [a room] stands very pleasantly for a Scholler. 1612 COVERTE *Voy.* 11 This place of our then ancoring standeth in the height of fiue Degrees and 20. minutes. *a* 1701 MAUNDRELL *Journ. Jerus.* (1732) 7 The City stands Northerly. 1792 T. TWINING *Recreat.* (1882) 160 The village stands pleasantly. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* iii. I. 336 Large as Bristol might then appear, it occupied but a very small portion of the area on which it now stands. 1852 THACKERAY *Esmond* I. iii, A large pleasant green flat, where the village of Castlewood stood, and stands.

20. With predicative extension or complement, indicating the manner or condition, the verb retaining more or less of its proper force (senses 17–19); e. g. *to stand high, firm, open, ajar*.

c 897 ÆLFRED *Gregory's Past. C.* Pref. 5 Hu ða ciricean..stodon maðma & boca ʒefyldæ. *c* 1205 LAY. 5352 Al þat liggende lond þat lið in to Rome..þe nu stonded riche. *a* 1250 *Owl & Night.* 623 Myn hus stont briht & grene. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* VI. 77 He saw the brayis hye standand. *c* 1400, *a* 1513, 1786 [see AJAR *adv.*[1]]. 1477–9 *Rec. St. Mary at Hill* (1905) 84 A tenement..standyng void by the terme of Estir, Midsomer, and Mighelmasse. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* VI. ii. 104 The blak ȝettis of Pluto, and that dirk way Standis evir oppyne and patent nycht and day. 1675 J. S[MITH] *Horolog. Dial.* 35 Fasten it [the clock] with another nail or two, that it may stand firm and not shake. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* III. 499 And open let thy Stacks all Winter stand. 1709 STEELE *Tatler* No. 194 ¶ 5 The Gate stood open. 1735 JOHNSON *Lobo's Abyssinia* Descr. xi. 111 A large stone House..which had stood uninhabited so long, that great Numbers of red Ants had taken Possession of it. 1857 RUSKIN *Pol. Econ. Art* ii. § 77, I have seen the hail fall in Italy till the forest branches stood stripped and bare. 1866 — *Crown of Wild Olive* § 57 My eye caught the title of a book standing open in a bookseller's window. 1894 *Amer. Dict. Printing, Stands high.* In printing, type or blocks which are higher than other types or than the normal height. 1910 HOGARTH in *Encycl. Brit.* I. 248/2 The main chamber..stands free, isolated from the rest of the plan by corridors. 1912 H. L. CANNON in *Eng. Hist. Rev.* Oct. 661 The 'cog'..was lightly laden, and so stood high out of the water.

b. Of a house, etc., *As it stands*: with all its furniture, decoration, etc.

1527 in *Test. Ebor.* (Surtees) VI. 14, I will a house to my wif in Scrayngham, and hir chamer as it standis. 1668 in *Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* Var. Coll. (1907) IV. 245 The bricke and materialls, or the house itselfe as it stands, to be solde.

†**c.** To be fixed or set or turned in a specified direction. *Obs.*

1471 CAXTON *Recuyell* (Sommer) 409 His sayll that stode ouer ende by force of the wynde, was smyten full of hooles. *a* 1637 B. JONSON *Goodwife's Ale* in *Athenæum* (1904) 1 Oct. 447/2 My mouth did stand awry, just as it were Labouring to whisper somewhat in mine Eare. 1687 A. LOVELL tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* II. 6 Its tail stands another way than the Tails of other fish which are forked upwards and downwards. 1694 *Acc. Sev. Late Voy.* II. 150 All the other Long-boats row out before, and take notice which way the Line doth stand.

21. To be inscribed, drawn, painted, etc. (in a list, sheet, or the like). Hence of words or literary matter: To be set down, recorded, composed in a (specified) context or form.

871–889 *Charter* in *O. E. Texts* 452/43 Ðeos foresprec & þas ʒewriotu þe herbeufan awreotene stondað. *c* 1200 ORMIN 315 All iss þwerrt ut soþ..Þatt stanndeþþ o þe Goddspellboc. *Ibid.* 4986 Þatt bocstaff..Þatt uppo Cristess name stannt Rihht allre nesst te firrste. 1362 LANGL. *P. Pl.* A. I. 48 And he asked of hem, of whom spac þe lettre, And whom þe ymage was lyk þat þer-Inne stod. *a* 1400–50 *Wars Alex.* 279 In þe first compas..Stude þe xij vndirstandings stoutly engrauen. *c* 1450 *Mirk's Festial* 45 Then, for þe ȝere ys rewlet and gouernet by þe kalender, and þis day stondeth yn þe begynnyng þerof, hit ys callet ȝeres-day. 1583 [see RUBRIC *sb.* 3]. 1603 SHAKS. *Meas. for M.* II. ii. 40 To fine the faults, whose fine stands in record. 1605 — *Macb.* IV. i. 134 Let this pernitious houre Stand aye accursed in the Kalender. 1754 SHERLOCK *Disc.* (1759) I. ix. 251 These Words stand towards the Close of St. John's Gospel. 1801 STRUTT *Sports & Past.* II. i. 44 The victories they obtained over their enemies..stand upon record in the histories of this country. 1824 SCOTT *Redgauntlet* ch. x, I will not say but my name may stand on the list. 1832 *Examiner* 370/2 Mr. E. L. Bulwer's motion..stands for Thursday next. 1890 *Harper's Mag.* June 44/2 Richard Garrard Fenwick—so his name stood on the club list. 1911 JACQUES in *36th Prov. Mtg. Law Soc.* 269 Her husband of course has no vote as the house does not stand in his name.

b. esp. of numerical figures: To be set down or entered in a list, account, ledger, or the like. Hence of a sum, price, score; also of the game or player whose score is recorded. Const. *at* (a certain figure).

1537 *N. Country Wills* (Surtees) 153 That Roger Shawes sonne be forgiven the odde mony that standith in my boke more than lxvj s. viij d. 1579 DIGGES *Stratiot.* I. xvi. 26 Which all standeth thus 24/120. 1830 *Examiner* 538/2 At the close of the poll the numbers stood thus. 1878 R. H. HUTTON *Scott* xv. 158 On the 17th of December, 1830, the liabilities stood at 54,000 *l.* 1890 *Illustr. Lond. News* 26 Apr. 526/3 The prisoner had standing to his credit £57. 1890 *Field* 10 May 672/3 Streatfield..played a very sound game, and stood at twenty-two when he lost his partner. *Ibid.* 673/1 The score standing at 123 for five wickets. 1892 *Chamb. Jrnl.* 1 Oct. 625/2 If a bank's shares stand at a good premium. 1913 *Oxf. Univ. Gaz.* 19 Feb. 493/2 The balance at the Bank stands..at £50.

c. Of an account: To show a (specified) position of the parties with regard to debit and credit. Also, to continue on the books unsettled. Also *fig.*

1710–11 SWIFT *Jrnl. to Stella* 16 Jan., Let me know how accounts stand, that you may have your money betimes. 1776 *Pennsylv. Even. Post* 10 Aug. 398/1 Those whose accounts have stood beyond the customary time of payment, will please to take notice, that unless they are speedily discharged, I shall sue for the same. 1825 SCOTT *Betrothed* xxx, I will not accept favours from him in prosperity, who, in adversity, refused me his hand—our account stands yet open. *Mod.* At present, the account stands greatly in my favour.

d. Of a word, clause, etc.: To occupy a specified place in a verse or context, to be used in a specified inflexion or construction.

1693 DRYDEN *Persius* VI. note 8 But the word Empress wou'd not stand in that Verse: For which reason I Adjourn'd it to another. 1836 J. R. MAJOR *Guide Grk. Trag.* 120 The rhythm is violated..when the three last syllables of a word, which are capable of standing in the verse as an anapæst, are divided between a dactyl and the following foot. 1860 GOODWIN *Grk. Moods & Tenses* 287 The Participles of impersonal Verbs stand in the Accusative Absolute, ..when other Participles would stand in the Genitive Absolute. 1861 PALEY *Æschylus* (ed. 2) *Pers.* 618 *note*, In fact, χεροῖν could not possibly stand in this place.

22. Of water, etc.: To have the surface at a specified level. Of the mercury (or other liquid) in a thermometer, barometer, etc.: To reach to a certain height; hence said of the instrument itself.

c 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 590 Fowerti dais and fowerti niȝt, So wex water wið maȝti miȝt..And oðer fowerti ðore-to, Dais and niȝtes stodet so. 1686 HALLEY in *Phil. Trans.* XVI. 104 The Barometer standing at 30 Inches. *Ibid.* 110 In calm frosty weather the Mercury generally stands high. 1715 DESAGULIERS *Fires Impr.* 47 The Thermometer stands at the same height in deep Cellars at both Seasons. 1853 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* XIV. I. 165 The water in the sluice stands at 9 ft. 1890 CONSTANCE SMITH *Riddle of Haviland* II. VI. iv. 241 The glass stood at set fair. 1891 *National Rev.* Jan. 656 The thermometer now stood at 20 Fah.

** With the notion of permanence, stability, etc.

23. Of an edifice, or the like: To remain erect and entire; to resist destruction or decay. Also with predicative adj. or adv., as *whole, sound, fast, stable*.

c 888 ÆLFRED *Boeth.* xii, Ne mæʒ hus naht lange standan on þam hean munte ʒif hit full unʒemetlic wind ʒestent. *a* 1122 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1009 & oft hi on þa burh Lundene ʒefuhton. Ac si Gode lof þet heo ʒyt ʒesund stent. *c* 1205 LAY. 15532 Þenne mihte he [the wall] stonde to þere worlde longe. *c* 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* 160/1889 Ich habbe a luytel Coffre þat stant hol and sount. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 10121 Þar þe castel standes stable. *c* 1400 *Brut* lx. 55 How Vortiger..biganne þere a castel, þat wolde nouȝt stande wiþouten morter temprede wiþ mannes blode. 1542 UDALL *Erasm. Apoph.* 281 b, The trenches and bulwerkes of his enemies campe was standing whole. 1562 PILKINGTON *Expos. Abdyas* Pref. 8 The winds blow boustously, yet stand faste the low busshes when the great ookes are ouerthrowen. 1567 *Gude & Godlie B.* (S.T.S.) 211 Had not ȝour self begun the weiris, ȝour stepillis had bene standand ȝit. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* (1637) 636 Faire walles, which are partly yet standing. 1758 *Ann. Reg.* 100 Her masts [are] very much wounded: it is surprizing how they stood home. 1794–5 in B. Ward *Dawn Cath. Revival* (1909) II. 119 The rigging was damaged; but the vessel stood. 1798 in Nicolas *Disp. Nelson* (1846) VII. p. clvi, She had only a foremast standing at day-light. 1857 RUSKIN *Pol. Econ. Art* ii. § 74 The marble would have stood its two thousand years as well in the polished statue as in the Parian cliff. 1879 M. J. GUEST *Lect. Eng. Hist.* x. 93 In that climate buildings

stand much longer than they do in England. 1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-mining* 237 *Stand*, does not break down or require timbering. A rock or coal roof generally stands better than one composed of shale or clay.

fig. 1805 WORDSW. *Prelude* II. 280 The props of my affections were removed, And yet the building stood, as if sustained By its own spirit! 1834 J. WILSON *Noctes Ambr.* XXXVII. Wks. 1856 IV. 198 The Church doesna deserve to staun when sic atrocities are rife beneath its shelter.

b. Of the world: To exist; to remain stable, last. Chiefly in phrase: cf. quot. 1526.

c 1205 LAY. 18850 þe wile þe þis world stænt [*c* 1275 steond] ilæsten scal is worðmunt. *a* 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 1490 Of marbrestan a temple, þet schal aa stonden, hwil þet te world stont. 1340–70 *Alex. & Dind.* 587 3e were alle..bred of þat modur þat is stable to stonde. 1526 TINDALE 1 *Cor.* viii. 13 Whill the worlde stondeth [So 1611; Gr. εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα]. 1598 R. BERNARD tr. *Terence, Adelphos* I. ii, Neuer was there since the world stood, any thing more vnreasonable.

c. Of any mechanism or contrivance: To hold together, resist wear or damage, keep its place.

1768 STERNE *Sent. Journ., The Wig*, But I fear, friend! said I, this buckle won't stand.

24. Naut. *To let all stand*: to leave a ship fully rigged. *All standing*, i. e. without dismantling or unrigging; *transf.* with one's clothes on, dressed. *To be paid off, brought up all standing*: see quot. 1867.

1669 STURMY *Mariner's Mag.* I. 17 Shall we get down our Top-masts? No, let all stand. 1791 SMEATON *Edystone L.* (1793) § 259 We began to heave in our ground chain,..and, it being nine P.M. concluded to let all stand till the next morning...Found all standing as we had left it. 1802 *Naval Chron.* VIII. 172 The Fisgard..was paid off all standing, directly recommissioned. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.* s.v. *All, To be brought up all standing*, is to be suddenly checked or stopped, without any preparation. *Paid off all standing*, without unrigging or waiting to return stores; perhaps recommissioned the next day or hour. 1893 DUNMORE *Pamirs* II. 62, I dined, and after smoking a pipe, turned in all standing for the night.

25. Of a pigment or dye: To keep its colour; also, not to blot or run.

1811 *Self Instructor* 531 All these three colours stand. 1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 731 Vermilion... Stands tolerably well if perfectly pure. 1883 R. HALDANE *Workshop Rec.* Ser. II. 336 Most of the black Indian ink.. blots when a damp brush is passed over it; or, as draughtsmen say, 'it does not stand'.

26. *Farriery.* Of the eye: To preserve its sight, to keep good sight.

1737 BRACKEN *Farriery Impr.* (1757) II. 13, I must return to a Description of the Eye that I think most likely to stand (as we term it).

*** To be still or stationary.

27. Of liquids: To cease flowing; *esp.* of water, to collect and remain motionless, be stagnant (cf. STANDING *ppl. a.*). (See also STILL *adv.*)

c 888 ÆLFRED *Boeth.* XXXV. § 7 Se hearpere [*sc.* Orpheus].. hearpode ðæt..þa ea stodon. 1382 WYCLIF *Luke* viii. 44 And a non the flix of hir blood stood [*v. r.* ceesed]. 1538 ELYOT *Dict., Stagno*, proprely of water is to stande and not to flowe. 1585 HIGINS *Junius' Nomencl.* 401/2 *Lacuna*,..a ditch wherein water standeth. 1697 DRYDEN *Æneid* VII. 1093 Where Ufens glides along the lowly Lands, Or the black Water of Pomptina stands. 1852 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* XIII. I. 80 The stagnant water being permitted year after year to stand on the surface during the winter. 1882 *Unexpl. Baluchistan* 41 The water appeared to stand here some time, judging by the presence of many water weeds.

transf. 1899 MRS. E. COTES *Path of Star* XV. 160 The garden where heavy scents stood in the sun.

fig. 1842 TENNYSON *Sir Galahad* 10 When the tide of combat stands.

b. Of land, a ditch, etc.: *To stand with*, to be full of (stagnant water). (Cf. 17 c.)

1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* VI. XXVII. I. 138 The countrey Elemais is so fennie, and standeth with water so wet, that there is no way through it to Persis. 1718 HEARNE *Collect.* (O.H.S.) VI. 229 The Ditch about the Camp stands with water, except in a dry time. 1848 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* IX. I. 242 It is not at all uncommon to see a clay pit stand with water.

28. Of tears: To remain collected (in the eyes) without falling. Of a humour, esp. perspiration: To remain in drops (*on* the skin, etc.).

1530 PALSGR. 733/1 He dyd nat wepe that I sawe, but the water stode in his eyes. 1581 A. HALL *Iliad* VI. 119 She smiles therewith, yet in hir eyes the water ful doth stand. 1627 MAY *Lucan* VI. L 3, She..gathers poisonous filth, and slime that stands On the cold ioynts. 1675 HANNAH WOOLLEY *Gentlew. Comp.* 71 Do not venture to eat Spoon-meat so hot, that the tears stand in your eyes. 1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* I. (Globe) 230 This he spoke so earnestly, that I saw Tears stand in his Eyes. 1841 LONGF. *Excelsior* v, A tear stood in his bright blue eye. 1849 *Tait's Mag.* XVI. 226/1 Cold drops stood on my brow. 1891 *Strand Mag.* II. 509/2 The sweat stood in beads on his forehead.

†**b.** Of the eyes, *To stand a-water*: to be filled with tears. *Obs.*

1605 CHAPMAN, etc. *Eastw. Hoe* II. C 3 b, *Gyr.* Gods my dignitie! as I am a Lady, if he did not make mẽ blush so that mine eyes stood a water.

29. Of a liquid, etc.: To be kept in a vessel without shaking.

c 1467 *Noble Bk. Cookry* (1882) 101 Sye it throughe a clothe and let yt stond and setelle. *c* 1550 LLOYD *Treas. Health* liii. R ij, Such thynges are neuer mynystred excepte they haue stonde [1585 N iij b, stoode] setteled a good whyle after commixtion. 1675 HANNAH WOOLLEY *Gentlew. Comp.* 136 Strain it [the Jelly], and so let it stand for your use. 1827 FARADAY *Chem. Manip.* xii. (1842) 275 The whole is to be closed up, and suffered to stand until cold. 1852 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* XIII. I. 37 The first milk is set..to stand for cream. 1862 MILLER *Organ. Chem.* (ed. 2) 165 The liquid portion is removed by pressure, and after standing over chloride of calcium is rectified.

†**30.** Of a mixture or confection: To be stiff, have a firm consistence. (Cf. STANDING *ppl. a.* 8 b.)

c 1450 *Two Cookery-bks.* 88 Loke that hit stonde well, with Gynger, Sugur. *Ibid.* 109.

31. Of a star: To appear fixed in the heavens. Of the sun or a planet: To be seen apparently motionless at any point of its course.

1382 WYCLIF *Josh.* x. 13 And the sunne and the mone stoden, to the tyme that [etc.]. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* VIII. xxi. (1495) 331 Stelle ben callyd sterres and haue that name of stando, stondyng, for though they moue alwaye, alwaye it semyth that they stonde. 1577 KENDALL *Flowers of Epigr.* 86 In heuen where starres do stand. 1629 MILTON *Nativity* 70 The Stars with deep amaze Stand fixt in stedfast gaze. 1833 TENNYSON *Lotos-Eaters* 7 Full-faced above the valley stood the moon.

32. Of a piece of machinery, an implement, a vehicle, etc.: To remain still or motionless; not to move or be operated; to cease moving, working, turning, etc. Of a timepiece: To cease 'going', to have stopped. Now somewhat *rare*. Cf. to *stand still*: see STILL *adv.*

1362 LANGL. *P. Pl. A.* VII. 105 At heiȝ prime perkyn lette þe plouȝ stonde. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Friar's T.* 243 Deepe was the wey, for which the Carte stood. *c* 1400 *Anturs of Arth.* 266 Maye no mane stere hym of strenghe, whilles þe whele standis. 1549 LATIMER *Ploughers* (Arb.) 25 The ploughe standeth, there is no worke done. *a* 1696 P. HENRY in M. Henry *Life* X. (1825) 247 When the weight is off, the clock stands. 1772 FOOTE *Nabob* I. (1778) 22, I..told him, the dog was mad, the parrot dead, and the clock stood. 1820 SCORESBY *Acc. Arctic Reg.* II. 476 During an hour.. the pumps were allowed to 'stand'. 1885 'MRS. ALEXANDER' *At Bay* viii, Before his astonished companion could reply he was beside the vehicle, which was still standing.

b. Of a ship: To ride at anchor.

a 1300 *K. Horn* 1021 He let his schup stonde, & ȝede to londe. *Ibid.* 1437 His schup stod vnder ture. *c* 1350 *Will. Palerne* 2728 Þan hiȝed þei hem to þe hauen..þer stoden fele schippes.

c. Of a vehicle: To remain in a customary place waiting for a fare or for the time to start.

1665 in *Verney Mem.* (1907) II. 241 The Black Swan in Holborn where the Alisbury and other coaches stand. 1676 in J. Playford *Vade Mecum* (1679) 197 All Merchants..may chuse what Carr they please, except such as stand for Wharf-work [etc.]..which are to be taken in turn.

d. Of a mine, factory, etc., also of the men employed: To stop working; to be at a standstill.

1733 *N. Riding Rec.* VIII. 202 The Treasurer to pay £22. 15/ for the Milne standing tenn weeks. 1789 J. WILLIAMS *Min. Kingd.* I. 170 Several Cornish mines are now standing..because they cannot be carried on with profit while coal is so dear. 1892 *Black & White* 12 Mar. 331/1 If they [the colliers] 'stand' for a fortnight. 1892 *Standard* 28 Apr. 7/5 Works which stood all last week for holidays being now restarted.

**** With some notion of motion or direction in a fixed or steady course.

†**33.** Of light (also rarely of vapour): To issue in a beam or shaft. *Obs.*

Beowulf 726 Him of eagum stod..leoht unfæger. *c* 900 *Bæda's Hist.* v. xxiii. (1890) 476 Stod se leoma him of, swilce fyrenþecele. *c* 1000 ÆLFRIC *Hom.* (Th.) I. 86 Him stod stincende steam of ðam muðe. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 8160 A lem fra þe wandes stode. *c* 1300 *Havelok* 591 Of hise mouth it stod a stem, Als it were a sunnebem. *c* 1400 *St. Alexius* 439 (Laud 463) Out of his mouþ þer stoed a leom Brighter þan þe sonne beom.

†**34.** Of a weapon: To be fixed *at* or *on* the place to which it penetrates in wounding; to penetrate *through, unto*. Said also of the stroke or 'dint'. *Obs.*

Beowulf 1434 Sumne ðeata leod of flanbogan feores getwæfde,..þæt him on aldre stod herestræl hearda. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 11371 Þe suerd o soru thoru hir stode. *Ibid.* 24360 Þe nails þat him fest on rode, thoru mi hend and fete þai stode. 13.. *King Alis.* 3709 He smot anothir,..That he clef his basnet, At his chyn stod the dunt. *c* 1330 *Arth. & Merl.* 8134 King Malgar on þe heued he gert, þat þe dent stode at þe hert. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* III. 268 With his sword droppende of blod, The which withinne his douhter stod.

35. Of the wind: To blow from a quarter indicated; also simply, to blow favourably, to continue to blow. Similarly of the weather. ? *Obs.* (Cf. SIT *v.* 13 d.)

c 1205 LAY. 1780 Wind stod on willen. *Ibid.* 25537 Weder stod on wille, wind wex an honde. *c* 1300 *Cursor M.* 24834 Forth þai floted on þat flod, For al to will þair bir þam stode. *c* 1300 *K. Horn* 784 (Laud MS.), Þe whyȝt him gan stonde And drof tyl hirelonde. 1338 R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (1810) 145 Þe next Marche folowand He suld take þat way, if wynde wild with him stand, At Marsile to aryue. 1412–20 LYDG. *Chron. Troy* I. 4392 Whan þei seye þat þe wedir stood, Þe wynde also at her lust þei hadde, þei gan to saille. 1546 J. HEYWOOD *Prov.* (1867) 56 If the winde stande in that doore, it standth awry. 1635 BRERETON *Trav.* (Chetham Soc.) 77 The wind stood most easterly. 1669 STURMY *Mariner's Mag.* I. ii. 16 The Wind is fair, though but little; he comes well, as if he would stand. 1699 DAMPIER *Voy.* II. I. 155 If the gale stood. 1708 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4417/2 [They] will sail for the River, as soon as the Wind stands fair.

36. *Naut.* Of a vessel (hence of the commander, sailors, etc.): To sail, steer, direct one's course (in a specified direction, to sea, into harbour, etc.).

See also *stand along, away*, etc. in branch VII; also *stand for* 71 k, *stand with* 79 d. (Note the pa. t. *stowed* in the 17th c., prob. due to misapprehension.)

1627 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Famous Fight* Wks. (1630) III. 30/1 We gaue him a whole broad-side..tacking forthwith, and standing after him. 1633 T. JAMES *Voy.* 18 Wee stowed alongst it [floating ice], hoping to weather it. 1633 T. STAFFORD *Pac. Hib.* II. x. 189 The Spanish fleete..standing to the Northward. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 16 Oct. 1644, The weather being still so fowle that for two houres at least we durst not stand into the haven. 1707 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4312/2 They stood to Sea. 1745 P. THOMAS *Jrnl. Anson's Voy.* 280 We immediately..stood towards her, and I believe if she had..stood from us, we should have found it very difficult to have come up with her. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* III. ix. 386 This entrance he proposed to stand through next day. 1769 FALCONER *Dict. Marine* (1789) D 4 b, We discovered a fleet..standing *athwart* us, i. e. steering across our way. 1823 W. SCORESBY *Jrnl.* 2 We took sail, and stood into the river. *a* 1860 in *Temple Bar* LVI. 353 We passed the bank, stood round the light, and sailed away to sea. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk., Stand in Shore*, to sail directly for the land. 1878 BOSW. SMITH *Carthage* 107 The Roman fleet.. stood right across the Mediterranean to the nearest point of Africa. 1892 *Black & White* 16 Jan. 78/1 The whole fleet put on good speed, and stood nearly due west.

With cognate object. 1705 tr. *Bosman's Guinea* 13 The Ship..being bound to..touch at Curacao before it stands its course homewards.

b. *transf.* Of a person: To go, proceed (in a specified direction).

a 1300 *K. Horn* 1179 Ifond horn child stonde To schupeward in londe. 1829 SHIPP *Mem.* II. 87 They bowed a hundred times..; then stood towards their village.

37. *Archery.* Of an arrow (see quot.).

1801 T. ROBERTS *Eng. Bowman* 294 An arrow is said to stand (or to stand in) a bow, when it flies from it steadily, and without shaking or flirting. *Ibid.*, To Stand in the wind, to stand across the wind.

***** Of immaterial things.

38. With adv., advb. phr., or adj. predicate: To be or remain in a specified condition, relation, situation, etc.

a 1122 *O. E. Chron.* an. 1093 Þæt arcebrice on Cantwarbyriȝ, þe ær on his agenre hand stod. *c* 1315 SHOREHAM *Poems* I. 231 For ȝef þat water his kende lest, þat cristning stant te tealte. 14.. *26 Pol. Poems* 20/194 A cheuenteyn may fyȝte o day, þe victorye wiþ hym stande. *c* 1420 ? LYDG. *Assembly of Gods* 1887 Thy wytte stant a crooke. *c* 1470 *Gol. & Gaw.* 1056 Ane sair stonayand stour at thair hartis standis. 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. IV*, 12 b, My life stoode in ieopardie. 1603 SHAKS. *Meas. for M.* V. i. 108 His Integritie Stands without blemish. 1688 *Lett. conc. Pres. State Italy* 170 The greatest part of the Revenue of this State stands engaged for the Interest that they pay. 1870 ROGERS *Hist. Gleam.* Ser. II. 102 No reputation stood higher than that of Selden. 1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) IV. 8 He cannot tell the relation in which abstract ideas stand to one another. 1891 *Standard* 16 June 3/2 Mr. Balfour's plan stands condemned in his eyes.

b. With a relative or demonstrative adv. as predicate; e. g. *the case stands thus, as things* or *matters stand* (= under present circumstances). Also impersonally, as *it stands well*, †*how stands?*, *how does it stand?* (*with*, † *by*, † *of* a person or thing; † also with dat., *him stands well*).

a 1000 *Boeth. Metr.* i. 28 Stod þraze on ðam. *c* 1300 *Havelok* 2983 Him stondes wel þat god child strenes. *c* 1380 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* III. 346 And þus it stondiþ in þe Chirche of þes newe servauntis þat ben brouȝt in. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Shipman's T.* 114 It stant not so with me. *c* 1485 *Digby Myst.* (1882) IV. 1505 Sister! how standes with yow? *a* 1578 LINDESAY (Pitscottie) *Chron. Scot.* II. 25 The erle of glencairne returnit..to the erle of lennox and schew him how all studd. 1591 SHAKS. *Two Gent.* II. v. 21 *Spee.* Why then, how stands the matter with them? *Lau.* Marry thus, when it stands well with him, it stands well with her. 1600 *Weakest goeth to Wall* H 3, My Lord of Bulloigne, thus then stands my case. 1612 *Benvenuto's Passenger* I. ii. 137 Sure sir, if it stood with you as he pleased, you should be in an euill case. 1672 PETTY *Pol. Anat.* (1691) 68 As things now stand. 1709 BERKELEY *Ess. Vision* § 45 The truth of the matter, I find, stands thus. 1826 LAMB *Pop. Fallacies* XI, A hare, as the law now stands, makes many friends. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* III. VII. VIII, Ill stands it with me if I have spoken falsely. 1862 *Temple Bar* VI. 401 How does it stand with your..studies? 1898 'MERRIMAN' *Roden's Corner* VII. 75 People did not know how matters stood between Joan Ferriby and Tony Cornish.

†**39. a.** With dative of person: To exist, be present (to one); e. g. *me stondeþ rape* = I am in haste. Chiefly in (*me*, etc.) *stands awe, need*: see 45, 46. *Obs.*

a 1300 *K. Horn* 554 For þi me stondeþ þe more rape. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 24220 Quen he þe sagh þis murning mak, sumthing to-þe iwiss he spak if him stode ani steuen.

†**b.** *impers.* To be the case (*that*). *It cannot stand but*, it cannot but be that... *Obs.*

1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. XIV. 251 A strawe for þe stuwes! it stode nouȝt, I trowe, Had þei no þyng but of pore men, her houses were vntyled. 1561 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* I. 173 It mycht stand that I had ressavit sum of the gudis libellit fra the thrid hand. 1644 MAXWELL *Prerog. Chr. Kings* ix. 99 It cannot stand but..the like should hold.

c. *impers.* To behove (a person) *to do* (something). *rare.*

? A cutting down, or confused recollection, of *stand* (one) *in hand* (see 47) or *stand* (one) *upon* (see 78 q).

1857 TROLLOPE *Barchester T.* xlvi, He knew that it depended solely on his own wit whether or no he could throw the joke back upon the lady. He knew that it stood him to do so if he possibly could, but he had not a word. 1911 WEBSTER s. v., 19. To concern; to be of interest or advantage (to); as, it stood him to leave the country for a time.

40. Of a condition, process, or the like: To remain stationary or unchanged, neither progressing nor receding; to be at a standstill.

c 1386 CHAUCER *Merch. T.* 519 (Harl.), Now wolde God that it were woxe night, And that the night wold stonden

[*v. r.* lasten] evermo. 1436 *Pol. Poems* (Rolls) II. 202 For whiche they muste dresse hem to pease in haste, Or ellis there thrifte to standen and to waste. *c* 1530 *Judic. Urines* II. xii. 40 But comynly in Homothena, the sekenes is stondyng tyll the seke man passe other to deth or to lyfe. 1658 Sir T. Browne *Hydriot.* v. 27 Every houre addes unto that current Arithmetique, which scarce stands one moment. 1723 Swift *Poems*, *Pethox* 52 And while his Fate is in thy Hands, The Bus'ness of the Nation stands.

41. To endure, last; to continue unimpaired; to flourish.

c 1000 *Ags. Gosp.* Matt. xii. 26 Hu mæg þonne hys rice standan. *c* 1200 Ormin 18190 Þatt 3et ta stod stafflike witt Amang Judisskenn þede Off Moyssesess laȝheboc. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 9221 Þair kingrik..þat had four hundret yeir stand. 1399 Langl. *Rich. Redeles* III. 249 Iche rewme..Sholde stable and stonde be þese þre degres. 1553 T. Wilson *Rhet.* (1580) 28 If in other thynges we should bee as negligente, this Realme could not long stande. 1865 M. Arnold *Ess. Crit.* ii. 60 Work done after men have reached this platform is classical; and that is the only work which, in the long run, can stand. *Ibid.* vii. 223 How little either of his poetry, or of his criticism, or of his philosophy, can we expect permanently to stand!

42. To be or remain valid or of force, hold good.

c 888 Ælfred *Boeth.* xxi, Þa ȝesetennesse þa he læt standan þa hwile þe he wile. *a* 1122 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 656 Ic bidde ealle þa ða æfter me cumen..þæt ure ȝyfe mote standan. *c* 1275 Lay. 397 After þan heþene lawe þat stot in þan ilke dawe. *c* 1315 Shoreham *Poems* I. 238 For bote þat water his kende haue, þat cristnynge may nauȝt stonde. 1377 Langl. *P. Pl.* B. xv. 573 Owre lorde wrote it [the Law] hym-selue, In stone, for it stydfast was and stonde sholde eure. *c* 1400 *Pilgr. Sowle* (Caxton) I. xxx. (1859) 34 Yf he byquethe al his good to his owne lord, standyth the testament? 1544 tr. *Littleton's Tenures* 39 The last deuyse and wyl made by him shal stande and abyde. 1568 Grafton *Chron.* II. 100 The yonger sort which had chosen Reignold their Subprior, would have that election to stande. *a* 1578 Lindesay (Pitscottie) *Chron. Scot.* I. 343 Gif all promeisis had stand quhilk was maid be the king of scotland. 1719 De Foe *Crusoe* II. (Globe) 432 A written Contract..would stand. 1758 S. Hayward *Serm.* Introd. 19 The promise yet stands. 1855 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* xii. III. 211 No English Parliament..would permit such laws as were now passing through the Irish Parliament to stand. 1879 *Nature* 20 Nov. 62/2 This result is so utterly opposed to fact that a theory which leads to it cannot stand for a moment. 1885 *Law Times Rep.* LII. 625/1, I think..that the nonsuit ought not to stand. 1894 Hall Caine *Manxman* III. xiii. 172 It was taken for granted that the old relations would stand.

b. With complement or predicative extension, as *to stand good, in force,* (†*for*) *law*, etc.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 6746 Qua stelis scep, or ox, or cu..Oxen fiue for an he ȝai, For a scep four, it stand for lai. 1581 Allen *Apol.* 42 No statute then that stood in force. 1586 in J. Morris *Troubles Cath. Forefathers* Ser. III. (1877) 87 Which common presumption always standeth good by their own law until the contrary be plainly and evidently proved. 1633 Bp. Hall *Hard Texts, Rom.* ix. 11 That the decree and purpose of God..might stand in force. 1667 Milton *P. L.* v. 602 Hear my Decree, which unrevok't shall stand. 1747 in *Nairne Peerage Evid.* (1874) 148 The said obligation was..to stand in full force and virtue. 1890 *Chamb. Jrnl.* 27 Dec. 826/1 That charge of murder will not stand law. 1893 *Sat. Rev.* 11 Feb. 164/1 The chapter on planting..stands good for all time.

43. Of a ceremony: To be performed, take place. *Sc.* ? *Obs.*

1649 Lamont *Diary* (Maitl. Club) 5 The mariage feast stoode at the place of the Weyms in Fyfe. 1828 *Burd Isabel* ix. in Child *Ballads* IV. 420 Her kirking and her fair wedding Shall baith stand on ae day. *a* 1868 *Earl of Errol* i. ibid. V. 269 An they hae made a marrige o't, It stood at Earlstoon, O.

III. 44. To cost. (Cf. L. *stare, constare.*)

a. *To stand* (one) *high,* to cost a high price. (Cf. G. *einem hoch zu stehen kommen.*) *rare.*

1362 Langl. *P. Pl.* A. III. 49 We han a wyndow in worching wol stonden [*B. text* sitten] vs ful heiȝe. 1864 Carlyle *Fredk. Gt.* XV. iii. IV. 41 His father and he have stood these Bavarian Countries very high. *Ibid.* XX. x. VI. 243 Carlos's War of ten months had stood him uncommonly high.

†**b.** *To stand* (one) *on, upon, to* (a price). *Obs.*

c 1440 *Jacob's Well* 38 Þe seed stondyth þe on ij. s., þe rente stante þe on vj. d, þe gaderyng & þe repyng standyth þe on xij. d. 1471 *Paston Lett.* III. 31 The fense must stand yow over on xij. mark by the lest wey. 1641 Best *Farm Bks.* (Surtees) 76 Sheepe that are fedde all the summer longe in our closes stande us to three shillings..a peece. 1764 *Museum Rust.* III. 11 His stakes will not stand him, besides his labour, to more than half a farthing each.

c. *To stand* (one) *in* (a price, etc.). The ordinary construction; now restricted in currency, being partly fashionable slang, partly dialectal.

Also *to stand* (a person) *in at* (an amount).

c 1460 Fortescue *Abs. & Lim. Mon.* vi. (1885) 122 Yet his highnes shall þan haue therfore a bouute his persone..lordes, knyghtes, and sqviers..to his charges peraduentur also gretly, as his houshold well ruled was wonned to stonde hym inne. 1488–9 *Act* 4 *Hen. VII*, c. 9 Where an hatte standeth not theym in xvj d. they woll sell it for iij s. or xl d. 1544 in *Lett. & Pap. Hen. VIII* (1903) XIX. i. 445 Here they shall stand the King not in one penny. 1551 Robinson tr. *More's Utopia* II. iv. (1895) 150 The same standeth them in muche lesse coste. 1625 in *Cosin's Corr.* (Surtees) I. 71 Boording and breakfest will stand him in 16li per annum. 1651 H. L'Estrange *Answ. Mrq. Worcester* Ep. Ded., It will be in some sort an Answer to God for the time it stood me in. 1713 *Guardian* No. 84 P 2 It has not stood me in above a Button. 1772 Mme. D'Arblay *Early Diary* (1889) I. 160 Do you know, it stands me in a hundred a year for chaises? 1837 Dickens *Pickw.* xli, It'll stand you in a pound a week. 1848 Thackeray *Van. Fair* xiii, It stands me in eight shillings a bottle. 1875 Miss Braddon *Hostages to Fortune* II. viii. 168 It only stands me in seven and sixpence. 1886 Mrs. Randolph *Mostly Fools* III. iv. 116 His town house..stood him in at fifteen hundred a year.

d. With prep. as in b or c, but without indirect obj. of person. *rare.*

1457 *Paston Lett.* I. 414 That my maister shud be lerned whate hys housold standyth uppon yerlye. 1546 Johnson in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* Ser. II. II. 174 Thay stond in above 4li sterling a peise. 1583 Stubbes *Anat. Abus.* I. (1877) 61, I haue knowen the very nedle work of some one payre of these bootehose to stand, some in iiij pound, vj. pound, and some in x. pound a peece. 1737 Bracken *Farriery Impr.* (1756) I. 167 This Ball would stand in five or six Shillings a Day. 1845 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* VI. II. 526 This concern stands in 70*l.*

e. Without prep. before the word which denotes the price or cost. *rare.*

1542 in J. H. Glover *Kingsthorpiana* (1883) 82 An acre of lande sown in reye stondeth the tenant in sowing vii shillings at the lest. 1671 Lamont *Diary* (Maitl. Club) 224 The new bake howse..stood in workmanship, dales, iyronworke, and nayls, above 300 merks Scots. 1710 Luttrell *Brief Rel.* (1857) VI. 545 The company [were] ordered to bring in a modest computation of what their forts and castles have stood them. 1713 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 5137/10 The first..will stand the Importer near 9s. and 6d. the Gallon. 1801 *Farmer's Mag.* Jan. 110 Good soup is delivered out at 1d. per quart, which stands the subscribers 2½d. 1808 Jamieson, To *Stand* one, to cost; as, *It stood me a groat,* it cost fourpence. 1872 S. De Vere *Americanisms* 552 This horse stands me two hundred dollars at least.

IV. Phrases and idiomatic uses.

45. To stand in awe.

†**a.** Orig. 'awe' was the nominative and the person affected in the dative: *him* (*them, men,* etc.) *stands awe*; const. *of,* also *from, to, with* (the object of dread). Occas. with some other sb. of kindred meaning, as *doubt. Obs.*

c 1000 Ælfric *Hom.* (Th.) I. 64 Swa micel eȝe stod deoflum fram eow. *c* 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 73 Þer hem stod eie, þer hem ne shokle, þat is of idele þing. *c* 1205, *c* 1250 [see Awe *sb.*1 4 a. α, β]. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 14805 Of him þam stod selcut gret agh. *c* 1320, *c* 1380 [see Awe *sb.*1 4 a. β, ε].

13.. *K. Alis.* 3426 (Laud MS.), At þat half stant hem no doute Of Alisaunder ne al his route. *c* 1330 *Arth. & Merl.* 4341 Þat hem no stondeþ no doute Of þe payens no of her route.

†**b.** By inversion of const. the dative of the person became the subject and 'awe' the object of the verb: *to stand awe* (*of,* also *to do* something). Similarly *to stand dread. Obs.*

c 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 39 He þat is recheles and non eiȝe ne stand of louerde. *Ibid.* 139 And te king stod eie of him for his holinesse. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 12091 Þan suld þou sett him to sum scole, þar he moght lere o man stand agh. 1330, *c* 1460 [see Awe *sb.*1 4 a. β]. *c* 1470 Henry *Wallace* IX. 851 The Scottis defens so sykkyr was and keyn, Sotheroun stud aw to enter thaim amang. 1535 Lyndesay *Satyre* 2520 Of na man we sould stand aw. 1597 Montgomerie *Cherrie & Slae* 1053 Of vs ȝe stand na aw.

14.. *26 Pol. Poems* 19/140 Holy chirche stant of hem drede.

c. The modern const., *to stand in awe.* Similarly *to stand in dread, fear,* etc.

1413 [see Awe *sb.*1 4 a. β]. *a* 1425 *Cursor M.* 12091 (Trin.) Þou most do sett him to þe scole For to lerne & stonde in awe. 1535 Coverdale *Ps.* xcvi. 9 Let the whole earth stonde in awe of him. 1581 A. Hall *Iliad* IV. 70 Of whom stand you in awe? 1771 Burke *Corr.* (1844) I. 325 He stood in some awe, though in no sort of fear of you. 1885 Mrs. Lynn Linton *Christ. Kirkland* I. x. 271, I stood in wholesome awe of him.

14.. *26 Pol. Poems* xiii. 6 Falsed stondis ay in drede. 1701 W. Wotton *Hist. Rome* 302 The Brothers stood in fear of their Lives. 1885 J. Payn *Luck of Darrells* I. xiv. 246 His aunt stands rather in fear of him.

46. To stand in need.

†**a.** Orig. in the form (*me, him,* etc.) *stands need* = I (etc.) have need. Const. *till, to* (the thing required). (Corresponds to *need is, is need*: see Need *sb.* 4, 5.) *Obs.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 23983 Wede o welth wil i namar, Clething wil i me tak o care, Þar-til [*Fairf.* þer-to] me standes nede. *a* 1400 *Sir Perc.* 184 A maydene scho tuke hir withalle, That scho myȝte appone calle, Whenne that hir nede stode.

b. In inverted const. (cf. 45 b), of a person, *to stand need* = to be in need (*of, to do* something). *Obs.* exc. *dial.*

1552 Crowley *Pleas. & Payne* Wks. 109 For aye, when I Stode nede of meate, ye gaue me fode. 1578 T. Lupton *All for Money* 699 If you stoode nede of me you should finde me your friende. 1627 R. Sibthorpe *Apostol. Obed.* 28 These, I say, and infinite others, neither will time permit, nor doth your experience stand need. 1657 J. Sergeant *Schism Dispach't* 260 Though we have better grounds then to stand need to build upon it. 1664 Marvell *Corr.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 180 If I stood need of witnesses, I would cite only Your own merits. 1877 *N. W. Linc. Gloss.*, *Stan' need,* stand in need of, ought [to do something]. 1886 *S. W. Linc. Gloss.* s. v., One stans need to tak' care of one's lasses nowa-days.

c. Now (cf. 45 c), *to stand in need.* Const. *of,* † *to do.*

1530 Palsgr. 733/2 If you stande in nede of me you shall fynde I am your frende. 1597 Hooker *Eccl. Pol.* v. xlviii. § 2 Petitionarie prayer belongeth only to such as..stand in need of reliefe from others. 1600 J. Pory tr. *Leo's Africa* VI. 277 Their fields stand in neede of continuall watering. 1630 W. T. *Justif. Relig. now Professed* ix. 66 Who themselues stand in neede to bee saued. 1701 W. Wotton *Hist. Rome* i. 15 His Mind truly stood in need of Instruction. 1849 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* x. II. 658 A realm of which these were the fundamental laws stood in no need of a new constitution. 1887 Westall *Capt. Trafalgar* xix. 245, I felt very tired and stood much in need of sleep.

47. To stand (one) **in** (†**on**) **hand.** Now *dial.*

Cf. the phrases *to lie* (one) *upon hand, in hand*: see Hand *sb.* 32 a, quot. 1548, 29 d quot. 1627.

a. Of the wind: To be favourable. *rare*−1.

c 1205 Lay. 22313 Wind heom stod an honde.

b. To behove, concern; to be needful or necessary to; to be of importance or advantage to. Chiefly *impers.* with *it* and inf.

c 1400 *Beryn* 3173, I take no reward of othir mennys case, But oonlich of myne own, that stont me most an hond. 1470 *Paston Lett.* II. 400 Look that ye spare for no cost to do serche for itt, for it wyll stand yow on hand. 1523 Berners *Froiss.* I. ccxxii. 289 [They] fought valiantly, the which stode them well in hand to do, for ye naueroyse had caused them somwhat to recule. 1587 Golding *De Mornay* i. 9 To lay forth the proofes..it would stand me in hand to ransacke the whole world. 1654 H. L'Estrange *Chas. I* (1656) 89 The King..conceived it stood him in hand to stand upon his guard. 1667 O. Heywood *Heart-Treas.* vii. 54 It stands us all in hand to try our selves. *a* 1825 Forby *Voc. E. Anglia* s. v., 'To stand in hand', to concern, behove, or interest. Ex. 'It stands you in hand to look to that'. 1848 Bartlett *Dict. Amer., To stand in hand,* to concern, to behoove... This phrase is a colloquial one in New England. Ex. 'It stands you in hand to attend to your business'.

48. To stand in stead.

†**a.** To be of use or advantage, to be serviceable or profitable. Also with adj. qualifying *stead,* to be of (little, no, good) avail or service. *Obs.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 26512 It sal stand in sted sumquar. 13.. *Ibid.* 4114 (Göt.) Lat vs do him to dreri dede, Loke quat his drem sal stand in-sted. 1340 Hampole *Pr. Consc.* 3648 His help thurgh hym-selfe standes in na stede, For he es als a lym þat es dede. 1399 *Pol. Poems* (Rolls) I. 365 The busch is bare and waxus sere, Hit may no lengur leves bere; now stont hit in no styde. *c* 1430 *Freemasonry* (Halliw. 1840) 679 They schul be told to stonde yn stede, When thou hast therto gret nede. 1544 Betham *Precepts War* I. cxci. I iv b, But yf we must warre in playne and champyon countryes, then horsemen be moost necessarye. For fotemen wyll stande in lytle steade and vse. *c* 1645 Howell *Lett.* (1650) III. 12 If Love be fire, to light this Indian weed, The Donor's Love of fire may stand in steed. 1659 Hammond *On Ps.* lxii. 9 It standeth in no stead, and so disappoints those that depend on it. 1772 Whitefield *Serm.* xxxii. Wks. VI. 11 Thy wealth and grandeur will stand in no stead.

b. More usually with indirect obj. († rarely with *to*). *To stand* (one) *in stead, in* (*good,* etc.) *stead*: to be of service or benefit to; to help or avail. Now only with adj. (*good,* etc.), and that in literary rather than familiar use.

When without epithet, *in stead* was sometimes written or printed as one word.

1387 Trevisa *Higden* (Rolls) VII. 267 But for it stood hem but litel in stede [orig. *sed quia parum profecerunt*]. *c* 1440 *Sir Gowther* 658 He..stode poure men in stede. 1513 More in *Grafton's Chron.* (1568) II. 785 Suche as they thought..able to stande them in stead, eyther by power or by policie. 1577 Kendall *Flowers of Epigr., Trifles* 5 The weake may stand the strong in sted. 1603–26 Breton *Poste Mad Lett.* (Grosart) 39/1 Your kind promise vpon any urgent occasion to stand me instead. 1662 Gerbier *Principles* 1 Some Principles thereon, which may stand the lovers of it instead. 1730 *Lett. to Sir W. Strickland rel. to Coal Trade* 25 It will therefore stand them in stead to consider, whether they be likely to gain anything by the Exchange. 1802 Mar. Edgeworth *Moral T., Forester* (*The Bet*), That excuse sha'n't stand you in stead. 1826 Disraeli *Viv. Grey* III. v, Your boasted knowledge of human nature shall not again stand you in stead.

1338 R. Brunne *Chron.* (1810) 202 Better is holy bede of man þat right lyues, & standes vs in more stede, þan alle þe gode he gyues. 13.. *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* 674/90 Strengþe stont vs in no stide. *c* 1449 Pecock *Repr.* v. vi. 514 If thilk gouernaunce..stondith to him in miche goostli stide. 1539 Wriothesley in *St. Papers Hen. VIII*, VIII. 160 Soo that his advise therein could stand them in small stede. 1577 Hanmer *Anc. Eccl. Hist., Euseb.* III. ix. (1585) 44 Josephus him selfe, that hath stoode vs in so great stead, for the furnishing of this our present history. 1665 *Extr. St. Papers rel. Friends* Ser. III. (1912) 241 Our good intentions stand us in little stead. 1749 Fielding *Tom Jones* v. viii, It is then he will find in what mighty stead that heathen goddess..will stand him. 1848 Thackeray *Van. Fair* liv, A Johnson's Dictionary, which stood them in much stead. 1887 Westall *Capt. Trafalgar* I. 13 Continual practice stood me in better stead than whole volumes of theory. 1891 *Temple Bar* Oct. 177 His early training..stood him in good stead.

†**c.** Similarly *to stand* (one) *to* (good) *stead.* Also without prep., *to stand* (one) *stead. Obs. rare.*

1549 Chaloner *Erasm. Praise Folly* B j, If yé aske me, what stede these stande me to? I answeare [etc.]. 1577 Stanyhurst *Descr. Irel.* 1/2 in *Holinshed*, Thersites..being in outwarde feature so deformed, and in inwarde conditions so crooked, as he seemed to stande to no better steede, then to leade Apes in hell. 1582 A. Hall *Iliad* v. 95 What stead canst thou the Troyans stand?

†**d.** In various other phrases of like meaning, as *to stand* (a person) *in force, in profit, in vail, at* or *to avail. To stand stall, in stall*: see Stall *sb.*1 2 b. *Obs.*

c 1400 *Pilgr. Sowle* (Caxton) I. xiii. (1859) 9 It maye hym stande nought in profite ne at none auaile. 1428 in *Engl. Misc.* (Surtees 1890) 7 For y^t^ yair praiers suld stand John Lyllyng to availl. *c* 1450 *Mirk's Festial* 76 What maner vertu þat a man haue, but yf he be yn charyte, hit stondys hym in no vayle. 1563 *Homilies* II. *Passion* II. 201 b, So the death of Christ shall stande vs in no force, vnlesse we applye it to our selues in suche sort, as God hath appoynted.

49. To stand in stead of, to take the place of, represent, do duty for; also *instead of, in the stead of, in lieu of.* Also with indirect object.

a 1500 *Gest of Robyn Hode* lxxxi. in Child *Ballads* III. 60 In a yeman's stede he may the stande, If thou greate nede haue. 1530 PALSGR. 733/2 Syns my lorde can nat be here him selfe to day, who shall stande in his stede. 1583 MELBANCKE *Philotimus* F iv b, Their banquet was ready..and Parmenio & Antigone stoode in steade of sewer and seruitours. 1612 *Benvenuto's Passenger* II. i. 395 Will stands instead of power, where wee cannot performe. 1847 C. BRONTE *J. Eyre* ii, To stand in the stead of a parent to a strange child she could not love. 1849 *Tait's Mag.* XVI. 58/1 Chemistry does not stand a man instead of dinner. 1870 DICKENS *E. Drood* xvii, I have undergone some mental distress..which has stood me in the stead of illness. 1882 STEVENSON *Fam. Stud.* 283 The rigidity of intricate metrical forms stood him in lieu of precise thought. 1893 *Temple Bar* XCIX. 68 A down-drawing of the corners of her mouth that stood her instead of a smile.

50. To let... stand. **a.** *lit.* To leave (a person or thing) undisturbed in an erect position. **b.** *fig.* To leave for the time without notice or discussion; to leave in abeyance, let alone.

For other literal examples, see 29, 32, 32 b.

c 1205 LAY. 27159 An his riht honde he lette Lengres stonde. 1297 R. GLOUC. 1276 Þe king þe wule londone bisegede uaste ..Ac þo he hurde þat þe romeins icome were to þis londe, To hom he wende hasteliche & let londone stonde. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 19601 Lat we nu þe prechurs stand, For to spek of a warraiand. *a* 1300 *Harrow. Hell* 136 Ich lete hem [the gates of Hell] stonden and renne away. 1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. xx. 101 Deth cam dryuende after and al to doust passhed ..Lered ne lewed, he let no man stonde. *c* 1400 *Beryn* 157 Pese, quod the hoost of Southwork, let stond þe wyndow glasid. 1535 COVERDALE 1 *Sam.* xxiii. 13 Whan it was tolde Saul that Dauid was escaped from Cegila, he let his iourney stonde. *a* 1810 TANNAHILL *Poems* (1846) 25 She has my vows, but aye I let her stan', In hopes to win that bonnie lassie's han'. 1888 *Times* (weekly ed.) 22 June 13/3 To ask the Court to let the case stand. 1889 CONAN DOYLE *Micah Clarke* xi. 97 For my own claim, I let it stand for some time. 1898 H. NEWBOLT *He fell among Thieves* ii, Let the reckoning stand till day.

† 51. The pres. pple. **standing**, placed before a sb. with which it agrees, or before a clause, has been used in certain 'absolute' constructions (cf. *during, pending*). **a.** = While (so-and-so) subsists, is retained, remains what it was. *Obs.*

c 1380 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* III. 115 He [Christ] becom man, stondynge his godhed, þat he myȝt not lese. *c* 1400 *Pilgr. Soule* (Caxton) I. xiii. (1859) 9 Yet ouer this will I [Satan] preue by reson, that standing this filthe and dishoneste of synne with whiche he is entachyd, this lauure rather causeth hym to be juged to oure company. *c* 1449 PECOCK *Repr.* v. xiii. 554 Not eny yuel, which mai not eesili be remedied, stonding al the good which bifore is rehercid to come bi the same bildingis. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 205 b, For otherwyse (standynge the ordynate iustyce of god) he myght neuer haue..goten by meryt suche hye..dignitie. 1569 ABP. PARKER in *Corr.* (1853) 353, I think he should do this thing..better cheap than they may be bought from beyond the seas, standing the paper and goodness of his print.

† b. = While (so-and-so) lasts; during. *Obs.*

c 1500 MEDWALL *Nature* I. 323 (Brandl) Standyng the nonage of thys gentylman. 1512 in Willis & Clark *Cambridge* (1886) I. 609 Duryng the contynuaunce of the seid werkes and standyng the lyff and helth of the said John Wastell.

† c. = When (so-and-so) is taken into account; considering, in view of. (The examples might be referred to a; but cf. d.) *Obs.*

c 1528 WOLSEY in *Burnet's Hist. Ref.* (1679) I. Rec. II. 52 Which I suppose neither his Holiness nor any true Christian Man can do, standing the manifest occasions, presumptions, and apparent evidences to the contrary. 1532 MORE *Confut. Tindale* Wks. 720/1, I can not..perceyue what counsayle Tyndall can geue any manne towarde saluacion, standyng his frantike heresies agaynst free will.

† d. As the first word of a clause (with or without *that*): The fact being that, considering *that*, since.

c 1450 *Cov. Myst.* 190 Stondynge that ȝe be so wytty and wyse, Can ȝe owth tellyn how this werde was wrought? *Ibid.* 218 Stondynge ȝe wyl not graunt me grace, But for my synne that I xal dye, I pray ȝow kylle me here in this place. 1513 MORE *Rich. III* Wks. 59/1 And yᵗ he could not well otherwise do, standing that yᵉ Earle of warwik had so far moued already. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 17 Thynkynge that it was impossyble for them to optayne and wynne the sayd lande, standynge that the people were so myghty and stronge.

V. Transitive senses.

* Originating from the conversion of an indirect into a direct object, from the omission of a prep., or from intrans. uses with cognate object.

52. To confront, face, oppose, encounter; to resist, withstand, bear the brunt of.

† a. an opponent. *Obs.*

c 1325 *Chron. Eng.* 72 (Ritson) Yef the word of the spronge That eny mon the stode so longe,..Al thyn honour were leid adoun. *c* 1435 *Torr. Portugal* 81 Full Euyll thow dourst hyme stond. *c* 1450 HOLLAND *Howlat* 500 Was nane so stur in the steid micht stand him a start. 1470-85 MALORY *Arthur* x. lxxiv. 543 There myghte none stande hym a stroke. 1591 SHAKS. 1 *Hen. VI*, I. i. 123 Hundreds he sent to Hell, and none durst stand him. *c* 1611 CHAPMAN *Iliad* XXI. 508 This last heart, made him bold, To stand Achilles. 1615 — *Odyss.* VI. 205 All but Nausicaa fled; but she fast stood...And still she stood him, as resolued to know What man he was. 1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* II. (Globe) 393 They resolved to stand them there. 1770 LANGHORNE *Plutarch, Crassus* (Rtldg.) 385/2 The young man cried out, 'They dare not stand us', and followed at full speed.

b. a blow or stroke, shot, attack, assault, siege, or the like; also laughter, raillery, indignation, etc.

c 1330 *Arth. & Merl.* 9282 Non no miȝt stond his dent. 15.. *Adam Bel* 145 There myght no man stand hys stroke. 1605 SHAKS. *Lear* III. vii. 54, I am tyed to' th' Stake, And I must stand the Course. 1625 MASSINGER *New Way* IV. i, I, that haue liu'd a Souldier, And stood the enemies violent charge vndaunted. *a* 1630 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Dog of War* B 2 b, He durst t'haue stood sterne Aiax frowne. 1670 DRYDEN *2nd Pt. Conq. Granada* III. i, The shock of such a curse I dare not stand. 1712 TICKELL *Spect.* No. 410 ₱ 4 My good Friend could not well stand the Raillery which was rising upon him. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* II. xiv. 286 Supposing that the troops..should..resolve to stand a general assault. 1803 *Pic Nic* No. 9 (1806) II. 87 Cecilia had stood a siege more than half as long as that of Troy. 1823 BYRON *Age of Bronze* xi, What is the simple standing of a shot, To listening long, and interrupting not? 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. vi. i, He busy meanwhile training a few thousands to stand fire and be soldiers. 1890 *Illustr. Lond. News* 13 Sept. 331/1 These virgin walls have stood unmoved a hundred assaults. 1891 *Murray's Mag.* Sept. 382 She was ready to stand fire rather than retreat.

† c. To be exposed to (stress of weather, or the like). *Obs.*

1583 STUBBES *Anat. Abus.* II. 41 If the poore come to their houses, their gates be shut against them, where they standing frost and snow, haile, wind or raine whatsoeuer, are forced to tary two houres. 1607 SHAKS. *Cor.* v. iii. 74 Like a great Sea-marke standing euery flaw. 1726 LEONI *Alberti's Archit.* I. 45 *a*, Those parts..which stand all the changes of Weather..very soon decay.

53. To endure, undergo, be submitted to (a trial, test, ordeal, or the like). Usually (cf. sense 54), to come through or sustain successfully, (be able) to bear (a test, etc.). Said also of things.

1606 SHAKS. *Ant. & Cl.* I. iii. 74 And giue true euidence to his Loue, which stands An honourable Triall. 1610 — *Temp.* IV. i. 7 All thy vexations Were but my trials of thy loue, and thou Hast strangely stood the test. 1712 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 409 ₱ 4 The celebrated Works of Antiquity, which have stood the Test of so many different Ages and Countries. 1742 BLAIR *Grave* 666 Pure as Silver from the Crucible, That twice has stood the Torture of the Fire And Inquisition of the Forge. 1814 MRS. J. WEST *Alicia de Lacy* IV. 217 'Of what shall we hereafter stand question', said the Earl of Hereford. 1822 LAMB *Elia* Ser. I. *Artif. Comedy* (init.), The business of their dramatic characters will not stand the moral test. 1825 *New Monthly Mag.* XV. 201 He has stood the ordeal of a London audience. 1890 *Blackw. Mag.* CXLVIII. 749/1 It would not be easy to get up a grievance which would stand a rigid examination.

b. spec. *To stand one's trial*: to be tried by a court for an offence. Also *slang*, in the same sense, *to stand the patter*. **† *To stand suit*:** to allow oneself to be sued.

1667 PEPYS *Diary* 27 Aug., Desiring that he may stand his trial in Parliament, if they will accuse him of any thing. 1685 P. HENRY *Diaries & Lett.* (1882) 344 Hee..sayes, hee wil stand suit, which if he doe, I know who wil get the better. 1726 SWIFT *Gulliver* I. vii, I sometimes thought of standing my trial. 1812 [see PATTER *sb.*¹ 1 b]. 1891 *Chamb. Jrnl.* 5 Sept. 571/1 He was obliged to stand his trial for forgery.

c. To submit to, offer to abide by (a judgement, decision, vote); to expose oneself to the chances of (a contested election: cf. 12).

a 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 30 Nov. 1682, I was exceedingly indanger'd and importun'd to stand the election [for President of the R. S.]. 1713 ADDISON *Cato* II. ii, Bid him..Submit his actions to the publick censure, And stand the judgment of a Roman Senate. 1754 A. MURPHY *Gray's Inn Jrnl.* No. 86 ₱ 10 They would not be at a Loss for a proper Representative..whenever the Author of the *Polymetis* should be willing to stand the Poll. 1774 JOHNSON *Let. to G. Steevens* 21 Feb. in *Boswell*, I am desirous of nominating you, if you care to stand the ballot. 1789 MRS. PIOZZI *Journ. France* I. Pref. 5 [It] induces authors to venture forth, and stand a public decision. 1858 J. MARTINEAU *Stud. Chr.* 122 He who claims by the law, must stand the judgment of the law. 1889 GRETTON *Memory's Harkback* 244, I thought that the Prince Consort was lowering his position by standing a contest for the office. 1891 *Blackw. Mag.* CL. 147/1 All through his career he never stood a contested election.

d. *To stand one's chance*: to take one's chance, submit to what may befall one.

1796–7 JANE AUSTEN *Pride & Prej.* ii, Mrs. Long and her nieces must stand their chance.

† e. To abide by, obey, remain loyal to (an ordinance, etc.). *Obs. rare.*

c 1450 *Merlin* vi. 99 The wise men and the high barouns ..a-corded to stonde the ordenaunce of the archebisshop. 1573 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* II. 265 Obleissis thame to stand and fulfill the injunctionis and articles quhilk wer aggreit be thame.

54. To face, encounter without flinching or retreating (an issue, hazard, etc.). Also in weaker sense, to be exposed or liable to (hazard, fortunes). (Cf. *stand to* 76 f.)

1594 SHAKS. *Rich. III* v. iv. 10 Slaue, I haue set my life vpon a cast, And I will stand the hazard of the Dye. 1607 — *Timon* v. ii. 5 We stand much hazard, if they bring not Timon. *a* 1619 FLETCHER *Knt. Malta* IV. ii, I am sorry ye are so poor, so weak a Gentleman, Able to stand no fortune. 1667 PEPYS *Diary* 2 Sept., He that serves a Prince must expect, and be contented to stand, all fortunes. 1705 COLLIER *Ess. Mor. Subj.* III. *Pain* 16 'Twas a noble Act of Faith to throw themselves upon Providence, to stand the Event, and face Death under the most frightful Form. 1792 CHARLOTTE SMITH *Desmond* I. 255 A gallant fellow, who had been in the former wars with the English, and stood the hazards of many a bloody day.

† 55. To withstand, disobey, hold out against (a command). *Obs. rare.*

1605 SHAKS. *Lear* IV. i. 71 (Qo.) The superfluous and lustdieted man That stands [*Fo.* slaues] your ordinance. *c* 1800 *Bob Norice* vii. in Child *Ballads* II. 267 How daur you stand my bidding, Sir, Whan I bid you to flee?

56. *To stand one's ground*: to maintain one's position against attack or opposition. Also *fig.*

1621 T. WILLIAMSON tr. *Goulart's Wise Vieillard* 99 Thou ..wilt not from thy coullers flie, But stand thy ground couragiously. 1688 *Lett. conc. Pres. State Italy* 116 He could not have stood his ground in the Dispute. 1785 JEFFERSON *Corr.* Wks. 1859 I. 379, I have now no further fears of that Arret's standing its ground. 1804 NICHOLL in Owen *Wellesley Despatches* (1877) 530, I directed the picquets to stand their ground. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* vi. II. 115 He could not stand his ground against competitors who were willing to pay such a price for the favour of the court. 1891 *Strand Mag.* Jan. 77/1 The donkey..bravely stood his ground.

57. *To stand a chance* (also *a good, poor, small,* etc. *chance*; *some, little, no chance*): to be likely to meet with some (specified or implied) piece of fortune, some danger, some good or ill luck. Const. *of* (something, doing something), *for.*

1725 *New Cant. Dict.* s. v. *Lay*, He stands a queer Lay; He stands an odd Chance, or is in great Danger. 1736 LEDIARD *Life of Marlborough* I. 319 The Duke stood a very ticklish Chance. 1803 *Pic Nic* No. 13 (1806) II. 211 They stood a fair chance of going to hell. 1845 M. PATTISON *Ess.* (1889) I. 18 Under such circumstances an obnoxious criminal stood..small chance of justice. 1848 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* IX. II. 281 He would have stood a fair chance for a prize. 1861 *Temple Bar* II. 539 Grey will stand no chance. 1889 F. C. PHILIPS *Ainslie's Courtship* I. vii. 100 He would stand no chance over the snow against your snow-shoes.

58. To endure (a physical trial, hardship, etc.) without hurt or damage, without succumbing or giving way: **a.** of persons and animals.

1839 T. MITCHELL *Frogs of Aristoph.* 73 *note*, A trumpet,.. by which horses are proved, as to whether they will stand noises. 1853 LYTTON *My Novel* I. ix, 'But this climate—she could never stand it', said Riccabocca. 1887 *J. Coleman's Cattle* etc. *Gt. Brit.* 349 The Shropshire is a hardy sheep,.. standing moisture better than severe cold. 1891 *Chamb. Jrnl.* 19 Sept. 608/1 Drivers have to stand all weathers. 1903 SIR M. G. GERARD *Leaves fr. Diaries* ii. 47 The great heat renders the tiger comparatively helpless—as he cannot stand the sun.

b. of things.

1756 C. LUCAS *Ess. Waters* I. 56 Common glass stands the utmost degree of fire without waste. 1777 [W. MARSHALL] *Minutes Agric.* 28 Apr., The green-cole and brown-cole stood the winter very well. 1864 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* XXV. II. 360 Turnips will stand almost any amount of frost. 1875 F. J. BIRD *Dyer's Hand-bk.* 45 Very fine shades of blue that will stand soaping. 1890 *Temple Bar* July 420 These dyes will not stand water.

fig. 1885 *Manch. Exam.* 13 July 5/3 These luxuriant growths of Liberal aspirations will stand pruning. 1885 *Law Times Rep.* LIII. 480/2 To avoid..the consequences of having sent in a bill which would not stand taxation.

59. To put up with, tolerate; (to be able or willing) to endure.

1626 G. SANDYS *Ovid's Met.* x. 198 A Stag..who..well pleas'd would stand The gentle strokings of a stranger's hand. 1710 STEELE *Tatler* No. 225 ₱ 2 It is often said, such an one cannot stand the Mention of such a Circumstance. 1750 CHESTERF. *Lett.* III. CCXXXVI. 76 Till I am satisfied in these particulars, you and I must by no means meet: I could not possibly stand it. 1816 SCOTT *Antiq.* xliv, Weel, I thought there was naething but what your honour could hae studden in the way o' agreeable conversation. 1821 [see NONSENSE 1 c]. 1831 PALMERSTON in Bulwer *Life* II. viii. 93 England never would stand the occupation of the Tagus by the French. 1858 CARLYLE *Fredk. Gt.* II. iv. (1872) I. 66 Baiern ..could not stand to be balked after twenty-years possession. 1869 TROLLOPE *He Knew*, etc. lxv. (1878) 361 She..declared that she was not going to stand that kind of thing. 1891 *19th Cent.* Dec. 859 The Court cannot and will not stand.. journalistic personalities about its members.

b. Familiarly in more trivial sense (with negative expressed or implied): To reconcile oneself to, be favourably disposed to, feel any liking for (a repugnant or distasteful object).

1879 MRS. OLIPHANT *Within Precincts* xx. II. 60 She could not stand that Manager fellow. I could not stand him myself.

60. *To stand watch, to stand a* or *one's watch*: to keep watch, perform the duty of a watch. Now chiefly *Naut.*, to take part in the duty of a 'watch' during a prescribed time.

1605 SHAKS. *Macb.* v. v. 33 As I did stand my watch vpon the Hill. *c* 1730 RAMSAY *Vision* iv, My wakryfe mynd..still stude watch. 1883 *Century Mag.* XXVI. 911/1 Fenton stood the first watch. 1890 *Chamb. Jrnl.* 21 June 389/1 He's the ship's carpenter, and stands watch as second officer.

61. colloq. *To stand shot* (*to*), rarely *to stand the shot*: to meet the expenses, pay the bill (for all): see SHOT *sb.*¹ 23. Similarly *to stand Sam, treat*: see SAM *sb.* 1, TREAT *sb.*¹ 4 d. Also *to stand one's hand* (*to*).

1821 [see SHOT *sb.*¹ 23]. 1823–1887 [see SAM *sb.* 1]. 1837–1885 [see TREAT *sb.*¹ 4 d]. 1883 J. PURVES in *Contemp. Rev.* Sept. 356 At the one year's end and the beginning of the other, he must stand his hand like the rest. 1890 *Sat. Rev.* 3 May 61/2 Mr. Lowther..requested that his speech might be published..offering to take the consequences and stand the shot. 1892 H. NISBET *Bushranger's Sweetheart* viii. 58, I used to see her..'standing her hand' liberally to all who happened to be in the bar.

b. To bear the expense of, make a present of, pay for (a treat). Const. *to* or dative of the recipient. *colloq.*

1835 DICKENS *Sk. Boz, Dancing Academy*, Mr. Augustus Cooper..'stood' considerable quantities of spirits-and-water. 1840 THACKERAY *Shabby-genteel Story* ii, I'll stand glasses round to his jolly good health! 1848 — *Van. Fair* xiii, I

know my father will stand something handsome. 1890 *Lippincott's Mag.* May 633 I'll stand you a dinner. 1891 *Sat. Rev.* 18 Apr. 482/1 They..stood drinks promiscuously to all-comers.

c. With indirect obj. only = to stand drink for (a person or persons). *colloq.*

1894 Mrs. Dyan *All in Man's Keeping* (1899) 173 Sit down here, and I'll stand you both.

62. *To stand the market*: to attend market in order to sell goods or to hire oneself out. *dial.*

Cf. *to overstand one's market* s. v. Market *sb.* 6.

1866 W. Dobson *Diary of P. Walkden* 42 *note*, It was customary for carts with cannel to 'stand the market'. 1886 *Cheshire Gloss.* s. v., Farmers' wives call it *standing the market* when they sell their butter, eggs, &c., in the open market instead of taking them to shops or from house to house. 1886 *Ripon Chron.* 4 Sept. 3/5 The first harvest hirings were held at Malton on Saturday, when there was a good number of men 'standing the market'.

63. *Racing*, etc. a. To bet, wager (a sum of money) *on* or *about* a result. ? *Obs.*

1804 Chifney *Genius Genuine* 155 The fellow had asked him to stand fifty guineas with him on the match. 1825 *New Monthly Mag.* XVI. 375 Made up my mind..to stand something about the double event, if I could get any thing worth having.

b. To bet on the success of, 'back' (a horse).

1890 *Daily News* 10 Dec. 3/7 Backers were also well on the mark in standing Alfred for the Park selling Hurdle. 1891 *Standard* 9 Mar. 3/1, I shall stand Flower of the Forest for the..Hunters' Steeplechase. 1892 *Ibid.* 25 July 2/5, I shall stand him to carry his 12lb. penalty successfully.

64. *Hunting.* Of a dog: To set (game). Cf. 4 c.

1863 W. C. Baldwin *Afr. Hunting* viii. 333 Juno returns and stands them one after another. 1892 *Field* 7 May 671/3 He finds his birds, and stands them well.

** Causative.

65. To cause to stand; to place or leave standing; to set (a thing) upright; to place firmly or steadily in a specified position. Also with advs., as *up*. Only colloq. or in familiar writing.

1837 Dickens *Pickw.* xxvi, The pretty house-maid had stood the candle on the floor. 1848 — *Dombey* ii, A plump and apple-faced boy, whom he stood down on the floor. 1848 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* IX. II. 560 Sharpen the pole.. and stand it in the ground. 1850 Dickens *David Copp.* xxxii A low iron [fender], with two flat bars at top to stand plates upon. 1873 M. Collins *Squire Silchester* I. i. 17 She would..stand her in a corner if she gave herself airs. 1878 *Scribner's Monthly* XV. 763/1, I stood my rifle against a tree. 1889 'Mrs. Alexander' *Crooked Path* I. v. 153 I've stood them [a chest of drawers] open all last night. 1892 *Illustr. Sporting & Dram. News* 17 Dec. 494/3 We recommend the driver to stand his horse in running water. 1894 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* June 230 Owners were compelled to resort to the fields near the borough to stand their horses. 1905 Wastell & Bayley *Hand Camera* 126 The negatives ..may be stood up to dry...They must not be stood close together in a rack.

b. *refl. rare.*

1848 Dickens *Dombey* xxv, The Captain then stood himself up in a corner, against the wall.

VI. With prepositions. (The more literal and obvious meanings are left to be inferred from the simple senses above and those of the various prepositions.)

66. Stand about —.

a. *lit.* To surround; = L. *circumstare.*

c 1368 Chaucer *Compl. Pity* 36 Aboute hir herse there stoden lustely..Bounte parfyt [etc.]. 1535 Coverdale *Job* xxix. 4 When my housholde folkes stode aboute me. 1849 M. Arnold *Sick King Bokhara* 105 They who stood about the King.

† b. *fig.* To spend time upon, stay to consider, wait for (something to be done). *Obs.*

c 1555 Towrson in Hakluyt *Voy.* (1599) II. II. 30 As for their arrowes, I haue not as yet seene any of them, for they had wrapped them up close, and because I was busie I could not stand about it, to haue them open them. 1579 Fulke *Refut. Rastell* 708, I will not stand about this trifling cauil.

67. Stand against, † again(s —.

a. To stand and face (an antagonist, etc.); to withstand, oppose, resist. Also, to resist successfully, hold one's ground against. Said also of things. (Cf. 10 and Again-stand *v.*)

a 1122 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1048 Þæh him lað wære þæt hi ongean heora cyne-hlaford standan sceoldan. *c* 1200 Ormin 2785 He maȝȝ standenn wel onnȝæn Þe deofell wiþþ swillc wæpenn. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 4096 Þi bod i aght noght to stand agayn. *c* 1330 *Arth. & Merl.* 4842 Armes non, ywrouȝt wiþ hond, Oȝain his dent no miȝt stond. *a* 1400–50 *Wars Alex.* 1322 Was nane sa stiffe in Þat stoure miȝt stand him agayn. *c* 1450 *Merlin* 1 Our strengthes.. may nought..again him stonde in no diffence. 1593 Abp. Bancroft *Dang. Posit.* IV. xii. 173 That the people are inflamed with zeale, and that it is impossible to stand against it. 1687 Burnet *Contin. Reply to Varillas* 102 He finding that he was not able to stand against so strong a Party, submitted himself to them. 1820 Scott *Monast.* Introd. Ep., I hae fund something now that stands again' the spade, as if it were neither earth nor stane. 1833 Nyren *Yng. Cricketer's Tutor* 114 He [Aylward had to stand against the finest bowling of the day—that of Lumpy. 1881 Mrs. Lynn Linton *My Love* II. viii. 156, I will not stand against your happiness. 1890 Conan Doyle *Firm of Girdlestone* xi. 85 No firm could stand against such a run of bad luck.

† b. To feel repugnance for. *Obs.*

1551 Robinson tr. *More's Utopia* I. (1895) 36 [Ought I to advance myself] to a welthyer condition..by that meanes that my mynde standethe cleane agaynst [*a qua abhorret animus*]?

68. Stand at —.

† a. To abide by, obey (a decree, etc.) (Cf. *stand to* 76 a.) *Obs.*

c 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* 160/1874 Þat heo don sikernesse for-to stonde at holi churche lawe And to Þe lokinȝe of holi churche. *c* 1386 Chaucer *Prol.* 778 And if yow lyketh alle, by oon assent, ffor to stonden at my Iuggement. *c* 1480 Henryson *Fables, Fox, Wolf & Husbandman* 81 Ȝe sall be sworne to stand at my decreit. 1581 *Extch. Rolls Scot.* XXI. 551 Bayth the saidis parties oblissis thame to stand and abyid thairat bot any reclaming.

† b. To assist or be present at. *Obs. rare*—1.

1746 Hervey *Medit.* (1818) 79, I..must stand at the dissolution of all terrestrial things, and be an attendant on the burial of nature.

c. To stick, hesitate or scruple at; to allow oneself to be deterred, impeded or checked by.

1756–7 tr. *Keysler's Trav.* (1760) I. 2 Men of large fortunes stand at no price for Swiss cattle. 1808 *Sporting Mag.* XXXII. 122 We don't stand at a trifle. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* III. v. v, To stand at no obstacles; to heed no considerations, human or divine. 1890 F. C. Philips & Wills *Sybil Ross* xx. 147 He is not a man who stands at trifles.

69. Stand before —.

a. To continue in the presence of, attend upon (a lord). Chiefly *Biblical*: see concordances.

c 1200 Ormin 206 Witt tu Þatt icc amm Gabriæl Þatt æfre & æfre stannde Biforenn Godd, to lutenn himm. *c* 1400 *Rule St. Benet* (Prose) 19 Loke ye do yure seruise als ye stode by-fore god almihti. *c* 1440 *Gesta Rom.* xlviii. 211 (Addit. MS.) [He] stode atte borde before the Erle, and served hym curtesly [*Harl.* gentilmanly stode afore him].

b. To come or be brought into the presence of, to confront (a person or assembly, a king, judge, tribunal, etc.).

a 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 632 Hwen ȝe stondeð biforen kinges & eorles, ne penche ȝe neauer hwet ne hu ȝe schulen seggen. 1377 Langl. *P. Pl.* B. Prol. 183 A mous..Stroke forth sternly and stode biforn hem alle. *c* 1386 Chaucer *Man of Law's T.* 520 For as the lomb toward his deeth is brought So stant this Innocent bifore the kyng. *c* 1450 tr. *De Imitatione* I. xxiv. 32 In all þinges beholde Þe ende, & how Þou shalt stonde before Þe rightwise Juge. 1526 Tindale *Rev.* xx. 12 And I sawe the deed, both grett and smale stonde before God. 1819 S. Rogers *Human Life* 586 Alone before his judges in array [He] Stands for his life.

c. To confront (an adversary). Usually with *can* etc. negatively or interrogatively: To maintain one's ground against. (Cf. 10.)

For Bible examples (lit. from Heb.), see concordances.

c 1205 Lay. 21377 Her stondeð us biuoren vre ifan alle icoren. 1652 Needham tr. *Selden's Mare Cl.* 51 None was able to stand before him either by Sea or Land. 1721 De Foe *Mem. Cavalier* (1840) 87 Nothing could stand before them; the Spanish army..was everywhere defeated. 1879 M. J. Guest *Lect. Hist. Eng.* xlviii. 485 The Cavaliers could not stand before them.

† d. To protect, shield (a person) by placing oneself in front of him. *Obs. rare.*

c 1205 Lay. 25938 For ȝif he cumeð a-bolȝen mid his balu ræsen, nes he neuere iboren Þe maȝen stonden Þe biuoren.

e. *Hunting.* Of a fox: To hold out when pursued by (hounds). Cf. *stand up* 103 h.

1892 *Illustr. Sporting & Dram. News* 26 Nov. 400/3 A bag fox stood before hounds for two hours and a quarter till the pack were called off.

70. Stand by —.

a. *lit.* To station oneself or remain stationed beside (a person); usually as a helper, advocate, sympathizer, or the like (passing into sense c).

c 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 3666 Ches ðe nu her seuenti Wise men to stonden ðe bi. *c* 1275 *Passion of our Lord* 163 in *O. E. Misc.* 42 Þer com of heuene on engel and stod hym vaste by. 14.. *26 Pol. Poems* 53/77 And euere by troube stondes wreche, For wreche is goddis champioun. 1611 Bible *Zech.* iv. 14 These are the two annointed ones, that stand by the Lord of the whole earth. *a* 1700 Evelyn *Diary* 7 Dec. 1680, He had likewise the assistance of what Counsel he would, to direct him in his plea, who stood by him. 1849 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* v. I. 666 His son and daughter stood by him at the bar.

b. *Naut.* To prepare to work (a gun, rope, etc.).

1669 Sturmy *Mariner's Mag.* v. xii. 46 When they be required to stand by a great Gun in time of Fight. 1867 Smyth *Sailor's Word-bk.*, To *stand by* a rope, is to take hold of it; *the anchor*, prepare to let go. 1897 Ansted *Dict. Sea Terms, Stand by.*—An order to be ready to do something; as 'Stand by the anchor', *i. e.* make ready to let go the anchor.

c. *fig.* (cf. a). To support, assist, protect, defend (a person, a cause, etc.); to uphold the interests of, take the side of, be faithful or loyal to.

1530 Palsgr. 733/1, I stande by, or I assyste a man in an acte, *je assiste.* Go to it, man, be nat a frayde, I wyll stande by the who so ever come. *a* 1586 Sidney *Ps.* x. vii, Lift up thy heav'nly hand, And by the silly stand. 1681 Nevile *Plato Rediv.* 263 That if they could make an honest Government, they should be stood by (as the Word then was) by the Army. 1687 Jas. II in *Magd. Coll.* (O. H. S.) 218, I will stand by them who stand by me. 1768 Boswell *Corsica* ii. 100 The house of Matra in Corsica, which stood by the republick. 1855 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* xvii. IV. 54 To stand by the liberties of England and the Protestant religion, and, if necessary, to die for them. 1855 Trollope *Warden* iii, Surely he was bound to stand by his order. 1874 Stubbs *Const. Hist.* I. x. 316 The clergy stood by the king in his struggle with the feudatories.

† *Of a thing.* *a* 1770 Jortin *Serm.* (1787) IV. 35 This amiable quality will stand by him, will be a protector and benefactor to him in all stations.

d. To adhere to, maintain, abide by (a statement, agreement or the like).

c 1380 Chaucer *Wife's T.* 159 Thy lyf is sauf, for I wol stond therby, Vp-on my lyf, the queene wol seye as I. *c* 1400 *Brut* 329, & Þese þingez Þey profered hem self, if Þe King wold, certey[n]ly to preue & stonde by. 1693 in Picton *L'pool. Munic. Rec.* (1883) I. 300 Whatever Ald^m Clayton shall do..ye town will confirme and stand by. 1849 *Tait's Mag.* XVI. 158/1 We mean to stand by the assertion. 1891 *Review of Rev.* 15 Sept. 229/2 The Queen has..avowed her serious purpose to stand by her oath.

† e. To rest or depend upon; to be caused by, derived from, or owing to. *Obs.*

1471 *Paston Lett.* III. 31 And ther ayenst ye shold loose iij *li.* of the ferme of the maner..yerly, whych standyth by undyr wood. 1477 *Rolls of Parlt.* VI. 188/1 The defense of this Lond stondeth moche by Archers. 1530 Palsgr. 733/1 This towne standeth by artificers: *ceste ville se maynt ient par gens mecaniques.* 1547 Boorde *Introd. Knowl.* iv. (1870) 137 Muche of theyr lyuyng standeth by stelyng and robbyng. 1589 Puttenham *Eng. Poesie* II. i. (Arb.) 78 It is said by such as professe the Mathematicall sciences, that all things stand by proportion.

† f. To approach in character or quality; to be nearly related to. *Obs. rare.*

c 1530 *Judic. Urines* II. vii. 26 b, Vryne that is lelowe and standet most by whyttenes. *Ibid.* II. viii. 32 b, Color Citrine standith by color rubea & by fleume, but more by color rubea than by fleume.

71. Stand for —.

a. To uphold, defend (a cause, etc.); to support, take the part of (a person). Also, † *to stand hard for.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 18933 To stand ai stitli for Þe fai, And thrall preche al crist lai. *c* 1380 Wyclif *Wks.* (1880) 24 For to meyntene goddis lawe and stond for his worschipe. 1567 *Gude & Godlie B.* (S. T. S.) 142 For Christis word se ȝe stand for it. 1593 Abp. Bancroft *Dang. Posit.* IV. xiv. 179 Certaine..men..would shortly take vpon them the defence of the cause, which he and his brethren in prison stood for. 1642 *Prince Rupert his Declaration* 6 The Lord prosper the worke of their hands who stand for God and King Charles. 1711 Addison *Spect.* No. 34 ₱ 10 Every Man at first stood hard for his Friend. 1842 Browning *Cavalier Tunes* I. i, Kentish Sir Byng stood for his King. 1847 Tennyson *Princess* v. 169, I beheld her, when she rose.. and storming in extremes, Stood for her cause.

† b. To insist on, urge (a view, proposal, etc.); to support, maintain (a theory, thesis); to strive for, try to obtain or bring about, insist on having. Also, *to stand hard for. To stand for't*, ? to defend one's claim as against others. *Obs.*

1531 *Abstr. Protocols Town Clerks of Glasgow* (1897) IV. 39 Gaef sa beis that ther be ony mair Anwell tane nor fyf crownis..the sayd Robert or his airis sall pas to the toder part and stand for raleyf of the samyne. 1616 B. Jonson *Devil an Ass* I. vi. 36 All that pretend, to stand for't o' the Stage. 1618 Bolton *Florus* III. xii. (1636) 212 What cause was there why the People of Rome should stand so hard for fields or food [*agros et cibaria flagitaret*]? 1643 Trapp *Comm. Gen.* xlviii. 19 The Jewish converts stood hard for a mixture of Christ and Moses. 1676 H. More *Remarks* Contents b v, That Experiment of Regius..can be no instance of such an Attraction and Rarefaction as this Author stands for. 1690 Norris *Beatitudes* (1694) I. 41 But that which I stand for is this, That we ought not [etc.]. 1726 Shelvocke *Voy. round World* 165 He stands more for his honour than any money.

† c. *I stand for it* (written also *foird*, *forde*), as parenthesis = I warrant, I'll go bail for it. *Sc.*

c 1480 Henryson *Mor. Fab.* III. (*Cock & Fox*) xxiv, Than will thay stint, I stand for it, and not steir. 1535 Lyndesay *Satyre* 3982 Thou art an limmer, I stand foird. 1570 *Satir. Poems Reform.* xiv. 103, I stand forde.

† d. *To stand in wax for*: to be legal security for (another). *Obs.*

1608 *Yorksh. Trag.* i, He has consumed al, pawnd his lands, and made his vniversitie brother stand in waxe for him—Thers a fine phrase for a scrivener.

† e. Of custom, sentiments: To be on the side of. *Obs.*

1581 Mulcaster *Positions* xxxviii. (1887) 168 Seeing my countrie giues me leaue, and her custome standes for me. 1788 *New London Mag.* 428 The King's affections standing for this disposition of the crown, he was gained at last to ouerlook his sisters and break through his father's will.

f. To be reckoned or alleged for; to be counted or considered as; to serve in lieu of. *To stand for nothing*, to be worthless, of no avail; *to stand for something*, to have some value or importance. Also with dative of person.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 9972 It es vs sett als in Þe marche, And standes vs for sceild and targe Agains all vre wiperwyns. *Ibid.* 26601 And for Þe scam man thinc scriuand, It sal for part o penance stand. *c* 1374 Chaucer *Boeth.* IV. pr. ii. (1868) 112 Yif power fayleþ Þe wille nis but in ydel and stant for naust. 1563 Becon *Reliques of Rome* 211 b, For that daye y^t he heareth a masse,..if a man die: it shall stand hym for hys housell. 1579 Gosson *Sch. Abuse* (Arb.) 51 Iupiter himself shall stand for example. 1659 N. R. *Prov., Eng. Fr.* etc. 54 He stands for a Cipher. 1686 tr. *Chardin's Trav. Persia* 23 The two Audiences which he had receiv'd should stand for nothing. 1863 Mrs. Oliphant *Salem Chapel* ii. 28 He began to divine faintly,..that external circumstances do stand for something.

† g. Of a money-payment: To be reckoned sufficient for, to free from obligation. *Obs.*

1389 in *Eng. Gilds* (1870) 10 And ȝif Þe man wil haue his wyf a suster, Þan schal þ^e paiement stonde for hem bothe.

h. To represent, be in the place of, take the place of, do duty for.

1567 Sanders *Roche of Churche* ii. 31 According to the

Greeke phrase (where the comparatiue standeth for the superlatiue). 1595 W. W[ARNER] *Plautus' Menæcmi* i. ii. (1779) 119 *Cylindrus.* That's ten persons in all. *Erotium.* How many? *Cylindrus.* Ten, for I warrant you that Parasite may stand for eight at his vittels. 1596 SHAKS. 1 *Hen. IV*, II. iv. 477 Doe thou stand for mee, and Ile play my Father. 1612 CHAPMAN *Rev. Bussy D'Ambois* III. iii. 5 You two onely Stand for our Armie. 1861 PALEY *Æschylus* (ed. 2) *Supplices* 968 *note*, Here therefore ταῦτα seems to stand for τάδε. 1889 CONAN DOYLE *Micah Clarke* xxxii. 359, I had now to attend to my appearance, for in truth I might have stood for one of those gory giants with whom [etc.].

i. To represent by way of symbol or sign; to be an expression or emblem of.

1612 BRINSLEY *Lud. Lit.* 25 As if you aske what [number] I. stands for, what V. what X. what L. &c. 1662 J. DAVIES tr. *Mandelslo's Trav.* 226 These Figures stand not for any word that hath any particular signification in their Language. 1729 BUTLER *Serm.* Wks. 1874 II. Pref. 7 It is impossible that words can always stand for the same ideas, even in the same author. 1823 *Mirror* I. 165/2 C stands for Cupid. 1911 PETRIE *Revolutions of Civilisation* v. 95 In architecture, Salisbury Cathedral stands for the perfect acquirement of freedom and grace without the least trace of over-elaboration

j. To represent by way of specimen.

1593 SHAKS. *Lucr.* 1428 A hand, a foote, a face, a leg, a head, Stood for the whole to be imagined.

k. *Naut.* To sail or steer towards. (Cf. 36.)

1628 DIGBY *Voy. Mediterr.* (Camden) 13, I stood for the Barbarie shore. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* I. x. 105 We stood for the Island of Juan Fernandez. 1814 SCOTT *Diary* 11 Aug. in *Lockhart* (1837) III. 181 We are standing for some creek or harbour, called Ringholm-bay. 1861 SMILES *Engineers* II. 36 Wearing ship, they stood once more for the coast.

l. *To stand* (as candidate, as sponsor) *for*: see senses 12, 15 b.

72. Stand in —.

a. To be dressed in, to be actually wearing. ? *Obs.* (Cf. *stand up* 103 g.)

13.. *Coer de L.* 830 Sche rent the robe that sche in stod. *c* 1374 CHAUCER *Troylus* II. 534 So sore hath she me wounded That stod in blak wyth lokyng of here eyen. 1423 JAS. I *Kingis Q.* lxxxviii, Tho that thou seis stond in capis wyde. ? *a* 1500 *Merch. & Son* 206 in Hazl. *E. P. P.* I. 146 Gode had he no more, but ryght as he in stode. 1616 B. JONSON *Devil an Ass* I. vi. 64, I am, Sir, to inioy this cloake, I stand in, Freely, and as your gift.

† b. To persevere or persist in, remain obstinate or steadfast in (a state, course of action, purpose, opinion, assertion). *Obs.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 18697 Mistru noght þat es to tru, Bot stand in stedfast trouth fra nu. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 141 The sinne Which thou hast longe stonden inne. *c* 1400 *Rule St. Benet*, etc. 143 Giffe sho standis in hir purpose eftir þe space of sex monethes. 1553 ASCHAM in *Lett. Lit. Men* (Camden) 14 And in this myne opinion I stand the more gladlie. 1586 H. BARROWE *Exam.* (1593) B iij, I said that sin, obstinatly stood in, did excommunicate. 1595 in *Cath. Rec. Soc. Publ.* V. 350 The martyr..answered 'No', in which denialle he stoode before the Judges eaven to his last end. *a* 1632 T. TAYLOR *God's Judgements* I. I. x. (1642) 27 Trajan..caused five holy Virgins to be burned for standing in the profession of the Truth.

† c. *To stand in it*: to remain firm or obstinate, persist in one's purpose or attitude; esp. to persist in asserting, maintain stoutly (followed by clause with or without *that*). Similarly, *to stand in this* (*that* . .). *Obs.*

1572 tr. *Buchanan's Detect. Mary Q. Scots* E iiij b, Quhen he had stoode in it a quhile and wald nat appeare.., at length constraynit with feare of exile and punitioun, he yelded. 1583 STOCKER *Civ. Warres Lowe C.* IV. 30 b, Except the Prior and three others of his Couent, who obstinately stood in it, and therefore were likewise..tourned out of the Toune. 1610 HEALEY *St. Aug. Citie of God* XIII. xvii. (1620) 457 They stand in this also, that earthly bodies cannot be eternal. 1682 N. O. *Boileau's Lutrin* IV. Arg., This Counter-Scuffle, I dare stand in't, The Goddess Discord had a hand in't. 1682 BUNYAN *Holy War* (1905) 279 Both [=each] would stand in it that he told the truth. 1712 STERLE *Spect.* No. 534 P 1 This cunning Hussey can lay Letters in my way..and then stand in it she knows nothing of it.

† d. To dwell on, enlarge upon, discuss at large, insist on (a topic, a point in argument). Also *to stand long in*. *Obs.*

a 1556 CHANCELOUR in Hakluyt *Voy.* (1598) I. 238, I will not stande in description of their buildinges. 1579 W. WILKINSON *Confut. Fam. Love* 16 b, Is ech circumstance to be sifted and stode in? 1606 G. WOODCOCKE *Hist. Ivstine* XII. 52 When Clytus..defended the fame of Phillip, and stoode in the praise of his Noble and worthy acts. 1618 W. LAWSON *New Orch. & Garden* iii. (1623) 6, I haue stood somewhat long in this point.

† e. To insist upon having. *Obs. rare*—[1].

1588 SHAKS. *Tit. A.* IV. iv. 105 And if he stand in [*Fol. 4 and mod. edd.* on] Hostage for his safety, Bid him demaund what pledge will please him best.

† f. *To stand in .. terms*: to be in a specified relation, on a certain footing *with* (a person). Also (without *with*), to be in a specified state or condition. *Obs.*

1543, 1653 [see TERM *sb.* 9 a]. 1600 HOLLAND *Livy* XXII. xxii. 445 Whiles Spaine stood in these tearms [*hoc statu rerum in Hispania*]. *Ibid.* XXXI. x. 779 He then addressed his letters unto the Senate, signifying in how bad termes the province stood [*quo in tumultu prouincia esset*]. 1633 BP. HALL *Hard Texts* Ps. li. 12 How can I, O Lord, be other then..miserable, whiles I stand in these termes with thee?

† g. *To stand in terms*: to dispute or contend *with* (a person). *Obs.*

a 1562 G. CAVENDISH *Wolsey* (1893) 178 Sir, I do not entend to stand in termes with yow in this matter. *a* 1568 ASCHAM *Scholem.* I. (Arb.) 58 To contrarie, or to stand in termes with an old man, was more heinous, than in som place, to rebuke and scolde with his owne father.

h. Of things: † To reside or inhere in; to be an attribute of (*obs.*); to rest or depend upon (something) as its ground of existence (*arch.*).

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 22251 O rome Imparre þe dignite Ne mai na wai al perist be, For in þaa kinges sal it stand Ai to-quils þai ar lastand. *c* 1380 WYCLIF *Wks.* (1880) 78 Whanne presthod stod in holy prestis of lif & studiouse & kunnynge. 1450–80 tr. *Secreta Secret.* xxvii. 20 It is well perilous whan the lyf of a man stondith in the wille of oo persone. 1538 STARKEY *England* 79 In them [the yeomanry] stondyth the chefe defence of Englond. 1549 *Bk. Com. Prayer, Matins*, O God..in knowledge of whome standeth oure eternall life. 1639 FULLER *Holy War* II. xl. (1640) 98 Victory standeth as little in the number of souldiers, as verity in the plurality of voyces. 1895 DENNEY *Stud. Theol.* ix. 223 A faith standing not in the wisdom of man but in the power of God.

† i. To consist of, have as its essence. *Obs.*

c 1386 CHAUCER *Merch. T.* 778 Somme clerkes holden that felicitee Stant in delit. *c* 1400 *Rom. Rose* 5581 Richesse stont in suffisaunce And no-thing in habundaunce. *c* 1460 FORTESCUE *Abs. & Lim. Mon.* vi. (1885) 120 The kynges yerely expenses stonden in charges ordinarie, and in charges extra ordinarie. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 1 The selfe pilgrymage, which consysteth or standeth in vij dayes iourney. 1551 T. WILSON *Logic* (1580) 83 b, They fell to reasonyng with argumentes, that..stoode in plaine buffettes. 1612 T. TAYLOR *Comm. Titus* i. 8. (1619) 177 The consecration stood likewise in fowre things.

73. Stand of —.

† a. To consist of. (Cf. 72 i.) *Obs.*

1390 GOWER *Conf.* II. 84 Of bodies sevene in special With foure spiritz joynt withal Stant the substance of this matiere. 1564–5 *Form Prayers Genev. & Scot.* (1584) M 8 b, Which Church we call vniuersall, because it consisteth and standeth of all tongues and Nations. 1600 HOLLAND *Livy* XXXII. xvi. 818 There were two Armadaes set out of Asia, the one.. consisting of foure and twentie saile of Quinqueremes: the other..stood of twentie covert ships with decks and hatches. 1654 Z. COKE *Logick* 147 An induction standing of particular propositions.

† b. By substitution of *of* for *on*: To dwell or insist on (a point); = *stand on* 74 j. *Obs.*

1599 THYNNE *Animadv.* (1875) 66 Whereof I wyll not stande at this tyme.

74. Stand on —.

† a. In fig. phrases with literal wording: see 78 a.

1579 LYLY *Euphues* (Arb.) 117 Stande thou on thy pantuffles, and shee will vayle bonnet. 1594 [see PANTOFLE b].

b. To base one's arguments or argumentative position on, 'take one's stand on'. Cf. 78 c.

1613 SHAKS. *Hen. VIII*, v. i. 123 The good I stand on, is my Truth and Honestie. 1693 CONGREVE *Old Bach.* Prol., So, standing only on his good Behaviour, He's very civil, and entreats your Favour. 1864 NEWMAN *Apol.* ii. (1904) 31/2 As to the Sacraments and Sacramental rites, I stood on the Prayer Book.

c. Of an immaterial thing: To be grounded or based on. † Also, to be contingent on; to consist in or arise from. *Obs.* Cf. 78 d.

c 888 ÆLFRED *Boeth.* xxxix. § 2 Nu ic onȝite openlice ðæt sio soðe ȝesælð stent on godra monna ȝeearnunga. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Pars. T.* 107 Penitence..stant on [*Harl.* stondith in] .iij. thynges: Contricioun of herte, Confession of Mouth, and Satisfaccion. 1430–40 LYDG. *Bochas* IX. xiii. (1555) 25 All stant on chaunge. *c* 1449 PECOCK *Repr.* I. ii. 11 If this treuthe..were knowe bi sum other thing than bi Holi Scripture.., thilk..trouth were not groundid in Holi Scripture. Forwhi he stood not oonli ther on. *a* 1529 SKELTON *P. Sparowe* 366 Of fortune this the chaunce Standeth on varyaunce. 1662 STILLINGFL. *Orig. Sacræ* I. i. § 15 The rational evidence which our faith doth stand on as to these things.

† d. Of a material thing: = 78 e. *Obs.*

1563 T. GALE *Antidot.* II. 7 b, Cataplasmes, be medicines standing on herbes, flowres, oiles [etc.].

† e. To give oneself to, practise (some kind of action or behaviour). *Obs.*

1590 SHAKS. *Com. Err.* I. ii. 80 Or I shall breake that merrie sconce of yours That stands on tricks, when I am vndispos'd. 1592 — *Rom. & Jul.* II. iii. 93 O let us hence, I stand on sudden hast. 1600 ROWLANDS *Lett. Humours Blood* XXXVII. 44 Come nimbly foorth, Why stand you on delay? 1661 *Cal. St. Papers, Irel.* 406 Divers malefactors ..stood on their keeping, robbing and spoiling his Majesty's good subjects.

f. *To stand on terms*, † *on condition*: see 78 f.

1561 NORTON & SACKV. *Gorboduc* V. i. 95 While we treate and stand on termes of grace. 1586 [see TERM *sb.* 8 b 6]. 1593 SHAKS. *Rich. II*, II. iii. 107 Let me know my Fault, On what Condition stands it, and wherein? 1599 — *Hen. V*, III. vi. 78 What termes the Enemy stood on. 1611 COTGR., s. v. *Bout*, *Se tenir sur le haut bout*, to stand vpon his pantofles, or on high tearmes. 1639 FULLER *Holy War* III. x. 126 Whilest Guy stood on these ticklish terms, King Richard made a seasonable motion. 1824 SCOTT *St. Ronan's* xviii, We must stand, however, on more equal terms, my lord.

g. To be meticulously careful or scrupulous about, raise difficulties about (nice points, ceremony, etc.); = 78 g.

a 1593 MARLOWE *Edw. II* IV. vi. 1925 Stand not on titles, but obay th' arrest. 1593 SHAKS. 2 *Hen. VI*, III. i. 261 And doe not stand on Quillets how to slay him. *c* 1611 CHAPMAN *Iliad* II. 355 Good Menelaus..would not stand, on inuitation, But of himselfe came. 1682 N. O. *Boileau's Lutrin* II. 70 And if to gratifie thy Itch, (my Honey,) I stood not on th' nice points of Matrimony. 1753 MISS COLLIER *Art Torment., Gen. Rules* (1811) 189 People, who love civil freedom, and stand not on forms and ceremonies. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. I. ii, That is the precisest calculation, though one would not stand on a few hundreds. 1861 *Temple Bar* I. 500 Simple people, who never stood on ceremony with their friends. 1886 MRS. C. PRAED *Miss Jacobsen* II. xvii. 289, I'm not going to stand on nice points of law.

h. To assert, claim respect or credit for (one's rights, qualities, dignity, etc.); = 78 i.

1598 B. JONSON *Ev. Man in Hum.* I. i, Stand not so much on your gentility. 1616 [GAINSFORD] *Rich Cabinet* 54 Hee ..stands as tightly on his reputation, and hath his pedegree as perfect as any man. 1679 LUTTRELL *Brief Rel.* (1857) I. 17 Mr. Langhorn, who was lately executed on account of the plott, stood on his innocence to the last. 1820 SCOTT *Monast.* xiii, If they should stand on their pedigree and gentle race. 1823 A. CLARKE *Mem. Wesley Fam.* 521 Her uncle Matthew, who stood high on his honour. 1883 *Law Rep.* 23 Chanc. Div. 711 The facts are not such that we can say they have precluded themselves from standing on their strict rights. 1890 *Sat. Rev.* 19 July 76/1 Possibly he may stand on his dignity, being a self-respecting animal.

† i. To value, set store by (something external to oneself); = 78 j. *Obs.*

1601 SHAKS. *Jul. C.* II. ii. 13, I neuer stood on Ceremonies, Yet now they fright me.

† j. To dwell on, consider (a topic); to insist on (a point or argument); = 78 k. *Obs.*

1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 2684 On þis part I wille na langer stand, Bot passe to another neghest folowand. 1573 *New Custom* I. ii. B ij b, Standst thou with mee on schole poyntes, dost thou so in deede? *c* 1585 [R. BROWNE] *Answ. Cartwright* 34 How corrupt doctrine this is, I neede not heere stand on it. 1653 H. COGAN tr. *Pinto's Trav.* ix. 26 In a word, and not to stand long on that which past between them. 1658 *Whole Duty Man* xvi. 350 The great prevailing of this sin of uncharitablenesse has made me stand thus long on these considerations.

k. To insist on, as essential or necessary, urge, press for, demand; = 78 m. ? *Obs.*

1597 SHAKS. 2 *Hen. IV* I. ii. 42 A Rascally-yea-forsooth-knaue, to beare a Gentleman in hand, and then stand vpon Security? 1616 B. JONSON *Devil an Ass* III. iii. 83 What is't? a hundred pound? *Eve.* No, th' Harpey, now, stands on a hundred pieces. 1816 SCOTT *Let.* in *Lockhart* (1837) IV. 19 He proposes I shall have twelve months' bills—I have always got six. However, I would not stand on that.

† l. *impers.* (It) behoves, is incumbent on; = 78 q.

1605 SHAKS. *Lear* v. i. 69 For my state, Stands on me to defend, not to debate. 1820 WILBRAHAM *Chesh. Gloss.*, *To Stand a person on*, is to be incumbent on him. It stands every one on to take care of himself.

75. Stand over —. To stand close by and watch or control (a person who is seated, lying down, or stationed on a lower level).

c 1330 *Amis & Amil.* 1972 The lazer lith vp in a wain... And ouer him stode a naked swain. *a* 1737 *Gentl. Mag.* VII. 182/2 Sir Thomas is represented,..laid at Length on his Back, with the Figure of Time standing over him. 1851 RUSKIN *King of Golden River* iii. (1856) 32 Sobering them just enough to enable them to stand over Gluck, beating him very steadily for a quarter of an hour.

76. Stand to —. (Also *unto*, † *till*, † *until*.)

† a. To submit oneself to, abide by (a trial, award); to obey, accede to, be bound by (another's judgement, decision, opinion, etc.). (Cf. *stand at* 68 a.) *Obs.*

c 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* 160/1882 To holi churche heo wolden stonde and to is lokinge al-so. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 26249 Tó biscop dome þou agh to stand. 1338 R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (1725) 58 Þerfor Godwyn & his fro London went away, He stode vntille no more, defaute he mad þat day. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Parson's T.* 483 To stonde gladly to the award of hise souereyns. 1457 HARDYNG *Chron.* in *Eng. Hist. Rev.* (1912) Oct. 747 Scottes..to Berwyke cam..And bonde thaym thar to stonde to his decre. 1584 LYLY *Campaspe* I. iii. 76 In kinges causes I will not stande to schollers arguments. 1616 CHAMPNEY *Voc. Bps.* 21 Such a Reformer is not bound to stand to the judgement of the Church. 1692 BENTLEY *Boyle Lect.* vi. 5 Will they not stand to the grand Verdict and Determination of the Universe? 1700 J. TYRRELL *Hist. Eng.* II. 889 The King summon'd [them] to appear .., and stand to the Law.

† b. To leave oneself dependent upon (another's mercy, courtesy, etc.). See COURTESY 2 b. *Obs.*

c 1449 PECOCK *Repr.* III. v. 305 Forto stonde to deuocioun of the peple in ȝeuing and offring. 1584 B. R. tr. *Herodotus* II. 103 That in case the party..woulde disclose himselfe, and stande to his mercy, he [the King] woulde..yeeld him free pardon. 1614 RICH *Honestie of Age* (1844) 13 He must stande to the mercy of twelue men; a jury shall passe vppon him. 1650 FULLER *Pisgah* II. ix. 187 He was contented to stand to the peoples courtesie, what they would bestow upon him. 1697 COLLIER *Ess.* II. (1703) 153 He that has the business of life at his own disposal..needs not stand to the curtesy of knavery and folly. 1722 [see COURTESY 2 b].

c. To apply oneself manfully to (a fight, contest, etc.). *Obs.* exc. in *to stand to it*, to fight stoutly; also, to toil without flagging at painful or severe labour.

1338 R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (1725) 277 Þe Baliol was agast, for he stode tille no dede. *Ibid.*, Bot Sir Patrik Graham a while to bataile stode. 1544 BETHAM *Precepts War* I. CXXXV. G vj b, To comforte and encowrage hys men.., fiercelye to fyght, and boldly to stande to it. 1579 FENTON *Guiciard.* I. (1599) 48 Some times he determined to stand to the defence of Rome. 1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* VII. 328 Saylers have the paine By drudging, pulling, hayling, standing to it In cold and raine. 1889 CONAN DOYLE *Micah Clarke* xvi. 144 The peasants stood to it like men.

d. Mil. *To stand to one's arms*: to form up with arms presented. † *To stand to a guard*: to put oneself on guard. *To stand to one's guns, one's colours*: to maintain one's position, not to retire before an attack; also *fig.* † *To stand to one's tackle* or *tackling*: see TACKLE *sb.* 4 b, TACKLING 3.

a 1548, 1679 [see TACKLING 3]. 1581 J. BELL *Haddon's Answ. Osor.* 464 But ye Carmelites standing hard to theyr tackle, recovered the victory at the last. 1583 STOCKER *Civ. Warres Lowe C.* IV. 55 The reste stoode stoutly to their tackle, so that..the trouble..was suppressed. 1644 PRYNNE & WALKER *Fiennes' Trial* App. 36 Gentlemen, under paine of death stand to your Armes. 1709 STEELE *Tatler* No. 6 ¶ 11 The Intendant had ordered some Companies of Marines,..to stand to their Arms to protect him from Violence. 1815 SCOTT *Guy M.* xlvi, But Mr. Sampson stood to his guns. 1844 *Queen's Regul. Army* 364 In case of Alarm, the Guard is immediately to stand to their Arms. 1890 CONAN DOYLE *Firm of Girdlestone* xxxi. 244 Kate stood firmly to her colours. 1891 *Longman's Mag.* Oct. 598 They stood to their guns till their powder was all gone. 1893 *Law Times* XCIV. 599/1 Mr. Cayzer will have nothing more to do with the Bill...But the other nine supporters of the Bill stand to their guns.

e. To confront, present a bold front to (an enemy). (Cf. *stand forth* 93 a, *stand up* 103 p.) Now *rare*.

1562 MOUNTGOMERY in *Archæologia* XLVII. 240 The worthie souldior, that shall stande to the face of thenimye and abyde the threatninge of the canon. 1608 TOPSELL *Serpents* 220 The Salamander..is an audacious and bold creature, standing to his aduersary, and not flying the sight of a man. 1681 W. ROBERTSON *Phraseol. Gen.* 1166/1, I fear he will not be able to stand to him: *Metuo, ut substet.* 1844 THACKERAY *Barry Lyndon* ii, I never yet knew the man who stood to Captain Quin.

†**f.** To confront and take the consequences of (a chance, hazard, peril); to abide by (the issue or consequences of an event). Cf. sense 54. *Obs.*

a 1300 [see CHANCE *sb.* 11]. *c* 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 6409 *note*, He seide he wolde assaye [*Peiyt MS.* wild stande to] þe chaunce. *c* 1400 *Brut* 251 þat þai shulde nouȝt feiȝt oppon þe Scottes..and if þai dede, þat þai shulde stande to [*v.r.* vnto] her owen peril. 14.. *26 Pol. Poems* 8/47, I gloser wil stonde to my chaunce. 1456 SIR G. HAYE *Law of Arms* (S. T. S.) 141 As men of were, thai mon stand to thair fortune. *Ibid.* 182 Lat him stand till his hap. 1579 [see CHANCE *sb.* 11, 12]. 1610 J. MORE in *Bucc leuch MSS.* (Hist. MSS. Comm.) I. 87 Let all alone, and stand to all adventures. 1712 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 286 ¶ 6 It is very dangerous for a Nation to stand to its Chance, or to have its publick Happiness or Misery depend on the Virtues or Vices of a single Person. 1725 *Bradley's Fam. Dict.* s. v. *Horse-racing* ¶ 2 Without such Trials we must stand to the Hazard, and be at no Certainty to meet with good ones [sc. horses]. 1785 R. GRAVES *Eugenius* I. xvii. 117 The old lady..said she would make the governess produce her daughter, or stand to the consequences.

†**g.** To endure, bear, put up with (harm, pain); to make good, bear the expense of (damage, loss); to defray, be answerable for (expenses); to accept liability for (a tribute or tax). *Obs.* (Cf. 57, 58.)

c 1386 CHAUCER *Miller's T.* 644 But stonde he moste vn to his owene harm. 1540 PALSGR. *Acolastus* II. iv. M iij b, He that putteth oone in truste, shall be fayne to stande to his owne harmes, if he be begyled. 1540 in *10th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. v. 409 No person..shall not detayne nor keape any thinge of the comon rente for..debtes that the costome owith to any of them, but shall..stand to the costome of their own goodes. 1555 EDEN *Decades* (Arb.) 80 The inhabitantes..made humble supplication to the Admirall that they myght stande to theyr tribute. 1622 MABBE tr. *Aleman's Guzman d'Alf.* II. 150, I shall be content to stand to any losse that you shall suffer thereby. *a* 1633 G. HERBERT *Priest to Temple* xxvi. Rem. (1652) 111 Many think they are at more liberty then they are, as if they were Masters of their health, and so [= provided that] they will stand to the pain, all is well. But to eat to ones hurt, comprehends, besides the hurt, an act against reason. 1700 S. L. tr. *Fryke's Voy. E. Ind.* 150 He was obliged to defray all the charges my Patient had been at, and to stand to all damages. 1789 BENTHAM *Wks.* (1843) X. 198 The author's having three-fourths of the net profits..(he standing as before to the expense). 1809 E. S. BARRETT *Setting Sun* III. 50 If any of them decamp..the parish stands to the loss. 1809 MALKIN *Gil Blas* III. x. ¶ 5 Husband-like lovers, who expect to engross all the pleasures of a house, because they stand to the expenses.

h. To side with, help, back, support (a person); to maintain, uphold (a cause, interest, etc.); to remain faithful or loyal to.

1597 SHAKS. 2 *Hen. IV* II. i. 70 Good my Lord be good to mee. I beseech you stand to me. 1607 — *Cor.* III. i. 208 Or let vs stand to our Authoritie, Or let vs lose it. 1652 WADSWORTH tr. *Sandoval's Civ. Wars Spain* 258 They desired, that Valladolid would assist and stand to them, as they had promissed. 1725 DE FOE *Voy. round World* (1840) 72 The gunner was forced to fly with about twenty two men that stood to him. 1850 *Tait's Mag.* XVII. 489/1 We stood to our fellow student right loyally. 1887 MRS. C. PRAED *Bond of Wedlock* II. ix. 217 If he had the money he would always stand to a fellow.

i. To adhere to, abide by, carry out (a promise, vow, bargain, compact, etc.).

a 1547 SURREY *Æneid* II. 203 Kepe faith with me, and stand to thy behest. 1553 T. WILSON *Rhet.* 19 The one will make his felowe to stande to the bargain, though it be to his neighbors vndoyng. 1652 GAULE *Magastrom.* 252 She, having already obtained her desire, refused to stand to her promise. 1714 BUDGELL tr. *Theophrastus* vi. 23 He is always up to the Ears in Law,..some of his Suits he is forced to stand to, and works himself out of others by Perjury. 1765 BLACKSTONE *Comm.* I. 243 No wise prince will ever refuse to stand to a lawful contract. 1775 *Tender Father* I. 202, I am not one of those who make proposals which they never mean to stand to. 1860 READE *Cloister & H.* lvi. (1896) 169 When they have made a bad bargain drunk, they stand to it sober. 1892 *Sat. Rev.* 2 Jan. 8/2 He did not venture to stand to the promise he had given.

j. (●) To adhere to (a statement, etc.); to persist in affirming or asserting. †Rarely with *that* and clause. (*b*) *To stand to it*: to insist upon or maintain a statement or assertion; often with *that* and clause (sometimes without *that*).

(*a*) 1562 *Child-Marriages* 119 Whether the said Margaret wold stand to the wordes she had spoken bie the said Katherine. 1597 J. PAYNE *Royal Exch.* 24 Let vs..to the deathe stand to, that Christ hathe the substans of God and the substans of man. *a* 1677 BARROW *Pope's Suprem.* (1687) 249 They..stood to the canonicalness of the former decision. 1688 *Lett. conc. Pres. State Italy* 184 He stood to his denial, and said, he knew nothing. 1737 [S. BERINGTON] *G. de Luca's Mem.* (1738) To Rdr. 9 The Man stands to the Truth of it with a Steadfastness that is surprizing. 1893 *Strand Mag.* VI. 176/1 You will stand to the confession you have just made?

(*b*) 1581 A. HALL *Iliad* IV. 71, I dare auouch, and stand to't to your face. 1600 SHAKS. *A. Y. L.* I. ii. 69 Now Ile stand to it, the Pancakes were naught. 1612 FIELD *Woman a Weathercock* II. i, Lay the child to him – Stand stiffly to it. 1692 PATRICK *Answ. Touchstone* 175 This, I will stand to it, is an Interpretation they cannot confute. 1709 STEELE *Tatler* No. 171 ¶ 8 He would stand to it, that it was full Four Miles. 1887 JESSOPP *Arcady* ii. 36 They will stand to it that the present generation know nothing of the hard life their grandsires had experience of. 1889 ADEL. SERGEANT *Deveril's Diamond* III. viii. 170 He stood to it at first that he knew nothing.

†**k.** *To stand to its duty*: to perform its work or function without giving way. *Obs.*

1726 LEONI *Alberti's Archit.* I. 53 *b* The..wedges also in ..the Arch, being justly counterpoised, will surely stand to their duty.

†**l.** Of desire, appetite, etc.: To be inclined to, hanker after. *Obs.*

c 1400 *Sir Cleges* 408 Wattsooeuer thou wolt haue, I will the graunte,..That thyne hart standyth to. 1551 R. ROBINSON tr. *More's Utopia* II. iv. (1895) 141 Yf a mans minde stonde to anny other [occupation]. 1561 HOLLYBUSH *Hom. Apoth.* 22 b, Then let hym eate that wherto his minde standeth best. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* XXIII. vi. II. 164 When their stomackes stand to coles, chalke, and such like stuffe. 1641 J. SHUTE *Sarah & Hagar* (1649) 150 Their hearts stood most to this. 1694 G. STANHOPE *Epictetus' Morals* Ep. Ded. A 2 b, Without these Qualifications..a Man's Palate can never stand to the following Reflections.

†**m.** To result or issue in, lead to, amount to. *To stand to a person's pleasure*: to be allowed or approved by him. *Obs.*

1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 86 Ful sore it stant to my grevance. *a* 1555 LATIMER in Foxe *A. & M.* (1563) 1309/2 Also I sayd y^t certayne Scriptures standeth some thyng to the same, vnlesse they bee ye more warely vnderstanded and taken. 1558 Q. KENNEDY in *Wodrow Soc. Misc.* (1844) 135 As may stand to the weill of the Congregatioun. 1622 MASSINGER & DEKKER *Virg. Mart.* IV. ii, So it stand To great Cesaraes Gouernors high pleasure.

n. *It stands to reason* (formerly also †*to good, great reason*; dial. *to sense*): it is reasonable, it may reasonably be inferred or expected, it is natural, evident or certain (*that*). (Cf. 79 e.)

1620 ALURED in Gutch *Coll. Cur.* I. 173 Which stands to reason, and agrees with nature. 1632 [see REASON *sb.*1 12 b]. 1662 STILLINGFL. *Orig. Sacræ* II. i. § 1 It stands to the greatest reason that such a revelation should be so propounded. 1705 H. BLACKWELL *Engl. Fencing-Master* 34 *Schol.* What you say stands to a great deal of Reason, and I will observe your Directions. 1768–74 TUCKER *Lt. Nat.* (1834) II. 154 When we say a thing stands to reason, or is discordant from it. 1857 RUSKIN *Pol. Econ. Art* i. § 24 It stands to reason that a young man's work cannot be perfect. 1859 [see SENSE *sb.* 28]. 1865 TROLLOPE *Belton Est.* xxvii. 320 It stands to reason that in some things I must have had more experience than you. 1901 *Contemp. Rev.* Mar. 357 It 'stands to sense', as they say in the North of England, that [etc.].

o. To be related to.

1674 N. FAIRFAX *Bulk & Selv.* 54 Nor has bulk voideness or thickness but as it stands to body. 1856 *Titan Mag.* Dec. 551/2 He stood to me as a father. 1869 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* (1876) III. xii. 178 It would be hard to find any wife among the princely houses who did not stand to him within the forbidden degrees. 1890 *Longman's Mag.* Oct. 657 The Wantsum..stood to Rutupiæ as the Solent stands to Portsmouth.

†**p.** To face, be built opposite to. *Obs.*

1726 LEONI *Alberti's Archit.* I. 16 *a* We shou'd also observe what Suns our House stands to.

q. Of a mare: To admit or 'take' (the horse); to conceive after (horsing). ? *Obs.*

1759 BROWN *Compl. Farmer* 4 By which means they can see whether the mare will stand to the horse or not. *Ibid.*, When the stallion is dismounted, they commonly throw a pail of cold water on the mare, which they think makes her stand better to her horsing.

r. *To stand to the hood* (said of a hawk): to submit to being hooded.

1828 SIR J. S. SEBRIGHT *Hawking* 20 To accustom him to stand to the hood.

77. Stand under —.

†**a.** To be ranged under (a lord, his banner).

c 1450 HOLLAND *Howlat* 133 The Pape commandit..to wryte in all landis..For all statis of kirk that vnder Crist standis To semble to his summondis. 1570 *Homilies* II. *Agst. Rebellion* VI. (1574) 609 Woulde they haue sworne fidelitie to the Dolphin of Fraunce,..and haue stande vnder the Dolphins banner?

b. To be exposed or subject or obnoxious to; to undergo, bear the burden or weight or incidence of; (to be able) to sustain (a charge, etc.).

1601 SHAKS. *Jul. C.* II. i. 52 Shall Rome stand vnder one mans awe? 1613 — *Hen. VIII*, III. ii. 3 If you will now vnite in your Complaints, And force them with a Constancy the Cardinall Cannot stand vnder them. *Ibid.* v. i. 113 There's none stands vnder more calumnious tongues, Then I my selfe, poore man. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* VIII. 454 For now My earthly by his Heav'nly overpowerd, Which it had long stood under, streind to the highth In that celestial Colloquie sublime,..Dazl'd and spent, sunk down. 1891 *in Century Dict.* s. v., I stand under heavy obligations.

c. *Naut.* To make sail with (a specified display of canvas).

1707 *Loud. Gaz.* No. 4380/2 The Commadore made a Signal for the Line a-breast, standing under a pair of Topsails. 1834 M. SCOTT *Cruise Midge* i, I soon saw a large vessel, standing under easy sail, on the same tack.

d. Mil. *To stand under arms*, to be ready for action (Voyle & Stevenson *Milit. Dict.* 1876).

☞ **Stand until, unto —**: see *stand to* 76.

78. Stand upon —. (Cf. *stand on* 74.)

a. In fig. phrases of which the wording is literal. † *To stand upon one's pantofles, slippers*: to give oneself airs. † *To stand upon stepping-stones*: to make gradual and cautious advances. *To stand upon thorns*: see THORN *sb.* 2.

1540 PALSGR. *Acolastus* I. iii. G j b, I see how thou standest vpon thornes. 1561 [see THORN *sb.* 2]. 1579 [cf. *stand on* 74 a]. 1591, 1685 [see PANTOFLE b]. *a* 1604 HANMER *Chron. Irel.* (1809) 334 They would talke and bragge of service,..stand upon the pantofles of their reputation. 1606 S. GARDINER *Bk. Angling* 36 The Donatists in Africa stood vpon their slippers. 1637 RUTHERFORD *Lett.* lxxxi. (1862) I. 205, I see that Christ will not prig with me nor stand upon stepping stones: but cometh in at the broadsides without ceremonies.

☞ *To stand upon the defensive, upon one's guard*, etc.: see sense 10.

†**b.** *To stand upon no ground*: of a horse, ? to rear, caper. *Obs.*

1590 PEELE *Polyhymnia* (Rtldg.) 572/1 The next came Nedham in on lusty horse, That, angry with delay, at trumpet's sound Would snort, and stamp, and stand upon no ground. 1594 LYLY *Mother Bombie* IV. ii, It was as lustie a nag as anie in Rochester, and one that would stand vpon no ground.

c. To rely upon, depend on, trust to. *Obs.* exc. in the sense: To take one's stand upon an argument, argumentative position or the like.

1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 151 He..seith that he wol undertake Upon hire wordes forto stonde. 1565 ALLEN *Def. Purg.* I. vi. (1886) 79 Because we will not stand upon conjectures in so necessary a point. 1640 *Wits Recreat.* K 7, The Text which saith that man and wife are one, Was the chief argument they stood upon. 1726 SWIFT *Gulliver* I. v, The Emperor, standing upon the advantage he had got by the seizure of their fleet, obliged them to deliver their credentials. 1854 *Poultry Chron.* II. 206 'Faint heart ne'er won fair lady' is a good motto to stand upon.

d. Of an immaterial thing (also *impersonal*): To be grounded or based upon. †Also, to be dependent or contingent upon, hinge upon; to arise from, consist in.

1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 11 The cherche keye in aventure Of armes and of bryganteille Stod nothing thanne upon bataille. *c* 1449 PECOCK *Repr.* I. ii. 11 No thing is ground and fundament of eny treuthe or conclusioun,..saue it upon which aloon al the gouernaunce, trouthe, or vertu stondith. *c* 1460 FORTESCUE *Abs. & Lim. Mon.* xii. (1885) 137 The reaume off Englond, wherоff the myght stondith most vppon archers. *c* 1500 *Lancelot* 1989 It stant apone thi will For to omend thi puple, or to spill. 1567 ALLEN *Def. Priesthood* Pref., The dishonoure and the derogation..standeth vpon vnfaythfulnes, mistrust of Gods promise. 1577 HARRISON *England* III. iii. [II. ix.] 99 b, in *Holinshed*, The Common Lawe standeth vppon Sundrye Maximes or Princyples, and yeares or tearmes. *c* 1580 in *Eng. Hist. Rev.* (1914) July 520 Theyr trade standes upon woade and the same englishe comodities that sarveth for the one, sarveth for the other. 1596 SHAKS. *Merch. V.* III. ii. 203 Your fortune stood vpon the caskets there. 1602 — *Ham.* I. i. 119 (1604 Qo.) The moist starre Vpon whose influence Neptunes Empier stands. 1608 T. MORTON *Preamble to Incounter* 40 Science standeth vpon demonstrable principles.

†**e.** Of a material thing: To consist of, be composed of; also, to contain as an ingredient.

1563 [cf. 74 d]. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* XXXI. vi. II. 412 Those waters which stand upon brimstone, bee good for the sinews. 1620 I. JONES *Stone-Heng* (1725) 4 The Druids chose..such Groves for their divine Service, as stood only upon Oaks.

f. *To stand upon terms*: (*a*) to be on a specified footing or in a specified situation or condition; (*b*) to insist upon conditions; also, *to stand upon conditions*; (*c*) to take a high line, to hold one's own, refuse to knuckle under.

1597 SHAKS. 2 *Hen. IV*, IV. i. 165 Hath the Prince John a full Commission..To heare, and absolutely to determine Of what Conditions wee shall stand vpon? 1608 — *Per.* IV. ii. 38 Besides the sore tearmes we stand vpon with the gods, wilbe strong with vs for giuing ore. 1612 [see TERM *sb.* 8 b 6]. 1661–2 PEPYS *Diary* 24 Jan., My uncle Thomas, who I hear by him do stand upon very high terms. 1673 DRYDEN *Marr. à-la-Mode* III. i. 32 Since we must live together, and both of us stand upon our terms. 1716 [see TERM *sb.* 8 b 6]. 1721 DE FOE *Mem. Cavalier* (1840) 36 They..hung back and stood upon terms.

g. To be careful or scrupulous in regard to (forms, ceremonies, nice points of behaviour); to be attentive to or observant of; to allow oneself to be unduly influenced or impeded by.

Now *rare* exc. in negative contexts.

1549 CHALONER *Erasm. Praise Folly* F ij b, Standyng euer vppon narow poyncties of wysedome. 1605 SHAKS. *Macb.* III. iv. 119 Stand not vpon the order of your going, But go at once. 1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* Ep. Ded. 2

Therefore I wil not stand vpon any mans obiections. *c* 1661 in *Verney Mem.* (1907) II. 219 These punctillios are not to be stood vppon by younger brothers. 1681 Flavel *Meth. Grace* viii. 177 You stand upon trifles with him, and yet call him your best and dearest friend. 1714 Budgell tr. *Theophrastus* xix. 57 He does not stand upon Decency in Conversation. 1751 Jortin *Serm.* (1771) VII. xii. 250 There is no occasion to stand upon Complaisance and ceremony with writers who have done so much mischief. 1828 Lytton *Pelham* lxxvi, Lady Glanville was a woman of the good old school, and stood somewhat upon forms and ceremonies. 1889 'M. Gray' *Reproach of Annesley* I. II. i. 145 You stand upon a fanciful punctilio. 1889 F. Barrett *Under Strange Mask* II. x. 2 We were real friends, and only stood upon ceremony in our business relations.

† **h.** To hesitate at (expense), be sparing of (money). *Obs.*

1653 H. Cogan *Scarlet Gown* 162 When he was young, he delighted in taking all the pleasure that possibly he could, never standing upon mony. 1655 M. Casaubon *Enthus.* iv. (1656) 242 There was a way of painting..very frequent among ancient Romans, who stood not upon any cost, either for pomp or pleasure.

i. To pride or value oneself upon; to urge, assert, make the most of, claim respect or consideration for, insist on the recognition of (one's qualities, rank, rights, possessions, dignity, etc.).

1588 Shaks. *Tit. A.* II. iii. 124 This Minion stood vpon her chastity. 1608 Willet *Hexapla Exod.* 321 The Pharisie that stood vpon his workes. *a* 1625 Fletcher *Wit without Money* II. ii, This widow is the strangest thing, the stateliest, And stands so much upon her excellencies! 1683 Kennett *Erasm. on Folly* 69 The Venetians stand upon their birth and Pedigree. 1840 Thackeray *Shabby-genteel Story* i, She stood upon her rank. 1874 Blackie *Self-Cult.* 75 There are few things in social life more contemptible than a rich man who stands upon his riches. 1885 J. Payn *Luck of Darrells* III. xxxi. 8 Langton would stand, and very properly, upon his legal rights. 1898 'Merriman' *Roden's Corner* vi. 60 Men who stand much upon their dignity have not, as a rule, much else to stand upon.

† **j.** To attach importance to, treat as important, give prominence or weight to; to value, set store by. *Obs.*

1598 R. Bernard tr. *Terence, Andria* III. ii, The matter I stand most vpon, is the promise which my sonne himselfe made vnto me. 1607 Shaks. *Cor.* IV. vi. 96 You, that stood so much Vpon the voyce of occupation, and The breath of Garlicke-eaters. 1629 Burton *Babel no Bethel* 100 Shee stands not vpon inward bolines, but is all for outward glory. 1651 *Life Father Sarpi* (1676) 15 The Dignities among Religious Men, being considered either by their profit, or their splendour, are not things to be stood upon. 1660 tr. *Amyraldus' Treat. conc. Relig.* III. viii. 471 We stand not greatly upon it, by which of these names they are termed. 1701 Swift *Poems, Mrs. Harris's Petit.* 42 'Tis not that I value the Money..But the thing I stand upon, is the Credit of the House. 1830 Gen. P. Thompson *Exerc.* (1842) I. 305 Free men do not stand upon family differences, when the object is to oppose a common despotism.

† **k.** To dwell with emphasis or at length upon (a topic, argument, etc.); to treat with insistence, urge; to discourse or dilate upon. *Obs.*

1565 Allen *Def. Purg.* Pref. (1886) 17 But I cannot now stand upon these points. 1605 Bacon *Adv. Learn.* I. i. § 3 As for the third point, it deserueth to be a little stood vpon, and not to be lightly passed ouer. 1608 Dod & Cleaver *Expos. Prov.* xi–xii. 165 We purpose..to stand more largely upon it in the fifteenth chapter. 1638 Junius *Paint. Ancients* 39 Seing then that this is a main point of Art, wee have also stood a little longer upon it. *a* 1715 Burnet *Own Time* III. (1724) I. 407 But he stood much upon this; that having once engaged with France in the war, he could not with honour turn against France, till it was at an end. 1732 Berkeley *Minute Philos.* I. 66, I observe, said he, that you stand much upon the dignity of Human Nature.

† **l.** *To stand upon it*: to insist, maintain persistently (*that*). *Obs.*

1628 Earle *Microcosm., Constable* (Arb.) 40 A Constable is a Vice-roy in the street and no man stands more vpon't that he is the Kings Officer. *a* 1715 Burnet *Own Time* (1897) I. 320 The presbyterians..stood upon it, that a law which excluded all that did not kneel from the sacrament was unlawful. *Ibid.* 362 Yet he always stood upon it, that he had the king's order by word of mouth for what he had done.

† **m.** To insist upon, treat or regard as necessary or indispensable, press for, demand. *To stand upon it to have*: to insist on having. *Obs.*

1634 Sir T. Herbert *Trav.* 29 Had he stood vpon his Justification at the Court. 1653 Austen *Fruit Trees* I. (1657) 67 Concerning Order in setting Trees, though it be not essentiall..yet if men stand upon it, they may measure out [etc.]. 1675 Brooks *Gold. Key* Wks. 1867 V. 351 God the Father, in order to man's redemption and salvation, stands stiffly and peremptorily upon complete satisfaction. 1706 Mrs. Centlivre *Basset-Table* II. 18, I must say that of you Women of Quality, if there is but Money enough, you stand not upon Birth or Reputation, in either Sex. 1712 J. James *Gardening* 17 Many stand upon it to have Palaces.

† **n.** Of the heart or inclination: To be bent or set on (some activity). (Cf. *stand to* 76 l.) *Obs.*

1390 Gower *Conf.* I. 244 Tho Whos herte stod upon knyhthode.

† **o.** To be subjected to, submit to (amendment).

1390 Gower *Conf.* I. 6 This bok, upon amendement To stonde at his commandement,..I sende unto myn oghne lord. *Ibid.* 179 If that it be thi wille To stonde upon amendement.

† **p.** *impers.* = It is a question of, it concerns, affects, involves. Similarly *the matter stands upon.*

1390 Gower *Conf.* III. 220 Knihthode mot ben take on honde, Whan that it stant upon the nede. *a* 1553 Udall *Royster D.* III. iii. 105 But now the matter standeth vpon your mariage, Ye must now take vnto you a lustie courage. 1590 Shaks. *Com. Err.* IV. i. 68 Consider how it stands vpon my credit. 1616 B. Jonson *Devil an Ass* III. iii. 60 It stands vpon his being inuested In a new office. *a* 1625 Fletcher *Noble Gent.* v. i, It stands upon my utter overthrow. 1630 J. Rogers in *Winthrop's Hist. New Eng.* (1853) I. 56 In which I pray God move your heart to be very careful, for it stands upon their lives.

† **q.** *impers.* (It) concerns, behoves, is incumbent upon, is the duty of, is to the interest of, is urgent or necessary for (a person); occas. also with obj. a thing (one's credit, etc.) Const. *to* (do something). Usually in the form *it stands* (one) *upon* = one ought, one must needs. *Obs.* exc. *dial.*

1538 Elyot *Dict.* Addit., *Abs te stat*, it standeth vppon the or it lyeth in the. 1602 Warner *Alb. Eng.* XII. lxxiv. (1612) 306 For much it stood vpon Their Credits to be cautilous. 1611 *3rd Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* 58/2 It stands upon my reputation, being Governor of James-town, to keep a daily table for gentlemen of fashion about me. 1635 J. Hayward tr. *Biondi's Banish'd Virg.* 163, I know it stands upon us to wend us hence assone as we conveniently can. 1720–1 *Lett. Mist's Jrnl.* (1722) I. 260 It stands upon us to take off so heinous a Charge. 1749 Berkeley *Word to Wise* Wks. III. 449 It stands upon you to act with vigour in this cause.

1549 Chaloner *Erasm. Praise Folly* R j b, My faire broode of doctours do enterprise to nippe of here and there foure or fiue woordes of the whole..(if it stande theim vpon). 1557 Tusser *100 Points Husb.* xciii, Such season may hap, it shall stande the vpon: to till it againe, or the somer be gone. 1577 Holinshed *Chron.* II. 306/1 Now perceyuing that it stoode them vppon, either to vanquish or to fall into vtter ruine. 1603 Knolles *Hist. Turks* (1621) 1142 It now stood the great Turke upon to send another great armie to the aid of Mahomet. 1637 Sanderson *Serm.* (1681) II. 91 He that would live a contented life..it standeth him upon to be frugal. 1690 Locke *Hum. Und.* IV. xix. § 10 Does it not then stand them upon, to examine on what grounds they presume it to be a Revelation from God. 1887 *S. Cheshire Gloss., Stond on, Stond upon*, to be incumbent on. 'It'll stond 'em upon to be moor careful another time.' The accusative of the person is always placed between the verb and the preposition.

79. Stand with —.

† **a.** To strive with, withstand (an adversary). Later, to contend with in argument, dispute with (also with *that* and clause); to haggle, make terms with (*for* something). *Obs.*

c 825 *Vesp. Psalter* xciii. 16 Hwelc stondeð mid mec wið wircendum unreht? *c* 1205 Lay. 23127 Ȝif þe king me stont wið. *c* 1320 *Castle of Love* 701 Neuer schal fo him stonde wiþ. 1579 Fulke *Heskins' Parl.* 473, I might stande with him, that this is no interpretation. 1580 G. Harvey in *Three Proper Lett.* 50 But I wil not stand greatly with you in your owne matters. 1616 *Marlowe's Faustus* (Brooke) 218 Well, I will not stand with thee, giue me the money. 1680 Dryden *Span. Fryar* I. i, However, I will not stand with you for a Sample. (*Lifts up her Veil.*) 1691 R. Meeke *Diary* 3 Apr. (1874) 38, I do not usually stand with any for their wages. 1704 Norris *Ideal World* II. iii. 223 Whoever grants these two propositions..cannot stand with me about the consequence of our argument.

† **b.** To range oneself with (another), contend side by side with; to side with, make common cause with. *Obs.*

13.. *Cursor M.* 15499 (Gött.) Elleuen er we ȝeit to stand wid þe [*Cott.* to witstand wit þe], all redi bun. 14.. *26 Pol. Poems* xii. 8 Stonde wiþ þe kyng, mayntene þe croun. 1412–20 Lydg. *Troy Bk.* IV. 1691 To be willy, þoru3 his chiualrie, With hem to stonde as he hab do to-forn. 1596 Dalrymple tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* I. 310 Because stoutlie thay had stande with him in his defence against his ennimies. 1601 Shaks. *Jul. C.* II. i. 142, I think he will stand very strong with vs. 1605 — *Macb.* III. iii. 4 But who did bid thee ioyne with vs?..Then stand with vs. 1654 Bramhall *Just Vind.* iv. 82 They..disavowed the Popes incroachments and offered the King to stand with him in these and all other cases touching his Crown.

† **c.** To stay with, be busied or converse with (a person). *Obs.*

1606 G. Woodcocke *Hist. Ivstine* XLII. 132 He would stand still as though he had stood with him [*cum illo loqui, cum illo consistere*]. 1631 Dekker *Match mee* I. 3 A Barber stood with her on Saturday night very late..and as I thinke, came to trimme her.

d. *Naut.* To sail in the same direction as (another ship). (Cf. 36.) ? *Obs.*

c 1595 Capt. Wyatt *R. Dudley's Voy. W. Ind.* (Hakl. Soc.) 10 Wee might perceave a small saile to stande with us, and standinge in for the ilands as wee did. 1628 Digby *Voy. Mediterr.* (Camden) 21 Wee descryed a sayle standing with vs.

e. To be consistent or consonant with, agree or accord with. *Obs.* exc. *arch.*

To stand with (*good*) *reason*: cf. *stand to* (76 n) and Reason *sb.*[1] 12 b.

c 1380 Wyclif *Wks.* (1880) 385 þe whiche stondiþ not wiþ þe plente of cristis perfeccion in prestis. *c* 1449 Pecock *Repr.* III. iv. 304 It folewith that it stondith weel with the proces of Poul in this present processe, that bischopis haue endewing of vnmouable possessiouns. 1513 More *Rich. III*, Wks. 49/1 If it might stand with your pleasure to be in such place as might stande with their honour. 1515 *Star Chamber Cases* (Selden Soc.) II. 94 Whether their bying and selling..doo stonde with the Comon Weale, or noo. 1603 Knolles *Hist. Turks* (1621) 337 [Mahomet II] kept no league, promise, or oath, longer than stood with his profit or pleasure. 1650 Fuller *Pisgah* I. iii. 8 Because it stands not with the State of a Prince to be his own purse-bearer. *a* 1656 Hales *Gold. Rem.* III. (1673) 59 It will seem a paradox that I shall speak unto you, yet will it stand with very good reason. 1710 O. Sansom *Acc. Life* 39, I desired him, if it stood with his Freedom, to have a Meeting there that Evening. 1772 *Junius Lett.* lxviii, How an evasive, indirect reply will stand with your reputation ..is worth your consideration? 1825 Scott *Talism.* xxvii, Would it stand with your pleasure that I prick forward?

† **f.** To co-exist with, go along with. *Obs.*

1396–7 in *Eng. Hist. Rev.* (1907) XXII. 296 He and his noble 3iftis may not stonde with deedly synne in no manere persone. 1528 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 30 b, All these may stande with deedly synne. 1572 J. Jones *Bathes* II. 11 Bycause great rarefaction standeth with great heate.

g. Of printing-type: To range with.

1770 Luckombe *Hist. Printing* 223 The Letter of it would Stand with another Fount of the same Body.

VII. With adverbs.

Stand aback: see 88.

80. Stand about.

a. Of a number of persons: To stand here and there, in casual positions or groups. Of an individual: To remain standing in a place without a fixed position or definite object.

1390 Gower *Conf.* III. 337 And there in open Audience Of hem that stoden thanne aboute, He tolde hem [etc.]. 1847 C. Bronte *Jane Eyre* xix, They stood about here and there in groups, their plates and glasses in their hands. 1872 *Punch* 30 Mar. 136 Wet trousers are unpleasant to stand about in. 1883 Mrs. F. Mann *Parish of Hilby* xxv. 329 I've been standing about all day.

† **b.** To go about, endeavour *to* (do something). Cf. About A 10. *Obs.*

1549 Latimer *4th Serm. bef. Edw. VI* (Arb.) 126 When we..acknowledge our faultes, and stand not about to defend them.

† **81. Stand again.** To offer resistance or opposition. (Cf. 10.) *Obs.*

a 1122 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1010 þa stod Grantabrycgscir fæstlice ongean. *c* 1205 Lay. 26674 þa Bruttes auoten uaste aȝæin stoden. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 3543 Aaron and vr stoden a-gen, And boden hem swile þowtes leten. *a* 1250 *Owl & Night.* 1788, & if þe þinkþ þat ic mis-rempe, þu stond ayeyn and do me crempe. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 18090 Forces yow wit might and main Stalworthli to stand a-gain.

82. Stand along. *Naut.* (See sense 36.) To sail in a given direction. Hence *gen.*, to proceed on a journey.

1653 *Fight Legorn-Road* 18 Supposing Captain Badily to have stood along to the relief of our Squadron. 1710 S. Sewall *Diary* 27 Mar. (1879) II. 276 The Sun breaking out, I stood along about 10 m. 1714 *Ibid.* 12 Apr. 438 It began to Rain, [so] that I would have had the Horses set up again. But Mr. Thaxter and Mr. Denison were for standing along.

83. Stand aloof. To stand away at, or withdraw to, some distance (*from*), keep away (*from*). Also *fig.*

1596 Shaks. *Merch. V.* III. ii. 42 Nerryssa and the rest, stand all aloofe. 1602, 1611, etc. [see Aloof *adv.* 5, 3]. 1605 Shaks. *Lear* I. i. 242 Loue's not loue When it is mingled with regards, that stands Aloofe from th'intire point. 1704 Swift *T. Tub* i. 45 Our nearest Friends begin to stand aloof, as if they were half ashamed to own Us. 1881 Gardiner & Mullinger *Study Eng. Hist.* I. v. 95 He himself stood aloof from such doctrines. 1893 Liddon *Life Pusey* I. xi. 262 He stood somewhat aloof from the Movement in his later years.

84. Stand apart. To stand separate or at a distance (*from* another or others). Also *fig.*

1538 Elyot *Dict., Distito*, to stande aparte, or be dystant one from an other. 1560 Daus tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 363 b, They were commaunded to stand apart. 1590 Shaks. *Com. Err.* v. i. 364 Stay, stand apart, I know not which is which. 1840 *Penny Cycl.* XVII. 345/1 The plants [should be] thinned out by the hoe, so as to stand a foot or 15 inches apart. 1886 Sheldon tr. *Flaubert's Salammbô* 8 One of these slaves remained standing apart from the others. 1906 Petrie *Relig. Anc. Egypt* viii. 58 Besides the classes of gods already described there are others who stand apart in their character, as embodying abstract ideas.

85. Stand aside. To draw back or retire and stand apart from the general company or from what is going on. (See sense 7.)

c 1400, 1596 [see Aside *adv.* 9]. 1535 Coverdale *Acts* iv. 15 Then commaunded they them to stonde asyde out of ye Councell. 1703 Cibber *She wou'd* etc. IV. 50 Stand aside, till I call for you. 1839 Dickens *Nich. Nick.* liv, Stand aside, every one of you.

† **86. Stand astrut.** See A-strut.

1540 Palsgr. *Acolastus* I. iv. G iij b, See howe my gyrdell swelleth .i. standeth a styrte. *Ibid.* IV. iv. T iv, Seest thou not my purses or bagges howe they be swollen or stande a stroute with moche golde?

87. Stand away.

a. To withdraw to some distance. (See sense 7.)

1599 Shaks. *Hen. V*, IV. viii. 14 Stand away Captaine Gower. 1601 — *All's Well* v. ii. 17 Foh, prethee stand away.

b. *Naut.* To sail or steer away (from some coast, quarter, enemy, etc.) (See sense 36.)

1633 T. James *Voy.* 18 The winde larged, and wee stowed away S.S.W. 1680 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1551/4 They no sooner discovered the Guernsey to be a Man of War, but they Tacked and stood away with all the Sail they could make. 1725 De Foe *Voy. round World* (1840) 9 We resolved to stand away from the Canaries to the coast of Brazil. 1845 J. Coulter *Adv. in Pacific* xi. 140 In two days more we left this anchorage, and stood away towards the north-east.

88. Stand back. Also † *stand aback.*

To withdraw and take up a position farther away from the front. (See sense 7.) Also *fig.*

a 1400 *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* xxxiii. 195 He bad him stonde bac..þat he mihte sustene þat stynk. ? *a* 1500 *Robin Hood & Guy of Gisb.* liv, Stand abacke! stand abacke! sayd Robin: Why draw you mee soe neere? 1594 Shaks. *Rich. III*, I. ii. 38 My Lord stand backe, and let the Coffin passe. 1637 [see Aback *adv.* 2]. 1684 Bunyan *Seasonable Counsel* 227 He saith..to all that are forward to revenge

themselves; Give place, stand back, let me come. 1909 MAX BEERBOHM *Yet Again* 23 'Stand back, please'. The train was about to start, and I waved farewell to my friend.

89. Stand behind. In literal senses (e.g. of one who waits at table). Used by Wyclif as an equivalent for 'apostatize'.

1380 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* III. 431 And 3if apostasie is stondyng bihynde, hou myche stondiþ bihynde ilche siche þat shal be dampned? *Ibid.* 438 For þei stonden bihynde, and fy3ten not wiþ þe fend. 14.. *26 Pol. Poems* 78/171 When mede haþ leue to stande byhynde, þanne trewe loue his erande may spede. 1859 TENNYSON *Enid* 392 Enid..spread the board, And stood behind, and waited on the three.

90. Stand beside. To stand by a person's side, as a looker-on, helper, etc.

14.. *26 Pol. Poems* xviii. 91 Suche towches..Wolde..3eue opere cause, þat stonde bysyde, To wene it were a bargayn of synne. *c* 1520 SKELTON *Magnyf.* 1467, I can do nothynge but he stonde besyde.

91. Stand by.

a. To stand near at hand; to be present. Now chiefly, to be present as an unconcerned spectator, without interfering or protesting.

c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xi. (Simon & Jude) 84 His fygur.. In þat clath mycht be sene clerly, as he has standyne hym-selfe by. *c* 1500 *Star Chamber Cases* (Selden Soc.) I. 105 Without that oone of the seid Erles seruantes shuld stand by and here what shuld be said. 1551 ROBINSON tr. *More's Utopia* I. (1895) 73 Ther chaunsed to stond by a certein iesting parasite. 1594 SHAKS. *Rich. III*, III. iii. 16 Now Margarets Curse is falne vpon our Heads,..For standing by, when Richard stab'd her Sonne. 1659 [H. NEVILE] *Game Pickquet* 6, I shall disturb you in the game if I stand by. 1678 BUNYAN *Pilgr.* I. (1900) 89 The Jury (who all this while stood by, to hear and observe). 1726 SWIFT *Gulliver* I. vi, A professor, who always standeth by on those occasions. 1831 SCOTT *Ct. Robt.* xviii, The most despicable of animals stands not by tamely and sees another assail his mate. 1861 *Temple Bar* II. 214 It did Philip good to stand by, and watch her animated face. 1876 MRS. OLIPHANT *Curate in Charge* xvi, Must we stand by and see all manner of wrong done and.. think we..cannot help it?

b. = *stand aside* 85. Also *fig.*, to refrain from action.

1589 R. HARVEY *Pl. Perc.* 5 Stand by a trice, but looke you depart not the court. 1595 SHAKS. *John* IV. iii. 94 Stand by, or I shall gaul you Faulconbridge. 1647 WARD *Simple Cobler* (1843) 5 He..takes his Scepter out of his hand, and bids him stand by. 1764 FOOTE *Patron* III. Wks. 1799 I. 357 Rascals, stand by! I must, I will see him. 1836 MRS. SHERWOOD *Henry Milner* III. v, He was interrupted by the sound of horses' hoofs..followed by a shout of 'stand by, stand by there!' 1896 *Law Times* C. 357/1 To consider whether the beneficiary had stood by too long before he sought redress.

† **c.** To be excluded *from*. *Obs. rare*—1.

1603 in *Buccleuch MSS.* (Hist. MSS. Comm.) I. 48 He had been before, and stood then by from being Jurate for his misbehaviour.

d. Of a thing: To be laid aside; *fig.* 'to be put aside with disregard' (J.).

1667 *Decay Chr. Piety* iv. 51 We make all our addresses to the promises, hug and caress them, and in the interim let the commands stand by neglected. 1683 MOXON *Mech. Exerc., Printing* xxii. 87 The Wrought off Form is Strip't..and stands by to Destribute. 1893 *Sketch* 15 Feb. 179/2 And now everything stands by for the discussion of Home Rule.

e. *Naut.* To hold oneself in readiness, be prepared (*for* something, *to* do something). Often in imperative = be ready! Also *gen.*

1669 STURMY *Mariner's Mag.* I. ii. 17 Come, stand by, take in our Top-sails. 1697 DAMPIER *Voy.* I. 17 He that stood by to clear it away, stopt the Line. 1759 *Ann. Reg., Chron.* 62/1, I called to my people to stand by and do their duty. 1831 *Examiner* 178/2 Open the safety-valve, or stand by for the explosion. 1840 R. H. DANA *Bef. Mast* xxv, The starboard watch..left the ship to us for a couple of hours, yet with orders to stand by for a call. 1890 *Chamb. Jrnl.* 7 June 356/2 Bring the boat close under, my lads,..and stand by to receive the lady.

92. Stand down.

a. Of a witness: To step down and leave the box after giving evidence. (Cf. sense 7.)

1681 *Trial S. Colledge* 74 Mr. Ser. *Jeff.* You say well, stand down. 1831 *Examiner* 732/2 Bench: Stand down.—Defendant: No, I shan't stand down, for you. 1837 DICKENS *Pickw.* xxxiii, I will not trouble the court by asking him any more questions. Stand down, Sir.

b. *Sport.* To withdraw from a game, match, or race; to give up one's place in a team, crew, or 'side'.

1890 *Field* 31 May 790/2 Charlton also stood down, and the vacant places were given to..Barrett and Trumble. *Ibid.* 15 Nov. 744/1 On the University side, Shiels stood down in favour of G. S. Thorn. 1912 *Throne* 7 Aug. 234/2 The first news was that Wootton had to stand down for the whole of August.

c. *Naut.* To sail with the wind or tide. (Cf. sense 36.)

1834 M. SCOTT *Cruise Midge* i, May I therefore request the favour of your standing down to her. 1885 *Times* (weekly ed.) 2 Oct. 14/4 Fishing boats..standing down with the ebb in midstream.

93. Stand forth.

a. To step forward (in order to do something, make a speech, face a company, etc.); to come boldly or resolutely to the front or centre. (Cf. sense 7.) † *To stand forth to*, to confront.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 10231 Joachim son forth can stand, And mad him bun wit his offrand. 1362 LANGL. *P. Pl. A.* II. 57 Now Simonye and Siuyle stondeð forþ boþe. *c* 1425 ? LYDG. *Assembly of Gods* 442 He stoode forthe boldly with grym countenaunce. 1526 TINDALE *Luke* vi. 8 Ryse vp and stonde forthe in the myddes. 1625 B. JONSON *Staple of N.* IV. iv, Now he treats of you, stand forth to him, faire. 1780 *Mirror* No. 68 In such a cause every man would stand forth. 1872 C. E. MAURICE *Stephen Langton* i. 28 The prophet who had stood forth to denounce the awful corruption. 1879 MORLEY *Burke* iv. 76 It needs valour and integrity to stand forth against a wrong to which our best friends are..committed.

† **b.** To persist *in* (a course of action). *Obs.*

c 1400 *Rom. Rose* 3547 To stonde forth in such duresse.

c. To make a conspicuous appearance, be prominent.

a 1764 LLOYD *Dial. Author & Friend* 17 Yes—it [his book] stands forth to public view. 1896 *N. Brit. Rev.* XXVI. 138 Sober, industrious, intellectual..he stands forth as one of the model workmen of Europe. 1862 *Temple Bar* VI. 356 No buildings are allowed to touch it, and thus it stands forth in its native gigantesque proportions.

94. Stand forward. = *stand forth* 93 a.

1802 MAR. EDGEWORTH *Moral T., Prussian Vase*, I applaud him, for standing forward in defence of his friend. 1820 MILNER *Suppl. Mem. Eng. Cath.* 313 Summoning all those who had signed the Protestation to stand forward in defence of its errors.

95. Stand in.

† **a.** To strive, continue insistently *to* (do something). (Cf. L. *instare* and 98 a.) *Obs.*

c 1200 ORMIN 2149 Iwhillc an Crisstene mann..Birþ stanndenn inn affterr hiss mihht To follȝhenn hire bisne. *Ibid.* 2617 Þe deofell, þatt æfre & æfre stanndeþþ inn To scrennkenn ure sawless.

† **b.** To impend, be imminent. (Rendering L. *instare*. Cf. 98 b.) *Obs.*

a 1390 *Wyclif's Bible, Jerem.* Prol. 343 Bifor that the tyme of destruccioun shulde stonden in [*antequam depopulationis tempus instaret*].

† **c.** To join issue *with* (others in a dispute); to take part *in* (a controversy). *Obs.*

c 1540 R. MORICE in *Lett. Lit. Men* (Camden) 24 He never shranke from the facte but stowtlie stode in with them in disputation. 1555 RIDLEY *Treat. agst. Transubst.* E viij b, The controuersie..(wherin anye meane learned man either olde or newe doth stand in). [1865 *Hotten's Slang Dict., Stand in*,..to take a side in a dispute.]

d. 'To make one of a party in a bet or other speculation' (*Slang Dict.* 1865). Usually const. *with*: To go shares with, join, be a partner with; in wider sense, to have a friendly or profitable understanding with, be in league with, be on good terms with. Also, to share chances with others *for* (a speculative event).

1857 A. MAYHEW *Paved with Gold* III. xx, The policeman who 'stood in' for this robbery saw the rogues depart with their plunder. 1860 WHYTE MELVILLE *Mkt. Harb.* xv, The valet..who..made a point of 'standing in' with all the upper servants, treated the stud-groom with considerable deference. 1865 LEVER *Luttrell* xxxvi. 261 If I was quite sure that I 'stood in' for the double event..I almost think I'd do it. 1898 BESANT *Orange Girl* II. xii, The job was easy and should be done, but he should expect to stand in. 1898 *Edin. Rev.* Jan. 160 The policy of standing-in with both parties was the ruling idea of his political career.

e. *Naut.* To direct one's course towards the shore. (See sense 36.)

c 1595 CAPT. WYATT *R. Dudley's Voy. W. Ind.* (Hakl. Soc.) 10 Wee might perceave a small saile..standinge in for the ilands as wee did. 1670–1 NARBOROUGH *Voy.* I. (1694) 181 We stood in for the Land. 1853 KANE *Grinnell Exp.* xix. (1856) 141 Wishing to fill up with water..we stood close in. 1892 *Chamb. Jrnl.* 27 Feb. 135/2 The captain,..noticing something strange, stood in to discover its meaning.

96. Stand off.

a. To remain at or retire to a distance; to draw back, go farther away. Chiefly in commands.

1631 B. JONSON *New Inn* IV. iii, *Fra.* She is some Giantess! Ile stand off, For feare she swallow me. 1717 POPE *Iliad* x. 93 Stand off, approach not, but thy Purpose tell. 1828 *Ann. Reg.* 26/2 Our party said, 'Stand off, or we will shoot you'. 1890 *Graphic* Summer No. 14/2 The rider..told him with a curse to stand off.

† **b.** Of a thing: To remain apart or separate or at a distance (*from* some object). Also *fig.*, to be separated in quality, differ. *Obs.*

1602 SHAKS. *All's Well* II. iii. 127 Strange is it that our bloods Of colour, waight, and heat, pour'd all together, Would quite confound distinction: yet stands off In differences so mightie. 1644 J. GOODWIN *Danger of fighting agst. God* 52 Your judgements stand off from the cause.. and you can see nothing of God in it. 1705 COLLIER *Ess. Mor. Subj.* III. *Pain* 16 The Flames being observ'd to stand off, and not touch his body.

c. *fig.* To hold aloof (from an offer or appeal, friendship, intercourse, sympathy, or the like); to be 'distant', uncomplying or unaccommodating.

1602 SHAKS. *All's Well* IV. ii. 34 Stand no more off, But giue thy selfe vnto my sicke desires. 1622 MABBE tr. *Aleman's Guzman d'Alf.* II. 265, I did not stand off, but gaue him all that he had giuen me. 1676 PHILLIPS *Purchasers Pattern* B 6 b, If any Tenant..would have a longer lease..I would not wish the Landlord to stand off. 1679 C. NESSE *Antichrist* 224 Aidanus, our own countreyman, who stood off not only from Romish primacy but from prelacy. 1705 tr. *Bosman's Guinea* 175 Though I desired nothing more, yet I stood off as though I was not to be perswaded to that. 1844 KINGLAKE *Eothen* xviii, I entreated him to stand off, telling him fairly how deeply I was 'compromised'. 1888 FLOR. WARDEN *Woman's Face* III. xxviii. 170 Stony eyes that bade sympathy stand off and be silent. 1889 *Univ. Rev.* Sept. 32 He has politicly stood off from her appeals.

d. Of a thing: To project, protrude, jut out (*from* a surface, etc.). Of a picture: To appear as if in relief. Also *fig.*, to be conspicuous or prominent. (Cf. *stand out* 99 i–k.)

1599 SHAKS. *Hen. V*, II. ii. 103 'Tis so strange, That though the truth of it stands off as grosse As blacke and white, my eye will scarsely see it. 1624 WOTTON *Archit.* II. 84 Picture is best when it standeth off, as if it were carued. 1737 BRACKEN *Farriery Impr.* (1757) II. 32 The farther the Back Sinew stands off from the Bone, the better it is. 1820 W. IRVING *Sketch Bk.* (1859) 157 A little, meagre, black-looking man, with a grizzled wig that was too wide, and stood off from each ear. 1843 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* IV. II. 471 The tines stand off from the beam so as to work to the depth of about 5 inches from the furrow-slice last turned.

e. *Naut.* To sail away from the shore. (Cf. *stand out* 99 h.)

1625 J. GLANVILLE *Voy. Cadiz* (Camden) 117 We tacked about againe and stood off to Sea. 1764 J. BYRON in Hawkesworth *Voy.* I. 13 Having stood off in the night, we now wore and stood in again. 1891 *Longman's Mag.* Oct. 591 Howard..had to tack and stand off to sea.

f. *trans.* To keep off, keep at a distance; to repel, hold at bay; to put off, evade (a questioner, dun, etc.). *U.S. colloq.*

1887 F. FRANCIS Jun. *Saddle & Mocassin* 181 Loop-holed! Well, the men who built this place expected occasionally to have to 'stand off' irate Mexicans. 1889 *Advance* (Chicago) 19 Dec., Standing off the hungry wolf from the door of the college. 1894 *Harper's Mag.* Feb. 391/1 Thankful to have stood her off, I asked how Reuben was looking.

97. Stand off and on. *Naut.* (See quot. 1846.)

1666 [see OFF AND ON 2]. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* I. vi. 58 The weather made it dangerous to supply their ships by standing off and on. 1846 A. YOUNG *Naut. Dict.* 295 *Stand off and on*, alternately to recede from and approach the land while sailing by the wind.

transf. 1806–7 J. BERESFORD *Miseries Hum. Life* (1826) IV. xviii, Standing off and on in the street..while the friend with whom you are walking talks to his friend.

98. Stand on.

† **a.** To be urgent or insistent *to* (do something). (Cf. *stand in* 95 a.) *Obs.*

c 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* I. 72 Coloured, stond not on to bisily To se thy lond, but rather fatte and swete.

† **b.** To impend, be imminent. (Cf. *stand in* 95 b.)

1382 WYCLIF *Isa.* xxi. 15 Fro the face of the swerd stondende on [*a facie gladii imminentis*]. *a* 1390 — *Jerem.* Prol. 343 Now the caitifte stod on [*jam captivitas imminebat*].

c. *Naut.* (See sense 36.) To keep one's course, continue on the same tack. *To stand on and off* (rare) = 97.

1666 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 60/3 The whole Line tacked in the wake of him, and stood on till..the Prince thought fit to keep the wind. *a* 1779 COOK *3rd Voy.* III. xi. (1784) II. 197 While the boats were occupied in examining the coast, we stood on and off with the ships, waiting for their return. 1790 BEATSON *Nav. & Mil. Mem.* I. 111 The Admiral continued, with a press of sail, standing on close to the wind. 1875 BEDFORD *Sailor's Pocket Bk.* iii. (ed. 2) 64 Is A to stand on; and if not, why not?

99. Stand out.

a. To move away (from a company, shelter, etc.) and stand apart or in open view. (See sense 7.)

In first quot. ? = *stand up*.

c 1220 *Bestiary* 655 Þanne cumeð ðer on ganganде, hopeð he sal him [a fallen elephant] don ut standen..1753 RICHARDSON *Grandison* I. xiv. 86 To stand out to receive..the first motions to an address of this awful nature. 1842 MACAULAY *Horatius* li, Yet one man for one moment Stood out before the crowd. 1849 JAMES *Woodman* iii, Stand out, and tell us who you are, creeping along there under the boughs. 1892 *Graphic* 17 Dec. 743/3 The master prefers..to order the wrongdoer to 'stand out'.

b. Not to take part in (an undertaking, joint action, etc.); to refuse to come in or join others; to hold aloof († *from* doing something); now *esp.* not to take part in a match, game or dance (cf. 92 b).

1599 B. JONSON *Cynthia's Rev.* I. iv, Though I affect not popularity, yet I would be lothe to stand out to any, whome you shall voutchsafe to call friend. 1601 SHAKS. *Twel. N.* III. iii. 35 It might haue since bene answer'd in repaying What we tooke from them, which for Traffiques sake Most of our City did. Only my selfe stood out. 1609 B. JONSON *Epicœne* I. i, Marry, the Chimney-sweepers *will* not be drawne in. *Cle.* No, nor the Brodme-men: They stand out stiffely. 1640–1 *Kirkcudbr. War-Comm. Min. Bk.* (1855) 61 As for these that hes naither subscryvit nor will cum in, but stands owt, they are to be fyned. 1671 SHADWELL *Humourists* v, I am resolved to play at a small game, rather than stand out. 1687 BURNET *Contin. Reply Varillas* 19 Fisher being the only man that stood out a while, but even he at last concurred with the rest. 1690 LUTTRELL *Brief Rel.* II. 6 Dr. Timothy Hall, bishop of Oxon., has lately taken the oathes to their majesties, which he has stood out from doeing till the utmost time was come. 1890 *Field* 10 May 673/1 The captain and the secretary stood out on this occasion, but arranged twelve Seniors a-side. 1893 *Nat. Observer* 7 Oct. 535/2 The ladies proposed a dance.. The Captain himself stood out.

c. To resist, persist in opposition or resistance, refuse to yield or comply, hold out. Const. *against* (an opponent, proposal, etc.), *with* (an opponent).

1595 SHAKS. *John* v. ii. 72 His spirit is come in, That so stood out against the holy Church. 1601 BARLOW *Serm. Paules Cresse* 37 Nor will I mention his oft standing out with her if he were thwarted. 1698 FRYER *Acc. E. India & P.* p. vii, The Mountains in all Conquests the last that stand out. 1899 M. J. GUEST *Lect. Hist. Eng.* xxviii. 287 The Commons threw away their humility, and stood out boldly. 1887 SIMS *Mary Jane's Mem.* 296, I have had to stand out with my editor once or twice on that..point. 1891 *Chamb. Jrnl.* 19 Sept. 594/2 It requires exceptional courage to stand out against a popular cry.

transf. 1806–7 J. BERESFORD *Miseries Hum. Life* (1826) x. lxi, The pullies resolutely standing out against all your efforts to turn them.

d. *To stand it out* = prec.

1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* 571 When the fight is once begunne, there is none of both that may runne awaie, but standeth it out vntil one or both of them bee slaine to the ground. *a* 1694 TILLOTSON *Serm.* xxxv. (1742) III. 17 He is in good earnest, and will execute these threatnings upon them if they will obstinately stand it out with him. 1718 OCKLEY *Saracens* (1848) 219 Knowing very well how hard it would go with them if they should stand it out obstinately to the last, and be taken by storm. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. VII. xi, He, tough as tanned leather..will stand it out for another year. 1866 RUSKIN *Crown of Wild Olive* iv. § 148, I..stood it out to the end, and helped to carry four of my fellow students..down stairs.

e. *To stand out for*: to declare oneself for, contend on behalf of.

a 1600 *Raid of Reidswire* xviii. in Scott *Border Minstrelsy* (1869) 74 None stoutlier stood out for their laird, Nor did the lads of Liddisdail. 1633 BP. HALL *Hard Texts* Hos. v. 13 When Ahaz..was in distresse, he sends to Tiglath Pileser, that should stand out for him. 1891 *Chamb. Jrnl.* 19 Sept. 593/2 He has not grit enough to stand out for justice and honesty.

f. To haggle, make difficulties about striking a bargain; to make an obstinate demand *for* (certain terms).

1766 GOLDSM. *Vic. W.* xii, He always stands out and higgles. 1816 SCOTT *Antiq.* xxiv, 'If the secret were mine,' said the mendicant, 'I wad stand out for a half.' 1889 RIDER HAGGARD *Col. Quaritch* xliii. 325, I am not going to stand out about the price. 1890 *Sat. Rev.* 20 Sept. 337/1 They stood out partly for more wages.

† **g.** Of a bill, debt, etc.: To remain unsettled or unpaid. (Cf. OUTSTANDING *ppl. a.* 4.) *Obs.*

1723 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 6183/2 Exchequer Bills (which are all that are now standing out and undischarged). 1736 *Gentl. Mag.* VI. 563/1 An Account of all the publick Debts..due or standing out at Christmas, 1735.

h. *Naut.* (See sense 36.) To sail in a direction away from the shore. Usually *to stand out to sea*. Hence *gen.*, to start on a journey.

1718 ROWE *Lucan* iv. 717 *note*, Octavius stood out to sea. 1834 M. SCOTT *Cruise Midge* vi, The signal to weigh and stand out, sir. 1885 *Times* 18 Sept. 13/2 We stood out through the thickening rain. 1891 *Longman's Mag.* Oct. 596 They cut their cables..and stood out into the Channel.

i. To jut out, project, protrude (*from* a surface); to be prominent.

1540 PALSGR. *Acolastus* II. i. H ij b, My chynne standynge out lyke as aged folkes lyppes do, that be totheles. 1558 PHAER *Æneid* VIII. (1562) Cc ij b, Agrippa loftie prince whose pendaunt streamers proud stand out. 1560 BIBLE (Geneva) *Ps.* lxxiii. 7 Their eyes stand out for fatnes. 1585 HIGINS *Junius' Nomencl.* 206/1 *Striæ*,..those partes in furrowed pillers which stand out and swell as it were. *c* 1643 LD. HERBERT *Autobiog.* (1824) 100 The Pier of Dover, which stands out in the Sea. 1680 MOXON *Mech. Exerc.* xi. 202 The work..is required to stand out free from the outer Flat of the Cheeks of the Coller. 1742 BLAIR *Grave* 274 Oh! how his Eyes stand out, and stare full ghastly! 1889 MRS. LYNN LINTON *Thro' Long Night* I. i. xiii. 207 Her ears stood out from her head like jug-handles. 1890 W. C. RUSSELL *Ocean Trag.* I. i. 6 The veins stood out like whipcord.

j. To be conspicuous; to be seen in contrast or relief *against* a dark object or background. Of figures in painting: To appear as if in relief.

1856 WHYTE MELVILLE *Kate Coventry* ix, Lucy's white face stood out in the lamplight. 1884 *Times* (weekly ed.) 29 Aug. 14/1 The white houses, sparkling in the sunshine, stood out against the dark background of woods. 1889 MRS. E. KENNARD *Lauding a Prize* II. iv. 65 Red flannel shirts..stood out in the distance as a brilliant spot of colour.

k. *fig.* To be prominent or conspicuous to the mental gaze.

1826 LAMB *Elia* Ser. II. *Genteel Style in Writing*, The man of rank is discernible in both writers; but in the one it is only insinuated gracefully, in the other it stands out offensively. 1874 GREEN *Short Hist.* viii. § 6. 518 John Pym..stands out for all after time as the embodiment of law. 1891 *Chamb. Jrnl.* 7 Feb. 81/1 Two facts stand out in bold relief.

l. *trans.* To remain standing throughout (a performance). Also *Naut.* To 'stand watch' (see sense 60) during (a specified time).

1840 R. H. DANA *Bef. Mast* vii, We were then divided into three watches, and thus stood out the remainder of the night. 1890 CONSTANCE SMITH *Ridlle Lawr. Haviland* II. III. iv. 90 He propped himself in an angle of the doorway, and prepared to stand out the performance.

m. To endure to the end, hold out under or against (a trial, ordeal, severe weather, etc.); to last out (a period of time).

1623 *Shaks. Wks.* To Rdrs., These Playes have had their triall alreadie, and stood out all Appeales. 1649 JER. TAYLOR *Gt. Exemp.* I. Ad Sec. vi. 105 Jesus fled from the persecution; as he did not stand it out, so he did not stand out against it. 1676 PHILLIPS *Purchasers Pattern* 18 Houses..many times cannot well stand out a long Lease. 1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* vii, It is a sunburnt beauty,..well qualified to stand out rain and wind. 1827 — *Jrnl.* 28 Mar., I..went out in as rough weather as I have seen, and stood out several snow blasts. 1855 FLOR. NIGHTINGALE in Sir E. Cook *Life* (1913) I. 283, I am ready to stand out the War with any man.

n. With object-clause: To maintain, insist, persist in asserting (*that*). Also *to stand it out* (*that*): cf. d.

1664 H. MORE *Myst. Iniq.* I. xiii. 42 They..will stand it out as stoutly for their justification, as these professors of Christianity that they are no Idolaters. 1726 BERKELEY *Lett.* Wks. 1871 IV. 129 The latter still stands out, that she never received..any of Mrs. Mary's money. 1863 MRS. GASKELL *Sylvia's Lovers* xxxix, It were only yesterday at e'en she were standing out that he liked her better than you. 1898 BESANT *Orange Girl* II. xii, He..stoutly stood it out that he was a gentleman of Cumberland.

o. *Sport.* To stick to (a bet) without hedging. (Cf. sense 63.)

1892 *Illustr. Sporting & Dram. News* 28 May 382/2 Personally I would not take 100 to 1, to stand it out. *Ibid.* 406/3 Still, mark my words, he will stand that bet out, if only for Julia's sake.

p. *dial.* To force or try to force (a person) by pertinacious assertion to believe or admit (the fact expressed by an object-clause).

1895 ALICIA A. LEITH *Plant of Lemon Verbena* v. 105 He tried t' stand me out 'twas a white caaf or a cow I'd zeen. 1895 JANE BARLOW *Strangers at Lisconnel* ii. 26, I question would any raisonable body stand me out I don't own her be rights.

100. Stand over.

a. *Naut.* (See sense 36.) To leave one shore and sail towards another.

1699 DAMPIER *Voy.* II. i. 171 Yet we did not stand over towards Sumatra, but coasted along nearest the Malacca shore. 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xv. III. 604 He now stood over to the English shore.

b. To be left or reserved for treatment, consideration or settlement at a later date. (See OVER *adv.* 9.)

1824 *Examiner* 67/1 [He] directed the trial to stand over until the next morning. 1853 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* XIV. i. 30 Many acres..are left unsown, and must stand over for Lent corn. 1884 *Law Rep.* 25 Chanc. Div. 707 The motion was ordered to stand over for a fortnight. 1891 *Sat. Rev.* 22 Aug. 219/1 His accounts are balanced at the close of each season, and no bad debts are allowed to stand over.

101. Stand to.

† **a.** To be present, 'assist'. *Obs.*

1540 PALSGR. *Acolastus* Peroration Bb iij b, You al..whiche stand to here .i. all you, whiche stande here at this presente tyme.

† **b.** To set to work, fall to; *esp.* to begin eating. (See To *adv.* 6.) *Obs.*

1605 SHAKS. *Mach.* II. iii. 38. 1610 — *Temp.* III. iii. 49, 52, I will stand to, and feede..: my Lord, the Duke, Stand too, and doe as we.

102. Stand together.

† **a.** To agree, be consistent, harmonize. *Obs.*

1387–8 T. USK *Test. Love* III. ix. (Skeat) I. 26 As I was lerned how goddes before-weting and free choice of wil mowe stonden togider. *c* 1449 PECOCK *Repr.* II. xvi. 246 And so these ij. thingis whiche Scripture seith of ydolatrers stonden to gidere and ben trewe. 1565 HARDING *Answ. Jewel's Challenge* 137 Sith both these verities may well stande together. 1629 BURTON *Babel no Bethel* 96 The Arke and Dagon cannot stand together. 1711 FELTON *Diss. Classics* (1718) 9 Sprightly Youth and close Application will hardly stand together.

† **b.** To consist *in*, *of*. (Rendering L. *constare* with ablative.) *Obs.*

c 1400 *Apol. Loll.* 47 We..striue to proue þe sacrifice of þe kirk to stond to gidre in two þingis, and to be maad in two þingis to gidre:..as þe persoun of Crist stondiþ to gidre of God and man.

103. Stand up.

a. To assume an erect position; to rise, get up on one's feet.

a 1122 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 656 Þa stod seo kyning up toforen ealle his ðægna & cwæd luddor stefne [etc.]. *c* 1200 ORMIN 16138 Hat lufess fir..Iss kinndleed i þatt herrte þatt..stanndeþþ upp biforenn folle,..To nibbrenn woh wiþþ all hiss mahht. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 16415 Pilate stode vp on his fete mid-ward þat gret gadring. 1535 COVERDALE *Song Sol.* v. 5, I stode vp to open vnto my beloued. 1667 *Answ. to Quest. out of North* 12 If any person coming to Church..do not Stand Up at the Creed. 1711 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 112 P 3 He..sometimes stands up when every Body else is upon their Knees. 1787 'G. GAMBADO' *Acad. Horsem.* (1809) 34 The standing up in your stirrups, whilst trotting..has a most elegant and genteel effect. 1877 MISS YONGE *Cameos* Ser. III. xxxvi. 391 He stood up in the waggon and began to sing.

b. To remain erect and firm *under* (a crushing weight, or the like). (Cf. 77 b.)

1682 BUNYAN *Holy War* 164 For the grace, the benefit, the pardon, was sudden, glorious, and so big, that they were not able without staggering to stand up under it.

c. To take part in a dance; to dance *with* (a partner).

1766 GOLDSM. *Vic. W.* xxi, We were here interrupted by a servant who came to ask the Squire in to stand up at country-dances. 1796 JANE AUSTEN *Pride & Prej.* xviii, In vain did she entreat him to stand up with somebody else. 1804 — *Watsons* (1879) 328, I thought you were to stand up with Mr. Tomlinson the two last dances.

d. To take up one's position to play an athletic game.

1884 *J. Marshall's Tennis Cuts* 169 He had a twist in his spine, which rendered him physically incapable of standing up to play more than one game a day. 1896 A. E. HOUSMAN *Shropsh. Lad* xxvii, Is football playing..., With lads to chase the leather, Now I stand up no more?

e. *dial.* (See quots.)

1886 *W. Somerset Word-bk., Stand up for*, to undertake the office of God-parent at a baptism. 1891 *Century Dict., To stand up with*, to act as groomsman or bridesmaid to: as, I stood up with him at his wedding. (Colloq.)

f. *colloq.* and *dial.* To take shelter from rain.

1889 'MARK RUTHERFORD' *Revol. Tanner's Lane* xviii. (ed. 8) 271 Thomas, however,..proposed that they should stand up in a shed which had been used for faggot-making. The rain, which now came down heavily, enforced his arguments. 1893 in Cozens-Hardy *Broad Norf.* 13 Let us stand up out of the wet. 1908 G. K. CHESTERTON *Man who was Thursday* 126 Hoping..that the snow-shower might be slight, he stepped back..and stood up under the doorway of a..shop.

g. colloq. *To stand up in*, to be actually wearing. (Cf. *stand in* 72 a.)

1901 ALLDRIDGE *Sherbro* xxvii. 309 The boat returned..bringing down Miss Mullen with only such things as she stood up in.

h. Of an animal: To hold out, endure (in a race or chase). † Also in *imper.* as a cry to urge on a horse.

1656 EARL MONM. tr. *Boccalini's Advts. fr. Parnass.* I. xxxi. (1674) 36 Coach-men..whipping their Horses, and..crying, Stand up. 1891 *Field* 7 Nov. 695/3 A baker's dozen struggled on to the finish..but if our deer had stood up for another mile or two, the number would have been still further reduced. 1893 *Sat. Rev.* 7 Jan. 16/1 A dog who would lap after a course would have no chance of standing up in subsequent rounds.

i. Of things: To be set upright; to be or become erect. Of hair, spines, etc.: cf. sense 17 d.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 3779 In slepe he sagh stand vp a sti, Fra his heued right to þe ski. *c* 1460 *Towneley Myst.* xxiii. 232 Vp with the tymbre fast on ende!..A, it standys vp lyke a mast. 1549 *Compl. Scot.* xii. 102 And ane vthir speyr set & bundyn athort betuix the tua speyris that stude vp fra the eyrd lyik ane gallus. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* VII. 321 Up stood the cornie Reed Embattell'd in her field. 1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 182 Its apex rests upon the point of a steel pin standing up in the centre of the box. 1889 G. GISSING *Nether World* III. xii. 253 His hair stood up like stubble. 1896 tr. *Boas' Text-bk. Zool.* 391 The Sea Hedgehog (*Diodon*) is beset with bony spines, which stand up when the animal puffs itself out.

† **j.** Of flame, vapour: To rise up, issue upwards. (Cf. sense 33.) *Obs.*

c 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* 233/501 Þe leize stod op on heiz ase þei it a wal were. *c* 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 1818 Þe stem stod vp, so þey blew.

† **k.** Of a door: To remain open. *Obs.*

1550 CROWLEY *Epigr.* 118 In service tyme no dore standeth up, Where such men are wonte to fyll can and cuppe.

† **l.** *Naut.* Of a number of ships: To form up, assemble *together* in a given place or position. *Obs.*

1585 T. WASHINGTON tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* IV. xv. 130 The Cicilians..beeing acquainted with the seas,..Coursaries, and Skummers of the sea, stood vp in so great number, [etc.]. 1623 *Cal. St. Papers, Col.* 1622–4, 213 [The ships] Stood up altogether [in the road of Swally].

m. *Naut.* (See quot.)

1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk., Standing up*, a ship in good trim, and well attended to, is said to stand well up to her canvas.

n. To hold oneself boldly erect to confront an opponent; to make a stand *against*. *lit.* and *fig.*

1601 SHAKS. *Jul. C.* II. i. 167 We all stand vp against the spirit of Cæsar. 1605 — *Lear* III. vii. 80 Giue me thy Sword. A pezant stand vp thus? 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xv. III. 506 With the same spirit with which he had stood up against the Stuarts he had stood up against the Cromwells. 1890 TOUT *Hist. Eng. fr. 1689* 156 Lord Liverpool was not strong enough to stand up against Canning. 1897 A. E. HOUGHTON *Gilbert Murray* xvii. 273 The smaller boy, who, though still standing up pluckily, was getting decidedly the worst of it.

o. *To stand up for*: to defend, support, take the part of, champion (a person, a cause, etc.).

1605 SHAKS. *Lear* I. ii. 22 Now Gods, stand vp for Bastards. 1645 T. COLEMAN *Hopes Deferred* 30 His subjects stood up for their liberties. 1768–74 TUCKER *Lt. Nat.* (1834) II. 317 They..stand up for the honour of the nation. 1867 TROLLOPE *Chron. Barset* I. xvi. 136, I liked her for standing up for her husband. 1879 M. J. GUEST *Lect. Hist. Eng.* xxi. 208 All swore that they would stand up for their rights.

p. *To stand up to*: to confront or encounter boldly. Also *U.S.*, 'to meet fairly and fully (an obligation, one's word or promise)' (Webster, 1911).

1624 FLETCHER *Rule a Wife* III. i, He stood up to me And mated my commands. 1823 'JON BEE' *Dict. Turf* s.v., 'Stand up to him' (ring); do not flinch from the blows. 1827 SCOTT *Two Drovers* i, He found few antagonists able to stand up to him in the boxing ring. 1848 BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.* 331 *To stand up to the rack*, a metaphorical expression of the same meaning as the like choice phrases, 'to come to the scratch', 'to toe the mark'. 1889 'M. GRAY' *Reproach of Annesley* I. i. vi. 136 How pluckily he stood up to the kicking horse! 1892 *Blackw. Mag.* CLI. 102/1 Few men..ventured to stand up boldly to such terrific bowling. 1894 *Speaker* 9 June 640/1 He knuckled under to any one who chose to stand up to him.

VIII. 104. Comb. in phrases used subst. or attrib., as **stand-easy**, an assumption of the attitude directed by the command 'stand easy'; *fig.* a period of relaxation; also *attrib.*; † **stand far (or further) off**, a kind of cloth (see quots.); **stand-over**, a plant that has been left standing beyond the normal time; **stand-to-arms**, the action of standing to arms. Also STAND-BY, STANDFAST, STAND-OFF, STAND OUT, STAND-STILL, STAND-UP.

1613 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Eighth Wond.* Wks. (1630) II. 62 Certaine sonnets,..fashioned of diuers stuffs, as mockado, fustian, stand-further-off, and Motly. 1619 — *Kicksey Winsey* B 8 b, I muse of what stuffe these men framed be, Most of them seeme Muckado vnto me: Some are Stand-further off, for they endeauer, Neuer to see me. *a* 1661 FULLER *Worthies, Norwich* (1662) 274 In my child-hood there was one [stuff] called *Stand-far-off*,..which seemed pretty at competent distance, but discovered its coursness,

when nearer to the eye. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* III. VII. iii, Whereupon also, on the Republican side, there will be rapid stand-to-arms. 1847 *Simmonds's Colon. Mag.* Dec. 374 Old standover rattoons. *Ibid.* 375 The crop of sugar from these standovers is entirely lost for at least two years. 1898 *Daily News* 15 Feb. 8/3 The blue-jackets had by no means been idle in their 'stand easy' moments. 1899 F. M. HOLMES *Firemen* 97 Allowing for a 'stand easy' of fifteen minutes at eleven. 1905 *Daily Chron.* 14 July 6/2 They need holidays far more than civilians,..A 'stand-easy' is necessary to everyone.

☞ *Key to phrases, etc.*

Followed by an inf. 5 b, 12, 16; to let stand 50; to let all stand, all standing 24; as it stands 20 b; as things stand 38 b; how do you stand (financially)? 15 e; s. standing 52.

Stand aback 88; s about (*prep.*) 66, (*adv.*) 80; s again 81; s against 12, 67; s ajar 20; s alone 15 d; s along 82; s aloof 83; s and (do something) 5 c; s and deliver! 4 b; s and fight 10; s apart 84; s aside 85; s astrut 86; s at 68; s at (a figure or amount) 21 b; s at (a level or height) 22; s at attention 5; s at avail 48 d; s at bay, at defiance 10; s at ease, at gaze 5; s at livery 3; s a-water 28 b; s away 87; s awe 45 b; s back 88; s before 69; s behind 89; s beside 90; s by (*prep.*) 70, (*adv.*) 91; s candidate 12; s captain 15 a; s a chance 57; s one's chance 53 d; s committed, corrected 15 d; s deep in 17 c; s double 12 b; s down 92; s dread 45 b; s fair (for, to do) 15 e; s fast 4, 9, 10, 23; s fire 52 b; s firm 9, 10, 20; s for 71; s (= fish) for 6 a; s for (an office, a constituency, etc.) 12, 12 b; s for law 42 b; s forth 93; s forward 94; s free 15 d; s (one's) friend 15 c; s godfather 15 b; s good 42 b; s (one's)good lord, prince 15 c; s one's ground 56; s one's hand 61; s a hazard 54; s high 17 b, 20; s (one) high 44 a; s high with 15 e; s in (*prep.*) 72, (*adv.*) 95; s (one) in (a price) 44 c, d; s in awe 45; s in the breach 10; s in danger 15 e; s in defence 10; s in doom 11 a; s in doubt 15 e; s in dread, in fear 45 c; s in force 42 b, 48 d; s (one) in hand 47; s in judgement 11 a, b; s in lieu of 49; s in one's light 2; s in need 46; s in profit 48 d; s in a (certain) relation 15 e, 38; s in (another's) shoes 2; s in stall 48 d; s in stead 48; s in stead of 49; s instead of 49; s king 15 a; s law 42 b; s the market 62; s model 5 e; s mute 15 d; s (= consist) of 73; s off 96; s off and on 97; s officer 15 a; s on (*prep.*) 17, 74, (*adv.*) 98; s (one) on (a price) 44 b; s on one's own bottom 5; s on the defensive 10; s on end 17 d; s on one's own feet, on (upon) a foot, footing 2; s on one's guard 10; s (one) on hand 47; s on one's head 8; s on one's own legs 2; s on the offensive 10; s open 20; s or fall 9 c; s out 99; s over (*prep.*) 75, (*adv.*) 100; s pad 5 e; s pat 14; s the patter 53 b; s perdu 5; s pledged, reproved 15 d; s Sam 61; s security 15 a; s sentinel, sentry 5 e; s shot 52 b, 61; s sound 23; s sponsor 15 b; s stable 23; s stall 48 d; s stiff 9; s still 4, 27, 32; s suit 53 b; s surety 15 a; s thick 17 b, c; s till 76; s to (*prep.*) 76, (*adv.*) 101; s to (the knees, etc.) in 1 c; s (one) to (a price) 44 b; s to avail 48 d; s to the bar 11 a; s to lose, win 16 d; s together 102; s treat 61; s one's trial 53 b; s umpire 5 e; s under 77; s until, unto 76; s up 17 d, 103; s up to (the knees, etc.) in 1 c; s upon 17, 78; s (one) upon (a price) 44 b; s upon game 4 c; s upon one's trial 11 a; s upright 5, 17 d; s (a) watch 60; s well 15 e, 38 b; s whole 23; s with 79; s with water 27 b.

Standage (stæ·ndéd3). In 6 **stannage.** [f. STAND *v.* + -AGE.]

1. Arrangements or accommodation for standing. Also, a charge for permission to stand.

1777 *Barmby Inclos. Act* 10 Settling the standage for the crops. 1848 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* IX. I. 120 The object is to give a firm standage for cattle drinking at the pond. 1896 *Times* 18 Dec. 13/5 The action was to recover..in respect of sidage or standage charged upon trucks..which remained more than four days upon..sidings. 1907 *Advt.* [Northumbld.], Standage for Motors and Cycles.

† **b.** A standing, stall. *Obs.*

1600 S. FORMAN *Autobiogr.* (1849) 8 They kept a stannage at our Ladie faier, and ther were many knavishe boies which were at play behinde the stannage, and often thruste downe their ware.

2. *Mining.* An underground reservoir for water.

1842 *1st Rep. Comm. Employmt. Childr. Mines* 59, 15 fathoms lower being sunk for 'standage', or for a reservoir of water. 1875 J. H. COLLINS *Princ. Metal Mining* 53 The space underneath serves as a water channel and standage or sump. 1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-mining* 237.

Standage, obs. variant of STANDISH.

Standard (stæ·ndăid), *sb.* Also 4–6 **standarde,** 4–5 **stondard,** 4–6 **standerde,** 4–7 **standerd,** (6 **standred**), 4–7, 8 *rare* **standart,** 5–6 **standert** (5 **estandert,** 6 **standertt**), **stondart**(e (5 **stondert**), 6 **stander,** 7 *Sc.* **stender.** See also ESTANDARD. [aphetic a. OF. *estandard, -art, -estendard, -art* (mod.F. *étendard*) = med.L. *standardum, -us, standarium,* etc., Pr. *estandard, -art,* Sp., Pg. *estandarte,* It. *stendardo*; according to most scholars f. com. Rom. *estend-ere* (L. *extend-ĕre* to stretch out: see EXTEND *v.*) + -ARD; a parallel synonymous formation with different suffix is It. *stendale,* late OF. *estandale, -deille* (med.L. *standale, -ālis*). The Fr. word has passed into all the living Teut. langs.: MHG. *stanthart* (by popular etymology, as if 'stand hard'), later *standart, standert* (mod.G. *standarte*), MDu. *standaert* (mod.Du. *standaard, standerd*), Da. *standart,* Sw. *standar.*

The origin of sense 9 ('standard of measure or weight'), whence the other senses in branch II are derived, is somewhat obscure. It appears in AF. (*estaundart*) and Anglo-L. (*standardus*) in the 13th c., two centuries earlier than our earliest vernacular instance. It has not been found in continental OF.; the use of Du. *standaard* in this sense is believed to be imitated from English. It is noteworthy that in early instances the standard of measure is always either expressly or by implication called 'the king's standard', an expression which belongs to the older sense 1. It seems probable that sense 9 is a fig. use of sense 1; the king's standard being the point of reunion of the army, and the centre from which commands are issued.

The senses grouped as branch III are of doubtful, probably of various and in some instances of mixed origin. The notion of 'something conspicuously erected', involved in sense 1, would account for several of them; others may be referred to the idea of 'something permanent, fixed, or stationary', generalized from sense 9. Etymological association with STAND *v.* has, however, certainly affected the whole group, and it is possible that in some uses the word should be regarded as an alteration of STANDER. The senses of this branch are almost confined to English: OF. has *estandart* some kind of torch (*rare*$^{-1}$), and WFlem. has *standaart* mill-post (De Bo; *standaert,* Kilian); but the relation of these to the English uses is obscure.]

I. A military or naval ensign.

1. A flag, sculptured figure, or other conspicuous object, raised on a pole to indicate the rallying-point of an army (or fleet), or of one of its component portions; the distinctive ensign of a king, great noble, or commander, or of a nation or city.

† *Standard-general*: the principal standard of an army.

In Eng. the word appears first with reference to the 'Battle of the Standard' in 1138. A contemporary writer, Richard of Hexham, relating the story of the battle, describes the 'standard' there used as a mast of a ship, with flags at the top, mounted in the middle of a machine which was brought into the field. He quotes a Latin couplet written on the occasion, which says that the standard was so called from 'stand', because 'it was there that valour took its stand to conquer or die'.

1154 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1138, Him [*sc.* king David of Scotland] com to ʒænes Willelm eorl of Albamar..mid fæu men &..flemden þe king æt te Standard. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 6175 Edmond dight is standard ware he ssolde him sulue abide. 13.. *K. Alis,* 2377 (Laud MS.), To ymagu hij turneden pas þer þe kynges standarde was. 1338 R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (1725) 115 Þise men lift ther standard, that stoute was & grim Ageyn Dauid wandelard, & disconfite him. *c* 1425 ? LYDG. *Assembly of Gods* 825 All these seuyn capteynes had standardes of pryce. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 359/1 A Sstanderd or A bekyn, *statela. a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. V,* 64 b, Banners, standers and penons of the kynges armes. 1588 PARKE tr. *Mendoza's Hist. China* 165 A watch towre ..who had discouered our shippe, and knew the standard or flagge to bee the kings. 1594 SHAKS. *Rich. III.* v. iii. 263 Then in the name of God and all these rights, Aduance your Standards, draw your willing Swords. 1609 HOLLAND *Amm. Marcell.* xv. vii. 43 An high banke above which stood the maine standerds of Eagles and other ensignes. 1609 BIBLE (Douay) *Jer.* vi. 1 In Thecua sownd with the trumpet, and ouer Bethacarem lift up the standart. 1611 BIBLE *Num.* ii. 3. 1630 *R. Johnson's Kingd. & Commw.* 314 Every Citie hath his principall Standard, with their peculiar armes and devices therein, to distinguish one people from another. 1633 T. STAFFORD *Pac. Hib.* II. XXV. 252 The Burgesses.. came to the Lord President, to beseech him to render unto them their Charter, Seale, Mace, and Standard. 1656 EARL MONM. tr. *Boccalini's Advts. fr. Parnass.* I. LXXXV. (1674) 112 Francisco Pico..was made Standard-bearer; and, in his Standard-General, bore the famous Ensign of an open Book. 1660 WATERHOUSE *Arms & Arm.* 45 *Vexilla* properly signifies the Standers of Kings and Chiefs. 1737 POPE *Hor. Ep.* II. ii. 41 He..Tore down a Standard, took the Fort and all. 1781 COWPER *Table T.* 454 The standards of all nations are unfurl'd. 1804 *Med. Jrnl.* XII. 46 The late dispute respecting the capture of the standard of the *Invincibles* before Alexandria. 1808 PIKE *Sources Mississ.* II. App. 23 They gave up the Spanish flag, and we had the pleasure to see the American Standard hoisted in its stead. 1831–3 E. BURTON *Eccl. Hist.* XXX. (1845) 643 From this time the imperial standards bore a device, which was composed of the two first letters of the name of Christ in Greek. 1864 PUSEY *Lect. Daniel* (1876) 114 The black eagle is the standard of Prussia. 1891 FARRAR *Darkn. & Dawn* iii, The tents and standards of the soldiers had been struck with fire from heaven.

transf. 1761 *Ann. Reg., Char.* 8/2 Every raja..appears ..mounted on an elephant, and is at once the general and ensign, or standard of that corps, who keep their eyes constantly on him.

b. In many phrases used with pregnant sense, the standard being taken as typifying the army or its leaders; e.g. *to raise one's standard,* take up arms; *under the standard of,* serving in the army of; so *to join the standard of*; and the like.

c 1500 *Melusine* xxiv. 164 Your vassall & seruaunt shal I euer be vnder the standart of your gouernance. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* VII. 297 As Armies at the call Of Trumpet.. Troop to their Standard. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* IV. 102 With hoarse allarms the hollow Camp rebounds,..Then to their common Standard they repair. 1738 GLOVER *Leonidas* I. 155 They with dread Will shrink before your standards. 1838–43 ARNOLD *Hist. Rome* II. XXXVII. 481 All the nations of southern Italy..were ready to join his standard. 1840 THIRLWALL *Greece* VII. lvii. 241 In a short time he.. had a body of more than 2000 horse under his standard. 1842 W. C. TAYLOR *Anc. Hist.* XVII. § 2 (ed. 3) 500 Wearied by the tyranny of Domitian, Lucius Antonius..raised the standard of revolt in his province. 1845 JAMES *Arrah Neil* vi, He would raise his standard at once, and march to London. 1852 SIR J. GRAHAM in C. S. Parker *Life & Lett.* (1907) II. 149 The rival camps under hostile standards will thus be pitched.

c. *fig.*

1532 MORE *Confut. Tindale* II. 105 Some that were heretyques in dede, and wolde..auaunce theyr owne heresyes forwarde vnder the name and standard of his [Origen's] famouse authoryte. 1613 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* (1614) 87 No crueltie or sacriledge against God, or man, so irreligious ..but Religion was pretended to be the cause, and bare the Standard to Destruction. 1688 JAS. II in Gutch *Coll. Cur.* I. 339, I tell you this is a Standard of Rebellion: I never saw such an address! 1856 *N. Brit. Rev.* XXVI. 250 [They] if they did not vote against him, at least deserted their standard, and did not vote at all. 1888 BRYCE *Amer. Commw.* II. LXX. 566 The gain of even twenty or thirty votes..is so likely to bring fresh recruits to his standard.

2. In a more restricted sense, a military or naval flag of some particular kind.

Ordinarily, the *standard* is understood to be distinguished from a banner by being long and tapering instead of square, and from a pennon by its greater breadth. The British *royal standard,* however, which is flown when the king or a member of the royal family is present, is now a square flag (thus technically a 'banner'), divided into four compartments bearing the emblems of England (twice), Scotland, and Ireland. In the British army, the regimental flags of the cavalry are called *standards,* those of the infantry being 'colours'. In the U.S. army the flag of a cavalry regiment is called its *standard.*

1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* XI. 465 Thai saw so fele browdyn baneris, Standartis, pennownys apon speris. 1471 CAXTON *Recuyell* (Sommer) 199 And than made dysplaye banyers, standardes & penons. 1523 BERNERS *Froiss.* I. xviii. 22 Euery man mounted, and the baners and standers folowed this new made knyght. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VII* 53 b, Barges garnished with standardes, stremers and penons. *a* 1577 SIR T. SMITH *Commw. Eng.* I. xviii. (1589) 33 Knights bannerets are made in the field, with the ceremonie of cutting off the poynt of his standert, and making it as it were a baner. 1644 [WALSINGHAM] *Effigies Trué Fortitude* 12 His Majesties Banner Royall, vulgarly called the Standard. 1700 TYRRELL *Hist. Eng.* II. 765 The Victors carried off his Standard Royal. 1811 *Regul. & Orders Army* 71 A Field Marshal is to be saluted with the Colours and Standards of all the Forces. 1814 WELLINGTON in Gurw. *Desp.* (1838) XII. 75 A request..that the brigade of cavalry consisting of the 5th dragoon guards, the 3rd and 4th dragoons.. should be permitted to bear the word 'Salamanca' on their Standards. *c* 1860 H. STUART *Seaman's Catech.* 12 Who attends the standard? 1858 *Queen's Regul. Army* § 6 The Standards of Regiments of Dragoon Guards are to be of silk damask.

† **b.** In certain occasional uses. *Standard of trade*: a merchant ensign. *Standard of truce*: a flag of truce hoisted on a pole. *Obs.*

1449 *Paston Lett.* I. 85 Then they lonchyd a bote, and sette up a stondert of truesse. 1653 H. COGAN tr. *Pinto's Trav.* xvii. 59 A Standart of Trade hung out..to the end they might be taken for Merchants.

3. = STANDARD-BEARER.

13.. *K. Alis,* 1995 Sendith Ymagu, youre standard, And Archilaus in the furst ward! *c* 1400 *Sowdone Bab.* 271 'Go forth' quod the stondart, 'thou getist noon here'. 1481 CAXTON *Godfrey* XCIX. 150 Theyr estandart had ben longe seke by thoccasion of his hurte. 1610 SHAKS. *Temp.* III. ii. 19 Thou shalt bee my Lieutenant Monster, or my Standard. 1796 *Cavalry Instr.* (1813) 14 The standard must take care never to oblige the wheeling man to exceed a moderate gallop. 1832 *Prop. Reg. Instr. Cavalry* III. 101 The Standard and his Coverer resume their posts.

† **4.** A body of troops kept in reserve in the earlier part of an engagement. *Obs.*

1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 8252 Þes tueye adde þe meste ost þat as standard was þere Vor to helpe hor felawes, wanne hii weri were.

† **5.** A company of cavalry. *Obs.*

1580 HOLLYBAND *Treas. Fr. Tong, Vne Cornette de cheval liers,* a cornet or standard of horsemen. 1698 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1313/3 The French have received a reinforcement of 15 Standards.

† **6.** Head-quarters. *Obs.*

1481 CAXTON *Myrr.* II. XVIII. 106 There [in helle] deth holdeth his standard whiche sendeth out thurgh all the world for to fetche them that ben his.

7. *Bot.* The uppermost petal of a papilionaceous corolla: = VEXILLUM.

1776 J. LEE *Introd. Bot.* (ed. 3) 396 Papilionacea, butterfly-shaped..Vexillum, the Standard, or upper Petal ascending. 1785 MARTYN *Lett. Bot.* iii. (1794) 38 A large petal, covering the others, and occupying the upper part of the corolla [of a pea-blossom]; it is called the standard or banner. 1806 J. GALPINE *Brit. Bot.* 329 Legumes sessile..: standard villous. 1870 HOOKER *Stud. Flora* 103 Lathyrus hirsutus.. Flowers ¾ in.; standard crimson.

8. *Ornith.* Each of the two lengthened wing-feathers characteristic of certain birds. Cf. STANDARD-WING.

1859 G. R. GRAY in *Proc. Zool. Soc.* XXVII. 130 It has, springing from the lesser coverts of each wing, two long shafts, both of which are webbed on each side at the apex. It is the possession of these peculiar winged standards that induces me to propose for it the subgeneric appellation of *Semioptera.* 1862 — in *Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist.* Ser. III. X. 445 The ninth feather (or, as it has been termed, 'standard feather') is the longest of all. 1864 P. L. SCLATER in *Ibis* VI. 115 The long 'standard feather'. 1903 W. L. SCLATER *Stark's Birds S. Africa* III. 42 The ninth [primary] is prolonged to about three times the length of the first and forms the so-called streamer or standard.

II. Exemplar of measure or weight.

9. The authorized exemplar of a unit of measure or weight; e.g. a measuring rod of unit length; a vessel of unit capacity, or a mass of metal of unit weight, preserved in the custody of public officers as a permanent evidence of the legally prescribed magnitude of the unit.

Original standard: the standard of which the others are copies, and to which the ultimate appeal must be made.

1429 *Rolls of Parlt.* IV. 349/1 Weights..acordant to ye standard of ye Chekier. *c* 1450 *Eng. Misc.* (Surtees) 61 The 'sayd Burgese schall haffe ye standard, that is to say, the buschell, halff a buschell [etc.]...the qwhyche mesures schuld agre with the kynges standard. 1530 PALSGR. 276/2 Stondart to mesure bye, *maistresse mesure*. 1588 LAMBARD *Eiren.* IV. iv. 456 If they of the towne where the kings Standerd is appointed to remaine, haue not their common weights and measures signed. 1622 BACON *Hen. VII* 101 There was also a Statute, for the dispersing of the Standard of the Exchequor, throughout England; thereby to size Weights and Measures. 1624 MASSINGER *Renegado* III. iv, Let but any Indifferent gamester measure vs inch, by inch, Or waigh vs by the standard, I may passe I haue beene prou'd againe, true mettall. 1658 PHILLIPS, *Standard*.. also the standing measure of the King, or State, to which all other measures are framed. 1681 *Peace & Truth* 7 'Tis equally Treason to serve a Usurper, and to Usurp the Regalities of the Lawful Prince by forging new Standards of Commerce. 1694 J. SMITH *Horolog. Disquisit.* 45 A Royal Pendulum already Rectified, for a Standard to Adjust other Clocks by. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Measure*, The sealed Gallon at Guildhall, which is the Standard for Wines, Spirits, Oils, &c. 1764 BURN *Poor Laws* 244 The statute for ascertaining the measure of ale quarts and pints according to the standard, is seldom put in execution. 1856 W. H. MILLER in *Phil. Trans.* CXLVI. 753 History of the Standards of English Weight. 1870 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 2 Sept. 5 The annual report of the Warden of the Standards lately issued. 1871 C. DAVIES *Metric System* III. 101 These standards were kept in the royal exchequer.

fig. 1736 BUTLER *Anal.* II. viii. 399 An original standard of right and wrong in actions.

b. In abstract sense: The legal magnitude of a unit of measure or weight.

1540 *Act* 32 *Hen. VIII*, c. 13 § 2 Euery handfull to contein .iiii. inches of the standerde. 1609 *Ev. Wom. in Hum.* I. C, *Citty wife*. I haue a Ruffe is a quarter deepe, measured by the yard. *Hostis*. Indeede by the yard! *Citty w.* By the standard.

c. A normal uniform size or amount; a prescribed minimum size or amount.

1625 BACON *Ess., Greatness Kingd.* (Arb.) 477 Making Farmes, and houses of Husbandry, of a Standard; That is, maintained with such a Proportion of Land vnto them, as may breed a Subiect, to liue in Conuenient Plenty. 1694 FALLE *Jersey* II. 68 Almost all our Trees are Pollards;..The Husbandman being obliged to bring his Trees to a Standard, by Lopping of those..Luxuriant branches which..would cover his little Plots.

†**d.** A unit of measurement. *Obs. rare.*

1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* VI. iii. 284 As for the divisions of the yeare, and the quartering out this remarkable standard of time, there haue passed especially two distinctions. 1830 HERSCHEL *Study Nat. Phil.* 125 As a first preliminary towards effecting this, we fix on convenient standards of weight, dimension, time, &c.

¶ **e.** Sometimes misused for: Actual stature.

1833 NYREN *Yng. Cricketer's Tutor* (1902) 135 John was a stoutly-made man; his standard about five feet ten inches.

f. The substance or thing which is chosen to afford the unit measure of any physical quantity, such as specific gravity.

1805 R. JAMESON *Char. Min.* (1817) 266 Water is the standard with which all other bodies are compared. 1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 486 Water..is employed as the standard of comparison in all tables of specific gravities. 1859 C. H. GILL *Chem. for Sch.* xxii. 274 Dalton ..adopted it [*sc.* hydrogen] as the unit or standard of atomic weight.

g. *Bowls.* A light reed or cane used to measure the distance of rival bowls from the jack.

1876 *Encycl. Brit.* IV. 180/2. 1897 *Encycl. Sport* I. 129/2.

10. (*Originally fig. from* 9.) An authoritative or recognized exemplar of correctness, perfection, or some definite degree of any quality.

1477 NORTON *Ord. Alch.* Proem., in Ashm. (1652) 9 This Boke; Named of Alkimy the Ordinall, The Crede mihi, the Standard perpetuall. 1665 BOYLE *Occas. Reff.* v. v. (1848) 316 Men will be asham'd to be unlike those, whose Customs and Deportments pass for the Standards, by which those of other Men are to be measur'd. 1676 HALE *Contempl.* I. 304 He was exhibited, as the common standard and pattern of a Christian's condition. 1691 T. H[ALE] *Acc. New Invent.* p. cvii, These Draughts of the Rivers serving as the Standards by which all future Enlargements or Diminutions ..may be guided. 1709 FELTON *Diss. Classics* (1718) 147 Among the Romans, Horace is the Standard of Lyric, and Virgil of Epic Poetry. 1710 *Caldwell Papers* (Maitl. Club) I. 219 They [at Hanover] believe themselves a standart that mankind should be guided by. 1744 WEST *Let.* in *Gray's Poems* (1775) 136 [Racine's] language is the language of the times, and that of the purest sort; so that his French is reckoned a standard. 1777 SIR W. JONES *Poems*, etc. Pref. 14 We always return to the writings of the ancients, as the standard of true taste. 1789 MRS. PIOZZI *Journ. France* II. 139 Let us learn better than to set up self, whether nation or individual, as a standard to which all others must be reduced. 1838-9 HALLAM *Hist. Lit.* IV. IV, VII. § 11. 299 The Academy rendered this dictionary the most received standard of the French language.

b. A rule, principle, or means of judgement or estimation; a criterion; measure.

1563 WINZET *Bk. 83 Quest.* Wks. (S.T.S.) I. 53 At Pasche ..thai..ministrate the sacraments til ws on the Catholik manere; and be Witsonday thai change thair standart in our plane contrare. 1673 DRYDEN *Amboyna* Ep. Ded. A 3 b, You have serv'd Him..: making His Greatness, and the true Interest of your Country, the standard and measure of your actions. 1681 — *Abs. & Achit.* 785 Nor is the people's judgment always true:..What standard is there in a fickle rout, Which, flowing to the mark, runs faster out? 1779 *Mirror* No. 30 P 8 Let them [the inexperienced] not believe that the scale of fortune is the standard of happiness. 1781 GIBBON *Decl. & F.* XX. (1787) II. 201 Personal interest is often the standard of our belief, as well as of our practice. 1790 BURKE *Fr. Rev.* 61 The degree of estimation in which any profession is held becomes the standard of the estimation in which the professors hold themselves. 1836 J. GILBERT *Chr. Atonem.* ii. (1852) 37 Without a prior standard somewhere presupposed, who shall ascertain the quality of what is willed? 1837 LOCKHART *Scott* II. iii. 86 Scott had by no means measured..the character..of great public functionaries, by the standard with which observation and experience subsequently furnished him. 1888 BRYCE *Amer. Commw.* I. x. 126 The English reader must be cautioned against applying his English standards to the examination of the American system.

c. *pl.* The books or documents accepted by a church as the authoritative statement of its creed. Hence *occas.* in *sing.*

1841 *Penny Cycl.* XXI. 175/1 All the divisions of the Seceders..agree in adopting as their standards, in addition to the Westminster Confession of Faith [certain works of their founders]. 1848 G. STRUTHERS *Hist. Relief Ch.* 293 These considerations..induced them simply to proclaim their adherence to the Westminster standards. 1881 J. MACPHERSON *Westm. Confess. of Faith* (1882) 2 A Confession of Faith..is accepted by members of churches acknowledging it, simply as a subordinate standard.

11. Legal rate of intrinsic value for coins; also, the prescribed degree of fineness for gold or silver.

1463 *Ir. Acts*, 3 *Edw. IV*, c. 32 Forasmuche as the said moneis of silver may not continually be made according to his right estandert. 1551 SIR J. WILLIAMS *Accompte* (Abbotsf. Club) 91 Golde ..coyned into crownes of vs a pece, according to the standerde apperteyninge to the mynte. 1568 GRAFTON *Chron.* II. 121 At thys tyme was vsed to be coyned that standard and finenesse that was called sterling money. 1601 in *Stafford's Pac. Hib.* II. iv. (1633) 149 Being meerely dependant of our Prerogatiue to alter the Standerd of our Moneys at our pleasure. 1638 *Charter Goldsm. Co.* in A. Ryland *Assay Gold & Silver* (1852) 28 The standards for gold are 22 and 18 carats of pure metal in every ounce...The coinage is of the higher standard...The lower standard is used for all manufacturing purposes...The standards for silver are 11 oz. 10 dwt., and 11 oz. 2 dwt. of pure metal in every pound troy. ..The higher standard is never used. 1691 LOCKE *Consid. Raising Value Money* Wks. 1714 II. 68 That precise Weight and Fineness, by Law appropriated to the Pieces of each Denomination, is called the Standard. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 19 Sept. 1683, He said it must be finer than the standard, such as was old angel gold. 1702 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 3863/4 Lost..., a wrought Silver-Candlestick, old Standard. 1728 DE FOE *Col. Jack* (1840) 78 Good tower standard. 1757 HARRIS *Money & Coins* 36 Trade requires..an indelible standard of money. 1772-3 *Act* 13 *Geo. III*, c. 52 § 4 Plate, being of the standard of eleven ounces ten pennyweight of fine silver per pound troy [shall be marked with] the figure of..Britannia.

fig. 1672 MARVELL *Reh. Transp.* I. 271 The wit of France and England..hath at all times gone much after the same current Rate and Standard.

b. (Originally, †*standard of commerce*.) A commodity, the value of which is treated as invariable, in order that it may serve as a measure of value for all other commodities.

1683 *Brit. Spec.* 47 Some one or other Commodity was every where found out to be the Standard of Commerce and Traffick. 1757 HARRIS *Money & Coins* 84 In these parts of the world, silver is, and time immemorial hath been, the money standard. 1776 ADAM SMITH *W. N.* I. v. 43 Labour..is..the only standard by which we can compare the values of different commodities at all times and at all places. 1825 MCCULLOCH *Pol. Econ.* I. 25 Having been used ..as standards whereby to measure the relative value of different commodities.

12. A definite level of excellence, attainment, wealth, or the like, or a definite degree of any quality, viewed as a prescribed object of endeavour or as the measure of what is adequate for some purpose.

Standard of living, of comfort: the view prevailing in a community or class with regard to the minimum of material comfort with which it is reasonable to be content.

1711 SHAFTESBURY *Charact.* (1732) III. 138 'Twas thus they [the Greeks] brought their beautiful and comprehensive Language to a just Standard...The Standard was in the same proportion carry'd into other Arts. 1748 MELMOTH *Fitzosborne Lett.* lvii. (1749) II. 86 For may not publick happiness be estimated by the same standard as that of private? 1766 FORDYCE *Serm. Young Women* (1767) I. i. 11 Act up to the best standard of your sex. 1780 *Mirror* No. 79 P 18 We are told that those manners should be painted, not as they are found in nature, but according to an ideal standard of perfection in what is called the golden age. *c* 1800 PEGGE *Anecd. Eng. Lang.* (1803) 38 During his translation of Quintus Curtius..it [*sc.* the French language] had varied so much that he was obliged to correct the former part of the work to bring it to the standard of the other. 1847 LYTTON *Falkland* I. 45 Neither in person nor in character was he much beneath or above the ordinary standard of men. 1903 A. MCNEILL *Egregious English* xx. 186 The standard of living in England is an..artificial standard. Practically every Englishman lives, or longs to live, beyond his means.

b. In British elementary schools: Each of the recognized degrees of proficiency, as tested by examination, according to which school children are classified.

The sixth is the highest standard which children are ordinarily required to pass, the seventh being intended mainly for those who are to become teachers.

1876 LUBBOCK *Elementary Educ.* in *Contemp. Rev.* June 79 The classes from which the children are examined in Standards II-VI. 1894 *Times* 22 Mar. 4/6 He..was in the class of which defendant was teacher—viz., the seventh standard. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 204 In some schools there is a standard o..for dull or backward children. 1902 VIOLET JACOB *Sheep-Stealers* xv, When the village urchins..are still wrestling with the fourth 'standard'.

attrib. 1891 HARDY *Tess* xix, She was expressing in her own native phrases—assisted a little by her Sixth Standard training—feelings which (etc.). 1903 A. MCNEILL *Egregious English* i. 9 Nature, like the seventh-standard boy in a board school, 'can get no higher'.

c. *Sporting.* (See quot.)

1897 *Encycl. Sport* I. 62/2 (Athletics) *Standard*, the time or distance assigned to each event at a championship meeting, by beating which a competitor becomes entitled to a medal.

13. † **a.** Some fixed numerical quantity. (? A quarter hundred, 25.) *Obs.*

1545 *Rates Custom Ho.* b vj, Knyues of collayne the groce xxx. s. Knyues of roue the standerde v. s.

b. A definite quantity of timber, differing in different countries. (Cf. *standard deal*, B I c.)

1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade, Standard*,..a solid measure by which hewn timber is estimated, varying in different timber countries. 1864 *Daily Tel.* 17 Aug., A 'Petersburgh Standard '..consists of 120 deals of 12 feet long by 11 inches wide and 1½ inch thick. [This = 165 cubic feet.] 1891 *Law Times* XCI. 192/2 The vessel contained about 1000 standards...A standard was 165 cubic feet of timber.

† **14.** A kind of arrow (distinguished from 'bearing arrow' and 'flight'). *Obs.*

Perh. short for 'standard arrow', which occurs in later citations of 16th c. documents. See quot. 1465.

[1465 *Ir. Acts*, 5 *Edw. IV*, c. 4 (1786) I. 29 It is ordeyned ..That every Englishman..shall have an English bow.. with twelve shafts of the length of three quarters of the standard.] 1557 *City of Lond. Jrnl.* 17 lf. 46 in *Vicary's Anat.* (1888) App. III. 177-8 Who will comme..and take a longe bowe in his hande—having the standarde therin therefore prouyded,..shall haue for the best game a Crown of golde...And for the best game of the bearing arrowe, he shall haue [etc.]...And for the best game of the flight, he shall haue [etc.]...And..there shalbe a trumpett blowen at euerye shott, aswell of the standarde, as of the arrowe or flight. 1598 STOW *Surv. Lond.* 77 Of old time..the Officers of the Citie..were challengers of all men..to shoote the Standarde, broade arrow, and flight, for games. [1682 W. M. (W. Wood) *Remembr. Shoo & Shooting*, 1583, 51 Then came the Duke..bearing a Standard Arrow in his hand.]

15. The market price per ton of copper in the ore.

1855 LEIFCHILD *Cornwall* 233 The term 'standard of copper'..denotes the estimated value of the fine copper per ton, considered from the various assays to be in the ores sold; less a fixed sum per ton..deducted for the cost of smelting...When I began this book the standard of copper was £125, 5s., but it has since varied considerably. 1913 *Times* 13 Sept. 18/5 London, Sept. 12.—Copper...Standard continued its advance on Monday.

16. Short for: **a.** *standard book* (see STANDARD *a.* 3 b); **b.** (*Dyeing*) *standard solution* (see STANDARD *a.* 1 b).

1882 CROOKES *Dyeing & Tissue-Printing* 379 A set of so-called 'standards'. These are mixtures of colouring matters and mordants not liable to undergo change or decomposition, and which merely require the addition of a thickener ..to be ready for printing. 1889 *Amer. Publ. Weekly* 30 Mar. 462 The old-fashioned book-store, with its supply of standards on the shelves tempting a customer to increase his library.

III. Senses associated with the verb *stand*.

† **17.** A lofty erection of timber or stone, containing a vertical conduit pipe with spouts and taps, for the supply of water to the public. *Obs.*

'The Standard in Cornhill' continued as the name of a point from which distances were measured, long after the 'standard' had disappeared.

1434 *Cov. Leet Bk.* 157 þat þe stondard of þe cundyte in þe Smythford-strete..shall not be doon awaye. 1517 *Chron. Grey Friars* (Camden) 30 At the stondert in Cheppe. 1580 *Memoriall W. Lumbe* c ij, A standart with one cecke at Holborne bridge. 1598 STOW *Surv. Lond.* 316 A standard of timber with a cocke or cockes, deliuering fayre spring water to the inhabitants. 1616 B. JONSON *Devil an Ass* I. i, I will fetch thee a leape From the top of Pauls-steeple, to the Standard in Cheepe. 1665 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* (1677) 164 Towers, most of which are terrassed near the top like the Standard in Cheap-side. 1854 THACKERAY *Newcomes* ii, This paradise, five miles from the standard at Cornhill.

18. A tall candlestick. Now *spec.* a tall candlestick (or, in recent use, an upright gas candelabrum) rising directly from the floor of a church.

a 1420 *Aunters of Arthur* 451 (Thornton MS.) Sythene he..clathes gune calle, Sanapes and salers..Preketes and broketes, and standertes [*Douce* stondardes, *Ivel.* stondartis] by-twene. 1488 in *Archæologia* XLV. 116 A payre of Candelstyckks, greate standards for grete tapers, of tynne. 1538 *Ibid.* XLIII. 218, ij greate standers of laten; ij lampes. 1553 in Daniel-Tyssen *Surrey Ch. Goods* (1869) 97 Item ij stondardes of laityn. 1605 TRESWELL *Journ. Earl Nottingham* 51 The roome was garnished with three hundred and twenty lights of wax, al set in standerds of siluer, of diuers fashions. 1851 PUGIN *Chancel Screens* 23 This screen is surmounted by standards for wax tapers. 1860 *Ecclesiologist* XXI. 72 The church is lighted with brass gas standards.

† **b.** (See quot.) Cf. OF. *estandart*, a kind of torch. *Obs.*

1611 FLORIO, *Doppione*, a great torch of waxe, which we call a standard or a quarrier.

19. An upright timber, bar, or rod; e.g. † a tall pole erected for display on an occasion of rejoicing or festivity (*obs.*); an upright scaffold pole; an upright bar for a window; an upright support or pedestal in various machines. In recent use often, a slender and lofty iron pillar carrying an electric or gas lamp, overhead electric wires, or the like.

c 1450 *Brut* 487 At the Ledenhall in Cornhill..a standard of tre was set in myddys of the pavement fast in the grounde,

nayled with holme and Ive, for disport of Cristmasse to be peple of the Cite. 1477–9 *Rec. St. Mary at Hill* (1905) 85 For xxv foote of Elmyn borde, for steppes and standardis for the same steyre, vj d. · 1486 *Nottingham Rec.* III. 257 To ij. sawers for sawyng of be standerdes of the chymney. 1502 *Privy Purse Exp. Eliz. York* (1830) 25 Item...to John Coneway smyth for foure transoms and xij standardes. *c* 1580 in *Fabric Rolls York Minster* (Surtees) 118 For helping to carry into the wrychte house standerdes, powles and boordes. 1587 Mascall *Cattle* (1596) 72 Their standarts and posts to fasten them [oxen] by, would be round and smooth. 1609 Holland *Amm. Marcell.* xxiii. iii. 222 Whereupon the standard [of a ballista: L. *stilus*] being now at libertie with that quicke stroke...hurleth out the stone. 1627 in *Maitl. Club Misc.* III. 369 *note*, For gilting the Cok and thanis and culloring of the same yallow with the glob and standart and stanes above the steiple heid. 1703 Moxon *Mech. Exerc.* 251 Fir Poles, of several lengths, for Standards and Ledgers for Scaffolding. 1813 *Gentl. Mag.* LXXXIII. 227/2 The pyramidal iron lamp standards in the outer court. 1823 P. Nicholson *Pract. Build.* 593 Standards; the upright poles used in scaffolding. In joinery, the upright pieces of a plate-rack. 1839 Ure *Dict. Arts* 268 An apparatus with cutters attached to a standard. 1840 F. Whishaw *Railw. Gt. Brit. & Irel.* 128 The mile-standards are of wood,...and are placed at intervals of a quarter of a mile. *Ibid.* 391 The distances are marked from either end of the line on stone standards. 1856 Hurlstone & Gordon *Exch. Rep.* XI. 183 The wires...for the...use of the railway company rest upon all the posts or standards in the respondent's township. 1869 Rankine *Machine & Hand-tools* Pl. D 5, The same turning table also carries the standard, F, which supports the main gearing. 1883 *Law Times Rep.* XLIX. 139/1 The scaffolding in front was constructed of five standards or uprights and one ledger. 1885 *Act* 48 & 49 *Vict.* c. 50 § 4 (iv), The purchase and erection of lamp standards. 1892 *Labour Commission Gloss., Standards*, two standards, *i.e.*, two wooden legs with feet, which are often used instead of four legs to support the top frame of a table. 1907 H. Wyndham *Flare of Footlights* xxxiii, At intervals [along the Embankment] rose the tall standards of the electric lights.

b. *Naut.* An inverted knee-timber, having the vertical portion turned upwards.

1748 *Anson's Voy.* II. iv. 158 Two standards were broken. 1750 Blanckley *Nav. Expositor*, Standards are a Sort of Knees fay'd from the Deck to the Sides of the Ship within-board, to strengthen her in the same Manner as Knees, but are bigger. 1769 Falconer *Dict. Marine* (1780) s.v. *Architecture* D, The standard of the head which fastens it to the stem. 1874 Thearle *Naval Archit.* III. xiii. 222 Standards are knees for connecting the stern posts to the deck beams of screw ships...Standards were fitted in sailing ships connecting the fore side of inner post with the after end of the keelson.

† **c.** *Coachmaking.* ? Each of the four corner posts of a coach. *Obs.*

1659 Pepys *Diary* 26 Apr., I...do resolve upon having the standards of my coach gilt with this new sort of varnish. *Ibid* 1 May, We went alone through the town with our new liveries...and the standards thus gilt with varnish.

d. In a plough: = Sheath *sb.*[4]

1652 Blithe *Eng. Improver Impr.* II. xxix. (1653) 205 By a Standard put into the end of it [*sc.* the plough-beam]. 1727 R. Bradley *Compl. Body Husb.* 43 in *Compl. Farmer* (1766) s.v. *Plough*, CC are the sheaths or standards.

e. *Figure-weaving.* (See quot.)

1831 G. R. Porter *Silk Manuf.* 284 The leaves [of heddles in a gauze loom] numbered 1 and 2 which are called standards.

f. (See quot.)

1866 J. H. Parker *Concise Gloss. Terms Archit.* 251 *Standard*...was also applied to the ends of the oak benches in churches, and that is the common use of the term now.

20. a. *Forestry.* A tree or shoot from a stump left standing when a coppice is cut down.

1473 Sir J. Paston in *P. Lett.* III. 86 That the standardes off suche mesur as he and I comonyd off maye also be reservyd. I suppose it was xxx. inche, abowt a yerde from the grownde. 1577 B. Googe *Heresbach's Husb.* II. (1586) 95 b, I sette them on the outside of my Orchard, as standards to defend their fellowes from tempest and weather. 1669 Worlidge *Syst. Agric.* vi. 94 Felling of Coppices...Trimming up such as you spare for standards, as you go. 1677 Plot *Oxfordsh.* 206 That ancient Standard in the high-Park, known of all by the name of the Kings Oak. 1799 J. Robertson *Agric. Perth* 238 If the advantage of the copse alone is attended to, no standard should be left, except such seedlings as appear necessary to renew the stocks. 1832 *Planting* 91 in *Husbandry* (*Libr. Usef. Knowl.*) III. Standard.—The shoots of a coppice stool, selected from those cut down as underwood to remain for large poles or timber-trees.

transf. 1778 [W. Marshall] *Minutes Agric.* 31 July 1775, This pulled up the running weeds; the standards left, were readily drawn by hand.

b. *Gardening.* A tree or shrub growing on an erect stem of full height, not dwarfed or trained on a wall or espalier.

1625 Bacon *Ess., Gardens* (Arb.) 562 Part of which Heapes, to be with Standards, of little Bushes, prickt upon their Top...The Standards to be Roses; Iuniper; Holly [etc.]. 1685 Temple *Gardening* Wks. 1770 III. 218 [Gardens] part laid out for flowers, others for fruits; some standards, some against walls or palisadoes. 1688 Holme *Armoury* II. 86/2 Standards are trees standing of themselves, not on Wall sides. 1713 *Guardian* No. 173 (1756) II. 359 The trees, which were standards, and suffered to grow to their full height. 1846 Baxter *Libr. Pract. Agric.* (ed. 4) I. 261 The fig-tree may be grown either as a standard, espalier, or against a wall. 1903 *Q. Rev.* Oct. 400 The only material difference between the experiments on dwarfs and standards respectively is that [etc.].

† **21.** A kind of collar of mail or plate armour. *Obs.* exc. *Hist.*

[1371–3 *Acc. Exch. K. R.* 397/10 m. 3 Cxliiij standardis pro loricis.] 1465 *Will of T. Pachet* in *Fairholt's Costume* (1885) II. 379 A standard of gesserant garnesshed with silver. 1465 Marg. Paston in *P. Lett.* II. 190 Sertyn harnys. ... Inprimis;...a standard of mayle [etc.]. *c* 1490 in *5th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* 445/1 Fower standardys with two gossetts of mayl. 1530 Palsgr. 275/2 Standart of mayle, *gorgerin*. 1885 *Fairholt's Costume* (ed. 3) I. 205 [On monuments 1391 and 1412] the camail is replaced by, or covered over with, a standard of plate.

† **22.** Some kind of service-book. *Obs.*

c 1400 in *Fabric Rolls York Minster* (Surtees) 244 Super librum vocatum standard. 1409 *Ibid.* 245 Standerdes, ac eciam libri processionales, [etc.]. 1503 *Visit. Southwell* (Camden) 31 Libri in choro vulgariter vocati le Standarths.

† **23.** A large packing-case or chest. *Obs.*

1371–3 *Acc. Exch. K. R.* 397/10 m. 3 j. standard magnum] ferro ligatum, vj. Ciste magne ferro ligate. 1464 *Inv.* in *T. H. Turner's Dom. Archit.* (1859) III. 113 A square standarde, & covered with blaak lether, & bowden with yrne, with 2 lokys. ...A grete red standerd, full of stuff. ...A grct standard of the chapell, bounde wth ierne, with 2 lokks. 1530 *Privy Purse Exp. Hen. VIII* (1827) 43 For ij standardes for to cary plate fro yorke place to hampton courte. *a* 1562 G. Cavendish *Wolsey* (1893) 183 The kyng caused to be sent hyme iii or iiii cartloods of stuffe, and most parte thereof was lokked in great standerds. 1663 *Cheque Bk. Chapel Royal* (Camden) 83 The Sergeant shall ...deliver the Gentlemen their surplices out of the standard. *Ibid.* 93 Item, three standards, whereof one is for the song books of our sayd Chapell.

† **24.** *Coining.* ? = Pile *sb.*[4] 1. *Obs.*

1473 *Chancery Enrolments, Durham* 3/49 m. 6 (P.R.O.), We...haue...licencid...William Omorighe...to make graue and prynte ij dosene Trussellys and j dosene Standerdys for penys and .iiij. Standerdys and viiij. Trussellys for half penys. 1477 *Ibid.* 3/52 m. 4 (P.R.O.), To make...iij. dosen Trussels and .ij. dosen Standerdys for penys, and ij. dosen trussels and j. dosen Standerdys for halfpenys.

25. *s.w. dial.* 'A large standing tub used for washing purposes, for containing salted meat, etc.' (*Eng. Dial. Dict.*).

1535 in Weaver *Wells Wills* (1890) 116, ii. vates, a standerde, a barell and a kole.

26. † **a.** Something permanent; something that has lasted a long time. In *plural*, Permanent or necessary furniture or apparatus (of a household, etc.). *Obs.*

1492 *Deed* A. 8331 in *Catal. Anc. Deeds P. R. O.* (1902) IV. 292 [She to have all the goods and chattels of the said Sir William] except the stondardys of howseholde [and all his growing corn, etc.]. 1506 *Will J. Cornwallis* in *Privy Purse Exp. Eliz. York* (1830) 224/2 All the brewyng vessells and standards in the brewhouse and bakehouse. 1639 Fuller *Holy War* I. xxiii. (1640) 35 The mountains...are standards too great...for either time or warre to remove. 1650 — *Pisgah* V. 191 So there are certain standards in all visions, being the materiall and corporall ground-work, for a spirituall flourish...to improve itself thereupon. 1655 H. L'Estrange *Reign K. Charles* 157 The Queen was loath to proscribe so long a standard as Episcopacy, to entertain such an upstart in-mate as Presbytery.

b. One who has been long in a position; an old resident, official, servant, etc. Now only *old standard* (rare exc. dial.).

a 1661 Fuller *Worthies, Gen.* xi. (1662) I. 38 The Ficklenesse and Fugitivenesse of such Servants, justly addeth a valuation to their Constancy, who are Standards in a Family. 1665 Wood *Life* (O.H.S.) II. 45 This Dr. was an old standard ...and at leisure times he would entertaine A. W. with old stories relating to the universitie. 1768 in *10th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. I. 410, I believe [the new Cabinet will harmonize] well..., the old standards are usefull & I think makes every office better.

† **27.** *Cookery.* (Of somewhat obscure meaning; usually explained as 'principal or standing dish'.)

1513 *Bk. Keruynge* in *Babees Bk.* 157 For standarde, venyson roste, kydde, fawne & cony [etc.]. *Ibid.* 166 The seconde course. Gelly whyte and rede...samon, dorrey, brytte, turbot, halybut; for standarde, base, troute [etc.]. 1526 in J. Croft *Excerpta Ant.* (1797) 79 Item, a Roe roasted for Standart. *Ibid.* 80 Item, for a Standart Cranes, two of a Dish.

† **28.** A suit (of clothes): = Stand *sb.*[1] 23 a. *Obs.*

1639 B. Jonson *New Inn*, Argt. II, The Lady had commanded a standard of her owne best apparrell to bee brought downe. *Ibid.* II. ii, We ha' brought a standard of apparrell, down, Because this Taylor fayld vs i' the maine.

† **b.** ? A set (of plumes). *Obs.*

1578 *Invent. R. Wardr.* (1815) 238 Foure standeris of fedderis for the toppis of beddis.

IV. *attrib.* and *Comb.*

29. Simple attrib. **a.** in sense 1, as *standard-car, -flag, -guard, half-squadron, -pole, -shaft, -sheet, -spear, -staff.*

1848 *W. Hemingburgh's Chronicon* I. 59 *note*, The carroccio, or great *standard-car, is said to have been invented ...in the year 1035. 1821 *Sporting Mag.* VII. 196 When potent nature her *standard-flag rears. 1750 *Phil. Trans.* XLVII. 6 A soldier being confin'd to a tent call'd the *standard-guard. 1796 *Cavalry Instr.* (1813) 227 The commanding officer in the rear of the *standard half squadron. *a* 1700 Evelyn *Diary* 23 Nov. 1644, The ropes and cables which support the *standard-pole. 1497 *Naval Acc. Hen. VII* (1896) 89 *Standard shaftes. 1799 Campbell *Pleas. Hope* II. 180 The stormy showers...Freeze every *standard-sheet. 1825 Scott *Talism.* xi, [He] laid his hand on the *standard-spear, as if to pluck it from the ground. 1560 Phaer *Æneid* IX. (1562) E e ij b, His fyriesmoking bronds on *standard-staff Mezentius shooke. 1802 C. James *Milit. Dict., Soc*, a machine...fixed near the stirrup, to receive the end of the standard staff. 1855 Kingsley *Westw. Ho!* xx, His left hand on the standard-staff, his sword pointed in his right.

b. in sense 9, as *standard mark.*

1858 Simmonds *Dict. Trade, Standard-mark*, a legal assay mark for gold of 22 carats fine, and for silver of 11 oz. 2 dwts. 1884 F. J. Britten *Watch & Clockm.* 116 The Standard Mark of the London Hall is a lion passant for sterling silver. 1889 Gretton *Memory's Harkback* 73 In stature and in grasp of mind rather below standard-mark.

c. in sense 12 b.

1882 S. C. Buxton in *19th Cent.* Nov. 792 The standard subjects are the three R's, while the class subjects include English grammar, geography...and needlework.

30. Special comb.: **standard-bred** *a.*, of horses, etc., bred up to the standard of excellence prescribed by some authority; **standard-high** *a.*, of the height of a standard shrub (see B. 5); **standard lamp**, a lamp with a tall standard resting on the floor (either moveable, as a lamp for domestic use, or fixed, as in churches).

1891 *Century Dict.*, **Standard-bred*. 1901 *Westm. Gaz.* 28 Sept. 4/3 The standard-bred mare. 1842 Loudon *Suburban Hort.* 555 Standard cherry trees are generally budded *standard high, on free stocks of three years' growth from the seed. 1900 G. Swift *Somerley* 124 [He] came and stood with me under the light of the tall *standard-lamp.

B. *adj.* [Attributive use of the sb.].

I. 1. Serving as a standard of measurement, weight or value; conformed to the official standard of a unit of measure or weight.

1622 Malynes *Ancs. Law-Merch.* 306 If it bee appointed of make a Standard peece of tenne ounces fine. 1669 Beale in *Phil. Trans.* IV. 1113 A measure, taken exactly from the standard-foot of London. 1827 Faraday *Chem. Manip.* iii. (1842) 67 The standard or imperial pint now to be used is larger than the wine pint. 1862 H. Spencer *First Princ.* II. vi. § 61 (1875) 192 a, From the standard-measure preserved at Westminster, are derived the measures for trigonometrical surveys. 1870 Jevons *Elem. Logic* xxxiii. 290 A yard or foot has no meaning unless there be a definite standard yard or foot which fixes the meaning. 1871 B. Stewart *Heat* (ed. 2) § 25 The difference between mercurial and the standard air thermometer becomes very considerable at high temperatures. 1873 J. C. Maxwell *Electr. & Magn.* (1881) II. 322 When it is intended to measure a current [electric] with the greatest accuracy in terms of standard units, it is called a Standard Galvanometer. 1878 Jevons *Primer Pol. Econ.* 108 In the English system of money, gold is the standard money and the legal tender. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* II. 175 The *unit* of calculation adopted in practice is a sperm candle one-sixth of a pound in weight and burning 120 grains per hour; this is called a 'standard candle', and the 'standard burner' in use in London is Sugg's London Argand, Number 1. 1884 Knight *Dict. Mech.* Suppl., *Standard Battery* (Electricity). One to be used as a standard, having a perfectly constant electro-motive force.

b. Having the prescribed or normal size, amount, power, degree of quality, etc.

Standard gauge (Railways): see quot. 1884; also *attrib.*

1807 T. Thomson *Chem.* (ed. 2) 165 He calculated, that the increase of density, on mixing different quantities of standard acid and water, was [etc.]. 1813 J. Thomson *Lect. Inflam.* 113 In hectic fever the temperature seldom rises two or three degrees above the natural or standard temperature. 1825 J. Nicholson *Oper. Mech.* 550 The standard thickness of a brick wall is 1½ brick laid lengthwise...A rod of standard brick-work...will require 4500 bricks. 1826 *Art of Brewing* (ed. 2) 17 To...evaporate the unnecessary quantity to a standard gravity. 1857 Miller *Elem. Chem., Org.* 60 For the preparation of the standard copper solutions. 1878 Stewart & Tait *Unseen Univ.* iii. § 107. 120 That of boiling water under the standard pressure is 374°. 1881 *Chicago Times* 12 Mar., A standard-gauge railroad. 1884 Knight *Dict. Mech.* Suppl. s.v., 'Standard gage' means 4′ 8½″ between centers of rails. 1889 *Hardwicke's Science-Gossip* XXV. 184/2 They are rectangular in shape, and are made of one standard size. 1900 P. N. Hasluck *Model Engin. Handybk.* 43 All the small parts...would be made to some standard measurement. 1904 D. J. Shackleton *Sp. Ho. Comm.* 23 Mar. in *Hansard* 553 In using the words standard rate of wages in his Resolution, he desired the House to understand that he meant the trade union rate. *Ibid.* 557 That this House is of opinion that the wages paid to the unskilled workers in Government factories...should be not less than the standard rate of wages.

c. *Standard deal*: see quots.

1834 M'Culloch *Dict. Comm.* (ed. 2) 1150, 36½ Russian stand[ard] deals 12 ft. long, 11½ inch thick, 11 inch broad, make 1 load timber. 1867 Smyth *Sailor's Word-bk.*, *Standard-Deals*, those planks of the pine or fir above 7 inches wide and 6 feet long.

d. Of bread (see quot.).

1851 Mayhew *Lond. Labour* I. 178 Previously to 1815 bakers were restricted...to the baking of three kinds of bread—wheaten, standard wheaten, and household. The wheaten was made of the best flour, the standard wheaten of the different kinds of flour mixed together.

2. Of precious metals, coins: Conforming to the legal standard of fineness or intrinsic value. Also said of value or fineness.

1677 W. B. *Touchst. Gold & Silver* (title-p.), Discovering ...how to know Adulterated Wares from those made of the True Standard Alloy. 1691 Locke *Consid. Raising Value Money* Wks. 1714 II. 68 The Fineness of Standard Silver in England is eleven parts Silver, and one part Copper, near. 1706 Phillips (ed. Kersey), *Jacobus*...a Gold-coin...of two sorts, viz. the Broad Piece of Twenty Shillings Standard value...and the 22s. Broad-Piece. 1790 Kerr in *Phil. Trans.* LXXX. 370, I added 144 grains of standard silver. 1801 R. Langford *Introd. Trade* 38 Standard Gold contains 11 parts of pure Gold, and 1 part of alloy. Standard Silver contains 37 parts of pure Silver, and 3 parts of alloy. 1867 Crump *Banking* x. 230 The standard purity of the sovereign underwent many changes. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* IV. 308/2 Standard gold which implies the quality used for coinage...is...what is called twenty-two carat.

3. Serving or fitted to serve as a standard of comparison or judgement.

1724 A. Collins *Gr. Chr. Relig.* 103 It seems incredible that Origen...and other Christians of his time...should receive an Old Testament (and that with the greatest applaus for its integrity, and as a standard Text) from enemies

SIR JAMES MURRAY died on the 26th July, 1915. His great wish that he should live to finish the Dictionary on his eightieth birthday, in 1917, has not been fulfilled; the unceasing labour of three and thirty years has ended when less than a tenth part of the work remains to be done. Almost within a week of his death he was still hard at work, showing, as Dr. Bradley wrote of a visit made to him, 'not a little of the zest and mental lucidity that I remembered of old.' In the preceding months, while barely convalescent from an illness that seemed to bring him to the gates of death, he had prepared, and at the appointed date of July 1 published, his usual 'double section'. 'The words contained in it,' Dr. Bradley says, 'present an extraordinary number of difficult problems, which are handled with the editor's characteristic sagacity and resource; the section is a piece of his work of which he might be proud.'

It has always been the rule that each of the editors should be exclusively responsible for the portions of the Dictionary issued under his name. The sections in the hands of DR. BRADLEY, DR. CRAIGIE, MR. ONIONS, and their staffs, will not be affected. But SIR JAMES MURRAY at the beginning laid the lines and drew the plan; in the prosecution of the work, when it became clear that it must be shared, his amazing capacity for unremitting labour enabled him to take more than an equal part, and the volumes produced by himself show characteristic excellences which cannot be exactly matched, though they may be rivalled by merits of another kind. He will not write the last pages, but more than that of any other man his name will be associated with the long and efficient working of the great engine of research by which the Dictionary has been produced.

SIR JAMES A. H. MURRAY

Late Editor of the Oxford English Dictionary

⚜

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A NEW
ENGLISH DICTIONARY
ON HISTORICAL PRINCIPLES.

(VOLUME IX. FIRST HALF. SI.—ST.)

STANDARD—STEAD

BY

HENRY BRADLEY, HON. D.LITT.

NOTE.

THIS section (64 pages) includes 495 Main words, 273 Special Combinations explained under these, and 74 Subordinate entries; in all 842. The obvious combinations recorded and illustrated number 153, making a total of 995. Of the Main words 65 (13%) are marked † as obsolete, and 22 (4½%) are marked ‖ as alien or not fully naturalized.

Comparison with Dr. Johnson's and some recent Dictionaries gives the following figures:—

	Johnson.	Cassell's 'Encyclopædic', and Suppl.	'Century' Dict., and Suppl.	Here.
Words recorded, *Standard—Stead* vb.	97	431	537	995
Words illustrated by quotations	82	150	138	917
Number of illustrative quotations	417	285	436	7641

The number of quotations in the corresponding portion of Richardson is 304.

In this section the greater part of the space is occupied by a small number of important words, with their compounds and derivatives. Of these words the following are of native English origin: *staple* sb.[1], *star* sb.[1], *starch* sb. and vb., *stare* sb.[1] and vb., *stark* adj., *start* sb.[1], sb.[2] and vb., *starve* vb., *stave* sb.[1] and vb., *stay* sb.[1], *stead* sb. and vb. Of French or Latin etymology are: *stannary, staple* sb.[2] and adj., *state* sb. and vb., *station, stationer, statistic, statue, stature, status, statute, staunch* adj., *stay* (two sbs. and three verbs); also *static* (*statical, statics*) and *stavesacre*, which are ultimately Greek. The words representing other linguistic elements than Old English, French, or Latin are few and (except the Italian *stanza*) quite unimportant. From Old Norse there are *stang* and *star* sb.[3]; from Greek a few scientific terms, chiefly beginning with *staphylo-*, *stato-*, and *stauro-*. The Slavonic *starosta* and *stchi* are unknown to most English readers. Words from Celtic, and words from Oriental, African, and American languages, are entirely absent.

Most of the words of native and Romanic origin enumerated above are remarkable for the interesting development of senses. In the article *state* sb., the quotations illustrative of obsolete shades of meaning may sometimes be found to supply useful guidance in the interpretation of obscure passages in our early literature. The changes of application in several words, as *statics, station, stationer, statistics, statute*, are now for the first time fully exhibited. Words of special historical importance are *staple* sb.[2], *star-chamber, statute, statute merchant*. New etymological information is given under *staniel, staple* (three sbs.), *starch* sb. and vb., *stark, start* vb., *starve* vb., *stay* sbs. and vbs. The current view that *stay* vb.[1], to bring or come to a stand, to remain, is a developed use of *stay* vb.[2], to support, has been abandoned for chronological and other reasons, and a different etymology has been proposed. The curious early history of the word *starvation* has before been given in some dictionaries, but an attempt has been made here to state the actual facts more precisely.

KEY TO THE PRONUNCIATION.

I. CONSONANTS.

b, d, f, k, l, m, n, p, t, v, z *have their usual values.*

g as in *go* (g$^{o\text{u}}$).
h ... *h*o! (h$^{o\text{u}}$).
r ... *r*un (rʌn), ter*r*ier (te·riəɹ).
ɹ ... he*r* (həɹ), far*th*er (fā·ɹðəɹ).
s ... *s*ee (sī), *c*ess (ses).
w ... *w*en (wen).
hw ... *wh*en (hwen).
y ... *y*es (yes).

þ as in *th*in (þin), ba*th* (baþ).
ð ... *th*en (ðen), ba*th*e (bē^{i}ð).
ʃ ... *sh*op (ʃɒp), di*sh* (diʃ).
tʃ ... *ch*op (tʃɒp), di*tch* (ditʃ).
ʒ ... vi*s*ion (vi·ʒən), *déj*euner (deʒöne).
dʒ ... *j*u*dg*e (dʒʌdʒ).
ŋ ... si*ng*ing (si·ŋiŋ), thi*nk* (þiŋk).
ŋg ... fi*ng*er (fiŋgəɹ).

(FOREIGN.)
ṅ as in *French nasal, environ* (aṅvi·roṅ).
l^{y} ... It. sera*gl*io (serā·l^{y}o).
n^{y} ... It. si*gn*ore (sin^{y}ō·ɹe).
χ ... Ger. a*ch* (aχ), Sc. lo*ch* (loχ, loχ^{w}).
χ^{y} ... Ger. i*ch* (iχ^{y}), Sc. ni*cht* (nėχ^{y}t).
γ ... Ger. sa*g*en (zā·γĕn).
γ^{y} ... Ger. le*g*en, re*g*nen (lē·γ^{y}ĕn, rē·γ^{y}nĕn).

II. VOWELS.

ORDINARY.

a as in Fr. *à la* mode (a la mod').
ai ... ay*e*=*yes* (ai), Is*ai*ah (əizai·ă).
æ ... m*a*n (mæn).
ɑ ... p*a*ss (pɑs), ch*a*nt (tʃɑnt).
ɑu ... l*ou*d (lɑud), n*ow* (nɑu).
ʌ ... c*u*t (kʌt), s*o*n (sʌn).
e ... y*e*t (yet), t*e*n (ten).
e ... surv*ey s*b. (sə·ɹve), Fr. attach*é* (ataʃ*e*).
‖ɛ ... Fr. ch*e*f (ʃɛf).
ə ... ev*e*r (evəɹ), nat*i*on (nē^{i}·ʃən).
əi ... *I, eye,* (əi), b*i*nd (bəind).
‖ə ... Fr. eau d*e* vie (ō də vē·).
i ... s*i*t (sit), m*y*stic (mistik).
i ... Psych*e* (səi·k*i*), r*e*act (r*i*|æ·kt).
o ... ach*o*r (ē^{i}·koɹ), m*o*rality (moræ·lĭti).
oi ... *oi*l (oil), b*oy* (boi).
o ... her*o* (hĭ^{o}·ro), z*o*ology (zo|ɒlŏdʒi).
ɒ ... wh*a*t (hwɒt), w*a*tch (wɒtʃ).
ɒ, *ɒ** .. g*o*t (gɒt), s*o*ft (s*ɒ*ft).
‖ö ... Ger. K*ö*ln (köln).
‖*ö* ... Fr. p*eu* (p*ö*).
u ... f*u*ll (ful), b*oo*k (buk).
iu ... d*u*ration (diur^{i}·ʃən).
u ... unto (*u*·ntu), fr*u*gality (fr*u*-).
iu ... Matth*ew* (mæ·þ*iu*), virt*ue* (vō·ɹti*u*).
‖ü ... Ger. M*ü*ller (mü·lĕr).
‖*ü* ... Fr. d*u*ne (d*ü*n).
^{o} (see ĭ^{o}, ē^{o}, ō^{o}, ū^{o}) } see Vol. I, p. xxiv, note 3.
^{i}, ^{u} (see ē^{i}, ō^{u}) }
' as in able (ē^{i}b'l), eaten (ī't'n) = voice-glide.

LONG.

ā as in *a*lms (āmz), b*a*r (bāɹ).

ō ... c*u*rl (kōɹl), f*ur* (fōɹ).
ē (ē^{o}) ... th*e*re (ðē^{o}ɹ), p*ea*r, p*a*re (pē^{o}ɹ).
ē (ē^{i}) ... r*ei*n, r*ai*n (rē^{i}n), th*ey* (ðē^{i}).
ē ... Fr. f*ai*re (f*ē*r').
ə̄ ... f*ir* (fə̄ɹ), f*ern* (fə̄ɹn), *ea*rth (ə̄ɹþ).

ī (ī^{o}) ... b*ie*r (bī^{o}ɹ), cl*ea*r (klī^{o}ɹ).
ī ... th*ie*f (þīf), s*ee* (sī).
ō (ō^{o}) ... b*oa*r, b*o*re (bō^{o}ɹ), gl*o*ry (glō^{o}·ri).

ō (ō^{u}) ... s*o*, s*ow* (sō^{u}), s*ou*l (sō^{u}l).
ǭ ... w*a*lk (wǭk), w*a*rt (wǭɹt).
ǭ ... sh*o*rt (ʃ*ǭ*ɹt), th*o*rn (þ*ǭ*ɹn).
‖ō̃ ... Fr. c*oeu*r (kō̃r).
‖*ō̃* ... Ger. G*ö*the (g*ō̃*tĕ), Fr. jeû*ne* (ʒ*ō̃*n).
ū (ū^{o}) .. p*oo*r (pū^{o}ɹ), m*oo*rish (mū^{o}·riʃ).
iū, ^{i}ū ... p*ure* (piū^{o}ɹ), l*ure* (l^{i}ū^{o}ɹ).
ū ... t*wo* m*oo*ns (t*ū* m*ū*nz).
iū, ^{i}*ū* ... *few* (fi*ū*), l*ute* (l^{i}*ū*t).

‖*ū̃* ... Ger. gr*ü*n (gr*ū̃*n), Fr. j*us* (ʒ*ū̃*).

OBSCURE.

ă as in *a*mœb*a* (ămē·bă).

æ̆ ... *a*ccept (æ̆kse·pt), mani*a*c (mē^{i}·ni*æ̆*k).

ŏ ... datum (dē^{i}·tŏm).
ĕ ... mom*e*nt (mŏ^{u}·mĕnt), sev*e*ral (se·vĕrăl).
ĕ ... separate (*adj.*) (se·părĕt).

ė ... added (æ·dėd), estate (ėstē^{i}·t).

ĭ ... vanĭty (væ·nĭti).
ĭ ... remain (rĭmē^{i}·n), believe (bĭlī·v).
ŏ ... theory (þī·ŏri).

ŏ ... violet (vəi·ŏlėt), parody (pæ·rŏdi).
ğ ... authority (ğþo·rĭti).
ğ ... connect (kğne·kt), amazon (æ·măzğn).

íŭ, ^{i}ŭ verdure (vō·ɹdíŭɹ), measure (me·ʒ^{i}ŭɹ).
ŭ ... altogether (ğltŭge·ðəɹ).
iŭ ... circular (sō·ɹkiŭlăɹ).

* *ɒ* the *o* in *soft*, of medial or doubtful length. ‖ Only in foreign (or earlier English) words.

In the ETYMOLOGY,

OE. *e, o,* representing an earlier *a,* are distinguished as *ę, ǫ* (having the phonetic value of *ę* and *ǫ*, or ɒ, above); as in *ęnde* from *andi* (OHG. *anti*, Goth. *andei-s*), *mǫnn* from *mann*, *ǫn* from *an*.

1776 BURNEY *Hist. Mus.* I. 276 *note*, We may suppose this sound to be the standard pitch, and fundamental note of the Mercurian lyre. 1845 DE MORGAN *Globes* 95 One hundred of these [*sc.* the fixed stars] are selected, among which are the *standard* stars, as they are called, being those which are best known and best adapted for the most accurate use.

b. Of a book, an author: That has a permanent rank as an authority, or as an exemplar of excellence.

1645 MILTON *Tetrach.* Wks. 1851 IV. 180 But Erasmus, who for having writ an excellent Treatise of Divorce, was wrote against by som burly standard Divine,..defends his former work. 1728 POPE *Dunc.* IV. 123 Let standard-authors, thus, like trophies born, Appear more glorious as more hack'd and torn. 1759 GOLDSM. *Bee* No. 8 *Acc. Augustan Age* P 5 That he [L'Estrange] was a standard writer cannot be disowned, because a great many very eminent authors formed their style by his. 1783 H. BLAIR *Lect. Rhet.* xx. 408 The good sense, and good writing.. render it [Addison's Spectator] one of those standard books which have done the greatest honour to the English nation. 1891 *Speaker* 2 May 534/1 A 'History of Chemistry', which ..has rapidly won its way into recognition in scientific circles as a standard book on the subject.

c. Of a law: That has the chief authority with reference to a particular subject.

1752 C. LOUTHIAN *Form Process Scot.* 162 The Standard-law in England, concerning High Treason, is the Statute of the 25th of Edward III. cap. 2.

d. Of a maxim, etc.: Constantly repeated, standing, 'stock'.

1805 FOSTER *Ess.* III. i. 10 A standard expression of contemptuous dispatch. 1870 M. ARNOLD *St. Paul & Protest.* (1875) Pref. 36 Mr Miall's standard-maxim: The Dissidence of Dissent, and the Protestantism of the Protestant religion. 1885 *Spectator* 25 July 977/1 [He] has his oft-repeated little standard jokes.

II. 4. Upright, set up on end, or vertically.

Standard-knee = STANDARD *sb.* 19 b.

1538 in *Lett. Suppress. Monasteries* (Camden) 276 Item, ij standert candelstyckes. 1627 CAPT. SMITH *Seaman's Gram.* ii. 14 All the beames to be bound with two knees at each end, and a standard knee at euery beames end vpon the Orlope. 1733 W. ELLIS *Chiltern & Vale Farm.* 318 Its Standard Iron Pin is twenty Inches long and one Inch Diameter. 1833 LONDON *Encycl. Archit.* § 981 Each fire-place to have..standard grates (kitchen grates supporting themselves by feet in front). 1846 A. YOUNG *Naut. Dict.* 295 *Standard-knees.* 1865 *Morning Star* 27 Feb., The illumination is produced almost entirely by standard gas-burners. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech., Standard-piles*, in a coffer-dam. Piles placed at regular intervals apart and connected by runners. 1901 *J. Black's Carp. & Builder, Scaffolding* 21 Each side of the inner square was divided into two by two upright poles, so that there were thirty-six standard poles on the outside, and sixteen on the inside.

5. Of a tree or shrub: Grown as a 'standard', not dwarfed or trained on a wall.

1685 TEMPLE *Ess. Gardens* Wks. 1731 I. 185 The Border is set with Standard Laurels. 1716 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 5488/8 Standard Trees of Cherries, Apples, &c. 1798 *Times* 28 June 4/2 Large walled Garden..stocked with standard and wall fruit trees. 1842 *Florist's Jrnl.* (1846) III. 87 The habit..does not make it answer so well as a standard rose. 1908 ELIZ. FOWLER *Betw. Trent & Ancholme* 17 A tall standard Rose.

Standard (stæ·ndărd), *v.* [f. prec. sb.] *trans.* **a.** To ascertain the fineness of (precious metal). **b.** To establish or deposit as a standard of measure or weight.

1696 *Ord. Counc.* 24 Sept. in *Lond. Gaz.* No. 3222/1 The said Rate..upon the Receiving, Melting and Standarding of the said Plate. 1817 HASSLER in J. Q. Adams *Rep. Weights & Meas.* (1821) 154 An iron metre standarded at Paris in 1799. 1820 G. G. CAREY *Guide to Funds* 98 Method of standarding coins and bullion.

Standard-bearer.

1. An officer or soldier who bears the standard.

c 1450 *Brut* 538 In his retenewe..v standart berers. 1538 in P. H. Hore *Hist. Wexford* (1900) I. 237 Watkyne and his followers did meth with Cahir McArtes Standarthe berrer. 1544 BETHAM *Precepts War* I. clxxv. H viij b, Plucke the standart from the standart bearer. 1611 BIBLE *Isa.* x. 18 They shall bee as when a standerd bearer fainteth. 1781 GIBBON *Decl. & F.* xxix. III. 129 As Mascezel advanced ..he encountered one of the foremost standard-bearers of the Africans. 1879 FROUDE *Cæsar* xviii. 278 The standard-bearer..reached the fosse, flung the eagle over the rampart, [etc.].

b. As the title of an office of dignity. *Hist.*

1829 HEATH *Grocers' Comp.* (1869) 3 Lord Fitzwalter, hereditary chastellain banneret or standard-bearer of London. 1837 LOCKHART *Scott* I. ii. 71 A charter granted by Archibald Earl of Douglas..to Henry de Haliburton, whom he designates as his standard-bearer.

c. One who carries a banner in a procession.

1495 *Acc.* in Sharp *Cov. Myst.* (1825) 196 Payd to the stondard-beyrres, & ffor poyntes xj d. 1844 tr. *M. T. Asmar's Mem. Babyl. P'cess* II. 72 Accompanied by standard-bearers, carrying banners of various colours. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade, Standard-bearer*, an officer who carries a banner or colours in a procession.

2. *fig.* Chiefly, a conspicuous advocate of a cause; one who is in the forefront of a political or religious party.

1561 T. NORTON *Calvin's Inst.* IV. 7 They that are bolder than other, and as it were standerd bearers to make any departyng from the Churche. 1594 T. B. *La Primaud. Fr. Acad.* II. 543 Epicurus himselfe, the captaine and standard-bearer of all atheists and epicures. 1608 TOPSELL *Serpents* 65 Very seldome..they [male bees, drones] stir out of doores, as those whom nature had pointed out to be the fittest to be stander-bearers, and to carry ancients in the camp of Venus. 1611 BIBLE *Cant.* v. 10 My beloved is..the chiefest [*marg.*, a standard-bearer] among ten thousand. 1710 M. HENRY *Christianity no Sect* Wks. 1857 II. 449/2 Marvel not if the standard-bearers be most struck at. 1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* vii, You, whom men call the standard-bearer of the true Protestant faith. 1900 G. C. BRODRICK *Mem.* 408 As though I had any claim to be treated as a standard-bearer of the party.

Hence **Sta·ndardbearership.**

1865 J. M. LUDLOW *Pop. Epics* II. 201 Aragon promises the standard-bearership of his kingdom to whosoever will take William.

Sta·ndardism. *rare.* [-ISM.] The system of educational 'standards' (see STANDARD *sb.* 12 b).

1878 T. SINCLAIR *Mount* 33 Ultra-centralising educationists with competition and standardism as whole code of youth's effort.

Standardization (stæ·ndăɹdəizē·ʃən). [f. STANDARDIZE *v.* + -ATION.] The action of standardizing.

1896 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* I. 226 The process of 'standardisation' which has been already adopted in two instances in the British Pharmacopœia. 1900 M. CRACKANTHORPE *in 19th Cent.* Jan. 104 The 'standardisation' of punishment is not the same as its 'equalisation'. 1901 *Cyclists' Touring Club Gaz.* July 298/1 By all means, let us have standardisation of nuts and bolts. 1904 *Times* 20 Dec. 15/3 Standardization of waterpipes and fittings.

attrib. 1902 *Times* 31 Dec. 13/1, I know..other standardization devices. 1908 *Brit. Pharmacop. Rep.* in *Chem. & Druggist* (1909) 20 Feb. 292/2 Standardisation experiments are in progress.

Standardize (stæ·ndăɹdəiz), *v.* [f. STANDARD *sb.* and *a.* + -IZE.]

1. *trans.* To bring to a standard or uniform size, strength, form of construction, proportion of ingredients, or the like.

1873 C. H. RALFE *Outl. Physiol. Chem.* 225 This solution must be standardized. 1889 *Daily News* 20 June 6/3 The supply of electrical energy under statutory powers could not be effectively carried out unless there was some method of standardising the meters and other instruments. 1904 *Brit. Med. Jrnl.* 10 Sept. 564 The emulsion was always made up to a uniform strength .. by standardizing it against an arbitrarily-chosen standard bacterial suspension. 1907 [see STABLY *adv.*].

b. *transf.*

1900 M. CRACKANTHORPE in *19th Cent.* Jan. 103 (*title*), Can sentences be standardised? 1906 *19th Cent.* June 990 Legislation is, to use an engineering expression, being standardised. 1911 F. HARRISON *Autobiog. Mem.* II. xxxvii. 314 Life and Society have been standardised.

2. To test by a standard.

1881 *Nature* 3 Nov. 17/2 This other mode of measurement should be standardised..by comparison with Mr. Harcourt's air-gas flame, which should alone be taken as the official standard. 1898 *Longm. Mag.* Nov. 69 To standardise the poisonous principle contained in it [eel's blood].

3. (See quot. 1890.)

1889 *Tablet* 2 Nov. 688 For each instrument two plates will be standardised. 1890 *Anthony's Photogr. Bull.* III. 158 The Lick observatory plates were 'standardized.' That is, a portion of each plate was impressed with the light from a standard lamp shining for a known time through a small hole at a known distance.

Hence **Sta·ndardized** *ppl. a.*; **Sta·ndardizing** *vbl. sb.* (also *attrib.*).

1884 *Times* 14 Aug. 3 Standardized laudanum. 1889 *Daily News* 20 June 4/7 To advocate the establishment of an electrical standardizing laboratory. 1892 *Ibid.* 31 Mar. 6/8 The Electric Standardising, Testing, and Training Institution. 1913 *Contemp. Rev.* Dec. 776 Standardised voting cards are provided by the respective candidates.

Sta·ndardizer. [f. STANDARDIZE *v.* + -ER 1.]

a. One who standardizes. **b.** An apparatus for standardizing.

1889 *Lond., Edin. & Dublin Philos. Mag.* Feb. 86 The absolute values of the polarization .. should .. have been identical, but according to the standardizer they were always markedly different. [1884 *Times* 14 Aug. 3 A serious error in analysis might lead to greater variations in strength than the pre-standardizers ever dreamt of.]

Standard-wing. [STANDARD *sb.* 8.]

1. A species of Bird of Paradise (*Semioptera wallacei*) discovered by Wallace in the island of Batchian.

1869 GOULD *Birds Austral.* Suppl. Pl. 52 *Semioptera wallacei*, G. R. Gray, Standard-wing. 1894-5 LYDEKKER *Roy. Nat. Hist.* III. 338 The standard-wing..is characterised by ..the presence of two long projecting feathers from each wing. 1895 *Ibid.* IV. 43 Standard-winged Nightjar.

2. *attrib.* or *adj.* = STANDARD-WINGED.

1872 J. H. GURNEY *Andersson's Birds Damara Land* 45 *Cosmetornis vexillarius* (Gould). Standard-wing Goat-sucker. 1903 W. L. SCLATER *Stark's Birds S. Africa* III. 42 *Cosmetornis vexillarius.* Standard-wing Nightjar.

Standard-winged, *a. Ornith.* [STANDARD *sb.* 8.] Of certain birds: Characterized by the possession of 'standards'.

1875–84 R. B. SHARPE *Layard's Birds S. Africa* 89 *Cosmetornis vexillarius.* Standard-winged Nightjar.

Stand-by. [f. vbl. phr. *stand by*: see STAND *v.* 70, 91.]

1. *Naut.* **a.** A vessel kept in attendance for emergencies.

1796 in Nicolas *Disp. Nelson* (1846) VII. p. xci, Meleager [a ship] is my only stand-by and every week I must send something to Genoa for news.

attrib. 1882 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 21 June 5/1 To the 150 passengers was given the smaller 'stand-by' steamer.

b. An order or signal for a boat to stand by (see STAND *v.* 91 e); *attrib.* in *stand-by bell*, the ringing of a bell in the engine-room of a vessel as a signal to stop the engines.

1896 KIPLING *Seven Seas* 46 (M'Andrew's Hymn) Losh! Yon's the 'Stand-by' bell. Pilot so soon?

2. One who stands by another to render assistance; esp. *fig.* one who upholds or seconds another; a staunch adherent or partisan.

1801 C. GADSDEN in *J. Adams' Wks.* (1854) IX. 578 But my duty to my country and to our old standbys..compelled me in our late election to take up my feeble pen again. 1857 LADY CANNING in Hare *Two Noble Lives* (1893) II. 238 Neill is made a General, and joins General Havelock, and a capital stand-by he is. 1887 BARING-GOULD *Golden Feather* viii, His mother had always been his stand-by against the severity of his father. 1883 MRS. OLIPHANT *Sheridan* i. 34 The respectable brandy-merchant had been the family stand-by.

attrib. 1891 CONSTANCE MACEWEN *Three Women in Boat* ix, She is a capital stand-by woman, holding her nerves as some people hold money—wisely and well. 1897 *Westm. Gaz.* 18 Dec. 5/3 Eight ordinary winches, each manœuvred by four men with 'stand by' labour at their elbow.

3. Something upon which one can rely; a main support; a chief resource.

1861 C. P. HODGSON *Resid. Nagasaki* iii. 70 We had that famous stand-bye [*sic*], a good ham, three fowls, sardines, bread and tea. 1882 STEVENSON *Lett.* 22 Feb., Art and marriage are two very good stand-by's. 1891 E. KINGLAKE *Australians at H.* 47 Old ladies are the great stand-by of the long established medicoes.

attrib. 1902 *Daily Chron.* 24 May 8/3 In Paris every summer foulard frocks re-appear with perennial freshness, and are made the stand-by gown of the woman of wisdom.

Standee (stændī·). *U.S.* [f. STAND *v.* + -EE.]

1. (See quot.)

1859 BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.* (ed. 2) 446 *Standee*, a standing bed-place in a steamer.

2. One who is compelled to stand.

1880 WEBSTER, *Standee*, one who is obliged to stand at a place of public amusement. (*Cant.*) (*U.S.*) 1901 POND *Eccentr. Genius* 313 Mr. Irving..having been one of the standees on that occasion.

Standel (stæ·ndĕl). Forms: 6 **standill**, 7 **-dell**, 8 **-dal**, **-dall**, 7–8 **-dil**, 7–8 **standle**, 7, 9 **standel**. [? f. STAND *v.* + -EL 1. In sense 1 perh. an alteration of STADDLE influenced by STAND *v.* With sense 2 cf. MHG. *stendel*, early mod.G. *standel*.]

1. A young tree left standing for timber. (Cf. STANDER 8, STANDARD *sb.* 20 a.)

1543 *Act* 35 *Hen. VIII*, c. 17 § 1 (1544) Dvj, There shalbe left standing..for euery acre of woode..xii. standilles or storers of oke..[or] of elme, ashe, or beche.., the same stathilles or storers to be of such standilles or storers, as haue been left there standyng at any the fellyng..in time past. 1602 CAREW *Cornwall* I. 21 The statute Standles commonly called Hawketrees. 1708 in Lyon *Chron. Finchampstead* (1895) 271 Provided always that sufficient Trees be left for standalls according to the Statutes in that case made. 1725 *Bradley's Fam. Dict., Heyres*, young Timber-trees that are usually left for Standills in the felling of Copices. 1762 in *Jrnls. Ho. Comm.* 13 Feb. 1792, 254/1 Leaving sufficient Standals or Stocks. 1793 W. H. MARSHALL *W. Eng.* (1796) II. 337 The purchaser to be allowed ..a quarter of a perch, for each standle of the last cutting. 1884 *Lease* in *W. Somerset Word-bk.* s. v., All pollards and other trees, slips, saplings and standels.

fig. *a* 1661 FULLER *Worthies, Northumbld.* (1662) 310 The Commissioners of this County..presenting no underwood, yea, no standels, but only tymber-oaks, men of great wealth.

† **2.** ? = STANDER 5.

1596 *Unton Inventories* 2 Two standells, and one joyned stoole.

† **Standelwelks.** *Obs.* Also **standweks.** ? Blundered form of next.

a 1500 *MS. Bodl.* 536 lf. 36, Saturion..standweks. *a* 1500 *MS. Laud* 553 lf. 18 b, Saturion maior is an herbe þ^t me clepuþ ȝekes or standelwelkes [*marg.* Standlewelkes]. 1597 GERARDE *Herbal* Suppl., Standelwelks is Satyrion.

† **Sta·ndelwort.** *Obs.* Also 7 **standle**, 9 (*Dicts.*) **stander-**. [a. MLG. *standel-, stendelwort* = MHG. *standel-, stendelwurz*, f. *standel, stendel* of the same meaning (f. root of STAND *v.*) + LG. *wort*, HG. *wurz* WORT *sb.*] = STANDERGRASS.

1578 LYTE *Dodoens* II. lvi. 217 Of Standelworte or Standergrasse..There are diuers sortes of Standergrasse called in Greeke Orchis. 1602 HOLLAND *Pliny* II. Table, Serapias, a kind of Orchis or Standlewort. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1090/2 Standerwort, *Orchis mascula.*

Sta·ndenguss. Now *dial.* (Som.) [? f. *standen* pa. pple. (? or *standend* pres. pple.) of STAND *v.* + **guss* a. F. *gousse* pod. Cf. Eng. dial. *gussets*, the *Orchis mascula.*] = STANDERGRASS. (In the 15th c. applied also erroneously to other plants.)

c 1450 *Alphita* (Anecd. Oxon.) 140, 158 Stondene-gousse (*v.r.* -gosse) [glosses *pes vituli, pes nisi, satirion*]. [1881 *Hardwicke's Sci. Gossip* Nov. 258/1, I..showed them a flower. 'Oh', said they, 'we call them stannen-gusses.']

Stander (stæ·ndəɹ). [f. STAND *v.* + -ER 1.] One who or something which stands.

I. 1. One who stands, in the senses of the verb. Constr. with preps., as *before, on.*

In quot. 1423 used appositively, expressing the notion that the elephant was incapable of lying down.

1423 JAS. I *Kingis Q.* clvi, The standar oliphant. *c* 1550 *Fabric Rolls York Minster* (Surtees) 309 Four copes of crimson velvett..for standers. 1602 *Narcissus* (1893) 491 O, the hares a lusty stander, Follow apace. 1606 SHAKS. *Tr. & Cr.* III. iii. 84. 1635–56 COWLEY *Davideis* I. Note 28 One, τῶν ἑστηκότων, of the standers before God. 1657 J. WATTS *Scribe, Pharisee* etc. I. 13 Loyterers, and standers idle. 1788 MME. D'ARBLAY *Diary* 2 Feb., 'Tis indeed, to us standers, an amazing addition to fatigue to keep still. 1815 *Sporting Mag.* XLVI. 124 The crowd of sitters and

standers gradually increases. 1850 *Tait's Mag.* XVII. 716/1 The most obstinate stander on old ways.

b. with advs.

1582 N. T. (Rhem.) *Mark* xiv. 47 And one certaine man of the standers about..smote the seruant of the cheefe priest. 1591 H. SMITH *Exam. Usurie* i. 13 The standers about said one to another, See how he loued him. *a* 1716 SOUTH *Serm.* (1727) VI. 114 Publick Spirits, Standers-up for their Country. 1885 LEFROY *Echoes fr. Theocritus* etc. II. xxix, And six tall lads break through the standers-round.

†**c.** *slang.* (See quots.) *Obs.*

1610 ROWLANDS *M. Mark-all* (1874) 41 A Stander, he that stands sentinel vpon the Pad or high-way to robbe. *Ibid.* 53 [He] was faine to liue..a stander for the padder.

2. Stander-by. a. One who stands by; one who looks on and abstains from interfering; one who stands aside from or has no concern in (a game, a quarrel, etc.); occas. a casual spectator or auditor, a bystander. Now *rare*.

1545 ASCHAM *Toxoph.* II. (Arb.) 120 Thys kynde of breakynge is mooste perilouse for the standers by. 1594 SHAKS. *Rich. III*, I. iii. 216 Riuers and Dorset, you were standers by..when my Sonne Was stab'd. 1606 — *Tr. & Cr.* IV. v. 190 That I haue said vnto my standers by, Loe Iupiter is yonder, dealing life. 1612 NAUNTON in *Bucclench MSS.* (Hist. MSS. Comm.) I. 113 Hereupon some standers by are apt to conceive that the King mea[neth] to keep these places in suspense. 1647 CLARENDON *Hist. Reb.* V. § 155 It was thought strangely ridiculous by standers by that [etc.]. 1659 [H. NEVILE] *Game at Pichquet* 4, I shall be a kind of stander-by this time. 1709 STEELE *Tatler* No. 26 ¶ 8 If a Stander-by sees one at Play cheat, he has Right to come in for Shares. 1771 *Act* 11 *Geo. III*, c. 45 § 29 In Default of a sufficient Number of Persons so impannelled, the said Sheriff shall return other honest and indifferent Men of the Standers-by. 1827 SCOTT *Surg. Dau.* iv, Will you, that are a stander-by, tell us, who are the unlucky players, what you think of this game of ours? 1870 MORRIS *Earthly Par.* II. III. 278 From off the poplar-block white chips would fly 'Neath some deft hand, watched of the standers-by.

Proverb. 1613 *Uncasing of Machiav.* 18 Standers by discerne more then gamsters can. 1768–74 TUCKER *Lt. Nat.* (1834) II. 303 It is commonly said that a stander-by sees more of the game than he that plays.

†**b.** *Naut.* A gunner's assistant. (Cf. *stand by*: STAND *v.* 70 b, 91 e.) *Obs.*

1669 STURMY *Mariner's Mag.* v. xii. 69 Standers by, or Matrosses. *Ibid.* 72 The standers by raise the Britch with Crows. *Ibid.* VII. xxx. 44 Let a stander by stop on the Glass a Thred.

¶**3.** Misused for CONSISTENT *sb.* 2. *rare.*

1885 *Encycl. Brit.* XVIII. 486 They are first defined in an epistle ascribed to Gregory Thaumaturgus about the year 258, and are as under: (1) Weepers..; (2) Hearers..; (3) Kneelers..; (4) Standers, who might remain throughout the entire rite, but were not suffered to communicate.

4. A person of long standing (in a profession, or place) as distinguished from a novice or newcomer; an old hand, an old resident. Only in *old, ancient, long stander.* (Cf. STANDARD *sb.* 26 b; also STAGER 1.) ? *Obs.*

1589 R. HARVEY *Plain Perc.* 2 It moues me as much as the fatherly rebuke of an old stander moude that vniuersity post, which seemed to take the wall of a Senior. 1591 GREENE *Conny Catching* II. Wks. (Grosart) X. 174 Which did so much content him, as that he had beguiled so ancient a stander in that profession. 1681 R. KNOX *Hist. Relat. Ceylon* IV. xiii. 176 We begin with the Portugueze, who deserve the first place, being the oldest Standers there. 1699 DAMPIER *Voy.* II. I. iii. 49 [The Dutch] are the longest standers here by many years. 1732 BERKELEY *Alciphr.* II. § 7 Our young proficients in the minute philosophy..do far outgo the old standers and professors of the sect. 1801 C. GADSDEN in *J. Adams' Wks.* (1854) IX. 579 Our old-standers and independent men of long well-tried patriotism, sound understanding, and good property. 1832 W. IRVING *Life & Lett.* (1864) II. 486 It seems as if all the old standers of the city had called on me.

transf. 1646 W. HARINGTON in J. Hall *Poems*, A Genethliacon to the Infant Muse of his dearest Friend, A 6, Thus thy luxuriant Laurel-sprout As soon as it hath its head put out, Or'e tops old standers!

II. Something upright.

5. A pan or barrel set on end. *dial.* = STANDARD *sb.* 25. In quot. 1459 used appositively.

1459 *Paston Lett.* I. 490 Item, iij. grete standere pannes, j. bochers axe. 1882 FRANCISQUE-MICHEL *Crit. Inquir. Sc, Lang.* 427 *Staunder*, a barrel set on end for containing water or salted meat.

†**6.** An upright support; a supporting pillar, stem, and the like; also, a candlestick. (Cf. STANDARD *sb.* 17–19.)

1552 *Berksh. Ch. Goods* 39 A payre of grete Candylstyckes called Standers. 1605 in R. Welford *Hist. Newcastle* (1885) III. 170 [He] shall so work the mines as he leave standers for the upholding of the grounds thereof. 1648 GAGE *West Ind.* 149 [The idols] are placed upon standers gilded or painted, to be carried in procession upon mens shoulders. 1677 PLOT *Oxfordsh.* 257 To preserve their Ricks of Corn.. they commonly place them in this Country, on standers and caps of stone; the standers being four Obeliscs about two foot high. 1711 W. SUTHERLAND *Shipbuild. Assist.* 164 Standers; Knees fitted upon any of the Decks; also Pieces placed to raise Stages or Scaffolds. 1860 *Song of Solomon in Lowland Scotch* v. 15 (E.D.D.) His shanks are as stanners o' merbel set on sockets o' fine gowd.

†**b.** See quot. Cf. ORLOP 2. *Obs.*

1703 R. NEVE *City & C. Purch.* (1736) s. v. *Lead* § 7 Of laying on Sheet-lead..They bend up the Edge of the Sheet, both for the Stander and Orlop..They bring them together, and proceed to make a Seam of them, by first turning the Orlop..over the Stander.

†**7.** Something which remains in a fixed position; a fixture. *Obs. rare.*

1642 FULLER *Holy & Prof. St.* II. iv. 62 Though he useth barbarous School-terms, which like standers are fixt to the controversie, yet in his moveable Latine..his style is pure. 1647 — *Good Th. in Worse T.* 164 Mixt-Prayers..Wherein the Standers, .. remaine alwayes unaltered. Whilst the moveable petitions .. are added .. as Gods Spirit adviseth. 1666 J. SMITH *Solomon's Portr. Old Age* 76 There is necessary both these, viz. the firm stander, and the strong mover; the upper and the nether milstone.

†**8.** A tree left standing for timber (= STANDEL 1, STANDARD *sb.* 20 a). *Obs.*

1548 [see STADDLE 1 *appos.*] *a* 1568 ASCHAM *Scholem.* II. (Arb.) 135 The fairest standers of all, were rooted vp, and cast into the fire. 1611 COTGR., *Balliveaux*, standers, or trees left standing after a wood sale. 1707 MORTIMER *Husb.* 427, I resolved to cut a Cart-way..to carry off both my Wood and Timber, which saved my Standers and Wood too very much. 1712 J. JAMES tr. *Le Blond's Gardening* 50 The old Standers left at the other Cuttings.

b. = STANDARD *sb.* 20 b.

1685 PENN *Further Acc. Pennsylv.* 8 All sorts of English fruits..take mighty well for the time: The Peach Excellent, on standers.

†**III. 9.** Device on a coin, 'image and superscription'. *Obs. rare*[−1].

1579 FENTON *Guiciard.* VII. 375 He defaced out of their monies and coynes their auncient stampes, causing them for afterwards to beare his standers and stamp [It. has merely *il segno suo*] in signe of absolute superioritie.

Stander: see STANDARD *sb.*

Standergrass (stæ·ndəɹgrɑs). Forms: 6 **standard-**, 7– **stander grass.** [f. *stander-* (alteration of *standel-* in STANDELWORT) + GRASS *sb.*] A name applied to *Orchis mascula* and allied plants.

1578 [see STANDELWORT]. 1579 LANGHAM *Gard. Health* 450 Orchis, or Standard grasse. 1597 GERARDE *Herbal* I. cii. 169 The first is called in Latine *Testiculus Odoratus*: in English..sweete Cullions and Standergrasse. 1610 FLETCHER *Faithful Sheph.* II. i, Therefore foule Standergrasse, from me and mine I banish thee, with lustful Turpentine. 1863 PRIOR *Plant-n.*, Standerwort, or Standergrass.. *Orchis mascula.*

Standfast (stæ·ndfɑst), *a.* and *sb. rare.* [f. STAND *v.* (see 9 b, 23) + FAST *adv.* Cf. HOLDFAST.]

A. *adj.* Stiff in opinion.

1716 M. DAVIES *Athen. Brit.* II. 369 Witness our own W. W. who sometimes seems very positive, and a standfast stickler for his Arianism even to Martyrdom.

B. *sb.* A fixed or stable position.

1846 HAWTHORNE *Mosses* II. ix. 162 It seems as if the whole world, both morally and physically, were detached from its old standfasts, and set in rapid motion.

†**Stand-fra,** *a. Obs.* In 5 **standfray,** 7 **stanfra.** [f. STAND *v.* + *fra, fray*, FRO *adv.* Cf. STANDOFF.] Inclined to stand aloof; refractory, rebellious; reserved, haughty.

c 1480 HENRYSON *Fables, Trial of Fox* 137 (Charteris) Angrie, austerne, and also vnamyabill To all that standfray ar to myne estait. 1683 *Yorke-sh. Dialogue* 9 Be neet Stanfra, but Loving and kind.

†**Sta·ndful.** *Obs.* [f. STAND *sb.*[2]] A tubful.

1573 *Satir. Poems Reform.* xxxix. 88 Thay..keppit standfulis [of water] at the sklatis thair in. 1611 COTGR., *Tinée*, a Stand-full, or Soe-full.

Sta·ndgale, perverted form of STANIEL.

[1834 MUDIE *Feathered Tribes* I. 93 'Stannel', or 'standgall', as it is sometimes pronounced, is 'stand-gale', and 'wind-hover' is 'hoverer in the wind', both of which express that wonderful power of poising..itself over a particular spot, despite the wind, which the kestrel possesses.] 1865 *Cornhill Mag.* July 41 With it may be compared another local name, 'stand-gale', and also 'crutch-tail', formerly applied to a kite.

Standing (stæ·ndiŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. STAND *v.* + -ING 1.]

1. The action of the vb. STAND, in various senses; an instance of this.

1382 WYCLIF *Ecclus.* xxvii. 15 The myche swering speche shal sette stonding [1388 schal make stondyng up] of heer, for fer, to the hed [Vulg. *horripilationem capiti statuet*]. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. de P. R.* XIII. ii. (1495) 440 Pytte water is thickest and worst to defye..for stondynge of the water. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 477/1 Stondynge, noþer syttynge ne walkynge, *status*. *c* 1450 [see SITTING *vbl. sb.* 1]. *c* 1530 *Judic. Urines* III. iii. 48 b, The standyng long tyme of yᵉ burbels in yᵉ vrinal sheweth that yᵉ sekenes hath long tyme contynued. 1561 NORTON & SACKV. *Gorbodue* v. ii. 27 One sort that saw the dangerous successe Of stubborne standing in rebellious warre. 1678 WALTON *Life Sanderson* b 4, His former standing for a Proctors place, and being disappointed, must prove much displeasing. 1688 HOLME *Armonry* III. 382/1 A long piece of Copper..having the ends bent down ..and then bent out again for its more steady standing. 1770 LANGHORNE *Plutarch, Marcus Crassus* (Rtldg.) 385/1 When they saw the depth of the Roman battalions..and the firmness of their standing, they drew back. 1840 BARHAM *Ingol. Leg. Jackd. Rheims*, He cursed him in sitting, in standing, in lying.

attrib. 1900 H. LAWSON *On Track* 38 Another timber, much inferior in grain and 'standing' quality, was plentiful.

b. With advs. (See STAND *v.* IV.) *Standing out*: †*concr.* a projection. (*Obs.*)

1608 TOPSELL *Serpents* 247 About the mouth there appeare and seeme to bud forth three eminenties or standings out. 1611 SHAKS. *Wint. T.* III. ii. 191 Poore Trespasses, More monstrous standing by. 1616 LANE *Contin. Sqr.'s Tale* x. 599 Other ancientes it [this towne] Rosalia call; others, the standinge vp of them which fall. 1622 FLETCHER *Beggars Bush* v. ii, And since the standing out of Bruges, where Hemskirk had hid her, till she was near lost. 1683 MOXON *Mech. Exerc., Printing* xvii. ¶ 3 They raise a Bur on the Face..to keep the Matrice off the Carriages and Bodies..But..the hollow standing off of the Face of the Matrice from the Carriages and Bodies, subjects the Mettal to run between them. 1884 *Law Rep.* 26 Chanc. Div. 790 In order to shew acquiescence he must shew a standing by with full knowledge of what was being done.

Winchester School. 1903 C. COLERIDGE *Life C. M. Yonge* iii. 98 It was the week before the 'Standing up' i. e. the repetition of an incredible number of lines of Latin or Greek Poetry.

c. The state of being without movement either progressive or retrogressive; the condition of being at a standstill. Also *standing still.* †*Standing of the sun* = SOLSTICE 1.

c 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* VII. 71 Brasike is sowe at stondyng of the sonne. *c* 1530 *Judic. Urines* II. vi. 26 b, Yf the vryne come out in lesse quantyte..than it dede in the standyng or in the encresyng, or..in the begynnyng of the ague. 1552 HULOET s. v. *Heate, Solstitium*..is sometyme more aptlye taken for the staye or standynge of the sunne, whyche is twise in the yeare. 1648 HEXHAM II, *Den stil-standt der Zonne*, the Solstice, or the Standing still of the Sunne.

d. Erect position; condition of not falling or being overthrown. *lit.* and *fig.* Now *rare* or *Obs.*

1709 STANHOPE *Paraphr.* IV. 283 They..not only recover their Standing, but even profit themselves of their Fall. 1737 *Gentl. Mag.* VII. 556/2 He kick'd every one of them out of Office..except Buckingham, and he ow'd his Standing to the Prince. 1746–7 HERVEY *Medit. & Contempl.* (1818) 73 Afraid to plunge into the abyss of eternity, yet utterly unable to maintain their standing on the verge of life.

e. Phr. *To be in good standing with* = to stand well with, be in favour with: cf. STAND *v.* 15 c.

1912 *Eng. Hist. Rev.* Oct. 652 For a number of years after this Eustace was in good standing with the English king.

†**2.** Manner of standing. **a.** Relative position (of a number of persons or things, or of one with reference to others.) **b.** Situation, site, aspect (of a building, etc.). **c.** Posture, attitude (of a person); position (of a thing) as erect, horizontal, etc. *Obs.*

a. *c* 1407 LYDG. *Reas. & Sens.* 6591 Y Haue declared.. The maner and the ordynaunce Of ther [i. e. the queen's pawns] stondyng. 1591 SAVILE *Tacitus, Hist.* III. xxii. 127 The order and standing of the Vitellian army I dare not for certaine auouch. 1600 SURFLET *Country Farm* III. xliv. 510 That you may fitly appoint the standings of trees. 1712 J. JAMES tr. *Le Blond's Gardening* 84 If the Eye be applied too near the Stick, a Defect in the standing of the others can't be so well perceived. 1733 W. ELLIS *Chiltern & Vale Farm.* 350 The double Rows were apt to heat each other by their close standing.

b. 1538 ELYOT *Dict., Situs*,..also the settynge or standinge of a place, which is now called the syte. 1562 T. NORTON *Calvin's Inst.* I. xiv. (1634) 73 To set and fasten some of them [*sc.* stars] in their standings, and to other some, to grant a free course. 1647 CLARENDON *Hist. Reb.* IV. § 8 They..resolved that the standing of the communion-table in all churches should be altered. 1665 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* (1677) 83 *Baroch* is visible by reason of her high standing a good way distant. 1682 'R. BURTON' *Admir. Curios.* 67 Yet is the Structure better than the standing thereof, as being somewhat low on the one side.

c. 1540 MORYSINE tr. *Vives' Introd. Wisd.* A viij b, A ryght gentyll man is he, whom nature hathe fashyoned and set, as it were in a standyng for the recepte of vertue. 1545 ASCHAM *Toxoph.* II. (Arb.) 147 The fyrste poynte is..to take suche footyng and standyng as shal be..cumlye to the eye. 1611 *Second Maiden's Trag.* 1041 (Malone Soc.), I like the standing of my head too well to haue it mended. 1683 MOXON *Mech. Exerc., Printing* xxiv. ¶ 2 [They] try whether the Stone lye truly Horizontal, which they know by the standing of the Water: For if the Water delate itself equally about the middle of the Stone, the Stone lies Horizontal. 1801 T. ROBERTS *Engl. Bowman* 294 The Standing, the posture in which an archer stands, when he shoots.

†**d.** The position of the indicator of a graduated instrument. *Obs.*

1669 STURMY *Mariner's Mag.* II. xiii. 82 Keeping in memory such standing of the Staff, I take off the one Cross, and set the Staff again. 1676 H. MORE *Remarks* Contents b 4 b, The various standing of the Mercury in the Tube, according to the change of weather. *a* 1734 NORTH *Life Ld. Keeper Guilford* (1742) 293 The standing of the Mercury, in the Tube, is always taken upon the Distance of the upper from the lower Superficies.

3. An act of standing erect on one's feet; a period during which one keeps a standing position.

1653 WALTON *Angler* ix. [xii.] 181 They may be at one standing, all catch'd one after another. 1850 LADY SARAH LYTTELTON *Corr.* xvi. (1912) 407, I never was more knocked up than last night, by..several long standings with Her Majesty. 1904 *Edin. Rev.* Jan. 112 The gentleman in Horace who could reel you off two hundred verses at a standing.

4. A standing-place, station; standing-room. **a.** The place in or upon which a person stands. Phrases *to take, keep one's standing.* ? *Obs.* Also, accommodation for one person to stand (at a show or the like); standing-room. Cf. STAND *sb.* 11.

1382 WYCLIF *Isa.* xxii. 19 And I shal putte thee out fro thi stonding, and fro thi seruyse I shal depose thee. 1542 BRINKLOW *Compl.* 34 b, Thei must take standings in Shioters Hill, in Newmarket Heath, and in Stangate Hole. 1571 DIGGES *Pantom.* I. xii. D iij, The Base being euen with your standing. *Ibid.*, The distance betweene the two standings is vndoubtedly the lengthe. 1586 MARLOWE *1st Pt. Tamburl.* I. ii, Keep all your standings and not stir a foot. *c* 1595 CAPT. WYATT *R. Dudley's Voy. W. Ind.* (Hakl. Soc.) 59 Himselfe toke his standinge on the open deck. 1598 R. BERNARD tr. *Terence* (1607) *Andria* II. ii, I got me vpon a high standing, and looked round about me. 1609 HOLLAND *Amm. Marcell.* XXIV. x. 255 The rest of the souldiors..gained the passing high and difficult bankes, and firmely kept their standing. *a* 1626 MIDDLETON *Women beware Women* I. iii, Now they come!..You, sirrah, get a

standing for your mistress. 1661 DRYDEN *To H. S. Majesty* 38 Your cavalcade the fair spectators view From their high standings, yet look up to you. 1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* II. (Globe) 392 In this [hollow] Tree they both took their Standing. 1795 COWPER *Needless Alarm* 120 We have at least commodious standing here. 1801 STRUTT *Sports & Past.* II. i. 61 His longest shot fell upwards of four hundred and eighty yards from his standing. 1809 MALKIN *Gil Blas* XII. i. (Rtldg.) 422 Along the streets where the procession was to pass were scaffolds, on one of which I purchased a standing.

b. *fig.*

1563-83 FOXE *A. & M.* 707/2 God..hath found a way by this facultie of Printing .. to cast downe the foundation of his [the pope's] standing. 1656 CROMWELL *Sp.* 17 Sept., And so many as..do own your standings wherein the Providence of God hath set and called you to this work, will carry it on. 1669 O. SANSOM in *Acc. Life* (1710) 70 With earnest desires, that you would consider your own States and Standings, every one of you, whether you are not in the Broad way. 1676 W. ALLEN *Addr. Non-Conf.* 47 Some of them believed this; and so kept their standing in the Church. 1856 *N. Brit. Rev.* XXVI. 43 What should prevent our receding and taking a still lower standing?

† **c.** A hunter's station or stand from which to shoot game. *Obs.*

c 1400 *Master of Game* (MS. Digby 182) xxxv, þenne shulde þe maister of þe game..meete þe kynge and brynge hym to his stondynge and telle hym what game is withinne þe sette. 1551 SIR J. WILLIAMS *Accompte* (Abbotsf. Club) 87 For newe makinge a standinge in Combes parke. 1576 TURBERV. *Venerie* lxvi. 187 And thus you may trayne a foxe to a standing and kyll him in an evening with a Crossebowe. 1600 *Maids Metam.* III. 1 And yet my maister wayteth with his bowe, Within a standing, for to strike a Doe. 1616 *Manifest. Abp. of Spalato's Motives* App. III. 6 Imitating the Huntsman, who bending his bow to strike a faire Stagge, puts forth towards the Standing, for shew, other raskall Deere with him.

d. A place in which cattle and horses may stand under shelter; a stable; standing-accommodation for one animal; stable-accommodation for horses or a horse. Now *dial.*

c 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* I. 523 Let make an hous for bestis... Of forkis, & of boord, & bouwes colde. A stondyng most be maad. 1510 STANBRIDGE *Vocabula* (W. de W.) C v, *Stabulum*, a stable or a stondynge. 1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* 610 They also had a care to couer all the flower [of their sheep-stables] with strawe..to the end they might not be annoyed in their owne standings. 1714 T. ELLWOOD *Life* (1765) 66 Sir, don't you forget to pay for your Horse's standing? 1813 *Sporting Mag.* XLII. 54 Converting..all the loose stalls of a stable into loose standings. 1886 *W. Somerset Word-bk.* s. v., So John 've a-tookt the Dree Cups (Inn); I do year 'tis capical premises, an stannins for up thirty osses.

transf. 1798 *Times* 28 June 4/2 A Neat Cottage [with] ..standing for chaise, stable and good garden.

† **e.** Stopping-place, goal. *Obs. rare.*

c 1510 *Gesta Rom.* (W. de W.) A ij, The whyle she was in takynge vp the thyrde balle, the knyght gate afore her, and was fyrst at the standynge.

† **f.** A place of settlement or encampment. *Obs.*

1598 GRENEWEY *Tacitus, Ann.* I. x. (1622) 19 The fift, and one and twentith legion, lodged in winter standings threescore miles of, at Vetera. 1611 SPEED *Theat. Gt. Brit.* (1614) 137/2 But then no longer able to hold out against them, they left their standings and departed the land.

g. A stand for carriages plying for hire.

1853 *Act* 16 & 17 *Vict.* c. 33 § 6 The several standings for hackney carriages..within the Metropolitan district.

5. A position for or occupied by a booth, stall, or the like; a booth or stall occupying such position. Now *dial.*

a 1547 in J. R. Boyle *Hedon* (1875) App. 80 Every man that hath a standing of vij. fote on Holyruddaie..shall paye ij.d. 1577 LEIGH *Surv.* (1596) D 3, Booths, Standings, shambles, and tolles,..of a weeklie market. 1626 in *10th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. v. 338 If any..of the company of taylors ..shall departe his shopp or standing, to worke in any man's house. 1766 ENTICK *London* IV. 252 The clothiers..had their booths and standings within the church-yard. 1808 *Beverley Lighting Act* 16 Placing of stalls and standings on the market and fair days in the streets. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade, Standing*, a stall placed in a market, or on the foot pavement in a street; a workman's loom in a lower flat or story. 1886 *W. Somerset Word-bk.* s. v., Butcher Morgan 've a-paid for a stan'in' in our market 'is number o' years.

† **6.** Something upon which a person or thing stands; a stage; a base, foundation. *Obs.*

1382 WYCLIF 2 *Chron.* vi. 13 Salomon hadde maad the brasyn stondynge [1388 foundement, Vulg. *basis*], and hadde putte it in the mydil of the grete hous. 1556 *Chron. Grey Friars* (Camden) 72 Item the xxvj. of September [1551] was the stondynge at the tabulle in Powlles was removyd into the sowth. 1558 in Jupp *Carpenters' Co.* (1848) 51 Payd for the caryage of our standyng into fanchirche Strete at the eommyng in of quene elizabeth vij d. 1585 HIGINS *Junius' Nomencl.* 190/2 *Fori*,..the galleries or standings for the beholders of plaies: the scaffoldes. *a* 1641 FINETT *For. Ambass.* (1656) 64 The French Ambassador in the first window..and the Spanish in a standing dressed up of purpose over the Porters lodge.

7. † **a.** Continuance in existence; duration. *Obs.*

1600 J. HAMILTON in *Cath. Tract.* (S.T.S.) 243 This heresie [adultery] baith repugnes to the trew law of God and is preiudiciable to the lawful standing of Noble houses, 1611 SHAKS. *Wint. T.* I. ii. 431 The Fabrick of his Folly, whose foundation Is pyl'd vpon his Faith, and will continue The standing of his Body. 1690 in *Nairne Peerage Evid.* (1874) 26 All..teynd duties payable furth of the estate during the standing of the marriage.

b. The state or fact of having existed for a longer or shorter period of time; degree of antiquity. (Now only of immaterial things.) Chiefly in phrases, *of old, ancient,* † *late standing.* Cf. LONG STANDING.

1656 EARL MONM. tr. *Boccalini's Advts. fr. Parnass.* I. l. (1674) 65 The Titolari were of much later standing than Doctors. 1674 N. FAIRFAX *Bulk & Selv.* 154 The next thing to be handled is, Of what standing the world may be. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 318/2 Another fashion of Compasses.. not much differing from them though of an Elder standing. *c* 1710 CELIA FIENNES *Diary* (1888) 68 The Skull was whole and the teeth firme, tho' of so many yeares standing. 1780 *Mirror* No. 86 It expelled a gout, of thirty years standing. 1796 PEGGE *Anonym.* (1809) 49 This is reckoned a proverb of a late standing. 1801 STRUTT *Sports & Past.* I. i. 13 These privileges were of ancient standing. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. I. ii, There is a quarrel of twenty-five years' standing with the Parlement. 1888 BRYCE *Amer. Commw.* II. xl. 89 Other restrictions..such as the exclusion of clergymen, which still exists in six States, and is of old standing. 1891 *Law Times* XC. 395/1 She was suffering from tuberculosis of long standing.

c. Age (of a tree).

1830 J. G. STRUTT *Sylva Brit.* 3 An oak of sixty years standing will in twenty-four years double its contents of timber. 1837 P. KEITH *Bot. Lex.* 245 If we estimate its [the oak's] standing upon the principle of the usual rule, we shall have to give it an antiquity of upwards of 2000 years.

8. Length of service, experience, or residence; position as determined by seniority in membership of a university, a profession, etc.

1580 G. HARVEY in Grosart *Spenser's Wks.* I. 436 What greater and more odious infamye for one of my standinge in the universitye and profession abroade then to be reckoned in the Beade-roule of Inglish Rimers. 1648 JENKYN *Blind Guide* i. 7 Sundry who exceed Master Goodwin in standing, and very much in understanding. 1651 LAMONT *Diary* (Maitl. Club) 26 They came in order to the king (from the youngest in standing to the eldest). 1711 STEELE *Spect.* No. 252 P 3, ¶ am a Practitioner in the Law of some standing, and have heard many eminent Pleaders in my time. 1713 *Guardian* (1756) I. No. 2. 14 He was sent for a little before he was of bachelor's standing. 1740 J. CLARKE *Educ. Youth* (ed. 3) 120 School-boys, of the oldest Standing. *a* 1790 T. WARTON in *Boswell's Johnson* an. 1754, One of the fellows, and of Johnson's standing. 1803 *Gradus ad Cantabr.* 131 *Standing*; academical age, or rank. 'Of what standing are you? I am a Senior Soph.' 1821 LAMB *Elia* Ser. I. *Old & New Schoolm.*, I know less geography than a schoolboy of six weeks' standing. 1841 THACKERAY *Gt. Hoggarty Diam.* vi, The Company was only four years old, and the oldest clerk in it had not six months more standing in it than I. 1896 FIRTH *Munic. Lond.* 42 Such of the Liverymen of the various City Companies as are of one year's standing, free of the City. 1888 BURGON *12 Gd. Men* I. i. 69 He inquired after my standing in the University. 1892 *Law Times* XCIII. 550/1 To whose kind co-operation I, as a judge of long standing, feel that I ought to pay my tribute.

b. of a thing.

1885 R. L. & F. STEVENSON *Dynamiter* i, One of those gigantic Highlanders of wood which have almost risen to the standing of antiquities.

¶ **c.** (A person's) age. *rare.*

1789 CHARLOTTE SMITH *Ethelinde* (1814) II. 113 You was considering how much younger you look than she does, though you are, I suppose, about the same standing.

9. Grade or rank in society, a profession, the world of commerce, religion, or the like; status.

1607 SHAKS. *Timon* I. i. 31 *Pain.* A Picture sir...*Poet.* Admirable: How this grace Speakes his owne standing: what a mentall power This eye shootes forth. 1727 DE FOE *Eng. Tradesm.* i. (1841) 7 The young Man should confine himself absolutely to such as are of like standing with himself. 1844 H. H. WILSON *Brit. India* III. ix. III. 529 Barristers of high standing. 1862 TROLLOPE *Orley Farm* XXXV, She also thought of Sir Peregrine's grey hairs, and of his proud standing in the county. 1866 CRUMP *Banking* i. 12 We must..keep before us the commercial standing of the countries in which these banks were created. 1866 MRS. GASKELL *Wives & Dau.* XIII, She took standing with him as a young lady at once. 1867 SMILES *Huguenots* vii. (1880) 121 Satisfactory evidence was required of the character and religious standing of the new refugees. 1889 M. CREIGHTON *Hist. Ess.* vii. (1902) 232 Men of some standing in the neighbourhood were chosen. 1902 VIOLET JACOB *Sheep-Stealers* ix, Now that he had become a man of money and standing.

† **10.** [Perh. from the *ppl. a.*] A tree left standing, a standard. Also, a supporting pole. *Obs.*

1580 in *Collect.* (O.H.S.) I. 237 He will always leave sufficient standards and standinges. 1800 *Hull Advertiser* 7 June 3/3 The country people went into the hop-gardens ..and some pulled down the standings.

11. *attrib.* and *Comb.*: † **standing-bar,** a bar which brings a person to a stand; **standing-bench,** a bench adapted for work to be done standing; **standing-ground,** ground upon which a contest is or may be fought or upon which a stand is or may be made, *lit.* and *fig.*; ground upon which a person or thing may (safely) stand, *lit.* and *fig.*; † **standing part,** the part or rôle of one who stands; **standing point** = STANDPOINT; **standing-post,** the spot where one stands; **standing room,** space in which to stand; accommodation for persons or a person standing; † **standing stool,** a stool for the support of a child while learning to walk. Also STANDING PLACE.

1720 WATERLAND *Eight Serm.* viii. 319 Baptism; which was one of the Best Fences to the true Faith, and a *standing-Bar to most Heresies. 1866 *Chamb. Encycl.* VIII. 691/1 A simple..work-bench, at which shoes may be made standing. Of this *standing-bench, we offer a sketch. 1846 W. H. MILL *Five Serm.* (1848) 51 In opposing them we shall proceed..on that firm *standing-ground which all our truly great Divines have marked out, of adherence to the principles of the Ancient Church. 1864 HUXLEY *Compar. Anat.* vi. 87 Only those [systems of classification] published..since our knowledge of the anatomy of these animals has approached completeness, have now any scientific standing-ground. 1865 KINGSLEY *Herew.* vii, How villainous for men on foot, not only to face knights but to bring them down to their own standing ground by basely cutting off their horses' heads! 1874 STUBBS *Const. Hist.* I. iv. 60 The concessions..had given the invaders a standing-ground. 1895 *Educat. Rev.* Sept. 120 It offers us a sure standing-ground for our educational theory. 1611 B. JONSON *Catiline* v. ii, *Crassvs.* Let vs now take the *standing part. *Caesar.* We must... Yet I would faine helpe these wretched men. 1862 F. HALL *Hindu Philos. Syst.* 174 The Vedántins allege, that, from the *standing-point of the true state of existence, Brahma alone is real. 1871 L. STEPHEN *Playgr. Eur.* (1894) iii. 81 A lovely and almost level ridge..connected it [the mountain top] with our standing-point. 1889 JESSOPP *Coming of Friars* vi. 294 We start from a standing-point..in advance of that of our forefathers. 1905 W. HOLMAN HUNT *Pre-Raphaelitism* I. xiv. 400 A track leading to it from our *standing-post. 1603 *Reg. Mag. Sig. Scot.* 514/2 To pay for *standand room, housmaill and uphalding of the saidis hallis and commowne merkett-place. 1812 H. & J. SMITH *Rej. Addr., Theatre,* No room for standing, mis-called standing-room. 1833 LOUDON *Encycl. Archit.* § 757 The floor of the standing-room [in a cow-house] ought to be perfectly level. 1837 BARHAM *Ingol. Leg.*, '*Monstre' Balloon,* You'll scarcely get standing room, much less a seat. 1843 *Penny Cycl.* XXVII. 181/1 (*Weaving.*) Other persons are renters of what is termed a 'shop of frames', containing eight or ten frames, let, with standing-room, &c., to the workmen. 1856 'STONEHENGE' *Brit. Sports* II. VIII. i. 462/2 The cabin is obliged to be left partially open, because there is not standing-room beneath the deck. 1600 *Weakest goeth to Wall* F 3, Get him a *standing stoole, And then perhaps the child will learne to goe. 1656 R. FLETCHER *Martial's Epigr.* etc. 130 The elf dares peep abroad, the pretty foole Can wag without a truckling standing-stoole.

Standing (stæ·ndiŋ), *ppl. a.* [f. STAND *v.* + -ING 2.] **I.** That stands upright or on end.

1. Of a person, an animal, a statue: That keeps an upright stationary position on the feet. † Also *rarely* of the limb used. Also *fig.*

1576 FLEMING *Panopl. Epist.* 86 The standing image which he hath set in ye Oratorie pulpit. 1611 BIBLE *Lev.* xxvi. 1 Ye shall make you no Idoles.., neither reare you vp a standing image. 1714 PARKYNS *Inn-Play* (ed. 2) 56 Throw your Lockt Leg against his standing Toe. *Ibid.* Your standing Leg. 1899 MARG. BENSON & GOURLAY *Temple of Mut* I. 8 Two colossal standing statues.

absol. a 1300 *Cursor M.* 27581 We may see bitide and ofsise þe standand fall, the falland rise.

b. *slang.* (See quots.)

a 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s. v. *Budge, Standing-Budge*, the Thieves Scout or Perdu. 1851 MAYHEW *Lond. Labour* I. 102 An elderly man..stood up to speak on behalf of the 'paper-workers' 'flying-stationers' and 'standing-patterers'. 1859 *Holten's Slang Dict.* 101 *Standing patterers*, men who take a stand on the curb of a public thoroughfare, and deliver prepared speeches to effect a sale of any articles they have to vend.

c. said of posture.

1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* III. vi. v, And we..endeavoured to talk gallantly in a standing posture.

d. *transf.* Of an action: Performed in a standing posture.

1637 RUTHERFORD *Lett.* (1836) I. 324 Sometimes he [Jesus] sendeth me out a standing drink, and whispereth a word through the wall. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* VI. 243 That Warr.. sometimes on firm ground A standing fight, then soaring on main wing Tormented all the Air. 1856 KANE *Arct. Expl.* II. xxviii. 284 Now, with incessant labor and standing-hauls, she moved at a snail's pace. 1870 *Mil. Engineering* (1879) I. II. ix. § 110 The mode of executing the sap..is done in two ways, called kneeling sap, and standing sap, from the attitude in which the leading sapper works.

2. Of vegetation: That stands erect (in growth); growing (as distinguished from cut, felled or laid low by a storm or the like).

1382 WYCLIF *Hos.* viii. 7 A stondynge stalk is *not* in hem. 1535 COVERDALE *Judg.* xv. 5 And thus he brent ye stoukes and the stondinge corne. 1625 MASSINGER *New Way* II. i, I'le make my men breake ope his fences, Ride o're his standing corne. 1666 DRYDEN *Ann. Mirab.* cxii, When rolling Thunders roar, And sheets of Lightning blast the standing Field. 1707 MORTIMER *Husb.* 427, I suppose I shall be asked how, in a standing Wood, I could carry the Path so streight. 1807 P. GASS *Jrnl.* 131 The hills come close in upon the banks of it, covered thick with standing timber and fallen trees. 1866 ROGERS *Agric. & Prices* I. ii. 19 It was found advantageous to sell the standing grass.

b. (See quots.)

1884 W. MILLER *Plant-n.* 208 *Ipomopsis elegans.* Standing Cypress. 1891 *Century Dict.*, *Standing-cypress*, a common biennial garden-flower, *Gilia coronopifolia* (*Ipomopsis elegans*), native in the southern United States.

3. Of an inanimate thing: That stands up, upright, or on end; that is set in a vertical position. Also occas. *standing-up.*

a 1539 *Cartul. Abb. de Rievalle* (Surtees) 339 Other iij wyndows w^t^ a standyng bar in euery wyndow and iii crosse barres. 1570 BILLINGSLEY *Euclid* XI. xxix. 341 Standing lines are called those fower right lines of euery parallelipipedon which ioyne together the angles of the vpper and nether bases of the same body. 1596 SHAKS. 1 *Hen. IV*, II. iv. 274 What is like thee? You Tailors yard,..you vile standing tucke. 1611 ROWLANDS *Knaue of Hearts* (1612) B 3, Let vs haue standing Collers, in the fashion. 1846 FAIRHOLT *Costume* (1885) II. 157 The fall..not being so readily put out of order as the large standing-lace ruff, inasmuch as it reposed on the shoulders. 1853 SURTEES *Sponge's Sp. Tour* (1893) 9 His waistcoats..were..made with good honest standing-up stiff collars.

† **b.** *Standing strake.* Naut. (See quot. 1644.)

a 1618 RALEIGH *Royal Navy* 12 We are forced to lye at trye with our maine Course and Missen, which with a deep keel and standing streake she will performe. 1644 MANWAYRING *Seamans Dict.* 102 Some ships are built, with a standing strake, or two, that is, when there is the whole

bredth of a planck or two, rising from the keele, before they come to the floare timbers.

c. *Standing pillars*: the door posts of a carriage.

1837 W. B. ADAMS *Carriages* 88 In the central portion of the bottom sides are framed the door posts, called 'standing pillars'. 1912 H. J. BUTLER *Motor Bodies* 14 The toe of the front standing pillar.

d. Remaining erect; not fallen or overthrown. † Also, Already erected.

a 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 24 May 1695, We made a report of the state of Greenwich House, and how the standing part might be made serviceable at present for £6,000 and what ground would be requisite for the whole design. 1823 SCOTT *Quentin D.* v, [All] were killed in defending the castle; and there is not a burning hearth or a standing stone in all Glen-houlakin. 1892 P. LINDLEY *Tourist-Guide to Continent* (new ed.) 36 Broken flights of steps ascend..into yet standing fragments of the keep.

4. Having a foot or feet, a base, or a stem and base upon which to stand, esp. in *standing bowl, cup, nut* (see NUT *sb.*[1] 2), *piece* (of plate). *Obs.* exc. *Hist.*

1420 in *E. E. Wills* (1882) 46 A stondyng cuppe of seluer y-clepyd a chales cuppe. 1424 *Ibid.* 57 Also I wull þat Anneys my doughter haue þe standing pece þat was my faders, keuered. 1459 *Paston Lett.* I. 470 Item, ij. stondyng candilstikkes. *Ibid.* 486 Item, ij. staundyng aundyris. 1594 GREENE & LODGE *Looking Gl.* (1598) D 3 b, Fetch me that sweet wine,..Powre it into a standing bowle of gold. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* XXXIII. xii. II. 483 A broad goblet or standing peece there was of his making. 1608 SHAKS. *Per.* II. iii. 65 Say wee drinke this standing boule of wine to him. 1820 SCOTT *Monast.* xxxiv, There was neither mazer-dish nor standing-cup upon the little table. 1843 PUGIN *Apol. Rev. Chr. Arch.* 81 b, On the step, two high standing candlesticks. *Ibid.* A standing altar cross. 1871 A. NESBITT *Catal. Slade Coll. Glass* 70 Blue Standing Cup.

5. Of a piece of furniture: That rests upon its base when set up for use (as distinguished from 'hanging' or 'leaning'). *Standing ladder* = step-ladder.

1485 *Rec. St. Mary at Hill* 29 A grete, new, standyng almerye with iij levys. 1503 *Maldon* (Essex) *Court Rolls* (Bundle 62, no. 7), 1 standyng cuppord. 1527 in *Archæologia* XXXVI. 223 Item too standyng deskes, too reide lessons off. 1726 SWIFT *Gulliver* II. vii, A kind of wooden machine, ..formed like a standing ladder. 1806–7 J. BERESFORD *Miseries Hum. Life* (1826) xx. ii, A standing screen which perpetually belies its name. 1834 MARRYAT *P. Simple* iii, I miss my regular watch very much..and I don't much fancy a standing bed-place...Nothing like a hammock, after all.

† **b.** *Standing bed* (or *bedstead*): a high bedstead, as distinguished from a truckle-bed. *Obs.*

1485 *Rec. St. Mary at Hill* 28 In the Cheffe Chaumbre a standyng bed, made with estrychborde. 1588 *Lanc. Wills* (1857) II. 75 The great standinge bedd wth the wheele bedd under yt in the greate chamber. 1598 SHAKS. *Merry W.* IV. v. 7. 1624 in *Archæologia* XLVIII. 138 In the childrens chamber, a standing and a trundle bedsteed.

6. *Naval Arch.* Of a bevel or bevelling: Forming an angle greater than a right angle; obtuse.

1754 M. MURRAY *Shipbuilding* in Falconer *Dict. Marine* (1780) s.v. *Bevelling*, But if the timber is not hewed square ..[and] if a square be applied to it, there will be wood wanting either at the upper or lower side...When the wood is deficient at the under-side, it is called under-bevelling; and when it is deficient in the upper side, it is called standing-bevelling. 1874 THEARLE *Naval Arch.* I. iv. § 44. 53 Their bevellings are always standing, or greater than a right angle.

II. That remains at rest or in a fixed position.

7. Of water, a piece of water: Still, not ebbing or flowing, stagnant; also *rarely* of air.

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XIV. liv. (1495) 487 In dyches is..bothe rennynge and stondynge water. *c* 1400 *Secreta Secret., Gov. Lordsh.* 79 Pay ar vnhelfull, as þes stondyng waters. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 285/2 Lake, or stondynge watur, *lacus*. 1586 MARLOWE *1st Pt. Tamburl.* v. ii, Noisome parbreak of the Stygian snakes, which fills the nooks of hell with standing air. 1596 SHAKS. *Merch. V.* I. i. 89 There are a sort of men, whose visages Do creame and mantle like a standing pond. 1681 DRYDEN *Abs. & Achit.* I. 137 The standing Lake soon floats into a Floud. 1787 BEST *Angling* (ed. 2) 5 But eels never breed in standing waters that are without springs. 1831 BREWSTER *Optics* iv. 33 If we suppose the surface BB' to be that of standing water, placed horizontally.

fig. 1601 SHAKS. *Twel. N.* I. v. 168 Tis with him in standing water, betweene boy and man. 1874 L. STEPHEN *Hours in Library* (1892) II. iii. 71 Coleridge..threw a great stone into the standing pool of contemporary thought.

b. *Mining.* (See quots.)

1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-mining* 238 *Standing fire*, a fire in a mine continuing to smoulder for a long time. *Ibid.*, *Standing gas*, a body of fire-damp known to exist in a mine, though fenced off.

† **8.** Stiff, rigid. **a.** Of a limb or member of the body. Also *rarely* of the eyes: Projecting. [? After L. *stantes oculi*, Ovid *Fasti* VI. 133.] *Obs.*

1340 *Ayenb.* 216 Ase bye[þ] þe fole wyfmen þet guo[þ] mid stondinde nhicke. *c* 1400 *Master of Game* (MS. Digby 182) xv, [Good wolf-hounds should have] stondyng eeres and sharpe aboue. 1649 BP. REYNOLDS *Hosea* iv. 79 A hollow and standing eye.

† **b.** *Cookery.* Of a stiff consistency (as distinguished from 'running'. *Obs.*

c 1420 *Liber Cocorum* (1862) 14 But loke þat hit be not to þyn, But stondand. *c* 1440 *Anc. Cookery* in *Househ. Ord.* (1790) 431 Thyck bit with floure of rys, that hit be welle stondynge.

9. Of a thing: At a standstill. Of a machine, tool, or the like: Not in operation.

1583 HIGINS *Junius' Nomenclator* 337 *Æquilibrium*,.. standing weight: euen weight. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* IV. 695 Ixion..leans attentive on his standing Wheel. 1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-mining* 237 *Standing*, not at work, not going forward, idle. *Ibid.*, *Standing bobby*, an exploded shot which rips the coal but does not blow the stemming out.

† **b.** *Standing quoin.* (See quots.) *Obs.*

1626 [see CANTING *ppl. a.*[1] 2.] 1696 PHILLIPS s.v. *Coin*, Standing Coins are Billets or Pipe-Stave to make the Cask fast that they cannot stir nor give way. 1711 *Milit. & Sea Dict.*, s. v. *Quoyn*, The standing Quoyns, made of Barrel-Boards, about four Fingers broad.

10. That is used in a fixed position.

1634 *Ir. Act* 10 *Chas. I*, c. 14 § 1 Setting of stop-Nets, Still-Nets, or standing-Nets fixed upon posts. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 749 The pieces of ore are sometimes merely stirred about with a shovel, in a trough filled with water. This is called a standing buddle. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.*, Standing-vise. 1895 G. J. BURNS *Gloss. Archit.* etc., *Standing waste*, an overflow pipe fixed to the bottom of a cistern.

† **b.** *Standing prick*, a fixed archery target. *Obs.*

1468, 1541–2 [see ROVER[1] 1].

11. That remains in one spot; that is not moved or carried from place to place; stationary. *Obs.* exc. *Mil.* in *standing camp.*

1469 in *Househ. Ord.* (1790) 98 The estate, rule & governaunce of the seid Prince in his ridinge, beinge departed from his standing housholde. *a* 1500 in Kingsford *Chron. London* (1905) 189 They were servid well..and aswell seasoned mete as it had been dressed in a stondyng place. 1553–5 *Extracts Burgh Rec. Edin.* (1871) II. 289 The sowme ..debursit be the farmorars of the commoun mylnis..upon the standing grayth thairof. 1590 SIR J. SMYTHE *Disc. Weapons* 2 b, The..standing watch (as we were wont to terme it) they now call after the French, or Wallons, *Corps du gard.* 1598 STOW *Surv.* 75 Besides the standing watches all in bright harnesse in euery warde..there was also a marching watch, that passed through the principall streetes thereof. 1603 R. JOHNSON *Kingd. & Commw.* 161 Townes they plant none, nor other standing buildings, but haue moouing houses. 1609 HOLLAND *Amm. Marcell.* XXIV. xii. 258 We trusted vpon our standing campe. 1642 *Docq. Lett. Pat. at Oxf.* (1837) 336 The Office of Keeper of his Majesties standinge Wardrobe within the Castle of Windsor. 1684 WOOD *Life* July (O. H. S.) III. 102 Ralph Sheldon..spared not any mony to set up a standing library in his house at Weston. 1896 BADEN-POWELL *Matabele Campaign* ix, We got back to our standing camp outside the hills about mid-day.

† **b.** *Standing house, standing mansion-house*: a permanent or fixed dwelling-house; *to keep, (take up one's) standing house*, to abstain from journeying. *Obs.*

1586 HARRISON *England* II. vi. 167/2 The beere that is vsed at noble mens tables in their fixed and standing houses, is commonlie of a yeare old. 1589 *Mar-Martine* A 2, Abbots were fat..The whoresons lov'de their ease, Yet standing house by them was kept. 1596 NORDEN *Progr. Piety* (1847) 161 Having thus far proceeded..we must be forced to take up our standing house, and for a time abide in the earthly mansions of our bodies. *c* 1645 HOWELL *Lett.* I. IV. XVIII. (1890) 234 That your Grace would settle a standing Mansion-house and Family, that Suitors may know whither to repair constantly. 1671 E. CHAMBERLAYNE *Pres. St. Eng.* I. xiii. 203 The Yeomen of the Guard...Their Office is to wait upon the King in his standing Houses.

† **c.** Taken 'as it stands'. *Obs.*

1788 JEFFERSON *Writ.* (1853) II. 407 He rented a house with standing furniture, such as tables, chairs, presses, &c., and brought all other necessaries.

d. *Printing.* (See quots.)

1770 LUCKOMBE *Hist. Printing* 227 Irregular Bodied Letter of the smaller sizes sometimes serves the ends of proprietors of standing and selling Copies. 1888 JACOBI *Printers' Vocab.* 131 Formes not distributed after printing are said to be 'standing'.

12. That remains stationary while another part, or other parts, move.

1680 MOXON *Mech. Exerc.* (1703) 219 Then remove the standing point of the Compasses to either of the next Divisions..and in like manner describe another Circle. 1832 BREWSTER *Nat. Magic* ii. 27 The rotation should be effected round a standing axis by wheels and pinions. 1832 *Instr. & Reg. Cavalry* II. 11 Dressing is to the 'wheeling' flank, and distance of files is preserved from the 'standing' flank. 1881 GREENER *Gun* 266 Which process brings the breech ends of barrels nearer to the face of the standing-breech.

b. *Naut.* Chiefly in special collocations, as **standing rigging**, the fixed part of a vessel's rigging which serves as a support for the masts and is not hauled upon, as distinguished from the running rigging; **standing ropes** *pl.*, the ropes composing the standing rigging; so also in the names of various ropes and appliances, as *standing backstay, block, bowsprit*, etc.; **standing part** (of a rope, sheet, etc.), that end of a thing which is made fast as distinguished from the end, hauled upon.

a 1625 *Nomenclator Navalis* (Harl. MS. 2301), Standing roapes. 1642 H. BOND *Boatswain's Art* 3, 2 Lanniards of the Spritsaile standing Lifts. 1644 MANWAYRING *Seamans Dict.* s. v., The standing parts are those parts of running roapes (or rather that end of a running roape) which is made fast to any part of the ship, to distinguish it from the other part, whereon we use to hale. *Ibid.*, *Standing roapes*, are counted all those roapes..which are not used to be removed, or to run in any blocks. 1745 *Observ. Conc. Navy* 64 Every Ship should have her standing Masts constantly in and rigg'd, with her Booms and Stores aboard, sufficient to compleat her other Rigging. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* I. v. 56 The other ships of the squadron fixed new standing rigging. 1791 SMEATON *Edystone L.* (1793) § 143 We fixed the standing block to the stern timbers of our vessel,..bringing the chain along the deck to the moveable purchase block. 1846 A. YOUNG *Naut. Dict.* 25 Ropes extended from the..mast heads, to the after part of each channel for the support of these masts. They are distinguished by the name of Standing-Backstays. *Ibid.* 173 A large sail extended on the jib-stay to the extremity of..the jib-boom...It gets the name of the standing-jib, in contradistinction to the flying-jib. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.*, *Standing Bowsprit*, one that is fixed permanently in its place, not the running-in bowsprit of a cutter. 1874 BEDFORD *Sailor's Pocket Bk.* vi. (1875) 214 Sling a dipping lug ¼ from the foremost yard-arm; standing lug ¼.

III. That stands or continues.

13. Continuing without diminution or change; constant, permanent. Of colours: Permanent, unfading.

c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* i. (*Peter*) 22 Peter of 'petra' may be tane..for men may a stane neuir bow;..and þis petir, a-beove þe lafe, a stannand luf to criste can hafe. 1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* VI. 292 Pitching our Tents beside a source or standing Well. 1646 JENKYN *Remora* 16 A transient thought, becomes not a standing and a permanent mercy. 1716 ADDISON *Free-holder* No. 22 ¶ 2 The Landlord..worked up his complexion to a standing crimson by his zeal for the prosperity of the church. 1791 HAMILTON *Berthollet's Dyeing* I. I. II. iv. 200 This ground being a standing dye is not removed by the proof. 1831 CARLYLE *Sart. Res.* I. iii, His age, which was of that standing middle sort you could only guess at. 1900 R. GUTHRIE *Kitty Fagan* 183 Broon an' black, good stan'in' colours!

† **b.** *Math.* = CONSTANT *a.* 5. *Obs.*

1743 W. EMERSON *Fluxions* 4 The first Letters of the Alphabet, *a, b, c, &c.* are..put for standing Quantities; and the last, *x, y, z, &c.* for variable or flowing Quantities.

† **c.** Of a work of art or literature: Enduring, 'standard'. *Obs.*

1698 W. WOTTON in *Evelyn's Mem.* (1857) III. 372, I had almost forgotten to thank you for your honourable mention of my poor performances in so standing a work. 1710 SHAFTESB. *Charac.* (1737) I. IV. iii. 144 The standing Pieces of good Artists must be form'd after a more uniform way.

† **d.** *Standing measure*: a standard of measurement. *Obs.*

1668 DRYDEN *Ess. Dram. Poesie* 8 It was necessary, before they proceeded further, to take a standing measure of their Controversie. 1691 LOCKE *Lowering of Interest* Wks. 1714 II. 20 The value of any thing, compar'd with its self, or with a standing Measure. *Ibid.* 23 Supposing Wheat a standing Measure, that is, that there is constantly the same Quantity of it in Proportion to its vent.

14. a. Of employment, income, wages, prices, etc.: Fixed, settled, not casual, fluctuating, or occasional.

1473 *Rental Bk. Cupar-Angus* (1879) I. 190 He payand..yerly to ws of standand male x[lb] of vsuale mone. *a* 1530 J. HEYWOOD *Play Weather* (1533) D ij b, I know not what god geueth in standynges fees [*Pread with ed.* 1565 standyng fees] But the deuyls seruauntes haue casweltees A hundred tymes mo then goddes seruauntes haue. 1549 THOMAS *Hist. Italie* 5 Many of theim [*sc.* artificers] liue as well as they that haue standyng liuinges. 1622 *Pursuit Hist. Lazarillo* (1672) T 3, To hear her..threaten with such arrogancy, a man would have thought she had given me.. thirty duckets a year standing wages. 1670 R. MONTAGU in *Buccleuch MSS.* (Hist. MSS. Comm.) I. 468 My standing allowance from Michaelmas last till Christmas. 1730 *Lett. to Sir W. Strickland rel. Coal Trade* 19 Keeping a Fleet in standing Pay. 1901 *Macm. Mag.* Apr. 455/1 There are some booksellers who have no standing-price for their wares, but rate them according to what they think each customer will give.

b. of attributes.

1640 BP. REYNOLDS *Passions* ii. Wks. (1658) 899 The[re]as of Mens desires are often turned, by reason of some sudden or emergent Occurrences, contrary to the standing temper and complexion of the body. 1697 COLLIER *Ess. Mor. Subj.* II. (1709) 125 'Tis true, a Man cannot command the standing Features and Complexion; but the Diversities of Passion are under Disposal. 1835 STERLING in Carlyle *Life* II. ii. (1872) 98 Under this head, of language, may be mentioned ..two standing characteristics of the Professor's style.

15. That continues in existence or operation; that continues to be (what the noun specifies); that does not pass away.

Standing order (Parliament): see quot. 1844. *Standing order, rule* (Mil.): see quot. 1802.

1662 STILLINGFL. *Orig. Sacræ* II. v. § 3 He layes this down as a standing rule among them. 1686 HORNECK *Crucif. Jesus* xiv. 326 The very Heathens..made it a standing maxim. That the Gods sold all their gifts for labour and industry. 1682 SHADWELL *Medal John Bayes* 3 Thou never mak'st, but art a standing Jest. 1710 PRIDEAUX *Orig. Tithes* ii. 42 The Decisions of Judges..are made the standing Rules. 1737 *Gentl. Mag.* VII. 583 The standing Order of the House, made Jan. 16, 1735, for restraining the Counsel at the Bar of that House..from offering Evidence. 1754 SHERLOCK *Disc.* (1759) I. x. 275 These are the standing Proofs of the Being and Goodness of God. 1780 BENTHAM *Princ. Legist.* xix. § 15 It is a standing topic of complaint. 1781 COWPER *Expost.* 110 Then God's own image on the soul impress'd Becomes a mock'ry, and a standing jest. 1802 C. JAMES *Milit. Dict.* s.v. *March* F ff 3/1 It is a standing rule in column, that every regiment should march with the same front, that the regiment does which precedes it. *Ibid.* s.v. *Order, Standing Orders*, certain general rules and instructions which are to be invariably followed, and are not subject to the temporary intervention of rank. 1844 MAY *Parlt.* II. vii. 131 Both houses have agreed, at various times, to standing orders, for the permanent guidance and order of their proceedings; which, if not vacated or rescinded, endure from one Parliament to another, and are of equal force in all. 1859 MILL *Liberty* ii. 40 The beliefs..have no safeguard to rest on, but a standing invitation to the whole world to prove them unfounded. 1864 C. KNIGHT *Passages Work. Life* I. i. 109 This is the standing joke nightly repeated. 1869 TYNDALL in *Fortn. Rev.* Feb. 237 The two great standing enigmas of meteorology—the colour of the sky, and the polarization of its light. 1874 L. STEPHEN *Hours in Library* (1892) II. ii. 39 Burke was..a standing

refutation of the theory. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* IV. 42/1 By referring to what is still the standing authority upon the question.

†**b.** *Standing lottery*, one that remains open and undrawn for a specified long period. *Obs.*

1615 Capt. Smith *Virginia* iv. 117 We manifested our intents, to haue drawn out the great standing Lottery long before this. 1622 Malynes *Anc. Law-Merch.* 207 There are two manner of Lotaries, namely, Standing Lotaries, and Running Lotaries; the first limitted for a continuance of time to bee drawne at the end thereof, without intermission by day and night; the latter to bee drawne daily.

†**c.** Of a building: Permanent, not temporary.

1624 *Issues Exchequer Jas. I.* (1836) 294 For making divers new ridings within his Majesty's park at Theobalds, ..making of standing bridges, levelling of ground [etc.].

16. Habitually used; stock. *Standing dish*: see Dish *sb.* 2 b. †Of clothing or trappings: Ordinarily worn, 'everyday'.

1492 in *Bury Wills* (Camden) 75 My best stondyng gowne furred w^t bever. 1533 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* VI. 178 To be standing housouris to the grete hors, xviij elnis braid gray. 1541 *Ibid.* VIII. 28 Item,..To be standing howsis to the Kingis grace hors, lxxxiiij elnis thre quarteris braid gray. 1599 B. Jonson *Ev. Man out of Hum.* II. vi, He hath shift of names, sir: some call him Apple-John, some signior Whiffe; marry, his maine standing name is Cavalier Shift. 1667 O. Heywood *Heart-Treas.* i. 7 A plain allusion to an housekeepers old store, which makes a daily standing dish. 1705 Addison *Italy, Venice* 101 There are Four Standing Characters that enter into every Piece that comes on the Stage, the Doctor, Harlequin, Pantalone and Coviello. 1758 Johnson *Idler* No. 12 ¶ 11 He had a standing elegy and epithalamium, of which only the first and last leaves were varied. 1776 R. Twiss *Tour Irel.* 37 Potatoes, which form a standing dish at every meal. 1861 T. A. Trollope *La Beata* II. xv. 148 He was fain to plead the standing excuse of a bad headache. 1868 Gladstone *Juv. Mundi* ii. (1870) 31 The standing appellations of the army in the Iliad are these three, Danaoi, Argeioi, and Achaioi. 1868 Freeman *Norm. Conq.* (1876) II. App. 641 'Feri' seems to be a standing epithet for all Saxons.

17. Permanently and authoritatively fixed or set up; stated, established, organized, regular.

1549 Coverdale, etc. *Erasm. Par. Gal.* v. 3-4 Whoso is content to receyue circumcision, muste lykewise therwith receyue sacrifices..standing fasting dayes, with suche other lyke. 1563 *Homilies* II. *Place & Time of Prayer* I. N nn j, The godly Christian people..began to chose them a standyng day in the weke, to come together in. 1578 in *Househ. Ord.* (1790) 250 Thirty standing posts appointed 18. 5. 0. 1609 in *Rep. Secret Comm. Post Office* App. (1844) 42 In..Kent, where the stages of our standing posts, are now established and appointed. 1649 Milton *Eikon.* vi. 58 Which not onely the general Maxims of Policy gainsay, but eev'n our own standing Laws. *a* 1700 Evelyn *Diary* 23 Apr. 1661, [There followed, at the Coronation] Masters of standing offices being no Councellors. 1790 Burke *Fr. Rev.* 269 This standing, unalterable, fundamental government would make..that territory truly and properly an whole. 1841 Myers *Cath. Th.* iv. § 29. 318 The Schools of the Prophets, and a standing Prophetic Order,..were formally established by Samuel. 1846 Grote *Greece* (1862) II. xx. 493 A standing caravan commerce with Phenicia.

b. Of a legislative, administrative, or other body: Permanently constituted.

1625 Bacon *Ess., Counsel* (Arb.) 329, I commend also standing Commissions; As for Trade; for Treasure. *a* 1700 Evelyn *Diary* 10 Mar. 1671, To London about passing my patent as one of the standing Council for Plantations. 1735 Bolingbroke *Parties* 37 A standing Parliament, or the same Parliament long continued, changes the very Nature of the Constitution. 1739 Butler *Serm.* Wks. 1874 II. 217 A common form of Christian worship..with a standing ministry of instruction and discipline. 1810 Bentham *Packing* (1821) 155 In packing into a standing Board a set of dependent Commissioners. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* III. III. v, Five Judges; a standing Jury..: they are subject to no Appeal. 1906 H. Montgomery & Cambray *Dict. Polit. Phr.* 72 Standing or Grand Committees [of the House of Commons]. Two in number were set up in 1883. One, the Standing Committee on Law,..The other, the Standing Committee on Trade.

c. Of troops, etc.: Maintained on a permanent footing; esp. in *standing army*: see Army 3 b.

1603 Knolles *Hist. Turks* (1638) 235 He kept alwaies a standing army of forty thousand horse, and threescore thousand foot. 1655 *Clarke Papers* (Camden) III. 24 Commissions for raiseing of horse and foote, which are to bee in the nature of a standing Militia. 1673 Temple *Observ. United Prov.* i. 22 The States first refused to raise any more moneys either for the Spaniards pay, or their own standing-Troops. *a* 1700 Evelyn *Diary* 9 Nov. 1685, The King in his speech required the continuance of a standing force instead of a militia. 1732 Swift *Beast's Confess.* (1738) 17 'Twas known..That, Standing Troops were his Aversion. 1734 Pope *Sat.* II. ii. 154 My Life's amusements have been just the same, Before, and after, Standing Armies came. 1838 Thirlwall *Greece* xxxviii. V. 55 He kept a standing army of 6000 mercenaries in his pay. 1867 Freeman *Norm. Conq.* (1876) I. vi. 512 The standing navy of England consisted of sixteen ships.

d. Of an official: Holding permanent office.

1656 *Burton's Diary* (1828) I. 159 That there should be a standing treasurer. 1658 R. Parr *Judges Charge* 31 Sirs, you that are the standing Magistrates of the County, will it be for your honour (think you) to give license to such [Tipling-houses]? 1659 Wood *Life* 12 Feb. (O.H.S.) I. 268 Nath. Crew..brought..a petition, to present to the parliament against standing Visitors in the university. 1809 *Lond. Chron.* 15 July 50/3 An opinion which the Court of Directors had taken upon the subject from the Attorney and Solicitor General, and their standing Counsel, Mr. Adam. 1867 Smyth *Sailor's Word-bk., Standing Warrants*, those officers who remain with a ship in ordinary, or on the stocks, as the gunner, carpenter, boatswain, and cook, and till 1814 the purser. 1885 *Law Rep.* 15 Q. B. D. 374 A solicitor is not a standing agent for one who has been or may be his client, to receive [etc.].

†**e.** *U.S.* (See quot. 1911). *Obs.*

1861 *Contrib. Eccl. Hist. Connecticut* 253 There arose a class of churches..which though purely Congregational in their principles and practices were not in fellowship with the churches of 'the standing order'. 1911 Webster, *Standing order*, .. the denomination established by law;—a term formerly used in Connecticut of the Congregational Church, the State church until 1818.

†**IV. 18.** *predicatively.* Consistent *with*. *Obs.*

1511-2 *Act* 3 *Hen. VIII*, c. 23 § 5 It is not convenient nor standing with good..ordre that [etc.]. 1542 Udall *Erasm. Apoph.* 77 The oratours..wer buisie enough to speake thynges standyng with right & justice. *Ibid.* 288 b, Thy dooynges o Cato dooen more nere approche vnto the spirite of prophecie, but myne are muche better standyng with frendeship. 1553 T. Wilson *Rhet.* (1909) 34 But such stubburnesse..is not standing with Iustice.

Hence † **Sta'ndingly** *adv.*, as a regular thing.

a 1641 Bp. Mountagu *Acts & Mon.* (1642) 460 They used to pray, at the third, the sixth, the ninth houre,..standingly, besides other times and houres occasionally.

Sta'nding-place. [f. Standing *vbl. sb.*]

1. A place prepared or assigned for a person or thing to stand in; a place to accommodate persons standing.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 477/1 Stondynge place, where men stondyn, *stacio*. 1561 Clough in *Burgon's Life Gresham* (1839) I. 378 In the makyng of pagents, and standyng plasys to stande uppon, to geve judgement, who shalle wyn the pryse. 1585 Higins *Junius' Nomencl.* 189/2 *Cauea*,..the court or low standing place before the stage, where the people stoode or sat togither. *Ibid.* 287/1 *Statio*,..the soldiours station or standing place, which they are appointed to keepe in the time of warre. 1869 'Mark Twain' *Innoc. Abroad* xiii. (1881) 103 A speculator bridged a couple of barrels with a board and we hired standing-places on it.

fig. 1889 *Spectator* 21 Sept., If this portion of by no means the largest of the Republics of South America has so much spare room in it, there is no need to despair of people finding standing-places in the world.

2. A place where a person takes his stand.

1736 C. Wesley *Let. Lady Ogle thorpe* in J. Telford *Methodist Hymn-bk.* (1906) 429 The vastness of the watery waste, as compared with my standing-place, called to mind the briefness of human life and the immensity of its consequences. 1856 Stanley *Sinai & Pal.* vii. (1858) 300 A high place dedicated to the heathen Nebo, as Balaam's standing-place had been consecrated to Peor.

Standing stone. [Standing *ppl. a.*] A large block of stone set upright; a menhir, monolith.

?c 1200 *Newminster Cartul.* (Surtees) 36 Et j acram versus le north de Standenstan. 13.. *Childh. Jesus* 842 in *Archiv Stud. neu. Spr.* LXXIV. 338 In a Mowntayne he gane it hele Reghte in a standande stane. *c* 1470 Henry *Wallace* v. 298 He..left him thus besyde the standand stanys. 1601 *Reg. Mag. Sig. Scot.* 391/2 Ane lang standand stane quhilk standis in direct line betuix the said Sadill-stane and the utter merche stane. 1814 Scott *Diary* 7 Aug. in *Lockhart* (1837) III. iv. 158 Ride down the loch to Scalloway...Pass a huge standing stone, or pillar. Here, it is said, the son of an old Earl of the Orkneys met his fate. 1851 D. Wilson *Preh. Ann.* (1863) I. v. 130 The most primitive of these ancient memorials are the unhewn columns, or standing stones, as they are called.

Standish (stæ·ndiʃ). *Obs.* exc. *Hist.* or *arch.* Forms: *a.* 5-6 standisshe, 6 -ys(s)he, (-yche), 6-7 standishe, 8-9 stand-dish, 6- standish. *β.* (7 standage, -ege, 8 standidge.) [Commonly believed to be f. Stand *v.* + Dish *sb.*; but evidence is wanting for such a use of *dish* as would account for the assumed combination.] A stand containing ink, pens and other writing materials and accessories (see quots.); an inkstand; also, an inkpot.

a. 1474-5 in Swayne *Sarum Church-w. Acc.* (1896) 17 Et in j quartari paupiri & in j standisshe viij d. 1480 *Wardr. Acc. Edw. IV.* (1830) 132 Standisshes with weightes and scales iij. 1590 Lodge *Euphues Gold. Leg.* ¶ 2, Reaching to her standish, she tooke penne and paper, and wrote a letter. 1607 Beaumont *Woman Hater* v. i, Secretary, fetch..the standish I answer French Letters with. 1688 Holme *Armoury* III. xiv. (Roxb.) 20/1 This fashion of Horne ..is now converted into Lead, and hath the denomination of a standish: or of tyn and soe haue both Inke place, sand box, candlestick and a long box to lay wax, pens and knife in: all fixt togather, yet all but a standish. 1747 Richardson *Clarissa* (1811) II. 249 Away went the dear girl..carrying down with her my standish, and all its furniture, and a little parcel of pens beside. 1789 Mrs. Piozzi *Journ. France* II. 361 His..writing-table..was contrived..with a square hole for the standish to drop into and not spill the ink. 1841 Dickens *Barn. Rudge* x, He wanted pen, ink, and paper. There was an old standish on the high mantel shelf containing a dusty apology for all three. 1852 Thackeray *Esmond* II. x, Pouring out his flame and his passion..pacing the room..twisting and breaking into bits the wax out of the stand-dish. 1864 *Athenæum* 11 June 801 When the veteran,..is about to lay his pen to rest in the standish.

β. 1605 *Tryall Chev.* v. i, in Bullen *Old Pl.* (1884) III. 340 The incke that's in the standage doth looke blacke. 1609 *Louth Rec.* (1891) 156 Item for a pewter standege for the Chamber iij s. iiij d. 1772 in *Cath. Rec. Soc. Publ.* I. 138 A Leathern Standidge.

¶ **b.** (See quot.)

1727 A. Hamilton *New Acc. E. Ind.* I. xi. 120 A Glass Pipe for his Tobacco, and an embroider'd Standish for it to stand in.

Standle, obs. variant of Standel.

Sta'nd-off. *attrib. phrase, a.* and *sb.* [f. vbl. phr. *stand off*: see Stand *v.* 96.]

A. *attrib. phrase* and *adj.*

1. That holds aloof from familiar intercourse; contemptuously distant in manner; reserved, unsocial.

1837 Moore *Mem.* 12 Oct. (1856) VII. 203 Lady Lansdowne objected to the number of dirty houses that come up quite close to the Castle [of Windsor]. This Lord John said.. he preferred..to the insulation of the great houses of the present day..[I] was all for the stand-off system of Lady Lansdowne; each rank in its own station. 1859 Lever *Dav. Dunn* xxiv, I want to know what he is personally; is he stiff, haughty, grave, gay, stand-off, or affable? 1888 Mrs. H. Ward *Robert Elsmere* i, People generally like the other two much better. Catherine is so stand-off. 1889 F. E. Gretton *Memory's Harkback* 102 Your fellow-passengers are rarely discourteous: but there is almost always the 'stand-off' habit with them. 1889 Mrs. Lynn Linton *Thro' Long Night* II. II. xi. 161 She..was as stiff and stand-off as a grenadier. 1894 Sala *Things Seen* I. i. 40 His occasional propensity to treat people in a distant stand-off manner.

2. *Rugby Football.* (See quot. 1910.)

1909 E. Gwyn Nicholls *Mod. Rugby Game* iii. 40 He must be capable of adequately filling the position of stand-off and of scrum half. *Ibid.* 43 The scrum half's pass should go to his stand-off colleague. 1910 *Encycl. Brit.* X. 620/2 One [half-back] stands fairly close to the scrummage and is known as the 'scrum-half', the other takes a position between the latter and the three-quarters, and is termed the stand-off-half.

B. *sb. U.S.*

1. Aversion to associate with others; aloofness.

1885 D. D. Porter *Incid. Civil War* xiv. 143 (Funk) There was a kind of 'stand-off' between the army and the navy when acting together, which prevented them from working in harmony.

2. Something which counterbalances.

1888 *Microcosm* (N. Y.) Dec. 7 We are willing to allow this judicial estimate..to count as a stand-off against all the subsidized commendations. 1890 *Atlantic Monthly* Nov. 672/1 When therefore the lawyer hears the curses..of his impatient clients, the preferences of other clients..make a complete stand-off; and he feels that the law's delay is both bad and good.

3. 'A draw or tie, as in a game; a set-off; as, the contestants agreed to call it a stand-off' (*Funk's Stand. Dict.* 1895.)

4. *slang.* 'Extension of time imposed on a creditor; postponement of payment; as, he gave me a stand-off' (*Funk's Stand. Dict.* 1895).

Hence **Stand-o'ffish** *a.* = prec. A. 1; **Stand-o'ffishness,** stand-off behaviour.

1860 *All Year Round* No. 66. 374 We are..not aristocratic, perhaps, but decidedly rich, and on that account rather high and stand-off-ish. 1881 Miss Braddon *Asphodel* II. 172 She has been very stand-offish to me ever since. 1886 P. Robinson *Teetotum Trees* 144 He even becomes a trifle haughty, and affects a stand-offishness which sits grotesquely upon him. 1888 D. C. Murray *Weaker Vessel* xxxii, I told him I did not like this pride and stand-offishness between man and man.

Stand out. [f. vbl. phr. *stand out* (after *lock-out*): see Stand *v.* 99.] A workmen's strike.

1898 *Westm. Gaz.* 12 Jan. 2/2 They are all protected by a strike clause, which says that a 'strike or stand out' by their workmen may be a sufficient excuse for non-completion of their contract. 1901 R. Murray *Hist. Hawick* I. 95 Hawick had hitherto been free from strikes, or 'stands oot', as they were called.

Stand-pat, etc.: see Stand *v.* 14.

Sta'nd-pipe, *sb.* [f. Stand *v.*]

1. A vertical pipe for the conveyance of water, gas, steam or the like to a higher level.

1850 Ogilvie. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* I. 209 [In a low-pressure engine] water is.. commonly supplied by means of a vertical stand-pipe with a small cistern at the upper end. 1889 Welch *Text Bk. Naval Archit.* xi. 127 To empty the double bottom spaces [of a ship], a suction known as a stand pipe is led from each compartment to a valve chest. *Ibid.* 129 The standpipe valve chest.

2. A pipe for attachment to a water-main furnished with a spout or nozzle to which a hose may be fixed or with a tap.

1850 Ogilvie. 1866 *Tomlinson's Cycl. Useful Arts* I. 3/1 A stand-pipe, with a flexible hose, is placed in one corner of the slaughter-house. 1883 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 5 July 7/2 The presence of several firemen with a standpipe in readiness was deemed desirable during the night.

Hence **Sta'ndpipe** *v. trans.*, to supply (a water-main) with stand-pipes.

1895 *Daily News* 22 Mar. 3/7 The Company caused the district to be stand-piped. *Ibid.*, The special operations of stand-piping and of providing for the increased draught.

Standpoint (stæ·ndpoint). [f. Stand *v.* + Point *sb.*[1], after G. *standpunkt*.]

1. A fixed point of standing; the position at which a person stands to view an object, scene or the like; a point of view.

1829 Mill *Hum. Mind* (1869) II. xiv. § 6. 150 As often as the movement [of the eyes] is repeated from the same standpoint, the optical series is repeated. 1868 Lockyer *Guillemin's Heavens* (ed. 3) 475 We want to know the distance of this tower from our stand-point without actually measuring or stepping the distance. 1907 J. A. Hodges *Elem. Photogr.* (ed. 6) 142 A suitable stand-point having been selected.

2. A mental point of view; the position (with respect to degree of information, direction of sympathies or prejudices, assumed fundamental principles, or the like) which a person occupies in relation to any object of mental contemplation.

[1836 G. C. Lewis *Lett.* (1870) 53 The letters are..those.. of a woman viewing the facts from the supposed standpunct

of Mdlle. de Morell.] 1858 H. SPENCER *Ess.* I. 169 His stand-point is far remote from the one usually regarded as scientific. 1874 L. STEPHEN *Hours in Library* (1892) I. iii. 100, I am content to look at it for the time from Pope's stand-point. 1884 H. JENNINGS *Phall.* xiv. 150 He deals with the subject simply from the orthodox and academic standpoint. 1894 DRUMMOND *Ascent Man* 12 The whole mistake of naturalism has been to interpret Nature from the standpoint of the atom.

3. A position in life or in the world. *rare*—[1].

1874 HELPS *Soc. Press.* iii. 54 They direct all, or the greatest part of, their efforts to insure a most favourable standpoint for their children.

Sta·nd-still, sta·ndstill, *sb.* and *a.* [f. vbl. phrase *to stand still*: see STILL *a.*] **A.** *sb.*

1. A state of cessation of movement; a halt, pause. *lit.* and *fig.* Chiefly in *to come, bring to a standstill, to be at a standstill.*

1702 C. MATHER *Magn. Chr.* VII. App. (1852) 597 We will here..come to a little stand still, and with mournful hearts look upon the condition of the captives. 1786 MME. D'ARBLAY *Diary* 23 Dec., I had advanced straight forward..; a matter contrary to all etiquette, which exacts a dead stand-still, and retiring to the side of the walls or houses, when any of the Royal Family appear. 1809 WELLINGTON in Gurw. *Desp.* (1837) IV. 346 If the army was not most successful this very circumstance would probably bring us to a stand-still. 1849 ROBERTSON *Serm.* Ser. I. iv. (1866) 66 The business would be at a standstill. 1852 C. W. HOSKYNS *Talpa* i. (1854) 3 The plough comes to a standstill. 1870 LOWELL *Study Wind.* (1886) 47 Those stand-stills of the air, .fore-bode a change of weather. 1878 M. FOSTER *Physiol.* III. v. § 2. 479 Stimulation with a strong constant current causes a stand-still in diastole. 1882 VINES tr. *Sachs' Bot.* 875 The growth of the motile zone is by no means at a standstill when the flowers are not performing any movements. 1890 A. W. DU BRAY *Upland Shooting* 433 When the shooter is at a standstill—be it in a blind, boat or on a pass.

2. The state of being unable to proceed, owing to exhaustion; in phrases *to ride* (a horse) *to a standstill, to row* (a competitor) *to a standstill*, and the like.

1811 *Sporting Mag.* XXXVII. 168 Osbaldeston rode his horse to a stand-still. 1912 *Throne* 7 Aug. 227/1 Barry.. rowed the New Zealander to a standstill a hundred yards from the winning post.

B. *adj.* That stands still; that is deficient in advancement or progress.

1856 MISS WARNER *Hills Shatemuc* xii, 'Taint a stand-still world, this; what's up to-day is down to-morrow. 1876 J. PARKER *Paracl.* II. Epil. 387 A standstill policy is in its very essence a blunder and a crime. 1876 GEO. ELIOT *Dan. Der.* xlii, They are a stand-still people.

Hence **Stand-stillism.** (*nonce-wd.*)

1863 W. PHILLIPS *Speeches* xxiv. 560 The stupid stand-still-ism of the Cabinet.

Stand-up, *a.* and *sb.* [f. vbl. phrase *stand up*: see STAND *v.* 103.] **A.** *adj.*

1. That stands erect; esp. of a collar, upright as distinguished from one folded over or turned down.

1812 *Sporting Mag.* XXXIX. 167 The stand-up Infantry Feather. 1813 in R. J. Macdonald *Hist. Dress R. A.* (1899) 48 A false stand-up collar of Belgian fashion. 1890 M. S. WILLIAMS *Leaves Life* II. xviii. 160 He wore a low stand-up collar and a dark cravat. 1897 *Westm. Gaz.* 24 Dec. 4/1 A whole series of fanciful 'stand-up' cards.

b. Of a person: Standing up boldly. Also *transf.* (jocular) of beer. *rare.*

1841 DICKENS *Barn. Rudge* xxxix, He was..one of the finest, stand-up men, you ever see. 1844 — *Martin Chuz.* xxv, An atmosphere of steak, and strong, stout, stand-up English beer.

c. Projecting; spec. in *Book-binding* (see quot.).

1818 *Art Bookbinding* 2 *Stand-up-bands*, the bands that the sheets are sewed too, projecting from the back.

2. Performed in a standing posture. Of a meal or other refreshment: Taken standing.

1862 *Macm. Mag.* May 28 Generally, the receptions end with stand-up suppers. 1899 *Daily News* 10 Jan. 2/7 The encouragement of hurried, stand-up drinking at a counter. 1900 *Ibid.* 1 Sept. 5/1 Double Canadian canoe race, stand-up canoe race.

b. Of a vehicle: Having standing accommodation only.

1840 *Civil Engin. & Arch. Jrnl.* III. 39/1 The fare for travelling in the stand-up-carriages amounts only to one penny a mile.

3. *Pugilism.* Of a contest: In which the combatants stand up fairly to one another without wrestling, flinching or evasion; esp. in (*a fair, square,* etc.) *stand-up fight.*

1811 [see SPARRING *vbl. sb.*[2] 1]. 1860 LD. W. LENNOX *Pict. Sporting Life* II. 7 A regular slashing mill..no manœuvering—no dodging..; a real stand-up affair—foot to foot—front to front. 1881 *Sportsman's Year-bk.* 310 Rules for Boxing. The match to be a fair stand-up boxing match, in a 24-ft. ring. 1898 W. H. BULLOCK-HALL *Romans on Riviera* v. 46 In a stand-up fight a Ligurian was considered a match for a Gaul twice his size.

fig. 1849 STOWEL *Canne's Necess.* 90 The conflict of the Puritans became a direct stand-up fight with legalized.. episcopal domination. 1872 O. W. HOLMES *Poet at Breakf.-t.* i, His face marked with strong manly furrows, records of hard thinking and square stand-up fights with life.

B. *sb.*

†1. *pl.* ? Long boots. (Cf. STARTUP.) *Obs.*

1590 GREENE *Never too late* (1600) O 1, His holy day roabes went on, his standvps new blackt, his cap faire brusht.

2. A dance. (Cf. STAND *v.* 103 c.) *vulgar.*

1861 MAYHEW *Loud. Labour* III. 202/1 It was a penny a dance for each of 'em as danced, and each stand-up took a quarter of an hour.

3. A stand-up fight.

1867 J. K. HUNTER *Retrosp. Artist's Life* xi. (1912) 112 A stand-up of one round was commenced, in which Tam got twa blue een.

4. A function or meal at which one stands.

1884 HAWEIS *Musical Life* I. iii. 80 Whewell's evening parties—called by the freshmen Whewell's 'Stand-ups', because undergraduates were not supposed to 'sit' on these solemn occasions. 1902 *Westm. Gaz.* 4 June 1/1 Luncheon is to be provided..and there will also be a 'stand up' at the buffet.

5. Short for *stand-up collar.*

1905 'H. HALIBURTON' *Excurs.* 36 Starched stand-ups.

Stane, obs. form of STONE *sb.* and *v.*

Stanene, variant of STONEN *a. Obs.*

Staneraw (stē·nrɔ̄), *sb.* and *a. Sc.* Also 9 **stani-, steinraw.** [f. *stane* STONE *sb.* + *raw*:—OE. *ragu* lichen. Cf. Sc. *aikraw* lichen (f. *aik* = oak).]

A. *sb.* The stone-lichen *Parmelia saxatilis*, used for dyeing (see quot. 1861).

1777 J. LIGHTFOOT *Flora Scot.* II. 816 *Lichen saxatilis*.. Staneraw. 1806 P. NEILL *Tour Orkneys* etc. 50 Lichen saxatilis..throughout the north of Scotland called Steinraw. 1861 H. MACMILLAN *Footn. Page Nat.* 118 The common stone lichen..is still collected abundantly by the Scottish peasantry, under the name of *staneraw*, to dye woollen stuff of a dirty purple or reddish-brown colour.

B. *adj.* Dyed reddish-brown with staneraw.

1820 HOGG *Winter Tales* I. 316 (Jam.) The staniraw stockings and red garters, in his hurry, he took in his teeth.

Stanerie, obs. form of STANNERY *a. Sc.*

Stanery, obs. form of STANNARY.

Stang (stæŋ), *sb.*[1] *dial.* Forms: 3 **stong,** (7 **stonge**), 4–7 **stange,** 6–7 **stangue,** 8 **steng,** 3– **stang.** [a. ON. *stǫng* fem., genit. *stangar* (Sw. *stång*, Da. *stang*), cogn. w. OE. *stæng, steng* masc., pole (see STING *sb.*[1]), OS. *stanga* fem. (MLG. *stange*), MDu. *stanghe* fem. (mod.Du. *stang*; also *steng*, earlier *stenge* fem.), OHG. *stanga* fem. (MHG., mod.G. *stange*); the OTeut. types are **stangō, *stangjō* fem., **stangi-z* masc., f. the root **steng-* to pierce: see STING *v.*

The It. *stanga* bar (whence Fr. *stangue* shaft of an anchor) is an adoption of the Teut. word.]

1. A pole or stake, a wooden bar or beam. Also in various specific uses (see quots.).

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 24029 Þai draf him forth wit staf and stong. 13.. *Ibid.* 21144 (Gött.) A wicked iuu..Smate him wid a walker stang [*v. r.* (Fairf.) a saa stange]. 13.. *Gaw. & Gr. Knt.* 1614, & syben on a stif stange stoutly hem henges. 1481–90 *Howard Househ. Bks.* (Roxb.) 102 To by stanges for my Lord xvj. d. 1599 FITCH in Hakluyt *Voy.* II. I. 258 A kind of Coches..caried vpon a stang betweene 3. or 4. men. 1613 MARKHAM *Eng. Husb.* I. II. ix. (1635) 167 In those-large baskets..carry them [apples] upon cole-staves, or stangs, betwixt two men. 1709 in *D. Beveridge's Culross & Tulliallan* (1885) II. 52 Four pounds Scotts to be payed to Alexr. Birnay, wright, for erecting the stang for the scollers in August last. 1781 J. HUTTON *Tour to Caves* (ed. 2) Gloss. 96 *Stangs*, the shafts of a cart. 1816 SCOTT *Antiq.* xxvi, He has braw broad shouthers, and I just took the measure o' them wi' the stang. 1824 [CARR] *Craven Gloss., Stang*, a pole applied as a lever to press on a cart wheel, to prevent too great a velocity in rapid descents. 1828 *Ibid., Stang*, a strong piece of wood on which the carcases of beasts are suspended by the sinews of the hind legs. 1900 C. MURRAY *Hamewith* 73 This is the ferry, an' I'm the lord An' king o' the boat an' stang.

b. *To ride the stang*: to be mounted astride of a pole borne on the shoulders of two men, and carried through the streets for the derision of the spectators.

In some places in Scotland and the north of England, one who has in certain ways incurred the indignation of his or her fellow-villagers is compelled to 'ride the stang' (either personally, in effigy, or by proxy), accompanied by a jeering crowd and sometimes 'rough music'. There is also a New Year's day custom by which every one met by the mob has either to 'ride the stang' or pay a forfeit.

1718 RAMSAY *Christ's Kirk Gr.* III. xviii, Ane mounted wi' a bang, Betwisht twa's shoulders..and rade the stang On her that day. 1740 in Cramond *Ann. Banff* (1891) I. 152 Sundry riotous persons fin'd for carrying Ann Miln from her own house and causing her to ride the stang. 1782 CALLANDER *Two Anc. Scott. Poems* 154 When they cannot lay hold of the culprit himself, they put some young fellow on the stang or pole, who proclaims that it is not on his own account that he is thus treated, but on that of another person, whom he names. 1865 *Athenæum* 2 Sept. 313/3 An attempt was recently made, in Barnsley..to revive the old custom of 'riding the stang'. That is, hoisting an offending man on to a staff, or a woman into a basket, and carrying them till the victims ransom themselves by paying a fine, spent in 'drink'. 1893 *Westm. Gaz.* 17 Oct. 5/2 On Thursday night the villagers expressed their indignation by the ceremony known as 'riding the stang'. This consists of carrying an effigy of the person in question round the village. 1896 DITCHFIELD *Old Eng. Cust.* 181 All who were found at work on the day of the feast had to ride the stang or pay a forfeit.

†2. A measure of land. **a.** = ROOD *sb.* 8. **b.** In Wales, an acre. *Obs.*

[1249 in *Cal. Charter Rolls* (1903) I. 343 Tres stangas.] 1326 *Black Bk. St. David's* (1902) 18 Philippus Curteys tenet j acram terre et stang et reddit per annum ij d. 1570 in *11th Rep. Dep. Kpr. Rec. Irel.* 233 A stang called Noman's land, and 1 acre called Bodyngs acre. 1603 OWEN *Pembrokeshire* (1892) 133, 8 poles in bredth and xx in length or 4 in bredth and 40 in length maketh a stange. 1652 in *Gentl. Mag.* (1861) Nov. 507, 32 acres and three stonge of beanes and pease. 1682 PIERS *Descr. W. Meath* (1770) 116 They divide usually one field into acres, half-acres, stangs, that is roods. 1726 SWIFT *Gulliver* I. ii, These fields were intermingled with woods of half a stang. 1777 *Tunstall Inclos. Act* 10 Five acres and three stengs of land in the said East Field.

3. (See quot.)

1734 in D. D. Black *Hist. Brechin* vii. (1839) 140 [The price of the] stang or standing stone for the top of the cross.

4. *Comb.*, as **stang-ball,** a variety of bar-shot.

1802 C. JAMES *Milit. Dict.* s. v. *Ball*, Stang Balls.

Stang (stæŋ), *sb.*[2] *Obs.* exc. *Sc.* and *north.* Also 4–5 **stong(e.** [f. STANG *v.*[1]]

1. A sting.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 18115 To ded i said, 'quar es þi stang?' *Ibid.* 20960 Þe nedder..wit hir stang. 1382 WYCLIF *Exod.* xxiii. 28 Stynggynge flies, that ben sprungun of deed bodies, hauynge the stonges enuenymd. 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* xxxviii. 10 The crewall serpent with the mortall stang. 1556 J. HEYWOOD *Spider & F.* lvi. 34 Should it not sting him like stang of an adder? 1567 *Gude & Godlie Ball.* 108 Thow sall stampe on the edderis stang. 1851 *Cumberld. Gloss.*

b. The punctured wound caused by a sting.

c 1800 *Ye hae lien a' wrang* in *Burns' Poems*, But in herrying o' a bee byke, I'm rad ye've got a stang.

c. A sharp pain such as is caused by a sting.

1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* XI. ix. 18 The greif and ire dyd fast habound, Rasit wyth breithfull stangis full onsound. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 260 b, Remember here also the sharpe stanges & panges that our lorde suffred for our synnes. 1530 LYNDESAY *Test. Papyngo* 1140 It war to lang to mak narratioun Off sychis sore, with mony stang and stound. 1789 BURNS *Addr. Toothache* 1 My curse upon thy venom'd stang, That shoots my tortur'd gums alang. 1822 GALT *Provost* XXXVII, Such a stang as I got on entering the house, when I heard his mother wailing that he was dead. 1891 R. FORD *Thistledown* xvi. 299 My conscience yet gies me sair stangs when I think aboot her.

2. A name for certain fishes: **a.** The pipe-fish, *Syngnathus acus*; **b.** the lesser weever, *Trachinus vipera.*

1803 *Sibbald's Fife & Kinross* 127 *note*, Syngnathus acus, Shorter Pipe-fish; our fishers call it the Stang or Sting. 1889 DAY *Fishes Gt. Brit.* I. 82 Little or lesser-weever:.. Stangster or Stang, Moray Firth.

3. An eel-spear. Also Comb. *stong-gad.*

1847 HALLIWELL, *Stang*, an eel-spear. *North.* 1866 BROGDEN *Prov. Lincs.* 1888 FENN *Dick o' the Fens* xii. 189 Mester Hickathrift has got the stong-gad to mend. One of the tines is off, and it wants a noo ash pole.

4. *Sc.* The awn or beard of grain.

1808 JAMIESON.

5. The tongue of a 'trump' or jews harp; also *fig.* (see quot. 1808).

1808 JAMIESON, *Stang of the trump*, a proverbial phrase, used to denote one who is preferred to others viewed collectively; as the best member of a family. 1909 C. MURRAY *Hamewith* (ed. 2) 21 Trumps wi' double stang.

6. *Comb.*, as *stang-fish* (cf. sense 2 and STING-FISH).

1838 JOHNSTON in *Proc. Berw. Nat. Club* I. No. vi. 170 Lesser Weaver, *Yarr.* Stang-fish, *Prov.*

Stang (stæŋ), *v.*[1] Also 3–4 **stange,** (4 **stayng**), 9 *dial.* **steng.** [a. ON. *stanga* to prick, goad, to spear (fish), to butt with the horns, f. *stang-*, *stǫng* stake: see STANG *sb.*[1]]

1. †*trans.* To pierce (a person) with a weapon. *Obs.*

c 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 5293 Þe spere..þat staynged [*v.r.* stanged] Crist until þe hert rote. *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (Roxb.) ii. 7 Þe schaft of þe spere with whilk Criste was stanged to þe hert.

b. *dial.* To spear (eels).

1856 P. THOMPSON *Hist. Boston* 725 *Stang*, an instrument to catch eels with, by 'stanging'.

2. To sting. *lit.* and *fig.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 22014 Dane..neder in strete, waitand hors to stang in fete. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xviii. (*Mary of Egypt*) 427 Ane edir þat wald hym stang. *c* 1460 *Towneley Myst.* xxiii. 426 If thou will my harte stang. 1724 RAMSAY *Royal Archers Shooting* i, Serpents that wad stang The hand that gies them food. 1862 C. C. ROBINSON *Dial. Leeds* 421 It'll steng thah if thah touches it.

b. *absol.*

c 1375 *Cursor M.* 24357 (Fairf.) Þai stokid him wiþ a spere wiþ wrange þat þorou mi hert I felde hit stange. *c* 1475 HENRYSON *Orpheus & Eurycl.* 324 The serpent stangis that is dedely syn. 1785 BURNS *Jolly Beggars* lii, But for how lang the flie may stang, Let inclination law that. 1786 — *Epist. to Major Logan* vi, As the clegs o' feeling stang.

3. *intr.* To shoot or throb with pain. *dial.*

1788 W. H. MARSHALL *Yorksh.* II. 355. 1825 BROCKETT *N. C. Gloss.* 1856 P. THOMPSON *Hist. Boston* 725.

Hence **Stanged** *ppl. a.*; **Sta·nging** *vbl. sb.* and *ppl. a.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 21688 Quen þe stanged men moght se þe nedder on þe tre þat hang, Þai war all warist of þair stang. *Ibid.* 24540 In sterin stanging was i stadd. *c* 1460 *Towneley Myst.* xxi. 11 We haue had for the mekill hart stangyng. 1508 DUNBAR *Two Mariit Wemen* 266 With a terrebill tail be stangand as edderis. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* VII. xiii. 124 Thair wraith and vennom culd he dant and meys And heill thair stanging. 1602 *2nd Pt. Return fr. Parnassus* Prol. 33 Its a Christmas toy indeede, as good a conceit as stanging hotcockles, or blinde-man buffe. 1863 *Specim. Yorksh. Dial.*, I had such a stanging pain from the tooth-ache. 1881 J. MURRAY in *Mod. Sc. Poets* III. 154 The doctors pondered lang and sair To rid me o' the stangin' o't.

Stang (stæŋ), *v.*[2] [f. STANG *sb.*[1]]

†1. *trans.* To fasten with a 'stang', to bar.

1598 FLORIO, *Stangare*, to barre, to sprang, to stang a dore.

†2. To cause to ride the stang. Cf. STANG *sb.*[1] 1 b.

1674 RAY *N. C. Words* 44 This Word is still used in some Colleges in..Cambridge; to stang Scholars in Christmas,

being to cause them to ride on a colt-staff, or pole, for missing of Chappel. 1777 BRAND *Pop. Antiq.* App. 410.

3. To carry (produce) on stangs.

1829 GLOVER *Hist. Derby* I. 203 In very steep or small inclosures, hay continues here to be carried to the stack, by a method called stanging... Corn crops from similar situations are also stanged.

Stang, pa. t. (obs.) of STING *v.*

Stang(e, obs. ff. STANK *sb.*

Stangster (stæ·ŋstəɹ). *dial.* [f. STANG *sb.*[2] + -STER.] = STANG *sb.*[2] 2 b. 1880 [see STANG *sb.*[2] 2].

Stanhope (stæ·nhoup, stæ·nəp). [f. the proper name *Stanhope* (see below).]

1. A light open one-seated vehicle, formerly made with two wheels, but now commonly with four. First made for the Hon. and Rev. Fitzroy Stanhope (1787–1864). Often written with small initial.

1825 C. M. WESTMACOTT *Engl. Spy* I. 86 Or in a stanhope come it strong. 1837 W. B. ADAMS *Carriages* 128 The two-wheeled carriage called a Stanhope is suspended on four of these springs. 1837 DICKENS *Pickw.* xl, The vehicle was not exactly a gig, neither was it a stanhope. 1891 'J. S. WINTER' *Lumley* 13 They found the Stanhope drawn by a big grey awaiting them.

b. *Comb.*: **stanhope horse**, one suitable for a stanhope; **stanhope phaeton**, a variety of the stanhope.

1836 SIR G. STEPHEN *Search of Horse* ix. (1841) 137, I would suggest that the form of a stanhope horse be carefully considered. 1901 SKRINE *Life Sir W. Hunter* xiii. 245 He had purchased a Stanhope phaeton.

2. **Stanhope lens**, a lens of small diameter with two convex faces of different radii, inclosed in a metallic tube (Knight). Invented by Charles 3rd Earl Stanhope (1753–1816).

1850 W. KING *Permian Fossils* 143 In others..they (the punctures) cannot be detected so readily without a Stanhope lens. 1862 *J. Wyldé's Circ. Sci.* I. 65/1 A Stanhope lens of the ordinary form.

3. **Stanhope press**, a hand printing-press invented by the 3rd Earl Stanhope (1753–1816).

c 1805 EARL STANHOPE in *Collect.* Ser. III. (O.H.S.) 400 The high price of the Stanhope press (compared with that of the common wooden ones) has, by many, been considered as likely to check the sale of them. 1841 *Penny Cycl.* XIX. 18/1 The accompanying diagram of the Stanhope press.

So **Stanho·pian** *a.*

1808 STOWER *Printer's Gram.* 54 Judging from former times, when ligatures..were used, and abolished because they encumbered the compositor,..we much fear the Stanhopian introduction of an, in, of, &c. will not be found to meet with a much more favourable reception. *Ibid.* 302, 506.

Stanhoscope (stæ·nŏskōup). [f. the name *Stanhope* (in *Stanhope lens*) + -SCOPE.] A magnifying lens like the Stanhope lens, but plane on the side farther from the eye.

1866 *Q. Jrnl. Microsc. Sci.* VI. 263 These Stanhoscopes.. are, of course, not in every instance so perfect optically as is desirable. 1868 W. B. CARPENTER *Microscope* (ed. 4) 22 A modified form of the 'Stanhope' lens..has been brought out in France under the name of 'Stanhoscope'.

Staniel, stannel (stæ·nyĕl, stæ·nĕl). Forms: *a.* 1 *stānegella, stánzella, -zilla, -zylla*, 5 stanyel, 7–8 staniel, 7 stanniell, 9 *dial.* stanniel, 7–9 *Sc.* stainyell; also *corruptly* 7 stallion. *β.* 7 stannell, 7–9 stannel. See also STANCHEL, STONEGALL. [OE. *stánegella, stánzella*, lit. 'stone-yeller' f. *stán* STONE *sb.* + **gella* agent-n. f. *gellan* to YELL (in OE. poetry used of the cry of the hawk).

The corrupt form *stallion* (quot. 1601 in 1 *a*) may have had dialectal currency; cf. the converse mispronunciation *staniel* for *stallion*, which is common in rustic speech. The spurious forms *standgale, -gall*, given in some recent dictionaries, are evolved from the etymologizing conjecture 'stand-in-gale' (Swainson, *Prov. Names of Birds*). The alleged Ger. synonym *steingall*, commonly cited by etymologists as cognate, is of doubtful genuineness. The 19th c. lexicographers seem to have obtained it, directly or indirectly, from the *Vocabula* of Peucer and Eber (1549). But although in this glossary the word is treated as German, its source appears to be William Turner's *Avium Historia* (Cologne 1544), where *steingall* is said to be the English word for *tinnunculus*. Turner's *steingall* prob. represents **steingall*; Gesner (1555) says that it is northern English. The English ornithologists of the 17th c., following Gesner, give *steingall* as an English name of the bird; Willughby's *stone-gall* is an etymologizing alteration of this.]

The kestrel, *Tinnunculus alaudarius*. Also applied contemptuously to a person, in allusion to the uselessness of the kestrel for the purposes of falconry. (Cf. KESTREL b.)

In OE. a mistranslation of L. *pellicanus* (pelecanus) pelican.

a. *c* 825 *Vesp. Psalter* ci. 7 ȝelic ȝeworden ic eam stanezellan [L. *pellicano*] in woestenne. *a* 1100 *Ags. Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 287/10 *Pellicanus*, stanzella and wanfota. *c* 1475 *Pict. Voc.* ibid. 758/32 *Hic odoriucicus*, a stanyel. 1590 BUREL *Pilgr.* in *Watson's Collect.* (1709) II. 28 The Stainzell and the Schakerstane. 1601 SHAKS. *Twel. N.* II. v. 124 And with what wing the stallion checkes at it? 1630 BRATHWAIT *Engl. Gentlem.* (1641) 178 Owles, cuckowes, staniels and Popinjayes. 1659 *Lady Alimony* I. iii. B 1, This Musæus is a Martiallist; and if I had not held him a feverish white-liver'd staniel..that Knight of the Sun, who imploy'd me should have done his errand himself. 1838 HOLLOWAY *Prov. Dict., Stanniel*, a hawk.

β. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* x. XXXVII. I. 291 A Kestrill, or Stannell. 1678 RAY *Willughby's Ornithol.* 84 The Kestrel, Stannel, or Stonegall. 1688 CLAYTON *Virginia* iv. in *Phil. Trans.* XVII. 989 There are several sorts of the lesser kind of Stannels. 1863 H. G. ADAMS *Birds of Prey* 47 The Kestrel..Stonegall, Steingall or Stannel.

Comb. 1797 BEWICK *Brit. Birds* I. 36 The Kestrel... Stannel Hawk.

Hence † **Sta·nielry**, staniel-like cowardice.

1659 *Lady Alimony* v. ii. I 4, All that Puny-pen feather'd Ayry of Buzardisme and Stanielry.

‖ **Stanitza** (stæni·tzä). Also 7 **staniza**. [Russian станица, dim. of станъ station, district.] A Cossack community or township.

1662 J. DAVIES tr. *Olearius' Voy. Ambass.* 420 There went away a Staniza or Caravan, of about 200. persons. 1799 [see SOTNIK]. 1837 *Penny Cycl.* VIII. 79/2 Each [Cossack] regiment is drawn from one or more stanitzas or districts. 1895 *Daily News* 13 June 5/4 It were well, too, that a large number of Cossack stanitzas should be intermingled with the new colonists.

Stank (stæŋk), *sb.* Forms: *a.* 4 stanc, 4, 7 stanck(e, 4–5 staunk(e, (5 stonke), 5, 7 stanke, (7 *Sc.* stunk), 9 *dial.* stenk, 3– stank. *β.* 3–6 stang, 5–6 stange, (6 staung). [a. OF. *estanc* (mod.F. *étang*) = Pr. *estanc-s*, Sp. *estanque*, Pg. *estanque, estanco*:—Com. Rom. **stanco*, prob. vbl. noun to **stancare* to dam up (:—popular L. **stagnicāre* f. *stagnum* pond): see STANCH *v.*]

1. A pond or pool. Also a ditch or dyke of slowly-moving water, a moat. Now *Sc.* and *dial.*

a. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 5922 On stank and burn and well. 1338 R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (1725) 68 Þei lighted & abiden biside a water stank [*rime* lang]. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 1018 A stynkande stanc. *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (1839) xix. 209 Bestes, taughte of men to gon in to Watres..and in to depe Stankes, for to take Fysche. 1450 *Paston Lett.* I. 170 Sir John Bukk..physsched my stankys at Dedham, and holp brake my damme. *c* 1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 2982 In an Ile he duelt..Whar þan was a grete staunk; Of derwent watir þare is þe hede. 1535 STEWART *Cron. Scot.* (Rolls) I. 208 Ane nobill toun..That wallit wes about with lyme and stone, With dowbill stank and fowsseis mony one. 1603 J. DAVIES (Heref.) *Microcosmos* Wks. (Grosart) I. 32/1 Stanckes, Moores, and Lakes that never ryn. *c* 1630 in *Macfarlane's Geogr. Collect.* (1907) II. 165 It is now one little Logh being but ane stunk before when the Illand was in the midst of it. *c* 1690 in *Roxb. Ball.* (1888) VI. 616 O'er ditch and stank, he staik amang them a' then. 1786 BURNS *Auld Mare* iii, Thou ance..could hae flown out owre a stank, Like onie bird. 1807 STAGG *Poems* 3 Wi' whup an' spur, thro' stenk an' stoore, [they] Set off, a jolly party. 1825 CARLYLE *Let.* in Froude *Life* (1882) I. 296 If he..is made to plash and sprawl..through every stank to which their love of provant leads them. 1871 W. ALEXANDER *Johnny Gibb* (1873) 31, I b'lieve ye he'll no loup the stank so easy wi' Maister Saun'ers.

β. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 8936 Ilk dai..þar lighted dun of heuen ture Angels..For to stir þe stang bidene. *a* 1340 HAMPOLE *Ps.* cxiii. 8 That turnys the stanys in stangis of watirs. 1484 CAXTON *Fables of Æsop* V. x, A stange or pond where as was a fayr mylle. *c* 1530 BERNERS *Arth. Lyt. Bryt.* (1814) 7 The stang or ponde of the forest. 1588 PARKE tr. *Mendoza's Hist. China* 205 They haue their stanges for the most part full of fish. *c* 1595 NORDEN *Spec. Brit., Cornw.* (1728) 71 Ther standeth a Stange or Poole of water.

transf. 13.. *Cursor M.* 23191 (Gött.) Sathanas..sal casten be,..a stinckand stanck of fire. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Pars. T.* 841 Seint Iohn seith that Auowtiers shullen been in helle, in a stank brennynge of fyr and of Brymston.

2. A dam to hold back water, a weir or floodgate. Now *dial.* and *techn.*

1604 *Jrnls. Ho. Comm.* 23 June, All Weres, Kiddells, Stanks, and other Obstructions in..navigable Rivers. 1610 VAUGHAN in *J. Davies' Wks.* (Grosart) II. 471 The Brookes runne murmuring by their parched Brincks..and chide against the Stancks. 1633 in *N. Riding Rec.* (1885) III. II. 347 Att the stancke or damm of the abovenamed mill. 1656 R. FLETCHER *Martial's Epigr.* etc. 167 An inundation that ore-bears the banks And bounds of all religion; If some stancks Shew their emergent heads? Like Seth's fam'd stone, Th'are monuments of thy devotion gone! 1763 in J. Lloyd *Old S. Wales Iron Works* (1906) 73 To make such ..channels..pondheads, stanks, and wears as they shall think fit. 1855 GAWTHROP *Fraser's Guide to Lpool* 235 Crossing the stank or bar, between Seacombe and Woodside. 1865 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* Ser. II. I. II. 277 The cutting through one of these subterranean stanks or ridges will often lay a large tract immediately dry. 1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-mining* 238 *Stank*, a water-tight stopping; generally a well built brick wall.

3. *attrib.* and *Comb.* as *stank-head, -side*; **stank-brae**, the edge of a stank; **stank-hen**, the moor-hen, *Gallinula chloropus*; **stank-meadow**, a meadow containing a pool.

1579 in *Reg. Mag. Sig. Scot.* 1581, 73/1 The *stank bra on the eist syde. *c* 1680 J. RUSSELL in *Kirkton's Hist. Ch. Scot.* (1817) 443 Presently Clavers advanced all in a body to the stank bree. 1412–13 *Durham Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 610 Pro reparacione de le *Stankhede apud Ketton, 4s. 1766 REID *Let.* Wks. I. 47/2 A bird called a *stankhen. It is a water fowl, less than a duck [etc.]. 1831 *Montagu's Ornith. Dict.* 188 Gallinule. Provincial.—Moor-hen... Stank-hen. 1358 *Durham Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 561 In diversis foveis et gutturis factis in le *Staunkmedowe de Pityngton; 12s. 1d. 14.. *Prose Life Alexander* 71 þay..went to þe *stanke-syde & drewe fisches & elez oute of þe water, & ete þam. 1903 A. WHYTE *Apostle Paul* x. 111 It is then that I sit down at a stank-side with poor Lord Brodie.

† **Stank**, *a. Obs. rare*—[1]. In 6 stanck, stanke. [ad. It. *stanco* = OF. *estanc*, related to It. *stancare*, OF. *estancher*: see STANCH *v.*] Weary, faint, exhausted.

1579 SPENSER *Sheph. Cal.* Sept. 47, I am so stiffe, and so stanck [*gloss.* wearie or fainte]. 1598 FLORIO, *Stanco*, wearie, tyred, faint, ouerlaboured, stanke.

Stank (stæŋk), *v. dial.* and *techn.* [f. STANK *sb.*] *trans.* a. To dam or strengthen the banks of a stream. Also to *stank back, up* (water). † b. To surround with a moat. *Obs.*

a. 1656 R. FLETCHER *Martial's Epigr.* etc. 154 I'le..stanck up the salt Conducts of mine eyes To watch thy shame, and weep mine obsequies. 1829 in Ashbee *Last Rec. Cotswold Community* (1904) 6 Jno. Steel stanking the water and mounding in meadow. o. 1. 6. 1839 SIR G. C. LEWIS *Gloss. Heref.* s. v., A man shutting down a floodgate would stank back the water. 1881 CUSSANS *Hist. Hertfordsh., Cashio* 321 Water-courses are stanked where they take a sharp turn.

b. *a* 1670 SPALDING *Troub. Chas. I* (Bannatyne Club) II. 315 Sir William Forbes..plantis sum soldiouris thairin, being stankit about and of good defens.

Hence **Sta·nking** *vbl. sb.* = STANK *sb.* 2.

1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-mining* 238 Stanking.

† **Stanmarch.** *Hist.* Forms: 1 stánmerce, 4–6 stanmarche, 5–6 ? *erron.* stammarche, 5 stanmerche, -mers(c)h, 5– stanmarch. [OE. *stánmerce*, f. *stán* STONE *sb.* + *merce* MARCH *sb.*[1]] The umbelliferous plant *Smyrnium Olusatrum*, also called alexanders and horse-parsley.

c 1000 ÆLFRIC *Gloss.* in Wr.-Wülcker 134/36 *Petrosilion*, stanmerce. *a* 1387 *Sinon. Barthol.* (Anecd. Oxon.) 10 *Alexandria*, i. stanmarche. *c* 1450 *M. E. Med. Bk.* (Heinrich) 196 Tak morel. stanmerche. smalache. & malewes. *c* 1450 *Alphita* (Anecd. Oxon.) 5 Alexander uel olixatrum..anglice stanmersh. 1516 *Gt. Herbal* viii. (1529) A iv b, De Apio. Smalache or stammarche. 1597 GERARDE *Herbal* Suppl., Stanmarch is Alisander. 1665 LOVELL *Herbal* (ed. 2) 415 Stan march. 1863 PRIOR *Plant-n.*

attrib. *c* 1500 *Arnolde's Chron.* (1811) 172 Stanmarch seede.

Stannary (stæ·nări). Forms: 5–7 stannarie, 6 stanery, steinery, steynery, 7 stannery, (stanary), 7– stannary. See also STANNIER. [ad. med.L. *stannāria* (1198 in G. R. Lewis *Stannaries* App. 233), f. L. *stann-um* tin: see -ARY. An AF. form *estei(g)nerie* (whence some of the forms above) occurs 1328 in *Rolls of Parlt.* II. 19.]

1. *The Stannaries*: The districts comprising the tin mines and smelting works of Cornwall and Devon formerly under the jurisdiction of the Stannary courts; also, the customs and privileges attached to the mines.

1455 *Rolls of Parlt.* V. 293/2 Delyvered to the said Prynce..the said Duchie of Cornewayll, and all..Cunage of Tynne, Stannaries, Marlsettes, [etc.]. 1485 *Ibid.* VI. 382/1 The Office of Wardeyn of the Stannaries in the said Countie of Devynshire. *c* 1630 RISDON *Surv. Devon* § 91 (1810) 88 Steward of the Stanneries. 1670 PETTUS *Fodinæ Reg.* 12 The King for advancement of the Stannaries in Cornwall frees the Tinners from all pleas of the Natives touching the Court. 1776 ADAM SMITH *W. N.* I. xi. 180 Vice-Warden of the Stannaries. 1869 BLACKMORE *Lorna D.* xx, He came as captain of a gang from one of the Cornish stannaries. 1908 J. MARTINEAU *Life H. Pelham* x. 330 In February 1862, the office of Lord Warden of the Stannaries was conferred upon him.

b. *sing.* (*a*) *collect.* = pl.; (*b*) *rarely*, an individual district in the Stannaries.

1467–8 *Rolls of Parlt.* V. 610 Th'office of Baillif of oure Stannarie of Penwith and Kerye. 1514 FITZHERB. *Justice of Peace* (1538) 140 b, Yf any person be indyted..in hys tyn workes goodes or cattels by any minister of the court of Stanery. 1564 T. HARDING *Answ. Jewel's Challenge* xiii. 139 They may not vnfitlely be likened to a Judge of the Stemerie [? *read* Steinerie] at Lidford in Deuonshire, who [etc.]. 1611 SPEED *Hist. Gt. Brit.* IX. xvi. § 95 The title of Duke of Cornwall..is reputed vnto the Kings eldest sonne ..he..hauing his royalties in the Stannarie, Wrackes at Sea, Customes &c.

2. Tin; tin-ware; a locality in a mart or fair appropriated to the sale of tin-ware. *Obs.* exc. *Hist.*

1668 WILKINS *Real. Char.* II. iii. 65 Tinn, Stannery. 1864 *Times* 16 Sept. 8/4 The fair formed a kind of temporary city..consisting of whole streets appropriate to the sale of particular commodities, and distinguished..as the drapery, the pottery, the spicery, the stannary, &c. *Ibid.*, In the reign of Henry VI. this celebrated mart appeared to be on the decline, the lands appropriated to those who brought articles of stannary from Cornwall not being fully occupied.

3. *attrib.*, as *stannary artillery, castle, cause, charter, district, law, man, parliament, town, troop, weight.*

1812 *Examiner* 7 Sept. 570/1 Lieut. Moyle, of the Royal *Stannary Artillery. 1810 *Risdon's Surv. Devon* 405 The *Stannary Castle, containing the room where the courts were held,..is at Lydford. 1602 CAREW *Cornwall* I. 18 The Gayle for *stannery causes is kept at Lostwithiel. 1856 J. ALLEN *Hist. Liskeard* iii. 32 Many of the old *stannary charters were destroyed in the revolutionary war. 1758 BORLASE *Nat. Hist. Cornw.* 193 The four principal towns of the *stannary districts. 1899 BARING-GOULD *Bk. West* II. v. 59 The Danish freebooters..carried fire and sword through the stannary districts of Devon. 1633 T. ADAMS *Exp. 2 Pet.* ii. 3. 470 That old scandall of the *Stanneries Law; that hanged a man in the forenoone, and sate in judgement on him in the afternoone. 1796 MORSE *Amer. Geog.* II. 103 Those tin-works are under..the stannary laws. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* (1637) 196 The *Stannarie men of Cornwall and Denshire. 1877 *Encycl. Brit.* VI. 426/1 The last Cornish *stannary parliament was held at Truro in 1752. 1705 *Addr. Lostwithiel* in *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4087/1 We are Members of Your Majesty's Ancient and Chiefest *Stannary Town. 1690 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 2579/3 The Lord Lansdowne..came hither on the 25th with the *Stanary Troop. 1703 *Ibid.* No. 3951/1 Her Majesty is.. pleased to offer..to take Sixteen hundred Tuns of Tinn at the Price of Three Pounds Ten Shillings per Cent. *Stannary Weight.

b. *Stannary courts*: The courts of law for the administration of justice in the Stannaries.

Stannaria curia occurs 1337 in a charter of Edward III:

see Du Cange. By the Stannaries Courts Abolition Act of 1896 the jurisdiction of these courts was transferred to the County Court.

1602 CAREW *Cornwall* I. 18 They are termed Stannery Courts, of the latine word *Stannum*, in English Tynne. 1641 (*title*) An Act against diverse Incroachments and Oppressions in the Stannarie Courts. 1768 BLACKSTONE *Comm.* III. vi. 80 The stannary courts in Devonshire and Cornwall for the administration of justice among the tinners therein, are also courts of record. 1877 *Encycl. Brit.* VI. 426/1 By ancient charters, the tinners of Cornwall were exempt from all other jurisdiction than that of the stannary courts, except in cases affecting land, life, and limb.

Stannate (stæ·neit). *Chem.* [f. STANN-UM + -ATE 4.] A salt of stannic acid.

1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 608 By the second [agent], stannate of potash forms. 1841 BRANDE *Chem.* (ed. 5) 781 The compounds of peroxide of tin with bases have sometimes been called stannates.

Stannator (stænēi·tə1). [ad. med.L. *stannātor* (*stagnātor* 1198 in G. R. Lewis *Stannaries* App. 233) irreg. f. late L. *stannum* (*stagnum*) tin.] A member of the Stannary convocation or parliament.

1686 in *Cal. Treas. Papers* (1868) I. 19 Precepts to the four Cornish Mayors, for meeting at Lostwithiel,..to choose their respective stannators. 1703 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 3951/1 Her Majesty having been pleased to grant Her Commission to the Rt. Hon. the Lord Granville, Lord Warden of the Stannaries, to hold a Convocation, or Parliament of Stannators, according to ancient Custom. 1877 *Encycl. Brit.* VI. 426/1 Twenty-four stannators were returned for the whole of Cornwall. Their meeting was termed a parliament, and when they assembled they chose a speaker.

Stannel: see STANIEL.

Stanners (stæ·nəɹz), *sb. pl. Sc.* Also 6 stannirs, 8 staners. [App. a derivative of OE. *stán* STONE *sb.*; cf. ONorthumb. *sténer* (inflected *sténere*, *sténero*), rendering *petrosa* stony places, Matt. xiii. 5, 20 and Mark iv. 5, 16.] 'The small stones and gravel on the margin of a river or lake, or forming a sea-beach; applied also to those within the channel of a river, which are occasionally dry' (Jam.).

1508 DUNBAR *Gold. Targe* 36 The bruke vas full of bremys, The stanneris clere as stern in frosty nycht. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* XII. Prol. 60 The new cullour alychtnyng all the landis, Forgane thir stannyris schane the beryall strandis. 1549 *Compl. Scot.* vi. (1873) 39 Than vndir ane hingand heuch, i herd mony hurlis of stannirs & stanes that tumlit doune vitht the land rusche. *a* 1670 SPALDING *Troub. Chas. I* (Spalding Club) I. 174 Dugar..carryes over his men to the Staners whilk is in the midst of the watter of Spey. 1802 JAMIESON *Water-Kelpie* XX, Yestreen the water was in spate, The stanners aw war cur'd. 1805 *State, Leslie of Powis*, etc. 94 (Jam.) At low water the net comes ashore on the stanners, and at high water on the grass. 1867 G. W. DONALD *Poems* (1879) 3/1 Sae lang's the tide shall ebb or jaw Upo' the stanners.

Stannery (stæ·nəri), *a.* Now *Sc.* Forms: (5 stanry), 6 *Sc.* stanerie, (stendirrie), 8– stannery. [f. *stanner*, STANNERS + -Y.] = STONY *a.*

c 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* III. 708 A stanry pere [L. *lapidosi generis pyra*] is seyd to chaunge his mete In esy lond ygraffed yf he be. 1501 DOUGLAS *Pal. Hon.* II. xlii, The beriall stremis rinnand ouir stanerie greis Made sober noyis. 1579 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* III. 129 The ground..is sandy and stanerie. 1795 *Statist. Acc. Scot.* XV. 316 One meets with boggy, stannery, croft, and clay ground, almost in every farm. 1805 *State, Leslie of Powis* etc. 109 (Jam.) The said dike..lies upon a stannery and sandy bed.

fig. 1563 WINZET *Wks.* II. 54 Ar thai ony found..of sa stanerie stubburnes, quha suld not submit thame selfis to sa gret plentuousnes of thir heuinlie wordis. 1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* I. 261 Perceiueng in how dangerous ane state now the Realme was, how Scopulous, stendirrie, or stanie, was the stedd, quhairon thay than stude.

Stannic (stæ·nik), *a. Chem.* [f. STANN-UM + -IC.] Of a compound: Containing tin as a quadrivalent element. Cf. STANNOUS.

1790 KERR tr. *Lavoisier's Elem. Chem.* xvii. 166 Stannic [acid]. 1849 D. CAMPBELL *Inorg. Chem.* 240 Binoxide of tin..is known, also, as the stannic oxide, and generally as the peroxide. 1868: see STANNO-, STANNOSO-. 1873 WATTS *Fownes' Chem.* (ed. 11) 593 Stannic Ethide..is produced by the action of zinc ethide on stannic chloride.

Stannicle, dial. var. STANSTICKLE.

†**Sta·nnide.** *Chem. Obs.* [f. STANN-UM + -IDE.] A primary combination of an element with tin.

1862 MILLER *Elem. Chem., Org.* (ed. 2) 221 Stannide of sodium.

†**Sta·nnier.** *Obs.* [ad. (? through some AF. form) of med.L. *stannāria* STANNARY.] = STANNARY; only in the title *Warden of the Stanniers.*

1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* (1637) 185 A warden called L. Warden of the Stanniers [*margin*, L. Warden of the Stannary]. 1611 SPEED *Theat. Gt. Brit.* xi. (1614) 21/1 The Common-weale of Tinne-workes from one body was divided into foure, and a Lord Warden of the Stanniers appointed their Judge.

Stanniferous (stæni·fĕrəs), *a.* [f. late L. *stann-um* tin + -FEROUS.] Producing tin. ¶ Also incorrectly applied to designate enamels or glazes containing tin, and pottery treated with these.

1823 J. J. CONYBEARE *Geol. Devon & Cornw.* in *Ann. Philos.* N.S. V. 185, I venture to propose the following division of the principal rock masses..1. Granite...2. Metalliferous, or, more strictly, cupriferous and stanniferous slate...3. Slate [etc.]. 1855 J. R. LEIFCHILD *Cornwall* 25 The St. Austell mining district is principally stanniferous. 1859 GULLICK & TIMBS *Painting* 132 An opaque stanniferous enamel was known to the Arabs of Spain. 1875 FORTNUM *Maiolica* i. 4 Stanniferous or tin-glazed wares.

Sta·nnified, *ppl. a. rare*−1. [f. late L. *stannum* tin + -(I)FY + -ED 1.] Impregnated with tin.

1855 J. R. LEIFCHILD *Cornwall* 38 The term stannified granite was applied to it—which the plain reader may call tinnified granite.

Stannine (stæ·nin). *Min.* [f. STANN-UM + -INE.] Native sulphide of tin.

1843 CHAPMAN *Pract. Min.* 146 Stannine. 1871 tr. *Hartwig's Subterr. World* xxvii. 335 There are only two ores of tin—the peroxide, or tinstone, and the pyrites, or stannine.

Stannite (stæ·nəit). [f. STANN-UM + -ITE.]

1. *Chem.* A salt of stannous acid.

1851 WATTS tr. *Gmelin's Hist. Chem.* V. 95 Stannite of Potash. *Ibid.* 98 Stannite of Soda. 1853 URE *Dict. Arts* II. 711 Stannates and stannites of alkalis are valuable mordants in calico printing.

2. *Min.* Sulphide of tin, copper, iron and zinc, found in steel-grey masses.

1896 CHESTER *Dict. Min.* 1900 L. FLETCHER in *Brit. Mus. Return* 156 Complex twinned crystals of the very rarely crystallised mineral Stannite..have been investigated.

Stanno- (stæno), before a vowel also **stann-**, used as combining form of late L. *stann-um* tin, in *Chem.*, as **stannamyl**, a compound produced by the action of amylic iodide on an alloy of sodium and tin; **stannethyl**, a compound of ethyl and tin; **stannofluoride** (see quot. 1868).

1857 WATTS tr. *Gmelin's Hist. Chem.* XI. 131 *Stannamyl. $C_{10}H_{11}Sn$. [1852 E. FRANKLAND in *Phil. Trans.* CXLII. 422 *Stanethylium.] 1854 *Fownes' Chem.* (ed. 5) 446 Stannethyl. A series of substances have been lately described by Frankland and by Loewig, which contain the elements of ethyl, associated with the metal tin. 1880 CLEMINSHAW *Wurtz' Atom. Theory* 271 Stannethyl has just as much claim to be considered as a radical as stannous iodide. 1868 *Fownes' Chem.* (ed. 10) 446 Stannic fluoride, SnF_4..unites with other metallic fluorides, forming crystalline compounds called *stannofluorides or fluostannates.

†**Stannolite** (stæ·nŏləit). *Min. Obs.* [f. late L. *stann-um* tin + -LITE.] = CASSITERITE.

1843 CHAPMAN *Pract. Min.* 111 Cassiterite...Stannolite.

Stannoso- (stænō·sō), *Chem.*, used as combining form of mod.L. *stannōs-us* STANNOUS.

1868 *Fownes' Chem.* (ed. 10) 445 Tin..forms two well-defined classes of compounds, namely, the stannous compounds, in which it is bivalent,..and the stannic compounds, in which it is quadrivalent..; also a few compounds called stannoso-stannic compounds, of intermediate composition. 1873 WATTS *Fownes' Chem.* (ed. 11) 444 Stannous Chloride unites with the chlorides of the alkali-metals forming crystallisable double salts,..called Stannosochlorides.

Stannotype (stæ·nŏtəip). [f. late L. *stann-um* tin + Gr. *τύπος* impression, print, TYPE.] A simplified form of the Woodbury process of photo-mechanical engraving in which a mould obtained from a positive instead of a negative is coated with tinfoil. Also *attrib.*

1883 *T. F. Hardwich's Photogr. Chem.* (ed. 9) 360 The Stannotype..is the invention of Mr. Woodbury. 1891 WOODBURY *Encycl. Photogr.* 666 The object of the stannotype process was to do away with all this costly machinery [*i.e.* the hydraulic press of the Woodbury process].

Stannous (stæ·nəs), *a. Chem.* [f. STANN-UM + -OUS.] Of a compound: Containing tin as a bivalent element. Cf. STANNIC *a.*

1849 D. CAMPBELL *Inorg. Chem.* 239 This oxide [hydrated protoxide of tin] is in many works distinguished as the stannous oxide. 1868 *Fownes' Chem.* (ed. 10) 445 The dichloride, or Stannous chloride, $SnCl_2$. 1868 Stannous compound: see STANNOSO-.

‖ **Stannum** (stæ·nŏm). *Chem. rare* in Eng. context. [mod.L. use of late L. *stannum* tin, in earlier use an alloy of silver and lead; app. an altered form of the synonymous *stāgnum*, whence the Rom. forms, It. *stagno*, Sp. *estaño*, Pg. *estanho*, Pr. *estanh-s*, OF. *estain* (mod.F. *étain*), tin.] The chemical Latin name for tin. (Hence the symbol Sn.)

1783 WITHERING tr. *Bergman's Outl. Min.* 98 Stannum or Tin. 1812 Sir H. DAVY *Chem. Philos.* 379 Tin or Stannum.

Stanpic(c)he, obs. ff. STONE-*pitch.*

Stansel, obs. form of STENCIL *v.*

Stanssour, variant of STANCHER, 2 *Sc. Obs.*

Stanstickle (stæ·nstik'l). *dial.* Also stanniele. [Alteration of BANSTICKLE, due to alliterative association with STONE *sb.*] = STICKLEBACK.

c 1620 *New Metamorphosis* (MS.) (Nares), To stansticles he did them all transforme, A fishe noe bigger then a prety worme. *a* 1825 FORBY *Voc. E. Anglia.* 1893 in Cozens-Hardy *Broad Norf.* 35 The stickleback is a stannicle.

Stant, variant of STENT.

Stantient, -ion, var. ff. STANCHION.

†**Sta·nty.** *Obs.* Forms: 5 stantyf, 7 stant(e)y. [Late ME. *stantyf*, ad. med.L. *stantīvus* standing erect, f. *stant-em* pr. pple. of *stāre* to stand: see -IVE.] *Stanty hedge*: a stake-and-rice fence.

1446 *Crt. Roll Gt. Waltham Manor, Essex* 9 June, Thomas Gossyb appropriavit de regia via..unam peciam.. super quam posuit unum stantyfhegge ad nocumentum. 1659 GAUDEN *Tears Ch.* IV. vii. 438 A setting up a stanty hedge, instead of a good quick-set or a brick-wall, for the fense of Christs vineyard. 1664 SPELMAN *Gloss.* s.v. *Assis*, Quoad sepem stantariam, nos..*A stantey hedge*, vocamus, quod non e surculis vivis, sed e perticis & viminibus componitur, absque fossa.

Stanza (stæ·nzā). Forms: *α.* 6-7 stanze, (6 stands); *β.* 6-7 stanzo; *γ.* 6– stanza. See also STANCE *sb.*2 4. [a. It. *stanza* standing, stopping place, room, stanza, corresp. to Sp. Pg. *estancia* dwelling, room, Pr. *estansa* position, OF. *estance* (mod.F. *étance*) stay, support:—popular L. **stantia*, f. L. *stant-em* pr. pple. of *stāre* to stand. The It. word was adapted in Fr. as *stance*, whence STANCE *sb.*2; also in Ger. as *stanze.*]

1. *Versification.* A group of 'lines of verse (usually not less than four), arranged according to a definite scheme which regulates the number of lines, the metre, and (in rhymed poetry) the sequence of rhymes; normally forming a division of a song or poem consisting of a series of such groups constructed according to the same scheme. Also, any of the particular types of structure according to which stanzas are framed.

α. 1588 SHAKS. *L. L. L.* IV. ii. 107 Let me heare a staffe, a stanze, a verse, *Lege domine.* 1596 LODGE *Margarite of Amer.* K 4, The first stands is the complaint, the second the counsel. 1605 CHAPMAN etc. *Eastward Hoe* v. H 3 b, This Stanze now following alludes to the storie of Mannington.

β. 1589 GREENE *Menaphon To Gentlm. Stud.* (Arb.) 15 Euerie stanzo they pen after dinner, is full poynted with a stabbe. 1600 SHAKS. *A. Y. L.* II. v. 28 Come, more, another stanzo: Cal you'em stanzo's? 1609 HEYWOOD *Brit. Troy* v. iii. 108 From Calliope hie Stanzoes flow. 1611 COTGR., *Sestine*, a Sestine, or stanzo of six verses. 1660 F. BROOKE tr. *Le Blanc's Trav.* 144 The musick changes to a very solemn base..with certain stanzoes sung in praise of their deceased Ancestors.

γ. [1589 PUTTENHAM *Eng. Poesie* II. ii. (Arb.) 79 Staffe in our vulgare Poesie I know not why it should be so called... The Italian called it *Stanza*, as if we should say a resting place.] 1595 E. C. *Emaricdulfe* Sonn. xxxix. in *Lamport Garl.* (Roxb.), Thy name, thy honour, and loues puritie, With Stanzas, Layes and Hymnes Ile stellifie. 1603 DRAYTON *Bar. Wars* To Rdr., Therefore..I chose Ariostos stanza of all other the most complete and best proportioned, consisting of eight, sixe interwouen, and a couplet in base. 1612 *Benvenuto's Passenger* II. i. 417 In euery corner they recite the pleasant Stanzaes of the gentle *Furioso.* 1621 T. WILLIAMSON tr. *Goulart's Wise Vieillard* 89, I will heereunto add further this Stanza of verses of the same quill. 1674 PLAYFORD *Skill Mus.* I. ii. 35 The double Bars are set to divide the several Strains or Stanzaes of the Songs and Lessons. 1693 DRYDEN *Juvenal* (1697) Ded. p. lxxxii, The *Secchia Rapita* is an Italian Poem..'Tis written in the Stanza of Eight. 1706 CONGREVE *Pindarique Ode* Disc. A 1 b, The Poet having made choice of a certain Number of Verses to constitute his Strophé, or first Stanza, was oblig'd to observe the same in his Antistrophé, or second Stanza. 1741 POPE *Ess. Crit.* 423 And each exalted stanza teems with thought! 1817 SHELLEY *Rev. Islam* Pref., I have adopted the stanza of Spenser (a measure inexpressibly beautiful). 1842 TENNYSON *Talking Oak* 135 She came..And sang to me the whole Of those three stanzas that you made About my 'giant bole'. 1856 EMERSON *Eng. Traits, Lit.* Wks. (Bohn) II. 115 A stanza of the song of nature the Oxonian has no ear for.

2. In Italy, an apartment, chamber, room; *spec.* in pl. ‖ *stanze* (sta·ntse), applied to certain rooms in the Vatican.

1648 J. RAYMOND *Voy. Italy* 34 At the right hand of this gallerie are severall stanzas full of Curiosities. 1670 G. H. *Hist. Cardinals* I. III. 79 The Agents of Serene Princes.. have half a Stanza [in the Vatican]. 1823 LADY MORGAN *Salvator Rosa* (1824) I. iii. 90 A certain sympathy..between the brothers-in-law frequently carried Salvator to the *stanza* or work-room of Francesco. *Ibid.* 95 Having..studied or worked in the galleries, churches, or *stanze* of the eminent masters in Rome. 1878 MRS. JOS. BUTLER *Catharine of Siena* vii. 200 It forms the subject of a fresco in one of the stanze of the Vatican.

†3. (See quot.) *Obs.*

1675 COVEL in *Early Voy. Levant* (Hakluyt Soc.) 219 Upon every stanza [*i.e.* 'branch' of an acrobat's pole] he would set a cup of water; then raysing it, he would dance with all these in like manner without spilling one drop.

Hence **Sta·nzaed** *a.* (in parasynthetic derivatives), having (a specified number of) stanzas; **Sta·nza** *v.* (*nonce-wd.*) *trans.*, to write stanzas upon.

1755 J. SHEBBEARE *Lydia* (1769) II. 78 He..hit off an epigram or a three stanzaed song with some reputation. 1796 LAMB *Final Mem.* I. 199 (To Coleridge) Dyer stanza'd him in one of the papers t'other day. 1868 *Chronicle* No. 43. 67/1 The nine-stanzaed hymn.

Stanzaic (stænzē·ik), *a.* [f. STANZA *sb.* + -IC.] Of, belonging to or of the nature of poetry composed in the form of stanzas.

1816 *Q. Rev.* XIV. 403 Thus the Lady of the Lake has stanzaic introductions. 1869 *Athenæum* 24 July 108/2 Even those odes which are manifestly stanzaic are not printed in stanzas. 1891 E. GOSSE *Gossip in Libr.* xx. 261 The stanzaic form in which the two pieces are written is identical.

So **Stanza·ical** *a.* Hence **Stanza·ically** *adv.*

1883 HALL CAINE in *Academy* 1 Sept. 138 The printer has been instructed to make a stanzaical division for the eye. 1883 *Athenæum* 17 Nov. 628/2 Work produced in any of the more stringent metres or stanzaical structures. 1908 *Q. Rev.* Apr. 363 The 'long measure' is not even treated stanzaically, but presents to the eye a series of dull-looking columns of verse.

Stanzic, *a. rare.* = STANZAIC.

1869 E. WADHAM *Eng. Versif.* xii. 92 The Lay. In one stanzic measure the rhymes are allowed to assume every possible variation of arrangement.

Stap (stæp), *sb. Sc.* and *north.* Forms: 6 steppe, 9 staup, stawp, step, stap. [Of obscure origin.] A stave of a tub or cask. Chiefly in fig. phrases: see quots.

1587 *Sc. Acts Jas. VI* (1814) III. 522/1 Þat þe steppis of þe said firlot be of þe auld proportione, in thiknes of bayth the burdis, ane insche and ane half. 1808 JAMIESON, *Stap, Steppe*, a stave. *I'll tak a stap out of your coag*, S. Prov., I'll put you on shorter allowance. 1821 *Blackw. Mag.* VIII. 432 But stoups are needed, tubs, and pails, and knaps, For all the old are 'gisand' into staps. 1825 JAMIESON s.v., *To fa' a' staps*, to become extremely debilitated, *q[uasi]* to fall to pieces, like a vessel made of staves. 1825 BROCKETT *N. C. Gloss.*, *Stap*, the stave of a tub. 1829 HOGG *Sheph. Cal.* I. yi. 170 Else I should take a staup out o' their punch cogs the night. 1846 *Brockett's N. C. Gloss.* (ed. 3) s.v., 'To take a stap out of your bicker' means to humble you. 1891 H. JOHNSTON *Kilmallie* I. 96 It behoved me and the likes o' me to keep a calm sough, if we didna want a step taen oot o' our cog.

Stap, affected pronunciation of STOP *v.*, in the phrase *Stap my vitals*, used as an exclamation of surprise, anger, etc., or as an asseveration.

Prob. the first quot. is the source of the phrase. Lord Foppington, the speaker, pronounces *a* for *o* throughout. Cf. GAD, EGAD, and the pronunciations 'Laard', 'plaat' (for Lord, plot) attributed to Titus Oates.

1696 VANBRUGH *Relapse* I. iii, Well, 'tis Ten Thousand Pawnd well given—stap my Vitals. 1716–20 *Lett. Mist's Jrnl.* (1722) I. 50 Thou art one of the most comical Dogs, stap my Vitals! that ever set Pen to Paper. 1730 FIELDING *Author's Farce* III. 34 My Life went out in a Hiss—Stap my Breath. *Ibid.* 46 And so all my Puns, and Quibbles, and Conundrums are quite forgotten, stap my Vitals. 1839 THACKERAY *Catherine* i, Stap my vitals, my dear, but there was a lady..who had a hoop as big as a tent. 1901 *Graphic* Christmas No. 24/2 'Tis a trick of theirs. Stap me, we shall have 'em yet.

Stap, Sc. form of STOP *sb.* and *v.*

Stape (stēp). *s. w. dial.* [Altered form of STAPLE.] = STAPLE *sb.*[1]

1512 *Stratton* (Cornw.) *Churchw. Acc.* in *Archæologia* XLVI. 201 Paid to wylliam Jule for a stape to the stepyll dore iij d. 1629–30 *Hartland Church Acc.* in *Hartland* (Devon) *Gloss.* (1891) s.v., Pd Charles Bagilholl for 2 stapes of iron to make fast y^e^ leads ag^t^ the Tower iij d. 1891 *Hartland* (Devon) *Gloss.*, *Stape*, a staple. (Always.)

Stapedectomy (stæpĭdĕ·ktŏmi). *Surg.* [f. mod.L. *stapedi-* STAPES + ECTOMY.] Excision of the stapes.

1894 J. C. GORDON in *Amer. Annals of Deaf* Oct. 265 While stapedectomy may be rarely resorted to.

Stapedial (stăpī·dĭăl), *a. Anat.* [f. mod.L. *stapedi-us* (see STAPEDIUS) + -AL.] Pertaining to the stapes.

1875 HUXLEY in *Encycl. Brit.* I. 757/1 The posterior.. branch of the seventh nerve passes back..above the stapedial ligament. 1884 COUES *N. Amer. Birds* 154 This stapedial cartilage. *Ibid.* 186 An extremely delicate rod, stepped into the fenestra ovalis by its foot..and bearing..its hammer-like..stapedial elements.

Stapediform (stăpe·dĭfōrm), *a. Anat.* [f. *staped-* STAPES + -(I)FORM.] Stirrup-shaped.

1856 W. CLARK *Van der Hoeven's Zool.* I. 200 Two stapediform maxillæ, with teeth transversely incumbent.

‖ **Stapedius** (stăpī·dĭŭs). *Anat.* [mod.L., elliptical use of *stapedius* adj. (sc. *musculus*), f. *staped-* STAPES.] (More fully *stapedius muscle.*) The small muscle attached to the neck of the stapes.

1788 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) I. 764 Little muscle, the stapedeus [sic]. 1808 *Med. Jrnl.* XIX. 398 The muscle usually called Stapideus [sic]. 1844 HOBLYN *Dict. Terms Med.* (ed. 2), Stapedius. 1847 TODD & BOWMAN *Phys. Anat.* II. 106 The facial nerve gives off the following branches...2. A twig to the stapedius muscle. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 41 Spasm of the stapedius.

‖ **Stapelia** (stăpī·lĭă). *Bot.* [mod.L. (Linnæus 1737) f. name of Jan Bode van *Stapel*, a Dutch botanist (died 1636): see -IA.] A South African genus of apocynaceous plants, remarkable for the fetid smell of the flowers, whence one species (*S. hirsuta*) is called Carrion-flower. Also, a plant of this genus.

1785 MARTYN *Rousseau's Bot.* xvi. (1794) 217 *Stapelia*.. has a very large wheel-shaped corolla. 1834 *Penny Cycl.* II. 440/2 The leafless succulent stapelias. 1860 *All Year Round* No. 63. 295 The carrion-scented flowers of stapelias.

Comb. 1842 *Florist's Jrnl.* (1846) III. 76 *Maxillaria stapeliflora*, stapelia-flowered.

‖ **Stapes** (stā·pīz). [mod.L. use of med.L. *stapēs* (*staped-*) stirrup. Cf. It. *stapede* (sense 1).

In the 16th c. *stapes* was regarded as the standard Latin word for stirrup (for which there was no word in classical Latin, as stirrups were not used by the ancients); it is in Estienne, Cooper, and two Latin-Ger. dictionaries cited by Diefenbach. Du Cange has one example of *stapes*, and one each of *stapedium* (1314), *stapeda*, and *strapes*. The word may perh. be an alteration of med.L. *stapha*, *staffa* (=It. *staffa* stirrup), after L. *stāre* to stand and *ped-em*, *pēs* foot.]

1. The innermost of the three ossicles in the tympanum of the ear in mammals; named from its stirrup-like shape.

The Sicilian anatomist J. Ph. Ingrassia (died 1580), in his posthumous notes to Galen *De Ossibus* (1603), claims the discovery of this bone, and says that he called it *stapha*, but others, more solicitous about Latinity, preferred *stapes* or *strapeda*. In 1564 Eustachius (*De Auditus Organis*, Opusc. Anat. 153) asserts that he made the discovery before Ingrassia did, and states that some call the ossicle *staffa* or *stapes*.

1670 *Phil. Trans.* V. 2060 The Stapes of the Ear. 1705 *Ibid.* XXV. 1983 The Sides or Branches of the Stapes are furrowed on the inside. 1877 BURNETT *Ear* 75 The smallest bone in the body..is the stapes or stirrup.

2. *Surg.* (See quot.)

1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.*, *Stapes*, a bandage for the foot, making a figure-of-8 round the ankle.

Staphisacre, -ager, -agria: see STAVESACRE.

Staphisagriated (stæfisæ·grĭātĕd), *ppl. a. Pharm.* [f. mod.L. *staphisagria* (see next) + -ATE[3] + -ED[1].] Impregnated with the juice of stavesacre seeds: said of lard used in an ointment for destroying animal parasites. 1898 *Rev. Brit. Pharm.* 39.

Staphisagrine (stæfisæ·grəin). *Chem.* Also -in. [f. mod.L. *staphisagria* STAVESACRE + -INE. (Substituted for the earlier STAPHISAÏNE, which is abnormally formed.)] One of the alkaloids found in the seeds of stavesacre (*Delphinium Staphisagria*).

1868 WATTS *Dict. Chem.* V. 406.

Staphisaïne (stæfi·sɛ,ə·in). *Chem.* Also -aïn. [ad. F. *staphisain* (Couerbe 1833, *Ann. de Chimie et de Physique* LII. 363), f. *staphisaigre* STAVESACRE: see -INE.] = STAPHISAGRINE.

1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 445/1 Staphisaïn. 1876 HARLEY *Mat. Med.* (ed. 6) 769 The seeds also contain a second alkaloid called staphisaïne.

‖ **Staphyle** (stæ·filē). *Anat.* [mod.L., a. Gr. σταφυλή bunch of grapes, also the uvula when swollen by disease.] A rare synonym for UVULA.

1808 BARCLAY *Muscular Motions* 506 When the mouth is opened, it is seen extending from right to left in the form of an arch, with the staphyle or uvula suspended in the middle. 1890 G. M. GOULD *New Med. Dict.*

Staphyline (stæ·filəin), *a.* [ad. late Gr. σταφύλινος, pertaining to a bunch of grapes, f. σταφυλή: see prec.]

1. *Min.* Having the form of a bunch of grapes; = BOTRYOIDAL *a.*

1820 MOHS *Char. Min.* 46 Staphyline-Malachite. 1837 DANA *Syst. Min.* 238 Uncleavable Staphyline-Malachite.

2. *Anat.* 'Pertaining to the uvula or the whole palate'. (*Syd. Soc. Lex.*)

1859 MAYNE *Expos. Lex.* s.v. *Staphylinus.*

Staphylinid (stæfili·nĭd), *sb.* and *a. Ent.* [ad. mod.L. *Staphylinidæ*, f. *Staphylīn-us* a. Gr. σταφυλῖνος a kind of insect (Aristotle), prob. f. σταφυλή bunch of grapes: see -ID.] **a.** *sb.* An insect belonging to the *Staphylinidæ* or rove-beetles, a coleopterous order of which the typical genus is *Staphylinus*. **b.** *adj.* Belonging to the *Staphylinidæ*. Also **Staphylini·deous** *a.*

1848 HARDY in *Proc. Berw. Nat. Club* II. No. 6. 336 A Staphylinideous insect. 1891 *Century Dict.*, *Staphylinid.*

‖ **Staphylococcus** (stæ·filōkɒ·kŭs). *Bacteriology.* Pl. **-cocci** (-kɒ·ksəi). [mod.L., f. Gr. σταφυλή bunch of grapes + κόκκος berry.] A form of pus-producing bacteria composed of cocci grouped in irregular masses.

1887 GARNSEY & BALFOUR *De Bary's Lect. Bacteria* 168 In the others the cells separate from the rows after division, and form aggregations which Ogston has compared with a bunch of grapes, and he has expressed the resemblance by the name Staphylococcus. 1895 *Pop. Sci. Monthly* Feb. 513 Organisms, such as..staphylococci. 1897 *Trans. Amer. Pediatric Soc.* IX. 191 A bacteriological examination.. showed the staphylococcus in pure culture.

attrib. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* II. 575 It is usually distinguishable from staphylococcus pus. 1901 OSLER *Princ. & Pract. Med.* (ed. 4) 162 The common streptococcus and staphylococcus infection is as a rule first local.

Hence **Staphylococcal** (-kɒ·kăl), **-coccic** (-kɒ·ksik) *adjs.*, pertaining to or produced by staphylococcus.

1900 *Brit. Med. Jrnl.* 5 May 72 Injections of staphylococcal toxins. 1904 *Ibid.* 10 Sept. 582 The pus from staphylococcic or tuberculous abscesses.

Staphylolysin (stæfilɒ·lisin). *Bacteriology.* [f. *staphylo-* (in STAPHYLOCOCCUS) + LYSIN.] The hæmolysin of staphylococcus toxin.

1904 *Brit. Med. Jrnl.* 10 Sept. 571 Walbum and I have examined the neutralization curves of several other bodies and their antibodies: the rennet.., the vibriolysin, the staphylolysin, and the streptolysin.

‖ **Staphyloma** (stæfilōu·mă). *Path.* In 6 anglicized staphylome. [mod.L., a. Gr. σταφύλωμα, 'a disease in the eye inside the cornea' (L. & Sc.), f. σταφυλή bunch of grapes.] Protrusion of the cornea or sclera, resulting from inflammation.

1597 A. M. tr. *Guillemeau's Fr. Chirurg.* C ij b/1 The portraycture of an Eye, wherin is presentede a Staphylome. 1676 J. COOKE *Marrow Chirurg.* 713 In its progress it receives several Names...If the protuberance be..great, 'tis called Staphyloma, because like a Grape-Stone. 1797 *Phil. Trans.* LXXXVII. 22 In the substance of the cornea, round the basis of the staphyloma, I have frequently seen vessels carrying red blood. 1878 T. BRYANT *Pract. Surg.* I. 320 Staphyloma may be met with in the ciliary region. 1879 P. SMITH *Glaucoma* 19 The very frequent association of glaucomatous tension with corneal staphyloma.

Hence **Staphylo·matous** *a.*, of the nature of or pertaining to staphyloma.

1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl., s.v. *Mylon*, Tumours of the staphylomatous kind. 1875 H. WALTON *Dis. Eye* 354 Staphylomatous enlargement of the sclerotica.

Staphyloplasty (stæ·filoplæ·sti). [f. Gr. σταφυλή (see STAPHYLE) + -PLASTY.] (See quot. 1890.) So **Sta·phyloplastic** *a.*

1846 [see STAPHYLORRHAPHY]. 1855 DUNGLISON *Med. Lex.*, *Staphyloplastic*, an epithet applied to the operation for replacing the soft palate, when it has been lost. 1890 G. M. GOULD *New Med. Dict.*, *Staphyloplasty*, a plastic operation for the closure of cleft palate.

Staphylorrhaphy (stæfilɒ·răfi). *Surg.* Also -o(r)raphy. [ad. assumed Gr. *σταφυλορραφία, f. σταφυλή (see STAPHYLE) + ῥαφή sewing, suture.] The surgical closure of a cleft palate.

1846 BRITTAN tr. *Malgaigne's Man. Oper. Surg.* 363 When there is only a narrow fissure in the velum, we have staphyloraphy, properly so called; when this cleft, very much separated, simulates a loss of substance, staphyloplasty. 1855 DUNGLISON *Med. Lex.*, *Staphylorraphy*..consists in paring the edges of the cleft; passing ligatures through them, and bringing them together. 1878 L. P. MEREDITH *Teeth* 242 The operation of staphyloraphy. 1898 ROSE & CARLESS *Man. Surg.* 722 In dealing with clefts of the soft palate alone, a modification of the above operation may be performed, called staphylorraphy.

attrib. 1895 *Arnold & Sons' Catal. Surg. Instrum.* 232 Suture Needles for Staphyloraphy operations.

Hence **Staphylorrha·phic** *a.*, pertaining to or used in staphylorrhaphy.

1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.*, Staphyloraphic Instruments.

Sta·phylotome. *rare*[−0]. [ad. Gr. σταφυλοτόμον knife for cutting the uvula, f. σταφυλή (see STAPHYLE) + -τόμο- that cuts.] See quot.

The explanation in Dunglison *Med. Lex.* 1876, 'A knife adapted to the operation for staphyloma', appears to be unfounded.

1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.*, *Staphylotome*, a knife for operating upon the uvula or palate.

Staphylo·tomy. *Surg. rare*[−0]. [ad. mod.L. *staphylotomia*, as if a. Gr. *σταφυλοτομία f. σταφυλή STAPHYLE + -τομία cutting.]

1. Amputation of the uvula.

1855 DUNGLISON *Med. Lex.* 1890 G. M. GOULD *New Med. Dict.*

¶ **2.** 'The removal of a staphyloma by cutting' (Dorland *Med. Dict.* 1913).

Staphylotoxin (stæfilɒtɒ·ksin). *Bacteriology.* [f. *staphylo-* (in STAPHYLOCOCCUS) + TOXIN.] A toxin occurring in cultures of staphylococci.

1902 *Brit. Med. Jrnl.* 12 Apr. 920 M. Neisser, and Wechsberg [have studied] staphylotoxin.

Staple (stē·p'l), *sb.*[1] Forms: 1, 4 **stapol**, 1–5 **stapul**, **stapel**, 3 **stapil**, **stapple**, 5 **stapill**, **stapyl**(1, 6 **stapylle**, 5–6 **stapulle**, 6 **stappil**, 4, 7 **stable**, 7 *Sc.* **staiple**, 4– **staple**. [OE. *stapol* str. masc. (a wk. form *stapole* is doubtful) corresponds to OFris. *stapul*, *stapel* stem or visible part of a tooth, also block for executions (WFris. *steapel*, NFris. *stabel* heap), OS. *stapal*, *stapel*, candle, small tub (MLG. *stapel* pillar, post, candle, block for executions, platform, stocks for shipbuilding, heap; hence MHG. and mod.G. *stapel* stake, beam, stocks for shipbuilding, and prob. Sw. *stapel*, Da. *stabel* in the same senses), MDu. *stapel* foundation, support, stem of a plant, heap (mod.Du. *stapel* leg of a chair, stocks, heap), OHG. *staffal* (gl. 'basis'; the fem. *staffala*, mod.G. *staffel* step, rung of a ladder, is prob. a separate formation), ON. *stǫpull* steeple, tower, once pillar:—OTeut. **stapulo-z.*

The various applications of the word in the Teut. langs. seem traceable to a general sense of 'something supporting'; the root **stap-* is prob. identical with that of STEP *sb.* and *v.*

In addition to the sense 1 below, OE. seems to have had those of foundation (gl. *batis*, perh. error for *basis*) and steps or raised platform in front of an outer door (see Beowulf 926 and the gloss 'stapel, *patronus*', prob. for *petronus*: cf. F. *perron*), but these did not survive into ME. Sense 2 is not found in continental Teut., and its evolution is not easy to explain; the identity of the word is not certain.]

†**1.** A post, pillar, column (of wood, stone, metal). *Obs.*

Beowulf 2718 Þa stanbogan stapulum fæste. *c* 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Matt. xxi. 12 Staplas [glosses *columbas* mistaken for *columnas*]. *a* 1000 *Andreas* 1062 Oð ðæt he ȝemette..standan stræte neah stapul ærenne. *a* 1000 *Gloss.* in *Wr.-Wülcker* 205/5 *Cione*, stapole. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 8288 Vnder þis tre ..A stapul was o marbul grai. 13.. *Seuyn Sages* (W.) 201 Leues thai tok, sextene, Of iuy..Under ech stapel of his bed ..four thai hid. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) V. 273 But Edol, duke of Gloucestre, cauȝte a stable, [L. *arrepto palo*: v. rr. pale, stake] and defended hym manliche.

† **b.** Used for STEEPLE. *Obs. rare*[−1].

Perh. an error; but cf. ON. *stǫpull*.

1470–1 in *Oxf. Stud. Soc. & Legal Hist.* (1914) IV. 225 In Bylddyng of..the Chyrche Stapill in the Town of Latton.

c. *Mining.* A pillar of coal left as a temporary support for a superincumbent mass.

1839 URE *Dict. Arts* etc. 979 As a further precaution staples of coal, about 10 inches square, are left.

2. A short rod or bar of iron or other metal bent into the form of a U or of three sides of a rectangle, and pointed at the ends, to be driven into a post, plank, wall, or other surface, in order to serve as a hold for a hasp, hook, or bolt to secure a door or box, or as an attachment for a rope or the like. Also applied to other contrivances of similar shape or function, as the box or case into which the bolt of a lock is shot.

For *hasp and staple* (Law), see HASP *sb.* 1 d.

1295 *MS. Acc. Exch. K. R.* 5/8 m. 10 Et ij. s. ix. d. in stipendiis Hugonis Fabri pro stapples et hespes fabricandis. *c* 1340 *Nominale* (Skeat) 467 *Et graps et appendus* Stapul and haspe. *Ibid.* 471 *Sere veroil et cerrure* Barre slot and stapul. 1344–5 *MS. Acc. Exch. K. R.* 492/24 Facientis

unum haspe et unum stapel pro hostio stabuli. *c* 1380 *Sir Ferumb.* 2181 Þe henges boþe barste & þe stapel þar-with out sprong. *a* 1400–50 *Wars Alex.* 1081 Of ilka bild,..barred was þe ȝatis, Stoken stifly with-out with staplis & cheynes. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 472/2 Stapylle of a schyttynge (*v.r.* stapul), *stapellum.* 1485 *Nottingham Rec.* III. 231 A newe staple of iren to þe same yeate. 1495 *Naval Acc. Hen. VII* (1896) 150 Staples & clampes of yron ffor a carte. 1541 *Act* 33 *Hen. VIII*, c. 12 § 3 The Sergeant..shall bringe to the saide place of execucion a blocke withe a betill a staple and cordes to bynde the saide hande vpon the blocke. *a* 1552 Leland *Itin.* VII. 56 Men alyve have sene Rynges and Staples yn the Walles as yt had bene Stayes or Holdes for Shyppes. 1560 *Ludlow Churchw. Acc.* (Camden) 96 A stapulle and a haspe for the..chest. 1606 Shaks. *Tr. & Cr.* Prol. 17 With massie Staples And corresponsiue and fulfilling Bolts. 1626 Capt. Smith *Accid. Yng. Seamen* 12 Grummets, and staples for all yeards. 1643 Lightfoot *Gleanings Exod.* 41 Staples of Gold were fastned in every planke. 1660 Boyle *New Exp. Phys.-Mech.* Proem 14 A small Iron nut, ..which is fastened by two staples..to the under side of the..board. 1677 Moxon *Mech. Exerc.* ii. 28 You must with square Staples, just fit to contain the Bolt with an easie play, fasten these staples, by rivetting them with the Bolt within them..to the Main-plate. 1688 Holme *Armoury* III. 462/1 The Crown Stable, that to which the Clapper [of the Bell] is hung. *Ibid.* IV. v. (Roxb.) 309/2 A demy Ape..holding a stable by the tanges with both his hands, Sable. 1691 T. H[ale] *Acc. New Invent.* 46 Her Rudder-Irons Stirrups, Staples, etc. 1725 Pope *Odyss.* XXI. 48 The bolt..Forsakes the staple as she pulls the ring. 1746 Watson in *Phil. Trans.* XLIV. 714 Cork'd, with a Staple of small Wire running through each Cork into the Water. 1810 Shelley *Zastrozzi* i. Pr. Wks. (1888) I. 5 His limbs..were fixed by immense staples to the flinty floor. *c* 1850 *Rudim. Navig.* (Weale) 152 *Staples*, crooked fastenings made of copper, from 6 to 12 inches long, with a jagged hook at each end. 1863 Geo. Eliot *Romola* I. XVI, Fastening the old bridle..to an iron staple in the wall. 1884 *Manch. Exam.* 6 Oct. 5/4 The deceased was drawing the staples by which the ladders were held. 1898 M. Hewlett *Forest Lovers* XXX, A girdle made of bright steel in which was a staple.

fig. 1809–10 Coleridge *Friend* (ed. 3) III. 118 The uneducated..talker overlooks all mental relations...Hence the nearer the..incidents in time and place, the more distant, disjointed [etc.]..will they appear in his narrative..and this from the want of a staple or starting-post in the narrator himself. 1827 Hare *Guesses* Ser. II. (1873) 324 A philosopher ..must be a staple firmly and deeply fixt—in the adamantine walls of Truth.

†**b.** A clasp or fastening for armour. *Obs.* [Cf. Stapled *ppl. a.* quot. 13 . . .]

a 1420 *Aunturs of Arthur* 591 (Douce MS.) Stiþe stapeles [*v.r.* stapuls] of stele þey strike done stiȝte. 1535 Stewart *Cron. Scot.* (1858) I. 382 Thair freikis fell with mony forcie flap, Quhill ruvis raif and steill stapillis out lap.

c. A snout-ring.

1688 Holme *Armoury* II. 181/2 Rings, or Staples to put into their [swine's] Noses to keep them from Rooting. 1875 [see *snout-ring*, Snout *sb.*[1] 7].

3. The upright body of a hand printing press.

1833 J. Holland *Manuf. Metal* II. 208 A is the upright body of the press, called the staple.

4. *attrib.* and *Comb.* (sense 2), as *staple-driver, -fastener, -pin, -punch*; *staple-headed, -shaped* adjs.; *staple-fashion, -wise* advs.; also †**staple-bar**, ? a bar to which a staple is fixed; **staple isinglass**, isinglass in staple-shaped pieces; **staple-knee** *Naut.* (see quot.); **staple-ring** = sense 2 c; **staple-vice**, a bench-vice.

1339–40 *Ely Sacrist Rolls* (1907) II. 96 Item solut. Johanni Amyot pro *stapolbarris fabricandis de iiij^{xx} peciis ferri Dni. pro pec. iijd. & i. os. 3d. 1399 *MS. Acc. Exch. K. R.* 473/11 m. 3 Pro viij. Soudletles ij. Stapulbarres pro fenestris eiusdem noue domus. 1884 Knight *Dict. Mech.* Suppl., **Staple-driver*, an instrument for driving the staples in window-blinds. 1869 E. J. Reed *Shipbuilding* ii. 42 The angle-irons on the upper edge are forged *staple fashion. 1884 Knight *Dict. Mech.* Suppl., **Staple Fastener*, a spring punch for driving and clinching a staple against an anvil block beneath. 1819 Fosbroke *Hist. Glouc.* 119 Massy round Columns, with *staple-headed arches. 1879 Simmonds *Commerc. Products Sea* 243 Isinglass..drawn out in a serpentine manner into the form of a heart, horseshoe, or lyre (long and short *staple) between three pegs. 1883 R. Haldane *Workshop Rec.* Ser. II. 355/1 The isinglass comes into commerce under the names of..'staple', 'book', 'pipe',..and other designations, according to its form. 1846 A. Young *Naut. Dict.* 295 *Standard-knees.*.. These..are also called *Staple-knees, or Staple-lodging knees. 1835 Ure *Philos. Manuf.* 145 It has a *staple pin at its inner end. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* s.v., The *staple-punch has two points, and is used to prick blind-rods and slats for the reception of the staples which connect them. 1707 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4377/4 A black Mare..., wring'd with a *staple Ring. 1874 Thearle *Naval Archit.* § 258. 275 An intercostal *staple-shaped angle-iron. 1881 Young *Ev. Man his own Mech.* § 280 The best black *staple vices are sold, according to weight, at 7d per lb. *Mod. Tool-maker's Price-list*, Vices. Staple Leg Vices. 1596 Mascall *Bk. Cattle, Hogs* 275 Make it sharpe at both ends, and bow it *staple-wise with two corners nigh an inch wide.

Staple (stē·p'l), *sb.*[2] Also 5–6 **stapull, stapyll, 6 stapul, 5–6 stapill, 8 stapple.** Also 5 **estapell, estaple.** [a. OF. *estaple* fem. emporium, mart (mod.F. *étape* halting-place):— med.L. *stapula*, also *staplus*, ad. MLG. *stapol, stapel*: see Staple *sb.*[1]

The (M)LG., (M)Du. *stapel*, and hence the G. and Sw. *stapel*, Da. *stabel*, have the sense 'emporium, mart', in addition to the senses mentioned under the preceding sb. It is, however, uncertain whether this sense was developed in MLG., or whether it originated in OF., and was thence adopted into MLG. The precise relation of this sense to the other senses of the Teut. word is also uncertain. It has been usually held to have been developed from the sense 'heap, pile'. This is not impossible; but, on the other hand, in the Frankish laws *regis stapulus* meant the place where the king or his representative administered judgement; the original notion may have been that of 'raised platform'. The transition would be easy from the Frankish sense of *regis stapulus* to that of the 'king's staple' for the collection of duties on merchandise.]

1. A town or place, appointed by royal authority, in which was a body of merchants having the exclusive right of purchase of certain classes of goods destined for export; also, the body of merchants so privileged. Now only *Hist.*

The English word has not been found earlier than 1423; the AF. *estaple* and the Anglo-L. *stapula*, however, occur in statutes and official documents from the reign of Edw. II onwards, and these contain evidence that the institution of the staple was of older date. Each staple had a mayor and constables, appointed by the king, and in early times distinct from the municipal authorities, though latterly the mayor of some boroughs was *ex officio* mayor of the staple. At various times the chief staple was oversea, usually at Bruges or Calais; from about 1390 to 1558 it was at Calais, which is often called 'The Staple'. There were also staples in many important towns of England, Wales, and Ireland, the list of which varied greatly at different periods. *Statute of the Staple*: the ordinance 27 Edw. III (1353), which established staples in various English towns, and at Carmarthen, Dublin, Waterford, Cork, and Drogheda, and contained regulations for their form of government and the conduct of their business. (For *statute of the staple* in another application, see Statute staple.)

1423 *Rolls of Parlt.* IV. 249/1 They may bey Wolle..atte the Stapull of Calais. 1429 *Ibid.* IV. 359/2 And yat ye Maire of ye Staple for the tyme beyng, have power..to make due serch. 1450 *Ibid.* V. 189/1 Nygh to oure Staple there [*sc.* the Palace at Westminster]. *c* 1450 *Brut* CCXXIX. 305 In þe same ȝere þe Kyng reuoked..þe staple of wolles out of Flaundres into Engelond. 1473 *Paston Lett.* III. 97 To the Mayre, Lieutenant, and felaship of the staple. 1480 *Cely Papers* (Camden) 33 George Cely merchand of the estapell at Calleys. 1482 *Ibid.* 63 Merchant of the estaple. ? 1482 *Ibid.* 130 Bryn[g]yng my ij oblygacyons of the Stapyll to Cales. 1525 Berners *Froiss.* II. XX. 18 The kyng..gaue hym an hundred marke sterlynge, yerely to be payed out of the Staple of the wolles in London. 1538 Starkey *England* II. i. 173 The caryage out of wolle to the stapul ys a grete hurte to the pepul of Englond. *a* 1548 Hall *Chron., Hen. VI* 131 Ther [in Ghent] was the staple of woolles, tynne, leade and other merchaundise. 1568 Grafton *Chron.* II. 169 In the xix yere of this king, the staple of woolles was kept at Sandwiche, which afterwarde was kept at Caleys as long as it was Englishe, but now it is holden at Bridges in Flaunders. 1577 Holinshed *Hist. Eng.* II. 519/2 He had borrowed a great summe of monie of the Marchants of the Staple. *Ibid.* 1771/1 Edmonde Hall one of the Conestables of the Staple. 1599 *N. C. Wills* (Surtees) II. 185 The worshipfull companie of marchauntes of the staple of Englande. 1610 Holland *Camden's Brit.* (1637) 540 The Staple, as they tearme it, that is, the Mart, of Wooll, Leather, Lead, etc. 1615 Brathwait *Strappado* (1878) 196 You ayme at no Monopoly, No priuate staples, but desire to sell,..Your Ware in publique places. 1617 Moryson *Itin.* I. 50 This City is the Staple of all Merchandise, excepting Rhenish wine, for which by old priuiledge Dorte is the Staple. 1621 Elsing *Debates Ho. Lords* (Camden) 110 *Hodie 2 vice lecta Billa* for the merchantes of the Staple. 1650 Jer. Taylor *Serm. for Yr.* 165 By weight and measure of the staple. 1875 Stubbs *Const. Hist.* II. xvi. 411 The system of the staple was..a combination of the principle of the guild and of the royal privilege of establishing fairs and markets. 1890 Gross *Gild Merch.* I. 144 It is evident that the staple was primarily a fiscal organ of the crown, facilitating the collection of the royal customs. It also ensured the quality of the goods exported by providing a machinery for viewing and marking them.

b. †(*a*) A town or country which is the principal market or entrepot for some particular class of merchandise (*obs.*). (*b*) A commercial centre, a chief place of business in a country or district. (Now somewhat *arch.*)

1436 *Libel Eng. Policy* in *Pol. Poems* (Rolls) II. 160 Saffron, quiksilver..Is into Flaundres shypped fulle craftylye, Unto Bruges, as to here staple fayre. *Ibid.* 162 The lytelle londe of Flaundres is But a staple to other londes..And alle that groweth in Flaundres..May not a moneth fiynde hem mete of brede. *c* 1511 *1st Eng. Bk. Amer.* (Arb.) Introd. p. xxix/1 [Punctuation corrected.] There groeth much peper, and the properest stapell therof, that kingdom of Colen, is xxiiij myles from there. 1612 in *Eng. Hist. Rev.* (1914) Apr. 251 In time this Kingdom will become the staple of those easterne commodities, from whence they may be dispersed into France, Germaine, [etc.]. 1630 *R. Johnson's Kingd. & Commw.* 224 They enjoy also Malaca, which ..is..the staple of the Traffique..of the East Ocean. *c* 1645 Howell *Lett.* IV. i. (1655) I. 167 The Spaniards notwithstanding they are the Masters of the Staple of Jewels, stood astonish'd at the beuty of these. 1690 Füller *Pisgah* III. i. 315 God intended not Jerusalem for a staple of trade but for a Royal Exchange of Religion. 1723 *Pres. State Russia* I. 117 Novgorod..was comprehended in the League of the Hans-Towns, and was the Staple of the inferior Towns. 1737 G. Smith *Cur. Relat.* I. i. 81 The rest is sold to the People or Merchants at Ucienjen, this being the greatest Staple for Porcelain in all China. 1776 Gibbon *Decl. & F.* xiii. I. 380 That the city of Nisibis might be established for the place of mutual exchange, or, as we should formerly have termed it, for the staple of trade, between the two empires. 1836 Thirlwall *Greece* II. xii. 202 The position..was well adapted for a great staple of commerce between the Thracian tribes..and the Greek cities. 1850 W. Irving *Mahomet* iii. (1853) 10 Its seaports..were the staples of an opulent and widely extended Commerce. 1865 Carlyle *Fredk. Gt.* VII. v. II. 293 Old Nürnberg..Trading Staple of the German world in old days.

c. *fig.*

1594 Lyly *Mother Bombie* II. v, A tauerne is the Randeuous, the Exchange, the staple for good fellowes. 1621 Donne *Serm.* XV. (1640) 152 There is a Trade driven, a Staple established betweene Heaven and earth;..Thither have we sent our flesh, and hither hath he sent his Spirit. 1626 B. Jonson *Staple of N.* I. ii, *Tho.* O Sir, a staple of newes! Or the New Stäple, which you please. *P. Iv.* What's that? *Fas.* An..Office set vp...*P. Iv.* For what? *Tho.* To enter all the Newes, Sir, o' the time. *c* 1645 Howell *Lett.* I. v. (1655) I. 9 This City of Amsterdam, though she be a great Staple of News, yet I can impart none unto you at this time. 1647 Ward *Simple Cobler* 9 That Country which hath been the Staple of Truth to all Christendome. 1699 T. C[ockman] tr. *Tully's Offices* (1706) 236 Since you are gone as 'twere to a Staple and Mart of good Literature. *a* 1718 Prior *Engl. Padlock* 62 A Staple of Romance and Lies. 1849 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* iii. I. 366 Whitehall naturally became the chief staple of news.

†**d.** A 'factory' or authorized place of trade for merchants of a foreign country. *Obs.*

1617 Moryson *Itin.* I. 61 Meluin is a little and faire City, ..and at this time grew rich by the English Merchants having their staple in the same. 1634 W. Haig *Let.* in J. Russell *Haigs* (1881) 468 Mr. John Forbes, a minister..of the English that are about their staple in that place. 1668 Sir W. Temple *Lett.* i. (1699) 8 Attempts of removing the Scotch Staple from Teweet to Dort. 1698 Fryer *Acc. E. India & P.* 25 The English Factory..being under the Tutelage of the Natives, as also are the Portugals and Flemmings (who each have here their Staples). 1861 M. Pattison *Ess.* (1889) I. 41 This original factory and staple of the German merchants, vulgarly called 'The Steelyard' (*Stahlhof*) still stands on the banks of the Thames. 1892 Cochran-Patrick *Mediæval Scot.* vii. 133 The establishment of the Scottish staple at Middleburgh in 1347 was followed by more cordial relations between Scotland and England.

†**2.** A dépôt or storehouse for provisions, war material, etc. *Obs.*

1523 *St. Papers Hen. VIII*, VI. 171 The Kinges Grace hathe prepared the power of the north parties to a great nomber, whiche..may..either invade or defende, as they shal be commaunded, and vitailles ordred in staples for that purpose. 1552 Edw. VI *Jrnl.* Lit. Rem. (Roxb.) II. 421 Duke Maurice toke..50 peces of ordinaunce, which he conveyed to Auspurg, for that toune he fortefied and made it his staple of provision. 1688 Holme *Armoury* III. xix. (Roxb.) 202/1 There must be choise made of some place, Citty or Towne, to make the Staple of Ammunition.

†**b.** A stock, quantity of provisions or material stored up. *Obs.*

1549 Thomas *Hist. Italie* 75 Hauyng suche a staple of tymber (whiche in the water within Th'arsenale hath lien a seasonyng, some .20. yere, some .40. some an .100. and some I wote not how longe). 1586 Hooker *Holinshed's Chron. Irel.* 165/2 That a storehouse be prouided alwais in the towne for a staple of vittels to be kept there at all times. 1603 R. Johnson *Kingd. & Commw.* 118 In their Arsenal they continually maintaine two hundred gallies, and such a staple of timber, that for every day in the yeare, they are able to builde a newe galley.

3. [Short for *staple-ware*, etc. (see 4), and elliptical use of Staple *a.*] A staple commodity.

†**a.** An article of merchandise the trade in which is subjected to the regulations of the Staple. *Obs.*

1690 Child *Disc. Trade* (1698) 161 Except such species only as his Majesty and the Parliament shall think fit to make Staples, as suppose Colchester Bayes, Perpetuanoes, Cheanyes,..to be allowed the honour of a publick Seal, by which to be bought and sold here, and beyond seas, as if it were upon the publick faith of England.

b. A principal industrial product of a country, town, or district; *occas.* the commodity principally dealt in by a person or class of persons.

1616 Capt. Smith *Descr. New Eng.* 10 The maine Staple ..is fish. 1640 Howell *Dodona's Grove* 7 Corne, Wine, and Salt, her three rich staples doe so abound in her. 1733 P. Lindsay *Interest Scot.* 143 Linen is our Staple, &c. but it has been wofully neglected. 1789 *Ann. Reg., Brit. & For. Hist.* 167 Mr. Pitt introduced it [the subject] by observing that tobacco was now to be considered as the smuggler's staple. 1806 *Gazetteer Scot.* (ed. 2) 323 The manufacture of cotton..has long been the staple of this county. 1834 Mr. Martineau *Demerara* iii. 42 Sugar is our staple and sugar we must grow. 1840 Hood *Up Rhine* 163 Villages..built by some speculating timber-merchant, who found his staple quite a drug in the market. 1843 Prescott *Mexico* VII. ii. (1864) 424 The sugar-cane..formed a more desirable staple for the colony than its precious metals. 1883 *Century Mag.* Oct. 818/1 Barley is always a staple, and averages twenty bushels to the acre. 1883 *Stubbs' Merc. Circular* 8 Nov. 982/2 Grey shirtings show a falling-off..and..it is to be feared that the trade in this once flourishing staple will continue to decrease. 1912 *Times* 19 Dec. 19/2 Good returns should also be obtained from the cultivation of maize (which was the staple of Rhodesia).

c. *transf.* and *fig.* The thing chiefly 'dealt in'; the principal object of employment, thought, or discourse. Sometimes (? with mixture of Staple *sb.*[3], sense 2) used for: The chief component element, the 'substance', 'bulk'.

1826 Syd. Smith *Whs.* (1859) II. 74/1 An unconquerable aversion to..that train of meteorological questions and answers which forms the great staple of polite English conversation. 1844 Dickens *Mart. Chuz.* xvi, The poultry..may perhaps be considered to have formed the staple of the entertainment. 1849 W. Irving *Goldsmith* xviii. 205 Conversation was the great staple there. 1857 Buckle *Civiliz.* I. x. 616 Events of this sort, though neglected by ordinary historians, are among the staff and staple of history. 1865 Tylor *Early Hist. Man.* iv. 63 It may be said that action, ..forms the staple of that part of the gesture-language. 1907 C. Hill-Tout *Brit. N. Amer., Far West* V. 100 These staples were everywhere supplemented by the flesh of other animals which varied with the habitat.

4. *attrib.* (Cf. Staple *a.*) 'of or pertaining to the Staple' (sense 1), as *staple-court, -register,*

-roll, seal; 'that is a staple' (senses 1, 1 b), as *staple place, port, town*; †**staple-good** = *staple-ware*; †**staple-hand** *Sc.* (sense obscure: *mercats of stapillhand* = 'markets of staple-ware'); **staple-house**, a warehouse where commodities chargeable with export duties were stored; †**staple-merchandise** = *staple-ware*; †**staple rate**, ? a price fixed by the Staple, a monopoly price; in quot. *fig.*; †**staple-traffic**, an organized branch of trade (*fig.*); †**staple-ware(s**, such goods as were the monopoly of the Staple (in England wool, woolfells, leather, lead, and tin).

1433 in *10th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm* App. v. 296 In defraude of the courte..of Watirforde, or of the *staple courte of the Kynge. 1574 *Ibid.* 335 The Sergeants may arrest anny challendged in the Staple-court. 1455 in *Charters* etc. *Edin.* (1871) 80 Ony merchandice that is *staple gude. 1482 *Extracts Burgh Rec. Edin.* (1869) I. 46 That na maner of stapill gudis of strangearis remane..langare in Leyth.. than it may be cartit and brocht to the toun. 1593 *Reg. Mag. Sig. Scot.* 797/2 *Cum libertate*..de lie paking, peilling, loising or laidning be sey of stapill guddis or wairis. 1811 P. Kelly *Univ. Cambist* II. 310 *Staple goods*, such as are sold at a staple. The term is however mostly applied to goods that are not of a perishable nature, as wool, lead, &c. 1364 in *Reg. Episc. Brechinensis* (Bannatyne Club) II. 380 Ane Inchibitioun for halding off mercats of *Stapillhand at Brechine and Ferdoune. 1876 F. Martin *Hist. Lloyds* i. 2 In their large *staple-house on the Thames..were stored the collections of raw produce..which England sent away to foreign countries. 1721 Strype *Eccl. Mem.* II. 259 Paying no more..than for so much Goods of *Staple Merchandize as they shall..transport unto the Staple of Calais. 1650 Fuller *Pisgah* III. iii. 322 Indeed Tyre,..was the *staple place which furnished it with fish. 1838 *Murray's Handbk. N. Germ.* 247 Coblenz..forms the natural staple place of the Rhine and Mosel wines. 1727 A. Hamilton *New Acc. E. Ind.* I. vi. 53 It [Aden] continued many Years after the *Stapple Port for the Red Sea Commerce. 1730 A. Gordon *Maffei's Amphith.* 378 The Staple-Port for Merchandize of the East. *a* 1628 F. Grevil *Cælica* lxxviii, So States proue sicke, where toyes beare *Staple-rates. 1483–4 *Cely Papers* (Camden) 147 Thys entercourse ys entryd in the *stappnll Regester of old tyme. 1890 Gross *Gild Merch.* I. 144 The *Staple Rolls in the Record Office. 1482 *Cely Papers* (Camden) 114 Ther shall be made vj oblijgaschons under the *stapell seal. 1617 *Nottingham Rec.* IV. 355 The matter of makinge this towne a *staple towne. 1756 Nugent tr. *Montesquieu's Spirit Laws* XXI. xi. (1758) II. 51 The barbarians obliged the Romans to establish staple-towns. 1908 *Athenæum* 14 Nov. 610/3 The Statute of the Staple, 1353, ..established a number of Staple towns where the wools, &c., were to be weighed and sealed, the duty paid [etc.]. *a* 1618 Sylvester *All's not gold* xii. Wks. (Grosart) II. 254 That Ignatian-Latian Colledge, Where..They study State and Stratagems; Making a *Staple-Trafick of it..To murther Kings, and mangle Realms. 1432 *Rolls of Parlt.* IV. 417/2 Grete substaunce of marchaundises, nat *Staple ware, but other. 1587 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* IV. 237 To transporte thair guidis and staple wairis to uthuris townis. 1720 Strype *Stow's Surv.* I. xxxi. I. 306/1 King James..incorporated himself into the Clothworkers: as men dealing in the Principal and Noblest Staple Wares of all these Islands, viz. Woollen Cloths.

Staple (stē·p'l), *sb.*[3] Also 7 **stapple**. [Of uncertain origin; perh. a back-formation from Staple *v.*[2] or Stapler, the sorting of wool according to quality being part of the business of the stapler.]

1. The fibre of any particular variety or sample of wool (in later use also of cotton, flax, or other material for textile processes) considered with regard to its length and fineness; a particular length and degree of fineness in the fibre of wool, cotton, etc.

1481 *Cely Papers* (Camden) 66 They causyd me to kep hyt [your new wool] iiij or v dayes and then the sayd the staple therof was to schoorte. *c* 1580 in *Eng. Hist. Rev.* (1914) July 523 Theyr woolles beinge of so course a staple that it will not ronne in threde unles they mingle our woolles withall. 1596 Mascall *Bk. Cattle, Sheep* (1627) 200 Ye must see that ye buy no Ram nor other Sheepe that hath a thin staple, or small store of wooll. 1601 Holland *Pliny* VIII. xlviii. I. 227 The wooll of Apulia is of a short staple, and specially in request for cloakes and mantles, and nothing else. 1610 Folkingham *Feudigr.* 9 Lemster Ore merits the preheminence (though it be short) for a purely-fine, soft and crisped Staple. 1641 Best *Farm. Bks.* (Surtees) 9 To cutt of all the shaggie hairy woll..by which meanes they make them seeme more snodde and of a better stapple. 1675 Grew *Anat. Plants* (1682) 140 The Qualities..of the best Tow ..are that the Staple be long, small, tough, and white. 1754 in *6th Rep. Dep. Kpr. Publ. Rec.* App. II. 128 An Engine..which will..lay the Harle or Staple of the Wool more straight and close than any Yarn yet produced. 1825 J. Nicholson *Oper. Mech.* 389 Some difficulty might be expected to occur in adapting the rollers to different staples. 1861 *Times* 27 Sept., That straight staple and open fleece which the Lincoln long-wool grazier avoids. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* IV. 261/2 The staple of mohair is from five to six inches long. 1886 C. Scott *Sheep-Farming* 180 It is essential to the character of a good wool, that there should be an evenness of staple. 1897 Mary Kingsley *W. Africa* 323 The fibre from which these nets are made has a long staple.

b. A lock of wool.

1805 Luccock *Nat. Wool* 134 In such coats the..staples separate easily from each other, and the wool dies in the bowl. 1884 M[c]Laren *Spinning* (ed. 2) 15 This can be done ..by pulling a staple out of the fleece. If it be a wether, the staple will come clean out without interfering to any extent with the surrounding staples; but if it be a hog, some of the fibres of the other staples will adhere to the bottom of the one being pulled. 1885 F. H. Bowman *Struct. Wool* Gloss., *Staple*, the lock of wool or hair which is formed by the aggregation of fibres in the fleece.

c. Unmanufactured wool.

1885 *Wool Trade Circular* Jan., The situation as regards cross-bred staple has proved somewhat exceptional. 1897 *Ibid.*, Jan., Though crossbreds were somewhat neglected, prices for merino staple rose 7½ per cent. *Ibid.*, All grades of staple fell 10 per cent. in value.

2. The fibre of which a thread or a textile fabric is composed. Hence *gen.* the material of which anything is made. Also *fig.*

1588 Shaks. *L. L. L.* v. i. 19 He draweth out the thred of his verbositie finer then the staple of his argument. 1682 Grew *Anat. Plants* Ep. Ded. 2 The Staple of the Stuff is so exquisitely fine, that no Silk-worm is able to draw any thing near so small a Thred. 1755 *Phil. Trans.* XLIX. 208 The substance [*sc.* a kind of paper]..appears to be of a coarser grain, a shorter staple, and of a much looser texture. 1824 Johnson *Typogr.* II. 644 Producing a good paper in appearance, from an inferior staple. 1831 G. R. Porter *Silk Manuf.* 206 Even when the injury occurring to the staple of the thread is less apparent. 1845–6 Trench *Hulsean Lect.* Ser. I. ii. 34 The staple out of which its whole web is woven. 1850 Merivale *Rom. Emp.* xxii. (1865) III. 40 Lucilius himself could not refrain from interweaving Greek words with the homely staple of his Latin style. 1882 Annie Edwardes *Ballroom Repent.* I. 227 The coaching that teaches you how to find staple for conversation out of the slightest materials.

3. The stratum of vegetable mould overlying the rock; a particular depth or quality of this.

a 1722 Lisle *Husb.* (1757) 70 A shallow grete or staple. *Ibid.* 263 The tops of such grass will be coarse and sour, as running to a length beyond what the staple of the ground can well carry. 1771 Burke *Corr.* (1844) I. 265 The general objection of farmers against ploughing up the dead earth, or going beyond what is called the staple; that is, that body of dark-coloured mould, which seems to be in part formed of rotten vegetables and animal substances. 1793 A. Young *Agric. Sussex* 10 Advancing down the hills, the soil becomes of a deeper staple. 1802 R. Brookes *Gazetteer* (ed. 12) s. v. *Rutlandshire*, The E and SE parts are of a shallow staple upon limestone rock. 1813 Vancouver *Agric. Devon* 29 The country through Ashton..consists of a brown tender mould of a good staple on a Dunstone rubble. 1861 *Times* 11 July, In a clover-ley field, where plenty of stone showed itself at 6 inches or 7 inches depth, under a hard and tough staple.

4. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as (sense 1) *staple-end*; also **staple-rope** (see quot. 1794); **staple-soil** = sense 3; **staple-threaded** *a.*, composed of thread of selected staple.

1884 M[c]Laren *Spinning* (ed. 2) 15 By examining the *staple-ends to see whether they are pointed or thick. 1794 *Rigging & Seamanship* 57 **Staple-ropes*, a term for ropes made of hemp not inferior to clean Petersburgh. 1847 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* VIII. II. 317 This is chiefly a deep *staple soil. 1856 *Farmer's Mag.* Jan. 20 His practice never advanced further than to lay bare the subsoil in the intervals' by gathering the staple-soil into the wheat ridges. 1896 *Daily News* 9 Apr. 6/5 Woven with a double warp and a *staple-threaded weft of the strongest wools.

Staple (stæ·pl), *sb.*[4] *north.* Also **stapple**. [Of obscure origin.] (See quots.) Also *staple-pit*.

1818 J. Adley *Coal Trade* 8 With sinking staples and driving drifts You're often put to all your shifts. 1849 Greenwell *Gloss. Terms Coal Trade* (1851) 51 *Staple*, a small pit, sunk upwards or downwards from one seam to another underground. 1862 *Times* 28 Jan., A 'staple', or narrow shaft communicating with the upper seam. 1883 Gresley *Gloss. Coal-mining* 238 *Staple* or *Staple pit*, a shallow shaft within a mine. 1883 *Chamb. Jrnl.* 733, I was near done when I got out, and then had to travel round and get out by a stapple. 1887 P. M[c]Neill *Blawearie* 131 Bob Pringle has fa'en into a stapple fu' o' water in the great-seam waste. 1900 *Engineering Mag.* XIX. 714 Into all of these operations—cutting the coal by machinery,..hoisting trams up small 'staple' pits from one seam to another,.. electricity now enters very largely.

Staple (stē·p'l), *a.* [From the attributive use of Staple *sb.*[2], as in *staple-ware*.]

1. Originally, qualifying *commodity* or words of similar meaning: Having a foremost place among the products exported by a country or place. Hence, in wider sense: Having the chief place among the articles of production or consumption, the industries, employments, etc. of a place, a people, or an individual, or among the constituent elements of anything.

1615 G. Sandys *Trav.* 221 The staple commodities are cotton woolles..chamolets, salt and sope-ashes. 1633 Sir J. Boroughs *Sov. Brit. Seas* (1651) 150 Wee may as easily grow expert in the Art of Fishing, and in time make it a staple commodity of our owne. *a* 1661 Fuller *Worthies, Glouc.* (1662) 351 The staple use of Sider is at Sea, where it quencheth thirst better than other liquor. 1699 Sir W. Temple *Ess. Pop. Discont.* Wks. 1731 I. 263 Woollen manufacture ..ought to be ever the Staple Trade of England, as that of Linnen ought to be of Ireland. 1715 Bentley *Serm.* x. 371 Nothing but Mass-books and Rosaries..shall then be the staple commodities, even in an University. 1765 *Museum Rust.* IV. 201 Agriculture is..that art..from which the most staple commodities must proceed, to wit, corn and wool. 1841 L. Hunt *Seer* (1864) 25 We confined ourselues to tea, because it is the staple drink. 1845 Darwin *Voy. Nat.* xi. (1879) 236 The only country in the world where a cryptogamic plant affords a staple article of food. 1869 C. Barker *Assoc. Princ.* ii. 44 Woollen cloth, which the King sought to make the staple manufacture of his own dominions. 1875 Whitney *Life Lang.* vii. 112 Their staple subjects of thought. 1878 Jenkinson *Engl. Lake Distr.* (1879) 129 The staple trade of Keswick. 1900 Elworthy *Horns of Honour* ii. 89 The staple accusation made by these wretches against their victims [witches] was that of being in compact with the devil.

†**b.** Of a book, an author: Standard. *Obs.*

1642 Fuller *Holy & Prof. State* III. xviii. 200 Proportion an houres meditation to an houres reading of a staple Authour. *a* 1730 Fenton *Poems, To Knt. Sable Shield* 28 And while each little author struts In calves-skin gilt, adorn'd with cuts; I, vouching, pass 'em off as dear As any staple-classic ware. 1745 P. Thomas *Jrnl. Anson's Voy.* 223 The Chinese..say by heart all their Staple Books without Hesitation.

†**c.** Home-grown, native; characteristic of the country. *Obs.*

[1648 *Art. Peace* xiv. in *Milton's Wks.* (1851) IV. 519 Certain Articles added to the same Act, all concerning staple or native Commodities of this Kingdom, shall be repealed.] 1771 *Junius Lett.* lvii. 295 Pernicious influence..banishes the staple virtues of the Country.

†**2.** (? Confused with Stable *a.*) Permanent, stable. *Obs.*

1621 Bp. Mountagu *Diatribæ* 536 The Athenians gaue the Tenth, not onely of spoyles for once, and no more, but of land, to be a standing staple Tithe for euer. *a* 1641 — *Acts & Mon.* (1642) 11 For sacrifice, in shedding of bloud, was the principall staple, standing Service of God in Nature. [Often in Mountagu.] *a* 1642 Sir W. Monson *Naval Tracts* v. (1704) 454/1 [He] will be sure to make his Foundation firm and staple. 1794 G. Adams *Nat. & Exper. Phil.* III. xxix. 196 Time cannot be applied to any being of staple and permanent duration.

†**3.** In Statute **staple** the adj. replaces the phrase *of the Staple*, on the analogy of *statute merchant* (see Statute *sb.*); hence also in *recognisance staple*, a recognisance taken before the mayor of the staple. *Obs.*

1586 Hooker *Holinshed's Chron. Irel.* 139/2 They haue a maior and officers of the staple..who haue the liberties for taking of statutes and recognisances staple, not onelie within their owne towne..but also of sundrie townes in Leinster and Mounster, and the counties of Waterford, Kilkennie, Wexford, and Tipporarie.

Staple (stē·p'l), *v.*[1] [f. Staple *sb.*[1]] *trans.* †**a.** To clasp, fasten (a helmet): cf. Staple *sb.*[1] 1 c. *Obs.* **b.** To secure with or as with a staple.

13.. *Gaw & Gr. Knt.* 606 Penne hentes he þe helme..þat was stapled stifly, & stoffed wyth-inne. *c* 1470 Henry *Wallace* I. 125 [He] Brocht it till Scwne, and stapill maid it thar, Quhar kingis was croud viij hundyr 3er and mar, Befor the tyme at king Eduuard it fand. 1742 Woodroofe in *Hanway's Trav.* (1762) I. II. xxiii. 98 They cover them with canvass well tarred, and lay battins over it every three or four inches, stapling them fast with a kind of crooked nail. 1748 Smollett *Rod. Random* I. xxix. 190, I was loaded with irons and stapled to the deck. 1760–72 H. Brooke *Fool of Qual.* (1809) IV. 2 An iron ring that was stapled into a post. 1896 *Strand Mag.* XII. 323/2 The standing ways are securely stapled to heavy cross-blocks of timber.

Staple (stē·p'l), *v.*[2] *Obs.* exc. *Hist.* [f. Staple *sb.*[2]]

1. *trans.* To receive (export goods) at a staple; to cause to be weighed, inspected, and sealed in accordance with the regulations of the staple.

1472–3 *Rolls of Parlt.* VI. 59/2 That all the Wolles..be shipt and conveyed to the said Staple at Caleys and there to be stapled. 1601 J. Wheeler *Treat. Comm.* 14 The Company settled themselues in the Towne of Bridges, and stapled their commodities there.

2. *intr.* To establish a staple.

1580 Hakluyt *Voy.* (1599) I. 437 It were good that we did seeke out some small Island..where we might plant, fortifie, and staple safely, from whence..wee might feed those heathen nations with our commodities.

Hence **Sta·pling** *vbl. sb.* (in quot. *attrib.*)

1908 Atton & Holland *King's Customs* 26 To gain possession of the stapling privilege.

Stapled (stē·p'ld), *a.*[1] [f. Staple *sb.*[3] + -ed[2].] Having a staple (of a certain kind). Chiefly in parasynthetic formations, as in *long-, short-stapled*; *thin-stapled*; also *well-stapled*.

a. Of wool, sheep; also of cotton, silk, etc.: see Staple *sb.*[3] 1.

1594 Greene *Friar Bacon* 1514 My flockes, Yeelding forth fleeces stapled with such woole, As Lempster cannot yeelde more finer stuffe. 1805 Luccock *Nat. Wool* 346 Of the fifteen millions of short stapled ones [*sc.* fleeces], which the kingdom produces, there are not five hundred thousand which even border upon perfection. 1851 *Art Jrnl. Illustr. Catal.* p. iv**, Coarser and shorter stapled cottons. 1865 *Reader* 8 July 47/1 He had himself seen, in Pekin, warehouses stored with..fine tobacco, short-stapled silk, paper [etc.].

b. Of soil: see Staple *sb.*[3] 3.

1773 *Gentl. Mag.* XLIII. 130 Taking away small stones and flints is detrimental to..thin stapled light lands, and to all lands of a binding nature. 1795 Vancouver *Agric. Essex* 27 A well stapled gravelly loam. 1844 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* V. I. 17 The thin-stapled lands of this district.

Stapled (stē·p'ld), *a.*[2] [f. Staple *sb.*[1] + -ed[2].] Furnished with a staple or staples (Staple *sb.*[1] 2).

1845 Browning *Confessional* xii, That horrible black scaffold dressed, That stapled block..God sink the rest! 1868 J. Greenwood in *Morn. Star* 3 Feb., It is two years and a week or so since I applied at that stapled knocker and traversed the chaste hall.

†**Staple fish.** *Obs.* [? Staple *sb.*[2]; but the precise reference is not clear.] Fish not thoroughly cured; = Green-fish 1.

1477 *Pat. Roll* 16 *Edw. IV*, II. 17 d, Nauis..le Jacob de Hamburghe..cum viginti et sex Milibus Stokfisshe duobus Milibus Staplefisshe et nouem doliis de Trane ad valenciam Sexcentarum librarum in partibus Islandie onusta. 1545 *Rates Custom Ho.* c vj, Staple fysshe. 1563 *Norwich Deposit.* (1905) 72 A firkin of eels, and 600 staplefish, shipped

at Amsterdam. *a* 1661 FULLER *Worthies, Gen.* viii. 23 As for Staple or Salt-Fish, there are those..who will maintain, that it will..set up the Fishery as high as ever it was, if every one in England able to dispend a Hundred Pounds per annum, were enjoyned to lay out Twenty Shillings a Year, in staple-fish. *c* 1682 J. COLLINS *Making Salt Eng.* 90 Green-Fish (*alias* Staple Fish as they call it,) cured with a good Salt, proves excellent.

Stapler (stē·plə1). Also 6 stapeler, stapuller. [f. STAPLE *sb.*2 + -ER1. Cf. med.L. *stapulārius.*]

1. (More fully *merchant stapler.*) A merchant of the Staple. (See quot. 1908.)

a 1513 FABYAN *Chron.* (1811) 465 In the whiche [parlyament]..was graunted, to the mayntenaunce of his warres, l. s. of a sak of woll, for the terme of .vi. yeres; but it contynued lenger, though the marchauntes staplers ther at grudgyd. *Ibid.* 652 Whan kyng Edwarde was thus stablysshed in this realme, great sute and labour was made to hym for the repayment of the foresayd. xviii. M. li. to hym and other dyleueryd by the stapelers. 1568 GRAFTON *Chron.* II. 659 The Lordes borowed of the Marchantes of the Staple .xviij. thousand pound, the which money the Staplers did nowe sue for vnto King Edwarde to be repayed vnto them. 1585-6 LEYCESTER *Corr.* (Camden) 308 Our staplers of late complayned for the burden layd uppon ther wares at Middleborough. 1601 J. WHEELER *Treat. Comm.* 82 The Staplers Companie haue drawne the trade of English Woll into their owne hands onely. 1607 MIDDLETON *Fam. Love* I. iii. 84 Yon merchants were wont to be merchant staplers. *c* 1645 HOWELL *Lett.* VI. iii. (1655) I. 242 They..so divided themselves (though they be now but one) to Staplers and Merchant-Adventurers. *Ibid.* lii. 298 The Staplers of Hamborough and Rotterdam. 1651 N. BACON *Disc. Govt. Eng.* II. vii. (1739) 44 Nor doth it appear to me that the Staplers in these times used such a course, or were other than mere Officers for the regulating of the Staple. 1890 GROSS *Gild Merch.* I. 140 The staplers were merchants who had the monopoly of exporting the principal raw commodities of the realm. 1893 *Dict. Nat. Biogr.* XXXIV. 425 McBride, John..was admitted a free stapler of Belfast on 8 April 1644. 1908 H. O. MEREDITH *Econom. Hist. Eng.* 153 During the first half of the fifteenth century the Merchant Staplers were a powerful company, whose members lived either in English ports or in Calais, who directed the export trade of the country. 1912 *Eng. Hist. Rev.* Oct. 811 This strengthens the hypothesis that the staplers and the adventurers sprang from a common root.

† b. A dealer in 'staple-ware'. *Obs.*

1532-3 in E. Law *Hampton Crt. Pal.* (1885) 347 Payd to Thomas Ostley, stapuller, for 18 ffother, 12 cwt. 3 qrs. 21 lb. of leade to cover the Kynges New Hall. 1890 GROSS *Gild Merch.* I. 148 The staplers, who dealt in certain raw materials.

2. A trader who buys wool from the grower to sell to the manufacturer: = WOOLSTAPLER.

a 1552 LELAND *Itin.* (1769) IV. 113 Norton is a pretty uplandish Towne in Worcestershire, and there be fayre Houses in it of Staplers, that use to buy Woolle. 1600 HOLLAND *Livy, Topogr. Rome* 1376 Æquimelium is betweene Velabrum and the Capitoll, neere to the staplers wooll shops. 1667 O. HEYWOOD *Heart Treas.* ii. 9 Every Trades-man lays up that which is fit for his Calling; Cloathiers, Staplers, Tanners, Husbandmen, have all their peculiar provisions, suited to their vocations. 1707 *Loud. Gaz.* No. 4341/4 George Wagstaffe, of Glossop.., Stapler. 1805 LUCCOCK *Nat. Wool* 133 If the opinion of staplers be correct, the sheep in extreme old age appears to lose the faculty of producing a valuable wool. 1863 FAWCETT *Pol. Econ.* III. vi. (1876) 367 The Leeds manufacturer, who purchases wool from the stapler, pays for it by a cheque. 1881 *Daily News* 29 Aug. 3/6 Spinners buy with hesitation and caution... Staplers, however, maintain quotations with a tolerable degree of firmness. 1885 F. H. BOWMAN *Struct. Wool* Gloss., *Stapler*, a merchant who buys wool from the farmer and sorts it into its various qualities for the manufacturer.

Stappe, obs. f. STEP *sb.* and *v.*

Stapte, obs. pa. t. of STEP *v.*

Star (stāɪ), *sb.*1 Forms: 1 steorra, stiorra, *Northumb.* stearra, sterra, 2-3 steore, storre, 2-4 steorre, 2-6 sterre, 3 stor, sturre, 4-6 stere, 5-7 stare, 6 ster, 6-7 starr(e, 6- star. [Com. WGer.: OE. *steorra* wk. masc. corresponds to OFris. *stera* (NFris. *stear, stêar, stiar*), OS. *sterro* (MLG. *sterre*), MDu. *sterre, starre* (mod. Du. *ster, star* fem.), OHG. *sterro* (MHG. *sterre*):—OTeut. type **sterron-*, f. **ster-* cogn. w. L. *stella* (:—**ster-lă*), Gr. ἀ-στερ-, ἀστήρ, ἄ-στρ-ον, Cornish, Bret. *steren*, Welsh *seren* (pl. *sêr*), Sk. *star*, Zend *stare.* A parallel OTeut. formation, **sternōn-* fem. (also *-non-* masc.), with suffix as in **sunnōn-* SUN *sb.*, is represented in several Teut. langs., and was adopted from ON. into northern Eng. and Sc. dialects: see STERN *sb.*2]

I. 1. Any one of the many celestial bodies appearing as luminous points in the night sky. Now usually restricted (in scientific and to some extent in popular language), to the *fixed stars* as distinguished from planets (exc. in EVENING-*star*, MORNING STAR), comets, and meteors (exc. in FALLING STAR, SHOOTING STAR). See also SEVEN STARS.

c 825 *Vesp. Ps.* cxlviii. 3 Herzað hine alle steorran & leht. *O. E. Chron.* an. 892, Þy ilcan ȝeare..æteowde se steorra þe mon on boclæden hæt cometa, same men cweþaþ on Englisc hæt hit sie feaxede steorra. *c* 1200 *Moral Ode* 279 (Trin. Coll. MS.) Nafre sunne þar ne sineð ne mone ne storre. *c* 1205 LAY. 17870 Þe steorre is ihate a latin comete. *c* 1340 *Ayenb.* 164 And þus him þingþ al þe wordle lite, ase a sterre hit þinch to ous. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Prol.* 268 His eyen twynkled in his heed aryght As doon the sterres in the frosty nyght. *c* 1449 PECOCK *Repr.* II. xvi. 242 The vij. planetis..and..the fix sterris. 1588 KYD *Househ. Philos.* Wks. (1901) 262 Euen as the Moone and the Starres receiue light by participation with the sunne. 1784 COWPER *Task* III. 158 And tell us whence the stars; why some are fix'd, And planetary some. 1813 W. BAKEWELL *Introd. Geol.* (1815) 432 It is well known to astronomers, that new stars have suddenly appeared with a brilliancy exceeding that of Jupiter. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 447/1 We distinguish the stars from the planets in much the same way as our ancestors did before us. 1892 TENNYSON *Death Œnone* 82 And the dream Wail'd in her, when she woke beneath the stars.

b. In proverbial phrases, similes, etc.

c 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* I. 164 Đeos wyrt scineð on nihte swilce steorra on heofone. *c* 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 153 No man hit ne mihte tellen, nan more þene men muȝen tellen þe sterres on heuene. *a* 1225 *St. Marher.* 9 Ant his twa ehnen steappre þene steorren. *c* 1381 CHAUCER *Parl. Foules* 505 There been mo sterris god wot than a payre. *c* 1450 *Mirk's Festial* 17 And at yche 'Aue' scho set a rose yn þe garlond þat schon as bryght as a sterre. 1513 MORE *Rich. III* in *Grafton's Chron.* (1568) 807 They extolled and praysed him farre aboue the starres. 1581 A. HALL *Iliad* II. 18 Casting how he Achilles fame vnto the starres might raise. 1596 SPENSER *F. Q.* IV. xi. 53 More eath it were for mortall wight To tell the sands, or count the starres on hye. 1754 RICHARDSON *Grandison* VII. iii. 11 Since she has already one foot among the stars, and can look down with pity..on all those who [etc.]. 1782 MRS. H. COWLEY *Bold Stroke for Husband* II. ii, To take up all the fine apartments, and send poor little Livy to lodge next the stars. 1799 WORDSW. '*She dwelt*' 7 Fair as a star, when only one Is shining in the sky. 1802 — *Sonn. to Liberty* I. xiv. 9 Thy soul was like a Star, and dwelt apart.

c. With reference to the pagan belief that the souls of illustrious persons after death appear as new stars in the heavens.

c 1384 CHAUCER *H. Fame* 599 For Ioues ys not ther aboute ..To make of the as yet a sterre. 1591 SHAKS. 1 *Hen. VI*, I. i. 55 A farre more glorious Starre thy Soule will make, Then Iulius Cæsar. 1608 — *Per.* V. iii. 79 Heauens make a Starre of him! 1598 T. ROGERS *Celest. Elegies* C 4 in *Lamport Garl.* (Roxb.), She to a starre is metamorphosed And with the golden Twinns in heauen enstald.

d. *poet.* = LODESTAR, POLE-STAR.

1599 SHAKS. *Much Ado* III. iv. 58 Well, and you be not turn'd Turke, there's no more sayling by the starre. *c* 1600 — *Sonn.* cxvi. 7 Loue..is the star to euery wandring barke. 1663 COWLEY *Ess.* vii. Wks. (1906) 441 [Gold] The Ensign 'tis at Land, and 'tis the Seamans Star.

e. *transf.* (Chiefly in *colloq. phrase*: see quot. 1891.)

1609 HEYWOOD *Brit. Troy* VII. lxxv. 157 Those that but late incompast him about, And with their steele strooke Stars out of his Crest. 1891 *Century Dict.* s.v. *Star, To see stars*, to have a sensation as of flashes of light, produced by a sudden jarring of the head, as by a direct blow. 1894 SIR J. ASTLEY *Fifty Yrs. Life* I. 142 Quicker than thought, in comes his right, and if you only see stars you are pretty lucky.

2. In extended sense, any one of the heavenly bodies, including the sun and moon; sometimes in pl. as a vague designation for the abode of departed spirits; so occas. *this star*, the earth regarded along with other 'stars' as a place of habitation. Chiefly *poet.*; cf. L. *sīdus.*

Diurnal star, star of day, of noon: the sun.

a 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 714, & mid tet ilke step up, & steah to þe steorren. *a* 1240 *Ureisun* in *Lamb. Hom.* 187 Ne wene na mon to stihen wið este to þe steorren. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xxxi. (*Eugenia*) 252 Þai..sad þat goddis had hir tane & ymang þe sterris with hir gane. 1602 DOLMAN *La Primaud. Fr. Acad.* (1618) III. 799 There are some [trees] which naturally follow the Sunne,..hauing a sympathy and secret inclination to this Starre. 1616 R. C. *Times' Whistle* (1871) 113 The blazing bright beamd starre, Sol. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* X. 1071 Ere this diurnal Starr Leave cold the Night. 1697 J. SERGEANT *Solid Philos.* 118 Providence has left us no Means to know what is done in the Moon, or other Stars. 1737 *Gentl. Mag.* VII. 63/1 He adds, that they see the Sun at Midnight,..And as that Star [etc.]. 1742 YOUNG *Nt. Th.* IX. 1683 Worlds conceal'd by day Behind the proud and envious star of noon! 1808 MACAULAY in Trevelyan *Life & Lett.* (1880) I. 32 The star of day had reached the West. 1841 DICKENS *Barn. Rudge* ix, Perhaps she wondered what star was destined for her habitation when she had run her little course below. 1870 R. S. HAWKER in C. E. Byles *Life* (1905) 588 No, my fate is fixed. Here on this Star nothing of any palm: it is reserved for another Sphere, a far-away world.

3. In Astrology, used of the planets and zodiacal constellations as supposed to influence human affairs. *One's star* or *stars*: the planet or constellation which, by its position at the moment of a man's birth, sways his destinies, moulds his temperament, etc. Now often in metaphorical quasi-adoption of astrological beliefs.

c 1250 *Owl & Night.* 1321 Hwat constu, wrecche þing, of storre? 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* IV. 675 As it wes vounderfull, perfay, How ony man throu steris may Knaw the thingis that ar to cum. 14.. *Life St. Bridget* in *Myrr. our Ladye* p. xlix, The sykenes of this childe is nat of the sterres. 1542 BOORDE *Dyetary* iii. (1870) 236 Many thynges doth infect.. the ayre, as the influence of sondry sterres. 1601 SHAKS. *All's Well* I. i. 205 You were borne vnder a charitable starre. 1601 — *Jul. C.* I. ii. 140 The fault (deere Brutus) is not in our Starres, But in our Selues, that we are vnderlings. 1686 tr. *Chardin's Trav. Persia* 19 What unlucky Star brought him to Constantinople. 1698 [W. KING] *Sorbiere's Journ. Lond.* 25 There are people that can pick Pockets, and afterwards by Consulting the Stars, tell you who it was that did it. 1726 SWIFT *Gulliver* II. i, My good star would have it that he appeared pleased with my voice. 1728-46 THOMSON *Spring* 1113 But happy they..Whom gentler stars unite. 1831 LYTTON *Godolphin* XXVI, In a word, he was a reader of the stars. *Ibid.*, As the stars (which night had been spent in reading) began to wink and fade. 1845 SARAH AUSTIN *Ranke's Hist. Ref.* III. 477 Suleiman recognized the ascendancy of the star of his rival. 1886 RUSKIN *Præterita* I. x. 308 Another segment of my learning ..might have had better consequence than ever came of it, had the stars so pleased. 1888 BRYCE *Amer. Commw.* lxxx. III. 51 It is natural for them to believe in their star.

b. In phrases and adjurations, as *to thank, bless, curse one's stars*; *my stars!* usually a trivial expression of astonishment; also †*good stars!* and jocularly *my stars and garters!* (cf. 8).

a 1593 MARLOWE *Edw. II*, IV. vi, O my starres! Why do you lowre vnkindly on a king? 1599 B. JONSON *Ev. Man out of Hum.* I. iii, I thanke my Starres for it. 1609 DEKKER *Gull's Horn-bk.* v. 23 That you are (thankes to your starres) in mightie credit. 1686 W. DE BRITAINE *Hum. Prud.* xxii. 105, I am not (I bless my Stars) disturbed at any thing. 1706 E. WARD *Wooden World Diss.* (1708) 37 He has oftimes thank'd his good Stars for it. 1711 M. HENRY *Hope & Fear Balanced* 16 Then 'twill be Folly to curse your Stars (as some profanely speak). 1728 VANBR. & CIB. *Prov. Husb.* III. i. 51 My Stars! and you would really live in London half the Year, to be sober in it? 1760 H. WALPOLE *Let. to Mann* 24 May, It costs, the stars know what! 1782 MISS BURNEY *Cecilia* VII. ix, 'Your dog!' cried Morrice, looking aghast, 'good stars! I never thought of him!' 1807-8 W. IRVING *Salmag.* i. (1860) 19, I..blessed my stars that I was a bachelor. 1841 DICKENS *Barn. Rudge* xxii, My stars, Simmun!..You frighten me to death! 1850 R. G. CUMMING *Hunter's Life S. Afr.* (ed. 2) I. 213 My stars and garters! what sort of man is this? 1865 J. HATTON *Bitter Sweets* xiv, You may thank your stars, my lad, that I followed Master Barns to-night.

c. *transf.* A person's fortune, rank, or destiny, disposition or temperament, viewed as determined by the stars.

1601 SHAKS. *Twel. N.* II. v. 156 In my stars I am aboue thee, but be not affraid of greatnesse. 1602 — *Ham.* II. ii. 141 Lord Hamlet is a Prince out of thy Starre. 1643 SIR T. BROWNE *Relig. Med.* II. § 13, I was not borne unto riches, neither is it I thinke my Starre to be wealthy. 1646 BUCK *Rich. III*, I. 4 Geoffry Plantagenet..had so amorous a Star, That Philippe le Grosse..suspected him for too familiar commerce with his bed.

4. In various figurative and similative contexts.

Star of the sea = *Stella maris*, a title given to the Virgin Mary: cf. SEA-STAR 1.

c 1230 *Hali Meid.* 11 Meidenhad is te steorre þat, beo ha eanes of þe east igan adun to þe west, neauer eft ne arised ha. *a* 1400 *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* 735/1 Heil, sterre of þe See so briht! 1538 STARKEY *England* I. 12 Where fyrst we schal se the gudly cytes, castellys, and townys..pleasauntly set as they were sterrys apon erthe. 1631 T. ADAMS in *Lett. Lit. Men* (Camden) 148 Our learned and bright shining star Mr. Holsworth. 1653 *Apol. for Goodwin* 5 The light of Nature in his Astronomy, is a Star of the first magnitude. 1697 DRYDEN *Æneis* Ded. (b) 1 b, These are the single Stars which are sprinkled through the Æneis: But there are whole Constellations of them in the Fifth Book. 1769 GRAY *Installation Ode* 93 The Star of Brunswick smiles serene, And gilds the horrors of the deep. 1833 LAMB *Elia* Ser. II. *Imagin. Faculty*, Quixote—the errant Star of Knighthood, made more tender by eclipse. 1845 R. W. HAMILTON *Pop. Educ.* vii. (ed. 2) 174 Education is the star of their hope and their guidance. That star is fixed. 1889 GRETTON *Memory's Harkback* 129, I suppose he was not reckoned among the stars of greater magnitude, but he was very full of light.

5. *fig.* A person of brilliant reputation or talents.

a. *Theatr.* An actor, singer, etc. of exceptional celebrity, or one whose name is prominently advertised as a special attraction to the public.

[1779 WARNER in Jesse *Selwyn & Contemp.* (1844) IV. 30 The little stars, who hid their diminished rays in his [Garrick's] presence, begin to abuse him.] 1824 *Compl. Hist. Murder Mr. Weare* 219 Carter..was at a loss for a star in the pugilistic hemisphere to produce him a crowded house. 1827 *Edin. Weekly Jrnl.* 28 Feb. in *Scott's Chron. Canongate* Introd. App., He had hitherto been speaking of what, in theatrical language, was called *stars*. 1833 MOTLEY *Corr.* (1889) I. ii. 31 The great tragedy star of Berlin and of Germany, Devrient, is dead. 1864 C. KNIGHT *Passages Work. Life* I. v. 218 Our theatre was..commodious; but the manager could not draw audiences without stars. 1883 *Athenæum* 8 Sept. 313/1 A ballad concert in which the 'stars' took part.

b. *gen.* (Chiefly *colloq.*) One who 'shines' in society, or is distinguished in some branch of art, industry, science, etc.

1850 S. G. OSBORNE *Glean.* 228, I have attended many such meetings in England, to meet English Agricultural stars. 1876 GLADSTONE *Glean.* (1879) 266 The historian, the poet, the great social star. 1880 MISS BROUGHTON *Second Thoughts* II. vii, A tiny foreign princekin who is the star and lion of the evening.

6. An image or figure of a star.

It is conventionally represented by a number of rays diverging from a central point or circle; or by a geometrical figure of five or more radiating points, such as is formed by producing the sides of a pentagon, hexagon, etc.

13.. *King Alis.* 134 Of gold he made a table, Al ful of steorren, saun fable. *c* 1400 *Wycliffite Bible* Lev. *xi.* 30 *marg.*, *Stellio*, that is, a worme peyntid as with sterris. 1431 *Rec. St. Mary at Hill* 26 A hole vestement of blu veluet with sterres & mones of golde. 1538 in *Archæologia* XLIII. 215, i cope of oulde redd velvett spotted wyth sters. 1599 SHAKS. *Hen. V*, III. vii. 74 The Armour that I saw in your Tent to night, are those Starres or Sunnes vpon it? 1705 ADDISON *Italy, Ferrara* 124 A Circle of Stars glew'd to the Canvas over the Head of the Figure [of the Virgin]. 1795 DENNE in *Archæologia* XII. 114 A star of eight points within a double circle, the device of John Tate, supposed to have been the first Paper-maker in England. 1818 *Art Bookbinding* 31 Stamped with a star or any device, to fancy. 1846 SOYER *Cookery* 424 When partly set form a rosette or star upon each, with fillets of hard-boiled white of

eggs and truffles. 1890 MOUNTENEY-JEPHSON *Emin Pasha* 290 His own flag with the crescent and three stars,..was flying at the fore. 1899 MISS MASTERS *Bk. Stitches* 100 Small rings or stars, for sprinkling over a background,..may be very successfully made in buttonhole stitch.

b. *Stars and stripes*, the popular name for the United States flag. *Stars and bars*, the flag of the Confederate States.

The American flag, when first adopted by Congress (14th June 1777), contained 13 stripes and 13 stars, representing the 13 States of the Union. It now contains 13 stripes and 48 stars.

1782 E. WATSON *Men & Times Revol.* (1861) 203 He.. attached to the ship the stars and stripes. 1830 *Debates in Congress* 24 Feb. 193 This alone can account..for the exhortation against enlistments, against joining the stars and stripes of their country. 1840 R. H. DANA *Bef. Mast* xiv. 32 We..ran the stars and stripes up to the peak. 1859 THACKERAY *Virginians* lxix. II. 171 All accents are pretty from pretty lips, and who shall set the standard up? Shall it be a rose, or a thistle, or a shamrock, or a star and stripe? 1863 WHITTIER *Barbara Frietchie* 13 Forty flags with their silver stars, Forty flags with their crimson bars.

7. *Pyrotechny.* A small piece of combustible composition, used in rockets, mines, etc., which as seen burning high in the air resemble a star.

1634 J. B[ATE] *Myst. Nat.* II. 57 [Of Fire-works.] Such as operate in the ayre, as Rockets,..Stars, [etc.]. 1669 STURMY *Mariner's Mag.* v. xiii. 89 When you have divers Rockets, ..let one be with a Report, another with Starrs, another with Golden Hair or Rain. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XV. 688/1 (*Pyrotechny*) If the sparks, which are called *stars*, or *pinks*, come out in clusters..it is a sign of its being good. *Ibid.* 702/2 Strung stars..Tailed stars..Drove stars. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XX. 54/1 (*Rocket*) A conical case containing the composition for producing the explosions or *stars* of light which constitute the signal. 1876 VOYLE & STEVENSON *Milit. Dict.* 139/2 The variety of stars and colours observed in fireworks is formed principally of metallic filings.

b. A kind of match for lighting cigars.

1863 ABEL in *Lond.* etc. *Phil. Mag.* Nov. 358 Cigar lights (known as Vesuvians, Etnas, Stars, &c.).

8. An ornament, usually of precious metal, representing a star, worn as part of the insignia of an order of knighthood, or as a military decoration. Also occas. applied to the holder or wearer of this decoration.

1712–14 POPE *Rape Lock* I. 85 While Peers, and Dukes, and all their sweeping train, And Garters, Stars, and Coronets appear. 1731 SWIFT *Poems, On his Death* 323 He.. Despised the fools with stars and garters, So often seen caressing Chartres. 1795 BURNS *For a' that* iii, For a' that, and a' that, His ribband, star, and a' that. 1844 DISRAELI *Coningsby* III. ii, A Field Marshal covered with stars? 1862 THACKERAY *Philip* i, Lord Ascot in his star and ribbon.. walked with his arm in the doctor's into chapel. 1901 *Essex Weekly News* 15 Mar. 2/4 Deceased..wore the Egyptian medal and the Khedive's star.

9. A natural object resembling or likened to a star; e.g. the open corolla (or corolla and disk) of a flower.

a 1635 RANDOLPH *Muse's Looking-Gl.* IV. i, Nature adornes The Peacocks taile with starres. 1777 CAVALLO *Electricity* 207 The Star and Pencil of electric Light. 1784 COWPER *Task* VI. 176 [Jasmine] The bright profusion of her scatter'd stars. 1796 WITHERING *Brit. Plants* (ed. 3) III. 364 Leaves upright..those at the end forming a star. 1815 SCOTT *Guy M.* XXVI, Now the light diminished to a distant star that seemed to twinkle on the waters. 1851 MEREDITH *Love in Valley* xiv, Jasmine winds the porch with stars two and three. 1859 TENNYSON *Enid* 313 His charger trampling many a prickly star Of sprouted thistle on the broken stones. 1890 BRIDGES *Shorter Poems* II. viii. ii, From hour to hour unfold A thousand buds and beads In stars and cups of gold.

b. A spot or patch of white hair on the forehead of a horse or ox.

c 1380 *Sir Ferumb.* 3925 Hys hors..bar a sterre on his forhed. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* II. 47 Thus was the hors in sori plit, Bot for al that a sterre whit Amiddes in the front he had. 1607 MARKHAM *Caval.* I. (1617) 22 The pure black, with white star, white foote, or white rach. 1676 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1103/4 A large brown Bay Coach Gelding..with a made star in the forehead. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* III. 97 The Mother Cow..Her ample Forehead with a Star is crown'd. 1737 BRACKEN *Farriery Impr.* (1757) II. 118 In a Hunter or Road Horse, a Star and Snip makes them look more lightsome. 1842 BORROW *Bible in Spain* xviii, It was of a bright bay colour, with a star in its forehead. 1859 TENNYSON *Enid* 1605 She Kiss'd the white star upon his noble front. *attrib.* 1692 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 2800/4 A bright bay Mare,.. some grey Hairs in the Star-place.

c. *Palmistry.*

1653 R. SANDERS *Physiogn.* 24 If upon the mount of Saturn there be any of these marks, as a star or demy-cross. *Ibid.* 43, 57.

d. A star-like crystalline pattern which appears on the surface of antimony in the process of refining.

1660 J. H. *Basil Valentine's Tri. Chariot of Antimony* 150 If thou hast proceeded aright,..thou shalt have a white star shining like to pure silver, and divided, as if the most accurate Painter had described it with its Radij or Beames. *Ibid.*, This Regulus or Star may be often distilled by the fire, [etc.]. 1662 BOYLE *Cert. Physiol. Ess.* (1669) 56 He.. shew'd me his Regulus [of Antimony] adorned with a more conspicuous Star than I have seen in several Stellate Regulusses of both Antimony and Mars. 1868 CROOKES & RÖHRIG *Kerl's Metallurgy* I. 546 The appearance of a star upon the surface of the regulus [of antimony] indicates a certain degree of purity.

e. *Zool.* A star-shaped zoophyte or its cell. Also, a stellate sponge-spicule.

1755 J. ELLIS *Corallines* 83 When I applied my Glass to it [a Sea-fig], I found the whole Surface covered with small Stars of six Rays, like small Polypes of six claws. 1839 *Penny Cycl.* XIV. 266/2 *Caryophyllia.* Animals actiniform, ..provided with..tentacula, which project from the surface of stars or cylindriconical cells. 1858 BAIRD *Cycl. Nat. Hist.* s.v. *Anthozoa* 36/2 When the animals are simple and solitary, and only a single star is visible, they form the genus *Fungia*...In some, the whole surface of the coral is roughened with little stars, showing the numbers of animals living in society.

f. = STAR-FISH. *Brittle star* = OPHIURAN *sb.*

1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* IX. lx. I. 269 Of the sea fishes called Starres...The Starre in the sea..is..a very little fish, made like a starre. 1843, 1863 [see BRITTLE *a.* 4]. 1864 Feather-star [see FEATHER *sb.* 19]. 1890 *Hardwicke's Science-Gossip* XXVI. 199 The brittle stars and star-fishes.

10. = ASTERISK 3. (Cf. F. *étoile.*)

1382 WYCLIF *Prol. Job* p. 670 And Origenes alle the volumes of the Olde Testament markide with signe of a 3erde, and with signe of a sterre [*obelis asteriscisque*]. *Ibid.*, Tho thingus, that vnder sterre signe ben addid.

1557 N. T. (Genev.) To Rdr. **iij, If the bookes do alter in the sentence then is it noted with this starre *. 1571 DIGGES *Pantometria* I. xxxiv. K ij b, Making thereon a Starre or suche like marke. 1659 C. SIMPSON *Division-Violist* I. 4 Those two Notes marked with little Stars over their Figures. 1662 *H. Broughton's Wks.* 733 Where the Figures are repeated, one Asterisk (or Star,*) is prefixed. 1724 WATTS *Logic* I. v. (1726) 75 What Remarks you find there worthy of your riper Observation, you may note them with a marginal Star. 1830 *Forrester* I. 135 The names must certainly have been supplied by stars, out of consideration to the feelings of families, I suppose. 1847 L. HUNT *Men, Women, & Bks.* II. xi. 267 There were no stars, or other typographical symbols, indicating the passages omitted. 1904 A. MORRISON *Green Diamond* II. ii, Here you are. Lot 87 star, one magnum real old Imperial Tokay...Lot 88 star, ditto.

b. In lists of stockholders, an asterisk prefixed or appended to a person's name when his holding exceeds a certain amount.

In East India stock each vote to which a stockholder was entitled was denoted by a star; one star meant a holding of over £1,000, two stars over £3,000, three stars over £6,000, and four stars over £10,000.

1845 DISRAELI *Sybil* IV. xi, 'The only stars I have got', said Mr. Ormsby, demurely, 'are four stars in India stock'. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* xx, She was reported to have.. three stars to her name in the East India stockholders' list.

11. The mark of a fracture in a surface of glass or ice, consisting of a central hole or smash with lines of crack radiating from it.

1842 LEVER *J. Hinton* iii, An ominous-looking star in the looking-glass bore witness to the bullet of a pistol. 1842 TENNYSON *Epic* 12 Where, three times slipping from the outer edge, I bump'd the ice into three several stars.

b. *Thieves' slang.* The act of 'starring the glaze': see STAR *v.* 5.

1812 J. H. VAUX *Flash Dict.* s. v., *The star* is a *game* chiefly practised by young boys, ..although the offence is capital...A person convicted of this offence, is said to have been *done for a star.*

c. A blemish in paper.

c 1865 J. WYLDE in *Circ. Sci.* I. 153/2 We.. find unaccountable spots, and what are called 'stars' on the surface.

12. Applied to various objects shaped or arranged in the conventional form of a star (see 6).

a. *Arch.* A Norman moulding.

1836 H. G. KNIGHT *Archit. Tour Normandy* 199 The most common mouldings are the billet,..hatchet, nebule, star, rope. 1851 E. SHARPE *Seven Periods Archit.* 13 Ornaments of different kinds,—such as the billet, the saw-tooth, the star, and the chevron.

b. *Lace-making.* A kind of stitch.

1882 CAULFEILD & SAWARD *Dict. Needlework* 235 Etoile Stitch. Also known as Star, and made to fill in nine or sixteen squares of a netted foundation, with combinations of Slip Stitch, Point de Toile [etc.]..arranged so to form stars.

c. = *star-fort* (see 20).

1672 LACY tr. *Tacquet's Milit. Archit.* 41 The Banck opposite to the Town..may be fortified with less Works; To wit, with a half sexangular Star, or with a plain Bulwork. *Ibid.* 46 Redoubts and Stars. 1704 J. HARRIS *Lex. Techn.* I.

d. A wheel or pulley in a silk-winding machine. Cf. *star-pulley, -wheel* in 20.

1777 in *Phil. Trans.* LXVII. 462 note *a*, The nucleus..is the smaller end of that part of a silk engine called a star. 1835 URE *Philos. Manuf.* 269 The long driving-shaft..on which are fixed a series of light wheels called stars, which bear the bobbin-pulleys, and turn them round by friction.

e. (See quot.)

1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.*, *Star*, a series of radial spokes, forming handles, on the roller of a copperplate or lithographic printing-press.

f. An iron pin used to secure a bird-net.

1851 MAYHEW *Lond. Lab.* II. 66.

† g. A number of streets, avenues, or the like, made to converge in one centre. *Obs.*

a 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 1 Apr. 1644, A grove of tall elmes cutt into a starr, every ray being a walk, whose center is a large fountaine. *Ibid.* 5 Oct. 1694, I went also to see the building beginning neere St. Giles's, where 7 streetes make a star from a Doric pillar plac'd in the middle of a circular area. 1762 KAMES *Elem. Crit.* (1763) III. xxiv. 339 A common centre of walks, termed a star.

h. An assemblage of objects arranged so as to form a star.

1831 TRELAWNY *Adv. Younger Son* xxiv, In the spaces between them and the upper deck were two stars of pistols.

13. *Billiards.* The act of 'starring' (see STAR *v.* 9).

1850 *Bohn's Handbk. Games* (1867) 609 (Rules of Pool), 15. The first person who loses his three lives is entitled to purchase, or, as it is called, to star (a star being the mark placed against his lives on the board), to denote that he has purchased), by paying into the pool the same sum as at the commencement...17. Only one star is allowed in a Pool.

14. *colloq.* A person who wears a star as a badge (cf. 6); e.g. a police-officer (see quot. 1859); a prisoner of the 'star-class' (see 18).

1859 BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.* (ed. 2) 446 *Stars*, the officers of the new police in the city of New York are so called from their badge, a brass star. 1903 LD. W. NEVILLE *Penal Serv.* xi. 146, I as a 'star' had nothing to do with him directly.

II. *attrib.* and *Comb.*

15. a. In obvious attrib. use.

1821 SHELLEY *Epipsych.* 505 With moonlight patches, or star atoms keen. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. III. i, From beyond the Star-galaxies. *a* 1849 E. A. POE *Ulalume* 31 And now, as the night was senescent, And star-dials hinted of morn. 1869 DUNKIN *Midnight Sky* 85 The bright star-group of Cassiopeia. 1890 AGNES M. CLERKE *Syst. Stars* 238 Star-groupings of singularly definite forms are often met with.

b. objective, as *star-watcher*; *star-bearing, -wearing* adjs.

c 1611 CHAPMAN *Iliad* IV. 54 Heauens starre-bearing hill. 1649 OGILBY *Virg. Æneis* IV. (1684) 204 My Reputation and Star-climbing Fame. 1672 WILD *Poet. Licentia* 39 But hark-you Will, Star-pocking is not fair. 1742 BLAIR *Grave* 287 The Star-surveying Sage. 1777 POTTER *Æschylus, Prometh. Chain'd* 44 Passing those star-aspiring heights. 1835 WILLIS *Pencillings* I. IV. 30 Half-a-dozen star-wearing dukes, counts, and marquises. 1869 DUNKIN *Midnight Sky* 5 The star-watcher at an Australian midnight. 1877 BLACKIE *Wise Men Greece* 351 The arts of field-measuring and star-measuring.

c. instrumental, as *star-embroidered, star-led* adjs.; instrumental or locative in *star-born* adj. Also STAR-SPANGLED.

1597 DRAYTON *Heroic. Ep., John to Matilda* 124 Her star-bestuded crowne. 1599 R. LINCHE *Anc. Fict.* G iv, In a gorgeous and starre-bespotted chariot. 1601 WEEVER *Mirr. Mart.* (ROXB.) 179 Vpon the bosom of the star-deckt skie. 1616 DRUMMOND *Madrigals* l. 4 Night, to this flowrie Globe Ne're show for mee thy starre-embrodred Robe. 1629 MILTON *Ode Nativ.* iv, The Star-led Wisards. 1638 RANDOLPH *Poems* 54 [To Astrologers] But farewell now You hungry star-fed Tribe. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* IV. 976 In progress through the rode of Heav'n Star-pav'd. 1735 THOMSON *Liberty* IV. 424 With star-directed prow, To dare the middle deep. 1791 WOLCOT (P. Pindar) *Remonstrance* 12 The star-bedizen'd sycophants of state. 1798 COLERIDGE *Anc. Mar.* III. xv, The star-dogged Moon. 1799 CAMPBELL *Pleas. Hope* II. 272 On heavenly winds..Float the sweet tones of star-born melody. 1817 MOORE *Lalla Rookh, Veiled Proph.* I. 127 The flying throne of star-taught Soliman! 1821 SHELLEY *To Night* ii, Wrap thy form in a mantle gray Star-inwrought! 1835 TENNYSON *Day-Dream* 85 The silk star-broider'd coverlid. 1863 I. WILLIAMS *Baptistery* II. xxvii. (1874) 129 The sky, with its star-peopled space. 1897 *Atlantic Monthly* Jan. 35 When he [*sc.* Emerson] came to put together his star-born ideas, they fitted well..because they were all part of the same idea.

d. similative, as *star-distant, -eyed, -leaved, -shaped, -sweet* adjs.; *star-wise* adv.

1608 TOPSELL *Serpents* 247 That kind of Spyder..is more knowne by his little spots made starre-wise. 1642 H. MORE *Song of Soul* II. App. xcix, Ruby-lip'd, pearl-teeth'd, star-eyn'd. *c* 1711 PETIVER *Gazophyl.* VI. Ivi, Star-leaved Persia Chickweed. *Ibid.* IX. lxxxii, Star-flowred Globe Cats-foot. 1799 UNDERWOOD *Dis. Childhood* (ed. 4) II. 133 Three or four strips of adhesive plaster, applied star-wise. 1799 CAMPBELL *Pleas. Hope* II. 325 Oh! star-eyed Science. 1812 *New Bot. Gard.* I. 24 Adorned with many star-shaped flowers. 1821 S. F. GRAY *Brit. Plants* I. 75 Leaves..Star-ribbed, *stellinervia.* 1855 TENNYSON *Maud* I. III, Passionless, pale, cold face, star-sweet on a gloom profound. 1859 FITZGERALD *Omar* lxxv, Among the Guests Star-scatter'd on the grass. 1859 LD. LYTTON *Wanderer* (ed. 2) 285 At dawn star-distant thou wilt be. 1861 P. P. CARPENTER in *Rep. Smithsonian Instit.* 1860, 278 In *Botryllus*, the breathing-holes are star-shaped. 1883 *Encycl. Brit.* XVI. 681/2 Each chromatophore-cell has from six to ten muscular bands attached to its walls, radiating from it star-wise. 1884 SARGENT *Rep. Forests N. Amer.* 86 *Liquidambar Styraciflua*..Star-leaved Gum.

16. With reference to the knowledge of astrology or astronomy, as *star-craft, -lore,* † *-read* [READE *sb.*[1]], *-skill*; *star-read, -skilled, -wise* adjs.; in designations (some jocular or contemptuous) of an astrologer or astronomer, as *star-catcher, -clerk, -conner, -man, -master, -monger, -peeper,* † *-tooter.*

a 1250 *Owl & Night.* 1318 Þe mon mot beo well storre [*Jesus MS.* sturre]-wis. 1573 R. LEVER *Arte Reason* 6 The arte of measuring, witcrafte, speachcraft, starre-craft, &c. 1575 GASCOIGNE *Fruites of Warre* XV. Wks. 1907 I. 144 If Mars moove warre, as Starcoonners can tel. 1583 STUBBES *Anat. Abus.* II. (1882) 57 As these foolish starre tooters promised. 1591 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* I. iii. 494 If, at the least, Star-Clarks be credit worth. 1593 NASHE *Four Lett. Conf.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 252 Pierce Pennilesse is a better Star-munger than a Diuelmunger. 1596 SPENSER *F. Q.* V. Proem viii, Those Ægyptian wisards old, Which in Star-read were wont haue best insight. 1599 B. JONSON *Ev. Man out of Hum.* III. vii, These star-monger knaves, who would trust 'hem? 1602 WARNER *Alb. Eng.* XIII. lxxvii. 319 Obseruing which of Images, he hous'd himselfe them in, And, star-skil'd, opportunely there did Oracles begin. 1606 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. iv. I. *Tropheis* 796 The Star-wise sometimes calculates (By an Eclipse) the death of Potentates. 1607 DEKKER *Knt.'s Conjur.* (1842) 9 The celestiall bodies for any thing star-catchers knew, were in very good health. 1610 HEALEY *St. Aug. Citie of God* XVIII. viii. Vives 667 That star-skil that Abraham taught the Phœnicians. 1620 MELTON *Astrolog.* 24 Hearing a Starre-catcher make a long ..discourse about the Celestiall Signes. *c* 1640 H. BELL *Luther's Colloq. Mens.* (1652) 505 An astrologer or Star-peeper. 1654 GATAKER *Disc. Apol.* 4 So would I fain know

of this great Star-master, how it comes to pass, that [etc.]. 1708 SWIFT *Poems, Grub St. Elegy* Epitaph, A cobbler, starmonger, and quack. 1821 BYRON *Sardanap.* II. i. 12 The star-read Chaldean. 1836 R. FURNESS *Astrologer* II. Wks. (1858) 149 Which brought the star-man to the realms below. 1871 B. TAYLOR *Faust* II. II. iii. 134 Hast thou in star-lore any power? 1871 TYLOR *Prim. Cult.* II. 402 Our astronomers may only find in the starcraft of the lower races an uninstructive combination of myth and common-place.

b. With reference to 'nebular' or other theories of the formation of the stars.

1839 BAILEY *Festus* (1852) 516 Then there came A voice, as of a star-cloud in the sky. 1870 PROCTOR *Other Worlds* xii. 287 The region where those nebulæ appear has been drained of star-material, so to speak, in order to form them. 1870— *Pleas. Ways Sci.* (1879) 145 Star-mist, under which head I include all orders of nebulæ. 1885 PATER *Marius* (1910) I. v. 61 Apuleius had gathered into it the floating star-matter of many a delightful story. 1899 C. F. D'ARCY *Idealism & Theol.* i. 50 From star-cloud to civilisation, all is the result of slow development. 1900 *Edin. Rev.* Apr. 462 The 'lucid matter' of space is neither more nor less than star-spawn. 1902 *Blackw. Mag.* July 66 What force could twist a great mass of star-stuff—we have no better name for it—into the form of a spiral. 1905 AGNES CLERKE *Mod. Cosmogonies* 54 If space contained only full-grown stars and no stars in the making—no star-spawn, no star-protoplasm.

17. With the sense 'shaped like a conventional star', 'arranged in the form of a star', 'ornamented with stars' (see 6).

1590 *Acc. Bk. W. Wray* in *Antiquary* XXXII. 374, ii dosse' great stare buttons. 1613 in *Heriot's Mem.* App. VII. (1822) 220 A starre pendant set with diamonds. 1681 GREW *Musæum* III. § i. iii. 281 A Piece of Fungites with Great Star-Work. 1812 *Sporting Mag.* XXXIX. 168 A cocked hat with a star-loop. 1851 RUSKIN *Stones Venice* I. App. 8. 364 The salt sea winds have eaten away the fair shafting of its star window into a skeleton of crumbling rays. 1882 CAULFEILD & SAWARD *Dict. Needlework* 30 Double Stitch ..is also known by the name of 'star stitch'. *Ibid.* 460 *Star Braid*, a kind of Braid..made in blue and red, and having a white star. 1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-mining* 238 *Starreamer*, a tool for regulating the diameter of or straightening a borehole, made star-shaped at the base. 1895 ELEANOR ROWE *Chip Carving* 69 A small star punch was used instead of the single-pointed one.

18. With the sense 'marked or distinguished by a star or asterisk'. In *Prison slang*, with reference to the badge worn by 'first offenders'.

1814 *Hist. Univ. Oxford* II. 259 This is the dress of business; it is used..in the morning at church, excepting star days. 1882 *Daily News* 6 Feb. 3/5 The new category to be distinguished by the title of 'Star-class Prisoners'. 1888 *Encycl. Brit.* XXIII. 783/2 The 'star-routes'..gave rise to..great scandals. 1890 C. L. NORTON *Polit. Americanisms* 108 *Star Routes*..are post-office routes which are not self-supporting, and are designated by asterisks in the 'Postal Guide'. 1891 *Pall Mall Mag.* Nov. 454 'Star' prisoners are generally, but not always, first offenders. 1903 LD. W. NEVILLE *Penal Serv.* vi. 66 There were only five parties in which 'star' men were allowed to work.

19. In sense 5 a, b.

1849 *Athenæum* 30 June 677/2 Mr. Lumley, resolute in star-chasing, has absolutely succeeded in luring Madame Rossi back. 1864 *Reader* 19 Nov. 650/3 Mdlle. Nillson, the new star-soprano at this theatre. 1904 MRS. ALEC TWEEDIE *Behind Footlights* vi. 123 She..has played many star parts in the provinces. 1905 VACHELL *Hill* viii, It's a star-performance, I tell you. 1905 *Sat. Rev.* 28 Oct. 545 He finds himself now spectator instead of star performer.

20. Special comb.: **†star-blasting**, the pernicious influence of malign stars; **star-catalogue**, a list of stars, with their position, magnitude, etc.; **star-chart**, a chart which shows the stars in a certain portion of the sky; **star-clock**, a sidereal clock; **star-cluster**, a number of stars closely grouped together; **†star-cross, -crossed** *adjs.*, thwarted by a malign star; **star-cut** *a.*, of a diamond, cut with star-facets; *sb.*, this style of cutting; **star-drift**, a proper motion common to a group of stars; **star-facet**, one of the eight small triangular facets which surround the table of a brilliant; **†star-fashion** *a.* (of a flower), star-shaped; **†star-flint**, ?cf. STAR-STONE; **star-fort**, a small fort having alternate salient and reentrant angles; **star fracture** *Med.*, a fracture with radiating fissures; **star-gauge**, (*a*) a determination by the average of a number of observations of the number of stars visible in a given portion of the heavens; (*b*) a gauge with radiating steel points for measuring the bore of a cannon at any part of its length; **star-gauging** = prec. (*a*); **†star-gem**, ? the cat's-eye; **star-glint** (see quot.); **star-god**, a star or planet worshipped as a deity (cf. *star-worship*); **star lot**, an item in a sale catalogue added after the numbering is completed, and therefore designated by a starred number; **star-map**, a projection of the whole or part of the heavens, showing the position of the stars; **star-pagoda**, an Indian gold coin (cf. PAGODA 3); **star-proof** *a.*, impervious to starlight; also *transf.*; **star-pulley** = *star-wheel* (b); **star-queen** *poet.*, the moon; **†star-real, -rial** = SPUR-RIAL; **†star-redoubt, -sconce** = *star-fort*; **star-shake**, a shake in timber consisting of radial fissures; **star-shell** *Mil.*, a shell which on bursting releases a shower of stars, to illuminate the enemy's position at night; **star-ship**, the Southern constellation Argo Navis; **star-shooter, -shooting**, jocularly used with reference to taking the altitude of stars; **star-shower**, a shower of falling meteors; **†star-staring** *pres. pple.* and *ppl. a.* = STAR-GAZING; **star-stroke** (see quot.); **star-trap** *Theatr.*, a trap in the stage-floor consisting of five or more wedge-shaped pieces which part when pressure is applied to the centre, used for the sudden appearance or disappearance of a gymnastic performer; **star-wheel**, **†** (*a*) a firework combining the shapes of a wheel and a star; (*b*) a wheel with radial projections or teeth, used in winding-machines, clockwork, etc.; **star-worship** = SABAISM; hence **star-worshipper**; **†star-ypointing** *ppl. a.* [erroneously formed], pointing to the stars.

1605 SHAKS. *Lear* III. iv. 60 Blisse thee from Whirle-Windes, *Starre-blasting, and taking. 1830 CARLYLE *Richter & De Stael* Ess. 1840 II. 405 A fively people..can at least use *star-catalogues, and some planisphere thereof. 1866 PROCTOR *Handbk. Stars* 44 Aided by well-constructed *star-charts. 1878 HUXLEY *Physiogr.* xx. 341, 23 hours, 56 minutes, and 4 seconds would be a day by the '*star-clock'. 1870 PROCTOR *Other Worlds* xii. 288 In fact, each of the Nubeculæ is at once a *star-cluster and a cluster of nebulæ. 1608 MIDDLETON *Fam. Love* IV. ii. G 1, Since these proiects haue had so *star crosse euents. 1592 SHAKS. *Rom. & Jul.* Prol. 6 A paire of *starre-crost louers, take their life. 1600 DEKKER *Fortunatus* H 1, The star-crost sonne of Fortunatus. 1704 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4046/4 Another [Ring] with 3 Diamonds, *Star-cut. 1850 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* III. 1331 Generally the trap cut, or the star cut, is employed on the back, and the stone is then said to have a..star-cut back. 1870 PROCTOR in *Proc. Roy. Soc.* XVIII. 169 When the proper motions are indicated in maps,..the *star-drift (as the phenomenon may be termed) becomes very evident. 1751 *Star facets [see SKILL *sb.*[1] 9]. 1813 MAWE *Diamonds* (1823) 79 The triangles on the bizel, adjacent to the girdle, are called skill facets, and those which join the table, star facets. 1597 GERARDE *Herbal* II. CXXV. 393 Stalks..whereupon do grow faire yellow flowers, *star fashion. 1640 PARKINSON *Theat. Bot.* 132 The flower is purple, starre fashion, and yellow in the middle. *c* 1721 PETIVER *Gazophyl.* VII. lxviii, Wiltshire *Star-flint...This Fossil is represented, as cut, polish'd, and designed for a Snuff-box. 1704 J. HARRIS *Lex. Techn.* I, **Star-fort.* 1783 JUSTAMOND tr. *Raynal's Hist. Indies* VI. 117 Fort Lewis..is but a wretched star-fort, incapable of much resistance. 1834-47 J. S. MACAULAY *Field Fortif.* (1851) 20 Star forts are usually constructed either on a triangle or on a square. 1892 *Daily News* 27 May 3/4 There was a mark on the right temple..and from this point a fracture of the skull started. This ran round to the left side, where there was a *star fracture. 1784 SIR W. HERSCHEL *Sci. Papers* (1912) I. 162, I call it *Gaging the Heavens*, or the **Star-Gage*. It consists in repeatedly taking the number of stars in ten fields of view of my reflector very near each other, and by adding their sums, and cutting off one decimal on the right. 1847 SIR J. HERSCHEL *Astron. Observ. Cape* 373 A system of star-gauges was set on foot. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2310/2 *Star-Gage* (Ordnance). 1870 PROCTOR *Other Worlds* Pref. 8 The fact that Sir William Herschel adopted an erroneous hypothesis as the basis of his system of *star-gauging. 1693 DALE *Pharmacol.* 100 Asteria gemma, *Offic.* The Bastard-Opal or *Star-Gemm. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.*, **Star-Glint*, a meteorite. 1879 PROCTOR *Flowers of Sky* ii. 24 *note*, The worship of *star-gods. 1905 BUDGE *Egypt. Heaven & Hell* II. 263 Three bearded beings, the 'Star-gods'. 1854 *Poultry Chron.* I. 80/1 Two young Brahma Pootra fowls, not included in the catalogue (introduced as *star lots). 1866 PROCTOR *Handbk. Stars* 11 The projection and construction of *star-maps. 1900 W. B. BLAIKIE (*title*) Monthly Star Maps for the Year 1900. 1799 *Hull Advertiser* 21 Dec. 4/1 The prize fund amounted..to *star pagodas 25 lacks 34.804. 1858 BEVERIDGE *Hist. India* II. VI. V. 711 One lac of star pagodas (£40,000). *a* 1645 MILTON *Arcades* 89 Under the shady roof Of branching Elm *Star-proof. 1871 SWINBURNE *Songs bef. Sunrise* Prelude 101 Star-proof trees. 1873 LYTTON *Ken. Chillingly* I. xi, To all female fascinations he had been hitherto star-proof. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 1109 The *star pulleys *c*, *c*. 1818 KEATS *Endymion* IV. 589 The *Star-Queen's crescent [cf. Horace *Carm. Saec.* 35 *siderum regina bicornis*]. 1580 *Fermor Acc.* in *Archæol. Jrnl.* (1851) VIII. 185 It. rec. of old gold, one *staw [*sic*] ryall, a duckett [etc.]. 1606 HOLLAND *Sueton.* Annot. 34 Our olde Edward Star-Reals, or fifteene shilling peeces. 1702 *Milit. Dict.* (1704) **Star-Redoute*, of four, of five, of six, or of more points, otherwise call'd an *Estoile*. 1632 *Swed. Intelligencer* I. 112 The great *Starre-Sconce or Toll-house by the old Elue. 1875 LASLETT *Timber* 178 The chief defect in Mexican Mahogany is the prevalence of *star-shake. 1883 M. P. BALE *Saw-Mills* 336 *Star shake*, consists of clefts which radiate from the pith or centre of the tree towards the circumference or bark. 1876 WILL & DALTON *Artill. Hand-bk. Ref.* 224 The *star shell...The interior is filled with 13 stars. The stars are paper cylinders filled with a composition which burns about 18 seconds and gives a brilliant light. 1899 *Daily News* 1 Dec. 3/4 There is also on board a large quantity of star shell. 1606 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. IV. I. *Tropheis* 216 'Twixt Eridanus And th' Heav'nly *Star-Ship. 1849 CUPPLES *Green Hand* xviii. (1856) 178 The great star-ship down in the south. 1863 *Athenæum* 21 Nov. 63 When navigators first began to make observations with instruments on deck, the self-sufficient called them *star-shooters and when the star's altitude was taken would ask if they had hit it. 1898 *Daily News* 14 Apr. 2/3 After a good deal of *star-shooting and other scientific operations. 1818 SHELLEY *Stanzas Written in Deject.* ii, I see the waves upon the shore, Like light dissolved in *star-showers, thrown. 1869 DUNKIN *Midnight Sky* 137 The memorable star-showers of November 1866, 1867, and 1868. 1621 BRATHWAIT *Nat. Embassie* (1877) 20 *Star-staring earthling, puff'd with insolence. *a* 1661 FULLER *Worthies, Worc.* (1662) 182 They saw You gone, but whether could not tell, Star-staring, though they ask'd both Heaven and Hell. 1855 DUNGLISON *Med. Lex.*, *Coup de Soleil*,..Stroke of the sun, Ægyptian *Starstroke or Sunstroke. 1873 *Routledge's Young Gentl. Mag.* 279/1 A *star trap is circular in form. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XV. 716/1 The *Star-wheel illuminated. 1848 *Archæologia* XXXIII. 32 The wheel B carries 6 pins, which act upon the star-wheel C of 12 rays, and cause it to revolve in 48 hours. 1876 PREECE & SIVEWRIGHT *Telegraphy* 117 They admit the teeth of a little star wheel. 1860 PUSEY *Min. Proph.* 243 That favourite study of the Chaldæans, astrology, 'the mysteries', *star-worship. *Ibid.* 447 The milder form of idolatry, the *star-worshippers. 1630 MILTON *Shaks.* 4 Under a *Star-ypointing Pyramid.

21. In names of animals: **star-buzzard**, an American hawk of the genus *Asturina*; **†star-cake**, ? some flattish species of sea-urchin; **star-coral**, a coral of the family *Astræidæ*; **star-cowry** (see quot.); **star-finch**, the redstart; **†star-hawk**, a goshawk (*Astur*); **†star-lizard**, a lizard of the genus *Stellio*; **star-mouthed**, epithet of the family *Strongylidæ* of nematoid worms; **star-nose, -nosed**, epithet of certain moles, esp. *Condylura cristata*; **†star-spider**, the *asterion* of Pliny; **star-tail**, the tropic bird; **star-throat**, a hummingbird of the genus *Heliomaster*; also **star-throated** *a.* See also STAR-FISH.

1884 COUES *N. Amer. Birds* 551 *Asturina*, *Star Buzzards. 1713 PETIVER *Aquat. Anim. Amboinæ* Tab. i, *Echinus planus*..Wrinkled *Star-cake. 1856 PAGE *Adv. Text-bk. Geol.* xiv. (1876) 245 *Star-corals. 1884 GOODE *Nat. Hist. Aquatic Anim.* 841 The Star Corals (*Orbicella annularis* and *cavernosa*). 1815 S. BROOKES *Conchol.* 157 *Star Cowry. Cypræa Helvola. 1752 HILL *Hist. Anim.* 507 Authors call it the Ruticilla and Phœnicurus; we, the Fire-tail, the *Star-finch, and the Red-start. 1668 CHARLETON *Onomast.* 64 *Accipiter Asterias, Astur*..the *Star-hawk, or Egret. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* XXIX. iv. II. 361 Our Stellions or *Star-lizards here in Italie. 1854 A. ADAMS etc. *Man. Nat. Hist.* 350 *Star-mouthed Worms (Strongylidæ). 1837 *Penny Cycl.* VII. 443/1 *Condylura macroura* (Harlan). Thick-tailed, *star-nose. 1859 WOOD *Illustr. Nat. Hist.* I. 429 Radiated Mole, or *Star-nosed Mole, *Astromycles cristatus*. 1608 TOPSELL *Serpents* 250 Of the wounding of the *Starre-Spyder feeblenes and weakenes followeth. 1862 WOOD *Illustr. Nat. Hist.* II. 756 They also call it [*sc.* the Tropic Bird] by the name of *Startail, on account of the long projecting tail-feathers. 1862 *Ibid.* 243 The *Star-throats. *Ibid.* The *Star-throated Humming-birds.

22. In names of plants: **star-anemone**, *Anemone stellata* (or *hortensis*); **star-anise**, *Illicium anisatum* or its fruit (from the stellate arrangement of the carpels); **star-bush** (see quot.); **star-cucumber**, *Sicyos angulatus* of N. America; **star-fruit**, *Damasonium stellatum*; **star-hyacinth**, *Scilla amœna*; **star-pepper**, *Xanthoxylon Daniellii* (*Treas. Bot.* 1866); **star-plum** (see quot.); **star-primula**, *Primula stellata*. See also STAR-APPLE, -FLOWER, -GRASS, -HEAD, -THISTLE, -WORT.

1812 *New Bot. Gard.* I. 28 The best *Star-Anemones are said to come from Brittany. 1882 *Garden* 14 Jan. 14/2 The Star Anemone in some of its more distinct colours should be freely grown. 1838 *Penny Cycl.* XII. 445/1 *Illicium anisatum*..of which the fruit is exported from Canton, and well known in commerce by the name of *Star anise. 1884 W. MILLER *Plant-n.* 201 *Grewia occidentalis*, African *Star-bush. 1856 A. GRAY *Man. Bot.* 138 *Sicyos*, L. One-seeded *Star-Cucumber. 1857 MISS PRATT *Flowering Pl.* V. 307 *Actinocarpus* (*Star-fruit). 1758 BORLASE *Nat. Hist. Cornw.* 233 Lesser autumnal *star-hyacinth. 1859 BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.* (ed. 2) 446 *Star-plum (*Chrysophillum monopyrenum*). A kind of star-apple, also called a Barbadoes Damson plum. 1904 *Nature* 25 Aug. 408/1 The graceful *Star Primula.

b. In names for nostoc (as supposed to be shed from the stars): *star-jelly*, *-slime*, *-slough*, *-slubber*, *-slutch*: also *star-fallen*, *-falling*, and STAR-SHOT.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 474/2 Sterre slyme, *assub.* 1552 *Elyot's Dict.*, *Aporrhoæ*, certayne impressions in the ayer, which we call starre fallyng, because it so appereth to our sightes. 1712 J. MORTON *Nat. Hist. Northamptonsh.* 353 That gelatinous Body call'd Star-Gelly, Star-shot, or Star-fall'n, so named because vulgarly believ'd to fall from a Star. 1756 W. WATSON *Leicestersh. Plants* in *Phil. Trans.* XLIX. 860 Our country people call it Tar-slough [? read Star-slough] and some of them, as it is principally seen after rain, suppose..that it drops from the clouds. 1766 Star Gelly [see JELLY *sb.* 2 b]. 1779 *Gentl. Mag.* XLIX. 489 Dr. Lister conceived that star-slime is nothing but frogs dissolved and putrified in the air. 1781 J. HUTTON *Tour to Caves* (ed. 2) Gloss. 96 *Starslubber*, frog spawn. 1791 *Gentl. Mag.* LXI. I. 467 *Tremella Nostoch*..is in that county [Cheshire] called *star-slutch*. 1796 WITHERING *Brit. Plants* (ed. 3) IV. 80 *Star-slough*. 1878 *Cumbld. Gloss.*, Star-slime. 1882 J. SMITH *Dict. Pop. Names Plants* 391 Star Jelly, *Nostoc commune* and *N. edule*, gelatinous cryptogams..springing up often on gravel walks after rain in round patches.

c. Star of Bethlehem (also † *Bethlem star*), the genus *Ornithogalum*, esp. *O. umbellatum* abundant in Palestine, with white stellate flowers; applied also to *Stellaria Holostea*, *Hypoxis decumbens*, and other plants; **star of the earth**, *Plantago Coronopus*; **star of Jerusalem**, *Tragopogon pratensis* or *T. porrifolius*; **star of night**, *Clusia rosea* (Griesbach *Flora W. Ind.* 1864, 788).

1573 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 96 Star of Bethelem. 1597 GERARDE *Herbal* I. lxxxiii. 131 There be sundrie sorts of wilde field-onions called Star of Bethlehem. 1678 SALMON *Pharm. Lond.* 84 Bethlem star, temperate: It is not much used in Physick, but the Root serves for meat or food being rosted in Embers, mixt with honey. 1755 *Gentl. Mag.* XXV. 407 The *Ornithogalums*, or *stars of Bethlehem*. *a* 1806 CHARLOTTE SMITH *Flora's Horologe* viii, Pale as a pensive cloistered nun, The Bethlem star her face unveils. 1845 S. JUDD *Margaret* I. xiv, She got bunch-berries, and star-of-

Bethlehems. 1847 JERDON in *Proc. Berw. Nat. Club* II. v. 212, I beg to send you..two specimens of the Yellow Star of Bethlehem (*Ornithogalum luteum*, Lin.). 1864 GRISEBACH *Flora W. Ind. Islands* 788 Star-of-Bethlehem, *Hypoxis decumbens*.

1651 T. DE GREY *Compl. Horseman* (1656) 160 A third Cure [for the bite of a mad dog]...Take the Hearbe which groweth in dry and barren Hils, called *The Starre of the earth*. 1671-2 *Roy. Soc. Jrnl.-Bks.* in *Phil. Trans.* (1736) XXXIX. 360 Sir Robert Moray mentioned that a whole Kennel of Dogs, belonging to his Royal Highness, were bitten by a mad Dog, and had been lately cured by a certain Herb called *Stellaria*, or Star of the Earth. 1738 STEWARD in *Phil. Trans.* XL. 458 In Norfolk, my native County,.. the *Coronopus* is called *the Star of the Earth*.

1573 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 96 Star of Jerusalem. 1665 LOVELL *Herbal* (ed. 2) 415 Starres of Jerusalem, see Josephs-flower.

23. *Min.* In names of precious stones which exhibit asterism, as *star diamond, quartz, ruby, sapphire*; STAR-STONE.

1805-17 R. JAMESON *Char. Min.* 256 Star-sapphire. 1829 CRAWFURD *Jrnl. Emb. Crt. of Ava* (1834) II. 201 The star ruby. 1887 *Cassell's Encycl. Dict., Star-diamond.* 1896 CHESTER *Dict. Min., Star-quartz*, a var. of quartz which exhibits asterism.

Star, *sb.*2 Now *dial.* Forms: 4-5 starre, (? 5 stair), 5, 9 stare, 8-9 starr, 4- star. [a. ON. *stǫr-r* fem. (gen. *starar*; Norw. *storr*, Sw. *starr*, Da. *stær*).] A name given locally to various coarse seaside grasses and sedges, as *Psamma arenaria* and *Carex arenaria*. Also *star-grass*.

c 1300 *Havelok* 939 He bar þe turues, he bar þe star. 1322 *Bolton Priory Compotus* 445 [455] Pro starre empt' et cariat' ad grangiam de Penisthorpe vs. 1419 *Mem. Ripon* (Surtees) III. 147 Et in iiij caruct. de Star empt. cum car. ejusdem. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 64/2 Cegge, or stare [*Winch.* starre], *carix*. *a* 1550 in *Archæologia* I. 175 Item in Marisco potest Dominus habere *Stair*, pro coopertura domorum. 1712 N. BLUNDELL *Diary* (1895) 190 As I was going to my Setters of Star to hinder ye Sand from recking up my Grand Water-course. 1722 *Ibid.* 186 For Cuting the Starr. 1742 *Act* 15 *Geo. II* c. 33 § 6 A certain Rush or Shrub called Starr or Bent. 1792 LIGHTFOOT *Flora Scot.* II. 560 Turfy-pink-leav'd Carex. *Anglis.* Starr. *Scotis.* 1823 MOOR *Suffolk Words* s. v. *Bent*, Bent or Starr. 1881 GREGOR *Folk-Lore* ix. 51 A bunch of stars or bruckles to redd the tobacco pipes. 1895 'M. E. FRANCIS' *Frieze & Fustian* 284 It is on the sand-hills that I generally find him, bundles of blue-green star-grass, ready to be planted, lying about him. *a* 1897 J. MACDONALD *Place Names W. Aberd.* (1899) 308 In this part of the country the name Starrs is applied to rushes.

†Star, *sb.*3 *Obs.* [Of obscure origin.]

a. ? A crack or fissure in the skin. **b.** ? A swelling or tumour in horses.

1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* 28 If any be hurt by the starres, wash them in asses stale mingled with Spiknard. *Ibid.* 654 The dust of lambs bones is very much..vsed for Vlcers which haue no chops or stars in them. 1710 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4768/4 A Star or Bunch, with no Hair on it, on the far Leg behind.

Star (stāi), *v.* [f. STAR *sb.*1]

†1. *intr.* Of a planet: To be in the ascendant.

1592 WARNER *Alb. Eng.* VII. xxxvi. (1612) 172 Dull mal-contented Saturne rulde the houre when I was borne. Had Iupiter then starr'd I had not liued now forlorne.

2. *trans.* (*poet. nonce-uses.*) To fix as a star in the heavens; to transform (a person) into a star. Also *fig.*

1610 G. FLETCHER *Christ's Tri.* II. xxvii, The seeling gay, Starred aloft the guilded knobs embrave. 1632 [see STARRED *ppl. a.* 5]. 1819 WIFFEN *Aonian Hours* (1820) 96 His love be told, A feeling pity in her eyes was starred.

3. To mark (a horse) with a star. (See STAR *sb.*1 9 b.)

1592 GREENE *Conny Catch.* II. 4 They will straight spot him by sundry pollicies, and in a blacke horse, marke saddle spots, or star him in the forehead.

4. To adorn with an ornament likened to a star or a number of stars; to bespangle as with stars. Also with *over, round*.

The verb is perhaps implied at an earlier date in some of the instances of STARRED *ppl. a.*, q. v.

1718 POPE *Iliad* I. 326 His Sceptre starr'd with golden Studs around. 1742 YOUNG *Nt. Th.* IX. 562 Like a sable curtain starr'd with gold. 1777 POTTER *Æschylus, Supplicants* 88 An herdsman..starr'd round with eyes...The earth-born Argus. 1820 SHELLEY *Prom. Unb.* III. iii. 138 Blooms Which star the winds with points of coloured light. 1884 A. LANG in *Century Mag.* Jan. 340/2 The primroses starred the banks. 1885 B. HARTE *Maruja* iii, Pretty women, with roses starring their dark hair.

b. To decorate with the star of an order.

1845 DISRAELI *Sybil* IV. xi, And now he is a quasi ambassador, and ribboned, and starred to the chin.

5. To make a radiating crack or fracture in (a surface of glass, ice, etc.). Cf. STAR *sb.*1 11.

To star the glaze (Thieves' slang): see quot. 1788.

1788 GROSE *Dict. Vulgar T.* (ed. 2), *To Star the Glaze*, to break and rob a jeweller's show glass. *Cant.* 1813 MRS. PIOZZI in *Jrnls. & Corr. Whalley* (1863) II. 364 The ice is starred, as skaters call it, by the fall of the French in Spain. 1824 *Mechanic's Mag.* No. 19. 300 A pane of window-glass, perforated completely through..without the glass being, as it is technically called, starred. 1873 *Chamb. Jrnl.* 30 Aug. 547/2 The next [pebble]..not only hit the window, but starred one of the panes with a loud crash. 1884 *Manch. Exam.* 19 Dec. 5/2 As the granite around the hole is starred in all directions, it is Major Majendie's opinion that a large quantity of dynamite was used.

b. *intr.* To become fractured in this way.

1842 *Civ. Engin. & Arch. Jrnl.* V. 368/1 The iron of which vessels is composed has been found to become brittle in the course of years, so that..it will..star like glass when struck by a hard and sharp body. 1894 *Athenæum* 3 Mar. 282/1 Sir J. Evans suggested that the meaning of this was 'I will not star', or crack, like a glass bottle.

c. *trans.* (*Geol.*) To diversify (strata) by cracks or veins radiating from a centre.

1839 MURCHISON *Silur. Syst.* I. xx. 261 The highly inclined and dislocated strata of purple schist and sandstone..are starred through in many directions by veins of white crystallized quartz. 1842 SEDGWICK in *Hudson's Guide Lakes* (1843) 227 In the progress of elevation, mountain masses were torn asunder and starred by diverging lines of 'fault'.

6. a. *trans.* To produce the 'stars' on (antimony) in the process of refining. Cf. STAR *sb.* 9 d. **b.** *intr.* Of antimony: To form 'stars' when solidifying. (Webster 1911.)

1889 BERINGER *Text-bk. Assaying* 186 Briefly, the process consists of the three ordinary operations of—(*a*) Singling or removing most of the antimony from the ore; (*b*) Doubling; (*c*) Refining or 'starring'.

7. To distinguish (a written or printed word, name, etc.) by an affixed star or asterisk. Hence, to single out for special notice or recommendation.

1897 *Daily News* 29 July 3/1 He maintained that..if the Government meant to proceed with these Bills they ought to have 'starred' them, meaning that an asterisk should be placed by them on the Order Paper, as is the case with Bills in charge of Ministers. 1897 *Ibid.* 4 Nov. 7/1 The defendant complained that his name was not starred on the play bills and programmes. 1898 *Q. Rev.* July 192 This recommendation amounts to 'starring' the several codices, just as individual charters have..been 'starred' by the editor of our first 'Codex'. 1913 J. M. JONES *Welsh Gram.* p. xxvii, The form need not have been starred.

8. *intr.* Of an actor, singer, etc.: To appear as a 'star', perform the leading part (see STAR *sb.*1 5 a); to make a tour in the provinces as the 'star' of a dramatic company. Also *to star it*. Also quasi-trans. *to star the provinces*. Chiefly in *ppl. a.* and *gerund*.

1824 W. IRVING *T. Trav.* II. 36 The great actors, who came down starring..from London. 1825 *New Monthly Mag.* XV. 393 Mr. Fitzwilliam is 'starring' it among them. 1850 THACKERAY *Pendennis* xix, She..had starred the provinces with great éclat. 1891 R. FORD *Thistledown* xvi. 298 He attaches himself to a band of strolling players, and 'stars' it through part of the county of Fife.

b. said of any notable or distinguished personage when appearing in public. Also jocularly (see quot. 1852).

1852 MOTLEY *Corr.* (1889) I. v, 129, I don't know where he [the sun] is, probably engaged elsewhere, starring it in some more profitable region. 1887 HUXLEY in L. Huxley *Life* (1900) II. 151, I have been 'starring' at the Mansion House. 1893 *Bookman* June 86/1 This Russian baroness.. starring it in Russian embassies and Paris salons.

c. *trans.* To furnish with 'stars', provide a run of 'stars' for.

1831 *Lincoln Herald* 7 Oct. 4 We were extremely sorry to see so thin a house: sad encouragement for the manager in starring the season.

9. *Billiards.* In the game of Pool, to buy an additional life or lives (see STAR *sb.*1 13). Similarly in *Dominoes*. Also quasi-*trans.*

1850 *Bohn's Handbk. Games* (1867) 609 (Rules of Pool) If the first person out refuse to star, the second person may do it,..and so on, until only two persons are left in the pool, in which case the privilege of starring ceases. 1870 HARDY & WARE *Mod. Hoyle, Dominoes* 100 He who 'stars' re-commences at the number which the player holds who is in the worst position. 1875 G. F. PARDON in *Encycl. Brit.* III. 677/1 The first player who loses all his three lives can 'star'; that is, by paying into the pool a sum equal to his original stake, he is entitled to as many lives as the lowest number on the marking board. Thus if the lowest number be two, he stars two; if one, he stars one.

Staragen, obs. form of TARRAGON (sense 1).

1765 STERNE *Tr. Shandy* VIII. xii, 'Tis all pepper, garlick, staragen, [etc.].

Star-apple (stā·ræ:p'l). The fruit of any tree of the genus *Chrysophyllum*; the tree itself (also *star-apple tree*).

The fruit is the size of a large apple, and when cut across shows ten cells forming a star-like figure.

1697 DAMPIER *Voy.* I. 204 The Star Apple Tree grows much like the Quince Tree, but much bigger. 1725 SLOANE *Jamaica* II. 170 Star Apple-Tree...If the Fruit be cut athwart the Places where the Seeds were lodg'd will represent a Star. 1823 SABINE *Edible Fruits Sierra Leone* in *Trans. Hort. Soc.* (1824) V. 458 Long-leaved Star-Apple. Chrysophyllum macrophyllum. *Ibid.* Obovate-leaved Star Apple. Chrysophyllum obovatum. 1887 *Standard* 16 Sept. 5/3 How many..Britons have eaten..of the star-apple?

Star-beam. Chiefly *poet.* A ray of starlight.

a 1425 *Cursor M.* 11435 (Trin.) Þei followed on þe sterre beme [*earlier texts* o þis stern þe leme] Til þei coom to Ierusalem. 1700 BLACKMORE *Job* II Shut every Starbeam out from mortals sight. 1794 COLERIDGE *Monody on Death of Chatterton* 120 Like star-beam on the slow sequester'd tide Lone-glittering. 1817 BYRON *Manfred* I. i. 57 On a star-beam I have ridden. 1874 REYNOLDS *John Bapt.* i. 11 The immeasurable difference between the star-beam and the noon-tide splendour. 1884 BROWNING *Ferishtah's Fancies* 87 How twinks thine eye, my Love, Blue as yon star-beam.

Starboard (stā·ɪbŏ·ɪd, -bəɪd), *sb.* (and *a.*) *Naut.* Forms: 1 stéorbord, 4 stere-b(o)urde, 5 sterbord(e, 6 steereboard, -board, steirburd (*Sc.*), starbourd, (7 stereboard), 6-7 starboord, starreberd(e, 7 starr-boord, -board, starbord, (starbur), 7- starboard. [OE. *stéorbord*, f. *stéor* steering paddle, rudder; STEER *sb.* + *bord* BOARD *sb.* Equivalent compounds (some of which do not strictly correspond in form) are MDu. *stierbord, stuyrbord* (Du. *stuurboord*), MHG. *stiurbort* (mod.G. *steuerbord*), OIcel., mod.Icel. *stjórnborði* (now pronounced *stjórborði*), Sw., Da. *styrbord*. The Rom. langs. have adopted the word from one or other of the Teut. langs.: OF. *estribord* (mod.F. *tribord*), Sp. *estribor(d*, Pg. *estribordo*, usually *estibordo*, It. *stribordo*.

The etymological sense of the word refers to the mode of steering the early Teutonic ships, by means of a paddle worked over the right side of the vessel. The left or larboard side, to which the steersman turned his back, was in several Teut. langs. called 'back-board', whence F. *bâbord*: see BABURD.]

A. *sb.* The right-hand side of a ship, as distinguished from the LARBOARD or PORT side; the side upon which in early types of ships the steering apparatus was worked. (See LARBOARD *note*.) Often in the phrases † *a, on, upon, to starboard*.

c 893 ÆLFRED *Oros.* I. i. § 14 Let him ealne weg þæt weste land on ðæt steorbord, & þa widsæ on ðæt bæcbord þrie dagas. *Ibid.*, Ac him wæs ealne weg weste land on þæt steorbord..& him wæs a widsæ on ðæt bæcbord. ? *a* 1400 *Morte Arth.* 745 Frekes..Standez appone stere-bourde. *Ibid.* 3665 So stowtly the forsterne one the stam hyttis, That stokkes of the stere-burde strykkys in peces! 1495, 1501, 1598, 1698 [see LARBOARD]. 1568 *Satir. Poems Reform.* xlvi. 6 Se that hir hatchis be handlit richt, W^t steir-burd, baburd, luf and lie. 1622 R. HAWKINS *Voy. S. Sea* (1847) 83 He commaunded him at the helme, to put it close a starbourd. 1633 T. STAFFORD *Pac. Hib.* III. viii. 312 He..ordered it so, that with two takles hee might steere the Hoy either to Starboard, or to Port. 1687 A. LOVELL tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* I. 16 When we were got out to Sea, we bore away to the starboard. 1762 FALCONER *Shipwr.* II. 819 Brace fore and aft to starboard every yard. 1833 TENNYSON *Lotos-Eaters* viii. 7 We, Roll'd to starboard, roll'd to larboard, when the surge was seething free. 1874 BEDFORD *Sailor's Pocket Bk.* iii. 48 If to your starboard red appear, It is your duty to keep clear. 1891 FARRAR *Darkn. & Dawn* xxxv, Those who had not been warned..rushed to the starboard.

b. as *adv.* To or on the starboard side.

1634-5 BRERETON *Trav.* (Chetham Soc.) 169 Starboard, that is to the right hand. 1644 MANWAYRING *Seamans Dict.* 28 Then he who conds uses these termes to him at the helme, starr-boord, larboord, the helme a mid-ships. 1647, 1663 [see LARBOARD b]. 1669 STURMY *Mariner's Mag.* I. ii. 20 Give fire Starboard. 1883 BURTON & CAMERON *Gold Coast* I. i. 4 Starboard rose black Ithaca, fronting the black mountain of Cephalonia.

B. *attrib.* passing into adj. Of, belonging to or situated on the right side of a boat or vessel.

1495 *Naval Acc. Hen. VII* (1896) 192 Sterborde Bowers—j, Latheborde Bowers—j. 1538 *Admiralty Crt. Exam.* 28 May 2 The Thomas with the loreborde buttock touched the fore parte of the shippe..at a place callyd the starrebord luffe. 1540 *Sel. Pleas Crt. Admiralty* (Selden Soc.) I. 91 The said shippe..dydd hange..soo violentle upon starreborde sydd of the said shippe..that the cable..dydd breake. 1594 NASHE *Terrors Nt.* Wks. (Grosart) III. 270 Fellowes..that ..knew..what belongs to haling of bolings yare, and falling on the star-boord buttocke. 1626 P. NICHOLS *Drake Revived* (1628) 21 One [pinnace] on the starboord bough, the other on the starboord quarter..forthwith boarded her. 1627 CAPT. SMITH *Sea Gram.* ix. 42 Hale off your starboord sheats. 1635 J. HAYWARD tr. *Biondi's Banish'd Virgin* 156 Causing him to be at the self-same time boarded on both the Starbur and Larbur-sides. 1644 MANWAYRING *Seamans Dict.* 114 The ships company is divided into two parts, the one called the Star-boord-watch, the other the Lar-boord-watch. 1669 STURMY *Mariner's Mag.* I. ii. 20 Give him our Starboard Broad-side. 1697 DAMPIER *Voy.* I. 452 The fury of the Wind..took the Ship on the Starboard bow with such violence, that it snapt off the Boltsprit. 1747 *Gentl. Mag.* VII. 247/1 We..began to form the line on the starboard tack. 1798 in Nicolas *Disp. Nelson* (1846) VII. p. cliv, We wore gradually round..till we brought the wind on the starboard beam. 1833 MARRYAT *P. Simple* iii, He flogged the whole starboard watch. *Ibid.* xii, 'Sail on the starboard-bow!' cried the look-out man. 1874 BEDFORD *Sailor's Pocket Bk.* i. 18 The Starboard Columns of a formation [of ships] are the alternate Columns, commencing from the right. 1877 BLACK *Green Past.* xxvii, Who gave us that piece of advice about choosing a starboard berth.

Starboard (stā·ɪbŏ·ɪd, -bəɪd), *v. Naut.* [f. STARBOARD *sb.*] *trans.* To put over or turn (the helm) to the starboard side of the ship. Chiefly in the command *Starboard* (*the helm*)!

1598 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. i. III. *Furies* 43 He hails us threatfully, Star-boord our helm. 1627 CAPT. SMITH *Sea Gram.* ix. 37 Starboord the Helme, is to put the Helme a Starboord, then the ship will goe to the Larboord. 1759 *Ann. Reg., Chron.* 121/1 We then immediately starboarded our helm, and ran right down upon her. 1888 *Times* 23 Aug. 8/6 A red light is always a signal not to starboard the helm.

ellipt. 1669 STURMY *Mariner's Mag.* I. ii. 19 Starboard, the Chase pays away more room, Starboard hard;..Stereboard hard. 1673 HICKERINGILL *Gregory* 141 Look to your Ship then, hard at Helm, Starboard, or else we overwhelm. 1762 FALCONER *Shipwr.* III. 69 'Starboard again!' the watchful pilot cries. 1884 CAPT. POLLARD in *Western Morn. News* 2 Aug. 8/1 The course which the Valiant was steering before starboarding was south-west.

Hence **Sta·rboarding** *vbl. sb.*

1902 *Daily Chron.* 18 June 10/1 The starboarding of the Cambridge in the circumstances of the case was wrong.

Starbolins (stā·ɪbŏlinz), *sb. pl. Naut.* Also **starbowlines.** [? For **starboardlings*, f. STARBOARD *sb.* + -LING[1]. Cf. LARBOLINS.] (See quots.)

1769 FALCONER *Dict. Marine* II. (1776), *Tribordais*, starbowlines; a cant term for the starboard watch. 1840 R. H. DANA *Bef. Mast.* v. 10 The cry of 'All starbowlines ahoy!' summoned our watch on deck. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.*, *Star-Bolins*, the old familiar term for the men of the starboard watch.]

Star-bright, *a.* Chiefly *poet.* Bright as a star; bright with stars.

1560 PHAER *Æneid* x. (1562) Ff iij, The father of gods.. him selfe doth councell call into the starbright seat. 1561 NUCE *Seneca's Octavia* II. ii. E j, So is Augustus prince and father cald, Of country first, in starbright throne ystald. 1606 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. iv. II. *Magnificence* 840 Their star-bright eye seems vail'd. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* x. 450 At last as from a Cloud his fulgent head And shape Starr-bright appeer'd. 1817 SHELLEY *Rev. Islam* I. xviii, Loosening her star-bright robe and shadowy hair. 1828 COLERIDGE *Gard. Boccaccio* 77 Florence!..Thou brightest star of star-bright Italy!

b. ? *technical.*

1833 LOUDON *Encycl. Archit.* § 1324 When it [cider] has remained a short time quiet,..if not perfectly star-bright, which it seldom is, it should be fined with isinglass.

Starch (stärtʃ), *sb.* Forms: 5–6 **sterch**(e, 5–7 **starche**, 7 **startch**, 6– **starch**. [In 15th c. *sterche*, f. *sterche* STARCH *v.* to stiffen. Cf. MDu. *stercke*, MHG. *sterke* (once, 13th c.), mod.G. *stärke* starch (from 17th c.), also in the same sense MHG. (13th c.) *sterch-chlei* (= **sterk-klîe*), early mod.G. *starkmel* 'amidum' (Diefenbach).]

1. A substance obtained from flour by removing some of its constituents (now also from other vegetable sources containing 'starch' in sense 2), used, in the form of a gummy liquid or paste made with water, to stiffen linen or cotton fabrics in the process of laundry-work, to give a finish to the surface of textile materials, to size paper, and for various other purposes. Also, the gummy liquid or paste made from this substance to prepare it for use.

Starch in its solid form is a white or yellowish white powder (often aggregated in shapeless granules or lumps), odourless, tasteless, and soft to the touch.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 472/2 Starche, for kyrcheys, *stibium, gersa*, 14.. *Lat.-Eng. Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 568/48 *Brella*, sterche. 1530 TINDALE *Answ. More's Dial.* Wks. (1573) 324/1 About which was no smale question in Oxforde ..whether it were bread or none: some affirming that the floure with long lying in water was turned to starch, and had lost his nature. 1530 PALSGR. 275/2 Starche for lawne, *folle fievr.* 1549 *Act* 3 & 4 *Edw. VI* c. 2 § 6 Noe person.. shall..put any Flockes, chalke, flower or sterche..upon any sett Clothe. 1583 STUBBES *Anat. Abus.* D viij, A certaine kinde of liquide matter which they call Starch, wherin the deuill hath willed them to wash and diue his ruffes wel. 1591 GREENE *Conny Catch.* (1592) 16 Rufs of the largest size, quarter and halfe deep, gloried richly with blew starch. 1605 TIMME *Quersit.* III. 188 Doe you not see how paste, a glutinous matter, and starch also, are made onely with flower and water? 1612 PEACHAM *Gentl. Exerc.* I. xxv. 94 With starch thinne laid on, and the skinne well stretched,.. prepare your ground or tablet [for a picture]. 1614 B. JONSON *Barth. Fair* II. iv, A delicate ballad o' the Ferret and the Coney...Another of Goose-greene-starch, and the Deuill. *c* 1645 HOWELL *Lett.* (1655) I. I. ii. 4 Mistris Turner, the first inventress of yellow-Starch. 1683 PEPYS *Diary at Tangier* in *Life* (1841) I. 422 Conge..which is like our water-starch. 1713 STEELE *Englishman* No. 17. 113 Queen Elizabeth was a mortal Enemy to the Use of blue Starch in making up Linnen. 1848 DICKENS *Dombey* viii, Mr. Dombey stiff with starch and arrogance. 1855 T. F. HARDWICH *Man. Photogr. Chem.* II. v. 277 The French [photographic papers] are sized with starch. 1882 L. CAMPBELL *Life Clerk Maxwell* v. 105 He had a rooted objection to the vanities of starch and gloves. 1893 *Laundry Management* ix. 61 Indian corn or maize is now much used for procuring laundry starches. 1903 *Westm. Gaz.* 6 Aug. 3/2 For things that need a very slight stiffening there is what is called ecru starch. 1913 E. THORPE *Dict. Applied Chem.* V. 174/1 The starch [from potatoes] dried in this manner [*i. e.* on shelves made of bars of wood] is known as 'hurdle starch'.

2. *Chem.* An organic compound found in plant-cells (a member of the amylose group of carbohydrates) being the chief constituent of 'starch' as described under sense 1.

1812–16 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 610 The lime tending to hasten the ripening of the seed, and to convert mucilage into starch. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 1163 Three kinds of starch have been distinguished by chemists; that of wheat, that called *inuline*, and lichen starch. 1849 BALFOUR *Man. Bot.* § 17 Starch exists in the form of granules, which are minute cells..in which nutritious matter is stored up. 1870 YEATS *Nat. Hist. Comm.* 139 Starch is turned blue by iodine, an excellent test for detecting its presence in plants. 1882 VINES *Sachs' Bot.* 56 Starch always appears in an organised form as solid grains having a concentrically stratified structure, which arise at first as minute dots in the protoplasm, and continue to grow while lying in it.

3. *transf.* A glutinous mass or substance. †**a.** (See quot.) *Obs.*

a 1625 FLETCHER *Nice Valour* III. i, I'm but froath;..or come more nearer sir, Y'ave seen a Cluster of Frog-spawns in April, E'ne such a starche am I.

b. *dial.* The jelly-fish. More fully *starch-fish.*

1850 Miss PRATT *Comm. Things of Sea-side* v. 326 At Dover they [jelly-fishes] are very generally called Starch-fishes. 1887 *Kent Gloss., Sea starch*, jelly-fish. Dover. 1889 *Hardwicke's Sci.-Gossip* XXV. 71 Wanted, British and foreign sponges...Also starches (genuine), large spines of echinodermata.

4. *fig.* Stiffness; esp. of manner or conduct; stiffening.

1705 J. DUNTON *Life & Err.* 461 His Language is always Neat and Fine, but unaffected, free from Starch, or Intricacy. 1712 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 305 ¶ 14 This Professor is to give the Society their Stiffening, and infuse into their Manners that beautiful Political Starch, which may qualifie them for Levees, Conferences, Visits. 1846 *Punch* X. 139 The panic has begun to take the starch out of the provisional committee-man. 1876 GEO. ELIOT *Dan. Der.* I. iv, Her quick mind had taken readily that strong starch of unexplained rules and disconnected facts which saves ignorance from any painful sense of limpness.

5. *attrib.* and *Comb.* **a.** simple attrib., as *starch box, liquid, -mush* (see MUSH *sb.*[1] 1), *pan, paste, -powder, -works*, †*-yard*; objective and obj. genitive, as *starchmaker, starchmaking* vbl. sb., *starch-producing* adj.; instrumental, as *starch-sized* adj.; similative, as *starch-like* adj.

1617 *Shuttleworths' Acc.* (Chetham Soc.) 213 For the *starche boxe vj[d]. 1899 CAGNEY tr. *Jaksch's Clin. Diagn.* iv. (ed. 4) 123 *Starch-like formations. 1893 *Laundry Management* ix. 66 If a large quantity of *starch liquid is used in a machine. 1586 *St. Papers Eliz., Dom.* 372 [Richard Young to Walsyngham..sends an account of proceedings against the *starch-makers.] 1663 *Canterb. Marriage Licences* (MS.), John Loft of All Saints, Canterbury, starch-maker. 1775 ASH, **Starchmaking*, the act or process of making starch. 1894 *Nation* (U.S.) 14 June LVIII. 451/3 To become proficient in the art of shooting fish, Indians have to live an entire month solely on *starch-mush. 1504 *Will of Goodyer* (Somerset Ho.), A *starche panne. 1857 MILLER *Elem. Chem., Org.* 74 The *starch paste..does not, when evaporated, recover its former insolubility. 1886 [see MOUNTANT]. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* XXII. XXV. II. 140 As touching Amylum or *starch pouder, it dimmeth the eyesight. 1736 *Cal. Treas. Books & Papers* 160 Those.. who make wigs only and use starch powder, must pray an abatement of duty on starch. 1846 SOYER *Cookery* 483 Have an equal quantity of starch-powder, and powdered sugar. 1871 KINGSLEY *At Last* xvi, The *starch-producing plants of the West Indies. 1851–3 *Tomlinson's Cycl. Usef. Arts* (1867) II. 298/1 The *starch-sized paper is generally thought to be preferable to the other kind. 1885 *Manch. Exam.* 11 June 4/6 A destructive fire occurred..in the *starchworks. 1706 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4216/4 The White Lead-House at Rotherhith,..fit for a Deal-yard, *Starch-yard, or Brew-house, to be Let.

b. Special comb.: **starch bandage**, a bandage rubbed with starch paste, to serve as a splint; also *attrib.*; **starch bath**, a medicinal bath or lotion made with starch; **starch blue, cellulose** (see quots.); **starch-corn** = SPELT *sb.*[1] 1; **starch fish**, a jelly-fish (see 3 b); † **starch-flour**, starch in its solid form (see sense 1 *note*); **starch glaze**, a preparation for producing a glossy surface on starched goods; **starch grain, granule**, each of the grains or granules of which starch consists; **starch-gum** = DEXTRIN; **starch hyacinth** (see quot.); **starch iodide**, a compound of iodine and starch; **starch jelly** = *starch mucilage*; † **starchman**, a starch manufacturer; **starch mucilage**, a paste made of wheat starch, used alone or as a vehicle in pharmacy; **starch root** (see quot., cf. *starchwort*); † **starch-ruffed** *a.*, that wears a starched ruff; **starch splint**, a splint made with a starch bandage (q.v.); **starch sugar** = DEXTROSE; **starch-water**, a solution of starch and water; † **starch wench**, a young woman employed as a starcher; † **starchwoman**, a woman who sells starch; **starchwort** (see quots.).

1846 *Lancet* 28 Feb. 240/1 The *appareil amidonné*, or *starch bandage. 1895 *Arnold & Sons' Catal. Surg. Instrum.* 684 Starch Bandage Shears..Starch Bandage Cutter. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 605 In very acute cases [of lichen]..Vidal recommends a litre of vinegar in a *starch bath. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) II. 707/2 Azure is employed to colour starch; hence it has also been called **starch-blue.* 1880 BESSEY *Bot.* § 70 From two to six per cent of the whole [starch] grain..bears some resemblance to cellulose; it is distinguished as *starch-cellulose. 1597 GERARDE *Herbal* I. xliii. 63 Triticum Amyleum. *Starche corne. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1092/2 Starch-corn, *Triticum Spelta.* 1540 *MSS. Duke Rutland* (Hist. MSS. Comm.) IV. 301 Payd for *sterche flour, ij*d.* 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* XVIII. vii. I. 562 Touching Starch-flower called Amylum, it may be made of all kinds of wheat. 1893 *Laundry Management* ix. 64 Some *starch glazes are sold as powders, others as paste. 1849 BALFOUR *Man. Bot.* 8 Cell of Potato, containing striated *starch grains. 1857 HENFREY *Bot.* § 683 *Starch-granules..occur either singly or collected in masses of definite shape. 1854 tr. *Pereira's Polarized Light* (ed. 2) 278 The substance called dextrine is *starch-gum. 1829 LOUDON *Encycl. Plants* (1836) 284 *Muscari racemosum*, *starch [hyacinth]. 1878 ABNEY *Photogr.* xxi. 151 A dark blue colour due to *starch iodide. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 520 *Starch jelly is used for similar purposes. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s. v. *Starch*, Such as require very fine Starch, don't content themselves, like the *Starch-men, with the Refuse of Wheat, but use the finest grain. 1898 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* V. 241 A tea-spoonful of oil of turpentine suspended in two ounces of *starch mucilage. 1853 T. B. GROVES in *Pharm. Jrnl.* XIII. 60 The *Arum maculatum* is commonly called arrow-root or *starch root [Isle of Portland]. 1783 COLMAN *Capricious Lady* Epil., in *Prose on Sev. Occas.* (1787) III. 237 The *Starch-Ruff'd Maidens of Queen Bess's reign. 1869 B. HILL *Essent. Bandaging* iii. 85 In six weeks the *starch splint may usually be discarded. 1844 *Starch sugar [see GLUCOSE]. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 1166 The starch thus obtained..may be used ..in the moist state..for the preparation of dextrine, and *starch syrup. 1825 J. NICHOLSON *Oper. Mech.* 347 This reel is sometimes placed..in a tub containing *starch-water. 1893 *Laundry Management* ix. 66 Muslins ought merely to be dipped in very weak starch water. *a* 1626 BRETON *Figure of Four* II. (Grosart) 6/2 A needle wench, and a *starch wench. 1604 MIDDLETON *Father Hubburd's T.* E 4, Trulls passing too and fro in the wash-shape of Laundresses, as your Bawdes about London in the manner of *Starch-women. 1597 GERARDE *Herbal* II. CCXC. 685 The common Cockow pint is called in Latin *Arum*:..in English Cockow pint,..and of some *Starchwoort. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1092/2 Starchwort, *Arum maculatum.*

Starch (stärtʃ), *a.* Somewhat *arch.* [f. STARCH *sb.*

A supposed 13th c. instance of this word, in the form *sterch* (*Long Life* in *OE. Misc.* 156) quoted in some Dicts., is illusory; the scribe makes mistakes like *drincne* for *drinke*, and the other texts read *starc, sterk.*]

Of a person, his bearing, etc.: Stiff, unbending; formal.

1717 J. KILLINGBECK 18 *Serm.* xi. 230 'Tis but misrepresenting Sobriety as a Starch and Formal, and Vertue as a Laborious and Slavish thing. *a* 1720 SHEFFIELD (Dk. Buckhm.) *Wks.* (1753) I. 146 Then Ph...ps came forth, as starch as a quaker, Whose simple profession's a pastoral-maker. 1721 RAMSAY *Tartana* 249 Lest, O fair nymphs, you should our patience tire, And starch reserve extinguish generous fire. 1762–71 H. WALPOLE *Vertue's Anecd. Paint.* (1786) IV. 1 Holbein and the Flemish masters, who..saw nothing but the starch and unpliant habits of the times. 1809 MALKIN *Gil Blas* VI. i. ¶ 12 A man who puts on all the starch formalities of an inveterate religionist. 1822 LAMB *Elia* Ser. I. *Some old Actors*, [Bensley as Malvolio] was starch, spruce, opinionated, but his superstructure of pride seemed bottomed upon a sense of worth. 1837 DISRAELI *Venetia* I. xi, His housekeeper,..as precise and starch as an old picture. 1904 H. PAUL *Hist. Mod Eng.* II. x. 261 That stiff and starch publicist Vattel.

Starch (stärtʃ), *v.* Forms: 5 **sterch**(e, **starche**, (7 **startche, stars**), 7– **starch**. [ME. *sterche*:—OE. **stęrcan* to make rigid (the pa. pple. is found in *stęrcedferhþ* adj., fixed or resolute of mind), f. *stearc* stiff, rigid; see STARK *a.* The mod.G. *stärken* to starch is known no earlier than the 17th c.; Sw. has *stärka* to starch (app. already in 14th c.), and the derivative *stärkelse* starch (= WFlem. *sterksel*, a kind of starch used by weavers). The formally equivalent OHG. *sterchen* (MHG. *sterken*, mod.G. *stärken*), OS. *sterkian* (MLG. *sterken*), (M)Du. *sterken*, (M)Sw. (? from LG.) *stärka*, have the sense 'to strengthen'.]

†**1.** *trans.* To stiffen, make rigid; to compose (one's countenance) to a severe or formal expression. *Obs.*

1402 *Pol. Poems* (Rolls) II. 30 Who tytheth bot ȝe the anet and the mente, sterching ȝour faces [cf. Matt. vi. 16, *exterminant* (v. r. *demolinntur*) *facies suas*], to be holden holi. ? *c* 1600 *Distr. Emperor* III. i. in Bullen *Old Pl.* (1884) III. 209 Dothe not fawne, Nor croutche, nor crynge, nor startche his countenance.

2. To stiffen (linen, etc.) with starch.

14.. *Lat.-Eng. Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 613/31 *Stibio*, to starche. *c* 1450 in Aungier *Syon* (1840) 367 Whan the sexteyn ..hathe wasche the corporas ones, sche..schal wasche them, sterche them, drye them. 1601 B. JONSON *Poetaster* IV. i, And aske you, where you bought your lawne? And..who starches you? *c* 1625 in *Songs & Poems Costume* (Percy Soc.) 111 About his neck a flaunting ruff,..Starched with white and blew. 1698 [see CONJER]. 1718 *Free-thinker* No. 28. 197 A Milliner in the Neighbourhood..Starches his Ruffs. 1881 BESANT & RICE *Chapl. of Fleet* I. iv, White bands, clean and freshly starched, and a very full wig.

absol. 1614 STOW *Ann.* 869/1 [They] made them cambrick Ruffes, and sent them to Mist. Dinghen, to starch...And then they began to send their Daughters..to learne how to starch. 1624 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Praise Cl. Linen* Wks. (1630) II. 169/1 She wrings, she folds, she pleits, she smoothes, she starches.

† **b.** with object the beard or moustache. *Obs.*

1589 NASHE *Pref. Greene's Menaphon* (Arb.) 10 Sufficeth them.., hauing starched their beardes most curiouslie, to make a peripateticall path into the inner parts of the Citie. 1642 HOWELL *For. Trav.* v. 68 If the one hath a Fancy to stars his mustachos. 1664 BUTLER *Hud.* II. i. 171 It [your beard] does your visage more adorn, Than if 'twere prun'd, and starcht, and lander'd, And cut square by the Russian Standard. 1731 Mrs. ELIZ. THOMAS *Life Corinna* p. xxi, His Valet being some Hours every Morning, in Starching his Beard, and Curling his Whiskers.

† **c.** *fig.* To make rigid, formal, or precise; to frame (a discourse) in formal or pretentious terms. Also with *up*. *Obs.*

1615 A. NICCHOLES *Disc. Marriage & Wiving* vii. 21 But as to please woman hath much starched vp man from his slouenry, so to delight man..hath the woman thus increased in prides. 1644 MILTON *Areop.* (Arb.) 64 How to be wisht were such an obedient unanimity as this, what a fine conformity would it starch us all into? 1677 GILPIN *Demonol.* (1867) 161 A quaint discourse starched up in the dress of common rhetoric. 1680 C. NESSE *Ch. Hist.* 141 Hushai.. did defeat his counsel..by starching an oration every way accommodated to Absaloms ambitious humour. 1763 *Brit. Mag.* IV. 495 Tho' with prudish airs she starch her, Still she longs. 1771 SMOLLETT *Humphry Cl.* 12 Sept., She starched up her behaviour with a double portion of reserve. 1814 JANE AUSTEN *Mansf. Park* I. ix. 180 Starched up into seeming piety, but with heads full of something very different.

absol. 1698 M. HENRY *Life P. Henry* viii. (1699) 117 He us'd to say, he could not Starch in his Preaching;..knowing where the Language..is stiff, and forced, and fine (as they call it) it doth not reach the greatest part of the Hearers.

3. † **a.** To fasten or stick with starch paste; also with *on, up*. *Obs.*

1602 DEKKER *Satiro-m.* E 3, I haue a set of letters readie starcht to my hands. 1673 HICKERINGILL *Gregory* 28 Some of the Common Herd of mankind..would quietly..pass by this Title-Page, (when starch'd up with the Play-house Bills). 1676 T. MILLER *Modellist* 4 In starching three or four sheets of paper together. 1717 S. SEWALL *Diary*

8 Jan. (1882) III. 116 A virulent Libel was starch'd on upon the Three Doors of the Meeting House. *a* 1721 PRIOR *Sat. Poets* 66 And find'st thy Picture starch'd 'gainst Suburb Wall.

b. To apply a starch paste mountant to (a photographic print).

1892 *Photogr. Ann.* II. 53 The print should be mounted dry, by starching the back and allowing it to dry and moistening the mount.

Star-chamber, †starred chamber. Also (nonce-form) **chamber of stars.** [f. STAR *sb.*[1], STARRED *a.*; rendering Anglo-L. *camera stellata* (14th c.), AF. *chambre d'estoiles, des esteilles, esteillee* (14th c.).

The conjecture of Sir T. Smith (*Commonw. Eng.* III. iv, *a* 1577) that the chamber was so called 'because at the first all the roofe thereof was decked with images of starres gilted', appears to have no confirmatory evidence, but is highly probable. The notion, made popular by Blackstone, that the chamber had been the depository of 'starrs' or Jewish bonds (see STARR) has no claim to consideration.]

1. The appellation of an apartment in the royal palace at Westminster, in which during the 14th and the 15th c. the chancellor, treasurer, justices, and other members of the king's council sat to exercise jurisdiction.

a. 1398 *Acc. Exch. K. R.* 470/17 m. 3 Circa reparationem tecture domus vocate Sterred chambre infra palacium predictum. 1426 *Rolls of Parlt.* V. 409/2 In the Sterred Chambre at Westmynstre, it was said and declared vnto my Lorde of Bedford [etc.]. 1433 *Ibid.* IV. 424/2 Lordes of ye Kyngs Counseil, beyng assembled in ye Sterrid Chambre. 1505 *Star Chamber Cases* (Selden Soc.) I. 225 The king our souerain Lordes moste honorable and most discrete Counsell in the starryd Chamber. 1533–4 *Act* 25 *Hen. VIII* c. 1 § 2 To appere before the kynges Highnes, and the Lordis of hys most honorable Counsell in the Sterred Chambre at Westmynster.

b. 1422 *Close Roll* 1 *Hen. VI.* m. 21 b, In quadam camera vocata le Sterne-chamere infra palacium domini Regis Westm. 1427 *Rolls of Parlt.* IV. 334/2 En presence des plusours Seignours du Conseill nostre dit Sr. le Roi..esteantz en le Sterre chambre de Westmr. 1450 *Ibid.* V. 179/1 Sittyng in your Counseill in the Sterre Chambre, in your Paleis. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VI*, 157 b, The same Duke sayde openly in the starre chamber before the lordes of the Counsail, that [etc.]. 1560 *Procl.* in Cardwell *Docum. Ann.* (1839) I. 260 To certify her majesty's privy council, or the council in the starchamber at Westminster. 1591 LAMBARDE *Archeion* (1635) 148 So the Councell-Chamber of that Palace..hath beene of long time called the Star-Chamber.

2. (More fully *Court of Star-chamber.*) A court, chiefly of criminal jurisdiction, developed in the 15th c. from the judicial sittings of the King's Council in the Star Chamber at Westminster. The judges were the Lord Chancellor or Lord Keeper, the Lord Treasurer, the Lord Privy Seal, and any peers that chose to attend. The rules of procedure of the court rendered it a powerful instrument in the hands of a sovereign or a ministry desirous of using it for purposes of tyranny, and the abuse of it under James I and Charles I have made it a proverbial type of an arbitrary and oppressive tribunal. It was abolished by an Act of the Long Parliament in 1641.

1487 *Act* 3 *Hen. VII* c. 1 Pro Camera Stellata. An Acte geving the Court of Starchamber Authority to punnyshe Mydemeanors [*sic*]. 1522 SKELTON *Why not to Court* 185 In the Chambre of Starres All maters there he marres. 1534 *Star Chamber Cases* (Selden Soc.) II. 315 A bille ageynst the seid mulsho in the kynges most honorable Courte of Sterred Chamber. 1604 BACON *Apol.* 41, I was absent that day at the Starre-chamber. 1622 — *Hen. VII*, 64 As the Chancerie had the Pretorian power for Equitie; So the Star-chamber had the Censorian power for Offences, vnder the degree of Capitall. 1637 (*title*) A Decree of Starre-Chamber, concerning Printing. 1655 FULLER *Ch. Hist.* IX. 187 The most sturdy and refractory Non-conformists (especially if they had any visible Estates) were brought into the Star-Chamber, the power whereof was above dispute. 1692 [J. WILSON] *Vindic. Carol.* 21 The taking away the several Courts of the Star-chamber. 1764 CHURCHILL *Gotham* II. 490 Curs'd Star-Chambers made, or rul'd the law.

b. *transf.* (allusively.)

1596 *Edw. III*, II. ii. 165 When to the great Starre-chamber ore our heads The vniuersell Sessions cals to count This packing euill, we both shall tremble for it. *a* 1625 WEBSTER *Appius & Virg.* I. iii. (1654) 7 This three moneths did we never house our heads, but in yon great star-chamber. *a* 1633 AUSTIN *Medit.* (1635) 194 Sent, as Messengers from the Star-chamber of heaven.

c. *attrib.*

1596 *Lett. Lit. Men* (Camd.) 95 The last starrchamber day of this terme. 1598 SHAKS. *Merry W.* I. i. 2 Sir Hugh, perswade me not: I will make a Star-Chamber matter of it. 1647 CLARENDON *Hist. Reb.* III. § 211 The two bills for the taking away the Star Chamber court and the High Commission. 1659 RUSHW. *Hist. Coll.* I. 671 To acknowledge his offence at the Council-board, the Star-Chamber-Bar, and Exchange. 1800 *Asiatic Ann. Reg.* II. *St. Papers* etc. 82/2 They would steadily oppose the reviving of a nefarious star-chamber process. 1822 SCOTT *Nigel* xvi, Are you aware this is a Star Chamber business, young gentleman?

transf. 1888 *Daily News* 23 June 6/2 The defendants' solicitor was furnished..with the transcript of the shorthand writer's notes, taken at a 'Star Chamber' inquiry of four of the witnesses examined.

Hence (*nonce-wd.*) **Sta·rchamber** *v. trans.* to bring before the Star-chamber.

1640 SHIRLEY *Constant Maid* v. I 3, You have conspired to rob, cheat, and undo me: I'll have you all Star-chamber'd,

Starched (stāɹtʃt), *ppl. a.* [f. STARCH *v.* + -ED[1].]

1. Stiffened with or as with starch. **a.** of linen, etc. Also with *out.* Hence, of a person.

1617 B. RICH *Irish Hubbub* 9 Wee haue conuerted the coller of steele to a yellow-starched-band. 1707 J. STEVENS tr. *Quevedo's Com. Wks.* (1709) 223 My curious starch'd Band. 1818 SCOTT *Rob Roy* i, The ex-minister, as bolt upright as a starched ruff and laced cassock could make him. 1862 MRS. H. WOOD *Channings* xxxvi, Martha wore a crinoline.., and a starched-out muslin gown over it. 1891 HARDY *Tess* xxv, A broad-brimmed hat and highly-starched cambric morning-gown.

† **b.** of the beard or hair. *Obs.*

1599 B. JONSON *Ev. Man out of Hum.* IV. iv, Who? this i' the starcht beard? 1633 P. FLETCHER *Purple Isl.* VII. 71 Some with black terrours his faint conscience baited, That wide he star'd, and starched hair did stand.

2. *fig.* Stiff, formal, precise. **a.** of a person, his countenance, behaviour, etc.

1599 B. JONSON *Ev. Man out of Hum.* I. ii, And when you come to Playes, be humorous, looke with a good starcht face and ruffle your brow like a new boot. 1607 *Puritan* I. iv. 54 Good Cocks-combe! what makes that pure, starch'd foole here? 1626 SHIRLEY *Brothers* v. i, One boisterous fellow, With a starched voice and a worse vizard..quoited me Into the coach again. 1661 WOOD *Life* 3 May (O.H.S.) I. 395 John Haselwood, a proud, starch'd, formal and sycophantizing clisterpipe. 1662 E. HOPKINS *Serm. Funeral A. Grevil* (1663) 35 This taught him to outstrip in true wisdome, temperance and fortitude.. whatsoever those starch't and formall moralists did. 1708 SWIFT *Abol. Chr.* Misc. (1711) 172 Does the Gospel any where prescribe a starched squeezed Countenance, a Stiff formal Gate? 1749 SMOLLETT *Gil Blas* VIII. ix. (1782) III. 192 A parcel of insolent fellows, with their self-sufficient starched airs! 1771 — *Humphry Cl.* 2 Apr., A maiden of forty-five, exceedingly starched, vain, and ridiculous. 1822 W. IRVING *Braceb. Hall* xxvi. 235 Mrs. Hannah moved about with starched dignity among the rustics. 1837 DICKENS *Pickw.* xxvii, His looks were starched, but his white neckerchief was not. 1862 SALA *Accepted Addr.* 5, I was seriously afraid that I should be married to some starched old maid.

b. of an oration, ceremony.

1659 WOOD *Life* Dec. (O.H.S.) I. 300 And 'scandalus' it was to have a formall starcht prayer before it. 1672 GALE *Crt. Gentiles* I. III. x. (ed. 2) 108 Aristotle tels us, that it [an oration] must be natural, not feigned, artificial or starched. 1693 *Humours Town* 31 Syllogising, that damn'd starch'd method of the Schools. *a* 1734 NORTH *Exam.* II. v. § 133 (1740) 398 And they wrote it as he spoke it, which useth not to be in any starched Method. 1792 MARY WOLLSTONECRAFT *Rights Wom.* v. 217 A cultivated understanding and an affectionate heart will never want starched rules of decorum. 1883 R. RITCHIE *Bk. Sibyls* i. 28 A contrast to prim, starched scholastic life. 1884 *Christian World* 19 June 463/4 The stiff starched 'order of service', the rented pews, with the odious distinction of free seats.

Hence **Sta·rchedly** *adv.*, **Sta·rchedness.**

1671 L. ADDISON *West Barbary* 105 Don Diego de Palma ..chanceing to smile at the Moors Deportment, as not answering the starch'dness of his own Nation. 1702 C. MATHER *Magn. Chr.* VII. ii. (1852) 496 The fierceness of his talking in publick, and the starchtness of his living in private. 1705 J. DUNTON *Life* 145 'Twas the Vitals of Religion that she minded, and not Forms and Modes; and..she did not think her self oblig'd to such a Starch'dness of Carriage as is usual amongst the Bostonians. 1873 BROWNING *Red Cott. Nt.-Cap* 379 See, the church With its white steeple,.. Starchedly warrants all beneath is matched By all above, one snowy innocence!

Starcher (stāɹtʃəɹ). [f. STARCH *v.* and *sb.* + -ER[1].]

1. One whose employment or trade is to starch linen.

c 1515 *Cocke Lorell's B.* (Percy Soc.) 10 Butlers, sterchers, and musterde makers. 1598 FLORIO, *Amitatrice*, a starcher. 1614 STOW *Ann.* 869/1 [In 1564] Mistris Dinghen..came to London..and there professed herselfe a starcher. 1669 E. CHAMBERLAYNE *Pres. State Eng.* I. xiv. 302 Of the Queen Consorts Court...A Laundress, a Semstress, a Starcher. 1725 *Bradley's Family Dict.* s. v. *Clear Starching*, Most Starchers boil their Muslins, which they should not by reason it wears them out. 1893 *Laundry Management* ix. 63 People of inventive turns of mind have stepped in the breach to help the starchers, offering them prepared glazes.

2. A starched neckcloth; also *attrib.*

1818 (*title*) Necklothitania; or, Tietania: being an Essay on Starchers. *Ibid.* 38 If this be true..a furious effort must be made unanimously by all starcher-wearers, to stop it in its birth. 1852 R. S. SURTEES *Sponge's Sp. Tour* I. 3 If [he wore] a striped waistcoat, then the starcher would be imbued with somewhat of the same colour and pattern.

3. A starching machine.

1893 *Laundry Management* ix. 65 In machine starching, the liquid starch is poured into a dash-wheel revolving washer or special starcher. 1909 *Daily Chron.* 3 Sept. 6/6 Contents of Laundry, 6 washing machines, two starchers.

Starching (stāɹtʃiŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. STARCH *v.* + -ING[1].]

1. The action of the verb STARCH.

1390–1 *Norwich Sacrist's Roll* (MS.), Vestiarium. Pro Coole pro starchyng, viij d. 1444 *Compota Domest.* (Abbotsf. Club) 23 Furfur..Liberantur lotrici de camera pro sterchyng velaminum domine et generosarum suarum hoc anno..) quarterium. 1529–30 *Rec. St. Mary at Hill* (1905) 350 Paid for wasshyng & Starchyng of þe pix clothe ij d. 1671 DRYDEN *Assign.* III. i, A Waiting-woman..with mighty Golls, rough-Grain'd, and red with Starching. 1837 WHITTOCK *Bk. Trades* (1842) 32 (Bleacher) The next process is 'starching and bluing'. 1893 *Laundry Management* ix. 65 Starching may be done either by hand or by machine.

b. *attrib.*

1583 STUBBES *Anat. Abus.* II. 35 They haue their starching houses..the better to trimme and dresse their ruffes.

1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 348/1 The Weavers Starching Brush, is a long square Bristle Brush; with it he Starcheth the Yarn. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 1167 Starching and Steam-drying Apparatus. *Ibid.* 1168 C, is the cloth-beam, from which the starching roller draws forward the goods. 1875 J. PATON in *Encycl. Brit.* III. 817/2 [Bleaching.] The starching mangle and drying-machine are seen together in fig. 10. 1893 *Laundry Management* xviii. 152 Starching machines are virtually the same as the above [blueing machines].

† **2.** *concr.* Starch. *Obs.*

1612 WOODALL *Surg. Mate* Wks. (1653) 201 The excrements being of a yellowish colour in young men (like their starching now adayes). 1775 ASH, *Starching*,..the starch put in cloaths to make them stiff.

Starchly (stāɹtʃli), *adv.* [f. STARCH *a.* + -LY[2].] In a stiff, formal or precise manner.

1704 SWIFT *Let. Tisdall* 20 Apr., Wks. 1841 II. 439/2 In answer to all this, I might with good pretence enough talk starchly, and affect ignorance of what you would be at. 1755 JOHNSON, *Starchly*, stiffly, precisely.

Starchness (stāɹtʃnés). [f. STARCH *a.* + -NESS.] Stiffness of manner, formality, preciseness.

1683 J. H. tr. *10th Sat. Juv.* Ep. Ded. 1 Without any manner of Starchness or Ceremony, I may write what I please to you with the greatest freedom and liberty that can be. 1713 *Guardian* No. 29 ¶ 4 The Coquet in her turn laughs at the Starchness and awkward Affectation of the Prude. 1860 A. L. WINDSOR *Ethica* vii. 388 That academical starchness and that academical affectation which dons and tutors love to see in their undergraduates.

Starchy (stāɹtʃi), *a.* [f. STARCH *sb.* + -Y.]

1. Of or belonging to starch; resembling that of starch.

1802 COLERIDGE *Lett., To W. Sotheby* (1895) 384 This [cloud] is of a starchy grey. 1811 A. T. THOMSON *Lond. Disp.* (1818) 406 The pieces..break with a short starchy fracture.

2. Of the nature of starch; composed of or containing starch-grains.

1838 T. THOMSON *Chem. Org. Bodies* 667 The solution of diastase..separates amidin from all starchy substances containing it. 1861 BENTLEY *Bot.* 343 The *albumen* is described as mealy, starchy, or farinaceous, when its cells are filled with starch-grains. 1867 *Chamb. Encycl.* IX. 86/1 Limit the diet of the patient..to a purely starchy diet, such as arrowroot. 1913 E. THORPE *Dict. Applied Chem.* V. 172/2 The starchy liquor as it comes from the sieves generally contains some sand.

3. Of linen, etc.: Stiffened with starch.

1865 [Implied in *starchiness*: see below].

4. *fig.* Of a person: Stiff, formal, precise.

1828–32 WEBSTER, *Starchy*, stiff, precise. 1859 *Hotten's Slang Dict.* 101 *Starchy*, stuck-up, high-notioned, showily dressed, disdainful, cross. 1864 F. W. ROBINSON *Mattie* II. 286 He was the poor relation, he fancied, and some of these starchy beings scented his poverty by instinct. 1880 'OUIDA' *Moths* xiv, London had got so much nicer, she said, so much less starchy. 1897 W. C. HAZLITT *Four Generations* II. iv. vii. 149 My father..got into trouble by asking some rather starchy people to meet them at dinner.

Hence **Sta·rchily** *adv.*, **Sta·rchiness.**

1859 F. FRANCIS *Newton Dogvane* III. ii. 51 Ned rode after her, rather piqued at what he termed 'his sisters' starchiness'. 1865 *Daily Tel.* 6 May, The night-dress.. had all the freshness and starchiness of one which had only just been taken for use. 1876 GEO. ELIOT *Dan. Der.* I. iii, There were no distinctively clerical lines in the face,..no tricks of starchiness or of affected ease. 1882 OGILVIE, *Starchily*. 1886 G. R. SIMS *Ring o' Bells* 98 Primness and starchiness are not always the signs of a bad heart.

Starck, obs. form of STARK.

Sta·rdom. *nonce-wd.* [-DOM.] The world or status of 'star' actors.

1865 *Times* 6 Sept. 12 The theatres of New York differ from each other in their power of giving lustre to Stardom.

Star-dust.

1. *Astr.* Innumerable minute stars, likened, as seen in the telescope, to particles of dust.

1844 SMYTH *Cycle Celestial Obj.* I. 307 In some straggling clusters the components are nearly of the same magnitude, but in others they are extremely different, the brighter individuals being apparently on a ground, as it were, of star dust, really 'powdered with stars'. 1850 NICHOL *Archit. Heavens* 52 Masses still farther off may best be likened to a handful of golden sand, or, as it is aptly termed, *star-dust*. 1878 NEWCOMB *Pop. Astron.* IV. i. 443 Many of them [these clusters] are so distant that the most powerful telescopes.. show them only as a patch of star-dust.

2. Meteoric matter in fine particles supposed to fall upon the earth from space; 'cosmic dust'.

1879 A. GEIKIE *Geol. Sk.* xiii. (1882) 323 Mud gathers on the floor of these abysses [of the ocean]..so slowly that the very star-dust which falls from outer space forms an appreciable part of it.

Stare (stēəɹ), *sb.*[1] Now *arch.* and *dial.* Forms: 1 stær, (stear, star), 5 staar, 6 star, staare, 7 steare, 8 stear, 4– stare. [OE. *stær* masc. = MLG. *star* masc., OHG. *star* masc., *stara* fem. (mod.G. *star*, also written *staar, stahr*), OIcel. *stari* (Edda Gl.; Sw., Norw. *stare*, Da. *stær*):—OTeut. **staro-z, staron-*, cogn. w. L. *sturnus* of the same meaning.] A bird of the genus *Sturnus*: = STARLING.

c 725 *Corpus Gloss., Sturnus*, staer. *c* 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Matt. x. 29 Tuoeze staras *vel* hronsparuas. *c* 1381 CHAUCER *Parl. Foules* 348 The stare that the counsell can bewrey. *c* 1400 *Pilgr. Soule* (Caxton 1483) v. v. (1859) 76 Thenne I bethought me vppon the byrdes as thrusshes, and thrustels, and stares. 1486 *Bk. St. Albans* f vi b, A Murmuracion of stares. 1530 PALSGR. 275/2 Staare a byrde, *estourneau*. *c* 1532 DU WES *Introd. Fr.* ibid. 912 The star, *lesprohon*. 1542 BOORDE *Dyetary* xv. (1870) 271 Rasis and Isaac prayseth

yonge staares. 1639 Sir R. Gordon *Gen. Hist. Earldom Sutherland* 3 Steares or stirlings,..and all other kinds of wildfowl and birds. 1673 Dryden *Marr. à la Mode* III. i, He taught a prating Stare to speak my name. *a* 1721 Prior *Poems, Turtle & Sparrow* 356 An honest Rook Told it a Snipe, who told a Stear Who told it those, who told it her. 1768 Pennant *Brit. Zool.* I. 231 The Stare breeds in hollow trees, eaves of houses &c. 1845 *New Stat. Acc. Scot.* XIV. 189 (Ross & Cromarty) The stare is also a rare bird. 1868 Morris *Earthly Par.* I. i. 167 And plovers cry about the meads, And the stares chatter. 1910 *Spectator* 26 Mar. 506/1 Whitethroat and willow-wren and whistling stare Singing together.

b. *Ornith.* With prefixed word, denoting some particular species of the genus *Sturnus*.

1678 Ray *Willughby's Ornith.* II. xix. 196 Bontius his Indian Stare. [Willughby *Sturnus Indicus Bontii*.] 1787 Latham *Suppl. Gen. Syn. Birds* I. 137 Common Stare, *Sturnus vulgaris*. Silk Stare. Length eight inches. 1829 Griffith tr. *Cuvier* VII. 173 Cape Stare, *Sturnus Capensis*.

Stare (stēəɪ), *sb.*[2] Also 5–6 *Sc.* **stair.** [f. Stare *v.*]

†**1.** Power of seeing. *Obs. rare*—[1].

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 583 He þat stykked vche a stare in vche steppe yȝe.

†**2.** A condition of amazement, horror, admiration, etc., indicated by staring. *Obs.*

c 1480 Henryson *Mor. Fables* IV. (*Fox's Confess.*) xviii, Astonist all still into ane stair he stude. 1513 Douglas *Æneis* IV. ii. 58 Sche..in a stair behaldis hym for joy. 1610 Shaks. *Temp.* III. iii. 94 Why stand you In this strange stare? 1904 M. Hewlett *Queen's Quair* III. iv, She was in a stare. 'I am going to the King'.

3. An act or a habit of staring; a fixed gaze with the eyes wide open.

1700 Dryden *Pal. & Arc.* III. 43 He look'd a Lion with a gloomy Stare. 1778 Miss Burney *Evelina* (1791) II. 112 She cast her languishing eyes round the room with a vacant stare. 1796 *Plain Sense* III. 78 With a broad stare of incomprehension, she was answered. 1840 Dickens *Old C. Shop* ii, After bestowing a stare and a frown on me. 1855 Tennyson *Maud* I. xiii. 22 [He] gorgonised me from head to foot With a stony British stare. 1911 Galsworthy *Patrician* II. ii. 179 Unmoved by the stares of the audience, Barbara sat absorbed in moody thoughts.

b. generalized use. *rare.*

1785 Cowper *Task* II. 430 Avaunt all attitude, and stare, And start theatric, practised at the glass!

c. *To make a stare*: to make people stare, excite astonishment. † *To be on the stare*: to be staring.

1804 Wolcot (P. Pindar) *Epist. to Ld. Mayor* Wks. 1812 V. 203 We have been upon the stare For your Address. 1808 — *One More Peep at R. Acad.* ibid. 359 A vulgar World delights in glare Adores whatever makes a stare.

d. Used for: The object stared at.

1753 E. Moor in *World* No. 43 P 8 She never hears the word Infidel mentioned from the pulpit, without fancying herself the stare of the whole rabble of believers.

†**Stare,** *sb.*[3] *Obs.* Also 7 **starre.** [ad. It. †*stara, staro* (also *staio*); the med.L. forms are *stara, starium, starius*; perh. shortened from L. *sextārius*: see Sester, Sextar, Sextary.] An Italian measure of grain, etc., corresponding to the bushel, but varying according to locality or the kind of substance measured. Also as a weight (see quot. 1622).

1540 *St. Papers Hen. VIII*, VIII. 235 ThEmperour hath given this State licence to draw owt of the realme of Naples abowt 80000 staris of wete. 1622 Malynes *Anc. Law-Merch.* 26 Italie. They doe also weigh .. by starre of 220 lb. weight. 1698 *Phil. Trans.* XX. 286 Ashes drawn from a Stare and a half of Bran, burnt..in the Furnace with Sulphur. [1811 P. Kelly *Univ. Cambist* I. 312 Modena...Corn is measured by the Staro or Staja, 4 of which are nearly equivalent to an English Quarter.]

Stare (stēəɪ), *v.* Pa. t. and pa. pple. **stared** (stēəɪd). Also 6 **stayre, staar.** [OE. *starian*, corresp. to (M)LG., Du. *staren*, OHG. *starên* (MHG. *starn*), ON. *stara* (Norw. *stara*), f. OTeut. **staro-* (see Stareblind *a.*).

In mod.Ger. the vb. has disappeared, being merged in the cognate vb. *starren* (OHG. *starrên*) to be rigid; the sense 'to look fixedly, stare' being capable of being regarded as a particular application of the general meaning. A vb. of identical meaning, and prob. cognate, though the phonological relation is obscure, exists in several Teut. langs.: ON. *stira* (Da. *stirre*, Sw. *stirra*), mod.G. *stieren*.]

1. *intr.* To gaze fixedly and with eyes wide open. Said also of the eyes. Const. in mod. use chiefly *at* (also in *indirect passive*), *in* (a person's face), and occas. *after, into, through*; formerly (now *arch.*) *on, upon*. Also with advs. *about, around*, or advb. phr. denoting direction.

In modern use the verb ordinarily implies rudeness, or is otherwise disparaging; hence many of the older examples would now be differently expressed.

Beowulf 1781 Þæt ic on þone hafelan heorodreorigne.. eaȝum starige. *c* 1000 Ælfric *Lives Saints* XV. 199 Forðan þe se earn..mæȝ swyðost starian on þære sunnan leoman. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 13557 Quen men him sagh þat kneu him are, Fast þai can on him to stare. *c* 1340 *Nominale* (Skeat) 176 *Homme doile guenyle*, M. with ee starith. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* A. 149 Abowte me con I stote & stare To fynde a forþe. 13.. *Ibid.* B. 389 Summe stynge to a stud & stared to þe heuen. 1362 Langl. *P. Pl.* A. XII. 61, I stode stille in a stodie and stared a-bowte. *c* 1374 Chaucer *Troylus* II. 1142 This Pandarus gan on here for to stare. *a* 1400–50 *Wars Alex.* 263 He in his sege lened In stody still as a stane, & starid in hire face. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 8627 He stode þus in stid, starit hym vpon. 1412 Lydg. *Troy Bk.* 1337 Þei wern so rude to staren and to gase To gape & loke, as it wer on a mase. *c* 1430 *Hymns Virg.* (1867) 37 Summe staren broode & moun not se. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 472/2 Staryn, wythe brode eyne, *patentibus oculis respicere*. 1557 *Tottel's Misc.* (Arb.) 241 For had he come in golden garmentes bright, Or so as men mought haue starde on the sight. 1570 Levins *Manip.* 252/45 To stayre, *aspicere, contemplare*. *a* 1586 Sidney *Arcadia* I. xiii. § 4 Standing upon his tip-toes, and staring as though he would have a mote pulled out of his eie. 1589 Puttenham *Engl. Poesie* III. xxiv. (Arb.) 300 King Henry th'eight..could not abide to haue any man stare in his face. 1602 Marston *Antonio's Rev.* IV. iii, Her bright eyes gan ope, And starde upon him. 1697 Dryden *Virg. Past.* VI. 34 He stares around, with stupid Eyes. *Ibid., Georg.* IV. 370 With hagger'd Eyes they stare, Lean are their Looks, and shagged is their Hair. 1703 Cibber *She wou'd* etc. v. 68 How shall I be star'd at when I give an Account of this to my Father, or your Friends in Sevil? 1806 H. Siddons *Maid, Wife, & Widow* I. 95, I sat for hours together staring on the fire. 1817 Keats *Sonn.* xi, Like stout Cortez when with eagle eyes He star'd at the Pacific. 1818 Scott *Hrt. Midl.* ix, There was..scarce a maiden on whom he did not stare. 1820 W. Irving *Sketch Bk.* I. 73 They..stared at him with fixed statue-like gaze. 1835 Marryat *Jacob Faithful* xii, She'd a roguish eye, and liked to be stared at, as most pretty women do, because it flatters their vanities. 1848 Dickens *Dombey* iv, By having stared for three or four days successively through every optical instrument in hisshop. 1859 Tennyson *Geraint & Enid* 267 Two wild men supporters of a shield, Painted, who stare at open space. 1859 FitzGerald *Omar* xxiv, Alike for those who for To-day prepare, And those that after a To-morrow stare. 1865 Livingstone *Zambesi* xvi. 326 They [the hippopotami] stare with peculiar stolid looks. 1878 Miss Braddon *Eleanor's Vict.* i, A few hurried off to the Market-place, to stare at the Cathedral Church of Saint Jacques. 1880 'Ouida' *Moths* I. 21 And be kind enough not to stand here and stare; everybody is listening. 1907 J. A. Hodges *Elem. Photogr.* (ed. 6) 119 The sitter should never be allowed to stare into the lens.

b. *colloquial phrases.*

1694 Motteux *Rabelais* V. ix. 41 Panurge star'd at him like a dead Pig. 1714 Gay *What d'ye call it?* I. i, His loving mother left him to my care Fine child, as like his dad as he could stare. 1796 Jane Austen *Sense & Sens.* XIII, Oh! yes; and as like him as she can stare. 1809 Malkin *Gil Blas* X. x. (Rtldg.) 373 He stared like a stuck pig at my equipment!

¶ **c.** In poetry used (on account of rhyme or alliteration) for: To look. *Obs.* Cf. Stare *sb.*[2] 1.

1390 Gower *Conf.* III. 7 Whanne I mai upon hire stare, ..Myn herte is full of such gladnesse. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 5551 Wo so staris on þis story, or stodis þerin, Take hede on þe harmys & the hard lures.

d. *transf.* and *fig.* Of things: To be obtrusively conspicuous. Also in obvious transferred uses with comparison of lights or windows to eyes.

1657 Billingsly *Brachy-Martyrol.* iii. 12 So said, thus rack'd, into a fire he's thrown, And now his wasting bowels stared on The Tyrants face. 1825 Lamb *Elia* Ser. II. *Barbara S—*, And then came staring upon her the figures of her little stockingless and shoeless sisters. 1863 Cowden Clarke *Shaks. Char.* iii. 84 Their subtleties of character stare out like the bones of a starved beast. 1895 P. Hemingway *Out of Egypt* II. 175 One evening, as I stood watching a vessel in the harbour, that stared townwards with a hundred round unblinking eyes. 1909 Bridges *Paraphr. Æn.* VI. Poems (1913) 457 Right i' the front stareth the columnar gate adamantine.

2. quasi-*trans.* with complement.

a. With adv., adj., or phrase expressing the result of staring at a person or thing; *esp.* in *to stare* (a person) *out of countenance* (see Countenance *sb.* 6 b).

1672 Villiers (Dk. Buckhm.) *Rehearsal* IV. i. (Arb.) 103 Who e'er to gulp one drop of this dares think I'l stare away his very pow'r to drink. 1719 D'Urfey *Pills* III. 319 The..Stone..stares Deucalions..Boys, into..Pebbles. 1833 Lytton *Godolphin* xxiii, She did not stare young men out of countenance. 1844 Mrs. Browning *Poems, Dead Pan* x, Thou art staring the stars pale. 1857 [see Countenance *sb.* 6 b].

b. *To stare* (a person) *in the face* [after the older phrase in Look *v.* 1 e]: to stare at (his) face; also *fig.* of a thing, to be glaringly obvious to, to force itself on the notice of.

1690 Locke *Hum. Und.* I. iii. § 13 Whether it be possible, for People..to offend against a Law..that stares them in the Face, whilst they are breaking it? 1692 R. L'Estrange *Fables* cclxxx. 245 But to come now to the Ungrateful Point, the Bare Innuendo of it would stare so many People in the Face, that [etc.]. 1698 Fryer *Acc. E. India & P.* 9 They staring one in the Face, and in the mean time ..steal a Handkerchief. 1727 Bolingbroke *Occas. Writer* II. 44 This terrible Object stares our speculative Enquirer in the Face, and disturbs his Head. 1769 *Junius Lett.* xix. 82 The contradiction was unexpectedly urged and stared him in the face. 1790 Buchan *Dom. Med.* 569 Few people will submit to the extirpation till death stares them in the face. 1817 Ld. Ellenborough in *Maule & Selwyn's Rep.* VI. 316 When he knew himself insolvent, and when ruin and bankruptcy were staring him in the face. 1846 Greener *Sci. Gunnery* 98 The mock sales..that stare us in the face at every turning. 1855 Abp. Thomson *Laws of Thought* § 46 A man stares his friend in the face without recognising him. 1912 *Throne* 7 Aug. 205/1 To minimise the severity of the defeat which Ministers see staring them in the face.

c. *To stare* (a person) *up and down*: to survey with a stare from head to foot.

1889 May Crommelin & J. M. Brown *Violet Vyvian* III. i. 6 She always stares me up and down at the meets. 1891 H. S. Merriman *Prisoners & Captives* II. 78 They are staring me up and down like a wild animal.

3. Used with implication of a mental state.

†**a.** To open the eyes wide in madness or fury; to glare. Often in alliterative phrases, e.g. *scowl and stare, stamp and stare* (see Stamp *v.* 2 c), *swear and stare*, denoting the indications of uncontrolled rage. *Obs.*

c 1250 *Death* 234 in *O. E. Misc.*, He [*sc.* the Devil] ȝeoneþ mid his muþe and stareþ mid his eȝe. *c* 1250 *Owl & Night.* 77 Þu starest so þu wille abyten. *a* 1300 *Havelok* 508 Starinde als he were wod. 1340 Hampole *Pr. Consc.* 2225 Als wode lyons thai [the devils] sal than fare, And raumpe on hym, and skoul and stare. *c* 1360 *Song of Yesterday* 53 in *E. E. P.* (1862) 134 Nis..non so styf to stunt ne stare...Þat he naþ warnynges to be ware. 1390 Gower *Conf.* II. 63 He gan to fare Into the field and loke and stare, As he which feigneth to be wod. 1399 Langl. *Rich. Redeles* III. 189 This makyth men..to stroute and to stare and stryue aȝeyn vertu. *a* 1400 *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* xxix. ii. 75 Þe Ieuh bi-gon to stare and swere And seide þer com non such child þere. 1530 Palsgr. 733/2, I stare, as a mans eyes stare for anger. *a* 1548 Hall *Chron., Hen. VI*, 131 b, Lorde how the Flemines bragged..that Calice should be wonne.. swearyng and staryng, that thei would haue it, within thre daies at the moste. 1579 Northbrooke *Dicing* (1843) 8 If he can sweare and stare they say hee hath a stout courage. 1590 Spenser *F. Q.* I. iv. 33 His eies..stared sterne on all that him beheld. *Ibid.* III. vii. 39 Her firie eyes with furious sparkes did stare. 1615 J. Taylor (Water P.) *Taylor's Rev.* Wks. (1630) II. 145/2 Some laught, some swore, some star'd and stamp'd and curst. 1667 Sturmy *Mariner's Mag.* Friendly Advt. (1669) c 3 b, They..will swear and stare, crack and boast, That they have done all things according to Art. 1837 A. Tennent *Force of Imag.* 64 His eye-balls stared with vicious scowl.

b. To open the eyes wide in astonishment; hence, to be amazed.

1399 Langl. *Rich. Redeles* II. 8 Some stode astonyed and stared for drede. *c* 1400 *Rowland & O.* 551 Drondale felle so sadde and sare þat þe Sarasene bi-gane to stare. *a* 1400 *Pistill of Susan* 285 (MS. Phillipps) Tho criede þat ferly [*read* frely] fode: 'Why spillist þou innocent blode?' And all þei starid [*v.rr.* stoteyd, stynted, were a-stonyed] and stode, 1716 Lady M. W. Montagu *Lett.* I. iii. 12, I was yesterday at the French Church, and stared very much at their manner of service. 1782 Cowper *Gilpin* 194 Said John, It is my wedding day And all the world would stare If wife should dine at Edmonton And I should dine at Ware! 1789 Pitt in *G. Rose's Diaries* (1860) I. 98 You will stare a good deal at the circumstance which makes me write this letter. 1815 Scott *Guy M.* lviii, Mac-Morlan will stare when he sees the bill. 1820 Byron *Juan* III. lxxxi, Even good men like to make the public stare. 1849 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* vii. II. 194 Mordaunt wanted merely to enjoy the excitement of conflict, and to make men stare. 1850 Mrs. Jameson *Leg. Monast. Ord.* (1863) 429 To produce such illusions as make the vulgar stare. 1855 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* xv. III. 605 The other councillors stared, but remained silent. 1902 Violet Jacob *Sheep-Stealers* viii, Bumpett stared blankly. For once in his life he was quite taken aback.

†**4.** To shine. *Obs.*

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* A. 116 As stremande sternez..Staren in welkyn in wynter nyȝt. *c* 1394 *P. Pl. Crede* 553 Þei ben y-sewed wiþ whiȝt silk..Y-stongen wiþ stitches þat stareþ as siluer. *a* 1400–50 *Wars Alex.* 3706 As ai stremand sternes stared all þaire wedis. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 7349 The sternes full stithly starond o lofte. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 472/2 Staryn, or schynyn, and glyderyn, *niteo, rutilo*.

5. Of hair, a horse's coat, feathers, fibres of any kind: To stand on end. [So mod.G. *starren*.] Now chiefly *technical*. Also, † to spread out.

1523–34 Fitzherb. *Husb.* § 56 Loke well, that the heare stare not. 1560 Phaer *Æneid* IX. (1562) Dd iij, Thou sawest..how his helmet crest did streaming stare? 1565 Cooper *Thesaurus* s. v. *Coma*, *Horror comas erexit*, feare made his heare to stare. 1590 Cockaine *Treat. Hunting* Dj, His coate also will stare and frise so vppon him, as you may easely knowe him thereby. 1603 Owen *Pembrokeshire* (1892) 127 The here of the seale stareth at the South windes. 1624 *Life & Death Geninges* 55 His face glowed, and as he thought his hayre stared. 1621 Burton *Anat. Mel.* I. ii. iv. iii. 195 There was such an hideous noyse..that their haire stared for feare. 1676 Durfey *Madam Fickle* III. iii, See how his Perriwig stares with his wild passion. *a* 1722 Lisle *Husb.* (1757) 319 Their skins would turn scurfy and starky, and their wool stare and grow thin. 1748 Richardson *Clarissa* VI. 157 Four old turkey-worked chairs, bursten-bottomed, the stuffing staring out. 1753 Bartlet *Gentl. Farriery* xxxvi. 278 So that the hair stares up, and is what some term pen-feathered. 1788 *New Lond. Mag.* 624 When the whole is dry, dress the feathers round the outline that may chance to stare a little. 1806–7 J. Beresford *Miseries Hum. Life* (1826) x. § 69 Its few remaining hairs [said of an old toothbrush] staring off horizontally on all sides. 1808 Scott *Marmion* II. xxxii, The locks that wont her brow to shade, Star'd up erectly from her head. 1860 *All Year Round* No. 49. 531 One drink of hard water would put the favourite horse out of condition, make his coat 'stare'. 1888 *Lancet* 14 Jan. 96/1 The affected cows were restless and irritable; their coats 'stared.' 1891 *Labour Commission Gloss.* s. v. *Nap*, [Filaments of cotton yarn] are very sensitive to electrical conditions, hence the importance of means to make them lie as smooth as possible, otherwise they polarise in all directions, that is 'stare'.

6. *Comb.* † **stare-about,** one who stares about; **stare-cat** *U.S.* (see quot.).

1614 B. Jonson *Barth. Fair* III. v, They stick not the Stare-abouts purses to take. 1859 Bartlett *Dict. Amer.* (ed. 2) 448 *Stare-cat*, a woman or girl who amuses herself with gazing at her neighbors.

Stare, obs. f. Star *sb.*[1], var. Star *sb.*[2]

† **Stareblind,** *a. Obs.* [OE. *stær(e)blind* = OFris. *staru-, stare-, starblind*, MDu. *staerblint* (mod.Du. *staarblind*), OHG. *staraplint* (MHG. *starblint*, mod.G. *staar-, star-, starrblind*), ON. *starblind-r* (Sw. *starrblind*, Da. *stærblind*); f. OTeut. **staro-* found as MDu. *star* rigidity (of the eyes in death), mod.G. *staar, star*, Du. *staar*, Sw.

starr, Da. *stær* cataract in the eyes; app. cogn. w. OHG. *starrên* (mod.G. *starren*) to be stiff or rigid, MHG. *stärre*, *sterre* (mod.G. *starr*) stiff, rigid.] ? Blind without perceptible lesion of the eyes.

c 725 *Corpus Gloss.* S 134 *Scotomaticus*, staerblind. *c* 1000 in Cockayne *Shrine* (1864) 187 Gyf he enyȝ wiht ȝeseon mæȝ, buton he stare blind si. *Ibid.*, Sume beoð stære blinde. *c* 1250 *Owl & Night.* 241 Bi daye þu art stare-blynd.

Staree (stēəˑrīˑ). *nonce-wd.* [f. STARE *v.* + -EE.] The person stared at.

1800 MAR. EDGEWORTH *Belinda* iii, We were mutually agreeable to each other—I as starer, and she as staree.

Starer (stēəˑrəɹ). [f. STARE *v.* + -ER 1.]

1. A person who stares.

1663 BOYLE *Usef. Exp. Nat. Philos.* I. v. 116 The vulgar astonishment of an unlettered Starer. 1711 STEELE *Spect.* No. 20 ₱ 2 A kind of Men, whom I choose to call Starers, that without any Regard to Time, Place, or Modesty, disturb a large Company with their impertinent Eyes. 1767 S. PATERSON *Another Trav.* I. 338 Exhibiting their mummeries..to thousands of stupid starers. 1796 MME. D'ARBLAY *Camilla* IV. 218 They regularly drew forth either the master or the man to make another starer at their singular proceedings. 1865 W. G. PALGRAVE *Arabia* I. 140 We passed down the street, lined with starers at the King and us. 1880 BROWNING *Dram. Idyls* Ser. II. *Clive* 154 I'll engage no glance was sent That way by a single starer.

2. *pl.* Eye-glasses with a long handle. *colloq.*

1904 MRS. A. SIDGWICK *Scenes Jewish Life* 135 His mother put up her 'starers', and addressed Eva in French. 1905 MISS BROUGHTON *Waif's Progr.* xi. 128 She sat with the 'starers' she had taken off lying in her lap.

Starf, *obs.* pa. t. of STARVE *v.*

Star-fish, starfish (stāˑɹfiʃ). Pl. **-fish, -fishes.** [Cf. SEA-STAR 2.]

1. Any echinoderm of the genus *Asterias* or of the class *Asteroidea*, having a flattened body, normally consisting of lobes or rays (usually five), radiating from a central disc. These rays are sometimes very short or altogether absent, the body having the form of a pentagonal disc. The common star-fish is *Asterias* (*Asteracanthion*) *rubens*.

1538 ELYOT *Dict.*, *Stella*, a sterre, also a sterrefyshe. 1611 COTGR., *Arbre marin*.., the greatest of Starre-fishes. 1672 W. HUGHES *Amer. Physit.* 9 Of the Sea-Star-Fish, or by some called the Sea-Star. 1672 JOSSELYN *New-Eng. Rarities* 95 The Star Fish, having five points like a Star, the whole Fish no bigger than the Palm of a Mans hand. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* VIII. 174. 1836–9 *Todd's Cycl. Anat.* II. 34/1 The star-fish has the power of slowly moving its rays. 1896 LYDEKKER *Roy. Nat. Hist.* VI. 305 Star-fish are sluggish animals.

attrib. 1868 M. W. TAYLOR in *Trans. Cumb. & Westm. Antiq. & Archæol. Soc.* I. 166 Imparting..a kind of star-fish appearance to the structure. 1885 — *Ibid.* VIII. 331 The White Raise or Star-fish cairn.

2. *transf.* A name for certain species of Stapelia.

1840 PAXTON *Bot. Dict.*, Star fish,..*Stapelia Asterias*. 1884 W. MILLER *Plant-n.* 130 Star-fish-flower, *Stapelia Asterias* and other species.

Hence **Staˑr-fishy** *a.* (*nonce-wd.*).

1875 RUSKIN *Fors. Clav.* lxi, A population mostly of.. bagmen..nothing else but bags;—sloppy, star-fishy, seven-suckered stomachs of indiscriminate covetousness.

Staˑr-flower.

1. A name given to a number of plants with bright stellate flowers, as *Ornithogalum umbellatum* and other species, (in U.S.) *Trientalis americana*, etc. Also as a book-name for *Stellaria* and *Aster*.

1629 PARKINSON *Paradisus* 134 The kindes of Starre-flowers, or Starres of Bethlehem, as they are called. 1664 EVELYN *Kal. Hort.* May (1679) 17 Stock-gilly-flowers, Spanish Nut, Star-flower [etc.]. 1707 MORTIMER *Husb.* (1721) II. 236 Star-Flowers are of several sorts, as the Star-Flower of Arabia, the great white Star-Flower of Bethlehem [etc]. *c* 1711 PETIVER *Gazophyl.* IX. lxxxv, Blush Cape Star-flower. 1771 J. R. FORSTER *Flora Amer. Septentr.* 15 Hypoxis erecta. Bastard star-flower, upright. Virginia. 1845–50 MRS. LINCOLN *Lect. Bot.* 185 The star-flower, (Aster). 1896 A. GRAY *Man. Bot.* 272 *Trientalis Americana* .. Star-flower. 1890 *Sarum Dioc. Gaz.* Jan. 6/1 'Star-flower' prettily describes the golden spangles of the Tormentil.

† 2. *Zool.*

a 1776 J. ELLIS *Zoophytes* (1786) 3 *Actinia gemmacea.* Studded Sea Star-flower. *Ibid.* 6 *Actinia Aster.* Sea Star-flower with a smooth stem.

Staˑrful, *a. poet. rare.* Full of stars.

1605 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. iii. 1. *Vocation* 889 Heav'n's starfull Canapey. *a* 1631 DONNE *Progr. Soule, 2nd Anniv.* 80 The starfull Northern pole. 1850 LYNCH *Theoph. Trinal* viii. 141 So Time the wave, Eternity the deep, Shines starful.

Staˑr-gaze, *v.* [Back-formation from next or STAR-GAZING.] *intr.* To gaze at or study the stars. Also *transf.* and *fig.*; esp. to gaze intently at something compared to a star.

1626 SHIRLEY *Maid's Rev.* I. i. (1639) B 4 b, How now Antonio,..Strucke dead with Ladies eyes?—I could star-gaze For ever thus. 1640 — *Arcadia* I. i. B 4, Her eyes Are fixt upon't, and my poore soule could heere Star-gaze for ever. 1692 R. L'ESTRANGE *Fables* clxxxix. 159 The Mischief is, that we are..star-gazing after Futurities; when in truth, our Bus'ness lies just under our Noses. *a* 1704 T. BROWN *Wks.* (1711) IV. 210 Madam, while I was Star-gazing t'other Night at your Window. 1778 *Hist. Eliza Warwick* II. 101 He could not remove his eyes from my face. Lady Norfolk, observing it, asked him whether he intended to sup, or to stargaze all night? 1830 MISS MITFORD *Village* Ser. IV. 179 The sky prospect from her apartment being rather limited, she used ..to come star-gazing to mine. 1857 HUGHES *Tom Brown* II. iii, 'Very odd birds, kestrels', said East, looking waggishly at his victim, who was still star-gazing.

† b. with indirect question depending on the vb.

1691 *d'Emiliane's Frauds Rom. Monks* 226 The Abbot himself went out after Supper, to Star-gaze what Weather they were like to have the next day.

c. quasi-*refl.* with complementary phrase.

1678 T. P[ORTER] *Fr. Conjurer* III. 15 He has talkt and stargazed himself into..favour with my Master. 1871 RUSKIN *Fors Clav.* i, Their present eagerness for instruction in painting and astronomy proceeds from an impression in their minds that, somehow, they may paint or star-gaze themselves into clothes and victuals.

Staˑr-gazer.

1. One who gazes at the stars. Often used as a familiar or contemptuous substitute for *astrologer* or *astronomer*.

1560 BIBLE (Geneva) *Isa.* xlvii. 13 Let now the astrologers, the starre gasers & pronosticatours stand vp. 1583 STUBBES *Anat. Abus.* II. 62 These star-gaisers, who teach that man is drawne to good or euill by the..influence of stars. 1611 SPEED *Hist. Gt. Brit.* VI. viii. § 5. 72 His Astrologers and Star-gazers forwarding him with their vaine predictions. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 29 Apr. 1652, Knavish and ignorant star-gazers. 1727 DE FOE *Syst. Magic* I. iii. (1840) 73 As the eminent Dr. H——— may be called the king's astronomer, or as the more eminent Flamstead usually called himself, the king's star-gazer. 1842 EMERSON *Transcendentalist* Wks. (Bohn) II. 280 The materialist..mocks at..star-gazers and dreamers. 1876 CHAMBERS *Astron.* p. v, The mere star-gazer who is an Astronomer simply in the respect that he is the owner of a telescope.

2. The fish *Uranoscopus scaber*, which has eyes set on the top of the head and directed vertically; also, any fish of this genus or of the family *Uranoscopidæ*.

1661 LOVELL *Hist. Anim. & Min.* 225 Starre-gazer. *Vranoscopus.* 1740 R. BROOKES *Art of Angling* II. lxviii. 189 The Star-Gazer..is often taken in the Mediterranean Sea. 1881 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* V. 92 The best known genus, Uranoscopus, comprises about ten species, which are familiarly termed star-gazers. 1883 JORDAN & GILBERT *Syn. Fishes N. Amer.* 627 *Uranoscopidæ* (The Star Gazers).

b. Applied to other fishes: see quots.

1863 WOOD *Illustr. Nat. Hist.* III. 330 Stargazer, *Anableps tetrophthalmus*. *Ibid.* 331 The Stargazer is a native of Surinam. 1878 A. M. ROSS *Catal. Mammals* etc. *Canada* II/1 *Uranidea gracilis*, Little Star Gazer.

3. *slang.* (See quots.)

1785 GROSE *Dict. Vulgar T.*, *Star gazer*, a horse who throws up his head. 1831 VOUATT *Horse* ix. 156 The back of the head being thus pulled back,..the horse..will become what is technically called a star-gazer.

4. *Naut.* (See quots.)

1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.* 630 *Sky-scraper*, a triangular sail set above the skysail; if square it would be a moon-sail, and if set above that, a star-gazer, &c. 1883 CLARK RUSSELL *Sailors' Lang.* 137 *Star-gazer*, an imaginary sail, like sky-scraper.

Staˑr-gazing, *vbl. sb.* The action of gazing at or studying the stars.

1576 FLEMING *Panopl. Epist.* 205 At such time as he went out a stargazing. 1613 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* (1614) 63 One beginning of Idolatrie did arise of this curious and superstitious Starre-gazing. *a* 1618 SYLVESTER *Little Bartas* 381 Wks. (Grosart) II. 88 Who, by Star-gazing, or ought else below, Dare arrogate the Future to foreknow. 1878 LOCKYER (*title*) Stargazing, past and present. 1884 F. HARRISON in *19th Cent.* Mar. 501 Religion is not a thing of star-gazing and staring.

Staˑr-gazing, *ppl. a.* That gazes at the stars; given to study of the stars.

1593 NASHE *Christ's T.* 19 b, All the starre-gazing Townes. 1596 BP. W. BARLOW *Three Serm.* i. 19 The like predictions of starre-gasing diuiners. 1669 STURMY *Mariner's Mag.* II. 45 Perhaps you'l say, 'Tis a Star-gazing Age. 1708 PARTRIDGE *Bickerstaff detected* 4 A certain Star-gazing Squire. 1823 SCOTT *Quentin D.* xxviii, The quack-salving, word-mongering, star-gazing, lie-coining impostor.

Starge, obs. (*erron.*) Sc. var. of STARK *a.*

Staˑr-grass. [STAR *sb.*1 Cf. *star-grass* in STAR *sb.*2] A name for various grass-like plants with stellate flowers or stellate arrangement of leaves; as *Aletris farinosa*, *Callitriche verna* and *C. aquatica*, *Hypoxis erecta*, *Rhynchospora Vahliana*, etc.

1687 CLAYTON *Virginia* in *Phil. Trans.* XLI. 158 There is another Root of the Species of Hyacinths, the Leaves whereof are grass-like..and spread like a Star upon the Ground...Some call it Ague-grass, others Ague-root, others Star-grass. 1796 WITHERING *Brit. Plants* (ed. 3) II. 5 *Callitriche verna.* Vernal Stargrass. Water Starwort. 1831 J. DAVIES *Manual Mat. Med.* 117 Mealy-star-wort. Star-grass. *Aletris farinosa.* 1845–50 MRS. LINCOLN *Lect. Bot.* 39 The water star-grass, *Callitriche aquatica. Ibid.* App. 113/2 *Hypoxis erecta*, (star-grass). 1864 GRISEBACH *Flora W. Ind. Islands* 788 Star-grass, *Rhynchospora Vahliana.* 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 35/2 *Aletris farinosa*, called Colic root and Star grass.

Staˑr-head.

† 1. *Zool.* A species of *Echinus*. *Obs.*

1713 PETIVER *Aquat. Anim. Amboinæ* i, *Echinus sulcatus.* ..Sea Furrowed Star-head.

2. *Bot.* The genus *Asterocephalus*.

1852 G. W. JOHNSON *Cottage Gard. Dict.* 1866 *Treas. Bot.*

Staˑr-headed, *a.*

Headed with a star; having a head like a star; *spec.* as an epithet of certain stellate flowers.

c 1710 PETIVER *Catal. Ray's Eng. Herbal* § 42 Bur and Star-headed Plants. 1777 JACOB *Catal. Plants* III *Callitriche verna*,..Star-headed Chickweed. 1814 ROXBURGH *Hort. Bengal* 58 *Trifolium stellatum.* Star-headed trefoil. 1855 BAILEY *Mystic* 39 Aiming star-headed arrow winged with light.

Staring (stēəˑrin), *vbl. sb.* [-ING 1.] The action of the verb STARE; gazing fixedly with eyes wide open, standing up (of hair), etc.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 472/2 Starynge, brode lokynge, *patentacio oculorum.* *c* 1515 *Cocke Lorell's B.* 13 They songe and daunsed full merely, With sweryngе, and starynge heuen hye. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VIII*, 50 b, We found the body of the sayde Hun..wᵗ his eyen & mouth fayre closed, withoute any staryng, gapyng or frownyng. 1549 UDALL etc. *Erasm. Par.* 1 *Thess.* ii. 1–8 We came not vnto you, with bragging and staring. 1563 SACKVILLE *Induct. Mirr. Mag.* xxxiv, His cap borne vp with staring of his heare. 1598 SHAKS. *Merry W.* v. v. 168 [One that is given] to drinkings and swearings, and starings. 1682 NORRIS *Hierocles* Pref. 32 A resolution of all our faculties into sweetnesses, affections and starings upon the Divine beauty. 1766 *Complete Farmer* s. v. *Roup*, Roup, the name of a filthy disease in poultry..known by the staring, or turning back of the feathers. 1817 BYRON *Beppo* lxxxi, Could staring win a woman, this had won her. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* II. 689 In cattle these [symptoms] are slight dulness, shivering, ..staring of the coat, and stiffness in movement.

Staring (stēəˑrin), *ppl. a.* [f. STARE *v.* + -ING 2.] That stares, in senses of the verb.

1. That looks fixedly with wide open eyes.

a 1547 SURREY in *Tottel's Misc.* (Arb.) 17 He cast on me a staring loke, with colour pale and ded. 1588 SHAKS. *L. L. L.* v. ii. 927 Then nightly sings the staring Owle, Tu-whit to-who. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* II. vii. 37 Their staring eyes sparckling with feruent fire And vgly shapes did nigh the man dismay. 1592 SHAKS. *Ven. & Ad.* 1149 The staring ruffian shall it keepe in quiet. 1682 N. O. *Boileau's Lutrin* ii. 17 With hollow Cheeks, and staring Eyes she view'd him. 1747 RICHARDSON *Clarissa* (1811) I. xvi. 102 The man is a very confident, he is a very bold, staring man! 1809 *Med. Jrnl.* XXI. 221 The countenance is wild, the eyes red and staring. 1816 SCOTT *Old Mort.* xxxiv, 'How came the fellow here?—Speak, you staring fool', he added. 1845 DISRAELI *Sybil* IV. i, I have sent his vulgar wife and great staring daughter a card for next Wednesday! 1859 TENNYSON *Marr. Geraint* 356 Turn, turn thy wheel above the staring crowd. 1861 DICKENS *Lett.* (1880) II. 152 They were an intent and staring audience. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VI. 120 Powell describes a slightly staring, suffused, and anxious expression of countenance as most common.

transf. 1646 CRASHAW *Sospetto d'Herode* vii, Such his fell glances as the fatall Light Of staring Comets, that looke Kingdomes dead.

† b. Frantic, wild. *Obs.*

c 1449 PECOCK *Repr.* III. xiv. 371 In wantowne and nyse disgisingis of araies (and so forth of many othere [staryng *added by a later hand*] gouernancis, semyng summe wijlde woode). 1607 WALKINGTON *Optic Glass* iii. 21 Who knowes not that ..goggle eyes [denotate] a starke-staring foole? 1839 BAILEY *Festus* (ed. 3) 309 The staring madness when we wake and find That what we have loved..is not that We meant to love.

c. *Proverbs.* (App. often used with no definite meaning; perh. orig. ellipt. for the combs. in 5.)

1546 J. HEYWOOD *Prov.* (1867) 67 The difference betwene staryng and starke blynde The wise man at all tymes to folow can fynde. 1579 LYLY *Euphues* (Arb.) 154 Descende into your owne consciences, consider with your selues the great difference between staring and starke blynde, witte and wisedome, loue and lust. 1629 FORD *Lover's Mel.* II. ii, *Mel.* Am I starke mad? *Troll.* No, no, you are but a little staring—there's difference betweene staring and starke mad. 1738 SWIFT *Pol. Conversat.* 200 There's Difference between staring and stark mad. 1787 WOLCOT (P. Pindar) *Ode upon Ode* Wks. 1812 I. 440 There's odds 'twixt staring and stark mad.

† 2. Shining; bright-coloured. *Obs.*

c 1400 *Destr. Troy* 3037 Shynyng full shene as þe shire sternys, Or any staring stone. *a* 1400–50 *Wars Alex.* 2880 He..Strad vp him selfe on a stede, in starand wedis. *Ibid.* 3615 He standis vp in his stereps in starand maylis. *Ibid.* 5396 He sazе a dym cloude Full of starand sternes. 1425 *Ord. Whittington's Alms-house* in Entick *London* (1766) IV. 354 That the overcloathing..be dark and brown of colour, and not staring ne blaising. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 472/2 Staryngе, or schynynge, as gaye thyngys, *rutilans*, *rutilus*, *nitidus.* *c* 1495 *Epitaffe* etc. in *Skelton's Wks.* (1843) II. 391 His staryngе standarde..nowe set is on a wall. *c* 1500 MEDWALL *Nature* (Brandl) I. 749 A staryng colour of scarlet red.

3. Of hair, feathers, etc.: Standing up, bristling.

1562 J. HEYWOOD *Prov. & Epigr.* (1867) 182 Vncomde staryng heades. 1578 LYTE *Dodoens* v. xvi. 569 It layeth downe the staring heares of the eyebrowes. 1609 C. BUTLER *Fem. Mon.* iii. (1623) F 1, Take away all those staring strawes, twigs, and other offensive jagges that are fast in the Hiues. 1674 *Scheffer's Lapland* 136 Mountain Mice..which Wormius describes with short tails and staring hair. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* III. 813 The Water-Snake..With staring Scales lyes poyson'd in his Bed. 1730 BURDON *Pocket Farrier* (1735) 63 If your Horse is brought to you with a staring Coat and hollow Flank. 1860 E. MAYHEW *Horse Doctor* 7 The eye is closed; the skin cold, and the coat staring. 1869 E. A. PARKES *Pract. Hygiene* (ed. 3) 66 Grooms object to give hard water to their horses, on the ground that it makes the coat staring and rough.

4. That obtrudes itself on the view or attention; glaringly conspicuous.

a 1513 FABYAN *Chron.* VI. clix. (1811) 149 At those dayes in Fraunce was vsyd of prestes, and men of the Church, precious and shewynge vesture, and goldyn and ryche starynge gyrdellys, with rynges, and other ornamentis of golde. 1542 UDALL *Erasm. Apoph.* 252 She..perceiued his yies to bee offended with hir ouer wanton and staryng araie. 1709 BERKELEY *Ess. Vision* § 125 Made up of manifest staring contradictions. 1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* I. (Globe) 258 Friday..not making quite so staring a Spectre-like Figure as I did. 1773 GOLDSM. *Stoops to Conquer* II, And at last to blurt out the broad staring question of, Madam, will you marry me? 1849 DICKENS *Barn. Rudge* iv, A modest building..with great staring windows. 1850 BLACKIE *Æschylus* II. 8 Not to mention the staring absurdity of the idea. 1859 JEPHSON *Brittany* ii. 15 The staring modern chapels. 1880

Mrs. J. H. Riddell *Palace Gard.* ii. 20 A staring new terrace built on the ground which the old house covered. 1894 Bridges *Shorter Poems* v. xv. (1912) 316 That sickly, staring shore. 1902 O. Wister *Virginian* xxxv, The rustlers..were a staring menace to Wyoming.

† b. Of a story: 'Sensational'. *Obs.*

1753 *Scots Mag.* Oct. 492/1, I..could..tell a staring story, and humbug with..skill. 1781 Mme. D'Arblay *Diary* Aug., He told us a thousand strange staring stories. 1789 Mrs. Piozzi *France & Italy* II. 144 One must not judge from staring stories told one.

5. quasi-*adv.* as in *staring blind, mad* (cf. 1 c), *plain, sober.* Usually *stark staring*: see Stark *adv.* 2 b.

[1546, 1579: see 1 c.] 1589 *Whip for Ape* A 4, I am a rimer of the Irish race, And haue alreadie rimde thee staring mad. *a* 1861 T. Woolner *My Beautiful Lady, Storm* iv, Familiar things, that staring plain had been, Fade into mists away. 1886 Stevenson *Treas. Isl.* iii, At one look the rum went out of him, and left him staring sober.

Staringly (stēə·riŋli), *adv.* [f. prec. + -ly 2.]

1. With a stare or open-eyed fixed gaze.

1580 Hollyband *Treas. Fr. Tong, Errailler les yeux,..* to open ones eyes wide, staringly. 1598 Florio, *Rabbuffare,* ..to looke staringlie as a mad man. 1602 Manningham *Diary* (Camden) 53 That long swaggerer..staringly demaunding what he ment..said the gent., 'I tooke you for a May pole'. 1615 Crooke *Body of Man* 545 Like as when we would open the eye more staringly the muscles of the forehead doe much helpe vs. 1883 *Harper's Mag.* Oct. 805/1 [They] heard my questions staringly.

† **2.** Wildly, frantically. *Obs.*

1667 H. More *Div. Dial.* iii. xvii. (1713) 218 So staringly mad that the eye of Reason seems to have quite started out of their head. 1670 Eachard *Cont. Clergy* 43 Not by talking staringly, and casting a mist before the peoples eyes.

3. In a manner that 'stares one in the face'; glaringly.

1817–18 Cobbett *Resid. U. S.* 316 There is in this statement something..so ridiculously and staringly untrue, that [etc.]. 1824 *Blackw. Mag.* XVI. 293 The veil is now..staringly, and strikingly transparent. 1833 Cobbett *Eng. Gram.* xviii. § 221 These are staringly absurd. 1879 Stevenson *Lay Morals* (1911) 7 The universe..is plain, patent and staringly comprehensible.

† **Stark,** *sb.*[1] *Sc. Obs.* [? Corrupt form of Stake *sb.*[1] (sense 5 b; in our quots. not before 1853).] Some implement used in dressing leather.

1541 *Aberdeen Reg.* (1844) I. 176 Item, ane stark to vork the ledder vpoun, with thair feytt.

† **Stark,** *sb.*[2] *Obs.*–[o]. [? Corruption of *start* in Redstart.] The redstart.

1611 Cotgr., *Rossignol de muraille,* a Starke, a Red-tayle.

Stark (stāk), *a.* and *adv.* Forms: 1–2 **stearc,** 1 **staro,** 2–3 **sterc,** 2–6 **sterke,** 3 **stærc, staro,** *Ormin* **starre** (*pl.* **starrke**), 3–4 **starck,** 3–6 **sterk,** (3 **sterch,** 6 *Sc.* **starge**), 4–7 **starcke, starke,** 3– **stark.** [Com. Teut.: OE. *stearc* corresponds to OFris. *sterk* (WFris. *sterk,* NFris. *stark*), OS. *stark* (MLG. *stark, sterk*), OHG. *stark, starach* (MHG. *stark, starch,* mod.G. *stark*), ON. *sterk-r* (Da. *sterk*), OSw. *stark-er* (Sw. *stark*):–OTeut. **starku-*; the declension is attested by the fluctuation between umlaut and non-umlaut forms. The weak grade of the root (OTeut. **sturk-*) is found in Goth. *gastaurknan,* OHG. *kistorchanēn* to grow rigid, Icel. *storkna* to coagulate, ON. *styrk-r* strength, *styrk-r* strong. Outside Teut., probable cognates are Lith. *stregti* to become frozen, mod. Pers. *suturg* strong.

Some of the cognates suggest that the sense 'stiff, rigid', which is rare exc. in English, may be more original than the sense 'strong', which prevails in the other Teut. langs.]

A. *adj.*

1. Hard, unyielding.

† **a.** Of a material substance: Hard, rigid. *Obs.*

c 1000 Ælfric *Saints' Lives* I. 196 Stanas magon hnexian and þæt starce isen on leades gelicnysse. *c* 1200 Ormin 999 & oþerr stund itt bakenn wass Full harrd & starrc inn ofne.

b. Of a person, his heart, etc.: Hard, obdurate. Also in good sense, firm, unyielding. *Obs.* exc. *arch.*

a 900 Cynewulf *Elene* 565 (Gr.) Heo wæron stærce. stane heardran, noldon þæt geryne rihte cyðan. *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 5 Ne beo þu þereuore prud ne wilde ne sterc ne wemod ne ouer modi. *c* 1200 Ormin 1596, & giff þin heorrte iss harrd & starrc, & stedefasst o Criste. *c* 1205 Lay. 23678 Strong mon wes Frolle and sterc mon on mode. *c* 1400 *Cato's Morals* in *Cursor M.* App. iv. 33. 1669 If richesse come þe rife..be nogt starke to freindis, spende þou fulle hertli.. þi gift wiþþe weindis. *c* 1440 *Pr. Penit.* (1894) 43 Crist ihesu..was nothur starke ne stef, But ever was louly in word and chere. 1589 R. Bruce *Serm.* (1590) S 5, Swa then, wald thou knaw, quhither thy faith be strong or not, quhither thy perswasion of Gods mercie, be starke or not? 1836 Gen. P. Thompson *Exerc.* (1842) IV. 91 Against Tallow-plots, however, the Whig government was stark.

† **c.** Of a judgement: Stern, inflexible. *Obs.*

c 1200 Ormin 8802 He ȝifeþþ himm..witt & mihht to drædenn Godd & hise starrke domess. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 144 Þe sterke dom of domesdei

† **d.** *Sc.* Of a question, a science: Hard, difficult. *Obs.*

1456 Sir G. Haye *Bk. Gov. Princes* (S.T.S.) 111 No traist nocht in ignorant mennis wordis that sais..that the science of thaim [*sc.* the stars] is sa stark that nane may knaw it. *Ibid.* 140 Here speris the doctour a stark questioun.

2. Violent, harsh, severe.

† **a.** Of natural agencies: Fierce or violent in operation; hard, harsh, rough, severe.

a 1000 *Colloq.* Ælfric in Wr.-Wülcker 90 Nys hyt swa stearc winter [*aspera hyems*] þæt ic durre lutian æt ham. *a* 1225 *St. Marher.* 9 Ant al warð þat stude of strong and starc stench. *a* 1225 *Juliana* 78 Þer arisen stormes starcke & stronge & breken þe schipes bord. *a* 1240 *Lofsong in Cott. Hom.* 211 Þeo sterke stremes and þet flod þet fleaw of þine wunden moncun uor to helen. *c* 1250 *Owl & Night.* 524 Ac hwenne nyhtes cumeþ longe, & bryngeþ forstes starke & stronge. *c* 1320 *Seuyn Sag.* (W.) 2123 The clerkes to the stage stale, And bet a fir strong and sterk. 1338 R. Brunne *Chron.* (1725) 174 Þe hungre was so grete, & þe cold so stark. 1460 *Lybeaus Disc.* 1766 A fere stark and store Was lyght and brende bryght. 1597 Montgomerie *Cherrie & Slae* 1529 The streim is thair sae stark,..It suld be idle wark. 1606 A. Craig *Amor. Songs* (1872) 133 And though the streams be stark, I through the waltring waues shall swim.

† **b.** Of persons: Stern, harsh, severe. (Cf. sense 1 b.) *Obs.* exc. *arch.* in echoes of quot. *a* 1122.

c 1000 Ælfric *Hom.* I. 362 He [John Baptist] ða heardheortan Iudeiscre ðeode mid stearcre ðreale and stiðre myngunge to lifes wege ȝebiȝde. *a* 1122 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1086, He wæs..ofer eall ȝemett stearc þam mannum þe wiðcwæðon his willan. *c* 1205 Lay. 9197 Ah he wes swiðe sturne & stærc wiþ þeon folke. 1869 Freeman *Norm. Conq.* (1876) III. xii. 183 William was already beginning to show himself..beyond measure stark to all who withstood his will. 1876 Tennyson *Harold* II. ii, For he is only debonair to those That follow where he leads, but stark as death To those that cross him. 1891 *Q. Rev.* July 190 This great Emperor was stark to all the opponents of Christianity.

† **c.** Of living, treatment, circumstances, etc.: Attended with hardship, harsh, severe. Of a wound: Severe. *Obs.*

c 1000 Ælfric *Hom.* I. 148 He nolde awendan his ȝewunelican bigleofan..ac ða stiðnyssa his stearcan bigleofan ..on his life ȝeheold. *c* 1290 *St. Sebastian* 48 in *S. Eng. Leg.* 179 With quareles and with Arewene: heo maden him woundes starke. 1338 R. Brunne *Chron.* (1725) 21 Tille Elfride oure kyng com tiþinges starke. *Ibid.* 98 Bot Henry þink it stark, þat he is charged so.

† **d.** Of an instrument of torture or punishment: Inflicting severe pain, cruel. *Obs.*

c 1000 Ælfric *Hom.* I. 428 Ða het he hine wædum bereafian, and mid stearcum stengum beatan. *c* 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 127 Weste was his wunienge and stark haire of oluente his wede. *a* 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 1925, & let þurhdriuen þrefter þe spaken & te felien mid irnene gadien; swa þat te pikes & te irnene preones se scharpe & se starke borien þurh. *c* 1380 *Sir Ferumb.* 2118 Furst sche tok out þe croune sterk; þat crist on is heued let. 1500–20 Dunbar *Poems* xxxiv. 77 God, that evir I chaip, Nor ane stark widdy gar me gaip, Bot I in hell for geir wald be. 1508 Kennedie *Flyting w. Dunbar* 413 A stark gallowis, ane wedy, and a pyn, The hede poynt of thyne elderis armes ar. 1549 *Compl. Scot.* iii. 28 Than the father takkis ane batton or sum vthir sterk vappin to puneise his sonne.

† **e.** Of fighting or contention: Vehement, fierce. *Obs.*

c 1205 Lay. 4171 Þat fæht wes swuðe strong & swuðe stær [*c* 1275 starc] & swuðe longe. *Ibid.* 4036 Sterce weren þe reæmes mid stronge raflake. *c* 1250 *Owl & Night.* 5 (Jesus MS.) Þat playd wes stif & starc & strong. *Ibid.* 1176 Þe vle ..yef answere stark & stronge. *c* 1380 *Sir Ferumb.* 3241 Þan at þe furste þe Assaut by-gan sterk & strait to be. 1456 Sir G. Haye *Law Arms* (S. T. S.) 121 He wist wele, and he had scapit, he wald nocht have cessit to mak him starkare were than before.

f. Of climate or weather: Harsh, inclement. (See quot. 1878.) Now *dial.*

1611 B. Jonson *Catiline* I. i, *Cet.* The North is not so starke, and cold. 1878 Dickinson *Cumbld. Gloss.*, *Stark weather,* continued dry and cold north and east winds. 1913 *Daily Graphic* 24 Mar. 12/1 The season is early, the weather stark and unpromising.

† **g.** *Stark at the rent* (see quot.). *dial. Obs.*

1683 G. M[eriton] *Praise of Ale* 51 And yet you say your Farme is starke att'th Rent [ed. 1685 starke 'oth Rent; *but Gloss. has* Stark at the Rent, is very dear at the Rent.]

3. Strong, stout, powerful.

† **a.** Of a structure or material: Strong, substantial. *Obs.*

c 1205 Lay. 189 He makede enne stronge castel mid starke ston walle. *c* 1290 *St. Brendan* 124 in *S. Eng. Leg.* 223 Þis hound ladde þis holi man to an halle..Gret & starc. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xlv. (*Christina*) 10 He mad a toure of lyme & stane, a starkare mocht þe fundine nan. 1460 *Lybeaus Disc.* 710 Thanne sawe they yn a park A castell stout and stark. 1529 *Registr. Aberdon.* (Maitland Club) I. 396 To big agan þe said brig..als stark and substantious as we resave þe samyn. 1535 Stewart *Cron. Scot.* II. 685 Anwik castell that wes starge and strang. *a* 1572 Knox *Hist. Ref.* Wks. 1846 I. 177 [He] cryed, 'Fyre, fyre,' (for the door was verray stark). 1609 *Extracts Rec. Convent. Burghs Scot.* (1870) II. 284 All cowperis sall mak their hering barrellis ticht, stark, and sufficient treyis. 1755 R. Forbes *Ajax' Sp., Shop Bill* vii, Fare may be had..The starkest hose that can be made. 1794 [W. Anderson] *Piper of Peebles* 6 (E.D.D.) The sarks were few, An' very stark, but no that saft.

b. Of a weapon: Strong, massive, stout. *arch.*

c 1205 Lay. 21227 Arður þe ræie Ron [*i. e.* his spear] nom an bonde he strahte scaft stærcne stiðmoden king. *a* 1300 *Havelok* 380 In his hand a spere stark. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xix. (*Christopher*) 339 Quhen þat christofore þis prayere had mad..his staf, þat was sture & stark, was cled with lewis, & with bark. 1895 Crockett *Men of Moss-Hags* vi. 47 The crossbar and simple Italian guard of Wat Gordon's lighter weapon seemed as if it must instantly be beaten down by the starker weapon of the dragoon.

c. Physically strong or powerful; lusty, robust, sturdy, vigorous; occas. † strong (of sight). *arch.*

c 1250 *Long Life* 11 in *O. E. Misc.*, Nis non so strong ne sterch [*v. r.* sterk] ne kene þat mai ago deaþes wiþer-blench. *a* 1310 in Wright *Lyric P.* xxx. 87 Ne is no quene so stark ne stour,..that ded ne shal by-glyde. 13.. *K. Alis.* 5527 Ich wil thee yiue of golde a mark, And a stede strong and stark. *c* 1384 Chaucer *H. Fame* 545 Me caryinge in his clawes starke. 1552 Abp. Hamilton *Catech.* (1884) 24 Lat nocht the sterk man glore in his strenth. 1589 Puttenham *Eng. Poesie* III. xix. (Arb.) 249 There be some fowles of sight so prowd and starke, As can behold the sunne, and neuer shrinke. 1641 Best *Farm. Bks.* (Surtees) 19 Throwe..your lambes oute of the penne, for feare that your starke sheepe treade them under foote. 1721 Ramsay *Prospect of Plenty* 183 A nation, healthfu' wise, and stark. 1787 Burns *Old Farmer's Salut. Mare* iv, He gied me thee..An' fifty mark; Tho' it was sma' 'twas weel-won gear, An' thou was stark. 1805 Scott *Last Minstr.* I. xxi, A stark moss-trooping Scott was he. 1836 W. Irving *Astoria* (1849) 158 The loss of two stark hunters and prime riflemen was a serious affair to the party. 1895 Crockett *Men of Moss-Hags* xxv, The dragoons were stark fellows and had seen service.

† **d.** Strong in authority, dominion, rule, arms; powerful, mighty. *Obs.*

a 1300 *Havelok* 341 In þat time..Was in þe lon[d] of Denemark, A riche King, and swyþe stark. 1303 R. Brunne *Handl. Synne* 6840 He was bysshope and patryarke Of Constatyné, noble starke. 1338 — *Chron.* (1725) 45 Now rises Eilred, & gadres oste stark. 1456 Sir G. Haye *Law Arms* (S. T. S.) 13 The maa miraclis, the starkar was haly kirk. For ay the faith grewe starkar and starkare. *Ibid.* 28 For the office of knychthede suld have stark place in governaunce. 1543 *St. Papers Hen. VIII,* V. 588 All that be His Highnes servauntes and frendes must make theim starke, and to make the most frendes they can. 1596 Dalrymple tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* (S. T. S.) I. 138 Frome yrland he sayles to Scotland, w[t] a strang and starke armie. 1807 J. Barlow *Columb.* VII. 339 Now roll, with kindling haste, the long stark lines, From wing to wing the sounding battle joins.

† **e.** Of a cause of wonder, also (*Sc.*) of a reason: Strong. *Obs.*

c 1250 *Owl & Night.* 1473 Wunder me þinkþ stark & sor [*MS. Cott.* starc & stor] Hw enymon [etc.]. 1456 Sir G. Haye *Law Arms* (S. T. S.) 120 And ȝit ane othir mare stark resoun is for the decreis sais that [etc.]. 1587–8 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* IV. 242 Upoun bettir avisement and starkare ressonis. 1596 Dalrymple tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* (S. T. S.) I. 50 Of quhilke a stark rasone they vse to collecte, that in..riueris in Irland, quhilkes..ar bath maist cleir, and maist pure, Salmonte in gretter number thair ar takne.

† **f.** Of action: Vigorous. *Sc. Obs.*

a 1557 *Diurn. Occur.* (Bannatyne Club) 11 And in this mene tyme was stark watcheing in Edin[h] about the kingis grace. *a* 1578 Lindesay (Pitscottie) *Chron. Scot.* (S. T. S.) II. 195 That nycht the towne of Edinburgh keipit ane stark watch in the towne.

g. Of liquor, † poison: Strong, potent. *Obs.* exc. *Sc.*

1542 Udall *Erasm. Apoph.* 103 b, Cantharis is a litle litle vermyn..but hauyng in it starke poyson. *a* 1578 Lindesay (Pitscottie) *Chron. Scot.* (S. T. S.) I. 186 The Duik of Albanie send his..servand..for the wyne and prayit him *to* send of the best and starkest. 1622 Fletcher *Beggars Bush* III. i, [*Second Boor*] Stark beer boy, stout and strong beer. 1633 *Orkney Witch Trial* in Dalyell *Darker Superst. Scot.* (1834) 153 Becaus the oyle was not stark enuch, he gat some aquavite to make it starker. 1870 J. K. Hunter *Life Studies of Char.* vi. 40 The gudeman and his wife had several tastings till it came to the right thing, the wife remarking that it was a stark dram[of whisky]. 1898 Crockett *Standard Bearer* xiv, Doon at the clachans the stark Hollands flowed like water in a running spate.

† **h.** Of colour: Strong, dark. *Obs.*

1547 Recorde *Urinal Physick* 67 Greene is a compownde colour of blew and yellow..and the right greene haue I in this booke called a starke greene.

4. Rigid, stiff, incapable of movement.

a. Of the (muscles of the) body or limbs: Lacking suppleness and pliability (through weakness or over-exertion, fear, age, cold, or the like); † also, of the senses, the blood, the eyes (*obs.*).

c 1300–20 *Pol., Rel., & L. Poems* (1903) 243 Starke waren his armes Hi-spred opon þe rode. *c* 1325 *Gloss. W. de Bibbesw.* in Wright *Voc.* 148 De genuler serroynt trop redz [*gloss* stiffe *v. r., MS.* Camb. starke]. *a* 1340 Hampole *Psalter, Canticles* (1884) 506 *Obrigauerunt omnes habitatores chanaan*...All þe woners of chanaan wex starke...Þai sall wax stark for drede & wa. *c* 1440 *York Myst.* xxxviii. 395 [*Soldier.*] I myght not stande, so was I starke [with fright]. *c* 1460 *Towneley Myst.* iii. 268 My bonys ar so stark, No wonder if thay wark, ffor I am full old. *c* 1520 Skelton *Magnyf.* 481 A knokylbonyarde wyll counterfet a clarke; He wolde trotte gentylly, but he is to starke. 1542 Boorde *Dyetary* viii. (1870) 247, I do aduertyse you not to..syt by the fyre..for fyre..doth make sterke the synewes & ioyntes of man. 1590 Spenser *F. Q.* I. i. 44 And downe did lay His heauie head,..Whose sences all were straight benumbd and starke. 1607 Topsell *Four-f. Beasts* 402 [The Mallander] will make a horse go stark, and stumble much. 1647 H. More *Cupid's Conflict* lxxvii, The clearest truths may well seem dark When sloathfull men have eyes so dimme and stark. 1660 F. Brooke tr. *Le Blanc's Trav.* 334 We had not strength to make another [bridge of planks] we were so num'd and stark [*printed* strark], with the cold. *a* 1800 Pegge *Suppl. Grose, Stark,* stiff, from too much exercise, or from the rheumatism, &c. 1817 Shelley *Revolt Islam* III. xviii, I sought to close mine eyes, But like the balls, their lids were stiff and stark. 1838 Barham *Ingol. Leg.* Ser. I. *Nurse's Story,* But, ere he can vent one inquisitive sniff, That little pug-dog stands stark and stiff. 1886 *S. W. Linc. Gloss.* s. v., The rheumatis' has left my leg a bit stark.

b. Rigid, stiff (in death).

1592 Shaks. *Rom. & Jul.* IV. i. 103 Each part depriu'd of supple gouernment, Shall stiffe and starke, and cold appeare like death. 1611 — *Cymb.* IV. ii. 209 [*Enter Aruiragus, with Imogen dead.*] *Bel.* How found you him? *Arui.* Starke, as you see. 1609 Holland *Amm. Marcell.* 136 The bodies of the Persians slaine, waxe drie and starke as stakes. 1839 Longf. *Wreck Hesperus* xiii, A frozen corpse was he. Lashed to the helm all stiff and stark. 1865 Kingsley *Herew.* vi, They left nought behind them save stark corpses.

c. Of material things: Rigid, stiff; not supple or flexible.

a 1400 *Stockh. Medical MS.* i. 64 in *Anglia* XVIII. 296 Ley it on þe hed þat hath gret werk, And het yt ageyn, whann it is stark. *c* 1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 926 How cuthbert child stode on his croune..; In his playng a wondir harke, his clathes aboute his leggys stode starke. *Ibid.* 950. 1591 G. FLETCHER *Russe Commw.* ii. 4 You shall sensibly feele your breath to waxe starke, and euen stifeling with the colde, as you draw it in and out. 1723 DERHAM *Phys.-Theol.* x. i. 453 So soon as this spring is become stark enough, it suddenly breaks the Case into two Halfs..and so flings the Seed. 1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss., Stark* or *Starky*, stiff, dry. 1883 BRIDGES *Prometheus* 1271 O heavenly fire,..O spirit of rage and might, Who canst unchain the links of winter stark. 1889 *N. W. Linc. Gloss.* s. v., This smock's a deal oher stark, I can't wear it while [= until] its weshed.

d. *transf.* of immaterial things.

1847 EMERSON *Repr. Men* iv. *Montaigne* Wks. (Bohn) I. 340 The Spartan and Stoic schemes are too stark and stiff for our occasion. 1851 GLADSTONE *Glean.* VI. xlii. 29 We seem to require an elasticity of system..which is in entire contrast with our rather stark and rigid methods. 1876 F. HARRISON *Choice Books* (1886) 53 There is much in the method and genius of the French drama which falls chill and stark on ears accustomed to the abounding life of a Shakspearean play.

e. Of a rope, etc.: Taut, tight, not slack. *north.*

1641 BEST *Farm. Bks.* (Surtees) 61 For that the bandes will blowe aside with the winde, and the rigginge blowe away, if you do not minde to pull the bandes downe starke. 1788 W. H. MARSHALL *Yorksh.* II. 356 *Stark*; tight;..as a stark rope.

f. Of land: Hard with drought. *dial.*

c 1740 A. ALLEN *MS. Gl.* (E. D. D.) When ye ground is parch't and chop't with droughth, they say ye ground is stark. 1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss.* s.v., The ground is so stark, the seeds will not come up.

g. Of landscape or an object in a landscape: Stiff in outline or formation; hence, bare, barren, desolate.

1833 HT. MARTINEAU *Charmed Sea* iv. 64 Snow was heaped on the eastern mountains, and tumbled in huge masses among the stark, black rocks at their base. 1847 EMERSON *Poems* (1857) 199 Not of adamant and gold Built he heaven stark and cold. 1872 C. KING *Sierra Nevada* xii. 258 Among rigid crater rims and stark fields of volcanic sand. 1898 CONAN DOYLE *Trag. Korosko* v, How cool and beautiful that green looked in the stark, abominable wilderness!

5. Sheer, absolute, unqualified.

c 1400 *Rom. Rose* 7292 But unto you dar I not lye: But mighte I felen..That ye perceyved it no-thyng, Ye shulden have a stark lesing Right in your hond. 1530 *Proper Dyaloge* 509 in *Rede Me* etc. (Arb.) 149 By seynt mary syr that is a starcke lye. *a* 1553 UDALL *Royster D.* i. iii, But it will be starke nyght before I shall haue done. 1594 CAREW *Huarte's Exam. Wits* xv. (1596) 309 The whole..is in my conceit a starcke leasing, and verie mockerie. 1611 B. JONSON *Catiline* i. i. 693 Consider first the starke securitie The common wealth is in now. *a* 1661 HOLYDAY *Juvenal* (1673) 182 To escape starke beggery. 1701 COLLIER *M. Anton.* (1726) 292 Let all this be done out of stark love and kindness. 1776 JOHNSON in Boswell *Life* an. 1728, *Boswell*: That, Sir, was great fortitude of mind. *Johnson*: No, Sir; stark insensibility. 1820 SHELLEY *Vis. Sea* 3 From the stark night of vapours the dim rain is driven. 1839 W. IRVING *Chron. Wolfert's Roost* (1855) 185 It was stark midnight before they landed at Communipaw. 1852 H. ROGERS *Eclipse of Faith* 373 [They were convinced] that the only orthodox belief in such a world was stark Atheism. 1898 F. T. BULLEN *Cruise 'Cachalot'* 333 When a stark calm left the surface of the bay as smooth as a river.

b. Qualifying an unfavourable appellation of a person: Arrant, thorough, unmitigated.

c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* v. (*John*) 401 He lefit þe bischope, & vent þan to sterk thefis. 1529 MORE *Dyaloge* II. Wks. 181/2 He..neuer can be cast out being a stark heretique. 1530 RASTELL *Bk. Purgat.* III. xv. 5 He shall be proved a very stark fole that wyll beleve that there is no purgatorye. 1545 ASCHAM *Toxoph.* i. (Arb.) 94 Yet if he giue it ouer, and not vse to shote..he shal become of a fayre archer, a stark squyrter and dribber. 1641 BROME *Joviall Crew* II, I mean stark, errant, downright Beggars, I, Without equivocation; Statute Beggars. *a* 1711 KEN *Serm.* Wks. (1838) 123 Beauty is often incident to stark fools. 1817 SHELLEY *Revolt Islam* xi. xii, 'Tis but a crowd of maniacs stark. 1877 TALMAGE *Serm.* 260 Before we make stark fools of ourselves, let us stop pressing this everlasting 'Why'.

6. = STARK NAKED.

1762 H. WALPOLE *Let. C'tess Ailesbury* 5 Mar., What dreadful discoveries will be made both on fat and lean! I recommend to you the idea of Mrs. Cavendish, when half-stark. 1817 SHELLEY *Revolt Islam* III. xiii, They bore me to a cavern..And one did strip me stark. 1885-94 BRIDGES *Eros & Psyche* March xxx, Behind came Tritons..Greenbearded, tail'd like fish, all sleek and stark. 1898 J. BUCHAN *John Burnet of Barns* III. vii. 255 Slowly..they began to disrobe themselves..till they stood before me..as stark as the day they were born.

fig. 1876 M. ARNOLD *Lit. & Dogma* 55 If all the law they were thinking of stood, stark and written, before their eyes already? 1891 HARDY *Tess* v, He felt the necessity of recommencing with a name..less commonplace than the two original bald stark words.

B. *adv.* (In 13th c. with advb. ending, †*sterke*.)

1. In a 'stark' manner; † firmly, strongly (*obs.*); strenuously, vigorously, 'hard'; boldly, stoutly.

c 1205 LAY. 16683 Samuel nom Agag..& lædde hine a þan cheping & lette hine swiðe sterke to ane stake binde. 1794 *Har'st Rig* lxv, Now kempen fo'k, they dinae lo'e They work sae stark. 1900 C. LEE *Cynthia in West* v. 82 One young chap asked a maid the question, and she said 'no', and said it brave and stark.

2. To the fullest extent or degree; absolutely, utterly, quite. Cf. STARK *a.* 5.

a. qualifying an adj., esp. *mad* (occas. *wild, wood*), *drunk, dumb*; also Naut. in *stark calm*. Also STARK NAKED, STARK NAUGHT.

This use seems to have begun with STARK BLIND, and to have arisen through taking *stark* in STARK DEAD as an intensive adverb. The adv. is often hyphened with the following adj., esp. when used attributively.

1489 SKELTON *Death Earl Northumbld.* 50 I say, ye comoners, why wer ye so stark mad? 1561 DAUS tr. *Bullinger on Apoc.* (1573) 125 Our Religion is true, and yours starke false. 1573 G. HARVEY *Letter Bk.* (Camden) 133 If the marke I not hitt Saye he is starke wood. 1579-80 NORTH *Plutarch, Lycurgus* (1595) 63 They forced them sometimes to drinke wine..till they had made them starke drunke. 1590 SHAKS. *Com. Err.* II. i. 59. 1593 G. HARVEY *Pierce's Super.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 235 Iwis hee mought haue spied a difference ..betwene raging, and starke-madd. 1593 NASHE *Four Lett. Conf.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 261 His conscience accuseth him, hee is stroke starke dumbe. *c* 1595 CAPT. WYATT *R. Dudley's Voy. W. Ind.* (Hakl. Soc.) 52 Havinge somtimes most soden gustes and againe in a moment beinge starke becalmed. 1596 SHAKS. *Tam. Shr.* I. i. 69. *Ibid.* III. ii. 55 His horse.. starke spoyl'd with the Staggers. 1620 DEKKER *Dream* 26 Ten thousand Salamanders (whose chill thawing Puts Bonfires out), their starke-stiffe lunges were gnawing. 1624 CAPT. SMITH *Virginia* v. 182 In the evening it grew starke calme. 1661 PEPYS *Diary* 23 Apr., We drank the King's health..till one of the gentlemen fell down stark drunk, and there lay. 1683 P. LORRAIN tr. *Muret's Rites of Funeral* 191 In his days it seem'd to be yet stark new. 1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* I. (Globe) 19 Going a fishing in a stark calm Morning. *a* 1721 PRIOR *Poems, Cromwell & Porter* 281 You may study among the Law givers without being stark wild about Ordinances and Proclamations. 1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* vi, But every body was, for the moment, stark-mad on the subject of Porteous. 1823 W. SCORESBY *Jrnl.* 390 It fell stark calm. 1870 MORRIS *Earthly Par.* II. III. 45 And, stark awake, with beating heart He put the hawthorn twigs apart.

b. qualifying *staring, raving* ppl. adjs., sometimes used quasi-*advb.*, esp. in *stark staring mad.*

In later use the collocation *stark staring* is often felt as a mere strengthening of *stark* adv. or adj.

1532 *Dice Play* A viij, *R.* Euery Player..payeth a Crowne ..towards the house charges. *M.* Ye may fare well of that price at the stark-staring stews. 1548 UDALL etc. *Erasm. Par. Luke* vi. 6-11 Thei are turned into stercke staryng madnesse. 1562 J. HEYWOOD *Prov. & Epigr.* P, I thinke it as good, by ought I can deuise, To be starke staryng blinde, as thus to haue eies. 1575 GASCOIGNE *Posies, Fruites Warre* cvii, The tide skarce good, the winde starke staring naught. 1648 J. BEAUMONT *Psyche* XII. xxxii, Stark raving she and roaring prov'd. 1693 DRYDEN *Persius* v. 212 Art thou of Bethlem's Noble College free? Stark, staring mad. 1734 FIELDING *Intriguing Chambermaid* II. vi. I find I am distracted! I am stark raving mad! 1788 WESLEY *Wks.* (1872) VI. 322 It is such stark-staring nonsense, as every man of sense ought to be utterly ashamed of. 1839 HOOD *Lost Heir* 23 Oh Lord! oh dear, my heart will break, I shall go stick stark staring wild! 1849 CUPPLES *Green Hand* viii. (1856) 71 One morning when Westwood and I went on deck, it was a stark staring calm. 1870 MISS BRIDGMAN *R. Lynne* I. xii. 189 He must be stark staring mad. 1894 MRS. H. WARD *Marcella* II. 263 The whole thing is stark staring lunacy.

† c. qualifying *tire, weary* vbs. (Cf. STARK *a.* 4.)

1553 T. WILSON *Rhet.* 75 Antisthenes made suche a long oracion, that he starke wer[i]ed all his hearers. *a* 1661 HOLYDAY *Juvenal* (1673) 146 Whiles he strives to perfect the boy, he starke tires himself.

d. qualifying an adv. or advb. phrase.

1668 SHADWELL *Sullen Lovers* II. i, O' my conscience thou art stark out of thy wits. 1863 KINGLAKE *Crimea* II. 307 No other light infantry men were thrown forward in their stead, and the whole body went stark on with bare front. 1899 'ZACK' [Gwendoline Keats] *On Trail* xvii. 148 I've half a mind to turn him stark out o' the house.

Stark (stāɹk), *v.* Also 6 **starck**, 6-7 **sterk**. [OE. *stearcian*, f. *stearc* STARK *a.* Cf. OHG. *starcên* to become strong.]

† 1. *intr.* To become stiff or rigid; to coagulate, solidify. *Obs.*

c 1000 *Gloss. Prud.* in *Germania* (1878) XI. 402/56 *Riget*, stearcode. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 1845 Þe stormes starked wit þe wind. *c* 1325 *Gloss. W. de Bibbesw.* in Wright *Voc.* 149 Les nerfs de bewor engurdisst [*gloss*] starken. 14.. *Pol., Rel., & L. Poems* (1903) 250 Wonne..þin hew dunnet: and þi sennewess starket. *c* 1530 *Judic. Urines* II. vi. 27 It causeth rigor Anglice starkyng and racchyng for colde. *a* 1618 SYLVESTER *Hymn of Alms* 185 Wks. (Grosart) II. 210 To stark for Cold, to starve for Food.

2. *trans.* To make stiff. *arch.*

1862 SIR H. TAYLOR *St. Clement's Eve* v. v. Wks. 1864 III. 198 Arise, if horror have not stark'd your limbs.

† 3. To strengthen, make stout or strong. *Obs.*

c 1470 HENRY *Wallace* XI. 892 And Iohn Wallang, was than schyreff off Fyff, Till Wallace past, starkyt him in that stryff. 1562 TURNER *Baths* 8 This bath..sterketh and streingtheneth verye muche the broken place.

Hence † **Starked** *ppl. a.*, hardened, stiffened.

c 1425 LYDG. *Horse, Goose & Sheep* 388 It..Causith men starkid bonys to recure; Dede synnewis restorith a-geyn to live.

Stark blind, *a.* Also *β.* 4-5 **start-**, **storte-**. [f. STARK *adv.* 2 (advb. use of STARK *a.* 4); an alteration of STAREBLIND (after STARK DEAD). The *β* forms are due to association with START-NAKED.] Quite blind. *lit.* and *fig.*

1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) III. 97 He put out his eiȝen in Reblata, and lad hym (so) in Babilon streiȝt blynde. [MSS. *α* and *γ* start blynde. Caxton & *β* stark blynde.] *a* 1400 *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* xxix. i. 70 Þei woxe start-blynde anon-riht. *c* 1400 *Sege Jerus.* 576 For þe doust & þe dyn.. alle..storte-blynde wexen. 1534 MORE *Comf. agst. Trib.* I. Wks. 1145/1 Christe..threw hym to the ground, and strake hym starke blynde. 1666 J. DAVIES *Hist. Caribby Isl.* 251 In the Streets they have met with many one-eyed, and many stark blind people. 1704 EVELYN *Diary* May, He was 86 years of age, stark blind, deafe, and memory lost. 1781 COWPER *Charity* 404 She sees a world stark blind to what employs Her eager thought.

Hence **Stark-blind** *v.*, to make stark blind.

a 1618 SYLVESTER *Tri. Faith* IV. ix, By Faith, Saint Paul stark-blinded Elymas.

Stark dead, *a.* [prob. orig. STARK *a.* (sense 4); afterwards taken as STARK *adv.* 2.] Quite dead. *lit.* and *fig.*

a 1375 *Joseph Arim.* 567 [He] Baar him doun of his hors and..strok him stark ded þat he sturede neuere. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* II. 105 Stark ded, his armes sprad, sche syh Hire lord flietende upon the wawe. 1470-85 MALORY *Arthur* XXI. iv. 847 Therwythall syr Mordred fyl starke deed to the erthe. *a* 1595 R. SOUTHWELL *Hundred Medit.* (1873) 221 The soul ..waxeth cold, and proud, and stark dead..when it is deprived of this Thy holy love. 1615 CROOKE *Body of Man* 420 When I came, I found the man starke dead. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Damps*, The Maid going down to call her Master, found them all in their digging Postures: but stark dead.

† b. of night. *Obs.*

1602 MARSTON *Antonio's Rev.* III. i, Tis now starke deade night.

Starken (stāɹ'k'n), *v.* [f. STARK *a.* + -EN 5.

The forms *sturken, storken* (Yorkshire dial.: see quot. 1862 in sense 1) represent a different though cognate word, a. ON. *storkna*, referred to under STARK *a.*]

1. *intr.* = STARK *v.* 1.

14.. *Pol., Rel., & L. Poems* (1903) 253/6 [Signs of Death.] His nese shal sharpen, & his skyn shal starken. 1563-83 FOXE *A. & M.* 1895/1 He..wyth the ryghte hande being somewhat starckned knocked vpon his brest softly. 1664 POWER *Exp. Philos.* I. 38 Which..was their nutrimental juice coagulated there, like the bloud starkn'd in the veins of dead Animals. 1862 C. C. ROBINSON *Dial. Leeds* 420 *Starken, Sturken, Storken*, to stiffen. Boiled treacle or rendered fat 'starkens' as it cools. 1876 T. S. EGAN tr. *Heine's Atta Troll* 146 They now lie mute and like unto the dead, Starkened and cold.

2. *trans.* To make stark or inflexible.

1842 SIR H. TAYLOR *Edwin the Fair* IV. iv. Wks. 1864 II. 103 If thy lust of kiggly power Outbid thine other lusts, and starken thee In grasping of that shadow of a sceptre That still is left thee.

† **Sta·rkle**, *v. Obs.* Forms: 6 **starcle, starkel**, 7 **starckle**, 6-7 **starkle**. [app. a variant of STARTLE *v.*] *intr.* To make a stir; to use threatening gestures; to show signs of fear, quake, be afraid.

1527 *Caxton's Trevisa* II. xii. 69 b, That bole hete Apis that was wonte to come out of ye Riuer Nylus & warne by his pleyng and starclynge [L. *gesticulatione sua*; Trevisa and Caxton startelynge] what was to comynge. 1544 H. STALBRYDGES *Epistle* 25 Yowe sturdye strouggelers wyll somwhat starkle at thys my homelye wrytynge, yet shall not that make me leaue of. 1550 BALE *Eng. Votaries* II. 93 b, Than stirt up Becket, and starkeled lyke a lyon, sekynge..to brynge the kynge vndre. 1550 — *Image Both Ch.* Pref. (1560) B b, The boystouse tyrauntes of Sodoma..wyll sturre about them...Oure worldlye wyse brethren also, which are neither hote nor colde, wyl starcle a course at the matter. 1571 GOLDING *Calvin on Ps.* lxxi. 7. 265 b/2 Although men starkled at him as at a monster [*quamvis instar prodigii execrati sint eum homines*]. 1600 HOLLAND *Livy* II. xli. 71 This act of his made diuerse of the senatours..to starkle for feare of hazarding their estate. 1609 — *Ammi. Marcell.* XIV. ii. 6 Intelligences thereof continually given one after another had made Gallus Cæsar to starckle. *a* 1624 M. SMITH *Serm.* (1632) 72 If those condemne you for altering of your course, I cannot blame you to starkle.

† **Sta·rkled**, *a. Obs. rare*—1. [f. **starkle* v. (f. STARK *a.* + -LE; cf. STARKEN *v.*) + -ED 1.] Of the blood: Congealed.

1628 *Robin Good-fellow* II. (Percy Soc.) 23 [Robin, as a night-raven to an old usurer.] I doe come to doe thee good; Recall thy wits and starkled blood.

† **Sta·rkly**, *a. Obs.* In 3 **sterclich, starclich**. [f. STARK *a.* + -LY.1] Violent, fierce.

c 1205 LAY. 25330 And astured weoren Romweren alle mid sterclichere wræððe. *c* 1275 — 7505 And hii him to wende mid star[c]liche [*c* 1205 ladliche] fihte. *Ibid.* 23956 Mid starcliche maine [*c* 1205 mid feondliche lechen].

Starkly (stāɹ'kli), *adv.* Forms: 2 **stearclice, sterckliche**, 3 **sterk-, stærc-, sterc-, starc-, starchliche, starliche, -lige**, 5-6 **starklie, (6 starkli, starckly, starkely)**, 4- **starkly**. [f. STARK *a.* + -LY 2.]

† 1. Stoutly, boldly; strongly, powerfully; strenuously; harshly, sternly. *Obs.*

c 1100 *O. E. Chron.* (MS. D.) an. 1016, Þa gewende se here to Lundenne & þa buruh utan ymbesæton & hyre stearclice on feaht æȝðær ȝe he wætere ȝe he lande. *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 121 Summe þer weren þet his eȝan bundan and hine on þet neb mid heore hondan stercliche beoten. *c* 1205 LAY. 21178 Nu fusen we hom to, & stærcliche [*c* 1275 starlige] heom leggen on. *a* 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 717 Þeos meiden ..stod, þurh þeos steuene starcliche istrenget. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* XXIII. (*Seven Sleepers*) 128, & þai cane ete, to ma þame stark, confort to get to þat end, and in entent þat starklyare to thole þe torment. *c* 1480 HENRYSON *Test. Cress.* 280, I say this by ȝone wretchit Cresseid, The quhilk ..Me and my Mother starklie can reprufe. 1520 M. NISBET *N. T. Scots* Acts xix. 20 So starkli the word of God waxit, and was confermyt. *a* 1578 LINDESAY (Pitscottie) *Chron. Scot.* (S.T.S.) I. 281 Bot his freindis advertissit thairof watchit starklie that night. 1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* II. 305 The Castel of Dunbar starklie, and stoutlie suld be defendet with the ffrenche wappounes. *a* 1802 *Jamie Telfer* XXVIII. in Scott *Minstrelsy* I. 86 The Scots they rade, the Scots they ran, Sae starkly and sae steadilie. 1816 SCOTT *Old Mort.* xix, Was ever wight so

starkly made But time and years would overthrow? 1900 C. MURRAY *Hamewith* 51 An' starkly did he gie him 't back.

2. Stiffly, rigidly.

1523-34 FITZHERB. *Husb.* § 65 There be beastes, that wyll haue the goute..in the hynder fete, and it wyll cause them to halt, and go starkely. 1557 PHAER *Æneid* VII. (1558) V ij, And euery feeld with swordes vpright, As stubble starckly stands. 1603 SHAKS. *Meas. for M.* IV. ii. 70 *Pro.* Where's Barnardine. *Cla.* As fast lock'd vp in sleepe, as guiltlesse labour, When it lies starkly in the Trauellers bones. 1828 CARR *Craven Gloss., Starkly*, stiffly. 1870 B. HARTE *Luck of Roaring Camp* 5 The low bunk..on which the figure of the mother was starkly outlined below the blankets. 1871 R. ELLIS *Catullus* lxvii. 6 A corpse outstretch'd starkly.

b. Tightly, firmly.

1818 BYRON *Mazeppa* xvi, With feeble effort still I tried To rend the bonds so starkly tied. 1820 SHELLEY *Hymn Merc.* lxx, The withy bands, though starkly interknit, Fell at the feet of the immortal child.

3. Barely, nakedly.

1850 MERIVALE *Rom. Emp.* lv. (1865) VII. 49 Many noble trees were stripped of their branches under the Caesars as starkly as the Caesars themselves. 1913 *Blackw. Mag.* Sept. 309/2 The place was starkly furnished.

Stark naked, *a.* (and *sb.*) [f. STARK *adv.* 2; altered from the earlier START-NAKED.]

1. Of a person: Absolutely without clothing.

1530 PALSGR. 842/1 Starke bely naked, *tout fin mere nud.* ..Starke naked, *tout fin nud.* 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 356 They left them starcke naked. 1606 SHAKS. *Ant. & Cl.* v. ii. 59 Rather on Nylus mudde Lay me starke-nak'd. 1771 ROBERTSON *Hist. Amer.* (1778) I. 474 Both sexes go stark-naked. 1840 R. H. DANA *Bef. Mast* xvi. 44 The little children were running about among the huts, stark naked. 1913 SIR H. JOHNSTON *Pioneers Australia* vii. 227 These stark-naked savages.

b. *transf.* and *fig.*

1601 SHAKS. *Twel. N.* III. iv. 274 Therefore on, or strippe your sword starke naked. 1712 STEELE *Spect.* No. 268 ₱ 9, I came to my Mistress's Toilet this Morning, for I am admitted when her Face is stark naked. 1765 H. WALPOLE *Let. to Miss A. Pitt* 25 Dec., The rest of the room is stark naked. 1779 WARNER in Jesse *Selwyn & Contemp.* (1844) IV. 246 A great stark-naked *new house on an eminence*, without a morsel of anything green about it. 1881 *Athenæum* 27 Aug. 267/2 This is the essential difficulty, stated in its simplest and stark-naked form. 1895 *Dialect Notes* (Amer. Dial. Soc. 1896) I. VIII. 379 *Naked, starknaked*: of tea without milk or sugar,—pure, undiluted.

2. *sb.* Unadulterated spirit; esp. raw gin. *slang.*

1820 J. H. REYNOLDS *Fancy* (1906) 83 To take of Deady's bright stark naked A glass or so. 1830 LYTTON *Paul Clifford* iv, His 'bingo' was unexceptionable; and as for his stark-naked, it was voted the most brilliant thing in nature. 1860 *Hotten's Slang Dict.* 227 *Stark-naked*,..raw gin.

Stark naught, *a.* Now *rare* or *arch.* [STARK *adv.* 2.] Utterly worthless or valueless; †utterly bad, vicious, hurtful, etc. (see NAUGHT *a.*).

a 1543 BECON *David's Harp* Wks. 1564 I. 150 b, He is none of those, that say all is well, when altogyther is starke nought. 1577 GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* I. (1586) 20 b, But long vse of it, in the ende bringes the grounde to be starke nought. 1607 *Lingua* II. i, Ah heres a youth starke naught at a trench, but old dog at a trencher. 1647 FULLER *Good Th. in Worse T.* 78 No man can be starke naught at once. Let us stop the progresse of sin in our Soule at the first Stage. 1658 A. FOX tr. *Wurtz' Surg.* III. xiii. 258 This abuse is partly committed, by stitching, which is stark nought to be used here. 1738 SWIFT *Pol. Conversat.* II. 163, I have heard 'em say, that too good is stark naught. 1741 RICHARDSON *Pamela* I. 213 But both [Letters] are stark naught, abominably bad. *Ibid.* II. 76 No, said he, I have been stark naught, and it is she, I hope, will be very forgiving. 1808 BENTHAM *Sc. Reforms* 48 The self-same mode of procedure or ..the self-same courts, are stark naught for a debt of 5*l.* 1*s.* 1840 THACKERAY *Paris Sk. Bk.* (1869) 43 All the good its students have done, as students, it is stark naught. 1882 *Times* 6 Feb., But these influences..are stark naught to those [etc.].

†**b.** as *sb.* Something utterly worthless. *Obs.*

1562 TURNER *Herbal* II. 105 But they [*sc.* plums] that ar litle ones and harde and harrish tarte ar sterk noughts.

Starkness (stā·ɹknés). [f. STARK *a.* + -NESS.]

1. Rigidity, stiffness (of the body or limbs).

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 472/2 Starkenesse (or styfnesse) *rigor, rigiditas, artitudo.* 1544 PHAER *Regim. Life* (1560) R vj b, Of the stifnes or starckenes of limmes. 1627 [R. BERNARD] *Guide to Grand Jury Men* I. ii. 17 With a generall starknesse and stiffenesse. 1846 TRENCH *Mirac.* XXVII. (1862) 368 *note*, The stiffness and starkness, the unnatural rigescence of the limbs in the accesses of the disorder. *a* 1893 CHRISTINA ROSSETTI *Verses* 135 Night for the dead in their stiffness and starkness!

†**2.** ? 'Stark' or utter privation. *Obs.*

1544 BETHAM *Precepts War* I. lxxvii. E j b, His souldiours ..were wyllynge to fyght, fastyng and undyned: wherby the mooste parte of them clunged for colde, was rather by starknesse of meat, than by ye violence of theyr enemies slayne. 1616 J. LANE *Contn. Sqr.'s T.* VI. 86 So tooke hee order how his campe and shipps shoold bee revictualld, ear them starcnes nipps.

3. Sternness, harshness. *arch.* (See STARK *a.* 2 b.)

1884 M. CRIGHTON *Hist. Ess.* VIII. (1902) 248 He[William I] let men feel his starkness by his remorseless barrying of the north.

4. Absoluteness, utterness.

1641 MILTON *Animadv.* Wks. 1851 III. 220 How should wee have yeelded to his heavenly call, had we beene taken, as they were, in the starknes of our ignorance. 1849 H. ROGERS *Ess.* (1860) III. 252 Those legislative pedants.. who would propose to give New Zealanders and Hottentots in the starkness of their savage ignorance, the complex forms of the British Constitution.

5. Bareness, nakedness.

a 1849 MANGAN *Poems* (1859) 415 The rocks with their steepness, And the earth with its starkness. 1896 MRS. CAFFYN *Quaker Grandmother* 101 It would go hard with her before that thought, with anything of the starkness of fact about it, could so much as enter into her mind.

Starky (stā·ɹki), *a. dial.* [f. STARK *a.* + -Y.] Stiff and hard; not pliable or workable.

1697 R. PIERCE *Bath Mem.* II. v. 312 His Hands would be as hard, dry and starky, as if he had wrought for his Living, at Cleaving of Wood. *a* 1722 LISLE *Husb.* (1757) 50 If the ground be dry and starky,..so much the better. *Ibid.* 426 Wool..when three years old..grows starkey and dry, and will not lie smooth in the spinning. 1787 GROSE *Prov. Gloss., Starky*, dry, shrivelled up. 1863 WISE *New Forest* 287 Gloss., *Starky*, used particularly of land which is stiff or unworkable, especially after rain.

†**Starle, starl.** *Obs.* [? Dim. of STARE *sb.*[1] Cf. G. dial. *starl, stärl.*] A starling.

1555 GESNER *Hist. Anim.* III. 715 Sturnus auis..Anglicum a sterlyng, a starll, a stare. 1562 WITHALS *Dict.* 5/1 A stare or starle, *sturnus.*

Starless (stā·ɹlés), *a.* [-LESS.]

1. Destitute of stars or starlight; having no stars visible.

1390 GOWER *Conf.* III. 119 This Bole is ek with sterres set, Thurgh whiche he hath hise hornes knet Unto the tail of Aries, So is he noght ther sterreles. 1638 COWLEY *Love's Riddle* 1, Though I were blacker then a starlesse night. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* III 425. 1728 MALLET *Excursion* I. 288 Night by Night, beneath the starless Dusk. 1818 BYRON *Mazeppa* v, With starless skies my canopy. 1877 'RITA' *Vivienne* III. ix, The sky was black and starless.

2. In nonce-uses. **a.** Having no star or badge of honour on the breast. **b.** Not made into a star, having no star named after oneself. **c.** Not born under a good or favourable star, luckless.

1814 BYRON *Frag. Ep. T. Moore*, The Czar..wore but a starless blue coat. 1853 D. JERROLD *Chron. Clovernook* Wks. 1864 IV. 403 Bacchus,..with all his great bounty, is starless and unhonoured. 1873 DIXON *Two Queens* I. Pref., Two crowned and starless women.

Hence **Sta·rlessly** *adv.*, **Sta·rlessness.**

1842 *Tait's Mag.* IX. 726 Night sternly and starlessly appears. 1888 MEREDITH *Poems, Hard Weather* 103 Nor in her starlessness of night Peruse her with the craven nerve.

Starlet (stā·ɹlét). [-LET.]

1. A small star. Also *transf.* of a flower.

1830 CARLYLE *Richter Again* Ess. 1840 II. 363 The evening-star..hovers..above the rosy red, and, modest as a bride, deprives no single starlet of its light. 1863 H. SPENCER *Ess.* II. 8 Nebulæ may be comparatively near, though the starlets of which they are made up appear extremely minute. 1881 BLACKIE *Lay Serm.* vii. 224 The smallest yellow starlet that peeps out from a grassy carpet in the spring.

2. A star-fish of the genus *Asterina.*

1854 A. ADAMS etc. *Man. Nat. Hist.* 325 Full grown Starlets (Asterina). 1863 WOOD *Illustr. Nat. Hist.* III. 732 Gibbous Starlet, *Asterina gibbosa.*

Sta·r-light, sta·rlight, *sb.* and *a.*

1. The light of the stars; *occas.* the time when the stars shine.

c 1374 CHAUCER *Boeth.* II. met. iii. (1868) 39 Þan þe sterre ydimmyd paleþ hir white cheres, by þe flamus of þe sonne þat ouer comeþ þe sterre lyȝt. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* II. 259 Upon a nyht, Whan ther was noght bot sterrelíht. 1565 COOPER *Thesaurus*, s. v. *Tenebræ*, The sterre light did put away darkenesse. 1590 SHAKS. *Mids. N.* II. i. 29 By fountaine cleere, or spangled star-light sheene. 1634 MILTON *Comus* 308 In such a scant allowance of Star-light. *a* 1637 B. JONSON *Sad Sheph.* II. iii, A Gypsan Ladie..Wrought it by Moone-shine for mee, and Star-light. 1670 EACHARD *Cont. Clergy* 90 An hardy and labouring clergy..that can foot it five or six miles in the dirt, and preach till star-light for as many shillings. 1799 HT. LEE *Canterb. T., Old Woman's T.* (ed. 2) I. 387 They at length emerged to star-light and the open country. 1840 R. H. DANA *Bef. Mast* xxix. 99 At work, from the grey of the morning till starlight. 1914 *Blackw. Mag.* Aug. 176/2 He went all night to the southward by starlight only.

b. *transf.* and *fig.*

1530 TINDALE *Prol. Levit.*, And though also that all the ceremonies and sacrifices haue as it were a sterrelyght of Christ, yet some there be that haue as it were the lighte of the brode daye a litle before the sonne risinge. 1600 FAIRFAX *Tasso* IX. lxxxvi, He saw waxe dim the starre-light of his eies.

2. A cluster of artificial lights arranged in the form of a star.

1884 *Baptist Yr.-Bk.* 357 Star-lights and brackets supply good artificial lighting.

3. *attrib.* and *adj.* Of or pertaining to starlight; bright as the stars; appearing or accompanied by starlight; lighted by the stars. [? Partly f. LIGHT *a.*[2]]

1585 HIGINS *Junius' Nomencl.* 375/2 A cleare and starre-light night. 1665 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* (1677) 174 It is due North from Spahawn, as we observed in our star-light travel. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* I. 548 A Star-light Evening, and a Morning fair. 1803 VISCT. STRANGFORD *Poems of Camoens, Madrigal* (1810) 41 Starlight eyes, and heaving snows. 1819 BYRON *Juan* II. clxxxviii, The silent ocean, and the starlight bay. 1852 MRS. STOWE *Uncle Tom's C.* xvii. 163 The night was clear starlight. 1869 DUNKIN *Midnight Sky* 22 These two stars being never absent from our view on starlight nights.

Sta·r-lighted, *ppl. a.* [f. STAR *sb.* + LIGHTED *ppl. a.* after STAR-LIGHT *sb.*] Star-lit.

1825 J. NEAL *Bro. Jonathan* I. 30 They run about laughing and shouting in the star-lighted wood. 1855 DICKENS *Holly Tree* Christm. Stor. (1874) 22 The bleak, star-lighted sky. 1895 KIPLING *2nd Jungle Bk.* 213 His voice could be heard in all sorts of wet star-lighted blossoming places.

Star-like, *a.* and *adv.* **A.** *adj.*

1. Resembling a star; shining like a star.

1591 HARINGTON *Orl. Fur.* XXXV. ii, Those two starrlike eyn. 1611 COTGR. s. v. *Estoille, Pierre d'estoilles*, a..Carbuncle, wherein..many golden, sparkling, and starre-like drops may be discerned. 1652 [see SKY-LIKE]. 1860 PIESSE *Lab. Chem. Wonders* 3 This touch-wood..will shine with a star-like light. 1870 BRYANT *Iliad* XVI. 173 The breastplate of the swift Æacides With star-like points.

b. *transf.* and *fig.*

1607 SHAKS. *Timon* v. i. 66 What, to you, Whose Starre-like Noblenesse gaue life and influence To their whole being? 1833 TENNYSON *Dream Fair Wom.* XXIII, She turning on my face The star-like sorrows of immortal eyes. 1883 *Mrs. Carlyle's Lett.* II. 274 With a certain star-like radiance and grace. 1884 *Christian World* 21 Feb. 139/5 This star-like serenity in all the tumult of his stormy life.

c. Countless as the stars. *nonce-use.*

1630 [see *sand-like* s. v. SAND *sb.*[2] 9 e].

2. Shaped like a conventional star; stellate, radiate.

1611 COTGR., *Estoillé*, the Lizard Stellio, whose necke is full of starre-like spots. 1633 JOHNSON *Gerarde's Herbal* II. xcvi. (1636) 418 At the top whereof stand many pretty starre-like skinny seed-vessels. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s. v. *Hair*, The quills of the hedge-hog and porcupine have somewhat of a pith in a starlike form. 1847 C. BRONTE *Jane Eyre* XXXIV, A soft turf,..spangled with a star-like yellow blossom. 1906 HICKSON in *Hartog's Protozoa* etc. (Camb. Nat. Hist.) 332 The position of the zooids in the colony is indicated only by star-like holes.

B. *adv.* Like a star.

1613 SHAKS. *Hen. VIII*, V. v. 47 So shall she leaue her Blessednesse to One..Who, from the sacred Ashes of her Honour Shall Star-like rise. *a* 1678 CHALKHILL *Thealma & Clearchus* 104 So Star-like bright they shone. 1725 *Bradley's Family Dict.* s. v. *Saffron* (*Bastard*), This Plant produces staring Heads..with some Leaves, opening underneath Star-like. 1842 TENNYSON *Sir Galahad* 48 As down dark tides the glory slides, And star-like mingles with the stars.

Starling[1] (stā·ɹliŋ). Forms: 1 **stærlinc,** 4–5 **sterling(e, -yng(e,** 5–6 **starlinge,** 5–6, 7–8 *Sc.* **stirling,** 6 **starlyng,** *Sc.* **stirlene, styrlyng,** 7 **sterling,** 4– **starling.** Also *dial.* STARNEL. [OE. *stærlinc*, f. *stær* STARE *sb.*[1]: see -LING[1].]

1. Any bird of the passerine genus *Sturnus*, esp. *S. vulgaris.* Now also applied in wider sense to any bird of the family *Sturnidæ.*

a 1050 *Gloss.* (MS. Harl. 107) in *Zeitschr. für deutsches Alterth.* XXXIII. 241 Stærlinc, *sturnus.* *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 1789 Þe sparhauk flough be þe sterling [*Gött.* starling]. *c* 1325 *Gloss. W. de Bibbesw.* in Wright *Voc.* 151 Soundre de porks et d'estourneus [*glossed* sterlinges]. *c* 1450 HOLLAND *Howlat* 713 The Maviss and the Merle syngis, Osillis and Stirlingis. *c* 1450 *Merlin* ix. 135 Thei smote in a-monge hem as faucouns amonge starlinges. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* XII. Prol. 238 The styrlyng changis diuers stevynnys nys. 1549 *Compl. Scot.* vi. (1873) 39 The garruling of the stirlene gart the sparrou cheip. 1596 SHAKS. 1 *Hen. IV*, I. iii. 224 Ile haue a Starling shall be taught to speake Nothing but 'Mortimer'. 1667–8 PEPYS *Diary* 1 Mar., A starling which ..do whistle and talk the most and best that ever I heard anything in my life. 1670 EACHARD *Cont. Clergy* 86 Then, after all this, came the jackdaws and sterlings (idle birds that they are!). 1724 RAMSAY *Tea-t. Misc.* (1733) II. 137 Of all the birds..I far prefer the stirling's notes. 1768 STERNE *Sent. Journ.* (1778) II. 25 (Hotel at Paris), 'I can't get out', said the starling. 1880 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* IV. 103 The Starlings are found only in the Old World, where they form a very large and natural Group. 1880 W. CARNEGIE *Pract. Trapping* 40 It is not generally known what a delicious bird the starling is to eat. 1894–5 LYDEKKER *Roy. Nat. Hist.* III. 343 Starlings..all agree in possessing a wing with five primary quills, and twelve tail-feathers.

b. With prefixed word designating a particular species, genus, or group belonging to the family *Sturnidæ.*

1734 ALBIN *Nat. Hist. Birds* II. 38 The yellow Starling from Bengall. 1743 G. EDWARDS *Nat. Hist. Birds* I. 19 The Chinese Starling or Black-Bird. 1821 BEWICK *Brit. Birds* Suppl. I. 14 The Rose Coloured Starling. 1829 GRIFFITH tr. *Cuvier* VII. 37 The..collared stare, Persian starling, and Alpine warbler. 1869–73 T. R. JONES *Cassell's Bk. Birds* I. 227 The Sardinian Starling (*Sturnus unicolor*). *Ibid.* The Rose Starling or Shepherd-bird (*Pastor roseus*). *Ibid.* 232 The Glossy Starlings (*Lamprotornithes*). *Ibid.* 234 The True Glossy Starlings (*Lamprocolii*). 1898 MORRIS *Austral Eng.* 435 The Shining Starling, *Calornis metallica.*

c. Applied to birds of the American family *Icteridæ.*

1731 CATESBY *Nat. Hist. Carolina* (1754) I. 13 The red-wing'd Starling. 1839 AUDUBON *Ornith. Biog.* V. 487 Red-winged Starling, *Icterus phœniceus.* 1869–73 T. R. JONES *Cassell's Bk. Birds* I. 215 The Yellow or Golden Starlings.

2. A kind of pigeon. Also *starling-pigeon.*

1867 TEGETMEIER *Pigeons* XXI. 174 The Starlings are dark-coloured birds, white barred, with a speckled, crescent-shaped band across the crop. 1881 LYELL *Pigeons* 97 The Starling pigeon is a Continental variety, and in Germany it goes by the name of Der Staarenhals, or the starling neck. *Ibid.* 98 With age the starling often loses its marking to a great extent.

3. (See quot.)

1884 GOODE *Nat. Hist. Aquat. Anim.* 267 *Boregata* (*Hexagrammus Stelleri*)...The name 'Starling' is applied to some fish, supposed by us to be this species, in the Straits of Fuca.

4. *slang.* (See quot.)

a 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew, Brother-starling*, that Lies with the same Woman.

5. *Comb.* as *starling-breasted, -like*, adjs.

1855 *Poultry Chron.* III. 272 The starling-breasted pigeon. 1880 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* IV. 102 The first family of the starling-like perching birds. The Weaver Birds (*Ploceidæ*).

Starling[2] (stā·ɹliŋ). Forms: 8 **steerling, stirling,** 8–9 **sterling,** 7– **starling.** [Possibly a

corruption of STADDLING.] An outwork of piles, projecting in front of the lower part of the pier of a bridge, so as to form a protection for the pier against the force of the stream or to secure it from damage by the impact of vessels or floating objects.

c 1684 *Old Ballads Gt. Frost* (Percy Soc.) 29 And on the starlings [was] kept the brandy trade. 1714 MACKY *Journ. Eng.* I. xiii. 192 Arches..fenced with large Sterlings for the keeping off the Force of the Tide. 1724 DE FOE *Tour Gt. Brit.* I. III. 124 The Islands of Scilly..are plac'd like Outworks to resist the first Assaults of this Enemy [the ocean] ..as the Piles or Starlings (as they are call'd) are plac'd before the solid Stone-work of London-bridge, to fence off the Force, either of the Water or Ice, or [etc.]. 1739 LABELYE *Short Acc. Piers Westm. Bridge* 42 There must be..a necessity of building Steerlings to preserve the Piers. 1773 NOORTHOUCK *Hist. Lond.* 561 The passage under the arches [of old London Bridge] was contracted by enormous platforms, built round the decaying piers, called sterlings. 1776 G. SEMPLE *Building in Water* 49 We laid three Beams stretching the whole Length of the Pier from Sterling to Sterling. 1778 H. BOWMAN *Trav.* 337 The stream still more streightened by starlings filled with large stones placed round the bottoms of the peers. 1840 *Civil Engin. & Arch. Jrnl.* III. 106/2 Piers and..ponts or chests..made salient at each end like the starlings of a bridge. 1878 STEVENSON *Inland Voy.* 17 They perched upon sterlings and buttresses. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* IV. 405 The starling is that portion of the pier which faces the direction of the stream, and acts like the cutwater of a ship.

Starling[3] (stā·rlĭŋ). *nonce-wd.* [f. STAR *sb.*[1] + -LING.] An inhabitant of a star.

1839 BAILEY *Festus* xiv. (1848) 150 Thou shouldst have been a starling, friend, And not an earthling.

Starling, obs. form of STERLING.

Star-lit, starlit (stā·rlĭt), *ppl. a.* [LIT *ppl. a.*] Lit up or lighted by the stars.

1827–35 N. P. WILLIS *Confessional* 66 The bewitch'd caique, That o'er the star-lit waters flew. 1852 M. ARNOLD *Poems, Future* 47 When he lay in the night by his flock On the starlit Arabian waste. 1870 PROCTOR *Other Worlds* xii. 273 The whole of the star-lit sky.

Sta·r-litten, *ppl. a.* [LITTEN *ppl. a.*] = prec.

1895 KIPLING *2nd Jungle Bk.* 150 That dim, star-litten sky.

Starn, var. STERN *sb.*[2] *Obs.* and *dial.*, star.

Starnel (stā·nĕl). *dial.* [A metathetic form of STARLING[1]. Not from OE. *stearn* some bird, perh. the starling (gl. *beacita, sturnus*).] A starling.

a 1800 PEGGE *Suppl. Grose, Starnel*, a starling. North. 1856 P. THOMPSON *Hist. Boston* 725. 1888 FENN *Dick o' the Fens* 158 Look at the starnels sattling down on the reeds.

Sta·rnie. *Sc.* [f. *starn*, STERN *sb.*[2] + -IE.] A little star.

a 1774 FERGUSSON *Hallowfair* Poems (1845) 13 At Hallowmas when nights grow lang And starnies shine fu' clear. 1790 BURNS *'O death! thou tyrant'* xiv, Ye twinkling starnies bright. 1815 G. BEATTIE *John o' Arnha'* (1826) 12 Or modern Dux, wi' noddin' crest, An' starnies glancin' on his breast. 1833 *Chamb. Jrnl.* No. 69. 136 In nights when the starnies were brooding wi' frost.

‖ Starosta (sta·rŏstă). Pl. **starosti.** Also anglicized 6 **starust,** 8 **stahrost,** 7–9 **starost(e.** [Russian старость, Polish *starosta*, lit. 'elder'.]

1. In Russia, the head man of a village community.

1591 G. FLETCHER *Russe Commw.* x. 33 Besides these.. there are *Starusts* or Aldermen for euerie seuerall companie. 1796 MORSE *Amer. Geog.* II. 84 One family, whose chief.. performs the functions of staroste, or magistrate of the village. 1799 W. TOOKE *View Russ. Emp.* I. 460 Their elders, whom they still..style Starosts. 1810 E. D. CLARKE *Trav. Russia* (1839) 37/1 Any person arriving in a town or village, must produce his [passport] to the starosta. 1833 R. PINKERTON *Russia* 281 They..are governed by their own elders or starosti. 1901 *Scotsman* 5 Apr. 7/2 At Nijni Novgorod..the starosta, or chief of the village artel, comes to buy the supply of material.

2. In the former kingdom of Poland, a noble holding a castle and domain bestowed by the Crown.

1670 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 504/1 Major-General Bokumbs.. has been lately killed by a Peasant, who was hired to commit the murther by a Staroste. 1827 BOWRING *Specim. Polish Poets* 137 His father was the starost of Korytnik. 1896 *Cosmopolitan* XX. 445 She assures us that she and her sisters have the bearing 'becoming young ladies of high station, and daughters of a Staroste'.

‖ Starosty (sta·rŏsti). Also 8 **starostie,** 9 **starostee.** [ad. G. *starostei* or F. *starostie*, f. *starost* STAROSTA. The Polish word is *starostwo*.] In the former kingdom of Poland, the domain of a starosta.

1710 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4656/2 They write from Wilda..that the Chancellor Dewitz had taken Possession of the Starostie of Orsla. 1768 *Ann. Reg.* 19 Whole starosties, districts, towns, villages were sackt and burnt. 1774 *Ibid.* 20 She bestows upon him, in hereditary possession four starosties (which are governments of castles with the districts belonging to them). 1775 WRAXALL *Tour N. Europe* 378, I saw an original charter of Sigismund Augustus, dated in 1507, which grants it as a royal starosty to Andreas Gorsley. 1795 *Ann. Reg., Hist.* 6 The starosties, the name given to those lands and estates bestowed by the Crown upon individuals, for their public services or expenses. 1840 *Penny Cycl.* XVIII. 325/2 Starosts without jurisdiction, who were only holders of starostees, or crown estates.

Starr. *Hist.* Also 7 **starre, star.** [ad. med.L. *starrum*, ad. late Heb. שְׁטָר *sh'ṭār* a writing.] A Jewish deed or bond, esp. one of release or acquittance of debt.

1614 SELDEN *Titles Honor* 328 Whence the word *Starrum* or *Starre* for Acquitances or writen testimonies of Contracts is vsd. 1617 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* II. x. § 7 (ed. 3) 172 Any such Starres or Deeds. 1656 PRYNNE *and Pt. Short Demurrer Jews* 11 All their Deeds, Obligations, and Releases were usually called *Starrs*, and *Starra, Starrum, Starr.* 1875 J. T. FOWLER in *Yorks. Archæol. Jrnl.* III. 57 Starrs were written in Hebrew, Latin, or French. 1902 J. M. RIGG *Sel. Pleas*, etc. *Jews* Introd. p. xix, A starr of acquittance entitled the debtor to cancellation and delivery of the duplicate or 'foot' (pes) of the chirograph.

Starr(e, variant forms of STAR *sbs.* and *v.*

Starre, variant of STARE *sb.*[3] *Obs.*

Starred (stārd), *ppl. a.* Forms: 3 **stirred,** 4 **stared,** 4–5 **sterred,** 5 **sterrid,** -**yd,** 6 **stered,** *Sc.* **sterrit,** 6– **starred.** [f. STAR *sb.*[1] and *v.* + -ED.]

1. Of the heavens, the sky, etc.: Studded with stars, starry.

a 1225 *St. Marher.* 22 Þe gast anan riht steh up in to þe stirrede bur bliðe to heouene. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* III. 375 Enclosid in a sterred sky. *c* 1485 *Digby Myst.* I. 397 From the sterrid hevyn, lord, thu list come down. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* I. v. 55 The sterrit sky. 1610 BOLTON *Elem. Armories* 150 Azure being the colour of the starred heauen. 1794–6 COLERIDGE *Relig. Musings* 19 Nor the starred azure, nor the sovran sun. 1820 KEATS *Hyperion* I. 118 Upon all space: space starr'd, and lorn of light. 1883 MEREDITH *Lucifer in Starlight* I On a starred night, Prince Lucifer uprose.

2. Marked with the representation or figure of a star; studded or adorned with star-like figures. Of a horse or cow: Having a star on the forehead (see STAR *sb.*[1] 9 b).

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 1506 Nov is alle þis guere geten glotounes to serue; Stad in a ryche stal & stared ful bryȝt. *c* 1380 *Sir Ferumb.* 3987 Hastelich aȝen on ys stede he wond, þe sterrede he takeþ on ys hond, & leteþ hem bope renne. 1570 *Bury Wills* (Camden) 156 One blacke stered heckforde of the age of two yeres. 1681 GREW *Museum* III. § i. v. 305 The Starred-Stone. *Astroites.* So called, for that being tabulated, or polish'd to a plain, it appears adorned with little Stars. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* II. 355/1 A Starred Ray,..the fins and body is adorned with painted Stars. 1831 GRIFFITH tr. *Cuvier* IX. Syn. 4 Starred Tortoise, *Testudo Stellata.* 1854 A. ADAMS etc. *Man. Nat. Hist.* 356 Starred Corals (Caryophylliidæ).

† **b.** *Starred Chamber*: see STAR-CHAMBER.

† **c.** Epithet of an order of monks or friars.

Cf. COTGR. *Estoillins*, an Order of Friers, that weare starres on the breasts of their gownes.

1537 *Orig. & Sprynge of Sectes* 33 The order of Starred monkes...They weare an honest blacke garment with a starre sewed theron, wherby they maye be knowen. *Ibid.* Starred freres. 1563–83 FOXE *A. & M.* 154/2 Some Flagellants..: some starred Monkes.

d. Decorated with the star of an order.

1826 DISRAELI *Viv. Grey* II. xii, Gartered peers, and starred ambassadors. 1856 LEVER *Martins of Cro' M.* xxiv. 263 Your starred and cordoned agitator of the Bourse. 1900 E. WALLACE *Writ in Barracks* 113 O the starred and gartered Levee!

e. Marked or distinguished with an asterisk.

1893 *Daily News* 20 Dec. 5/7 Does the right hon. gentleman expect candidates to count 1,169 starred voters?

f. Of glass or ice: see quot. and STAR *v.* 5. Similarly of a radiating 'splash' of liquid.

1849 CRAIG, *Starred*,..cracked in the form of a star, as a starred bottle, or pane of glass. 1896 J. CONRAD *Outcast of the Islands* IV. iii, A single big drop of rain..struck loudly the dry ground between them in a starred splash.

3. Star-shaped; arranged in the form of a star; stellate. Chiefly *Bot.*

1725 *Bradley's Family Dict.* s.v. *Narcissus*, The most common in France are..the crennell'd, the yellow, the starr'd wild [etc.]. 1821 S. F. GRAY *Brit. Plants* I. 88 Hairs.. Starred, *stellati.* 1870 MORRIS *Earthly Par.* III. IV. 368 The first starred yellow blossoms of the spring. 1874 LADY HERBERT tr. *Hübner's Ramble* II. iv. (1878) 324 Maples with their fine starred leaves.

† **b.** *Starred wheel* = *star-wheel* (*b*), STAR *sb.*[1] 20.

1696 MANDEY & MOXON *Mech. Powers* IX. i. (1699) 176 A Starred Wheel is that whose Circumference is furnished with three sided Prismes having each side equal.

4. Influenced by the stars; born under a (lucky or unlucky) star. Only with defining adv., or in parasynthetic comb. with adj. (as ILL-STARRED).

1611 SHAKS. *Wint. T.* III. ii. 100 My third comfort (Star'd most vnluckily). 1786 BURNS *To Mountain-Daisy* vii, Such is the fate of simple Bard, On Life's rough ocean luckless starr'd! 1824 HOOD *Ode on Clapham Academy* 67 Some brightly starr'd,—some evil born. 1855 SINGLETON *Virgil* II. 434 O nations, happy starred.

5. Of a person: Made into a star or constellation; elevated to the region of the stars. (Cf. STAR *v.* 2.)

1632 MILTON *Penseroso* 19 That Starr'd Ethiope Queen [Cassiopeia]. 1832 LYTTON *Eugene Aram* V, vi, The confession..of a starred soul that had wandered from how proud an orbit. 1898 MEREDITH *Odes Fr. Hist.* 79 In the ranks of the starred, she is one.

6. Placed in or allocated to a star. *nonce-use.*

1742 YOUNG *Nt. Th.* IX. 777 Ye Starr'd, and Planeted, Inhabitants!

Starrer (stā·rəɹ). *local.* [f. STAR *v.* + -ER[1].] One who marks a material with stars.

1870 *Inquiry, Yorksh. Deaf & Dumb* 16 She is employed ..as a starrer, that is putting the roses in the corner of the blankets.

† **Sta·rrify,** *v. Obs. rare.* [f. STAR *sb.*[1] + -(I)FY. Cf. STELLIFY *v.*] *trans.* **a.** To mark with a star, decorate with stars. **b.** To make (a person) into a star or constellation.

1598 SYLVESTER *Du. Bartas* II. i. IV. *Handicrafts* 413 [Description of a horse] his fore-head starrifi'd. 1675 T. JORDAN *Triumphs of London* 11 A skie-colour'd Mantle starrifi'd with Gold. 1681 W. ROBERTSON *Phraseol. Gen.* 1160/1 Amalthæa..put it to Jupiter's mouth, for which he starrified his nurse.

Starrily (stā·rili), *adv. rare.* [-LY[2].] In a starry manner.

c 1825 BEDDOES *Bridal Serenade* Poems 180 Starrily clothed in a garment white. *a* 1849 MANGAN *Poems* (1859) 361 Garments so starrily shining.

Sta·rriness. *rare.* [-NESS.] Starry quality.

1727 BAILEY vol. II, *Starriness*, Fulness of Stars. 1830 *Blackw. Mag.* XXVII. 848 Let the heaven of thy imagination be spanned in its starriness by that most celestial Evanescence. 1879 MEREDITH *Egoist* V, She had money and health and beauty, the triune of perfect starriness, which makes all men astronomers. 1910 BRIDGES *Later Poems* No. 8 As she drifteth free Between the starriness of the air And the starry lea.

Starring (stā·rĭŋ), *vbl. sb.* [-ING[1].] The action of the verb STAR; *spec.* the acting or touring of a 'star' performer (in quots. *attrib.*).

1859 F. FOWLER *Southern Lights* 36, I heard that Mr. Brooke had netted upwards of 30,000*l.* during his 'starring' career in the colony. 1864 DASENT *Jest & Earnest* (1873) I. 180 In London, where the starring system prevails to a stifling extent, we have sometimes one good actor, supported, like a sweet pea, by sticks. 1868 MISS BRADDON *Dead Sea Fr.* XXVI. II. 287 He was the enchantress's *alter ego*,..arranging her starring engagements. 1882–3 SCHAFF *Encycl. Relig. Knowl.* II. 1358 He made a second starring-tour as rhetorician.

† **Sta·rrulet.** *Obs. rare*[–1]. [irreg. f. STAR *sb.*[1], after *annulet, rivulet.*] A little star.

1610 BOLTON *Elem. Armories* 123 But why haue you noted some with Asterisks or Starrulets? 1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.*, *Starrulet*, a little Star.

Starry (stā·ri), *a.* Forms: 4–5 **sterry,** 5 **sterri,** 6 **sterrie, starrye,** 6–7 **starrie,** 6– **starry.** [f. STAR *sb.*[1] + -Y.]

1. Of the sky, night, etc.: Full of stars, spangled or lit up with stars.

The phrases *starry heaven, sphere*, etc. were formerly used spec. = the 'sphere' of the fixed stars.

c 1374 CHAUCER *Boeth.* II. met. ii. (Camb. MS.) (1886) 24 As many rychesses as ther shynyn bryhte sterres in heuene on the sterry nyhtes. *c* 1403 LYDG. *Temple of Glas* 1100 Nou blisful goddes, doun fro þi sterri sete, Vs to fortune, caste 3our stremes shene. 1552 RECORDE *Cast. Knowl.* (1556) 7 The Firmament..hath in it an infinite numbre of starres, wherof it is called the Starrye skie. 1590 SHAKS. *Mids. N.* III. ii. 356 The starrie Welkin couer thou anon With drooping fogge. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* I. 208 Many times we lay in the field under the starry canopy. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* IV. 992 The Starrie Cope Of Heav'n. 1684 *Contempl. St. Man* II. i. (1699) 137 The only thickness of the starry Sphere is said to contain as much as the whole space betwixt that and the Earth. 1709 ADDISON *Tatler* No. 119 P 2 While you are admiring the Sky in a Starry Night. 1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) III. 417 The starry heaven which we behold.

fig. 1657 J. WATTS *Scribe, Pharisee* etc. III. 51 Those starry times of the Apostles, and those Sunshining dayes of Christ Jesus. 1864 SWINBURNE *Atalantæ* 1077 Shall they.. like flowers Be shed and shine before the starriest hours..?

2. Of or relating to the stars; consisting of stars.

1594 BARNFIELD *Affect. Sheph.* II. ix, By the bright glimmering of the Starrie light. 1645 W. LILLY (*title*) The Starry Messenger. 1651 DAVENANT *Gondibert* III. vi. 31 Night had put all her Starry Jewels on. 1700 MOXON *Math. Dict.* (ed. 2) s.v. *Solar*, The Sidereal or Starry year, is the space wherein the Sun comes back to any particular fixed Star. 1805 HERSCHEL in *Phil. Trans.* XCV. 58, I saw the asteroid, which in its true starry form has left the place where I saw it Sept. 29th. 1826 DISRAELI *Viv. Grey* III. vi, The bright moon with her starry court. 1878 NEWCOMB *Pop. Astron.* IV. ii. 461 The starry system.

b. Relating to, or caused by, the 'influence' of the stars.

1831 LYTTON *Godolphin* XXVII, We must do our best to contradict the starry evils by our own internal philosophy.

c. applied to an astronomer. *nonce-use.*

1818 BYRON *Ch. Har.* IV. liv, The starry Galileo.

3. Shining like a star or like stars, bright as a star, star-like.

1608 D. T[UVILL] *Ess. Pol. & Mor.* 101 Captivated by the powerfull attraction of their [*sc.* women's] starry looks. *c* 1630 MILTON *Passion* 18 His starry front low-rooft beneath the skies. 1636 SHIRLEY *Duke's Mistr.* IV. i. (1638) H 1 *b*, Bright in thy sorrowes, on whom every teare Sits like a wealthy Diamond, and inherits A Starry lustre from the eye that shed it. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* VII. 446 And th'other whose gay Traine Adorns him, colour'd with the Florid hue Of Rainbows and Starrie Eyes. 1757 GRAY *Bard* 112 Sublime their starry fronts they rear. 1866 LYTTON *Lost Tales of Miletus, Oread's Son* XVI. 96 The fountain stirred, And from it rose a mist of starry spray. 1867 AUGUSTA WILSON *Vashti* XXV, There was a dangerous, starry sparkle in her eyes.

fig. *c* 1610 *Women Saints* 103 This starrie gemme shall ere long be taken from vs into the Saints contrie. 1840 BROWNING *Sordello* I. 282 Rather, test qualities to heart's content; Summon them, thrice selected, near and far; Compress the starriest into one star. 1862 SWINBURNE *Sonn. to F. Nichol* 13 The starry spirit of Dobell.

4. Shaped like the conventional figure of a star with rays projecting from a centre; arranged in the form of a star; in *Bot.* = STELLATE.

1606 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. IV. II. *Magnif.* 662 The starry-flowers. 1629 PARKINSON *Paradisus* 132 The early blew starry Iacinth. 1755 J. ELLIS *Coralines* Introd. 12 Till the Polypes had extended themselves out of their starry Cells. 1782 COWPER *Charity* 552 Guns, halberts, swords, and pistols, great and small, In starry forms dispos'd upon the wall. 1794 KIRWAN *Min.* (ed. 2) I. 88 The striæ..diverging as from a

common center, or starry. 1873 LIVINGSTONE in Blaikie *Life* xxii. (1881) 440 Grasses with white starry seed-vessels.

5. Sprinkled or studded with star-like forms. Chiefly *Nat. Hist.*

†*Starry coral, stone* = STAR-STONE 2.

1611 COTGR., *Raye estelée*, the starrie Skate, the rugged Ray. 1653 R. SANDERS *Physiogn.* 56 If [this line of the Head] be starry towards the plain of Mars. 1661 BOYLE *Cert. Physiol. Ess.* (1669) 56 Eminent Chymists..have often failed in their endeavours to make the Starry Regulus of Mars and Antimony. 1677 PLOT *Oxfordsh.* 87 *Astroites* or starry-stones, such as in bulk are irregular, but adorned all over with many stars. 1681 GREW *Musæum* I. § ii. iii. 45 Stellio, or the Starry-Lizard. 1695 WOODWARD *Nat. Hist. Earth* IV. 177 The *Astroites*, or Starry-Stone, as well that sort with the Prominent, as that with the Concave Stars. 1712 J. MORTON *Nat. Hist. Northamptonsh.* 183 Some Sorts of Starry Coral. 1781 LATHAM *Gen. Synop. Birds* I. i. 79 Starry Falcon..marked with spots resembling stars. 1835 JENYNS *Man. Brit. Vertebr.* 517 *Raia radiata*, Don. (Starry Ray). 1861 *All Year Round* I June 237 Spring meadows starry with primroses. 1884 GOODE *Nat. Hist. Aquat. Anim.* 184 The Starry Flounder, *Pleuronectes stellatus*. 1884 COUES *N. Amer. Birds* 465 *Stellula*, Starry Hummers.

6. *Comb.*

1591 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* I. iv. 201 His azure wings, and Starry-golden tail. 1633 JOHNSON *Gerarde's Herbal* II. xcvi. (1636) 417 Starry headed small Water Plantaine. 1652 GAULE *Magastrom.* 66 The night..not cloudy, but starry-bright. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s. v. *Thistle*, The Calcitrapa, or starry-headed Thistle. 1814 SIR W. HERSCHEL *Sci. Papers* (1912) II. 526 Starry-nebulous patches.

Sta'r-shine, sta'rshine. = STAR-LIGHT.

1581 DEE *Diary* (Camden) 12 All the skye clere about, and fayre starshyne. 1830 TENNYSON *Oriana* 24 By star-shine and by moonlight. 1855 BROWNING *Last Ride* iii, Cloud, sunset, moonrise, star-shine too. 1883 *Century Mag.* XXVII. 39 A faint, diffused starshine came into the room like mist.

attrib. 1591 FLORIO *2nd Frutes* 165 This wilbe a faire moone and starre-shine night.

Sta'r-shot. In 7 **-shoot, -shut.** [SHOT *sb.*1 With sense 1 cf. WFris. *stjerreskot*, MDu. *sterrenschot* (Kilian), Du. *sterreschot*; Sw. *stjärnskott*, Da. *stjerneskud.* Gawin Douglas (1513) has 'sterne schot' = shooting star: see STERN *sb.*2]

1. A popular name for nostoc, which is supposed to fall from the stars, or to be the remains of a shooting star. ? *Obs.* (For other names see STAR *sb.*1 22 b.)

1653 *Goughe's Queen* I. B 3 b, Why, look, look ye, we are all made, or let me be stew'd in Star-shut. 1661 BOYLE *Cert. Physiol. Ess.* (1669) 175 That jelly that is sometimes found on the ground, and by the Vulgar call'd a Star-shoot, as if it remain'd upon the extinction of a falling Star. 1701–2 Star Shot Gelly [see NOSTOC]. 1768 PENNANT *Brit. Zool.* II. 424. 1804 BEWICK *Brit. Birds* II. 211. 1866 BROGDEN *Prov. Lincs.*

†**2.** A kind of chain-shot. *Obs.*

1769 FALCONER *Dict. Marine* (1789) Mm 2 [described].

Star-spangled, *ppl. a.* Spangled with stars.

1591 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* I. ii. 1172 Above the Heavn's Star-spangled Canopy. *a* 1593 MARLOWE *Ovid's Elegies* III. ix. [x.] 21 He who rules the worlds starre-spangled towers. 1647 C. HARVEY *Schola Cordis* xxxiii. 12 Thy piercing eye Whose light outvieth the star-spangled skie. 1777 POTTER *Æschylus, Agamem.* 234 Heaven's star-spangled plain. 1814 F. S. KEY (*title of song*) The Star-spangled Banner. 1896 BADEN-POWELL *Matabele Campaign* vi, And then you take a last look at the glorious star-spangled ceiling overhead.

Star-stone. [STAR *sb.*1]

1. A name for the pentagonal or star-shaped vertebral joints of pentacrinites.

1658 RAY *Itin.* Sel. Rem. (1760) 107 Hereabout [Shuckborough, Warw.] are found Star-Stones. 1666 MERRETT *Pinax* 211 *Astroites*, the Star-stone. 1673 RAY *Journ. Low C.* 116 Those they call Star-Stones (because they run out into five Angles like so many Rays as they use to picture Stars with). 1748 J. HILL *Hist. Fossils* 653 Nearly allied to the Entrochi and Volvulæ, are the Asteriæ or Star-stones, well known in most of the Northern counties of England. 1836 BUCKLAND *Geol. & Min.* (1837) I. 435 All the joints of the [vertebral] column [of Pentacrinites], when seen transversely, present various modifications of pentagonal star-like forms; hence their name of Asteriæ, or star-stones. 1908 [MISS E. FOWLER] *Betw. Trent & Ancholme* 36 We used to gather 'star stones', pentacrinites.

†**2.** A fossil coral studded with star-like forms. (Cf. STARRY *a.* 5.)

1668 CHARLETON *Onomast.* 262 *Astroites, Lapis Stellaris*, Germanis *Sternenstein*; the Star-stone (quia stellulis undiquaque insignitus nigricantibus). 1748 J. HILL *Hist. Fossils* 641 The *Astroites* or Star-Stone is ally'd also to these [corals]. 1755 J. ELLIS *Corallines* 102 The Polypes inhabiting the Corallines, Corals, Star-Stones,..and the like.

3. A precious stone which exhibits asterism; a star-sapphire or star-ruby.

1798 *Phil. Trans.* LXXXVIII. 448 When the reflection is compounded of rays which intersect each other, and appear to diverge from a common centre, I call them star-stones, as red, blue, or greyish star-stones, or star-sapphires. 1802 *Ibid.* XCII. 273 That beautiful reflection of light, in the form of a star with six rays, which is frequently given, by cutting, to oriental rubies, sapphires, &c. and which causes those stones to be then called by the name of *star-stones*.. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* II. 123/2 Star-stones. ..These gems are essentially crystallised alumina, and are known as star or asterias rubies or sapphires, according to their colour.

Start (stāɪt), *sb.*1 Forms: 1 **steort**, (3 **steort-in** comb.), 3–7 **stert**, 7 **stirt**, 4–6 **sterte**, 5 **storte**, 6 **starte**, 6– **start.** [Com. Teut.: OE. *steort* masc. corresponds to OFris. *stert*, *stirt* (WFris. *stirt*, NFris. *stört*), (M)LG. *stert*, MDu. *staert* (mod.Du. *staart*), OHG., mod.G. *sterz*, ON. *stert-r* (Sw. Da. *stjert*) :—OTeut. **sterto-z.*]

†**1.** The tail of an animal. *Obs.*

The explanation 'tail' is given in many dictionaries from the 17th c. onwards, and in many modern dialect glossaries, but app. only as an assumed general or primary meaning accounting for the specific senses and the use in *redstart.* Evidence of any modern currency of sense 1 is wanting.

c 725 *Corpus Gloss.* C 196 *Cauda*, steort. *c* 888 ÆLFRED *Boeth.* xxxv. § 7 Ceruerus..ongan onfæġnian mid his steorte & plegian wiþ hine. *c* 1220 *Bestiary* 9 Þe leun..Draġeð dust wiþ his stert. *a* 1300 *Havelok* 2823 Demden him to binden faste Vp on an asse..His nose went unto þe stert.

2. A handle (of a vessel, handbell, broom, etc.).

c 1325 *Gloss. W. de Bibbesw.* in Wright *Voc.* 168 *Le manuel e le tenoun*, [*glossed*] the handele and the sterte. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 474/2 Stert, of a handylle of a vessel, *ansa.* 1512 in *Archæologia* XLI. 344 For..mending yᵉ start of yᵉ sanctus bell ix d. 1521 *Test. Ebor.* (Surtees) V. 129 To ychon of my broder sonys a sylver spoyne with cuttid starttis. 1562 in J. R. Boyle *Hedon* (1875) App. 206 An olde panne with a start and a candelsticke. 1566 *Engl. Ch. Furniture* (Peacock 1866) 33 Item one handbell broken the start of yt and sold to Johnne Chamberlaine and he haith made a morter thereof. 1657 TOMLINSON *Renou's Disp.* 483 A Pottenger.. where-unto a long start..is suffixed. 1828 CARR *Craven Gloss., Start*, a handle, as 'beesom start'. 1862 C. C. ROBINSON *Dial. Leeds* 420 *Start*, the handle of a vessel. 'Pot-start.'

†**b.** The tail of a plough: = PLOUGH-START.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 474/2 Stert, of a plowe (or plowstert), *stiua* [printed *stina*]. 1530 PALSGR. 276/1 Stert of a plow, *queue de la chareue.*

†**3.** The footstalk of a fruit. *Obs.*

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 474/2 Stert, of an appull or oþer frute, *pediculus.* *c* 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* IV. 387 Or make a diche in long, and take a rynde As long as hit; in that the storte [*v.r.* stortes] doo Of pomgarnat. 1530 PALSGR. 276/1 Stert of frute, *queue de fruit.* 1600 SURFLET *Country Farm* III. l. 543 Choose the fairest sowre cherries..cutting off their starts at the halfe, and afterward boile them. 1672 HOOLE *Comenius' Vis. World* xiv. 30 The Cherry hangeth by a long start [*pediolo*].

†**b.** The stalk of a plant. *Obs. rare.*

1523–34 FITZHERB. *Husb.* § 20 Dernolde groweth vp streyght lyke an hye grasse, and hath longe sedes on eyther syde the sterte.

†**c.** The stem (of a candlestick). *Obs.*

1696 PATRICK *Comm. Exod.* xxv. (1697) 502 Here is nothing said of the foot of it [*sc.* the candlestick]...Nor doth he mention the length of the start or trunk.

†**4.** An outgrowth, a projecting point or spur; *esp.* a point of a stag's horn. *Obs.*

Perhaps this may belong to START *sb.*2

1575 TURBERV. *Faulconrie* 283 The second..shall serue to cawterise yᵉ nares without danger or hurt to yᵉ little stert yᵗ groweth vp in the midle of the nares. 1578 LYTE *Dodoens* I. lxiv. 93 The first Crowfoote..bringeth forth vpon each side of the leafe three or foure shorte startes or branches. 1623 COCKERAM, I. *s.v. Pollard*, Beame is that whereon the starts of the head growes. 1633 GERARD *Part. Descr. Somerset* (1900) 222 Ingotts of copper..rudely cast having on yᵉ back side some 5 sterts or points, some fewer. 1658 PHILLIPS, *Torch-Royal*,..the next start in a Stag's head growing above the Royal. 1721 BAILEY, *Brow-Antler*, the first Start that grows on the head of a Stag.

5. *Mech.* **a.** The innermost segment of the bucket of a water-wheel.

1547 *Rec. Elgin* (New Spalding Club 1903) I. 90 He cuttit thwa startis to ane mylln quhyll. 1611 COTGR., *Les rayeres d'un moulin à eau*, the armes, or starts of the wheele of a water-mill. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XVIII. 904/2 The bucket consists of a start AB, an arm BC, and a wrest CD, concentric with the rim. 1825 J. NICHOLSON *Oper. Mech.* 75 The partitions, which determine the form of the buckets, consist of three different planes or boards..; We have heard them called the start or shoulder, the arm, and the wrest. 1829 *Nat. Philos.* I. *Mech.* (U. K. S.) I. v. 20 This bucket is formed of three planes; AB is in the direction of the radius of the wheel, and is called the start, or shoulder.

b. The shaft or lever of a horse-mill.

1771 *Gentl. Mag.* XLI. 57 The upper end or spindle of the shaft..with a square tenon fixes into a mortice in the start or leaver..very securely by a crank of iron which is screwed upon this start. 1812 SIR J. SINCLAIR *Syst. Husb. Scot.* I. 75 A piece of wood was fixed to the beam, or what is commonly called the start of the mill, and the oxen were yoked to it by chains. 1812 HODGSON in Raine *Mem.* (1857) I. 101 The starts or shafts of the gin. 1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-mining* 238 *Start*, a lever for working a gin to which the horse is attached.

6. Comb. †**start-pan**, a pan with a handle; **start-post**, the arm carrying the float of a scoop-wheel used in draining; †**start-rope** (meaning obscure).

1459 *Paston Lett.* I. 489 Item, j. lytyll *start panne of sylver. 1888 W. H. WHEELER *Drainage Fens & Low Lands* v. 73 The rim is cast with sockets, in which are fixed with pins, oak arms, or '*start posts'. To the start posts are bolted boards. 1356 in *Pipe Roll* 32 *Edw. III* m. 34/1 Reddit compotum..de x. *stertropes, xliij.vptieghes, xliij bowlynes [etc.]. *Ibid* m. 34/2, j copula de baksteys, i sterterope.

Start (stāɪt), *sb.*2 Forms: ? 3, 4–6 **stert(e, 5 stertte, stirt, 6 styrt, 5–6 styrte, starte, 6 startte, 6– start.** [f. START *v.*]

†**1.** A short space of time, a moment. Often used adverbially. *Obs.*

[*a* 1225: see *start-while* in 12.] *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 14298 Iesus biheild þan hir a stert, And had gret reuthnes in his hert. *c* 1375 *Sc. Troy-bk.* (Horstm.) I. 64 All wrath ande angry ine hys hert Stude studeande a litill stert. 14.. *Erthe upon Erthe* (1911) 24 Man, amende þe betyme, þi lyfe ys but a starte. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 476/1 Styrt, or lytyl whyle, *momentum.* *c* 1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 894 In þat place duelt cuthbert With religiouse men a stert. *c* 1450 HOLLAND *Howlat* 500 Was nane so stur in the steid micht stand him a start. *c* 1470 *Rauf Coilȝear* 892 This wickit warld is bot ane start. 1530 PALSGR. 854/1 A preaty start a go, *une petite espace de temps.* *a* 1552 LELAND *Itin.* I. 119 An old manor place, wher in tymes paste sum of the Moulbrays lay for a starte. 1620 E. BLOUNT *Ep. Ded.* in *Shelton's Quixote* II, His study being to sweeten those short starts of your retirement from publique affaires.

†**b.** A (short or long) distance. *Obs.*

a 1552 LELAND *Itin.* III. 31 First I markid a litle start above the haven mouth on the west side of it, a creeke caullid Stoken Teigne Hed. *a* 1553 UDALL *Royster D.* IV. v. (Arb.) 67 Indeede he dwelleth hence a good stert I confesse. 1580 LYLY *Euphues Eng.* To Gentl. Rdrs. (Arb.) 223 Secondly, being a great start from Athens to England, he thought to staye for the aduantage of a Leape yeare.

2. A sudden and transient effort of movement; in early use, †a leap, a rush. †*At a start*: with a bound, in an instant.

c 1386 CHAUCER *Knt.'s T.* 847 This duc his courser with his spores smoot And at a stert he was bitwix hem two. *c* 1412 HOCCLEVE *De Reg. Princ.* 1109 And at a stirt, without-outen tarying, Vn-to his cofre he dressith hym in hye. *c* 1440 *Generydes* 6699 Vnto hir chaunber sone he made a stert, And curtesly of hir his leve he toke. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 476/1 Styrte, or skyppe, *saltus. Ibid.* Styrte, of sodeyne mevynge, *assultus.* 1530 PALSGR. 276/2 Styrt a lepe, *course.* 1664 POWER *Exp. Philos.* I. 10 A Wood-Louse..has a swift motion, and runs by starts or stages. 1845 DARWIN *Voy. Nat.* i. (1852) 16 The animals move with the narrow apex forwards by the aid of their vibratory ciliæ, and generally by rapid starts.

b. Sc. *Start and owerloup*: the leaping of cattle over a fence into an adjoining pasture.

1707 FOUNTAINHALL *Decis.* (1761) II. 408 If they [cattle], in their transient passage, do any skaith by start and o'erloup, 1827 SCOTT *Two Drovers* ii, The cattle..derived their subsistence..sometimes by the tempting opportunity of a start and owerloup, or invasion of the neighbouring pasture.

†**c.** A sudden journey; a sudden flight, invasion, etc. *To take the start*: to decamp, run away. *Obs.*

'The Start', applied by historians to the flight from Perth of Charles II in 1650, is derived from quot. 1650, where however the use of the word is not in any way special.

1593 SHAKS. 2 *Hen. VI*, IV. viii. 45 Wer't not a shame, that ..The fearfull French..Should make a start ore-seas, and vanquish you? 1596 — *Merch. V.* II. ii. 6 The fiend..tempts me, saying to me, Iobbe,..vse your legs, take the start, run awaie. 1650 R. BAILLIE *Lett. & Jrnls.* (Bannatyne Club) III. 117 The King..did willinglie returne, exceedinglie confounded and dejected for that ill-advysed start. *a* 1674 CLARENDON *Hist. Reb.* XIII. § 48 It was indeed a very empty and unprepared design,..and might well have ruined the King, and was afterwards called the Start. 1804 M. LAING *Hist. Scot.* III. 437 This incident was termed the Start. 1894 GARDINER *Commw. & Protectorate* I. 376 Such was Charles's escapade, to which Scottish writers give the name of 'The Start'.

d. A sudden acceleration of progress or growth.

1817 MALTHUS *Popul.* I. 365 The population of Norway.. has made a start within the last ten or fifteen years. 1877 G. F. CHAMBERS *Astron.* (ed. 3) 37 Of late years the study of the sun has taken a remarkable start.

3. A sudden involuntary movement of the body, occasioned by surprise, terror, joy or grief, or the recollection of something forgotten. Phrase, *to give a start.*

c 1374 CHAUCER *Troylus* V. 254 And ther-with-al his body sholde sterte, and wiþ þe stert al sodeynlych a-wake. 1605 SHAKS. *Macb.* III. iv. 63 O, these flawes and starts..would well become A womans story. 1700 DRYDEN *Pal. & Arc.* I. 555 The fright awaken'd Arcite with a start. 1750 JOHNSON *Rambler* No. 109 P 2, I imagine the start of attention awakened. 1809 MALKIN *Gil Blas* X. vi. (Rtldg.) 352 He assumed the start of a man who all at once hits upon a circumstance which had hitherto escaped his recollection. 1825 SCOTT *Betrothed* Introd., In the general start and exclamation which followed this annunciation, Mr. Oldbuck dropped his snuff-box. 1863 GEO. ELIOT *Romola* II. xxiv, He gave a start of astonishment, and stood still. 1897 A. E. HOUGHTON *Gilbert Murray* xix. 291 His eyes wandered to the ring. What a start he gave! 1902 R. BAGOT *Donna Diana* xvi. 196 One or two old men were dozing upon their chairs, waking up every now and then with a start.

with adv. 1840 BROWNING *Sordello* III. 638 Thus do I interpret the significance Of the bard's start aside and look askance.

b. *To give* (a person) *a start*: to startle.

1816 SCOTT *Old Mort.* XXXIX, What for did ye come creepin' to your ain house as if ye had been an unco body, to gie poor auld Ailie sic a start?

4. A starting into activity; a sudden and transient effort or display of energy.

1605 SHAKS. *Lear* I. i. 304 Such vnconstant starts are we like to have from him, as this of Kents banishment. 1847 TENNYSON *Princess* I. 53 A gentleman of broken means.. but given to starts and bursts Of revel. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* II. I. 205 He continued to the very last to show, by occasional starts and struggles, his impatience of the French yoke.

b. *By starts*, † *at starts*, later chiefly † *by starts and fits*, now *by fits and starts* (see FIT *sb.*2 4 c): intermittently, not continuously or with sustained effort.

The earliest examples may be referred to sense 1.

1421–2 HOCCLEVE *Dialog* 505 By stirtes when þat a fressh lust me takith, Wole I me bisye now and now a lyte. 1515 BARCLAY *Eglog* ii. (1570) B ij, To hir mayst thou come but onely nowe and then, By stealth and startes as priuily as thou can. 1530 PALSGR. 858/1 At startes, *par foys.* 1557 P. HOBY in *Burgon's Life Gresham* (1839) I. 225 But you come so by sterts, as to-night you are here, and tomorrowe you are gone. 1586 HOOKER *Hist. Irel.* in *Holinshed* II.

83/1 They [*sc.* the Irish]..performed by starts (as their manner is) the dutie of good subiects. 1603 HOLLAND *Plutarch's Mor.* 51 This little Treatise..being gathered and compiled by starts, as my leysure would serve. 1621 T. WILLIAMSON tr. *Goulart's Wise Vietillard* A 2 b, I took vp my Pen againe, and at starts and tymes finished it. 1630 RUTHERFORD *Lett.* (1862) I. 53 So we at starts do assent to the sweet and precious promises. 1640 WILKINS *New Planet* viii. (1707) 223 The Motion of the Earth is always equal and like it self; not by starts and fits. 1681 DRYDEN *Abs. & Achit.* I. 548 Was Every thing by starts, and Nothing long. 1728 EARL OF AILESBURY *Mem.* (1890) 261 But I knew he had by starts great notions of generosity. 1747 COLLINS *Ode Passions* 28 'Twas sad by fits, by starts 'twas wild. 1799 HT. LEE *Canterb. Tales, Frenchm. Tale* (ed. 2) I. 239 The letters he daily received..induced him, by starts, to betray [etc.]. 1817 COLERIDGE *Biogr. Lit.* II. xxii. 131 Let it likewise be shown how far the influence has acted; whether diffusively, or only by starts. 1841 DICKENS *Barn. Rudge* lxvi, He..had watched with little intermission for some weeks past, sleeping only in the day by starts and snatches.

† **c.** *On the start*: ? suddenly, without warning.

1601 SHAKS. *All's Well* III. ii. 52, I haue felt so many quirkes of ioy and greefe, That the first face of neither on the start can woman me vntoo't. *a* 1637 B. JONSON *Sad Shepherd* III. iv, My men shall hunt you too upon the start, And course you soundly.

d. A sudden fit of passion, grief, joy, madness, etc.; an outburst, sally, or flight of wit, humour, or fancy. Now *rare* or *Obs.*

1596 SHAKS. *1 Hen. IV*, III. ii. 125 Thou, that art like enough, through..the start of spleene, To fight against me. *a* 1652 BROME *Queen & Concubine* I. iii. (1659) 7 This is one of his un-to-be-examin'd hastie Humours, one of his starts. 1682 DRYDEN *Duke of Guise* II. i, I've heard you say, You'd arm against the League; why do you not? The thoughts of such as you, are starts divine. 1692 L'ESTRANGE *Fables* cclxiii. 230 There are several Starts of Fancy, that Off-hand look well enough; but [etc.]. 1713 *Guardian* No. 103 ₱ 6 We were well enough pleased with this Start of Thought. 1772 MISS BURNEY *Early Diary* (1889) I. 143 In defiance of the gloom his misfortunes have cast over him, some starts of his former, his native vivacity break out. 1790 COWPER *In Mem. J. Thornton* 41 Such was thy Charity; no sudden start, After long sleep of passion in the heart, But steadfast principle. 1802 H. MARTIN *Helen of Glenross* II. 134 Did you then know your sister liable to occasional starts of the infirmity that afterwards became rooted and declared incurable? 1816 L. HUNT *Rimini* IV. 131 A passionate start Of tears and kindness. 1823 J. SIMPSON *Ricardo the Outlaw* II. 29 It was not a start of momentary passion, but an oath calmly, and deliberately taken.

e. A sudden broken utterance or burst of sound.

1601 SHAKS. *Twel. N.* II. ii. 22 Me thought her eyes had lost her tongue, For she did speake in starts distractedly. 1816 L. HUNT *Rimini* I. 103 Another start of trumpets, with reply. 1878 GILDER *Poet & Master* 57 Where he might listen to the starts and thrills Of birds that sang and rustled in the trees.

5. A beginning to move; a setting out on a journey or a race; the beginning of a career, of a course of action, a series of events, etc.

False start: in Racing, a wrong start, necessitating return to the starting-point; hence *gen.* an unsuccessful attempt to begin something (e.g. a speech, a song, a business).

1566 GRESHAM in Burgon *Life* (1839) II. 109 Beinge within xiiii mile of my howse of Rinxall, (whereas I make all my provision for my timber for the Burse,) I was so bolde [as] to make a starte to vewe the same. *c* 1586 C'TESS PEMBROKE *Ps.* LXXXIX. x, While circling time, still ending and beginning, Shall runne the race where stopp nor start appeares. 1693 PRIDEAUX *Lett.* (Camden) 165 We have a young nobleman of our countey that now makes his first start in London. 1811 *Sporting Mag.* XXXVIII. 109 A great number of genteel folks attended the start. 1834 MARRYAT *P. Simple* xxi, The new moon's quartered in with foul weather; if it holds, prepare for a start. 1845 FORD *Handbk. Spain* I. 63 There is nothing in life like making a good start. 1850 SMEDLEY *Frank Fairleigh* xxxi. 260 Pilkington..was partly coaxed, partly coerced into attempting the only song he knew,..in which performance, after making four false starts,..he contrived..to get as far as the words [etc.]. 1856 'STONEHENGE' *Brit. Rural Sports* 370 If any jockey is evidently and wilfully the cause of a false start, the starter reports the same to the stewards, who have power to fine him. 1876 MOZLEY *Univ. Serm.* iv. (1877) 87 In the eyes of others too, his goodness would appear to have taken a fresh start. 1879 B. TAYLOR *Gen. Lit.* 167 We found ourselves at the start in a rough land of mountains. 1911 G. P. GOOCH *Hist. Our Time* x. 234 Women have voted in County Council elections from the start.

b. Phr. *From start to finish.*

1868 *Field* 4 July 14/3 A slashing race was rowed from start to finish between the two former [boats]. 1894 *Illustr. Lond. News* Christmas No. 22/3 The whole thing was unusual, from start to finish. 1896 *Spectator* 25 Apr. 580 The plot interest..is sustained from start to finish.

† **c.** *To strain* or *draw on the start*: of hounds, to strain on the leash. *Obs.*

1599 SHAKS. *Hen. V*, III. i. 32, I see you stand like Greyhounds in the slips, Straying [*Rowe* straining] vpon the Start. 1622 DRAYTON *Poly-olb.* XXIII. 338 And whilst the eager dogs vpon the Start doe draw, Shee riseth from her seat.

d. An act of setting in motion; an impulse to movement; a signal for starting in a race, etc.

1602 SHAKS. *Ham.* IV. vii. 194 How much I had to doe to calme his rage? Now feare I this will giue it start againe. *c* 1612 in *Hore's Hist. Newmarket* (1885) I. 331 Lastlie, for giving of the starte, either Mr. Sheriffes for the time being, or whom Mr. Maior will appointe. 1891 N. GOULD *Double Event* xvii. 123 The six starters were now at the post, and at the second attempt Mr. Watson let the flag go to one of his best starts. 1892 *Photogr. Ann.* II. 273 If plates are slightly larger than ordinary, they may be slow in moving, and it might be necessary to tap the camera to effect the start. 1897 *Encycl. Sport* I. 65/1 [In the Tug-of-War] The start shall be by word of mouth. 1904 E. H. COLERIDGE *Life Ld. Coleridge* II. 107 If..Keble's sermon on 'National Apostacy' ..was the start or set-off of the Catholic Revival.

e. An opportunity or an assistance given for starting or entering on a career or course of action. Often *a start in life.*

1849 HT. MARTINEAU *Hist. Peace* IV. x. (1877) III. 75 All were to have a fresh start—to be allowed the free use of their best powers. 1871 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* (1876) IV. xviii. 171 The Norman Conquest may very well have given the native element a fresh start. 1888 BRYCE *Amer. Commw.* lviii. II. 405 Nobody can get an early and easy start on the strength of his name and connections. 1902 ELIZ. BANKS *Newsp. Girl* xxviii, 310 Then, as I was not to be turned back, he took me on and gave me my start—a better start.. than falls to the lot of many girls who begin the life journalistic. 1907 *Verney Mem.* I. 95 He was given a fresh start by his long-suffering father. 1908 *Times* 20 July 19/4 It does not affect the special funds..for helping towards the education or start in life of clergy children.

f. The starting-point (of a journey).

1881 in *J. Hatton's New Ceylon* vi. 166 From the morning's start, the rapids, we only covered six miles.

6. Advantage gained by starting first in a race or on a journey; in wider sense, position in advance of competitors whether obtained at the beginning or in the course of a race, etc. Hence *gen.* priority or position in advance of others in any competitive undertaking. Chiefly in *to get, have,* † *take the start* (*of* a competitor); also with words indicating the amount in time or distance of the advantage, as in *ten minutes start, ten yards start.*

1580 LYLY *Euphues* (Arb.) 418 Those, who hauing gotten the starte in a race, thinke none to be neere their heeles. 1598 SHAKS. *Merry W.* v. v. 171 You have the start of me. 1601 — *Jul. C.* I. ii. 130 It doth amaze me, A man of such a feeble temper should So get the start of the Maiesticke world. 1608 D. T[UVILL] *Ess. Pol. & Mor.* 45 b, As they haue the start of all men in the one: so loue they not to bee out-stript by any in the other. 1609 HOLLAND *Amm. Marcell.* XV. v. 39 But for all the running hast we made, a certaine wandering and flying fame had gotten the start of us. 1614 RALEIGH *Hist. World* I. viii. § 2. 131 Hauing withall the start of 130 yeares, to raise themselues without controlement. 1665 BUNYAN *Holy Citie* (1669) 98 The Twelve will have the start of him; for they both had the Spirit as he, and more then he. 1682 KEN *Serm.* Wks. (1838) 127 We were all travelling the same way, as pilgrims towards our heavenly country, she has only got the start of us, is gone before, and is happy first. 1720 DE FOE *Capt. Singleton* vi. (1840) 108 Having..about three hundred yards the start of the lion. 1726 SWIFT *Gulliver* II. i, Our men had the start of him half a league. 1732 KAMES *Decis. Crt. Sess. 1730-52* (1799) 11 Several of these creditors, taking the start, laid arrestments in the hands of the accepters of these bills. 1733 W. ELLIS *Chiltern & Vale Farm.* 278 Twitch-grass and other Weeds..got the start of the St. Foyn and kill'd it. 1746 FRANCIS tr. *Hor., Sat.* II. vi. 50 Be nimble to perform your part, Lest any rival get the start. 1809 MALKIN *Gil Blas* X. vi. (Rtldg.) 351, I remained motionless for some seconds, which gave him time to get the start of me. 1812 SOUTHEY *Lett.* (1856) II. 309, I have got start enough with Ballantyne to lay the Debates aside, and take a spell at Abella's documents. 1826 LAMB *Pop. Fallacies* xiv, It is flattering to get the start of a lazy world. 1841 THACKERAY *Gt. Hoggarty Diamond* iv, I did not go to the office till half an hour after opening time...I was not sorry to let Hoskins have the start of me, and tell the chaps what had taken place. 1862 K. H. DIGBY *Chapel of St. John* (1863) 169 She never suffered her imagination to get the start of her judgment. 1885 'MRS. ALEXANDER' *At Bay* v, The hopelessness of the search in the face of nearly twenty-four hours' start. 1897 MARY KINGSLEY *W. Africa* 258 Ngouta and the Ajumba used to sit down..and I also, for a few minutes,..and then I would go on alone, thus getting a good start.

¶ **b.** In early use sometimes loosely: Superiority.

1611 B. JONSON *Catiline* III. ii, Here is a Lady, that hath got the start In piety, of vs all. *c* 1645 HOWELL *Lett.* (1650) I. v. xxvii. 164, I have bin shewn for Irish and Bascuence Imperfect rules couchd in an Accidence: But I find none of these can take the start Of Davies. *Ibid.* I. vi. xxxv. 224 Dr. Jorden hath got the start of any that ever wrote of this subject.

† **7.** A starting aside; a deviation or digression.

1534 WHITINTON *Tullyes Offices* I. B 2, For all the laude of vertue standeth in effectuall exercyse, fro the whiche not withstandynge a sterte or pause maye be made [*a qua tamen saepe fit intermissio*]. 1576 FLEMING tr. *Caius' Engl. Dogges* v. (1880) 37 A starte to outlandishe Dogges in this conclusion, not impertinent to the Authors purpose.

8. *Mining.* = LEAP *sb.*[1] 6.

1778 W. PRYCE *Min. Cornub.* 106 The most considerable disorder which Lodes are liable to..is what is termed a Start, a Leap. 1789 J. WILLIAMS *Min. Kingd.* I. 354 The horizontal start or joint which cuts off the vein as they go down in it, does not cut it off in the true horizontal line, but leans or declines a little some way. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XII. 402 Sometimes a vein will suddenly disappear without giving any warning by becoming narrower or of worse quality; which by the miners is called a *start* or *leap.*

† **9.** *U.S.* The name of some game. *Obs.*

1788 J. Q. ADAMS *Diary* (1903) 91 Afterwards play'd a number of very amusing sports, such as start.

10. *Whaling.* (See quots.)

Cf. sense 1 b; but direct connexion seems very unlikely.

1836 *Uncle Philip's Convers. Whale Fishery* 48 When the fish rises within two hundred yards of [the boat, it]..is then said to 'come up within a start'. 1846 A. YOUNG *Naut. Dict.* 146 The boats meanwhile separate..in order that one at least may be within 'a start'—that is, about two hundred yards from the point of its rising.

11. *slang.* **a.** A prison, esp. Newgate.

1756 J. COX *Narr. Thief-taker* 66 The Prisoner replied, that he was going to the Start for nimming a Cull in his Eye. 1796 *Grose's Dict. Vulgar T.* (ed. 3), *Start*, or the *Old Start*, Newgate. 1823 'JON BEE' *Dict. Turf* s. v., *The Start.* Newgate is thus termed, *par excellence.* But every felon-prison would be equally *a start.*

b. *The Start*: a vagrants' name for London.

1851 MAYHEW *Lond. Labour* I. 312 All the 'regular bang-up fakes' are manufactured in the 'Start' (metropolis). 1860 *Hotten's Slang Dict.* 227 'The *start*', London,—the great starting point for beggars and tramps. 1862 *Cornhill Mag.* Nov. 648, I will send a few thickuns to bring you and your tamtart up to Start.

c. A proceeding or incident that causes surprise; = Go *sb.* 3.

1837 DICKENS *Pickw.* xxii, What with your mother-in-law a worrying me to go, and what with my looking for'ard to seein' some queer starts if I did, I put my name down for a ticket. 1853 — *Bleak Ho.* xi, Being asked what he thinks of the proceedings, [Little Swills] characterises them (his strength lying in a slangular direction) as 'a rummy start'. 1857 A. MAYHEW *Paved with Gold* III. xiv, Here's a start! a reg'lar twicer! 1880 PAYN *Confid. Agent* I. 138 That's the rummest start I ever knew. 1905 VACHELL *Hill* vi. 136 Of all the queer starts I——.

12. Comb.: † **start-hole**, the hole in which an animal takes shelter; = STARTING-HOLE; **start-point** *rare* = *starting-point*; † **start-while** = sense 1.

1624 HEYWOOD *Captives* I. iii. in Bullen *Old Plays* IV. 125 France shall not conteine them But I will finde theire *start-holes. 1876 RUSKIN *Fors Clav.* lxii. 59, I find myself..without any *startpoint for attempt to understand them. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 336 Þe þeof o þe rode..in one *sterthwule hefde of him mifce.

† **Start,** *sb.*[3] *Obs. rare.* Also **stert.** [Perh. a. Du. *staart*, tail, in allusion to the old accusation that Englishmen had tails. But cf. WFlemish *drilsteert, plaagsteert*, a bore, *vraagsteert* a prying person.] A supposed Dutch term of contempt for an Englishman.

1673 DRYDEN *Amboyna* I. i. 3 Hang 'em base English sterts. *Ibid.* v. i. (end) Then in full Romers, and with joyful Hearts We'l drink confusion to all English Starts.

Start (stāɪt), *v.* Pa. t. and pa. pple. **started.** Forms: (? 1 *north.* pr. pple. **sturtende**), 3–6 **sterte**, 3 **-storte**, (3 3rd sing. pres. **start, stard**), 4–6 **styrt**, 4–7 **stirt**(e, (5 3rd sing. pres. **stirt**), 4–7 **sturt**(e, **stert, starte**, 6 *Sc.* **stairt**, 4– **start.** Pa. t. 3–5 **sturte, stirt**(e, 3 **storte**, 3–6 **sterte**, 4–5 **sturt**, 4–6 **stert**, 4–7 **start**(e, **styrte**, 6 **stertt, styrtt, steart**; 5 **stirted**, 6 **sterted**, 6– **started.** Pa. pple. 4 **stirt, styrt**, 4–6 **stert**(e, 5 **stirte**, 6–7 **start**; 6– **started.** [App. two formations representing different ablaut-grades of the Teut. root **stert-* (: *start-* : *sturt-*). The OE. *styrtan* (only once, in pres. ppl. *styrtende*, miswritten *stvrtende*) corresponds formally to (M)LG. *störten*, (M)Du. *storten*, WFris. *stoarte*, NFris. *stört*, OHG. *sturzen* (MHG., mod. G. *stürzen*), MSw. *styrta, störta*, (mod.Sw. *störta*, Da. *styrte*):—OTeut. **sturtjan.* The verb in continental Teut. has the senses: To overthrow, precipitate, overturn; to empty by overturning, to pour out; also *intr.* to rush, to fall headlong, to gush out. (The mod. Fris. forms are certainly from Du. and LG.; the word may possibly be native in Scandinavian, but the senses in Sw. and Da. are largely adopted from Ger.)

The ME. *sterte* (whence mod. Eng. *start*) is, so far as it is a southern form, explicable as the Kentish representative of OE. *styrtan*, whence in other ME. dialects *sturte, stirte*, etc. But the occurrence of *sterte* in early northern English, and of its normal phonetic descendants in mod. Sc. and northern dialects, points to the existence of a form (? OE. **steortian*, ? **stiertan*) corresponding to MHG. *sterzen* (also *starzen*) trans. and intr. to set up (or stand) stiffly, to move briskly.

Other derivatives of the root are START *sb.*[1] (f. **stert-*), OE. *steartlian* (f. **start-*) to stumble: see STARTLE *v.* No cognates outside Teut. are known.]

I. Intransitive uses.

† **1.** To leap, jump, caper; also, to leap or spring *upon* a horse, *into* water, etc. *Obs.*

a 1000 *Rit. Dunelm.* 57/27 *Exiliens claudus stetit* stvrt-ende se halta zistod. *c* 1240 *Cuckoo Song*, Bulluc sterteþ. *c* 1250 *Owl & Night.* 379 He [*sc.* the hare] huphþ & start [*Cott.* stard] swiþe cove & secheþ paþes to þe groue. *a* 1366 CHAUCER *Rom. Rose* 344 Him luste not to play ne sterte Ne for to dauncen, ne to synge. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* VIII. 471 In gret by thair hors hint thai, And sterit apon thame sturdely. *c* 1385 CHAUCER *L. G. W.* 697 And with that word nakyd with ful good herte Among the serpentis in the pit sche styrte. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) VI. 35 Panne þe camel..gan to lepe and [to] sterte. *c* 1440 *Gesta Rom.* XXX. 110 (Harl. MS.) Abowte the sydes of þe diche wer iiij frogges sterting. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 476/1 Styrtyn, or skyppyn, *salto.* 1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* XVI. xv. 684 Therfore starte vpon thy hors. 1480 *Robt. Devyll* 813 in Hazl. *E. P. P.* I. 250 So daunced and leapt [he,] and aboute so starte. *c* 1500 *Lancelot* 994 He, to qwham the presone hath ben smart, With glaid desir apone his cursour start. 1567 *Gude & Godlie B.* 109 Quhat gart 3ow montanis lyke rammis stert & stend?

2. To move with a bound or sudden violent impulse from a position of rest; to come suddenly *from, out of* a place of concealment. Also with *out.*

c 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* 86/91 He sturte out of þis deope

Roche. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 12527 A nedder stert vte of þe sand. *a* 1300 *Floris & Bl.* 457 (Camb. MS.) Into þe cupe he sterte ayen, And wiþ þe flures he hudde him. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* viii. (Philip) 17 A fel dragone, lyk to be wod, come startand owt al sudanly. *c* 1386 Chaucer *Knt.'s T.* 1826 Out of the ground a furie infernal sterte. *c* 1386 — *Merch. T.* 909 This Damyan thanne hath opened the wyket And In he sterte. *c* 1412 Hoccleve *De Reg. Princ.* 131 He sterte unto me, and seide, 'Slepest thou, man'? *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 476/1 Styrtyn, or sodenly mevyn, *impeto.* 1470–85 Malory *Arthur* I. xx. 66 There with he sterte vnto the kynges hors and mounted in to the sadel. 1483 Caxton *Gold. Leg.* 83/1 Thenne Vago..wente into the tabernacle of Judith and fonde her not and sterte out to the peple. 1568 Grafton *Chron.* II. 338 With those wordes he had thought to haue lept agayne to his horse, but he fayled of the Styrop, and the horse sterted awaye. 1591 Shaks. 1 *Hen. VI*, IV. vii. 12 Dizzie-ey'd Furie..Suddenly made him from my side to start Into the clustring Battaile of the French. 1623 J. Meade in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* Ser. I. III. 119 The King awakened with this noise, start out of his bed, and cryed 'Treason, Treason'. 1671 Milton *P. R.* IV. 449 Out of the wood he starts in wonted shape. 1697 Dryden *Virg. Georg.* IV. 496 Starting at once from their green Seats, they rise; Fear in their Heart, Amazement in their Eyes. *a* 1700 Evelyn *Diary* II May 1652, At a place call'd the Procession Oake, two cut-throates started out. 1815 Scott *Guy M.* x, She had seen Meg Merrilies..start suddenly out of a thicket. 1829 *Chapters Phys. Sci.* 22 If a horse that was standing still suddenly starts forward. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* II. III. iii, For one moment..he starts aloft..to sink then for evermore! 1859 Tennyson *Enid* 1331 Who saw the chargers..Start from their fallen lords, and wildly fly.

b. To spring *on, upon one's feet.*

c 1400 *Destr. Troy* 10977 And ho stithly in the stoure start vppon fote. *c* 1420 ? Lydg. *Assembly of Gods* 566 Than Phebe] styrt vppon her fete And seyd [etc.]. *a* 1605 Montgomerie *Misc. Poems* xxxiii. 21 Vpon my feet incontinent I start. 1847 Tennyson *Princess* I. 59 He started on his feet.

† **c.** To make a sudden attack *(upon). Obs.*

c 1440 *Ps. Penit.* (1894) 16 Lat never the fend..Sterte upon me with no stelthe. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 476/1 Styrtyn, or brunton, or sodenly comyn a-3en a enmy, *...insilio, irruo.*

d. To awake suddenly *from, out of,* †*out* (sleep, reverie).

c 1386 Chaucer *Clerk's T.* 1004 She ferde, as she had stert out of a sleepe. *a* 1450 *Knt. de la Tour* 68 And for the fere that the Ermite hadde, he sterte and waked oute of his auisyon. *c* 1566 *Merie Tales of Shelton* in *S.'s Wks.* (1843) I. p. lxix, The preest, hearyng the bell tolle, starte oute of his slepe. 1581 A. Hall *Iliad* x. 176 He starteth out his sleepe, and vp to them he thus began. 1591 Greene *Maiden's Dream* in *Shaks. Soc. Papers* (1845) II. 145 The people shouted such a screame, That I awooke, and start out of my dreame. *c* 1611 Chapman *Iliad* xxiv. 612 This said, the king (affraid) Start from his sleepe. 1737 [S. Berington] *G. de Lucca's Mem.* (1738) 51, I started out of my Reveries as if I had awak'd from a real Dream. 1770 M. Bruce in J. Mackenzie *Life & Whs.* (1914) 173 Strait all the chatt'ring tribe obey; Start from their trance and wing away. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* I. v. iv, Let Paris court a little fever-sleep;..or from time to time start awake, and look out, palpitating, in its nightcap. 1885 'Mrs. Alexander' *At Bay* vii, 'Yes', he exclaimed, starting from his thoughts, 'I have heard, but..not taken in the sense of what you have been saying.' 1906 E. A. Abbott *Silanus* iv. 41, The cock was still crowing when I started out of my dream.

e. To move suddenly from one's place, as to avoid a danger; hence *fig.* to flinch or recoil *from* something in alarm or repugnance. Chiefly with adv., *back* (†*on back, aback*), *aside.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 8901 þe tre sco stert al gloppend fra. *c* 1450 *Mirk's Festial* 226 And anon þe fend was aferd, and starte on bakke. *c* 1489 Caxton *Sonnes of Aymon* xiv. 328 He toke a staff, & caste it after Estorfawde but Estorfawd sterte from his place. 1508 Dunbar *Tua Mariit Wemen* 234 Scho suld not stert for his straik a straw breid of erd. 1530 Palsgr. 733/2, I starte asyde, as one dothe that shrinketh with his bodye when he seeth a daunger towardes. ? *a* 1550 *Freiris Berwik* 568 in *Dunbar's Poems* 304 With that Freir Robert stert abak and saw [etc.]. 1637 Billingsly *Brachy-Martyrol.* II. vii. 177 By God's grace, I will nothing start aside. 1679 Dryden *Œdipus* I. i. 5 Nature her self start back when thou wert born. 1698 Chilcot *Evil Thoughts* iv. 96 Like a Man that accidentally treads upon an Adder, starts back immediately, and strives to make no more approaches to it. 1701 Norris *Ideal World* I. ii. 17 Even the men that talk at this rate shall presently start from it as from a bugbear or apparition. 1831 Scott *Cast. Dang.* xiv, The horse, too, upon which the lady rode, started back. 1861 Mrs. H. Wood *Shadow of Ashlydyat* I. ii, There ensued a proposal to knight him. He started from it with aversion. 1867 Trollope *Chron. Barset* I. xiii. 113 [He] started back, appalled at the energy of the words used to him.

f. In various figurative uses: To come suddenly *into* a condition; to go *out of* (one's wits); to burst *into* (anger); to emerge suddenly *into* (life, activity, etc.).

c 1385 Chaucer *L. G. W.* 660 And for dispeyr out of his wit he sterte. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 5871 He, stithely astonyt, stert into yre. *a* 1600 Kyd *Sp. Trag.* III. xii A. 1948 Starting in a rage. 1784 Cowper *Task* VI. 199 When all creation started into birth. *Ibid.* 550 His horse..Snorting, and starting into sudden rage. 1794 Mrs. Radcliffe *Myst. Udolpho* xlvii, I have sometimes known her argue..with acuteness, and then in a moment start off into madness. 1802 *Noble Wanderers* I. 51 When kindred minds meet.. they instantly start into amity, and become incorporated in affection. 1816 Byron *Ch. Har.* III. lxxxvii, At intervals, some bird from out the brakes Starts into voice a moment, then is still. 1863 Cowden Clarke *Shaks. Char.* ix. 217 The characters start into light, life, and identity.

3. Of an inanimate thing: To issue suddenly and violently; to fly, flow, or be projected by a sudden impulse. Of tears: To burst *out* suddenly; to rise suddenly *to* the eyes.

c 1385 Chaucer *L. G. W.* 1301 Therwith hise false terys out they sterte. *Ibid.* 851 The blod out of the wounde as brode sterte As watyr whan the condit brokyn is. *c* 1400 *Pilgr. Sowle* (Caxton 1483) III. viii. 55 They maden them for to hurtlen ageyn a pyler, so that..hit semed as theyr brayne sturt oute. *a* 1425 tr. *Arderne's Treat. Fistula* etc. 77 In ȝettyng in þe liquore with þe clistery þe liquor alsone stirt out vpon þe handez of þe leche. 1508 Dunbar *Tua Mariit Wemen* 339 Than with a stew stert out the stoppell of my hals. 1648 J. Beaumont *Psyche* VII. clxxix, She Seemd in that breast he suck'd alone to live: For thither leap'd her soul, and scarce could stop It self from sturting out with every drop. 1698 R. L'Estrange *Seneca's Mor.* II. ix. (1696) 198 The Clawing of an Itch till the Blood starts. 1739 Labelye *Short Acc. Piers Westm. Bridge* 46 Some Springs unluckily starting in their Foundation, which they..could neither stop nor master. 1757 W. Wilkie *Epigoniad* V. 154 A flood of sorrow started to his eyes. 1812 Byron *Ch. Har.* I. vi, 'Tis said, at times the sullen tear would start, But Pride congeal'd the drop within his ee. 1831 James *Phil. Augustus* I. iii, Over one edge thereof poured a small but beautiful cascade, starting from mass to mass of volcanic rock. 1832 Brewster *Nat. Magic* ii. 35 This chip of wax ..had started into my eye when breaking the seal of a letter.

b. Of the eyes: To burst out, escape *from* their sockets. Chiefly in hyperbolical use, expressing the effect of horror or fury.

1526 Whytford *Martiloge* 76 Of some theyr tongues rotted, & of some the eyes stert out of theyr hedes. 1602 Shaks. *Ham.* I. v. 17, I could a Tale vnfold, whose lightest word Would..Make thy two eyes like Starres, start from their Spheres. 1605 — *Macb.* IV. i. 116 Why do you shew me this?—A fourth? Start eyes! 1828 *Ann. Reg.* 375/1 The eyes [of the murdered woman] were not started, nor did the tongue hang out. 1863 Mrs. H. Wood *Verner's Pride* xlvi, His eyes were starting..and his hair rose up on end. 1894 Hall Caine *Manxman* V. vii. 304 Philip's blood-shot eyes seemed to be starting from his head.

c. *Start out*: to project; to become visible or conspicuous, burst into view.

1825 R. Chambers *Tradit. Edin.* I. 236 The pin..was formed of a small rod of iron, twisted or notched, which was placed perpendicularly, starting out a little from the door, and bore a small ring of the same metal. 1831 James *Phil. Augustus* I. ii, The road..now showed, now concealed, the abrupt mountain-peaks starting out from their thick vesture of wood. 1863 J. Hughes *Pract. Photogr.* (1866) 21 If it [the image] start out at once, directly the developer has flowed over the plate, the exposure has been too long.

d. Of a plant: To spring up suddenly. *rare.*

1720 Ramsay *Prosp. Plenty* 225 A' the beauties o' the year Which start wi 'ease frae the obedient soil. 1820 Shelley *Sensit. Pl.* III. 62 And agarics and fungi..Started like mist from she wet ground old.

e. In figurative uses: cf. 2 f.

1303 R. Brunne *Handl. Synne* 425 Dremys..been but as glasyng glemys þat yn þe þou3t stertys & lepys. *c* 1480 Henryson *Test. Cresseid* 538 Quhen Cresseid vnderstude that it was he, Stiffer than steill thair stert ane bitter stound. 1683 Dryden *Dk. Guise* I. i. 5 My Blood stands still. My Spirits start an end for Guise's Fate. 1764 Goldsm. *Trav.* 389 Fear, pity, justice, indignation start. 1817 Keats *I stood tip-toe* 26, I was light-hearted, And many pleasures to my vision started. 1833 Newman *Arians* V. ii. (1876) 374 Theological subtleties were for ever starting into existence among the Greek Christians. 1842 Loudon *Suburban Hort.* 447 When they are wanted to start into fruit, expected to be matured by June 1, we begin by [etc.].

† **f.** Of a commodity: To rise suddenly in price.

a 1661 Fuller *Worthies, Essex* (1662) 318 No commodity starteth so soon and sinketh so suddainly in the price. 1767 T. Hutchinson *Hist. Mass.* (1795) II. ii. 174 The extravagant price to which provisions had started.

† **4.** To go or come swiftly or hastily; to rush, hasten. In ME. verse occas. = to go. *Obs.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 8629 Vntil hir fere sco stert [*Gött.* stirt] in hij. *c* 1350 *Will. Palerne* 3600 He dede þen his stef stede stert a god spede. *c* 1374 Chaucer *Troylus* II. 1094 This Pandarus tok þe lettre and þat by tyme A morwe and to his Neces paleys sterte. 1393 Langl. *P. Pl.* C. xx. 297 þre þynges þer beoþ þat doþ a man to sterte Out of his owene hous. *a* 1400 *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* xlix. 39 Ofte to churche loke þow sterte. ? *a* 1400 *Festivals of Ch.* 124 in *Leg. Rood* App. 214 To poure in prisoun þou schalt sterte. *c* 1410 *Master of Game* (MS. Digby 182) xxxiv, And whan she hath be wele ychased..so þat..she be abyte with houndes..who so is nexte shulde sterte to geete her hoole fro hem. *c* 1440 *Gesta Rom.* 8 He stirte to þe bord, and tooke a faire gilt cowpe. *c* 1475 *Babees Bk.* 61 Stert nat Rudely; komme Inne an esy pace. 15.. *Adam Bel* 321 in Hazl. *E. P. P.* II. 152 Wyllyam sterte to an offycer of ye towne, Hys axe out of hys hande he wronge. 1575 *Gammer Gurton* IV. ii. 26 When ich saw this, ich was wrothe, see now, And start betwene them twaine; see now. 1637 Rutherford *Lett.* (1664) 198 O how joyfull would my soul be to hear you start to the gate, and contend for the crown.

† **b.** with advs., as *away, forth, in, to.* In ME. sometimes with dative of reflexive pronoun. *Obs.*

1297 R. Glouc. (Rolls) 4321 þe romeyns sturte [*v.r.* stertte] to anon hor prince vor to arere. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 15782 þai stert þam forth ilkan. *c* 1300 *Havelok* 873 Hauelok..stirte forth to þe kok. *c* 1320 *Sir Tristr.* 2977 As ganhardin stert oway, His heued he brac þo, As he fleiȝe. 1382 Wyclif 1 *Kings* ii. 46 The kyng comaundide to Banaye, ..the which stert to [Vulg. *egressus*], smoot hym, and he is deed. *a* 1400 *St. Alexius* 410 (Vernon MS.) Eufemian sturte him forþ as tit. 1481 Caxton *Reynard* xxx. (Arb.) 75 The man sterte awaye and was a ferde. 1518 *Star Chamber Cases* (Selden Soc.) II. 140 And then styrtt forth John powur Water Baker [etc.] ..the whyche seyd to me [etc.]. *a* 1529 Skelton *E. Rummyng* 412 Than sterte in mad Kyt, That had lyttle wyt. 1538 Elyot *Dict., Fugitiuarius*, startyng away, flyttyng. 1596 Shaks. 1 *Hen. IV*, I. iii. 216 You start away, And lend no eare vnto my purposes.

† **c.** *To start abroad, astray*: to desert one's place. *Obs.*

13.. *Gaw. & Gr. Knt.* 1716 He blenched a3ayn bilyue, & stifly start onstray. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 6258 If any stert vpon stray, strike hym to dethe. *c* 1470 *Gol. & Gaw.* 19 Mony sterne our the streit stertis on stray. 1488 Caxton *Chast. Goddes Chyldern* 18 Somtyme sharply he smyteth to kepe in his chyldern that they shold not sterte abrode fro the scole.

† **d.** *To start to* (a weapon): to seize it hastily.

1340–70 *Alex. & Dind.* 127 Panne [buskede] a bold kniht & to a bow stirte. *c* 1400 *Melayne* 331 And Rowland styrte þan to a brande And hastily hent it owte of a sarazene hande. 1567 *Sat. Poems Reform.* iii. 163 For the Quhilk cause vnto ane brand sho start, And slew hir self.

† **e.** Of immaterial things: To depart, pass away. *Obs.*

c 1386 Chaucer *Man of Law's T.* 237 The lyf shal rather out of my body sterte Than Makometes lawe out of myn herte. 1546 J. Heywood *Prov.* I. iv. (1867) 9 Who hopeth in Gods helpe, his helpe can not starte. 1558 Bullein *Gov. Health* A v b, Apoplexia and Vertigo, will neuer fro the starte, Vntill the vital blode, be killed in the harte. *c* 1560 Pullain *Ps.* cxlix. in Farr *S. P. Eliz.* (1845) II. 495 The Lord's pleasure is in them that are his, Not willing to start; But all meanes do seke to succour the meke. 1577 Kendall *Flowers of Epigr.* 29 b, Leude is the loue that doeth not last, but startyng, taketh ende.

5. To undergo a sudden involuntary movement of the body, resulting from surprise, fright, sudden pain, etc. Hence *occas.* to feel startled.

a 1529 Skelton *Bouge of Court* 502 Thenne I, astonyed of that sodeyne fraye, Sterte all at ones. 1530 Palsgr. 735/1, I sterte, I styrre, as one dothe for feare. 1590 *Tarlton's News Purgatory* To Rdrs., So fareth it with mee, for neuer before beeing in print I start at the sight of the Presse. *a* 1592 T. Watson *Poems* (Arb.) 201 Which hauing seene as one agast shee start. 1598 Shaks. *Merry W.* V. v. 90 If he be chaste, the flame will..turne him to no paine: but if he start, It is the flesh of a corrupted hart. 1613 — *Hen. VIII*, III. ii. 113 Some strange Commotion Is in his braine: He bites his lip, and starts. 1695 Blackmore *Pr. Arth.* II. 456 He starts at every Noise. 1735 Johnson *Lobo's Abyssinia* Voy. ii. 13, I started, and ask'd what he wanted? he told me to Bleed me. 1738 Swift *Pol. Conversat.* 20 Hold up your Head, Girl; (*Miss starts*). 1742 Blair *Grave* 693 Then why, like ill-condition'd Children, Start we at transient Hardships? 1828 Scott *Br. Lamm.* xix, You are no fool to start at shadows. 1849 — *Anne of G.* xxix, It is by giving fair names to foul actions, that those who would start at real vice are led to practise its lessons. 1865 Trollope *Belton Est.* xiv. 162 Will Belton started so violently, and assumed on a sudden so manifest a look of anger, [etc.]. 1906 Charl. Mansfield *Girl & Gods* xi, Margaret started guiltily as though detected in an indecency. 1908 R. Bagot *A. Cuthbert* vii. 68 Jim started. 'How did you know my name?' he asked.

b. said of a horse. Also, *to start aside,* to swerve suddenly from its course.

1594 Shaks. *Rich. III*, III. iv. 87 Three times to-day my Foot-Cloth-Horse did stumble, And started, when he look'd vpon the Tower. 1638 Junius *Paint. Ancients* 136 In the heat of the fight they [*sc.* the horses] should start aside, affrighted. 1690 R. Meeke *Diary* 17 Nov. (1874) 31 As I rode home my horse starting at a stoop in the way, gave me a fall. 1726 Swift *Gulliver* I. iii, The horses..were no longer shy, but would come up to my very feet without starting. 1847 Lever *Knt. Gwynne* xviii, He [a horse] starts, or shies, or something of that sort—don't he? 1870 Bryant *Iliad* V. 360 His fiery steeds Started aside with fright.

† **6.** To escape. Cf. Astart *v. Obs.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 7168 Vte o pair handes son he stert. *c* 1386 Chaucer *Knt.'s T.* 1592 (Camb. MS.) þow þat I no wepene haue in þis place But out of prisoun am styrt [*v.rr.* astert(e, I-stert] by grace. *c* 1403 Lydg. *Temple of Glas* 584 Fro þe deþ, I trow, I mai not stert. *c* 1430 *Pol. Rel. & L. Poems* (1903) 209 On doomysday þou schalt not starte. *a* 1542 Wyatt *Poems, Go burning Sighs* 7 Take with the payn..And eke the flame from which I cannot stert. 1622 J. Taylor (Water P.) *Water-Cormorant* E 2, And thence [*sc.* from the jail] he gets not, there he shall not start, Till the last drop of blood's wrong from his heart.

† **7.** To desert or revolt *from* (a leader, a party; to swerve *from* (a course, purpose, principle); to withdraw *from* (a promise, a treaty). Also with *aside, back. Obs.*

1542 Ld. Lisle *Let.* in Tytler *Hist. Scot.* (1864) III. 5 *note,* He durst not move the matter as yet to none of them; for if he shuld, he is sure they wolde starte from them. 1556 Olde *Antichrist* 199 b, He commaundeth us..not to starte fro them [the scriptures] one ynche. 1570 J. Phillip *Frendly Larum* in Farr *S. P. Eliz.* (1845) II. 531 That from thy truth and testament No daunger cause us start. 1576 Fleming *Panopl. Epist.* 114 Neither wil I yeald so farre to the inuasions of feare, as to revolt and start back from my professed humanitie. 1581 A. Hall *Iliad* IV. 67 That we abate the Troyan glorious pride, By which, and by their arrogance from stricken pact they start. 1597 Beard *Theatre God's Judgem.* (1612) 501 Francis Pizarre..interrupted all their agreements by starting from his promises, and rekindled the halfe quenched fire of warre by his owne ambition. 1639 Fuller *Holy War* II. xxv. 76 But here Baronius, who hitherto had leaned on Tyrius his authority, now starteth from it. 1652 Nedham tr. *Selden's Mare Cl.* title-p., Go on (great State) and make it known Thou never wilt forsake thine own, nor from thy purpose start. 1663 Patrick *Pilgr.* xviii. (1687) 175 The greedy humour of the world, who catch at all that presents it self, though they start out of their way to get it. 1781 Cowper *Conversat.* 452 No — nature unsophisticate by man, Starts not aside from her Creator's plan.

8. Of a material thing: To break away from its place; to be displaced by pressure or shrinkage; to get loose. Chiefly in technical uses.

1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 274 b, The hopes kepeth fast the bordes of the vessell, ye they disseuer not, & holdeth in ye endes that they start not. 1570 Levins *Manip.* 33/35 To starte, *dissilire.* 1631 B. Jonson *New Inn* II. vi, The best bow may start, And th' hand may vary. 1683 Moxon

Mech. Exerc., Printing xxiv ▶ 8 Drawing and straining the Skin tighter, he drives in..Nails..to keep the Skin from starting as it Dries. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* III. ii. 317 A but-end or a plank might start, and we might go down immediately. 1758 BORLASE *Nat. Hist. Cornw.* 64 This ruddle..made a very good red,..and..would not start, nor alter its colour. *a* 1779 COOK *3rd Voy.* III. xi. (1784) II. 219 About seven o'clock..the anchor of the Resolution started, and she drove off the bank. 1793 SMEATON *Edystone L.* § 318 The mortar in the joints had started. 1818 *Art Bookbinding* 12 The book must not be put to the fire to dry, as that would cause the foldings to start. 1869 SIR E. J. REED *Shipbuild.* i. 11 Just as the ship floated several rivets started again. 1888 JACOBI *Printers' Vocab.* 131 *Start*, leaves of books are said to 'start' when the sewing is defective, and the leaves are loose. 1894 HALL CAINE *Manxman* III. xi. 168 I've summered and wintered the man, haven't I? He's timber that doesn't start. 1912 *Westm. Gaz.* 17 Apr. 10/1 The force of the shock was so tremendous that the 'Titanic' started in every joint.

9. Of a beast of the chase: To leave its lair; to be 'started'. (Cf. sense 17.)

c 1400 *Master of Game* (MS. Digby 182) xxxiii, To se if þe deer þat is herbowrede wolde sterte and steele away or þe lymer meved hym. 1576 TURBERV. *Venerie* lix. 164 As soone as euer she [the hare] hearde the horne, she starte. 1714 TYLDESLEY *Diary* (1873) 172 Mopey seated us a hare wh beet us ffor 3 hows, but a fresh on started and savd her life.

10. 'To set out from the barrier at a race' (J.). Also in figurative context.

To start fair; to start on equal terms in a race, etc.

1645 WALLER *Poems, To a Friend* 3 Faire course of Passion, where two Lovers start And run together, heart still yoakt in heart! 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* III. 165 When from the Goal they start, The Youthful Charioteers with beating Heart, Rush to the Race. 1704 CIBBER *Careless Husb.* III. i. 24 Nay, Madam, let's start Fair. 1727 BOYER *Eng.-Fr. Dict.*, To start (or begin to run) *Partir.* 1730 CHENY *List Horse-Matches* 5 The following four Year olds started for a Prize of 800 Guineas. 1870 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 23 Sept. 9/1 Hendre Claiming Stakes..., Four started...County Members' Plate...Three started.

fig. 1780 *Mirror* No. 82 The King of Prussia [as the sign of an inn] began to give place a little to two popular favourites, who started at the same time, I mean Prince Ferdinand, and the Marquis of Granby.

11. To set out, to begin a journey; to begin to move, to leave the point of departure in any kind of progression. Said of a person or animal; also of a vehicle, ship, etc. Also with *off*, rarely *away*.

1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* xxiv, 'To-morrow, madam', he said to his charge, 'we will, with your leave, again start early'. 1827 — *Surg. Dau.* i, The good-daughter of Peg Thomson started off with an activity worthy of her mother-in-law. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. I. iv, These, with torches..start from Versailles on the second evening, with their leaden bier. 1843 DICKENS *Chr. Carol* ii. 60 New top couple starting off again, as soon as they got there. 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xx. IV. 413 In February 1693, near four hundred ships were ready to start. 1858 MCCOMBIE *Hist. Victoria* xv. 234 Immigrants who had not means to start for the diggings. 1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* I. iii. 23 Next morning I started with this man up the valley. 1885 *Law Rep., Weekly Notes* 146/1 The ship loaded the coals..and..started on her voyage to Bombay. 1896 BADEN-POWELL *Matabele Campaign* x, Ridley's column started to-day for the Shangani. 1898 FLOR. MONTGOMERY *Tony* 13 Mother! *do* just get in with me for a few minutes till the train starts. 1901 ALLDRIDGE *Sherbro* xxiii. 242 A pilot was provided for me..and the next morning at 6.30 I started away.

b. To begin one's journey *in* or *from* a certain place.

1879 R. K. DOUGLAS *Confucianism* iii. 90 A mountaineer ..in order to reach the top of the peak, has to start from the foot. 1912 J. L. MYRES *Dawn Hist.* ix. 191 The grassland heart of Asia Minor..is in fact as open as Hungary..to intruders who started in Turkestan.

12. To begin a career, course of action, process, etc. Also of a process: To begin.

1798 WORDSW. *Peter Bell* I. 200 Who Peter was, let that be told, And start from the beginning. 1801 *Farmer's Mag.* Jan. 85 Wheat started at 48s. and 50s. per boll, and has now got up to 63s. 1818 SCOTT *Rob Roy* viii, The high tone with which the tune started, died away in a quaver of consternation. 1868 *Field* 4 July 9/2 Each bowler started with a maiden. 1874 L. STEPHEN *Hours in Library* (1892) I. iii. 102 A modern essayist starts where Addison or Johnson left off.

b. With reference to reasoning. *To start from* or *with*: to assume as one's point of departure.

1870 NEWMAN *Gram. Assent* II. x. 408 They and I start from the same principles, and what is proof to me is a proof to them. 1872 R. H. HUTTON *Ess.* (1877) I. 51 The Darwinian theory starts from the assumption of organic types competent to reproduce themselves.

c. Of a trader, a trading firm or company: To begin one's career. More fully *to start in business*.

1872 R. B. SMYTH *Min. & Min. Statist.* 59 The Majestic Company was formed in February, 1861, from the previous company, known as Sim and Company, who started in 1857. 1875 H. J. BYRON *Our Boys* I, When I first started in business I'd the finest stock in Lambeth. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* IV. 62/2 He started in business on his own account.

d. With adverbs. *To start in* (U.S. colloq.): to begin. *To start out*: to set oneself, begin *to do* something.

1872 'MARK TWAIN' *Innoc. at Home* ii. (1882) 270 So when some roughs jumped the Catholic bone-yard and started in to stake out town lots in it, he went for 'em. 1885 *Lisbon* (Dakota) *Star* 2 Jan. 7/1 The United States commissioner for Dakota..started in to give the world a comprehensive idea of the resources..of the territory. 1897 *Sat. Rev.* 19 June 597/1 If Mr. Clive Holland started out to write this story without knowing [etc.]. 1902 WISTER *Virginian* xxix, I was starting in to die when she found me.

e. *To start with* (advb. phr.): = 'to begin with'; at the beginning.

1866 MRS. OLIPHANT *Agnes* I. xxii. 280 Her mind..was of a much higher order than his to start with.

13. Start up. **a.** To rise suddenly; to spring to an erect position (in ME. occas. † with dative of refl. pron.); also *fig.* to arise suddenly from inaction, bestir oneself.

c 1205 LAY 23951 Pær Bruttes wolden ouer water buȝen ȝif Arður up ne sturte [*c* 1275 storte] stercliche sone. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 2931 And pharaon stirte up a-non, And for-bed ðis folc to gon. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 6581 Þis grete louerd sturte him vp þo he oþer ne sey. *a* 1330 *Roland & V.* 816 When rouland herd þat steuen He stirt him vp ful euen & faust wiþ hert fre. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Pard. T.* 377 And vp they stirte, and dronken in this rage. *c* 1440 *Alphabet of Tales* 83 þis cokk starte vpp with his fedurs on, & clappid samen hys wengis & krew. 1526 TINDALE *Acts* xiv. 10 And he stert vppe, and walked. 1530 PALSGR. 735/1, I sterte up sodaynly out of my bedde. 1592 SHAKS. *Rom. & Jul.* III. iii. 100 She..now fals on her bed, and then starts vp. 1603 KNOLLES *Hist. Turks* (1621) 48 Andronicus..in great rage start up and said. 1653 DOROTHY OSBORNE *Lett.* (1888) 176, I, that had not said a word all night, started up at that, and desired they would say a little more on't, for I had not marked the beginning. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* IV. 813 Up he starts Discoverd and surpriz'd. 1816 SCOTT *Old Mort.* xxxviii, 'The de'il, woman!' exclaimed Cuddie, starting up, 'trow ye that I am blind?' 1840 THACKERAY *Shabby-genteel Story* iii, 'This is too bad!' said Mrs. G. starting up. 1849–50 ALISON *Hist. Europe* lvii. IX. 31 Prussia..would start up the moment that a serious reverse befell their [Austria's] eagles. 1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) I. 9 Chaerephon..started up and ran to me, seizing my hand.

b. Of the hair: To stand suddenly on end.

1602 SHAKS. *Ham.* III. iv. 122 Your bedded haire..Start vp, and stand an end. 1660 F. BROOKE tr. *Le Blanc's Trav.* 249 The hair of my head so started up, that it threw my cap on the ground.

c. To rise suddenly to power or importance; to become suddenly conspicuous.

1556 OLDE *Antichrist* 51 Anon Boniface of Rome the thrid of that name steart up. 1592 TIMME *Ten Eng. Lepers* B 3 b, There hath start up false Christes. 1603 KNOLLES *Hist. Turks* (1621) 22 Up start the Turks, a vagrant, fierce, and cruell people.

d. Of things: To come suddenly into being or notice, to spring up.

1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* I. 77 Litle an litle thair forces beginning to florishe weirs of new startis vpe. 1596 BACON *Use Com. Law* (1635) 47 Since..these notable Statutes..there is start up a device called Perpetuity. 1651 HOBBES *Leviath.* IV. xlvii. 386 So did the Papacy start up on a Sudden out of the Ruines. 1673 CAVE *Prim. Chr.* I. ii. 18 You are wont to object to us..that our Religion is novel, start up not many days ago. 1775 EARL CARLISLE in Jesse *Selwyn & Contemp.* (1844) III. 132, I am surrounded by difficulties, and as fast as I get the better of one another starts up. 1780 *Mirror* No. 102 Half a dozen societies have started up this winter, in which female speakers exercise their powers of elocution. 1836 [MRS. TRAILL] *Backw. Canada* 257 A village has started up where formerly a thick pine-wood covered the ground.

†**e.** Of children: To grow up rapidly. *Obs.*

1650 FULLER *Pisgah* IV. vi. 103 From a child he starts up a youth, and becomes a stripling. 1753 RICHARDSON *Grandison* (1754) II. viii. 51 Girls will start up, and look up, and parents cannot help it.

f. Of a hill: To rise abruptly from the ground.

1820 SCOTT *Monast.* ii, A beautiful green knoll, which started up suddenly in the very throat of a..narrow glen.

II. Transitive uses.

†**14.** To escape. (Cf. sense 6.) *Obs. rare.*

1450 *Knt. de la Tour* (1868) 113 Atte the dredfulle day he wolle axe acomptes where as there shalle none sterte to yelde ansuere. *c* 1460 *Pol. Rel. & L. Poems* (1903) 292 Lord, þi iugement we may not sterte.

†**15.** To cause to start or flinch; to startle. *Obs.*

c 1440 *Ps. Penit.* (1894) 31 Ther was no scorn; spotul, ne speche, Despit, ne stroke, that him sterte. 1456 SIR G. HAYE *Law Arms* (S.T.S.) 256 Quhen a man or beste is sudaynly stert, thair naturale inclinacioun gevis thame of thair complexioun to a brethe. 1597 J. KING *On Jonas* (1618) 91 Do you tarry to be started with the shrillest trumpet that euer blew? 1602 SHAKS. *All's Well* v. iii. 233 You boggle shrewdly, euery feather starts you. 1604 — *Oth.* I. i. 101 And now..dost thou come To start my quiet. 1625 B. JONSON *Staple of N.* III. iv, Stage-dir., He is started with Broker's comming back. 1706 ESTCOURT *Fair Example* IV. i. 43 'Twill heighten my Revenge, when she thinks I come to make fresh Offers of my Love, to start her with Neglect and Scorn. 1756 MRS. CALDERWOOD in *Coltness Collect.* (Maitl. Club) 225 What started me most was the bare plaister wall. 1822 SCOTT *Peveril* xxv, If my news have not frightened away Lance Outram too, whom they used to say nothing could start. 1871 R. ELLIS *Catullus* lxv. 22 Soon as a mother's step starts her.

b. To awaken out of sleep.

1753 MISS COLLIER *Art Torment.* I. i. (1811) 33 She made such a noise as to start you suddenly out of your sleep. 1799 CAMPBELL *Pleas. Hope* II. 349 How can thy words from balmy slumber start Reposing Virtue, pillow'd on the heart!

†**16.** To ride (a horse) at full speed. *Obs.*

c 1470 HENRY *Wallace* v. 251 Till him he stert the courser wondyr wicht, Drew out a suerd, so maid [hym] for to lycht.

17. *Hunting.* To force (an animal, esp. a hare) to leave its lair, form, or resting-place. † Also with *out*.

c 1384 CHAUCER *H. Fame* 681 But as a blende man stert an hare. *c* 1410 *Master of Game* (MS. Digby 182) xxxiv, And whenne she [the hare] is founde and stirt, he shall blowe a moot and rechate. 1473 *Paston Lett.* (1897) III. 83 Raff Blaundrehasset wer a name to styrte an hare. I warrant ther shall come no suche name in owr bokys, ner in owr house; it myght per case styrt xx^ti harys at onys. 1519 HORMAN *Vulg.* 283 b, I haue nede of a feret, to let into this beery to styrt out the conies: that they may be take aboue ground. 1576 TURBERV. *Venerie* xxxvii. 100 An Hare started and a Fox vnkennelled. 1595 *Locrine* v. iv. 31 What, is the tigre started from his caue? 1659 N. R. *Prov., Eng. Fr.* etc. 73 Little dogs start.4he hare, the great one gets her. 1749 FIELDING *Tom Jones* VII. iii, The squire, however, sent after his sister the same holla which attends the departure of a hare, when she is first started before the hounds. 1769 E. BANCROFT *Guiana* 177 They..when started, fly with a loud noise. 1817 SELWYN *Law Nisi Prius* (ed. 4) II. 833 If A. start a hare in the ground of B., and hunt and kill it there. 1850 R. G. CUMMING *Hunter's Life S. Afr.* (ed. 2) I. 224 Shortly before outspanning we started three leopards that were consuming a duiker. 1883 *Century Mag.* Oct. 923/2 For a week or two at a time, the meadows may be worked over without starting a bird.

b. *transf.*

1593 MARLOWE *Edw. II*, 1848 They shalbe started thence I doubt it not. 1595 SHAKS. *John* v. ii. 167 Do but start An eccho with the clamor of thy drumme. 1603 HOLLAND *Plutarch's Mor.* 100 If we be not altogether ignorant of our selves, and wilfully blinde,..we can not choose but start and finde out a flatterer. 1716 B. CHURCH *Philip's War* (1865) 43 They had not March'd above a quarter of a Mile before they started Three of the Enemy. 1852 MRS. STOWE *Uncle Tom's C.* xix, The dogs bayed and howled, and we rode and scampered, and finally we started him [*sc.* a hunted negro].

†**c.** *fig.*

a 1763 SHENSTONE *Elegies* xi. 58 We start false joys, and urge the devious race. 1781 COWPER *Retirement* 693 Learn'd philologists, who chase A panting syllable through time and space, Start it at home, and hunt it in the dark.

†**d.** *To start up* (fig.): to track to its hiding-place. Also, to discover suddenly. *Obs.*

1566 DRANT *Horace, Sat.* I. v. C 4, To sterte vp in astrologie the casuals of men. *a* 1652 J. SMITH *Sel. Disc.* VIII. i. (1821) 378 The minds of men..are ever and anon roving after religion; and as they casually and fortuitously start up any models and ideas of it, they are presently prone to believe themselves to have found out this only pearl of price. 1674 *Essex Papers* (Camden) I. 203 Now that this is almost consented to..a Patent of Sr Thomas Armstrong's is started up to obstruct it. [Quot. 1674 may belong to 13 d.]

18. To propound (a question, an objection); to introduce (a subject of discussion).

1643 SIR T. BROWNE *Relig. Med.* II. iii, For then reason, like a bad hound, spends upon a false sent, and forsakes the question first started. 1656 H. PHILLIPS *Purch. Pattern* (1676) 13, I start this question. 1673 HICKERINGILL *Greg. Father Greyb.* 230 Methinks I hear the proverb started. 1678 CUDWORTH *Intell. Syst.* 231 This Paradox, was both late started amongst the Greeks, and quickly cried down by the Succession of their Philosophers. 1710 PRIDEAUX *Orig. Tithes* ii. 112 From what I last said another objection lies very obvious to be started. 1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* (1840) II. vi. 155 Will you give me liberty to start one difficulty here? 1786 MME. D'ARBLAY *Diary* Aug., Having..explained herself, she finished the subject, and has never started it since. 1828 SCOTT *F. M. Perth* xxviii, He prepared to apply himself..to his food, without starting another topic. *a* 1853 ROBERTSON *Serm.* Ser. III. xiii. 160 Many difficulties arose; such for instance as the one here started. 1877 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* I. App. 604 The charter of 934 starts a point of quite another kind.

†**19.** *To start out*: to put forth (a projection) abruptly. *Obs.*

1662 J. DAVIES tr. *Mandelslo's Trav.* 260 It is somewhat strange, that at so great a distance from the Continent, the Sea should start out an Island about 7. Leagues in compass.

20. To discharge the contents of, empty (a vessel); to pour or shoot (liquids, coal, etc.) from one vessel into another.

a 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew, Start*, (Drink) Brewers emptying several Barrels into a great Tub; and thence conveying it through a Leather-pipe down the Cellar into the Butts. 1729 CAPT. W. WRIGLESWORTH *MS. Log-bk. of the 'Lyell'* 27 Oct., Took in 15 Puncheons of Water and started them into the Empty Butts in the Hold. 1743 BULKELEY & CUMMINS *Voy. S. Seas* 88 The Captain told him not to start the Powder..without his Orders. 1799 *Hull Advertiser* 16 Mar. 4/2 Every exertion was..made to lighten the ship, by starting the water. 1820 SCORESBY *Acc. Arctic Reg.* II. 399 Which fenk-back is sometimes provided with a clough..for 'starting' the fenks into a barge or lighter placed below. 1823 J. BADCOCK *Dom. Amusem.* 24 Charcoal might be started at once from its charring place to close vessels. *Ibid.* 102 The wine was anciently started into lead cisterns. 1826 *Art of Brewing* (ed. 2) 65 A stock of old beer can thus be increased expeditiously: start half of one full vat, when it is getting a little age, into another, and fill up both with new beer. 1830 MARRYAT *King's Own* xvi, The cocoa was in the tub,..but they started it all in the lee-scuppers. *c* 1850 *Rudim. Navig.* (Weale) 118 A small place..wherein the powder is started.

fig. 1879 L. STEPHEN *Hours in Libr.* Ser. III. 273 When the cares of life begin to press, they start their cargo of classical lumber and fill the void with law or politics.

b. *Naut.* (See quot. 1846.)

1744 J. PHILIPS *Yrnl. Exped. Anson* 152 At Daylight observing our Ship had started her Anchors, we lowered our Yards. 1846 A. YOUNG *Naut. Dict.* 296 *Start an Anchor*, to make it lose its hold of the ground...*Start a tack*, or a sheet, to slack it off a little.

21. To cause (a material thing) to 'start' or break away from its place; to displace by pressure or strain. Of a ship: To suffer the starting or giving way of (a plank, etc.).

1676 WISEMAN *Chirurg. Treat.* VII. iv. 485 Another having by accident of a Fall in wrastling started the end of the Clavicle from the Sternon. 1711 W. SUTHERLAND *Shipbuild. Assist.* 46 Which may be of dangerous consequence ..in starting the But. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* I. iii. (ed. 4) 33 The ship in rolling..started the butt ends of her planking. 1753 *Phil. Trans.* XLVIII. 91 A plank of this door was started, and beat in. 1839 MARRYAT *Phant. Ship* xii, She

had started one of her planks, and filled. 1840 *Civil Engin. & Arch. Jrnl.* III. 137/2 The damage she sustained was trifling,..not a rivet was started.

b. *Mining.* To displace (a vein) horizontally: said of another vein intersecting it.

1758 BORLASE *Nat. Hist. Cornwall* 157 Guessing then from their experience in like cases that the lode is heaved, or more properly speaking started.

22. To cause (a person, an animal, a vehicle) to start or set out in a race, on a journey; to cause to begin moving in any kind of progression. Also with *off*.

1725 *Bradley's Fam. Dict.* s. v. *Horse-racing*, Start him off roundly, and run him to the very Top of what he can do. 1850 SCORESBY *Cheever's Whalem. Adv.* i. (1858) 7 Her unprecedented success started numbers on her track. 1865 CARLYLE *Fredk. Gt.* XXI. vi. VI. 597 Draught-horses..whom ..you would see spring at the ropes..thirty of them to a gun, when started and gee-ho'd to. 1885 *Law Rep.* 10 Prob. Div. 100 The vessel was started again on her voyage with the machinery unaltered. 1890 MRS. KINGSCOTE *Tales of Sun* x. 125 This she gave to the brothers to eat on their way, and started them off to the woods.

fig. 1781 COWPER *Charity* 565 So self starts nothing but what tends apace Home to the goal where it began the race.

b. To enter (a horse) for a race.

1885 *Truth* 28 May 853/2 The Payne Stakes, for which Lord Hastings very wisely started Melton.

23. To cause to begin to act or operate. **a.** To cause or enable (a person) to start or enter on some course of action; to set up or establish in business.

1735 DYCHE & PARDON *Dict., Start*..in the Brewers Trade, 'tis to supply a Customer with a Cellar of Beer, Ale, &c. in order to keep, settle, and refine some Months before it be drawn, &c. 1757 FOOTE *Author* I. Wks. 1799 I. 138, I intend giving him the run of Jonathan's for three months to understand trade and the funds; and then I'll start him. 1854 *Poultry Chron.* I. 69 The plan for starting the cottager in business..may appear tardy in its results.

b. To set on foot, initiate, be the first to move in (a business); to set (a rumour) in circulation; †to originate, be the first to practise (an art).

1666 PEPYS *Diary* 24 June, He started a discourse of a talk he hears about the town. 1699 BENTLEY *Phalaris* 237 Allowing then, that this Epigenes..started Tragedy before Thespis; still [etc.]. 1723 WATERLAND *2nd Vind. Christ's Divin.* 95 Before the Arian Controversy was started. 1777 BURKE *Let. to E. Perry* Wks. 1842 II. 405 The fair part, which the Whigs had acted in a business, which, though first started by them, was supposed equally acceptable to all sides. 1782 PRIESTLEY *Corrupt. Chr.* I. IV. 380 The Canons of Lyons started the opinion. 1902 R. BAGOT *Donna Diana* xx. 242 No doubt it is honourable—according to the conception of honour existing among those who have started the story.

c. To set going, cause to begin to operate; to set (machinery) in motion. Also with complementary infinitive or gerund.

1841 in *Loudon's Suburban Hort.* (1842) 511 Cucumbers will succeed beautifully, trained against a south wall, if planted in a little good soil to start them. 1846 SOYER *Cookery* 330 Start it to boil over the fire. 1850 *Mech. Mag.* 20 Apr. 315 At the slightest tap of one of these bells, these enormous engines are stopped, or started or reversed. 1865 *Intell. Observ.* No. 36. 419 By the time I had started my fire. 1885 *Law Times Rep.* LIII. 52/1 The small quantity of..black smoke necessary to start the fires. 1901 *Daily Express* 28 Feb. 5/1 The private member..started the ball rolling by attacking the government [etc.].

d. To set (a person) going in conversation, to induce to begin to talk on some subject.

1877 MRS. ARGLES *Phyllis* XX, I would back mamma, once started, to hold her own against any of those Billingsgate ladies one hears of. 1885 'MRS. ALEXANDER' *Valerie's Fate* II, Miss Riddell,..by a judicious question or two, started the old gentleman on one of his favorite topics.

e. To set on foot (an institution), establish.

1859 LEVER *Dav. Dunn* lxxvi. 669 What a head it must have been that..started companies, opened banks, worked mines, [etc.]. 1864 *Sat. Rev.* 27 Aug. 257/1 The list of possible religions is closed in France, and no one is permitted to start a new one. 1874 R. TYRWHITT *Sketch Club* 2 Nothing is easier than to start an art-club. 1884 E. YATES *Recoll.* II. 322 You don't mean to say..that you actually mean to start a paper of the kind set forth?

f. To begin to keep as part of one's establishment; to 'set up' (e.g. a horse, a carriage).

1851 D. JERROLD *St. Giles* viii. 78 His wife suggested he should forthwith start a horse and very genteel cart. 1866 ANNIE THOMAS *Walter Goring* I. xvii. 251, I often thought it a pity that your uncle did not keep up the kennels..I wish you'd start them again! 1873 BLACK *Pr. Thule* XXV. 415 He is sure to start a yacht for one thing.

24. To begin (some action or operation). Often with obj. a gerund; also with infinitive. Also said of a thing.

1833 NEWMAN *Lett.* (1891) I. 434, I had before this written to Rose how we had best start agitating. 1873 BLACK *Pr. Thule* i. 10 The young fellow..started another ballad. 1884 *Manch. Exam.* 20 May 5/2 He started business on a capital which he would now-a-days consider ridiculously small. 1891 C. ROBERTS *Adrift Amer.* 181 There would be no chance of crossing it [the river] for some days.., even if it started to go down at once. 1902 W. W. JACOBS *Lady of Barge* (1908) 10 Miss Harris..waved the amorous Ted on deck, and started work on her disarranged hair. 1914 R. CURLE *Life a Dream* 256 It was most unfortunate that at that instant the outer door bell of his flat should start ringing.

†25. ? To provide, supply. *Obs.*

1826 H. N. COLERIDGE *Six Months W. Indies* 27 They start you an exquisite luncheon..at each [country residence].

26. *slang.* (See quot.)

1825 *Gentl. Mag.* XCV. I. 397, 'I started him.' To start is to apply a smart word to an idle or forgetful person.

†27. *Naut.* To flog with a rope's end. *Obs.*

[1801: see STARTING *vbl. sb.* 1.] 1813 SIR F. BURDETT in *Hansard's Parl. Deb.* XXV. 390 To..make him sweep the ship, and if he did not, to get him well started (beaten with a rope's end). 1824 *Ann. Reg., Chron.* 33 The charge of severely starting marines and seamen, and flogging others on their breech. 1836 'JACK NASTY-FACE' *Naut. Econ.* 119 Upwards of three hundred men had been flogged or started.

III. 28. The verb-stem in combination: **start-away**, †(*a*) a renegade, deserter (*obs.*); (*b*) a starting away, sudden deviation from a course; **start-back**, †(*a*) a deserter (*obs.*); (*b*) an act of starting back.

1578 TIMME *Calvin on Gen.* xv. 318 Being degenerate and *start-awayes from the faith of their fathers. 1840 BROWNING *Sordello* III. 632 Some slight weariness, some looking-off Or start-away. 1600 HOLLAND *Livy* XXIII. xviii. 486 These *start-backs had no other place of haunt to lurke in, but Capua. 1626 BACON *Sylva* § 179 So we see in Strings; the more they are wound vp, and strained; (And thereby giue a more quicke Start-backe;) the more Treble is the Sound.

Hence **Sta'rted**, *ppl. a.*, in senses of the verb; also with adv. as *started-up*.

1646 CRASHAW *Steps to Temple* 43 Why blusht the day? Why ran the started aire trembling away? 1679 LONGUEVILLE in *Hatton Corr.* (Camden) I. 181 This new started question about their Speaker. 1764 H. WALPOLE *Otranto* iv. (1765) 166 Whoever weds Isabella, it shall not be Father Falconara's started up son. They start up, said the Friar, who are suddenly beheld in the seat of lawful Princes. 1902 S. SHELDON & H. MASON *Altern.-Current Machines* 23 Magnetic Energy of a Started Current.

†Sta'rted, *a. Obs.* [f. START *sb.*[1] + -ED 2.] Having a 'start', handle, or stalk. Also in parasynthetic formation *short-started*.

1468 *Will* in *Ripon Chapter Acts* (Surtees) 137 Unam ollam enniam sterttydd. 1600 SURFLET *Country Farm* I. xii. 56 To eate one or two short started apples.

Starter (stā·rtəɹ). Also 6 sterter, startar. [f. START *v.* + -ER[1].] One who or something which starts. **I.** In intransitive senses of the verb.

†1. One who 'starts' or goes away. Chiefly in phr. *to be no starter*. **a.** A deserter *from* a principle or cause; one who is given to 'starting' from or abandoning his purposes; a fickle or inconstant person. **b.** One given to wandering; one that cannot abide long in one spot. **c.** One who runs away, a flincher, coward, shirker. *Obs.*

a. 1536 STARKEY *Let.* in *Life & Lett.* (1871) p. xxxix, From thys truthe you schal fynd me my lord to be no sterter, wauerar nor hengar in the wynd. 1561 T. HOBY tr. *Castiglione's Courtyer* IV. (1577) Y iij b, I recken him a waueryng starter. 1609 HOLLAND *Amm. Marcell.* XXIX. v. 373 He advised the Generall, who of his owne disposition was no starter, but constant and resolute, That [etc.]. 1680 *Reflect. late Libel on Curse-ye-Meros* 28 The Author had (in all probability) been Lecturer there at this day, (for he is no Starter, nor Shifter, nor Swapper of Livings.) *a* 1704 T. BROWN *Sat. Fr. King* Wks. 1730 I. 59 Were I thy confessor,..Dost think that I'd allow thee any quarter? No—thou should'st find what 'tis to be a starter.

b. 1579 LYLY *Euphues* (Arb.) 57 Canst thou prefer a stranger before thy countryman? a starter before thy companion? 1600 HEYWOOD *If you know not me* (1605) C 4 b, Nay, nay, you need not bolt & locke so fast, Shee is no starter. *c* 1613 MIDDLETON *No Wit like Woman's* v. i. 226 My miseries are no starters; when they come, Stick longer by me. 1621 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Praise Beggery* C 3 b, A Lowse..She's not a starter like the dust-bred-Flea. 1705 DUNTON *Life & Errors* (1818) I. vii. 244 He was no starter, having lived forty years in the same house.

c. *c* 1620 FLETCHER & MASS. *Double Marr.* II. i, We'll spare her our main top-sail, He shall not look us long, we are no starters. 1663 BUTLER *Hud.* I. iii. 606 I'll sooner Stand to it boldly, and take quarter, To let them see I am no starter. *a* 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew* s. v., *I am no Starter*; I shan't flinch, or cry to go Home. 1731 C. D'ANVERS *Pacification* 26 Poems 6 St. Dunstan's Clock struck One, And all the sober Cuffs were gone; The rest..Call'd for a Bottle and to pay; The Doctor and the Bard made two, Who are no Starters, you all know.

d. With adverb.

1538 ELYOT *Dict., Errones*, startars asyde, vagabundes.

2. One who starts or sets out in a race, on a journey; *esp.* a person, animal, yacht, etc. that is to start or has started in a race.

1818 SCOTT *Rob Roy* XXXV, We are early starters in the dawn, even when we have the luck to have good beds to sleep in. 1825 — *Fam. Lett.* 18 July (1894) II. 310, I speak for security, for ladies are rarely early starters. 1847 *Illustr. Lond. News* 10 July 23/1 Yachts that would take up their station as starters. 1881 *Daily News* 5 Aug. 6/4 In the Yawl Race the starters were Fleur de Lys, Curlew, Opal, Lizzie, Raven, and Arethusa. 1891 N. GOULD *Double Event* xvii. 122 These [horses] comprised the six starters.

fig. 1860 HUGHES *Tom Brown Oxf.* xxiv, The private tutors [compared to Newmarket trainers] watch the examiners..to see what line they take..that they may handle the rest of their starters accordingly.

II. In transitive senses.

3. A person or animal that starts game.

1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* 217 Strabo..speaking of the Conies of Spaine, and of their hunters and starters out of their holes. 1829 [J. L. KNAPP] *Jrnl. Nat.* (ed. 2) 247 In the evening..the wagtail resorts to the pastures, feeding under the very..noses of the cattle, who now become the starters of his game.

b. A dog trained for starting game. Also *fig.*

1748 RICHARDSON *Clarissa* (1811) VIII. 267 In short, Belford, thou wert an excellent starter and setter. 1754 DELANY *Observ. Ld. Orrery's Rem. Swift* 107 If he [Sheridan] was not the stanchest hound in the pack, he was at least the best starter. 1768 PENNANT *Brit. Zool.* I. 54 There were two varieties of this kind [of dog], the first used in hawking, to spring the game, which are the same with our starters.

4. The person who starts or initiates something.

1699 BENTLEY *Phal.* Pref. 19 The Starters of this Calumny. 1729 SWIFT *Let. on M[c]Culla's Project* Wks. 1905 VII. 184 Mr. M[c]Culla, as being the first starter of the scheme, might be..rewarded by such a society. 1893 H. T. FISHER in *King's Business* 385 An untold number of starters or converts of revivals.

5. One who gives the signal to start (in a race). Also, an official who gives the signal to start a train.

1622 in *Hore's Hist. Newmarket* (1885) I. 347 John Wagget onely the starter. 1852 *Bentley's Misc.* XXXI. 120 The starter..drops his flag with the word 'Go!' 1859 H. KINGSLEY *G. Hamlyn* XV, 'Back, Velocipede; back, Lara!' says the starter; down goes the flag, they dart away, [etc.]. 1860 LD. W. LENNOX *Pict. Sporting Life* II. 23, 'I shall give the words, One, two, three, and away', said the starter, placing me ten yards in advance. 1885 *Manch. Exam.* 7 Apr. 5/1 On a well-managed line there are starters and station officials to give the word of command.

6. An apparatus for starting a machine.

1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2310. 1909 *Stage Year Bk.* 56 The motor is controlled by a Siemens ironclad automatic starter.

7. (See quot.)

1908 J. P. SHELDON *Farm & Dairy* (ed. 4) 76 The modern..method is to ripen the cream artificially by means of a pure culture of the lactic acid bacillus, technically called a 'starter'.

Hence **Sta'rtership.**

1889 *Star* 10 Jan. 3/5 When the vacancy for the starter-ship to the Jockey Club occurred, Lord Marcus Beresford was appointed to succeed the late Mr. McGeorge.

Startful (stā·rtfŭl), *a.* [f. START *sb.* or *v.* + -FUL.] **a.** Apt to start, easily startled, timorous. **b.** Proceeding by starts, fitful.

1790 WOLCOT (P. Pindar), *Rowland for Oliver* Wks. 1812 II. 310 Say, Virgin, where dost thou delight to dwell? With Maids of Honour, startful Virgin? Tell. 1796 COLERIDGE *Destiny of Nations* 255 The Maid Brooded with moving lips, mute, startful, dark! 1837 C. LOFFT *Self-formation* I. 226 The growth of each is capricious and startful, often making a sudden push from no apparent motive.

Hence **Sta'rtfulness.**

1803 BEDDOES *Hygeia* IX. 141 Palpitations, startfulness, disposition to be terrified, exist more or less strongly.

Star-thistle. [STAR *sb.*[1]; cf. G. *sterndistel*.] A name for the weed *Centaurea Calcitrapa*, the flowers of which are surrounded by radiating spines; also for *C. solstitialis*, and as a book-name for the whole genus.

1578 LYTE *Dodoens* IV. lix. 521 This herbe is nowe called in Latine *Carduus stellatus*, and *Stellaria*, also *Calcitrapa*: ..they call it..in base Almaigne, Sterre distel: in English Starre Thistel or Caltrop. 1597 GERARDE *Herbal* II. cccclxx. 1003 The Star Thistle, called *Carduus stellatus*, hath many soft frized leaues. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. App., *Star-thistle*, the English name of a species of centaury, called by some *calcitrapa*. 1822 *Hortus Anglicus* II. 418 *C. Solstitialis*. St. Barnaby's Star Thistle. 1863 PRIOR *Plant-n.*, Star-Thistle, from its spiny involucre, resembling the weapon called a morning star, *Centaurea solstitialis*.

Sta'rting, *vbl. sb.* [f. START *v.* + -ING[1].]

1. The action of the verb in various senses.

†*Starting of the navel*: umbilical rupture.

1398 TREVISA *Barth. de P. R.* XVIII. XXX. (1495) 793 A hart ..lepyth thwart ouer wayes..and sterteyth wyth contrary lepynges and stertynges. *c* 1430 *Syr Gener.* (Roxb.) 7317 [Generides] stert a-side thoo; In the sterting the knife was nigh. 1602 *Archpriest Controv.* (Camden) II. 221 Which action, without waveringe or startinge, I did earnestly prosecute. 1626 BACON *Sylva* § 713 Starting is both an Apprehension of the Thing feared;..And likewise an Inquisition, in the beginning, what the Matter should be. *a* 1653 JER. TAYLOR *Serm.* I. i. 8 Thy falshod to God and startings from thy holy promises..shall be laid open before all the world. 1694 J. PECHEY *Compl. Herbal* 164 The Starting of the Navel has been cured in many Children, with a Cataplasm made with [etc.]. 1798 R. JACKSON *Hist. & Cure Fever* 239 Tremors, startings, and the various irregular motions, which often appear in fever, are undoubtedly dangerous. 1802 *Ann. Reg., Chron.* 44 [He] called to the boatswain to bring a point (a rope doubled with knots at the end), and give the plaintiff a 'starting'. 1828 A. B. GRANVILLE *St. Petersburgh* II. 454 There is, moreover, another species of corporal punishment in the British navy...It is vulgarly called 'starting', or the 'rope's end'. 1850 NEWMAN *Difficulties Anglicans* I. ii. (1892) 1. 59 They..relieve their feelings by gestures and cries, and startings to and fro. 1885 PATER *Marius* IV. xx. II. 100 Those noises in the house all supper-time..were they only startings in the old rafters?

b. Phrase, *at starting*: *lit.* at the beginning of a race or journey; *fig.* at the outset.

[1656 EARL MONM. tr. *Boccalini's Advts. fr. Parnass.* I. XXXI. (1674) 35 Many Charrets appearing at the first starting with new Wheels well greased.] 1834 NEWMAN *Par. Serm.* I. ix. 134 It is given you in order that you may find it easy to obey at starting. 1861 READE *Cloister & H.* i, Let me remind him that even Christians loved one another at first starting. 1868 *Field* 18 July 49/1 The favourite, taking a clear lead at starting, made all the running, and won in a canter by a couple of lengths. 1880 SWINBURNE *Stud. Shaks.* 103 None of these had better luck in that line at starting than *King Henry IV*. 1883 ANNIE THOMAS *Mod. Housew.* 144 At starting let me say that [etc.].

2. *attrib.* and *Comb.* **a.** Simple attrib., of appliances for starting machinery, as *starting-bar, -gear, -handle, panel, platform, -valve, -wheel*; relating to the starting of horses in a race, as *starting-gate, -list, -machine*, †*-stoop*; relating to the starting of railway trains, as *starting-signal*.

1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.*, **Starting-bar*, a hand-lever for

starting the valve-gear of a steam-engine. 1898 T. Haydon *Sporting Reminisc.* 29 There is another Australian invention ..the *Starting Gate. 1867 Burgh *Mod. Marine Engin.* 295 *Starting Gear. 1876 Preece & Sivewright *Telegraphy* 131 The receiver has also a switch in connection with the *starting handle. 1898 *Encycl. Sport* II. 190/1 (Racing) The Starter's duties are at present threatened with supersession by the introduction of the '*starting machine', a colonial invention. 1913 J. B. Bishop *Panama Gateway* v. v. 376 A *starting panel containing contractors by which current is applied to the motor. 1869 Rankine *Machine & Hand-tools* Pl. F 5, The hammer can be regulated and easily worked by one man, at the lever, F, on the *starting platform. 1889 G. Findlay *Eng. Railway* 68 *Starting signals are usually placed at the end of the platform at a station..and they indicate to the driver when he may start his train. 1708 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4450/4 The Horses to be enter'd at the *Starting-Stoop 10 Days before the Race. 1865 Bourne *Rec. Improv. Steam Eng.* 35 In 1852 I introduced *starting valves. 1867 Burgh *Mod. Marine Engin.* 55 The correct locality of the *starting wheel.

b. Special comb.: **starting-back** · *Whaling* [Back *sb.*[2]] (see quot.); †**starting-beer**, beer used for the purpose of starting or reviving stale beer; **starting-bolt** *Naut.* (see quot.); **starting ground**, a basis from which an argument or a development starts; **starting-note** *Sc.*, an extra note or anacrusis at the beginning of a melody, preceding an accented note; also *fig.*; **starting-place**, the place occupied at starting by a competitor in a race; the place from which a person or thing starts; **starting-point**, the point from which a person or thing starts; a point of departure in a journey, argument, narration, development, etc.; **starting-post**, a post which marks the place from which the competitors in a race should start; also *fig.*; **starting powder** *Fireworks* (see quot.); **starting-price**, (*a*) the price at which the bidding at an auction is started; (*b*) *Racing*, the final odds on a horse at the time of starting; also *attrib.* See also Starting-hole.

1820 Scoresby *Acc. Arctic Reg.* II. 398 An oblong wooden cistern, called the '*starting-back', is usually erected, for containing blubber. 1742 *Lond. & Country Brew.* I. (ed. 4) 23 For brewing common brown Ale and *Starting-beer. 1867 Smyth *Sailor's Word-bk.*, *Starting-Bolt, or *Drift-bolt*, a bolt used to drive out another; it is usually a trifle smaller. 1869 Dk. of Argyll *Primeval Man* IV. 145 Man..must always have had instincts which afford all that is required as a *starting-ground for advance in the mechanical arts. 1873 M. Arnold *Lit. & Dogma* (1876) 63 The more we meditate on this starting-ground of theirs, the more we shall find that there is solidity in it. 1793 Burns *Let. to Thomson* Sept. (Globe) 536 The old way, and the way to give most effect, is to have no *starting-note, as the fiddlers call it, but to burst at once into the pathos. 1829 Cunningham *Brit. Painters* I. 275 Most of the songs of Burns..are constructed on the stray verse or vagrant line of some forgotten bard. But then the poet only employed those as the starting notes to his own inimitable strains. 1656 Earl Monm. tr. *Boccalini's Advts. fr. Parnass.* I. xxxi. (1674) 36 Injustice was used in the inequality of the *starting-places. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* II. VI. iii, Paris and every City of them, starting-place, course, and goal of said sacrilegious forced march, shall [etc.]. 1874 Marq. Dufferin in Sir A. Lyall *Life* (1906) I. 238 Our original starting-place was Quebec. 1875 Jowett *Plato* (ed. 2) III. 510 Runners, who run well from the starting-place to the goal. 1840 Mill *Coleridge* Diss. 1859 I. 403 Every consistent scheme of philosophy requires as its *starting-point, a theory [etc.]. 1844 Kinglake *Eothen* xvii, Here we met in the wilderness at about half-way from our respective starting-points. 1848 R. I. Wilberforce *Doctr. Incarnation* i. (1852) 10 Rationalism makes the individual the starting-point for all improvement, whereas the Church's starting-point is Christ. 1858 Lady Morgan *Autobiog.* (1859) Pref. 8 My original intention was to publish an autobiography from my starting-point on a certain Christmas Day. 1874 Green *Short Hist.* ii. § 2. 60 The countries of Scandinavia which had so long been the mere starting-points of the pirate-bands. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 502 A neuro-paralytic hyperæmia..is sometimes the starting-point of eczema. 1758 Johnson *Idler* No. 6 P 8 Let an equestrian statue of this heroine be erected near the *starting post on the heath of Newmarket. 1819 Byron *Juan* III. xxi, All feelings which o'erleap the years long lost, And bring our hearts back to their starting-post. 1852 J. F. Bateman *Aquatic Notes* 41 The starting-posts were 140 feet apart. 1892 Westcott *Gospel of Life* 46 It is as true in metaphysics as it is in physics that the goal of yesterday is the starting-post of to-day. 1910 *Encycl. Brit.* X. 422/1 Such are the *starting-powder, which first catches fire, the bursting powder which causes the final explosion, and the quick-match [of a firework]. 1854 *Poultry Chron.* II. 127 A great number of the lots were claimed at the *starting price, 5s. 1891 *Daily News* 17 Nov. 7/1 The plaintiff was a starting-price bookmaker. 1901 *Westm. Gaz.* 20 Nov. 7/3 Mr. Hawke promises to bring very telling testimony..before the Select Committee .. particularly with regard to starting-price betting.

Starting (stā·rtiŋ), *ppl. a.* [f. Start *v.* + -ing[2].] That starts, in various senses of the verb: †leaping, bounding, hence full of energy; making sudden movements; suffering displacement or disintegration, etc.

c 1420 *Anturs of Arthur* 522 (Thornton MS.) One a stirt-ande stede he strykes one straye. 1545 Joye *Exp. Dan.* vii. P vij b, The scole doctors of diuinite..what new strange sterting termes they haue invented. 1548 Ascham *Toxoph.* ii. (Arb.) 125 Againe Hulder, black thorne, Serues tree [etc.] make holow, starting, studding, gaddynge shaftes. 1598 Dallington *Meth. Trav.* G 4, [Henri IV] his nature stirring and full of fire, like a true French man. 1606 Shaks. *Tr. & Cr.* IV. v. 2 With starting courage, Giue with thy Trumpet a loud note to Troy. 1608 Dekker *Dead Term* Wks. (Grosart) IV. 44 The eyes of euery Straunger, and of euery starting Passenger be cast vp vppon mee. 1628 Feltham *Resolves* I. x. 26 What feares and cares affright the starting sleepes of the couetous? 1648 Hexham II, *Een schouw-peerdt*, a starting Horse. 1712 Steele *Spect.* No. 398 P 6 Your starting Manner of Writing, ..has in it something very unaccountable. 1718 Rowe tr. *Lucan* I. 364 Stiff rose his starting hair, he stood dismay'd. 1757 W. Wilkie *Epigoniad* III. 72 Behind his ear the starting weapon shone. 1787 Polwhele *Engl. Orator* II. 209 When now the starting Tear Of filial Duty trembles. 1817 Shelley *Rev. Islam* XI. viii, But still there clung One hope, like a keen sword on starting threads uphung. 1878 Bosw. Smith *Carthage* 89 The starting timbers of the unseasoned wood of which the ships were built.

Hence **Sta·rtingly** *adv.*, with a start; by starts; †impetuously, fitfully.

1604 Shaks. *Oth.* III. iv. 79 Why do you speake so startingly and rash? 1636 Featly *Serm.* in *Strict. Lyndom.* (1638) II. 174 In a Fever..it [the pulse] beateth unevenly and startingly. *a* 1693 *Urquhart's Rabelais* III. xiv. 119 You startingly awaked. 1827 Moore *Alciphron* III. 127 As startingly her eyes she rais'd. 1841 *Fraser's Mag.* XXIII. 315 Then startingly the pheasant springeth forth.

† **Starting-hole.** *Obs.* [f. Starting *vbl. sb.* (Cf. Start *v.* 6).]

1. A hole in which a hunted animal takes refuge; *transf.* a place in which a criminal or a hunted enemy finds refuge.

1530 Palsgr. 276/1 Stertyng hole, *ung tapynet, lieu de refuge.* 1537 Layton in *Lett. Suppress. Monasteries* (Camden) 76 Lyke a cony clapper fulle of startyng hoilles. 1559 Aylmer *Harborowe* F j, Least the contrary side might haue their refuge and startinge hole there. 1565 Stapleton tr. *Bede's Hist. Ch. Eng.* 99 To erect a monastery in the high and desert mountaines. Where before that time were rather starting holes for theues and dennes for wilde bestes, then mete mansion places for men. 1577–87 Holinshed *Chron.* III. 257/1 The Welshmen..brake vpon him out of their starting-holes and places of refuge through the marishes. *a* 1593 Marlowe *Edw. II* 1436 Aduaunce your standard Edward in the field, And marche to fire them from their starting holes. 1609 Holland *Amm. Marcell.* XVII. xvi. 103 The others to avoid the danger were driven to flye for refuge unto their starting holes among the blind marishes. 1613–16 W. Browne *Brit. Past.* I. v. 105 Th' insnared fish ..with his franticke fits so scares the shole, That each one takes his hyde, or starting hole. 1617 Moryson *Itin.* II. 272 He had razed Hen. Ovingtons Castle, and Mac Hughes Iland, which both had been neasts and starting holes for theeves. 1618 Bolton *Florus* II. iii. (1636) 87 The Deceates ..thus for a long time shifted for themselves by advantage of their woods, wayes, and starting holes.

2. *fig.* A means of evasion; a loophole.

Extraordinarily frequent in the 16th and 17th c.

1531 Elyot *Governor* II. ix. (1880) II. 100 Peraduenture some, which seke for sterting holes to mainteine their vices, will obiecte. *a* 1533 Frith *Answ. Rastell* Wks. (1573) 32/1 If they would here fayne a glose (as their maner is) when they are in a straite euer to seeke a startyng hole. 1591 Greene *Conny Catching* II. Wks. (Grosart) X. 78 There is no Act, Statute, nor Lawe so strickt conueyed, but there be straight found starting holes to auoide it. 1596 Shaks. 1 *Hen. IV*, II. iv. 290. 1610 Holland *Camden's Brit.* (1637) 147 He thought that Harold thereby sought starting holes for to hide his perjurie. 1674 Hickman *Quinquart. Hist.* (ed. 2) 46 That the poor Jansenists might have no starting hole, by slipping into which to avoid the force of this condemnation. 1688 Bunyan *Heavenly Footman* (1886) 170 Because they are not willing, how many shifts and starting-holes will they have. 1696 C. Leslie *Snake in Grass* (1697) 260, I see the Starting-hole that they have left, (as in all their Writings) whereby to escape from what I have before Quoted. 1801 W. Huntington *God Guardian of Poor* Ded. 6 And dry forms of devotion..are no better than..a starting hole to shun the cross.

Startish (stā·rtiʃ), *a. rare.* [f. Start *v.* + -ish.] Apt to start or jib.

1730 Bailey (fol.) *Startish, Startly*, apt to start as some Horses, &c. 1768 Tucker *Lt. Nat.* (1834) I. 203 Sometimes he [the horse] may prove startish or restive, turning out of the way, or running into a pond to drink. 1791 Nairne *Poems* 79 The startish beast took fright, and flop The mad-brain'd rider tumbled, neck and crop!

Startle (stā·rtl), *sb.* [f. Startle *v.*]

1. An experience of being startled; a start or shock of surprise or alarm. Also (predicatively), something that startles.

1714 *Spect.* No. 599 P 4 After having recovered myself from my first Startle, I was very well pleas'd at the Accident which had befallen me. 1823 Byron *Juan* x. i, Newton.. found In that slight startle from his contemplation .. A mode of proving that [etc.]. 1836 R. H. Froude *Rem.* (1838) I. 426 Burton's death..was quite a startle to me. 1844 H. Stephens *Bk. Farm* III. 1029 [The colt] bearing, without a startle, the fall of the pail-handle, [etc.]. 1894 Crockett *Raiders* (ed. 3) 166 This gave me a great startle.

b. *nonce-use.* A startling perception *of* something. 1854 Lowell *Frnl. Italy* Pr. Wks. 1890 I. 191 You receive hints and startles of it through the senses first.

2. A sudden rush (of water).

1912 Masefield in *Engl. Rev.* Oct. 369 Startles of water made the swing ports gush.

† **Sta·rtle,** *a. Obs. rare.* In 5 styrtyl, -el. [f. Start *v.* + -le.] Actuated by sudden impulse.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 447/1 Schytylle, styrtyl [*Winch.* styrtel], or hasty, *preceps. Ibid.* 476/1 Styrtyl, or hasty, *preceps.*

Startle (stā·rtl), *v.* Also 1 **steartlian,** 4 **stertel,** 4, 6, 9 *dial.* **stertle,** 5 **stertylle,** 6 **startell, -yll,** 6–7 **startel,** 9 *dial.* **sturtle.** [OE. *steartlian* :—**startlōjan,* f. **start-* (: **stert-* : **sturt-*) see Start *v.* The ME. *stertle* (whence the mod. word) may however be a new formation on *stert-* Start *v.*]

† **1.** *intr.* In OE.: To kick, struggle. *Obs.*

a 1100 *Aldhelm Gloss* in Napier *OE. Glosses* i. 2438 *Ut non calcitres* (*i. ut non pugnes*) þæt þu ne spear[n]last, steartlast. *Ibid.* ii. 82 (*Same lemma.*) þæt þu ne steartlize.

2. To rush, move swiftly; to caper. Now *dial.*

In mod. dialects chiefly said of cows rushing wildly about under a burning sun; see *Eng. Dial. Dict.*

a 1300 *Body & Soul* in *Map's Poems* (Camden) 335 Thouȝ art unsemly for to se,..Thouȝ ne havest frend that ne wolde fle, come thouȝ stertlinde in the strete. *c* 1385 Chaucer *L. G. W.* 1741 (Seld. MS.) Hir husbond Colatyn Or sche was of him war com stertlyng In. 1387 Trevisa *Higden* (Rolls) VIII. 55 þerynne [*sc.* on a carved casket] it semeþ þat geantes fiȝten, bestes stertelleþ [L. *gestus animalium..conspiciuntur*], foules fleeþ. 1398 — *Barth. De P. R.* XVIII. cix. (1495) 851 Whan a cowe is stonge, wyth a grete flye thenne she..stertelyth as she were wood abowte feldes and playnes. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 363/1 To Stertylle, *exilire, prosilire. c* 1520 Skelton *Magnyf.* 751, I make them to startyll and sparkyll lyke a bronde. 1526 Tindale *Mark* v. 13 And the heerd starteled [Gr. ὥρμησεν], and ran hedlyng into the see. 1549 *Compl. Scot.* vi. (1873) 37, I beheld the pretty fische vantounly stertland vitht there rede vermeil fynnis. 1555 Watreman *Fardle Facions* I. iv. 40 Emong their priestes, loke whome they sawe startle aboute as haulfe wood, him did they iudge of all other mooste holy. 1583 Melbancke *Philotimus* S iij, The Leopard pursues his pray leaping and startling. 1616 J. Lane *Contn. Sgr.'s T.* IV. 312 Then the horse gann startel, tripp, and goe. 1637 Rutherford *Lett.* (1664) 66 We see oxen goe to the shambles leaping and startling. 1786 Burns *Twa Dogs* 163 He..down Italian Vista startles [*rhyme* myrtles].

3. †**a.** To start, to undergo a sudden involuntary movement of the body, caused by surprise, alarm, acute pain, etc. Of a horse: To shy. *Obs.* **b.** To feel sudden astonishment or alarm; to take fright, be shocked *at* something. Now *rare* or *Obs.* (superseded by passive of sense 5).

1530 Palsgr. 734/1, I startell, as a man dothe that is amased sodaynly, or that hath some inwarde colde. 1540 — *Acolastus* B iv, Thou begynnest to wyncke or to startle on this facion. 1562 Cooper *Answ. Def. Truth* Pref., And in dede.. a man maye thinke they had good cause to startle at the matter. 1591 Savile *Tacitus, Hist.* II. lxxiii. 95 Oftentimes as hee [Vespasian] was named, Vitellius would startle. 1600 Shaks. *A. Y. L.* IV. iii. 13 Patience her selfe would startle at this letter, And play the swaggerer. 1603 Harsnet *Pop. Impost.* 136 To teach her..gnash her teeth, startle with her body, [etc.]. 1614 Wither *Sat. to King* Juvenilia (1633) 326 Make them, when their Villanies are blazed, Shudder and startle as men halfe amazed. 1629 Gaule *Holy Madn.* 206 His Head startles, Haires bristle, Browes wrinkle. 1634 Sir T. Herbert *Trav.* 98 His pampered horse startled at him. 1641 *Vind. Smectymnuus* 31 Our loyall hearts startle to think of a repetition of the words. 1660 T. M. *C. Walker's Hist. Independency* IV. 12 But the Dutch [denied]..to vaill to the English because they were the younger State..hereat the English (though yet but an Embrio) begin to startle. *a* 1704 T. Brown *Char. Jacobite Clergy* Wks. 1711 IV. 269 You must either leave them, or else, after the squeamishness of startling at a Surplice, be forc'd to swallow Transubstantiation. 1719 Young *Revenge* II. i, Yet to ask it Has something shocking to a generous mind; At least Alonzo's spirit startles at it. 1732 *Lond. Mag.* I. 240 Like Moon-blind horses are apt to startle at every object. 1785 Miss Fielding *Ophelia* xxx, She..startled at me, as if I had been a monster. 1792 Wordsw. *Descr. Sk.* 60 The cloister startles at the gleam of arms. 1815 J. Smith *Panorama Sci. & Art* I. 614 The horses..crowded close to us, startling with great surprise. 1826 Lamb *Let. to B. Barton* 20 Mar., A good lady, a friend's wife, whom I really love (don't startle, I mean in a licit way). 1835 Talfourd *Ion* III. ii, Which the pirates' nest..would startle at!

† const. *into.* 1649 Lovelace *Lucasta* 72 The Robber and the Murderer in 'spite Of his red-spots shal startle into White.

† **c.** *indirect passive. Obs.*

1665 Nedham *Med. Medicinæ* 215 Oure Dogmatical Methodists can now vouchsafe to use such Medicaments as were startled at before. 1673 *Lady's Calling* II. § 1 P 18 The liberties that are taken now, would then have been startled at.

† **d.** To awake with a start; to start *up* suddenly; to move as if surprised or frightened. *To startle back*: to recoil, move backwards in terror.

1576 Gascoigne *Philomene* Wks. 1910 II. 189 And stertling from her traunce, I wil revenge (quoth she). 1608 H. Clapham *Errour Left Hand* 56 Why startlest thou back? why lookes thou agast? 1613 Heywood *Brasen Age* I 1, My father..startles vp to thunder-strike the lad, And lets me fall. 1631 Gouge *God's Arrowe* IV. § 8. 385 Be not so affrighted ..as upon the sight of painted fire to startle backe into true burning fire. 1798 Coleridge *Lewti* 58 The river-swans have heard my tread, And startle from their reedy bed. 1813 Scott *Trierm.* III. xxxix, Gyneth startles from her sleep. 1847 James *Castle of Ehrenstein* xli. III. 198 The Count of Ehrenstein startled up and laid his hand upon his sword.

e. Of inanimate things: To move or change suddenly as if startled.

1812 Crabbe *Tales* vii. 107 And sordid pictures from the fancy pass, As the breath startles from the polish'd glass. 1815 Shelley *Alastor* 476 The grass that sprung Startled and glanced and trembled even to feel An unaccustomed presence. 1888 Lowell *Poems, Broken Tryst* 5 If a dead leaf startle behind me, I think 'tis your garment's hem.

† **f.** Of the eyes: To 'start from their sockets'.

1632 Lithgow *Trav.* x. 463 Now mine eyes begun to startle, my mouth to foame and froath, and my teeth to chatter.

† **4.** To swerve, deviate *from* a purpose: = Start *v.* 7. *Obs.*

1649 Milton *Tenure Kings* 4, I shall..exhort them not to startle from the just and pious resolution of adhering with all their assistance to the present Parliament and Army.

5. *trans.* To cause to start; to frighten; to surprise greatly; †to give offence to, to shock.

1595 Shaks. *John* IV. ii. 25 It makes the course of thoughts

to fetch about, Startles, and frights consideration. 1608 — *Per.* v. i. 147 Thou little knowst howe thou doest startle me to call thy selfe Marina. 1598 CHAPMAN *Blind Begg. Alexandria* F 3 b, How now my Lords doth beauty startle you. *c* 1611 — *Iliad* XVI. 437 His ruine startl'd th' other steeds. 1634 MILTON *Comus* 210 These thoughts may startle well, but not astound The vertuous mind. 1655 FULLER *Ch. Hist.* III. 108 Not long after, he was arraigned again at the Kings Bench, the news whereof so startled the Clergie, that [etc.]. 1710 *Tatler* No. 257 ¶ 2, I was startled with a Flourish of many Musical Instruments. 1817 KEATS *Sonn.*, '*O Solitude*', Where the deer's swift leap Startles the wild bee from the fox-glove bell. 1818 — *Isabella* v, If looks speak love-laws, I will drink her tears, And at the least 'twill startle off her cares. 1823 SCOTT *Peveril* xiv, The shrill neigh with which she startled the female inmates of the parlour. 1828 LYTTON *Pelham* xlii, There was a..licentiousness in his opinions, which startled even me (used as I had been to rakes of all schools). 1829 W. IRVING *Granada* I. v. 35 The garrison, startled from sleep, found the enemy already masters of the towers. 1856 FROUDE *Hist. Eng.* (1858) I. ii. 93 On the return of a settled government, they were startled for a moment in their security. 1879 MCCARTHY *Own Times* xx. II. 76 Such an act as that done by the Pope might have startled them back to their old attitude. 1903 A. WHYTE *Apostle Paul* i. 21 It startles and staggers us to hear it.

fig. 1632 MILTON *L'Allegro* 42 To hear the Lark..singing startle the dull night. 1822 LAMB *Elia* Ser. I. *Praise Chimney-sw.*, Hundreds of grinning teeth startled the night with their brightness. 1849 WOOLNER *My Beautiful Lady* (1887) 36 Grateful, in her deep silence, one loud thrush Startled the air with song. 1862 B. TAYLOR *Poet's Jrnl.* (1866) 39 And the drowsy air is startled.

† **b.** *To startle out*: to cause sudden shedding of (blood). *Obs.* (*? nonce-use.*)

1605 *1st Pt. Jeronimo* I. i. 79 Ile wake the Court, or startle out some bloud.

† **6.** To cause to waver; to shake (a person, his resolution, faith, etc.). *Obs.*

1643 SIR T. BROWNE *Relig. Med.* I. § 21 I have perused them all, and can discover nothing that may startle a discreet beliefe. 1647 CLARENDON *Hist. Reb.* IV. § 293 His known affections to the King's service, from which it was not possible to remove or startle him. 1687 LOVELL tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* I. 2 He explained the..Old Testament with so much advantage to our Faith..that I dare be bold to say, he startled and shook most of them. *a* 1701 MAUNDRELL *Journ. Jerus.* (1732) 65 It almost staggles their Faith. 1710 O. SANSOM *Acc. Life* 52 When he saw them (the Neighbours) flock in, he in his Rage (thinking to startle me) asked me before them, Whether [etc.]. 1784 P. WRIGHT *New Bk. Martyrs* 798/2 At Axminster one also was executed,..he had great resolution, and not at all startled with the fear of death.

† **7.** To rouse, excite. *Obs.*

1601 B. JONSON *Poetaster* IV. v, What, doe we nod, fellow Gods? sound musicke, and let us startle our spirits with a song.

8. *Comb.* † **startle-brain**, something that upsets the brain.

1653 BROME *Damoiselle* I. i, The care of children's such a Startle-braine.

Startled (stɑ·ɹt'ld), *ppl. a.* [f. STARTLE *v.* + -ED [1].] In senses of the verb.

c 1611 CHAPMAN *Iliad* XVII. 269 The same hand giuing wing To martiall Phorcis startled soule. 1648 J. BEAUMONT *Psyche* IX. xlvii, All upright staring stand her startled Hairs Of one another's touch in jealous dread. 1764 *Oxf. Sausage* 59 Whether the plaintive Voice Of Laundress shrill awake my startled Ear; Or [etc.]. 1808 SCOTT *Marmion* II. Introd. 43 The startled quarry bounds amain. 1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* I. xi. 84 Uttering a startled shout as he went down the declivity. 1885 'MRS. ALEXANDER' *At Bay* vi, He woke with a startled sense of wrong-doing.

Startler (stɑ·ɹtləɹ). [f. STARTLE *v.* + -ER [1].] One who or something which startles.

† **1.** One who takes offence *at* something; one who awakes with a start. *Obs.*

1671 [R. MACWARD] *True Non-Conf.* 268 None, but such phantastick Formalists as you will prove startlers at this sure and acceptable simplicity. 1810 SCOTT *Lady of L.* II. xxi, When, dazzled by the eastern glow, Such startler cast his glance below.

2. One who does startling things.

1873 LELAND *Egypt. Sketch-Bk.* 309 Let us suppose that an artist—like many great modern startlers in paint—simply attempts to [etc.].

3. Something which startles; a startling thing.

1864 'ARTEMUS WARD' *Among Mormons* V. Wks. (1871) 205 This careless manner of carting off solid silver is rather of a startler. 1889 JEROME *Idle Thoughts* 63 A subject the discussion of which will come upon the world in the nature of a startler. 1892 *Photogr. Ann.* II. 881 He heads the article in question appropriately, 'An Optical Startler'.

† **Sta·rtless**, *a. Obs.*—[1]. [f. START *sb.*[2] + -LESS.] Without a start; giving no start.

1633 T. ADAMS *Exp. 2 Peter* ii. 12. 837 The Horse is valiant, startlesse at the drumme.

Startling (stɑ·ɹtliŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. STARTLE *v.* + -ING [1].] The action of the verb STARTLE.

† **1.** A moving about; a rushing about. *Obs.*

1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* III. 704 A gret stertling he mycht haiff seyne Off schippys. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) II. 307 Þat bole heet Apis, þat was i-woned to..warne by his pleyenge and startelynge what was to comynge. *a* 1513 *Fabyan's Chron.* VII. CCXXXVIII. (1811) 277 Stertlynge of beestys.

† **2.** The action of starting suddenly through surprise, alarm, etc.; an instance of this, a sudden start. *Obs.*

1624 DONNE *Serm.* xix. (1640) 188 It is rather a startling in our sleep, then any awaking at all, to have a sudden remorse, ..and no constant perseverance. 1652 KIRKMAN *Clerio & Lozia* 34 Her trembling body, her unaccustomed startlings and disquietness. 1677 GILPIN *Demonol.* (1867) 193 Custom doth by degrees take off the startling of conscience. 1825 WARMAN *Tremaine* III. xvii. 317 Why..this shrinking of the soul back on herself, this startling at destruction?

3. The action of causing surprise or sudden fear.

1797 COLERIDGE *Remorse* I. ii. 329 If..our rude startling Drove you to this, your not ungentle, wildness. 1880 MEREDITH *Tragic Com.* (1881) 244 She has a turn for startling.

Sta·rtling, *ppl. a.* [f. STARTLE *v.* + -ING [2].]

† **1.** Capering, prancing. *Obs.*

The phrase *startling steed* was apparently interpreted by Dryden in sense 3.

[*c* 1385 CHAUCER *L. G. W.* 1204 Vp on a courser stertelynge as the fyr..Sit Enyas.] *c* 1450 *Merlin* XVI. 257 With vij hundred Knyghtes vpon startelinge stedes. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* IV. iv. 56 The child, amyde the planis, Joyus and blyth his stertling steid to assay. 1566 GASCOIGNE *Jocasta* V. ii. 104 Downe our duke dismountes From of his startling steede. [1700 DRYDEN *Pal. & Arc.* III. 701 The startling Steed was seiz'd with sudden Fright.]

† **2.** Fickle, irresolute. Cf. STARTLE *v.* 4. *Obs.*

1645 MILTON *Tetrach.* 25 Unless wee imagine Moses weaker then every negligent and startling Politician.

3. Starting with terror; easily terrified or shocked; timorous. Of sleep: Disturbed. Now *rare* or *Obs.*

1599 T. M[OUFET] *Silkwormes* 2 That we resembled melancholique hares Or startling stagges, whom euerie shadow scares. *a* 1718 PRIOR *Poems, Power* 824 In broken Rest, and startling Sleep to mourn. 1792 S. ROGERS *Pleas. Mem.* I. 44 Oft, fancy-led, at midnight's fearful hour, With startling step we scaled the lonely tower. 1810 T. L. PEACOCK *Genius of Thames* p. vi, When in the startling grove The battle-blast was blown. 1813 SHELLEY *Q. Mab* IX. 175 'Tis but..The transient gulf-dream of a startling sleep. 1821 CLARE *Vill. Minstr.* II. 121 The startling peewits..Scream joyous whirring over-head.

† **4.** Of eyes: 'Starting from their sockets', protruding. *Obs.*

1648 GAGE *West Ind.* 173 His look was grim with a wrinkled forehead, and broad startling eyes.

5. That causes a shock of surprise; that suddenly and forcibly compels attention.

1714 T. LUCAS *Mem. Gamesters* (ed. 2) 275 He receiv'd the startling News, that his Lady was gone to London with the Lord M——n. 1826 LAMB *Pop. Fallacies* IX, If by worst be only meant the most far-fetched and startling, we agree to it. 1866 J. MARTINEAU *Ess.* I. 30 The statement is as false as it is startling. 1884 *Punch* 27 Dec. 305/2 Read the startlingest of tracts! Get 'The Truth about the Navy'. 1911 H. BROWN *Hist. Scot.* I. IV. vii. 244 Some of their tenets were certainly startling.

Hence **Sta·rtlingly** *adv.*, **Sta·rtlingness.**

1840 L. BLANCHARD in *New Monthly Mag.* LIX. 413 So strangely, so startlingly like. 1859 MEREDITH *R. Feverel* XXXVIII, She could make you forget she was a woman, and then bring the fact startlingly home to you. 1871 MOZLEY *Univ. Serm.* V. (1876) 97 We have suddenly become alive to the strangeness and startlingness of the fact. 1886 *Harper's Mag.* Dec. 26, I rapped at the door somewhat startlingly.

Startlish (stɑ·ɹtliʃ), *a.* [f. STARTLE *v.* + -ISH.] Easily startled; apt to take fright; esp. said of a horse. Hence **Sta·rtlishness.**

1740 DYCHE & PARDON *Dict.* (ed. 3), *Startlish* [ed. 1735 *Startish*] or *Startly.* 1807 SOUTHEY *Espriella's Lett.* (1814) II. 273 Both were spirited beasts..;—both were startlish, and the mare vicious. *Ibid.* III. 339 All night I remained wakeful—not in that state of feverish startlishness which the expectation of an early call occasions, but [etc.]. 1836 *Blackw. Mag.* XL. 618 The cab-horse had exhibited symptoms of startlishness. 1863 MRS. H. WOOD *Verner's Pride* xlv, The sudden entrance startled her, albeit she was not of a startlish temperament.

Startly (stɑ·ɹtli), *a.* [f. STARTLE *v.* + -Y.] = STARTLISH.

1727 BAILEY vol. II, *Startly*, apt to start. 1735 DYCHE & PARDON *Dict.*, *Startish* or *Startly*, fearful, timorous, apt to jump, leap, &c. upon every Noise, &c. 1840 CARD. MANNING *Let.* in Purcell *Life* (1895) I. 167 Don't be so startly, or you will frighten me. 1889 GRETTON *Memory's Harkback* 148, I soon found that she [a mare] was scared and startly.

† **Sta·rtmeal**, *a. Obs. rare*—[1]. In 5 **stirtemeel.** [f. START *sb.*[2] + -MEAL.] By starts.

c 1425 HOCCLEVE *Learn to Die* 660 Stirtemeel gooth my pows.

Start naked, *a. Obs.* exc. *dial.* Forms: 3 **steortnaket, steor(t)naked, stert naked, (4 star naked)**, 4, 9 *dial.* **start naked.** [App. f. START *sb.*[1] + NAKED *a.*

The literal sense would seem to be 'naked even to the tail'. *Start* has not been found in Eng. with the sense 'buttocks' (= TAIL *sb.*[1] 5), but the MDu. and Ger. equivalents are so used.]

Entirely naked; = STARK-NAKED *a.*

a 1225 *Juliana* 16 (Roy. MS.), & he het hatterliche strupen hire steortnaket [Bodl. MS. steort naket]. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 148 Heo haueð bipiled mine figer..despoiled hire stert [*printed* sterc] naked, & iworpen awei [etc.]. *Ibid.* 316 Bicleope þine sunne steornaked; þet is, ne hele þu nowiht of al þet lið þer abuten. 13.. *Pol. Songs* (Camden) 336 Sholde he for everi fals uth lese kirtel or kote,..He sholde stonde start [*printed* starc] naked twye o day or eve. *c* 1320 *Cast. Love* 431 in *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* XXXVIII, And I-strupt him al start-naked. *a* 1325 in Horstm. *Altengl. Leg.* (1878) 140 Þai lay þerin all star naked. 1892 *Dialect Notes* (Amer. Dial. Soc. 1896) I. v. 234 *Start-naked*: stark naked. 'He is a start-naked villain.'..Mr. A. W. Long, of North Carolina, reports that he never heard any other form than *start-naked* used in conversation in that state; and that two of his friends—one from Virginia, and the other from South Carolina—make the same statement for those two states. 1896 *Warwicksh. Gloss.*

Startup (stɑ·ɹtŭp), *sb. Obs.* exc. *dial.* and *Hist.* Also 6 **startop(p)e, -uppe, stertup**, 6–7 **startop.** Also *pl.* 6 **stertops, stert-, startuppes, styrtoppes, stertyppes.** [f. vbl. phr. *start up* (see START *v.* 13); as if 'a shoe that starts up to the middle of the leg'.] Originally, a kind of 'high-low' or boot, worn by rustics; in later use, a kind of gaiter or legging. Chiefly in *plural.*

1517 *Test. Ebor.* (Surtees) V. 83, j par sotularium quæ dicuntur stertuppes. 1530 PALSGR. 251/1 Payre of startoppes, *hovssettes.* 1551–2 *Act* 5 & 6 *Edw. VI* c. 15 § 5 Any Shoes, Boots, Buskyns, Styrtoppes or Slippers. 1558 in Feuillerat *Revels Q. Eliz.* (1908) 35 Imployed into edging of Stertyppes for the Patriarkes. 1572 *Ibid.* 159, viii payer of white startops of cloth of sylver. 1573 BARET *Alv.* S 328 A high shooe of rawe leather called a stertvp, *pero.* 1574 *Withals' Dict.* 54 b, In a maner all husbande men doe weare stertups. 1591 GREENE *Farew. Follie* Wks. (Grosart) IX. 265 His pompes were a little too heauie, being trimmed start-vps made of a paire of boote legges. 1600 PORY *Leo's Africa* III. 156 The streetes are so mirie, that you cannot walk in them without startups. *c* 1605 DRAYTON *Pastorals*, Ecl. ix. 9 (1619) 467 When not a Shepheard any thing that could, But greaz'd his start-ups black as Autumns Sloe. 1608 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. iv. IV. *Decay* 114 Her neat, fit, Startups of green Velvet bee, Flourisht with silver. *a* 1626 MORYSON *Itin.* IV. (1903) 451 [Italian] Gentlewemen..weare high Startups or Pantofills of wood, so as they cannot goe without helpe. 1667 COTTON *Scarron.* IV. 124 Yet she made shift to stuff each start-up, And tie 'um to the rest on's Wardope. 1688 HOLME *Armory* IV. vii. (Roxb.) 325/2 Star-tops or hose foulded downe belowe the knees. 1777 *Horæ Subsec.* [MS., Devon dialect] 411 (E.D.D.) *Start-ups*, a kind of button'd buskins. Not high shoes as Littleton represents them. 1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* xxiv, This was a stupid lout,..with..his hose about his heels, and huge startups upon his feet. 1836 R. FURNESS *Astrologer* I. Wks. (1858) 137 Thor's knitted cap, suspended on a wire, And hoddin start-ups warm'd above the fire. 1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss.*, *Start-ups*, short gaiters: long ones being styled leggings.

† **Start-up**, *ppl. a.* and *sb. Obs.* [f. *start* pa. pple. of START *v.* + UP *adv.*: see START *v.* 13.]

A. *ppl. a.* That has suddenly 'started up' into existence, notice, or importance; upstart, parvenu.

a. With adv., *new, newly, fresh, late, first.*

1557 TRAHERON *Expos. S. John* title-p., The wicked enterprises of new sterte vp Arians in Englande. 1573–80 G. HARVEY *Lett.* Wks. (Grosart) I. 125 To sende..my lord Ritches players, or sum other freshe starteupp comedanties unto me. 1628 in *Cath. Tract.* (S.T.S.) 275 These first start-up apostats and runnagats redacted it [Abbirbroth] to such desolation & ruines, as may be seene. 1634 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* 139 Shewing no more..beautie then neighbouring and late start-up-townes about her. 1687 [SHIELDS] *Hind let loose* 176 A newly start up opinion. 1762 WARBURTON *Doctr. Grace* III. Wks. 1788 IV. 686 A new Start-up Sect.

b. *simply.*

1567 DRANT *Horace, Ep.* II. i. G iiij, Eche man is burning hote To be a startevp wryter straighte. 1597 *Return fr. Parnass.* IV. i. 1340 Each start-upp clowne. 1601 SIR W. CORNWALLIS *Ess.* II. xlii. (1631) 197 Like start-up Gentlemen, Gentlemen without a pedegree. 1616 J. LANE *Contin. Sgr.'s T.* IX. p. 139 *note*, Wheare prowd Fregilea lies with all her start vp statelie palaces. 1704 SWIFT *Tale Tub* i. 43 Two Junior start-up Societies. 1801 ELIZ. HELME *St. Marg. Cave* (1819) II. xii. 219 A start-up baron of yesterday.

B. *sb.*

1. An upstart; a low-born person who has risen to wealth or power.

1599 JAS. I *Basil. Doron* II. (1603) 70 Delight to be serued with men of the noblest bloud..for besides that their seruice shall breede you great good-will and least enuie, contrary to that of start-ups; yee shall oft finde vertue follow noble race. 1599 SHAKS. *Much Ado* I. iii. 69 That young start-vp hath all the glorie of my overthrow. *a* 1652 BROME *Queen & Concubine* II. i. (1659) 24 His Marriage with that Start-up.

2. [A distinct word; subst. use of phrase *to start up.*] An instance of 'starting up'.

1845 DISRAELI *Sybil* IV. xiii, I am used to these start-ups.

Starty (stɑ·ɹti), *a. dial.* [f. START *v.* + -Y.] Apt to start, easily frightened.

1864 *Realm* 2 Mar. 1 'Tis feared their political creed might be somewhat too skittish and starty.

Starvation (stɑɹvē·ʃən). [f. STARVE *v.* + -ATION. Except *flirtation* (1718), this is the oldest of the many sbs. in *-ation* formed on native Eng. vbs.

App. first used with reference to the bill of 1775 'for restraining Trade and Commerce with the New England Colonies', which the Opposition denounced as intended to combat the rebellion by producing a famine in which the innocent would suffer equally with the guilty. The remark of Mr. Dundas (*Hansard's Deb.*, 6 March 1775), that he was 'afraid' that the famine spoken of 'would not be produced by this Act', excited great indignation, and in 1781–2 Walpole and Mason call him by the nicknames 'Starvation Dundas' and 'Starvation'. The statement of Mitford (*Corr. Walpole & Mason*, 1851, II. 396) that Dundas himself used the word is in itself not improbable, but appears to lack confirmation. The verb *starve* occurs several times in the reports of speeches on the bill, but the sb. does not appear.]

1. The action of starving or subjecting to famine.

1778 LADY CRAVEN in *Ann. Reg.*, *Characters* etc, 204 Behold, our ministers..Who talk of peace, of taxes, and starvation. 1782 W. MASON in *Corr. Walpole & Mason* (1851) II. 310 If it be true that Jenkinson has been closeted ..and if..he comes into any ostensible office, I shall not wait for the advent of *Starvation* from Edinburgh to settle my judgment. 1791–3 in *Spirit Publ. Jrnls.* (1799) I. 260 *Starvation.* A curious experiment, which, after being tried in America and France, has succeeded tolerably well at home. 1854 MILMAN *Lat. Chr.* II. 395 Somewhat later he alludes to the starvation of Rome.

attrib. 1802 in *Spirit Publ. Jrnls.* VI. 371, I have a long catalogue to offer to your choice...7. The Starvation War. 8. The Financial War [etc.].

2. The condition of being starved or having too little food to sustain life or health.

1802 *Sporting Mag.* XX. 292 Here are no symptoms of

starvation, the hounds are well fed. 1813 WELLINGTON in Gurw. *Desp.* (1838) X. 367 The French..live in countries in Spain, in which the Spaniards starve; and..the starvation of the Spanish armies is more burthensome to the country than the plentiful mode of living of the French. 1822 *Sporting Mag.* IX. 218 The parish horses must otherwise actually have perished by starvation. 1866 MRS. OLIPHANT *Agnes* I. xvii. 213 But then was not a married curate the emblem of starvation all the world over? 1867 H. LATHAM *Black & White* 37 When Lee surrendered, we had come to simple starvation.

b. *attrib.*

1867 J. CAMPBELL *Balmerino* III. i. 166 The minister was placed on a starvation allowance. 1886 BESANT *Childr. Gibeon* II. xviii, In allowing an employer to pay starvation wages to girls. 1897 MARY KINGSLEY *W. Africa* 313 The two or three Kruboys on a starvation beach can fairly well fend for themselves.

c. quasi-*advb.* So as to cause starvation. *colloq.*

1892 KIPLING *Barrack-room Ballads, Tommy* 18 Yes, makin' mock o' uniforms that guard you while you sleep Is cheaper than them uniforms, an' they're starvation cheap.

d. *transf.* Deprivation or insufficient supply of something necessary to life.

1866 HUXLEY *Physiol.* iv. § 31. 103 Two deadly influences ..are co-operating; one is the deprivation of oxygen, the other is the excessive accumulation of carbonic acid in the blood. Oxygen starvation and carbonic acid poisoning.. are at work together. *Ibid.* vi. § 7. 142 Whether an animal be herbivorous or carnivorous, it begins to starve from the moment its vital food-stuffs consist of pure amyloids or fats, or any mixture of them. It suffers from what may be called nitrogen starvation. 1891 G. S. WOODHEAD *Bacteria* 117 In one case the yeast-cells die of starvation, although large quantities of sugar are present.

3. *dial.* (See quots.)

1893 *Wiltsh. Gloss.* Add., *Starvation cold*, extremely cold. 1899 *N. W. Linc. Gloss.*, *Starvation*, suffering from cold.

† Starve, *sb. Obs. rare.* In 3 steorve. [OE. *steorfa* wk. masc., related to *steorfan* STARVE *v.* Cf. OS. *man-sterbo* pestilence.] Pestilence, mortality; also a pestilent being (applied to the devil).

a 1023 WULFSTAN *Hom.* xiii. (1883) 86 Eac sceal aspringan wide and side..stric and steorfa and fela ungelimpa. *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 13 Stala and steorfa swiðe eow scal hene. *a* 1225 *Juliana* 49, & stondinde o þe steortue nom hire ahne bondes & bigon to beaten þen belial of helle. *a* 1225 *St. Marher.* 12 Stute nu earme steorue ant swic nuðe lanhure swikele swarte deouel þat tu ne derue me na mare.

Starve (stärv), *v. Pa. t.* and *pa. pple.* **starved.** Forms: 1 **steorfan,** 2 **stærfan,** 2, 4–5 **sterven,** 3 **sterfen,** 3–4 **steorve,** 3–4, 6 **storve,** 4–7 **sterve,** 5 *Sc.* **sterwe,** 6 **sterf, (sterff),** *Sc.* **sterv,** 6– **starve.** *Pa. t.* 1 **stearf,** 2 **sturfe, sturve,** 3–5 **starf,** 4–5 **starfe,** 3–5 **sterf,** (5 **sterfe**); 5 **stervet, stervid** (? *error* **sterevid**), 6 **stervit, starvit,** 7 **sterved,** 6– **starved.** *Pa. pple.* 1 **storfen,** 3–4 **istorve,** 4 **ystorve,** 3 **isterve,** 3–6 **storven,** 4, 6 **storve,** 5 **storvyn, (storvun)**; 6–7 **sterved,** 6– **starved.** [A Com. WGer. str. verb, which has become weak in mod.Eng.: OE. *steorfan* (pa. t. *stearf*, pl. *sturfon*, pa. pple. *storfen*) corresponds to OFris. *sterva* (WFris. *stjerre*, NFris. *sterwe*), OS. *sterban*, (M)LG., (M)Du. *sterven*, OHG. *sterban* (MHG., mod.G. *sterben*), to die, f. Teut. root **sterƀ-* (: *starƀ-* : *sturƀ-*).

A root of identical form, and possibly of identical origin, occurs in ON. *stiarfe* wk. masc., ? epilepsy, *stiarf-r*, *stirfinn* obstinate, *starf* toil, effort, *starfa* to toil. It has been suggested that the primitive sense of the root may have been 'to be rigid', which might account both for the sense 'to die' of the WGer. verb and for the meanings of the ON. words. On the other hand, as the Teut. form may equally well represent pre-Teut. **sterp-* and **sterbh-*, it is possible that the WGer. and the ON. words may be unconnected.

The conjugation of the verb has remained strong in the continental Teut. langs. In English the strong forms of the pa. t. became obsolete in the 15th century, and those of the pa. pple. in the 16th c. The transitive (causative) use, which arose in English in the 16th c., is not paralleled in the other langs.]

I. Intransitive uses.

1. To die. Said of a person or animal. In late use app. to die a lingering death, as from hunger, cold, grief, or slow disease. Also, in spiritual sense, of the soul. *Obs.*

c 1000 ÆLFRIC *Hom.* I. 398 Annanias and Saphiran..mid færlicum deaðe ætforan ðam apostolum steorfende afeollon. *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 71 þole us to bi-wepen ure sunne þet we ne steruen noht þer inne. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 222 He.. pineð so hire licome þet te soule steoruеð. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 1893 Starf ysaac quan he was hold .ix. score 3er and fiue told. *c* 1290 *St. Clement* 146 in *S. Eng. Leg.* 327 He wende þat huy a-dronke weren oþur i-storue bi þe weie. *c* 1374 CHAUCER *Troylus* v. 1844 [Christ] Vpon a cros oure soules for to beye First starf, and ros, and sit yn heuene a-boue. *c* 1450 *Mirk's Festial* 104 Þys Perys sterfe yn hys bede. *a* 1542 WYATT in *Tottel's Misc.* (Arb.) 78 What so befall, tyll that I sterue By proofe full well it shall be knowne. 1578 *Narsetus* 90 in T. Proctor *Gorg. Gallery* B iiij, A thousand deathes I do desire, in wretched state to starue. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* II. vi. 34 These armes,..the which doe men in bale to sterue. *a* 1657 SIR W. MURE *Sonn. to Margaret* ii. Wks. (S.T.S.) I. 48 Margrait..Quho with thy eyes, (least my puir lyfe sould sterue), Wouchaiffes to look wᵗ pitty on my paine.

2. With various constructions, specifying the cause of death. In later use with modified sense: To be brought gradually nearer to death, to be in process of being killed; to suffer extremely. Now only *dial.*

† a. const. *for, of, with* (grief, love, pestilence, and the like). *Obs.*

c 1330 *Arth. & Merl.* 692 Anon he starf for diol, ywis. *c* 1385 CHAUCER *L. G. W.* 1277 There as he was in paril for to sterue For hungyr & for myschif in the se. *c* 1386 — *Knt.'s T.* 1156 A thousand slayn, and nat oon of qualm ystorue. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* IV. Prol. 51 For luff thow stervist maist dowchtie Achill. 1584 POWEL *Lloyd's Cambria* 109 Meredyth..whome Blethyn pursued so straightlie, that he starued for cold and hunger vpon the mountaines.

† b. const. *of, with* (hunger), *for* (hunger, food, meat). *Obs.* (Cf. sense 4; also HUNGER-STARVE *v.*)

1124 *O.E. Chron.* (Laud MS.), Se man þe æni god heafde him me hit be ræfode..þe nan ne heafde stærf of hungor. 1154 *Ibid.* (Laud MS.) an. 1137. *c* 1175 *Cott. Hom.* 233 þa were cofe abruden into þesternesse þe hi sturfe hungre. 1528 ROY *Rede Me* (Arb.) 86 Playnly for honger they shulde sterve, Excepte they wolde to laboure fall. *a* 1618 SYLVESTER *Hymn of Alms* 185 To stark for Cold, to starve for Food, to perish In Penury. 1650 LAMONT *Diary* (Maitland Club) 24 A collectione..for supplying the prisoners in England.. that were sterueing for famine. 1707 PRIOR *Sat. Poets* 153 Starving for Meat, not surfeiting on Praise. 1735 ARBUTHNOT *Aliments* ii. § 8. 48 An Animal that starves of Hunger, dies feverish and delirious.

c. const. †*for,* †*of, with* (cold).

c 1380 WYCLIF *Wks.* (1880) I. 14 Here children steruen for cold. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 140 All bathed in rayne & frosen with yce, & nere storuen for colde. *a* 1604 HANMER *Chron. Irel.* (1809) 393 We starve for cold, wanting our winter garments. *a* 1619 FOTHERBY *Atheom.* I. xi. § 4 (1622) 117 Friget Venus. Poore Venus staru's with cold, & soone will dye. 1737 POPE *Sat. Donne* ii. 72 His Office keeps your Parchment fates entire, He starves with cold to save them from the fire. 1756 MRS. CALDERWOOD *in Coltness Collect.* (Maitl. Club) 151 In summer she is like to starve of cold, and in winter like to die with heat. 1867 P. KENNEDY *Banks of Boro* xiv. 70 [He'll] be obleeged to bring the shakedown near the fire..to keep her from starving with the cold.

† 3. Of plants or their parts: To die, wither. Of a material substance: To lose its characteristic quality, spoil, deteriorate. *Obs.*

1393 LANGL. *P. Pl. C.* XIII. 179 Bote yf þe sed þat sowen is in þe sloh sterue [L. *mortuum fuerit*], Shal neuere spir springen vp. *a* 1400–50 *Bk. Curtasye* 766 in *Babees Bk.* 203 Þe potage fyrst with brede y-coruyn, [the sewer] Couerys hom agayn lest þey ben storuyn. 1466 in Willis & Clark *Cambridge* (1886) III. 93 This tymbir shalbe white oke, not doted, nor storvyn, nor sappy. 1578 LYTE *Dodoens* IV. lxii. 525 [Our Ladyes Thistell] flowreth in June and July,..and when it hath brought foorth his seede, it decayeth and starueth. 1607 J. CARPENTER *Plaine Mans Plough* 220 The trees which grow not sterue, or are very neare to steruing. 1669 A. BROWNE *Ars Pictoria* 90 When your silver either with long keeping or moistness of the Air becomes starved and rusty; you must..before you lay the silver Cover over the place with a little Juice of Garlick, which will preserve it. 1695 WOODWARD *Nat. Hist. Earth* VI. (1723) 288 Had the seeds of the pepper-plant been borne from Java to these northern countries, they must all have starved for want of Sun. *a* 1722 LISLE *Husb.* (1757) 148 In our hill-country..the straw breaks or starves three or four weeks before harvest.

4. [Orig. *ellipt.* = 2 b.] To die of hunger; to perish or be in process of perishing from lack or insufficiency of food; to suffer extreme poverty and want; more emphatically *to starve to death.* Also hyperbolically in colloquial use: To be extremely hungry.

[1124–1735 to starve for, of, with hunger: see 2 b.] 1578 WHETSTONE *2nd Pt. Promos & Cass.* I. vii, Better the purce then body starue of twayne. 1596 SHAKS. *1 Hen. IV*, I. iii. 89 No: on the barren Mountaine let him sterue. 1604 BRETON *Passionate Sheph.* (Grosart) 8/2 That thou wilt no foode reserue, But my flockes and I shall sterue. 1647 E. PORTER *in Nicholas Papers* (Camden) I. 70 Were it not for an Irish Barber that was once my servaunt I might have sterved for want of bredd. 1655 I. S. *Brief Jrnl. W. Ind.* 24 Which in common reason may seem strange that (of all men) Souldiers should starve in a Cooks shop (as the saying is). 1734 POPE *Ess. Man* IV. 149 But sometimes Virtue starves, while Vice is fed. 1775 *Ann. Reg., Hist. Europe* *88/1 It was said, that they [the Americans] had no alternative but to starve or to rebel. 1784 COWPER *Tiroc.* 402 Let rev'rend churls his ignorance rebuke, Who starve upon a dog's-ear'd Pentateuch. 1820 W. IRVING *Sketch Bk.* I. 63 [He] would rather starve on a penny than work for a pound. 1842 TENNYSON *Godiva* 20 If they pay this tax, they starve. 1885 'MRS. ALEXANDER' *At Bay* i, Pot luck, my dear fellow, but you shan't starve. 1910 ASHTON HILLIERS *Master Girl* i. 24 The man was starving to death. Water he did not want.

Proverb. a 1536 *Proverbs* in *Songs, Carols* etc. (1907) 128 While the grasse grwith, the hors sterwith.

b. *transf.* Of an animal or plant: To die or lose vitality for lack of proper nutriment.

a 1680 BUTLER *Rem.* (1759) II. 23 Thorns and Thistles flourish on barren Grounds, where nobler Plants would starve. 1866 HUXLEY *Physiol.* vi. § 7. 142 An animal..begins to starve from the moment its vital food-stuffs consist of pure amyloids or fats.

c. *fig.*

1590 SHAKS. *Com. Err.* II. i. 88 His company must do his minions grace, Whil'st I at home starue for a merrie looke. 1616 R. C. *Times Whistle* i. 398 Though our soules doe sterve For want of Knowledge, we doe litle care. 1872 KINGSLEY *Lett.* (1878) II. 388 The scheme might starve without such more liberal assistance at first. 1884 BROWNING *Ferishtah* (1885) 7 Which lacks food the more, Body or soul in me? I starve in soul.

5. [Orig. *ellipt.* = 2 c.] To die of exposure to cold; chiefly used hyperbolically, to suffer extreme cold, to be benumbed or 'dead' with cold. Now only *north.*

[1380–1604 to starve for cold, 1756 to starve of cold, 1619–1867 to starve with cold: see 2 c.] 1602 ROWLANDS *Greenes Ghost* (1872) 27 So out of doores go they with his clothes.. and left Nicholas Nouice staruing and quaking in that doghole. 1710 SWIFT *Jrnl. to Stella* 30 Dec., The weather grows cold...I'll go rise, for my hands are starving while I write in bed. 1731 POPE *Ep. Boyle* 38 Imitating-Fools.. Shall call *the* winds thro' long arcades to roar,..And, if they starve, they starve by rules of art. 1772 J. W. FLETCHER *Appeal* III. Wks. 1826 I. 77 Whether they starve in the snows of Lapland, or burn in the sands of Guinea?

† b. quasi-trans. *To starve out*: to endure in perishing cold. *Obs.*

1606 SHAKS. *Tr. & Cr.* V. x. 2 Stand hoe, yet are we maisters of the field, Neuer goe home; here starue we out the night.

II. Transitive uses.

† 6. To cause to die, to kill, destroy. Const. *by, for, with. Obs.*

a 1529 SKELTON *Duke of Albany* 251 The fynde of hell mot sterue the! *c* 1550 R. BIESTON *Bayte Fortune* B ij b, Both Emperour and Kyng at last by death he steruеth. 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 434 He..also sterued them for honger and cold, so that many died. 1629 MAXWELL tr. *Herodian* (1635) 398 That the Souldiers might perish for lacke of water, and be starved with thirst. 1690 C. NESSE *Hist. & Myst. O. & N. T.* I. 341 There to starve him with cold as well as with hunger. 1707 [E. WARD] *Hudibras Rediv.* VI. 27 Thus almost starv'd with Wind and Weather, I left 'em marching all together.

† b. To cause (a plant, bodily limb or organ) to wither or perish. *Obs.* Cf. 8.

1580 [see STARVED *ppl. a.* 1]. 1591 SHAKS. *Two Gent.* IV. iv. 159 But since she..threw her Sun-expelling Masque away, The ayre hath staru'd the roses in her cheekes. 1607 — *Timon* I. i. 257 Aches contract, and sterue your supple ioynts.

7. To cause to perish of hunger; to deprive of or keep scantily supplied with food; † also with *up*; † more definitely *to starve for hunger* or *meat*; more emphatically *to starve to death.*

1530 PALSGR. 734/1, I starve one for honger, *je affame.* 1544 BETHAM *Precepts War* II. lxxxiv. M iij, For yf they be sterued for hungre, vnpossible it is that they shoulde do anye thynge vyliauntly. 1552 HULOET, Storue wyth hunger, *victum alicui subducere.* 1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 83/9 To sterue, actiue, *cibum subducere.* 1573 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 89 Who abuseth his cattle and sterues them for meat. 1583 STOCKER *Civ. Warres Lowe C.* III. 130 b, The young children which were staruen to death, said,..We be bread, where is the wine. 1596 SHAKS. *Tam. Shr.* IV. iii. 9 But I..Am staru'd for meate, giddie for lacke of sleepe. 1635 R. JOHNSON *Hist. Tom a Lincolne* (1828) 106 Wherein was left but onely the Red Rose Knight, in his Palmer's weed (for all the rest were starved up for want of food). *a* 1641 BP. MOUNTAGU *Acts & Mon.* (1642) 462, I..had rather perish by, and with that Thracian sport you speak of then here in this Countrey to bee starved up with your religious fasts. 1684 BURNET tr. *More's Utopia* 140 Such as are wrought on by these Perswasions, do either starve themselves of their own accord [L. *inedia sponte vitam finiunt*], or they take Opium. 1718 PRIOR *Alma* III. 257 To starve a man, in law is murther. 1775 *Ann. Reg., Hist. Europe* *88/1 The object of consideration was not, whether the Americans were to be starved or not; but [etc.]. 1784 COWPER *Task* IV. 463 Oh for a law to noose the villain's neck Who starves his own. 1851 FLOR. NIGHTINGALE *Notes on Nursing* 46 Thousands of patients are annually starved in the midst of plenty.

b. To subdue by famine or low diet; also with *down, out*; to force *into* (a course of action) by starvation.

a 1625 FLETCHER *Womans Prize* I. iv, We will beleagure 'em, and either starve 'em out, or make 'em recreant. 1705 ARBUTHNOT *Coins* (1727) 278 There was one Attalus, who endeavoured to starve Italy by stopping their Convoy of Provisions from Africa. 1775 MARQ. ROCKINGHAM *Sp. Ho. Lords* 16 Mar., in *Hansard* 431 They..were to be starved into compliance. 1839 DICKENS *Nich. Nick.* viii, Every young and healthy feeling flogged and starved down.

c. To cure (a disease) by abstemious diet; also with *out.*

1617 MORYSON *Itin.* III. 159 They..give themselves to the keeping of Irish women, who starve the ague, giving the sick man no meate. 1700 DRYDEN *Fables, Theodore & Hon.* 37 As men by fasting starve the untamed disease. 1737 [see STARVING *vbl. sb.* 2]. 1784 COWPER *Tiroc.* 768 Disease.. Prevented much by diet neat and plain; Or, if it enter, soon starv'd out again. 1839 J. W. CROKER *in C. Papers* 21 Nov. (1884) I. xxi. 358 Last week he [Wellington] had been what he called starving a cold. 1885 *Brit. Med. Jrnl.* 26 Sept. 611/1 Feeding and Starving in the treatment of disease.

d. *transf.* and *fig.*

1581 G. PETTIE tr. *Guazzo's Civ. Conv.* (1586) I. 3 b, In steede of consuming and staruing your euil, you giue it nourishment. 1588 SHAKS. *L. L. L.* II. i. 11 When she did starue the generall world beside, And prodigally gaue them [*sc.* graces] all to you. 1590 — *Mids. N.* I. i. 222 We must starue our sight, From louers foode, till morrow deepe midnight. 1599 DRAYTON *Sonet* xxxiv. Minor P. (1907) 38 Marvaile not Loue..That I am onely staru'd in my desire. 1603 — *To his coy Love* I. Ibid. 78 These poore halfe Kisses kill me quite; Was euer man thus serued? Amidst an Ocean of Delight, For Pleasure to be sterued. 1628 GAULE *Pract. Theories Panegyr.* (1629) 403 Neither should his absence starue them, nor his presence cloy them. 1675 BAXTER *Cath. Theol.* II. xiii. 292 And so you starve out and destroy true piety, by calling off the peoples minds to Controversie. 1704 M. HENRY *Communic. Comp.* Wks. 1855 I. 309 The soul that is starved is as certainly murdered as the soul that is stabbed. 1810 S. PERCEVAL *in* S. Walpole *Life & Corr.* (1874) II. iv. 133 If you thought they were starving the great cause [Peninsular War] by any mistaken economy. 1878 D. KEMP *Yacht & Boat Sailing* 371 *Starved of Wind*—when a vessel is sailed so near the wind that she does not have enough of it, or feel the weight of it.

8. To produce atrophy in (a plant, an animal or vegetable organ, a morbid growth) by withholding

nutriment. Also *fig.* with immaterial object. So *to starve out*, to destroy by absorbing all the available nutriment.

1633 Bp. Hall *Occas. Medit.* xi. 26, I do not love to see an Infancy over-hopeful; in these pregnant beginnings, one facultie starves another, and, at last, leaves the minde saplesse, and barren. *a* 1682 Sir T. Browne *Misc. Tracts* i. (1683) 76 This, in the Pathology of Plants, may be the Disease of..superfoliation..whereby the fructifying Juice is starved by the excess of Leaves. 1709 Shaftesb. *Moralists* II. iv. 118 The Anatomy of the Creature shews it..to be, as it were, all Wing..: these Parts of theirs being made in such superiour proportion, as in a manner to starve their Companions. 1766 H. Walpole *Let. to Mann* 9 Sept., Our harvest..turns out ill, the preceding rains having starved it with weeds. 1781 Cowper *Retirem.* 44 Invet'rate habits.. Their fibres..draining its nutritious pow'rs to feed Their noxious growth, starve ev'ry better seed. 1855 Bain *Senses & Int.* III. ii. § 11. (1864) 474 The whole soul, passing into one sense, aggrandizes that sense and starves the rest. 1866 Livingstone *Jrnl.* (1873) I. i. 19 Where bamboos prevail they have starved out the woody trees. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 780 To endeavour to starve the growth by coagulating the blood-vessels at the base.

9. To cause to die of cold, to kill with cold; also hyperbolically, to benumb with cold; more emphatically *to starve to death*. Chiefly *pass.* *Obs.* exc. *dial.*

1600 Holland *Livy* xxi. lviii. 427 Many a man and beast, and seven Elephants..were starved and perished [owing to the intolerable cold]. 1636 Cowley *Sylva* 486 No flower or herbe is neere it found, But a perpetuall winter sterves the ground. *a* 1639 Carew *Poems, To Saxham* 11 The cold and frozen ayr had sterv'd Much poore, if not by thee preserv'd. 1662 J. Davies tr. *Olearius' Voy. Ambass.* 37 Their cloaths being all wet about them, most of them would have been starv'd to death in the snow. 1667 Milton *P. L.* II. 600 Thither..the damn'd Are brought:..From Beds of raging Fire to starve in Ice Thir soft Ethereal warmth. *a* 1676 Hale *Prim. Orig. Man.* II. ix. (1677) 208 The Winter cold, which starves very many, either for want of heat or food. 1697 *C'tess D'Aunoy's Trav.* (1706) 57 What occasion was there..to put me into such an open place to starve me? 1770 Lady Mary Coke *Jrnl.* 12 Jan. (1892) III. 203 There is not a window or door that shuts; I am starved to death at my fire side. 1891 *Leeds Mercury* 14 Dec. 5/6 A man starved to death at Farsley. 1893 J. K. Snowden *Tales Yorksh. Wolds* 158 Willie was rubbing his hands slowly before the roaring fire. 'I'm fearful starved', he said.

b. (See quot. 1886.)

1766 *Museum Rust.* VI. 84 Considerable parts of each land, towards each furrow, are starved by the coldness of the water dripping from the higher parts of the lands. 1886 *Chesh. Gloss.* s. v., Land is also said to be starved when it is cold for want of drainage.

10. *Comb.*: **starve-acre** *sb.* (see quot. 1886); *a.*, that produces poor crops; †**starve-crow**, †**starve-yoad** *dial.* [Yaud, horse] formerly used as field-names; †**starve-gutted** *a.*, famished.

1672 Eachard *Hobbes' St. Nat. Consid.* 112 Because Jonas Moore is not as yet come to divide, and set out the ground, and to call this piece starve-crow, and t'other long acre. 1726 *Diss. Dumpling* 22 The Enemies of good Eating, the Starve-gutted Authors of Grub-street. 1755 in *N. & Q.* 7th Ser. (1886) II. 408/1 Monkhouse has been at Newton, to have t'other view of Starve-yoad. 1886 Britten & Holland *Plant-n.*, Starveacre. *Ranunculus arvensis*, L. 1891 Hardy *Tess* xlii, 'Tis a starve-acre place. Corn and swedes are all they grow.

Starved (stārvd), *ppl. a.* [f. Starve *v.* + -ed[1].]

1. Of a plant-stem, branch of a tree: Dead, dry, withered. *Obs.* exc. *Her.*

1580 R. Parsons *Reas. Catholiques refuse Church* 50 b, As dead..as a starued stake in the hedge, from bearing of flowers. [1585: cf. Starving *ppl. a.* 3.] 1610 Guillim *Her.* III. vii. 106 He beareth Argent, three sterued branches, slipped Sable...This Example is of different nature..being mortified and vnuested of the verdour which sometimes it had. 1754 Boyer *Gt. Theat. Honour* (ed. 2) 116 *Starved*, Adj. (or dead, speaking of Branches of Trees without Leaves), *Mort, Sec.* 1828-40 Berry *Encycl. Her.* I, *Starved*, a term used by heralds to denote a branch of a tree when stripped of all its leaves.

2. That suffers want of food or the necessaries of life; famished; poverty-stricken. *Starved out*: driven out by poverty.

1559 *Mirr. Mag., Owen Glendour* i, My body and fame she [*sc.* Fortune] hathe made leane and slender, For I, poore wretch am sterved Owen Glendour. 1596 Shaks. *Merch. V.* v. i. 295 Faire Ladies you drop Manna in the way Of starued people. 1673 R. Stapylton *Juvenal* Sat. xiv. 168 And thy sterv'd droves, thou send'st into his Corn. 1709 Pope *Ess. Crit.* 419 What woful stuff this madrigal would be, In some starv'd hackney sonneteer, or me? 1823 Scott *Quentin D.* ii, This youth will do as much honour to it as a starved mouse to a housewife's cheese. 1878 J. Davidson *Inverurie & Earld. Garioch* v. 155 Leslie..was occupied in 1600 by William Forbes, the starved-out minister of Kintore.

b. *transf.* and *fig.*

1590 Spenser *F. Q.* III. iii. 34 And the greene grasse, that groweth, they shall bren, That euen the wild beast shall dy in starued den. 1826 Lamb *Elia, Pop. Fallacies* xii, For a starved grate, and a scanty firing..he finds [at the alehouse] in the depths of winter always a blazing hearth. 1856 Kane *Arct. Expl.* I. viii. 81 Scanty as this starved flora may seem to the botanists of more favored zones. 1912 J. S. Black & G. Chrystal *Life W. R. Smith* xii. 505 Here and there were a few meagre patches of starved wheat or barley.

c. Atrophied.

1832 Lindley *Introd. Bot.* 419 Starved (*depauperatus*); when some part is less perfectly developed than is usual with plants of the same family. Thus, when the lower scales of a head of a Cyperaceous plant produce no flowers, these scales are said to be starved. 1856 Henslow *Dict. Bot. Terms.* 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 816 Essentially the same formation as a small starved wart upon the horny finger of a workman.

3. Emaciated with or as with want of food, lean, thin.

1597 Shaks. 2 *Hen. IV*, III. ii. 327 This same staru'd Iustice [Shallow]. *a* 1637 B. Jonson *Sad Shepherd* I. vii, A starv'd Muttons carkasse Would better fit their palates. 1638 Junius *Paint. Ancients* 35 They are puffed up, not stately; starved, not delicate. 1819 Keats *La belle Dame sans Merci* xi, I saw their starved lips in the gloam, With horrid warning gaped wide. 1885 *Riverside Nat. Hist.* (1888) V. 81 The American Pika, or 'Little Chief' Hare (*Lagomys princeps*)...The miners and hunters in the West know these oddities as 'conies' and 'starved rats'.

b. *transf.* and *fig.* Meagre, poor, jejune.

1747 Wesley *Char. Methodist* 6 May the Lord God of my Fathers preserve me, from such a poor, starved Religion as This! 1870 F. R. Wilson *Ch. Lindisf.* 34 A nave..with a small, stiff, starved tower. 1874 Micklethwaite *Mod. Par. Churches* 130 Logs [of wood] tortured into the forms of starved masonry. 1874 Mahaffy *Soc. Life Greece* v. 134 Mr. Müller Strübing shows..how wretchedly poor and starved are the allusions of Thucydides.

c. Of soil: Poor in fertilizing elements.

a 1591 H. Smith *2nd Serm. Jonah's Punishm.* (1675) 624 Say not, I have a stony, or a starved, or a thorny ground. 1763 *Museum Rust.* (ed. 2) I. 93 We are obliged to dig deep for a poorer or more starved kind [of gravel].

4. Perished with cold. Now chiefly *dial.* and *poet.*

1581 Sidney *Apol. Poetrie* (Arb.) 68 So is that honny-flowing Matron Eloquence, apparelled..with figures and flowers, extreamelie winter-starued. 1588 Shaks. *Tit. A.* III. i. 252 Alas poore hart that kisse is comfortlesse, As frozen water to a starued snake. 1593 — 2 *Hen. VI*, III. i. 343, I feare me, you but warme the starued Snake. 1667 Milton *P. L.* IV. 769 [The] Serenate, which the starv'd Lover sings To his proud fair. 1847 C. Bronte *Jane Eyre* vii, Behind them the younger children crouched in groups, wrapping their starved arms in their pinafores. 1878 Browning *Poets Croisic* Prol. 1 Such a starved bank of moss Till that May-morn Blue ran the flash across: Violets were born! 1894 Bridges *Palm Willow* i, See, whirling snow sprinkles the starved fields. 1898 J. Hutchinson *Archives Surg.* IX. 302 When I get a cold I never shew it, but only feel chilly and starved.

5. *Comb.*, as *starved-looking* adj.; †**starved-gut** *a.*, famished.

a 1653 *Goughe's Queen* I. 131 (Bang) *Muret.* You are a stinking starv'd-gut star-gazer. 1888 E. Gerard *Land beyond Forest* II. xlvii. 255 Starved-looking daisies, and spiritless, emaciated camomiles, are all the flowers to be seen. 1895 W. C. Skully *Kafir Stories* 23 His dog, Sibi—a starved-looking mongrel greyhound.

Hence **Sta·rvedly** *adv.*

1606 Bp. Hall *Medit. & Vows* III. § 24. 54 Like some boasting housekeeper, which keepeth open doors for one day with much cheer, & liues staruedly al the yeer after. 1865 *Athenæum* 28 Jan. 122/2 But our lively lady..is 'driven wild' by the sight of hepaticas in myriads, which only grow at home starvedly.

Starveling (stā·rvliŋ), *sb.* and *a.* [f. Starve *v.* + -ling.]

A. *sb.* A starved person or animal; one who habitually starves or is stinted of food; one who is emaciated for lack of nutriment.

1546 *Supplic. Poore Commons* (1871) 64 If none should be alowed meat in your Highnes house, but suche as were clothed in veluet...What steruelynges would your seruantes be aboue all other? 1557 Tusser *Husb.* (1878) 226 The fewe [swine] that she kepe, much the better shal bee: of all thing, one good is worth steruelinges three. 1596 Shaks. 1 *Hen. IV*, II. i. 76 If I hang, Ile make a fat payre of Gallowes. For, if I hang, old sir Iohn hangs with mee, and thou know'st hee's no Starueling. 1674 Marvell *Reh. Transp.* II. 49 But the more hungrey starvelings generally look'd upon it as an immediate Call to a Benefice. 1830 M. Donovan *Dom. Econ.* II. 119 Some [hogs] will fatten where others would remain starvelings. 1854 Mrs. Gaskell *North & S.* xxii, And now they've frightened these poor Irish starvelings so with their threats. 1871 B. Taylor *Faust* (1875) II. I. iii. 47 What will the lean fool do? Has he, so dry a starveling, humour?

b. *transf.* of a plant, etc.

1600 Surflet *Country Farm* III. xvi. 453 You may graft.. two or three scutcheons, prouided that they be all of one side: for they would not be equally set together in height, because that so they might all become staruelings. 1664 Evelyn *Sylva* xxi. § 3 (1679) 92 Some of the outward skirts [of the wood] were nothing save shrubs and miserable starvlings. 1709 Shaftesb. *Moralists* II. iv. 118 What think you of the Brain in this Partition? Is it not like to prove a Starveling?

c. *fig.*

1579 Tomson *Calvin's Serm. Tim.* 610/2 Therfore as oft as we play the lingerers, & cold staruelinges..let vs take this Exhortation. *a* 1652 J. Smith *Sel. Disc.* v. 157 As if rather some blind fortune had bestowed her blessings carelessly till she had no more left, and thereby made so many starvlings. 1861 J. G. Holland *Lessons in Life* xxiii. 331 An irreligious man..is always a starveling.

B. *adj.*

1. That lacks a sufficiency of food; hence, lean and weak for want of nutriment; ill-fed, hungry.

1597 Bp. Hall *Sat.* II. i, So lauish ope-tyde causeth fasting-lents, And staruling Famine comes of large expence. 1617 Moryson *Itin.* I. 239 Starvelitg flies sucke much more, then those that are fully gorged. *a* 1660 *Contemp. Hist. Irel.* (Ir. Archæol. Soc.) I. 152 The poore starulinge souldiers, after theire longe and tedious marche, fell eagerly to eate and drinke. 1693 Evelyn *De la Quint. Compl. Gard.* I. 175 If any Trees..have all their Leaves lesser, and more starveling than they should be. 1787 Beckford *Lett. Italy*, etc. II. 263 The stems of starveling pines. 1840 S. Dobell *Roman* vi, The very meanest starveling hound. 1883 Symonds *Ital. Byways* iii. 61 The palace has become a granary for country produce in a starveling land.

fig. 1642 Milton *Apol. Smect.* Wks. 1851 III. 325 Sending heards of souls starvling to Hell, while they feast and riot upon the labours of hireling Curats. 1675 J. Owen *Indwelling Sin* xv. (1732) 199 They..perform Duties with as much constancy as ever they did, but yet have poor lean starvling Souls.

2. Poverty-stricken. Of circumstances, etc.: Characterized by or exhibiting poverty.

1638 Featly *Transubst.* 9 To another a Cardinals hat was given, but with so thinne lining..that he was commonly called the starveling Cardinal. 1728 Pope *Dunciad* II. 36 No meagre, muse-rid mope, adust and thin,..But such a bulk as no twelve bards could raise, Twelve starveling bards of these degen'rate days. 1822 W. Irving *Braceb. Hall* xxii. 188 [He] then cast a glance upon his own threadbare and starveling condition. 1850 — *Goldsm.* vi. 89 The booksellers, who gave him occasional, though starveling, employment. 1874 F. C. Burnand *My time* xxxi. 309 There was a starveling air about the place.

fig. 1841-9 J. C. Hare *Par. Serm.* II. 190 Our hearts are too poor and starveling..to find food and room for all these thoughts and feelings.

3. Perishing (with cold and exposure). *rare.*

1697 Dampier *Voy.* I. 498 In this wet starveling plight we spent the tedious night. 1805 Wordsw. *Waggoner* iv. 260 And babes in wet and starveling plight; Which once, be weather as it might, Had still a nest within a nest.

4. *fig.* Poor in quality or quantity, lean, thin, meagre, scanty,

a 1641 Bp. Mountagu *Acts & Mon.* (1642) 117 It is a starveling conceit of Innovating brain-pans. *a* 1665 J. Goodwin *Being filled with the Spirit* (1670) 79 The expressions of such a man, whether by words or actions, will be lean and starveling. 1768-78 Tucker *Lt. Nat.* (1834) II. 484 We talk.. of a meagre and starveling style, of crudities in expressions. 1816 Coleridge *Statesman's Man.* 36 A hunger-bitten and idea-less philosophy naturally produces a starveling and comfortless religion. 1843 Gladstone in *For. & Col. Q. Rev.* II. 565 They are so much at variance with the fixed formularies of the Church, from the narrow and starveling form of their doctrine, that they [etc.]. 1859 R. F. Burton *Centr. Afr.* in *Jrnl. Geog. Soc.* XXIX. 195 Beyond Uyogo is Usange, a starveling settlement of Wanyamwezi. 1889 C. Edwardes *Sardinia* 297 A starveling plain of pines.

5. *Comb.*: †*starveling-brained* adj.

1638 Ford *Ladies Trial* I. ii, Leave such poore out-side helpes to puling lovers, Such as Fulgoso your keake rivall is, That starveling braind-companion.

Starven (stā·rv'n), *ppl. a. Obs.* exc. *dial.* Also 6-7 **sterven**. [irregular str. pa. pple. of Starve *v.* Cf. Storven *ppl. a.*]

1. = Starved *ppl. a.* in various uses.

a 1533-98 [see *hunger-starven* s. v. Hunger-starve *v.*]. 1563 Sackville *Induct. Mirr. Mag.* li, Shee [Famine] fayne would so sustayne Her staruen corps. 1592 *Arden of Feversham* II. ii. 118 But, giue me..Such mercy as the staruen Lyones, When she is dry suckt of her eager young. 1642 D. Rogers *Naaman* 170 Those sterven Egyptians beholding Iosephs store of corne. 1653 Austen *Fruit Trees* II. (1657) 60 Their starven love to the saints, and their..serious pursuite of their owne interests, in things of the world..prove their Earthly mindednesse. 1686 Plot *Staffordsh.* 204 It advances all starven weak Cattle above any thing yet known. 1887 *S. Cheshire Gloss., Starven*, sensitive to cold. 'It's a nesh, starven little thing.' 1893 *S.-E. Worcester Gloss.*

†**2.** Of cattle: That have died of disease. *Obs.*

1584 R. Scot *Discov. Witchcr.* VI. iv. 95 [He] bargained ..for all their hides which were of Sterven cattell.

Starver (stā·rvəɹ). [f. Starve *v.* + -er[1].] One who or that which starves, in the senses of the verb.

a. One who causes starvation. **b.** One who suffers starvation. **c.** Something that kills or numbs with cold.

a. 1709 Shaftesb. *Moralists* II. iv. 118 The Brain certainly is a great Starver, where it abounds. *Ibid.* 119 What shall we say of our..Dancers, Tennis-players, and such like? 'Tis the Body surely is the Starver here: and if the Brain were such a terrible Devourer in the other way [etc.]. 1859 Mill *Liberty* iii. 100 An opinion that corn-dealers are starvers of the poor..may justly incur punishment when delivered orally to an excited mob. 1870 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 5 Dec. 2 Should the Germans be hemmed in and their communications cut, the starver may become the starved.

b. 1839 Hood *Fugitive Lines on Pawning Watch* vii, So long I have wander'd a starver, I'm getting as keen as a hawk. 1897 Blackmore *Dariel* xlvii, The unfortunate starver..tore the cake from Cator.

c. 1844 Hood *Forge* I. viii, Flapping his arms to keep him warm, For the breeze from the North is a regular starver.

Starving (stā·rviŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. Starve *v.* + -ing[1].] The action of Starve *v.*

†**1.** Dying, death. *Obs.*

a 1300 *E. E. Psalter* cvi. 20 He sent his worde, and heled þam, And fra þar steruinges he þam nam. 1340 *Ayenb.* 73 Voryet þi body ones a day, guo in-to helle ine þine libbinde: þet þou ne guo ine þine steruinge. *Ibid.* 165 Ase zaiþ þe sauter ydelnesse be steruinge. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 475/1 Stervynge, or deyynge, *mors, expiracio.*

2. The condition of suffering privation of food.

1549 Cheke *Hurt Sedit.* (1641) 34 The pore..who in a common scarcitie, lyueth most scarcely, and feeleth quickliest the sharpenesse of staruing. 1737 Pope *Sat. Donne* ii. 10, I grant that Poetry's a crying sin..Catch'd like the Plague, ..the Lord knows how, But that the cure is starving, all allow. 1820 Shelley *Œdipus* II. ii. 6 We call thee Famine! Goddess of fasts and feasts, starving and cramming. 1842 F. Trollope *Vis. Italy* II. ix. 163 Our starvings, &c. did not begin..till after we had quitted the beaten track.

allusively. 1844 W. Pennefather in *Life & Lett.* (1879) 171, I have been offered a pretty little living...Its value is £92 per annum..my father will call it a *starving.* 1861 Pycroft *Ways & Words* 274 It is not a living a man can earn there; it is a starving.

b. *attrib.*

1843 S. C. Hall *Ireland* III. 354 Particular periods of the year which may be rightly termed 'starving seasons'. 1905

Pearson's Mag. July 104/2 Frail women and children, who have to work long hours at a starving wage.

3. The action of depriving of food.

1665 MANLEY *Grotius's Low-C. Wars* 233 [He] was sent with part of the Army to see if he could reduce it, either by force or starving. 1883 *Congregat. Yr. Bk.* 73 The starving of the body has a relation to the starving of the mind.

†**4.** The stripping of the branches of (trees). *Obs.*

1585 HIGINS *Junius' Nomencl.* 144/2 *Articulatio*,..the staruing of trees as when by the force of tempestes the young shootes of vines are beaten off, or hurt through vnskilfulnes, or naughtilye lopped.

Starving, *ppl. a.* [f. STARVE *v.* + -ING 2.]

†**1.** Of death: ? Lingering, languishing. *Obs.*

1387–8 T. USK *Test. Love* I. i. (Skeat) 5 Certes, her absence is to me an helle; my sterving deth thus in wo it myneth, that endeles care is throughout myne herte clenched.

†**2.** Causing death, killing. *Obs.*

a 1605 MONTGOMERIE *Misc. Poems* xlv. 11 Come, gentill Death,.. Thy sterving straik with force thou let out flie, And light on me, to end my peirles pyne.

3. That is dying of hunger; that lacks the necessaries of life; also *absol.*

1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* II. (Globe) 339, I also forgot not the starving Crew..but order'd my own Boat..to carry them a Sack of Bread. 1732 POPE *Ess. Man* II. 269 The starving chemist in his golden views Supremely blest. 1817 SHELLEY *Rev. Islam* x. xv, All night, the lean hyaenas their sad case Like starving infants wailed. 1886 W. J. TUCKER *Eastern Europe* xxxi. 315 How beneficially all this luxuriance..might be applied to the cravings of the needy and starving.

4. That causes or entails starvation or famine; also, that treats disease by stinting the patient of food.

1590 SIR J. SMYTHE *Disc. Weapons* 1 The tumultuarie, licentious, and staruing warres of the Low Countries. 1693 *Humours Town* 22 Modesty is a starving Quality, and only another Name for Folly. 1731 *Gentl. Mag.* I. 118 The whole income remaining to the Church is but 15, 20, or 30 l. Yearly; which is but a starving Support. 1824 SCOTT *St. Ronan's* vii, Then he is a starving doctor, Mrs. Blower—reduces diseases as soldiers do towns—by famine. 1899 *Westm. Gaz.* 26 June 7/3 Starving trades—that was to say, trades that were starving those who had their capital invested in them—must ultimately also starve the workpeople.

b. That causes one to starve with cold. *rare.*

1684 OTWAY *Prol. to N. Lee's Constantine* 32 Under the starving sign of Capricorn. 1721 AMHERST *Terræ Fil.* No. 13 (1726) I. 72 [He] found him in his lodgings by a little starving fire, with a rush light candle before him. 1897 T. H. WARREN *By Severn Sea* 41 On sullen earth, clogged flood and starving air.

†**Sta·rvy,** *a. Obs. rare.* [f. STARVE *v.* + -Y.] Poor in quality, starved. **a.** of land. **b.** of fruit.

1647 C. HARVEY *Schola Cordis* xxvii. 21 Apply Thy plow be-time; now now beginne To furrow up my stiffe and starvy heart. 1656 HARTLIB *Herefordsh. Orchards* (1724) 6 The rough starvy ground (which in this country we wrongfully call marle). *Ibid.*, Under this starvy ground it finds a more congenial and richer nourishment. 1680 ALLEN *Peace & Unity* 137 if you would yield the Lord the..pleasant Fruit of all his cost, and not such as is starvy, harsh, and unsavoury.

Starward (stā·ɪwə̇d), *adv.* [-WARD.] Towards the stars. Also *attrib.* or *adj.*

1831 CARLYLE *Sartor Res.* II. vi, Its white steeple is then truly a starward-pointing finger. 1839 BAILEY *Festus* 232 As on they sped upon their starward course. 1845 HIRST *Poems* 53 When the mists were star-ward creeping. 1865 E. BURRITT *Walk to Land's End* 9 The sparks going up starward. 1872 BLACKIE *Lays Highl.* 92, I clomb thy starward peak not long ago.

Starwort (stā·ɪwɒɪt). Also 5–6 ster-, sterre-, 6–7 (? *erron.*) stir(e-. [f. STAR *sb.*1 + WORT *sb.*]

1. The genus *Stellaria*, with white starry flowers; esp. *S. Holostea.*

In the 15th c. quots. perhaps *Alchemilla vulgaris.*

a 1400–50 *Stockh. Med. MS.* p. 156 Sterrewort: *stellaria maior.* *a* 1500 *MS. Laud* 553 lf. 19 Stellaria maior is an herbe þ⁴ me clepuþ sterwort...Stellaria minor is an herbe þ⁴ me clepuþ lasse sterrewort. 1845–50 MRS. LINCOLN *Lect. Bot.* App. 173/2 *Stellaria longifolia* (long-leafed starwort). 1878 SUSAN PHILLIPS *On Seaboard* 89 The poppy, like a scarlet flame, By snowy starwort blazes. 1899 BRIDGES *New Poems, Idle Flowers*, And in the shady lanes..Starwort and Celandine.

2. A book-name for the genus *Aster*; esp. *A. Tripolium*, Sea Starwort; *A. Amellus*, Italian Starwort.

1578 LYTE *Dodoens* I. xxiv. 36 *Aster Atticus*..is called.. in English Sharewurte or Sterrewurte. 1585 HIGINS *Junius' Nomencl.* 118/1 *Aster atticus*..stirwoort. 1597 GERARDE *Herbal* II. lxxxviii. 334 *Aster Marinus*, or *Amellus Marinus*: in English Sea Starwort,..of some Blew Daisies. *Ibid.* II. cxxv. 391 There be diuers sorts of the Asters or Starwoorts. *Ibid.*, Italian Starrewoort. 1647 HEXHAM I. (Herbs) Stirewort, *sterren kruydt.* 1693 DALE *Pharmacol.* 175 Aster Atticus .. Golden Star-wort. 1728 BRADLEY *Dict. Bot., Amellus*..appears plainly to be the Flower call'd Asteratticus Italorum, call'd in English, Purple Italian Starwort, or Purple Marygold. 1785 MARTYN *Lett. Bot.* xxvi. (1794) 392 Large flowering or Catesby's Starwort (Aster grandiflorus *Linn.*), is one of the handsomest [of the American asters]. 1812 *New Bot. Gard.* I. 65 *Aster Chinensis*, China Aster, or Chinese Starwort. 1862 T. W. HARRIS *Insects Injur. Vegetation* (ed. 3) 620 Our native asters or starworts. 1882 *Garden* 11 Feb. 90/1 The American Starworts.

3. Water starwort, the genus *Callitriche.*

1597 GERARDE *Herbal* II. cclxxxviii. 681 There is likewise another herbe of small reckoning that floteth vpon the water called *Stellaria aquatica* or water Starwoort. 1796 WITHERING *Brit. Plants* (ed. 3) II. 5 *Callitriche verna*..Water Starwort. 1861 S. THOMSON *Wild Flowers* (ed. 4) I. 65 The water star-wort..has its anthers but one-celled.

4. The name of a moth, *Cucullia Asteris.*

1819 SAMOUELLE *Entomol. Compend.* 419 *Noctua Asteris.* The Starwort. 1832 J. RENNIE *Consp. Butterfl. & Moths* 90 The Starwort (*Cucullia Asteris*). 1869 E. NEWMAN *Brit. Moths* 433.

Stary (stē·ri), *a.* [f. STARE *v.* (sense 5) + -Y. Cf. G. dial. *starrig.*] (See quot. 1886.)

1884 W. S. B. MCLAREN *Spinning* 171 The projecting fibres, which would make it stary and lack lustre, in passing beneath the cap get laid along the yarn and twisted into the body of it. 1886 *W. Somerset Word-bk., Stary*...Threadbare. A word used technically of cloth in which the separate threads are plainly to be seen.

Stash (stæ∫), *v. slang.* [Of obscure origin.] *trans.* To bring to an end, stop, desist from (a matter, a practice); to quit (a place). Often imp. *stash it! stash that!* †*To stash the glim*: to cease using the light. *To stash up*: to bring to an abrupt end.

1811 *Lex. Balatr.* s.v., The cove tipped the prosecutor fifty quid to stash the business. 1812 J. H. VAUX *Flash Dict.* s.v., Thus a thief determined to leave off his vicious courses will declare that he means to stash (or stow) prigging...To stash drinking, card-playing, or any other employment you may be engaged in for the time present. *Ibid.*, *Stash it*: see *Stow it.* 1823 'JON BEE' *Dict. Turf* s.v., 'Stash the glim', to put out lights, or to place an extinguisher on the candle. 1889 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Robbery under Arms* (1890) 99 The rest of us..as they was sold, stashed the camp and cleared out different ways. 1903 W. CRAIG *Adv. Austral. Goldf.* 229 She is requested to 'stash' tragedy and give them comedy. 1909 H. G. WELLS *Tono-Bungay* III. iv, She brought her [piano] playing to an end by—as schoolboys say—'stashing it up'.

†**Sta·siarch.** *Obs. rare.* [ad. Gr. στασι-αρχος, f. στάσι-ς sedition + -αρχος ruler.] A ringleader in sedition.

1655 H. LESTRANGE *Reign K. Chas.* 57 With the conjunction of these seven English,..Lewes brake furiously in upon Subize the Stasiarch, the chief Rebel. 1666 SIR G. WHARTON *Calend. Carolinum* Nov., But know (Ingrateful Stasiarchs ¶ you must Stoop, and..lick Our English Dust.

†**Stasimetric,** *a. Surveying. Obs.* [f. Gr. στάσι-ς standing, station (see STASIS) + μέτρ-ον measure + -IC.] (See quots.)

1774 M. MACKENZIE *Treat. Surveying* (1819) Introd. 14 A Stasimetric Survey, is, when the mutual distances of three, or more, proper objects are carefully measured; and by means of these objects, the position and distance of all stations along the coast determined trigonometrically, each at its respective station alone, independent of one another. 1824 W. H. SMYTH *Mem. Sicily*, etc. iv. 145, I therefore deduce the height [of Ætna]..from stasimetric points previously ascertained on shore.

‖**Stasimon** (stæ·simɒn). Pl. **stasima, stasimons.** [Gr. στάσιμον neut. (agreeing with μέλος song) of στάσιμος stationary, f. στα- to stand.

Some think that the 'stationary song' was so called because it began after the chorus had taken their places; others because it was continued without interruption.]

In ancient Greek tragedy, a song of the Chorus, occurring after the PARODE, continued without the interruption of dialogue or anapaestics.

1861 PALEY *Æschylus* (ed. 2) *Supplices* 1 *note*, 1–39. The parode, or anapaestic recitation of the chorus as they enter the orchestra, the stasimon commencing with v. 40. 1876 W. CORY *Lett. & Frnls.* (1897) 413 [Swinburne's] chorus is altogether too sugary, luxuriant, and unbridled in the *stasima* or set pieces. 1904 M. HEWLETT *Queen's Quair* II. vii. 283 Recalling critically..the stasimons of the late tragic scene.

Stasimorphy (stæ·simɒfi). *Biol.* [f. Gr. στάσι-ς (see next) + μορφ-ή form + -Y.] (See quot. 1869.) Hence **Stasimo·rphic** *a.*

1869 M. T. MASTERS *Veget. Teratol.* 216 Stasimorphy. Deviation from the ordinary form of organs arising from stasis or arrest of development are included under this heading. *Ibid.*, Stasimorphic changes affecting principally the relative size of organs. 1873 COOK *Man. Bot. Terms* (ed. 2).

‖**Stasis** (stā·sis). *Path.* [mod.L., a. Gr. στάσις, standing, station, stoppage, f. στα- to stand.] A stagnation or stoppage of the circulation of any of the fluids of the body, esp. of the blood in some part of the blood-vessels.

1745 R. JAMES *Med. Dict.* III, *Stasis*,..a Stagnation. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl., *Stasis*, a word used by physicians to express a stagnation of the humors. 1835–6 *Todd's Cycl. Anat.* I. 745/2 Previously to the establishment of osteitis [of the cranium]..there is found that stasis of the blood which always precedes inflammation. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 380 In many cases there seems to be an over-fulness of the cerebral venous system and probably a lymphatic stasis. 1913 SIR T. BARLOW in *Times* 7 Aug. 8/2 A strong case has been made out for intestinal stasis as a cause of various forms of malnutrition.

Stassfurtite (stæ·sfə̇tɔɪt). *Min.* Also **stassfurthite.** [Named (Ger. *stassfurtit*) in 1856 after *Stassfurt* in Prussia, its locality: see -ITE.] A massive variety of boracite.

1858 J. NICOL *Elem. Mineral.* 212 Stassfurthite. 1865 P. H. LAWRENCE *Lithol.* 95 Boracite (Stassfurtite).

Stasyon, obs. form of STATION.

-stat, the terminal element in certain names of scientific instruments, *aerostat, heliostat, hydrostat, klinostat, thermostat.* The earliest example of this formation is *heliostat*, ad. mod.L. *heliostata* ('s Gravesande *a* 1742), app. repr. an assumed Gr. type * ἡλιοστάτης (cf. ὑδροστάτης hydrostatic balance), intended to mean an instrument for causing the sun to appear stationary, f. ἡλιο-ς sun + -στατης agent-n. f. στα- root of ἱστάναι to cause to stand, set. This word is directly imitated in *siderostat* (hybrid, f. L. *sīder-* star). The F. *aérostat* (whence Eng. *aerostat*) may be a back-formation from *aérostatique* (formed after *hydrostatique*), but owes its form to the example of *héliostat.* The later words have been formed on the analogy of *heliostat*, app. with some reference to the Gr. στατός standing, stationary, which is given in Fr. and Eng. dicts. as the source of the ending.

Statable (stē·tăb'l), *a.* Also **stateable.** [f. STATE *v.* + -ABLE.] Capable of being stated.

1802 CANNING in *Earl Malmesbury's Diaries & Corr.* (1844) IV. 117, I will..send you..one or two trifling alterations more, and will then state to you the *statable* reasons for this last change. 1859 DICKENS *Christmas Stor., Haunted House* i, For all these reasons, and for others less easily and briefly statable, I find [etc.]. 1877 RUSKIN *Fors Clav.* lxxvi. 119 Those are the clearly stateable and memorable heads of expenditure. 1887 *Century Mag.* Mar. 921 The *rationale* of this is simple, and statable in brief form.

Statal (stē·tăl), *a. rare.* [f. STATE *sb.* + -AL.] Of or pertaining to a State (of the U.S.), as distinguished from *national.*

a 1864 EDW. BATES (W.), I have no knowledge of any other kind of political citizenship, higher or lower, statal or national.

Statant (stē·tănt), *a. Her.* [app. irreg. f. L. *stat-* ppl. stem of *stāre* to stand + -ANT.] Of an animal, esp. a lion: Standing in profile with all four feet on the ground.

c 1500 *Sc. Poem on Her.* 127 in *Q. Eliz. Acad.* 98 First, a lionne statant. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* II. 144/1 The sundry ways that Beasts are besides born in Arms. Statant or standing, when all the feet are down. 1864 BOUTELL *Her. Hist. & Pop.* x. 59 A Lion Statant, having his Tail extended in a right line, is the Crest of the Duke of Northumberland.

†**Statarian,** *a. Obs. rare.* [f. L. *statāri-us* (see next) + -AN.] = next 2. Hence **Statarianly** *adv.*

1768–74 TUCKER *Lt. Nat.* (1834) I. 473 Your skirmishing parties..shall never drive my statarianly disciplined battalion from its ground. *Ibid.* 474, I have made bold to bring a new adopted son of mine to beg a detachment of your statarian soldiers to escort him.

†**Statary,** *a. Obs.* Also 7 *erron.* **statory.** [ad. L. *statāri-us*, f. *stat-* ppl. stem of *stāre* to stand.]

1. Standing fast or firm, established; stated, fixed; having a fixed position, stationary.

1581 MULCASTER *Positions* xxxix. 199 Both a gentleman, and a common man..may be either rich or poore; landed or vnlanded, which is either the hauing or wanting of the most statarie substance. 1617 COLLINS *Def. Bp. Ely* I. i. 47 What is this to the Popedome? what to a Monarchie? what, I say not to their stately, but euen statarie and ordinarie supremacie in the Church? 1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* V. xxi. 266 The set and statary times of payring of nailes, and cutting of haire. *Ibid.* VI. ii. 287 The observation of festivities and statary solemnities. 1650 FULLER *Pisgah* V. xxi. 184, I will not plead that a tent is also termed an house..that statory, or long standing tents were quilted with timber.

2. Of soldiers: Equipped for stationary combat as opposed to skirmishing.

1623 BINGHAM *Xenophon, Compar. Lipsius*, The Battalions haue their spaces and intervals, and the Velites in them or before them. So that the Statarie Souldier serueth the Velites for retreat.

State (stēt), *sb.* Forms: 3–6 **stat,** (4 **stade,** *pl.* **stas** (?)), 4–5 **staat,** 4–5, 7 **statt,** 4–6 **statte,** 4, 5–7 *Sc.* **stait**(e, 5–6 *Sc.* **stayt**(e, 6 *Sc.* **staet, steat,** 7 *Sc.* **staitt,** 4– **state.** [Partly var. of ESTATE *sb.* a. OF. *estat* (mod.F. *état*) = Pr. *estat-z*, Sp., Pg. *estado*, It. *stato*, ad. L. *status* (*u* stem), manner of standing, condition, n. of action f. *sta-, stāre* to stand; partly direct adaptation from the Latin source. The word in the Rom. langs. has or has had most of the senses of the Eng. *state* and *estate*; in the mod. Teut. langs. it has been adopted in forms derived from Latin or It. (G., Du. *staat*, Sw., Da. *stat*) chiefly in the political senses, though other uses also exist; Sw. has the form *stät* in the sense ceremonial grandeur, pomp (sense 17 below).]

I. Condition, manner of existing.

1. A combination of circumstances or attributes belonging for the time being to a person or thing; a particular manner or way of existing, as defined by the presence of certain circumstances or attributes; a condition. Sometimes qualified by an adj. or a following phrasal genitive.

State of nature: see NATURE *sb.* 14. *State of siege*: the condition of undergoing investment by a hostile army; also *transf.*

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 204 Þet is riht religiun, þet euerich, efter his stat, boruwe et tisse urakele worlde so lutel so heo euer mei. *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (Roxb.) vi. 21 Þat he schuld bring it [the Euphrates] to swilke a state þat wymmen schuld mow wade ouer and noȝt wete þaire kneesse. *c* 1450 *Reg. Godstow Nunnery* (1911) 415 That the forsaid ser Thomas shold susteyne the forsaid halle..in all so good a state or better than he resceived hit. *c* 1460 *Oseney Reg.* 161 That þe waye Bitwene þ⁰ londe of þe same Roger and my londe ..be in þ⁰ same state in þe which it whas i-purueyed..In the tyme of theobalde of Bray. 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* lxxii. 130 To keip the house in sicker stait. *c* 1600 SHAKS. *Sonn.* xxix. 2, I all alone beweepe my out-cast state. 1735 H. WALPOLE *Let.* 5 Sept. in *10th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. I. 259 Y⁰ violent & desperate state of their affairs. 1750 JOHNSON *Rambler* No. 28 P 13 Adversity has ever been

considered as the state in which a man most easily becomes acquainted with himself. 1791 COWPER *Let. to Lady Hesketh* 26 June, Olney is also itself in a state of beautification. 1793 SMEATON *Edystone L.* § 324 Concerning the State and Condition of the Edystone Lighthouse. 1809 *Lond. Chron.* 1 July 4/2 He..saw the young lady opposite to him..in a state of nature, quite naked. 1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 833 The changes which it exhibits according to the state of the weather. 1843 WORDSWORTH in Chr. Wordsw. *Mem.* (1851) I. 97 A successful play would in the then state of my finances have been a most welcome piece of good fortune. 1847 TENNYSON in Ld. Tennyson *Mem.* (1897) I. xi. 244 My pen is..in a state of hopeless splittage and divarication. 1848, 1873 [see SIEGE *sb.* 6 b]. 1880 *Encycl. Brit.* XIII. 100/2 International law regards the states of the world as being either in a state of war or in a state of peace. 1890 *Law Times Rep.* LXIII. 766/2 Owing to the crowded state of the port. 1891 *Law Times* XC. 411/2 Allowing a foundry and other property to fall into..a state of disrepair.

b. in regard to welfare or prosperity (worldly, moral or spiritual). Now somewhat *rare*.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 5059 'How fars', he said, 'our fadir state?' 13.. *Sir Beues* 1990 þai kiste hem anon wiþ þat And aþer askede of oþeres stat. *c* 1325 *Poem temp. Edw. II* (Percy) vii, Erchebisshopes and byshopes, That schuld trewly enquere Of al men of holy cherche In what stat thei were. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Prol.* 572 Algate he wayted so in his Achaat That he was ay biforn and in good staat. 1632 MASSINGER *Maid of Honour* II. iii, If we come off, It is not amisse, if not, my state is settl'd. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* iii. I. 415 The great criterion of the state of the common people is the amount of their wages.

† **c.** *For the state of* = for the welfare of (a person prayed for). *Obs.* Cf. 27.

1395 *E. E. Wills* 8 To preye for my lordes soule..and for the stat of my sone forseid. [1399 GOWER *Eng. Wks.* (Macaulay) II. 492 Et nunc sequitur epistola in qua idem Ioannes pro statu et salute dicti domini sui apud altissimum deuocius exorat.] *c* 1460 *Oseney Reg.* 70 For þe stabulnese of all þe reame and state and welth of our Kyng ande quene.

d. as regards health of mind and body.

† *State of mortality*: a fatal epidemic.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 28496 Womman ner hir chiltyng state. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xli. (*Agnes*) 71 His fadir send..medicinaris, his stat to se. 1538 STARKEY *England* 35 Yet yf hyt be deformyd..the body hath not hys perfayt state and vertue. 1591 SAVILE *Tacitus, Hist.* II. xciii. 108 The Germans and Frenchmen lying by the Tiber..vtterly ouerthrew the state of their body with too much swimming in the riuer and impatience of heate. *c* 1600 SHAKS. *Sonn.* cxviii. 11 And brought to medicine a healthfull state. 1700 in *Jrnl. Friends' Hist. Soc.* (1914) Oct. 180 A letter..from my sister..who..advises of a state of mortality in ther Country attended with a sort of feauor. 1813 JANE AUSTEN *Lett.* (1884) II. 202 It is but roughish weather for any one in a tender state. 1854 J. C. BUCKNILL *Unsoundness of Mind* 89 He was fully conscious of his state, and had great hopes of being cured in the asylum. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 492 Urticaria occurs as a premonitory..or concomitant phenomenon in a great number of morbid states. 1908 R. BAGOT *A. Cuthbert* xxviii. 370 It was in vain that he attempted to deceive his patient as to her state.

† **e.** as regards means of livelihood, riches or possessions. *Obs.* Cf. sense 36 and ESTATE *sb.* 2.

1389 in *Eng. Gilds* (1870) 20 If eny brother or sister falle in pouert,..his state shal bene holpen, of euery brother and sister of ye gilde, wt a ferthyng in ye woke. *a* 1425 tr. *Arderne's Treat. Fistula*, etc. (1910) 5 þan after þat þe state of þe pacient askeþ aske he boldly more or lesse. *c* 1430 *How Good Wife taught Dau.* 149 in Hazl. *E. P. P.* I. 190 Ilke a man after his state, and 3eue the pouere atte nede. 1557 F. SEAGER *Sch. Vertue* 1088 in *Babees Bk.*, Ye that are poore, with your state be contente. *c* 1590 GREENE *Fr. Bacon* 588 Ile giue Liuing and lands to strength thy colledge state. 1611 TOURNEUR *Ath. Trag.* II. i, Yow shall doe well if yow be sicke to set Your state in present order. 1763 CHURCHILL *Conference* 109 My Credit at last gasp, my State undone.

f. *collog.* Used for 'a dreadful state' (of dirt, untidiness, etc.). Cf. 2 c.

1879 F. W. ROBINSON *Coward Consc.* II. vii, Just look what a [dirty] state I am in!

2. A condition (of mind or feeling); the mental or emotional condition in which a person finds himself at a particular time.

1538 STARKEY *England* 43 When prosperyte ys wel vsyd, hyt ys a mean to set mannys mynd in that state, wherby he schal attayne hyar felycyte. 1638 JUNIUS *Paint. Ancients* 292 The motions of the countenance doe best expresse the state of the mind. 1728 LAW *Serious Call* ix, Covetousness..supposes a foolish and unreasonable state of mind. 1752 JOHNSON *Rambler* No. 155 P 2 It seems generally believed, that, as the eye cannot see itself, the mind has no faculties by which it can contemplate its own state. 1820 SOUTHEY *Wesley* I. 329 England was but in too apt a state for receiving the poison. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* lviii, He..brought Mr. Jos..to a very good state of feeling regarding his relatives in Europe. 1865 RUSKIN *Sesame* I. § 31 No reading is possible for a people with its mind in this state. 1882 PEBODY *Eng. Journalism* xx. 149 The whole country was in a state of white heat about the Roman Catholic claims. 1890 tr. *Moll's Hypnotism* 48 From the above examples it appears that the various hypnotic states differ much from one another.

b. as a technical term of psychology; esp. in *state of mind, state of consciousness*.

1749 D. HARTLEY *Observ. Man* I. Introd. p. iii, The Will is that State of Mind, which is immediately previous to, and causes, those express Acts of Memory, Fancy, and bodily Motion, which are termed voluntary. *c* 1790 REID *Lett. to Gregory* Wks. (1846) 85 The reason why madness, idiotism, &c., are called states of mind, while its acts and operations are not, is because mankind have always conceived the mind to be passive in the former and active in the later. *c* 1810 T. BROWN *Lect. Philos. Hum. Mind* (1820) I. 245 To the whole series of states of the mind, then, whatever the individual momentary successive states may be, I give the name of our *consciousness*. 1836–7 SIR W. HAMILTON *Lect. Metaphysics* (1859) I. 203 We are conscious of one mental state only as we contradistinguish it from another. *c* 1837 — *Reid's Wks.* (1846) 85 *note*, The term *State* has, more especially of late years, and principally by Necessitarian philosophers, been applied to all modifications of mind indifferently. 1862 SPENCER *First Princ.* I. iii. § 19. (1875) 61 It is..beyond question that our states of consciousness occur in succession. 1865 [see CONSCIOUSNESS 4].

c. Used *collog.* for: An agitated or excited state of mind or feeling. Cf. 1 f.

1837 MARRYAT *Perc. Keene* xxii, Lord, what a state I shall be in till I know what has taken place. 1890–91 *Boston* (Mass.) *Jrnl.*, There is no concealing the fact that English printers and publishers are in a state of mind over the International Copyright bill. 1902 VIOLET JACOB *Sheep-Stealers* xiv, Don't you remember when she went away, what a state you were in and how you raged?

† **d.** Condition of mind or feeling as displayed in one's manner or behaviour. *Obs.*

13.. *Bonaventura's Medit.* 391 þan cryst answered, with mylde state. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* VII. 128 Thai changit contenanss and late, And held nocht in the first stat..For thai var fayis to the kyng.

3. The mode of existence of a spiritual being; a particular mode or phase of (spiritual) existence.

Future state: see FUTURE *a.* 1 b.

c 1300 *S. Eng. Leg.* 439/275 (Harl. MS.) Of þe pure stat of crist & of his mageste. *Ibid.* 281 Þe gretteste clerkes.. Ne þoȝte þat eni vrþlich man so furforþ miȝte go Ne wite so moche of godes stat bote hit angel were. *c* 1380 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* I. 132 Þis aungel..tellip hem how now Crist is sittynge in hevene, for his staat here in erþe is fulli performed. *a* 1400 *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* xxiii. 958 Beo we translated in to blis Of wel better state. 1533 MORE *Conful. Tindale* VII. Wks. 720/1 The state of this present life. 1565 ALLEN *Def. Purg.* xvi. 280 All that passe hense in the happy state of grace. *a* 1667 [see NATURE *sb.* 14]. 1675 R. BURTHOGGE *Causa Dei* 61 Is not the State of Hell in Scripture called the Second Death? 1684 NORRIS *Poems*, etc. 70 Are we affraid of making too nigh advances to the State of Angels? 1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* II. (Globe) 443 It is a clear Evidence of God, and of a future State. *a* 1805 PALEY *Serm. Sev. Subj.* v. 638/1 Our new bodies will be infinitely superior to those which we carry about with us in our present state. 1850 TENNYSON *In Mem.* lxxxii. 6 From state to state the spirit walks. *Ibid.* lxxxv. 22 The great Intelligences fair That range above our mortal state. 1883 [see FUTURE *a.* 1 b]. 1907 F. WESTON *The One Christ* 53 First, the Incarnation involved a state of being that is quite inferior to the divine state.

4. Physical condition as regards internal make or constitution, molecular form or structure, and the like. Also, one of several forms or conditions in which an object—animal, vegetable, or mineral—is found to exist; a phase or stage of existence.

c 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* 239/701 Þe eyr was euere in o stat, naþur to hot ne to cold. *a* 1300 *Leg. Rood* II. 100 Þo hi were iwoxe to þe lengþe of an elne ich wene In þulke stat hi stode longe and euermore grene. 1340 *Ayenb.* 28 Þanne by þe godspelle þet corn heþ þri stas, uor hit is uerst ase ine gerse, efterward ine yere, efterward is uol of frut. 1545 ELYOT *Dict., Amphicyrtos*, is the state of the moone, as wel whan he is somwhat increased..as also whan he is in the wane. 1721 BRADLEY *Philos. Acc. Wks. Nat.* 156, I have found it a little difficult to bring Water and Pepper into a right State of yielding these Insects. *a* 1805 PALEY *Serm. Sev. Subj.* v. 634/1 When an animal changes its state, it changes its body. 1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 243 Water, in the state of vapour. 1823 SCORESBY *Jrnl.* 411, I do not consider it different from a dwarf state of V. uliginosum. 1849 J. F. WOOD *Midland Florist* iii. 122 Bulbs in a breeder state throw up stronger and bolder flowers than when in colour. 1859 RUSKIN *Two Paths* iv. § 143 The most perfect and useful state of it [iron] is that of ochreous stain. 1876 TAIT *Rec. Adv. Phys. Sci.* ix. 219 Some black body..which may be either in a solid or in a liquid state,—possibly even in the state of extremely compressed gas.

5. a. *The* (or *a*) *state of things* or *affairs*: the way in which events or circumstances stand disposed (at a particular time or within a particular sphere). Cf. L. *status rerum*, in reference to public or political affairs; and quot. 1387 in b.

1555 EDEN *Decades* (Arb.) 114 Thalteracion of the state of thynges in Vraba. 1580 CAMPION in Allen *Martyrdom* (1908) 21, I thought it good to give you intelligence..of the present stat of things here. 1607 CHAPMAN *Bussy d'Ambois* I. i. 1 Fortune, not Reason, rules the state of things. 1794 BURKE *Corr.* (1844) IV. 253 This is an unfortunate state of things; but it is your state, and you must conform to it. 1856 FROUDE *Hist. Eng.* (1858) I. i. 87 We have seen a state of things in which the principles of political economy were ..contradicted. 1871 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* IV. xvii. (1876) 64 In Herefordshire and on the Welsh border the state of things was very unsettled.

† **b.** A dispensation or system of divine government during a particular era. Also, *state of things*.

1387 TREVISA *Higden* I. 31 Descrypcions of places, states of thynges, distinccion of tymes. *Ibid*, Touchynge þe secounde take hede of tweie states, oon from þe bygynnynge of þe world to Criste, and is i-cleped þe staat of mysgoynge; the secounde staat from Criste to þe worldes end, and is i-cleped þe state of grace and of mercy.

† **c.** *State of time* or *times*: a juncture or posture of affairs. *Obs.*

1594 SHAKS. *Rich. III*, IV. iv. 416 Vrge the Necessity and state of times. 1596 — *1 Hen. IV*, IV. i. 25, I would the state of time had first beene whole, Ere he by sicknesse had beene visited. 1662 STILLINGFL. *Orig. Sacræ* II. i. § 5 How can we conceive the Nation of the Jews would have ever embraced such a Law, had it not been of Moses his enacting among them in that state of time when he did?

d. *The state of the case*: the facts and circumstances of a particular affair, question, etc.

1729 BUTLER *Serm.* Wks. 1850 II. Pref. p. xvii, The taking in this consideration totally changes the whole state of the case. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* xiii, And the real state of the case would never have been known at all in the regiment but for Captain Dobbin's indiscretion. *a* 1873 DEUTSCH *Lit. Rem.* (1874) 365 This is the simple state of the case.

† **6.** With contextual implication: **a.** Original, proper or normal condition; a sound, healthy, flourishing, prosperous condition. (Cf. ESTATE *sb.* 1 d.) Chiefly in phrases, as *to be* (or *stand*) *in state*: to be firmly established or flourishing; to be intact; also, to remain 'in statu quo'. *To bring in, to* (*one's*) *state*: to reinstate, restore. *To put of, out of state*, to deprive of one's position or status, disinherit, degrade. *Obs.*

1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 254 Atte laste þo he in stat was & him þoȝte þat is per in þe world nas. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 9219 Þe Iuues now er put o state, And þair kingrik translate. *Ibid.* 20958 To halt o ganging gaf he stat. *c* 1320 *Cast. Loue* 1206 Þorw whom þe fend was al mat, And þe world for-bouȝt and brouȝt in stat. 1340–70 *Alex. & Dind.* 686 A soþ god ..þat haþ þe stomak in stat stifly to kepe. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* I. 297 Bot wondirly hard thing is fell Till him, or he till state wes brocht. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* III. 165 þat Tarquinius schulde be brouȝt to his state and in to þe citee ayen. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* v. 340 He bad thaim se giff that place stud in stait; Tharoff to her he had full gret desyr, Be caus he thocht that it was all in fyr. 1531 in *Archæologia* XLVII. 62 Sharing some dishe from thyn own bord and likewise from thy chanons till tyme thou bring thy said house in state agayne. 1605 BACON *Adv. Learn.* I. iv. § 1 To scandalize and depraue that which retaineth the state and vertue, by taking aduantage vpon that which is corrupt and degenerate. *Ibid.* II. xxi. § 2 To preserue in state is the lesse, to preserue with aduancement is the greater. 1638 EARL MANCH. in *Buccleuch MSS.* (Hist. MSS. Comm.) I. 278 Things here rest as yet in state as they were.

† **b.** Fixed or stable condition. *Obs.*

1597 BACON *Coulers Good & Evill* ix. P 1 In the fauours of others or the good windes of fortune we haue no state or certainty, in our endeuours or abilities we haue. 1605 — *Adv. Learn.* II. xxi. § 1 If wee mought haue a perpetuity and Certainty in our pleasures, the State of them would aduance their price.

† **7.** The height or chief stage of a process; the condition of full vigour. Chiefly *Path.*, the crisis or 'acme' of disease. *Obs.* Cf. STATUS I.

1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* 342 To euery disease or malady, belongeth foure seuerall times, that is to say, the beginning, the increasing, the state, and declination. 1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr., Catastasis*, the third part of a Comedy, and signifies the state and full vigour of it. 1656 RIDGLEY *Pract. Physick* 257 In the augmentation and the state, Cordials and such things as expel. 1665 G. HARVEY *Adv. agst. Plague* 11 At present it is in the Augment, and likely to attain to a state about the latter end of August. 1717 J. KEILL *Anim. Oecon.* (1738) 189 When all the peccant matter is thrown out, the disease generally proceeds to its state without any ill accident. 1913 DORLAND *Med. Dict., State*..the crisis or turning-point of an attack of disease.

† **8.** Existence. *To hold state*, to continue or persist in being; *to hold in state*, to maintain in existence. *To have state*, to consist *in* (something).

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 314 His sun his wisdom es, þat wat All þinges, þat haldes stat [*Gött.* For all þe werld he haldis in state]. *c* 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* XII. 599, xiij is thridde, and firthe in x hath state. 1447 BOKENHAM *Seynts, Magd.* 756 If..god also my state so longe, Tyl yt be doon, vouchesaf to prolong. 1615 CHAPMAN *Odyss.* II. 333 If dead I heare him, nor of more state [*εἰ δέ κε τεθνηῶτος ἀκούσω μηδ' ἔτ' ἐόντος*].

† **b.** ? A possibility, possible means. *Obs.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 14149 Quen þai sagh þat þar was nanoþer Stat o couering o þair broþer.

† **9.** Stature, bodily form or contour. *Obs. rare.* (So L. *status*, OF. *estat* in Godefroy.)

1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) III. 223 Þere is no fairenesse of body wheþer it be in state [*v. r.* staat] of body as in schap of lengþe and brede [*sive in statu corporis consistat, sicut est figura*], oþer in meouynge as in song, but suche as þe inwitte of man deemeþ. 1538 ELYOT *Dict., Habitus*, the fourme or state of the body. 1623 FLETCHER & ROWLEY *Maid in Mill* v. ii, If't please ye (Madam) let me see the state of your body; I'll fit you instantly.

† **b.** A person's proper form, shape or nature. *Obs. rare.*

c 1330 *Arthur & Merl.* 2584 Þe king wiþ water þer he wesche, His owhen stat he hadde, ywis. ? *a* 1550 *Freiris Berwik* 475 in *Dunbar's Poems* (1893) 301 Him to translait or ellis dissagyiss Fra his awin kynd in-to ane vder stait.

† **10.** A kind, sort or species. *Obs. rare*[−1].

a 1400–50 *Wars Alex.* 5646 þan with stanes of ilka state wall [? *read* was] þe stoure clustrid.

b. *Bot.* 'A form or phase of a particular plant' (*Cent. Dict.*).

1872 TUCKERMAN *Genera Lichenum* 35 (Cent.) Sticta linita ..was recognized as occurring in the United States by Delise, ..and Dr. Nylander (Syn. p. 353) speaks of a state from Arctic America. 1900 B. D. JACKSON *Gloss. Bot. Terms, State*, the most trivial variation from the type.

11. Phrases. † **a.** *To hold no state of*: to disregard, have no respect for. (Cf. F. *faire état de*, to set store by.) *Obs.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 13584 O godd him semes ha na perti þat haldes of hali-dai na stat.

† **b.** *To make state* (*to* do something): to expect (to do), count (on doing). [A mere Gallicism.]

1692 *d'Emiltane's Frauds Rom. Monks* 56 Telling him, That he was an Abbot accurs'd of God; that Damnation would be his portion, and that all those who lived under his Conduct, might make State to go to Hell with him.

† **c.** *In state*, later *in a state* (now *in a fit state*)

followed by infinitive: fit, likely, ready *to do* or *be* something. Cf. F. *en état (de)*.

a 1562 Ld. Vaux *Instab. Youth* iv, Thou that didst saue the theefe in state to sterue. 1585 T. Washington tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* I. xv. 16 Hee had twoo faire daughters then beyng in state to be marryed. 1592 *Arden of Feversham* III. vi. 93 Your pretty tale beguiles the weary way; I would you were in state to tell it out. 1776 *Trial of Nundocomar* 23/1 He has not for a long time been in a state able to go out of the house. 1789 Charlotte Smith *Ethelinde* IV. 192 She had a good deal of fever, and was not in a state to be removed. 1835 I. Taylor *Spir. Despot.* vi. 244 To assume..that the political rulers of the body were still in a state to be spoiled. 1857 Trollope *Barchester T.* xxxiv, He..went on thinking of her till he was almost in a state to drown himself in the little brook.

†12. *Rhet.* (after L. *status*). The point in question or debate between contending parties, as it emerges from their pleadings; the issue or main question. In full *state of the cause, of the plea. Obs.*

c 1450 Holland *Howlat* 266 The circumstance and the stait all couth thai argewe. *c* 1530 Cox *Rhet.* (1899) 71 In these [judicial] oracions the fyrste is to fynde out the state of the cause, whiche is a short proposicion conteynynge the hole effect of all the controuersies. *Ibid.* 72 The state of the plee. 1549 Latimer *5th Serm. bef. Edw. VI* (Arb.) 134 *margin*, The scope or state of the boke, tendes to dysuade the kinge from hys supremycye. 1553 T. Wilson *Rhet.* 47 b, Of the foundacion, or rather principall poincte in euery debated matter, called of the Rhetoricians the State, or constitucion of the Cause. *Ibid.* 48 b, A State therfore in matters of iudgement is that thyng whiche doeth arise vpon the first demaunde and denial made betwixt men...I cannot better terme it in Englishe than by the name of an issue. 1609 R. Barnerd *Faithf. Sheph.* 20 The scope or principall intendment of the Holy Ghost in that place; from which scope ariseth the principall proposition, called of Rhetoricians the State, of Lawyers the Issue. 1611 Cotgr., *Estat*.. the state, head, issue, knot, principall point of a matter in controuersie. 1776 B. Martin *Bibl. Technol.* (ed. 4) 129 *margin*, The several states of the cause.

13. *Gram.* a. [= mod.L. *status*.] In the grammar of the Semitic langs., a noun is said to be in the *construct state* (or *state of construction*) when it governs a following genitive, and in the *absolute state* when it does not; the two 'states' being usually distinguished flexionally. In Aramaic grammar, a noun is in the *emphatic* (or, in some recent books, the *definite*) state when it has the suffix which originally served the purpose of a definite article, but in Syriac became unmeaning.

1752 P. Petit *Hebr. Guide, View Chaldaic* 4 Nouns in an absolute state are sometimes found in the construct form, and *vice versa*, as in Hebrew. 1837 G. Phillips *Syriac Gram.* 24 To the absolute and constructive state of nouns, which the Hebrews have, the Syrians add a third, the Definite. 1853 P. H. Mason & Bernard *Hebr. Gram.* I. 100 A Noun in the State of Construction. 1874 A. B. Davidson *Introd. Hebr. Gram.* 35.

† b. By some English grammarians of the 18th c., *foregoing* or *leading state* and *following state* were used for the nominative and objective cases respectively, the term *case* being regarded as inapplicable to English. *Obs.*

1711 J. Greenwood *Ess. Pract. Eng. Gram.* 104 The Pronouns have a twofold State...The first State we shall call the Foregoing State, as I, We; the second State we shall call the Following State, as Me, Us. 1809 *Lindley Murray Examined* 5 What has, for ages, been called the *nominative case*, is by one Grammarian called the *leading state*.

c. *Positive state* is used by Lindley Murray for 'positive degree'.

1800 L. Murray *Engl. Gram.* (ed. 6) 48.

14. *Engraving.* An impression taken from a plate at a particular stage of its progress and recognizable by special marks.

1874 Ruskin *Stones Venice* I. Pref. p. ix, The present edition..containing the best states of the old plates now procurable. 1899 E. F. Benson *Mammon & Co.* vii. 97 Mrs. Siddons was a first state with the coveted blotted edge.

II. Status; high rank; pomp.

†15. A person's condition or position in life; a person's natural, social or legal status, profession or calling, rank or degree. *Obs.*

c 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* 98/212 Þench op-on þi noble stat, of alle Maidenes þov art flour. 1303 R. Brunne *Handl. Synne* 1679 3yf..þou art yn state of prest. *c* 1330 — *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 11202 Wyþ hym, of Rome cam þe legat; And oþer bischopes of mener stat. 1399 Langl. *R. Redeles* III. 174 3it blame I no burne to be, as him ouste, In comliche clopinge as his statt axith. 1450 *Rolls of Parlt.* V. 211/2 Any persone, beyng under state of Lorde. *c* 1470 Henry *Wallace* VI. 588 Quha best did than, he had the heast stait. 1538 Starkey *England* 55 What so euer state, offyce, or degre, any man be of. 1549 *Bk. Comm. Prayer, Catechism*, To doe my duetie in that state of life: vnto which it shal please God to cal me. 1602 Barlow *Serm. Paules Crosse* 35 Could he..haue beene contented with his great state. *a* 1616 Beaumont *To B. Jonson*, 'Tis that which keeps our minds fit for our states. 1630 Pagitt *Christianogr.* I. ii. (1636) 85 He..freed these Indians from slaverie and gave them the state of free men. 1741 Kames *Decis. Crt. Sess. 1730–52* (1799) 37 Having died in the state of apparency.

†b. A person's condition or status as determined by his years. *Man's state* = manhood; cf. Estate *sb.* 1 b and L. phr. *ad statum suum pervenire*.

c 1315 Shoreham *Poems* I. 15 And hondred winter 3ef a leuepe, þat his lyf mid þe lengeste. Onnepe creft eny þat stat. 1460–70 *Bk. Quintessence* 15 Wiþinne a fewe dayes he schal so hool þat he schal fele him silf of þe statt and þe strenkþe of xl 3eer; and he schal haue greet ioie þat he is come to þe statt of 3ongþe. *c* 1475 Henrvson *Poems* III. 108 The state of youth I repute for na gude, For in that state sik perilis now I see. 1553 T. Wilson *Rhet.* 118 When they come to mans state. 1579–80 North *Plutarch, Theseus* (1595) 3 The yong men after their..growth to mans state.

c. Condition or status as married or single.

c 1380 Wyclif *Sel. Wks.* III. 184 And to þes þree ben þre oþere, comyn and leeful bi Goddis lawe—state of virgyns, and state of wedloke, and þe state of widewis. 1712 Steele *Tatler* No. 278 P 2 When I enter into a married State. 1812, 1836 [see Single *a.* 8 b].

†16. *contextually.* A high rank or exalted position; an office of power or importance. *Obs.*

c 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* 133/920 He..wole..bi-nime þe þi stat and perantur bringue þe out of londe. 1297 R. Glouc. (Rolls) 1261 Þer vore ich bidde þat ich mowe mi stat holde þoru þe. 1338 R. Brunne *Chron.* (1725) 73 Þe archbisshop Stigand, of Inglond primate, þat tyme was suspended, þe pape reft him þe state. 1390 Gower *Conf.* I. 260 And thus the man and noght the stat The Frensche schopen be her miht To grieve. 1544 Betham *Precepts War* II. xvi. K iij, That fault is augmented by the state and honour of the capitayne. *a* 1586 Sidney *Arcadia* IV. (1598) 401 The Queene, to whom besides the obedient duetie they ow'de to her state, they had alwayes caried a singular loue. 1605 Bacon *Adv. Learn.* I. To the King § 1 The businesse of your Crowne and State. 1622 J. Taylor (Water P.) *Thief* Wks. (1630) II. 117/2 And many a mitred Pope and Cardinall This way haue got their state Pontificall. 1642 D. Rogers *Naaman* 29 Forgetting his state, and being at the curtesie of the Prophet for his cure.

†b. In generalized sense: High rank, greatness, power. *Obs.*

c 1400 *Destr. Troy* 9099 Prinses, That most were of might & of mayn state. *c* 1470 Henry *Wallace* X. 274 We will nocht stryff for stayt. *c* 1590 Greene *Fr. Bacon* V. iii. 2027 Great Potentates, earths miracles for state. *c* 1590 Marlowe *Faustus* Chorus 4 In courts of Kings where state is ouerturnd. 1608 Chapman *Byron's Consp.* IV. i. 114 You make all state before Utterly obsolete. 1630 Wadsworth *Pres. Estate Spain* 33 Don Alphonso..did Conquer Toledo,..and was the first King that established this Arch-Bishoprick, in this great state and estate. *c* 1640 Shirley *Cont. Ajax & Ulysses* (1659) 127 The glories of our blood and state.

†c. *To bear (great) state*, to hold (high) office; *fig.* (of a thing), to be of importance, involve great consequences. *Obs.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 6949 Bot quen aaron was ded, þe priste, His sun eliazar was neist, And bar state of his fader-hade. 1340 Hampole *Pr. Consc.* I. 883 Emperour, kyng, duke, ne caysere, Ne other þat bers grete state here. 1613 Shaks. *Hen. VIII*, II. iv. 213 The question did at first so stagger me, Bearing a State of mighty moment in't, And consequence of dread.

†d. *Man of state*; one of high rank or dignity. Cf. Estate *sb.* 3. *Obs.*

13.. *Guy Warw.* (1891) 420 A man y was of state sum stounde, & holden a lord of gret mounde. 1338 R. Brunne *Chron.* (1725) 258 Sir Hugh was man of state, he said as I salle rede. 1582 Stanyhurst *Æneis* etc. (Arb.) 129 Thee Prophet layeth downe an exhortation too theese men of state.

17. Costly and imposing display, such as befits persons of rank and wealth; splendour, magnificence (in manner of life, clothing, furniture, buildings, retinue, etc.); 'solemn pomp, appearance of greatness' (J.).

c 1330 *Amis. & Amil.* 1906 That riche douke..As a prince serued he wes, With riche coupes of gold: And that brought him to that state Stode bischet, withouten the gate, Wel sore of-hungred and cold. *c* 1400 Maundev. (Roxb.) vi. 22 Of his state and magestee I think to speke afterwardes. 1596 Shaks. *Merch. V.* v. i. 95 A substitute shines brightly as a King Vntill a King be by, and then his state Empties it selfe, as doth an inland brooke Into the maine of waters. 1616–17 in *Crt. & Times Jas. I* (1848) I. 466 Our new lord keeper goes with great state, having a world of followers put upon him. 1625 Bacon *Ess., Masques* (Arb.) 540 Double Masques, one of Men, another of Ladies, addeth State, and Variety. 1639 Fuller *Holy War* IV. viii. (1640) 182 Richard fortified Askelon.., not onely to strength but state, with marble pillars and statues. *a* 1661 — *Worthies, Gen.* ix. 24 The Brasen-Andirons stand only for state, to entertain the Eyes. *a* 1700 Evelyn *Diary* 22 July 1670, It does onely well in very small and trifling roomes, but takes from the state of greater. 1725 Pope *Odyss.* VI. 46 In pomp ride forth; for pomp becomes the great, And Majesty derives a grace from State. 1728 Law *Serious Call* ii. (1732) 20 Or remove him from a shop, to a life of state and pleasure. 1756–7 tr. *Keysler's Trav.* (1760) IV. 468 The former duke ..had fifty gentlemen of the bed-chamber; however that state could not have been kept up, had the salaries been on the same extravagant footing as in other courts. 1842 Tennyson *Ld. of Burleigh* 32 Ancient homes of lord and lady, Built for pleasure and for state. 1848 Dickens *Dombey* iii, It was a house of dismal state. 1849 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* iii. I. 354 The gilded coach, indeed, which is now annually admired by the crowd, was not yet a part of his state. 1915 *Eng. Hist. Rev.* Jan. 168 The royal vault where he [Charles I] had been laid with so little state after his execution.

b. Phr. *of state*; as in *bed* or *chair of state*. Otherwise expressed by the attributive use (see 39); thus *bed, rooms of state* are = state-bed, state-rooms.

1503 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* II. 213 The Quenis gret bed of stait. 1593 Shaks. 3 *Hen. VI*, I. i. 51 My Lords, looke where the sturdie Rebell sits, Euen in the Chayre of State. 1667 Milton *P. L.* II. 1 High on a Throne of Royal State. *a* 1700 Evelyn *Diary* 16 Oct. 1671, The chambers and roomes of state. 1786 Abigail Adams *Lett.* (1848) 296 Here, upon a superb bed of state, lay the remains of his Grace. 1865 Kingsley *Herew.* xiv, The queen-countess sat in her chair of state in the midst. 1903 A. Smellie *Men of Covenant* xix. 222 He rode in his carriage of state drawn by six horses.

transf. 1579 Spenser *Sheph. Cal.* Feb. 146 And his trees of state in compasse rownd.

c. *In state*: with great pomp and solemnity; with a great train; with splendid or honorific trappings and insignia.

To lie in state: of a dead body, to be ceremoniously exposed to view before interment.

1592 Shaks. *Rom. & Jul.* I. iv. 70 And in this state she gallops night by night. 1687 A. Lovell tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* I. 86 The Grand Signior..resolved to go through the City in State. 1700 T. Brown *Amusem. Ser. & Com.* 93 See a Consult of them marching in State to a Patient. 1705 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4096/2 Her Majesty is to lie in State at Hanover. 1847 C. Bronte *Jane Eyre* ii, It was in this chamber he breathed his last; here he lay in state. 1849 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* i. I. 76 Abroad the ambassadors of Elizabeth and James went in state to the very worship which Elizabeth and James persecuted at home. 1883 J. Gilmour *Mongols* xxiv. 295 Lamas in state coming to the temple.

18. Dignity of demeanour or presence; dignified appearance, stateliness of bearing. Now *rare*.

a 1586 Sidney *Astroph. & Stella* Song I. ii, Who hath the eyes which marrie state with pleasure! 1609 B. Jonson *Epicœne* II. i, This is not, onely, fit modestie in a Seruant, but good state, and discretion in a Master. 1642 Fuller *Holy & Prof. St.* III. vi. 164 True, there is a state sometimes in decent plainnesse. 1754 Gray *Progr. Poesy* 39 In gliding state she wins her easy way. 1763 Churchill *Poems, Night* 141 How many from appearance borrow state. 1808 Scott *Marmion* V. xxxi, The Abbess, seeing strife was vain, Assumed her wonted state again—For much of state she had. 1822 Lamb *Elia* Ser. I. *Dream-Children*, A great sulky pike hanging mid-way down the water in silent state. 1875 Swinburne *Ess. & Stud.* 356 A sketch of Lucrezia seated with legs bare, perfect in shapeliness and state.

† b. Dignified observance of form or ceremony.

1604 E. G[rimstone] *D'Acosta's Hist. Indies* VI. xii. 455 They observed one custome very great & full of state. 1642 Fuller *Holy & Prof. St.* I. vii. 17 The lion out of state will not run whilst any one looks upon him. 1654 — *Two Serm.* 52 He [God] reciteth downe mens Actions, not out of any necessitie to helpe himselfe to remember them; but partly out of State (as Ioseph made use of an Interpreter though understanding his Brothers language). 1671 tr. *Frejus' Voy. Mauritania* 82 Although the King very well understood the interpretation of my Discourse given by Jacob Pariente, nevertheless, as a piece of State, Cheq Amar ..repeated unto him the words.

19. Phrases. a. *To keep state, one's state*: to observe the pomp and ceremony befitting a high position; to keep one's dignity, behave in a dignified manner. Now *rare*.

1599 B. Jonson *Cynthia's Rev.* II. iii, The woorst in her is want of keeping state, and to much descending into inferior and base offices. 1601 Shaks. *Jul. C.* I. ii. 160 There was a Brutus once, that would haue brook'd Th' eternall Diuell to keepe his State in Rome, As easily as a King. 1625 B. Jonson *Staple of N.* III. i, Keep your state, stoupe only to the Infanta. 1652 Nedham tr. *Selden's Mare Cl.* 82 Andronicus Palæologus, one that kept the State of an Emperor. 1818 Scott *Br. Lamm.* xviii, But keep your ain state wi' them..they will think the mair o' ye. 1847 Tennyson *Princess* III. 213 O Vashti, noble Vashti! Summon'd out She kept her state.

† b. *To take state upon one*: to assume an appearance of grandeur or dignity; to affect superiority, give oneself airs; to be reserved and haughty. *Obs.*

1608 Dod & Cleaver *Expos. Prov.* ix-x. 37 And yet she goeth not as an ordinarie strumpet,..but taketh state upon her like a courtizan. 1611 Cotgr. s. v. *Haultain, Faire le haultain*, to be high in th' instup,..take state vpon him. *a* 1635 Sibbes *Breathing after God* (1639) 28 It is the nature of excellent things, except we desire them in the chiefe place, they take state upon them. 1660 F. Brooke tr. *Le Blanc's Trav.* 29 A Portuguais, who took state upon him; his man still carrying after him a guilt sword. 1767 *Woman of Fashion* II. 43 Now the pretty Fool takes State upon her, forsooth.

c. *To hold one's state*, to appear in pomp and splendour. *arch.* or *Obs.*

1613 Shaks. *Hen. VIII*, v. ii. 24 The high promotion of his Grace of Canterbury, Who holds his State at dore 'mongst Purseuants, Pages, and Foot-boyes. *a* 1806 H. K. White *To Morning* v, The mists which on old Night await, Far to the west they hold their state. 1862 'F. G. Trafford' *City & Sub.* iv, The Earls of Oxford had once held state [there].

†20. A raised chair with a canopy, etc.; a throne; = *chair of state* in 17 b. (Cf. Estate *sb.* 4 d.) *Obs.*

1421 *Order of Guests* in *Q. Eliz. Acad.* 89 The kyng off Scottes yn A State. *c* 1435 *Torr. Portugal* 1729 In to a state they hym brought. 1596 Shaks. 1 *Hen. IV*, II. iv. 416 This Chayre shall bee my State. *a* 1700 Evelyn *Diary* 4 May 1645, The Pope, sitting on an elevated state or throne. 1712 Arbuthnot *John Bull* III. i. 7 As she affected not the Grandeur of a State with a Canopy, she thought there was no Offence in an Elbow-Chair.

†b. A canopy. *Obs.*

a 1626 Bacon *New Atl.* 19 Over the Chair is a state made round or oval. 1648 Herrick *Hesper., Parl. Roses*, Over the which a State was drawne Of Tiffanie, or Cob-web Lawne. 1656 Harrington *Oceana* (1700) 121 At the upper end hangs a rich State overshadowing the greater part of a large Throne. 1667 Milton *P. L.* X. 445. 1828 Scott *F. M. Perth* ix, The King had moved..to the cushioned chair, which, under a state or canopy, stood prepared for his accommodation.

III. A class, rank; a person of rank.

†21. A class, rank, order, sort or body *of* persons; a 'condition', profession, or occupation; the members of a class or profession collectively. Cf. Estate *sb.* 5 and F. *état. Obs.*

1340 *Ayenb.* 122 Alsuo ase ine heuene heþ þri stages of uolke...In þo manere..heþ he þri states of godes zone ine

erþe. *c* 1380 Wyclif *Wks.* (1880) 25 Generaly ypocrisie regneþ among alle statis of cristen men. *c* 1425 *Cast. Persev.* 3616 Lytyl & mekyl, þe more & þe les, all þe statis of þe werld is at myn renoun. *a* 1568 A. Scott *Poems* i. 170 Caus everye stait to þair vocatioun go. 1589 *Whip for Ape* A 2, This iesting Jacke..With his Asse heeles presumes all States to strike. 1596 *Shirburn Ballads* lx. 3 They comforted our ould men; they spared our feeble women; noe state they did abuse. 1625 Bacon *Ess., Greatness Kingd.* (Arb.) 477 Neither is that State [*illa pars populi*]..to be passed ouer; I meane the State of Free Seruants and Attendants vpon Noblemen and Gentlemen.

† 22. An order or class of persons regarded as part of the body politic and as participating in the government; an Estate of the realm. *Obs.*

c 1380 Wyclif *Sel. Wks.* III. 184 þer ben in þe Chirche þre statis þat God haþe ordeyned; state of prestis, and state of knyȝtis, and þe þridd is staat of comunys. 1390 Gower *Conf.* III. 379 Ther ys no staat in his degree That noughte to desire pes. 1399 *Rolls of Parlt.* III. 451 Salvation and seurete of other States of the Reaume. *c* 1450 Holland *Howlat* 283 So that the Spirituale staite, And the secular consait, Mycht all gang in a gait. 1553 Q. Jane in Strype *Eccl. Mem.* (1721) III. App. ii. 4 This our most lawful Possession of the Crown, with the free Consent of the Nobility of our Realm and other the States of the same. 1562 Winȝet *Wks.* I. 5 The maist part of vs of the Eclesiasticall Stait. 1625 Bacon *Ess., Empire* (Arb.) 305 For their Prelates;..The danger is not from that State, but where it hath a dependance of forraine Authority. 1641 W. Hakewill *Libertie Subj.* 25 In full assembly of the three States. 1657–84 E. Chamberlayne *Pres. St. Eng.* i. 241 All the subjects of England are divided into Clergy and Laity, the Laity subdivided into Nobility and Commonalty. These are called *Ordines Regni*, or the Three States. 1689 *Acts Parlt. Scotl.* (1875) XII. 71/1 The vote þen stated whither ane or more of every state should be sent with the offer of the Crown and carried for one of every state. 1700 Sir D. Hume *Diary Parl. Scot.* (Bannatyne Club) 3 Proceeded to chuse 9 of every State for the Committee of Security.

23. *pl.* (= F. *états*, Du. *staaten*, etc.) The 'estates of the realm' met to form a constitutional assembly; the princes, dukes, nobles, etc., together with the delegates or representatives of the several ranks, orders, chief cities, etc. of a country, assembled in a parliament or diet; e.g. in the United Netherlands (and the several provinces), France before the Revolution, Scotland before the Union, the Holy Roman Empire (and its several members), Hungary, Poland. Now only *Hist.*, exc. as the title of the legislatures of Jersey and Guernsey. See also Estate *sb.* 6 b and States General.

In 16–17th c. 'the States' often means: the men at the head of affairs in the United Netherlands; the Dutch government as a European power.

1399 *Rolls of Parlt.* III. 451/2 Byfore the Kyng and all the States in this present Parlement. 1560 Daus tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 109 Letters wrytten to the states of the Empyre. *Ibid.* 183 b, The .XXI. day of July the Princes and states [*principes ac ordines*] all go to themperoure. 1560 Gresham in Burgon *Life* (1839) I. 298 They say playne here, that the States of the lande [the Low Countries] will never consent to have war with Ingland. 1578 *Cecil Papers* (Hist. MSS. Comm.) II. 180 To remembre unto the States [*sc.* of the Netherlands] what aydes the Queen's Majesty hath alredy gyven them. 1587 *Acts Privy Counc.* (N.S.) XIV. 306 An agreement made between the Erle of Leycester and the Deputies of the States of the United Provinces. 1618 in *Falle's Jersey* (1694) 194 There shall be no Assembly of the States without the consent of the Governor. 1670 R. Coke *Disc. Trade* 2 Who are the Dutch States? They who govern Trade in the United Netherlands. *a* 1674 Clarendon *Hist. Reb.* XII. § 23 The States, especially those of Holland, let fall somewhat every day in their councils and consultations, that the King's residing in the Hague would be very inconvenient to them. 1682 Warburton *Hist. Guernsey* (1822) 77 The assembly of the States is composed of the bailiff and jurats, the ministers of each parish, and the constables, who represent the rest of the inhabitants of their parish. 1768 Sterne *Sent. Journ.* (1778) II. 55 (*The Sword*) When the states were assembled at Rennes. 1792 A. Young *Trav. France* 105 To..appeal to the King to dissolve the states. 1804 M. Laing *Hist. Scot.* III. 437 *note*, Had the committee of states [in Scotland, 1650] known the extent of the conspiracy,..it is not probable that they would have so easily forgiven the Start. 1828 Tytler *Hist. Scot.* I. 68 The States of Scotland undertook, before receiving their queen, to find security to the King of England, that the said lady should not marry without his counsel and consent. 1844 Ld. Brougham *Brit. Const.* iii. (1862) 54 The French States at no time attained the regularity of the English Parliament. 1845 Sarah Austin *Ranke's Hist. Ref.* I. 133 The States of the empire gradually assembled in Lindau. 1862 Ansted *Channel Isl.* IV. xxiii. 526 In Jersey, besides the Royal Court, there is only one Assembly. It is called the States...In Guernsey,..the States consist of two bodies, one called the Elective and the other the Deliberative States. 1915 F. M. Hueffer *When Blood is Argt.* I. ii. 25 The Elector Frederick William III in 1701, in an assembly of the States, was accorded the title of King in Prussia.

† b. Delegates or members of the Dutch government as individuals. (Cf. 24, 25.) *Obs.*

1590 Sir R. Williams *Disc. Warre* 55 Although our masters the States be for the most part honest and vertuous personages. 1607 J. Chamberlain in *Crt. & Times Jas. I* (1848) I. 68 The States took their leave yesterday, and shall be presented with chains of five or six hundred crowns a-piece. 1618 Sir D. Carleton *Lett.* (1775) 259 For his adjuncts..he will have four of the states, whereof two shall be of Holland,..one of Zealand, and one of Friesland. 1653 in *Nicholas Papers* (Camden) II. 8, I have spoken with several of the States here touching their expediting an Ambassador into Germany. 1705 Dunton *Life & Errors* (1818) I. 149 When there is any Synod called, two of the States are always present, to watch them that they may not meddle with the Government; and if the Clergy do but drop a word that has any reference that way, the States immediately cry, 'Ho, la, Miin Heeren Predicanten!' 1708 Sewel *Du.-Eng. Dict., Staat...*, One of the States, a Representative of the Country. 1767 S. Paterson *Another Trav.* I. 103 [Public canal-barge from Ostend to Bruges]. The cabin in the stern is always reserved for the states of the province and is therefore called the States-cabin.

† 24. A person of standing, importance or high rank; a great man, personage, dignitary; a noble, lord, prince. (Cf. Estate *sb.* 3 c.) *Obs.*

c 1400 *Beryn* 404 The statis þat wer a-bove had of þe feyrest endreyte. *c* 1400 *Song of Roland* 22 With-in xvj days thedur he wille hym hye, and all the hethyn statis in his company. *a* 1450 *Cov. Myst.* 384 Owre worthy prynsis,.. That are statis of this lond, hye men of degre. *c* 1490 Caxton *Rule St. Benet* 126 Yf we shulde make ony suggestion to a state temporall, we wolde not presume to doo it but with mekenes & reuerence. 1509 Barclay *Shyp of Folys* (1570) 19 Some thinkes him selfe a gentleman or state Though he a knaue, caitiff, and bonde churle be. 1535 Stewart *Cron. Scot.* I. 69 The grittest stait that wes in all that stound, In his bodie buir mony deidlie wound. 1549 Latimer *4th Serm. bef. Edw. VI* (Arb.) 126 Thys fayth is a great state, a Ladye, a Dutches. 1562 J. Heywood *Prov. & Epigr.* (1867) 192 In sommer when states sit from fire in the coole. *c* 1620 Massinger *Unnat. Combat* III. i, Our great Admirall With other States, being invited ghests. 1667 Milton *P. L.* II. 387 The bold design Pleas'd highly those infernal States.

† 25. *pl.* The magnates, dignitaries or authorities of a town or district. *Obs.*

1421 *Coventry Leet Bk.* 35 To the reuerent and wurschipfull states that her byn, and to all wurthy men of this grett Lete. *c* 1440 *Gesta Rom.* I. 3 When þe Meyre and þe statys sawe þis doyng. *c* 1450 *Reg. Godstow Nunnery* 659 To all statis and to the baillifs of Gloucestre. 1517 in *10th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. v. 397 After the election of the Maior a Michalmas daye..all the statues and worship[f]ull shall ffolowe the Mayor to his doore. 1609 Holland *Amm. Marcell.* XXVII. vi. 315 He had given commandement that the States [*marg.* or principall Burgesses *Ordines*, or Senators] of three townes should be massacred.

† 26. *collect. sing.* a. The rulers, nobles, or great men of a realm; the government, ruling body, grand council, or court. *Obs.*

1581 A. Hall *Iliad* IV. 64, I know ere long Troy shal to wracke, & Priam with his state Shal passe the sword. 1597 Shaks. 2 *Hen. IV*, v. ii. 142 Our Coronation done, we will accite..all our State. 1604 — *Oth.* I. ii. 96 The Duke himselfe, Or any of my Brothers of the State. 1606 — *Tr. & Cr.* IV. ii. 69 *Troy.* Is it concluded so? *Æne.* By Priam, and the generall state of Troy. They are at hand, and ready to effect it. 1612 Bacon *Ess., Judicature* (Arb.) 458 It is an happy thing in a State, when Kings and States doe often consult with Iudges; and againe, when Iudges doe often consult with the King and State. 1617 Moryson *Itin.* II. 8 That Kingdome was..peaceable and quiet, (so as any the greatest Lord called by letter or messenger, readily came to the State there..). *Ibid.* 12 Sir Henrie Bagnoll, Marshall of Ireland, had formerly exhibited to the State diuers articles of treason practised by the Earle of Tyrone, who now would not come to the State without a protection.

† b. The governing body of a town; the city magnates collectively. (Cf. sense 25.) *Obs.*

1516 in *10th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. v, 396 Every of the statte of this town, when they are warnid to come to the courte-housse, shall sit every man acording his degre and callinge. 1575 in W. H. Turner *Select. Rec. Oxford* (1880) 377 Dysobedyens wch they have commytted agaynst Mr. Mayor and the state of thys Cytie. 1582 *Burgh Rec.* in Campbell *Kirk & Par. Kirkcaldy* (1904) 63 Yat ye kirk dykes be putt upe and keepit at ye syt of ye steat and ye assemblie. *c* 1648–50 Brathwait *Barnabees Jrnl.* III. (1818) 143 Thence to Kendall, pure her state is, Prudent too her magistrate is.

IV. 'Common weal'; commonwealth, polity.

† 27. The condition of the Church, a country, realm, etc. in regard to its welfare and polity. Sometimes, a condition of prosperity, of order and settled government. *Obs.* with any specific force.

So L. *status rei publicæ, status civitatis, status ecclesiæ.*

c 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* 280/92, 93 He þou3te þat þe stat of holi churche swuyþe i-febled were And þat cristine-dom in Manie studes in riȝt guod stat it nere. 1297 R. Glouc. (Rolls) 10080 Þo þe king adde normandie in god stat ibrou3t al. *c* 1375 *Lay Folks Mass Bk.* 361 Lord, þenk on þo state of holy kirk. 1387 Trevisa *Higden* (Rolls) V. 199 Þis Gracianus, whan he sigh þat þe staat of þe empere was almost afalle [L. *statum rei publicae paene collapsum*]. 1389 in *Eng. Gilds* (1870) 71 Yei shul haue ye preyers for ye pees and ye state of holy chirche. *c* 1450 *Mirk's Festial* 11 And also ȝe schull pray for þe state of all holy chyrch. *c* 1450 *Reg. Godstow Nunnery* 535 For the helth of the sowles of her lord Geffrey..and her, and for the state of the kyngdome of Englond. *c* 1460 *Oseney Reg.* 25 For þe state and welefare of all þe realme. 1549 *Bk. Com. Prayer, Commun.*, 127 b, Let us praie for the whole state of Christes churche. 1573 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* II. 271 And sall do nor attempt na thing..aganis the stait of the Christiane religioun publictlie precheit and establishit within this realme. 1587 R. Crompton *Short Decl. End Traytors* E ij, Y^e great benefits & profittes which growe by ye same [*sc.* law and justice] to the Common wealth & state of euerie kingdome. 1593 Shaks. *Rich. II*, IV. i. 225 These grieuous Crymes, Committed by your Person, and your followers, Against the State, and Profit of this Land. 1594 Kyd *Cornelia* Argt., Caesar (after he had ordred the affayres of Egipt and the state of Rome). *a* 1600 Hooker *Eccl. Pol.* VIII. vi. § 8 As now the state of the Church doth stand. 1651 Hobbes *Leviathan* IV. xlv. 365 He [Romulus] would be propitious to the State of their new City.

† 28. A particular form of polity or government. *The state*, the form of government and constitution established in a country; e.g. *the popular state*, democracy (cf. F. *état populaire*). *State royal*: a monarchy. *Obs.*

1538 Starkey *England* 56 Ther ys the veray and true commyn wele; ther ys the most prosperouse and perfayt state, that in any cuntrey, cyte, or towne, by pollycy and wysdom, may be stablyschyd and set. *Ibid.* 67 They..dow not only saue other wych be vnder the same gouernaunce and state, but also themselfe. 1551 Robinson tr. *More's Utopia* (1895) 13 (*title*) A fruteful and pleasaunt worke of the beste state of a publyque weale. 1555 Ridley *Err. Transubst.* (1556) 55 Yt beganne to subuerte Christes gospell, and to turne the state that Christ and his Apostles sett in the church, vpside down. 1639 Lennard tr. *Charron's Wisd.* I. xviii. (1670) 66 We may compare man to a Commonweal, and the state of the soul to a state-royal. *a* 1680 Butler *Char., Republican* (1908) 24 And therefore 'tis probable, the State of Venice would be no more the same in any other Country, if introduced, than their Trade of Glass-making. 1701 Swift *Contests Nobles & Commons* ii. Misc. (1711) 19 Theseus is the first who is Recorded..to have establish'd the Popular State in Athens.

† b. A republic, non-monarchical commonwealth. *Obs.*

1656 Waller *To Evelyn* 2 Lucretius, with a stork-like fate, Born and translated in a State, Comes to proclaim in English verse No Monarch rules the universe. 1651 Hobbes *Leviathan* IV. xlv. 365 When Augustus Cæsar changed the State into a Monarchy. 1673 Dryden *Amboyna* Prol. 22 Well, Monarchys may own Religions name, But States are Atheists in their very frame.

† c. *transf.* Applied to a University. *Obs.*

c 1590 Greene *Fr. Bacon* I. ii. 177 Now Maisters of our Academicke State, That rule in Oxford Vizroies in your place.

29. *The state*: the body politic as organized for supreme civil rule and government; the political organization which is the basis of civil government (either generally and abstractly, or in a particular country); hence, the supreme civil power and government vested in a country or nation.

1538 Starkey *England* 48 The kyng, prynce, and rular of the state...The gouernance of the commynalty and polytyke state...He or they wych haue authoryte apon the hole state. *Ibid.* 53 Whether the state of the commynalty be gouernyd by a prynce, by certayn wyse men, or by the hole multytude. 1590 in *Cath. Rec. Soc. Publ.* V. 179 For the better understanding of the trewthe of matters agenst her Maiestie and the Stayte. 1594 [see Pillar *sb.* 3 b]. 1617 Moryson *Itin.* II. 17 Which may concerne the good of the State. *a* 1618 Raleigh *Rem.* (1644) 2 State is the frame or set order of a Common-wealth, or of the Governours that rule the same, especially of the chief and Sovereign Governour that commandeth the rest. The State or Sovereignty consisteth in five points. 1. Making or annulling of Laws. 1622 Bacon *Hen. VII* 8 As one that hauing beene somtimes an Enimie to the whole State, and a Proscribed person. 1681 Dryden *Abs. & Achit.* I. 174 Resolv'd to Ruine or to Rule the State. 1697 — *Virg. Georg.* IV. 229 All is the State's, the State provides for all. 1834 Arnold in Stanley *Life* (1844) I. vii. 376 The State, being the only power sovereign over human life, has for its legitimate object the happiness of its people. 1879 M. Arnold *Democracy* Mixed Ess. 42 The State is properly ..the nation in its collective and corporate capacity. 1884 Spencer (*title*) The Man *versus* the State. 1891 C. Lowe in *19th Cent.* Dec. 858 The railways..in Prussia are now all in the hands of the State.

fig. 1598 Shaks. *Merry W.* v. v. 245 In Loue, the heauens themselues do guide the state.

b. distinguished from 'the church' or ecclesiastical organization and authority. In the phr. *church and state* the article is dropped.

1589 *Whip for Ape* A 3 b, That is, destroy both Church, and State, and all. 1650 in *Sir J. Balfour's Ann.* (1825) IV. 146 At last, quhen nather kirke nor staite did giue ther concurrence therin, he deserted the counsailles of the kingdome. *a* 1674 Clarendon *Hist. Reb.* XII. § 27 To preserve and maintain the government of Church and State in that kingdom as it is established by the laws thereof. 1761 Gray *Sketch* 6 He..left Church and State to Charles Townshend and Squire. 1844 Lingard *Anglo-Sax. Ch.* (1858) I. ii. 91 In addition to the rank and rights which the bishop held in the church, he also derived..important privileges from the state. 1864 Tennyson *North. Farmer, Old Style* iv, I hallus voäted wi' Squoire an' choorch an' staäte.

30. A body of people occupying a defined territory and organized under a sovereign government. Hence *occas.* the territory occupied by such a body.

1568 Grafton *Chron.* II. 760 Such a pestilent Serpent is ambition,..which among states where he once entereth, creepeth so farre forth, till with diuision and variaunce he turneth all to mischiefe. 1587 R. Crompton *Short Decl. End Traytors* E ij, For there is no Common wealth, state, or societie of man kind, that can continue, where there is not superiority or preheminence in gouernment. 1625 Bacon *Ess., Greatness Kingd.* (Arb.) 481 Never any State was..so open to receive Strangers, into their Body, as were the Romans. 1673 Temple *Observ. United Prov.* ii. 75 Each of these Provinces is likewise composed of many little States or Cities, which have several marks of Soveraign Power within themselves, and are not subject to the Soveraignty of their Province. 1705 Addison *Italy* Pref., Lassels may be useful in giving us the Names of such Writers as haue treated of the seueral States through which he pass'd. 1769 Robertson *Chas. V*, v. iii. Wks. 1851 III. 523 The Italian states were no less desirous of peace than the pope. 1781 Sir W. Jones *Ode in Imit. Alcæus* 1 What constitutes a State? 1841 W. Spalding *Italy* III. 351 The state of Parma, formed of the three duchies of Parma, Piacenza, and Guastalla, is divided into five provinces. 1844 H. H. Wilson *Brit. India* II. 458 Those compacts which had been formed by the English,..with the independent native States. 1880 *Encycl. Brit.* XIII. 190/2 The theory of international law contemplates the world as divided into independent states...States are sovereign within their own territories, independent of other states, and equal as between themselves.

¶ b. Used (from similarity of sound) to render G. *stadt*, city.

1800 COLERIDGE *Death Wallenstein* III. vii. 69 Say, shall we have the State illuminated In honour of the Swede?

31. a. The territory, or one of the territories, ruled by a particular sovereign. *Hereditary states*: spec. (= G. *Erbstaaten*) the kingdoms or principalities held hereditarily by any head of the Holy Roman Empire.

1602 CHETTLE *Hoffman* IV. (1631) H 4, Since neyther Ferdinand, nor Saxony, Haue any heires, to sway their seuerall states; Ile work what lies in me to make thee Duke. 1845 SARAH AUSTIN *Ranke's Hist. Ref.* I. 89 The emperor was driven out of his hereditary states, and wandered about the other parts of the empire as a fugitive.

b. *pl.* (*Hist.*) Applied (? after It. *stati*) to the cities and territories included in an Italian principality or republic, esp. the grand-duchy of Tuscany and the republic of Venice. Also in *States of the Church*, *Papal States* (also *sing.*), titles of the former temporal dominions in Italy of the Holy See.

1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XV. 381/1 *Pope's Dominions*, or *Ecclesiastical States*, a country of Italy, bounded on the north by the gulph of Venice [etc.]. 1828 [H. BEST] *Italy as it is* 357 Less persecution has taken place in the States of the Church than in any other state. 1831 J. CONDER *Italy* I. 19 *note*, The states of Parma consist of the dutchy of that name and the territories of Placentia and Guastalla. 1840 *Penny Cycl.* XVII. 195 *Papal State*, *Stato Pontificio*, called also *stato della Chiesa*. 1851 MRS. BROWNING *Casa Guidi Wind.* I. 1062 Which..our Florence in her prime Turned boldly on all comers to her states. 1857 J. BRIGHT in G. M. Trevelyan *Life* (1913) 257, I would rather spend three months in the United States of America than in the States of the Church.

c. One of a number of polities, each more or less sovereign and independent in regard to internal affairs, which together make up a supreme federal government; as in the modern German Empire, the United States of America, the Commonwealth of Australia.

1774 JEFFERSON *Writ.* (1892) I. 420 A proper device (instead of arms) for the American states united would be the Father presenting the bundle of rods to his son. 1776 ABIGAIL ADAMS in *Fam. Lett.* (1876) 204 Thus ends royal authority in this State [Massachusetts]. 1777 A. HAMILTON *Wks.* (1886) VII. 487 A treaty..between the Court of France and the States of America. 1816 WHEATON *Cases Supreme Crt. U. S.* I. 91 A citizen of a territory cannot sue a citizen of a state, in the courts of the United States. 1851 DIXON *W. Penn* XXI. (1872) 183 This colony was the beginning of a state. 1901 *Empire Rev.* I. 443 The governors of Australian colonies, or states as they are now called.

d. *The States*: the United States of America.

1777 J. ADAMS in *Fam. Lett.* (1876) 301 The enemy are in possession of the Head of Elk,..in which they found a quantity of corn and oats belonging to the States. 1856 MRS. BROWNING *Aur. Leigh* V, Delia Dobbs, the lecturer from 'the States' Upon the 'Woman's Question'. 1890 A. LANG *Sir Stafford Northcote* II. 25 He thus found himself a prophet in the States, if not in his own country.

32. (Without article.) All that concerns the government or ruling power of a country; the sphere of supreme political power and administration. The adjectival phr. *of state* (= F. *d'état*, It. *di stato*) is otherwise expressed by the attributive use (see 38). †*In state*, in the sphere of government or politics.

Reason of State: see REASON *sb.*[1] 5 b. *Secretary of State* (Gt. Britain and U. S.): see SECRETARY *sb.*[1] 3. *Department of State* (U. S.): see DEPARTMENT 3 b; formerly †*Office of State*.

1582 ALLEN *Martyrdom Campion* (1908) 9 To alter the question from controversie in religion to the cause of the Prince and matter of state. 1591 HARINGTON *Orlando* Apol. Poetrie P vj, How much good matter, yea and matter of state, is there in that Comedie cald the play of the Cards? 1600 E. BLOUNT tr. *Conestaggio* 6 According vnto reason of State. 1601 SHAKS. *Twel. N.* III. v. 164 Let thy tongue tang arguments of state. 1612 BACON *Ess., Reg. Health* (Arb.) 59 It is a secret both in nature and state, that it is safer to change many things then one. 1625 N. CARPENTER *Geogr. Delin.* II. xiv. (1635) 243, I speake here onely of matters of state and policy. 1651 HOBBES *Leviathan* IV. xlv. 365 The Supreme Power both in State, and Religion. 1673 TEMPLE *Observ. United Prov.* ii. 101 The Council of State is composed of Deputies from the several Provinces. 1694 (*title*) Letters of State, written by Mr. John Milton to most of the Sovereign Princes and Republicks of Europe. 1708 SWIFT *Sentim. Ch. Eng. Man* Wks. 1755 II. I. 72, I believe it may pass for a maxim in state, that the administration cannot be placed in too few hands, nor the legislature in too many. 1795 BURKE *Regic. Peace* iv. Sel. Wks. III. 344 The Ministers of State and the Judges of the Bench. *Ibid.* 345 They were made an affair of state. 1796 WASHINGTON *Lett.* Writ. (1892) XIII. 213 From the office of State you will receive every thing that relates to business. 1845 DISRAELI *Sybil* V. viii, She was on her way to Bow Street to be examined as a prisoner of state. 1878 BEACONSFIELD in *Times* 11 Nov. 10/4 My Lord Mayor, I have observed that the month of October is often rife with high secrets of State.

33. Short for *state-letter* (see 41). ? *Obs.*

a 1879 SIR R. HILL *Life* (1880) II. 107 Sorting out the letters for Government and foreign ambassadors resident in London, letters technically called 'States'.

V. Interest in property; possessions.

†**34.** *Law.* The interest which any one has in a property; right or title to property; = ESTATE II.

1439 *E. E. Wills* (1882) 115, I..bequeth..to þe saide Iohn my wyfe, the termys and state comyng of & in all the tenement. *c* 1450 *Reg. Godstow Nunnery* 613 Aliz wynnynge.. surrendred to þe Abbas & couent of Godestowe all þe state, þat she had of the same Abbas & couent. 1502 *Will of J. Hutton* (Somerset Ho.) Lond..in the which I haue a state. 1523 FITZHERB. *Surv.* 15 b, Where they haue no state of inherytaunce. 1596 SPENSER *F. Q.* v. xi. 3 He..had Deliuer him his owne,..To which they had no right, nor any wrongfull state. 1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* III. ii. v. v. (1624) 455 States of liues in coppy holds. 1660 R. COKE *Power & Subj.* 25 *Do* or *Dedi*, to A. and the heires of his body lawfully begotten,..creates a state taile.

fig. 1616 B. JONSON *Epigr.* lxx, He makes a state In life, that can employ it.

†**b.** *To make a state* (*of* property) *to* (a person): to give a legal right or title to. Also (without *of*): to make a (specified or understood) gift, grant or settlement. (Cf. ESTATE *sb.* 11 b.)

1445 *Test. Ebor.* (Surtees) II. 155, I require my seid feffes ..that they make a state of the Maner of Kirklyngton vnto Elizabeth Chaworth. *c* 1445 in *Oxf. Stud. Soc. & Legal Hist.* (1914) IV. 194 Without any state maide to the saide personez so named Feffes of the saide landez and tenementz. 1455 *Rolls of Parlt.* V. 306/1 Eny Advousons or Patronages in which eny persone or persones..have enfeoffed us, or yerof made eny Graunte or state unto us. 1521 *Test. Ebor.* (Surtees) VI. 5 That my said feoffes make a state to the saide William Vescy of all my landes in Cateby. 1541 *Ibid.* 135, I will that my heres make alway a newe state at the ende of xxj yeres agayne to ane honeste preste to singe [etc.]. 1559 *Boke Presidentes* 53 b, There is no maner of states made of free lande by pol deede, or dede indented, but ther may be made the same of copy landes by copy. 1606 CHAPMAN *Gentl. Usher* III. ii. 40 What state hath your lord made you for your service?

†**35.** *Law.* Possession (of property); as *to give, deliver, receive state and seisin.* Chiefly *Sc. Obs.*

1338 R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (1725) 83 Kyng Steuen..þat without reson Of þis land had þe state, & conquered þe coroun. 1461 *Paston Lett.* II. 37 That whan I com homwar I mygh ..mak seson and stat to be take whil I wer ther. 1501 *Reg. Privy Seal Scot.* I. 107/2 Quhill the lauchful are or aeris.. recover lachfull state, sessing and possessioun. 1520 *Perth Hammermen Bk.* (1889) 13 Item till Constantine Arthur for the staits giffin of the annuels and for his travell to Sanct Androis at the command of the Craft. 1524 Q. MARGARET in *St. Papers Hen. VIII*, IV. 112 To schawe His Grace how and in quhat maner We haf downe in this Parliament, and yat ye Kyng my sone is put to his stayt and governans be all his Lordis and Barrowns wyth his Prelattis and Commouns. 1606 *Reg. Mag. Sig. Scot.* 662/2, I will and chairgis yow..ye delyver staitt and seasing [etc.]. 1710 in *Nairne Peerage Evid.* (1874) 45 And there give and deliver heritable state and sasine actuall reall and corporall possession of the foresaid. 1765–8 ERSKINE *Inst. Law Scot.* II. iii. § 35 Lastly, The vassal..takes instruments in the hand of the notary, before witnesses, that he hath received state and seisin of the lands in due form.

†**b.** *To put in state*: to put (a person) in possession (of). *To be in state*, to be seised (of).

1474 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* I. 4 To put his sone and ayre in state of his landis. 1531 *Abstr. Protocols Town Clerks Glasgow* (1897) IV. 28 George Elquhistoune, beand in stait of the said land.

†**c.** *In state*: held in (a person's) ownership or possession. *Obs.*

1592 *Arden of Feversham* I. 467 The lands are his in state. *Ibid.* 484 So as he shall wishe the Abby lands Had rested still within their former state.

†**36.** Property, possessions; one's private means; = ESTATE *sb.* 12. *Obs.*

13.. *Sir Beues* 3483 Now hab Beues al is stat. *c* 1430 LYDG. *Min. Poems* 212 Ne were the plough no staat myght endure, The large feeldys shulde be bareyn. 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* lxvi. 37 The temporall stait to gryp and gather, The sone disheris wald the father. 1598 SHAKS. *Merry W.* III. iv. 5 My state being gall'd with my expence. 1612 BACON *Ess., Riches* (Arb.) 240 A great state left to an heire, is as a lure to al the birds of prey round about, to seise on him. 1634 W. WOOD *New Eng. Prosp.* (1865) 61 There are some noble spirits that devote their states, and their persons, to the common good of their king and country. 1694 WOOD *Life* (O. H. S.) III. 448 He kept his coach and horses, and had no visible state. 1790 MRS. WHEELER *Westmld. Dial.* 75 Yee kna heeas a Staat, an nae daut will be for a girt Portion. 1899 *Cumberld. Gloss.*, *'State*, the land or property of a *statesman*.

VI. A statement. (? Partly from STATE *v.*)

†**37.** A statement, account, description, report (*of* a transaction, events, a legal case, etc.). *Obs.* in general use (partly superseded by STATEMENT).

c 1611 CHAPMAN *Iliad* XV. 33 This frighted the offending Queene, who, with this state, excusde Her kind vnkindnesse. *c* 1643 in *13th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. IV. 287 [Notes on the] State of the Tynfarmers' Case. 1647 CLARENDON *Hist. Reb.* II. § 123 The next error to this was, that at the meeting of the Great Council at York..there was not a state made, and information given, of the whole proceedings in Scotland. 1657 in *Burton's Diary* (1828) II. 62 You have had a fair state of the case by this honourable person. 1751 H. WALPOLE *Mem. Geo. II* (1822) I. 55 Sir Henry Erskine then presented his charge against General Anstruther, which he called only a state of his own case. 1772 *Ann. Reg.* *76 He wrote a long state of the whole transaction..to the court of Petersburg. 1791 BOSWELL *Johnson* (1816) III. 425 His state of the evidence as to the ghost did not satisfy me. 1802 MARIA EDGEWORTH *Moral T., Forester* xii, Convinced of the woman's innocence, he had drawn up a state of her case. 1805 (*title*) *State, Leslie of Powis*, &c. 1814 SCOTT *Wav.* li, Waverley therefore wrote a short state of what had happened, to his uncle and father.

†**b.** A detailed enumeration or report of particulars or items; esp. a statement of items of cost or outlay, of actual or estimated expenses. (Cf. STATE *v.* 7 d.) *Obs.*

1671 R. MONTAGU in *Buccleuch MSS.* (Hist. MSS. Comm.) I. 505 The King command[ed] Mr. de Louvoy to make a state of the expense of the war. 1673 TEMPLE *Observ. United Prov.* ii. 102 Towards the end of every year, this Council forms a state of the Expence they conceive will be necessary for the year ensuing. 1691 T. H[ALE] *Acc. New Invent.* 28 A more strict and Annual State to be had of all their respective Hulls, Masts, and Yards. 1701 EVELYN *Diary* 27 Jan., I laid before the Speaker the state of what had ben receiv'd and paid towards the building of Greenwich Hospital. 1727 [W. PULTENEY] (*title*) A state of the national debt as it stood Dec. 24, 1716. 1785 BURKE *Sp. Nabob of Arcot's Debts* Wks. 1842 I. 342 Possibly at the time of the chairman's state they might have been as high. 1786 JEFFERSON *Writ.* (1859) II. 61 They..have asked me to procure a state of the advantages of that place. 1788 GIBBON *Decl. & F.* lx. VI. 173 *note*, We are indebted to him [Ramusio] for a correct state of the [Venetian] fleet. 1805 FORSYTH *Beauties Scot.* III. 281 That the commerce has..been gradually increasing here [Glasgow], will appear from the following states. 1818 SCOTT *Rob Roy* xxiv, He..sate down to examine Mr. Owen's states, which the other thought it most prudent to communicate to him without reserve.

c. *Mil.* A report of the numbers of a corps, regiment, etc. in the field, with details of casualties.

1802 C. JAMES *Milit. Dict.* s. v., A weekly state of a regiment,..The difference between the state of a corps or detachment, and a mere return of the same, consists in this, that the former comprehends the specific casualties, &c. that have occurred. 1813 WELLINGTON in Gurwood *Desp.* (1838) X. 569 If your Lordship will do me the favor..to look over the morning states which I send every week to the Secretary of State. 1854 BENNETT in *Kinglake's Crimea* (1877) VI. App. 499 The..officer whose duty it was to make out the duty 'States'. 1863 KINGLAKE *Crimea* II. 237 *note*, The 'morning state'..gives as present under arms (without including the cavalry, of which there was no 'state') a total of 26,004 officers and men. 1889 *Infantry Drill* 451 The commander-in-chief..will himself deliver a state of the troops to that Royal Personage. 1915 *Times* 5 Apr. 4/2 The parade state showed that 61 officers and 975 rank and file took part in the march.

†**d.** *State of a vote*: the framing or putting a question in the form in which it is to be voted upon. (Cf. STATE *v.* 7 e.) *Sc. Obs.*

1701 SIR D. HUME *Diary Parl. Scot.* (Bannatyne Club) 44 After a long debate about these two states, moved it might be put to the vote, Which of these two should be the vote. 1703 *Ibid.* 101 Then Salton proposed the state of a vote, Whether to give the Act for the Cess a first reading, or to proceed to make Acts for the Security of our Religion, Liberties, and some added, Trade. 1758 SMOLLETT *Hist. Eng.* (1759) IX. 315.

VII. *attrib.* and *Comb.*

38. Attributive uses of senses 29–32. **a.** in sense: Of or belonging to the State, body politic, or civil government; made by, issuing from the State; employed by, in the service of, the State; recognized, supported or enforced by the State. Often equivalent to 'of state' (sense 32).

1491 *Cartular. S. Nich. Aberdon.* (New Spalding Club) I. 255 Gife yai be..occupiet in Stet erandis. 1605 SHAKS. *Oth.* I. iii. 190 Pleese it your Grace, on to the State Affaires. 1612 SELDEN *Illustr. Drayton's Poly-olb.* xvi. 253 Such as were receiued into State-fauour and friendship by the Roman. 1634 FORD *Perk. Warbeck* II. ii, A State-Informers Character. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* I. 775 They..expatiate and confer Their State affairs. 1690 SIR W. TEMPLE *Misc.* II. *Ess. Poetry* 58 So many Pretenders to Business and State-Imployments. 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 24 Apr., This weeke there was a greate change of State Officers. 1755 JOHNSON, s. v. *Pension*, In England it is generally understood to mean pay given to a state hireling for treason to his country. 1775 *Lond. Chron.* 23–25 May 495/1 In the last State Lottery there were only 81 prizes above 100 l. 1828 [H. BEST] *Italy as it is* 427 The supporters of state religions are shrewdly suspected, too, of holding that one religion is as good as another. 1836 THIRLWALL *Greece* XXV. III. 390 On his return to Catana he found there the state-galley, the Salaminia. 1859 MILL *Liberty* 190 The objections which are urged with reason against State education. 1860 PUSEY *Min. Proph.* 34 Jeroboam made a state-worship at Bethel. 1886 *Encycl. Brit.* XX. 241/1 The State Railways of India. 1892 *Bk. Comm. Prayer* 1662, Publ. Pref. 8 The titles of..the three State Services [*sc.* those for 5 Nov., 30 Jan., 29 May]. 1905 *Act* 5 *Edw. VII*, c. 19 (*title*) The construction..of Railways in India, by State Agency, or through the Agency of Companies.

b. In a wider or generalized sense: Relating to politics or the art of government; concerned with or depending on political considerations.

Very common in the 17th c.; sometimes with unfavourable implication, e. g. of crafty or tortuous or time-serving policy.

c 1610 BEAUM. & FL. *Philaster* I. i, My ignorance in state policy. 1623 DONNE *Serm.* xviii. (1640) 177 State Divinity, that obeyes affections of persons. 1637–50 ROW *Hist. Kirk* (Wodrow Soc.) 399 It seemeth to be als well aganis Statewisdome as it is evidentlie aganis religion. 1649 MILTON *Eikon.* xv. 141 Had he as well known how to distinguish between..the wholsome heat of well Governing, and the feverous rage of Tyrannizing, his judgment in State-physic, had bin of more autoritie. 1655 FULLER *Ch. Hist.* IX. 181 The State Historian. 1661 R. DAVENPORT *City Nightcap* III. 29 My Lord would have made an excellent state-sophister. 1678 CUDWORTH *Intell. Syst.* I. v. 692 That Religion is nothing but a meer State-juggle and political imposture. 1680 BUTLER *Rem.* (1759) II. 59 A State-Quack, that ..vapours what Cures he could do on the Body politic. *c* 1681 DUKE *Review* 83 That new state-maxim he invented first. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 2 Oct. 1685, Upon some politic and state reasons. 1709 STEELE *Tatler* No. 11 P 3 Mr. D...y generally writes State-Plays. 1711 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 105 P 6 The State-Pedant is wrapt up in News, and lost in Politicks. 1742 YOUNG *Nt. Th.* VIII. 344 How curious to contemplate two state-rooks, Studious their nests to feather in a trice. 1755 *Dict. Arts & Sci.* s.v. *Sibyls*, it is the opinion of Prideaux, that the story of the three books of the sibyls, sold to Tarquin, was a state-trick or fetch of politics. 1757 *Monitor* No. 79. II. 265 The languid commonwealth..which has been almost brought to its last gasp, under the cruel hands of our late state-quacks. 1809–10 COLERIDGE *Friend* (1865) 131 The venerable state-moralist. 1827 HARE *Guesses* Ser. I. (1873) 198 Our statequacks of late years haue thought

fit to style themselues Radical Reformers. 1832 J. A. Heraud *Voy. & Mem. Midshipman* iii. (1837) 52 No doubt a state-necessity, or a state-expediency, might be made out, for the purpose of producing an apparent uniformity in religious worship. 1909 *Hibbert Jrnl.* Jan. 434 The statecraft and state-morality of China and Japan.

† **c.** with reference to affected solemnity of countenance, as of one ostensibly burdened by secrets of state. *Obs.*

1611 B. Jonson *Challenge at Tilt* Wks. (1616) 998 There shall not the greatest pretender, to a state-face, liuing, put on a more supercilious looke then I will doe vpon you. 1639 Glapthorne *Wallenstein* II. ii, You must not then accost her..in the Spanish garbe, with a state face. 1728 Swift *Dial. Mad Mullinix & Timothy* 50 Thy screw'd-up front, thy state-grimace.

d. with reference to offences against the State and their punishment; as *state-crime, -criminal, -offence, -offender, -prisoner, -trial.*

1642 Fuller *Holy & Prof. St.* v. ix. 391 This State-sinne Jehu must commit to maintain his kingdome. 1682 Dryden *Duke of Guise* v. i, Where no ambition, nor state-crime, the happier spirits prove. 1692 Sir B. Shower *Reasons New Bill Rights* 6 What Harm can accrue to the Publick..that in Case of State Treason Councel should be allowed to the Accused. 1726 Swift *Gulliver* I. vii, Having in my life perused many state-trials, which I ever observed to terminate as the judges thought fit to direct. 1766 Smollett *Trav.* II. 227 The isles Marguerites, where state-prisoners are confined. 1798 Helen M. Williams *Tour Switz.* I. 122 A castle, which is the northern bastile of the canton of Berne for state-offenders. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* III. I. vi, As for the Orléans Prisoners, they are State Criminals. 1839 Lytton *Richelieu* II. i. 70 Who ever Heard of its being a state-offence to kiss The hand of one's own wife. 1886 C. E. Pascoe *Lond. To-day* xxvii. (ed. 3) 255 The little Chapel ..was long used by the state prisoners in the Tower. 1893 Baddeley *Joanna I of Naples* 4 His just indignation at this state-crime.

e. *U.S.* Of or belonging to a State of the Union.

1780 Abigail Adams in *Fam. Lett.* (1876) 388 Our State affairs are thus. 1784 *Acts & Laws Connecticut* 219 The Law relating to the gathering and collecting the State Rates. 1790 M. Cutler in *Life, Jrnls. & Corr.* (1888) I. 460 Congress are still on the question, whether the State debts shall be assumed. 1888 Bryce *Amer. Commw.* II. xliv. 153 As the frame of a State government generally resembles the National government, so a State legislature resembles Congress.

39. (Attributive use of sense 17.) Belonging to, employed on, reserved for, occasions of state or ceremony; accompanied with pomp and ceremony; richly or splendidly decorated, furnished, etc. (Equivalent to 'of state': see 17 b). Also **State-room.**

1549 Latimer *4th Serm. bef. Edw. VI* (Arb.) 126 As Chryste when he counterfayted a state goyng to Hierusalem. 1591 Sylvester *Du Bartas* I. vi. 472 Under starry State-Clothes. 1609 Markham *Famous Wh.* (1868) 22 State-chambers richly deckt and furnished. 1615 Chapman *Odyss.* IV. 171 She tooke her State-chaire. 1664–5 Pepys *Diary* 21 Mar., A couple of state cups, very large, coming, I suppose, each to about £6 a piece. 1704 *Acc. Innov. Abp. Dublin* 17 The Governments Chaplains always Preach'd upon State-days. 1761 *Brit. Mag.* II. 602 Their Majesties last, in the old state-coach. 1812 H. & J. Smith *Rej. Addr., Macbeth Trav.* (1852) 173 King Duncan, in grand majesty, Has got my state-bed for a snooze. 1835 Dickens *Sk. Boz, Mr. Watkins Tottle* ii, Referring to the gold watch, which was wound up on state occasions, whether it required it or not. 1843 Fairholt *Ld. Mayors' Pageants* 152 These courts were held in the state barge. 1845 Dickens *Pict. Italy* 74 A public promenade, where..the Genoese nobility ride round, and round, and round, in state-clothes and coaches. 1846 Mrs. Gore *Engl. Char.* (1852) 111 A state-coachman is one of the most prominent embodyings of national character in the metropolis. 1855 Timbs *Curios. Lond.* 686 The State Carriage now used by the sovereign. 1858 Simmonds *Dict. Trade, State-bed,* an elaborately carved or decorated bed. 1883 Mrs. Armytage *Old Court Customs* 178 Court or state balls are given during the season. 1915 *Times* 26 Mar. 11/4 Lord Wimborne has fixed April 14 for his State entry into Dublin.

40. Objective and instrumental uses of sense 29.

a. objective.

1598 T. Rogers *Celest. Elegies* D 2 in *Lamport Garl.* (Roxb.), To royall princes and State-ruling peeres. 1600 W. Watson *Decacordon* (1602) 152 Knowing themselues most innocent of all state-medlings. 1601 *2nd Pt. Return fr. Parnass.* III. i, Such busie state-prying fellowes. 1627 May *Lucan* I. B 1, State-changing comets dire. 1629 H. Burton *Babel no Bethel* Ded. 5 Imposters, state-treachers, troublers, and betrayers. 1657 Flatman *Cordial* 11, I care not what your state confounders do. 1735 Thomson *Liberty* III. 468 All the state wielding magick of his tongue. 1768–74 Tucker *Lt. Nat.* (1834) I. 391 The state-mending citizen. 1792 Ld. Westmorland in *Lecky's Hist. Eng. 18th C.* (1887) VI. 531 The present Statemaking mania of the world. 1913 *Engl. Rev.* Jan. 284 The Mongols are not state-builders.

b. instrumental, chiefly with pa. pples.

1616 J. Lane *Contn. Sqr.'s T.* IX. 288 Th' prize of state-caused strife. 1650 B. *Discolliminium* 8 They have gotten some yeers on their back, and are able to make a profession of some State-establishment. 1842 Miall in *Nonconf.* II. 193 An authorised, a state-provisioned clergy. 1872 Yeats *Growth Comm,* 58 The poor citizens..became state-fed paupers. 1882 M. Arnold *Irish Ess.* 97 State-aided elementary schools. 1897 *Westm. Gaz.* 3 Sept. 8/1 The very atmosphere of State-ridden Germany is fast becoming unbreathable to English lungs. 1912 W. B. Selbie *Nonconformity* xii. 226 The principle of the State establishment of religion.

41. Special comb.: **state-cabin** = State-room 2, 3 (cf. *states-cabin,* quot. 1767, 23 b); **state-church,** a church established by the state; hence **state-churchism, -churchman**; † **state-fallen** *a.*, fallen from high estate; **state-letter,** a letter written officially by a secretary of state; † **state-like** *a.*, stately, magnificent; † **state-making,** conveyance of an estate (see 34 b); **state-paper,** an official document in which some matter concerning the government or the nation is published or expounded; also *attrib.* in *State Paper Office*; **state-prayers,** the prayers for the king and royal family in the order for morning and evening prayer; **state-prison,** (*a*) a prison for political offenders (cf. 38 d); (*b*) *U.S.* and *Austral.*, a prison maintained by a State for the penal confinement of criminals; in *U.S.* also *state's prison*; **state-quake** *jocular,* a convulsion of the state; **State rights,** the rights and powers vested in the separate States under the Federal constitution of the U.S.A.; also **States rights**; also *attrib.*; **state secret,** a matter kept secret by the government; *jocularly,* an important secret; **state-statue** *nonce-wd.,* a mere image of a statesman; † **state-ward,** one's post as 'watch-man for the state'; † **statewise** *adv.*, in regard to the State.

1760–72 H. Brooke *Fool of Qual.* (1809) III. 85 Going down to the *state-cabin. 1838 *Civil Engin. & Arch. Jrnl.* I. 167/2 Each side [of the saloon is] occupied with State cabins. 1726 Trapp *Popery* I. 63 They call our church and Religion, a *State-Church, and Religion. 1888 Schaff *Hist. Chr. Ch., Mod. Chr.* I. 83 Christianity flourishes best without a state-church. 1862 R. Vaughan *Nonconformity* 391 *State-churchism in any form was not in logical accordance with the leading principle of their polity. 1845 Miall in *Nonconf.* V. 397 Government officials, who, of course, will be *state-churchmen to a man. 1845 E. Warburton *Crescent & Cross* II. 287 Every thing about this *state-fallen prince wore an appearance of poverty and sadness. 1692 *Post Office patent to T. Neale* 17 Feb. (MS.) All letters commonly called *State letters which are usually carried Postage ffree here in England shall pass free thorow all our Plantations and Iselands. 1738 Birch *Life Milton* Wks. 1738 I. 59 Besides the Works already mentioned, he was prevail'd upon..to get his State-Letters transcrib'd. 1659 W. Chamberlayne *Pharronida* I. 38 A magestick Vest Of *state-like red. 1487 *Rolls of Parlt.* VI. 394/1 By means of any Feoffeement, *State makyng or Relees. 1740 S. Haynes (*title*) A Collection of *State Papers. 1849 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* ii. I. 172 No man wrote abler state papers. 1915 H. Jenkinson *Palaeogr.* 4 Almost at the same time [*temp.* Hen. VII] appears a new class of Administration.. the Department, the Office of the Secretary of State; whose Records are State Papers, with, very soon, a special home of their own in the State Paper Office. 1831 W. L. Bowles *Life Bp. Ken* II. 246 Even at Long-Leat, the *state-prayers, as they were called, disturbed his mind, so as to prevent his attending the chapel. 1723 Blackmore *Alfred* x. 365 Judg'd Guilty and condemn'd they were convey'd To the *State Prisons. 1828–32 Webster s. v. *Prison,* We have state-prisons, for the confinement of criminals by way of punishment. 1832 G. Downes *Lett. Cont. Countries* I. 158 Out in the lake is a state-prison called the Wellenberg. 1867 C. H. Pearson in Brodrick *Ess. Reform* 193 They..are filling the State prisons in Victoria and New South Wales. 1645 *State-quake [see Church-quake]. 1655 Fuller *Ch. Hist.* IX. 130 Untill it hath vented itself with a State-quake of those countries. 1766 H. Walpole *Let. to G. Montagu* 12 Dec., We have had..many grumbles of a state-quake. 1798 *Debates in Congress* 21 June (1851) 2022 The powers of our general Government are checked by *State rights. 1846 S. M. Maury *Statesmen Amer.* 370 The struggle which ended in the triumph of the State rights party. 1858 Hamilton *Sp.* 27 Oct. (Bartlett), Having been all my life..an ardent 'States-rights' man. 1890 C. L. Norton *Polit. Americanisms* 109 *State Rights.* The political creed which favours the retention of independent powers by individual States as opposed to 'Centralization'. 1822 Galt *Provost* xlvi, I told it to Mrs. Pawkie as a *state secret. 1831 Scott *Ct. Robt.* xxix, It was considered as a state secret of the greatest importance. 1613 Shaks. *Hen. VIII,* I. ii. 88 If we shall stand still, In feare our motion will be mock'd, or carp'd at, We should take roote here, where we sit, or sit *State-Statues onely. *a* 1625 Fletcher *Bloody Bro.* IV. i, I, ist so? at your *stateward, sir? [*Cf. infra,* A watchman for the State]. 1642 Bridge *Wound. Consc. Cured* § 2. 17 It is lawfull for the Subjects considered *statewise to rayse an army to defend themselves.

b. Combinations of the genitive or pl.: **State's attorney** *U.S.*, a lawyer commissioned to represent the State in the courts, esp. in criminal actions; **states-folk,** † (*a*) persons of (great) estate or position; (*b*) *dial.* yeomen-farmers, owners of small estates (cf. Statesman[1] 2); **states-people** *dial.* = prec. (*b*); **States-rights** (see *State-rights* in 41); **states-system** (tr. G. *staaten-system*), the federation of a number of states with the object of preserving the actual balance of power.

1809 Kendall *Trav.* III. 251 There is in Vermont..an attorney-general, or, as it is called, a *states attorney, for each particular county. 1906 W. Walker *Calvin* xii. 335 The prosecution now fell into the charge of the states-attorney of the city, Claude Rigot, a friend of Calvin. ?1727 Swift *Gulliver, Let. Capt. Gulliver,* I see myself accused of reflecting upon great *States-Folk. 1902 *Pall Mall Mag.* Sept. 53 The statesfolk too, and the townsfolk—true, a worshipful company! 1887 Caine *Deemster* iii, The robustious *states-people from twenty miles around. 1834 tr. *Heeren's Man. Hist. Polit. Syst. Europe* I. Pref. p. vii, The history of any particular *states-system (by which we mean the union of several contiguous states, resembling each other in their manners, religion, and degree of social improvement, and cemented together by a reciprocity of interests). 1864 Bryce *Holy Rom. Emp.* xix. (1876) 340 The Peace of Westphalia is the first..of those attempts to reconstruct by diplomacy the European states-system which have played so large a part in modern history.

† **State,** *a.*[1] *Obs. rare*[−1]. [ad. L. *status,* pa. pple. of *sistĕre* to place, set.] = Stated *ppl. a.*

1581 J. Bell *Haddon's Answ. Osor.* 313 Neither doe we enforce any person to state tymes of the yeare [orig. *nec statis temporum præscriptis quenquam astringimus*]. *Ibid.* 323 The long processe therfore that you made of state feasts, and other gaddyng holydayes in ye yeare [*Quæ igitur de consecratis anni temporibus, & festorum distributione hactenus commemorasti*].

† **State,** *a.*[2] or quasi-*adv. Obs. rare*[−1]. [? After State *sb. attrib.*] (See quot.)

1579 Spenser *Sheph. Cal.* Sept. 45 They..bearen the cragge so stiffe and so state [*gloss.* stoutely].

State (stēt), *v.* Also 7 *Sc.* **steat.** [f. State *sb.*]

1. *trans.* To place, station. *rare.*

c 1590 Marlowe *Jew of Malta* II, The Christian Ile of Rhodes, from whence you came, Was lately lost, and you were stated here To be at deadly enmity with Turkes. *a* 1734 North *Exam.* III. vii. § 8 (1740) 510 The capital Practice in the Court of King's Bench, wherein he was stated before he had any Preferment. 1742 *De Foe's Tour Gt. Brit.* (ed. 3) II. 129 As the Court is now stated, all the Offices and Places for Business are scatter'd about, here and there. 1845 Bailey *Festus* i. (ed. 2) 5 Some vast temptation calmly comes And states itself before it, like the sun Low looming in the west.

† **b.** In *passive,* of a quality: To reside, inhere *in* a subject. *Obs.*

1678 Barclay *Apol.* VII. vii. 216 The Adjective [Just].. signifies a Man..in whom this Quality of Justice is stated.

† **2.** To give a certain rank or position to, to rank; also in *pass.*, to have a position, to be ranked. *Obs.*

1592 *Arden of Feversham* III. v. 84, I haue neglected matters of import That would have stated me aboue thy state. 1631 R. H. *Arraignm. Whole Creature* Ep. Ded., Some of you are in a high manner, and all of You in some sort seated and stated. 1632 Heywood *2nd Pt. Iron Age* IV. i, Shall hee inioy my birth-right, or inherite Where I am heire apparant?..where I am stated, sir? 1669 Penn *No Cross no Crown* I. ix. § 31 (1857) 122 The aspiring fallen angels, that affected to be greater and better than they were made and stated by the great Lord of all. *a* 1715 Burnet *Own Time* III. xiii. (1900) II. 314 The two religions, popish and protestant, were so equally stated in his mind, that a few grains of loyalty..turned the balance with him.

† **b.** ? To assign a value to, have an opinion upon. *Obs.*

1671 Milton *Samson* 424 Thou didst plead Divine impulsion prompting how thou might'st Find some occasion to infest our Foes. I state not that; this I am sure, our Foes Found soon occasion [etc.].

† **c.** With complement: To constitute, to give (a person) the status of. *Sc. Obs.*

1689 in *Sc. Acts* (1875) XII. 58/2 That..The clerks should not be allowed to call the Earle of Selkirk before him least bat myght steat him ane petitorie.

† **3.** To place in a specified condition; *in* early use chiefly to settle, place in safety or quiet. *Obs.*

1605 B. Jonson *Volpone* III. ix, On which [violence done to his parent] the Law should take sufficient hold, And you be stated in a double hope. 1628 Feltham *Resolves* II. lii. 152 Then, the soule stated in a deepe repose, bewrayed her true affections. 1640 Shirley *Constant Maid* II. ii, My next work Shall be..To state her body in that modest temper She was possessed of. 1642 Fuller *Holy & Prof. St.* II. x. 90 An excellent Chirurgeon he was at joynting of a broken soul, and at stating of a doubtfull conscience. 1654 H. L'Estrange *Chas. I* (1655) 53 This answer of the Duke to his impeachment..seemed to state him in impunity. *c* 1681 T. Hunt *Def. Charter Lond.* 37 Which put many thousand Persons well stated to starving. 1685 Cotton tr. *Montaigne* I. 495, I see nowhere..a house more nobly and constantly maintain'd than his, happy in this to have stated his affairs to so just a proportion, that his estate is sufficient to do it without his care or trouble. 1722 De Foe *Plague* (1756) 142, I mean especially, as you and I are stated, without a Dwelling-House of our own. 1786 A. Gib *Sacred Contempl.* I. iv. 147 His will was stated in a wicked contradiction to the authority and will of God.

† **b.** To bring about (a state of things). *Obs.*

1654 J. Owen *Saints Persev.* viii. § 16. 197 Take a Cyon.. bind it on as close as possible, yet 'tis not united to the Tree, untill the Sappe..be communicated to it, which communication states the union.

4. To place, install *in* a dignity, office, right, etc.

1617 Middleton & Rowley *Fair Quarrel* I. i, Heere you boaste to mee Of a great reuenew, a large substance Wherein you would endow & state my daughter. 1625 Gill *Sacred Philos.* iv. 35 In which right, If He had not fully stated man-kind, then had the benefit of His purchase beene utterly lost. 1648 J. Beaumont *Psyche* IX. xcix, No Proxy He, nor stated in his Might Barely by Patent, but by Native Right. 1651 Baxter *Inf. Bapt.* 24 Either members must be baptized at their admission, or else after they are stated in the Church. 1654 in *Burton's Diary* (1828) I. 81 To state him in the right of disposing of the forces.

† **b.** To confer or settle (a possession, right, etc.) *upon,* vest *in* a person, etc. *Obs.*

1633 Bp. Hall *Hard Texts* Eph. i. 14 Untill that purchased possession of eternall life may be fully accomplished and stated upon us. 1638 Brathwait *Barnabees Jrnl.* III. (1818) 101 These [*i.e.* the Little Gidding community] hold and walke together wholly, And state their lands on uses holy. *a* 1641 Bp. Mountagu *Acts & Mon.* (1642) 107 The Scepter ..was not stated upon them of the Tribe of Iudah. 1678 Sanderson *9 Cases* 104, I acknowledge the Soveraign Power of this Nation..to be rightly stated in the House of Commons.

† **5.** To set in state, to treat with ceremony of state. *Obs.*

1613 Heywood *Brazen Age* II. ii, Oh you Gods! or make her mine, Stated with vs the Calidonian Queene. 1622 Bacon *Hen. VII,* 80 For shee was not onely publikely con-

tracted, but stated as a Bride, and solemnly Bedded. *a* 1625 FLETCHER *Noble Gent.* III. i, 'Twill be rarely strange To see him stated thus, as though he went A shroving through the City.

†**b.** *To state it*: to affect the attributes of rank; to go or live in state. *Obs.*

1631 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Sudden Turn Fortunes Wheel* (1848) 23 Nassau,..you did gather The fearfull rebells into warlike bands, Who now do state it in the Netherlands. 1655 FULLER *Ch. Hist.* V. xvi. 178 Wolsey began to state it at York as high as ever before. 1663 KILLIGREW *Pars. Wedding* III. v, These Gentlemen are quickly satisfi'd; what an ugly Whore they have got! how she states it!

†**6.** To settle, or regulate, by authority. *Obs.*

1647 WARD *Simp. Cobler* 28, I seriously feare, if the pious Parliament doe not finde a time to state fashions,..God will hardly finde a time to state Religion or Peace. 1699 *Plea agst. Price of Corn* 16 Suppose, for instance in the Southern parts of England,..Corn were stated at 5s. per Bushel for Wheat. 1714 in *Hist. Northfield* (Mass.) (1875) 133 The said Committee are further impowered to state the place of the town upon small lots so as it may be made defensible.

†**b.** ? To fix, make dependent *upon*. *Obs.*

1671 J. LIVINGSTONE *Let.* 7 Oct. in *Sel. Biogr.* (Wodrow Soc. 1845) I. 242 Persecution [is] bended against all who go not alongs in that apostacie and perjury; and is not, then, suffering stated on as important a quarrel as ever was since the foundation of the world? 1692 SOUTH *Serm.* (1697) I. 14 One of the grand duties of which [*sc.* Religion] is stated upon Repentance.

7. To set out (a question, problem, etc.) in proper form; spec. in *Logic*.

a 1641 BP. MOUNTAGU *Acts & Mon.* (1642) 110 First the question is not rightly stated in the Conclusion. 1662 JER. TAYLOR *Via Intell.* 8 We find by a sad experience, that few Questions are well stated. 1680 DRYDEN *Ovid's Ep.* Pref., To state it fairly; imitation of an author is the most advantageous way for a translator to show himself, [etc.]. 1795 *Gentl. Mag.* LXV. II. 543/2 Permit me to state a few queries to your Correspondents in general. 1826 WHATELY *Logic* I. i. § 2 (1827) 24 An argument thus stated regularly and at full length, is called a Syllogism. 1869 J. MARTINEAU *Ess.* II. 6 A problem must be stated in order to be solved. 1883 *Manch. Guard.* 22 Oct. 5/3 The question is surely one which, stated in this way, needs no answer.

b. *Arithmetic.* (See quot. 1740.)

1740 DYCHE & PARDON *Dict.* (ed. 3), *State v.*..in Arithmetick, it is the arranging numbers in such order, that the question may be truly answered. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) II. 302 (*Compound Proportion*), The above question may therefore be stated and wrought as follows: Men 18 : 24 :: 6 bolls [etc.]...In general, state the several particulars on which the question depends, as so many simple proportions, [etc.].

c. *To state a case*: to set out the facts of a matter or pleading for consideration by a court. Said of a pleader or advocate; also of a court when allowing an appeal from its own judgement; also *gen.*

1692 *Cal. Treas. Papers* 265 Mr. Lowndes to state his case to be laid before the King. 1710 ADDISON *Whig-Exam.* No. 5 P 3, I must observe, that the Advocates for this doctrine have stated the case in the softest and most palatable terms that it will bear. 1857 *Act* 20 & 21 *Vict.* c. 43 § 4 If the..justices be of opinion that the application is merely frivolous ..they may refuse to state a case. 1879 *Act* 42 & 43 *Vict.* c. 49 § 33 Any person aggrieved who desires to question a conviction..of a court of summary jurisdiction..may apply to such court to state a special case.

d. *To state an account* or *accounts*: to set down formally the debits and credits arising in a course of business transactions. Also *fig.*

1648 HEYLIN *Relat. & Observ.* I. 83 About the beginning of March, was given to Col. Sydenham and Col. Bingham 1000*l.* apiece, as part of their Arrears; their Accounts not yet stated. *c* 1685 *Cal. Treas. Papers* 16 To be referred to Mr. Surveyor to state ye accompt and examine ye bills and report it to ye Lords Commissioners. 1690 *Jrnls. Ho. Lords* XIV. 606/1 An Act for appointing and enabling Commissioners to examine, take, and state, the Public Accompts of the Kingdom. 1712 ARBUTHNOT *John Bull* I. xi, John spent several Weeks in looking over his Bills, and by comparing and stating his Accompts he discovered, that..he had been egregiously Cheated. 1718 *Freethinker* No. 33 P 9 After this, when he finds himself most in Temper, let him coolly state the Accompts of his Love, by computing..the Profits and the Losses, arising from it.

†**e.** *To state a vote, a question*: to frame a question in the form in which it is intended to vote upon it. *Sc.*

1700 SIR D. HUME *Diary Parl. Scot.* (Bannatyne Club) 9 And then the vote came to be stated, Whether the Parliament should proceed to the Sheriff's procedure, or the Lords' their coming in, under these words Lords or Sheriff. Carried by one vote Sheriffs. *Ibid.* 33 Then the question was offered to be stated To allow the exportation..or Not. *a* 1712 FOUNTAINHALL *Decis.* (1759) II. 420 Then the vote was stated, If Sir Andrew Kennedy's taking Conservator dues..was relevant to infer deprivation.

8. To declare in words; to represent (a matter) in all the circumstances of modification; to set out fully or in a definite form.

1647 CLARENDON *Hist. Reb.* I. § 34 Whereupon it was thought fit that the whole affair..should be stated and enlarged upon in a conference between the two Houses. 1667 BOYLE *Orig. Formes & Qual.* (ed. 2) 332 Themes, where the names that are of very common and necessary use have (yet) their significations very little stated or agreed upon. 1764 GOLDSM. *Trav.* 361 Yet think not, thus when Freedom's ills I state, I mean to flatter kings, or court the great. 1781 COWPER *Convers.* 816 It has indeed been told me (with what weight, How credible, 'tis hard for me to state) That [etc.]. 1802 MARIA EDGEWORTH *Mor. Tales, Forester* xii. (1848) 57 The facts were so plainly and forcibly stated, that his hopes even from law began to falter. 1810 SCOTT *Let.* in *Lockhart* (1837) II. viii. 284 The only purpose which I suppose Lord Lauderdale had in view was to state charges which could neither be understood nor refuted. 1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* II. i. 224 It will not be a useless labour..to state..our present views of light and heat. 1862 KALISCH *Hebr. Gram.* I. 19 Exercise vii. State the reasons why metheg is employed in the following words. 1891 *Law Times* XC. 463/1 The contents of the deed were falsely stated.

b. Const. (*a*) with a clause (introduced by *that*) as object; (*b*) with object followed by the inf., chiefly *pass.*

(*a*) 1801 *Farmer's Mag.* Apr. 137 It has already been stated, that 3,000,000 of acres are required to be in wheat. 1850 GLADSTONE *Glean.* (1879) II. 123 We may state that his father was known..to be a man of extreme opinions. 1866 THIRLWALL *Lett.* (1881) II. 77 Diego then stated that he was going to the university of Salamanca.

(*b*) 1838 LINDLEY *Flora Med.* 57 Conium is stated by Aretæus to be anti-aphrodisiac. 1839 FR. A. KEMBLE *Resid. in Georgia* (1863) 13 Upon an English lady's stating it to be her intention to visit these persons. 1846 *Penny Cycl.* Suppl. II. 502/2 The inhabitants, whose number is stated not to exceed a thousand. 1857 GLADSTONE *Glean.* (1879) VI. 89 It is sometimes stated to have been owing to accident.

c. To specify (a number, price, etc.).

1789 *New Lond. Mag.* July 370/2 Fifteen thousand men effective are stated. 1823 SOUTHEY *Penins. War* I. 373 The numbers of the Spanish army have been variously stated from 14,000 to 40,000. 1842 BISCHOFF *Woollen Manuf.* (1862) II. 169 To enable the manufacturers to afford the cloths at the prices I have stated. 1854 *Poultry Chron.* II. 147 State your profession, especially if a clergyman. 1859 RANKINE *Steam Engine* etc. 428 The vacuum in the condenser being often measured by a mercurial gauge, is sometimes stated in *inches of mercury*.

Stateable: see STATABLE.

Statecraft (stē'tkraft). [f. STATE *sb.* + CRAFT.] The art of conducting state affairs; statesmanship. Sometimes with sinister implication: Crafty or overreaching statesmanship.

1642 FULLER *Holy & Prof. St.* IV. v. 263 Some plead that dissembling is Lawfull in the State-craft, upon the presupposition that men must meet with others which dissemble. 1719 OLDISWORTH *Callipædia* IV. 582 Well verst in State-Craft, the mysterious Trade, They know to gild and paint a pious Fraud. 1745 FIELDING *True Patriot* No. 9 P 16 Nor can I help observing..another piece of state craft..; for while we sent for this troop of singers into England, we left several troops of our soldiers abroad. 1798 W. TAYLOR in *Monthly Mag.* V. 352 To avoid a civil, wage a foreign war, is an old adage of profligate state-craft. 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xviii. IV. 163 A double treason, such as would have been thought a masterpiece of statecraft by the great Italian politicians of the fifteenth century. 1861 TULLOCH *Engl. Purit.* I. 2 The English Reformation..was also the creature of statecraft, and royal policy. 1873 SYMONDS *Grk. Poets* i. 16 The men who rose to the greatest eminence in statecraft are to be reckoned among the primitive philosophers of Greece. 1886 *Manch. Exam.* 18 Jan. 5/5 It savours more of statecraft than of statesmanship. 1887 LOWELL *Democracy* etc. 34 Statecraft is no longer looked upon as a mystery, but as a business.

So **State-craftsman**, an expert in statecraft.

1809–10 COLERIDGE *Friend* II. 185 Whatever study or doctrine bears upon..a certain Phantom of a State *in toto*, which is every where and no where, this shall be deemed most useful and wise; and all else is the state-craftsman's scorn. 1914 WELLS in *Engl. Rev.* Jan. 202 State-craftsmen sat with their historical candles burning.

Stated (stā'tĕd), *ppl. a.* [f. STATE *v.* + -ED [1]. In early use perh. rather f. L. *stat-us* appointed, fixed, regular (see STATE *a.*) + -ED [1].]

†**1.** Fixed, regular in operation or occurrence; not occasional or fluctuating. *Obs.*

a 1641 BP. MOUNTAGU *Acts & Mon.* (1642) 124 Extraordinary singular courses, sometimes intervenient in naturall processes, alter not the generall, stated, habituall course of nature. 1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* I. (Globe) 162 That altho' there were no stated Inhabitants who liv'd on the Spot; yet that there might sometimes come Boats off from the Shore. 1752 JOHNSON *Rambler* No. 188 P 2 The pleasure which men are able to give in conversation, holds no stated proportion to their knowledge or their virtue. *a* 1774 GOLDSM. *Surv. Exper. Philos.* II. 134 Thus every four-and-twenty hours they have two regular and stated winds.

2. Of times, amounts, etc.: Fixed or settled by authority, agreement, custom, promise, or prearrangement.

1667 O. HEYWOOD *Heart-Treas.* xi. 129 'Tis good for a Christian to keep up set and stated times of prayer. 1690 CHILD *Disc. Trade* i. 30 If a low stated Interest by Law be the cause of Riches, no Country would be poor,..all having it in their power to state their Interest as low as they please by Law. 1771 GOLDSM. *Hist. Eng.* IV. 341 None but men already possessed of a stated fortune, were allowed a privilege of carrying a gun. 1784 COWPER *Tiroc.* 606 'Tis not enough that Greek and Roman page, At stated hours, his freakish thoughts engage. 1804 J. GRAHAME *Sabbath* (1823) 30 [He] Opens the book, and reverentially The stated portion reads. 1821 BAYLEY *Tower Lond.* I. 194 A keeper, appointed by the king's letters patent, with a stated salary. 1823 SOUTHEY *Penins. War* I. 387 All the French troops in Andalusia were to proceed by stated journies. 1884 E. YATES *Recoll.* II. 202, I should get rid of the long familiar life of the Office, with its stated hours of attendance.

b. Of an action, ceremony, observance, etc.: Having its fixed time and manner; 'set', not casual.

Stated meeting, one of the regular periodical meetings (of a society, an Oxford College) as distinguished from meetings occasionally called.

1697 (*title*), Stated Christian Conference asserted to be a Christian duty; or A plea for stated Conference. 1698 M. HENRY *Life P. Henry* x. (1699) 165 It is of use in stated Prayer, ordinarily to observe a Method, according to the several Parts of Prayer. 1734 WATTS *Reliq. Juv.* (1789) 49 When a whole family sits down together, to make a regular and stated meal. 1856 *N. Brit. Rev.* XXVI. 61 This.. is the proper course to be taken by ordinary Christian teachers, in their stated expositions of Scripture. 1867 RUSKIN *Time & Tide* iii. § 12 Invite trustworthy persons of other classes to join your council; appoint time and place for its stated sittings. 1907 *Colonial Soc. Massachusetts* Apr. 280 A Stated Meeting of the Society was held..on Thursday. *Ibid.*, The Records of the last Stated Meeting were read and approved. 1915 (16 June) in *Oxf. Univ. Gaz.*, At a Stated General Meeting held to-day the College [Brasenose] made a grant of £100 to the General Fund of the University.

c. Of a functionary, an employment: Recognized, regular, official.

1752 WESLEY *Wks.* (1872) II. 251 W. Harding who..was a stated Preacher. 1808 W. WILSON *Dissenting Churches* II. 28 The relish of his labour excited a desire after a stated ministry. 1861 *Contrib. Eccl. Hist. Connecticut* 221 There is a disposition to supersede this ministry of pastors, by a ministry of stated supplies;—men employed to perform the duties of a pastor, but not inducted, in any appropriate way into the pastoral office. 1911 WEBSTER s. v., *Stated clerk*, in the Presbyterian churches of the United States, the secretary of a court.

†**d.** Definitely recognizable, decided; declared, avowed. *Obs.*

1651 BAXTER *Inf. Bapt.* 82 If Holiness of state here be a stated separation of the person from the world, to God. 1680 *Spirit of Popery* 51 He..saith, That the King Erects a Papacy in himself more absurdly than the Pope did; and saith, That he is a stated Antichrist. 1687 [SHIELDS] *Hind let loose* 411 Nay, we are by this obliged, if ever we be in case, to bring these stated Enemies to God and the Country to condign punishment. 1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* I. (Globe) 225 To carry me directly on to..Repentance..and..to a stated Reformation.

3. (In senses 7, 8 of the vb.) **a.** Of a law, rule, penalty: Formulated, explicitly set forth.

1681–6 J. SCOTT *Chr. Life* (1747) III. 461 Now the Law obliges us under a certain stated Penalty to do and forbear what it commands and forbids. 1694 COLLIER *Ess. Mor. Subj.* I. (1709) 133 Particular Satisfaction for every Affront in Conversation cannot be Awarded by Stated Laws. 1765 BLACKSTONE *Comm.* I. 92 What equity is, and how impossible in it's very essence to be reduced to stated rules, hath been shewn. *Ibid.* 238 [Oppressions springing from sovereign power] must necessarily be out of the reach of any stated rule, or express legal provision. 1768 *Ibid.* III. xxvii. 435 A penalty in the nature of stated damages; as a rent of 5 *l.* an acre for ploughing up antient meadow.

b. Narrated, alleged as fact.

1787 POLWHELE *Engl. Orator* II. 339 Adhere To stated Facts. 1909 *Spectator* 25 Dec. 1093/1 In poetry, history, biography, and even in Holy Writ, we continually find the page.. drawing its light and meaning from the stated words of quite unknown speakers.

c. *Stated account*: a statement of account that has been agreed to by the parties to a suit.

1765 J. T. ATKYNS *Chanc. Rep.* (1781) II. 1 When the defendant sets forth a stated account he shall not be obliged to go on upon a general one, because very often a stated account would unravel a perplexed affair. 1787 J. MITFORD *Plead. Suits Chanc.* (ed. 2) 208 A plea of a stated account is a good bar to a bill for an account. 1862 WATERSTON *Man. Commerce* 303 *Stated Account*, in the English law of accounts, is an account settled whether it be signed or not.

d. Law. *Stated case, case stated*: A summary of the points in dispute, drawn up by agreement of the parties to an action, to be presented to a court or an arbitrator in order to facilitate a speedy decision.

1899 *Daily News* 15 May 11/2 We [a firm of solicitors] take the liberty of sending you a print of a stated case herein, and of the decision of the Court of Session thereon.

Statedly (stā'tĕdli), *adv.* [f. STATED *ppl. a.* + -LY [2].]

1. With regularity, as a regular practice, constantly, not occasionally or spasmodically.

1670 BAXTER *Cure Ch.-divisions* 52 The Profession it self, or open covenanting with God is the thing statedly necessary to the being of visible Christianity. 1743 J. MORRIS *Serm.* viii. 216 That profession of faith in Jesus Christ, which is made at baptism, is statedly renewed at the Lord's supper. 1799 UNDERWOOD *Treat. Dis. Childhood* (ed. 4) I. 55 *note*, Numerous children..from their infancy have been for several days without a motion; nor would any gentle means procure it statedly. 1828 W. FIELD *Mem. Dr. Parr* I. 120 It will long be remembered by those who were statedly or occasionally his hearers. 1855 BROWNING *Bp. Blougram's Apol.* 945 You, Gigadibs, who, thirty years of age, Write statedly for Blackwood's Magazine. 1894 CROCKETT *Raiders* (ed. 3) 25 Men..who met statedly for their diets of worship.

2. According to what is stated or alleged.

1867 RUSKIN *Time & Tide* § 37. viii. (1904) 46 A passage from the statedly authoritative portions of the Bible.

Stateful (stā'tful), *a.* Now *rare* or *Obs.* [f. STATE *sb.* + -FUL.] Full of state or dignity, stately.

1591 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* I. vi. 342 To humble suiters neither stern nor statefull. 1624 T. GOKIN *Medit. Lord's Prayer* in Farr *Sel. Poetry Jas. I* (1848) 324 Thou lookest down from heaven, thy stateful throne.

Hence **Sta'tefully** *adv.*, **Sta'tefulness**.

1655 FULLER *Hist. Camb.* 79 It is not worthy to carry the books after Oxford Library for the statefulness of the Edifice. 1891 SARA J. DUNCAN *American Girl in Lond.* 68, I was rolling up Regent Street statefully in the carriage of Mrs. Torquilin.

Statehood (stā'thud). [f. STATE *sb.* + -HOOD.] The condition or status of a political state (see STATE *sb.* 30, 31). Chiefly with reference to the U.S.

1868 *New York Times* 8 June, Why indeed should the Federal Senate be organized on the basis of an extinct state-

hood? 1881 J. Davis *Rise & Fall Confed. Govt.* I. 291 The comparative claims of Statehood and Union. 1906 *Outlook* 29 Dec. 819/1 That indiscriminate turmoil through which Russia has yet to fight her way to coherent statehood. 1911 *Times* 19 Apr. 8/4 Utah was admitted to Statehood in 1896.

State-house. [f. State *sb.* + House *sb.* Prob. suggested by Du. *stathuis* (now *stadhuis*) Stadthouse.]

†1. a. A house of state; a building appropriated to state-ceremonies. b. = Senate house 1. *Obs.*

1593 Nashe *Christ's T.* 65 b, Humaine writers haue theyr vse of reprouing vices, as well as the Scriptures. It is an easie matter to prayse God, in that wherein hee hath placed the especiall state-house of his praises. 1614 Raleigh *Hist. World* II. xxiii. § 4. 574 Pacuuius in Capua..lockt the Senators vp within the State-house, and offered their liues to the Peoples mercie.

†2. A town hall; = Stadthouse. *Obs.*

1627 Bp. Hall *Apol. agst. Brownists* § 9 Wks. (1628) 578 Is it no Citie, if there be mud-walles halfe-broken, low Cottages vnequally built, no State-house? 1634 Brereton *Trav.* (Chetham Soc.) 19 Delph hath..the finest state-house said to be in all the seventeen provinces. 1686 *Col. Laws N. York* I. 182 The Citty Hall or State House with the Ground thereunto belonging. 1756 Mrs. Calderwood *Lett. & Jrnls.* (1884) III The State-house [at Amsterdam] you have seen a print of.

3. a. In some of the North American colonies before 1776, the building in which the public affairs of the colony or province were transacted. Also applied to the building used by an Indian tribe for its deliberative assemblies. *Obs.* exc. *Hist.*

1639 in *Virginia Mag.* III. 30 A Levye..is raised for the building of a State howse at James Cittie. 1654 E. Johnson *Wonder-working Provid.* 109 The Indian King..gathered together his chiefe Counsellors, and..afterward gave them Audience, in a State-house, round, about fifty foot wide, made of long poles stuck in the ground. 1662 *Archives of Maryland* I. 434 The Vpper howse took into Consideracion the place for the Seateing of the State howse. 1709 J. Lawson *New Voy. Carolina* 37 In these [Indian] State-Houses is transacted all Publick and Private Business, relating to the Affairs of the Government. 1725 *New Hampsh. St. Papers* XVIII. 1 The s^d Dishonour and Inconv[en]ience may both be remedyed by building a State house for holding the s^d General Assem^y and Courts. 1770 J. Adams *Diary* 13 July, Wks. 1850 II. 247 This Tilton's is just behind the State House.

b. *U.S.* The building in which the legislature of a State of the Union has its sessions; a State capitol.

1786 E. Watson *Men & T. Revolution* (1861) 282 The State House, the Capitol of Maryland. 1821 T. Dwight *Trav.* I. 495 The State-house [at Boston, Mass.]..has a most noble and commanding position. 1908 W. Churchill *Mr. Crewe's Career* ix. 134 I'll call in on you at the State-house day after to-morrow.

c. *attrib.*

1671 *Rec. N. Amsterdam* VI. 308 The Stone Well in the State-House-Yard. 1830 O. W. Holmes *Dorchester Giant* 10 Then he brought them a pudding..As big as the State-House dome. 1908 W. Churchill *Mr. Crewe's Career* xi. 167 Austen took his way slowly across the State-house park.

Stateless (stē·tlés), *a.* [f. State *sb.* + -less.] a. Without a state or political community. b. Destitute of state or ceremonial dignity.

†*Statelss state*: a state not worthy of the name.

1609 F. Grevil *Mustapha* v. iij, What soule then .. Would hold a life of such a statelesse State. 1611 Speed *Hist. Gt. Brit.* VII. xl. § 5. 346 The Northumbrians expulsing their statelesse Hericus..so pacified the King, that [etc.]. 1638 Drumm. of Hawth. *Irene* Wks. (1711) 169 Cast not your selves into a voluntary Servitude; turn not your selves into a stateless State. 1843 D. Jerrold *Punch's Lett.* Ded., Wks. 1864 III. 450 Ye who have..with kindly conjurations given state to stateless Kings. 1902 B. Kidd *Princ. Western Civilis.* x. 343 In the section of which England is the centre we catch sight..of a conception round which a practical system of world-politics..is actually slowly beginning to centre; namely, the ideal of a stateless competition of all the individuals of every land.

Statelet (stē·tlét). [f. State *sb.* + -let.] A small state.

1865 *Morn. Star* 14 Nov., The innumerable currencies [in Germany twenty-five years ago], each Statelet having a little system of its own. 1900 Crockett *Joan of Sword Hand* i. 7 That cluster of hill statelets which is called collectively Masurenland.

‖ Sta·telich, *adv. Obs. rare*^{-1}. [G. *statlich* (now *stattlich*: see Stately). The folio (1616) has the word in black letter as foreign.] In a stately manner.

1610 B. Jonson *Alch.* II. iv, *Svb.* Dol, my Lord Whachums Sister, you must now Beare your selfe statelich. *Dol.* O, let me alone..I'll keep my distance, laugh, and talke aloud; Haue all the trickes of a proud sciruy Lady.

Sta·telihood. [See -hood.] Stateliness.

1845 *Tait's Mag.* XII. 208 With solemn statelihood, the camel's head o'erlooks the press. 1906 S. W. Mitchell *Pearl* 27 In statelihood of mighty place She stood.

† Sta·telike, *adv. Obs. rare.* [f. State *sb.* + -like.] In a stately manner.

1456 Sir G. Haye *Law Arms* (S.T.S.) 302 Quhen he wrytis, his writtis suld be wele and statelyke devisit and dytit. 1639 Du Verger tr. *Camus' Admir. Events* 62 He caused them to carry him..into a chamber most state-like furnished.

Statelily (stē·tlili), *adv.* Now *rare.* [f. Stately *a.* + -ly^2.] In a stately manner.

1611 Cotgr., *Sublimement*, loftily, highly, haughtily, statelily. 1672 Eachard *Hobbes' State Nat.* 18 It sounds, I must confess, somewhat statelily. 1796 *Mod. Gulliver* 16 Walking in statelily himself, he beckoned me to follow. 1859 Tennyson *Marr. Geraint* 175 She, Sweetly and statelily, and with all grace Of womanhood and queenhood, answer'd him. 1903 Kipling in *Windsor Mag.* Sept. 370/1 The Head Chief bowed solemnly and statelily before Taffy.

Stateliness (stē·tlinés). [f. Stately *a.* + -ness.]

†1. Haughtiness, arrogance. *Obs.*

1509 Barclay *Shyp of Folys* 90 Suche as foloweth shamefull wantonnes, Ungoodly luste, and statelynes of mynde. 1513 Bradshaw *St. Werburge* I. 1860 Pryde, statelenes, and sensualyte Were not in her founde. 1530 Palsgr. 275/2 Statelynesse, *arrogance, bourgoisie.* 1582 Bentley *Mon. Matrones* 96 Thou hast meekened me,..to put from me all manner of presumption, and statelinesse of hart. 1644 Milton *Areop.* (Arb.) 33 Did they but know how much better I find ye esteem it to imitate the old and elegant humanity of Greece, then the barbarick pride of a Hunnish and Norwegian stateliness.

2. Lofty dignity of manner or behaviour. Sometimes with unfavourable notion: Repellent dignity, stiffness or formality of manners.

a 1586 Sidney *Arcadia* II. ii. (Sommer) 103 b, It pleased the Princesse (in whom indeede statelines shines through courtesie) to let fall some gratious looke vpon me. 1654 Cokaine *Dianea* I. ●9 Her entreaties were delivered with such an inbred statelinesse, that they seemed rather commands then prayers. *a* 1700 Evelyn *Diary* 14 Jan. 1682, He told him likewise of his stateliness and difficulty of accesse. 1740 Richardson *Pamela* II. 310 They rallied him on the Stateliness of his Temper. 1828 D'Israeli *Chas. I*, III. ii. 17 There was a cold reserve in his speech, and a stateliness in his habits. 1879 Morley *Burke* I. 9 A certain inborn stateliness of nature, which made him unwilling to waste thoughts on the less dignified parts of life.

†3. Loftiness of position or rank. Also, as a title of dignity. *Obs.*

1576 Fleming *Panopl. Epist.* 332 For some haue beene aduaunced to degrees of statelynesse, through the noblenesse of their byrth. 1638 W. Lisle *Heliodorus* VII. 112 And when he came her Statelinesse [the Princess] before, They will'd him, yet he would not her adore.

4. Nobleness of proportion or design; grandeur, magnificence.

1577–87 Holinshed *Chron.* III. 431/1 The said dukes house of the Sauoie, to the which in beautie and statelinesse of building..there was not any other in the realme comparable. 1615 G. Sandys *Trav.* I. 31 Mosaike painting..composed of little square pieces of marble; gilded and coloured..: which set together, as if imbossed, present an vnexpressible statelinesse. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* III. ii. 313 The stateliness, freshness, and fragrance of its woods. 1869 Freeman *Norm. Conq.* (1876) III. xii. 236 Its walls indeed crown..a height great enough to give the minster yet further stateliness in the view from the lower ground. 1914 *Blackw. Mag.* Feb. 243/2 A monument of amazing stateliness.

5. Imposing dignity of personal aspect or carriage.

a 1667 Cowley *Ess., Of Greatness* (1906) 429 Like a Daughter of great Jupiter for the stateliness and largeness of her person. 1784 Cowper *Task* v. 76 The cock foregoes His wonted strut; and..seems to resent His alter'd gait and stateliness retrench'd. 1833 Tennyson *Eleänore* iv, How many measured words adore The full-flowing harmony Of thy swan-like stateliness Eleänore? 1885 *Manch. Exam.* 20 Mar. 8/6 His bearing had always a kind of stateliness, utterly free from pomp or pretence.

6. Loftiness of diction, dignity of style in speech or writing.

1591 Harington *Orl. Fur.* Pref. ¶ iij b, Heroicall Poesie, that with her sweet statelinesse doth erect the mind. 1649 F. Roberts *Clavis Bibl.* 404 The Princely statelinesse of his stile hath inclined some to believe that he [Isaiah] was of the blood-Royal. 1789 Belsham *Ess.* I. xii. 231 The Spenserian stanza must be allowed to exhibit a certain air of stateliness. 1884 R. W. Church *Bacon* ix. 222 The statelines and dignity of the Latin corresponded to the proud claims which he made for his conception of the knowledge which was to be.

Stately (stē·tli), *a.* and *adv.* Forms: 4–8 **statly,** 5–7 **statelie,** 5–6 **-lye,** 5–7 *Sc.* **staitly,** 5– **stately.** [f. State *sb.* + -ly. Cf. the equivalent Estately *a.* and *adv.* in 14–15th c.

The G. *staatlich* of identical formation has now in the literary language only the sense 'pertaining to a (political) state or to the State'. In dialects, however, and in early mod. German, it has the meanings of the Eng. word, which in standard German have been transferred to *stattlich*, f. *statt* = Stead *sb.* Cf. Du. *statelijk*, Sw. *ståtlig*, stately, magnificent.]

A. *adj.*

1. Of personal appearance or demeanour, and of persons with reference to these. In early use, Befitting or indicating high estate, princely, noble, majestic. In later use, Imposingly dignified. (Occasionally said of animals: cf. 4 b.)

c 1385 Chaucer *L. G. W.* 1372 Thou rote of false lovers, duk Iasoun!..Thow madist thyn recleymyng & thyn luris To ladyis of thyn statly aparaunce. *c* 1430 Lydg. *Min. Poems* (Percy Soc.) 11 Sapience, To-fore whos face, most statly and rialle, Were the vij. science callyd libereallе. *Ibid.* 213 This stately fowle most imperial,..Callid in Scripture the fowle celestial. 1724 Ramsay *Vision* xi, He, with ..statily air, did me rebuke. 1877 Miss Yonge *Cameos* Ser. III. xi. 94 She was a good, sensible, and learned woman, but the stateliest of dames.

absol. 1868 Tennyson *Lucretius* 172 That council-hall Where sit the best and stateliest of the land.

b. Of movement, a person or animal in movement: Dignified, deliberate.

1593 Shaks. *Rich. II*, v. ii. 10 Bullingbrooke, Mounted vpon a hot and fierie Steed,..With slow, but stately pace, kept on his course. 1826 Disraeli *Viv. Grey* VI. ii, A whole flock of stately geese issued in solemn pomp from another gate.

2. Of persons, their dispositions or actions.

†a. Haughty, domineering, arrogant. *Obs.*

c 1440 *Alphabet of Tales* lxxx. 62 And sho was a passand fayr mayden emang all oþer, & with þat sho was passand statelie & prowde, & thoght skorn be evur ilk common man. *Ibid.* dcxlii. 428 He was neuer prowde nor statelye. *c* 1450 in Aungier *Syon* (1840) 361 For often tymes statly and unreligious porte causeth murmur and grudgynge to other. 1544 Betham *Precepts War* I. clxx. H vij b, The multitude neuer iustly ne egally can beare rule and offyce thorough theyr arrogaunte, stubburne, and stately conditions. 1577 Hanmer *Anc. Eccl. Hist.* (1619) 180 He presumed to waxe stately against his fellow Emperours. 1599 Hayward *1st Pt. Life & Reign Hen. IV* 4 Neither did the continuance of his Raigne bring him to a proude port and stately esteeming of himselfe, but in his latter yeares he remained so gentle and faire in cariage, that [etc.]. 1607 Topsell *Fourf. Beasts* 658 Such is the stately mind of this little Beast, that while her limbes and strength lasteth, she tarrieth & saueth her self in the tops of tal trees.

b. In milder sense: Showing a sense of superiority; repellently dignified; not affable or approachable. In recent use a euphemistic application of sense 1.

a 1625 Fletcher *Wit without M.* II. ii, This widow is the strangest thing, the stateliest, and stands so much upon her excellencies. 1688 Penton *Guardian's Instr.* 22 When I say I would have my eldest son a little stately: I do not mean any degree of that gross imperious Pride which God and Man hates. 1712 Swift *Let. to D'hess of Ormond* 20 Dec., [Your grace's picture] will set me labouring upon majestic, sublime ideas..; and will make those who come to visit me think I am grown on the sudden wonderful stately and reserved. 1841 James *Brigand* vii, When we did meet, he was distant and stately in his manner. 1848 Thackeray *Van. Fair* xlix, Their ladyships made three stately curtsies. *absol.* 1707 *Refl. Ridicule* 88 There are Women who think to act the Stately by affronting every body.

3. Of things: Appertaining to or befitting a person of high estate; magnificent, splendid.

c 1430 Lydg. *Min. Poems* (Percy Soc.) 3 In statly wise whan thei were mett, Eche oone welle horsed, made no delay, But with her mayer rood forthe in her way. 1433—*S. Edmund* I. 134 The statly royal date Whan I first gan on this translacioun. 1447 Bokenam *Saintes, Magd.* 870 Thou lyist here in a statly paleys, Bewrappyd in clothys of sylk & gold. 1555 *Act 2 & 3 Phil. & Mar.* c. 20 § 1 The Duchie of Lancastree, being one of the most famous Princeliest & Stateliest peeces of our said Sovereigne Ladie the Quenes auncyent Enheritance. 1583 Stubbes *Anat. Abus.* (1585) 65 Golde silke or silver lace of stately price. 1639 Fuller *Holy War* IV. xii. 188 [Lewis the ninth] arrived in Cyprus; where Alexius Lusignan King of the Island entertained him according to the stateliest hospitality. 1756 Nugent *Gr. Tour, Germany* II. 256 In winter they have races in stately sledges, besides masquerading and splendid balls. 1842 Tennyson *Ld. of Burleigh* 43 A gateway she discerns With armorial bearings stately.

b. of ceremonies, etc.

1593 Shaks. 3 *Hen. VI*, v. vii. 43 That we spend the time With stately Triumphes, mirthfull Comicke shewes. 1648 Gage *West Ind.* 16 The Dominicans..invited all the Jesuites ..to a stately dinner both of Fish and Flesh. 1891 E. Peacock *N. Brendon* I. 53 The most stately ritual that can be devised. 1899 A. C. Benson *Life E. W. Benson* I. xvii. 635 The circumstances of his life placed him in stately spheres of activity. 1911 W. W. Fowler *Relig. Exp. Rom. People* ix. 218 Meaningless as they were, the stately processions remained.

4. Imposing or majestic in size and proportions.

a. of inanimate things, a building, town, tree, mountain, etc. Also of a ship, now usually with some reference to its motion: see 1 b.

c 1450 in Kingsford *Chron. London* (1905) 142 And many moo good townys and stately villagis. 1586 A. Day *Eng. Secretary* I. (1625) 23 Woods high and decked with Stately trees. 1591 Shaks. 1 *Hen. VI*, I. vi. 21 A statelyer Pyramis to her Ile reare, Then Rhodophes or Memphis euer was. 1613–16 W. Browne *Brit. Past.* I. i. 10 Or the Nymph of Kent, That statelyest Ships to sea hath euer sent. 1632 Lithgow *Trav.* I. 25 This Prouince is mainely watered through the middle with stately Po. 1667 Milton *P. L.* IV. 142 And as the ranks ascend Shade above shade, a woodie Theatre Of statliest view. 1700 R. Cromwell in *Eng. Hist. Rev.* (1898) XIII. 116 A statly chine, accompanied with a fatt Turkey. 1784 Johnson in *Boswell* (1904) II. 569 When somebody talked of being imposed on in the purchase of tea and sugar, and such articles: 'That will not be the case', said he, 'if you go to a stately shop, as I always do.' 1842 Tennyson *Locksley Hall* 37 Many an evening by the waters did we watch the stately ships. 1914 *Blackw. Mag.* Sept. 301/1 From the walls of stately cathedrals and monuments, they being dead may yet speak.

b. of a person or animal. (Cf. 1 b.)

1653 Walton *Angler* I. ix, The Carp is the Queen of Rivers: a stately, a good, and a very subtle Fish. 1687 A. Lovell tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* I. 148 After them, came.. at length the Basha himself, mounted on a stately Horse. 1815 Byron *Hebr. Mel., Wild Gazelle* ii, The Cedars wave on Lebanon, But Judah's statelier maids are gone! 1825 Scott *Betrothed* xiii, Fourscore years had not quenched the brightness of her eyes, or bent an inch of her stately height. 1849 W. E. Aytoun *Lays Scott. Cavaliers* 113 When they scent the stately deer. 1851 Tennyson *Sonn. Macready*, Garrick and statelier Kemble, and the rest Who made a nation purer through their art. 1863 Geo. Eliot *Romola* I. xix, She looked up with one of her happy, loving smiles at the stately old man. 1907 *Verney Mem.* II. 488 A tall, dignified woman..and the mode in which her black hair towered above her forehead made her statelier still.

c. Of sound: Impressive, majestic.

1655 Stanley *Hist. Philos.* III. (1687) 102/2 Good Heavens, what voice is this, how strange and stately? *a* 1661 Fuller *Worthies, Cornw.* (1662) 196 The hall (rising above the

rest) yieldeth a stately sound as one entereth it. 1850 KINGSLEY *Misc.* (1860) I. 228 The stately calmness of the wood-dove's note.

5. Of speech or writing or its style; hence of a speaker or writer: Elevated in thought or expression, dignified, majestic.

1579 LODGE *Def. Poetry* 23 Yf you had wanted your Mysteries of nature, & your stately storyes, your booke would haue scarce bene fedde wyth matter. 1583 MELBANCKE *Philotimus* E iij, He might tricke his speech with a few superficiall colours, but all his statly style were not woorth a strawe. 1685 DRYDEN *Sylvæ* Pref. A 6, Virgil..maintains Majesty in the midst of plainess;..and is stately without ambition, which is the vice of Lucan. 1802 WORDSW. *Resolution & Indep.* 96 Choice word and measured phrase, above the reach Of ordinary men; a stately speech. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* iii. I. 404 That deficiency he did his best to conceal..by stately declamation.

absol. 1809 MALKIN *Gil Blas* xi. v. (Rtldg.) 404 He preferred the stately, or rather the grotesque in writing.

b. of a subject.

1602 WARNER *Alb. Eng.* x. lx. 266 Of which [Fleets and their commerce] shall be digested here the Progresse,.. Though stately be the Subiect, and to slender be our Arte. 1644 MILTON *Educ.* 5 Then will the choise Histories,..and Attic tragedies of statliest, and most regal argument..offer themselves.

†6. Powerful, effectual. *Obs.*

With quot. 1662 cf. G. *stattlich*, in early mod.G. said of medicines (Grimm s. v., II. 1. *c*).

1587 TURBERV. *Trag. Tales* 142 b, So statelie is the stroke of Cupids bow. 1662 R. MATHEW *Unl. Alch.* 78 Make a Lixivium or stronge lye of *Chalkes vive*, or White-lime for this is most stately, and operates very potently. *Ibid.* 177 One of the most potent, stateliest Medicines that I think is attainable in the World.

†7. Pertaining to the state or body politic. (*nonce-use.*) *Obs.*

1641 MILTON *Reform.* 73 What a perversenesse would it be in us of all others to retain forcibly a kind of imperious, and stately Election in our Church?

8. *Comb.*

a 1618 SYLVESTER *Woodman's Bear* xli, Shee was Strait proportion'd, stately-pased. 1777 T. WARTON *Poems* 79 Whate'er adorns the stately-storied hall.

B. *adv.* In a stately manner. Now *rare.*

†1. With splendid ceremonial or surroundings; in state. *Obs.*

c 1407 LYDG. *Reson & Sens.* 2662 Where that love, as I ha tolde, Stately holdeth his housholde With his meyne in gladnesse. 1568 GRAFTON *Chron.* II. 378 The King sitting in a Pauilion stately apparelled. 1648 GAGE *West Ind.* 84 Spaniards who thought nothing too good for us, and would entertain us stately.

†2. In a domineering or arrogant manner. *Obs.*

1449 *Paston Lett.* (1900) Suppl. 24 And ther to Mariot seyd stately, that myght not be performed. 1538 ELYOT *Dict., Imperiose*, stately, rigorousely. 1539 BP. TONSTALL *Serm. Palme Sundaye* (1823) 33 Whyles a noble manne..dyd prostrate hym selfe..and kyssed his shoo, whyche he stately suffered to be doone, as of duetie.

†3. In a noble or dignified form or style; so as to have a stately appearance. *Obs.*

1582 STANYHURST *Æneis* I. (Arb.) 17 Martyred in battayls, ere towne could statelye be buylded, Or Gods theare setled. 1625 BACON *Ess., Gardens* (Arb.) 555 When Ages grow to Ciuility and Elegancie, Men come to Build Stately, sooner then to Garden Finely. 1633 BP. HALL *Hard Texts, Ps.* cxxii. 3 Ierusalem is stately built. 1640 tr. *Verdere's Rom. of Rom.* III. 50 He met with a house very stately built.

4. With stately or dignified bearing, movement, or expression.

1584 LYLY *Campaspe* III. iv, How stately she passeth bye, yet how soberly! 1602 SHAKS. *Ham.* I. ii. 202 A figure ..Appeares before them, and with sollemne march Goes slow and stately. 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* xxv, A tall signor..who walks so stately. 1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* xvi, Both Earls moved slowly and stately towards the entrance. 1858 G. MACDONALD *Phantastes* iii, Tiny, gaily decorated forms,..moving stately on.

†5. In a fitting manner, properly. *Obs.*

c 1440 *York Myst.* xxvi. 82 We! bare sir, he skelpte oute of score [of money-changers in the Temple] bat stately stode selland þer store. 1513 *Bk. Keruynge* in *Babees Bk.* (1868) 269 And yf ye wyll wrappe your soueraynes brede stately, ye muste square and proporcyon your brede.

6. *Comb.*

1591 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* I. v. 891 The fair Peacock.. Proud, portly-strouting, stalking, stately-grave. 1592 KYD *Sp. Trag.* IV. i. 158 But to present a Kingly troupe withall, Giue me a stately written Tragedie. 1648 J. BEAUMONT *Psyche* VI. lxxxix, The Glass..weep'd to see its stately-beautious face Dissolv'd by one short Touch. 1728 THOMPSON *Spring* 777 The stately-sailing swan.

Statement (stēi·tmĕnt). [f. STATE *v.* + -MENT.]

1. The action or an act of stating, alleging, or enunciating; the manner in which something is stated.

1789 *Polit. Geog.; Introd. Statist. Tables Europe* 7 Not from an imaginary picture,..but exhibited in the sober garb of exact statement, backed with the irresistible force of arithmetical demonstration. 1841 MACAULAY *Ess., Ld. Holland* (1897) 600 In statement, the late Lord Holland was not successful; his chief excellence lay in reply. 1885 PEARSON in *Law Rep.* 29 Chanc. Div. 558, I think Mr. Farwell's statement of the law is correct. *Mod.* The book is a model of cautious and accurate statement.

b. *Mus.* A presentation of a subject or theme in a composition.

1883 *Grove's Dict. Mus.* III. 568/2 Occasionally the middle repeats [of the theme] are variations, and the first and last statements simple and identical. 1887 *Daily News* 22 Nov. 3/2 The Overture..is very brief, and bears few signs of maturity, although in the first statement of the second subject..occur some charming examples of [etc.].

2. Something that is stated; an allegation, declaration.

1775 ASH *Suppl., Statement*, the thing stated. 1787 MALONE *Diss. Three Pts. K. Hen. VI*, 37 This statement was taken from the old quarto play; and, from carelessness, was adopted by Shakspeare without any material alteration. 1796 JANE AUSTEN *Pride & Prej.* xxxvi. (1906) 176 She put down the letter, weighed every circumstance..—deliberated on the probability of each statement—but with little success. 1833 CRUSE *Eusebius* I. vii. 32 Neither of the gospels has made a false statement. 1838 *Civ. Engin. & Arch. Jrnl.* I. 239/1 There is much useful matter..to be culled from the statements of both parties. 1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) IV. 258 The moderns have certainly *no* reason to acquiesce in the statement, that truth is appearance only. 1905 J. B. BURY *Life St. Patrick* App. 279 The statement that he was ordained in his twenty-fifth year seems to stand alone

3. A written or oral communication setting forth facts, arguments, demands, or the like.

1787 MALONE *Diss. Three Pts. K. Hen. VI*, 15 A correct statement of the issue of King Edward the Third..is given in *The first part of K. Henry VI.* 1863 H. COX *Instit.* III. vii. 696 His annual statement to the House of Commons of the financial condition of the Kingdom. 1891 S. C. SCRIVENER *Our Fields & Cities* 43 Some of the farmers avoid paying taxes; they make a 'statement' instead. 1898 W. J. GREENWOOD *Commerc. Corresp.* (ed. 2) 155, I have decided to call a meeting of my creditors..when I shall submit to them a statement of my affairs. 1912 *Times* 19 Dec. 2/5 The plaintiff alleged by his statement of claim that [etc.].

b. *Comm.* (More fully *statement of account*): a document setting out the items of debit and credit between two parties.

1897 F. HOOPER & J. GRAHAM *Mod. Business Methods* 38 The next step is to send in what is called a Statement. This, as its name implies, is a short statement of account between the parties. 1910 FIELDHOUSE *Business Methods* 115 It is customary for the Creditor..to send to the Debtor ..a statement, which is an account, rendered at certain periods..giving dates and amounts only (no details) of each delivery of goods since the last Statement or balancing.

4. *Comm.* In certain branches of industry, a document periodically issued, setting forth the prices to be paid to workmen for various kinds of piece-work. Also *attrib.* as *statement price, wages.*

1889 D. F. SCHLOSS in *Charity Org. Rev.* Jan. 7 These workmen receive a rate of wages fixed by the Union and embodied in a 'statement'. 1897 *Daily News* 12 Apr. 2/5 In several cases manufacturers have offered..an increase of ten per cent. above statement wages. 1900 C. RUSSELL & H. S. LEWIS *Jew in Lond.* 79 [In the boot and shoe trade] the better class of work is still done by Englishmen under 'statement' prices.

State-monger, states-monger. *Obs.* exc. *arch.* [See MONGER 1.] A contemptuous designation for: A projector of political constitutions; a pretender to political science.

1616 J. LANE *Contn. Sqr.'s T.* IV. 375 Some mockd at somme, for state-mongers absurd, till scarce one of them all had one wise word. 1622 LD. KEEPER WILLIAMS *Let.* 17 Sept., in *Cabala* (1654) 111, I would therefore see the most subtile State-monger in the world chalk out a way for his Majestie to mediate for Grace, and favour for the Protestants. 1678 BUTLER *Hud.* III. ii. 999 This said; the impatient States-monger Could now contain himself no longer. 1682 D'URFEY *Butler's Ghost* 125 He finding that the warpt Statemonger Would preach his Canting Treason longer, Resolv'd [etc.]. 1826 SOUTHEY *Ess.* (1832) I. 347 The old balsam of memory should be prescribed for such state-mongers. [1844 DISRAELI *Coningsby* II. i, The Arch-Mediocrity.. though not a statesman, might be classed among those whom the Lord Keeper Williams used to call 'statemongers'.]

‖ Stater 1 (stā·tə1). *Antiq.* [a. L. *stater*, a. Gr. στατήρ, f. στα-, ἱστάναι (see STAND *v.*) in the sense 'to weigh'.]

1. An ancient weight.

According to Isidore *Etym.* XVI. xxv. it was half an ounce. In antiquity it was variously 2, 3, and 4 drachmæ.

1382 WYCLIF *Ezek.* iv. 10 Thi meet..shal be in weizt twenti stateris [1611 shekels (lit. from Heb.), LXX. σίκλους, Vulg. *stateres*] that is ten ounces. 1631 ANCHORAN *Comenius' Gate Tongues* 170 A statere [L. *statera*] is a weauers or clothiers pound to be carried.

2. A name of various ancient coins.

The gold coins so called were the Persian stater or DARIC, worth about £1 1*s.* 3*d.*, the Athenian stater, the Cyzicene stater. The name was also applied to various silver coins; in Roman times chiefly to the TETRADRACHM, as in Matt. xvii. 27.

1382 WYCLIF *Matt.* xvii. 27 His [*sc.* the fish's] mouth openyd, thou shalt fynde stater, that is, a certeyn of moneye. 1483 CAXTON *Golden Leg.* 202/4 He fond the Statere or piece of money in the fisshes mouth. 1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* I. viii. 32 Antoninus, whose apprehensions so honoured his Poems, that..for every verse, hee assigned him a Stater of gold. 1771 M. RAPER *Anc. Money* in *Phil. Trans.* LXI. 480 The silver Stater, or Tetradrachm, is the most common Attic coin now remaining. 1854 J. D. BURNS *Vis. Prophecy* 49 A fish to Peter's hook the Stater brings. 1881 JOWETT *Thucyd.* I. 216 The penalty was fixed at a stater. *Note.* If the gold *stater*, about 16*s.*; if the silver Athenian stater, about 3*s.* 3*d.*; if the silver Corinthian stater (ten Aeginetan obols), about 2*s.* 2*d.*

Stater 2 (stā·tə1). [f. STATE *v.* + -ER 1.] One who states. *Average stater* = average-adjuster: see AVERAGE *sb.*2 4 b.

1702 *3rd Let. to Gentl. in Country* 21 The Stater of the Case..makes me to affirm the Former. 1702 R. CROSFEILD *Affection of People* 6 Those Gentlemen that were then the Publick Staters of Accounts. 1820 LADY GRANVILLE *Let.* 6 Sept., Lett. (1894) I. 179 It is of no use what is stated when people are resolved not to believe the staters. 1884 *Times* 5 Apr. 5 Mr. Smith..for many years carried on business at Glasgow as an average stater.

‖ Statera. *Obs.* Pl. -æ. [L. *statēra*, prob. a. Gr. στατῆρα, accus. of στατήρ STATER 1, in the unrecorded (but etymologically probable) sense of 'balance'. Cf. It. *stadera.*] A steelyard.

1669 BOYLE *Contn. New Exp.* I. 23 The Weight..being taken off, and weighed in a Statera amounted to abovt 28 Pounds. 1793 *Statist. Acc. Scot.* VII. 563 The instruments they have for the purpose of weighing, are a kind of staterae or steelyards. 1822 IMISON *Sci. & Art* I. 35 The Statera, or Roman steel-yard, is a lever of the first kind.

State-room.

1. A state apartment; a room in a palace, great house, hotel, etc., splendidly decorated and furnished, and used only on ceremonial occasions.

1703 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 3943/4 Several Tables were plentifully covered in the State-Room, and in the Guildhall. 1742 YOUNG *Love of Fame* I. 170 When lo! my Lord to some small corner runs, And leaves state-rooms to strangers and to duns. 1853 FELTON *Fam. Lett.* vi. (1865) 40, I have seen but few places yet; but have passed through the state-rooms of the Tuileries. 1886 RUSKIN *Præterita* I. x. 308 A grand military dinner in the state room of the Sussex, at Tunbridge Wells. 1912 *Blackw. Mag.* Oct. 501/2 Prince Arthur.. stayed twice in the College, probably in the Founder's state-rooms.

fig. 1817 COLERIDGE *Biog. Lit.* II. 79 *note*, The mechanical system of philosophy..leaves the idea of omnipresence a mere abstract notion in the state room of our reason.

2. A captain's or superior officer's room on board ship. (Cf. *state-cabin*, STATE *sb.* 41.)

1660 PEPYS *Diary* 24 Apr., Very pleasant we were on board the *London* which hath a state-room much bigger than the *Naseby*, but not so rich. 1694 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 2982/3 The Yacht having lost in this Rencounter but 3 men, who were killed by one great Shot in the State-Room. 1748 SMOLLETT *Rod. Random* XXXV, A cabbin was made for him contiguous to the state-room, where Whiffle slept. 1834 M. SCOTT *Cruise Midge* xvii, The cabin had two state-rooms, as they are called in merchantmen, opening off it. 1836 MARRYAT *Midsh. Easy* xiv, In the captain's state-room they had found fourteen thousand dollars in bags.

3. *U.S.* A sleeping apartment with one or two berths on a passenger steamer.

1837 HT. MARTINEAU *Soc. Amer.* III. 152 On board steamboats which have not separate state-rooms, there are no means of preserving sufficient cleanliness and health. 1842 DICKENS *Amer. Notes* (1850) 1/1 This state-room had been specially engaged for 'Charles Dickens, Esquire, and Lady'. 1852 MRS. STOWE *Uncle Tom's C.* xv, There she is, sitting now in her state room, surrounded by..little and big carpet-bags, boxes, baskets. 1873 MEDLEY *Autumn Tour U.S. & Canada* v. 77 On the middle deck [of the steamer] is a splendid saloon,..with most comfortable sleeping cabins on both sides, which, by the way, are always called 'State-rooms'.

b. A private compartment in a railway train.

1867 W. H. DIXON *New Amer.* II. 291 On the Pennsylvania central line, a lady entered into my state-room. 1872 DE VERE *Americanisms* 359 In the new Palace Cars they pay more, if they engage a state-room. 1884 E. YATES *Recoll.* II. 264, I used to engage a 'state-room', *i.e.* a private compartment, on the train.

4. *Boating.* (See quot.)

1857 P. COLQUHOUN *Comp. Oarsman's Guide* 29 Sents termed 'thwarts', forward, midship, after, and backward thwart; the state-room being the space between the backboard or after, and the midship thwart.

†Statery. *Obs. rare*—1. In 7 statrie. [See -RY.] Affairs of state.

1606 WARNER *Alb. Eng.* XIV. lxxxii. 345 The Stories Nationall of Picts and Scots, once Kingdomes twaine Within the same,..Of Picts, Scots, Welsh be now abridg'd, such Turnes as times did see, Howbeit little Statrie.

States General. *Hist.* Also 6 general states. [= F. *états généraux*, Du. *staaten generaal.*] A legislative assembly representing the three estates, viz. clergy, nobles, and commons or burghers of a whole realm, principality, or commonwealth (distinguished from *states provincial*): **a.** in France before the Revolution; **b.** in the Netherlands from the 15th c. to 1796.

1585 J. NORRIS in *Eng. Hist. Rev.* (1903) Apr. 317 The Councell established in this towne for the generall states, *Ibid.* 318, I haue deferred to send..myndinge to morrowe.. to repaire to the states generall in Hollande. 1646 HOWELL *Lewis XIII*, ii. 40 The Assembly of the States General. 1673 TEMPLE *Observ. United Prov.* ii 75 As the States-General cannot make War or Peace..without the consent of every Province; so cannot the States-Provincial conclude any of those points without the consent of each of the Cities. 1677 DRYDEN *State Innoc.* I. i, Most high and mighty Lords, who better fell From Heav'n, to rise States-General of Hell. 1680 BUTLER *Rem.* (1759) II. 345 A Rabble Is a Congregation, or Assembly of the States-General sent from their several and respective Shops, Stalls, and Garrets. 1792 A. YOUNG *Trav. France* 108 They..assert that his letting the king go to the states-general, before their powers were verified,..was madness. 1875 STUBBS *Const. Hist.* II. xv. 265 The States General answer to the parliament of the three estates. 1876 BANCROFT *Hist. U.S.* I. viii. 240 Under the command of the stadholder and the states-general.

Statesman 1 (stēi·tsmăn). [f. *state's* genitive of STATE *sb.* + MAN *sb.*, after F. *homme d'état.* Cf. G. *staatsmann*, Du. *staatsman*, Sw. *statsman*, Da. *statsmand.* In sense 2, a separate formation on STATE *sb.* 34.]

1. One who takes a leading part in the affairs of a state or body politic; esp. one who is skilled in the management of public affairs.

1592 *No-body & Somebody* A 3 b, Your words are dangerous,

good honest subiect, Old reuerent states-man, faithful seruitor. 1599 B. JONSON *Ev. Man out of Hum.* II. vi, For that were to affirme, that a man writing of Nero, should meane all Emperours: or speaking of Machiauel, comprehend all States-men. 1600 W. WATSON *Decacordon* (1602) 222 A gentlewoman..saide to a secular priest..if you once become statesmen, and haue dealings with the Lords of the Counsell ..then I haue done with you. 1638 *Diary of Ld. Warriston* (S. H. S.) 295 Thou prayed earnestly for the Lords direction..about..the hol busines to be trusted to the staitsmen. *a* 1661 FULLER *Worthies, Gen.* vi. (1662) 16 The word Statesmen is of great Latitude, sometimes signifying such who are able to manage Offices of State, though never actually called thereunto. 1681 DRYDEN *Abs. & Achit.* I. 550 He..in the course of one revolving Moon, Was Chymist, Fidler, States-man, and Buffoon. *c* 1730 RAMSAY *Some of the Contents* iv, Lethington the statisman courts the Nine. 1774 GOLDSM. *Retal.* 38 Too nice for a statesman, too proud for a wit. 1839 LYTTON *Richelieu* I. ii. 213 Where the lion's skin fell short, he eked it Out with the fox's! A great statesman, Joseph, That same Lysander. 1891 *Times* 9 Dec. 5 [Lord Dufferin's] wide and varied training had made him not a politician but a statesman able to take Imperial views. 1912 J. H. ROSE in *Eng. Hist. Rev.* Oct. 702 The optimism which was the glory of Pitt as a man, but not seldom his weakness as a statesman.

attrib. 1728 SWIFT *Dial. Mad Mullinix & Timothy* 17 An able statesman-bishop. 1852 TENNYSON *Ode Wellington* 25 The statesman-warrior, moderate, resolute. 1906 E. G. SANDFORD *Mem. Abp. Temple* I. 260 He is also the greatest of the statesmen-bishops of Exeter.

b. *humorously.*

1718 *Freethinker* No. 8 (1733) I. 31 Numbers, who were present at his Tryal and Execution (not excepting our News-Writers and Garret-Statesmen) have not been able to agree about him. 1770 GOLDSM. *Des. Vill.* 223 Where village statesmen talked with looks profound, And news much older than their ale went round.

2. *dial.* (See quots.) Cf. ESTATESMAN.

A doubtful instance of this sense, much earlier than our quots., is found in a letter dated Oxford 16 July 1695 from James Fleming to his brother Robert Fleming ('att Rydall'), which begins 'Quondam Staits Man', and concludes 'I am Your affectionate Statets Man'.

1787 W. H. MARSHALL *Norfolk* II. 389 *Statesmen.* Yeomen; small owners. 1794 A. PRINGLE *Agric. Westmorland* 30 The great number of small land-holders, or statesmen above-mentioned..doing the work upon their own estates, with their own hands and those of their families. 1794 T. BROWN *Agric. Derby* 14 The smaller landowners, provincially statesmen. 1813 MARY LEADBEATER *Ann. Ballitore* (1862) 339 A statesman, which means in Cumberland phrase one who owns the fee-simple of his land, but works on it himself. *a* 1825 FORBY *Voc. E. Anglia, Statesman*, the proprietor of an estate. 1827 *Sporting Mag.* XXI. 27 What in this part of the world [Durham] is called a Statesman—Anglicè, a Yeoman. 1866 BROGDEN *Prov. Lincs.* 1890 *Leeds Mercury* 21 Feb., At Westmoreland Assizes.. yesterday..John Metcalfe, the son of a farmer and 'statesman' residing at Longmarton, was charged with [etc.].

†Sta·tesman [2]. *Obs.* [f. *States* (see STATE *sb.* 23) + -MAN.] A subject of the States of Holland.

1665 MANLEY *Grotius's Low C. Warres* 679 The Enemies Horse..violently falling into the Flank of the Statesmen, made a great slaughter.

Sta·tesmancraft. *rare*⁻¹. [See CRAFT *sb.*] The art of statesmanship.

a 1894 SIR A. H. LAYARD *Autobiogr.* (1903) II. iv. 93 He had qualities fitting him for practical statesmancraft.

Sta·tesmanlike, *a.* [f. STATESMAN [1] + -LIKE.] Having the qualities characteristic of a statesman; befitting or worthy of a statesman.

1801 W. TAYLOR in *Monthly Mag.* XII. 588 The admirable statesmanlike pamphlet of the Earl of Liverpool. 1838 DICKENS *Nich. Nick.* xvi, A statesmanlike habit of keeping his feelings under control. 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xi. III. 31 The orator who took the most statesmanlike view of the subject was old Maynard. 1885 *Public Opin.* 9 Jan. 34/2 Mr. Chamberlain..spoke with statesmanlike prudence and emphasis.

Sta·tesmanly, *a.* [f. STATESMAN [1] + -LY [1].] Pertaining to or characteristic of a statesman; befitting a statesman.

1845 R. W. HAMILTON *Pop. Educ.* v. (ed. 2) 95 There are patriots, statesmanly and philosophic, who would not for a moment touch that right. 1848 HARE *Guesses* Ser. II. 215 This is one of the main elements of the historical genius, as it is of the statesmanly. 1898 B. GREGORY *Side Lights* 497 A sagacious and statesmanly stroke.

Sta·tesmanship. [-SHIP.] The activity or skill of a statesman; skilful management of public affairs.

1764 CHURCHILL *Candidate* 286 We saw Thee nimbly vault ..Into the seat of pow'r, at one bold leap, A perfect Connoisseur in Statemanship. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* ix. II. 417 The whole history of ancient and of modern times records no other such triumph of statesmanship. 1905 LD. E. FITZMAURICE *Life Ld. Granville* I. xiv. 402 British Statesmanship had lost all reliance on the good intentions of the French Emperor. 1906 F. S. OLIVER *Alex. Hamilton* III. vi. 240 His idea of good statesmanship was good stewardship.

Stateswoman (stē·tswumăn). Pl. **-women** (-wimĕn). [f. *state's* genitive of STATE *sb.* + WOMAN, after STATESMAN [1].] A woman who takes part in the conduct of public affairs; a woman with statesmanlike ability.

1609 B. JONSON *Epicœne* II. ii, So she may..be a Stateswoman, know all the Newes, [etc.]. 1715 ADDISON *Freeholder* No. 45 P 9 Of this kind are the Passions of our Stateswomen, and the Reasonings of our Fox-hunters. 1845 DISRAELI *Sybil* II. xi, Lady Firebrace, a great stateswoman among the tories. 1885 *Society in Lond.* vii. 164 The Queen is a theologian as well as a stateswoman. 1912 E. RUSSELL *Maitland of Lethington* i. 14 The politic Regent..was stateswoman enough to appreciate these qualities.

transf. 1826 MISS MITFORD *Village* II. 88 She was..a perfect stateswoman; wound the whole school round her finger; and wanted nothing of art but the art to conceal it.

Stath(e : see STAITHE.

†Stathe, *v. Obs. rare*⁻¹. [a. ON. **staðva* (Icel. *staðva*, MSw. *staþva*, Norw. *støðva, stada*), f. OTeut. **stad-* : see STAND *v.*] *trans.* To put an end to, stop, still.

c 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 147 Hem was staðed wop, and turnden here wop to blisse.

†Sta·thel, *v. Obs.* Forms: 1 (ȝe-)staðolian, (ȝe)staðelian, 2 (i-)staðel(e. [OE. (*ge*)*staðolian*, f. *staðol* foundation: see STADDLE *sb.*] *trans.* To place on a foundation (*lit.* and *fig.*); to establish.

971 *Blickl. Hom.* 111, Þone rihtan ȝeleafan fæste staðelian on urum heortum. *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 115 Þes kingges rihtwisnesse arereð his kine setle and his sodfestnesse istaþeleð þes folkes stere. *c* 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 127 He makede his wunienge in þe wilderne and staðelede his liflode on fode and on shrude swo þat he was bicumelich to his wuninge. *c* 1205 LAY. 6777 Þis lond wes istaðeled, & stod i þon ilke fulle ten ȝere. *a* 1300 *E. E. Psalter* viii. 4 (Egerton MS.), The mone and sternes..þat þou staþeled for to be [*Harl.* þat þou staþheled swa; *Vesp.* þat þou grounded to be swa]. *Ibid.* xx. 12 Þai þought redes þat staþel þai ne might.

Stathel(e, obs. and dial. forms of STADDLE *sb.*

†Sta·thelfast, *a. Obs.* Forms: 1 staðolfæst, 3 staðelvæst, -fest. [OE. *staðolfæst*, f. *staðol* foundation (see STADDLE *sb.*) + *fæst* FAST *a.*] Firm, steadfast.

c 888 ÆLFRED *Boeth.* XXXV. § 3 He is ana staðolfæst wealdend & stiora. *c* 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Matt., Pref. (1887) 5/15 Cirica..ofer staðolfæst stan..ȝeseted is. *c* 1205 LAY. 9819 Þu hauest mucle treow-scipe treowðe staðelueste. *a* 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 71 In þis ilke burh wes wuniende a meiden..steðelfest wiðinnen, of treowe bileaue.

†Sta·thelness. *Obs.* [f. STATHEL *v.* + -NESS.] Solidity, firmness.

a 1300 *E. E. Psalter* lxviii. 3, I am festened in slime depe esse, And es þare na staþelnesse. *Ibid.* CXXXVIII. 15 And þe staþelnes ofe me In netherest ofe erthe to be.

†Sta·thely, *a. Obs.* [OE. **staðolig*, f. *staðol* foundation: see STADDLE *sb.* and -Y.] Steadfast, firm.

c 1205 LAY. 1600 Nes þer nan swa stæðeli þat lengore mihte stonden.

Stathmograph (stæ·þmŏgrɑf). *rare*⁻⁰. [f. Gr. *σταθμός* in the sense 'day's journey, stage' + -GRAPH.] (See quot.)

1884 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* Suppl., *Stathmograph*, an instrument invented by Dato, of Cassel, for recording the velocity of railway trains.

Static (stæ·tik), *a.* and *sb.* Also 7–8 **statick,** 7 **statique.** [ad. mod.L. *staticus*, a. Gr. *στατικός* causing to stand, also pertaining to or skilled in weighing, f. *στα-*, *ἱστάναι* to cause to stand, to weigh. The sb. (= F. *statique*, It. *statica*) is ad. mod.L. *statica*, ad. Gr. *στατική* (*sc. τέχνη*) the art of weighing, ellipt. use of the adj.] **A.** *adj.*

†1. Of or pertaining to weighing or the use of the balance: = STATICAL *a.* 1. *Obs.*

Static barometer = *statical baroscope*: see STATICAL 1. *Static chair*: the Sanctorian weighing chair (see SANCTORIAN *a.*) for determining the amount of insensible perspiration by weighing the body; *static medicine*, the branch of medical science concerned with the study of the variations of insensible perspiration as thus determined.

1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* IV. vii. 196 In the middle of summer,..a man weigheth some pounds lesse then in the heighth of winter, according to..the statick aphorismes of Sanctorius. 1676 J. DAVIES tr. *Sanctorius' Med. Statica*, Acc. Weighing Chair A 6, That perspiration which is commodiously weigh'd by the Chair, any one may easily understand by our Book of Statick Medicine. 1733 TULL *Horse-Hoeing Husb.* ii. 16 Sanctorious..by his Statick-Chair, found Five Eights of the Nourishment..pass off by insensible Perspiration. *a* 1734 NORTH *Life Ld. Keeper Guilford* (1742) 293 About this Time [*c* 1675]..Sir Samuel Moreland publish'd a Piece, containing a Device..This he call'd a statick Barometer.

†2. Pertaining to the effect of weight or the conditions of the equilibrium of weight: often said of experiments for determining specific gravity. Of a power or principle: Operative in the production of equilibrium; also *fig. Obs.*

1638 WILKINS *New World* I. (1684) 170 And that upon this Statick Principle; any Brass or Iron Vessel..whose Substance is much Heavier than that of the Water, yet being Filled with the Lighter Air, it will..not Sink. 1659 H. MORE *Immort. Soul* III. iii. § 10. 361 If we consider the nature of the Windes, the nature of these Vehicles, & the Statick power of the Soule. 1664 POWER *Exp. Philos.* II. 105 After a few vibrations up and down (as is Observable in all Statick Experiments) they arrive at a Counterpoise. 1668 HOWE *Bless. Righteous* i. 3 He..subjoyns some account of himself, in this his closure of the Psalm: *As for me*, Here he is at his statique point. *Ibid.* viii. 145 And if Philosophy and..Christianity, Reason and Faith have that statique power, can so compose the soul..in the midst of storms and tempests: how [etc.]. 1681–6 J. SCOTT *Chr. Life* II. vii. § 9 Wks. 1718 I. 444 Our City-Companies..still retain the same Laws and Charters, which are the statique Principles or Forms that individuate them, and keep them still the same. 1775 SIR E. BARRY *Observ. Wines* 391 It is very evident from Static experiments, that [etc.].

†b. Of a mental condition: Balanced, stable. *Obs. rare.*

1652 EVELYN *St. France* Pref. Let. B, It is..a thing extreamly difficult to be at all times, and in all places thus reserved, and as it were obliged to Temper so Statick and exact among all conversations.

3. Pertaining to forces in equilibrium, or to bodies at rest: opposed to *dynamic.*

1850 GROVE *Corr. Phys. Forces* (ed. 2) 74, I have used.. the terms dynamic and static to represent the different states of magnetism. 1857 *Edin. Rev.* July 36 The Voltaic battery reproduces the tension, and the earth repeats the neutralisation, and so the force which was static in the wire is rendered dynamic. *a* 1878 SIR G. SCOTT *Lect. Archit.* (1879) II. 303 Thus, purely trabeated architecture sleeps in safety, while arcuated architecture never ceases to exert force. The one is static, the other a dynamic style—only becoming static when its abutments are of undoubted sufficiency. 1881 O. J. LODGE in *Nature* XXIII. 303 Electrical energy may exist in..the static form, when [etc.].

b. Applied *spec.* to designate frictional as opposed to voltaic electricity. Cf. STATICAL *a.* 4 b.

1839 FARADAY *Exp. Res. Electr.* I. 534 *heading*, Theory of static induction. 1876 F. GUTHRIE *Magnetism & Electr.* (title of Book I), Frictional or Static Electricity. 1898 *Westm. Gaz.* 6 Jan. 2/1 A static current, such as produced by the Holtz machine, will be sent over the wires. 1890 G. M. GOULD *New Med. Dict.* s. v., *Static Breeze*, a method of administration of static electricity.

4. *transf.* and *fig.* = STATICAL *a.* 5.

1856 DOVE *Logic Chr. Faith* III. § 1. 129 Causation may be viewed either as static or dynamic. 1889 J. M. ROBERTSON *Ess. Critical Method* 5 It was very natural that the fresh mediaeval intelligence, to which the recovered past came as a splendid treasure-trove, should..set up the old standards of static criticism, to last till the influx of new knowledge.. wrought [etc.]. 1897 A. B. WALKLEY *Maeterlinck's Treas. Humble* Introd. 13 M. Maeterlinck boldly asks whether a 'static' theatre is impossible, a theatre of mood not of movement. 1904 *Edin. Rev.* Oct. 307 By a 'static' character we mean one that is a fixed quantity in the play; essentially the same force in magnitude and direction from the rise to the fall of the curtain. 1907 J. B. CLARK *Essent. Economic Theory* viii. 128 The Sign of a Static State.—The sign of the existence of a static condition is, therefore, that labor and capital, though they are perfectly free to move from one employment to another,..still do not move. *Ibid.* 131 Influences that disturb the Static Equilibrium. 1909 W. R. INGE *Faith* vii. 122 Revelation, like inspiration, is a process, not a static condition.

b. *Gram.* Expressive of a state as distinguished from an action or process.

1871 B. H. KENNEDY *Publ. Sch. Lat. Gram.* § 127 Many Static Verbs take the cause or motive of the state as an Object, and so become Transitive.

5. *Path.* and *Phys.* in various applications.

a. (See quot.) *rare*⁻⁰.

1855 DUNGLISON *Med. Lex.*, *Static*, an epithet applied to the physical phenomena presented by organized bodies in contradistinction to the organic or vital.

b. Structural or organic as opposed to *functional.*

1855 J. R. REYNOLDS *Diagn. Dis. Brain* II. ix. 126 Although post mortem examination can reveal no static (anatomical) change, the simple fact of convulsion is proof of dynamic (functional) disease. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* III. 639 We must avoid any confusion between the static results of past peritonitis and the slowly progressive changes of the chronic disease. 1899 *Ibid.* VII. 238 One of those anomalous fatal instances in which the medulla has been found apparently free from static disease.

c. Of a disease, etc.: Characterized by STASIS.

1878 T. BRYANT *Pract. Surg.* (1884) I. 92 Static or venous gangrene includes those [cases] in which stagnation of blood is caused by the mechanical arrest of the circulation through the veins.

d. Of or pertaining to a standing posture.

1898 *Syd. Soc. Lex.*, *Static ataxia*, the failure of muscular coördination in standing still, or in any fixed position of the limbs. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VII. 900 Saltatory spasm. Syn.—Saltatoric spasm; Static reflex spasm.

e. (See quot.)

1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VI. 829 There is no mental stimulus to the combination of the retinal images, and the eyes remain in their static or resting position.

f. Tending to maintain equilibrium.

1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VII. 372 The cerebellum normally exerts on the apparatus of movement, a sthenic, tonic and static influence.

6. *Machinery.* a. (See quot.)

1911 *Encycl. Brit.* XXII. 237/1 [Power transmission (Electr.)] Such disturbances [as minor surges] when trivial are commonly referred to as 'static'.

b. Of an electric transformer or generator: Having all its parts stationary, non-rotary.

1903 *Nature* 15 Jan. 248/1 The Hewitt Mercury Lamp and Static Converter. 1911 *Encycl. Brit.* XXVII. 173/1 [In a continuous current transformer] some part of the machine must revolve, whereas in the alternating current transformer all parts..are stationary; hence the former is generally called a rotary transformer, and the latter a static transformer.

B. *sb.*

1. = STATICS. Now *rare.*

1570 DEE *Math. Pref.* b iiij, Statike, is an Arte Mathematicall, which demonstrateth the causes of heauynes, and lightnes of all thynges: and of motions and properties, to heauynes and lightnes, belonging. 1578 W. BOURNE *Treas. Trav.* IV. 2 The which Art or Science, called Staticke, dooth shewe the heauinesse or lightnesse of any thing. *a* 1583 in Halliwell *Rara Mathem.* (1841) 33 Youre Honoure had some speeche, with mee, as touching measuring the moulde of a shipp. Whiche gave mee occasyon to wryte a litle Boke of Statick. 1873 [see DYNAMIC *sb.*].

2. The metrology of weights. *Obs. rare.*

1699 BENTLEY *Phalaris* 456 Talent originally is a word of Static [*printed* Statics, *but see Errata*], and means lx pound weight of any thing.

†3. (See quot.) *Obs.*⁻⁰

1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.*, *Staticks*, *Statici*, in Medicine, a kind of Epilepticks, or Persons seiz'd with Epilepsies. The Staticks differ from the Catalepticks, in that, these last [etc.].

Statical (stæ·tikăl), *a.* Also 6 **-all.** [formed as prec. + -AL.]

†**1.** Pertaining to the action or process of weighing: = STATIC *a.* 1. *Obs.*

Statical baroscope: a baroscope in which the varying weight of the air was rendered observable by the movements of a balance; so *statical hygroscope*. *Statical chair* = *static chair*: see STATIC *a.* 1.

1570 DEE *Math. Pref.* c j b *marg.*, The practise Staticall, to know the proportion, betwene the Cube, and the Sphære. 1578 W. BOURNE *Treas. Trav.* IV. 6, I wyll shewe vnto you a more pleasaunter..waye (by the Arte Staticall)..for to know the true wayghte of any Shyp. 1666 BOYLE in *Phil. Trans.* I. 233 So that I had oftentimes the satisfaction by looking first upon the Statical Baroscope (as for distinctions sake it may be call'd) to foretell, whether in the Mercurial Baroscope the Liquor were high or low. 1669 *Phil. Trans.* IV. 897 The Ingenious Sanctorius hath not exhausted all the results of Statical Indications. 1673 BOYLE (*title*) A Statical Hygroscope Proposed to be further tryed. 1732 ARBUTHNOT *Rules of Diet* in *Aliments*, etc. I. 401 If such a one by a statical Engine could regulate his insensible Perspiration..he might often..shorten his fit. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl., *Statical* is sometimes applied in a peculiar sense to the experiments made as to the quantity of perspiration and other excretions of the human body. 1779 J. ADAMS *Wks.* (1854) IX. 508 Suppose you should make a statical chair, and try whether perspiration is most copious in a warm bed, or stark naked in the open air. 1780 *Mirror* No. 79 To devise..some..statical balance which should shew the difference of weight and solidity of such objects as have a similar appearance.

2. Of or pertaining to STATICS.

1660 BOYLE *New Exp. Phys. Mech.* xxxvi. 299 The Atmosphere may..for ought can be determin'd by our Statical and Mechanical Experiments, rise to the height of Five and twenty German Leagues. 1685 — *Free Enq.* 253 This Ascension is made..by the Pressure of the Atmosphere, acting upon the Water, according to Statical Rules. 1820 SHELLEY *Let. Maria Gisborne* 83 Then comes a range of mathematical Instruments, for plans nautical and statical. *a* 1878 SIR G. SCOTT *Lect. Archit.* (1879) I. 61 A careful study of the monuments in which it [the pointed arch] is first systematically used clearly shows that its introduction was from statical, and neither geometrical nor merely æsthetical motives. 1880 *Nature* XXI. 369 Any true theory of the constitution of the ether would be something totally different from statical theories of this kind.

† **b.** ? *transf.* (Sense obscure.) *Obs. rare.*

a 1656 HALES *Gold. Rem.* (1673) 271 There are in Story two things especially considerable. First, the Order of the Story it self: and secondly, Moral, or Statical observations, for common life and practise.

†**3.** Pertaining to weight or the equilibrium of weight. *Obs.*

1714 PARKYNS *Inn-Play* (ed. 2) 23 For all other Statical Motions of humane Bodies, such as are curious may find them abridg'd, from Alphonsus Borellus [Quotation follows].

† **b.** Of analysis, etc.: Gravimetrical. *Obs.*

1727 S. HALES *Statical Ess.* Introd. (1731) 2 The most considerable and rational accounts of it [the animal œconomy] have been chiefly owing to the statical examination of its fluids. 1784 J. RICHARDSON (*title*) Statical Estimates of the materials of Brewing. 1813 SIR H. DAVY *Agric. Chem.* i. (1814) 14 The true statical analysis of the atmosphere is comparatively a recent labour

c. Pertaining to the metrology of weight. Cf. STATIC *sb.* 2.

1846 GROTE *Greece* II. iv. II. 425 The..information contained in M. Boeckh's recent publication on Metrology has thrown new light upon these monetary and statical scales.

4. Of or pertaining to forces in equilibrium or the condition of rest in bodies. Of forces: Operating to produce or maintain equilibrium.

1802 PLAYFAIR *Illustr. Huttonian Theory* 43 Whenever, therefore, we meet with rocks, disposed in layers quite parallel to one another, we may rest assured, that..no cause has interrupted the statical tendency above explained. 1830 LYELL *Princ. Geol.* II. xviii. (1835) II. 352 Let us, however, concede that the statical figure [of the earth] may be a modification of some other pre-existing form. 1837 WHEWELL *Hist. Induct. Sci.* (1857) II. 13 This includes the principle of the Composition of Statical Forces. 1839 G. ROBERTS *Dict. Geol., Statical Figure..*, the figure which results from the equilibrium of forces. 1867 THOMSON & TAIT *Treat. Nat. Philos.* I. § 451. 340 This, which is called Statical Friction, is thus capable of opposing a tangential resistance to motion which may be of any requisite amount up to μR. 1868 H. SPENCER *Princ. Psychol.* (1872) II. VI. xi. 141 The statical attributes shape, size and position. 1869 J. MARTINEAU *Ess.* II. 167 All forces..are dynamical..till ..they become statical. 1871 B. STEWART *Heat* § 195 The equilibrium suggested by Prevost is not therefore a statical or tensional equilibrium..but it is essentially an equilibrium of action. 1889 WELCH *Text Bk. Naval Archit.* ii. 22 This effort of the ship to right herself when inclined at any angle, is called her statical stability at that angle.

b. Applied to frictional electricity: = STATIC *a.* 3 b.

1837 FARADAY in *Phil. Trans.* CXXVIII. 20 Inductive effects produced by electricity, not in currents, but in its statical state. 1845 *Proc. Amer. Phil. Soc.* IV. 208 Statical induction takes place at great distances. 1849 NOAD *Electricity* (ed. 3) 187 The intensity of voltaic Electricity, as compared with statical, is exceedingly low. 1870 R. M. FERGUSON *Electricity* 107 Galvanic electricity..can be made to manifest the attractions and repulsions of statical electricity.

c. *Statical chemistry*: see quot.

1866 ODLING *Anim. Chem.* i. 1 (*heading*) Statical chemistry concerned only with the composition of parts...Dynamical chemistry concerned with the changes of composition undergone by various parts from time to time.

5. *transf.* and *fig.* Of or pertaining to a fixed or stable condition, as distinguished from a state of progress or change.

1855 G. BRIMLEY *Ess.* (1858) 196 Of all science viewed in its statical aspect, apart from the experience of change and the idea of cause, this classification, naming, and definition are the ultimate processes. 1874 FISKE *Cosmic Philos.* II. 371 The crude philosophies current..take what we may call a statical view of things. Hence they suppose that God created the world a few thousand years ago in nearly the same condition in which we now behold it. 1886 MAINE *Pop. Govt.* 47 The fund by which the life of the human race ..is sustained, is never in a statical condition.

6. *Math.* Concerned with magnitude alone, without regard to direction. *rare.*

1859 A. J. ELLIS in *Proc. R. Soc.* X. 87 The object of the statical algebra of fractions is to reduce all combinations of numerical fractions to numerical fractions...This algebra applied to geometry allows of the investigation of all statical relations.

7. *Med.* Structural, organic.

1896 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* I. 236 In most cases, however, our power to remove a cause by drugs ceases as soon as it consists of definite statical tissue change. 1898 *Ibid.* V. 481 We have in this chapter to deal with anæmia in its dynamical rather than in its statical aspects.

Statically (stæ·tikăli), *adv.* [f. STATICAL *a.* + -LY 2.] With reference to static conditions; by means of static electricity.

1854 FARADAY *Exp. Res. Electr.* (1855) III. 511 The copper wire becomes charged statically with that electricity which the pole of the battery connected with it can supply. 1859 A. J. ELLIS in *Proc. R. Soc.* X. 86 The problem of mathematics is, first, to discover the laws of these successions as respects results (that is, statically), by means of considerations drawn from contemplating operations (that is dynamical). 1862 MAXWELL *Sci. Papers* (1890) I. 498 Now let η_1 and η_2 be the same quantities of electricity measured statically. 1867 *Contemp. Rev.* VI. 410 Both [Catholicism and Feudalism] worked for good equally by their organization and by their action, or, to use more convenient technical words, statically and dynamically. 1870 R. M. FERGUSON *Electricity* 244 A telegraphic line may be charged statically. 1873 MAXWELL *Electr. & Magn.* II. xi. § 641. 254 The force arising from a system of stress of which these are the components will be statically equivalent, in its effects on each element of the body, with the forces arising from the magnetization and electric currents.

Comb. 1881 *Nature* XXIV. 616/1 According to this theory the earth-current consists in the return currents produced by the statically-induced change on the surface of the earth.

‖ **Statice** (stæ·tisĭ). [L. *staticē*, a. Gr. στατική, orig. fem. of στατικός causing to stand still (see STATIC *a.*) in the specific sense 'stopping flow of blood'.] A genus of herbaceous perennial plants, typical of the tribe *Staticeæ*, N.O. *Plumbaginaceæ*; a plant of this genus, esp. Sea Lavender.

1731 MILLER *Gard. Dict.*, *Statice*; Thrift or Sea Pink. 1745 R. JAMES *Med. Dict.* III. s.v., Dodonæus pretends that the *Statice* is of no Use in Medicine, but that the Flowers are beautiful enough in Garlands. 1837 P. KEITH *Bot. Lex.* 166 In some plants a single flower produces only single seed, as in Statice or Thrift. 1873 TRISTRAM *Moab* xviii. 353 Now pale lilac from a statice, now as softly red from the sorrel in flower. 1881 *Encycl. Brit.* XII. 262/1 [Greenhouse Plants.] Statices include some very highly ornamental plants. 1882 *Garden* 22 July 64/3 The Statice is a cloud of bluish grey.

Statics (stæ·tiks). [Alteration of STATIC *sb.*, after names of sciences in -ICS.] Originally, the science relating to weight and its mechanical effects, and to the conditions of equilibrium as resulting from the distribution of weight. In modern use, the branch of physical science concerned with the action of forces in producing equilibrium or relative rest, in contradistinction to *Dynamics* in its older sense as the science of the action of forces in producing motion. In recent terminology, Statics and Kinetics (= the older Dynamics) are the two branches of Dynamics.

1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.*, *Staticks* (Gr.) the science of weights and measures; a species of Mechanicks. 1664 BUTLER *Hud.* II. iii. 206 He had been long t'wards Mathematicks, Opticks, Philosophy, and Staticks. 1681 COLVIL *Whigs Supplic.* (1751) 83 Like some attempting tricks in Statics, Not vers'd in Euclid's mathematics. 1691 NORRIS *Pract. Disc.* 24 There is more Force and Vertue in one Single *Now*, than in many *Hereafters*. 'Tis not in the Moral as in Physical Statics;..here the nearer the Weight, the stronger is its Power. 1692 BENTLEY *Confut. Atheism* II. 11 Now this is a Catholick Rule of Statics; That if any Body be bulk for bulk heavier than a Fluid, it will sink to the bottom of that Fluid. 1700 MOXON *Math. Dict.*, *Staticks*, the Science of Weights and Measures, a Species of the Mechanicks, shewing the Properties and Motion of Ponderosity, or Heaviness and Lightness of Bodies, &c. 1837 WHEWELL *Hist. Induct. Sci.* (1857) I. 73 The mechanical doctrine of Equilibrium, is Statics. 1867 THOMSON & TAIT *Treat. Nat. Philos.* I. § 454. 342 We naturally divide Statics into two parts—the equilibrium of a particle, and that of a rigid or elastic body or system of particles. 1882 G. M. MINCHIN *Unipl. Kinemat.* 201 There are methods in Statics for calculating the resultant attraction of matter, or its components, without finding the potential.

b. with qualifying word.

Chemical statics, the statics of chemical bodies or systems of bodies. *Graphic(al statics*, the investigation of statical problems by means of drawings made to scale. †*Vegetable statics*, the study of the laws of the circulation of the fluids in plants.

1727 S. HALES (*title*) Statical Essays: containing Vegetable Staticks; Or, An Account of some Statical Experiments on the Sap in Vegetables. 1780 M. CUTLER in *Life, Jrnls. & Corr.* (1888) I. 80 The Doctor's discoveries in his vegetable statics..must be very useful in the culture and improvement of vegetables and fruit trees. 1876 MAXWELL *Sci. Papers* (1890) II. 492 On Bow's method of drawing diagrams in graphical statics. 1910 *Encycl. Brit.* VIII. 147/2 The most useful of these applications, collectively termed Graphic Statics, relates to the equilibrium of plane framed structures.

c. *transf.*; esp. in *social statics* (see quots. 1843, 1851).

1843 MILL *Logic* VI. x. § 5 [With Comte] Social Dynamics is the theory of Society considered in a state of progressive movement; while Social Statics is the theory of the *consensus* already spoken of as existing among the different parts of the social organism. 1845 GRAVES *Roman Law* in *Encycl. Metrop.* II. 768/1 Gaius..treats rather of the dynamics than of the statics of law—rather of those events or forces by which classes of rights begin, are modified or terminate, than of those rights and duties which accompany a given stationary legal relation. 1851 SPENCER *Soc. Stat.* XXX. § 1 Social philosophy may be aptly divided ..into statics and dynamics; the first treating of the equilibrium of a perfect society, the second of the forces by which society is advanced towards perfection.

Stating (stē··tiŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. STATE *v.* + -ING 1.] The action of the verb STATE.

1652 in *Verney Mem.* (1904) I. 519 W. R. had done nothing in order to ye stating of the accounts. 1652 NEDHAM tr. *Selden's Mare Cl.* 167 The Ancient Orators,..whilst they allege Examples about the stating of Questions in pleading, do mingle [etc.]. 1654 HAMMOND *Of Fundamentals* ix. § 9. 9 Many other inconveniences there are consequent to this stating of the question. 1662 JER. TAYLOR *Via Intell.* 8 Many of our Controversies and peevish wranglings are kept up by the ill stating of the Question. 1780 BURKE *Corr.* (1844) II. 333 When any new propositions are made without their explanations, their qualifications, and a full stating of their grounds. 1798 HUTTON *Course Math.* I. 49 Compound Proportion teaches how to resolve such questions as require two or more statings by Simple Proportion.

Stating (stē·tiŋ), *ppl. a.* [f. STATE *v.* + -ING 2.] That states; *spec.* in *Law* (see quots.).

1787 J. MITFORD *Plead. Suits Chanc.* (ed. 2) 42 The third part contains the case of the plaintiffs, and is commonly called the stating part of the bill. 1796 C. BARTON *Suit Equity* 27 The Premises, or, as more usually stiled, the Stating Part of the Bill. 1838 J. STORY *Comm. Equity Plead.* § 27. 20.

Station (stē··ʃən), *sb.* Forms: 4–6 **stacio(u)n**, 5 **stacon, stacyoun, stasyon**, 5–6 **stacyon**, 6 **statyon**, 6– **station.** [a. F. *station* (12th c.) ad. L. *statiōn-em*, noun of action f. *sta-*, *stāre* to stand. Cf. Sp. *estacion*, Pg. *estação*, It. *stazione*, and the popular form It. *stagione* season.]

I. Action or condition of standing.

1. The action or posture of standing on the feet; manner of standing. Now only in scientific and technical uses: see quots. 1891 and 1913.

Bipedal, quadrupedal station (Zool.) [= F. *station bipède, quadrupède*]: the having two or four feet respectively.

1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 65 These cerimonyes that this doctour calleth but small thynges, I suppose they be as stacyons, inclynacyons, gestures .. & suche other. 1599 B. JONSON *Cynthia's Rev.* II. v, If [she be] reguardant, then maintaine your station,..shew the supple motion of your pliant bodie. 1602 SHAKS. *Ham.* III. iv. 58 A Station, like the Herald Mercurie New lighted on a heauen kissing hill. 1650 BULWER *Anthropomet.* xxi. 234 Nature..allowes us two feet for the firmer station. 1861 HULME tr. *Moquin-Tandon* I. iii. 20 The quadrupedal station. 1891 *Century Dict.*, *Station*,..the manner of standing or the attitude of live stock, particularly of exhibition game fowls: as, a duckwing game-cock of standard high station. 1913 DORLAND *Med. Dict.* (ed. 7) 901 *Station*, the manner of standing; in ataxic conditions it is sometimes pathognomonic.

2. The condition or fact of standing still; assumption of or continuance in a stationary condition: opposed to *motion*. Now *rare*.

1606 SHAKS. *Ant. & Cl.* III. iii. 22 Her motion, and her station are as one. She shewes a body, rather then a life. *a* 1619 FOTHERBY *Atheom.* II. xi. § 1 (1622) 310 The vacuity of both Heauinesse and Lightnesse..is rather the principle of station, then of Motion. 1643 SIR T. BROWNE *Relig. Med.* 32 The natural motion of the Sun made them more admire him, than its supernatural station did the Children of Israel. 1658 OWEN *Temptation* iii. 53 If it [peace] be lost for a season, it may be obtained againe; I will not solicite its station any more;..and a thousand such pleas there are. 1660 STANLEY *Hist. Philos.* XIII. iv. (1687) 910/1 That Pleasure, wherein Felicity consists, is of the first kind, the stable, or that which is in station. 1841 EMERSON *Ess.*, *Compensation* 122 His life is a progress, and not a station.

3. A halt; a stand. Now *rare* or *Obs.*

1604 E. G[RIMSTONE] *D'Acosta's Hist. Indies* V. XXIV. 394 Presently they went from thence with like diligence, to go to a place..where they made their second station. 1609 J. DAVIES *Holy Roode* F 3 b, But now, my Soule, here let vs make a Station, To view perspicuously this sad aspect. 1657 HEYLIN *Eccl. Vind.* II. ii. 117 A portable Temple.. which might be carried and removed, according to the stations and removes of Israel. 1845 J. COULTER *Adv. in Pacific* viii. 100 After having enjoyed my first station here, I prepared my morning meal of terrapin,..and..I again commenced my march.

†**4.** An act of a pageant or a mystery play. *Obs.*

1474 *Cov. Leet. Bk.* 391 And at Babulake yate there ordeyned a stacion, therin beyng kyng Richard with xiij other arrayed lyke as Dukes, Markises, Erles [etc.]. *c* 1485 *Digby Myst.* (1882) II. 155 Fynally of this stacon thus we mak a conclusyon.

† **b.** In Ireland: Some municipal ceremony. *Obs.* [1560: see *station-day* in 29.]

5. *Astr.* The apparent standing still of a planet at its apogee and perigee.

1412–20 LYDG. *Troy-bk.* IV. 3366 Whan þe shene sonne In þe Crabbe had his cours I-ronne To þe hiȝest of his ascencioun, Whiche called is þe somer stacioun. 1551 RECORDE *Cast. Knowl.* (1556) 279 The progression, retrogradation, and

station of the Planetes. 1647 CUDWORTH *Serm.* 1 *John* ii. 3-4. 56 Those upper Planets in the Heaven..have their Stations and Retrogradations, as well as their Direct Motions. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* VII. 563 The Planets in thir stations list'ning stood. 1704 J. HARRIS *Lex. Techn.* I, *Points of Station*, in Astronomy, are those Degrees of the Zodiack, in which a Planet seems to stand quite still, and not to move at all. 1812 WOODHOUSE *Astron.* xxiii. 249 In speaking of the stations and retrogradations of the planets. 1819 J. WILSON *Dict. Astrol.* 379 *Stations*, those parts in the orbit of a planet where it becomes either retrograde or direct, because it remains for a while there stationary before it changes its course.

† 6. *Path.* The stationary point, crisis, a height (of a disease). Cf. STATE *sb.* 7, STATUS 1. *Obs.*

1661 LOVELL *Hist. Anim. & Min.* 437 Of the times of diseases, of the beginning, lesse considerable injury of action. ..In the augmentation worse...In the station worst...In the declination better.

II. Standing-place, position.

* In literal applications.

7. A place to stand in; *esp.* a position assigned to a man on duty, or in games.

1556 N. SMYTH *Herodian* I. 10 b, Yea, and the footemen whyche had stations within the cyte, came to rescue the people againste the horsemen. 1601 MOUNTJOY in *Moryson's Itin.* (1617) II. 157 The weather is so extreme, that many times we bring our Sentinels dead from the stations. 1606 SHAKS. *Cor.* II. i. 231 Seld-shownе Flamins Doe presse among the popular Throngs and puffe To winne a vulgar station. 1651 HOBBES *Leviath.* II. XXV. 136 Able Seconds at Tennis play, placed in their proper stations. 1665 MANLEY *Grotius' Low C. Wars* 251 Armed men stood round about in the Station, at the top of the Mast. 1679 M. RUSDEN *Further Discov. Bees* 93 Every particular Bee taketh notice of his Station. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 29 Jan. 1689, I got a station..at the doore of the lobby to the House, and heard much of the debate. 1760-2 GOLDSM. *Cit. W.* lix, I placed myself on my former station in hopes of a repeated visit. 1784 COWPER *Task* II. 624 A man o' th' town dines late, but soon enough..T'ensure a sidebox station at half price. 1833 NYREN *Yng. Cricketer's Tutor* (1902) 11 The..description of their different stations in the field, and of the importance of each in his station, will convince the young practitioner that [etc.]. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.* s. v., In most merchantmen the cry of 'Every man to his station, and the cook to the fore-sheet', is calling the hands and the idlers. *Ibid., Stations for Stays!* repair to your posts to tack ship.

In fig. context. 1609 DANIEL *Civ. Wars* VIII. civ, It were a Cowards part, to fly Now from my Holde,..It be'ing the Station of my life, where I Am set to serue, and stand as Sentinell. *a* 1669 DENHAM *Cato Major, Of Old Age* IV. 79 Pythagoras bids us in our station stand, Till God, our general, shall us disband.

b. Phrases, *to take (up), keep one's station.*

1667 MILTON *P. L.* XII. Argt., The Cherubim taking their Stations to guard the Place. 1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* (1840) II. iv. 91 They kept their station for a while. 1797 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Italian* I, They took their station under a balcony that overhung the lattice. 1840 DICKENS *Old C. Shop* xlvi, Even when she..sat pensively waiting for their friend, she took her station where she could still look upon them. 1849 HELPS *Friends in C.* II. i. (1854) I. 258 A gorgeous peacock that took his station on the low wall bounding the lawn. 1882 E. O'DONOVAN *Merv Oasis* xliv. II. 249 One of our companions took his station as sentinel upon the tomb of the little mosque.

c. A point at which one stands or may stand to obtain a view.

1822 'BARRY CORNWALL' *Poems, Flood of Thessaly* I. 138 From that high station Jove doth watch the world Its happiness and woe. 1858 HAWTHORNE *Fr. & It. Note-bks.* (1872) I. 50 Seven different views of the city, from as many stations. 1872 JENKINSON *Engl. Lake Distr.* (1879) 13 The three best stations are, at the foot of the lake, on its eastern side, and from near Tarn Hows. 1878 BROWNING *La Saisiaz* 11 Can there be a lovelier station than this spot where now we stand?

d. In wider sense: Position occupied (in other postures than standing). *rare.*

1667 KATH. PHILIPS *Lucasia & Rosania* Poems 127 I'd dwell within thine arms Could I my station chuse. 1770 W. SHIRLEY *Hymn*, '*Sweet the Moments*', Truly blessed is this station, Low before his cross to lie. 1822 SCOTT *Nigel* xii, The two friends, being seated in the most honourable station at the board.

e. *Boat-racing.* The position (at one side or the other of the river) occupied by a competing crew at starting.

1854 *Field* 2 July 2/1 The Oxford boat had the better station, and twice led by a length. 1868 *Ibid.* 4 July 14/3 University had the best or Berkshire station. *Ibid.*, A change of station might have altered the result.

f. The correct position of a vessel in a squadron. (Cf. *station-keeping* in 29.) 1911 WEBSTER.

8. *Surveying*, etc. Each of the selected points at which observations are taken. Formerly also †*place, point of station.*

1571 DIGGES *Pantometria* I. xvii. E iv, And thus proceede from station to station. *Ibid.* I. xxv. H j, A the toppe of the hill, B the foote, C my station or the place of mine eie. 1590 BLAGRAVE *Baculum Fam.* xviii. 27 Marke that station on the ground...Then measure exactly the distance betweene those two stations. 1610 HOPTON *Baculum Geodæt.* III. vii. 68 Appoint thy first station, and there place thy staffe, and take the angle of altitude, [etc.]. 1712 J. JAMES tr. *Le Blond's Gardening* 118*Station, is the Place where the Level is set for performing the Work of Leveling, so that one Cast of the Level is contained between two Stations. 1774 M. MACKENZIE *Marit. Surv.* 19 Draw out the Line C D, and it will cut the Circle in S, the Point of Station required. *c* 1791 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) VII. 674/2 Drawn from two points A and B, to the place of station C. 1875 *Encycl. Brit.* III. 387 s. v. *Barometer*, The heights read off from the pressures should be corrected for observations of temperature carefully taken at the upper and lower stations. 1880 L. D'A. JACKSON *Aids Surv.-Pract.* 112 A base line is measured,.. and a network of triangles conveniently arranged by choosing suitable positions for stations.

9. The place in which a thing stands or is appointed to stand. Now *rare* or *Obs.*

c 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* XIII. 18 Vlpike and oynouns in their stacioun To growe. 1626 CAPT. SMITH *Accid. Yng. Seamen* 11 The gunwayle, stations for the nettings, a chaine through the stations, or brest-ropes. 1669 J. ROSE *Eng. Vineyard Vind.* (1675) 25 This will likewise maintain them cold and fresh in summer, till they have struck and taken hold of their stations. 1687 DRYDEN *Song St. Cecilia's Day* 9 Then cold, and hot, and moist, and dry, In order to their Stations leap, And Musick's pow'r obey. 1693 EVELYN *De La Quint. Compl. Gard., Cult. Orange Trees* 19 As soon therefore as you bring forth your Trees, and have Rang'd them in the Stations where they are to continue, bestow upon them as plentiful a Watering as [etc.]. *a* 1701 MAUNDRELL *Journ. Jerus.* (1732) 78 Whether they were cut out of the Rock,..or whether they were brought, and fix'd in their station like other doors. 1711 ADDISON *Spectator* No. 98 ¶ 5 The Head has the most beautiful Appearance, as well as the highest Station, in a human Figure. 1792 *Baron Munchausen* xii. 39 With this balloon..I played many tricks, such as taking one house from its station, and placing another in its stead. 1831 SCOTT *Cast. Dang.* ii, Groups of alder-trees..which had maintained their stations in the recesses of the valley.

† b. The height at which the barometer stands.

1666 BOYLE in *Phil. Trans.* I. 237 When the Mercury..is either very high, or very low, or at a middle station between its greatest and least height. 1753 *Scots Mag.* XV. 16/2 [Barometer] Common station $30^1/_{10}$.

† c. *Arith.* = PLACE *sb.* 10. *Obs.*

1709-29 V. MANDEY *Syst. Math., Arith.* 17 The Divisor being removed one station, repeat this Process, until all the figures of the Dividend be wasted.

d. *Biol.* The kind of place in which an animal or a plant is fitted to live, the nature or essential characteristics of its habitat.

1721 BRADLEY *Philos. Acc. Wks. Nat.* 49 Which is the same case with that which I have mention'd to be natural to Plants, which are each of them confin'd to their several Stations. 1832 LYELL *Princ. Geol.* II. 69 Station indicates the peculiar nature of the locality where each species is accustomed to grow, and has reference to climate, soil, humidity, light, elevation above the sea, and other analogous circumstances; whereas by habitation is meant a general indication of the country where a plant grows wild. 1854 STARK *Brit. Mosses* 59 Giving such explanation of the terms as will.. enable the tyro Muscologist,..to assign their proper station and name to the mosses he may pick up. 1871 DARWIN *Desc. Man* I. xi. 403 Males and females of the same species of butterfly are known in several cases to inhabit different stations.

e. *Shipbuilding.* (See quot. 1913.)

1869 E. J. REED *Shipbuild.* ii. 29 An elevation of this Keel is given in Fig. 27...The stations are drawn in dotted lines. 1913 *Board of Trade Instr. Tonnage Measurement*, Rule 13. Points of division of length, or stations of the transverse areas.

10. *Naut.* a. More fully *naval station.* In early use, a port, harbour, or roadstead for ships. In modern use, a place at which ships of the Navy are regularly stationed.

1382 WYCLIF *Gen.* xlix. 13 Zabulon in the brynke of the see shal dwelle, and in the staciоun of shippes. 1615 G. SANDYS *Trav.* 22 The ruines [of Troy]..are..too neare the navall station to affoord a field for such dispersed encounters. *Ibid.* 38 At the West end thereof the Grand Signiors Gallies have a dry station. 1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.*, *Station*, a standing place, a Bay or Rode for ships to rest in. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* IV. 608 A large Recess,..A Station safe for Ships, when Tempests roar. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 10 Sept. 1677, Then we saw the Haven...The tide runs out every day, but the bedding being soft mudd it is safe for shipping and a station. 1708 J. CHAMBERLAYNE *St. Gt. Brit.* I. I. iii. (1743) 15 At Chatham is a Station for the Navy Royal. 1885 *Encycl. Brit.* XIX. 534/1 *Portsmouth*, a municipal and parliamentary borough, seaport, and naval station of Hampshire.

† b. A place in a harbour for the reception of a vessel. *Obs.*

1630 *R. Johnson's Kingd. & Commw.* 561 The Turkish Arsenals for shipping are foure; the first..containeth three and thirty docks or stations for so many Gallies.

c. A place or region to which a government ship or fleet is assigned for duty.

1666 in *Verney Mem.* (1907) II. 350 We shall have but 80 sayle this summer to fight the Dutch, the rest are designed for the western station. 1669 STURMY *Mariner's Mag.* I. ii. 18 Now we are in our Station, and a good Latitude. 1775 *Lond. Chron.* 14-16 Mar. 254/2 His Majesty's ship Coventry ..is under sailing orders for the East Indies, with dispatches for the Commander in Chief of his Majesty's ships on that station. 1813 SIR J. GRAHAM in C. S. Parker *Life & Lett.* (1907) I. 32, I hear from all the captains on the station that there cannot be a more promising youngster. 1912 *Times* 19 Dec. 11/1 She was fit for service on the Australasian Station.

d. The period for which a vessel is appointed to a particular station.

c 1764 NELSON in Mahan *Life* (1899) 54 To the end of the station his order was never repealed.

11. *Mil.* A place where soldiers are garrisoned, a military post.

In the first quot. (tr. L. *statio*) the body of men garrisoned. [1382 WYCLIF 1 *Sam.* xiii. 23 The staciоun of Philistym wente out [Vulg. *egressa est statio Philisthiim*].] 1609 HOLLAND *Amm. Marcell.* XVI. i. 55 Marcellus Generall of the Horse, who abode then but in the next stations, drave off to aid him. 1665 MANLEY *Grotius' Low C. Wars* 253 Prince Maurice..built a continuing Station for his Camp.. 1769 *De Foe's Tour Gt. Brit.* (ed. 7) III. 295 Between Hornby Castle and Kirkby-Lonsdale..stands Overborough, ..which was a famous Station of Antoninus, called Bremetonacum. 1802 C. JAMES *Milit. Dict.*, *Post*, in *war*, a military station; any sort of ground, fortified or not, where a body of men can be in a condition of resisting the enemy. 1876 VOYLE & STEVENSON *Milit. Dict.* 402/1 *Station, Military*, a locality chosen for the garrisoning of troops.

b. In India, a place where the English officials of a district, or the officers of a garrison (not in a fortress) reside. Also the aggregate society of such a place.

1860 W. H. RUSSELL *Diary India* I. xii. 194 The small and great pecuniary relations between the station and the bazaar. 1866 TREVELYAN *Dawk Bungalow* I. in *Fraser's Mag.* LXXIII. 231 Who asked the Station to dinner, and allowed only one glass of simkin to each guest? 1914 in *Cornhill Mag.* Dec. 811 The ordinary desultory after-dinner conversation of a small mofussil station.

12. The locality to which an official is appointed for the exercise of his functions.

1638 LITHGOW *Trav.* III. 116 Their..Priests are bred here, and from hence dispersed to their seuerall stations. 1667 PEPYS *Diary* 14 June, I am glad my station is to be here, near my own home. 1788 *Massachusetts Spy* 31 July 3/2 The 12th of March, Col. James Robertson's son..was killed at a sugar camp, within a few hundred yards of his father's station. 1802 J. BENSON in J. Macdonald *Mem.* (1822) 374 We have spent the four last days in preparing a draught of the stations of the Preachers. 1893 D. DAVIDSON *Mem. Long Life* VIII. (ed. 2) 198 Tanna was his judicial station.

b. *pl.* The annual list of appointments of Methodist ministers.

1885 *Minutes Wesleyan Conf.* 43 Each of the places mentioned in these Stations..is the head of a Circuit.

13. A place where men are stationed and apparatus set up for some particular kind of industrial work, scientific research, or the like. Often with defining word, as *fishing, seismological, telegraph, zoological station.*

1823 W. SCORESBY *Jrnl.* p. xl, This colony, which subsequently increased to a number of stations, has been continued. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXIV. 154/1 Any means of telegraphic communication which depends upon the deciphering of signals exhibited at a distant station is necessarily dependent upon contingencies of weather. 1861 MRS. MEREDITH *Over the Straits* I. 7 At Maria Island, the rocky hills and other so-called 'probation-stations'..the prisoners were used in tens and twenties. 1870 HUXLEY in L. Huxley *Life & Lett.* (1900) I. 332 How glad I shall be to see your plan for 'Stations' carried into effect. Nothing could have a greater influence upon the progress of zoology. 1883 GOODE *Fish. Industr. U.S.A.* (Fish. Exhib. Publ.) 68 The following is a list of the hatching-stations operated by the United States Fish Commission in 1883. 1885 W. K. BROOKS in *Mem. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist.* III. 367, Their fruitful harvest furnishes one with the earliest evidences of the value of marine zoological stations. 1912 *Standard* 20 Sept. 6/7 It has been decided..to establish a wireless telegraph station at Barfleur. 1913 *Nature* 14 Aug. 610/1 Milne's aim was to secure a great number of seismological stations, scattered as widely as possible over the globe.

b. = POLICE-STATION.

1889 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 4 Nov. 3/1 Proceeding to Leman-street police station..Mr. Davis found the entrance to the station barricaded with several crossings of red tape. 1901 MARY L. HENDEE tr. *C. Wagner's Simple Life* V. 65 The officer, though he finally collar the thief, can only conduct him to the station, not along the right road.

c. *Sc.* = PREACHING STATION.

1904 R. SMALL *Hist. U. P. Congreg.* II. 402 The station was opened..on the first Sabbath of November.

14. *Australia.* (See quot. 1898.)

1833 STURT *S. Australia* I. Introd. p. l, They..will only be occupied as distant Stock Stations. 1840 *Sydney Herald* 3 Jan. 1/7 My Station on the Lachlan River..was robbed by three armed Bushrangers. 1873 *Hobgoblins* 31 The impenetrable woods disappeared and they were soon in sight of the home Station. 1891 E. KINGLAKE *Australian* 116 His holding is called a 'station', never a sheep farm or cattle ranch, in spite of the English novelists. 1898 MORRIS *Austral Eng.* 436 *Station*, originally the house with the necessary buildings and home-premises of a sheep-run, and still used in that sense; but now more generally signifying the run and all that goes with it.

** In figurative applications.

15. *gen.* A metaphorical standing-place or position, e.g. in a class or enumeration, in a scale of estimation or dignity; and the like.

1605 SHAKS. *Mach.* III. i. 102 If you haue a station in the file, Not i' th' worst ranke of Manhood. 1611 BIBLE *Isa.* xxii. 19, I will driue thee from thy station, and from thy state shall he pull thee downe. 1681-6 J. SCOTT *Chr. Life* (1747) III. 124 The Apostles were placed in a higher Station than any of the rest, as being authorized by Christ to superintend and preside over them. 1772 MACKENZIE *Man of World* I. iv. (1823) 430 And he shortly attained the station of experienced vice. 1781 COWPER *Charity* 336 He..wins mankind, as his attempts prevail, A prouder station on the general scale. 1848 DE QUINCEY *Poetry of Pope* Wks. 1890 XI. 53 For not only is much that takes a station in books not literature; but inversely, much that really *is* literature never reaches a station in books. 1863 KINGLAKE *Crimea* (1876) I. 5 The invasion of the Crimea so tried..the enduring power of the nations engaged, that..their relative stations in Europe were changed. 1874 DUNGLISON *Med. Dict.* (Cent.), Given as a tonic, but not worthy an official station.

16. A person's position in the world; a state of life as determined by outward circumstances or conditions; *spec.* a calling, office, employment. Now *rare* or *Obs.* exc. in *private station*, an unofficial position.

1675 OWEN *Indwelling Sin* vii. (1732) 70 When any Lust grows high and prevailing..it is from the peculiar Advantage

that it hath in the natural Constitution, or the Station or Condition of the Person in the World. 1697 G. DALLAS *Syst. Stiles* I. Ded., Being perswaded by some persons of the greatest Quality in the Kingdom, and others in Publick Stations. *Ibid.* (89) King Charles..most deservedly Conferred upon your Lordship, not only Titles of Honour, but also several Eminent Stations. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 4 Feb. 1685, A Proclamation order'd to be publish'd, that all Officers should continue in their stations. *a* 1704 T. BROWN *Satire Marriage* Wks. 1730 I. 58 This pagan confinement, this damnable station, Suits no order, nor age, nor degree in thy nation. 1713 ADDISON *Cato* IV. iv, When vice prevails, and impious men bear sway The post of honour is a private station. 1725 DE FOE *Voy. round World* (1840) 276 It is easy to be placed in a station of life, where..gold ..would be of no value. 1726 SWIFT *Gulliver* I. vi, They believe that the common Size of Human Understandings is fitted to some Station or other. 1784 J. POTTER *Virtuous Vill.* II. 71 His sermon on Sunday se'nnight is to consist of some general observations concerning the marriage station. 1801 *Farmer's Mag.* Jan. 79 The soldiers and sailors employed, are unproductive branches of the community; and the stations formerly occupied by them, must one way or other be filled up by others. 1815 W. H. IRELAND *Scribbleomania* 82 The station of groom to a lanky-ear'd Neddy. 1819 SHELLEY *Peter Bell 3rd* VI. xii, It is a dangerous invasion When poets criticize; their station Is to delight, not pose. 1822 SCOTT *Nigel* x, George Heriot, with the formality belonging to his station, observed, that [etc.]. 1833 HT. MARTINEAU *Vanderput* ix. 134 God appoints his servants their station. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. II. v, Great in a private station, Necker looks on from the distance; abiding his time. 1842 DICKENS *Amer. Notes* iv. (1850) 47/2 It is their station to work. And they *do* work.

17. Position in the social scale, as higher or lower.

1682 SIR T. BROWNE *Chr. Mor.* I. xxvii, Content may dwell in all Stations. 1693 EVELYN *De La Quint. Compl. Gard.* I. 12 Not affecting to be dress'd or adorn'd above the common Station of a Gard'ner. 1742 SHERLOCK *Let.* in G. Harris *Life Ld. Hardwicke* (1847) II. 27 Your lordship's great character & station place you out of the reach of any little service I am able to doe. 1783 BURKE *Rep. Affairs of India* Wks. 1842 II. 45 The reasons, assigned by Mr. Barwell..seem to your committee to be..not very fit to be urged by a man in his station. 1803 *Edin. Rev.* Jan. 289 We are well off to have got so much from a man of this Lord's station, who does not live in a garret, but 'has the sway' of Newstead Abbey. 1837 LOCKHART *Scott* I. v. 156 If the club consisted chiefly of persons..somewhat inferior to Scott in birth and station. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* vii. II. 197 These were the highest in station among the proselytes of James. 1851 DIXON *W. Penn* xiv. (1872) 121 A young girl of great beauty and spirit,..and of his own station in society. 1862 STANLEY *Jewish Ch.* (1877) I. vii. 137 The prophets..were confined to no family or caste, station or sex.

b. *spec.* Elevated position, high social rank.

1731 SWIFT *On Death of Dr. Swift* 352 He never courted men in station. 1781 COWPER *Table Talk* 354 Such men are rais'd to station and command, When Providence means mercy to a land. 1824 W. IRVING *T. Trav.* (1848) 181 The villains could not sympathize with the delicate feelings of a man in station. 1832 HT. MARTINEAU *Ireland* VI. 91 Many other gentlemen of station and fortune. 1861 BROUGHAM *Brit. Const.* XX. 384 The army is officered by men of station and influence in the country.

III. A stopping-place.

18. A stopping place on a journey; a place of temporary abode in a course of migration.

1585 FETHERSTONE tr. *Calvin on Acts* xiii. 13. 299 Here is set downe another of Paul's stations. 1609 HOLLAND *Amm. Marcell.* XXVIII. xv. 349 Thinking with himselfe, what a deale of criminall matters he had brewed, in a certaine station [*marg.* or baiting towne]. 1796 H. HUNTER tr. *St. Pierre's Study Nat.* (1799) II. 500 My landlord, in another of my stations, has lived a very different life. 1825 SCOTT *Talism.* i, He joyfully hailed the sight of two or three palm-trees, which arose beside the well which was assigned for his mid-day station. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. VI. iii, They roll through the streets, with stern-sounding music,..pausing at set stations.

19. A regular stopping place on a road. Chiefly *U.S.*, a place on a coach route where a stop is made for change of horses and for meals.

1797 F. BAILY *Tour* (1856) 193 About half past nine we came to Graham station on the Kentucky shore; it may contain about twenty houses. 1834 J. HALL *Kentucky* II. 3 And every here and there a station—a rude block-house, surrounded with palisades, afforded shelter to the traveller, and refuge, in time of danger, to all within its reach. 1867 A. D. RICHARDSON *Beyond Mississippi* XXVIII. 330 (Funk) The ranches forty or fifty miles apart where passengers take meals, are termed 'home stations'; those where the coach only stops to exchange teams, 'swing stations'. 1872 'MARK TWAIN' *Roughing It* IV. (1882) 18 Then the rattling of the coach..awoke to a louder and stronger emphasis, and we went sweeping down on the station at our smartest speed.

b. *transf.*

1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VI. 808 Many of these nuclei are stations in long commissural fibre systems.

20. (More explicitly *railway station.*) A place where railway trains regularly stop for taking up and setting down passengers or for receiving goods for transport. Also, and more frequently, a building or group of buildings erected at such a place for purposes connected with the transport of passengers and goods. Also with defining word, *passenger, goods station.*

In English the word is applied not only to an intermediate stopping-place (like the F. *station*), but also to a terminus (= F. *gare*). In recent use, a stopping-place not provided with buildings is called a 'halt'.

1830 BOOTH *L'pool & Manch. Railw.* 46 This Railway will cost above £800,000 including the charge for stations and depots at each end. 1838 *Times* 5 June 5/1 Here there is a 'station' for supplying coals, water, &c. to the engine, and for the embarking and disembarking of passengers. 1840 F. WHISHAW *Railw. Gt. Brit. & Irel.* 128 [Grand Junction Railway]. Besides the terminal stations, there are the following intermediate stations. 1847 HELPS *Friends in C.* I. iii. 33 As Milverton was driving me from the station through Durley Wood, there was [etc.]. 1886 *Encycl. Brit.* XX. 234/2 Railway stations are either 'terminal' or 'intermediate'. A terminal station embraces (1) the passenger station; (2) the goods station. 1891 MEREDITH *One of our Conq.* XXV, The former was requested to meet her at Penshurst station at noon.

b. *Station-to-station* attrib. phr., used with reference to traffic between neighbouring stations.

1878 F. S. WILLIAMS *Mid. Railw.* 424 A piece of ground ..has been laid out for a stone, mineral, and station-to-station traffic. 1903 *Daily Chron.* 18 Dec. 6/3 They were asking Parliament to abolish some of the low station-to-station rates.

IV. Ecclesiastical uses.

21. *Hist.* A service at which the clergy of the city of Rome assembled at one of a certain number of churches within the city, each of which had its fixed day in the year for this celebration.

c 1410 LYDG. *Lyf Our Lady* lxii. (1484) i vj b, In a chirche whiche men of custome calle Sancta sanctorum..The same day there the prestys alle Solempnely make a stacion. 1483 CAXTON *Golden Leg.* 143 b/1 The pope ordeyned a stacion in that chyrche euery yere on ester day. *a* 1502 in *Arnolde's Chron.* (1811) 154 In the circumsicion of our Lorde is stacions to Saint Mari Transtiberine.

22. Each of a number of holy places visited by pilgrims in fixed succession; esp. each of those churches in the city of Rome at which 'stations' (see 21) were held, and to the visiting of which on certain days indulgences were attached. Also, a visit to such a holy place, or an assembly held there for purposes of devotion on the appointed day.

c 1380 WYCLIF *Wks.* (1880) 80 Þei techen men þat for staciones of rome..þei schullen haue þousandis of 3eris of pardon. *a* 1400 *Stac. Rome* (Vernon MS.) 230 And pardon in Rome þat is grete. Þe Stacions þer men hit clepe Pope Bonefas confermed alle. *c* 1450 *MS. Ashm.* 61 lf. 128 The stasyons of Jerusalem. 1513 BRADSHAW *St. Werburge* I. 2412 So dyd Offa..Deuoutly to vysyte all the hole stacyons of the cytee of Rome. 1528 ROY *Rede me* (Arb.) 106 Hathe Englond soche stacions Of devoute peregrinacions As are in Fraunce and Italy? 1546 LANGLEY tr. *Pol. Verg. de Invent.* VIII. i. 147 Gregory..named the pompous sacrifices stacions bycause thei wer celebrated on certain daies limited and prescribed by statute. 1547 BOORDE *Introd. Knowl.* XXXIX. (1870) 220 Forasmuch as ther be many that hath wrytten of the Holy Lande, of the stacyons, & of the Iurney or way. 1826 T. COLEMAN *Indulgences* etc. *Order Mt. Carmel* 18 When..we give the name of Stations to the visits we pay the churches or other places appointed by the Popes to pray there, we understand so many intervals of rest to gain the indulgences granted to those places. 1826 [J. R. BEST] *Transalpine Mem.* I. 130, I shall now transcribe..the account given in the 'Diario Romano'..of the ceremonies to be performed in Holy week...April 11th. Palm Sunday. Station at S. Gio. in Laterano.

23. *Stations (of the Cross)*: the series of images or pictures (usually fourteen in number) representing successive incidents of the Passion, placed in a church (or sometimes in the open air) to be visited in order for meditation and prayer; the series of devotional exercises appointed to be used on this occasion.

1553 BECON *Reliques of Rome* (1563) 185 b, Pope Alexander the sixt assigned the Iubile and Stations to be had in sundrie prouinces and countreis. 1837 J. E. MURRAY *Summer in Pyrenees* II. 113 Numbers of devotees may be seen..kneeling and repeating the prescribed Pater and Ave at the various stations, or chapels. 1863 [MARG. ROBERTS] *Denise* I. 141 A station (one of those little chapels commemorating the different incidents of the Passion of our Lord). 1881 *Parochial Hymn-bk.* [R. C.] § XXXVII. 701 The Franciscan Fathers erected Calvaries,..surrounded them with Stations (or pictures representing the chief circumstances of our Lord's last painful journey)...The Sovereign Pontiffs, who had already granted..Indulgences to the *real* Stations of our Lord's Passion, did not hesitate to extend the same to these representations of them.

24. Phrases. *To go, make, perform one's* (or *the*) *stations, to go on* or *for stations*: to perform the prescribed acts of devotion in succession at certain holy places, or at the Stations of the Cross.

a 1445? GASCOIGN *Life St. Bridget* in *Myrr. our Ladye* (1873) p. lii, When she was at Rome..she wente euery daye the Stacyons ordeyned by the churche. *c* 1461 *Bale's Chron.* in *Town Chron.* (1911) 141 A generall remission and pardon to assoille all þoo that hadde made any avowe to goo the Stacions of Jerusalem or to Room. 1485 *Digby Myst.* (1882) III. 1911, I have gon þe stacyones by and by. 1509 FISHER *Funeral Serm. C'tess. Richmond* Wks. (1876) 295 After dyner full truely she wolde goe her Statyons, to thre Aulters dayly. *a* 1540 J. HEYWOOD *Four P.* A j, Yet haue I been at Rome also And gone the stacions all arowe. 1574 HELLOWES *Gueuara's Epist.* (1584) 173 There was alwaies in the temple one priest alone..and those that went thither on stations, they might only kisse ye walls. 1687 A. LOVELL tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* I. 182 They made us perform the Stations at three Altars. 1702 MARWOOD *Diary* in *Cath. Rec. Soc. Publ.* VII. 119 Mond. 23 [Jan.]. In Classe the Esqr was a little Indisposed but Stayd it out, & held well all day after, but did not go for his Stations. *Ibid.* Wed. 25. He went his Stations in ye Morn...Thursd. 26...We were at my Ld W.[aldegrave] & at even made Station wth him. 1753 CHALLONER *Cath. Chr. Instr.* 220 And where there are many Churches the Faithful make their Stations to visit our Lord in these Sepulchres, and meditate on the different Stages of his Passion. 1815 MRS. SCHIMMELPENNINCK *Memoir. Port Royal* III. 283 When he had finished his stations, he returned to his beloved solitude.

25. A special service held at a holy place.

1447 BOKENAM *Seyntys, Elisabeth* 335 And eek at stacyowns wher sermons shuld be, She nold ben among þe statys hy, But among þe wummen of porest degre She alwey wold syttyn. 1554 tr. *Doctr. Masse Bk.* B vij b, The halowing of the fyre on Easter Euen. ¶ This wyse let there be a station vnto the fyre. Let the priest stand by the fyre,..and let ye deacon stand on his lefte hand, [etc.]. *a* 1843 in *Southey's Comm.-pl. Bk.* Ser. II. (1849) 8, I attended the stations that are performed in the chapels on Sunday evenings. *Ibid.* 9, I went to the Lough, and performed the station according to order, but found no ease to my troubled mind thereby. 1847 W. REEVES *Eccl. Antiq.* 301 A holy well where the Roman Catholics of old held stations at midsummer. 1890 J. HEALY *Insula Sanct.* 210 The Wedder's well..is still regarded as a holy well by the people who hold a station there on the feast of Brendan.

26. *Hist.* The bi-weekly fast (on Wednesday and Friday) anciently observed.

1637 GILLESPIE *Eng. Pop. Cerem.* III. iv. 78 No man taketh the Stations to have beene occasionall, but only set fasts. 1673 CAVE *Prim. Chr.* I. vii. 180 These fasts [weekly fasts kept on Wednesdays and Fridays] they called their stations—not because they stood all the while but by an allusion to the Military Stations and Keeping their Guards. *a* 1711 KEN *Urania* Poet. Wks. 1721 IV. 451 She sacred Fasts and Stations strictly keeps, And for the publick Provocations weeps. 1909 C. BIGG *Orig. Chr.* XV. 191 They fasted commonly upon the 'Stations', that is to say, on all Wednesdays and Fridays.

27. *Ireland.* A visit of a Roman Catholic parish priest and his curate to the house of a parishioner on a weekday, to give to those living in the neighbourhood the opportunity of confession.

1830 CARLETON *Traits Ir. Peasantry* (1843) I. 145 [The parish priest says] 'Take notice, that the Stations for the following week will be held as follows:—On Monday, in Jack Gallagher's,' [etc.]. 1844 *Min. Proc. & Evid. Athlone Election Petit.* 26 What do you mean by a station?—The priest goes to the house to hear the family their duties and confessions.

V. Combinations.

28. Obvious combinations: in sense 20, as *station-building, -clerk, -door, -foreman, hotel,* † *-keeper, -platform, -porter, -yard*; in sense 14, as *station hack, property, stock*; *station-bred* adj.; in sense 19, as *station-boss, -building*; in senses 23–26, as *station-chapel, -vigil.*

1872 'MARK TWAIN' *Roughing It* IV. (1882) 22 The *station-boss stopped dead still, and glared at me, speechless. 1890 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Col. Reformer* (1891) 223 Quiet *station-bred cattle. 1872 'MARK TWAIN' *Roughing It* IV. (1882) 19 The *station buildings were long low huts, made of sun-dried, mud-coloured bricks. 1898 *Engineering Mag.* XVI. 77 One range of station buildings suffices for the travellers by all the trains. 1890 A. J. C. HARE *S. E. France* 575 Seven *station-chapels rise..amongst the wormwood and lavender on the tufa rocks. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade,* **Station-clerk*, a railway clerk. 1860 W. COLLINS *Woman in White* XIV, She set them down outside the *station-door. 1901 *Westm. Gaz.* 24 Dec. 7/2 *Station foreman. 1890 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Col. Reformer* (1891) 101 The ordinary *station-hacks. 1862 *Bailey's Mag.* Sept. 156 Never for many years had York been so full before; and at the *station hotels Lords were as plentiful as partridges in Norfolk. 1846 *Commerc. Mag.* Oct. 134 He quitted the first-class carriage on reaching Rugby..desiring the *station-keeper to inform the directors, that [etc.]. 1907 J. H. PATTERSON *Man-Eaters of Tsavo* VII. 75 The 'boy' ..informed me that..an enormous lion was standing on the *station platform. 1886 W. J. TUCKER *E. Europe* 384 The station-master..filling the posts as he did of *station-porter, station-master, and chief of the postal and telegraphic department. 1890 *Golden South* 96 We invested ours in a large *station property. 1880 *Town & Country Jrnl.* (N. S.W.) 14 Feb. 314/4 The *station stock seldom feed near the road. 1898 BAYLAY tr. *Batiffol's Hist. Rom. Breviary* 14 Sunday vigils, *station vigils, vigils in cemeteries, each comprising a triple office. 1854 MRS. STOWE *Sunny Mem.* II. 184 We made a descent like an avalanche into the *station yard. 1886 *Encycl. Brit.* XX. 234/2 In laying out the approaches and station-yard of passenger stations ample width and space should be provided.

29. Special combinations: **station-bill** *Naut.* (see quot.); **station-day** † (*a*) in Ireland, the day of some municipal ceremony (sense 4 b); (*b*) *Eccl.* the day of a station or special service (see 21, 25); also, the day of the ancient bi-weekly fast (see 26); **station-distance** *Surveying* (see quot.); **station-finder** = *station-pointer*; **station-hand** *Australian*, a man employed on a station; **station hospital**, a hospital attached to a military station; **station-indicator** (see quot. 1884); **station-jack** *Australian*, a kind of meat pudding used in the bush; **station-keeping** *Naut.*, the maintenance of the proper relative position of ships in a moving squadron; **station-line**, (*a*) *Perspective*, the vertical line drawn through the point of sight (see also quot. 1704); (*b*) *Surveying* (see quot. 1875); **station meter** *Gas-making* (see quot. 1844); **station-point**, (*a*) *Perspective* (see quot. 1859); (*b*) *Surveying*, a station or the point on a plan corresponding to a station; **station-pointer** *Surveying* (see quot. 1876); **station-pole** *Surveying*, a pole set up at a station; **station-rod** = *station-staff*; **station-sergeant**, the police-sergeant in charge of a station; † **station ship**, a patrol vessel appointed to a particular station; **station-staff** *Surveying* (see quot. 1701); **station time** *Eccl.*, the time when a station is celebrated.

1815 *Falconer's Dict. Marine* (ed. Burney), *Station Bill* (*rôle de postes*, Fr.) a list containing the appointed posts of

the ship's-company, when navigating the ship. 1560 in Sir J. T. Gilbert *Cal. Anc. Rec. Dublin* (1891) II. 9 Fremen ..shall attende upon the Maior..at all *stacion daies, and not to depart tyll the stacion be done. 1563-83 Foxe *A. & M.* 1402/1 (Canon of Mass), In the city of Rome they sayd them [*sc.* collects] ouer the people collected together in the station day. 1637 Gillespie *Eng. Pop. Cerem.* III. iv. 78 Their set dayes of 150 fasting, which were called Station dayes. 1898 W. Bright *Some Aspects Prim. Ch. Life* iii, 118 Wednesdays and Fridays [were] called 'Station-days' apparently by adaptation of a term used for military duty. 1798 Hutton *Course Math.* (1807) II. 67 Measure the distances *from* station to station... And in measuring any of these *station-distances, mark accurately where [etc.]. 1875 W. Paterson *Notes Milit. Surv.* (ed. 3) 38 *Station-Distance*, measurements entered in the centre column of the field-book which are taken upon the station-lines from each station. 1888 W. H. Richards *Milit. Topogr.* 115 The problem is seldom used except for finding a ship's place with regard to points on the coast, which are shown on the chart; an instrument called a '*station finder' is generally used for the purpose. 1885 Rae *Chirps Austral. Sparrow* 99 Some *station hands had been in jail. 1894 H. Nisbet *Bush Girl's Rom.* xxix. 271 The station hands, who have to go out at daybreak, generally have their main feed then. 1901 *Empire Rev.* I. 435 The details of management of *station hospitals. 1884 Knight *Dict. Mech.* Suppl. 853 **Station indicator*, an indicator operating in connection with the driving-wheels to exhibit automatically the name of the station or street immediately preparatory to arrival. 1895 *Daily News* 28 Nov. 5/4 The station indicator has been in experimental running on this Company's Hounslow branch for many months past. 1853 *Emigrant's Guide Australia* 112 Take..the flour and work it into a paste; then put the beef into it, boil it, and you will have a very nice pudding, known in the bush as '*Station-jack'. 1886 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 19 Aug. 2/1 Giving me my first introduction to the mysteries of *station-keeping. 1898 Kipling in *Morn. Post* 5 Nov. 5/1 The ships haven't worked together, and station-keeping isn't as easy as it looks. 1704 J. Harris *Lex. Techn.* I, **Station-Line.* See *Line of Station. Line of Station*, in Perspective, according to some Writers, is the common Section of the Vertical and Geometrial Planes. Others, as Lamy, mean by it the perpendicular Height of the Eye above the Geometrick Plane. Others, a Line drawn on that Plane, and perpendicular to the Line expressing the Height of the Eye. *c* 1791 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) VII. 679/1 The distances taken by the off-set staff, on either side of the station-line, are to be entered into columns on either side of the middle column. 1798 Hutton *Course Math.* (1828) II. 68 As you go along any main station-line, take offsets to the ends of all hedges [etc.]. 1859 Ruskin *Perspective* Introd. 9 From S let fall a perpendicular line SR, to the bottom of the paper, and call this line the Station-line. This represents the line on which the observer stands at a greater or less distance from the picture. 1875 W. Paterson *Notes Milit. Surv.* (ed. 3) 38 *Station-line*, the one the surveyor walks along in measuring from one station to another, and from which he takes his angles, distances, and off-sets. 1844 *E. A. Parnell's Appl. Chem.* I. 145 A large meter, called the *station meter, is placed at the gas-works between the purifier and the gasometers, to ascertain at pleasure the quantity of gas made during any given period. 1859 Ruskin *Perspective* Introd. 10 On this line [the Station-line] mark the distance ST, at your pleasure, for the distance at which you wish your picture to be seen, and call the point T the *Station-point. 1880 L. D'A. Jackson *Aids Surv.-Pract.* 96 Some recorders use alphabetical letters to designate station-points. 1774 M. Mackenzie *Marit. Surv.* 24 Such an Instrument as this may be called a *Station-pointer. 1804 *Nicholson's Jrnl.* VII. 1 Description and Use of the Station Pointer; an Instrument for readily ascertaining the Situation of the Observer after having determined the angular Position of three known Objects. 1876 *Catal. Loan Collect. Sci. Apparatus S. Kens. Mus.* (1877) 733 Station Pointer, 6-inch. For placing the observer's position on the chart from angles taken between three objects, the relative positions of which are known. 1880 L. D'A. Jackson *Aids Surv.-Pract.* 112 The *station poles used as survey marks. 1835 *Lond. Jrnl. Arts & Sci* Conj. Ser. VI. 329 The graduated *station rods or staffs..placed perpendicularly.., the glass vessel at the lower station must be slidden up its rod [etc.]. 1890 *Daily News* 5 Dec. 7/1 The old term *station-sergeant will be substituted in lieu of sub-inspector. The pay of station-sergeants will commence at 45*s.* per week, as at present. 1901 *Essex Weekly News* 13 Sept. 6/5 Station-Sergeant George Card was found in the station shot through the heart. 1758 *Memoirs of Last War* 20 Being favoured therein by the casual Absence of the Canso *Station Ship, omitted to be sent that Year, as was likewise the usual Station Ship to Boston. 1658 Phillips, **Station-staff*, an instrument used in Surveying, being a streight pole divided into feet, inches, and parts of inches, from the bottom upward. 1701 Moxon *Math. Instr.* 19 *Station-staff*, made of 2 Rulers that slide to ten Foot, divided into Feet and Inches, with a moving Vein or sight, two of which are used with a Leavel, and on the edges we divide the Links of Gunter's Chain: used in Surveying for the more easie taking off Sets. 1708 *Brit. Apollo* No. 32. 2/1, 2 Station-Staves, with Moveable Vanes. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 359/2 Direct the object-end of the telescope successively to the station-staves held up on the different pickets. 1387 Trevisa *Higden* (Rolls) VII. 77 þere þe pope syngeþ þe masse þre Sondayes in þe 3ere in þe *stacioun tyme. 1643 in *10th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. v. 494 We..doe order that all Assemblies and station tymes that all the aforesaid persons respectivelie shall take their places as is aforesaid sett downe.

Station (stē·ʃən), *v.* [f. Station *sb.* Cf. F. *stationner* (1606 in Hatz.-Darm.), Pg. *estacionar.*]

1. *trans.* To assign a post, position or station to (a person, troops, ships, etc.); to place or post (a sentinel, etc.) in a station.

1748 Smollett *Rod. Rand.* xxix, I was not a whit more exposed than those who were stationed about me. 1760 *Inform. Dk. Gordon* v. *Earls Murray & Fife* 11 The bay which the river forms at its mouth in which ships are stationed. *a* 1781 Watson *Philip III* (1839) 91 Some companies of Scotch troops, which had been stationed in Cadsant. 1786 Burns *Tam Samson* iv, Wha will they [the Curlers] station at the cock, Tam Samson's dead? 1809 *Lond. Chron.* 29 July 101/2 Some sheep, which he had stationed upon a very deep declivity near the rocks. 1823 Scott *Quentin D.* xvii, Upon knocking gently at the gate, a brother, considerately stationed for that purpose by the Prior, opened it. 1842 Ld. Aberdeen in *Excheq. Rep.* II. 182 The laudable practice of stationing cruisers off slave-factory stations. 1849 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* i. I. 142 The troops stationed near London. 1867 Smyth *Sailor's Word-bk.*, *Stationing a Ship's Company*, arranging the crew for the ready execution of the evolutionary duties of a ship. 1892 Bierce *In Midst of Life* 108 Before stationing his men the young officer.. had [etc.]. 1903 *Union Mag.* Jan. 16/1 He was at that time 'stationed' in the Brixton Hill circuit in London.

transf. 1837 Lytton *E. Maltravers* I. i, He kept his eyes stationed on the door.

b. To place in a certain position in a list.

1865 *Nat. Hist. Rev.* 313 At the head of the order Dr. Günther stations the Typhlopidæ, Tortricidæ, [etc.].

c. *refl.* To take up one's station, post oneself. Also in *passive* with reflexive notion. Said occas. of a thing.

1780 *Mirror* No. 103 There is a..merry-looking dog of a sailor..stationed at the corner of the street where I live. 1826 F. Reynolds *Life & T.* II. 56 Stationing himself at the side, ..he said, 'There!' 1829 *Chapters Phys. Sci.* 343 According to the motions which the object makes, the image touches it or stations itself by its side. 1838 Lytton *Alice* I. viii, Lady Vargrave was stationed by the open window. 1889 W. Lockhart *Ch. Scot. 13th C.* vii. 79 The bishop stationed himself at the left corner of the church towards the east.

d. In *passive*, of a plant: To have a certain station or position of growth.

1837 P. Keith *Bot. Lex.* 323 Such species as have their barren and fertile flowers on distinct plants, do not perfect their fruit except where individuals of both sorts are stationed in the vicinity of one another.

2. *Shipbuilding.* To determine the proper position for (timbers).

1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XVII. 406/2 In stationing the timbers upon the keel for a boat, there must [etc.]. 1869 E. J. Reed *Shipbuild.* viii. 148 There was no necessity for stationing every beam at a frame.

Stational (stē·ʃənăl), *a.* [ad. L. *statiōnālis*, f. *statiōn-em* Station *sb.*: see -al. Cf. F. *stationnal* (in eccl. sense), Sp. *estacional* seasonable.] Of or pertaining to a station or stations, in any sense of the sb. *Stational mass*: see quot. 1905.

1610 Folkingham *Fendigr.* II. vi. 57 Now describe a Circle vpon this stationall point. 1620 — *Brachigr.* iv, The Puncts in the Paralels imply the fiue Vowels respectiuely sutable to their stationall Regions and priorities in vulgar enumeration. 1826 T. Coleman *Indulgences*, etc. *Order Mt. Carmel* 49 It is to be observed, that except on the above named days, there is no Stational Indulgence at Rome. 1863 Flor. Nightingale (*title*), The stational reports..on the Sanitary State of the Army in India. 1902 J. K. Mann *Hist. Popes* I. i. 284 This part gives the ceremonies to be observed in the celebration of a *stational* Mass by the Pope. 1905 Atchley *Ordo Rom. Primus* 32 A stational mass or station was one whereat the whole local Church was present (or represented), from the bishop to the layfolk. *Ibid.* 33 Preceded..by the stational cross. *Ibid.* 119 The stational church.

Stationar (stē·ʃənăɹ). *Eccl.* [ad. med.L. use of late L. *statiōnārius*: see Stationary *sb.*]

†**1.** Used to render G. *stationirer*, mendicant friar.

c 1540 H. Bell *Luther's Colloq. Mens.* (1652) 285 *Ik* will ere long com to that pass in Germanie (said Luther) as it is in Spain and in France, where no Preachers are, but onely Runners up and down, as in former time with us the Stationars were.

2. (See quot.)

1868 Walcott *Sacred Archæol.* 554 The Roman churches in which the Pontiff officiates on stated days are called churches of the stations or mansionary, and the assistant clergy are spoken of as stationars.

Stationarily (stē·ʃənărili), *adv.* [f. Stationary *a.* + -ly 2.] In a stationary manner.

1778 [W. Marshall] *Minutes Agric., Observ.* 158 *note*, The Barometer remaining stationarily heavy. 1872 Ellacombe *Ch. Bells Devon*, etc. 535 The usual way of mounting this 'chime' is to make the tenor swing, for occasional ringing, all the others being stationarily hung from trusses.

Stationariness (stē·ʃənărinės). [+ -ness.] The condition or quality of being stationary.

1727 Bailey vol. II, *Stationariness*, Settledness in a Place. 1797 Godwin *Enquirer* II. v. 231 All..depended upon the perennial stationariness of his understanding. 1803 Malthus *Popul.* III. ii. (1806) II. 119 On this happiness or degree of misery depends principally the increase, stationariness, or decrease of population. 1882 Farrar *Early Chr.* II. 9 When once settled in that city, St. James, with the natural stationariness of the Oriental, seems never to have left it.

Stationarity (stē·ʃənæ·riti). [f. Stationary *a.* + -ity.] The condition of stationary motion.

1901 *Nature* 11 Apr. 573/2 Signor Levi-Civita..is of opinion that Routh's definition of stationarity should be completed by adding the proviso that [etc.].

Stationary (stē·ʃənări), *a.* and *sb.* Also 5 stacionarye, *Sc.* stationeir, 6 stationarie. [ad. L. *statiōnārius*, in classical Latin 'belonging to a military station', f. *statiōn-em* Station *sb.*: see -ary. Cf. F. *stationnaire*, It. *stazionario*, Sp. *estacionario.*]

A. *adj.*

1. Having a fixed station or place.

a. Residing or established in one place; not itinerant or migratory.

1670 R. Coke *Disc. Trade* 15 As sundry Laws provided against wandring Beggers..so this Law provides for, and relieves stationary Beggers. 1768 Blackstone *Comm.* III. iv. 38 The court being thus rendered fixed and stationary. 1796 Mme. D'Arblay *Camilla* I. i, A passion for field sports had, with equal constancy, kept his brother stationary. 1815 Jane Austen *Emma* xxxvi, She has now been a longer time stationary there than she ever was before. 1831 Scott *Cast. Dang.* ii, We..scorn to be chased from our supper, or cheated out of our share of it by a dozen Scotchmen, whether stationary or strollers. 1851 Mayhew *Lond. Labour* I. 388 The stationary lace sellers, for the most part, display their goods on stalls. 1866 Geo. Eliot *F. Holt* ii. I. 67, I suppose I know the state of Europe as well as if I'd been stationary at Little Treby for the last fifteen years. 1870 Spencer *Princ. Psychol.* I. iv. v. 437 Instead of a stationary creature, suppose the creature contemplated to be one that habitually moves about in the water. 1900 *Daily News* 17 May 3/2 A field hospital is a very different affair from a stationary base hospital.

b. Standing still; not moving.

Stationary air, the amount of air which remains constantly in the lungs in ordinary respiration.

1784 Cowper *Task* IV. 147 No stationary steeds Cough their own knell. 1794 Mrs. Radcliffe *Myst. Udolpho* xxviii, It was still stationary, and she began to doubt, whether it was really animated. 1826 *Art of Brewing* (ed. 2) 48 The thermometer was stationary more than 30 hours. 1832 Brewster *Nat. Magic* iv. 65 So that the image may remain stationary. 1839 Dickens *Nich. Nick.* ii, The clerk calmly remained in a stationary position. 1862 Stanley *Jew. Ch.* (1877) I. xi. 211 The sun, being stationary, could not be said to stand still or to move. 1878 H. N. Martin in *Jrnl. Physiol.* I. 149 When..the lungs are emptied, some of this pure air must be left in the mouth, and, in the immediately succeeding inspiration, will be sent into the lungs as a sort of 'tidal air' with some of the air just expelled from them, which will correspond to the 'stationary air' of the mammal.

c. *Astr.* Said of planets at the portions of their orbits in which they have no apparent motion. (Cf. Station *sb.* 5.) Hence *stationary point* = 'point of station'.

1486 Lydg. *De Guil. Pilgr.* 12353 And cause hem [the Planets] in the fyrmament Ther tabyde stacionarye. *c* 1480 Henryson *Mor. Fab.* IV. (*Fox's Confess.*) iii, The planeittis ..Sum retrograde, and sum stationeir. 1665 *Phil. Trans.* I. 105 The star becomes stationary. 1700 Moxon *Math. Dict.* (1701) s.v., Hence a Planet is said to be Stationary, when he is about either of these his Stations. 1818 Woodhouse *Astron.* xxiii. 249 When a planet is stationary, the fact of observation is, that [etc.]. 1852 Hind *Astron. Vocab.*, *Stationary Points* of a planet's orbit are those in which as viewed from the earth, it appears to have no motion amongst the stars. 1901 *Athenæum* 27 July 131/2 Jupiter and Saturn ..are approaching their stationary points.

d. Having a fixed position; not movable. Of a machine or part of a machine: That remains in one spot when in operation.

1648 Wilkins *Math. Magick* II. iv. 172 Thus much of those Automata, which were said to be fixed and stationary. 1815 J. Smith *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 115 The forcing pump is furnished with two valves, which are both stationary. 1821 Craig *Lect. Drawing*, etc. ii. 96 By making everything in the scenery whether stationary or adventitious, darker than any part of the sky. 1825 J. Nicholson *Oper. Mech.* 661 The low pressure engines used in vessels, which are made twice as strong as stationary engines. 1840 H. S. Tanner *Canals & Rail Roads U. S.* 260 *Stationary engines* are used for effecting the ascent and descent of carriages along inclined planes. *Stationary plane*, a plane worked by a stationary engine and rope. 1869 Rankine *Machine & Hand-tools* Pl. P 5, Looking on the stationary-rivet end of the machine. 1881 *Nature* 29 Sept. 514/2 The instrument thus provides a stationary solar star-disk for continuous observation. 1889 G. Findlay *Eng. Railway* 5 Steam [in 1804] ..had been applied to the working of stationary engines.

e. *Stationary motion*: see quot. 1870.

1870 tr. *Clausius* in *Lond.*, etc. *Philos. Mag.* Aug. 123 By stationary motion I mean one in which the points do not continually remove further and further from their original position, and the velocities do not alter continuously in the same direction, but the points move within a limited space, and the velocities only fluctuate within certain limits. 1877 E. J. Routh *Dynamics Rigid Bodies* (ed. 3) 283 The first result is clear, since in stationary motion $\Sigma\dot{x} = 0$, &c.

†**f.** Of a battle: Fought without change of place.

1737 Whiston *Josephus* II. *Jew. War* VI. ii. 927 This fight was, for the most part, a stationary one.

2. *transf.* Remaining unchanged in condition, quality, or quantity; neither advancing nor retrograding.

1608 Wotton *Let.* Reliq. W. (1685) 565 Mine own businesses stand as they did: And..they are rather stationary then retrograde. 1646 Sir T. Browne *Pseud. Ep.* VI. xi. 332 By this way likewise the Moores escape the curse of deformity, there concurring no stationary colour, and sometimes not any unto Beauty. 1776 Adam Smith *W. N.* I. viii. I. 87 Though the wealth of a country should be very great, yet if it has been long stationary, we must not expect to find the wages of labour very high in it. 1789 A. Crawford in *Med. Commun.* II. 336 The ulcer..appeared to become stationary. 1801 *Med. Jrnl.* V. 64 He was discharged as cured by his physician, even at a time when his emaciation was stationary. 1848 Mill *Pol. Econ.* IV. vi. § 1 (1876) 452 At the end of what they term the progressive state lies the stationary state..all progress in wealth is but a postponement of this. 1856 Froude *Hist. Eng.* (1858) I. i. 53 Such laws could be enforced only..when production and population remained..nearly stationary. 1858 Ld. Acton in Gasquet *Ld. Acton & his Circle* (1906) 25 Theology is not a stationary science. 1872 Bagehot *Physics & Pol.* (1876) 211 As a rule a stationary state is by far the most frequent condition of man. 1892 Westcott *Gospel of Life* 288 A revelation which deals with man not as a stationary being but as advancing with a continuous growth. 1898 'Merriman' *Roden's Corner* ii. 16 It would never do if the world remained stationary.

†**3.** Standing, in contradistinction to sitting. *Obs.*

1659 H. L'Estrange *Alliance Div. Off.* 120 The stationary posture is most significant.

4. Of or belonging to a station or stations.

† **a.** *Surveying.* (Cf. *station-distance, -line.*)

1571 DIGGES *Pantom.* I. xxiii. G iij b, Draw an arcke rising from the same line that representeth your stationarie distance. 1610 HOPTON *Baculum Geodæt.* II. i. 19 That your stationary line, or line that you measure, be not too short.

† **b.** Of or pertaining to a military post. *Obs.*

1609 HOLLAND *Amm. Marcell.* 179 The stationarie or garrison souldiors. 1691 NORRIS *Pract. Disc.* 331 The Stationary Angels that wait upon the throne of God. 1781 GIBBON *Decl. & F.* xviii. II. 105 The stationary troops of Singara retired on the approach of Sapor.

c. *Eccl.*

1626 DONNE *Serm.* lxviii. (1640) 688 When we shut our doores, and observe our stationary houres for private prayer in our Chamber. 1693 W. W[OTTON] *Dupin's Hist. Eccl. Writers* I. II. 94 The Stationary days, that is to say, those days when several of the Faithful continued in Prayer and Fasting till Three a Clock in the Afternoon. 1872 SHIPLEY *Gloss. Eccl. Terms* s.v. *Acolyte*, In Rome acolytes were of four kinds: 1. Palatial..2. Stationary, who served in the church where a station was made.

5. *Stationary fever*: see quot. 1855.

A rendering of mod. L. *febris stationaria* (Sydenham).

1696 PECHEY *Sydenham's Wks.* I. ii. (1729) 5 Therefore I call these Fevers Stationary. 1742 J. SWAN *Sydenham's Wks.* I. ii. (1753) 5 *marg.*, Stationary fevers defined. 1855 DUNGLISON *Med. Lex., Stationary*, a name given by Sydenham and Stoll to certain diseases, which depend upon a particular state of the atmosphere; and which prevail in a district for a certain number of years, and then give way to others.

† **6.** 'Belonging to a stationer' (T.). *Obs.*

In the first quot. with reference to exposure in the shop of a 'stationer' or bookseller.

1630 I. CRAVEN *God's Tribunal* (1631) Ep. Ded. A 2, Consciousnesse of mine owne meanenesse and withall the great disparity twixt a liuely voice, and breathlesse lines, haue easily disswaded me hitherto from appearing in Stationary view. 1679–88, 1689, 1716, etc. [see STATIONERY 2].

B. *sb.*

† **1.** App. the title of an officer of the royal household: cf. STATIONER 1. *Obs.*

1485 *Rolls of Parlt.* VI. 375/2 Lettres Patents made under oure greate Seale to Piers Actores, of the Office of oure Stationary.

2. = STATIONAR 2.

1868 WALCOTT *Sacred Archæol.* 558 [Three orders of acolytes] Palatines..; stationaries, those connected with the arrangement of stations and processions; and regionaries.

3. Elliptical uses of the adj.

† **a.** A planet when stationary. *Obs. rare*—[1].

1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* II. xvi. I. 11 As also, that then they [the planets] are Stationaries in their houses which be in the middle points of the latitudes, which they cal eclipticks.

† **b.** An indulgence for attending a station. *Obs. rare*—[1]. [See note under MANUARY *sb.*]

1537 tr. *Latimer's Serm. Convoc.* ii. D j b, How some brought forth..pardons, & these of wonderful varietie, some Stationaries, some Iubilaryes.

c. One of a force of permanent or stationary troops. *Obs.* exc. *Rom. Hist.* (= L. *stationarius*), a member of a kind of military constabulary.

1698 FRYER *Acc. E. India & P.* 359 Besides 80000 Stationaries to and again in Garisons. 1727 H. HERBERT tr. *Fleury's Eccl. Hist.* I. 544, I will read the information given in by the Stationary concerning these persons here present. *Ibid.* 545 Since..you have not obeyed the stationaries and chief soldiers who sollicited you to renounce Jesus Christ in writing. 1853 KINGSLEY *Hypatia* xx, The stationaries are mine already. So are the soldiery all the way up the Nile.

d. A politician hostile to progress. Also *transf.* (*nonce-use*), one who does not wish to go forward.

1831 *Examiner* 225/1 'The lame and impotent conclusion' which the Stationaries are desirous of putting to the Revolution of July. 1852 MRS. P. SINNETT tr. *Huc's Trav.* xv. 234 The caravan became henceforth divided between the party of movement and that of resistance—the progressives and the stationaries.

Stationed (stē·ʃənd), *ppl. a.* [f. STATION *v.* + -ED [1].] In senses of the verb.

1735 SOMERVILE *Chase* III. 438 T'employ his station'd Legions in the Works of Peace. 1791 *Ann. Reg., Hist.* 187 Firing their broadsides on each hand with great spirit and effect upon the stationed ships. 1811 in *Rep. Comm. Publ. Rec. Irel.* (1815) 68 The two stationed copying Clerks. 1812 BYRON *Ch. Har.* I. li, The station'd bands, the never-vacant watch. 1900 G. J. HOLYOAKE *Sixty Yrs. Agitator's Life* I. xxi. 111 While I was a stationed lecturer in Sheffield, he lived in my house.

Stationer [1] (stē·ʃənər). Also 4 **statiner**, 5 **stacyener, stacyonere**, 5–6 **stacioner**, 6 **stacyoner.** [ad. L. *statiōnārius* (see STATIONARY), in med.L. used subst. for a tradesman (chiefly, a bookseller) who has a station or shop, as distinguished from an itinerant vendor. Cf. early Sp. *estacionario* bookseller, It. † *stazioniere* shopkeeper.

The direct adoption of the Latin word is accounted for by the fact that in the Middle Ages booksellers with a regular 'station' or shop were rare except at the universities; the typical example of such a trader was the *stationarius* licensed and controlled by the academic authorities, whom he was sworn to obey.]

1. † **a.** A bookseller; in wider sense, one engaged in any of the trades connected with books (cf. quot. 1625). *Obs.*

† *Flying, running stationer*: see the ppl. adjs.

[1262 *Memoranda Roll* 45 & 46 *Hen. III*, m. 9 b, Mandatum est vicecomiti quod venire faciat..Reginaldum stacionarium Oxoniensem ad respondendum Ricardo Brun de Rowell', clerico de scaccario, de I codice precii .xx. s. quem ei debet, et iniuste detinet, vt dicit.] 1393–4 *Rolls of Parlt.* III. 326/1 Statiners & Bokebynders del dit Universite [of Cambridge]. *c* 1440 *Jacob's Well* 27 And alle þo, þat makyn statutys ajens þe fredam of holy cherch, & alle wryteres of swyche statutes, & stacionerys. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 471/2 Stacyonere, or he þat sellythe bokys, *stacionarius, bibliopola.* 1479–81 *Rec. St. Mary at Hill* (1905) 101 Item, payd to a Stacioner for the grete Antyphoner, and for a quayer of clene stuffe sette into the same [etc.], xxij s. ij d. 1496–7 *Ibid.* 226 Item, to the Stacyener for settyng of all the new feestes in to the bookes that lakkyd them. 1529 J. TAVERNER in Arber *Transcr. Stationers' Reg.* (1875) II. 8 Item I gyue and bequeth vnto my crafte of Stacioners vj s. viij d. 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 33 b, He commaundeth also his Bokes should be brent, appoyntynge a greate penaltie herafter for the Stationers [orig. *librariis*]. 1572 in Feuillerat *Revels Q. Eliz.* (1908) 161 To the stacyoner for a lidger booke. 1612 ROWLANDS *Knaue of Harts* 29, I grieue thou hast a groate to buy this Booke:..I hate the Printer if he haue done well, And Stationer, that doth these humours sell. 1625 WITHER *Scholars Purg.* 116 An honest Stationer is he that exerciseth his Mystery (whether it be in printing, bynding or selling of Bookes) with more respect to the glory of God..then to his owne commodity. 1626 F. MORYSON *Shakespeare's Europe* v. i. (1903) 429 This one Vniversity [*sc.* Bologna] indeede hath two Academies, one of the nations beyonde the mountaynes, the other of those on that syde the Alpes...The Stationers are Chosen by three Citramontans, and three Vltramontans, 1679–88 *Moneys Secr. Serv. Chas. II & Jas. II* (Camden) 98 To Anne, relict and ex'trix of Samuel Mearne, dece'd, King Charles the 2d's stationer, in part of 862li 3s 4d for Church Bibles, Com'on Prayer Books, and other books,..215 10 0. *a* 1680 BUTLER *Rem.* (1759) I. 90 Thy Works..never have been known to stand in need Of Stationer to sell, or Sot to read. 1705 DUNTON *Life & Err.* (1818) I. vii. 254 He was the first stationer I ever dealt with. 1727 SWIFT *Poisoning of E. Curll* Misc. 1732 III. 19 Yet was it plain by the Pangs this unhappy Stationer felt soon after, that some poisonous Drug had been secretly infused therein. 1895 RASHDALL *Univ. Europe* I. iv. § 4. 191 [Bologna] The Stationer's primary business was to let out books on hire to scholars. *Ibid.* I. v. § 3. 416 [Paris] All Stationers and Booksellers were sworn to obey the University and were required to give security.

† **b.** A publishing bookseller, publisher. *Obs.*

1541 COPLAND *Guydon's Quest. Cyrurg.* To Rdrs., A certayne yonge gentyll man..moued the ryght honest persone Henry Dabbe bybliopolyst & stacyoner to haue it translated in to englyssh. 1615 W. LAWSON *New Orchard* Pref. (1623), The Stationer hath..bestowed much cost and care in hauing the Knots and Models by the best Artizan cut in great varietie. 1657 *Brome's Queenes Exch.*, The Stationer to the Readers. 1659 BP. WALTON *Consid. Considered* 21 The Prolegomena..came to his hands after he had finished his Treatise of the Scripture, and was ready to give it to the Stationer. *a* 1661 FULLER *Worthies, Gen.* xxv. (1662) 74, I have passed my promise..to my former Stationer, that I will write nothing for the future, which was in my former Books, so considerable, as may make them Inter-fere one with another to his Prejudice. 1673 OLEY *Jackson's Wks.* I. Pref. (d) 1 b, I..here set down all such particulars as may..contribute to the benefit..of the Reader, to the credit or caution of the Stationer.

† **c.** A scribe, copyist. *Obs. rare.*

1583 FULKE *Def.* iv. 238 The other translatours..left out that title altogither, as being no part of the text and word of God, but an addition of the stationers or writers.

d. A tradesman who sells writing materials and similar articles. Cf. LAW-STATIONER.

The sale of parchment, paper, pens, ink, etc. was originally a regular branch of the business of the 'stationer' or bookseller. The restriction of the term *stationer* to the dealer in these articles is first evidenced in quot. 1656; it had probably been in vogue in accurate mercantile parlance some time before, but was not established in ordinary use until the 18th century. Phillips (ed. Kersey 1706) s.v. *Stationers*, has the term *paper-stationer.*

1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr., Stationer*..is often confounded with Book-seller, and sometimes with Book-binder; whereas they are three several Trades; the Stationer sells Paper and Paper-Books, Ink, Wax, etc. The Book-seller deals onely in printed Books, ready bound; and the Book-binder binds them, but sells not. Yet all three are of the Company of Stationers. 1755 JOHNSON, *Stationer*,..2. A seller of paper. 1796 PEGGE *Anonym.* (1809) 155 A Stationer is now one that sells writing-paper, pens, &c. but formerly meant any one that kept a station or shop. 1812 H. & J. SMITH *Horace in Lond.* 164 My paper boasts no edge of gold; My stationer is Henry Hase. 1859 (*title*) The Stationers' Hand-book; and Guide to the Paper Trade. 1880 *Print. Trades Jrnl.* XXX. 35 The exhibition..will be intended more particularly for Printers, Paper Makers, Stationers, and kindred traders.

e. Possessive combinations: **stationer's knot, stationer's rule** (see quots.).

1870 *Routledge's Ev. Boy's Ann.* 601 The model tie of tradesmen is the Stationer's Knot. 1866 W. F. STANLEY *Math. Instrum.* 211 The Stationer's, or Cutting rule, is a piece of hard wood..with the edges covered with brass.

f. *The Company of Stationers* (or *the Stationers' Company*): one of the Livery Companies of the City of London, founded in 1556, comprising booksellers, printers, bookbinders, and dealers in writing materials, etc. *Stationers' Hall*: the hall of the Stationers' Company, at which a register of copyrights is kept. (The Copyright Act of 1842 provided that no action for breach of copyright could be brought unless the work had been entered in this register. The Copyright Act of 1911 abolished this rule.)

The charter of 1556 (ed. 1741, p. 6) is thus worded: 'Volumus, damus, et concedimus..Thomæ Dockwray..[*names of the Wardens and Freemen*] Liberis Hominibus Misteræ sive Artis Stationarii Civitatis Nostre Londinensis..quod de cetero sint..Unum Corpus de se in perpetuum [etc]'.

An earlier guild of stationers is said to have been established in London in 1403: see quot. 1529 in 1.

1566 *Star Chamber Decree* in Arber *Transcr. Stationers' Reg.* (1875) I. 322 All Bookes to be so forfaited, shall be brought into the Stationers hall in London. 1709 *Act* 8 *Anne* c. 21 § 2 Before such Publication be entred in the Register Book of the Company of Stationers. 1765 *Bickerstaff's Maid of Mill* Advt., This Opera is entered at Stationers Hall, and whoever presumes to Print the Songs, or any Part of them, will be prosecuted by the Proprietors. 1790 J. FISHER *Poems*, back of title, Entered in Stationers' Hall, according to Act of Parliament. 1859 *Stationers' Hand-bk.* back of title, Entered at Stationers' Hall. 1864 *Chamb. Jrnl.* 19 Nov. 748/2 'Almanac-day' at Stationers' Hall.

† **2.** One who has a stall at a market. *Obs. rare.*

1616 SHELDON *Surv. Miracles Ch. Rome* 174 Standing Stationers and Assistants at your miracle markets and miracle forges, are for most part of lewdest life.

Stationer [2] (stē·ʃənəɹ). *Naut. rare*—[1]. [f. STATION *sb.* + -ER [1].] (See quot.)

1857 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk., Stationer*, one who has had experience, or who has been some time on a particular station.

Stationery (stē·ʃənəri). Also 8–9 **-ary.** [f. STATIONER [1] + -Y.

The word seems to have been evolved from or suggested by combinations like *stationary ware*, where the first word was originally adj. (see STATIONARY *a.* 6), but was naturally taken as a sb. used attributively.]

1. The articles sold by a stationer; writing materials, writing-table appurtenances, etc. (see quot. 1887). (Not in Johnson or in Todd 1818.)

1727 BAILEY vol. II, *Stationary*, Stationers Wares. 1809 *Parl. Paper* (*title*), An Estimate of the Charge for Printing, Stationary etc...for Dublin Castle. 1828–32 WEBSTER. 1837 HALLAM *Lit. Europe* I. I. iii. § 145 They sold parchment and other materials of writing, which with us have retained the name of stationery. 1857 DICKENS *Dorrit* II. viii, To make a curious calculation of the amount of stationery consumed in it [*i.e.* the Circumlocution Office]. 1880 *Print. Trades Jrnl.* XXX. 35 A special exhibition of Printing Machinery, Paper, and Stationery is to be held. 1887 *Encycl. Brit.* XXII. 460/2 Under the name of stationery are embraced all writing materials and implements, together with the numerous appliances of the desk and of mercantile and commercial offices. In addition to these, the term fancy stationery covers a miscellaneous assemblage of leather and other goods, such as pocket books, purses, bags, card-cases [etc.]. 1894 J. RUSSELL *Remin. Yarrow* vi. 125 A rush was generally made to the desk where the stationery was kept.

2. *attrib.* as in *stationery business, trade, ware*; **stationery literature,** ballads, chap-books, etc., hawked about the streets; **Stationery Office,** an office in London through which government offices are supplied with stationery, and which issues the reports, etc. published by the government.

1679–88 *Moneys Secr. Serv. Chas. II & Jas. II* (Camden) 153 To Marg[t] Royston..in satisfacc'on of so much money due to her for stationery wares supplied by her husband to the Earle of Middleton,..133 11 0. 1689 *Order in Council* 24 Oct. in *Lond. Gaz.* No. 2500/1 Stationary Ware. 1716 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 5438/3 Proposals..for furnishing the Custom-House with Stationary Wares. 1798 *Rep. Comm. Ho. Comm.* (1803) XIII. 427 Stationary Office. This Office was established in 1786..with a view to the saving of Expenses, ..and to guard against Abuses in the application of the Stationary necessary for carrying on the business of Government. 1851 MAYHEW *Lond. Labour* I. 205 The street trade in stationery literature. 1859 *Stationers' Hand-bk.* 1 The Stationery trade. *Ibid.* 2 A stationery business.

Stationette (stāʃəne·t). [f. STATION *sb.* + -ETTE.] A small station.

1893 BURRELL & CUTHELL *Indian Mem.* 213 A..railway..conveys the traveller..to a stationette at the very foot of the mighty mountains.

Station-house.

1. The house provided for a coastguardsman at his station. *rare.*

1833 HT. MARTINEAU *Loom & Lugger* I. v. 89 If they sent an order to all us Preventive people to vacate our station-houses and march off.

2. The lock-up attached to a police-station.

1836 DICKENS *Sk. Boz, Visit to Newgate*, Tell them of hunger and the streets,..the station-house, and the pawnbroker's, and they will understand you. 1854 *John Bull* 1 July 411 Whallor was actually taken by a policeman to the station-house, the real criminal accompanying them, as witness. 1867 AUGUSTA WILSON *Vashti* xxxiv, Watchman McDonough..picked up, on the sidewalk, the insensible body of Maurice Carlyle, who showed some signs of returning animation after his removal to Station House No. —.

3. A railway station; now only, a small country station.

1838 *Times* 5 June 5/1 The station-house close to Maidenhead shows the terminus. 1846 MRS. GORE *Engl. Char.* 320 How different from the flashy gaudiness of a station-house albergo! 1850 HAWTHORNE *Amer. Note-bks.* (1868) II. 199 It [the train] dashes along in front of the station-house, and comes to a pause. 1891 'J. S. WINTER' *Lumley* ii, When Jock Airlie and the painter came out of the little station-house, they found [etc.].

4. A building at which travellers halt in crossing the desert. ? *nonce-use.*

1856 STANLEY *Sinai & Pal.* i. (1858) One solitary station-house and fort marks this wilderness (the Desert of the Tih.)

5. *Australian.* The house belonging to a station.

1894 H. NISBET *Bush Girl's Rom.* 234 Uncle Timothy, the sole representative of the nobler sex who could keep these ladies company at the deserted station-house.

Stationing (stē·ʃəniŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. STATION *v.* + -ING [1].] The action of the vb. STATION.

1801 J. BENSON in J. Macdonald *Mem.* (1822) 366 We have completed..the Plan for the stationing the preachers. *a* 1821 KEATS *Notes on 'Parad. Lost'* Wks. 1883 III. 28 But in no instance is this sort of perseverance more exemplified, than in what may be called his [Milton's] stationing or statuary,

1851 *Butler, Wine-dealer*, etc. 104 The stationing of many servants for due efficiency without confusion requires much judgment. 1914 *Eng. Hist. Rev.* July 474 Matters having to do principally with the stationing of troops and commanders in the West Indies.

attrib. 1822 J. MACDONALD *Mem. J. Benson* 321 The four following days he was fully engaged as a member of the Stationing Committee. 1902 *Daily Chron.* 4 Aug. 4/2 The Wesleyan Stationing Committee has issued a revised list of ministerial stations.

†Sta·tionize, *v. Obs.*—° [f. STATION *sb.* + -IZE.] *trans.* = STATION *v.*

1598 FLORIO, *Instazzonare*, to stationize.

Stationmaster (stē·ʃənˌmā·stəɹ). [f. STATION *sb.* (sense 20) + MASTER *sb.*] The official who has the control of a railway station.

1857 W. COLLINS *Dead Secr.* III. vi, Did the station-master issue the tickets for that train? 1866 DICKENS, etc. *Mugby Junction, No. 3 Branch Line*, Then the guard's whistle shrilled out, and the station-master made his last bow. 1889 G. FINDLAY *Engl. Railway* 15 The 'Station-master', attends to the passenger work.

So **Sta·tionmistress.**

1897 *N. & Q.* 18 Dec. 485/2 Her husband was killed in the service of the company, and she succeeded as stationmistress.

Statiscope, erron. form of STATOSCOPE.

Statism (stā·tiz'm). *rare.* [f. STATE *sb.* + -ISM.]

†1. Subservience to political expediency in religious matters. *Obs.*

1609 [W. BARLOW] *Answ. Nameless Cath.* 370 Religion turned into Statisme, will soone prooue Atheisme. 1626 R. BERNARD *Isle of Man* II. (1627) 137 The Billes of Inditement framed by those false Informers beforementioned,..Machiauilian Statisme [etc.]..against Christian Conference.., and the rest. *c* 1660 SOUTH *Serm.* (1715) 150 Hence it is, that the Enemies of God take Occasion to blaspheme, and call our Religion Statism.

†2. ? Political science, statecraft. *Obs.*

1620 E. BLOUNT *Horæ Subsec.* 40 Such as professe to read Theorie of Statisme.

3. Government of a country by the state, as opposed to anarchy.

1880 *Echo* 2 Jan. 4/1 The Nihilists do not believe in Communism, which is as bad as Statism, and equally deserving of suppression.

Statist[1] (stā·tist). [f. L. *stat-us* STATE *sb.*: see -IST. Cf. It. *statista* (in Florio 1611), F. †*statiste* (17th c.), Sp., Pg. *estadista*, G. *statist* (from 17th c.), Sw. *statist*.

The word probably originated in Italian, though evidence of its earlier currency in that lang. is wanting.]

1. One skilled in state affairs, one having political knowledge, power, or influence; a politician, statesman. Very common in 17th c. Now *arch.*

1584 SIDNEY in A. Collins *S. Lett.* (1746) I. i. 63 When he plais the Statist, wringing veri unlukkili some of Machiavels Axiomes to serve his Purpos then indeed; then he tryumphes. *c* 1590 *Sir T. More* (Malone Soc.) 772 Hees great in studie, thats the statists grace that gaines more reuerence then the outward place. 1600 W. WATSON *Decacordon* (1602) 222 Thereby shall be seene.. whether the seculars or Iesuits are greater statists: that is, intermedlers in state affairs. 1602 SHAKS. *Ham.* v. ii. 33. 1641 MILTON *Reform.* 10 They suffer'd themselvs to be the common stales to countenance with their prostituted Gravities every Politick Fetch that was then on foot, as oft as the Potent Statists pleas'd to employ them. 1643 SIR T. BROWNE *Relig. Med.* II. xiii, Statists that labour to contrive a Commonwealth without poverty, take away the object of charity. 1691 [S. BETHEL] *Provid. God* (1694) 29 This Government of ours has been by our late Kings carried on by Tricks, which our Statists valued themselves upon, as the Effect of their great Wisdom. 1799 WORDSW. *Poet's Epitaph* 1 Art thou a Statist in the van Of public conflicts trained and bred? 1850 HANNAY *Singleton Fontenoy* IV. ii, There was a statist in embryo; there was a leading-article man. 1875 BROWNING *Aristoph. Apol.* 17 To lift along the athlete and ensure A second wreath, proposed by fools for first, The statist's olive as the poet's bay.

2. One who deals with statistics, a statistician.

1803 *Edin. Rev.* II. 304 If Mr. Catteau's authority is called in question we are ready to corroborate it by the testimony of more than one dozen German statists. 1846 *Times* 18 Aug. 6/3 A statist is a student of statistics, i. e. a man who computes and analyses everything that relates to the visible state or condition of man. 1863 KINGLAKE *Crimea* (1880) VI. viii. 181 With these numbers before him.. a Statist will quickly educe what he calls the 'percentages'. 1892 *Daily News* 29 Jan. 5/5 The Government Statist of the Colony of Victoria.

†Statist[2]. *Obs. rare*—[1]. [a. G. *statist*, app. f. L. *stat-us* standing (see STATE *sb.*) + -IST.] A supernumerary actor on the stage who simply poses or stands by.

1807 *Goede's Trav. Eng.* 264 The theatre at Paris possesses a far greater number of excellent dancers of both sexes than that of London; and its statists and figurants are comparatively more skilful than on the latter.

†Stati·stial, *a. Obs. rare.* [f. STATIST[1] + -(I)AL. (But perh. a misprint for STATISTICAL, which occurs in the same book.)] Political.

1600 W. WATSON *Decacordon* (1602) 11 Continually diswading from all such statistial affaires. *Ibid.* 349 Statistiall deuises.

Statistic (stăti·stik), *a.* and *sb.* [ad. G. *statistik* sb. *statistisch* adj., F. *statistique* adj. and fem. sb., ad. mod.L. *statisticus*, f. **statista* (It. *statista*) STATIST. Cf. It. *statistico* adj., *statistica* sb., Sp., Pg. *estadistico* adj., *estadística* sb.

The earliest known occurrence of the word seems to be in the title of the satirical work *Microscopium Statisticum*, by 'Helenus Politanus', Frankfort (?), 1672. Here the sense is prob. 'pertaining to statists or to statecraft' (cf. STATISTICAL *a.* 1). The earliest use of the adj. in anything resembling its present meaning is found in mod.L. *statisticum collegium*, said to have been used by Martin Schmeizel (professor at Jena, died 1747) for a course of lectures on the constitutions, resources, and policy of the various States of the world. The G. *statistik* was used as a name for this department of knowledge by G. Achenwall in his *Vorbereitung zur Staatswissenschaft* (1748); the context shows that he did not regard the term as novel. The F. *statistique* sb. is cited by Littré from Bachaumont (died 1771); Fr. writers of the 18th c. refer to Achenwall as having brought the word into use. The sense-development of the word may have been influenced by the notion that it was a direct derivative of L. *status* STATE *sb.*]

A. *adj.*

1. = STATISTICAL 2. Now *rare.*

1789 *Polit. Geog.*; *Introd. Statist. Tables Europe* 17 With a view to facilitate the study of the Statistic science. 1802–12 BENTHAM *Rationale Judic. Evid.* (1827) II. 597 The sort of collateral use thus capable of being derived from any article of official evidence, may be termed the statistic use. 1851 MRS. BROWNING *Casa Guidi Wind.* I. 892 The poet who neglects pure truth to prove Statistic fact.

†2. Political. *Obs. rare.*

1824 SOUTHEY *Bk. Ch.* (1841) 298 The religious and the statistic measures must not be confounded.

3. Of or pertaining to status.

1871 POSTE tr. *Instit. Gaius* IV. § 6. Comm. 404 Their title is a breach of contract or the violation of some real right, statistic, primordial, or proprietary.

B. *sb.*

1. = STATISTICS 1. *rare.*

1796 MORSE *Amer. Geog.* II. 228 (Germany) Academical sciences,..under the name of Technology, Economy, Science of Finances, and Statistic. 1864 KINGSLEY *Rom. & Teut.* ix. 232 Till that point is reached, the history of the masses will be mere statistic concerning their physical well-being or ill-being.

¶ b. The alleged sense 'a statistical statement' (*Cent. Dict.*), 'any statistical element' (Webster 1911) seems to be merely inferred from the plural use in STATISTICS 2. But cf. STATISTICS 2 b.

2. = STATISTICIAN.

1804 SOUTHEY *Let. to W. Taylor* 1 July in Robberds *Mem. Taylor* (1843) I. 508 Henley said you were the best statistic in Europe. 1898 *Westm. Gaz.* 22 Sept. 3/2 It is the province of the statistic to upset fixed notions, to compare the actual with the accepted.

Statistical (stăti·stikăl), *a.* [Two formations: in sense 1 f. STATIST + -IC + -AL; in senses 2 and 3 f. STATISTIC + -AL.]

†1. Political. *Obs. rare.*

1600 W. WATSON *Decacordon* (1602) 228 There are a hundred twise told of the like statisticall principles and practises.

2. Of or pertaining to statistics, consisting of or founded on collections of numerical facts, esp. with reference to economic, sanitary, and vital conditions.

1787 *Crit. Rev.* LXIV. 188 The work [by Zimmermann] before us is properly statistical. It consists of different tables, containing a general comparative view of the forces, the government, the extent and population of the different kingdoms of Europe. 1790 SIR J. SINCLAIR *Let.* in *Statist. Acc. Scot.* (1798) XX. App. p. xix, In many parts of the Continent, more particularly in Germany, Statistical Inquiries, as they are called, have been carried to a very great extent. 1841 W. SPALDING *Italy* I. 75 The most prominent moral and statistical features of the period now to be considered must not.. be passed over in silence. 1871 MAXWELL *Theory of Heat* xxii. 288 If however, we adopt a statistical view of the system, and distribute the molecules into groups, according to the velocity with which at a given instant they happen to be moving, we shall observe [etc.].

b. Of a writer, etc.: Dealing with statistics.

1787 ZIMMERMANN *Polit. Surv. Europe* Pref. 5 Some respectable statistical writers. 1845 MCCULLOCH *Literature Pol. Econ.* 222 In 1832, a Statistical Department was organised in the Board of Trade for preparing, classifying, and publishing..information respecting the statistics of the United Kingdom and its dependencies, and also respecting foreign states.

¶ 3. *Gram.* Misused for STATIVE *a.* 3.

1846 D. FORBES *Hindústání Gram.* 132 From the present participle is formed the compound verb called *statistical*, by using the masculine inflection of the participle together with some verb of motion. *Ibid.* 65 From the present participle are formed..Statisticals, *gáte áud*, 'to come singing'; *rote daurná* 'to run crying'.

Statistically (stăti·stikăli), *adv.* [f. STATISTICAL *a.* + -LY[2].] In a statistical manner, according to or by means of statistics, from a statistical point of view.

1821 W. TAYLOR in *Monthly Rev.* XCV. 18 A considerable condensation might yet be accomplished by mapping the country more statistically. 1860 MOTLEY *Netherlands* (1868) I. ii. 29 It was what would now be considered statistically speaking, a rather petty power. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* II. 168/2 If it can be proved statistically that [etc.]. 1885 *Manch. Exam.* 17 Feb. 4/4 While cotton was firm and statistically strong, the Indian exchanges again came lower.

Statistician (stætisti·ʃăn). [f. STATISTIC + -IAN; cf. F. *statisticien*.] One versed in or engaged in collecting and tabulating statistics.

1823 MCCULLOCH *Pol. Econ.* I. 59 The object of the statistician is to describe the condition of a particular country at a particular period. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* IV. 355/1 The domestic consumption has been estimated by statisticians, at twenty-two pounds per head.

Hence **Statisti·cianly** *adv.*, in the manner of a statistician.

1882 *Blackw. Mag.* Nov. 630/2 The vulgar criticism which concerns itself maliciously, not statisticianly,..with the question of feminine *taille*.

Statisticize (stăti·stisəiz), *v.* [f. STATISTIC(S + -IZE.] *trans.* To arrange in the form of statistics. Hence **Stati·sticized** *ppl. a.*

1879 *St. George's Hosp. Rep.* IX. 216 The 210 statisticised cases correspond to 202 patients.

Statistics (stăti·stiks). Pl. of STATISTIC.

1. Construed as *sing.* In early use, that branch of political science dealing with the collection, classification, and discussion of facts (especially of a numerical kind) bearing on the condition of a state or community. In recent use, the department of study that has for its object the collection and arrangement of numerical facts or data, whether relating to human affairs or to natural phenomena.

1787 ZIMMERMANN *Polit. Surv. Europe* Pref. 2 This science, distinguished by the newly-coined name of Statistics, is become a favourite study in Germany. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XVII. 731/2 *Statistics*, a word lately introduced to express a view or survey of any kingdom, county, or parish. 1798 SIR J. SINCLAIR *Statist. Acc. Scot.* XX. App. p. xiii, In 1786, I found, that in Germany they were engaged in a series of political inquiry, to which they had given the name of Statistics; and though I apply a different idea to that word, for by Statistical is meant in Germany, an inquiry for the purpose of ascertaining the political strength of a country, or questions respecting matters of state; whereas, the idea I annex to the term, is an inquiry into the state of a country, for the purpose of ascertaining the quantum of happiness enjoyed by its inhabitants, and the means of its future improvement; yet, as I thought that a new word might attract more public attention, I resolved on adopting it. 1838 *Lond. & Westm. Rev.* XXIX. 70 Statistics,..is merely a form of knowledge —a mode of arranging and stating facts which belong to various sciences. 1839 CARLYLE *Chartism* xi. 115 Statistics is a most important science. 1895 MAYO-SMITH *Statist. & Sociol.* 9 Statistics consists in the observation of phenomena which can be counted or expressed in figures.

b. With defining word. Chiefly in *vital statistics*, the collection and arrangement of the numerical data bearing on the varying average duration of human life under various conditions of place, occupation, etc.

1829 F. B. HAWKINS *Elem. Med. Statistics* 2 A combination of these scattered features forms Medical Statistics... We may perhaps define it, in a few words, to be the application of numbers to illustrate the natural history of man in health and disease. 1845 NEISON (*title*) Contributions to Vital Statistics. 1889 A. NEWSHOLME (*title*) The Elements of Vital Statistics.

2. Construed as *plural.* Numerical facts or data collected and classified.

1837 HT. MARTINEAU *Soc. Amer.* II. 292 There is great virtue in figures, dull as they are to all but the few who love statistics for the sake of what they indicate. 1838 *Lond. & Westm. Rev.* XXIX. 58 The valuelessness of all prior statistics of crime. 1844 KINGLAKE *Eothen* Pref., From all useful statistics..the volume is thoroughly free. 1859 *Westm. Rev.* Oct. 593 The statistics of suicide are striking. 1868 G. DUFF *Pol. Surv.* 6 To collect on the spot masses of statistics. 1881 HOOPER in *Jrnl. Statist. Soc.* XLIV. 44 We all know what we mean by 'statistics of pig iron,' 'statistics of coffee,' 'population statistics,' or 'revenue statistics.' We mean actual concrete figures relating to a particular set of phenomena. 1903 *Nature* 12 Mar. 453/2 The new Lucasian professor will next term lecture on 'The Theory of Gases and the Molecular Statistics of Energy.'

b. *Comb.* (in sing. form). Cf. STATISTIC *sb.* 1 b.

1855 THACKERAY *Charac. Sk., Capt. Rook*, The statistic-mongers and dealers in geography have calculated to a nicety how many quartern loaves..are consumed. 1902 S. COLERIDGE *Open Let. to Registrar-General* 6 The impertinences of a mere statistic-collector.

Statistology (stætistǫ·lŏdʒi). *rare.* [f. STATIST-ICS + -(O)LOGY.] 'A discourse on statistics.' (Worcester 1860, citing *West. Rev.*)

Stative (stā·tiv), *a.* and *sb.* [ad. L. *statīv-us*, f. *stat-* ppl. stem of *stāre* to stand. Cf. F. †*statif* (16–17th c.), also G. *stativ* sb., stand for a telescope, etc.] **A.** *adj.*

1. Stationary, fixed, having a permanent situation, a fixed recurring date, or the like. Now only *Rom. Ant.* in *stative camp*, etc.

a 1631 [SIR R. COTTON] *Disc. Power Peers*, etc. (1640) 2 In the Rolles of Henry the 3. It [Generale Placitum apud London] is not stative, but summoned by Proclamation. 1631 R. BYFIELD *Doctr. Sabb.* 81 Macrobius saith, there are foure kindes of publike holy-dayes.., Stative, Conceptive, [etc.]. 1816 SCOTT *Antiq.* iv, They are stative forts, whereas this was only an occasional encampment. 1856 MERIVALE *Rom. Emp.* xlv. (1865) V. 338 Rome was the proper sphere of his business and duty,..the stative camp of the warrior nation.

†2. That stands or continues in a certain state. *Obs.*

1643 R. O. *Man's Mortality* vi. 47 It incur'd this Absurditie, that the Soules of the Damned shall not perish, but stand as well as the Stative Angels.

3. *Hebr. Gram.* Epithet of verbs which express a state or condition. [= mod.L. *verba stativa.*]

1874 A. B. DAVIDSON *Introd. Hebr. Gram.* 47 The term stative verbs, i. e. verbs of state, is used by some grammarians. *Ibid.*, The class of stative verbs is very numerous. 1913 C. T. WOOD & LANCHESTER *Hebr. Gram.* 69 Stative Verbs are a class of verbs, usually intransitive, which express a state or condition.

B. *sb. Hebr. Gram.* A stative verb.

1874 DRIVER *Tenses Hebr.* § 11. 12 To the verbs already cited may be added..the following, which are selected from the list given by Böttcher..: by this grammarian they are not inaptly termed *verba stativa* or 'statives'. 1913 C. T.

Wood & Lanchester *Hebr. Gram.* 67 Chapter xv. A. Tenses—Perfect Qal—Statives.

Hence **Stati·vity** *nonce-wd.*

1871 Cayley *Math. Papers* (1895) VIII. 213 What may be termed the 'stativity' of the curve.

† **Statiza·tion.** *Obs.* [f. Statize *v.* + -ation.] The action of the verb Statize; an instance of this.

1600 W. Watson *Decacordon* (1602) 349 Any difference.. betwixt the secular priests, and Iesuites, in points of statization and medling of matters not belonging to our professions. *Ibid.* 353 [The Jesuits are] right Puritanes in al these statizations.

† **Statize,** *v. Obs.* [f. State *sb.* + -ize. Cf. Statist.] *intr.* In depreciative sense: To meddle in state-affairs.

1600 W. Watson *Decacordon* (1602) 224 In these..cases may seculars statize, that is, deale in state affaires how to preuent mischieuous statizers, of their purpose and practises. 1612 T. James *Iesuites Downefall* 21 According to their doctrine of statizing, they must be stirring, tamporing, temporizing, and statizing like martiall men..in all temporal, mundane, and stratagematicall affaires. 1651 *Mr. Love's Case* 37 That he must needs suffer for the Word and Conscience, and not for statizing out of his Sphær.

Hence † **Statizing** *vbl. sb.* and *ppl. a.*

1600 W. Watson *Decacordon* (1602) 134 [They voided] their thoughts of all temporizing, statizing, and seditious medlings with the affaires of Prince or Peer. 1615–16 Boys *Wks.* (1622) 160 The bloudy practises of turbulent and statizing Iesuites. *Ibid.* 224 So the Iesuite is a statizing Priest, a Court-rabbi. *Ibid.* 458 Statising worldlings on the contrarie thinke that Preachers of the word [etc.]. 1630 *R. Johnson's Kingd. & Commw.* 18 By this people the rudiments of civill behaviour, of Lawes, good Customes, Statizing, Merchandizing, Oratorie, and Dialect, have beene bettered, if not invented. 1655 Fuller *Ch. Hist.* IX. xvi. 233 By his statizing, and dangerous activity, he had so incensed the Queens Councill, that [etc.]. 1657 Purchas *Pol. Flying-Ins.* II. 325 The upstart broode of perverted statising Loyalists.

† **Statizer.** *Obs.* [f. Statize *v.* + -er.]

1. One who meddles in state-affairs.

1600 W. Watson *Decacordon* (1602) 222 The party must.. be holden for a statiser in a sense detestable. *Ibid.* 352 Puritanes, and such like factious statisers.

2. ? A partisan.

1616 J. Lane *Contn. Sqr.'s T.* VIII. 229 The verie names of Ethel and Canac causd the fregiliens allmost leese the place, had not Algarsife's statizers rann in, to putt some hope, wheare no hope was to winn.

Stato- (stæto), repr. Gr. *στατό-ς* standing, used (mainly as virtual combining form of Static, Statics) in scientific words, chiefly *Biol.*, as **Sta·toblast,** a reproductive gemmule developed in some Polyzoa and Sponges and liberated after the death of the parent organism; hence **Sta·tobla·stic** *a.* **Sta·tocyst, -cyte,** each of the cells or cysts containing statoliths. **Sta·toge·nesis, Stato·geny,** the (theoretical) origin of organic structures from static conditions (opposed to Kinetogenesis); hence **Sta·togene·tic** *a.*, **Sta·togene·tically** *adv.* **Sta·tolith,** a calcareous body found in some locomotor invertebrates, and supposed to be a means of orientation; hence applied to a starch-grain found in the cell-sap of some plant-cells (see quots.). **Stato·meter,** an instrument for measuring the degree of exophthalmos (*Syd. Soc. Lex.* 1898). **Sta·toplast** (see quot.). **Sta·torhabd** [Gr. *ῥάβδος* rod] = Tentaculocyst. **Sta·toscope,** a form of aneroid barometer adapted for recording minute variations of atmospheric pressure. **Sta·tosphere, Sta·tospore** (see quots.).

1855 Allman in *Rep. Brit. Assoc.* II. 118 To the bodies in question, the author proposed to give the name of **statoblasts.* 1882 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* VI. 327 Statoblasts of Spongilla. 1898 *Syd. Soc. Lex.*, **Statoblastic.* 1904 F. Darwin in *Nature* 8 Sept. 468/1 In the Crustacean Palæmon the sense of verticality depends on the pressure of heavy bodies on the inside of cavities now known as *statocysts, and formerly believed to be organs of hearing. 1900 E. A. Minchin in *Ray Lankester's Treat. Zool.* II. *Sponges* 60 Gemmule cells or **statocytes,* such as compose the gemmule in *Spongilla*. 1894 E. D. Cope in *Amer. Naturalist* XXVIII. 213 *Statogenesis is work done in the construction of tissues like those of the parent and without interference. 1893 J. A. Ryder in *Proc. Amer. Philos. Soc.* XXXI. 198 In so far [as] the figure of a developing being is disturbed or modified by statical agencies its figure may be said to be subject to *statogenetic influences. *Ibid.* 194 Any formal modification thus caused and maintained would be developed *statogenetically. *Ibid.*, This general term ergogeny, will include not only kinetogeny, but also its antithesis, *statogeny. 1903 F. Darwin in *Nature* 16 Apr. 571/2 The *Statolith Theory of Geotropism. 1904 *Ibid.* 8 Sept. 468/2 *note*, I would suggest the word *statoplast in place of the cumbersome expression movable starch-grains. 1910 *Encycl. Brit.* XIV. 143/2 In the Trachylinæ the simplest condition of the otocyst is a freely projecting club, a so-called *statorhabd. 1908 *Daily Chron.* 3 Feb. 6/3 We smashed all our instruments, the first crash quite settling the *statoscope. 1898 *Syd. Soc. Lex.*, **Statosphere*, the envelope of the statoblast of fresh-water Sponges and Bryozoans. **Statospore*, a resting spore, or hypnospore.

Statocracy (stɛtɒ·krăsi). [f. State *sb.* + -(o)cracy.] Government or rule by the state alone, uncontrolled by ecclesiastical power.

1864 in Webster (*citing* O. A. Brownson).

Stato·latry. *rare.* [f. State *sb.* + -(o)latry.] Idolizing of the state.

1853 *Brownson's Q. Rev.* Apr. 188 In these days of statolatry, carnal Judaism, and political atheism.

‖ **Stator** [1] (stē·tɒr). *rare.* [L., sustainer, supporter (primarily an epithet of Jupiter), agent-n. f. **sta-*, *sistĕre* to cause to stand.] (See quots.)

1657 Cleveland *Rustic Rampant* Wks. 514 He was the Stator, the Saviour of the Nation.

Stator [2] (stē·tɒr). [a. L. *stator*, agent-n. f. *sta-*, *stāre* to stand.]

1. *Electr.* The stationary portion of an electric generator or motor, esp. of an induction motor.

1902 S. Sheldon & H. Mason *Altern.-Current Machines* 142 The stationary part of an induction motor is called the *stator*, and the moving part is called the *rotor*. 1903 *Nature* 23 Apr. 588/2 The high pressure current is taken only to the stators of the high tension motors. 1903 [see Rotor 2].

2. The casing enclosing the revolving blades of a steam turbine.

1911 *Encycl. Brit.* XXV. 846/1 The tips [of the blades] are fined down..so that in the event of contact taking place.. between the 'rotor' or revolving part, and the 'stator' or case, they may grind without being stripped off.

Statory, erron. form of Statary.

† **Sta·tua.** *Obs.* Pl. 6–7 statuas, 7 statuaes, statua's. [a. L. *statua*: see Statue *sb.*]

In mod. edd. of Shaks. the following passages have *statua* (or pl. *statuas*) where the reading of the early edd. is *statue* (or *statues*): *Rich. III*, III. vii. 25, *Jul. C.* II. ii. 76, III. ii. 192, 2 *Hen. VI*, III. ii. 80. The emendation is prob. right, as a trisyllable is required, and there is no evidence of trisyllabic pronunciation of *statue*.

= Statue *sb.*

c 1400 *Pilgr. Sowle* IV. xxix. (1859) 61 This word statua, whiche that we transumen in to Englysshe, that is to mene an Image. 1451 Capgrave *Life St. Aug.* 19 Whech man for grete sciens had a statua rered to his liknesse in þe markette at Rome. 1599 Hakluyt *Voy.* II. Ep. Ded. *2 b, With the same intention that the old Romans set vp in wax in their palaces the Statuas or images of their worthy ancestors. 1605 Bacon *Adv. Learn.* I. viii. § 6. 44 b, It is not possible to haue the true pictures or statuaes of Cyrus, Alexander, Cæsar..; for the originals cannot last. *Ibid.* II. i. § 2. 7 b, Without which the History of the world seemeth to me, to be as the Statua of Polyphemus with his eye out. 1625 — *Ess., Building* (Arb.) 552 And let there be a Fountaine, or some faire Worke of Statua's, in the Middest of this Court. 1646 G. Daniel *Poems* Wks. 1878 I. 12, I stood A verie Statua, dull as my owne Mudde. 1691 Wood *Ath. Oxon.* I. 117 A fair Table Monument..with their statua's from head to foot laying thereon. *Ibid.* 264 Over his Grave was..the Statua or Bust of the Defunct to the middle part of his body.

† **Sta·tual,** *a. Obs. rare*—[1]. [ad. med.L. *statuālis*, f. L. *statu-s* standing, stature, etc. (see State *sb.*).] (See quot.)

1825 Fosbroke *Encycl. Antig.* 698 These offerings of wax ..appear to be, in some instances, tapers of the stature or height of the person, and are called, in the Miracles of Simon the Hermit, Statual Tapers.

† **Sta·tuarism.** *Obs. nonce-wd.* [f. Statuar-y + -ism.] Partisanship for the art of sculpture.

1791 H. Walpole *Let. Miss Berry* 12 May, Madrid and the Escurial she owns have gained her a proselyte to painting, which her statuarism had totally engrossed.

Statuarist (stæ·tiu,ărist). Now *rare.* [f. Statuar-y + -ist.] = Statuary A. 1.

1679 Br. Croft *Let. Popish Idol.* 22 An excellent Painter and Statuarist, as well as Physician. 1760 Rhys *Tour Spain & Portugal* 110 That famous Roman Statuarist Giovanni Batista Moreli. 1847 J. Wilson *Lands of Bible* I. iv. 86 The Cyclopean statuarists of old. 1887 Smiles *Life & Labour* 221 The four Stones were statuarists,—father and three sons.

Statuary (stæ·tiu,ări), *sb.* and *a.* [ad. L. *statuārius* adj. (also absol. as sb. masc., sculptor, and ellipt. fem. *statuāria* sc. *ars*, art of sculpture), f. *statua* Statue *sb.* Cf. F. *statuaire* adj. and sb. masc. and fem. (sb. masc. from 14th c.), It. *statuario* adj. and sb. masc., *statuaria* sb. fem. (similarly Sp., Pg. *estatuário, -ária*).] **A.** *sb.*

1. One who practises the art of making statues, a sculptor of statues.

1581 Mulcaster *Positions* v. 35 If I..should seeme to contemne that principle, which brought forth..so many statuaries, so many architectes. 1607 Chapman *Bussy d'Ambois* I. i. 7 Vnskilfull statuaries, who suppose (In forging a Colossus) if they make him Stroddle enough..Their worke is goodly. 1631 Massinger *Emperor East* II. i, If Statuaries could By the foote of Hercules set downe punctually His whole dimensions. 1777 Johnson *Let. to Mrs. Lucy Porter* 20 Nov., in *Boswell* (1831) IV. 63 Mr. Nollikens, the statuary, has had my direction to send you a cast of my head. 1814 Scott *Diary* 25 Aug. in *Lockhart* III. vii. 237, I think a statuary might catch beautiful hints from the fanciful and romantic disposition of the stalactites. 1864 Tennyson *Boadicea* 64 Burn the palaces, break the works of the statuary. 1890 *Daily News* 21 Mar. 5/4 Other cracks..may easily be discovered, and the statuary should be called in before the damage gets more serious.

2. Sculpture composed of statues, statues collectively. † Also pl., works of sculpture.

1673 [R. Leigh] *Transp. Reh.* 97 The image of episcopacy, like the statuaries in Pallas target. 1701 in *Cath. Rec. Soc. Publ.* VII. 106 We were..to see ye fine antient pieces of Statuary, of which there are several of the Passion. 1848 H. Rogers *Ess.* I. vi. 305 The persons of the drama stand out in their appropriate characteristics as distinctly as the various forms in a group of Greek statuary.

3. The art of making statues, sculpture.

1563 Shute *Archit.* B iij b, Neither in painting like Apelles nor Plastes, or Stattuary like vnto Miron or Policrates. 1704 Addison *Italy* Pref., The noblest productions of statuary and architecture. 1776 Johnson in *Boswell* 19 Mar., The value of statuary is owing to its difficulty. You would not value the finest head cut upon a carrot. 1839 Ure *Dict. Arts* 1009 It was he [Wedgewood] who first erected magnificent factories, where every resource of..science was made to co-operate with the arts of painting, sculpture, and statuary. 1840 Hood *Up Rhine* 55 A painted wooden figure of a Dutchman...This wooden statuary is, timberly speaking, quite a branch of the Dutch fine arts. 1846 Ellis *Elgin Marbles* I. 110 Statuary, or the art of making complete figures.

4. *Comb.*

1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.*, Statuary-casting. 1914 *Daily News* 15 Jan. 12, I was admitted to the inner sanctum of the statuary-makers' haunts.

B. *adj.*

1. Of or pertaining to the making of statues.

1627 Hakewill *Apol.* III. v. § 3. 198 And therefore Plato banished Poets from his common-wealth; and Moses,..both painting and the statuary Art. *a* 1700 Evelyn *Diary* 16 June 1683, Nor doubt I at all that he will prove as greate a master in the statuary art.

2. Consisting of statues or a statue; sculptured.

1629 Maxwell tr. *Herodian* (1635) 120 He..presented them also to publicke view, in Statuarie Representations. 1654 H. L'Estrange *Chas. I* (1655) 64 Sir Francis Bacon..hath there a fair statuary monument erected for him of white Marble. *a* 1718 Penn *Tracts* Wks. 1726 I. 542 Which shows he [Orpheus] meant no Statuary Deity, but God that made the Heavens and the Earth. 1753 in Picton *L'pool. Munic. Rec.* (1886) II. 159 The statuary work by him executed. 1892 *Daily News* 13 May 3/1 When Cato was offered statuary honours, he refused them on the ground that he would rather people asked why there was not a statue of Cato than why there was one.

† **3.** *fig.* Resembling that of a statue; statuesque.

1759 Goldsm. *Bee* No. 2 *On our Theatres* P 1 Actresses.. who have..what connoisseurs call statuary grace, by which is meant elegance unconnected with motion.

4. Of materials: Suitable for statues or statuary work; esp. *statuary marble* (see quot. 1909), hence *statuary vein*, a variety of statuary marble (see quot. 1909).

1815 W. Bakewell *Introd. Geol.* 87 The crystalline translucent qualities of statuary marble. 1823 W. Phillips *Introd. Min.* (ed. 3) 152 Statuary Marble. The most celebrated statuary marble was found in the island of Paros, thence termed Parian marble. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.*, *Statuary-brass*, an alloy of copper, zinc, and tin, used for statuary, generally known as bronze. 1909 Renwick *Marble* 218 *Statuary*, a general name given to pure white marble, free from markings, but generally understood as meaning the best quality of Italian white marble. *Ibid.*, *Statuary Vein*, white Italian marble having a statuary ground and fine blue veins traversing the formation.

attrib. 1881 W. S. Gilbert *Foggerty's Fairy* (1892) 26 A handsome statuary marble mantelpiece.

Statue (stæ·tiu), *sb.* Also 6 *Sc.* statw. [a. F. *statue* (12th c.), a. L. *statua*, f. *sta-*, root of *stāre* to stand. Cf. It. *statua*, Sp., Pg. *estátua*.]

1. A representation in the round of a living being, sculptured, moulded or cast in marble, metal, plaster or the like materials; esp. a figure of a deity, allegorical personage, or eminent person, usually of life-size proportions. Also *transf.* and *similative*, as a type of silence or absence of movement or feeling.

For *colossal, equestrian statue*, etc. see the adjs.

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 995 For his make [Lot's wife] was myst, þat on þe mount lenged In a stonen statue þat salt sauor habbes. *c* 1386 Chaucer *Monk's T.* 169 This proude kyng leet maken a statue of gold..To which ymage he bothe yonge and oold Comanded to loute. 1471 Caxton *Recuyell* (Sommer) 223 And that they myght no more lifte theyr swerdes than myght statues or ymages. 1576 Fleming *Panopl. Epist.* 283 In buying statuies [*sic*] or standing images, they spend their substance. 1606, 1692 [see Relief ⁸ 1]. 1608 Shaks. *Per.* II. 10 And to remember what he does, Build his Statue to make him glorious. 1611 — *Wint. T.* V. iii. 10 We saw not That which my Daughter came to looke vpon, The Statue of her Mother. 1622 [see Round *sb.*[1] 4 a]. 1628 Coke *On Litt.* Pref. P 4 b, The bodie of our Author is honourably interred..vnder a faire Tombe of Marble, with his statue or portraiture vpon it. 1634 Milton *Comus* 661 If I but wave this wand, Your nerves are all chain'd up in Alabaster, And you a statue. *a* 1700 Evelyn *Diary* 4 Feb. 1644, In the middle..stands on a noble pedestal, a brazen Statue of Lewis XIII. 1730–46 Thomson *Autumn* 138 The statue seemed to breathe And soften into flesh beneath the touch Of forming art. 1794 Godwin *Cal. Williams* 128 He looked the statue of despair. 1823 Byron *Island* III. iv. 7 Still as a statue..He stood. 1833 Tennyson *Pal. Art* 37 And high on every peak a statue seem'd To hang on tiptoe. 1860 — *Sea Dreams* 217 Ever when it broke The statues, king or saint, or founder fell. 1886 *Encycl. Brit.* XXI. 571 For the execution of a marble statue the sculptor first models a preliminary sketch on a small scale in clay or wax.

¶ **b.** App. loosely used for: Image, effigy.

c 1386 Chaucer *Knt.'s T.* 117 The rede statue of Mars with spere and targe So shyneth in his white baner large. 1513 Douglas *Æneis* IV. xi. 112 To..birn 3on Troians statw in flamb funerall. *a* 1547 Surrey *Æneid* IV. (1557) G j b, And Troian statue throw into the flame. 1615 E. Howes *Stow's Ann.* 815 [Q. Eliz. funeral] And when they beheld her statue or picture lying vppon the coffin..hauing a Crowne vppon the head thereof, and a ball and scepter in either hand: there was such a generall..weeping, as the like hath not beene seene. 1632 Massinger *City Madam* V. iii, *S[ir] Jo[hn]*. Your Neeces..crave humbly Though absent in their bodys, they may take leave Of their late suitors statues... *Luke*. There they hang.

2. attrib. and Comb., as *statue-†craft, -lantern, -marble, -portrait*; objective and obj. genitive, as

statue-hewing, -maker, -turning, worshipper; instrumental, as *statue-bordered* adj.; similative, as *statue-blind* adj., *statue-like* adj. and adv.; **statue-dress** *Theat.*, 'a dress for the body and legs, made in one piece, worn in representations of statuary' (*Cent. Dict.* 1891).

1844 Mrs. Browning *Vis. Poets* xxxvi, And Shelley, in his white ideal, All *statue-blind. 1835 Talfourd *Ion* iv. iii, These *statue-border'd walks. 1634 Peacham *Compl. Gentl.* xii. (1906) 110 Such as are well seene in *statue-craft. 1850 C. Brontë *Pref. to E. Brontë's Wuthering Heights* p. xxiv, It sets to work on *statue-hewing, and you have a Pluto or a Jove. 1904 R. J. Farrer *Gard. Asia* xiii. 117 From this [court] one passes through others,..each forested with high toro or *statue-lanterns. 1822 Byron *Juan* vi. lxviii, A fourth as marble, *statue-like and still, Lay in a breathless, hush'd, and stony sleep. 1828 Miss Mitford *Village* III. 38 Her long straight hair, parted on the forehead and twisted into a thick knot behind, gave a statue-like grace to her head. 1850 R. G. Cumming *Hunter's Life S. Afr.* xxviii. II. 233 The elephant..stood statue-like beside the fountain. 1635 Jackson *Creed* viii. xxvii. 305 The vulgar Latine hath it..*ad Statuarium*, to the *Statue-maker. 1861 L. L. Noble *Icebergs* 170 Frozen under enormous pressure,..it..resembles..freshly broken *statue-marble. 1872 Head *Sel. Grk. Coins in Electrotype Brit. Mus.* 18 Thistetradrachm ..may give us the traits of the *statue-portrait by Lysippos, or the gem-portrait by Pyrgoteles. 1832 Brewster *Nat. Magic* xi. 287 The *statue-turning machine of Mr. Watt. 1678 Cudworth *Intell. Syst.* i. iv. 473 The Image and *Statue-worshippers among the Pagans.

Hence **Sta·tueless.**

1860–3 Thackeray *Round. Papers* xix. 303 In the spirit I am walking..round the Place Vendôme, where the *drapeau blanc* is floating from the statueless column.

Statue (stæ·tiu), *v.* [f. Statue *sb.*]

1. *trans.* To represent in a statue or in statuary; to honour (a person) by erecting a statue of him. Now only as *nonce-use.*

†1607 Day *Parl. Bees* viii. (1641) F 2 b, At the foure corners of this Chariot Ile have the foure windes statued. 1611 Florio, *Statuare*, to statue, to image. 1628 Feltham *Resolves* II. xv. 42 He did not feare to lose his head,..for if he did, the Athenians would give him one immortall. He should be Statued, in the treasury of eternall fame. 1672 Eachard *Hobbes' St. Nat. Consid.* 64 It is great pity but that you should be entomb'd at Westminster, and statued up at Gresham Colledge for the great moral discoverer of the Age. 1895 W. Wright *Zenobia & Palmyra* x. 107 Another citizen erected seven columns..and he was 'statued' in March 179 A.D.

†**2.** To turn into a statue. *Obs. rare.*

1628 Feltham *Resolves* II. xxxvi. 111 The eye is dimme, in the discoloured face; and the whole man becomes as if statued into stone and earth.

Statued (stæ·tiud), *ppl. a.* [f. Statue *v.* and *sb.* + -ed.]

1. Furnished or ornamented with statues or statuary.

1806 W. Taylor in Robberds *Mem.* II. 144 The stately yew-hedge walks, and vased and statued terraces. 1855 Tennyson *Daisy* xvi, I stood among the silent statues, And statued pinnacles, mute as they. 1870 Disraeli *Lothair* lxix, An arcadian square flooded with light and resonant with the fall of statued fountains.

2. Represented in a statue or in statuary.

1839 Bailey *Festus* (1852) 243 The statued satyrs seemed to grin and jibber 'neath her eye. 1850 Blackie *Æschylus* I. 31 And the statued forms that look from their seats With a cold smile serenely. 1875 Browning *Aristoph. Apol.* 338 Free to stand Pedestaled mid the Muses' temple-throng, A statued service, laureled, lyre in hand.

3. Statue-like.

1820 J. H. Wiffen *Aonian Hours* (ed. 2) 108 The statued clouds scarce err Over the marbled skies.

Statuefy (stæ·tiuſəi), *v. rare.* Also **statufy.** [f. Statue *sb.* + -fy.] *trans.* **a.** To turn into a statue. **b.** To erect a statue to.

1868 Helps *Realmah* viii. 232 There were 27 degrees of frost that day. As we sat on our horses..we were nearly statuefied. 1903 *Pilot* 17 Oct. 372/2 The occasion was the erection of a statue to Vercingetorix—statufied everywhere except his native district.

Statuesque (stæ·tiuɛ·sk), *a.* [f. Statue *sb.* + -esque, after *picturesque.*] Having the qualities of a statue or of sculpture.

a 1834 Coleridge *Notes & Lect.* (1849) I. 71 Their productions were, if the expression may be allowed, statuesque, whilst those of the moderns are picturesque. 1849 Thackeray *Pendennis* xvii, An image of statuesque piety and rigid devotion. 1855 Smedley *H. Coverdale* xlvii, He had always admitted her statuesque grace. 1858 Carlyle *Fredk. Gt.* v. ii. (1872) II. 71 Statuesque immovability of posture. 1891 *N. & Q.* Ser. vii. XII. 99 The more reserved and statuesque formulæ of the Western Churches. 1905 Sir F. Treves *Other Side of Lantern* II. xxx. (1906) 190 The statuesque native soldiers who stand as sentries.

Hence **Statue·squely** *adv.*, **Statue·squeness.**

1833 Coleridge *Table-t.* 1 July, Euripides..embraces within the scope of the tragic poet many passions,, which Sophocles seems to have considered as incongruous with the ideal statuesqueness of the tragic drama. 1868 Browning *Ring & Bk.* ix. 802 Hold, as it were, a deprecating hand, Statuesquely, in the Medicean mode. 1886 G. Allen *Maimie's Sake* xxiii, He had never before seen her..look so..statuesquely beautiful. 1888 *Harper's Mag.* Aug. 330 Each lithe figure..has a statuesqueness and a luminosity impossible to paint in words.

Statuette (stæ·tiue·t). [a. F. *statuette* dim. of *statue*; see Statue *sb.* and -ette.] A small statue; a statue less than life-size.

a 1843 *Fraser's Mag.* XXVIII. 103 In every space..stood a little statuette of marble. 1863 Sir G. Scott *Glean. Westm. Abb.* (ed. 2) 64 These niches contained thirty statuettes of different personages. 1906 Petrie *Relig. Anc. Egypt* xiii. 83 Little statuettes of gods of glazed pottery, and often of bronze, silver, and even of gold.

attrib. 1866 *Reader* 19 May 500 'The Chase'..is life size, but 'The Stag at Bay'..is little more than statuette size.

†**Sta·tuist.** *Obs. rare*⁻¹. [f. Statue *sb.* + -ist.] A statuary, sculptor.

1620 E. Blount *Horæ Subs.* 365 The most famous Painter and Statuist in the world, Michael Angelo.

Statuit, obs. form of Statute.

†**Sta·tuize,** *v. nonce-wd.* [f. Statue *sb.* + -ize.] *trans.* To make a statue of, to commemorate by means of a statue.

1729 Ozell tr. *Misson's Trav. Eng.* 309 James II. did also statuize himself [orig. *s'est aussi fait Statuër*] in Copper, in one of the Courts of White-hall.

†**Statu·minate,** *v. Obs.* [f. L. *statūmināt-*, ppl. stem of *statūmināre*, f. *statūmin-*, *statūmen* prop, support, f. *statu-ĕre* to set up: see Statute.] *trans.* To support, establish.

a 1628 F. Grevil *Sidney* i. (1652) 6 Those eminent Plants.. which blast, or bite not, but rather statuminate, and refresh the Vines..or whatsoever groweth under their shaddows. 1631 B. Jonson *New Inn* II. vi, I will statuminate and vnderprop thee. *a* 1676 Hale *Prim. Orig. Man.* iv. vi. (1677) 346 A miraculous interposition in all the ordinary procedures of things already fully setled and statuminated by the first Divine Efficiency.

Hence †**Statu·minated** *ppl. a.* Also †**Statumina·tion.**

1658 Phillips, *Statumination*, an underpropping or setting up. 1674 Hale *Diffic. Nugæ* (1675) 238 The God of Nature, whose standing and statuminated Law Nature is, hath so ordered it.

Sta·tuoma·nia. *nonce-wd.* [f. Statue *sb.* + -mania.] A mania for the erection of statues.

1882 *Contemp. Rev.* Oct. 656 The rage for statues, now being erected all over France, seems to be degenerating into a statuomania.

Sta·tu-quo·ism. *nonce-wd.* [f. L. phrase (*in*) *statū quō* (see In *Latin prep.* 16) + -ism.] Partisanship of the existing condition of things. So also **Statu-quo-ite,** whence **Statuquoitism.**

1816 T. L. Peacock *Headlong Hall* i, These four persons were, Mr. Foster, the perfectibilian; Mr. Escot, the deteriorationist; Mr. Jenkison, the statu-quo-ite; and the Reverend Doctor Gaster. 1826 H. N. Coleridge *Six Months in W. Ind.* (1832) 184 There is so much statuquoitism in the old colonies. 1848 Steinmetz *Hist. Jesuits* III. 388 Another peculiarity of the Chinese was *statu-quo-ism*, their imitative faculties having from time immemorial completely palsied the inventive.

Statural (stæ·tiŭrăl), *a. rare*⁻¹. [f. Stature *sb.* + -al.] Of or pertaining to stature.

1868 H. Bushnell *Serm. Living Subj.* xxi. (1872) 426 The human soul is overborne..by the statural dimensions of God.

Stature (stæ·tiŭr), *sb.* Forms: 3–6 **statur,** 5 **statour**(e, 6 **statyre,** 4– **stature.** [a. OF. *stature, estature* (mod.F. *stature*) ad. L. *statūra* f. *sta-, stāre* to stand: see -ture. Cf. It. *statura*, Sp., Pg. *estatura.*]

1. The height of an animal body in its normal standing position. **a.** esp. of a human body.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 22321 [Pis king Constans was] a mikel man, o statur hei. 1340 Hampole *Pr. Consc.* 73 God..man last made Til hys lyknes and semely stature. 1382 Wyclif *Matt.* vi. 27 Sothely who of 3ou thenkinge may putte to to his stature oo cubite? *a* 1400–50 *Wars Alex.* 1702 Darius ..Askis þam of sir Alexander all at he cuthe, Bathe of his statoure & his strenth. *c* 1440 *Alphabet of Tales* cccLxxii. 256 He was so febull & of so little a statur. 1552 T. Wilson *Logic* C j b, Stature or brodenes cannot be taken from man. 1592 Shaks. *Two Gent.* iv. iv. 163 *Sil.* How tall was she? *Jul.* About my stature. 1597 — 2 *Hen. IV*, III. ii. 277 Care I for the Limbe, the Thewes, the stature, bulke, and bigge assemblance of a man? giue me the spirit. 1625 N. Carpenter *Geogr. Del.* II. xiv. (1635) 224 Hippocrates pronounced the people of the North to be..of a small and dwarfish stature. 1710 Steele *Tatler* No. 75 P 5 He was low of Stature...But he was more prudent than Men of that Height usually are. 1726 Pope *Odyss.* xviii. 258 Thy riper days no growing worth impart, A man in stature, still a boy in heart! 1839 Fr. A. Kemble *Resid. Georgia* (1863) 38 Her stature..must have been..five feet seven or eight. 1847 Tennyson *Princess* Prol. 40 Her stature more than mortal in the burst Of sunrise. 1860 Tyndall *Glac.* I. xvi. 104 A remarkable-looking man,..of middle stature.

†**b.** of a beast or a fish. *Obs.*

1390 Gower *Conf. A.* III. 117 The ferste..is cleped Aries, Which lich a wether of stature Resembled is in his figure. *a* 1505 in Kingsford *Chron. Lond.* (1905) 255 The later ende of ffebruary was taken..a ffishe of greate statur. 1600 J. Pory tr. *Leo's Africa* ix. 341 It is..shaped like a ramme, and of the stature of an asse. 1774 Goldsm. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) IV. 216 These [monkeys]..are all small in stature.

c. *transf.* esp. of a tree.

1633 T. Johnson *Gerarde's Herbal* II. clxxxiii. § 8. 593 This [Dwarfe Mountaine Pinke] for his stature may iustly take the next place. 1707 Mortimer *Husb.* (1721) II. 26 In transplanting..be very sparing of the Roots, that is, for such Trees as are of Stature. 1742 Shenstone *Schoolmistress* xviii, Their books, of stature small, they take in hand. *a* 1767 M. Bruce *Lochleven* 79 Poems (1796) 73 The stately ash Rear'd high his nervous stature. 1796 C. Marshall *Gardening* Contents *note*, Those trees, shrubs, and flowers..must be looked for in this Section; where is mentioned their stature,..nature, and propagation. 1830 J. G. Strutt *Sylva Brit.* 89 The lives and stature of trees, like those of animals, must vary with the situations in which they are placed. 1898 'Merriman' *Roden's Corner* vi. 62 There are quiet nooks..where the trees have grown to a quite respectable stature.

d. put for: Standard of height.

1781 Gibbon *Decl. & F.* xvii. (1787) II. 48 Yet, although the stature was lowered,..the insurmountable difficulty of procuring a regular..supply of volunteers, obliged the emperors to adopt..more effectual and coercive methods.

e. *fig.*

1834 Newman *Par. Serm.* I. xii. 186 Not making matters worse than they are, or showing our whole Christian stature ..when we need but put out a hand..or give a glance. 1850 S. Dobell *Roman* vii. Poet. Wks. 1875 I. 117 You do mistake The stature of your courtesy for that Of my desert. 1857 H. Reed *Lect. Brit. Poets* iv. 125 The language had gradually reached its full stature. 1868 E. Edwards *Ralegh* I. xxiii. 530 A leading mark of Ralegh's mental stature. 1875 Stubbs *Const. Hist.* (1896) II. xvi. 323 The men are of meaner moral stature.

†**2.** Bodily form, build. *Obs.*

c 1385 Chaucer *L. G. W.* 2446 And lyk his fadyr of face & of stature And fals of loue. 1387 Trevisa *Higden* (Rolls) III. 469 þe stature of þe body of mankynde is made of þe elementes i-medled to-gidres. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 3 And aboue ye myddle he was the moost amiable stature of a man. 1626 T. H. tr. *Caussin's Holy Court* 45 Nicephorus relateth certaine lineaments of his [the Saviour's] stature, colour and proportion of his members, which he drew out of antiquity.

†**3.** An effigy, statue. *Obs.* [So F. *stature* in 15th c.]

1390 Gower *Conf.* III. 52 And while he slepte..Him thoghte he syh a stature evene. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 11654 Lelly, the lett, þat vs long taries, Is a statur full strong of a stith god [*sc.* the Palladium]. *Ibid.* 11698. 1513 Douglas *Æneis* vi. xv. 3 The peple of vdyr realmis..Bene moyr expert..To forge and carve lyflyk staturis of bras. *Ibid.* vii. iv. 31 And Janus statur eik with double face. 1583 Melbancke *Philotimus* K iij, Parrhasius painted an erected statyre, and on the top thereof a Partridge, so liuely, that [etc.]. 1585 T. Washington tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* II. iii. 33 The stature of a woman cloathed after the Grecian fashion. *Ibid.* II. xiv. 49 b, The stature of a dragon of the length of 120. foote. 1592 R. Johnson *Nine Worthies* C 2, [Fame] vowed to erect his stature where..it should stande immoveable. 1596 Warner *Alb. Eng.* xii. lxxiii. (1612) 301 The statures huge, of Porphyrie and costlier matters made. 1653 tr. *Carmeni's Nissena* 142 An alter was raised trampled on by a stature of Pallace.

†**4.** State, condition. *Obs.*

? *a* 1500 *Chester Plays* i. 86, I haue forbyd that yow ne sholde, but kepe yow well in this stature, the same Covenant, I charge yow, hold. 1500–20 Dunbar *Poems* xiv. 41 Sic vant of wostouris with hairtis in sinfull staturis..Within this land was nevir hard nor sene.

5. The posture of standing. In quot. *fig. rare.*

1742 Young *Nt. Th.* vii. 1441 And what is reason?..Reason is upright stature in the soul.

Stature (stæ·tiŭr), *v. rare* exc. in pa. pple. [f. Stature *sb.*] *trans.* To give stature to. (Some of the examples quoted may belong to Statured *a.*)

c 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* xiii. 24 Ypomelides Beth appultreen,..A commyn tre statured dou[e]lees, With whitly flour coloured. 1609 Heywood *Brit. Troy* xi. xvi, Their growth is strange, whom I compare aright, Vnto the Mushroome, statur'd in a night. 1635 Quarles *Embl.* II. vi, Were thy dimension but a stride, Nay, wert thou statur'd but a span. 1638 Mayne *Lucian* (1664) 260 But if they will appeare alike statured, the taller is to stoope, and depresse himselfe. *a* 1661 Fuller *Worthies, Essex* (1662) 334, I match him [Tusser] with Thomas Church-yard, they being mark'd alike in their Poeticall parts, living in the same time, and statur'd alike in their Estates, both low enough I assure you. 1872 Tennyson *Gareth & Lynette* 277 Old Master, reverence thine own beard That..seems Wellnigh as long as thou art statured tall!

Statured (stæ·tiŭrd), *a.* [f. Stature *sb.* + -ed 2.] Having (a certain kind of) stature. Chiefly in parasynthetic formations, as *fair-, low-, full-statured*; also †*well statured.*

1610 Healey *St. Aug. Citie of God* xv. xxiii. 562 As though that we haue no such extraordinary huge statured creatures euen in these our times. 1635 [see Low *a.* 21]. 1647 J. Hall *Poems* 93 How doth the Giant Honour seeme Well statur'd in my fond esteeme. 1691, 1844 [see Full *a.* 12 c]. 1801 Southey *Thalaba* II. xiii, Man, fair-statured as the stately palm.

Status (stā·tŭs). Pl. (*rare*) **status** (stā·tiŭs). [a. L. *status* (*u* stem), f. *sta-* root of *stāre* to stand. Cf. the adopted form State *sb.*]

‖**1.** *Path.* **a.** The height or acme of a disease: cf. State *sb.*7 and Station *sb.* 6. Now *rare* or *Obs.*

[1693 tr. *Blancard's Phys. Dict.* (ed. 2) *Status Morbi*, see *Acme.* (Cf. 1706 Phillips, *Acme*..among Physicians the height of a Disease.)]

transf. 1671 Evelyn *Let. to Sir T. Clifford* 31 Aug., Diary & Corr. (1906) 646 The third and last period includes the *status* or height of the war..to the conclusion of it in the Treaty at Breda, 1667.

b. Used (with the sense 'state, condition') in many mod.L. combinations with adj., as *status arthriticus, epilepticus, lymphaticus, nervosus*: see *Dorland's Illustr. Med. Dict.* 1913.

a 1883 Fagge *Princ. & Pract. Med.* (1886) I. 684 There is ..a special modification of the disease in which the fits follow one another in rapid succession... This has by modern French physicians been called the *état de mal épileptique*, and in England some writers have made use of the equivalent expression, *status epilepticus.* 1898 *Syd. Soc. Lex.*, *Status* (L.),..A stage in which the disease having reached its height, it remains for a time before convalescence begins. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VI. 323 Epilepsy with 'status' [i. e. *status epilepticus*] or complications. 1909 *Daily Mail* 5 Aug. 5/6 The exact causation of the status lymphaticus was unknown.

2. *Law.* The legal standing or position of a

person as determined by his membership of some class of persons legally enjoying certain rights or subject to certain limitations; condition in respect, e.g., of liberty or servitude, marriage or celibacy, infancy or majority.

1791 Boswell *Johnson* an. 1777 (1904) II. 156 To abolish a *status*, which in all ages God has sanctioned, and man has continued, would..be extreme cruelty to the African Savages. 1813 *Edin. Rev.* Oct. XXII. 24 The forfeiture of condition, or *status*, is a class of great extent theoretically speaking. 1832 Austin *Jurispr.* (1869) I. Outline 41 The rights, duties, capacities, or incapacities, which determine a given person to any of these classes, constitute a condition or *status* which the person occupies, or with which the person is invested. 1865 H. W. Fisher *Consid. Amer. War* 84 Therefore his *status* as free or slave depended on the laws of Missouri. 1888 Bryce *Amer. Commw.* I. xxiv. 351 But the majority of the court..delivered a variety of *dicta* on various other points touching the legal status of negroes. 1904 Tallentyre *Voltaire* II. xliii. 295 The man who for sixty years had not ceased to try to improve the civil status of actors. 1910 M. Gaster in *Encycl. Brit.* XII. 40/1 The history of the legal status of the Gipsies..would form a remarkable chapter in the history of modern civilization.

attrib. 1910 Haddon *Races of Man* 61 The Mahrattas form the higher status group of this people.

b. *transf.*

1897 D. W. Forrest *Christ of Hist. & Exper.* 442 Notes, He says that the status and the spirit of sonship 'are not only distinguishable but separable'.

c. In application to things.

1914 *Daily News* 6 Nov. 1 The Sultan of Turkey not having ratified the Convention relating to the status of enemy merchant vessels. 1914 *Contemp. Rev.* Dec. 729 The status of Egypt cannot continue what it now is.

3. Position or standing in society, a profession, and the like.

1820 Scott *Monast.* Introd. Ep., The shopkeeper..stood indeed pretty much at his ease behind his counter,..but still he enjoyed his *status*, as the Bailie calls it, upon condition of tumbling all the wares in his booth over and over, when any one chose to want a yard of muslin. 1848 Mill *Pol. Econ.* I. 383 The status of a day labourer has no charm for infusing forethought, frugality or self-restraint into a people devoid of them. 1859 Lever *Dav. Dunn* iv. 35 On the one side he had..a sure status in society. 1873 C. M. Davies *Unorth. Lond.* (1876) 60 As..the sect grew in social status as well as in numbers, gradually the miraculous tongues fell into silence. 1883 S. C. Hall *Retrospect* II. 248 As an actress, [she] took a professional status amongst the highest.

b. *transf.* of a thing.

1885 J. Martineau *Types Eth. Theory* I. i. ii. § 8. 201 Of this Ego, or soul, of ours,..how is it possible, after thus setting it up as a known separate entity, to cancel its status and hand over its contents to another subject? 1890 *Hardwicke's Science-Gossip* XXVI. 154 The medical status of ivory was based on its alkaline properties.

4. Condition of things.

1860 Maury *Phys. Geog. Sea* iv. § 236 Diligent, therefore, in their offices must the agents be which have been appointed to maintain the chemical status of the atmosphere. 1889 *Anthony's Photogr. Bull.* II. Pref., The illustrations give a good idea of the present status of the art in the various methods of printing.

b. *Finance.* A particular grouping of the conditions bearing on the continuance of an annuity.

1838 De Morgan *Ess. Probab.* 190 This status may be simple or complicated..For instance, A is to enjoy an annuity to the end of his life, unless B should die before C, in which case it is to cease. This annuity will be enjoyed as long as either of the following status exist. A, B, and C all living. A and B living, and C dead. A living, and B and C dead, C having died first. 1862 Waterston *Man. Commerce* 303 *Status of an Annuity*, the state of things during the continuance of which the annuity is to be paid. A *compound status* is one which exists as long as either of two or more status remain.

c. *Sc. Comm.* Position (of a trader) in respect of solvency and credit. In quot. *attrib.*

1901 *Scotsman* 8 Mar. 5/6 [Aberdeen] The status enquiries numbered 2054 during the year.

Hence **Sta·tusless** *a.*, without status.

1905 W. O'Brien *Recoll.* ix. 186 The reporting profession was still in the statusless condition in which [etc.].

‖ **Status quo** (stē·tŏs kwō·u). [L.: 'state in which'. Cf. *in statu quo* (see In *Latin prep.* 16).] The existing state of affairs.

1833 *Edin. Rev.* LVI. 436 The *status quo* was to be maintained in Luxemburg during negotiations respecting that duchy. 1853 Ld. J. Russell *Let. to Ld. Cowley* 28 Jan., in H. Paul *Hist. Mod. Eng.* (1904) I. xvii. 301 The Ambassador of France was the first to disturb the *status quo*. 1864 *Spectator* 439 The country gentlemen can be satisfied with the *status quo* as a principle. 1877 L. W. M. Lockhart *Mine is Thine* xxxv. (1879) 300 His autumn plans were in the *status quo ante*. 1884 tr. *Lotze's Logic* 403 The desire to protect that particular *status quo* on principle against all innovation.

Statutable (stæ·tiŭtăb'l), *a.* [f. Statute *sb.* + -able.]

1. Prescribed, authorized, or permitted by statute.

1636 Featly *Clavis Myst.* viii. 99, I have no commission.. to make privie search for concealed Idols, or vailed Impudency, or statutable Usurie. 1713 *Guardian* No. 108 P 2 Five Foot..is the statutable Measure of that Club. 1723 Swift *Argt. agst. Power Bishops* Wks. 1761 III. 260 There is but one instance in the memory of man of a bishop's lease being broken upon the plea of not being statutable. 1798 Evelyn *Weights & Meas.* in *Phil. Trans.* LXXXVIII. 167 Although they do not carry with them..any statuteable authority. 1868 Milman *St. Paul's* xi. 260 How were they in the custody of the Archdeacon, not of the Treasurer, their statutable guardian? 1870 W. R. Greg *Polit. Problems* 299 On an average, the family of the labourer will comprise three members above the statutable age—frequently more.

2. Conformed to the requirements of the statutes as to quality, size, or amount. †Also *transf.*, of regular or standard quality; that will pass muster.

a 1661 Fuller *Worthies, Essex* (1662) 318 Hops..being adjudged wholesome, if Statutable and unmixed with any powder, dust, dross, [etc.]. 1664 Evelyn *Sylva* xxviii. § 8 (1679) 149 Statutable Billet should hold three foot in length [etc.]. 1667 Dryden *Sir M. Mar-all* Prol. 6 Fops in the Town more easily will pass; One story makes a statutable Ass: But such in Plays must be much thicker sown. 1676 Mace *Musick's Mon.* 28 Those Ancient (former denominated) Statutable Wages of 8, 10, or 12 l. a year. 1742–3 Br. Sherlock in *Johnson's Debates* (1787) II. 448 So every part of the kingdom will be equally debauched, and no place will be without a vender of Statutable poison. 1758 Borlase *Nat. Hist. Cornw.* 88 Twenty bushels of wheat..on one statutable acre of ground. 1762 Sterne *Tr. Shandy* V. xxvii, My father put on his spectacles, looked,—took them off,—put them into the case,—all in less than a statutable minute. 1774 Pennant *Tour Scot. in 1772*, 321 A cooper examines if they are statutable and good. 1800 Marq. Wellesley in Owen *Desp.* (1877) 702 The conveyance..of such goods..beyond the amount of the statutable tonnage of 3,000 tons. 1856 Froude *Hist. Eng.* (1858) I. i. 26 Persons ..were punishable if they refused to work at the statutable rate of payment.

b. In university use: Satisfying the requirements of the university statutes.

1687 Bp. Cartwright in *Magd. Coll.* (O.H.S.) 122 Was he a statutable person? *a* 1715 Burnet *Own Time* iv. (1724) I. 699 The Fellows..did upon this choose Dr. Hough, ..who..was in all respects a statutable man. 1794 in *Burke's Corr.* (1844) IV. 240 Nothing could be more unseasonable.. than to appoint to the provostship any man who is not.. a statutable, academical character. 1868 M. Pattison *Academ. Org.* iv. 88 No college can undertake to say what is or is not now statutable. 1880 Fowler *Locke* i. 9 The statutable time of taking both degrees was anticipated. 1882 *Nature* XXVII. 47 Mr. Minty..being over the statutable age, was not eligible for a scholarship.

3. Of an offence: Recognized by statute; legally punishable.

1792 W. Roberts *Looker-On* No. 3 (1794) I. 29 Though nonsense is not statutable among us, yet we are not afraid of its going to any great lengths under the evident disadvantages of order and tranquillity. 1864 *Daily Tel.* 8 June, Hoaxing is not a statutable offence.

Hence **Sta·tutableness.**

1687 Dr. Hough in *Magd. Coll.* (O.H.S.) 127 The legality and Statutableness of my Election. 1727 Bailey vol. II, *Statutableness*, the being according to the Statute, relating to the Matter.

Statutably (stæ·tiŭtăbli), *adv.* [f. Statutable *a.* + -ly 2.] In a statutable manner; by the operation of a statute or statutes; in accordance with the requirements of the statutes.

a 1661 Fuller *Worthies, Westminster* (1662) 243 Beniamin Johnson..was Statutably admitted into Saint Johns-colledge in Cambridge. *a* 1683 Oldham *Art of Poetry* (1686) 24 Others by this conceit have been misled So much that they're grown statutably mad. 1691 *Case of Exeter-Coll.* 30 Unless it was made appear that Mr. Colmer was not Statutably Expell'd. 1705 Hearne *Collect.* 17 Nov. (O.H.S.) I. 84 He was..statutably qualified. 1872 *Contemp. Rev.* XX. 546 By courts statutably imposed upon the Establishment. 1879 H. Hardcastle *Statutory Law* 290 Appendix. Certain words and expressions, used in statutes, which have been judicially or statutably construed. 1885 M. Pattison *Mem.* 175 Stanley, not being statutably eligible, could not have come in, unless he had been invited to do so.

†**Sta·tutary,** *a.* [f. Statute *sb.* + -ary.] = Statutory.

1647 Ward *Simple Cobler* 13 That all Christian States, ought to disavow and deny all such Errours, by some peremptory Statutary Act. 1776 Adam Smith *W. N.* I. ix. 110 All these different statutary regulations seem to have been made with great propriety.

Statute (stæ·tiūt), *sb.* Forms: 3, 5–6 **statuit,** 4 **statout,** 4–7 **statut,** 6 **statuytt,** 4– **statute.** (Also Estatute 1514–1610.) *Pl.* 3–4 **statute** (*z* = *ts*), 4 **statutz,** 5 **statutez, statuitz,** 6 **statewes,** 9 *dial.* (sense 6) **stattice, stattits.** [a. F. *statut* (OF. also *estatut*, whence Estatute), ad. late L. *statūtum* decree, decision, law, subst. use of neut. pa. pple. of *statuĕre* to set up, establish, decree, f. *stā-* root of *stāre* to stand. Cf. Pr. *statut-s*, Sp., Pg. *estatuto*, It. *statuto*.]

I. 1. A law or decree made by a sovereign or a legislative authority. Now *rare* or *Obs.* in general sense.

c 1290 *Beket* 759 in *S. Eng. Leg.* 128, I not ȝwat is þe newe statuit þat þu þencst forth to drawe. 13.. *Cursor M.* 13613 (Gött.) Þe Iuus..had mad..A statute again iesus crist, If ani wold him leue or loute, Þair synagoge suld be put vte. *c* 1325 *Song Flemish Insurr.* in *Pol. Songs* (1839) 188 The Kyng of Fraunce made statuz newe In the lond of Flaundres. 1387 Trevisa *Higden* (Rolls) III. 365 [Aristotle] made statutes to iustefie þe citees of Grees [orig. *justificationes urbium Graecarum*]. *c* 1391 Chaucer *Astrol.* I. § 10. 6 The names of thise Monthes were cleped in Arabycus, somme for hir propretes, & some by statutz of lordes, some by other lordes of Rome. *c* 1400 *Pilgr. Sowle* IV. xxix. (1859) 61 Ordynaunces of pryuate lawes in Reames..ben cleped statutes, for they sholde be stabelly kepte. 1520 *Caxton's Chron. Eng.* III. 20 b, They made this statut that 2 consules sholde be chosen, and they sholde governe the cyte and the people. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 222 b, To this article also perteyneth the decrees, counseyles & statutes of the chirche. 1535 Coverdale *Dan.* vi. 13 Daniel..(O kynge) regardeth nether the ner thy statute, that thou hast made. 1593 Shaks. *Rich. II*, IV. i. 213 All Pompe and Maiestie I doe forsweare: ..My Acts, Decrees, and Statutes I denie. *c* 1670 Hobbes *Dial. Com. Laws* (1681) 30 The Positive Laws of all places are Statutes. 1725 Pope *Odyss.* IX. 127 By these no statutes and no rights are known. 1764 Goldsm. *Trav.* 385 When I behold..Each wanton judge new penal statutes draw.

b. Applied to an ordinance or decree of God, a deity, fate, etc.

c 1381 Chaucer *Parl. Foules* 387 Ȝe knowe wel how seynt volantynys day By myn statute..Ȝe come for to cheese.. Ȝoure makis. *c* 1393 — *Envoy to Scogan* 1 To-brokene ben þe statutis in heuene þat creat were eternally to dure. 1513 Douglas *Æneis* XII. xiii. 72 Quhilk, weill I wait, is Na wys include in statutis of the fatis. 1535 Coverdale *Ps.* cxviii. 12 Praysed be thou O Lorde, O teach me thy statutes. *a* 1631 Donne *Holy Sonn.* xvi, Men argue yet, Whether a man those statutes can fulfill. 1707 Watts *Hymns*, '*How honourable is the Place*' iii, Enter ye Nations that obey The Statutes of our King.

c. A law made by a guild or corporation for the conduct of its members; a by-law of a borough; a provision in a municipal charter.

1389 in *Eng. Gilds* (1870) 100 These been ye statuz of ye gylde of ye holy prophete Seynt Jon baptist. 1429 *Rolls of Parlt.* IV. 346/2 In the Statuitz of the honourable Ordre of the Gartier. 1509 in *Star Chamber Cases* (Selden Soc.) I. 277 They bothe offendid the statute of the Cyte therypon made. 1538 Latimer in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* Ser. III. 204 Hytt were gode you wolde sum tyme sende for Masters of Collegis in Cambryge and Oxforde with there Statuytts, ande yf the Statuytts be natt god and to the furtherance of god lettres, change them. 1546 in J. Bulloch *Pynours* (1887) 64 Tha chesit Johne Vodman and Hungre Jok decanis of the said craft to causs this present Statut to be obseruit. 1590 Shaks. *Com. Err.* I. ii. 6 This very day a Syracusian Marchant Is apprehended..And not being able to buy out his life, According to the statute of the towne, Dies ere the wearie sunne set in the West. 1641 in *Verney Mem.* (1907) I. 204 Local statutes to appoint sermons almost every day. 1702 Charlett in *Pepys' Diary* (1879) VI. 251 At a weekly meeting, which by our statutes is every Monday, consisting of the V.C., Heads of Colleges and Halls, and the two Proctors, I moved [etc.]. 1785 Paley *Mor. Philos.* III. I. xxi, The statutes of some colleges forbid the speaking of any language but Latin within the walls. 1808 Scott *Marm.* II. xix, The statutes of whose order strict On iron table lay. 1856 Emerson *Eng. Traits, Universities* Wks. (Bohn) II. 90 Oxford..is still governed by the statutes of Archbishop Laud.

†d. *gen.* An authoritative rule or direction.

c 1391 Chaucer *Astrol.* Prol. 3/68 The .5. partie shal ben an introductorie aftur the statutz of owre doctours. *Ibid.* II. § 4. 18/10 After the statutz of Astrologiens. 1605 A. Warren *Poor Man's Pass.* B 1 b, And I shall die vntested in my death, Doubting least mine Executors refuse The statute of my Testament to vse.

2. An enactment, containing one or more legislative provisions, made by the legislature of a country at one time, and expressed in a formal document; the document in which such an enactment is expressed.

In England, Scotland, and Ireland, *statute* is in general synonymous with 'Act of Parliament' (see, however, quot. 1765), but the designation is applied also to certain early enactments by the king and his council before the rise of regular parliaments.

c 1386 Chaucer *Prol.* 327 Euery statut koude he pleyn by rote. 1386 *Rolls of Parlt.* III. 226/1 The Statut ordeigned and made bi Parlement. 1434 *Ibid.* V. 438/2 Lawes, custumes and Statutes of his Reaume. *a* 1475 Ashby *Active Policy* 522 Aftur the statutes autorised By noble Kynges your progenitours. 1532 *Dial. on Laws Eng.* II. xlvi. 116 b, Sometyme in diuers statutes penalles they yᵗ be ignoraunt be excused. 1552 *Bury Wills* (Camden) 142 Yᵉ booke of yᵉ Kings Statuts. 1556 *Ir. Act* 3 & 4 *Ph. & Mary* c. 14 The moost auncynt statuits of this realme. 1597 Hooker *Eccl. Pol.* v. lxxxi. § 16 A testimonie vpon the credite whereof sundry statutes of the Realme are built. *c* 1645 Howell *Lett.* (1655) IV. xlix. 117 To Dye once is that uncancell'd debt Which Nature claymes, and raiseth by Eschet On all Mankind by an old Statute past *Primo Adami*. 1683 *Col. Rec. Pennsylv.* I. 21 Other duties by any law or statute due to vs. 1765 Blackstone *Comm.* I. Introd. § 3. 85 *note*, All the acts of one session of parliament taken together make properly but one statute; and therefore when two sessions have been held in one year, we usually mention stat. 1. or 2. Thus the bill of rights is cited, as 1 W. & M. st. 2. c. 2. 1790 Burke *Fr. Rev.* 44 The famous statute, called the Declaration of Right. 1817 Selwyn *Law Nisi Prius* (ed. 4) II. 795 But (after argument) it was holden, that the case was not within the statute. 1856 Emerson *Eng. Traits, Ability* Wks. (Bohn) II. 43 Their social classes are made by statute. 1858 Ld. St. Leonards *Handy-Bk. Prop. Law* xiii. 80 A remedy is afforded by statute. 1871 C. Davies *Metric Syst.* III. 116 By this statute the ale gallon was expressly declared to be the eighth part of the measure of the bushel. *Ibid.* 230 Rhode Island has no statute on the subject. 1875 Stubbs *Const. Hist.* II. xvii. 585 The statute is a law or an amendment of law, enacted by the king in parliament, and enrolled in the statute roll. 1910 J. Dowden *Medieval Ch. Scot.* ii. 27 In 1390 another Act was passed by Parliament strengthening the earlier statute.

†b. *By* (†*the*) *statute*: according to the measure, price, or rate appointed by statute. Hence, by fixed rule, strictly. *Obs.*

c 1450 *Bk. Curtasye* 377 in *Babees Bk.*, Be statut he schalle take þat on þe day. 1523–34 Fitzherb. *Husb.* § 12 An acre of grounde, by the statute, that is to say xvi. fote and a half to the perche or pole. *a* 1630 J. Taylor (Water P.) *Wks.* II. 174/2 Hee will pay him by the Statute. 1642 Milton *Apol. Smect.* 4 One who makes sentences by the Statute, as if all above three inches long were confiscat. 1781 Cowper *Table-T.* 72 Nor judge by statute a believer's hope.

c. With identifying designation.

Certain early statutes are currently designated from the place at which the parliament was held, as *Statute of Acton Burnell*, *Statute of Lincoln*, *Statute of Westminster*, etc. Others are named from their subject, as *Statute of Labourers*, *of Limitations*, *of Provisors*, *of Treasons of Uses*, etc. (see those words).

Bloody Statute: a popular name for the Act 31 Hen. VIII. c. 4, called the *Law of the Six Articles*, imposing severe penalties on all who disputed certain articles of faith (see Six *a.* 1 d).

a 1325 tr. *Hengham Parva* MS. Rawl. B. 520 lf. 70 b, Seche þe auctorite in þe furste statut of Westmunstre. *a* 1648 Ld. Herbert *Hen. VIII* (1649) 446 The Six Articles, called by some the Bloody Statute, were also enacted this Parliament [1539]. 1766 Blackstone *Comm.* II. xx. 324 The statute of frauds 29 Car. II. 1860 Forster *Gr. Remonstr.* 41 The long and remarkable reign of Edward the First's grandson is the date of the Statute of Treasons, one of the greatest gains to constitutional freedom. 1902 W. T. S. Hewett *Terms & Phr. Eng. Hist.* 34 *Statute of Fines*...(4 Henry VII)..intended to put a check on suits for the recovery of lands...*Statute of Grace*. A Bill of Indemnity for all political offences, passed in 1690 (William and Mary)...*Statute of Kilkenny*. This statute, passed in 1366 (Edward III), forbade the adoption of the Irish language, name or dress by any man of English blood.

3. In international law, [= F. *statut personnel, réel*] *Personal statute*: the system of law to which an alien party to a process is personally subject, as distinguished from *real statute*, the system of law to which the particular transaction is otherwise subject.

1907 E. J. Schuster *Princ. Ger. Civ. Law* 26 The question as to what law is to be applied for the determination of any particular crime frequently depends upon the so-called 'personal statute' of one of the parties. 1907 *Parl. Papers, Rep. Egypt & Soudan* 20 The foreigner resident in Egypt is fully entitled to retain his Consular Court as a Court of Personal Statute. 1907 E. H. Young in *Law Q. Rev.* XXIII. 155 The true province of the 'real statute' and of the 'personal statute'.

II. Uses originating in ellipsis.

†**4.** Applied to certain legal instruments or procedures based on the authority of a statute. **a.** A Statute merchant or Statute staple; a bond or recognizance by which the creditor had the power of holding the debtor's lands in case of default. **b.** *Statute of bankrupt, statute of lunacy*: the process by which a person was declared a bankrupt or a lunatic. *Obs.*

a. 1475 *Rolls of Parlt.* VI. 120/2 By any statut or recouvere extended. 1596 Bacon *Maxims Com. Law* i. (1636) 2 If I be bound to enter into a statute before the Mayor of the Staple at such a day. 1598 Chapman *Blinde Beggar* C 3 b, He onely did agree that paying him foure thousand pound at the day I should receiue my statute safely. *c* 1600 Shaks. *Sonn.* cxxxiv. 9. 1602 — *Ham.* v. i. 113 This fellow might be in's time a great buyer of Land, with his Statutes, his Recognizances, his Fines. *a* 1625 Fletcher *Noble Gent.* I. i, Take up at any Use, give Band, or Land, Or mighty Statutes, able by their strength, To tye up Sampson. 1668 Sir J. Denham in *Wills from Doctors' Comm.* (Camden) 121 Three judgments or statuts which I have upon the manor of Thorpe. 1678 Butler *Lady's Answ.* 88 What tender Sigh and Trickling tear, Longs for a Thousand Pound a year. And Languishing Transports, are Fond Of Statute, Mortgage, Bill and Bond. 1701 Sedley *Mulberry Gard.* v. 1, He that marries her shall give the other a statute upon his estate for two thousand pounds.

b. 1707 Hearne *Collect.* 7 June (O. H. S.) II. 19 A Statute of Bankrupt was out against him. 1742 C. Yorke in G. Harris *Life Ld. Hardwicke* (1847) II. 20 Dean Swift has had a statute of lunacy taken out against him.

†**5.** A kind of cloth, of breadth fixed by statute. Cf. *statute-galloon, -lace* in 8 b.

1466 *Mann. & Househ. Exp.* (Roxb.) 328 For xxiij. narow clothes called statutes. 1545 *Rates Custom Ho.* d iij, vi. Statutes for a clothe. 1583 *Ibid.* G ij, Rates for clothes... Statewes. 1599 Hakluyt *Voy.* II. i. 96 Certaine clothes called Statutes, and others called Cardinal-whites.

6. (*sing.* and *pl.*) [Short for †*statute-sessions*: see 9.] A fair or gathering held annually in certain towns and villages for the hiring of servants. Also called *statute-fair, -hiring* (see 9).

a 1600 Deloney *Thomas of Reading* Wks. (1912) 223, I heare that at the Statute, folkes do come of purpose to hire seruants. 1656 Blount *Glossogr.*, *Statutes* is also used in our vulgar talk, for the petit Sessions, which are yearly kept for the disposing of Servants in service, by the Statutes of 1, and 5 Eliz. cap. 4. 1668 O. Heywood *Diaries* (1883) III. 101, 14 persons were going over the boate to Normanton statutes. 1763 Bickerstaff *Love in Village* I. vi, You must know there is a statute, a fair for hiring servants, held upon my green to-day. 1770 C. Jenner *Placid Man* IV. vii, What then are we to hire lovers at a statute? 1821 Clare *Vill. Minstr.* I. 33 Statute and feast his village yearly knew. 1847 T. Miller *Pict. Country Life* 157 A Country Statute (or 'Stattice', as it is always pronounced by the villagers) is a rural feast or wake, where farmers hire their assistants,..held both in villages and small market towns. 1859 Geo. Eliot *A. Bede* vi, I hired you at Treddles-on stattits, without a bit o' character. 1897 *Sheffield Chron.* 16 Dec. 9 Ashbourne Statutes.—The Annual Statutes fair for hiring farm servants was held yesterday.

III. 7. Misused for Statute *sb.*

Now only an illiterate blunder; in some early instances the confusion may have been helped by the knowledge of the literal sense of L. *statutum*, 'something set up'.

a 1400–50 *Wars Alex.* 5641 With ilk a statute þat þar stude stoutely enarmed. *c* 1440 *Gesta Rom.* x. 25 This Virgilie made by his crafte an ymage or a statute. 1615 *A.* Stafford *Heavenly Dogge* 89 Suffer not sycophants to perswade thee to the erecting of thy statutes. 1649 *Fabric Rolls York Minster* (Surtees) 334 A statute of brasse. 1650 Earl Monm. tr. *Senault's Man bec. Guilty* 345 They..put their trust in Gods made of clay and wood, and consulted with statutes. 1719 D'Urfey *Pills* (1872) IV. 277 Their statutes with garlands adorning. [1880 Tennyson *Village Wife* vii, An' 'e bowt little statutes all-naäkt an' which was a shaame to be seen.]

IV. *attrib.* and *Comb.*

8. a. quasi-*adj.*, with the senses 'fixed by statute', 'recognized by statute', 'statutory'. Also *transf.* of what is prescribed by custom.

1643 Sir T. Browne *Relig. Med.* I. § 46 Not only convincible and statute madnesse, but also manifest impiety. 1650 Bulwer *Anthropomet.* 91 These Nations are well ring'd for rooting, and enjoy the Statute beauty of our Swine. *a* 1687 Petty *Polit. Arith.* (1690) Pref. a 3, Those who can give good Security, may have Money under the Statute-Interest. 1831 W. L. Bowles *Life Bp. Ken* II. 229 *note*, Informator is the statute-name of the head-master [of Winchester]. 1856 Emerson *Eng. Traits, Result* Wks. (Bohn) II. 134 At home they have a certain statute hospitality.

b. designating a unit of measure or weight as fixed by statute, as in *statute acre, mile, perch, pole, ton*; articles of merchandise of size regulated by statute, as †*statute brick*, †*fringe*, †*galloon*, †*lace*, †*yarn*.

1590 Lucar *Lucarsolace* I. ii. 8 *marg.*, A *statute acar of land doth contain..4840 square yardes. 1861 *Times* 16 Oct., More than 6*d.* per statute acre. 1703 T. N. *City & C. Purchaser* 43 *Statute-bricks. 1771 *Encycl. Brit.* I. 676/1 Statute bricks, or small common bricks. 1594 in *Archæol. Cant.* (1886) XVI. 191 For 6 oz. and ½ *statute fringe, ijs. ijd. 1882 Caulfeild & Saward *Dict. Needlework* 460/2 **Statute galloon.* These are narrow cotton or silk ribbons, employed for the binding of flannels. 1590 in *Antiquary* XXXII. 118, xij yeards *stattute lace, xii d. 1592 *Wills & Inv. N. C.* (Surtees) II. 211, ij grose of statute lace 12*s.* 1612 W. Parkes *Curtaine-Drawer* (1876) 23 A Curtaine..and that a gawdy one, imbrodred with Statute-lace. *a* 1652 Brome *Queen & Concubine* IV. i. (1659) 76 And can you handle the Bobbins well, good Woman? Make statute-Lace? 1610 Hopton *Baculum Geodæt.* VI. lii. 363 To reduce *Statute measure into customary measure. 1889 Skrine *Mem. Thring* 122 The statute measures of things were startlingly discredited. 1862 Ansted *Channel Isl.* I. v. 92 It is about eleven *statute miles in length. 1590 Lucar *Lucarsolace* I. ii. 8, 5 meating yards and ¼ meating yeard make a *statute pearch. 1766 *Complete Farmer* s.v. *Surveying* 7 F i b/1 Four *statute-poles or perches. 1883 *Encycl. Brit.* XVI. 457/1, 418 *statute tons. 1598 Florio, *Accia*,..spinning cruell or *statute yearne.

c. objective, as *statute-breaker, -drawer*.

a 1831 Bentham *Nomogr.* iii. Wks. 1843 III. 242 The productions of an official statute-drawer. 1909 *Q. Rev.* Oct. 386 A statute-breaker is but little oppressed with a sense of moral guilt.

9. Special comb.: **statute-barred** *a.*, (of debts, claims) barred by the statute of limitations; †**statute-cap**, the woollen cap ordered by the Act of 13 Eliz. c. 19 (1571) to be worn on Sundays and holy days by all persons not of a certain social or official rank; †**statute congregation**, a separatist designation for a congregation of the established church; **statute duty** = *statute-labour*; **statute-execution**, the summary execution of a statute-merchant (see 4 a); **statute fair, statute hiring** = sense 6; †**statute hall**, a building open at the 'statutes' (see 6) for hiring of servants; **statute labour**, a definite amount of labour on works of public utility, formerly required by statute to be performed by the residents in the district interested (also *attrib.*); so *statute labourer*; **statute law**, a law contained in a statute; also in generalized sense, the system of law contained in statutes, as distinguished from common law; **statute money**, money paid as commutation for statute labour; †**statute-Protestant** (see quot. *a* 1591); **statute-roll**, the roll on which the statutes are engrossed; often = Statute-book 2; †**statute-sessions** = sense 6 (see quot. 1607); **statute-work** = *statute labour*.

1905 *Daily Chron.* 8 Aug. 2/7 A desire to liquidate debts that were *statute-barred. 1588 Shaks. *L. L. L.* v. ii. 281 Better wits haue worne plain *statute caps. 1594 Hooker *Eccl. Pol.* Pref. viii. § 1 [The separatists say:] we thinke the *statute-congregations in Englande to be no true Christian Churches. *c* 1830 *Pract. Treat. Roads* 25 in *Libr. Usef. Knowl., Husb.* III, The system of *statute-duty naturally induces a larger outlay to take place in horse labour, than would otherwise occur. 1766 Blackstone *Comm.* II. xxxi. 487 It hath also been held, that under a commission of bankrupt, which is in the nature of a *statute-execution, the landlord shall be allowed his arrears of rent..in preference to other creditors. 1826 Hor. Smith *Tor Hill* (1838) I. 89 The *statute-fair had a few days before completely exhausted their little hoards of half-pence and farthings. 1863 Mrs. Gaskell *Sylvia's Lovers* i, Many a rustic went to a statute fair or 'mop', and never came home to tell of his hiring. 1772 *Town & Country Mag.* 33 She..resolved..to repair to one of the *Statute-halls, in order to obtain a place in quality of servants. 1878 J. H. Gray *China* I. x. 240 For these servants there are what in England are termed *statute hirings. 1800 *Local Act* 39 & 40 *Geo. III*, c. xxxii, An Act for levying a Conversion Money in lieu of the *Statute Labour [on roads]. 1845 W. Pagan *Road Reform* III. 208 There is an excellent statute labour road diverging at Leslie. 1847 *Jrnl. Agric. 1847-49*, 65 The 8th and 9th Vict. c. 41 (the general statute labour act,) which § 9 enacts [etc.]. 1612 R. Daborne *Christian turn'd Turke* 886 He would haue me a cuckold by law forsooth, by *statute law. *a* 1637 B. Jonson *Discov., Poesis*, There is no Statute Law of the Kingdome bidds you bee a Poet, against your will. *a* 1653 Sir R. Filmer *Patriarcha* iii. § 11 (1680) 115 What is hitherto affirmed of the Dependency and Subjection of the Common Law to the Soveraign Prince, the same may be said as well of all Statute Laws. 1818 Hallam *Mid. Ages* viii. III. (1819) III. 225 Though the statute law is full of authorities in their favour. 1863 Cox *Instit.* I. ii. 10 The system of jurisprudence..is in a great measure independent of statute-law. 1799 J. Robertson *Agric. Perth* 363 That the commissioners of supply, as public bodies in separate counties,..should borrow money, upon the credit of the *statute money. *a* 1591 H. Smith *Serm.* (1622) 544 *Statute-Protestants, which goe to the Church and heare an Homily, and receiue once a yeere. 1818 Hallam *Mid. Ages* viii. III. (1819) III. 71 These petitions..were..entered upon the *statute-roll. 1875 Stubbs *Const. Hist.* III. xviii. 274 His statute-roll contains no acts for securing or increasing public liberties. 1607 Cowel *Interpr.*, *Statute sessions..are a meeting in every hundred..vnto the which the constables doe repaire, and others both householders and seruants, for the debating of differences between masters and their seruants, the rating of seruants wages, and the bestowing of such people in seruice, as being fit to serue, either refuse to seeke, or cannot get Masters. 1726 in Picton *L'pool Munic. Rec.* (1886) II. 63 The roads..cannot be sufficiently repair'd by the *statute work. 1807 *Beverley & Kexby Road Act* 7 All persons who by law are or shall be liable to do Statute Work.

†**Sta·tute,** *v.*[1] Chiefly *Sc. Obs.* Pa. pple. often †**statut(e** (**statuit**). [f. L. *statūt-*, ppl. stem of *statuĕre*: see Statute *sb.*]

1. *trans.* To ordain, decree. Chiefly with clause as obj.

c 1435 in *Three 15th Cent. Chron.* (Camden) 91 It was enactyd, statuted, and decrede by all the hole counsel of the saide cite. *c* 1470 Henry *Wallace* IV. 133 Than statute thai, in ilk steide of the west, In thar boundis Wallace suld haiff no rest. *c* 1500 *Lancelot* 2527 The day that vas Y-statut and ordanit for to bee. 1513 in W. H. Turner *Select. Rec. Oxford* (1880) 10 It was enacted, established and statuted. *c* 1530 L. Cox *Rhet.* (1899) 46 Superyours whiche haue power to make, or statute, lawes to the inferiours. 1560–1 *1st & 2nd Bks. Discipl. Ch. Scot.* (1621) 18 For better execution of the said Act, It is statute, that [etc.]. 1594 in *Maitl. Club Misc.* I. 67 The presbiterie of Glasgow statutis and ordenis, that [etc.]. 1629 *Descr. S'hertogenbosh* 7 The Burgers..began to statute Lawes, and to make a Magistrate. 1640–1 *Kirkcudbr. War-Comm. Min. Bk.* (1855) 151 The said Committie of Estates..have, be thir presents, fund and resolvit, statuit and ordainit, that [etc.]. 1661 *Sc. Acts Parlt.* (1814) VII. 235 It is heirby statute that the Commissioners shall be releived of the pryces therof. 1678 Sir G. Mackenzie *Crim. Laws Scot.* I. xiv. § v. (1699) 79 Seing this pain is only statuted in the case of Paracide. 1698 in R. M. Fergusson *Logie* (1905) II. 300 The Session..statuts and appoints all these in the Congregation who hath pipers or fiddlers at their weddings to lose their Dollars. 1730 *Kames Decis. Cvt. Sess. 1730-52* (1799) 5 An Act..which statutes, That the acting [etc.]. 1756 Amory *Buncle* (1770) III. 53 He..statuted that men should maintain the dignity of the conjugal state. 1880 Skene *Celtic Scot.* III. 241 In another law the King statutes that if any [etc.].

2. To appoint (a term, time of payment, etc.).

1557 Knox *Let.* Sel. Writ. (1845) 350 Statuted it is to all men once to die. 1560 *Maitl. Club Misc.* III. 221 In the terme statut to ansuer to the said Williames petitioun Compered Elizabeth. 1563 *Ibid.* III. 315 The superintendent statutis wednesdaye nixt to cum to pronunc in presens of Jhon & decernis his summondis to summond Barbara yarto.

3. To set in order (a kingdom, country).

c 1470 Henry *Wallace* IV. 13 A gret consell was sett..Off Inglis lordis, to statute this cuntre. *Ibid.* VIII. 1594 Scotlande atour, fra Ross till Soloway sand, He raid it thrys, and statut all the land.

Hence **Sta·tuted** *ppl. a.*, **Sta·tuting** *vbl. sb.*

1755 Amory *Mem.* (1769) I. 284 The statuted appointment of mercy rejoices us. 1843 Carlyle *Past & Pr.* II. 13 Enforce it by never such statuting, three readings, royal assents,..it will not stand. 1891 F. Thompson *Sister-Songs* (1895) 39 [The soul] ripe for kingship, yet must be Captive in statuted minority!

†**Sta·tute,** *v.*[2] [f. Statute *sb.*] *trans.* To include in the scope of a 'statute' or bond (see Statute *sb.* 4).

1681 T. Flatman *Heraclitus Ridens* No. 10. (1713) I. 63 He has nothing to shew for his Money but an Order of a Committee, and that's Statuted too.

Statute-book.

†**1.** A book containing an Act of Parliament. *Obs.*

1593 R. Holtby in J. Morris *Troubles Cath. Forefathers* (1877) 223 Some of the jury required the statute book, that they might proceed the more assuredly.

2. The book containing the statutes of a nation or state; usually (*sing.*, occas. *pl.*) the whole series of volumes forming the official record of the statutes. Phrase, *on the statute-book*.

a 1648 Ld. Herbert *Hen. VIII* (1649) 368 In which many Acts pass'd, the most materiall whereof, I have set down briefly, not always according to the order observed in the Statute-Book, but rather according to the matters handled. 1675 Baxter *Cath. Theol.* VIII. II. 175 They searched the whole Scripture, read over the Statute-Book, and all the Common Law-Books and Cases, that they could get. 1705 Addison *Italy, St. Marino* 133, I saw in their Statute-Book a Law against such as speak disrespectfully of him. 1765 Blackstone *Comm.* I. Introd. § 3. 85 The oldest of these now extant, and printed in our statute books, is the famous *magna carta*. 1815 J. Smith *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 585 If the game-laws were only a dead letter on our statute-books. 1825 Syd. Smith *Sp.* Wks. 1859 II. 200/2, I should have said, that the disabling laws against the Catholics were a disgrace to the statute-book. 1827 Hallam *Const. Hist.* xvii. (1876) III. 310 We must not look to the statute-book of Scotland for many limitations of monarchy. 1863 Fawcett *Pol. Econ.* II. viii. (1876) 223 Our own statute-book proves that the attempt has frequently been made to regulate wages by law. 1871 C. Davies *Metric Syst.* III. 85 In England..the statute-books are filled with ineffectual attempts of the legislature to establish uniformity.

fig. 1831 Carlyle *Sartor Res.* III. viii, Those same unalterable rules, forming the complete Statute-Book of Nature.

Statute merchant. *Law.* Now only *Hist.* [STATUTE *sb.* + MERCHANT *a.*

An elliptical use of the designation of the *Statute of Merchants* of 1285, (Anglo-L. *statutum de mercatoribus*, also *statutum mercatorium*, AFr. *estatut marchand*) whence the powers of summary execution of this kind of instrument were derived.]

A bond of record, acknowledged before the chief magistrate of a trading town, giving to the obligee power of seizure of the land of the obligor if he failed to pay his debt at the appointed time.

[1347-8 *Rolls of Parlt.* II. 211/2 Robert Lok, & Walter de Norton furent tenutz & obligetz a dit Everard en centz & vintz livrez d'esterlings par Estatu Marchaund a paier a certein jour.] 1442 *Calverley Charters* (Thoresby Soc. 1904) 253 Walter shall fynd sufficiant surety, boundon in statute marchant, in D marc' to the saide Sir John. 1456 in *Sel. Cases Chanc.* (Selden Soc.) 139 A statut marchant of ccc.li. specyfied yn the sayde bylle. 1463 *Mann. & Househ. Exp.* (Roxb.) 180 An oblygasyon of statew marchend. cc. marke. 1592 GREENE *Black Book's Messenger* Wks. (Grosart) XI. 30 The welthy Gentleman..lends him money, and takes a faire Statute marchant of his Lands before a Iudge. 1592 NASHE *P. Penilesse* Wks. (Grosart) II. 15 The Diuel..would let one for a neede, haue a thousand poundes vppon a Statute Merchaunt of his soule. 1766 BLACKSTONE *Comm.* II. x. 160 During such time as the creditor so holds the lands, he is tenant by statute merchant or statute staple. 1825 OWEN & BLAKEWAY *Shrewsbury* I. 541 The Clerk of the Statute Merchant. 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xii. III. 211 How much money had proprietors borrowed on mortgage, on statute merchant, on statute staple!

Statute staple. *Law.* Now only *Hist.* Also **statute of the staple.** [An elliptical use of *statute of the staple* as the name of the ordinance of 1353 (see STAPLE *sb.*[2] 1); cf. STATUTE MERCHANT. (The shortened form *statute staple* is on the analogy of *statute merchant.*)] A bond of record, acknowledged before the mayor of the staple, conveying powers similar to those given by the statute merchant.

1444 *Rolls of Parlt.* V. 106/2 A reconisaunce to him made of the seid somme.., in a Statute of the Staple. 1472-3 *Ibid.* VI. 6/2 By force of eny execution, by Statuit of Staple, Estatuit Marchaunt, or any Jugement yeven in any of the Kynges Courtes. 1576 GASCOIGNE *Steele Gl.* (Arb.) 71 To stay their steps by statute Staples staffe. 1581 LAMBARDE *Eiren.* II. ii. (1588) 111 Such bonds shall be of the nature of a Statute Staple. 1586 [see STAPLE *a.* 3]. 1587 FLEMING *Contn. Holinshed* III. 1956/2 The cooke of the Temple was arrested in London, and in execution vpon a statute of the staple. 1592 GREENE *Def. Conny Catching* Wks. (Grosart) XI. 55 The gentleman..promised to acknowledge a statute staple to him, with letters of defeysance. 1607 MIDDLETON *Fam. Love* I. iii. 86 There is not one gentleman amongst twenty but his land be engaged in twenty statutes staple. 1613 SIR R. BOYLE in *Lismore Papers* (1886) I. 21 Cormech M[c]dermott of Blarney forfeited to me his statue staple of 2000li.. 1726 AYLIFFE *Parergon* 188 Nor can his Body be taken in Execution on a Recognizance upon a Statute-Staple. 1766 BLACKSTONE *Comm.* II. x. 160 The recognizance in the nature of a statute staple.

Statutorily (stæ·tiŭtərili), *adv.* [f. next + -LY [2].] In a statutory manner; by statutory enactment; in accordance with the provisions of the statutes.

1886 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 12 Apr. 4/2 These rents had been statutorily fixed. 1892 tr. *Schäffle's Impossibility Soc. Democracy* 221 It would be quite possible, if it were not statutorily provided against. 1893 J. MORLEY in *Standard* 11 Mar. 2/3 An increase of the 'free' force was not statutorily possible.

Statutory (stæ·tiŭtəri), *a.* and *sb.* [ad. assumed L. type **statūtōrius*, f. *statuĕre* to decree, enact; see STATUTE *sb.* and -ORY. In later use f. STATUTE *sb.* + -ORY. Cf. STATUTARY.] **A.** *adj.*

†**1.** Of a clause, etc.: Enacting. *Sc. Obs.*

1717 WODROW *Corr.* (1843) II. 331 The statutory part of that act. 1742 KAMES *Decis. Crt. Sess. 1730-52* (1799) 56 The statutory clause is in the following words: 'Statutes and ordains, That [etc.].

2. Pertaining to or consisting in statutes; enacted, appointed, or created by statute; conformable to the provisions of a statute.

1766 JOHNSON in *Boswell* (1791) I. 277 In the formulary and statutory part of law, a plodding block-head may excel. 1776 ADAM SMITH *W. N.* I. I. ix. 93 All these different statutory regulations. 1808 TOLLER *Law Tithes* ix. (1816) 236 A defendant in such case may set up a customary payment to protect himself against the claim of the statutory tithes. 1818 SCOTT *Br. Lamm.* xxi, The statutory penalties. 1845 M[c]CULLOCH *Taxation* III. ii. (1852) 441 The statutory rate of interest..was six per cent. 1863 H. COX *Instit.* I. vi. 33 The prerogative of the Crown..is now subject to statutory and constitutional limitations. 1879 H. HARDCASTLE *Statutory Law* 141 *note*, A corporation created by statute for a particular purpose is called a statutory corporation, to distinguish it from a corporation at common law. 1893 *Law Times* XCV. 26/1 It is high time that this branch of the law should be thrown into statutory shape. 1911 *Act* 1 & 2 *Geo. V*, c. 16 § 3 (2) It shall be a statutory condition for the receipt of an old age pension by any person, that [etc.].

b. *Statutory treason*: an offence made treasonable by statute. *Statutory declaration*: a declaration in accordance with the provisions of the Statutory Declaration Act (1835), which substituted simple affirmations for the oaths or solemn affirmations formerly required on certain occasions.

1804 M. LAING *Hist. Scot.* IV. 377 The former iniquitous trials in Scotland appeared indisputably to have proceeded from the accumulation of statutory treasons. 1890 F. A. STRINGER *Oaths & Affirm.* 76 A statutory declaration cannot be filed in the Supreme Court in lieu of an affidavit or affirmation.

3. *transf.* Obligatory by custom; regular.

1822 SCOTT *Nigel* vi, The board displayed beef and pudding, the statutory dainties of old England.

B. *sb.* A member of the 'statutory' branch of the Indian Civil Service.

1892 W. DIGBY in *Pall Mall Gaz.* 26 Apr. 7/1 In 1886 or 1887 it was discovered that the rules were not working well, and the 'Statutories' (as the nominees under the Act of 1870 were called) were declared not to be a success.

Statuvolence (stătiū·vŏlĕns). [f. next: see -ENCE.] = STATUVOLISM. 1891 in *Century Dict.*

Statuvolent (stătiū·vŏlĕnt), *a.* [f. L. *stātu-s* STATE *sb.* + *volent-em, volens* pr. pple. of *velle* to will.] Inducing or affected by statuvolism.

1891 in *Century Dict.*

Statuvolism (stătiū·vŏliz'm). [f. STATUVOL-ENT + -ISM.] (See quots.) So **Statuvo·lic** *a.*, pertaining to statuvolism; **Statu·volize** *v.*, to produce statuvolism in (a patient).

1871 W. B. FAHNESTOCK (*title*) Statuvolism; or, artificial somnambulism, hitherto called mesmerism; or animal magnetism, etc. 1883 MISS C. L. HUNT *Priv. Instr. Org. Magnetism* 54 Dr. W. Baker Fahenstock's [*sic*] system of what he terms Statuvolism. *Ibid.* 56 You will recognise that Statuvolism is a slow form of Auto-Magnetisation. *Ibid.*, Statuvolising would be more easily recognised, as a kind of weak-minded, indolent, though tedious, method of Magnetising by persuasion.

Staulande, obs. form of STALLION.

Staule, obs. f. STALE *v.*[2], STALL *sbs.* and *v.*[1]

Staull, obs. form of STALL *sb.*[1]

Staum, variant of STAM *sb.*[3] *dial.*

Staumrel (stǭ·mrĕl), *a.* and *sb. Sc.* Also **staumeral, stammrel.** [f. *staumer*, dial. var. of STAMMER *v.* + -EL.] **a.** *adj.* Stupid, half-witted. **b.** *sb.* A stupid, halfwitted person.

1787 BURNS *Brigs of Ayr* 170 Staumrel, corky-headed, graceless Gentry. *a* 1801 R. GALL *Poems* (1819) 31 Hab'by Graeme the haflins fool,..An' staumrel Willy Gray the Smith. 1802 SIBBALD *Chron. Sc. P.* IV. Gloss., *Staumrel*,..one who is incapable of expressing his meaning. 1835 D. WEBSTER *Sc. Rhymes* 163 (E.D.D.) My stupid auld muse often lurks o' the gait, But goes staumering about like a staumeral gowk. 1868 SHELLEY *Flowers* 207 (E.D.D.) The stammrel gaed stampin right through the buss.

Staunch, stanch (stǭnʃ, stanʃ), *a.* Forms: (5 **stawnche, staunche**), 6-7 **stanche,** (6 **stantche**), 5- **stanch,** 7- **staunch.** [a. OF. *estanche* fem. of *estanc* (mod.F. *étanche* of both genders) corresp. to Sp. *estanco*, Pg. *estanque* water-tight, It. *stanco* exhausted, weary, f. Com. Rom. **stancare*: see STANCH *v.*

The spelling *staunch* and the associated pronunciation are in British use much the more common for the adj., while for the related verb the form STANCH (stanʃ) is preferred.]

1. Impervious to water, not leaking; water-tight. Also occas. air-tight.

1412-20 LYDG. *Chron. Troy* I. 652 Þe schip..was so stawnche it myȝt no water lade. *c* 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* XII. 305 In bechen baskettis men saue also This fruyt, so they [with cley] be staunche ywrie. 1531 *Charterparty* in R. G. Marsden *Sel. Pl. Crt. Adm.* (1894) 37 The sayd owner shall warrant the sayd shypp stronge stanche well and sufficientlye vitalled. 1569 *Southampton Court Leet Rec.* (1905-6) I. 57 The seastron in gossling Lane..is not stantche for that the water breaketh oute. 1633 T. JAMES *Voy.* 7 We sayed the pumps, and found her stanch. 1660 BOYLE *New Exp. Phys. Mech.* xv. 102 What we endeavored in vaine, may be performed by..some other Virtuoso that shall have stancher Vessells then we had. 1667 — in *Phil. Trans.* II. 584 We found all had not continued so stanch, but that some small portion of Air had insinuated it self into the Receiver. 1726 SWIFT *Gulliver* II. i, Our Ship was staunch, and our Crew all in good Health. 1776 G. SEMPLE *Building in Water* 46 Our Coffer-dam..which we began to despair of ever getting made even tolerably stanch. 1856 KANE *Arctic Expl.* II. xxix. 296 The Mariane, a stanch but antiquated little barque. 1870 BRYANT *Iliad* I. III. 82 Crossing the deep in thy stanch ships.

†**b.** *fig.* (Cf. the phrase *to hold water.*)

1606 SHAKS. *Ant. & Cl.* II. ii. 117 Yet if I knew, What Hoope should hold vs staunch[,] from edge to edge Ath' world I would persue it. *a* 1641 BP. MOUNTAGU *Acts & Mon.* (1642) 100 Which [interpretation] cannot hold stanch possibly, as in termes it is proposed by him.

†**2.** Of blood: Not flowing out. *Obs. rare.*

1673 *Phil. Trans.* VIII. 6052 The pledgets being then thrown off, the blood continued staunch, and the mouths of the Arteries remained close.

3. Of strong or firm construction, in good or firm condition, substantial.

1455-6 *Cal. Anc. Rec. Dublin* (1889) I. 290 The sayd Jhon shall repeyre sayd towyr..and so to kepe hite up styf and stanch duryng the terme forsayde. 1644 MILTON *Areop.* (Arb.) 64 Doubtles a stanch and solid peece of framework, as any January could freeze together. 1692 RAY *Discourses* I. iii. (1693) 19 The foresaid new-raised Mountain..hath stood firm and staunch, without the least sinking or subsidency, for above an hundred and fifty years. *a* 1706 EVELYN *Diary* 23 July 1679, The house a stanch good old building. *Ibid.*, One of the closetts is parquetted with plaine deale, set in diamond, exceeding stanch and pretty. 1864 SKEAT tr. *Uhland's Poems* 357 'Gainst whom is shivered the staunchest brand. 1870 HAWTHORNE *Eng. Note-Bks.* (1879) II. 36 The wall of the tower is still stanch and strong.

†**4.** Restrained in behaviour, guarded, reserved.

[1623 see STAUNCHNESS.] *a* 1677 BARROW *Serm.* (1687) I. xiii. 186 Commonly such as are greatly staunch in other enjoyments of pleasure, are enormously intemperate in speaking, and very incontinent of their Tongue. *Ibid.* I. xxi. 296 It is good to be very staunch and cautious of talking about other men and their concernments.

†**b.** quasi-*adv.* ? Strictly. *Obs.*

1693 LOCKE *Educ.* § 107 (1699) 186 This is to be kept very stanch, and carefully to be watched.

5. Of a sporting dog: That may be trusted to find or follow the scent, or to mark the game; dependable.

1576 TURBERV. *Venerie* xl. (1908) 112 Vntill they haue rowzed or founde him againe with their bloudhounde, or with some other stanche old hounde of the kenell. 1616 BULLOKAR, *Stanchhound*, an old hound well experienced. 1668 DAVENANT *Rivals* IV, The Dogs..by that silence soon their fault confess'd, Most of e'm were Stanch-Hounds. 1677 N. COX *Gentl. Recreat.* (ed. 2) 110 Let such as you cast off at first be old staunch-Hounds, which are sure. 1735 SOMERVILLE *Chase* IV. 125 With these consort The stanch and steddy Sages of thy Pack. 1810 SCOTT *Lady of L.* I. vii, For, scarce a spear's length from his haunch, Vindictive toil'd the bloodhounds stanch. 1842 J. WILSON *Chr. North* (1857) I. 151 Two excellent double-barrelled guns, and three staunch pointers. 1883 *Century Mag.* Aug. 492 A dog that..is stanch on a covey.

transf. 1686 BLOME *Gentl. Recreat.* II. 29 Old staunch Hawks should have more rest. 1835 W. IRVING *Tour Prairies* 290 Our half-breeds displayed that quickness of eye, in following up a track, for which Indians are so noted. Beatte, especially, was staunch as a veteran hound.

6. Of a person: Standing firm and true to one's principles or purpose, not to be turned aside, determined.

1623 MASSINGER *Bondman* I. iii, Yet, tho' he obserue, and waste his state vpon vs, If he be stanch and bid not for the stocke That we were borne to traffick with; the truth is We care not for his company. 1678 DRYDEN *All for Love* III. i, O, he's the coolest Murderer, so stanch, He kills, and keeps his temper. 1678 PHILLIPS (ed. 4), s. v., So a man of Credit and Reputation, and well to pass in the World, is usually called a Stanch-man. 1689 PRIOR *Ep. Fleetwood Shephard* 133 In Politicks, I hear, you'r stanch. 1710 HEARNE *Collect.* 24 Feb. (O.H.S.) II. 348 He is a stanch Whigg. 1742 BLAIR *Grave* 364 The Foe, Like a stanch Murth'rer steady to his Purpose, Pursues her close through ev'ry Lane of Life. 1784 COWPER *Tiroc.* 492 And you are staunch indeed in learning's cause. 1824 W. IRVING *T. Trav.* II. vii. (1848) 143 He was stanch, however, to church and king. *a* 1839 PRAED *Poems* (1864) 11 My tried staunch friend, Sir Matthew Chase. 1841 DICKENS *Barn. Rudge* vi, You, who from a girl have had a strong mind and a staunch heart. 1868 E. EDWARDS *Ralegh* I. x. 182 The toil ..began..to wear down the strength if not the spirit of the stanchest. 1879 FROUDE *Cæsar* xv. 249 Those who ought to have been staunch have fallen away.

b. Of personal qualities, actions, etc.: Showing determination or resolution, unwavering.

1690 R. LUCAS *Humane Life* 239 Riper years..should bring on naturally wiser and stancher thoughts. 1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* vii, The vengeance they had prosecuted with such stanch and sagacious activity. 1823 — *Q. Durward* xxxvii, De la Marck might have effected his escape..but for the stanch pursuit of Quentin. 1883 A. FORBES in *19th Cent.* Oct. 720 Their devotion to their sovereign is staunch.

7. *Comb.*, as *staunch-hearted* adj.

1838 DICKENS *O. Twist* iii, There ain't a stauncher-hearted gal.

Hence **Stau·nchly, Sta·nchly** *adv.*; **Stau·nchness, Sta·nchness.**

1825 COBBETT *Rur. Rides* 291, I had him a puppy, and he never had any breaking, but he pointed staunchly at once. 1848 DICKENS *Dombey* xx, There never was a man who stood by a friend more staunchly than the Major. 1862 THORNBURY *Turner* II. 142 The terms once made, he was true, undeviating, and stanchly honest. 1899 F. T. BULLEN *Log Sea-waif* 252 She must have been staunchly built.

1623 CONWAY in *Hacket's Life Abp. Williams* (1693) I. 157 His Majesty would not that you should press him for a Note of his Hand for Secresie and Stanchness. 1669 BOYLE *Contn. New Exp.* I. i. 3 Having once, to try the stanchnesse of the viol, blown in so much Air..that [etc.]. 1702 S. PARKER tr. *Cicero's De Finibus* I. 11 As to the Truth and Stanchness of his Affections I cannot suppose you'll pretend to dispute it. 1776 G. SEMPLE *Building in Water* 46 We made the first Trial of our Coffer-dam..and proved its Stanchness several Times. 1826 in *Sheridaniana* 308 The extraordinary staunchness of a cross-bred setter. 1865 M. ARNOLD *Ess. Crit.* iv. (1875) 165 The stanchness which the religious aspirant needs.

Staunch, *sb.* and *v.*: see STANCH.

Stauncheon, -(i)on, var. ff. STANCHION.

Staung(e, staunk(e, obs. ff. STANK, STANCH.

Staup (stǭp), *sb. north.* [f. STAUP *v.*] (See quot. 1825.)

1825 JAMIESON *Suppl.*, *Staup* I. A long awkward step, Roxb. 2. A tall awkward person; as 'Haud aff me, ye muckle lang staup', ibid. 1897 E. W. HAMILTON *Outlaws of Marches* xvii. 185, I was..Never a happer-hippit staup of a thing like yourself.

Staup, variant of STAP *sb.* stave of a cask.

Staupings (stǭ·pinz), *sb. pl. north.* [? f. STAUP *v.* + -ING [1].] (See quot. 1847.)

1847 HALLIWELL, *Staupings*, the holes made by the feet of horses and cattle in miry highways, and other places. *North.* 1857 C. B. ROBINSON *Best's Farm. Bks.* (Surtees) Gloss., Saddened. Dried or hardened. Otherwise the action of the feet on the wet ground would make 'staupings'.

Staurac·in. *Antiq. rare*⁻⁰. [ad. late L. *stauracinus* (also *stauracium* and *stauracin* indecl.).
According to Du Cange s. v. *Storax*, the correct form is *storacinus*, an adj. meaning 'of the colour of storax'; see the quot. from Papias (11th c.) *ibid.* The explanation cited below, based on a supposed derivation from Gr. *σταυράκιον* dim. of *σταυρός* cross, was proposed by the Bollandists, but rejected by the Benedictine editors of Du Cange.
The word has app. no real existence in English, but an attempt has been made to thrust it into the text of Marlowe *Faustus* 369 (iv. 17) as an 'emendation' for *staues acre*.]
'A silken stuff figured with small crosses.'
1876 Rock *Textile Fabrics* v. 36.

Stauro- (stɔ̄·ro, stɒrǫ·), before a vowel **staur-**, combining form of Gr. *σταυρός* cross, employed in several terms, chiefly scientific. **Stauractin(e** [Gr. *ἀκτιν-*, *ἀκτίς* ray], 'hexactinellid spicules of the dermal sponge-layer in which two of the arms are atrophied, leaving the remaining four in the form of a cross' (*Cent. Dict.* Suppl. 1909). **Stauroba·ryte** *Min.*, an obsolete synonym of Harmotome (Chester *Dict. Min.* 1896). **Staurology** *nonce-wd.*, a science or doctrine of the cross. **Stauro-microscope** (see quots.). **Staurotypous** *a. Min.* [Gr. *τύπος* Type *sb.*; cf. eccl. Gr. *σταυρότυπος* marked with the sign of the cross], 'having mackles or spots in the form of a cross' (Ogilvie 1850).
1905 *Jrnl. R. Micros. Soc.* Apr. 190 The earliest regular form of spicule was the *stauractine. 1893 C. T. Cruttwell *Hist. Early Christianity* I. 53 Justin, who presses nearly every allusion to a tree or a piece of wood into the service of a mechanical *Staurology. 1879 Rutley *Stud. Rocks* ix. 75 For the purpose of investigating the optical properties of minerals various instruments, such as..the stauroscope,.. Rosenbusch's *stauro-microscope, &c., have from time to time been devised. 1843 Chapman *Pract. Min.* 190 *Stauro-typous kouphone spar.

† **Stauro·latry.** *Obs. rare.* [ad. late L. *stauro-latrīa* (Tertullian), f. Gr. *σταυρό-ς* cross + *λατρεία* worship: see -latry.] The worship of the Cross. Hence † **Staurolatrian,** one who worships the Cross.
1600 O. E. [M. Sutcliffe] *Repl. Libel* I. v. 100 With the Staurolatrians they worship the crosse, & crucifixe, giuing to the same diuine worship. 1649 J. Owen *Shaking Heaven & Earth* 26 They..will not hearken to the Angels preaching the everlasting Gospel, that men should worship..the God of heaven..in opposition to all their Iconolatry,..Staurolatry, and Masse abominations. 1684 I. Mather *Ess. Rec. Providences* viii. 272 Satans design in advancing staurolatry to the destruction of thousands of Souls.

Staurolite (stɔ̄·rolәit). *Min.* [a. F. *staurolite* (Delamétherie 1792): see Stauro- and -lite.]
† **1.** = Harmotome. *Obs.*
1796 Kirwan *Elem. Min.* (ed. 2) I. 282 Staurolite, or cross stone of St. Andreasberg in the Hartz. 1837 Dana *Min.* 277 Harmotome, *Vulcanus gemellus*...Staurolite.
2. Silicate of aluminum and iron, of yellowish brown to dark brown colour, found frequently in cruciform twins.
1815 Aikin *Min.* (ed. 2) 189. 1888 Rutley *Rock-Forming Min.* 163 Staurolite occurs chiefly in the crystalline schists. *attrib.* and *Comb.* 1879 Rutley *Stud. Rocks* xiv. 292 Staurolite slate is a dark micaceous slate containing crystals of staurolite. 1888 — *Rock-forming Min.* 201 The staurolite-bearing schists of Brittany.
Hence **Stauroli·tic** *a.*
1880 Dana *Man. Geol.* (ed. 3) 237 Staurolitic mica schist.

Staurolith (stɔ̄·rolip). *Min.* [f. Stauro- + -lith.] = Staurolite 2.
1815 Aikin *Min.* (ed. 2) 189.

Stauroscope (stɔ̄·roskōup). [f. Gr. *σταυρός* cross (see Stauro-) + -scope.] An instrument used for the microscopic examination of rocks (see quot. 1879). Also *attrib.*
1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 1877 *Catal. Special Collect. Sci. Apparatus S. Kens. Mus.* (ed. 3) 220 Stauroscope, according to the design of F. von Kobell, executed by Wiedemann. 1879 Rutley *Stud. Rocks* ix. 81 The determination of the crystallographic system to which a mineral belongs, and the exact position of the planes of vibration and of the axes of elasticity, are best effected by means of the stauroscope. 1888 — *Rock-Forming Min.* 48 The most perfect arrangement yet devised for this purpose is Bertrand's stauroscope eye-piece.
Hence **Stauro·rosco·pic** *a.*, of, pertaining to or made by means of the stauroscope. **Stauro·rosco·pically** *adv.*, by means of the stauroscope.
1879 Rutley *Stud. Rocks* vii. 56 A small plate of calcspar for making stauroscopic measurements. *Ibid.* ix. 81 The stauroscopic examination of thin sections of minerals. *Ibid.* ix. 84 The different crystallographic systems may be determined stauroscopically in the following way.

Staurotide (stɔ̄·rotәid). *Min.* [a. F. *staurotide* (Haüy 1801), app. f. Gr. *σταυροτός* cruciform, f. *σταυρός* cross.] = Staurolite 2.
1802 T. Thomson *Syst. Chem.* III. 459 Granatite. Staurotide of Hauy. 1804 R. Jameson *Min.* I. 76 Grenatite... Staurotide. 1837 Dana *Min.* 356 Staurotide is very abundant throughout the mica slate of New England. 1881 *Church Times* 669/2 Staurotides, cruciform crystals of basalt probably supposed to bring good to the possessor.

Staurotidi·ferous. [-ferous.] Containing staurotide. 1863 Dana *Man. Geol.* 71.

‖ **Staurus** (stɔ̄·rŏs). *Zool.* [mod.L., ad. Gr. *σταυρός* cross.] A type of sponge spicule of the form of a cross.
1887 Sollas in *Encycl. Brit.* XXII. 417/1 (*Sponge*) The suppression of both proximal and distal rays [of a sexradiate spicule] gives the staurus.

Staval(l, stavel, dial. ff. Staddle (*sb.* 3 b).
1669 Reek-staval [see Rick *sb.*¹ 2 b]. 1707 Mortimer *Husb.* 246 As for the making of Stavalls, Graneries, Barns, &c...I have already given you directions how to make them. 1794 Stavel barn [see Staddle *sb.* 8].

Stave (stēiv), *sb.*¹ [A back-formation from *staves* pl. of Staff *sb.*]
I. A stick of wood (and senses thence derived).
1. Each of the thin, narrow, shaped pieces of wood which, when placed together side by side and hooped, collectively form the side of a cask, tub or similar vessel. (Cf. Staff *sb.*¹ 14 f.)
1398 Trevisa *Barth. De P. R.* xix. cxxviii. (1495) 934 A tonne is an holowe vessel made of many bordes and tonne staues craftly bounde togyder. *c* 1580 in *Eng. Hist. Rev.* July (1914) 518 For..pipestaves and hoghed staves. 1613 Sir R. Boyle in *Lismore Papers* (1886) I. 26 Butt staves and hogshead staves. 1687 Petty *Pol. Arith.* (1690) 79 All sorts of Timber, Plank, and Staves for Cask. 1769 E. Bancroft *Nat. Hist. Guiana* 85 This quality renders it suitable for staves for sugar hogsheads. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* III. I. i, One Citoyen has wrought out the scheme of a wooden cannon...It is to be made of staves, by the coopers. 1844 H. Stephens *Bk. of Farm* III. 900 [The milking-pail] is made light, of thin oak staves bound with iron hoops. 1906 T. Sinton *Poetry of Badenoch* 21 Presenting him with the milk-cog, she assured him that so long as a stave of it remained [etc.].
b. Phrases. *To ding in staves*: to break in pieces. *To fall into staves*: to fall to pieces. *To take a stave out of one's cog* (cf. Cogue 1).
1786 Burns *Author's Cry* ix, To see his poor, auld Mither's pot, Thus dung in staves. 1889 H. Johnston *Chron. Glenbuckie* xvi. 179, I must either get my income augmented or take a 'stave out of my cog', as the saying is. 1895 W. C. Fraser *Whaups of Durley* ii. 17 'A dune man', the villagers said, 'fa'in into staves', and become quite unable to control a herd of boisterous children.
2. A rod, bar, pole or the like.
a. A rung (of a ladder); a cross-bar to the legs of a chair. Now *dial.* (Cf. Staff *sb.*¹ 14 a, b.)
c 1175 *Twelfth Cent. Hom.* (E.E.T.S.) 80 He bið ilic þam men þe..astihð..uppon þære læddrestæfæ..& wule þonne stiȝan ufor butan stafæ [= Ælfric *Saints' Lives* I. 12 Be þære hlæddre stapum..buton stapum]. *a* 1825 Forby *Voc. E. Anglia, Stave*, a step or round of a ladder.
† b. A pump-rod. (Cf. Staff *sb.*¹ 9 b.) *Obs.*
1750 Blanckley *Naval Expos.* 124 Stave or Spear (Pump Hand) is a long Rod of Iron with an Eye at the upper End, which Hooks to the Brake.
c. A bar or pin (of a trundle).
1834-6 Barlow in *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) VIII. 102/1 The teeth of pinions are also distinguished by the term leaves, and those of the trundle by staves or rounds. *Ibid.* 102/2 The centre of the stave A..half the diameter of the stave.
1869 Rankine *Machinery & Millwork* 137 When two wheels gear together, and one of them has cylindrical pins (called staves) for teeth. *Ibid.*, Draw curves parallel to and within the epicycloids, at a distance from them equal to the radius of a stave.
d. (See quot.)
1823 P. Nicholson *Pract. Builder* 372 The laths [for plastering] generally used in London are made of fir, imported from Norway, the Baltic, and America, in pieces, called staves.
e. A graduated rod used in levelling. (Cf. Staff *sb.*¹ 10.)
1838 *Rep. 8th Meeting of Brit. Assoc.* Notices 154 Description of an Improved Leveling Stave, for Subterranean as well as Surface Leveling. By Thomas Sopwith.
† f. *U.S.* ? A pig (of lead).
1864 C. H. Hunt *Life E. Livingston* i. 7 [For land purchased from the Indians R. Livingston agreed] to pay to the said Owners these following Goods..; Six Guns, fifty pounds of Powder, Fifty staves of Lead [etc.].
g. The shaft of a lance: = Staff *sb.*¹ 3 a.
1873 Dixon *Two Queens* III. xiii. viii. 43 Stave after stave was broken, but the unknown knights still challenged every one to ride his best.
h. = Bowstaff. *arch.*
1891 Doyle *White Company* xv, 'Tis the master-bowyer's rede:..Every stave well nocked. Every string well locked.
II. A bundle (of certain things).
3. A bundle of teasel-heads. = Staff *sb.*¹ 16.
1707 Mortimer *Husb.* 147 The common Produce is about 160 Bundles or Staves upon an Acre, which they sell for about one Shilling a Stave. 1805 R. W. Dickson *Pract. Agric.* II. 785 By some, before forming them into packs, they are done up into what are termed *staves*, by means of split sticks.
4. ? *Anglo-Irish.* (See quot.) *rare*⁻¹.
1861 O Curry *Lect. MS. Materials* 13 The next book..is that called *Cin Droma Snechta*...The word Cin..is explained in our ancient Glossaries as signifying a stave of five sheets of vellum. *Ibid.* 196 The workmen..carried off several loose leaves, and even whole staves of the book.
III. (Cf. Staff *sb.* II.)
5. A 'verse' or stanza of a poem, song, etc. = Staff *sb.*¹ 19 c.
1659 J. C[arvl] *Peter's Pattern* (1680) 3 After they had sang the two first Staves of the Tenth Hymn of Larners Twelve Songs of Sion. 1709 Hearne *Collect.* 24 Dec. (O.H.S.) II. 331 In most of the Churches..the 3 first Staves of the 64th Psalm were sung. 1757 Mrs. Griffith *Lett. Henry & Frances* (1767) IV. 233 That Posterity may bless us, should be one of the Staves of the Litany. 1784 Cowper *Task* vi. 662 The simple clerk, but loyal, did announce, And eke did roar right merrily, two staves, Sung to the praise and glory of King George! 1805 Scott *Last Minstr.* v. end, Last, o'er the warrior's closing grave, Rung the full choir in choral stave. 1823 Byron *Island* II. v, One long-cherish'd ballad's simple stave. 1841 Dickens *Barn. Rudge* xxxix, 'Cheer up, captain!' cried Hugh, when they had roared themselves out of breath. 'Another stave!' 1858 Merivale *Rom. Emp.* (1865) VI. lii. 285 Britannicus chanted a lyric stave on the sorrows of the discrowned and disinherited. 1875 Lowell *Spenser* Prose Wks. 1890 IV. 305 *note*, Spenser's innovation lies..in valuing the stave more than any of the single verses that compose it.
b. Phrase. *To tip* (one) *a stave*: to sing a song to (one); *jocularly*, to send a line to. Cf. Tip *v.*⁴ 1.
1838 Haliburton *Clockm.* Ser. II. xxiii, Just tip a stave to the Governor of Nova Scotia, order him to inquire out the author. 1886 Stevenson *Treas. Isl.* II. x, 'Now, Barbecue, tip us a stave', cried one voice.
6. *Mus.* A set of lines for musical notation: = Staff *sb.*¹ 20.
c 1800 Busby *Dict. Mus.* (1811). 1842, 1873 [see Staff *sb.*¹ 20]. 1875 Stainer & Barrett *Dict. Mus. Terms.*
7. quasi-*arch.* An alphabetic letter. (Cf. Runestave and Staff *sb.*¹ 18.)
1866-7 G. Stephens *Runic Mon.* I. Introd. p. x, Many staves are more or less the same in both [Runic and Roman]. 1896 A. Austin *Eng. Darling* iv. i, Ask them that read the staves. This crimson-dawn, The beechen slips on the white cloth spelled out The runes of death.
IV. 8. *attrib.* and *Comb.*: a. simple attrib., as *stave-hole, teeth*; *stave-wise* adv.; b. objective, as *stave-cutting, -making*; c. special comb.: **stave bolt,** a log for cutting into staves; **stave-rime** [cf. G. *stabreim*], alliteration; an alliterating word in a line of alliterative poetry; **staverow** *rare*, an alphabet; **stavesman,** an official bearing a stave or wand; **stave-tankard,** an antique tankard formed of staves of wood (*Cent. Dict.* 1891); **stave-wood,** a name given to several trees furnishing wood suitable for cask-staves (see quots.).
1878 *Lumberman's Gaz.* 26 Jan., Large quantities of *stave bolts are being hauled in. 1840 *Mechanics' Mag.* XXXIII. 497 Taylor's Improved *Stave-cutting Machine. 1901 *J. Black's Carp. & Builder, Scaffolding* 34 The sides..in which the points for centre of *stave-holes [of a ladder] are shown. 1874 *Spons' Dict. Engin.* VIII. 2917 *Stave-making and Cask Machinery. 1888 *Academy* 14 Jan. 27/1 The law of the alliterative verse does not require us to adopt the reading of the Dublin MS., as three *stave-rimes are a sufficient number for a line. 1866-7 G. Stephens *Runic Mon.* I. Introd. p. x, These particular staves died out, and assumed other forms in the later Runic *staverow. 1786 J. Smith in *Mem. J. E. Smith* (1832) I. 172 The area of the square [on election-day] was crowded with *staves,men and spectators: the candidates rode as usual. 1834-6 Barlow in *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) VIII. 103/2 Draw the line AB, joining the centres of the *stave teeth. 1659 Torriano *Dict. Ital. & Eng., A-fustue*, adv., made *stave-wise. 1778 W. Wright in *Trans. Roy. Soc. Edin.* (1790) II. 76 *Quassia Simaruba*...This tree is known in Jamaica by the names of Mountain Damson, Bitter Damson and *Stave-wood. 1864 Grisebach *Flora W. Ind. Islands* 788 Stave-wood, *Simaruba amara*. 1889 Maiden *Usef. Pl. Austral.* 542 *Flindersia Schottiana*..Stavewood. 1889 *Century Dict., Stavewood*,..a tall stout tree, *Sterculia fatida*, of the East Indies, eastern Africa, and Australia.

† **Stave,** *sb.*² *Obs. rare*⁻¹. [? For *staven*, var. of Stam *sb.*¹] ? The stem of a ship.
13.. *Coer de L.* 64 All it [a ship] was whyt of huel-bon, And every nayl with gold begrave: Off pure gold was the stave.

Stave (stēiv), *sb.*³ *north.* [f. Stave *v.*¹]
1. A crushing blow, a heavy stroke.
1819 [Rennie] *St. Patrick* I. xv. 220 Our bit curragh's no that rackle sin it got a stave..on the Partan-rock. 1867 [J. P. Morris] *T'Lebby Beck Dobby* 5 (E.D.D.) T'roof fair rang again wi' sic like staves as thissan.
2. A sprain. *Sc.*
1900 *Brit. Med. Jrnl.* 5 May 1076/2 The so-called 'stave of thumb,' or Bennett's fracture.

Stave (stēiv), *v.* Pa. t. and pa. pple. **staved**; also (chiefly *Naut.*), 8–9 **stove.** [f. Stave *sb.*¹]
1. *trans.* To break up (a cask) into staves; to break into and let out the contents.
c 1595 Capt. Wyatt *R. Dudley's Voy. W. Ind.* (Hakl. Soc.) 10 A bark..beinge forst to cast overborde all..theire fish and to stave theire caske in the whiche theire fresh water was. 1627 Capt. Smith *Sea Gram.* ii. 9 They..staue the Caske to make more roome. 1679 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1433/4 Yesterday 7 Hogsheads of French wine..were publickly staved by the Officers of the Custom House. 1771 Smollett *Humph. Cl.* 8 June, In an action at law, laid against a carman for having staved a cask of port. 1841 Dickens *Barn. Rudge* lxvii, They..could see them..broaching the casks, staving the great vats,..and lying down to drink at the channels of strong spirits.
b. To destroy (wine, etc.) by breaking up the cask.
1615 G. Sandys *Trav.* I. (1621) 66 Diuers times all the wine in the Citie hath bene staued. 1633 T. James *Voy.* 32, I made all the water in hold to be stau'd: and set some to the pumpes to pumpe it out. 1694 Echard *Plautus* 168 He's a plaguy hard custom-master, and staves all prohibited goods. 1733 P. Lindsay *Interest Scot.* 139 That all seiz'd Brandies should be either staved or exported. 1758 *Ann. Reg., Chron.* 85/1 They..stove all the beer in the cellar. 1768 *Ibid., Hist. Europe* 33/1 Wine was forbid..; and all those who were possessed of any quantities of it were obliged to stave it. 1827 Southey *Hist. Penins. War* II. 310 They had..staved all the liquor which they could not drink.
fig. 1700 Dryden *Fables* Pref *A 2, If the Searchers find any [irreverent expressions, etc.] in the Cargo, let them be stav'd or forfeited, like Counterbanded Goods.
c. *intr.* Of a barrel: *To fall to pieces. rare.*

1797 MRS. A. M. BENNETT *Beggar Girl* (1813) III. 20 One fair day the old barrel staved, over her poor dear tipped, and broke his neck.

2. *trans.* To break a hole in (a boat); to break *to pieces*; also, to break (a hole in a boat). *To stave in*, to crush inwards, make a hole in.

1628 DIGBY *Voy. Mediterr.* (Camden) 65 The man swimming well he saued himselfe with much difficultie, the boate being staued in many peeces. 1668 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 324/1 The 17th instant was driven on shoar..a vessel..where by the violence of the winds and waves, she was staved to pieces. 1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* I. (Globe) 263 The first Thing we had to do, was to stave the Boat..and..leave her so far useless as not to be fit to swim. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* I. viii. 81 A sea ..stove in the quarter gallery, and rushed into the ship like a deluge. *Ibid.* III. v. 334 The loss of our long-boat, which was staved against our poop,..put us to great inconveniences. *a* 1779 COOK *Voy. Pacific* (1784) I. II. i. 174 The attempt could not be made..unless at the risk of having our boats.. staved to pieces. 1819 BYRON *Juan* II. xlviii, The other boats, the yawl and pinnace, had Been stove in the beginning of the gale. 1823 SCORESBY *Jrnl.* 458 Our ship was driven against the corner of a floe, and her starboard-bow completely stove. 1834 MARRYAT *P. Simple* xi, He was forced to place sentries in the chains with cold shot, to stave the boats if they came alongside. 1884 *Manch. Exam.* 7 Oct. 5/1 The captain..ordered the boats to be lowered, but the sea stove in two of them. 1897 MARY KINGSLEY *W. Africa* 496 C..fetches up on a floating stump in the river, and staves a hole you could put your head in, in the bow of the said canoe.

b. *intr.* for *refl.* of a boat: To break up; hence *trans.* to break a hole in.

1743 BULKELEY & CUMMINS *Voy. S. Seas* 147 Otherwise she must have stove to pieces, the Ground being very foul. 1794 MORSE *Amer. Geog.* 71 During the storm, one of the Indian canoes stove, and became unfit for service. 1820 J. OXLEY *Jrnl. Exped. N. S. Wales* 225 The large boat struck on a sharp rock, and with such violence as to stave her bottom. 1839 LONGF. *Hesperus* xix, Like a vessel of glass, she stove and sank. 1856 KANE *Arct. Expl.* II. xxvi. 264 The Hope stove her bottom.

3. *transf.* trans. To burst in, crush inwards. Chiefly with *in*.

1716 CHURCH *Philip's War* (1865) I. 24 There Philip had staved all his Drums, and conveyed all his Canoo's to the East-side of Metapoiset-River. 1753 *Scots Mag.* Mar. 109/1 To break open and stave trunks and chests. 1822 A. CLARKE in *Life* x. (1834) 253, I found two of the maids..pushing.. against the shutters, as the windows themselves had been stove in by the tempest. 1862 TROLLOPE *Orley Farm* xxix, He had..broken his right arm, which had been twisted under him as the horse rolled, and two of his ribs had been staved in by the pommel of his saddle. 1862 BURTON *Bk. Hunter* (1863) 327 The doors staved in, the wainscoating pulled down. 1879 J. LONG *Virgil's Æneid* x. 557 He staves The face of Thoas with a rock—a mass Of bones and blood and brains outspattering.

4. To renew the staves of (a bucket); to put together the staves of (a cask, etc.).

1627 CAPT. SMITH *Sea Gram.* viii. 36 The Cooper is..to staue or repaire the buckets. 1842 BROWNING *Pied Piper* vii, A bulky sugar-puncheon, All ready staved.

5. To fit with a staff or handle.

1542 in *Rutland MSS.* (1905) IV. 335 Item payd..for the mackyng off leyden malles for archers, the yerne wareke, the lede and casteng, with the staweng off them at [blank] the pece. 1611 FLORIO, *Alberáre*,..to shaft or stave any weapon as a holberd.

6. To drive off or beat with a staff or stave; esp. in *to stave off*, to beat off (a dog in Bear- or Bull-baiting; also *transf.* a human combatant); to keep back (a crowd). Now only *arch.*

c 1624 DEKKER etc. *Witch Edmonton* v. i, But you must play fair, you should be stav'd off else. 1633 T. ADAMS *Exp. 2 Peter* ii. 4. 521 He is like an old bitten curre, that being fleshed to the game, will not be stav'd off. 1658 USSHER *Ann.* 717 He went abroad with the rods..and staving the young gamsters when they had contended as long as he thought good, parted them. 1671 tr. *Frejus' Voy. Mauritania* 73 Others, who with Clubs, and other weapons in their hands, staved off the Croud of People. 1820 SCOTT *Monast.* xxxvii, 'Stave the miller off him', said Murray, 'or he will worry him dead.' 1878 TENNYSON *Q. Mary* I. iii, Stave off the crowd upon the Spaniard there.

b. *fig.* and in fig. context.

1609 B. JONSON *Sil. Woman* III. i, For gods sake, let's goe staue her off him [*i. e.* Mistress Otter from Captain Otter, who are quarrelling]. 1611 BEAUM. & FL. *Tri. Time* i, I.. found him in a young Lords ear so busie..: I pulled him..; spoke unto him, His answer still was, By the Lord, sweet Lord,..Nothing could stave him off. 1627 SANDERSON *Serm. ad Magistr.* i. § 25 (1632) 175 And as for Courage to execute justice..whether it be..that a faire word whistleth him off; or that a great mans letter staveth him off;..sure we are, the Magistrate too often letteth the wicked carry away the spoyle, without breaking a law of him. 1647 TRAPP *Comm. 1 Thess.* iii. 6 God stints him [the devil], and staves him off, when he would worry his poor lambs. 1649 EARL MONM. tr. *Senault's Use Passions* VI. iii. 467 Other Passions are in a perpetuall motion; and..they never fix themselves so strongly on an Object, but they may be staved off. 1884 TENNYSON *Becket* Prol., And this Becket, her father's friend, like enough staved us from her.

c. Phrase. *To stave and tail*: see TAIL *v.*[1] 2. Also *transf.* and *fig.*

1663 [see TAIL *v.*[1] 2]. 1668 R. L'ESTRANGE *Vis. Quev.* (1708) 68 As they were Staving and Tayling, you might have had more Manners (cry'd one) than to give such Language to your Betters. *a* 1697 J. AUBREY *Country Revell* II. iii. in *Brief Lives* (1898) II. 334 Yesterday we Cheshire gentlemen mett at a barrell of ale at the bull-ring where we sufficiently bayted both bull and barrell; and having well dranke there, staved and tayled. *Ibid.* 335 The Justice and I..parted em, and, with something more trouble then staving and tayling dog and bull. 1823 SCOTT *Quentin D.* xxxiii, They seized him, pulled him down, and would probably soon have throttled him, had not the Duke called out—'Stave and tail!—stave and tail!—Take them off him!' 1829 — *Let.* 30 Jan. in *Croker Papers* (1884) II. 31 Jamie then set to staving and tailing between his father and the philosopher, and..reduced the debate to more order.

d. (See quot.)

1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.* s.v., *To stave off*, to boom off; to push anything off with a pole.

7. *fig.* Chiefly *to stave off.*

† **a.** To keep (a person) away or at a distance; to repel. *Obs.*

1631 LENTON *Charact.* C 8 b, Hee aspiers sometimes to his Masters daughter, but being stau'd off there, hee choppes vpon the Chambermaid, and there stickes fast. 1636 HEYLIN *Sabbath* II. vi. 185 To allure the people thither, being before staved off by a former Synod, it was provided that [etc.]. 1641 LD. BROOKE *Disc. Nat. Episc.* II. vi. 88 Heresies distract our soules, dismember our Churches, stave off Iew and Gentile, who know not whether part to believe. 1667 SOUTH *12 Serm.* (1697) II. 60 The Condition of a Servant staves him off to a distance; but the Gospel speaks nothing but Allurement.

† **b.** To keep (a person) *from* (doing something); to divert *from* (an object, practice, or course of action). *Obs.*

1630 *R. Johnson's Kingd. & Commw.* 329 This makes them..to put themselves under the protection of the Spaniard, the feare of whose power staves off the Duke from attempting upon that State. 1636 B. JONSON *Discov., Nil gratius*, How can they escape the contagion of the Writings, whom the virulency of the calumnies hath not stav'd off from reading? 1641 QUARLES *Enchyridion* III. xvii. (Grosart) 31/2 Divert the course of the vulgar humor, by devulging.. some..novelty, which may..stave their tongues from off thy worried name. *Ibid.* III. xxviii. 32/2 If he be given to lavish Company, endeavour to stave him off with lawfull Recreations. 1646 GAULE *Cases Consc.* 86 And there's no staving them off their owne conceited way of Tryall. 1651 N. BACON *Disc. Govt. Eng.* II. vi. (1739) 27 It was the policy of these times..to carry a benign Aspect to the Pope, so far only as to stave him off from being an enemy. 1654 OWEN *Doctr. Saints' Persev.* xii. § 59. 297 This dread and terrour [used] for the hedging up their wayes from folly, and staving them off from any Actuall evill. 1658 HEYLIN *Stumbling-block* iii. § 4. 81 Enough of conscience to have staved them from the prosecution, but that they had it in design, and resolved to carry it. 1668 OWEN *Expos. 130th Ps.* III What staves off these hungry creatures [*sc.* souls] from their proper food? 1684 H. MORE *Answer* xiii. 95 By this sharp reproof they may be the more effectually staved off from committing Idolatry.

c. To put off as importune or inopportune; to treat with evasion.

1645 J. HALL *Horæ Vac.*, 4 Columbus..had beene stav'd off by severall Christian Princes, yet..He gained the assistance of the King and Queene of Castile. *a* 1656 HALES *Gold. Rem.* I. (1673) 43 God himself in the Book of Psalms, staves them off with a *Quid tu ut enarres mea?* etc. 1680 N. LEE *Cæsar Borgia* III. i, But speak, thou stav'st me off. 1723 WATERLAND *2nd Vind. Christ's Divin.* ii. 66 But it is high Time now to come to Antiquity; which has been so long staved off, and yet must make a great part of our Discourse. 1843 A. BETHUNE *Scott. Peasant's Fireside* 79 The poor lad was staved off from time to time, wi' ae excuse after anither, till he grew impatient. 1887 HAGGARD *Jess* xxxiv, This staved the fellows off for a while.

d. To ward off (something undesirable or hurtful); to prevent the occurrence or event of; to keep back, delay. Also (rarely), *to stave away.*

1662 J. WILSON *Cheats* v. iii, Had you but mist me now, I should have ventur'd that, and perhaps stav'd, That misery, which alwayes follows rashness. 1664 — *A. Commenius* II. iii, 'Tis seal'd, and done: Nor shall the fate, or fortune of the Empire Stave it off longer. 1684 tr. *Bonet's Merc. Compit.* VI. 170 The Powder being given again, the fit is staved off. 1692 *d'Emiliane's Frauds Rom. Monks* 397 They..earnestly entreated him, to make use of all his Credit with the Pope, to stave off this fatal Blow from them. 1759 *Ann. Reg.* 6/2 New methods were devised, which might stave off the entire ruin of their finances. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. VI. iv, Insurrection will come; but likewise will it not be met? Staved off, one may hope, till Brunswick arrive? 1849 W. IRVING *Goldsmith* xxxii. 278 He had obtained an advance of money from Newbery to stave off some pressing debts. 1859 TENNYSON *Geraint & Enid* 352 But Enid..answer'd with such craft as women use, Guilty or guiltless, to stave off a chance That breaks upon them perilously. 1865 CARLYLE *Fredk. Gt.* XX. vii. IX. 140 One huge peril handsomely staved away, though so many others impend. 1879 DIXON *Windsor* III. xxiii. 231 A little fish sufficed to stave off hunger. 1884 CHURCH *Bacon* vi. 129 The proposed conference was staved off by management for a day or two; but it could not be averted.

8. *intr.* To fight with staves.

1663 BUTLER *Hud.* I. iii. 88 He..stav'd it out, Disdaining to lay down his arms.

9. *trans.* To drive with a heavy blow. *U.S.*

1837 *Knickerbocker Mag.* Nov. X. 408 (Thornton *Amer. Gloss.*), [He had] stove two of his front teeth down his throat. 1837 J. C. NEAL *Charcoal Sketches* (Bartlett *Dict. Amer.*), I'll stave my fist right through you, and carry you on my elbow, as easily as if you were an empty market-basket.

10. *intr.* To go with a rush or dash; to 'drive'. *Sc.* and *U.S.*

1819 [RENNIE] *St. Patrick* III. xi. 265 The puir lads..ha'e been a' night stavin' at ane anither, and struislin' i' the dark. 1825 J. NEAL *Bro. Jonathan* II. xxiii. 303 'Hold in!'..cried out a long, slab-sided Virginian, as our adventurers went, staving through Broadway, in Mr. Ashley's go-cart. 1836 *Phila. Public Ledger* 5 Oct. (Thornton *Amer. Gloss.*), He stove about in every direction, like a mad bull. 1880 'MARK TWAIN' *Tramp Abroad* ii, Other pedestrians went staving by us with vigorous strides. 1886 STEVENSON *Kidnapped* xxvi, If we seek to creep round..it's..there that they'll be looking to lay hands on us. But *if we stave on* straight to the auld Brig of Stirling, I'll lay my sword they let us pass unchallenged. 1894 P. H. HUNTER *James Inwick* iii. (1900) 37 He was staivin doon the street.

11. *Forging.* To thicken (bar-iron) by heating and hammering, to UPSET; also *to stave up.* Also *absol.* **b.** *intr.* Of the iron: To undergo staving; also *to stave up.*

1906 J. WATSON *Tables for Blacksm. & Forgers* Pref., The information required is generally about allowances for staving and drawing down. *Ibid.* 9 To stave up out of a bar 6″ wide by 4″ thick a part 7″ wide by 4½″ thick by 9″ long. *Ibid.*, So that 12″ long of 6″ wide by 4″ thick staves up to 9″ long of 7″ wide by 4½″ thick. *Ibid.* 15 A 4″ diameter bar is to have a length of 2″ at 5″ diameter staved on one end, and a part drawn down to 3½″ diameter by 10″ long. *Ibid.* 23 A bar 1¼″ round is to be staved to 1½″ square by 1½″ long: what length of 1¼″ round is required?

b. *transf.* (See quot.)

1850 OGILVIE, *Stave*, v..6. To make firm by compression. The term is applied to the compressing of lead by a hammer or a blunt chisel, after it has been run in to secure a joining, such as the socket joints of pipes.

12. To sprain (one's thumb, etc.) *Sc.*

1887 *Jamieson's Sc. Dict.* Suppl. 228/1 He steved his wrist and staved my thumb.

Stave, variant of STEEVE *v. Naut.*

Staved (stēvd), *ppl. a.* [f. STAVE *v.* + -ED[1]. In some uses prob. f. STAVE *sb.*[1] or *staves* pl. of STAFF *sb.*[1]]

1. Furnished with a stave or staves. † **a.** Having a handle or a supporting stem. *Obs.*

1482–90 *Howard Househ. Bks.* (Roxb.) 333 My Lord paied to I. Gravele uppon vj. bylles staved, and v. unstaved iij.s. iiij.d. 1599 in *15th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. v. 72 Waddhookes staved, twelve. 1628 FELTHAM *Resolves* II. xv. 45 The same fire may be in the waxen Taper, which is in the staued Torch, but 'tis not equall either in quantity, or advancement.

b. Of a ladder: Furnished with rungs.

1603 KNOLLES *Hist. Turks* (1621) 635 But climing too fast up the evill staved ladder of ambition, suddenly fell. 1769 *Ann. Reg., Nat. Hist.* 101/1 You pass thirty ladders, some half broken, others not half staved.

c. *Arch.* Of a column: Having a round convex moulding or bead in the lower part of the fluting. (Cf. CABLE *v.* 2 and RUDENTURE.)

1664 EVELYN *Freart's Archit.* 130 Sometimes we find the Striges [by our Workmen call'd Flutings and Groeves] to be fill'd up with a swelling, a third part from the Base, and these we call stav'd, or Cabl'd-Columns.

† **2.** Beaten with a stave or staff. *Obs.*

a 1625 FLETCHER *Kn. Malta* IV. ii, Thou art a dogge, I will make thee sweare, a dog stav'd.

3. Broken; also *staved in.*

1699 GARTH *Dispensary* V. (1730) 53 Each Combatant his Adversary mauls, With batter'd Bed-pans, and stav'd Urinals. 1727 BAILEY vol. II, *Staved* (of the Staves of a Cask), beat to Pieces. 1913 *Daily News* 4 Feb. 11 The staved-in barrels, and the lidless boxes that everywhere met the eye.

4. *Forging.* Thickened by hammering.

1906 J. WATSON *Tables for Blacksm. & Forgers* 15 The staved part [of an iron bar].

Staveless (stē·vlės), *a.* [f. STAVE *sb.*[1] + -LESS.]

a. Of a rune: Having no upright stem. *rare.*

b. Of a barrel: Having no staves.

1866–7 G. STEPHENS *Runic Mon.* I. Introd. 135 We may even have the side-stroke alone, the stave being absent; thus ' is A in the staveless Helsing-runes. 1892 *Daily News* 6 Aug. 6/2 His system of making staveless barrels from one sheet of wood, instead of from a number of staves.

Staver (stā·vəɹ), *sb.*[1] *dial.* and *Sc.* In 6 **stavir.** [? f. STAVE *sb.*[1]]

1. A rung (of a ladder). Also, 'one of the bars of a hay-rack' (*N. W. Linc. Gloss.*); 'a stake for a hedge, etc.' (*Sheffield Gloss.*).

1534 *Eng. Ch. Furniture* (Peacock 1866) 190 Item in the whete chamber a ladder of viij stavirs. 1866 BROGDEN *Prov. Lincs.*, *Stavers*, the staves or rounds of a ladder.

2. A stave (of a cask).

1891 'HUGH HALIBURTON' (J. L. Robertson) *Ochil Idylls* 89 'Maist like an auld cask dung to stavers.

Staver (stē·vəɹ), *sb.*[2] *dial.* and *U.S.* [f. STAVE *v.* + -ER[1].] One who is continually 'staving' about; an active, energetic person.

1860 J. G. HOLLAND *Miss Gilbert's Career* xii. (1881) 146 Oh! she's right, I tell you, and she's got one of the mothers—regular staver. 1869 MRS. STOWE *Oldtown Folks* x. (1870) 105 She was spoken of with applause under such titles as 'a staver', 'a pealer,' 'a roarer to work'. 1880 *W. Cornw. Gloss.*, *Staver*, a fussy, noisy person. 'She's a regular staver; she staves about from morning to night.'

Staver (stæ·vəɹ), *sb.*[3] [f. STAVER *v.*] In pl. (const. as sing.) The staggers = STAGGER *sb.*[1] 2.

1597 [implied in *staverwort*: see below]. 1639 DE GRAY *Compl. Horsem.* 30 This preventeth yellowes, stavers, and such like diseases. *c* 1720 W. GIBSON *Farrier's Guide* II. xv. (1738) 56 That Distemper which Farriers call the Stavers, or Staggers. 1749 *Lond. Mag.* 277 A disease called the staggers, or stavers, in horses.

b. Comb.: **staverwort,** the plant *Senecio Jacobæa*, ragwort.

1597 GERARDE *Herball* II. xxvi. 219 *Jacobea*... The countrey people do call it Stagger woort, and Stauerwoort. 1707 MORTIMER *Husb.* 187 Take [of]..Staverwort..a handful. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1093/2 Staverwort, *Senecio Jacobæa*.

Staver (stē·vəɹ), *v.* Chiefly *Sc.* Also 9 **staiver.** [? Alteration of STAGGER *v.*, after *daver.*] *intr.* **a.** To stagger (*lit.* and *fig.*). **b.** To wander about aimlessly or in a restless manner.

c 1425 Wyntoun *Cron.* III. v. 797 (Cott.) Þus in seige a sote to se,..Sal ger standande statis stauer. *Ibid.* IV. vii. 816 Al þus in wodnes as thai wauerydе And stekyt sa withe stokys staweride [*v. r.* stauerit]. 1755 R. Forbes *Ajax' Sp., Jrnl. fr. Lond. to Portsmouth* 30, I was lyin tawin an' wamlin..like..a stirkie that had staver'd into a well-eye. *Ibid.* 50 Key, Staver'd [=] Stagger'd. 1776 C. Keith *Farmer's Ha'* xxxii, [The ganger] gangs just stavering about In quest o' prey. 1820 *Blackw. Mag.* Nov. 203 So out I stavers, for rest I could na' within. 1864 Latto *Tam. Bodkin* xix. (1894) 199, I staivered awa in, an' tauld my story. 1884 Froude *Carlyle's Life in Lond.* I. iii. 69 He slept badly from overwork, 'gaeing stavering aboot the hoose at night', as the Scotch maid said, restless alike in mind and body.

Stavesacre (stē·vzēːkəɹ). Forms: 4 **scafisage**, 5 **staphisagrie**, 5–6 **-agre**, (5 **stafi-sagre, scapysagre**, 6 **stafesagre, stavysagre, -acre, stavis akre**), 6–8 **stavesaker**, (7 **stav-aker, stassaker, stavis-acre**), 6–7, 9 **staphisacre**, 7–8 **-ager**, 8 **stave-acre**, (**staves-ager**), 6–**stavesacre**. [ad. L. *staphisagria*, a. Gr. *σταφὶς ἀγρία* lit. wild raisin (*σταφὶς* raisin, *ἀγρία* fem. of *ἄγριος* wild).] A plant of the species *Delphinium Staphisagria* (N.O. *Ranunculaceæ*), native in southern Europe and Asia Minor; the seeds of this plant, used to destroy vermin, and formerly as an emetic.

d 1400 *Stockholm Med. MS.* 156 Scafisage *scafisagia*. *c* 1400 *Lanfranc's Cirurg.* 184 Herof we moun do þerto sal gemme, sulphuris, euforbij ana ʒ.ij. staphisagrie, cantaridarum ana ʒj. 14.. *Bk. Hawking* (MS. Harl. 2340) in *Rel. Ant.* (1841) I. 297 Take a greyn of staphisagre, and put under her [a hawk's] tong, and she shall caste. *Ibid.* 300 Take scapysagre, and sethe it in water. *c* 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* I. 596 As staphisagre, minget in theire mete Wol hele her tong. 1460–70 *Bk. Quintessence* II. 20 Medle it wiþ a good quantite of poudre of stafi-sagre. 1538 Turner *Libellus, Staphis agria* Stauesacre. 1547 Boorde *Brev. Health* (1870) 87 Take..of Stauysacre made in fyne pouder, halfe an vnce. 1578 Lyte *Dodoens* III. xxxix. 372 Staphisacre, especially the seede, is hoate almost in the fourth degree. 1599 Nashe *Lenten Stuffe* Ep. Ded. A 2 b, Looke how much Tobacco wee carry with vs to expell cold, the like quantitie of Staues-aker wee must prouide vs of to kill lice in that rugged countrey of rebels. 1611–12 *Shuttleworths' Acc.* (Chetham Soc.) 198 For stassaker to John Leighe, ij^{d}. 1630 J. Taylor (Water P.) *Taylor's Goose* 85 Wks. I. 105/1 Mix'd with Stauesacre, and *Argentum vive*, It will not leaue a man a Lowse aliue. 1682 G. Wheler *Journ. Greece* IV. 290 *Staphys agria*, or Staves-acre. 1731 Miller *Gard. Dict.* s.v. *Delphinium*, Larkspur with a Plane-Tree Leaf, commonly call'd Stavesacre, or Lousewort. 1736 Bailey *Houshold Dict.* 330 Pound burnt cummin and staphisager of each equal quantities and mix it with wine. 1757 Dyer *Fleece* I. 288 Th' infectious scab..is by water cur'd Of lime, or sodden staveacre. 1822–29 *Good's Study Med.* (ed. 3) V. 660 The most fatal poisons to all these vermin are the mercurial oxydes, staphisacre, [etc.]. 1838 T. Thomson *Chem. Org. Bodies* 246 A pound of stavesacre furnishes from 55 to 60 grains of delphina. 1876 J. Harley *Royle's Mat. Med.* (ed. 6) 769 Stavesacre is a native of the South of Europe, and of the Mediterranean islands.

attrib. 1688 Holme *Armoury* II. 90/1 He beareth Argent, a Stavesacre slip. 1837 *Penny Cycl.* VIII. 375/1 Stavesacre seeds are not now used internally. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 866 For infants..stavesacre or weak balsam of Peru ointment may be substituted for the sulphur.

Staving (stē·viŋ), *vbl. sb.* Also 4 *Sc.* **staffing**. [f. Stave *v.* and *sb.* + -ing 1.]

1. The action of the verb Stave. Chiefly with advs. *off, in.*

1633 W. Watts in T. James *Voy.* S, He..does like the Ship here spoken of, runne against a Rocke, endanger his owne bulge, and the stauing of his vessell. 1666 Temple *Let. Ld. Arlington* Wks. 1731 II. 14 Neither the Emperor nor Spain will contribute any thing towards the Bishop's Assistance, nor so much as the staving off Enemies. 1815 Coleridge *Let. W. Money* Lett. (1895) II. 651 The staving off of pain is no pleasure. 1852 *Bentley's Misc.* XXXI. 57 Talk of fun, there never wos any like that which followed the staving-in of the heads of them barrels.

† **2. a.** The action of striking with staves. *Obs.* **b.** The action of setting up defensive or protective stakes or staves. *Obs.*

c 1375 Barbour *Bruce* XVII. 785 With staffing, stoking, and striking Thar maid thai sturdy defending. *c* 1543 *Plumpton Corr.* (Camden) 245 The Kings Majesties oficeres requireth of you and of me..to be contribetors to the charges and staving of the watters of Ancotes.

3. Staves collectively. **a.** The staves of a trundle (see Trundle *sb.* 2). **b.** (See quot. 1875.)

1491 in *Reg. S., Cant. Cath. Libr.* 368 b, The Priorie & Conuent shall repair the seid two watirmylles Except coggyng and stavyng, which shalbe at the costes of the seid John John & Thomas. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech., Staving*, a casing of staves or planks which forms a curb around a turbine or similar water-wheel.

Staving (stē·viŋ), *ppl. a.* [? f. Stave *v.* + -ing.]

† **1.** ? Addicted to fighting with staves, quarrelsome. *Obs.*

But possibly a misprint for *staring*.

1621 Fletcher *Pilgr.* II. ii, *Rod.*..What have you brought me Souldiers? *Lop.* We know not wel what: a strange staving fellow, Sullen enough I am sure.

2. *U.S. colloq.* As an intensive: Very strong, excessive. [Cf. Stave *v.* 10.]

c 1850 *Cincinnati Times* (Farmer citing Bartlett), A staving dram put him in better humour. 1882 Ludlow *Nick Hardy* III, I've got a staving long lesson.

Stavy (stē·vi), *a. U.S.* [f. Stave *sb.*^{1} + -y.] Of butter: Tasting of the staves or cask.

1888 *Voice* (N.Y.) 23 Feb., Stavy or woody butter [comes] from tubs made of green wood.

Staw, Sc. and dial. form of Stall *sb.*^{1} and *v.*

Stawbote, variant of Stall boat. *Obs.*

1536 in *Hist. MSS. Comm., Var. Collect.* (1904) IV. 262 [His] stawbote, [anchors, cocks, ropes, nets, &c.,..to be sold.]

Staw(e, obs. pa. t. of Steal and Sty.

Stawk, -er, obs. Sc. ff. Stalk, Stalker.

Stawl(e, -ling, stawll: see Stall, -ing.

Stawnche, obs. form of Stanch *v.*

Stawyll, obs. form of Stall *sb.*^{1}

‖ **Staxis** (stæ·ksis). *Path.* [mod.L., a. Gr. *στάξις* a dripping, f. *στάζειν* to drop, drip.] 'Slight defluxion of any humour, as nasal hæmorrhage' (*Syd. Soc. Lex.*).

1745 R. James *Med. Dict.* III. s.v., A Staxis, in the Doctrine of Crises, is justly condemned as indicating a Weakness and Decay of Strength in Nature.

Stay (stē), *sb.*^{1} Also 4–5 **stey**(**e**, 5 **stye**, 5–6 **staie**, 6 **staye**. [OE. *stæg* (? neut.) corresp. to Du. *stag* neut. and fem., *staag* neut., WFris. *staech*, LG. *stach* (16th c.), *stag*(*g* (E. Friesland), G. *stag* neut., ON. *stag* neut. (Da., Sw., Norw. *stag*, Icel. *stag* stay, clothes-line):—OTeut. **stago-*, f. Teut. root **stah-*: *stag-* to be firm (in **stahlo-* Steel *sb.*, ON. *stagl* the rack, Norw. *stagle* pole):—pre-Teut. **stak-* or **stok-*. The Teut. word has been adopted in the Rom. langs.: OF. (12th c.) *estai* (mod.F. *étai*), Sp., Pg. *estay*.]

1. *Naut.* A large rope used to support a mast, and leading from its head down to some other mast or spar, or to some part of the ship.

The stays which lead forward are called fore and aft stays; and those which lead down to the vessel's sides backstays (see Backstay). The stays have also special names according to the mast to which they are attached: see Forestay, Mainstay, Mizen-stay.

a 1100 *Ags. Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 288/26 [*De Nave et Partibus eius.*] *Safo*, stæx. [Cf. '*safon*, stæþ', *Suppl. Ælfric's Gloss*, ibid. 182/27; '*scaphon*, funis in prora positus' (Isidore).] 1296 *MS. Acc. Exch. K. R.* 5/20 m. 4 b, Capiuntur..ad vsum Galee..octo Copule Cord[orum] Capital[ium] j. Stay, ij. Schetes, ij. Huppeteyes, j. Boye. 1307–8 *Ibid.* 14/14 In ij. hupteghes. vj. couplis de hauedropes et ij. Steyes..pro masta dicte Bargie .. xxviij.s. 1336 *Ibid.* 19/31 m. 4 In xxx petris cordis de canabo..pro tribus steyes inde faciendis. 1417 in *For. Acc.* 8 *Hen. V*, D/2 In v peciis de ropes pro styes j. Couple Bakstyes ij hailers ij vpties. 1420 in *For. Acc.* 3 *Hen. VI*, G/2 De j. cathena ferri vocata lichechine ad seruiendum pro le Steye dicte Carrac'. 1485 *Naval Acc. Hen. VII* (1896) 40 Sherhokes for the stay..ij. *Ibid.* 48 For shrowdes..vj. ffor staies..j. 1496 *Ibid.* 177 The Steyes for the Mayne maste. 1620 J. Taylor (Water P.) *Praise Hempseed* Wks. (1630) III. 66/2 Your mastlines, ropeyarnes, gaskets, and your stayes. 1626 Capt. Smith *Accid. Yng. Seamen* 30 A stay, a halyard, sheats. 1627 — *Sea Gram.* v. 19 The vse of those staies are to keepe the Masts from falling aftwards, or too much forwards. 1719 De Foe *Crusoe* I. (Globe) 232, I was near two Months..rigging and fitting my Mast and Sails; for I finish'd them very compleat, making a small Stay, and a Sail, or Foresail to it. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* III. v. 341 The mast itself is supported..by the shrowd..and by two stays. 1750 Blanckley *Naval Expos.* s.v. *Cordage*, Stays are Cablelaid, but made with four Strands as Cables are with three, with an Addition of an Heart which goes through the Center of them. 1850 Longf. *Build. Ship* 225 Each tall..mast is swung into its place; shrouds and stays holding it firm and fast! 1864 Boutell *Her. Hist. & Pop.* xvii. (ed. 3) 261 A Rudder sa., the tiller and stays or. 1877 Bryant *Odyss.* V. 313 And, rigging her with cords, and ropes, and stays, Heaved her with levers into the great deep.

b. *transf.* A guy or rope supporting a flag-staff, or a pole of any kind.

a 1533 Berners *Huon* cxiii. 393 They..strake and cut asonder the cordys and stayes so that many tentis fell to the erth. 1642 H. Bond *Boatswain's Art* 2, 1 Maine Flag-staffe stay. *Ibid.* 7, 1 Lanniard of the fore Topmast stay. *Ibid.* 8, 1 Maine Topgallant mast Stay. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2317 *Stay*, a guy supporting the mast of a derrick, etc. 1876 Preece & Sivewright *Telegr.* 202 For this purpose stays and struts are employed. By a stay is meant whatever takes the pull or tension of the forces acting upon the pole. 1884 *Act* 47 & 48 *Vict.* c. 76 § 20 A post, pole, standard, stay, strut, or other above ground contrivance for carrying, suspending or supporting a telegraph. 1892 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 8 Aug. 5/2 At an early hour the wire stays which supported one of the semaphores were cut preparatory to removing the post.

2. Nautical phrases.

a. † *At stays* (obs.), *on, upon* (*the*) *stays* = Abackstays. *In stays*: said of a ship when her head is being turned to windward for the purpose of tacking.

a 1586 Sidney *Arcadia* I. i. (1912) 11 And now they were alreadie come upon the staies; when [etc.]. *c* 1595 Capt. Wyatt *R. Dudley's Voy. W. Ind.* (Hakl. Soc.) 9 Our Generall, to the intent they might with more ease fett us up, caused great draggs to be hanged over borde, oftentimes comminge on the staies, of purpose for them. *a* 1599 J. Locke in Hakluyt *Voy.* II. i. 106 And all this while the shippe lay on staies. 1606 *Adm. Ct. Exam.* 38, 1 Apr., Fell on his stayes and cast about. 1626 Capt. Smith *Accid. Yng. Seamen* 29 Ware yawning, the ships at stayes, at backestayes. *a* 1642 Sir W. Monson *Naval Tracts* II. (1704) 253/2 There are so few Sailors to tackle their Ships, that they will be taken upon the Stays. 1706 Phillips (ed. Kersey) s. v. *Stay, To bring a Ship upon the Stays* or *To stay her*, is to manage her Tackle and sails so that she cannot make any way forward. 1823 W. Scoresby *Jrnl.* 91 With the aid of a few observations taken 'in stays' the remaining twelve points were likewise determined. 1797 S. James *Narr. Voy.* 31 The ship being put in stays before the sail was half furled, the wind blew the body of the sail with great force flat against the Crosstrees. 1830 Marryat *King's Own* xvi, As he was in stays, a raking shot entered the cabin windows. 1846 A. Young *Naut. Dict.* 296 A vessel in the act of tacking is said to be in stays, or to be hove in stays: if she work slowly in tacking, she is said to be slack in stays. 1861 *Times* 16 Aug., Christabel was sailed the freeest,..and was remarkably quick in stays.

b. *To miss, lose stays*: of a ship, to fail in the attempt to go about.

1758 *Ann. Reg.* 83 The Invincible..of 74 guns,..missed her stays, and run upon a flat. 1770 *Ibid.* 166 The pilot-boat..losing her stays, was driven upon Hoyle's Bank. 1847 Lever *Knt. Gwynne* lxxiv, In a last endeavour to clear the head-lands of Clare, she missed stays. 1873 G. C. Davies *Mount. & Mere* xvi. 142 Hesitating a little in his management of the helm, the yacht missed stays.

c. (*At*) *a long, short stay* (*stay apeak, stay-peak*): see quots.

1846 A. Young *Naut. Dict.* 16 The anchor is a-stay when, in heaving it, the cable forms an acute angle with the water's edge. This is called a long stay-peak or a short stay-peak according as the anchor is farther from or nearer to the ship. 1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib.* II. XII. 25 Elasticity of form, which enables it to sustain sudden strains or jerks at short stay-peak. 1867 Smyth *Sailor's Word-bk.* 46 A ship drawn directly over the anchor is *apeek*; when the fore-stay and cable form a line, it is *short stay apeek*; when in a line with the main-stay, *long stay apeek*. 1875 Bedford *Sailor's Pocket Bk.* vi. (ed. 2) 223 In being towed by a vessel, if alongside, contrive to have the rope from as far forward as possible, so as to avoid riding at a short stay. 1888 Nares *Seamanship* (ed. 6) 198 Heave in to a short stay (when the amount of cable out is a little more than the depth of water).

3. *Comb.*, **stay-block**, a block buried in the ground as an attachment for the stay of a telegraph pole; **stay-hole** (see quot.); **stay-light**, a riding light (*Cent. Dict.* 1891); † **stay-nail**, a nail for securing a stay; **stay-peak** (see 2 c); **stay-rope**, = sense 1; **stay-tackle** (see quot. 1815); **stay-wire**, a wire forming part of a stay for a telegraph pole. Also Stay-sail.

1876 Preece & Sivewright *Telegr.* 204 The hole for the *stay-block should be under-cut in the manner shown in fig. 119. 1794 *Rigging & Seamanship* I. 89 **Stay-holes*. Holes made through staysails, at certain distances along the hoist, through which they are seized to the hanks on the stay. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.*, Stay-hole. 1296 *MS. Acc. Exch. K. R.* 5/20 m. 4 b, In vna petra ferri vspannie ad *staynayl faciendum iiij.d. *c* 1515 *Cocke Lorell's B.* 12 Some the *stay rope suerly byndes. 1815 *Falconer's Dict. Marine* (ed. Burney) **Stay-Tackle*, a large tackle, attached by means of a pendant to the main stay. It is used to hoist heavy bodies..in and out of the ship or out of the holds. 1836 Marryat *Pirate* xiii, Their yards and stay-tackles are up, all ready for hoisting out the long-boat. 1876 Preece & Sivewright *Telegr.* 206 The *stay-wires should be at least three inches distant from the line wire nearest to them.

Stay (stē), *sb.*^{2} Also 6 **staigh**(**e**, **stey**(**e**, 6–7 **staie, staye**, 8 *pl.* **steas**. [Prob. f. Stay *v.*^{2}; but in sense 1 perh. in part ad. OF. *estaye* fem. (mod. F. *étai* masc.), vbl. noun f. *estayer* Stay *v.*^{2}

The early mod. Flemish *staede, staeye*, 'fulcrum, sustentaculum, columen' (only in Kilian), which is usually given as the source of the Fr. words, is prob. ad. OF. *estaye*, the spelling *staede* being due to false etymology.]

1. Something that supports or steadies something else; esp. an appliance for holding up or securing in position some part of a structure; a prop, pedestal, buttress, bracket, or the like. † Also (*rarely*), something to lay hold upon.

c 1515 in Willis & Clark *Cambridge* (1886) I. 484 Glewe nayles broddes and Stayes. *c* 1535 in Gutch *Coll. Cur.* I. 205 Item for two stays for the vane of the said griffin. 1541 Copland *Guydon's Quest. Cyrurg.* O j, Take a lytell candell of waxe and gyue it a lytel stey belowe that it may holde ryght upon the flesshe. 1544 Betham *Precepts War* I. cxiv. F vj b, Longe berdes and longe heere,..in battayle be troublesome...For they be good stayes, to holde a man hard and fast. Wherfore it shalbe good to clap them shorte. 1573 Baret *Alv.* B. 1004 A Bragget or staie cut out of stone or timber in building to beare vp the sommer or other part, ..*mutulus*. 1576 Gascoigne *Philomene* Wks. 1910 II. 204 At last: my staffe (which was mine onely stay) Did slippe. 1602 *Churchw. Acc. Pittington* (Surtees) 51 Item given to John Scotte for settinge a stay to the Steple. *c* 1610 *Women Saints* 115 Withoute pillow or any like supporting staye. 1617 Moryson *Itin.* III. 166 Their said shirt bands..hung upon their shoulders, notwithstanding they had staies to beare them up. *a* 1618 *Rates of Merchandizes* E 4, Deskes or staies for bookes the dozen, ij.s. 1658 A. Fox *Wurtz' Surg.* II. XXV. 164 Let not his Heel [in leg fracture] be without a stay and rest. 1680 Moxon *Mech. Exerc.* xi. 201 So that a Tool held steddy on any part of the Stay..will describe and cut a Screw. *c* 1680 Beveridge *Serm.* (1729) II. 49 An anchor that is fixed in firm ground, is reckon'd a sure stay for the ship in all weathers. 1713 Derham *Phys.-Theol.* VI. ii. 360 A Part of the Cerebell is on each side fenced with the *Os petrosum*; so that by this double Stay, its whole Mass is firmly contained within the Skull. 1827 Faraday *Chem. Manip.* xiv. (1842) 309 It will be proper to introduce a stay or two, pieces of black lead tube, for instance, as supporters to the lute. 1834–6 Barlow in *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) VIII. 105/2 Face wheels..have sometimes stays or braces proceeding from the back of the rim to some distance along the shaft. 1836 Thirlwall *Greece* XVI. II. 361 The scarcity became such that they were driven to boil and eat the leathern stays of their bedding. 1842 Gwilt *Archit.* Gloss., *Stay*, a piece performing the office of a brace, to prevent the swerving of the piece to which it is applied. 1886 C. E. Pascoe *Lond. To-day* XXXIV. (ed. 3) 310 A tree.. propped up by iron stays.

b. *fig.* A thing or a person that affords support; an object of reliance.

Exceedingly common in the second half of the 16th century. In modern use the word, though not uncommon even colloquially, has often a suggestion of archaism.

a 1542 WYATT *Ps.* CXXX. 24 Thi holly word off eterne excellence thi mercys promesse..have bene my stay my piller & pretence. 1553 *Respublica* 457 What marvaile then yf I, wanting a perfecte staigh From mooste flourishing welth bee falen in decaye? 1560 BIBLE (Geneva) 2 *Sam.* xxii. 19 The Lord was my stay. *Ibid., Isa.* iii. 1 For lo, the Lord God of hostes wil take away from Ierusalem and from Iudah the stay and the strength: euen all the stay of bread, and all the stay of water. 1563 *Homilies* II. xviii. *Matrimony* X XXXIV, For there is no stronger defence and staye in all our lyfe, then is prayer. 1583 STUBBES *Anat. Abus.* II. (1882) 27 Commons and moores which were woont to be the onely staie of the poore. 1641 J. JACKSON *True Evang. T.* III. 190 Surely that is a very aery soule, whose chiefe rest and stay is not his Religion. 1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* (1840) II. i. 7 She was..the stay of all my affairs. 1802 WORDSW. *Resolution & Indep.* 139 'God', said I, 'be my help and stay secure'. 1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* viii, His daughter, who should be the stay of his age. 1836 T. KELLY *Hymn*, '*Speed thy Servants*' ii, As their stay thy promise taking. 1849 C. BRONTE *Shirley* xii, She was still such a stay, such a counsellor. 1861 READE *Cloister & H.* iv. (1896) 21 From that hour Gerard was looked upon as the stay of the family. 1884 *Congregational Year Bk.* 70 Make a legal statute the stay of religion, and you repeal religion. 1885 'MRS. ALEXANDER' *At Bay* vii, His finery, however, was no stay to his self-esteem, for his..face had an uneasy, crestfallen expression. 1909 *Expositor* Jan. 55 The Temple was in his experience the centre and stay of Hebrew worship.

c. In abstract sense: Support. Also, † reliance. † *To make stay upon*: to rely on.

c 1530 COX *Rhet.* (1899) 77 That what maketh for the accuser, euermore the contrary is sure staye for the defender. 1542 UDALL *Erasm. Apoph.* Erasm. Pref., Wee putte not our whole trust and staigh in thynges external. 1561 HOLLYBUSH *Hom. Apoth.* 44 b, Let him walke..wyth the staye of other. 1593 CHURCHYARD *Shore's Wife* liv, When weake Shore's wife had lost her staffe of stay. 1615 CHAPMAN *Odyss.* IV. 171 She tooke her State-chaire; and a foot-stooles stay Had for her feete. 1618 in Foster *Eng. Factories India* (1906) 7, I am very glad of your stay and allowance. 1648 W. MOUNTAGU in *Buccleuch MSS.* (Hist. MSS. Comm.) I. 309 The sad news of my mother's death is to me a very great affliction, that had so great a stay by her. 1651 C. CARTWRIGHT *Cert. Relig.* II. 44 The Popes not erring was but an opinion of policy, and not of Theologie; to give stay to the Laity. 1682 BUNYAN *Holy War* (1905) 324 But for that you must wholly and solely have recourse to, and make stay upon his Doctrine, that is your teacher after the first order. 1866 SEELEY *Ecce Homo* ii. (ed. 8) 11 We see the good man..deprived of the stay of all precedent or example.

2. *spec.* **a.** A support for a climbing plant. ? *Obs.*

1577 GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* I. (1586) 33 This amongest all other Pulse groweth in height without any stay. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* XVII. XXIII. I. 538 If a Vine bee to climbe trees that are of any great height, there would bee staies and appuies set to it, whereupon it may take hold. *a* 1682 SIR T. BROWNE *Tracts* i. (1683) 33 In many places out of Italy Vines do grow without any stay or support. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Past.* III. 16 When I..Cut Micon's tender Vines, and stole the Stays. 1705 ADDISON *Italy, Brescia* 60 The Trees themselves serve, at the same time, as so many Stays for their Vines.

† **b.** The arm or back of a chair. *Obs.*

1560 BIBLE (Geneva) 1 *Kings* x. 19 There were stayes on ether side on the place of the throne. 1656 W. DU GARD tr. *Comenius' Gate Lat. unl.* § 470. 135 For the more commodious sitting are stools and chairs, with staies [*cum fulcris*].

† **c.** = *stay-bar* (see 5 b (*b*)). *Obs.*

1669 in Willis & Clark *Cambridge* (1886) II. 558 There shall be..iron Stayes for all the said casements.

† **d.** One of the strings holding up the brim of a shovel-hat. Also a cap-string passing under the chin. *Obs.*

With regard to the sense in quot. 1601 cf. Cooper 1565: '*Spira*,..a bande or lace aboute a cappe, or hatte.'

1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* XXXIII. iii. II. 462 But say that women may be allowed to weare as much gold as they will,..in carkanets about their necks, in earings pendant at their ears, in staies, wreaths, & chinbands [L. *collo, auribus, spiris*]. 1720 SWIFT *Right of Preced. betw. Physicians & Civilians* 21, I know no Reason..that a White Wig should lower to hoary Hair, or a brush'd Beaver strike to a Carolina-Hat with Stays. 1775 R. CHANDLER *Trav. Greece* (1825) II. 156 The head-dress is a skull-cap, red or green, with pearls; a stay under the chin.

e. *Weaving*: = THRUM *sb.* 1.

1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* I. 381 Then, Weavers, stretch your Stays upon the Weft [orig. *licia telæ addere*].

f. A transverse piece in a link of a chain.

1831 J. HOLLAND *Manuf. Metal* I. 185 Any advantage supposed to be derived from stays or bars inserted in the direction of the shorter axis of the link. 1839 F. A. GRIFFITHS *Artil. Man.* (1862) 310 The stay across the link of a chain increases its strength about one-sixth.

† **g.** A maulstick. *Obs.*

1672 [see MAULSTICK].

h. In various applications: see quots.

1841 W. TEMPLETON *Locomot. Engine* 13 The stays..are generally of ⅜ths round copper,..being for the purpose of rendering the flat surfaces of the fire box capable of withstanding the force of the steam. 1850 *Engl. & For. Mining Gloss.* (ed. 2) 44 *Stays*, pieces of wood to secure the pumps in the engine-shaft. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk., Stay of a steamer*, an iron bar between the two knees which secure the paddle-beams. 1871 WIGRAM *Change-Ringing* 2 From the top of the stock there rises a strong, upright piece of wood, or sometimes of iron, called the 'stay'; and immediately below the bell's mouth, fixed to the frame, is the 'slider', or sliding-rest..by which the stay is caught when the bell is thrown mouth uppermost. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2317 *Stay* (steam), *a.* a rod, bar, bolt, or gusset in a boiler, to hold two parts together against the pressure of steam... *b.* sling-rods (sling-stays) connecting the locomotive boiler to its frame. *c.* Rods beneath the boiler supporting the inside bearings of the crank-axle of an English locomotive.

i. ? A gate-post. ? *dial.*

1869 BLACKMORE *Lorna D.* ii, I leaned back on the stay of the gate.

3. *pl.* (Also *a pair of stays.*) A laced underbodice, stiffened by the insertion of strips of whalebone (sometimes of metal or wood) worn by women (sometimes by men) to give shape and support to the figure: = CORSET 2.

The use of the plural is due to the fact that stays were originally (as they still are usually) made in two pieces laced together.

1608 MIDDLETON *Trick to catch Old One* I. i. 50 Stay (a thing few women can do..therefore they had need wear stays). 1682 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1762/4 A pair of hair-coloured Sattin Stays. 1697 VANBRUGH *Prov. Wife* II. i, With nothing on but her Stays, and her under scanty quilted Petticoat. 1706–7 FARQUHAR *Beaux' Strat.* III. i, Come unlace your Steas. 1713 GAY *Poems, Araminta* 18 The rich Stays her Taper Shape confine. 1831 *Ann. Reg., Chron.* 26 Apr. 67/1 The Jury..returned a verdict, 'that the deceased died of apoplexy, produced by her stays being too tightly laced.' 1843 MRS. CARLYLE *Lett.* I. 231 Her improved appearance in a pair of stays and a gown. 1846 FAIRHOLT *Costume* 267 The men's custom of sometimes wearing stays. 1848 DICKENS *Dombey* iii, Susan..had suddenly become so very upright that she seemed to have put an additional bone in her stays. 1867 J. HATTON *Tallants* iv, His enemies said he wore stays and slept in gloves. 1885 *Truth* 28 May 850/2 The stays..displace the bust, pushing the bosom up almost to the neck.

in figurative context. 1824 BYRON *Juan* XV. LXXXV, But Virtue's self, with all her tightest laces, Has not the natural stays of strict old age. 1826 SCOTT *Jrnl.* 28 Oct., Beauvais is called the *Pucelle*, yet..she wears no stays—I mean, has no fortifications. 1842 TENNYSON *Talking Oak* 60 The slight she-slips of loyal blood,..Strait-laced, but all-too-full in bud For puritanic stays.

b. *sing. rare.*

1731 *Gentl. Mag.* I. 289 The stay he has an invincible aversion to, as giving a stiffness that is void of all grace. 1795 WOLCOT (P. Pindar) *Pindariana* Wks. 1812 IV. 188 Long, very long, was Mistress Dinah's waist; The stiff stay high before. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* iii, He had tried, in order to give himself a waist, every girth, stay, and waistband then invented. 1871 *Figure Training* 97 My figure when unlaced would scarcely betray the fact that I had ever worn a stay.

† **c.** (See quot.) *Obs.*

1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 94/1 In a Womans Gown there are..the Stayes, which is the body of the Gown before the Sleeves are put too, or covered with the outward stuff.

† **4.** ? A bag for applying a poultice. *Obs.*

1685 J. COOKE *Marrow Chirurg.* VI. § 2. ix. (ed. 4) 215 As for the Throat, a Saffron-Stay, or a *Millipedes* sowed up in a Stay, which is reputed excellent. 1728 E. SMITH *Compl. Housew.* (ed. 2) 249 A Stay to prevent a sore Throat...Take Rue,..mix it with Honey [etc.]..sew it up in a Linen Stay, and apply it.

5. *attrib.* and *Comb.* **a.** Obvious combinations, as (sense 3) *stay-binding, -bush, -cord, -maker, -making, -stitcher, -wearer, -worker.*

1882 CAULFEILD & SAWARD *Dict. Needlework* 460 **Stay Bindings*..are of twilled cotton, and may be had in white, grey, drab,..and buff colour. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade*, **Stay-busk*, a stiff piece of wood, steel, or whalebone for the front support of a woman's stays. 1882 CAULFEILD & SAWARD *Dict. Needlework* 460 **Stay Cord*..is to be had made of cotton and of linen, for the purpose of lacing stays. 1730 BERKELEY *Let.* Wks. 1871 IV. 172 One of Mrs. Van Homrigh's creditors (I think a **stay-maker*) was in France. 1791 BOSWELL *Johnson* an. 1737, At the house of Mr. Norris, a staymaker. 1864 D. ALLAN *Hist. Sk. Kirriemuir* 15 He also wove cloth for staymakers. 1888 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 4 June 10/1 The parties conducted a large **stay*-making and ladies' underclothing business. 1723 *Loud. Gaz.* No. 6192/9 Elizabeth Beker,..**Stay*-stitcher. 1871 *Figure-Training* 51 As a **stay*-wearer of a quarter of a century, you will, perhaps, allow me to [etc.]. 1879 *St. George's Hosp. Rep.* IX. 141 **Stay*-worker.

b. Special comb.: **stay-band** *Sc.*, an iron rod serving to keep one leaf of a folding door in position; **stay-bar**, (*a*) *Arch.* (see quot. 1836); (*b*) a bar for keeping a casement window open at a certain angle; (*c*) = *stay-rod*; † **stay-bobbin**, cord used for lacing stays; **stay-bolt**, a bolt connecting plates of a boiler, to secure them against internal pressure; † **stay-braid**, a kind of braid used in ornamenting stays (1775 in Ash); **stay-end** (see quot.); **stay-goods**, the materials of which stays are made (Ash); **stayhold** *nonce-word*, a firm foothold; **stay-hook**, (see quot. 1860); **stay-irons**, (*a*) (see quot. 1833); (*b*) (see quot. 1876); **stay-rod**, a rod serving to give support, or to connect two parts of a machine or structure to prevent displacement; **stay-slot** *Sc.*, a diagonal bar of a hurdle; **stay-tube**, in a multitubular boiler, each of a number of tubes that are made stronger than the rest, and fitted with nuts so as to serve as stays between the tube-plate and the front of the boiler; **stayword** *rare*, a saying or maxim that gives support.

1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* I. 199 The upper-barn door, of two vertical leaves, requires an iron **stay*-band to fasten it with. 1399 *MS. Acc. Exch. K. R.* 473/11 m. 2, j. **staybarre* .v. transonbarrez. 1503–4 *Rec. St. Mary at Hill* (1905) 252 Payd for a stay bar of yerryn to stay the Nev pevys [= pews] in to be vavtt. 1532–3 in E. Law *Hampton Crt. Pal.* (1885) 348 Payd to John à Guylders, smythe, for 170 lockketts, 25 staybarres. 1836 PARKER *Gloss. Archit.* (1850) I. 445 *Stay bar*: the horizontal iron bar which extends in one piece along the top of the mullions of a traceried window. 1839 *Civil Engin. & Arch. Jrnl.* II. 361/1 One of the most universally useful of these is a window fastening, or staybar. 1846 [see *stay-rod*]. 1775 ASH, **Stay-bobbin*, a kind of bobbin used for stays. 1839 R. S. ROBINSON *Naut. Steam Eng.* 118 Strong **stay* bolts, rivetted at each end, secure the flues to each other, and to the sides of the boiler. 1884 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* Suppl., **Stay end*, the end of a back-stay in a carriage. Stay-ends are sold separately as pieces of carriage hardware. 1851 SIR F. PALGRAVE *Norm. & Eng.* I. 619 He was sliding down a precipice seeming to offer some narrow ridge giving **stayhold* to his feet. 1743 *Boston Gaz.* in *Alice M. Earle's Costume Col. Times* (1894) 240 Silver'd **Stayhooks*. 1771 SMOLLETT *Humphry Cl.* 21 Apr. (1815) 29 She pretended she was cheapening a stay-hook. 1860 FAIRHOLT *Costume* (ed. 2) 591 *Stay-hook*, a small hook stuck in front of the boddice for hanging a watch or etui upon. 1833 LOUDON *Encycl. Archit.* § 84 Cast-iron casements, made to open with strong hinges, latches and spring **stay*-irons (irons to keep the window open). 1876 VOYLE & STEVENSON *Milit. Dict.* 402/1 *Stay-irons*, in artillery carriages, the iron rods which connect the ends of the axle-bed to the splinter-bar. 1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* II. 542 Two iron **stay*-rods pass from the end frames to the shafts as an additional support to the latter. 1846 A. YOUNG *Naut. Dict.* 310 Each engine has two of these frames, the whole supported by strong malleable iron stay-bars or stay-rods. *a* 1844 MAIN in *H. Stephens' Bk. Farm* II. 70 The 2 **stay*-slots are cut with a bend at the bottom, and rather sharply pointed. 1887 *Encycl. Brit.* XXII. 499/1 (*Steam-Engine*), There are 127 tubes at each end, 46 of which are **stay*-tubes. 1897 *Westm. Gaz.* 16 June 10/1 The Prince of Wales naturally finds in the motto of his crest a **stay*word.

Stay (ste^{i}), *sb.*^{3} Also 6 **stey, staie, staye.** [f. STAY *v.*^{1}]

1. The action of stopping or bringing to a stand or pause; the fact of being brought to a stand or delayed; a stoppage, arrest, or suspension of action; a check, set-back.

1537 HEN. VIII in *St. Papers* (1834) II. 423 Sithens the first stey of the violence of the late rebellion of the said Thomas Fytzgarald. 1550 CROWLEY *Last Trumpet* 283 As men that woulde never fynde staye, Tyll all the earth were in theyr hand. 1551 ROBINSON tr. *More's Utopia* II. vi. (1895) 214 In lesse than iii yeres space their was nothing in the Grek tonge that they lackede. They were able to reade good authors wythout anny staye [L. *inoffense*]. 1594 SPENSER *Epithal.* 250 Poure out the wine without restraint or stay. 1594 KYD *Cornelia* II. 351 Fraile men..Had neuer power to practise stayes Of this celestiall influence. 1625 BACON *Ess., Vicissitude* (Arb.) 572 As farre, as the Weaknesse of Humane Iudgement, can giue stay to so great Reuolutions. 1628 DIGBY *Voy. Mediterr.* (Camden) 2 To protect the skipper from a like stay againe if he should meete with other men of warre in his iorney to London. 1640 in Rushworth *Hist. Coll.* III. (1692) I. 164 That there be a stay of committing any waste in the felling of any Wood. 1810 SCOTT *Lady of L.* V. XXI, Whose fiery steeds ill brooked the stay Of the steep street and crowded way. 1842 MACAULAY *Horatius* lxiii, But for this stay, ere close of day We should have sacked the town. 1862 BORROW *Wild Wales* III. 99 A conqueror who no stay will brook. 1886 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 9 Sept. 12/1 It is hard to see what decent case Mr. Parnell will be able to make out for that stay upon the right of eviction which forms a provision of his bill. 1898 *Daily News* 22 Sept. 4/3 Our Special Correspondent suggests as a practicable minimum the stay of armaments for five years.

b. *Law.* Suspension of a judicial proceeding.

1542 in *Vicary's Anat.* (1888) App. III. i. 125 The Wardeyns of the Surgeons..to be here the next Court day..for the Stey of theyr sute in the Eschekер. *c* 1599 *Sir T. More* (Malone Soc.) 603 Some of the Benche Sir, think it very fit that stay be made, and giue it out abroade the execution is deferd till morning. 1627 EARL OF WORCESTER in *Buccleuch MSS.* (Hist. MSS. Comm.) I. 208 There was a letter..for the stay of a suit depending in the Chancery. 1641 ELSING *Debates Ho. Lords* (Camden) 31 Whether Yelverton made a stay of the last patent, and the reason why he past yt? 1743 KAMES *Decis. Crt. Sess. 1730–52* (1799) 67 This..makes it necessary for the charger to get the stay to his diligence removed. 1752 J. LOUTHIAN *Form of Process* (ed. 2) 214 And then asks her, What she can say for herself in stay of Execution. 1769 BLACKSTONE *Comm.* IV. viii. 115 To obtain any stay of proceedings, other than by arrest of judgment or writ of error,..is likewise a *præmunire*. 1856 *Ann. Reg., Chron.* 65/2 The prisoner's counsel then moved for a stay of execution. 1875 MAINE *Hist. Instit.* x. 281 The Distress when seized was in certain cases liable to a Stay.

† **c.** *To make stay of*: to put a stop to (an action); to arrest (a person); to intercept (goods, etc.) in transit; to stop the circulation of (a book).

1572 in *13th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. IV. 12 To make staie of suche frebutters, rovers and men of warre with their shipes and boates. 1586 F. GREVIL *Let.* in Arber *Garner* I. 488, I think fit there be made stay of that mercenary book. 1633 T. STAFFORD *Pac. Hib.* I. XXI. 119 Whereupon hee wrote unto the Lord Deputie this ensuing Letter, making stay of the Lord Awdley untill he should receiue answer thereof. 1642 *Declar. Lds. & Comm. conc. Necess. Kingd.* 7 Jan. 3 Stay is made of their Cole-ships. 1647 MAY *Hist. Parlt.* II. iv. 73 They should take special care to make stay of all Arms and Ammunition carrying towards York. 1648 HEYLIN *Relat. & Observ.* I. 121 Major Generall Lambert had made stay of a Scotish Gentleman. 1654 E. JOHNSON *Wonder-working Provid.* 12 He will ease you of your burden by making stay of any farther resort unto you.

† **d.** *concr.* An appliance for stopping. *Obs.*

1523–34 FITZHERB. *Husb.* § 3 The plough-fote..is a staye to order of what depenes the ploughe shall go.

† **2.** Control; restraint; self-control. *Obs.*

1556 J. HEYWOOD *Spider & F.* xiii. 15 Stey in him selfe he toke. 1561 NORTON & SACKV. *Gorboduc* I. ii, 307 That they, restreyned by the awe of you, May liue in compasse of well tempred staye. 1596 DANETT tr. *Comines* (1614) 218 Yet was it much that hee had such stay of himselfe. 1622 BACON *Hen. VII*, 14 Well shewing and fore-tokening the wisdome, stay, and moderation of the Kings spirit of Gouernment.

3. A coming to a stand; a cessation of progress or action; a stop, pause, halt. Phr. *to make* (*a*) *stay*.

c 1530 *Jyl of Brentford's Test.* (1871) 14 Now hold your hand, and make a stay there. 1585 T. WASHINGTON tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* III. viii. 82 b, Trauailing both day and night without any rest or stay. 1586 *Let. to Earl Leycester* 6 She might by the stay thereof, procure the heauie displeasure of Almightie God. 1590 SHAKS. *Mids. N.* v. i. 428 Trip away, make no stay. 1598 FLORIO, *Falchi*, are staies when a horse doth rest vpon his hinder parts. 1609 HOLLAND *Amm. Marcell.* 262 Among whome there was now no hoe nor stay at all of their hands. 1609 BIBLE (Douay) *Josh.* x. 12 *marg.*, Iosue did thinke if the moone moued the sunne also must necessarily moue so he obtained the stay of both. 1616 R. C. *Times' Whistle* (1871) 76 Yet fond man Runnes in this gulfe of sinne without all stay. 1633 G. HERBERT *Temple, Pulley* ii, When almost all was out, God made a stay. *a* 1637 SPOTTISWOODE *Hist. Ch. Scot.* (1851) II. 62 It was night before they came thither..because of the stays she made by the way. 1641 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Last Voy.* A 6, With many stops, stayes, and taking leaves, wee gat to Oatlands at night. *a* 1648 LD. HERBERT *Hen. VIII* (1683) 43 At last he commands a stay. 1659 HAMMOND *On Psalms* cx. 7. 566 Souldiers..that are thirsty, but will not make stay at an Inne. *a* 1721 PRIOR *Epigr. Bp. Atterbury* i, Without stop or stay,..make the best of your way. 1805 WORDSW. *Waggoner* I. 36 And up the craggy hill ascending Many a stop and stay he makes. 1843 RUSKIN *Mod. Painters* I. II. III. i. § 8 We can plunge far and farther, and without stay or end, into the profundity of space.

†**b.** A cessation of hostility or dissension. Also, a means of reconciliation. *Obs.*

1563 *Homilies* II. xii *Nativity* A aaa j, A Messias, or mediatour,..whiche shoulde make intercession, and put him selfe as a staye betwene both partes, to pacifie the wrath and indignation conceaued againste sinne, and [etc.]. 1599 SANDYS *Europæ Spec.* (1632) 172 If any stay or agreement could bee taken with the Turke, all Germany were in daunger to bee in uprore within it selfe by intestine dissention.

†**c.** Astr. *Stay of the sun* = SOLSTICE. *Obs.*

1538 ELYOT *Dict.*, *Solstitium*, the stay of the sonne, whan he can not be eyther hygher or lower. 1555 EDEN *Decades* I. II. (Arb.) 72 In no place towarde the stay of the sonne (cauled *Solsticium*) can the night be equall with the day.

†**d.** *Mus.* = PAUSE *sb.* 3 b. *Obs.*

1667 C. SIMPSON *Compend. Pract. Mus.* 25 This Mark or Arch ⌒..is also set..over certain particular Notes in the middle of Songs, when (for humour) we are to insist or stay a little upon the said Notes; and thereupon it is called a *Stay*, or *Hold*.

†**e.** A stop, sign in punctuation; the pause indicated by a stop. *Obs.*

1596 COOTE *Engl. School-m.* v. (1627) 26 Those which we do call points or stayes in writing, as this marke (,).. noteth a small stay; two pricks thus (:) makes a longer stay; and one prick thus (·) is put for a ful stay.

†**4.** Delay, postponement, waiting. *To make stay of*: to withhold for a time; to postpone. *Obs.*

1530 CROMWELL in Merriman *Life & Lett.* (1902) I. 329 Your chauncelour shall do the semblable in another request made by his Maiestie unto him without staye tract or further stycking. 1586 A. DAY *Eng. Secretary* I. (1625) 103 If it shall notwithstanding seeme further convenient unto your L. to make stay of his acceptance. *a* 1592 GREENE *Jas. IV*, IV. v. 1998, I like no stay; go write, and I will signe. 1599 B. JONSON *Cynthia's Rev.* v. iii [viii], Bounty forbids to paull our thankes with stay. 1605 CHAPMAN *All Fooles* v. i. H 4, Hast, for the matter will abide no staye. 1611 SIR P. BARTY in *Buccleuch MSS.* (Hist. MSS. Comm.) I. 103 To make stay of the money lately agreed to be paid. 1627 J. WARE in *Lett. Lit. Men* (Camden) 135, I have now, after almost a yeare's stay, returned unto you (by this bearer) the MS. Life of St. Modwen. 1633 T. STAFFORD *Pac. Hib.* I. viii. 56 Her cause of stay was, the danger of the way. 1650 S. CLARKE *Eccl. Hist.* I. (1654) 50 Peace will come, albeit there be a little stay for a while. 1671 MILTON *Samson* 1536 A little stay will bring some notice hither. 1707 MORTIMER *Husb.* 423 There is no Stock you can have Money in that will turn to better account, tho' you stay long for it; nor any thing that it can be better secured in, which I think will make amends for the Stay.

†**5.** A cause of stoppage; an obstacle, hindrance.

a 1533 BERNERS *Gold. Bk. M. Aurel.* (1546) T vij b, I shall not drede the staies of Fortune. 1548 UDALL *Erasm. Par. Matt.* iii 7–10 That mennes pronitie to naughtynes, beynge compassed in with these stayes, myght be refreyned from fallyng into farther inconuenyence. 1551 ROBINSON *More's Utopia* Ep. to P. Giles (1895) 3 Seynge all theyes cares, stayes and lettes were taken awaye. 1563 GOOGE *Eglogs*, etc. (Arb.) 119 Whom yf your Grace do not repuls and fynde some present staye, Vndoubtedly he wyll wyn this Realme and take vs all awaye. 1596 SPENSER *State Irel.* Wks. (Globe) 666 The presence of the Governour is..a great stay and bridle unto them that are ill disposed. 1598 R. BERNARD tr. *Terence, Andria* III. i, *In mora illi est*, Hee is a stay, hindrance, or let to him. 1631 GOUGE *God's Arrows* I. § 20. 26 Good Iosiah was a stay of those judgements which God had threatned. 1633 G. HERBERT *Temple, Ch. Porch* iii, Not grudging, that thy lust hath bounds and staies. 1665 DRYDEN *Ind. Queen* IV. i, My Rage, like dam'd-up Streams swell'd by some stay, Shall from this Opposition get new force.

†**b.** A demur, hesitation, scruple. *Obs.*

1550 CROWLEY *Epigr.* 1254 We counte hym not wyse, That seketh not by all meanes that he canné devise To take offices togither wythoute any staye. 1566 FECKENHAM (*title*) The declaration of suche Scruples, and staies of Conscience, touchinge the Othe of the Supremacy. 1567 JEWEL *Def. Apol.* 72 If they be al Heretiques, and Schismatiques, and Despisers of Christe,..that make staie at it, or cannot receiue it, then [etc.].

6. The action or fact of staying or remaining in a place, continued presence; an instance of this, a period of temporary residence or continuance in a place, a sojourn.

1538 LONDON in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* Ser. III. III. 215 We went to every place of them, and toke suche a vew and stay among them as the tyme wolde permyt. 1577–87 HARRISON *England* II. v. (1877) I. 120 As a testimonie of his presence and staies from time to time as he did trauell. 1596 SHAKS. *Merch. V.* III. ii. 328 Till I come againe. No bed shall ere be guilty of my stay. *a* 1601 ? MARSTON *Pasquil & Kath.* I. 165 Daughter, lay your expresse commandement vpon the stay of Master Mamon. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* XXXI. iii. II. 408 Low grounds where there is a settling or stay of raine water fallen from higher places. 1619 in Foster *Eng. Factories India* (1906) 143 Having..lymited the commander 15 dayes stay there. 1635 in *Verney Mem.* (1907) I. 86, I do not intend to make a long stay there. 1664 D. FLEMING in *Extr. St. Papers rel. Friends* Ser. II. (1911) 191 The Trainband horse..are to continue here dureing the Judges stay. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* IV. 898 Let him surer barr His Iron Gates, if he intends our stay In that dark durance. 1670 W. CLARKE *Nat. Hist. Nitre* 34 Lots Wife was only by looking Back, so small a stay, overtaken by this Artillery of Heaven. 1755 CHATHAM *Lett. to Nephew T. Pitt* xiii. (1805) 72, I have delayed writing to you in expectation of hearing farther from you upon the subject of your stay at college. 1789 MRS. PIOZZI *Journ. France* I. 17 Her stay in London was longer than mine in Paris. 1797 HT. LEE *Canterb. T., Old Woman's T.* (1799) I. 370 St. Aubert..strenuously urged his stay. 1845 BUDD *Dis. Liver* 270 Because the bile, during its stay in the bladder, becomes concentrated. 1878 BOSW. SMITH *Carthage* 108 As though their stay was not going to be a short one. 1884 CHURCH *Bacon* viii. 206 It was one of man's first duties to arrange for his stay on earth according to the real laws which he could find out if he only sought for them. 1897 *Westm. Gaz.* 1 Sept. 3/1 Every year has added to the stay of children at school.

†**b.** A place of sojourn; a fixed abode. *Obs.*

1566 DRANT *Hor. Sat.* I. v. D ib, As nowe I am, I coulde not wyshe almoste a better staye. *c* 1586 C'TESS PEMBROKE *Ps.* LXXX. iv, O God, retorne, and from thy starry stay Review this vyne. 1592 KYD *Sol. & Pers.* II. i. 266 Whether shall I go? If into any stay adioyning Rhodes, They will betray me. 1894 A. LAING *Misc. Poems* 108 (E.D.D.) If we sud hae nae ither stay Than hell beyond the tomb.

†**c.** Continuance in a state, duration. *Obs.*

1595 SPENSER *Col. Clout* 98 Record to vs that louely lay againe; The staie whereof shall nought these eares annoy. *c* 1600 SHAKS. *Sonn.* XV. 9 When I consider euery thing that growes Holds in perfection but a little moment:..Then the conceit of this inconstant stay Sets you most rich in youth before my sight. *a* 1680 GLANVILL *Sadducismus* I. (1682) 122 For there can be no perception of the external Object, unless the Object that is to be perceived act with some stay upon that which perceiveth. 1700 DRYDEN *Cock & Fox* 675 Alas, what stay is there in human state.

d. Staying power; power of endurance; strength; power of resistance. Now somewhat *rare*.

1586 T. B. *La Primaud. Fr. Acad.* (1589) 49 Prudence, Magnanimitie, and Justice are ankers of greatest stay. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* IV. xi. 25 But Thame was stronger, and of better stay. 1890 SPURGEON in *Voice* (N.Y.) 21 Aug. 7/2 Some men are always great at beginnings; but they have no stay in them.

7. A stationary condition, a standstill; a state of neither advance nor retrogression. Chiefly in phrases, *at* or *in a* or *one stay*, rarely *at stay*.

Now somewhat *arch.*, chiefly in echoes of the Prayer-book phrase in quot. 1549.

1525 BERNERS *Froiss.* II. cxxxvi. [cxxxii.] 379 Then the duke stode in a staye, and toke counsayle what was beste to do. 1542 in *Tytler's Hist. Scot.* (1864) III. 6 *note*, This busyness..whiche, at this present, is at such a staye, that [etc.]. 1546 PHAER *Bk. Childr.* (1553) T vij b, The pulse is incertayn, and neuer at one stay. 1549 *Bk. Comm. Prayer, Burial of Dead*, Man that is borne of a woman..neuer continueth in one staye. 1553 BRENDE *Q. Curtius* II. 9 b, The king in ye meane season stode at a staye. 1556 J. HEYWOOD *Spider & F.* IX. 36 Here stoode they both, a while in silent stay. 1560 GRESHAM in Burgon *Life* (1839) I. 292 So that now the Quene's Majestie's credit ys at a whole steye. 1579 FULKE *Heskins' Parl.* 159 Then is he at a staye, he can go no further. 1595 HUNNIS *Life & Death Joseph* 54 But Jacob yet amased was, and stood in doubtful stay. 1598 R. BERNARD tr. *Terence, Phormio* v. viii, I am brought to such a stay that I knowe not what to doe with him. 1600 SURFLET *Country Farm* VII. xviii. 830 [Oaks have] one hundred years to growe, one hundred to stande at a staie, and one hundred to decline and fall away. 1611 BIBLE *Lev.* xiii. 5 And beholde, if the plague in his sight be at a stay, and the plague spread not in the skinne, then [etc.]. 1681 W. ROBERTSON *Phraseol. Gen.* 1168/2, I am brought to that stay, that [etc.]. 1758 BINNELL *Descr. Thames* 181 A River Pike grows fast till he arrives at twenty-four..Inches in length; then he stands a little more at stay. 1851 MEREDITH *Love in Valley* ii, Swifter she seems in her stay than in her flight. 1875 MANNING *Mission Holy Ghost* iv. 106 We are never in one stay. 1876 BRIDGES *Growth of Love* XXVI, True only should the swift life stand at stay. 1880 FROUDE *Bunyan* IX. 151 In this world of change the point of view alters fast, and never continues in one stay.

†**b.** A permanent state or condition. Chiefly in phrase in *good* (*quiet*, etc.) stay. *Obs.*

1536 in Furnivall *Ballads fr. MSS.* I. 311 Then they to-gether xuld, or this tyme, a brought Inglond in-to a better stey then it is now. 1542 *Lam. & Piteous Treat.* in *Harl. Misc.* (1745) IV. 509/2 All Thynges beynge in good Ordre and Staye. 1544 BETHAM *Precepts War* I. civ. F iij, My counsayl is, to set all thynges in quyet staye, and brynge them [soldiers at variance] agayne to concorde. 1553 *Respublica* 735 Ye know it is no small weorke from so greate decaie..to sett all in good staighe. 1563–83 FOXE *A. & M.* 852/1 Moreouer..the world nowe was at another stay, then when the beleuers were all of one hart and soule. 1566 CHAMBRELAYNE in *Strype's Ann. Ref.* (1709) I. 489 Where he, with his Father and Mother,..had lately repaired unto him; and were in some good Stay. 1570 BUCHANAN *Chamæleon* Wks. (1892) 49 Be ye diligence and wisdom of ye regent the cuntre wes brocht to sum stay. 1575 *Gammer Gurton* I. i, Aske them what they ayle, or who brought them in this staye? 1580–3 GREENE *Mamillia* Wks. (Grosart) II. 209 Hath she not promised to chaunge..the state of a Curtizan into the staie of a matron. 1616 HEALEY tr. *Theophrastus* 90 The State is at an euill stay, where more then one the Scepter sway.

† **c.** *To set in* or *at stay*: to reduce to order or quiet; to settle. Also *to set a stay*, *to set stays*: to settle matters. *Obs.*

1538 in *Lett. Suppress. Monasteries* (Camden) 193 But in all thes placys I have sett steys by indenturys making, and the common sealys sequesteryng, so that [etc.]. 1542 *Lam. & Piteous Treat.* in *Harl. Misc.* (1745) IV. 505/1 Themperour beyng in Allmeigney, to Thentent to appease and set a staye in the Controuersyes and Dyssencyons, which are amonge the Allmeignes in Matters of Religion. 1555 PHAER *Æneid* I. (1558) A ij b, But first is best the fluddes to set in staie [L. *sed motos præstat componere fluctus*]. 1561 NORTON & SACKV. *Gorbodiuc* III. i. 56 So shall you force Them to agree, and holde the lande in stay. 1568 GRAFTON *Chron.* II. 8 He would first set such a stay in his Duchy of Normandie, that [etc.]. 1575 CHURCHYARD *Chippes* (1817) 187 Such falshood raignde, and raged in the land..But by my friendes, I set these thinges in staye. 1615 *Liber Depos. Archd. Colch.* (MS.) 74 Finding him very weake and sicke, he asked him [the said Testator] whether he had sett things at a staye.

8. Combinations: **stay-law** *U.S.* a legislative enactment establishing a general moratorium; †**stay-liquor** *Salt-making*, sea-water left by the tide, exposed in feeding-ponds for partial evaporation; **stay-maker** *nonce-wd.*, one who makes a long stay; †**stay-rig** *Sc.* (see quot.).

1880 T. M. COOLEY *Const. Law U. S. A.* 311 The withdrawal of the remedy for a time by *stay laws is an impairment of the obligation of contracts. 1682 J. COLLINS *Salt & Fishery* 19 This Liquor..is called *Stay-Liquor. 1897 W. C. HAZLITT *Four Generations* II. 145 Meadows was a desperate *staymaker. 1591 in *A. Maxwell's Hist. Old Dundee* (1884) 242 At the tails of all their rigs to make ane *stayrig upon the auld bounds of the said acres [*footn.* A cross ridge to stay the plough].

Stay (stē), *v.*[1] Pa. t. and pa. pple. **stayed** (stēd). Forms: 5 **steyyn**, 6 **stee**, **stai**, 6–7 **staye**, **staie**, **stey(e**, 7 **steaye**, 5– **stay**. *Pa. t. and pple.* 5–8 **stayd**, 6 *Sc.* **stayit**, **-et**, **steyit**, 6–7 **stayde**, **staied**, **staide**, 6–9 **staid**, 6– **stayed**. [Prob. a. OF. (*e*)*stai-*, (*e*)*stei-*, flexional stem of *ester* (:—L. *stāre*) to stand. Cf. the earlier RESTAY *v.*

In AF. the regular form of the pres. sing. indic. was *estais*, *estait*; an inf. **esteier*, **estaier* may have existed in colloquial use, but has not been found; the gerund *esteaunt* (three syllables) occurs in *Boeve de Haumtone* (ed. Stimming) 2244. Eastern and North-eastern dialects of OF. have an inf. form *esteir*. Other North-eastern forms cited by Godefroy are *staieis* (2 pl. pres.), *stairont* (3 pl. fut.).

The view adopted by Skeat, that the original sense was to support (see STAY *v.*[2]), and that from this the other senses were developed in the order 'to hold, retain, delay, abide', cannot be said to involve any abstract improbability, but the chronology of the appearance of the senses in English is strongly unfavourable to it.]

I. *intr.* * To cease moving, halt.

†**1.** To cease going forward; to stop, halt; to arrest one's course and stand still. *Obs.* (exc. as in b.)

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 473/1 Steyyn or steppyn of gate (*v.r.* stoppyn), *restito*, *obsto*. 1576 GASCOIGNE *Philomene* (Arb.) 90 She came apace, and stately did she stay. 1578 LYTE *Dodoens* III. xxxix. 372 Whosoeuer hath receiued of this seede [stavesacre], must walke without staying. 1594 SHAKS. *Rich. III*, I. ii. 33 Stay you that beare the Coarse, & set it down. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* viii. xl. I. 219 The dogges which be neere unto Nilus, lap of the riuer, running still and never stay while they are drinking, because they will give no vantage at all to be a prey unto the greedie Crocodiles. 1611 BIBLE *Josh.* x. 13 And the Sunne stood still, and the Moone stayed, vntill the people had auenged themselues vpon their enemies. 1640 tr. *Verdere's Rom. of Rom.* I. xxii. 96 Their Bark staying at an Island,..they went on shore. 1777 SIR W. JONES *Caissa* 135 With radiant feet he pierc'd the clouds nor stay'd Till in the woods he saw the beauteous maid.

b. To stop, halt, pause *and* (do somewhat), or in order *to* (do something). Now somewhat *rare*.

1577 HARRISON *England* III. iv. 103 *in Holinshed*, His gromes and gentlemen passed by it as disdaining to stoupe & take vp such a trifle: but he knowing y° owner commaunded one of them to staye & take it vp. 1600 SHAKS. *A. Y. L.* II. i. 54 Anon a carelesse Heard..iumps along by him And neuer staies to greet him. 1750 GRAY *Long Story* 55 The Heroines..Rap'd at the door, nor stay'd to ask, But bounce into the parlour enter'd. 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* XXVIII, Emily scarcely stayed to thank him for it. 1865 VISCT. MILTON & W. B. CHEADLE *N.-W. Passage by Land* VIII. (1867) 120 When we stayed to camp, [we] shivered and shook as we essayed to light a fire.

2. To cease or desist from some specified activity. Const. *from*. *Obs.* or *arch.*

1576 FLEMING *Panopl. Epist.* 86 This is the purpose and meaning of them all, in generall: not to stay, till they haue procured the slaughter of Cæsar. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* I. vii. 15 He hearkned, and did stay from further harmes. 1611 BIBLE 2 *Kings* xiii. 18 And he smote thrise, and stayed. 1611 B. JONSON *Catiline* I. i, He that, building, stayes at one Floore, or the second, hath erected none. 1654 Z. COKE *Logick* 77 In Etymologies we must not go on without End, but must stay in some that is first. 1864 AMELIA B. EDWARDS *Barbara's Hist.* lix, I wept, and could not stay from weeping.

†**b.** To cease speaking, break off one's discourse; to pause, stop or hesitate before speaking. Said also of a discourse. *Obs.*

1551 T. WILSON *Logic* II. K ij, Aesope coulde not vtter his minde at large, but dyd stammer, and staye muche in his speche. 1555 EDEN *Decades* (Arb.) 286 And here steyinge

a whyle, he began to speake ageyne and sayde. 1572 GRINDAL *Injunct.* B iv b, Nor the Minister shall pawse or stay betweene the morning prayer, Letanie and Communion. 1600 *Chester Pl.* Proem 168 And after those ended, yet doth not the storie staye. 1665 HOOKE *Microgr.* 25, I cannot here stay..to examine the particular Reasons of it. 1671 MILTON *P. R.* IV. 485 So talk'd he, while the Son of God went on And staid not, but in brief him answer'd thus.

c. In *imper.* used as an injunction to pause, arrest one's course, not to go on doing something. Hence often = give me time to consider, decide, etc.; wait for me to make some remark or give some order.

1590 SHAKS. *Com. Err.* V. i. 364 Stay, stand apart, I know not which is which. 1598 — *Merry W.* V. v. 84 But stay, I smell a man of middle earth. 1598 B. JONSON *Ev. Man in Hum.* (1601) E 4, *Cle.* Stay now let me see, oh signior Snow-liuer I had almost forgotten him. 1749 FIELDING *Tom Jones* XIV. vii, If you knew my father, you would never think of obtaining his consent—Stay, there is one way. 1823 SCOTT *Quentin D.* XXXIII, And begone!—Yet stay. 1873 B. HARTE *Caldwell of Springfield* in *Fiddletown*, etc. 81 Nothing more did I say? Stay one moment; you've heard [etc.].

3. Of an action, activity, process, etc.: To be arrested, to stop or cease at a certain point, not to progress or go forward. *Obs.* or *arch.*

1563 in *Vicary's Anat.* (1888) App. III. 164 The same courte ..shall stey & cease vntyll the XV.th daye of September next commynge. 1570–6 LAMBARDE *Peramb. Kent* (1826) 291 Neither did the matter stay here. 1593 SHAKS. *2 Hen. VI*, II. iv. 76 And't please your Grace, here my Commission stayes. 1671 MILTON *P. R.* IV. 421 Nor yet staid the terror there. 1820 KEATS *Hyperion* I. 295 Therefore the operations of the dawn Stay'd in their birth.

†b. Of a line: To cease being prolonged, to terminate (*at* a point). *Obs.*

1563 SHUTE *Archit.* D j b, The vprighte line, which staieth at the ouerthwart line. 1660 H. BLOOME *Archit.* D d 1, Turne another halfe Circle, which shall stay at the place.

** To remain stationary.

4. To remain in a place or in others' company (as opposed to going on or going away).

1575 GASCOIGNE *Glasse Govt.* v. ii. Wks. 1910 II. 74 *Fidus.* Stay a while good fellowe... *Nuntius.* Yea but I may not long tary. 1591 SHAKS. *Two Gent.* II. vii. 62 If you thinke so, then stay at home, and go not. 1600 PORY tr. *Leo's Africa* IX. 334 In rainie weather it so increaseth, that trauellers..are constrained to staie two or three daies by the riuers side till it be decreased. 1615 HEYWOOD *Foure Prentises* I. B 3 b, If I knew where to go to warre, I would not stay in London one houre longer. 1700 T. BROWN *Amusem. Ser. & Com.* 19 Those that won't take the Pains to follow us, may stay where they are. 1702 SIR D. HUME *Diary Parl. Scot.* (Bannatyne Club) 82 As to the transporting the Forces, she [the Queen] signifies her inclinations it be done, unless there be an absolute necessity for their staying. 1726 SWIFT *Gulliver* I. i, I grew weary of the sea, and intended to stay at home with my wife and family. 1753 RICHARDSON *Grandison* (1754) I. I. 398 He comes for half an hour, and stays an hour. 1757 GRAY *Bard* 101 Stay, oh stay! nor thus forlorn Leave me unbless'd. 1832 HT. MARTINEAU *Homes Abroad* I. 18 His wife seemed utterly indifferent whether she went or staid. 1849 M. ARNOLD *Forsaken Merman* 20 Mother dear, we cannot stay! 1897 HALL CAINE *Christian* X, If you're badly bored we'll not stay long.

b. *contextually.* To be allowed to remain; to be left in (undisturbed) residence or tenancy.

1765 BICKERSTAFF *Maid of Mill* II. ii. 27, I am determined farmer Giles shall not stay a moment on my estate, after next quarter day.

c. To remain *and* (do something).

1596 SHAKS. I *Hen. IV*, V. iv. 47 Stay, and breath awhile. 1601 *2nd Pt. Return fr. Parnass.* V. iv. 2237 Nay stay a while and helpe me to content. 1833 T. HOOK *Parson's Dau.* I. ii, 'You will stay and take some tea, Mr. Sheringham,' said Lovell. 1885 'MRS. ALEXANDER' *Valerie's Fate* V, 'I need not go, I suppose?' 'No! I wish you would stay and talk.'

d. With inf.: To remain or tarry in order *to* (do something). Also *to stay to* (dinner, etc.).

1591 SHAKS. *Two Gent.* IV. iv. 66 Away, I say: stayest thou to vexe me here. 1663 PATRICK *Pilgrim* XXII. (1687) 229 If you mean to finish your journey, stay not to listen to their tales. 1706 E. WARD *Wooden World Diss.* (1708) 31 The Ale-Wives tickle him in the Gills with the Title of Captain, which makes him oft-times stay to get drunk in their Houses, out of pure Joy and Gratitude. 1812 BYRON *Ch. Har.* II. XCV, Thou hast ceased to be! Nor stay'd to welcome here thy wanderer home. 1819 SCOTT *Ivanhoe* XXVII, Some hilding fellow he must be, who dared not stay to assert his claim to the tourney prize which chance had assigned him. 1908 S. E. WHITE *Riverman* VIII, Your friend seems a nice-appearing young man...Wouldn't he stay to dinner?

e. with advs., as *to stay away, behind, down, in, on, out, up.*

1594 SHAKS. *Rich. III*, II. iii. 154 Towards Ludlow then, for we will not stay behinde. 1622 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Shilling* B 5, Whilst all the Drawers must stay vp and waite Vpon these fellowes be it ne're so late. 1664 in *Verney Mem.* (1907) II. 236 My fathar stais so long a wae. 1711 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 120 P 14 In Winter..she grows more assiduous in her Attendance, and stays away but half the Time. 1847 TENNYSON *Princess* Prol. 176 We seven stay'd at Christmas up to read. 1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) I. 341 They might come if they liked, and they might stay away if they liked. 1883 BRINSLEY-RICHARDS *Seven Years at Eton* X. 98 Sometimes Blazes had a lazy fit, and put himself on the sick list for a day. This was called 'stay-out', for the reason that one had to stay in. *Ibid.*, One day it happened that I was 'staying out' on the same day as Blazes. 1885 'MRS. ALEXANDER' *Valerie's Fate* VI, I *must* go with you. I feel as if I could not bear to stay behind! 1901 *Athenæum* 27 July 121/1 The habit of frequent 'staying out,' Etonian for staying *in*, on the score of feeble health. 1904 E. H. COLERIDGE *Life & Corr. Ld. Coleridge* I. iv. 58 Friends..who wrote to him during the vacations and when he was obliged to 'stay down', owing to prolonged ill-health. 1911 A. PLUMMER *Churches Brit. bef. A.D. 1000* I. iv. 122 Wilfrid made the grave mistake of staying on in Gaul.

f. *U.S.* (See quot.).

1889 FARMER *Americanisms* s.v., Lovers *stay with* one another when courting.

5. Of a thing? To remain (in a place or position); to remain (as opposed to being lost, changing its nature, etc.).. Now somewhat *rare.*

1593 *Tell-Prothes N. Y. Gift* (1876) 5 A lesson learned with stroakes, staies with the scholler. 1639 G. PLATTES *Discov. Subterr. Treas.* 29 No royall Mettall will stay in the Cinder, but sinke down into the Lead, through an attractiue vertue betwixt them. 1663 PATRICK *Pilgrim* XXVIII. P 1 Having at last overcome the excess of it [*sc.* his joy), and dissembled it also while it staid as well as he could. *a* 1827 WORDSW. *Somnamb.* 62 Delightful blossoms for the May Of absence! but they will not stay, Born only to depart.

b. Of food, etc.: To be retained by the stomach after swallowing. Also (*U.S. colloq.*) to give lasting satisfaction to hunger.

1643 STEER tr. *Exp. Chyrurg.* ix. 43 By reason of the Childs unpatience I could not make the Medicine stay. 1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* II. (Globe) 472, I took a Draught of Water without Sugar, and that stay'd with me. 1894 FISKE *Holiday Stor.* (1900) 128 'No,' replied the boy...'No; stew's good, but they don't stay wid yer. Kin I have somethink solid?'

†c. To remain adhering *to. Obs. rare*[−1].

1684 R. WALLER *Nat. Exper.* 45 We apply'd it to several pieces of Straw, which in the Descent of the Mercury stayed to the sides of the Glass.

6. With predicative extension: To remain in the specified condition.

1573–80 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 11 To staie amis, not hauing this. 1600 SHAKS. *A. Y. L.* III. ii. 348 Ile tel you..who Time gallops withal, and who he stands stil withall...Who staies it stil withal? 1600 PORY tr. *Leo's Africa* I. 20 That this their meate may not stay long vndigested in their stomackes, they sup off the foresaid broth. 1640 SUCKLING *Ballade upon Wedding* 38 Her finger was so small, the Ring Would not stay on which he did bring, It was too wide a Peck. 1855 LYNCH *Rivulet* LVII. vi, No heart that desponds Desponding need stay. 1865 RUSKIN *Eth. Dust* iv. (1883) 70, I can bend them up and down and they stay bent. 1871 B. TAYLOR *Faust* (1875) II. II. iii. 121 She grows not old, stays ever young and warm.

b. *To stay put*: to remain where or as placed; to remain fixed or steady; also *fig.* (of persons, etc.). *U.S. colloq.*

1848 BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.* s.v. *Put, To stay put*, to remain in order; not to be disturbed. A vulgar expression. 1864 MARIA S. CUMMINS *Haunted Hearts* I. iv. 46 This curl sticks right out straight; couldn't you put this pin in for me, so that it would stay put? 1870 LOWELL *Study Wind.* 248 He has a prodigious talent, to use our Yankee phrase, of *staying put.*

†c. To remain without specific definition *in* a general class. *Obs.* (*nonce-use.*)

1592 WEST *1st Pt. Symbol.* I. xii. (1594) A 3 b, Named Contracts, be those which haue a cause by law defined, and they are called by proper names. The same also be termed certain...Besides these all the reste are vncertaine, as steying in that their generall appellation or name.

7. With emphasis or contextual colouring: a. To tarry or linger where one is; to delay (as opposed to going on). Chiefly with negative. Cf. sense 4 d.

? *a* 1500 *London Lyckpeny* ii. (MS. Harl. 367) Yet for all that I stayd not longe, Tyll to the kynges bench I was come. 1585 WASHINGTON tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* I. vi. 4 b, [He] was again sent..to the King to aduertise him of our arriual, who stayed not, but straightwayes ther came with him diuers other Chiaous, captaines and Ianissaries to receiue the Ambassadour. 1611 BIBLE *Josh.* X. 19 And stay you not, but pursue after your enemies. *Ibid.*, 1 *Sam.* XX. 38 And Ionathan cryed after the ladde, Make speed, haste, stay not. 1616 W. BROWNE *Brit. Past.* II. v. 112 His eye deceiued mingles his colours wrong, There strikes too little, and here stayes too long. 1871 R. ELLIS *Catullus* lxi. 196 Husband, stay not [*Jam licet venias*]: a bride within Coucheth ready.

b. To stand one's ground, stand firm (as opposed to fleeing or budging). Now *rare.*

1593 SHAKS. 3 *Hen. VI*, II. iii. 50 And giue them leaue to flye, that will not stay. 1597 LOK *Sundry Chr. Pass.* I. liii, But yet (in hope of grace from thee) I stay, And do not yeeld, although my courage quaile. 1851 MRS. BROWNING *Casa Guidi Wind.* I. 1082 Who, born the fair side of the Alps, will budge, When Dante stays, when Ariosto stays, When Petrarch stays for ever?

†c. Of a thing To linger, be long in coming or beginning. *Obs.*

1602 MARSTON *Antonio's Rev.* IV. iii, Why staies the doome of death? 1639 DU VERGER tr. *Camus' Admir. Events* 355 If the good theeves helpe had stay'd a little longer, it is likely that it had come too late.

8. To reside or sojourn in a place for a longer or shorter period; to sojourn or put up *with* a person as his guest.

1554 in Tytler *Eng. Edw. VI & Mary* (1839) II. 410 From Villa Franca unto St. James'...where he stayeth about two days. 1617 *Acct. Bk. W. Wray* in *Antiquary* XXXII. 214 He stayed at Rippon one night. 1666 H. JACKSON in *Extr. S. P. rel. Friends* Ser. III. (1912) 248, I travailed Seaven miles that morneing, and then stayed at a friends house, intending in a short time, to have passed on my journey. 1674 *Essex Papers* (Camden) I. 288, I will come over post and stay a month wth Essex. 1823 A. CLARKE *Mem. Wesley Fam.* 514 While she staid with her uncle. 1831 *Society* I. 287 She had hoped a very lovely girl staying in the house, would be a counter-charm to the other. 1847 HELPS *Friends in C.* I. viii. 121 It was arranged..that Ellesmere should come and stay a day or two with me. 1883 RUSKIN *Art of Eng.* 24 Two English ladies..were staying at the same hotel. 1905 EGIN. GLYN *Viciss. Evangeline* 162, I don't think Park Street is the place for you to stay.

b. To dwell, lodge, reside (permanently or regularly). *Sc.* and *colonial.*

1754 E. BURT *Lett. N. Scot.* (1818) I. 20, I was told that I must..inquire for such a *launde* (or building), where the gentleman *stayd*, at the *third stair*, that is, three stories high. 1800 *Monthly Mag.* I. 322 [Scotticisms], He stays in the Canongate, means, He lives in that suburb. *Mod.* (Sc.) Mr. A. moved last Whitsunday; I don't know where he stays now. *Mod.* (Cape Colony: communicated.) *Englishman.* Who lived in that house last? *Colonial.* Oh, Mr. Brown stayed there.

c. *To come to stay*: To become permanent or established, to come into regular use or recognition; to assume a secure position in public favour or as meeting a public need. *colloq.*

1863 A. LINCOLN *Let. to Conkling* 26 Aug. in E. McPherson *Polit. Hist. U.S. Rebell.* (1864) 336, I hope it [*sc.* peace] will come soon, and come to stay. 1894 *Westm. Gaz.* 9 May 2/1 Those dreadful [advertisement] boards—their dimensions are 18 ft. by 6 ft.—have, as the Yankees put it, 'come to stay.' 1901 *Athenæum* 13 Apr. 455/1 The issue..of Byron's letters will leave very little doubt..that Lord Byron as a letter-writer has 'come to stay'.

9. To remain inactive or quiet; to wait (without doing anything or making progress); to put off action (*until*). Cf. *stay for*, 14 b. ? *Obs.*

a 1550 *Image Ipocr.* III. 27 in *Skelton's Wks.* (1843) II. 433 Some be still and stey, And hope to haue a daye. 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* xvi. 216 All the which thinges they haue euer to theyr powers resisted, and ofte desired the Archebishop, that he woulde staye vntyll the counsell. 1591 SHAKS. *Two Gent.* I. ii. 131 Madam: dinner is ready, and your father staies. 1621 ELSING *Debates Ho. Lords* (Camden) 125 The booke of the Colleccions of the presidents not yett bounde. Whether you wyll use the booke as yt is, or staye untill to-morrowe? 1625 BACON *Ess., Delays*, Fortune is like the Market; where many times, if you can stay a little, the Price will fall. 1640 SUCKLING *Let.* Fragm. Aur. (1648) 91 Nor must he stay to act till his people desire. *a* 1703 BURKITT *On N. T., Luke* ii. 28 Though God stays long before he fulfils his promises, he certainly comes at last with a double reward for our expectation. 1751 CHESTERF. *Lett.* III. ccliv. 166, I told you in a former letter..that I should stay till I received the patterns pitched upon by your ladies.

†10. Of a business or other matter: To be deferred or postponed for a season; to be kept waiting, be allowed to wait. *Obs.*

1642 tr. *Perkins' Prof. Bk.* V. § 335. 148 Execution shall stay during the Terme of yeares. 1680 OTWAY *Orphan* I. iv, The time has been When business might have stay'd and I been heard. 1728 SWIFT *Jrnl. Modern Lady* 93 The footman, in his usual phrase, Comes up with 'Madam, dinner stays.'

†11. a. To scruple, be in doubt, raise difficulties (*at*). b. To delay *in* (doing something). c. To hesitate, delay, be slow, scruple *to* (do something). d. To refrain *from. Obs.*

1533 MORE *Apol.* xxii. 135 b, At some of them [prelates proposed to be replaced by laymen] they stayed and stakered. 1539 CROMWELL in Merriman *Life & Lett.* (1902) II. 174 It is not to be doubted, but whenne all the rest shulde be agreed, no man wold stycke nor staye for any parte concerning her beautie and goodnes but rather haue more then contentement. 1551 R. ROBINSON tr. *More's Utopia* I. (1895) 83 Whyles they all staye at the chyefeste dowte of all, what to doo in the meane tyme with England. 1553 BRENDE *Q. Curtius* IX. 192 Whye doest thou staye in riddyng me quickelye out of this payne? 1583 BABINGTON *Commandm.* (1590) 287 Their bolde speaking is not euer sounde proouing, and therefore wee stay to beleeue them. 1599 PORTER *Angry Wom. Abingt.* (1841) 34 *Mal.* Do you heare, mother? would you stay from pleasure When yee haue minde to it? ..*Mis. Bar.* Well, lustie guts, I meane to make ye stay, And set some rubbes in your mindes smothest way. *c* 1605 ROWLEY *Birth Merl.* V. ii. 46 Why do we stay to binde those Princely browes With this Imperial Honor? 1644 MILTON *Areop.* (Arb.) 31 Which though I stay not to confesse ere any aske.

12. *Sport.* To last, hold out, exhibit powers of endurance in a race or run. Also, to hold out for (a specified distance). [? Derived from sense 7 b.]

1834 DARVILL *Race Horse* (1846) II. 44 If he finds that his horses can go faster and stay longer at the pace by being drawn fine. 1860 ROUS in *Baily's Mag.* I. 18 There is another popular notion that our horses cannot now stay four miles. 1871 M. COLLINS *Marq. & Merch.* III. iv. 114 Such a galloper—and can't he stay! 1874 *Slang Dict.* 309 *Stay*, to exhibit powers of endurance at walking, running, rowing, etc. 1889 *The Pauline* VIII. 39 The Indian Civil boat made a good race of it for half the course but could not stay. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* II. 841 [Alcohol] may enable a man 'to spurt' but not 'to stay'.

b. To keep up *with* (a competitor in a game, a race, etc.). *U.S. colloq.*

1887 F. FRANCIS Jun. *Saddle & Mocassin* 145 Sam 'll 'stay with em as long as he's got a check. *Ibid.* 177 But they couldn't bluff the old man off; he stayed with them. 1894 *Outing* XXIV. 342/2, I determined upon a course which would in the end enable me to score my elk, and that was simply to 'stay with it.'

13. *Poker.* 'To come in when an ante has been raised' (*Cent. Dict.*); also *to stay in. To stay out*, to go out of the game.

1882 *Poker; How to play it* 8 If a number of players have gone in, it is best generally for the ante-man to make good and go in, even with a poor hand, because half his stake is already up, and he can therefore stay in for half as much as the others have had to put up. *Ibid.* 12 Everybody stayed

out except one man. 1897 R. F. Foster *Compl. Hoyle* 183 (Poker) Suppose there has been no straddle, and that all conclude to *stay*, as it is called.

14. To stay for —. **a.** To remain or wait in a place for (a person or thing); to remain and take part in or witness (a meal, ceremony, etc.); to await the coming of.

1554 in Tytler *Eng. Edw. VI & Mary* (1839) II. 410 And so to the Groyne..where he will stay only for a good wind. 1591 Shaks. *Two Gent.* III. i. 382 Thy Master staies for thee at the North gate. 1628 Digby *Voy. Mediterr.* (Camden) 9 But they steyed for us and made readie for fight. 1763 Bickerstaff *Love in Village* II. ix, Well, sir, will you read this letter,..it is just brought by a servant, who stays for an answer. 1796 Mrs. M. Robinson *Angelina* I. 270 We shall stay for you in the wilderness. 1833 T. Hook *Parson's Dau.* II. ix, 'Come, Doctor,' said Lady Frances, 'stay for coffee.'

†**b.** To wait or tarry for (a person or thing) before doing or beginning to do something. Sometimes contextually, to be compelled to wait for. *Obs.*

1598 Shaks. *Merry W.* I. i. 314 Come, gentle M. Slender, come; we stay for you. 1625 Bacon *Ess., Truth* (Arb.) 499 What is Truth; said jesting Pilate; and would not stay for an Answer. 1651 Hobbes *Leviathan* II. xxvi. 150 The Civill Law takes away that Liberty, in all cases where the protection of the Law may be safely stayd for. 1704 Cibber *Careless Husb.* II. i. 22 Dinner's serv'd, and the Ladies stay for us. 1705 H. Blackwell *Engl. Fencing-Master* 16 If the Hand stays for the Foot, the Thrust is much slower. 1738 Swift *Pol. Conversat.* 126 You see, sir John, we stay'd for you, as one Horse does for another.

†**c.** *contextually.* (To be forced) to wait for (something one wishes or hopes to get). *Obs.*

1592 *Murther J. Brewen* in *Kyd's Wks.* (1901) 288 [He] requested that he might haue his gifts againe, to whom disdainfully she made answere that he should stay for it. 1780 Johnson *Let. to Mrs. Thrale* 10 July, For all this I must stay, but life will not stay.

†**d.** said of a thing. *Obs.*

1601 B. Jonson *Poetaster* II. ii. Wks. (1616) 291 There's a slight banquet staies within for you. 1603 Dekker *Wonderf. Yeare* F 4, Another poore wretch..throwne..into a graue vpon a heape of carcases, that stayd for their complement. 1662 J. Dixon in *Extr. S. P. rel. Friends* Ser. II. (1911) 144 You are desired to seend your Collecttion y^s^ was for London with speed for it steayes for youres and mosdals.

†**15. To stay of —.** To be delayed by, be kept waiting by, have to wait for (a person or thing). *Obs.* [Cf. midl. dial. 'to wait of' = *to wait for.*]

1681 W. Robertson *Phraseol. Gen.* 1168/2, I stay of this; *Hoc mihi moræ est. Ibid.*, Fetch the Midwife that we may not stay of her; *Obstetricem accerse, ne in mora nobis fiat. Ibid.* 1169/1, I will tell them they shall not stay of us; *Illis dicam nullam esse in nobis moram.*

16. To stay on, upon —. †**a.** To wait for (a person); to await, await the issue of (an event, circumstance); to attend on, be subject to (a person's will or pleasure, etc.). *Obs.*

1540 Palsgr. *Acolastus* Ep. to King b iij, Where as nowe the scholers..haue no maner remedy, but vtterly and holly to staye vpon theyr maysters mouth. 1590 Shaks. *Com. Err.* v. i. 20 You haue done wrong to this my honest friend, Who but for staying on our Controuersie, Had hoisted saile, and put to sea to day. 1601 — *All's Well* III. v. 48, I thanke you, and will stay vpon your leisure. 1603 — *Meas. for M.* IV. i. 47, I haue a Seruant comes with me along That staies vpon me. *c* 1611 Chapman *Iliad* XIV. 308 We little need to stay On his assistance, if we would our owne strengths call to field.

†**b.** To dwell upon (a topic, subject); to sustain or stress (a note in singing). Of the eye: To rest upon, be arrested by (an object of vision). *Obs.*

c 1580 Lodge *Repl. Gosson's Sch. Abuse* 24 But other matter call [*sic*] me and I must not staye vpon this onely. 1601 Shaks. *Twel. N.* II. iv. 24 My life vpon't, yong though thou art, thine eye Hath staid vpon some fauour that it loues. 1605 Bacon *Adv. Learn.* II. xxiii. § 22. 97, I haue staied the longer vpon this precept..because it is a maine part by it selfe. 1667 [see Stay *sb.*[3] 3 d].

II. quasi-*trans.* and *trans.* uses derived from I.

17. quasi-*trans.* To remain for, to remain and participate in or assist at (a meal, ceremony, prayers, etc.); to remain throughout or during (a period of time). = *stay for*, 14 a.

1570 in Kempe *Losely MSS.* (1836) 234 At the tyme poynted he cam and stayd the service, from the beginning to th'end. 1599 Hayward *1st Pt. Life Hen. IV*, 26 The rest of the lords departed, except the Earle of Darby, who stayed supper with the King. 1661 P. Henry *Diaries & Lett.* (1882) 85, I stay'd ye sermon. *a* 1700 Evelyn *Diary* 29 Nov. 1661, My Lord Mordaunt, with whom I staid the night. 1778 Miss Burney *Evelina* (1791) I. xx. 87 We intended to stay the farce. 1786 — *Diary* 27 July (1842-6) III. 37 At the dessert I was very agreeably surprised by the entrance of Sir Richard Jebb, who stayed coffee. 1808 Jane Austen *Lett.* (1884) I. 357 She stayed the Sacrament, I remember, the last time that you and I did. 1832 Moore *Mem.* (1854) VI. 244 Went to Bowood, and stayed prayers. 1862 Carlyle *Fredk. Gt.* XI. iii. (1872) IV. 51 A certain Colonel..contrives to get invited to stay dinner. 1888 G. Gissing *Life's Morning* II. xi. 135 I'm obliged to ask them to stay tea.

18. quasi-*trans.* with *out.* **a.** To remain to the end of; to remain and witness the end of. Also, to remain beyond the limit of, outstay.

1639 Fuller *Holy War* IV. xxi. 206 By this time Lewis in Syria had stayed out the death and buriall of all his hopes to receive succour from his own countrey. 1768 Lady M. Coke *Jrnl.* 27 Feb., Went to the new Opera:..upon the whole dull—not that I staid it out. 1858 Hawthorne *Fr. & It. Note-bks.* (1872) I. 2 It seemed as if we had stayed our English welcome out.

b. To remain longer than (another), outstay.

1749 Fielding *Tom Jones* XIII. iv, The company had now staid so long, that Mrs. Fitzpatrick plainly perceived they all designed to stay out each other.

19. *trans.* To wait for, await (a person, his coming, an event, etc.); to wait upon, serve (a person's leisure); to abide, sustain (a question, onset). Now *arch.* (= *stay for* 14 a, b, *stay upon* 16 a).

a 1586 Sidney *Arcadia* III. xviii. § 6 Never staying either iudge, trumpet, or his owne launce, [he] drew out his sword. 1590 Spenser *F. Q.* II. iv. 40 Ne thou for better hope, if thou his presence stay. 1590 Shaks. *Mids. N.* II. i. 235, I will not stay thy questions, let me go. 1592 — *Ven. & Ad.* 894 They basely flie and dare not stay the field. *a* 1625 Fletcher *Elder Bro.* II. i, Like a blushing Rose that staies the pulling. *a* 1625 — *M. Thomas* v. ii, Get you afore and stay me at the Chapel. 1638 Junius *Paint. Ancients* 22 Neither doe they stay our leisure to let us take a full view of them. 1705 tr. *Bosman's Guinea* 472, I was..desired to stay the arrival of their King. 1811 *Spirit Publ. Jrnls.* (1813) XVI. 7 They would not stay our arrival; for, the moment they saw us, they made off. 1864 *Realm* 8 June 1 The overhurry of the messenger (who had stayed no question) induced suspicion. 1888 Stevenson *Black Arrow* 6 There is a fight toward,..and my lord stays a reinforcement

b. = to stay to make or offer. *poet.*

1588 Shaks. *L. L. L.* II. i. 193, I cannot stay thanksgiuing. *Ibid.* IV. ii. 147 Stay not thy complement, I forgiue thy duetie, adue.

III. *trans.* To stop, arrest, check.

20. To detain, hold back, stop (a person or thing); to check or arrest the progress of, bring to a halt; to hinder from going on or going away; to keep in a fixed place or position. Now only *literary.*

[*c* 1440 ? see I.] 1532 Cromwell in Merriman *Life & Lett.* (1902) I. 351 Ye lytell Regarding the kynges auctoryte and Commyssyon have stayed dyuers masons and woorkmen abowte you. 1560 Bible (Geneva) *Job* XXXVIII. 11 And here shal it staye thy proud waues. 1564 Daus tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 136 Than the tounes men..stayed the reste that would lykewise haue invaded. 1562 Gresham in Burgon *Life* (1839) II. 9 To wryte me your pleasure whether I shall send you Doctor Mount's letters in post, or to stey them bye me till the ordinary post goeth. 1576 Fleming *Panopl. Epist.* 310 A running streame is stayed by weedes and shallownesse. 1627 *Lisander & Calista* II. 31 While the rain stayes you here. 1635 R. N. *Camden's Hist. Eliz.* I. 20 An infinite masse of money being stayed at home, which was wont to be exported daily to Rome. 1654 Bramhall *Just Vind.* ii. (1661) 25 They..are like men running down a steep hill that cannot stay themselves. 1686 tr. *Chardin's Trav. Persia* 255 He stay'd me to dine with him. *a* 1700 Evelyn *Diary* 14 Nov. 1672, This businesse staide me in London almost a weeke. 1768 Sterne *Sent. Journ., Fille de Chambre* (1778) II. 3 As I had nothing to stay me in the shop, we both walk'd out. 1782 Cowper *John Gilpin* 37 So three doors off the chaise was stay'd. 1810 Scott *Lady of L.* III. xiv, The plough was in mid-furrow staid. 1830 Tennyson *Poems* 96 Thou shalt not wander hence to-night, I'll stay thee with my kisses. 1873 Helps *Anim. & Mast.* vi. 152 Among the reeds, where, at the moment, we had stayed the boat. 1902 *Munsey's Mag.* XXVI. 506/1 Attacking and withdrawing again before any force could be mobilized to stay him.

b. const. *from.*

1591 H. Smith *Serm., Restitut. Nebuchad.* 15 Therefore when he knew this, nothing could stay him from his kingdome, no more then they could stay him in his kingdome before. 1605 Bacon *Adv. Learn.* II. vii. § 7. 32 b, They are indeed but *Remoraes* and hinderances to stay and slugge the Shippe from furder sayling. 1618 W. Lawson *Orch. & Gard.* ii. (1623) 4 Make Trenches by degrees,..so as the Water may be staied from passage. 1703 Evelyn *Diary* 21 Nov., The wet and uncomfortable weather staying us from church this morning. 1850 Tennyson *In Mem.* LXXXIII, O sweet new-year delaying long..What stays thee from the clouded noons?

†**c.** *refl.* To abide (in a place); to take up a settled residence. Similarly in *passive. Obs.*

1558 Phaer *Æneid* VIII. (1562) Bb iiij, Than at Etruria sore affright did settling stay them selues, & in ye field their camp haue pight. 1563 *Homilies* II. *Place & Time of Prayer* I. 139 b, They were not stayed in any place, but were in a continuall peregrination and wandering. 1579-80 North *Plutarch, Romulus* (1595) 20 Some thinke that the Pelasgians..in the end did stay themselues in that place where it [Rome] was new builded. 1590 Spenser *F. Q.* III. i. 67 For nothing would she lenger there be stayd, Where so loose life ..Was vsd of Knights and Ladies seeming gent.

d. *poet.* To take prisoner; to hold in confinement or captivity.

1590 Spenser *F. Q.* I. x. 40 And captiues to redeeme with price of bras From Turkes and Sarazins, which them had stayd. 1872 Tennyson *Gareth & Lynette* 600 Three knights Defend the passings,..and a fourth..holds her stay'd In her own castle.

21. To render motionless or keep immovable; to fix, hold fast.

1627 May *Lucan* II. (1631) C 8, Each Galley doe foure anchors stay. 1669 Sturmy *Mariner's Mag.* I. ii. 8 Bring the Index of the Moon to the West-by-North Point, staying it there. 1811 Wordsw. *Misc. Sonn.* I. ix, I Praised be the Art whose subtle power could stay Yon cloud, and fix it in that glorious shape. 1855 Tennyson *Daisy* 23 Till, in a narrow street and dim, I stay'd the wheels at Cogoletto. 1868 — *Lucretius* 257 My golden work in which I told a truth That stays the rolling Ixionian wheel.

†**b.** To cause to rest or remain *on* something; to rest or fix (the eyes) *on* an object. *Obs.*

a 1586 Sidney *Ps.* XXX. xi, Lord, heare, lett mercy thine be staid On me. 1633 G. Herbert *Temple, Elixer* iii, A man that looks on glasse, On it may stay his eye; Or if he pleaseth, through it passe, And then the heav'n espie. 1674 Playford *Skill Mus.* II. 102 Your second and third Fingers staid upon the Hair, by which you may poise and keep up your Bow.

22. a. To detain or delay (a reader).

1578 Timme *Calvin on Gen.* 261 To the end the disordered division of the Chapters may not trouble or stay the readers. 1653 H. More *Conject. Cabbal.* 93 Not to stay you with too tedious a Prologue to the matter in hand. 1690 Locke *Hum. Und.* III. v. § 16, I was willing to stay my Reader on an Argument, that appears to me new.

b. To arrest (the attention).

1639 Du Verger tr. *Camus' Admir. Events* 193 His consideration was no lesse stayed by her vertue, then his sences charmed by her beauty.

†**c.** To stop the course of, terminate (a line).

1563 Shute *Archit.* ciij, The vpright line..which stayeth that lyne which is drawen ouerthwart the pillor.

23. To prevent, hinder, stop (a person or thing) from doing something; to check, restrain. Const. *from*, †*of* a course of action, etc.); †*to* (with inf.): †*but that.* Now *rare* or *poet.*

1560 Daus tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 123 b, Kynge Ferdinando ..commaunded the lawe to cease..but that woulde not staye them. 1562 T. Cooper *Answ. Def. Truth* xii. 85 b, If that would haue stayed you from wrytinge. 1566 *Acts Gen. Assemb. Kirk Scot.* (Maitland Club) I. 86 Diverse of our deirest brethren..by you are stayed to promote the kingdome of Chryst. 1574 A. L. *Calvin's Foure Serm.* i, Nothing staied him but that he set up the true and pure religion. 1574 in *Maitl. Club Misc.* I. 104 Sene the tyme that thai war steyit of thair said pretendit mariage. 1585 Higins *Junius' Nomencl.* 191/2 *Repagulum*,..the barre which staieth horses from running. 1611 Bible *Haggai* I. 10 Therefore the heauen ouer you is stayed from dew, and the earth is staied from her fruite. *a* 1628 Preston *New Cov.* (1630) 87 When he stayed himselfe, and did it not, how did the Lord bring it to passe with out him? 1630 Pagitt *Christianogr.* I. ii. (1636) 73 This made St. Augustine..to write his bookes..to stay his countriemen from Idolatrie. 1846 H. G. Robinson *Odes of Horace* II. viii, Lest your bewitching air should stay Their husbands from their duty. 1852 M. Arnold *Empedocles* I. ii. 125 Rivers are dried, winds stay'd.

†**b.** *refl.* To check oneself; to desist from something one is doing or intending to do; to cease speaking, writing, etc. *Obs.*

1560 Bible (Geneva) *Haggai* i. 10 Therefore the heauen ouer you staied it self from dewe. 1561 Clough in *Burgon's Life Gresham* (1889) I. 410 Herein I am somwatt tedyus: desyryng you to pardone me, for beyng ownse enteryd into the matter, I collde nott stee myselffe. 1598 R. Bernard tr. *Terence, Adelph.* IV. iv, Neuerthelesse I staied my selfe, least I should vtter any thing of my brother to that babler.

c. with object a limb or activity of the body, a weapon, etc.; esp. *to stay* (one's own or another's) *hand* (chiefly *fig.*), to cease or cause to cease from attack or working). Now somewhat *arch.*

1560 Bible (Geneva) *Dan.* iv. 35 And none can stay his hand, nor say vnto him, What doest thou? 1579 Gosson *Apol. Sch. Abuse* (Arb.) 75 But I stay my handes till I see his booke. 1581 A. Hall *Iliad* IV. 65 The golden buckle of my belt..hath surely stayde the blow. 1592 Shaks. 1 *Hen. VI*, I. ii. 104 Stay, stay thy hands, thou art an Amazon. *a* 1600 *Flodden F.* iii. (1664) 25 Himself set forth in seemly aray, And neither stint nor staid his foot. 1800 Wordsw. *Pet Lamb* 16 But ere ten yards were gone her footsteps did she stay. 1877 Tyndall in *Daily News* 2 Oct. 2/5 That power did not work with delusions, nor will it stay its hand when such are removed. 1880 R. G. White *Every-Day Eng.* xx. 303 My tongue is tied and my hand is stayed.

†**d.** To cause (a bell) to cease ringing. *Obs.*

a 1593 Marlowe *Massacre at Paris* 452 And now stay That bel that to ye deuils mattins rings. 1655 F. Raworth *Jacob's Ladder* 35 But Satan, stay the bels.

24. †**a.** *Law.* To hold back, refuse to release or cancel (a bond). *Obs.*

1578 Whetstone *2nd Pt. Promos & Cass.* II. v, Nay mary, the same I would gladly pay, But my bonde for the forfeyt he doth stay.

†**b.** To keep back or withhold (a person) temporarily *from* (something due). *Obs.*

1643 Baker *Chron., Hen. VII*, 153 His brother Henry Duke of Yorke was stayed from the title of Prince of Wales, the space of halfe a yeer, till to women it might appear, whether the Lady Katherine, the Relict of Prince Arthur, were with childe, or no.

25. To stop, arrest, delay, prevent (an action or process, something which is begun or intended). Freq. in legal parlance.

1525 *St. Papers Hen. VIII*, VI. 513 On the morow.. Your Highnes letters..arryvyd here, whiche stayde our goyng to th Emperour, unto we had perused them over. 1542-3 *Act* 34 & 35 *Hen. VIII*, c. 27 § 114 Item that no execucion of any iudgement geuen..be staied or deferred. 1579 Lyly *Euphues* (Arb.) 114 Neither lette rayne nor thunder..stay thy iourney. 1597 Shaks. 2 *Hen. IV*, IV. iii. 78 Retreat is made, and Execution stay'd. 1665 Howard & Dryden *Ind. Queen* III. i, If you would have this Sentence staid. 1690 Dryden *Amphitryon* IV. i, You had best stay dinner, till he has proved himself to be Amphitryon in form of law. 1768 Blackstone *Comm.* III. xiv. 227 The courts of equity..will grant an injunction or order to stay waste, until the defendant shall have put in his answer. 1796 Burke *Regic. Peace* i. Wks. 1808 VIII. 186 When a neighbour sees a new erection, in the nature of a nuisance, set up at his door,..the judge..has a right to order the work to be staid. 1855 Prescott *Philip II*, I. i. ix. 141 He marched against the Turks and stayed the tide of Ottoman inroad in Hungary. 1856 in *Hurlstone & Norman's Exch. Rep.* (1857) I. 494, I do order..that until such indemnity be given all further proceedings be stayed. 1861 Gen. P. Thompson *Audi Alt.* III. clxiii. 179 To stay printing, therefore, is the object of all who object to the knowledge it is to dispense. 1913 D. Bray *Life-Hist. Brahui* iv. 53 A death in the household..will stay a wedding forty days.

b. To arrest the course or growth of (a disease, something noxious or destructive).

1563 T. Gale *Antidot.* I. i. 1 We staye by them [*sc.* medi-

cines] the fluxe of humours in their beginning. 1598 BASTARD *Chrestol.* VII. xx. 169 So in fayre faces moulds somtimes arise, Which serue to stay the surfeyte of our eyes. 1611 BIBLE 2 *Sam.* xxiv. 21 That the plague may be stayed from the people. 1653 T. BRUGIS *Vade Mecum* (ed. 2) 61 It stayeth the cough. 1873 SYMONDS *Grk. Poets* vii. 195 When the righteous man appears, who performs an act of retributive justice, then the curse is stayed. 1913 *Standard* 14 July 12/1 He was the first to help Jessop to stay the 'rot' that had set in on Thursday.

26. To leave off, cease, discontinue (doing something, an activity of one's own). Also to delay, withhold (one's good opinion, thanks). Now *rare* or *Obs.*

1538 ELYOT *Dict., Supprimere iter*, to stay or omitte a iourney. *c* 1550 J. CHEKE *Let.* in *Athenæum* (1909) 28 Aug. 237/2 As a man often..deceived with your promises, I will stay my good opinion. 1579 W. WILKINSON *Confut. Fam. Love* Brief Descr. 67 iij, If Sathan there had stayd his rage. *c* 1610 *Women Saints* 199 Not intermitting or staying his talke of sublime things for his bodies infirmitie. 1611 SHAKS. *Wint. T.* I. ii. 9 Stay your Thanks a while, And pay them when you part. 1628 PRYNNE *Censure Cozens* 44 There is as much hope of making the restlesse Sunne to stay its motion. 1685 LADY R. RUSSELL *Lett.* I. xxvii. 72, I had not stayed supplying you with new French papers, but that I was doubtful how the last got to you. 1820 KEATS *Isabella* xlvii, Then 'gan she work again; nor stay'd her care, But to throw back at times her veiling hair.

b. To cease *to* (do something). *poet. rare*—[1].

1894 BRIDGES *Shorter P.* v. *Palm Willow* 2 The birds have stayed to sing.

† **27.** To defend, guard (a place) against entry or incursion. Const. *from*. *Obs.*

1575 CHURCHYARD *Chips* 44 b, *marg.*, Sir Thomas Manners ..was sent before to stay the gates. 1576 GASCOIGNE *Steele Gl.* (Arb.) 70 Demosthenes in Athens vsde his arte..stil to stay the towne from deepe deceite Of Philips wyles, which had besieged it.

28. To appease, allay (strife, tumult); † to reduce to order, bring under control (rebellious elements); † to compose (a disturbed district). † Also *refl.* to compose oneself, control one's emotions. Now *rare*.

1537 R. ASKE in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* Ser. III. III. 59, I prey your Lordship to stay your quarters, as I have doon thes parts. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Rich. III*, 26 b, To putte some to execucion, and staie the countree, or els no small mischiefe had ensued. 1577 KENDALL *Flowers of Epigr., Trifles* 2 b, Seke still to staie the stormes of sturdie strife. 1588 SHAKS. *L. L. L.* III. i. 99 The Foxe, the Ape, and the Humble-Bee, Were still at oddes, being but three. *Arm.* Vntill the Goose came out of doore, Staying the oddes by adding foure. *a* 1593 MARLOWE *Massacre at Paris* 439, I haue done what I could to stay this broile. 1603 KNOLLES *Hist. Turks* (1621) 688 Auria somewhat troubled with this sudden comming out of the enemie,..yet notably staied himself. *a* 1648 LD. HERBERT *Hen. VIII* (1683) 477 This alone yet could not have stayed the Rebels. 1810 SCOTT *Lady of L.* v. xxix, Oft men..Bless'd him who staid the civil strife. 1877 TENNYSON *Harold* I. ii, Should not England Love Aldwyth, if she stay the feuds that part The sons of Godwin from the sons of Alfgar By such a marrying?

29. *To stay the stomach*: to appease its cravings, stave off hunger; to quiet the appetite temporarily. Similarly *to stay one's longing, hunger, the appetite*, etc. Also *fig.*

1608 SHAKS. *Per.* v. iii. 83 Lord Cerimon, wee doe our longing stay To heare the rest vntolde. 1610 B. JONSON *Alchemist* III. v, A piece of ginger-bread, to be merry withall, And stay your stomack, lest you faint with fasting. 1655 FULLER *Ch. Hist.* VII. 419 All this Income rather stayed the stomack, than satisfied the hunger of the Kings Exchequer. 1684 tr. *Bonet's Merc. Compit.* I. 23 Fat and clammy things stay too great hunger. 1739 H. WALPOLE *Let. to R. West* 18 June, To stay your stomach, I will send you one of the vaudevilles or ballads. *a* 1853 ROBERTSON *Serm.* Ser. III. xx. 258 A thing which when chewed will stay the appetite. 1877 SPURGEON *Serm.* XXIII. 495 Present mercies are a sip by the way—a morsel eaten to stay the stomach. 1879 STEVENSON *Trav. Cevennes* 89 Father Michael..gave me a glass of liqueur to stay me till dinner. 1888 *Sat. Rev.* 20 Oct. 453/1 It would appear that the fight at the Jalapla has..stayed the stomach of the Lamas for fighting.

IV. *Combinations.*

30. Combinations of the vb. + object: **stay-plough** = REST-HARROW (Prior *Plant-n.* 1863); **stay-stomach**, a snack to stay the stomach or appetite; also *fig.*; † **stay-time** *nonce-wd.*, ? something to arrest the flight of time. Also STAY-SHIP.

1800 BENTHAM *Wks.* (1843) X. 356 The accompanying forgery papers I send you for a *stay stomach, to keep you in good humour. 1825 COBBETT *Rur. Rides* (1885) II. 24 We had some bits of bread and meat in our pockets..which were merely intended as stay-stomachs. 1891 *Ch. Times* 328/4 The cross bun on Good Friday..was the only stay-stomach permissible till 3 p.m. 1713 M. HENRY *Catech. Youth* Wks. 1857 II. 162/2 We have more need of *stay-times than pastimes.

31. Combinations of the vb. + adv. or advb. phrase, as **stay-ashore, stay-away**, one who stays ashore, etc.; **stay-a-while** *Austral.*, the shrub *Acacia colletioides*, from the difficulty of penetrating a tract covered with it; **stay-on** *adj.*, intended for guests who 'stay on' after an earlier function; **stay over**, a waiting at a port of transhipment when the regular connexion has been missed. Also STAY-AT-HOME.

1884 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 24 July 2/1 On landing the crew were severely censured by the *stay-ashores for 'lack of courage'. 1867 *Ch. & St. Rev.* 2 Feb. 99 The intolerable dulness of the sermons, and the want of sympathy evinced by the sermonisers with the political aspirations of the *stayaways, were the reasons given. 1898 MORRIS *Austral Eng.* 436 **Stay-a-while*, a tangled bush; sometimes called *Wait-a-while*. 1900 'J. S. WINTER' *Married Miss Binks* 79 They sent out invitations for a sort of garden party with a *stay-on cold dinner and a dance to follow. 1898 M. DAVITT *Life & Progr. Austral.* 2 One of the most interesting experiences in a '*stay over' at this unsavoury place is that of watching the Arab porters coaling a ship.

32. The verb-stem used *attrib.*, as **stay-bit**, a snack before a meal.

1833 *Fraser's Mag.* VII. 686 Which might peradventure serve as a stay-bit to a ravenous public.

Stay (stā), *v.*[2] Pa. t. and pa. pple. **stayed** (stēd). Also 6 **stey, staie, staye.** [a. OF. *estayer* (mod.F. *étayer*) to prop up, prob. an extended use of the nautical verb *estayer* (mod.F. *étayer*) = STAY *v.*[3]]

1. *trans.* To support, sustain, hold up (a person or thing). Const. *on, upon*, † *unto*. Now somewhat rare exc. in technical use (see 4).

1548 COOPER *Elyot's Dict., Canaliculus & Canaliculus*, a littell pype, or a lyttell splente to staie a broken fynger. 1550 T. LEVER *Serm.* (Arb.) 135 Beware therefore that ye staye not your selfe vnto a bryttell staffe. 1572 MASCALL *Plant. & Graff.* (1592) 35 When those Cions shall put foorth a fayre wood, ye must binde and staye them in the middest.. with small wands. 1576 FLEMING *Panopl. Epist.* 150 The common wealth leaneth and stayeth it selfe vpon your shoulders. 1578 BANISTER *Hist. Man* IV. 47 Moreouer they [the muscles] are mad to stay the eyes. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* I. vi. 35 And in his hand a Iacobs staffe, to stay His wearie limbes vpon. 1607 ROWLANDS *Famous Hist.* 69 He sits him sadly down, And on his bending knees his elbow stays. *a* 1630 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Wks.* II. 175/2 A Water-man many times hath his Soueraigne by the hand, to stay him in and out the Barge. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* II. 575 Sallows and Reeds..for Vineyards useful found, To stay thy Vines, and fence thy fruitful Ground. 1817 KEATS '*I stood tip-toe*' 73 Where swarms of minnows show their little heads, Staying their wavy bodies 'gainst the streams. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. i. 11, On this younger strength it would fain stay its decrepitude. 1870 BRYANT *Iliad* XVIII. 703 The vines were stayed on rows of silver stakes. 1871 H. YULE tr. *Marco Polo* I. lxi. I. 264 He has another Palace built of cane...It is stayed on gilt and lackered columns. 1891 KIPLING *Barrack-room Ball., Eng. Flag* 48 Because on the bones of the English the English Flag is stayed.

b. *transf.* and *fig.* To support, sustain, strengthen, comfort. Now *arch.* (Biblical).

1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 32 Thus these holy gyftes stayeth yᵉ soule of man. 1558 BP. WATSON *Sev. Sacram.* vi. 33 That our courage & strength maye bee stayed and directed to the right ende. 1560 BIBLE (Geneva) *Song Sol.* ii. 5 Stay me with flagons, comfort me with apples. 1573–80 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 9 Though countrie health long staid me. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* III. xi. 23 Neither may This fire be quencht by any wit or might,..So mighty be th' enchauntments, which the same do stay. 1612 T. TAYLOR *Comm. Titus* i. 7 (1619) 158 Whereby Iacob in want staied his minde. *a* 1720 SEWEL *Hist. Quakers* (1722) 13 Yet he was stayed by a secret Belief. 1872 O. W. HOLMES *Poet Breakf.-t.* vii, The trust that stayed the hearts of those we loved who have gone before us. 1913 D. BRAY *Life-Hist. Brahui* iv. 64 At her side sits some old dame, staying her with wise words of comfort.

c. with *up*. Now *rare* (*arch.*). Also † *to stay upright.*

1526 TINDALE *Matt.* iv. 6 With there handes they shall stey the vpp. 1535 COVERDALE *Exod.* xvii. 12 And Aaron & Hur stayed vp his handes. 1569 UNDERDOWNE *Heliodorus* VIII. 110 b, Cariclia..beganne to staie her vprighte. 1577 GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* II. 79 b, The Vines that are yoked, or stayed vp with proppes. 1611 BIBLE 1 *Kings* xxii. 35 The king was stayed vp in his charet against the Syrians. 1646 GATAKER *Mistake Removed* 25 As a bruised staf of reed or cane, that is..unable to stay a man up and support him. 1842 MANNING *Serm.* I. xix. (1848) 283 He stayed them up even against themselves.

2. *fig.* To cause to rest *on, upon* or *in* (a firm support, base or ground); to base or ground *upon*, to fix or set firmly *in*.

1565 SHACKLOCK tr. *Hosius' Treat. Heresies* 51 *marg.*, What scriptures Stenckfeld stayeth his sect vpon. 1565 J. PHILLIP *Patient Grissell* Pref. (Malone Soc.) 2 Historians oft in Hystories, their hole delightes haue staid To pen & paynt forth painfully, the modest liues of those, That [etc.]. 1569 SPENSER *Sonets* i. 14 So I..In God alone do stay my confidence. 1611 BIBLE *Isa.* xxvi. 3 Thou wilt keepe him in perfect peace, whose minde is stayed on thee. 1850 TENNYSON *In Mem.* lxxx. 8 A grief as deep as life or thought, But stay'd in peace with God and man.

† **b.** *refl.* with *upon*: To rely or build upon, take one's stand upon, rest or act upon; to abide by; to content oneself with. *Obs.*

1550 CROWLEY *Last Trumpet* 69 Stay thou thi selfe therfore vpon These examples comfortable. 1560 BIBLE (Geneva) *Isa.* xlviii. 2 They..staie them selues vpon the God of Israel. 1570–6 LAMBARDE *Peramb. Kent* (1826) 333 But staying my selfe upon this generall note, I will proceede with the treatise of the place that I have taken in hand. 1576 FLEMING *Panopl. Epist.* Epit. Precepts A ij, The principalls of ech Prouince, stayed themselues vpon his determination. 1709 STRYPE *Ann. Ref.* I. v. 93 Their Adversaries stayed themselves most upon Old Councils, and the Writings of Doctors and Fathers.

† **c.** To settle in a strong position or secure tenure; to establish. *Obs.*

1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 394 b, Wishing, that either nation with their forces joyned together, might so stay them selves, that they should nead to be afraid of no man. 1574 *Wills Northern C.* (Surtees) I. 398, I will that my trewe servant will'm pateson shalbe hynd of the too hous..vnto such tym as he be stayed wᵗʰ a fermhold.

3. *intr.* (for *refl.*) **To stay on, upon —.**

† **a.** To lean upon, support oneself by (a staff, etc.). Of a thing: To rest upon, be supported by.

1585 HIGINS *Junius' Nomencl.* 208/2 *Columnæ*,..the vpright postes bearing vp the windbeame, and staying vpon the transains. 1598 R. BERNARD tr. *Terence, Andria* III. v. 65 Lo, what a sure speare I haue of thee, what a sure staffe to stay vpon. 1603 KNOLLES *Hist. Turks* (1621) 69 The aforesaid undermined towre, with some part of the wall (the timber whereon it staied soon burnt) fell downe. 1681 W. ROBERTSON *Phraseol. Gen.* 1168/1 To stay or lean upon; *niti, inniti, insistere.*

† **b.** To rely upon, trust to, have confidence in; to look to for help or support. Of a thing: To depend on, be vested in. *Obs.*

1560 BIBLE (Geneva) *Isa.* XXXI. 1 Wo vnto them that..stay vpon horses, and trust in charettes. 1587 FLEMING *Contin. Holinshed* III. 976/1 The letter was to be followed, the message not to be staied on. 1596 SHAKS. *Merch. V.* IV. i. 242, I stay heere on my bond. 1600 ROWLANDS *Lett. Humours Blood* (1874) 59 He hath a stocke whereon his lyuing stayes, And they are Fullams and Bard quarter-trayes. 1682 BUNYAN *Holy War* (1905) 324 You must not dwell in, nor stay upon any thing of that which he hath in Commission to teach you. 1722 DE FOE *Plague* (1840) 107 My heart smote me, suggesting how much better this poor man's foundation was, on which he stayed in the danger, than mine.

4. *trans.* (*spec.* and *techn.*) To support, strengthen or secure with stays. Also with *up*.

1556 *Fabric Rolls York Minster* (Surtees) 355 To Wm. Bellow and his ij workemen, in staying of the crosse & wallyng & settynge of the staires abowtt the said crosse, 10s. For staying of the owtshottis, etc. 7s. 8d. 1568–9 *Ibid.* 114 To Brian Daragon for making ij stayes to beare and stay vppe a gutter, 4d. 1580–1 *Ibid.* 118 For two longe yron gaddes for stayinge of a pynnacle of the churche, 11s. 1838 F. W. SIMMS *Publ. Wks. Gt. Brit.* 70 The roof and sides of the box shall be stayed with copper bolts. 1849 RUSKIN *Sev. Lamps* vi. § 19. 181 Watch an old building with anxious care ..stay it with timber where it declines. 1869 RANKINE *Machine & Hand-tools* Pl. K 1, This machine consists of two very strong cast-iron plates, well stayed and bolted together. 1887 *Encycl. Brit.* XXII. 498/2 The front tube-plate in which the tubes terminate..is stayed to the back tube-plate by the tubes themselves. *Ibid.* 499/2 The steam-dome is a cylinder 2½ feet in diameter and 8 feet long, stayed by a central 3¼-inch rod of steel. 1898 *Daily News* 10 May 6/7 It did not matter to you whether the building was stayed up or not?

Stay, *v.*[3] *Naut.* Pa. t. and pa. pple. **stayed** (stēd). [f. STAY *sb.*[1] Cf. OF. *estayer* (mod.F. *étayer*).]

1. *trans.* To secure or steady by means of stays; to incline (forward, aft, or to one side) by means of stays.

1627 CAPT. SMITH *Sea Gram.* v. 19 Those staies doe helpe to stay the Boulspret. 1644 MANWAYRING *Seamans Dict.* 101 The foremast and masts belonging to it are in the same manner stayed at the bolt-sprit, and sprit-saile-top-mast. 1793 SMEATON *Edystone L.* § 300 Our shears and tackle were so well lashed down and stayed. 1846 A. YOUNG *Naut. Dict.* 296 A mast is said to be stayed forward, or to rake aft, according as it inclines forward or aft. 1894 *Westm. Gaz.* 22 Feb. 5/1 The funnel had to be stayed.

2. To put (a ship) 'in stays' (see STAY *sb.*[1] 2 a); to put on the other tack.

a 1625 *Nomenclator Navalis* (Harl. MS. 2301) To Stay or bring a Ship a Stay. 1633 T. JAMES *Voy.* 93 We turned amongst this Ice, staying the Ship sometimes within her length, of great pieces. 1644 MANWAYRING *Seamans Dict., To Stay, or, bring a Ship a-stay.* When we tack the ship, before the ship can be ready to be tacked; she must come a-stayes or a back-stayes, that is, when wind comes in at the bowe which was the lee-bowe before, and so drives all the sailes backward, against the shrowds and masts, so that the ship hath no way, but drives with the broad-side: the manner of doing it is, [etc.]. 1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), To *Bring a Ship upon the Stays* or *To stay her*, is to manage her Tackle, and sails so that she cannot make any way forward, which is done in order to her Tacking. 1895 *Daily News* 8 July 8/6 The Prince's cutter made a strong bid for the weather berth by crossing on the wrong tack, but Ailsa was stayed, and Carter's game was spoiled.

3. *intr.* To go about in stays; to turn to windward in order to tack.

a 1613 RALEGH *Let.* Sceptick etc. (1651) 130 The extream length of a Ship makes her unapt to stay. 1628 DIGBY *Voy. Mediterr.* (Camden) 5 Wee..made all hast wee could to tacke about after them, but the sea went so high that it was long before we could make our shippe stay. 1769 FALCONER *Dict. Marine* II. (1780), *Refuser*, to fall off again, when in stays; expressed of a ship that will not go about, or stay. 1836 E. HOWARD *R. Reefer* XXXI, She has stayed within her own length. 1891 *Daily News* 19 Oct. 6/7 The helm was put up, but the ship refused to stay.

Stay-at-home, *a.* and *sb.* [f. STAY *v.*[1]]

A. *adj.* That stays at home, not given to travelling or to gadding abroad; hence untravelled.

1806 G. PINCKARD *Tour W. Indies* III. 342 The extravagant alarm pictured by the fearful imaginations of stay-at-home travellers. 1814 JANE AUSTEN *Mansf. Park* v, A talking pretty young woman like Miss Crawford is always pleasant society to an indolent, stay-at-home man. 1819 in *Lady Morgan's Autobiog.* (1859) 326, I went to bed most depressed, and in admiration of your stay-at-home wisdom. 1861 O. W. HOLMES *Sweet Little Man* 35 In the brigade of the Stay-at-Home Rangers Marches my corps. 1902 CORNISH *Naturalist Thames* 152 It is in the woods that the stay-at-home birds are most in evidence in winter.

B. *sb.* One who stays at home, one not given to travelling or gadding abroad.

1841 DICKENS *Barn. Rudge* I, Sixty-six years ago a vast number both of travellers and stay-at-homes were in this condition. 1855 KINGSLEY *Westw. Ho!* xv, If some of you

young gentlemen would..go forth to find us stay-at-homes new markets for our ware.

So also (nonce-words) **Stay-at-homeativeness, -itiveness** (mimicking phrenological terms), **Stay-at-homeishness.**

1818 T. L. Peacock *Maid Marian* i, Domesticity, or as learned doctors call it—the faculty of stayathomeitiveness. 1826 *Westm. Rev.* VI. 327 Their un-Italianized countrymen, who are endowed with Spurzheim's bump, denominated stayathomeativeness, 1880 *Daily Tel.* 22 Sept., Our national tendency towards 'stay-at-homeishness'..

Stayed (stēid), *a.* [f. Stay *sb.*² + -ed².] Provided with stays. Also **Stayed-up.**

1819 *Metropolis* III. 174 A fourth stayed, and, perhaps, painted, male, smiles. 1884 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 16 Feb. 5/1 A stayed-up woman affected their impressionable and well-educated eyes as something monstrously ugly and absurd. Japanese dress is beautiful and so easy.

Stayed (stēid), *ppl. a.*¹ *rare.* [f. Stay *v.*¹ + -ed².] In senses of the verb.

c 1586 C'tess Pembroke *Ps.* lxxviii. ix, The raked sparkes in flame began t'appeare, And staied choller fresh again to move.

Stayed (stēid), *ppl. a.*² See also Staid *a.* [f. Stay *v.*² + -ed¹.] In senses of the verb. Hence **Stayedness** (stēi·ĕdnĕs).

1845 J. J. Gurney in *Mem.* (1854) II. 455 The soul is stayed on him, and finds a sure shelter. Somewhat of this blessed stayedness, this sweet shelter, has, I hope, been experienced. 1860 Pusey *Min. Proph.* 416 Since this stayedness of faith is in everything the source of the life of the righteous.

Stayer¹ (stēi·ər). [f. Stay *v.*¹ + -er¹.]

1. One who stays or remains. Chiefly with advb. phrase, as in *stayer at home.*

1591 R. Turnbull *St. James* 121 He that meeteth a way-fairing man, farre from al path or highway, wandring; and saith, go aright: yet teacheth not which hand he must turne on,..helpeth the staier nothing towardes his proposed iourney. 1729 Swift *Direct. Serv., Gen.* (1745) 11 The Stayer at home may be comforted by a Visit from a Sweet-heart. 1788 Cowper *Let. to Mrs. King* 28 Aug., I found you out to be sedentary, at least much a stayer within doors. 1805 W. Taylor in Robberds *Mem.* (1843) II. 72 My father is not very fond of long stayers, and I have more than once been obliged to interrupt the visits of friends of mine. 1851 Helps *Comp. Solit.* viii. (1874) 144 A dignity such as the stayers at home never attained. 1853 R. S. Surtees *Sponge's Sp. Tour* (1893) 235 He seemed to think that, being a stayer, he was a superior being to the mere dinner-comers.

b. *Sport.* A person or animal having great 'staying power'.

1862 *Sporting Mag.* May 381 Asteroid proved to be another of the Stockwell stayers. 1874 *Slang Dict.* 309 *Stayer*, one likely to persevere, one not easily discouraged. 1887 Shearman *Athletics* 137 He could have beaten the [walking] record for seven miles, as he was a fine stayer.

2. One who or something which stops or restrains.

1597 Montgomerie *Cherrie & Slae* 697 For they ar the stayer Of vs, alsweill as he. *c* 1610 Sir J. Melvil *Mem.* (Bannatyne Club) 350 Sa that they wha past betwen mycht appear to be..stayers of bludscheding. 1722, 1840 [see Stayer² b]. 1876 Morris *Sigurd* IV. 378 No stirrer nor stayer of strife.

Stayer² (stēi·ər). [f. Stay *v.*² + -er¹.] One who stays or supports.

1579–80 North *Plutarch, Theseus* (1595) 19 Gæiochus.. by interpretation doth signifie..the stayer of the earth.

b. With reference to the title of Jupiter Stator. In quots. 1722 and 1840 interpreted as Stayer¹ 2.

1611 B. Jonson *Catiline* IV. ii, Thou Iupiter, whom we do call the Stayer Both of this Citie, and this Empire. [1722 A. Philips *Briton* I. i, May Jove, the Guardian of the Capitol, He, the great Stayer of our Troops in Rout, Fulfill your Hopes. 1840 Arnold *Hist. Rome* xxxiii. II. 349 The consul vowed to build a temple to Jove the stayer of flight.]

Stayer, obs. form of Stair.

Stayes, obs. pl. form of Staithe.

1613 [Standish] *New Direct. Planting* 16 Especially in the Riuer of Owes, where the maintaining of Stayes and Bankes, costeth the Bishops of Durham at least a hundred Marke a yeare.

Staying (stēi·iŋ), *vbl. sb.*¹ [f. Stay *v.*¹ + -ing¹.] The action of Stay *v.*¹

1. In various intransitive senses: Coming to a stand, waiting, continuing in a place or a condition; †hesitating, delaying.

1546 J. Heywood *Prov.* II. viii. (1867) 73 Whiche foreseene in this woman wisely waiyng, That meete was to staie somwhat for hir staiyng. 1576 Fleming *Panopl. Epist.* A ij, There is a degree in growing, a stint or staying, and a diminishing. 1593 Shaks. 2 *Hen. VI*, IV. viii. 62 Heere is no staying. 1632 Lithgow *Trav.* II. 52 In the time of my fiue dayes staying there. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* II. vi. 199 The cause of his staying behind. 1786 G. Frazer *Dove's Flight* 59 It is our perverse wills that are the cause of our staying away from Christ. 1891 *Sat. Rev.* 28 Mar. 383/1 *Staying* may merely mean, as it sometimes does on the Turf, not being able to go fast enough to tire themselves.

†b. *Staying of the sun*: = Solstice. Cf. Stay *sb.*³ 3 c. *Obs.*

[1552 Huloet, Stayinge course or standinge of the sunne at the highest and lowest.] 1555 Eden *Decades* (Arb.) 167 The steyinges & conuersyons of the soonne (cauled *Solstitia*).

c. Holding out in a race, etc.

1862 H. H. Dixon *Scott & Sebright* iii. 207 His staying arose rather from the fact that his speed was so tremendous that no horse could get him out, than from innate gameness.

2. Stopping, arresting, preventing.

1563 in *Vicary's Anat.* (1888) App. III. 165 The proclamacion devysed for the steyinge of thowneres of thinfected mansyon howses..from the lettynge of the same. 1620 in *10th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. I. 45, I fear it prouffe ane inprofitable work..bot there is no staying of him. 1654 J. Owen *Doctr. Saints Persev.* xii. 287 The staying of the Mariners from going out of the ship, was a meanes that Paul was kept a live.

3. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *staying-place*; **staying power,** in a race or other contest (hence also *gen.*), power to 'stay' or continue in action for a long time; power of persistent effort; so *staying qualities.*

1870 Morris *Earthly Par.* II. III. 16 No middle, no beginning, and no end; No *staying place. 1859 H. H. Dixon *Silk & Scarlet* iii. 250 His stock..rather inherit his fine dash of speed, than his *staying powers. 1875 *Punch* 13 Mar. 115/2 Steddie has deteriorated, but his back is fairly straight, and his staying power is good. 1880 G. Duff in *19th Cent.* No. 38. 661 The Greek is no doubt the higher civilisation, but the Bulgarian has more 'staying power.' 1887 Shearman *Athletics* 112 The good steeplechaser must, of course, be a long-distance runner, as no one without staying powers can hope to last the distance. 1856 H. H. Dixon *Post & Paddock* ii. 38 The *staying qualities of the Hetmans. 1888 Bryce *Amer. Commw.* III. lxxxix. 218 Its candidates, when elected, often betrayed it and went over to the regulars, who, they foresaw, had more staying qualities.

Staying (stēi·iŋ), *vbl. sb.*² [f. Stay *v.*² + -ing¹.] The action of Stay *v.*²; propping up, supporting. Also, †supporting oneself, leaning.

1488–9 *Rec. St. Mary at Hill* (1905) 70 For iron werk & nayles for stayeng of þe crosse iiijs jd. 1580–1 *Fabric Rolls York Minster* (Surtees) 118 For two longe yron gaddes for stayinge of a pynnacle of the churche, 12s. 1648 Hexham II, *Een leninge*, a Leaning or a Staying against any place.

b. *attrib.* †**staying staff,** a staff to lean upon.

1563 Churchyard *Mirr. Mag., Shore's Wife* lxxiii, A staying staffe and wallet therewithall I bare about as witnesse of my fall. 1577 Kendall *Flowers of Epigr.* 68 b, A sachell and a staiyng staffe..Were acceptable to the life, of wise Diogenes.

Staying (stēi·iŋ), *vbl. sb.*³ [f. Stay *v.*³ + -ing¹.] The action of Stay *v.*³

a 1618 Ralegh *Invent. Shipping* 29 Which may be chosen .., by reason of their ready staying and turning. *c* 1635 Capt. N. Boteler *Dialogues Sea Services* (1685), Staying of masts. 1830 Marryat *King's Own* xxiv, A boat..had been lowered down..to examine the staying of the masts.

Staying (stēi·iŋ), *ppl. a.* [f. Stay *v.*¹ + -ing².] That stays.

1. In intransitive senses. †a. With complement, as *staying silent. Obs.* b. Continuing in a place.

1570 Ascham *Scholem.* II. (Arb.) 115 Those that haue ye inuentiuest heades..and roundest tonges..(except they learne and vse this good lesson of *Epitome*) commit commonlie greater faultes, than dull, staying silent men do. 1853 R. S. Surtees *Sponge's Sp. Tour* xli. (1893) 217 The staying guests could not do much for the good things set out. 1865 Flor. Marryat *Love's Conflict* I. xiv. 225 In some cases it is *not* the staying horse who wins.

2. In transitive senses: Arresting.

1902 *Daily Chron.* 2 Sept. 5/1 There is yet time for a staying hand, which would preserve some plain brickwork in the interior.

Hence **Stay·ingly** *adv. rare*—⁰.

1648 Hexham II, *Blijvelick*, Durable, or Stayingly.

Staylace (stēi·lēis), *sb.* [f. Stay *sb.*² + Lace *sb.*] A lace or cord used to draw together a woman's stays or bodice.

1720 Swift *Proposal Use Irish Manuf.* Misc. 1735 V. 204, I should rejoice to see a Stay-Lace from England be thought scandalous, and become a Topick for Censure. 1851 Mayhew *Lond. Labour* I. 323 Pins and needles, stay-laces, and such small articles as are light to carry. 1882 Caulfeild & Saward *Dict. Needlework* 460/2 *Stay laces*..are otherwise called Stay-cord, and are made of both cotton and linen.

Comb. 1889 Hardy *Mayor Casterbr.* i, A buxom staylace dealer.

Stay·lace, *v.* [f. Staylace *sb.*] *trans.* To lace up with staylaces. Hence **Stay·laced** *ppl. a.*

1824 *Blackw. Mag.* XV. 368 The stay-laced dandy. 1832 J. C. H[are] in *Philol. Mus.* I. 678 Every departure from idiom, every attempt to staylace the language of polisht conversation, renders our phraseology inelegant and clumsy.

Stayle, obs. form of Stall *sb.*¹

Stayless (stēi·lĕs), *a.*¹ Also 6 stailes, 6–7 staillesse. [f. Stay *sb.*³ + -less.]

1. Not to be stayed or stopped, ever-moving, unceasing, ceaseless.

1578 Blennerhasset *Mirr. Mag., Carassus* ix, They fled the fielde: They made me muse, to see how fast they striude, With staylesse steppes, eche one his life to shielde. 1590 C'tess Pembroke *Antonie* 486 And neuer can our weaknes turne awry The stailes course of powerfull destenie. 1611 J. Davies (Heref.) *Sco. Folly* cxlvii. (Grosart) 25 That's staylesse time, which he doth precious hold. 1825 Hogg *Q. Hynde* 24 Onward he drove with stayless shock. *a* 1851 Moir *Poet. Wks.* (1852) II. 341 Though years in staylesse current roll. 1867 G. Macdonald *Poems* 109 Stayless of foot, he turned not from the sea.

2. Without stay or permanence, ever-changing, unsettled.

c 1572 Gascoigne *Fruites Warre* lxxiii, In meane while yet hopeth to aduaunce His staylesse state, by sworde, by speare, by shielde. *c* 1586 C'tess Pembroke *Ps.* lxxviii. iv, A waiward, stubborn, stailesse, faithlesse race. 1590 L. Andrewes *96 Serm., Lent* ii. (1629) 277 We are but let see the wandring and staylesse estate we were in, till God vouchsafed to send us this gracious conduct. 1813 Hogg *Queen's Wake* 290 She leaned to the lee, and she girdled the wave; Aloft on the stayless verge she hung. 1881 G. Macdonald *Mary Marston* II. 20 The bond between them was an eternal one, yet were they separated by a gulf of unrelation. Not a mountain range, but a stayless nothingness parted them.

Stay·less, *a.*² [f. Stay *sb.*² + -less.]

1. Without stay or support, unsupported.

1587 Higgins *Mirr. Mag., Pinnar* Lenuoye ii, If hee vnstatelike stammer out the same, With staylesse staggering footed verse, by ame. *c* 1590 *Faire Em* I. ii. 33 Although our outward pomp be thus abased, And thralde to drudging, staylesse of the world. 1590 Lodge *Euphues Gold. Leg.* F 2 b, Oh staylesse youth, by errour so misguided. 1607 J. Davies (Heref.) *Summa Totalis* (Grosart) 19/2 It was his will, That man, made staillesse, so should fall, and rise. *c* 1817 Hogg *Tales & Sk.* I. 291 Left helpless and stayless.

2. Unsupported by stays or corsets.

1880 Mrs. Lynn Linton *Rebel of Family* iii, The girl's slender, loose and stayless waist. 1883 *Philad. Press* 7 June 9 A stayless waist with divided underskirts.

Hence **Stay·lessness.**

1883 *Philad. Press* 7 June 9 Staylessness..is not by itself sufficient unto salvation in this matter, nor is the divided skirt by itself sufficient.

Staysail (stēi·sēil, stēi·s'l). *Naut.* [f. Stay *sb.*¹] A triangular sail hoisted upon a stay. Often with defining word prefixed.

1669 Sturmy *Mariner's Mag.* I. ii. 18 Hoise up Main Stay-sail, and Mizen Stay-sail. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* II. iv. 163 Their top-gallant sails and stay-sails all fluttering in the wind. 1806 A. Duncan *Life Nelson* 124 The Foudroyant's ..stay-sails..were all in tatters. 1899 F. T. Bullen *Log Sea-waif* 46 Some of the fore and afters had actually got staysails set, with the sheets hauled flat aft.

b. *attrib.*

1857 Dufferin *Lett. High Lat.* (ed. 3) 300 The staysail sheet is let go. 1863 A. Young *Naut. Dict.* 369 *Staysail-netting*, the netting above a vessel's bowsprit, for stowing away the fore-topmast staysail. 1867 Smyth *Sailor's Word-bk., Staysail-Stay*, the stay on which a staysail is set.

Stay-ship (stēi·ship). [f. Stay *v.*¹] = Remora.

1567, 1601 [see Remora 1]. 1585 Higins *Junius' Nomencl.* 66 *Echeneis, remora*,..a stay ship, because it will cleaue close and fast to the keele of ye ship, and hinder it in course. 1884 Goode *Nat. Hist. Aquat. Anim.* 355 Several species of 'stay-ships' or 'remoras' occur on our coast.

Stay-tape (stēi·tēip). [f. Stay *sb.*²] A stay-lace, often used by tailors, etc. as a binding to a fabric. †Also *slang* (see quot. 1785).

1698 E. Ward *Lond. Spy* IV. (1706) 91 To find Canvas, Stay-Tape, and Buckram in a Taylors Bill. 1709 [W. King] *Usef. Trans. Philos.* Jan. & Feb. 24, I discours'd to him of the Nature..of Staytape, Stifning, and Grogram. 1785 Grose *Dict. Vulgar T.*, *Staytape*, a taylor; from that article and its coadjutor buckram, which makes no small figure in the bills of those knights of the needle. 1801 tr. *Gabrielli's Mysterious Husb.* II. 72 The coat alone had cost upwards of eight-and-twenty shillings, what with stay-tape, and buckram, and the other et cæteras. 1817 Coleridge *Biog. Lit.* II. xxi. 130 The pin-papers, and stay-tapes, which might have been among the wares of his pack. 1882 Caulfeild & Saward *Dict. Needlework* 461 *Stay Tape*..is more properly called *Stay Binding.*

‖ **Stchi** (ʃtʃī). Also 9 tschee, stchie, stchee. [Russian щи kail.] Cabbage soup.

1833 R. Pinkerton *Russia* 71 A favourite and common dish among them is a kind of broth, called *tschee.* 1855 *Englishwoman in Russia* 46 We get plenty of black bread and salt, and very often stchie. 1904 *Daily News* 14 Apr. 5/3 We won Poltava on stchi (cabbage soup), and beat Napoleon with kasha (buckwheat gruel). 1906 *Daily Chron.* 28 Aug. 3/1 The fare is disgusting, the 'stchee' uneatable.

Stead (sted), *sb.* Forms: 1 stede, styd(d, styde, steyde, 2–6 stede, 2–5 stude, 4–5 stud, stide, stad, 3, 6 stidde, 3–7, 8 *arch.* sted, 3, 5–6 stedd, 6 stedde, 4 steode, stode, stade, (staȳd), 4–7 *Sc.* steid, 4, 6 styde, (5 steyde), 6 *Sc.* steide, steyd, 4–5, 8 stid, 5 styd, stydd, stydde, 7 stidd, 4–7 steede, 6–7 steed, steade, 5– stead. [Com. Teut.: OE. *stęde* masc., corresp. to OFris. *stede, stidi* (NFris. *städ*, WFris. *stêd* town), OS. *stad* (?), *stedi* masc. and fem., place (MLG. *stad, stede* fem., place, town), MDu. *stat, stēde* fem., place, town (mod.Du. *stad* fem., town, *stede, stee* place), OHG. *stat* fem., place (MHG. *stat, stete* fem., place, town, mod.G. *statt* place, stead, *stätte* place, site, *stadt* town), ON. *staðr* masc., place (Sw., Da. *stad*, with the sense 'town' from G.), Goth. *staþs* masc., place:—OTeut. **staði-z*:—pre-Teut. **stəti-s* (cf. Skr. *sthíti* standing, position, Gr. *στάσις* standing, stoppage, L. *statim* advb. accus., immediately, *statio* Station *sb.*), f. wk.-grade of **stā-* to Stand.

A parallel form, OTeut. **staðō(n)*- fem., occurs in OHG. *stata* condition, opportunity, proper time or place (MHG. *state*, mod.G. *statt* in certain uses), MLG., Du. *stade* opportunity, help, ON. *staða* standing, position, condition. Some of the uses of *stead* closely approach those of MLG. *stade*, and may possibly be due to influence from MLG.]

†**I.** 1. Standing still, as opposed to movement; stoppage, delay. *Obs. rare.*

c 1000 Ælfric *Hom.* I. 156 Hwæt is þæs Hælendes stede, oððe hwæt is his fær? *Ibid.* I. 490 Sceawiað eac æfter ðisum, þæt nan stede nis urēs lichaman: cildhad ȝewit to cnihthade, and cnihthad to ȝeðungenum wæstme. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 4654 All turnyt þaire tacle with trussyng of sailes, And stird hom full streight withouten stad more Into Awlida þe yle.

II. A point or tract in space. Cf. Place *sb.* I.

†2. A particular part of the earth's surface, or of space generally, considered as defined by its situation; a locality: = Place *sb.* 3. *Obs.*

†a. with descriptive adj. *Obs.*

c 975 *Rushw. Gosp.* Mark I. 35 Ðona eode in westige stowe *vel* steyde & ðær ȝebæd. *c* 1050 *Suppl. Ælfric's Gloss.* in Wr.-Wülcker 187 *Circumlutus locus*, mid wæter ymbtyrnd stede. *c* 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 85 Ðenne þe iuele gost..

wandreð ouer al, fro drize stede to oder sechende reste. *c* 1290 *St. Michel* 599 in *S. Eng. Leg.* 316 Novþe is þare uppe in þe ufte a swyþe cold stude, i-wis. 1390 Gower *Conf.* II. 388 Now se, mi Sone, which a sinne Is Sacrilege in holy stede. *c* 1400 tr. *Secreta Secret., Gov. Lordsh.* lviii. 79 þat wyn whos grape..growys in playn and moyst valeyes, and stedys shadwyd. 1567 Drant *Horace Ep., Art Poet.* B ij, Of hills and dales and secret steades he feanes him to be fayne. 1590 Spenser *F. Q.* I. xi. 46 Great God it planted in that blessed sted With his almightie hand,

† b. defined by dependent genitive, or by relative clause. *Obs.*

c 1000 Ælfric *Joshua* v. 16 For þam þe se stede ys haliz, þe þu on stenst. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 22963 þe stede o dome quar all sal mete. 13.. *K. Alis.* 2548 (Laud MS.), Hij wendeþ to þe batailes stede And fyndeþ nouȝth bot bodies dede. *c* 1470 Harding *Chron.* cxxi. iii. 6 Whiche Abbaye is in Sussex, in that stede Where the batayle was. 1483 Caxton *Golden Leg.* 160/1 And al sodeynly the stones opened and shewed to alle the peple the place and stede where the holy body restyd. 1590 Spenser *F. Q.* II. xii. 30 And now they nigh approched to the sted, Where as those Mermayds dwelt: it was a still And calmy bay. 1596 Dalrymple tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* I. v. 261 Perceiueng..how Scopulous, stendirrie, or stanie, was the stedd, quhairon thay than stude.

† c. indeterminately. Often coupled with *time*. *In every stead*: everywhere; similarly *in any, no stead*. *Obs.*

a 1067 *Charter of Eadweard* in Kemble *Cod. Dipl.* IV. 209 Wiðinne burhe and wiðuten and on ælce styde, be lande and be strande. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 316 Abuten sunne ligged six þinges þet hit helieð;..persone, stude, time, manere, tale, cause. *c* 1230 *Hali Meid.* 22 Flih..þe stude & te time, þe mahten bringe þe on mis forte donne. 1303 R. Brunne *Handl. Synne* 2029 Yn stedys sere. 1340 Hampole *Pr. Consc.* 1701 For dedely syn and þe devell and he In a stede may noght to-gyder be. *c* 1380 Wyclif *Wks.* (1880) 318 So þise ordris holden not cristis rewele neþer in tyme ne in stide for crist preyede..bi hym self vndir the cope of heuene. 1390 Gower *Conf.* I. 359 This Pilour,..A famous man in sondri stede Was of the werkes whiche he dede. *c* 1400 tr. *Secreta Secret., Gov. Lordsh.* xlvii. 75 Slepyng aftyr eityng vpon soft beddes & wele sauorand, in steydes & tymes couenable. *c* 1420 *Sir Amadace* (Camden) viii. 9 Seche a stinke as I had thare..had I neuyr are No quere in no stid. *c* 1460 *Towneley Myst.* i. 38 Waters, that so wyde ben spred, be gedered to geder in to one stede. 1513 Douglas *Æneis* xii. ii. 39 Or quhar the schene lilleis in ony steid War pulderit wyth the vermel rosis reid. 1552-3 in Feuillerat *Revels Edw. VI* (1914) 109 As the same was neadfully beehoveable to be occupied from tyme to time at sondry steades. 1557 North *Gueuara's Diall Pr.* 122 Ought I, by wishe, to live in any stedde But closde with him together in the grave? 1566 Drant *Horace, Wail. Hieremie* ii. K iiij b, Ofte cryed they..Lyke wounded wightes throughout the streetes, they sounded in eche stede. 1596 Spenser *F. Q.* VI. i. 42 Next that ye Ladies ayde in euery stead and stound.

† d. The place designated by the context. *In, on (the, that) stead*, on the spot, there. *Obs.*

c 1000 Ælfric *Joshua* x. 12 Ne stira þu sunne of þam stede furðor onȝean Gabaon. *Ibid.* x. 13 Þa stod seo sunne on þam stede faste. *a* 1175 in Napier *Holy Rood-tree* 22 Ne mihte heom nan mon of þam stude awæcgan. *c* 1205 Lay. 6370 A-nan se he wes wrað wid eni i þan stude he hine wolde slæn. *c* 1220 *Bestiary* 404 [The fox] goð o felde to a furȝ and..Ne stereð ȝe noȝt of ðe stede a god stund deies. *a* 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 2453, I þat ilke stude, anan, iwurðen twa wundres. 13.. *Bonaventura's Medit.* 135 To a logher place þey gunne þan to go..He made hem sytte downe yn þat stede. 1390 Gower *Conf.* II. 272 Bot the goddesse..appiereth in the stede, And hath..forbede That thei the children nocht ne sle. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 8627 He stode þus in stid, starit hym vpon. *c* 1450 *Mirour Saluacioun* 1759 This hors and the two men than vanyst out of the stede. 1590 Spenser *F. Q.* II. ii. 21 He ran Vnto that stead, their strife to vnderstond.

† e. *On, in stead and stall*: see Stall *sb.*1 1 *note*.

1042 in Thorpe *Charters* (1865) 348 Nu bidde ic ealle Godes freond..þæt hi for Godes eize nærre ne beon on stede ne on stealle þær ærre undon worðe þæt..we nu ȝeunnen habben into þæt halize minstre. *c* 1220 *Bestiary* 489 Dis wirm bitokneð ðe man ðat oðer biswikeð on stede er on stalle. *c* 1440 *Rule St. Benet* (Verse) Prol. 146 þat to hys neghburs dose no noy In stede ne stayll, þaire staite to stroy.

† f. *To give stead* = *to give place*: see Place *sb.* 23, Give *v.* 47 a, b. *Obs.*

c 1340 Hampole *Prose Tr.* 19 Bot if þe þinke it oþer-wyse, or elles any oþer man sauour by grace þe contrarye here-to, I leue þe saying and gyfe stede to hym. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* iv. (*Jacobus*) 267 And þe stane, quhen he had was þer, wex nesch as it wax war, and gaf sic sted to þat body, as It a grave had bene, in hy. 138. Wyclif *Sel. Wks.* I. 41 Sitte not in þe first place, lest..þe lord of þe feste bidde þee ȝiue þis man stede. 1450–1530 *Myrr. our Ladye* 322 Waylynge gyueth stede to ioye. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 155/2 To Giffe stede, *cedere, locum dare*.

† g. *abstr.* Situation. *Obs. rare.*

1387 Trevisa *Higden* (Rolls) I. 329 þerfore first me schall telle of [þe] place and stede of þat lond [L. *de situ terræ locali*], how greet and what manere lond it is.

† 3. An inhabited place; a city, town, village, hamlet, etc.; occas. a country, land. *Obs.*

c 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 1114 For men ðor sinne un-kinde deden, so for-sanc and brente ðat steden [Sodom]. 1297 R. Glouc. (Rolls) 1520, & hei duc of al þulke stude he clupede þen toun iwis After his name gloucestre. *a* 1300 *Havelok* 744 And for þat Grim þat place aute, þe stede of Grim þe name laute. *c* 1320 *Sir Tristr.* 1163 A winde to wil him bare To a stede þer him was boun Neiȝe hand: Deluelin hiȝt þe toun. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* iii. (*Andrew*) 253 He met men bringand of þe sted a ȝonge man, þat wes ded. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 9712 His body to britton, & his burgh take; All his stid to distroy, and his stith holdis. 1577 Harrison *England* III. i. [II. vi.] 96/2 in *Holinshed*, These 2. [drinks] are very common in Kent, Worcester, & other steedes, where these kindes of fruites doe abounde.

† b. The Steads [= MLG. *de Steden*]: 'the Cities' of the Hanseatic League; the Hanse Towns. Also, the corporation of Hanse merchants in London. *Obs.*

15.. *Droichis Parlof Play* 106 in *Dunbar's Poems* 318 Swadrik, Denmark, and Norraway, Nor in the Steiddis I dar nocht ga. 1533 *St. Papers Hen. VIII*, I. 414 The Cytees of Lubeke, Danske, Hamburgh, Bromeswyke, and all other the Stedes of the Haunse Tutonyk. 1552 in *Acts Privy Counc.* (N.S.) IV. 141 The Merchauntes of the Steedes, commonly called the Merchauntes of the Stilliarde. 1557 *Ibid.* VI. 73 The said Merchauntes..have alleadged..that the Steades have byn so letted by greate busynes as they coulde not sende thiere Agentes for the going forwarde with the said Diet. 1558 *Ibid.* 315 The returne home into their countreys of the lxxvj hulkes of the Steades presently at Portesmouthe. 1558 Gresham in Burgon *Life* (1839) I. 484 Thatt yoll neavir restore the steydes called the Stillyarde againe to ther privelydge.

† 4. A definite spot on a surface, esp. on the surface of the body. *Obs.*

c 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* I. 74 Lecge on ðone stede þe se spring on ȝesittan wolde. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 136 Bihold ofte þeron [the crucifix], & cus þe wunde studen. *c* 1300 *Seyn Julian* 57 (Ashm. MS.) Fram þe necke to þe fot ech stude it þoruȝ soutȝe. *a* 1375 *Joseph Arim.* 578 [He] wolde ha striken Seraphe at a stude derne, vppon an hole of his helm. *c* 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* I. 204 Thy vyne in oon stede alway, thou ne bynde. 1470–85 Malory *Arthur* VII. xii. 230 Thus they fought two houres..& in many stedys they were wounded.

b. *Sc.* A mark, imprint, vestige. Chiefly *pl.*

1513 Douglas *Æneis* III. iv. 71 The pray half ettin behind thame lat thay ly, With fute steidis vile and laith to se. 1596 Dalrymple tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* I. II. 170 The reliques or stedis thairof [Adrian's Wall] this day ar seine, ȝit named the Vale of Adrian. 1710 Ruddiman *Gloss. Virgil's Æneis* s. v. *Stede, Fute stedis*, foot steps, tract or print of the feet: For Stead Scot. is commonly taken for the foundation or ground on which a house or such like stands, or the tract or impression made in the Earth, and appearing when they are taken away. 1826 Galt *Last of Lairds* iv. 32 He nippit my twa lugs till he eft the stedt o' his fingers as plainly upon them as [etc.]. 1896 Crockett *Grey Man* v. 35 On the trampled clay and mud, there were the steads of naked feet.

5. Chiefly with *possessive*. a. The place assigned to, belonging to, or normally occupied by a thing; appointed or natural place. *Obs.* exc. *arch.*

c 888 Ælfred *Boeth.* xxxiii. § 5 Ac þæs fyres aȝen stede is ofer eallum woruldȝesceaftum ȝesewenlicum. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 117 God bi-quuad watres here stede. *c* 1384 Chaucer *H. Fame* 731 Thou wost..That euery kyndely thynge that is Hath a kyndely stede ther he May best in hyt conserued be. *c* 1450 *Mirk's Festial* 2 The fyrst day, as Saynt Jerom sayth, þe see schall aryse vp yn hyr styd. 1887 Morris *Odyss.* XII. 402 The mast in its stead we 'stablished and hauled the sails in air.

† b. A space or place assigned to or occupied by a person; a seat. *Obs.*

c 960 *Rule St. Benet* xliii. 68 (Schröer) Ne stande he on chore on his stede and endebyrdnesse, ac stande he ealra ytemest. 1303 R. Brunne *Handl. Synne* 1418 þe soþe myght y neuer wytte, who shuld yn þo stedys sytte. *c* 1400 Love *Bonavent. Mirr.* (1907) 106 Sitte and take thy stede in the lowest place. *c* 1400 *Gamelyn* 851 Whan Gamelyn was i-set in the justices stede. 1590 Spenser *F. Q.* I. ix. 41 The souldier may not moue from watchfull sted, Nor leaue his stand, vntill his Captaine bed. 1633 P. Fletcher *Purple Isl.* VII. iii, Where glorious Cities stood,..There shrieching Satyres fill the peoples emptie steads. 1751 G. West *Educ.* xci, Fir'd with th' Idea of her future Fame She rose majestick from her lowly sted.

† c. The place where a body of soldiers is stationed, a military position. *Obs.*

c 1330 R. Brunne *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 5085 He did sette in wardes [*v. r.* stedes] seers, Knyghte to wachem, & squiers. 1577 Holinshed *Hist. Eng.* I. 39/1 Being returned into Gallia, [he] placed his souldiors in steeds to soiourne there for the winter season. *Ibid.* 49/1 Plautius..placed garrisons in steedes, where neede required, to keepe those places whiche hee had gotten. 1627 Drayton *Agincourt* 53 A vast Route..Had for their safety..Got in their flight into so strong a sted, So fortifi'd by nature..They might not thence, but with much blood be brought.

6. A property or estate in land; a farm; also † a portion of an estate.

1338 R. Brunne *Chron.* (1725) 247 þe dettes þat men þam auht, þer stedes & þer wonyng, Wer taxed. 1452 in P. F. Tytler *Hist. Scot.* (1864) II. 387 All the tenants..except them that occupies the grangis and steids whilk war in the hands of the said Earle William. 1487 *Exch. Rolls Scot.* IX. 470 *note*, All and hale our stedis of Catslak [etc.] with aucht hundreith scheip..apon the said stedis. 1508 Kennedie *Flyting w. Dunbar* 365 Thow has a tome purs, I haue stedis and takkis. 1535 Stewart *Cron. Scot.* II. 532 And mony ane out of his awin hous chaist, And mony sted wnpleneist lyand waist. 1579 Spenser *Sheph. Cal.* May 43 Thilke same bene shepeheards for the Deuils stedde. 1594–5 *Durham Wills* (Surtees) II. 255 A farme or stead, worthe 20*l.* 1825 Brockett *N. C. Gloss., Stead, Sted, Stid*, a place, a farm house and offices. 1887 Stokes tr. *Tripartite Life of Patrick* 139 On the water is a stead, Buale Patraic ('Patrick's Byre') is its name. 1889 Rider Haggard *Allan's Wife* vii, I took a Hottentot..who lived on the stead, into my confidence.

7. A site for a building; the land on which a building stands; also, an enclosure attached to a building, a yard. (Cf. *farmstead, homestead, mowstead.*)

1246–68 *Cockersand Chartul.* (Chetham) III. i. 843 Quamdam partem terræ in Caton jacentem subtus le Walkemilnestude infra has divisas, scilicet [etc.]. 1534 *Munim. de Melros* (Bannatyne Club) 629 Giff it sall happyn ws..till byg ..ane walk myll on þe said myll sted within þe saidis landis. 1546 *Yorkshire Chantry Surv.* (Surtees) 181 A barne stede j garden stede. 1610 *Reg. Mag. Sig. Scot.* 80 Lie teind-barne et teind-barne yaird, cum lie peithous-steid. 1634 *Ibid.* 103, 2 terras husb. et 3 terras cott. et lie grasteid. 1773 *East Cottingwith Incl. Act* 7 Messuage steads and cottage steads, 1894 R. S. Ferguson *Hist. Westmorland* 165 The 'steads' or sites of many disused 'walk mills' or fulling mills.

† 8. The framework which supports the bedding of a bed. *Obs.* Cf. Bedstead.

a 1400–50 *Bk. Curtasye* 517 in *Babees Bk.*, þen..the vsshere ..Brynges hym in bed where he shalle wynke; In strong styd on palet he lay. 1625 Quarles *Sion's Sonn.* xi. iii, The Bridall bed of Princely Solomon,..Was put of Cedar; and her Sted of gold. 1697 Dryden *Virg. Georg.* II. 726 With Wars and Taxes others waste their own, ..To loll on Couches, rich with Cytron steds. , 1799 E. Du Bois *Piece Family Biog.* III. 102 The valance or curtain that hangs round the tester and stead of the bed. 1858 Simmonds *Dict. Trade, Stead*, the frame of a bed.

III. Metaphorical and idiomatic uses.

† 9. In various rare or occasional uses. a. Abiding-place (of hope, passions, etc.). b. *To take stead*: to take effect. c. *In good* (etc.) *stead*: in good (etc.) circumstances. d. A space of time. *Obs.*

a. *c* 1200 *Vices & Virtues* 95 Đe faste hope haldʒ hire stede up an heih. 1395 Hylton *Scala Perf.* (W. de W. 1494) I. lxx, In thyn herte where the stede of Ioue is thou sholde mow haue parte of suche loue to thyn euen crysten. *c* 1412 Hoccleve *De Reg. Princ.* 3403 Wengeance, in þis good lord, hadde no stide.

b. *c* 1200 Ormin 10108 Hiss spell toc mikell stede i þa þatt herrdenn whatt he seȝȝde. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 19266 And custom it es..Quen lagh es mad bituix þam neu At þe biginning for to be redd, þat dred mai do þe lagh na stede. *Ibid.* 29274 On þam þis cursing stede first takes.

c. 13.. R. Glouc. (Rolls) App. H. 30 Whanne he was out of wraþþe and was in god stad. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xxviii. (*Margaret*) 91 ȝet, þo scho wes in pouir stede & nocht with hyr fadir cane be fede, nocht-þane [etc.]. 1596 Spenser *F. Q.* V. xii. 23 With the souse thereof full sore aghast, He staggered to and fro in doubtfull sted.

d. 1596 Spenser *F. Q.* VI. vii. 40 [He] though she were with wearinesse nigh dead, Yet would not let her lite, nor rest a little stead.

† 10. a. A place or passage in Scripture or other writing. b. A point in order of progression. *Obs.*

a. *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 73 On oðer stude of rihte ileue spec þe apostle and seið..*Impossibile* [etc.]. *a* 1200 *Vices & Virtues* 81 An oðer stede he seið, godd: *Ve qui ridetis* [etc.]. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 144 Vor wecche is ine holi write i monie studen ipreised. *Ibid.* 410, I-writen on oðer stude. 1377 Langl. *P. Pl.* B. xiv. 131 As dauid seith in þe sauter..; And in an other stede also *velud* [etc.]. 1390 Gower *Conf.* II. 264 Ful many an other thing sche dede, Which is noght writen in this stede. *c* 1520 M. Nisbet *N. T. in Scots* Acts xiii. 35 And tharfor on an vthir stede he sais, Thou sal nocht geue thi hali to se corruptioun. 1557 Card. Pole in Strype *Eccl. Mem.* (1822) III. ii. App. lxviii. 507 And what is the benedictyon of this stede of almesse, the prophete Esaias shewethe in that same place.

b. *c* 1370 *Lay Folks Mass Bk.* (MS. B.) 454 When þou has made þis orison, þen shal þow with deuocion Make þi prayeres in þat stede for alle þi frendes, þat are dede.

† 11. An office or position assigned to or held by a person. *Obs.*

c 1000 Ælfric *Hom.* in Sweet *Sel. Hom. Ælfr.* 9 Þu ȝe-earnast..þone stede þe se deofol of afeoll þurh ungehyrsumnysse. *c* 1205 Lay. 239 Asscanius þe kene þe wes i kinges stude four & þritti winter he heold þat lond. *a* 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 3 Constantin & Maxence weren, on ane time, as in keiseres stude hebest i Rome. *a* 1300 *Fall & Passion* 17, 18 in *E. E. P.* (1862) 13 Har [Lucifer & his angels] stides for to ful fille þat wer i-falle for prude an hore, god makid adam to is wille to fille har stides þat wer ilor. *c* 1450 in Aungier *Syon* (1840) 363 When..any is absente, they that be present schal fulfylle ther stedes. *c* 1600 in *Trans. Roy. Hist. Soc.* (1902) XVI. 46 [They] shall continue in the said office place Roome and Stead of Assistants till [etc.].

12. The place, 'room', 'lieu', or function (of a person or thing) as held by a substitute or a successor. Only in certain phrases.

† a. *To keep* (a person's) *stead*: to be (his) deputy, act on (his) behalf. So *to commit one's stead to* (another). *Obs.*

c 1450 *Godstow Reg.* 72 He committid his stede to eueriche of hem, with þe powere of lawful constreininge. *Ibid.* 131 Whenne Ralph, prior of wircetur, kepid þe stede of Roger, bisshoppe of wircetur. *Ibid.* 350 A-fore þe prior of walingeforde, principall iugge, & the chaunter of walingeforde, kepynge the stedys of the abbottes of Abendon & of dorchester.

b. *To* †*do* (obs.), *fill, serve, supply the stead of*, to serve as a substitute for. Now *rare*.

1558 Bp. Watson *Sev. Sacram.* iii. 13 Martyrdome..dothe supplye the steede of Babtysme,..when onely necessitie..excludeth the Sacrament. 1601 Daniel *Civ. Wars* VII. lviii, Conducting their fresh troupes against their King (Who leaves a woman to supply his steed). 1611 W. Sclater *Key* (1629) 244 Suffering sometimes doth the steed of baptisme. 1837 C. Lofft *Self-form.* I. 199 They may serve the stead of presence of mind, to a certain point at least. 1888 Goode *Amer. Fishes* 2 The allied *Percichthys* replaces it in temperate South America,..while in northern China *Siniperca* fills its stead.

c. *In the stead of*: (*a*) in the room of, in succession to (one who has died, has retired from or is superseded in an office); †(*b*) as the deputy or representative of (*obs.*); †(*c*) in lieu of, instead of (a person or thing that might more naturally have been chosen, have happened, etc.) (*obs.*); (*d*) in lieu of, in exchange for (something given up); (*e*) predicatively, *to be in the stead of* (also, ? nonce-use, † *to be in stead for*), to make up for the want of. Now somewhat *arch.*

(*a*) *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 425 Dan bor ghe seht in ðe stede Of caym ðat abel for-dede. 1558 *Cal. Anc. Rec. Dublin* (1889) 481 Mr. Thomas Fynen is elected Alderman in the

styde of Mr. John Nangle. 1784 *Acts & Laws Connecticut* 159 Such Select-men and Committees as shall from Time to Time succeed, and come in the Room and Stead of others removed by Death. 1786 W. THOMSON *Watson's Philip III* (1839) 255 Matthias II. being raised to the imperial throne in the stead of his deceased brother.

(*b*) *c* 1380 WYCLIF *Wks.* (1880) 55 Sib prelatis & prestis ordeyned of good comen in þe stede of postlis & disciples, þei ben alle bounden..to preche þus þe gospel.

(*c*) *c* 1400 *Apol. Loll.* 6 þat þe peple..worschip not..þe fend in þe sted of Crist. 1422 tr. *Secreta Secret., Priv. Priv.* xviii. 146, I putte lateyn in the stydde of Englyshe. 1460–70 *Bk. Quintessence* II. 16 If ȝe haue non preparate redy..þanne take in þe stide þerof fyn brennynge watir. 1544 BETHAM *Precepts War* I. xxv. C ij b, For whych cause a capitayne..wyll cause false tales..to be sparpled abrode, in the stede and place of true tydynges. 1654 R. CODRINGTON tr. *Justine* XX. 289 They brought home comfort to their distressed Army in the stead of help. 1734 WATTS *Relig. Juv.* (1789) 35 Sometimes they shew a painted idol in the stead of him [God].

(*d*) *a* 1761 LAW *Comf. Weary Pilgrim* (1809) 101 It was human nature..that had lost its first heavenly life and got a bestial, diabolical life in the stead of it. 1874 GREEN *Short Hist.* x. § 3. 775 A Constitution..was accepted by Lewis the Sixteenth in the stead of his old despotic power.

(*e*) 1596 SPENSER *F. Q.* IV. vii. 7 A tall young oake he bore, Whose knottie snags were sharpned all afore, And beath'd in fire for steele to be in sted. 1839 DE QUINCEY *Recoll. Lakes* Wks. 1862 II. 193 This pleasure was to him in the stead of many libraries.

d. *In his stead* (or with any other possessive): (*a*) as a successor in his room (cf. 12 c (*a*)); (*b*) as his deputy or representative (*arch.*), also † *predicatively*; † (*c*) as a substitute in the place occupied by him (*obs.*); (*d*) instead of him (cf. 12 c (*c*)).

Now only *literary*. Formerly the plural *steads* was often used when preceded by a plural possessive.

(*a*) *c* 1320 *Seuyn Sag.* (W.) 1207 Thai sschal..Put the out of thi kinges sete, And sette him stede inne thine. 1362 LANGL. *P. Pl.* A. v. 39 Leste þe kyng and his Counseil ȝor Comunes apeire, And beo stiward in oure stude. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* Prol. 161 Mathias wes chosin in his stede. *c* 1400 *Rom. Rose* 4862 Whanne fader or moder arn in grave, Hir children shulde..Ful diligent ben, in her steede. 1603 OWEN *Pembrokeshire* 4i. (1891) 31 Chancerye and Eschequer were cleene abolished..and newe Courtes errected in theire steedes by the saied Statute. 1696 *Churchw. Acc. Pittington*, etc. (Surtees) 260 A new saxton to be chosen in his roome or steed.

(*b*) *c* 1400 *Rule St. Benet* (Prose) lxiii. 41 þabbesse, for shoes in godis stede, sal be callid 'dame'. 1417 in *Proc. Privy Council* (1834) II. 238 Charing the captens and cunstables to take other in hor styddes. 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* xliii. 27 Send in ȝour steid, ȝour ladeis grathit vp gay. 1560 BIBLE (Geneva) *Gen.* XXX. 2 Am I in Gods stede, which hathe withholden from thee the frute of the wombe? 1577 HANMER *Anc. Eccl. Hist., Socrates* II. xxxi. 288 In their steede which were absent, their readers and Deacons subscribed. *a* 1629 HINDE *J. Bruen* vii. (1641) 24 Acknowledging that he was unto him in Gods stead.

(*c*) 1590 GREENE *Never too late* II. (1600) Q 4, The seedes of shame I from my hart remoue, And in their steades I set downe plants of grace. 1612 COVERTE *Voy.* 5 Which sheepe we tooke with vs and left sixe beasts or bullocks in their steads. 1676 HALE *Contempl.* I. 109 Thou..wert willing to put thy soul in our souls stead. 1728 POPE *Dunc.* I. 180 Or quite unravel all the reas'ning thread, And hang some curious cobweb in its stead. 1774 CHESTERF. *Lett.* I. viii. 21 Diana put a hind in her [Iphigeneia's] stead. 1823 SCOTT *Peveril* xlix, Zarah..admitted that she had deranged the project.., by placing the dwarf in her own stead,

(*d*) *c* 1230 *Hali Meid.* 10 For under weole, i wunnes stude þu hauest her ofte helle. 1589 PUTTENHAM *Eng. Poesie* III. x. (Arb.) 172 Some busie carpers will scorne at my new deuised termes: *auricular* and *sensable*, saying that I might with better warrant haue vsed in their steads these words, *orthographicall* or *syntacticall*. 1735 POPE *Prol. Sat.* 304 A lash like mine no honest man shall dread, But all such babbling blockheads in his stead. 1784 COWPER *Task* III. 769 Down falls the venerable pile...Springs a palace in its stead But in a distant spot. 1813 SCOTT *Rokeby* I. iii. Terror reigns in sorrow's stead. 1852 H. ROGERS *Eclipse of Faith* (1862) 210 Each seemed to substitute in its stead something he liked better. 1856 LONGF. *Golden Leg.* II, *Gottlieb.* Or unless Some maiden..Offers her life for that of her lord, And is willing to die in his stead. 1871 MISS YONGE *Cameos* II. viii. 103 He begged the King to choose in his stead, one of the numerous royal princes.

† **e.** *In stead of*: see INSTEAD. *Obs.*

f. *Stead of* = instead of. (See INSTEAD.) Now only *dial.*

1430–40 LYDG. *Bochas* IX. xxix. (1494) G ij, Sabath desyrous to succede Stede of his brother the kingdom to possede. 14.. *Pol. Rel. & L. Poems* 76 The whyche..Songe a balad stede of the masse. 1612 R. DABORNE *Chr. turn'd Turke* 1180 [He] who adiudged to death By his heads losse, should craue (stead of one stroke) To dye a lingring torment on the racke. 1791 NAIRNE *Poems* 131 And backwards, 'sted of forwards, walk. 1818 SCOTT *Br. Lamm.* ix, Or if, stead o' that, ye wad but dine wi' them at the change-house.

† **g.** *In the stead*: instead of it, as a substitute.

c 1450 HOLLAND *Howlat* 777 He couth cary the cowpe of the kingis dess, Syne leve in the sted Bot a blak bunwed. 1567 *Gude & Godlie Ball.* 145 All Ire and malice thow put vs fra, Thy seruandis gouerne in the steid. 1615 HEYWOOD *Four Prentises* I. I 2 b, Stage-dir., Guy and Eustace.. beate the Pagans, take away the Crownes on their heads and in the stead hang vp the contrary Shields. 1708 SWIFT *Abol. Chr.* Wks. 1755 II. I. 93 Altering the constitution of the church established, and setting up presbytery in the stead.

h. *To stand in stead of, instead of, in the stead of*: see STAND *v.* 49.

c 1350 *Will. Palerne* 3521 He..seide to þe quene, þat..he wold in hire sones stede stand euer at nede.

IV. 13. Advantage, avail, profit, service, support; esp. in *to stand in stead*, also † *to stand to stead*, † *to stand stead* (see STAND *v.* 48); *to do*, † *make*, † *render stead*. Now only *arch.*

a 1300 [see STAND *v.* 48]. *c* 1425 tr. *Arderne's Treat. Fistula*, etc. 66 Bot þis haþe no stede bot to so streyt a wounde þat þe been may take within his extremitez þe extremitez of þe wounde. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* X. vi. 61 The giltyn mailȝeis makis hym na steyd, For in the coist he tholis dynt of deyd. 1524 *Reg. Aberdon.* (Maitland Club) I. 389 Ane precept of seysing without charter or ony oþer euident followand þerapoune suld do nane steide nor be of effect. 1524 *St. Papers Hen. VIII*, IV. 112 To rendre all hert, lefull service, steide, and pleasure, that lyeth in our power. 1524 WOLSEY *Ibid.* IV. 139 [They] may and shal do grete stede in advertising the Kinges Grace from tyme to tyme..of the proceedinges. 1542 *Ibid.* XI. 272 And now last of all what a stede His Highnes entryng in to the warre was to Him. 1546 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* I. 47 Thai ar contentit to do steid and service to the said Schir Neill. 1551 P'cess MARY in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* Ser. *1.* II. 169 Of my good wyll and prayour to do you stede or pleasur, you shalbe ever durynge my lief assured. 1625 in Foster *Eng. Factories India* (1909) III. 113 He..assured him by passed experience what stead your language was to us in the time of our imprisonment. 1634 MILTON *Comus* 611 But here thy sword can do thee little stead. 1643 *Orkney Witch Trial* in *Abbotsford Club Misc.* I. 175, I was about the loch with Jonet Sklateris,..but it is for no stead, it will never mead hir. *a* 1670 SPALDING *Troub. Chas. I* (Bannatyne Club) I. 294 And sic [beasts] as wold not call thay hocht and slew, that thay sould never mak steed. 1823 E. MOOR *Suffolk Words, Stead*, aid, assistance, usefulness. 1873 BROWNING *Red Cott. Nt.-cap C.* 321 The two grey points that did him stead And passed their eagle-owner to the front.

† **b.** *To serve* (one) *in some, no stead*, to be of some, no advantage or profit to (one). *Obs.*

1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* VIII. xv. I. 200 His hornes bend so inward..that they serve him in no steed at all for fight. 1662 [see SERVE *v.*1 19]. 1678 *Trans. Crt. Spain* 170 What stead would the Queens word then serve me in. 1680 BURNET *Rochester* (1692) 46, I told him all his speculations of Philosophy would not serve him in any stead. 1712 ARBUTHNOT *John Bull* IV. vii, I am glad I have made the Experiment, it may serve me in some stead.

V. 14. *Comb.*: † **steads bearing**, † **stead holder** [cf. STADHOLDER], † **stead-holding** *Sc.*, a 'locum tenens', substitute, deputy; **stead-horse** *dial.* (see quot. 1894); † **stead-man** = *steadward*; **steadsman** *dial.*, a substitute, deputy; † **stead mother** *nonce-wd.* (see quot.); † **stead-stathel-fastness** = STEADFASTNESS; † **steadward** (see quot.).

c 1460 *Oseney Reg.* 92 By þe vicare of Cudelynton or his *stedys beryng [orig. *vel eius vices gerentem*]. 1456 SIR G. HAYE *Law Arms* (S.T.S.) 121 Verray vicare and *stede haldare till our lord Jhesu Crist. *c* 1475 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xxi. (*Clement*) 647 Bot opunyonys ware sere, quhethyr þire twa papis were, or þe papis *sted-haldande. 1708 J. C. *Compl. Collier* (1843) 37 The Banck's-Man..leads his *Stead-Horse away with the Loaden Corfe. 1894 *Northumb. Gloss.* s.v. *Steed*, A 'steed (or stead) horse' is a horse employed upon a pit heap-steed. 1613 R. C. *Table Alph.* (ed. 3), *Steward*, *steed-man, the keeper of the place. 1897 F. S. ELLIS *Reynard* 283 A farm in old speech was a stead, And to the stead-man's name oft wed. 1876 *Whitby Gloss.*, **Steeadsman*, a substitute for another person. 1591 H. SMITH *Prepar. Marriage* 106 A stepmother dooth signifie a *stedmother, that is, one mother dyeth, and another commeth in her stead. *a* 1225 *Ancren R.* 6 Non ancre bi mine read ne schal..bihoten..bute þreo þinges, þet is, obedience, chastete, & *studestapeluestnesse. 1876 *Whitby Gloss.*, **Steeadward*, the keeper of the stead or place; a steward. Old local document.

Stead (sted), *v.* Forms: 2 **stude**, 4 **stede**, 5 **stedde**, 6–7 **steed**(e, *Sc.* steid, 6–7 **sted**, 7– **stead**. *Pa. t.* and *pa. pple.* 3 **stedde**, 4 **stedd**, 3–5 **stad**, 4 **stadde**, **staad**, 3–6 **staid**, 4–8 **sted**, 6–9 **stead**; 4 **stedyd**, *Sc.* **-it**, **-yt**, 4–5 **sted**(d)**ede**, (4 **stadded**), 7 **steeded**, 7–9 **steaded**. [Early ME. *stude* (ü), *stede*, f. *stud*, *stede* STEAD *sb.* The pa. t. and pa. pple. form *stad* is a. ON. *stadde* (pa. t.), *stadd-r* (pa. pple.) of *stebja* vb. to make to stand, stop, place, f. *stab-r* = OE. *stede* STEAD *sb.*

The ON. verb is 'little used exc. in pa. pple.' (Vigfusson); the pres.-stem was therefore not adopted in Eng., its place being taken by the pres.-stem of the cognate native verb. The form *stad* of the pa. t. and pa. pple. is almost confined to the senses of Scandinavian origin (branch II); for an exception see quot. *c* 1400 in 1 a.]

I. To stand in stead.

1. *trans.* (The obj. was prob. orig. *dative.*)

a. *impers.* or with subj. a clause, inf., or noun of action: To avail, profit, be of use to (a person); † to help (a person) *to do* something. Also *absol.* Now *arch.*

c 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 77 Men þet..nulleð heore sunnen forleten boð on þe doules on-walde, and þet hwile ne studed hom nawiht þet ho singe pater noster. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 4681 þai with stode hom a stoure, but it stad litle. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* II. ix. 9 Perhaps my succour, or aduizement meete Mote stead you much your purpose to subdew. 1591 SHAKS. *Two Gent.* II. i. 119 So it steed you, I will write..a thousand times as much. 1592 — *Rom. & Jul.* II. iii. 54 (2nd Qo.) My intercession likewise steads my foe. 1619 DRAYTON *Idea* XV. Minor Poems (1907) 52 Since to obtaine thee nothing me will sted, I haue a Med'cine that shall cure my Loue. 1661 GLANVILL *Van. Dogm.* 31 The concession of which will only steed us as a Refuge for Ignorance. 1832 MISS MITFORD in T. A. Trollope *What I Remember* (1887) II. 339 Your answering these questions will stead me much. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. III. ix, It steads not the doomed man that he have interviews with the King.

1838 EMERSON *Addr. Lit. Ethics* Wks. (Bohn) II. 212 Translate, collate, distil all the systems, it steads you nothing. 1879 E. ARNOLD *Lt. Asia* IV. 274 How hath it steaded man to pray.

b. Of a thing: To be useful or advantageous to. Also *absol.* Now *arch.* (*rare.*)

1594 DANIEL *Compl. Rosamond* (ed. 2) lxxxvii, All these teares you shed will nothing steed. 1598 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. ii. IV. *Columnes* 236 Here-by, a Crane shall steed in building more Then hundred Porters' busie pains before. 1598 GRENEWEY *Tacitus, Ann.* VI. viii. (1604) 134 The Sarmates laying aside their bowes which steeded them but a short time, ran in to the enemie with their swords and launces. 1600 HOLLAND *Livy* IX. xxiv. 331 The place will steed you, I know. 1601 SHAKS. *All's Well* V. iii. 87 Had you that craft to reaue her Of what should stead her most? 1610 — *Temp.* I. ii. 165 Rich garments, linnens, stuffs, and necessaries Which since haue steeded much. 1608 TOPSELL *Serpents* 273 It is cleere that they [spiders] were made to serue and stead vs to many excellent vses. 1623 WHITBOURNE *Newfoundland* 54 Which fish is in all those parts in great request, and steeds them greatly. 1635 J. HAYWARD tr. *Biondi's Banish'd Virg.* 79 Arrowes, speares, and javelings to steede them in occasions of boording. 1841 BROWNING *Pippa Passes* III. Poems (1905) 182 But guess not how the qualities required For such an office..Would little stead me, otherwise employed. 1891 M. MURIEL DOWIE *Girl in Karp.* 254 No adjectives would stead me.

c. With subj. a person: To succour, help, render service to. Now *rare.*

1582 T. MATHEW in Nicolas *Mem. Sir C. Hatton* (1847) 300 Knowing how much you haue steaded me therein from time to time. 1600 HOLLAND *Livy* XXII. xxxii. 452 If they could haue bethought themselues of any other meanes besides, wherein they might steed and befriend them. 1604 SHAKS. *Oth.* I. iii. 344, I could neuer better steed thee then now. 1611 SPEED *Hist. Gt. Brit.* Concl. § 2 They [the Britons] steeded the Romanes in most of their Conquests. 1625 W. B. *True Sch. Warre* 15 The Sea of Rome in times past was for the most part wont to steede it selfe with the endeauours of the Minor obseruant Fryers. *c* 1645 HOWELL *Lett.* (1655) II. xxxiii. 44, I shall be glad to steed you in any thing that may tend to your aduantage. 1818 SCOTT *Rob Roy* xxiii, It's like I may pleasure you, and stead your father in his extremity. 1834 SIR H. TAYLOR *Artevelde* II. iii. ii, Alas! Would I could stead you more than with the prayers Of such a sinful creature! 1888 G. GISSING *Life's Morning* II. 147 The consciousness of what was before her killed her power to stead him in his misery.

† **d.** To serve (one's turn), minister to (necessities, desires). *Obs.*

1571 GOLDING *Calvin on Ps.* lxxii. 1. 269 If kings had ynough in themselves too stedde their turnes withall. 1573 — *Calvin on Job* xxxi. 16–23. 535 True it is that wee cannot steade all the necessities that we see. 1603–26 BRETON *Mad World* (Grosart) 9/1 If in either my aduise or better meanes, I may stead your desire, you shall [etc.]. 1605 A. WARREN *Poor Man's Pass.* etc. E 4 b, So Competence Necessities may steede.

† **e.** To supply *with* something helpful. Also const. *of. Obs.*

1587 GOLDING *De Mornay* xxxiiii. 552 He sendeth vs pardone, and steadeth vs of a Suertie that is able to pay our debts: this Surety is the Messias. 1592 BABINGTON *Notes Gen.* ii. 9 The great power of God to furnish and steede himselfe euer with meanes to effect his wyll. 1648 BP. HALL *Select Th.* lxxii. 207 Thou..thoughtst fit to stead him with such a society as might make his life comfortable to him.

† **f.** To suffice for, serve the needs of. Also *absol. Sc. Obs.*

1497 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* I. 335 Item,..for ane cabil tow to stede the well of Dunbar quhen it was red. *Ibid.* 357 Item, to Schir Andro, to steid the pur folk for vij owkis, xxj lib. 1519 *Extracts Burgh Rec. Edin.* (1869) I. 190 That na maner of persouns..by ony meill in greitt, mair nor will steid his awin hous honestly quhill Michaelmes nixttocum. 1535 STEWART *Cron. Scot.* II. 71 Victuall als to steid for fourtie dais. 1557 TUSSER *100 Points Husb.* xix, Thy saffron plot..shal stede both thine own house, and next neighbour too.

g. *dial.* In passive: see quots.

1823 E. MOOR *Suffolk Words, Stedded*, suited—engaged. 'I can't git no work—the farmers are all stedded.' *a* 1825 FORBY *Voc. E. Anglia, Stead*, to supply a place left vacant. 'I am at last steaded with a servant.'

† **2.** To serve (a person) *for. Obs.*

1563 WINJET tr. *Vincent Lirin.* Ded., Wks. (S.T.S.) II. 6 A litle..instrument that may suffice ws..for a speir or a spade..; and with that also may sted for a bricht lantern. *a* 1652 BROME *Queene's Exch.* IV. i, You have yet a Brother May stead you for a Father, Husband, Friend.

† **3.** *To stead up*: to fulfil in the stead of another.

1603 SHAKS. *Meas. for M.* III. i. 260 Wee shall aduise this wronged maid to steed vp your appointment, goe in your place.

II. To place.

4. To establish, fix, place. Chiefly *passive*, to be situated, stand. *Obs.*

a 1300 *E. E. Psalter* lxxxvii[i]. 8 Over me es þi wreth stedde [Vulg. *confirmata*]. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 1045 Now es adam in erth stad [*Gött.* stad, *Fairf.* stadde]. *Ibid.* 1442 He moght wel thinc his stund to strang þat in þat sted ware staid sa lang. *c* 1325 *Poem temp. Edw. II* (Percy) 6 Whan the kyng persoun is stedyd in hys cherch. 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* v. 6170 And whan saw we þe sele and in prison sted. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 983 Ones ho bluschet to þe burge, bot bod ho no lenger, þat ho nas stadde a stiffe ston. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xxxvi. (*Baptist*) 585 þe quhilk sancte tecle with hir tuke,..& stedit it honorably in þe kirk of marytany. *c* 1400 *Sc. Trojan War* II. 508 A brassynge horse..In whome may weille a thousande knyghtes Be steddede. *c* 1400 *Sege Jerusalem* (E.E.T.S.) 33/589 [Pey] broȝten þe bishup & alle his bew clerkes þer þe standard stode & stadded hem þer. 14.. *Sir Amadace* (Robson) xlii. 9 In stid quere thou art stadde. *c* 1440 *York Myst.* xvii. 28 That..stedde yone sterne to stand stone stille.

A NEW
ENGLISH DICTIONARY
ON HISTORICAL PRINCIPLES.

(VOLUME IX. FIRST HALF. SI.—ST.)

STEAD—STILLATIM

BY

HENRY BRADLEY, HON. D.LITT.

NOTE.

THIS section (80 pages) includes 926 Main words, 283 Special Combinations explained under these, and 291 Subordinate entries; in all 1500. The obvious combinations recorded and illustrated number 337, making a total of 1837. Of the Main words 135 are marked † as obsolete, and 36 are marked ‖ as alien or not fully naturalized.

Comparison with Dr. Johnson's and some recent Dictionaries gives the following figures:—

	Johnson.	Cassell's 'Encyclopædic', and Suppl.	'Century' Dict., and Suppl.	Here.
Words recorded, *Stead* vb.—*Stillatim*	112	851	1263	1837
Words illustrated by quotations	84	234	230	1529
Number of illustrative quotations	427	366	618	9474

The number of quotations in the corresponding portion of Richardson is 387.

In this section the words inherited from Old English are very numerous, and with their compounds and derivatives occupy the greater portion of the space. Among them are *steal* vb. and sb.[1], *steam*, *steed*, *steek* vb.[1] and vb.[2], *steel*, *steep* adj., *steeple*, *steer* vb. and sbs., *stem* sb.[1], *stench*, *step* sb. and vb., *stern* adj., *steward*, *stick* sb. and vb., *stiff*, *stile*, *still* adj., vb., and adv. Other noteworthy words of native Teutonic origin, though of later formation, are *sterling*, *stickle* vb., *stickler*. The Scandinavian words are *steak*, *steg*, *stem* vb.[1] and vb.[2], *stern* sb.[2], *steven* sb.[3] and vb.[3]

There are a few words from Old French, as *stencil*, *stent*, *stew* sbs. and vb., and a somewhat larger number of Latin derivatives, as *stellate*, *stellation*, *stelliferous*, *stercoraceous*, *sterile*, *stertorous*, of some of which the immediate sources are learned words in French. The numerical proportion of words of Greek etymology is somewhat large, but most of these have required only brief treatment, being mainly recent terms of science or technology; among the few introduced before the nineteenth century may be mentioned *stenography*, *stentorian*, *stereometry*, *stigma*, *stigmatize*.

Among the words of historical importance treated in this section may be mentioned *steelyard*[1], *sterling*, *steward*. Several of the articles, e.g. *steelbow*, *step* sb. and vb., *sterling*, *stew* sb.[1], contain etymological data not found in previous English Dictionaries.

Stanstickle.—Earlier instance:—*a* 1300 NECKAM *De Utensilibus* in Wright *Voc.* 98 *Gamarus, pinosche*, stanstikel.

KEY TO THE PRONUNCIATION.

I. CONSONANTS.

b, d, f, k, l, m, n, p, t, v, z *have their usual values.*

g as in *g*o (g$\bar{o}$u).
h ... *h*o! (h$\bar{o}$u).
r ... ru*r* (rʊr), te*rr*ier (te·riəɹ).
ɹ ... he*r* (hɜ), fa*r*ther (fä·ɹðəɹ).
s ... *s*ee (s$\bar{e}$), *c*ess (ses).
w ... *w*en (wen).
hw ... *wh*en (hwen).
y ... *y*es (yes).

þ as in *th*in (þin), ba*th* (baþ).
ð ... *th*en (ðen), ba*th*e (b$\bar{e}$ɪð).
ʃ ... *sh*op (ʃǫp), di*sh* (diʃ).
tʃ ... *ch*op (tʃǫp), di*tch* (ditʃ).
ʒ ... vi*s*ion (viʒən), déjeuner (deʒöne).
dʒ ... *j*udge (dʒʊdʒ).
ŋ ... si*ng*ing (si·ŋiŋ), thi*nk* (þiŋk).
ŋg ... fi*ng*er (fiŋgəɹ).

(FOREIGN.)
ṅ as in *French nasal*, environ (aṅviroṅ).
lʸ ... It. se*gl*io (serā·lʸo).
nʸ ... It. si*gn*ore (sinʸō·re).
χ ... Ger. a*ch* (aχ), Sc. lo*ch* (lǫχ, loχʷ).
χʸ ... Ger. i*ch* (iχʸ), Sc. ni*cht* (nèχʸt).
γ ... Ger. sa*g*en (zā·γĕn).
γʸ ... Ger. le*g*en, re*g*nen (lē·γʸĕn, rē·γʸnĕn).

II. VOWELS.

ORDINARY.

a as in Fr. *à la* mode (*a la mǫd'*).
ai ... aye=*yes* (ai), Isa*i*ah (əizai·ă).
æ ... m*a*n (mæn).
ɑ ... p*a*ss (pɑs), ch*a*nt (tʃɑnt).
ɑu ... l*ou*d (lɑud), n*ow* (nɑu).
ʊ ... c*u*t (kʊt), s*o*n (sʊn).
e ... y*e*t (yet), t*e*n (ten).
ɜ ... surv*ey* *sb.* (sɜ·ɪve), Fr. attach*é* (ataʃe).
‖ę ... Fr. ch*e*f (ʃęf).
ə ... ev*e*r (evəɹ), nat*i*on (nē·ʃən).
əi ... *I*, *eye*, (əi), b*i*nd (bəind).
‖ǫ ... Fr. eau de vie (ō dǫ vē·).
i ... s*i*t (sit), m*y*st*i*c (mistik).
i ... Psyche (səi·k*i*), react (r*i*æ·kt).
ɔ ... ach*o*r (ē·kɔɹ), m*o*rality (mɔræ·lĭti).
oi ... *oi*l (oil), b*oy* (boi).
o ... he*r*o (hī·ro), z*o*ology (zo$_i$ǫlŏdʒi).
ǫ ... wh*a*t (hwǫt), w*a*tch (wǫtʃ).
ǫ, ǫ* ... g*o*t (gǫt), s*o*ft (sǫft).
‖ö ... Ger. K*ö*ln (köln).
‖*ö* ... Fr. p*eu* (pö).
u ... f*u*ll (ful), b*oo*k (buk).
iu ... d*u*ration (diurē·ʃən).
u ... unto (*ʊ*·ntu), fr*u*gality (fr*u*-).
iu ... Matth*ew* (mæ·þiu), virt*ue* (vɜ·ɹtiu).
‖ü ... Ger. M*ü*ller (mü·lĕr).
‖*ü* ... Fr. d*u*ne (d*ü*n).
ə (see ī^{ə}, ē^{ə}, ō^{ə}, ū^{ə}) } see Vol. I, p. xxiv, note 3.
^{i}, ^{u} (see ē^{i}, ō^{u}) }
' as in able (ē'b'l), eaten (ēt'n) = voice-glide.

LONG.

ā as in *a*lms (āmz), b*a*r (bāɹ).
v̄ ... c*u*rl (kv̄ɹl), f*ur* (fv̄ɹ).
ē (ē^{ə}) ... th*e*re (ðē^{ə}ɹ), p*ea*r, p*a*re (pē^{ə}ɹ).
ę̄ (ę̄^{i}) ... r*ei*n, r*ai*n (rę̄^{i}n), th*ey* (ðę̄^{i}).
ę̄ ... Fr. f*ai*re (fę̄r').
ə̄ ... f*ir* (fə̄ɹ), f*ur*n (fə̄ɹn), *ea*rth (ə̄ɹþ).
ī (ī^{ə}) ... b*ie*r (bī^{ə}ɹ), cl*ea*r (klī^{ə}ɹ).
ī ... th*ie*f (þīf), *ee* (sī).
ǭ (ǭ^{ə}) ... b*oa*r, b*o*re (bǭ^{ə}ɹ), gl*o*ry (glǭ^{ə}·ri).
ō (ō^{u}) ... *so*, *sow* (sō^{u}), s*oul* (sō^{u}l).
ǭ ... w*a*lk (wǭk), w*a*rt (wǭɹt).
ǭ ... sh*o*rt (ʃǭɹt), th*o*rn (þǭɹn).
‖ō̄ ... Fr. c*oeur* (kō̄r).
‖*ō* ... Ger. G*ö*the (gō̄tĕ), Fr. j*eû*ne (ʒō̄n).
ū (ū^{ə}) ... p*oo*r (pū^{ə}ɹ), m*oo*rish (mū^{ə}·riʃ).
iū, ^{i}ū ... p*u*re (piū^{ə}ɹ), l*u*re (l^{i}ū^{ə}ɹ).
ū̄ ... t*wo* m*oo*ns (tū̄ mū̄nz).
iū̄, ^{i}ū̄ ... *few* (fiū̄), l*u*te (l^{i}ū̄t).
‖ū̄ ... Ger. gr*ü*n (grū̄n), Fr. j*us* (ʒū̄).

OBSCURE.

ă as in *a*mœb*a* (ămī·bă).
ӕ ... *a*ccept (ӕkse·pt), mani*a*c (mē^{i}·niӕk).
ŏ ... datum (dē^{i}·tŏm).
ĕ ... mom*e*nt (mōu·mĕnt), sev*e*ral (se·vĕrăl).
ĕ ... separate (*adj.*) (se·părĕt).
ė ... added (æ·dėd), *e*state (ėstē^{i}·t).
ĭ ... van*i*ty (væ·nĭti).
ĭ ... remain (rĭmē^{i}·n), believe (bĭlī·v).
ŏ ... th*eo*ry (þī·ŏri).
ŏ ... v*i*ol*e*t (vəi·ŏlėt), parody (pæ·rŏdi).
ǫ̆ ... *au*thority (ǫ̆þo·rĭti).
ǫ̆ ... c*o*nnect (kǫ̆ne·kt), amaz*o*n (æ·măzǫ̆n).
iŭ, ^{i}ŭ verd*u*re (vɜ·ɹdiŭɹ), measure (me·ʒ^{i}ŭɹ).
ŭ ... altogether (ǭltŭge·ðəɹ).
iŭ ... circ*u*lar (sɜ·ɹkiŭlăɹ).

* *ǫ* the *o* in *s*oft, of medial or doubtful length.

‖ Only in foreign (or earlier English) words.

In the ETYMOLOGY,

OE. *ę*, *ǫ*, representing an earlier *a*, are distinguished as ę, ǫ (having the phonetic value of ę and ǫ, or ǫ, above); as in *ęnde* from *andi* (OHG. *anti*, Goth. *andei-s*), *mǫnn* from *mann*, *ǫn* from *an*.

a 1450 *Bk. Curtasye* 231 in *Babees Bk.*, 3if þou be stad in strange contre, Enserche no fyr þen falles to the. 1473 *Rental Bk. Cupar-Angus* (1879) I 177 3if tha thynk that tha ma sted thám bettyr in vthir placis tha sal haue our fre licens. 1500 *Caldwell Papers* (Maitland Club) I. 52 The quhilk tenands ye said lord erle promitte to steid in uthir place. 1618 W. Lawson *Orch. & Gard.* ix. (1623) 25 Stead them on the North side of your other Apples. 1821 Keats *Isabella* xx, But it is done..To honour thee..To stead thee as a verse in English tongue.

† **5.** To put into a certain condition, to settle. *Obs.*

c 1470 Henry *Wallace* ix. 1893 For thai traistyt, and Scotland war weill stad, Wallace wald cum, as he thaim promyst had. *Ibid.* x. 748 Thus in gud pece Scotland with rycht he stad.

† **b.** *refl.* To apply oneself. *Obs.*

c 1425 *Non-Cycle Myst. Plays* (1909) 47 Onto my warke I must me stede.

† **c.** To treat, deal with. *Obs.*

c 1460 J. Russell *Bk. Nurture* 614 in *Babees Bk.*, The bak of þe Crevise, þus he must be sted: array hym as ye dothe þe crabbe.

† **6.** *pass.* To be placed *in* a certain (evil or difficult) plight or condition; to be burdened *with* (sickness), beset *with* (enemies, etc.). *Obs.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 674 In mikul blis þan was he staad. *Ibid.* 13787 Bot sua wit seckenes am i stadd þat i ne mai to water win. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* ii. (*Paul*) 26 And sailland in Italy in parelis wes he stad sindry. 14.. *Burgh Lawis* xcv. in *Anc. Laws Scot.* (Burgh Rec. Soc.) 46 Gif..and eftirwart he that tuk the lande in nede is stadd it to sell. *c* 1440 *York Myst.* xlviii. 289 In harde presse whan I was stedde, Of my paynes 3e hadde pitee. *c* 1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 5586 In sorow was he stadd. *c* 1470 *Rauf Coilzear* 136 Sa troublit with stormis was I neuer stad. *c* 1470 Henry *Wallace* ix. 901 Sen we ar stad with enemys on ilk syd. *c* 1480 Henryson *Test. Cress.* 542 Now is my breist with stormie stoundis stad. 1535 Stewart *Cron. Scot.* II. 47 Honorious of Rome the empriours, That tyme with seiknes staid wes in ane stour.

† **b.** With adverb, *To be hard* (*straitly, stiffly*, etc.) *stead*: to be hard put to it; to be beset with difficulties or perils. Cf. Bested *pa. pple.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 3470 Þe leuedi was ful ferli drad Als womman þat ful hard-was stad. 1375 Barbour *Bruce* iii. 204 Men redys off mony men that war Fer hardar stad then we yhet ar. *Ibid.* vi. 664 They wend I wes stratly stad. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* vii. (*James Less*) 650 Full hard in þat towne þai war sted. *c* 1400 *Rowland & O.* 1528 There were oure folkes full styffely stadde. *a* 1440 *Sir Eglam.* 459 Thou haste byn strongly stadd. *c* 1440 *York Myst.* xlv. 137 Men þat are stedde stiffely in stormes or in see. *a* 1450 ? Lydg. *To Sov. Lady* 109 Therfore I love no labour that ye lese Whan, in longing, sorest ye be stadde. ? *c* 1470 *What shall I do?* 10 in *Q. Eliz. Acad.* 86 Thus am I sted ful heuely. *a* 1500 *Ratis Raving* i. 461 Quhen þow art stad ocht narowly With Irous wyll and gluttony. 1535 Stewart *Cron. Scot.* III. 125 He circuit him sone efter at ane seig, Into ane place quhair he wes sted rycht herd. 1605 *1st Pt. Jeronimo* iii. ii. 91 O me, ill stead, valliant Rogero slaine. 1818 Scott *Hrt. Midl.* xix, O father, we are cruelly sted between God's laws and man's laws.

† **7.** *intr.* **a.** To stay, tarry. **b.** To stop, come to a stand. **c.** To stand, consist. *Obs.*

13.. *K. Alis.* 4146 Alisaunder to him cometh, and nought stet. *c* 1420 *Avow. Arth.* xliii. 13 The knyȝte stedit and stode. *c* 1420 *Anturs of Arth.* xxxii. 4 (Ireland MS.) Tell me..Quy thou stedis in that stid, and stondus so stille? *c* 1440 *York Myst.* xlvi. 94, I schall nott stedde in no stede but in stall and in strete. *c* 1460 *Towneley Myst.* vii. 206 For soth, my lord, I shall not sted till I haue theym theder led. *c* 1500 *Sc. Poem on Her.* 170 in *Q. Eliz. Acad.* 100 In quhat metallis or colouris that thai sted.

Hence † **Stea·ded** *ppl. a.*, ? placed in position. *Obs.*

1609 *Ev. Woman in Hum.* ii. i. C 4, Let your faire hand be beame vnto the ballance, And with a stedded peyze, lift vp that beame.

Stead, obs. form of Steed.

† **Stea·dable**, *a. Sc. Obs.* Also 5–7 **stedable**, 6 **stedabyl**, **steddabill**, 7 **stedibill**, **steedable**, **steidable**, **stedible**. [f. Stead *v.* + -able.] Serviceable, helpful.

1467 *Aberdeen Reg.* (1844) I. 27 The saide Thomas sall be stedable to the saide Willam in all thingis that he has ado. 1524 *Q. Marg.* in *St. Papers Hen. VIII*, IV. 116 This wilbe ..steddabill to His Grace. 1624 *Aberdeen Reg.* (1848) II. 304 The bigging of ane brig ower the water of Bogye.. wilbe most stedibill to the haill cuntrie. 1635 J. Hayward tr. *Biondi's Banish'd Virg.* 113 The taking it away would prove a service very steedable to Bramac. 1637 Wariston *Diary* (S.H.S.) 287 On that feareth the Lord and may be steidable to me. 1648 Chas. I *Let.* 28 Oct. in Carte *Collect. Lett.* (1735) III. 589, I am sure, all things considered, it is fittest for my service, and I am confident will prove as steadible to him. 1653 Urquhart *Rabelais* i. xi, He shoo'd the Geese, kept a self-tickling to make himself laugh, and was very stedable in the Kitchen. 1656 J. Fergusson *On Coloss.* 130 The meanest haue somewhat whereby they may prove steadable to the best.

Steade, obs. form of Steed.

Steadfast (ste·dfæst), *a.* (*adv.*) and *sb.* Forms: 1, 3 **stedefæst**, 1 **stydefæst**, 2–5 **stedefast** (3 *Ormin* **-fasst**), 3 **stedevast**, 4 **stedefaste**, 3–4 **studefast**, 3 **studevast**, **-vest**, 4 **studfaste**, 4–5 **stid(e)fast**, **stydfast(e**, (4 **steddfast**, 5 **stedde-faste**), 5–6 *Sc.* **steidfast**, 6–7 **steedfast**, 4–6 **stedfaste**, (5 **stedfasst**), 4–9 **stedfast**, 8– **stead-fast**. [OE. *stedefæst*, f. *stede* (see Stead *sb.*) + *fæst* Fast *a.* Cf. MLG. *stedevast* (mod.G. †*statt-fest*), ON. *staðfastr*.] **A.** *adj.*

1. Fixed or secure in position. **a.** Of a person, esp. a soldier in battle: Maintaining his ground. (Now with mixture of sense 2.) † Also, of a battle: Fought without change of position.

993 *Battle of Maldon* 127 (Gr.) Stodon stædefæste: stihte hi Byrhtnoð. *Ibid.* 249 Ne þurfon me embe Sturmere stedefæste hæleð wordum ætwitan. 1623 Bingham *Xenophon* 67 Armed..sufficiently to skip vp and downe, and run away, but not to come to hands in a stedfast fight. 1821 Shelley *Hellas* 375 Victor myriads, formed in hollow square With rough and steadfast front.

† **b.** Fixed in abode. *Obs. rare.*

a 1272 *Luue Ron* 18 in *O. E. Misc.*, Nis no mon iboren o lyue, þat her may beon studeuest.

c. Of a thing, e.g. a pillar, a foundation: Firmly fixed, not to be moved or displaced. Also in fig. context. *Obs.* exc. in rhetorical language (of the earth, etc.).

c 1000 *Instit. Polity* x. in Thorpe *Anc. Laws* (1840) II. 318 *note*, Wislic wærscipe & stede-fæst [*sic* (*MS. G.* styde-)] mod-staðol..biþ witena gehwilcum weorðlicre micle. *a* 1225 *St. Juliana* 75 (Bodl. MS.) Lokið þet te heouenliche lauerd beo grund wal of al þat ȝe wurcheð, for þat stonr studeuest, falle þat falle. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 8483 Stedefast stode þe marbel stan on ferr þe golden letters scan. *c* 1330 R. Brunne *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 15562 Manie skiles forþ were cast, How hit [River Douglas] might be mad studefast. *c* 1480 Henryson *Mor. Fab.* ii. (*Town & C. Mouse*) vi, Ane sillie scheill vnder ane steidfast stane. 1577 Googe *Heresbach's Husb.* iii. (1586) 148 Into that vessel they powred in milke, and set it where it might stande stedfast. 1590 Barrough *Meth. Physick* ii. x. (1639) 87 Let them sit in open aire, having a stedfast bed, and of a good height. 1625 N. Carpenter *Geogr. Del.* i. vii. (1635) 179 The finding out of the Centers where the stedfast foot of the compasse ought to bee fixed in drawing of each circle. 1667 Milton *P. L.* ii. 927 These Elements In mutinie had from her Axle torn The stedfast Earth. *Ibid.* vi. 833 Under his burning Wheeles The stedfast Empyreum shook throughout. 1782 Cowper *Retirem.* 534 The rising waves..Thunder and flash upon the stedfast shores. 1822–56 De Quincey *Conf.* Wks. 1862 I. 102 What was it?..Earthquake was it? convulsion of the steadfast earth?

† **d.** Of the hands: Steady, not tremulous. Also of shooting: Steady. *Obs.*

1535 Coverdale *Exod.* xvii. 12 So his handes were stedfast. 1541 R. Copland *Guydon's Quest. Chirurg.* B ij, A stedfast hande without shakynge. 1545 Ascham *Toxoph.* ii. (Arb.) 127 To make the ende compasse heauy with the fethers in fliyng, for the stedfaster shotyng.

† **e.** Of a pain: Not changing its position. *Obs.*

1398 Trevisa *Barth. De P. R.* viii. lv. (1495) 268 The ache of the reynes is stable and stedfaste.

† **f.** Solid, firm in substance. *Obs.*

1477 Norton *Ord. Alch.* iv. in Ashm. (1652) 47 Stedfast to stedfast will it selfe combinde. 1545 Raynalde *Byrth Mankynde* i. xv. (1552) 43 The sede is of a more faste, compacte, and stedfaste substaunce.

† **g.** Unshaken in health. *Obs.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 1024 He suld in eild be ai stedfast, Sekenes suld he neuer drei. 1387 Trevisa *Higden* (Rolls) IV. 167 He..fauȝt wiþ hem somtyme forto make his body stedefast by use in tra[ua]ylle forto dure.

† **h.** *Steadfast land*: the mainland, as opposed to an island. *Obs.* [Cf. G. *festland.*]

a 1470 Tiptoft *Cæsar's Comm.* i. (1530) 2 They also of the Isle of Britayn had no knowledge of no parte of the stedfaste londe.

2. Of persons: Unshaken, immoveable in faith, resolution, friendship, etc. Also said of belief, purpose or affection. Occas. const. *to.*

c 1200 *Vices & Virtues* (1888) 135 Vr hierte nauht ȝiet stedefast. *c* 1200 Ormin 1597 ȝiff þin heorrte iss harrd & starrc, & stedefasst o Criste. *c* 1220 *Bestiary* 374 Oc eurilc luuen oðer, also he were his broder, Wurðen stedefast his wine. *c* 1290 *Beket* 171 in *S. Eng. Leg.* 111 Þare was i-sene þat heo was treowe and of studefast mod! 1340 Hampole *Pr. Consc.* 2139 To serve hym and his werkes to wyrk In stedfast trouthe of haly kyrk. *c* 1369 Chaucer *Dethe Blaunche* 1227 And swore and gan hir hertely hete Ever to be stedfast and trewe. *c* 1450 Lovelich *Merlin* 12321 Stedfast sche was to hire Lord. 1472–3 *Rolls of Parlt.* VI. 32/2 Your true Liegeman and moost obeisaunt and stedfast Subgiet. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 8 b, Stande stedfast in the fayth & hope of god. 1535 Coverdale *Prov.* xii. 4 A stedfast woman is a crowne vnto hir huszbonde. 1549 *Bk. Comm. Prayer, Commun.* Collect, Whom thou doest bryng vp in thy stedfast loue. 1667 Milton *P. L.* i. 58 Huge affliction and dismay Mixt with obdurate pride and stedfast hate. 1693 *Col. Rec. Pennsylv.* I. 405 You shall alwayes find me stedfast to what I promise you. 1738 Wesley *Psalms* xxxvi. iii, Above the Clouds thy Mercies rise, Stedfast thy Truth and Faithfulness. 1837–9 Hallam *Hist. Lit.* II. ii. § 2. 59 It would have required all their stedfast faith in the arm of Providence to anticipate. 1867 Smiles *Huguenots Eng.* vi. (1880) 106 Elizabeth..proved herself the steadfast friend and protector of the Protestant exiles. 1895 Denney *Stud. Theol.* vi. (ed. 3) 144 It is His steadfast faithful purpose freely to impart His own character to men.

† **b.** Applied to God: Unchanging. *Obs.*

a 1400 *Relig. Pieces fr. Thornton MS.* 3 The toþer es, þat þe heghe ffadir of Heuen es stedfaste and sothefaste Godde Almyghtyn. *c* 1440 *Lay-Folks Mass Bk.* (MS. E.) 180 In þe name of the fadur and þe sonne and þe holy goste, On stydfast [*other texts* sothfast] god. 1611 Bible *Dan.* vi. 26 For he is the liuing God, and stedfast for euer.

† **c.** In bad sense: Confirmed, incorrigible. *Obs.*

1644 Milton *Areop.* (Arb.) 58 To be a common stedfast dunce will be the only pleasant life.

3. Of a law, a treaty, an institution, a condition of things: Firmly settled, established, unchangeable.

1258 *Proclam. Hen. III* (Ellis) 19 Stedefæst and ilestinde in alle þinge abuten ænde. *c* 1290 *St. Dunstan* 47 in *S. Eng. Leg.* 20 Sone he was Abbot of þe hous..He makede þare godes seruise studefast and stable i-nov3. 1387 Trevisa *Higden* (Rolls) IV. 333 þe dome of hem schulde stonde stedefast and nouȝt be i-chaunged. 1390 Gower *Conf.* III. 115 Seid is that he hath his aspect Upon the holi lond so cast, That there is no pes stedefast. *c* 1460 *Osney Reg.* 109 This my ȝifte that hit þe moor surer and stedfaster hereafter may be, I maade hit in þe presente of lorde John of Constances, Archedecun. 1535 Coverdale *Heb.* ii. 2 For yf the worde which was spoken by angels, was stedfast, [etc.] 1607 Dekker *Sir T. Wyatt* F 3 b, A stedfast silence doth possesse the place. 1742 Gray *Propertius* ii. 17 Who taught this vast machine its steadfast laws. 1877 E. R. Conder *Basis Faith* iv. 188 The stedfast regularity of phenomena tells with no doubtful significance of a corresponding permanence of the causes on which they depend.

† **b.** Of a language: Settled. *Obs.*

1422 Yonge tr. *Secreta Secret.* 146 Lateyn is the moste stydfaste langage.

4. Of sight, the eye (occas. of the mind): Steadily directed.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 27999 If þou..woud hir wit wordes slight, Or loked wit ouur stedfast sight [? *read with MS. Galba* sleghe..eghe]. *c* 1430 *Prymer* (1895) 98 Y schal make stidefast myn iȝen on þee. *a* 1593 Marlowe *Edw. II*, v. v. 2526 That euen then when I shall lose my life, My minde may be more stedfast on my God. 1593 Shaks. *Lucr.* 1339 The homelie villaine..blushing on her with a stedfast eye, Receaues the scroll without or yea or no. 1629 Milton *Hymn Nativ.* 70 The Stars with deep amaze Stand fixt in stedfast gaze. 1817 Shelley *Rev. Islam* i. ix, The [serpent's] neck..Sustained a crested head, which warily Shifted and glanced before the Eagle's steadfast eye.

† **5.** *adv.* = Steadfastly. *Obs.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 2874 If þou a brand þar-in [*sc.* into the Dead Sea] wil cast þe fire it haldes þar stedfast. 13.. *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* xlix. 87 In herte loke þou holde stedefast þe benfet þat þou ones hast. 1398 Trevisa *Barth. De P. R.* v. xxxvi. (Bodl. MS.), Blood is ipiȝt in þe lunges, but he is more stedefast ipight in þe herte. *c* 1580 *Sat. Poems Reform.* xliv. 92 Sathan led men steid fast be the mane. 1756 Toldervy *Hist. 2 Orphans* IV. 21 Duroy now looking more stedfast found this to be the very identical only son of Sir Gilbert Goosley. 1887 Morris *Odyss.* xii. 437 So I held on steadfast [to the tree].

† **B.** *sb.* The castor-oil plant, *Ricinus communis.*

1597 Gerarde *Herbal* Suppl., Stedfast is *Palma Christi.* 1665 Lovell *Herbal* (ed. 2) 416 Sted fast, see Palma Christi.

† **Stea·dfast,** *v. Obs.* Forms: 5 **stefast**, 5–6 **stedfast**(e. [f. Steadfast *a.* Cf. ON. *staðfesta* to give a fixed abode to (Sw. *stadfästa*, Da. *stadfæste* to confirm, establish).] *trans.* To make steadfast; to confirm, establish.

c 1450 *Brut* ii. (1908) 296 King Edward..ordeyned & stefastyd þe day of þe forsaide Rounde-Table to be holde þer at Wyndissore in Whitesen-wike euermore after-erly. *c* 1450 tr. *De Imitatione* iii. xv. (1893) 84 He..þat stedfastiþ [*firmavit*] all his hope in god. 1545 Raynalde *Byrth Mankynde* iii. i. 110 To confirme, stedfaste, and to defende the body from noysome thynges.

† **Stea·dfasthead.** *Obs. rare*⁻¹. [-head.] Steadfastness.

c 1400 *Solomon's Bk. Wisdom* 286 Many men schullen turne to yuel, men may drede, ffor on erþe men may se to liþer stedfast hede.

Steadfastly (ste·dfæstli), *adv.* [f. Steadfast *a.* + -ly 2.]

1. In physical sense: Steadily, firmly, so as not to be shaken or displaced. *rare.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 6430 Vr held up, and als aaron, His handes..Vnder aiþer hand was an þat held þam stedfastli als stan. 1635 Heywood *Hierarchy* 177 To whom his father [Neptune] gaue that vertue, to walk as steadfastly vpon the sea, as the land. 1877 Shelley *Marianne's Dream* vii, Each mighty rock Stood on its basis steadfastly.

† **2.** With reference to a command or bequest: Securely, bindingly. *Obs.*

a 1200 *Charter of Athelstan A.D. 939* in Kemble *Cod. Dipl.* V. 236 And ich stedeuastliche hote and beheode in Gode almigties hege name..dæt [etc.]. 1388 Wyclif i *Sam.* xxx. 25 *marg.* This was ordeyned stidefastliere bi Dauyth ..that it schulde be kept aftirward outirly. *c* 1450 *Godstow Reg.* 343 This ȝifte of hym I-made stedfastly he had, and with his seale impressed, confermed.

3. Constantly, persistently; with firm resolve, fidelity, belief, etc.

a 1225 *Ancren R.* 162 Beo stille, & wune studeuestliche i sume stude, ut of monne sihðe. *c* 1250 *Kent. Serm.* in *O. E. Misc.* 28 Be-leue we stede-fast-liche þet he is fader and sune and holy gost. 1258 *Proclam. Hen. III* (Ellis) 19 Þæt heo stedefæstliche healden and swerien to healden and to werien þo isetnesses þæt beon imakede. 1303 R. Brunne *Handl. Synne* 313 Stedfastlych þey preyd a-none Tyl þat woke were alle gone. *c* 1386 Chaucer *Clerk's T.* 1038 Youre woful mooder wende stedfastly That cruel houndes or som foul vermyne Hadde eten yow. *c* 1450 *Merlin* i. 8 Of hem that in hym stadfastly beleve. 1568 Grafton *Chron.* II. 706 She stedfastlye blamed and accused her painefull labor. 1632 Gouge *God's Arrows* iii. § 80. 333 We are wont to believe more stedfastly that which is confirmed by an oath. 1712 Steele *Spect.* No. 423 ¶ 2 You will be very steadfastly my Rival. 1867 Ruskin *Time & Tide* iii. § 12 That is what I would steadfastly say again. 1877 C. Geikie *Christ* lvii. (1879) 691 They steadfastly refused to accept him.

4. With steadfast gaze.

13.. *K. Alis.* 219 (Laud MS.) In hir he loked stedfastlyk. *a* 1450 *Knt. de la Tour Landry* (1868) 58 Therfor, doughtres, be ware of youre lokes, whereon ye sette hem stedfastly. 1592 Shaks. *Ven. & Ad.* 1063 Vpon his hurt she lookes so stedfastly, That her sight dazling, makes the wound seem three. 1648 Boyle *Seraph. Love* xii. (1700) 64 They that gaze steadfastliest on the noondays Sun can least of all discern what it is. 1871 Ainsworth *Tower Hill* i. xv, He gazed at her steadfastly for a moment, bowed, and retired.

Steadfastness (ste·dfæstnés). [f. Steadfast *a.* + -ness.] The quality of being steadfast.

1. Constancy or fixity in purpose, belief, fidelity, affection, etc.

a 1000 *Rit. Dunelm.* (Surtees) 50 *Virtute constantiæ*, mægne stydfæstnis. *c* 1220 *Bestiary* 182 Feste ðe of stedefastnesse, and ful of ðewes. *c* 1397 CHAUCER *Lack Stedf.* 7 Al is loste for lac of stedfastnesse. 1508 DUNBAR *Gold. Targe* 164 Scho led wyth hir Nurture and Lawlynes, Contenence, Pacience Gude Fame and Stedfastnes. 1526 TINDALE 2 *Pet.* iii. 17 Beware lest ye..fall from youre owne stedfastnes. 1631 GOUGE *God's Arrows* III. § 23. 225 He would with the best stedfastnesse of faith that he could pray for them. 1707 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4308/1 His Stedfastness in their Interest might be depended on. 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xx. IV. 389 Middleton adhered to the cause of hereditary monarchy with a stedfastness which [etc.]. 1876 MISS BRADDON *Y. Haggard's Dau.* x. II. 21 The man who is without steadfastness will neither do good to others nor to himself.

† **2.** Established or permanent condition. *Obs.*

c 1450 *Godstow Reg.* 343 We, grauntyng and in stedfastnesse havyng, and our forseid present writyng of witnesse, conferme and strengthe the yifte which we have I-made. 1568 GRAFTON *Chron.* II. 819 The Duke and the Bishop declared what thing was deuised..for to set the realme in a quiet stedfastnesse.

3. In physical sense: Fixity in position. *arch.*

a 1542 WYATT *Ps.* xxxviii. 14 Nor in my bonis there is no stedfastnes. 1787 SMEATON *in Phil. Trans.* LXXVII. 320 A stand of such solidity and steadfastness that the telescope might preserve the position in which it was placed. 1827 STUART *Planter's G.* (1828) 65 The steadfastness of the plants, in consequence of their fastenings..almost precluded contingency. 1868 MORRIS *Earthly Par.* I. i. 267 And forward did the mighty waters press As though they loved the green earth's steadfastness.

4. Steadiness or fixity (of gaze).

1567 MAPLET *Gr. Forest* 84 Hee taketh his yong when as they be yong and tender, and haue not ful stedfastnesse in their eies. 1647 FULLER *Good Th. Worse T.* 50 For our Saviour glancing his Eyes at the Peoples instruction, did no whit hinder the steadfastnesse of his lookes, lifted up to his Father. 1847 C. BRONTË *Jane Eyre* xxx, There was..a decided steadfastness in his gaze now.

† **Stea·dfastship.** *Obs.* [-SHIP.] = prec.

c 1320 *Cast. Love* 282 Of on wille heo weoren bo, And of on studefastschipe also.

† **Stea·dful,** *a. Sc.* and *north. Obs. rare.* [f. STEAD *sb.* + -FUL.] Serviceable.

1585–6 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* IV. 52 The settling of a steidfull and continewing ordour of the ministeris stipendis. *a* 1600 *Flodden F.* vii. (1664) 67 Yet they such stedful faiths did bear.

† **Stea·dful,** *v. Obs. rare*⁻¹. [f. STEAD *sb.* + FULL *a.*] *trans.* (An etymological rendering of *locupletāre* to enrich.)

a 1300 *E. E. Psalter* lxiv. 10 Þou soght þe land, and dronkened it yhite; Þou mani-falded to stedful ite [Vulg. *multiplicasti locupletare*].

Steadie: see STITHY anvil.

Steadier (ste·diəɹ). [f. STEADY *v.* + -ER¹.] Something which steadies.

1864 *Reader* 5 Mar. 301/1 The peroneus longus muscle (in the chimpanzee)..instead of being a steadier of the leg from a fixed point below, becomes [etc.]. 1899 E. PHILLPOTTS *Human Boy* 25 Mathers..fancied tobacco was probably a fine steadier for the nerves before a football match.

Steadily (ste·dili), *adv.* [f. STEADY *a.* + -LY 2.] In a steady manner (see senses of the adj.); firmly, unwaveringly, steadfastly, uniformly, etc.

1540 PALSGR. *Acolastus* III. iii. P ij, Seyng that she [fortune] is but a wandrer, that strayeth from place to place like a vacabunde .i. dothe nothyng stedyly or certainly. 1565 COOPER *Thesaurus* s. v. *Pressus, Presso gradu incedere*, to goe steedily and surely. 1678 BUNYAN *Pilgr.* I. (ed. 2) 202 The remembrance..made their hand shake; by means of which impediment, they could not look steddily through the Glass. 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* xli, Dorothee, however, steadily refused to do this. 1827 FARADAY *Chem. Manip.* iii. (1842) 81 When the jars to be graduated are such as cannot stand steadily upon their own bases. 1886 *Field* 4 Sept. 347/2 The pack, working steadily on his [the stag's] line, ran right up to him. 1909 J. MCCABE *Decay Ch. Rome* xii. 268 The Catholics have steadily lost ground.

Comb. 1891 *Hardwicke's Science-Gossip* XXVI. 1/2 A small but steadily-increasing distance.

Steadiment (ste·dimĕnt). *rare.* [f. STEADY *v.* + -MENT.] A means of steadying; also, the condition of being steadied.

1810 BENTHAM *Offic. Apt. Maximized, Def. Econ.* (1830) 67 Instrument attempted to be made for the 'fixing himself in power', Burke's East India Bill: a steadiment, containing in it a sort of pump, contrived for drawing from the East Indies the matter of wealth...His grand instrument of steadiment and 'fixation' having failed. 1878 SIR G. SCOTT *Lect. Archit.* I. vi. 227 Its footing on the capital..requires as much steadiment as possible. *Ibid.*, To give greater steadiment to the foot of the arch. 1894 ADM. ELLIOT in *Morn. Post* 15 May, The wonderful steadiment produced by the clutch of the side keels of Hodgetts' patent form of vessel.

Steadiness (ste·dinĕs). [f. STEADY *a.* + -NESS.]

† **1.** The condition or quality of standing fast, permanence, stability. *Obs.*

1530 PALSGR. 275/2 Stedynesse, *estableté, permanableté.* 1653 H. MORE *Def. Cabbala* App. viii. (1713) 184 Which word *μένειν* he often uses in setting out the steddiness and immutablenesss of the Matter.

2. Freedom from rocking, swaying, tottering, or other irregular movement.

a 1586 SIDNEY *Arcadia* II. (Sommer) 122 Himself [*sc.* a horseman]..shewing at one instant both steadines & nimblenes. 1652 HOBBES *Leviath.* I. x. 44 Like the steddinesse of a Ship laden with Merchandise. 1765 *Museum Rust.* IV. 167 The breadth of the wheels gives a steadiness to the whole machine. 1872 TYNDALL *Forms of Water* § 17 P 136 Here perfect steadiness of foot is necessary—a slip would be death. 1910 *Encycl. Brit.* III. 271/1 To allow for the superior centering of the shot.., Bashforth introduces a factor σ, called the coefficient of steadiness. This steadiness may vary during the flight of the projectile.

3. Freedom from wavering or indecision; constancy or persistence in resolve, attachment, or conduct.

1663 PATRICK *Pilgrim* xxiii. (1687) 248 So you will be conducted..in paths..of setledness and steadiness of mind. *a* 1715 BURNET *Own Time* II. iv. (1897) I. 266 The presbyterians, who were quite dispirited by the steadiness of his conduct, would take heart again. 1874 GREEN *Short Hist.* iii. § 7. 149 There is the same steadiness of will and purpose in his patriotism. 1893 *Speaker* 20 May 553/1 The steadiness with which all sections of the Ministerialists have clung to their posts.

b. Freedom from perturbation in mind or demeanour. ? *Obs.*

1642 FULLER *Holy & Prof. St.* IV. xvi. 323 It is inconsistent with the steddinesse of his gravity to be startled with a wonder. 1647 CLARENDON *Hist. Reb.* I. § 46 He answered the articles with great steadiness and unconcernedness.

c. Of troops: Firmness in *moral.*

1666 DK. ORMONDE *in 11th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. v. 13 It has given mee good proof of the steadynesse of the Regiment. *a* 1859 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xxiii. V. 13 Everything must then be staked on the steadiness of the militia.

d. Of a horse: Freedom from skittishness or nervousness.

1835 [SIR G. STEPHEN] *Adv. in Search of Horse* ix. 125 Steadiness is a great virtue in a gig-horse.

4. Uniformity of action, maintenance of an even rate of progress or level of quality, amount, and the like.

1638 JUNIUS *Paint. Ancients* I. v. § 4. 74 The learned.. understand the reason of Art, the unlearned feele the pleasure..: softnesse doth take them both, and forciblenesse doth stirre them both alike; both approve of steadinesse.. and loathe all manner of excessivenesse. 1776 ADAM SMITH *W. N.* I. i. xi. 263 The durableness of metals is the foundation of this extraordinary steadiness of price. 1882 *Jrnl. Fabrics* 12 Feb. 68/2 Linen.—Trade has presented a fair degree of steadiness during the whole month. 1884 *Law Times* 13 Sept. 331/2 The electric light was turned on, but refused to burn with any kind of steadiness.

5. Sobriety or regularity of living.

1864 SMILES *Stephenson* iii. 32 He had contrived, by thrift, steadiness, and industry to save..money.

Steading (ste·diŋ). *Sc.* and *north.* Also 6 **steding, stedding, steiding, steden.** [f. STEAD *sb.* + -ING ¹.]

1. A farm-house and outbuildings; often, the outbuildings in contrast to the farm-house.

1472 *Munim. de Melros* (Bannatyne Club) 591 Thare Kirkis takkis teyndis stedingis malingis manaris [etc.]. 1541 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* VIII. 31 Item, gevin to Alexander Kempt to help him to plenys ane steding,..x li. 1549 *Compl. Scot.* xv. 123, I am exilit fra my takkis and fra my steddyngis. 1555 *Wills & Inv. N. C.* (Surtees 1860) 146, I geue to my son Thomas Rede all my steden in the hould toune. 1682 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1682/1 [The Earl of Argyle] to have forfault [*printed* for Fault]..all and Sundry his Lands,..Tackes, Steadings [etc.]..to our Sovereign Lord. 1799 J. ROBERTSON *Agric. Perth* 482 Here is the most elegant and the most compleat steading of offices in that part at least of the county. 1818 SCOTT in Lockhart *Life* (1839) V. 289, I should like to convert the present steading at Beechland into a little hamlet of labourers. 1861 STEPHENS & BURN *Farm-buildings* 5 The farmhouse should be situated so as to command a view of the fields of the farm, and also be near the steading. 1901 *Scotsman* 28 Feb. 6/2 The steading at the farm..was completely destroyed by fire.

2. A site for a building.

1822 GALT *Provost* vi. 40 His wife's brother, with whom he had entered into a plea, concerning the moieté of a steading at the town-head. 1824 MACTAGGART *Gallovid. Encycl.* s. v. *Sted, Stedding o' houses*, the ground on which an onset is built.

† **Stea·dless,** *a. Obs. rare.* [f. STEAD *sb.* + -LESS. OE. had *stedelēas* without support, unsteady.] Having no place or position in space.

c 1425 WYNTOUN *Cron.* v. 5249 Þe dewil said..: Sa, qwhar was God..Befor þat hewyn and erde was wroucht? Sancte Serf said: In hym selff stedles, Hys godheide hamprede neuir wes.

† **Stea·dship.** *Obs. rare*⁻¹. In 4 **stedship.** [f. STEAD *sb.* + -SHIP.] ? Security of position.

1387 T. USK *Test. Love* I. iv. (Skeat) 40 In vayne travayle men to cacche any stedship, but-if ye, lady, first the locke unshet.

Steady (ste·di), *sb.* [f. STEADY *a.* and *v.*]

1. [absol. use of the adj.] Something which is steady.

1792 G. CARTWRIGHT *Jrnl. Labrador* I. Gloss. p. xv, *Steady in a River*, a part where the bed widens, inclining to a pond, and there is no perceptible stream.

2. [From the vb.] Something which steadies.

1899 M. COBBETT *Bottled Holidays* viii. 141 Two officials fulfilled the awkward duties of being rounding posts [in a skating match], the competitors generally catching hold of them for a steady as they made the turns.

b. *spec.* A device for holding steady an object in process of being fashioned. (Cf. *Steady-rest*, STEADY *a.* 9 b.)

1885 [HORNER] *Pattern Making* 106 Make a steady, shaped roughly to fit the bed of the lathe and to take the diameter of the pipe. 1911 *Encycl. Brit.* XXVII. 26/1 [Lathes.] Of devices for this purpose..some are fixed,..and others are bolted to the carriage of the slide-rest and move along with it—travelling steadies.

Steady (ste·di), *a.* (and *adv.*) Forms: 6 **stedy(e,** 6–7 **steddie, steedie, steadie,** 6–8 **steddy,** 7 **stydie, -y, study, studdie** (*Sc.*), **steedy,** 7– **steady.** [First in Palsgrave 1530; app. f. STEAD *sb.* + -Y.

Perh. the formation may have been suggested by MLG., MDu. *stādig, stēdig*, steady, stable, constant = OHG. *stātīc* (MHG. *stætic*, mod.G. *stetig* constant, perpetual):—WGer. **stādīgo-* f. the synonymous **stādjo-* (MLG., MDu. *stāde, stēde*, OHG. *stāti*, MHG. *stæte*, mod.G. *stet*), f. OTeut. **stē-* (: *stā-*) root of STAND *v.*

Closely similar in meaning, and from the same ultimate root, are ON. *stǫðug-r* steady, stable (Norw. *stødug*), and OE. *stæðbiġ, gestæðbiġ*, grave, serious.

OE. had *stēdiġ* (app. f. *stēde* STEAD *sb.*) with the sense 'barren', corresponding to G. *stātig*, in dial. use 'barren' (said of animals), in general use 'restive, stubborn' (= LG. *stedisch*, Du. *stedig, steeg*).]

A. *adj.*

† **1.** Fixed or immovable in position; not liable to give way or become displaced. Also *fig. Obs.*

1530 PALSGR. 325/2 Stedye stedfast, *ferme.* 1540 = *Acolastus* I. i. Civ, Wherof I myght promysse to my selfe an euerlastyng and very stedy ioye [L. *gaudium perpetuum & bene stabile*]. 1591 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* I. vii. 95 The dull Earth's prop-less massie Ball Stands steddy still. 1594 T. B. *La Primaud. Fr. Acad.* II. 596 For if we would moue one of our feete, the other must abide steddie and firme. *a* 1677 BARROW *Serm.* Wks. 1716 I. 3 The fool building his choice not upon the steddy warrant of good reason. 1680 MOXON *Mech. Exerc.* x. 175 Any Substance..pitcht steddy upon two points..and moved about on that Axis... And an Edg-Tool set steddy to that part. *a* 1683 SIDNEY *Disc. Govt.* iii. § 30. (1704) 362 This being built upon the steddy Foundation of Law, History, and Reason, is not to be remov'd.

b. Of affairs: Stable. Of a rule, etc.: Settled, established. ? *Obs.*

1571 CAMPION *Hist. Irel.* I. xi. (1633) 34 From this time forward the amity waxed steddy. 1627 DRAYTON *Agincourt* 2 When presently a Parliament is calld To sett things steddy. 1690 LOCKE *Hum. Und.* II. xxviii [xxix]. § 10. 165 By what has been said, we may observe how much Names, as supposed steady signs of Things..are the occasion of denominating Ideas distinct or confused. 1704 HEARNE *Duct. Hist.* (1714) I. 13 It was a steady Rule, that the Moon wherein the Vernal Equinox happens should be the Month Nisan. 1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* ix, It became at length understood ..that their union should be deferred no longer than until Butler should obtain some steady means of support.

2. Firm in standing or movement; not tottering, rocking, or shaking; that is in stable equilibrium.

1574 HVLL *Art Gard., Ord. Bees, Husb. Conject.* i. 48 If any washeth the handes with snowe, it doth then make them steddie. 1593 SHAKS. 2 *Hen. VI*, IV. vii. 101 *Cade.* Nay, he noddes at vs, as who should say, Ile be euen with you. Ile see if his head will stand steddier on a pole, or no. 1621 SANDERSON *Serm., Ad Pop.* iv. § 3. (1637) 356 Othersome.. like a young unbroken thing that hath mettall..would be ..guided with a steddy and skilfull hand. 1624 *Ibid.* v. § 20. 434 The colours..are yet so thin: that a steddy eye, not bleered by prejudice, may discerne the lye through them. 1770 LUCKOMBE *Hist. Printing* 319 Justifiers of wood..to wedge it tight and steddy in its place. 1785 BURNS *Jolly Beggars* Air II. vi, But whilst with both hands I can hold the glass steady Here's to thee, my hero, my sodger laddie! 1851 *Butler, Wine-dealer*, etc. 9 The stands [for casks] should be fixed perfectly steady. 1865 J. B. HARWOOD *Lady Flavia* xiv, The hand that held the candle was as steady as a rock. 1892 *Photogr. Ann.* II. 471 The bottom of the lamp being loaded, it is perfectly steady.

b. Said of things held with a firm hand.

1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* I. xi. 16 The knight gan fairely couch his steadie speare. 1711 SHAFTESB. *Misc. Refl.* Charac. III. 37 So this high and noble affection..requires a steddy rein and strict hand over it.

c. Of movements or actions: Free from tremulousness or faltering.

1777 POTTER *Æschylus, Agamem.* 281 With steddy step I trace foul deeds that smell above the earth. 1845 J. COULTER *Adv. in Pacific* xiii. 182, I determined to do justice to the gun, took a steady aim, and broke the pearl shell to pieces.

3. Of a person or his mind: Not easily perturbed or discomposed; balanced. Of the head: Free from giddiness. Of the eye: Not diverted from its object; unwavering.

1602 MARSTON *Ant. & Mel.* I. B 4 b, Giue me a husband.. Of steddie iudgement, quicke and nimble sense. 1642 FULLER *Holy & Prof. St.* IV. v. 264 They need to have steddy heads who can dive into these gulfs of policy. 1672–5 COMBER *Comp. Temple* (1702) 19 No man can pray with a truly devout and steddy mind, without a known form. *a* 1710 BP. BULL *Serm.* (1713) I. v. 210 Few Men have such steddy Heads as to be able to stand upon the Spires and Pinnacles of Glory without Giddiness. 1819 SHELLEY *Mask of Anarchy* 344 With folded arms and steady eyes.

b. Of troops, their attributes or actions: Firm, disciplined; not liable to panic or loss of self-control. Also *ellipt.* = 'be steady'.

1670 MILTON *Hist. Eng.* II. 37 Whereby at length all the Foot..with a more steddy charge put the Britans to flight. 1759 GARRICK *Song, Hearts of Oak* refrain, Steady, boys, steady! We'll fight and we'll conquer again and again. 1769 ROBERTSON *Chas. V*, VII. III. 32 The steddy and disciplined valour of the Spanish infantry. 1821 BYRON *Sardanap.* III. i. 115 Our troops were steady. 1823 SCOTT *Quentin D.* xxx, The knaves are numerous and steady—Can they not hold out their town against him? 1837 LEVER *H. Lorrequer* i, They're coming up: steady, boys; steady now. 1878 *N. Amer. Rev.* CXXVI. 252 But they [soldiers] were as steady as clocks and chirpy as crickets.

c. Of a hound: Not easily diverted from the scent. Of a horse: Not nervous, skittish, or excitable; also (cf. 4), that travels at a moderate and even pace.

Steady from hare: (of a foxhound) trained to disregard a hare. Cf. quot. 1901 in STEADY *v.* 2 c.

1735 SOMERVILLE *Chase* IV. 125 With these consort The Stanch, and steddy Sages of thy Pack. 1826 J. COOK *Fox-hunting* 107 And to do him [the hound] justice, he was a good finder, steady from hare. 1835 [SIR G. STEPHEN] *Adv. in Search of Horse* ix. 129 They [mares] may be temperate and steady for months,..and yet when the season arrives, will kick your chaise to pieces. 1852 BURN *Naval & Mil. Techn. Dict.* II. (1863) s.v., Horse steady to fire, *cheval fait, dressé, sage au feu*. 1886 RUSKIN *Præterita* I. vi. 182 As a rule, there were four steady horses and a good driver, rarely drunk.

4. Regular in operation or intensity; that is maintained at an even rate of action, output, or the like; uniform, equable.

1548 *Elyot's Dict.* s. v. *Pressus, Presso gradu incedere*, to go a rounde and stedy pase. 1644 MILTON *Educ.* 6 In which methodicall course..they must proceed by the steddy pace of learning onward. 1766 JOHNSON in *Boswell* (1791) I. 274 Dryden's horses are either galloping or stumbling: Pope's go at a steady even trot. 1817 SHELLEY *Rev. Islam* II. xii, My spirit onward past Beneath truth's steady beams upon its tumult cast. 1836 MARRYAT *Midsh. Easy* xxiii, A steady pull, my lads, and not too much exertion. 1855 *Poultry Chron.* III. 431 There was a steady trade in all descriptions of barley. 1873 MAXWELL *Electr. & Magn.* (1881) I. 327 The most convenient method of producing a steady current is by means of the Voltaic Battery. 1874 GREEN *Short Hist.* vi. § 5. 320 The steady rise in the price of wool was..giving a fresh impulse to the agrarian changes.

b. spec. *Steady motion* (see quots.).

1877 E. J. ROUTH *Stabil. Given State of Motion* 2 We may therefore define a steady motion to be such that the same change of motion follows from the same initial disturbance at whatever instant the disturbance is communicated to the system. 1882 G. M. MINCHIN *Unipl. Kinemat.* 140 If..all the particles..pass through it with the same velocities and accelerations (both in magnitude and in direction), the record of the motion at *P* becomes constant, and there is said to be *steady motion* at *P*.

c. Of wind, a gale: That blows equably in force and direction.

1612 COVERTE *Voy.* 7 From the 22. day..wee could haue no steedy gale of wind to carry vs forward, vntill the 25. day. 1726 SHELVOCKE *Voy. round World* (1757) 255 Whilst you are in this road, it is impossible you should have the wind steady in any quarter. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk., Steady-Gale*, a fresh breeze pretty uniform in force and direction.

d. Of weather, temperature: Free from sudden changes, settled. Of climate: Having little variation of temperature. Hence said of an instrument for recording variations of weather.

a 1700 EVELYN *Diary* July 1694, Glorious steady weather. 1806 G. PINCKARD *West Indies* III. xiv. 176 This climate is perhaps one of the most steady in the world, the range of the thermometer..being only from 11 to 15 degrees. 1869 PHILLIPS *Vesuv.* iii. 94 The barometer during all the eruption was steady.

e. *Commerce.* Of prices: Free from sudden rise or fall; hence of the market, goods, shares, etc.

1889 *Textile News* 29 Mar. 1/2 Subsequently the market became quieter and then declined, prices remaining steady. 1896 *Daily News* 9 Dec. 10/7 Corn opened steady and unchanged. 1898 'H. S. MERRIMAN' *Roden's Corner* vii. 68 The paper markets of the world began to settle down again, and steadier prices ruled. 1912 *Times* 19 Dec. 16/5 Rubber shares were comparatively steady.

5. *Naut.* Of a ship: That moves without deviation (in her course); hence, applied to the helm and the steersman.

1626 CAPT. SMITH *Accid. Yng. Seamen* 18 He stands right a-head; out with all your sayles, a stydy man to the helme, sit close to keep her stydie. 1815 SHELLEY *Alastor* 333 The Poet sate Holding the steady helm.

6. Persistent, unwavering in resolution, attachment, or in a course of action; persistently devoted *to* a cause, resolution, etc.

1602 MARSTON *Antonio's Rev.* IV. v. I 1 b, We must be stiffe and steddie in resolue. 1697 DRYDEN *Æneid* Postscr. 621 Yet steady to my Principles, and not dispirited with my Afflictions, I have..overcome all difficulties. 1749 SMOLLETT *Regicide* III. viii, A trusty counsellor and steady friend. 1797 HT. LEE *Canterb. T., Frenchm. T.* (1799) I. 274 Steady to honour and to feeling, there was yet one point on which his reason obstinately wandered. 1819 SCOTT *Leg. Montrose* Introd., He was a steady jacobite. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* ii. I. 182 It was only in retirement that any person could long keep the character either of a steady royalist or of a steady republican. *Ibid.* vii. II. 226 The influence of the Hampdens..kept him steady to the cause of the constitution. 1871 R. ELLIS *Catullus* cii. 2 A friend whose soul steady to honour abides.

b. of attributes, actions, etc.

1647 CLARENDON *Hist. Reb.* VI. § 407 His person was not less acceptable to those of steady and uncorrupted principles than to those of depraved inclinations. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* XII. 377 Now clear I understand What oft my stedliest thoughts have searcht in vain. 1698 NORRIS *Pract. Disc.* IV. 51 The steddy View, or rather Possession they have of the other World gives them..a daily Triumph over this. 1710 SHAFTESB. *Soliloquy* II. ii. 81 The mean genius..endeavours by the best outward Gloss and dazling Shew, to turn the Eye from a direct and steddy Survey of his Piece. 1754 SHERLOCK *Disc.* (1759) I. vii. 225 A constant and steddy Belief..in the Resurrection of the Dead. 1828 HALLAM *Mid. Ages* viii. III. (1819) III. 235 Their own serious and steady attachment to the laws. 1891 *Law Times* XCII. 96/1 A convict who gains by steady industry the maximum number of marks.

7. Not given to frivolity; staid.

1759 FRANKLIN *Ess.* Wks. 1840 III. 236 They were too wise and too steady to be amused. 1818 T. MOORE *Diary* 26 Oct. *Mem.* (1853) II. 175 Which disconcerted the latter (who, strange to say, is a very grave, steady person) considerably.

8. Regular in habits; not given to dissipation or looseness in conduct.

1838 HT. MARTINEAU *Life in Wilds* vi. 79, I wondered.. what made Robertson steal away into the wood so often, so steady a workman as he is. 1857 SMILES *Stephenson* iv. 24 At Callerton, Stephenson—habitually sober and steady—was a standing example of character to the other workmen. 1889 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Robbery under Arms* xlvii, He'd always been as steady as a rock.

9. *Comb.*, as *steady-looking* adj.; parasynthetic, as *steady-eyed, -footed, -handed, -headed, -minded, -nerved* adjs.

1901 FRANCES CAMPBELL *Love* 307 *Steady-eyed, muscular men. 1611 COTGR. s.v. *Ferré, Ferré à glace*,..*Steadie-footed, sure of foot. *Ibid.* s.v. *Main, Avoir la main seure*, to be *steadie handed. 1897 'SARAH TYTLER' *Lady Jean's Son* xv. 258 *Steady-headed as the young man was. 1826 MRS. ANNE GRANT *Mem. & Corr.* (1844) III. 105 A plain, *steady-looking man who..is sober and regular. 1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Mid.* xliii, Whatever David felt, he was too proud and too *steady-minded to show any unpleasant surprise. 1865 E. BURRITT *Walk to Land's End* 4 Even men called brave and *steady-nerved waited for company to make the journey.

b. Special combinations and collocations: **steady-fast** (see quot.); **steady pin**, a pin or each of several pins used to secure the relative positions of two adjoining surfaces or to prevent them from sliding upon each other; **steady quaker**, a kind of moth (see quot.); **steady-rest** *Turning*, = *back rest*, BACK- IV B.

1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.*, **Steady-Fast*, a hawser carried out to some fixed object to keep a vessel steady in a tide-way, or in preparation for making sail from a fast. 1791 SMEATON *Edystone L.* § 229 The Lewis Holes, each being filled with an extuberance of mortar, which, when hard, would in effect become a *steady pin. 1825 J. NICHOLSON *Oper. Mech.* 513 The piece..is screwed to the side of the plate,.and made firm by small pins..; these pins are called steady-pins. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech., Steady-pin* 1. (*Founding.*) One of the pins—generally three or four, in one flask—which, by fitting into holes in the lugs of another, enable the two parts to be restored to their original position after the pattern is drawn. 1884 F. J. BRITTEN *Watch & Clockm.* 247 *Steady Pin*,..a pin used to secure the relative positions of two pieces of metal. 1832 J. RENNIE *Consp. Butterfl. & Moths* 58 The *Steady Quaker (*Orthosia stabilis*, Ochsenheimer). 1882 OGILVIE, **Steady-rest*, Same as Back-rest. 1884 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech. Suppl.*

B. *adv.* In a steady manner, steadily. Chiefly *Naut.*: see A 5.

a 1605 MONTGOMERIE *Misc. Poems* xlviii. 151 Steir studdie, mate. 1626 CAPT. SMITH *Accid. Yng. Seamen* 27 Steare study before the wind. 1639 FULLER *Holy War* II. vii. (1647) 52 Learning doth accomplish a Prince, and maketh him sway his sceptre the steadier. 1653 T. BRUGIS *Vade Mecum* (ed. 2) 157 With..your little finger leaning upon the arme, to rest your whole hand the more steddier, gently thrust in your Lancet. 1815 SCOTT *Guy M.* xxxiii, Ay, but I have a notion that I could make you go steady about, and try the old course again. 1822 *Cobbett's Weekly Reg.* 9 Mar. 634 The Yankee Captain..stood upon the deck, calling out..'Steady she goes, my boys!'

b. *elipt.* Chiefly *Naut.* = 'steer steady': cf. STEADY *v.* 3. Also *Sporting* (see quot. 1895).

1620 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Praise Hemp-seed* (1623) 12 Cleere, cleere the boighrope, stedy, well steer'd, so. 1669 STURMY *Mariner's Mag.* I. ii. 17 The Ship wears bravely, study, she is before it. *a* 1699 TEMPLE *Mem. 1672-9* Wks. 1770 II. 462 The prince..said..Will the King never learn a word that I shall never forget since my last passage, when ..the captain was all night crying out to the man at the helm, Steady, Steady, Steady?' 1769 FALCONER *Dict. Marine* (1780), *Steddy*, the command given by the pilot, &c. to the helmsman..to steer the ship according to the line on which she advances at that instant. 1836 MARRYAT *Midsh. Easy* xix, Steady—port it is—port.—Steer small, for your life, Easy. Steady now. 1895 MANSON *Sporting Dict., Steady*, the order to dogs at work to be cautious. 1900 G. SWIFT *Somerley* 87 Women are jolly ready to stop men when they're going too far,..but, if a man says 'steady' to a girl, she thinks she's been insulted.

c. Comb. as *steady-goer*; *steady-going* adj.

1837 DICKENS *Pickw.* xviii, Always the way with these here old 'uns hows'ever, as is such *steady goers to look at. 1825 T. HOOK *Sayings* Ser. II. *Sutherl.* I. 4 The *steady-going devotion which he paid to Miss Grace Lazenby. 1889 'J. S. WINTER' *Mrs. Bob* i, Those who do stay are the steady-going unambitious ones of the flock.

Steady (ste·di), *v.* [f. STEADY *a.*

OE. had *gestedegian* (once) to bring to a standstill.]

1. *trans.* To keep from rocking, shaking, tottering, or similar movement.

1530 PALSGR. 734/1, I stedye, I sattell, or set faste a thing, *je me arreste*. 1541 R. COPLAND *Guydon's Quest. Chirurg.* L j, And vnder them is the bone of the hele, of the whiche all the fote is stedyed. 1745 P. THOMAS *Jrnl. Anson's Voy.* 156 They..carried out a Cable and Anchor to steddy the Ship. 1791 SMEATON *Edystone L.* § 226 These stones being fixed..by a pair of wedges on each side..; and still further steadied by joint wedges at the head of the dovetails. 1828–32 WEBSTER s.v., Steddy my hand. 1850 *New Monthly Mag.* Aug. 420 He..brought him again to the surface, turning him on his back..and steadying the floating body with one hand. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 26 The chronic drunkard, who takes a glass of spirits to 'steady the hand'. 1902 T. J. ALLDRIDGE *Sherbro* xx. 202 So strained do one's muscles become that one's legs shake violently, and it is impossible to steady them.

b. To support upon the feet, to keep from falling.

1848 *New Monthly Mag.* Oct. 159 Steadying her between us,..we handed her along as well as we could to the platform. 1851 MRS. BROWNING *Casa Guidi Wind.* I. 12 A little child, too, who not long had been By mother's finger steadied on his feet.

refl. 1853 MRS. GASKELL *Ruth* xxiv, They walked apart, he back to the inn,..she to steady herself along till she reached the little path. 1914 W. W. JACOBS *Night Watches* 113 Then, steadying herself by the wall, she tottered into the front room.

c. *intr.* for *refl.*

1849 FROUDE *Nemesis of Faith* 163 If he could only have been permitted some few months or years of further silent communing with himself, the reeling rocking body might have steadied into a more constant motion. 1910 *Encycl. Brit.* III. 271/1 The shot may be unsteady for some distance after leaving the muzzle, afterwards steadying down, like a spinning-top.

2. *trans.* To settle (one's mind, thoughts, etc.).

1530 PALSGR. 734/1, I love nat this waverynge mynde of yours, I wolde have you stedye your mynde upon somwhat. 1866 R. W. DALE *Disc. Spec. Occas.* i. 3 It is hard to steady our thoughts.

b. To bring (troops) to a steady condition.

1901 'LINESMAN' *Words by Eyewitness* viii. 169 The Wakkerstroom commando..stayed the demoralised..men,..and a formidable force was soon steadied on the already prepared position.

c. To make (hounds) steady *from hare*, etc. (Cf. STEADY *a.* 3 c.)

1901 *Westm. Gaz.* 4 Jan. 4/3 The eighteenth century was well advanced before hounds were finally steadied from deer or hare and trained to hunt fox.

3. *Naut.* To keep (a vessel) to the direct line of her course. Also *absol.* (From the word of command *Steady!* See STEADY *adv.* b.)

1627 CAPT. SMITH *Sea Gram.* ix. 37 Steady, that is, to keepe her right vpon that point you steare by. 1858 *Merc. Mar. Mag.* V. 82 The *Corsair*..put her helm to port, and then steadied. 1875 F. T. BUCKLAND *Log-Book* 348 The bow of the boat well steadied towards the advancing wave.

b. *intr.* for *refl.*

1798 COLERIDGE *Anc. Mariner* III. v, She doth not tack from side to side..Withouten wind, withouten tide She steddies with upright keel.

c. *To steady the helm*: to keep it in the position in which it has been put.

1875 BEDFORD *Sailor's Pocket Bk.* x. (ed. 2) 354 Steady the helm.

4. To cause to go at a less impetuous pace; to bring to a more regular rate of progress. Also *intr.* for *refl.*

1812 *Sporting Mag.* XXXIX. 267 All horses in their career require to be steadied by a pull. 1849 CUPPLES *Green Hand* xvi. (1856) 157 As the tide steadied, this said creek proved to be a smaller river. 1861 TROLLOPE *Orley F.* Lb. x. 75 He turned his horse, and without giving the beast time to steady himself he rammed him at the fence. 1892 RIDER HAGGARD *Nada* 210 See! he steadies his pace, he gathers himself together, and now he leaps!

5. To keep (a person) from irregularity of conduct; to make sober in habit. Also *intr.* for *refl.*, also with *down*.

1848 *Q. Rev.* Sept. 360 He breaks off..from folly;..he steadies down..and lives in usefulness and repute. 1861 PYCROFT *Agony Point* xviii. I. 283 He was being steadied by increasing responsibilities. 1877 *Chamb. Jrnl.* 21 Apr. 241/1 But though his wife was a quiet and respectable young woman, his marriage does not appear to have steadied him. 1878 SUSAN PHILLIPS *On Seaboard* 34 But she steadied when she married Bill.

6. *Comm.* intr. To become more free from fluctuation; also with *up*.

1913 *Times* 9 Aug. 19/5 Wheat..after fluctuating narrowly, but with a downward tendency, steadied up slightly near the end.

Hence **Stea·dying** *vbl. sb.* (also *concr.* and *attrib.*); **Stea·dying, Stea·died** *ppl. adjs.*

1736 HAWKSMOOR *Lond. Bridge* 12 For placing the Grand Pier in the Middle of London-Bridge;..I am of Opinion, he did it..To be a Steadying for the whole Machine. 1827 FARADAY *Chem. Manip.* xix. (1842) 525 Placing a block.. at such a distance..that the back of the blow-pipe may bear slightly against it. If these steadying-blocks be formed [etc.]. 1860 H. STUART *Seaman's Catech.* 7 See the..steadying lines fast. 1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib.* II. xi. 25 The sling is attached to the scroll or steadying-piece placed behind the guard. 1876 HARDY *Ethelberta* xvii. I. 176 My dear mother, you will be necessary as a steadying power—a flywheel, in short, to the concern. 1883 *Manch. Guardian* 22 Oct. 5/3 It has worked..with a steadying influence on the balance of political power. 1884 *St. James's Gaz.* 10 May 6/2 Look for instance at the gulls..: how those that are going into the picture, battle against the breeze, while those that come out sweep on with steadied wings. 1890 GLADSTONE in Morley *Life* x. iv. (1903) III. 422, I derived from him what I thought very valuable and steadying knowledge. 1905 *Daily News* 10 Oct. 2/4 Gold shares displayed some irregularity..but showed finally a more favourable disposition, which produced a steadying effect on markets generally.

Steady: see STITHY anvil.

Steadyish (ste·di,iʃ), *a.* [f. STEADY *a.* + -ISH.] Moderately or fairly steady.

1833 T. HOOK *Parson's Dau.* III. ii, He....stepped out with a steadyish step, but a fluttering heart.

Steak (stēk). Forms: 5 **steike, steyke, styke,** 5–6 **steke,** 6 **steake,** 7–8 **stake,** 7– **steak.** [a. ON. *steik* fem. (Sw. *stek*, Da. *steg*), cogn. w. *steikja* to roast on a spit, *stikna* to be roasted.]

1. A thick slice or strip of meat cut for roasting by grilling or frying, sometimes used in a pie or pudding; esp. a piece cut from the hind quarters

of the animal; when used without qualification = BEEF-STEAK; also with qualifying word indicating the part from which it is cut, as *rump, sirloin steak.*

14.. *King & Hermit* 373 in Hazlitt *E. P. P.* (1864) I. 27 Fyll this eft, and late us lyke, And between rost us a styke. *c* 1420 *Two Cookery Bks.* 3 To make stekys of venysoun or Beef. 1426 LYDG. *De Guil. Pilgr.* 12802 Now to flrye, now steykës make, And many other soteltes. *c* 1450 *Douce MS.* 55 xvij, Take feyre moton of the buttes & kutt it in maner of stekes. 1530 PALSGR. 275/2 Steke of flesshe, *charbonnee.* 1646 QUARLES *Sheph. Oracles* IV. 39 You can convert a dish Of Steakes to Roots. 1735 DYCHE & PARDON *Dict., Stake,* ..a small Slice of Meat to be broiled before or on the Fire, when a Person cannot or will not stay till a regular Joint is boiled or roasted, &c. 1747 MRS. GLASSE *Cookery* i. 6 To Broil Steaks...Take fine Rump Steaks about Half an Inch thick [etc.]. *Ibid.*, As to Mutton and Pork Steaks, you must keep them turning quick on the Gridiron. *Ibid.* ii. 16 Cut a Neck of Veal into Steaks. 1842 TENNYSON *Will Waterproof* 148 How out of place she makes The violet of a legend blow Among the chops and steaks! 1848 DICKENS *Dombey* iv, Uncle Sol and his nephew were speedily engaged on a fried sole with a prospect of steak to follow.

b. A thick slice (of cod, salmon, halibut, or hake).

1883 *Standard* 30 Nov. 2/2 'G. S. C.'s' Fishmonger charged 10*d.* per lb. for his best cod steaks.

c. *transf.* and *fig.* Now *rare* or *Obs.*

1607 MIDDLETON *Five Gallants* IV. v. F 4 b, *Bun.* You must not thinke to tread ath ground when you come there.—*Ca.* No, how then? *Bun.* Why vpon paths made of fig-frailes, & white blankets cut out in steakes. 1607 — *Phœnix* I. v. C 3 b, Is that your Lackey yonder, in the steakes of veluet. *a* 1616 BEAUM. & FL. *Maid in Mill* IV. ii, *Bust.* Safe? do you hear? take notice what plight you find me in, if there want but a collop or steak o' me, look to't. 1641 MILTON *Reform.* II. 44 Their Malvezzi that can cut Tacitus into slivers and steaks. 1694 MOTTEUX *Rabelais* V. xvi. 73 With this he lugg'd out his slashing Cutlas..to cut the cousening Varlets into Stakes.

2. Similative uses.

† **a.** *Sea steak.* (See quot.) *Obs.* [Cf. STICK *sb.*]

1798 *Rep. Herring Fisheries* in *Rep. Committees Ho. Comm.* (1803) X. 215/2 Sea Steaks, which mean Herrings in their first state of being barrelled.

b. *Two-eyed steak* slang: see quot. 1894.

1893 FARMER *Slang*, s.v. *Glasgow Magistrate*, Two-eye'd steak. 1894 *Daily News* 4 Sept. 5/2 Mr. George Augustus Sala writes to say 'a two-eyed steak' is a red herring or bloater cut open—otherwise a 'kippered' herring.

c. *Hamburg steak*: a dish composed of flat balls of meat like fillets, made of chopped lean beef, mixed with beaten eggs, chopped onions and seasoning, and fried.

1892 *Encycl. Cookery* I. 117/2 Fried Hamburg Steak served with Russian Sauce.

3. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *steak-meat, pie, piece, pudding*; in names of implements for beating raw steak to make it tender, as *steak-beater* (Simmonds *Dict. Trade* 1858), *-crusher, -masher* (Knight *Dict. Mech.* 1875); **steak broiler** (see quot.); **steak fish**, cod of a size suitable for cutting into steaks; **steak-tongs** (see quot.).

1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade*, **Steak-broiler*, a gridiron which catches the gravy from the steak. 1894 *Outing* (U.S.) XXIII. 404/1 *Steak fish are cod measuring twenty-two inches or more in length. 1901 *Westm. Gaz.* 27 Dec. 2/3 We bought..a pound of beef (it must be *steak meat) for our black eyes. 1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* II. 171 The plan of cutting the line between..the rump and aitch-bone in the hind quarter, lays open the *steak-pieces to better advantage. 1747 MRS. GLASSE *Cookery* vi. 69 A *Stake-Pudding. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade*, **Steak-tongs*, small tongs for turning chops or steaks when broiling on a gridiron.

Steak(e: see STEEK *v.*[1] and *v.*[2]

Steak raid. *Sc. Hist.* Also 8 **stike.** [repr. Gael. *staoig rathaid* (*staoig* collop, a. Eng. *steak* or ON. *steik*; *rathaid* genit. of *rathad* road.] (See quots.)

1775 L. SHAW *Hist. Moray* 219 MacIntosh, then [an. 1454] residing in the Island of Moy, sent to ask a Stike Raide, or Stike Criech, *i.e.* a Road Collup; a custom among the Highlanders, that when a party drove any spoil of cattle through a Gentleman's land, they should give him part of the spoil. 1814 SCOTT *Wav.* xxiii, I take what the people of old used to call 'a steakraid,' that is, a 'collop of the foray,' or, in plainer words, a portion of the robber's booty, paid by him to the Laird, or Chief, through whose grounds he drove his prey.

Steal (stīl), *sb.*[1] *Obs.* exc. *dial.* Forms: 1 **stela, steola, stæla,** 4–7, 9 **stele,** 5–6 **stile,** 5, 7 **steele,** 6 **style, steyle,** 6–7 **steile,** 6–9 **steale,** 7, 9 **steel,** 9 **steil, steyl,** 8–9 **stell, steal.** [OE. *stela* wk. masc., f. OTeut. **stel-* (cf. Gr. στελεός, *-όν* handle), ablaut-var. of **stal-* whence STALE *sb.*[2] (The OHG. *stil*, mod.G. *stiel*, handle, is prob. unconnected).

For the difficulty of distinguishing the forms of the synonymous *steal* and *stale*, see STALE *sb.*[2]]

1. The stalk or stem of a plant, leaf, flower or fruit.

c 700 *Epinal Gloss.* 215 *Caulem*, stela. *c* 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* I. 154 Mædere..bið ġefrætewud mid feower readum stælum [*v. r.* stelum, L. *cauliculis*]. 13.. *Liber regum Angliæ* (Auchinleck MS.) in Scott *Minstrelsy* (1810) II. 261 Dansimond ȝede and gadred frut, For sothe were plommes white, The steles he puld out everichon, Puisoun he dede therin anon, And sett the steles al ogen, That the gile schuld nought be sen. 13.. *Propr. Sanct.* (Vernon MS.) in *Archiv Stud. neu. Spr.* LXXXI. 83 Þis whete-corn..þat furst stod on a Iuytel stele. *c* 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* XII. 77 But forto hede hem gret, trede doun the stele [*Si capitatum facere volueris, ubi cæperit caulis prodire, proculca*]. 1562 TURNER *Herbal* II. 23 b, The floures..stand..vpon theyr stiles or foot stalkes. 1577 GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* I. 28 Rye...The stalke or steale thereof, is smaller then the Wheate stalke. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* XIII. vi. I. 389 The steles of the leaves grow contrarie one against the other. 1611 COTGR., *Queue*, ..the staulke, or steale, of fruits. 1639 HORN & ROB. *Gate Lang. Unl.* xi. § 119 A cherry hangeth by somewhat a long stalk, a bullace on somewhat a short stele. 1818 WILBRAHAM *Chesh. Gloss.*, *Stele*, or *Steal*, the stalk of a flower. 1865 BANKS *Prov. Words Wakefield* 68 A 'musheram steil'.

† **b.** ? The trunk of a tree. *Obs.*

c 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* III. 770 Ther is also graffyng in trees seer, As..asshes, quynce; & punyk, cleef his stile [*et punico, sed fisso ligno*].

† **2.** ? A supporting post or pillar. *Obs.*

c 1000 ÆLFRIC *De Novo Testamento* 20 (Gr.) Se cinestol stynt on þisum þrim stelum: *laboratores, bellatores, oratores.* 1547–8 in Swayne *Churchw. Acc. Sarum* (1896) 275 For breakynge downe of the steles of the ymages in the churche, xxij d.

† **3.** An upright side of a ladder; in later use, a rung or step of a ladder: = STALE *sb.*[2] I. *Obs.*

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* C. 513 Wymmen vnwytte þat wale ne coupe þat on hande fro þat oþer, for alle þis hyȝe worlde, Bitwene þe stele & þe stayre disserne noȝt cunen. 1395 HYLTON *Scala Perf.* (W. de W. 1494) II. xvii, A man that woll clymbe vpon a ladder hye & setteth his fote vpon the lowest stele. *c* 1400 *Rule St. Benet* (Prose) vii. 11 Þe stiȝe hauis tua tres...Þe stelis bytuixe bitakins oure gude dedis. *c* 1440 *York Myst.* XXXIV. 91 Sties..With stalworthe steeles .., Bothe some schorte and some lang. 1621 J. MAYER *Engl. Catech.* 364 Euery steale of the ladder [is] a part of the ladder.

4. The handle of a tool or utensil (e.g. a hammer, axe, pot, spoon).

13.. *Gaw. & Gr. Knt.* 2230 Þe gome..Sette þe stele to the stone, & stalked bysyde. 1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. XIX. 274 Lerned men a ladel bugge with a longe stele. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Miller's T.* 599 And caughte the kultour by the colde stele. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 473/2 Stele, or stert of a vesselle, *ansa.* 1498 in *Somerset Med. Wills* (1901) 365 A posnet with a stele and broken feete. *c* 1520 in Gutch *Collect. Cur.* (1781) II. 297 Item oone Sponne with a flat Steyle. 1570–80 *Fabric Rolls York Minster* (Surtees Soc.) 117 For mendinge the mason's towles in ther worke and for style to them, 4*s.* 3*d.* 1596 SPENSER *F. Q.* V. xii. 14 An huge Polaxe..Whose steale was yron studded, but not long. 1625 in Rymer *Fœdera* XVIII. 239/2 Item a Lookeing Glass sett in Goulde,..the Steele of Aggott. 1631 GOUGE *God's Arrows* I. § 25. 35 The Censer was..made..of gold.. with a steele or handle to hold it by. 1788 VALLANCEY *Voc. Bargie* in *Trans. R. Irish Acad.* II. 33 *Steil*, the handle of a thing. 1802 SIBBALD *Chron. Sc. P.* IV. Gloss. s.v., *Steils of a barrow or plough*, the handles. 1894 *Northumb. Gloss.* s.v., The tiller or handle of a rudder was formerly called a *steel* or 'start'.

Proverb. phr. 1402 HOCCLEVE *Lett. Cupid* 50 And whann this man the pot hath be the stele, and fully is in his possessyon. *c* 1412 — *De Reg. Princ.* 5247 Thei hadden bi þe stele Prosperite.

b. *esp.* A long straight handle, e.g. of a rake or broom.

c 1386, *c* 1440 Rake stele [see RAKE *sb.*[1] 4]. 1523–34 FITZHERB. *Husb.* § 24 If the rake be made of grene woode, the heed wyll not abyde vppon the stele. 1597 BP. HALL *Sat.* III. vii. 66 Like a broad shak-forke with a slender steale. 1765 *Lond. Chron.* 6 July 18 He then went into the pond with a rake-steale in his hand. 1796 [R. WALKER] *Plebeian Politics* (1801) 5 Hee took th' mop stele, an b'eet it eawt again. 1839 SIR G. C. LEWIS *Gloss. Heref., Stele*, the wooden handle of a rake or pitchfork. 1879 JEFFERIES *Wild Life in S. Co.* 70 The peculiar broad-headed nail which fastens the mop to the stout ashen 'steale' or handle.

† **c.** The shank of a candlestick; the long neck of a matrass or retort. *Obs.*

1585 HIGINS *Junius' Nomencl.* 245/2 *Candelabri scapus*, ..the shanke or stele of the candlesticke. 1594 PLAT *Jewell-ho.* III. 44 A bolt glasse, hauing a long steale.

d. The stem of a tobacco-pipe.

1672 JOSSELYN *New-Eng. Rarities* 72 The Roots are..of the bigness of the steel of a Tobacco Pipe. 1866 [R. HALLAM] *Wadsley Jack* xi. (E.D.D.), [He] shuv'd a poipe steil i't foire.

† **5.** The shaft or stem of an arrow or spear; = STALE *sb.*[2] 4. *Obs.*

1530 PALSGR. 275/2 Steale of a shaft, *fust. Ibid.* 548/2, I fether a shafte, I put fethers upon a steale, *jempenne.* 1545 ASCHAM *Toxoph.* II. (Arb.) 123 A shaft hath three principall partes, the stele, the fethers, and the head. 1609 HOLLAND *Amm. Marcell.* XXIII. iii. 223 An arrow made of a cane, betwixt the head and the steile. 1611 COTGR., *Fust*..the steale of a dart, or iauelin.

Steal (stīl), *sb.*[2] [f. STEAL *v.*]

1. The act, or an act, of stealing; a theft; the thing stolen or purloined. Chiefly *U.S. colloq.*

[In the first quot. the word is prob. of different formation; if not an error for or variant of STALE *sb.*[1], it may represent an OE. **stǽl* f. OTeut. **stǽl-* ablaut-var. of **stel-* STEAL *v.*]

c 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 79 Gif þe unfele man..teð him to unwrenches, to stele, oðer refloc, oðer swikedom [etc.]. 1825 JAMIESON, *Steal.* 1. A theft. *Aberd.* 2. The thing stolen. *Ibid.* 1890 *Sat. Rev.* 26 July 110/1 This is an audacious steal from 'In a Gondola'! 1891 KIPLING *Light that failed* iii, 'Yes, it is rather a cold-blooded steal,' said Torpenhow critically.

b. *U.S.* and *colonial.* A piece of dishonesty or fraud on a large scale; a corrupt or fraudulent transaction in politics.

1884 *Reading* (Pa.) *Morn. Herald* 15 Apr., When the makers of the constitution of the United States put in that apparently harmless clause giving Congress the power to legislate for the 'general welfare', they little thought what jobs and steals it would ultimately be made the excuse for.

1888 BRYCE *Amer. Commw.* III. lxiv. II. 471 Rings are the cause of both peculation and jobbery, although St. Louis has had no 'big steal'. 1891 *Weekly Empire* (Toronto) 3 Sept. 4/2 The late gigantic steal.

† **2.** An act of going furtively. *Obs. rare*—[1].

1590 *Tarlton's News Purgatory* 29 The vickar..forbad it openly: yet it was not so deepely inveighed against, but that diuerse Sundayes they would make a steale thither to breakefast.

3. a. *Golf.* (see quot. 1897.) **b.** *Base-ball.* A stolen run from one base to another.

1842 G. F. CARNEGIE *Golfiana* in *Golfiana Misc.* (1887) 81 A most disgusting steal. 1867 *Poems on Golf* 53 Though such long steals are now but rarely done. 1891 N. CRANE *Base-ball* iv. 36 The runner..must, therefore, look out for an exceptional chance to make the steal. 1897 *Encycl. Sport* I. 473/2 (Golf) *Steal*, a long putt holed unexpectedly.

Steal (stīl), *v.*[1] Forms: 1 (ȝe)**stelan,** 3 **stelin, steolin,** 3–4 **stelen,** 3–7 **stele,** 4 **stel(le, steln,** 4–5 **steele,** 4–6 *Sc.* **steile, steyle,** 5 **stelyn, steyl(l,** 5–6 *Sc.* **steill,** 6 **staile, steel, stell,** 6–7 **steale,** *Sc.* **steil,** 6– **steal.** *Pa. t.* 1–2 **stæl,** (*pl.* **stǽlon**), 3 *pl.* **stalen,** 3–4 **stel,** 3–6 **stal,** 4 *pl.* **stelyn, stolen,** 4–5 **staal(e,** 4–6 **stall,** 4–7 **stale,** 4–8 *Sc.* **staw,** 5 **staall(e, stele,** *Sc.* **sta, stawe,** 6 **stalle,** *Sc.* **staill,** 4– **stole.** Also (weak forms) 7, 9 *dial.* **stealed,** 6 **stolled,** 9 *dial.* **stoalt.** *Pa. pple.* 1 (ȝe)**stolen,** 2 **istolen,** 3–4 **i-stole,** 4 **stollyn, stoolen, ystole,** *Sc.* **stowine,** 4–5 **stoll(e, stolyn,** 4–7 **stollen, stolne,** 4–8 **stole, stoln,** 5 **ystolne,** *Sc.* **stone, stowyn,** 5–7 **stollin, stollyne, -yng,** *Sc.* **stoune, stowin, stowne,** 6 *north.* **stowen,** 8 *Sc.* **sta'en,** 8–9 *Sc.* and *dial.* **stown,** 3– **stolen.** Also (weak forms) 6 **stolled, stollyd,** 6, 9 *dial.* **stealed.** [A Com. Teut. strong verb: OE. *stelan*, pa. t. *stæl*, pl. *stǽlon*, pa. pple. *stolen*, corresponds to OFris. *stela*, OS. *stelan*, Du. *stelen*, OHG. *stelan* (MHG. *steln*, mod.G. *stehlen*), ON. *stela* (Sw. *stjäla*, Da. *stjæle*), Goth. *stilan*, f. OTeut. **stel-* (: *stal-* : *stǽl-* : *stul-*). Outside Teut. no certain cognates are known.

In the 14th c. the regular form *stal* of the pa. t. began to be superseded by *stole* (after the pa. pple.), which has been the accepted form since the 17th c. The Bible of 1611 has in two places *stale* (but mod. reprints *stole*), and in four places *stole.* The weak forms *stealed*, and the mixed forms *stolled, stoald*, appear in the 16th c. and in modern dialects, but have never been general.]

I. To take dishonestly or secretly.

1. *trans.* To take away dishonestly (portable property, cattle, etc., belonging to another); *esp.* to do this secretly or unobserved by the owner or the person in charge. Const. *from* (earlier *dative*).

The notion of secrecy (cf. STEALTH) seems to be part of the original meaning of the vb., which, however, is also employed in a generic sense applicable to open as well as secret acts of theft. In mod. use it takes the place of REAVE *v.*[1] 5, ROB *v.* 5, and of combinations like 'to steal and reave'.

c 1000 ÆLFRIC *Gen.* xliv. 8 Wenst þu, þæt we þines hlafordes gold oððe his seolfor stælon? *a* 1250 *Prov. Ælfred* B. 665 He wole stelin þin haite & keren, & listeliche onsuerren. *c* 1290 *Beket* 816 in *S. Eng. Leg.* 130 'Bel ami, þou hast', quad þe king: 'i-stole me muchel guod'. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 4936 Quils i sald þam o mi sede þai stall mi cupe a-wai to lede. 1338 R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (1725) 77 Þe Normans did it alle in þe guyse of theft, þe godes þerof stal. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xxiii. (*Seven Sleepers*) 311 Be lauty þu tellis ws now..quhare þat þu has stowine þis tresoure ore reft. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) VII. 65 Oon of þis secounde Richard his knyȝtes staal a spone, and leyde it to wedde among oþer þinges. 1400 in *Roy. & Hist. Lett. Hen. IV* (Rolls) 38 Thu knowlechest..that thy men hath stolle our horsen out of our parke. *c* 1450 *Mirk's Festial* 14 When þys Jew was comen home and fonde hys good ystolne, he was wod wroth wyt Saynt Nycholas. *a* 1500 *Bernard. de cura rei fam.* (E.E.T.S.) iii. 3 Now has a boy stone þe brydylle of his blonke hede, agayne he buske shulde. *a* 1500 *Katis Raving* III. 302 He is a theif rycht as he stald. 1546 J. HEYWOOD *Prov.* I. xi. (1867) 35 As dyd the pure penitent that stale a goose And stack downe a fether. 1595 W. W[ARNER] *Plautus' Menæcmi* v. (1779) 141 Even now thou deniedst that thou stolest it [the cloak] from me, and now thou bringest it home openly in my sight. 1677 in *12th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. v. 37 Some mischievous persons to dishonour my Lord Chancellour crept through a window of his house..and stole the Mace and the two purses. 1738 WESLEY *Wks.* (1872) I. 121 Both my books were stole. 1787 BURNS *Banks o' Doon* v, And my fause luver staw the rose, But left the thorn wi' me. 1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) V. 512 He who steals a little steals with the same wish as he who steals much. 1891 FARRAR *Darkn. & Dawn* xlviii Yes; I stole money from Philemon, my beloved master. 1909 J. G. FRAZER *Psyche's Task* iii. 23 Whoever steals sticks from the fence will have a swollen head.

† **b.** with *of* used partitively. *Obs.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 4904 He þat has yow don socur Stoln haue yee of his tresur. *c* 1400 *Rule St. Benet* 569 Of oþer mens we sal not steyl Ne couet here no wordly wele. 1483 CAXTON *Golden Leg.* 112/2 Judas..bare the purse..and stale of that whiche was gyuen to cryst.

c. with *away*, † *out*, † *over.*

c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xl. (*Ninian*) 448 Þefis..in þe circle þane but dout ȝed, for to steile þe catel owte. 1471 CAXTON *Recuyell* (Sommer) 440 How Cacus stale away the Oxen & kyen longyng to hercules. 1530 PALSGR. 734/2, I steale awaye a thing by thefte, *je emble.* 1565 JEWEL *Reply Harding* (1611) 370 The people of Israel, by his Commandement, stale away the Egyptians goods, without breach of the Law. 1576 J. DEE *Gen. & Rare Memor.* 23 *marg.*, Though of Late in the..Low Country Trublesome disorders,

Some Few (by Stealing ouer of vittayles, and other things, from this Common Wealth) haue made them selues priuatly rich. *c* 1610 *Women Saints* 48 They stale away the coffins and reliques. 1711 STEELE *Spect.* No. 78 ¶ 5 A Pickpocket, who during his kissing her stole away all his Money. 1883 TYLOR in *Encycl. Brit.* XV. 199/2 The sorcerer has other means of attacking his victim:.. he can steal away his kidney fat.

d. In wider sense: To take or appropriate dishonestly (anything belonging to another, whether material or immaterial).

c 1275 *Sinners Beware!* 153 in *O. E. Misc.* 77 In helle he may adrynke If he steleþ cristes theoþinge. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 3516 How yonger o þir tua þe blissing stal his broþer fra. *Ibid.* 3988, I stal him fra his benisun. 1340 *Ayenb.* 26 Þo byeþ ypocrites..steleþ þe dingnetes and þe bayleys. 1477 NORTON *Ord. Alch.* ii. in Ashm. (1652) 34 For when I had my warke well wrought, Such stale it away and left me nought. 1643 BAKER *Chron., Hen. VI*, 67 Affirming that deceitfully..he had stolne many Cities and places of importance belonging to the Crown of England. *a* 1704 T. BROWN *Dial. Dead, Belgic Hero* Wks. 1711 IV. 67 By which [treaty] he was obliged to vomit up numberless Provinces and Towns, which he had dishonourably stolen from their true Proprietors. 1824 SCOTT *St. Ronan's* xxvii, You not only steal my ideas,..but [etc.]..No man like you for stealing other men's inventions.

e. *esp.* To plagiarize; to pass off (another's work) as one's own; to 'borrow' improperly (words, expressions). Also *absol.*

1544 BETHAM *Precepts War* Ep. Ded. A vj b, All translatours ought to vse the vsuall termes of our englyshe tounge ..and not to breke..in to the boundes of the latyn tounge, to steale termes of it. 1590 *Tarlton's News Purgatory* 21 His Motto is stolne out of Tully, *Non solum pro nobis*. 1620 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Praise Hemp-seed* (1623) 36, I haue not stolne a Sillable, or Letter From any man, to make my booke seeme better. 1655 STANLEY *Hist. Philos., Xenophon* vii. (1687) 115/2 When he might have stollen the writings of Thucydides..he chose rather to publish them with honour. 1716 HEARNE *Collect.* (O.H.S.) V, 331 He steals unmercifully, and amongst the Rest from Naunton's. 1841 W. SPALDING *Italy & It. Isl.* I. 201 It was stolen as genius steals from genius, it was stolen as Phidias stole from Homer.

f. To derive obscurely and dishonourably. *nonce-use.*

1693 STEPNEY in *Dryden's Juvenal* VIII. (1697) 193 Who know not from what Corner of the Earth The obscure Wretch, who got you, stole his Birth.

2. *absol.* and *intr.* To commit or practise theft. † Const. *dat.* of person.

c 725 *Corpus Gloss.* C 859 *Conpilat*, stilith. *c* 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* John x. 10 Ðeaf ne cymes buta þæte þestele & eteð & losað. *a* 1000 *Laws of Æthelb.* ix, Ðif friχman freum stelþ. *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 31 Seoddan bisechen milce et þan ilke monne þe he haueð er istolen oðer oðer-weis wa idon. *a* 1200 *Vices & Virtues* 67 Ne sleih, ne ne stell, ne reaue. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xii. (*Matthias*) 246 Þo he wes thefe & ay wald steyle. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* II. 134 For every thief upon richesse Awaiteth forto robbe and stele. 1483 CAXTON *Golden Leg.* 286/3 Ther was a theef that ofte stale. 1568 GRAFTON *Chron.* II. 45 The Souldiour's stale, extorted, and spoyled vpon both parties. 1610 SHAKS, *Temp.* IV. i. 239 We steale by lyne and leuell. *c* 1660 in *10th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. IV. 100 About 80 torres.. doe continually robe and stele. 1684 BURNET tr. *More's Utopia* 16 By which every Man might..so be preserved from the fatal necessity of stealing. 1815 ELPHINSTONE *Acc. Caubul* (1842) II. 53 They plunder weak travellers, and steal from those who are too strong to be plundered. 1871 R. W. DALE *Commandm.* viii. 208 To give short weight or measure, is to steal.

3. *trans.* To take away by stratagem or by eluding observation (something that is in the possession or keeping of another).

c 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Matt. xxviii. 13 Cuoðað gie þætte ðegnas his on næht cuomun &..stelende weron hine. 13.. *Seuyn Sag.* (W.) 2652 He priked to the galewes with his fole, And fond that a thef was i-stole. *c* 1440 *Alphabet of Tales* 281 Þe aungell stale þe syluer copp at þai dranke of. *c* 1450 CAPGRAVE *St. Augustine* ix. 14 Þei pulled up sail & stale þe schip from hir. 1638 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* (ed. 2) 14 Lyons, (which usually steale Beefe out of the water when Ships are here). 1749 LAVINGTON *Enthus. Meth. & Papists* II. (1754) Pref. p. xxi, You have climbed up and stole the Sacred Fire from Heaven. 1830 TENNYSON *Ode to Mem.* 1 Thou who stealest fire From the fountains of the past.

b. with *away*; rarely with other advs., as † *down*, † *over*.

c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* ii. (*Paul*) 401 Men..stall a-way be mycht þe twa bodis of mekill mycht of petir and paule, fra quhare þai lay. 1470-85 MALORY *Arthur* IV. xiv. 137 She alyghte of her hors & thoughte for to stele awey Excalibur his swerd. 1535 W. STEWART *Cron. Scot.* (Rolls) II. 392 Quietlie awa the heid tha stall. *a* 1586 SIDNEY *Astroph. & Stella* xiv, Vpon whose breast a fiercer Gripe doth tire Then did on him who first stale down the fire. 1587 HIGGINS *Mirr. Mag., Nero* xii, (Letter) And bad them say, that his disciples stale his corps away. 1602 CHETTLE *Hoffmann* I. (1631) B 2 b, This is Hannce Hoffmans sonne, that stole downe his fathers Anotamy from the gallowes. 1629 FORD *Lover's Mel.* II. ii. E 4, Shall I fetch a Barbour to steale away his rough beard, whiles he sleepes? 1816 J. WILSON *City of Plague* II. iv. 160 Many look With tears of sorrow on a mortal creature Whom death may steal away.

c. Of an impersonal agent.

1844 A. B. WELBY *Poems* (1867) 60 The wind! that for no creature careth, Yet stealeth sweets from every thing. 1878 HUXLEY *Physiogr.* 72 The heat of the sun which quietly steals vapour from every exposed piece of water.

d. To carry off (young animals) from the dam.

13.. *K. Alis.* 1890 The tiger, that fynt y-stole Hire weolp from hire hole. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Knt.'s T.* 1769 Ther nas no Tygre..Whan þat hir whelpe is stole whan it is lite So cruel on the hunte as is Arcite. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XVIII. cxiii. (1495) 854 The female beer is moost cruell beest whanne her whelpys ben stollen. *c* 1480 HENRYSON *Mor. Fab., Fox & Wolf* 738 Fra the Gait he stall ane lytil Kid.

e. To carry off, abduct, kidnap (a person) secretly. Now *rare.*

c 1386 CHAUCER *Doctor's T.* 184 My seruant..Which fro myn hous was stole vp-on a nyght. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 13197 Þat onone in the night, þat noble he stale Fro the souerain hir Syre. *c* 1475 HENRYSON *Poems, Bludy Serk* 19 Stollin he hes the lady 3ing. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* I. x. 45 Him sall I sownd slepand staile away. 1560 PHAER *Æneid* X. (1562) F fiiij, Was it by my conduct, thaduoutrer stale the Sparta quene? 1592 *Soliman & Pers.* IV. ii. 72 O wicked Turque, for to steale her hence. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 26 Dec. 1690, Executed..for being an accomplice with Campbell..in stealing a young heiress. 1710 W. KING *Heathen Gods & Heroes* xv. (1722) 63 She [Proserpine] was stole away by Aidoneus. 1769 BLACKSTONE *Comm.* IV. xv. 208 Their forcible abduction and marriage; which is vulgarly called stealing an heiress. 1788 MRS. INCHBALD *Child Nat.* IV. ii. 51 Amanthis is lost, gone, stole from me! 1815 SCOTT *Guy M.* xi, The young Laird was stown away by a randy gipsy woman. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. III. v, Intent on stealing Majesty to Metz.

† **f.** To capture (a fortress, a military position) by surprise. *Obs.*

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 1778 Þay..Lyfte laddres ful longe & vpon lofte wonen, Stelen stylly þe toun er any steuen rysed. *c* 1450 *Brut* II. 424 This Erle of Gascoigne..come be nyght, and stale the toune of Pounteyse of the Frensshe men, and drof hem oute. 1623 BINGHAM *Xenophon* 73 It is better therefore to endeuour priuily, to steale, if we can, and to lay hold of..a peece of the void mountaine, than [etc.].

g. *dial.* To catch (wild-fowl). ? *Obs.*

1698 M. MARTIN *Voy. St. Kilda* (1749) 57 Some thousands being catched, or, as they term it, Stolen every March.

4. In various applications with immaterial obj.

a. To cause the loss of, take away (something valued, e.g. happiness, a person's life, etc.).

c 1374 CHAUCER *Troylus* III. 1451 O cruel day accusour of þe loye That nyght and loue han stole and faste y-wryen. 1570 *Sat. Poems Reform.* xxi. 18 Thay Renigats..Hes stollin our Regentis lyfe. 1631 MILTON *Sonn.* ii. 2 How soon hath Time the suttle theef of youth Stoln on his wing my three and twentith yeer! *a* 1721 PRIOR *Pastoral to Dr. Turner* 4 Why dost thou..steal from life the needful hours of rest? 1777 SIR W. JONES *Palace Fortune* 24 A sudden cloud his senses stole. 1793 BURNS *Bonie Jean* iii, Her heart was tint, her peace was stown. 1806 G. PINCKARD *Notes W. Indies* III. 269 Which..frequently causes us to steal another hour from the already too shortened day.

b. To take without permission (esp. a kiss). † Also (cf. sense 6) to give (a kiss) *to* a person.

1390 GOWER *Conf.* II. 348 If thou hast stolen eny cuss Or other thing which therto longeth. *a* 1400-50 *Wars Alex.* 5385 Scho..stelis to him cussis. 1584 LODGE *Forb. & Tris.* (Shaks. Soc.) 99 Her pleasant kisse where she might steale a touch. 1592 SHAKS. *Ven. & Ad.* 726 Lest she should steale a kisse and die forsworne. 1598 BASTARD *Chrestol.* II. ii. 28 And yet a second course he vndertakes. And steeling leaue for gayne which is so deare, A third and fourth aduenture yet he makes. *a* 1796 BURNS *Delia* 15 O let me steal one liquid kiss! 1838 *Times* 14 Apr. 7/3 Mr. John Cunningham..appeared to answer the charge of stealing a sly kiss from the lips of..the pretty wife of a young tonsor.

† **c.** To conceal improperly. (Cf. 5.) *Obs.*

1303 R. BRUNNE *Handl. Synne* 3691 No pryde ne may be stole, No yn shryfte be forhole.

† **d.** To gain by secret or unobtrusive means. *Obs.*

1426 AUDELAY *Poems* 53 Sum men ther ben that stelon heven, With penans, prayers, and poverte. 1605 CHAPMAN *Al Fooles* II. i. 371, 378 That hath stolne By his meere industry, and that by spurts Such qualities as no wit else can match With plodding at perfection every houre...I meane, besides his dycing and his wenching, He has stolne languages, th'Italian, Spanish, [etc.].

e. To take (time) by contrivance *from* its ordinary employment, sleep, etc. to devote to some other purpose.

1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 59 Be euer diligent.. whan thou hast done all thy dutyes..to stele tyme wherin thou mayst giue thy selfe all hoolly to prayer. 1712 SWIFT *Jrnl. to Stella* 18 Nov., This makes me sometimes steal a week from the exactness I used to write to MD. 1758 S. HAYWARD *Serm.* xvii. 515 They must frequently steal an hour to converse with him [Christ] whom they love. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* iii. I. 409 Both Chief Justice Hale and Lord Keeper Guildford stole some hours from the business of their courts to write on hydrostatics.

f. To gain possession of, or to entice away from another (a person's heart, affections, etc.).

1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 34 b, Wherby he steleth many a soule fro god. 1587 D. FENNER *Song of Songs* iv. 9 Sister, my spouse, my hart thou hast stole with one eye Myne hart thou hast stole, with one chayne which on thy necke doeth lye. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* III. i. 37 So did she steale his heedelesse hart away. 1596 SIR J. DAVIES *Orchestra* lxxxvi, And they who first Religion did ordaine, By dauncing first the peoples harts did steale. 1605 *1st Pt. Jeronimo* II. v. 40 in *Kyd's Wks.* (1901) 322 Intending, as it seemed, by that sly shift, To steale away her troth. 1667 FLAVEL *Saint Indeed* (1754) 146 Take heed..lest thy shop steal away thy heart from thy closet. *a* 1678 CHALKHILL *Thealma & Clearchus* 108 Or hath some worthier Love Stole your Affections? 1720 OZELL tr. *Vertot's Rom. Rep.* II. VIII. 28 His expression [was]..so moving, that he stole away the Assent of all that heard him. 1720 J. WELWOOD *Pref. to Rowe's Lucan* p. xxxix, The Muses had stoln away his heart from his infancy. *a* 1797 BURNS *Song*, '*Hark the Mavis*' v, Thou hast stown my very heart. 1835 JAMES *Gipsy* i, How many would steal from one the affection of one's mistress or wife!

† **g.** To adopt or 'borrow' (what belongs to another art). *Obs.*

1581 SIDNEY *Apol. Poetrie* (Arb.) 22 Both he [*sc.* Herodotus] and all the rest that followed him, either stole or vsurped of Poetrie, their passionate describing of passions [etc.].

5. To effect or accomplish clandestinely or unperceived; to get opportunity for (an action) by contrivance.

1625 BACON *Ess., Of Gl. Place* (Arb.) 289 Alwayes, when thou changest thine Opinion, or Course, professe it plainly and declare it..; And doe not thinke to steale it. 1681 H. MORE *Expos. Dan.* 53 He might spring up with them and amongst them, but in such an occult manner, and so unawares, as if he had stoln his growth behind them. 1682 N. O. *Boileau's Lutrin* IV. 31 What a mad coil you keep here, That people cannot steal a Nap, or sleep here? 1758 MRS. LENNOX *Henrietta* v. ix. (1761) II. 267, I will make you no apology for stealing a visit to her. 1826 HOOD *Recipe for Civility.* 86 When their force Can't take a town by open courage They steal an entry with its forage. 1857 J. HAMILTON *Less. Gt. Biog.* 264 He did not steal an interview [with Jesus], nor come, like Nicodemus, disguised.

† **b.** With complementary adj. or adv. *To steal oneself drunk*: to get drunk secretly. *To steal down* (Sc.): to cause to fall, ruin, by secret means.

1570 *Sat. Poems Reform.* xvii. 101 Thy poysoun did doun steill Not only him quhom wofully thow woundit; Bot [etc.]. 1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* II. VII. 22 Machabie deuyses to cal Bancho and Fleanch..till a banket, that be sik a trayne quyetlie he may steil thame doune. 1670 T. BROOKS *Wks.* (1867) VI. 67 So accordingly he stole himself drunk. 1719 LONDON & WISE *Compl. Gard.* 41 The difference of hot or cold Summers does steal more considerably forward, or set back the same Fruits, of one and the same Climate and Season.

6. To direct (a look), breathe (a sigh) furtively.

a 1586 SIDNEY *Arcadia* I. (Sommer) 62 b, As I..stale a looke on her. 1697 DRYDEN *Alexander's Feast* 87 And, now and then, a Sigh he stole. 1711 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 106 ¶ 1, I have observed them stealing a Sight of me over an Hedge. 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* xxxi, She stole a glance at them. 1866 G. MACDONALD *Ann. Q. Neighb.* iii. (1878) 33 He stole a shy pleased look at me.

† **d.** *To steal a marriage*: to get married secretly. *Obs.* [Cf. Gr. γάμον κλέπτειν.]

c 1450 *Merlin* ii. 363 This mariage wolde he haue stole hadde no Merlin I-be. *a* 1562 *Child-Marr.* 189 They did steale a mariage without banes askinge. 1711 STEELE *Spect.* No. 133 ¶ 7 A story I had heard of his intending to steal a marriage without the privity of us his intimate friends. 1731-8 SWIFT *Pol. Conversat.* 130 You have stolen a Wedding it seems,..How does your Lady unknown? 1782 MISS BURNEY *Cecilia* x. vi, 'Your daughter..has made a little change in her situation, which she was anxious you should hear from myself.' 'Ha! ha! stolen a match upon you I warrant!' cried the facetious Mr. Hobson. *a* 1797 H. WALPOLE *Mem. Reign Geo. III* (1845) III. x. 326 He.. had stolen a marriage with an idiot sister of the Spanish Charles Townshend. *c* 1820 S. ROGERS *Italy, Marguerite de Tours* 45 They stole a match and fled.

e. *To steal a march*: in military sense, to succeed in moving troops without the knowledge of the enemy; hence *gen.* to get a secret advantage over a rival or opponent. Const. *on, upon,* † *of.*

1716 *Addr. Edinb.* 27 Mar. in *Lond. Gaz.* No. 5422/2 We saw him..steal a March for our Preservation. 1740 CIBBER *Apol.* (1756) I. 143 After we had stolen some few days march upon them. 1771 SMOLLETT *Humph. Cl.* 6 May (1815) 73 She yesterday wanted to steal a march of poor Liddy. 1834 MARRYAT *P. Simple* xxiii, We must be off early to-morrow, while these good people are in bed, and steal a long march upon them. 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xv. III. 519 Those who had intended to gain the victory by stealing a march now disclaimed that intention. 1856 READE *Never too Late* xxii, Happening to awake earlier than usual, he stole a march on his nurses, and..walked out and tottered into the jail. 1885 'F. ANSTEY' *Tinted Venus* 100 He shan't have the chance: we'll steal a march on him this time.

† **f.** To get a hasty glance at. *Obs.*

1731 FIELDING *Letter Writers* I. ii. 7 Will you go steal an Act or two of the new Tragedy? *Rak.* Not I—I go to no Tragedy.

g. In various games, esp. Cricket, Golf, and Baseball: see quots. Also *intr.* (in Baseball), esp. in *to steal home.*

1857 HUGHES *Tom Brown* II. viii, He has stolen three byes in the first ten minutes. 1874 CHADWICK *Base Ball Man.* 47 If he [the batsman] steal home on the catcher or pitcher. 1881 FORGAN *Golfer's Handbk.* 35 *Steal*, to hole an unlikely 'put' from a distance. 1882 *Daily Tel.* 24 June, He next took Ramsay round to the leg boundary, and shortly stole a single off him also. 1891 N. CRANE *Baseball* iv. 32 His antics in trying to deceive the fielders and steal a base excite great amusement among the ..spectators. 1895 MANSON *Sporting Dict., Stealing a Base.* When a base runner makes his next base by leading off and then running while the ball is being thrown by the pitcher to the catcher. 1895 *Times* 19 Feb. 11/4 The Englishmen were able to steal many runs. 1897 *Encycl. Sport* I. 247/1 (Cricket) *Steal runs*, to get a run for a hit, when no run seems reasonably possible.

6. To place, move, or convey stealthily. Now somewhat *rare.* † *To steal on*: to put on (one's clothes, etc.) hastily, so as not to be observed (*obs.*). *To steal* (some one or something) *in*: to smuggle in, procure secret entrance for.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 3872 Bot þar [Laban] did a trecheri, For þan [Jacob] had may rachell wedd, Lia he stall vn-til his bed. *c* 1555 J. BRADFORD in Coverdale *Godly Lett. Martyrs* (1564) 470 Pray Walshe to steale you in, as I hope he will doe. *a* 1620 WEBSTER *Appius & Virg.* IV. i, Thy violent Lust shall like the biting of the invenom'd Aspick, steal thee to hell. 1633 G. HERBERT *Temple, Love-unknown* 43, I bath'd it often, ev'n with holy bloud, Which at a board, while many drunk base wine, A friend did steal into my cup for good. 1648 J. BEAUMONT *Psyche* VI. xlvi, Know'st thou why He gathers up his Tail's ashamed Train, And

steals it round about his scaly thigh? 1649 DAVENANT *Love & Hon.* IV. i. 65 Steale on this funerall habit. 1654–66 EARL ORRERY *Parthen.* (1676) 641, I stole the Letter into Monyma's hand. *a* 1685 R. NORTH *Autobiog.* (1887) 3 But there was another use made of this botle, for our Mother would steal into it slices of Rubarb, and..this way, it was stole upon us, and not tainted with aversions. 1710 [BEDFORD] *Vind. Ch. Eng.* 279 The Words..were..stol'n into the..Article. *a* 1712 FOUNTAINHALL *Decis.* (1759) I. 292 The Merchants did undersel them, by stealing in English cloth that was prohibit. 1712 STEELE *Spectator* No. 354 ¶ 3 The Prentice speaks his Disrespect by an extended Finger, and the Porter by stealing out his Tongue. 1718 PRIOR *Solomon* II. 428, I..from beneath his Head, at dawning Day, With softest Care have stol'n my Arm away. *c* 1730 RAMSAY *For Sake Somebody* iii, I'll..steal on linens fair and clean. 1752 H. WALPOLE *Let. to Mann* 28 Oct., [Lord Coventry] coursed his wife round the table, on suspecting that she had stolen on a little red, seized her, scrubbed it off by force with a napkin, and then told her, that [etc.]. 1760–72 H. BROOKE *Fool of Qual.* (1809) III. 17 He stole a bill for 160 *l.* into his hand, saying..there is what I owe you. 1779 JOHNSON *L. P., Savage* III. 367 Nor [did he] ever read his verses without stealing his eyes from the page, to discover, in the faces of his audience, how they were affected. 1792 S. ROGERS *Pleas. Mem.* II. 10 Whose constant vigils chase the chilling damp Oblivion steals upon her vestal lamp. 1817 MOORE *Lalla Rookh* (ed. 2) 165 If the sweet hours of intercourse so imprudently allowed them should have stolen into his heart the same fatal fascination as into hers. 1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* xxx, The hag..now unclosed her hand, stole it away from the weapon, and suffered it to fall by her side. 1821 CLARE *Vill. Minstr.* I. 109 Slily steal thy bonnet on,.. And wander out with me. 1824 T. JEFFERSON *Writ.* (1830) IV. 397 It may amuse you, to show when, and by what means, they stole this law in upon us. 1883 D. C. MURRAY *Joseph's Coat* xxxiv, It was noticed that the silent two had stolen each a hand towards the other's and thus..they sat handed.

† **b.** To fire (a gun) stealthily. *Obs.*

1794 NELSON in *Sotheby's Catal.* (1900) 26 Feb. 118 Except one general discharge and a gun now and then stole at us, we have had no opposition.

c. Of a hen: To make (her nest) in a concealed place. Also *US.* of a ewe: To bring forth (lambs) out of season.

1854 *Poultry Chron.* I. 436 Turkey hens generally steal their nests, but do not readily forsake them, unless scared. 1859 ALLEN *New Amer. Farm Bk.* (1883) 417 If young ewes have stolen lambs, they should be taken away from them immediately after yeaning. 1881 YOUNG *Ev. Man his own Mechanic* § 979, 466 When laying every hen likes extreme privacy. This is why fowls when at liberty 'steal' their nests as it is called.

7. *techn.* To omit or suppress (some out of a usual number of parts of a structure). **a.** *Naut.* (See quot.) **b.** *Netting.* (? Implied in STOLEN *ppl. a.*)

1711 W. SUTHERLAND *Shipbuild. Assist.* 47 It's therefore very customary in many Ships to drop, or steal, as they term it, some Strakes short of the Stern.

II. To go secretly or quietly.

† **8.** *refl.* To withdraw oneself secretly or quietly. Chiefly with *away. Obs. rare.*

[So ON. *stela-sk.* For the development of meaning cf. F. *dérober* to steal, *se dérober* to hide oneself.]

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 3918 Laban o leue þam nicked nai, And þai bi night þam stal a way. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Pard T.* 282 For which as soone as it myghte be He stal hym hoom agayn to his contree. *c* 1489 CAXTON *Sonnes of Aymon* xvi. 381 Whan the spye had wel vnderstonde all the conclucion, he stele hymself fro the company. *Ibid.* xxviii. 590 Alas, ye stale awaye yourself by nyghte. 1725 POPE *Odyss.* XI. 165 So peaceful shalt thou end thy blissful days, And steal thy self from life, by slow decays.

9. *intr.* To depart or withdraw secretly or surreptitiously from a place. Chiefly with adv., as *away*, † *forth, off, out,* or const. *from, out of.*

1154 *O. E. Chron.* an. 1140, & te æorl stæl ut & ferde efter Rodbert eorl of Gloucestre. *c* 1205 LAY. 15019 Heo swiþe stille stelen ut of buruwe. *c* 1290 *Magdalene* 540 in *S. E. Leg.* 477 Marie..stal a-wey from hire kunne. 1487 *Cely Papers* (Camden) 171 Diverse of them stelyth dayly aweye and goyth to Myddelborow. 1530 PALSGR. 734/2, I steale awaye, I convaye my selfe prively out of syght, or out of company. 1535 W. STEWART *Cron. Scot.* (Rolls) II. 178 How Wortigerne for Dreid of Hungest staw in the Walis. 1561 NORTON & SACKV. *Gorboduc* v, ii. 40 And other sort..Stale home by silence of the secret night. *a* 1578 LINDESAY (Pitscottie) *Chron. Scot.* (S.T.S.) I. 294 The Earle of Angus was stowin quyitlie out of his ludging. 1580 STOW *Chron.* 533 (an. 1399), But when they saw the King came not, they stealed away, and left the Earle of Salisburie in manner alone. 1596 in *Spalding Club Misc.* I. 86 Thow was apprehendit .. steilling furth of the said..Adam Mairis yard, at twa houris in the morning, greyn growand bear. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* II. 57 The Lord Deputie..received advertisement..that Tyrone..was stolne out of Mounster with sixe hundred in his company. 1639 FULLER *Holy War* III. xvi. (1640) 135 Other Captains secretly stole home. 1667 DRYDEN *Ind. Emperor* IV. iv, The gods are good; I'le leave her to their care, Steal from my Post, and in the Plunder share. 1704 CIBBER *Careless Husb.* v. 47 My Lady Graveairs had an Eye upon me, as I stole off. 1761 HUME *Hist. Eng.* xxvii. II. 131 Many of them had stolen from the camp, and retired homewards. *a* 1774 GOLDSM. tr. *Scarron's Com. Romance* (1775) II. 251 She had stole out in order to acquaint me with this. 1786 MME. D'ARBLAY *Diary* 18 July, The sub-governess stole from her charges, and came to the window. 1867 MORRIS *Jason* II. 583 But made him think of some beast from his lair Stolen forth at the beginning of the night. 1869 TOZER *Highl. Turkey* II. 267 Maria stole off to the honey. 1881 JOWETT *Thucyd.* I. 232 The inhabitants had stolen away and taken up a position on the top of the hills.

b. with advb. accusative, *to steal one's way* († in early use = to steal away). Now *rare.*

c 1385 CHAUCER *L. G. W.* 2174 He..as a traytour stal his wey. 1432–50 tr. *Higden* (Rolls) VII. 101 That Edricus seenge the Danes to be inclynede, stale his weye from the hoste. *c* 1500 *Three Kings' Sons* 152 Some stale their wey, and lefte the places allone. 1847 MRS. A. KERR tr. *Ranke's Hist. Servia* 182 During the night, he, with his Momkes, stole his way into the midst of their camp. 1884 W. COLLINS *I say No* ix, Steal your way into that poor little fool's heart.

c. Hunting. *To steal away.* Of a hunted animal: To leave its lair unperceived and gain a start of the pursuers.

c 1369 CHAUCER *Dethe Blaunche* 381 And so, at the laste, This hert Rused and staale away Fro alle the houndes a prevy way. *c* 1400 *Master of Game* (MS. Digby 182) xxxiii, To se if þe deer þat is herbowrede wolde sterte and steele away or þe lymer meved hym. 1711 BUDGELL *Spect.* No. 116 ¶ 5 That 'twas a Wonder they had not lost all their Sport, for want of the silent Gentleman's crying Stole Away. 1756 FOOTE *Engl. fr. Paris* II. Wks. 1799 I. 111 Hola, Sir Toby, Stole away! 1818 SCOTT *Rob Roy* vi, I..soon heard, far behind, the 'hey whoop! stole away! stole away!' of my baffled pursuers. 1872 T. PEARCE *Edstone Papers* ii. 19 Just then..there was a rustle amongst the long grass, and a fine dog fox..stole away.

† **d.** *fig.* of things. *Obs.* (Distinct from II.)

a 1366 CHAUCER *Rom. Rose* 371 The tyme that..steleth from vs so priuely. *c* 1412 HOCCLEVE *De Reg. Princ.* 5248 But it [prosperity] a-way gan stele Whan þei him drough to profyte singuler.

10. To go or come secretly or stealthily; to walk or creep softly so as to avoid observation.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 12524 Iosep..sent him to þe yerd.. For to gedir þam sum cale; And iesus still him efter stal. *c* 1374 CHAUCER *Troylus* I. 81 And to þe Grekes ost ful pryely He stal a noon. *c* 1475 HENRYSON *Orpheus* 142 And Orpheus atour his [*sc.* Cerberus'] wame in stall, And nethir mare he went. 1544 BETHAM *Precepts War* II. vii. K ij, Yf he steale into the campe, by walles or ditches, dryuen by no great feare, he is worthye the same punyshment. 1577–87 HARRISON *England* II. xiii. (1877) 246 Such of Belgie as stale over hither from the maine. *a* 1586 SIDNEY *Arcadia* III. i. (1912) 356 [He] stale up into Pamelaes chamber. 1589 GREENE *Menaphon* (Arb.) 39 Affection is like the Snayle, which stealeth to the top of the lance by minutes. 1596 RALEIGH *Discov. Guiana* 4 The same evening there stale also abord vs in a small Canoa two Indians. 1640 SUCKLING *Ballade upon Wedding* 44 Her feet beneath her Petticoat, Like little mice stole in and out. 1695 BLACKMORE *Pr. Arthur* II. 947 The timorous Hare steals from the Brakes. 1710 SWIFT *Jrnl. to Stella* 2 Sept., I have stole here again to finish this letter. 1778 MISS BURNEY *Evelina* (1791) I. xxxiii. 168 Madame Duval..stole softly down stairs, desiring me to follow her. 1799 CAMPBELL *Pleas. Hope* I. 325 On Erie's banks, where tigers steal along. 1833 HT. MARTINEAU *Manch. Strike* iii. 33 They steal to one another's houses when they think we are asleep. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. III. iii, At nightfall, President Lamoignon steals over to the Controller's. 1852 MRS. STOWE *Uncle Tom's C.* xxvii, There were..soft whisperings and foot-falls in the chamber, as one after another stole in, to look at the dead. 1859 FITZGERALD *Omar* xlii, And lately,..Came stealing through the Dusk an Angel Shape Bearing a Vessel on his Shoulder. 1877 BLACK *Green Past.* ii, The Lady Sylvia..dressed and stole noiselessly down the stairs.

b. *fig.*

1592 GREENE *Upst. Courtier* C 4, Such vpstarts..wil at last steale by degrees into some credit by their double diligence. 1599 SANDYS *Europæ Spec.* Pref. (1632) 3 Yet, nevertheless, since that time; there hath beene another Impression of the same stolne into the world. 1679 C. NESSE *Antichrist* 213 It stole into the world..unsensibly, and at unawares. 1763 CHURCHILL *Night* 188 Calm, independent, let me steal thro' life. 1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) III. 342 The child of which he is the father, if it steals into life.

† **c.** With *to* adv. *Obs.*

c 1250 *Owl & Night.* 1432 An go to him bi daies lihte þat er stal to bi þeostre nihte. *c* 1290 *Barnabas* 98 in *S. Eng. Leg.* 29 Ake cristine Men þat weren bi-side stelen to bi nizte.

d. To come stealthily *on* or *upon* a person for the purpose of attack or injury.

13.. *King Alis.* (Laud MS.) 3989 For þou hast demed þi self here þoo þou..stale byhynden on oure kyng. *c* 1369 CHAUCER *Dethe Blaunche* 654 At the chesse..She staale on me and toke my fers. 1393 LANGL. *P. Pl. C.* VII. 106 'Ich am wratthe', quaþ þat wye, 'wol gladliche smyte Boþe with ston and with staf, and stele vp-on myn enemy.' 1399 — *R. Redeles* III. 21 Þo schrewed wormes, þat steleth on þe stedis to stynge hem to deth. *c* 1450 *Brut* II. 379 And aftir come þer tydynges..þat þere was a new Batayle of Frenschmen ordeyned, redy to stele on hem, and comyn towarde hym. 1508 STANBRIDGE *Vulgaria* (W. de W.) B iij b, He stale stelynge vpon me, *Adortus est me.* 1530 PALSGR. 734/2, I steale upon one, I come prively upon hym, *je viens a lemblée.* 1577 GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* III. (1586) 156 b, The catte..stealing suddenly and swiftly vpon the mouse. 1598 T. ROGERS *Celest. Elegies* C 4 b in *Lamport Garl.* (Roxb.), Death stole vppon her with his Eben darte. 1680 *Debates Ho. Commons* (1681) 115, I believe it was only to quiet our Thoughts, while Popery steals on upon us. 1684 *Contempl. St. Man* I. vii. (1699) 77 Death steals treacherously upon us, when we least look for it. 1704 ROWE *Ulysses* II. i. 569 The God of Sleep Insensible and soft, had stole upon me. 1788 BURNS *Bonie Moor-hen* Chorus, Tak' some on the wing, and some as they spring, But cannily steal on a bonie moor-hen. 1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* xxix, With the stealthy step..of the cat that steals on her prey.

11. Of things. **a.** Of time (with *on, away*): to come or go unobserved.

1590 SHAKS. *Com. Err.* IV. i. 52 The houre steales on, I pray you sir dispatch. 1592 KYD *Span. Trag.* III. xi. 46 Then time steales on, And steales, and steales. 1600 E. BLOUNT tr. *Conestaggio* 19 But in the meane space time steales away. 1773 HAN. MORE *Search Happ.* ii. 143 No plan e'er mark'd the duties of the day, Which stole in tasteless apathy away. 1885 'MRS. ALEXANDER' *At Bay* xi, As years stole on, and he didn't care to move about much.

***b.** Of a condition, esp. sleep, insensibility, infirmities, etc.: To come insensibly *over* or *on* a person.

14.. *Pol. Rel. & L. Poems* (1903) 279 3if any sterynge on me stele. 1562 WINJET *Cert. Tractates* iii. Wks. (S.T.S.) I. 27 That be the proces of tyme vnthankful for3etfulnes steil not vpon us. 1660 DRYDEN *Astræa Redux* 129 So on us stole our blessed change; while we Th' effect did feel but scarce the manner see. 1807–8 IRVING *Salmag.* (1824) 332 Infirmities had stolen upon him. 1812 CRABBE *Tales* xix. 166 He began to feel Some self-approval on his bosom steal. 1827–54 DE QUINCEY *Last. Days Kant* Wks. III. 123 The infirmities of age now began to steal upon Kant. 1834 *Life Adam Clarke* IV. 101 Mr. Clarke..began to feel a sense of drowsiness steal over him. 1847 C. BRONTE *Jane Eyre* XXVIII, A kind of pleasant stupor was stealing over me.

c. Of a stream, tears, a body of vapour, a ship, etc.: To glide, or move gently and almost imperceptibly. Also with adv., *along, on, out.*

1626 BACON *Sylva* § 919 The Vapour of Char-Coale..is the more dangerous, because it commeth without any Ill Smell; But stealeth on by little and little. *a* 1678 CHALKHILL *Thealma & Cl.* 93 Anon she drops a tear That stole along her cheeks. 1709 POPE *Ess. Crit.* 379 Now sighs steal out, and tears begin to flow. 1737 [S. BERINGTON] *G. de Lucca's Mem.* (1738) 62 With Tears stealing down his Cheeks. 1786 BURNS *Vision* I. xiv, Auld, hermit Aire staw thro' his woods, On to the shore. 1849 HELPS *Friends in C.* II. ii. (1854) I. 283 Look at that ungainly puppy trying to catch the thistledown as it steals up the hill. 1874 LADY BARKER *Station Life N. Zealand* xvii. 135 The faint wreath of smoke stealing up through the calm air. 1896 'H. S. MERRIMAN' *Flotsam* i. 1 The Hooghly was stealing past the quiet bungalow built on the bank. 1898 BRIDGES *Hymn Nat.* Poems (1912) 404 The white ships swim, And steal to havens far.

d. Of sound, fragrance, light: To become gradually perceptible. Const. *on, upon* (the sense).

1634 MILTON *Comus* 557 At last a soft and solemn breathing sound Rose like a steam of rich distill'd Perfumes, And stole upon the Air, that even Silence Was took e're she was ware. 1777 POTTER *Æschylus, Prometh. Chain'd* 12 Ah me! what sound, what softly-breathing odour Steals on my sense? 1785 BURNS *Winter Nt.* 36 When on my ear this plaintive strain, Slow, solemn, stole. *c* 1790 W. L. BOWLES *Sonn.*, '*As one who long*', With such delight, o'er all my heart I feel, Sweet Hope! thy fragrance pure and healing incense steal. 1822 LAMB *Elia* Ser. I. *Some old Actors,* You could see the first dawn of an idea stealing slowly over his countenance.

† **e.** To insinuate itself, find acceptance in disguise. Also, to gain influence by imperceptible degrees. Const. *on. Obs.*

1582 SIDNEY *Apol. Poetrie* (Arb.) 35 Whose pretty Allegories, stealing vnder the formall tales of Beastes, make many..begin to heare the sound of vertue. 1648 J. BEAUMONT *Psyche* XX. cclxxxvi, The Art Of charming Sanctity can steal upon The coldest bosom. *a* 1661 FULLER *Worthies, Brecknock* (1662) 23 With a smooth stream..his matter by a lawful and laudable felony, did steal secretly into the hearts of his hearers. 1805 EMILY CLARK *Banks of Douro* I. 259 The society of Montague;..insensibly stole on her esteem.

† **f.** To operate by insensible degrees *upon. Obs.*

1639 G. PLATTES *Discov. Subterr. Treas.* 19 When you use them [*sc.* the new pots] set them in the fire at the first kindling: and so let the Fire steale upon them till they be red hot.

† **g.** *To steal off*: to diverge in an inconspicuous way. *nonce-use.*

1793 [EARL DUNDONALD] *Descr. Est. Culross* 30 From the ..main lay of the Coal..a leader of Coal steals off as it were.

† **h.** To develop by insensible degrees *from*; to pass or change insensibly *into, to* something else.

1660 DRYDEN *Astræa Redux* 127 As wise Artists mix their Colours so That by degrees they from each other go, Black steals unheeded from the neighb'ring white. *a* 1759 COLLINS *Epist. to Hanmer* 114 Chaste and subdued the modest lights decay, Steal into shades, and mildly melt away. 1821 CLARE *Vill. Minstr.* II. 34 Buds to blossoms softly steal. 1826 DISRAELI *V. Grey* v. iii, A bright sun-shiny afternoon was stealing into twilight.

i. Of an event, a proposal: To come *upon* a person without attracting attention.

1798 SOPHIA LEE *Canterb. T., Young Lady's T.* II. 336 Day had unobserved stolen upon them. 1819 J. MARSHALL *Constit. Opin.* (1839) 161 The bill..did not steal upon an unsuspecting legislature.

III. 12. The verb-stem in combination: **steal-clothes, steal-coat** (see quots.); † **steal-counter,** ? a gamester who cheats by stealing counters (in quot. *fig.*); † **steal-placard,** one who has stolen a 'placard' or begging licence; † **steal-truth,** a heresy.

1809 *Edin. Rev.* XIV. 143 '*Wadds.*' This youthful amusement..is called, on the Borders, by the very appropriate name of *Scotch and English.* In the south of England, it has the blunter appellation of **steal-clothes.* [1825 BROCKETT *N. C. Gloss., Stealy-clothes,* or *Watch-webs,* a game.] 1816 *Gentl. Mag.* July 36/1 In Lancashire we have a game, for which I can procure no other name than *Steal Coat. 1588 *Hay any Work* 6 That olde *stealecounter masse priest, John O Glossester. 1601 DEACON & WALKER *Answ. Darel* 79 You are now (like a steale-counter) thus couertly creeping vnto their supposed dispossessions by prayer and fasting. 1592 NASHE *Saffron-Walden* N 1 b, Pigmey Dicke.. is such another Venerian *steale Placard as Iohn was. 1628 H. LYNDE *Via tuta* 48 By which publique notice, the *steale-truth was discouered.

Steal (stēl), *v.*[2] Now *dial.* [f. STEAL *sb.*[1]] *trans.* To furnish with a handle.

1543 *Fabric Rolls York Minster* (Surtees) 356 Payd to viij masons, every of them, for stelyng of ther ger, 12*d.* To ij prentec' for ther stelyng sylver, 2*s.* 1570–80 *Ibid.* 117 For mendinge and styling four chesells. 1573 in *Rep. MSS.*

Ld. Middleton (Hist. MSS. Comm.) 434 For steeling an axe for John Dune..xij d. 1580 *Nottingham Rec.* IV. 194 For mendyng and stelyng of a pycke iij s. vjd.

Steal, obs. form of STALL *sb.*[1]

Stealable (stī·läb'l), *a.* [f. STEAL *v.*[1] + -ABLE.] That can be stolen.

1827 *Hone's Every-day Bk.* II. 814 The fruit..is not yet stealable..by boys. 1885 *Church Times* 3 July 511/2 If all the stealable property of the Church were stolen.

Stealage (stī·lĕdʒ). [f. STEAL *v.*[1] + -AGE.] a. Losses due to stealing. b. *nonce-use.* The right of stealing.

1865 S. HUGHES *Gas-works* (ed. 2) 249 Mr. Croll..estimated that one-sixth of the whole gas sent out would be absorbed by leakage and stealage. 1884 H. GEORGE *Soc. Probl.* ii. 25 [A man] who would administer the government of these municipalities for fifty per cent. of present waste and stealage! 1888 J. A. MORGAN *Bankside Shaks.* I. Introd. 16 Did Shakespeare sell the stealage as well the stage-right of his plays?

Stealed, *a.* [f. STEAL *sb.*[1] + -ED 2.] Having a 'steal' or handle. Only in *long-stealed.*

1530 PALSGR. 756/1, I throw a darte or any longe stealed weapen, *Je darde.*

† **Stealed,** *ppl. a. Obs. rare.* [f. STEAL *v.*[1] + -ED[1].] = STOLEN.

1577 GRANGE *Golden Aphrod.* etc. R j, I stryde the streetes both long and wyde, A stealed sight of hir to haue. 1883 C. STEWART *David Blythe* 22 Wattie..saw his ain stealed beast quietly grazing close at hand.

Stealer[1] (stī·lə1). [f. STEAL *v.*[1] + -ER.] One who steals; a thief; now only, one who steals something specified.

1500-20 DUNBAR *Poems* xxvii. 11 Off stomok steillaris and clayth takkaris, A graceless garisoun. 1508 *Reg. Privy Seal Scot.* I. 238/1 He dredis that the stelaris of it [a seal] hes fenzeit and maid fals lettrez..on his behalff. 1538 ELYOT *Dict., Plagiarius,*..also a stealer of bokes. 1547-64 BALDWIN *Mor. Philos.* 60 Cut off stealers hands. Hang up theeves and robbers. 1583 BABINGTON *Commandm.* 338 The cause why the stealer stole was want of labouring in his calling. 1585 HIGINS *Junius' Nomencl.* 528/1 *Mango,*..a stealer away of mens children or seruants that selleth and buyeth them. 1649 J. OWEN *Serm. H. of C., Of Toleration* 44 If so, why doe Adulterers unmolested, behold the violent death of Stealers. 1769 COOK *1st Voy.* I. xv. in Hawkesw. *Voy.* (1773) II. 157 A Chief..whose father's name was Pahairedo, the stealer of boats. 1829 BENTHAM *Justice & Cod. Petit.* 29 The authority, from which the power was thus filched, was..that of some judge or judges, co-ordinate with that of the stealers. 1878 B. TAYLOR *Pr. Deukalion* I. v. 45 Older than thou, the stealer of the fire!

b. slang. *The ten stealers*: the fingers.

[1603 SHAKS. *Ham.* III. ii. 349 By these pickers and stealers.] *a* 1639 R. DAVENPORT *K. John & Matilda* III. i, Since they have neither eaten bit nor drunk drop, nor by these ten stealers shall not, till I heare againe from my Lord.

Stealer[2] (stī·lə1). *Naut.* Also steeler. [The same word as prec.: cf. STEAL *v.*[1] 7.] (See quots.)

1805 *Shipwright's Vade-M.* 201 It is therefore customary to work, in the bow of such ships, a steeler next under the wale. 1815 *Falconer's Dict. Marine* (ed. Burney), *Steeler,* in ship-building, the foremost or aftmost plank in a strake, which is dropped short of the stem or stern-post. 1852 FINCHAM *Ship Build. u.* (ed. 3) 26 These planks are called steelers. 1874 THEARLE *Nav. Archit.* 50 The last plank of the strake which does not extend right forward or aft, as the case may be, is termed a 'stealer'.

Stealewurðe, variant of STALWORTH *a.*

Stealing (stī·liŋ), *vbl. sb.* [-ING[1].] The action of STEAL *v.*[1] in its various senses. Also *Comb.* with advs., as *stealing-forth, -in.*

13.. *Seuyn Sages* (W.) 1275 Thef of steling wil nowt blinne Til he honge bi the chinne. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 238 By rape, pykyng, estorcyon, sacrilege, or ony other maner of stelyng. 1568 GRAFTON *Chron.* II. 170 By the strength of those Castelles, they were kept from their olde accustomed rauynes and stealings. 1581 A. HALL *Iliad* IX. 165 No groome perceiues my stealing forth, nor tooke thereof regarde. 1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* I. 97 Be steiling and reif, thay raper seik thair meit. 1612 BRINSLEY *Lud. Lit.* 155 For preuenting of stealing, or any helpe by the Latine booke..you may both cause them to write in your presence, and also make choise of such places which they know not where to find. 1669 BOYLE *Contn. New Exp.* I. 171 But the Stealing in of any Air, before the water was let in, is mentioned but as a Suspicion. 1690 LOCKE *Hum. Und.* II. xxvii [xxviii] § 16 Thus the taking from another what is his, without his Knowledge or Allowance, is properly called Stealing. 1887 BROWNING *Parleyings, B. de Mandeville* v. 37 If, at first stealing-forth of life in stalk And leaflet-promise, quick His spud should baulk Evil from budding foliage, bearing fruit.

b. *concr.* in *plural.* Gains made by stealing.

1839 MARRYAT *Diary Amer.* Ser. I. I. 195, I asked how much his office was worth, and his answer was six hundred dollars, besides stealings.

Stealing (stī·liŋ), *ppl. a.* [f. STEAL *v.*[1] + -ING 2.] That steals or moves stealthily; that eludes observation; that glides or creeps softly along; that comes on imperceptibly. Early use chiefly in *stealing step, pace* (very common in the 16th c.; now *rare*).

1574 HIGGINS *Mirr. Mag., Q. Cordila* XXXV, Eke nearer still to mee with stealing steps shee drewe. 1576 GASCOIGNE *Steele Gl.* (Arb.) 69 Nor heare the trampling of his stealing steppes. 1617 HIERON *Penance Sin* XXVII. Wks. 1619 II. 380 Sinne..maketh boldnesse and security in a stealing and dangerous manner to encrease. 1629 GAULE *Holy Madn.* 324 With a leaning Looke,..stealing Pace, squeaking Voice. 1633 P. FLETCHER *Purple Isl.* VI. lxxvii, But see, the stealing night with softly pace,..creeps up the East. 1748 COLLINS *Ode Death Thomson* 2 In yonder grave a Druid lies Where slowly winds the stealing wave! 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* XXXIII, He turned to the light, and proceeded with the same stealing steps towards Emily's apartment. 1813 BYRON *Corsair* I. vii, They watch his glance with many a stealing look. 1853 R. S. SURTEES *Sponge's Sp. Tour* (1893) 60 His [a horse's] easy stealing way of going, compared to the bounding elasticity of Hercules. 1892 *Welsh Rev.* I. 767, I..followed her silently until we stood face to face in the stealing darkness. 1897 W. J. COURTHOPE *Longest Reign* iii, Not..for Thee hath stealing Age, Sovereign Lady,..Dimmed the glory of Thy golden prime.

b. *Comb.*, as *stealing-wise* adv.; **stealing-strake** *Naut.* = STEALER[2].

1632 J. HAYWARD tr. *Biondi's Eromena* 2 Seeing the fierce beast make stealing-wise towards him. 1830 HEDDERWICK *Mar. Archit.* 120 *Steeling-strake* or *plank,* one that does not run all the way to the stem or stern-post.

Hence **Stea·lingly** *adv.*, stealthily, furtively, so as to elude observation. (Very common in the 16th and 17th c.; now *rare.*)

13.. *K. Alis.* 5080 Many of his men..Agein kyng Alisaunder hestes, Stelendelich dronken of this lake. *c* 1400 *Ragman Roll* 62 in Hazl. *E. P. P.* (1864) I. 72 And now cometh age, foo to your beauté, And stelyngly it wastyth stownde-mele. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 473/2 Stelyngly, or theeffy, *furtive, latrocinaliter.* 1502 *Ord. Crysten Men* (W. de W. 1506) IV. ix. 191 Whan ony clerke receyueth holy ordres stelyngely. 1596 R. LINCHE] *Diella* (1877) 81 And stealingly there glides with heauy pace A Riuolet of Pearle along her face. 1603 DEKKER etc. *Patient Grissill* IV. i. 1719 Enter Grissill, stealingly. 1630 LENNARD tr. *Charron's Wisd.* III. iii. § 7 (1670) 360 And in this case likewise he must proceed as it were stealingly, sweetly and slowly, by little and little, and almost insensibly. 1693 W. BATES *Serm.* viii. 278 A Disease neglected at first, that stealingly slips into the Habit of the Body,..becomes at last uncontroulable and incurable. *a* 1843 SOUTHEY in *Fraser's Mag.* (1868) LXXVII. 731 The means wherewith he would stealingly attempt this change.

Stealth (stelθ). Forms: 3-4 stalðe, 4-6 stelthe, 4-7 stelth, 5 stalth, 6 stilth, 6- stealth. [Early ME. *stalðe, stelthe*; the fluctuation of vowel points to an OE. **stælþ*, f. OTeut. **stæl-* ablaut-var. of **stel-*: see STEAL *v.* and -TH. Cf. ON. *stulþ-r,* Icel. *stuld-r,* theft, STOUTH, from the weak-grade of the same root.]

† **1.** The action or practice of stealing or taking secretly and wrongfully; theft. *Obs.*

c 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 1767 Stalðe ic for-sake. 1357 *Lay Folks Catech.* T. 513 Als be sacrilege, or be symonie, Stalthe, falshede, or oker. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* II. 346 With Covoitise yit I finde A Servant of the same kinde, Which Stelthe is hote. *c* 1412 HOCCLEVE *De Reg. Princ.* 1809 And stelthes [*printed* stelthes] guerdon is swich paiëment, þat neuer thynke I his wages disserue. 1563 *Homilies* II. *Rogat. Wk.* II. 240 The man in his nede, woulde not relieue his want by stealth. 1599 R. GREENHAM *Short Form Catech.* 416 Thou shalt not steale. How many euils are herein forbidden? 1 First, all those outward acts are forbidden, whereby stealth is committed...all inward stealth of the heart is forbidden. 1607 SHAKS. *Timon* III. iv. 27. 1608 WILLET *Hexapla Exod.* 407 The stealing of men..that kind of stealth. 1638 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* (ed. 2) 163 Safeguarded from sand and stealth, by a defensive wall. 1639 *Act in Arch. Maryland* (1883) I. 71 Stealth of ones self which is the unlawfull departure of a Servant out of service or out of the Colony. 1693 LUTTRELL *Brief Rel.* (1857) III. 159 This day was published their majesties proclamation for the preventing of the stealth and imbezilment of their majesties stores of war. 1781 COWPER *Expost.* 371 A despot big with pow'r obtain'd by wealth, And that obtain'd by rapine and by stealth.

¶ Contrasted with *force* or *violence. Obs.*

1651 HOBBES *Leviath.* II. xxvii. 157 If..he take the food by force, or stealth, which he cannot obtaine for mony, [etc.]. 1779 JOHNSON *L. P., Pope* Wks. 1787 IV. 76 Lord Petre cut off a lock of Mrs. Arabella Fermor's hair. This, whether stealth or violence, was so much resented [etc.].

† **b.** An instance of stealing; a theft. *Obs.*

1402 HOCCLEVE *Lett. Cupid* 362 And thus was mannes helthe beraft him by the fende ryght in a stelthe. 1444 *Rolls of Parlt.* V. 107/1 No such stelthe nor felony was comitted. *a* 1550 *Vox Populi Vox Dei* iii. in *Skelton's Wks.* (1843) II. 403 Vnto a comonwealthe This ys a very stealthe. 1596 SPENSER *State Irel.* Wks. (Globe) 620/1 A stealth being made by a rebell,..the stoilen goodes are conveyed to some husbandman. 1613 T. CAMPION *Relat. Ld. Knowles' Entert.* C 3, [Prometheus] These heau'n borne Starres, Who by my stealth are become Sublunars. 1648 *Art. Peace Irel.* xxxii. in *Milton's Wks.* (1851) IV. 540 To hear and determin all Murders, Manslaughters, Rapes, Stealths,..and other Offences. 1694 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 3038/3 Whereas Dermot Leary, and divers others.., have..committed several Murders, Burglaries, Robberies, and Stealths. 1702 SEDLEY *Ant. & Cl.* IV. iv, Lovers, like misers, cannot bear the stealth Of the least trifle from their endless wealth. *a* 1704 T. BROWN *Sat. on Quack* Wks. 1730 I. 63 I'th' face of day, thou robb'st us of our health, And yet art never question'd for the stealth. 1797 SHERIDAN *Pizarro* II. i, A mother's love for her sweet babe is not a stealth from the dear father's store.

† **c.** Plagiarism. *Obs.*

a 1568 ASCHAM *Scholem.* II. (Arb.) 122 For the matter, it is whole Aristotles..both Catulus and Crassus do oft and pleasantly lay that stelth to Antonius charge. 1627 HAKEWILL *Apol.* (1630) 29 One collected his [Virgil's] faults, another his stealths, as Donatus in his life hath observed. 1637 SUCKLING *Acc. Relig.* Fragm. Aurea (1648) 107 For all before were but little stealths from Moses works. 1653 MILTON *Hirelings* Wks. 1851 V. 367 The unskilful and immethodical teaching of thir Pastor, teaching..at random.. as his ease or fansie, and oft-times as his stealth guides him.

† **d.** Cunning thievishness. *Obs.*

1605 SHAKS. *Lear* III. iv. 96 Hog in sloth, Foxe in stealth, Wolfe in greedinesse.

† **2.** Something stolen; something to steal; plunder. *Obs.*

1426 LYDG. *De Guil. Pilgr.* 13252 Forth with hym hys stelthe he bar. 1560 PHAER *Æneid* IX. (1562) C iiij, Aye watching lyke some Wolfe, yᵗ..about mens deiries houling trotts at midnight seking stealth. 1596 SPENSER *State Irel.* Wks. (Globe) 620/1 By which meanes the theeves are greatly encouraged to steale, and theyr mayntayners emboldened to receave theyr stealths. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* II. 9 That none of the Countrey receive any stelths from Neighbour-Countreys. 1634 MILTON *Comus* 503, I came not here..to pursue the stealth Of pilfering Woolf. 1638 MAYNE *Lucian* (1664) 344 Next morning he was apprehended with his stealths about him. 1655 FULLER *Ch. Hist.* VII. 419 More were concealed by parties not detectable, so cunningly they carried their stealths.

fig. 1567 PAINTER *Pal. Pleas.* II. 407 Ye I say, that pursue the secrete stelths of loue.

† **3.** The action of stealing or going furtively into or out of a place; the action of stealing or gliding along unperceived. *Obs.*

1590 SHAKS. *Mids. N.* III. ii. 310, I told him of your stealth vnto this wood. *c* 1600 — *Sonn.* lxxvii, Thou by thy dyals shady stealth maist know, Times theeuish progress to eternitie. 1601 — *Twel. N.* I. v. 316 Methinkes I feele this youths perfections With an inuisible, and subtle stealth To creepe in at mine eyes. 1614 RALEGH *Hist. World* II. xxviii. § 6. 650 By this secret subterrane vault Zedechias making his stealth, recouered..the plaines or deserts of Iericho. 1638 JUNIUS *Paint. Ancients* 281 A quiet and insensible induction, deceiving the eye with a strange stealth of change. 1788 T. WARTON *On H. M. Birth-day* 51 And many a fane he rear'd, that still sublime In massy pomp has mock'd the stealth of time.

† **b.** A stealing or coming by surprise *upon* a person. *Obs.*

1611 SPEED *Hist. Gt. Brit.* IX. xii. (1623) 698 Skulking surprises and vnder-hand stealthes. 1614 RALEGH *Hist. World* I. viii. § 13. 166 So doe I thinke, that neither the Sabæi on the Red Sea, nor those toward the Persian Sea, could by any meanes execute the stealth vpon Job.

† **4.** Furtive or underhand action; an act accomplished by eluding observation or discovery. *Obs.*

1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 4057 Vor hii ne mowe noȝt segge þat wiþ treson oþer stalþe it were ydo. 1603 SHAKS. *Meas. for M.* I. ii. 158 The stealth of our most mutuall entertainment With Character too grosse, is writ on Iuliet. 1605 — *Lear* I. ii. 11 Base, Base? Who in the lustie stealth of Nature, take More composition, and fierce qualitie, Then [etc.]. 1615 DANIEL *Hymen's Tri.* I. i, And hence it grew that gaue us both our fears, That made our Meeting Stealth, our Parting Tears. 1621 G. SANDYS *Ovid's Met.* I. (1626) 16 Iuno..For her mist Husband searcheth Heauen: as one, To whom his stealths so often had beene knowne. 1668 P. M. *Charleton's Ephes. & Cimm. Matrons* II. 23 No eye can..be able to trace them in their amorous stealths. 1797 COLERIDGE *Christabel* I. 120 But we will move as if in stealth.

5. *By stealth.* † **a.** With reference to taking or appropriating: By an act of theft; secretly and without right or permission. Also, in wider sense, with reference to wrongful or forbidden acts generally. *Obs.* **b.** In modern use, the phrase has ordinarily no conscious association with *steal* vb. or sense 1 of the sb., and has the neutral sense: Secretly, clandestinely.

1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 63 [He] hath his pourpos ofte achieved ..of worldes welthe, And takth it, as who seith, be stelthe. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XVIII. lv. (1495) 814 The dranes ..vneth they ben suffryd to ete of ony, but as moche as they ete it is by stelthe. 1454 *Rolls of Parlt.* V. 274/2 Grete habundaunce of Welles as welle by stalth as by licence is uttred into the parties beyond the See. 1480 *Cov. Leet Bk.* (1908) 459 [They] ffysshen be nyght & day the seid pole..be stalth. *c* 1530 *Crt. of Love* 1362 And who come late, he pressed in by stelth. 1592 *Arden of Feversham* I. 138 And, Mosbie, thou that comes to me by stelth, Shalt [etc.]. 1611 BIBLE 2 *Sam.* xix. 3 The people gate them by stealth that day into the citie, as people beeing ashamed steale away when they flee in battell. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* III. 134 The English bring into France..sheep skinnes, and by stealth other Hides, forbidden to be exported. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg., Georg.* IV. 352 Lurking Lizards often lodge, by Stealth, Within the Suburbs, and purloin their Wealth. 1738 POPE *Epil. Sat.* I. 136 Let humble Allen..Do good by stealth, and blush to find it Fame. 1762-71 H. WALPOLE *Vertue's Anecd. Paint.* (1786) V. 261 He had been privately engaged to draw by stealth the portrait of old Mr. Thomas Baker. 1775 HARRIS *Philos. Arrangem.* Wks. (1841) 248 Marcus Antoninus..still persisted in..committing his thoughts to writing, during moments gained by stealth from the hurry of courts and campaigns. 1784 COWPER *Task* VI. 995 So life glides smoothly and by stealth away. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* vii. II. 220 Congregations which had hitherto met only by stealth and in darkness. 1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) I. 135 He did enter by stealth into the common workshop of Athene and Hephaestus.

6. *Comb.* (nonce-words) as *stealth-like* adj., *stealth-wise* adv., *stealth-won* adj.

1800 COLERIDGE *Death Wallenstein* I. xii, What import these silent nods and gestures Which stealthwise thou exchangest with her? 1807 WORDSW. *White Doe* VII. 1650 A little while it stayed;..And then advanced with stealth-like pace. 1893 F. THOMPSON *Poems* 3 As lovers, banished from their lady's face,..Fondly adore Some stealth-won cast attire she wore, A kerchief, or a glove.

Stealthful (stelθfŭl), *a. poet.* [f. STEALTH + -FUL.] Stealthy. Hence **Stea·lthfully** *adv.*; † **Stea·lthfulness.** *Obs. rare*—⁰.

c 1624 CHAPMAN *Hymn to Hermes* 378 And no such stealthfull ill Her light hath showne me. 1796 J. BIDLAKE in *New Ann. Reg.* 155 Almeria..wip'd in haste, a stealthful tear unseen. 1822 MILMAN *Martyr of Antioch* 26 Evening darkens round my stealthful steps. 1828 WEBSTER, *Stealthfully, Stealthfulness.* *a* 1838 A. LAING in D. H. Edwards

Edzell & Glenesk (1908) 59 Till Peathaugh, stealthfully, Hamstrung McGregor unawares.

Stealthily (ste·lθili), *adv.* [f. STEALTHY *a.* + -LY 2.] In a stealthy manner.

1806-31 A. KNOX *Rem.* (1844) I. 59 They effected this, without doubt, stealthily, and to appearance, by the minutest alteration. 1837 W. IRVING *Capt. Bonneville* I. 261 The enemy crept stealthily along under cover of the river bank. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* xxiv, They went upstairs quietly, Mr. Bullock accompanying them stealthily on his creaking shoes. 1890 BRIDGES *Lond. Snow* Poems (1912) 263 Stealthily and perpetually settling and loosely lying.

Comb. 1896 KANE *Arctic Expl.* II. vi. 74 He appeared troubled, and had several stealthily-whispered interviews with John. 1897 F. T. BULLEN *Cruise 'Cachalot'* xxv. (1901) 333, I was watching a few stealthily-gliding barracouta sneaking about over the plainly visible bottom.

Stealthy (ste·lθi), *a.* [f. STEALTH + -Y.] Of movement or action: Taking place by stealth; calculated to elude observation; proceeding by imperceptible degrees; furtive. Of persons or things: Moving or acting by stealth or secretly; furtive in movement or action; stealing on by imperceptible degrees.

1605 SHAKS. *Macb.* II. i. 54 Wither'd Murder..With his stealthy pace..towards his designe Moues like a Ghost. 1728-46 THOMSON *Spring* 689 With stealthy wing..Amid a neighbouring bush they silent drop. 1841 DICKENS *Barn. Rudge* lxxi, There was much stealthy going in and out. 1856 FROUDE *Hist. Eng.* II. 240 The stealthy evil crept on irresistibly. 1865 KINGSLEY *Herew.* xiii, Casting stealthy glances at the fen, to see if the mysterious mare was still there. 1876 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* V. xxiv. 461 A series of gradual and stealthy encroachments on the rights of the people. 1907 J. H. PATTERSON *Man-Eaters of Tsavo* xv. 169, I saw a jackal come up on its trail..not even rustling a fallen leaf in its stealthy advance on the poor little antelope. 1910 *Solitary Summer* 76 Turning my head to watch a stealthy cat.

Comb. 1839-52 BAILEY *Festus* 320 The dashing dog, and stealthy-stepping cat.

Hence **Stea·lthiness.**

1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* III. I. vii, Dumouriez..started from brief slumber at Sedan,..with stealthiness, with promptitude, audacity. 1869 SPURGEON *Treas. Dav.* Ps. x. 9 I. 126 The cunning of the lion, and of the huntsman, as well as the stealthiness of the robber.

Steam (stīm), *sb.* Forms: 1 stéam, stém, stiem, 4 stem, 4-5 steme, 5-7 steeme, 5-8 steem, 6-7 steame, 7- steam. [OE. *stéam* = WFris. *steam*, Du. *stoom*:—OTeut. type **staumo-z*, of obscure origin.]

I. 1. A vapour or fume given out by a substance when heated or burned.

In this and following senses the word was freq. used in the pl. down to *c* 1800.

c 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* II. 284 Man pintreow bærne to gledum..and onfo ðam steme. 1660 BOYLE *New Exp. Phys.-Mech.* xi. 80 The stifling steams of the Coals. 1668 CULPEPPER & COLE *Barthol. Anat.* II. ix. 119 The steam of newly whited Walls. 1669 BEALE in *Phil. Trans.* IV. 1113 The steams of the Mercury in some hot Summer. 1704 F. FULLER *Méd. Gymn.* (1705) 165 The Steam of their inflammable Parts is of Use. 1794 MCPHAIL *Treat. Cucumber* 92 The heat of the cucumber bed began to rise; a little air was given to it to let the steam pass off. 1845 G. MILLS *Treat. Cucumber* (ed. 2) 29 The steam which arose from the well-prepared manure of the bed. 1859 TENNYSON *Enid* 1451 And all the hall was dim with steam of flesh.

b. *spec.* An odorous exhalation or fume.

a 1000 *Panther* 45 (Gr.) Æfter þære stefne stenc ut cymeð of þam wongstede, wynsumra steam swettra & swiþra swæcca zehwylcum. 1589 GREENE *Menaphon* (Arb.) 87 Thy breath is like the steeme of apple pies. 1608 MIDDLETON *Five Gallants* IV. viii, A fellow of several scents and steams. 1616 B. JONSON *Devil an Ass* v. vii, Fough! what a steeme of brimstone Is here? 1644 JESSOP *Angel of Ephesus* 27, I will not cause the Reader to stop his nose at those putrid steemes which would arise if that puddle were stirred. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* XI. 442 His Offring soon propitious Fire from Heav'n Consum'd with nimble glance, and grateful steame. 1781 COWPER *Conversat.* 262 [Tobacco] Thy thirst-creating steams. 1827 T. HAMILTON *Cyril Thornton* (1845) 75 The savoury steams of roast and stew,..pervaded the mansion. 1835 WILLIS *Pencillings* I. 61 The steams of sulphur, as we approached the summit, were all but intolerable.

fig. 1599 B. JONSON *Cynthia's Rev.* I. iii, I do neither see, nor feele, nor taste, nor savour the least steame, or fume of a reason, that should invite this foolish fastidious Nymph, so peevishly to abandon me.

†**2.** A vapour or exhalation produced as an 'excrement' of the body, e.g. hot breath, perspiration, the infectious effluvium of a disease. *Obs.*

c 1000 ÆLFRIC *Hom.* I. 86 Him stod stincende steam of ðam muðe. 1303 R. BRUNNE *Handl. Synne* 2526 Þe steme stode oute of hys mouþ brennand. *c* 1330 — *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 1818 Oft aboute ilk oþer þrew, þe stem stod vp, so þey blew. *c* 1400 *Song Roland* 836 Kene knyghtis cry and crossen helmes,..out flow the stemes. 1592 SHAKS. *Ven. & Ad.* 63 Panting he lies, and breatheth in her face. She feedeth on the steame, as on a pray. 1670 COVEL in *Early Voy. Levant* (Hakl. Soc.) 116 These [insects] never stir out of their holes and lurking-places till the steam and perspiration of your bodyes invite them. 1722 DE FOE *Plague* (1884) 160 The Effluvia or Infectious Steams of Bodies infected. 1731 SWIFT *Strephon & Chloe* 11 No humours gross, or frowzy steams,..Could from her taintless body flow.

†**b.** A noxious vapour generated in the digestive system; the 'fume' supposed to ascend to the brain as a result of drinking alcoholic liquor. *Obs.*

c 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* II. 226 Fleo þa mettas þa þe him dylsta & forbærnunga & stiem on Innan wyrcen. 1602 MARSTON *Antonio's Rev.* v. iii, Pieros lips reake steame of wine. 1605 *Trag. End Sir J. Fites* (1860) 12 She avoyded further perill of death, which hee in his steame of wine, had bin likely to have offered unto her.

c. Close and hot air arising from persons crowded together. *arch.*

1609 HOLLAND *Amm. Marcell.* XXIX. ii. 352 When as neither the common goales..nor privat mens houses could now hold the number of them that were committed to ward, as being thronged and thrust close together with a hot steame among them. 1625 BACON *Ess., Masques*, Some Sweet Odours, suddenly comming forth, without any drops falling, are, in such a Company, as there is Steame and Heate, Things of great Pleasure and Refreshment. 1793 T. BEDDOES *Observ. Calculus*, etc. 141 The steams abounding in [a crowded] room..may be injurious to consumptive persons. 1850 TENNYSON *In Mem.* lxxxix. 8 The dust and din and steam of town.

†**d.** *fig. Obs.*

1602 MARSTON *Antonio's Rev.* III. v, Looke how I smoake in blood, reeking the steame Of foming vengeance. 1672 OWEN *Disc. Evang. Love* i. 19 For the most part they [the outcries on account of schism] are nothing but the steam of Interest and Party. 1677 GILPIN *Dæmonol.* (1867) 46 Sometimes he reaps a large harvest where he had sown little, and from one temptation not only wounds the soul of him that committed it, but endeavours to diffuse the venom and poisonous steam of it to the infection of others.

†**3.** A ray or beam of light; a flame. *Obs.*

c 1300 *Havelok* 591 Of hise mouth it stod a stem, Als it were a sunnebem. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 473/2 Steem, or lowe of fyre, *flamma.*

4. An exhalation or watery vapour rising from the earth or sea.

1612 DRAYTON *Poly-olb.* vii. 104 It is your foggie steame The powerfull Sunne exhales. 1695 WOODWARD *Nat. Hist. Earth* (1702) 209 The Steams and Damps of Mines are detrimental to Health. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* II. v. 183 The equability and duration of the tropical heat contribute to impregnate the air with a multitude of steams and vapours from the soil and water. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) I. 371 The assemblage of the rays darting upon the water.. will cause it to rise in a light thin steam above the surface. 1859 TENNYSON *Guinev.* 593 She saw, Wet with the mists and smitten by the lights, The Dragon of the great Pendragonship Blaze, making all the night a steam of fire. 1906 'BARONESS ORCZY' *Son of People* xvi. (1908) 175 [The sun's] noonday rays drew a warm steam from the wet earth.

†**5.** Used as a scientific term for: Matter in the state of gas or vapour; any impalpable emanation or effluvium. *Obs.*

1662 BOYLE *Def. Doctr. Spring of Air* III. xviii. 81 Glass..is impervious to the subtilest steams that are. 1670 BEALE in *Phil. Trans.* V. 1154 The changes of Heat and Cold, with other unknown Steames. 1684 R. WALLER *Nat. Exper.* 18 The Liquor..will fall down..like Dew separated from that fine steame of Air contained in the froth. *a* 1704 LOCKE *Elem. Nat. Phil.* vi. (1754) 21 Besides the springy particles of pure air, the atmosphere is made up of several steams or minute particles of several sorts, rising from the earth and the waters, and floating in the air.

6. The vapour into which water is converted when heated. In popular language, applied to the visible vapour which floats in the air in the form of a white cloud or mist, and which consists of minute globules or vesicles of liquid water suspended in a mixture of gaseous water and air. (Also sometimes applied to the vapour arising from other liquids when heated.) In modern scientific and technical language, applied only to water in the form of an invisible gas.

The invisible 'steam', in the modern scientific sense, is, when its temperature is lowered, converted into the white vapour called 'steam' in popular language, and this under continued cooling, becomes 'water' in the liquid form.

Dry steam, in Steam-engine working, steam containing no suspended vesicles of water: opposed to *wet steam.*

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 473/2 Steem [*Winch. MS.* Steme] of hothe lycure, *vapor.* 1631 B. JONSON *New Inn* II. vi, We shall..send you downe to the dresser, and the dishes...*Pru.* Commit you to the steem! *Lad.* [*Lady F.*] Or els condemn you to the bottles. *a* 1682 SIR T. BROWNE *Tracts* (1683) 113 The steam or vapour of artificial and natural baths. 1697 DAMPIER *Voy.* I. 480 They cover the mouth of the Pot with leaves, to keep in the steam, while it boils. 1712 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 403 ₱ 3 A Knot of Theorists, who sat in the inner Room, within the Steams of the Coffee-Pot. 1781 GIBBON *Decl. & F.* xviii. II. 85 The adulteress was suffocated by the steam of a bath, which, for that purpose, had been heated to an extraordinary degree. 1785 PRIESTLEY in *Phil. Trans.* LXXV. 305 Having transmitted steam, or the vapour of water, through a copper tube. 1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 505 The steam of alcohol at 174° is equal to that of water at 212°. 1839 *Civil Engin. & Arch. Jrnl.* II. 287, 7 lbs. of coal are required to convert 1 cubic foot of water at 40° into atmospheric steam. 1847 TENNYSON *Princess* Prol. 73 A dozen angry models jetted steam. 1878 HUXLEY *Physiogr.* 39 The steam, or watery vapour, when pure and uncondensed, is..transparent. 1884 DUTTON in *4th Ann. Rep. U.S. Geol. Surv.* 110 Condensed steam floating away in the form of white vapor. 1894 *Times* 15 Aug. 12/2 A boiler which supplies wet steam is a bad boiler, because wet steam is prejudicial to the efficiency of the engine. 1895 *Model Steam Eng.* 51 The purpose of the steam-dome is to collect the steam in as dry a condition as possible.

b. The visible vesicles produced by the condensation of watery vapour, as drops forming on a surface, e.g. a mirror or window-pane.

1615 CROOKE *Body of Man* 88 When a Vessell of boyling water is couered, though the couer be hot, yet the vapour of the water turneth into a steame vppon it, and will stand in drops. 1699 tr. *H. de Blancourt's Art of Glass* 350 You must keep these [steel] Mirrours from the Moistness of the Air, and Steams.

7. The vapour of boiling water used, by confinement in specially contrived engines, for the generation of mechanical power. Hence, the mechanical power thus generated.

1699 *Phil. Trans.* XXI. 228 [Savery's 'fire-engine'.] Two Cocks which convey the Steam by turns, to the Vessels *D.* 1765 WATT in Muirhead *Invent. Watt* (1854) I. 3 Mine ought to raise water to 44 feet with the same quantity of steam that theirs does to 32. 1788 J. RUMSEY (*title*) A short Treatise on Steam, whereby is clearly shewn..that steam may be applied to propel Boats or Vessels of any burthen. 1825 HONE *Every-day Bk.* I. 1535 *The Times*..of Tuesday, November the 29th, 1814, was the first newspaper printed by steam. 1848 DICKENS *Dombey* xxxv, Do steam, tide, wind, and horses, all abate their speed? 1872 BUCKLE *Misc. Wks.* I. 250 By the application of steam, we have diminished space.

b. *fig.* Energy, 'go', driving power, and the like.

1826 DISRAELI *Viv. Grey* II. ii, Has not your Lordship treasure? There is your moral steam which can work the world. 1875 BLAKE-HUMFREY *Eton Boating Bk.* 60 The Etonians had not steam enough. At Hammersmith, Westminster was two lengths ahead. 1898 *Daily News* 24 Nov. 7/3 Corbett now appeared a trifle weary..and was lacking in steam. 1900 *Westm. Gaz.* 23 Oct. 9/2 All the steam has gone out of American Railroad shares.

c. Phr. *By steam*, (to travel) by steamer. *Under steam*, worked by steam (as opposed to *under sail*).

1829 SCOTT *Jrnl.* (1890) II. 305 To-morrow I expect Sophia and her family by steam. 1839 CARD. WISEMAN in W. Ward *Life* (1897) I. ix. 313, I shall travel..by the mail direct to Marseilles,..and so by steam to Cività Vecchia. 1875 BEDFORD *Sailor's Pocket Bk.* iii. (ed. 2) 61 In the following Rules every steam ship which is under sail and not under steam, is to be considered a sailing ship.

d. In phrases descriptive of the working of a steam-engine, esp. of a locomotive; often used *fig.*; e.g. (*at*) *full* (*half*, etc.) *steam*; *with full* or *all one's steam on*; *to have* (all, much, etc.) *steam on*; *to get up, put on steam*; *to blow off, shut off, turn off steam*; *under steam, with steam up, in steam*, with the engine working or ready to start working.

1768 WATT in Muirhead *Invent. Watt* (1854) I. 18, I am now getting an apparatus ready for setting it [the engine] wholly in steam as before. 1824 [see SHUT *v.* 16 a]. 1831 *Rep. Sel. Comm. Steam Carriages* 20 Are you frequently obliged to let off steam? 1832-83 [see GET *v.* 72 q]. 1837 [see BLOW *v.*1 10]. 1837 DICKENS *Pickw.* xlviii, Get on a little faster; put a little more steam on, ma'am, pray. 1857 HUGHES *Tom Brown* II. ii, Now jumping the old iron-bound tables,..then joining in some chorus of merry voices; in fact, blowing off his steam, as we should now call it. 1860 *Merc. Marine Mag.* VII. 216 Orders were given..to let the ship go under easy steam. 1870 *Remin. Amer.* 203 Their steam fire-engines..are always kept in readiness with steam up and the horses harnessed. 1873 *Routledge's Young Gentlem. Mag.* June 392/2 The *Forward* was under steam, ready to seize the first opening to make her exit. 1878 KINGSTON *Three Admirals* xviii. 416 Full steam was put on. *Ibid.* 417 The engineer having thoughtfully turned off the steam to prevent the boilers from exploding. 1881 M. REYNOLDS *Engine-driving Life* 112 Of course his engine is in steam. All is done for him. 1887 F. FRANCIS Jun. *Saddle & Mocassin* 107 'And he [the bull] came for you?' 'When he'd got up steam he did.' 1894 ASTLEY *50 Years Life* I. 82, I naturally went to grass through having too much steam on to be able to pull up in time. 1896 KIPLING *Seven Seas, Three Sealers* ad fin., Half-steam ahead by guess and lead, for the sun is mostly veiled. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 147 A result of some previous shutting off of nervous steam.

8. Short for *steam-coal* (see 17).

1897 *Daily News* 25 Jan. 9/3 Best qualities steam are now up to 11s. 3d per ton. 1903 *Times* 1 Dec. 3/5 Steams remain dull and generally slow of sale, owing to the poor trade prevailing among steam users generally.

9. [f. STEAM *v.*] A trip by steamer. *colloq.*

1854 KINGSLEY in *Life* (1877) I. 419 Had a charming steam across the Firth of Forth. 1905 *Daily Chron.* 16 Sept. 4/4 He saw before him a few hours' steam to Caen.

10. [f. STEAM *v.*] A dish cooked by steaming. *colloq.*

1900 *Soc. Life Brit. Army* 98 Apart from soup, the cooking arrangements will only allow of Tommy being given his choice between a bake and a steam. A steam resembles what we have been taught to call Irish stew.

11. *attrib.* and *Comb.*

11. simple *attrib.* = of or pertaining to steam; consisting of steam.

1831 *Rep. Sel. Comm. Steam Carriages* 25 The comparative expense between Horse and Steam Power for drawing Carriages on common roads. 1838 TREDGOLD *Steam Eng.* 416 The force of the draught produced by the steam-blast is so great that cinders are drawn through the tubes. 1869 E. A. PARKES *Pract. Hygiene* (ed. 3) 145 The moving agent here is the force of the steam-jet. 1879 GEO. ELIOT *Theo. Such* II. 49 The white steam-pennon flies along it. 1881 JUDD *Volcanoes* 23 The roaring of the steam-jets may be heard for many miles around. 1897 GEIKIE *Anc. Volcanoes Gt. Brit.* I. 16 The steam-cavities of lavas.

12. With reference to heating, cooking, or washing by steam, and in the names of implements and apparatus used in these processes, as *steam-bath, -box, -chamber, -chest, -coil, -heat, -heating, -kiln, -kitchen, -laundry, -oven, -pan, -pipe,* †*-pot, -table, -tank, -tube*, etc.

1725 *Bradley's Family Dict.* s. v. *Gooseberry-wine*, When it is thoroughly cold it is put into a Steam-Pot. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XVII. 772/2 Steam-Kitchen. 1822-7 GOOD *Study Med.* (1829) II. 594 The extract of hemlock or of hyoscyamus, prepared in a steam-heat. 1827 FARADAY *Chem. Manip.* iv. (1842) 134 The figure represents an

arrangement in which a saucepan is converted into a temporary steam chamber. 1828 Duppa *Trav. Italy*, etc. 142 The steam-baths of Dædalus..consist of several sudorific grottos. 1832 *Boston* (Lincs.) *Herald* 20 Nov. 4/3 A new patent steam-oven for baking bread. 1856 Kane *Arct. Expl.* I. xxxi. 421 We have passed wooden steam-tubes through the deck-house to carry off the vapors of our cooking-stove. 1857 Miller *Elem. Chem., Org.* 672 Heat, furnished by steam-pipes. 1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib.* II. xxxi. 7 Steam Table for dishing up. *Ibid.* 8 Steam Kettles of copper or block tin, for boiling meat, vegetables, puddings, &c. 1868 *Rep. U. S. Commissioner Agric.* (1869) 427 The food is cooked in a large steam-box. 1897 Howells *Landlord at Lion's Head* 142 The reeking steam-table, with its great tanks of soup and vegetables.

13. In the names of the various contrivances for containing, conveying, or regulating the steam in a steam-engine, as *steam-box*, *-case*, *-chamber*, *-chest*, *-cock*, †*-course*, *-cylinder*, *-dome*, *-gauge*, *-pipe*, *-port*, *-valve*, *-way*, etc.

1765 Watt in Muirhead *Invent. Watt* (1854) I. 4 The moment the steam-cock was opened, the piston descended with rapidity. 1769 *Ibid.* 53 To-day I stopped the neck of the steam-pipe where it enters the cylinder. *Ibid.* 73 The size of the steam-valve is six square inches. 1797 J. Curr *Coal Viewer* 41 A steam chest [in a fire-engine] upon a good construction, (*a*) being the steam valve. 1825 J. Nicholson *Oper. Mech.* 181 C, the steam-gauge. *Ibid.* 207 Fans.. opening and closing the steam-course. 1838 *Civil Engin. & Arch. Jrnl.* I. 139/2 The jacket of an 80-inch steam cylinder. 1839 R. S. Robinson *Naut. Steam Eng.* 51 Sliding the valve up or down will permit this steam to enter the cylinder, either by the upper or lower steam port. 1873 G. E. Webster *Steam Eng. & Steam* 1. 61 The Steam Dome serves the purpose of drying the steam. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech., Steam-way*, a passage leading from the steam-port of a valve to the cylinder.

14. In the names of implements, machines, processes, etc. operated by steam or by a steam-engine, as *steam-crane*, †*-gun*, *-hammer*, *-mill*, *-milling*, *-plough*, *-ploughing*, *-pump*, *-thresher*, *-threshing*, *-whim*, *-winch*, etc.

1801 *Phil. Trans.* XCI. 160 It..has now four fire-engines and two steam-whims on it. 1804 *Nicholson's Jrnl.* VII. 161 Description of a new Steam Digester for Philosophic Researches. 1812 *Ann. Reg., Chron.* 79 They entered into a solemn obligation to destroy steam-looms, [etc.]. 1824 *Reg. Arts & Sci.* II. 105 Perkins's 'Steam Gun'. 1843 Nasmyth in *Civil Engin. & Arch. Jrnl.* VI. 41/2 With a view to relieve all these defects, I have contrived my direct action steam hammer. 1844 Dickens *Martin Chuz.* xi, A greater number..than the steam-gun can discharge balls in a minute. 1847 *Mech. Mag.* 30 Jan. 98 Mr. Osborn's patent system of steam ploughing. 1865 Ruskin *Sesame* i. 35 The Word of God..cannot be..sown on any wayside by help either of steam plough or steam press. 1884 *Leisure Hour* Sept. 533/2 With one blow from a steam-riveter..they are securely fixed. 1889 'F. Anstey' *Pariah* VI. i, They're putting up swings and a steam-circus and tents. 1891 Hardy *Tess* xlviii, I have told the farmer that he has no right to employ women at steam-threshing. 1891 *Argus* (Melbourne) 7 Nov. 13/4 Occasionally..a British India liner rouses the echoes with the hoarse call of its steam siren. 1898 'Merriman' *Roden's Corner* v. 45 Presently the jerk and clink of the steam-winch told that the anchor was being got home. 1907 J. H. Patterson *Man-Eaters of Tsavo* xvii. 187 My heart was thumping like a steam hammer.

15. With reference to locomotion by steam-power, and in names of vehicles and vessels propelled by steam, as *steam-ferry*, *-flat*, *-frigate*, *-launch*, *-navigation*, *-navy*, *-omnibus*, *-packet*, *-ram*, *-train*, *-tram*, *-trawler*, *-trawling*, *-whaler*, *-yacht*, etc. See also *steam-car*, *-carriage*, *-tug*, etc. in 17, and the main-words Steam-boat, etc.

1812 in *Mech. Mag.* (1847) XLVI. 21/1 Steam passage boat, The Comet, Between Glasgow, Greenock, and Helensburgh. 1814 *Niles' Wkly. Reg.* 128/2 The steam frigate Fulton the First was launched at New York October 31. 1819 [*title*] The Thanet Itinerary, or Steam-Yacht Companion. 1821 Croker *Diary* 29 Aug., Sailed in the steam-packet, the wind quite against us. 1831 *Jrnls. Ho. Comm.* LXXXVI. 827/2 The frequent calamities by Steam Navigation. 1849 [Emily C. Agnew] *Rome & the Abbey* v. 47 They entered the steam-train for Bruges. 1849 *Jrnls. Ho. Comm.* CIV. 87/2 The practicability of providing, by means of the Commercial Steam Marine of the Country, a reserve Steam Navy, available for the National Defence when required. 1860 *Ann. Reg.* 202 Our government were urged to adopt the scheme of steam-rams. 1879 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 9) IX. 250/2 Steam trawling. 1884 J. Hatton in *Harper's Mag.* Feb. 344/2 The steam-launch is the snob of the Thames. 1892 *Speaker* 3 Sept. 289/2 The high road, with its shrieking steam-tram.

16. Instrumental, with ppl. adjs., as *steam-driven*, *-going*, *-ridden* (fig.), *-wrought*. Also *steam-like* adj.

1835 Ure *Philos. Manuf.* 381 Attendants on steam-going looms. 1845 S. Judd *Margaret* I. xvii, A steam-like vapour arose from the frozen river. 1852 Hoskyns *Talpa* 183 A steam-driven cultivator can be brought to bear. 1868 Joynson *Metals* 54 A steam-wrought hammer. 1885 G. Allen *Babylon* xiii, This steam-ridden nineteenth century. 1901 *Scotsman* 4 Sept. 7/8 Instead of a steam-driven train every two hours they might have an electrically-driven train every half-hour.

17. Special comb.: **steam-boiler**, a vessel in which water is heated to generate steam, esp. for working a steam-engine (Boiler 2 b); **steam-bomb** = *candle-bomb* (Candle *sb.* 7); **steam-car**, a car driven or drawn by steam, e.g. a motor-car worked by steam instead of petrol; *U.S.* a railway-carriage; †**steam-carriage**, a carriage driven or drawn by steam (*a*) on a railroad or tramway, (*b*) on common roads; †**steam-chaise**, a chaise driven by steam; †**steam-coach** = *steam-carriage*; **steam-coal**, coal suitable for heating water in steam-boilers; **steam-colour** *Calico-printing*, a colour developed and fixed in the cloth by steaming; †**steam-doctor**, one who treats diseases by vapour-baths; †**steam-horse**, a kind of traction-engine; **steam-jacket**, a jacket or casing filled with steam in order to preserve the heat of the vessel round which it is placed; hence **steam-jacketed** *pa. pple.* and *adj.*, **steam-jacketing** *vbl. sb.*; **steam-navvy**, a machine for digging or excavating by steam; **steam nigger** *U.S.* the long cylinder with piston and rod by which the log is forced up to the saw in a sawing mill; **steam-organ** = Calliope; **steam-road**, a road prepared for steam-traction; *U.S.* a railroad; **steam-room**, **-space**, the space above the water-level in a steam-boiler; **steam-tight** *a.*, tight enough to resist the ingress or egress of steam; also quasi-*adv.*; **steam-tug**, a steam-boat specially constructed for towing vessels; † applied jocularly to a railway-engine; †**steam-wagon**, a wagon drawn by steam on a railway or on a common road; †**steam-wheel**, the rotary steam-engine; also *fig.*

1805 R. W. Dickson *Pract. Agric.* I. 66 *Steam-Boilers [for boiling meat]. 1815 *Ann. Reg., Chron.* 91 A new steam boiler, worked by what is called a pressure engine. 1847 *Mech. Mag.* 2 Jan. 23/2 Dr. Ritterbrandt's Process for Preventing the Incrustation of Steam-boilers. 1895 *Model Steam Eng.* 14 Candle or *Steam Bombs. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.*,**Steam-car*, a car drawn by steam-power. 1877 *Rep. Sel. Comm. Tramways* 105 Steam cars might be very safely used, perhaps in Whitechapel. 1886 Winchell *Geol. Talks* 11 There, in the distance, flies the train of steam-cars. 1888 Bryce *Amer. Commw.* IV. lxxxi. III. 69 When you meet them in the steam cars (*i.e.* on a railway journey). 1900 [see Petrol 3]. 1824 T. G. Cumming (*title*) Illustrations of the origin and progress of Rail and Tram Roads, and *Steam Carriages, or locomotive Engines. 1831 *Rep. Sel. Comm. Steam Carriages* 17 Are you [Mr. G. Gurney] the proprietor of a Steam Carriage used on public roads? 1844 *Queen's Regul. Army* 211 Officers thus circumstanced are likewise to proceed by Steam-Carriages upon Railroads. 1769 Dr. Small in Muirhead *Invent. Watt* (1854) I. 52 A linen-draper at London, one Moore, has taken out a patent for moving wheel-carriages by steam...However, if you will come hither soon, I will..buy a *steam-chaise of you and not of Moore. 1825 J. Nicholson *Oper. Mech.* 661 A *steam-coach for the conveyance of passengers [on a railroad]. 1828 *Sporting Mag.* XXI. 267, I hear it is intended *in* good earnest to start a steam-coach from London to Southampton. 1834 L. Ritchie *Wand. by Seine* 177 We saw a steam-coach which had stopped at the door of the public house. 1850 Ansted *Elem. Geol., Min.* etc. 414 There is a third..condition of coal now known as '*steam-coal', and admirably adapted for the use of the steam-navy. 1883 Gresley *Gloss. Coal-mining* 238 The finest steam coals of South Wales are moderately hard and almost smokeless. 1844 *E. A. Parnell's Appl. Chem.* I. 368 *Steam colours. 1855 Dunglison *Med. Lex.*, **Steam-doctor*, a term applied to one who treats all or most diseases by steam. 1860 [see Thomsonian 1]. 1815 *Specif. De Baader's Patent* No. 3959. 7 Those complicated..machines called locomotive engines or *steam horses. 1855 *Pract. Mechanics' Jrnl.* Sept. 139 Mr. Boydell's 'steam horse,' or 'traction engine,' was put upon the brake in order to test its power. 1838 *Civil Engin. & Arch. Jrnl.* I. 139/2 The best engines in Cornwall have the *steam jackets supplied from a pipe communicating directly with the boiler. 1883 R. Haldane *Workshop Rec.* Ser. II. 35/1 Wrought-iron cylinders..provided with a steam-jacket to control their temperatures. 1876 *S. Kens. Mus. Catalog.* No. 2152, The cylinders of the engines are *steam jacketed. 1904 *Windsor Mag.* Jan. 275/1 Six steam-jacketed boilers. 1870 *Jrnl. Franklin Inst.* LXXXIX. 21 In a paper upon *steam jacketting. 1881 *Spon's Dict. Engin.* Suppl. III. 1107 A *steam navvy..consisting of a rectangular truck, supported on four wheels, carrying the engine and boiler. 1795 Mason *Ch. Mus.* i. 36 And who knows but a certain noble Mechanic ..may place a *Steam Organ upon the Poop and play *ça ira* upon it. 1841 *Civil Engin. & Arch. Jrnl.* IV. 247 M. Lax, jun., has just invented a steam organ, which can be heard through the extent of a whole province. 1837 W. B. Adams *Carriages* 291 To make a *steam-road is more costly than an animal road, because it imperatively requires a more exact level. 1911 H. S. Harrison *Queed* xv. 174 The cars are steam-road size. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.*, **Steam-room*, the capacity for steam over the surface of the water in the boiler. 1867–72 Burgh *Mod. Marine Engin.* 371/2 Lowness of the *steam space above the water line in the boiler. 1765 Watt in Muirhead *Invent. Watt* (1854) I. 8, I..have not got the piston *steam-tight yet. 1856 Dempsey *Locomotive Eng.* 40 The passage is closed completely steam-tight. 1892 Low *Machine Draw.* 118 A steam-tight joint. 1835 Marryat *Olla Podr.* vi, Three *steam tugs, whose names are the Stephenson, the Arrow, and the Elephant, are to drag to Malines..all his majesty's ministers. 1891 Kipling *Light that Failed* viii. (1900) 134 A steam-tug on the river hooted as she towed her barges to wharf. 1821 T. Gray *Observ. Iron Rail-way* (ed. 2) 5 Conveyance of all merchandise as well as persons, by *steam waggons and coaches. *a* 1876 M. Collins *Pen Sk.* (1879) I. 245 This perturbed period of the steam-wagon and the lightning-wire. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XVII. 744/1 A project of a *steam-wheel, where the impulsive force of the vapour was employed. 1820 Shelley *Lett. Maria Gisborne* 108 The self-impelling steam-wheels of the mind. 1841 Brees *Gloss. Civil Engin.* 218 Rotary, Rotatory, or Concentric Engine (sometimes called a steam-wheel).

Steam (stīm), *v.* [OE. *stéman*, *stýman* :—prehist. **staumjan*, f. * *staum-* Steam *sb.*]

I. *intr.*

†**1.** To emit a scent or odour. Of a scent: To be emitted or exhaled. Also with advs., as *out*, *up*. *Obs.* as a specific use: merged in 4.

a 1000 *Phœnix* 213 Will-sele stymeð swetum swæccum. *c* 1000 Ælfric *Saints' Lives* xxvii. 110 Wynsum bræð stemde of pære halgan rode. 1667 *Phil. Trans.* II. 547 Laying open the hollow of the Thorax, there steam'd out at first a very offensive smell. 1847 Prescott *Peru* III. iv. (1850) II. 94 They found themselves in a small and obscure apartment..from the floor and sides of which steamed up the most offensive odours, like those of a slaughter-house.

†**2.** To emit flame, glow. *Obs.*

c 1386 Chaucer *Prol.* 202 Hise eyen stepe, and rollynge in his heed, That stemed as a forneys of a leed. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 473/2 Stemyn, or lowyn vp, *flammo*.

3. Of vapour, etc.: To be emitted or exhaled; to rise or issue in the form of steam. Also with *away*, *up*, etc.

1582 Stanyhurst *Æneis* III. (Arb.) 76 And smoak swift steamd to the skyward. 1590 Spenser *F. Q.* I. xii. 2 When the last deadly smoke aloft did steeme. 1661 Boyle *Cert. Physiol. Ess.* (1669) 66 The dissolved Amber..swimming like a thin film upon the surface of the Liquour, whence little by little it steamed away into the air. 1683 Snape *Anat. Horse* I. xxvi. (1686) 55 From which Seed a certain air or spirit steams through the Trumpets to the Testicles. 1697 Dryden *Virg. Georg.* II. 479 The Water..thus imbib'd, returns in misty Dews, And steaming up, the rising Plant renews. 1699 Pomfret *Love Triumphant* 166 The Water round it gave a Nauseous Smell, Like Vapours Steeming from a Sulph'rous Cell. 1820 Shelley *Sensit. Plant* III. 104 Then there steamed up a freezing dew. 1859 Dickens *T. Two Cities* I. ii, The reek of the labouring horses steamed into it.

b. *fig.*

1590 Spenser *F. Q.* III. i. 55 Which she misconstruing, thereby esteemd That from like inward fire that outward smoke had steemd. 1692 E. Walker tr. *Epictetus' Mor.* x, A waking Dream, Such as from ill-digested Thoughts doth steam. 1833 Tennyson *Lotos-Eaters* 163 They find a music centred in a doleful song Steaming up, a lamentation and an ancient tale of wrong.

4. To emit, give off, exhale steam or vapour.

1614 Gorges *Lucan* VII. 285 The swords are cold on Pompeys part But Cæsars steeme in bloody mart. 1667 Dryden *Ind. Emp.* III. iii, See, see, my Brother's Ghost hangs hovering there, O're his warm Blood, that steems into the Air. 1708 J. Philips *Cyder* II. 140 Nor let the crude Humors dance In heated Brass, steaming with Fire intense. 1820 Scott *Monast.* XXXVII, Censers steaming with incense. 1842 Dickens *Amer. Notes* ix, Several damp gentlemen, whose clothes, on their drawing round the stove, began to steam again. 1860 Tyndall *Glac.* I. xxvii. 206 The glacier ..steaming under the influence of the sun. 1865 Dickens *Mut. Fr.* I. v, On the hob, a kettle steamed. 1913 *Engl. Rev.* Apr. 45 My eye glanced at the laboratory where the madder-vats were steaming.

5. Of a surface: To become covered or bedewed with condensed vapour.

1892 *Photogr. Ann.* II. p. cxlvii, Ventilation Apertures to prevent Condensing Lenses steaming during exhibition.

6. To generate or produce steam for mechanical purposes: said of an engine or boiler. *To steam up*, to turn on steam or set it working; hence *fig.*

1860 *What shall I be?* (U.S.A.) 95 Not so fast, Mr. Spitfire; You needn't steam up so fast. I'm as good company as you'll find here. 1877 M. Reynolds *Loco.-Eng. Driving* 88 Some engines steam best with a low fire. 1897 *Pall Mall Mag.* Sept. 81 The engines steam splendidly, and haul without assistance a train of 250 tons. 1911 Webster, *Steam* v. i. 4. To generate steam; as, the boiler steams well.

7. To move or travel by the agency of steam: **a.** of a ship or its passengers. Also *to steam it*. Also with advs., as *away*.

1831 Mrs. Trollope *Domest. Manners Amer.* (1832) I. 255 Even were all the parties strangers to each other [on long river excursions], the knowledge that they were to eat, to drink, and steam away together for a week or fortnight, would induce something like a social feeling in any other country. 1832 R. H. Froude *Rem.* (1838) I. 306 We shall.. see Avignon and Nismes, and then steam it up the Rhone to Lyons. 1837 *Civil Engin. & Arch. Jrnl.* I. 28/1 She [a ship] will either steam or sail. 1844 W. H. Maxwell *Sports & Adv. Scot.* ii. (1855) 33 Every mile we steamed, the lake assumed a new character. 1878 Kingston *Three Admirals* xix. 437 The *Bellona* accordingly steamed on towards the entrance of the harbour. 1886 *Law Times Rep.* LIII. 726/1 When the tug was completed it was found that she could only steam ten or eleven knots an hour. 1888 *Poor Nellie* 388 The young lady had steamed over from America.

b. of a railway-engine, the train or its passengers.

1863 Mrs. H. Wood *Verner's Pride* xi, The train was steaming into the station. 1899 Gratton *Memory's Harkback* 196 Now you can rail there, unconscious as to the beauties through which you have steamed.

c. *fig.* (*colloq.*)

1857 Hughes *Tom Brown* I. vii, Young Brooke..then steams away for the run in, in which he's sure to be first. 1911 *Concise Oxf. Dict., Steam v.*..(colloq.) work vigorously, make great progress, esp. *s. ahead*, *away*.

II. *trans.*

8. To exhale (steam or other vapour); to emit, send out in the form of vapour. Also with advs., as *forth*, *away*, *up*.

1666 Bp. S. Parker *Free Censure* (1667) 208 The Earth may steam forth vapours grosse enough to cloud the Sun. 1730–46 Thomson *Autumn* 514 The mighty bowl, Swelled high with fiery juice, steams liberal round A potent gale. 1833 Tennyson *Pal. Art* 39 Tossing up A cloud of incense of all odour steam'd From out a golden cup. 1862 Dickens *Somebody's Luggage*, *His Umbrella* 14/2 The gingham article that lay open before me, steaming away its moisture. 1871 G. Macdonald *Pict. Songs* I., *Wks. Fancy & Imag.* III. 39 The moorland pond is steaming A mist of gray and blue.

† b. *fig.* (Cf. *evaporate*.)
1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* II. vi. 27 How ill did him beseeme In slouthfull sleepe his molten hart to steme.

9. To apply steam to, expose to the action of steam; to treat with steam for the purpose of softening, cooking, heating, disinfecting, etc.
1798 *Trans. Soc. Arts* XVI. 208 Potatoes that are either broiled or steamed. 1840 *Mechanics' Mag.* XXXIII. 498/1 The wood to be operated on, is first steamed, until it acquires such softness and pliancy, that it can be cut or blocked.. into the different forms required. 1842 LOUDON *Suburban Hort.* 210 A pipe..by which, whenever the water boils, the house may be steamed. 1844 *E. A. Parnell's Appl. Chem.* I. 370 [Calico-printing.] The cotton requires to be steamed about thirty minutes. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 757 It is usually recommended to steam the face over hot water.

b. To expose (a gummed packet) to the action of steam in order to soften the gum. *To steam open*, to open by this method.
1899 BURGIN *Bread of Tears* I. ii. 35 He had steamed it over a jar of hot water, read the contents, and reclosed the letter. 1911 MAX BEERBOHM *Zuleika Dobson* xiv. 212 She might easily steam open the envelope and master its contents.

c. To fill with 'steam' or warm odour.
1861 *Two Cosmos* v. viii. II. 191 Chops, steaks, toasted cheese, and almost all descriptions of drink steamed the whole apartment.

d. To bedew (a surface) with vesicles of condensed vapour.
1850 *All Year Round* No. 42. 362 Glass, already opaquely steamed with youthful breath.

e. *Calico-printing.* To fix (colours) by the steam-process.
1862 C. O'NEILL *Dict. Calico Printing* s. v. *Steam colours*, The process of steaming colours.

10. To convey on a steam-vessel. *colloq.*
1891 CONST. MACEWEN *Three Women One Boat* xv. 115 We will just..let him steam us back.

Hence **Steamed** *ppl. a.*
1802 WILLICH *Dom. Encycl.* II. 133 Steamed potatoes are always more wholesome and nutritious than such as are boiled in water. 1868 *Rep. U.S. Commissioner Agric.* (1869) 427 The horses..receive four quarts of corn each per day, sprinkled on the steamed food. 1876 *Encycl. Brit.* IV. 691/2 The waggons for receiving the steamed fabrics.

Stea·mboat. A boat propelled by steam; esp. a coasting or river steamer of considerable size, carrying either passengers or goods. Also *attrib.*
1787 M. CUTLER in *Life*, etc. (1888) II. 399 In all probability, steamboats will be found to do infinite service in all our extensive river navigation. 1814 SCOTT *Diary* 8 Sept. in *Lockhart*, Embarked in the steam-boat for Glasgow. 1817–8 COBBETT *Resid. U. S.* (1822) 268 We are now frequently met and passed by large, fine steam-boats, plying up and down the river. 1866 LOWELL *Study Wind., Swinburne's Trag.* (1871) 162 A Mississippi steamboat captain. 1906 *Tribune* 5 Dec. 6/3 The Thames steamboat service.

b. *fig.*
1823 BYRON *Juan* IX. lxxiv, I needs must rhyme with dove, That good old steam-boat which keeps verses moving 'Gainst reason. 1854 MRS. STOWE *Sunny Mem.* I. xvi. 296 If he [Abp. Whately] had been born in our latitude..the natives would have..said he was a real steamboat on an argument. 1859 BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.* (ed. 2) 449 *Steamboat*, a term used at the West to denote a dashing, go-a-head character.

Hence **Stea·mboating** *vbl. sb.* a. travelling by steamboat; the business of working on or operating a steamboat; b. *fig.* (see quots. 1875, 1891).
1834 LADY GRANVILLE *Lett.* 9 Sept. (1894) II. 162 Having enjoyed our steamboating on the Rhone so much. 1856 LEVER *Martins of Cro' M.* lxv. 601 That rattling, noisy steam-boating up the Rhine. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech., Steamboating* (Bookbinding), cutting simultaneously a pile of books which are as yet uncovered, that is, are *out of boards*. 1883 *Athenæum* 2 June 694/3 They treat of a time when steamboating was a great industry [on the Mississippi]. 1891 *Century Dict., Steamboating* 2. Undue hurrying and slighting of work. (Colloq.)

Stea·m-e·ngine. An engine in which the mechanical force of steam is made available as a motive power for driving machinery, etc.
Earlier names were *fire-engine* (see FIRE-ENGINE 2) and *atmospheric engine* (Newcomen). The ordinary (stationary) engine is due to James Watt (patented 1769).
1751 F. BLAKE in *Phil. Trans.* XLVII. 197 The fire-engine, or (to term it more properly) the steam-engine, for draining of mines, is a master-piece of machinery. 1757 K. FITZGERALD *Ibid.* L. 54 A small boiler,..made in the shape of those commonly used in steam-engines. 1766 WATT in Muirhead *Invent. Watt* (1854) I. 14, I have thought on a simpler circular steam-engine than what I mentioned to you. 1821 SCOTT *Pirate* xvii, The monster..blew, with a noise resembling the explosion of a steam-engine, a huge shower of water into the air. 1856 EMERSON *Eng. Traits* v, The rapid doubling of the population dates from Watt's steam-engine.

b. A locomotive engine.
1815 [see LOCOMOTIVE A. 2 d]. 1821 T. GRAY *Observ. Iron Rlwy.* i. 12 The canal boats might be towed by steam-engines running on a rail-way along the canal. 1823 BYRON *Juan* X. ii, Full soon Steam-engines will conduct him to the moon.

c. Often in hyperbolic or jocular comparisons.
1833 NYREN *Yng. Cricketer's Tutor* (1902) 101 Neither he nor Quiddington ever had to stand against such steam-engine bowling as Brett's. *c* 1840 SYD. SMITH in Lady Holland *Mem.* (1855) I. 267 Daniel Webster struck me much like a steam-engine in trousers. 1865 M. ARNOLD *Ess. Crit.* i. 15 When your party talks this language like a steam engine.

Hence **Steamengineing** *vbl. sb.* (*nonce-wd.*).
1839 CARLYLE *Chartism* viii. (1840) 87 The Saxon kindred burst forth into..steamengining, railwaying, commercing.

Steamer (stī·mə1). [f. STEAM *v.* and *sb.* + -ER 1.]
1. One who steams; a person employed in some process of steaming.
1832 *Min. Evid. Comm. Factories Bill* 27 You say you were taken to be a steamer: are not very stout and healthy youths usually selected for that purpose?—Yes. 1881 *Instr. Census Clerks* (1885) 64 Woollen Cloth Manuf., Steamer. *Ibid.* 69 Calico, Steamer. 1902 *Brit. Med. Jrnl.* 15 Feb. 380/1 Hatting Operatives..Proofers, including 'stovers'.. and 'steamers'.

2. An apparatus for steaming (in various technical processes); a vessel in which articles are subjected to the action of steam, as in washing, cookery, etc.
1814 *Sporting Mag.* XLIII. 275 Stew-pans, hot dressers, steamers, digesters. 1846 SOYER *Cookery* 605 Place them in a vegetable steamer, and steam them well for half an hour. 1846 A. YOUNG *Naut. Dict.* 177 Kiln, Stove, or Steamer. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade, Steamer*, a spare top fitting on a saucepan, with holes at the bottom, for cooking potatoes by steam. 1895 *Arnold & Sons' Catal. Surg. Instrum.* 777 Steamer, Copper, with spirit lamp and tray, for softening poroplastic jackets, etc. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* II. 551 If bales of dry wools and hairs were placed in steamers—as is done in the melange printing process.

b. Applied to a boiler in respect to its power of generating steam.
1892 *Century Dict.* s. v., The boiler is an excellent steamer.

† 3. *slang.* A tobacco-pipe. *Obs.*
1811 *Lex. Balatr., Steamer*, a pipe. A swell steamer; a long pipe, such as is used by gentlemen to smoke. 1823 'JON BEE' *Dict. Turf s. v.*, 'Keep up the steam or steamer,' to smoke indefatigably.

† 4. *Austral.* A dish of stewed kangaroo. *Obs.*
1820 C. JEFFREYS *Van Dieman's Land* 70. 1827 P. CUNNINGHAM *Two Yrs. New South Wales* I. 309. 1861 WHYTE MELVILLE *Good for Nothing* xxvi.

5. A vessel propelled by steam; a steamboat, steamship.
1825 T. HOOK *Sayings* Ser. II. *Man of Many Fr.* II. 46 The Brighton Steamer to Dieppe. 1828 SCOTT *Let.* 18 July in Mrs. Hughes *Lett. & Recoll.* vii, Though not afraid of a breeze in a good sea-boat I should not relish it much in a *steamer*, for if any part of the machinery goes wrong [etc.]. 1847 BENTINCK in *Croker Papers* (1884) III. xxv. 143 We had five war steamers lying in the Tagus and Douro. 1890 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Col. Reformer* xiv, A stately ocean steamer. 1897 *Daily News* 23 Sept. 5/3 The word 'steamer' still suggests to most people a vessel with a pair of funnels and a pair of paddles.

b. *attrib.*: **steamer-chair**, a lounge-chair such as is used on the deck of a steamer.
1839 [MISS MAITLAND] *Lett. fr. Madras* (1843) 283, I have a whole steamer-load of things to say, and I scarcely know where to begin. 1886 MRS. BURNETT *Little Ld. Fauntleroy* iv, The people who had been sea-sick had..come on deck to recline in their steamer-chairs and enjoy themselves. 1895 R. W. CHAMBERS *King in Yellow, Street of Our Lady of Fields* ii, He..had not yet unpacked his steamer-trunk.

6. a. A steam-propelled road-locomotive, traction-engine or the like. *rare.* b. In recent use, a motor-car driven by steam.
1837 W. B. ADAMS *Carriages* 202 The steamers on the railroad can carry their own materials, which the steamers on common roads cannot so conveniently do. 1870 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 9 Aug. 4 The reports on Thomson's 'road steamer' made to the War Department. 1900 *Daily News* 14 Nov. 6/3 Trevithick constructed a road steamer that made its appearance upon the Cornish highways on the Christmas Eve of 1801. 1902 *Morn. Leader* 18 Dec. 6/4 The War Office has again been testing motor transport vehicles, mostly steamers.

7. a. A fire-engine the pumps of which are worked by steam.
1876 E. M. SHAW *Fire Protection* 63 The proper course would be..to remove the hose to the steamer, and attach the steamer's suction-pipe to the hydrant. 1886 *Manch. Exam.* 8 Jan. 6/1 Steamers and manuals from all parts of the metropolis arrived at the fire.

b. A steam thrashing-machine.
1898 RIDER HAGGARD *Farmer's Yr.* Feb. (1899) 104 The steamer began to work at the All Hallows Farm on the little stack of barley. 1900 'H. LAWSON' *On Track* 75 He reaped it by hand, had it thrashed by travelling 'steamer' (portable steam engine and machine).

8. (*transf.* from sense 5.) The duck *Tachyeres* (or *Micropterus*) *cinereus* (or *brachypterus*) of the Falkland Islands; the loggerhead or race-horse. Also *steamer-duck*.
1827 P. P. KING *Voy. Adventure & Beagle* I. 35 Here we saw, for the first time, that most remarkable bird the Steamer-duck. *Ibid.* 36, I am averse to altering names..; but in this case I do think the name of 'steamer' much more appropriate and descriptive of the swift paddling motion of these birds, than that of 'race-horse'. 1845 DARWIN *Voy. Nat.* ix. (1873) 200 These ducks from their extraordinary manner of paddling and splashing upon the water..are now called steamers. 1895 LYDEKKER *Roy. Nat. Hist.* IV. 357 The steamer-duck (*Tachyeres cinereus*) of the Falkland Islands and Patagonia.

9. *local.* (See quot.)
1865 J. T. F. TURNER *Slate Quarries* 8 If the stone to be raised be large, a chain with hooks is sent down in lieu of the wagon, and the stone is named a 'steamer'.

Hence **Stea·mer** *v.*, to travel by steamboat; so **Stea·mering** *vbl. sb.*, **Stea·merful**, a steamboat-load. **Stea·merless** *a.*, without a steamer or steamers.
1866 R. W. CHURCH *Lett.* 21 Sept. in *Life* (1894) 175 Tuesday we steamered up the lake to Villeneuve. 1883 CARLYLE in *Mrs. Carlyle's Lett.* I. 95 This autumn [1838], after lectures,..I steamered to Kirkcaldy. 1886 FROUDE *Oceana* 316 On certain days he threw open house and grounds to excursion parties from Auckland. A steamerful would come. 1895 *Punch* 28 Sept. 148/1 Capital boating and fishing—likewise plenty of steamering. 1900 *Truth* 3 May 1057 A steamerless Thames.

Steamily, Steaminess: see after STEAMY *a.*

Steaming (stī·miŋ), *vbl. sb.* [-ING 1.] The action of the verb STEAM, in various senses.
1. † a. The exhaling of odour. † b. The glowing of flame. c. Emission of vapour, fuming (in quots. *fig.*).
a 1100 *Aldhelm Glosses* 3490 (Napier) *Fraglantiam .i. odorem*, steminge. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 474/1 Stemynge, or leemynge of fyyr, *flammacio*. 1675 J. OWEN *Indwelling Sin* vii. (1732) 77 It [sin] darkens the Mind..through the steaming of the Affections, heated with the noisom Lusts that have laid hold on them. 1819 R. L. SHEIL *Evadne* IV. ii. 64 You wonder That tears are dropping from my flaming eyelids, But 'tis the steaming of a burning heart.

2. The process of subjecting to the action of steam.
1812 SIR J. SINCLAIR *Syst. Husb. Scot.* I. 117 The practice of steaming [potatoes] was not known in those days. 1862 C. O'NEILL *Dict. Calico Printing* s. v. *Steam colours*, The damper the steam the sooner will the steaming be done. 1868 *Rep. U. S. Commissioner Agric.* (1869) 427 Steaming is done only twice a week, the food keeping warm three or four days in the box.
attrib. 1745 *De Coetlogon's Hist. Arts & Sci.* II. 106/2 A Steaming-Bason [used in hat-making]. 1832 *Min. Evid. Comm. Factories Bill* 29 They all had 4*s.* that worked at Mr. Noble's steaming-mill.

3. The production of steam in a boiler. Also *attrib.*
1874 RAYMOND *6th Rep. Mines* 39 The Mount Diablo coal is used to a very great extent for steaming. 1875 BEDFORD *Sailor's Pocket Bk.* v. (ed. 2) 146 Whether wood can be procured in quantity sufficient for steaming purposes.

4. Travelling by steamboat or steamship.
1853 HAWTHORNE *Eng. Note-Bks.* (1883) I. 426, I went over to the Royal Rock Hotel, about fifteen or twenty minutes' steaming from this side of the river. 1883 F. M. CRAWFORD *Dr. Claudius* viii, Miss Skeat also thought sailing much more poetic than steaming. 1913 J. H. MORRISON *On Track Pioneers* xxi. 98 Eight hundred miles of swift steaming down the Coromandel Coast brings us to Madras.
attrib. 1889 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 9 May 5/1 The *City of Paris* ..arrived at New York yesterday, her steaming time from Queenstown to Sandy Hook being 5 days 23 hours 7 minutes.

Stea·ming, *ppl. a.* [-ING 2.] That steams.
† 1. Glowing, flaming. *Obs.*
a 1542 WYATT *Of meane & sure Estate* 53 Under a stole she spied two stemyng eyes In a rounde head. 1583 MELBANCKE *Philotimus* 66 A cat in seing with her steeming eies.

2. That emits steam or vapour.
a 1637 B. JONSON *Praises Country Life* 66 To view..The wealthy houshold swarme of bondmen met, And 'bout the steeming Chimney set! 1667 MILTON *P. L.* v. 186 Ye Mists and Exhalations that now rise From Hill or steaming Lake. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* IV. 68 Nor near the steaming Stench of muddy Ground. 1735 SOMERVILLE *Chase* I. 321 Soon the sagacious Brute..the steaming Vapour snuffs Inquisitive. 1799 WORDSW. *Two Apr. Mornings* 10 Through the grass, And by the steaming rills. 1860 DICKENS, etc. *Message fr. Sea* iii. *Christm. Stor.* (1874) 164 At the upper end of this room stood long stoves like metal counters, laden with steaming pans. 1865 LE FANU *Guy Deverell* vii. I. 96 He..pulled up his steaming horse by the station. 1883 STEVENSON *Treas. Isl.* xiv, The sun still shining mercilessly on the steaming marsh. 1899 E. PHILLPOTTS *Human Boy* 28 A steaming glass of hot grog is what you want.

b. quasi-*adv.* in phr. *steaming hot.*
1686 E. VERNEY in *V. Mem.* (1899) IV. 381 For fear..you should catch harm, for as I did once coming out of the Theatre at a publick Act when it was very full and stiaming-hot [*sic*], and walkin a Broad in the cold. 1815 SCOTT *Ld. of Isles* v. xxxiii, Then on the board his sword he toss'd, Yet steaming hot. 1907 J. H. PATTERSON *Man-Eaters of Tsavo* xiii, 150 A cup of steaming hot coffee.

Stea·m-ro·ller. A heavy locomotive engine with wide wheels used for crushing road-metal and levelling roads.
1866 *Engineering* 18 May 318/3 The Ballaison steam roller..may now be seen at all hours of the day crushing smooth the granite of the new boulevards of Paris. 1877 PHILIPSON in *Q. Rev.* CXLIV. 424 There, too, six-horse rollers are found to do the work of setting a roadway far more effectually than our steam-rollers.

b. *fig.* (*colloq.*) A crushing power or force. Also *attrib.*
1902 *Munsey's Mag.* XXVI. 489/1 She [Russia] sought to achieve her end by means of the 'steam roller' of the concert of Europe. 1902 *Blackw. Mag.* Dec. 731/1 At last Kitchener..set his steam-roller in motion and rolled the enemy flat. 1906 *Westm. Gaz.* 16 June 15/1 In the Caucasus, as in Finland, she [*sc.* Russia] has adopted the steam-roller policy, and by crushing national aspirations has estranged possible loyalists.

Hence **Stea·m-ro·ll** *v. trans.*, to crush or level with a steam-roller; **Stea·m-ro·lling** *vbl. sb.*
1879 T. CODRINGTON *Macadamised Roads* 99 The cost of steam rolling, when there is constant work for the machine, is far less than that of horse rolling. 1900 *Daily News* 26 Dec. 6/3 The usual plan..is to finish off the laid road metal with gravel, which is well watered and steam rolled.

Stea·mship. A ship propelled by steam. Also *attrib.*
1819 SHELLEY *Lett.* Prose Wks. 1888 II. 311 Every body here is talking of a steam-ship which is building at Leghorn. 1821 SCOTT *Fam. Lett.* 6 July (1894) II. xvii. 121 We can now make the journey in the steam-ship within sixty hours. 1902 HALL & OSBORNE *Sunshine & Surf* i. 1 You were just now bewailing..that there was such a beastly sameness about steamship travelling. 1909 *Gt. Central Rlwy. Rep.* 6 Aug. 5 Steamship receipts show a heavy decline.

Stea·m-vessel.

†1. A vessel for holding steam; *esp.* one in which steam is condensed for working an engine. *Obs.*

1769 Dr. Small in Muirhead *Invent. Watt* (1854) I. 37 The vessels mentioned in this paragraph you call *steam-vessels*. 1798 Ct. Rumford in *Phil. Trans.* LXXXVIII. 464 The phial..was exposed one hour to the heat of boiling water in a steam-vessel. 1804 A. Woolf in *Repert. Arts* etc. Ser. II. VI. 88 The smaller steam vessel, or cylinder, must be a measure for the larger. 1843 *Penny Cycl.* XXVII. 69 Surface of steam-pipe, or other steam-vessel, heated to 200°.

2. A steamboat or steamship.

1825 *Gentl. Mag.* XCV. I. 163 In the ports of Brest and Bordeaux six steam-vessels are building of an extraordinary size. 1844 Ld. Brougham *Brit. Const.* xx. (1862) 393 Most of the steam-vessels now used in our trade could be converted easily into men-of-war. 1863 H. Cox *Instit.* III. v. 658 River steam-vessels.

Stea·m-whistle.

A powerful whistle worked by a jet of steam (usually from a steam-boiler): used as a signal.

1840 H. S. Tanner *Canals & Rail Roads U. S.* 261 *Steam whistle*, a device for warning people when the engine is approaching. 1856 Emerson *Eng. Traits* xiv, The voice of their modern muse has a slight hint of the steam-whistle. 1899 T. M. Ellis *Three Cat's-eye Rings* 123 A bullet.. shrieked past Clayside's ear like a steam-whistle.

attrib. 1870 Ruskin *Let.* in *Athenæum* (1905) 30 Sept. 428/3 Dickens was a pure modernist—a leader of the steam-whistle party *par excellence*. 1887 F. Hume *Myst. Hansom Cab* viii, Let us go outside, for I see your father has got that girl with the steam-whistle voice to sing.

Hence **Steam-whistling** *vbl. sb.*

1866 Ruskin *Crown of Wild Olive* iv. § 152 Steam-piston labour on the earth, and the harvest of it brought forth with steam-whistling.

Steamy (stī·mi), *a.* [f. Steam *sb.* + -y.]

1. Consisting of, abounding in, or emitting steam; resembling steam.

1644 Digby *Nat. Bodies* xxvii. § 7. 247 Were they not continually stuffed and clogged with grosse vapours of steamy meates. 1785 Cowper *Task* iv. 39 While the bubbling and loud-hissing urn Throws up a steamy column. 1818 Milman *Samor* 97 So they bravely strove For the bleak freedom of their steamy moors. 1866 Livingstone *Last Jrnls.* (1874) I. 21 The steamy, smothering air. 1899 *Edin. Rev.* Oct. 288 The climate is steamy and enervating.

fig. 1841 Carlyle *Ess., Baillie* (1857) IV. 232 Baillie is the true newspaper; he is to be used and studied like one. Taken up in this way, his steamy indistinctness abates.

2. Covered with condensed vapour. (Cf. Steam *v.* 5 and 9 d.) *Path.* Of the cornea: Covered or apparently covered with condensed vapour.

1869 G. Lawson *Dis. Eye* (1874) 30 The cornea grows dull and steamy. 1879 *St. George's Hosp. Rep.* IX. 488 Both corneæ continued steamy.

Hence **Stea·mily** *adv.*; **Stea·miness.**

1857 Livingstone *Trav. S. Africa* xxviii. 578, I myself felt an oppressive steaminess in the atmosphere. 1880 Miss Bird *Japan* I. 128 The temperature is from 72° to 86°, and in the steaminess, needles rust. 1909 *English Rev.* Mar. 734, I became steamily hot.

Stean (stēn). Forms: 1 sténe, 3–6 stene, 4, 6, 8– steen, 5 steene, 6–7 steane, (8 stein), 7– stean. [OE. *sténe* wk. fem. (only once, inflected *sténan*) = OHG. *steinna* stone jug :—OTeut. type **stainjōn-*, f. **staino-* (OE. *stán*): see Stone *sb.*] A vessel for liquids (or, in later use, for bread, meat, fish, etc.), usually made of clay, with two handles or ears; a jar, pitcher, pot, urn. Now only *dial.* and *arch.*

c 1050 *Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 415/18 *Gillone*, stænan. *c* 1275 *Wom. Samaria* 15 in *O. E. Misc.*, Ase he þer reste..þar com gon o wymmon,..myd hire stene [= Vulg. *hydria*, John iv. 28]. 1382 Wyclif 2 *Kings* vii. 50 And Salomon made..the ..stenys [1388 pottis]..of moost pure gold. *Ibid.* xvii. 12, I haue not breed, but as myche as an handful may take of mele in a stene [1388 pot; Vulg. *in hydria*]. 1387 Trevisa *Higden* (Rolls) II. 207 Þese beeþ þe names of þe signes: þe Wether,..þe Steen [*printed* Sceen; repr. L. *Aquarius*], the Fisshe. *c* 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* III. 1165 Of that they do Viij cotuls in a stene of wynes trie [*per amphoram uini*]. *Ibid.* IV. 666 Whan they beth bake, al hoot into a stene Let hem be pressed. *a* 1500 *Medulla Gram., Anfora*, a steene or a canne with two eerys. 1542 Udall *Erasm. Apoph.* 74 Plato sent hym a whole stene or pitcher full [orig. *lagœnam*.] 1562 J. Heywood *Prov. & Epigr.* (1867) 147 That doth diligently: Attend the tappes of stande and steane: To moyst thy lippes full dry. *a* 1599 Spenser *F. Q.* VII. vii. 42 Vpon an huge great Earth-pot steane he stood; From whose wide mouth, there flowed forth the Romane floud. 1663 J. Davies tr. *Olearius' Voy. Ambass.* 261 The Pots..are very much esteem'd, especially the Steans, or great Pitchers. 1728 E. Smith *Compl. Housew.* (ed. 2) 202 Strip them into an earthen Stean that has a cover to it. 1750 *Ibid.* 236 Put them into an earthen stein that has a saucer. 1742 *Lond. & Country Brew.* I. (ed. 4) 48 The Ale..is drank while it is fermenting in earthen Steens. 1746 *Gentl. Mag.* XVI. 407 (Exmoor Vocab.) *Steyan* or *Stean*, an earthen pot, like a jar. 1880 *E. Cornw. Gloss.*, *Stean*, an earthenware pot such as meat or fish is cured in. 1888 Doughty *Arabia Deserta* I. xvi. 450 If the thing fall to them for which they vowed [at the wishing-place], they will..lay up a new stean in a little cave. 1908 A. Bennett *Old Wives' Tale* I. iii. 34 In the corner nearest the kitchen was a great steen in which the bread was kept.

attrib. *c* 1450 *Mirk's Festial* 293 A grete tode was in þe stene bothom. 1728 E. Smith *Compl. Housew.* (ed. 2) 203 Put into a Stean-pot two pounds of Raisins stoned.

Stean(e: see Stain *v.*, Steen *v.*, Stone.

Steap(e: see Steep, Step.

Steaple, obs. f. Steeple.

Steapsin (stī,æ·psin). *Physiological Chem.* [f. Gr. *στέα-ρ* fat, after Pepsin.] A ferment of the pancreatic juice which saponifies fat (*Syd. Soc. Lex.* 1898).

1896 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* I. 175 Whether it [*i.e.* fat necrosis] be due to a change produced by the steapsin on the fat..is not decided. 1897 *Ibid.* III. 723 The ferments of the pancreas, especially the fat-transforming steapsin, may be searched for.

Stear: see Stair, Stare *sb.*[1], Steer, Stir.

Stearate (stī·ăre·lt). *Chem.* [Formed as Stear-ic + -ate.] A salt of stearic acid.

1841 Brande *Man. Chem.* (ed. 5) 1139 Stearate of Baryta is formed by mixing hot solution of stearate of potassa with nitrate of baryta:..Stearate of Lead. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* III. 297 The other fatty constituents of the bile consist of saponifiable fats, especially the oleates and stearates.

Stearerin (stī,ăre·rin). *Chem.* [f. Gr. *στέαρ* fat (see Stearic) + *ἔρ-ος* (Ionic *εἶρος*) wool + -in.] A fatty substance analogous to stearin found in the oil of sheep's wool. So **Stearerate** [-ate [4]], a salt derived from stearerin.

1868 Watts *Dict. Chem.* V. 412 The fat contained in the wool of Merino sheep is..a mixture of more liquid fat, elaerin, and a more solid fat, stearerin..When treated with strong potash-ley, it yields a salt, stearerate of potassium.

Stearic (stī,æ·rik), *a.* [ad. F. *stéarique* (Chevreul *c* 1819) f. Gr. *στέαρ* fat, tallow: see -ic.] **a.** *Chem.* Derived from or containing stearin. *Stearic acid* ($C_{18}H_{36}O_2$), an organic acid found mixed with palmitin and olein in most tallows. *Stearic ether*, a compound of stearic acid with the alcohol radicals. **b.** *Stearic candle*: the trade name of a kind of candle made of the 'stearine' of commerce.

1831 T. Ψ. Jones *New Convers. Chem.* xxx. 304 In the conversion of suet into soap, a third acid, called stearic, has also been detected. 1836–9 Brande in *Todd's Cycl. Anat.* II. 233/2 The stearic portion of train oil..concretes..at a temperature between 70° and 80°. 1838 R. D. Thomson in *Brit. Annual* 348 Stearic ether. 1852 Royle in *Lect. Gt. Exhib.* 485 The wax candles from Patna, and the stearic candles..from Calcutta. 1898 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* V. 35 Fatty crystals (palmitic and stearic)..are also found.

Stearidge, obs. form of Steerage.

Steariform (stī·ăriſɔim), *a.* [f. Stearin + -form.] Resembling stearin, or hard fat.

1860 Mayne *Expos. Lex.* 1911 *Webster's Dict.*

Stearin (stī·ărin). Also **-ine.** [ad. F. *stéarine* (Chevreul), f. Gr. *στέαρ* stiff fat, tallow, suet: see -in.]

1. *Chem.* A general name for the three glycerids (monostearin, distearin, tristearin) formed by the combination of stearic acid and glycerine; chiefly applied to tristearin, which is the chief constituent of tallow or suet.

1817 T. Thomson *Syst. Chem.* (ed. 5) II. 371 Stearin..was first described by Chevreul in 1814. 1819 Brande *Man. Chem.* 374 A dry, concrete, fatty matter is obtained, which Chevreul has called stearine. 1819 J. G. Children *Chem. Anal.* 310 Stearin..somewhat resembles wax. 1845 Todd & Bowman *Phys. Anat.* I. 43 Stearine exists but sparingly, or not at all, in human fat. 1869 Roscoe *Chem.* 386 The Stearic..Ethers of Glycerin, or Stearins..may be prepared artificially by heating glycerin with stearic acid.

Comb. 1873 C. H. Ralfe *Outl. Phys. Chem.* 21 Stearic acid unites with glycerine to form stearin glycerin.

2. The solid portion of any fixed oil or fat, in contradistinction to Olein 2.

1910 *Encycl. Brit.* VI. 635/2 By boiling the livers at a somewhat high temperature, 'unracked' cod oil is obtained, containing a considerable quantity of 'stearine', this fat, which separates on cooling, is sold as 'fish-stearine' for soap-making.

3. (Chiefly spelt *stearine*.) The commercial name of a preparation consisting of purified fatty acids, used for making candles, and formerly also as a material for statuettes.

1839 Ure *Dict. Arts* 248 In June, 1825, M. Gay Lussac obtained a patent in England for making candles from margaric and stearic acids, improperly called stearine. 1870 *Illustr. Lond. News* 1 Oct. 359 Casts in stearine from two busts of Prince Leopold and Princess Amelie. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* II. 74/2 Every one is now familiar with those [candles] made of stearine or stearic acid. 1887 *Encycl. Brit.* XXII. 527/1 Stearine, in commerce, designates a solid mixture of fatty acids (chiefly palmitic and stearic) which is being produced industrially from animal fats and used largely for the making of candles.

b. *attrib.*

1848 J. Burnet *Ess. Fine Arts* iv. 130 His pictures possess that peculiar stearine substance found in the works of Watteau. 1844 *E. A. Parnell's Appl. Chem.* II. 303 Stearine candles, when properly made, are white and inodorous. 1878 A. H. Markham *Gt. Frozen Sea* xix. 267 A stearine lamp.

Ste·arinery. *rare.* [f. Stearin + -ery. Cf. F. *stéarinerie*, factory in which stearine is made.] The manufacture of stearine or stearine products.

1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2362/2 The next step made in stearinery was the decomposition of the fats by water.

†**Stearing.** *Obs. rare*[−1]. (See quot.)

1769 Cook *Jrnl.* 23 Mar. (1893) 53 There are also Birds in Newfoundland called Stearings.

Stearne, obs. f. Stern.

Stearo- (stī,ăro), used as combining form of Stearic or Stearin in many names of chemical compounds containing or derived from stearin, e.g. *stearochlorhydrin*, *stearoglucose*, *stearolaurin* (see Watts *Dict. Chem.*).

1873 C. H. Ralfe *Outl. Phys. Chem.* 21 Stearo-cholesterin. 1911 *Encycl. Brit.* XX. 44/1 Examples of such glycerides are ..stearo-palmito-olein [etc.].

Stearoid (stī·äroid). [f. Stear-in + -oid.] A stearin substance.

1882 T. Twining *Food & Nutrition* 30 Non-nitrogenous constituents of food. The stearoids or fats.

Stearone (stī·ăroun). *Chem.* Also **-on.** [f. Stear-in + -one.] A ketone obtained from stearic acid.

1836 Brande *Man. Chem.* (ed. 4) 962 Stearone.—When stearic acid is distilled with a fourth-part of quicklime, a substance is obtained sparingly soluble in ether and alcohol. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXIII. 1/2 Stearon.

Stearoptene (stī,ărǫ·ptĕn). Also **-en, -ine.** [ad. mod.L. type *stearoptēnum* (Herberger 18..), f. Gr. *στέαρ* solid fat (cf. Stearin) + *πτηνό-ς* winged (taken to represent 'volatile'). Cf. F. *stéaroptène*. Both this and the parallel Elæoptene are bad formations, and do not express the intended meaning.]

The solid crystalline component of a volatile oil, in contradistinction to the liquid part or *elæoptene*; a camphor.

1836 *Penny Cycl.* VI. 204 Camphor is the stearopten, or one of the principles arising from the separation of the volatile oil of [etc.]. 1846 Lindley *Veg. Kingd.* 537 The Camphor of commerce..is a kind of Stearoptine. 1887 Bentley *Man. Bot.* (ed. 5) 642 The stearoptene called menthol..is said to be derived from *Mentha arvensis*.

Stearyl (stī·äril). [f. Stear-in + -yl.] The radical of stearic acid.

1868 Watts *Dict. Chem.* V. 426.

Steaschist (stī·ăjist). *Min.* [f. Gr. *στέα-ρ* tallow + Schist. Cf. F. *stéaschiste*.] A laminated variety of talc.

1833–4 J. Phillips *Geol.* in *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) VI. 764/2 The limestone is in thin tortuous beds, and as it were dissolved with the shining slate and steaschist. 1874 Birch *1st & 2nd Egypt. Rooms Brit. Mus.* 74 The greater number [of these scarabæi] are of a white steaschist or steatite.

Steath, obs. form of Staithe.

Steath, Steathing: see Stooth, Stoothing *north.* and *Sc.*

Steatite (stī·ătəit). *Min.* Also 7–9 in L. form **steatites.** [ad. L. *steatītis* or *-ītēs* (Pliny), a. Gr. **στεατῖτις*, *-ίτης* (λίθος), a stone resembling tallow, f. στεατ-, *στέαρ* tallow, suet: see -ite.] A massive variety of talc, commonly of a grey or greyish green colour, with an unctuous or soapy feel; soap-stone.

a. [1601 Holland *Pliny* xxxvii. xi. II. 630 Some [precious stones] there be which bear the names of certain members of the body; as for example, Hepatites, of the liuer; Steatites, of the sundry sorts of fat, grease or tallow.] 1758 Borlase *Nat. Hist. Cornw.* 66 There is a white steatites, in the parish of Guenap, of a more indurated Earth than the former. 1806 *Gazetteer Scot.* (ed. 2) 236 There are several beds of steatites or rock-soap. 1816 Parkes *Chem. Catech.* (ed. 7) 533 *Steatites*, a kind of stone composed of silex, iron, and magnesia. Also called French chalk.

β. 1794 Schmeisser *Syst. Min.* I. 192 Steatite Soap Stone. 1803 Malthus *Popul.* I. v. 62 In New Caledonia, the inhabitants..are sometimes reduced to eat great pieces of steatite. 1879 Rutley *Stud. Rocks* x. 127 Serpentine, steatite, and limonite are probably the most common of these alteration-products of British eruptive rocks.

b. *attrib.*

1839 De la Beche *Rep. Geol. Cornwall*, etc. iii. 97 Steatite veins are found traversing the serpentine. 1851 *Catal. Gt. Exhib.* 1421/1 Two carved steatite ornaments [from China]. 1911 Petrie *Revol. Civilisation* iii. 54 The splendid steatite vases with reliefs of figures. 1911 *Encycl. Brit.* XXVI. 369/1 In Burma steatite pencils are used for writing on black paper.

Hence **Steatitic** (stī·ătitik), †**Steati·tical** *adjs.*, of or composed of steatite, of the nature of steatite.

1795 J. Hutton *Th. Earth* I. 616, I have a specimen of steatetical [*sic*] whinstone or basaltes from some part of Cumberland. 1796 Kirwan *Elem. Min.* (ed. 2) I. 109 A steatitic rock. 1811 Pinkerton *Petral.* II. 235 Basalt, in which the chrysolite is become very steatitical through decay. 1879 Rutley *Stud. Rocks* iii. 30 Giving rise to steatitic matter.

Steatitous (stī·ătəitəs), *a.* [ad. F. *stéatiteux*, f. *stéatite*: see Steatite and -ous.] = Steatitic.

1853 Th. Ross tr. *Humboldt's Trav.* III. xxxii. 386 Green steatitous slate mixed with amphibole.

Steatization (stī·ătəizē·ʃən). *Min.* [f. Steat-ite + -ize + -ation.] (See quot.)

1911 *Encycl. Brit.* XXI. 869/1 There is often extensive 'steatisation', or the deposit of talc and steatite in place of the original minerals of the rock.

Steato- (stī,ăto), used as combining form of Gr. στεατ-, *στέαρ* stiff fat, tallow, suet, in many scientific terms, chiefly Medical. **Stea·tocele** [a. Gr. *στεατοκήλη*], a fatty tumour in the scrotum. **Stea·togene, -o·genous** *adjs.*, tending to produce steatosis. **Steato·lysis** [Gr. *λύσις* solution] (see quot.); hence **Steatoly·tic** *a.* (see quot.). **Steato·pathy** [Gr. *πάθος* disease], disease of the sebaceous glands (Dorland *Med. Dict.* 1913); hence **Ste:atopa·thic** *a.*, pertaining to steatopathy. **Ste:atorrhœ·a** [Gr. *ῥοία* flux, flow] = Seborrhœa.

1693 tr. *Blancard's Phys. Dict.* (ed. 2), **Steatocele*, a Rupture or Tumor in the *Scrotum*, of a Fatty or Suet-like Consistence. 1849–52 *Todd's Cycl. Anat.* V. 1013/1 Collections of fat in the scrotum have been known from the time of Galen by the term steatocele. 1893 E. S. D'Odiardi *Med. Electr.* 55 Generators of fat, called *steatogene poisons.

1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 741 The *steatogenous functions of the sweat-glands. 1898 *Syd. Soc. Lex.*, *Steatolysis*, the emulsifying process by means of which fats are prepared for absorption and assimilation. 1891 W. D. Halliburton *Text-bk. Chem. Physiol.* 158 Steatolytic [ferments]: those which split fats into fatty acids and glycerine. 1876 Dunglison *Med. Lex.*, *Steatopathic.* 1860 Mayne *Expos. Lex.*, *Steatorrhœa.* 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 759 The name seborrhœa (more correctly steatorrhœa) is not a satisfactory one.

Steatoid (stī·ătoid). *Min.* [Named by E. F. Glocker 1839, from its resemblance to Steatite: see -oid.] A name given to the serpentine pseudomorphs found at Snarum, in Norway.

1877 *Watts' Dict. Chem.* V. 426.

‖ **Steatoma** (stīătō·mă). *Path.* Also anglicized **steatom(e.** [L. *steatōma*, a. Gr. στεάτωμα, f. στεατοῦσθαι to be converted into fat, f. στεατ-, στέαρ fat, tallow. Cf. F. *stéatôme.*] An encysted fatty tumour.

α. 1599 A. M. tr. *Gabelhouer's Bk. Physicke* 18/4 The vlceration Steatoma, a kinde of fatte matter, like suet. 1674 tr. *Barbette's Chirurg.* (ed. 2) 323 Steatoma's and other Abscesses, are often generated in the Caul. 1763 *Phil. Trans.* LIII. 233 The glands of the mesentery..represented small and distinct steatomas. 1854 C. H. Jones *Path. Anat.* iv. 166 A steatoma..is a fatty tumour, with a preponderating excess of areolar tissue.

β. 1737 Jamieson in *Med. Ess. Edinb.* (ed. 2) III. 354 A large Steatom passing with the Oesophagus from the Thorax into the Abdomen. 1829 *Good's Study Med.* (ed. 3) V. 324 The steatome grows to a larger size, than any of the rest. 1835–6 *Todd's Cycl. Anat.* I. 63/2 Small steatoma are not unfrequent in the eyelids and in the scalp.

Steatomatous (stī,ătǫ·mătəs), *a. Path.* [f. Gr. στεατωματ-, στεάτωμα (see prec.) + -ous.] Of the nature of or resembling a steatoma.

1681 E. Tyson in *Phil. Coll.* No. 2. 14 In a thin pale Lympha or Serum, there did swim in several..pieces a steatomatous or cruddy Matter. 1772 *Phil. Trans.* LXI. 131 [A] Steatomatous Tumour. 1849–52 *Todd's Cycl. Anat.* IV. 1355/2 The limbs [of the Hottentot] are slight; the buttocks, however, frequently present a steatomatous appearance.

‖ **Steatopyga** (stī,ătǫpəi·gă). *Phys.* [mod.L., f. Gr. στεατ-, στέαρ fat, tallow + πῦγή rump, buttocks.] A protuberance of the buttocks, due to an abnormal accumulation of fat in and behind the hips and thighs, found (more markedly in women than in men) as a racial characteristic of certain peoples, esp. the Hottentot Bushmen of South Africa.

1822 W. J. Burchell *Trav. S. Afr.* I. xi. 216 *note*, It is not a fact, that the whole of the Hottentot race are thus formed; neither is there any particular tribe to which this *steatopyga*, as it may be called, is peculiar. 1873 Ellen E. Frewer tr. *Schweinfurth's Heart of Africa* I. vii. 296 Shapes developed to this magnitude..I saw..among the Bongo, and they may well demand to be technically described as 'Steatopyga'.

So ‖ **Steatopygia** (-pi·dʒiă), anglicized **Steatopygy** (stī,ătǫ·pidʒi), the condition of having a steatopyga. Also **Steatopygous** (stī,ătǫ·pigəs, stī,ătǫpəi·gəs) *a.*, pertaining to or characterized by a steatopyga. **Steatopy·gic** *a.* = prec.

1871 Darwin *Descr. Man* II. xix. 345 With many Hottentot women the posterior part of the body projects in a wonderful manner; they are steatopygous. 1879 tr. *De Quatrefages' Hum. Species* 52 This steatopygia reappears however in certain tribes situated much further north than the Houzouana races. 1889 *Athenæum* 13 Apr. 475/3 Dr. Topinard has been considering the probable cause of the steatopygy of Hottentot women. 1900 Deniker *Races of Man* ii. (ed. 2) 93 Steatopygia is characteristic of the Bushman race. 1912 *19th Cent.* Dec. 1219 Hideous autochthonoi of the Upper Nile, whose mis-shapen, steatopygic nudity amazed Old Egypt.

‖ **Steatornis** (stī,ătǫ·nis). [mod.L. (Humboldt 1814), f. Gr. στεατ-, στέαρ fat + ὄρνις bird.] A bird of the species *Steatornis caripensis*, the type and only representative of the family *Steatornithidæ*; the Guacharo or oil-bird of South America.

1818 Helen M. Williams tr. *Humboldt's Trav.* III. iii. vii. 125 The guacharo is of the size of our fowls...I have noted it under the name of steatornis. 1895 *Pop. Sci. Monthly* Apr. 776 Steatornis breeds by the hundreds in the vast gloomy caves.

‖ **Steatosis** (stī,ătōu·sis). *Path.* [mod.L., ad. assumed Gr. *στεάτωσις, f. στεατοῦσθαι: see Steatoma and -osis.] Fatty degeneration.

1860 Mayne *Expos. Lex.* 1880 *Med. Temp. Jrnl.* Oct. 5 They are of two kinds, steatosis and cirrhosis. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* II. 860 Extensive fatty changes (steatosis) are common in drinkers apart from cirrhosis.

Steave, Steaven, var. ff. Steeve, Steven.

Steboy, Stecados(e: see Steeboy, Stechados.

†Stecca·do[1]. *Obs.* Also 7 **steccato, stecata.** [ad. It. *steccata*, mod.It. *steccata* palisade, lists to fight in: see -ado.]

1. Lists to fight or joust in.

1600 O. E. [M. Sutcliffe] *Repl. Libel* Ep. Ded. 9 It shall not be long, before I come into the steccato, and buckle with you againe. *Ibid.* 1. vii. 184 A foolish challenger, that euen in the midst of danger conueieth himselfe out of the steccato. 1617 Minsheu *Ductor.* 1656 Blount *Glossogr.*

2. A palisade of stakes, stockade.

1632 Earl Monm. tr. *Bentivoglio's Hist. Relat.* 29 He master'd the River of Schelde with his famous Stecata. 1654 — tr. *Bentivoglio's Warrs Flanders* 225 Divers rowes of great Piles of Trees..closed together overthwart with divers others..; they were called Steccadoes...The Steccado of Callo advanced about 120 usual paces.

†Stecca·do[2]. *Obs. rare*—[1]. [erron. form of Stoccado.] A thrust with a rapier.

c 1600 *Distracted Emp.* IV. ii. in Bullen *Old Pl.* (1884) III. 233 Favorytts are not without their steccados, imbrocados and pun[to]-reversos.

Stech, stegh (steχ), *v. Sc.* and *north.* [Of obscure origin.] *trans.* To fill (the stomach) to repletion; to cram (food) into (the stomach). Also *fig.* Also *intr.* for *refl.*

1724 Ramsay *Tea-t. Misc.* (1775) II. 131 How sair I sweat, To stegh your guts, ye sot. 1725 — *Gentle Sheph.* III. iv, His father steght his fortune in his wame. *a* 1774 Fergusson *Election* Wks. (1807) 293 They stech and connach sae the meat Their teeth mak mair than tongue haste. 1786 Burns *Twa Dogs* 61 An' tho' the gentry first are steghan, Yet ev'n the ha' folk fill their peghan. 1819 W. Tennant *Papistry Storm'd* (1827) 216 Gae, get Deaf Meg and Crookit Mou'; Stech their how hungry stammachs fou.

†Stechados. *Obs.* Forms: α. 4, 6 **sticados,** 6 **stycados, stichados;** β. 6–7 **stechados,** 7 **stœ-, stœchados, stœ-, stecados, stecadose;** 6 **stechado, steckado,** 7 **-doe.** See also Stickadove, Stickadoor. [a. med.L. *sticados, stecados* etc., corrupt forms of L. *stœchados* genit. of *stœchas* Stœchas.] French Lavender, *Lavandula stœchas.*

α. 1516 *Gt. Herbal* cccxc. (1529) X iv b, Sticados citrine is called barba iouis..., and hercules grasse. De stycados Arabyke. Sticad[o]s arabyke is an herbe that groweth in sharpe places & hylles. 1542 Boorde *Dyetary* (1870) 288 Mayden-heere, and stycados. *Ibid.* 289 Sticados. 1562 Turner *Herbal* II. 148 The broth of stichados..is profitable and good for the diseases of the breste.

β. 1578 Lyte *Dodoens* I. lxi. 89 Golde floure Motheworte, or Golden Stechados. 1591 Percivall *Sp. Dict.*, *Cantueso*, stechado. 1597, 1621 Steckado (see Stickadove). 1621 Burton *Anat. Mel.* II. iv. 1. v. 448 Camomile, Stœchados,..&c. to be vsed after bathing. 1639 O. Wood *Alph. Bk. Secrets* 3 Wherein infuse some Stœchados. *Ibid.* 26 The flowers of Stœcados. *Ibid.* 227 Stecadose, or French Lavander, opens all stoppings in body. 1641 French *Distill.* ii. (1651) 57 The flowers of Stechados.

Stechiometry, obs. form of Stoichiometry.

Steck, variant of Steek *v.*[1]

†Steckle. *Obs. rare.* Also 5 **stekill.** [? repr. ONorthumb. **stecel* (:— **steklo-*), f. **stecan* Steek *v.*[1]] The bar of a door.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 17414 Bot yee him mist þar alsun, Als your steckles war vndon. ?*a* 1500 *Peblis to the Play* xxii, And oure doure hes na stekill.

Sted, Stedame: see Stead, Steed, Stepdame.

Steddie, -y, Stedding, Steddle, Stede: see Steady, Stithy, Steading, Staddle, Stead, Steed.

†Ste·dill, *v. Obs. rare*—[1]. [? f. *stede* Stead *sb.* Cf. Stathel, Stightle *vbs.*] *trans.* To array (soldiers), draw up in order.

a 1400–50 *Wars Alex.* 3977 Forþi lat stedill all oure stoure & stedd þam esoundire.

Stedulle, obs. forms of Studdle.

Stedy(e, Stee, var. ff. Steady, Stithy, Sty.

Steeboy, steboy, var. ff. Staboy *U.S.*

1844 [W. T. Thompson] *Maj. Jones's Courtship* 55 (Bartlett) 'There it is..Steboy; catch him!' says he [to the dog]. 1884 A. A. Putnam *Ten Yrs. Police Judge* xii. 86 They stand off and say stee-boy to the constables, who are only too ready to dog the dog-law breakers.

Steed (stīd). Forms: 1 **stéda,** 2–6 **stede,** 4 *Sc.* 5 *north.* **sted,** 4–6 **steede,** 4–7 *Sc.* **steid,** (4 **stiede,** 6–7 **stead,** 7 **steade, stied**), 5– **steed.** [OE. *stéda* wk. masc., a stud-horse, stallion:—OTeut. type **stōdjon-*, f. **stōdō* (OE. *stód*) Stud *sb.* Cf. ON. *stedda* mare.

The G. *stute* and Sw. *sto*, mare, seem to be shortened from compounds of OHG. *stuot* and Sw. *sto* (MSw. *stoþ*) = Stud *sb.*]

1. †**a.** In OE., a stud-horse, stallion. *Obs.* †**b.** In ME. and early mod.Eng., a high-mettled horse used on state occasions, in war, or in the lists; a great horse, as distinguished from a palfrey. *Obs.*

c. From the 16th c. used only *poet.* or *rhetorically* for: A horse, usually one for riding; often with eulogistic adjs. (Also sometimes slightly jocular, as being a rather grandiloquent word.)

a 900 tr. *Bæda's Hist.* II. x. [xiii.] (1890) 138 Ond þone cyning bæd þæt he him wæpen sealde & stodhors..þa..nom his spere on hond & hleop on þæs cyninges stedan [L. *emissarium*]. *c* 1000 Ælfric *Hom.* I. 210 Ne het Crist him to lædan modigne stedan..ac þone wacan assan he geceas him to byrðre. *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 5 He mihte ridan 3if he walde on riche stede and palefrai. *c* 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 89 He..bed hem bringen a wig one te riden, noðer stede ne palefrei, ne fair mule. *c* 1205 Lay. 26519 He wende his stede & to him gon ride. *Ibid.* 31405 Nim an hundred steden. *c* 1380 *Sir Ferumb.* 3810 An hors þat is worþ many a toun, No-war nys such a stede. *c* 1385 Chaucer *L. G. W.* 1115 There was courser wel I-brydelid non Ne stede for to iuste wel to gon. *c* 1400 Maundev. (Roxb.) xxv. 118 Foure whyte stedez..drawez þis chariot. *c* 1430 *Syr Gener.* (Roxb.) 3792 Here Palfreys tho thei forsoke, And to here stedes thei hem toke. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 473/1 Steede, hors, *dextrarius, gradarius, sonipes.* 1470–85 Malory *Arthur* VII. xv. 236 Thenne they broughte hym a rede spere and a rede stede. 1593 Shaks. *Rich. II*, v. ii. 8 Mounted vpon a hot and fierie Steed. 1623 Cockeram I, *Steed*, a lustie horse. 1667 Milton *P. L.* IV. 858 The Fiend repli'd not..But like a proud Steed rein'd went hautie on, Chaumping his iron curb. *Ibid.* VI. 17 Chariots and flaming Armes, and fierie Steeds Reflecting blaze on blaze. 1733 Pope *Ess. Man* III. 35 The bounding steed you pompously bestride. 1740 Somerville *Hobbinol* II. 218 He spur'd his sober Steed, grizled with Age; And venerably dull. 1817 Byron *Mazeppa* ix, 'Bring forth the horse!'—the horse was brought; In truth, he was a noble steed. 1836 W. Irving *Astoria* III. 14 Mr. Stuart and his little band mounted their steeds and took a farewell of their fellow travellers. 1841 Borrow *Zincali* I. vii. II. 335 There was one steed which he particularly cherished, the finest horse in Spain. 1852 Tennyson *Ode Wellington* 55 And a reverent people behold The towering car, the sable steeds. 1894 Baring-Gould *Deserts S. France* II. 256 He was fanciful about his steed, and always rode choice horses.

d. *transf.* of other animals used for riding.

c 1450 *Mirour Saluacioun* 4121 Ane asse on palmesondaye was his stede certeynly. 1900 Pollok & Thom *Sports Burma* iii. 77 Neither steed [*sc.* elephant] would budge an inch.

e. Applied to a bicycle.

1877 H. H. Griffin *Bicycles of the Year* 8 The makers relying on the adopted and favourite types whereon to build a good steed.

2. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *steed-subduing* adj., *steed-like* adj. and adv.; †**steed-back** in phr. *on steed-back*, on horseback; **steed-horse** †(*a*) *Sc.*, a stud-horse, stallion (*obs.*); (*b*) ? *U.S.* a riding-horse; **steid-meir** *Sc.* = Stud-mare; †**steed shroud,** the trappings of a horse; †**steed-yoke,** a two-horsed car or chariot.

c 1400–25 Langl. *P. Pl. C.* VII. 43 (MS. F), [Strengest vp-on] *stede-bac. 1766–80 *Hugh Spencer* XXV. in Child *Ballads* III. 280 Now I am on that steede-back that I could not ride. *c* 1425 Wyntoun *Cron.* I. 1030 Þe *steid hors gais in pasture gude,..þe meris ar wiþin þar sicht. 1842 J. F. Watson *Ann. Philad. & Pennsylv.* (1877) I. 275 He mounted a very fine steed horse. 1818 Milman *Samor* 238 The proud *steedlike tossing of his crest. 1839 Bailey *Festus* XXVII. (1848) 324 The steed-like world stands ready. Mount for life. 1582 *Reg. Mag. Sig. Scot.* 127/2 Unius *steid-meir. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 25464 Nu ask i noþer gra ne grene, Ne *stede scrud [*a* 1300–1400 Stede schrud (Gött.); *c* 1375 purtraied stede (Fairf.)]. 1818 Shelley *Homer's Castor & Pollux* 6 *Steed-subduing Castor. 1582 Stanyhurst *Æneis* II. (Arb.) 52 Hector..Harryed in *steedyocks [L. *bigis*] as of earst.

Steeded (stī·dėd), *a. nonce-wd.* [f. Steed + -ed.] With steeds.

1905 R. Garnett *Shaks.* 32 Reading to our rapt silence histories Of steeled and steeded war.

Steedless (stī·dlės), *a.* [f. Steed + -less.] Without a steed.

1795 Anna Seward *Lett.* (1811) IV. 93 When the horses have drawn us to the ocean's brim, they are taken off, and we pursue our needleworks in the steedless vehicle. 1841 Whittier *Norsemen* 20 The..rapid jar Of the fire-winged and steedless car. 1867 *Chronicle* No. 39. 926/1 Here I linger spearless, steedless.

Hence **Stee·dlessly** *adv.*

1865 S. Evans *Bro. Fabian's MS.* 118 Shiplessly, steedlessly, Takes he his journey.

Steegh, obs. form of Sty *v.*

†Steek, *sb.*[1] *Sc. Obs. rare.* Also **steik.** [a. Flemish or LG. *stuk, stik* piece (= G. *stück*).] = Piece *sb.* in certain commercial uses: **a.** a cask of wine; **b.** a coin of specified value; a 'piece' of work (cf. *masterstik* s.v. Masterpiece).

1468 *Extracts Burgh Rec. Edin.* (1869) I. 23 Of Rynche wyne becaus of greitt steikes of ilk crowne ij[s]. 1573 *Sat. Poems Reform.* xxxix. 207 Sum gat thair handfull of thir half mark steikis. 1582 *Ibid.* xliv. 15 That maisters of ane euil steik of vark Sould ay detest the godlie, vpricht lyf.

Steek (stīk), *sb.*[2] *Sc.* Also **steik.** [Northern ME. **stīk(e, *stēk(e* :—OE. *stice* masc., Stitch *sb.*]

1. A Stitch (in needlework or knitting).

1737 Ramsay *Sc. Prov.* 30 For want of a steek a shoe may be tint. 1786 Burns *Twa Dogs* 57 A bonie, silken purse.. whare thro' the steeks, The yellow letter'd Geordie keeks. 1823 Galt *Entail* I. iv. 31 With the help of a steek or twa of darning..it would do very well. 1900 R. J. Muir *Myst. Muncraig* iii. 46 Ye maun e'idently watch every turn o' the shears and every steek o' the needle.

fig. *phrase.* 1822 Galt *Sir A. Wylie* ii, I hope ye'll allow me to gie her an opportunity to tak up the steik in her stocking. 1834–5 M. Scott *Cruise Midge* xi, When the steek in my father's purse, let down by my mother's spiritual propensities, was taken up.

b. *Every steek:* every 'stitch' (of clothing, etc.).

1820 Scott *Monast.* XXXV, They would tirl every steek of claithes from our back. 1894 Crockett *Raiders* x, We could see the king's ship coming..wi' every steek o' canvas set.

c. Phr. *To keep steeks with*; to keep pace or time with.

a 1801 R. Gall *Tint Quey* 39 Poems (1819) 27 Then wi' her hands her tongue kept steeks. 1896 Crockett *Grey Man* vi. 42 The wearers of the butcher's colours had enough to do to keep steeks with us.

2. A strenuous spell or turn of an occupation.

1895 Crockett *Men of Moss-Hags* XXV. 285, I had given up all thought of escape, and was putting in hard steeks at the praying. 1912 A. Reid *Forfar Worthies* 86 Aff I ran at a fine steek.

Steek (stīk), *sb.*[3] *north.* Also 8 **stick.** [? f. Steek *v.*[1]] A strike (of workmen).

α. 1768 *Ann. Reg.* 92/2 The keelmen of Sunderland made a stick, refusing to work. 1825 Brockett *N. C. Gloss.*, *Stick*, or *Strike*, a stand or combination among workmen.

β. 1844 M. A. Richardson *Local Hist. Table Bk.*, Leg. Div. II. 2 A somewhat serious disagreement between the keelmen of the Tyne and their employers, which ended in a steek of long continuance. 1862 Smiles *Engineers* III. 10 They were..hard workers, but very wild and uncouth; much given to 'steeks', or strikes.

Steek (stīk), *v.*[1] Chiefly (now only) *Sc.* and *north.* Forms: 2–5 **steken,** (2 *Ormin* **stekenn**), 4–5 **stekye,** 4–7 **steke,** (5 **stek**), 5–9 *Sc.* **steik,**

(6 **steike**), 8–9 *north.* **steck**; *Sc.* and *north.* 6–9 **steak**, 7, 9 **steick**, 7– **steek**; *Pa. t.* 3, 5 **stake**, 4 **stac**, 5 **stak**, 4–5 **stoke**; 5 **steked**, 7 **steek't**, 9 *north.* **steak'd**; *Sc.* 4 **stekyte, stekit, -yt, steikit**, 7 **steeked**, 9 **stieket, steekit**; *Pa. pple.* 3–4 **isteke**, 4–5 **y-steke, steke**, 5 *Sc.* **stek**, 3–6 **stoken**, (4 **stokin**), 5 **stokyn**, (4 *Sc.* **stekine**), 4–5 **i-stoke, y-stoke, stoke**; 4–5 **ystekyd**, (4 **isteked**, 5 **stekid, steked**); *Sc.* 4 **stokyt**, 4, 6 **stekit**, 6 **steikket, steikit, steiked**, 8–9 **steekit**, 9 **steeked**. [Early ME. *steken* str. vb., prob. repr. an unrecorded OE. **stecan* (**stæc*, **stæcon*, **stecen*). This can hardly be anything else than a developed use of the formally identical verb **stecan* to thrust, stab, prick, pierce (see next), but the manner of evolution of the sense 'to shut' is not clear; possibly it may have arisen from the notion of fastening with a pin or bolt. Cf. ME. BISTEKE *v.*; Sweet gives an OE. *bestecan* 'close, bar (door)', which we are unable to verify.]

1. *trans.* To shut up, enclose, imprison (a person *in* a place); also with *up*. Also *refl.*

c 1200 ORMIN 8087, & he toc iwhillc hæfedd mann..& let hemm stekenn inn an hus, & haldenn swiþe fasste. *a* 1350 *Child. Jesu* 257 Þe false ymages bi gunne to breke þat þe feondes weren inne i steke. 13.. *K. Alis.* 1132 Ac yet heo is in prison stoke. *a* 1400 *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* xxiii. 111 Crist..Called us fro deþ þer we weore stoke. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 13844 Telamocus he toke,..Stake hym in a stith house. 1412 *20 Pol. Poems* xi. 5 Oure enemys..Þat hadde vs in cheynes stoken. *a* 1450 LOVELICH *Grail* l. 202 In strong presoun they scholen ben stoke. 1816 SCOTT *Antiq.* xxxvii, If they steek me up here, my friends are like eneugh to forget me.

b. To enclose, shut *up* (a thing *in* a place).

c 1330 *Assump. Virg.* 848 (Add. MS.) That floure was manna yclepid; Hit was in þe tumbe ystekyd. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 1524 Goddes..þat were of stokkes & stones.. Neuer steuen hem astel, so stoken is hor tonge. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* Prol. 11 Sothe stories ben stoken vp, & straught out of mynde. 1401 *26 Pol. Poems* iii. 93 In euyl soule no grace is stoken, ffor wikked soule is graceles. *c* 1421 *Ibid.* xxiii. 65 While obley in yrnes, or boyst ys stoken, Hit nys but bred. 1837 R. NICOLL *Poems* (1843) 144 An' ahint the door o' cauld disdain My heart I canna' steek.

† **c.** ? To keep back (the truth). *Obs.*

c 1400 *Cato's Morals* 17 in *Cursor M.* App. iv. 1669 Fainteli for to speke, and þe soþ for to steke, is falsid and blame.

d. To shut out, exclude (a person or thing); to shut (a person) *out* (of doors).

c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* ii. (*Paulus*) 900 Gregor sais..þat nothir stekis fra godis mercy Of þe fel syne þe quantite Na 3et þe gret ennormyte. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* II. 21 That what as evere I [Forgetfulness] thoghte have spoken, It is out fro myn herte stoken. 1402 *Pol. Poems* (Rolls) II. 97 Crist.. hadde noon harborow, to resten in his owne heed, and steken out the stormes. *c* 1412 HOCCLEVE *De Reg. Princ.* 3469 And wratthe & irous tene Out of þe herte for to spere and steke. 1595 DUNCAN *App. Etym.* (E. D. S.), *Discludo, secludo*, to steike out. *Ibid.*, *Excludo*, to steik out, to cleck. Ibid., *Secludo*, to steak out. 1792 A. WILSON *Watty & Meg* 183 That ye'll..Never out at e'ening steek me. 1816 SCOTT *Antiquary* xxxii, What for are ye steeking them out?—let them come in.

2. To shut up (a place), to close securely, to lock *up*.

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 50 Loke3 þ te parlurs beon euer ueste.. & eke wel istekene. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* III. 314 This Cofre ..thei finde faste stoke, Bot thei with craft it have unloke. *c* 1440 *York Myst.* xxxvii. 193 Þis steede [Hell] schall stonde no lenger stoken, Opynne vppe and latte my pepul passe. 1561 *Maitl. Club Misc.* III. 289 Papisticall jurisdictione abolesched furth of ye same ye consistorie hows dischergit and stekyt vp. 1563 *Reason. betw. Crosraguel & Knox* A iii b, Wo be vnto you Scribes and Pharises..for ye steak the kingdome of heauen before men:..suche as wold enter ye suffer not. 1597 *Skene's Acts Parl. Scot.* Table s.v. *Tavernes*, Tavernes suld be steiked at nine houres, and na person suld be found therein.

fig. *a* 1500 *Lancelot* 316 This process (now) mot closine ben and stek; And furth I wil one to my mater go.

3. To shut, fasten (a door, window, etc.). Also † with *to*, *up* advs.

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 62 Ase men wolden steken veste euerich þurl..þat heo muhten bisteken deaþ þer vte. *c* 1290 *Becket* 689 in *S. Eng. Leg.* 126 In þe Eueninge he bad is knaue to steken þe dore faste. *c* 1380 WYCLIF *Wks.* (1880) 341 Summe ..vndurstonden bodily keyȝes, by whiche heuen ȝates shulden be openid and stokune. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) I. 65 Martianus seiþ þat þe ȝates of Caspij beeþ i-steke wiþ yren barres. *c* 1425 *Seven Sag.* (P.) 1352 He ros..And stoke to the dore anoone. *c* 1440 *Gesta Rom.* xlix. 220 Afterward the knyȝt come home, & he fonde the yate of his castell stoken. 1523–34 FITZHERB. *Husb.* § 40 And whan the shepe are in the greate folde,..steke the gate. 1582 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* III. 470 The provest and baillies..hes steikit up thair buith durris. 1728 RAMSAY *Monk & Miller's Wife* 57 He knock'd, for Doors were steekit. 1816 SCOTT *Bl. Dwarf* ix, Will ye gie me your word..that I am free to come and free to gae, with five minutes to open the grate, and five minutes to steek it and to draw the bolts? 1828 CARR *Craven Gloss.* s.v., Steck the door and come in. 1879 G. MACDONALD *Sir Gibbie* xxxiii, And gien 't war a fine simmer nicht 'at a body cud lie thereoot..I wad steek the door i' yer face.

b. To close, stop *up* (a hole, way, etc.).

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 439 Þen he stac vp þe stangez, stoped þe wellez. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* XIX. 687 We ar the fox & thai the fischer That stekis forouth ws the way. *c* 1380 *Sir Ferumb.* 5189 Ac þys lordes..habbeþ..þat hole aȝayn y-stoken. *a* 1774 R. FERGUSSON *King's Birthday*, The Muse maun also now implore Auld wives to steek ilk hole and bore.

c. *intr.* of a door, also *rarely* of a book.

14.. *Burgh Lawis* xxvi. in *Anc. Laws Scot.* (Burgh Rec. Soc.) 14 He sall suere at he wate neuer whare the dure opynnis na stekis of hym fra wham he bocht that ilke forsayde thyng. 1683 G. MERITON *Yorksh. Dial.* 51 Ile Swear 't upon all Beauks, that opens and steeks. 1737 RAMSAY *Sc. Prov.* (1750) 109 When ae door steeks anither opens.

4. *trans.* To shut (the mouth, eyes, ears, heart). *To steek one's gab*: see GAB *sb.*3

1303 R. BRUNNE *Handl. Synne* 11224 But leuer ys me my moupe to steke þan y spak o3t oute of skorne. *a* 1400 *Relig. Pieces fr. Thornton MS.* 51 Steke thyn eghne fro fowle syghtes, thyn heres fro foule herynges, thy mouthe fro foule speche. 1421 *26 Pol. Poems* xviii. 130 Fro wordis of vanyte, ȝoure lippes steke. *a* 1500 *Lancelot* 1651 Fbr qwho his eris frome the puple stekith,..His dom sall be ful grewous. 16.. *Gude & Godlie Ball.* (S. T. S.) 238 Thow steik thy Ene fra warldis vanitie. 1723 RAMSAY *Fair Assembly* xiv, These lips she ne'er should steek. 1786 BURNS *Earnest Cry & Prayer* xxx, Sages their solemn een may steek. 1818 SCOTT *Rob Roy* xxix, I redd ye keep your mouth better steekit, if ye hope to speed. 1893 STEVENSON *Catriona* xv, The hand of him aye cawed the shuttle, but his een was steeked.

5. *absol.* To close a place, lock a door.

a 1400 *Relig. Pieces fr. Thornton MS.* 51 It es callede 'cloyster' for it closys and steskys [? *read* stekys], and warely sall be lokkede. *c* 1400 *Apol. Loll.* (Camden) 34 No man is worbi..noiber to lowse þat he byndiþ, ne to bynd þat he lowsiþ, befor þat he ȝeuiþ þe key, and kenniþ to opun and to steyke. *a* 1500 *Ratis Raving* I. 466 Wertews..That beris the ȝettis of thi resone Tyll opin and stek with discreccione.

Hence **Steeked, Stee·king** *ppl. adjs.*

1710 RUDDIMAN *Gloss. Douglas' Æneis* s.v. *Steik*, As we say Scot...a steeked neive. 1732 J. LOUTHIAN *Process Crt. Justiciary Scot.* (1752) 137 And also, that ye make steiked and lock-fast Gates..open. 1790 J. FISHER *Poems* 68 Then cam' he to a steeking slap, Fu cannily he shot it back. 1897 N. MUNRO *John Splendid* i, The burghers of Inneraora.. slept, stark and sound, behind their steeked shutters.

Steek, *v.*2 *Obs.* exc. *dial.* Forms: 4–6 **steke**, 5–6 *Sc.* **steik**, 6 **steek**(e, 6, 9 *north.* **steak**. *Pa. t.* 4–6 **stak**, 4–5 **stakk**, 5 **stake**, (*Sc.* **stakke**), 4 **stoke**; 4 **stekede**, 4–5 *Sc.* **stekit, -yt**, 5 **stekyd, stekid**. *Pa. pple.* 4–5 **steke**, 6 **steek**; 4 **stoken**, 4–5 **stokyn**, 6 *Sc.* **stokin**, 5 **stoke**; 4 **i-stekid, -yd, stekid**, 5 **stekede**, 7 **steaked**, 4–6 *Sc.* **stekit**; 6 *Sc.* **stokit**. [ME. *steke* (pa. t. *stak*, pa. pple. *steke*, *stoken*); recorded only from 14th c., but prob. repr. OE. **stecan* (pa. t. **stæc*, **stæcon*, pa. pple. **stecen*) = OFris. *steka*, OS. *stekan* (LG., Du. *steken*), OHG. *stehhan* (MHG., mod.G. *stechen*); the WGer. root **stek-* (: **stak-*) is an alteration of OTeut. **stik-*: see STICK *v.*1

As the ME. *stike* (:—OE. *stician*: see STICK *v.*1) would normally become *stēke* in certain northern dialects (cf. *prēke* PRICK *v.*), it is probable that some of the examples below may strictly belong to STICK *v.*1 In ME. the two cognate and partly synonymous vbs. were confused together; the originally strong vb. *steke* was often conjugated weak, and on the other hand its strong pa. t. and pa. pple. ultimately came to be associated with the originally weak STICK *v.*1]

1. *trans.* To pierce, stab; to transfix. Also, to thrust (a spear, etc.) *through*. Also *fig.*

c 1320 *Sir Tristr.* 2999 Mine hert hye haþ y steke, Brengwain briȝt and fre, þat frende. *c* 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 13047 Helmes bowed, & þorow were steke. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* x. 416 [He] stekit him vpward vith ane knyff. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Knt.'s T.* 707 (Camb. MS.) Loue hath hese fery darte so brennyngely I-stekid þour myn trewe carful herte. *c* 1386 — *Franklt. T.* 748 (Camb. MS.), I hadde wel leuere I-stekyd for to be. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) VII. 121 For overmoche sorwe the herte is stoken and spered. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 111/2 Daggare, to steke wythe men, *pugio*. 1455 in *Paston Lett.* I. 336 Hit was seyd..that Harpere and ij. other of the Kynges chamber were confedered to have steked the Deuk York in the Kynges chamber. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* I. 197 To cutt his throit, or steik hym sodanlye, He wayndyt nocht. 1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* II. 46 Robert Grahames hand, quhilk sa cruellie stak the king.

absol. *a* 1613 [see SNICK OR SNEE 1].

2. To fix (a thing) by thrusting in its point or the point of an attached pin, etc.; also, to fix (a thing) upon a point.

c 1374 CHAUCER *Troylus* III. 1372 A broche..Criseyde hym yaf and stak it on his sherte. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) VI. 427 Uppon grete plates of gold was i-steked [L. *figebatur*] on [of] þe foure irene nayles þat Crist was i-nayled with to þe rode. *c* 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* IV. 625 Another seith the rootis shal be bored, A wegge in euery boore ek shal he steke. 14.. *Sir Beues* (O.) 2539 The dragons hede he smote of ryght, And stake it vpon his spere. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* IV. xii. 40 Thairwith, gan hir seruandis behald Hir fallin and stekit on the irn cald.

b. To fasten in position. (Without the notion of penetration.)

c 1385 CHAUCER *L. G. W.* 2202 Hire couerchif vp-on a pole stekede she. *c* 1440 *Anc. Cookery* in *Househ. Ord.* (1790) 430 Take the greynes of pomogarnard and steke therin. *c* 1450 *Mirk's Festial* 128 Fyue pepynce of encens ben steked in þe paschall lyke to þe crosse. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* VI. x. 21 At the entre, in hy The goldin branche he steikis wp fair and weill. 1843 T. WILSON *Pitman's Pay*, etc. 109 Ahint their lugs, the Customs' sparks Ye see ne langer steekin' Their idle pens.

c. *fig.*

13.. *Guy Warw.* (1891) 418 So michel sorwe is on me steke, þat min hert it wil to-breke. *a* 1400 *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* xlix. 134 An arwe in an houndes buttoke And counseil in a foles herte istoke A-cordeþ wel. *c* 1475 *Partenay* 3538 At hys hert gret noysaunce gan he steke.

3. To set (oneself) in position.

c 1400 *Sc. Trojan War* II. 210 Ande ryght besyd the hye altere..Stakke þe seluen in þe walle. 1892 C. RIGBY *From Mids. to Martinmas* iii. 24 Ye needn't be steakin' yourself down on a seat; thear yon Mr. Hazelden int' house, been waitin' an hour on ye.

4. To set or garnish *with* things attached.

c 1385 CHAUCER *L. G. W.* 161 A garlond..Stekid al with lylye flourys newe. *c* 1450 *Bk. Curtasye* 509 in *Babees Bk.*, Tho chambur dore stekes þo vssher thenne, With preket and tortes þat conne brenne.

5. To fill *full* of something.

c 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* VI. 32 Se whether drie or weet, or playn or rowe Hit be, or ful of bosh, or stones steke. *c* 1475 *Partenay* 3955 So with fumy smoke Was the caue Anon full As myght be stoke.

6. *intr.* To pierce and remain fixed (in something); to be fixed by or as by piercing.

1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 5602 Þe nayles þat in his hend and fete stak. 13.. *Bonaventura's Medit.* 910 Þe nayles stokyn so fast yn þe tre. *a* 1400–50 *Wars Alex.* 683 Quat sterne is it at ȝe stody on quare stekis it in heuyn? *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (Roxb.) xiii. 58 Þe whilk brand efterwardes hitt on þe erthe and stakk still þerin and growed. *c* 1450 LOVELICH *Merlin* 7241 This swerd to me is good tokenyng. For this same stak Jn the ston. 1533 BELLENDEN *Livy* II. v. (S.T.S.) I. 146 Þir dartis fast stekand in his targe.

7. To remain fixed where placed, to adhere.

? *a* 1366 CHAUCER *Rom. Rose* 458 She nadde on but a streit old sak, And many a clout on it ther stak. 13.. *Propr. Sanct.* (Vernon MS.) in *Archiv Stud. neu. Spr.* LXXXI. 89/178 What bond in eorþe þou breke, In heuene beo hit no lengore steke. *Ibid.* 112/90 As heore schip wolde to-breke, And neuer a pece wiþ oþur steke. *c* 1412 HOCCLEVE *De Reg. Princ.* 2573 And as he heng & stak Vppon þe croys, þus to þe kyng he spak.

8. Of thoughts, memories, etc.: To remain fixed and immovable in one's mind, heart, etc.

c 1407 LYDG. *Reson & Sens.* 2008 Declaringe myn oppinion ..As hyt stake ryght in my thought. *c* 1412 HOCCLEVE *De Reg. Princ.* 2048 The tendir loue..Vnto his herte stak and satte so nere, That..his counseill yave he clere Vnto his lord. 1412–20 LYDG. *Chron. Troy* IV. 2627 He gan compasse..To be venged of his woundis smerte Vp-on Troylus, þat stak ay in his mynde. 1469 MARG. PASTON in *P. Lett.* II. 364 He woost welle that her deimenyng had stekyd soor at our harts. *c* 1485 *Digby Myst.* III. 1256 Thys Iesu..was put to dethe.., Wheche mater stekyth In my thowth. 1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* II. VIII. 127 Quhilk [answer] to him was the mair acceptable, that of a sinceir mynd it proceidet, and quhilk afor stak fast in his awne mynd.

9. To be hindered from proceeding.

c 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 1453 So ar þo Nykeres faste aboute To brynge schipmen þer hit ys doute, To som swelw to turne or steke. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Man of Law's T.* 411 (Camb. MS.) For in northumbyrlond the wawis hire caste And in þe se hire schip steked so faste. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* II. xii. 27 Speik mycht I nocht, the voce in my hals sa stak. 1533 BELLENDEN *Livy* II. ii. (S.T.S.) I. 136 This multitude of quhete discending throw tiber abaid and stak stil in þe schald wattir þareof. 1535 JOYE *Apol. Tindale* (Arb.) 20 Thei..so corrupted the boke that the simple reder might ofte tymes be taryed and steked. 1583 *Leg. Bp. St. Androis* 162 in *Sat. Poems Reform.* 358 His schip come never on the schalde, But stak still on the ancker halde. 1603 J. DAVIES (Heref.) *Microcosmos* (Grosart) 13/2 So, thoughts in them, so one another woo To be out first, and so the same doe seeke, That in the Portall of the minde they steeke.

10. To project, stick *out*.

c 1400 *Destr. Troy* 3758 Stokyn ene out stepe with a streught loke.

11. Of a person: To cling tenaciously *to*.

1535 JOYE *Apol. Tindale* (Arb.) 39 Here thou seist whother Tindale is brought for so supersticyously steking to onely one significaccion of this worde *Resurrectio*.

12. To demur, hesitate.

1478 J. PASTON in *P. Lett.* III. 219, I comend with my brodyr..of syche maters as ye wold have amendyd in the bylle that he sent on to yow, and he stake not gretly at it. 1573 G. HARVEY *Letter Bk.* (Camden) 2 As thei them selues have sinc not steekid to tel me. 1579 *Ibid.* 60, I will not steeke to bestowe so mutch in exhibition uppon the University.

Steek (stīk), *v.*3 *Sc.* and *north.* Forms: 6 **steke, styk, stike, steik, stick**, 9 **steek**. [f. STEEK *sb.*1]

1. *trans.* To stitch.

1502 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* II. 198 For i pund cottoune to it [ane doublat] to steik it with, iij s. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* IV. v. 163 Ane purpour claith..Fetisly stekit with prynnit goldin thredis. 1540 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* VII. 389 To be ane doublate to the Kingis grace cuttit and stekit upoun caddes, thre elnis blak sating. 1552 *Ibid.* X. 123 Item, v unce Paris silk to styk the samin [cloik]. 1597 SKENE *De Verb. Sign.* s.v. *Actilia*, Stuffed with caddes, and stiked verie thick with threid. 1886 WILLOCK *Rosetty Ends* (1887) 148 Wi' a stockin' needle an' a bit worsit he steekit it on the inside o' the collar.

2. *intr.* To sew.

1865 JANET HAMILTON *Poems* (1870) 183 An' four bonnie lassies were needlin' an' steekin'. 1871 SARAH S. JONES *Northumbld.* 20/2 Sae I gaed on, aye steek steekin.

Hence **Steeked** *ppl. a.*

1503 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* II. 204 Item, for ij elne iij quartaris satin, to be ane steikit doublat to the King. 1531 *Ibid.* VI. 17 Ane stikkit doublet. 1541–2 *Ibid.* VIII. 63 Item, gevin to the tapescher for ane stekit matt to hir, XXXVS. 1578 *Invent. R. Wardr. Scot.* (1815) 211 Twa steikit coveringis of beddis of holane claith. *Ibid.*, Ane auld stickit covering of grene taffetie.

Steeking (stī·kiŋ), *vbl. sb.*1 *dial.* [f. STEEK *v.*1 + -ING 1.]

1. The action of the verb.

1544 *Acc. Ld. High. Treas. Scot.* VIII. 319 Item, for steking

of ane slang put in the *Lyoun* at hir departing witht the ambassatourris,..lvj s.

† **2.** *concr.* A fastening, lock. *Obs.*

c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* vii. (*Jacobus minor*) 785 Bot Ihesus ..come bodyly..&, al vnsterynge þe stekyne of þe presone ..owte of þe cawe þan can me ta. *c* 1400 *Sc. Trojan War* II. 517 Thys horse..In þe which mayd he sere stekynges.

†**Stee·king**, *vbl. sb.*[2] *Obs.* [f. STEEK *v.*[2] + -ING.[1]] The action of the verb; stabbing.

c 1470 HENRY *Wallace* VIII. 225 The fers steking, maid mony grewous wound.

Steeking (stī·kiŋ), *vbl. sb.*[3] *dial.* [f. STEEK *v.*[3] + -ING.[1]]

1. The action of the verb; stitching; also *concr.* and *attrib.*

1561 *Invent. R. Wardr.* (1815) 140 With a cordoun of gold upoun the sticking maid in broderie. 1568 in G. Chalmers *Mary Q. Scots* (1818) I. 285 *note*, 2 lb. wg[t]. of fyne steiking silk £12. 16. 0. 18.. *Gay Goss-Hawk* xx. in Aytoun *Sc. Ballads* (1858) I. 180 The claith of it was satin fine, The steeking silken wark.

2. *transf.* in *Mining.* = STICKING *vbl. sb.*

1789 J. WILLIAMS *Min. Kingd.* I. 301 A thin strake or seam of clay betwixt the rider and the side or sides of the vein, which miners call a steeking. 1894 *Northumbld. Gloss.*, *Steekin o' clay*, a thin strake or infiltration of clay in a rock fissure.

‖ **Steekkan** (stī·kˌkæn). Also 8 **stekan, sta-Kan**, 8–9 **steekan, steckan**, 9 **stechkanne**. [Du. *steekkan*, f. *steke-n* to broach, tap (= STEEK *v.*[2]) + *kan* CAN *sb.*] A Dutch liquid measure containing half an anker or about 5⅛ gallons English measure.

1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s. v. *Measure* 517/1 Dutch Liquid Measures...The Mingle is divided into two Pints...The Stekan, or Stekamen, contains sixteen Mingles. 1753 Stakan [see ANKER 1]. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) X. 718/2 The aume is reckoned at Amsterdam for 8 steckans. 1834 MCCULLOCH *Dict. Comm.* (ed. 2) 34 s. v. *Amsterdam*, The *aam* liquid measure = 4 ankers = 8 steckans. 1847–54 in WEBSTER; and in some later Dicts. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade, Steekkan, Stechkanne*, a Dutch liquid-measure, the 12th part of a barrel.

Steel (stīl), *sb.*[1] Forms: 1 **stéli, steeli, stéli, stýle**, 3–4 **stel** (3 *pl.* **stelen**), 3–5 **stiel**, 3–6 **stele**, 4 **styl**, *Sc.* **steile**, 4–5 **steell, style**, 4–6 **stile**, *Sc.* **steill**, 5 **steille, stelle, steyle, stiell**, 5–6 **stell, steyll, still**, 6 **steelle, steil, stiele**, (**steiele**,) 6–7 **steele**, 4– **steel**. [OE. *style* neut., earlier *stéli* = OS. *stehli* (Gallée), OFris. **stêl* (whence *stêlen* made of steel; WFris. *stiel*, NFris. *stel, stial*):—OTeut. type **staχljo-m* (literally, something made of steel, but in OE. also used for the metal itself, as in late L. *aciārium* superseded *aciēs*):—f. OTeut. **staχlo-* steel, represented by MLG. *stāl*, MDu. *stael* (mod.Du. *staal* neut.), OHG. *stahal* (MHG. *stahel* neut., masc., mod.G. *stahl* masc.), ON. *stál* neut. (Sw. *stål*; Da. *staal*). Outside Teut. no corresponding word has been found; the OPrussian *stakla* steel is prob. adopted from Teut. with sound-substitution. The root appears to be Teut. **staχ-* : **stag-* (:—pre-Teut. **stak-*) to be firm or rigid: see STAY *sb.*[1]]

1. A general name for certain artificially produced varieties of iron, distinguished from those known as 'iron' by certain physical properties, esp. greater hardness and elasticity, which render them suitable as material for cutting instruments, and for various other industrial purposes.

Chemically steel is a nearly pure iron, the proportion of other substances varying from less than 1 to 3 per cent. Formerly 'steel' could be defined as containing more carbon than wrought iron, and less than cast iron; but since about 1860 the name has been extended to certain products containing very little carbon.

Beowulf 985 Wæs steda nægla ȝehwylc style ȝelicost. *c* 725 *Corpus Gloss.* 1431 *Ocearium* stæli. *c* 825 *Epinal Gloss.* 49 *Accearium* steeli. *c* 1205 LAY. 25814 Hælm an his hafde hehne of stele. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 160 Vor ne beo neuer so briht gold, ne seoluer, ne iren, ne stel, þet hit ne schal drawen rust of on þet is irusted. *c* 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* 460/130 Wit strongue dores of Ire and stiel. ?*a* 1366 CHAUCER *Rom. Rose* 946 Iren was ther noon ne steell For al was golde. *c* 1380 *Sir Ferumb.* 3313 Grete slabbes of styl & yre to þe walles þo wern y-slente. 1436 *Libel Eng. Policy* in *Pol. Poems* (Rolls) II. 171 Now bere and bacon bene fro Pruse ibroughte Into Fflaundres,..Osmonde, coppre, bow-staffes, stile, and wex. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 232 b, An hammer of golde is..more worth than is a hammer of stele, yet ye hammer of stele is more profytable. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VI*, 118 He now doubteth not but to find you ..as sure to hym as the Adamant to the stele. 1549 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* IX. 347 Item, for foure punde steill deliverit to Schir Williame Makdougall, price of the punde xxd.; summa vjs. viij d. 1561 HOLLYBUSH *Hom. Apoth.* 34 b, Take two flynt stones and a pece of stile. 1583 *Rates Custom Ho.* D ij, Looking glasses of Steel. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* XXXIV. xiv. II. 514 The purest part thereof [*sc.* of iron ore] which in Latine is called *Nucleus ferri*, *i.* the kernell or heart of the yron (and it is that which we call steele). 1611 BIBLE *Jer.* xv. 12 Shall yron breake the Northren yron, and the steele? 1626 BACON *Sylva* § 874 A Looking-Glasse with the Steele behinde, looketh Whiter, than Glasse Simple. *a* 1661 FULLER *Worthies, Glouc.* (1662) 349 Steele..is Eldest Brother of Iron, extracted from the same Oare, differing from it not in kind, but degree of purity, as being the first running thereof. It is more hard and brittle (whilest Iron is softer and tougher). 1680 MOXON *Mech. Exerc.* x. 179 Its point is made of tempered Steel. 1818 SIR H. DAVY *Chem. Philos.* 390 Steel is usually made by a process called cementation, which consists in keeping bars of iron in contact with powdered charcoal in a state of ignition for 10 or 12 days. 1823 W. PHILLIPS *Min.* (ed. 3) 214 It is also said that pseudo-volcanic steel..was found a league and a half from Neiss. 1870 YEATS *Nat. Hist. Comm.* 355 Spathose pig-iron can be converted into steel without any intermediate processes. 1890 *Nature* 20 Nov. 51 The old definition of steel, i. e. a compound of iron and carbon, is as true as ever, when applied..to tools with cutting edges &c...The Bessemer product cannot in this sense be termed steel at all.

b. A particular variety or sort of steel.

1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 1172 The bars are exposed to two or three successive processes of cementation, and are hence said to be twice or thrice converted into steels. 1891 *Daily News* 14 Dec. 2/6 Fair orders for self-hardening and other special steels are coming in. 1898 *Ibid.* 25 Apr. 9/4 A steady business is being done in all kinds of Swedish steels.

c. with defining attribute: see also BESSEMER-, BLISTER- (*sb.* 4), CAST (*ppl. a.* 8), TOOL- (*sb.* 5) *steel*; SHEAR-STEEL.

1812 SIR H. DAVY *Chem. Philos.* 390 Cemented steel is made into the substance called cast steel by being fused in a close crucible with a mixture of powdered glass and charcoal. 1822 IMISON *Sci. & Art* II. 107 Steel of cementation. *Ibid.*, Natural steel is made by keeping cast iron in a state of fusion in a furnace. 1858 GREENER *Gunnery* 129 Mr. Armstrong may..lay claim to being an originator of wrought steel cannon;..to Mr. Krupp is due the honour of first introducing cast steel cannon to the notice of our Government. 1876 VOYLE & STEVENSON *Milit. Dict.* 406/1 *Firth's Steel*, the steel used in the manufacture of the tube of British rifled guns. 1892 GREENER *Breech-loader* 12 The alloys of iron, manganese steel, nickel steel, aluminium steel, ..are not yet made of such uniform quality as will admit of their adoption by gun-makers of reputation. 1900 *Engineering Mag.* XIX. 766/1 The use of concrete and of concrete steel for dry-dock work. 1902 *Westm. Gaz.* 24 July 8/1 The hull..is built of chrome steel.

¶ **d.** Applied (after It. *acciaio*; cf. STEEL GLASS 2) to: An alloy of tin and copper used for making optical 'spheres'. *Obs. rare.*

1662 MERRETT *Neri's Art Glass* cxiii. 166.

2. Similative and figurative uses, in which steel is taken as the type of hardness.

c 1205 LAY. 25879 Þe alle þine leomen wule to-drazen Þeh þu weore stel al. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 3956 Þey my tonge were of stel, me ssolde no3t dure þer to. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 4297 Þof his hert al stillen were, Hert o stele and bodi o brass. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xvi. (*Magd.*) 408 Weman.. with wordis cane rycht wele our-cum mene hard as stele. 1606 SHAKS. *Ant. & Cl.* IV. iv. 33 Like a man of Steele. 1633 G. HERBERT *Temple, Sacrifice* liii, He would not cease to kneel, Till all were melted, though he were all steel. 1772 *Gentl. Mag.* Mar. 149/2 A lawless set of levellers in the North of Ireland, called *Hearts of Steel*, attacked the house of Richard Johnson, Esq. 1849 ROBERTSON *Serm.* Ser. I. xiii. (1866) 216 The heart of steel which beat beneath the Roman's robe. 1853 *Ibid.* Ser. IV. xvii. (1876) 222 We have steel and nerve enough in our hearts to dare anything.

b. Phrase, *true as steel* (said of persons, rarely of things, statements, etc.). Also, † *steel to the* (*very*) *back*: thoroughly robust; thoroughly trustworthy.

a 1300 *Sirit* 95 in *Anecd. Lit.* (1844) 5 Oure love is also trewe as stel, Withouten wou. *c* 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 4864 Tristiloker þan ony stel. *c* 1385 CHAUCER *L. G. W.* 334 That ben as trewe as euer was any steel. 1589 NASHE *Martin Marprelate* Wks. (Grosart) I. 274 Report it of my word; for it is as true as steele. 1599 PORTER *Angry Wom. Abington* (Percy Soc.) 41, I promise ye, maister Philip, you haue spoken as true as steele. 1705 DUNTON *Life & Err.* 244 He's as true as Steell to his Word. 1862 MRS. HOUSTON *Recomm. Mercy* iv, True as steel to the man to whom she had sworn to be faithful unto death.

1588 SHAKS. *Tit. A.* IV. iii. 47 We are..No big-bon'd men, fram'd of the Cyclops size, But mettall Marcus, steele to the very backe. 1600 HOLLAND *Livy* XXXIX. xl. 1050 His bodie was steele to the verie backe [L. *ferrei prope corporis*]. 1603 CHETTLE etc. *Grissill* II. C 1 b, Hee's Steele to the backe you see, for he writes Challenges. 1635 HEYWOOD *Philocoth.* 44 One that is steele to the backe. [Here euphemistically of a drunkard.]

c. *Sport.* Power of endurance or sustained effort.

1850 SMEDLEY *Frank Fairlegh* xxxi. 256 The horses are in first-rate condition..till they've done about ten miles; that takes the steel out of them a bit. 1891 *Daily News* 8 July 8/3 The Oxonians struggled on pluckily, but the steel was taken all out of them by this time. 1897 W. H. THORNTON *Reminisc. W.-Co. Clergyman* vii. 233 All the steel and energy had left me.

3. Steel in the form of weapons or cutting tools (occas. spurs, a trap, etc.). Hence in particularized use, † a sword, lance, bayonet, or the like.

a 1000 *Riddles* xciii. 18 Blod ut ne com, heolfor of hrepre, þeah mec heard bite stiðecg style. *c* 1205 LAY. 9799 Helmes þer gullen stercliche to-stopen mid steles egge. *Ibid.* 19503 Mid bitele stelen. *c* 1250 *Owl & Night.* 1030 For heom ne may halter ne bridel Bringe from here wode wyse, Ne mon mid stele ne mid ire. 1581 A. HALL *Iliad* VIII. 143 He with these words doth plucke his bow, & sends his piercing steele, To Hector straight. 1593 SHAKS. *Rich. II*, III. ii. 59 Euery man that Bullingbroke hath prest, To lift shrewd steele against our Golden Crowne. 1597 J. PAYNE *Royal Exch.* 23 Yt ys as a rustie cancker eatinge throw without recoverie by eyther gentle oyle or the hard stele. 1602 tr. *Guarini's Pastor Fido* IV. iii. L 2 b, Mirtillo.. throwes his Dart, thinking to wound Nicander: And had the steele hit as he did direct, Nicander had been slaine. 1712 SHAFTESB. *Charac.* (1733) III. 115 But who wou'd dream that out of abundant Charity and Brotherly Love shou'd come Steel, Fire, Gibbets, Rods. 1735 SOMERVILLE *Chase* III. 206 By th' indented Steel With Gripe tenacious held, the Felon grins, And struggles, but in vain. 1764 *Oxf. Sausage* 59 Or Groom invade me..whose emaciate Steeds..Had panted oft beneath my goring Steel. 1784 COWPER *Task* III. 414 No meaner hand may discipline the shoots, None but his steel approach them. 1810 SCOTT *Lady of L.* V. x, The stern joy which warriors feel In foemen worthy of their steel. 1815 BYRON *Hebr. Melodies, Song Saul* 4 Bury your steel in the bosoms of Gath! 1892 KIPLING *Barrack-room Ballads* 139 Grapple her stern and bow. They have asked for the steel. They shall have it now; Out cutlasses and board! 1896 *Harper's Mag.* XCII. 708/1 He trained his soldiers to trust the steel.

b. *Cold steel*: cutting or thrusting weapons.

[Cf. G. *kalter stahl*; also *cold iron* (COLD *a.* 1 b, IRON *sb.* 6 a) = ON. *kalt járn*].

1816 [see COLD *a.* 1 b]. 1896 BADEN-POWELL *Matabele Campaign* vi, Nor do they wait for their bayonets:..for though fond of administering cold steel, it is the last thing they wish to meet with themselves.

c. U.S. *To draw one's steel*: to use one's pistol.

1902 WISTER *Virginian* ii, He has handed Trampas the choice to back down or draw his steel.

d. Used for: Steel shot.

1898 *Westm. Gaz.* 1 June 5/1 The crews at the port batteries were pumping steel at the enemy.

4. Steel as the material of defensive armour.

c 1320 *Sir Tristr.* 3324 Þai gun hem boþe armi In iren and stiel þat tide. *a* 1400–50 *Wars Alex.* 1378 Þan Alexander all his ane an-ane he ascendis, Closid all in clere stele. *c* 1450 in Kingsford *Chron. London* (1905) 120 Stedes þer stumbelyd in þt stownde þt stood stere stuffed vnder stele. *c* 1470 *Gol. & Gaw.* 200 Weill stuffit in steill, on thair stout stedis. 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* XXVII. 81 So stern he wes in steill. 1602 SHAKS. *Ham.* I. iv. 52 In compleat steele. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* II. 569 Or arm th' obdured brest With stubborn patience as with triple steel. 1842 TENNYSON *Galahad* 6 The hard brands shiver on the steel.

fig. 1634 MILTON *Comus* 421 She that has that [chastity], is clad in compleat steel. 1817 SHELLEY *Rev. Islam* VIII. vii. 9 Though truth and virtue arm their hearts with tenfold steel.

5. As a material for plates engraved with drawings or designs to be reproduced by printing. Hence, as a trade term: A steel engraving.

1843 J. BALLANTINE (*title*) The Gaberlunzie's Wallet. With numerous illustrations on steel and wood. 1887 *Athenæum* 11 June 779/1 A re-issue of the Examples of the Architecture of Venice. By John Ruskin...With the Text, and the 16 Plates (10 Steels and 6 Lithographs) as originally published.

6. Iron as used medicinally; chalybeate medicine.

In early practice iron or steel filings were sometimes administered internally; another mode of exhibition was to give the water in which iron or steel had been quenched when red hot, or had been allowed to remain for some days. The ordinary notion was that 'iron' and 'steel' were different medicines, with similar but not identical therapeutic effect. *Steel* is now used in untechnical lang. for any chalybeate medicine, perh. especially iron chloride.

1647 HAMMOND *Serm.* x. Wks. 1683 IV. 535 A stronger physick is now necessary, perhaps a whole course of steel: A physick, God knows, that this Kingdom hath been under five or six years. 1675 G. HARVEY *Dis. Lond.* XXIII. 249 Medicines prepared of Steel have their particular uses. 1699 GARTH *Dispens.* IV. 58 Some fell by Laudanum, and some by Steel, And Death in ambush lay in ev'ry Pill. 1702 J. PURCELL *Cholick* (1714) 159 The only Addition..to be made, is the use of gentle Steel. Strong Steel..will heat too much. 1704 J. HARRIS *Lex. Techn.* I, *Steel* is not so good as Iron for Medicinal Operation. 1706 WATTS *Horæ Lyricæ* II. 146 When bark and steel play well their game To save our sinking breath. 1712 SWIFT *Jrnl. to Stella* 18 Sept., The doctor tells me I must go into a course of steel, though I have not the spleen. 1801 *Med. Jrnl.* V. 212 Dropsy..yielded to the stimulus and invigorating powers of steel combined with diuretics. 1866 P'CESS ALICE *Mem.* (1884) 158, I..am really only kept alive by steel. 1898 *Hutchinson's Arch. Surg.* IX. 303 At first iodide of potassium was given, but subsequently steel.

b. † *Salt of steel*: usually, iron chloride (but used also for the sulphate or other salts of iron). *Flowers of steel*: iron chloride prepared by heating steel filings, etc. with sal-ammoniac. † *Sugar of steel*: see SUGAR *sb.* 3 a. *Tincture of steel*: tincture of iron chloride.

1704 J. HARRIS *Lex. Techn.* I, *Vitriol of Mars*, or Salt of Steel, is made by dissolving Steel in some proper Acid Menstruum, then Evaporating [etc.] 1758 [R. DOSSIE] *Elaboratory laid open* 291 Ens veneris, or flowers of steel. Take, of washed colcothar of green vitriol, or steel filings, one pound, of sal ammoniacum, two pounds [etc.]. 1758 E. WRIGHT in *Phil. Trans.* L. 598 Salt of steel, taken internally, must retain its astringency until it be precipitated. 1765 A. DICKSON *Treat. Agric.* (ed. 2) 45 Plants of barley were poisoned., by salt of steel. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) IV. 465/1 These [crystals] are named *salt of steel*, and are used in medicine; but for the salt made with the pure acid and iron, the common copperas is commonly substituted. 1818 S. F. GRAY *Suppl. Pharmacop.* 267 Tincture of Steel.

7. The steel part of anything.

c 1450 *Merlin* vi. 98 The archebisshop lowted to the swerde, and sawgh letteres of golde in the stiel. *Ibid.* xiv. 222 The stiell of the speres stynte at the haubrekes. 1471 CAXTON *Recuyell* (Sommer) 160 Employeng the steell of his swerd the most best wyse that in hym was possible. 1561 EDEN tr. *Cortes' Art Navig.* III. iv. 63 Whiche shalbe the marke for the settynge of the Irens and Stieles [in making a mariner's compass]. 1816 BYRON *Siege Cor.* XXVI, Many a hand's on a richer hilt, But none on a steel more ruddily gilt. 1895 *Daily News* 22 Aug. 6/2 It is far longer in the steel than a common salmon hook, and is a double hook.

8. As the name of various instruments made of steel. **a.** A piece of steel shaped for the purpose of striking fire with a flint. † In a pistol or firelock, the piece of steel which is struck by the 'cock' carrying the flint.

c 1220 *Bestiary* 535 Of ston mid stel in ðe tunder wel to

brennen one ðis wunder. 1589 [see FLINT *sb.* 2]. 1590 SIR J. SMYTH *Disc. Weapons* 47 Or vpon the hammers or steeles, if they be Snap-hances. 1619 H. HUTTON *Follies Anat.* B 2 b, Where's your Tobacco box, your steele and touch? 1660 BOYLE *New Exper. Phys.-Mech.* xiv. 89 The Cock falling with its wonted violence upon the Steel. 1701 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 3708/3 The Hammer, a Bag, a Pick-Ax, a false Key, and a Steel, were left by the said Murderers. 1833 *Reg. Instr. Cavalry* I. 99 Bring the Carbine..to the priming position, the thumb before the steel. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. vi. vii, Nor will the steel-and-flint answer, though they try it.

b. A rod of steel, fluted or plain, fitted with a handle, used for sharpening table or butchers' knives.

1541 *Extracts Aberdeen Reg.* (1844) I. 176 The steill to scherp the schawing jrne. 1580 HOLLYBAND *Treas. Fr. Tong, Vn Fusil.*, the stile of a butcher wherewith he whetteth or sharpeneth his knines. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 292/2 The Butchers Steel..is his only badg of being a Slaughter-Man. 1758 JOHNSON *Idler* No. 67 P 5 A man whose steel by his side declared him a butcher. 1851 MAYHEW *Lond. Labour* I. 177/1 A butcher's knife, 1*s.*; a steel, 1*s.* 6*d.* 1894 HALL CAINE *Manxman* 186 Cæsar sharpened the carving-knife on the steel.

† **c.** A steel mirror. *Obs.* (? *nonce-use.*)

a 1643 CARTWRIGHT *Lady Errant* v. iv, The Steels you see your faces in.

d. A flat-iron. *Obs.* exc. *dial.*

1638 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Bull, Bear & Horse* (1876) 39 One of them having occasion to use a Steele, smoothing Iron, or some such kinde of Laundry Instrument. 1873 *Exhibition* 67 (E.D.D.) Weth a iron flat, what they do iron clooas weth, called a still.

e. A needle; a knitting-needle. *dial.*

[1784 COWPER *Task* IV. 165 The threaded steel..Flies swiftly.] 1839 MᶜDOWALL *Poems* 87 (E.D.D.) 'Twere better she had steek'd her gab Wi' steel an' thread. 1901 'ZACK' *Dunstable Weir* 133 At that mother would pick up her knitting and clack the needles together till the stitches fair tumbled from the steels.

† **f.** A stylet, a stylus. *Obs.*

1799 G. SMITH *Laboratory* I. 230 With a pointed steel, or needle, draw or write on it what you please.

g. *The steels* = skates.

1875 *Field* 2 Jan. 1/3 The ladies, whenever they can, are acquiring the use of the steels. 1895 *Outing* XXVII. 201/1 Considerable skill on the steels.

9. *Dress.* **a.** A strip of steel used to give stiffness or support, or to expand a dress.

1608 MACHIN *Dumb Knt.* I. i, I haue a ruffe is a quarter deep, measured by the yard... You haue a pretty set too, how big is the steele you set with? 1885 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 11 May 4/1 Creatures with 16-inch waists, and a weight of steels, horse-hair, and drapery depending therefrom. 1891 *Eng. Illustr. Mag.* Dec. 198 A semi-tubular arrangement of steels, that gave a peculiar swinging motion to the train of the dress. 1904 *Daily Chron.* 22 Feb. 5/4, I suppose the bullet must have struck the steels in my corsets.

b. A dress trimming made of steel beads or ornaments.

1899 *Daily News* 26 Jan. 6/3 A trailing skirt embroidered in what is termed fine steel.

10. *pl.* (*Finance.*) Shares in steel-manufacturing companies.

1912 *Times* 19 Dec. 19/4 Steels lost ½ in the Common and 1 point in the Preferred stock at 35¾ and 64 respectively. 1913 *Ibid.* 13 Sept. 17/3 Industrials were generally good, with Steels prominent on trade advices.

II. *attrib.* and *Comb.*

11. *attrib.*, passing into *adj.* Made or consisting of steel.

Such combinations are sometimes hyphened or formed into one word (e. g. *steel-filings*, *steelwork*) in order to indicate their specific character.

c 1400 *Laud Troy Bk.* 4679 Coffres grete with stele barrelles. 1497 *Naval Acc. Hen. VII* (1896) 108 Stele spades ..vj. 1537 *Bury Wills* (Camden) 130 My stell pan and my lyttell huche on the soller. 1542 *Invent. R. Wardr. Scot.* (1815) 63 Item ane steill mirrour set in silver. 1607 B. BARNES *Divils Charter* v. i. K 2, He shall haue two steele bullets strongly charg'd. *a* 1618 *Rates of Merchandises* L 4, Steele Wire. 1681 GREW *Museum* I. § 7. ii. 169 The under parts blew, exactly like that colour which Watch-Makers and others give to their Steel-Works. 1697 — *Epsom Waters* 46 Take, of Steell-Filings powder'd, ten Grains. 1760–72 H. BROOKE *Fool of Qual.* (1809) IV. 117 As steel-dust rushes to adamant. 1771 *Encycl. Brit.* III. 511/2 A slender sharp-pointed steel-bodkin. 1854 EMERSON *Lett. & Soc. Aims, Poet. & Imag.* Wks. (Bohn) III. 143 As when a boy finds that his pocket knife will attract steel filings. 1890 W. J. GORDON *Foundry* 63 All the steelwork of the ship is made in the shop except the fore and aft posts.

b. often of weapons and armour.

1340–70 *Alisaunder* 426 Strained in stel ger [*MS.* stelger] on steedes of might. 13.. *Gaw. & Gr. Knt.* 260 Þy burȝ & þy burnes best ar holden, Stifest vnder stel-gere on stedes to ryde. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 9634 Mony stoute þere was storuen vnder stel wedis. *c* 1460 *Towneley Myst.* xvi. 107, I shuld with this steyll brand Byrkyn all his bonys. 1549 *Compl. Scot.* xix. 163 In steil iakkis and in cotis of mailȝe. 1551 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* X. 18 My lord governouris steill bonett. 1588 *Shuttleworths' Acc.* (Chetham Soc.) 44 Sixtene hundrethe and a halffe of plates to be a stiell cote, ix[c] vj[d]. 1632 W. LITHGOW *Trav.* III. 89 On his head he weareth a bare steele cap. 1814 SCOTT *Ld. of Isles* VI. xxxii, Stirrup, steel-boot, and cuish gave way. 1829 — *Anne of G.* xxvi, I will grasp the mountain-hedgehog, prickles and all, with my steel-gauntlet. 1868 MORRIS *Earthly Par., Man born to be King* 1259 Raise up the steel-cap from thine head.

c. in poetical or rhetorical allusion to the use of steel for armour or weapons.

1604 SHAKS. *Oth.* I. iii. 231 (Qo.) The tyrant custome..Hath made the flinty and steele Cooch of warre My thrice driuen bed of downe. 1815 SCOTT *Field of Waterloo* xi, Steel-gleams broke Like lightning through the rolling smoke. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. III. ix, So, however, with steel-besom, Rascality is brushed back into its dim depths.

12. Indicating medicaments, etc. containing iron, as *steel drops, lozenge, pill, water, wine.*

1652 FRENCH *Yorksh. Spa* x. 92 To mix some Sugar of steel, or steel wine with the first glass. 1675 G. HARVEY *Dis. Lond.* xxiv. 264, I have found a singular Virtue in Steel drops, præpared after my Mode. 1712–13 SWIFT *Jrnl. to Stella* 17 Feb., I..take some nasty steel drops, and my head has been better. 1713 *Phil. Trans.* XXVIII. 248 Our English Steel-Waters at Tunbridge. *a* 1734 NORTH *Exam.* III. ix. § 7 (1740) 653 Let the Author reflect upon the Need he hath of such a Steel Course as this. 1818 S. F. GRAY *Suppl. Pharmacop.* 308 Steel lozenges. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade, Steel-wine*, sherry wine in which steel filings have been placed for some time. 1865 *Morn. Star* 23 June, A box of steel pills. 1900 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* V. 620 Cod-liver oil and steel wine are useful in the later stages.

13. Of or belonging to steel as a product or an article of commerce, as *steel mine, trade, works.*

1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* VII. lvi. I. 188 The discoverie of the yron and steele mines. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* III. v. vi, From their new dungeons at Chantilly, Aristocrats may hear the rustle of our new steel furnace there. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXIII. 2/2 The usual operation in large steel-works is first to cut the bar-iron into certain lengths. 1869 RANKINE *Machine & Hand-tools* Pl. E 1, The Plate represents the steel plant at the Langley Mill Steel and Iron Works. 1890 W. J. GORDON *Foundry* 111 Let us cross to the steel-sheds again. 1905 F. HARRISON *Chatham* vi. 106 The toilers in those mines and steel-yards [of Pittsburg].

14. = engraved on steel.

1884 *Athenæum* 19 July 83 The volume will contain a steel portrait of the author.

15. With the sense 'resembling steel' (in colour, hardness, etc.), as *steel gloss*; *steel-bright* adj.; esp. with names of colour, as *steel-black, -blue, -gray, -green* adjs. and sbs.

1560 PHAER *Æneid* X. (1562) G g j, Wher neuer cessing soyle doth steelebright stuff send out from mines. 1817 STEPHENS in *Shaw's Gen. Zool.* X. I. 88 Steel-blue Swallow. *Ibid.* 93 Top of the head..shining steel-black. *Ibid.* 97 Upper parts of the plumage black, with a steel gloss. 1833 JARDINE *Humming-Birds* 146 On the throat is a patch of the clearest violet-blue, shading off to steel-blue on the sides. 1842 PARNELL *Chem. Anal.* (1845) 273 A steel-gray crust of metallic arsenic. 1882 CROOKES *Dyeing & Tissue-Printing* 197 Dark Steel Greens on Half Woollens. 1899 A. H. EVANS *Birds* 548 *Manucodia atra* is steel-green and black.

b. *fig.* = as hard as steel, steely.

1600 SHAKS. *Sonn.* CXXXIII. 9 Prison my heart in thy steele bosomes warde. 1602 CHETTLE *Hoffman* v. (1631) I 3, My heart is steele Nor can it suffer more then it doth feele. *a* 1618 E. BOLTON *Hypercritica* ii. § 3 This steel Rule whosoever honestly follows may perhaps write incommodiously for some momentany Purposes, but [etc.]. 1847 TENNYSON *Princess* VI. 215 Not one word? not one? Whence drew you this steel temper? 1899 BRIDGES *Septuagesima* ii. Poems (1912) 340 Steel is the ice,

16. Objective, with agent-nouns, as *steel-maker, -worker*; with vbl. sbs. and ppl. adjs., as *steel-making, -using.*

1624 QUARLES *Job Militt.* XVIII. 58 That Steele-digesting Bird. 1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* I. 4 The steel-making process. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 1171 G, is the door by which the steel-maker enters. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade, Steel-roller*, the cylinder of a mill for rolling out steel into sheets. 1881 *Nature* XXIII. 568 The commotion among steel-users caused by the total failure of the steel plates. 1884 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 8 Jan. 9/1 A Glasgow telegram states that 2,000 steelworkers..refused to resume work to-day. 1903 *Daily Chron.* 17 Mar. 9/2 An elderly retired steel smelter.

17. Instrumental and parasynthetic, as *steel-bound, -clad, -girt, -graven, -lined, -shod*; *steel-coloured, -hilted, -pointed, -tempered, -topped*, etc.

a 1400–50 *Wars Alex.* 284, vij stele-grauyn stanys. 1591 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* I. vi. 324 Whose thorny sides are hedged round about With stiff steel-pointed quills. 1596 DRAYTON *Mortimer.* 39 In steele-bound locks he safely lodg'd the Guard. 1597 — *Heroic. Ep., Brandon to Q. Mary* 143 His steele-tempered blade. 1642 H. MORE *Song of Soul* III. iii. 45 Steel-coloured clouds with rattling thunder knocks. 1682 N. O. *Boileau's Lutrin* IV. 183 Come, Girot! Come, my trusty steel-edg'd friend. 1687 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 2202/4 A little Steel Hilted French Sword. 1751 WARTON *Poems* (1777) 61 Our steel-clad steeds. 1805 SCOTT *Last Minstr.* II. ix, A steel-clenched postern door. 1875 J. W. BENSON *Time & T.-tellers* (1902) 40 The watch being only silver gilt, and steel-faced. 1900 ELWORTHY *Horns of Honour* ii. 124 Steel-framed spectacles.

18. Special comb.: **steel bar** *slang*, a needle; † **steel beetle**, some American beetle; † **steel-browed** *a.*, shameless; **steel engraving**, the art of engraving upon a steel plate; a print or impression from such a plate; similarly **steel-engraved** *a.*, **-engraver**; **steel fall** *local*, [FALL *sb.*[2]] = *steel trap*; **steel finch** (see quot.); **steel grain**, a granular texture like that of steel; **steel-grained** *a.*, having a steel grain; **steel-hardened** *a.*, case-hardened (in quot. *fig.*); **steel iron**, (*a*) a native iron resembling steel; (*b*) iron suitable for converting into steel; (*c*) (see quot. 1883); **steel lustre**, a composition used for ornamenting pottery; **steel marl**: see MARL *sb.*[1] 1 b; **steel master**, a manufacturer of steel; † **steel-nose**, app. a slang name for some kind of strong drink; † **steel-ore**, (*a*) an ore of lead with a 'steel-grain'; (*b*) siderite or native ferrous carbonate; † **steel saddle**, ? a saddle with a steel frame; **steel trap**, a trap with jaws and spring of steel; † **steel wasp** (see quot.).

1785 GROSE *Dict. Vulg. T.*, **Steel bar*, a needle; a steel bar flinger, a taylor, staymaker, or any other person, using a needle. *c* 1711 PETIVER *Gazophyl.* VIII. lxxi, Small Carolina *Steel-Beetle with a yellow girdled Back and Neck. 1600 O. E. [? M. SUTCLIFFE] *Repl. Libel* I. iv. 91 If he had not beene both *steelebrowed, and beetlibrowed, yea and beetilheaded, he woulde neuer haue beene so bolde. 1823 J. BADCOCK *Dom. Amusem.* 136 *Steel Engraved Bank Note Plates. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXIII. 6/2 The early *steel engravers. 1824 *Encycl. Brit.* Suppl. VI. 547/2 *marg.*, *Steel-Engraving. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXIII. 6/1 The application of steel engraving to matters of fine art. 1879 (*title*) The Works of Sir Edwin Landseer, R.A. Illustrated by forty-four steel engravings and about two hundred woodcuts. 1895 P. H. EMERSON *Birds* etc. *Norf. Broadland* 290 The iniquitous '*steel-fall' or common steel rat-trap. 1869–73 T. R. JONES *Cassell's Bk. Birds* I. 163 The *Steel Finch (*Hypochera ultramarina*) frequents the banks of the Nile. *a* 1728 WOODWARD *Fossils* (1729) I. 211 [Lead-]Ore of the finest *Steel-Grain. *Ibid.*, *Steel-grain'd Lead-Ore. 1841 *Civil Engin. & Arch. Jrnl.* IV. 262/2 Steel-grained cast-iron, or crude steel. 1834 MEDWIN *Angler in Wales* II. 255 His muscles were *steel-hardened by service. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 681 Native *steel-iron. This substance has all the characters of cast-steel. *c* 1840 MUSHET *in Greener's Gunnery* (1858) 150 We humbly feel our dependence on two foreign markets for the supply of that steel-iron, without which the beauty, the utility, and extent of our hardware manufactures would be essentially injured and abridged. 1840 — *Papers Iron and Steel* 751 Steel iron and steel have since been manufactured to some extent near Ulverston. 1883 *Science* I. 46/1 M. Keil has succeeded in producing a welded metal which is stated to possess the characters of both iron and steel...This so called steel-iron is said to have been prepared in five ways. 1829 S. SHAW *Staffordsh. Potteries* x. 227 The *Steel Lustre employs oxide of Platinum. 1885 *Daily Tel.* 28 Sept. (Cassell) Iron-masters, *steel-masters, iron-consumers. 1901 *Daily News* 22 Jan. 10/5 A leading Staffordshire steel master and blast furnace owner. 1654 WHITLOCK *Zootomia* 459 They can tell you whose Pudding hath Sewet in it, and whose not; who drinks Rot-gut, and who *Steele-nose. 1661 BOYLE *Ess. Unsuccessf. Exper.* i. (1668) 52 Lead..so like Steel and so unlike *common Lead-Oar, that the workmen upon that account are pleased to call it *Steel-Oar. 1789 J. WILLIAMS *Min. Kingd.* I. 410 Steel ore, or steel grained lead ore. 1796 KIRWAN *Elem. Min.* (ed. 2) II. 192 Calcareous, or Sparry Iron Ore..affords..the best Steel...Hence it is generally called Steel Ore. 1503 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* II. 205 Ane haknay sadill, and ane *steil sadill. 1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* II. 129 Certane horssis plesand and fayr with steil sadles. 1735 SOMERVILE *Chase* III. Argt., The *Steel-Trap described. 1775 [see SPRING-GUN 1]. 1827 *Hone's Every-day Bk.* II. 906 The stranger..is in jeopardy of falling into the..fangs of a steel-trap. *c* 1711 PETIVER *Gazophyl.* VI. lviii, Shining Cape *Steel Wasp... The Wings shine like polisht Steel.

Steel (stīl), *sb.*[2] [A shortened form of BASTILE.] (See quots.)

1811 *Lex. Balatr.*, *Steel*, the house of correction. 1812 J. H. VAUX *Flash Dict.*, *Bastile*, generally called for shortnes, *the steel* a cant name for the House of Correction, Cold-Bath-Fields, London. 1839 in 'Ducange Anglicus' *Vulgar T.* (1857) 35 *The steel*, the tread-mill. 1877 *Five Yrs. Penal Serv.* I. 5 A series of rapid inquiries as to who I was,..had I ever been in the 'steel,' a slang name for one of the large metropolitan prisons, as the 'Gate' is for Newgate.

Steel (stīl), *v.* Also 3–5 **stele**, 6–7 **steele**. [f. STEEL *sb.*[1] Cf. MHG. *stæhelen* (mod.G. *stählen*), ON. *stæla*; also (without umlaut) MLG. *stâlen*, Du. *stalen.*]

1. *trans.* To overlay, point or edge with steel. Often in passive *to be* (*well*) *steeled.*

[*a* 900: see STEELED *ppl. a.*] *a* 1240 *Sawles Warde* in *Cott. Hom.* 253 Hure þolien and a beoren hare unirude duntes wiþ mealles istelet. *c* 1320 *Cast. Love* 1248 A swerd..þat wel i-steled and kene were. *a* 1440 *Sir Degrev.* 1043 Hys helme shal be wel steled. 1581 A. HALL *Iliad* IV. 63 An arrow he out of his quiuer cought, Sure steelde at end with piercing head. 1650 BULWER *Anthropomet.* 215 Performed with a sharp cutting stone, and not with any knife of iron steeled. 1693 LISTER in *Phil. Trans.* XVII. 865 With a Guess at the way the Ancients used to Steel their Picks for the cutting or hewing of Porphyry. 1776 G. SEMPLE *Building in Water* 18 The Chissell or Piercer, was well steeled, with a drill Point. 1805 R. W. DICKSON *Pract. Agric.* I. Plate xxxvii, The teeth are one foot in length..steeled at the point. 1831 J. HOLLAND *Manuf. Metal* I. 220 It was the common notion..that the art of steeling tools in the highest degree of perfection was certainly lost to the moderns. 1864 G. L. M. STRAUSS etc. *Engl. Workshops* 93 The former process is technically termed steeling in the centre, the latter steeling on the face. 1911 J. WARD *Roman Era Brit.* xi. 195 The face of the hammer was 'steeled' by a plate of steel welded to it.

fig. 1594 SHAKS. *Rich. III*, I. i. 148 Ile in to vrge his hatred more to Clarence, With Lyes well steel'd with weighty Arguments. 1614 W. B. *Philos. Banquet* (ed. 2) 114 He euer steeled the forefront of his armie with men of hiest spirit. 1651 JER. TAYLOR *Serm. Golden-Grove, Summer* xix. 248 When God..draws aside his curtain, and shows his arsenal and his armory, full of arrows steeled with wrath.

† **b.** To back (a mirror) with steel. *Obs.*

1625 DONNE *Serm.* (1649) II. xxxiii. 302 Nay, a Crystall glasse will not show a man his face, except it be steeled, except it be darkned on the backside. 1630 MASSINGER *Renegado* I. iii, Here is a mirror Steelde so exactely, neither taking from Nor flattering the obiect it returnes To the beholder.

c. To cover (an engraved metal plate) with a film of iron by electrolysis to render it more durable.

1880 HAMERTON *Etching* (ed. 3) 342 *note*, My large dry-point,..called *Two Stumps of Driftwood*, gave 1000 copies (after being steeled) without perceptible wearing. 1887 RUSKIN in Spielmann *Mem.* (1900) 195 Now that everybody can..engrave the photograph, and steel the copper, and print piles and piles of the thing by steam.

2. To cause to resemble steel in some quality. a. *fig.* To make hard, unbending, or strong as steel, to render insensible to impression, to make determined or obdurate, to nerve or strengthen; also to fortify *against*.

1581 A. HALL *Iliad* VI. 110 But stil he was so steelde With heart so good, as victor he dead left them in the field. 1592 SHAKS. *Ven. & Ad.* 375, 376 Giue me my heart..O giue it me lest thy hard heart do steele it, And being steeld, soft sighes can neuer graue it. 1654 WHITLOCK *Zootomia* 443 With this Position let us..steele our Resolves. 1720 WATERLAND *Eight Serm.* 97 Let any Man..that..is not steel'd against Conviction, be left to draw the Conclusion. 1796 MME. D'ARBLAY *Camilla* II. 370 Steel yourself, then, firmly to withstand attacks from the cruel and unfeeling. 1822 LAMB *Elia* Ser. 1. *Decay of Beggars*, Is it possible I could have steeled my purse against him. 1826 SCOTT *Woodst.* v, I..was steeled by honour against the charms of my friend's Chloe. 1882 FARRAR *Early Chr.* II. 380 The rich experience of a long life steeled in the victorious struggle with every unchristian element. 1884 *Leisure Hour* Sept. 545/2 The air and exercise had steeled my nerves completely.

b. To make like steel in appearance. *rare.*

1807 WORDSW. *Sonn. Nat. Indep. & Liberty* II. v, And lo! those waters, steeled By breezeless air to smoothest polish, yield A vivid repetition of the stars.

† 3. *To steel it*: ? to use steel, strike with the sword. *Obs.* or *nonce-use.* (The sense is disputed.)

a 1593 MARLOWE *Edw. II*, III. ii. 1333 We haue beene..Too kinde to them, but now haue drawne our sword, And if they send me not my Gaueston, Weele steele it on their crest, and powle their tops.

† 4. To impregnate (a liquid) with steel. *Obs.*

1657 J. COOKE *Hall's Cures englisht* 117 She drunk her drink steeled, with which she was cured.

5. To convert (iron) into steel: = STEELIFY *v.*

1883 in *Jrnl. Franklin Inst.* (1888) CXXV. 303 By passing an electric current thus through the bars the operation of steeling is much hastened.

6. To sharpen (a knife) with the steel.

1888 *Berksh. Gloss.*

7. *dial.* To iron (clothes).

1746 *Exmoor Scolding* 273 Tha hasn't tha Sense to stile thy own Dressing. 1837 J. F. PALMER *Gloss. to Mrs. Palmer's Devon Dial.* 85.

Steel, obs. form of STEAL *v.*, STILE.

† **Stee·lback.** *Obs.* [f. STEEL *v.* + BACK *sb.*] A name for Alicant wine, from its supposed property of strengthening the back.

[1609 *Pimlyco* C 4 b, The fat lecherous Alligant, Whose Iuice repaires what Backes doe want.]

1633 C. FAREWELL *East-Ind. Colation* 48 Raysin Wine, almost of the colour of Alicant, or steelebacke.

† **Steel-bow** [1], **stee·l bow.** *Obs.* [BOW *sb.*[1]]

1. ? A stirrup.

c 1205 LAY. 23899 Arður stop a stel boȝe And leop an his blancke. *a* 1400-50 *Wars Alex.* 778 Ilk a hathill to hors hiȝis him be·lyue, Stridis into stele-bowe, stertis apon loft.

2. A bow made of steel; a cross-bow.

[1535 COVERDALE *Job* XX. 23 Yf he fle the yron weapens, he shall be shott with the stele bowe. 1545 ASCHAM *Toxoph.* II. (Arb.) 112 Iron bowes, and style bowes, haue bene of longe tyme, and also nowe are vsed among the Turkes.] 1607 DEKKER & WEBSTER *Sir T. Wyat* E 1 b, *Norf.* Yonder the Traitor marcheth with a steele-bowe Bent on his Souereigne, and his kingdomes peace. 1671 MILTON *P. R.* III. 305 Steel Bows, and Shafts their arms Of equal dread in flight, or in pursuit.

3. A part of a lathe. *Obs.*

1680 MOXON *Mech. Exerc.* xiv. 236 There is a strong Steel Bow..fastned about its middle part to the further side of the Puppet...And to the ends of this Steel Bow is fastned a strong String of Gut.

Hence † **Stee·lbowman,** a crossbowman.

1585 HIGINS *Junius' Nomencl.* 484/1 *Balistarij*,..the crossebow or steelebowmen.

Steelbow [2] (stī·lbōu). *Sc. Law. Obs.* exc. *Hist.* Forms: 5-6 steil-, 6 stele-, 7 steelbow. [f. STEEL *sb.*[1] + BOW 3.

It corresponds to the F. *cheptel de fer* (see Littré), lit. 'iron farm-stock', and to early mod.G. *stählin vieh, eisern vieh* (in German Law Latin *pecora chalybea, ferrea*), and obs. Da. *jernfæ*. These terms denote the quantity of live stock which a farming tenant receives from his landlord on entering, under a contract to restore the same quantity and value at the end of his tenancy. This is precisely the sense of *steelbow*, exc. that the Sc. term seems to have been extended to apply to dead as well as live stock. The F. *cheptel de fer* is also used, like *steelbow*, for the species of tenure or contract under which cattle are so held by a tenant. In early mod.Ger. there were other legal terms containing the adjs. *stählin* 'made of steel', *eisern* 'made of iron', in the figurative sense 'rigidly fixed in amount': e. g. *stählne gült*, a fixed regular payment or income: *stählne pfründe*, a church living subject to no deductions. The figure of speech doubtless comes down from very early Germanic legal formulæ; but evidence is wanting. See Schilter *Glossarium*, s.v. *Stal*; also Grimm *Deutsche Rechtsalterthümer* (ed. 4, 1899) II. 131.]

a. A quantity of farming stock, which a tenant received from his landlord on entering, and which he was bound to render up undiminished at the close of his tenancy. Also *attrib.*, as *steelbow goods*. b. The kind of tenancy or contract by which farming stock is hired on the condition that the tenant renders up on the expiration of his tenancy the same quantity and value that he received; esp. in phrase *in steelbow*. Also *attrib.*, as *steelbow lease, rent, tenant, tenancy.*

1434 *Exch. Rolls Scot.* IV. 596 Pro herbagio 96 vaccarum domini regis, locatarum in steilbow infra domin[i]um de Stewartoun. 1507 *Reg. Privy Seal Scot.* I. 221/1 His ground and Manys of Dunbar, quhilk the said reverend fader had in tak and stelebow of his hienes. 1532 in *Pitcairn's Crim. Trials* I. 162* Havand in his possessioune ane hundreth punds worth of gudis, steilbow and ferm of þat ȝere alanerlie except. 1565 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* I. 410 The cornis cattell and gudis being upoun the landis of Baddinhaith, steilbow and utheris. 1566 *Reg. Mag. Sig. Scot.* 431/1 Prius dicti monast. bonis lie steilbow-gudis occupatas. 1640 in *Black Bk. Taymouth* (Bannatyne Club) 351 Thair is presentlie on the landis..of steilbow corne, sexteine chalders small aittis; and of steilbow beir, fyve chalders; and of strenth silver and steilbow horss on the forsaids lands [etc.]. 1733 in W. R. Mackintosh *Glimpses Kirkwall* (1887) 126 And beside there is a steilbow upon the lands of Yairsay of horses, oats, and bear. 1754 ERSKINE *Princ. Sc. Law* II. vi. (1870) 173 Steel-bow goods, i. e. corns, straw, cattle, or instruments of tillage, delivered by a landlord to the tenant upon his entry. 1805 FORSYTH *Beauties Scot.* II. 443 The rent was frequently paid in kind, or in what was called half-labour, by the steel-bow tenants, like the metayers of France. 1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* III. 1321 In such a case the straw and dung are said to be held in steelbow. 1911 A. W. RENTON in *Encycl. Brit.* XXIII. 104/2 Up to 1848 or 1850 there existed in Scotland 'Steelbow' leases..the tenant..paying in addition to the ordinary rent a steel-bow rent of 5% on the value of the stock.

Hence **Steelbowed** *pa. pple.*

1606 BIRNIE *Kirk-Buriall* Ded. (1833), For as..Gods Altarmens trauels in his own trueth ought to be steil-bowed.

Steel boy. *Irish Hist.* A member of a body of insurgents, calling themselves 'The Hearts of Steel', who committed agrarian outrages in 1772-4. See quot. 1772 in STEEL *sb.*[1] 2; cf. *oak-boy*, OAK 8.

1772 *Lond. Chron.* 18-21 Apr. 378/1 The Steel Boys came and fired into the house. 1780 A. YOUNG *Tour Irel.* 112 The rising of the steel boys was owing, as they said, to the increase of rents, and complaints of general oppression. 1844 THACKERAY *Barry Lyndon* xvi, The kingdom of Ireland was at this period [*c* 1772] ravaged by various parties of banditti:..under the name of Whiteboys, Oakboys, Steel-boys.

Steeled (stīld), *ppl. a.* [f. STEEL *sb.*[1] or *v.* + -ED.]

1. Made of steel, or with the outer surface, edge or point of steel.

a 900 *Cynewulf's Christ* 679 Sum mæȝ styled sweord wæpen ȝewyrcan. *a* 1225 *Juliana* 58 Ha bigon to breoken al as þat istelet irn to limede hire. *c* 1350 *Lybeaus Disc.* (Kaluza) 976 Wiþ coronals stif and stelde, Eiþer smitte oþer in þe scheld, Wiþ well greet envie. ? *a* 1400 in *Rel. Ant.* I. 240 Stark strokes thei stryken on a stelyd stokke. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* VII. xi. 79 Al instrumentis of pleuch graith, irnit or stelit. 1591 SHAKS. *1 Hen. VI*, I. i. 85 Giue me my steeled Coat. Ile fight for France. 1639 DU VERGER tr. *Camus' Admir. Events* 35 He seeks to end his dayes.. another time by poison, againe by some steeled weapon. 1747 HOOSON *Miner's Dict.* E 2 b, This sort will wear a new steel'd pick off in three or four times Sharping. 1751 LABELYE *Piers Westm. Bridge* 4 Sharp and well steel'd Drills. 1841 *Civil Engin. & Arch. Jrnl.* IV. 29/1 By the use of steeled tires these evils are henceforth to be avoided.

b. (See STEEL *v.* 1 c.)

1890 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 26 Apr. 3/1 Practically all the artist's proofs which find their way into the market are taken from these 'steeled' plates.

2. Of a man, army, etc.: Armed or protected with steel.

1596 *Edw. III*, III. iii. 219 Then thus our steelde Battailes shall be rainged. 1672 DRYDEN *1st. Pt. Conq. Granada* I. i, On their steel'd Heads their demy-Lances wore Small Pennons which their Ladies Colours bore. 1819 KEATS *Otho* I. iii. 67 Amid a camp whose steeled swarms I dar'd But yesterday.

3. Of wine, etc.: Containing an infusion of steel.

1640 PARKINSON *Theat. Bot.* 444 Being drunk in steeled or red wine. 1694 SALMON *Bate's Dispens.* (1713) 594/2 The Chalybeated or Steeled Syrup.

4. Wearing a 'steel' for sharpening knives. *nonce-use.*

1827 HONE *Every-day Bk.* II. 132 A 'steeled' butcher.. carries the flag.

5. Of a person, his attributes, etc.: Hardened like steel, insensible to impression, inflexible.

1599 SHAKS. *Hen. V*, II. ii. 36 So seruice shall with steeled sinewes toyle. 1603 — *Meas. for M.* IV. ii. 90 This is a gentle Prouost, sildome when The steeled Gaoler is the friend of men. 1624 A. H. in ? *Y. Davies'* (Heref.) *Scourge Paper-Persecutors* I. 5 What steeled patience could behold those Dawes Præuaricate the Muses sacred Lawes. 1713 TICKELL *Prosp. Peace* 133 Let the steel'd Turk be deaf to Matrons Cries. 1810 SHELLEY *Zastrozzi* II. Pr. Wks. 1888 I. 11 His steeled soul persisted in its scheme. 1826 DISRAELI *Viv. Grey* III. v, This last specimen of Mrs. Felix Lorraine was somewhat too much even for the steeled nerves of Vivian Grey.

† **Stee·len,** *a. Obs.* Forms: 1 *stȳlen*, 2 *stælen*, 2-4 *stelene*, (3 *-ane*, *stillen*), 3-5 *stelen*, 4-5 *-yn*, (5 *-in*, *-un*, *stilen*), 7 *steelen*. [OE. *stȳlen* (*stælen*, **stīelen*) = OFris. *stēlen* (WFris. *stielen*), MLG. *stelen*, MHG. *stehelīn* (mod.G. †*stählen*):—WGer. **stahalīn-*, f. OTeut. **stahlo-*: see STEEL *sb.*[1] The MLG. *stalen*, MDu. *staelen* (mod.Du. *stalen*) are independently f. the sb.]

1. Made of steel; also, having a steel point.

a 1175 in Napier *Holy Rood-tree* 26 Ða weard hit swa heard swylce hit stælen wære. *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 131 He to-þruste þa stelene gate and to brec þe irene barren of helle. *c* 1205 LAY. 7634 Wæs þe stelene brond swiðe brad & swiðe long. *c* 1350 *Will. Palerne* 3535 Was non so stif stelen wede þat with-stod his wepen. *c* 1475 *Partenay* 256 With the stilen swerde there tho made entre. 1629 QUARLES *Argalus & P.* III. 122 With that the little angry god did bend His steelen Bow.

2. Hard as steel, steely.

a 1000 *Sal. & Sat.* 504 Ne meahte ic of ðære heortan heardne aðringan stylenne stan. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 4296 Strengh o luu..nan mai stere, Þof his hert al stillen were. 1659 *Commw. Ballads* (Percy Soc.) 138 From steelen heroes that rule us with rods..Libera nos, Domine.

† **Steelet.** *Obs. rare*[-1]. [Anglicized form of F. *stylet*, stiletto.]

1616 (*title*) A Proclamation against Steelets, Pocket Daggers, Pocket Dagges, and Pistols.

Steeletto, obs. form of STILETTO.

† **Steel glass.** *Obs.*

1. A mirror made of polished steel, whether an ordinary looking-glass or an optical instrument of some special construction.

1530 [see GLASS *sb.*[1] 8 b]. 1542 in *Archæol. Jrnl.* XVIII. 139 Item oone square Loking stele glasse sett in crymsen vellat. 1553 T. WILSON *Rhet.* 78 b, With that he offered him at his commynge a stele glasse to loke in. 1579 LYLY *Euphues* (Arb.) 71 A woman,..the onely steele glasse for man to beholde hys infirmities, by comparinge them wyth woemens perfections. 1614 BP. HALL *Recoll. Treat.* 901 As some steel-glasses, wherein the Sun looks and shewes his face in the variety of those colours which he hath not. 1677 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* 120 Near which is hung a Mirrour or steel-Glass.

2. (See quot. 1753.)

1662 MERRETT *Neri's Art Glass* Notes 342 Cardan. l. 2. [= XI] de variet. c. 57. Glasses call'd Steel-Glasses [orig. *Specula chalibea uocata*] are made of three parts of Brass, of one part of Tin and Silver, and an 18th part of Antimony. 1675 BOYLE in *Phil. Trans.* X. 348 Those metalline *Specula*, whether plain or concave, that are call'd Steel-glasses. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl., *Steel glasses*, a name given by some authors to the metalline spheres used in optics.

Steel-head, *a.* and *sb.*

A. *adj.* Having a head of steel. *poet.*

1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* II. vi. 40 With that he stiffely shooke his steelehead dart. 1609 HEYWOOD *Brit. Troy* XI. lvi. 243 The steel-head Lance.

B. *sb.*

1. The rainbow trout of N. America, *Salmo irideus* or *S. Gairdneri.*

1882 JORDAN & GILBERT *Syn. Fishes N. Amer.* 313 *Salmo gairdneri*, Steel-head; Hard-head; Salmon Trout.

2. The ruddy duck, *Erismatura rubida. U.S.* (local). 1891 *Century Dict.*

Steel-headed, *a.* Having a head, tip or top of steel.

1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* II. iii. 29 A bow and quiver gay, Stuft with steele-headed dartes. 1606 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. iv. II. *Magnif.* 1110 Steel-headed Cones. 1825 SCOTT *Talism.* i, The long steel-headed lance. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2367 *Steel-headed rail*, a railway rail having an upper surface or tread of steel welded on to a body of iron.

Steel-hearted, *a.*

1. Stout-hearted, courageous.

1571 GOLDING *Calvin on Ps.* iv. 2. 10 Dauid was not so steeleharted [L. *ferreus*], but that his aduersitie dyd cast hym intoo piteowse anguish of mynd. 1833 NYREN *Yng. Cricketer's Tutor* (1902) 76 A handful of steel-hearted soldiers.

2. Hard-hearted; cruel, unfeeling; obdurate, inflexible.

1571 GOLDING *Calvin on Ps.* viii. 3. 23 Against the steele-harted despysers of God [L. *contra ferreos Dei contemptores*]. 1698 WASHINGTON tr. *Milton's Def. People* Pref. 11 As for those fierce, those steel hearted men [L. *istos feros ac ferreos*]. 1818 COBBETT *Pol. Reg.* XXXIII. 378 Experienced and well-tried and steel-hearted men whom they call Judges. 1897 E. CONYBEARE *Hist. Cambridgesh.* 198 Who could be so steel-hearted that that woman could not bend him to her wishes?

† **Steel hemp.** *Obs.* [First element uncertain: possibly STEAL *sb.*[1]] ? = CARL HEMP.

a 1618 *Rates of Merchandizes* H 3, Hempe vocat. Cullen and Steele Hemp. 1657 *Acts of Interregn.* (1911) II. 1211 Hemp called Cullen and Steel Hemp, and all other sorts of drest Hemp. 1666 MERRETT *Pinax* 19 *Cannabis mas*, male or steel hemp. 1667 *Pat. Office* 155, 1 Ordering, workeing and makeing 'Certayne sort of Hempe called Steele Hempe.'

Steelification (stīlifikā·ʃən). *rare.* [f. STEELIFY *v.*: see -FICATION.] The action of the verb STEELIFY; the process of converting iron into steel.

1875 *Ure's Dict. Arts* (ed. 7) III. 899 In the production of natural steel, the molecules of metal which compose the mass are *per se* charged with a certain percentage of carbon necessary for their steelification. 1888 *Jrnl. Franklin Inst.* CXXV. 304 The steelification is so equalized throughout the mass that [etc.].

Steelify (stī·lifai), *v.* [f. STEEL *sb.* + -(I)FY.]

† 1. *trans.* To add steel to, imbue with the properties of steel. *Obs.*

1662 J. CHANDLER *Van Helmont's Oriat.* 227 In the mean time, very many Clisters of Whey steelified,..were injected, and all in vain.

2. To convert into steel.

1807 G. GREGORY *Dict. Arts & Sci.* I. 344/2 Cast iron contains too great a quantity of carbonaceous substance: it may be called steel too much steelified. 1860 *Repert. Patent Invent.* Apr. 305 A..Process for Cementing, Converting, Refining, Strengthening and Steelifying Iron. 1888 *Jrnl. Frankl. Inst.* CXXV. 304 Another process for the formation of steel from iron consists in connecting the mass to be steelified with an electric source.

Hence **Stee·lified** *ppl. a.*; **Stee·lifying** *vbl. sb.* (also *attrib.*); **Steeli·fying** *ppl. a.*

1843 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* I. 262 The time occupied in this steelifying process, is sometimes only minutes instead of hours and days. 1860 *Ure's Dict. Arts* (ed. 5) III. 761 The workman has to judge..of the amount of carbon which he has retained from the pig iron;..if too little, he obtains only a steelified iron. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2365/2 The

substitution of phosphorus for carbon as a 'steelifying agent'.

Steeliness (stī·linés). [f. STEELY *a.* + -NESS.] The quality or condition of being steely.

1571 GOLDING *Calvin on Ps.* viii. 3. 23 Theis oneeyed Gyants..endeuer with their steelynesse [L. *sua duritie*] to breake open euen heauen it self. 1675 J. SMITH *Chr. Relig. Appeal* I. 70 Their Nurture and Education in the soft and warm bosom of that pacifick Age, had so far temper'd the natural Steeliness of their Mettal, as it turn'd Edge. 1856 *Leisure Hour* V. 812/1 Demonstrating the goodness or steeliness of our knife-blades. 1909 RIDER HAGGARD *Yellow God* 49 There was something in her voice..of steeliness and defiance.

Steeling (stī·liŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. STEEL *v.* + -ING 1.]

†1. The action of stiffening (a bodice, etc.) with steel. *Obs.*

1601 DENT *Plain Man's Pathw.* (1617) 43 It was neuer a good world, since starching and steeling, buskes and whalebones..came to bee in vse.

2. The giving a steel edge or point to iron, etc.

a 1819 REES *Cycl., Steeling*, in Cutlery, the laying on a piece of steel upon a larger mass of iron, to make that part which is to receive the edge harder than the rest.

3. Conversion into steel.

1860 *Repert. Patent Invent.* Oct. 317 These processes offer considerable advantages over those ordinarily employed for effecting the 'steeling' or the conversion of objects made of wrought or of cast iron into steel. *Ibid.* 318 The conversion into steel or the 'steeling' of iron or of cast iron.

4. In *Engraving*, the process of covering a metal plate with steel to render it more durable.

1871 HAMERTON *Etcher's Handbk.* 41 Since the invention of steeling (protecting the copper by means of an infinitesimally thin coat of steel applied by galvanism) a dry point will yield larger editions than an etching would formerly. 1887 *Athenæum* 24 Sept. 412/2 It will be retorted that, in these days of steeling, stamped proofs of etchings, line or mezzotint engravings, are in many cases..little better than ordinary prints.

5. The steel part of a machine.

1869 RANKINE *Machine & Hand-tools* Pl. K 3, The bottom steeling on which iron is placed when it is being cut [by the shears]. *Ibid.* Pl. K 11, The steelings [of a guillotine plate shears] are 6 feet 6 inches long.

6. *attrib.* †**steeling-box**, ? a box-iron (cf. STEEL *v.* 7).

a 1680 GLANVILL *Sadducismus* II. (1681) 152 That she hurt Dorothy the Wife of George Vining, by giving an Iron slate to put into her steeling Box.

Steeling (stī·liŋ), *ppl. a.* [-ING 2.] That steels, in quot. hardening, stiffening.

1849 STOVEL *Canne's Necess. Introd.* p. x, He had already sustained the steeling influence of 'seventeen years' spent in banishment.

Steeling, obs. var. STILLING, stand for a cask.

Steelle, obs. form of STILE.

Steelless (stī·l,lés), *a.* [f. STEEL *sb.*1 + -LESS.] Of an article: Containing no steel.

1831 J. HOLLAND *Manuf. Metal* I. 143 The steelless articles already noticed.

Steel mill.

†1. A device for producing a stream of sparks by the rapid revolution of a steel disc in contact with a flint; used for light in coal-mines before the invention of the safety-lamp. *Obs.*

1772 PENNANT *Tour Scot.* (1774) 49 The colliers..have invented..what they call a steel-mill, consisting of a small wheel and a handle; this they turn with vast rapidity against a flint. 1844 *Civil Engin. & Arch. Jrnl.* VII. 235/1 A shower of sparks from a steel-mill, turned by a boy, was the only light by which he dare work.

2. A mill or factory where steel is rolled into sheets.

1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade, Steel-mill maker*, a manufacturer of forge tilts, or rolling mills, for hammering steel into bars, or rolling it into sheets.

3. (See quot.)

1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech., Steel-mill*, a mill with metallic grinding-surfaces, usually of steel...Coffee and spice mills are instances.

Steel pen.

1. A pen made of steel, split at the tip like a quill. (In quot. 1636 *transf.*)

1636 MASSINGER *Bashful Lover* I. i, With this Steel-pen [*sc.* his sword] I'll write on Florence helm, how much I can and dare do for you. [1657 a Pen of steele: see PEN *sb.*2 4.] ?1678 *Hatton Corr.* (Camden) 169 It comes in my mind to ask you if you have, in England, stel penns. 1700–1 NORTH *Lett.* 8 Mar. in *Lives* (1890) III. App. 247 You will hardly tell by what you see, that I write with a steel pen. It is a device come out of France. 1777 MME. D'ARBLAY *Early Diary* Mar., I am now writing with a Steel Pen, which Mr. Cutler..has just sent me. 1834 MRS. CARLYLE *Lett.* (1883) I. 12, I write with a steel pen.

2. *colloq.* Applied to the 'swallow-tail' or evening-dress tail-coat.

1873 LELAND *Egypt. Sketch-Bk.* 257 The steel-pen coat, as Tom Hood, junior, calls it. 1882 SALA *Amer. Revis.* xiii. (1883) 164 The swallow-tail,..from its caudal bisection, is more appropriately designated by Americans the 'claw-hammer' or 'steel-pen' coat.

Steel plate. A plate of steel used for engraving, for the armour of warships, etc. Also *attrib.*

1680 MOXON *Mech. Exerc.* xiv. 241 A Steel Plate, about half a quarter of an Inch thick. 1806 J. PERKINS (*title*) The permanent stereotype steel plate. 1824 *Encycl. Brit.* Suppl. VI. 547/1 *marg.*, Steel-Plate Engraving. *Ibid.* 548/1 Notes, with ornamental borders, printed from steel plates. 1880 *Print. Trades Jrnl.* xxx. 34 Copper and steel-plate printing machines.

Also **Steel-plated** *a.*, **-plater, -plating.**

1819 SCOTT *Ivanhoe* xxxi, His triangular steel-plated shield. 1825 — *Talism.* xx, A broad pavesse, or buckler,..covered with steel-plating. 1882 *Standard* 13 Oct. 2/3 The dispute originated with the frame benders and steel platers. 1898 *Daily News* 19 Oct. 5/6 Five steel-plated vessels.

Steel spring. A spring made of steel (see SPRING *sb.*1 22). Also *transf.* and *fig.*

1680 MOXON *Mech. Exerc.* xiv. 242 Two strong Steel Springs. 1855 GEO. ELIOT *Ess.* (1884) 194 All these natural muscles and fibres are to be torn away and replaced by a patent steel-spring, anxiety for the 'glory of God'. 1899 WERNER *Captain of Locusts* 3 Even as you looked, those wonderful steel-springs [a locust's hind legs] would bend, and send the creature forward.

Hence **Steel-spring** *v. trans.*, to fit with a steel spring.

1778 MICKLE tr. *Camoens' Lusiad* IX. (ed. 2) 392 Some store the quiver, some steel-spring the bow.

Steely (stī·li), *a.* Also 6 **stely.** [f. STEEL *sb.*1 + -Y.]

1. Of or belonging to steel, made or consisting of steel.

c 1586 C'TESS PEMBROKE *Ps.* cv. v, His soule was clog'd with steely boultes of care. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* I. xi. 22 The steely head stucke fast still in his flesh. 1672 NEWTON in *Phil. Trans.* VII. 4032 If the steely matter imployed.. be more strongly reflective than this which I have used. 1726 POPE *Odyss.* XXII. 300 Again the foe discharge the steely show'r. 1765 A. TUCKER *Lt. Nat.* (1834) II. 557 The flowers of rhetoric, when aptly fitted on, like the feathers to an arrow, give force to the steely points of argumentation. 1807 CRABBE *Par. Reg.* I. 748 Steel, through opposing plates, the magnet draws, And steelly atoms culls from dust and straws. 1861 [LYTTON & FANE] *Tannhäuser* 58 For every sword Flash'd bare upon a sudden; and over these..the sinking sun Stream'd lurid, lighting up that steely sea.

†b. Of a blow: Given with a sword or spear.

1562 LEGH *Armory* (1597) 114 Such as with steelie strokes haue stablished stout stomackes. 1647 N. WARD *Simple Cobler* 69 Break not with Steely blows, what oyle should melt.

2. Resembling steel in appearance, colour, hardness, or some other quality.

1596 *Edw. III*, III. v. 68 The boystrous sea Of warres deuouring gulphes and steely rocks. 1601 SHAKS. *All's Well* I. i. 114 When Vertues steely bones Lookes bleake i'th cold wind. 1824 HOOD *Two Swans* 239 When fiercely drops adown that cruel Snake—His steely scales a fearful rustling make. 1874 SYMONDS *Sk. Italy & Greece* (1898) I. i. 21 The hill-tops standing hard against the steely heavens.

b. Of iron: see quots.

1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 681 Native iron of three kinds: pure, nickeliferous, and steely. 1869 RANKINE *Machine & Hand-tools* App. 57 The term 'steely iron' or 'semi-steel', may be applied to compounds of iron with less than 0·5 per cent. of carbon.

c. Of corn, esp. barley: Very hard and brittle.

1580 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 48 Wheat somtime is steelie or burnt as it growes. 1742 *Lond. & Country Brewer* I. (ed. 4) 5 The smooth plump corn imbibing the Water more kindly, when the lean and steely Barley will not naturally. 1817 KEATINGE *Trav.* II. 30 The wheat here is of a very dry quality, nearly approaching to what our millers term steely. 1891 *Times* 27 Oct. 12/2 It was a bit unripe and 'steely', having been probably harvested in too great a hurry. 1897 *Jrnl. Roy. Agric. Soc.* Mar. 75 Above all it [this barley] is invariably 'steely', that is to say, when cut transversely it shows a yellow or flinty rather than a white and mealy surface to the fracture.

†3. Of a liquid: Having an infusion of steel. *Obs.*

1580 FRAMPTON *Monardes' Joyf. News, Dial. Iron* II. 151 b, Aliabas..doeth say that the water that hath quenched hot steele is hot and dry...Auicen..saith that the steelie water doth resolue.

4. Of a person, his qualities, etc.: a. Hard and cold as steel, unimpressionable, inflexible, obdurate.

1509 FISHER *Seven Penit. Ps.* cii. Wks. (1876) 187 O tough & stely hertes, o herte more hard than flynt or other stone. *a* 1586 SIDNEY *Arcadia* II. iii. (1912) 164 That she would unarme her hart of that steely resistance against the sweet blowes of Love. 1748 RICHARDSON *Clarissa* (1811) VIII. 398 The steely forehead and flinty heart of such a libertine. 1788 JOHNSON *Lett.* I. cxiv. 239 But you never mind him nor me, till time forces conviction into your steely bosom. 1865 AMELIA B. EDWARDS *Half a Million* xxx, The steely light so rarely seen there, flashed into Abel Keckwitch's eyes. 1868 FARRAR *Seekers* I. x. (1875) 115 This awful giant-shape of steely feminine cruelty.

b. In physical sense: Strong as steel.

1648 J. BEAUMONT *Psyche* XV. xxxiv, Or heav'n-commanding Joshua earth become, Or steely Sampson turn to rotten Clay. 1894 F. M. CRAWFORD *Ralstons* (1897) 117 He's handsome, too, and straight, and steely, and formidable. 1898 ' H. S. MERRIMAN' *Roden's Corner* xix. 205 He was long and lithe, of a steely strength which he had never tried.

5. *Comb.* a. with names of colours, as *steely-blue*, etc. b. in parasynthetic formations, as *steely-hearted*, † *-stomached, -tongued* adjs.

1867 MORRIS *Jason* I. 381 The piled up crowd [of clouds] Began to turn from *steely blue to grey. 1878 SMILES *Robt. Dick* iv. 27 The black or steely-blue eyes of the Celts. 1884 *Basnar* 24 Dec. 675/2 The rest of the plumage is *steely grey. 1571 GOLDING *Calvin on Ps.* XXX. 12. III He was not so blockish or *steely harted [L. *ferreum*], but that hee moorned in heauinesse and sorow. 1876 FARRAR *Marlb. Serm.* v. 49 Even the steely-hearted murderess in the splendid tragedy..loves her aged father. 1604 T. WRIGHT *Passions* v. 184 A *steelie stomackt boore. 1828 P. CUNNINGHAM *N. S. Wales* II. 9 Some of the most *steely-tongued will sometimes halloo in at the window. 1903 *Daily Chron.* 25 Nov. 6/6 The flash being *steely-white and very subdued.

6. quasi-*adv.* In a steely manner.

1621 BP. MOUNTAGU *Diatribæ* 147 It is more than stony or steely hard, to say that his substance was at all Tithed. 1871 G. MACDONALD *Songs of Winter Days* II, *Wks. Fancy & Imag.* III. 83 Heed not the winds that steely blow.

Steelyard1 (stī·lyard). *Hist.* Forms: *a.* (5 **stileyerd, stil-, styliarde, -ierd, -3erd**), 6 **stiliard**, (**stuliard, -yard**), 6–7 **stilyard**, (6 **stwyl-, stylyarde**), **stilliard**(e, (6 **stylliarde**, 7 **styllard, stilliart, stillyart, stilliyard**), 6–7, 9 **stillyard** (6 **-yarde**). *β.* 6 **stel(e)yard**(e, 6–7, 9 **steel-yard**, 7–9 **steel-yard.** [f. STEEL *sb.*1 + YARD *sb.*1; a mistranslation of MLG. *stâlhof* (whence G. *stahlhof* in historical use), f. *stâl* sample, pattern + *hof* courtyard. The word *stâl*, pattern, being homophonous with the word for steel, the meaning of the compound was misunderstood.]

1. The place on the north bank of the Thames above London Bridge where the Merchants of the Hanse had their establishment. Also, the merchants collectively.

[1394 in *N. & Q.* Ser. x. VI. 413/2 In civitate Londonia.. in Curia Calibis.] 1474 in Rymer *Foedera* (1710) XI. 796/1 Quandam Curiam Londoniæ sitam vocatam Staelhoeff aliàs Stylgerd [? *read* Stylyerd]. 1475 *Rolls of Parlt.* VI. 123/1 The said Merchauntes of the Hanze, shuld have a certeyn place within the Citee of London, called the Stylehof, otherwise called the Stileyerd. *Ibid.*, Where the Maire and Communaltie of the Cite of London, be seased in their demeane as in fee, of the said place called the Stilehof, otherwise called the Stileyerd. 1493 WRIOTHESLEY *Chron.* (Camden) I. 3 This yeare was a risinge of yonge men againste the Stiliarde. 1546 *Acts Privy Council* N. S. I. 360 Bernarde Emeke and Symonde Percevall, merchauntes of the Stwylyarde. 1551–2 EDW. VI *Jrnl.* (Roxb.) 390 This day the stiliard put in their aunswere to a certen complaint that they merchauntis adventurers laid against them. 1610 J. MORE in *Buccleuch MSS.* (Hist. MSS. Comm.) 90 Such..of their goods as remains in the Styllard and other places of this town. *a* 1648 LD. HERBERT *Hen. VIII* (1649) 320 Which Act yet was not extended to the Merchants of the Stillyart. 1752 CARTE *Hist. Eng.* III. 266 The merchants of the Hanse or (as they were commonly called from their house in an open place where steel had been formerly sold) of the steel-yard. 1885 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 13 June 5 To the midst of the present century, when the last stillyard was converted into a London railway terminus.

b. A similar establishment in a provincial town.

1474 in Rymer *Foedera* (1710) XI. 796/1 Item, in Villa de Boston Curiam de Staelhoeff, aliàs dictam Stylierd. 1601 in P. Thompson *Hist. Boston* (1856) 247 [An acre of land] at the Steelyards. 1676 J. LOGAN in *Guiltim's Her.* (1679) II. 178 Leaving us its large Vaults, Ware-houses, Cellarages, Drapery, Steel-yard, and public Halls, as indications of its [*sc.* Coventry's] former opulency and splendour. 1856 P. THOMPSON *Hist. Boston* 339 The ancient custom-house at Boston was called the 'Stylyard's House'. 1890 GROSS *Gild Merch.* I. 154 *note*, It is said that there were German Hanse societies or 'steelyards' in Hull, York, Newcastle, Boston, and Lynn.

c. A tavern within the precincts of the Steelyard where 'Rhenish wine' was sold.

1592 NASHE *P. Penilesse Supplic.* F i b, Men, when they are idle, and know not what to do, saith one, let vs goe to the Stilliard, and drinke Rhenish wine. 1607 B. BARNES *Divils Charter* III. v. F 3, Till they transported..By Charon, Ferriman of Black Auerne, Fall Anchor at the Stilliard Tauerne. 1636 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Trav. through Signes Zodiack* D 7, There are foure Houses in London that doe sell Rhennish Wine, inhabited onely by Dutchmen; namely, The Stilliyard [etc.].

2. *attrib.* and *Comb.* with the sense 'of or pertaining to the Steelyard,' 'produced in or distributed through the Steelyard'.

1551–2 EDW. VI *Lit. Rem.* (Roxb.) 509 It were good the Stilliard men ware for this time gentelly aunswerid. *a* 1552 LELAND *Itin.* VIII. 59 The staple and the stiliard houses yet there [*sc.* Boston] remayne. 1593 A. CHUTE in *G. Harvey's Pierces Super.* G g 2, The Rhennish furie of thy braine, Incenst with hot fume of a Stilliard Clime. 1593 G. HARVEY *Ibid.* D d 1, His Stilliard hatt in his drousie eyes. 1611 COTGR. s. v. *Coquillé, Pain coquillé*, a fashion of an hard-crusted loafe, somewhat like our Stillyard Bunne. 1657 *Burton's Diary* (1828) I. 181 We make no distinction of Hambrough or stillyard merchants.

Steelyard2 (stī·lyard). Forms: *α.* 7–8 **stiliard, -yard, stilliard**, (7 **stillard**), 8 **still-yard.** *β.* 7 **steeleyard**, 8– **steelyard, steel-yard.** [f. STEEL *sb.*1 + YARD *sb.*2; the formation was prob. suggested by the existence of STEELYARD 1.

The following passage has been supposed to be an example of this word:

1531 in *Lett. & Papers For. & Dom. Hen. VIII*, V. 104/2 [The beam of] le Hanzes Hangis, [called] the Stilliarde Beme.

But prob. 'Stilliarde Beme' means the public weighing scales kept at the Steelyard. The relation to the older word STELLEER, which rests ultimately on the sole authority of Cotgrave, is obscure.]

A balance consisting of a lever with unequal arms, which moves on a fulcrum; the article to be weighed is suspended from the shorter arm, and a counterpoise is caused to slide upon the longer arm until equilibrium is produced, its place on this arm (which is notched or graduated) showing the weight: = *Roman balance* (ROMAN *a.*1 15 a). Also *pl.* and *a pair of steelyards.*

1639 *Act* in *Arch. Maryland* (1883) I. 79 No more shall be demanded for sealing of a pair of Steeleyards..then the fee ..for sealing of a measure. 1650 B. *Discolliminium* 16 It

must be weighed..at the most just..beam the State hath,.. not at every Souldiers petty Stilliards. 1682-90 Hooke *Posth. Wks.* (1705) 565 If on a Stilyard a weight of thirty Pound be hung at thirty times the distance from the Center that a weight of nine hundred Pounds is hung, the Stilyard shall remain in æquilibrio. *a* 1790 Warton *Prol. Old Winch. Playhouse* 23 Hither your steelyards, Butchers, bring, to weigh The pound of flesh, Anthonio's bond must pay! 1849 Longf. *Kavanagh* xi. Pr. Wks, 1886 II. 322 He likewise weighed all the babies. There was hardly a child in town that had not hung beneath his steelyards. 1872 Yeats *Techn. Hist. Comm.* 349 Railway luggage is weighed by means of a strong iron steelyard.

attrib. 1777 *Birmingham Directory* 5 Beach, Thomas, Stilliard maker.

†Steem, *sb. Obs.* Also 6 steeme. [Aphetic var. of Esteem *sb.* Cf. next.

It is noteworthy that the first two examples are much earlier than any known instance of the fuller form.]

Estimation, value.

c 1330 R. Brunne *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 98 Þat may þou here in sir Tristrem; ouer gestes it has þe steem, Ouer alle that is or was. *a* 1380 *St. Ambrose* 893 in Horstm. *Altengl. Leg.* (1878) 22 Þou schuldest þenke bi good steem Þou nart but riht as on of hem. 1588 Greene *Alcida* (1617) E 4, Of little steeme is Crystall being crackt.

†Steem, *v.*[1] *Obs.* [Aphetic var. of Esteem *v.*] *trans.* To estimate, value.

1590 Greene *Never too late* II. Wks. (Grosart) VIII. 120 The more it workes, the quicker is the wit; The more it writes, the better to be steem'd. 1592 Daniel *Sonn. Delia* iv, Wks. (Grosart) I. 39 These lines I vse, t' vnburthen mine owne hart; My loue affects no fame, nor steemes of Art. 1596 Spenser *F. Q.* IV. v. 3 Whilome it was..Dame Venus girdle, by her steemed deare, What time she vsd to liue in wiuely sort. 1642 H. More *Song of Soul* I. ii. 134 Is Honesty in such unruly fit That it's held in no rank? they 'steem it not awhit.

Steem (stīm), *v.*[2] *dial.* (Yorks.) [variant of Steven *v.*] *trans.* To obtain (goods) on credit; to order in advance, bespeak. Also, to pay a deposit upon goods bought.

1674 in *Depos. York Castle* (Surtees) 210 Thy father went to John Walker's to steime a pare of shooes, and he would not let him have them without he had money in his hand... Likewise he went to George Coppley's to steime a wastcoate cloth. 1674 Ray *N. C. Words*, To *Steem*: to bespeak a thing. 1862 C. C. Robinson *Dial. Leeds, Steim*, to bespeak. 'Steimed a plaace fur t' meeting'.

Steem, obs. form of Steam.

Steen (stīn), *v.* Forms: 1 stēnan, 2 stænen, 3–5 stene, 3 steane, 5 steyn(e, 8–9 steen, stein, 9 stean, steyn(e. [OE. *stēnan* = OHG. (MHG., mod.G.) *steinen*, Goth. *stainjan*, f. OTeut. **staino-z* Stone *sb.*

In certain northern dialects this and Stone *v.* are formally coincident.]

†**1.** *trans.* To stone (a person); to put to death by stoning. *Obs.*

c 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Matt. xxiii. 37 Ðu stænas [*c* 975 *Rushw.* stænest] hia ðaðe to ðe ȝesendet sint. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 122 Seint Stefne þet te stones þet me stenede him mide [etc.]. *a* 1225 *Juliana* 41 And ich hit am þet makede sein iuhan þe baptiste beon heafdes bicoruen & seinte stephene isteanet. 1340 *Ayenb.* 213 God..made ane man to stene to-uore al þe uolke uor þet he [etc.]. 1387 Trevisa *Higden* (Rolls) VI. 31 Þey schulde þrowe out stones þorow holes of þe walles, as it were for to stene the devel. *c* 1440 *Gesta Rom.* 178 Jerusalem! that sleist prophites, & steynist hem that bethe I-sent to the. *c* 1450 *Mirk's Festial* 28 Þay drowen hym out of þe cyte, forto stenen hym to dethe.

2. To line (a well or other excavation) with stone, brick or other material. Also with *up*.

1783 *Phil. Trans.* XXXVI. 192 We..artificially steen'd the whole Depth [of the well] with circular Portland Stone. 1797 *Ibid.* LXXXVII. 325 The well was sunk and steined to the bottom. 1833 Loudon *Encycl. Archit.* § 234 To dig a cesspool..and steen it with four-inch brick-work. 1838 Holloway *Prov. Dict.* s. v., To line a well with stones or bricks is to Stean it. 1839 *Civil Engin. & Arch. Jrnl.* II. 245/2 The excavation was..steined with 9 inch brickwork in cement. 1877 *Fraser's Mag.* XV. 422 The original plan of steyning the banks, or lining them with stones, must..be resorted to. 1886 *W. Somerset Word-bk., Steen*, ..2. To build up without mortar the circular wall of a well..' I've a-got good stones, I'll steen un up well'. 1891 *Antiquary* Nov. 208 The lower part of this was steined with oak boards.

b. *dial.* (See quot.)

1886 *W. Somerset Word-bk., Steen*, ..2. To put fresh metal on a road.

Hence **Steened** *ppl. a.*

1721 Mortimer *Husb.* (ed. 5) II. 283 He had several times seen at the pulling up of such old [ox] Stalls, some that have had a well steen'd Channel under the Planks, leading to a large steined Receptacle without the Stall. 1863 *Archæol. Cantiana* V. 15, I found another steined grave of Caen stone.

Steen, obs. form of Stean.

‖**Steenbok** (stē·nbŏk). Also steenboo(k, -buck, steinboo(k, -bok, -buck, stembok. [Du. *steenbok*, f. *steen* Stone *sb.* + *bok* Buck *sb.*[1] Cf. Steinbock.] A small South African antelope, *Rhaphiceros campestris*.

1775 Masson *Journ. Cape* in *Phil. Trans.* LXVI. 295 Some had the skin of a steenbock hung over their breast. 1850 R. G. Cumming *Hunter's Life S. Afr.* (1902) 157/2 Returning..I shot a steinbok. 1893 F. C. Selous *Trav. S. E. Africa* 431 He has shot every kind of game in Africa, from a steinbuck to an elephant. 1894 Lydekker *Roy. Nat. Hist.* II. 307 Although the name steinbok is properly restricted to a single species of antelope, it will be found [etc.]. 1913 C. Pettman *Africanderisms*, Steenbok...*Raphicerus campestris*. The word is frequently corrupted to Stembok.

‖**Steenbrass** (stē·nbras). *S. Afr.* Also 8 steenbras(s)en, 9 -brassem, steembras. [Cape Du., f. Du. *steen* stone + *brasem* bream.] A sea-bream, *Pagellus lithognathus*.

1791 tr. *Le Vaillant's Trav.* I. 22 There are plenty of fish at the Cape. Among those most valued..are the *rooman*.., *steenbrasen*..and some others. 1801 J. Barrow *Trav. S. Afr.* I. i. 30 Next to the Roman are the red and the white *Steenbrassems*. 1910 *Encycl. Brit.* V. 230/2 [Cape Colony.] The steenbrass and geelbeck are common in the estuaries and bays. 1914 *19th Cent.* Sept. 591 [Walfish Bay.] Other fish are harders (grey mullet), steembras, and barbers.

Steene, obs. form of Stean.

Steening (stī·niŋ), *vbl. sb.* Also steaning, steining. [f. Steen *v.* + -ing[1].]

1. *concr.* The lining of a well or other excavation.

1767 *Ann. Reg., Chron.* 56/1 The steining [of the well] fell in upon him and inclosed him at the bottom. 1783 *Phil. Trans.* LXXIV. 13 A brick steening, of two bricks thick in tarris, [was] raised gradually towards the top of the well. 1898 F. Davis *Silchester* 40 They [the wells] were mostly lined with a flint steining as far as the water.

2. *dial.* a. A paved ford across a river.

1838 Holloway *Prov. Dict., Steaning.* 1887 S. H. A. Hervey in *Wedmore Chron.* I. 288 (E.D.D.) Here I suppose was once a stream; and they crossed it by a stenning.

b. (See quot.)

1886 *W. Somerset Word-bk., Steening*, ..2. The metal fresh laid on a road.

Steenkirk, steinkirk (stī·nkɔ̄ɪk). *Hist.* Also 8 stinkirk. [a. F. (*cravate à la*) *Steinkerke*, *Steinkerque*, from the victory of Steenkerke (Belgium) gained by the French over the English and their allies on 3 Aug. 1692.

It has long been common to give the names of victories to new patterns of attire etc. introduced about the time of the battle. It is said that in France the designation *à la Steinkerke* had a great temporary vogue as applied to clothing, jewellery, cosmetics, and the like. According to Voltaire, the original *cravate à la Steinkerke* simulated the appearance of negligence, in allusion to the disordered dress of the French nobles when hastily summoned to the battle.]

A kind of neckcloth (worn both by men and women), having long laced ends hanging down or twisted together, and passed through a loop or ring.

1694 D'Urfey *Don Quixote* I. Prol., The Modish Spark may Paint, and lie in Paste, Wear a huge Steinkirk twisted to his Waste. *a* 1695 Halifax *Wks.* (1912) 162 If the Judges upon the Bench should..be Cloathed like the Jockeys at New-Market, or wear Jack-Boots and Steenkirks. 1695 Congreve *Love for L.* I. xiii. [xiv], There are huge Proportion'd Criticks, with long Wigs, Lac'd Coats, Steinkerk Cravats, and terrible Faces. 1697 Dryden *Virg. Past.* Pref. **** 2 b, The Beau presses into their Dressing-Room,..to adjust his own Steenzkirk [*sic*] and Peruke. 1704 Cibber *Careless Husb.* v. 54 Stage-dir., Takes her Steinkirk from her Neck, and lays it gently over his Head. 1707 Mrs. Centlivre *Platonick Lady* III. i, *Milliner.* And a long Neck and a hollow Breast, first made use of the Stinkirk. 1711 Addison *Spect.* No. 128 P 11 A Fashion makes its Progress much slower into Cumberland than into Cornwall... The Steenkirk arrived but two months ago in Newcastle.

1818 Scott *Rob Roy* xxxi, I had yielded up my cravat (a smart Steinkirk,..and richly laced). 1854 Ainsworth *Jack Sheppard* III. xiii, [He wore] a muslin cravat, or steenkirk, as it was termed, edged with the finest point lace. 1869 Mrs. Palliser *Lace* xxv. 300 These old-fashioned articles of jewellery were worn to fasten..the lace Steinkirk.

Steep (stīp), *sb.*[1] Forms: (5 stipe), 6 stepe, (steppe), 6–7 steepe, (8 stip, stiep), 7– steep. [f. Steep *v.*]

1. The process of steeping or soaking; the state of being steeped, esp. in phr. (*to lay*) †*a steep* (obs.), †*in a steep* (obs.), *in steep.*

c 1430 *Two Cookery-bks.* I. 16 Take þe brothe, þe pouches & þe lyuerys wer sodoun in, in a stipe or on fayre brede. 1516 *Gt. Herbal* ccccxvii. (1529) Y v b, And let the fylynge lay a stepe a day and a nyght in vynegyre. 1563 T. Gale *Antidot.* II. 25 Let all these be beaten together and layed in stepe in Rose water. 1601 Holland *Pliny* xxxii. vii. II. 439 The same ought first to be cut or shred small, and then to lie infused or in steepe a whole day and a night in water or vinegre. 1707 Mortimer *Husb.* 175 Take Plantain, Rue, [etc.]..of each an handful,..lay them in steep in a Pint of old wash. 1709 Lady G. Baillie *Household Bk.* (1911) 74 For makeing 2 stipof mallt..£6. 0. 0. 1765 *Museum Rust.* III. 220 If barley is left too long on the steep in the same water, the water will grow slimy. 1800 *Act 41 Geo. III*, c. 6 (*title*) For shortening..the Time of keeping in Steep for malting, Barley damaged by Rain. 1851 A. Marshall in H. Schroeder *Ann. Yorksh.* (1851) I. 419 Turning the beets inside out for the second steep. 1876 *Encycl. Brit.* IV. 267/2, 8½ bushels of good dry barley will, after forty-eight hours steep, swell to exactly 100 bushels. 1893 W. R. Mackintosh *Around Orkney Peat Fires* II. (1905) 126 A farmer..had just taken his malt out of steep, when two excisemen paid him a visit.

b. *fig.*

1592 Nashe *P. Penilesse* 18 b, I haue tearmes (if I be vext) laid in steepe in *Aqua fortis*. 1615 Chapman *Odyss.* II. 29 She..sweete sleepe Powr'd on each wooer; which so laid in steepe Their drowsie temples, that each brow did nod. 1627 Sanderson *Serm. ad Pop.* vi. § 21. (1632) 523 He..doth but lay more rods in steepe for his own back. 1895 'Ian Maclaren' *Briar Bush* 255 Man [doctor], ye 'ill need tae pit yir brains in steep. Is she clean beyond ye?

†**2.** *The steep*: the midday plunge taken by a stag in hot weather.

1486 *Bk. St. Albans* e iiij b, To the stepe then thay goon yche hote day at noon...The cause of the steepe is to weere hym fro the flee. 1576 Turberv. *Venerie* xxxvii. 100 A Hart goeth to the steepe at noone in the heate of the day to keepe him from the flye. *Ibid.* 244 He goeth to the Steppe.

†**3.** ? A steeping vessel. *Obs. rare*[—1].

1614 in W. S. Gibson *Hist. Monast. Tynemouth* (1846) II. 122 Repayring the Malthowse, Host and Steep, lx.s.

4. The liquid in which a thing is placed to undergo soaking or maceration; a prepared liquor used as a dyeing bath or cleansing wash; in *Agric.* a wash for seeds; often with qualifying word, as *alum, bran, lime steep*, etc.

1759 tr. *Duhamel's Husb.* I. xvi. (1762) 102 Steeps were brought very early into use in husbandry. 1805 R. W. Dickson *Pract. Agric.* I. 446 Steeps or pickles of these kinds appear to have been principally made use of for preparing wheat, in order to prevent it from being affected with disease. 1839 Ure *Dict. Arts* 600 The manufacturer..is..careful to ensure their purification by subjecting them to a weak lime steep. 1882 Crookes *Dyeing & Tissue-Printing* 134 The second peachwood beck may be saved and used for the first peachwood steep of the next lot. 1897 W. G. Smith tr. *Von Tubeuf's Dis. Plants* 65 Sterilization of the seed..is chiefly carried out by the use of 'steeps', which kill the smut-spores adherent to the seed.

5. = Rennet *sb.*[1]

1688 Holme *Armoury* III. 244/1 Bad Cheese..made of Burnt Milk, and of stinking and bad Runnet or Steep. 1769 Mrs. Raffald *Eng. Housekpr.* (1778) 255 To make Cream Cheese. Put one large spoonful of steep to five quarts of afterings. 1845 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* VI. I. 108 The rennet, or steep as it is commonly called, is next added. 1895 E. Rydings *Manx Tales* 65 And, Mrs. Kelly, I'll be sendin' you a boddle of steep.

b. *Sc.* The plant *Ranunculus flammula.*

1894 J. Shaw in R. Wallace *Country Schoolm.* (1899) 354 *Steep*, Ranunculus flammula, from its acting like rennet.

Steep (stīp), *a. sb.*[2] and *adv.* Forms: 1 stéap, 3 steap, stæp, 3–6 stepe, (4 steppe), 4–7 steepe, 5 steype, 6 stipe, stype, stiepe, 6–7 *Sc.* steip, 7 stiep, 7– steep. [OE. *stēap*, corresp. to OFris. *stāp*, MHG. **stouf* (as sb. with the sense 'steep, declivity', in the proper name *Hohenstaufen*):—OTeut. type **staupo-*, f. Teut. root **steup-*: **staup-*: **stūp-*: see Stoop *v.*] **A.** *adj.*

†**1.** Extending to a great height; elevated, lofty.

Beowulf 222 (Gr.) Beorȝas steape. *a* 1000 *Riddles* iv. 10 (Gr.) Weallas beofiað steape ofer stiwitum. *c* 1205 Lay. 19815 [They] mid eorðe & mid stanen stepne hul makede. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 1396, & Baltazar vpon bench was busked to sete, Stepe stayred stones of his stoute throne. *a* 1400–50 *Wars Alex.* 4828 A cliffe at to þe cloudis semed, þat was so staire & so stepe. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 474/1 Steepe, nowt lowe, *elevatus, ascendens.* 1615 Chapman *Odyss.* I. 200 To a roome they came, Steepe, and of state. 1667 Milton *P. L.* IV. 135 Where delicious Paradise,..Crowns with her enclosure green, ..the champain head Of a steep wilderness. 1738 Wesley *Hymn*, '*Eternal Wisdom*' ix, Thy Breath can raise the Billows steep, Or sink them to the Sand.

†**b.** = 'High' in certain transferred uses. Of warriors or their attributes: Of high courage, noble. Of a voice: High, loud. *Obs.*

c 1205 Lay. 1532 Þer wes moni steap mon mid stele to-swngen. *Ibid.* 1541 Cuð nu þine strengðe & þina stepa main. *Ibid.* 5879 And make we..auer alche hæpe hertoȝe stæpne. 13.. *Coer de L.* 5085 Kyng Richard..cryyd on hym with voys ful stepe, 'Home, schrewe I'

2. †a. Of eyes: Projecting, prominent (also *steep-out*); staring; glaring with passion.

c 1000 Ælfric *Hom.* I. 456 He hæfð steape eaȝan [= L. 'oculi grandes', *Pass. S. Bartholomæi*]. *a* 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 307 Þe keiser bistarede hire wið swiðe steape ehnen hwil þat ha spek þus. *c* 1320 *Sir Beues* 685 Wiþ stepe eiȝen & rowe bren So loþeliche he gan on hem sen,..þai were aferde. *c* 1386 Chaucer *Prol.* 201 His heed was balled..Hise eyen stepe, and rollynge in his heed. 1397 Trevisa *Barth. De P. R.* III. xvii. (1495) 64 Grete and stepe eyen [L. *oculus eminens*]..se not well aforre: but depe eyen se wel aferre. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 3758 Crispe herit was the kyng,..Stokyn ene out stepe with a streught loke. *Ibid.* 7724 His Ene [were] leuenaund with light as a low fyn, With stremys full stithe in his stepe loke. *c* 1400 tr. *Secreta Secret., Gov. Lordsh.* 115 He þat hauys steepe-owt eghen [L. *oculos extensos*] ys malicious & feloun. *a* 1450 Lovelich *Grail* xiii. 651 With grete stepe Eyen In his hed Also. 1555 Watreman *Fardle Facions* II. x. 212 The Tartares are very deformed,..hauyng great stiepe eyes.

†b. Of jewels, eyes, stars: Brilliant. In later use only of eyes, in the poetical phrase *steep and gray. Obs.*

a 1000 *Gnomic Verses* i. 23 (Gr.) Ðim sceal on hringe standan steap & ȝeap. *a* 1000 *Sal. & Sat.* 284 (Gr.) Ne mæg hit steorra ne stan ne se steapa ȝimm..wihte beswican. *a* 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 1647 A deorewurðe wal, schininde, & schenre, of ȝimstanes steapre þen is eni steorre. *a* 1225 *St. Marher.* 9 His twa ehnen steappre þene steorren ant þene ȝimstanes ant brad as bascins. *c* 1330 *King of Tars* 15 Eyyen stepe and graye. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 583 By-þenk þe sum-tyme, Wheþer he þat stykked vche a stare in vche steppe yȝe, ȝif hym self be bore blynde hit is a brod wonder. *a* 1529 Skelton *P. Sparowe* 1014 Her eyen gray and stepe Causeth myne hert to lepe. 1577 Grange *Golden Aphrod.* G j b, Hir twinckling eyne bothe steepe and grey, they seeme like Christall cleare.

3. Of a hill, mountain, cliff: Having an almost perpendicular face or slope, precipitous. Of a gradient or slope, a staircase, etc.: High-pitched.

The sense prob. goes back to OE., but is difficult to authenticate, as when applied to mountains, cliffs, etc. the word prob. expressed a mixed notion of senses 1 and 3.

c 1200 Ormin 11379 & ȝet te deofell..brohhte himm onn an lawe þatt wass well swiþe stæp & heh. 13.. *K. Alis.* 7041 Theo path on mount was narwe and stepe, In valeys, dark and deope. 1533 Elyot *Cast. Helthe* (1539) 50 b, Stronge or violente exercises be these..clymmyng or walkyng against a stipe vpright hyll. 1549 Thomas *Hist. Italie* 161, I thynke ȝhestipe descent of the hill causeth, that they haue not roome enough to make theyr stretes large. 1588 Shaks. *L. L. L.*

IV. i. 2 Was that the King that spurd his horse so hard, Against the steepe vprising of the hill? 1605 VERSTEGAN *Dec. Intell.* iv. 98 These cliffs..are..as it were cut of stiep or straight down, from the top to the bottom. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* 344 A mighty ridge of steepe high Cliffs [*L. cautium eminentia*]..runneth for seaven miles or there about, as far as to Dover. 1611 BIBLE *Matt.* viii. 32 The whole herd of swine ranne violently downe a steepe place into the Sea. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* II. 71 The way seems difficult and steep to scale With upright wing against a higher foe. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 28 Aug. 1670, Those huge steepe stayres ascending to it. 1718 LADY M. W. MONTAGU *Let. to Mrs. T——* 25 Sept., The descent is..steep and slippery. 1796 H. HUNTER tr. *St.-Pierre's Stud. Nat.* (1799) I. 137 The declivity of the bason of the Sea is much steeper than that of the bounding lands. 1813 SHELLEY *Q. Mab* ix. 218 Again the burning wheels inflame The steep descent of Heaven's untrodden way. 1838 ARNOLD *Hist. Rome* I. 32 The hills of Rome are..low in height but with steep and rocky sides. 1876 MISS BRADDON *J. Haggard's Dau.* II. 17 The narrow path..had been cut into steps where the slope was steepest. 1884 [see GRADIENT *sb.* 1].

b. *transf.* of movement. *poet.*

1603 DRAYTON *Barons' Wars* VI. xxii, That slippery way Where the most worldly prouident doe slide, Feeling the steepe fall threatning sure decay. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* III. 741 [He] Throws his steep flight in many an Aerie wheele. 1818 SHELLEY *Homer's Hymn to Sun* 22 His rapid steeds soon bear him to the West; Where their steep flight his hands divine arrest.

†**c.** Of a ditch, cave or the like: Having precipitous sides or entrance. *Obs.*

1568 GRAFTON *Chron.* II. 974 With diuers fortresses in the ditches, which were so broade and so plumme steepe that was wonder to beholde. 1598 *Extracts Burgh Rec. Glasgow* (1876) 189 His steip trocht and wolt biggit be him. 1601 *Ibid.*, Ane steip troche. 1608 TOPSELL *Serpents* 10 Ouid writeth: Longo caput extulit antro Cæruleus serpens, ..That is—The greenish Serpent extolld her head from denne so steepe.

†**d.** Of a forehead: Upright, high. *Obs. rare*—1.

1509 HAWES *Past. Pleas.* xxx. (Percy Soc.) 146 Her forehead stepe, with fayre browes ybent.

†**e.** Of water: Having a headlong course, flowing precipitously. Of rain (*Sc.*): Pouring. *Obs.*

c 1330 *Arth. & Merl.* 1450 Her vnder is a 3erde depe A water, bope swift & stepe. 1634 MILTON *Comus* 97 And the gilded Car of Day, His glowing Axle doth allay In the steep Atlantick stream. *c* 1655 — *Ps. lxxxi.* 31, I tri'd thee at the water steep Of Meriba renown'd. 1659 A. HAY *Diary* (S.H.S.) 149 Mr Rot Broun and I cam away from Lanerick in a very steep raine.

f. *Coal-mining.* Of a seam or measure: Having a high inclination.

1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-mining* 239 Steep seams [of coal]. 1892 *Labour Commission Gloss., Steep Measures*, a description of the seams of coal on the South crop..in South Wales, which are highly inclined.

4. In occasional figurative uses. (Very common in Milton.) **a.** Of an aim, an undertaking, etc.: Arduous, full of difficulty, ambitious.

1598 BASTARD *Chrestol.* IV. xii. 85 His heedlesse good and steepe presumptuousnesse. 1816 BYRON *Ch. Har.* III. cv, They were gigantic minds, and their steep aim Was, Titan-like, on daring doubts to pile Thoughts which [etc.].

†**b.** Of a difficulty: Hard to surmount. *Obs.*

1644 MILTON *Areop.* (Arb.) 32 To which [bound of civill liberty]..wee are already in good part arriv'd, and yet from such a steepe disadvantage of tyranny and superstition grounded into our principles as was [etc.].

†**c.** = HEADLONG *a.* 4. *Obs.*

1616 B. JONSON *Forest* xi, Who..Would, at suggestion of a steepe desire, Cast himselfe from the spire Of all his happiness? 1649 MILTON *Eikon.* 42 The stay and support of all things from that steep ruin to which he had nigh brought them. 1653 — *Ps. vii.* 60 With ruine steep. 1667 — *P. L.* vi. 324 It met The sword of Satan with steep force to smite Descending.

d. Of inequalities, contrasts: Violent, extreme.

1856 EMERSON *Eng. Traits, Result* Wks. (Bohn) II. 136 The feudal system survives in the steep inequality of property and privilege. *Ibid., Manners* ibid. II. 51 The range of nations from which London draws, and the steep contrasts of condition, create the picturesque in society.

5. *slang.* Excessive, extravagant, 'stiff', 'tall'. Of a price, an amount: Exorbitant. Of a story, etc.: Exaggerated, incredible.

1856 *Knick. Mag.* Apr. XLVII. 362 (Thornton *Amer. Gloss.*) He's too steep in his price, anyway. 1857 *Chicago Tribune* 17 Oct. (Bartlett), One hundred and ten Winnebago Indians, wearing their blankets, voted the Democratic ticket; but the agent thought this was rather steep, so he afterwards crossed that number from the list. 1895 *Westm. Gaz.* 22 Apr. 4/3 This is rather a steep statement, even for a party that exists on credit. 1901 *Munsey's Mag.* XXIV. 441/1 Forty thousand marks..is a pretty steep price even for a royal motor carriage.

6. attrib. and Comb., as *steep-grade* adj.; chiefly parasynthetic, as *steep-backed, -faced, -gabled, -pitched, -pointed, -roofed, -scarped, -sided, -streeted*; †**steepward** *adv.* ? on a steep slope. Also STEEP-DOWN, STEEP-TO, STEEP-UP, STEEPWISE.

1889 F. COWPER *Captain of Wight* 227 The old man once more turned to climb the *steep-backed hill. 1894 J. C. ATKINSON *Old Whitby* 60 The *steep-faced cliff. 1915 *Blackw. Mag.* Jan. 124/2 A *steep-gabled house. 1896 *Daily News* 25 Feb. 5/4 The..*steep-grade tramway. 1885 WARREN & CLEVERLY *Wand. Beetle* 140 We swung under the bridge, and ran in to the *steep-pitched landing. 1912 'GUY THORNE' *Great Acceptance* x. (1915) 255 Turrets with *steep-pointed roofs. 1814 SCOTT *Wav.* viii, The house, which seemed to consist of two or three high, narrow, and *steep-roofed buildings. 1878 RAMSAY *Phys. Geog.* xviii. 296 The *steep-scarped front..faces to the north-west. 1856 KANE *Arct. Expl.* I. ix. 93 Large gorges..generally *steep-sided. 1872 M. COLLINS *Plunges for Pearl* I. vi. 116 The *steep-streeted little town of Silveroar. 1588 KYD *Housah. Philos.* Wks. (1901) 270 Whether it lie *steepeward downe the hyls, vneasie and painful to be past.

B. *sb.*

1. The declivity or slope of a mountain, hill, cliff; a steep or precipitous place.

1555 EDEN *Decades* (Arb.) 133 Ryuers..wherwith al suche trees as are planted on the stiepe or foote of the mountaynes, as vines..are watered. 1590 SHAKS. *Mids. N.* II. i. 69 Why art thou heere Come from the farthest steepe [Qo. 1 steppe] of India? 1615 G. SANDYS *Trav.* 27 Having climbed the mountaine steepe towards the sea. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* IV. 680 How often from the steep Of echoing Hill..have we heard Celestial voices. 1721 DE FOE *Mem. Cavalier* (1840) 76 On the steep of the rock was a bastion. 1791 W. BARTRAM *Carolina* 341 They then pass on rapidly to a high perpendicular steep of rocks. 1801 CAMPBELL *Ye Mariners* 22 Britannia needs no bulwarks, No towers along the steep. 1861 M. ARNOLD *Southern Night* 23 There, where Gibraltar's cannon'd steep O'erfrowns the wave. 1883 MRS. RITCHIE *Bk. Sibyls* i. 2 The old..highroad..winds its way resolutely up the steep. 1899 *Daily News* 24 Oct. 5/4 He broke and fell back, being driven pell mell over the steeps to the rear of his position.

transf. 1860 DICKENS etc. *Message fr. Sea* iv. *Christm. Stor.* (1874) 182 Having..launched the boat down the steep of the deck, into the water.

b. *poet.* of the sky.

1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* I. 602 The setting Sun survey, When down the steep of Heav'n he drives the Day. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. II. i, Behold the new morning glittering down the eastern steeps. 1850 S. DOBELL *Roman* ii. 26 Let me breathe thee round the base Of the celestial steep. 1878 JOAQUIN MILLER *Songs of Italy* 87, I have looked to the steeps of the starry sky.

c. *fig.*

1742 YOUNG *Nt. Th.* VII. 705 By straining up the steep of excellent..What gains she? 1780 J. ADAMS in *Fam. Lett.* (1876) 380 Hercules marches here in full view of the steeps of virtue on one hand and the flowery paths of pleasure on the other. 1877 L. MORRIS *Epic of Hades* III. 32 For Knowledge is a steep which few may climb, While Duty is a path which all may tread. 1883 S. C. HALL *Retrospect* II. 132 His first wife helped him up the steep, cheered him on the way [etc.]. 1910 W. JAMES *Mem. & Stud.* 275 The notion of a sheep's paradise like that revolts, they say, our higher imagination. Where then would be the steeps of life?

†**2.** *A steep* (advb. phr.), steeply sloping. *Obs.*

1573–80 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 98 Some maketh a bollownes, halfe a foot deepe, with fower sets in it, set slant wise a steepe.

C. *adv.*

1. With a steep slope, abruptly.

1548 THOMAS *Ital. Dict.* (1550), *Rattezza*, quickenesse, or the goyng stype vp hyll. 1548 *Elyot's Dict., Prærupte*, stype without any bendyng.

2. *To run steep* = *to run high* (HIGH *adv.* 9).

1894 *Outing* (U.S.) XXIV. 475/2 Others..are never so happy as when enjoying a glorious thresh to windward, with ..the sea running steep.

†**3.** With the eyes wide open. *Obs.*

14.. *Guy Warw.* 7730 He lokyd vp steype starande.

4. *Comb.* with pres. and pa. ppples., as *steep-ascending, -bending, -cut, -descending, -hanging, -rising, -yawning.*

1727–46 THOMSON *Summer* 608 The *steep-ascending eagle soars With upward pinions through the flood of day. 1538 ELYOT *Dict., Acclive*, *stepe bendynge. 1901 *Harper's Mag.* CII. 741/2 They found themselves on top of a *steep-cut bluff. 1728 THOMSON *Spring* Seasons (1730) 41 The trembling Steed..*steep-descending stems The headlong Torrents foaming down the Hills. 1591 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* I. vii. 26 Here from a craggy Rock's *steep-hanging boss..A silver Brook in broken streams doth gush. *Ibid.* II. iii. HI. *Lawe* 659 Can we (like Birds) with still-*steep-rising flight Surmount these Mountains? 1725 ARMSTRONG *Imit. Shaks.* 177 Misc. Wks. 1770 I. 157 A gulph that swallows vision, with wide mouth *Steep-yawning to receive them.

Steep (stīp), *v.*[1] Forms: 5–6 **stepe, stipe,** 5–7 **steepe,** 6 **stiep(e, stype, (steyp),** *pa. pple.* **stept,** 6–7 **steap,** 6– **steep.** [Of difficult etymology. On the assumption that (notwithstanding the late date at which it is recorded) the vb. represents an OE. **stiepan, *stépan*, it would be the formal equivalent of Sw. *stöpa*, Da. *støbe*, Norw. *steypa*, to steep (seeds, barley for malting):—OTeut. type **staupjan*, perhaps f. **staupo-m* (OE. *steap*, ON. *staup*, STOUP) vessel for liquor. Cf. Norw. *setja korn i staup* = to put corn in steep (see STEEP *sb.*[1]).

The mod. Scandinavian words cited coincide in form with a verb meaning to cast down, to cast (metals), to run (candles, etc.) into a mould, which descends from ON. *steypa* of the same meaning, a causative of ON. *stúpa* (once), Sw. *stupa* to STOOP. It is phonologically impossible that, as is usually supposed, the Eng. word can be a. ON. *steypa*; and even if it be referred to an OE. **sttepan* corresponding to the ON. vb., the development of sense appears less natural on this view than on that suggested above.]

1. *trans.* To soak in water or other liquid; chiefly, to do so for the purpose of softening, altering in properties, cleansing, or the like, or for that of extracting some constituent. Const. *in*, rarely *with*.

c 1400 MAUNDEV. (Roxb.) xviii. 84 þai take alde peper and stepez it and strewez apon it spume of siluer. *c* 1420 *Liber Cocorum* (1862) 46 Fyrst sethe þy mustuls..In water,..þer in þou stepe white brede fayre. *c* 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* XII. 545 Elite olyues xl dayes stepe In oil barm. 1530 PALSGR. 734/2, I stepe, I laye in water, or lay a stepe any salte meate to take out the brine, *je destrempe*. Stepe this salt fysshe. 1533 ELYOT *Cast. Helthe* (1539) 41 Also wyne..wherin rootes of perseley or fenel be stieped. 1561 HOLLYBUSH *Hom. Apoth.* 34 b, A slyce of bread stuped in colde water. 1565 JEWEL *Def. Apol.* (1611) 463 The Priests..vsed to dip or to stipe the Sacred Body of our Lord vnder forme of Bread in the consecrated Blood and so to giue it to the people. 1577 HARRISON *England* I. II. vi. (1877) 156 Our Mault is made of the best Barley, which is steeped in a cysterne..vntyll it be thorowlye soked. 1587 GREENE *Tritameron* II. I I b, Hanniball..stieped poyson in a cuppe of drinke. 1594 *Gd. Huswifes Handmaid Kitchin* 43 Take faire bread and Vinigar, & steep the bread with some of the same broth. 1611 SHAKS. *Wint. T.* II. i. 40 There may be in the Cup A Spider steep'd. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* I. 114 Into the foresaid Lake they cast flax, which will be steeped in that water in 14 houres. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* I. 280 Some steep their Seed, and some in Cauldrons boil. 1769 MRS. RAFFALD *Eng. Housekpr.* (1778) 69 Steep your ham all night in water. 1800 G. ROSE *Diaries* (1860) I. 284 The distillers steep their malt a fortnight before they can use it. 1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 823 When he steeped seeds..in a strong solution of liver of sulphur, he never lost a seed by vermin. 1844 G. DODD *Textile Manuf.* v. 148 The [flax] plants are then ..steeped, a very important operation. 1849 BALFOUR *Man. Bot.* § 248 Some have advocated a system of steeping seeds and grains in certain solutions before sowing them. 1890 *Hardwicke's Sci.-Gossip* XXVI. 53 The Hottentots..use the leaves steeped in brandy for all sorts of complaints.

b. *absol.* To soak barley or malt.

1390–1 *Earl Derby's Exped.* (Camden) 74 Pro ij fattes..pro stepyng yn. 1468 *Cov. Leet-bk.* 338 þat noman..fech watir þens to brue nor to stepe with, vp þe peyn of iiij d.

c. To plunge or bathe (one's face, eyes, limbs, etc.) in water. Somewhat *rare.*

1579 SPENSER *Sheph. Cal.* Mar. 116 But see the Welkin thicks apace, And stouping Phebus steepes his face. 1708 N. BLUNDELL *Diary* (1895) 62, I Steeped my Feet in hot Whey..to make my Cornes come out. 1865 DICKENS *Mut. Fr.* III. xv, I have steeped my eyes in cold water. 1893 STEVENSON *Catriona* vii, I sat by the lake side..., and there steeped my wrists and laved my temples.

transf. 1817 SHELLEY *Rev. Islam* I. li, The wingless boat paused where an ivory stair Its fretwork in the crystal sea did steep.

d. *transf.* Of mist, vapour, smoke, light: To 'bathe', envelop like a flood.

1798 COLERIDGE *Anc. Mariner* VI. xvii, The moonlight steeped in silentness The steady weathercock. 1817 SHELLEY *Rev. Islam* I. ii, Long trains of tremulous mist began to.. steep The orient sun in shadow. 1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* I. v. 37 The Glacier..was also steeped for a time in the same purple light. 1887 MISS BRADDON *Like & Unlike* x, Every room was steeped in tobacco. 1890 BRIDGES *Shorter Poems* I. ii. 1 A river-mist is steeping The trees.

2. To soak, saturate, thoroughly moisten. Const. *in*, rarely *with* (water, blood, dye, etc.); also *simply* in *passive* (now *dial.*), to be wet through.

1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* II. vi. 18 Then she with liquors strong his eyes did steepe, That nothing should him hastily awake. *Ibid.* III. i. 65 Drops of purple bloud..Which did her lilly smock with staines of vermeil steepe. 1593 SHAKS. 3 *Hen. VI*, II. i. 62 A Napkin, steeped in the harmlesse blood Of sweet young Rutland. 1633 LD. WARRISTON *Diary* (S.H.S.) 185 Evin so that with tears my naipkin was lyk on steaped in walter [*sic*]. 1717 POPE *Iliad* XI. 729 His Coursers steep'd in Sweat, and stain'd with Gore. 1720 *Ibid.* XVII. 415 A sanguine Torrent steeps the reeking Ground. 1768 STERNE *Sent. Journ.* (1778) II. 177 (*Maria*) My handkerchief..was steep'd too much already to be of use. 1812 J. WILSON *Isle of Palms* I. 303 Oh! must those eyes be steep'd in tears. 1849 AYTOUN *Lays Scott. Cavaliers* (ed. 2) 20 Never yet was royal banner Steeped in such a costly dye. 1892 *Verney Mem.* I. 5 There was probably little or no glass in the house of Henry VII.'s time; linen steeped in oil was the substitute. 1898 *Shetld. News* 27 Aug. (E.D.D.) My claes wis dat wye steepid 'at da watter ran doon ower my hide.

fig. 1595 SHAKS. *John* III. iv. 147 For he that steepes his safetie in true blood, Shall finde but bloodie safety. 1607 DEKKER & WEBSTER *Sir T. Wyat* B j b, See, on my knees I humbly take my leaue, And steep my wordes with teares.

b. To soak or imbrue (a weapon, etc.) *in* blood, poison, etc.

1594 KYD *Cornelia* II. 283 Would Death had steept his dart in Lernas blood. 1594 CHAPMAN *Shadow of Nt.* C j, No pen can any thing eternall wright, That is not steept in humor of the Night. 1602 SHAKS. *Ham.* II. ii. 533 With tongue in Venome steep'd. 1817 SHELLEY *Rev. Islam* VII. i, Time, though he wield the darts of death and sleep, And those thrice mortal barbs in his own poison steep.

c. *hyperbolically.* To 'soak' in alcoholic liquor: with reference to constant or excessive drinking; chiefly in *passive.* Also, to deaden, stupefy (one's memory, senses), to drown (grief, etc.) *in* liquor.

a 1592 GREENE *Jas. IV*, 1735 Our iolly horsekeeper, being well stept in licor, confessed to me the stealing of my maisters writings. 1601 B. JONSON *Poetaster* III. v, And liue like them, That..euery eu'en, with neat wine steeped be. 1649 LOVELACE *Poems* 97 When thirsty griefe in Wine we steepe. 1746 FRANCIS tr. *Hor., Sat.* II. i. 10 Swim o'er the Tiber, if you want to sleep, Or the dull Sense in t' other Bottle steep. 1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* iii, Unless my memory fails me, (for I did steep it somewhat too deeply in the sack-butt). 1839 W. CARLETON *Fardorougha* xiv. 201 'He is afeard if he got drunk that he might n't be able to keep his own secret.' 'Ah, thin be the holy Nelly, we'll steep him yet.' 1856 EMERSON *Eng. Traits, Race* Wks. (Bohn) II. 31 A wealthy, juicy, broad-chested creature, steeped in ale and good cheer. 1862 MISS BRADDON *Lady Audley* xxxiii, He was steeped to the very lips in alcohol.

d. *fig.* (*jocular*) To 'wet', initiate or celebrate by a drink.

1765 STERNE *Tr. Shandy* VIII. xxviii, Here's a crown, corporal, to begin with, to steep thy commission.

3. In various metaphorical applications.

a. To 'bathe' (the heart, head, limbs, etc.) in slumber or rest.

1591 SPENSER *Virg. Gnat* 245 Sleep; Which..In quiet rest his molten heart did steep. 1635 QUARLES *Embl.* I. vii,

Is this a time to steepe Thy braines in wastfull slumbers? 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* IV. 278 When once in Beds their weary Limbs they steep, No buzzing Sounds disturb their Golden Sleep. 1827 KEBLE *Chr. Y., Sun of my soul* ii, When the soft dews of kindly sleep My wearied eyelids gently steep. 1833 TENNYSON *Lotos-Eaters* 66 We only toil..Nor steep our brows in slumber's holy balm.

b. To soak and stupefy or deaden (grief, the senses) *in* (sleep, etc.).

1597 SHAKS. 2 *Hen. IV*, III. i. 8 O Sleepe,..thou no more wilt weigh my eye-lids downe, And steepe my Sences in Forgetfulnesse. 1602 MARSTON *Antonio's Rev.* I. iii, My sense was steep't in horrid dreames. 1790 COWPER *Mother's Pict.* 19 Fancy..Shall steep me in Elysian reverie. 1822 LAMB *Elia* Ser. II. *Detached Thoughts on Books*, She has snatched an hour..to steep her cares, as in some Lethean cup, in spelling out their enchanting contents. 1856 MERIVALE *Rom. Emp.* I. V. 534 Messalina..steeped the senses of her consort in brutal indulgences. 1882 B. HARTE *Flip* ii, He awoke with the aroma of the woods still steeping his senses.

c. To involve deeply in a state or condition; to imbue or permeate thoroughly (with some quality); to make profoundly acquainted (with a subject of study); to absorb *in* (a pursuit). Const. *in*. Chiefly in *passive*; often, *to be steeped to the lips*.

1603 CHETTLE etc. *Grissill* A 4, All his words and deedes are like his birth, Steept in true honor. 1604 SHAKS. *Oth.* IV. ii. 50 Had they..Steep'd me in pouertie to the very lippes. 1663 PATRICK *Parab. Pilgrim* xxvii. (1687) 293 He seldom departed from meditation, but .. with .. his whole heart steeped in new sweetness. 1833 TENNYSON *Two Voices* 47 Thou art so steeped in misery. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* III. II. viii, Roland, so long steeped to the lips in disgust and chagrin, sends in his demission. 1850 W. IRVING *Goldsmith* xiv. 172 Langton..was still the..enthusiastic scholar, steeped to the lips in Greek. 1855 DICKENS *Lett.* (1880) I. 402, I am steeped in my story. 1856 KINGSLEY *Misc.* (1860) II. 130 But Milton had steeped his whole soul in romance. 1868 MORRIS *Earthly Par.* I. I. 304 Until the Golden Age seemed there to be, So steeped the land was in felicity. 1870 HUXLEY *Lay Serm.* vi. (1874) 117 The whole of modern thought is steeped in science. 1882 MISS BRADDON *Mt. Royal* iii, She has been steeped to the lips in worldliness and vanity. 1908 J. O. DYKES *Chr. Minister* xiii. 142 There is a language of devotion in which the minister does well to steep himself.

4. *intr.* To undergo the process of soaking in liquor.

c 1412 HOCCLEVE *De Reg. Princ.* 1126 Men Yerne and desiren after muk so sore, þat they good fame han leyd a watir yore, And rekken neuer how longe it þer stipe. *c* 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* II. 281 A day afore her settyng hem [*sc.* almonds] to stepe In meth is good. 1598 *Epulario* B ij b, Lay it to steepe in a little red wine. 1648 J. BEAUMONT *Psyche* II. cvii, He having steeping, in a box of Jett, A blacker Liquor. 1769 MRS. RAFFALD *Eng. Housekpr.* (1778) 323 Put one ounce of isinglass to steep in cyder. 1808 SCOTT *Marm.* I. xxx, The midnight draught of sleep, Where wine and spices richly steep, In massive bowl. 1809 PARKINS *Culpepper's Eng Physician* 383 Then let them all steep ten days in the aquavitæ. 1913 *Daily Graphic* 24 Mar. 13/4 Basins of water in which salt cod was steeping so that it might be ready for cooking.

b. *transf.* and *fig.*

1577 GRANGE *Golden Aphrod.* E ij, As one whose browes had Morpheus bound and layde to stiepe ouer head and eares in the snowe of Tygetus. 1600 FAIRFAX *Tasso* xx. cxliii, The camp was wonne, and all in blood doth steepe. 1849 CUPPLES *Green Hand* xvi. (1856) 157 A huge lake, fringed in by a confused hazy bluish outline steeping in the heat. 1914 *Blackw. Mag.* Feb. 231/1 In a loch at Moy the stars were steeping.

5. Comb.: chiefly in the names of vessels used in steeping malt, flesh, etc. (cf. STEEPING *vbl. sb.*[1] 4), as *steep cistern*, †*fat* (FAT *sb.*[1] 2), †*lead* (LEAD *sb.*[1] 5 a), †*-stone* (Sc. and *north.*), *tub*; **steep-grass, -weed, -wort**, *Pinguicula vulgaris*, so called from its property of curdling milk; **steep-skin** *dial.* (see quot.); **steep-water** = STEEP *sb.*[1] 4.

1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 93 [Malting] More barley is successively emptied into the *steep cistern. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 361/2 A *Stepe fatte, *ptipsanarium*. 1550 *N. C. Wills* (Surtees 1908) 210 A stepffat of leyd. 1777 J. LIGHTFOOT *Flora Scotica* II. 1131 *Pinguicula vulgaris*...*Steep-grass. 1418 *Mem. Ripon* (Surtees) III. 142 Item j *stepelede 24s. 1582 *Wills & Inv. N. C.* (Surtees 1860) 88 Item in the kilne a lardge and new steapeleade. 1887 *S. Chesh. Gloss., Bagskin*, the stomach of a calf salted, so as to be used as rennet in cheese-making. Also called *Steep-skin. *c* 1475 *Cath. Angl.* 361/2 (Addit. MS.) A *Stepstane or fatt. 1599 *Reg. Mag. Sig. Scot.* 317/1 Commisit dictis fratribus potestatem horrea, hortos, lie killis, cobillis, steip-stanis, granaria [etc.]. 1627 CAPT. SMITH *Sea Gram.* ix. 37 The *steepe Tubs in the chains to shift their Beefe, Porke, or Fish in salt water. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk., Steep-tub*, a large tub in which salt provisions are soaked previous to being cooked. 1838 T. THOMSON *Chem. Org. Bodies* 1012 The *steep-water gradually acquires a yellow colour. 1876 *Encycl. Brit.* IV. 267/2 The steep-water should then be changed. 1886 BRITTEN & HOLLAND *Plant-n.*, Steep-grass, *Steep-weed, or *Steep-wort, *Pinguicula vulgaris*, L.

Hence **Steeped** *ppl. a.*

1599 DRAYTON *Heroical Ep., Geraldine to H. Howard* (ed. 3) 95 b, That honey-steeped gall, We oft are sayd to bayte our Loues withall. 1639 T. DE GRAY *Compl. Horsem.* 348 Give him one of the steeped egges. 1648 HEXHAM II, *Gerot Vlas*, Rotten or Steeped Flaxe. 1710 N. BLUNDELL *Diary* (1895) 83, I Rosted my Steeped Wheat to make Coffy on.

Steep (stīp), *v.*[2] [f. STEEP *a.*]

1. *trans.* To place in a sloping position. Now only *dial.*, to tilt (a cask). Cf. STOOP *v.*

1613-16 W. BROWNE *Brit. Past.* I. i. 20 Then did the God her body forwards steepe, And cast her for a while into a sleepe. 1837 J. F. PALMER *Gloss. to Mrs. Palmer's Dialogue Devon Dial.*, To *Steep*, to tilt or give an inclination to a barrel which is nearly run out. 1886 *W. Somerset Word-bk.*

2. To make a slope on the top or side of (*a*) a hedge; (*b*) a stack. (See quots.) *dial.*

(*a*) 1741 in *Hartland* (Devon) *Gloss.* s. v. *Steep*, Shall not cut shrid lop or steep any hedge or hedges. 1837 J. F. PALMER *Gloss. to Mrs. Palmer's Dialogue Devon Dial.*, To *Steep*,..to dress or trim a hedge. 1856 MORTON *Cycl. Agric.* II. 724/1 (Devon.), to *lade* and *steep* hedges is to lay them down and bank up with earth.

(*b*) 1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss., Steep*, to top up or make up a rick. 1887 *Kentish Gloss.* s. v., To steep a stack, is to make the sides smooth and even, and to slope it up to the point of the roof.

3. *intr.* Of a cliff: To form a steep; to 'drop'. Also of the sea: To slope.

1890 CLARK RUSSELL *Ocean Trag.* I. iii. 46 He might just get a glimpse of green shore with a tremble of water..steeping to it. 1911 *Nation* 16 Dec. 469/2 A huge hammer of mountains eight thousand feet high and steeping sheer into the sea.

Steep-down, *a. Obs.* exc. *poet.* [f. STEEP *a.* + DOWN *adv.* Cf. STEEP-UP.] Precipitous.

1530 PALSGR. 827/1 Stepe downe, *tout bas en droycte lygne*. 1545 ELYOT *Dict., Cliuosus*,..pitching doune, or stiepe doune. 1560 BIBLE (Geneva) *Matt.* viii. 32 The whole herd of swine was caryed with violence from a stiepe downe place into the sea. 1584-7 GREENE *Carde of Fancie* Wks. (Grosart) IV. 74 The cliffes so steep-downe and feareful, as to descend was no lesse daunger then death it selfe. 1604 SHAKS. *Oth.* V. ii. 280 Whip me ye Diuels...: Wash me in steepe-downe gulfes of Liquid fire. 1648 J. BEAUMONT *Psyche* III. xiv, You see Him till into the steep-down West He throws his course. 1828 TENNYSON *Lover's Tale* 390 Steep-down walls of battlemented rock.

†**b.** Of a shower. *Obs.*

1601 W. WATSON *Import. Consid.* (1831) 30 A steep-down shower of stormy sorrows.

Steeped (stīpt), *a.* [f. STEEP *v.*[2] + -ED[1].] Of a rock, rampart: Having a precipitous face or side. Obs. exc. in *steeped-to* = STEEP-TO.

1596 SIR F. VERE *Comm.* ii. (1657) 38 A massy rampier, with two round half bulwarks,..not steeped and scarped: so as it was very mountable. 1686 PLOT *Staffordsh.* 173 The sides steeped and so hanging over, that it sometimes preserves Snow all the Summer. 1858 *Merc. Mar. Mag.* V. 361 The islet is..steeped to on all sides.

Steepen (stī·p'n), *v.* [f. STEEP *a.* + -EN[5].]

1. *intr.* To become steep or steeper.

1847 H. MILLER *First Impr.* ix. 153 As the way steepened ..I could detect..some traces of the old path. 1883 STEVENSON *Treas. Isl.* xxxi, But by little and little the hill began to steepen.

2. *trans. fig.* To increase, 'pile on', 'heap up'; also with *up*.

1909 LD. ROSEBERY in *Times* 11 Sept. 7/5 These death duties..have been constantly steepened up. 1914 *Q. Rev.* Apr. 458 The financial demands made upon underwriting members have been very much steepened of recent years.

Hence **Stee·pening** *vbl. sb.* and *ppl. a.*

1868 GLADSTONE in Morley *Life* (1903) II. v. xvi. 256, I ascend a steepening path with a burden ever gathering weight. 1909 LD. ROSEBERY in *Times* 11 Sept. 7/5 An argument for the steepening of the death duties was that [etc.].

Steeper[1] (stī·pəɹ). [f. STEEP *v.*[1] + -ER[1].]

1. One who steeps; *spec.* one who carries out the operation of steeping flax, wool, etc.

1611 COTGR., *Trempeur*, a dipper;..soaker, steeper. 1837 *Flemish Husb.* ix. (Libr. Useful Knowl.) 45 The best and most experienced steepers..prefer the clear soft water of the river Lys. 1904 *Eng. Dial. Dict., Steeper*, a wool-combing term: a man who steeps the wool before washing. w. Yks.

2. A vessel used in steeping or infusing; esp. a vat in which the indigo-plant is macerated.

1737 MILLER *Gard. Dict.* (ed. 3) s. v. *Anil*, The first, largest, and highest of these [Indigo] Vats is called the Steeper or Rot. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 666 (*Indigo*) The uppermost is called the fermenting vat, or the steeper. 1886 *Cornhill Mag.* July 51 The would-be drinker is then expected to seize the burning hot steeper [for tea].

3. *dial.* A soaking rain; also, a soaking with rain.

1878 E. WAUGH *Hermit Cobbler* vii, It's a steeper, and nought else. It's th' weetest back-end we'n had this ten-year. 1898 *Leeds Merc. Suppl.* 7 May (E.D.D.) T'rain com dahn i' buckets an' it gae me a steeper an' reight, tu.

Steeper[2] (stī·pəɹ). *dial.* [f. STEEP *v.*[2] + -ER[1].] (See quot. 1837.)

1815 *Sporting Mag.* XLV. 110 One may be placed about nine inches above the steepers of a hedge. 1837 J. F. PALMER *Gloss. to Mrs. Palmer's Dialogue Devon Dial., Steepers*, in trimming hedges, the central branches, cut half through and laid lengthways.

†**Stee·pful,** *a. nonce-wd.* [f. STEEP *a.* or *sb.*[2] + -FUL.] Abounding in steeps, steep.

1605 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. iii. I. *Vocation* 828 Anon he stalks about a steepfull Rock.

Steepil(l, obs. forms of STEEPLE *sb.*[1]

†**Stee·piness.** *Obs.* [f. STEEPY *a.* + -NESS.] The condition of being 'steepy'; steepness.

Freely used by writers in the 17th c.

1612 [W. BIDDULPH] *Trav. four English Men* 90 The mountaine .. somewhat steepy..: we rode so farre as we could for steepinesse and then..tooke vpon vs to clamber vp on foote. 1642 HOWELL *For. Trav.* (Arb.) 51 The craggines se and steepinesse of places up and down is a great advantage to the dwellers. 1771 GOLDSM. *Hist. Eng.* IV. 398 The steepiness of the ground such as hardly to be surmounted.

Steeping (stī·piŋ), *vbl. sb.*[1] [f. STEEP *v.*[1] + -ING[1].]

1. The action or process of STEEP *v.*[1]; an instance of this.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 474/2 Stepynge, yn lycure, *infusio, illiqueacio*. 14.. *MS. Sloane* 73 lf. 201 Whanne it hap leye þerynne a nyȝt on steping. 1548 *Act* 2 & 3 *Edw. VI*, c. 10 § 2 That the same [barly malt] shall have in makinge thereof, that ys to saye, in the fatt flower stepinge..of the same Malte, thre wekes at the leste. 1626 BACON *Sylva* § 500 The third [means of making plants medicinable] is, the Steeping of the Seed or Kernell in some Liquour, wherein the Medicine is Infused. 1790 *Act* 30 *Geo. III*, c. 3 § 12 The Produce of Two or more Steepings of Corn or Grain. 1888 *Daily News* 7 July 2/7 The rains which have recently fallen should provide in all parts of Ireland ample water for steeping.

2. A liquor in which grain, etc. is steeped.

1585 HIGINS *Junius' Nomencl.* 465/2 *Infusio*,..a steeping or any liquor wherein graine or such like is layde to steepe. 1626 BACON *Sylva* § 402 It may be some Steeping will agree best with some Seeds. 1842 LANCE *Cottage Farmer* 9 Saltpetre is the best steeping that corn can have.

3. A liquor obtained by steeping; an infusion.

1898 *Westm. Gaz.* 27 Jan. 2/1 His drink for the day is restricted to the milk of eighty cows and the steeping of seventy-five parcels of tea.

4. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *steeping place, pool*; esp. in the names of utensils (cf. STEEP *v.*[1] 5), as *steeping back* (BACK *sb.*[2]), *barrel*, †*fat* (FAT *sb.*[1]), *lead* (LEAD *sb.*[1] 5), *tub, vat*.

1820 W. SCORESBY *Acc. Arctic Reg.* II. 400 *Steeping-backs. 1480-1 *Durham Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 97 *Lardar. piscium*. Quinque Stepyngtubbez, .. ij *stepyngbarellez. 1459-60 *Ibid.* 89 Item in le fleshlardar..v *stepyngfattez. 1574 *Richmond Wills* (Surtees) 253 In the kylne..one steaping fatt of stone. 1395-6 *Durham Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 136 In empcione j *Stepynglede. 1766 *Complete Farmer* s.v. *Hemp* 4 A 1/1 To make a small stream of water pass through the *steeping places, thereby to change the water. 1871 CARLYLE in *Mrs. Carlyle's Lett.* (1883) I. 76 Like flax thrown into the *steeping pool. 1480-1 *Stepyngtubbes [see above]. 1633 T. JAMES *Voy.* 93 They would steale our meate out of the steeping tubs. 1731 MILLER *Gard. Dict.* s. v. *Anil* N/2 The first [fraud] is the Beating the Plant too much in the *Steeping-Vat. 1861 *Chamb. Encycl.* II. 149/2 The cloth is immersed for about four hours in a steeping vat.

Steeping (stī·piŋ), *vbl. sb.*[2] [f. STEEP *v.*[2] + -ING[1].] The action or process of tilting or giving an (upward) inclination to the plough in ploughing.

1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* I. 400 The remedy for this error is..to press harder upon the stilts..and..bring the sock nearer the surface of the ground, and this is called 'steeping'.

Steeping (stī·piŋ), *ppl. a.*[1] [f. STEEP *v.*[1] + -ING[2].] That steeps. Of rain: Soaking. *dial.*

1778 [W. MARSHALL] *Minutes Agric.* 27 July 1774, The hay is not much worse for the steeping rain of last night. 1877 *N. W. Linc. Gloss.* s. v., Well, this hes been a steepin' rain.

Steeping (stī·piŋ), *ppl. a.*[2] [f. STEEP *v.*[2] + -ING[2].]

†**1.** That slopes precipitously, steep. *Obs.*

a 1470 TIPTOFT *Cæsar* v. (1530) 8 Theyr horses ronne in placys slope steepyng. 1587 FLEMING *Contn. Holinshed* III. 1018/2 The citie..is set vpon a little hill, and lieth verie steeping towards two of the gates.

2. *Naut.* Of the surface of the sea: Sloping to the horizon.

1890 CLARK RUSSELL *Ocean Trag.* II. xv. 45 Never in all my time did so profound a sense of desolation..possess me as I stood bringing my eyes from the huge steeping plain of the sea [etc.].

Steepish (stī·piʃ), *a.* [f. STEEP *a.* + -ISH.] Somewhat steep, rather precipitous.

1814 JANE AUSTEN *Mansf. Park* XXV, I was suddenly, upon turning the corner of a steepish downy field, in the midst of a retired little village. 1881 *Trnl. Linn. Soc.* XV. 422 Outer lip thin, with a flattened convex curve, which is steepish at the shoulder. 1890 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Robbery under Arms* 168 The driver's walking his horses up a steepish hill.

Steeple (stī·p'l), *sb.*[1] Forms: 1 **stépel, stípel, stýpel**, 2–5 **stepel**, 4–5 **stepyl**, 4–7 **steple**, 5 **steepill, stepil, -yll(e, -ul, styple, styppyl**, 5–6 **stepell, -ull(e**, 5–7 **stepill**, 6 **steaple, steepil, stepelle, stypell**, *Sc.* **steipell, -il(l, steiple**, 6–7 **stiple**, 7 *Sc.* **steippell**, 6– **steeple**. [OE. *stépel, stýpel* masc.:—prehist. **staupil*, f. **staup-* STEEP *a.*]

†**1.** A tall tower; a building of great altitude in proportion to its length and breadth. *Obs.*

c 1000 *Ags. Gosp.* Matt. xxi. 23 [He] ȝetimbrode anne stypel [L. *turrim ædificavit*]. *c* 1000 ÆLFRIC *Gen.* xi. 5 Þæt he ȝesawe..þone stipel, þe Adames bearn ȝetimbrodon. 10.. *Lambeth Ps.* lx. 4 *Turris fortitudinis*, Stepel strænċðe. *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 93 Eontas walden areran ane buruh and anne stepel swa hehne, þet [etc.]. *c* 1290 *St. Michael* 539 in *S. Eng. Leg.* 315 ȝif here were an heiȝ stepel; and a man a-boue sete, *?a* 1400 *Morte Arth.* 3040 Stone [s]tepelles fulle styffe in þe strete ligges. *a* 1660 *Contemp. Hist. Irel.* (Ir. Archæol. Soc.) I. 60 An ould almost ruyned stiple extant in the ruynes of the said nunry temple. 1847 W. REEVES *Eccl. Antiq.* 63 *note*, The noble Round Tower, commonly called the Steeple [near Antrim].

2. A lofty tower forming part of a church, temple, or other public edifice (often serving to contain the bells); such a tower together with the spire or other superstructure by which it is surmounted.

1154 *O. E. Chron.* (C.) an. 1036, Hine man byriȝde..æt þam west-ende þam styple ful ȝehende. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 10860 In to þe stepel of oseneye þe legat fleu vor fere. *c* 1325 *Laȝ le Freine* 152 A chirche, with stepel fair and heighe. 1387 *Charters* etc. *Edin.* (1871) 35 The grete pyler of the stepyl. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 148/2 Fane of a stepylle, or oþer lyke, *cherucus*. *c* 1481 CAXTON *Dialogues* 40 Lamfroy the couerar of tyles Couerd the steple [Fr. *couury le belfroy*]. 1553 in Daniel-Tyssen *Surrey Ch. Goods* (1869) 107 Item in the stypell ij belles and a littell bell. 1561 T. HOBY tr. *Castiglione's Courtyer* II. (1577) M vij b, A place where was a steeple that stood by himselfe alone

seuered from the Church. 1591 SHAKS. *Two Gent.* II. i. 142 Inuisible, As a nose on a man's face, or a Wethercocke on a steeple. *c* 1605 *Acc. Bk. W. Wray* in *Antiquary* XXXII. 212 This yeare [1593]..was the great spere of St. Wilfrides steple..sett on fire. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* (1637) 505 Thirty Steeples with Spires or square Towres within view at once. 1625 *Peebles Charters* etc. (1872) 414 Gewine to John Frank for schiwting of the tua goineis in the steippell. 1634 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* 155 When they [Persians] heare the Boy cry aloud vpon the Steeple, they fall to prayer. *a* 1701 MAUNDRELL *Journ. Jerus.* (1721) 122 It is thick set with Mosques and Steeples, the usual ornaments of the Turkish Cities. 1765 STERNE *Tr. Shandy* VII. v, The steeple, which has a spire to it, is placed in the middle of the church. 1795 BURNS *Song*, '*Does haughty Gaul*' iv, Who will not sing, 'God save the King,' Shall hang as high's the steeple. 1812 EDM. TURNOR *MS. Let.*, An Elevation of the west end of Great Ponton Church, to show the steeple. [Here a square tower.] 1842 GWILT *Archit.* Gloss. 1037 *Steeple*, a lofty erection attached to a church, chiefly intended to contain its bells. The word..applies to every appendage of this nature, whether tower or spire, or a combination of the two. 1852 HOOK *Ch. Dict.* (1871) 725 A steeple is the tower of a Church with all its appendages, as turret, octagon, and spire. It is often incorrectly confounded with the spire.

†**b.** Used by metonymy for church. In nonce-phrases: *The sign of the steeple* (referring to monastic hospitality); *bigamy of steeples*, plurality of church livings. *Obs.*

1555 EDEN *Decades* (Arb.) 54 Sence the signe of the steeple, the poore mans Inne was pulled downe in all places. 1641 R. WILD in *Roxb. Ballads* (1888) VI. 456 Bigamy of Steeples is no laughing matter.

†**c.** *To hunt the steeple*: see quot. *Obs.*

1785 *Edin. Advertiser* 15 Apr. 236 His Lordship and another gentleman determined to hunt the steeple. This is a common amusement among people of fashion, and consists in the horsemen riding helter skelter towards the first steeple that may catch their eye, and he that is first in is the best man.

3. A spire on the top of the tower or roof of a church or similar edifice. Also, more definitely, *spire steeple, broach steeple.*

1473–4 in Swayne *Sarum Churchw. Acc.* (1896) 15 The castyng and laying iiij^{xx} xv^{li} of new and olde Led to the steple. 1548 *Elyot's Dict., Pyramis*, .. a stiple. 1551 TURNER *Herbal* I. N iij b, The tre..hath the figure of a steple, that is great beneth, and the hygher vp the smaller it is. 1578 BANISTER *Hist. Man.* VII. 93 The figure of this [right] auricle is like a poynted steeple pillour or other buildyng, whose brodest part is the bottome. 1582 BATMAN *Barth. De P. R.* III. xvii. 18 b, Out of the eye commeth a small appearaunce, that is shapen as a steeple or a top. 1595 DUNCAN *App. Etym.* (E.D.S.), *Pyramis*, a steiple or lyk building. 1607 WALKINGTON *Opt. Glass* 41 His head was made like a broch steeple, sharpe. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* (1637) 425 A mighty bigge and lofty Towre, upon which stood a Spire Steeple covered with Leade. 1766 ENTICK *London* IV. 283 The steeple is a spire.., raised upon a solid .. tower. ?1780 COWPER *Transl. Bourne, Jackdaw* 7 Above the steeple shines a plate, That turns and turns, to indicate From what point blows the weather. 1872 DE VERE *Americanisms* 233 With the Yankee, the meeting-house with its steeple—the word 'spire' is hardly ever heard in America—has found its way to every part of the Union. 1896 SWAYNE *Sarum Churchw. Acc.* p. xxvi, There were battlements..at the top of the tower, and above rose the steeple.

b. In wider sense (see quots.).

1816 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* I. 131 Any building above the roof may be called a steeple. 1823 J. F. COOPER *Pioneers* viii, The 'steeple' was a little cupola, reared on the very centre of the roof.

†**4.** A steeple-shaped ornament on the cover of a censer or other vessel. *Obs.*

1517 *Archæologia* LXI. 87 A sencer of silver the stepull and the swages gilt.

II. *attrib.* and *Comb.*

5. Obvious combinations: **a.** simple attributive, as *steeple battlement, -bell, -chime, -clock, -door, -height, -spire, -stairs, -tower, -vane, window, work.* **b.** objective, as *steeple-climbing, -keeper*; also *steeple-loving* adj. **c.** similative, as *steeple-form, -high, -like, -shaped* adjs.; also in designations of headgear having a 'steeple-crown' (see 6), as *steeple-cap, hat, head-dress, headgear, tire.* **d.** instrumental, as *steeple-shadowed, -studded* adjs.

1525–6 *Rec. St. Mary at Hill* (1905) 332 Paid to a Mason, for a day, to mende þe *steple batilment, viij d. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. VI. vi, So go the *steeple-bells. 1642 H. MORE *Song of Soul* I. i. 25 By stealth her *steeple-cap she [*sc.* Night] doth assay To whelm on th' earth. *a* 1821 KEATS *Song of Opposites* 11 Funeral and *steeple-chime. 1830 CARLYLE *Richter Again* Ess. 1840 II. 372 The down-rolling wheels of the *steeple-clock, which was striking eleven, had awakened me. 1483 in C. Welch *Churchw. Acc. All-hallows, Lond. Wall* (1912) 25 Payed for a lokke and a key to the *Steepill dor, iiij^{d}. 1551 RECORDE *Pathw. Knowl.* I. Defin. C ij Or els it is called a rounde spire, or *stiple fourme. 1629 GAULE *Holy Madn.* 329 His *steeple Hat hath harboured many a Thousand. 1841 T. H. WHITE *Fragm. Italy & Rhineland* 2 The noble countenance of the Spaniard, shadowed by his black steeple hat. 1877 *Encycl. Brit.* VI. 470 Fig. 39 '*Steeple' Head-dress. 1655 MARQ. WORCESTER *Cent. Inv.* § 24 To shoot..an hundred pound weight a *Steeple-height. 1633 T. NASH *Quaternio* 35 Being mounted aloft, *steeple-high. 1692 [see SQUAB *adv.*]. 1663 GERBIER *Counsel* 11 And *Steeple-like to hang Bells in. 1800 HURDIS *Fav. Village* 111 Homeward returns the *steeple-loving daw. 1896 HOUSMAN *Shropshire Lad* lxi, And *steeple-shadowed slumber The slayers of themselves. 1859 W. S. COLEMAN *Our Woodlands* 34 [Form of fir-trees.] Conical or *steeple-shaped. 1664 COTTON *Scarron.* IV. 103 And if I ever do forget ye,..Let me be hang'd as high, or higher Then top of Carthage *Steeple Spire. 1817 COLERIDGE *Biog. Lit., Satyrane's Lett.* I. II. 202 A profusion of steeple-spires. 1559–60 *Ludlow Churchw. Acc.* (Camden) 97 Paid for the makynge clene of the *stepulle steyrez, iiij d. 1886 A. G. BUTLER in *Harold* etc. (1892) 151 The ghost-like city, *steeple-studded, Slumbering grey in a mist of green. 1603–26 BRETON *Poste Mad Lett.* (Grosart) 41/1 For your *steeple tire, it is like the gaud of a Maid-Marion. *c* 1842 WORDSW. *Eccl. Sonn.* III. xvii, Her Spires, her *Steeple-towers with glittering vanes. 1845 HIRST *Poems* 71 The roofs, the spires, the *steeple-vanes Seemed swimming in the silver mist. 1512 in *Archæologia* XLVI. 202 Paid for the frethyng of the *Stepyll wyndows iiij d. 1426 *E. E. Wills* (1882) 76 Also I bequeth to þe *stepul werk of seint Alpheies by Crepulgate, x mark.

6. Special comb.: **steeple-clocked** *a.*, having steeple-shaped clocks (CLOCK *sb.*^{2} 1); †**steeple cream** *Confectionery*, a cream (CREAM *sb.*^{1} 2) fashioned into a form pointed at the top; **steeple-crown**, a crown of a hat rising to a point in the middle; also a hat with a steeple-crown; hence *steeple-crowned* adj.; **steeple-cup** (see quot.); **steeple engine**, a kind of steam-engine used on river boats (see quot. 1873); †**steeple head**, the top of a tower or steeple; **steeple-hoofed** *a.*, having the hoof too upright; †**steeple hunt, hunter, -hunting** = STEEPLECHASE *sb.*, -CHASER, -CHASING; **steeple jack**, a man who climbs steeples or tall chimneys to repair them; †**steeple-moulded** *a.*, (of a hat) steeple-shaped; †**steeple-music** = bell-ringing; **steeple race, racing**, = STEEPLECHASE, -CHASING; **steeple-roofed** *a.*, having very high roofs; †**steeple running** = STEEPLE-CHASING; **steeple sugar-loaf**, a sugar-loaf shaped like a steeple; **steeple-top**, (*a*) the top of a steeple; (*b*) the bowhead, or great polar whale (*Balæna mysticetus*), so called from the spout-holes terminating in a sort of cone (*Cent. Dict.* 1891).

1776 ANSTEY *Election Ballads* (1808) 229 With a shoe like a sauce boat and *steeple-clock'd hose. 1747 MRS. GLASSE *Cookery* 143 To make *Steeple Cream. 1769 MRS. RAFFALD *Eng. Housekpr.* (1778) 231 They are pretty with either steeple cream, any kind of flummeries, or [etc.]. 1684 *Roxb. Ballads* (1891) VII. 475 There came up a Lass from a Country Town..In *steeple-crown Hat. 1706 [E. WARD] *Hudibras Rediv.* (Nares), The good old dames .. were.. drest In stiffen-body'd russet gowns, And on their heads old steeple-crowns. 1710 *Tatler* No. 257 P 3 The most remarkable Parts of her Dress, were the Beaver with the Steeple Crown, [etc.]. 1804 *Europ. Mag.* XLV. 411/1 *Steeple-crowned hats. 1900 CROCKETT *Love Idylls* (1901) 33 An ancient steeple-crowned Puritan hat. 1909 *Century Dict.*, **Steeple-cup*, a silver standing cup having on its cover a pyramidal, steeple-like crest. 1839 R. S. ROBINSON *Naut. Steam Eng.* 177 This engine, common on the Clyde, is called a *steeple engine, but it is unfitted for the open sea. 1873 G. E. WEBSTER *Steam Eng. & Steam* II. 187 Steeple Engines derive their name from the high erections on deck required by the guide to the connecting-rod which works the crank. 1572 *Diurn. Occur. Scot.* (Bannatyne Club) 307 The haill artaillerie in Edinburgh, about the wallis, on the *steipill heid of Sanctgeill and Kirk of feild, wer tane to the castell of Edinburgh. 1823 PURSGLOVE *Pract. Farriery* 226 It will give great relief to the animal if his heels are lowered as much as possible, to prevent him from being what is termed *steeple-hoofed. 1831 YOUATT *Horse* iv. 57 The *Steeple Hunt is a relic of ancient foolhardiness and cruelty. 1830 *Examiner* 531/1 She bolts at the object of her aim with the ardour of a *steeple hunter. 1772 GILPIN *Observ. Picturesque Beauty* (1786) II. 251 *Steeple-hunting. 1851 CARLYLE (*Sterling* I. v. 53, I have known few creatures whom it was more wasteful..to set to steeple-hunting, instead of running on highways! 1881 *Instr. Census Clerks* (1885) 52 Builder.. *Steeple Jack. 1894 *Bye-Gones* 14 Feb. 277/1 For some time past steeplejacks have been engaged in repairing the spire. 1710 *Pict. of Malice* 8 The good Women of Derbyshire..ought to appear in the Churches with their *Steeple-mol'd Hats, and lay aside their Hats of Straw. 1732 *Tricks of Town* 33 He had ..paid the three Guineas for the *Steeple-Musick. 1809 *Sporting Mag.* XXXIII. 187 A match..to ride a *steeple race. 1840 BLAINE *Rural Sports* § 1280 The popularity of *steeple racing from this time increased. *c* 1870 BROWNING *Miniature* 2 In the bright Touraine, In a high-turreted, *steeple-roofed town. 1818 'W. H. SCOTT' *Brit. Field Sports* 299 In *Steeple Running and matching their Horses to run Train-Scents. 1649 DK. NEWCASTLE *Country Capt.* I. i. 4 No *steeple sugar-loaues to sweeten his Neighbours at Christmas. *c* 1440 *Alphabet of Tales* 497 þe clerk saw þe preste bodie oft sithis born vp to þe *steple topp with strenth of fendis. 1805 SOUTHEY *Madoc* I. xv, David would hang thee on thy steeple top.

b. In names of plants: **steeple bells, steeple bell-flower**, *Campanula pyramidalis*; **steeple-bush** = HARDHACK.

1597 GERARDE *Herbal* II. cxi. 366 Of Peach bels, and *Steeple bels. *Ibid.* 367 fig. 2 *Campanula lactescens pyramidalis* Steeple milkie Bell flower. 1611 COTGR., *Campanette*,..the Peach-bell, or Steeple-bell flower. 1812 *New Bot. Gard.* I. 121 The plants of the steeple bell-flower. 1847 DARLINGTON *Amer. Weeds* 120 *Spirea tomentosa*.. Hardhack. *Steeple Bush.

Steeple (stī·p'l), *sb.*^{2} [Altered form of STAPLE *sb.*^{1}, perh. influenced by prec.]

1. = STAPLE *sb.*^{1} 2.

1722 W. HAMILTON *Wallace* 57 Wallace..with a furious shock The Bar and Steeple all in Flinders Broke, Then open drave the Gate. 1825 JAMIESON *Dict., Steepil*, the staple or bolt of a hinge. Ettr. For. 1867 J. K. HUNTER *Retrospect Artist's Life* viii. (1902) 76 A steeple at the corner. 1894 CROCKETT *Lilac Sunbonnet* 84 A sharp noise as of one clicking in the 'steeple' or brace of the front door.

2. *Shetland.* [Cf. Du. *stapel* heap.] = PACK *sb.*^{1} 9.

1822 HIBBERT *Descr. Shetl. Isl.* 519 They [fish] are afterwards built into a large stack named a steeple. 18.. [see PACK *sb.*^{1} 9].

Steeple (stī·p'l), *v.* [f. STEEPLE *sb.*^{1}]

1. *trans.* To place (a bell) in a steeple.

1644 S. KEM *Messengers Prepar.* 18 Like a Bell, which whilst it lyeth on the ground, can make no musick; but when steepled, then it sounds loud.

2. To imprison in a steeple.

1881 G. MACGREGOR *Hist. Glasgow* xvii. 149 The keeper was forbidden to allow any of those who had been 'steepled' to have other than prison fare.

3. *intr.* To rise or tower like a steeple. Hence **Stee·pling** *ppl. a. rare.*

1892 *Harper's Mag.* Feb. 427/1 They have adopted what they call 'the Chicago method' in putting up these steepling hives.

Stee·plechase, *sb.* [f. STEEPLE *sb.*^{1} + CHASE. Cf. *to hunt the steeple, steeple-hunting*, STEEPLE *sb.*^{1} 2 c, 6.]

1. A horse-race across country or on a made course with artificial fences, water-jumps, and other obstacles. Formerly, a race having a church steeple in view as goal, in which all intervening obstacles had to be cleared.

1805 *Sporting Mag.* in *Racing & Steeple-chasing* (Badm. Libr. 1900) 282 An Extraordinary Steeple-chase. 1818 'W. H. SCOTT' *Brit. Field Sports* 433 A late Steeple Chase. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* xvii, Tom Cinqbars, who was going to ride the steeplechase. 1884 A. E. T. WATSON in *Longman's Mag.* Apr. 606 In these days steeples had something to do with steeple-chases.

attrib. 1839 *Sporting Mag.* Apr. 472 Men who make a profession of Steeple-chase riding. *Ibid.* 473 Ground..called in requisition to form part of the Steeple-chase course. 1853 R. S. SURTEES *Sponge's Sp. Tour* (1893) 54 Caingey..was now hoisted on to the renowned steeple-chase horse again. 1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib., Brit.* II. No. 4694, Hunting saddles, steeple-chase saddle. 1897 *Badminton Mag.* IV. 393, I won the regimental steeplechase cup with her last April. *Fig. c* 1865 J. WYLDE in *Circ. Sci.* I. 394/2 Expending considerable time in a chemical steeple-chase. 1898 *10th Cent.* Apr. 523 Evidently all that is the result of this steeplechase of colonial aggrandisement.

2. *transf.* A foot-race across country or over a course furnished with hurdles, ditches, and other obstacles.

1864 *Jackson's Oxf. Jrnl.* 12 Mar. 5/4, Oxford & Cambridge Athletic Sports..Steeple Chase, over about two miles of fair hunting country. 1897 *Encycl. Sport* I. 58/1 (Athletics) Steeplechasing. For many years past no athletic sports programme has been considered quite complete without a steeplechase.

3. A parlour game played on a board representing a steeplechase course, each player having a metal figure of a horse, the movements of which are regulated by the casting of dice and by the nature of the obstacles supposed to be encountered.

1895 *Stores' Price List*, Race, or Steeplechase Game. 1911 *Encycl. Brit.* XXV. 868/2 Steeplechase.

Stee·plechase, *v.* [f. STEEPLECHASE *sb.*] *intr.* To ride or run in a steeplechase; to practise riding in steeplechases. Also *transf.* and *fig.* So **Stee·plechasing** *vbl. sb.*

1816 in *Racing & Steeple-chasing* (Badm. Libr. 1900) 283 Steeple-chasing. 1856 'STONEHENGE' *Brit. Rural Sports* II. II. 379 Steeplechasing..This once fashionable amusement was brought into notice about 25 years ago, avowedly for [etc.]. 1866 BALLANTYNE *Shifting Winds* viii. (1881) 74 That is more arduous work than steeple-chasing! 1883 PENNELL-ELMHIRST *Cream Leicestersh.* 233 Over fence after fence they steeplechased. 1887 H. SMART *Cleverly won* xi. 96 There's a good deal of uncertainty about steeplechasing. 1887 M. SHEARMAN *Athletics & Football* 114 Steeplechasing is quite unknown at athletic meetings at the Universities. 1895 *Westm. Gaz.* 2 Nov. 3/3 He has steeplechased for twenty-nine years in England, Ireland, and India. 1905 *Daily Chron.* 16 Feb. 4/5, I..steeplechased over benches and iron bars, until I reached the best position in the Albert Hall.

Stee·plechaser.

1. One who rides in a steeplechase.

1837 SIR G. STEPHEN *Search of Horse* (1841) p. xxvi, I am neither a horse-breaker, nor a steeple-chacer. 1862 G. A. LAWRENCE *Barren Honour* xix, The great stock-breeder and steeple-chaser. 1905 A. R. WALLACE *My Life* xiv. 215 At fairs they may be seen racing like steeple-chasers.

b. One who runs in a steeplechase.

1887 M. SHEARMAN *Athletics & Football* 112 The good steeplechaser must, of course, be a long-distance runner..; he must be a good jumper as well.

2. A horse trained for steeplechasing.

1839 *Sporting Mag.* Jan. 261 [It] applies as equally to the proprietor of a steeple-chaser as to the owner of a hunter. 1898 T. HAYDON *Sporting Reminisc.* 62 A steeple-chaser called Peter Osbeck, a horse imported from New Zealand, where he had won a few good races.

Steepled (stī·p'ld), *ppl. a.* [f. STEEPLE *sb.*^{1} + -ED 2.]

†**1.** Having the form of a steeple. *Obs.*

1600 FAIRFAX *Tasso* IX. viii, A steepled Turbant on her head she wore. 1604 T. WRIGHT *Passions* VI. 332 The like I might say of long steepled hattes.

2. Of a building: Having a steeple or steeples.

1711 *Dissent. Teachers' Addr. agst. Bill building Fifty new Churches* 10 And shall this be done for a few ungodly steepled Ædifices? 1884 W. C. SMITH *Kildrostan* I. i. 10 Why tolls the bell from the steepled kirk?

3. Of a town, etc.: Having many steeples; conspicuous for its steeple or steeples.

1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. I. i, On green field and steepled

city, the May sun shines out. 1893 K. L. Bates *Eng. Relig. Drama* 117 This steepled town [Coventry] was famous for its Corpus Christi pageants. 1896 Housman *Shropshire Lad* xxviii, The bridges from the steepled crest Cross the water east and west.

4. Crowned as if with steeples.

1861 L. L. Noble *Icebergs* 223 It was only a fair field for the steepled icebergs, a vast metropolis in ice.

†Steeple fair. *Obs.* In sarcastic use, an imaginary fair or market for church livings.

The definition 'a common fair or mart' given in some Dicts. is based on a misunderstanding of quot. 1622.

1597 Bp. Hall *Sat.* II. v. 8 Thou seruile Foole: why couldst thou not repaire To buy a Benefice at Steeple-Faire? 1602 *2nd Pt. Return fr. Parnass.* IV. ii. 1764 Are not you the yong drouer of liuings..that haunts steeple faires. 1622 J. Taylor (Water-P.) *Water-Cormorant* E 2 b, These youths [*i.e.* the 'penny clarks' of a 'symonicall patron'], in Art, purse, and attire most bare Giue their attendance, at each steeple faire. 1624 Bp. Mountagu *Immed. Addr.* 44 To buy a Bishopricke, or Office, and dye soone after: or some other Preferment at Steeple-faire.

Steeple-house. A building with a steeple.

1. Used by the early Quakers (and, before them, sometimes by other scrupulous persons) instead of 'church', on the ground that that word ought not to be applied to a building.

1644 Quarles *Whipper Whipt* Wks.(Grosart) I. 161/2 It was first used when Steeplehouses, or Meeting-places were built, which Papists call Churches. 1654 Whitlock *Zootomia* 161 Steeple houses (as Churches are styled in our new Childrens Dictionary). 1664 G. Fox *For All Bps. & Priests* (1674) 31 Paul..had no Monastry nor Abbey, nor great Steeple house to preach in then. 1720 C. Shadwell *Fair Quaker Deal* I. i. 11, I suppose the Fortune my Father left thee will be thrown into the Arms of one of the lewd Pillars of thy Steeple-house. 1785 Grose *Dict. Vulgar T., Steeple house*, a name given to the church by Dissenters. 1877 Whittier *In the Old South* 41 There are steeple-houses on every hand, And pulpits that bless and ban.

attrib. 1682 S. Fell in *Jrnl. Friends' Hist. Soc.* (1912) July 136 Unrighteous demands touchinge the Preists wages, and Steeplehouse Repaires, etc. 1710 O. Sansom *Acc. Life* 33, I was Excommunicated..for not Paying the Steeple-house Tax.

2. *gen.* ? *nonce-use.*

1807 Sir R. C. Hoare *Tour Irel.* 279 Round Towers... Peter Walsh supposes them to have been erected first by the Danes as watch-towers against the natives, and appropriated afterwards to holy uses, as Steeple-houses, and belfries.

Steepleless (stī·p'l,lés), *a. nonce-word.* [f. Steeple *sb.*[1] + -less.] Having no steeple.

1849 Thoreau *Week on Concord* Tues. (1889) 187 The humble village of Litchfield, with its steepleless meeting-house.

Stee·plet, *rare*[−1]. [-et.] A small steeple.

1891 R. B. S. Knowles *Glencoonoge* I. 166, I saw the pretty steeplet of his church.

Stee·plewise, *adv.* [f. Steeple *sb.*[1] + -wise.] After the manner of a steeple; in a conical or pyramidal form. Also, † *after a steeple wise.*

1545 Raynalde *Byrth Mankynde* I. ix. 17 [Veins] enlargynge them selfe lytell and lytyll stepel wyse not fully rounde but flattyshe before and behynde. 1545 Elyot *Dict., Pyramidatus*, made steeple wise brode beneth, and small and sharpe vpward. 1582 Batman *Barth. de P. R.* III. xvii. 18 Not onelie the lykenesse of the thinge seene commeth to the sight after a steeple wise [*Trevisa* shelde wise], but also [etc.]. 1637 Heywood *Dialogues* ii. 26 His crowne Picked, made steeple-wise. *a* 1661 Fuller *Worthies, Chester* (1662) 192 He erected a seemly Waterwork built Steeplewise at the Bridgegate. 1785 *Bradley's Family Dict.* s. v. *Pears*, When they serve them up, they range them handsomly upon a Dish Roseways, and mount them one upon another Steeple-wise.

Steeplish (stī·plij), *a. nonce-wd.* [f. Steeple *sb.*[1] + -ish.] Somewhat like the form of a steeple.

1856 *Chamb. Jrnl.* 18 Oct. 251/1 A felt-hat, broadish in the brim, and steeplish in the crown.

†Stee·ply, *a. Obs. rare*[−1]. In 6 steply. [f. Steeple *sb.*[1] + -y.] Having the form of a steeple.

1551 Turner *Herbal* I. N iij b, Pliny maketh two kynde of Cypres trees, one wyth sharp steply top, whyche is called the female.

Steeply (stī·pli), *adv.* [f. Steep *a.* + -ly [2].] In a steep manner.

1772 Pennant *Tours Scot.* (1774) 328 An amazing mountain steeply sloping. 1816 Byron *Ch. Har.* III. lv. 2 Many a rock which steeply lowers. 1860 H. F. Tozer in Galton *Vac. Tourists* (1861) 407 We..after ascending steeply through a fine gorge, found ourselves in a green upland valley.

b. quasi-*Comb.* with adj. or ppl. adj.

1793 Anna Seward *Lett.* (1811) III. 261 That steeply-sloping field at Eyam. 1905 W. J. Sollas *Age of Earth* x. 296 The Carboniferous beds..in the steeply-folded form they now present. 1912 Keith *Human Body* xiv. 221 Hence the races with short feet, high insteps and steeply set heels, have large calves.

Steepness (stī·pnés). [f. Steep *a.* + -ness.]

1. The quality or condition of being steep.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 474/2 Stepnesse, or sydenesse of a roof (*P.* stopnesse), *elevacio.* 1530 Palsgr. 276/1 Stepnesse of a hyll, *clinité.* 1538 Elyot *Dict.* Addit., *Abruptum*, that whiche hath suche a fall or stepenesse downe, that no man maye passe by it, but onely fall downe. 1615 Chapman *Odyss.* VI. 408 Whose Towres you see ascend To such a steepnesse. 1756–7 tr. *Keysler's Trav.* (1760) I. 29 In a niche in the mountain of Zurl, which also from its perpendicular steepness is called St. Martin's wall. 1861 W. Froude *Rolling of Ships* (1862) 54 Assuming a smaller degree of steepness in the wave. 1892 K. Pearson *Gram. Sci.* vi. § 10. 257 If we examine the time-chart we see that there is a considerable difference in its steepness at different points.

2. *concr.* A steep part or slope of a hill, etc.

1585 Higins *Junius' Nomencl.* 379/2 *Dorsum montis*,.. the side, hanging or steepenesse of an hill. 1602 Chettle *Hoffman* v. (1631) H 4 b, I did perceiue her..Clambring vpon the steepenes of the rocke. 1887 Hall Caine *Deemster* xl, A hut built against a steepness of rugged land from which stones had sometimes been quarried. 1904 *Westm. Gaz.* 24 Aug. 2/1 Under the steepnesses ending in that dolomite crag which [etc.].

Steep-to, *a. Naut.* [f. Steep *a.* + To *adv.*] (See quot. 1815.)

1748 *Anson's Voy.* II. iii. 139 The coast was very high and steep to. *Ibid.* 141 This Island towards the harbour is steep to, and has six fathom water close to the shore. 1815 *Falconer's Dict. Marine* (ed. Burney) s. v., *A Shore Steep-to*.. is said of a shore when it descends almost perpendicularly into the water. 1897 F. T. Bullen *Cruise of 'Cachalot'* 24 These islands have long been a nursery for whale-fishers, because the cachalot loves their steep-to shores.

Steep-up, *a. arch.* [f. Steep *a.* + Up *adv.* Cf. Steep-down.] Precipitous; perpendicular.

1565 Cooper *Thesaurus* s. v. *Assurgo, Assurgit clementer & molliter collis*, riseth by littel and littell, and is not stipe vp. 1571 Digges *Pantom.* I. xxv. H j b, If the hill or turret be steepe vp, so that the foote be visible lying perpendicularly vnder the top. *c* 1600 Shaks. *Sonn.* vii. 5 And hauing climb'd the steepe-vp heauenly hill. 1847 Tennyson *Princess* Prol. 63 The fountain of the moment, playing, now A.. steep-up spout whereon the gilded ball Danced like a wisp. 1878 — *Q. Mary* III. iv, And on the steep-up track of the true faith Your lapses are far seen.

†Stee·pwise, *adv.* (and *a.*). *Obs.* [f. Steep *a.* + -wise.] **a.** *adv.* In a steep manner, with a steep inclination or slope. **b.** *adj.* Steep.

1545 Elyot *Dict., Acclive*, stepe wise, bendyng wise. 1572 Huloet (ed. Higins), Stypewyse, pitching, or hanging downe, *cliuosus*. 1577 Hanmer *Anc. Eccl. Hist.* 313 His shoulders..lay flatte or stipe wise. *Ibid.* 426 This temple lyeth from Bosphorus litle more then two furlonges situated in a very pleasaunt soyle, rising vpwarde steepe wise.

Steepy (stī·pi), *a. Obs.* exc. *arch.* Also 6 stipye, ste(i)pie, 7 steepie, ? steppie. [f. Steep *a.* + -y.] Steep; full of steep places; precipitous.

1565 Stapleton tr. *Bede's Hist. Ch. Eng.* 147 Stipye and craggie hylles. *c* 1590 *Marlowe's Faustus* (1616) 1268 (Brooke) This Traytor flies vnto some steepie rocke. 1632 J. Hayward tr. *Biondi's Eromena* 52 A steepie and rockie dale. 1735 Somerville *Chase* III. 98 So Ships in Winter-Seas now sliding sink Adown the steepy Wave. 1774 Goldsm. *Nat. Hist.* (1862) I. vi. 30 The banks of rivers, or steepy sea-shores. 1812 Byron *Ch. Har.* II. xxii, Through Calpe's straits survey the steepy shore. 1872 Howells *Wedd. Journ.* (1892) 285 That huge rock, base and steepy flank and crest. *Comb.* 1638 Brathwait *Barnabees Jrnl.* I. (1818) 33 Thence to Kighley, where are mountaines Steepy-threatning. 1672 Dryden *2nd Pt. Conq. Granada* III. iv. 130, I..found th' eternal fence so steepy high.

b. *fig.*

1600 Shaks. *Sonn.* lxiii. 5 When his youthfull morne Hath traualld on to Ages steepie night. 1603 Florio *Montaigne* I. xix. 36 The leape from an ill beeing, vnto a not beeing is not so dangerous or steepie; as it is from a delightfull and flowrishing beeing, vnto a painefull and sorrowfull condition. *a* 1614 Donne *Biathanatos* (1644) 216 Because the limits are obscure, and steepy, and slippery, and narrow. 1616 W. Drummond of Hawth. *Sonn.* 'Ah burning Thoughts', What though I trace not right Heauens steppie Wayes?

c. of movement.

1681 Dryden *Abs. & Achit.* 860 Now take thy steepy flight from Heav'n, and see If thou canst find on Earth another He. 1697 — *Æneis* III. 670 The Night..view'd with equal Face Her steepy rise, and her declining Race. 1756 P. Browne *Jamaica* I Large currents flow from different parts of the main ridge, and continue their winding steepy courses to the sea.

Steer (stīəɹ), *sb.*[1] Forms: 1 stéor, 3 steore, 4, 6 ster, 4–7 stere, steore, 5 steyr, sterre, 6 sterr, styre, stiere, (sthere), 6–7 steare, 8 stear, 4– steer. [OE. *stéor* masc. = MLG. *stêr*, MDu., Du. *stier*, OHG. *stior* (MHG., mod.G. *stier*), Goth. *stiur*:—OTeut. type **steuro-z*:—pre-Teut. **(s)teuro-s*, f. Indogermanic root **st(h)eu-* to be fixed or rigid; the form without *s* is represented by ON. *þjór-r* (Sw. *tjur*, Da. *tyr*).

According to some the word goes back to an Indogermanic **stheworo-* (Skr. *sthavira*) stout. Connexion with Gr. *ταῦρος*, L. *taurus*, and their cognates is doubtful.]

A young ox, esp. one which has been castrated.

In the United States and the Colonies applied to male beef-cattle of any age.

a 700 *Epinal Gloss.* 596 *Ludarius*, steor. *c* 1290 *S. James* 182 in *S. Eng. Leg.* 39 Þe Bollokes and þe 3oungue steores. *c* 1340 *Nominale* (Skeat) 723 *Boef bouet et ienyce*, Oxe stere and hefere. *c* 1386 Chaucer *Knt.'s T.* 1291 Aboute his Chaar ther wenten white Alauntz, Twenty and mo, as grete as any steer. 1463–4 *Compota Domest.* (Abbotsford Club 1836) 48 In x bouiculis vocatis steres emptis. 1500 *Ortus Vocab., Buculus*, a stote or a sterre. 1549 *N. C. Wills* (Surtees 1908) 204 A pied stere of foure yeres. 1590 Spenser *F. Q.* III. xi. 42 And Aeolus faire daughter Arne hight, For whom he turnd him selfe into a Steare. 1597 Shaks. *2 Hen. IV*, IV. ii. 103 Like youthfull Steeres, vnyoak'd. 1638 tr. *Bacon's Hist. Life & D.* (Mosley) 38 Old spent Oxen being put into fresh pastures, recover new tender flesh, and as sweete as if it were of a Steere. *a* 1722 Lisle *Husb.* (1757) 222 Steers will not be beef till four or five years old. 1808 Scott *Marm.* v. iii, Or musing, who would guide his steer To till the fallow land. 1830 *Hobart Town Almanack* 105 Mr. Lord's men..had been compelled to ride after a small herd, and to shoot a steer at random on the plain. 1854 Miss Baker *Northampt. Gloss., Steer*, a bullock, after it is one year old, till it enters its fourth year, when it is termed an ox. 1898 Rider Haggard *Farmer's Yr.* (1899) 64 There are four red-poll steers tied up fatting in a shed.

b. *attrib.*

1537 *Bury Wills* (Camden) 132 A rede stere calfe. 1620 Venner *Via Recta* iii. 51 The flesh of Steeres, which we commonly call Steere-beefe. 1676 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1126/4 Stolen or strayed.., two Steer Runts. 1817–8 Cobbett *Resid. U. S.* (1822) 175 Steer-beef is not nearly so good as ox-beef. 1846 J. Baxter *Libr. Pract. Agric.* (ed. 4) II. 106 Eight of the best steer calves should be brought into work when three years old.

Steer, *sb.*[2] *Obs.* exc. in *Comb.* Forms: 1 stéor, stýr, 2 steore, 2–5 ster, 2–6 stere, 4 stiere, 4–6 *Sc.* steir, 6 *Sc.* steyr, 6–7 steare, 7 stear, 4–7 steere, 5–7 steer. [OE. *stéor* (also *stýr*) str. fem., action of guiding or governing (also, correction, punishment); a neut. **stéor* rudder is inferred from the comb. *stéoresman* Steersman. The immediate Teut. cognates are: OFris. *stiure*, MLG. *stûre* (whence late MHG. *stiure*, mod.G. *steuer*), MDu. *stûre, stiere* (mod.Du. *stuur*), ON. *stýri* neut., rudder, stern (:—OTeut. type **steurjo-m*); OHG. *stiura* str. fem., rudder, stern, also (and prob. originally) staff (:—OTeut. type **steurjō*); a different ablaut grade of the root (**steu-*) is found in ON. *staur-r* pole, stake (cf. Gr. *σταυρός* cross).]

1. The action of directing or governing; guidance, control, rule, government. Phr. *to have, take the steer* (*of* a country, etc.).

Of the presumed literal sense, action of steering, no example is known. In 15–16th c. senses 1 and 2 b are not easy to distinguish.

a 900 *Bæda's Hist.* IV. v. (1890) 278 Þætte hæniz biscop oðres biscopes scire inswoge, ac þætte he þoncful sy steore [*v.r.* styre] him þæs bibodenan folces [*sed contentus sit gubernatione creditae sibi plebis*]. *c* 1000 Ælfric in *O. E. Hom.* I. 304 Fela beoð stuntnyssa þær nan steor [*c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 117 steore] ne bið. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 3418 Ilc of ðe .v. steres men Vnder hem welden in stere tgen. 1423 Jas. I *Kingis Q.* 130 Tak him before In all thy gouernance, That in his hand the stere has of 3ou all. 1501 Douglas *Pal. Hon.* II. xii, Calliope..scho of nobill fatis hes the steir, To write thair worschip, victorie and prowes. 1513 — *Æneis* VIII. viii. 127 My son Pallas..Exhort I wald to tak the steyr on hand. 1558 *Extracts Burgh Rec. Edin.* (1873) III. 21 To haue the steir reull and gouernance of the toun. 1596 Dalrymple tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* II. 179 How sune he began to tak the steir of the Realme.

2. A rudder, helm.

Not in OE.; Anglo-Fr. had *estiere*, presumably from English, early in the 13th c. (Marie de France, *Eliduc* 866).

c 1290 *S. Mary Magd.* 175 in *S. Eng. Leg.* 467 Huy weren in .A. schip i-pult with-outen ster and ore. *c* 1305 *Land Cokayne* 154 Þe 3ung nunnes takith a bote And doth ham forth in that riuer Bothe with oris and with stere. 1377 Langl. *P. Pl.* B. VIII. 35 For 3if he ne arise þe rather and rauȝte to þe stiere, þe wynde wolde wyth þe water þe bote ouerthrowe. *c* 1385 Chaucer *L. G. W.* 2416 And with a wawe brostyn was his stere. *c* 1430 *Pilgr. Lyf Manhode* IV. vi. (1869) 178 In swimmynge he streccheth his wynge and maketh þer of a seil and a steere. 1530 Palsgr. 276/1 Stere or roder in a shyp, *gouernail.* *a* 1568 *Bannatyne MS.* (Hunter. Club) 290 We sailit in storme, but steir, gyde or glas, To Paradice. *a* 1625 *Nomenclator Navalis* (Harl. MS. 2301) Steare.

b. *fig.* or in fig. context.

c 1200 Ormin 15258 Forr itt iss sett her att te ster To sterenn baþe þoþre. *c* 1386 Chaucer *Man of Law's T.* 735 In hym triste I, and in his mooder deere, That is to me my seyl, and eek my steere. 1390 Gower *Conf.* I. 60 For whanne I may my lady hiere, Mi wit with that hath lost his Stiere. 1500–20 Dunbar *Poems, Memento, homo* 46 Thy Ransonner, with woundis fyve, Mak thy plycht anker and thy steiris. 1621 Burton *Anat. Mel.* I. ii. III. xv. 183 They commonly respect their own ends, commodity is the steer of all their actions. 1640 Reynolds *Passions* xxxix. 516 Judgement is the Ballace to Poise, and the Steere to guide the course.

c. Put by synecdoche for: Ship, boat.

a 1300 *K. Horn* 101 Þaruore þu most to stere..To schupe schulle 3e funde. *Ibid.* 1373 Hi comen vt of stere.

d. *On, in steer*: astern.

c 1374 Chaucer *Troylus* v. 641 Toward my deth with wynd in stere I sayle. *c* 1470 Henry *Wallace* IX. 110 With out tary than mon yhe stryk on ster.

3. A plough-handle. (Cf. *steer-tree* b.)

1552 Huloet, Stere for the ploughe, *trio.*

4. *Comb.*: **steer-oar,** an oar used at the stern for steering a boat; † **steer-staff,** a tiller; **steer-tree,** † (*a*) a tiller; (*b*) a plough-handle (now *dial.*). See also Starboard *sb.*, Steer-man.

1802 *Naval Chron.* IX. 293 To take the *steer-oar. 1888 Nares *Seamanship* (ed. 6) 162 A steer oar must be used to steer the boat. 1382 Wyclif *Prov.* xxiii. 34 Thou shalt ben ..as the steris man al forslept, the *steer staf lost [*amisso clavo*]. *c* 1460 *Towneley Myst.* iii. 433 Wife, tent the *stere-tre, and I shall asay The depnes of the see that we bere, if I may. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 361/2 A Stere tre, *stiua, regimen.* 1562 *Wills & Invent. N. C.* (Surtees 1835) I. 207, x pleughe heads, vj plewe sheares, ij steretres.

†Steer, *sb.*[3] *Obs.* Forms: 1 stéora, stíora, stíera, 3–5 stere, 4–6 steere, 6 *Sc.* steir. [OE. *stéora* wk. masc. = OHG. *stiuro* (MHG. *stiure, stûre*):—OTeut. type **steurjon-*, related to prec. sb.] A steersman, helmsman; *transf.* a ruler or controller.

c 897 Ælfred *Gregory's Past. C.* lvi. 431 Swelce se stiora slepe on midre sæ, & forlure ðæt stiorroður. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 3413 Al bi ðhusenz ðis folc was told, Ilc ðhusent adde a meister wold; And vnder ðis tgen steres ben, Ilc here on hundred to bi-sen. *c* 1386 Chaucer *Man of Law's T.* 350 He that is lord of Fortune be thy steere. *c* 1500 *Lancelot* 1020 She is here, That of thi lyue and of thi deith is stere.

a 1568 A. Scott *Poems* xv. 25 Sweit maistres,..Steir, rewll, and gyder of my senssis richt.

Steer, *sb.*[4] *rare.* [Origin unknown; perh. some error.] ? A pile (of wood).

The word is not used in the corresponding passage of the earlier Acts, 7 & 8 Geo. IV. c. 30 § 17 and 9 Geo. IV. c. 56 § 18.

1837 *Act* 1 *Vict.* c. 89 § 10 Whosoever shall unlawfully and maliciously set fire to any Stack of Corn, Grain,..Charcoal or Wood, or any Steer of Wood, shall be guilty of Felony. 1861 *Act* 24 & 25 *Vict.* c. 97 § 17 Any steer of Wood or Bark.

Steer (stĭəɹ), *a. Obs.* exc. *Sc.* and *dial.* (see E.D.D.). Forms: 3–5, 9 **stere,** 4 **ster,** ?**sterre,** 5, 9 **steer,** 7 **steare.** [App. repr. OE. **stére* (EWS. **stíere*) = OHG. *stiuri, stûri* strong, proud, MLG. *stûr* stiff, severe, stern:—OTeut. type **steurjo-*, usually referred to the Indogermanic root **st(h)eu-* to be fixed or rigid: cf. Steer *sb.*[1] and *sb.*[2]]

1. Strong, stout.

13.. *Ipotis* 440 (Vernon MS.) in Horstm. *Altengl. Leg.* (1881) 346 Beten wiþ scourges stronge and ster. *c* 1425 *Pol. Poems* (Rolls) II. 125 Stedes ther stumbelyd in that stownde, That stod stere stuffed under stele. *c* 1425 *Non-Cycle Myst. Plays* 19 With storms both stiff and steer. *c* 1450 *Guy Warw.* 662 Then came the dewke Raynere, An hardy knyght and a stere. 1641 Best *Farm. Bks.* (Surtees) 51 Wheare the oates have beene steare, and much scattered.

†**2.** ? Staunch, steadfast in affection (*to* another).

a 1300 *K. Horn* 1344 (Camb.) He luueþ him so dere, & is him so stere.

Steer (stĭəɹ), *v.*[1] Forms: 1 **stíeran,** (3*e*)**stéoran, stéran, stíoran, stíran, stýran,** 2 **isteoran, -en, stieran,** 3 **ste(o)ren,** *Orm.* **ste(o)renn,** 3–7 **stere,** 4 **stiere,** (**sture**), *Sc.* **steyr,** 4–5 **ster,** 4–7 **steere,** 4–8 *Sc.* **steir,** 5 **steare,** 5–6 **styre,** 6 **stir**(*e*, 6–7 **stirre, stear** (6 *arch.* **ysteare**), 7 **sterre,** 5– **steer.** *Pa. t.* 2 **stierde,** 3 **steorede,** 4 **sterd, steryd,** 5 **stered,** *Sc.* **sterit,** 6–7 **steard,** 8 **steird.** *Pa. pple.* 1 **gestíored,** 4 **steerid, sterede, stiord,** 4–5 **stered,** 6 *Sc.* **steirt.** [Com. Teut.: OE. *stieran* = OFris. *stiura*, MLG. *stûren*, (M)Du. *sturen, stieren*, OHG., MHG. *stiuren* (mod.G. *steuern*), ON. *stýra* (Sw., Norw. *styra*, Da. *styre*):—OTeut. **steurjan*, f. **steurō* rudder, Steer *sb.*[2]

A verb of identical form, OTeut. **steurjan* f. **steurjo-* strong, rigid (see Steer *a.*), appears in Goth. *stiurjan* to establish, to affirm. It is possible that the OE. sense 'to rebuke' may belong to a verb f. the Teut. adj.]

1. *trans.* To guide the course of (a vessel) by means of a rudder, or of an oar or paddle used like a rudder.

Now occas. in wider sense, to guide (a vessel) by other mechanical means, e. g. by a propeller or arrangement of sails.

a 1122 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1046, Up þæs cynges scipe þe Harold eorl ær steorde. *a* 1200 *Vices & Virtues* 43 [Noe] hie [*sc.* ða arche] swa stierde on ðe muchele wilde flode..ðat [etc.]. *c* 1330 R. Brunne *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 14099 To þer schipes þey gaf þer tent To stere þem boþe fer & hende. 1390 Gower *Conf.* I. 59 Thei conne noght here Schipes stiere, So besliche upon the note Thei herkne. 1400 *26 Polit. Poems* i. 65 Whanne a fool stereth a barge, Hym self and al the folke is shent. 1598 Florio *Ital. Dict.* To Rdr. 9 They were many to steere a passage-boate. *a* 1647 Pette. in *Archæologia* XII. 268 The ship wrought exceeding well and was so yare of conduct that a foot of helm would steer her. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* III. v. 342 The proa generally carries six or seven Indians; two of which are placed in the head and stern, who steer the vessel alternately with a paddle according to the tack she goes on. 1815 J. Smith *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 183 In steering a vessel, it has been usual for the helmsman to have one compass, and the captain in his cabin to have another. 1853 Miss Yonge *Heir of Redclyffe* xxiii, Martin had best steer it; he knows the rocks. 1909 *Edin. Rev.* July 219 No less impossible than to steer a boat without taking a seat in it.

In figurative context. *c* 1200 Ormin 15259 Forr itt iss sett her att te ster To sterenn baþe þoþre. 1390 Gower *Conf.* I. 11 Lo, thus was Petres barge stiered Of hem that thilke tyme were. *a* 1529 Skelton *Bouge of Court* 107 She that styreth the shyp, make her your frende. 1577 Gosson in *Kirton's Mirr. Mans Lyfe* K viij, The prime of youth, whose greene vnmellowd yeres..sets vp saile, and sterniesse ships ysteares. *c* 1645 Howell *Lett.* (1655) I. vi. lviii. 305 Unless wisdom sit at the Helm and steer the motions of his Will. 1663 Butler *Hud.* I. i. 874 For whatsoe're we perpetrate, We do but row, we're steer'd by Fate. 1911 Sir H. Craik *Life Clarendon* I. ii. 60 He steered his bark through the dangerous eddies with consummate skill.

b. *transf.* Of animals.

1398 Trevisa *Barth. De P. R.* v. liv. (1495) 171 In foules wyth clouen fete the fote is nedefull to ledynge, styrynge and rulynge in waters. 1657 tr. *Jonstonus' Wond. Things Nat.* 233 He [the squirrel] takes the bark of a Tree..and sets it on the water, sitting in it, and stears it with his Tail lifted up, and so the wind carries him over. 1873 Tristram *Moab* vii. 131 Without a perceptible movement of their wings, only their long tails gently steering them in and out.

c. To guide (a vessel) to a specified point or in a specified direction.

1470–85 Malory *Arthur* xviii. xix. 760 Lete me be putte within a barget & but one man with me suche as ye trust to stere me thyder. 1574 W. Bourne *Regiment for Sea* (1580) 78 Nowe for to set any course to stirre the ship vpon any place appoynted. 1781 Cowper *Charity* 25 When Cook.. Steer'd Britain's oak into a world unknown. 1850 Tennyson *In Mem.* ciii, We steer'd her toward a crimson cloud. 1876 J. G. Holland *Seven Oaks* x. 133 Jim steered his boat around a little bend and in a moment it was running in shallow water.

†**d.** To work (the rudder). *Obs.*

c 1570 *Sat. Poems Reform.* xxx. 57 In trublous time yow micht haif steirt ye ruther. 1609 Holland *Amm. Marcell.* xxvi. i. 284 For tenne dayes space there was none to steere the helm of the Empire.

e. *To steer a, one's course*: (*a*) *lit.* of a helmsman or a navigator, to guide a vessel along a certain course; also of the vessel (cf. 2 d); (*b*) *transf.* and *fig.*

1602 Marston *Antonio's Rev.* iv. i, He beares an unturned sayle with every winde: Blowe east, blowe west, he stirs his course alike. 1644 in *Verney Mem.* (1907) I. 325 Those particulars that first induced me to steere this course. 1650 Hubbert *Pill Formality* 193 If they have not Christ Jesus for their Pilot to steere their course for them, they must certainly sinke. 1660 F. Brooke tr. *Le Blanc's Trav.* 248 Intending to take ship at Alexandria, and steer the course for Italy. 1709 T. Robinson *Vind. Mosaick Syst.* 49 The Magnet..which guides him to steer his Course through these vast Expansions of Water. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* III. i. 302 It blew from the S.W, and consequently was directly opposed to the course we wanted to steer. 1756 C. Lucas *Ess. Waters* III. 174 Let us learn to steer the middle course. 1764 Harmer *Observ.* ii. 59 Deserts where the Arabs alone know how to steer their course. 1822 Hazlitt *Men & Mann.* Ser. II. v. (1869) 113 You must steer a middle course. 1867 Smyth *Sailor's Word-bk., Steer her course*, going with the wind fair enough to lay her course. 1873 Black *Pr. Thule* xxii. 358 To see that the boat was steering her right course.

†**f.** *refl.* = to steer one's course. Also in *passive*, to be guided (*by* the compass, etc.) in steering.

1399 Langl. *Rich. Redeles* iv. 80 Ne had þei striked a strake and sterid hem þe better,..þey had be þrowe ouere þe borde backewarde ichonne. 1651 J. C[leveland] *Poems* 35 The Card by which the Mariners are stear'd.

2. *absol.* and *intr.* To guide a vessel by means of a rudder or the like.

c 897 Ælfred *Gregory's Past. C.* ix. 59 Swiðe eaðe mæg on smyltre sæ unzelæred scipstiera zenoh ryhte stieran. 2390 Gower *Conf.* I. 312 He that behinde sat to stiere Mai noght the forestempne hiere. *c* 1515 *Cocke Lorell's B.* 12 Some stered at the helme behynde, Some whysteled after the wynde. 1587 *Mirr. Mag., Severus* viii, Who takes to raygne the scepter in his hand, Is like to him, in sterne to stirre that sits. 1613 Purchas *Pilgrimage* (1614) 745 Some of their men were starued, the rest all so weake, that onely one could lie along vpon the Helm and sterre. 1762 Falconer *Shipwr.* II. 395 Two skilful helmsmen on the poop to steer. 1839 Malcom *Trav.* (1840) 45/1 Boats lie before the town, literally in thousands...The wife steers, while the husband rows. 1883 *Century Mag.* Sept. 655 Even the men whose work lies ashore..can steer and reef on a pinch.

In figurative context. 1596 Dalrymple tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* II. 155 The Prior of S. Androis elected Bischop..intendis in thair contrare to steir and row, with diligens. 1681 Flavel *Right Man's Ref.* 202 Let God steer for you in a storm.

b. *intr.* in passive sense. Of a ship: To admit of being steered; to answer the helm (well or ill).

1627 Capt. Smith *Sea Gram.* ix. 40 Foundering is when she will neither veere nor steare. 1669 Sturmy *Mariner's Mag.* I. ii. 18 The Ship will Stear the better when you sit all quiet. 1692 *J. Smith's Seaman's Gram.* I. xvi. 83 The Ship..does not steer steddy. 1829 *Ann. Reg., Chron.* 127/1 She pulls six oars; has two lug sails; steers either with a scull or rudder. 1880 *Times* 25 Dec. 7/4 The ship..Steers well under all circumstances.

c. Of a navigator: To guide a vessel in a certain direction; to sail or row towards a specified place.

1340–70 *Alex. & Dind.* 285 þanne whitli þe weiht ouur þe watur sterus, And þe lettrus to his lord ledus ful sone. *c* 1614 Sir W. Mure *Wks.* I. 64 The Ile no sooner to their eyes appear'd, Till thither Palinure their pilote steir'd. 1667 Milton *P. L.* II. 1020 Or when Ulysses on the Larbord shunnd Charybdis, and by th' other whirlpool steard. 1669 Sturmy *Mariner's Mag.* II. vi. 67 You may estimate the Min. but you cannot Steer by a whole Deg. 1687 A. Lovell tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* I. 270 We steered South-west till Sunday. 1743 Bulkeley & Cummins *Voy. S. Seas* 116 We came to sail, and steer'd out of the Lagoon West. 1781 Gibbon *Decl. & F.* I. III. 128 They steered by the guidance of the stars. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) III. 599/2 But failing of this, they steered to Jamaica. 1799 *Monthly Rev.* XXX. 134 *note*, They seized a canoe, and steered along shore. 1840 Thirlwall *Hist. Greece* lix. VII. 325 He set sail from Ephesus..and steered direct for Athens. 1871 B. Taylor *Faust* II. ii. iii. 146 They have left the place, Steering away to Samothrace. 1874 Green *Short Hist.* vii. § 6. 407 The daring adventurer steered undauntedly for the Moluccas.

fig. *a* 1639 T. Carew *To Her in Absence* 10 Love is the Pilot, but o'r-come with fear Of your displeasure, dares not homewards stear. *c* 1655 Milton *and Sonn. to Cyriack Skinner* 8 Yet I..still bear vp and steer Right onward. 1674 Temple *Let.* Wks. 1731 II. 297, I knew he was a great Man, but could not tell yet, to what Points of the Compass he intended to steer. 1675 Ld. Danby in *Essex Papers* (Camden) 22 Though itt bee very difficult to steere amongst so many rocks of faction, without striking upon some.

d. Of a ship: To be guided by the helm in a certain direction.

1667 Milton *P. L.* IX. 515 As when a Ship..where the Wind Veres oft, as oft so steers, and shifts her Saile. 1669 Sturmy *Mariner's Mag.* I. ii. 18 You have the Ship as at first, steering under all her Canvas. 1720 Ramsay *Prosp. Plenty* 156 Vers'd in the critic seasons o' the year, When to ilk bay the fishing-bush should steer. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* II. x. 247 The galeon..steers for the latitude of 13° or 14°. 1839 Marryat *Phant. Ship* xii, The *Batavia* steered into the roads. 1884 *Law Times Rep.* LIII. 60/1 The *Chusan* was steering E. by S., and proceeding at the rate of about ten knots.

e. *To steer large, small*: see quot. 1867.

1834 M. Scott *Cruise Midge* ix, The frigate was steering large, about a mile on our lee-bow. 1846 A. Young *Naut. Dict.* 319 *To steer small*, means to steer steadily without putting the helm too much to either side. To steer large, is the reverse. 1867 Smyth *Sailor's Word-bk., Steer Large*, to go free, off the wind. Also, to steer loosely. *Ibid.*, *Steer Small*, to steer well and within small compass, not dragging the tiller over from side to side.

f. *To steer clear of*: chiefly *fig.*, to avoid completely.

1723 De Foe *Col. Jack* (1840) 69 We would have steered clear of them, and cared not to have them see us, if we could help it, but they did see us, and cried, Who comes there? 1789 Belsham *Ess.* I. xviii. 338 Of tame acquiescence in vulgar opinion..Walpole..has steered perfectly clear. 1804 *Med. Jrnl.* XII. 415 It is incumbent on them..whilst they steer clear of Scylla, to beware they do not fall into Charybdis. 1809 Malkin *Gil Blas* III. vii. ₱ 5, I steered clear of Hortensia. 1838 Prescott *Ferd. & Is.* I. xviii. (1842) II. 160 Columbus..had been instructed..to steer clear of all Portuguese settlements on the African coast. 1884 *Manch. Exam.* 11 June 5/5 Mr. Marshall spoke with good humour, and steered clear alike of levity and acerbity. 1893 Hodges *Elem. Photogr.* (1907) 68 Enabling him to steer clear of some of these [difficulties].

3. *trans.* In extended sense, to guide something that is in motion. In various applications.

a. To guide (a chariot, a horse, cattle, etc.).

In mod. racing parlance the sense is a new development from sense 1.

c 888 Ælfred *Boeth.* xxxvi. § iii, Se stiorð þam hrædwæne ealra zesceafta. 1375 Barbour *Bruce* vi. 334 Thar may no man haf worthy hede, Bot he haf wit to steir his stede. *a* 1568 *Wyf of Auchtermuchty* 100 in *Bannatyne MS.* (Hunter. Club) 345 Scho..stowtly steird the stottis abowt. 1590 Spenser *F. Q.* III. viii. 30 His charet swift in haste he thither steard. 1844 Kinglake *Eothen* xxi, I steered my dromedary close up alongside of the mounted Bedouin. 1850 R. G. Cumming *Hunter's Life S. Africa* (1902) 105/2 The native who led the long team..suddenly turned the leading oxen short towards the river's bank, thus rendering it impossible for the driver to steer his after-oxen. 1884 *Longman's Mag.* Apr. 605 It may be that he is going to steer his own animal in the race for which it is being prepared. 1890 D. Davidson *Mem. Long Life* iv. 92 Tapp was the jockey..and 'steered him to victory'.

b. To guide (a plough).

c 1480 Henryson *Mor. Fab.* 2224 Thair wes ane Husband, quhilk had ane pleuch to steir. 1724 Ramsay *Tea-t. Misc.* (1733) I. 29 Twa good stilts to the pleugh And ye your sell maun steer. 1758 Akenside *Odes* II. xi. 9 The conquerers ..fed Calabrian flocks, and steer'd the Sabine plough. 1914 *Daily News* 25 Feb. 2 He feeds the pigs and steers the plough.

c. To guide the course of (a land carriage, a balloon, a bicycle, etc.) by mechanical means; to guide (a floating object) by taking advantage of a current.

1756–7 tr. *Keysler's Trav.* (1760) I. 233 These sledges hold only two, the traveller and the guide, who sits forward steering with a stick. 1788 Cowper *Dog & Water Lily* 18 With cane extended far I sought To steer it close to land. 1873 G. C. Davies *Mount. & Mere* xi. 91 A plague of gnats..doubly unpleasant when steering a bicycle along rutty lanes. 1910 *Encycl. Brit.* I. 269/2 Santos Dumont..won the Deutsch prize by steering a balloon from St. Cloud round the Eiffel Tower and back in half an hour.

d. To guide, lead, 'pilot' (a person) through a crowd, along an intricate path, etc. Also *absol.* Also (*U.S. slang*) to manœuvre or decoy (a person) to a place, or into doing something.

1859 *Habits of Gd. Society* v. 210 It is the gentleman's duty to *steer*, and in crowded rooms nothing is more trying. 1889 *Century Dict., Bunko-steerer*, that one of the swindlers called bunko-men who allures or steers strangers to the bunko-joint or rendezvous. 1891 C. Roberts *Adrift Amer.* 159, I don't thank you very much for steering me up against such a job. 1911 C. F. Hamilton in *United Empire* June 383 There is little or no suggestion that he is sent to 'steer' us, as an American would say. 1915 *Sketch* 16 June 227/1, I..shook hands with old Lemann, and steered him into the smoking-room.

4. *intr.* To shape one's course (on land, in the air). Also *trans.* with cognate object.

c 1500 *Lancelot* (S.T.S.) 3428 And brandymagus chargit he to stere Efter hyme, within a lytill space. 1629 Milton *Ode Nativ.* 146 Mercy..With radiant feet the tissued clouds down stearing. 1633 C. Farewell *East-Ind. Colation* 45 [The elephant] steeres like a hulke, stifnecked, almost all of one peice. 1667 Milton *P. L.* I. 225 Then with expanded wings he stears his flight Aloft. *Ibid.* VII. 430 So stears the prudent Crane Her annual Voinge. ?*c* 1670 *Hist. Tom Thumb* III. 104 in Hazl. *E. P. P.* II. 237 But Tom cry'd in a merry mood: Unto the King we'll steer. 1700 T. Brown *Amusem. Ser. & Com.* 11 Let's Steer for the Court, for that's the Region which will furnish us with the finest Lessons. *a* 1701 Maundrell *Journ. Jerus.* (1732) 134 Here steering Northerly directly up the Valley. 1725 Ramsay *Gentle Sheph.* I. ii, Driven frae house and hald, where will ye steer? 1774 Goldsm. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) V. 32 The quails..steer their flight back to enjoy in Egypt the temperate air. 1792 Burns *My ain kind Dearie* iii, At noon the fisher seeks the glen, Along the burn to steer. 1807 Wordsw. *White Doe* v. 32 She..oft her steps had hither steered. 1828 Lytton *Pelham* xxix, The Frenchman..bowed, and drew himself aside. Vincent steered by. 1837 W. Irving *Capt. Bonneville* I. 111 He was bravely steering his way across the continent. 1887 J. Ball *Nat. in S. Amer.* 128 Passing the houses, I at once steered for the rocky slopes behind. 1896 Baden-Powell *Matabele Campaign* xvi, I steered by moon and time until I thought I was near Enkeldoorn.

b. Of an inanimate thing: To travel in a set course.

1692 Bentley *Boyle Lect.* viii. 25 The Winter of the Year, when the Sun was the nearest of all, and steer'd directly over mens heads. 1830 Marryat *King's Own* xxii, The moon..was high in the heavens, steering for the zenith in all her beauty. 1861 Clough *Ess. Class. Metres, Elegiacs* i. 5 Thou busy sunny river;..Through woodlands steering, with branches waving above thee.

† **c.** *trans.* To direct one's course towards (a place). *Obs.* (? nonce-use.)

1667 MILTON *P. L.* x. 328 Satan..Betwixt the Centaure and the Scorpion stearing His Zenith.

† **5.** To check, restrain, control. In OE. also: To rebuke. (In OE. the obj. is in the dative.) *Obs.*

c 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Mark viii. 30 Forbead *vel* stiorde *vel* stiorend wæs him [Vulg. *comminatus est eis*]. 971 *Blickl. Hom.* 19/5 Seo menigo styrde þæm blindan þæt he cleopode. *c* 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* II. 192 Wið magan bryne & þurste; wlaco wæter menge wið þone selestan ele, sele drincan, þæt styrð þam þurste. *a* 1225 *St. Marher.* 9 Þu steorest te sea stream þæt hit fleden ne mot fir þan þu markedest. *a* 1300 *K. Horn* (Camb. MS.) 434 'Lemman' he sede 'dere, þin herte nu þu stere'. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 4295 Thoru strengh o luue þat nan mai stere. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* C. 27 Þay ar happen also þat con her hert stere. *c* 1385 CHAUCER *L. G. W.* 935 And fyr so wod it myȝte nat been steerid In al the noble toure of ylioun. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 122 So that thou myht thi tunge stiere. 1423 JAS. I *Kingis Q.* 194 His tong for to reule[n] and to stere. *c* 1440 *Bone Flor.* 825 The lady swowned, and was full woo, Ther myght no man hur stere. *a* 1500 *Frere & Boy* (*c* 1512) A ij b, All that may the pype here Shall not themselfe stere But laugh and lepe aboute. *c* 1640 R. DAVENPORT *Surv. Sci.* Wks. (1890) 325 Rhethorick ..whose sweete tongue Can steere the stubborn'st hart.

† **6.** To guide (a person, his conduct) by admonition or counsel. *Obs.*

a 1000 ÆLFRIC *Hom.* I. 320 He nolde mid his to-cyme ða synfullan fordeman, ..Ærest he wolde us mid liðnysse styran [*c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 95 isteoren] þæt he siððan mihte on his dome us gehealdan. *c* 1200 ORMIN 14705 To wurrþenn herrsumm..Till alle þa þatt hafenn þe To ȝemenn & to sterenn. *a* 1225 *Juliana* 30 Festne mi bileaue steor me ant streng me. 12.. *Prayer to Virgin* 30 in *O. E. Misc.*, Bricht and scene quen of storre..in þis false fikele world so me led and steore. 1362 LANGL. *P. Pl.* A. IX. 42 He strengþeþ þe to stonde he stureþ þi soule. 1655 STANLEY *Hist. Philos.* III. xvii. (1687) 94/2 Euripides is steer'd by Socrates.

† **b.** *To steer off*: to guide away *from* some opinion. *Obs.*

1662 H. MORE *Antid. Ath.* I. i. (1712) 9 The attempt of endeavouring to steer them off from Atheism. 1681 — *Expos. Dan.* Pref. p. xv, When men see so palpable a correspondency..they will be steared off from conceiving any such sense.

† **c.** To conduct (one's life). Also *refl.*

a 1250 *Prov. Alfred* 562 ȝif..þu ne moȝe mid strenghe þe-selwen steren. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 19822 Fott him to þe, he sal þe lere, Al o þi lijf, hu þu sal stere. 1673 CAVE *Prim. Chr.* I. ix. 271 He..by Letters gave them [his sons] counsels for the steering themselves. 1699 T. C[OCKMAN] tr. *Tully's Offices* (1706) 117 By whose Counsel and Direction they may steer their Lives.

† **d.** Of reasons, indications, influences: To guide. *Obs.*

1649 *Nicholas Papers* (Camden) 135, I am confident..his fathers last desires and commands will steere our yong King right. *a* 1652 J. SMITH *Sel. Disc.* I. 21 Their life being steered by nothing else but opinion and imagination. 1653 BLITH *Engl. Improver Impr.* 63 Therefore in every new work some triall would be made of all materials, and therein thou must be steered by those the very place affords, whether Stone, Chalk, Wood, or Earth, or all. *a* 1683 OWEN *Holy Spirit* (1693) 262 So as to be steered thereby in his Work.

e. *intr.* To direct one's course of action (*by* guiding indications). Often, to find a safe course *between* two evils or two extremes.

1658 SIR T. BROWNE *Hydriot.* 18 If we steer by the conjecture of many and Septuagint expression; some trace thereof [burial of treasures] may be found. 1670 TEMPLE *Let.* Wks. 1731 II. 224 By his Advice his Highness resolves to steer in the Course of his Affairs and Motions relating to England. 1697 DRYDEN *Æneis* Ded. (e) 4 b, I thought fit to steer betwixt the two extreams, of Paraphrase, and literal Translation. *a* 1718 PRIOR *Paulo Purg.* 57 Her Prudence did so justly steer Between the Gay and the Severe. *c* 1721 in *10th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. I. 198, I have been now two years on this side [of the water] but still steer'd snugg and clear that I might preserve my credit and safety at home. 1722 WOLLASTON *Relig. Nat.* iii. 51 Rational animals should use their reason, and steer by it. 1769 ROBERTSON *Chas. V*, III. VIII. 103 Now he should steer in that difficult and arduous conjuncture. 1818 HALLAM *Mid. Ages* viii. III. (1819) III. 294 The rolls of parliament, by whose light we have hitherto steered. 1858 GREENER *Gunnery* 309, I am quite satisfied to steer between extremes.

† **7.** To govern, rule. *Obs.* exc. as conscious metaphor (figurative use of sense 1).

To have to steer: to have under one's command.

a 900 *Bæda's Hist.* IV. xii. (1890) 300 Tweȝen biscopas [wæron] on his stowe ȝesette..þæt wæs Boosa, se styrde [*v. r.* steorde] Dera mæȝðe, & Eata Beornicea. *c* 1200 ORMIN 3679 He þatt all þiss weorelld shop & alle shaffte stereþþ. *a* 1300 *E. E. Psalter* ii. 9 In yherde irened salt þou stere þa. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* I. 38 Alexander the King..That Scotland haid to steyr and leid. *a* 1400 *Launfal* 684 Be god, that all may stere. *c* 1430 *Syr Gener.* (Roxb.) 117 Thre thousand knightes he had to stere. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* v. 920 Off kyn he was, and Wallace modyr ner, Off Craufurd syd that mydward had to ster. *c* 1480 HENRYSON *Mor. Fab.* 1571 To reule and steir the land, and Iustice keip. 1500-20 DUNBAR *Poems* xi. 14 All are gone At will of God that all thing steiris. 1601 LAMBARDE *Dict. Angl. Top.* (1730) 42 One of the most wise..Princes that ever stered this common Weale. 1633 FORD *Broken H.* v. ii. K 2, Neuer liu'd Gentleman of greater merit, Hope, or abiliment to steere a kingdome. 1678 CUDWORTH *Intell. Syst.* 878 Some will from hence be apt to infer, That there is no God at all, but that blind Chance and Fortune steer all.

† **b.** To manage, administer (government); to conduct (business, negotiations, etc.). *Obs.*

c 888 ÆLFRED *Boeth.* xvii, Þæt ic..gerisenlice mihte steoran & reccan þone anwald þe me befæst wæs. *a* 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 10 Maxence steorede þe refschipe in Rome. 1456 SIR G. HAYE *Law Arms* (S.T.S.) 62 The quhilk sterit ane Emperouris estate in his tyme. 1647 CLARENDON *Hist. Reb.* I. § 157 The great persons who steered the public affairs.

† **c.** To keep in order (a crowd). *Obs.*

1616 J. LANE *Contn. Sqr.'s T.* XI. 248 For whome large space was made by th' marshallers, gardantes, and tipp staves, which the people stears.

† **d.** *intr.* To have charge *of*. *Obs.*

13.. *Seuen Sages* 894 In that forest woned an herd, That of bestes loked an sterd.

Steer (stīəɹ), *v.*[2] *rare.* [f. STEER *sb.*[1]] *trans.* To make a steer of, castrate (a calf).

1886 *Daily Tel.* 18 Oct. (Cassell), The male calves are steered and converted to beef.

Steer, obs. and dial. var. STAIR, STIR.

Steerable (stīəɹräb'l), *a.* and *sb.* [f. STEER *v.*[1] + -ABLE.]

A. *adj.* That may be steered or guided, dirigible.

1836 L. HUNT in *New Monthly Mag.* XLVIII. 60 Balloons shall be equally safe and guidable, steerable against the wind. 1884 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 1 Oct. 7/2 A steerable balloon. 1899 *Westm. Gaz.* 30 May 10/2 A steerable torpedo.

B. *sb.* A dirigible balloon. *rare.*

1908 *Daily News* 25 Dec. 5 Between the German steerable, the 'Zeppelin,' and the French craft..there are some important differences.

Hence **Steerability.**

1907 *Westm. Gaz.* 4 Dec. 10/1 'La Patrie', the French airship..gave a marvellous exhibition of its steerability.

Steerage (stīəɹrēdʒ). Forms: 5–7 **sterage,** 6–7 **stirrage,** 7 **stearage,** -idge, (**styrage, stieridge**), 7–8 **steeridge,** (7 -edge, 8 -adge), 6– **steerage.** [f. STEER *v.*[1] + -AGE.]

1. The action, practice or method of steering a boat or ship; the guidance of a balloon or airship, *rarely* of a carriage.

c 1450 *Brut* II. 435 The foreseide barge, thorough mysgouernaunce of sterage, fill vpon the pilis. 1599 HAKLUYT *Voy.* I. 602 The English shippes vsing their prerogatiue of nimble stirrage..came often times very neere vpon the Spaniards. 1654 J. P. *Tyrants & Protectors* 33 These Pilots by their ill steerage did split their Vessels. 1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* I. (Globe) 193 Having a strong Steerage with my Paddle, I went at a great Rate, directly for the Wreck. 1791 SMEATON *Edystone L.* § 93 The carriages..[having] a draught-tree for steerage and yoking the cattle to. 1805 LD. COLLINGWOOD in Nicolas *Disp. Nelson* (1846) VII. 242 Had we to pass them from the leeward, it would have been still more difficult, as it required nice steerage. 1914 *Q. Rev.* Apr. 346 He discussed the problems of the propulsion and the steerage of such a body [*sc.* a balloon].

b. *transf.* of an animal or person.

1599 T. M[OUFET] *Silkworms* 73 When afterward..The Flies haue bor'd a passage through their clewes, Obserue their gate and steerage al along. 1774 *Ann. Reg., Misc.* 193/1 If I am not very accurate in my steerage, I am sure to tumble over a pail.

c. Phrase. (*To be, stand*) *at the steerage.* lit. and fig.

1688 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 2322/3 The Grand Signior went..in a Barge of 28 Oars,..the Bostangi Bachi..being..at the Steerage. 1731 SWIFT *On Death Swift* 413 While they who at the steerage stood, And reap'd the profit, sought his blood. 1733 — *On Poetry* 456 You raise the honour of the peerage, Proud to attend you at the steerage.

d. Of a ship: The action, method or ability of answering to the helm.

1653 *Fight Legorn-Road* 16 Likewise was the Dutch Admiral singled out, and to the weatherward (which was occasioned by loss of her Stearidge, having her Rudder shot, as I heard). 1745 P. THOMAS *Jrnl. Anson's Voy.* 146 She.. roll'd very much, and made bad Steerage. 1769 FALCONER *Dict. Marine* (1776), *Steerage* is also used to express the effort of the helm; and hence Steerage-way is [etc.].

2. † **a.** Management (of goods). *Obs.*

1487 *Sc. Acts Parlt.* (1814) II. 178/2 Na man sale in the saidis partis in the way of merchandice bot..men haifand.. half a last of gudis or samekle in sterage and gouernance.

b. The direction or government of affairs, the State, one's life. (Often with conscious metaphor.)

1592 SHAKS. *Rom. & Jul.* I. iv. 112 But he that hath the stirrage of my course, Direct my sute [1597 Qo. saile]. 1636 E. DACRES tr. *Machiavel's Disc. Livy* Ep. Ded., Your Grace may doe well to inable your selfe for the service of your Prince and Country, that being cald for into the steerage in turbulent times, not favour onely may give you a place there. 1688 BP. THOMAS in Gutch *Coll. Cur.* I. 332, I pray God direct and prosper his steerage of the Church of England in these tempestuous times. 1783 COWPER *Let. J. Newton* 15 Dec., Wks. 1837 XV. 142 But now we float.. as the wind drives us; for want of..that steerage which invention..may be expected to supply. 1808 SCOTT *Marmion* I. Introd. 116 [He] With dying hand the rudder held, Till, in his fall, with fateful sway, The steerage of the realm gave way! 1831 W. L. BOWLES *Life Bp. Ken* II. xi. 190 Under the firm steerage of Walpole..the vessel of state held its way through all the storms of faction.

c. A course held or steered, esp. a course of conduct.

? *a* 1625 WEBSTER & ROWLEY *Cure for Cuckold* IV. ii, He bore his steerage true in every part, Led by the Compass of a noble heart. 1645 MILTON *Tetrach.* 41 If we marke the steerage of his words, what course they hold. 1789 *Triumphs Fortitude* I. 45, I would wish always to keep a steerage, rather than to be carried away by the stream of dissipation. 1827 B'NESS BUNSEN in Hare *Life* I. viii. 296 There are no rocks, no shoals, for him whose steerage is ever regulated according to the true compass of the soul.

3. The steering apparatus **a.** of a boat.

1857 P. COLQUHOUN *Comp. Oarsman's Guide* 30 The term steerage includes yoke-lines, yoke, and rudder. 1869 R. H. BLAKE-HUMFREY *Eton Boating Bk.* (1875) 45 *note*, This year [1845]..Silver Oars and Steerage [were given] to the winners of the Pulling.

b. of an agricultural machine. In quot. *attrib.*

1884 *West Sussex Gaz.* 25 Sept., Capital front-steerage 13-coulter seed and corn drill,..steerage horse hoe.

c. *Steerage of his wings*: Dryden's rendering of L. *remigium alarum*, meaning wings viewed as instruments of rowing.

1697 DRYDEN *Æneis* VI. 24 Dedalus..here alighting, built this costly Frame. Inscrib'd to Phœbus, here he hung on high The steerage of his Wings. 1700 — *Ceyx & Alcyone* 351. 1870 JEAN INGELOW *Four Sonnets* iv, When..Down the steep slope of a long sunbeam brought, He [*i. e.* the eagle] stirs the wheat with the steerage of his wings.

4. That division of the after part of a ship which is immediately in front of the chief cabin; the second cabin. Also called † *steerage room.*

In the 16th and 17th c. this was the place from which the ship was steered. Early in the 18th c. the wheel was placed on the open deck, so that the vessel was no longer steered from the 'steerage', which, however, retained its name.

1612 COVERTE *Voy.* 24 The Merchants had some 10000 l. lying betweene the maine Maste and the Stearidge. 1627 CAPT. SMITH *Sea Gram.* ii. 11 The Stearage. The Stearage roome, is before the great Cabin, where he that steareth the Ship doth alwaies stand. 1644 MANWAYRING *Seamans Dict.*, The Stieridge is the place where they Steere, out of which they may see the leech of the sailes. 1726 SHELVOCKE *Voy. round World* 25 This insolence being carried on in the steeradge. 1769 FALCONER *Dict. Marine* (1780), *Steerage*, an apartment without the great cabin of a ship, from which it is separated by a thin partition. In large ships of war it is used as a hall through which it is necessary to pass, to arrive at, or depart from the great cabin. In merchant-ships it is generally the habitation of the inferior officers and ship's crew. 1834 MARRYAT *P. Simple* xvi, I went down into the most solitary place in the steerage, that I might enjoy it [a letter] without interruption. 1840 R. H. DANA *Bef. Mast* xxiii. 71 The mate came down into the steerage, in fine trim for fun. 1864 SEMMES *Cruise Alabama & Sumter* I. 269 Passing through the ward-room, the visitor entered the gun-room, or 'steerage', allotted on the starboard side to the midshipmen, and on the port to the engineers. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk., Steerage*,..that part of the ship next below the quarter-deck, immediately before the bulkhead of the great cabin in most ships of war. The portion of the 'tween-decks just before the gun-room bulkhead.

5. The part of a passenger ship allotted to those passengers who travel at the cheapest rate. Also quasi-advb. in *to go, travel steerage.*

The steerage is now usually in the bow and on a lower deck.

1804 W. IRVING *Life & Lett.* (1864) I. 94 They sleep in the steerage, and leave the cabin to myself. 1816 R. BUCHANAN *Propelling Vessels by Steam* 24 Before the engine is the steerage or second cabin. 1822 J. FLINT *Lett. fr. America* 287 There were twelve cabin passengers..and about an equal number of persons in the steerage. 1844 DICKENS *Mart. Chuz.* xvii, It being necessary for me to observe strict economy, I took my passage in the steerage. 1892 E. REEVES *Homeward Bound* 124 In the steerage we are told the thermometer reaches 109° in the shade. In our saloon 90° to 100° is the highest. 1906 *Westm. Gaz.* 20 June 4/2 He travelled steerage with a ship of emigrants.

6. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *steerage door, -hole, -house, passage, -power*; **steerage country** *U.S.*, the open space in the middle of the steerage of a man-of-war, not occupied by berths or state-rooms (*Cent. Dict.*); **steerage mess, steerage officer** *U.S.* (see quots.); **steerage-passenger,** one who occupies a berth in the steerage (sense 5) of a passenger-vessel; † **steerage room** = sense 4; **steerage-way,** a way or motion sufficient for the helm to have effect; also *fig.*

a 1625 N. ROBERTS in Purchas *Pilgrims* II. 1578 Putting his foot against the *Steeredge doore. 1855 BROWNING *Bp. Blougram's Apol.* 357 Though you proved me doomed To a viler berth still, to the *steerage-hole. 1842 DICKENS *Amer. Notes* xi. (1850) 108/2 There is no visible deck, even: nothing but a long, black, ugly roof..; above which tower two iron chimneys..and a glass *steerage-house. 1891 H. PATTERSON *Naut. Dict.* 364 **Steerage Mess.* This mess is composed of midshipmen, ensigns, clerks and mates. *Ibid.* 386 **Steerage Officers*, midshipmen, cadet midshipmen, mates, cadet engineers, and ensigns when they do not perform duty as regular watch officers. 1849 LEVER *Con Cregan* xix. I. 298, I took a *steerage passage. 1822 J. FLINT *Lett. fr. America* 91 A *steerage passenger pays only about half the freight that is charged for a passage in the cabin of a ship. 1840 HOOD *Up the Rhine* 50 The deck of a steamer is supposed to be divided amidships by an imaginary line, aft of which the steerage passengers are expected not to intrude. 1869 *Chamb. Jrnl.* 29 May 338/1 By making the paddle-wheels revolve in opposite directions..perfect *steerage-power is obtained. 1626 CAPT. SMITH *Accid. Yng. Seamen* 11 In the *stearage roome, the whip, the bittakell, the trauas board, the Compasse. 1769 FALCONER *Dict. Marine* (1780) Z 3 b, A..ship..in a very light wind, and scarcely having *steerage-way. 1868 LOWELL *Among my Bks.* Ser. I. *Shaks. once more* (1870) 211 Hamlet..never keeps on one tack long enough to get steerage-way.

Steere-board, -boord, obs. ff. STARBOARD.

Steerer (stīəɹrəɹ). Also 4 **styrer,** 5 **sterer,** 6 **stirrer, 7 stearer.** [f. STEER *v.*[1] + -ER [1].]

† **1.** A rudder. *Obs.*

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XII. xi. (1535) 169/2 And in swymmynge he [the swan] vseth that one fote in stede of an oore, and the other in stede of a styrer [*pro gubernaculo*], and ruleth hym selfe therwith. 1633 DRUMM. OF HAWTH. *Entert. K. Chas.* Sp. Caledonia i. 58 Being to themselves Oares, Steerers, ship and all.

b. 'A machine for controlling the rudder of a boat or yacht' (*Cent. Dict.* Suppl. 1909).

c. (See quot.)

1895 HEADLEY *Struct. Birds* vi. 153 The large tail feathers are called rectrices or steerers.

2. One who steers, a steersman; a coxswain (of a rowing boat).

1585 HIGINS *Junius' Nomencl.* 515/1 *Gubernator*,..the gouernor, director, or pilot of the ship: the sterneman or stirrer. 1675 HOBBES *Odyss.* (1677) 153 A sudden blast.. breaks the cordage that upheld the mast; Which falling down beats out the steerers brains. 1868 *Field* 28 Nov. 445/2 Though repeatedly urged by his steerer, he [the oarsman] seemed quite unable to quicken. 1887 J. THOMSON in J. B. Thomson *Mem.* ix. (1896) 198 But when contrary or violent winds rise then the steerer is helpless.

fig. 1659 PEARSON *Creed* i. 36 Thus appears the Maker to be the steerer of this great ship [the world]. 1730 SWIFT *Ep. Ld. Carteret* 59 There's not a better Steerer in the Realm, I hope, my Lord, you'll call him to the Helm.

3. *U.S. slang.* A swindler whose business it is to lead his victims to the rendezvous. Also, see quot. 1910.

1883 [cf. *bunko-steerers* s.v. BUNKO]. 1889 *Columbus* (Ohio) *Dispatch* 6 Sept., The [gambling-] place was full of players, who got there by means of 'steerers' sent out for the purpose. 1905 *Blackw. Mag.* Jan. 137/1 'Steerers' and 'boosters' [of gambling-hells] were always on the lookout for 'suckers' whom they encountered at the railway-stations, at the hotels, or even in the streets. 1910 *N. Y. Evening Post* 10 Jan. (Thornton *Amer. Gloss.*), A steerer is the go-between of the shyster and prisoner; by wile and guile he brings clients to the lawyer.

4. That directs its course: a. of a ship with adj. referring to its power of answering to the helm or rudder.

1887 *Times* (weekly ed.) 19 Aug. 4/1 The ship is a bad steerer and her speed is not very great. 1901 *Daily Tel.* 18 Mar. 7/4 Dr. Warre's model [of a rowing boat]..is also a very quick steerer, for her rudder is not 7 inches long.

b. of a cycle, with prefix indicating the position of its steering-wheel.

1883 *Wheel World* Mar. 185 [Tricycles.] Two rear-steerers. ..A front-steerer. 1888 *Encycl. Brit.* XXIII. 559/2.

Steering (stī·riŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. STEER *v.*[1] + -ING[1].]

1. The action of the verb, in various senses.

c 1220 *Bestiary* 574 Sipmen here steringe forgeten for hire [the siren's] stefninge. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* IX. 510 Thai twa the land had in stering. 1387–8 T. USK *Test. Love* II. iii. (Skeat) 107 Shal fyr ben blamed for it brende a foole naturelly, by his own stulty witte in steringe? 1509 SANDYS *Europæ Spec.* (1632) 89 The persons defiled with it [were] of so eminent a place in the steering and upholding of their church. 1769 FALCONER *Dict. Marine* (1780) s.v., The perfection of steering consists in a vigilant attention to the motion of the ship's head. 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xxi. IV. 641 But now came a crisis which required the most skilful steering. 1875 *Encycl. Brit.* III. 665/1 Steering..is managed by a transverse handle attached to the driving-wheel [of a bicycle]. 1911 *Daily Mail* 19 June 8/4 Major Wodehouse..has been..devising means for the safe steering of the tremendous crowds.

2. Short for *steering-gear*.

1877 H. H. GRIFFIN *Bicycles of the Year* 12 He makes the Eureka, which is a very fair machine (Spider), Stanley steering, cone bearings, &c. *Ibid.* 16 The steering is either the Stanley or Rudder plan.

3. *attrib.* and *Comb.*: a. simple attrib., as *steering-apparatus, -fan, -fork, -gear, -handle.*

1846 A. YOUNG *Naut. Dict.* 319 A *Steering Apparatus.. consists of an endless screw [etc.]. 1903 *Westm. Gaz.* 2 Nov. 9/1 There is a propeller in front and a *steering-fan in the rear [of an airship]. 1869 *Routledge's Ev. Boy's Ann.* 375 The vertical *steering-fork of the vehicle [*i.e.* a bicycle]. 1869 SIR E. REED *Iron-Clad Ships* i. 6 The rudder-head and *steering-gear were exposed to shot within thin iron sides. 1907 H. WYNDHAM *Flare of Footlights* ii, The chauffeur.. fumbling stupidly with the steering-gear. 1868 *Routledge's Ev. Boy's Ann.* 477 The *Steering-Handle [of a bicycle] may be made of any fancy curve. 1906 *Westm. Gaz.* 20 July 8/3 In the collision..the stout steering-handle [of a motor-car] being bent nearly double.

b. Special comb.: **steering compass**, the compass by which a ship is steered as distinguished from the variation compass (see COMPASS *sb.*[1] 12 d); **steering-lock** (*a*) the turning movement of the wheels of a motor-vehicle (see LOCK *sb.*[2] 15); (*b*) an appliance fitted to some bicycles by means of which the front wheel may be prevented from turning from side to side; **steering-oar**, an oar used as a steering-scull (q.v.); **steering sail** *Naut.* = STUDDING SAIL; also *attrib.*; †**steering scull** = SCULL *sb.*[1] 1 a; **steering-wheel** (*a*) *Naut.*, a vertical wheel by which motion is communicated to the rudder through the medium of a tiller-rope or other device; (*b*) a hand-wheel for guiding a traction engine, motor-car or other heavy vehicle; (*c*) the wheel of a cycle by which steerage is effected.

1669 STURMY *Mariner's Mag.* II. vi. 67 To shew you the difference between the true Compass and the *Steering Compass. 1897 *Encycl. Sport* I. 274/1 (Cycling), *Steering Locks are valuable..for preventing the machine from moving when resting against a wall. 1840 R. H. DANA *Bef. Mast* ix, The officer using his utmost strength, with his *steering-oar, to keep her stern on. 1669 STURMY *Mariner's Mag.* I. ii. 16 The Lee *steering Sails of Main-sail, and Main-top sail. 1805 in Nicolas *Disp. Nelson* (1846) VII. 144 *note*, Wore Ship and made Sail—set the royal and top-gallant steering-sails. 1420 in *For. Acc.* 3 *Hen. VI*, F/2, j. Remus grossus vocatus *Sterynge skulle. 1750 BLANCKLEY *Naval Expos.* 160 To guide or govern a Ship by the Helm or *Steering Wheel. 1888 *Encycl. Brit.* XXIII. 559/2 In early days the steering wheel [of the tricycle] was made small to save weight.

Steering, Sc. variant of STIRRING.

†**Steerish**, *a. Obs.* [f. STEER *sb.*[1] + -ISH[1].]

1. Having the qualities of a steer; brutish.

c 1411 HOCCLEVE *De Reg. Princ.* 604 The cause why men oghten þider gon, Nat conceyue can his wylde steerissh heed.

2. *dial.* (See quots.)

1789 W. H. MARSHALL *Glouc.* I. 332 *Steerish*: spoken of a young, raw, growing ox; not 'oxey'. 1851 *Glouc. Gloss.*, *Steerish*, young.

†**Steerless**, *a. Obs.* [OE. *stéorlēas*: see STEER *sb.*[2] and -LESS.]

1. Not amenable to guidance or control, ungovernable, unrestrained.

c 888 ÆLFRED *Boeth.* v. § 3 Þa ðu wendest ðætte stiorlease men & recelease wæren ȝesælie & wealdendas þisse worulde. *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 117 Gif þu uuel were iwend þe from uuele þi les þe ðu steorles losie on ende.

2. Without a rudder. *lit.* and *fig.*

c 1374 CHAUCER *Troylus* I. 416 Al sterles with-Inne a bot am I. *c* 1386 — *Man of Law's T.* 341 In a ship all steerelees. 1423 JAS. I *Kingis Q.* 15 As the schip that sailith stereles Vpon the rok(kis) most to harmes hye. *a* 1547 SURREY *Eccles.* iii. 1 Like to the stereles boote that swerues with euery wynde. *a* 1565 in *Q. Eliz. Boeth.* App. 156 We men, with Fortunes waves are tosste and cast In steerles Shipp. *a* 1639 T. CAREW *Answ. Eleg. Lett.* 62 A troope of deities came down to guide Our steerelesse barkes.

Steerling (stī·ɹliŋ). [f. STEER *sb.*[1] + -LING.] A young steer.

1648 HERRICK *Hesper.*, *Beucolick* (1915) 244 To get thy Steerling once again, I'le play thee such another strain; That [etc.]. 1743 FRANCIS *Horace, Odes* IV. ii. 54 While I, with pious Care, one Steerling feed.

Steerling, obs. form of STARLING *sb.*[2]

Steerman (stī·ɹmæn). Now *rare*. Forms: 1–2 **stéorman**, 3 **steorman**, 5 **ster man**, **stereman**, 6 *Sc.* **steirman**, 7 **steereman**, 7– **steerman**. [f. STEER *sb.*[2] + MAN *sb.* Cf. Du. *stuurman*, MLG. *stûreman*, MHG. *stiurman* (mod.G. *steuermann*), ON. *stýrimaðr*, (Sw. *styrman*, Da. *styrmand*). The Teut. word was adopted in OF. as *esturman*, *estrumant*.] A steersman.

c 1000 ÆLFRIC *Hom.* II. 560 Hera ðone steorman ac na swa-ðeah ærðan ðe he becume ȝesundful to þære hyðe. *c* 1205 LAY. 28436 And nom alle þa scipen..and þa steormen alle to þan scipen neodde. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* IX. 121 Bathe schip maistir, and the ster man also, In the holl, but baid, he gert thaim go. 1586 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* IV. 79 The foirsaidis personis furnissand steirmen thairto thameselffis. 1663 GERBIER *Counsel* d 4 b, My Steerman found the Ebb and Flood all along the Coast of America. 1725 POPE *Odyss.* XIV. 287 Safe through the level seas we sweep our way; The steer-man governs, and the ships obey. 1892 STEVENSON & L. OSBORNE *Wrecker* xii, Suppose the steerman's eye to have wandered.

fig. *c* 1460 *Towneley Myst.* iii. 427 Help, god, in this nede! As thou art stere-man..best, as I rede. 1591 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* I. i. 117 Their Star the Bible, Steer-man th' holy Ghost. 1638 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* (ed. 2) 206 No sooner was old Abbas by bold death struck from the helme of Persia; and young Soffy his Grand-sonne made the royall Stear-man, but [etc.].

†**Steermost**, *a. Obs. rare*[–1]. [f. STEER *sb.*[2] + -MOST.] Sternmost, rearmost.

1667 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 160/4 The Vice Admiral being steermost of the squadron,..intended then to cross the Hause.

Steerne, obs. form of STERN *a.*

Steersman (stī·ɹzmæn). Forms: 1 **stéoresman**, 2, 4 **stieresman**(n, 3 **steores-man**, **-mon**, (*Ormin* **steoressmann**), 3–5 **steresman**, 4–6 **sterisman**, 5–6 **sterysman**(n, (5 **stersman**, 6 **stirsman**), 6–7 **stear**(e)**sman**, 7 **steeresman**, 6– **steersman**. [OE. *stéoresman*, f. *stéores-* genit. of *stéor* STEER *sb.*[2] + MAN *sb.* Cf. STEERMAN.

The word was early adopted into Irish in the form *stiurusman*; an example occurs in *3 Fragm. Irish Annals* 116 (early 11th c).]

1. One who steers a boat or ship.

c 1000 *Ags. Laws, Ethelred* § 4 in *Liebermann* (1898) I. 222/1 Ȝyf man beo æt his æhtan bereafod, & he wite of hwilcum scipe, aȝyfe steoresman ða æhta. *a* 1200 *Vices & Virtues* 43 Ðe gastliche hierdes..folgið Nōe ðane gode stieresmann. *c* 1200 ORMIN 2135 Forr all swa summ þe steoressmann Aȝȝ lokeþþ till an steorrne. *c* 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 13092 Namore þan schip or barge can [keep its course], þere hym wanteþ a steres man. *c* 1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 4728 þe sterys man toke þe helme in hande. 1577 BULLINGER *Decades* (1592) 638 As a boate destitute of a stirsman, is with contrarie windes tossed to and fro. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* IX. 513 As when a Ship by skilful Stearsman wrought.., where the Wind Veres oft, as oft so steers, and shifts her Saile. 1791 W. BARTRAM *Trav.* 108 The steersman paddles softly, and proceeds slowly along shore. 1889 WELCH *Text Bk. Naval Archit.* xiii. 140 The steersman moves his wheel in the required direction.

b. *fig.*

a 1200 *Vices & Virtues* 43 Swa scule ða gastliche stieresmenn steren ða arche of ðe hali cherche. *c* 1440 *Towneley Myst.* xix. 259 Farwell! stersman to theym that ar sted In stormes, or in desese lyse! 1579 W. WILKINSON *Confut. Fam. Love* 40 From them [the Vniuersityes] come the most skilfull stearesmen to gouerne, both the state ecclesiasticall, and ciuill. 1650 H. BROOKE *Conserv. Health* 221 Their Steersman is Reason. 1809–10 COLERIDGE *Friend* (1865) 48 The great merit of Buonaparte has been that of a skilful steersman. *a* 1894 STEVENSON in G. Balfour *Life* vi. (1911) 74 There stood at the wheel that unknown steersman whom we call God.

c. *transf.* One who drives and guides a machine.

1828 SIR H. STEUART *Planter's Guide* (ed. 2) 250 The Machiner seizes the end of the pole-rope, in order to act as Steersman [of a machine for transplanting trees]. 1906 *Westm. Gaz.* 26 June 5/1 The Hotchkiss..overturned at Saint Calais, but fortunately without injury to the steersman [in a motor-car race].

†2. A ruler or governor (of a certain number of people). *Obs. rare.*

c 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 3417 Ilc of ðe .v. steres-men Vnder hem welden in stere tgen. *Ibid.* 3429.

Hence **Steersmanship.**

1818 BENTHAM *Ch. Eng.* Introd. 187 It is truly edifying to observe the steersmanship displayed by the Reverend Secretary in his passage through these straits. 1840 J. W. BOWDEN *Gregory VII*, II. 43 We feel ourselves unable to save, by any steersmanship, the church, which seems almost foundering before our eyes.

†**Steersmate.** *Obs. rare.* [f. *steers-* in STEERSMAN + MATE *sb.*] A steersman.

a 1575 GASCOIGNE *Posies* (1907) 356 Aloofe, aloofe, then cried the Maister out, The Stearesmate strives to sende us from the shore. 1671 MILTON *Samson* 1045 What Pilot so expert but needs must wreck Embarq'd with such a Stearsmate at the Helm?

Steerswoman. *rare.* [Formed as STEERSMAN + WOMAN *sb.*] A woman who steers.

1815 W. H. IRELAND *Scribbleomania* 148 As females can manage their lords in this realm, I shall station, as steerswoman, famous Ma'am Helme. 1884 MAY CROMMELIN *Brown-Eyes* v. 55 None for her age was so quick and brave a steerswoman.

Steery, steerie, *sb.* and *a. Sc.* [f. *steer*, Sc. form of STIR *sb.* + -Y.]

A. *sb.* A commotion, disturbance, stir.

a 1776 *Herd's Sc. Songs* II. 217 But when the bedding came at e'en Wow, but the house was in a steery. 1816 SCOTT *Antiq.* ix, Indeed, brother, amang a' the steery, Maria ..set away to the Halket-craig-head.

B. *adj.* Busy, full of bustle and stir.

1866 J. SMITH *Merry Bridal* 190 See ye the toun, a' sae steery an' thrang?

Steeve (stīv), *sb.*[1] *Naut.* Also 8–9 **stive**, 9 **steve**. [f. STEEVE *v.*[1]] (See quot. 1852.)

1794 *Rigging & Seamanship* I. 31 The stive of the bowsprit. 1809 *Naval Chron.* XXI. 27 The bowsprit..has not so much stove [*read* steve] as is usual. 1846 A. YOUNG *Naut. Dict.* 320 The Steeve is the angle which it makes with the horizon. 1852 J. FINCHAM *Ship Building* IV. (ed. 3) 110 *Stive*, the angle upwards that any timber, &c. makes with the horizon, or its elevation above a horizontal line, as the stive of the cathead, bowsprit, &c. 1888 W. C. RUSSELL *Death Ship* I, xi. 124 Look hard, and you'll mark the steeve of her bowsprit. 1901 *Munsey's Mag.* XXIV. 461/1 A gradual diminution of the steve of the bowsprit.

Steeve (stīv), *sb.*[2] *U.S. Naut.* [? f. STEEVE *v.*[2] But cf. Sp. *esteba* of the same meaning.] A long derrick or spar, with a block at one end, used in stowing cargo. (*Cent. Dict.*)

1840 R. H. DANA *Bef. Mast* xxix, Two long, sharp spars, called steeves..were placed with their wedge ends into the inside of the hide.

Steeve (stīv), *a.* and *adv.* Now *Sc.* and *dial.* Forms: 4 **stef** (inflected and as adv. **steve**), 6, 9 **steve**, 6 **steif**, 7 **steave**, 8–9 **sti(e)ve**, 9 **steive**, 8– **steeve**. [ME. *stef* (inflected *steve*), of uncertain etymology; connexion with the synonymous STIFF *a.* is doubtful. Cf. Du. and LG. *stevig* of the same meaning; by some referred to the root of STAFF *sb.*[1]] a. *adj.* Firm, unyielding, strong, †rigid, stiff (as in death). b. *adv.* Firmly, unyieldingly.

c 1300 *Leg. Gregory* (Schulz) 574 Gregorij was feir of teyle, Strong and stef in eueri liþ. *a* 1320 *Sir Tristr.* 3079 Bifore was stef on stede Tristrem and ganhardine. *a* 1330 *Otuel* 447 Þei riden to-gedere wiþ speres kene, Þat were steue & nouȝt longe. *c* 1330 *Arth. & Merl.* 7116 He to grounde plat þere, Al so he stef & stan-ded were. 13.. *Guy Warw.* 438 Loue me doþ to grounde falle, Þat y ne may stond stef wiþ alle. *c* 1350 *Will. Palerne* 2894 Was non so stef him wiþ-stod so sternli he wrouȝt. *Ibid.* 3600 He dede þen his stef stede stert a god spede. *c* 1375 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* I. 286 Bodi of Crist þat was stable and stef in al his temptaciouns. 1382 — *Deut.* ix. 14 Y shal set thee vpon folk that is more and strenger [*v.r.* steuere; Vulg. *fortior*] than this. *Ibid.*, *Jer.* xxxi. 9 Y shal lede them bi stef stremes of watris [Vulg. *per torrentes aquarum*]. 1582 *Sat. Poems Reform.* xliv. 177 Vnder the schaddeu lat Louson fut it steue, Scurgar of Christ, quhilk is ane odius thing. 1594 A. HUME *Hymnes* ii. 113 The earth, quhilk of it selfe, is stable, firme, and steif. 1637 LD. WARISTON *Diary* (S.H.S.) 251 The roots of my haire..stood al steave. *a* 1774 R. FERGUSSON *Hallowfair* xiii. Wks. (1805) 141 It's gude, as lang's a canny chiel' Can staun steeve in his shoon. 1786 BURNS *To Auld Mare* iii, A filly buirdly, steeve an' swank. *a* 1801 H. MACNEILL *To C. L.* Poet. Wks. II. 46 Wi' crack—and joke—and steeve rum toddy. 1819 TENNANT *Papistry Storm'd* (1827) 119 Doth by this mou' o' mine defy The steevest o' your host. 1829 BROCKETT *N. C. Gloss.* (ed. 2), *Stive*, strong, muscular. 1870 J. NICHOLSON *Idylls* 114 We're a' grown steeve abstainers noo.

Hence †**Ste·fhede** [see -HEAD], firmness; †**Ste·fnes** [see -NESS], rigidity.

1340 *Ayenb.* 263 Bote yef þe ilke uaderes stefhede hise strayny and ordayny. *c* 1530 *Judic. Urines* II. xii. 41 Grete swellyng & betyng & stefnes at yᵉ breste.

Steeve (stīv), *v.*[1] *Naut.* Also 7 **steve**, 8 **steave**, **stive**, 9 **stave**. [Of obscure origin.

Usually explained as f. STEEVE *a.*, on the ground that a tilted bowsprit is 'steeve' or incapable of motion; but this seems unlikely. A connexion with OF. *estive* ploughtail (:—L. *stiva*) would not be improbable with regard to the sense.]

intr. Of a bowsprit, etc.: To incline upwards at an angle instead of lying horizontally. Also *trans.* to set (a bowsprit) at a certain upward inclination.

1644 MANWAYRING *Seamans Dict.* 102 To *Steve* or *Stevving*. Wee say the bold-sprit, or beake-head Steves, when it stands too upright, and not straight foreward enough. 1711 W. SUTHERLAND *Shipbuild. Assist.* 74 Cat-heads..To steave in every Foot..2 inches. *Ibid.* 164 Steaving; when a Part rises from a horizontal Position, as in the Cathead, Bowsprit, and Knee of the Head. 1794 *Act* 34 *Geo. III*, c. 50 § 7 The said Bowsprit to be steaved or elevated at least two Inches in every Foot from the straight Line of the Range of the Deck. 1794 *Rigging & Seamanship* I. 31 Set off what the bowsprit stives. 1839 MARRYAT *Phant. Ship* viii, The bowsprit staved very much, and was to appearance almost as a fourth mast. 1897 KIPLING *Capt. Cour.* iii, That yaller, dirty packet with her bowsprit steeved that way, she's the *Hope of Prague*.

transf. 1791 SMEATON *Edystone L.* § 34 The rock stives from E. to W. 10 feet 11 inches in 24 feet.

Hence **Stee·ving** *vbl. sb.* and *ppl. a.*

1664 E. BUSHNELL *Compl. Ship-wright* iii. 8 Then for the steeving of him, and rounding the Knee, a regard must be had to the lying of the Boltspreet. 1769 FALCONER *Dict. Marine* (1780), *Steeving*, the elevation of a ship's bowsprit above the stem, or the angle which it makes with the horizon. 1791 SMEATON *Edystone L.* § 6 The sloping (or stiving of the rocks as it is technically called). *c* 1850 *Rudim. Navig.* (Weale) 153 *Stiving*, the elevation of a ship's cat-head or bowsprit; or the angle which either makes with the horizon. 1893 F. M. CRAWFORD *Childr. King* I. 6 The martinganes flatten in their jibs along their high steeving bowsprits and jib-booms.

Steeve (stīv), *v.*[2] Chiefly *Naut.* Also 8 **steave**, *Sc.* **stieve**, 9 **steve**. [a. F. *estiver* or its source, Pr. *estibar*, Catal. *stibar*, Sp., Pg. *estivar*, corresp. to It. *stivare* to crowd, pack tightly :—L. *stīpāre*. Cf. the variant STIVE *v.*] *trans.* To compress and stow (wool, cotton or other cargo) in a ship's hold, etc.; also to pack tightly. Hence **Stee·ving** *vbl. sb.*

1482 *Grant* 30 Apr. in *Cal. Patent Rolls* (1901) 300 [An occupation called 'le pressing' or 'stenyng' (*read* steuyng = stevyng) of wools]. 1644 MANWAYRING *Seamans Dict.* 102 Also the Merchants call the stowing of their Cottons (which they force in with skrewes so much that the Decks will rise 6, or 8, inches) Steveing of Cottons. 1669 STURMY *Mariner's Mag., Penalties & Forfeit.* 5 [To] put, press, or steeve Wooll or Woollen Yarn into any Pipe, But, or Hogshead. 1709 M. BRUCE *Soul Confirm.* 20 (Jam.), I am even like a sojourner with his knapsack on his back... I stieved the knapsack well. 1711 W. SUTHERLAND *Shipbuild. Assist.* 89 As in Stowing (term'd *Steaving*) a Ship with Wool. 1840 R. H. DANA *Bef. Mast* xxix, Each morning we went ashore, and..brought off as many hides as we could steeve in the course of the day.

absol. 1840 R. H. DANA *Bef. Mast* xxix, All hands were called aboard to steeve.

Steeve (stīv), *v.*[3] *Sc.* In 6 **steve**, 9 **steave**. [f. STEEVE *a.*] *trans.* To make 'steeve' or firm; to strengthen, fix, secure.

1554 *Extracts Burgh Rec. Edin.* (1871) II. 206 The bigging of the Tolbuith and steving of the geistis of the over hous thairof. 1877 W. WATSON *Unco Bit Want* iii, (Jam. *Suppl.*) I steave up my temper-string gayly, An' whiles a bit verse I do chant.

Steevely (stī·vli), *adv.* Now only *Sc.* Forms: see STEEVE *a.* [f. STEEVE *a.* + -LY [2].] Firmly, unyieldingly.

1340 *Ayenb.* 258 [If] to moche bysy agrayþinge ne were zenne: oure lhorde ne speke naȝt zuo stefliche ine his spelle a-ye þe queade riche þet (etc.). ?*c* 1450 *Polit. Poems* (Rolls) II. 239 Usure and rapyne stefly dothe stande. 1647 in D. M'Naught *Kilmaurs* (1912) 151 [He was] stievly and sharplie rebukit. 1684 J. ERSKINE *Jrnl.* (S.H.S.) 29 Mr. Morison..owned the Covenant stievely before the Justice Court. 1790 A. WILSON *Poems & Lit. Prose* (1876) II. 90 I'm now stively on my feet. 1816 SCOTT *Bl. Dwarf* i, 'Your father believed it unco stievely, though,' said the old man. 1880 A. RALEIGH *Way to City* xxv. 315 Our firm-set creeds —stievely, staunchly built, like boats with oaken planks— sail the waters in vain. 1899 LUMSDEN *Edin. Poems* 317 And steevely thou thy posts did fill aye!

Steeven, variant of STEVEN.

‖ **Steever** (stī·vəɹ), *sb. Jewish.* Also **stever, shtibbur.** [Yiddish pronunciation of LG. *stiiver* = G. *stüber*, Du. *stuiver*.] = STIVER.

1892 ZANGWILL *Childr. Ghetto* xxii, A *Shtibbur* (penny) for a poor blind man! *Ibid.*, Fourteen *Shtibbur*'s a lot of *Gelt*! 1899 BINSTEAD *Houndsditch* 78 'Not a stever', returned the son; 'your money was not on last night'. 1905 — *Mop Fair* 91 While one is not winning a single steever.

Stef, obs. form of STEEVE *a.*

Stef(f)ne, Stefninge: see STEVEN, STEVENING.

Stefhede, Stefnes: see after STEEVE *a.*

Steg (steg). Now *dial.* Also 5 **stegg**(e, 6 **steyg**, 9 **stegg, stag, staig.** [a. ON. *steggi, stegg-r* masc., male bird (Norw. *stegg*, mod. Icel. *steggur*; in Icel. also tom-cat); prob. cogn. w. STAG *sb.*]

1. A gander; also, a clumsy or stupid person.

For later examples see *Eng. Dial. Dict.*

1483 *Cath. Angl.* 361/1 A Stegge, *anser*. 1570 *Richmond Wills* (Surtees) 229 Inventorie..vij geyse and steyges. 1691 RAY *N. C. Words* 69 A Steg; a Gander. 1790 ANN WHEELER *Westmorld. Dial.* ii. 53 Will yee preia sell me a Goos... A fearful fine Stegg yea hev for sure. *a* 1823 in *Mactaggart's Gallovid. Encycl.* 440 Ye come, led by your chosen king, Some champion steg wha heads your string. 1873 HARLAND & WILKINSON *Lanc. Leg.* v. 201 He who will have a full flock Must have an old stagge (gander) and a young cock.

2. *Comb.*: † **steggander** = sense 1; **steg-month**, = *gander-month* (GANDER *sb.* 4).

1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 53/25 A steggander, *anser*. 1828 CARR *Craven Gloss., Steg-month*, the month or period of a woman's confinement. 1857 DUNGLISON *Med. Lex.* s. v. *Parturient*, The period from parturition to perfect recovery, which is usually a month. In the north of England this is called the *steg-month*.

Steganography (stegăno·grăfi). *Obs.* exc. *Hist.* [ad. mod.L. *steganographia* (Trithemius 1500), a. assumed Gr. **στεγανογραφία*, f. *στεγανό-ς* covered + *γράφ-ειν* to write: see -GRAPHY. Cf. F. *stéganographie* (1567 in Hatz.-Darm.).] The art of secret writing; cryptography. Also, cryptographic script, cipher.

1569 J. SANFORD tr. *Agrippa's Van. Artes* 97 b, Steganographie a marueilous kinde of writinge but not commonlye knowne. 1591 WOTTON *Let. to Zouch* Rel. W. (1685) 647 Concerning the Steganography I can by none of those means that I advertis'd this last Week of, pass further than I have. 1593 R. HARVEY *Philadelphus* 56 The Histories were written in somestrange kind of polygraphy and steganography. 1602 [J. WILLIS] *Art Stenogr.* title-p., Wherevnto is annexed a very easie direction for Steganographie, or, Secret Writing. 1677 *Phil. Trans.* XII. 862 *Steganography*, (which word imports the Art of signifying ones mind to another by an occult or secret way of writing). 1780 tr. *Von Troil's Iceland* 299, I afterwards found the same kind of steganography mentioned in a little work ascribed to Rhabanus Maurus. 1823 'S. COLLET' *Relics Lit.* 112 Steganography.

So **Ste·ganogram,** a cryptogram; **Stegano·grapher, Stegano·graphist,** one expert in steganography, a cryptographer; **Steganogra·phical** *a.*, pertaining to steganography.

1562 LEIGH *Armory* 227 b, This Herehaught is no Steganographer. 1588 J. HARVEY *Disc. Probl.* 29 Whose mightie and wonderfull proceedings no Poligrapher can expresse, or Steganographer decipher. *Ibid.* 53 Facing it out with a certaine learned tincture, that should require as well a Steganographicall decipherer, as a logicall, or philosophicall interpreter. 1727 BAILEY vol. II, *Steganographist*, an Artist in private Writing. 1753 CHESTERF. in *World* No. 24 I. 213 One of them being already in possession (to speak in their own style) of a more brachygraphical, cryptographical and steganographical secret in writing their warrants. 1780 tr. *Von Troil's Iceland* 299 Another hand has patched in a steganographical writing. 1904 *Sat. Rev.* 23 July 114/2 Colonel Hime..has elucidated a steganogram contained in his [Roger Bacon's] 'Epistola de secretis operibus' which is decisive.

Steganopod (ste·găn*o*pɒd), *sb.* and *a. Ornith.* [ad. mod.L. *Steganopodes*, pl. (Illiger 1811), a. Gr. *στεγανοποδ-, -όπους* (Aristotle), web-footed, f. *στεγανό-ς* covered + *ποδ-, πούς* foot.] **a.** *sb.* A bird belonging to the group *Steganopodes*, which comprises the pelicans, cormorants, frigate-birds, gannets, tropic-birds, and snake birds (Newton *Dict. Ornith.* 904). **b.** *adj.* Of a bird: Belonging to the group *Steganopodes*.

Somewhat *rare*, the mod.L. form being usual for the sb. pl.

1842 BRANDE *Dict. Sci.* etc., *Steganopods*.

So **Stegano·podan, Stegano·podous** *adjs.*, belonging to the group *Steganopodes*.

1887 NEWTON in *Encycl. Brit.* XXII. 188/2 Eggs with the white chalky shell that is so characteristic of most Steganopodous birds.

Stegh: see STECH *v.*

Stegh, obs. f. STY, ladder; var. and pa. t. of STY *v.*

† **Stegno·tic,** *a.* and *sb. Med. Obs.* [ad. mod.L. *stegnŏticus*, ad. Gr. *στεγνωτικός*, f. *στεγνοῦν* to render costive, to stop bleeding, f. *στεγνός* watertight, costive, f. *στέγ-ειν* to cover.] **a.** *adj.* Of a medicine: Adapted to arrest diarrhœa, flow of blood, or other discharges; astringent, styptic. **b.** *sb.* A 'stegnotic' medicine.

1674 SALMON *Lond. Disp.* (1678) 47/1 Clematis, vinca pervinca...Periwinkle, is Segnotick [*sic*] and Vulnerary, stops the Bloody Flux. 1684 tr. *Bonet's Merc. Compit.* III. 78 Applying Lint dipt in a Stegnotick. 1710 *Brit. Apollo* III. No. 21. 2/2 We bid you consider all matter, either as Lyptyntic, Segnotic [*sic*], or Balsamic. Now..the Segnotic is Styptic...So that..Segnotics may be very proper in the Case. 1727 BAILEY vol. II, *Stegnotick*, binding, rendering costive.

Stego- (stego), used as combining form of Gr. root *στεγ-* of *στέγειν* to cover, *στέγη* covering, *στέγος* (neut.) roof, in certain modern scientific terms. **Stegoca·rpous** *a.* [Gr. *καρπός* fruit], epithet of certain mosses, forming the division *Stegocarpi*, characterized by having an operculate capsule. **Stegocephalian** (-sĭfæ·liăn) *a.* [Gr. *κεφαλή* head] = STEGOCEPHALOUS; *sb.* a member of the order *Stegocephala* of fossil Batrachians, characterized by having the skull protected by bony plates. **Stegocephalous** (-se·fălәs) *a.*, pertaining to, or having the characteristics of the order *Stegocephala*. **Stegocrotaphous** (-krɒ·tăfәs) *a.* [Gr. *κρόταφος*, side of the forehead, temple], having the side of the skull protected by bony plates. **Stegodon** (ste·godɒn) [Gr. *ὀδοντ-, ὀδούς* tooth], a fossil genus or subgenus of elephants, having 'ridged' teeth; an elephant of this genus. **Ste·godont** *a.*, belonging to or having the characteristics of the genus *Stegodon*. **Ste·gosaur,** ‖ **Stegosau·rus** [Gr. *σαῦρος* lizard], a genus of dinosaurs, characterized by the completeness of their armour; hence ‖ **Stegosau·ria** *pl.*, the order of which this genus is typical; **Stegosau·rian** *a.* and *sb.*

1884 K. E. GOEBEL in *Encycl. Brit.* XVII. 73/2 The *stegocarpous Mosses. 1891 *Amer. Naturalist* Dec. 1123 A *Stegocephalian Skull from the Kilkenny Coal Measures, 1900 *Nature* 12 July 254/2 The extinct labyrinthodonts or stegocephalians. 1895 *Information* 6 July 3/1 The *Stegocephalous Batrachians (primitive Salamanders) of the coal period. 1901 H. GADOW *Amphibia* etc. (Camb. Nat. Hist.) 78 The incipient Reptilia which have sprung from some members of this Stegocephalous stock. 1907 WILLISTON in *Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus.* XXXII. 488 The turtles have a *stegocrotaphous skull. 1857 H. FALCONER in *Q. Jrnl. Geol. Soc.* XIII. 314 To this group we have assigned the subgeneric name of **Stegodon*...The Stegodons constitute the intermediate group of the Proboscidea from which the other species diverge through their dental characters, on the one side into the Mastodons, and on the other into the typical Elephants. 1894 LYDEKKER *Roy. Nat. Hist.* II. 555 The so-called *stegodont elephants. 1901 *Westm. Gaz.* 1 Oct. 10/2 The *stegosaur was the most remarkable of the sauropods. 1877 O. C. MARSH in *Amer. Jrnl. Sci.* Ser. III. XIV. 513 A new order, which may be termed **Stegosauria*, from the typical genus here described. 1905 A. S. WOODWARD *Guide Fossil Rept.* etc. *Brit. Mus.* (ed. 8) 21 Another Wealden *Stegosaurian. 1912 *Return Brit. Mus.* 168 The Stegosaurian Dinosaurs. 1892 *Daily News* 28 Dec. 3/6 The *stegosaurus, a huge torpid reptile about 20 feet in length.

Stegoid (ste·goid), *a. Craniometry.* [f. Gr. *στέγ-* (see STEGO-) + -OID.] (See quot.)

1894 tr. *Sergi's Var. Hum. Species* 52 There are stegoid varieties also, that is, with a roof-like arch, not very high.

Steiar, Steick: see STAIR, STEEK *v.*[1]

Steid, Steier: see STEAD, STEED, STAIR.

* **Steif,** obs. form of STEEVE *a.*

‖ **Steifkin, stiebkin.** *Obs. rare*[−1]. [app. meant for G. *stäufchen*, LG. *stöpken*, dim. of G. *stauf*, LG. *stop*, can: see STOUP.] (See quot.)

1617 MORYSON *Itin.* I. 39 At Breme I paied halfe a Doller for dinner, supper and breakfast, and a stiebkin or measure of wine extraordinary. *Ibid.* 56 At Stode I paid..for a steifkin or measure of Rhenish wine, halfe a doller.

Steik(e: see STEEK, STICK.

Steil(l(e, obs. forms of STEAL, STEEL, STILE.

Steimming, variant of STAMIN *Obs.*

Steimy, variant of STYMIE.

‖ **Stein** (ʃtəin). [G. *stein*, lit. 'stone'.] 'An earthenware mug, esp. for beer, commonly holding about a pint; also the quantity of beer which a stein holds' (W.).

1901 W. CHURCHILL *Crisis* II. x. 206 They clattered their steins on the table and sang wonderful Jena songs. 1908 *Daily Chron.* 15 Feb. 4/6 Bismarck..loved to pour into a huge stein a bottle of champagne and then a bottle of porter. 1909 *Westm. Gaz.* 21 Aug. 13/2 Small earthenware steins with metal tops..not more than 4.80 marks in value.

Stein, rare obs. form of STEAN.

Steinbock (stəi·nbɒk). Also **steinboc,** (7 **steinbokt**). [a. G. *steinbock* wild goat, f. *stein* STONE *sb.* + *bock* BUCK *sb.*[1] Cf. STEENBOK.] A wild goat of the genus *Ibex*; the Alpine Ibex (*Capra Ibex*).

1683–4 ROBINSON in *Phil. Trans.* XXIX. 482 In passing the high Alps, I had a View of the Ibex or Steinbock. 1695 tr. *Misson's Voy. to Italy* I. 206 We dined..at Steertzingen, where they gave us..some Flesh of a certain Beast called Steinbokt. 1776 [see IBEX]. 1859 WOOD *Illustr. Nat. Hist.* I. 668 Of the genus Capra,..the Ibex or Steinbock is a familiar..example. 1881 *Encycl. Brit.* XII. 605/2 The European ibex or steinboc (*Capra ibex*) abounded during the Middle Ages among the higher mountain ranges of Germany, Switzerland, and the Ural.

Steinboc, -bok, -buck, var. ff. STEENBOK.

Steinch, obs. f. STANCH *v.*

1573–5 GASCOIGNE *Adv. Mr. F. J.* Wks. 1907 I. 391 Hir bleeding was throughly steinched.

† **Stei·nchek.** *Obs. rare*[−1]. [f. *stein* repr. northern form of STONE *sb.* + CHECK *sb.*[4] Cf. STONE-CHACKER, STONECHAT.] A name for the Wheatear or the Stonechat.

1544 TURNER *Avium Præcip.* (1903) 52 De Cœrvleone... Anglicè, a clotburd, a smatche, an arlyng, a steinchek.

Steine, obs. form of STAIN.

Steinerian (stəinī·riăn), *a.* and *sb. Math.* [f. *Steiner* (see below) + -IAN.] **a.** *adj.* Pertaining to the discoveries of Jakob Steiner, a German Swiss geometer. *Steinerian polygon*, a figure composed of a number of vertices with connecting lines. **b.** *sb.* The locus of points whose first polars with respect to a given curve have double points.

1873 SALMON *Higher Plane Curves* (1879) 57 This locus we shall call after the geometer Steiner, the Steinerian of *U*. *Ibid.* 363 To any point *P*, then, on the Steinerian corresponds a point *Q* on the Hessian.

Steing, obs. variant of STING *sb.*

Steingall: see STANIEL etymol. note.

Steining, variant of STEENING.

Steinkirk: see STEENKIRK.

Steinmannite (stəi·nmænəit). *Min.* [Named (*steinmannit*) by Zippe 1833 after Prof. J. J. *Steinmann*: see -ITE.] A variety of galenite, containing arsenic and antimony.

1849 J. NICOL *Man. Min.* 483 Steinmannite..occurs at Przibram in Bohemia. 1850 ANSTED *Elem. Geol., Min.* etc. 214.

Steinzie, obs. Sc. form of STAIN.

Steip, obs. Sc. form of STEEP *a.*

Steipell, -il(l, etc., obs. forms of STEEPLE.

Steir(e, obs. Sc. forms of STEER, STIR *vbs.*

Steirne, obs. form of STERN.

Steiryr, ? obs. Sc. form of STIRRER.

Stek(e, variant forms of STICK *sb.*[3]

Steke, obs. f. STICK *sb.*[2]; variant of STEEK *v.*[1]

Stekelyng, Stel, obs. ff. STICKLING, STALL *sb.*[1]

‖ **Stela** (stī·lă). Pl. **stelæ** (stī·lī), *rarely* **stelas**. [L. *stēla*, ad. Gr. *στήλη*: see STELE.] = STELE 1.

1776 R. CHANDLER *Trav. Greece* viii. 35 In the courts of the houses lie many round stelæ, or pillars, once placed on the graves of the Athenians. 1837 WILKINSON *Mann. & Cust. Anc. Egypt.* ii. (1841) I. 101 He erected a stela, with an inscription in the sacred character, to commemorate his successes. 1876 S. MANNING *Land of Pharaohs* 203 The upright blocks or stelas are among the most curious parts of the present ruin. 1893 BUDGE *Mummy* 30 Thothmes I. set up two stelæ near the Euphrates.

Stelar (stī·lāı). *a. Bot.* [f. mod. L. *stēla* STELE 2 + -AR.] Pertaining to a stele or steles.

1901 *Ann. Bot.* XV. 404 Stelar structure.

Stele (stīl, ‖ stī·lē). *Antiq.* [As a disyllable, repr. Gr. *στήλη* standing block or slab, f. Indo-germanic root **stā-* to stand. As a monosyllable, anglicized form of the Gr. word; cf. F. *stèle*.

It is not always possible to decide which of the two pronunciations was intended by a writer using the word. The form *stele* is generally preferred for the singular, and *stelæ* (which belongs formally to *stela*) in the plural.]

1. An upright slab bearing sculptured designs or inscriptions. Sometimes loosely applied to any prepared surface on the face of a building, a rock, etc., covered with an inscription.

1820 T. S. HUGHES *Trav. Sicily* I. x. 303 A superior class of members..had their names inscribed upon a marble stélé or column. 1825 FOSBROKE *Encycl. Antiq.* 70 It appears, that when any one of the family died, a stelè to his memory was added to the tomb. 1833 SIR H. ELLIS *Elgin Marbles* (1846) II. 169 A large sepulchral stele. 1847 LEITCH tr. *C. O. Müller's Anc. Art* § 224. 193 In Egypt they [obelisks] belonged to the class of steles (commemorative pillars). 1873 *Contemp. Rev.* XXI. 568 With inscriptions either on steles or columns, or on tablets. 1877 MISS A. B. EDWARDS *Up Nile* vi. 143 Two large hieroglyphed steles incised upon the face of a projecting mass of boldly rounded cliff. 1882 CHEYNE *Isaiah* xvi. 12 *note*, The Stele of Mesha..was found in a depression between the two hillocks. 1884 A. LANG *Custom & Myth* 285 The Australian stele, or grave-pillar.

b. *Arch.* (See quot.)

a 1840 HOSKING *Archit.* in *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 7) III. 470 *Stele.* The ornaments on the ridge of a Greek temple, answering to the antefixæ on the summit of the flank entablatures, are thus designated.

2. *Bot.* The axial cylinder in the stems and roots of vascular plants, developed from the plerome.

1895 (see TETRARCH *sb.*[2]). 1898 H. C. PORTER tr. *Strasburger* etc. *Text-bk. Bot.* 109 The so-called central cylinder, for which Van Tieghem has proposed the name stele (column).

Stele, obs. f. STEAL *v.*, STEEL, STILE.

† **Ste·lechite.** *Obs.* [ad. Gr. *στελεχίτης* (sense 1), f. *στέλεχος* crown of a root, trunk: see -ITE.]

1. One of the kinds of storax enumerated by Dioscorides. In recent Dicts.

2. Used (after Aldrovandus) for ENTROCHITE.

1681 GREW *Musæum* III. § i. ii. 270 The Stelentrochite. By some, called Stelechites. 1695 WOODWARD *Nat. Hist. Earth* IV. 181 The Selenites, Belemnites, Stelechites.

† **Stele·ntrochite.** *Obs.* [? f. Gr. *στήλη* (see STELE) or *στέλ(εχος)* + ENTROCHITE.] = prec.

1681 [see STELECHITE 2].

† **Steletic**, app. a blunder for next.

1653 GAUDEN *Hierasp.* 385 By spiritlesse Prefacings, to lead on their ruder steleticks and declaimings against the Order..of the Church of England.

Steliteutic (stelitiū·tik). *rare.* [ad. Gr. *στηλῑτευτικός* (*sc.* λόγος), f. *στηλῑτεύειν* to post or placard publicly, f. *στηλίτης* one who is placarded as an offender, f. *στήλη*: see STELE.] An invective discourse. (Only as the title of certain orations of St. Gregory Nazianzen.)

1751 LAVINGTON *Enthus. Meth. & Papists* III. (1754) 235 As Gregory Nazianzen hath it in his First Steliteutic. 1824 WATT *Bibl. Brit.* II. 835 Savile, Sir Henry..Nazianzen's Steliteutics. 1610.

Stell (stel), *sb.*[1] *Sc.* and *north.* Also 2 **stelle**, 4, 7 **stel-**, 6–7 **steill, staill**, 8 **stale**, 7–9 **still.** [app. repr. OE. (Northumb.) *stællo* catching of fish, prob. from the root of *steall* place (STALL *sb.*[1]), *stellan* to place.] A place in a river provided with arrangements for spreading salmon-nets. In Cumberland, 'a barrier placed across a river' (*Eng. Dial. Dict.*).

1099–1128 *Charter* in *Feodarium Prior. Dunelm.* (Surtees) 98 *note*, And haliware stelle ic habbe getyðed Sċe cuhtberht his agen into his cyrce. 1467 *Dunfermline Reg.* (Bannatyne Club) 358 Inquisicion..langand þe merchis..betwix þe fischingis of þe ald stell pertening to þe Abbot..and [etc.]. 1574 *Rec. Monast. Kinloss* (1872) 158 The remanent fischeingis of the yardis and *stellis* upoun the watter of Findorne. 1583 *Reg. Mag. Sig. Scot.* 186/1 Salmonum piscaries de lie staillis et Yairis super aquam de Fyndhorne. 1595 *Ibid.* 77/2 Fretum de Kessok et piscariam ejusdem vocatam the Steill. 1707 FOUNTAINHALL *Decis.* (1759) II. 363 The said stells..are deep ponds, pools and ditches in the river, where the salmon haunting are taken in nets spread beneath them. 1783 *Ann. Reg., Chron.* 215 An action was brought against the corporation of Carlisle, for having a stell across the river Eden. 1794 W. HUTCHINSON *Hist. Cumberld.* II. 522 The river produces..excellent salmon (which are taken in draw-nets since the destruction of the stell at King-garth). 1874 A. HISLOP *Scot. Anecd.* 542 A still means space in which to extend a net, and sweep round with a view to enclose fish.

b. Comb., as *stell* (*salmon*) *fishery, fishing*; **stell-net** [cf. WFlem. *stelnet* and STEIL *v.*], (see quot. 1870); † **stell yair**, a 'yair' or fish-dock built at the issue of a 'stell'.

1792 *Statist. Acc. Scot.* III. 4 There is belonging to the public good of Dingwall, a *stell salmon fishery on Conan. 1798 *Surv. Moray* 188 Mr. Brodie of Brodie has a still-fishery on the east side of the river. 1707 FOUNTAINHALL *Decis.* (1759) II. 363 Five *stell salmond fishings in the river of Findhorn. 1794 *Statist. Acc. Scot.* XII. 270 The herrings are the only fish caught in this coast, except a few salmon caught at Stale fishing. 1806 MORISON *Decis.* XXXIII. 14258 The stell fishing in the ferry of Kessoch..is properly a sea fishing. *c* 1303 *Reg. Pal. Dunelm.* (Rolls) III. 70 Quatuor *stelnettes, duo rednettes. 1564 in *Reg. Mag. Sig. Scot.* 1584, 213/1 Cum piscationibus salmonum lie stell nettis, in dominio de Lorne. 1602 *Ibid.* 484/2 Piscationes salmonum vocatas lie Steill-nett of the Priore-schottis on the water mouth of Aw..cum piscatione vocata Staill-nett de Keanlochtive. 1792 *Statist. Acc. Scot.* IV. 557 A still net has been tried on the lake with some success. 1845 *New Statist. Acc. Scot.* XIV. II. 206 Salmon Fishery.., The fish are chiefly caught with the stell-net. 1870 *Law Rep., Comm. Pl.* V. 695 A stell net, that is, a net fastened to stakes across the whole bed of the river. 1900 *Law Rep., App. Cases* 406 It is denied that toot and haul nets, or stell nets, or either of them, are fixed engines. 1600 *Reg. Mag. Sig. Scot.* 341/1 Terras de Culmoir, cum lie *stel-yair, halecum et salmonum piscationibus [etc.].

† **Stell,** *sb.*[2] *Obs.* [? a. Du. *stel.*] A stand for a barrel.

a 1658 CLEVELAND *Sing-song* xiv. Poems (1659) 157 Her brests..Like swelling Buts of lively Wine Upon their ivory stells did shine. 1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss., Stell*, a stand or stall for beer barrels. 1881 *Leicester Gloss., Stell*, a stand or frame to support barrels.

Stell (stel), *sb.*[3] *dial.* [Of obscure origin: perh. a use of OE. *stell* (*stiell, styll*) a leap, related to *stellan* to leap, jump.] An open ditch or brook.

1651 in *N. Riding Rec.* V. 76 The inhabitants of Pottoe..[are presented] for not scouring their proportion of Traineham Stell. *c* 1783 *Roxb. Ballads* (1890) VII. 94 When fully intending to lead the whole field, A damn'd Stell held 'em both 'till the Fox he was kill'd. 1825 BROCKETT *N. C. Gloss.*, *Stell*, a large open drain in a marsh. 1825 *Sporting Mag.* XVI. 14 *note*, A stell is the Durham name for a brook whose banks are not firm. 1827 *Ibid.* XXI. 33 We shall never get over that stell. 1878 SUSAN PHILLIPS *On Seaboard* 164 Where Tees sweeps into the Northern main, And the glittering 'stells,' and the link's long range. 1885 *Manch. City News* 31 Jan. 2/4, I came upon a lane with a tiny brook crossing it, which in Yorkshire is called a stell. 1886 W. H. BURNETT *Old Cleveland* 126 This stable was built on an open stell, which rose and fell with the tide.

Stell (stel), *sb.*[4] *Sc.* [Presumably related to STELL *v.*] An enclosure for giving shelter to sheep or cattle, usually circular, smaller than a 'fold' and with higher walls. Also a ring of trees serving as a shelter for sheep or cattle.

1766 *State of Proc., Dk. Roxburghe* v. *Pringle* 10 At replacing the Cauld, the Workers did take Stones from a Stell the Deponent had built. 1829 BROCKETT *N. C. Gloss.* (ed. 2), *Stell*, a fold or small enclosure for cattle. 1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* II. 58 A stell may be formed of planting or high stone-wall. Either will afford shelter. 1886 C. SCOTT *Sheep Farming* 126 'Stells' were erected at various parts of the hills for sheltering the sheep.

‖ **Stell** (stel), *sb.*[5] *South African.* [Du. *stel.*] A trap for wild animals.

1852 BARTER *Dorp & Veld* viii. 116 As soon as he [the wolf] has seized the bait.., he tightens the string, releases the trigger, and if the *stel* is properly set, receives the bullet in his head. 1863 W. C. BALDWIN *Afr. Hunting* ix. 377 The lions had killed two zebras..and I set a stell (a spring gun) for them by the remains of one of the zebras. *Ibid.* 381 The Masaras set these spears (stells) for rhinoceros and other game. 1895 J. G. MILLAIS *Breath fr. Veldt* (1899) 264 A 'still'..is formed by two rifles fixed to trees or posts.

† **Stell,** *sb.*[6] *Obs. rare*[−1]. In 7 *pl.* **stels.** [Cf. STELL *v.* 3.] ? An outline.

1657 LIGON *Barbadoes* 82 So as the outmost stels, or profile of the figure, may be perfectly discerned.

[**Stell,** *sb.*[7], a spurious word in Nares and subsequent Dicts., explained as 'place, station', is due to a misprint for *castell* (= castle) in Danett tr. *Comines* (ed. 1, 1596), corrected in later edd.]

Stell (stel), *v.* Forms: 1 **stellan** (3 sing. pres. **stelep**, pa. t. **-stelidæ, -stealde, -stalde**), 3 **stellen** (pa. t. **stalde, stolde**, pa. pple. **isteald**), 5 **stell.** [OE. *stellan, stiellan, styllan* (also in combs. *á-stellan* ASTELL *v.*, *on-stellan* ONSTELL *v.*) = OS. *stellian*, (M)Du. *stellen*, OHG., MHG., mod. G. *stellen*:—WGer. **stalljan*, f. OTeut. **stallo-* place, STALL *sb.*]

† 1. *trans.* To set (an example); to establish (a law). *Obs.*

c 893 ÆLFRED *Orosius* II. ii. § 1 Hwelce bisena he ðær stellende wæs. *c* 897 — *Gregory's Past. C.* xxviii. 191 Donne he oðrum yfele bisene stelep. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 6 Þe vttre riwle ..nis for nohing elles istald bute forte seruie ċe inre. *Ibid.* 8 Þeos..ne beoð nout monnes fundles, ne riwle þet mon stolde. *c* 1230 *Hali Meid.* 19 Wedlac ham ikepte þat ilke lahe þat godd haueð istald for þe unstronge. *c* 1275 *Serving Christ* 60 in *O.E. Misc.* 92 He wolde þe lawe leoflyche holde As god..i þis world stolde.

2. *Sc.* To fix, post, place; chiefly, to station (oneself, troops), to place (cannon) in position.

c 1470 HENRY *Wallace* IV. 430 In a dern woode thai stellit thaim full law. *Ibid.* VII. 868 Heich in Cragmor he maid it [a decapitated head] for to stand, Steild on a stayne for honour of Ireland. 1559 *Aberdeen Reg.* (1844) I. 327 To desist and ceiss fra forther stelling and stenting of their netts athort the water. 1573 BIRREL *Diary* (1798) 20 The Englisch cannone..began to shoute at ye castell of Edinburghe, being steillit at foure several places, viz. 5 at Egers hous [etc.]. *a* 1578 LINDESAY (Pitscottie) *Chron. Scot.* (S.T.S.) II. 251 Thai..had with thame twa small cairted peices and stylled thame vpone the craigheid abone leith wynd. 1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* II. 298 The Inglismen..raiset thair camp, to stel cannounes, and thair feilu peices, at the hil of the place namet Pinkincleuch. 17.. *Lads of Wamphray* vii. in Child *Ballads* III. 459 Twixt the Staywood Buss and Langside Hill, They stelld the broked cow and branded bull. 1819 SCOTT *Leg. Montrose* x, Yonder round hillock..whereon an enemy might stell such a battery of cannon as would make ye glad to beat a chamade within forty-eight hours. 1901 G. DOUGLAS *Ho. Green Shutters* 7 On the slope the horses were..forced to stell themselves back against the heavy propulsion of the carts behind.

b. To fix (one's eyes). Also *pass.* and *intr.* of the eyes: To have a fixed stare, to set rigidly.

c 1817 HOGG *Tales & Sk.* IV. 57 John's eyes stelled in his head. 1888 A. WARDROP *Poems & Sk.* 201 Dinna stell yer een sae, but jest sit doon there. 1890 *Blackw. Mag.* Sept. 325 He tell't us aboot the deid man wi the glowerin' e'en—they were stell't in his heed.

3. To portray, delineate. *Obs.* exc. *arch.*

1598 HAYDOCKE tr. *Lomazzo* I. 16 Before you begin to Stell, delineat and tricke out the proportion of a man [It. *prima che delinei, e disegni un' huomo*], you ought to know his true quantity and stature. *c* 1600 SHAKS. *Sonn.* xxiv, Mine eye hath play'd the painter and hath steeld [*sic*; *rimé* held] Thy beauties forme in table of my heart. 1657 R. LIGON *Barbadoes* Ded., Rough drawn, and unproportionably stell'd, though it be, I here present it. 1880 BRIDGES *Portr. Grandfather* Poems (1912) 390 If truly A painter had stell'd thee there, with thy lips ready to speak.

Stell, obs. f. STEAL, STEEL, STILL.

‖ **Stella** (ste·lă). Pl. **stellæ.** [L., *lit.* star.]

1. a. *Zool.* A star-shaped projection on the surface of a coralline; also, a star-shaped sponge-spicule.

1828 STARK *Elem. Nat. Hist.* II. 431 Surface rough with elevated pyramidal stellæ; stars conical, with a solid central axis.

b. *Crystallogr.* A stellate crystal.

1844 G. BIRD *Urin. Deposits* (1857) 238 The octohedra of oxalate may be readily detected mixed with the prisms or stellæ of the former [*sc.* phosphate of magnesia and ammonia].

† **Stella·ceous,** *a. Obs.* [f. mod.L. **stellāce-us* (f. *stella* star): see -ACEOUS.] Star-shaped.

1657 TOMLINSON *Renou's Disp.* 247 Coronated with Flowers ..but longer, white and stellaceous.

Stellar (ste·lāı), *a.* [ad. late L. *stellāris*, f. L. *stella* star: see -AR. Cf. F. *stellaire*, It. *stellare*, Sp. *estrellar.*]

1. Pertaining to the stars or a star; of the nature of a star.

1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr., Stellar*..starry, pertaining to a star. *Bac.* 1667 MILTON *P. L.* IV. 671 These soft fires..shed down Thir stellar vertue on all kinds that grow On Earth. 1669 FLAMSTEED in *Phil. Trans.* IV. 1109 At the middle of this Stellar Eclipse the Moons Center is but 20 sec. more to the South than the Star. *c* 1786 BURNS *To Miss Cruickshank* 7 Never baleful stellar lights, Taint thee with untimely blights! 1833 SIR J. HERSCHEL *Treat. Astron.* (1839) 404 They present the appearance of a dull and blotted star, or of a star with a slight burr round it, in which case they are called stellar nebulæ. 1840 CARLYLE *Heroes* iii. (1841) 165 Not a leaf rotting on the highway but is indissoluble portion of solar and stellar systems. 1858 SEARS *Athan.* 7 Localities somewhere among the planetary and stellar spaces. 1868 ROSCOE *Elem. Chem.* 10 Within the last few years the foundations of a solar and stellar chemistry have, however, been laid. 1869 M. PATTISON *Serm.* (1885) 179 The stellar worlds, this earth included. 1875 WHITNEY *Life Lang.* vi. 99 A mishap due to a baleful stellar aspect. 1888 *Times* (weekly ed.) 14 Sept. 3/2 This stellar origin of totemism goes far to account for the widespread character of the institution.

2. Star-shaped, stellate. Chiefly of crystals; also *Arch.* in *stellar vault* (see quot. 1835), *stellar groining.*

1670 *Phil. Trans.* V. 1199 The Stellar Fish described in Numb. 57. 1835 R. WILLIS *Archit. Mid. Ages* vii. 85, I would call this class of decorated vaults Stellar vaults, from the regular stellate form they assume on the plan. 1841 *Civil Engin. & Arch. Jrnl.* IV. 286/1 The vaulting immediately preceding fan groining,..designated as stellar groining. 1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* II. 383 It may be advisable to make a clump of planting of a stellar form. 1845 G. E. DAY tr. *Simon's Anim. Chem.* (1846) I. 55 Urate of soda..occasionally constitutes a very peculiar stellar form of deposit in the urine. 1851 E. SHARPE *Seven Periods Archit.* 36 The plans of these vaultings are very various; some are called Fan-tracery vaults, and others Stellar vaults, terms which explain themselves. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* IV. 299 Occasionally stellar phosphate—that is dicalcic phosphate—is thrown down when the acidity of the urine is diminished.

‖ **Stellaria** (stelē·riă). *Bot.* [mod.L. *stellāria* (1517 in Diefenbach; the present application is due to Linnæus 1753), f. L. *stella* star: see -ARY.] A genus of caryophyllaceous plants, of which several species (known as 'chickweed', 'stitchwort', 'starwort', etc.) are common in Great Britain and the U.S.; also, a plant of this genus.

1785 MARTYN *Lett. Bot.* xix. (1794) 273 Arenaria and Stellaria have a capsule of one cell. 1866 *Med. Jrnl.* XV. 264 Common chickweed...This species of stellaria is a notable instance of what is called the sleep of plants. 1863 *Life in South* II. 229 Flights of pigeons were whirling over head, violets and stellarias were sprouting beneath the feet, and such was the January of Savannah.

† **Ste·llary,** *a. Obs.* [irreg. ad. late L. *stellāris*: see prec. and -ARY.] = STELLAR *a.*

1623 COCKERAM I, *Stellary*, starrie. 1658 SIR T. BROWNE *Gard. Cyrus* iii. 46 Could we have any light, why the stellary part of the first masse, separated into this order, that the Girdle of Orion should ever maintain its line. 1731–9 TULL *Horse-hoeing Husb.* (1822) 76 Astronomers take notice of those parts of plants alone which exist within that element where they are accustomed to make their stellary observations. 1763 STUKELEY *Paleogr. Sacr.* 43 An infinite infinity of such groups of stellary orbs. 1790 in *Ann. Reg. 1817, Chron.* 390 Should you shine throughout the intellectual and stellary universe.

† **Ste·llascope.** *Obs.* (? *nonce-wd.*) [f. L. *stella* star + -SCOPE. (? An intentional perversion of *telescope.*)] An astronomical telescope.

1661 MORGAN *Sph. Gentry* I. 44 Thcugh the stellascope doth discover a seeming hole, or spot in the body of the planet Mars.

Stellate (ste·lĕt), *a.* and *sb.* [ad. L. *stellātus*, f. *stella* star : see -ATE 2.] **A.** *adj.*

1. Of the sky : Studded with stars. *poet.*

c 1500 KENNEDY *Poems* (Schipper) iv. 27 Þe hevyne stellat, planetis, montanis and fellis, War fair perchiament, and all as Virgillis dyte.

† **2.** Pertaining to or proceeding from the stars.

1658 FRANCK *North. Mem.* Ded. Virtuosos (1694) p. xi, There you may see the Operation of Elements and stellate Influences.

3. Star-shaped; arranged or grouped in the form of a conventional star or stars ; (chiefly in scientific use) radiating from a centre like the rays of a star.

1661 LOVELL *Hist. Anim. & Min.* 228 The Stellate Raie is lesse hard..than the Smooth. 1661 BOYLE *Cert. Physiol. Ess.* (1669) 56 Several Stellate Regulusses of both Antimony and Mars. 1704 J. HARRIS *Lex. Techn.* I, *Stellate Plants*, are by the Botanists called such Plants as have their Leaves growing on the Stalks at certain Intervals or Distances, in the form of a Radiant Star. 1752 tr. *Heister's Surg.* (1768) II. 363 *marg.*, The Stellate Bandage. 1755 *Phil. Trans.* XLIX. 17 The uniform stellate form of snow is very remarkable. 1832 LINDLEY *Introd. Bot.* I. ii. 40 In many plants the hairs grow in clusters,..and are occasionally united at their base : such are called stellate. 1857 MILLER *Elem. Chem., Org.* 272 The Sulphate..crystallizes in stellate groups of silky needles. 1872 H. A. NICHOLSON *Palæont.* 111 In their form the Star-fishes differ considerably, though in most the figure is markedly stellate. 1876 DUNGLISON *Med. Lex., Stellate Ligament*, a name given to the anterior costo-vertebral ligament, from its shape. 1880 SOLLAS in *Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist.* Ser. v. V. 257 The stellate spicules..are produced within the interior of cells. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VI. 300 The patches, examined microscopically, are found to consist of embryonic round cells, spindle and stellate cells arranged in layers.

b. *Comb.*

1870 HOOKER *Stud. Flora* 32 Draba muralis, suberect or prostrate, stellate-hispid. 1884 BOWER & SCOTT *De Bary's Phaner.* 130 Stellate-branched fibres occur in the foliage-leaf of Sciadopitys.

B. *sb.* A stellate sponge-spicule.

1880 SOLLAS in *Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist.* Ser. v. V. 132 *Stelletta*...The skeleton consists of long-shafted spicules, minute hair-like spicules, and stellates. 1887 — in *Encycl. Brit.* XXII. 417/2 (*Sponge*) By reduction of the spire the spiraster passes into the stellate or aster.

Hence **Ste·llately** *adv.*

1847 W. E. STEELE *Field Bot.* 106 Leaves plane, lanceolate, stellately hairy. 1848 DANA *Zooph.* 283 Surface lamello-striate, and usually stellately so, stars not circumscribed. 1884 BOWER & SCOTT *De Bary's Phaner.* 58 One may, for instance, call the flat horizontal appendages of the Elæagneæ, ..stellately branched, multicellular hairs.

Stellate (ste·lĕt), *v.* [f. L. *stellāt-*, ppl. stem of *stellāre* f. *stella* star.] *trans.* To make stellate or star-shaped.

1859 CAYLEY *Math. Papers* (1891) IV. 82 Each face is formed by stellating a face of the great dodecahedron.

Stellated (ste·lĕtėd), *a.* [f. STELLATE *a.* + -ED 1.]

1. = STELLATE *a.* 3.

1661 BOYLE *Cert. Physiol. Ess.* (1669) 57 My own Laboratory has afforded me divers such parcels of Regulus without Mars (some of which I have yet by me very fairly stellated). *c* 1711 PETIVER *Gazophyl.* IX. XC, Its yellow stellated Flowers adhere to the middle rib of a jagged Membrane. 1785 MARTYN *Lett. Bot.* XV. (1794) 163 This class comprises another natural order of plants, entitled Stellated, from the manner in which the leaves grow upon the stem. 1788 BLAGDEN in *Phil. Trans.* LXXVIII. 281 When these stellated crystals once began to form. 1804 SHAW *Gen. Zool.* V. 378 Stellated Sturgeon..head subtetragonal and roughened with stellated marks and tubercles. 1821 W. P. C. BARTON *Flora N. Amer.* I. 87 Stem and branches..densely beset with stellated hairs. 1859 CAYLEY *Math. Papers* (1891) IV. 81 The great stellated dodecahedron. 1892 CROOKES *Wagner's Man. Chem. Technol.* 203 That stellated crystalline surface which is preferred in trade.

2. Studded with stars.

1755 B. MARTIN *Mag. Arts & Sci.* 88 The Stellated Planetarium : shewing the Inferior Planets. 1824 J. JOHNSON *Typogr.* I. 490 The back-ground is black, thickly stellated.

Hence **Stella·tedly** *adv.*

1833 HOOKER in *Smith's Eng. Flora* V. I. 119 Stem..stellatedly branched.

Stellation (stelā·ʃən). [Noun of action f. L. *stellāre* to diversify with stars, to place among the stars, etc., f. *stella* star : see -ATION.]

† **1.** Blighting or blasting of trees (attributed to starry influence) : = SIDERATION 1. *Obs.*—0

1623 [see SIDERATION 1]. 1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.*, *Stellation*, a blasting.

† **2.** ? = CONSTELLATION. *Obs. rare*—1.

a 1629 T. ADAMS *Serm.* Wks. 158 Some haue thought that these Magi, hauing so profound skill in Astrologie, might by calculation of times, composition of Starres, and Stellations of the Heauens, foreknow the birth of the Messias.

† **3.** Placing among the stars ; stellification. *Obs.*

1635 HEYWOOD *Hierarchy* III. 138 The cause of it's [*sc.* the Scorpion's] stellation to enquire,..Comes next in course.

† **4.** (See quot. 1661.) *Obs.*—0

1661 BLOUNT *Glossogr.* (ed. 2), *Stellation*, a making star-like, or adorning with stars. 1721 BAILEY, *Stellation*, an Adorning with Stars.

† **5.** (See quot.) *Obs.*—0

1755 JOHNSON *Stellation*, emission of light as from a star.

6. Each of the 'stars' composing a stellate tissue.

1859 TOMES *Dental Surg.* 44 Below the epithelium comes a thick layer of stellate areolar tissue,..Nuclei are present in the centres of the stellations.

7. The making or being stellate.

1859 CAYLEY *Math. Papers* (1891) IV. 83 On account of the stellation $\epsilon = 2$.

Stellato- (stelā·tŏ). *Biol.* Used as combining form of STELLATE *a.*

1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1094/1 *Stellato-pilose*, having hairs formed in a stellate manner. 1871 W. A. LEIGHTON *Lichen-flora* 3 Thallus stellato-orbicular. *Ibid.* 5 Thallus minute, stellato-divided. *Ibid.* 10 Perithecia several, stellato-congregate. *Ibid.* 32 Stellato-laciniate.

Stellatour, obs. Sc. var. STILLATORY.

† **Ste·llature.** *Roman Law. Obs.* [ad. late L. *stellātūra*, of uncertain origin.] Some kind of fraud practised by tribunes in the supply of provisions to soldiers.

1608 TOPSELL *Serpents* 277 When the Tribunes did withdraw from the Souldiours their prouision of victuall and Corne, it is said, *Tribunos qui per Stellaturas Militibus aliquid abstulissent, capitali pœna affecit.* And therefore Budæus relateth a history of two Tribunes, who for this stellature were worthilie stoned to death. *a* 1629 T. ADAMS *Serm.* Wks. 896 Extortion and Cousenage is prouerbially called, *Crimen Stellionatus*, the sinne of Stellature.

Stelle, obs. f. STEAL *v.*, STEEL, STILL.

† **Ste·lled,** *a. Obs. rare.* [f. L. *stella* star + -ED 1 : cf. STELLATE *a.*] **a.** ? Formed into stars ; stellar. **b.** Studded with stars, starred.

1605 SHAKS. *Lear* III. vii. 61 The Sea..Would haue buoy'd vp, And quench'd the Stelled fires. 1628 FELTHAM *Resolves* I. viii. 18 Open Rebukes are for Magistrates, and Courts of Iustice : for Stelled Chambers, and for Scarlets, in the thronged Hall. 1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.*, *Stelled*, full of, or garnished with stars.

† **Stelleer(e.** *Obs. rare.* [Of obscure origin. (Cotgr. is prob. the only real authority for the word).] A steelyard.

1611 COTGR., *Crochet*,..also, a Roman beame, a Stelleere. *Ibid.*, *Romaine*, a Roman beame, a Stelleere. 1678 J. PHILLIPS tr. *Tavernier's Trav.* II. 9 Acc. Money of Asia, The Chineses..carry their weights always along with them, being like a Roman Beam, or a Stelleer [orig. *une petite romaine*], about eight Inches long, with which they weigh all the Gold and Silver which they receive. 1727 BAILEY vol. II, *Stelleer.*

Stellenbosch (ste·lənbǭʃ), *v. Milit. slang.* [f. *Stellenbosch*, a town and a division of Cape Colony.] (See quot. 1913.)

1900 KIPLING in *Daily Express* 16 June 4/6 'After all', said one cheerily..'what does it matter, old man? You're bound to be Stellenbosched in three days'. 1900 *Daily Tel.* 2 Oct. 6/1, I heard..that he had been 'Stellenbosched'...I must inform the uninitiated that Stellenbosch..was formerly the place selected for command by officers who had failed in Kaffir wars ; and to be 'Stellenbosched' is the equivalent of being superseded without formal disgrace. 1900 *Ibid.* 20 Oct. 7/1 It is a gross injustice to Stellenbosch any doctor because some nurse does not get her own way, and has influence in high quarters. 1913 PETTMAN *Africanderisms* 475 *Stellenboshed* [sic], *To be*, to be relegated, as the result of incompetence, to a position in which little harm can be done.

Stellerid (ste·lĕrid). *Zool.* [ad. F. *stelléride* (Lamarck) app. irreg. f. L. *stella* star. (See -ID 3.)] A star-fish. Also **Stelle·ridan** [see -IDAN], † **Stelliridean, -ian.**

1835 KIRBY *Hab. & Inst.* I. vi. 201 Lamarck..has divided it [the order of Echinoderms] into three sections, the Stelleridans, Echinidans, and Fistulidans. 1836 BUCKLAND *Geol. & Min.* (1869) I. 348 No fossil Stelleridans have yet been noticed in strata more ancient than the Muschelkalk. 1837 *Penny Cycl.* IX. 262/2 Lamarck made his *Radiaires Echinodermes* consist of three sections. 1st, the Stellirideans (star-fishes). 1842 *Ibid.* XXIII. 17/2 Agassiz also divides the Stelliridians into three families. 1882 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* VI. 271 The bases of the lateral tentacular branches which they give off open into large ambulacral vesicles, just as in the Stellerids. 1896 *Q. Jrnl. Microsc. Sci.* XXXVIII. 389 *note*, A paper on the 'Organogeny of Stellerids'.

Stellerine (ste·lĕrin). [f. name of G. W. *Steller*, a German traveller (*died* 1745), who first described the species.] The arctic or Steller's sea-cow, *Rhytina stelleri.*

1854 A. ADAMS etc, *Man. Nat. Hist.* 20.

Stellettid (stele·tid). *Zool.* [f. mod.L. *Stelletta* + -ID 3.] A sponge resembling the genus *Stelletta.*

1888 W. J. SOLLAS in *Challenger Rep.* XXV. p. cxii, Were it [this spicule] absent the Sponge would become a Stellettid. *Ibid.*, The Stellettid type.

Stelletto, obs. form of STILETTO.

‖ **Ste·llifer.** *Obs.* [L., f. *stella* star + *-fer* bearing.] A knight or friar of the Teutonic order (*Stelliferi Hospitalarii*), who bore a red star above a cross.

a 1580 *Image Hypocr.* IV. 217 Some be Stellifers.

† **Stelli·feral,** *a. Obs. rare*—1. [f. L. *stellifer* (see prec.) + -AL.] = STELLIFEROUS.

c 1495 *Epit. Dk. Bedford* in *Skelton's Wks.* (1843) II. 396 And than moste craftely dyd combyne Another heuen, called cristalline, So the thyrde stellyferal to shyne Aboue the skye.

† **Stelli·ferant,** *a. Obs. rare*—1. [a. OF. *stelliferant*, f. L. *stellifer* (see prec.).] = next.

1490 CAXTON *Eneydos* xxvii. 95 The cours celestiall & regyon stellyferaunt.

Stelliferous (steli·fĕrəs), *a.* [f. L. *stellifer* : see STELLIFER and -FEROUS.] Bearing stars. **a.** Said of the vault of heaven ; *loosely*, † of the beams of the sun. **b.** *Biol.* Having star-shaped markings.

1583 STUBBES *Anat. Abuses* (1877) 79 The stelliferous beames of the glistering Sun. 1616 J. LANE *Contn. Sqr.'s T.* III. 285 Th' whole forme to bee as round as globe edight, ..its vault stelliferous. 1822 J. PARKINSON *Outl. Oryctol.* 76 *Agaricia*—A stony polypifer,..the upper surfaces only having stelliferous grooves. 1828 STARK *Elem. Nat. Hist.* II. 430 Fixed, stony, developing a free foliaceous membrane, waved and sublobed, with one stelliferous face. 1849 H. MILLER *Footpr. Creat.* iii. (1874) 23 Its true scales..were not stelliferous.

Stellification (stelifikā·ʃən). [f. med.L. *stellificāre* STELLIFY *v.* : see -ATION.] The action of stellifying or placing among the stars.

1650 J. REYNOLDS *Flower Fidelity* 1 The..no lesse rejoycing of his..joyful Subjects ; who in stellification of their young Prince his nativity, so sumptuously solemnized his Birth with Heroical triumphs, that [etc.]. 1660 A. BRETT *Threnodia* 19 Stellification, fancy is, And so is Metempsychosis. 1906 A. CLARK in *Essex Rev.* XV. 90 The conclusion is the stellification of Mansfield's wig : Sudden it mounted to the starry skies. 1907 *Expositor* Apr. 378 The nearest approach to stellification that the somewhat prosaic Northern mythology allows.

Stellified (ste·lifəid), *ppl. a.* [f. STELLIFY *v.* + -ED 1.] In senses of the verb.

1611 PENUEN *Ambit. Scourge* C 1 b, Will not yon christall stellified gate Ope, and with milde aspect adorne my Fate ? 1694 SALMON *Bate's Dispens.* (1713) 417/1 Mercury seven times sublimed from the stellified Regulus Martis.

Stelliform (ste·lifōm), *a.* [ad. mod.L. *stelliformis*, f. L. *stella* star : see -FORM. Cf. F. *stelliforme.*] Shaped like a star ; existing in the form of star-shaped crystals.

1796 KIRWAN *Elem. Min.* (ed. 2) I. 14 Jargonia..forms..stelliform crystals. *Ibid.* 102 A radiated stelliform limestone (Sternspath). 1836 *Todd's Cycl. Anat.* II. 32/1 They were named stelliform processes by Tiedemann. 1868 tr. *Figuier's Ocean World* vii. 152 The animals belonging to this group, which may be characterised as stelliform or star-like, are very abundant in every sea. 1875 GRINDON *Life* XXV. 327 Radiate flowers, and other stelliform products of plants.

Hence **Ste·lliformly** *adv.*

1822 J. PARKINSON *Outl. Oryctol.* 73 The base pointed, the terminating cell stelliformly lamellated.

Stellify (ste·lifəi), *v.* [a. OF. *stellifier*, ad. med.L. *stellificāre*, f. *stella* star : see -FY.]

1. *trans.* To transform (a person or thing) into a star or a constellation ; to place among the stars.

c 1384 CHAUCER *H. Fame* 1002 When thou redest poetrie How goddes gonne stellifye Briddes, fisshe, best, or him or here. *c* 1403 LYDG. *Temple of Glas* 136 Hou þat she,..Iweddit was to god of eloquence,..And with hir song hov she was magnified With Iubiter to bein Istellified. 1423 JAS. I *Kingis Q.* 52 O venus clere ! of goddis stellifyit ! 1426 LYDG. *De Guil. Pilgr.* 18835 [He] is in heuene stelleffyed, And with seyntis gloreffyed. 1530 PALSGR. 734/2 The olde panymes for a vayn glory dyd stellyfye their kynges. *a* 1562 G. CAVENDISH *Poems* (1825) II. 44 O lady most excellent, by vertue stellefied, Assendyng the hevyns, where thou raynest aye. 1563–87 FOXE *A. & M.* (1596) 278/2 The bishop of Rome..which for his abhominable pride is fallen from heauen..thinketh..to stellifie againe himselfe there from whense he fell. *a* 1630 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Dog of War* C 2 b, Thou shalt be Stellifide by me, I'le make the Dog-star wayte on thee, And in his roome I'le seate thee. 1873 RUSKIN *Fors Clav.* XXV. III. 12 The great Charles..therefore deserves to be stellified by British astronomers.

† **b.** *fig.* To extol. *Obs.*

1523 SKELTON *Garl. Laurel* 963, I wyll my selfe applye,.. Yow for to stellyfye. 1595 E. C. *Emaricdulfe* Sonn. xxxix. in *Lamport Garl.* (Roxb.), Thy name, thy honour, and loues puritie, With Stanzas, Layes and Hymnes Ile stellifie. 1644 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *No Merc. Aulicus* 3 You did most audaciously stellifie the head fire-brand of this Kingdome Iohn Pym. 1721 D'URFEY *Operas* etc. 230 This Lady you have stellify'd, Is my Acquaintance.

† **c.** To compare to stars. *Obs.*

1628 SHIRLEY *Witty Fair One* I. (1633) B 3 b, I ha' knowne him..stellifie their eyes.

† **2.** To set with stars, or with something compared to stars. *Obs.*

1426 LYDG. *De Guil. Pilgr.* 21174 Thys lasse world ys stellefyed Lych hevene, and as the fyrmament. 1608 PLAT *Gard. Eden* (1653) 173 The physicall use of this fire is to divide a *Cælum terræ*, and then to stellifie the same with any animall or vegetable starre. 1616 DRUMM. OF HAWTH. *Sonn.* 'Then is She gone', With Roses here Shee stellified the Ground. 1650 T. BLOUNT *Estienne's Art Devises* etc. 86 Sir James Mongomery..had another Devise wherein was depainted the Skie stellified. 1658 PHILLIPS s. v. *Orbe*, That without stars is the Primum Mobile, the other are all stellified, either with fixed Stars or Planets.

Hence **Ste·llifying** *vbl. sb.*

a 1612 HARINGTON *Epigr.* I. (1633) 68 They cald this sparing diet, Stellifying. 1634 T. CAREW *Coelum Brit.* (1640) 258 In the firmament about him, was a troope of fifteene stars, expressing the stellifying of our Brittish Heroes. 1640 W. CRABTRIE in *Phil. Trans.* XXVII. 280, I must acknowledge you say more for the stellifying of these Solar Obscurities, than I have heard before.

† **Stelli·gerate,** *a. Obs. rare*—1. [f. L. *stelliger*, star-bearing, starry (f. *stella* star + *-ger* bearing) + -ATE.] ? Exalted to the heavens.

c 1450 METHAM *Wks.* 10/274 (E. E. T. S.) The gloryus chyualry stellygerat In qwemyng off Venus and Mars.

Stelling (ste·liŋ), *sb. Brit. Guiana.* [a. Du. *stelling* scaffolding, landing-stage, f. *stellen* to place.] A wooden pier or landing-stage.

1862 *List Contrib. Br. Guiana to Lond. Exhib.* in Veness *El Dorado* (1866) App. 139 Portion of the Fender Cap of the ferry steamer stelling, Demarara river. 1879 J. W. B. WHETHAM *Roraima* xiii. 135 The wharf—or stelling, as the wooden pier is called—presented an animated scene. 1898 H. KIRKE *25 Yrs. Brit. Guiana* 102 At 7 a.m. we cast off from the stelling, and were soon steaming down the muddy waters of the Demerara River.

Stelling (ste·liŋ), *vbl. sb. Sc.* and *north.* [f. STELL *v.* + -ING 1.]

1. The action of placing in position.

1560 *Aberdeen Reg.* (1844) I. 327 To desist and ceiss fra forther stelling and stenting of thair netts athort the water.

2. A place of shelter; now = STELL *sb.*4 Also † *stelling-place.*

1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* XI. x. 95 It is a stelling place and sovir harbry. 1828 CARR *Craven Gloss., Stelling*, a place where cattle retire to in hot weather.

‖ **Stellio** (ste·lio). [Latin form of next.] = next. Now only *Zool.* as generic name.

1388 WYCLIF *Lev.* xi. 30 Mygal, camelion, and stellio. 1535 COVERDALE *Lev.* xi. 30 These shalbe vncleane..the Hedgehogge, the Stellio, the Lacerte, [etc.]. 1601 CHESTER *Love's Mart.* etc. (1878) 112 The Stellio is a beast that..liueth by the deaw thats heauenly. 1658 ROWLAND tr. *Moufet's Theat. Ins.* 1052 A Scorpion..doth not hurt a Stellio, an Ascalabotes, a Crab, a Hawk. 1834 MCMURTRIE *Cuvier's Anim. Kingd.* 175 The *Agamæ* bear a great resemblance to the common Stellios. 1863 WOOD *Illustr. Nat. Hist.* III. 88 The Stellio..is a well-known Lizard inhabiting Northern Africa, Syria and Greece.

Stellion (ste·liŏn). Forms: 4 **stellioun**, (6 *erron.* **stelon**), 6– **stellion.** [ad. L. *stelliōnem* (*stellio*); according to Pliny f. *stella* star. Cf. F. *stellion.*] In early use, a kind of lizard with star-like spots, mentioned by ancient writers. In modern use, a lizard of the genus *Stellio* or family *Stellionidæ*, native in Southern Europe and Asia.

1382 WYCLIF *Lev.* xi. 30 A stellioun, that is a werme depeyntid as with sterris. 1572 BOSSEWELL *Armorie* II. 62 b, The fielde is Argente, a Stellion proper. 1592 LODGE *Euphues Shadow* N 4, Stelon vnlesse it encounter the Toade is of no proofe. 1600 SURFLET *Country Farm* II. lxii. 405 Neither the venemous stellion, nor the villanous beetle.. shall possibly enter to rob the hiues. 1609 BIBLE (Douay) *Prov.* xxx. 28 The stellion stayeth on his handes, and tarieth in kings houses. 1621 G. SANDYS *Ovid's Met.* v. Argt., Th' ill-nurtur'd Boy a spotted Stellion growes. 1661 LOVELL *Hist. Anim. & Min.* 282 Stamped they help the poyson of the Stellion. 1688 HOLME *Armory* II. 206/2 A Stellion proper; or a Stellion Serpent, to distinguish it from the Stellion-Horse. 1840 *Cuvier's Anim. Kingd.* 275 The Stellions. 1845 J. E. GRAY *Catal. Lizards Brit. Mus.* 255 The Stellion or Hardun. *Stellio Cordylina. Ibid.*, The Caucasian Stellion. *Stellio caucasicus.*

Stellionate (ste·liŏnăt). *Civil Law.* Also 7 **-at.** [ad. L. *stelliōnātus* (*u* stem), f. *stelliōn-em*, a fraudulent person, perh. a transf. use of *stelliōn-em* a kind of lizard (see STELLION). See -ATE 1.] (See quot. 1754.)

1622 BACON *Hen. VII*, 64 This Court of Star-chamber.. discerneth also principally of foure kinds of Causes; Forces, Frauds, Crimes various of Stellionate, and the Inchoations or middle Acts towards Crimes Capitall, or hainous, not actually committed. 1637 BASTWICK *Litany* I. 13 As if I were guilty of crimes of stellionate or maluersation. 1678 SIR G. MACKENZIE *Crim. Laws Scot.* I. xxviii. § 1 (1699) 144 Legislators were forced to invent this general name of Stellionat; under which they might range all Cheats, and thence sprung that Maxime. 1754 ERSKINE *Princ. Sc. Law* (1809) 519 The crime of stellionate..includes every fraud which is not distinguished by a special name; but is chiefly applied to conveyances of the same numerical right, granted by the proprietor to different disponees. 1861 *Two Cosmos* III. iii. I. 300 'Art and part stealing an heiress, and for aught I see stellionate and stouthrieff!' said he.

Hence † **Ste·llionated** *a. Obs. rare*—1, fraudulent.

1672 G. THOMSON *Let. to H. Stubbe* 25 To discover their Stellionated and counterfeit Devices, *in* making the World believe, that they are the onely true Chymists.

Ste·lliscript. *nonce-wd.* [f. L. *stella* star + *scriptum* a writing, SCRIPT.] A writing in the stars.

1835 SOUTHEY *Doctor* XCV. (1848) 215 One important rule is to be observed in perusing this great stelliscript.

Stellium (ste·liŭm). *Astrol.* [mod.L., f. L. *stella* star.] (See quot.)

1819 J. WILSON *Dict. Astrol.* 380 *Stellium*, a crowd of planets in an angle...So far as my observation extends, a stellium of 4 or 5 planets *in* any part of the radix always produces in the course of the native's existence some tremendous catastrophe.

Stell-net: see STELL *sb.*1 b.

Stellular (ste·liŭlăı), *a.* [f. late L. *stellula*, dim. of *stella* star + -AR.] Having the form of a small star or small stars.

1796 KIRWAN *Elem. Min.* (ed. 2) II. 169 Fracture coarse,.. but commonly stellular. 1805–17 JAMESON *Char. Min.* (ed. 3) 238 Stellular diverging, when the fibres diverge in all directions, like the radii of a circle, as in brown hematite. 1833 MANTELL *Wonders Geol.* (1838) II. 477 The Red Coral..consists of a bright red, stony axis, invested with a..gelatinous substance..which is studded over with stellular polypi. 1857 A. GRAY *First Less. Bot.* 232 *Stellate, stellular*, starry or star-like. 1885 *Harper's Mag.* Dec. 141/2 Here and there an isolated stellular light illumined the snow.

Hence **Ste·llularly** *adv.*

1796 KIRWAN *Elem. Min.* (ed. 2) II. 278 Acicular prisms, concentrically or stellularly arranged. 1821 JAMESON *Man. Min.* 5 Crystals, which are scopiformly or stellularly aggregated.

Stelography (stĭlo·grăfi). *rare*—0. [ad. late Gr. *στηλογραφία*, f. *στήλη* STELE + *-γραφία* writing: see -GRAPHY.] An inscription on a stele; the practice of placing commemorative inscriptions on steles, tablets, or pillars.

Todd gives a quot. from Stackhouse, where the correct reading is *stylography.*

1727 BAILEY vol. II, *Stelography*, an Inscription or Writing on a Pillar, &c. 1775 ASH, *Stellography* [*sic*].

Stelth(e, obs. forms of STEALTH.

Stem (stem), *sb.*1 Forms: 1 **stefn, stemn,** 6–7 **stemme,** 7 **steame, stemm,** 4– **stem.** [OE. *stęmn, stęfn* str. masc. (for the corresponding forms in continental Teut. see STEM *sb.*2):—OTeut. **stamni-z*; a parallel and synonymous OTeut. formation (**stamno-z*) is represented by (M)LG., (M)Du., OHG., MHG. *stam* (mod.G. *stamm*) masc., trunk or stem of a tree (so Sw. *stam*, Da. *stamme*, from German); also by OS. *stamn* (? masc.), ON. *stamn, stafn* neut., which are recorded only in the derived sense = STEM *sb.*2 The word is prob. f. the root **sta-* to STAND + *-mn-* suffix; cf. Gr. *στάμνος* earthen jar (? lit. 'standing vessel'). The ON. and OE. *stofn* (see STOVEN) tree-stump is prob. unconnected.

It is remarkable that between the OE. period and the 16th c. only a single instance of the word has been found (quot. 1338 in sense 1 b).]

1. The main body (usually more or less cylindrical) of the portion above ground of a tree, shrub, or other plant; a trunk, stock, stalk. (Ordinarily implying a greater degree of slenderness than *stock* or *trunk.*)

c 888 ÆLFRED *Boeth.* xxxiv. § 10 He onginð of þæm wyrtrumum & swa upweardes grewð oð ðone stefn. *a* 1000 *Sal. & Sat.* 296 (Gr.) Beam heo abreoteð..astyreð standendne stefn on siðe. 1538 ELYOT *Dict., Caulis*, a stalke or stem of an herbe or tree. 1585 HIGINS *Junius' Nomencl.* 111/1 *Scapus*,..the stocke, or stemme. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* II. 84/2 The Stem, or Trunk, is the body of the tree to the branches. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* IV. 393 From one Root the rising Stem bestows A Wood of Leaves, and Vi'let-purple Boughs. 1712 tr. *Pomet's Hist. Drugs* I. 36 Cinquefoil ..produces its Leaves,..on a Stem or Wire. 1773 MRS. BARBAULD *Hymn, 'Praise to God'* 22 Should rising whirlwinds tear From its stem the ripening ear. 1796 WITHERING *Brit. Plants* (ed. 3) I. 84 *Stem* (stipes) formerly called the pillar, which supports the pileus of some of the Fungi. 1818 SHELLEY *Rosal. & Helen* 1292 When the living stem Is cankered in its heart, the tree must fall. 1832 MACGILLIVRAY tr. *A. Richard's Elem. Bot.* ii. 103 Many herbaceous stems are employed as food for man and animals. 1833 TENNYSON *Lotos-Eaters* 28 Branches they bore of that enchanted stem, Laden with flower and fruit. 1850 MISS PRATT *Comm. Things Sea-side* i. 18 The sea eryngo (*Eryngium maritimum*) has a stem about a foot high. 1909 G. W. YOUNG in *Contemp. Rev.* Apr., Suppl. 2 The dark solemn stems in dim-seen lines Stand sentinel.

b. *fig.*

c 888 ÆLFRED *Boeth.* xxxiv. § 5 Þeah is an God; se is stemn & staðol eallra goda. 1338 R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (1810) 296 Þe bisshop of Durham trauailed day & nyght, Of strife to felle þe stem. 1611 SPEED *Hist. Gt. Brit.* IX. xvii. § 56 King Edward..thought it no policy long to delay, lest Henry should take growth to a bigger steame. 1659 W. CHAMBERLAYNE *Pharonnida* IV. 94 That short stem of nature, life.

c. *Bot.* The ascending axis (whether above or below ground) of a plant, in contradistinction to the descending axis or root. (The various kinds of subterraneous stem, the bulb, rhizome, tuber, etc., are popularly regarded as 'roots.')

1807 J. E. SMITH *Phys. Bot.* 116 The Stem is either simple, as in the White Lily, or branched, as in most instances. 1855 MISS PRATT *Flower. Plants* VI. 140 The true stem of the fern..from its resemblance to a root is termed the rhizoma.

† **d.** Occasionally, a branch or shoot, in contradistinction to the *stock. Obs.*

1584 GREENE *Arbasto* Wks. (Grosart) III. 205 We think he little fauoreth the stems that cutteth downe the olde stocke.

2. The stalk supporting a leaf, flower, or fruit; a peduncle, pedicel or petiole.

1590 SHAKS. *Mids. N.* III. ii. 211 Two louely berries molded on one stem. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* VII. 337 Each Plant of the field, which e're it was in the Earth God made, and every Herb, before it grew On the green stemm. 1781 COWPER *Retirement* 179 The fruits that hang on pleasure's flow'ry stem. 1820 SHELLEY *Sensit. Plant* III. 40 Till they [weeds] clung round many a sweet flower's stem.

b. *transf.* in *Anat.* and *Path.*

1861 PRITCHARD *Hist. Infusoria* (ed. 4) 586 *Vorticella*.. Body bell-shaped,..supported on a highly contractile, unbranched pedicle or stem. 1862 W. THOMSON in *Phil. Trans.* CLV. 536 The mature Antedon has no true stem. 1898 J. HUTCHINSON in *Arch. Surg.* IX. 372 A dilated arteriole always enters the stem of a wart. 1912 KEITH *Human Body* ii. 26 When they [the cerebral hemispheres] are raised from the floor or base of the skull we see a great stem—the brain stem—issuing from them.

c. (See quot.)

1905 *Dundee Advertiser* 15 July 6 The stem, to give the banana its trade name.

3. The stock of a family; the main line of descent from which the 'branches' of a family are offshoots; the descendants of a particular ancestor. Also *abstr.*, ancestry, pedigree.

In the 16th and 17th c. commonly associated with L. *stemma*, in pl. a genealogical tree, pedigree: see STEMMA.

c 1540 tr. *Pol. Verg. Eng. Hist.* VIII. (Camden 36) 279 The regall stemme and pedegree was allmost utterlie extinguished. 1586 FERNE *Blas. Gentrie* 2 To intreate of the honours, dignities, stemmes, and atchieuments, of certaine personages, nobly discended in England and France. 1586 HOOKER *Giraldus' Irish Hist.* 17/2 in *Holinshed*, Dardanus the sonne of Jupiter, from whom is deriued vnto vs not onlie the stemme of ancient nobilitie, but also [etc.]. *a* 1599 SPENSER *F. Q.* VII. vi. 2 Whom, though high loue of kingdome did depriue, Yet many of their stemme long after did surviue. *c* 1610 *Women Saints* 80 This happie branch of that vertuous stemme. 1611 BIBLE *Isa.* xi. 1 There shall come forth a rod out of the stemme of Iesse. 1640 HOWELL *Dodona's Grove* 72 The Imperiall diademe..hath continued these two Ages and more yeares in that stemme which is now so much spoken of. *a* 1645 MILTON *Arcades* 82 Where ye may all that are of noble stemm Approach. 1652 HEYLIN *Cosmogr.* III. 155 Jarres..of brothers..not only in private families, but in the stems of Princes. 1697 EVELYN *Numism.* viii. 290 Stems and Genealogies of the most Renowned Princes of Germany. 1763 CHURCHILL *Confer.* 15 Recent men who came From stems unknown, and sires without a name. 1782 COWPER *Expost.* 460 The rich, the produce of a nobler stem, Are more intelligent at least. 1818 SHELLEY *Hymn Venus* 52 Mortal offspring from a deathless stem. 1827 SCOTT *Highl. Widow* v, Allan Breack is a wise man and a kind one, and comes of a good stem.

b. An ethnic stock, a race.

c 1540 tr. *Pol. Verg. Eng. Hist.* VII. (Camden 36) 258 Emonge whome the Danishe governement beganne longe beefore to bee verie tedius and hatefull, as a thinge moste exitiall and pestilent to the Englishe name and stemme. 1613–16 W. BROWNE *Brit. Past* II. v, Cannot I dye but like that brutish stem Which have their best belov'd to die with them. 1856 EMERSON *Eng. Traits* iv. Wks. (Bohn) II. 22 Neither do this people appear to be of one stem; but collectively a better race than any from which they are derived. 1861 PEARSON *Early & Mid. Ages* 90 The trial of strength which would certainly have taken place had all the invading people been of one stem. 1868 GLADSTONE *Juv. Mundi* ii. (1870) 32 The relation between this older race and the Hellenic tribes leads to the conclusion that both alike were derived from the Aryan stem.

† **c.** The primal ancestor or founder of a family.

1604 E. G[RIMSTONE] *D'Acosta's Hist. Indies* VI. xx. 474 The first whom they make the head and steame of this family, was called *Ingaroca.* 1780 *Mirror* No. 103 The stem of it..was a Norman baron, who came over with the Conqueror.

† **d.** [fig. use of 1 d.] A branch or offshoot of a family. *Obs.*

1591 SHAKS. 1 *Hen. VI*, II. v. 41 And now declare sweet Stem from Yorkes great Stock, Why didst thou [etc.]. 1599 — *Hen. V*, II. iv. 62 This is a Stem Of that Victorious Stock. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* (1637) 365 Coberley, a seat of a stem of Barkeleies. 1634 W. WOOD *New Eng. Prosp.* Ded. Note, Blessings..be multiplied upon your selfe, your vertuous Consort, my very good Lady, together with all the Stemmes of your Noble family.

4. Applied to various objects resembling the stem of a plant or of a flower, etc. (Cf. STALK *sb.*1 4, 5.)

a. *Calligraphy* and *Printing.* The upright stroke of a letter.

1676 MOXON *Print Letters* 6 The Stem is the straight fat stroke of the Letter: as in B the upright stroke on the left hand is the Stem. 1685 MATLOCK *Fax Nova Artis Scrib.* 25 The Length of the tallest Stemms [in Court-Hand], *viz.* of [b, h, k, l, and w] be One Fourth of an Inch. 1790 W. NICHOLSON in *Repert. Arts* (1796) V. 147 Instead of leaving a space in the mould for the stem of one letter only. 1899 DE VINNE *Pract. Typogr.* (1902) 30 The body-mark, or stem, is the thick line of the face which most clearly indicates the character and the height of the letter. It is better known among printers as the thick-stroke.

b. *Mus.* The vertical line forming part of a minim, crotchet, quaver, etc.

1806 CALCOTT *Mus. Gram.* i. 2 The Notes of Music consist generally of the parts, a Head and a Stem. 1873 H. C. BANISTER *Music* 256 When other notes than semibreves are used, the stems, on each stave, should be turned contrary ways.

c. The long cylindrical body of an instrument, etc., as distinguished from the 'head', or from branches or projections; the tube of a thermometer or similar instrument; the tube of a tobacco-pipe.

1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 89 When the stem in Fahrenheit's hydrometer is long, the weight put in the dish at the top, will sometimes render the instrument unsteady. 1827 FARADAY *Chem. Manip.* iv. (1842) 136 Thermometers are generally graduated by having two points marked upon their stems, corresponding to the melting temperature of ice and the boiling temperature of pure water. 1843 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* I. 213 A piece of bolt-iron of five-eighths of an inch diameter, or of the size of the stem of the bolt, is cut off somewhat longer than the intended length. 1843 DICKENS *Chr. Carol* iv. 131 The old man..having trimmed his smoky lamp..with the stem of his pipe. 1851 in *Abridgm. Specif. Patents Locks* etc. (1873) 87 The convenience offered by thus having the 'bit' of the key separate from the stem. 1869 RANKINE *Machine & Hand-tools* Pl. P 22, On the lower end of this boss is formed the socket, S, for the reception of the stem, T, of the pick, U. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2373 *Stem* (*Valve*), the projecting-rod which guides a valve in its reciprocations. *Ibid., Stem* (*Vehicle*), the bar to which the bow of a falling hood is hinged. 1892 *Photogr. Ann.* II. 83 A cork, bored with two holes, through one of which passes the stem of a globular funnel.

d. The upright cylindrical support of a cup, a wineglass, or other vessel.

1835 DICKENS *Sk. Boz, Publ. Dinners*, Several gentlemen knock the stems off their wine-glasses, in the vehemence of their approbation. 1850 J. MARRYAT *Pottery & Porcelain* 288 *Stem. Culot, Fr.*, that portion of a vase which unites the body to the base, and is simple, elongated, shortened, or

variously fashioned. 1883 H. J. Powell *Princ. Glass-Making* 61 Wine-glasses or goblets are classified by the nature of their stems, or by the nature of their feet. 1890 F. R. Wilson *Ch. Lindisf.* 90 The stem [of the font] is composed of a portion of a Saxon cross.

e. *Arch.* (See quot.)

1835 R. Willis *Archit. Mid. Ages* vii. 108 Where a pier is made up of four cylindrical shafts attached to a nucleus or stem, this nucleus and the lateral shafts carry the longitudinal arches.

f. *dial.* (See quot.)

1796 W. H. Marshall *W. Eng.* I. 330 *Stem*, the handle of a fork. 1838 Holloway *Prov. Dict.*, *Stem*, a long round shaft used as a handle for various tools.

g. *Watchmaking.* The pendant-shank of a watch.

1866 in *Abridgm. Specif. Patents, Watches*, etc. (1871) 157 Instead of the push piece consisting of a rod passing up the centre of the pendant stem. 1871 *Ibid.* 156 The pendant is so arranged that the bow or stem cannot be wrenched off by torsion. 1881 F. J. Britten *Watch & Clockm. Handbk.* (ed. 4) 73 The part of the winding stem below the bevelled pinion is square. 1885 D. Glasgow *Watch & Clock Making* 262 The stem is fitted easy in the pendant.

h. The Shaft of a hair, of a feather.

1845 *Encycl. Metropol.* VII. 197/2 The Hair-shaft, Stem or Cylinder, *caulis, filamentum, truncus pili*, is that part commonly called the hair. *Ibid.* 205/1 The Shaft or Stem [of a feather], *rachis*, though usually described as distinct, might not improperly be considered as a continuation of the barrel.

5. *Philol.* †**a.** The primary word from which a derivative is formed. *Obs.*

a 1653 Gouge *Comm. Hebr.* viii. 6 The noun (λειτουργία) translated 'ministry' is derived from the same stemme that 'minister' (λειτουργός) was.

b. That part of an inflected word that remains unchanged (except for euphonic variations) in the process of inflexion; the theme of a word (or of a particular group of its cases or tenses), to which the flexional suffixes are attached.

1851 T. H. Key in *Trans. Philol. Soc.* 93 We refer to such stems as..βα and βαν of εβησα and βαινω. 1865 Malden *Ibid.* 169 All first perfects, except those in which the suffix κα is attached to a stem ending in a vowel. 1871 (see *present-stem*, Present *sb.*[1] 3c].

c. Applied to a Semitic triliteral 'root'. Also *attrib.*

1874 Davidson *Hebr. Gram.* xvi. 31 Stems in Hebrew are considered to contain three consonantal letters. The noun may be regarded as expressing the stem idea in rest.

6. Short for *stem-stitch* (see 8).

1882 Caulfeild & Saward *Dict. Needlework* 461 To work *Beginner's Stem*: This stitch is used to form the stalks of leaves, or [etc.]. *Ibid.*, Buckle Stem differs from Stem Stitch by being worked with a Plain Edge upon both sides, [etc.].

7. *attrib.* and *Comb.*: (sense 1) *stem-bark, -climber, -fruiting, -growth, -leaf, -like* adj., *-node, -selecting* adj., *-sucker, -tendril, -wood*; (sense 2 b) *stem-cell, -joint, process*; (sense 5 b) *stem-suffix, -vowel.*

1832 *Planting* 7 in *Lib. Usef. Kn., Husb.* III, During this conversion of the *stem-bark to that of the root the plant advances but little. 1885 A. Sedgwick tr. *Claus' Text-bk. Zool.* II. 79 Ctenostomata..*Stem-cells and root-filaments frequently occur. 1875 *Stem-climbers [see Tendril *sb.* 3]. 1821 S. F. Gray *Brit. Plants* I. 43 *Stem-fruiting, *caulocarpæ*. The fruit growing on the stem. 1868 *Rep. U. S. Commissioner Agric.* (1869) 257 When the vertical *stem-growth is three or more inches in each sapling, the work may be reduced. 1862 W. Thomson in *Phil. Trans.* CLV. 528 The sheaf-like calcareous cylinders which form the axes of the *stem-joints. 1796 (Withering *Brit. Plants* (ed. 3) I. 84 **Stem-Leaves* (caulina) such as grow immediately upon the stem, without the intervention of branches. 1870 Hooker *Stud. Flora* 32 Stem-leaves broadly ovate. 1611 Speed *Hist. Gt. Brit.* vii. ix. 238 Whose *stemlike draught annexed, both in the marriages, issues, and collaterals, are therein branched as farre as any warrantable Records affordeth. 1855 *Orr's Circ. Sci., Inorg. Nat.* 87 A singular but very abundant stem-like fossil. 1882 Vines tr. *Sachs' Bot.* 293 Each leaf begins with a node (the basal node), by which it is united with the *stem-node. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VI. 521 The branches of the *stem process (neuraxon) of a neuron may offer a cross-section 370,000 times greater than that of the parent stem. 1837 P. Keith *Bot. Lex.* 287 The false parasites, or *stem-selecting epiphytes, belong chiefly to the tribe of the Epidendra or Air-plants. 1842 Loudon *Suburban Hort.* 279 The branches of a coniferous plant pegged down to force it to throw up a *stem-sucker as a leader. 1902 Greenough & Kittredge *Words* 169 The exact nature of *stem-suffixes is far from certain. 1877 A. W. Bennett *Thomé's Bot.* (1879) 109 According as they belong to the stem..or to the leaf..they are called *stem- or leaf-tendrils. 1852 *Proc. Philol. Soc.* V. 197 The weakening of a strong *stem-vowel by virtue of a weak vowel in the suffix. 1884 Bower & Scott *De Bary's Phaner.* 155 The differences between the wood of the root and that of the branches..are as regards the width of the tracheides even greater than in the case of the *stem-wood.

8. Special comb.: **stem-bed** *Geol.*, a stratum containing stems of trees; † **stem-book** [ad. G. *stammbuch*, Du. *stamboek*], an album; **stem-bud** *Bot.* (see quot.); **stem-building** *Gram.* [tr. G. *stammbau*], the formation of stems from roots; **stem-clasping** *a.* (see quot.); **stem-composition** *Philol.*, composition of word-stems, as distinguished from syntactical combination of words; **stem-eelworm**, a nematoid causing stem-sickness in certain plants; **stem-end**, that end of a fruit that is next to the stem; **stem-father** [cf. G. *stammvater*], a tribal ancestor; **stem-fly** (see quot.); **stem-house** *nonce-wd.* [after G. *stammhaus*] the ancestral mansion of a family; **stem-line**, (*a*) the upright line (edge of a tablet, etc.) on which the strokes forming the Ogham alphabet are set; (*b*) a line of genealogical descent; **stem-muscle, pessary, sawfly** (see quots.); **stem-setting** *a. U.S.*, (of a watch) that is set by rotation of a stem (1895 in *Funk's Stand. Dict.*); **stem-sick** *a.*, (of plants) having the stems affected by a malady produced by the eelworm; hence *stem-sickness*; **stem stitch** *Needlework* (see quot.); **stem-wind** *a. U.S.* = *stem-winding a.*; **stem-winder** *U.S.* (*a*) a keyless watch; (*b*) a geared logging locomotive (Webster, 1911); (*c*) *slang*, a person or thing that is first-rate; **stem-winding** *sb.* (see quot.); **stem-winding** *a. U.S.* (of a watch) that is wound up by means of a stem.

1853 J. Morris in *Q. Jrnl. Geol. Soc.* IX. 338 Clays between the above [oyster-bed and marly rock] and the *stem-bed. 1592 Morvson *Let.* in *Itin.* (1617) I. 38 Desiring to have the name of so famous a Divine, written in my *stemme-booke, with his Mott, after the Dutch fashion. 1877 A. W. Bennett *Thomé's Bot.* (1879) 71 The *stem-bud, or plumule, is divided from the outset into stem and leaves. 1870 J. F. Smith *Ewald's Introd. Hebr. Gram.* 91 *Stem-building I. Of Verbs. 1796 Withering *Brit. Plants* (ed. 3) I. 84 **Stem-clasping* (amplexicaulis)..embracing the stem. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1094/1 *Stem clasping*, when the base of a leaf surrounds a stem. The same as *Amplexicaul. 1902 Greenough & Kittredge *Words* 177 By this process of *stem-composition a kind of rudimentary syntax arose. 1912 W. H. Stevenson in *Eng. Hist. Rev.* Jan. 22 The Old English dialects adhering to the older (Indo-Germanic) and more proper stem-composition. 1890 Miss Ormerod *Injur. Insects* (ed. 2) 51 *Stem eelworm. *Tylenchus devastatrix*. 1868 *Rep. U. S. Commissioner Agric.* (1869) 240 Cut, halved lengthwise, then across, *stem end. 1879 *Encycl. Brit.* IX. 75/1 The Leinster and Meath Fenians, consisting of the *Clanna Baiscné*, from a *stem-father *Bascné*. 1844 H. Stephens *Bk. Farm* III. 951 The wheat *stem-fly, *Chlorops pumilionis*,..derives its specific name, ..in consequence of the effects it produces on the plants it attacks. 1762 tr. *Busching's Syst. Geog.* IV. 408 Nesselrod, the *stem-house of the ancient noble family of Nesselrod. 1892 J. Anderson in J. R. Allen *Early Chr. Monum. Scot.* (1903) p. xx, The nose and the fore-leg of the stag cross and interrupt the *stem-line of the ogham inscription. 1914 Munro *Prehist. Britain* ii. 25 The progress of man's intellectuality, ever since he diverged from the common stem line from which he and the anthropoid apes have descended. 1870 H. A. Nicholson *Man. Zool.* I. 61 A spiral contractile fibre [in *Vorticella*], which is sometimes called the '*stem-muscle'. 1876 Dunglison *Med. Lex.*, *Pessary*, Intrauterine, *stem pessary,..an instrument for rectifying uterine displacements—as [etc.]. 1895 D. Sharp *Insects* I. 504 Cephidae—*Stem Sawflies. 1896 Lydekker *Roy. Nat. Hist.* VI. 15 Stem Saw-flies..pass their lives in the stems of plants or young shoots of trees. 1890 Miss Ormerod *Injur. Insects* (ed. 2) 54, I have notes of Clover plants *stem-sick from this Eelworm. *Ibid.* 52 'Stem-sickness'. 1882 Caulfeild & Saward *Dict. Needlework* 461 **Stem Stitch*..is largely used to form the stems, tendrils, curves, and raised parts in Honiton and other Pillow Lace making. There are three kinds of Stem Stitch—Beginner's Stem, Buckle Stem, and Stem Stitch proper. 1900 *Westm. Gaz.* 17 Feb. 10/1 1,000 *stem-wind, brass, hunting-watch movements. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2373/2 Some of the *stem-winders are so constructed that by pushing in the pendant it is [etc.]. 1892 Gunter *Miss Divid.* (1893) 68 'Ain't he a stem-winder, though?' goes on the boy. 'He was the most popular man on the line when it was built.' 1884 F. J. Britten *Watch & Clockm.* 247 *Stem Winding..[is] winding by means of a stem running through the pendant of a watch. The ordinary method of keyless winding. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2373 *Stem-winding Watch.

Stem (stem), *sb.*[2] *Naut.* Forms: 1 **stefn, stefna** *or* **-ne, stemn**, 5–6 **steme**, 6–7 **stemme**, 7 **stemb**, 7–8 **stemm**, 6– **stem.** [OE. *stemn, stefn* str. masc. (also *stefna* wk. masc. or *stefne* wk. fem.), originally a specific application of Stem *sb.*[1] in the sense 'tree-trunk'. The nautical use occurs (sometimes with differentiated form) in several Teut. langs.: OFris. *stevene* (WFris. *stjtdwn*, NFris. *stëven*), Du., LG. *steven* (whence G. *steven*; MDu. had also *steve*), OS. *stamn*, ON. *stafn, stamn* masc. (whence ME. Stam *sb.*[1]), Da. *stavn*, also (? from LG.) *stævn*, Sw. (? from LG.) *stäf.*

After the OE. period the native word does not occur in our quots. until late in the 15th c., though the 14th and 15th c. have several examples of Stam (from the equivalent ON. form) and of the compound Forestam. The native form must of course have been preserved in oral tradition alongside the Scandinavian form, which disappears in the 15th c. A few examples of Steven are found in Sc. writers of the 16th c.; whether this descends from OE. *stefn*, or a late adoption from LG. or Du., cannot be determined].

†**1.** The timber at either extremity of a vessel, to which the ends of the side-planks were fastened; the 'stem' (in the modern sense) or the stern-post. Hence, either extremity of a vessel, the prow or the stern. *Obs.*

Beowulf 212 Beornas on stefn stigon. *a* 1000 *Andreas* 495 Ic æfre ne geseah ænixne mann..þe gelicne, steoran ofer stæfnan. 10.. *Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 288/1 *Puppis*, se æftera stemn. 1486 *Naval Acc. Hen. VII* (1896) 36 A plate of Irne for the steme of the same Cokke. 1497 *Ibid.* 291 The Shippe Kele with the ij stemys belongyng vnto the same.

2. The curved upright timber or piece of metal at the bow of a vessel, into which the planks of the bow are scarfed; = the earlier Forestam. *False stem*: see quot. 1627. *Main stem*: the 'stem' proper as distinguished from the 'false stem'.

1538 Elyot *Dict.*, *Rostrum*,..also the stemme of a ship or boote. 1587 Marlowe *1st Pt. Tamburl.* I. ii, Christian Merchants that with Russian stems Plow vp huge furrowes in the Caspian Sea, Shall vaile to us. 1601 Holland *Pliny* VII. lvi. I. 190 Piseus the Tyrrhene..armed the stemme and beake-head of the ship with sharpe tines and pikes of brasse. 1627 Capt. Smith *Sea Gram.* ii. 2 At the one end is skarfed into it the Stem, which is a great timber wrought compassing. *Ibid.* ix. 53 If her stem be too flat..fix another stem before it, and that is called a false stem, which will make her rid more way and beare a better saile. 1652 Nedham tr. *Selden's Mare Cl.* 54 As far as Nereus doth, to Ashur's Land Plow out a passage with his stemm's and oars. 1668 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 236/1 But the Flyboat breaking her Stemm, sunk..suddenly. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* III. vii. 367 The joining of the stem where it was scarfed. 1797 *Encycl. Brit* (ed. 3) XVII. 377/2 The height and rake of the stem and sternpost. 1830 Hedderwick *Mar. Archit.* 246 From the foremost perpendicular, set off all the rakes of the stem inside and out. 1865 Kingsley *Herew.* vi, He rode back to the ship,..and wondered at her carven stem and stern. 1869 Sir E. Reed *Shipbuild.* iii. 48 The stem of an iron ship..is usually a prolongation of the keel. 1889 Welch *Text Bk. Naval Archit.* vii. 98 The stems of all ships complete, as it were, the framing at the fore part of the vessel.

b. Phrases. *From stem to stern* (†*from stern to stem*, †*from post to stem*): along the whole length of a ship. *To give* (a ship) *the stem*: to ram. †*Stem for stem*: (of ships) abreast, exactly alongside each other. *Stem on*: so as to strike with the stem. *Stem to stem*: (of ships) with their stems facing each other.

1548 Hall *Chron.*, *Hen. VIII* (1550) 21 b, Sir Henry Guilford and sir Charles Brandon..beyng in the Souereigne, ..laied stemme to stemme to the Caricke. 1622 Sir R. Hawkins *Voy. S. Sea* xxxiii. 80 Wee had..our shippe Calked from Post to Stemme. 1627 Capt. Smith *Sea Gram.* ii. 2 Pulling it from sterne to stem. *a* 1642 Sir W. Monson *Naval Tracts* VI. (1704) 535/1 The Ship gave Stem to a Whale that lay a sleep..; it was a Stem upon a Whale. 1644 Manwayring *Seamans Dict.* 102 To give a ship the Stem, that is to run right upon her with the Stem. 1667 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 120/1 Three Ulushing Men of War..immediately came roundly up with us, Stemb to Stemb. 1670 Covel in *Early Voy. Levant* (Hakl. Soc.) 129 There were five great ships a Head, coming stem for stem towards us. 1697 Dryden *Æneis* I. 164 Orontes Barque..From Stem to Stern, by Waves was overborn. 1836 Thirlwall *Greece* III. xxvi. 432 The Athenians..would be forced to meet them ..stem to stem. 1842 Tennyson *Morte d'Arthur* 194 Then saw they how there hove a dusky barge, Dark as a funeral scarf from stem to stern. 1842 Lever *Jack Hinton* ii, The sea ran high, and swept the little craft from stem to stern. 1880 *Daily Tel.* 7 Sept., Steer her straight, good captain, stem on to the mark, and wear her round smart. 1884 *Manch. Exam.* 24 Nov. 6/1 My little boat..has been driven full tilt, stem on, against a rock in mid-stream. 1885 *Daily Tel.* 21 May 5/3 The cry was, 'Give privateers the stem!' that is, run them down. 1885 *Law Times Rep.* LIII. 55/1 The *Earl of Beaconsfield* struck the *J. M. Stevens* on the port quarter stem on.

3. The prow, bows, or the whole forepart of a vessel.

1555 Eden *Decades* (Arb.) 195 Turnynge the stemmes or forepartes of their shyppes ageynst the streame. 1676 Wood *Jrnl.* in *Acc. Sev. Late Voy.* I. (1694) 187 So we lay South-south-west with the Stem. 1710 W. King *Heathen Gods & Heroes* xii. (1722) 49 Ships, which had Stemms and Decks that resembled Towers. 1711 W. Sutherland *Shipbuild. Assist.* 164. 1833 M. Scott *Tom Cringle* ii, The spray from the stem was flashing over me. 1878 *Masque of Poets* 122 While her stem peeled the scum as an apple. 1898 *Encycl. Sport* II. 298/1 (Rowing) *Stem*, the bows of a boat.

4. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as in *stem-end, -head*; *stem-beat* adj.; *stemwards* adv. Also **stem-knee** (see quot.); † **stem-lock** (meaning obscure: cf. ON. *stafnlok* 'the locker in the stem' (Vigf.), and *stampneloker* s.v. Stam *sb.*[1]); **stem-mould, the mould** (Mould *sb.*[3] I b) for shaping the stem of a vessel; **stem-piece** (see quots.); **stem-post** = sense 2; † **stem-rudder**, ? a false stem.

1627 May *Lucan* II. D 1 b, The *stemme beat sea with a vast murmur grones. 1611 Cotgr., *Piquant*,..the nose, beake, or *stem-end of a ship. 1637 Heywood *Royall Ship* 40 Upon the *stemme-head there is Cupid,..bestriding, and bridling a Lyon. 1884 *Daily News* 13 Nov. 5/1 They all clung to the stemhead, the only part of the lugger which kept above water. 1863 A. Young *Naut. Dict.* 388 **Stem-knees*, crooked pieces of timber, the bolting of which connects the keel with the stem. 1532 *Privy Purse Exp. Hen. VIII* (1827) 211 Paied to the said Carter for half a steme and for a *steme locke to the bote, iiij s. 1830 Hedderwick *Mar. Archit.* 257 Draw the inside and outside of the rabbet fair by the *stem-mould. *c* 1860 H. Stuart *Seaman's Catech.* 67 What is the *stem piece for? It lies between the knight heads, and strengthens that part of the ship which the bowsprit passes through. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2373 *Stem-piece* (*Shipbuilding*), a piece in front of the stem, into which the main piece of the head is stepped. 1841 *Penny Cycl.* XXI. 393/1 At A and B, the extremities of the keel, the stern-post, and *stem-post are set up. 1664 E. Bushnell *Shipwright* 60 You may..measure the content of the Keel and Post and *Stem-rudder, all of it that is without the Plank and under the water line. 1665 Hooke *Microgr.* 45 The mouth of it open from the *stemwards. 1892 *Illustr. Lond. News* 17 Dec. 774/3 His course, whether stemwards or sternwards, was steadily south.

Stem (stem), *sb.*[3] Also 1 **stemn**, 4 **stemme, stempne.** [OE. *stemn* str. masc., var. of *stefn* Steven *sb.*[2]]

†**1.** A fixed time; a period of time; a turn, vicissitude. *Obs.* Cf. Steven *sb.*[2]

O. E. Chron. an. 894, Hie hæfdon þa heora stemn ȝesetenne,..& wæs se cyng þa þiderweardes on fære. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 11225 Wel moght he ger witvten stemme, Maiden ber barn wit-vten wemme. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) III. 439 He deled þe tymes and stempnes of þe myȝtes among companyes of strompettes. *Ibid.* IV. 29 þey tweyne regnede by stempnes. 1398 — *Barth. De P. R.* II. ii. (1495) 28 In that he is a creature he hath stemnes of chaungynge. *Ibid.*, They ben not chaunged by dedely stempnes, nother they haue contraryousnesse of passybylite.

2. *Mining.* (See quots.)

1778 PRYCE *Min. Cornub.* 179 Sometimes they are necessitated to work considerably longer than their stated hours; and then they are said to make a stem, or part of a stem, or to work a stem out of core. 1778 PENNANT *Tour Wales* (1883) I. 65 The laborers worked by stems, relieving each other at stated times. 1868 *Tregellas' Cornish Tales* 191 Gloss., *Stem*, day's work. 1896 *Daily News* 10 Feb. 3/6 Newport...Stems are numerous at this and the adjoining ports.

attrib. *a* 1863 TREGELLAS *Cornish Tales* (1868) 17 And every stem-man lev un come.

3. *Fishing.* (See quots.)

1701 BRAND *Descr. Orkney* etc. (1703) 151 Up the Water they cannot run, because of the larger Net, and neither down can they go, because of the Stem, or Stones laid together in form of a Wall. 1776 *Act* 16 *Geo. III*, c. 36 § 1 The six several Stems or Stations for taking Fish within the said Bay of Saint Ives. 1879 *Encycl. Brit.* IX. 254/1 It is divided into six stations or 'stems', by marks or boundaries on the land.

Stem (stem), *sb.*[4] *Sc.* [f. STEM *v.*[2]] Resistance, opposition; a check.

c 1700 MRS. GOODAL in Tweedie *Sel. Biogr.* (Wodrow Soc.) II. 484 There is something of a stem lately risen in my heart. 1889 H. MORTON in *Life* (1895) 189 The notice gave us a stem. He did not seem to think he was dying.

†Stem, *v.*[1] *Obs.* Also 4 stemm, steme, stempme. [? a. ON. *stemna*, *stefna* to summon, call before a tribunal (whence late OE. *stefnian* in *O.E. Chron.* ann. 1048, 1093), f. *stefna* = OE. *stefn* STEM *sb.*[3]] **a.** *trans.* To contend with. **b.** *intr.* ? To debate with oneself.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 21135 þat folk ilkan wald oþer stemm [*Götf.* stem], Qua rin moght titest on his hemm. 13.. *Gaw. & Gr. Knt.* 230 He stemmed & con studie, Quo walt þer most renoun. *Ibid.* 1117 þay stoden, & stemed, & stylly speken. *a* 1400-50 *Wars Alex.* 2480 ȝe suld not stody ne stem þe sternes for to handill. *Ibid.* 2960 He studis & he stuynes, he stemes [*MS. Dubl.* stempmys] with-in. *Ibid.* 5301 þan stemes he with þe stoute kyng, & stiggis with his name.

Stem (stem), *v.*[2] Also 4, 7 stemme. [a. ON. *stemma* (Sw. *stämma*, Da. *stemme*) = OHG., MHG., mod.G. *stemmen* (? Du. *stempen* to stop the flow of) :—OTeut. **stamjan*, f. **stam-* root of STAMMER *v.*]

†1. *intr.* ? To stop, delay. *Obs.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 24327 Speke we wald, might had we nan, For-þi we stemmed still als stan. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 905 And loke ȝe stemme no stepe, bot strechez on faste. 1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 60/2 To stemme, *tutubare* [? for *titubare*].

2. *trans.* To stop, check; to dam up (a stream, or the like).

When used fig. in phrases like 'to stem the tide', this verb is sometimes confused with STEM *v.*[4], to make headway against.

c 1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 4313 þere myght na thing thaim stem. 1713 STEELE *Englishm.* No. 28. 184 They were able to stem the proceedings of the Crown when they pleased. *a* 1806 H. K. WHITE *To Friend in Distress* 4 When from my downcast eye I chase the tear, and stem the rising sigh. 1840 DICKENS *Old C. Shop* xxi, Little Jacob stemmed the course of two tears. 1855 PALEY *Æschylus* (1861) Pref. p. xxxiii, Aristophanes evidently saw the tide that was setting strongly in favour of the new candidate for scenic supremacy, and he vainly tried to stem it by the barrier of his ridicule. 1860 GEO. ELIOT *Mill on Floss* I. xii, Mr. Glegg..sat down to his milk-porridge, which it was his old frugal habit to stem his morning hunger with. 1883 FROUDE in *19th Cent.* XIII. 637 It was the Spanish power indisputably which stemmed the Reformation.

3. To set (one's limbs, hand) firmly.

1827 HONE *Every-day Bk.* II. 340 This they do, by stemming themselves with their haunches against the gates. The elephant..stems his knees against the wheels. 1859 WRAXALL tr. *R. Houdin* ii. 9 And he stemmed his fist in his side while he held his head impudently high.

b. intr. *To stem back*: to resist being driven forwards.

1899 *N. B. Daily Mail* 12 Dec. 2 When these bullocks reached the threshold of the slaughter-house they stem'd back with their fore-feet...What made these bullocks stem back?

4. trans. *Mining.* To plug or tamp (a hole for blasting).

1791 SMEATON *Edystone L.* § 223 *note*, The stemming a hole for blasting rocks with gunpowder. 1875 J. TAYLOR *Poems* etc. 35 Often a good shot of the powder well 'stemmed' would not remove a capfull of the rock. 1880 J. LOMAS *Man. Alkali Trade* 273 At the four corners..a diamond is formed, and thoroughly stemmed with dry fireclay just moistened with tar [etc.]. *Ibid.* 305 The cover [of the still] is usually formed of segments of stone, and is let and stemmed into a ledge cut in the side stones.

5. To stop, to staunch (bleeding, etc.). *Sc.*

c 1470 HENRY *Wallace* x. 351 Be than he had stemmyt full weill his wound. *c* 1550 *Clariodus* I. 1021 He with diverse herbis vertewus Stemit his woundis, and stintit the bleiding. *a* 1835 HOGG *Tales & Sk.* (1837) VI. 10 John, nevertheless, did all that he could to bind up and stem his cousin's wounds. 1870 J. BRUCE *Gideon* ii. 29 So that the bleeding wound should be stemmed and bound up.

b. *intr.* Of bleeding: to become staunched.

1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* II. 613 The tail sometimes bleeds for a long time..though usually the bleeding soon stems.

Stem (stem), *v.*[3] Also 6 steme, stemp, 6-7 stemme. [f. STEM *sb.*[2]]

1. *trans.* Of a vessel, a navigator: To urge the stem against, make headway against (a tide, current, gale, etc.). Hence of a swimmer, a flying bird, and the like: To make headway against (water or wind), to breast (the waves, the air). Often in figurative context; see note to STEM *v.*[2] **2.**

1593 SHAKS. 3 *Hen. VI*, II. vi. 36 As doth a Saile, fill'd with a fretting Gust, Command an Argosie to stemme the Waues. 1613-16 W. BROWNE *Brit. Past.* I. iv. 68 Milke-white Swannes which stem the streames of Poe. 1619 DRAYTON *Heroical Epist., Lady Jane Gray* 77 The true-bred Eagle strongly stems [*earlier edd.* beares] the Wind. 1654 WHITLOCK *Zootomia* 27 He that would stemme the Tyde, had need of a good Gale. 1682 DRYDEN & TATE *Abs. & Achit.* II. 1132 This year did Ziloah Rule Jerusalem, And boldly all Sedition's Syrges stem. 1720 DE FOE *Capt. Singleton* v. (1840) 80 We stemmed the ebb easily. 1754 HUME *Hist. Gt. Brit., Chas. I*, iv. 249 Charles, in despair of being able to stem the torrent, at last resolved to yield to it. 1764 GOLDSM. *Trav.* 71 The naked negro, panting at the line,..Basks in the glare, or stems the tepid wave. 1769 FALCONER *Dict. Marine* (1780) II, *Eviter à marée*, to stem the tide. *Eviter au vent*, to carry the head to windward, to stem the wind. 1815 *Falconer's Dict. Marine* (ed. Burney), *To Stem the Tide*, is to acquire a velocity in sailing against the tide equal to the force of the current. 1816 TUCKEY *Narr. Exped. R. Zaire* iii. (1818) 78 Though the current was running scarcely three miles an hour, she [the ship] at first barely stemmed it. 1816 SCOTT *Old Mort.* xxx, The prudence of Morton found sufficient occupation in stemming the furious current of these contending parties. 1861 BUCKLE *Civiliz.* (1869) III. v. 298 He opposed the tide which he was unable to stem. 1899 F. T. BULLEN *Log Sea-waif* 289 The swift ebb past us.. straining our cable out taut as if we were stemming a gale.

b. *transf.* and *fig.* To go counter to, make headway against (something compared to a stream); *rarely*, †to face, defy (a person).

1675 OTWAY *Alcibiades* I. i, I then..Will bravely stem him, and with this bold Hand Revenge, or fall a Victim to your Flame. 1675 V. ALSOP *Anti-Sozzo* iii. § 2. 161 Never was Man so confuted..as he that stems the Experience of the whole World. 1759 JOHNSON *Rasselas* xlvii, Every one is not able to stem the temptations of public life. *a* 1844 CAMPBELL *Transl., Martial Elegy* 23 Leave not our sires to stem th' unequal fight. 1847 DE QUINCEY *Joan of Arc* Wks. 1890 V. 412 [This calumny] has a weight of contradicting testimony to stem. *a* 1853 ROBERTSON *Serm.* Ser. III. xxi. 272 We are now to ask how he will stem those seductions. 1888 F. COWPER *Caedwalla* 250 At a very slow pace ..the grey frocked monks..stemmed the still hurrying bodies of fugitives.

c. *To stem one's course*: to make one's way against difficulties. *rare.*

1826 MRS. SHELLEY *Last Man* II. 36 Slowly and sadly I stemned [*sic*] my course from among the heaps of slain.

d. To direct the head of (a vessel) *on* a place; to keep (a vessel) on a fixed course.

1594 J. DICKENSON *Arisbas* (1878) 85 The Pilot mistaking his course, stemmed the ship on a rock. 1653 HOLCROFT *Procopius, Goth. Wars* I. 31 No wind being able to stemme them up the Stream. 1684 tr. *Corn. Nepos* Ded. a 8 He is the Master of true Courage that all the time sedately stemms the Ship.

e. *intr.* Of a vessel or a navigator: To head in a certain direction, keep a certain course.

1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* v. 25 Thai na nedill had na stane, But rowit alwayis in-till ane, Stemmand alwayis apon the fyre, That thai saw byrnand. 1595 T. EDWARDS *Narcissus* (Roxb.) 53 Then like a cunning pilate making out, To gaine the Oceans currant stem I forward. *a* 1656 USSHER *Ann.* (1658) 153 Upon the sudden Alcibiades came stemming in with 18 fresh ships. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* II. 642 They on the trading Flood..Ply stemming nightly toward the Pole. 1672 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 680/1 We got up with them on their weather Gage, they and we stemming up S by W. 1769 FALCONER *Dict. Marine* (1780) II. s. v. *Gouverne*, The order to steer the ship exactly as she stems, or carries her head. 1801 *Naval Chron.* VI. 12 The..squadron..found themselves stemming for the centre of the..fleet. 1863 COWDEN CLARKE *Shaks. Char.* xx. 520 There it was, stemming away against wind and tide. 1908 L. BINYON *Lond. Visions* 88 Ships on far tracks are stemming through the night.

2. To dash against with the stem of a vessel; to ram. *Obs.*

c 1500 *Melusine* xxxvi. 269 They..stemed the shippes of the sarasyns in suche manere that they were sparpylled. 1537 *Adm. Ct. Exemplif.* i. No. 174 [An English ship mistook another for a Spaniard and] stemped the foresaid Thomas. 1596 SPENSER *F. Q.* IV. II. 16 As when two warlike Brigandines..Doe meete together..They stemme ech other with so fell despight, That [etc.]. 1614 RALEGH *Hist. World* III. vi. § 6. 68 Stemming the formost of their enemies, and chasing the rest. 1617 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* v. vii. (ed. 3) 599 Their three smaller Ships had thought to haue Stemmed the Hope then riding at an Anchor. 1654 H. LESTRANGE *Chas. I* (1655) 95 When suddenly rose a violent storm which drave a greater vessel..so forcibly upon them as stemm'd them. *a* 1670 HACKET *Abp. Williams* I. (1693) 132 And like two great Caraques in a foul Sea, they never met in Counsel, but they stemmed one another. 1810 *Naval Chron.* XXIII. 53 A beak of metal was fixed on their prows for the purpose of *stemming* the enemy's ships.

†b. *transf.* Used of natural agencies. *Obs.*

a 1592 GREENE & LODGE *Looking Gl.* (1598) F 2 b, Our Barke is battered by incountring stormes, And welny stemd by breaking of the flouds.

†c. *To go stemming*: to ram a ship. *Obs.*

1644 MANWAYRING *Seamans Dict.* 102 To goe Stemming a-boord a ship, that is the same, as giving the ship the Stem.

†3. *intr.* To meet stem to stem *with*. *Obs.*

1697 DAMPIER *Voy.* I. 461 We stemm'd right with the middle of it [*sc.* the shoal], and stood within half a mile of the Rocks, and sounded; but found no ground.

†4. *trans.* To furnish (a ship) with a stem. *Obs.*

1585 HIGINS *Junius' Nomencl.* 219/2 *Nauis rostrata*,.. a ship stemmed, beaked, or pointed with brasse. *c* 1590 GREENE *Friar Bacon* 1057 (Grosart), Frigats bottomd with rich Sethin planks,..Stemd and incast with burnisht Iuorie.

Stem (stem), *v.*[4] Also 6 steam. [f. STEM *sb.*[1]]

†1. *intr.* To rise erect, mount upwards. Also with *up*. *Obs.*

1577 STANYHURST *Descr. Irel.* iii. 14 b in *Holinshed*, The greater part of the towne [Rosse] is steepe and steaming vpwarde. 1582 — *Æneis* II. (Arb.) 43 Thee Greekish captayns ..Framd a steed of tymber, steaming lyk mounten in hudgnesse. 1609 [W. BARLOW] *Answ. Nameless Cath.* 107 Romulus his Iaueling, which hee darting from him, it immediately stemmed vp into a stately Cornell Tree. 1786 G. FRAZER *Dove's Flight* etc. 111 [He] suffered it to stem out until it became a tree of full growth.

†2. To produce a stem. *Obs.*

1631 CHAPMAN *Cæsar & Pompey* III. i. 16 All which hath growne still, as the time encrease [*sic*] In which twas gather'd, and with which it stemm'd. 1787 *Fam. Plants* I. 105 It seems distinguished from Androsace, by the habit, the plant stemming, with simple peduncles.

3. a. *trans. Tobacco-manuf.* To remove the stalk and midrib from tobacco-leaf. Cf. STRIP *v.*

1844 *Rep. Sel. Comm. Tobacco Trade, Min. Evid.* 103 In America, where there is no duty on tobacco, they stem the tobacco in a very rough kind of way, and a great deal of leaf adheres to the stalk. 1859 [see STEMMERY]. 1904 *Daily Chron.* 20 Apr. 8/3 The process of stemming or stripping the leaf.

b. To remove the stalk from (a leaf, fruit, etc.).

1907 KATE D. WIGGIN *New Chron. Rebecca* x. 308 Her aunt and her mother were stemming currants on the side porch. 1908 *Daily Chron.* 10 Apr. 7/4 To the chicken add one-half pound of fresh mushrooms, peeled and stemmed.

†Stem, *v.*[5] *Obs.* (? *nonce-wd.*) [? f. L. *stemma*, garland.] *trans.* To encircle.

1596 SPENSER *F. Q.* VI. x. 12 The whilest the rest them round about did hemme, And like a girlond did in compasse stemme.

Stem (stem), *v.*[6] *Coal-trade.* [Var. of STEVEN *v.*, STEEM *v.*[3]] *trans.* (See quot. 1903.)

1898 *Westm. Gaz.* 2 Apr. 1/3 Several contracts for boats stemmed on Admiralty orders were cancelled this morning. 1903 *Pitman's Business Man's Guide* 409 To stem a vessel means to load her, or arrange to load her, with coals, within a certain time. 1908 PAASCH *Keel to Truck* 732 *Stem, to* (a vessel). Term frequently used when booking a vessel for a turn in a dock, dry-dock, etc.

Stemapod (ste·măpɒd). *Ent.* [f. Gr. στῆμα filament + ποδ-, πούς foot.] One of the caudal filaments of the caterpillars of certain moths.

1893 DYAR in *Proc. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist.* XXVI. 158 Stemapods absent, their abbreviated bases rounded and held close together.

Steming, variant of STAMIN.

Stemless (ste·mlĕs), *a.*[1] [f. STEM *sb.*[1] + -LESS.] Having no stem.

1796 WITHERING *Brit. Plants* (ed. 3) I. 374 The stemless Agarics and Boleti present similar appearances about the edge. 1834 *Penny Cycl.* II. 386/1 Little stemless herbs. 1870 HOOKER *Stud. Flora* 379 Convallaria, Lily of the Valley. A stemless herb. 1907 *Athenæum* 20 July 76/3 This handsome beaker, or stemless drinking cup.

Stemless (ste·mlĕs), *a.*[2] [f. STEM *v.*[2] + -LESS.] That cannot be stemmed.

a 1822 in H. Miller *Scenes & Leg. N. Scot.* (1850) 257 Till the life-blood, stemless gushing, Lays the plaided hero low. 1911 *Daily News* 14 Apr. 2 Time is an ebbless Tide, a stemless stream.

Stemlet (ste·mlĕt). [f. STEM *sb.*[1] + -LET.] A small stem.

1838 *Penny Cycl.* XII. 240/1 The third joint is short, and gives insertion to two multi-articulate stemlets (tigelles). 1900 B. D. JACKSON *Gloss. Bot. Terms* 253/1 *Stemlet*, a small stem, as the plumule.

†Ste·mlings, *adv. Obs.* Also 7 stemlinge, stemlins, 8 stemlands. [f. STEM *sb.*[2] + -LINGS.] *To run stemlings*: to run stem on, to stem.

1626 CAPT. SMITH *Accid. Yng. Seamen* 19 Lash fast your graplins and sheare off, then run stemlins the mid ships. 1626 *Adm. Ct. Exam.* 46 The Unity fetched up the Butterflye and ran stemlinge against the luffe beame of the Butterflye. 1712 *Ibid.* 84 f. 534 The Fredick run stemlands aboard the midships of the Felton.

‖Stemma (ste·mă). Pl. **stemmata** (ste·mătă). [L., a. Gr. στέμμα garland, f. στέφειν to crown. In Latin chiefly a garland placed on an ancestral image, hence ancestry, pedigree, genealogical tree.

In the 17th c. a supposed literal sense 'STEM of a tree' was often wrongly inferred from the sense 'stem of a family'.]

1. a. *Rom. Ant.* The recorded genealogy of a family. **b.** A diagram showing genetic relationships, a genealogical tree.

[1658 PHILLIPS *Stemma*, (Greek) the stalk of any herb or flower; also a stock, linage or pedigree.] 1879 *Encycl. Brit.* X. 144/1 In the case of plebeian families (whose stemmata in no case went farther back than 366 B.C.). 1904 W. SANDAY *Crit. Fourth Gosp.* viii. (1905) 239 If we were to construct a stemma, and draw lines from each of the authorities to a point *x*, representing the archetype, the lines would be long [etc.].

2. *Zool.* A simple eye, or a single facet of the compound eye, in invertebrates.

1826 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* III. 504 A kind of auxiliary eyes with which a large portion of them [*sc.* insects] are

gifted. These Linné, from his regarding them as a kind of coronet, called *Stemmata*. *Ibid.* 505 [Swammerdam] ascertained that the stemmata, as well as the compound eyes, were organs of vision. *c* 1865 *Wylde's Circ. Sci.* II. 34/1 Similar to the stemmata of some worms are what are called the simple eyes of insects. 1880 F. P. PASCOE *Zool. Classif.* (ed. 2) 285 *Ocelli* or *stemmata*, simple or supplementary eyes in insects and spiders. 1892 A. B. GRIFFITHS *Physiol. Invertebr.* 355 In the Myriapoda..each stemma has its retinal elements..so disposed..that [etc.].

Stemmatiform (ste·mătifɔ̄m), *a. Zool.* [f. L. *stemmat-*, STEMMA + -FORM.] Having the form of stemmata.

1839-47 T. R. JONES in *Todd's Cycl. Anat.* III. 547/2 Scolopendra. Eyes 4-4, Stemmatiform.

Stemmatous (ste·mătəs). *a. Zool.* [f. L. *stemmat-*, STEMMA + -OUS.] Of the nature of a stemma. (In recent Dicts.)

Stemmed (stemd), *a.* [f. STEM *sb.*[1] + -ED[2].] Having a stem or stems.

1576 NEWTON *Lemnie's Complex.* I. viii. 62 Sondry Plantes and great stemmed hearbes. 1807 CRABBE *Par. Reg.* I. 151 Tulips tall-stemm'd..rise. 1897 A. HARTSHORNE *Old Engl. Glasses* 271 The opaque-twisted stemmed glasses.

Stemmed (stemd) *ppl. a.* [f. STEM *v.*[4] + -ED[1].] Of tobacco leaf: Stripped of its stem.

1844 *Rep. Sel. Comm. Tobacco Trade, Min. Evid.* 234 As stemmed tobacco is only used for this country, if, [etc.]. 1883 KILLEBREW *Rep. Tobacco U.S.* 19 The larger consumption was of strips or stemmed tobacco.

Stemmer[1] (ste·mə1). *Mining.* [f. STEM *v.*[2] + -ER[1].] **a.** A metal bar used for stemming; a tamping bar. **b.** (See quot. 1909.)

1860 *Mining Gloss., Derbysh. Terms* 44 *Stemmer*, a piece of iron with which the clay is rammed into the shot holes to make them water tight. 1909 *N. Hawkins' Mech. Dict., Stemmer*, in mining, a copper or bronze rod inserted into a powder charge, so as to leave a passage through the tamping for the fuse; a blasting needle.

Stemmer[2] (ste·mə1). Also **stemner.** [f. STEM *sb.*[1] + -ER[1].] (See quot. 1858.)

1858 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* XIX. I. 193 All trees are here [Sussex] cut down with the saw, and the stump, though quite level with the ground, is called the stem. This stem throws up shoots all round; the strongest is frequently left, and the rest cut off with the bill-hook. In time this shoot becomes a worthless tree, called a 'stemmer'. 1878 [see TILLER *sb.*[3] 2]. 1895 *Lease* (Surrey), All timber and other trees, tellers, stemners, already let to stand for timber and saplings.

Stemmer[3] (ste·mə1). [f. STEM *v.*[4] + -ER[1].]

1. In *Tobacco manuf.*, the workman who 'stems' tobacco-leaf; a stripper. 1895 *Funk's Stand. Dict.*

2. A machine for stemming grapes, etc.

1898 *Year-bk. U.S. Dept. Agric.* (1899) 558 Crushers and stemmers capable of working up 300 tons of grapes per day.

Stemmery (ste·mə1i). [f. prec.: see -ERY.] (See quot. 1859.)

1859 BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.* (ed. 2) 450 *Stemmery*, a large building in which tobacco is stemmed, that is, in which the thin part of the leaf is stripped from the fibrous veins that run through it. 1897 KILLEBREW & MYRICK *Tobacco Leaf* 283 The work in the stemmeries goes on from November.. until June.

Stemmet(t, variant forms of STAMMET.

Stemminess (ste·minés). [f. STEMMY + -NESS.] The state or condition of being stemmy.

1827 STEUART *Planter's G.* I. (1848) 328 A striking poverty and stemminess usually offends the eye.

Stemming (ste·miŋ), *vbl. sb.*[1] [f. STEM *v.*[4] + -ING[1].] The action of the vb. STEM[4].

1703 *La Hontan's Voy. N. Amer.* I. 30, I found that the stemming of the Currents whether in towing of the Canows, or in setting them along with Poles, was equally laborious. 1796 MORSE *Amer. Geog.* II. 403 A current from the Atlantic.., and for the stemming of it a brisk gale is required. 1914 *Eng. Hist. Rev.* Jan. 137 The process of feudalization.. broke out again with great force under the Carolingians, after a brief stemming-back by the efforts of such princes as Charles Martel [etc.].

Stemming (ste·miŋ), *vbl. sb.*[2] *Mining.* [f. STEM *v.*[2] + -ING[1].] = TAMPING 1 b.

1791 SMEATON *Edystone L.* § 223 *note*, The efficacy of the gunpowder to split the stone, rather than to drive out the stemming or wad, is greatly owing to a further circumstance. 1851 GREENWELL *Coal-trade Terms, Northumb. & Durh.* 51 *Stemming*, Small coals or stones, with which a hole is tamped. 1898 *Colliery Guardian* 22 July 155 Tubed Cylinder Stemming for Boreholes. *Ibid.*, Clay stemming undoubtedly is the best, as it can be pressed directly upon the primer. 1908 *Times* 24 Mar. 10/3 The shot did its work, ..and all the stemming was driven from the stone.

Stemming, variant of STAMIN.

Stemmy (ste·mi), *a.* [f. STEM *sb.*[1] + -Y.]

1. Having long bare stems.

1552 HULOET, Stalkye or stemmye herbes which be no trees and yet growe in height. 1827 STEUART *Planter's G.* (1828) 299 Letting the principal members of your group be tall and stemmy. 1865 *Reader* No. 122. 477/3 Stemmy herbage and productive trees.

2. Of a root: Long and slender like a stem.

1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s. v. *Root, Cauliformes*, i. e. Stemmy or Stalky, which shoot down deep directly, though often sending out Fibres and Strings from the great Stem.

3. Containing stems.

1863 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* XXIV. I. 134 The larger stemmy and leafy portions were thus separated. 1892 WALSH *Tea* 182 'Dusty' and 'stemmy' teas in particular.

Stemmyng, variant of STAMIN.

Stemplar (ste·mplăr). = next 1.

1828 CARR *Craven Gloss., Stemplar*, timber to support the roof of a mine.

Stemple (ste·mp'l). *Mining.* Also **stempel.** [Of obscure origin; = MHG. *stempfel* (Lexer), mod.G. *stempel*; cf. MDu. *stympel* foot of a piece of furniture.]

1. ? A stull piece.

1653 [see BUNDING]. 1671 *Phil. Trans.* VI. 2107 We under-prop our Drifts with Stemples, and Wall-plates, placed much like a Carpenters square, on the one side, and over head. 1778 W. PRYCE *Min. Cornub.* 97 The adventurers have been often put to unnecessary expence in stemples and lock-pieces to secure the Mine from falling in. 1883 *Encycl. Brit.* XVI. 453/1 They put in strong pieces of timber from wall to wall, and cover these cross-pieces (*stempels, stull-pieces*) with boards or poles.

2. (See quots.)

1674 J. RAY *Coll. Words, Of smelting Silver* 118 The transverse pieces of wood they call stemples and upon these catching hold with their Hands and Feet they descend without using any rope. 1875 J. H. COLLINS *Metal Mining* 9 The native miners of Chili..continue..to carry the ore to the surface on their backs, mounting the 'stemples' which are driven into the wall of the lode to serve instead of ladders.

Stempne, obs. form of STEM *sb.*[3]

Stemson (ste·msən). *Naut.* [f. STEM *sb.*[2], after *keelson*, KELSON.] (See quot. 1769.)

1769 FALCONER *Dict. Marine* (1780), *Stemson*, an arching piece of timber fixed within the apron to reinforce the scarf thereof. 1849 LONGF. *Build. Ship* 178 Stemson and keelson and sternson-knee. 1886 *Encycl. Brit.* XXI. 819/1 The foremost end of the keelson scarphs to the stemson.

Stemyng, variant of STAMIN.

Stench (stenʃ), *sb.* Forms: *α.* 1 **stenc, stenge,** 3-6 **stenche,** 3, 4, 6- **stench.** *β.* 6 **staunch,** 7-8 **stanch.** *γ.* 2-4 **stunch**(e, 3 *Orm.* **stinnch,** 4, 5-7 **stinche,** 5-8 **stinch,** 4-6 **stynch**(e, (6 **stintch, stynteche**). [The *α* and *β* forms represent OE. *stenc* masc. = OS. *stanc* (LG., Du. *stank*; Sw., Da. *stank* from LG.), OHG. *stanch* (MHG. *stanc*, mod.G. *stank*):—OTeut. types **stankwi-z, -kwo-z*, f. **staŋkw-* ablaut-var. of **stiŋkw-* STINK *v.* The *γ* forms are morphologically a distinct word, repr. OE. **stync* = OS. *stunc* masc.:—OTeut. type **stuŋkwi-z*, f. the weak-grade of the same root.]

†**1.** An odour, a smell (pleasant or unpleasant); also, the sense of smell. *OE.* only (very common).

a 900 *Bæda's Hist.* III. viii. (1890) 174 Swa micel swetnisse stenc. 971 *Blickl. Hom.* 59 þa swetan stencas ȝestincað þara wuduwyrta. *c* 1000 ÆLFRIC *Hom.* II. 372/26 Ða fif andȝitu ures lichaman þæt sind ȝesihð, hlyst, swæcc, stenc, hrepung.

2. A foul, disgusting, or noisome smell, a disagreeable or offensive odour, a stink.

a. c 893 ÆLFRED *Oros.* v. 226 Eall forweard..for þæm stence. *a* 900 *Bæda's Hist.* I. xiii. (1890) 48 Se wolberenda stenc þære lyfte. *a* 1225 *St. Marher.* 11 His fule stench. *a* 1240 *Ureisun* in *Cott. Hom.* 193 Þer ne schulen heo neuer karien ne swinken, Ne weopen ne murnen ne helle stenches stinken. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) IV. 119 Wormes come out of his body, and þe stenche of hym greved all þe oost. *c* 1450 *Mirk's Festial* 11 Anon þys fende vanechet away wyth an horrybull stenche. 1491 *Chast. Goddes Chyld.* 18 Wyckid sauours and fowle stenches. 1591 SHAKS. 1 *Hen. VI*, I. v. 23 So..Doues with noysome stench, Are from their..Houses driuen away. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* III. 836 Nor cou'd Vulcanian Flame The Stench abolish, or the Savour tame. 1735 SOMERVILLE *Chase* III. 158 Plunging he wades besmear'd, and fondly hopes In a superior Stench to lose his own. 1828 COLERIDGE *Cologne* 4 In Köhln..I counted two and seventy stenches, All well defined, and several stinks! 1841 DICKENS *Barn. Rudge* lx, The air was perfumed with the stench of rotten leaves and faded fruit. 1883 STEVENSON *Treas. Isl.* xvi, The nasty stench of the place turned me sick.

β. 1652 FRENCH *Yorksh. Spa* xiv. 104, I shall the better make to appear the Cause of its stanch and bitterness. 1653 H. COGAN tr. *Pinto's Trav.* xlix. 190 The great stanch which proceeded from these dead bodies. *a* 1653 GOUGE *Comm. Heb.* ix. 19 The cleer sun is noysome to dunghils..by reason of the stanch in the dunghil. *a* 1711 KEN *Urania* Poet. Wks. 1721 IV. 473 Fear not the stanch nice Sense may meet.

γ. c 1200 ORMIN 1209 Sinness fule stinnch. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 216, & he schal bidon ham & pinen ham mid eche stuncne iðe pine of helle. *c* 1290 *Brendan* 491 in *S. Eng. Leg.* 233 Strong was þe stunch and þe smoke. 1422 YONGE tr. *Secreta Secret.* xlv. 208 By the noosthurles we haue knowlech of odeurs and stynches. 1477 NORTON *Ord. Alch.* v. in Ashm. (1652) 70 Stinch is a Vapour..Of things which of Evill Complexions be. *c* 1585 [R. BROWNE] *Answ. Cartwright* 6, I maruaile howe his penne coulde droppe downe such poyson, and he not smell the stinch thereof as he wrote it. 1643 BAKER *Chron., Hen. I*, 60 His Physitian that tooke out his braines, with the intolerable stinch shortly after died. 1765 J. BROWN *Chr. Jrnl.* 226 My candle is near wasted...Now extinguished, it goes out with a stinch.

3. without article. Evil-smelling quality or property, offensive odour, stink.

α. c 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 167 Þo ne mihte no man for stenche cumen him enden. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 216 Stench stiheð uppard. 1340 *Ayenb.* 248 Huerof ne may go out bote uelþe and stench. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XIX. xl. (1495) 884 Stenche may be so stronge that it may be cause of soden deth. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* I. xi. 13 That all the ayre about with smoke and stench did fill. 1697 DRYDEN *Æneis* VIII. 638 Till choak'd with Stench..The ling'ring Wretches pin'd away, and dy'd. 1756 C. LUCAS *Ess. Waters* III. 317 Acids cause neither stench nor precipitation in the above solution. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* v. I. 652 In the dungeon below all was darkness, stench, lamentation, disease and death. 1859 DICKENS *T. Two Cities* I. v, A narrow winding street, full of offence and stench.

β. 1592 DANIEL *Epitaphium* Wks. (Grosart) I. 80 Fayre Rosamond..Who whilome sweetest smelt..Doth nowe wth deadly staunch infest ye nose.

γ. c 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 43 Þe siste [uþe wes] smorðer þe seofeþe ful stunch. *c* 1300 *Beket* (Percy Soc.) 2306 Hit stonk so foule..That unethe myȝte eni man for stinche [*S. E. Leg.* line 2386 stunche] neȝ him beo. 13.. *Minor Poems of Vernon MS.* xxxvii. 970 Foul he stonk as stunch of helle. *c* 1440 *Jacob's Well* 147 Eueremore he brast out horryble stynch. *c* 1530 *Judic. Urines* II. xii. 40 Wt stynche or els wt euyll sauor at ye nose. 1583 STUBBES *Anat. Abuses* (1877) 42 But inwardly is full of all stinche and lothsomnes. 1646 EARL MONM. tr. *Biondi's Civil Warres* IX. 227 From Filth and Mire, nothing but Pollution and Stinch can be expected.

4. Something that smells offensively.

1595 SHAKS. *John* III. iv. 26 Thou odoriferous stench, sound rottennesse. 1909 *Edin. Rev.* Oct. 292 Brayton has long been a stench in the nostrils of all decent citizens.

5. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *stench-charged, -involved* adjs.; **stench-pipe,** an extension of a soil-pipe to a point above the roof of a house, to allow foul gases to escape; **stench-trap,** a device in a drain, etc. to prevent the upward passage of noxious gas; a stink-trap.

1899 *Daily News* 28 Dec. 6/3 A noisome loft, *stench-charged and drenched with moisture from the rotten.. thatch. 1730-46 THOMSON *Autumn* 1204 A proud city.. convulsive hurled Sheer from the black foundation, *stench-involved, Into a gulf of blue sulphureous flame. 1891 *Rutland Gloss.* s. v. *Crookle*, What you want is *stench-pipes. You run 'em up as high as your chimney, and they'll be no eyesore. 1833 LOUDON *Encycl. Archit.* § 1803 The whole to enter into one drain in each area, where a proper *stench-trap and grate are to be formed.

Stench (stenʃ), *v.* Also 6-7 **stinch**(e, 7 **stanch.** [OE. *stencan* (Northumbrian) :— prehistoric **staŋkwjan*, f. **staŋkwi-z* STENCH *sb.* In the 16th c. (sense 2) prob. a new formation on the sb.]

1. *intr.* To have an ill smell, to stink.

c 950 *Lindisf. Gosp. John* xi. 39 Uutudlice stenceð [Vulg. *fetet*]. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 8401 Þe smoke þer of ssolde boþe stenche & blende. 1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 134/36 To stinche, *fœtere*.

2. *trans.* To cause to emit a stench, to make to stink, to render offensive. Also with *up.* ? *Obs.*

1577 GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* IV. 163 b, The Goose.. stencheth the ground with her vnprofitable..dounging. 1596 HARINGTON *Apol.* Aa 7 b, This same companie hath so stencht vp his house, that he must be forced to lye at London tyll his house be made sweeter. *a* 1631 DONNE *Serm.* (1649) II. 203 But after a Goose that stanches the grasse they [*sc.* sheep] will not [feed]. 1655 MOUFET & BENNET *Healths Improv.* iii. 13 Is not Middleborough, Roterdam, Delf,..stinched every dry Autumn with infinite swarms of dead frogs, putrifying the aire worse then carrion? 1707 MORTIMER *Husb.* 227 'Tis the foulness of the Ponds only that stencheth the Water. 1762 YOUNG *Resign.* I. 96 Dead Bards stench every Coast. 1801 *Farmer's Mag.* Nov. 371 Taking the sheep off their feed to lodge in the night, we think of great use, as it prevents dropping their soil on the pasture (what our shepherds here term stenching their food). 1838 HOOD *To Mr. Izaac Walton* 10 'How dare you,' says I, 'for to stench the whole house by keeping that stinking liver?'

3. To subject to stenches.

1824 *Blackw. Mag.* XV. 473 The fullest impression that could be purchased by our being parched, passported,.. starved and stenched, for 1200 miles.

Hence **Ste·nching** *ppl. a.*

1654 Z. COKE *Logick* 37 Smel. Simple. Sweet or Stinching. 1694 MOTTEUX *Rabelais* IV. l, As if..some divine Vertue could lye hid in a stenching ulcerated rotten Shank. 1905 *Dundee Advertiser* 1 Mar. 8 The villages are vile and stenching.

Stench, obs. form of STANCH *v.*, STAUNCH *a.*

1659 *Lady Alimony* III. iii. F 4 b, And if thou canst not live so stench But thou must needs enjoy thy Wench.

†**Ste·nchall.** *Obs. rare.* Also **stainshall.** [Of obscure origin.] A tin receptacle containing oil in which painters' brushes are placed to keep them soft and workable.

1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 145/1 Stainshall, of some called a Smuch Box. *Ibid.* 369/2 Stenchall.

Stenchall, obs. form of STANCHEL 2.

†**Ste·nched,** *a. rare.* [? Alteration of **stanched*, f. OF. *estanche* STANCH *sb.*[2] + -ED[2].] Of a fish: ? Confined in a stank.

1621 LADY M. WROTH *Urania* 257 So little a place as a Garden being like fresh-water, comfortable to stenched fish: so this to a prisoner.

Stenchel, -en, obs. ff. STANCHEL[2], STANCHION.

Stencher, variant of STANCHER 2. *Sc. Obs.*

Stenchful (ste·nʃfŭl), *a.* [f. STENCH *sb.* + -FUL.] Full of stench, smelling offensively, stinking.

1615 T. ADAMS *Black Devil* 50 The smoake and stenchfull mistes ouer some populous Cities. 1628 FELTHAM *Resolves* I. xlvii. 139 The body..must once perish in a stenchfull nastinesse. 1872 TALMAGE *Serm.* 140 A sepulchre reeking and stenchful with corruption.

Stenchil, var. STANCHEL 1.

1775 L. SHAW *Hist. Moray* 181. 161 Hawkes, Gleds, Stenchils,..Magpies, &c. are numerous.

Stenchy (ste·nʃi), *a.* [f. STENCH *sb.* + -Y.] Emitting a stench, foul-smelling.

1757 DYER *Fleece* I. 661 In dusty towns, Where stenchy vapours often blot the sun. 1819 *Metropolis* II. 133 Gross and abusive as the stenchy Canongate of his native land. 1892 MEREDITH *Empty Purse* 21 No stenchy anathemas cast Upon Providence, women, the world.

Stencil (ste·nsĭl), *sb.* Also 8 **stanesile,** 9 †**stensil.** [In 18th c. *stanesile*, app. f. ME. *stansel* vb., to ornament with various colours: see STENCIL *v.* 1.]

1. A thin sheet of metal, cardboard, etc., in which one or more holes have been cut, of such shape that when a brush charged with pigment is passed over the back of the sheet, a desired pattern, letter, or figure is produced on the surface upon which the sheet is laid.

1707 *Phil. Trans.* XXV. 2398 They colour them [playing cards] by the help of several Patterns or Stanesiles, as they call them; they are Card Paper cut thro' with a Penknife, for every Colour, as Red, &c. 1816 SINGER *Hist. Cards* 75 *note*, Savary describes the Indian mode of printing cottons, which he says is by means of a perforated pattern, or stensil. 1848 CHATTO *Hist. Cards* 89 That those cards were depicted by means of a stencil is evident. 1868 W. SUTHERLAND *Pract. Guide Ho. Decoration* 16 When the pattern is very small and intricate, it is best to cut a separate stencil for each colour. 1884 *Harper's Mag.* Mar. 583/1 Fig. 6 is a treatment produced by three stencils.

2. A pattern or design produced by stencilling.

1899 KIPLING *Stalky* 105 He looked regretfully round the cosy study which M'Turk..had decorated with a dado, a stencil, and cretonne hangings.

3. The colouring matter used in stencilling. Also (*Ceramics*), a composition used in transfer-printing and enamelling, to protect from the oil those portions of the pattern that are to be left uncoloured.

1853 URE *Dict. Arts* II. 454 s.v. *Porcelain*, The stencil (generally a mixture of rose-pink, sugar, and water) is laid on in the form desired with a pencil. 1859 in *Abridgm. Specif. Patents, Printing* 397 The article is then fired with the stencil on. The stencil is rubbed off on its leaving the kiln.

4. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *stencil alphabet, design, letter, pattern*; **stencil-brush**, the brush used in stencilling; **stencil-cutter**, (*a*) a person who makes stencils; (*b*) a tool for cutting letters, etc. out of stencil-plates (Knight); **stencil-painting** *vbl. sb.*, decorating by means of stencils; **stencil-paper** = sense 1; **stencil-paste**, the composition used in stencilling; **stencil-plate** = sense 1.

1866 W. F. STANLEY *Math. Instrum.* 227 Plain *stencil alphabets. 1868 W. SUTHERLAND *Pract. Guide Ho. Decoration* 15 Now dip the *stencil brush into colour. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade*, *Stencil-cutter*, a person who pierces patterns, letters, or ornaments, on thin metal plates, or on oil-cloth, etc. for the use of a stenciller. 1888 *Lady* 25 Oct. 374/2 Deepen the tint, and in dark red, wash in the *stencil designs. 1866 W. F. STANLEY *Math. Instrum.* 227 One of the most imperfect *stencil letters. 1845 G. DODD *Brit. Manuf.* IV. 133 The method of '*stencil-painting'. 1868 W. SUTHERLAND *Pract. Guide Ho. Decoration* 13 The *stencil paper being prepared, trace the design upon it. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2374/2 The ink used is known as *stencil-paste, and is essentially a water-color. 1868 W. SUTHERLAND *Pract. Guide Ho. Decoration* 12 *Stencil patterns play a very important part in house decoration. 1816 SINGER *Hist. Cards* 178 The artist is using a *stencil plate and broad flat brush. 1873 SPON *Workshop Rec.* Ser. I. 7/1 Copper is much better than brass for stencil plates.

Stencil (ste·nsĭl), *v.* Also 5 **stansel, stencel.** [In sense 1, a. OF. *estanceler, estenceler*, f. *estencele* (mod.F. *étincelle*):—popular L. **stincilla* metathesis of *scintilla* spark. In sense 2, a late derivative of STENCIL *sb.*, which appears to be f. the verb.]

†**1.** *trans.* To ornament with bright colours or pieces of precious metal. *Obs.*

a 1420 *Aunturs of Arth.* (Irel. MS.) xxxi. 2 In stęle was he stuffut, that sterne on his stede, With his sternes of gold, stanseld on stray. 14.. *Sir Beues* (S.) 3777+7 Florysschyd [*v.r.* Stencelled] wiþ rosys off sylyur bryȝt.

2. a. To produce (an inscription, design, etc.) by using a stencil. *To stencil out*, to blot out by stencilling.

1861 SALA *Dutch Pict.* xiv. 215 His Lordship's invitation ..printed upon placards, and stencilled on the walls. 1886 *Art Jrnl.* Apr. 107/2 Old English, Arabic, and other inscriptions may be stencilled as friezes in rooms. 1894 FISKE *Holiday Stor.* (1900) 108 The goods are probably shipped West and sold, the dealers' names and numbers being stencilled out.

b. To mark or paint (a surface) with an inscription or design by means of a stencil.

1833 LOUDON *Encycl. Archit.* § 580. 278 A simple..mode of stencilling the walls of plain cottages. 1865 *Reader* 4 Feb. 130/3 The earliest cards were stencilled, the figures being produced by a brush passing over the stencil, in which the outlines were cut through.

Hence **Ste·ncilled** *ppl. a.*

1853 R. S. SURTEES *Sponge's Sp. Tour* lxiii. 354 A fragment of glass nailed against the stencilled wall. 1881 YOUNG *Ev. Man his own Mechanic* § 1409. 644 A..pale blue ground with a stencilled pattern in darker shades of blue.

Stenciller (ste·nsĭlə). [f. STENCIL *v.* + -ER 1.] One who stencils or works with a stencil.

1832 THACKRAH *Effects Arts* etc. *on Health* (ed. 2) 55 Stencillers do not appear to suffer from the currents of cold air to which they are exposed by their employ. 1901 *Daily Chron.* 3 Dec. 10/7 [advt.], Colourer, good stenciller, female, wanted.

Stencilling (ste·nsĭlĭŋ), *vbl. sb.* [-ING 1.] The action of the vb. STENCIL. Also *attrib.*

1781 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 2) VIII. 5851/1 Stencilling is indeed a cheaper method of ridding coarse work than printing. 1865 *Reader* 4 Feb. 131/1 The colouring apparently imparted by the stencilling process. 1884 *Harper's Mag.* Mar, 583/1 Stencilling is the cheapest kind of decoration.

Stend, *sb.*1 *dial.* In 7 **stan.** [f. STEND *v.*1] A stick used by butchers to hold open a carcase.

1481 *Durham Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 97 Slaughterhous.. j fleshaxe, j dresyng-knyfe, iij capistra, v stendez. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 313/1 Butchers Instruments.. A Stan. 1893 *Northumbld. Gloss.*, Stend.

Stend (stend), *sb.*2 *Sc.* Also 8 **sten.** [f. STEND *v.*2] A leap, spring or bound. Also *fig.*

c 1425 WYNTOUN *Orig. Cron.* IV. iii. 236 Quhar stend for stend the coursere maid. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* X. x. 72 [The horses] brak away with the cart to the schor, With stendis feyll. 15.. *Christ's Kirk* 46 in *Bannatyne MS.* 284 Than Stevin come stoppand in with stendis, No rynk mycht him arreist. *a* 1728 RAMSAY *Answ. to Somerville* 82 While Sauls stride Warlds at ilka Stend. 1788 BURNS *'O death! thou tyrant'* iv, Ye burnies..foaming, strang, wi' hasty stens Frae lin to lin. 1790 — *Tam Glen* 22 My heart to my mou' gied a sten. 1816 SIR A. BOSWELL *Skeldon Haughs* Poet. Wks. (1871) 167 Forward, ye Crawfords wi' a stend. 1893 STEVENSON *Catriona* xv, There gaed a cauld stend o' fear into Tam's heart.

†**Stend,** *v.*1 *Obs.* [aphetic form of EXTEND *v.*] **1.** *trans.* To assess: = EXTEND *v.* 10.

1402 *Pol. Poems* (Rolls) II. 80 Thus prelatis and persouns aftir her state, ben stended to paien what that nede askith.

2. To erect (a tent). = STENT *v.*1 1.

1594 *Batt. Balrinness* in *Scot. Poems 16th C.* II. 351 Besyd that castell, on a croft They stended pallionis ther.

Stend (stend), *v.*2 *Sc.* Also 8 **sten** (9 **stenn**). [Of obscure origin; perh. identical with prec.] *intr.* To leap, bound, spring up. Of an animal: To rear, be restive.

1560 ROLLAND *Seven Sages* 296 Incontinent thay stendit on thair steidis. 1567 *Gude & Godlie B.* (S.T.S.) 109 Quhat gart 3ow montanis lyke rammis stert and stend? *a* 1724 *Ramsay's Tea-t. Misc.* (1729) 16 The Lover he stended up in haste And gript her hard about the Waste. 1786 BURNS *To Auld Mare* xiv, Thou never lap, an' sten't, an' breastet. 1804 R. COUPER *Poetry* I. 112 Athort the field, wi' wildest pranks, Th' unwieldly oussen stenn. 1824 SCOTT *Redgauntlet* let. xi, The nag begin to spring, and flee, and stend, that my gudesire could hardly keep the saddle. 1890 SERVICE *Thir Notandums* xix. 124, I was like to reist and to sten' at the doctor's orders.

transf. and *fig.* 1721 RAMSAY *Concl.* 34 My Saul to higher Pitch cou'd sten. 1893 STEVENSON *Catriona* xv, The lassies were bits o' young things, wi' the reid life dinnling and stending in their members.

Stendirrie, obs. form of STANNERY *a.*

†**Ste·ndle,** *v. Sc. Obs. rare*—0. [frequentative of STEND *v.*2: see -LE.] *intr.* To leap or bound frequently. Hence †**Ste·ndling** *vbl. sb.*

1549 *Compl. Scot.* vi. 66 It vas ane celest recreation to behald ther lycht lopene, galmonding, stendling bakuart and forduart.

Stene, obs. form of STEAN, STONE *v.*

Stenelytrous (stĭne·litrəs), *a.* [f. mod.L. *Stenelytra* pl. (f. Gr. *στεν-ός* narrow + *ἔλυτρον*: see ELYTRON) + -OUS.] Of or pertaining to the *Stenelytra*, a family of Coleoptera having narrow elytra. So **Stene·lytran,** a beetle of this family.

1842 BRANDE *Dict. Sci.* etc., Stenelytrans. 1854 A. ADAMS etc. *Man. Nat. Hist.* 196 Stenelytrous-Beetles.

‖ **Steneosaurus** (stenĭ,ōsǫ·rŭs). Also anglicized **steneosaur.** [mod.L., badly formed (after *Teleosaurus*) on Gr. *στενό-ς* narrow + *σαῦρος* lizard.] A fossil genus of saurians characterized by a narrow beak. Hence **Steneosau·rian** *a.*, belonging to this genus.

1836 BUCKLAND *Geol. & Min. consid.* (1837) I. 252 *note*, M. Geoffroy St. Hilaire has arranged the fossil Saurians with long and narrow beaks, like that of the Gavial, under the two new genera, Teleosaurus and Steneosaurus. 1869 HULKE in *Q. Jrnl. Geol. Soc.* XXVI. 168 Dr. Rolleston.. informs me that these bones are also shown in a cast of the Honfleur (Geneva) Steneosaur in the Oxford Museum, and that the relations of the bones in the upper surface of a Steneosaurian skull from Shotover exactly correspond with those figured in the 'Ossemens Fossiles'. 1896 H. WOODWARD *Guide Fossil Reptiles Brit. Mus.* 6 Teleosaurs and Steneosaurs.

Steng, Stengle: see STANG, STING, STINGLE.

Stenke, obs. form of STINK.

Stenlock (ste·nlǫk), *Sc.* and *Anglo-Irish.* Also **stainloch.** [Of doubtful origin; found in recent Gaelic as *steinloch*.

A Scandinavian fish-name of similar sound is Sw. *stenlake* stickleback, app. f. *sten* stone + *lake* eelpout (also in MSw. and mod.Norw.); cf. Norw. *lakesild* (*sild* herring) a kind of whitefish. But connexion seems unlikely.]

The Coal-fish or Sillock, *Merlangus carbonarius.*

1799 *Agric. Surv. Hebrides* 631 (Jam.) [The inhabitants of Islay] catch a number of stenlock..off the point of the Rinns of Islay. 1863 [W. F. CAMPBELL] *Life in Normandy* I. 283 It was some time before I knew that stainloch, greyfish..and poddly, were all one fish at different ages. 1864 *Rep. Sea Fisheries Comm.* (1865) II. 1190/2 Stenlock are caught in great abundance with the cod-nets.

attrib. 1893 N. MUNRO *Gilian the Dreamer* (1893) 167 A gross of stenlock hooks to grapple ye.

Stenn, variant of STEND *v.*2

Steno- (stenǒ), combining form of Gr. *στενός* narrow, occurring in many scientific terms, as **Stenobregmate** (-bre·gmĕt), *a. Craniol.* [Gr. *βρέγμα* front of the head], having a narrow BREGMA; so **Ste·nobregma·tic** *a.* (Dorland *Med. Dict.* 1913). ‖ **Stenocardia** (-kā·rdiă) *Path.* [Gr. *καρδία* heart], contraction of the heart or its orifices; also *angina pectoris* (see ANGINA 2); hence **Stenoca·rdiac, Stenoca·rdial** adjs. **Stenocephalic** (-sfæ·lik), *a. Craniol.* [Gr. *κεφαλή* head], (of a skull) characterized by abnormal or excessive narrowness; so **Stenocephalous** (-se·făləs), *a.* = prec. (Dorland). **Stenocephaly** (-se·făli), excessive narrowness of the skull. **Stenocoronine** (-kŏrǒu·nin), *a.* [Gr. *κορώνη* crown], having narrow-crowned molar teeth (see quot.). **Stenocranial** (-krē·niăl), *a. Craniol.* [CRANIAL], = *stenocephalic.* **Stenocrotaphy, -krotaphy** (-krǫ·tăfi) *Craniol.* [Gr. *κρόταφος* temple], excessive narrowness of the temporal region of the skull. **Stenoderm** (ste·nodēm), a bat of the genus *Stenoderma* or of the family *Stenodermata*, the members of which are characterized by having a contracted wing-membrane; so **Stenode·rmatous** *a.*, belonging to the family *Stenodermata*, resembling a stenoderm. **Stenode·rmine** *a.* = prec.; *sb.* a stenoderm. **Stenometer** (-ǫ·mĭtəɹ), [-METER], a distance-measurer consisting of a small telescope with a divided object-glass and a micrometer-screw for moving the half-lenses (*Cent. Dict.* Suppl.). **Stenopetalous** (-pe·tăləs), *a. Bot.* [PETALOUS], having narrow petals (Paxton *Bot. Dict.* 1840). **Stenophyllism** (-fi·liz'm), **-phyllous** (-fi·ləs) *a.* [Gr. *στενόφυλλος*, f. *φύλλον* leaf] (see quots.). **Stenorhy·nchous** *a.* [Gr. *ῥύγχος* beak] having a narrow beak. **Stenosto·matous** *a.* [Gr. *στόμα* mouth], having a small mouth (*Syd. Soc. Lex.* 1898). **Stenostomy** (-ǫ·stŏmi), the contraction of any mouth or aperture (*Ibid.*). **Stenothe·rmal** *a.* [THERMAL], *Zool.* (of an animal) capable of living in only a small range of temperature.

1813 PRICHARD *Phys. Hist. Man.* (1826) I. II. iii. 173, I propose to divide the varieties of the skull into three classes... 1...mesobregmate..2. *Stenobregmate: the section of the vertex narrowed; the skull having the appearance of lateral compression,..3. Platybregmate. 1857 DUNGLISON *Med. Lex.*, *Stenocardia. 1898 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* V. 912 *note*, The symptoms [are] those of increasing 'stenocardia'. 1899 *Ibid.* VI. 54 *Stenocardiac and cardiac muscle failure. 1899 *Ibid.* VII. 754 Morphine may be given..if there is *stenocardial pain. 1866 J. A. MEIGS *Cranial Forms Amer. Aborig.* 36 Narrow Oval Form (*Stenocephalic). 1878 BARTLEY tr. *Topinard's Anthropol.* Index, *Stenocephaly. 1865 H. FALCONER in *Q. Jrnl. Geol. Soc.* XXI. 259, I propose therefore to substitute..for the latter [Hippopotamine type] '*Stenocoronine' or narrow-crowned type. 1904 *Biometrika* Mar. & July 240 Brachycranial, *stenocranial and chamaecranial. 1884 J. E. LEE tr. *Römer's Bone Caves of Ojcow* 32 [In this scull] there is some *stenokrotaphy, the frontal margins are very smooth. 1871 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* (1896) I. 336 The *Stenoderms have been divided..into several genera...The Spectacled Stenoderm is one of the best-known species of this group. *Ibid.* 337 The Jamaican Stenoderm ..is very nearly allied. 1901 WALCOTT *22nd Ann. Rep. U.S. Geol. Surv.* I. 168 The rivers were meandered by using a prismatic compass for directions and a *stenometer for distances. 1904 GIGLIOLI & GUILLEMARD tr. *Beccari's Wand. Forests Borneo* xx. 305 The action of running water..has brought about a special adaptation in the leaves of many fluviatile plants. To the modification thus produced the term '*Stenophyllism,' or 'narrow-leavedness,' may be conveniently applied. 1880 WEBSTER *Suppl.*, **Stenophyllous*, having narrow leaves. 1904 GIGLIOLI & GUILLEMARD tr. *Beccari's Wand. Forests Borneo* App. 392 *Stenophyllous Plants...I have adopted this term for certain plants growing on river banks, or in the beds of torrents, which have linear or else very narrow leaves. 1861 R. E. GRANT *Tabular View Rec. Zool.* 14 Vespertilionida... Anhistophorous, narrow-jawed (*stenorhynchous), long-headed (macrocephalous). 1881 SEMPER *Anim. Life* 105 We shall..do well..to designate animals, according to Möbius, the former as eurythermal, the latter as *stenothermal.

Stenochromy (ste·nǒkrōumi). The art or process of printing a design composed of several colours at one impression. Hence **Ste·nochroma·tic** *a.*, of or pertaining to stenochromy. **Ste·nochrome,** a print produced by stenochromy.

1876 *Jrnl. Soc. Arts* 15 Dec. 68/1 Stenochromy. A New Process for printing a Number of Colours at the Same Time. *Ibid.*, Before I show you any specimens produced by the stenochromatic process, I think it will be advisable to give a short outline..of the manner in which stenochromes are produced. *Ibid.* 68/2 Stenochromatic printing.

Stenograph (ste·nǒgrɑf), *sb.* [f. Gr. *στενό-ς* narrow + -GRAPH. Cf. F. *sténographe* stenographer.]

1. A shorthand report. *rare.*

1856 EMERSON *Eng. Traits, The 'Times'* Wks. (Bohn) II. 118, I saw the reporters' room, in which they redact their hasty stenographs.

2. A shorthand typewriting machine.

1891 *Century Dict., Stenograph*, .. 2. A stenographic machine.

Stenograph (ste·nǒgrɑf), *v.* [Back-formation from STENOGRAPHER; perh. after F. *sténographier.*] *trans.* To write in shorthand, to represent by stenography; also *absol.* Hence **Stenographed** *ppl. a.*

1821 *Lives Scott. Poets* I. 62 The contracted, stenographed, blurred..state in which their manuscripts have been consigned..to Printer's Readers. 1865 *Morn. Star* 18 Jan., It is equally possible to stenograph by the pantelegraphic machine with marvellous rapidity. 1872 *Daily News* 31 July, The conversation of M. St. Hilaire might be stenographed straight off. 1903 R. D. SHAW *Pauline Epist.* IV. ii. 439 If Paul dictated the letters, then, to use Renan's phrase, we have a kind of 'stenographed conversation'.

Stenographer (stĭnǫ·grăfəɹ). [f. STENOGRAPH-Y + -ER 1.] A shorthand writer.

1809-W. IRVING *Knickerb.* VI. ii. (1820) 365 My predecessors, who were furnished, as I am told, with the speeches of all their heroes taken down in shorthand by the most accurate stenographers of the time. 1862 B. TAYLOR *Home & Abroad* 2nd Ser. vii. 449 A practised stenographer..took down many of these communications as they were spoken. 1893 F. M. CRAWFORD *Marion Darche* I. v. 136 John had sent for his stenographer.

Stenographic (stenogræ·fik), *a.* [f. STENOGRAPHY: see -GRAPHIC. Cf. F. *sténographique.*] Of, pertaining to, or expressed in stenography.

1681 COLVIL *Whigs Supplic.* (1710) 14 Greek, Syriack, or Arabick, Or Breviations Stenographick. 1775 ASH. 1837 PITMAN (*title*) Stenographic Sound-hand. 1888 STEVENSON *Some Gentlemen in Fiction* in *Scribner's Mag.* June 764/1 [My characters] turned their backs on me and walked off bodily; and from that time, my task was stenographic—it was they who spoke. 1907 G. SALMON *Human Element in Gosp.* III It is not imagined that the historian made use of stenographic reports.

Hence **Stenogra·phical** *a.* (in the same sense). **Stenogra·phically** *adv.*, by means of shorthand.

1656 S. HOLLAND *Zara* II. v. 112 Reading his unalterable resolvs written (Stenographically) in his face. 1674 JEAKE *Arith.* (1696) 271 But as the Denominations are various, and therefore must be exprest; so the Stenographical Mantles in which they are wrapt up, are..arbitrary. 1727 BAILEY vol. II, *Stenographical*, pertaining to secret writing. 1824 T. MOLINEUX (*title*) The Stenographical Copy-Book. 1906 *Daily Chron.* 22 Mar. 6/7 The staff that stenographically chronicles the House's doings from day to day.

Steno·graphist. *rare.* [f. STENOGRAPH-Y + -IST.] A shorthand writer. = STENOGRAPHER 1.

1850 in OGILVIE.

Stenography (stĭnǫ·grăfi). [f. Gr. στενός narrow + -GRAPHY. Cf. F. *sténographie* (1814 in Hatz.-Darm.).]

1. The art of writing in shorthand.

1602 [J. WILLIS] (*title*) The Art of Stenographie, teaching ..the way of compendious Writing. 1632 BROME *North. Lass* III. ii, Sure tis Stenography, every Character a word: and here and there one for a whole sentence. 1791 BOSWELL *Johnson* an. 1778, Although I did not write what is called stenography, or short-hand, in appropriated characters devised for the purpose, I had a method of my own of writing half-words, [etc.]. 1838 J. GRANT *Sk. Lond*, 264 A gentleman who was exceedingly fond of stenography previous to the derangement of his intellects,..incessantly wrote shorthand to his own dictation, after he was placed in an asylum. 1908 *Q. Rev.* Oct. 528 Stenography has caused reporting to be more professional than in those days.

2. *transf.* and *fig.*

1647 CLEVELAND *Lond. Diurnal & Sel. Poems* 33 Oh the accurst Stenographie of fate! The Princely Eagle shrunke into a Bat. 1664 POWER *Exp. Philos.* Pref. 8 In these prety Engines..by an Incomparable Stenography of Providence are lodged all the perfections of the largest Animals. 1837 DICKENS *Pickw.* vii, Mr. Pickwick was sufficiently versed in the stranger's system of stenography to infer from this rapid and disjointed communication that [etc.]. 1902 A. SYMONS in *Academy* 23 Aug. 200/1 A fine play is not the copy of an incident, or the stenography of a character. 1911 *Q. Rev.* July 229 The speech of the stage had become a mere stenography.

Hence †**Steno·graphy** *v.* [cf. STENOGRAPH *v.*]. *trans.*, in quot. *fig.*, to write or express in brief.

1652 E. BENLOWES *Theoph.* To my Fancie, Be Wit Stenography'd, yet free; 'Tis largest in Epitome.

Stenonian (stĭnōu·niăn), *a. Anat.* [ad. mod.L. (*ductus*) *Stenonian-us*, f. *Stenon-* (*Steno*) or *Steno-ni-us*, latinized name of Nikolaus Stensen, Danish anatomist, who first described this structure.] *Stenonian duct*: the parotid duct; also called *Steno's or Stensen's duct.* So **Ste·nonine** [-INE].

1769 CROKER etc. *Dict. Arts & Sci.*, Stenonian Duct. 1845 G. J. E. DAY tr. *Simon's Anim. Chem.* II. 15 The stenonian duct of a sheep. 1848 *Quain's Anat.* (ed. 5) II. 1008 The parotid duct, named also the Stenonian duct, appears at the anterior border of the gland. 1884 COUES *N. Amer. Birds* 210 In woodpeckers,..elaborate special salivary glands occur, having a..special 'stenonine' duct.

Stenopæic (stenopī·ik), *a. Ophthalmic Surgery.* Also **-opaic, -opeic.** [f. Gr. στεν-ός narrow + ὀπαῖ-ος perforated (f. ὀπή opening, hole) + -IC.] Of an eye-piece: Having only a narrow translucent aperture, designed to increase the accuracy of the sight by cutting off all obscurations. Hence of instruments, methods, etc.: Characterized by the use of a stenopæic eye-piece.

1864 W. D. MOORE tr. F. C. Donders *Anomalies in Accommod. & Refraction of the Eye* iv. 128 Stenopæic spectacles, stenopæic lorgnette, stenopæic apparatus. *Ibid.* 129 These reflexions on the injurious effect of obscurations led me to the application of stenopæic remedies. Their object is to cut off the light which should reach the obscurations. 1874 LAWSON *Dis. Eye* 55 Stenopaic spectacles may be tried. 1895 *Pop. Sci. Monthly* Aug. 470 A most useful appliance for viewing pictures is the so-called stenopaic slit.

Stenosed (stĭnōu·st), *ppl. a. Path.* [f. STENOSIS + -ED 1.] Affected with stenosis or stricture.

1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* II. 57 The mouth may become extremely stenosed and incapable of being opened. *Ibid.* III. 839 The stenosed bowel has been kinked or acutely bent upon itself and so closed.

‖ **Stenosis** (stĭnōu·sis). *Path.* Pl. **stenoses.** [mod.L., a. Gr. στένωσις narrowing, f. στενοῦν to narrow, f. στενός narrow.] The contraction or stricture of a passage, duct or canal.

1866 A. FLINT *Princ. Med.* (1880) 335 In mitral stenosis less blood than normal flows into the left ventricle. 1879 *St. George's Hosp. Rep.* IX. 732 Cicatricial stenoses are frequent causes of constipation. 1880 M. MACKENZIE *Dis. Throat & Nose* I. 361 An infant..died from acute stenosis of the larynx in about three weeks.

Stenotic (stĭnǫ·tik), *a.* [f. prec.: see -OTIC.] Pertaining to, characterized by or resulting from stenosis.

1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* III. 539 Some authors speak also of..a stenotic form [of gastric ulcer]. 1899 *Ibid.* VI. 262 Litten found in two cases systolic or systolic and diastolic stenotic murmurs in the first and second intercostal spaces.

Stenotype (ste·notəip). Also **-typ.** [f. *steno-* in STENOGRAPHY + TYPE.] An ordinary type letter used to denote a shorthand character.

1891 *Century Dict.* (citing Munson *Dict. Phonogr.*).

Stenotypy (ste·notəipi). [f. prec.: see -Y.]

1. A method of representing shorthand characters and outlines by ordinary type-letters.

1891 *Century Dict.*

2. a. The art of using the stenotyper. b. Type-written shorthand.

1899 *Daily News* 19 July 7/3 To read stenotypy the eye must learn a new style of type. 1904 *Daily Record & Mail* 9 May 4 The London Chamber of Commerce (which has included stenotypy in its syllabus as a special subject).

So **Ste·notyper,** a shorthand typewriting machine. **Ste·notypist,** one skilled in stenotypy.

1898 *Business Lett. in Stenotypy* 2 Instructions for using the Stenotyper. *Ibid.* 19 A thoroughly capable Stenotypist and typist.

Stent (stent), *sb.*1 *Obs.* exc. *Sc.* Forms: *a.* 4–5 **stente,** (6 **steynte,** 5 *Sc.* **stenth,** 7 *Sc.* **staint**), 6– **stent.** *β.* 5–6 **stynte,** 6 **stynt**(t, 6–7 **stint.** [a. OF. *estente*: see EXTENT *sb.* (Cf. STINT *sb.*1, with which this word seems to have been partly confused.)]

1. The valuation or assessment of property formerly made for purposes of taxation; the amount or value assessed, tax, impost, duty. = EXTENT *sb.* 1 a, b.

a. 1382. WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* II. 422 Whanne a prelat dieþ þe pope wole have his stente of alle þat fallip to his hous. *c* 1390–1400 in *R. Glouc.* (Rolls) 7678 [*MS. C has* stentes *for* rentes *in the following passage*: þe king willam.. Let enqueri þoru al engelonde..þe rentes of ech toun]. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 474/1 Stente, or certeyne of valwe or drede [*Winch.* dette], and oþer lyke,..*taxacio.* 1502 ARNOLDE *Chron.* Contents, The valewe and steynte of the benyfice of seint magnus in london. 1535 *St. Papers Hen. VIII*, II. 249 Your Counsaill..may foresee a new stent to be made of your revenewes. 1557 in Marwick *Edin. Guilds* (1909) 89 That na burges sonn..salbe haldin to pay taxt, stent, walk or waird..nocht haffing stob nor staik. 1581 W. STAFFORD *Exam. Compl.* ii. (1876) 35 And so as the pryce of your wares riseth; and yet I doe but keepe my land at the olde stent. 1642 in Row *Hist. Kirk* (Wodrow Soc.) Life J. Row 20 The presbitrye had sett down a stent on every kirk. 1657 *Kirk Sess. Rec.* in J. Campbell *Balmerino* (1899) 408 Ane staint of a hunder merkis laid upon the heritors. 1786 BURNS *Twa Dogs* 51 Our Laird gets in his racked rents, His coals, his kane, an' a' his stents. 1862 G. HENDERSON *S. Matt. in Lowl. Scotch* ix. 9 (E.D.D.) He saw a man sittin' at the resett o' stent. 1883 W. C. SMITH *N. Country Folk* 103 *Mad Earl* lxvii, And there are three old burghs too, paying him stents and dues.

β. 1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* I. xxiv. 72, I had leuer than the stynte of my land a yere that he were on lyue. *Ibid.* VII. xxxv. 269, I wold not for the stynte of my croune to be causar to withdrawe your hertes. *a* 1513 FABYAN *Chron.* VII. (1811) 363 To pay the v. part of the stynte of theyr landes. 1538 STARKEY *England* II. i. 175 That al such rentys as be inhaunsyd by memory of man schold be rebatyd, and set to the old stynt of that tyme. 1568 GRAFTON *Chron.* II. 157 They should..pay the fift part of the stint of their landes. 1577 V. LEIGH *Surv.* M ij b, That he maie thereby the better perceiue what euery Tenaunte commonly paieth for an acre ..after the stinte of his rente. 1740 *New Hist. Jamaica* 55 The Successors of Columbus..used the utmost Severity in collecting the Stints which they imposed.

† b. ? Valuation. *Obs.*

c 1460 SIR R. ROS *La Belle Dame* 769 in *Pol. Rel. & L. Poems* (1903) 108, I can nat se but all is at o stent, þe good, þe yll, þe vyce, and eke vertu.

† 2. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *stent maker, making*; **stent oil,** ? the quantity of oil claimed as duty on the year's produce; **stent-roll, assessment roll.**

1613 *Extracts Burgh Rec. Glasgow* (1876) 337 Sindrie..quha in tyme bygane haif blasphemit the *stent makeris. 1569 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* I. 683 Anent the assisting, contributioun, and *stent making in tyme bipast. 1614 *Reg. Mag. Sig. Scot.* 486/1 Payand..for thrie leischepund 13 merk *stent oylie 5 pundis 2s. 2d. 1633 *Ibid.* 740/2 Reddendo unum lie leispund de lie stent-oyllie. 1517 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* V. 126 Item..for non-delivering of thair *stent row ij^{s}. 1657 *Melrose Regality Rec.* (S.H.S.) I. 162 The whole elders of the parish..to collect and deliver to him the stent of their towns conform to the stent-roll produced. 1723 WODROW *Corr.* (1843) III. 44 Some are threatened to have their stent-roll heightened in August next, if they come not in and vote.

† **Stent,** *sb.*2 *Sc. Obs. rare*–1. [Of obscure origin; perh. an error.] ? A staple or hole to receive the end of a bar.

c 1470 HENRY *Wallace* IV. 238 Wallace..Be fors off handis it [a locked bar] raist out off the stent [*ed.* 1570 sprent].

Stent (stent), *sb.*3 *Sc.* [f. STENT *v.*1] A stake for stretching fishing nets upon in a river. Also Comb. *stent-net.*

a 1712 FOUNTAINHALL *Decis.* (1759) I. 293 There were two other points then found irregular in them, viz. their fishing with stent-nets. 2 *do*, Their [etc.]. 1797 in Morison *Decis.* (1806) XXXIII. 14283 [The Lords..prohibited the defenders] from using stent-nets or hang-nets of any sort. 1863 *MacQueen's Reþ.* (1866) IV. 548 The right to put a stake or stents in the *alveus* of the river,..and the right to use the stakes when placed there for the purposes of fishing. 1900 LD. HALSBURY in *Law Rep., App. Cases* 418 The one end of the stent net being fixed by an anchor in the stream.

Stent (stent), *sb.*4 Tin-mining rubble.

1778 W. PRYCE *Min. Cornub.* 133 Care is requisite to throw off the Stent or rubble from the tye to itself. 1902 BARING-GOULD *Book of West* II. v. 63 The rubbish thrown out of a mine is called stent.

Stent (stent), *v.*1 *Sc.* Also 5 **stynt.** [? Altered form of STEND *v.*1, due to the influence of the pa. t. and pa. pple. *stent.*]

1. *trans.* To extend, stretch out or set (a tent, sail, curtain, net, etc.) in its proper position.

1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* XVI. 282 He..gert ane tent soyne stentit be. *c* 1430 *Pilgr. Lyf Manhode* IV. vi. (1869) 177 Þe cordes þat þe wylde beste hadde stented [orig. *tendu*] in my wey. 1496 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* I. 293 Giffin to xij pynouris to stent the Kingis pailzounis, vij s. 1508 DUNBAR *Gold. Targe* 236 To schip thai went, And swyth vp saile vnto the top thai stent. *a* 1510 DOUGLAS *King Hart* 378 The courtinis all of gold about the bed Weill stentit was quhair fair Dame Plesance lay. 1513 — *Æneis* III. iv. 111 The south wyndis stentis furth strait our schete. 1597 SKENE *De Verb. Sign.* s. v. *Particata*, But of the vulgar people there is but ane forme of metting vsed.., to wit,..be ane string or coard, of sex elnes lang, stented betwixt twa staues. 1652 D. CALDERWOOD *Hist. Kirk* (1843) II. 365 An ensigne was caried before her..stented betwixt two speeres. 1806 MORISON *Decis.* XXXIII. 14280 He..stented his nets across both the head and foot of another pool. 1815 W. FINLAYSON *Sc. Rhymes* 85 (E.D.D.) Your fiddle sweet, stent ilka string, An dinna spare 't. 1900 *Law Rep., App. Cases* 409 No net had ever been declared illegal that had not been fixed or stented.

† b. *transf.* To set *up*, erect (a tomb). *Obs.*

1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* IX. iv. 120 And in my memor vp a tumbe to stent.

† c. To hang with curtains. *Obs.*

1512 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* IV. 279 Item,..deliverit to Thome of Pebles to stent the wyndois of the Palace of Linlithgow.., xxxvj elnis Bertane claith.

† 2. To extend (a person) *on, in* (an instrument of torture). Also with *out. Obs.*

c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xxxvii. (*Vincent*) 155 Þar-for in a frame stent hyme in lynth & brede, lith & lyme. *Ibid.* xlviii. (*Juliana*) 157 A quhele þan he gert sone dycht,..& stent hir þar-one but hone with cordis. *c* 1500 KENNEDY *Passion of Christ* 783 Lord, my syn..Garis þe now ly stentit on þe tre. 1728 RAMSAY *Fables, Miser & Minos* 44 Should he..stented be on Ixion's wheel?

† 3. To keep in place, stiffen (garments, etc.). *Obs.*

1488 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* I. 139 Item, for thre elne of rownde braide clayth to stynt the saim thre dowblatis. 1501 *Ibid.* II. 26 Item, for xviij elne cammas to stent the samyn ruf, xviij s. 1504 *Ibid.* 293 Payit..for lynyng claith to stent the said cheseb on, iij s. 1552–3 *Ibid.* X. 164 Item, v. quarteris small canves to stent the same [doublat], iij s. ix d.

4. *transf.* To distend (the stomach). *Obs.*

1801 J. THOMSON *Poems Scot. Dial.* 51 As lang as we get meal and bread, And ither things to stent our wame.

Hence **Ste·nted** *ppl. a.*

1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* I. xi. 7 The quene was set at deis, Vndir hir glorius stentit capitale. 18.. *Burns' Mary Morrison* ii. in Whitelaw *Sc. Songs* (1844) 49 Yestreen, when to the stented string The dance gaed through the lichtit ha'.

† **Stent,** *v.*2 Chiefly *Sc. Obs.* Also 6 **stynt, stinte.** [f. STENT *sb.*1, or aphetic var. of EXTENT *v.* (Cf. STINT *v.*, with which this word seems to have been to some extent confused.)]

1. *trans.* To assess, tax (a person, community, country).

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 474/1 Stentyd, *taxatus.* *a* 1513 FABYAN *Chron.* VII. (1811) 448 The warde of Algate was stynted or sessyd at .xxx.li. *Ibid.* 522 The lordis and gentylmen were stynted at certeyne men, after the value of theyr landys. 1557–8 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* X. 334 To vesie and considder quha wes absent witht thair oxin stentit to carie the munitioun of Hume. *a* 1670 SPALDING *Troub. Chas. I* (Bannatyne Club) I. 92 Then they begane to stent the king's leidges within the shyre of Angus. 1725 RAMSAY *Gentle Sheph.* II. i, For never did he stent Us in our thriving, wi' a racket rent.

absol. 1569 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* II. 12 That thai [our Soverane Lordis liegis, landit men] convene..and stent and contribute every man according to the avale of thair landis.

2. To assess and tax (land, goods).

1548–9 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* IX. 278 Chargeing the Shereffis to gif up thair retoures of the landis withtin thair sheref domes and ballieries for stenting of the punde landis, etc. 1570 FOXE *A. & M.* (ed. 2) 18/1 To prescribe hys lawes, to stinte his landes, and such other. 1654 *Kirk Sess. Rec.* in J. Campbell *Balmerino* (1899) 408 [Three elders appointed as] stentours..impartiallie to stent and sie what bolls of victuall everie heretor was. 1848 *Edin. Topogr. & Antiq. Mag.* Dec. 146 The lands and barony of Nevay, stented at £5 old, and £20 new extent.

3. To levy (a sum of money) as an assessment; to determine the amount of (an assessment).

1633 in A. McKAY *Hist. Kilmarnock* (1880) 153 [Parliament passed an Act to establish a school in every parish in Scotland,] upon a sum to be stented upon every plough or husband land. 1687 *Rec. Elgin* (New Spalding Club) I. 341 The Counsell appoyntit Saturday next..for stenting the cess. 1720 in W. Cramond *Ann. Cullen* (1888) 80 For ale and brandy at stenting the Lambas cess 15s.

Hence **Ste·nted** *ppl. a.*, **Ste·nting** *vbl. sb.*

c 1440 Stented [see sense 1]. 1587 *Sc. Acts Jas. VI* (1814) III. 508/2 Fra all taxationis..watching warding stenting and vtheris chargeis.

† Stent, *ppl. a.*[1] *Sc. Obs.* [Pa. pple. of STENT *v.*[1]]. Extended; distended; taut.

1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* IX. vii. 31 The wod was large,..Of breris ful, and thyk thorn ronnis stent. 1789 D. DAVIDSON *Seasons* 120 Until her apron was sae stent [with gathered nuts], The strings in targets, flew. 1886 J. BARROWMAN *Sc. Mining Terms* 64 *Stent*, taut.

Stent (stent), *ppl. a.*[2] *Sc.* [Pa. pple. of STEND *v.*[1]] Assessed, taxed.

1544 in Leadam *Crt. Requests* (Selden Soc.) 122 The Lordes & ther offycers wolde not alow ther yeldyng stent fynes. 1679 *Spirit of Popery* 16, I judge it fit..to leave my Testimony against the stent taxation cess that hath been so unjustly imposed.

Stent, variant of STINT *sb.* and *v.*

Stenter (ste·ntəɹ), *sb.* Also 6 *Sc.* **-ar.** [f. STENT *v.*[1] + **-ER** [1].]

† 1. One who sets up (tents). *Sc. Obs.*

1545 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* VIII. 406 Jhonne Aichisoun,..stentar of the saidis pavillionis.

2. = TENTER *sb.*[1] Also *attrib.*

1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech., Stenter*, a tenter;..common in Scotland and in the North of England. 1880 *Spon's Encycl. Industr. Arts* etc. II. 504 The piece [of book-muslin] is now taken to be stretched and dried on the stenter frames. 1891 *Century Dict., Stenter*, A machine or apparatus for stretching or stentering muslins and other thin fabrics. Also called *stenter-hook*.

Stenter (ste·ntəɹ), *v.* [f. STENTER *sb.*] 'To operate upon (thin cotton fabrics, as book-muslins, etc.) in a manner to impart to them a so-called elastic finish' (*Cent. Dict.* 1891). Cf. TENTER *v.* Hence **Ste·ntering** *vbl. sb.* (also *attrib.*)

1880 *Spon's Encycl. Industr. Arts* etc. II. 504 The continuous clip stentering machine.

Stenting (ste·ntiŋ), *sb. Mining.* Also **stenton.** [Perh. the same word as next *vbl. sb.*; but the etymological notion is obscure.] (See quot. 1860.)

1812 J. HODGSON in J. Raine *Mem.* (1857) I. 95 The single black lines in the walls and stentings represent stoppings. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 987 The pillars or walls of coal, marked *c*, are called stenting walls. 1860 *Eng. & For. Mining Gloss., Newcastle terms* (ed. 2), *Stenton*, a passage between two winning headways. *Stenton-wall*, the pillar of coal between two winning headways.

Stenting (ste·ntiŋ), *vbl. sb. Sc.* [f. STENT *v.*[1] + **-ING** [1].]

1. The action of the verb; extending, etc.

1507 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* III. 397 Item, to Robert Stanelee, broudstair, for..pak threid for stenting, ix s. x d. 1533 BELLENDEN *Livy* (S.T.S.) I. 40 But ony stenting of palzouns in the campis [L. *non castris positis*].

† 2. *concr.* Stiffening for a doublet. *Obs.*

1488 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* I. 164 Item, for flotin and stentin to thir saim doublettis xxvj s. viij d. 1647 *Caldwell Papers* (Maitland Club) I. 99 For vi. quarters of stenting at 10 ss ye elne. 1658 *Rec. Elgin* (New Spalding Club) I. 305 Tailyors..shall neither buy nor sell any merchandice except so much plaiding,..stenting, bleached or unbleached, threed [etc.].

3. *attrib.* and *Comb.*

1551 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* X. 17 Item, for buttonis and stenting caaves to the samyn [doublett], viij s. 1868 *Perthsh. Frnl.* 18 June, Muir Commissioners..The meeting..agreed to allow Mr. Herdman to remove the wire-fence on the outside of the hedge to the inside of it, with an additional wire and stenting posts. 1886 J. BARROWMAN *Sc. Mining Terms* 64 *Stenting-bogie*, a wheeled waggon or bogie carrying a pulley round which the haulage rope is passed, tension of the haulage rope being secured by [etc.].

Stentmaster (ste·ntma:stəɹ), *Sc.* [f. STENT *sb.*[1]] An official appointed to fix the amount of tax payable by the inhabitants of a town or parish.

1624 *Extracts Burgh Rec. Glasgow* (1876) 342 The said ..counsall haif electit Archibald Andersone [and sixteen others] stent maisteris for stenting of the inhabitants of this burgh. 1818 SCOTT *Rob Roy* XXIII, It might weigh down one provost's,..six deacons', besides stent-masters.

Stentor [1] (ste·ntɔɹ). *Sc. Obs. exc. Hist.* Also 6–7 **-ar,** 7 **-er, -our.** [f. STENT *v.*[2] + **-OR.**] An assessor of taxes, a STENTMASTER.

1574 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* II. 413 The Provest, Bailies and Counsale..hes nominat certaine personis burgessis of the said burgh, Stentaris, be quhome thay have causit taxt and stent the inhabitantis thairof. 1622 in A. Maxwell *Hist. Old Dundee* (1884) 425 He wes stenter for the last taxation. 1624 *Ann. Banff* (New Spalding Club) I. 52 Electit stentaris of the taxatioun of the fourt termes payment. 1659 A. HAY *Diary* (S.H.S.) 127, I went to Skirling ..to stent the parish for a schoole, but..I could not get a competent number of men to be stentours. 1897 J. WILLOCK *Shetl. Minister* 141 (E.D.D.) A quorum of the Heritors, Stentors of the town of Lerwick. 1906 J. PATTERSON *Wamphray* iv. 85 To appoint 'stentors' to lay on a tax to meet repairs where needed.

Stentor [2] (ste·ntɒɹ). [Gr. Στέντωρ, Hom. *Il.* v. 785.]

1. The name of a Greek warrior in the Trojan war, 'whose voice was as powerful as fifty voices of other men'; applied allusively to a man of powerful voice.

1600 NASHE *Summer's Last Will* F 3 b, Those mountaines are the houses of great Lords, Where Stentor with his hundreth voices sounds A hundreth trumpes at once with rumor fild. 1609 B. JONSON *Sil. Wom.* IV. ii, Rogues, Hell-hounds, Stentors, out of my doores, you sonnes of noyse and tumult. *c* 1611 CHAPMAN *Iliad* To Rdr., Brutish noises..Are bellow'd out, and cracke the barbarous voices Of Turkish Stentors. 1748 SMOLLETT *Rod. Rand.* v, [He] bawled out, 'Murder! thieves!' with the voice of a Stentor. 1840 DICKENS *Old C. Shop* i, Laughing like a stentor, Kit gradually backed to the door, and roared himself out. 1870 R. BROUGH *Marston Lynch* x. 90 She roared the..words through her hands with the lungs of a stentor.

‖ **2.** [mod.L.] A genus of Protozoa; an individual of this genus, a trumpet-shaped protozoan.

1863 WOOD *Illustr. Nat. Hist.* III. 766 The second figure represents the Stentor, so called because its general shape bears some resemblance to that of a speaking-trumpet. 1875 *Hardwicke's Sci.-Gossip* XI. 160/2, I found it to consist of an immense assemblage of stentors, apparently *Stentor polymorpha*, imbedded in a mass of dirty-looking jelly.

3. A platyrrhine monkey of the South American genus *Mycetes.* 1891 *Century Dict.*

4. *attrib.* with the meaning 'stentorian'.

1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. III. iii, Where Mirabeau is now, with stentor-lungs, 'denouncing Agio.' *Ibid.* III. I. iv, 'Legislators!' so speaks the stentor-voice.

Stentorial (stentō·rriăl), *a.* [Formed as next + **-(I)AL.**] = next.

1754 A. MURPHY *Gray's Inn Jrnl.* No. 98 ¶ 6 It is ushered in with a stentorial Voice enough to crack the Ceiling. 1846 *Blackw. Mag.* LX. 756 In the course of his stentorial and senatorial career he [John Bright] has more than once [etc.].

Stentorian (stentō·rriăn), *a.* [f. STENTOR [2] + **-IAN.** Cf. Gr. Στεντόρειος, L. *Stentoreus.*]

1. Of the voice: Loud, like that of Stentor (see STENTOR [2] 1); very loud and far-reaching; hence, of uttered sounds, song, laughter and the like.

1605 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. iii. III. *Law* 20 My Stentorian Song,..Shall brim be heard from India even to Spain. 1606 *Ibid.* II. iv. II. *Magnificence* 264 Whose Stentorian sound Doth far and wide o'r all the world rebound. 1623 COCKERAM I, *Stentorian-voice*, a voice so loud and strong, as the voice of one hundred men. 1711 *Countrey-Man's Let. to Curat* 31 The Mighty Talkers..who Conjure down the whole Modest Part of the Creation with a Stentorian noise. 1865 LIVINGSTONE *Zambesi* vii. 169 An uproarious dance follows, accompanied with stentorian song. 1872 C. GIBBON *For the King* XXXVIII, 'Hold' exclaimed the general, in stentorian tones.

fig. 1638 FEATLY *Strict. Lyndom.* II. 77 What a lowd and Stentorian untruth is here uttered by a foule mouthed Iesuit?

2. That utters stentorian sounds.

Stentorian trumpet = STENTOROPHONIC *trumpet.*

1690 *Pagan Prince* xii. 119 Setting a Stentorian Trumpet to his Mouth, [he] call'd out to the Belgians in a most Terrible and Astonishing Tone. 1875 F. T. BUCKLAND *Log-Book* 27 An invitation issuing from stentorian lungs to 'Step hinside and see' [etc.]. 1878 H. W. BATES *Stanford's Compend. Geog., Central Amer.* etc. 187 Here [Trinidad] we meet, among the monkey tribe, with..the stentorian Howlers (*Mycetes*).

Hence **Stento·rianly** *adv.*

1880 MRS. COMPTON READE *Brown Hand & White* ix, 'We are going to smoke', [said she] stentorianly.

Stentorin (ste·ntŏrin). [f. mod.L. *Stentor* (see STENTOR [2] 2) + **-IN.**] (See quot.)

1873 RAY LANKESTER in *Q. Jrnl. Microsc. Sci.* XIII. 139 Blue Stentorin.—The Colouring Matter of Stentor cæruleus. *Ibid.* 140 Comparing the bands of stentorin, as we may term this blue pigment, with those of chlorophyll.

Stentorious (stentō·rriəs), *a. rare.* Also 6 **-eous.** [f. STENTOR [2] + **-IOUS.**] = STENTORIAN.

15.. BECON *Castle of Comfort* Wks. 1560 II. 104 b, These Papistes, whych cease not wyth theyr stentoreous voyces to speke euyll of the true preachers of Gods worde. 1622 MABBE tr. *Aleman's Guzman d'Alf.* II. 280 Will you haue them with a stentorious voyce to deliver an Oration *ex tempore*. 1655 FULLER *Ch. Hist.* X. xvii. 77 They will remember the loudness of his stentorious voice.

Hence **Stento·riously** *adv.*, **Stento·riousness.**

1656 FULLER *Notes Jonah* i. 2. 11 [They] who change the strength of matter into stentoriousnesse of voice. 1685 G. SINCLAIR *Satan's Invis. World* Postscr. ¶ 5 A great multitude of People, Stentoriously laughing and Gapping with Tahies of laughter. 1882 *Fraser's Mag.* XXV. 487 To whose convenient indefinity the porter stentoriously invites us.

Stentoronic (stentŏrǫ·nik), *a. rare.* [irreg. f. STENTOR 2.] = STENTORIAN.

1762 WARBURTON *Doctr. Grace* II. v, Wks. 1788 IV. 617 For thus he measures out his own Stentoronic voice. 1861 [F. W. ROBINSON] *Under Spell* I. vi. 199 Jemmy..threw open the door and bawled out their names in a stentoronic manner.

Stentorophonic (ste:ntŏrǫfǫ·nik), *a.* Also 7–8 **-ick**; blundered forms 7 **stentoreophonic,** 7–8 **stentrophonick,** 8 **stentonorophonic(k.** [ad. mod.L. *Stentorophonicus* (f. Gr. Στεντορόφωνος having the voice of a Stentor, f. Στεντορ- (Στέντωρ) + φωνή voice), in *tuba Stentorophonica*, the name given by Sir S. Morland to the speaking-trumpet invented by him (also called *Stentorophonicon*).]

† 1. *Stentorophonic horn, trumpet, tube:* a speaking trumpet. *Obs.*

[1671 SIR S. MORLAND (*title*), A description of the Tuba-stentorophonica. 1683–4 *Phil. Trans.* XIV. 481 For if the Stentoro-phonecon..does such great feats, what might be done [etc.]. 1698 FRYER *Acc. E. India & P.* 96 He has Loud Trumpets made as big, and like our Stentoro-Phonica, or speaking Trumpet.]

1685 *Phil. Trans.* XV. 1185 He writes of..Stentoreophonic Tubes, the invention of which he justly ascribes to Sr Samuel Morland. *a* 1704 T. BROWN *Walk round Lond., Quaker's-Meeting* (1709) 19 The spirit speaks in them, they are but the Stentonorophonic Tubes. 1710 STEELE & ADDISON *Tatler* No. 257 ¶ 2 There was an Organ,..a Stentorophonick-Trumpet. 1713 DERHAM *Phys.-Theol.* IV. iii. 130 Of this Stentorophonick Horn of Alexander, there is a Figure preserved in the Vatican. 1800 VINCE *Hydrost.* xi. (1806) 113 Sound is conveyed to the greatest distance by a trumpet, called a speaking or stentorophonic trumpet. 1803 CAVALLO *Elem. Nat. Philos.* II. 312 Hence arises the effect of the speaking trumpet, or stentorophonic tube. 1811–31 BENTHAM *Language* Wks. 1843 VIII. 313/2, I. Instruments whereby increase is given to the diffusion of audible and evanescent signs:—1. Stentorophic [*sic*] tubes.

2. † Loud as a speaking-trumpet (*obs.*); in later use (echoed from Hudibras) = STENTORIAN *a.* 1.

1678 BUTLER *Hud.* III. i. 252, I heard a Formidable Noise Loud as the Stentrophonick Voice, That Roar'd far off, Despatch and Strip. 1682 T. FLATMAN *Heraclitus Ridens* No. 72 (1713) II. 193, I heard..a loud Stentorophonick Bawl, which presently was raised to a high Scream. 1704 D'URFEY *Hell beyond Hell* 72 Bawling with stentrophonick might. 1782 V. KNOX *Ess.* No. 164 ¶ 13. II. 324 A stentorophonic voice is the fundamental excellence of your Fine Man. 1822 T. L. PEACOCK *Maid Marian* xii, Little John read aloud with a stentorophonic voice.

So **† Stentoropho·nical** *a.* (in the same sense), **† Stentoropho·nically** *adv.*

1676 SHADWELL *Virtuoso* II. 36 *Sir Nic.* After dinner we ..will survey my Microscopes,..Stentrophonical Tubes, and the like. 1693 *Urquhart's Rabelais* III. xxi, A fair White Cock..crowed Stentoriphonically loud.

Ste·ntorship, *nonce-wd.* [f. STENTOR [2] + **-SHIP.**] The function of a stentor.

1817 COLERIDGE *Biog. Lit.* xxiii. (1882) 287 Whatever his sleep might have been his waking was perfectly natural, for lethargy itself could not withstand the scolding stentorship of Mr. Holland, the Prior.

† Ste·ntour. *Sc. Obs.* [f. STENT *v.*[1] (The suffix is uncertain: see **-OR** 3 and 4.)] A stiffening for a doublet.

1502 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* II. 289 For iij elne cammes to be stentouris and patrownis to him.

† Stentrel. *Obs. rare*—[1]. [ad. Sp. *estanterol*, 'the Mid part of the Galley, where the Captain stands in time of Fight' (Stevens).] ? The centre gangway of a galley.

1755 SMOLLETT *Quix.* (1795) II. I. IV. xii. 189/2 Seizing the captain, who stood upon the stentrel,..they tossed him forwards from bench to bench.

Steolin, obs. form of STEAL *v.*

Steore, obs. form of STAR, STEER, STIR.

Steorne, Steorre, obs. forms of STERN, STAR.

Steovene, obs. form of STEVEN *sb.*[1]

Steowe, obs. form of STOW *sb.*

Step (step), *sb.* Forms: *α.* 1 **stæpe,** 1–2 *pl.* **stapas,** 3–4 **stape,** (3 *pl.* **stapen**), 4–5 **stap**(pe, 6 **stapp,** *pl.* **stapys,** (7 **stiape**), 9 *Sc.* **stap.** *β.* 1 **stepe,** 2–3 **steape,** 3–5 **stepe.** *γ.* 1 *pl.* **steppan,** 3–7 **stepp**(e, (6 *pl.* **steppen**), 3– **step.** [OE. *stæpe, stepe* str. masc.:—OTeut. type **stapi-z,* f. root **stap-*: see STEP *v.* The precisely equivalent form is not found in continental Teut., but cognate and synonymous sbs. are (M)LG., (M)Du. *stap* (inflected *stapp-*), OHG. (MHG., rare mod.G.) *stapf*:—OTeut. type **stappo-z*; also OHG. *stapfo* wk. masc. (MHG. *stapfe* masc., fem., mod.G. *stapfe*(*n* masc., *stapfe* fem.):—OTeut. type **stappon-*. The mod. form of the sb. does not directly represent the OE. *stæpe, stepe*, but the rare OMercian *steppe* or *steppa*, which is influenced by the verb.]

I. Action of stepping.

1. An act of bodily motion consisting in raising the foot from the ground and bringing it down again in a fresh position; usually, an act of this kind as constituting by repetition the progressive motion of a human being or animal in walking, running, or climbing.

False step: see FALSE a. 6. *Hop, step, and jump*: see HOP *sb.*[2] 3.

α 1023 WULFSTAN *Hom.* (1883) 302 Ælc bæra stæpa and fotlæsta, þe we to cyricean weard..gestæppað. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 6942 Hire legges bare bineþe þe kne þat me miȝte ech stape ise. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 5194 Israel wit þis vplepp þat moght noght forwit strid a step. *c* 1380 *Sir Ferumb.* 3989 He prykeþ hem forþ wyþ such an eyr, þat at euery stape sprong out þat fyr þat þay made þanne. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* VII. 527 (MS. *B*) Ȝif heo wole go barfot for hir silf foure stappes and for the bischop fyve stappes, continulich uppon nyne solow schares brennyng and fuyre hote. 1538 ELYOT *Dict., Gradior*, to go by steppes. 1574–1794 [see STEALING *ppl. a.*]. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* I. 22 On this side the City they shew a stone, whence they say, the Saint called Aurelia passed the lake..at one step. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* XII. 648 With wandring steps and slow. 1750 GRAY *Elegy* 99 Brushing with hasty steps the dews away. 1784 COWPER *Task* VI. 564 An inadvertent step may crush the snail That crawls at ev'ning in the public path. 1825 SCOTT *Talism.* ii, What do you in the desert with an animal which sinks over the fetlock at every step? 1829 — *Anne of G.* xxix, If you will walk a few steps this way. 1867 AUGUSTA WILSON *Vashti* xxix, To-day her manner was excited, and her steps betrayed very unusual impatience.

b. *contextually.* A footstep or footfall considered in regard to its audibility.

1605 SHAKS. *Macb.* II. i. 57 Thou sowre and firme-set Earth Heare not my steps. 1797 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Italian* xviii, The steps of travellers seldom broke upon the silence of these regions. 1816 SCOTT *Antiq.* x, Step after step Lovel could trace his host's retreat along the various passages. 1879 *Blackw. Mag.* Aug. 180 There were steps coming down the staircase, and voices talking. *Mod.* How did you know who it was, when you did not turn your head? I knew him by his step.

c. Manner of stepping or treading; one's stride.

α 1000 *Riddles* xciii. [lxxxviii.] 10 Strong on stæpe. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* II. 407 With a rud step Wallace coud eftyr glide. 1677 N. COX *Gentl. Rec.* I. (ed. 2) 68 All Harts which have a long step will stand up very long. 1686 BLOME

Gentl. Recr. II. 78/2 When the Huntsman endeavoureth to find a Hart by the Slot, and then mind his Step to know whether he is great or long, then say, He is known by his Gate. 1736 GRAY *Statius* ii. 2 With sturdy step and slow, Hippomedon. 1832 LYTTON *Eugene A.* I. vi, There is no bound in our step. 1863 GEO. ELIOT *Romola* xii, Tito walked along with a light step. 1870 E. PEACOCK *Ralf Skirl.* I. 13 His step was steady and his voice firm.

d. *Mil.* One of the various paces taught in drill; as *slow* or *quick step*.

1798 WASHINGTON *Lett.* Writ. 1893 XIV. 28 To train troops to the 'quick step'. 1802 C. JAMES *Milit. Dict.* s.v., *Back Step*, a step taken to the rear from any position without any change of aspect. 1802–: see QUICK STEP. 1806–: see GOOSE-STEP. 1833 Balance step [see BALANCE *sb.* 22]. 1847 *Infantry Man.* (1854) 7 *Slow Step*...The recruit is to be taught to take 75 of these steps in a minute.

e. *Dancing.* Any one of the various paces taught by the master; esp. the gliding movement formerly used in the quadrille and other dances (see CHASSÉ *sb.*). Also, a person's individual manner of pacing in the dance.

1678 GAILHARD *Complete Gentl.* II. 49 A Master teaches the steps, but the grace, the carriage, and the free motion of the body must chiefly come from us. 1698 FARQUHAR *Love & Bottle* II. ii, My Dancing-Master has forbid me any more, lest I should discompose my steps. 1717 LADY M. W. MONTAGU *Let. to Pope* 1 Apr., The steps are varied according to the pleasure of her that leads the dance. 1815 SCOTT *Guy M.* xxix, I have even taught her some of La Pique's steps. 1859 *Habits Gd. Society* v. 206 'Steps', as the *chasser* of the quadrille is called, belong to a past age, and even ladies are now content to walk through a quadrille. 1884 'EDNA LYALL' *We Two* ix, Captain Golightly had the most delicious step imaginable. 1885 W. J. FITZPATRICK *Life T. N. Burke* I. 16 They never saw him dance, though his small feet seemed naturally formed for 'steps'.

2. *pl.* Progress by stepping or treading; a person's movements, his goings and comings, the course which he follows. In many phrases, as *to bend* or *direct* one's *steps* (to a place, etc.); *to retrace, tread back*, one's *steps* (see RETRACE *v.* 3, 3 b, TREAD *v.* 2 b); *to conduct, guide* a person's *steps*; *to attend, dog* (a person's) *steps*; all used both *lit.* and *fig.*

c 1000 *Ags. Ps.* xvi. 5 Ǽeriht, Drihten, mine stæpas on þine wegas. *a* 1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* xvi. 6 Þat my steppis be noght stirid. ? *a* 1500 *London Lyckpeny* i, To london once my stepps I bent. 1593 SHAKS. *2 Hen. VI*, III. ii. 304 Threefold Vengeance tend vpon your steps. 1596 — *Tam. Shr.* III. ii. 141 Were it not that my fellow schoolemaster Doth watch Bianca's steps so narrowly. 1598 BRANDON *Octavia* IV. E 5 b, Honour attend thy steps. 1693 DRYDEN *Ovid's Met., Acis & Galatea* 56 A Pine..He wielded for a Staff; his steps to guide. 1742 GRAY *Adversity* 29 Wisdom..And Melancholy..Still on thy solemn steps attend. 1812 BRACKENRIDGE *Views Louisiana* (1814) 46 The river pursues a zig zag course for forty or fifty miles, constantly returning upon its steps. 1842 TENNYSON *'Flow down, cold rivulet'* 3 No more by thee my steps shall be. 1856 CAPERN *Poems* (ed. 2) 151 And may no rude steps intrude On thy happy solitude. 1858 TRELAWNY *Shelley* etc. (1887) 184 Envy, malice and hatred bedogged his steps. 1885 'MRS. ALEXANDER' *At Bay* ii, He directed his steps to the hotel.

3. *fig.* An action or movement which leads towards a result; a particular move or advance in a course of action; one of a series of proceedings or measures.

1549 COVERDALE, etc. *Erasm. Par.* 1 *John* iii. 11–17 For in dede the hate of the neghbour is a step vnto murther. 1602 CHETTLE *Hoffman* I. (1631) B 4, The first step to reuenge, this seane is donne. 1605 SHAKS. *Lear* I. i. 231 No vnchaste action or dishonoured step. 1656 in J. Simon *Ess. Irish Coins* (1749) 125 The expedients and steps for this worke are many. 1663 PATRICK *Pilgrim* xxiv. (1687) 266 How hard do most Men find the first step to any Science. 1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* II. (Globe) 395 The Belief that the Savages were all kill'd, made our two Men come boldly out from the Tree before they had charg'd their Guns again, which was a wrong Step. 1722 WOLLASTON *Relig. Nat.* ix. 171 Every motion and step in life should be conducted by reason. 1827 FARADAY *Chem. Manip.* vii. (1842) 200 The best preparatory step is to insure the cleanness and dryness of the retort. 1841 *Penny Cycl.* XXI. 181/2 That prince deprived the town of its municipal franchises, a step which much depressed it. 1849 R. PATTERSON (*title*) First steps to Zoology. 1860 HOOK *Lives Abps.* II. ii. 144 The next step was to assert the royal supremacy. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* IV. 273/1 The first step in the preparation of cotton yarn. 1913 *Times* 7 Aug. 8/3 An anatomical prognosis that marked a great step forward.

b. A stage in a gradual process.

1811 PINKERTON *Petral.* I. 151 The first step in the process of crystallisation is the formation of grains; the second is [etc.]. 1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) V. 14 The regularity with which the steps of the argument succeed one another.

4. In phrases which refer to the action of walking evenly with another, putting the right and left foot alternately forward at the same moment with the corresponding foot of the other person; as *in step* and its opposite *out of step* (*with*); *step for step* (*with*); *to keep step* (*with*; also *to* music, etc.); † *to tell steps with.* Also *fig.*

1613 SHAKS. *Hen. VIII*, I. ii. 43, I..front but in that File Where others tell steps with me. 1784 COWPER *Task* v. 18 The shapeless pair, As they design'd to mock me, at my side Take step for step. 1844 MRS. BROWNING *Rhapsody Life's Progr.* viii, I could walk, step for step, with an angel beside, On the heaven-heights of truth. 1852 THACKERAY *Esmond* II. v, The officer, who rode alongside him step for step. 1858 LOVEJOY in *Congressional Globe* 18 Feb. 754/2 We hear about keeping step to the music of the Union. 1876–89 BRIDGES *Growth of Love* xxxvi, Wherefore my feet go out of step with time. 1896 HOUSMAN *Shropshire Lad* lviii, When I came last to Ludlow..Two friends kept step beside me. 1898 *Weekly Register* 15 Jan., We need not go in step with the Bishops over the whole ground exhaustively surveyed.

b. Electr. *In step*: (of two or more alternating currents) having the same frequency and always in the same phase.

1903 W. ROGERS in *Electr. Engin.* 25 Dec. 965/2 The secondary voltages are always in step, owing to the primaries being excited off the same mains.

5. Step by step. a. Moving one foot after the other continuously; *fig.* by successive degrees, by gradual and regular progress.

1581 E. CAMPION in *Confer.* II. (1584) N iiij, That..bodie ..ascended vpward steppe by steppe. 1701 NORRIS *Ideal World* I. ii. 26 If a man does but think and reason on from one thing to another, step by step, in a methodical train. 1732 BERKELEY *Alciphr.* I. § 16, I have been drawn into it step by step through several preliminaries. 1870 THORNBURY *Tour rd. Eng.* II. xxiii. 119 Step by step Wykeham rose to the highest dignities. 1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) III. 173 The revolution which human nature desires to effect step by step in many ages. 1885 'F. ANSTEY' *Tinted Venus* iii. 32 He had retired step by step before her.

b. Keeping pace with another; at the same rate of progress. (Cf. *step for step* in 4.)

1565 COOPER *Thesaurus* s.v. *Confero, Gradum conferre*, to goe as faste as an other: to sette steppe by steppe. 1580 THO. M. *Pref. Verses* 29 in *Baret's Alvearie*, Euen step, by step, in following of his feete, In rightest waies. 1610 SHAKS. *Temp.* III. iii. 78 Lingring perdition..shall step by step attend You, and your wayes. 1766 H. WALPOLE *Let. to Selwyn* 31 Jan., I go step by step with the British Ambassador. 1802 MAR. EDGEWORTH *Moral T., Forester* xiv, Whilst he followed him, step by step, through his instructive narrative. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 594 It [i. e. diarrhœa] disappeared step by step with the skin-trouble.

c. *attrib.* or quasi-*adj.* = that moves or advances step by step.

1803 G. ELLIS *Let.* in Lockhart *Scott* (1837) I. xi. 401, I am unable to guide my elephants in that quiet and decorous step-by-step march which the nature of such animals requires. 1813 *Examiner* 11 Jan. 19/2 We beg the reader to give them a calm,..step-by-step perusal. 1889 *Engineering* 4 Oct. 386/2 The step-by-step advance of the platen somewhat resembles that in the Caligraph. 1893 SLOANE *Electr. Dict., Step-by-step Telegraphy*, a system of telegraphy in which in the receiving instrument a hand is made to move step-by-step, with an escape movement around a dial.

6. To make or **take a step. a.** To perform the act of moving the foot as in walking or climbing. Cf. F. *faire un pas.*

To make or *take but one step* (*from — to —*): to pass the interval in a single stride.

1532 MORE *Confut. Tindale* 138 As from yᵉ shotte of a gonne a man were metely saufe, that had ere the gonne were losed, made a steppe asyde .xv. hundred myle from it. 1606 SHAKS. *Tr. & Cr.* II. iii. 193 Weele consecrate the steps that Aiax makes, When they goe from Achilles. 1678 BUNYAN *Pilgr.* I. 43 How many steps have I took in vain. 1687 A. LOVELL tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* II. 60 They had hardly made one step, when they returned with all speed. 1746 G. ADAMS *Microgr. Illustr.* 142 A general Description of the common Steps a Polype makes in moving from Place to Place. 1748 RICHARDSON *Clarissa* VI. 349 He had the insolence to lay hands on me: And I made him take but one step from the top to the bottom of a pair of stairs. 1798 SOPHIA LEE *Canterb. T., Young Lady's T.* II. 503 He..made but one step from the door to the bed. 1842 BORROW *Bible in Spain* xxxii, Many is the weary step you will have to make before you reach Giyon and Oviedo. 1859 TENNYSON *Elaine* 390 She stay'd a minute, Then made a sudden step to the gate.

† **b.** To make a short journey *to* (a place or person). *Obs.*

1670 COTTON *Espernon* I. iv. 144 Making a step into Gascony to Visit Madam de la Valette, his Mother. 1685 EVELYN *Mrs. Godolphin* (1888) 217 Often have I knowne her privately slipp away..to make a stepp to some miserable poor sick Creature. *a* 1701 MAUNDRELL *Journ. Jerus.* (1732) 1 Intending to make only a short step that Evening. 1733 SWIFT *Let. to Lady B. Germain* 8 Jan., I..was resolved to take a step to Paris for my health.

† **c.** To perform a stage in a journey. *Obs.*

1695 tr. *Misson's Voy. Italy* II. 305, I..intend..only to run over the several Steps that we made in our Voyage. 1829 SCOTT *Anne of G.* xix, That good Christians may bestow their alms upon him, and so make a step on their road to Heaven.

d. fig. *To take a step* or *steps*: to perform a move or moves in a course of action; to take action or measures towards attaining an end. Similarly *to make a step* or *steps* (now *rare*).

To take the necessary steps: often, to take the action prescribed by law as necessary to attain some implied object, e.g. the enforcement of a debt.

a 1628 PRESTON *New Covt.* (1634) 53 Thou takest not a steppe into any action..but it is ruled and over-ruled by the Lord. 1737 *Gentl. Mag.* VII. 150/1 These, Sire, are the principal Steps to be taken in order to reform your State. 1775 SHERIDAN *Duenna* III. i, How shall I entreat your pardon for the rash step I have taken? 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* vi. II. 44 James now took a step which greatly disconcerted the whole Anglican party. 1867 TROLLOPE *Chron. Barset* II. xlvii. 33 He wishes that I should take some step in the matter. 1885 *Law Rep.*, 10 *App. Cases* 386 The owner..has taken no steps to disabuse them of that belief. 1891 *Leeds Mercury* 2 May 6/5 Steps have already been taken to suppress this demoralising traffic.

1675 TEMPLE *Wks.* (1731) II. 340 This must be the first open Step that can be made towards the Peace. *a* 1715 BURNET *Own Time* (1823) I. 333 To make some steps towards the bringing in of their new religion. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* vii. II. 233 Every step which they made towards union increased the influence of him who was their common head. 1888 FERGUS HUME *Mme. Midas* Prol., Come, let us make the first step towards our wealth.

7. The space traversed by the movement of one foot beyond the other in walking or running; a pace. Hence as a measure of length or distance, sometimes vague, sometimes defined, as *military step* (see quot. 1862).

c 975 *Rushw. Gosp.* Matt. v. 41 *Mille passus*, þusend steppan [*c* 1000 stapa]. *c* 1000 ÆLFRIC *Gloss.* in Wr.-Wülcker 147/23 *Passus*, stæpe. *c* 1250 *Owl & Night.* 1592 Vch stape hire þinkþ a Mile. *a* 1400 BOTONER *Itin.* (1778) 123 Navis continet 36 steppys meos; et longitudo chori continet circa 60 steppys. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VIII* 41 b, A lyttell brooke, called Sandyfforde, whyche is but a mans step ouer. 1663 PATRICK *Pilgrim* (1687) 304, I remember once that I met with a Man that thought he wanted not above two or three steps of the Gate of Jerusalem. 1703 CIBBER *She wou'd*, etc. IV. 56 Move but a step,..this Minute is thy last. 1711 SWIFT *Jrnl. to Stella* 15 May, It is two good miles, and just five thousand seven hundred and forty-eight steps. 1798 WORDSW. *We are seven* 39 Their graves are green, they may be seen,..Twelve steps or more from my mother's door. 1862 W. PATERSON *Treat. Milit. Drawing & Surv.* 17 The military step of 30 inches, of which there are 2112 to a mile. 1887 FARRELL *How he died* 39 Not another step, or I'll have to pot you!

fig. 1780 *Mirror* No. 74 What if I should go a step further, and say [etc.]? 1847 YEOWELL *Anc. Brit. Ch.* iii. 23 Irenæus, who is but one step removed from St. John himself. 1856 *N. Brit. Rev.* XXVI. 49 This course of reasoning..might well have been pursued some steps further. 1869 HUXLEY in *Sci. Opinion* 5 May 505/2 There is a long step from the demonstration of a tendency to the estimation of the practical value of that tendency. 1870 E. PEACOCK *Ralf Skirl.* II. 147 The son went a step further than this.

b. With limitation or negative (expressed or implied): A very short distance; (only, even) the smallest distance.

c 1000 ÆLFRIC *Josh.* x. 12 Ne gang þu mona ongean Achialon anne stæpe furðor. *c* 1300 *Cursor M.* 17704 Ga þou noght o þi hus a stepe. 1535 COVERDALE 1 *Sam.* xx. 3 There is but one steppe betwene me & death. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* IV. 22 For within him Hell He brings, and round about him, nor from Hell One step no more then from himself can fly By change of place. 1781 COWPER *Retirement* 491 'Tis such an easy walk..; A step if fair. 1784 — *Ep. Joseph Hill* 26 'Tis but a step, sir, just at the street's end. 1815 SCOTT *Guy M.* xii, I'll slip on my hood and pattens, and gang to Mr Mac-Morlan myself..it's hardly a step. 1831 *Westm. Rev.* Jan. 232 There is but one step, said Napoleon, from the sublime to the ridiculous. 1845 LADY DUFFERIN *Irish Emigrant* 17 'Tis but a step down yonder lane, The little Church stands near. 1876 SMILES *Sc. Natur.* iv. 61 Edward did not know a step of the road.

c. *A good, tidy*, etc. *step*: a considerable walking distance. *dial.*

1768 STERNE *Sent. Journ., Fragm.* II. 128 He had brought the little print of butter..; and as..he had a good step to bring it, he had [etc.]. 1869 R. B. PEACOCK *Lonsdale Gloss., Step*, a walking distance. 1888 *Berkshire Gloss.* s.v., 'A goodish step' means rather a long distance. 1894 BLACKMORE *Perlycross* 57 The field was a good step from the village.

† **d.** A square on a chess-board. *Obs. rare.*

1562 ROWBOTHUM *Playe of Cheasts* A vj b, The king..hath libertie to assault thre roumes or steps as he listeth.

8. [Partly fig. use of sense 12.] A degree in an ascending scale; a remove in an upward process; a grade in rank or promotion. *To get the* or *one's step* (Mil.): to be promoted to the next higher grade.

In early writers often used where we should now say *grade* or *degree*.

c 1000 ÆLFRIC *Gram.* v. (Z.) 15 *Positivus* is se forma stæpe. *c* 1000 — *Hom.* II. 70 On Godes ġelaðunge synd þry stæpas ġecorenra manna. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 29134 Þar es steps thrin þat man mai fall wit-all in sin, egging, liging [*Galba* lyking], and consent. 1340 *Ayenb.* 46 Þe lecherie of herte zuo heþ vour stapes. 1577 HANMER *Eusebius' Anc. Eccl. Hist.* III. xxxiii. 55 Obtayning the first stepp of Apostolical succession. 1594 SHAKS. *Rich. III*, IV. iv. 301 They are as Children but one steppe below. 1601 BP. W. BARLOW *Serm. Paules Crosse* 30, I am not either a penny the richer or a steppe the higher for him. 1641 J. JACKSON *True Evang. T.* iii. 168 A graduall expression, growing up to the height of its emphasis by foure steps. 1779 *Mirror* No. 25 This contempt of authority, and affectation of fashion, has gone a step lower in my household. 1781 COWPER *Retirem.* 722 One [friend]..Will stand advanc'd a step above the rest. 1801 G. ROSE *Diaries* (1860) I. 348 It might be desirable to confer the..step in the peerage on Lord Nelson. 1821 SCOTT *Let.* in *Lockhart* (1839) VI. 316, I trusted you would get the step within the twelve months that the corps yet remains in Europe. 1829 J. DONOVAN tr. *Catech. Counc. Trent* II. vii, After first tonsure, the next step is to the order of Porter. *c* 1830 MRS. SHERWOOD *Houlston Tracts* III. lxxxi. 4 The housemaid..had been at the head of the sweeping-department,..and..by her going Anne was to get a step. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* xxviii, 'He and I were both shot in the same leg at Talavera.' 'Where you got your step,' said George, with a laugh. 1892 BIERCE *In Midst of Life* 124 Each had taken two steps upward in rank. 1902 S. SHELDON & H. MASON *Altern.-Current Machines* 207 Take readings thus by steps of five degrees throughout one complete cycle.

b. Mus. *By step*: by progression through a single degree of the scale (i.e. a tone or semitone).

1889 E. PROUT *Harmony* (ed. 10) vi. § 164 A second inversion may be approached either by leap..or by step..from the root position of another chord.

9. The mark or impression made by the foot on the ground; a footprint.

c 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* 6/182 Euerech stape þat we stepen for-barnde onder ore fet..For þe foule sunnes þat we duden ore stapen beoth euere i-sene. *c* 1385 CHAUCER *L. G. W.* 829 He sey the steppis brode of a lyoun. *c* 1400 *Master of Game* (MS. Digby 182) xxiv, He shall say the trace of an herte and eke of þe bucke,..and þat of þe stynkynge beestes, þat men calle vermynn, he shall clepe hem steppes. *c* 1400 *Ywaine & Gaw.* 2889 Lo her the steppes of his stede, Evyn

unto him thai wil the lede. *c* 1450 *Mirk's Festial* 152 And þer [he] laft þe steppus of hys fete þroste downe into þe hard erth, þat euer sythen has ben sen. 1530 PALSGR. 276/1 Steppe a print of ones fote, *trac.* 1538 ELYOT *Dict., Peda & Pedatura*, the steppe or token of a mannes foote. 1746 FRANCIS tr. *Horace, Epist.* I. i. 105 The Steps, that to thy Den Look forward all, but none return again.

† b. *fig.* A trace, vestige; a mark or indication left by anything material or immaterial. *Obs.* (Cf. FOOTSTEP 3.)

1382 WYCLIF *Wisd.* ii. 3 Oure lif shal passe as the step of a cloude. 1388 — *Gen.* xli. 21 Tho secounde 3auen no steppe of fulnesse. *c* 1400 LOVE *Bonavent. Mirr.* lviii. (Gibbs MS.) 113 Oure lorde reserued in hys gloryouse body þe steppes of hys woundes. 1432–50 tr. *Higden* (Rolls) II. 35 As 3itte the stappes of that famose dyche remayne. 1565 STAPLETON *Fortr. Faith* 132 Purging them from all steppes and tokens of Idolatry. 1578 J. FOXE in *Bk. Chr. Prayers* 26 Vnles among the far Ethiopians some old steps of Christianitie peraduenture doe yet remayn.

10. *To walk in* (or †*tread*) a person's *steps*, to follow him as he walks; usually *fig.*, follow his example. † Also in phrases of opposite sense, as *to swerve from, shun, refuse* one's *steps*. The phr. *to follow*, (†*sue*, †*pursue*) a person's *steps* is perhaps to be referred in part to sense 5.

a 1240 *Ureisun* in *O.E. Hom.* I. 187 He mot folezi þine steapes þurh sar and þurh sorewe. 1382 WYCLIF *Rom.* iv. 12 To hem that suen the steppis [1534 TINDALE, walke in the steppes] of the feith of our fadir Abraham. 1432–50 tr. *Higden* (Rolls) II. 343 Which folowenge the stappes of an oxe made a place, namenge hit Boetia. *Ibid.* V. 431 The doȝhters of the seide Romilda not foloynge the stappes of theire moder, but lovynge chastite. *c* 1480 HENRYSON *Test. Cres.* 17 Thair fadirs steppis iustly to persewe. 1513 BRADSHAW *St. Werburge* II. 1508 This Matilde, clerely refusyng The steppes of Sara..And other good matrons. 1538 STARKEY *England* 145 In thys processe we wyl take nature for our exampul, and, as nere as we can, folow hyr steppys. 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 169 b, Not to swarve from the steppes of the confession at Auspurge. 1577 B. GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* 18 A good token is it..of good ground, where the Crowe and the Pye folowe in great number the plowe, scraping in the steppes of the Plowman. 1579–1752 [see TREAD *v.* 2 b]. *a* 1586 SIDNEY *Ps.* XVII. iv, Ledd by thy word, the rav'ners stepps I shun. 1695 HICKERINGILL *Lay-Clergy* Wks. 1716 I. 322 Arch-bishop Laud did but Lackey it after those, and followed their steps. 1714 *Barrow's Euclid* Pref. 2 Whose Steps I was obliged closely to follow. 1788 GIBBON *Decl. & F.* lix. VI. 72 The jackall..is said to follow the steps, and devour the leavings, of the lion. 1881 ILLINGWORTH *Serm.* xi. 149 Thousands upon thousands.. have taken courage from their example to follow in their steps.

† **11.** The sole of the foot. Only as a rendering of L. *vestigium. Obs.*

1382 WYCLIF 2 *Sam.* xiv. 25 Fro the stap of the foot [*a vestigio pedis*] vnto the top, there was not in hym eny spot. 1609 BIBLE (Douay) *Deut.* xxviii. 65 Neither shal there be resting for the steppe of thy foote.

II. Something on which to place the foot in ascending or descending.

12. A flat-topped structure, normally made of stone or wood and some six or seven inches high, used, singly or as one of a series, to facilitate a person's movement from one level to another.

c 825 *Vesp. Psalter* xliv. 9 *A gradibus eburneis*, from stepum elpanbaennum. *c* 1000 ÆLFRIC *Exod.* xx. 26 Ne ga þu on stapum to minum weofode. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 10589 Þis maiden..Was on þis grece..On þe nepermast stepp don. *c* 1320 *Cast. Love* 740 In þulke..tour þer stont a trone.. Seuene steppes þer beoþ þer-to. 1426–7 *Rec. St. Mary at Hill* (1905) 66 For a mason & his man..to make a stayer with iij stappes. 1538 ELYOT *Dict., Scamnum*,..a step or grise, wherby a manne gothe vp vnto a high bedde. 1554 tr. *Doctr. Masse Bk.* A iv b, Let there be a benediction of Salt and Water..made by the Priest at the step of the Chauncell. 1567–8 *Fabric Rolls York Minster* (Surtees) 114 For amending and repayring the greases or steppes before the southe doore, 6s. 1637 *MS. Acc. St. Johns Hosp., Canterb.*, For a great stone to make a stiape vj^{d}. 1705 [E. WARD] *Hudibras Rediv.* IV. 16 That dwells in Allies, God knows where, Down seven Steps, and up one Stair. 1823 P. NICHOLSON *Pract. Build.* 184 Each riser and tread, when fixed together, is called a step. 1847 C. BRONTË *Jane Eyre* xvii, Adèle and I sat down on the top step of the stairs to listen. 1908 [MISS E. FOWLER] *Betw. Trent & Ancholme* 39 The steps down into the Fellows' garden.

fig. 1604 SHAKS. *Oth.* I. iii. 200 (Qo.), Let me..lay a sentence, Which as a greese or step may helpe these louers Into your fauour. 1605 — *Macb.* I. iv. 48 The Prince of Cumberland! that is a step, On which I must fall downe, or else o're-leape, For in my way it lyes. 1642 FULLER *Holy & Prof. St.* II. xv. 106 Not like those Masters, who making their Colledges as steps to higher advancement will trample on them to raise up themselves.

b. The height or depth of this.

1662 J. DAVIES tr. *Olearius' Voy. Ambass.* 271 This Hall was rais'd three Steps from the Ground. 1877 JEFFERIES *Gamekeeper at H.* i. (1890) 5 Inside the door the floor of brick is a step below the level of the ground.

c. A foothold cut in a slope of earth or ice.

1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* I. xi. 69 Cutting steps in the ice wherever climbing was necessary. 1871 WHYMPER *Scrambles Alps* x. 230 He cut steps down one side of a *sérac*. 1892 DENT *Mountaineering* vi. 175 To cut traversing steps is harder than to cut steps down hill.

d. A flat projecting foot-piece, fixed or made to let down when wanted, for entering or alighting from a vehicle; also, a projecting bracket attached to a bicycle to rest the foot on when mounting.

1837 DICKENS *Pickw.* iv, The fat boy..let down the steps, and held the carriage door invitingly open. 1841 THACKERAY *Gt. Hoggarty Diamond* iii, The carriage steps being let down. 1847 LEVER *Knt. Gwynne* xvii, The steps were up, the door banged to,..and the next moment saw the chaise at the end of the street. 1852 THACKERAY *Esmond* I. iv, The young page..riding..on the step of my lady's coach. 1877 H. H. GRIFFIN *Bicycles of Year* 8 The step is placed at a convenient distance from the ground, and at the portion of fork best suited to bear the rider's weight. 1882 'EDNA LYALL' *Donovan* xxxi, By the time the newspaper boy had sprung down from the step [of a railway carriage].

e. *Fortif.* = BANQUETTE I.

1672 LACY tr. *Tacquet's Milit. Archit.* 18 The Step, or Banquet is built at the foot of all Brestworks on the inside, and is 3 feet thick or broad, and 1½ feet high. 1834–47 J. S. MACAULAY *Field Fortif.* (1851) 303 To render the steps or traverses..available for the active, as well as passive defence.

13. A rung or stave of a ladder; each of the flat cross-pieces of a step-ladder.

c 1000 ÆLFRIC *Saints' Lives* i. 22 Þonne bið he þam men ȝelic þe..stihð be þære hlæddre stapum oðþæt he to ðæm ænde becume. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* x. 361 He gert Sym of the Ledowss..Of hempyn rapis ledderis ma, With treyn steppis bundin swa, That vald brek apon na kyn wiss. 1530 PALSGR. 276/1 Steppe or staffe of a lader, *eschellon*. 1548 *Elyot's Dict., Climacter*, the rounde or step of a ladder. 1659 N. R. *Prov., Eng. Fr.* etc. 89 Step after step the Ladder's ascended. 1674 *Churchw. Acc. Pittington* etc. (Surtees) 236 A new ladder containing 31 stepps. *c* 1850 *Rudim. Navig.* (Weale) 153 Steps for the Ship's side. The pieces of quartering, with mouldings, nailed to the sides amidships, about 9 inches asunder, from the wale upwards, for the convenience of persons getting on board. 1902 J. OMAN *Vision & Authority* I. iv. 30 No step of the ladder by which man climbs equals the first.

b. *pl.* A step-ladder; also *a pair* or *set of steps. collog.*

1693 EVELYN *De La Quint. Compl. Gard.* II. 17 If that Branch be too high, he must get upon something, either a Ladder, or Steps, to the end that he may Cut it with ease. 1730 *Inventory R. Woolley's Goods* (1732) 11 A Pair of wooden Steps. 1855 TROLLOPE *Warden* xiv. 221 A pretty portable set of steps in one corner of the room. 1861 F. W. ROBINSON *No Church* I. i. ii. 66 A hammer, and nails, and a pair of steps. *Ibid.* 67 Steps, nails and hammer were quickly at the disposal of the stranger. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech., Steps*, a ladder for in-door use.

III. Transferred uses of sense 12.

14. *Geol.* A fault or dislocation of strata.

1789 J. WILLIAMS *Min. Kingd.* I. 23 The single slips, or steps, for they are known by both names, are of various degrees of magnitude. 1824 G. CHALMERS *Caledonia* III. ii. § 3. 53 This bed [of coal]..when clear of steps and dikes, which frequently occur, at thirty yards' distance, dips one foot in twelve. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 965 Hitches are small and partial slips, where the dislocation does not exceed the thickness of the coal-seam; and they are correctly enough called steps by the miner. 1886 J. BARROWMAN *Sc. Mining Terms* 64 *Step*, a hitch or dislocation of the strata.

15. An offset or part resembling a step in outline, singly or in a series; e.g. in the bit of a key.

1674 HOOKE *Animadv. Machina Coelestis* etc. 71 Unscrew the Plates, and place them in such order, that the Teeth may gradually follow each other,..and with such steps, that the last Tooth of one Degree, may within one step answer to the first Tooth of the next Degree. 1808 in *Abridgm. Specif. Patents, Locks* etc. (1873) 17 The key..moves the horizontal tumbler or tumblers to certain limit or limits by a step or steps cut in the key nose. 1823 MAWE *Diamonds* (1823) 128 When cut in steps,..it [the peridot] will appear to the greatest advantage. 1815 *Falconer's Dict. Marine* (ed. Burney), *Step* or *Tongue*, for the tar-kettle, in rope-making, is made of three inch oak plank [etc.]. 1859 F. A. GRIFFITHS *Artill. Man.* Plate (1862) 112 Steps [of a gun-carriage]. 1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib., Brit.* II. No. 6105, The 'bits' or steps on the 'web' of the key, that act on the levers inside the lock.

b. (See quot.)

1909 *N. Hawkins' Mech. Dict., Step of Screw*, the distance between two adjacent threads, more commonly termed *the pitch of the screw.*

16. *Naut.* The block in which is fixed the heel of a mast or capstan.

c 1000 in Cockayne *Shrine* (1864) 35/15 Hiȝ fæstniað þone stepe þurh þa pilinge. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 474/2 Step, where a mast stant yn a schyppe, *parastica*. 1532 [see HOUND *sb.*^{2} 1]. 1644 MANWAYRING *Seamans Dict.* 102 A *Stepp*. They call that peece of timber, which is made fast to the Keelson, wherein the maine-mast doth stand, a Stepp: Also those places, and timber, wherein the missen-mast, fore-mast, and the capstaine doe stand, are called Stepps. 1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* I. (Globe) 139, I fix'd my Umbrella also in a Step at the Stern, like a Mast. *c* 1850 *Rudim. Navig.* (Weale) 152 *Steps* for the *Capstan*. Solid lumps of oak, fixed on the beams, in which the heels of the capstan work. 1912 *Blackw. Mag.* Sept. 342/2 Our mast suddenly gave out, and, breaking at the step, went overboard.

17. *Mech.* **a.** The lower bearing or block on which a vertical pivot, shaft or the like rotates.

1814 BUCHANAN *Millwork* (1823) 547 The bearings for pivots, at the lower extremity of upright shafts, are denominated steps. 1835 URE *Philos. Manuf.* 172 Their lower ends [of the spindles] are pointed conically, and turn in brass sockets called steps. 1841 BREES *Gloss. Civil Engin., Steps* or *Bearings*, those parts which receive the lower gudgeons of upright shafts. 1860 *Burn's Gloss. Techn. Terms* 12 *Step*, a pedestal for carrying the brass or bush in which the lower end of a vertical shaft revolves.

b. The lower brass of a journal-box or pillow-block in which a horizontal shaft revolves; also, see quot. 1887.

1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 1887 D. A. LOW *Machine Draw.* 30 The brass bush [of a pillow block]..is in halves, called brasses or steps.

IV. 18. *Comb.*: **step-bearing** = sense 17; **step-board**, the tread or flat part of a wooden step; **step-cut** = TRAP-CUT; also as *adj.*; **step-cutter, cutting** (see 12 c); **step-dance**, a dance intended for the display of special steps by an individual performer; hence **step-dancer, -dancing**; **step-fashion** *adv.* = *step-wise*; **step-fault** *Geol.*, one of a series of parallel faults with successive falls like steps; also, the compound fault comprising such a series; **step-girl**, a girl who goes out cleaning doorsteps; **step-grate**, a furnace-grate having the bars arranged step-wise, to promote completeness of combustion; **step-like** *a.*, like a step or a series of steps; **step-plate**, (*a*) *Naut.*, in iron ships, a plate of iron upon which the mast-heel rests when fixed in position; (*b*) *Mech.*, a metal bearing; **step-pyramid**, a monumental pyramid the faces of which are built so as to form a series of large steps; **step-stile**, a stile formed by steps projecting from a wall; **step-stone**, (*a*) a stepping-stone; now *dial.*; (*b*) a stone forming a door-step; **step-vein** (see quot.); † **step-ward**, the ward of a lock nearest the pin; also, the ward of a key nearest the pin or barrel; **step-way**, a way up or down a flight of steps; **step-wheel**, a wheel with an edge formed in twelve steps arranged spirally, used in striking-clocks; **step-wise** *adv.*, like a series of steps.

1873 J. RICHARDS *Wood-working Factories* 149 The *step-bearings for these machines should be as long and nearly as large in diameter as the top bearings. 1885 [HORNER] *Pattern Making* 226 The guide-ring plate E, carries the step bearing of the turbine shaft. 1823 P. NICHOLSON *Pract. Build.* 191 Proceed with all the succeeding risers and *step-boards until the winders are complete. 1865 EMANUEL *Diamonds* 98 The Trap or *Step Cut. 1905 C. DAVENPORT *Jewellery* i. 19 A *step-cut diamond..the sides facetted in gradually decreasing sizes. 1884 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 10 June 11/2 Kauffman..is, I believe, generally admitted to be the fastest *step-cutter living. *Ibid.* 11/1 It was a very steep bit of *step cutting. 1898 *Encycl. Sport* II. 36/1 (Mountaineering) Ice-slopes and Step-cutting. 1886 *St. James's Gaz.* 25 Sept. 6/2 Have they learned '*step-dancing'? 1748 RICHARDSON *Clarissa* VI. 2 Half a dozen..boys behind him, ranged *gradatim*, or *step-fashion, according to age and size. 1879 *Encycl. Brit.* X. 305/2 Section of strata cut by *step faults. 1884 PEACH & HORNE in *Nature* 13 Nov. 35/1 The very preservation of the Durness Basin is due to two normal step-faults. 1884 *All Yr. Round* 18 Oct. 32/1 It is not a pretty spectacle to see two girls—even *step-girls—toss off their hats and jackets, and 'go' for each other in pugilistic fashion. 1869 CROOKES & RÖHRIG *Kerl's Metallurgy* II. 372 Furnaces with *Step Grates. 1822 J. PARKINSON *Outl. Oryctol.* 225 *Ostrea scalarina*:..with transverse,..*step-like rugæ. 1855 *Orr's Circ. Sci., Inorg. Nat.* 170 The high step-like terraces, by which one may descend nearly to the water's edge. 1869 SIR E. REED *Shipbuild.* xv. 284 The mast steps of the new Indian troop-ships, in which the *step-plate has been worked directly upon the inner-skin plating. 1869 RANKINE *Machine & Hand-tools* Pl. I 5, The two worms are..each of them provided with a spherically shaped step-plate, to insure a perfect fit on the rubbing surfaces next to the worms. 1886 *Encycl. Brit.* XX. 124/1 The *step-pyramid or cumulative mastaba. 1904 J. DERRY *Across Derbysh. Moors* xii. (ed. 3) 116 A stone *step-stile crosses the wall on the right close beyond Stony Ford. 1605 *Shuttleworths' Acc.* (Chetham Soc.) 169 For xv *steppstonnes for the starres of the said stable (vij^{s} the steppe) viij^{s} ix^{d}. 1868 M. H. SMITH *Sunsh. & Shadow N. York* 136 Ten men could not put her off that step-stone. 1881 RAYMOND *Mining Gloss.*, **Step-vein*, a vein alternately cutting through the strata of country-rock, and running parallel with them. 1677 MOXON *Mech. Exerc.* ii. 22 In Fig. 3. AAAA the Cover-plate [of a spring-lock],..E the *Step ward, or Dap ward. In Fig. 4. A the Pin-hole [of a key], B the Step or Dap ward. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) X. 111/2 To the cover-plate below the pin, main-ward, cross-ward, step-ward or dap-ward. 1810 *Hull Improv. Act* 51 Cellar-grate *step-way or hatch-way. 1906 H. G. WELLS *In Days Comet* I. i. 26 We walked together.. up the stepway and the lanes towards Clayton Crest. *a* 1735 W. DERHAM *Artif. Clockm.* (1759) 7 The Snail or *Step-Wheel in Repeating-Clocks. 1888 WIDGERY *Teaching Lang.* 53 A note-book cut *step-wise into an alphabet.

19. Combinations with an adv., as *step-back, -down, -up* = an act of stepping backwards, etc.

1603 FLORIO *Montaigne* III. xiii. 658, I begin to perceive a dimnes and weakenes in reading...Loe—heere a steppe-backe, and that very sensible. 1933 *Reg. Instr. Cavalry* I. 17 The 'Step Back' is performed in the slow time and length of pace, from the halt.

Step (step), *v.* Pa. t. and pa. pple. **stepped** (stept). Forms: *α.* 1 **steppan**, *North.* **steppa, stepa**, 3 **steppen, (stepen)**, 3–7 **steppe**, 3– **step**. *β.* 1 **stæppan**, 3–5 **stappe, stap**, 4–5 **stapp, stape**, 7– *Sc.* **stap**. *Pa. t. α.* 1 **stóp**, *pl.* **stópon**, 3–4 **stop**, *pl.* **stopen**. *β.* 3 **step, steap, steop**, *pl.* **stepen**, 3–4 **stepe**. *γ.* 3–5 **stap**, 5 **stappe**. *δ. weak forms.* 3–4 **stapte**, 4–5 **stapped, -id**, 6 **stepte**, 7 **step'd**, 7– **stepp'd**, 5– **stept, stepped**. *Pa. pple. α.* 1 (be)**stapen**, 4–5 **stape**(n. *β.* 4–5 **stope**(n, 6 **ystope**. *γ.* 6 **step, steppte**, 6– **stept, stepped**. [A Com. WGer. strong verb, with *j*-present-stem (cf. SHAPE *v.*). The original conjugation (OTeut. type **stapjan, *stōp-, *stapan-*) is completely evidenced only in English and Frisian: OE. *stæppan, steppan*, pa. t. *stóp*, pa. ppl. *(be)stapen*, corresponds to OFris. **steppa* (3rd sing. *stepth, stapth*, subj. *steppe*), pa. t. *stôp*, pa. pple. *stapen*. The present-stem is normally represented also in OHG. *stephen* (MHG. *stepfen*), and WFlem.

steppen; the strong pa. t. in OS. *stōp* and in WFris. *stoep*, which is the only trace of the strong inflexion surviving in any mod.Teut. dialect. The continental WGer. langs. have a synonymous wk. vb. with *pp* and without umlaut, (M)LG., (M)Du. *stappen*, mod.Fris. *stappe*, OHG. *staphōn* (MHG., mod.G. *stapfen*):—WGer. **stappōjan*, where the doubled *p* appears to be due to derivation from the sb. WGer. **stappon-* (see STEP *sb.*); in LG. and Du., however, the history of the form may be complicated with that of the original *j*- present.

In OE. the normal form *steppan* was Anglian, while WS. had the form *stæppan*, the anomalous vowel of which has not been satisfactorily accounted for. In ME. the forms with *a* are confined to certain southern writers (cf. mod. Somerset *staap*). The present Sc. *stap*, recorded from the 17th c., appears to be a late development.

The normal strong pa. t. and pa. pple. survive into the 14th and 15th centuries, but beside them appear two analogical formations: *steop*, *stepen*, app. modelled on the reduplicating verbs (cf. the similar development in MDu. *stiep* pa. t.); and *stap*, *stappe* of uncertain origin. Beside the regular *stapen* there is also a new pa. pple. *stopen*. Weak forms are found from the end of the 13th century, and from the 16th century are universal.

The affinities of the Teut. root **stap-* are uncertain. On the assumption that the form with single *p* has been altered by some analogy from **stapp-*, with *pp* representing Indogermanic *pn*, possible cognates are OSl. (and Russian) *stopa*, step, pace, *stepenĭ* step, degree.]

I. Intransitive.

1. To lift the foot and set it down again on the ground in a new position; to lift and set down the feet alternately in walking; to pace, tread. With adv.: To use a (specified) gait or motion of the feet (often of a horse: cf. 6).

To step short (Mil.): see quots. 1802, 1859.

a 1000 *Juliana* 374 Stepeð stronglice. *c* 1000 ÆLFRIC *Gram.* xxix. (Z.) 185 *Gradior*, ic stæppe. *c* 1205 LAY. 18420 Ac we scullen steppen [*c* 1275 stap] heom to, swa we stelen wolden. *c* 1220 *Bestiary* 10 in *O. E. Misc.*, Alle hise fet steppes After him he filleð, Draȝeð dust wið his stert ðer he steppeð. 1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. v. 352 He myȝte neither steppe [*C text* stappe] ne stonde er he his staffe hadde. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Reeve's T.* 154 Stepe on thy feet, com out, man, al atanes! 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XVIII. xcvi. (1495) 843 Apes maye goo and steppe on two fete, for they haue soolys in theyr fete as a man hath. 1399 LANGL. *Rich. Redeles* III. 54 As sone as þey styffe and þat þey steppe kunne. 1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 70/7 To steppe, *gradi, gressus ponere*. 1727 H. BLAND *Milit. Discipl.* 45 Those who Faced step with their left Feet towards the Rear. 1802 C. JAMES *Milit. Dict.*, *To Step*, to move forward or backward, by a single change of the place of the foot... *To step short*.. is to diminish or slacken your pace. 1821 CLARE *Vill. Minstr.* I. 8 Soft would he step lest they his tread should hear. 1829 LYTTON *Disowned* XXX, And now tell me all about your horse, does he step well? 1859 F. A. GRIFFITHS *Artill. Man.* (1862) 6 In slow or quick time the length of a pace is 30 inches,..in 'stepping short' 10.

b. with cognate obj. (*a step*, *stride*, etc.).

a 1023 WULFSTAN *Hom.* lviii. (1883) 302/27 Ælc bæra stæpa and fotlæsta, þe we to cyricean weard..ȝestæppað. *c* 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* 6/182 Euerech stape þat we stepen for-barnde onder ore fet. 1802 G. COLMAN *Br. Grins, Elder Bro.* (1819) 125 He couldn't help, at every step he stepp'd, Grunting, and grumbling. 1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* iii, Nay, without expecting either pleasure or profit, or both, I had not stepped a stride within this manor. 1893 KIPLING *Many Invent.* 209, I rose and stepped three paces into the *rukh*.

c. To move with measured paces in a dance. Also quasi-*trans.*, to go through the steps of, perform (a dance).

1698 E. WARD *Lond. Spy* II. (1706) 46 A Vintners Daughter, bred at the Dancing School,..steps a Minuet finely. 1864 TENNYSON *Aylmer's F.* 207 A stiff brocade in which..she, Once with this kinsman..Stept thro' the stately minuet of those days. 1878 B. TAYLOR *Deukalion* III. i. 95 Step to the music of the song I gave, My Poet, homeward! 1893 *Chamb. Jrnl.* 19 Aug. 518/1 He stepped a minuet gravely and gracefully.

d. Phrase. *As good* (etc.) *a man as ever stepped* (*in shoe-leather*).

1818 [see SHOE-LEATHER]. 1834 *Westm. Rev.* XX. 495 Major Fancourt, as fine a young aristocrat as steps.

2. To move to a new position by extending the foot to a higher or lower level or across an intervening object or space (e.g. in entering or leaving a carriage or boat, ascending or descending stairs); with adv. or prep., as *across*, *in*, *into*, *off*, *out of*, *on* or *upon*, *over*, *up* (see also branches III and IV).

To step short, to make an insufficiently long stride, so that the foot fails to reach the intended position.

897 ÆLFRED *Gregory's Past. C.* xiii. 77 Ðylæs he ofer ðone ðerscold his endebyrdnesse stæppe. *c* 1205 LAY. 32035 He ..somnede alle þa scipen..and þohte mid strengðe steppen to londe. *a* 1320 *Sir Tristr.* 2865 Her hors apolk stap in. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xxxiii. (*George*) 259 He one horse gat stepande. 1706 MRS. CENTLIVRE *Love at Venture* I. i. 3 A Lady designing to Land at White-Hall Stairs, stepping short from the Boat, fell into the Water. 1801 J. THOMSON *Poems Scot. Dial.* 149 They'll get for crossin' o' a street, Or stappin' up a stair, Five gude red guineas at a heat. 1823 SYD. SMITH *Wks.* (1859) II. 21/2 A boat from shore reached the ship, and from it stepped a clerk of the Bank of England. 1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* 1. xi. 70 It was necessary to step from a projecting end of ice to a mass of soft snow. *Ibid.* xvii. 119 Retaining my boots [I] stepped upon the floating ice. 1886 C. E. PASCOE *Lond. To-day* xxxiv. (ed. 3) 302 He might..get to the Royal Exchange without once stepping off the pavement. 1890 BRIDGES *Shorter Poems* III. vii, And in our boat we stepped and took the stream.

fig. 1715 POPE *Iliad* I. Pref. D 3 b, Let them think..that they are stepping almost three thousand Years backward into the remotest Antiquity.

b. *To step astray*, *awry*, †*beside*: to move from the straight or proper path (*lit.* and *fig.*). See also *step aside* in IV.

1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 6897 Ȝif heo quakieþ out Oþer steþþ biside. 1592 *Arden of Feversham* I. 373, I cannot speak or cast aside my eye, But he Imagines I haue stept awry. 1598 BASTARD *Chrestol.* v. xxxiii. 124 He steps awrie, and fals in to Aiax. 1666 DRYDEN *Ann. Mirab.* cclxv, If my heedless Youth has stept astray.

3. In a more general sense: To go or proceed on foot. Now chiefly, to go a 'step' or short distance for a particular purpose: often in polite formulas of request or direction to another person. The direction, etc. is indicated by an adv. or prepositional phr.: for further illustration of these see branches III and IV.

c 900 tr. *Bæda's Hist.* III. xiv. (1890) 196 Se cyning..stop ofostlice toforan [þam] biscope & feoll to his fotum. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 6293 Is armes he gan to caste & wiþ gret ernest step ner & asailede edmond vaste. *c* 1300 *K. Horn* 1392 (Laud MS.) Þe knyt to hem gan steppe. *a* 1400 *Octouian* 1435 Clement ner þe stede stapte. *c* 1400 *Beryn* 192 And sith to the dynerward they gan for to stappe. 1581 MARBECK *Bk. Notes* 287 S. Luke had before declared that the Apostles did not step from Hierusalem. 1594 KYD *Cornelia* v. 324, I stept to him To haue embrac'd him. 1704 CIBBER *Careless Husb.* v. 59 Step with this to my Lady Graveairs. [Seals the Letter and gives it to the Servant.] 1705 [E. WARD] *Hudibras Rediv.* IV. 12 Who should step by, but Doctor Trotter. 1709 STEELE etc. *Tatler* No. 88 P 12 The Gentlewoman of the next House begged me to step thither. 1722 BP. ATTERBURY *Let. to Pope* 6 Apr., I may step to town to-morrow, to see how the work goes forward. 1794 MRS. INCHBALD *Wedd. Day* I. ii. 7 Your guardian is just stept home, to bring his wife to dine with us. 1835 LIEBER *Stranger in Amer.* I. 262 Passengers who have not paid their passage, please to step to the captain's office! 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. v. v, Besenval, before retiring for the night, has stept over to old M. de Sombreuil, of the *Hôtel des Invalides* hard by. 1847 TENNYSON *Princess* VI. (Song), Stole a maiden from her place, Lightly to the warrior stept. 1857 W. COLLINS *Dead Secret* III. iv, Will you step this way, and see her at once?

fig. 1882 MRS. OLIPHANT *Lit. Hist. Eng.* I. 3 All is not absolute good or advantage to the human race; but yet the race is stepping onward.

b. with advb. accusative.

1885–94 BRIDGES *Eros & Psyche* Oct. i, [She] chose to step the most deserted ways. 1892 MEREDITH *Sage Enamoured* Poet. Wks. (1912) 382 She stepped her way benevolently grave.

c. *To step and* (do something). Now *rare*.

1704 CIBBER *Careless Husb.* IV. 46 What say you Ladies, shall we step and see what's done at the Basset-Table? 1764 FOOTE *Patron* III. Wks. 1799 I. 353 My good girl, will you step, and take care that when any body comes the servants may not be out of the way. 1802 MRS. E. PARSONS *Myst. Visit* IV. 3, I shall step and visit my patient. 1853 DICKENS *Bleak Ho.* xlv, Would you step and speak to Mr. Jarndyce?

†**d.** *fig.* To advance, proceed (in an action, argument, etc.). *Obs.*

1599 HAYWARD *1st Pt. Life Hen. IV*, 65 In priuate attempts a man may step and stope when he please. 1611 G. H. tr. *Anti-Coton* 7 In the Chapter following, hee steps yet one degree farther. 1616 *R. Johnson's Kingd. & Commw.* 177 Yet are they..maintainers of their Honours and Families; wherein they step so far as if true gentrie were incorporat with them. 1620 E. BLOUNT *Horæ Subs.* 107 Liberality is a Vertue, and so is Parsimony within their seueral bounds, but the error is, when the one steps, or the other declines too neere the contrary. 1644 MILTON *Divorce* II. xxi. 75 Thus farre by others is already well stept, to inform us that divorce is not a matter of Law but of Charity.

†**4.** In past pple. **a.** (*Well*, *far*, etc.) *stepped in age*, *in* or *into years*: advanced in years, elderly.

c 1386 CHAUCER *Nun's Pr. T.* 1 A poure wydwe, somdel stape [*v.r.* stope] in Age. *Ibid.*, *Merch. T.* 270 And trewely it is an heigh corage Of any man that stapen [*v.r.* stopen] is in age To take a yong wyf. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* VI. v. 23 Allthocht he eildit was, or step in age. *c* 1530 *Crt. of Love* 281 This old, Thus fer y-stope in yeres. 1562 LEIGH *Armorie* 69 Certaine knyghtes..beynge sore brused, lamed, and well steppte into yeares. 1593 NASHE *Four Lett. Conf.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 253 Shores wife is yong, though you be stept in yeares. 1603 HOLLAND *Plutarch's Mor.* 493 Helianicus, a man very farre stept in age. 1629 HOBBES *Thucyd.* I. 4 Such of the Rich as were any thing stepped into yeeres. 1629 MAXWELL tr. *Herodian* (1635) 112 He was now well stept in yeares.

†**b.** *Far stepped*: far advanced *in* (an action, attainment, etc.). *Obs.*

1594 CAREW *Huarte's Exam. Wits* x. (1596) 145 Not so far stept in perfection as the former. 1596 SHAKS. *Tam. Shr.* I. ii. 83 Since we are stept thus farre in, I will continue that I broach'd in iest. 1605 — *Macb.* III. iv. 137, I am in blood Stept in so farre.

5. *colloq.* To go away, make off. Cf. 3 c. Also *to step it*.

c 1400 *Beryn* 2433 Beryn gan to stappe, he sparid for no cost. 1851–61 MAYHEW *Lond. Labour* III. 198/1 After I had been with him about three months more I 'stept it' again. 1859 *Hotten's Slang Dict.* 102 *Step it*, to run away or make off. 1902 *Munsey's Mag.* XXIV. 851/2 Well, I must be stepping...It's getting late.

6. Of a horse: To go at a good pace. Also ocularly of persons. Cf. *step out*, 26 c.

1856 [H. H. DIXON] *Post & Paddock* x. 176 The gentler sex seem to step along quite as briskly as their companions. 1857 HUGHES *Tom Brown* I. iv, How that ere cob did step! 1891 S. C. SCRIVENER *Our Fields & Cities* xii. 95 She could 'step' as well as dress herself, and we were very soon on the Hertford road.

7. *Naut.* and *Mech.* Of a mast or other upright: To be fixed *in* its step. Of other parts: To be fixed or jointed *in* or *into* (a groove, etc.); to rest securely *on* or *against* (a support).

1791 SMEATON *Edystone L.* § 81 The lower end of the shores stepping against some hole or prominence of the rock. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XVII. 395/2 The quarter-piece.., the heel of which must step on the after end of the middle stool. *Ibid.* 403/1 The partners on the lower deck, wherein the capstan steps. *c* 1850 *Rudim. Navig.* (Weale) 119 *Foot-space rail*, the rail..in which the balusters step. 1869 SIR E. REED *Shipbuild.* iv. 61 The outer keel-plate.. steps up into a rabbet in the side.

8. *colloq.* To clean doorsteps.

1884 *All Yr. Round* 18 Oct. 29/2 A housewife..who will habitually do her own stepping, sublimely regardless of what Mrs. Grundy may say. *Ibid.* 31/1 Or again..they 'step' for houses that are practically in a state of siege.

II. Transitive (causal, or by omission of prep.).

9. To move (the foot) forward or through a specified step. Chiefly with advs., as *down*, *in*, *across*. Phr. *to step foot in* (a place). Now only *U.S.*

1540 PALSGR. *Acolastus* v. v. A a iv b, Steppe not one foote forth of this place. *a* 1547 SURREY *Compl. Abs. Lover* 2 in *Tottel's Misc.* (Arb.) 19 Good Ladies,..Step in your foote, come take a place, and moorne with me a while. 1705 H. BLACKWELL *Engl. Fencing-Master* 51 Engage him in Carte, disingage in Tierce, stepping your Right-Foot a-cross at the same Time. 1849 CUPPLES *Green Hand* xiii. (1856) 130 Stepping one of his long trowser-legs down over the quarterdeck awning. 1864 R. B. KIMBALL *Was he Successful?* II. i. 182 When Hiram stepped foot in the metropolis. 1880 S. G. W. BENJAMIN *Troy* I. iv. 26 (Funk) Calchas announced that the first man who stepped foot on the enemy's soil was doomed at once to die.

10. To measure (a distance) by stepping over it. Also with *off*, *out*.

1832 S. WARREN *Diary Physic.* II. iii. 166 The work of loading being completed, and the distance—six paces—duly stepped out. 1842 LOVER *Handy Andy* iii, I, that have stepped more ground and arranged more affairs [*sc.* duels] than any man in the country! 1856 MISS YONGE *Daisy Chain* II. xi. 456 'Hardly space enough I should say,' replied Dr. Spencer, stepping it out. 1859 JEPHSON *Brittany* xii. 210, I endeavoured to calculate its size by stepping it, and found that the capping-stone measured twelve of my strides. 1863 W. C. BALDWIN *Afr. Hunting* ix. 439 To give myself a good idea in rifle-shooting at game, I have been for years constantly judging and stepping off distances.

11. *Naut.* and *Mech.* To fix (a mast or other upright) *in* or *into* its step; to fit (a piece) *into* (a groove, etc.); to fix securely *on* or *against* (a support).

1711 W. SUTHERLAND *Shipbuild. Assist.* F 7 The most convenient Place for stepping every Mast. 1741 WOODROOFE in *Hanway's Trav.* (1762) I. II. xvii. 75 We stept our masts and bowsprit. 1815 *Falconer's Dict. Marine* (ed. Burney), *To Step a Boat's Mast*, is to erect and secure it in readiness for setting sail. 1856 KANE *Arct. Expl.* II. xvi. 171 It [the mast] was stepped into an oaken thwart. 1874 THEARLE *Naval Archit.* 196 It was customary to dispose the knight head, stem piece, and hawse timbers in a fore and aft plane, stepping their heels against the foremost canted frame that heeled against the deadwood. 1879 JEFFERIES *Wild Life in S. Co.* 195 These sheds are..supported..by a row of wooden pillars stepped on stones to keep them from rotting. 1892 *Daily News* 24 Oct. 2/6 The new flagstaff..at Windsor Castle was successfully stepped..on Saturday afternoon.

12. *Mech.* To cut steps in (a key); to arrange (the teeth of a toothed wheel or rack) stepwise.

1856 G. PRICE *Depositories, Locks & Keys* 798 Workmen, who have been stepping keys as they thought quite different from each other, have found that the keys passed each others' locks. 1869 RANKINE *Machine & Hand-tools* Pl. M 2, To prevent jarring the teeth of the driving wheels.. are stepped. 1895 *Funk's Stand. Dict.*, *Step*,..to cut steps in or adjust tools for cutting steps in (keys or the like).

III. Intransitive uses with prepositions.

13. Step between (or *betwixt*) —. To come between (two persons, a person and thing, etc.) by way of severance, interruption or interception.

1601 SHAKS. *All's Well* v. iii. 319 Deadly diuorce step betweene me and you. 1605 *1st Pt. Jeronimo* III. ii. 157 O then stept heauen and I Betweene the stroke. 1615 HEYWOOD *Four Prentices* D 4, Stage-dir., *Bell.* Stay Gentlemen. *Shee steps betweene them.* 1742 GRAY *Propertius* II. 12 When..Age step 'twixt love and me, and intercept the joy. 1839 T. MITCHELL *Frogs of Aristoph.* 201 *note*, We will no longer step between the reader and his mirth.

14. Step into —. **a.** See sense 3 and INTO *prep.*

c 1000 ÆLFRIC *Hom.* I. 60 Mid þam ðe se apostol Iohannes stop into ðære byriȝ Ephesum. *c* 1400 *Beryn* 309 He stappid in-to the tapstry wondir pryuely. 1598 SHAKS. *Merry W.* IV. ii. 11 Step into th' chamber, Sir John. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 21 Apr. 1657, I stept into Bedlame, where I saw several poore miserable creatures in chaines. 1732 SWIFT etc. *Poisoning Curll* Misc. III. 26 He desir'd his Wife to step into the Shop for a Common-Prayer-Book. 1765 BICKERSTAFF *Maid of Mill* III. ii. 57 But, stay and take a letter, which I am stepping into my study to write. 1832 S. WARREN *Diary Physic.* II. ii. 95 Before leaving the house, I stepped into the parlour, to speak a few words to Miss E—.

b. To walk into (a place on a higher or lower level, e.g. a vehicle) by taking one or more steps up or down.

c 1380 *Sir Ferumb.* 5793 If þou wilt ben a crysteman, Mahoun þou most for-sake,..And suþþe stape in-to þis water clere. 1825 T. HOOK *Sayings* Ser. II. *Passion & Princ.* xii.

294 The ladies having set all their finery in order,..the party stepped into the coach. **1862** Borrow *Wild Wales* II. x. 105 Your honour can..trifle away the minutes over your wine..till seven, when your honour can step into a first-class for Bangor.

c. To obtain possession of (an estate, a place or office) at a single step; to succeed at once to (the place of another person or thing).

1607 Shaks. *Timon* II. ii. 232 By whose death hee's stepp'd Into a great estate. **1609** Holland *Amm. Marcell.* xxx. viii. 389 Leo.., in case the other, now aloft, should once fall downe from the rocke, was readie to step into his Præfectship. **1671** Trenchfield *Cap Gray Hairs* (1688) 18 The Discourse of [Religious) Ceremonies hath brought things to this pass..that the Circumstances hath stept into the room of the Substance. **1766** Goldsm. *Vic. W.* xx, A gentleman in London who had just stepped into taste and a large fortune. **1802** C. James *Milit. Dict.* s.v., The guards..have the exclusive privilege of going over this intermediate rank, and stepping into a lieutenant-colonelcy at once. **1871** Freeman *Norm. Cong.* IV. xvii. 65 William in short had stepped into the place of those whom he had himself overcome. **1886** C. E. Pascoe *London To-day* xxiii. (ed. 3) 218 Until Button's Coffee-house stepped into the place of 'Will's'.

† **d.** To enter suddenly and incautiously into (a course of action, etc.). *Obs.*

1607 Shaks. *Timon* III. v. 12 A Friend of mine, who in hot blood Hath stept into the Law, which is past depth To those that (without heede) do plundge intoo't. **1648** Fanshawe *Il Pastor Fido*, etc. 304 In pursuance of this fury, about ten years after, Caius Gracchus stept into action (as the Irish call it) to play the second part of his Brother. **1656** in *Burton's Diary* (1828) I. 31, I know no reason for this speed; for we may offend as well in proceeding and sudden stepping into judgments.

15. Step on or **upon —.** To put the foot down upon; to walk on or over; to tread on (something that lies in the way); *fig.* to come suddenly upon (a person or thing). Also, to set one's foot on (a position) from a higher or lower level or by striding across an intervening space.

a **1000** *Cædmon's Gen.* 1136 Siððan Adam stop on grene græs. *a* **1000** *Riddles* xxvii. 10 Fuzles wyn..stop eft on mec. *c* **1205** Lay. 23861 He þat scip stronge scaf from þan londe and stop uppen þat æit-lond. *a* **1290** *S. Eustace* 113 in Horstm. *Altengl. Leg.* (1881) 213 Crist..þat on erþe rod and stop. **1297** R. Glouc. (Rolls) 6930 Heo stap vpe þis furi yre euerich stape al clene. *c* **1394** *P. Pl. Crede* 649 For stappyng on a too of a styncande frere. **1417** *E. E. Wills* 27/1 That my body be Beryed in the Chirchhey..as men goth ouer into þe church at þe South Syde, ryȝte as they mowe stappe on me. **1530** Palsgr. 734/2, I steppe upon a thyng, *je saulx par dessus*. *Ibid.* 735/1, I stepped upon hym or I was ware. **1601** Shaks. *Twel. N.* III. iv. 306 He payes you as surely, as your feete hits the ground they step on. **1638** Junius *Paint. Ancients* 61 The Poët stepping with Phaëton upon the waggon hath noted..every particular. **1901** Abp. Temple in Sandford *Mem.* (1906) II. 702 The moment we begin to assign motives we are stepping on unsafe ground.

16. Step out of —. See simple senses and Out of *prep.*

1489 Caxton *Faytes of A.* I. xxiii. E iv, Dyuerse rowes ..full smothly renged and not steppyng out of place. **1588** Shaks. *Tit. A.* I. i. 391 (Qo.) To step out of these drirrie dumps. **1691** Hartcliffe *Virtues* 45 When we step out of the way of Virtue. **1704** Norris *Ideal World* II. v. 279 No sooner do we step out of selves, but we launch out into a vast sea of intelligible objects, where we see no shore. **1785** Martyn *Rousseau's Bot.* xxviii. (1794) 438 But here we are stepping out of our province.

17. Step over —. To walk or stride across (an intervening space, cavity or obstacle); *fig.* to Overstep, transgress; to 'skip', miss or neglect in passing; also *Mil.* to be promoted to a position above (another who is considered to have a prior claim).

1387 Trevisa *Higden* (Rolls) VII. 527 (MS. *B*) ȝif heo stapeth harmles over alle these stappes. *c* **1440** *Promp. Parv.* 474/2 Steppyn ovyr a thynge, *clunico*. **15..** *Droichis Part of Play* 86 in *Dunbar's Poems* 317 Or he of aige was ȝeiris thre, He wald step over the occiane sie. **1530** Palsgr. 735/1, I wil steppe over this brooke, I holde the a peny. **1546** J. Heywood *Prov.* I. xi. (1867) 34 Where thou wilt not step ouer a straw, I thynke. **1592** Shaks. *Rom. & Jul.* IV. ii. 27 Not stepping ore the bounds of modestie. **1687** A. Lovell tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* I. 192 You must step over a great many people,..lying and tumbling confusedly in the Church. **1726** Swift *Gulliver* I. iv, I stept over the great western gate. **1746** Wesley *Princ. Methodist* 39 Stop, Sir. You are stepping over one or two Points, which I have not done with. **1802** C. James *Milit. Dict., To step over*, to rise above another...As, young men of interest and connection frequently step over old soldiers. **1872** Earl of Pembroke & G. H. Kingsley *S. Sea Bubbles* I. 23 We strolled about the gardens all the evening, stepping over or picking our way between the numerous babies that were scattered about the ground. **1885** E. Gosse *Shakesp. to Pope* 146 An intellectual and fanciful..element, which really stepped over the Marinists, and linked the Elizabethans with the classical school.

18. Step to —. † To address oneself vigorously to (a task, encounter, etc.). *Obs.*

1530 Palsgr. 734/2 Step to it, man, *hardyment a cela*. Steppe to it agayne and take better holde. **1540 —** *Acolastus* IV. iv. Vj, Let vs goo to it, or steppe to it (lyke men). *Ibid.* v. v. A a iij b, What yf I steppe to it, and diuise some humble prayer to my father.

IV. With adverbs.

19. Step aside. *intr.* **a.** To go a little distance away from one's place or from the path one is following; to withdraw or retire for a short distance; to take one or more steps to one's right or left. Also *fig.*

1530 Palsgr. 734/2, I steppe a syde out of the way, *je me desmarche*. Let them lay to my charge what they lyste, I wyll never steppe a syde for it. **1560** Daus tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 316 b, He steppeth a side into the countrey by. **1592** Shaks. *Rom. & Jul.* I. i. 162 See where he comes, so please you step aside. **1600** Fairfax *Tasso* XI. lxxx, He stept aside the furious blow to shunne. **1770** Langhorne *Plutarch, Timoleon* II. 215 Upon which Timoleon stepped aside, and stood weeping. **1859** *Musketry Instr.* 35 He will leave his rifle on the rest and step aside, in order that the instructor may take his place.

† **b.** To abscond. *Obs.*

1620 in *Crt. & Times Jas. I* (1848) II. 210 Sir John Samms is stept aside and gone for Bohemia,..being..ready to sink under the burthen of his debts. **1689** Luttrell *Brief Rel.* (1857) I. 595 The cook was sent to Newgate, but the lord Griffin himself, hearing of it, is stept aside. *a* **1715** Burnet *Own Time* (1823) II. 153 They did not know whether he might not have stepped aside for debt.

† **c.** To make a digression in discourse. *Obs.*

1653 Gataker *Vind. Annot. Jer.* 125 Herodote made his History somewhat the more delightful, by stepping aside to tel a tale or two now and then. **1799** J. Robertson *Agric. Perth* 190, I request the indulgence of the reader..while I step aside to give a few directions to the inhabitants of the Highland districts.

d. To deviate from the right path, err, go astray.

1786 Burns *Addr. to Unco Guid* vii, To step aside is human.

20. Step back. (*a*) To go back a little distance, to retire or withdraw a short distance to the rear. (*b*) To go one or more paces backwards without turning the body round. Also *fig.*

1538 Elyot *Dict., Resulto*, to..to leape or steppe backe. **1544** Betham *Precepts War* I. cxliii. G viij b, Whome we muste imbolden..that gladly they wyll marche forwarde, and not to steppe backe for anye ieopardyes. **1605** Chapman *All Fooles* II. i. E 1 b, I stept me backe, and drawing my olde friend heere, Made to the midst of them. **1667** Milton *P. L.* IV. 820 Back stept those two fair Angels half amaz'd. **1759** Johnson *Rasselas* xxxi, The favorite of the Princess, looking into the cavity, stepped back and trembled. **1802** C. James *Milit. Dict., Step Back, March,..*a word of command which is given when one or more men are ordered to take the back step according to regulation. **1857** Mrs. Gatty *Parab. Nat.* Ser. II. 65 He stepped back again to the path. **1859** F. A. Griffiths *Artil. Man.* (1862) 6 In stepping back the pace is 30 inches.

21. Step down. **a.** To go from a higher level to a lower, esp. by treading on a step or stairway. Also, to go a short distance to a place which is, or is regarded as, lower.

a **1400** *St. Alexius* 503 (Trin.) Of here bedde hy sprong.. And hardeliche a-doun stap, þe folk alle among. **1526** Tindale *John* v. 7 Another stoppeth [? *read* steppeth] doune before me. **1590** *Tarlton's News Purgatory* 33 So he stept downe out of the pulpit. **1818** Scott *Br. Lamm.* xxi, Pray, step down to the cellar, and fetch us up a bottle of the Burgundy. **1825** T. Hook *Sayings* Ser. II. *Passion & Princ.* xi. III. 253, I wish, Macaddle, that to-morrow morning early, you would step down to the Tower, and see the Colonel. **1842** Tennyson *Beggar Maid* 5 In robe and crown the king stept down.

† **b.** To plant the foot firmly on the ground at each step. *Obs.*

1747 *Gentl. Mag.* XVII. 77 Such exercise is not much less salutiferous than riding, if the walker steps down firmly, so as to shake the intestines.

c. *trans.* in *Electr.* To lower the voltage of (a current) by means of a transformer. Hence **step-down** used attrib. or as adj. designating a transformer that does this.

1893 Sloane *Electr. Dict., Step-down* adj...applied to a converter or transformer in the alternating current distribution, indicating that it lowers potential difference and increases current from the secondary. **1903** *Electr. World & Engin.* 8 Aug. 230 (Cent. Suppl.) The..transformers..stept the pressure down to 2,000 volts.

22. Step forth. To advance a short distance from one's place or position; to come out to the front or into the midst, present oneself before the public; to advance with some immediate purpose in view. Also *fig.* of things.

c **1000** *Ags. Gosp.* John xi. 44 & sona stop forð se þe dead wæs. *c* **1205** Lay. 25819 Forð he gon steppen. *a* **1300** *Cursor M.* 10763 Son ilkan wit þair wand forth stepe. **1518** *Sel. Cases Star Chamber* (Selden Soc.) II. 140 Whan they [jurymen] wer callyd and ther namys redd, steppyd forth one Robert Edward and seyd [etc.]. **1526** Tindale *Acts* v. 20 Goo, steppe forthe, and speake in the temple to the people. **1588** Shaks. *L. L. L.* IV. iii. 151 Now step I forth to whip hypocrisie. **1605** Chapman *All Fooles* II. i. E 1 b, Steps me forth Their valiant fore-man, with the word, I rest you. **1667** Milton *P. L.* VI. 128 From his armed Peers Forth stepping opposite, half way he met His daring foe. **1674** N. Fairfax *Bulk & Selv.* 188 Why might he not 10000 ages before the world was, give it its bidding to step forth? **1837** Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* I. III. ix, Not for a century and half had Rascality ventured to step forth in this fashion. **1913** D. Bray *Life-Hist. Brahui* iv. 62 Then those that can shoot a good shot step forth for a match.

23. Step forward = prec.

1793 [Johnson] *Consid. Coal in Scot.* 56 The gentlemen who, in this exigency, stepped forward to second the efforts of the Magistrates. **1799** Ht. Lee *Canterb. T., Frenchm. T.* (ed. 2) I. 300 His comrade, stepping forward, remonstrated with some warmth. **1802** C. James *Milit. Dict., To step forth* or *forward*, to take an active part in any thing. Thus, when the circle was formed, the grenadiers stepped forward to beg off their comrade. **1845** Gladstone *Corr. Ch. & Relig.* (1910) I. 349 A rear-rank man steps forward when his front-rank man falls in battle. **1855** *Poultry Chron.* III. 162 Any one who could step forward in this time of no reports with a few facts, would be a public benefactor.

† **b.** To present oneself as the champion of a woman's reputation (with reference to duelling).

1796–7 Jane Austen *Pride & Prej.* xlvii, Could he expect that her friends would not step forward? *Ibid.*, Lydia has no brothers to step forward.

c. *Wrestling* = *Step in*, 24 c.

1898 *Encycl. Sport.* II. 547/2 (Wrestling) The hype. After securing a tight grip step forward with the left leg [etc.]

24. Step in. **a.** To come or go indoors; to enter a house or apartment casually or for a short visit. Also, to enter a boat, vehicle, etc.

c **1000** Ælfric *Judg.* iv. 21 Seo wifman..stop inn digollice. **1534** Tindale *John* v. 4 Whosoever then fyrst after the steringe of the water, stepped in, was made whoale. **1622** Fletcher *Span. Cur.* IV. vi, 'Pray ye let's step in, and see a friend of mine. *a* **1700** Evelyn *Diary* 19 Aug. 1641, As we returned, we stepped in to see the Spin-house. **1785** Mrs. Inchbald *I'll tell you what* I. i. (1787) 11 Do step in and take your chocolate with her. **1832** Ht. Martineau *Ella of Gar.* xi. 138 The little boat pushed off..the three boatmen..having waved their bonnets and cheered before they stept in, in honour of the spectators. **1837** Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* I. v. viii, Such Deputation is on the point of setting out,—when lo, his Majesty himself, attended only by his two Brothers, steps in. **1898** Gibbs *Cotswold Village* iii. 50 If he could get you to 'step in,' he would offer you gooseberry, ginger, cowslip, and currant wine.

b. To come forward and join in what is going on; to come to close quarters, enter the fray; to intervene in an affair, a dispute, etc. *lit.* and *fig.*

1474 Caxton *Chesse* III. iii. (1883) 101 His frende..forthwyth stept in and sayde that he hymself was culpable of the deth of this man. **15..** *Christ's Kirk* I. vi, Then Steven cam steppand in with stendis. **1546** J. Heywood *Prov.* I. iii. (1867) 7 While I at length debate and beate the bushe, There shall steppe in other men, and catch the burdes. **1604** Shaks. *Oth.* II. iii. 229 This Gentleman Steppes in to Cassio, and entreats his pause. **1657** Billingsly *Brachy-Martyrol.* II. i. 150 While they for the crown contended, In step'd the Romans, so the quarrel ended. **1702** Addison *Dial. Medals* i. (1726) 30 It is here therefore..that the old Poets step in to the assistance of the Medallist. **1774** Goldsm. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) IV. 230 Just when, by long labour, the weasel..had removed the board, the monkey stept in, and..fastened it again in its place. **1867** Freeman *Norm. Conq.* I. vi. 497 Certain Bishops and other chief men stepped in to preserve peace. **1877** *Ibid.* (ed. 3) II. ix. 407 The three able statesmen who are represented as stepping in [*edd.* 1, 2 intervening] between him and his dangerous vassal.

c. In *Wrestling*, to bring one's leg round the opponent's. In *Cricket*, of a batsman: To advance a step to meet a ball.

1714 Parkyns *Inn-Play* (ed. 2) 55 Step in with your left Leg the inside of his Right. *Ibid.* 56 At the same time he steps in with his other Leg to turn you. **1837** *New Sporting Mag.* XI. 197 Stepping in to meet the ball...In stepping in the hitter must get well over the ball. **1862** Pycroft *Cricket Tutor* 35 As to forward play, with an over-pitched ball every first-rate player knows how to step in.

25. Step off. **a.** *intr.* To take one or more steps down and away from a higher level.

1833 T. Hook *Parson's Dau.* II. i, He [a would-be visitor at a house] stepped off, and turning down Grosvenor Street [etc.].

b. *Mil.* To begin to march at a prescribed pace.

1802 C. James *Milit. Dict., To step off*,..to take a prescribed pace from a halted position, in ordinary or quick time, in conformity to some given word of command or signal...In stepping off to music,..the word of command is the signal to lift up the left foot.

c. *trans.* To mark off by successive equal movements of a leg of the compasses. Cf. 26 d.

1895 Eleanor Rowe *Chip-carving* 21 Divide the circle into three equal sectors, by stepping off the radius six times upon the circumference.

26. Step out. **a.** *intr.* (Cf. sense 3.) To go or come out from a place, usually for a short distance or for a short time; esp. to leave the house, go out of doors. Also, to leave a boat or vehicle. Also, to move one or more paces away from one's position.

a **1533** Berners *Huon* cxxxiii. 494 He stepte out aparte to behold the batayle. **1576** Gascoigne *Kenelw. Castle* Wks. 1910 II. 91 Sibilla being placed in an arbor..did step out and pronounced as followeth. *c* **1730** Swift *Direct. Serv., General Rules*, When your master..wants a servant who happens to be abroad, your answer must be, that he had but just that minute stept out. **1753** Richardson *Grandison* (1754) II. 4 Sir Charles, stepping out, brought in with him Miss Jervois. **1837** Dickens *Pickw.* xiv, 'Never mind', said the one-eyed man, calling after the girl as she left the room. 'I'll step out by and by, Mary.' **1857** Hughes *Tom Brown* II. viii, The first ball of the over Jack steps out and meets, swiping with all his force. **1880** Mrs. R. O'Reilly *Sussex Stories* I. 276 Mother's stepped out, and I'm alone up here. *fig.* **1602** tr. *Guarini's Pastor Fido* IV. ii. K 4 b, At each of Siluioes actes My soule stept out, push't on with all her will.

b. *Mil.* To lengthen the pace in marching.

1802 C. James *Milit. Dict., To step out*, to lengthen your pace. **1833** *Reg. Instr. Cavalry* I. 17 On the word *Step out*, the recruit must be taught to lengthen his step to 33 inches.

c. To walk with a vigorous step or stride. Also *transf.* of a ship.

1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXIII. 214/1 The truly-bred Suffolk horses are active in their walk..They step out well. **1848** Thackeray *Van. Fair* xxx, Jack or Donald marches away to glory..stepping out briskly to the tune of 'The Girl I left behind me'. **1859** Jephson *Brittany* ix. 140, I therefore stepped out hard, and at length..reached a town. **1867** Smyth *Sailor's Word-bk.*, *Step out*, to move along simultaneously and cheerfully with a tackle-fall, &c. **1884** H. Collingwood *Under Meteor Flag* 250 It was..the weather in which the little 'Vigilant' stepped out to the greatest advantage.

d. *trans.* Cf. *step off* 25 c.

1895 Eleanor Rowe *Chip-carving* 68 Divide the circumference into six parts by stepping out the radius six times round the circumference.

27. Step together. †a. Of two or more persons: To meet or engage in conflict. *Obs.* b. Of a pair of horses: To be well matched in pace and action. Also *fig.* of persons, to be in sympathy.

c 1205 Lay. 28408 Heo to-gadere stopen and sturnliche fuhten. 1866 Annie Thomas *Walter Goring* I. i. 5 They stepped together well in fact, and so defied censure. 1880 Miss Braddon *Just as I am* xxi, 'How well Morton and Fan step together!' said Beville, speaking of the dancers as if they were horses.

28. Step up. a. *intr.* To go up from a lower position to a higher; to mount, ascend (also *fig.*); *spec.* to go up by treading on a step or stairway. Also, in later use, to go a short distance, or pay a short visit, to a place which is, or is regarded as, higher.

a 1000 *Riddles* xxii. 19 Hy stopan up on oþerne. *a* 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 713 & mid tet ilke step up, & steah to þe steorren. *a* 1240 *Lofsong* in *O.E. Hom.* I. 207 His up ariste do me stepen uuward in heie and holi þeawes. *a* 1400–50 *Wars Alex.* 1437 Sum stepis vp on sties to þe stane wallis. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 351 To this souerayne Citie þat yet was olofte, Jason aioynid and his iust fferis, Steppit vp to a streite stregthe on his gate. 1758 Jortin *Erasmus* I. 35 He often stepped up to Town.

b. To mount a pulpit, rostrum, or the like.

1535 Coverdale *Acts* v. 20 Steppe vp and speake in the temple to the people. *a* 1700 Evelyn *Diary* 8 Nov. 1644, After him stepp'd up a child of 8 or 9 years old who pronounced an oration. *Ibid.* 4 Dec. 1653, Going this day to our Church I was surpriz'd to see a tradesman, a mechanic, step up.

c. To come forward for some purpose; to leave one's place and come close *to* (a person).

1660 F. Brooke tr. *Le Blanc's Trav.* 6 He..suddenly stept up to him, and..laid him dead at his feete. 1725 De Foe *Voy. round World* (1840) 88 One of our men stepped up to the fellow. 1764 in *R. S. Hawker's Footpr. Far Cornw.* (1870) 62, I made up my mind to..step up and ask his name right out. 1840 Thackeray *Barber Cox* Jan., 'A mighty wet day, sir,' says I to Mr. Hock, stepping up and making my bow.

†d. *fig.* To arise, come suddenly into prominence.

1577 Hanmer *Anc. Eccl. Hist., Socrates* II. xxviii. 279 At Antioche in Syria there stept vp an other hereticke. 1610 Knolles *Hist. Turks* Induct. to Rdr., There stept vp among the Turks in Bythinia one Osman or Othoman.

e. *Wrestling.* To bring one's leg up (between the opponent's legs).

1714 Parkyns *Inn-Play* (ed. 2) 51 Step up with your left Leg betwixt his Legs.

f. *trans.* To bank up in steps.

1901 S. B. Miles in *Geogr. Jrnl.* (R.G.S.) XVIII. 480 The terraces being stepped up with revetments wherever the natural features of the ground had not availed, to maintain the earth in position.

g. *Electr.* To increase the voltage of (a current) by means of a transformer. Hence **step-up** used attrib. or as adj. designating a transformer that does this.

1893 Sloane *Electr. Dict., Step-up* adj., the reverse of step-down. 1902 S. Sheldon & H. Mason *Altern.-Current Machines* 154 The autotransformer is used to step-up the voltage..to 500 volts. 1912 *Nature* 21 Nov. 346/1 One method to obtain this is to step up by means of an E.H.T. transformer.

Step, var. Stap *Sc.* and *north.*, stave of a tub.

Step-, OE. *stéop-* (earlier *stéup-*, Northumb. *stéap-*), corresponding to OFris. *stiap-*, *stiep-* (NFris. *stjap-*, *sjap-*, *stîp-*, WFris. *stiep-*), MLG. (irreg.) *stêf-* (mod. LG. *staif-*), (M)Du. (irreg.) *stief-*, OHG. *stiuf-* (MHG., mod.G. *stief-*), ON. *stjúp-*, (MSw. *stiup-*, *stiuf-*; mod.Sw. *stiuf-*, *styf-*; Da. *stif-*, *stiv-*, now superseded by *sted-*) :—OTeut. **steupo-*; a Com. Teut. combining element (not recorded in Gothic), prefixed to terms of relationship (as son, father, brother) to form designations for the degrees of affinity resulting from the re-marriage of a widowed parent. The primitive sense of the word is indicated by the use of OE. *stéopbearn*, *-cild* (Stepbairn, Stepchild) for 'orphan', and by the cognates, OE. *ástieped* bereaved, OHG. *stiufen* (also *ar-*, *bistiufen*) to bereave. Etymologically, *stepfather* (*stepmother*) might be rendered 'one who becomes a father (mother) to an orphan', and *stepson* (*stepdaughter*) 'an orphan who becomes a son (a daughter)' by the marriage of the surviving parent. It is uncertain which of these two applications of the prefix is the original one; all branches of Teut. (exc. Gothic) have both, and also the extended use in *stepbrother*, *stepsister*. ON. had shortened forms, *stjúpa* stepmother, *stjúp-r* (mod.Icel. *stjúpi*) stepson. In Du. and LG., and in later Scandinavian, the *p* of OTeut. **steupo-* is anomalously represented by *f* instead of *p*. This is prob. not due to HG. influence, but to assimilation to the following *f* in the compound *stepfather* (cf. the early ME. form *steffadyr*). A solitary OE. example of this anomaly occurs in the form *stéfdohtor* (quot. 912 s.v. Stepdaughter). Occasional forms of the prefix in ME. are *stip-* (*styp-*), *sti-*, *ste-*, *stappe-*.

In 1755 Johnson says that *stepmother* is the only one of the compounds of *step-* that has survived in general use. At the present day *stepfather* is hardly less frequently used, and *stepson*, *-daughter*, *-child*, *-brother*, *-sister* are by no means rare, while *stepdame* occurs in somewhat archaistic language (chiefly *fig.*). In the 16th and 17th c. a few writers employed the prefix in nonce-formations which would now seem un-English, as *step-devil*, a term of abhorrence for a stepmother; *step-duchess*, the stepmother of a duke's children; *step-lord*, one who has the position of a lord without the true lord's affection for his subjects; *step-Tully*, one who assumes the function of a Cicero. New formations with the prefix, denoting actual relations of affinity, do not appear earlier than the 19th c.; in the latter part of the century they became somewhat common, chiefly as more or less jocular nonce-words, though one or two of them, as *step-nephew*, *-niece*, have obtained some currency in serious use. The older compounds of *step-* are in this Dictionary treated as main words; the following examples illustrate the extended applications of the prefix from the 16th c. onwards.

1549 Latimer *1st Serm. bef. Edw. VI* (Arb.) 39 You landelordes, you rentreisers, I maye saye you steplordes, you vnnaturall lordes, you haue for your possessions yerely to much. 1593 G. Harvey *Pierce's Super.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 74 His betters will neuer pen such a peec of Latin, whosoeuer wer the Stepp-Tully. 1607 Tourneur *Rev. Trag.* I. ii, Was't euer knowne step-Dutchesse was so milde. 1633 *Costlie Whore* IV. iii. in Bullen *O. Pl.* IV. 283 Oh she was vertuous,..But this step-divell doth promise our fall. 1812 Miss L. M. Hawkins *C'tess & Gertrude* I. 244 Mr. Sterling, the step-uncle to the countess. 1825–9 Mrs. Sherwood *Lady of Manor* V. xxxii. 349 'And I am heartily glad of it,' said the old man..'I am much mistaken, if, after all, the step-lady [*sc.* a stepmother] will not prove the best friend.' 1839 Burgon *Life Sir T. Gresham* II. vii. 400 Her maternal step-grandmother. 1852 Miss Sewell *Exp. Life* xi. (1858) 84 She is a step-niece of Major Colston. 1868 L. H. Morgan *Syst. Consanguinity* (1870) 482 Since the step-relationships are not discriminated. 1876 Mrs. Whitney *Sights & Insights* II, She is also my cousin; that is, my step-cousin. 1895 Black *Briseis* ii, I never know what that excellent step-papa of mine may be up to. 1898 *Westm. Gaz.* 5 Sept. 8/2 Mrs. Neale, step-granddaughter of the wife of Lord Nelson. 1900 Mary E. Wilkins *Love of Parson Lord* 40 Richard Pierce, the squire's step-grandson. 1904 *Westm. Gaz.* 4 Jan. 3/2 The step-sisters and step-aunts. 1905 R. Bagot *Passport* vii. 69 It had amused him to address no small part of his conversation to his step-niece during these little dinners.

Stepbairn (ste·pbēən), *sb.* [OE. *stéopbearn*: see Step-. Cf. ON. *stjúpbarn* (Sw. *styfbarn*, Da. *stifbarn*) in sense 2.]

†**1.** An orphan. *Obs.*

c 1000 Ælfric *Saints' Lives* ix. 63 Þæt mann..steopbearnum gehelpe. *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 115 He scal biwerian widewan and steopbern. *a* 1340 Hampole *Psalter* ix. 38 Til stepbarn þou sall be helpere.

2. *Sc.* A stepson or stepdaughter; = Stepchild 2.

1535 Stewart *Cron. Scot.* III. 402 Suppois scho wes bot hir stepbarne as than. 1631 Rutherford *Lett.* (1862) I. 76 And that if any were a Stepbairn, in respect of comfort and sense, it were rather myself than His poor bairns. 1721 J. Kelly *Sc. Prov.* 328 That's the piece the Step-Bairn never got. 1909 R. J. Drummond *Faith's Cert.* 329 There are no step-bairns in the family of God.

Hence †**Ste·pbairn** *v. Sc.*, *trans.* to treat as a step-child.

1606 Birnie *Kirk-Buriall* (1833) 34 Why doe they so partially step-barne the pursse-miserable poore from such a soul-helpe?

Stepbrother (ste·pˌbrʊðəɹ). [See Step-. Cf. MHG. *stiefbruoder* (mod.G. *stiefbruder*).] A son, by a former marriage, of one's stepfather or stepmother.

1440 *Promp. Parv.* 474/1 Stepbrothyr, of the fadyrs syde, *victrigenus*. Stepbroder, on the modyrs syde, *novercatus*. 1530 Palsgr. 276/1 Stepbrother, *beau frere*. 1828 in Webster. 1868 L. H. Morgan *Syst. Consanguinity* (1870) 482 These are step-brothers and step-sisters to the children of their mother's sisters. 1869 J. Eadie *Galatians* 89 If, then, the theory of step-brethren or cousins be surrounded with difficulties. 1882 Farrar *Early Chr.* I. 510 Whether he [*sc.* St. James] were a half-brother or only a step-brother of Jesus.

Hence **Ste·pbrotherhood.**

1869 J. Eadie *Galat.* 78 For the theory of step-brotherhood, there is no explicit evidence in Scripture.

Stepchild (ste·pˌtʃəild). [OE. *stéopcild*: see Step-. Cf. OHG. *stiufchint* (MHG. *stiefkint*, mod.G. *-kind*).]

†**1.** An orphan. *Obs.*

971 *Blickl. Hom.* 45 Þonne sægde Sanctus Paulus þæt se biscop nære miltsiende wydewum, ne steopcildum, ne nanum Godes þearfan. *c* 1000 *Ags. Gosp.* John xiv. 18 Ne læte ic eow steopcild. *a* 1300 *E. E. Psalter* xciii. 6 Widow and comeling slogh þai, And stepchildre þai drape al dai.

2. A stepson or stepdaughter.

c 1350 *Will. Palerne* 131 Þan studied sche stifly, as stepmoderes wol alle, To do dernly a despit to here stepchilderen. 1631 [see Stepfather]. 1868 L. H. Morgan *Syst. Consanguinity* (1870) 482 Their children by other wives would be my step-children. 1889 S. Walpole *Ld. John Russell* I. xiii. 340 Lord John went down with his children and step-children to Buckhurst.

b. *transf.* and *fig.*

1407–10 Hoccleve *Min. Poems* (1892) 58 Let me no stepchyld been for I am he That hope haue in yow, confort & gladnesse. *c* 1450 Lovelich *Grail* xlviii. 385 Whiles that ȝe to God diden take, thanne was he to ȝow fadyr ful kynde..and sethen that stepchildren that ȝe ben, he hath ȝow forȝeten ful Clen. 1774 Goldsm. *Nat. Hist.* V. 266 It parts good friends, the step-child [*sc.* the young cuckoo] seldom offering any violence to its nurse. 1911 *Q. Rev.* Jan. 150 The navy has been the step-child of both parliaments.

Stepdame (ste·pdēm). Now *arch.* Also 4 **stedame.** [f. Step- + Dame (sense 8).] A step-mother.

1387 Trevisa *Higden* (Rolls) V. 273 Vortymerus deide, þorus venym of his stedame Rowen. *c* 1400 Maundev. (Roxb.) xxv. 120 Þai wedd..þaire stepdames efter þe deed of þaire faders. 1590 Spenser *F. Q.* I. v. 39 His cruell stepdame. 1667 Milton *P. L.* IV. 279 Where old Cham..Hid Amalthea and her Florid Son, Young Bacchus, from his Stepdame Rhea's eye. 1697 Dryden *Virg. Past.* iii. 48 A Stepdame too I have, a curs'd she, Who rules my Hen-peck'd Sire, and orders me. 1818 Scott *Hrt. Midl.* ix, Other stepdames have tried less laudable means for clearing the way to the succession of their own children. 1894 Lowell tr. *Kalevala* in *Century Mag.* May 27/2 Small and weak my mother left me..In the keeping of the stepdame.

b. *fig.*

1387 Trevisa *Higden* (Rolls) I. 5 Forȝetingnes all wey kypinge þe craft of a stepdamme, he is enmy of mynde. 1395 Purvey *Remonstr.* (1851) 137 Necligence is stepdame of lernynge. 1447 Bokenam *Seyntys, Marg.* 942 To eschewyn prolixyte, Stepdam of fauour. 1563–87 Foxe *A. & M.* (1596) 257/2 The church of Rome, which of a mother is become a stepdame. 1598 Barret *Theor. Warres* v. ii. 131 An ouer commaunding mount is a stepdame to a fortresse. 1646 Earl Monm. tr. *Biondi's Civil Wars* VI. 8 Vertue the mother of courage..when it meets with desperation the stepdame of courage. 1730 T. Boston *Mem.* xii. 512 The world hath been a step dame to me. 1866 Carlyle *Remin.* (1881) I. 219 What a tragic, treacherous stepdame is vulgar Fortune to her children!

c. *attrib.*

1800 Campbell *Lines Grave Suicide* 13 To feel the step-dame buffetings of fate. 1827 HebER *Europe* 99 And dread the step-dame sway of unaccustom'd war. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* I. VI. v, Did Nature..fling thee forth, stepdame-like, a Distraction into this distracted Eighteenth Century?

Stepdaughter (ste·pˌdɔ̄təɹ). [OE. *stéopdohtor*: see Step-. Cf. MLG. *stêfdochter*, Du. *stiefdochter*, MHG., mod.G. *stieftochter*, ON. *stjúpdóttir* (Sw. *styfdotter*, Da. *stifdatter*).] A daughter, by a former marriage, of one's husband or wife.

a 850 *Kentish Glosses* in Wr.-Wülcker 88/20 *Filiaster*, steopdohtor. 912 *MS. Vesp. D xiv.* lf. 170 *Pronigna*, stefdohtor. 1387 Trevisa *Higden* (Rolls) V. 103 Theodora þe step-dou3ter [1432–50 tr. *Higden* stappe-doȝter] of Herculeus Maximianus. 14.. *Lat.-Eng. Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 605 *Privigna*, a stypdowtur. 1581 Pettie tr. *Guazzo's Civ. Conv.* III. (1586) 121 In families there are..the step Mother, and the steppe Daughter, the Coosins and Allies. 1682 Fountainhall *Hist. Notices* (Bannatyne Club) I. 343 Lady Sophia Lindsay, his stepdaughter. 1791 Boswell *Johnson* an. 1776, Next morning he introduced me to Mrs. Lucy Porter, his step-daughter. 1913 C. Read in *Eng. Hist. Rev.* Jan. 48 Leicester was planning to marry his step-daughter to James.

Hence **Ste·pdaughtership.**

1876 Mrs. Whitney *Sights & Insights* xiii, She was keenly delicate of her step-daughtership.

Step-down *attrib.* or *adj.*: see Step *v.* 21 c.

Stepe, obs. form of Steep.

Stepell(e, Stepende: see Steeple, Stipend.

Stepfather (ste·pˌfäðəɹ). Forms: 1 **stéupfædær, stéopfæder,** 4 **stifader, -dre, steffader;** 4– **step-** (see Father *sb.*). [OE. *stéopfæder* (see Step-) = OFris. *stiapfeder* (NFris. *stjâpfader*, *sjapfar*, WFris. *stiepfader*), MLG. *stêfvadere*, Du. *stiefvader*, OHG. *stiuffater* (MHG., mod.G. *stiefvater*), ON. *stjúpfaðer* (Sw. *styffader*, Da. *stiffader*).] A man who has married one's mother after one's father's death.

c 825 *Epinal Gloss.* 1070 *Vitricius*, steupfaedaer. *c* 893 Ælfred *Oros.* I. viii. 42 Adipsus [i.e. Oedipus]..æȝþer ofsloh ȝe..his steopfæder, ȝe his steopsunu. 13.. *Sir Beues* 464 Beten ichaue me stifadre Wiþ me mace. 1387 Trevisa *Higden* (Rolls) I. 93 Medus..folowed þe dedes of Iason þat was his owne stepfader. *c* 1489 Caxton *Sonnes of Aymon* iii. 83 It is no loue of a naturell fader, but it is rigoure of a stepfader. 1538 Elyot *Dict., Vitricus*, a father in lawe or steppefather. 1632 Anchoran *Comenius' Gate Tongues* 123 A stepfather, & stepmother, loue not very well their steppe sonnes, or steppe children. 1737 *Gentl. Mag.* VII. 30/2, I am not your own Child, but was adopted by one of your former Husbands; who..proved an excellent Step-Father to me. 1874 Stubbs *Const. Hist.* II. xiv. 46 He was the stepfather of Arthur of Brittany.

b. *transf.* and *fig.*

c 1325 *Metr. Hom.* 123 Hir [*sc.* the Church's] steffader cal I the Fend, For igain hir es he unhende. 1380 Wyclif *Sel. Wks.* III. 335 þis weiward steffadris of mennus soulis. 1628 Wither *Brit. Rememb.* v. 128 Who but Stepfathers to their Poemes be. 1705 Hickeringill *Priest-cr.* II. viii. 86 Kings, if they be Wise for themselves will be Nursing Fathers,..not Stepfathers. 1865 Kingsley *Herew.* xv, 'Dare we resist the Holy Father?' 'Holy step-father, you mean.' 1888 Bryce *Amer. Commw.* liii. II. 327 [Washington] was commonly called by them 'The stepfather of his country.'

¶ c. A father-in-law. (⁂ A conscious misuse.)

a 1625 Fletcher *Double Marr.* IV. i, *Pand.* [to Juliana, his daughter-in-law] A word or two of a kind step-father I'll have put in.

Hence **Ste·pfatherly** *a.*

1912 *Nation* 23 Mar. 1012/1 His step-fatherly rule does not kill even his own officialism.

‖ **Stephane** (ste·fēnɪ). *Antiq.* [Gr. στεφάνη, related to στέφανος crown.] A kind of diadem or coronet, represented in statuary as worn by the goddess Here and other deities; also worn by military commanders.

1847 Leitch tr. *C. O. Müller's Anc. Art* § 425. 505 The three figures on vases with high stephane (ὄγκος ?) seem to be statues in the stage costume of Hercules, Hermes and a third. 1858 Birch *Anc. Pottery* I. 407 Hera is adorned with the stephane, or diadem. 1875 F. Hueffer tr. *Guhl & Koner's Life Greeks & Romans* 235 The helmets of the common soldiers were generally without ornaments, those of the officers only being decorated with figures or patterns; the cap, visor, and stephane were frequently covered with these.

Stephanial (stĭfē·niăl), *a.* [f. Stephanion + -al.] Of or pertaining to the stephanion.

1891 *Century Dict.* A stephanial point.

Stephanic (stĭfæ·nik), *a. Craniometry.* [a. F. *stéphanique*: see Stephanion and -ic.] Pertaining to the stephanion.

1878 Bartley tr. *Topinard's Anthrop.* II. ii. 249 The superior and maximum frontal or stephanic diameter upon the temporal ridge. 1884 J. G. Garson in *Jrnl. Anthrop. Inst.* XIV. 129 Viewed from the *norma frontalis*, the arch of the top of the cranium is markedly flat, giving the stephanic region a somewhat angular appearance.

‖ **Stephanion** (stĭfē·niŏn). *Craniometry.* Pl. **-ia**, **-ions**. [mod.L. use of Gr. στεφάνιον, dim. of στέφανος crown.] The point where the coronal suture crosses the temporal ridge.

1878 Bartley tr. *Topinard's Anthrop.* II. ii. 248 Whose two measuring points are the stephanions at the union of the temporal ridge and the coronal suture. 1886 A. Macalister in *Jrnl. Anthrop. Inst.* XVI. 22 A transverse green band of staining crosses the bone above the frontal eminences from stephanion to stephanion. 1902 Duckworth *Ibid.* XXXII. 142 In the coronal suture on each side at and below the stephania.

Stephanite (ste·fănəit). *Min.* [ad.G. *stephanit* (Haidinger, 1845), named after the Archduke Stephan of Austria: see -ite.] Sulphantimonide of silver, black in colour and very brittle.

1849 J. Nicol *Man. Min.* 493. 1877 Raymond *Statist. Mines & Mining* 195 A 50-foot quartz-vein, carrying disseminated stephanite.

Stephanome (ste·fănoum). [irreg. f. Gr. στέφανος crown (taken in the sense of Corona 1) + -νόμος distributor.] An instrument for measuring the angular dimensions of fog-bows, halos, etc.

1889 *Times* 21 Mar. 3/3 The stephanome..is used for measuring the angular size of halos, fog-bows, and glories at the Ben Nevis Observatory. 1890 *Lond.* etc. *Philos. Mag.* Ser. v. XXIX. 454 *note*, A stephanome, consists of a graduated bar, at one end of which the eye is placed, and in which slides a cross-bar carrying certain projections. With its aid faint objects, for which a sextant would be useless, may be measured to within 5′.

† **Stephanophore.** *Obs. rare*⁻¹. [ad. Gr. στεφανοφόρος wearing a crown, f. στέφανος crown + -φόρος (related to φέρειν to bear).] (See quot.)

1624 Darcie *Birth of Heresies* xii. 51 The Herculean Pontifes, called for this reason Stephanophores, as wearing a Crowne vpon their heads.

Stephanotis (stefănō·tis). [mod.L., a. Gr. στεφανωτίς fem. adj., fit for a crown or wreath, f. στέφανος crown.]

1. ‖ a. *Bot.* A genus of tropical asclepiadaceous twining shrubs having fragrant white flowers. b. A plant of this genus; a flower of such a plant.

1870 Disraeli *Lothair* xxxi, The voice was as sweet as the stephanotis. 1882 *Cornh. Mag.* Apr. 390 With a sprig of stephanotis in his buttonhole.

2. A perfume said to be prepared from the flowers of *Stephanotis floribunda*.

1907 H. Wyndham *Flare of Footlights* xvii, A sickly odour of stephanotis arose from it [the letter].

Stephne, obs. form of Steven *sb.*[1]

Stepil(l, obs. forms of Steeple.

Stepille, obs. Sc. form of Staple *sb.*[1]

1597 in *Spalding Club Misc.* I. Pref. 53 Joggis, Stepillis, and Lockis.

Step-ladder. [Step *sb.*] A ladder which has flat steps instead of rungs.

1751 *Hist. Acc. New Forest* etc. 49 Step Ladders were fixed against the Wall of the Park [Richmond] in divers Parts. 1795 Helen M. Williams *Lett. France* II. 12 (Jod.) One of the secrets of Robespierre's government was to employ as the step-ladders of his ambition, men whose characters were marked with opprobrium. 1830 Miss Mitford *Village* Ser. IV. 239 The staircase..is as much like a step-ladder in a dark corner as any thing well can be. 1904 May Sinclair *Div. Fire* 22 Standing on a step-ladder and fumbling in the darkness for a copy of Demosthenes.

b. *attrib.*

1908 *Daily Graphic* 21 Mar. 13/2 The chemise and step-ladder patterns [of sleeve] are the two..most insistent applicants for our favour. *Ibid.*, Step-ladder sleeves are distant relatives of the Kimono.

Steple, obs. form of Steeple.

Stepless (ste·plĕs), *a.* [f. Step *sb.* + -less.] Having no step or steps.

1827 Darley *Sylvia* 20 You might as well climb the stepless air and catch that voice..as overtake my Sylvia.

Steply, variant of Steeply *a.*

Stepmother (ste·pmʊðəɹ), *sb.* Also 1 stéop-, 4 stip-, 5 stappe-, *Caxton* styfe- (after Du.). [OE. *stéopmódor*: see Step-. Cf. OFris. *stiepmoder* (NFris. *stjap-*, WFris. *stiep-*), MLG. *stêfmoder*, Du. *stiefmoeder*, OHG. *stiufmuoter* (MHG. *stiefmuoter*, mod.G. *-mutter*), Sw. *styfmoder*, Da. *stifmoder*.]

1. A woman who has married one's father after one's mother's death.

c 725 *Corpus Gloss.* (Hessels) N 167 *Nouerca*, steopmoder. c 893 Ælfred *Oros.* III. vii. § 2 Heo wæs Philippuses steopmodor. c 1205 Lay. 222 He ȝef heo his stepmoder For þon lofe of his broþer. *Ibid.* 14421 Heore steopmoder. c 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* 47/8 Stepmoder is seide guod. c 1305 *St. Swithin* in *E. E. P.* (1862) 45 Seint Edwardes fader was þat his stipmoder a-slouȝ. 1390 Gower *Conf.* I. 104 My Stepmoder for an hate, Which toward me sche hath begonne, Forschop me. 1432–50 tr. *Higden* (Rolls) V. 273 His stappemodyr. 1471 Caxton *Recuyell* (Sommer) 83 His styfemoder. 1562 J. Heywood *Prov. & Epigr.* (1867) 195 Thy fathers second wife, thy steppe mother. 1598 Bernard tr. *Terence's Hecyra* II. i, With one consent all stepmothers hate their daughters in law. 1611 Shaks. *Cymb.* I. i. 71 You shall not finde me (Daughter) After the slander of most Step-mothers, Euill-ey'd vnto you. a 1692 Shadwell *Volunteers* I. ii, What is that Fathers Wife of kin to you? *Clara.* My true Stepmother. 1865 Le Fanu *Guy Deverell* iv. I. 51 His mother indeed she was not; but only the stepmother of his deceased wife. 1914 J. Mackay *Ch. in Highlands* ii. 49 A man might marry his stepmother.

b. *transf.* Said of a bird that hatches another bird's eggs.

1567 Maplet *Gr. Forest* 97 b, So soone as those yong can heare but their..Natiue Dams note, they leaue their Stepmother or Nurses [the Partridge's] foode by and by. 1711 Addison *Spect.* No. 121 ¶ 1 The young, upon the sight of a pond, immediately ran into it; while the step-mother, with all imaginable anxiety, hovered about the borders of it. 1815 Stephens in *Shaw's Gen. Zool.* IX. i. 76 The bird often proves a mother and step-mother at the same time, by bringing into life the whole brood.

c. *fig.*

1387–8 T. Usk *Test. Love* III. ix. (Skeat) 86 My dul wit is hindred by stepmother of foryeting. (Cf. Higden *Polychr.* (Rolls) I. 5 *Novercante oblivione.*) 1396–7 in *Eng. Hist. Rev.* (1907) XXII. 296 Qwan þe chirche of Yngelond began to dote in temporalte aftir her stepmodir þe grete chirche of Rome. a 1400 *Relig. Pieces fr. Thornton MS.* (1867) 13 Ydillnes es..stepmodire and stamerynge agaynes gude thewes. 1426 Lydg. *De Guil. Pilgr.* 15985 The Stepmoder off vertu, And ful enmy to cryst ihesu, Wych callyd ys 'Prosperyte'. 1430–40 — *Bochas* II. ii. (1554) 44 Flattery Which is a stepmother called..To all vertue. 1646 J. Hall *Horæ Vac.* 15 He seem'd to carry Reason along with him, who called Nature Step-mother, in that she gives us so small a portion of Time. 1659 N. R. *Prov., Eng. Fr.* etc. 32 Fortune to one is a mother, another a step-mother. 1664 Evelyn *Sylva* (1679) 18 All sort of Clay, is held but a stepmother to Trees. c 1695 J. Miller *Descr. New York* (1843) 10 New York, in these [necessaries], is not unkind; but though a stepmother to those who come from England, yet furnishes them..plentifully. 1705 Hickeringill *Priestcr.* II. v. 56 Happy we, that Her Majesty does not behave Her self like a Step-mother to the Moderate Party. 1913 *Contemp. Rev.* June 827 The monastery had got the credit of founding a school, but had really been a stepmother to it.

quasi-adj. 1715 Chappelow *Right Way to be Rich* (1717) 81 Turn'd naked into a frowning step-mother world.

d. *attrib.* as *stepmother dole*, † *shive* (with reference to the stinginess ascribed to stepmothers). Also Comb. *stepmother-in-law.*

1483 *Cath. Angl.* 361/2 A Stepmoder schyfe, *colirida.* 1847 C. Bronte *Jane Eyre* xxxi, Nature..forgetting her usual stinted stepmother dole of gifts, had endowed this, her darling, with a granddame's bounty. 1904 *Verney Mem.* II. 133 Eleanor, Countess of Warwick..stepmother-in-law to the Protector's daughter.

2. *dial.* a. More fully, *stepmother's blessing*: an agnail.

1818 Wilbraham *Chesh. Gloss.*, *Stepmother's Blessing*, a little reverted skin about the nail, often called a back friend. 1862 C. C. Robinson *Dial. Leeds* 421 *Stepmothers*, hangnails.

b. (See quot.)

1828 Carr *Craven Gloss.*, *Step-mother*, the name given to the flowers of the violet in general, but more particularly to those of the *viola tricolor*, pansies or hearts-ease, etc.

Hence **Ste·pmother** *v. trans.*, (*a*) to provide with a stepmother; (*b*) to behave as a stepmother to. **Ste·pmotherly** *a.*, pertaining to or characteristic of a stepmother; hence **Ste·pmotherliness.**

1848 [M. W. Savage] *Bachelor of Albany* 210 [The cook] obliged her barbarous mistress to abandon..her stepmotherly designs. 1860 Wraxall *Life in Sea* viii. 192 The Acephala have not been treated by her [Nature] in such a step-motherly fashion as might be supposed from their headless condition. 1887 Augusta Wilson *At Mercy of Tiberius* vii, When I want my children step-mothered I will let you know. 1894 Kate K. Ide in *Advance* (Chicago) 22 Mar., A good grandmother, whose grandchildren had become step-mothered. 1892 Jane Barlow *Irish Idylls* iii. 41 He knows what ills forthwith await him, what stepmotherliness of barren earth. 1896 E. A. King *Ital. Highways* 63 Alma Mater is but step-motherly to her daughters in our own country.

† **Ste·pony.** *Obs.* Also 7 stepponi, -ony, stipone, stiponie, stipony, 8 steponey, stepany, stepney. [Of obscure origin; possibly a use of *Stepney*, the name of a parish in the East of London (cf. quot. 1656).] A kind of raisin-wine, made from raisins with lemon-juice and sugar added.

1656 Blount *Glossogr.*, *Stipone*, a kind of sweet compound liquor, drunk in some places of London in the summer time. 1664 Etheredge *Comical Rev.* v. iv, Do not you understand the mystery of Stiponie, Jenny? 1669 *Sir K. Digby's Closet Opened* 124 To make Stepponi. 1672 Hannah Woolley *Queen-like Closet* I. (1684) 29 To make Raisin-Wine or Stepony. 1676 *Poor Robin's Intell.* 11–18 Apr. 2/2 Then comes in the faculty of spunging Sipony, and of enflaming the reckoning as occasion shall require. a 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew*, *Steppony*, a Decoction of Raisins of the Sun, and Lemons in Conduit-water, sweetned with Sugar and Bottled up. 1717 *Poor Robin* July B 2 b, They drink.. Chocolate,..Stepany, Tea. 1726 *Dict. Rust.* (ed. 3), *Wine-Raisin* or Stepony may be thus made [etc.]. 1785 Grose *Dict. Vulgar T.*, Stepney.

Steppage (ste·pĕdʒ). *Path.* [a. F. *steppage* (Charcot), f. *stepper* to step (racing term), ad. E. Step *v.*: see -age.] A peculiar high-stepping gait characteristic of certain nervous diseases.

1898 *Syd. Soc. Lex.* 1900 Church & Peterson *Nervous & Mental Dis.* (ed. 2) 300.

Steppe (step). Also 7–9 step. [a. Russian степь. Cf. F., G. *steppe.*]

1. One of the vast comparatively level and treeless plains of south-eastern Europe and Siberia.

1671 [S. Collins] *Pres. St. Russia* xviii. 81 Going towards the more Southern parts of Syberia, you shall see a Wilderness called the Step. 1710 Whitworth *Acc. Russia* (1758) 119 The place being on the *step*, or desert. 1762 tr. *Busching's Syst. Geog.* I. 478 The Steppe, or wide desert plain of Astracan,..is a dreary waste. 1830 Lyell *Princ. Geol.* I. 319 The great steppe of Tartary..is unexplored. 1876 Burnaby *Ride to Khiva* xxvi. 240 The Turkomans and other nomad races in the steppes often attribute a disease or illness to the devil.

2. *transf.* An extensive plain, usually treeless.

1837 W. Irving *Capt. Bonneville* (1849) 61 These great steppes, which range along the feet of the Rocky Mountains. 1842 Loudon *Suburban Hort.* 43 *Saline steppes*, where the soil is impregnated with salt, but where the foliage is not influenced by a saline atmosphere. 1878 A. K. Johnston *Africa* ii. 20 These rocky steppes possess but few streams. 1903 W. R. Fisher tr. *Schimper's Plant Geog.* 551 The steppe of the Hungarian plain exhibits close climatic similarity to that of South Russia.

3. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *steppe bird, country, district, fauna, horse, lake, land, -travelling*; **steppe cat**, the manul (*Felis manul* or *caudatus*); **steppe-murrain** = Rinderpest; **steppe rue**, the plant *Peganum Harmala*, the seeds of which are sometimes eaten as a narcotic.

1884 H. Seebohm *Hist. Brit. Birds* II. 234 Richard's Pipit is essentially a *steppe bird. 1885 *Riverside Nat. Hist.* (1888) V. 462 The *Steppe Cat..of Bokhara. 1911 Marett *Anthrop.* iv. 106 A belt of grassland or *steppe-country. 1903 W. R. Fisher tr. *Schimper's Plant Geog.* 594 *Steppe districts. 1898 *Archæol. Jrnl.* Ser. II. V. 284 The Tundra fauna [had] given place to the *Steppe fauna. 1877 C. Geikie *Christ* xxv. (1879) 272 Their lean and untiring *steppe horses. 1901 *Geogr. Jrnl.* (R.G.S.) XVIII. 92 A typical *steppe-lake. 1901 *Wide World Mag.* VI. 444/1 The *steppe lands ..in Western Siberia. 1865 *Athenæum* 7 Oct. 473/2 Pulmonary and *steppe murrain. 1881 *Spon's Encycl. Industr. Arts* etc. IV. 1324 Syrian or *Steppe Rue. 1890 R. Boldrewood *Col. Reformer* xvi, The monotony of Australian *steppe-travelling.

Hence **Steppe-ful** *nonce-wd.*

1857 Dufferin *Lett. High Lat.* 37 [He] could let me have a steppe-ful of horses if I desired.

Steppe: see Steep *a.*, Stap *sb.*

Stepped (stept), (*ppl.*) *a.* [f. Step *sb.* and *v.* + -ed.] Having a step or steps; formed in a series of steps (see Step *v.* 12).

1833 Loudon *Encycl. Archit.* § 1890 In this style we have the simple gable of two lines..and the stepped gable. 1861 Beresf. Hope *Engl. Cathedr.* v. 155 The more grandiose yet theatrical form of the stepped bema. 1869 Rankine *Mach. & Millwork* iv. § 150 Stepped Teeth...A wheel with stepped teeth. 1875 McIlwraith *Guide Wigtownsh.* 62 The stepped path on the cliff. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2376/1 *Stepped Gage*, one having a series of notches which may fit varying sizes of holes. *Ibid.*, The stepped key was shown in Rountree's lock, English patent, 1790. 1881 E. Wilson *Egypt of Past* 24 The stepped pyramid. 1893 J. A. R. Munro in *Athenæum* 4 Nov. 632/2 The inscribed field of the architrave..occupies the top of the blocks above a stepped surface. 1898 M. Hewlett *Forest Lovers* xiv, There are three ravines about it, with a stepped path through each to the Castle.

Stepper (ste·pəɹ). [f. Step *v.* + -er¹.]

1. A horse with good paces and showy action. Often with adj., *good, sure*, etc.; cf. High-stepper.

1835 Sir G. Stephen *Search of Horse* ii. 32 If he is 'a beautiful stepper', you will find that he has the action of a peacock. 1850 Smedley *Frank Fairlegh* xl. 330 'By Jove! what splendid steppers!' was Lawless's exclamation, as I drove up. 1908 A. Kinross *Joan of Garioch* x. (1911) 44 A quiet closed brougham passed by drawn by two fiery Hungarian steppers.

2. *slang.* a. The treadmill. b. *pl.* The feet.

1851–61 Mayhew *Lond. Labour* III. 380 These thoughts used to come over me when I was 'on the stepper', that is, on the wheel. 1853 *Household. Words* VIII. 75 The feet are steppers. 1874 *Slang Dict.* 309 *Stepper*, the treadmill.

3. *colloq.* = *step-girl* (Step *sb.* 18).

1884 *All Yr. Round* 18 Oct. 29/2 Door-step cleaners—known among themselves and their own class as steppers.

Steppie, obs. variant of Steepy *a.*

Stepping (ste·pĭŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. Step *v.* + -ing¹.]

1. The action of Step *v.*; an instance of this.

c 1394 *P. Pl. Crede* 649 Per is no waspe in þis werlde þat will wilfulloker styngen For stappyng [*v.r.* stamping] on a too of a styncande frere. 1580 Hollyband *Treas. Fr. Tong, Marchement plus oultre*, a stepping forward. 1663 J. Spencer *Prodigies* (1665) 130 Nature's voluntary errors and steppings out of her more common road of Operation. 1835 T. Mitchell *Acharn. of Aristoph.* 198 *note*, The Homeric word πλίσσοντο, which in the Odyssey..is applied to the stepping of mules. 1875 M. Arnold *God & Bible* 72 Existence, again, means a stepping-forth.

† b. *pl.* Footsteps, footprints. *Obs.*

1575 Gascoigne *Posies, Jocasta* v. v, Leade the waye Into the stonie rockes and highest hilles, Where fewest trackes of steppings may be spyde. 1583 Melbancke

Philotimus T ij, It is a custome of purloining burglairers, to strew pepper in the tract of their steppings. 1647 H. More *Song of Soul* I. ii. 82 Though short he fall of old Corvino's age, His steppings with the other footsteps fit.

† **c.** *pl.* Gradual advances. *Obs.*

1651–3 Jer. Taylor *Serm. for Year* (1678) 54 Still the Flood crept by little steppings, and invaded more by his progressions than he lost by his retreat.

d. Places on which to step. *rare.*

1854 Miller *Sch. & Schm.* xvii. (1858) 370 That common sense..which enables men to pick their stepping prudently through the journey of life.

2. *concr.* † **a.** *pl.* Steps, stairs. Also, stone for making steps. *Obs.*

1608 Willet *Hexapla Exod.* 453 All steppings vp [to the altar] being forbidden. 1676 in Willis & Clark *Cambridge* (1886) II. 144 Item for Steppings 70 and ½ foot at seven shillings per foot.

b. *pl.* = Stepping-stones. *dial.*

1796 W. H. Marshall *Yorksh.* (ed. 2) II. 347.

c. *Naut.* A rabbet taken out of the deadwood, for the heels of the timbers to step on.

1805 *Shipwright's Vade-M.* 135. 1874 Thearle *Naval Archit.* 195 At present, however, the cants are heeled against the keel and deadwood without any such stepping.

3. *Surveying.* A method of ascertaining the horizontal measure of a slope by extending the chain horizontally in a series of successive positions resembling a flight of steps.

1888 B. H. Brough *Mine-Surv.* 15 The process is called *stepping*, and, on steep ground, may be carried on by half-chains, or even shorter distances.

4. *attrib.*, as *stepping-board*, *-line*, *-piece*, *-place*, *-wheel*; **stepping-off place** *jocular*, the place at the end of the world, whence one steps off into vacancy; **stepping-stile** = *step-stile*.

1843 *Penny Cycl.* XXV. 150/1 The tread-wheel is similar to a common water-wheel. Upon its circumference are *stepping-boards. 1846 A. Young *Naut. Dict.* 30 *Bearding-line*,..often called the *stepping-line. 1893 Mrs. Custer *Tenting on Plains* 21 In my mind, Texas then seemed the *stepping-off place. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* III. 83 [Ship-building.] It is usual..to fit a '*stepping piece'. 1824 Scott *Redgauntlet* xiii, By knowing exactly where certain *stepping-places and holdfasts were placed. 1791 Charlotte Smith *Celestina* (ed. 2) II. 209 She then went into the park over the *stepping stile. 1872 Jenkinson *Guide Engl. Lakes* (1879) 143 A stepping-stile leads into the field. 1884 A. Griffiths *Chron. Newgate* II. iv. 168 The newly-invented tread-wheels, or *stepping wheels, as they were at first called.

Stepping-stone. Also 4 **stoppyngston**, 7 *Sc.* **stopping stane, stapping ston.** [Stepping *vbl. sb.*]

1. A stone for stepping upon. **a.** A stone placed in the bed of a stream or on muddy or swampy ground, to facilitate crossing on foot. Chiefly *plural*, referring to a row or line of such stones.

c 1325 *Gloss. W. de Bibbesw.* in Wright *Voc.* 159 S[t]epping-stones *passueres*. *c* 1340 *Nominale* (Skeat) 515 *Caliow fusil et passuer*. Flynt firehiron stoppyngston. 1550 [see Siket]. 1579 *Nottingham Rec.* IV. 189 Steppingstones to be sett be tweene Frear Poole. 1603 *Reg. Mag. Sig. Scot.* 506/1 Passand to ane grene dyk besouth the stopping stanes of the Ile-ark. 1655 Lamont *Diary* (Maitl. Club) 91 The water..ran away some of the stapping stons at Nether Largo. 1682 O. Heywood *Diaries* (1881) II. 303 Going over stepping stones at a brook. 1733 Swift *On Poetry* 169 Like stepping Stones to save a Stride, In Streets where Kennels are too wide. 1815 Scott *Guy M.* viii, Once he [the Dominie] fell into the brook crossing at the stepping-stones. 1833 Tennyson *Miller's Dau.* 54 The tall flag-flower that sprung Beside the noisy steppingstones. 1852 E. W. Benson in *Life* (1899) I. iii. 110, I reached the Abbey by the stepping-stones. 1899 Crockett *Kit Kennedy* 189 Kit crossed the brook at the stepping-stones.

b. A raised stone on which the foot can be placed to facilitate a climb or ascent; *spec.* 'a horse-block' (Halliwell). *rare* in literal sense: see **2.**

1837 Dickens *Pickw.* xxviii, The stile..was full three feet high, and had only a couple of stepping-stones. 1841 James *Brigand* xi, He sat down on one of the stepping-stones placed to aid travellers in mounting their horses.

c. *transf.* A place for a break of journey.

1849 Noad *Electricity* (ed. 3 104) The intermediate clouds serving as intermediate conductors, or stepping-stones as it were for the electric fluid. 1856 Stanley *Sinai & Pal.* xii. 398 'Chittim' thus became the first stepping-stone to the isles of the West. 1880 A. R. Wallace *Isl. Life* 274 Some islands may have intervened between them [the Galapagos] and the coast, and have served as stepping-stones by which the passage to them of various organisms would be greatly facilitated.

2. *fig.* Something that is used as a means of rising in the world, or of making progress towards some object; often, a position, office, or the like, that serves to afford opportunity for further advancement.

1653 Baxter *Christian Concord* 47 Some Ministers lately put in, are young, weak, and indiscreet, and fit matter for them to contemn, and modestly to make stepping stones to their own reputation. 1715 Chappelow *Right Way to be Rich* (1717) 165 She has..made them stepping-stones to her own grandeur. 1773 W. Eden in Jesse *Selwyn & Contemp.* (1844) III. 59 His office..would suit our friend Hare exactly, as an introduction or stepping-stone to something better. 1806 G. Rose *Diaries* (1860) II. 248 [They] would see through it too clearly to allow themselves to be made stepping-stones for their Lordships to mount into power by. 1850 Tennyson *In Mem.* i, I held it truth..That men may rise on stepping-stones Of their dead selves to higher things. 1855 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* xi. III. 49 Those obstacles his genius had turned into stepping stones. 1884 H. Sweet in *13th Addr. Philol. Soc.* 83 Such a shorthand would serve as a stepping-stone from the ordinary Roman alphabet to such a one as Bell's Visible Speech. 1891 *Speaker* 11 July 36/1 A type of snobbery which regards the established religion as a stepping-stone to respectability. 1898 R. B. O'Brien *Parnell* I. viii. 168 Agrarian revolution was to be made the stepping-stone to separation from England.

Ste·ppy, *a. rare.* [f. Step *sb.* + -y.] Full of steps.

1882 Mrs. B. M. Croker *Proper Pride* I. ii. 25 The narrow, sun-scorched, steppy streets of Valetta.

† **Ste·psire.** *Obs. rare.* = Stepfather.

13.. *Sir Beues* 3464 Alse glad he was of hire, Of his damme, ase of is stipsire. 1581 Studley *Seneca's Hercules Œtæus* II. 193 b, His former Stepsiers stocke heereby the overthrow shall haue.

Stepsister (ste·psistəɹ). [See Step-. Cf. Du. *stiefzuster*, MHG., mod.G. *stiefschwester*, Sw. *styfsyster*, Da. *stifsøster*.] A daughter of one's stepfather or stepmother.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 474/1 Stepsystyr. 1530 Palsgr. 276/1 Step sustre, *belle seur*. 1828 in Webster. 1868 [see Step-brother]. 1883 Miss M. Betham-Edwards *Disarmed* xxx, Throwing his arms round his step-sister's neck. 1910 C. N. & A. M. Williamson *Love & Spy* I. i. 10 Di and I are only step-sisters.

Stepson (ste·psʌn). Also 1 **stéop-**, 5 **styp-**. [OE. *stéopsunu*: see Step-. Cf. Du. *stiefzoon*, MLG. *stēfsone*, OHG. *stiufsun* (MHG. *stiefsun*, G. *-sohn*), ON. *stjúpsonr* (Sw. *styfson*, Da. *stifsøn*).] A son, by a former marriage, of one's husband or wife.

c 725 *Corpus Gloss.* (Hessels) F 210 *Filiaster*, steopsunu *c* 893 [see Stepfather]. *c* 1150 *Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 538/5 *Priuiuignus* [sic], stepsune. *c* 1205 Lay. 32138 Yuor wes his step-sune. 1297 R. Glouc. (Rolls) 1412 Tibery is stepsone after him com. 14.. *Lat.-Eng. Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 605/4 *Privignus*, a stypsone. 1490 Caxton *Eneydos* lxv. 164 Lauyne..retourned..to her stepsone ascanius. 1570 Levins *Manip.* 164/26 A step son, *priuignus*. 1631 Weever *Anc. Funeral Mon.* 210 This Queene [Joan] endured some troubles in the raigne of her Stepsonne King Henry the fift. 1797 Holcroft tr. *Stolberg's Trav.* (ed. 2) II. xlvii. 119 The stepson of Sylla. 1870 Freeman *Norm. Conq.* (ed. 2) I. vi. 452 Where his banished step-sons were being brought up as his possible rivals. 1872 Morley *Voltaire* 2 Calvin, again, like some stern and austere step-son of the Christian God.

Stepull(e, stepyl(l(e, obs. ff. Steeple *sb.*[1]

Step-up *attrib.* or *adj.*: see Step *v.* 28 g.

Ster, obs. form of Star, Steer, Stir.

-ster, *suffix.* (Forms: 1 **-istræ, -estre,** later **-ystre, -istre,** 2–4 **-estre,** 4–5 **-estir,** 5 **-ister,** 4–7 **-star(e,** 4–5 **-estere, -stere,** 4– **-ster**), corresponding to MLG. *-(e)ster*, (M)Du. and mod.Fris. *-ster*, represents a WGer. type *-strjōn-*, forming feminine agent-nouns, prob. a derivative of the OTeut. *-stro-* forming nouns of action, as in ON. *bakstr* masc., act of baking, OHG. *galstar* neut., incantation.

The existence of the suffix is not attested for High German, OS. or OFris.; the supposed examples sometimes cited, OHG. *wagastria* lance, *agalastra* (OS. *agastria*) magpie, OS. *hamstra* marmot, *ramestra* some plant, are very doubtful; even if the suffix be formally identical with the agential suffix, it has not the same function. In Du. *-ster* regularly forms feminine agent-nouns corresponding to masculines in *-er*, e. g. *schrijfster* fem. of *schrijver* a writer. In MLG., and in mod.Fris., although most of the nouns in *-ster* are fem., several occur as masc., e. g. MLG. *bedriegster* deceiver, NFris. *grewster* gravedigger, *wāwster* weaver.

In the original types of the formation the suffix was prob. preceded by the thematic vowel of the word to which it was attached, thus becoming *-astrjōn-*, *-istrjōn*, *?-ustrjōn-*. In the historical forms, however, there is no evidence of this (unless in the OE. *byrdistræ*: see below); in Du. and Fris. the suffix is *-ster* without prefixed vowel; in MLG. usually *-ster*, sometimes *-ester*, app. merely for euphony. In OE. it is *-estre*, which does not produce umlaut, though it is often added to a stem containing an umlaut-vowel.

In OE. *-estre* was freely used to form fem. agent-nouns, in exactly the same manner in which *-ere* (-er[1]) was used to form masc. agent-nouns. Thus it was appended to the pres.-stems of verbs, as in *lǽrestre* female teacher, *hoppestre* female dancer, and to certain monosyllabic nouns of action as in *sangestre* songstress, *sǽmestre* sempstress, *lybbestre* female poisoner or witch. In a few instances fem. agent-nouns were formed by the substitution of *-estre* for the masc. suffix *-a* (:—*-jon-*), as in *bigenga* fem. of *bigenga* cultivator, worshipper, *webbestre* (Webster) beside *webbe* as fem. of *webba* weaver. *Lattēow*, leader, functionally an agent-n. though without agential suffix, gave rise to a fem. *lættewestre*. An anomalous formation is *huntigestre* (instead of **huntestre*) huntress, which occurs once as a variant reading for *hunticge*.

In OE. the suffix may be said to have retained its original function, for the few instances in which it is used as a masculine are renderings of Latin designations of men exercising functions which among the English were peculiar to women, as *byrdistræ* embroiderer (gl. *blaciarius*, *primiculiarius*), *bæcestre* baker (gl. *pistor*), *sǽmestre* tailor (gl. *sartor*), *wǽscestre* washer (gl. *fullo*).

In northern ME., however, perh. owing to the frequent adoption by men of trades like weaving, baking, tailoring, etc., the suffix came very early to be used, indiscriminately with **-er**[1], as an agential ending irrespective of gender; thus in the *Cursor Mundi* (*a* 1300) *demestre* (see Dempster) appears instead of *demere* (Deemer), a judge, *bemestre* instead of *bemer* a trumpeter. It is probable that *-ster* was often preferred to *-er* as more unambiguously referring to the holder of a professional function, as distinguished from the doer of an occasional act. In Scotland, *baxter* and *webster* survived as masculines down to the 19th c. The only word of this formation that in Scotland has remained exclusively feminine is Sewster.

In the south the suffix continued to be predominantly feminine throughout the ME. period. The OE. formations, *baxter*, *seamster*, *tapster*, were in southern English usually feminine before 1500; many new designations of occupation, originally feminine, arose in ME., as *bellringestre*, *hordestre* treasurer (*Winteney Rule St. Benet*, 13th c.), *hotestre* fem. of *hotere* commander (Ayenbite), *brewster*, *dyester*, *litster*, *throwster*, *huckster*; also *spinster*, which alone of the group has survived (though with change of sense) solely as a feminine. A few feminines in *-estere* were formed to correspond to masculines in *-er(e* of French origin: *fruitestere*, *tumbestere*, *tumblestere*, *wafrestere*. As a feminine suffix of purely agential import, *-ster* was in the 14th c. still used for new formations by some writers, but was generally replaced by the French *-eresse*. Thus MS. Bodl. 277 of the Wyclif Bible has *chesister*, *daunster*, *dwelster*, *weilster*, where other copies have *cheseresse*, *dauneresse* (*leperesse*), *dwelleresse*, *weileresse*.

From the 16th c. onwards the older words in *-ster*, so far as they survived, have been regarded as masculines, and several of them have given rise to feminines in *-ess*, as *backstress*, *seamstress*, *songstress*, *huckstress*. In the modern English period the suffix has been very productive, but it is doubtful whether any of the new formations are really derived from verbs; in every instance in which this would be formally possible there is a sb. of the same form as the vb., and the derivative is (in present feeling at least) associated rather with the sb. than the vb. so in *gamester*, *rhymester* (late 16th c.), *drugster* (1611; but cf. *druggister*), and the much later *dabster*, *jokester*, *punster*, *trickster*, *tipster*. The formation here imitates that of trade designations; hence the disparaging sense, e.g. in *rhymester*, *jokester*, as compared with *rhymer*, *joker*. An anomalous use is that in *rubster* (17th c.) something used to rub with.

In the 16th c. two formations on ádjs. occur: *youngster* (after which *oldster* was formed later) and *lewdster*.

† **Ste·racle.** *Obs.* Forms: 5 **staracle,** 6 **sterakel, sterracle, stiracle,** 5–6 **steracle.** [Of obscure origin: possibly f. Stare *v.*, after *spectacle*.] A spectacle, show. Also with play on *miracle*.

c 1440 *Jacob's Well* 105 To gon to wakys & to wrestlynges, to daunsynges & to steraclys. 14.. *Pain Evil Marr.* in *Mapes' Poems* (Camden) 297 At staracles to sitte on high stages. 1540 Palsgr. *Acolastus* IV. iv. T iij b, Why whippest thou it about, or playest thou thy steracles. *c* 1550 Bale *K. Johan* 996 With ymages and rellyckes he shall wurke sterracles. 1563 Becon *Acts of Christ* Wks. III. 416 b, But to pray at..places..where the deuil worketh stiracles, I would say, miracles,..this passeth al.

Steradian (stĕrē·diăn). *Geom.* [f. Gr. στερεός solid + Radian *sb.*] A unit of measurement of solid angles (see quot. 1881).

1881 Halsted *Mensuration* 78 A steradian is the angle subtended at the center by that part of every sphere equal to the square of the radius. 1883 W. Thomson in *Encycl. Brit.* XVI. 25/2 Number of Steradians in an Angle. 1885 A. Macfarlane *Phys. Arith.* 87 The unit-rate S per (L radius)^2 is sometimes called a steradian, that is, a solid radian.

Sterage, obs. f. Steerage; var. Stirrage.

Sterap, obs. Sc. form of Stirrup.

Sterc, sterch, obs. ff. Stark *a.*

Stercobilin (stə:ikø,bəi·lin). [irreg. f. L. *sterc-us* (*stercor-*) dung + *bīl-is* Bile + -in.] The colouring matter of the fæces.

1880 J. W. Legg *Bile* 32 Vanlair and Masius describe another derivative found in abundance in the fæces,..which they name sterco-bilin. 1900 A. E. Garrod in *Lancet* 10 Nov. 1323/2 The urobilin of urine and the stercobilin of fæces are identical in composition.

Stercoraceous (stə:ikŏrā·ʃəs), *a.* [f. L. *stercorāce-us*, f. *stercor-*, *stercus* dung: see -aceous.]

1. Consisting of, containing, or pertaining to fæces.

1731 Arbuthnot *Nat. Aliments* i. (1735) 11 A putrid stercoraceous Taste and Odour. 1759 Mills tr. *Duhamel's Husb.* I. viii. (1762) 19 The stercoraceous salts of the dung. 1787 [see Stercorarious, 1785 quot.]. 1834 *Rep. Sel. Comm. Metrop. Sewers* 115 Pumping of stercoraceous filth is practised sometimes every night. 1876 Bristowe *Th. & Pract. Med.* (1878) 662 This discharge of 'stercoraceous' matter by the mouth is due..to the fact that [etc.].

fig. 1832 *Westm. Rev.* XVII. 522 A sneaking stercoraceous policy.

b. *Path.* Of vomiting: Consisting of fæces, fæcal.

1754–64 SMELLIE *Midwifery* III. 516 The Child had that night Stercoraceous vomitings. 1898 ROSE & CARLESS *Man. Surg.* 931 This shock..is..followed by vomiting, at first gastric, then bilious, and finally stercoraceous or fæcal.

2. *Ent.* Of certain beetles, flies, etc.: Frequenting or feeding on dung. 1891 *Century Dict.*

Hence **Stercora·ceously** *adv.*

1894 J. M. WALSH *Coffee* 142 The appreciation of such stercoraceously deposited beans by the natives being an undoubted fact.

‖ **Stercoræmia** (stəɹkŏrī·miă). *Path.* Also -emia. [mod.L. f. L. *stercor-*, *stercus* dung, fæces + Gr. αἷμα blood.] Contamination of the blood by absorption from retained fæces.

1890 BILLINGS *Nat. Med. Dict.* II. 588 *Stercoræmia*, Name proposed by Bouchard for systemic poisoning due to alkaloids absorbed from the intestines. 1898 *Syd. Soc. Lex.*, *Stercoræmia*, *Stercoremia.*

Stercoral (stə̄·ɹkŏrăl), *a.* [f. L. *stercor-*, *stercus* dung + -AL.]

1. *Path.* = STERCORACEOUS. *Stercoral ulcer*, an ulcer produced by the pressure of fæcal matter.

1758 J. S. *Le Dran's Observ. Surg.* (1771) 198 Which.. would inundate the Cavity of the Abdomen with stercoral Matter. 1817 COLERIDGE *Ess. Own Times* (1850) III. 957 Some Hottentots..having publicly abjured the uric and stercoral faith of their grandmothers. 1894 *Athenæum* 10 Feb. 184/1 The posterior end of the intestine is dilated into a large stercoral pouch which is part of the midgut. 1898 ROSE & CARLESS *Man. Surg.* 930 Fæcal material..gives rise ..occasionally to stercoral ulcers.

2. *Bot.* (See quot.)

1889 WAGSTAFFE *Mayne's Med. Voc.*, *Stercoral*, .. *Bot.* Applied to plants that grow upon excrements or dung.

Stercoranism (stə̄·ɹkŏrăniz'm). *Eccl. Hist.* Also incorrectly **sterco·rianism.** [Formed as next + -ISM.] The beliefs of the Stercoranists.

1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Stercorarians*, Which Opinion he imagined led directly into Stercoranism. 1758 MACLAINE tr. *Mosheim's Eccl. Hist.* II. 156 That imaginary heresy, that..was branded with the title of Stercoranism. 1798 HEY *Lect. Divinity* IV. IV. xxviii. 340 *note*, This might be held, in order to avoid the charge of Stercorianism. 1847–54 WEBSTER, *Stercorianism.* 1882 OGILVIE, *Stercoranism*, *Stercorianism.*

Stercoranist (stə̄·ɹkŏrănist). *Eccl. Hist.* Also incorrectly **stercorianist.** [ad. med.L. *stercoranista*, irreg. f. L. *stercor-*, *stercus* dung: see -IST.] A nickname given to one who holds that the consecrated elements in the Eucharist undergo digestion in, and evacuation from, the body of the recipient.

1686 W. HOPKINS tr. *Ratramnus* Dissert. v. (1688) 98 The first I can learn of the Name, is, that Humbertus Bishop of Sylva Candida calls Nicetas Stercoranist. 1721 in BAILEY. 1844 *Cranmer's Lord's Supper* 55 *marg.*, A sect reproved that were called Stercoranists. 1891 *Century Dict.*, Stercorianist. 1893 RICKABY in *Month* May 28 Delaying his answer to the Stercoranists, as they are called.

† **Ste·rcoranite.** *Obs. rare.* [See -ITE.] = STERCORANIST.

1579 W. FULKE *Heskins's Parl.* 41 Hee chargeth, I knowe not what Stercoranites of our time, to affirme that the fleshe of Christ, passeth through the bodie as other meates.

† **Stercora·rian.** *Obs. rare.* [f. L. *stercorāri-us* (see STERCORARY) + -OUS.]

1. A derisive appellation for a physician following obsolete methods of practice.

1651 N. BIGGS *New Dispens.* ₱ 11 The old stercorarian and snaile-creeper, the Galenist.

2. = STERCORANIST.

1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.*, *Stercorarians*, or *Stercoranists.*

Stercorarious (stə̄·ɹkŏrēə·riəs), *a.* [f. L. *stercorāri-us* (see STERCORARY) + -OUS.]

1. = STERCORACEOUS 1.

1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.*, *Stercorean* or *Stercorarious.* 1752 STACK in *Phil. Trans.*, XLVII. 344 Without the least mixture of a stercorarious stench. 1785 COWPER *Task* III. 463 The stable yields a stercorarious [ed. 3, 1787 stercoraceous] heap. 1816 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* xxi. (ed. 2) II. 261 They can elevate or drop their stercorarious parasol so as most effectually to shelter or shade them.

2. *Ent.* Of beetles, etc.: Living in dung.

1826 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* xliv. IV. 227 They..may often be seen..prowling in search of the stercorarious beetles.

Stercorary (stə̄·ɹkŏrări), *a.* and *sb.* [ad. L. *stercorārius*, f. *stercor-*, *stercus* dung: see -ARY.]

A. *adj.* Of or pertaining to dung. Of insects: Living in or feeding on dung.

1664 POWER *Exp. Philos.* I. 6 The Stercorary or Yellow Flyes that feed upon Cow-dung. 1669 W. SIMPSON *Hydrol. Chym.* 78 Innate and connatural to the place like the stercorary ferment to the *cæcum.* 1765 *Universal Mag.* XXXVII. 130/1 The stercorary beetle is seen at fig. 5. 1864 D. G. MITCHELL *Wet Days* 17 (Cent.). 1869 tr. *Hugo's By King's Command* III. i. (1875) 114 The stercorary tribe which, like the envious, are addicted to defiling high places.

B. *sb.* A place where manure is stored, a dung-heap. Now *rare* or *Obs.*

1759 MILLS tr. *Duhamel's Husb.* I. viii. (1762) 29 Mud, or the product of your stercorary. 1792 WASHINGTON *Let.* 14 Oct., Writ. 1891 XII. 239 That lately sown in Lucern from the stercorary to the river fence. 1828–32 WEBSTER, *Stercorary*, a place properly secured from the weather for containing dung. 1851 *Rural Cycl.* IV. 338 *Stercorary*, a collection of putrescent manure in a position of security from injury by the weather.

Stercorate (stə̄·ɹkŏreɪt), *v.* [f. L. *stercorāt-*, ppl. stem of *stercorāre*, f. *stercor-*, *stercus* dung.] *trans.* To manure or dung.

1623 COCKERAM I, *Stercorat*, to empt dung. 1657 TOMLINSON *Renou's Disp.* 242 If it be transplanted into a soyl well stercorated. 1665 HAVERS *P. della Valle's Trav. E. India* 112 The Houses whose pavements are thus stercorated, are good against the Plague. 1672 G. THOMSON *Let. to H. Stubbe* 17 Those Baconical Ignoramus's, if they catch this Brazen-face within their Precincts, will..Stercorate such a durty person, that he may fructifie the better hereafter. 1727 BAILEY vol. II, *Stercorated*, dunged, manured with Dung. 1821 SCOTT *Pirate* iv, It savoured of the earth..to have a man's mind always grovelling in mould, stercorated or unstercorated.

Stercoration (stə̄ɹkŏrēɪ·ʃən). [ad. L. *stercorātiōn-em*, f. *stercorāre*: see prec. and -ATION. Cf. F. *stercoration.*]

1. The action or an act of manuring with dung.

1605 TIMME *Quersit.* II. i. 103 What..maketh the earth fatte..but a certaine stercoration, and spreading of dung and of urine which commeth from cattle? 1626 BACON *Sylva* § 595 The first and most Ordinary Helpe is Stercoration. 1696 EVELYN *Let. to Wotton* 28 Oct., They tooke great care indeede of their vines and olives, stercorations, ingraftings. 1707 *Curios. Husb. & Gard.* 121 A Field might be sown every year; if we restor'd to it by Stercoration, what we take from it in the Harvest. *a* 1849 H. COLERIDGE *Ess.* (1851) II. 23 When there was a god Sterquilinius, an agricultural poet might be allowed to sing of stercoration.

†**2.** Dung, manure. *Obs.*

1694 MOTTEUX *Rabelais* IV. lxvii, Do you call this..Excrement, Stercoration, Sir-reverence, Ordure? 1733 TULL *Horse-hoeing Husb.* vii. (8° ed.) 55 When the Saliva and Ferment of the Stomach have served for Stercoration to it.

†**3.** *nonce-use.* A disgusting utterance. *Obs.*

1702 C. MATHER *Magn. Chr.* VII. App. (1852) 652 Another ..publickly held forth in one of his late stercorations, that [etc.].

Stercorean (stəɹkōə·riăn), *a.* [f. L. *stercore-us* (f. *stercor-*, *stercus* dung) + -AN.] = STERCORACEOUS.

1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.* 1875 McILWRAITH *Guide Wigtownsh.* 33 It was found impossible..to clear the ground of its vast stercorean encumbrance.

Stercoreous (stə̄ɹkōə·riəs), *a. rare.* [f. L. *stercore-us* (see prec.) + -OUS.] = STERCORACEOUS.

1659 H. MORE *Immort. Soul* II. ix. (1713) 99 A Receptacle of Stercoreous excrement. 1753 DODSLEY *Agric.* II. 70 From stercoreous fumes of rottenness and filth, can sweetness spring? 1862 WRAXALL tr. *Hugo's Les Misérables* V. xix. (1877) 12 The stercoreous trench of a great city.

Stercoricolous (stə̄ɹkŏri·kŏləs), *a.* [f. L. *stercor(i)-*, *stercus* dung + *col-ĕre* to inhabit + -OUS.] Living in dung or excrement.

1885 RAY LANKESTER in *Encycl. Brit.* XIX. 842/2 Parasitic and stercoricolous forms.

Stercorin (stə̄·ɹkŏrin). [a. F. *stercorine* (see quot. 1868), f. *stercor-*, *stercus* dung: see -IN.] A fæcal extractive resembling biliary cholesterin.

[1868 A. FLINT, Jr. *Recherches expérim. sur une nouvelle fonction du Foie* 67 Trouvant cette substance en si grande quantité dans les matières fécales, nous l'avons désignée sous le nom de stercorine.] 1873 RALFE *Phys. Chem.* 21 *Stercorin.* Under this name Dr. Austin Flint has described a substance which, if not identical with serolin, resembles it closely in its physical and chemical characters. 1881 MIVART *Cat* 188 Their nutritious matter being re-absorbed and their refuse driven on as excretin, stercorin [etc.].

Ste·rcorist. [a. F. *stercoriste*, f. L. *stercor-*, *stercus* dung: see -IST.] = STERCORANIST.

1872 MORLEY *Voltaire* v. 239 Writers like Sanchez or the stercorists, who had opened frivolous and unbecoming questions that could hardly be exposed with gravity.

Stercorolith (stə̄·ɹkŏrŏliþ). *Path.* [f. L. *stercor-*, *stercus* dung + *-lith.*] A piece of hardened fæces which has become the centre of a concretion.

1901 R. MORISON in *Lancet* 23 Feb. 537/2 A stercorolith in the cavity of the abscess is usually lying close to a perforation in the appendix.

† **Stercorose,** *a. Obs.* [ad. L. *stercorōs-us*, f. *stercor-*, *stercus* dung: see -OSE.] = STERCOROUS.

1727 BAILEY, vol. II, *Stercorose*, full of Dung, &c.

Stercorous (stə̄·ɹkŏrəs), *a.* Also 6 **-us.** [ad. L. *stercorōs-us*, f. *stercor-*, *stercus* dung: see -OUS.] Stercoraceous, excrementitious.

1542 BOORDE *Dyetary* xvi. (1870) 272 A swyne..with stercorus matter doth fede in Englande. 1880 SWINBURNE in *Fortn. Rev.* Dec. 719 Unlike Dante, he never permitted the too fetid contact of their stercorous feculence to befoul the sandal of his Muse.

† **Ste·rcory.** *Obs. rare.* Also **stercorry.** [irreg. f. L. *stercor-*, *stercus* dung.] Excrement, filth.

c 1495 *Epit. Dk. Bedford* in *Skelton's Wks.* (1843) II. 394 Man is but duste, stercorye, and fylthe. *a* 1529 SKELTON *K. Edw. IV*, 75 Sainct Bernard..Seyth a man is but a sack of stercorry, And shall returne vnto wormis mete.

Stercovorous (stəɹkǫ·vŏrəs), *a. Ent.* [irreg. f. L. *sterc-us* dung + -VOROUS.] Of certain insects: Feeding on dung or excrement.

1845 DARWIN *Voy. Nat.* xxi. (ed. 2) 490 *note*, These stercovorous insects. *Ibid.*, In England the greater number of stercovorous beetles are confined in their appetites.

‖ **Sterculia** (stəɹkiū·liă). [mod.L., f. *Sterculius* the god of manuring, f. *stercus* dung.]

1. *Bot.* A genus of polypetalous plants (typical of the N.O. *Sterculiaceæ*); a plant of this genus.

Most of the species are trees, and all contain mucilaginous gum; some have a fetid odour, whence the name.

1771 *Encycl. Brit.* III. 627 *Sterculia.* 1857 LIVINGSTONE *Trav. S. Africa* xxvi. 534 A kind of sterculia, which is the most common tree at Loanda. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1098/1 All the Sterculias contain mucilage.

2. *Ent.* A beetle of the family *Xantholinidæ.*

1874 J. G. WOOD *Insects Abr.* vi. 77 The Sterculias are readily known by their very peculiar shape.

Hence **Sterculia·ceous** *a. Bot.* pertaining to the *Sterculiaceæ*; **Stercu·liad,** a sterculiaceous plant.

1846 LINDLEY *Veg. Kingd.* 361 Sterculiads..are chiefly remarkable for the abundance of mucilage they contain. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* s.v. *Bombax*, A genus of large soft-wooded trees belonging to the order of Sterculiads. 1885 *Athenæum* 26 Dec. 846/2 This sterculaceous [*sic*] tree is a native of the tropics. 1898 *Syd. Soc. Lex.*, Sterculiaceous.

Sterd, obs. pa. t. of STEER *v.*

Stere, ‖ **stère** (stīəɹ, ‖stɛ̄r), *sb.* [Fr. *stère*, f. Gr. στερεός solid.] The unit of the metric system for solid measures; a cubic metre, equal to about 35·3 English cubic feet.

1798 *Tilloch's Philos. Mag.* I. 248 Measures for Fire wood. *Stere*, a quantity equal to a cubic metre. By giving the length of a metre to billets, nothing more will be necessary, in order to obtain the stere, than to range them within a square frame (*chassis*), each side of which is equal to a metre. 1837 J. T. SMITH tr. *Vicat's Mortars* 17 Every cubic metre of lime consumes (on an average) 1.66 steres in firewood, 22.00 steres in faggots, and 30 steres in fascines. 1885 A. MACFARLANE *Phys. Arith.* 93 In the metric system we have three series of units of volume. The stere and its derivatives are for solid measure.

† **Stere,** *v. Obs.* In 3 **steoren.** [OE. *stēran*, *stýran* :—**stórjan*, f. *stór* incense: see STOR.]

1. *intr.* To burn or offer incense.

c 1000 ÆLFRIC *Num.* xvi. 47 Aaron þa ardlice arn to þam folce and sterde mid thimiama.

2. *trans.* To perfume with or as with incense.

c 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* I. 98 Ster [*v.r.* styr] hyne mid þære wyrte þe man aristolochiam nemneð. *a* 1240 *Ureisun* 45 in *O. E. Hom.* I. 193 Þer me schal ham steoren mid guldene chelle.

Stere, obs. form of STAR, STEER, STIR.

Steregon (ste·rigǫn). *Solid Geom.* [irreg. f. Gr. στερε-ός solid + γωνία angle.] (See quot. 1881.)

1881 HALSTED *Mensuration* 78 A *steregon*, the natural unit of solid angle, is the whole amount of solid angle about a point in space. 1883 W. THOMSON in *Encycl. Brit.* XVI. 25/2 [Adopts the word from Halstead, but uses it for 'a plane solid angle', i.e. the amount of solid angle at the centre which is subtended by the hemisphere].

Sterelmi·nthan. *Zool. rare.* [Formed as next + -AN.] A sterelminthous worm.

1842 BRANDE *Dict. Sci.* etc., Sterelminthans.

Sterelminthous (sterelmi·nþəs), *a. Zool.* [f. mod.L. *Sterelmintha* (irreg. f. Gr. στερ-εός solid + ἑλμινθ-, ἕλμινς intestinal worm) + -OUS.] Of or pertaining to the *Sterelmintha*, Owen's name for a division of the Entozoa comprising the endoparasitic worms having a solid body with no visceral cavity. So **Sterelmi·nthic** *a.* (in recent Dicts.).

a 1843 *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) VII. 268/2 The Sterelminthous Order..have no distinct cavity for their alimentary apparatus. 1870 ROLLESTON *Anim. Life* 138 *note*, Neither are the Hirudineae truly 'parenchymatous' or 'sterelminthous' Vermes in the same sense.

Steren, obs. form of STERN *a.*

Sterenchyma (stĕre·ŋkimă). *Bot. rare.* [irreg. f. Gr. στερ-εός solid + ἔγχυμα infusion, after *parenchyma.*] = SCLERENCHYMA 2.

1856 GRIFFITH & HENFREY *Microgr. Dict.* 642 *Sterenchyma*, a name which might be used to distinguish the bony cellular tissue of shells, stones of fruit, &c. 1861 BENTLEY *Man. Bot.* 28 When..parenchymatous cells become much thickened by..secondary deposits,..if the secondary deposits are of bony hardness, as in the stones of fruits, &c., Henfrey has proposed the term sterenchyma.

Stereo[1] (ste·rio, stīə·rio), abbreviation of STEREOTYPE (*lit.* and *fig.*); also *attrib.*, as *stereo forme*, *-matter*, *-metal*, etc.

1823 'JON BEE' *Dict. Turf* 166 *Stereo*, abbreviated from *stereotype*, one of the cheap-and-nasty manufactures in this country, the pages being usually left incorrect and blunderous, in pursuance of the saving plan which first suggested casting them in stereo. 1880 F. J. F. WILSON *Stereotyping & Electrotyping* 49 Small Stereo Foundries. 1880 *Q. Rev.* CL. 533 Firms which deal in stereo-matter. 1883 *Athenæum* 22 Dec. 811/1 We have not compared the two issues line for line together; but on a cursory examination they appear to owe their origin to the same set of stereos. 1886 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 23 Nov. 2 It is printed on the flat, from six stereo formes. 1888 JACOBI *Printers' Vocab.* 132–3. 1896 G. B. SHAW in *Sat. Rev.* 18 Apr. 397/2 The best part of the entertainment is Mr. Osmond Carr's music—mere stereo, no doubt, much of it; but smart, appropriate stereo. 1897 TILDEN *Man. Chem.* 531 Stereo-metal is also a mixture of lead, tin, and antimony. 1901 *Daily Chron.* 13 Dec. 4/5 The old, hammered 'stereos' of the cricket reporter.

Stereo[2] (ste·rio, stīə·rio), abbreviation of STEREOSCOPE, STEREOSCOPIC.

1876 *Nature* 12 Oct. 525/2 A stereo-slide to which it was appended was sketched by myself in January last. 1892 *Photogr. Ann.* II. p. cli, Single Stereo Lenses. *Ibid.* 309 A camera..specially constructed for stereo work. 1897 *Pop. Sci. Monthly* Dec. 187 Stereo views can be shown upon a screen.

Stereo- (ste·rio, stīə·rio-), before a vowel properly **stere-,** combining form repr. Gr. στερεός solid, in various (chiefly recent) scientific and technical terms; for the more important of these see their alphabetical places. (In some instances referring to the use or principle of the stereoscope, and thus practically serving as combining form

of *stereoscope* or *stereoscopic*: cf. STEREO 1.) **Ste·reo-co·ntric** (-se·ntrik) *a., Chem.*, applied to a formula indicating a hypothetical direction of the bonds of certain atoms in a molecule towards a common centre (cf. *stereo-isomer* below, and STEREOCHEMISTRY). **Ste·reo-co·mparator** [COMPARATOR], (*a*) an instrument on the stereoscopic principle, used to superpose a pair of astronomical photographs taken at an interval of time, and detect any movement of a star or other object which has taken place in that interval; (*b*) a stereoscope having the object-glasses at a great distance apart, used in stereophotographic surveying to measure the distances of objects. † **Ste·reo-ele·ctric** *a.*, applied to a (thermo-electric) current produced by contact of solids (opp. to HYDRO-ELECTRIC 1). **Ste·reoglyph** *v.* [Gr. γλύφ-ειν to engrave: cf. GLYPH] = STEREOMOULD *v.* **Ste·reogno·stic** *a.* [Gr. γνωστικός: see GNOSTIC], pertaining to the mental apprehension of the forms of solid objects by touch. **Ste·reo-i·somer** (-əi·sŏmə1), *Chem.*, one of two or more isomeric compounds which are held to differ by virtue of a difference in the spatial arrangement (not in the order of connexion) of the atoms in the molecule; so **Ste·reo-isome·ric** *a.*, **-iso·meride** (= *-isomer*), **-iso·merism.** **Ste·reomer, Ste·reome·ric** *a.*, **Stereo·merism,** *Chem.* [after ISOMER, etc.] = *stereo-isomer, -isomeric, -isomerism.* **Ste·reomo·noscope** [see MONO- and -SCOPE], an instrument invented by A. F. Claudet in 1858, with two lenses by which an image of an object is projected upon a screen of ground glass so as to appear solid, as in a stereoscope. **Ste·reophanta·mascope, -phantascope** [Gr. φάντασμα appearance, PHANTASM + -SCOPE], a form of kinetoscope giving a stereoscopic effect. **Ste·reopho·tograph,** a stereoscopic photograph; so **Ste·reophotogra·phic** *a.* (abbrev. **stereo-photo**), pertaining to or involving the use of **Ste·reophoto·graphy,** the making of stereoscopic photographs. **Ste·reopho·tomi·crograph,** a photomicrograph taken with a stereoscopic camera. **Ste·reopla·sm** [Gr. πλάσμα: see PLASMA], (*a*) *Biol.* Nägeli's term for the denser or more solid part of protoplasm (distinguished from HYGROPLASM); (*b*) *Zool.* an endothecal structure in corals, enveloping or connecting the septa, or forming a mass in the interior; hence **Ste·reopla·smic** *a.*, consisting of or of the nature of stereoplasm (*Cent. Dict.*, 1891). **Ste·reospo·ndylous** *a. Zool.* [Gr. σπόνδυλος vertebra], characterized by completely ossified vertebræ, as the suborder *Stereospondyli* of amphibians. **Ste·reosta·tic** *a., Mech.* [see STATIC], applied to an arch constructed to sustain the pressure of a mass of solid matter, as a geostatic arch. **Ste·reosta·tics,** the statics of solid bodies. **Ste·reotele·meter** [TELEMETER], a stereotelescope with a scale or other contrivance for measuring the distance between objects viewed. **Ste·reote·lescope,** a binocular telescope with the objectives a considerable distance apart (variable at pleasure), used in military operations, etc. **Ste·reotro·pe,** a form of thaumatrope or zoetrope fitted with a stereoscope, so that the figures appear solid and in motion. **Stereo·tropism,** *Biol.* [see TROPISM], the growth or movement of an organism in a particular direction under the stimulus of contact with a solid body: so **Ste·reotro·pic** *a.*, pertaining to stereotropism.

1902 *Nature* 3 July 238/1 Chemical Society, June 18...A discussion of the various possible space formulæ of benzene and a reply to Graebe's objections to the *stereocentric representation. 1901 *Observatory* Dec. 471 A new instrument called a '*Stereocomparator',..described by Dr. Max Wolf in *Astr. Nach.* No. 3749. 1903 *Daily Chron.* 1-Dec. 7/7 The object of the stereo-comparator is..to detect at a glance any unusual objects, such as new stars, variable stars, or small planets. 1832 *Nat. Philos., Magnetism* xiii. § cccv. 93 (U.K.S.) The term *Stereo-electric current has..been applied to the former [the Thermo-electric],..to mark its being produced in systems formed of solid bodies alone. 1857 *Athenæum* 6 June 720 The tables before us are calculated, and *stereoglyphed. 1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib., Brit.* II. No. 3006 Tables calculated and stereoglyphed by the Swedish calculating machine. 1894 GOULD *Illustr. Dict. Med.*, **Stereognostic*, pertaining to the cognition of solidity, or tri-dimensional forms. 1898 C. L. DANA *Nervous Dis.* (ed. 4) 54 *note*, The stereognostic sense. 1899 *Brit. Med. Jrnl.* 9 Dec. 1600 This condition [of inability to recognise objects by the tactile sense] has been described as 'touch paralysis' or loss of the stereognostic sense. 1903 SLOSSON in *Amer. Chem. Jrnl.* Apr. 294 My work on these bodies was chiefly directed towards the preparation of *stereoisomers. 1906 *Athenæum* 28 Apr. 519/2 The two different lactic acids..are supposed to be stereo-isomers of one another. 1897 *Jrnl. Chem. Soc.* Abstr. II. 129 *Stereo-isomeric compounds. 1907 A. W. STEWART *Stereochem.* 270 The stereo-isomeric cobalt salts. 1893 *Jrnl. Chem. Soc.* Abstr. I. 681 Determination of *Stereoisomerides. 1894 *Ibid.* 393 *Stereoisomerism. 1907 A. W. STEWART, *Stereochem.* 135 Stereoisomerism without optical activity. 1898 EILOART tr. *van 't Hoff's Arrangemt. Atoms* 81 The isomers..in the cases we have been considering, may be called *stereomers. *Ibid.* 194 *Stereomeric compounds of dyad platinum. *Ibid.* 195 Certain cases of *stereomerism. 1858 *Proc. Roy. Soc.* IX. 194 On the *Stereomonoscope: a new Instrument by which an apparently Single Picture produces the Stereoscopic Illusion. 1876 *Encycl. Brit.* V. 815/1 In 1858 he [*sc.* A. F. Claudet] produced the stereo-monoscope, in reply to a challenge from Sir David Brewster. 1865 *Brit. Jrnl. Photogr.* 15 Sept. 473/1 The *Stereo-phantasmascope. 1890 BILLINGS *Nat. Med. Dict.* II. 588/2 *Stereophantascope.. or Bioscope. 1901 J. MAREY in *Smithsonian Rep.* 318 *note*, An apparatus devised in America about 1861..was called a 'stereophantascope'. 1908 *Geogr. Jrnl.* (R. G. S.) XXXI. 534 *Stereo-photo Surveying. By F. Vivian Thompson, Lieut. R.E. *Ibid.* 537 *Stereo-Photographic Surveying. 1903 *Nature* 8 Oct. 546/1 *Stereophotography is the subject which concludes Col. Laussedat's review of instruments and methods. 1907 *Nature* 14 Nov 46/2 Mr. Taverner exhibited a number of *stereo-photomicrographs of water mites, taken with a stop behind the objective. 1889 *Hardwicke's Science-Gossip* XXV. 246 Naegeli..considers protoplasm to be compounded of a fluid hygroplasm and a solid *stereoplasm. 1897 J. S. GARDINER in *Proc. Zool. Soc.* 949 The corallites..are almost completely filled up below by stereoplasm. 1901 H. GADOW *Amphibia*, etc. (Camb. Nat. Hist.) 79 The vertebræ exhibit three types...1. Lepospondylous and pseudocentrous...2 a. Temnospondylous...2 b. *Stereospondylous.—The three component units fuse by cossification into a solid, amphicœlous vertebra. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2378 *Stereostatic arch. 1830 HERSCHEL *Study Nat. Phil.* 228 Pneumatics, hydrostatics, and what might, without impropriety, be termed *stereostatics. 1893 *Nation* (N.Y.) 2 Feb. 90/2 This mathematical part might well be called stereostatics. 1861 *Proc. Roy. Soc.* XI. 70 A new Optical Instrument called the '*Stereotrope'. 1900 J. LOEB *Compar. Physiol. Brain* xiii. (1901) 184 Many plants and animals are forced to orient their bodies in a certain way toward solid bodies with which they come in contact. I have given this kind of irritability the name *stereotropism... There is..a positive and negative stereotropism, and there are also *stereotropic curvations.

Stereobate (ste·riobe1t). *Arch.* [= F. *stéréobate*, It. *stereobate*, ad. L. *stereobata*, ad. Gr. *στερεοβάτης*, f. στερεός solid + *-βάτης* as in *στυλοβάτης* STYLOBATE.] A solid mass of masonry serving as a base for a wall or a row of columns. (See also quots.)

The term occurs only once in ancient use (Vitruvius III. iii). Vitruvius explains it as a massive wall built from the ground as a support for a row of columns. Modern writers (Latin in the 15–16th c., Italian, French, and English) have used it in various applications. According to some, *stereobate* is the generic term for a basement either under a wall or a row of columns, and a 'stylobate' is a stereobate of which the superstructure is columnar. Others restrict *stereobate* to the basement of a wall, as distinguished from *stylobate*, a basement under a row of columns. Others, again, use *stereobate* for the whole basement, and *stylobate* for the upper portion of this, which is added when there are columns.

1836 PARKER *Gloss. Archit.* (1840) 206 *Stylobate, Stereobate*, the basement or substructure of a temple below the columns. *a* 1840 HOSKING *Archit.* in *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 7) III. 470 *Stereobate*, a basement. It is sought to make a distinction between this term and *Stylobate* q. v., by restricting the latter to its real import, and applying stereobate to a basement in the absence of columns. 1875 *Encycl. Brit.* II.-441/1 [Italian Architecture.] A basement is either a low stereobate or a lofty story, according as it is intended to support a single ordinance [etc.].

Hence **Stereoba·tic** *a.*, pertaining to or having the character of a stereobate.

1875 *Encycl. Brit.* II. 408/1 A stereobatic dado raised on the stylobate and antæ-base mouldings.

Stereochemistry (ste·riōke·mistri). [f. STEREO- + CHEMISTRY.] That department of chemistry which deals with theoretical differences in the relative position in space of atoms in a molecule, in relation to differences in the optical and chemical properties of the substances.

1890 V. MEYER in *Smithsonian Rep.* 366 Le Bel and van 't Hoff..considering those substances which turn the plane of polarization of light, arrived at..a conception of the aggregation of the atoms within the molecules in space. Thus a field of study was created which van 't Hoff called '*la chimie dans l'espace*' and which we now call Stereochemistry. 1899 *Dublin Rev.* Oct. 340 This is called Geometrical Isomerism or Stereochemistry.

So **Ste·reo-che·mical** *a.*, pertaining to stereochemistry.

1890 V. MEYER in *Smithsonian Rep.* 366 Numerous cases of isomerism..were regarded as stereo-chemical ones. 1907 A. W. STEWART *Stereochem.* 314 Stereochemical problems into which isomerism does not enter.

Stereochrome (ste·riŏkrōum). [a. G. *stereochrom* (v. Fuchs), f. Gr. στερ-εός solid + χρῶμα colour.]

1. = STEREOCHROMY. Also, a picture produced by stereochromy. Also *attrib.*

1854 *Chem. Gaz.* XII. 219 The Stereochrome of Fuchs.., The stereochrome is essentially the process of fresco secco invested with the capability of receiving and perpetuating works of the highest artistic character. 1896 *Westm. Gaz.* 28 May 7/3 The two great stereochrome pictures by Maclise in the Royal Gallery.

2. (See quot.)

1875 *Ure's Dict. Arts* (ed. 7) III. 911 *Stereochrome.* A name given to a process of stereotyping, the printing of which is effected in colours.

Stereochromy (ste·riŏkrōumi). [ad. G. *stereochromie*, formed as prec.: see -Y.] A process of mural painting in which water-glass is used as a preservative against atmospheric influences.

1845 *Builder* 6 Sept. 422/3 Stereochromy. A new method of architectural painting, by Dr. Fuchs and Professor Schlotthauer in Munich. 1851 ANNA M. HOWITT *Art-Stud. Munich* (1853) I. 239 *Sterriochromie* [sic] is the discovery of the celebrated chemist..von Fuchs of Munich. 1887 *Encycl. Brit.* XXII. 54/1 In this process of 'stereochromy',..the more immediate basis for the painting consists of a thin layer of..cement made up of powdered marble, dolomite, quartz, and air-worn quicklime with water glass. On it the colours are laid with plain water.

So **Ste·reochroma·tic, -chro·mic** *adjs.*, pertaining to or executed by stereochromy; **Ste·reochroma·tically** *adv.*; **Ste·reochro·matize** *v.*, *trans.* ? to treat with water-glass as in stereochromy.

1859 R. HUNT *Guide Mus. Pract. Geol.* (ed. 2) 33 A *stereo-chromatic painting on baked clay. 1845 *Builder* 6 Sept. 423/1 The picture executed *stereochromatically on this coat is fixed (after its completion) in a very particular way. 1907 *Athenæum* 23 Nov. 660/1 Burrows's figurines were carefully kept from the air when they were dug up, and were as soon as possible *stereochromatized. 1845 *Builder* 6 Sept. 423/2 For testing these qualities, *stereochromic paintings have been subjected to the most severe trials. 1887 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 9) XXII. 54/1 A stereochromic painting (unlike one made by the old fresco process) is practically proof against atmospheric influences.

Stereogram (ste·riogræm). [f. STEREO- + -GRAM.]

1. A diagram representing a solid object on a plane; esp. a drawing in which the inequalities or curvature of a surface is indicated by contour lines or shading.

1868 J. C. MAXWELL *Sci. Papers* (1890) II. 101 The Construction of Stereograms of Surfaces. 1877 *Catal. Spec. Collect. Sci. Apparatus S. Kens. Mus.* (ed. 3) 40 Stereograms of the Lines of Curvature of Surfaces.

2. A stereoscopic picture: = next 1. Also *fig.*

1866 J. SHANKS *Elgin & Cathedr.* 103 Shakespeare's plays stand out by themselves, from all others, beyond all comparison, a stupendous intellectual stereogram. 1872 PROCTOR *Ess. Astron.* iv. 60 He had exhibited..some beautiful stereograms of this globe [*sc.* Mars].

Stereograph (ste·riogra:f), *sb.* [f. STEREO- + -GRAPH.]

1. A picture (or pair of pictures) representing the object so that it appears (or may be made to appear) solid, a stereoscopic photograph.

1859 *Atlantic Monthly* June 743 We have now obtained the double-eyed or twin pictures, or Stereograph, if we may coin a name. 1859 JEPHSON *Brittany* i. 6 Making stereographs of any object of interest. 1862 *Weldon's Reg.* Nov. 165/1 The stereographs of the full moon taken by Mr. Delarue show that our satellite deviates very considerably from the spherical form. *a* 1876 M. COLLINS *Pen Sk.* (1879) II. 96 His [Borrow's] vivid style seems to act on commonplace objects as the stereoscope on the stereograph; it gives them a solidness and reality.

2. An instrument for making projections or geometrical drawings of skulls or similar solid objects.

1877 *Catal. Spec. Collect. Sci. Apparatus S. Kens. Mus.* (ed. 3) 956 Craniograph, by M. Broca. Stereograph, by M. Broca. 1878 BARTLEY tr. *Topinard's Anthrop.* II. iii. 268 The stereograph..gives..all the visible details, as well as some inaccessible to the eye, and is applied to each of the five surfaces of the skull which it is useful to reproduce.

3. An apparatus for making embossed points in metal plates in a system of printing for the blind.

1896 *Living Topics Mag.* (N.Y.) Feb. 131 Mr. Wait.. brought out in 1894..the stereograph, by which they [the blind] can emboss metal plates for printing in embossed characters.

Hence **Ste·reogra·ph** *v.*, *trans.*, to take a stereograph or stereoscopic photograph of.

1860 O. W. HOLMES *Prof. Breakfast-t.* viii, Having been photographed, and stereographed.

Stereographic (ste·riogræ·fik), *a.* [ad. mod. L. *stereographicus*, f. Gr. στερεό-s solid + *-γραφικός*: see -GRAPHIC. Cf. F. *stéréographique*, It. *stereografico.*]

1. Delineating or representing a solid body on a plane; applied *spec.* to a kind of projection used in maps, etc., in which the centre of projection is a point on the surface of the sphere, and the whole sphere is represented once on an infinite plane, circles being represented as circles, and the angles being retained.

1704 J. HARRIS *Lex. Techn.* I, Stereographick Projection. 1706 W. JONES *Palm. Math.* A 4 b, The Laws of the.. Stereographic..Projection of the Sphere. 1730 GREENWOOD in *Phil. Trans.* XXXVII. 68 In the Figures I have attempted the Stereographic Projection of the most considerable Scenes. 1737 *Gentl. Mag.* VII. 611 In those Stereographic Maps, where a..Hemisphere is projected upon a Plan parallel to a Meridian. 1863 HARBORD *Gloss. Navig.*, s.v., The stereographic projection of the sphere is a natural projection of the concavity of the sphere, on a diametral plane as primitive, the eye being placed on the surface at the opposite extremity of the diameter perpendicular to the primitive. 1872 PROCTOR *Ess. Astron.* iv. 62 A..chart of Mars on the stereographic projection. 1879 SIR A. R. CLARKE in *Encycl. Brit.* X. 203 Notwithstanding the facility of construction, the stereographic projection is not much used in map-making.

† 2. Used to designate the 'stereotype steel plates' used for reproducing copper-plate engravings. *Obs.*

1810 in *Abridgm. Specif. Patents, Printing* (1859) 122 Plates thus constructed are what I call Perkins' 'steriographic [*sic*] steel plates,' one of which will serve to give as many impressions as would wear out a great number of copper-plates.

3. Pertaining to stereoscopic photography.

1859 *Atlantic Monthly* June 748 To render comparison of similar objects, or of any that we may wish to see side

by side, easy, there should be a stereographic *metre* or fixed standard of focal length for the camera lens. *Ibid.*, Already a workman has been travelling about the country with stereographic views of furniture.

4. Pertaining to the use of the stereograph in craniometry. (See STEREOGRAPH 2.)

1886 *Buck's Handbk. Med. Sci.* II. 26/1 Particular methods of craniometric projections, diverse stereographic proceedings [etc.]..cannot here be mentioned in detail.

Ste·reogra·phical, *a.* Now *rare.* [f. as prec. + -AL.] = prec.

1675 SHERBURNE *Sphere of Manilius* c 2 b, This and All other Stereographical Projections. 1738 J. HAMILTON *Stereogr.* I. 13 The different ways of describing Objects on a Plane by Mathematical Rules are two, Geometrical and Stereographical. 1797 *Month. Mag.* III. 41 Useful in the practice of stereographical projection. 1805 *Gentl. Mag.* Mar. 251/1 All the stereographical plates are to be made according to the improved process described by Earl Stanhope. 1884 *Health Exhib. Catal.* 137/1 Geological and Stereographical Maps of the British Isles.

Ste·reogra·phically, *adv.* [f. prec. + -LY 2.] In a stereographic manner; by stereographic projection.

1679 *Phil. Collect.* XII. 44 A Representation of the Heavens in two large Hemispheres..Stereographically projected. 1708 *Brit. Apollo* No. 14. 4/1 To Project Stereographically a Spherical Triangle. 1890 GREENHILL in *Messenger Math.* XX. 16 Suppose we project the terrestrial meridians and parallels stereographically with respect to a pole on the equator,..we obtain a system of dipolar circles.

Stereography (steri·ŏgrăfi). [ad. mod.L. *stereographia*, f. Gr. στερεό-ς solid + -γραφία: see -GRAPHY. Cf. F. *stéréographie.*]

1. The art of delineating or representing the forms of solid bodies on a plane, as in perspective; in quot. 1860, stereoscopic photography.

1700 MOXON *Math. Dict., Steriography*, or the Description or Drawing the Forms of Solids upon a Plain. 1738 J. HAMILTON (*title*) Stereography; or a compleat body of perspective in all its branches. 1842 GWILT *Archit.* Gloss., *Stereography*, that branch of solid geometry which demonstrates the properties and shows the construction of all regularly defined solids. 1860 MRS. BYRNE *Undercurrents* I. 240 The animadversions of this journal are directed against the abuse of photography and stereography.

2. See quot. (Cf. STEREOGRAPH 2.)

1886 *Buck's Handbk. Med. Sci.* II. 25/2 Graphic representation of the skull, or stereography, is a branch of craniometry by which the forms of the diverse curves of the head are traced, after measurement, on paper, or otherwise figured.

Stereome (ste·riəum). Also (after Ger.) **-om.** [ad. Gr. στερέωμα solid body or part, firmament, f. στερεοῦν to make solid, strengthen, f. στερεός solid.] a. *Bot.* Schwendener's term for those elements of a fibro-vascular bundle which contribute to its strength or stability; 'mechanical' tissue: cf. MESTOME. b. *Zool.* A proposed general term for the hard strengthening or skeletal tissues of animals in general, including invertebrates: see quot. 1891.

1885 GOODALE *Physiol. Bot.* 191 To the elements which impart strength to a bundle Schwendener has given the name stereom. 1887 HILLHOUSE *Strasburger's Handbk. Pract. Bot.* 88 The system of mechanical tissue, the Stereome. 1891 F. A. BATHER in *Nature* 12 Feb. 345/1 Among wants long felt..is some word that shall express for Invertebrata the idea that the word *bone* expresses for Vertebrata. ..I..venture to suggest the adoption of the word *Stereom.* ..This word..may..be thus defined: any hard calcareous tissue forming skeletal structures in Metazoa Invertebrata, and in Protozoa. 1898 H. C. PORTER tr. *Strasburger* etc. *Text-bk. Bot.* 169 Mechanical Tissues (Stereome).

†Stereo·meter [1]. *Obs.* [f. Gr. στερεό-ς solid + -μέτρης measurer.] One versed in stereometry.

1608 R. NORTON *Stevin's Disme* B 3 b, To Land-meaters, Measurers of Tapistry, Stereometers in generall.

Stereometer [2] (ste·rio·mĭtəɹ). [a. F. *stéréomètre*, f. Gr. στερεό-ς solid + -μέτρον: see -METER.]

1. An instrument for measuring the specific gravity of porous or pulverulent bodies, invented by Say, a French officer of engineers, in 1797. Also *attrib.*

1801 *Encycl. Brit.* Suppl. II. 525/2 *Stereometer*, an instrument lately invented in France for measuring the volume of a body, however irregular, without plunging it in any liquid. 1836 W. H. MILLER in *Phil. Trans.* CXLVI. 799 To construct an instrument on the principle of the Stereometer invented by M. Say for the purpose of determining the specific gravity of gunpowder. *Ibid.* 801 The stereometer was mounted in a room..at the Mint, September 12, 1843. *Ibid.* 877 Stereometer observations. 1876 *Cat. Sci. Appar. S. Kens.* 30 Stereometer for ascertaining the density of bodies by determining their volume.

2. An apparatus consisting of a frame of bars and columns with sliding rods and wires, for illustrating problems in solid geometry.

1884 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* Suppl.

†Ste·reome·trian, *Obs. rare*—[1]. [f. STEREOMETRY + -AN.] = STEREOMETER [1].

1608 R. NORTON *Stevin's Disme* D 4, The Stereometrian shall vse the measure of the towne or place, as the Yard, Ell, &c.

Stereometric (ste·riome·trik), *a.* [ad. mod.L. *stereometricus* (Freigius 1583), f. *stereometria* STEREOMETRY.] Pertaining to stereometry or solid geometry; relating to or existing in three dimensions of space.

1862 *Jrnl. Frauklin. Inst.* June 416 Mr. John Warner submitted to the meeting his Stereometric Tablet. *Ibid.* 417 The Stereometric Tablet is intended to assist computation of earthwork by the method of Transverse Ground-Slopes. 1875 *H. Vogel's Chem. Light & Photogr.* xiii. 137 If the flat figure is parallel to the retina,..by well-known stereometric laws the representation is like the original. 1890 V. MEYER in *Smithsonian Rep.* 366 The stereometric forms of a few simple molecules.

Ste·reome·trical, *a.* Now *rare.* [f. as prec. + -AL.] = prec.

1656 W. DU GARD tr. *Comenius' Gate Lat. Unl.* § 527. 155 A Gage, whereon stereometrical numbers are inscribed. 1673 J. SMITH *Stereom.* Synopsis, The Stereometrical Problems, &c. in this Book. 1727 BAILEY vol. II, *Stereometrical*, pertaining to the Art of Stereometry.

Stereometry (steri·ŏ·mĕtri). Now *rare.* [ad. mod.L. *stereometria*, a. Gr. στερεομετρία, f. στερεό-ς solid + -μετρία: see -METRY. Cf. F. *stéréométrie* (1560 in Hatz.-Darm.).]

1. The art or science of measuring solids; that branch of geometry which deals with solid figures, solid geometry; the practical application of this to the measurement of solid bodies.

1570 DEE *Math. Pref.* a iij b, The generall name of these Solide measures, is Stereometrie. 1594 R. ASHLEY tr. *Loys le Roy* 128 Plato affirmeth, that Geometrie was vnperfect in his time, and that Stereometrie, and the Cubike wanted. 1608 R. NORTON *Stevin's Disme* D 4, Gaudgerie is Stereometrie..but all Stereometrie is not Gaudgerie. 1673 J. SMITH (*title*), Stereometrie; or the Art of Practical Gauging. 1674 *Phil. Trans.* IX. 88 In Stereometry, or Measuring of Solids as a tapering Timber. 1683 T. EVERARD (*title*), Stereometry made easie, or The description and use of a new Gauging rod, or Sliding rule. 1795 T. MAURICE *Hindostan* I. xii. (1820) I. 439 From planimetry, or the mensuration of surfaces, they..proceeded to..stereometry, or the mensuration of solids. 1827 GUTTERIDGE (*title*), A New System of Stereometry. 1874 *Edin. Rev.* July 175 The text [of Dürer] ..is full of detailed measurements, and calculations of the stereometry, or solid contents, of the several limbs.

2. The art of measuring specific gravities with a STEREOMETER (sense 1). In recent Dicts.

Stereomould (ste·rio|mōuld), *v.* [f. STEREO- + MOULD *v.*, after *stereotype*: cf. STEREO 1.] *trans.* To stereotype by casting in a mould. So **Ste·reomould** *sb.*, 'a mould used in stereotyping' (*Cent. Dict.* 1891).

1857 G. & E. SCHEUTZ (*title*), Specimens of Tables, Calculated, Stereomoulded and Printed by Machinery. *Ibid.* Pref. p. xvi, By turning the handle..the whole table required is calculated and stereomoulded in the lead. By this expression is meant that the strip of lead is made into a beautiful stereotype mould.

Stereopticon (steri·ŏptikŏn). [f. Gr. στερε-ός solid + ὀπτικόν, neut. of ὀπτικός OPTIC.] A double magic lantern arranged to combine two images of the same object or scene upon a screen, so as to produce the appearance of solidity as in a stereoscope; also used to cause the image of one object or scene to pass gradually into that of another with dissolving effect. Also *attrib.*

1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2376. 1878 E. W. CLARK *Life in Japan* 171 The fame of the stereopticon reached the palace. *Ibid.*, Splendid stereopticon pictures. *Ibid.* 178 After the stereopticon entertainment. 1894 *Outing* Sept. 449/1 The stately Nelson Column,..just as I had seen it projected by a stereopticon lantern fifteen years before.

Stereoscope (ste·rioskōup, *often* stī·rio·). [f. Gr. στερεό-ς solid + -SCOPE.]

1. An instrument for obtaining, from two pictures (usually photographs) of an object, taken from slightly different points of view (corresponding to the positions of the two eyes), a single image giving the impression of solidity or relief, as in ordinary vision of the object itself.

In the original form of the instrument (*reflecting stereoscope*), invented by Wheatstone, the images were combined by means of mirrors placed at a suitable angle; the common form (*refracting* or *lenticular stereoscope*), invented afterwards by Brewster, has two tubes each containing a lens, through which the two pictures are viewed by the corresponding eyes.

1838 C. WHEATSTONE in *Phil. Trans.* CXXVIII. 374, I..propose that it be called a Stereoscope, to indicate its property of representing solid figures. 1849 *Rep. Brit. Assoc.* II. 6 The most generally useful of these forms is the Lenticular Stereoscope. 1856 *Mech. Mag.* 12 Jan. 36 The Cosmorama Stereoscope. 1858 *Edin. Rev.* Oct. 453 The books of Mr. Newman, the well-known philosophical-instrument-maker supply..evidence of his having constructed stereoscopes for Professor Wheatstone in..the year 1832. 1861 SIR D. BREWSTER in Mrs. Gordon *Home Life* (1869) 346, I am not the discoverer of the Stereoscope. I am only the inventor of the Lenticular Stereoscope now in universal use. 1863 FAWCETT *Pol. Econ.* I. v. (1876) 59 The stereoscope has now become a drawing-room toy.

2. *Surg.* An instrument resembling a catheter, for detecting solid foreign bodies, as calculi. *rare.*

1857 DUNGLISON *Med. Lex., Stereoscope...*, an instrument for detecting a calculus in the bladder, and foreign bodies in the soft parts.

Stereoscopic (ste·rioskŏ·pik), *a.* [f. prec. + -IC.] Of, pertaining to, or adapted to the stereoscope; having an appearance of solidity or relief like an object viewed in a stereoscope.

1855 *Jrnl. Franklin Inst.* Feb. 143 A stereoscopic locket, ..so arranged that the two pictures, with the appropriate lenses, are contained in a medallion of ordinary size. 1859 *All Year Round* 19 Nov. 79/1 Those stereoscopic slides which look so curiously like life. 1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib., Brit.* II. No. 2958, Stereotrope or stereoscopic thaumatrope. 1879 H. GRUBB in *Proc. Royal Dubl. Soc.* 182 This arrangement..causes the images to coalesce, and produces the stereoscopic effect.

fig. 1909 G. K. CHESTERTON *Orthodoxy* ii. 47 His spiritual sight is stereoscopic like his physical sight.

Ste·reosco·pically, *adv.* [f. prec. + -AL + -LY 2: see -ICALLY.] In a stereoscopic manner; by or as by means of the stereoscope; with an appearance of solidity as in a stereoscope; also *fig.*

1856 *Mech. Mag.* 12 Jan. 36 By using larger lenses of proper focal length, pictures of any dimensions may be viewed stereoscopically. 1860 O. W. HOLMES *Prof. Breakfast-t.* vi, If we will..look at them stereoscopically, with both eyes instead of one. 1868 LOCKYER *Guillemin's Heavens* (ed. 3) 57 He combines Sun-pictures stereoscopically, and shews the faculæ to be above, and the spots below the general surface.

Stereoscopism (steri·ŏ·skŏpiz'm). *nonce-wd.* [f. STEREOSCOPE + -ISM.] Appearance of solidity, as of an object viewed in a stereoscope; stereoscopic effect.

1892 E. M. NELSON in *Jrnl. Quekett Micros. Club* July 54 Stereoscopism, or 'solid view', can be obtained by one eye, ..but solidity is better and more perfectly seen with two eyes.

Stereoscopist (steri·ŏ·skŏpist). [f. as prec. + -IST.] One skilled in the use of the stereoscope; a maker of stereoscopes.

1875 *H. Vogel's Chem. Light & Photogr.* x. 102 Stereoscopists must have glasses that can be shifted, in order that persons may adapt the position of the image to the eye.

Stereoscopy (steri·ŏ·skŏpi). [f. as prec. + -Y: cf. *microscopy.*] The art or practice of using the stereoscope.

1861 *Once a Week* 30 Mar. 371 Ocular stereoscopy. 1913 *Engl. Rev.* Mar. 670 It is more than photography, it is more than stereoscopy.

Stereotomy (steri·ŏ·tŏmi). [ad. F. *stéréotomie*, f. Gr. στερεό-ς solid + -τομία: see -TOMY.] The science or art of cutting, or making sections of, solids; that department of geometry which deals with sections of solid figures; the art of cutting stone or other solid bodies into measured forms, as in masonry.

1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* 1801 J. JONES tr. *Bugge's Trav. Fr. Rep.* v. 101 Stereotomy,..in the scientific language of the Polytechnic School, signifies that part of stone-cutting, on which Frezier and De la Rue have written so much. The theory and rules of projection are first studied. 1843 *Blackw. Mag.* LIII. 618 A division of the cube, or, as he [De Lisle] called it, the stereotomy of the cube. 1843 *Civil Engin. & Arch. Jrnl.* VI. 99/1 His stereotomy, profile, proportion, and composition are admirable. 1903 *Nature* 12 Mar. 439/1 Stereotomy. By A. W. French..and H. C. Ives... This is another text-book for the student in civil engineering, and treats of masonry work.

Hence **Stereotomic** (ste·riotŏ·mik), **-ical** *adjs.*, pertaining to stereotomy; **Stereo·tomist,** one skilled in stereotomy.

1828 WEBSTER, Stereotomical. 1860 WORCESTER, Stereotomic. *c* 1900 MRS. SCHUYLER VAN RENSSELAER *Handbk. Eng. Cathedrals* 32 (Cent. Suppl.) Gothic architects were wonderfully skilful stereotomists.

Stereotype (ste·riotəip, stī·ə·rio·), *sb.* and *a.* [a. F. *stéréotype* adj., f. Gr. στερεό-ς solid + τύπος TYPE *sb.*

In Fr. the word has only the original adjectival use, and the subst. use = *édition stéréotype.*]

A. *sb.*

1. The method or process of printing in which a solid plate of type-metal, cast from a papier-mâché or plaster mould taken from the surface of a forme of type, is used for printing from instead of the forme itself.

1798 *Ann. Reg. Chron.* 22 The celebrated Didot, the French printer, with a German, named Herman, have announced a new discovery in printing, which they term stereotype. 1809 *Europ. Mag.* LV. 19 The prospectus of almost every work informs us, that the thing will be done in stereotype. 1816 *Q. Rev.* XV. 345 The introducer of that mode of printing called Stereotype. 1824 J. JOHNSON *Typogr.* II. xxii. 657 The invention of Stereotype, like that of Printing, is somewhat involved in mystery.

2. A stereotype plate. (In quot. 1817 used *transf.*)

1817 *Gentl. Mag.* Dec. 500 *note*, An obelisk with engraved hieroglyphics upon it—a wooden or copper plate—a medal —are stereotypes. *a* 1823 HUTTON *Course Math.* (1827) I. 150 [They] are printed with what are called stereotypes, the types in each page being soldered together into a solid mass. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade, Stereotype*, a solid page of metal cast from the letter-press. 1888 *Times* 7 Jan. 7/1 He seized the stereotypes and withdrew.

b. In generalized sense.

1823 *Encycl. Brit.* Suppl. VI. 378/1 The mode of casting stereotype is sufficiently simple. *Ibid.* A plate of stereotype does not require to be more than the seventh or eighth part of the thickness or height of the ordinary types.

3. *fig.* Something continued or constantly repeated without change; a stereotyped phrase, formula, etc.; stereotyped diction or usage.

1850 PRESCOTT in Ticknor *Life* (1864) 337, I told the Queen of the pleasure I had in finding myself in a land of friends instead of foreigners,—a sort of stereotype with me. 1877 MORLEY *Crit. Misc.* Ser. II. 91 The growth of brighter ideals ..will go on, leaving ever further and further behind them your dwarfed finality and leaden moveless stereotype. 1908 *Q. Rev.* July 5 The stereotype of school, newspaper and department prevails.

4. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *stereotype art, metal, office, plate*; *stereotype-founder, manufacturer, printer*; **stereotype-block**, (*a*) a stereotype plate; (*b*) a block of iron or wood on which a stereotype plate is fixed; **stereotype-press**, (*a*) a press for shaping and drying the mould in which a stereotype is cast; (*b*) a printing-press in which stereotypes are used.

1801 *Tilloch's Philos. Mag.* X. 277 If there would be an advantage in applying the *stereotype art to books of rapid sale. 1859 R. HUNT *Guide Mus. Pract. Geol.* (ed. 2) 188 *Stereotype Blocks of Fusible Metal. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.*, *Stereotype-block*, a block on which a stereotype is mounted to make it type-high. 1813 A. WILSON in *Trans. Soc. Arts* XXVIII. 321 Having resolved to unite the business of a *Stereotype Bookseller to those of a Stereotype Manufacturer and Printer, I propose that [etc.]. 1843 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* I. 325 The *stereotype-cast is nearly as sharp as the original type. *Ibid.*, The *stereotype-founder takes a copy of the entire mass of type in plaster of Paris. 1813 *Stereotype manufacturer [see *stereotype bookseller*]. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 51 The alloys called type metal, *stereotype metal. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.*, Stereotype-metal. 1804 tr. *Freylinghausen's Abstr. Chr. Relig.* before title, Standing Rules of The *Stereotype Office. 1807 *Monthly Mag.* May 372/2 The expence of *Stereotype plates..is not 20 l. per cent. of that of moveable type pages. 1872 YEATS *Techn. Hist. Comm.* 339 A compound of tin and bismuth is employed in stereotype plates. 1805 *Gentl. Mag.* Mar. 250/2 The first production of the new *stereotype press. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.*, *Stereotype-press*, a small press for use in the clay process [of stereotyping]. 1813 *Stereotype printer [see *stereotype bookseller*]. 1820 T. HODGSON *Ess. Stereotype Printing* 119 As a stereotype printer Mr. Wilson must ever rank amongst the most eminent.

B. *adj.* (Often undistinguishable from the attrib. use of the sb.)

1. *lit.* Of an edition: Printed by the process described above in A. 1. Also used as an epithet of the process.

1801 *Tilloch's Philos. Mag.* X. 268 The processes connected with letter-press-plate or stereotype printing. 1817 *Gentl. Mag.* Dec. 500 *note*, At the present Epoch (1800), the art of Printing is become rather retrograde; or we should not hear so much of Stereotype editions. 1820 MILNER *Suppl. Mem. Eng. Cath.* 243 A small stereotype edition of the New Testament. 1861 SMILES *Engineers* II. 142 Earl Stanhope..also made important improvements in the process of stereotype printing.

2. *fig.* = STEREOTYPED b. Now somewhat *rare*.

1824 MORIER *Hajji Baba* I. Introd. Ep. p. xxxiv, It is an ingenious expression which I owe to you, sir, that the manners of the East are as it were stereotype. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. III. iii, Cartels by the hundred: which he.. answers now always with a kind of stereotype formula. 1846 *Hints on Husband-Catching* 20 This same stereotype smile. 1848 CURWEN *Singing* Introd. p. xx, Thus is..singing made almost a hopeless thing by the stereotype faults of the Old Notation. 1895 *Oracle Encycl.* I. 561/1 The style began to assume a stereotype character. 1899 A. GUDEMAN in *Class. Rev.* XIII. 216/1 A veritable mosaic of stereotype ideas.

Ste·reotype (ste·rĭətəip, stī·rĭə-), *v.* [ad. F. *stéréotyper*, f. *stéréotype*: see prec.]

1. *trans.* To cast a stereotype plate from (a forme of type); to prepare (literary matter) for printing by means of stereotypes. Also *absol.*

1804 tr. *Freylinghausen's Abstr. Chr. Relig.* title-p., The first book stereotyped by the new Process. 1818 TODD (citing *Entick*). 1835 W. IRVING *Life & Lett.* (1866) III. 74, I have nearly stereotyped the third volume of my Miscellanies. 1855 DORAN *Hanov. Queens* II. x. 169 Early in 1798, ..the first book was stereotyped in England. 1877 H. SPENCER in *Min. Evid. Copyright Comm.* (1878) 258, I was sanguine enough when I began this series of books, to stereotype.

2. *fig.* To fix or perpetuate in an unchanging form.

a 1819 REES *Cycl.* s. v. *Engraving*, Vosterman..may be said at once to have successfully translated and stereotyped the great originals of those..painters [*sc.* Rubens and Vandyke]. 1841 MIALL in *Nonconf.* I. 401 The state-church stereotypes a system of faith. 1846 *Engl. Rev.* Sept. 150 Yet he proposes a measure which would stereotype heresy and schism for ever. 1874 SAYCE *Compar. Philol.* ii. 73 Shakespeare and the Bible have stereotyped English. 1888 TANSLEY in *Hardwicke's Sci.-Gossip* XXIV. 121/2 In flowers the colours are stereotyped and perpetuated by insect selection.

Ste·reotyped (-təipt), *ppl. a.* [f. prec. + -ED[1].]

a. *lit.* Cast in the form of, or prepared for printing by means of, stereotype. *rare.* **b.** Usually *fig.* Fixed or perpetuated in an unchanging form. (Most commonly of phrases or formulas of speech, or the like; rarely of persons.)

1820 T. HODGSON *Ess. Stereotype Printing* 57 Hoffmann ..announced a stereotyped (or in his phrase a polytyped) book..which appeared in 1787. *Ibid.* 95 They engaged to sell stereotyped plates. 1849 *Knife & Fork* 29 That common, every-day love, that contents itself with stereotyped epithets of endearment. 1854 MRS. GASKELL *North & South* xii, Uttering..stereotyped commonplaces. 1862 THACKERAY *Philip* iii, Phil's father..entered the dining-room..with his stereotyped smile. 1900 A. CHURCH & PETERSON *Nervous & Mental Dis.* (ed. 2) 663 A single motion of the arm or body may be reiterated for hours (stereotyped movements). 1912 *Throne* 7 Aug. 213/3 The stereotyped business man who thinks a successful commercial career must begin with the sweeping out of a draper's shop.

Ste·reotyper. [f. STEREOTYPE *v.* + -ER[1]. Cf. F. *stéréotypeur*.] One who stereotypes.

1. One who makes stereotype plates.

1818 TODD (citing *Entick*). 1841 *Civil Engin. & Arch. Jrnl.* IV. 56/2 Fresh burnt plaster..is always adopted by the cunning stereotypers, for they state that if it simply stands a fortnight, the casts will not be so good. 1882 *Daily News* 29 Nov. 6/5 Wanted,..experienced Stereotyper for Daily and Weekly Newspaper.

2. *fig.* One who fixes unchangingly.

1890 C. MARTYN *W. Phillips, Agitator* 519 A propounder of truth—not a stereotyper of it into statutes.

So **Ste·reotypery**, (*a*) the business of making stereotypes; (*b*) a place where stereotypes are made, a stereotype-foundry. In recent Dicts.

Stereotypic (ste·rĭŏti·pik), *a. rare.* [f. STEREOTYPE *sb.* + -IC.] Pertaining to or having the character of a stereotype. † **a.** *lit.*, as in *stereotypic plate* = stereotype plate. *Obs.* **b.** *fig.* Fixed, unchanging: = STEREOTYPE *sb.* 3 b, STEREOTYPED b.

1801 J. JONES tr. *Bugge's Trav. Fr. Rep.* xvi. 392 The newly invented stereotypic plates. 1802 *Monthly Rev.* XXXVIII. 498 The stereotypic art, as it is practised in the printing of books. 1884 GRONLUND *Co-op. Commonw.* i. 28 That other stereotypic definition of Capital..'accumulated Labor'. 1887 W. M. TAYLOR *Scott. Pulpit* 144 There is no need of adhering in that matter to any Quaker-like, stereotypic anachronism.

Hence **Ste·reotypically** *adv.*, † (*a*) by means of stereotypes (*obs.*); (*b*) by a stereotyped phrase, etc.

1802 *Sk. Paris* II. lxvi. 357 The French tables of Logarithms, printed stereotypically. 1864 W. J. FITZPATRICK *Mem. Abp. Whately* I. 332 'What is the laziest letter in the alphabet?' His neighbour .. responded stereotypically, 'Give it up!'

Ste·reotyping, *vbl. sb.* [f. STEREOTYPE *v.* + -ING[1].]

1. The action or process of making stereotype plates for printing. Also *attrib.*

1807 *Monthly Mag.* May 372/2 The wear of moveable types, in Stereotyping, does not exceed 5l. per cent. of the heavy expence incurred by the old method of printing. 1820 T. HODGSON *Ess. Stereotype Printing* 87 A plate was then obtained from the matrice by means of the stereotyping, or striking, machine. 1904 H. SPENCER *Autobiog.* II. 164 The cost of composition and stereotyping.

2. *fig.* The action of fixing or perpetuating in an unchanging form.

1888 BULMAN in *Hardwicke's Sci.-Gossip* XXIV. 231/2 The 'stereotyping' of the developed colours by insect selection. 1903 MORLEY *Gladstone* IX. vii. III. 331 There ought to be no stereotyping of our minds against modifications. 1914 J. PATRICK *Clement of Alexandria* vi. 220 An illustration of a familiar experience—the stereotyping of an error, not recognised as an error in the mind of a writer.

Stereotypist (ste·rĭətəipist). [f. STEREOTYPE *sb.* + -IST.] One whose business is the making of stereotypes; a stereotyper. In recent Dicts.

Ste·reotypo·grapher. *rare*[−0]. One who prints from stereotypes. So **Ste·reotypo·graphy**, printing from stereotypes.

1818 TODD (citing *Entick*). 1841 E. SCUDAMORE *Nomenclator, Stereotypography*, the art of printing from stereotypes.

Stereotypy (ste·rĭətəi·pi). [ad. F. *stéréotypie*, f. *stéréotype* STEREOTYPE *a.*]

1. The process of making stereotype plates; stereotyping. 1891 in *Century Dict.*

2. *Path.* Persistence of a fixed or stereotyped idea, mode of action, etc., in cases of insanity.

1909 C. L. DANA *Nervous Dis.* (ed. 7) 686 Stereotypy is shown in two ways. 1912 B. HART *Psychol. Insanity* Index 176.

Sterep, Sterer, obs. ff. STIRRUP, STIRRER.

Stereynge, obs. form of STIRRING.

Sterhydraulic (stɔ·rhəidrǫ·lik), *a.* [ad. F. *stérhydraulique*, irreg. f. Gr. στερεός solid + F. *hydraulique* HYDRAULIC.] Applied to a form of hydraulic press in which pressure is generated by displacement of the contained liquid by a solid body, as a rod, screw, or rope, introduced with a continuous movement through a packed opening.

1866 *Mechanics' Mag.* 4 May 279/2 The Sterhydraulic Press..is the name given to the new hydraulic press, invented by MM. Desgoffe and Olivier, civil engineers. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2382.

Steri, obs. form of STIR *v.*

Steric (ste·rik), *a. Chem.* [irreg. f. Gr. στερεός solid + -IC: cf. STEREOCHEMISTRY.] Pertaining or relating to the arrangement in space of the atoms in a molecule.

Steric hindrance, hindrance of a reaction, held to be due to the spatial arrangement of the atoms in the molecules of one of the reacting compounds.

1898 H. N. STOKES in *Smithsonian Rep.* 301 Stereochemical formulas are..more than reaction formulas, and the steric conception of the so-called double and triple union asserts that these actually exist. 1905 A. W. STEWART in *Jrnl. Chem. Soc., Trans.* LXXXVII. 185 Angeli..suggested that steric hindrance played a part in the reactions involving the addition of metallic hydrogen sulphites [etc.]..to carbonyl groups.

Stericks, vulgar aphetic form of *hysterics* (see HYSTERIC B. 3).

1765 FOOTE *Commissary* III. (1782) 64 *Fun.* Fye upon you! you have thrown the old gentlewoman into the stericks.

Sterile, obs. form of STIR *v.*

‖ **Sterigma** (stĕri·gmă). *Bot.* Pl. **-ata.** [mod. L., a. Gr. στήριγμα prop, support, f. στηρίζειν to set fast, support.] **a.** A ridge extending down a stem below the point of attachment of a decurrent leaf. **b.** In fungi, a stalk or filament bearing a spore; often a branch or outgrowth of a basidium.

1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1098/2 *Sterigmata*, the elevated lines or plates upon stems produced by the bases of decurrent leaves. 1874 COOKE *Fungi* 21 Each spore is borne upon a slender stalk or sterigma. 1879 *Encycl. Brit.* IX. 832/1 From the hymenium rise the basidia, at the apex of which are usually four sterigmata bearing the spores.

Hence **Sterigmatic** (sterigmæ·tik) *a.*, pertaining to or of the nature of a sterigma.

1882 *Encycl. Brit.* XIV. 555/1 The spermatia..at first appear as minute protrusions on the apices of the sterigmatic cells.

† **Ste·ril.** *Obs.*[−1] [Cf. STARE *sb.*[3]] Some foreign measure of capacity.

c 1645 HOWELL *Lett.* (1655) I. III. xvii. 129 To lade so many thousand Sterils or measures of corn out of Sardinia and Sicily custom-free.

Sterile (ste·rəil, ste·ril), *a.* Also 6 **steryl(e, -yll,** 6–7 **stirrill, sterill,** 6–9 **steril,** 7 **sterrile, sterrill, stirrile.** [ad. L. *sterilis*, cogn. w. Skr. *starī*, barren cow, Gr. στεῖρα barren cow, στέριφος barren, Goth. *stairō* fem. adj., barren. Cf. F. *stérile*, It. *sterile*, Sp. *esteril*.] Barren; not producing fruit or offspring.

1. In undetermined sense.

1552 HULOET, Steryll, barayne, or fruiteles, *sterilis*. 1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 129/11 Steril, *sterilis*.

2. Of soil, a country, occas. of a period of time: Unproductive of vegetation.

1572 HULOET (ed. Higgins), Sterill, or barrayne grounde, *terra ieiuna*. 1597 SHAKS. 2 *Hen. IV*, IV. iii. 129 Like leane, stirrill, and bare Land. 1600 FAIRFAX *Tasso* XV. xv, The sterill coastes of barren Rinoceere They past. 1626 BACON *Sylva* § 525 It is certaine, that in very Sterile Yeares, Corne sowne will grow to an Other Kinde. 1635 BRERETON *Trav.* (Chetham Soc.) 119 This country..now..is so sterile of corn as they are constrained to forsake it. 1784 COWPER *Task* I. 710 With nice incision..She ploughs a brazen field, and clothes a soil So sterile with what charms soe'er she will. 1796 MORSE *Amer. Geog.* II. 100 No country has a smaller proportion of land absolutely steril and incapable of culture. 1806 *Gazetteer Scot.* (ed. 2) 337 Owing to the too copious use of marl,.. some farms have been rendered perfectly sterile. 1828 NAPIER *Penins. War* I. iv. (1878) I. 22 Catalonia, the most warlike, rugged, and sterile portion of Spain. 1836 MACGILLIVRAY *Trav. Humboldt* XXV. 376 Causing many places to be improved which would otherwise have remained steril. 1845 DARWIN *Voy. Nat.* i. (1879) 2 The novel aspect of an utterly sterile land possesses a grandeur which more vegetation might spoil. 1890 SWINBURNE *Stud. Prose* (1894) 223 A ghastly and hardly accessible wilderness of salt marshes, with interludes of sterile meadow and unprofitable vineyard.

fig. 1720 WELTON *Suffer. Son of God* II. xxiii. 639 Procure me some few Drops of those Celestial Waters, to bedew this Barren Clay, this Dry and Steril Heart. 1794 LD. AUCKLAND *Corr.* (1862) III. 229 Though the times are sterile in some respects, you see they have produced a plentiful crop of peers. 1855 BROWNING *Old Pict. Florence* XXXIV, Contrast the fructuous and sterile eras.

3. Producing no offspring; incapable of producing offspring. (Chiefly said of females.)

1558 [cf. STERILENESS]. 1612 *Benvenuto's Passenger* I. ii. 111 The pouder thereof is excellent for all cold infirmities of the head or ioynts, it makes the sterile plentifull. 1741 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s. v. *Sterility*, Women frequently become sterile after a miscarriage. 1828 STARK *Elem. Nat. Hist.* I. 147 The adult males and sterile females shed their horns in winter. 1878 BROWNING *Poets Croisic* 26 Anne of Austria, Twenty-three years long sterile, scarce could look For issue. 1889 J. M. DUNCAN *Clin. Lect. Dis. Women* XXI. (ed. 4) 168 A woman may be sterile with this man and fecund with another. 1890 *Hardwicke's Sci.-Gossip* XXVI. 122/2 Sterile workers constitute the vast majority of the commonwealth [of bees].

fig. 1659 PEARSON *Creed* 271 We must not look upon the divine nature as steril, but rather acknowledge and admire the fecundity and communicability of it self, upon which the creation of the world dependeth. 1678 CUDWORTH *Intell. Syst.* I. iv. 546 Affirming that..Christians did not..make God a Solitary and Steril Being, before the Creation neither, as the Jews did.

† **b.** *transf.* Producing nothing living. *Obs.*

1602 WARNER *Alb. Eng.* XII. lxiii. (1612) 275 The sterile Lake where Heauen-fir'd Sodom was.

† **c.** Causing sterility. *Obs.*

1601 SHAKS. *Jul. C.* I. ii. 9 Our Elders say, The Barren touched in this holy chace, Shake off their sterrile curse.

4. Of a plant: Not bearing fruit.

1626 BACON *Sylva* § 620 Those Things, which are knowne to comfort other Plants, did make that more Sterill. 1842 LOUDON *Suburban Hort.* 575 In all plantations of this variety a number of sterile plants will be found. 1845 LINDLEY *Sch. Bot.* (1862) 60 *b*, *Potentilla Fragaria* (Sterile Strawberry).

5. Mentally or spiritually barren. Also, unproductive of results; fruitless; barren *in* or *of* (something sought or desired).

1642 H. MORE *Song of Soul* II. I. ii. 52 Die they again? draw they in any breath? Or be they sterill? 1665 J. WEBB *Stone-Heng* (1725) 93 He seems..to be very steril of Invention. 1665 EVELYN *Let. to Sir P. Wyche* 20 June, For our language is in some places sterile and barren. 1803 W. GODWIN *Life Chaucer* I. Pref. p. x, Antiquities have too generally been regarded as the province of men of cold tempers and sterile imaginations. 1848 GALLENGA *Italy* I. Introd. p. xxvii, Meanwhile, the land was sterile of events. 1849 MURCHISON *Siluria* viii. 183 These deposits.. are necessarily sterile in organic remains. 1878 JEVONS *Primer Pol. Econ.* 97 It has been objected to commerce that it is sterile and produces no new goods. 1879 R. K. DOUGLAS *Confucianism* iii. 84 Confucius perceived that the ..ancients had for their object the worship of the one God, but he allowed this knowledge to remain sterile. 1914 *Daily*

News 23 Oct. 4/2 His adventures in search of victory are uniformly sterile.

b. *nonce-use* as *sb.* A sterile person.

1870 [see IMPRACTICABLE B.].

6. *Biol.* **a.** Of an organ or structure that would normally contain reproductive elements: Barren, infertile.

Said, e. g., in *Botany* of a flower with only male organs, a stamen without an anther, a seed without an embryo, a frond without sori.

1646 Sir T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* IV. vi. 194 This is also a way to separate seeds, whereof such as are corrupted and sterill swim. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s. v. *Sicyoides*, Some of the flowers on this plant are steril, or male-flowers, having no embryo. 1777 ROBSON *Brit. Flora* 30 *Sterile*, without antheræ, as in Rupturewort. *Ibid.* 215 *Herniaria* ..five antheræ, five sterile chives. 1842 BRANDE *Dict. Sci.* etc., *Lepals*, a term invented to denote stamens that are sterile. It is very rarely used. 1849 BALFOUR *Man. Bot.* § 649 Flowers having stamens only, are staminiferous, staminal, or sterile.

b. Of cells, etc. Not capable of reproduction.

1856 W. CLARK *Van der Hoeven's Zool.* I. 76 The terminal cells sterile, the axillary oviferous. 1882 VINES tr. *Sachs' Bot.* 306 The fructification of a Fungus consists of..a sterile portion,..and of a fertile portion.

7. Free from micro-organisms. Now often of surgical instruments, etc. = STERILIZED.

1877 TYNDALL *Ess. Floating Matter Air* (1881) 215 The three tubes remained perfectly sterile. 1898 R. T. HEWLETT *Man. Bacteriol.* 98 Blood may be obtained..by pricking the finger..with a sterile needle or lancet. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VII. 550 The diplococcus was present in all except one case, which proved sterile. 1907 M. H. GORDON *Abel's Labor. Handbk. Bacteriol.* 160 The finger..is then rubbed with sterile wool soaked in..alcohol and ether.

8. *Comb.* **sterile-wood**, a shrub, *Coprosma fœtidissima* (N. O. *Rubiaceæ*), native of New Zealand.

1874 *Treas. Bot.* Suppl. 1344/1.

Hence **Ste·rilely** *adv.*, **Ste·rileness.**

1558 W. FORREST *Grysilde Seconde* (Roxb.) 54 They laide to good Grysilde her sterylenes, Whiche she cowide not helpe: God sendeth all increase. *Ibid.* 84 Consernynge the sterylnes layde vnto her. 1727 BAILEY vol. II, *Sterilness*, Barrenness. 1886 HOWELLS in *Century Mag.* XXXIII. 191 Many men might go through life harmlessly without realizing this, perhaps, but sterilely.

Ste·rilifi·dianism. *nonce-wd.* [f. L. *sterili-s* STERILE *a.*: see SOLIFIDIAN.] Belief in the sufficiency of a 'barren' faith.

1833 COLERIDGE *Lit. Rem.* (1838) III. 410 Antinomian-Solifidianism, more properly named Sterilifidianism.

Sterility (stĕri·liti). [ad. L. *sterilitās*, f. *steri-li-s* STERILE *a.* Cf. F. *stérilité*, It. *sterilità*.] The quality of being sterile, barrenness.

1. Unproductiveness of the earth.

1426 LYDG. *De Guil. Pilgr.* 23780 Afterward..Vij yeres of Sterylite folwed on,..wherof Ioseph took good hed long a-forn. 1483 CAXTON *Golden Leg.* 283/2 There by his merytes he chaced awey the Sterylyte and barrynes that was in that Countre. 1580 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* III. 294 The barrennes and sterilitie of the ground. 1653 RAMESEY *Astrol. Restored* 216 From whence you are to inquire of the fertility and sterility of the Earth. 1676 HALE *Prim. Orig. Man.* (1677) 225 There have been great Devastations and Decrements of Mankind by..Plagues and Epidemical Diseases, Famines, and Sterilities of great parts of the World. 1750 JOHNSON *Rambler* No. 33 ¶ 5, I will teach you to remedy the sterility of the earth. 1813 Sir H. DAVY *Agric. Chem.* viii. (1814) 359 Sicily was the granary of Italy and the quantity of corn carried off from it by the Romans is probably a chief cause of its present sterility. 1841 ELPHINSTONE *Hist. India* II. 149 Maldeó, rája of that country, ..derived additional strength from the sterility of his territory. 1865 GEIKIE *Scen. & Geol. Scot.* viii. 211 One looks in vain for a tree or field or patch of green, to relieve the sterility of these lonely shores.

2. Incapacity for producing offspring (chiefly said of the female).

1535 STEWART *Cron. Scot.* II. 250 His wyffe ay in sterilitie, All his dais scho wes withoutin cheild. 1568 GRAFTON *Chron.* II. 837 He complayned..of the infortunate sterylitie and barennesse of hys wyfe. 1605 SHAKS. *Lear* I. iv. 300 Heare Nature,..Into her Wombe conuey stirrility. 1708 W. KING *Cookery* Let. ix. 149 Varro, the great Roman Antiquary, tells us how to do it by burning of their Spurs; which occasioning their Sterility, makes them Capons in effect. 1876 GROSS *Dis. Urin. Bladder* 271 Impotence and Sterility..are very rare after lateral lithotomy. 1883 H. DRUMMOND *Nat. Law in Spir. W.* (ed. 2) Pref. p. xiii, Inappropriate Hybridism is checked by the Law of Sterility.

†**b.** Of water: Unproductiveness of anything living. *Obs.*

1707 *Curios. Husb. & Gard.* 171 The horrible Sterility of the Sea of Sodom..,No Animal can live in it.

c. Of plants: Incapacity of reproduction.

1837 P. KEITH *Bot. Lex.* 205 The cause of the sterility of hybrids is not well known. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1098/2 Far more frequently, however, sterility arises from outward agents, from the effect of long-continued drought or moisture, [etc.].

3. *fig.* Mental or spiritual barrenness; unproductiveness of results.

1665 GLANVILL *Scepsis Sci.* xxi. 133 Its experienced sterility through so many hundred years, drives hope to desperation. *a* 1678 WOODHEAD *Holy Living* (1688) 194 Yet where is a sterility in thinking on any subject, there is a necessity to change it. 1716 POPE *Iliad* II. *Ess. Homer's Battles* 323 Yet one cannot ascribe this to any Sterility of Expression, but to the Genius of his Times, that delighted in those reiterated Verses. 1782 V. KNOX *Ess.* lx. (1819) II. 16 Such has been the sterility of epigrammatic genius in our country. 1846 GROTE *Greece* (1862) II. 13 Sterility of intellect. 1891 *Speaker* 11 July 36/2 The fear is..that public life may be stricken with sterility in consequence of this veto.

4. The state of being free from micro-organisms.

1877 TYNDALL *Ess. Floating Matter Air* (1881) 133 The observed sterility was not due to any lack of nutritive power in the infusion. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VII. 550 The sterility in this case was probably due to the fact that death occurred nearly four months after the onset of the disease.

Sterilizable (ste·rilə·izăb'l), *a.* [f. STERILIZE *v.* + -ABLE.] Capable of being sterilized. Hence **Ste·rilizabi·lity.**

1904 *Lancet* 25 June 1782/1 Some of the earliest electric sigmoidoscopes were not sterilisable, as the electric light and connexions were an integral part of the tube. 1903 *Jrnl. R. Microsc. Soc.* Oct. 680 Simplicity, cheapness, and easy sterilisability are claimed for the syringe.

Sterilization (ste·rilə·izē·ʃən). [f. STERILIZE *v.* + -ATION.] The action of sterilizing.

1874 W. ROBERTS in *Phil. Trans.* CLXIV. 458 On the sterilization by heat of organic liquids and mixtures. 1885 LD. NAPIER & ETTRICK in *Comm. Housing Working Cl.* V. 113/2 The formation of deer forests and sterilization of land in all parts of Scotland. 1900 *Nature* 1 Mar. 422/1 The thorough sterilisation of the syringe in every case. 1905 *Brit. Med. Jrnl.* 26 Aug. 443 Treat every man after the deserts of his grandfathers and who should scape sterilization? 1910 R. R. RENTOUL in *Brit. Health Rev.* Feb. 74 In 1903 I publicly advocated the sterilisation of the insane.

Steriliza·tor. [ad. F. *stérilisateur*, f. *stériliser* to STERILIZE.] = STERILIZER 2.

1898 *Syd. Soc. Lex.*

Sterilize (ste·riləiz), *v.* [f. STERILE *a.* + -IZE. Cf. F. *stériliser*.]

1. *trans.* To cause to be unfruitful; to destroy the fertility of.

1695 WOODWARD *Nat. Hist. Earth* II. 101 Why therefore may we not as well suppose the other part of the Sentence, the Sterilizing the Earth, was also suspended? 1737 SAVAGE *Of Publ. Spirit* 204 No, no—such wars do thou, Ambition, wage! Go, sterilize the fertile with thy rage! Whole nations to depopulate is thine. 1810 SOUTHEY in *Edin. Ann. Reg.* I. i. 147 An experiment to sterilize the country for one year. 1891 *Spectator* 4 Apr., Gambia is worth far more to the French than the French right to sterilise the French shore of Newfoundland is to the English.

absol. 1910 MARGOLIOUTH in *Expositor* Mar. 216 The practice of sowing with salt, in order to sterilize, is alluded to in the Old Testament.

2. To deprive of fecundity; to render incapable of producing offspring.

1828 in WEBSTER. 1905, 1910 [implied in STERILIZATION].

3. *Biol.* To render (organs) sterile.

1891 *Hardwicke's Sci.-Gossip* XXVII. 77/1 Its ray-florets ..besides doubling or semi-sterilising themselves, have attained a broad stripe of yellowish white up each strap-shaped corolla.

4. *fig.* To make mentally or spiritually barren; to render unproductive, unprofitable or useless; to deprive of result.

1880 J. A. SYMONDS in H. F. Brown *Biog.* (1895) II. 168 Men who might have written excellent books are sterilised by starting with fastidious conceits. 1887 *Chamb. Jrnl.* 19 Feb. 114/1 That prodigious find of 1882 seems to have almost sterilised 1883 so far as treasure-trove is concerned. 1911 F. HARRISON *Autob. Mem.* II. xxiii. 60 M. Grévy being sterilised by office,..power fell to M. Gambetta.

5. To render free from micro-organisms.

1878 TYNDALL *Fragm. Sci.* (1879) II. 297 Schwann..sterilised the flask by boiling. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 69 The milk should be sterilised.

absol. 1877 TYNDALL *Ess. Floating Matter Air* (1881) 229 In the one case five minutes' action completely sterilizes.

Hence **Ste·rilized** *ppl. a.*; **Ste·rilizing** *vbl. sb.* and *ppl. a.*

1846 *Blackw. Mag.* LX. 13 The sudden sterilizing of districts previously fruitful. 1847 H. MILLER *First Impr. Eng.* xi. (1857) 177 New crops of them..appear as fast as the surface is relieved from its sterilizing burden. 1866 ALGER *Solit. Nat. & Man* III. 155 Nothing is so sterilizing as retirement, when [etc.]. 1877 TYNDALL *Ess. Floating Matter Air* (1881) 133 A sterilized infusion..remained sterile. 1880 'VERNON LEE' *Stud. Italy* IV. i. 146 He had the intense, blind, sterilising love of antiquity of the men of the fifteenth century. 1888 *Sat. Rev.* 2 June 641 The chief certain result ..was the sterilizing..of French political capacity. 1891 G. S. WOODHEAD *Bacteria* 399 Sterilized vessels for the reception of various media.

Sterilizer (ste·riləizəɹ). [f. STERILIZE *v.* + -ER 1.] One who, or something which, sterilizes.

1. A substance that renders soil sterile.

1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 793 [Lime from magnesian limestone] has been unfairly denounced by Mr. Tennent and Sir H. Davy, as a sterilizer.

2. An apparatus for destroying micro-organisms.

1891 G. S. WOODHEAD *Bacteria* 398 Steam Sterilizer. 1895 *Arnold & Sons' Catal. Surg. Instrum.* 716 Sterilizer for Ligatures. 1898 EVA C. E. LÜCKES *Gen. Nursing* xi. 144 Schimmelbusch's sterilizer is the one most used for the sterilization of instruments.

Sterin, Stering, obs. ff. STERN *a.*, STIRRING.

Sterisol (ste·risǫl). *Pharmacy.* Also **steresol.** [contr. of *sterilizing solution.*] (See quot. 1898.)

1896 *Westm. Gaz.* 24 Sept. 8/2 In hitherto unknown solutions—holzin, holzinol, and sterisol. 1898 *Syd. Soc. Lex.*, *Steresol*, (Not official), an antiseptic benzoinated collodion.

Sterk(e, obs. forms of STARK *a.*, STIRK.

Sterlet 1 (stē·rlĕt). Also 6 **sterledey,** 7 **sterledy,** 8 **starlett, sterled, -ett, -id,** (? *pl.* **sterlits**), 8–9 **sterlit,** (9 **sterelet**). [a. Russ. стерлядь *sterlyad'*. Cf. G. and F. *sterlet*.] A small species of sturgeon, *Acipenser ruthenus*, found in Russia.

1591 G. FLETCHER *Russe Commw.* (Hakl. Soc.) 12 Of ickary or cavery, a great quantitie is made..out of..the severiga, and the sterledey. 1698 *New Descr. Muscovy* 22 The Severinga or Sterledy, somewhat in fashion and tast like a Sturgeon, but not so thick nor long. 1698 A. BRAND *Embassy fr. Muscovy into China* 126 Among the Fish, the Sterlet is counted one of the most delicious in Russia. 1753 HANWAY *Trav.* (1762) I. II. xix. 83 The principal sorts are sturgeon, starlett, beluga and assotra. 1762 tr. *Busching's Syst. Geog.* I. 380 The Kosteri has rougher scales than the Sturgeon or the Sterled. 1782 P. H. BRUCE *Mem.* IV. 112 Some vessels going for Petersburgh, with live fish, called sterlit,..were beat to pieces. 1796 MORSE *Amer. Geog.* II. 74 Different sorts of sturgeon..viz. the common sturgeon, the beluga, the sterlid, &c. 1881 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* V. 46 The best isinglass is yielded by the Sterlet and by *Acipenser huso*. 1883 *Fisheries Exhib. Catal.* 340 Hatched sterlit preserved in spirits. 1915 B. DIGBY in *Travel* July 23 Sterelet, one of the numerous kinds of fishes found in Baikal, is usually smoked and eaten raw.

attrib. 1860 WRAXALL *Life in Sea* v. 124 Prince Potemkin is said to have frequently paid three hundred roubles for a Sterlet soup.

Ste·rlet 2. [? For **sternlet*, dim. of STERN *sb.*1; cf. STERNET.] ? The Lesser Tern, *Sterna minuta*.

1703 *La Hontan's Voy. N. Amer.* I. 240 The Seamews, Grelans, and Sterlets, are fowls that fly incessantly over Seas, Lakes, and Rivers.

Sterling (stə·rliŋ), *sb.* and *a.* Forms: *a.* 3–6 **sterlinge, -ynge,** 4 **sterlyngge,** 4–6 **starlinge, -yng(e,** 4, 6–8 **starling,** 5–6 **sterlyng,** 7 **sterlin,** 8 **sterline,** 3– **sterling.** *β. Sc.* 5 **stirvling,** 6 **stirveling, stirviling, striveling, striviling, strivling,** 6–7 **stirling,** 7 **stirlin, stirvlin.** [Early ME. *sterling*, whence OF. *esterlin*, med.L. *esterlingus, sterlingus, sterlinus*, MHG. *sterlinc*, It. *sterlino*. Of uncertain origin, but probably a late OE. formation in -LING 1.

The earliest known example (in the Fr. form *esterlin*) is believed to occur in a charter of the Norman abbey of Préaux (Round *Cal. Documents, France*, p. 111). The date is supposed to be either 1085 or 1104, on the evidence of the golden number, but so far as this is concerned it might be later by 19 years or a multiple of 19; the cartulary is of the 13th c. Ordericus Vitalis (*a* 1145) has in Latin *libræ sterilensium*, and *libræ sterilensis monetæ*, as if he took the word for an *-ing* derivative of a place-name. The Anglo-Latin *sterlingus* is cited by Ducange from the year 1180. Continental examples are frequent in the 13th c., the excellence of the English penny having procured for it extensive currency in foreign countries; in Oct. 1202, Baldwin Count of Flanders contracts to pay to certain Venetian nobles 'the sum of 121 ounces in marks sterling (marcas sterlinorum) at the rate of 13 "solidi" and 4 "denarii" for each silver mark' (Rawdon Brown, *Cal. State Papers, Venice* I. 1).

The word, if of English origin, presumably was descriptive of some peculiar characteristic of the new Norman penny. The most plausible explanation is that it represents a late OE. **steorling*, 'coin with a star' (f. *steorra* star), some of the early Norman pennies having on them a small star. An old conjecture is that the word is derived from *stær* a starling (STARE *sb.*1), and alludes to the four birds (usually called 'martlets') on some coins of Edward the Confessor; but if this were so the early form would normally have been *starling*. Until recently, the prevailing view was that the word was a shortening of EASTERLING. Walter de Pinchebek (*c* 1300) gives this explanation, saying that the coin was originally made by Easterling moneyers; but the stressed first syllable would not have been dropped.

In Scotland the word was confused with the name of the town of Stirling, anciently *Strivelin*; hence the *β* forms common in the 15th and 16th centuries.]

A. *sb.*

1. The English silver penny of the Norman and subsequent dynasties. Often in *pound of sterlings*, originally a pound weight of silver pennies, afterwards a name for the English pound (240 pence) as a money of account. Also in *mark, shilling*, etc. *of sterlings. Obs.* exc. *Hist.*

1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 5949 He ȝef hem atten ende Four þousend pound of sterlynges. *Ibid.* 11840 Þe king..eche ȝer him sende A certein summe of sterlings to is liues ende. *c* 1300 *Fleta* II. xii. (1647) 72 Per denar' Angliæ qui sterling' appellatur, et fit rotundus, qui debet ponderare triginta duo grana frumenti mediocria. *a* 1330 *Syr Degarre* 297 The ten pound of starlings Were i-spended in his fostrings. 1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. xv. 342 As in lussheborwes is a lyther alay and ȝet loketh he lyke a sterlynge. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Pard. T.* 579 Myn hooly pardon may yow alle warice So þat ye offre nobles, or sterlynges, Or elles silueř broches [etc.]. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) VIII. 167 Þe kyng..ȝaf hym an hondred schillynges of sterlynges. 1418 *E. E. Wills* (1882) 32, I bequethe to Ionet my wyfe..xl. li of Sterlinges. 1423 *Rolls of Parlt.* IV. 256/2 Silver..beyng as gode of alay as the sterlyng. *a* 1500 *Brome Bk.* (1886) 149, xx s. of starlynges. 1598 STOW *Surv.* vii. (1603) 52 Paid in starlings which were pence so called. 1861 *Numism. Chron.* I. 56 English and Foreign Sterlings found in Scotland. 1868 MISS YONGE *Cameos* (1877) I, xxiii. 179 Your words smell of English sterlings.

b. *Sc.* Applied to the Scottish penny.

This use is sometimes erroneously said to go back to the 12th c., on the ground of its occurrence in the so-called 'Assize of David I', which is a compilation of later date.

1387 *Charters* etc. *Edin.* (1871) 36, vi° mark of sterlyngis of the payment of Scotlande. ? *a* 1600 tr. *Assisa de Mensuris* in *Sc. Acts* (1844) I. 674 King David ordanyt at þe sterlyng [orig. (? 15th c.) *sterlingus*] suld wey xxxij cornys of gude and round quhete. 1609 SKENE *Reg. Maj., Stat. Robt. II* 56 b, The stirlin in the time of..king David, did wey threttie twa graines of gude and round quheat: Bot now it is otherwaies, be reason of the minoration of the money. 1884 *Encycl. Brit.* XVII. 656/2 The oldest pieces are silver pennies or sterlings, resembling the contemporary English money, of the beginning of the 12th century.

†**c.** With ellipsis of *of*, in *pound, mark*, etc. *sterlings. Obs.*

Chiefly with the plurals *pounds, marks*, etc., and hence in later use prob. apprehended as an adj. with plural inflexion.
1433 *E. E. Wills* (1882) 95 Y bequethe to litill Watkyn, my Godsone..x markes sterlynges. 1464 *Rolls of Parlt.* V. 530/1 An annuall rent of xl li. Sterlinges. *c* 1483 Caxton *Dialogues* 51/22 A pound sterlings. 1486 *Rec. St. Mary at Hill* (1905) 11, vj marc sterlynges. 1528 *Sel. Cases Star Chamber* (Selden Soc.) II. 20 As moche wood as ys woorth iiij powndes sterlynges. 1542 Udall *Erasm. Apoph.* 248 b, The thousande pieces wer muche about the summe of twentie nobles sterlynges.

† **2.** = Pennyweight. *Obs.*
1474 *Stat. Winch.* in *Cov. Leet Bk.* 396, xxxij graynes of whete take out of the mydens of the Ere makith a sterling oper-wyse called a peny; & xx sterling maketh an Ounce. 1496–7 *Act* 12 *Hen. VII* c. 5 Every unce [shall] conteyn xx stérlinges, and every sterling be of the weight of xxxij cornes of whete that growe in the myddes of the Eare of the whete. 1611 Cotgr. s. v. *Carat*, For eight of them [carrats] make but one sterlin, and a sterlin is the 24 part of an ounce. 1776 Entick *London* I. 160 A penny, weighing two sterlings.

† **b.** attrib. *Sterling weight. Obs.*
In the Table 'sterling weight' is stated in pounds, shillings, and pence; the lb. avoirdupois = 1 lb. 2 oz. 10 dwt. troy, £1. 1s. 2d. sterling.
1612 W. Colson *Gen. Tresury* H h ij, A Table to finde Auerdupois weight reduced to Troy weight, and sterling weight.

3. Money of the quality of the sterling or standard silver penny; genuine English money. † In the 17th c. occas. used rhetorically for: Money.
1565 Cooper *Thesaurus, Centussis*..A rate of Romaine money conteynyng..10. Denarios, that is .x. grotes of olde sterlynge, when .viii. grotes went to an ownce. 1583 Greene *Mamillia* II. (1593) L 2, It is..so hard to descrie the true sterling from the counterfeit coyne. 1602 Dekker *Satirom.* D 2, Drop the ten shillings into this Bason...So, ist right Iacke? ist sterling? 1605 A. Warren *Poor Man's Pass.* E 3, Whose coffers with Commodities abound So full, that they no sterling more may hold. *a* 1635 Randolph *Poems* (1640) 113 Hexameter's no sterling, and I feare What the brain coines goes scarce for currant there. 1699 Garth *Dispens.* 19 By useful Observations he can tell The Sacred Charms that in true Sterling dwell, How Gold makes a Patrician of a Slave [etc.]. 1707 Norris *Humility* vii. 320 To see a rich man that has nothing else to recommend him ..but pure naked sterling, to grow proud and haughty upon a full purse..nothing can be more ridiculous.
fig. 1584 Greene *Mirror Modestie* Wks. (Grosart) III. 25 And seeing we haue you here alone, your stearne lookes shall stande for no sterling. 1584 — *Tritameron* I. B iv, Your censure is no sentence, neither can this broken coine stande for sterlyng. 1602 Shaks. *Ham.* I. iii. 107 You haue tane his tenders for true pay, Which are not starling.

4. English money as distinguished from foreign money. Formerly often in contrast to *currency*, i.e. the depreciated pounds, shillings, and pence of certain colonies.
1601 in *Stafford's Pac. Hib.* II. iv. (1633) 157 Monies of this new Standard of Ireland..being brought back againe to the Exchange to be converted in sterling. 1724 Swift *Drapier's Lett.* i. (1730) 17 The Tenants are obliged by their Leases to pay Sterling, which is Lawful Current Money of England. 1834 J. D. Lang *Hist. Acc. N. S. Wales* (1837) I. 206 The debts of the small settlers had all been contracted in sterling, and the price they received for their wheat..was in currency. 1890 *Daily News* 2 July 3/6 The lay treasurer of the society, who said that for a long time he had been opposed to the payments in India being made in sterling. 1892 *Ibid.* 19 Dec. 3/3 The effort has been made here to draw bills on America with the notion of selling at once for sterling, and using depreciated currency to pay the bills when due. 1900 *Westm. Gaz.* 8 Nov. 5/2 Sterling rose as promptly as it fell during last week's chaotic Money market. (New York.)

b. *fig.* in Australian use. (See quots.)
1827 P. Cunningham *Two Yrs. N. S. Wales* II. 53 Our colonial-born brethren are best known here by the name of Currency, in contradistinction to Sterling or those born in the mother-country. 1834 J. D. Lang *Hist. Acc. N. S. Wales* (1837) I. 220 Contests..between the colonial youth and natives of England, or, to use the phrase of the colony, between currency and sterling. 1837, 1892 [see Currency, 4 b. *fig.*].

c. *attrib.* with the sense: Related to or payable in sterling.
1894 H. Bell *Rlwy. Policy India* 81 A new contract.., granting a sterling guarantee of 3½ per cent on the capital expended. *Ibid.* 244 The sterling interest charges now payable on Indian railways..are equivalent to a payment of interest of over 7·6 per cent..if converted into rupees at par. 1898 W. J. Greenwood *Commerc. Corresp.* (ed. 2) 108 This sterling invoice was sent to Hamburg. 1903 *Pitman's Business Man's Guide* 409 *Sterling Bonds*, the bonds of certain American railroad companies which have been issued in the United Kingdom and are payable in English currency, and not in that of the United States. 1912 *Times* 19 Dec. 16/3 Sterling exchange was irregular.

† **5.** Standard degree of fineness. *Obs.*
The sense was prob. evolved from traditional expressions like 'as good as the sterling' (see quot. 1423 in sense 1).
1696–7 *Act* 8 & 9 *Will. III*, c. 8 § 8 Plate of finer Siluer then the Sterling or Standard ordained for the Moneys of this Realme. 1724 Swift *Drapier's Lett.* ii. (1730) 55 Gold and Silver of the Right Sterling and Standard.

B. *adj.* (Formerly often abbreviated *ster., sterl.*)

1. In *pound* etc. *sterling*, altered from the older *pound* etc. (*of*) *sterlings* (see A 1, 1 b), and originally used in the same sense. Hence, in later use, appended to the statement of a sum of money, to indicate that English money is meant.
a. 1444 *Rolls of Parlt.* V. 115/1 That the Seneschall..and other Officers..forfete M. marks sterlyng. 1523 *Act* 14 & 15 *Hen. VIII*, c. 12 § 1 They shall stryke..as many halfe grotes ..as shall amount to the somme of .xx. li. sterlyng. 1535 Joye *Apol. Tindale* 22, iiij pense halpeny starling. 1665 Lamont *Diary* (Maitl. Club) 176 He was dew..of excyse, ..ane thowsande lib. sterl. 1673 Temple *Observ. United Prov.* ii. 86 Above Sixteen hundred thousand pounds Sterling a year. 1689 in *Acts Parlt. Scot.* (1875) XII. 60/1 þat they retaine 25 lib. starling of the excyse. 1713 J. Watson *Hist. Printing* Publ. Pref. 16 For which he was to have a Salary of 100 lib. Sterl. per Annum. 1717 in *Nairne Peerage Evid.* (1874) 31 Between seven and eight hundred pound sterline yearly. 1724 Swift *Drapier's Lett.* ii. (1730) 62 England gets a Million Sterl. by this Nation. 1727 A. Hamilton *New Acc. E. Ind.* I. xxi. 249 A Xerapheen is worth about sixteen Pence half Peny Ster. 1806 *Gazetteer Scot.* (ed. 2) p. xxv, The shilling Scots is the 12th part of a shilling Sterling, or one penny Sterling; the pound Scots.. is equal to one shilling and eightpence Sterling. 1838 De Morgan *Ess. Probab.* 18 Concerns which now employ many millions sterling. 1849 Lyell *2nd Visit U.S.* II. 167 The value of the whole..amounting to 350,000 dollars, or 73,500*l.* sterling. 1856 Emerson *Eng. Traits, Relig.* Wks. (Bohn) II. 100 The religion of England..believes in a Providence which does not treat with levity a pound sterling.
β. a 1578 Lindesay (Pitscottie) *Chron. Scot.* (S.T.S.) I. 236 Ane hundreith thowsand pound striuiling. 1589 *Exch. Rolls Scot.* XXII. 17 Fra the scheref of Selkirk, 6d. strivling..fra the scheref of Drumfreis, 3s. money, 1d. strivling. 1596 Dalrymple tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* I. 333 He was redeimet with a ransoune of ane hunder libs stirling. *Ibid.* II. 355/20 [He] suld pay xx shilling Stirueling for his offence. 1611 Speed *Hist. Gt. Brit.* IX. xii. § 119 His [David II's] ransome was one hundreth thousand markes striueling. 1613–18 Daniel *Coll. Hist. Eng.* Wks. (Grosart) V. 261 The ransome of a hundreth thousand Markes stirulin.

2. Prefixed as the distinctive epithet of lawful English money or coin. Now *rare*. † Also, in early Sc. use, of lawful Scots money.
a. c 1400 *Brut* clxiii. 182 The Kyng [Edw. I] ordeynede þat þe sterlinge halfpeny and ferthinge shulde go þrou3-out his lande. 1482 *Cely Papers* (Camden) 100 The sowdeers hath leiver to be payd here at xxvj s viij d. than hawe in Yngland sterlyng money. *c* 1483 Caxton *Dialogues* 17/35 Ryallis nobles of englond,..Olde sterlingis pens. 1561 Norton tr. *Calvin's Inst.* IV. xviii. 146 *marg.*, The common price of a Masse in fraunce is .iii. Karolus..about the value of a sterling grote. 1565 Cooper *Thesaurus* s.v. *Census equestris*, 400 Sestertia, of olde sterlyng money 2000 poundes. 1590 Webbe *Trav.* (Arb.) 27 A pennie loafe of Breade (of English starling money) was worth a crowne of gold. 1597 Shaks. *2 Hen. IV*, II. i. 131. 1651 Marius *Adv. conc. Bills Exch.* 69 How to bring French Crownes into Starling Money. 1634 Peacham *Compl. Gentl.* xii. (1906) 122 *Libra* or *Pondo* ..was worth of sterlin money three pounds. 1755 in *Nairne Peerage Evid.* (1874) 36 Eighteen pounds eighteen shillings ster[l] money. 1816 Scott *Antiq.* i, Three shillings of sterling money of this realm. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* I. III. iii, And, say, in sterling money, three hundred thousand a year.
β. 1488 in *Acta Dom. Concil.* (1839) 98/2 Twa vnces of striuilin pennyis. 1535 Stewart *Cron. Scot.* III. 382 Fiftie thousand of stirling mony gude To pay in hand. 1588 *Exch. Rolls Scot.* XXI. 391 The comptar dischargis him of striviling money..extending to 32d. 1609 Skene *Reg. Maj., Stat. Dav. II*, 44 It is statute that the kings money, that is stirlin money, sall not be caried furth of the Realme.

b. Phrase, *To pass for* (later *as*) *sterling*. Chiefly *fig.* Also, *to allow, mark for sterling*.
1641 Milton *Animadv.* 21 Setting aside the odde coinage of your phrase, which no mintmaister of language would allow for sterling. 1651 Culpepper *Astrol. Judgem. Dis.* (1658) 154 If the credit of Hippocrates may passe for starling, he protests that [etc.]. 1727 De Foe *Eng. Tradesman* (1732) I. xviii. 248 What are they but washing over a brass shilling to make it pass for sterling? 1780 Burke *Sp. Bristol* Wks. 1842 I. 257 If our member's conduct can bear this touch, mark it for sterling. 1817 Jas. Mill *Brit. India* III. i. 30 Such are the inconsistencies of a speech, which yet appears to have passed as sterling in the assembly to which it was addressed.

† **c.** *fig.* That has course or currency. *Obs.*
a 1568 Ascham *Scholem.* II. (Arb.) 96 This waie of exercise was..reiected iustlie by Crassus and Cicero: yet allowed and made sterling agayne by M. Quintilian. 1593 Shaks. *Rich. II*, IV. 264 If my word be Sterling yet in England, Let it command a Mirror hither straight.

3. Of silver: † Having the same degree of purity as the penny. (*obs.*) Hence, in later use: Of standard quality. *Sterling mark, stamp*: the hall-mark guaranteeing sterling quality.
With the first quot. cf. quot. 1423 in A 1.
1488–9 *Act* 4 *Hen. VII*, c. 2 All suche fyne silver..shall be ..made soo fyne that it may bere xij. peny weyght of alaye in a pound wight, And yet it be as good as sterlynge and rather better than worse. 1551 Sir J. Williams *Accompte* (Abbotsf. Club 1836) 86 In grotes stricken wt harpes, the some of M[l] M[l] li. converted and made..of M[l]DCXXV li sterlinge siluer. 1676 W. B. *Touchst. Gold & Silver* (1677) 35 If it [plate] be worse then Starling it will appear Yellowish. 1681 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1632/4 Five Silver-Hilted Swords, the Hilts of which are found upon the Tryal, more then one Shilling in every Ounce worse than the Sterling. 1684 Roscommon *Ess. Transl. Verse* 310 Before the Radiant Sun, a Glimmering Lamp; Adult'rate Mettals to the Sterling Stamp, Appear not meaner, than mere humane Lines, Compar'd with those whose Inspiration shines. 1723 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 6134/4 Silver..Shoe-Clasps, mark'd Old Sterling. 1743 Tindal tr. *Rapin's Hist.* II. XVII. 157 A pound of old Sterling Silver [was coined] into Half-Shillings, [etc.]. 1776 Adam Smith *W. N.* I. I. x. 129 The sterling mark upon plate, and the stamps on..cloth, give the purchaser much greater security.

b. In figurative context. (Passing into sense 4.)
1689 J. Collier *Misc.* ii. (1694) 73 There is another Profession, which possibly does not glitter altogether so much upon the Sense, but for all that, if you touch it, 'twill prove right Sterling. 1767 Harte *T. & Kempis, Medit.* 72 True faith, like gold into the furnace cast, Maintains its sterling pureness to the last. 1784 Cowper *Task* v. 358 Were kingship as true treasure as it seems, Sterling, and worthy of a wise man's wish, I would not [etc.]. *Ibid.* VI. 990 What is base No polish can make sterling.

4. Of character, principles, qualities, occas. of persons: Thoroughly excellent, capable of standing every test.
c 1645 Howell *Lett.* (1650) II. 122 Twas your judgment, which all the world holds to be sound and sterling, induced me heerunto. 1755 Young *Centaur* v. Wks. 1757 IV. 219 This love, supposing it sterling, I (*stultus ego!*) returned in kind. 1781 Cowper *Table-T.* 638 Then decent pleasantry and sterling sense..Whipp'd out of sight, with satire just and keen, The puppy pack that had defil'd the scene. 1789 Wolcot (P. Pindar) *Subj. Painters* Wks. 1816 II. 20 The Dev'l's a fellow of much sterling humour. 1815 W. H. Ireland *Scribbleomania* 70, I..advise this nobleman to apply his abilities to some more sterling and lasting theme. 1824 Miss L. M. Hawkins *Annaline* I. 248, I know the sterling qualities you have. 1828 W. Sewell *Dom. Virtues Greeks & Romans* 33 They derived from their Celtic origin ..many sound and sterling principles of conduct. 1832 W. Irving *Alhambra* I. 83 The nephew..is a young man of sterling worth, and Spanish gravity. 1876 Mozley *Univ. Serm.* iv. (1877) 74 Gospel prophecy would not only develope what was sincere and sterling in man, but what was counterfeit in him too. 1891 C. Roberts *Adrift Amer.* 147 Her husband also was one of the most sterling good-hearted men I ever knew. 1896 Housman *Shropshire Lad* lxii, Then the world seemed none so bad, And I myself a sterling lad.
Comb. 1807–8 W. Irving *Salmag.* (1824) 196 A knot of sterling-hearted associates.

Sterling (stə·rliŋ), obs. ff. Starling [1] and [2].

Ste·rlingly (stə·rliŋli), *adv.* [f. Sterling *a.* + -ly [2].] In a sterling manner.
1883 Jolly *Life J. Duncan* xxxix. 478 So sterlingly honest was he.

Sterlingness (stə·rliŋnės). [f. Sterling *a.* + -ness.] Sterling quality.
1816 J. Scott *Vis. Paris* (ed. 5) 223 It will not be denied that they fairly try the sterlingness of the dramatic taste of the people. 1844 H. Stephens *Bk. Farm* I. 11 To judge of their lucubrations by the sterlingness of their practical worth.

Sterlit, variant of Starlet [1].

Stern (stəːn), *sb.*[1] Forms: 1 **stearn, stearno,** stærn, **stern**; 7 **sterne,** 9 **stern,** 9 *dial.* **starn.** [OE. *stearn*, glossing L. *beacita, fida, gavia* and also *sturnus*. Cf. Fris. *stern* (*steern*); *stern-k*; *stern-s* (*stirn-s, starn-s*) sea-swallow, tern. The mod.E. vowel, if genuine, is probably the result of lengthening before *-rn*.
ME. examples are wanting, but W. Turner *Avium præcipuarum historia*, 1544, art. *Gavia*, speaks of a species 'nostrati lingua *sterna* vocata'. The word was taken up by Gesner and other writers, whence probably it found its way into the Douay Bible. It was later adopted by Linnæus as the name of a genus *Sterna*; hence F. *sterne*.
The meaning 'starling', implied by early glosses to *sturnus* (*stronus*), seems to be found in mod. Somerset dial. (see Eng. Dial. Dict. s. v. *Starn* sb.[4]); but the two names might easily be confused.]
A sea-bird; the tern, esp. the black tern (*Hydrochelidon nigra*).
c 800 *Erfurt Gloss.* 1116 *Gavia, avis qui dicitur*: stern *saxonice*. *a* 950 *Seafarer* 23 (Gr.) Stormas þær stanclifu beotan þær him stearn oncwæð isigfeþera. 1609 Bible (Douay) *Lev.* xi. 16 Of birdes these are they which you must not eate..the ostrich, and the owle, and the sterne, and the hauke. 1813 Montagu *Ornith.* Suppl. *Tern, black*.. Provincial. Stern. Car-Swallow. 1896 Newton *Dict. Birds* 955 *note*, *Starn* was used in Norfolk in the middle of this century for the bird known by the book-name of Black Tern.

Stern, starn (stəːn), *sb.*[2] Now only *Sc.* Forms: *a.* 3 (*Orm.*) **steorrne, sterrne,** 4–6 **sterne,** 4–6, 9 **stern**; *β.* 4–6 **starne,** 6–9 **starn.** [a. ON. *stjarna*: see Star *sb.*[1]] = Star *sb.*[1]
a. c 1200 Ormin 3646, & te33re steorrne wass wiþþ hemm To ledenn hemm þe we33e. *Ibid.* 7112 New sterrne & all unncuþ wass wrohht. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 375 Þe firmament ..wit sterns, gret and smale. *c* 1300 *Havelok* 1809 Was non of hem þat his hernes Ne lay þer-ute ageyn þe sternes. *c* 1330 R. Brunne *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 9031 Þen ros a sterne ..'Comete' ys cald in astronomye. 1375 Barbour *Bruce* IV. 711 Thouch a man..Studeit swa in astrology, That on the sternis his hed he brak. 1456 Sir G. Haye *Law Armys* (S. T. S.) 17 Thare fell a grete stern out of the hevin. 1508 Dunbar *Golden Targe* 1 Rycht as the stern of day begonth to schyne. 1599 A. Hume *Hymns* ii. 121 Strange tailed sterns appeiris. 1818 Scott *Hrt. Midl.* xvii, There's a heaven aboon us a',..and a bonny moon, and sterns in it forby. 1819 W. Tennant *Papistry Storm'd* (1827) 42 The sterns are blindet wi' the licht.
β. c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xl. (*Ninian*) 167 Sancte martyne, ..þat as a starne clerly schane. *c* 1460 *Towneley Myst.* xiv. 98 To wyt what this starne may mene. 1581 Derricke *Image Irel.* (1883) 86 A passyng starne, to guide mans shipp aright. 1596 Dalrymple tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* II. 90/4 The Pleiades called the 7 starnis. 1725 Ramsay *Gentle Sheph.* III. iii, Kiss, kiss! we'll kiss the sun and starns away. 1790 Burns *'O death! thou tyrant'* iii, Ye hills, near neebors o' the starns. 1835 Carrick *Laird of Logan* (1841) 185 No a starn was to be seen i' the lift.

b. In transferred uses (see Star *sb.*[1]).
c 1400 *Anturs of Arth.* xxxi, With his sternes of gold, stanseld on stray. *c* 1450 *Reg. Vestments* etc. *St. Andrews* in *Maitl. Club Misc.* III. 205 Item thre gret sternis of brace for the kyrk. *c* 1450 *St. Cuthbert* 405 Þe calf is rede I vndertake, With a white sterne in þe fronte. 1454 *Test. Ebor.* (Surtees) II. 176 Rede cape with starnes of gold. 1569–70 G. Conyers *Will* in *Fabric Rolls York Minster* (Surtees) Gloss., A blacke stagge with a starne in his forehead. 1814 W. Nicholson *Tales in Verse* 145 The lairdy langs for titles braw, For ribbons an' for starns.

c. *attrib.* as † *stern-leam*, † **stern-shot,** a shooting star (cf. Star-shot); † **stern-slime,** nostoc (cf. Star *sb.*[1] 22 b).
a 1200 Ormin 7276 Forr Crist sellf iss þatt sterrnelem þatt

all mannkinn birrþ follȝhenn. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 362/2 A Sterne slyme, *assub.* 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* v. ix. 69 As dois oft sterne schot falling fra the hevin Drawand thair-efter a taile of fyrie levin.

Stern (stɔ̄n), *sb.*[3] Forms: *α.* 4–8 **sterne**, 4 **steorne**, 5–6 **steerne**, 6 **stierne**, 6–7 **stearne**, 4– **stern**. *β.* 6, 9 **starn** *dial.*, 7 **starne** *dial.* *γ.* 6 **storne**. [Probably a. ON. *stjórn* fem. steering; an abstract formation with *-nō* suffix from OTeut. **steurjan*, ON. *stýra*, OE. *stīeran*: see STEER *v.* Cf. OFris. *stiarne*, *stioerne* stern, rudder.

This etymology accords with the scanty evidence of early distribution. But the earliest sense recorded in English, 'hinder part of a ship', appears in OFris. and not in ON., and a native origin is not impossible. Evidence is, however, lacking for the supposed OE. **stēorn*.]

†1. The steering gear of a ship, the rudder and helm together; but often applied to the rudder only, less commonly to the helm only. *Obs.*

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* C. 149 Þe bur ber to hit baft þat braste alle her gere, Þen hurled on a hepe þe helme & þe sterne. 1387–8 T. USK *Test. Love* I. i. (Skeat) 35 How shulde a ship, withouten a sterne, in the grete see be governed. *c* 1430 *Pilgr. Lyf Manhode* II. xc. (1869) 108 Þilke þat maketh þe gouernour slepe amiddes þe ship vnder þe mast, whan he hath lost oþer broken þe steerne. 1471 CAXTON *Recuyell* (Sommer) 171 A tempest..bare many shyppys wyth theyr apparayll vnder water, brake theyr sternes and helmes [etc.]. 1607 R. WILKINSON *Merchant Royall* 11 A ship..is yet commanded by the helme or sterne, a small peece of wood. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* (1637) 657 This Beaver..having a long taile..which in his floting he useth in lieu of a sterne. 1640 HABINGTON *Q. Arragon* v. H 2, A storme Ore tooke the ship, so powerfull that the Pilot Gave up the Sterne to th'ordering of the waves. 1671 tr. *Palafox's Cong. China by Tartars* xxiv. 414 They..made them content to bring ashore all their great Guns.., nay the very Sails and Sterns from off their Ships.

† b. *transf.* An apparatus which controls a horse, machine, etc. as a rudder controls a ship. *Obs.*

1607 MARKHAM *Caval.* II. (1617) 213, I discommended them [sharp cavezans] vtterly as the first instruments or sternes wherewith to gouerne a Colt at his first backing. 1660 MARQ. WORCESTER *Exact Def.* 15 The [Water-Commanding] Engine consisteth of..5. A Helm or Stern with Bitt and Reins, wherewith a Child may guide, order, and controul the whole Operation.

† c. *fig.* That which guides or controls affairs, actions, etc.; also, from (the metaphor of the ship of state), government, rule. *Obs.*

1577 tr. *Bullinger's Decades* 1001 Whiche is the healme ..and stearne of the Euangelists and Apostles doctrine. *a* 1586 SIDNEY *Arcadia* III. (1598) 361 The turning of Zelmanes eye was a strong sterne enough to all their motions. 1591 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* I. vii. 233 His envious brethren's trecherous drift, Him to the Stern of Memphian State had lift. 1597 BEARD *Theatre God's Judgem.* (1612) Pref., There is a God aboue that guideth the sterne of the world. 1602 FULBECKE *2nd Pt. Parall.* 15 Of both these riseth an action triable wel enough by the Canon Law: for in this matter the Canon is the sterne and motiue of our iudgements. *c* 1618 MORYSON *Itin.* IV. I. vii. (1903) III To the hands of these 28 Familyes, the Stern of the Commonwealth was committed.

† d. In various phrases, with literal or figurative meaning. *To be, sit, at the stern, to stand to stern, to conduct, guide, hold, keep, possess, rule, steer, turn the stern*: to steer, govern, control, to occupy the seat of government. *To take in hand the stern*, to assume the government. *Obs.*

1401 *Pol. Poems* (Rolls) II. 109 Ne were God the giour, and kept the stern,..al schulde wende to wrak. *c* 1500 *Three Kings' Sons* 60 Some [shippes]..had neither saile ne maste, nor noman so hardy that durst conduyte the steerne. 1513 BRADSHAW *St. Werburge* II. 1183 Kynge Edgare kept the storne as most principall, Eche prince had an ore to labour with-all. *a* 1542 WYATT *Poems*, '*So feeble is the thread*' 83 Those handes..yᵗ..rule the sterne of my pore lyff. 1542 UDALL *Erasm. Apoph.* 6 Fye on hym that would take vpon hym to sitte and holde the stierne in a shyppe, hauyng none experience in yᵉ feate of marinershyp. *a* 1547 SURREY *Poems*, '*Girt in my guiltless gown*' 6 How som to guyd a shyppe in stormes,styckes not to take the stearne. 1553 *Respublica* 278, I shall tell Respublica ye can beste governe: bee not ye than skeymishe to take in hand the stern. *a* 1568 ASCHAM *Scholem.* I. (Arb.) 48 The father held the sterne of his whole obedience. 1576 FLEMING *Panopl. Epist.* 152 Wee satt at yᵉ sterne, and had the weale publique in our rule and gouernement. 1577–87 HOLINSHED *Hist. Scot.* 356/1 The male line..descended from the women, haue sometime possessed the sterne of Scotland. 1580 GREENE *Mamillia* I. (1583) 6 b, Construe al thinges to the best, turne the stearne the best waye. 1583 *Ibid.* II. (1593) D 3, Pilot..if thou hadst no greater cunning in stirring of the stearne. 1591 SHAKS. 1 *Hen. VI*, I. i. 197, I intend to..sit at chiefest Sterne of publique Weal. 1593 CHURCHYARD *Challenge* 6 In greatest stormes, I stoutly stood to sterne, And turnd about, the shippe to winne the winde. 1604 T. WRIGHT *Passions* VI. 338 He that guideth by his providence the sterne of mens soules. 1625 *Deb. Commons* (Camden, 1873) 87 He that was then at the sterne fetch't many sighes before he fetch it aboute. *a* 1708 BEVERIDGE *Thes. Theol.* III. 323 We are in a more special manner to pray for such as sit at the stern, and are in authority.

2. The hind part of a ship or boat (as distinguished from the bow and midships); in restricted sense, the external rear part of a ship's hull; also *spec.* in vessels of ordinary type, the overhanging portion of the hull abaft the sternpost. Often in collocation with STEM, HEAD.

c 1300 *K. Horn* 935 Þe hondes gonnen at erne In to þe schypes sterne. *Ibid.* 1412 He comen out of scyp sterne. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 474/2 Sterne, of a schyppe, *puppis*. 1526 TINDALE *Mark* IV. 38 He was in the sterne a slepe on a pelowe. 1555 EDEN *Decades* (Arb.) 86 Beholdinge the foreshippe & the sterne. 1608 SHAKS. *Per.* IV. i. 64 And with a dropping industrie they skip from sterne to sterne. 1622 R. HAWKINS *Voy. S. Sea* xliv. 104 Our Shippe..coming a-ground in the sterne. 1626 CAPT. SMITH *Accid. Yng. Seamen* 8 First lay the Keele, the Stemme, and Starne, in a dry docke. 1773 HAWKESWORTH *Cook's 1st Voy.* II. x. III. 462 The ornament at the stern was fixed upon that end, as the stern-post of a ship is upon her keel. 1817 SHELLEY *Revolt Islam* IX. ii. 5 The stern and prow Were canopied with blooming boughs. 1835 SIR J. ROSS *Narr. 2nd Voy. N.-W. Passage* v. 59 It would be necessary..to moor the ship both head and stern. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk., Stern*, the after-part of a ship, ending in the taffarel above and the counters below. 1915 *Morning Post* 9 Dec. 6/6 The *Severn* was anchored head and stern.

transf. 1878 STEVENSON *New Arab. Nts.* (1882) II. 146 The round stern of a chapel, with a fringe of flying buttresses.

b. Phrases with preps.: *On stern, a stern*, ? also *stern* adv.: see ASTERN. *At stern, to stern*: behind, in the rear of a ship; *at* (*the*) *stern*, used of a boat towed behind. (*Down*) *by the stern*: see BY A. 9 and quots. *Under the stern*: under the overhanging part technically called the stern.

c 1500 *Melusine* XXXVI. 271 He lefte the Ermayns..at sterne. 1562 J. SHUTE tr. *Cambini's Turk. Wars* 34 b, Wherupon they tawed the palandre after them at the storne of some of their galleys. 1574 W. BOURNE *Regiment for Sea* xiv. (1577) 40 b, The one place must be thwart of you, the other must be a head or stern of you. 1616 CAPT. SMITH *Descr. New Eng.* 53 This examinate fell on sterne. 1633 T. JAMES *Voy.* 7 Our long Boate..we were faine to Towe at Sterne. *a* 1779 COOK *3rd Voy.* II. vi, Towards noon, a large sailing canoe came under our stern. 1806 A. DUNCAN *Life Nelson* 70 She might anchor by the stern. 1846 A. YOUNG *Naut. Dict.* 56 If her stern be lower in the water than her head, she is by the stern.

c. *Stern-foremost*: backwards, with the stern (senses 2, 3) first; also *fig.* *Stern on*: with the stern presented.

1840 MARRYAT *Poor Jack* XXXI, The man..backs out, stern foremost. 1852 HAWTHORNE *Blithedale Rom.* VIII, Few of our seeds ever came up at all, or, if they did come up, it was stern-foremost. 1865 DICKENS *Mut. Fr.* I. I, The boat..drove stern foremost before it [the tide]. 1900 *Jrnl. Sch. Geog.* (U. S.) June 231 [The ship] thus runs..the risk ..of getting stern-on to the heavy sea. 1907 'Q.' (Quiller-Couch) *Poison Isl.* XXV. 244 After a stroke or two I eased and let her back stern-foremost.

3. (Arising out of a figurative use of sense 2.) The buttocks of a man (chiefly humorous and vulgar) or beast; the hinder part of any creature.

1614 B. JONSON *Bart. Fair* Induct., A Punque set vnder [a pump] vpon her head, with her Sterne vpward. 1830 MARRYAT *King's Own* XXVI, When it was a kitten, they had cut off his tail close to its starn. 1836 — *Midsh. Easy* XIX, I was obliged to come up the side without my trousers, and show my bare stern to the whole ship's company. 1854 *Poultry Chron.* I. 455 With, in the hens especially, a well-rounded stern. 1863 W. C. BALDWIN *Afr. Hunting* VI. 179 Firing from the saddle, and giving the giraffe the ball in the stern. 1869 FURNIVALL *Forewords to Q. Eliz. Acad.* p. XXIII, We don't want to..fancy them cherubs without sterns. 1913 *Engl. Rev.* May 201 [The ducks] point their sterns into the air, and stick their heads under water.

4. The tail of an animal, esp. of a sporting-dog or a wolf. Also, † the fleshy part of a horse's tail; † the tail feathers of a hawk.

1575 TURBERV. *Faulconrie* 190 Fasten a bell upon the two couert feathers of your hawkes Stearne or trayne. 1576 — *Venerie* 243 The tayle of a Wolfe is to be called his Stearne. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* I. i. 18 Tho wrapping vp her wrethed sterne arownd, Lept fierce vpon his shield, and her huge traine All suddenly about his body wound. 1607 MARKHAM *Caval.* I. (1617) 27 Others approue a Horses age in this sort: take him with your finger and your thumbe by the sterne of the tayle, close at the setting on of the buttocke. *Ibid.* II. 9 His taile long and hairie.. the sterne whereof, small and strong, and close coutched betwixt his buttockes. 1618 CHAPMAN *Hesiod's Georg.* II. 223 Wilde beasts abhor him, and run clapping close Their stern's betwixt their thighes. 1677 N. COX *Gentl. Recreat.* (ed. 2) 149 The benefit of cutting off the tip of a Spaniel's Tail or Stern. 1682 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1684/4 Lost..a Fallow Greyhound Bitch, with a white spot at the end of her Sterne. 1725 *Bradley's Family Dict.* s. v. *Entering of Hounds*, Some [hounds]..will prick up their Ears a little, and either Bark or wag their Stern or Ear. 1881 V. SHAW *Bk. Dog* x. 91 The stern or tail [of the Bull-dog]..must be short and very fine. *Ibid.* xliv. 372 The Stern or Flag [of the Setter]. 1890 S. W. BAKER *Wild Beasts & Ways* II. 317 When he spoke..with stern erect and nose to the ground, there was a general rush by every dog.

† 5. Used *gen.* for: Rear, latter end. *Obs.*

1623 HEXHAM *Tongue-Combat* 48 You need not in the sterne of your Discourse recapitulate the notable pieces which you have proued.

¶ 6. Misused by Stubbes for: An ensign, flag.

1583 STUBBES *Anat. Abuses* I. (1877) 51 An other sort..are content with no kind of Hatt without a great bunche of feathers..peaking on toppe of their heades..as sternes of pride and ensigns of vanitie. *Ibid.* 68 It [curling etc. of the hair] is the ensigne of Pride, and the stern [*v. r.* 1595 standerd] of wantonnes to all that behould it.

7. *attrib.* (all locative, referring to sense 2) as *stern-anchor, -balcony, -beam, -becket, -davits, deck, -gun, -paddle* (also *attrib.*), *-plate* (also *attrib.*), *-sheave, -sling-bolt, -turret, -window*.

1633 T. JAMES *Voy.* 82 Ice..brought home our *Sterne-Anker. 1904 HARDY *Dynasts* I. II. ii. 66 White sea-birds, which alight on the *stern-balcony of Villeneuve's ship. 1878 CUYLER *Pointed Papers* 45 He lies down to slumber on the *stern-beam of the boat. 1897 KIPLING *Capt. Cour.* ii. 35 He..caught Dan's tackle, hooked it to the *stern-becket, and clambered into the schooner. 1863 A. YOUNG *Naut. Dict.* 389 **Stern-davits*, pieces of iron or timber projecting from a vessel's stern to hoist boats up to. 1913 SIR H. JOHNSTON *Pioneers Austral.* iii. 99 They were received by the king on the *stern deck of a very large prau or native vessel. 1892 KIPLING *Barrack-r. Ballads* 137 And the great *stern-gun shot fair and true, With the heave of the ship, to the stainless blue, And the great *stern-turret stuck. 1849 W. S. MAYO *Kaloolah* vi. (1850) 50 The savage wielding the *stern paddle of the foremost canoe. 1905 A. R. WALLACE *My Life* II. xxxi. 139 We saw one of the old-fashioned stern-paddle steamboats. 1890 W. J. GORDON *Foundry* 70 The tip only of the *stern-plate rivets is heated. 1890 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 4 Oct. 7/1 It was astonishing to see the..cable..bob under the dynamometer, and up over the *stern-sheave, and finally dive into the water. 1875 BEDFORD *Sailor's Pocket Bk.* vi. (ed. 2) 216 Take the tow-line to the after thwart or foremost *stern-sling bolt. 1834 MARRYAT *P. Simple* XXXII, Brigs having no *stern-windows, of course she could not see my manœuvre.

8. Special comb.: **† stern-bearer**, a rudder-bearer, ship; **stern-boat**, (*a*) a boat hanging at a ship's stern; (*b*) an attendant boat following astern; **stern-frame**, (*a*) the framework of a ship's stern; (*b*) (see quot. 1908); **stern-gallery** (see GALLERY 2 d); **stern-knee**, = STERNSON; **stern-ladder** (see quots.); **stern-line**, = STERNFAST; **stern-locker** (see LOCKER *sb.*[1] III.); **stern-notch**, a notch cut in the topmost plank of a boat's stern to receive an oar used in sculling or steering; **stern-ornament**, (*a*) an ornament on a vessel's stern; (*b*) *jocularly*, the tail of an animal; **stern-piece**, † (*a*) a gun mounted in the stern; (*b*) a flat piece of wood to which the side planks of a ship or boat are brought, so that it terminates the hull behind; **stern-port**, a port or window in the stern of a vessel; **stern-race**, a race in which one boat closely follows another without being able to overtake it; **stern-rail**, (*a*) an ornamental moulding on a ship's stern; (*b*) the rail placed about the deck at the stern; **stern-rudder**, the rudder at the stern, as distinguished from the *bow-rudder* with which some craft are fitted; **stern sea**, a sea which beats upon a ship's stern; a following sea; **stern shot**, a shot at the buttocks of a fleeing animal; **stern speed**, the speed of a vessel travelling stern-foremost with engines reversed; **stern-timber** (see quots.); **stern tube**, (*a*) the tube in which the propeller-shaft works; (*b*) a tube fitted in the stern of a warship from which torpedoes are discharged; **stern-wager** = *stern-race*; **stern-walk** (see quot. 1867); **stern-way**, the movement of a ship going stern-foremost; also *transf.*; **sternways** *adv.*, in a position or direction facing to the stern; **stern-works**, *jocularly*, the buttocks. Also STERN-BOARD, -CHASE, -CHASER, -FAST, -MAN, -POST, -SHEET, -WHEEL.

1599 NASHE *Lenten Stuff* 20 In M. Hackluits English discoueries I haue not come in ken of one..mediteranean *sternebearer sente from her [Yarmouth's] Zenith or Meridian. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. IV. v, Huge leathern vehicle :—huge Argosy, let us say, or Acapulco-ship; with its heavy *stern-boat of Chaise-and-pair. 1846 A. YOUNG *Naut. Dict.* 40 The jolly-boat..is very commonly called the stern-boat, if hung to davits over the ship's stern. 1815 *Falconer's Dict. Marine* (ed. Burney), **Stern-frame*, in shipbuilding, is that frame of timber which is composed of the stern-post-transoms and fashion-pieces. 1880 *Times* 17 Dec. 5/6 The Persian Monarch..is reported..to be leaking slightly; supposed around the stern frame. 1908 PAASCH *From Keel to Truck* 123 *Stern-frame*..forming in single-screw steamers stern-post, propeller-post, and the connections between them. 1842 DICKENS *Amer. Notes* xi. (1850) 111/1 All this I see as I sit in the little *stern-gallery. 1846 A. YOUNG *Naut. Dict.* 322 *Sternson*, or **Stern-knee*, a piece of compass timber forming a continuation of a vessel's keelson. 1794 *Rigging & Seamanship* I. 234 **Stern-ladders* are made of cable-laid rope. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk., Stern-ladder*, made of ropes with wooden steps, for getting in and out of the boats astern. 1898 *Jrnl. Sch. Geog.* (U.S.) Oct. 306 The vessels..are secured with double bow anchors and usually two *stern lines. 1849 CUPPLES *Green Hand* XVI. (1856) 159 [The bird] was stowed away..into the *stern-locker. 1907 'Q.' (Quiller-Couch) *Poison Isl.* XXV. 240 Slipping a paddle into the *stern-notch, [I] sculled gently for shore. 1885 RIDER HAGGARD *K. Solomon's Mines* iii, As though nature had..stuck the *stern ornaments of a lot of prize bulldogs on to the rumps of the oxen. 1908 PAASCH *From Keel to Truck* 98 Stern ornament. 1622 R. HAWKINS *Voy. S. Sea* liii. 127 Our *stearne peeces were vnprimed. 1626 CAPT. SMITH *Accid. Yng. Seamen* 19 Giue him your stern peeces. 1895 *Outing* XXVI. 382/1 Her [the yacht's] stern-piece is elliptical. 1591 RALEGH in *Last Fight Revenge* (Arb.) 19 Besides those of her *Sterne portes. 1834 MARRYAT *P. Simple* VIII, One of them ere midshipmites has thrown a red hot tater out of the stern-port. 1903 CONRAD & HUEFFER *Romance* II. IV. 83 The stern-ports, glazed in small panes, were black and gleaming in a white framework. 1883 BRINSLEY-RICHARDS *Seven Yrs. Eton* XI. 106 Ricardo and Campbell were gamely rowing a good *stern-race, but no more. 1846 A. YOUNG *Naut. Dict.* 322 **Stern-rails*,.. narrow pieces of projecting plank on which mouldings are raised,—arranged on a vessel's stern and counter in various forms. 1914 *Blackw. Mag.* Feb. 248/2 The finest sight in all the East—Bombay seen over the stern-rail of a P. & O. steamer. 1889 WELCH *Text Bk. Naval Archit.* XIII. 136 The following remarks..will be confined to *stern rudders and the gear for actuating them. 1745 P. THOMAS *Jrnl.*

Anson's Voy. 156 A very great *stern Sea, which staved the Long-boat against the Stern. 1863 W. C. BALDWIN *Afr. Hunting* v. 130 He [the rhinoceros] suddenly made right off, and I had only a *stern shot left me. 1904 *Westm. Gaz.* 26 Sept 6/2 For moderate speeds astern a reversing turbine was adequate, but for high *stern speeds a reciprocating engine was preferable. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XVII. 398/2 A curve described through the several points thus set off will be the representative of the *stern timber. 1846 A. YOUNG *Naut. Dict.* 342 *Stern-timbers*, a general name given to all the timbers in the stern-frame. 1883 CLARK RUSSELL *Sailor's Lang.*, **Stern-tube*, a cylinder in the after peak of a steamer in which the propeller shaft works. 1912 *Times* 19 Dec. 20/2 Portuguese s. *Beira*.. with propeller shaft port engine broken and stern tube cracked or broken. 1914 DOMVILLE-FIFE *Submarine in War* 144 The submarine might..then fire her stern tubes at close range. 1852 J. F. BATEMAN *Aquatic Notes* 74 The Cambridge men..rowed a very plucky *stern-wager. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.*, **Stern-walk*, the old galleries formerly used to line-of-battle ships. 1893 *Daily News* 18 July 6/1 Looking out of a stern port into the stern walk. 1915 'BARTIMEUS' *Naval Occas.* 161 While under the stern-walk a flock of gulls screeched and quarrelled. 1769 FALCONER *Dict. Marine* (1780) s. v. *Aback*, The sails..are laid aback,..to give the ship *stern-way. 1865 *Daily Tel.* 16 Oct. 4/4 The steersmen of the public schools perceived that they were making stern-way; the age was overhauling them. 1875 BEDFORD *Sailor's Pocket Bk.* vi. 179 Before going alongside a vessel.., observe if she have head or sternway. 1872 EARL OF PEMBROKE & G. H. KINGSLEY *S. Sea Bubbles* i. 8 Some [fish]..swimming or floating frontways, *sternways, sideways, with apparently equal ease and partiality. 1879 STEVENSON *Trav. Cevennes* (1886) 17 Plucking a switch out of a thicket, he began to lace Modestine about the *stern-works.

Stern (stɔrn), *a.* (*sb.*[4] and *adv.*) Forms: *α.* 1 **styrne**, 3–5 **sturne**, 3 **stuyrne**, 4–5 **stuerne**, 5 **stourne**; 4 **sturen**, 5 **stürun**; *β.* 3 *Orm.* **stirne**, 5 **styrn**; 5 **stirrun**; *γ.* 2 *Kent.* **stiarne**; *δ.* 3 **steorne**, 4–5 **steerne**, **styerne**, **stiern**(**e**, **steirne**; 4–5 **steren**(**e**, **-in**, **-yn**(**e**, **-ynne**; 6 **stearne**, 3–7 **sterne**, 4– **stern**. [OE. (WS.) *styrne*, earlier **stierne* evidenced by *stiernlice*; see STERNLY *adv.* The ME. forms, particularly Ormin's *stirne* (cf. *hirde* from Anglian *hiorde*), point to an OTeut. type **sternjo-*, which is represented only in English.

The Indogermanic root **ster-*: **stor-* is represented in several words with the sense 'hard, rigid,' or the like, e. g. Gr. στερεός solid, G. *starr* stiff, rigid; cf. STARE *v.*]

A. *adj.*

1. Of persons and things personified, their dispositions and temper: Severe, strict, inflexible; rigorous in punishment or condemnation; not inclined to leniency.

a 1000 *Cædmon's Gen.* (Gr.) 60 Hæfde styrne mod ȝegremod grymme. *a* 1122 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1070, He wæs swiðe styrne man. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 268 Rihtwisnesse, he seið, mot beon nede sturne. *Ibid.* 366 Ase þe moder þet is reouðful deð hire bitweonen hire childe & þe wroðe sturne ueder, hwon he wule beaten. 1340 *Ayenb.* 130 Þou sselt uinde þane domes man zuo sterne and zuo stout and zuo strayt an zuo miȝtuol. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Pars. T.* 170 Then shal the stierne and wrothe Iuge sitte aboue. *c* 1475 *Partenay* 5730 Both stourne men & meke. 1607 SHAKS. *Cor.* IV. i. 24 My (sometime) Generall, I haue seene the sterne. 1776 GIBBON *Decl. & Fall* xiv. I. 401 The stern temper of Galerius was cast in a very different mould; and while he commanded the esteem of his subjects, he seldom condescended to solicit their affections. 1781 COWPER *Conversat.* 850 As stern Elijah said of old. 1841 W. SPALDING *Italy & Ital. Isl.* II. 341 A characteristic likeness of the stern, ambitious, military old bishop.

• *absol.* 1820 SHELLEY *Prometh. Unb.* I. i. 537 The spell Which must bend the Invincible, The stern of thought. 1850 TENNYSON *In Mem.* cx. 9 The stern were mild when thou wert by.

b. Const. *with*, *to*, *towards*. (OE. dative.)

a 1023 WULFSTAN *Hom.* (1883) 267/1 And æȝðer he sceal beon mid rihte ȝe milde ȝe reðe, milde þam godum and styrne þam yfelum. *c* 1205 LAY. 3228 Hire fader hire wes sturne. *Ibid.* 6586 Wið þa goden he wes duhti and sturne [*c* 1275 sterne] wið þa dusie. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 4951 King cadwal to him to sturne verst nas. *a* 1547 SURREY *Æneis* II. C ij b, Achilles was to Priam not so stern. 1847 PRESCOTT *Peru* (1850) II. 72 He was..towards his own people stern even to severity. 1900 *New Cent. Rev.* VII. 401 They have to be stern with applicants who have grown up under a lax system.

c. Rigorous in morals or principles; uncompromising, austere.

c 1374 CHAUCER *Boeth.* II. met. vii. (1868) 60 What is now brutus or stiern Caton [L. *rigidus Cato*]? 1703 ROWE *Ulyss.* IV. i. 1438 Honour stern, impatient of Neglect. 1742 BLAIR *Grave* 538 The supple Statesman, and the Patriot stern. *a* 1835 HOGG *Tales & Sk.* (1837) VI. 12 Lord Nithsdale, who was a stern Catholic. 1837 WORDSW. *Cuckoo at Laverna* 34 A few Monks, a stern society, Dead to the world and scorning earth-born joys. 1911 *Contemp. Rev.* May 577 He was a stern moralist.

d. Of personal attributes, actions, utterances, feelings, etc.: Severe, strict, hard, grim, harsh.

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 428 Uor swuch ouh wummone lore to beon—luuelich & liðe, and seldhwonne sturne. *c* 1380 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* III. 434 Not for his lordship ne his sterne power. 1687 DRYDEN *Hind & P.* II. 506 But when the stern conditions were declar'd, A mournful whisper through the host was heard. 1777 POTTER *Æschylus, Prometh. Chain'd* 14 Is there a god, whose sullen soul Feels a stern joy in thy despair? 1814 WORDSW. *Laodamia* 55 But thou, though capable of sternest deed, Wert kind as resolute. 1820 W. IRVING *Sketch Bk.* I. 143 Even his enemies lamented the stern policy that dictated his execution. 1856 KANE *Arctic Expl.* II. viii. 90 Desertion, or the attempt to desert, shall be met at once by the sternest penalty. 1892 *Verney Mem.* I. 343 The stern solemnity of the speakers.

†**2.** Resolute in battle, steadfast, fiercely brave, bold. *Obs.*

c 1205 LAY. 31471 Ah Oswi wes cniht sturne. *a* 1300 *K. Horn* 877 (Camb. MS.) Þe paens þat er were so sturne, Hi gunne awei vrne. *c* 1350 *Will. Palerne* 3409 A ful breme bataile bi-gan þat ilk time, Whan eþer sides a-sembled of þo segges sturne. ?*a* 1400 *Morte Arth.* 157 Take kepe to thoos lordez, To styghtylle tha steryne mene as theire statte askys. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 3960 Polidamas..A full strong man in stoure, sturnyst in Armys. *c* 1450 HOLLAND *Howlat* 652 Thar was ..Stanchalis, steropis strecht to thai stern lordis.

b. Of battle, debate and the like: Stubbornly-contested, fierce, hard.

c 1205 LAY. 20774 þer gode cnihtes cumeð to sturne fihte. *c* 1395 *Plowman's Tale* 1 in *Polit. Poems* (Rolls) I. 304 A sterne strife is stirred newe. 1422 YONGE tr. *Secreta Secret.* 174 Steryn battaill he yaue. 1579 SPENSER *Sheph. Cal.* Feb. 149 Stirring vp sterne strife. 1607 CHAPMAN *Bussy d'Ambois* II. i. 32 His friends and enemies; whose stern fight I saw. 1777 POTTER *Æschylus, Prometh. Chained* 16 When stern debate amongst the gods appear'd And discord in the courts of heav'n was rous'd. 1876 BLACKIE *Songs Relig.* 182, I must go and do stern battle With herds of stiff-necked human cattle.

c. In alliterative verse and phrases, often with sense weakened, or influenced by the words with which it is coupled: as † *stern on steed*, † *stern in steel*, † *stern in stour*; † *stern of state*, high in rank; † *stern and stout*; † *a stern steed*, a fiery steed.

c 1300 *Leg. Gregory* (Schulz) 883 þe housbond was stern and stout. 13.. *Sir Beues* 4500 He armede him in yrene wede And lep vpon a sterne stede. 1340–70 *Alex. & Dind.* 429 Non is sternere of stat ne stouter þan oþir. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Knt.'s T.* 1296 Armed ful wel, with hertes stierne and stoute. ?*a* 1400 *Morte Arth.* 3872 He was the sterynneste in stoure that euer stele werryde. *c* 1400 *Aunturs of Arth.* 391 (Thornton MS.) In stele was he stuffede, þat steryne was one stede. *c* 1420 *Avow. Arth.* xii, He had drede, and doute, Of him that was stirrun, and stowte. *a* 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* xxvii. 81 He went agane to bene bespewit, So stern he wes in steill. 1576 GASCOIGNE *Philomene* Wks. 1910 II. 194 Or if (quoth she) there bee Some other meane more sure, More stearne, more stoute, than naked sword.

†**3.** In a bad sense: Merciless, cruel. *Obs.*

c 1205 LAY. 25840 He wende to finden þene feond sturne. *c* 1290 *St. Kenelm* 202 in *S. Eng. Leg.* 351 And bi-cam stuyrne and bi-ladde hire men harde with muche wrech-hede. *c* 1374 CHAUCER *Troylus* IV. 94 O sterne and cruwel fader þat I was. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) III. 71 For drede of lyouns þat were cruel and sterne. *c* 1400 *Brut* XXX. 29 Artogaile..bicome so wickede and so sterne, þat þe Britons wolde nou3t suffre hym to bene kyng. 1555 WATREMAN *Fardle Facions* I. iii. 35 Thei ware sterne, and vnruly, and bruteshely liued. 1590 SHAKS. *Mids. N.* III. ii. 59 Pierst through the heart with your stearne cruelty. 1593 — *2 Hen. VI*, III. ii. 213 Thy Mother tooke into her blamefull Bed Some sterne vntutur'd Churle. 1600 — *Sonn.* XCVI, How many Lambs might the sterne Wolfe betray.

4. Of looks, bearing, gait: Indicating a stern disposition or mood; expressing grave displeasure; resolute, austere, gloomy.

1390 GOWER *Conf.* III. 289 The king declareth him the cas With sturne lok and sturdi chiere. 1400–20 LYDG. *Thebes* 2118 And in despit who that was lief or loth, A sterne pas thorgh the halle he goth. *c* 1470 *Gol. & Gaw.* 616 On twa stedis thai straid, with ane sterne schiere. 1581 A. HALL *Iliad* VII. 127 His countenaunce stout, his sterne martch, when they saw in such sort,.. they doe beginne to ioye. 1591 LODGE *Catharos* B 1 b, The still streame is deepest, & the stearne looke doublest. 1600 SHAKS. *A. Y. L.* IV. iii. 9 As I guesse By the sterne brow and waspish action..It beares an angry tenure. 1634 MILTON *Comus* 446 Gods and men Fear'd her stern frown. 1770 GOLDSM. *Des. Vill.* 197 A man severe he was, and stern to view. 1818 SHELLEY *Rosal. & Helen* 330 With the stern step of vanquished will. 1881 LADY HERBERT *Edith* I. 18 Graver and sterner grew Mr. Gordon's face. 1890 DOYLE *White Company* vi, The soldier stood in front of them with stern eyes, checking off their several packages.

†**b.** Terrible or threatening in aspect. *Obs.*

c 1205 LAY. 17873 Com of þan steore a leome swiðe sturne. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 474/2 Sterne, or dredeful in syghte, *terribilis, horribilis*. *c* 1450 *Merlin* iii. 43 He come to hem like a begger,..and hadde a grym berde and steirne loke. 1573 BARET *Alv.* S. 758 Sterne, cruell & sturdie in lookes, grimme, terrible, fell, *toruus*.

c. *transf.* Of a building: Severe in style; gloomy or forbidding in aspect. Cf. 7.

1822 SCOTT *Peveril* xxxvi, Julian, who was led along the same stern passages which he had traversed upon his entrance, to the gate of the prison. 1833 WORDSW. *Lowther* 3 Lowther! in thy majestic Pile are seen Cathedral pomp and grace, in apt accord With the baronial castle's sterner mien. 1872 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* (1876) IV. xix. 395 Paul..reared the vastest and sternest temple of his age.

5. Of the voice: Expressive of a stern disposition or mood. (Cf. 6 c.)

c 1330 *Spec. Gy de Warw.* 446 Wid sterne voiz and wid heie. *a* 1400–50 *Wars Alex.* 611 His steuen stiffe was [and] steryn þat stonayd many. 1817 SCOTT *Harold Dauntless* II. vii, Stern accents made his pleasure known, Though then he used his gentlest tone. 1820 — *Monast.* xix, Father Eustace..addressing Halbert in a stern and severe voice.

6. Of things, in various transferred uses.

†**a.** Of blows, weapons: Inflicting severe pain or injury. *Obs.*

c 1025 in Napier *OE. Glosses* 56/112 *Asperis* (*uerberibus seu liuidis*), styr[num] *vel* tear[tum]. *a* 1175 *Cott. Hom.* 231 Mid gode repples and stiarne swepen. *Ibid.* 239 þe were-ȝede gastes þe hine uniredlice underfangeð mid stiarne swupen. *a* 1400 *Leg. Rood* 184 þe hamur bothe sterne and gret þat drof þe nayles þorow hond and fete. 1615 CHAPMAN *Odyss.* XIV. 375 About whom Mischiefe stood And with his stern steele, drew in streames the blood. 1805 SCOTT *Last Minstr.* III. vi, Stern was the dint The Borderer lent!

b. Of grief or pain: Oppressive, hard to bear.

c 1300 *Leg. Gregory* (Schulz) 174 Hir sorwe was strong and sterne. 1811 SHELLEY *Bereav.* 1 How stern are the woes of the desolate mourner.

†**c.** Of sound: Harsh, menacing (cf. 5). *Obs.*

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 1402 Sturnen-[? *read* sturne] trumpen strake steuen in halle. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 113 A trompe with a sterne breth, Which cleped was the Trompe of death.

†**d.** Of the weather: Severe, causing hardship.

c 1449 PECOCK *Repr.* II. ii. 146 To couere him fro reyne and fro othir sturne wedris. 1605 SHAKS. *Lear* III. vii. 63 If Wolues had at thy Gate howl'd that sterne time, Thou should'st haue said, good Porter turne the Key. *c* 1611 CHAPMAN *Iliad* XXIV. 332 In this so sterne a Time Of night, and danger.

†**e.** Of a stream, a wind: Strong, violent. *Obs.*

13.. *Guy Warw.* 5840 He com to a water sterne. *c* 1374 CHAUCER *Troylus* III. 743 The sterne wynd so lowde gan to route That no wight oþer noyse myghte here. 1426 LYDG. *De Guil. Pilgr.* 55 Lyk a Ryuer sterne, and of gret myght, He restyth nat nouther day nor nyght.

†**f.** Formidable in bulk, massive. *Obs.*

13.. *Gaw & Gr. Knt.* 143 For of bak & of brest al were his bodi sturne, Bot his wombe & his wast were worthily smale. *c* 1394 *P. Pl. Crede* 214 And all strong ston wall sterne opon heiþe.

7. Of a country, or its physical features, the soil, etc. (with fig. notion of senses 1 and 4): Unkindly, inhospitable; destitute of amenity; forbidding in aspect, frowning, gloomy.

1812 BYRON *Ch. Har.* II. xlii, Stern Albania's hills. 1814 WORDSW. *Excurs.* II. 92 Mountains stern and desolate. 1836 W. IRVING *Astoria* I. vii. 116 The Tonquin ploughed her course towards the sterner regions of the Pacific. 1869 TOZER *Highl. Turkey* I. 196 The wild stern regions of European Turkey. 1884 P'CESS ALICE *Mem.* 5 The sterner scenery of the Scotch Highlands. *a* 1894 STEVENSON *In South Seas* II. ii. (1900) 154 The coco-palm in particular luxuriates in that stern *solum*.

8. Of circumstances and conditions, oppressive, compelling, hard, inexorable; esp. in the phrases *stern necessity*, *stern reality*.

1830 CARLYLE *Richter Again* Ess. 1840 II. 309 Poverty of a sterner sort than this would have been a light matter to him. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* vii. II. 193 The great enterprise to which a stern necessity afterwards drove him. 1854 *Poultry Chron.* I. 92 It is useless to deny the stern fact, that [etc.]. 1856 FROUDE *Hist. Eng.* (1858) II. vii. 174 The times were too stern to admit of nice distinctions. 1912 *Standard* 20 Sept. 7/3 This is no flight of imagination; it is stern reality.

9. *Comb.* **a.** parasynthetic formations, as *stern-browed*, *-eyed*, *-faced*, *-featured*, *-gated*, *-lipped*, *-visaged* adjs.; **b.** complemental, as *stern-born*, *-issuing*, *-looking*, *-sounding* adjs.

1594 KYD *Cornelia* IV. i. 167 Braue Romaine Soldiers, sterne-borne sons of Mars. 1597 DRAYTON *Heroical Ep., Mortimer to Q. Isab.* 87 And we will turne sterne-visag'd Furie backe. 1648 J. BEAUMONT *Psyche* XVII. xlvi, The bold impetuousness Of stern-fac'd Mamalukes. 1725 POPE *Odyss.* VIII. 564 He sung the Greeks stern-issuing from the steed. 1776 MICKLE *Lusiad* III. (1778) 99 The stern-brow'd tyrant roars and tears the ground. 1787 POLWHELE *Engl. Orator* II. 4 A Warrior-Brood Stern-featur'd. 1825 J. NEAL *Bro. Jonathan* I. 151 Six evangelical, stern-looking men. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. VI. iii, They roll through the streets, with stern-sounding music. 1870 BRYANT *Iliad* XX. 50 Vulcan ..Strong and stern-eyed. *a* 1900 S. CRANE *Gt. Battles* (1901) 206 That curious stern-lipped stupidity.

†**B.** *sb.* In alliterative verse: A stern or bold man. *Obs.*

13.. *Gaw. & Gr. Knt.* 214 þe stele of a stif staf þe sturne hit bi-grypte. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 567 Ye may strive with no stuerne but of your strenght nobill. *c* 1400 *Aunturs of Arth.* 532 (Douce MS.) þe sturne strikes one stray. *c* 1470 *Gol. & Gaw.* 19 Mony sterne our the sweit sterlis on stray.

C. *adv.* or *quasi-adv.* Sternly, resolutely, severely, harshly.

a 1175 *Cott. Hom.* 231 ȝief he fend were, me sceolden anon eter [= et þer] gat ȝemete..and stiarne hine besie. *c* 1200 ORMIN 15514 He þratte stirne wind o sæ & itte warrþ stille & liþe. *c* 1250 *Owl & Night.* 112 þe faukun.. lude yal and sturne chidde. 1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. XV. 248 Noyther he..Lakketh, ne loseth ne loketh vp sterne. *c* 1450 *Mirk's Festial* 300 God lokud so sterne on hym. 1581 A. HALL *Iliad* I. 12 Thereby displeasing Agamemn, himselfe so gloriously And sterne who beares. 16.. in *Peasants' Rising* (1899) 49 The said maior beareth him so sterne and hawty. 1637 MILTON *Lycidas* 112 He shook his Miter'd locks, and stern bespake.

Comb. 1727 BROOME *Poems* 223 The dreadful Brotherhood stern-frowning stands. 1912 *Contemp. Rev.* Nov. 688 His stern-set, deep-lined mouth.

Stern (stɔrn), *v.*[1] [f. STERN *sb.*[3]; cf. ON. *stjórna*.]

†**1.** *trans.* and *intr.* To steer, govern. *Obs.*

14.. *Lat.-Eng. Voc.* in WR.-WÜLCKER 605/27 *Proreto*, to sterne or to stere out. 1577–86 STANYHURST *Descr. Irel.* iii. 26/1 in *Holinshed*, A castell..which is a notable marke for pilots, in directing them which waie to sterne their ships. 1615 I. BARGRAVE *Serm.* E 2, There was need of a skilfull pilot to rule and sterne the ship of State. 1648 *Royalist's Def.* 86 Suppose three single persons had jointly the Soveraigne power of government, no man can imagine, but that they would..sterne severall wayes.

2. *trans.* To propel a boat stern foremost; also *intr.* to go stern foremost.

• In this sense developed from the whaling term *stern all*, the order to back off after an harpoon has been entered, where *stern* originally = ASTERN.

[1823 J. F. Cooper *Pilot* xvii, 'Starn all!' 'Stern all!' echoed Barnstable. *Ibid.*, 'Starn off, sir, starn off! the creater's in his flurry.'] 1845 J. Coulter *Adv. Pacific* vii. 86 In I darted both irons with all my force—'stern all'—and stern they did quickly enough. 1892 F. M. Crawford *Childr. King* (1893) I. 70 The dingy came rapidly back and the sailor sterned her to the rock for the boys to get in. 1904 F. T. Bullen *Creatures of Sea* xix. 270 He [the swordfish] sterns clear, describes a great circle and..again buries his weapon deep in its vitals.

3. To place astern, in the phrase '*stern the buoy*' (see quot.).

1711 *Milit. & Sea Dict.* s.v. *Buoy*, *Stern the Buoy*; that is, before they let the Anchor fall, whilst the Ship has Way, they put the Buoy into the Water, so that the Buoy-Rope may be stretch'd out strait, that so the Anchor may fall clear from entangling it self with the Buoy-Rope.

4. To cut off the tail of (a dog); see Stern *sb.*[3] 4.

1858 Lewis in *Youatt's Dog* (N. Y.) v. 170 The often absurd fancy of cropping and sterning dogs.

Hence †**Ste·rning** *vbl. sb.* steering, guidance. Also †**Ste·rner**, pilot, director.

a 1634 R. Clerke *Serm.* ii. (1637) 15 He that is *Regens Sidera*,..the Sterner of the Starres. 1638 R. Baker tr. *Balzac's Lett.* (vol. III.) 230, I leave you liberty..to saile with the wind. Nothing but good success can be expected from your sterning.

†**Stern,** *v.*[2] *Obs. rare*—[1]. [app. ad. L. *sternĕre*.] *trans.* To cast down.

1599 A. Hume *Poems* ii. 168 All things beneth the voult of heuin are sterned vnder feit.

Stern, *v.*[3] *rare*—[1]. [f. Stern *a.*] *trans.* To make stern.

1722 W. Hamilton *Wallace* 77 Wallace stern'd his Brow and cry'd My Life alone shall the long Strife decide.

Sterna, plural of Sternum.

Sternad (stō·mæd), *adv. Anat.* [f. Stern-um + *-ad*: see Dextrad.] Towards the sternum or the sternal aspect.

1803 J. Barclay *New Anat. Nomencl.* 166 Sternad [will signify] towards the sternal [aspect]. 1808 — *Muscular Motions* 237 This vein..advances sternad, sinistrad, and sacrad. *Ibid.* 333 The dorsal muscles are more numerous, more powerful..than their antagonists which are situated sternad. 1814 J. H. Wishart tr. *Scarpa's Treat. Hernia* Mem. I. 19 The aponeurosis..attached anteriorly [*note* Sternad] to the *linea alba*.

†**Ste·rnage,** *sb. rare*—[1]. [f. Stern *sb.*[3] + -age.] The sterns of a fleet collectively.

1599 Shaks. *Hen. V*, III. Prol. 18 Follow, follow: Grapple your minds to sternage of this Nauie.

Sternal (stō·măl), *a.* (*sb.*) *Anat.* and *Zool.* [ad. mod.L. *sternālis*, f. Stern-um: see -al. Cf. F. *sternal*.] **A.** *adj.*

1. Of, pertaining to, or connected with the sternum or breast-bone.

1756 G. Douglas tr. *Winslow's Struct. Hum. Body* (ed. 4) I. 234 The Sternal Portion passes foremost and covers the Clavicular. 1833 Mantell *Geol. S. E. Eng.* 307 A small sternal bone has been discovered. 1835–6 *Todd's Cycl. Anat.* I. 201/2 This sternal plastron is distinctly shewn. 1890 Coues *Ornithol.* 212 Birds offer two leading types of sternal structure, the ratite and the carinate.

2. Situated on the same side as the sternum; anterior (in man) or inferior (in other animals); ventral; hæmal. (Opposed to *dorsal, tergal*, or *neural*.)

1803 J. Barclay *New Anat. Nomencl.* 120 Instead of Anterior and Posterior, we might adopt Sternal and Dorsal. 1814 J. H. Wishart tr. *Scarpa's Treat. Hernia* Mem. I. 34 The anterior surface [*note*, Sternal Aspect] of the abdomen.

3. Of or pertaining to a sternum or sternite in Arthropoda; sternitic. (Often coinciding with 2.)

1835 Kirby *Habits & Inst. Anim.* II. xvi. 89 A bilobed organ which Savigny calls a sternal tongue. 1852 Dana *Crustacea* I. 20 Each of these rings consists normally of eight parts or segments,—two below, called sternal, two above, called dorsal, [etc.]. 1880 Huxley *Cray-Fish* 20 Its under, or what is better called its sternal surface.

B. as *sb.* A sternal bone.

1901 Hatcher in *Mem. Carnegie Mus.* I. I. 40 Taken together the sternals of *Diplodocus* would thus form a shallow raft-like sternum.

Sternalgia: see Sterno-.

Sternbergite (stō·mbəɪgəit). *Min.* [Named by Haidinger in honour of Count Caspar *Sternberg*: see -ite.] A native sulphide of silver and iron, occurring in brown flexible laminæ with metallic lustre.

1826 Haidinger in *Edin. Jrnl. Sci.* (1827) VII. 242. 1850 Ansted *Elem. Geol., Min. etc.* 226 *Sternbergite*, Sulphuret of silver and iron ($Ag S_2 + 4 FS$).

Ste·rn-boa·rd[1]. [f. Stern *sb.*[3] + Board *sb.*[1]]

1. A board forming the flat part of the stern of a small vessel, punt, etc.

1849 Cupples *Green Hand* xvi. (1856) 160 The stern-board of some small vessel or other. 1863 Atkinson *Stanton Grange* (1864) 104 Working the stern-board in was the worst piece of the whole work to do.

b. *transf.* The tail-board of a cart.

1887 Hall Caine *Deemster* xxxvi, Carts were tipped up in corners, and their stores..were guarded by a boy.., who sat on the sternboard.

2. *Naut.* In phrase *to make a stern-board*, to go backwards as the result of tacking; also, to force a ship astern with the sails.

1815 *Falconer's Dict. Marine* (ed. Burney) s.v. *Board*, *To make a stern Board*, (*faire culer*, Fr.), is when, by a current, or any other accident, the vessel has fallen back from the point she has gained on the last tack, instead of having advanced beyond it. 1883 *Man. Seamanship* (1886) 147 *Making a stern board.* It is effected by throwing the sails aback. 1897 Ansted *Dict. Sea Terms* 271 Her next course must be in a direction W.S.W...which is actually going backwards, or in other words, she then makes a stern board.

Ste·rnboard[2]. *Obs.* In 6 **sterneborde.** [Prob. an alteration of *stereborde* Starboard after Stern *sb.*[3] The coincidence with ON. *stjórnborðe* starboard is prob. accidental.] ? = Starboard.

In quot. a mistranslation; the original has *a la proa del navio*, to the prow of the ship.

1588 Parke tr. *Mendoza's Hist. China* 343 There was a marriner commanded by the captaine of the ship, to keepe the sterneborde side.

Ste·rn-cha·se. *Naut.* [f. Stern *sb.*[3] + Chase *sb.*[1]]

1. A chase in which the pursuing ship follows directly in the wake of the pursued.

1627 Capt. Smith *Sea Gram.* xii. 57 If he be right a-head of you, that is called a Stern-chase. 1722 De Foe *Col. Jack* (1840) 298 We gave them [the other ships] what they call a stern chase, and they worked hard to come up with us. 1915 *Land & Water* 14 Aug. 36*/2 The German battle-cruisers..had a fourteen-miles start of the British squadron, and Admiral Beatty settled down at once to a stern chase at top speed.

Proverb. 1849 Lever *Con Cregan* I. xx. 331 The sailor's adage says 'that a stern chase is a long chase,' and so it is.

b. *transf.*

1863 W. C. Baldwin *Afr. Hunting* vi. 182 Swartz and Kleinboy were soon in the saddle, and the former killed a fat cow [giraffe], after a very long stern chase.

2. The chase (Chase *sb.*[1] 6) or chase-guns arming the stern of a war-ship. ? *Obs.*

1679 *Observ. Last Dutch Wars* 10 Let us keep our Stern chace out against another Enemy. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* III. viii. 501 The galeon returned the fire with two of her stern-chace. 1798 in Nicolas *Disp. Nelson* (1846) VII. p. clx, The Tonnant firing into her [the Majestic's] quarter with her stern chase raked her with great effect.

attrib. 1790 Beatson *Nav. & Milit. Mem.* II. 317 Captain Jekyl..was obliged to fire from both broadsides and stern-chase guns at the same time.

Ste·rn-cha·ser. *Naut.*

1. A gun belonging to the Stern-chase (sense 2).

1815 Scott *Guy M.* ix, They saw a lugger..closely pursued by a sloop of war, that kept firing upon the chase from her bows, which the lugger returned with her stern-chasers. 1833 M. Scott *Tom Cringle* xv. (1842) 380 He worked his two stern chasers with great determination.

b. *jocularly.* A firearm discharged at a pursuer.

1835 W. Irving *Tour Prairies* xxx. 283 The worthy Commissioner..drew his sole pistol from his holster, fired it off as a stern-chaser, shot the buffalo full in the breast, [etc.].

2. The hindmost vessel in a race.

1883 *Times* 27 Aug. 8/2 The Lorna [yacht]..was weathered again by the little craft and was sternchaser.

‖ **Sternebra** (stō·mɪbră). *Anat.* Pl. **-æ** (**-ī**). [mod.L. f. Stern-um, with ending of Vertebra.] Any one of the segments of the sternum or breast-bone, each corresponding to a pair of ribs. Also (in some recent Dicts.) in anglicized form **sterneber.**

1881 Mivart *Cat* 50 It..consists of a chain of eight bones, called sternebræ. 1888 Rolleston & Jackson *Forms Anim. Life* 362 The last sternebra..sometimes..giving attachment to more than one pair of ribs.

Hence **Ste·rnebral** *a.*, pertaining to or constituting a sternebra. In recent Dicts.

†**Sterned,** *a.*[1] *Obs.* Also 6 *Sc.* **sternit.** [f. Stern *sb.*[2] + -ed [2].] = Starred.

1340 Hampole *Pr. Consc.* 7571 Ane es þat we þe sterned heven calle, þare þe planetes and þe sternes er alle. 1513 Douglas *Æneis* v. xiv. 22 The sternit hevin.

Sterned (stō·ɪnd), *a.*[2] [f. Stern *sb.*[3] + -ed [2].] Having a stern. Only as second element in parasynthetic formations like *black-sterned*, Pink-sterned.

c 1611 Chapman *Iliad* xi. 740 But take me to thy blacke sternd ship. 1711 W. Sutherland *Shipbuild. Assist.* 6 In Square Stern'd Ships.

Sterner: see under Stern *v.*[1]

†**Ste·rnet,** *sb. rare*—[1]. [f. Stern *sb.*[1] + -et.] Some species of stern or tern.

1638 W. Lisle *Heliodorus* I. 8 The Swan both swimming there, and flying freely, The loftie Sternet crying t'Ely, t'Ely.

Stern-fast. *Naut.* [f. Stern *sb.*[3] + Fast *sb.*[2]] A rope by which a vessel's stern is moored.

c 1569 [see Headfast]. 1627 Capt. Smith *Sea Gram.* VII. 30 A Brest-fast is a rope which is fastened to some part of the Ship forward on, to hold her head to a wharfe or any thing, and a Sterne-fast is the same in the Sterne. 1797 S. James *Narr. Voy.* 131 The man..at the time the painter broke, called for another rope, or sternfast. 1835 Marryat *Olla Podr.* iii, The stern-fast was thrown on the quay. 1911 *Contemp. Rev.* Mar. 283 The boats are either jambed up against her up-stream side or tailing off from their painters and stern-fasts on the down.

Sternful (stō·mful), *a.* [f. Stern *a.* + -ful.] Full of sternness, severe, bold. *Obs.* or *arch.*

a? *a* 1400 *Morte Arth.* 2692 Thane stirttes to his sterape sterynfulle Knyghttez. *Ibid.* 3822 He stekys stedis in stoure, and sterenfulle Knyghttes. *a* 1500 *Medulla Gram., Austerus*, smert or sternfull. 1849 J. A. Cameron *Monks of Grange* I Brave warders all, with sword and lance That guard it round with sternful glance.

Hence † **Ste·rnfully** *adv. rare*—[1], fiercely.

1582 Stanyhurst *Æneis* etc. (Arb.) 138 For Mars they be sternfulye flayling Hudge spoaks and chariots.

†**Ste·rnhead.** *Obs. rare.* [f. Stern *a.* + -head.] Sternness, severity.

1297 R. Glouc. (Rolls) 2806 Rome ssal is sturnede Douty & quaky þeruore. *Ibid.* 7603 Ac to men þat him wiþsede to alle sturnhede he drou.

Sterniform (stō·mifɔɪm), *a. Ent.* [f. Stern-um + -(i)form.] Having the form of a sternum or sternite; applied to a process (*sterniform process* or *horn*) of the first ventral segment of the abdomen in insects, also called *intercoxal process*.

1826 Kirby & Sp. *Entomol.* xxxvi. III. 709 A sharp sterniform conical horn.

Sternine (stō·mɪin), *a. Ornith.* [ad. mod.L. *Sterninus*, f. *Sterna*.] Belonging to or having the characters of the *Sterninæ* or terns, a subfamily of *Laridæ*, typified by the genus *Sterna*.

1874 Coues *Birds N. W.* 656 Bill..much compressed, very slender and sternine.

Sternite (stō·mɪit). *Zool.* and *Comp. Anat.* [f. Stern-um + -ite.] **a.** The under or ventral part of each somite or segment of the body of an insect or other arthropod: correlated with *tergite* and *pleurite*. **b.** = Sternebra. *rare*—[0]. (In recent Dicts.)

1868 Packard *Guide Study Insects* 9 The typical ring or segment..consists of an upper (tergite), a side (pleurite), and an under piece (sternite). 1882 *Athenæum* 14 Jan. 60/2 The chilaria of Limulus?..are regarded as metathoracic sternites.

Hence **Sternitic** (stəɪnɪ·tik) *a.*, pertaining to a sternite. In recent Dicts.

†**Ste·rnless,** *a. Obs.* [f. Stern *sb.*[3] + -less. Cf. Steerless.] That has no rudder. Also *fig.*

c 1412 Hoccleve *Compl. Virg.* xxxii, (Egerton MS.) And right as that a schippe, or barge or boot Among the wawes dryveth sterneles [*v.r.* steerelees]. 1576 Gosson *Sch. Abuse* etc. (Arb.) 76 The prime of youth..settes up sayle, and sternlesse ship ysteares. 1628 Feltham *Resolves* I. lxxxiv. 239 Drunkennesse, arising from the Grape, is the floating of the sternelesse Sences in a Sea.

Sternly (stō·ɔnli), *adv.* Forms: see Stern *a.* and -ly [2]. In a stern manner (see the senses of the adj.); with sternness of temper, aspect, utterance, etc.; severely, harshly, unbendingly; †fiercely, cruelly; † loudly.

c 897 Ælfred *Gregory's Past. C.* xxviii. 197 Ac he him sona ondwyrde, & him suiðe stiernlice stierde. *c* 1205 Lay. 25240 Þa wes Arðures hired sturneliche awraðed. 1377 Langl. *P. Pl.* B. Prol. 183 A mous..Stroke forth sternly and stode biforn hem alle. *c* 1384 Chaucer *H. Fame* III. 408 (Pepys MS.) A piler..Of yren wrought full sternely [*Bodl.* sturnelye, *Fairf.* sturnely]. *c* 1385 — *L. G. W.* 239 For sternely on me he gan beholde. 1398 Trevisa *Barth. De P. R.* xv. xii. (Tollemache MS.) Þese Goothes were sternely [1495 cruelly] killid. ? *a* 1400 *Morte Arth.* 745 Sterynly thay songene [said of the sailors of a fleet]. 1590 Spenser *F. Q.* II. xi, 37 He..strooke at him so sternely, that he made An open passage through his riven brest. 1615 Chapman *Odyss.* IX. 402 No mountaine Lion tore Two Lambs so sternly. 1671 Milton *P. R.* I. 406 To whom our Saviour sternly thus replied. *a* 1771 Gray *Dante* 56 Father, why, why do you gaze so sternly? 1835 Hawthorne *Tales & Sk., Dr. Bullivant* (1879) 136 We see the mountains rising sternly and with frozen summits up to heaven. 1846 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* vi. II. 147 He was sternly told that his defence was not satisfactory. 1855 Kingsley *Westw. Ho!* xxv, I must be just, and sternly just, to myself, even if God be indulgent. 1911 *Q. Rev.* July 123 The Mildmay household was sternly Puritan.

Comb. 1608 Sylvester *Du Bartas* II. iv. IV. *Decay* 1114 Sternly-valiant to the stubborn-stout. 1808 Wordsw. *George & Sarah Green* 17 Those sternly-featured hills. 1814 — *Excurs.* VI. 853 A sternly-broken vow.

Ste·rnman. Also 7 **sternsman.** [f. Stern *sb.*[3] + man. Cf. Steerman, Steersman.]

†**1.** A steersman, pilot; cf. Stern *sb.*[3] 1. *Obs.*

1582 Batman *Barth. De P. R.* XI. xii. 163 b, The sternman doubteth, and cannot know whetherward he shall stir the ship a right. 1608 Willet *Hexapla Exod.* 50 God as the sternesman that directeth and guideth all. 1625 K. Long tr. *Barclay's Argenis* III. xxi. 217 The rash Sternesman split her dangerously against a hidden Rocke. 1627 W. Sclater *Exp. 2 Thess.* (1629) 147 Before hee hath described the Sternsman, a man of sinne.

2. A man posted in the stern of a boat.

1894 *Outing* XXIV. 189/2 The sternman sits on the gunwale of the extreme end of the craft.

Sternmost (stō·nmoust, -məst), *a.* [f. Stern *sb.*[3] + -most.]

1. Farthest in the rear, last in a line of ships.

1622 R. Hawkins *Voy. S. Sea* iv, 9 The Vice-admirall that should haue beene starnmost of all, was the headmost. 1727 A. Hamilton *New Acc. E. Ind.* II. l. 226, I kept in the headmost Jonk, and a good Officer in the sternmost. 1838 Southey in *Q. Rev.* LXII. 7 Under a press of sail, he came alongside the sternmost ship.

2. Nearest the stern.

1838 *Civil Engin. & Arch. Jrnl.* I. 341/2 Mr. Abbinet, with a magazine of 200 lbs. of powder, blew off about 30 feet of the sternmost part of the wreck. 1914 *Glasgow Herald* 31 Aug. 7 The sternmost funnel was shot clean away.

Sternness (stō·nnés). Forms: *α.* 4–6 **steernesse, stiernesse, sternesse,** 5 **sturnesse**; *β.* 4–5 **sturnenesse, sternenysse,** 7 **sternenes**; 6 **sternesse,** 7– **sternness.** [f. Stern *a.* + -ness.]

1. Severity of disposition or mood; rigour in punishment or condemnation; an instance of this; hardness, harshness, obduracy, †fierceness.

1382 WYCLIF *Ezek.* xxxiv. 4 Bot with steernesse [1388 sturnenesse] ȝe comaundide to hem, and with power. *c* 1400 *Sege Jerus.* (E.E.T.S.) 29/517 Noþer grounded in god, ne on his grace tristen, Bot alle in sterymnes [*v. r.* sternenysse] of stour & in strengþ one. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 363/1 Sternesse, *pertinacia*. *a* 1500 *Medulla Gram.*, *Austeritas*, steernesse or felnesse. 1540–1 ELYOT *Image Gov.* 22 That grauitee and sternesse, whiche is in you, as it were by nature ingenerate. 1692 DRYDEN *Cleomenes* I. i. 7, I have sternness in my Soul enough To hear of Murders, Rapes, and Sacrilege. 1741 RICHARDSON *Pamela* I. 35 She was a little too much frighted, as she owned afterwards, at his Sternness. 1844 MRS. BROWNING *Lay Brown Rosary* I. vi, But his mother was wroth. In a sternness quoth she, 'As thou play'st at the ball, art thou playing with me?' 1885 *Manch. Exam.* 26 Jan. 5/3 It is found compatible with the strictest discipline, and indeed with rhadamanthine sternness. 1914 *Edin. Rev.* Oct. 320 A typical Frenchman..bland and gracious, but with a capacity for sternness.

b. quasi-*concr.*, applied to a goddess.

a 1616 BEAUM. & FL. *Bonduca* III. i, Thou sure-steel'd sternnesse, give us this day good hearts, good enemies.

† **2.** Rigour, inclemency (of climate). *Obs.*

1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) I. 51 And for þe sturnesse of heuene [L. *inclementia caeli*] he haþ þe more wildernes.

3. Of aspect: Severity, formidableness.

1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* II. x. 7 Of stature huge, and eke of courage bold, That sonnes of men amazd their sternnesse to behold. 1611 SHAKS. *Wint. T.* IV. iv. 24 How Should I.. behold The sternnesse of his presence. 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* xxxix, Emily was terrified by the sternness of his look.

b. Of scenery, buildings, etc.: Severity; harshness in nature or aspect.

1812 J. WILSON *Isle of Palms* II. 387 The sternness of this dismal Isle Is soften'd by thy saintly smile. 1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* I. xxvii. 197, I..enjoyed for a time the sternness of the surrounding scene.

Sterno- (stɜ·ɪno), before a vowel **stern-**, combining form repr. Gr. *στέρνον* or L. STERNUM, occurring in several terms, chiefly of anatomy, usually denoting muscles, etc. connected with the sternum and some other part. (Many of these are found in Fr.: see Littré.) ‖ **Sternalgia** (-æ·ldʒiă) [Gr. *ἄλγος* pain], pain in the region of the sternum; *spec.* a synonym for *angina pectoris*; hence **Sterna·lgic** *a.*, pertaining to or affected with sternalgia. **Ste·rnoclavi·cular** *a.*, pertaining to or connecting the sternum and clavicle. **Sternocleidoma·stoid** *a.* [Gr. *κλειδ-*, *κλείς* key, clavicle + MASTOID], connecting the sternum, the clavicle, and the mastoid process of the temporal bone; applied to each of two muscles of the neck which serve to turn and nod the head; also as *sb.* (Also in L. form **-oideus**, pl. **-oidei.**) **Sternoco·stal** *a.* [L. *costa* rib], pertaining to or connecting the sternum and the ribs. **Sterno-glo·ssal** *a.* [Gr. *γλῶσσα* tongue], pertaining to or connecting the sternum and the tongue, as the long retractor muscle of the tongue in the great ant-eater; also as *sb.* **Sterno-hy·oid** *a.*, pertaining to or connecting the sternum and the hyoid bone; name of each of two muscles serving to depress the larynx; also as *sb.* † **Ste·rnomancy** [-MANCY; cf. F. *sternomantie* (Rabelais)], divination by the breast-bone. † **Sternoma·stic** *a.* = next. **Sternoma·stoid** *a.*, pertaining to or connecting the sternum and the mastoid process of the temporal bone; applied to the sternocleidomastoid muscle, or the part of it connected with the sternum (cf. CLEIDOMASTOID); also to an artery supplying this muscle; also as *sb.* (*sc.* muscle). **Ste·rnomaxi·llary** *a.* [L. *maxilla* jaw], pertaining to or connecting the sternum and lower jaw-bone, as the sternomastoid muscle in the horse. **Ste·rnonu·chal** *a.*, pertaining to the sternum and the nape of the neck. **Ste·rnoperica·rdiac, -al** *adjs.*, pertaining to or connecting the sternum and the pericardium. **Ste·rnothere** (-þɪə), *Zool.*, a tortoise of the genus *Sternothærus* [Gr. *θαρός* hinge], characterized by a hinged plastron. **Sternothy·roid** *a.*, pertaining to or connecting the sternum and the thyroid cartilage (also † **sternothyroei·dal**); also as *sb.* (*sc.* muscle). **Ste·rnotribe** *a. Bot.* [Gr. *τρίβειν* to rub], applied to flowers adapted for cross-fertilization by insects, in which the stamens and styles are so arranged as to touch the breast of the insect. **Sterno-ve·rtebral** *a.*, connected with the sternum and the vertebrae.

1822–29 *Good's Study Med.* (ed. 3) I. 660, I have..been under the necessity of giving it a new denomination..., hence the above name of *Sternalgia. Ibid.* II. 443 The pain and struggle..sometimes resemble the signs of sternalgia or angina pectoris. 1840 OWEN in *Penny Cycl.* XVIII. 257/2 For what purpose..were *sterno-clavicular and coracoid arches assigned to the Ichthyosaurus? 1887 *Brit. Med. Jrnl.* I. 279 The angle of the right jaw rested on the sterno-clavicular notch. 1826 S. COOPER *First Lines Surg.* (ed. 5) 408 A rigid contraction of one of the *sterno-cleido-mastoidei. 1831 R. KNOX *Cloquet's Anat.* 27 The aponeuroses of the large pectoral and sterno-cleido-mastoid muscles. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 41 The muscles of the tongue, the masseters, and sterno-cleido-mastoids. 1785 CULLEN *Instit. Med.* I. (ed. 3) 142 The *sterno-costal and infra-costal muscles. 1862 H. W. FULLER *Dis. Chest* 5 The second sterno-costal articulation. 1891 *Century Dict.*, *Sternoglossal. [1693 tr. *Blancard's Phys. Dict.* (ed. 2), *Sternohyoides. 1843 WILKINSON tr. *Swedenborg's Anim. Kingd.* I. i. 20 The sterno-hyoideus.] 1872 MIVART *Elem. Anat.* 287 The sterno-hyoid muscle is a long band which springs from within the sternum or clavicle, and goes to the basi-hyoid. 1875 W. TURNER in *Encycl. Brit.* I. 836/2 The hyoid bone and larynx..can be..drawn downwards by the action of the sterno-hyoids, [etc.]. 1652 GAULE *Magastrom.* xix. 165 *Sternomancy..maketh nothing for thy Advantage, for thou has an ill proportion'd Stomach. 1745 *Gentl. Mag.* XV. 312/1 Behind the *sternomastic muscles. 1835–6 *Todd's Cycl. Anat.* I. 746/1 The *sterno-mastoid and splenius muscles. 1846 BRITTAN tr. *Malgaigne's Man. Oper. Surg.* 114 The anterior surface of this [*sc.* the mastoid] process and the corresponding border of the sterno-mastoid should be grazed. 1880 BARWELL *Aneurism* 72 The sternal and clavicular portions of both sterno-mastoids were widely separated. *Ibid.* 106 The right sterno-mastoid muscle. 1871 HUXLEY *Anat. Vert. Anim.* 353 The anterior portion of the sternomastoid is fixed to the mandible, and thus becomes '*sternomaxillary'. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VI. 865 *Sterno-nuchal or 4th cervical area. 1877 W. TURNER *Introd. Hum. Anat.* II. 396 The *sterno-pericardiac ligaments of Luschka. 1901 DORLAND *Med. Dict.* (ed. 2), *Sternopericardial. 1876 *Nature* XIV. 17/2 Four Blackish *Sternotheres (*Sternotherus subniger*) from Madagascar. [1693 tr. *Blancard's Phys. Dict.* (ed. 2), **Sternothuroeides*, a pair of Muscles of the *Cartilago Scutiformis*, which draw it downward: They arise from the uppermost and inward part of the Breast-Bone.] 1840 E. WILSON *Anat. Vade M.* (1842) 111 The sterno-thyroid muscles. 1872 HUMPHRY *Myology* 111 Occasional inscriptions in the sterno-hyoid and sterno-thyroid. 1681 tr. *Willis' Rem. Med. Wks.* Vocab., *Sternothyroeidal muscle. 1861 R. E. GRANT *Tabular View Rec. Zool.* 18 False ribs anterior to the *sterno-vertebral ribs.

† **Ste·rnon.** *Obs.* [mod.L., a. Gr. *στέρνον*: see STERNUM. Cf. F. † *sternon.*] = STERNUM 1.

1597 A. M. tr. *Guillemeau's Fr. Chirurg.* 7/3 In the middle of anye ribbe or in the sternon. 1676 WISEMAN *Chirurg. Treat.* VII. iv. 485 Another having by accident of a Fall in wrastling, startled the end of the Clavicle from the Sternon. 1682 *Phil. Collect.* XII. 149 He hath..a broad Breast, and a large, firm Sternon.

Ste·rn-post. *Naut.* [f. STERN *sb.*3 + POST *sb.*1] A more or less upright beam, rising from the after end of the keel and supporting the rudder.

1580 H. SMITH in *Hakluyt's Voy.* (1599) I. 448 The William had her sterne post broken. 1627 CAPT. SMITH *Sea Gram.* ii. 2 The Sterne post is another great timber, which is let into the keele..somewhat sloping. 1753 HANWAY *Trav.* (1762) I. III. XXV. 107 The punishment..was to be nailed by the ear to the stern-post of a ship. 1805 SOUTHEY *Madoc* II. XXV. 11 They..Lay down the keel, the stern-post rear, and fix The strong-curved timbers. 1873 *Act* 36 & 37 *Vict.* c. 85 § 3 A scale of feet denoting her draught of water shall be marked on each side of her stem and of her stern post.

† **b.** *jocularly.* The buttocks. *Obs.*

1810 *Naval Chron.* XXIV. 369 Come, Sir, bring him.. along; point your sword in his stern-post.

c. *attrib.*, as *sternpost-knee* (= STERNSON), *tub.*

1845 J. COULTER *Adv. in Pacific* vii. 72 The other [end of the line]..is left hanging out of the sternpost tub. 1681 HAMERSLY *Nav. Encycl.*, Sternpost-knee.

Ste·rn-sheet. *Naut.* [f. STERN *sb.*3 + SHEET *sb.*2; cf. next.

The parallel of FORE-SHEET, which is however comparatively late, suggests that sense 1 is original, and senses 2, 3 secondary with the general signification 'the place from which the mizen-sheets are controlled'. But historical evidence is lacking, and it is not impossible that some other meaning of OE. *scéat* is the basis of senses 2, 3.]

† **1.** *pl.* The ropes controlling the mizen-sail. *Obs.*

1626 CAPT. SMITH *Accid. Yng. Seamen* 15 The misen sheats, are called the starne sheats.

2. *sing.* and *pl.* The internal stern portion of a boat; *spec.* that part abaft the hindmost thwart.

1481 *Cely Papers* (Camden) 71, j pack lyeth yn the sterne shete. 1568 *Adm. Crt. Oyer & Ter.* 75 He was in the said catche [ketch] sittinge in the sterne sheates thereof. *a* 1625 *Nomenclator Navalis* (Harl. MS. 2301) 71 That part with in bord abaft in ye Run of the Shipp is called the Sterne sheats [cf. SHEET *sb.*2 3 quot. 1644.] 1766 SMOLLETT *Trav.* II. 5 There is a tilt over the stern sheets [of the feluca], where the passengers sit. 1875 BEDFORD *Sailor's Pocket Bk.* vi. (ed. 2) 226 A similar locker to be built in the after part of the stern sheet for the officers. 1905 QUILLER-COUCH *Shining Ferry* vii, The party settled themselves in the stern sheets.

3. *pl.* **a.** The flooring boards in the after portion of a boat or small ship.

1644, 1898 [see SHEET *sb.*2 3]. 1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey) s. v. *Sheats, Stern-Sheats*, the Planks that are within board abaft in the Run of the Ship.

b. The seats with which the after portion of a boat is furnished.

1912 'G. A. BIRMINGHAM' *Inviolable Sanctuary* xviii. 280 She herself pulled a spinnaker from beneath the stern-sheets.

Stern-shoots, *sb. pl. Obs.* exc. *dial.* Forms: 7 **sterne-shootes**, 9 *dial.* **stern-shuts.** [f. STERN *sb.*1 + SHOOT *sb.*2] = STERN-SHEET 2.

1633 T. JAMES *Voy.* 70 The lower hole which we had cut in the Sterne-Shootes. 1904 *Eng. Dial. Dict.*, *Stern-shuts*, the place aft in a 'keel' where the 'huddock' is placed.

Sternsman: see STERNMAN 1.

Sternson (stɜ·ɪnsən). *Naut.* [An English formation from STERN *sb.*3 on the analogy of KELSON, KEELSON. For the second element *-son*, see the etymological note *s.v.* KELSON.

Falconet *Dict. Marine* (1769–1815) explains and uses *stemson*, but does not recognize *sternson* as a term for the stern-post knee.]

In a wooden vessel, the knee-shaped timber fitted into the angle formed by the junction of stern-post and kelson in order to secure the joint.

1846 A. YOUNG *Naut. Dict.* 322 *Sternson*, or *Stern knee*, a piece of compass timber forming a contination of a vessel's keelson, and extending over the deadwood to the stern-post, which is secured to it by bolts. *c* 1860 H. STUART *Seaman's Catech.* 66 The 'sternson', or 'inner post'..bears the same relation to the stern post that the stemson does the stem.

b. Sternson-knee (in the same sense).

1849 LONGF. *Build. Ship* 178 Stemson and keelson and sternson-knee.

Sternum (stɜ·ɪnŭm). *Anat.* and *Zool.* Pl. **sterna** or **sternums.** See also STERNON. [mod. L., ad. Gr. *στέρνον* chest, breast. Cf. F. *sternum.*]

1. The breast-bone; a long bone or series of bones, occurring in most vertebrates except snakes and fishes, extending along the middle line of the front or ventral aspect of the trunk, usually articulating with some of the ribs, and with them completing the wall of the thorax.

Occasionally applied to the plastron of a turtle.

1667 *Phil. Trans.* II. 544 Thrust it in about an Inch, directing the end of it toward the Sternum. 1681 GREW *Museum* I. § 2. iii. 43 The fore part of the Sternum [of a Crocodile] is plainly bony. 1793 T. BEDDOES *Lett. to Darwin* 48 She had very acute pain under the sternum. 1802 [C. STEWART] *Elem. Nat. Hist.* I. 272 *Testudo*..3. The land species..; shell convex, joined to the sternum with bony commissures. 1831 R. KNOX *Cloquet's Anat.* 27 The Sternum is composed of three bones placed one above another. These bones are in the adult most commonly joined together. 1890 COUES *Ornithol.* 211 The Avian Sternum..is highly specialised; its extensive development is peculiar to the class of birds.

2. In Arthropoda: The ventral part of the body, or more usually of each somite or segment of the body (= STERNITE); opp. to *tergum.*

1835 J. DUNCAN *Beetles* (Nat. Lib.) 107 The inferior portion of the thorax is composed of a single piece named the sternum, or breastbone. It is much developed in certain tribes, particularly water-beetles. 1881 PACKARD *Zool.* (ed. 3) 329 These parts are respectively called tergite, pleurite, and sternite, while the upper region of the body is called the tergum, the lateral the pleurum, and the ventral or under portion the sternum. 1887 C. L. MORGAN *Anim. Biol.* 263 Ten terga and nine sterna can be made out in the male [cockroach].

† **Sternutament.** *Obs. rare*—1. [ad. L. *sternūtāmentum*, f. *sternūtāre*: see next.] = next.

1677 GALE *Crt. Gentiles* III. i. iii. 65 Casaubon..saith that they received Sternutament with Adoration.

Sternutation (stɜ·mĭŭtē·ʃən). [ad. L. *sternūtātiōnem*, n. of action f. *sternūtāre*, frequentative f. *sternuĕre* to sneeze, cogn. w. Gr. *πτάρνυσθαι* (:—**pstrnu-*) of the same meaning.] The action of sneezing; a sneeze. (Chiefly *Med.* and *Path.*; otherwise, in mod. use, *affected* or *humorous.*)

1545 RAYNALDE *Byrth Mankynde* 124 Infantes..troubled ..with often sternutation and sneesynge. 1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* IV. ix. 199 The custome of saluting or blessing upon that motion..is..beleeved to derive its originall from a disease, wherein Sternutation proved mortall. 1713 POPE *Frenzy John Dennis* Misc. 1732 III. 6, I hope you have upon no Account promoted Sternutation by Hellebore. 1842 BORROW *Bible in Spain* xlvii, His words..were stifled..by a sudden sternutation which escaped him. 1872 COHEN *Dis. Throat* 106 The secretions are viscid and acrid, inducing spasms of sternutation.

† **b.** Loosely used for STERNUTATORY *sb. Obs.*

1547 BOORDE *Brev. Health* cxix. (1557) 45 Let them..vse dyuers tymes sternutacions with gargaryces. 1684 tr. *Bonet's Merc. Compit.* x. 349 If the Disease [Lethargy] continue,..the use of Sternutations is very proper.

Sternutative (stɜ·nĭŭ·tătĭv), *a.* and *sb.* Now *rare.* [f. L. *sternūtāt-*, *sternūtāre*: see prec. and -IVE.] = STERNUTATORY.

1666 BOGHURST *Loimogr.* (1894) 89 Use sternutatives, if they [patients] doe not sneeze of themselves. 1786 *Pogonologia* v. 63 This sternutative powder [snuff]. 1859 FAIRHOLT *Tobacco* (1876) 78 Such as used it as a sternutative.

Hence **Sternutativeness,** *rare*—0.

1727 BAILEY vol. II, *Sternutativeness*, aptness to cause Sneezing.

Sternutatory (stɜ·nĭŭ·tătŏri), *a.* and *sb.* [ad. med.L. *sternūtātōrius* (neut. *-um* as sb.), f. L. *sternūtāt-*, *sternūtāre*: see STERNUTATION and -ORY.]

A. *adj.*

1. Causing or tending to cause sneezing.

1616 T. ADAMS *Dis. Soul* 11 For the curing of this bodily infirmity, many remedies are prescribed..with scarification, gargarismes and sternutatory things. 1710 T. FULLER *Pharm. Extemp.* 394 Sternutatory Powder. 1829 LANDOR *Imag. Conv., Chaucer, Boccaccio, & Petrarca* Wks. 1853 I. 404/2 He had about him a powder of sternutatory quality.

2. Of or pertaining to sneezing. (In quots. humorously pedantic.)

1842 THACKERAY *Fitz-Boodle Papers* Pref., He..was seized with a violent fit of sneezing—(sternutatory paroxysm he called it). 1858 LEWES in *Chamb. Jrnl.* 19 June 399/2 The showers of snuff which had too often attacked my sternutatory muscles. 1859 F. E. PAGET *Curate Cumberworth* 329 Miss Martha replied by a sneeze. A terror seizing me lest this sternutatory conclusion might be a preliminary to another fit of hysterics, I immediately took my leave.

B. *sb.* A substance that causes sneezing; *esp.* a drug, usually in the form of powder, used to excite sneezing; an errhine.

1634 T. JOHNSON *Parey's Wks.* XXVI. XXXV. (1678) 654 Drie Errhines that are termed sternutatories, for that they cause sneezing, are made of powders onely. 1646 SIR T.

Browne *Pseud. Ep.* IV. ix. 200 Physitians..in persons neere death doe use Sternutatories, or such as provoke unto sneezing. 1722 Quincy *Lex. Physico-Med.* (ed. 2) 15 Vomits and Sternutatories. 1811 A. T. Thomson *Lond. Disp.* (1818) 273 Tobacco is chiefly employed as a sternutatory, and is the basis of all the kinds of snuff generally used. 1876 tr. *Wagner's Gen. Pathol.* 29 Muscular irritability is excited ..by powerful light, by sternutatories, [etc.].

Sternutory (stə·nɪuːtŏri), contracted or erroneous form of Sternutatory.

a 1425 tr. *Arderne's Treat. Fistula* etc. 102 Put vinegre or mustard in his nose...And giffe hym som oþer sternutoriez. 1705 *Phil. Trans.* XXV. 1802 'Tis not to be imagined, how Worms seated at the Basis of the Brain,.. should be expelled by sternutories. 1842 Pritchard in *Penny Cycl.* XXIII. 46/2 Sternutories are chiefly employed ..either to restore suspended respiration,..or to dislodge some foreign body. 1876 Dunglison *Med. Lex.*

Sternward, sternwards (stə·nwŏɹd, -wŏɹdz), *adv.* [See -ward, -wards.] Towards or in the direction of the stern. Also of position, astern.

1832 J. P. Kennedy *Swallow Barn* (1860) 16, I gazed upon the receding headlands far sternward. 1892 Hardy *Well-beloved* III. vi. (1897) 309 Their course, whether sternwards or sternwards, was steadily south. 1904 *Blackw. Mag.* July 134 The Admiral glanced sternwards. 1913 *Daily News* 5 Jan. 6 Logs of trees drifted past us sternward.

b. *From the sternward*: in a direction from the stern: see -ward.

1866 Neale *Sequences & Hymns* 38 The shipmen..Cast four anchors from the sternward.

Ste·rn-wheel. [Stern *sb.*3] A paddle-wheel placed at the stern of a small river or lake steamer.

1816 *U.S. Patent* (John L. Sullivan) 10 Dec., Double stern wheel for boats. 1896 Markham in *Geog. Jrnl.* VII. 188 [The steam-launch] is propelled by a stern wheel.

attrib. 1856 Olmsted *Slave States* 368 The boat I was in..was a stern-wheel craft. 1882a *Harper's Mag.* Dec. 3/2 Our stern-wheel boat creeps along up stream. 1884 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 3 Oct. 8/2 A new stern-wheel steamboat for the Nile expedition.

b. *transf.* in jocular use (*U.S.*).

1859 Bartlett *Dict. Amer.* (ed. 2) 450 The term is applied to any thing small, petty; as, a 'stern-wheel church'.

Hence **Ste·rnwheel** *v. intr.*, to move by the agency of a stern-wheel. **Sternwheeler,** a boat propelled by a stern-wheel.

1859 Bartlett *Dict. Amer.* (ed. 2) 450 *Stern-wheeler*, a steamboat fitted up with a stern-wheel. 1905 *Blackw. Mag.* Apr. 345/1 The *Amka*..stern-wheels slowly from the murky flood into the green water. 1906 *Macm. Mag.* Oct. 939 Our little neat stern-wheeler emerges from the last great lock of the Assouan dam.

Ste·rny, sta·rny, *a. Sc.* [f. Stern *sb.*2 + -y.] Starry.

a 1500 *Chaucer's Parl. Foules* 43 (MS. Arch. Seld. B 24) ..A sterny [*other MSS.* sterry] place. 1552 Lyndesay *Monarche* 6045 Boith sterny heuin and Christellyng. 1599 A. Hume *Poems* viii. 10 Quhen darkenes hes the heauen revest, Bot ather Moone or Starnie light. 1858 M. Porteous *Souter Johnny* 31 But I maun stop—its no in verse Your starny travels to rehearse.

Sterop(e, -oppe, obs. forms of Stirrup.

† Sterquili·nian, *a. Obs. rare*−1. [Formed as next + -an.] = next.

1772 [Courtenay, etc.] *Batchelor* (1773) III. 170 One of those *novi homines*, whom I despise, (men generally of sterquilinian [*sic*] extraction).

† Sterquili·nious, *a. Obs. rare*−1. [f. L. *sterquilīni-um* dunghill (f. *stercus* dung) + -ous.] Of or belonging to the dunghill.

c 1645 Howell *Lett.* (1655) II. xlix. 58 It is just so now, that any triobolary pasquiller,..any sterquilinious rascal, is licenc'd to throw dirt in the faces of Soveraign Princes in open printed language. 1656 Blount *Glossogr.* [1818 Todd (erron.) *Sterquilinous.* (So in later Dicts.)]

Sterracle, variant of Steracle.

Sterraster (stərræ·stəɹ). *Zool.* [f. Gr. στερρ-ός stiff, solid + ἀστήρ star.] A stellate sponge-spicule having very numerous rays soldered together for the greater part of their length.

1887 Sollas in *Encycl. Brit.* XXII. 417/2 Connective tissue fibres by which adjacent sterrasters are united together. 1888 — in *Challenger Rep.* XXV. p. lxiv.

Hence **Sterra·stral** *a.*, pertaining to, or composed of, sterrasters.

1888 Sollas in *Challenger Rep.* XXV. p. cxliv, Thus a strong tough composite sclerose and fibrous layer results, which we shall term the 'sterrastral layer'. 1900 *Proc. Zool. Soc.* 130 When a bud is detached, a shallow circular depression remains, the sterrastral crust here being thin.

Sterre, obs. f. Star *sb.*1, Steer *v.*, Stir *v.*

Sterred, -id, -it, obs. forms of Starred.

Sterrep, obs. form of Stirrup.

Sterrile, -ill, obs. forms of Sterile.

Sterro-metal. [Gr. στερρό-s stiff, hard.] An alloy of copper and zinc, with a small amount of iron and tin. Also shortened *sterro.*

1865 *Sci. Rev.* Nov. 133/2 Sterrometal. 1869 *Spons' Dict. Engin.* I. 177 Stetro-metal. 1881 Tripplin & Rigg *Saunier's Watchmakers' Handbk.* 74 Sterro..is an alloy containing 56 per cent. copper, 41 zinc, 2 tin, and 1 iron. 1884 C. G. W. Lock *Workshop Rec.* Ser. III. 42/1 *Sterro-metal*..is a very strong and elastic alloy used by Austrian engineers for hydraulic press pumps.

Sterrop, -up, obs. forms of Stirrup.

Stert(e, obs. forms of Start.

Stertel, stertle, obs. forms of Startle.

‖ **Stertor** (stə·ɹtɒɹ). [mod.L., f. L. *stertĕre* to snore. Cf. F. *sterteur.*] A heavy snoring sound accompanying inspiration in profound unconsciousness (*Syd. Soc. Lex.*). **a.** *Path.*

1804 *Med. Jrnl.* XII. 110 A profound sleep, attended with a stertor resembling that of apoplexy. 1845 Budd *Dis. Liver* 198 The delirium passed into complete coma, with dilated pupils and stertor. 1901 R. L. Bowles in *Lancet* 6 July 1/1 Mucous stertor is a term which may be given to the bubbling of air through mucus or fluids in the trachea or larger air-tubes.

b. *gen.*

1849 *Blackw. Mag.* LXVI. 99 Listening..to the loud nose of a distant comrade, lest its fitful stertor should startle another pair of nostrils. 1856 Alb. Smith *Mr. Ledbury* I. v. 31 The stertor of intoxication.

Sterto·rious, -ness = Stertorous, -ness.

1803 *Med. Jrnl.* X. 246 The sickness had considerably abated, his respiration less stertorious. *a* 1849 Poe *Facts Case M. Valdemar* Wks. 1865 I. 125 The stertorious breathing ceased—that is to say, its stertoriousness was no longer apparent.

Stertorous (stə·ɹtŏrəs), *a.* [f. Stertor + -ous. Cf. F. *stertoreux.*] Characterized by, of the nature of, stertor or snoring: **a.** *Path.*

1802 *Med. Jrnl.* VIII. 80 The stertorous breathing [in apoplexy]. 1863 Reade *Hard Cash* xxi, The stertorous breathing recommenced. 1884 M. Mackenzie *Dis. Throat & Nose* II. 176 He passed through an..attack of delirium tremens, falling into a deep stertorous sleep.

b. *gen.*

1842 F. E. Paget *Milford Malvoisin* 98 The snortings and stertorous breathings which proceeded from Mr. Blote's pew. 1877–8 Henley in *Ballades & Rondeaus* (Canterb. Poets) 172 A stertorous after-dinner doze.

Hence **Ste·rtorously** *adv.*, **Ste·rtorousness.**

1832 Warren *Diary Late Physic.* II. vi. 272 He lay in a state of profound stupor, breathing stertorously. 1853 Dickens *Bleak Ho.* xx, They find Krook still sleeping like one o'clock; that is to say, breathing stertorously with his chin upon his breast. 1876 Bristowe *Th. & Pract. Med.* (1878) 117 In coma..the patient breathes slowly, irregularly, and stertorously. 1898 *Syd. Soc. Lex.*, *Stertorousness.* 1910 *Blackw. Mag.* Nov. 606/1 The driver continued to slumber stertorously.

Stertylle, Sterve, obs. ff. Startle, Starve.

Steryn(e, -ynne, obs. forms of Stern *a.*

Stet (stet). *Printing.* [3rd sing. pres. subjunct. of L. *stāre* to stand.] 'Let it stand'; a direction in the margin of a proof or MS. that matter which has been altered or struck out is to remain uncorrected. Hence as *v. trans.*, to cancel a correction or deletion of (words in a proof or MS.) by writing 'stet' in the margin and underlining the words with a series of dots.

1821 Dibdin *Bibliogr.* etc. *Tour* I. 129, I could discover.. that..he wished me to..leave him to his *deles* and *stets*! 1875 Southward *Dict. Typogr.* s.v.

Stetch: see Stitch *sb. dial.*

† Stete, *v. Obs.* Only in pa. t. and pa. pple. **stet, stett,** (? stite). [Perh. repr. OE. **stīetan* = OFris. *stēta* (EFris. *stēte*, NFris. *stiate*, WFris. *stjitte*), ON. *steyta* (Sw. *stöta*, Da. *støde*):—prehistoric **staut-jan*, related to the str. vb. Goth. *stautan*, Du. *stooten*, OHG. *stōzzan* (MHG. *stōzen*, mod.G. *stossen*), to push.]

1. *trans.* To push, shove, kick; to throw or fling violently.

c 1330 *Arth. & Merl.* 5255 Galathin wit fot him stett, Out of his sadel he him pett. *Ibid.* 9096 Þo þat in his way he met, Doun riȝt of hors he hem stett.

2. *intr.* To go quickly or suddenly; to start or rush *forth*; to hurl oneself *on* or *against*; to come *together* with a violent collision; to fall violently; to spring or jump *down.*

c 1330 *Arth. & Merl.* 3270 Wiþ so gret ire to gider þai mett, Þat her bodis to gider stet. *Ibid.* 3312 To gider wiþ bodis þai metten, Þat boþe to grounde þai stetten. *Ibid.* 3807 Þis spies anon forþ stetten. *Ibid.* 6360 Saphiran wiþ king Arthour mett, Wiþ miȝt gret on him stett. *Ibid.* 8479 Þe beþen swain sone doun stett. *Ibid.* 9020, & hadde þer of his heued ysmite, Nadde Adragenis to him stite.

Stethi(e, obs. forms of Stithy.

Stetho- (steþo), before a vowel **steth-,** combining form repr. Gr. στῆθος breast, chest, occurring in medical terms. **Ste·tho-ca·rdiograph,** an instrument for automatically recording at once the movements of the lungs and of the heart (cf. Stethograph, Cardiograph). **Stethe·ndoscope** [Gr. ἔνδον within + -scope], an instrument for examining the inside of the chest by means of Röntgen rays. **Ste·thogonio·meter** [Gr. γωνία angle + -meter], an instrument for measuring the angles and determining the configuration of the chest. (See also following words.)

1876 A. Ransome *Stethometry* iii. 35 Dr. Burdon Sanderson's *stetho-cardiograph is essentially a pair of callipers provided with similar drums. 1899 *Lancet* 12 Aug. 438/2 Dr. Walsham..showed his *stethendoscope for the examination of the chest. 1858 S. S. Alison *Phys. Exam. Chest* (1861) 367 The *stetho-goniometer..is intended to measure the angles at which the planes of different parts of the thorax are inclined to each other.

Stethogram (ste·þŏgræm). [f. Stetho- + -gram.] A stethographic tracing.

1900 W. S. Hall *Text-bk. Physiol.* Fig. 125 Normal stethogram of dorso-ventral diameter in nipple plane.

Stethograph (ste·þŏgraf). [f. Stetho- + -graph.] An instrument for automatically recording the movements of the chest in breathing; a recording stethometer; also called *pneumograph.*

1876 tr. *von Ziemssen's Cycl. Pract. Med.* IV. 352 The results..that I [*sc.* Riegel] have obtained by means of the graphic method of investigation, undertaken with my simple and double stethograph. 1900 W. S. Hall *Text-bk. Physiol.* 200 The Stethograph. *Ibid.* Fig. 124 Stethograph tambour.

So **Stethographic** (-græ·fik), *a.*, pertaining to or made by the stethograph; **Stethography** (steþŏ·grăfi), the action or use of the stethograph.

1875 tr. *von Ziemssen's Cycl. Med.* IV. 284 Stethography, introduced by myself [i. e. Riegel], elicits results..not altogether insignificant. 1890 *Nature* 9 Oct. 581/2 A paper on stethographic tracings of..respiratory movements.

Stethometer (steþŏ·mĭtəɹ). [f. Stetho- + -meter. Cf. F. *stéthomètre* (? from Eng.)] An instrument for measuring the extent of the movement of the walls of the chest in breathing.

1850 Quain in *Lond. Jrnl. Med.* II. 927 *note*, The instrument..must have a name, and I have therefore called it a Stethometer. 1861 S. S. Alison *Phys. Exam. Chest* 341 Dr. Quain's stethometer..resembles a watch, having a dial and index. 1877 M. Foster *Physiol.* II. ii. (1878) 256 The movements of the chest walls may be recorded by means of the recording stethometer of Burdon Sanderson.

So **Stethome·tric** *a.*, pertaining to or obtained by means of the stethometer; **Stethometry** (steþŏ·mĕtri), measurement by a stethometer, the use of the stethometer.

1876 A. Ransome *Stethometry* vii. 137 The stethometric register in June 1872 was as under. *Ibid.* 138 Stethometry is ..sometimes of use in supplementing the examination of the chest by other methods.

Stethophone (ste·þŏfoun). [f. Stetho- + -*phone* as in Telephone.] A name given independently to two improved forms of stethoscope,: see quots.

1858 S. S. Alison in *Proc. Roy. Soc.* IX. 197 An instrument which I have invented..and which, as it is specially adapted for the auscultation of differences in the sounds of different parts of the chest, I have named the Differential Stethoscope, or Stethophone. 1897 *Canadian Engin.* Mar. 329 [Instrument invented by Rev. D. B. Marsh, Hamilton, Ont. (Canadian patent 24 Nov. 1896)].

Stethoscope (ste·þŏskoup), *sb.* Also 9 *erron.* **stethescope.** [a. F. *stéthoscope* (Laennec, the inventor, *c* 1819), f. Gr. στῆθος chest + σκοπ-εῖν to look at, observe: see -scope.] An instrument used for examining the chest or other part by auscultation, the sounds of the heart, lungs, or other internal organs being conveyed by means of it to the ear of the observer.

1820 *Med. Jrnl.* XLIII. 165 The instrument used by M. Laennec, and to which he has applied the term stethoscope. 1824 J. Forbes (*title*) Original Cases, with Dissections and Observations illustrating the use of the Stethoscope and Percussion. 1828–32 Webster, *Stethescope.* 1861 *Brit. & For. Med.-Chirurg. Rev.* XXVIII. 147 Bin-aural stethoscopes,..meant to intensify the sound..by conveying it simultaneously to both the ears of the auscultator. 1861 Alb. Smith *Lond. Med. Stud.* 13 A stethescope—a curious instrument, something like a sixpenny toy-trumpet.

fig. 1861 *Sat. Rev.* 7 Sept. 238 The stethoscope which will record..the true state of the financial health of the States will be afforded by the market rates of Federal securities.

Hence **Ste·thoscope** *v. trans.*, to apply a stethoscope to, examine with a stethoscope. **Stethoscopic** (-skŏ·pik) [= F. *stéthoscopique*], **-scopical** *adjs.*, pertaining to, of the nature of, observed or obtained by a stethoscope. **Stethosco·pically** *adv.*, by means of the stethoscope. **Stethoscopist** (steþŏ·skŏpist), one who uses a stethoscope. **Stetho·scopy** [= F. *stéthoscopie*], examination of the chest or other part with a stethoscope; the use of the stethoscope.

1840 A. Ewing in A. J. Ross *Mem.* (1877) 66 He would be much better able to judge if I would allow him to *stethoscope me. 1865 *Spectator* 30 Sept. 1084 He has been repeatedly stethescoped, and his lungs pronounced perfectly sound. 1828 *Lancet* 23 Feb. 755/1 A *stethoscopic examination performed by a student. 1861 S. S. Alison *Phys. Exam. Chest* 336 The hydrophone..is more an acoustic than a stethoscopic instrument. 1867 E. Yates *Forlorn Hope* x, The *stethoscopical examination, and the prescription-writing. 1876 Bristowe *Th. & Pract. Med.* (1878) 374 Many so-called dull sounds become obviously musical when tested *stethoscopically. 1828 *Lancet* 23 Feb. 755/1 The minute scrutiny of the attentive and accurate *stethoscopist. 1859 G. Wilson *Mem. E. Forbes* iv. 132 The skill which has characterized the Edinburgh stethoscopists. 1855 Dunglison *Med. Lex.* s.v. *Stethoscope*, This mode of examining affections of the chest, *Stethoscopy..is what Laënnec terms *Auscultation médiate.*

‖ **Ste·thva.** *Obs. rare*−1. Corrupt form of Eisteddfod.

1612 Drayton *Poly-olb.* iv. 177 That at the Stethva oft obtain'd a Victors praise, Had wonne the Siluer Harpe, and worne Apollos Bayes.

Stethy, obs. form of Stithy.

‖ **Stet proce·ssus.** *Law.* [L. = let process be stayed.] (See quot. 1840.)

1840 Lush *Pract. Superior Courts* 773 A *stet processus* is an entry on the roll in the nature of a judgment, that by consent of the parties all further proceedings be stayed. 1897 *Daily News* 3 Feb. 7/4 Baron Pollock ordered a stet processus to be entered and the record to be withdrawn.

Steuard, -art, obs. forms of STEWARD.

Steuch, variant of STEW *v.*³ *Sc.*

Steudiant, Steure, obs. ff. STUDENT, STIR *v.*

Stevedorage (stī·vĭdō·rĕdʒ). *rare.* [f. STEVEDORE *sb.* + -AGE.] The charge for loading and unloading cargoes.

1860 *Merc. Mar. Mag.* VII. 73 Stevedorage,..8d per box.

Stevedore (stī·vĭdō·ɹ), *sb.* Also 8 **stowadore,** 9 (Dicts.) **stivadore.** [a. Sp. *estivador,* agent-n. f. *estivar* to stow a cargo: see STEEVE *v.*², STIVE *v.* A med. L. *stivator* in the same sense, together with the verb *stivare,* occurs A.D. 1263 in Mas Latrie *Traités de Paix* (1868) Docum., 39, 40.]

A workman employed either as overseer or labourer in loading and unloading the cargoes of merchant vessels.

1788 *Massachusetts Spy* 10 July 2/3 Stowadores. **1828-32** WEBSTER, *Stevedore,* one whose occupation is to stow goods, packages, &c. in a ship's hold. *New York.* **1850** *Blackw. Mag.* July 54/1 Up mounted four or five..stevedores [Cape Town]. **1856** KANE *Arct. Expl.* II. xvii. 181 We scrambled off over the ice together, much like a gang of stevedores going to work over a quayful of broken cargo. **1870** *Standard* 17 Nov., The plaintiff was employed by Kennedy, a stevedore, in unloading the steam ship Sutherland. **1899** F. T. BULLEN *Log of Sea-waif* 6 The litter of cases, bales, etc., about the deck was fast disappearing under the strenuous exertions of the stevedores.

fig. **1867** F. H. LUDLOW *Little Brother* etc. 257 These stevedores of learning, the schoolmasters.

attrib. **1898** *Daily News* 16 Apr. 2/7 He was foreman of stevedore labourers. **1909** *Suppl. E. Essex Advertiser* 21 Aug. 4/3 One of the largest stevedore contractors.

Stevedore (stī·vĭdō·ɹ), *v.* [f. prec. sb.] *trans.*

a. To stow (cargo) in a ship's hold. Cf. STEEVE *v.*²

b. To load or unload the cargo of (a ship).

1862 *U. S. Congress* in De Vere *Americanisms* (1872) 637 Sugar..not stevedored. **1877** *Law Rep.,* 4 *App. Cases* 678 A contract that the Defendant would not stevedore any ship which by the agreement is allotted to the Plaintiff.

Hence **Ste·vedoring** *vbl. sb.,* the action of the verb; also the charge for handling cargo.

1879 *Law Rep.,* 4 *App. Cases* 675 The stevedoring of all ships not consigned to any of such firms should be undertaken by the parties..in turn. **1892** *Pall Mall Gaz.* 11 Oct. 7/1 Four or five shillings, without any freight or tonnage, or pilotage or stevedoring,..is simply prohibitive.

Steven (stev'n), *sb.*¹ *Obs.* exc. *dial.* Forms: 1 **stefn, stæfn, stemn,** 2 **steffne** (*Ormin*), 3 **stefne, stevne, stevone,** 2–4 **stephne,** 3–5 **stevene,** 4 **steovene,** 4–6 **stevyn,** (4 *Sc.* **stewyn**(e, **stewin,** 6 *Sc.* **stevyne**), 5–6 **stevin,** (5 **steovene,** 6 **steeven**), 6–7 **steaven,** 8–9 *dial.* **stevvon,** 2–**steven.** [OE. *stefn, stemn* fem. corresponds to OFris. *stifne,* OS. *stemna,* also *stemnia* (MLG. *stemne, stevene*), MDu. *stemme* (mod.Du. *stem*), OHG. *stimna, stimma* (MHG., mod.G. *stimme*), Goth. *stibna*; not in ON. (the Sw. *stämma,* Da. *stemme* are prob. from LG.). It is uncertain whether the Teut. root is **stem-* or **steb-*.]

1. = VOICE in various applications. In mod. dial. use chiefly: A loud voice (cf. 5).

a 900 tr. *Bæda's Hist.* IV. xxvi. [xxv.] (1890) 354 Ond swa swa he cuþre stefne wæs to me sprecende: Wel ðu dest, cwæð he, þæt [etc.]. *c* 1000 ÆLFRIC *Gen.* xxvii. 22 Witodlice seo stemn ys Iacobes stefn. *a* 1122 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 656 Þa stod seo kyning up to foren ealle his ðægna & cwæd luddor stefne Ðancod wurð hit [etc.]. *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 45 Þa onswerede him drihten mildere steuene, Aris nu paul aris. *c* 1200 ORMIN 10680, & tær wass herrd an steffne anan. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 355 After ðis dede a steuone cam, 'ðu, nu, quor art, adam, adam?' *a* 1300 *Havelok* 1275 Þanne she hauede herd the steuene Of þe angel ut of heuene, She was so fele sipes bliþe, þat [etc.]. *c* 1300 *Leg. Gregory* (Schulz) 298 þat child þan bigan to scriche Wiþ steuen, as it were a grome. 13.. *Gaw. & Gr. Knt.* 2008 Bi vch kok þat crue, he knwe wel þe steuen. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xxviii. (*Margaret*) 685 As þe puple herd þis stewine And þe thonir þat hydwis was, þai fel flatlingis on þare face. *c* 1385 CHAUCER *L. G. W.* 2328 Sche cryeth 'systyr' with ful loude a steuene. *c* 1450 *Mirk's Festial* 302 And so a steven comme and tolde þe Emperour þat [etc.]. **1513** DOUGLAS *Æneis* III. iii. 54 And strekand wp my handis towart hevin, Myne orisone I maid with devoit stevin. **1575** LANEHAM *Let.* (1871) 41 A doouty Dwarf..With steeuen full stoout amids all the preas, Said 'hail, syr king'. **1768** ROSS *Helenore* III. 113 Quo Jean, my steven, sir, is blunted sair, An' singing frae me frighted aff wi' care. **1819** R. GALL *Poems* 93 Then could her Sangsters loud their steven raise. **1865** W. S. BANKS *Provinc. Words Wakefield* s. v., Thah's a rare stevven, lad. *a* 1886 G. E. MACKAY *Love Lett. Violinist* (1895) 197 He..lifted up his steven To keep the bulwarks of his faith secure.

† **b.** *With one steven,* with one voice, in accord.

c 1320 R. BRUNNE *Medit.* 382 For 3ow we preyd alle with o steuene. *a* 1450 *Le Morte Arth.* 2584 All they sayd with one steuen: 'Lordyngis, how longe wolle ye chyde?

† **c.** Voice in petition; cry, petition, prayer. *Obs.*

c 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 43 On diepe wosiões ich clupe to þe hlouerd, hlouerd her mine stefne. *c* 1275 *Anthem St. Thomas* 8 in *O. E. Misc.* 90 Haly thomas..Vre stephne vnderstonde. 13.. *K. Alis.* 6846 For, byhold, up thy steovene Ys y-herd into the heovene. *a* 1400 *Pistill of Susan* 268 Lord, herteliche tak hede, and herkne my steuene So Fre. *c* 1460 *Towneley Myst.* ii. 175 *Abell.* God that shope both erth and heuen, I pray to the thou here my steven. **1589** LODGE *Scillaes Metam.* etc. E 2, Father of light..Bring to effect this my desired steauen.

† **d.** Used for: Right of speaking. *Obs.*

c 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 83 Mon hefde uorloren efre stephne bi-uore gode.

† **2.** Speech, speaking; language, tongue. *Obs.*

c 1386 CHAUCER *Sqn's T.* 150 Ther is no fowel þat fleeth vnder heuene That she ne shal wel vnderstonde his steuene. 14.. *Pol. Rel. & L. Poems* 245 'Superbia' ys the most prinsipall [sin], 'pryde pertly' in englysshe steven.

† **3.** Fame, report. *Obs.*

c 1374 CHAUCER *Troylus* III. 1723 þat swych a voys was of hym and a steuene Thorugh-out þe world of honour and largesse.

† **4.** Sound, noise (of singing, music, laughter). *Obs.*

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* A. 1125 Al songe to loue þat gay Iuelle, þe steuen mo3t stryke þur3 þe vrþe to helle. *c* 1369 CHAUCER *Dethe Blaunche* 307 Some of hem [birds] songe lowe Some hygh and al of one accorde..Was neuer herde so swete a steuen. *c* 1400 *Sowdone Bab.* 2258 Dame Floripe lough with loude steven. *a* 1460 *Play Sacrament* 80 Now mynstrell blow up wt a mery stevyn.

5. Outcry, noise, tumult, din.

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 1402 Sturne [*MS.* sturnen] trumpen strake steuen in halle. *c* 1385 CHAUCER *L. G. W.* 1219 The thundyr rorede with a gresely steuene. **1500-20** DUNBAR *Poems* xxi. 69 Pitt obscure, Quhair youlis ar hard with horreble stevin. **1555** PHAER *Æneid* III. (1558) G j b, And from the skyes the lightning fyers do flashe wt grisly steauen. **1579** SPENSER *Sheph. Cal.* Sept. 224 And had not Roffy renne to the steuen [*gloss* Noyse], Lowder had be slaine. *a* 1586 MAITLAND in *Sat. Poems Reform.* xxxvii. 18 As furious fluidis wt gritter force ay flowis, And starkar stevin, quhene stoppit ar þe stremis. **1625** LISLE *Du Bartas, Noe* 25 Before some thunder-steaven For warrant of his act gave oracle from Heaven. **1826** HOGG *Q. Hynde* VI. Poems (1865) 262 All nature roar'd in one dire steven; Heaven cried to earth, and earth to heaven. **1876** *Whitby Gloss.* s. v., Your clock strikes with a desperate stevvon.

¶ **6.** Used by Middleton with obscure application. [Prob. by some misunderstanding.]

1597 MIDDLETON *Wisd. Par.* v. 17–20 G 2 b, His shield is victories immortall steauen. *Ibid.* vii. 29–30 K 2, [Wisdom] Guilding her selfe with her selfe-changing steau'n. *Ibid.* xviii. 14–16 Y 3 b, And brought thy precept, as a burning steauen, Reaching from heauen to earth, from earth to heauen.

† **Ste·ven,** *sb.*² *Obs.* Forms: 1 **stefn,** 4–5 **stevene,** 5 **stevyn,** (**steywyne**), 6 **stevin, stewin,** 4–6, 8–9 *north.* **steven.** See also STEM *sb.*³ [OE. *stefn* masc. (also *stemn* STEM *sb.*³), cogn. with ON. *stef* fixed time, summons, *stefna* (see next). The Teut. root appears to be **steb-*.]

1. A time, turn, vicissitude, occasion. *Niwan stefne* (OE.), afresh, anew. *To change* (*by*) *stevens* (= L. *mutare vices*), to take turns.

Beowulf 2594 Hyrte hyne hordweard,..niwan stefne nearo þrowode fyre befongen, se ðe ær folce weold. **1398** TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* VIII. x. (Tollemache MS.) For as a weþer in lyinge up on on side turneþ and chaungeþ by euen steuines: so þe sonne beynge in..aries makeþ euenesse of day and nyȝte. *Ibid.* XII. Introd., And þey [cranes] ordeyne wacches, and in wakynge chaungen steuines. **1590** *Cobler of Canterb.* 50 [Descr. Scholar.] Mickle could he say at each steuen Of the liberall Arts seuen.

2. A set or appointed time; a date fixed for a meeting or a payment.

In ME. chiefly in the phrases *to set a steven,* to appoint a time; *at set steven,* at the or a fixed time; *at unset steven,* by chance, unpreparedly; *to break one's steven,* to fail to keep an appointment.

a 1225 *Juliana* 7 Ant efter lutle stounde wið ute long steuene wes him seolf sonde to Affrican. *c* 1374 CHAUCER *Compl. Mars* 52 That by her bothe assent was set a steuen That Mars shal entre. 13.. *Gaw. & Gr. Knt.* 1060 þer was stabled bi statut a steuen vus by-twene. *Ibid.* 2213 Who stiȝtles in þis sted, me steuen to holde? *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Knt.'s T.* 666 For al day meeteth men at vnset steuene. **1390** GOWER *Conf.* II. 30 Wher was ther evere such a knyht, That so..Of Slowthe and of foryetelnesse Agein his trowthe brak his stevene? *c* 1460 *Towneley Myst.* xxviii. 125 Me dere fader of heuen..ffrom ded to lif at set stevyn rasid me. **1470–85** MALORY *Arthur* II. xiv. 92 Yf I slee hym here I shall not scape. And yf I leue hym now peraventur I shalle neuer mete with hym ageyne at suche a steuen. **1543** *St. Papers Hen. VIII,* V. 287 The Cardinal..will sodenly, ere he be ware, prevent hym, and take hym at such unsett stewin, as he nor all the frendes he hath shall not be able to relief hym. *Ibid.* X. 723 And, as it chaunced, we met even at on steven, before the tent. **1555** WATREMAN *Fardle of Facions* App. 345 That..ye maie haue wholesome remedies, when nede is, and not be driuen to sieke remedie at vnsette steuin. *a* 1600 *Robin Hood & Guy of Gisb.* xxvii. in Child *Ballads* III. 93/1 Wee may chance mee[t] with Robin Hoode Att some vnsett steven.

b. A convened assembly.

1481 BOTONER *Tulle of Old Age* (Caxton) When I am in my village..I make every day meetings stevyns, and assemblies of my neighbours.

3. Comb.: † **steven-free,** some kind of right enjoyed by certain tenants with regard to the use of the lord's mill; ? exemption from restriction to particular times.

1316 *Covenant at Bishop's Castle, Salop* (Addit. Chart. 40846) Concessit etiam dictus Rogerus..predicto Philippo.. Steuenefreo in dicto molendino suo.

† **Ste·ven,** *sb.*³ *Obs.* Forms: 1 **stefn** (?), 4 **stevin, steven**(e, 5 **steyvyne,** *Sc.* **stewyn.** [Late OE. *stefn* (pl. *stefna*) a. ON. *stefna,* f. *stefna* to fix a time, summon: see STEVEN *v.*¹ (sense 3).] A citation, summons; bidding, command.

c 1100 *O. E. Chron.* (MS. D.) an. 1052, Ȝeræddon þa þæt man sealde ȝislas betweonan, & setton stefna ut to Lundene, & man bead þa folce [etc.]. 13.. *Gosp. Nicod.* 162 þe men þat wight and willy ware said: to þi steuin we stand. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 360 Now Noe neuer stystez [*margin* ? styntez]..Er al wer stawed & stoken, as þe steuen wolde. *Ibid.* B. 463 [The raven sent out from the ark] Fallez on þe foule flesch..& sone ȝederly for-ȝete ȝister-day steuen. *a* 1400 *Isumbras* 299 And alle salle bowe þir to fote and hande, And noghte withstande hir stevene. *c* 1440 *York Myst.* ix. 6 Thre semely sonnes and a worthy wiffe I haue euer at my steven to stande. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* VII. 232 Grantyt wes fra God in the gret hewyn, Sa ordand he that law suld be thair stewyn.

† **Ste·ven,** *sb.*⁴ *Sc. Obs.* Forms: 6 **stewin, -yn,** 6–7 **steven.** [Either repr. OE. *stefn* var. of *stemn* STEM *sb.*², or a. the equivalent Du. or LG. *steven.*] = STEM *sb.*² 1.

1512-13 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* IV. 473 Item,..ane [dracht] fra Newbotill of stewinnys to boittis. **1513** DOUGLAS *Æneis* I. i. 65 With bent saill ful, richt merely saland, Thair stewinnis stowrand fast throw the salt fame. *Ibid.* I. iii. 19 The schippis stewyn frawart hir went can writhe. *Ibid.* V. iv. 137 Stevenis. **1673** D. WEDDERBURN *Vocab.* 22 (Jam.) *Prora,* the steven of a ship, or the fore castle.

Ste·ven (stev'n), *sb.*⁵ *slang.* Money.

1812 J. H. VAUX *Flash Dict., Steven,* money. **1812** *Sporting Mag.* XL. 131 The steven (meaning money in the language of a fighting ring). **1834** AINSWORTH *Rookwood* IV. ii, It plays the dickens with the steven.

† **Ste·ven,** *v.*¹ *Obs.* [OE. *stēfnan, stæfnan,* f. *stefn,* STEVEN *sb.*² Cf. ON. *stefna.*]

1. *intr.* In OE.: To alternate, take turns. Cf. STEVEN *sb.*² 1.

c 725 *Corpus Gloss.* 126 *Alternantium* staefnendra.

2. *trans.* To appoint, constitute.

a 1000 *Cædmon's Gen.* 160 Frea engla heht þurh his word wesan wæter gemæne, þa nu under roderum heora ryne healdað stowe ȝestefnde. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 310 'Pepigimus cum morte fedus, et cum inferno pactum iniuimus:' þet is, we habbeð trouðe ipluht deaðe, & foreward istefned mid helle. *c* 1440 *York Myst.* xxiii. 64 Lord God! I loue þe..þat me, thy poure prophett Hely, Haue steuened me in þis stede to stande.

3. To summon. [After ON. *stefna.*]

a 1122 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1048, Þa hi þider ut comon þa stefnede heom man to ȝe mote. *Ibid.* an. 1093 And se eing Willelm him steofnode to Gloweceastre.

4. To specify, state.

c 1425 ? LYDG. *Assembly of Gods* 824 A crane on hys hede stood, hys crest for to steuyn. *c* 1440 *Pol. Rel. & L. Poems* (1903) 143 In Rome Y shall ȝou steuene An honȝred kyrkes fowrty and seuen.

5. *dial.* (See quots.)

1674 RAY *N. C. Words,* To *Stein* or *steven*; idem [i.e. to bespeak a thing]. **1828** CARR *Craven Gloss., Stevven,* to order, to bespeak.

Hence † **Stevening** *vbl. sb.,* appointment.

13.. in Wright *Lyric P.* xiv. 46 Of treuthe nis the trechour noht Bote he habbe is wille ywroht At stevenyng umbestounde.

Steven (stev'n). *v.*² Now *dial.* [f. STEVEN *sb.*¹]

a. *intr.* To make an uproar, shout. **b.** *trans.* To deafen with noise. Hence **Ste·vening** *vbl. sb.*

c 1220 *Bestiary* 575 Sipmen here steringe forgeten for hire stefninge. *c* 1440 *York Myst.* xxxii. 6 ȝe stynte of youre steuenyng so stowte. **1855** ROBINSON *Whitby Gloss.,* To *Stevvon,* to shout with great strength of voice. **1862** — *Dial. Leeds* Gloss. *s.v.,* Mak a less-o' thee din, wi' tuh! it's fit to stevvon onnybody. **1873** *Swaledale Gloss., Stevin,..*to rant.

† **Steven,** *v.*³ *Obs.* Also 5 **stevyn,** 6 **stevin.** [a. ON. *stefna,* to sail in a certain direction; to aim (at something), f. *stafn* stem of a ship.] *intr.* To direct one's course.

c 1440 *Alphabet of Tales* 302, & furthwith, evyn at he say, þis layser stevend vp vnto hevyn. *c* 1460 *Towneley Myst.* xx. 546 That childe..rasyd hym self apon the thryd day, And stenen [? *read* steuen] to heuen. *Ibid.* xxvi. 594 *Thesus.* Nay, mary, neghe thou not me, ffor to my fader, tell I the, yit stevynd I noght. *Ibid.* xxix. 336 When he stevynd vp so sodanly To his fader in maieste. **1513** DOUGLAS *Æneis* v. i. 57 This being said, towart the port thai stevin.

† **Ste·vened,** *a. Obs.* Forms: 5 **stevynd, stevynyd, stevenyd,** *Sc.* **stevin, -od,** pa. pple. of *gestefn*(*i*)*an,* perh. to alternate, diversify, f. *stefn* STEVEN *sb.*²] ? Embroidered.

It is possible that there may sometimes have been confusion between this word and *steynyd* STAINED *ppl. a.*

a 1000 *Aldhelm Glosses* in Napier *O.E. Glosses* i. 532 *Manicæ sericis clauatæ,* handstocu mid godewebbum ȝestefnede. **1452-3** *Test. Ebor.* (Surtees) III. 135 De xvs de pret. iij costers, steuynd cum angelis. *c* 1474 *Invent.* in *Paston Lett.* III. 408 Item, a stevynyd clothe. *c* 1475 *Cath. Angl.* 363 (Addit. MS.) A Stevenyd clothe, *polimitus.* **1479** *Test. Ebor.* (Surtees) III. 246 To..my servaunt, a halling of white stevend with vij warkes of mercy. **1499** *Wills & Inv. N. C.* (Surtees) I. 104 A stevynd clath vjd.

† **Stevenet,** *v. Obs. rare*⁻¹. [repr. OE. **stefnettan,* var. of *stemnettan,* f. *stefn, stemn* STEVEN *sb.*²] *intr.* ? To stop.

a 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 1265 Hwi studgi ȝe nu, & steuentið se stille?

Stevin, stevne, stevon(e, etc.: see STEVEN.

Stew (stiū), *sb.*¹ Forms: 4 **stuwe,** (?) **stuy,** 4–7 **stewe, stue,** 5 **stiewe, stwe, styuye, stywe, stywye,** 5– **stew.** [a. OF. *estui* (mod.F. *étui* case, sheath, also tub for keeping fish in a boat), verbal noun f. *estuier* to shut up, keep in reserve.

Godefroy has an instance (dated 1396) of OF. *estui* in the sense of the Eng. word, although he explains it wrongly.]

† **1.** In the phrase *in stew* [= OF. *en estui*], said of fish kept in confinement, to be ready for the table.

c 1386 CHAUCER *Prol.* 350 Ful many a fat partrich hadde he in Muwe, And many a Breem, and many a luce in Stuwe. 14.. *Piers of Fullham* in Hartshorne *Anc. Metr. T.* (1829) 119 They to fisshyng goon wyth envy,..And wayte in waraynes all the nyght,..To bribe and bere away the

best. That soiourne and kept bien in stiewe For store that nothyng shulde hym remewe. 1573 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 33 Thy ponds renew, put eeles in stew, To leeue till Lent.

2. A pond or tank in which fish are kept until needed for the table.

1387 in *E. E. Wills* (1882) 2 þe sesterne þat longeþ to the stuys, 139. *Earl Derby's Exped.* (Camden) 74 Cuidam valetto custodienti le Stewe manerii Episcopi, v.s. pr. *c* 1400 *Pilgr. Sowle* v. xiv. (1859) 80 The Apostles were the fysshers whiche that Crist found in this worldly see; whiche fisshes he putte in the stewe of his loued chirche. *c* 1450 *Godstow Reg.* 665 Stywys, dichis and briggis. 1539 *Act* 31 *Hen. VIII*, c. 2 All manner of fisshinges with any nettes [etc.].. in any severall ponde stewe or mote withe an intent to steale fisshe out of the same. 1677 PLOT *Oxfordsh.* 234 A contrivance for Fish-ponds,..where the stews not only feed one another,..and may be sewed by letting the water of the upper Ponds out into the lower. 1755 CAMBRIDGE in *World* No. 123 ₱ 2 It would be a noble employment for the lovers of antiquity, to study to restore those infallible resources of luxury, the salt-water stews of the Romans. 1774 T. WEST *Antiq. Furness* 95 Their mills, kilns, ovens, and stews for receiving their fish. 1862 ANSTED *Channel Isl.* II. ix. (1865) 213 A somewhat remarkable natural stew or pond exists in Jersey, in the manor of St. Ouen. 1888 GOODE *Amer. Fishes* 24 The young fish may advantageously be confined in 'stews' or artificial enclosures.

† **b.** *transf.* A pond of any kind; also, a moat.

c 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* I. 769 Let make a stewe With rayn watir, thyn herbis to renewe. 1592 WYRLEY *Armorie, Capitall de Buz* 139 This castle was inuirond with deep stew.

3. An artificial oyster-bed.

1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* (1637) 335 Oisters, (whereof there are many pits, or stewes). 1624 MIDDLETON *Game Chess* v. iii, He that inuented the first stewes, for Oysters, And other Sea-fish. 1817 J. EVANS *Excurs. Windsor*, etc. 452 At Colchester, Milton, &c., stews or layers of Oysters are formed in places which nature had never allotted for them. 1881 INGERSOLL *Oyster-Industr.* (Fish. Industr. U.S.) 249 Stew, an artificial bed of oysters. Applied to the old Roman, and also to the modern methods of fattening (English).

4. A breeding place for pheasants.

1888 *Cassell's Encycl. Dict.*

5. *attrib.*, as † *stew-pool, stew-pond.*

1623 *Althorp MS.* in Simpkinson *Washingtons* (1860) App. p. l, To Martin 3 daies at the stue poole..00 02 02. ..To Browne 6 daies raming the stue poole heade..00 03 00. 1797 JANE AUSTEN *Sense & Sensib.* xxx, There is a dove-cote, some delightful stewponds, and a very pretty canal. 1865 G. F. BERKELEY *Life & Recoll.* II. 314 In a stew-pond you may tame a fish to a certain extent.

Stew (stiū), *sb.*[2] Forms: 4 stu, stuwe, stuyue, styue, 4–5 stwe, 5 stw, stywe, 4–6 stue, 4–7 stewe, 5 styewe, 6 stuue, *pl.* stuse, 6– stew. [a. OF. *estuve* (mod.F. *étuve*), a Com. Romanic word, represented by Pr. *estuba*, Sp., Pg. *estufa*, It. *stufa*; the discrepant forms seem to proceed from the two vulgar Latin forms, *stūpha* (*stūfa*) and *stūpa*, both which are recorded in med. Latin. The ulterior etymology is obscure: some regard the word as a verbal noun f. a vulgar L. vb. **extūfāre*, f. **tūfus* (It. *tufo*) vapour, a. Gr. τῦφος. Connexion of some kind no doubt exists between the Rom. word and the Tent. root **stub-* in OE. *stuf-bæþ* hot-air bath, *stofa* masc. bath (mod.Eng. STOVE *sb.*), MDu. *stove*, mod.Du. *stoof* fem. stove, footwarmer, Du. *stoven* to stew, OHG. *stuba* fem. heated room, bath-room (MHG., mod.G. *stube* room), ON. *stufa*, *stofa* wk. fem. room with a fireplace (Sw. *stufva*, *stuga* cottage, Da. *stue* room).

The It. *stufa* was in the 17th c. adopted as STUFE.]

1. A stove, heated room.

† **1.** A vessel for boiling, a caldron. *Obs.*

c 1305 *Land Cokaygne* 109 þe leuerokes..Liȝtiþ adun to man is muþ Idiȝt in stu ful swiþe wel Pudrid wiþ gilofre and canel. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* I. xi. 44 As burning Aetna from his boyling stew Doth belch out flames, and rockes in peeces broke. 1603 SHAKS. *Meas. for M.* v. 321 Here in Vienna, Where I haue seene corruption boyle and bubble, Till it ore-run the Stew.

† **b.** A furnace for heating rooms by flues. *Obs.*

1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 424/1 A Stew or Stove...This is a thing by which Rooms are made warm, for Sick and Crazy Bodies, which cannot approach near a Fire.

† **2.** A heated room; a room with a fireplace.

c 1374 CHAUCER *Troylus* III. 601 Troylus..myght it se Thurgh out a lytel wyndowe in a stuwe, Ther he by-shet syn myd-nyght was [in] mewe. *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (1839) xi. 131 It fresethe more strongly in tho Contrees than on this half; and therfore bathe every man Stewes in his Hous, and in tho Stewes thei eten and don here Occupatiouns. 1572 R. H. tr. *Lavater's Ghosts & Spir.* (1596) 165 They heard a knife falling from the upper part, or flore of the stewe, wherein they were, yet sawe they nothing.

† **b.** 'A hatter's drying room.' *Obs.* or *spurious*; the F. *étuve* has this sense. 1847 HALLIWELL.

3. A heated room used for hot air or vapour baths: hence, a hot bath. *Obs.* exc. *Hist.* or *arch.*

1390 GOWER *Conf.* III. 291 The bathes and the stwes bothe Thei schetten in be every weie. *c* 1400 *Lanfranc's Cirurg.* 192 His bodi schal be wel frotid in þe baþ ouþer in a stewe. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 481/1 Stwe, bathe, *stupha, terme.* 1460–70 *Bk. Quintessence* 16 þe paralitik man schal be hool..if ȝe make him a stewe hoot and moist with herbis, þat is to seye, eerbe yue [etc.]. *c* 1483 CAXTON *Dialogues* 42 Natalye the wyf of the stewes Kepeth a good styewe,.. They goon thedyr to be stewed Alle the strangers. 1540–1 ELYOT *Image Gov.* 84 After his exercise..he entred into a baine or stew not hotte, where he taried sometyme by the space of one houre. *c* 1550 H. LLOYD *Treas. Health* lxiii. (Copland) U ij, Then put the pacient in a stewe or hote house. 1648 GAGE *West Ind.* 142 There is scarce any house which hath not also in the yard a stew, wherein they bath themselves with hot water. 1656 W. DU GARD *Comenius' Gate Lat. Unl.* § 467. 135 Being entred into a stew or hot-hous, we get up into the sweating-tub, and draw out the sweat. 1799 TOOKE *View Russian Emp.* I. 357 A messuage consists of a dwelling-house, a few little store-rooms, stables, and a stew or hot-bath, by which the yard is inclosed. *c* 1800 CANNING *Poet. Wks.* (1827) 39 Oh! where is the great Doctor Dominicetti, With his stews and his flues, and his vapours to sweat ye? 1809 A. HENRY *Trav.* 301 Stews, sudatories, or sweating-houses, are resorted to for cure of sickness, for pleasure, or [etc.]. 1855 DUNGLISON *Med. Lex., Stove*..is used for drying various substances, as plants, extracts, conserves, &c. or for taking vapour baths. In this case the *stew* or *stove* is said to be wet or humid; in the opposite case, it is said to be dry. 1865 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 23 Sept. 6/2 Above the vaults the original Turkish bath, or 'stew,' remains in good preservation.

4. A brothel. (Developed from sense 3, on account of the frequent use of the public hot-air bath-houses for immoral purposes. Cf. BAGNIO.)

a. In plural (chiefly *collect.*; sometimes, a quarter occupied by houses of ill-fame).

1362 LANGL. *P. Pl. A.* VII. 65 Iacke þe Iogelour And Ionete of þe stuyues. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Friar's T.* 34 So been wommen of the styves,..yput out of my cure. 1436 *Rolls of Parlt.* IV. 511/1 No person that had dwelled at the comone Stywes. *c* 1450 CAPGRAVE *St. Aug.* vi. 8 He used tauernes and stewis and swech sory gouernauns as [etc.]. *c* 1460 *Towneley Myst.* xxx. 350 Ye Ianettys of the stewys, and lychoures on lofte. *c* 1520 SKELTON *Magnyf.* 1226 Some of them renneth strayght to the stuse. 1550 CROWLEY *Epigr.* 281 The bawdes of the stues be turned all out. 1581 PETTIE tr. *Guazzo's Civ. Conv.* II. (1586) 90 b, Many Gentlemen..thinke it no lesse shame to be seene in yᵉ companie of yᵉ baser sort, than to be taken in the common stewes. 1593 NASHE *Christ's T.* 77 London, what are thy Suburbes but licensed Stewes? 1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* III. ii. II. i. (1624) 367 In Italy and Spaine, they haue their stewes in every great Citty. 1655 FULLER *Ch. Hist.* v. 239 At this time also, by the King's command, were the Stewes suppressed. 1681 [D'URFEY] *Progr. Honesty* iv. 4 Tickets from the Beldame of the Stews. 1709 STEELE *Tatler* No. 33 ₱ 9 All Affectation by any other Arts to please the Eyes of Men, would be banished to the Stews for ever. 1791 BOSWELL *Johnson* an. 1776, 5 Apr., He strongly censured the licensed stews at Rome. 1838 DICKENS *O. Twist* xl, Among the most noisome of the stews and dens of London. 1865 J. HATTON *Bitter Sweets* xxxvi, He frequented the dens and fashionable stews of the metropolis. 1873 DIXON *Two Queens* III. i. I. 118 Their ranks were filled by rogues and scare-crows from the styes and stews.

fig. 1657 TRAPP *Comm. Job* iv. 13. II. 43 Carnall hearts are ..stewes of unclean thoughts.

¶ Erroneous explanation.

1836 S. COOPER *Pract. Surg.* (ed. 6) 332 (Cassell) In the borough of Southwark..there were places called stews, where prostitutes were confined, and received the benefits of surgical assistance. 1888 *Cassell's Encycl. Dict., Stew* ..an early form of lock hospital.

† **b.** in plural form construed as sing. *Obs.*

1530 TINDALE *Answ. More* IV. ii. Wks. (1573) 320/1 His setting vp in Rome a stues not of women onely, but of the male kynde also agaynst nature, and a thousand abhominations to grosse for a Turke, are tokens good inough that he is yᵉ right Antichrist. 1572 R. T. *Discourse* 33 b, Hee deflowred Maydes and straungers: made Lateranense (that holy Pallace) a Stewes, and brothall house. 1611 COTGR., *Hulеu*, the name of a Stewes in Paris. 1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* IX. 406 A playne Stewes or Brothel house. 1650 W. BROUGH *Sacr. Princ.* (1650) 230 Lasciviousness..is sacrilegiously to make the Body (God's Temple) a Stewes. 1691 *d'Emiliane's Frauds Rom. Monks* 61 A Monk..very scandalously kept a publick Stews.

† **c.** in sing. *Obs.*

c 1384 CHAUCER *H. Fame* 26 By abstinence, or by sekenesse, Prison, stewe, or grete distresse. 1554 BALE *Declar. Bonner's Articles* 43 Hys house was nothing elles but a common stewe. 1611 SHAKS. *Cymb.* I. vi. 152 To Mart As in a Romish Stew. 1634 CANNE *Necess. Separ.* (1849) 145 For the glory of God, that it may appear his house to be no cage of unclean birds, no sty of swine, no den of thieves, no stew or brothel-house. 1640 *Depos.* 5 Mar. in *Glouc. Dioc. Reg.*, The breeding of the said Judith Ansley was noe better then in a Stewe or whorehouse. 1790 *Bystander* 373 Father and son may, with propriety, be seen together at the same stew. 1809 KENDALL *Trav.* I. xiii. 155 Dost thou suppose, villain, I am acquainted with bad houses? What dost thou want of a stew?

† **d.** (sing. and pl.) A bawd or prostitute. *Obs.*

1552 HULOET, Stew, bavde, or marchaunt of whores, *leno.* 1578 WHETSTONE *1st Pt. Promos & Cass.* IV. iii, Shall Cassandra now be termed, in common speeche, a stewes? 1639 MAYNE *City Match* v. v, I have matcht a Stewes; The notedst woman oth' Towne. 1650 SIR A. WELDON *Crt. King James* 146 Instead of that beauty he had a notorious Stew sent him.

II. Senses derived from STEW *v.*[2]

5. A preparation of meat slowly boiled in a stew-pan, generally containing vegetables, rice, etc.

1756 MRS. CALDERWOOD in *Coltness Collect.* (Maitl. Club) 252 They can dress..upon this stove, a roast, a boill, a fry, a stew and a bake. 1817 BYRON *Beppo* vii, Because they have no sauces to their stews. 1840 DICKENS *Old C. Shop* xviii, It's a stew of tripe..and cow-heel..and bacon..and peas, cauliflowers, new potatoes, and sparrow-grass, all working up together in one delicious gravy. 1873 'OUIDA' *Pascarel* I. 53 Mariuccia poured her stew into a dish.

fig. 1859 DICKENS *T. Two Cities* II. iv, The last sediment of the human stew that had been boiling there all day.

b. Irish stew: a dish composed of pieces of mutton, potatoes, and onions stewed together.

1814 BYRON *Devil's Drive* i, The Devil..dined on..a rebel or so in an Irish stew. 1826 in *Sheridaniana* 253 An Irish stew was that on which he particularly plumed himself. 1891 *Spectator* 14 Nov. 669/2 A recipe for Irish stew.

6. A state of excitement, esp. of great alarm or anxiety.

1806 J. BERESFORD *Miseries Hum. Life* I. Introd., Our perplexities and alarms, at which they presume to sneer under the nick-names of rubs, bores, stews, takings, &c. 1809 LADY LYTTELTON *Corr.* (1912) 85 Poor Mr. Allen is in a stew about his sermon. 1817–8 COBBETT *Resid. U.S.* (1822) 18 What a stew a man would be in, in England, if he had his grain lying about out of doors in this way! 1825 BROCKETT *N. C. Gloss.* s.v., In a sad stew, in a state of great perplexity. 1849 E. E. NAPIER *Excurs. S. Africa* II. 248 As you may readily fancy, I was all the time in a most confounded stew, lest the tender, pulpy branches should give way. 1884 *Sword & Trowel* Jan. 41 As to France..she is in an everlasting stew.

7. *colloq.* A state of being overheated or bathed in perspiration. Cf. STEW *v.* 3 a, d.

1892 A. M. FAIRBAIRN in W. B. Selbie *Life* (1914) ix. 330, I never was in such a stew, as it were confined in a stove within stoves. 1911 WEBSTER.

III. 8. *attrib.*, as (sense 2) † *stew-door*; (sense 4) † *stew-holder, stew-instructed* adj.; also † **stew-hole**, a hole in the floor of a kitchen to serve as a cooking fireplace; † **stew-side**, a quarter occupied by stews or brothels; **stew-stove**, a cooking stove. Also STEW-HOUSE.

c 1374 CHAUCER *Troylus* III. 698 He..gan þe *stewe doren al soft vn-pynne. *c* 1430 in *Phil. Trans.* XXX. 842 That no *Stew-holder keep noo Woman wythin his Hous that hath any Sycknesse of Brenning. 1598 STOW *Surv.* 331 In a Parliament holden at Westminster the 8. of Henry the second, it was ordayned..That no stewholder or his wife should let or stay any single woman to go and come freely at all times. 1780 YOUNG *Tour Irel.* I. 100 The *stew hole in his kitchen. 1633 FORD *Love's Sacrif.* IV. i, Her *stewe-instructed Art. 1552 HULOET, *Stewside or place for whores, *suburrana regio.* 1727 [E. DORRINGTON] *Philip Quarll* (1816) 56 He cut a hole in the ground.., after the manner of *stew-stoves in noblemen's kitchens.

Stew (stiū), *sb.*[3] *Sc.* and *north.* [Of obscure etymology.

The sense history of STEW *sb.*[2] and the related vb. seems to exclude the possibility of connexion with those words. From the similarity of sense, the word has been supposed to be cognate with (M)Du., LG. *stof*, OHG. *stoup* (mod.G. *staub*), Da. *støv*, dust; but the phonological possibility of this has not been shown.]

Suffocating vapour, stench, or clouds of dust.

1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* XI. 614 Sic ane stew raiss owth thame then Of ayndling, bath of hors and men. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* II. x. 88 With stew, puldir, and dust mixt on this wise. 1571 H. CHARTERIS *Lyndesay's Wks.* Pref. A iv b, Fra that fyre rais sic ane stew, quhilk struik sic sturt to thair stomokis, that thay rewit it euer efter. 1781 J. HUTTON *Tour to Caves* (ed. 2) Gloss. 96 *Stew*, when the air is full of dust, smoke, or steam. 1828 CARR *Craven Gloss., Stew*, vapour, dust, an offensive smell. 1867 *Goodwife at Home* xxiv. 9, I fear ye'll sconfice wi' the reek, An a' the stoor an' stew.

† **Stew,** *v.*[1] *Obs.* Also 3 steowien. [Early ME. *steowi, stewe* (the compound *wiðstewe* occurs *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 15), perh. repr. OE. **steowan*:—WGer. **stawwjan* (3 sing. **stawiþ*), whence MLG., MHG. *stöuwen, stauwen* to check, restrain, hinder, mod.G. *stauen* to dam up.] *trans.* To check, restrain.

c 1205 LAY. 6266 And he sette stronge lawen to steowien his folke. *a* 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 374 Stille beo þu þenne & stewe swuche wordes. *Ibid.* 658 Meistre ham swa þt ha beon mid alle istewet & stille. *Ibid.* 1529 Stew þe, & stille þine wordes. *c* 1250 *Prayer to our Lady* 34 in *O. E. Misc.* 193 Moder ful of milce..læte me steowi mi flesc. ? *a* 1400 *Morte Arth.* 1489 Thay..alle stewede wyth strenghe, that stode themeagaynes. *c* 1400 *Sege Jerus.* 48/841 (E. E. T. S.) Waspasian stynteþ of þe stour, steweþ his burnes, þat wer for-beten & bled.

Stew (stiū) *v.*[2] Forms: 5 stiwe, stuwe, stewyn, stuwyn, stuyn, 5–6 stewe, 5–7 stue, 5– stew. *Pa. pple.* 5 stewid, -yde, y-stwyde, -yed, 6 stuyd, 7 stewd. [a. OF. *estuver* (mod.F. *étuver*), related to *estuve* STEW *sb.*[2] Cf. Pr. *estubar*, Sp., Pg. *estufar*, It. *stufare.*]

† **1.** *trans.* To bathe in a hot bath or a vapour bath.

c 1400 tr. *Secreta Secret., Gov. Lordsh.* 69 Aftir þat stewe þe with stewynge couenable to þe tyme, for þat mekyl profytes. *c* 1400 *Lanfranc's Cirurg.* 192 At morowe he schal be stewid, and whanne he swetiþ his bodi schal be frotid wiþ vinegre. *c* 1430 *Pilgr. Lyf Manhode* II. xxxii. (1869) 87 Oon day thou chaufest him the bath, and sithe stiwest [orig. *estuues*] him. *c* 1440 *Gesta Rom.* (Addit. MS.) lxv. 381 Then seide the precidente, 'steweth hyme, and de than shalle he speke'. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 481/2 Stuwyn menn, or bathyn (*v.r.* stuyn in a stw), *balneo.* *a* 1533 BERNERS *Huon* cxlv. 543 And the lady had iiii ladyes to serue her and she was baynyd and stuyd, and aparaylyd. 1541 COPLAND *Guydon's Form.* X iij b, It were behouefull to bath or stewe the membre with the infusyon of a pyece of yren. 1599 A. M. tr. *Gabelhouer's Bk. Physicke* 2/1 For ach in the heade. Seeth Wormewoode in water...Some there are which boyle the same in vineger, and soe stue therwithe their head. 1665 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* (1677) 39 The sweat dropt from us no otherwise than if we had been stew'd in Stoves or hot Baths.

2. *Cooking.* **a.** *trans.* To boil slowly in a close vessel; to cook (meat, fruit, etc.) in a liquid kept at the simmering-point.

c 1420 *Liber Cocorum* (1862) 14 Stue thy peions thus thou schalle. *c* 1430 *Two Cookery-bks.* I. 9 Pertrich stewyde. *Ibid.*, Smale Byrdys y-stwyde. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 481/2 Stuwyn mete (*v.r.* stuyn) *stupho.* 1530 PALSGR. 735/2, I

stewe wardens, or any frutes, or meates, *je esteuue.* 1594 *Gd. Huswifes Handmaid Kitchin* 15 b, To stue a Neates foote. 1598 SHAKS. *Merry W.* III. v. 122 And in the height of this Bath when I was more then halfe stew'd in grease (like a Dutch-dish) to be throwne into the Thames. 1606 — *Ant. & Cl.* II. v. 65 Thou shalt be whipt with Wyer, and stew'd in brine. 1632 SHERWOOD, To stew meate, *cuire, ou bouillir la chair entre deux plats.* 1669 *Sir K. Digby's Closet opened* 178 To stew a Breast of Veal. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 82/2 To Hash is to stew any Meat that is cold. 1769 MRS. RAFFALD *Engl. Housekpr.* (1805) 121 To stew a Turkey brown. *c* 1770 MRS. GLASSE *Compl. Confectioner* 22 Pour it on your pippins, and stew them till they are quite tender. 1816 TUCKEY *Narr. Exped. R. Zaire* iii. (1818) 122 Earthen pots..in which they boil or stew their meats. 1828 SCOTT *F. M. Perth* xxviii, Pits, wrought in the hill-side and lined with heated stones, served for stewing immense quantities of beef, mutton, and venison. 1873 'OUIDA' *Pascarel* II. 6 We saw the food stewed and fried ere it came to us.

b. *intr.* Of meat, fruit, etc.: To undergo stewing; to be cooked by slow boiling in a closed vessel.

1594 *Gd. Huswifes Handmaid Kitchin* 1 Let them [Turneps, etc.] stew till they be verie tender. 1701 *Compl. Caterer* 79 Let them all Stew well together. *c* 1770 MRS. GLASSE *Compl. Confectioner* 25 Let them [pears] stew over a slow fire for half an hour. 1842 LOUDON *Suburban Hort.* 548 Catillac [pear]...Large, broadly turbinate, brownish-yellow, and red, stews a good colour.

c. In fig. phrases, with the sense: To be left to suffer the natural consequences of one's own actions. Cf. FRY *v.*[1] 3, and F. *cuire dans son jus.*

1656 EARL MONM. tr. *Boccalini's Advts. Parnass.* II. liii. (1674) 204 [He] could not better discover Hypocrites, than by suffering them (like Oysters) to stew in their own water. 1885 *Times* 21 May 8/3, I have held that it would be possible..with some reservations, to allow the Soudan to 'stew in its own grease'. 1885 SIR W. HARCOURT *Sp. at Lowestoft* 14 Dec., Liberals must not be in a hurry to turn the Tories out. He would let them for a few months stew in their own Parnellite juice. 1901 *Scotsman* 7 Mar. 7/4 Abyssinian soldiers are to be withdrawn, and the Tigreans are to be left to stew in their own juice.

3. *transf.* **†a.** *trans.* To bathe in perspiration.

1605 SHAKS. *Lear* II. iv. 31 Came there a reeking Poste, Stew'd in his haste, halfe breathlesse, painting forth From Gonerill his Mistris, salutations. 1620 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Praise Hemp-seed* (1623) 31 Drencht with the swassing waues, and stewd in sweat. 1673 R. HEAD *Canting Acad.* 133 The expectation of..punishment had stew'd him in a cold sweat. 1686 tr. *Chardin's Trav. Persia* 226 We did not feel the Coldness of the Weather: For the Crowd of People ..almost stew'd us before we got out. 1687 A. LOVELL tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* II. 49 We encamped close by this Castle, all scorched with the Sun, and stewed in Sweat.

†b. *fig.* To soak, steep, imbue. *Obs.*

1602 SHAKS. *Ham.* III. iv. 93 To liue In the ranke sweat of an enseamed bed, Stew'd in corruption. *c* 1630 QUARLES *Solomons Recant.* Solil. ii, Wks. (Grosart) II. 174/2 Stue thy heart in mirth, And crush the childe of sorrow in her birth. 1635 BROME *Sparagus Gard.* v. xiii, His conscience is stewd in Bribes. 1822 HAZLITT *Table-t.* Ser. II. (1869) 223 An opinion is vulgar that is stewed in the rank breath of the rabble.

c. To confine in close or ill-ventilated quarters. Chiefly with *up.*

1590 GREENE *Mourn. Garm.* (1616) 5 If Aristotle had still, like a Micher, been stewed vp in Stagyra, he had neuer written his workes. 1698 FRYER *Acc. E. India & P.* 92 The Rich Banyans..stew themselves out of a penurious humour, crowding Three or Four Families together into a Hovel. 1714 MACKY *Journ. Eng.* (1729) II. 38 Formerly the Country Ladies were stewed up in their Fathers old Mansion Houses, and seldom saw Company. 1812 SIR J. SINCLAIR *Syst. Husb. Scot.* I. 17 Cattle suffer much from being huddled together, and stewed close up in a low-roofed cow-house in winter.

d. *intr.* To stay excessively long in bed. Also, to remain in a heated or stifling atmosphere; hence *slang,* to study hard.

1671 TUKE *Adv. Five Hours* I. (ed. 3) 15 Sir, they have certain Niches in their Walls, Where they climb up a Nights, and there they stew, In their own Grease, till Morning. 1705 VANBRUGH *Confederacy* II. i, Abroad, abroad, abroad already? why, she uses to be stewing in her bed three hours after this time. 1832 WARREN *Diary Late Physic.* II. iv. 219 What a gloomy man that Dr. —— is..! he keeps one stewing in bed for a week, if one has but a common cold. 1866 *Routledge's Ev. Boy's Ann.* 706 Cooper was stewing over his books. 1870 MISS BRIDGMAN *R. Lynne* I. vi. 81 The sea-breezes will freshen me up, after stewing in this hole. 1897 MARY KINGSLEY *W. Africa* 576, I had been stewing for nine months and more in tropic and equatorial swamps. 1906 *Westm. Gaz.* 17 Sept. 4/1 Should the charms of his book lure him to sleep,..the string tied to his tuft of hair would instantly remind him of the..necessity to 'stew' for the ensuing examination.

Stew, *v.*[3] *Sc.* Also 9 **steuch.** [f. STEW *sb.*[3]] *intr.* To stink, emit a stench.

1563 WINJET tr. *Vincent. Lirin.* xxxi. Wks. (S.T.S.) II. 64 Thai knaw thair stink to na man almaist haistelie to be plesand, gif it stewit and reikit out naikit and plane. 1891 J. J. H. BURGESS *Rasmie's Buddie* 63 Da stink o brimstin in a bizz Cam steuchin but.

Stewable (stiū·ăb'l). [f. STEW *v.*[2] + -ABLE.] Capable of being stewed.

1873 RUSKIN *Fors Clav.* xxvii. 19 Probably stewable in your modern stoves with better effect.

Steward (stiū·ərd), *sb.* Forms: 1 **stigweard, stiweard;** 1–5 **stiward,** 3 **stiweard,** 4–5 **stiwarde,** 4–6 **styward**(e, 5 **styeward;** 4–5 **steiward;** 3–7 **stuard**(e, 5 **stwarde,** 5–6 **stuerd**(e, 4–6 **stuward**(e; 4–5 **steuard,** 5 **stewer**(e)**de,** 4–6 **steward**(e, 4–**steword.** *β. Sc.* and *north.* 5 **stewarte,** 5 **stwart;** 7–8 **stuart;** 5–8 **steuart,** 4– **stewart.** [OE. *stiweard, stigweard,* f. *stig* of uncertain meaning + *weard* keeper, WARD *sb.*

The word is not found in any MS. earlier than the 11th c., and the form *stigweard,* though certainly the original, is recorded only in a late transcript. The first element is most probably OE. *stig* a house or some part of a house (cf. *stigwita* house-dweller); this is doubtless cogn. with *stigu* STY *sb.* and *stīgan* to climb (STY *v.*), but there is no ground for the assumption that *stigweard* originally meant 'keeper of the pig-sties'.

The Eng. title is quoted by Froissart in the OF. form *estuard.* The rare ON. *stīvarðr* is adopted from OE.

Since the 16th c. the definitions of the word have often been influenced by the supposed etymologies *stead+ward* and *stow+ward.*]

1. An official who controls the domestic affairs of a household, supervising the service of his master's table, directing the domestics, and regulating household expenditure; a major-domo. *Obs.* exc. *Hist.*

c 1000 *Gloss.* in Wr.-Wülcker 223/7 *Discoforus, discifer, uel* stiweard. *c* 1000 ÆLFRIC *Gloss.* ibid. 129/13 *Economus,* stiward. *c* 1290 *St. Eustace* 144 in *S. E. Leg.* 397 Þis knixtes þoȝte wonþer gret þat a such heiward Of so quinte seruise was as he were eny stuard. 1393 LANGL. *P. Pl.* C. XVI. 40 Reson stod and stihlede as for styward of halle. 14.. *Bk. Curtasye* 535 in *Babees Bk.,* At countyng stuarde schalle ben. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* IV. 383 Hys stwart Kerlye brocht thaim in fusioun Gude thing eneuch quhat was in to the toun. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* I. x. 37 The first of them,..Of all the house had charge and gouernement, As Guardian and Steward of the rest. 1601 SHAKS. *Twel. N.* II. v. 169 If not, let me see thee a steward still, the fellow of seruants. 1623 WEBSTER *Duchess Malfi* Dram. Pers., Antonio Bologna, steward of the household to the Duchess. 1651 J. WHITE *Rich Cabinet* (1677) 171 A Steward comeing to buy fruit for his Lady, bought all the apples they had at 7 a peny.

transf. and *fig.* 1697 DE FOE *Ess. Projects* 302, I cannot think that God Almighty ever made them so delicate, so glorious Creatures..and all to be only Stewards of our Houses, Cooks, and Slaves.

b. A member of a college who supervises the catering or presides at table.

1749 POINTER *Oxon. Acad.* 23 'Tis a custom for one of these scholars to take it by turns to be steward every week, whose office it is to cater for the rest of the society. 1893 FOWLER *Hist. C. C. C.* (O. H. S.) 51 The Steward of the Hall was one of the graduate-Fellows appointed, from week to week, to assist the Bursars in the commisariat and internal expenditure of the College. 1899 B. W. HENDERSON *Merton Coll.* 249 To each Undergraduate table one member is appointed as steward. Forty years ago the Postmasters elected their own steward.

c. A servant of a college who is charged with the duty of catering. Also, the head servant of a club or similar institution, who has control of the other servants.

1518 in Willis & Clark *Cambridge* (1886) III. 473, iiij *li* shalbe delyeurd yerly to the stuward of the said Collegge. 1717 E. MILLER *Acc. Univ. Camb.* 106 The 7th Statute concerning the Steward..appoints him to go with the Cook to the Shambles, to see the Victuals bought; and to demand from the Fellows, &c. all Monies due for Commons, and sizeings at the end of every Moneth, &c. 1861 [TREVELYAN] *Horace at Univ. Athens* (1862) 19 The steward and the cook have done me brown. 1914 *Kelly's Oxf. Directory* 125 Worcester [College]. Steward & Head Cook.

d. An officer in a ship who, under the direction of the captain or the purser, keeps the stores and arranges for the serving of meals; now applied to any attendant who waits upon the passengers, often with defining word indicating rank or special function, as *bath-, cabin-, deck-, table-steward; captain's steward, chief steward, paymaster's steward,* etc.

In comic literature there are many allusions to the steward's function of attending to sea-sick passengers.

c 1450 *Pilgrims Sea-Voy.* 38 'Hale in the wartake!' 'hit shal be done.' 'Steward! couer the boorde anone.' 1496 *Naval Acc. Hen. VII* (1896) 166 John Swynborne styward —viij*s.* John Gylpyn coke—x*s.* 1585 T. WASHINGTON tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* III. iv. 76 Their daily prouision..is prepared by a steward & a cooke. 1626 CAPT. SMITH *Accid. Yng. Seamen* 5 The Steward is to deliuer out the victuall, according to the Captaines directions. 1694 MOTTEUX *Rabelais* IV. xviii. 76 Poor Panurge..sat on the Deck all in a heap, ..and..bawl'd out frightfully, Steward, *Maistre d'Hostel,* ..pr'ythee let's have a piece of Powder'd Beef or Pork. 1836 MARRYAT *Midsh. Easy* ix, But a cup of tea, and ship's biscuit and butter I can desire the steward to get ready for you. 1865 DICKENS *Mut. Fr.* IV. xii, Talk of trades,..who wouldn't know your brother to be a Steward! There's..an air of reliability about him in case you wanted a basin, which points out the steward! 1883 W. CLARK RUSSELL *Sailors' Lang.* 139 *Steward,* a saloon waiter. One who has charge of the stores. Those under him are called understewards. 1897 *Punch* 23 Jan. 37/1 *Mr. Dibbles (en route for Paris. Sea choppy).* Channel Tunnel not a bad idea. ..Steward! [*Goes below.*]

2. As the title of an officer of a royal household.

a. *gen.* Originally, an officer with similar functions to the 'steward' of an ordinary household (see sense 1). After the Norman Conquest, the title was the Eng. equivalent of the OF. *seneschal,* med.L. *senescallus, dapifer,* which, in England as on the Continent, had come to designate an office in the royal household held only by a great noble of the realm. *Obs.* exc. *Hist.*

?*a* 955 *K. Eadred's Will* in Birch *Cartul. Sax.* III. 75 And ælcan ȝesettan discðegne and ȝesettan hræglðene and ȝesettan biriele hundeahtatiȝ mancusa goldis...And ælcan ȝesettan stigweard þritiȝ mancusa goldes. *a* 1122 *O. E. Chron.* an. 1120, Swyðe maneȝa of þæs cynges hired, stiwardas, & burþenas, & byrlas. *c* 1205 LAY. 7422 He hæfde ene stiwarde þene wisseste mon of al þis ærde. *c* 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 13602 Neuere stywarde ne botyler þat serued kyng ne kayser, So wel halp at here power. *a* 1350 *S. Thomas* 194 in Horstm. *Altengl. Leg.* (1881) 22 Þe kinges steward and als þe quene To Cristes law conuertid he clene. *c* 1350 *Will. Palerne* 3378 A stif man & a stern þat was þe Kinges stiward & cheueteyn was chose þat eschel to lede. *c* 1450 *Merlin* vi. 102, I will praye yow, that yef ye be kynge, that ye make my sone Kay youre stywarde. 1535 COVERDALE 2 *Kings* xviii. 18 Eliachim the sonne of Helchias the stewarde [Vulg. *præpositus domus*]. 1756–7 tr. *Keysler's Trav.* (1760) III. 310 Charles Maximilian Von Thurn, steward of the houshold to the empress-dowager Eleanora.

b. (Lord) Steward of the King's Household. A peer whose nominal duty it is to control the King's household above stairs, and to preside at the Board of Green Cloth (see GREEN CLOTH). In early times he exercised important judicial functions.

[*c* 1400 FROISSART *Chron.* Œuvres 1872 XVI. 23 Messire Thomas de Persy avoit esté ung grant temps souverain estuard de l'ostel du roy, c'est-à-dire en franchois maistre et sénéschal.] 1428 in Nicolas *Proc. Privy Counc.* (1834) III. 286 John Lord Typtot an off Powys sthuard off þe Kynges howse. 1532 *Act 24 Hen. VIII,* c. 13 § 1 The same Licence to be declared in writing by the Kinges Highnese, or the Lorde Stewarde of his most honorable Houshold. 1554 *Act 1 Mary* c. 4 It hathe now pleased the Quenes Majestie to..chaunge the name of the Greate Maister of her Highnes most honourable Houshold..into the name of the sayd Lorde Stuarde of her most honourable Householde. 1613 SHAKS. *Hen. VIII,* IV. i. 18 The Duke of Suffolke is the first, and claimes To be high Steward. 1710 J. CHAMBERLAYNE *St. Gt. Brit.* I. II. (ed. 23) 108 For the Civil Government of the King's Court, the chief officer is Lord Steward.

3. a. (Lord High) Steward or **†Great Steward of England.** Recorded since the 15th cent. as: The title of a high officer of state, the earlier *senescallus Angliae.* Since the accession of Henry IV this officer has been appointed only on the occasion of a coronation, at which he presides, or for the trial of a peer, which takes place in the *Court of the Lord High Steward* if Parliament be not sitting.

Originally this office seems to have carried little more than the privilege of waiting on the king's table, especially on state occasions. But it soon became hereditary in the earls of Leicester, and powers similar to those of the French *seneschal* were claimed for it by Simon de Montfort. This development was checked by the attainder of Simon; and the office finally fell in to the crown by the accession of its holder Henry IV.

1454 *Rolls of Parlt.* V. 249/2 Thomas erle of Devonshire, uppon an enditement of high treasons..afore Humfrey Duc of Bukingham, steward of Englond for that tyme assigned. 1522–3 *Act 14 & 15 Hen. VIII,* c. 20 § 1 Before Thomas Duke of Norffolk for that tyme oonely beyng greate Stuarde of Englande by the Kynges lettres patentis. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 15 Jan. 1641, The E. of Arundell and Surrey..was made High Steward. 1710 J. CHAMBERLAYNE *St. Gt. Brit.* I. II. (ed. 23) 83 The Lord High Steward of England or Vice-Roy. 1769 BLACKSTONE *Comm.* IV. xx. 257 They usually (in case of an impeachment of a peer for treason) address the crown to appoint a lord high steward. 1842 J. G. NICHOLS in *Gentl. Mag.* May 485/2 To the high office of Steward of England the Duke of Lancaster became entitled in right of his wife, on the death of his father in law Henry Duke of Lancaster in 1361. 1907 HARCOURT *His Grace the Steward* 379 We may regard the Southampton trial as the true source of the court of the lord high steward.

b. (Lord High) Steward of Scotland. *Hist.* The first officer of the Scottish King in early times; he had control of the royal household, great administrative powers, and the privilege of leading the army into battle. The office, described as *senescallatus Scotiae* in a charter of Malcolm IV, 1158, fell in to the crown upon the accession of Robert the Steward as Robert II, whence the name of the royal house of Stuart; but the title was given to the heir-apparent until the Union. *Great Steward of Scotland* is now a title of the Prince of Wales.

1507 *Reg. Privy Seal Scot.* I. 210 His derest son James, prince and stewart of Scotland. 1710 J. CHAMBERLAYNE *St. Gt. Brit.* II. II. (ed. 23) 411 The Lord High Steward of Scotland..was,..in the old Charters, placed before the Constable and Mareschal. *a* 1768 ERSKINE *Inst. Law Scot.* I. iv. § 10 (1773) 57 We may here..add a few words concerning the office of Steward of Scotland. 1845 *New Statist. Acc. Scot.* X. 497 Subsequently to his [*sc.* Malcolm's] time, we find the antiquated title of Abthane giving way to that of Steward of Scotland. 1875 MAINE *Hist. Inst.* 139 The blood of the Steward of Scotland runs in the veins of the Kings of England.

†4. A deputy-governor, vice-gerent. *Obs.*

c 1205 LAY. 11789 Sende ich wulle to Aðionarð þe is min aȝene stiward...For him ich habbe wel bi-tæht Brutlond to witene. *c* 1300 *Havelok* 666 Þe wicke traitour godard, þat was denema[r]k a stiward. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) III. 435 Zephiron, Alisaundre his styward [L. *præfectus Alexandri*]. *Ibid.* IV. 425 He..ordeynede stywardes [L. *præsides*] to governe þese londes. *c* 1450 *Merlin* ii. 24 The barons chosen Vortiger to be stwarde.

fig. ?*a* 1436 *Pol. Rel. & L. Poems* (1903) 12 Souden of all Surry, Emperour of Babilon, Steward of Helle. *Ibid.,* And whi þat I am Stiward of Helle: I lete you wite I haue alle gouernaunce of wicked mawmentries & wicked spirites. 1645 BALL *Sphere Gov.* 7 A King of England is but in nature of an high Steward of the Kingdome by inheritance.

5. One who manages the affairs of an estate on behalf of his employer.

a 1386 CHAUCER *Prol.* 579 Worthy to been stywardes of

rente and lond Of any lord that is in Engelond. *c* 1420 *Sir Amadace* (Camden) i, The stuard sayd, Sir, ȝe awe wele more Thenne ȝe may of ȝour londus rere, In faythe this seuyn ȝere. 1488 *Maldon* (Essex) *Liber B.* fol. 39 Robert Plomer, .chefe Styward of landis on-to lord Henry, Erle of Essex. 1577 Googe tr. *Heresbach's Husb.* I. 11 Ouer my Gate I haue laide my Steward, from whence he may looke into the Court..and ouersee his neighbour the Bayly. 1741 Middleton *Cicero* I. vi. 456 The principal manager or steward of all his affairs. 1821 D'Oyly *Life Sancroft* I. 468 On the following day, the servants of his establishment were dismissed by the steward. 1846 McCulloch *Acc. Brit. Emp.* (1854) I. 451 We believe that the stewards of England, though inferior, perhaps, to the factors of Scotland, are a..useful body of men. 1892 Lady Verney *Verney Mem.* I. 14 The estate had been so long without a head, under the management of the steward. 1910 C. Shorter *Highw. & Byways Buckingh.* xvi. 177 The present Manor House..has long been given over to the Duke of Bedford's steward.

b. *Steward of the manor*: one who transacts the financial and legal business of a manor on behalf of the lord; he holds the manor-court in the lord's absence, and keeps a copy of its rolls, whence the name *steward of copyhold*. *Steward of the leet, steward of the hundred, steward of the haven-court*, an official with similar functions in the leet, hundred, and haven courts.

1303 R. Brunne *Handl. Synne* 5421 Stywardes..þat lordynges courtys holde. 1377 Langl. *P. Pl.* B. Prol. 96 Some..in stede of stuwardes sytten and demen. 1425 *Rolls of Parlt.* IV. 306/2 Stuardus of Letus and Hundredis. 1531 *Star Chamber Cases* (Selden Soc.) II. 186 William Marchall gentleman than being Steward of the seid Manour. *c* 1537 in W. Rye *Cromer* (1889) 52 Henry Erle of Surrey High Stuard of the Kyngs Haven Courts in Cromer. 1577 Leigh *Surv.* G j b, Yerely Fees to any Receiuour..high Stewarde, or vnder Stewarde..to bee goyng out of a Mannour,..are called Reprises. *c* 1600 *Mannor & Crt. Baron* (1909) 200 The Stewarde ys an offycer named by the Lorde, and his offyce ys to directe the sewtors by order of lawe to recorde and regester the plees and Judgements of the Courte...And he is not Judge there but Recorder or clerke as shalbe sayde for he cannot quash an Essoin nor doe any other thinge withoute the assente of the Sewtors. 1791 Ritson *Jurisd. Crt.-Leet* Introd. p. viii, The Leet is a court of record... It is held before the Steward..of the Lord. 1864 Miss S. P. Fox *Kingsbridge Estuary* 3 The Manor of Kingsbridge belongs to John Scobell, Esq...whose Steward holds a Court Leet and Court Baron here. 1897 E. Howlett in *W. Andrews' Legal Lore* 93 The steward also usually presides at the copyhold courts of the manor.

c. The title of: The administrator, often with merely nominal duties, of certain estates of the Crown, as *Steward of Blackburn Hundred*, † *the Duchy of Lancaster*. For *Steward of the Chiltern Hundreds*, see Chiltern 1.

1444 *Rolls of Parlt.* V. 106/1 The Styward of the Duche of Lancastre.. *c* 1472 *Plumpton Corr.* (Camden) 26 To our right trustie & welbeloved Sir William Plompton, knight, Stuard of the lordshipp of Spofford. 1499 *N. Riding Rec.* N. S. (1894) I. 130 To..Sir Ric[d] Chomley, Stuard of oure lordship of Pykeryng. 1600 in *Cath. Rec. Soc. Publ.* V. 383 Out of Blacborne hundreth, whereof y[e] maiestie haith made him the stuarde.

d. In Scotland: A magistrate originally appointed by the king to administer the crown lands forming a Stewartry, *q.v.*; see quot. 1754. *Principal stewart*, such an official as distinguished from the *stewart-depute*, to whom part of the duties were usually delegated. *Obs.* exc. *Hist.*

1432 *Sc. Acts Jas. I* (1814) II. 21 Þe lorde of Þe Regalite or his stewart or balȝe. 1473–4 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* I. 10 Item of the Stewarte of Kirkcudbrith lx li. *c* 1575 Balfour *Practicks* (1754) 16 Stewartis and Stewartreis. Stratherne, Lord Drummond. 1678 Sir G. Mackenzie *Crim. Laws Scot.* I. xxvii. § x. (1699) 143 The Sheriffs, Lords of Regalities, and Stewarts, are declared Judges competent to this Crime. *a* 1688 J. Wallace *Descr. Orkney* (1693) 88 The Government of the Stewart is in the Kings Bounds, the Manner and Procedure of his Jurisdiction is after the form of Sheriffship, the Title only differing. 1708 *Procl.* 18 Aug. in *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4464/4 We..ordain..Our Solicitor to Dispatch Copies thereof to the Sheriffs of the several Shires, Stewarts of Stewartries. 1754 Erskine *Princ. Sc. Law* (1809) 38 The stewart was the magistrate appointed by the King over such regality lands as happened to fall to the Crown by forfeiture, &c.; and therefore the stewart's jurisdiction was equal to that of a regality. *a* 1768 — *Inst. Law Scot.* I. iv. § 10 (1773) 56 Regality-deputes were sometimes called stewards; but steward, in the strict sense, signified a magistrate appointed by the King over special lands belonging to himself. 1901 R. De B. Trotter *Galloway Gossip* 236 Davie..summons't the laird for the price o' the hooses, but he made naething o't, for the Steward said he had nae writins ont. 1912 A. Porteous *Hist. Crieff* ii. 32 The office of dapifer, seneschal, or steward, of Strathearn.

e. *Steward of the High Peak*: see quot. 1851.

1653 Manlove *Cust. Lead-mines* 199 (E.D.S.) The Dutchie Court..may appoint a Steward, that may try The Cause again upon the minery. 1851 *Act* 14 & 15 *Vict.* c. 94 § 3 To be called the Steward of the High Peak Barmote Courts, and such Steward shall hold his Office during the Will and Pleasure of Her Majesty.

6. *fig.* (from senses 1 and 5.) An administrator and dispenser of wealth, favours, etc.; esp. one regarded as the servant of God or of the people.

Partly after Biblical uses, in which the word represents Gr. οἰκονόμος, L. *dispensator*.

? *c* 900 *Solil. Augustine* in Cockayne *Shrine* (1864) 176 Me þincð betere þæt ic forlete þa ȝyfe and folȝyȝe þam ȝyfan ðe me eȝðer ys stiward ȝe ðas welan ȝe eac hys freonscypes. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 386 Luue is heouene stiward. *c* 1430 *How Good Wyf tauȝte Dou3.* 21 in *Babees Bk.*, ȝeue of þin owne good, and be not to hard, For seelden is þat hous poore þere god is steward. 1539 Bible (Great) 1 *Cor.* iv. 1 Let a man thys wyse esteme vs, euen as ye minysters of Christ, and stewardes of the secretes of God. 1575–85 Abp. Sandys *Serm.* x. 167 God hath made him rich, that he as a faithful steward might bestowe those riche blessings vpon the familie..of God. 1594 A. Hume *Poems* (S. T. S.) 147 The Lord is a wise and discreet stewurt, and dispensator of his benefits. 1597 Shaks. 2 *Hen. IV*, v. iii. 137 Master Shallow, my Lord Shallow, be what thou wilt, I am Fortunes Steward. 1615 G. Sandys *Trav.* I. 32 Luxury being the steward, and the treasure vnexhaustable. 1765 Blackstone *Comm.* I. vii. 257 He [the king] is the steward of the public, to dispense it [justice] to whom it is due. 1769 Harte *Eulogius* 203 Just steward of the bounty he receiv'd, And dying poorer than the poor reliev'd! 1849 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* vi. II. 19 A man of business and a vigilant steward of the public money.

7. An officer in a gild, usually ranking next to the alderman; also *Hist.* often as a rendering of L. *senescallus*, ONF. *eskevein*: see Skevin.

10.. in Kemble *Cod. Dipl.* IV. 278, & ȝyf he on neawyste forðfaren sy warnize man þone stiward to hwylcere stowe þæt lic sceole & se stiward warnize syððan ða ȝerylðan. 1432 in F. A. Hibbert *Orig. Eng. Gilds* (1891) 46 The Stywardes and Maistres of the saide Crafte. 1494 in *Eng. Gilds* (1870) 188 The Stuarde off the Gilde for the tyme beyng shall truly countrolle them y[t] ben absente. 1870 Toulmin Smith *English Gilds* Introd. p. ciii, There was an alderman at the head of the Gild, and often stewards by his side as assistants.

b. In certain City companies: One of two or more officers, who are charged with the arrangements for the annual dinner. Cf. sense 10.

1614 in W. M. Williams *Ann. Founders' Co.* (1867) 90 That..Master Wardens, Assistants, and Livery should pay to the Stewards for the providing of dynner on the day of the Master's Feast the some of Two Shillings each. *a* 1700 Evelyn *Diary* 21 Sept. 1671, I din'd..at the fraternity feast in Yron-mongers Hall, where the 4 stewards chose their successors. 1796 in W. M. Williams *Ann. Founders' Co.* (1867) 165 That as two stewards, properly enabled to serve the office, cannot be immediately fixed upon, the annual dinner, on Lord Mayor's day, be omitted.

c. In various societies, the title of certain officers forming an executive committee. Cf. sense 10.

1831 in *J. C. Whyte's Hist. Brit. Turf* (1840) I. 145 At a meeting of the Stewards and Members of the Jockey Club, it was stated that [etc.]. 1910 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 11) XIII. 732/2 Sport is carried on under the auspices of the Jockey Club...Three stewards, one of whom retires each year,.. govern the..work of the club...The stewards of the Jockey Club are *ex officio* stewards of Ascot, Epsom, Goodwood and Doncaster. All other meetings are controlled by stewards, usually well-known patrons of the Turf invited to act by the projectors of the fixture.

8. A corporation official, whose rank and duties vary widely in different municipalities; often with a defining word, as *Capital steward, city steward, town steward*.

1433 *Rolls of Parlt.* IV. 477/1 The Styward of the seid Town. 1835 *App. Munic. Corpor. Rep.* I. 188 The Steward [of Cardiff]..is required to be learned in the law. *Ibid.* 613 The Capital Steward [of South Molton]..has neither duties nor emoluments. *Ibid.* II. 1275 The Town Steward [of Dorchester] is the treasurer of the corporation. *Ibid.* III. 1741 Previous to the year 1714, the city steward [of York] was appointed by the upper house.

9. High steward (see also 3).

a. In the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, the title (in academic Latin *seneschallus*) of a judicial officer, in whom is vested the jurisdiction belonging to the university in causes of treason and felony.

1459 in *Munim. Acad.* (Rolls) I. 345 If the same prisoner be claymed by the said Chaunceller or his styward..within iv. wykes next after his takyng and imprisonyng in the common prison of the town. *c* 1674 Wood *Fasti Oxon.* (1790) 180 The Office of Steward in this University concerning the capital and chief causes of Scholars and privileged persons, King Henry IV..did institute. 1714 Ayliffe *Ant. & Pres. St. Univ. Oxf.* II. 166 The Lord High Steward..is to hold and keep the University Court-Leet..either by himself, or his Under-Steward,..and on account of this Office, the High Steward receives the yearly Fee of five Pounds from the University. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XVIII. 684 The trial of treason, felony, and mayhem, by a particular charter, is committed to the university jurisdiction in..the court of the lord high steward of the university. 1824 *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) XVI. 184 art. *Cambridge* [Officers of the University] 2 A High Steward, who has special power to take the trial of scholars impeached of felony, and to hold and keep a court-leet within the university. 1845 G. R. M. Ward tr. *Oxf. Univ. Statutes* I. 178 The office of High Steward or Deputy High Steward of the University. 1895 Rashdall *Universities* II. ii. 409 Henry IV [in 1406] gave the University [of Oxford] the right to claim the surrender of 'privileged persons' indicted for felony, who were thereupon to be tried by a newly-constituted officer of the University, the Seneschal or Steward, to be appointed by the Chancellor. *Ibid.* 790 The jurisdiction of the Court of the High Steward of the University [of Oxford]..remains intact, but the privilege has never been claimed for a century or more.

† **b.** An official having at the inthronization of an archbishop ceremonial functions similar to those of the Lord High Steward at a coronation. *Obs.*

15.. in Dugdale *Monast.* (1817) I. 118/1 He shoulde be the hye stewarde of the sayde archbyshop, and of his successors, at their great feast, when it shoulde fortune the sayde archbyshoppe to be intronizated.

c. In certain English cities, a municipal title of dignity, usually borne by a nobleman or royal prince.

1563 in W. H. Turner *Select Rec. Oxford* (1880) 306 Sir Francis Knollis, Knyght, was chosen stuarde of this Cytie of Oxford this the third day of February, 1563. 1582 *Nottingham Rec.* IV. 199 The Earle of Rutland beinge Highe Steward. 1835 *App. Munic. Corpor. Rep.* I. 59 The present lord high steward [of Gloucester] is His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester. 1914 *Kelly's Oxf. Directory* 142 High Steward [of the city of Oxford], the Right Hon. the Earl of Jersey.

10. A person appointed to supervise the arrangements or maintain order at a race meeting, exhibition, dinner, ball, concert, public gathering, etc.

1703 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 3949/4 The Horses to be shewn at the George in Amsbury.., and to be entred by the Steward. 1709 Bp. Atterbury *Serm. Sons of Clergy* Ded., To the Worshipful Mr. John Tenison [and others] Stewards for the Late Feast of the Sons of the Clergy. 1751 *Laws of Mus. Soc. at Castle-Tavern, Pater-noster-row* 13 The Stewards shall observe the Directions herein after mentioned..for preserving good Order at the Concerts. 1812 *Examiner* 24 Aug. 542/1 He himself was one of the Stewards of that dinner! 1841 Orderson *Creoleana* vi. 62 It was customary for the stewards..to arrange the order of the minuets. 1854 *Poultry Chron.* II. 330/2 Fill up the delivery order, stating how the birds are to be returned. The stewards will pack them after the show. 1910 [see 7 c]. 1915 *Morn. Post* 7 Dec. 4/3 The meeting was perfectly quiet..until one or two of the stewards..attempted to remove four or five Colonial soldiers.

11. An overseer of workmen. In mod. use, the 'underlooker' of a colliery, 'who receives his orders from the manager, and to whom the overmen and deputies report upon the state of the mine' (Gresley *Gloss. Coal-mining*, 1883); also, in Scotland, the foreman of a workshop.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 5525 On þam þe king sett sere stuward [*magistros operum*] To hald þam in-to werkes hard. 1708 J. C. *Compleat Collier* (1845) 38 Six Pence per Corfe,..which is Deducted..by the Steward or Pay-Master. 1916 *Observer* 9 Jan. 12/2 The fact that Logan had strong trades union views is nothing exceptional for a shop's steward.

12. Among Methodists, a layman appointed to manage the financial affairs of a congregation (*society* or *chapel steward*) or of a circuit (*circuit steward*). Also *book steward*, the manager of the Book-room or publication department of the Wesleyan Methodist Society; *poor steward*, a person appointed in a congregation to administer the funds collected for the poor.

1741 Wesley *Jrnl.* 23 May (1749) 85 The Stewards of the Society (who receive and expend what is contributed weekly). 1771 — *Jrnl.* 31 Mar. (1777) 22 In the Methodist discipline, the wheels regularly stand thus: the assistant, the preachers, the stewards, the leaders, the people. 1896 *Daily News* 10 Mar. 5/3 The Rev. C. H. Kelly, the book steward, who is still prosecuting his searches in the Archives of the Wesleyan Book Room. 1904 *Daily Chron.* 15 Feb. 3/5 Mr. Slack is an active member of the Wesleyan Methodist body...He is circuit-steward of the West London Mission.

13. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as (sense 1 d) *steward boy*; (sense 5 d) *steward-clerk*; also † **stewart-compt**, *Sc.* the statement of the accounts of a stewartry; **stewart-, steward-court**, *Sc.* the court having jurisdiction within a stewartry; also *attrib.*; **steward-depute**, see 5 d; **steward's mate**, the assistant of a ship's steward; **steward's room, steward-room**, see quots.; **steward's table** (see quot.).

1897 Mary Kingsley *W. Africa* 613 Assisting Idabea and the *steward boys in chivying this pig. 1912 A. Porteous *Hist. Crieff* ii. 48 Other officials connected with the Steward Court were: the Judge or Judex, the Steward Depute, the *Steward Clerk, the Doomster or Deemster. 1580 *Exch. Rolls Scot.* XXI. 549, I am restand awand in my *stewart compt of Menteyth the sowme of 32 pundis. 1475 in *3rd Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* 418/1 Vyllam reyd, deinpstar of the *stewart curt of Stratherne. *a* 1600 in W. Nicolson *Leges Marchiarum* (1705) 202 First that he.. charge him within the Stewart-Court Book. 1752 J. Louthian *Form of Process* (ed. 2) 287 The several Officers in the Sheriff or Stewart-courts are prohibited to take..any other or higher Fees. *a* 1600 in W. Nicolson *Leges Marchiarum* (1705) 202 Ane wise and famous Gentleman,..to be *Stewart Deput. 1824 G. Chalmers *Caledonia* III. iii. v. 247 In 1747 this stewartry was placed under a stewart-depute. 1708 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4440/1 The..*Stewards Mate, Cooks Mate,..and Marine-Soldiers, two Eighth Parts. 1627 Capt. Smith *Sea Gram.* ii. 13 The *Stewards roome. 1644 Manwayring *Seamans Dict.* 102 *Stewards-Roome*, is that part of the Howlde, wherein the Victuals are Stowed. *c* 1850 *Rudim. Navig.* (Weale) 153 *Steward's room*, an apartment built on the larboard side of the after platform, whence the purser's steward issues the provisions to the ship's company, and where he makes up his accounts. 1758 (*title*) Treatise on the Use and Abuse of the Second, commonly called the *Steward's Table, in Families of the First Rank.

Steward (stiū·əd), *v.* [f. Steward *sb.*]

1. *trans.* To manage, administer.

1621 Bp. H. King *Serm.* 25 Nov. To Rdr. L 3 b, Whether I haue vprightly stewarded his honour, and my owne faith, I leaue to the strict iudgement of any who are able to..discerne Truth from Imposture. 1626 J. Yates *Ibis ad Cæsarem* I. To Rdr., The Athenian Commander,..having ill stewarded the Treasury of the Commonwealth. 1639 Fuller *Holy War* II. xxxi. (1640) 85 Did he thus requite his mothers care in stewarding the State? 1905 *Daily Chron.* 22 Sept. 4/5 A race..who may..steward aright the mighty heritage which is passing into their hands.

2. *intr.* To do the duties of a steward.

1897 J. Chalmers in R. Lovett *Autobiog. & Lett.* (1902) 434 We have with us two boys to cook and steward for us.

Hence **Stew·arding** *vbl. sb.*

1548 Udall. *Erasm. Par. Luke* vi. 17–19 To whom the

dispensacion & stewardyng of goddes woorde is to be committed. 1602 *Archpriest Controv.* (Camden) I. 232 Every baker or brewer, for stewarding and treasuringe..must, by this newe device, be made equall with you. 1865 DICKENS *Mut. Fr.* IV. xii, As for stewarding, I think it's time my brother gave that up.

Stewardess (stiū·ədès). [f. STEWARD *sb.* + -ESS [1].] A female who performs the duties of a steward; also *fig.*

1631 *Celestina* xxi. 198 O variable fortune..thou Ministresse and high Stewardesse of all temporal happinesse. 1827 CARLYLE *Germ. Rom.* III. 212 She was his..Castle-Stewardess. 1865 GLADSTONE in Morley *Life* v. x. (1903) II. 160 Her [*sc.* the church's] high office as stewardess of divine truth.

b. Now chiefly: A female attendant on a ship whose duty it is to wait on the women passengers.

1837 HT. MARTINEAU *Soc. Amer.* II. 2 Mrs. F. and I were the only ladies on board; and there was no stewardess. 1885 *Times* 21 Sept. 10/1 There were five females among the passengers, including the stewardess.

Stewardly (stiū·ədli), *a.* [f. STEWARD *sb.* + -LY [1].]

†**1.** Pertaining to or administered by a steward; of the nature of a stewardship. *Obs.*

1642 BRIDGE *Wound. Consc. Cured* iv. 26 If abused that he do not perform his Stewardly trust as hee should, the people..are to looke to it. 1643 J. COTTON *Doctr. Ch.* 2 cThe Government of his Kingdome is not Lordly, but Stewardly and Ministeriall. *a* 1683 OWEN *Holy Spirit* (1693) 256 They are sufficient of themselves for the Stewardly Dispensation of the Mysteries of the Gospel.

2. *dial.* Skilled in household management.

1746 *Exmoor Courtship* 569 Tha stewardlest vittest Wanch that comath on tha' Stones o' Moulton. *c* 1750 *Mrs. Palmer's Devon. Dial.* i. (1839) 11 A notable, thorough-paced stewardly body. 1874 Miss S. P. Fox *Kingsbridge* (E.D.D.) A good stewardly wife.

Stewardly (stiū·ədli), *adv. rare.* [+ -LY [2].] Like a steward; with the care of a steward.

1604 TOOKER *Fabric of Ch.* iv. 48 Euery dispensation..is to be stewaredly dispensed not wastfully spent or powred vpon euery ones head or altogether.

Stewardry, variant of STEWARTRY.

Stewardship (stiū·ədʃip). [f. STEWARD *sb.* + -SHIP.]

1. The office of steward; also *fig.*

1465 *Mann. & Househ. Exp.* (ROXB.) 178 Item, the bayly off Hadley owyth hym ffor hys ffe off the stewardsheppe off the same town. 1491 *Act 7 Hen. VII*, c. 20 § 8 Any Stiwardshippes offices fees wages or annuities..to him graunted. 1593 SHAKS. *Rich. II*, III. iii. 78 Shew vs the Hand of God, That hath dismiss'd vs from our Stewardship. 1601 [? MARSTON] *Jack Drums Entert.* I. A 4 b, No, I do loue my Girles should wish me liue, Which fewe do wish that haue a greedy Syre: But still expect and gape with hungry lip, When heele giue vp his gowtie stewardship. 1709 BP. ATTERBURY *Serm. Sons Clergy* Ded., There are, I believe, Two hundred Persons now living, who have gone before You in the Stewardship. 1839 *John Bull* 11 Aug. 382/2 A new writ was..issued for Perth, in the room of Mr. Kinnaird, who vacated by accepting a stewardship of the Chiltern Hundreds. 1862 GOULBURN *Pers. Relig.* I. iv. (1871) 41 Each one of us has a stewardship somewhere in the great social system. 1886 *Manch. Exam.* 1 Oct. 5/3 At a meeting of the Jockey Club..H. W. Fitzwilliam was appointed as successor in the stewardship to the Marquis of Londonderry. 1907 *Outlook* 19 Jan. 91/1 The origin and development of the Stewardship of England.

2. Conduct of the office of steward; administration, management, control.

1526 TINDALE *Luke* xvi. 2 Geve a comptes off thy stewardshippe. 1684 NORRIS *Poems* etc. 46 Among all the Talents which are committed to our Stewardship, Time..is the most precious. 1791 COWPER *Iliad* XIX. 52 Those who held In stewardship the food. 1915 *Morn. Post* 22 Dec. 4/4 We want further such a stewardship of the economic resources of the country as will enable us to lift and to carry the financial burden.

†**3.** Used for STEWARTRY 1. *Obs.*

1796 MORSE *Amer. Geog.* II. 97 Scotland is divided into 31 shires and two stewardships.

Stewart: see STEWARD.

Stewartry, stewardry (stiū·ətri, stiū·ədri). Chiefly *Sc.* [See STEWARD *sb.* and -RY.]

1. A former territorial division of Scotland under the jurisdiction of a steward: see STEWARD 5 d.

Two of the stewartries, that of Orkney and Shetland and that of Kirkcudbright, were identical with the present counties, and the term is still used instead of *county* as the official designation of these districts. Elsewhere the stewartry was of smaller extent than the county. As an administrative division, the stewartry was abolished in 1748.

a. 1473-4 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* I. 5 His landis of Barnagehane within the Stewartry of Kirkcudbrith. 1491 in *Acta Dom. Concil.* (1839) 199/2 Landis..liand in the stewartry of straitherne. 1685 *Sc. Procl.* 28 Apr. in *Lond. Gaz.* No. 2032/2 All the Heretors, Liferenters, Feuars and Wodsetters in the Shires of Air, Renfrew, Clidsdale, Wigtoun, Dumfreis, and Stewartries and Bailliaries within the same. 1747 *Act 20 Geo. II*, c. 43 § 4 All Stewartries not hereby before taken away and extinguished. 1806 *Gazetteer Scot.* (ed. 2) 148 Dumfries-shire..comprehends 3 districts or stewartries, viz. Annandale, Eskdale or Wauchopedale, and Nithsdale. 1837 *Act 7 Will. IV & 1 Vict.* c. 39 The Words..'Shire', 'Sheriffdom', and 'County' [shall be deemed] to comprehend and apply to any Stewartry in Scotland. 1884 *Manch. Exam.* 9 Dec. 5/6 Sir John proposes to..add to it..the stewartry of Kirkcudbright.

attrib. 1792 *Copper-Plate Mag.* No. ix, The stewartry (or county) courts are held at this place [Kirkcudbright].

β. 1495-6 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* I. 219 Vmquhill McLelane of Garrochcragow wythin the steuardry of Kirkcowbrycht. 1708 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4434/1 The Barons, Freeholders and Gentlemen of the Stewardry of Kirkcudbright. 1862 J. GRANT *Capt. Guard* xix, Sir Herbert Herries..had large possessions in the stewardry.

2. The office of steward in such a territory.

1483 in *Acts Parlt. Scot.* (1875) XII. 33/1 þe office of the steuartry of Kirkcwbrich with þe keping of þe castel of þe treif. 1563 *Ibid.* 44/2 þe said office of stewartrie of Menteith with all feis and dewities pertening thairto. 1711 in *Nairne Peerage Evid.* (1874) 142 To use and exerce the said office of steuartrie. 1746-7 *Act 20 Geo. II*, c. 43 § 2 The possessors of the seid heretable baillieries, stewartries, or constabularies.

3. = STEWARDSHIP 3.

a 1763 BYROM *Poet. Version Let. Earl of Essex* 37 You have them [*sc.* Talents], not as Things your own..; But as an human Stewartry, or Trust, Of which Account is to be giv'n, and just. 1877 BLACKIE *Wise Men* 341 The statesman..skilled by faithful stewartry to give Increase to money wisely husbanded.

Stewarty (stiū·ərti). *Sc.* Also 8 **stuarty.** [f. *stewart*, STEWARD *sb.* + -Y.] = STEWARTRY.

Chiefly used by English writers, though one or two Scottish examples are found.

1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* II. 6 Counties which they cal Shiriffdomes, Seneschalsies commonly Stewarties and Bailiwickes. 1708 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4473/1 The Head Burghs of the several Shires and Stuarties in Scotland. 1747 *Gentl. Mag.* XVII. 556 These jurisdictions are either regalities, justiciaries, sheriffalties, stewarties, bailliaries. 1752 J. LOUTHIAN *Form of Process* (ed. 2) 171 The Sheriffs or Stewarts of the Shires or Stewarties. 1796 MORSE *Amer. Geog.* II. 97 Caithness, and the two stewarties.

†**Stewat.** *Sc. Obs.* [app. f. STEW *v.*[3] + *-art*, -ARD.] A stinker, stinkard.

1535 LYNDESAY *Satyre* 2486 Thou art ane stewat, I stand foird. *Ibid.* 2489 Thir stewats stinks as thay war Broks.

Stewdyent, obs. form of STUDENT.

Stewed (stiūd), *ppl. a.*[1] Also 5 **stwed, 6 stude, stued(e, stuyd, 6–7 stewd, 7 stu'd.** [f. STEW *v.*[2] + -ED.[1]] Of meat, fruit, vegetables: Cooked by slow boiling in a closed vessel. Of tea: Made strong and bitter by being kept too long in the pot.

c 1450 *Two Cookery-bks.* II. 72 Stwed Beef..Stwed Mutton. 1538 ELYOT *Dict., Offella*,..also a potage made with pieces of flesshe, as stuyd brothe or forced gruell. 1555 in W. H. Turner *Select. Rec. Oxford* (1880) 230 Item, stude meate..x[d]. *c* 1596 HENSLOWE *Diary* (1904) I. 32 Then take a stewed pryne and plucke owt the stone. 1664 F. HAWKINS *Youths Behav.* II. 178 A dish of stu'd Oysters. 1747 MRS. GLASSE *Cookery* ii. 48 A stewed Pheasant. 1816 TUCKEY *Narr. Exped. R. Zaire* iv. (1818) 138 A repast..consisting of a stewed fowl, a dish of stewed beans, and cassava bread named Coanga. 1915 *Blackw. Mag.* May 600/2 We had a great meal off lunch-tongue, bread, wine and stewed pears.

absol. 1861 [TREVELYAN] *Horace at Univ. Athens* (1862) 24 I'm..tightly filled With roast, and boiled, and stewed, and pulled, and grilled.

b. Comb. †**stewed-pot**, a stew of various ingredients (cf. STEWPOT 2); **stewed quaker** *U.S.* (see quot. 1890).

1596 NASHE *Saffron Walden* S 2 b, Neither are these parts seuerally distinguished in his order of handling, but, like a Dutch stewd-pot iumbled altogether. 1785 GROSE *Dict. Vulgar T., Stewed quaker*, burned rum with a piece of butter, an American remedy for a cold. 1890 *Century Dict.* s. v. *Quaker, Stewed Quaker*, a posset of molasses or honey, stewed with butter and vinegar, and taken hot as a remedy for colds. (Colloq.)

¶ c. With pun on STEWED *ppl. a.*[2]

1596 SHAKS. *1 Hen. IV*, III. iii. 128 There's no more faith in thee then in a stu'de Prune. So 1597-1603 — *2 Hen. IV*, II. iv. 158, *Merry W.* I. i. 296, *Meas. for M.* II. i. 92. 1606 — *Tr. & Cr.* III. i. 44 Sodden businesse, there's a stewed phrase indeede. 1609 DEKKER *Gull's Horn-bk.* V. 25 When your Knight is vpon his stewed Mutton, be you presently.. in the bosome of your goose.

†**Stewed,** *ppl. a.*[2] *Obs.* [f. **stew* vb. (f. STEW *sb.*[2]) + -ED.[1]] Belonging to the stews. *Stewed whore, strumpet*: vaguely used as opprobrious epithets imputing unchastity.

1532 MORE *Confut. Tindale* Wks. 722/2 This good scholer of Tindalle..findeth in his heart written by the spirit of God, y[t] freres & monkes..may..vnder the name of weddyng, make stewed strumpettes of nunnes. 1532 *Lett. & Pap. Hen. VIII*, V. 425 The King's grace was ruled by one common stued huer, Anne Bullan. 1549 LATIMER *3rd Serm. bef. Edw. VI* (Arb.) 82 There is more open whoredome more stuede whoredome then euer was before. 1556 OLDE *Antichrist* 140 b, That Sodomitical stewed state. 1575 *Gamm. Gurton* III. iii, Where is the strong stued hore?

Stewfe, variant of STUFE *Obs.*, hot bath.

†**Stew-house.** *Obs.* [STEW *sb.*[2]] A stews.

1436 *Rolls of Parlt.* IV. 511/1 Other strange persones.. have set up Stywehouses, and houses of Bordell. 1572 R. T. *Discourse* 49 Sixtus the fourth pope of that name builded stuehouses of both the kindes. 1651 J. F[REAKE] *Agrippa's Occ. Philos.* 96 To hide them in a stew house.

Stewin, variant of STEVEN.

Stewing (stiū·iŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. STEW *v.*[2] + -ING[1].] The action of the vb. STEW in various senses; an instance of this.

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* VII. lviii. (1495) 272 The pacyent shall haue stewynges and bamynges and oynementes hote other colde. 1618 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Pennyles Pilgr.* F 2, Such Baking, Boyling, Rosting, and Stewing. 1778 COOK *3rd Voy.* III. xii. (1784) II. 235 We met with no utensil there that could be applied to the purpose of stewing or boiling. 1877 *Encycl. Brit.* VI. 333/2 The lid of a vessel used for stewing should be removed as little as possible. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 497 Remembering to warn him against heated rooms, violent changes of temperature, stewing in bed, and any possible irritation by vestments.

b. *attrib.* and *Comb.*

1833 LOUDON *Encycl. Archit.* § 1484 The fundamental principles of the construction of stewing-hearths. 1837 *Civil Engin. & Arch. Jrnl.* I. 60/1 The kitchen..containing an oven, stewing-stoves, &c. 1860 HOGG *Fruit Man.* 156 A stewing pear, in season from November to April.

Stewing (stiū·iŋ), *ppl. a.* [f. STEW *v.*[2] + -ING[2].] That stews; very hot.

1856 EMERSON *Eng. Traits, Voy. Eng.*, Wks. (Bohn) II. 12 Nobody likes to be treated ignominiously,..rolled over, suffocated with bilge, mephitis, and stewing oil. 1911 J. MASEFIELD *Everlasting Mercy* (1912) 24 Jane brought the bowl of stewing gin And poured the egg and lemon in.

b. *Comb.* **Stewing-hot** *a.*

1711 SWIFT *Jrnl. to Stella* 7 June, 'Tis stewing hot, but I must rise and go to town between fire and water. 1897 MARY KINGSLEY *W. Africa* 684 The sudden fall of temperature that occurs after a tornado coming at the end of a stewing-hot day, is sure to tell on any one,

†**Stew'ish,** *a. Obs.* [f. STEW *sb.*[2] + -ISH.] Of or pertaining to the stews.

a 1555 R. TAYLOR in Foxe *A. & M.* (1583) 1528/1 This Babylonicall stewish spirituall whoredome. 1597 BP. HALL *Sat.* I. ix, Rymed in rules of Stewish ribaldry. 1609 SIR E. HOBY *Let. to T. H[iggons]* 91 Your..Reliques,..Stewish Pardons, Indulgences.

Stewpan (stiū·pæn). [f. STEW *sb.*[2] or *v.*[2] + PAN *sb.* Cf. Du. *stoofpan.*] A saucepan for stewing (see quot. 1858).

1651 T. BARKER *Art of Angling* (1820) 14 Taken out of the stew-pan and dished. 1674 *Engl. & Fr. Cook* 2 Put him [the Carp] in a Stew-pan with a quart of White-wine. 1747 MRS. GLASSE *Cookery* ii. 14 Then butter your Stew-pan, and shake some Flour into it. 1853 SOYER *Pantropheon* 66 Each piece was well washed before putting it into the stewpan. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade, Stew-pan*, a shallow sauce-pan of iron, copper, or block tin. 1915 *Daily Tel.* 14 Aug. 10/2 Next lay the prepared fish..in a large, deep stewpan.

b. *transf.* and *fig.*

1771 SMOLLETT *Humph. Cl.* 5 May (1815) 66 To lead a weary life in this stewpan of idleness and insignificance. 1863 G. H. KINGSLEY *Sport & Trav.* (1900) 397 That tideless stewpan of a harbour can be little less unwholesome than that of Naples.

c. *attrib.*

1839 *Mag. Dom. Econ.* IV. 174 When onions are fried as a flavouring substance in stewpan-cookery. 1846 SOYER *Cookery* 545 Turn it over upon the bottom of a stewpan-lid.

Stewpot (stiū·pɒt). [f. as prec. + POT *sb.*]

1. A covered pot for stewing meat, etc.

1628 FORD *Lover's Mel.* IV. ii, He chafes hugely, fumes like a stew-pot. 1806 *Culina* 236 Put these into a stew-pot. 1883 'ANNIE THOMAS' *Mod. Housewife* 108 She is a venerable bird, and would have become the stew-pot better than the spit.

fig. 1899 *Westm. Gaz.* 5 Apr. 2/3 The very air, damp with the pestilential steam from the fever stew-pots of the slimy swamps and lagoons, is poison.

†**2.** A dish of meat cooked in a stewpot; a stew. (Cf. *stewed-pot.*) *Obs.*

1542 BOORDE *Dyetary* xii. (1870) 263 Sewe and stewpottes, and grewell made with otmell..can do lytel displeasure. 1605 ROWLANDS *Hell's broke loose* To Rdr., They were constrayned to frie..Bootes in Steakes, and Stew-pottes of old Shoes.

¶ b. *allusively.* (See STEW *sb.*[2]) A prostitute.

a 1613 OVERBURY *Characters, Sargeant* (1618) N 7, Vpon one of the Sheriffs custards he is not so greedy, nor so sharp set, as at such a stew-pot.

†**3.** (See quot.) *Obs.*

1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 424/1 A Stew or Stove or Stew pot covered..This is a Vessel made of either Brass, Iron, or Copper; with high Feet and Rings on the sides by which it is removed..from place to place; in which a Fire is put.. by which Rooms are made warm.

Stewth, variant of STOUTH.

Stewy (stiū·i), *a.* [f. STEW *v.*[2] + -Y.] Suggestive of being stewed; having a stewed flavour.

1895 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 30 Dec. 4/3 The beverage she doles out is too frequently repellantly cold and detestably stewy.

Stewyn(e, variant forms of STEVEN.

Stey (stēi), *a. Sc.* Forms: 4– **stay,** 6– **stey,** 9 *erron.* **steigh.** [? repr. OE. **stǽge* (:—prehistoric **staigjo-*), f. OTeut. **staig-*: **stīg-* to climb: see STY *v.* Cf. OE. *stǽgel* steep.]

1. Of a mountain, cliff, etc.: Approaching the perpendicular, difficult of ascent, steep.

1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* X. 25 On the owthir half ane montane was So cumrouss, and ek so stay, That it wes hard to pas that way. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xvi. (*Magdalene*) 813 þat roche hey & stay. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* III. viii. 56 A port thair is,..With rochis set forgane the streme full stay. 1533 BELLENDEN *Livy* II. 214/24 Þai mycht þe more eselie be dung doun agane be þe stay brayis þareof. *c* 1590 J. STEWART *Poems* (S.T.S.) II. 208 The entres is so strait and stay, Quhilk leeds to lyf. 1597 MONTGOMERIE *Cherrie & Slae* 357 The craige was vgly, stay and dreich. 1710 RUDDIMAN *Gloss. Douglas' Æneis, Stay*,..steep: As we say Scot. a stay brae. 1721 KELLY *Sc. Prov.* 287 Set a stout Heart to a stay Brea. 1786 BURNS *To Auld Mare* xiv, The steyest brae thou wad hae fac't it. 1826 J. WILSON *Noct. Ambr.* Wks. 1855 I. 250 They gang swinging up the stey streets without sweetin. 1893 STEVENSON *Catriona* xv. 168 There was he hingin' by a line an' speldering on the craig face, whaur it's hieest and steighest.

†**2.** *transf.* Unbending, upright. Also of a person: Reserved, haughty. *Obs.*

a 1586 *Sat. Poems Reform.* xxxvii. 47 Gif ȝe beir strange, þai ȝow esteme our stay. *a* 1605 MONTGOMERIE *Misc. Poems* xxvii. 36 Nou I must rot, vha some tym stoud so stay. *a* 1605 — *Sonn.* xxxii. 2, I love the lillie as the first of flours, Vhose staitly stalk so streight vp is and stay. 1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* x. 503 This Patrones Crescent stands so stay.

Stey(e, obs. forms of STAY, STY.

Steyer, Steyg : see STAIR, STEG.

Steyl(e, Steyll, obs. ff. STEAL, STEEL, STILE.

Steylling, obs. form of STILLING.

Steyme, Sc. form of STIME.

Steynch, obs. form of STANCH *v.*

1573-5 GASCOIGNE *Adv. Mr. F. J.* Wks. 1907 I. 391 Ye Lady..felt hir bleeding began to steynch. *Ibid.* 395 For that you have so clerkly steynched my bleeding.

Steyn(e, var. forms of STAIN *v.*, STEEN *v.*

Steyp(e, Steyr, obs. ff. STEEP, STEER.

Steyre, obs. form of STAIR, STIR.

Steyvyne, -wyne : see STEVEN *sb.*3, *sb.*2

St. Foin(e, St. Foyne, obs. forms of SAINFOIN.

‖ **Sthenia.** *Path. Obs.* [mod.L. (Brown) irreg. f. Gr. *σθέν-os* strength, after ASTHENIA.] Used by Brown (see next) for: Normal or excessive 'excitability' or vital power. Opposed to *asthenia.*

1788 J. BROWN tr. *Elem. Med.* II. 43 In every sthenia, in all sthenic diseases,..an universal criterion is encreased excitement over the whole system. 1833 *Cycl. Pract. Med.* II. 702/1 [Dr. Brown] maintained..that both sthenia and asthenia could never exist together in the same individual.

Sthenic (sθe·nik), *a. Path.* [ad. mod.L. *sthenic-us* (Brown), f. Gr. *σθέν-os* strength: after *asthenicus* ASTHENIC *a.*] Applied by Dr. John Brown (1735-88) and his followers to diseases characterized by a normal or excessive accumulation of 'excitability' or vital power in the system. Similarly in later use, of diseases, symptoms, etc.: Marked by normal or excessive vital or nervous energy. Opposed to *asthenic.*

1788 J. BROWN tr. *Elem. Med.* I. Pref. p. xii *note*, Sthenic diseases..are such as depend upon an excessive application of the several powers that otherwise produce health. 1793 T. BEDDOES *Let. Darwin* 49 It had before occurred to me that air of a reduced standard would be extremely beneficial in sthenic inflammation. 1874 MAUDSLEY *Mental Dis.* iii. 83 Idiopathic insanity divisible into two varieties,—sthenic and asthenic, according to the strong or feeble condition of the bodily health. 1877 F. T. ROBERTS *Handbk. Med.* (ed. 3) I. 6 The sanguineous temperament is believed to predispose to fevers of a sthenic type. 1880 BARWELL *Aneurism* 94 When the too sthenic symptoms are somewhat subdued, a dry diet is preferable.

b. In extended sense: Belonging to, tending to produce, vital or nervous energy.

1797 *Monthly Mag.* III. 350/2 M. Humboldt concludes his letter with some observations on the sthenic or asthenic virtue of chemical agents, that is to say, their ability or impotence to produce irritation. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VII. 372 The cerebellum normally exerts on the apparatus of movement, a sthenic, tonic, and static influence.

Sti, Stian : see STY, STYAN.

Stiarne, obs. form of STEERN *a.*

Stib-, used in *Chem.* as combining form of STIBIUM, before both a vowel and a consonant: see quots. Cf. STIBIO-.

1852 *Fownes' Chem.* (ed. 4) 438 A curious substance, which MM. Loewig and Schweizer have described under the name of stibethyl. 1857 MILLER *Elem. Chem., Org.* 226 Stibethyl, or Stibiotriethyl. 1863 WATTS *Dict. Chem.* I. 339 Antimonides of Amyl, or Stibamyls..Stibdiamyl..Stibtriamyl. *Ibid.* 341 Stibtriethyl.., commonly called Stibethyl. *Ibid.* 344 Stibtrimethyl. 1865 MANSFIELD *Salts* 317 The compounds called Stibmethyl and Stibethyl.

Stibble, Sc. form of STUBBLE.

† **Sti·bbler.** *Sc. Obs.* Also 8 **stibler.** [Of obscure origin; for suggestions see Jamieson.] A licensed probationer who has not yet received a call to a settled ministerial charge.

1721 RAMSAY *Morning Interview* 211 Not the long 'tending stibler, at his call;..E'er knew such raptures as this joyful swain. 1815 SCOTT *Guy M.* xlvi, Ye sticket stibbler [addressed to Dominie Sampson]. 1865 R. PAUL in B. Bell *Mem.* (1872) 335 Mr. Burns..is away for six weeks, and only a set of young stibblers in his place.

† **Sti·bial,** *a. Obs. rare*—1. [ad. mod.L. *stibiāl-is*: see STIBI-UM and -AL.] Having the qualities of antimony, antimonial.

1666 G. HARVEY *Morbus Angl.* xv. (1672) 33 An adust Stibial or Æruginous Sulphur.

Stibialism (sti·biăliz'm). *Med. rare*—0. [f. prec. + -ISM.] (See quot.)

1857 DUNGLISON *Med. Lex., Stibialism*, the aggregate phenomena produced by antimonials, when given in large quantities :—antimonial intoxication or poisoning.

† **Stibia·rian.** *Obs. rare*—1. [f. STIBI-UM + *-arian*, denoting an adherent of a doctrine or practice.] One who administers antimony (as an emetic); in quot. *fig.*

1635 F. WHITE *Sabbath-day* Ep. Ded. 3 This Stibiarian ..tendereth a bitter pill of sacrileage and cruelty: but when the same was rejected because it was violent, then he presents his Antimonian potion, to the States of the Kingdome.

† **Sti·biate,** *a. Obs.* [ad. mod.L. *stibiāt-us*: see STIBI-UM and -ATE 2.] Impregnated or combined with antimony.

1625 HART *Anat. Ur.* II. ix. 113 Strong stibiate vomits are vsed. 1684 tr. *Bonet's Merc. Compit.* XIV. 487 They place the chief stress of the Cure in Stibiate Emeticks. 1754 HUXHAM *Antimony* in *Phil. Trans.* XLVIII. 853 'Tis also of some consequence how long the stibiate lixivium stands before the acid is poured on. *Ibid.* 868 As stibiate medicines are now so much in vogue.

Sti·biated, *a. rare*—0. [f. prec. + -ED.] = prec.

1828-32 in WEBSTER; and in later Dicts.

Stibic (sti·bik), *a. rare.* [f. STIB-IUM + -IC.] Of or belonging to antimony; antimonic.

† *Stibic stone*, 'black antimony': see STIBIUM.

1609 BIBLE (Douay) 2 *Kings* ix. 30 Jezebel..paynted her face with stibike stone [Vulg. *depinxit oculos suos stibio*]. 1839 *Hooper's Lex. Med.* (ed. 7) 1221 *Stibic Acid*, Berzelius's name for the yellow oxide of antimony.

Stibiconite (sti·bikŏnəit). *Min.* [f. STIBI-UM + Gr. *κόν-ις* dust + -ITE. Originally named *stibiconise* (Beudant 1832).] A hydrous oxide of antimony, sometimes found in a pulverulent form. Cf. STIBLITE.

1843 E. J. CHAPMAN *Pract. Min.* 70 Stibiconise. 1868 DANA *Min.* (ed. 5) 188 Stibiconite.

† **Stibie.** *Obs.* Anglicized form of STIBIUM.

1548 UDALL *Erasm. Par. Luke* vii. 36-39 Hir iyes..she was woont..to payncte with Stibie.

Stibilite : see STIBLITE.

Stibine (sti·bəin). [f. STIB-IUM + -INE.]

1. *Min.* = STIBNITE. (Named by Beudant 1832.)

1843 E. J. CHAPMAN *Pract. Min.* 124. 1860 PIESSE *Lab. Chem. Wonders* 2 Native sulphuret of antimony or stibine.

2. *Chem.* Any of the antimony-compounds on the type of ammonia, SbH_3.

1852 *Fownes' Chem.* (ed. 4) 568 Triethylstibin. 1878 ABNEY *Photogr.* (1881) 34 Antimoniuretted hydrogen or stibine. 1878 TIDY *Mod. Chem.* 667 Stibines. Trimethyl stibine Sb $(CH_3)_3$. Triethyl stibine (Stibethyl) $Sb(C_2H_5)_3$.

Stibio- (sti·bio), combining form of STIBIUM, used in *Chem.* and *Min.* (see quots.). Cf. STIB-.

1857 MILLER *Elem. Chem., Org.* 225 The radicles stibiotrimethyl and stibiotriethyl. 1874 *Amer. Jrnl. Sci.* Ser. III. VII. 152 Stibioferrite from Santa Clara Co., California. 1868 DANA *Min.* (ed. 5) 591 Stibiogalenite.

Sti·bious, *a. rare*—0. [f. STIBI-UM + -OUS.] Of or belonging to antimony; antimonious.

1839 *Hooper's Lex. Med.* (ed. 7) 1221 *Stibious*, antimonial. *Stibious Acid.* So Berzelius calls the white oxide of antimony.

Stibium (sti·biŏm). Also 6 **stebium**, 7 **stybium.** [a. L. *stibium* (also *stibi, stimmi* = Gr. *στίβι, στίμμι*).] 'Black antimony', i.e. trisulphide of antimony calcined and powdered, used as a cosmetic for blackening the eyelids and eyebrows. † Formerly used also for metallic antimony or any of its salts, esp. as a poison or an emetic.

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XIX. XXXV. (1495) 879 *Stibium* is a feyned colour made of Cerusa and of other thynges medlyd therwyth, wymmen paynted theyr faces therwyth. *c* 1596 HENSLOWE *Diary* (1904) I. 32 Take stebium & beate yt in powder verey fine. 1612 WEBSTER *White Devil* II. i. 281, I will compound a medicine out of their two heads, stronger then garlick, deadlier then stibium. 1633 T. ADAMS *Exp. 2 Peter* ii. 22. 1094 Sinne, like *Stibium*, will tarry with no body: up it must, either here by a humble confession, or hereafter by a wretched confusion. 1634 W. WOOD *New Eng. Prosp.* II. vi. 67 Their belly-timbers, which I suppose would be but *stibium* to weake stomacks as they cooke it, though never so good of it selfe. 1660 J. H. *Basil Valentine's Tri. Chariot of Antimony* 81 The Antimony thus melted in the Crucible, Take a plain and broad dish..; poure in the stibium by litle and litle. 1699 GARTH *Dispens.* V. 122 Of temper'd Stibium the bright Shield was cast. 1842 BONAR & M'CHEYNE *Narr. Mission to Jews* ii. (1843) 59 Their eyes painted with stibium. 1874 BIRCH *1st & 2nd Egypt. Rooms Brit. Mus.* 27 Vase for holding stibium,.. called by the Arabs *kohl.*

Stibler, variant of STIBBLER.

Sti·blite. *Min.* Also stibi(o)lite. [f. STIB-IUM + -LITE.] Obsolete synonym of STIBICONITE.

1854 DANA *Min.* (ed. 4) II. 142 Stiblite. 1858 GREG & LETTSOM *Man. Min.* 372 Stiblite.

Stibnite (sti·bnəit). *Min.* [f. STIBINE + -ITE.] Native trisulphide of antimony, 'gray antimony', the most common ore of the metal.

1854 DANA *Min.* (ed. 4) II. 33. 1878 TIDY *Mod. Chem.* 388.

Stibogram (sti·bŏgræm). *rare*—0. [f. Gr. *στίβο-s* footprint + *γράμμα* written character: see -GRAM.] A graphic record of footprints.

1891 *Century Dict.* 1898 *Syd. Soc. Lex.*

Stiborn(e, -ourne, -urn(e, obs. ff. STUBBORN.

Stica : see STYCA.

Sticados, variant of STECHADOS *Obs.*

Sticca·do. *Mus.* Also **-ato.** [? ad. It. *steccato.*] A kind of xylophone (see quot. 1875).

1776 BURNEY *Hist. Mus.* (1789) I. ii. 33 A kind of Sticcado, consisting of bars of wood of different lengths as sonorous as if they had been of metal. 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* XXXII, If I can but steal out into the woods, and play upon my sticcado, I forget it all directly. 1811 BUSBY *Dict. Mus.* (ed. 3) Sticcado. 1875 STAINER & BARRETT *Dict. Mus. Terms, Sticcado* or *Sticcato*, an instrument composed of pieces of wood of graduated lengths, flat at the bottom and rounded at the top, resting on the edges of an open box, and tuned to a diatonic scale. The tone is produced by striking the pieces of wood with small hard balls at the end of a flexible stick.

Sticche, obs. form of STITCH *sb.* and *v.*

Stich (stik). [ad. Gr. *στίχ-os* row, line, verse, or the collateral form *στῖχ-es* (pl.).] A portion or division of prose or verse writing, of a measured or average length; a line, verse.

1723 S. MATHER *Vind. Holy Bible* 67 In some ancient Greek New Testaments, at the close of the epistles, there were some numeral letters added, signifying how many Stichs were in the epistle...The Jewish and Christian writers have computed these Stichs in scripture books, and added them at the end of each book. 1883 SCHAFF *Encycl. Relig. Knowl.* III. 1955 Trying whether these pauses have a like or symmetrically correspondent number of stichs.

Stich(e, obs. forms of STITCH.

Stichados, variant of STECHADOS *Obs.*

Sti·chering, *vbl. sb. dial.* [Of obscure origin.] A method of catching eels. **Sti·cherer,** one who catches eels by this method. (See quot. 1885.)

1867 F. FRANCIS *Angling* iii. (1880) 92 Stichering is yet another method of catching eels,..An unskilful sticherer will sometimes chop off his neighbour's ear. 1885 *Sat. Rev.* 21 Nov. 673/1 'Stichering', a Hampshire method, is perhaps one of the most amusing...The only apparatus used is an old sickle,..tied firmly on a light pole about 12 ft. long. The object of the sticherer is to thrust the sickle under the eel's body, and, with a sudden hoist, to land him on the bank.

Stichewort, -wurt, obs. ff. STITCHWORT.

Stichic (sti·kik), *a.* [ad. Gr. *στιχικ-ός*, f. *στίχος*: see STICH, STICHOS.]

1. Pertaining to or consisting of verses or lines.

1864 WEBSTER. 1883 JEBB *Œdipus Tyr.* p. lxxii, Two rhythmical sentences of equal length..form a 'stichic' period. 1897 W. H. STEVENSON in *Eng. Hist. Rev.* XII. 490 Coote completed Palgrave's stichic re-arrangement of the text.

2. *Prosody.* Consisting of successive lines of the same metrical form.

1886 *Amer. Jrnl. Philol.* VII. 399 The stichic portions of the cantica of Terence are divided into strophes. 1900 H. W. SMYTH *Grk. Melic Poets* 219 Lesser Asclepiads in stichic arrangement.

So **Sti·chical** *a.* = prec. 1.

1787 A. GEDDES *Let. Bp. London* 43 No one will..assert the same of any stichical version made from the Hebrew.

Stichid (sti·kid). Anglicized form of next.

1891 *Century Dict.*

Stichidium (stiki·diŭm). *Bot.* Pl. **stichidia** (-iă). [mod.L. f. Gr. *στίχ-os* STICHOS + dim. suffix *-idium* (= Gr. *-ιδιον*).] A pod-like receptacle for tetraspores in some rose-spored Algæ.

1855 OGILVIE *Suppl.* 1857 HENFREY *Elem. Bot.* § 337 Transformed branches containing imbedded tetraspores are called *stichidia.*

Stichle (sti·χ'l), *v. Sc. intr.* To rustle, make a rustling sound. Hence **Sti·chling** *vbl. sb.*

1500-20 DUNBAR *Poems* xlii. 78 Sik straikis and stychling wes on steir. 1501 DOUGLAS *Pal. Hon.* I. xx, The stichling of a mouse out of presence. 1788 PICKEN *Poems* 166 Ithers dose, While, stichlan, whis'les through their nose The eldritch snore.

Stichochrome (sti·kokrōum). *Phys.* [f. Gr. *στίχο-s* STICHOS + *χρῶμα* colour.] 'Any nerve-cell having the stainable substance (chromophilic bodies) arranged in more or less regular striæ or layers' (*Dorland's Med. Dict.* 1913). Also *attrib.*

1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VII. 261 The stichochrome granules disappear from the cells, to reappear once more when the animal recovers. 1901 *Jrnl. Exper. Med.* 1 Oct. 552 Nissl..recognizes three subgroups [of nerve cells]:.. Stichochromes or cells in which the chromatic substance is arranged in more or less distinctly parallel rows.

Stichoi, pl. of STICHOS.

Stichology (stikǫ·lŏdʒi). *rare.* [ad. Gr. **στιχο-λογία*, f. *στίχος*: see STICHOS and -LOGY.] The science or theory of poetic metres.

1737 E. MANWARING (*title*) Stichology: or, a recovery of the Latin, Greek and Hebrew numbers. 1895 LAMBROS in *Athenæum* 6 July 16/3 His exact acquaintance with Byzantine melody and the Neo-Hellenic stichology.

Sti·chomancy. *rare*—1. [a. F. *stichomantie* (Rabelais), f. Gr. *στίχο-s* STICHOS + -MANCY.] Divination by lines of verse in books taken at hazard.

a 1693 *Urquhart's Rabelais* III. XXV. 209 By a Sibylline Stichomancy.

Stichometric (stikǫme·trik), *a.* [f. STICHOMETR-Y + -IC.] = next.

1881 *Scribner's Monthly* Feb. 614 Euthalius..published portions of the New Testament, broken up into longer or shorter clauses, for the convenience of the reader, and to avoid the use of punctuation. The clauses terminated at the more important pauses. Manuscripts written in this style are called 'stichometric'. 1883 J. R. HARRIS in *Schaff's Encycl. Relig. Knowl.* III. 2245 The actual number of lines in the manuscripts never tallies with the stichometric record. 1883 — in *Amer. Jrnl. Philol.* IV. 134 [*heading*] Nature of Stichometric data.

Stichometrical (stikǫme·trikăl), *a.* [f. prec. + -AL.] Of or pertaining to stichometry; characterized by measurement by *stichoi* or lines.

1845 W. WRIGHT in Kitto *Cycl. Bibl. Lit.* s. v. *Vulgate* (1849) II. 926/1 The beautiful Lindisfarne book of the Gospels (Nero D. 4) is a stichometrical uncial MS. of the seventh century. 1885 G. SALMON *Introd. N. T.* xxi. 537 *note*, Then follows a stichometrical catalogue of the books both of Old and New Testament. 1904 M. RULE in *Athenæum* 9 Apr. 464/3, I find..upon making a careful stichometrical analysis of the Libellus, that it resolves itself into thirty-eight sections. 1909 *Times Lit. Suppl.* 11 Feb. 52/2 The stichometrical note in the margin of Frag. 58.

Hence **Stichome·trically** *adv.*

1871 G. V. SMITH *Bible & Pop. Theol.* App. 320 The six clauses may be arranged stichometrically. 1882 G. C. MACAULAY in *19th Cent.* Dec. 908 Passages from this preface have been introduced word for word, or with insignificant changes, into subsequently published poems, being divided stichometrically into lines by the natural pauses of the sentence. 1882 SCHAFF *Encyck. Relig. Knowl.* I. 268 Written *stichometrically*, i. e., in single lines containing only so many words as could be read, consistently with the sense, at a single inspiration.

Stichometry (stikɒ·mètri). *Palæography.* [ad. late Gr. στιχομετρία, f. στίχο-ς STICHOS + -μετρία -METRY.] **a.** The measurement of a manuscript text by *stichoi* or lines of fixed or average length into which the text is divided. Also, a list or appendix stating this measurement. **b.** Occas. used for: The practice of writing a prose text in lines of nearly equal length corresponding to divisions in the sense. Also, *stichoi* collectively.

a. 1754 N. LARDNER *Credib. Gosp. Hist.* II. XI. 248 A Stichometrie is a Catalogue of books of sacred Scripture, to which is added the number of the verses, which each book contains. This Stichometrie [of Nicephorus] contains a Catalogue of the books of the Old and New Testament. 1855 WESTCOTT *Canon N. T.* 522 *note*, Credner has examined the Stichometry of Nicephorus in connexion with the Festal Letter of Athanasius. 1883 J. R. HARRIS in *Schaff's Encycl. Relig. Knowl.* III. 2245 The data of stichometry consist chiefly of subscriptions at the close of manuscripts, expressing the number of lines which are contained in the book.. copied. 1884 D. HUNTER *Reuss's Hist. Canon* ix. 159 The Codex Claromontanus..presents at the end of the text the copy of an old complete list of the books of the Old and New Testaments, with the number of lines in each book, what was then called a stichometry. 1885 G. SALMON *Introd. N. T.* xxv. 617 *note*, It appears from the Claromontane stichometry, as well as from that of Nicephorus, that in length this Apocalypse was less than a quarter of that of St. John.

b. 1875 W. R. SMITH in *Encycl. Brit.* III. 645/2 Another system was to write the text in short lines (στίχοι) accommodated to the sense. The author of this stichometry was Euthalius of Alexandria in the second half of the 5th century, who applied it to the epistles and Acts. 1875 SCRIVENER *Lect. Text N. T.* 69 Stichometry, that is, the division of prose sentences into lines of about equal length corresponding as nearly as possible to the sense. *Ibid.* 71 Another manuscript in which the prose text..is broken up into stichometry. 1881 *Scribner's Monthly* Feb. 614 Stichometry was really nothing but a cumbrous substitute for punctuation.

‖ **Stichomythia** (stikɒmi·θiă). Also *rarely* **stichomuthia** (-miῡ·θiă). [mod.L. a. Gr. στιχομῡθία, f. στίχο-ς STICHOS + μῦθ-ος speech, talk.] In classical Greek Drama, dialogue in alternate lines, employed in sharp disputation, and characterized by antithesis and rhetorical repetition or taking up of the opponent's words. Also applied to modern imitations of this.

1861 PALEY *Æschylus* (ed. 2) *Prometh.* 640 It is not unlikely that a verse has been lost, which preserved the continuity of the stichomythia. 1914 *Blackw. Mag.* June 855/1 Take..the passage of dialogue between Richard and Queen Elizabeth in 'Richard III,' as vivid a piece of *stichomuthia* as the English drama has to show.

Stichomythic (stikɒmi·θik), *a.* [f. prec. + -IC.] Of the nature of stichomythia.

1866 FELTON *Anc. & Mod. Gr.* I. xii. 222 This is shown particularly in those parts called stichomythic or line for line dialogues, responding like alternate strokes of hammers on the anvil. 1908 SAINTSBURY *Engl. Prosody* II. 14 Much of it [the *Comedy of Errors*]..is devoted to..stichomythic bandying of speech.

‖ **Stichos** (sti·kɒs). Pl. **stichoi** (sti·kɔi). [a. Gr. στίχος row, line, verse. Cf. STICH.]

1. In the Greek Church, a verse or versicle.

1863 LITTLEDALE *Offices East. Ch.* 248 At the Praises, we recite six stichoi. 1868 WALCOTT *Sacred Archæol.* 555 *Stichos*, a short yarying versicle and response in the Greek liturgy... The koinonikon is a sacramental hymn and stichos, sung a little before the Communion.

2. *Palæography.* A line of a stichometrically written text; a line of average length assumed in measuring the contents of a text or codex.

1885 G. SALMON *Introd. N. T.* xi. 236 *note*, According to the Stichometry of Nicephorus, it [this Gospel] contained 1300 stichoi. 1911 *Jrnl. Manch. Oriental Soc.* 2 The amount assigned to a stichos is determined, as in all the old inscriptions, by the sense.

Sticht, pa. t. of STY *v.*

Stichwort(e, obs. forms of STITCHWORT.

Stick (stik), *sb.*[1] Forms: 1 sticca, 3–7 **sticke**, 3–5 **stikke**, 4–5 **stykke**, 4–6 **stik**, **styke**, 5 **stike**, 5–6 **styk**, **stycke**, 6 **styck**, **stykk**, 6– **stick**. [OE. *sticca* masc. = ? OS. *stekko* (Gallée), MDu. *stecke* masc., fem. also *stec* masc., neut. (mod.Du. *stek* fem.), OHG. *stecko* (MHG. *stecke*, mod.G. *stecken*):—OTeut. type **stikkon-* (a synonymous **stikon-* is represented by the parallel forms OHG. *stehho*, MHG. *steche* masc.; cf. also ON. *stika* fem., stick, yardstick, *kerta-stika* candlestick, MSw. *stikka*, mod. Sw. *sticka* fem. stick, chip), f. Teut. root **stik-* to pierce, prick: see STICK *v.*]

I. A rod or staff of wood.

1. A short piece of wood, esp. a piece cut and shaped for a special purpose, usually with defining word indicating its use, as in *bung-stick*, POTSTICK, SETTING-STICK, *tooth-stick*, etc.

In OE. also in the specific applications 'tent-peg' and 'pointer of a dial': see Bosworth-Toller.

c 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* I. 386 Ȝenim twegen..sticcan federecgede & writ on æȝðerne sticcan..an pater noster. *c* 1450 *Bk. Curtasye* 94 in *Babees Bk.* (1868) 180 Clense not thi tethe at mete sittande, Withe knyfe ne stre, styk ne wande. 1707 MORTIMER *Husb.* (1721) I. 334 The next Morning pluck out the Bung-stick or Plug. 1913 M. W. H. BEECH in *Man* XIII. 5 [It] can be used as either the female, i. e., the passive stick of the fire drill or for the male or active stick.

† **b.** A piece of wood used as a tally. Also WHITE STICK. *Obs.* as specific sense.

c 1380, *c* 1400 [see WHITE STICK]. 1500 *God Speed Plough* (E.E.T.S.) 30 And to the kyngis courte we moste it lede, And our payment shalbe a styk of A bough. 1523–34 FITZHERB. *Husb.* § 141 Yf he [the husbandman] canne not wryte, let hym nycke the defautes vppon a stycke, and shewe his bayely. 1664 MARQ. NEWCASTLE in M'ness Newcastle *Sociable Lett.* To Author, Each Tavern-token, Nick'd Sticks for Merchants [etc.]. 1737 POPE *Hor. Epist.* I. i. 84 To him who notches sticks at Westminster. 1784 COWPER *Tiroc.* 559 Th' indented stick, that loses day by day Notch after notch. 1846–8 LOWELL *Biglow P.* Ser. I. ix. 61 Wy, into Bellers's we notched the votes down on three sticks.

c. *Mining.* (See quot. 1899.)

1708 J. C. *Compl. Collier* (1845) 37 The..chief Banck's-Man ..takes an Account..by Sticks or Pieces of Wood. 1797 J. CURR *Coal Viewer* 20 Nogs and boxes for mottys, or sticks, to distinguish the Corf, o. o. 6. 1899 DICKINSON & PREVOST *Cumbld. Gloss.*, *Stick*, the wooden token whereon was branded the distinguishing number of the hewer in the coal pit.

d. *The* (*sixty* or *sixty-four*) *sticks of fate*: the apparatus employed in a Chinese method of divination.

? *c* 1850 LADY DUFFERIN (*title of poem*) Consulting the 'Sticks of Fate'. 1860 COBBOLD *Pict. Chinese* 14. 1884 FRIEND *Flowers & Flower-lore* I. 268.

2. A slender branch or twig of a tree or shrub esp. when cut or broken off. Now *rare.*

c 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* II. 142 Læt yrnan þat blod on grennne [*sic*] sticcan hæslenne. *c* 1200 *Vices & Virtues* 135 Ne let hie nawht ðe hande pleiȝende mid stikke, ne mid strawe—nis þat non god tocne of ripe manne. 13.. *K. Alis.* 4425 (Laud MS.), þe speres crakeþ also þicke So on hegge sere stykke. *c* 1369 CHAUCER *Dethe Blaunche* 423 So grete trees ..of..fourty fifty fedme lengthe Clene withoute bowgh or stikke. *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (Roxb.) vii. 25 þe preste..lays þerapon spiceries..and stikkes of þe iunipre tree. 1593 SHAKS. *2 Hen. VI*, I. ii. 33 He that breakes a sticke of Glosters groue, Shall loose his head for his presumption. 1620 QUARLES *Feast for Worms* K 4, Thou, in whose distrustfull brest Despayre hath brought in sticks to build her nest. 1735 *Dict. Polygraph.* s. v. *Verdegris*, This [crystallised verdegrease] commonly comes from Holland..on sticks in form like our sugar-candy. To be good, these crystals must be..as free from sticks as possible.

b. *pl.* Pieces of cut or broken branches, also pieces of cut and chopped wood, used as fuel.

c 1200 ORMIN 8651, & her I gaddre stikkess twa..To ȝarrkenn þatt to fode. *c* 1300 *Havelok* 914 Stickes kan ich breken and kraken, And kindlen ful wel a fyr. 1382 WYCLIF *Numb.* xv. 32 Thei fonden a man gederynge stikkis in the holi day. *c* 1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 807 Stikkes to a fyre þai gadird fast. 1653 WALTON *Angler* xi[xvi]. 209 Come, Hostis,..lay a few more sticks on the fire. 1737 POPE *Hor. Epist.* II. ii. 242 Such large-acred men..Buy every stick of wood that lends them heat. 1821 CLARE *Vill. Minstr.* II. 117 Seeking..her harmless sticks from hedges hung with rime. 1902 A. SYMONS *Stud. Prose & Verse* (1904) 251 Mr. Phillips has laid the paper, the sticks, and the coals neatly in the grate.

† **c.** A piece of wood from the hearth, a brand. *Stick of fire*, a firebrand. *Obs.*

1538 ELYOT *Dict.*, *Torris*, a stycke of fyre. 1607 DEKKER *Jests to make Merry* 33 Your Glimerer, shees vp in the morning betweene 5 or 6 of the clock..and with a black brand in her hand...If she but perceiue a light..she desires to haue leaue to kindle her stick.

d. A twiggy bough or long rod stuck in the ground for a plant to 'run' upon, more definitely *bean-stick*, *pea-stick*.

1577 GOOGE tr. *Heresbach's Husb.* 33 There are two sortes of Pease, the one sort..runneth vp vppon stickes. 1741 MILLER *Gard. Dict.* s. v. *Phaseolus*, [The Scarlet Bean] being supported either with Sticks or Strings, grows up to a good Height.

3. A stem or thick branch of a tree cut and trimmed and used as timber for building, fencing, etc.; a stave, stake. Also *fig.* Cf. sense 6.

c 1386 CHAUCER *Nun's Pr. T.* 28 A yeerd she hadde, enclosed al aboute With stikkes. 1577 GOOGE tr. *Heresbach's Husb.* 41 b, They vse a greater Sythe with a long Suath, and fenced with a crooked frame of stickes, wherwith with both their hands they cut downe the Corne, and laye it in Swathes. 1644 [see HEDGE *sb.* 6]. 1707 FOUNTAINHALL *Decis.* (1761) II. 408 The pursuer had no inclosure..neither was their a stick of planting or hedging therein.

b. *Every stick*, the whole materials of a building: used (sometimes *advb.*) to emphasize total destruction or ruin. Also negatively: (*to leave*) *not a stick.*

1338 R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (1725) 113 Carro, Lodelow toun,.. Dunford & Maltone, Steuen wan þam ilk a stik. *a* 1400–50 *Wars Alex.* 1311 Þus þe strenth [of Alexander's towers] ilk stike was in a stounde wasted. *c* 1450 *Brut* 577 Thai brake vp al þe lede of the halle and of þe toures, and brent vp euery stykke. 1557–71 A. JENKINSON *Voy. & Trav.* (Hakl. Soc.) II. 339 One of ye dukes howses..was consomed with fyer and not one stick left. 1596 SPENSER *State Irel.* Wks. (Globe) 616/2 Of all townes, castels, fortes, bridges, and habitations, they left not any stick standing. 1625 in Foster *Eng. Factories India* (1909) III. 80 The Sultan suffaringe not a sticke to bee puld downe out of aney house.

c. Similarly in alliterative expressions, esp. (*every*, *both*) *stick and stone*, *stick and stour* dial., *stick and stow* Sc. and north. (cf. *stab and stow*, STAB *sb.*[2]), *stick and stock.*

c 1436 *Brut* 583 þe Calisers..bare lxiii clene away, Euery stikke & stone, & lafte not ther one log. 1459 SIR J. FASTOLF *Will* in *Paston Lett.* I. 462 That thanne the said John Paston shulde doo poule down the said mansion and every stone and stikke therof. 1542 UDALL *Erasm. Apoph.* 232 b, [He] to declare hym selfe [free from the assumption of kingly power], was fain to pul down his hous sticke and stone euen to yᵉ plain grounde. 1600 FAIRFAX *Tasso* IX. ix, Godfrey meane-while to ruine sticke and stone Of this faire towne, with battrie sore, assaies. 1611 BEAUM. & FL. *Knt. Burn. Pestle* II. i, Shee swore, neuer to marry, But such a one, whose mighty arme could carry..Her bodily away through sticke and stone. 1792 WOLCOT (P. Pindar) *Lyric Ep. Ld. Macartney* XXXVII. Wks. 1816 II. 355 For troops.. May, like wild meteors, pour into mine east, And leave my palace neither stick nor stone. 1904 *Athenæum* 27 Aug. 271/3 Every stick and stone of Beau Nash's Pump Room [at Bath] has long since passed away.

c 1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 7177 þe place was brynt, styk and stoure, Abbay and house. 1877 *N. W. Linc. Gloss.*, *Stick and stour*,..Often used to signify all a person's goods and chattels. 'They've sell'd him up, stick an' stour'.

1786 BURNS *To W. Simpson* Postscr. ix, Folk thought them ruin'd stick-an-stowe. 1862 C. C. ROBINSON *Dial. Leeds* 422 A nasty, thratching hussey!—shoo wants bundiling art o't' street stick an' stow.

1880 BARING-GOULD *Mehalah* xii. (1884) 161 Cousin Charles is not the man to see his relatives sold up stick and stock.

d. *Stick and rag*: see quot.

1911 *Encycl. Brit.* XXI. 786/1 Fibrous plaster is given by plasterers the suggestive name 'stick and rag',..for it is composed of plaster laid upon a backing of canvas stretched on wood.

e. *Over the sticks*: in steeplechasing and hurdle-racing.

1898 T. HAYDON *Sporting Reminisc.* 67 The quality of the competitors, both in flat races and 'over the sticks' was of the highest class.

4. A long and relatively slender piece of wood, whether in natural form or shaped with tools, cut or broken of a convenient length for handling.

Cleft stick: see CLEFT *ppl. a.*

c 1386 CHAUCER *Can. Yeom. Prol. & T.* 712 In his hand he bar An holwe stikke..In the ende of which an Ounce..Of siluer lemaille put was as bifore. 1523–34 FITZHERB. *Husb.* § 21 And in his other hande he hath a forked stycke a yarde longe, and with his forked stycke he putteth the wede from hym. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 30 b, Whiche by theyr enchauntementes made serpentes of stycckes. 1590 LUCAR *Lucarsolace* I. iv. 11 Take vp your Geometricall table, ..leauing an arrow or sticke set vpright in the point of grounde directly vnder B. 1662 STILLINGFL. *Orig. Sacræ* III. i. § 17 So in the sight of a stick, when under water, the representation of it by the sense to imagination is as crooked. 1784 COWPER *Task* I. 561 A Kettle, slung Between two poles upon a stick transverse. 1889 DOYLE *Micah Clarke* v, Like the turnip on a stick at which we used to throw at the fairs.

b. A staff, club, cudgel used as a weapon.

1377 LANGL. *P. Pl. B.* XII. 14 Al-bough þow stryke me with þi staffe with stikke or with ȝerde. 1547 BOORDE *Brev. Health* (1870) 84 For the Feuer lurden..Take me a stycke or wan[d] of a yerde of length and more..and with it anoynt the bake. 1605 SHAKS. *Lear* II. iv. 125 She knopt 'em o'th' coxcombs with a sticke, and cryed downe wantons, downe. 1664 in *Verney Mem.* (1904) II. 214 [If the] Whelps meddle with Sheepe, they must be..whipped soundly, but not beaten with Stickes. 1847 W. C. L. MARTIN *Ox* 139/2 Contusions, and the blows of cattle-drivers, merciless in the use of their sticks about the heads of the poor beasts. 1850 A. M'GILVRAY *Poems* 69 For he has laid, with their own sticks, The strongest watchmen down.

fig. phr. (*U.S.*) 1848 BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.*, *Sharp stick.* He's after him with a *sharp stick*; i.e. he's determined to have satisfaction or revenge. 1871 *Trenton State Sentinel* 26 May in Schele de Vere *Americanisms* 631 We are pleased to see that the New York Tribune is still after Senators Carpenter, Conkling and others, with a very sharp stick, for [etc.].

c. (Chiefly *the stick.*) A beating with a stick. *To eat stick*: see EAT *v.* 2 d.

1856 Miss YONGE *Daisy Chain* I. viii, Come in, ye bad girls, or I'll give you the stick. 1884 SIR S. ST. JOHN *Hayti* iii. 81 The productiveness of the north [of Hayti] was founded on the liberal application of the stick. 1886 'MAXWELL GRAY' *Silence Dean Maitland* I. v. 125 He'll do what he is told now without the stick. 1892 MRS. H. WARD *David Grieve* I. iv, Mak her behave...She'll want a stick takken to her, soon, *I* can see.

d. = WALKING-STICK.

1620 *E. Blount's Horæ Subs.* 33 Some had rather bee lame ..of a legge, then lose the grace of carrying a French sticke, 1792 CHARLOTTE SMITH *Desmond* II. 285, I tapped at the old, thick, carved door with my stick. 1892 RIDER HAGGARD *Nada the Lily* XVIII. 145 We went on in silence, the king leaning on my shoulder as on a stick.

e. A rod of dignity or office, a baton; also the bearer of such a stick. Cf. GOLD STICK, WHITE STICK.

1688 *Lond. Gaz.* 22 Oct. 7 He had the Honour to be in Waiting upon the King with the Stick. 1833 HOOD *Publ. Dinner* 14 Twelve sticks come attending A stick of a Chairman. 1876 VOYLE & STEVENSON *Milit. Dict.* 409/2 *Stick*, *Silver*, the field officer of the life guards, when on duty, is called silver stick. 1892 HUXLEY in L. Huxley *Life* (1900) II. 328 Then waiting about while the various 'sticks' were delivered. 1897 *Westm. Gaz.* 25 June 4/1 One of the 'Sticks' now doing duty at Buckingham Palace.

f. *Basket-making.* (See quot. 1910.)

1907 *Jrnl. Soc. Arts* 11 Jan. 190/1 A dog or commander for straightening the sticks. 1910 *Encycl. Brit.* III. 482/1 Rods..known as 'sticks', are used to form the rigid framework of the bottoms and lids of square work.

g. In *Candlemaking*, the rod to which the wicks are attached in order to be dipped: = BROACH *sb.* 2 b. Hence, the candles made at one dipping.

1711 *Act* 10 *Anne* c. 26 § 106 Every Chandler..shall.. declare..the Number of Sticks which he designs to make.. and also the Sizes of the Candles whereof each Stick is to consist. 1751 *Chambers' Cycl.* s. v. *Candle*, The workman ..takes two sticks [ed. 1727 rods], or broches, at a time, strung with the proper number of wicks.

h. The rod of a sky-rocket (see quot. 1886).

1651 J. WHITE *Rich Cabinet* (1677) 83 Rockets whose sticks are longer than the staffe. 1792 T. PAINE *Let. to Addressers*

Proclam. 4 As he rose like a rocket, he fell like the stick. 1848 ALB. SMITH *Chr. Tadpole* xxiv. 218 You'll go off like a regular rocket—all stars and no stick. 1886 *Encycl. Brit.* XX. 136/2 The stick of the sky-rocket serves the purpose of guiding and balancing it in its flight.

5. *spec.* in various games.

a. A staff used for striking or pushing, as in Hockey; also applied to a billiard cue, a golf club, or the like.

1674 COTTON *Compl. Gamester* (1680) 25 (Billiards) He that removes the Port with his Stick when he strikes his Ball, and thereby prevents his Adversaries Ball from passing, loseth an end. 1726 *Art & Myst. Mod. Gaming* 109 They had Drawers, with Lock and Key, made for each of them to put their Sticks into, in the Billiard Room... When *R* came afterwards to play with the Stick, *B* beat him. 1857 H. B. FARNIE *Golfer's Man.* in *Golfiana Misc.* (1887) 134 We shall, therefore, take the clubs *seriatim*..and explain, in each case, what constitutes a good stick. 1896–7 *Rules of Hockey* (ed. 12) 21 The sticks shall have no metal fittings whatever, and no sharp edges.

b. Hence in Hockey, *Sticks*, the word used by the umpire in declaring a breach of rule committed by improperly handling the stick; a breach of rule of this kind.

1896–7 *Rules of Hockey* (ed. 12) 26 Except so far as Rule 14 applies to 'sticks,' for which a 'bully' only to be allowed. *Ibid.* 33 'Sticks' should be given, if a player's stick is above his shoulder after hitting or missing the ball.

c. *Cricket.* pl. The stumps of a wicket, the wickets. *rare* in *sing.* unless with qualifying word, as *middle stick.*

Between the sticks, at the wickets, batting, 'in'. *Behind the sticks*, keeping the wicket or acting as wicket-keeper.

1862 *Baily's Mag.* Oct. 200 They were..ten hours between the sticks—averaging 1 hour at the wicket, and 50 runs per man. 1882 *Daily Tel.* 19 May, Having added a couple [of runs], his sticks were disturbed by Palmer. 1886 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 28 Apr. 11/2 It was curious to see Blackham anywhere in the field except behind the sticks. 1892 *Ibid.* 2 July 6/2 Jackson played across at a delivery..and had his stick disturbed.

d. *pl.* The staves used for throwing in the game of Aunt Sally; also used for the game itself.

184. D. JERROLD *Men of Char.* (1851) 273 Next, he must have at least a pennyworth of sticks: he may knock down a tobacco-box. 1850 THACKERAY *Pendennis* II. xx. 197 The splendid young dandies who were strolling about the course, and enjoying themselves at the noble diversion of Sticks.

6. A timber-tree, also a tree-trunk when cut for timber; more fully *stick of timber.* Cf. sense 3.

1748 *Anson's Voy.* I. v. 54 The Carpenters were sent into the woods, to endeavour to find a stick proper for a fore-mast. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 220/2 [*Cavapa guianensis*] Its timber ..is obtainable in sticks, fifty feet long by fifteen inches square. 1878 JEFFERIES *Gamekeeper at Home* 38 The edge of a fir plantation where lies a fallen 'stick' of timber.

7. *Naut.* A mast or portion of a mast; also a yard. *The sticks*, the masts and yards. *To up stick(s* (slang), to set up a boat's mast. (*lit.* and *fig.*)

1802 *Naval Chron.* VIII. 517 She has not a stick standing. 1819 BYRON *Juan* II. xxxix, But with a leak, and not a stick of mast, Nor rag of canvas, what could they expect? 1833 MARRYAT *P. Simple* xlvi, A raking broadside..brought the sticks about their ears. 1845 J. COULTER *Adv. Pacific* vii. 88 So we 'up stick', that is, shipped our mast, made sail, and..brought our..whale alongside the ship. *c* 1860 H. STUART *Seaman's Catech.* 76 Topsail yards..are made in one stick. 1888 CLARK RUSSELL *Death Ship* I. 286 To have nothing to do with her or me, but to bear a hand and 'up sticks'. 1893 H. M. DOUGHTY *Wherry in Wendish Lands* 76 We could see the mast, a very strong stick, whip with the weight.

II. Transferred uses.

8. A piece of material rolled, moulded, or cut for convenience of use into a long and slender form like that of a stick: **a.** of rolled cinnamon bark; **b.** of sweetstuff; **c.** of glass; **d.** of lac or sealing-wax; **e.** of various other substances (see quots.).

a. *a* 1460 [see CINNAMON 1]. 1594 *Gd. Huswife's Handmaid Kitchin* 3 b, A litle sticke of Sinamon. 1615 MARKHAM *Eng. Housew.* 73 To make most Artificiall Cinamon stickes. *a* 1777 in *Jrnl. Friends' Hist. Soc.* (1914) Oct. 188 Put in a stick of Cinnamon.

b. 1611 [see LIQUORICE]. 1862 THACKERAY *Philip* xxviii, She bought pink sticks of barley-sugar for the young ones. 1913 *Little Bk. Confect.* 39 Cocoa Sticks...Cut into three inch sticks and bake.

c. 1683 *Digby's Chym. Secrets* 19 Stir the Matter well with a stick of Glass. 1879 *Encycl. Brit.* IX. 348/2 A young girl sits by a jet of flame, holding in her hand a stick of prepared glass.

d. 1662 J. DAVIES tr. *Mandelslo's Trav.* 27 The Indians give it [lacque] what colour they please, black, red, green, yellow, &c. And make it into sticks to seal Letters withall. 1746 *Phil. Trans.* XLIV. 28 A Stick of the best black Sealing-wax. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 1097 In forming the round sticks of sealing-wax..[the pieces are] rolled out upon a warm marble slab...The oval sticks..are cast in moulds.

e. 1753 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* Suppl. s. v. *Lycium*, The Dutch ..form it into twisted sticks, which they sell to the painters in water colours. 1836 J. F. DAVIS *Chinese* II. 135 The extreme carelessness with which burning paper and lighted sticks of incense are left about their combustible dwellings. 1844 FOWNES *Chem.* 131 A stick of phosphorus held in the air always appears to emit a whitish smoke. 1848 RONALDS & RICHARDSON *Knapp's Chem. Technol.* I. 224 Producing consecutively..flowers of sulphur..and sticks of sulphur. 1862 MILLER *Elem. Chem., Org.* 671 Sticks of potash. 1882 CHRISTY *Joints* 184 A stick of the metal [solder] must be fused at the same time and allowed to drop upon them. 1884 BRITTEN *Watch & Clockm.* 86 Dissolve a stick of nitrate of silver in..water. 1891 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 21 Dec. 1/3 'It is a kind of grease that we keep in sticks.' (*Aside, to an attendant*: 'Just go and get a stick of paint.')

9. The stem of a culinary plant when trimmed for use, e. g. a root-stem of horse-radish; a root of celery with its blanched leaf-stems; a leaf-stem of rhubarb; a young shoot of asparagus.

a 1756 MRS. HAYWOOD *New Present* (1771) 53 A stick of horse-radish. 1872 CALVERLEY *Fly Leaves* (1903) 14 To watch bronzed men and maidens crunch The sounding celery-stick. 1877 S. HIBBERD *Amateur's Kitchen Gard.* 159 A plentiful supply of early sticks [of rhubarb]. 1882 W. EARLY *Profit. Market Gard.* 95 A bundle of celery, from eight to sixteen sticks. 1884 *Sutton's Culture Veget. & Fl.* (1885) 8 [Asparagus.] It is a matter of management merely, whether the sticks be blanched to the very tip, or [etc.].

10. Applied to various implements, either of the shape of a stick, or serving purposes for which a stick was originally used.

†**a.** A spoon. *Obs*

c 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* III. 4 Nim ðry sticcan fulle on niht nihstiz. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 370 þe on ber ase þauh hit were a letuarie, þe oðer ber enne sticke of gode gold. Vre Lefdi nome mid te sticke & dude iðe ones muðe þerof.

†**b.** A utensil for sprinkling holy water; more fully *holy water stick.* = ASPERGILLUM.

1415, 1552 [see HOLY WATER 2]. *c* 1450 *Reg. Vestments* etc. *St. Andrews* in *Maitl. Club Misc.* III. 203 Item ane haly wattyr fat of siluer with ane stik of the same for solempit festis. 1543 *Invent. R. Wardr. Scot.* (1815) 112 Item ane halie watter fate with the stik of silver.

c. A support for a candle, a candlestick.

c 1540 in *Trans. Lond. & M'sex Archæol. Soc.* IV. 372 One stvke of sylver p'sell gilt for the holy candell. 1832 DISRAELI *Cont. Fleming* I. xii. 118 Many tall white candles, in golden sticks, illuminated the sacred table. 1895 *Church Q. Rev.* Apr. 253 The candles standing straight in their sticks.

d. = *Composing-stick*: see COMPOSING *vbl. sb.* 2. *Stick of letter(s*, a stickful of type.

1683 MOXON *Mech. Exerc., Printing* xx. ¶ 3 The Face of a Stick of Letter. *Ibid.*, The whole Stick of Letters..are screwed together. *Ibid.* xxii. 332 With a Riglet fitted to the Stick, he presses the Letter to keep it straight in Line. 1820 T. HODGSON *Ess. Stereotype Printing* 106 *note*, All types have one or more nicks in their body, to serve as a guide to the compositor when arranging them in his stick. 1907 *Scott. Typogr. Circular* Feb. 215/2, I find that nowadays, unless I read my sticks, it is impossible [etc.].

e. The hammer or mallet with which a dulcimer or drum is struck.

1538 ELYOT *Dict., Pecten*.., it is also the stickes wherewith a man stryketh doulcemers whan he doeth playe on them. 1589– [see DRUMSTICK].

f. A violin bow, a fiddlestick. †*A stick of fiddles*: ? a fiddler.

a 1600 T. PRESTON *Cambyses* F 1 b, They be at hand sir with sticke and fiddle. *a* 1625 FLETCHER *Woman's Prize* II. vi, *Jaq.* They have got a stick of Fiddles, and they firke it In wondrous waies. 1667 H. MORE *Div. Dial.* II. xviii. (1713) 145 As in a Musical Instrument, whose Strings are good, and the Stick good.

g. The melody pipe of a Highland bagpipe = CHANTER 1 5.

1861 MAYHEW *Lond. Labour* III. 167/2 My old chanter has..lost its tone; for when a stick gets too sharp a sound, it's never any good. *Ibid.*, My great grandfather played on this stick when Charley Stuart..came over to Scotland.

h. *pl.* The thin pieces of ivory, bone or other material upon which the folding material of a fan is mounted.

1701 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 3704/4 Lost.., an Italian Fan with Ivory painted Sticks. 1760–2 GOLDSM. *Cit. World* xii, That old woman..who sits groaning behind the long sticks of a mourning fan. 1879 *Encycl. Brit.* IX. 28/1 The sticks [18th c.] were made of mother-of-pearl or ivory, carved with extraordinary skill.

11. *slang.* **a.** A pistol; more explicitly *shooting stick.*

1788 GROSE *Dict. Vulgar T.* (ed. 2), *Sticks*, pops or pistols. Stow your sticks; hide your pistols. 1834 AINSWORTH *Rookwood* III. v, See how he flashes his sticks. 1890 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Miner's Right* xvi, I always carry a brace of 'shooting sticks'.

†**b.** A sermon. *Obs. rare.*

1759 T. BOUCHER *Let. T. James* 7 Aug. (MS.), What matter of a new stick, vamp them one for next Sunday. 1762 *Ibid.* 5 Aug. (MS.), At sea, I drew up I believe ½ a dozen sticks—originals.

c. *Thieves' slang.* A jemmy or crowbar.

1887 HORSLEY *Jottings fr. Jail* 11 We shall want some twirls and the stick (crowbar). 1890 *Daily News* 14 July 2/8 [He] took from his inside coat pocket a powerful jemmy, saying 'I suppose you don't want my stick.'

d. *pl.* Furniture, household goods; more fully *sticks of furniture.* Rarely *sing.* in *every stick*, every article of furniture (cf. 3 b).

1809 MALKIN *Gil Blas* VII. vii. (Rtldg.) 11 The moveables, not excepting my own apparel, every stick and every thread, had been carried off. 1823 'JON BEE' *Dict. Turf* s. v., I lost all my sticks by that 'ere fire at Stepney. 1864 BLACKMORE *Clara Vaughan* xxvi. (1872) 84 Her strange biographies of every table, chair, and cushion—her 'sticks', as she delighted to call them. 1867 *All Year Round* 13 July 55/1 The breaking up of the home, [and] the selling of 'the few sticks of furniture'.

e. *pl.* Legs.

1830 MARRYAT *King's Own* xxvi, He was so weak that he couldn't get up on his sticks again.

f. (Now *U.S.* and *colonial.*) *With a stick in it*: said of tea, coffee, etc., with a dash of brandy.

1804 R. ANDERSON *Cumbld. Ball.* (1808) 175 A quart o' het yell, and a stick in't. 1890 MRS. C. PRAED *Rom. of Station* vi, Have a parting drink for good luck—coffee, if you like, with a 'stick' in it...The waiter brought in coffee and cognac. 1892 F. M. CRAWFORD *Three Fates* xiv, But you really do look dreadfully. Have some tea—with a stick in it, as papa calls it.

12. Applied, with qualifying adj., to a person, orig. with figurative notion of sense 2 or 4, as *tough stick*; *crooked* (Sc. *thrawn*) *stick*, a perverse, cross-grained person.

1682 N. O. *Boileau's Lutrin* II. 164 That tough stick of Wood, Boirude the Sexton. 1785 *Span. Rivals* 8 He's a queer stick to make a thivel on. 1833 HOOD *Publ. Dinner* 15 A stick of a Chairman, A little dark spare man. 1839 A. GRAY *Lett.* (1893) 223 He is a queer stick altogether. 1846–8 LOWELL *Biglow P.* Ser. I. ix. 35 So, ez I aint a crooked stick,..I'll go back to my plough. 1859 *Hotten's Slang Dict.* 102 'A rum' or 'odd stick', a curious man. 1886 J. R. REES *Pleas. Book-Worm* v. 178 Some disagreeable old stick has probably eaten an enormous dinner [etc.]. 1893 CROCKETT *Stickit Minister* 30 Tammas Carlyle, thrawn stick as he was. 1897 W. DYKE *Craiktrees* ii, He's nobbit twenty-two—young—a verra young stick.

b. A 'wooden' person; one lacking in capacity for his work, or in geniality of manner; *Theatr.* an indifferent actor.

1800 MISS EDGEWORTH *Belinda* xx, And you, out of patience,..will go and marry..some stick of a rival. 1801 W. BURTON *Pasquinade* II He's not a bad actor, though they call him a stick. 1820 BYRON *Blues* I. 89 *Tracy.* In Prose My talent is decent, as far as it goes; But in rhyme —, *Inkel.* You're a terrible stick, to be sure. 1820 L. HUNT *Indicator* No. 33 (1822) I. 257 A habit..of calling insipid things and persons sticks...A poor stick, a mere stick, a stick of a fellow. 1856 OLMSTED *Slave States* 83 He had had to hire white men to help him, but they were poor sticks and would be half the time drunk. 1873 *Punch* 15 Nov. 202/1 Charles Kemble was rather a stick at first, and was made a great artist by..close study. 1883 M. PATTISON *Mem.* i. (1885) 23 Though the tutors..were first class men, yet the tuition was not esteemed good...Tommy Churton I afterwards came to know as a 'stick'. 1899 KERNAHAN *Scoundrels & Co.* xxi, To a good fellow, the right hand of fellowship is readily extended. The 'stick' will find himself as readily cold-shouldered.

†**13.** Some measure of land: ? = STAFF *sb.*

1664 *Terrier of Westborne, Sussex* (MS.), One other Plott ..which James Sowter renteth of him..conteyneth about half a Stick of Land. Item one other Plott of Land..conteyneth about a quarter of a Stick of ground.

III. 14. Figurative phrases of various origins. (Chiefly slang or colloquial.)

a. *To play a good stick*: said of a fiddler (see sense 10). In later use *gen.* to play one's part well. So *to fire a good stick* (Shooting).

1748 SMOLLETT *Rod. Rand.* ix, You hear he plays a good stick. 1809 T. DONALDSON *Poems* 183 He handl'd his Rammy so terribly quick The folks all declar'd that 'he play'd a good stick'. 1824 W. IRVING *Tales Trav., Bold Dragoon* (1848) 25 He could swear a good stick himself. 1842 BELLEW *Mem. Griffin* xx, The captain..fired a capital *good stick* nevertheless, and knocked the birds about, right and left, in great style. 1867 E. WAUGH *Tufts of Heather* Ser. I. (1893) 188 The hungry travellers sat down. For about half-an-hour every man of the three 'played a good stick', as the old saying goes.

†**b.** Slang. *To be high up the stick*: to stand high in one's profession.

1818 SIR C. MORGAN in Lady Morgan *Autobiog.* (1859) 295 All my acquaintance among the doctors are so high up the stick, they have no time to spare to answer inquiries.

c. *To beat* (rarely *knock*) *all to sticks*, to overcome or surpass completely. *To go to sticks*, more emphatically *to go to sticks and staves*, to be ruined.

1820 *Blackw. Mag.* VIII. 85 Which in the west country beats our stot-beef here all to sticks. 1824 MISS FERRIER *Inherit.* ix, She married a Highland drover, or tacksman, I can't tell which, and they went all to sticks and staves. 1840 THACKERAY *Barber Cox* Apr., When I came to know his game, I used to knock him all to sticks; or, at least, win six games to his four. *c* 1842 CARLYLE in A. Bain *Autobiog.* (1904) 126 All that I could gather was that the Church of Christ was going to sticks. 1859 LEVER *Dav. Dunn* lxxvi. 669 It's as good as a play to hear about this,..it beats Newmarket all to sticks.

d. Sporting slang. *To shoot for the stick*, i. e. for the total amount of game shot as distinguished from 'for sport'. (Cf. 1 b.)

1834 *New Monthly Mag.* XLI. 288 In a battue..the shooting is *for the stick*, as it is technically phrased—not for the pleasure, but the pride of the murderer of hecatombs.

e. (*To have* or *get*) *the right* or *the wrong end of the stick*: to have the advantage or the contrary in a bargain or a contest. Also, *to have got hold of the wrong end of the stick*: to have got a story wrong, not know the facts of the case. (Sense 4.)

1890 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Col. Reformer* (1891) 249 If you happen to have the arrangement of a bargain..with the rural Australian, you will rarely find that the apparently impassive countryman has 'got the wrong end of the stick'. 1897 BEATTY *Secretar* xiii. 100, I was more convinced than ever..that I had the right end of the stick.

f. *To hold the sticks to*, *to hold sticks with*: to compete on equal terms with.

a 1817 W. MUIR *Poems* (1818) 58 (E. D. D.) Nae kitten, fam'd for fun an' tricks, Can to the weasel ha'd the sticks. 1853 READE *Love me Little* I. viii. 232 If I began by despising my business..how should I ever hold sticks with my able competitors?

g. *To keep* (one) *at the stick's end*; to keep at a distance, treat with reserve.

1886 STEVENSON *Kidnapped* viii, The captain, though he kept me at the stick's end the most part of the time, would

sometimes unbuckle a bit and tell me of the fine countries he had visited.

h. Used to give additional emphasis in several alliterative phrases, as *stick, stark, staring* = absolutely, completely, downright. Cf. 3 c.

1839 Hood *Lost Heir* 23, I shall go stick stark staring wild! 1892 Mrs. H. Ward *David Grieve* I. iv, Aunt Hannah 'll be stick stock mad wi' boath on us. 1909 W. J. Locke *Septimus* 330 Now he had gone stick, stark, staring, raving, biting mad.

IV. *attrib.* and *Comb.*

15. a. simple attrib., as *stick fire, point*; (sense 8) as *stick cinnamon, liquorice, metal, phosphorus, pomatum, rhubarb*; **b.** objective, as *stick-cutting, -rubbing*; *stick-dresser, -maker*; instrumental, as *stick-blow*; *stick-built* adj.; similative, as *stick-like, -shaped* adjs.

1886 R. F. Burton *Arab. Nts.* I. 242 *note*, They..cut off the ear-lobes, gave ten *stick-blows. 1841 *Penny Cycl.* XX. 148/2 The *stick-built nest contains four..eggs. 1668 G. Hartman *Digby's Receipts Physick* etc. 15, 5 pennyworth of *stick Cinnamon. 1883 F. M. Peard *Contradictions* xviii, Leaving Gina to watch the progress of Jim's *stick-cutting. 1890 *Daily News* 22 Oct. 7/7 A *stick-dresser was committed for trial on a charge of wounding [etc.]. 1808 Eleanor Sleath *Bristol Heiress* IV. 12 Dame Jenkinson was sitting by the blaze of a *stick fire. 1831 Trelawny *Adv. Younger Son* III. 292 A stoical apathy of look, that..the most *stick-like lords ever would have envied. 1806–7 J. Beresford *Miseries Hum. Life* (1826) Post. Groans No. 29 Some long-forgotten bonbon of your boyhood..*stick-liquorice,..&c. 1803 *Censor* I Apr. 39 Mr. Huntsmill, the *stick maker of Whitechapel. 1900 Hasluck *Model Engin. Handybk.* 67 This nut is best turned from a piece of *stick metal. 1849 D. Campbell *Inorg. Chem.* 21 The sixth part of an inch of *stick phosphorus. 1905 A. T. Sheppard *Red Cravat* II. ii. 60 Tossing the clothes to one side of the room with her *stick-point. 1858 Simmonds *Dict. Trade, Bandoline*, a kind of *stick pomatum. 1840 Pereira *Mat. Med.* 814 *Stick rhubarb..is said..to be obtained from Rheum undulatum. 1841 *Penny Cycl.* XIX. 451/1 Stick rhubarb is sold in the herb shops, and is in long pieces. 1912 *Contemp. Rev.* June 900 Fire was obtained by *stick-rubbing. 1857 Henfrey *Bot.* 586 A kind of minute *stick-shaped corpuscle.

16. Special comb.: **stick-bug** *U.S.* (*a*) = *stick-insect*; (*b*) a predaceous reduvioid bug, *Emesa longipes* (Cent. Dict. 1891); **stick-caterpillar**, a larva resembling a stick; **stick chair**, a sedan chair; **stick chimney** *U.S.*, a log-house chimney composed of sticks piled up crosswise and cemented with mud or clay; **stick-cover, -covert** (see quot. 1854); **stick-dam** (see quot.); **stick-flour** (see quot.); **stick-heap**, an artificial fox-covert made of sticks (cf. *stick-cover*); **stick-helmet**, a mask with additional guards for the forehead and head, used in cudgel-play (*Cent. Dict.*); **stick holder** (see quot.); **stick-insect**, any insect of the family *Phasmidæ*, from its resemblance to the branches and twigs of the trees in which it is found; **stick mounter**, a workman employed to affix the mounts of walking-sticks; **stick-net**, a small net run upon a ring fixed at the end of a stick; **stick-pile** †(*a*) = Heron's bill; (*b*) = *stick-heap*; **stick-play**, play with cudgel or single-stick; so also **stick-player**; **stick-pot** *U.S.*, a lobster-pot constructed of laths or narrow strips of wood; **stick-sling**, a sling in the form of a stick with a cleft at one end in which the stone to be thrown was placed; **stick slinger** *slang* (see quot.); **sticktail** *U.S.* (*Long Island*), the ruddy duck *Erismatura rubida*, characterized by having narrow and rigid tail-feathers; **stickwork**, in various ball games, the management of the bat or club. Also Stickiac.

1894 *Harper's Mag.* Feb. 456 'Witches' horses,'..which in some other States are dubbed '*stick-bugs'.., our Diapheromera femorata. 1898 Morris *Austral Eng.* 349 The various species [of the family *Phasmidæ*] are known as Leaf-insects, Walking-leaves, *Stick-caterpillars [etc.]. 1908 Mary Johnston *Lewis Rand* I. 11 Coach and chaise, curricle and *stick-chair, were encountered. 1846 Mrs. Kirkland *West. Clearings* 7 The house was..of the roughest;..its *stick chimney, so like its owner's hat, open at the top, and jammed in at the sides. 1897 *Encycl. Sport* I. 550/2 (Hunting) *Stick covers and faggot covers [for foxes]. 1854 Miss Baker *Northampt. Gloss.*, *Stick-covert*, a plat of ground stuck with thorns to make a fox-cover. 1897 *Encycl. Sport* I. 550/1 (Hunting) Foxes..found in gorse and stick coverts are often short runners. 1884 *Evang. Mag.* May 214 The other kind of [beaver's] dam is the '*stick-dam', consisting of sticks and poles. 1858 Simmonds *Dict. Trade*, *Stick-flour, a Brazilian name for cassava meal. 1898 *Westm. Gaz.* 28 Sept. 4/3 *Stick heaps..when judiciously placed..seldom fail to hold foxes. 1901 E. A. Pratt *Notable Masters* 44 [Josiah Mason] also did a large business in making cedar-wood pen-holders, or '*stick-holders'. 1854 A. Adams etc. *Man. Nat. Hist.* 210 *Stick-Insects (Phasmidæ). 1882 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* VI. 130 Most of them resemble sticks, either green, growing twigs, or brown and withered branches, and hence the names of Stick-insects and Walking-sticks. 1895 *Daily Chron.* 28 Aug. 8/4 *Stick Mounters wanted. 1862 Carpenter *Microscope* (ed. 3) § 394 *a.* 640 Among other animals captured by the *stick-net, the marine Zoologist will be not unlikely to meet with..the Tomopteris. 1597 Gerarde *Herbal* Suppl., *Stike pile is Storkes bil. 1895 *Leamington Spa Courier* 14 Mar., in Mordaunt & Verney *Ann. Warwicksh. Hunt* (1896) II. 289 The next resort was to the noted stick-pile at Napton, where a fox..was at home. 1891 *Century Dict.* *Stick-play. 1886 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 29 Dec. 2/2 The professional boxer, wrestler, or *stickplayer. 1887 G. B. Goode *Fish. Industr. U.S.* v. II. 666 Other names by which they [lobster traps] are known to the fishermen are..'*stick-pots', and 'lath-coops'. 1872 J. Evans *Anc. Stone Impl.* xviii. 375 This flat lenticular form [of stone] is better adapted for the *stick-sling than a pebble. 1856 Mayhew *Gt. World London* 46 Thieves, who admit of being classified as follows:—.. 'bludgers' or '*stick slingers', who rob in company with low women. 1909 *Westm. Gaz.* 11 Jan. 12/4 The outstanding feature of the game was the wonderful..*stickwork of the.. outside right.

Stick (stik), *sb.*[2] *Obs.* exc. *Hist.* Forms: 4 **styk(e, 5 steke, 6 sticke, stykke, 7– stick.** [First in the Anglo-L. forms *stica, sticha, sticka, estika*; it is not clear whether the word thus latinized was English (= Stick *sb.*[1]) or OF. **estike* from a continental form of the same word.

Cf. MLG. *sticke* in 'xx sticken anguillarum' (*Werden Tax Roll*). The use no doubt arose from the practice of carrying a number of eels on a stick passed through the gills.]

A measure of quantity in small eels (app. twenty-five or twenty-six). Also Comb. *stick-eel*, an eel of small size.

1086 *Domesday Bk.* (1783) I. 1 In Linnuartlest in brisennei habet rex consuetudinem . scilicet . ii . caretas . & ii. sticas anguillarum. *Ibid.* 155 Piscator redd. xxx. stichas anguillarum. 1244 *Liberate Roll* Nov. 28, Quod..emi faciat...x. milia stickarum anguillarum bone salicionis. 1290 in *Archæologia* XV. 352 Pro v. estik' anguill' ij*s*. 1390–1 *Earl Derby's Exped.* (Camden) 20 Et per manus Thome Fyssher pro xlviij styks anguillarum. *Ibid.* 29 Pro j styke di. anguillarum, xiiij d. 1343 *Durham Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 39 In 260 Stykell et anguill. grossis, 3*s*. 6*d*. 1481–90 *Howard Housek. Bks.* (Roxb.) 143 For vj. stekes of smale elle xxvj. to the steke ij.*s*. vj.*d*. 1510–11 *Durham Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 661 Preter 12 lupos aquaticos et duos stickes anguillarum. 1664 Spelman *Gloss.* s. v. *Brochus*, A stick of Eels. 1715 *B.N.C. Muniments* 20. 28, *Kent* (MS.), [Tenant to have] the yearly dues of days of work, sticks of eeles, eggs, hens, Cocks,.. and plowsheards. *a* 1728 [see Bind *sb.* 5].

† **Stick,** *sb.*[3] *Obs.* Forms: 5 **stic, styc,** 5–6 **stik,** (5 **styke**), 6–7 **stick,** (6 **styck**), 7 **sticke**; *Sc.* 5–7 **steik,** 5 **stek,** (**steke,** 6 **steyk, styk**). [a. Flem. *stik, stuk*, = Du. *stuk*, G. *stück* piece.]

1. The customary length (varying according to the material) of a 'piece' or roll of certain textile fabrics imported from Flanders.

1476 in *Acta Audit.* (1839) 55/2 Twa stikkis of blak schamlot. 1489 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* I. 136 Item,..for a steik of black chamlot to be a galbert to the King, price vj li. 1493 in *Acta Audit.* (1839) 180/2 A stik of grene sating contenand xxvj elln. 1513 *Inventory* in *Archæologia* LXVI. 346 A Counterpoint of Verdure cont. xxx. flemisshe stickes. 1565–[66] *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* I. 430 Ane half stik of say, four half stekis of lynning Holand clayth. 1614 in *Archæologia* XLII. 359 Fowre shorte carpettes of verdure ..at ij *s*. vj *d*. the sticke. 1670 in *12th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. v. 15 Courser [hangings] then theise..Your Honour may be served with from Flanders, att 18*s*. per stick. 1694 E. Chamberlayne *Pres. St. Eng.* III. ii. (ed. 18) 388 A Dutch Ell or Stick, by which Tapestry is measured, is but ¾ of a Yard.

†**2.** *Le styc, the stic* = the piece. (Cf. Piece *sb.* 4.)

1482 *Cely Papers* (Camden) 111 They wull bawe noo noder money than nenyng grotes at iiij d. ob le styc. *Ibid.* 114 He..made vj oblygaschons payabull at vj monthys and vj monthis the stic conteynyng v^c^ marke.

3. See quot. (Cf. Steak 2 a.)

1615 E. S. *Brit. Buss* in Arber *Garner* III. 636 This Yager ..comes to the said Buss..and buys all such herrings as she hath barrelled. Which barrels, upon the first packing, are called Sticks. And, in part of payment for her said Herring Sticks, delivers..salt [etc.].

Stick (stik), *sb.*[4] [f. Stick *v.*[1]]

1. A temporary stoppage, a hitch in proceedings or progress; a boggle. *Obs.* exc. *arch.*

1646 R. Baillie *Anabaptism* (1647) 139 But the greatest stick is upon the antecedent, Baptismes succession to Circumcision. 1675 V. Alsop *Anti-Sozzo* iii. 161 But all the stick lyes there, and we must enter a Friendly Debate with him upon the issue. 1684 Bunyan *Pilgr.* II. (ed. 6, 1693) 104 When we came at the Hill Difficulty, he made no stick at that, nor did he much fear the Lyons. 1889 Stevenson *Master of Ballantrae* viii, It is a strange thing that I should be at a stick for a date. 1893 — *Catriona* iv, The Advocate appeared for a moment at a stick, sitting with pursed lips.

2. Something which causes hindrance or delay, a difficulty, obstacle to progress. *Obs.* exc. *arch.*

1657 Cromwell *Sp.* 21 Apr., in *Carlyle* (1871) V. 31, I think you may well remember what the issue was of the last Conference..and what the stick then was. 1658–9 *Burton's Diary* (1828) IV. 116 To consider in what way you will address to his Highness, to acquaint him clearly what has been your stick. 1893 Stevenson *Catriona* ii, It would be ill for me to find a conveyance, but that should be no stick to you.

3. The power of adhering or of causing a thing to adhere; adhesiveness. *lit.* and *fig.*

1853 Lowell *Fireside Trav.* (1864) 113 Surveyors' names have no natural *stick* in them. They remind one of the epithets of poetasters, which peel off like a badly-gummed postage-stamp. 1892 Kipling *Barrack-room Ballads, Screw-guns* 10 We'd climb up the side of a sign-board an' trust to the stick o' the paint.

b. Something which causes adhesion, a sticky substance.

1898 *Engineering Mag.* XVI. 128/1 The liquor..is reduced to the consistency of thick syrup and is called 'stick'.

4. *Cricket.* A batsman who remains a long time at the wicket, one not easily 'got out'.

1863 *Lillywhite's Cricket Scores* III. 242 Mr. Haygarth (always a great 'stick') in his first *innings* was in three hours. 1901 R. H. Lyttelton *Outdoor Games* vi. 121 One of the curses of the present day is the stick who, by restraining every impulse to hit, cannot be got out on these perfect modern wickets. *Ibid.* 126 Therefore the brilliant hitter had to abandon his naturally-attractive game and become a stick.

5. A stab. (Cf. Stick-free *a.*)

1633 Shirley *Young Admiral* IV. G 2, No circumstance must be forgot, To make him free from sticke and shot. 1818 in Todd; and in later Dicts.

Stick (stik), *v.*[1] Pa. t. and pa. pple. **stuck** (stʊk). Forms: 1 **stician, stycian,** 3–6 **stike, stik,** (3 **stikie**), 4–6 **styke, stycke,** (4 **stiken, stic**), 5 **styk(k)yn,** 6 **stikk, styk(ke, stycke,** 6–7 **sticke,** 6– **stick.** *Pa. t. a.* 1 **sticade, sticode,** 3–4 **stikede,** 4 **stikid(e,** 4–5 **stiked, styk(k)ed,** 5 **stickede, stykkit,** (**stikt, stickyd**), 5–6 **stycked,** 6 **stickyd,** (**stykkyd**), (*Sc.* **stiket, stikit, stikkit**), 6–7 **stickt,** 6–9 *Sc.* **sticket, -it,** 5–7, 9 *dial.* **sticked**; *β.* 5 (9 *Sc.*) **stak,** 5–7 **stacke,** 5–7, 8–9 *arch.* and *north.* **stack**; *γ.* 6 **stoke, stocke,** 7 **stocke,** 6–7 **stucke,** 6– **stuck.** *Pa. pple. a.* 1 **sticod,** 3–4 **ystiked,** 3–5 **stiked,** 4 **styked, istiked, ystikked, stikked, stiken, stickid,** 4–5 **stikid,** 4–6 **stycked,** 5–6 **sticked,** 6–7 **stickt,** 6 **stickte, stickyd,** *Sc.* **stikkit,** 6–9 *Sc.* **stickit, sticket**; *β.* 6 **stacke,** 9 *dial.* **stack**; *γ.* 6 **stoke(n,** 6–7 **stucke,** (6 *Sc.* **stukne**), 7 **stucken,** 7– **stuck.** [OE. *stician* wk. v., f. Teut. root **stik-* to pierce, be sharp (whence Stick, Stitch *sbs.*) :— Indogermanic **stig-* (: **steig-*) found in Gr. *στίζειν* (:—**stigy-*) to prick, *στιγμή, στίγμα* prick, point (see Stigma), L. *instīgāre* to spur on, Instigate; also with nasal infix, in Goth. *stiggan* to thrust, L. *-stinguĕre* to prick (*distinguĕre* to distinguish); and without initial *s* in Skr. *tij-* to be sharp, *tigmá* sharp. The Teut. root chiefly appears in the altered form **stek-* (**stak-*: **stēk-*), as in the Com. WGer. strong verb **stekan* to prick, thrust: see Steek *v.* The formal equivalent of OE. **stician* (WGer. type **stikōjan, *stekōjan*, prob. denominative) occurs in OHG. *stehhōn* to prick, stab, cut the throat of; a parallel formation (WGer. type **stikkjan*, also prob. denominative) is found as (M)Du., (M)LG. *stikken* to prick, pierce, stab, also to embroider (Sw. *sticka*, Da. *stikke* from LG.), OHG. *sticchen* in the same senses (MHG., mod.G. *sticken* to embroider).

It is impossible accurately to separate the history of this originally weak verb from that of the originally strong Steek *v.*[2] The latter was from an early period sometimes conjugated weak, while on the other hand the strong inflexions of *steek* became associated with *stick*, moreover, in the 16th c. formed a new strong pa. t. and pa. pple. *stuck* (cf. *dig, dug*). It is therefore often doubtful to which verb forms like *stack, stoken*, should be referred. Further, in some northern dialects the ME. *stike* is normally represented by *stēke*, and therefore coincides (at least graphically) with Steek *v.*[2] The wk. form *sticked* remained in somewhat common use until the 17th c., and still survives (in certain senses) in Sc. and various dialects (see *Eng. Dial. Dict.*).]

I. To pierce, thrust.

1. *trans.* To stab, pierce, or transfix with a thrust of a spear, sword, knife, or other sharp instrument; to kill by this means, more explicitly *to stick to death.* Also *refl.* Not now in dignified use.

a 900 *O. E. Martyrol.* 15 Nov. 206 Þa he þæt nolde, þa stycodon hiġ hyne myd hyra sperum. *a* 900 tr. *Bæda's Hist.* I. x. [xiii.] (1890) 48 Betwih him twam we þus tweofealdne deað þrowiað, oððe sticode beoð oððe on sæ adruncene. *c* 1205 Lay. 20659 Heo..stikeden & slo3en al þat heo neh comen. *Ibid.* 20962 Alle þa gode wiues heo stikeden mid cnifes. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 21124 Men sais he stiked was wit suord. *c* 1330 R. Brunne *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 3527 Syben wiþ sword & knyf þey met; Ilk oþer on ran ilk oþer to styke, 13.. *Will. Palerne* 3818 Many a stef stede [was] stiked þere to dethe. 1387 Trevisa *Higden* (Rolls) IV. 471 He ordeyned him..to cacche flyes, and styke hem wiþ a scharp poyntel. 1395 Hylton *Scala Perf.* (W. de W. 1494) I. xxxv, The sharpe spere that stykked hym to the hert. 1422 Yonge tr. *Secreta Secret.* 153 Whan he apercewid that scappe he ne myght, he raane to a stake and hym Stickyd throw the body. 1529 Rastell *Pastyme, Brit. Hist.* (1811) 285 The moost comyn tale was that he [Hen. VI] was stycked with a dagger, by yᵉ handes of Rycharde, duke of Gloucester. 1556 Olde *Antichrist* 90 b, He was taken and sticked to deathe. 1615 Sylvester *Job Triumph.* II. 319 With Vipers' tongues hee shall be deadly stuck. 1619 Drayton *Ballad Agincourt* 72 Like a Storme suddenly, The English Archery Stuck the French Horses. 1705 Vanbrugh *Confed.* IV. I. G 4 b, If I had let him stick himself, I shou'd have been envy'd by all the great Ladies in the Town. 1832 *Examiner* 98/1 Were he to draw his bayonet and stick the brawler. 1842 Borrow *Bible in Spain* xxvi, If I had my knife here I would stick him.

fig. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 11370 Þin aghen hert A sorful suerd sal stik ouerthuert. *Ibid.* 24100 On mi soru mai be nan end, It stikes me sua strang. 1600 Shaks. *A. Y. L.* I. ii. 254 My Fathers rough and enuious disposition Sticks me at heart. 1606 — *Tr. & Cr.* III. ii. 202 Yea, let them say, to sticke the heart of falsehood, As false as Cressid.

absol. 1530 Tindale *Expos. Matt. v.–vii.* (? 1550) 99 b, The scrybes and pharyseyes had thruste vp the swerde of the worde of God into a scabard..that it coulde neither sticke nor cutte. 1822 Shelley *Faust* ii. 172 [*Chorus of Witches*] Stick with the prong, and scratch with the broom.

b. Of a horned animal: To pierce with the tusks, to impale with the horns; to gore. Also *absol.* Now *dial.*

c 893 ÆLFRED *Oros.* IV. I. § 5 þa, siþþan he irre wæs & ȝewundod, he..þa oþre elþendas sticade & gremede. *c* 1890 W. G. LYTTLE *Adv. Robin Gordon, Robin's Read.* II. 18 (E.D.D.) Tell't hir about the goat neer stickin' her.

c. To kill (an animal, esp. a pig) by thrusting a knife into its throat. Also *transf.*

13.. *Pol. Songs* (Camden) 190 Hue leyȝen y the stretes y-styked ase swyn. 1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* VII. v. 220 Hym bysemeth better to stycke a swyne than to syite afore a damoysel of hyhe parage. 1591 SHAKS. *Two Gent.* I. i. 108. 1594 LYLY *Mother Bombie* V. iii, I had thought they had beene sticking of pigs, I heard such a squeaking. 1616 R. C. *Times Whistle* II. (1871) 25 For all thou lookest soe big, Thou never yet durst see a sillie pig Stucke to the heart. 1884 TENNYSON *Becket* I. iii, By God's death, thou shalt stick him like a calf!

d. *Sport.* To spear (a salmon). *To stick a pig* (in India): to hunt the wild boar with a spear. (Cf. PIGSTICKING, etc.)

1820 SCOTT *Monast.* Introd. Ep., I have seen the fundations [of the old drawbridge] when we were sticking saumon. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* lxiii, He wrote off to Chutney ..that he was going to show his friend..how to stick a pig in the Indian fashion. 1891 'LUCAS MALET' *Wages of Sin* II. ii, He had regarded India as an awfully jolly place where you shot tigers and stuck pigs and played polo.

e. To make holes in (something) with a pointed instrument. *rare.*

1769 MRS. RAFFALD *Eng. Housekpr.* (1805) 102 Stick your neck [of mutton] all over in little holes with a sharp penknife.

2. To thrust (a dagger, a spear, a pointed instrument) *in, into, through.*

c 1386 CHAUCER *Knt.'s T.* 707 Loue hath his firy dart so brennyngly Ystiked thurgh my trewe careful herte. 1569 UNDERDOWN *Ovid's Invect. Ibis* Lj, And that a shafte stoke in thy heart, may take thy life away. 1596 SHAKS. *Merch. V.* III. i. 115 Thou stick'st a dagger in me. 1607 CHAPMAN *Bussy d'Ambois* V. iii. 61 Or thou great Prince of shades where neuer sunne Stickes his far-darted beames. 1615 G. SANDYS *Trav.* I. 7 The Bride-groome entring the Church, sticks his dagger in the doore. 1872 A. S. PACKARD *Guide Study Insects* (ed. 3) 428 The pin should be stuck through the right elytron.

fig. a 1400 *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* xliii. 254 And þat loue mote also faste In-to myn herte stykyd be, As was þe spere in-to þin herte.

†b. *To stick the point*: to prove conclusively.

1655 FULLER *Ch. Hist.* VI. 268 This Quaternion of Subscribers, have stick'n the point dead with me that all antient English Monks were Benedictines.

c. *To stick one's eyes in*: to subject to a piercing gaze. *Sc.* and *dial.*

1456 SIR G. HAY *Gov. Princes* Wks. (S.T.S.) II. 110 Scho stykkit hir eyne in a man as scho wald throu lukand perse him with her sycht. 1898 S. MACMANUS *Bend of Road* 218 Masther Whoriskey is sittin'..with his eyes stuck in poor Mary as if he wanted to overlook her.

d. *indirect passive.*

1869 TOZER *Highl. Turkey* II. 16 A huge lump..which he carried over his shoulder, stuck through with a pole.

3. To thrust, push forward, protrude (one's head, hand, etc.) *in, into, over* something. Also with *out.*

1627 MAY *Lucan* VI. L 2 b, She..from their orbes doth teare His congeal'd eyes, and stickes her knucles there. 1713 BERKELEY *Guardian* No. 39 ¶ 2 Prejudice in the figure of a woman standing..with her eyes close shut, and her fore-fingers stuck in her ears. 1834 M. SCOTT *Cruise Midge* viii, A number of joyous faces were stuck over the hammock cloths reconnoitring us. 1892 *Photogr. Ann.* II. 43 Stick the ends of your fingers in this, and then lightly go over the glass. 1893 STEVENSON *Catriona* ii, And that's what makes me think so much of ye—you that's no Stewart—to stick your head so deep in Stewart business. 1907 LE FANU *Dragon Volant* i, A lean old gentleman..stuck his head out of the window. 1914 A. BENNETT *Price of Love* 207 She belonged to the middle class..the class that sticks its chin out and gets things done.

b. *intr.* To project, protrude. Now only const. *from, out of.* Cf. *stick out*, 32 a.

1580 BLUNDEVILE *Curing Horses Dis.* cxiii. 52 b, Thrust in one of the pinnes from aboue downeward, so as both ends may equallie sticke without the skin. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. III. v, Or what is this that sticks visible from the lapelle of Chevalier de Court? 1886 STEVENSON *Kidnapped* xv, I saw a steel butt of a pistol sticking from under the flap of his coat-pocket.

II. To remain fixed.

4. *intr.* Of a pointed instrument: To remain with its point imbedded; to be fixed by piercing. More explicitly *to stick fast* (†*still*).

c 1000 ÆLFRIC *Judges* iii. 23 He forlet þa þat swurd stician on him. *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 23 Hu mei þe leche þe lechnien þa hwile þet iren sticat in þine wunde. *c* 1290 *St. Edmund* 47 in *S. Eng. Leg.* 298 Þe Arewene stikeden on him ful þicke. 1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* I. iii. 40 Therym stack a fayre sword naked by the poynt. 1483 CAXTON *Golden Leg.* 173/3 His staffe sprange out of hys honde..and..styked faste in the erthe. 1523 BERNERS *Froiss.* (1812) I. cccl.xxiv. 621 The spere brake, and the tronchion stacke styll in the squiers necke. 1538 in *Lett. Suppress. Monasteries* (Camden) 198 Sum [of them] feytynge so that the knyffe hathe stoken in the bone. 1593 SHAKS. *Lucr.* 317 By the light he spies Lucrecias gloue, wherein her needle sticks. *c* 1622 FORD etc. *Witch Edmonton* II. i. (1658) 19 A Burbolt, which sticks at this hour up to the Feathers in my heart. 1867 MORRIS *Jason* IV. 316 Bleeding from arm and back Wherein two huntsmen's arrows lightly stack. 1884 W. C. SMITH *Kildrostan* 36 Where the joints are there the arrow sticks.

fig. a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 60 Erest heo scheot þe earewen of þe liht eien, þat fleoð lichtliche uorð,..& stikeð iðe heorte. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Doctor's T.* 211 Vpon hir humble face he gan biholde, With fadres pitee stikynge thurgh his herte. 1621 T. WILLIAMSON tr. *Goulart's Wise Vieillard* 154 When hee [the infernall serpent] first bit and stung our first mother Eue, leauing fast sticking in vs the sting of sinne. 1851 KINGSLEY *Misc.* (1859) I. 366 Phrases..which stick, like barbed arrows, in the memory of every reader.

†b. To be fastened (*in* something) by having its end thrust or driven in. *Obs.*

c 1386 CHAUCER *Sir Thopas* 196 Vp on his Creest He bar a tour And ther Inne stiked a lilie flour. 1515 BARCLAY *Egloges* I. Argt., In the side of his felte there stacke a spone of tree. 1595 SHAKS. *John* II. 317 There stucke no plume in any English Crest, That is removed by a staffe of France.

†5. Of things: To be fastened in position; to be fixed in or as in a socket; to be attached. *Obs.*

c 888 ÆLFRED *Boeth.* xxxix. § 7 Swa swa þa spacan sticiað oðer ende on þære felȝe oþer on þære nafe. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 1186 O perle, quod I..If hit be ueray & soth sermoun, þat þou so stykes in garlande gay, [etc.]. 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 7633 Seven planetes er oboven us;..þai styk noght fast, als smale sternes dose. 1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* VII. xxii. 248 Dame Lynet..enoynted it..there as it was smyten of, and in the same wyse she dyd to the other parte there as the hede stak. And thenne she sette it to gyders and it stak as fast as euer it did. 1567 GOLDING *Ovid's Met.* III. 39 Three spirting tongues, three rowes of teeth within his head did sticke. *c* 1586 C'TESS PEMBROKE *Ps.* cxlii. 1 Lord, thou..knowst each path where stick the toyls of danger. 1665 BUNYAN *Holy Citie* 173 We shall stick like Pearls in the Crowns of the twelve Apostles. 1673 GREW *Anat. Pl.* VI. iv. § 9 The particles..of Salt stick in them, as the Spokes do in the Hub of a Wheel, or as the Quills in the Skin of a Porcupine.

b. In phrases with *full, close*, expressive of crowding to the utmost. [Cf. G. *stecken.*]

c 1400 *Brut* cv. 107 Þai..made Archires to him shote with Arwes, til þat his body stickede alse ful of Arwes as an hirchone is ful of prickes. 1776 G. SEMPLE *Building in Water* 9 Make..a solid Foundation..of Piles..driven in as close together as ever they can stick. 1889 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Robbery under Arms* xxviii, She..was..as full of fun and games as she could stick.

6. Chiefly of persons: To continue or remain persistently in a place. Now only *colloq.*

c 888 ÆLFRED *Boeth.* iv, Sticiað ȝehydde beorhte cræftas. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 214 Þe ȝiure glutun is þes feondes manciple. Uor he stikeð euer iðe celere, oðer iðe kuchene. *c* 1290 *Mirkel* 782 in *S. Eng. Leg.* 322 Þulke [soul] þat halt ane Mannes lijf and stikez in þe heorte. 1537 *Original of Spectes* 2 So agayn may one be out of yᵉ world wᵗ his body, & styck myddes in yᵉ world wᵗ his harte. 1577 tr. *Bullinger's Decades* I. viii. (1592) 68/2 Our Lord died..but hee taried not, nor yet stack faste amonge the deed. 1638 W. HAIG in J. Russell *Haigs* viii. (1881) 219 The longer I stick here the more I consume myself in expense. 1844 *Lillywhite's Handbk. Cricket* 18 Whenever you find two batsmen sticking at their wickets.. try a change [of bowling]. 1876 HARDY *Ethelberta* xxviii, I'll stick where I am, for here I am safe as to food and shelter. 1882 E. A. FREEMAN *Let.* 18 Apr. (MS.) There I should like to stick.

b. *fig.* (Sometimes with mixture of sense 4; cf. also sense 8.) Of feelings, thoughts, etc.: To remain permanently in the mind.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 26927 [The soul cannot be healed of sin] To-quils it stikand es þar-in. 1303 R. BRUNNE *Handl. Synne* 5166 No make no sorowe, ne myslyke, þat wanhope In þyn herte styke. *c* 1430 *Chev. Assigne* 241 That [saying] styked styffe in here brestes þat wolde þe qwene brenne. 1535 STARKEY *Let.* 15 Feb., in *England* (1878) p. xiv, Yf euer any of thes..dow styke in your memory & mynd, I besech you let thes few wordys..be put in the nombur of them. 1606 SHAKS. *Ant. & Cl.* I. v. 41 *Alex.* His speech stickes in my heart. *Cleo.* Mine eare must plucke it thence. 1666 PEPYS *Diary* 17 Aug., It sticks in the memory of most merchants how the late King..was persuaded in a strait..to seize upon the money in the Tower. 1741 WATTS *Improv. Mind* I. xvii. (1801) 143 And a hundred proverbial sentences..are formed into rhyme or a verse, whereby they are made to stick upon the memory. 1891 MEREDITH *One of our Conq.* xxviii, But again, 'the meaning of it past date,' stuck in her memory.

†c. To linger, dwell on a point in discourse. Const. *in, upon. Obs.*

1547 J. HARRISON *Exhort. Scottes* 218 In which point I will not muche stycke. 1586 W. WEBBE *Eng. Poetrie* (Arb.) 91 Therefore this last kinde of errour is not to be stucke vppon. 1599 ROLLOCK *Serm.* vii. Wks. 1849 I. 380 Then ze see heir ane revelation be the Spreit. Mark it, I sall stick sum thing on the wordis. *a* 1646 BURROUGHES *Exp. Hosea* vi. 108 That principally which we must stick upon a while, which is intended here in the Text most of all.

†d. To stop, end one's discourse. *Obs.*

1563 *Homilies* II. *Rogation Week* i. Nnnniiij b, And this once pronounced, he stacke not styl at this poynt: but forth-with thervpon ioyned to these wordes. ¶To hym be glory.. for euer. Amen. 1680 H. MORE *Apocal. Apoc.* 310 We are never the wiser what Empire certainly to pitch upon if the Angel stick here; and therefore he holds on.

†7. To remain firm, continue steadfast, stand *fast*; to be determined *to do* something; to persist *in* (an opinion, etc.); to be persistently engaged *upon. Obs.* Cf. *stick to*, 26.

1447 *Shillingford Lett.* (Camden) 11 Apon this mene he stiked faste, and thoghte hit was resonable. *c* 1500 in W. Denton *Eng. in 15th C.* (1888) 319 Bott I meruell grettly that ye styke so sore to make thaym to gyffe more then othere men hase gyffen afore. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 8 b, All persones that wyll not be counseyled..but stycke fast in theyr owne blynde fantasy. 1597 MORLEY *Introd. Mus.* 1 But he still sticking in his opinion, the two gentlemen requested mee to examine his reasons. 1607 TOURNEUR *Rev. Trag.* V. i. I 1 b, Could you not stick: see what confession doth? *c* 1698 LOCKE *Cond. Underst.* § 25 Wks. 1714 III. 411 If the Matter be knotty, and the Sence lies deep, the Mind must stop and buckle to it, and stick upon it with Labour and Thought.

b. To keep persistently *at.*

1886 G. ALLEN *Maimie's Sake* xxii, We've stuck awfully close at this thing while we've been working at it.

c. *trans.* (*slang.*) To put up with, endure association with, tolerate (a person). Also *to stick it*, to continue what one is doing without flinching.

1899 *Daily News* 26 Oct. 6/6 He got on all right with his wife, but he could not 'stick' his mother-in-law. 1900 *Ibid.* 1 Jan. 3/2 They're big men, and they look as if they can 'stick it.' 1905 *Macm. Mag.* Nov. 68 Sergeant Chambers shouted back, 'Go to hell!' and to his men he cried, 'Stick it!' 1907 *Ibid.* Feb. 320 Dick had pulled out for home because 'he couldn't stick that Mr. Jenkins.'

8. *intr.* Of things: To remain attached or fastened by adhesion, to adhere, hold, cleave. Const. *on, to, unto, in.* See also *stick together*, 33.

1558 WARDE tr. *Alexis' Secr.* 21 b, Take the flower, that sticketh on the bourdes and walles of a Mille. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* XXXV. vi. II. 528 As for Sinopis..That which stucke fast unto the rockes, excelleth all the rest. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* I. 60 Sounding with our plummet, sand of Amber stuck thereto. 1679 MOXON *Mech. Exerc.* ix. 160 Should the Augure-hole be too wide, the Shank would be loose in it, and not stick strong enough in it. 1747 MRS. GLASSE *Cookery* ii. 14 Take care they don't stick to the Bottom of the Pan. 1759 R. BROWN *Compl. Farmer* 104 First wet both the bag and the press to keep the wax from sticking. 1855 BROWNING *The Twins* i, Do roses stick like burrs? 1861 LOWELL *Biglow P.* Ser. II. i. 73 We'll try ye fair, ole Grafted-leg, an' ef the tar wun't stick, Th' ain't not a juror [etc.]. 1868–70 MORRIS *Earthly Par.* I. i. 450 But when that he Gat hold of it [*sc.* a stone upon the floor], full fast it stack.

Proverbial. 1818 SCOTT *Rob Roy* xxiii, Hout tout, man! let that flee stick in the wa'..; when the dirt's dry it will rub out. 1911 *Concise Oxf. Dict.* s. v., If you throw mud enough, some of it will stick.

b. *To stick to* (occas. *in, † by, † on*) *a person's fingers*: said *fig.* of money dishonestly retained.

1576 [see TELLER 2]. 1660 MARQ. WORCESTER in Dircks *Life* xiv. (1865) 229 Nothing hath stuck to my fingers, in order to benefit or self-interest. 1809 MALKIN *Gil Blas* VII. xv. (Rtldg.) 11 Probably something still stuck by the fingers. 1826 LAMB *Pop. Fallacies* ii, Some portions of it [alienated Church property] somehow always stuck so fast, that the denunciators have been fain to postpone the prophecy. 1860 MOTLEY *Netherl.* x. II. 87 He was..a most infamous peculator. One-third of the money sent by the Queen for the soldiers stuck in his fingers.

c. *fig.* in various uses. Of a fact, a saying: To abide in one's memory. Of an imputation: To be fastened upon a person. Of opinions, feelings, habits: To be fixed, not to be shaken off.

1605 SHAKS. *Mach.* V. ii. 17 Now do's he feele His secret Murthers sticking on his hands. 1677 SIR C. WYCHE in *Essex Papers* (Camden) II. 140 My Lord Treasurer has cleared himself of those things which seemed to stick upon him in relation to the excise. 1751 CHESTERF. *Lett.* cclxx, It is commonly said..that ridicule is the best test of truth; for that it will not stick where it is not just. 1820 SCOTT *Monast.* Answ. Introd. Ep., For MacDuff's peculiarity sticks to your whole race. 1839 LONGF. *Life* (1891) I. 331, I quote him [Horace]; because his phrases stick. 1845 FORD *Handbk. Spain* I. 39 A bad character sticks to a country as well as to an individual. 1857 W. COLLINS *Dead Secret* VI. i, The same fear that she had all the way from this house, still sticks to her.

†9. To be joined as an appendage *to. Obs.*

1631 WIDDOWES *Nat. Philos.* 61 The Stomacke is a part like perchment, sticking to the throat. 1650 HOWELL *Giraffi's Rev. Naples* I. 25 The Vice-King..remov'd himself ..to castelnuovo, which sticks to the Royall Palace, there being a bridge to passe between.

10. Of a living creature: To cling *to, on, upon. To stick on, to* (a horse), to keep one's seat on.

1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* I. 62 The hail peple..saw..mony thousandis of sik lytle foules stiking to the schip. 1664 POWER *Exp. Philos.* I. 2 [The flea's] feet are slit into claws or talons, that he might the better stick to what he lights upon. 1706 E. WARD *Wooden World Diss.* (1708) 54 He hoists himself..upon..a Horse, and sticks as close to him with his Thighs, as if he were got cross a Yard-Arm. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) VII. 310 The..leeches..stuck to her so close, that the poor creature expired from the quantity of blood which she lost. 1861 TENNYSON *Sailor Boy* iii, And on thy ribs the limpet sticks. 1872 *Routledge's Ev. Boy's Ann.* 38/2 To learn how to stick on a horse's back. 1881 A. C. GRANT *Bush Life Queensld.* ix. (1882) 82 He tried his hand at sticking to some of the more notorious youngsters [horses].

fig. 1843 CARLYLE *Past & Pr.* II. iv. 78 Every fresh Jew sticking on him like a fresh horse-leech.

absol. 1869 BLACKMORE *Lorna Doone* xi, I should have stuck on much longer, sir, if her [a pony's] sides had not been wet. 1872 BLACK *Adv. Phaeton* iv, His riding was not a masterly performance, but at all events he stuck on.

b. *trans.* To retain one's seat on (a horse).

1844 W. H. MAXWELL *Scotland* iii. (1855) 42, I'll never stick him bare-backed.

11. *intr.* To be set fast or entangled in sand, clay, mud, mire, and the like; similarly of a boat, to become fixed or grounded on sand, a rock, etc.; more explicitly *to stick fast.*

c 888 ÆLFRED *Boeth.* xxxvii. § 2 Ȝesihst þu nu..on hu þiostrum horoseaðe þara unðeawa ða yfelwillendan sticiað [L. *quanto in cœno probræ volvantur*]. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Man of Law's T.* 411 And in the sond hir ship stiked so faste That thennes wolde it noght of al a tyde. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* I. i. 80 Scho with a thuid stikkit on ane scharp roike. 1530 PALSGR. 735/2, I stycke fast in a myer or a maresse, *je me-arreste.* 1590 *Acts Privy Council* (1899) XIX. 406 The Thames is soe shallowe in divers places as boates and barges doe sticke by the waie. 1611 BIBLE *Acts* xxvii. 41 They ranne the shippe a ground, and the forepart stucke fast. 1665 MANLEY *Grotius' Low-C. Warres* 514 Unpassable Marishes and Moors, which a man no sooner treads upon, but he sticks in the Mud and Dirt. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* III. vii. 354 At length the ship stuck fast in the

mud. 1815 Scott *Guy M.* xiii, Mrs. Mac-Candlish's postilion..said aloud, 'If he had stuck by the way, I would have lent him a heezie. 1860 Tyndall *Glac.* I. xxvii. 198 The carriage..had stuck in one of the ridges.

b. In fig. phrases *to stick in the briers, clay, mire* (now *rare* or *obs.*) : to be involved in difficulties or trouble. *To stick in the mud* : now usually, to remain content in a mean or abject condition.

c 1450 tr. *De Imitatione* III. xxii. 90 Haue mercy on me oute of þe clay, þat I stike not þerin. 1565 Cooper *Thesaurus* s.v. *Hæreo*, They beyng accused of extortion and pillage were in muche trouble, or stacke in the bryars. *c* 1620 A. Hume *Brit. Tongue* Ded., Quhiles I stack in this claye, it pleased God to bring your Majestie hame to visit your aun Ida. 1898 J. Arch *Life* xiv. 345 To teach a man to be content to stick in the mud is to teach a man to curse himself.

† **c.** To be involved *in* (some undesirable state or condition). *Obs.*

c 1640 H. Bell *Luther's Colloq. Mens.* (1652) 309 And whoso blameth mee for giving way and yielding so much to the Pope at the first, let him consider in what darkness I still stuck at that time. 1666 Bunyan *Grace Abound.* § 201, I should still be as sticking in the jaws of desperation.

12. To become fixed or stationary in or on account of some obstruction, to be arrested or intercepted. Of a thing made to run, swing, or slide: To become unworkable, to jam.

1531 *Sel. Pleas Crt. Admiralty* (Selden Soc.) I. 58 It chaunced his nett to styck or fasten in the bend or knot of a cable. 1707 E. Smith *Phædra & Hippol.* I. i, My Blood runs backward, and my fault'ring Tongue Sticks at the Sound. 1852 Seidel *Organ* 46 One of the keys in the pedal sticks, moving neither up nor down. 1855 Tennyson *Brook* 85 The gate, Half-parted from a weak and scolding hinge, Stuck. 1886 *C. H. Fagge's Princ. Med.* I. 31 A strip of flannel had got between the drawer and its frame, and had made the drawer stick. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VII. 352 If..an embolus sticks in the vertebral, the basilar artery may become gradually thrombosed and blocked.

fig. 1642 D. Rogers *Naaman* 24 Let us not wonder that our praiers sticke in their ascent.

b. Of food, etc. : To lodge (in the throat).

To stick in one's gizzard, stomach (fig.) : see the sbs.

1553 T. Wilson *Rhet.* 117 b, An other speakes in his throte, as though a good Ale crumme stacke fast. 1727 Dorrington *Philip Quarll* (1816) 16 A phlegm sticking in my throat, I happened to hem pretty loud. 1885 T. Hook *Sayings* Ser. II. *Passion & Princ.* x. III. 195 'How's your throat, child?'..'Oh, quite well, Pa,..it was' a bit of the rind of the cheese that stuck'. 1895 P. Hemingway *Out of Egypt* I. ii. 12 He..saw a plate of macaroni for his supper. He tried to eat some, but it stuck in his throat.

c. Of words, *To stick in one's throat*, † *teeth* : 'to resist emission' (J.).

1605 Shaks. *Macb.* II. ii. 33 Amen stuck in my throat. 1634 Hall *Contempl., N. T.* IV. xxi. 219 How this suit sticks in her teeth; and dare not freely come forth. 1822 Scott *Nigel* xiv, 'My lord,'—said Richie, and then stopped to cough and hem, as if what he had to say stuck somewhat in his throat.

d. Of a weather-glass, the wind: To remain without fluctuation or variation.

13. Of a matter: To be at a stand, to suffer delay or hindrance. Const. *at, in, on, upon.*

1530 Palsgr. 735/2 It stycketh, as a mater stycketh and gothe nat forward, *il tient*. The mater stycketh nat in me, *la matiere ne tient pas a moy*. 1537 Latimer *Let. Cromwell* in *Serm. & Rem.* (1845) 383 As touching your request concerning your friend,..it shall not stick on my behalf. 1619 Wotton in *Eng. & Germ.* (Camden) 50, I finde..a good disposition there,..but I doubte it will sticke upon who shall beginne. 1676 Earl Anglesey in *Essex Papers* (Camden) II. 84 Our King hath the French promises the generall peace shall not stick for want of the surrender [of Sicily]. 1703 Barrett *Analecta* 30 May not this excite and encourage thee to set about the Work, to consider how the Lord is beforehand with thee, that the Work is not like to stick at him. *a* 1715 Burnet *Own Time* IV. (1724) I. 629 A rich widow..hearing at what his designs stuck,..furnished him with ten thousand pounds. 1893 Stevenson *Catriona* iii, 'I believe I could indicate in two words where the thing sticks', said I.

b. Of a person or thing: To remain in a stationary condition, to be unable to make progress. Of a commodity etc. : Not to 'go off', to remain unsold (cf. Sticker 3 b).

1641 *Nicholas Papers* (Camden) 46 We stick wher we were for officers, ye King upon his declaration and ye Parlement uppon ther two propositions made to him. 1687 Miege *Fr. Dict.* II. s. v., His mind sticks betwixt Hope and Fear. 1729 Swift *Poems, Soldier & Scholar* 3 This Hamilton's Bawn, while it sticks on my Hand, I lose by the House, what I get by the Land. 1741 Warburton *Div. Legat.* IV. v. II. 269 And there they [the contending parties] must have stuck, till Famine and Desertion had ended the Quarrel. 1872 Bagehot *Physics & Pol.* (1876) 158 How then did any civilisation become unfixed? No doubt most civilisations stuck where they first were; no doubt we see now why stagnation is the rule of the world, and why progress is the very rare exception.

† **c.** Of a person or his thoughts : To rest *in* some intermediate or subsidiary object. *Obs.*

1534 *Prymer* E, Teache vs deare father not to styck, steye, or ground our selues in our good workes or deseruynges, *but* to gyue & submitte our selfe..to thyn infynyte..mercy. 1579 Fulke *Heskins' Parl.* 55 Y^e^ Iewes so sticked in the figure, that they considered not the thing signified. *a* 1628 Preston *New Covt.* (1630) 386 The Jewes..could not see Christ himselfe, the inward promises, but stucke in the outward barke and rinde of Ceremonies. 1690 Locke *Hum. Und.* IV. viii. § 13 Where-ever the distinct Idea any Words stand for, is not known..there our Thoughts stick wholly in Sounds, and are able to attain no real Truth or Falshood.

14. To be in difficulty or trouble; to stop or stand in a state of perplexity; to be embarrassed, puzzled, or nonplussed.

1577 tr. *Bullinger's Decades* I. x. 94/1 It is requisite that we firste shewe who it is that is our neighbour, touching whiche I see some men to doubt and sticke vncertainely [L. *addubitare & hærere ancipites*]. 1609 Holland *Amm. Marcell.* xv. iv. 36 Who having read the same, sticking and doubting a good while what this should meane..returneth the..missives. 1677 Locke in P. King *Life* (1830) II. 164 But when we begin to think of..the beginning of either, our understanding sticks and boggles, and knows not which way to turn. 1730 T. Boston *Mem.* xii. 433 Sitting down to my studies on Friday, the Lord withdrew and I stuck. 1741 Watts *Improv. Mind* I. xvi. (1801) 126 If the chain of consequences be a little prolix, here they stick and are confounded.

b. To be unable to proceed in narration or speech, through lapse of memory or embarrassment.

1579 Gosson *Sch. Abuse* (Arb.) 74 He stuck fast continually in the midst of his verse, and could goe no farther. 1612 Brinsly *Lud. Lit.* 258 If those..haue their notes lying open before them, to cast their eye vpon them here or there where they sticke. 1820 W. Irving *Sketch Bk.* (1859) 170 He always stuck in the middle, everybody recollecting the latter part excepting himself. 1823 Scott *Quentin D.* xxxvii, He was only able to pronounce the words, 'Saunders Souplejaw'—and then stuck fast.

15. To hesitate, scruple, be reluctant or unwilling. Const. *to* (do something). Only with negative. (Now *rare*.)

1532 G. Hervet tr. *Xenophon's Tr. Householde* 61 For marchant men..wyll not stycke for daunger to passe any see what so euer it be. 1575 *Gammer Gurton* v. ii. 165 Yea, but he that made one lie about your cock-stealing, Wil not sticke to make another. 1583 Stubbes *Anat. Abus.* II. 25 Some will not sticke to sell you siluer gilt for gold. 1613 Shaks. *Hen. VIII*, II. ii. 127 They will not sticke to say, you enuide him. 1648 J. Beaumont *Psyche* xx. xcvii, Though I be Queen, I stick not to submit. 1712 Addison *Spectator* No. 451 P 6, I..have not stuck to rank them with the Murderer and Assassin. 1827 De Quincey *Murder* Wks. 1854 IV. 4, I do not stick to assert, that any man who deals in murder, must have very incorrect ways of thinking.

† **b.** To be grudging or stingy. Const. *for. Obs.*

1533 *Pardoner & Friar* B iij, Fye on couetise, sticke nat for a peny. 1573 Baret *Alv.* S. 761 They will sticke for no labour, *neque parcetur labori*. 1625 Massinger *New Way* I. i, *Tapwell*. True, but they..had a gift to pay for what they call'd for, And stucke not like your mastership.

16. Of a workman: To refuse to continue working, to strike. *local.*

1851 Greenwell *Coal-trade Terms, Northumb. & Durh.* 52 *Stick*, to cease work, in order to obtain an increase, or prevent a reduction of wages, &c.

III. To fix, cause to adhere.

17. *trans.* To fasten (a thing) in position by thrusting in its point.

c 1290 *Wolston* 180 in *S. Eng. Leg.* 76 He wende forth.. And nam þe croce wel mildeliche þare he stikede hire er so faste. *c* 1391 Chaucer *Astrol.* II. § 38 In centre of the compas stike an euene pyn or a whir vp-riht. *c* 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* XII. 356 Ther cannes styke; on hem sarmentis plie. 1591 Shaks. *Two Gent.* II. vii. 56 Vnlesse you haue a cod-peece to stick pins on. 1617 Moryson *Itin.* I. 186 Cloth..wherein I sticked needles. 1731 Miller *Gard. Dict.* s.v. *Pisum* 6 M 2/2 You should stick some rough Boughs, or brush Wood, into the Ground close to the Peas, for them to ramp upon. 1742 Leoni *Palladio's Archit.* I. 85 Having by Engines stuck these pieces in the bottom of the River. *a* 1756 Eliza Haywood *New Pres.* (1771) 127 Then stick a skewer into it. 1842 Loudon *Suburban Hort.* 374 Stick a nail in the wall in the centre. 1907 J. A. Hodges *Elem. Photogr.* (ed. 6) 113 Stick the iron shoes [of a tripod] well into three good bungs.

fig. 1640 Fuller *Joseph's Coat* etc. 95 The wicked..have onely a superficiall hold in grace, rather sticked than rooted in it.

b. To secure (a thing) by thrusting the end of it *in, into, behind, through* (a receptacle).

1664 Butler *Hud.* II. i. 774 Quoth she, I grieve to see your Leg Stuck in a hole here like a Peg. 1818 Scott *Rob Roy* ii, A habit of sticking his pen behind his ear before he spoke. 1863 Geo. Eliot *Romola* II. xxii, A man..who had a small hatchet stuck in his belt. 1869 Trollope *He knew* etc. xxv, He was sitting, with a short, black pipe stuck into his mouth.

c. To fasten by transfixion *to.*

1535 Coverdale 1 *Sam.* xviii. 11 And Saul had a iauelynge in his hande, and cast it, and thoughte: I wyll stycke Dauid fast to the wall.

d. To fix on a point.

c 1320 *Sir Beues* 828 And þe bor is heued of smot, And on a tronsoun of is spere þat heued a stikede for to bere. 1577 Hanmer *Anc. Eccl. Hist.* VIII. xxvi. 165 He commaunded ..their right eyes to be stickt on the point of a bodkine, the apple, eye lidde and all, to be quite digged out. 1596 Dalrymple tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* I. v. 273 In this Battel is Alpin takne;..heidet: stukne on a stake and borne to Camelodun his heid. 1670 Dryden *Tyr. Love* III. i. 28 It first shall pierce my heart: We will be stuck together on his dart. 1755 Johnson, To *Stick*,..2 To fix upon a pointed body. 1790 Burke *Fr. Rev.* (ed. 2) 106 Their heads were stuck upon spears, and led the procession.

e. To set (an entomological specimen) by transfixing (it) with a pin.

1830 Darwin *Life & Lett.* I. 182, I have not stuck an insect this term.

18. *gen.* To fasten in position; also in weaker sense, to place, set, put. Now chiefly, to place obtrusively, inappropriately, or irregularly. Also with advs., *down, on*, etc.

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 157 Byndez byhynde,..boþe two his handez..; Stik hym stiffy in stokez. *Ibid.* B. 583 Byþenk þe sum-tyme, Wheþer he þat stykked vche a stare in vche steppe y3e, 3if [etc.]. *c* 1430 *Pilgr. Lyf Manhode* I. xcviii. (1869) 53 Lady, quod j, seyth me..of these belles.. why thei ben thus tacched and stiked in the skrippe. 1531 Tindale *Exp.* 1 *John* (1537) 30 Lyghtes were stycked before theyr memorials. 1546 J. Heywood *Prov.* I. xi. (1867) 35 As dyd the pure penitent that stale a goose And stack downe a fether. 1578 Lyte *Dodoens* VI. xxix. 696 Some hold, that the branches or bowes of Rhamnus stickte at mens deres and windowes, do driue away Sorcerie. 1588 Shaks. *L. L. L.* III. 199 A whitly wanton,..With two pitch balls stucke in her face for eyes. 1658 Bromhall *Treat. Specters* I. 70 As though she..were sticked in the bottom of a River to be drowned. 1697 Dryden *Æneis* Ded. (e) 4 b, The Additions, I also hope, are easily deduc'd from Virgil's Sense. They will seem..not stuck into him, but growing out of him. 1819 Shelley *Oed. Tyr.* I. i. 301 Sticking cauliflowers Between the ears of the old ones. 1823 Scott *Quentin D.* xxviii, Trois-Eschelles stuck a torch against the wall to give them light. 1875 Helps *Soc. Press.* i. 5 Now let him make grand that commonplace word..by sticking that forcible article before it with a capital letter. 1909 A. N. Lyons *Sixpenny Pieces* ii. 19 Do you mind just putting a match to the gas stove and sticking a kettle on?

b. To fasten as an adornment or garnishing. Also with advs., as *about, on, up.*

c 1430 *Two Cookery-bks.* I. 31, & styke þer-on Clowis, Maces, & Quybibis. 1591 A. W. *Bk. Cookrye* 25 b, When you serue him [a pheasant] in, stick one of his fethers vpon his brest. 1648 Gage *West Ind.* xii. 53 Many devout persons came and sticked in the dowy Image pretious stones. 1665 Sir T. Herbert *Trav.* (1677) 126 Hung it was..with threads tripartite..and some Cyprus-branches stuck about. 1769 Mrs. Raffald *Eng. Housekpr.* (1778) 291 Stick curled parsley in it. 1834 Dickens *Sk. Bos, Steam Excurs.*, Planting immense bright bows on every part of a smart cap on which it was possible to stick one. 1850 Lowell *Unhappy Mr. Knott* 56 [A house] With Lord-knows-whats of round and square Stuck on at random everywhere.

c. *Joinery.* To work (moulding, a bead) with a plane fashioned for that purpose. Cf. Strike *v.*

1769 Falconer *Dict. Marine* (1780), *Rails*, are narrow planks..upon which there is a moulding stuck. 1833 Loudon *Encycl. Archit.* § 983 The sashes to be 1 inch and three-quarters, stuck (worked) with astragal and hollow. 1842 Gwilt *Archit.* § 2105 Mouldings..are generally wrought by hand; but when a plane is formed for them they are said to be stuck, and the operation is called sticking. *Ibid.* § 2106 When a bead is stuck on the edge of a piece of stuff ..the edge is said to be beaded...The beads..are sometimes stuck double and triple. 1902 R. Sturgis *Dict. Archit. & Build., Stick*, to run, strike, or shape with a moulding plane; by extension, to shape,..by the moulding mill.

19. To set (a surface) *with*, to furnish or adorn with on the surface, to cover or strew with. Also with advs., as *about, over, full.*

c 1300 *Seyn Julian* (1872) 142 Al were þe velion [of the wheel] aboute; wiþ rasours istiked faste. 1597 Beard *Theatre God's Judgem.* (1612) 234 Who..put him into a great Pipe stickt full of long nayles, and then rolled him downe. 1601 Shaks. *Twel. N.* II. iv. 56 My shrowd of white, stuck all with Ew, O prepare it. 1664 Power *Exp. Philos.* I. 5 The Common Fly...Her body is..stuck all over with great black Bristles. 1687 Dryden *Hind & Panther* III. 1047 With Garden-Gods, and barking Deities, More thick than Ptolomey has stuck the Skies. 1722 Diaper tr. *Oppian's Halieut.* I. 486 Sea-Urchins, who their native Armour boast, All stuck with Spikes, prefer the sandy Coast. 1780 *Mirror* No. 106 Not a walk but is stuck full of statues. 1867 Lowell *Fitz Adam's Story* 48 As these bring home.. Their hat-crowns stuck with bugs of curious make. 1890 Mrs. Kingscote *Tales of Sun* x. 125 She made a big ball of clay and stuck it over with what rice she had, so as to make it look like a ball of rice. 1893 *Wiltshire Gloss.*, *Stick*, to decorate with evergreens, &c. 'We allus sticks th' Church at Christmas'.

b. *Cookery.* To set with a garnish.

1530 Palsgr. 735/2 Stycke your shoulder of mouton with herbes. 1588 Shaks. *L. L. L.* v. ii. 654 *Ber.* A Lemmon. *Lou.* Stucke with Cloues. 1611 Beaum. & Fl. *Knt. Burning Pestle* v. i, We will have..a good piece of beef, stuck with Rose-mary. 1673 Dryden *Amboyna* I. i, I would not let these English from this Isle have Cloves enough to stick an Orange with.

c. *fig.*

1596 Shaks. 1 *Hen. IV*, v. ii. 8 Supposition, all our liues, shall be stucke full of eyes. 1651 Hobbes *Leviath.* Rev. & Conclus. 395 It is many times with a fraudulent Designe that men stick their corrupt Doctrine with the Cloves of other mens Wit.

20. To cause to adhere; to fasten, fix, secure (a thing) *against, on, upon, to* (a surface) by means of an adhesive, pins, etc. Also said of the adhesive. Also *to stick down.*

Stick no bills: the usual form of the notice placed on a building forbidding placards to be posted upon it. Cf. *bill-sticker, -sticking.*

c 1400 *Laud Troy Bk.* 18382 For on her houses thei hadde stiked Certayn signes that wele were knowen. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 475/1 *Stykyn*, or festyn a thynge to a walle or a noþer þynge, wha so hyt be, *figo, affigo, glutino.* 1653 Walton *Compl. Angler* ii. 49 An honest Alehouse, where we shall find a cleanly room,..and twenty Ballads stuck about the wall. 1777 Cavallo *Electricity* 320 The innermost of these tubes has a spiral row of small round pieces of tin-foil, stuck upon its outside surface. 1807 *Med. Jrnl.* XVII. 356 It had bled a drop of blood, which coagulating, stuck his stocking to it. 1820 Shelley *Witch of Atlas* lxxiii, The priests would write an explanation full,..and bid the herald stick The same against the temple doors. 1851 Dickens *Bill-sticking* in *Househ. Words* 22 Mar. 604/2 The company had a watchman on duty night and day, to prevent us sticking bills upon the hoarding. 1862 Mrs. H. Wood *Channings* xix, He put the bank-note in [the letter], wet the gum, and stuck it down. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* II. 4 After sticking the preparation on the cover-glass or slide.

b. *fig.* To fasten (one's choice, opinion, an imputation, a nickname, dishonour, etc.) *on, upon.*

1601 Shaks. *All's Well* v. iii. 45 Admiringly my Liege,

at first I stucke my choice vpon her. 1605 B. Jonson *Volpone* III. ii, These imputations are too common, Sir, And eas'ly stuck on vertue, when shee's poore. 1667 Milton *P. L.* IX. 330, His foul esteeme Sticks no dishonor on our Front, but turns Foul on himself. 1842 Lover *Handy Andy* i, The nickname the neighbours stuck upon him was Handy Andy.

† c. To post up (a notice or document). *Obs.*

1796 J. Gutch *Wood's Hist. & Antiq. Univ. Oxf.* II. 164 Thomas Greenway of that College [Corpus Christi] resigning his Presidentship, a Citation was stuck for the election of another to succeed him.

† d. (? Hence,) Of a sheriff: To return (a jury). (See Return *v.* 16 b. Cf Strike *v.*) *Obs. rare.*

1688 T. Clarges in Gutch *Coll. Cur.* I. 359 It is sayd the Master of the Office will stick the Jury and will name eight and forty.

21. To bring to a stand, render unable to advance or retire. Chiefly in *passive*. *colloq.*

1829 Scott *Anne of G.* xxxii, Every man of us was at home among the crags, and Charles's men were stuck among them as thou wert. 1891 Morris in Mackail *Life* (1899) II. 265 Get Hooper to do the colophon before he goes off, as otherwise it might stick us. 1902 *Westm. Gaz.* 14 July 12/1 The way is easy to miss, and the climber may easily find himself 'stuck' on the face of a precipice.

b. *colloq.* To pose, nonplus.

1884 *Literary Era* II. 158, I knew it all from beginning to end; you could not stick me on the hardest of them. 1893 Stevenson *Catriona* vi, You must not suppose the Government... will ever be stuck for want of evidence.

22. *Sc.* To break down in (a speech, song, etc.); to fail to carry through (a business, etc.). Also, † to cause a breakdown of (a speech).

1715 Pennecuik *Tweeddale* etc. Poems 34 A comely Body and a Face, Would make a Dominie stick the Grace. 1726 Wodrow *Corr.* (1843) III. 254 Wilson..said warmly that the Commission had betrayed the rights of the Christian people. This drew a cry upon him to call him to the bar, where he was once before...This sticked his speech. 1782 Sir J. Sinclair *Observ. Scot. Dial.* 25 To stick any thing; to spoil any thing in the execution. 1829 Hogg *Shaph. Cal.* xxi. II. 315, I disdained to stick the tune, and therefore was obliged to carry on in spite of the obstreperous accompaniment.

23. *slang* and *colloq.* a. To cheat (a person) out of his money, to cheat or take in in dealing; to 'saddle' *with* something counterfeit or worthless in purchase or exchange. Cf. Strike *v.*

1699 E. S—cy *Country Gentl. Vade M.* 56 And so they draw him on from one set to another and from little Bets to great Ones (till they have stuck him, as they call it). 1843 *Blackw. Mag.* LIII. 81 They think it ungentlemanly to cheat, or, as they call it, 'stick' any of their own set. 1848 Bartlett *Dict. Amer.* 333 To take in; to impose upon; to cheat in trade. 'I'm stuck with a counterfeit note;' 'He went to a horse sale, and got stuck with a spavined horse.' 1851 Mayhew *Lond. Labour* II. 20/1 The pawnbrokers have been so often 'stuck' (taken in) with inferior instruments, that it is difficult to pledge even a really good violin. 1900 M. H. Hayes *Among Horses Russia* Introd. 19 Has he [a horse-dealer] ever stuck you with a wrong one?

b. To induce to incur an expense or loss; to 'let in' *for*.

1895 J. G. Millais *Breath fr. Veldt* i. 2 [He] publishes his work (at his own expense) and sticks his friends for a copy. 1915 'A. Hope' *Young Man's Yr.* 272, I'm awfully sorry I stuck you for such a lot.

c. *To stick it in* or *on*: to make extortionate charges.

1844 Dickens *Martin Chuz.* xxvii, In short, my good fellow, we stick it into B., up bill and down dale, and make a devilish comfortable little property out of him. 1853 Dickens etc. *Househ. Words* Christm. No. 1/1 How they do stick it into parents—particularly hair-cutting, and medical attendance. 1857 'Ducange Anglicus' *Vulgar Tongue* 20 *Sticking it on*, deceiving or defrauding.

d. *To be stuck on* (U.S. slang): to have one's mind or fancy set on, to be captivated with.

1886 *American* XIII. 14 The latter's family so ridiculed him for having been 'stuck' on the canvas that he put it away. 1887 F. Francis Jun. *Saddle & Mocassin* 163 Turn 'em on to your range when the grass is green;..they get stuck on it then, and stop there.

IV. Intransitive uses with prepositions.

24. Stick at —.

a. To scruple at; to hesitate to accept or believe, to demur to, take exception to, be deterred by. (Chiefly used negatively.) *To stick at nothing*: to be unscrupulous. Cf. sense 15.

1525 Abp. Warham in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* Ser. III. I. 361 If they loved their Prince, they wold not sticke at this demaund. 1550 Bp. Day *Ibid.* Ser. III. III. 303, I answered..that I stycked not att the alteration..of the matter (as stone or wode) wherof the Altar was made. 1615 Ralegh *Prerog. Parl.* (1628) Ded. (end), It is loue which obeyes,..which giues, which stickes at nothing. 1691 Conset *Pract. Spir. Crts.* (1700) To Rdr., Such time serving Wretches, as stick at no Extortion or Oppression. 1737 in *10th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. I. 486, I shall Never Stick at any expence tho' it puts me into a thousand difficulties. 1741 Richardson *Pamela* III. 328 Who, she had too much reason to think, would stick at nothing to gain his Ends. 1868 Freeman *Norm. Conq.* (1876) II. viii. 174 He stuck at no injustice which was needed to carry out his purpose. 1884 Flor. Marryat *Under the Lilies* xxvii, Such women.. who do not stick at telling a falsehood, will not hesitate to listen at a door. 1890 'R. Boldrewood' *Col. Reformer* xxii, A d—d scoundrel, who would stick at nothing in the way of villainy.

b. To be impeded or brought to a stand at (a difficulty). Cf. sense 14.

1620 Middleton *Chaste Maid* IV. i, He was eight yeeres in his Grammer, and stucke horribly at a foolish place there call'd *Asse in presenti*. 1688 Bunyan *Heavenly Footman* (1811) 6 They who will have heaven must not stick at any difficulties they meet with, but press, crowd, and thrust through all that may stand between heaven and their souls. *c* 1698 Locke *Cond. Underst.* § 6 Wks. 1714 III. 397 Sometimes they [*sc.* young scholars] will stick a long time at a part of a Demonstration..for want of perceiving the Connection of two Ideas. 1773 Monboddo *Lang.* (1774) I. Pref. 9 This ingenious author..had not prosecuted it far, having stuck at this difficulty.

25. Stick by —.

a. To remain resolutely faithful to (a person) as a follower, partisan, or supporter.

1526 Tindale *Luke* xix. 48 The hye prestes and the scrybes ..coulde nott fynde what to do for all the people stocke by hym And gave him audience. 1597 Shaks. 2 *Hen. IV*, v. iii. 70 *Shal.* I thanke thee: the knaue will sticke by thee. 1716 in *10th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. I. 157 To stick to the last extremity by them who were so unanimously engaged in my cause. 1852 Thackeray *Esmond* III. x, But Swift..had this merit of a faithful partisan, that he..stuck by Harley bravely in his fall.

† b. Of a thing: To remain with, cling to (a person); to remain in (a person's) memory. *Obs.*

1533 More *Apol.* xxxvi. 196 Wythout any greate hurte that afterwarde sholde stycke by them. 1628 Prynne *Love-Lockes* 52 This Beautie will sticke by vs, and continue with vs for all eternitie. 1678 Bunyan *Pilgr.* I. 54 The remembrance of which will stick by me as long as I live. 1708 Pope *Let. H. C.* 18 Mar. *Lett.* (1735) 77 At present I am satisfy'd to trifle away my Time any Way, rather than let it stick by me; as Shop-keepers are glad to be rid of those Goods [etc.]. 1770 C. Jenner *Placid Man* I. i. vii. 42 Norris had met with some disappointment which stuck by him.

c. To keep resolutely to, hold to, be constant to (a principle, one's word). Now *rare*.

1646 R. Baillie *Lett. & Jrnls.* (1841) II. 371 We shall be honest, and sticke by our Covenant...Hitherto we have stucke by our principles in many great and long tentations. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* I. IV. iv, He sticks by the Washington-formula; and by that he will stick. 1848 Thackeray *Van. Fair* xx, He knew what a savage, determined man Osborne was, and how he stuck by his word. 1869 Tennyson *North. Farmer, New Style* xv, Thim's my noations, Sammy, wheerby I means to stick.

† d. To keep persistently to, continue at (some business or operation). *Obs.*

1556 Robinson tr. *More's Utopia* (Arb.) 139 And therfore if the other part sticke so harde by it, that the battel come to their handes, it is fought with great slaughter and blodshed. 1821 Scott *Kenilw.* i, On Friday, he stuck by the salt beef and carrot, though there were..good spitchcock'd eels. 1829 — *Anne of G.* xiii, Have the peasant-clods..stuck by the flask till cock-crow?

26. Stick to —. (Also † *unto* —.)

† a. To cling to for support. *Obs.*

1534 *Goodly Prymer* N v b, They that stycke to the lord [Vulg. *qui confidunt in Domino*] shal neuer stacker. 1538 Bale *God's Promises* A iv, Pater cœlestis [to Adam]. Than wyll I tell the, what thu shalt stycke vnto, Lyfe to recouer. 1586–7 Q. Eliz. in Scoones *Four C. Eng. Lett.* (1880) 31 My stable amitie; from wiche, my deare brother, let no sinistar whisperars..persuade to leave your surest, and stike to unstable staies.

b. To remain resolutely faithful or attached to (a person or party), not to desert. Now chiefly *colloq.*

1535 Coverdale *Prov.* xviii. 24 A frende..doth a man more frendship, and sticketh faster vnto him then a brother. 1536 *Act* 28 *Hen. VIII*, c. 7 § 9 And holly to styck to them, as true and faithfull subiectes ought to doo to their regall rulers. 1563 Gresham in Burgon *Life* (1839) II. 34 Praying you now (as my trust ys in God and you,) that you will stycke unto me. 1691 Wood *Ath. Oxon.* II. 680 When the Kings Cause declined he stuck close to the said family. *a* 1715 Burnet *Own Time* II. (1724) I. 200 He promised to all the Earl of Midletouns friends that he would stick firm to him. 1867 Freeman *Norm. Conq.* (1876) I. iv. 209 Under Rolf, Normandy had stuck faithfully to the King. 1885 'Mrs. Alexander' *Valerie's Fate* vi, But I should have stuck to him through thick and thin.

† c. To give one's adhesion to (a doctrine, cause, etc.). *Obs.*

1548 Udall, etc. *Erasm. Par. John* xi. 45–8 When they had seene so notable a miracle, they beleued yᵗ Jesus was Messias, and stacke to his doctrine. 1644 Milton *Divorce* i. (ed. 2) 4 Many points..likely to remain intricate and hopelesse upon the suppositions commonly stuck to. 1665 Glanvill *Def. Van. Dogm.* To Albius (a 3), The way to bring men to stick to nothing, being confidently to perswade them, to swallow all things.

d. To adhere, keep or hold to (an argument, demand, resolve, opinion, bargain, covenant, and the like); to refuse to renounce or abandon; to persist in.

1525 Sampson in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* Ser. III. II. 26 Th' Emperor havyng his enemy in his hande made the best argument that could be, and to suche argument must he styk if he entende to get any thing. 1655 tr. *Sorel's Com. Hist. Francion* III. 67 Being a man that stuck to his resolves. *a* 1688 Bunyan *Israel's Hope Encour.* Wks. (1692) 220/2 The Word Redemption, therefore must be well understood, and close stuck to. 1712 Arbuthnot *John Bull* IV. vi, Let us stick to our point, and we will manage Bull, I'll warrant ye! 1822 Hazlitt *Men & Manners* Ser. II. vi. (1869) 135, I like a person who knows his own mind and sticks to it. 1887 Lang *Myth, Ritual & Relig.* I. vi. 179 The old men do not know...But they stick to it that 'that bed of reeds still exists.' 1887 E. A. Freeman in *Life and Lett.* (1895) II. 368, I stick tight to Gladstone's best proposal, to clear the Irishry out of Westminster.

e. To refuse to be enticed, led or turned from; to attend unremittingly to (an occupation, course of action, work, etc.).

a 1548 Hall *Chron. Hen. VII.* 10 The Iryshemen, although they foughte hardely and stucke to it valyauntly, yet..they were stryken downe and slayne. 1552 Latimer *Serm., Septuagesima* (1584) 327 b, And therefore let vs sticke hard vnto it, and bee content to forgoe all the pleasures and riches of this world for his sake. 1611 Shaks. *Cymb.* IV. ii. 10 Sticke to your Iournall course: the breach of Custome, Is breach of all. 1612 Brinsly *Lud. Lit.* 11 They being nuzled vp in play abroad, are very hardly reclaimed and weaned from it, to sticke to their bookes indeede. 1662 H. Newcome *Diary* (Chetham Soc.) 112 Fell to my studdy on Eccles. xii. 1, and stucke to it allmost all day. 1720 Mrs. Manley *Power of Love* (1741) IV. 279 She was obliged to stick close to her needle, and not stir out of her Chamber. 1821 J. W. Croker in *C. Papers* 5 June (1884) He..would advise him to stick to his law. 1874 Blackie *Self-Cult.* 76, I never knew a man good for anything in the world, who, when he got a piece of work to do, did not know how to stick to it. 1877 'H. A. Page' *De Quincy* II. xvi. 7 His incapacity to stick to work was increased by his nervous dread of putting others to inconvenience.

f. To keep exclusively to (a subject of discourse or study, an employment, etc.). Phr. *To stick to one's text.*

1711 Addison *Spect.* No. 66 P 5 The Boy I shall consider upon some other Occasion, and at present stick to the Girl. 1795 Burke *Let. Hussey* Corr. (1844) IV. 317 Lord Fitzwilliam sticks nobly to his text, and neither abandons his cause or his friends. 1880 Sala in *Illustr. Lond. News* 4 Dec. 539 Still I stick to my text as regards champagne and raki imbibing among the upper classes in Turkey.

g. To keep exclusively to the use of (a particular article, kind of food or the like).

1815 Scott *Guy M.* xxi, I must stick to the flageolet, for music is the only one of the fine arts which deigns to acknowledge me. 1879 F. W. Robinson *Coward Conse.* I. viii, Thank-you, I'll stick to the claret. 1907 J. A. Hodges *Elem. Photogr.* (ed. 6) 125 The beginner should select one particular make, and stick to it.

h. To remain by or in (a place, etc.); to refuse to desert or leave.

To stick to one's colours: see Colour *sb.* 7 d. *To stick to one's guns*: see Gun *sb.* 6 b.

1609 Holland *Amm. Marcell.* xxiv. vii. 249 The Persians sticking close to their walls,..assayed to checke..our deadly violence. 1719 De Foe *Crusoe* I. (Globe) 103 The rains came on, and made me stick close to my first Habitation. 1853 Reade *Love me Little* I. viii. 231 While she [a boat] floats they stick to her. 1898 F. D. How *Bp. Walsham How* xxii. 313 He felt that this was an additional reason for sticking to his post.

i. To follow closely (an original, etc.).

1548 Udall etc. *Erasm. Par. Mark* ii. 6–12 The vulgar people..who whyles they stacke harde to the litterall sence of Moses lawe, were farre from the spirite and true mening thereof. 1612 Brinsly *Lud. Lit.* 157 The sense & drift of the Latine Author is principally to be obserued, and not the phrase nor propriety of the tongue, to bee so much sought to bee expressed or stucken vnto. 1697 Vanbrugh *Æsop* Pref., For I confess in the Translation, I have not at all stuck to the Original.

j. To keep close to (in a pursuit or race). *lit.* and *fig.*

1863 W. C. Baldwin *Afr. Hunting* ii. 56, I..singled out the largest bull. Crafty and Billy stuck to him like leeches. 1865 Carlyle *Fredk. Gt.* XVIII. v. (1872) VII. 189 Our hussars stuck to him, chasing him into Ostritz. 1879 H. C. Powell *Amateur Athletic Ann.* 19 Crossley had all his work cut out to win, as A. S. Smith..stuck closely to him all the way.

k. To keep possession of, refuse to part with.

a 1660 *Contemp. Hist. Irel.* (Ir. Archæol. Soc.) II. 162 Major Charles..did call for Colonell Moore, bidinge him to leade that horse as proper colonell, which he did and left, Dungan stikinge onely to one or two troupes. 1704 Cibber *Careless Husb.* III. i. 22 *Sir Cha.* If you keep your Temper she's Undone. *L. Mo.* Provided she sticks to her Pride, I believe I may. 1867 Trollope *Chron. Barset* xxxvii, She'll stick to every shilling of it till she dies. 1884 *Chr. World* 12 June 442/5 A bishop of Antioch, deposed and excommunicated, chose to stick to the church-buildings. 1888 Bryce *Amer. Commw.* I. xx. 283 Congress..may request the President to dismiss him, but if his master stands by him and he sticks to his place, nothing more can be done.

27. Stick with —.

† a. To side persistently with. *Obs.*

1523 Berners *Froiss.* (1812) I. clxxxv. 219 And ther he.. promysed the duke to stycke with hym in good and yuell. 1542 Udall *Erasm. Apoph.* 281 Because thei had taken parte and sticked hard with the enemies of Sylla [L. *quod hostium partibus adhæsissent*].

† b. To persist in arguing with, haggle with. *Obs.*

1530 Tindale *Answ. More's Dial.* IV. xi. Wks. (1572) 332/2 He saith, 'it is euident..that a man..may geue..his body to burne for the name of Christ, & al without charitie.' Wel I will not sticke with hym: he may so do [etc.]. 1626 B. Jonson *Staple of N.* III. ii, *P. Iv.* For that I'll beare the charge: There's two Pieces. *Fit.* Come, do not stick with the gentleman. 1651 Baxter *Inf. Bapt.* 179, I will not stick with you for the phrase of Speech, when the thing is the same.

† c. To be incredible or unacceptable to. *Obs.*

1643 Prynne *Sov. Power Parlt.* III. 140 Because this objection stickes most with many Schollars,..I shall endeavour to give a satisfactory answer to it. 1719 Waterland *Vind. Christ's Div.* 216 The principal Thing which stuck with Him [*sc.* Arius], was..the strict Eternity or Co-eternity of the Son. 1816 Scott *Old Mort.* Concl., Lady Margaret was prevailed on to countenance Morton, although the old Covenanter, his father, stuck sorely with her for some time.

† d. To remain painfully in the memory of. *Obs.*

1626 Bacon *Sylva* § 997 The Going away of that, which had staid so long, doth yet sticke with mee. 1666 Bunyan *Grace Abound.* § 148 And this [fear of eternal damnation] stuck always with me.

V. Idiomatic uses with adverbs.

Many of the intrans. uses below serve as more colloquial variants of the corresponding phrases of *stand*, sometimes with added notion of persistence, obtrusiveness, or the like.

†**28. Stick away.** *trans.* To hide away. *Obs.*

1575 *Gammer Gurton* I. iv. 4 For these and ill luck togather..Haue stacke away my deare neele, and robd me of my ioye.

29. Stick down. (See simple senses and DOWN *adv.*) †*trans.* To fasten by its point; to plant (a spear, stake, etc.) by driving (its point) into the ground.

1581 A. HALL *Iliad* VI. 111 His iaueline right he sticketh down with words ful curteously, And friendly cheere he thus begins. 1609 SKENE *Reg. Maj., Stat. William* c. 27. 7 Bot that battell may be swa remitted: that is, quhen they haue sticken downe their speres; the defender may grant the fault. 1691 T. H[ALE] *Acc. New Invent.* Let. Marlborough 80 If..the Lord Mayor appoint his Water-Bailiff..to see a Stake stuck down, beyond which the Repairers of the Wharf shall not proceed.

30. Stick in.

a. *trans.* To insert; *Sc.* to plant (a tree).

1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* viii, Jock, when ye hae naething else to do, ye may be aye sticking in a tree. 1842 LOUDON *Suburban Hort.* 341 In order to point out the stools or stocks ..the stem of every tree may be stuck in within an inch or two of its root-stock.

b. *intr.* To remain obstinately in (an office, a community); to refuse to leave, go out, or resign.

1848 NEWMAN *Loss & Gain* III. iv. 321 If they were [honest], then, as the Puseyites are becoming Catholics, so we should see old Brownside and his clique becoming Unitarians. But they mean to stick in. 1894 LABOUCHERE in *Daily News* 21 Apr. 5/6, I have had..a sufficient experience of governments to know how they stick in.

c. *Sc.* To persevere.

1887 ANNIE S. SWAN *Gates of Eden* iv, Yer wark's honest ..an' if ye stick in, ye're bound to dae weel. 1895 W. C. FRASER *Whaups of Durley* vi. 73 Stick in wi' your lessons.

31. Stick off. *intr.* and *trans.* † To show to advantage. *Obs.*

1602 SHAKS. *Ham.* v. ii. 168 Ile be your foile Laertes, in mine ignorance, Your Skill shall like a Starre i' th' darkest night, Sticke fiery off indeede. 1614 CHAPMAN *Masque Inns of Court* A 3, The humble variety whereof [*sc.* of the torch-bearers' habits], stucke off the more amplie, the Maskers high beauties.

32. Stick out.

a. *intr.* To jut out, project, protrude.

1567 GOLDING *Ovid's Met.* III. 83 The Iaueling steale that sticked out. 1585 T. WASHINGTON tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* III. x. 86 Nose, eares, or any other part of the bodie sticking out. 1679 SHADWELL *True Widow* I. i. 4 He changed his Taylor twice, because his Shoulder-Bone sticks out. 1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 230 In which wire is a pointed short pin, sticking out horizontally. 1882 CAULFEILD & SAWARD *Dict. Needlework* s. v. *Spines*, Long straight points that stick out from the edge of the Cordonnet. 1886 J. K. JEROME *Idle Thoughts* 5 What did it matter to him if his toes did stick out of his boots?

b. To be prominent or conspicuous. Now esp. *U.S. slang.*

1638 JUNIUS *Paint. Ancients* 15 Though we cannot mount up to the highest top of perfection, yet it is something for all that to sticke out above the rest in the second and third place. 1902 *Daily Chron.* 9 Dec. 3/3 'Of her' is all very well now and then, but when it occurs too often it 'sticks out,' as Mr. Henry James would say.

c. To persist in resistance; to hold out; also, to remain out on strike. Also, *to stick it out*, to endure something to the end (cf. 7 c). *colloq.*

1682 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1741/3 When the design..is made publick, several others will contribute, and none..who wish well to the Town will stick out. 1818 TODD, *To stick out*, to refuse compliance. 1845 DISRAELI *Sybil* VI. viii, As long as you can give us money, I don't care..how long we stick out. 1886 STEVENSON *Dr. Jekyll* i, He would have clearly liked to stick out; but..at last he struck. 1901 'L. MALET' *Sir R. Calmady* VI. vii, It would be ridiculous to fly, so she must stick it out.

d. To be a stickler *for*. *rare.* (Cf. *stick up*, 34 b.)

1862 MRS. H. WOOD *Channings* xlix, Nobody sticks out for politeness more than Carrick.

e. To maintain, persist in asserting (*that*). *To stick one out*: to maintain against one; to persist in an opinion in spite of all one's argument. *colloq.*

1904 R. HICHENS *Woman with Fan* iii, Do you stick out that Carey didn't love you?

f. To persist in one's demand *for*. *colloq.*

1902 *Cornhill Mag.* July 55 Th' old leech was only sticking out for every brass farthing he could get. 1906 *Westm. Gaz.* 28 Dec. 2/1 It is to be hoped that when the new boundary is determined we shall 'stick out' (if the expression be permitted) for the whole of Ruwenzori.

g. *trans. Naut.* (See quot. 1815.)

1815 *Falconer's Dict. Marine* (ed. Burney), *Stick out the Cable*! the order to slacken and push it out at the hawse-hole, when the anchor is hauling up to the cat-head, &c. 1833 M. SCOTT *Tom Cringle* xii, Stick out the warp, let her swing to her anchor.

h. In *passive*, to be adorned too lavishly, 'tricked out' (with jewels).

1748 RICHARDSON *Clarissa* VI. 53 They were richly dressed, and stuck out with jewels.

33. Stick together. *intr.*

a. Of things: To adhere one to another, to cleave or cling together.

1583 MELBANCKE *Philotimus* Cc iv b, Good counsell and affection agre like iron and clay, which by no meanes can be brought to sticke together. 1677 MIEGE *Dict. Eng. Fr.* s. v., To stick together like burs. 1687 *Ibid.* II. s. v., Atoms that stick together, and are as it were a continued Body. *a* 1732 GAY *Songs & Ball., New Song* xviii, Let us like burs together stick.

b. Of persons, etc.: To keep together; chiefly *fig.*, to make common cause.

1560 PILKINGTON *Expos. Aggeus* E ij, To teach vs..that they should loue & sticke together like brethren. 1595 SHAKS. *John* III. iv. 67. 1619 DRAYTON *Ballad Agincourt* 80 None from his fellow starts, But..like true English hearts, Stuck close together. 1680 SIR J. SCOT in *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* Ser. III. VI. 576 Let us..sticke togither and positively refuse and..it shall not carry. 1724 SWIFT *Drapier's Lett.* vii. Wks. 1755 V. II. 146 Nature hath instructed even a brood of goslings to stick together, while the kite is hovering over their heads. 1856 KANE *Arct. Expl.* II. iii. 46 While we live we will stick together: one fate shall belong to us all. 1883 STEVENSON *Treas. Isl.* vi, Jim and I shall stick together in the meanwhile.

34. Stick up.

a. *intr.* To stand out from a surface; to project. †Of the hair: To stand on end.

1422 YONGE tr. *Secreta Secret.* 230 Who-so hath the browes stikkynge vp anent the noose into the templis in euery syde, bene foolis:..tho wyche bene a-dred haue hare lokkis stickynge vp. 1611 MIDDLETON & DEKKER *Roaring Girl* IV. ii, Goshawke goes in a shag-ruffe band, with a face sticking vp in't, which showes like an agget set in a crampe ring. 1805 STOWER *Typogr. Marks* 7 Where a space sticks up between two words, it is noticed by a perpendicular line in the margin. 1902 VIOLET JACOB *Sheep-Stealers* xi, The toll-gate..had not yet been re-erected, and the bare posts stuck dismally up at the wayside.

b. *To stick up for*: to defend the cause of, to champion. *colloq.* (Cf. *stand up for* STAND *v.* 103 o.)

1837 LOWELL *Lett.* (1894) I. 20, I shall always like him [Whittier] the better for 'sticking up' for old New England. 1887 *Poor Nellie* (1888) 115 The 'Times' always does stick up for the moral of everything.

c. *dial.* To make love *to*.

c 1850 'Dow Jr.' in Jerdan *Yankee Hum.* (1853) 85, I will ..stick up to them, so long as there is anything sticky in the first principles of love. 1858 A. MAYHEW *Paved with Gold* II. xvi, It soon became known to the ladies..that the captain 'was sticking up to "Miss"'. 1899 CAROLINE GEAREY *Rural Life* x. 237, I doan't like ter see..a boy of sixteen sticking up to a gal.

d. To offer resistance *to*. *colloq.*

1843 *Cracks abt. Kirk* I. 2 (E. D. D.), I am but a plain weaver, and no fit to argue wi' the Dominie, tho' I carena about stickin' up tae Will. 1889 *Contemp. Rev.* Feb. 173 No matter how excellent may be the original disposition of the head boy, if there is no one who dare stick up to him, he soon becomes intolerable.

e. To hold one's ground in argument. *colloq.*

1858 DARWIN *Life & Lett.* (1887) II. 110, I admired the way you stuck up about deduction and induction.

f. To claim or give oneself out *to be*. Cf. *set up* (SET *v.* 154 nn). *colloq.*

1881 BLACKMORE *Christowell* XXXIV, I never knew any good come of those fellows who stick up to be everything wonderful.

†g. *trans.* To tuck up. *Obs.*

c 1330 *Amis. & Amil.* 988 He stiked vp his lappes,tho; In his way he gan to go. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 475/1 Stykkyn, or tukkyn vp clopys, *suffarcino, succingo. Ibid.* 504/2 Tukkyn vp, or stykkyn vp, *suffarcino.*

h. To set up in position, to set up (a stake, etc.) on its own point, or (a head, body) by impalement.

1530 TINDALE *Answ. More's Dial.* II. ix. Wks. (1572) 298/2 The Israelites..neither prayed to hym..nor sticked vppe candels before hym. 1535 COVERDALE 1 *Chron.* x. 10 His weapens layed they in the house of their god, and styckte vp his heade vpon the house of Dagon. 1596 SHAKS. *Merch. V.* I. iii. 87 The skilfull shepheard pil'd me certaine wands,.. And stucke them vp before the fulsome Ewes. 1608 DOD & CLEAVER *Expos. Prov.* ix–x. 78 His heart is not as..a stake that is sticked up, which euery hand may plucke awry. 1657 BILLINGSLY *Brachy-Martyrol.* i. 3 With his keen javelin, spirit-haunted Saul Assay'd to stick up David 'gainst the wall. 1669 STURMY *Mariner's Mag.* VII. xiii. 21 Stick up in the Vertical Line two Pins of equal height. 1772 FOOTE *Nabob* II, [You] only wanted a wife to..stick up in your room, like any other fine piece of furniture? 1850 LOWELL *Unhappy Mr. Knott* 28 'The woodland I've attended to'; (He meant three pines stuck up askew). 1892 *Photogr. Ann.* II. 219 As most photographers never do anything but 'stick it up' and 'fire away.'

fig. 1766 GOLDSM. *Vicar* XXVII, We should then find that wretches, now stuck up for long tortures, lest luxury should feel a momentary pang, might..serve to sinew the state.

i. To affix or post (a sheet, bill, or the like).

1788 FRANKLIN *Autobiog.* Wks. 1840 I. 122 It was reprinted on a large sheet of paper, to be stuck up in houses. 1821 *Act 1 & 2 Geo. IV*, c. 44 § 65 The Company..shall..affix and stick up..upon every Stop-gate..an Account or List of the several Rates of Tonnage. 1866 GEO. ELIOT *Felix Holt* XXVIII, You should be on the look-out when Debarry's side have stuck up fresh bills, and go and paste yours over them.

j. *colloq.* To place (a charge) in a tavern-score; *gen.* to put down to one's debit in an account.

1865 *Chamb. Jrnl.* 11 Feb. 82/1 The means to get drunk, too, were obtained by all manner of contrivances. Some would 'stick it up' till Saturday night. 1874 *Slang Dict.* 310 Stick it up to me, i.e., give me credit for it.

k. *Austral.* To stop and rob on the highway; also, simply, to rob (a station, bank, etc.). Also *transf.* to demand alms from (a person). Cf. *hold up* HOLD *v.* 44 e.

1846 J. L. STOKES *Discov. in Australia* II. xiii. 502 It was only the previous night that he had been 'stuck up', with a pistol at his head. 1881 A. C. GRANT *Bush Life Queensland* xi. (1882) 116 [The blacks] stuck up Wilson's station there, and murdered the man and woman in the kitchen.

l. *Austral.* To hinder from proceeding (on a journey, in work or in any proceeding); hence to puzzle, nonplus.

1863 S. BUTLER *First Yr. Canterb. Settlement* v. 68 At last we came to a waterfall..This 'stuck us up', as they say here concerning any difficulty. 1887 HORSLEY *Jottings fr. Jail* 11 Now don't stick me up (disappoint); meet me at six to-night. 1890 *Melbourne Argus* 7 June 4/2 We are stuck up for an hour or more, and can get a good feed over there. 1897 *Australasian* 2 Jan. 33/1 (Morris) The professor seems to have stuck up any number of candidates with the demand that they should construct [etc.]. 1915 'A. HOPE' *Young Man's Yr.* 299 We were absolutely stuck up for the rest of the money—couldn't go on without it, and didn't know where to get it.

m. *Austral.* To bring (an animal) to bay.

1884 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Old Melbourne Mem.* iii. (1896) 24 We heard Violet's bark...We knew then that she had 'stuck up' or brought to bay a large forester [kangaroo]. 1888 D. MACDONALD *Gum Boughs* 15 The fiercest fighter [kangaroo] I ever saw 'stuck up' against a red gum tree.

VI. 35. The verb-stem in combination: **stick-all**, a cement for mending all kinds of articles; **stick-culture**, a bacterial culture made by thrusting a platinum needle into the culture-medium (*Cent. Dict.* 1891); †**stickdirt**, a term of abuse; **stick-fast** *sb.* †(*a*) = SIT-FAST *sb.* 1 (*obs.*); (*b*) an act of sticking in the mud, mire, etc.; (*c*) one who or something which becomes grounded; *adj.* that causes travellers to become mired; **stick-jaw** *colloq.*, a pudding or sweetmeat difficult of mastication; also *attrib.*; **stick-knife**, a butcher's sticking knife; also *dial.* a large pocket knife; **stick-seed**, a plant of the genus *Echinospermum*, the seeds of which are furnished with hooked adhesive prickles; **sticktight**, a composite weed, *Bidens frondosa*, whose flat achenia bear two barbed awns; also one of the seeds (*Cent. Dict.*); **stickweed** *U.S.*, the Ragweed, *Ambrosia artemisiæfolia* (Britton & Brown *Illustr. Flora North. U.S.*, 1898).

1880 *Spon's Encycl. Industr. Arts* etc. II. 628 '*Stick-all'..is a solution of silicate of potash..It will securely unite fragments of stone, marble, wood, &c. *a* 1585 MONTGOMERIE *Flyting w. Polwart* 117 False strydand *stickdirt, I's gar thee stincke. 1610 MARKHAM *Masterp.* II. xliii. 285 Of the *Stickfast, Hornes, or hard bones growing vnder the saddle. 1863 W. C. BALDWIN *Afr. Hunting* IV. 110 After..a couple of stick-fasts, got on to the missionaries. 1887 C. H. RICHARDS in Gladden *Parish Probl.* 312 But when the tide rises,..these stick-fasts and waverers are easily brought into the harbor. 1819 *Sporting Mag.* V. 93 And dash and plunge through Belvoir's *stick-fast vale. 1829 CAROLINE A. SOUTHEY *Chapters on Churchyards* II. 23 Their Saturdays commons of scrap-pie and *stick-jaw. 1894 *Sat. Rev.* 3 Mar. 234 There are plums to be found even in the most stickjaw pudding. 1843 R. J. GRAVES *Syst. Clin. Med.* xxiv. 302 An old razor, not so decent-looking nor so sharp as a tolerably good *stick knife. 1869 *Lonsdale Gloss., Stick-knife*, a large pocket-knife. 1847 DARLINGTON *Amer. Weeds* 244 Echinospermum, *Swartz.* *Stickseed. 1884 W. MILLER *Plant-n.* 11 Beggar Ticks, or *Stick-tight, *Bidens frondosa.* 1800 WEEMS *Life Washington* i. (1877) 6 He will drop his false foliage and fruit and stand forth confessed in native *stick-weed sterility and worthlessness.

b. in phraseol. comb., as **stick-at-nothing** *a.*, that will hesitate or stop at nothing in order to accomplish his purpose. Also **STICK-IN-THE-MUD.**

1805 LAMB *Let. Hazlitt* 10 Nov., The stick-at-nothing, Herodias'-daughter kind of grace. 1841 DICKENS *Barn. Rudge* XXXIX, Here's a new brother,..a credit to the cause; one of the stick-at-nothing sort. 1915 CONRAD *Victory* 118 A false, lying, swindling, underhand, stick-at-nothing brute.

Stick (stik), *v.*[2] Pa. t. and pa. pple. **sticked** (stikt); often *erron.* **stuck.** [f. STICK *sb.*[1]]

1. *trans.* To lay sticks between (pieces of timber) in stacking (it). ? *local.*

1573 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 42 Now sawe out thy timber, ..Bestowe it and stick it, and lay it aright. 1714 [see STICKED *ppl. a.*[2]]. 1877 in *Dict. Archit.* (Arch. Publ. Soc.) s. v. *Stick*, Deals sticked under sheds to season, with a stick between each board. *Ibid.* s. v. *Stacking*, Deals..have to be placed in a yard with due regard to the means of drying ..; the *top* end resting against a rack (called sticking), the other end on the ground.

2. To furnish (a plant) with a stick as a support.

1636 *Min. Archdeaconry of Essex 1635–8* (MS.) fol. 53 b, For cuttinge bowes of a tree to sticke pease. 1766 *Complete Farmer* s. v. *Pease*, The chief trouble after sowing them is, to stick the larger sorts which require support. 1816 F. VANDERSTRAETEN *Improv. Agric.* 185 *note*, Growing twice as high as the ordinary flax, it must be sticked or supported. 1887 G. M. FENN *This Man's Wife* I. i, Going to stick those peas, are you?

3. To furnish (an artificial leaf or flower) with a stem or stalk.

1896 *Daily News* 9 June 9/6 Then they [artificial leaves] are carried off to be 'sticked' and papered.

4. To set up (type) in a composing stick.

1842 Implied in *type-sticker*: see TYPE *sb.*[1] 10. 1882 in OGILVIE.

5. *intr.* To pick up sticks for firewood.

Only in phr. *to go sticking.*

1870 *Brand's Pop. Antiq.* I. 126 In parts of Huntingdonshire, the poor people go 'sticking', or gathering sticks for fuel in Warboy's Wood on May Day. 1891 *Rutland Gloss.* s. v., I've been sticking all the morning.

6. *Croquet.* To hit the post or peg.

1897 *Encycl. Sport* I. 254/1 (Croquet) *Post*,..Also called *Peg* and *Stick*, the last two being sometimes used as verbs, for hitting the post.

Stick, variant of STEEK *sb.*[3]

Sti·ckadove, sti·ckadoor. *dial.* Forms: 6–7 **stic(k)adoue**, 7, 9 **stickadove**, (8 **stick-a-**

door, 9 stickadore). [Altered forms of STECHADOS.] French Lavender, *Lavendula Stœchas.*

1597 GERARDE *Herbal* II. clxx. 469 Of French Lauander, or Stickadoue. 1629 PARKINSON *Parad.* 448 Stœchas. Stickadoue, Cassidony, or French Lauender. 1668 WILKINS *Real Char.* II. iv. § 6. 91 French Lavender, Stickadove. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl., App., *Stick-a-door*, a name sometimes used for the *stoechas*. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1099/1 Stickadore, *Lavandula Stœchas*. 1901 *Lady's Realm* X. 654/2 We sought for stickadove, oak of Cappadocia, [etc.].

Stickage (sti·kéd3). *rare.* [f. STICK *v.*[1] + -AGE.] Tendency to stick; adhesion or cohesion.

1764 J. FERGUSON *Lect.* iii. 39 The resistance arising from the cohesion or stickage of the wood. 1794 G. ADAMS *Nat. & Exp. Philos.* III. xxxi. 259 Percussion puts all the parts of the wood into a tremulous motion; which by disuniting them, lessens the stickage.

Stické (sti·ké). [From the ending of *sphairistiké* (a. Gr. σφαιριστική art of ball-play), the name given in 1874 to the game which afterwards developed into lawn tennis.] A game combining some of the features of lawn tennis and rackets; also *attrib.*, as *stické court, player.*

1903 *Windsor Mag.* Sept. 381 The Game of Stické: its Evolution and Progress. *Ibid.* 382 There is a Stické-court in Halifax, N.S...Prior to the year 1891 only three Stické-courts were in existence in the United Kingdom. 1910 SIR D. O'CALLAGHAN in *Times* 14 Apr. 20/4 The Game of Stické. Sir,—Now that a 'stické' court has been duly inaugurated at the Queen's Club, it may interest [etc.].

Sticked (stikt), *a. nonce-wd.* [f. STICK *sb.*[1] + -ED[2].] Furnished with (walking) sticks.

1820 L. HUNT *Indicator* No. 33 (1822) I. 259 The Cavaliers of Charles the First's time were a sticked race, as well as the apostolic divines and puritans, who appear to have carried staves because [etc.].

Sticked (stikt), *ppl. a.*[1] *Obs.* exc. *north.* [f. STICK *v.*[1] + -ED[1].] In the senses of the verb.

1499 *Promp. Parv.* (Pynson) p v b, Stikkyd vp, *succinctus.* 1565 COOPER *Thesaurus, Confixus,*..Pricked: thrust through: sticked. 1606 BIRNIE *Kirk-Buriall* xiv. (1833) D 3, Affirming the corps of sticked Tarquin to be both bathed and balmed.

b. esp. of a pig: Killed by cutting its throat, stuck. *Obs.* exc. *north.*

a 1330 *Otuel* 1502 Otuwel..smot poidras of barbarin, þat þere he lay as a stiked swin. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Pard. T.* 228 Thou fallest as it were a styked swyn. 1876 T. FARRALL *Betty Wilson's Cummerl. T* 77 (E. D. D.) Bled like a stick't pig.

Sticked (stikt), *ppl. a.*[2] [f. STICK *v.*[2] + -ED[1].] In senses of the vb.

1714 S. SEWALL *Diary* 28 July (1882) III. 13 A fine Boy.. was playing with other children about a pile of Stick'd Boards, which fell down upon him.

Sticker[1] (sti·kəɹ). [f. STICK *v.*[1] + -ER.] One who or that which sticks, in the senses of the verb.

1. One who sticks or stabs, esp. one who kills swine by sticking.

a 1585 POLWART *Flyting w. Montgomerie* 787 Tyk stickar. 1833 HOOD *Sk. Road, Sudden Death* Wks. 1870 II. 248 Master Bardell the pig-butcher, and his foreman Samuel Slark, or, as he was more commonly called, Sam the Sticker. 1881 INGERSOLL *Oyster-Industr.* (Hist. Fish. Industr. U.S.) 249 *Sticker*, an oyster-opener who rests the oyster against the bench while he thrusts the knife between the valves.

2. A weapon used for piercing or stabbing as distinguished from cutting or slashing; esp. a sticking-knife, a fishing spear, an angler's gaff. Chiefly *colloq.*

1896 BARING-GOULD *Dartmoor Idylls* viii. 188 Go and ax the butcher to lend you his sticker. 1899 R. WHITEING *No. 5 John St.* iv, There warn't no time to square up to 'im when I see the sticker [pocket knife] in 'is 'and. 1901 *Munsey's Mag.* XXIV. 442/2 Swords or knives can be divided into two classes, the hackers and the stickers.

3. One who or something which adheres or remains attached; one who remains constant; one who persists in a task. Const. *to*, †*unto.*

1674 N. FAIRFAX *Bulk & Selv.* 133 Motion or going on by steps, is such a sticker unto body, that it can no more belong to Ghost, than thinking can to that. 1824 in *Spirit Publ. Jrnls.* (1825) 516 When wed she'll change, for Love's no sticker, And love her husband less than liquor? *a* 1849 H. COLERIDGE *Ess.* (1851) II. 75 The same class of fastidious wits who in France became Zoilists, in England were the stoutest stickers to Homer. 1869 M. ARNOLD *Cult. & Anarchy* Pref. 55 For we are fond stickers to no machinery, not even our own. 1895 *Westm. Gaz.* 30 Apr. 6/1 Experience proves that these are the best 'stickers', as, knowing the difficulties, they do not expect to strike gold immediately, but are content to search for the metal.

b. A commodity which does not find a ready sale. Also *transf.* (see quot. 1887). *colloq.*

1824 DIBDIN *Libr. Comp.* 573, I fear it [the book] will be a sticker. 1887 G. R. SIMS *Mary Jane's Mem.* x. 128 Stickers are servants that the [registry] office finds it hard to get places for.

c. *Sporting.* A horse or a person with good staying power; a stayer.

1860 WHYTE MELVILLE *Mkt. Harb.* 18 He's too fast for us..Only, to be sure, we have a vast of plough hereabout, and *I* never see such a sticker through dirt. 1890 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Colonial Reformer* x, You've got..an out-and-out good back..I'll forfeit my month's wages if he ain't a sticker, as well.

d. *Cricket.* A batsman who scores slowly and is hard to get out. *colloq.*

1903 W. J. FORD in *Cricket* (ed. Hutchinson) vi. 190 Louis Hall (the pioneer of stickers).

e. A person who stays too long on a visit.

1903 FARMER *Slang, Sticker*, 4 (colloquial), a lingering guest.

4. Something which causes a person to stick or to be at a nonplus; a poser. *colloq.*

1849 THACKERAY *Pendennis* xxv, That's what I call a sticker for Wagg. 1903 FARMER *Slang, Sticker*, a pointed question, an apt and startling comment or rejoinder, an embarrassing situation.

5. *U.S.* An adhesive label. spec. = PASTER 2.

1872 DE VERE *Americanisms* 270. 1888 [see PASTER 2]. 1888 C. A. KNIGHT in *Voice* (N.Y.) July 5 Quotations.. printed on one side of little slips of paper..to be gummed and used as 'stickers'..on newspaper wrappers, [etc.].

6. a. *Organ-building.* (See quot. 1884.)

1845 G. DODD *Brit. Manuf.* IV. 160 The 'under-hammer' [acts] on the 'sticker'. 1884 *Encycl. Brit.* XVII. 834 [Organ.] The connexion between the keys and their pallets is made by various mechanisms...Where pressure has to be transmitted instead of a pull, thin but broad slips of wood are used, having pins stuck into their ends to keep them in their places. These are stickers.

b. In the pianoforte: = MOPSTICK 2. Also *attrib.*

1870 [see MOPSTICK 2]. 1885 LOCK *Workshop Rec.* Ser. IV. 281/2 To repair a broken sticker hinge, unscrew the button [etc.]. 1908 *Times* 19 Feb. 14/4 The first improvement.. was in the sticker action.

7. (See quot.) Cf. STICK *v.*[1] 18 c.

1909 *N. Hawkins' Mech. Dict., Sticker*, a wood working machine, used on articles of small cross sectional area, such as picture frame moulding, etc.

8. *Sticker up*: One who 'sticks up' *for* something. *colloq.*

1857 BORROW *Romany Rye* App. v, Ah! but some sticker-up for gentility will exclaim, 'The hero did not refuse' [etc.].

9. Sticker-up. *Australian.* **a.** A bush method of cooking meat by spitting it and setting it to roast. Also *attrib.*

1830 *Hobart Town Almanack* 112 Steaks..which he cooked in the mode called in colonial phrase a sticker up. 1852 MRS. C. MEREDITH *My Home Tasmania* I. iv. 54 Here I was first initiated into the bush art of 'sticker-up' cookery.

b. A bushranger.

1879 W. J. BARRY *Up & Down* xx. 197 They..were the stickers-up, or highwaymen, mentioned by me before.

Sticker[2] (sti·kəɹ). [f. STICK *sb.*[1] or *v.*[2] + -ER.] One who gathers sticks for firewood.

From a misreading of quot. 1422, Cowel, followed by Todd and later Dicts., has a spurious word *stickler.*

1422 *Rolls of Parlt.* IV. 179/1 Un Homme appellee Stikker, coillant chescun jour Bois, deins mesmes le Park. 1821 CLARE *Vill. Minstr.* II. 24 The ragged plundering stickers have been there, And pilfer'd it [a wattled arbour] away.

† Stick-free, *a.* and *sb. Obs.* [f. STICK *sb.*[4] + FREE *a.*, after Du. *steekvrij*, G. *stichfrei* adj.] **a.** *adj.* Proof against injury by the thrust of a weapon. **b.** *sb.* One who is 'stick-free'.

1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* 1. ii. 1. iii. 72 [Witches] can make stick-free's, such as shall endure a rapiers point, or musket shot and neu'r be wounded. 1637 SHIRLEY *Yng. Admiral* IV. G 2 b, *Paz.* Would somebody would challenge mee to fight before her, if the Ladies knew I were sticke free they would teare me in peeces for my company. *Ibid.* H 3, *Paz.* Though I be sticke and shotfree, I may be beaten, and bruis'd as I remember. 1676 [see SPURN *sb.*[1] 3 b].

Stickful (sti·kful). [f. STICK *sb.*[1] + -FUL.] As much type as a composing-stick will hold.

1683 MOXON *Mech. Exerc., Printing* xxii. 224 Therefore he Justifies his Stick-full just to the breadth of the Wooden Letter with Quadrats or Quotations. 1888 *Encycl. Brit.* XXIII. 700/2 Stickful after stickful of type is placed on the galley.

Stick-in, *a.* [f. vbl. phrase *stick in*: see STICK *v.* 30.] That is inserted. *Stick-in piece*: a small piece of metal sometimes inserted in the notched ends of bars when making a butt-joint.

1843 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* I. 221 The butt joint is materially strengthened, when..it is..notched in on three or four sides, and pieces called stick-in pieces, dowels, or charlins.. are..laid in the notches.

Stickiness[1] (sti·kinés). [f. STICKY *a.*[2] + -NESS.] The quality of being sticky; adhesiveness, glutinousness.

1727 BAILEY vol. II, *Stickiness*, Aptness to stick to. 1755 JOHNSON, *Stickiness*, adhesive quality; viscosity; glutinousness; tenacity. 1800 *Gentl. Mag.* LXX. I. 45 Which is preferable, the stickiness of the honey, or the greasiness of the hair? 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* III. 601 In the case [of peritonitis] there may be merely some injection of polished surface, and in its place a general stickiness.

fig. 1864 *Athenæum* 14 May 683/3 [The picture] is almost free from over-sweetness, or 'stickiness', as some call it.

Stickiness[2] (sti·kinés). [f. STICKY *a.*[1] + -NESS.] Stiffness, woodenness. (Chiefly with reference to athletics.)

1910 *Evening News* 12 Mar. 2/6 The rapid improvement of the Light Blues [i. e. the Cambridge boat crew], contrasted with the 'stickiness' of their rivals. 1911 MARETT *Anthrop.* v. 143 It would prove an endless task if I were to try here to illustrate at all extensively the stickiness, as one might almost call it, of primitive modes of speech. 1912 *World* 7 May Suppl. 2/2 For spectators the abolition of 'offside' means a game without any of the old 'stickiness'.

Sticking (sti·kiŋ), *vbl. sb.*[1] [-ING[1].]

1. The action of STICK *v.*[1] **a.** The action of piercing or stabbing, or of thrusting (a weapon, tool, etc.) *into* or *through* something.

a 1400-50 *Wars Alex.* 2623 Þare was stomling of stedis, sticking of erles [etc.]. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 475/2 Stykynge in beestes, *jugulacio.* 1823 SCOTT *Quentin D.* xviii, Although the doing such a deed were as ignoble as the sticking of swine. 1896 *Harper's Mag.* Apr. 772/1 The enemy received our bayonet attack up to within three paces; then began the sticking.

b. Fixing or fastening in position. Also with *on*, etc.

c 1386 CHAUCER *Pars. T.* 954 A whit wal, al-though it ne brenne noght fully by stikynge of a candele, yet is the wal blak of the leyt. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 475/2 Stykynge, or festynge to, *confixio, fixura.*

c. The action of setting a surface with something; †garnishing (of meat); setting (of cotton or wool cards) with teeth.

1633 HART *Diet of Diseased* I. xxii. 101 The Clove..is very much used in the kitchin both for sauces, and sticking of meat. 1794 MORSE *Amer. Geog.* 332 [There] are made yearly about 7000 dozen of cotton and wool cards...The sticking of these cards employs not less than 1000 people.

d. The process or condition of adhering.

1591 PERCIVALL *Sp. Dict., Apeganiento*, sticking to, cleauing to, *adhaesio, conglutinatio.* 1683 MOXON *Mech. Exerc. Printing* xi. P 23 They..try its consistence by sticking together of their Finger and Thumb. 1719 LONDON & WISE *Compl. Gard.* v. 86 As for the sticking to the Stone in Plumbs, 'tis not worth minding. 1876 GEO. ELIOT *Dan. Der.* lviii, To move, like the limpet, by an apparent sticking which after a good while is discerned to be a slight progression. 1910 *N. Hawkins' Electr. Dict., Sticking*, in telegraphy, a tendency of the relay to cling to the pole of its magnet after the current is broken.

e. Hesitation, scruple, delay; an instance of this; also a cause of hesitation or delay. Now *rare* or *Obs.*

1528 GARDINER in Pocock *Rec. Ref.* I. l. 104 To the intent we might the better discipher the very lett and sticking. 1578 T. P. *Knowl. Warres* 19 The Souldiour..must be tractable, and obedient to the commaundement of his Captayne, and that without styckinge. *a* 1631 DONNE *Let.* v. Poems, etc. (1633) 364 And as to that life, all stickings and hesitations seeme stupid and stony, so to this [etc.]. 1725 WODROW *Corr.* (1843) III. 201 My landlord is reflected on for sticking; and I believe, if he had not been ill treated and fretted, all had been easy.

f. Coming to a stand; being unable to proceed.

1570 T. WILSON tr. *Demosthenes* Pref. ** j b, That such as bee not learned, may the rather go thorow with the reading of these Orations without any sticking at all. 1730 T. BOSTON *Life* xii. (1908) 315 My matter coming to me as I wrote..: if at any time I walked, it was occasioned by my sticking.

g. Of a batsman: Continuance at the wicket or 'in' by means of ultra-defensive play.

1901 R. H. LYTTELTON *Outdoor Games* vi. 122 If the wicket is to be enlarged I should prefer it in this form, though 'sticking' would be even greater than it is now.

h. Sticking-up. *Australian.* The action of stopping (a conveyance or person) on the highway for robbery. Also *attrib.*

1855 *Melbourne Argus* 18 Jan. 5/4 [Witness] said he was coming from Richmond on the night of the robbery, and saw a sticking-up case. 1893 MRS. C. PRAED *Outlaw & Lawm.* I. 28 The sticking-up of the Goondi coach.

2. *concr.* **a.** *Mining.* = SELVAGE 5.

1747 HOOSON *Miner's Dict.* U 1, All Scrins, and smaller Kind of Veins, that afford not Shoulder Room, their width between the Sides may be called the Sticking, and this is the common Name that we Miners give to all of that Size. 1789 T. WILLIAMS *Min. Kingd.* I. 13 A blackish soft sticking of clay, perhaps not above half an inch thick. 1875 J. H. COLLINS *Metal Mining* 26 The country on each side is frequently much altered, 'mineralised' as miners say. This altered band..is variously known as capel, stickings, selvage, and..other names.

b. *pl.* 'Coarse, bruised, inferior meat; spec. the portions damaged by the butcher's knife' (Farmer). Cf. STICKING-PIECE; also *sticking-bit, -part*, in 3.

1851 MAYHEW *Lond. Labour* I. 196 The meat (for pies) is bought in 'pieces', of the same part as the sausage-makers purchase—the stickings. 1894 *West Sussex County Times* 17 Mar. 4/6 The Guardians are desirous of receiving Tenders ..for..Meat, Consisting of Beef (thick flanks, and clods, and stickings) free from bone.

3. *attrib.* and *Comb.*

1869 J. P. MORRIS *Furness Gloss.*, **Stickin'-bit*, the neck-end of mutton. 1875 *Carpentry & Join.* 6 *Sticking boards used in planing up sash bars. 1885 LOCK *Workshop Rec.* Ser. IV. 3/1 This [coat] is usually a different mixture..and is called a '*sticking-coat', its object being to secure adhesion between the fabric and the rubber. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 87/2 The *Sticking Draught, is a part of the Breast [of an ox] when it is cut long-ways, over cross the bones. 1495-6 in *Finchale Priory Charters* etc. (Surtees) p. cccxciv, iij *stekyngknyffze. 1909 *N. Hawkins' Mech. Dict.*, **Sticking Machine*, a woodworking machine, forming straight mouldings by means of rotary cutters. 1881 *Daily News* 3 Sept. 2/5 My father had in three fore-quarters of beef. When the officer came in I was trimming up the *sticking parts. 1733 W. ELLIS *Chiltern & Vale Farm.* 238 This sort of Ground by its *sticking Quality, will more easily fasten about and hold the Beans.

Sticking, *vbl. sb.*[2] [f. STICK *v.*[2] + -ING[1].]

1. The action of STICK *v.*[2]

1828 CARLYLE *Let.* 10 June in Froude *Life* (1882) II. ii. 26 Alas! Jack, there is no sticking of peas for me at this hour.

2. In *plural.* Sticks (for peas); more explicitly *pea-stickings.*

1800 *Parish Acc. Much Wenlock* 5 May in Miss Jackson *Shropsh. Word-bk.* (1879) s. v., Paid John Wall for Stickings, &c., 0-2-3. 1841 HARTSHORNE *Salop. Ant.* s. v. *Swite*, Switing pea-stickings.

Sticking (sti·kiŋ), *ppl. a.* [f. STICK *v.*[1] + -ING[2].] That sticks, in the senses of the verb.

1. That pierces or pricks (*obs.*); *dial.* of an animal, that gores.

c 1230 *Hali Meid* 35 (MS. Titus) þat sar sorhfule angoise þat stronge & stikinde [*v. r.* stinkinde] stiche. 1577 KENDALL *Flowers of Epigr.* 89 b, By stickyng spurre doest seke to sturre thy steede. 1614 GORGES *Lucan* VII. 286 No sooner did their palfries feele, Within their brest the sticking steele, But [etc.] 1843 *Richardson's Borderer's Table-bk., Leg. Div.* I. 106 Should the sticking bull o' the Stobbs com down amang the kye.

2. That adheres.

1651 BAXTER *Inf. Bapt.* 144 They say far more..then the most notorious scorners were wont to do; and that not in a bare scorn, which is less sticking, but in serious slanders. 1883 J. PARKER *Tyne Chylde* 86 It's a sticking leech you have laid on me. 1908 *Westm. Gaz.* 9 June 4/2 [The] Mercédès..suffered from a sticking valve.

3. That projects. Only with advs. *out, up.*

1848 CURZON *Visit. Monast.* IV. vii. (1897) 301 The sticking-up legs of the subverted table. 1902 R. BAGOT *Donna Diana* viii. 98 The women with their great feet..and sticking-out teeth!

4. Special collocations: **sticking-grass** = CLEAVERS; †**sticking medicine** (see quot.); **sticking silk** = COURT-PLASTER.

1671 SALMON *Syn. Med.* III. xxvii. 471 Dropax, is a sticking Medicine, so called from Pitch, used with other sticking ingredients. 1760–72 H. BROOKE *Fool of Qual.* (1809) I. 18 Having found the wound, she put a small bit of black sticking silk to the orifice. 1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* III. 942 The seed of the sticking-grass, or cleavers.

Sti·cking-piece. [STICKING *vbl. sb.*] The lower part of the neck-piece of a carcass of beef.

1469 *Ord. R. Househ.* (1790) 96 The Bocherye. Item, No fee of the oxe, more than barely the hedde, the steckinge-piece, the gollette. 1802–12 BENTHAM *Ration. Judic. Evid.* (1827) IV. 438 Neck-beef and sticking-pieces are provided by the butcher for those who cannot come up to the price of ribs and sirloins. 1844 STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* II. 169 The sticking-piece is a great favourite with some epicures, on account of the pieces of rich fat in it. 1886 *W. Somerset Word-bk., Sticking-piece*, the part of the neck of a bullock near where the knife entered—usually discoloured with blood and sold for gravy-beef.

Sticking-place. [STICKING *vbl. sb.*]

1. A place in which to stick (something). *rare.*

1578 T. PROCTOR *Gorg. Gallery* P iiij, Which flower, out of my hand shall neuer passe, But in my harte, shall haue a sticking place.

2. The place in which a thing stops and holds fast. Only in echoes of the Shaks. example, in which the allusion seems to be to the screwing-up of the peg of a musical instrument until it becomes tightly fixed in the hole.

1605 SHAKS. *Macb.* I. vii. 60 But screw your courage to the sticking place, And wee'le not fayle. 1829 SOUTHEY *Sir T. More* (1831) II. 136 His rent having been already screwed to the sticking-place. 1883 *Fortn. Rev.* 1 Oct. 473 But she ..saw that she must keep him to the sticking-place.

3. The lower part of the neck, the JUGULUM †**a.** of the human body (*obs.*). **b.** of a beast (see quot. 1886).

1615 CROOKE *Body of Man* 361 The trunke of the hollow vein from the heart to the Iugulum or Sticking-place. 1886 *W. Somerset Word-bk., Sticking-place*, the point in an animal's throat where the knife is stuck.

Sti·cking-plaster. [STICKING *ppl. a.*] A material for covering and closing superficial wounds, consisting of linen, silk, or other textile fabric spread with an adhesive substance; a general name for COURT-PLASTER, LEAD-*plaster*, DIACHYLON-*plaster*, etc.

1655 CULPEPPER etc. *Riverius* I. ii. 12 They heal up the wound with a sticking Plaister. 1749 GATAKER tr. *Le Dran's Operat. Surg.* 438, I secure them [the flaps of the wound] in that situation with straps of sticking plaister. 1841 DICKENS *Barn. Rudge* xxiii, He was fixing a very small patch of sticking-plaster..near the corner of his mouth. 1861 HULME tr. *Moquin-Tandon* II. III. 184 Court or Black Sticking-plaster is made with a solution of isinglass and tincture of benzoin laid upon black sarsenet. 1882 J. ASHTON *Soc. Life Q. Anne* I. 169 In the reign of Charles I, when suns, moons, stars, and even coaches and four were cut out of sticking plaister, and stuck on the face.

b. attrib. *Sticking-plaster miniature*, a silhouette cut in black paper (resembling court-plaster).

1837 THACKERAY *Ravenswing* vii, Little cracked sticking-plaster miniatures. 1848 — *Book of Snobs* xiv, A sticking-plaster portrait of Hugby.., in a cap and gown.

Sti·cking-point. = STICKING-PLACE 2.

1826 *Sporting Mag.* XVIII. 213 Screwing our courage to the sticking point. 1887 BIRRELL *C. Brontë* i. 16 To rouse her aunt's enthusiasm to the sticking-point of lending her some money.

Stick-in-the-mud. [f. vbl. phr. *to stick in the mud*: see STICK *v.*[1] 11 b.] Contemptuously used for: A helpless or unprogressive person; one who lacks resource or initiative.

1733 *Gen. Evening Post* 15–17 Nov. 2/1 George Fluster, *alias* Stick in the Mud, has made himself an Evidence, and impeached the above two Persons. 1733 *Country Jrnl.* 15 Dec. 2/1 James Baker, *alias* Stick in the Mud, and Francis Ogilby [were convicted]. 1861 HUGHES *Tom Brown at Oxf.* x, This rusty-coloured one is that respectable old stick-in-the-mud, Nicias. 1886 W. H. MALLOCK *Old Order Changes* I. 280 She is such an old stick-in-the-mud.

attrib. 1880 *St. James's Gaz.* 23 Oct. 12 He was none of your humdrum, stick-in-the-mud, oldfashioned practitioners. 1886 STEVENSON *Kidnapped* v, What a pleasure it was to get on shore with money in his pocket..and surprise what he called stick-in-the-mud boys.

Sti·ckish, *a. nonce-wd.* [f. STICK *sb.*[1] + -ISH.] Something of a stick (cf. STICK *sb.*[1] 12 b).

1810 SCOTT in *Lockhart* (1839) III. 220 Malcolm de Grey was tolerable but *stickish*.

Stickit (sti·kit), *a. Sc.* Also **sticket.** [Sc. form of STICKED *ppl. a.*]

1. Of a task, a product of labour: Imperfect or bungled, unfinished.

1787 W. TAYLOR *Scots Poems* 60 (E. D. D.) Dad force't her to marry Rob, Whilk surely maks a stickit job. 1818 SCOTT *Br. Lamm.* XXXV, But I'll uphaud it for nae stickit job.

2. Qualifying a personal designation of trade or profession: That has relinquished his intended calling from want of ability or means to pursue it.

1815 SCOTT *Guy M.* ii, Upon his first attempt, he [Sampson] became totally incapable of proceeding in his intended discourse,..and was ever after designated as a 'stickit minister'. 1837 HOGG *Tales & Sk.* III. 62, 'I canna get her keepit a minute', said Geordie, 'for that stickit shopkeeper'. 1871 W. ALEXANDER *Johnny Gibb* ix. 70 Sandy disappointed the hopes of his friends by changing his mind, and turning out a kind of 'sticket doctor'.

Sticklac (sti·klæk). [f. STICK *sb.*[1] + LAC[1].] Lac in its natural state of incrustation on twigs.

1704 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4059/4 The following Goods, viz... Shellack,..Sticklack. 1815 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* x. (1818) I. 326 It is distinguished by the names stick-lac when in its native state unseparated from the twigs to which it adheres [etc.]. 1846 *Vintner's, Brewer's* etc. *Guide* 64 An extract made by boiling stick-lach in water. 1883 *Daily News* 3 Oct. 2/6 Shellac...Sticklac—50 cases Siam sold at 50s. to 50s. 6d.

Stickle (sti·k'l), *sb.*[1] *s.w. dial.* [Ellipt. use of STICKLE *a.*] A place in a river where the bed slopes and the water is shallow and runs swiftly; a rapid.

1616 W. BROWNE *Brit. Past.* II. iv. 108 Patient Anglers standing all the day Neere to some shallow stickle or deepe bay. 1857 G. H. KINGSLEY *Sport & Trav.* (1900) 450, I.. rushed frantically through stickle and over stone. 1887 W. H. H. ROGERS *Mem. West* ii. 19 A kind of little bay among some reeds at the foot of a stickle. 1897 *Encycl. Sport* I. 583/2 (Hunting, otter) *Stickle*, West country term for a shallow.

Stickle (sti·k'l), *sb.*[2] [f. STICKLE *v.*]

†1. Persistent activity or endeavour (*in* a cause).

1675 V. ALSOP *Anti-Sozzo* III. ii. 173 Thus the poor Gentiles, after all his zealous stickle in their Cause, are left in the lurch to shift for themselves as well as they can.

†2. Contention, strife. *Obs.*

1682 N. O. *Boileau's Lutrin* I. 77 Have I by secreet Arts, nourisht the Stickle Between the Church-men, and the Conventicle?

3. An agitated or bewildered state of mind; consternation or alarm; hurry or flurry. *dial.*

1744 MRS. ROBINSON in Mrs. Climenson *Eliz. Montagu* (1906) I. 176, I was very composed, never thinking there would be any need to put myself in a stickle. 1825 BROCKETT *N. C. Gloss., Stickle*, a hurry, a bustle. 1853 G. J. CAYLEY *Las Alforjas* I. 218 The old Moorish merchant, who was in a tremendous stickle to get his wheat to the market at Tangier. 1877 *Holderness Gloss., Stickle*, fuss; perplexity; embarrassment; bewilderment; excitement.

Stickle (stik'l), *a. Obs.* exc. *dial.* Forms: 1 **sticol,** 5 **stikill, -ell,** 6 **stykell, stikle,** 7 *superl.* **stickellest,** 6– **stickle.** [OE. *sticol* lofty, steep, rough, difficult (of a road) = OS. *stecul* (Gallée), MLG. *stekel*, OHG. *stechal*, abrupt, steep, sharp, rough, f. Teut. root **stik-* (**stek-*): see STICK *v.*[1]]

1. Of a hill or incline: Steep, high-pitched. *s.w. dial.*

c 960 *Rule St. Benet* (Schröer) Prol. 5 Se [weg] is neara and sticol, þe to life and to heofona rice læt. *c* 1475 *Partenay* 5848 Thys mont..narew and stikell to sight. 1519 HORMAN *Vulg.* 177 b, That grounde boweth beste: that is easely stykell [*qui leniter molliterque adsurgit*]. 1623 R. CARPENTER *Conscionable Chr.* 23 Admonishing vs to auoyd.. the thorny copse of couetousnesse, and the stickle path of pride. 1796 W. H. MARSHALL *W. Eng.* I. 330 *Stickle*, steep, as a road; or rapid, as a stream. 1894 W. RAYMOND *Love & Quiet Life* iii. 28 The cottage with the stickle roof.

†2. Of a storm: ? Sharp, severe. *Obs.*

a 1400–50 *Wars Alex.* 4186 And stint was all þe stikill stormes in a stand-quile.

3. Of running water: Rapid. *s.w. dial.*

1586 J. HOOKER *Hist. Irel.* 37/1 in *Holinshed*, They found the same to be so deepe and stikle, that they could not passe ouer the same. 1614 GORGES *Lucan* I. 23 Through stickle Rhene the boates to steare. 1796 (see 1). 1894 BLACKMORE *Perlycross* xliv. 461 A mile of water..bright with stickle runs.

4. Of the hair of an animal: Rough, bristly. Hence *stickle-haired* adj. Now *dial.* (Yorks.).

1615 G. SANDYS *Trav.* I. 76 Their dogs..that serue for that purpose [hunting] are stickle haired, and not vnlike to the Irish grayhounds. 1737 BRACKEN *Farriery Impr.* (1756) I. 42 Horses which..have their Coats staring and stickle, (as the Term is). 1868 J. C. ATKINSON *Cleveland Gloss.* 496 *Stickle-haired*, with the hair rough and bristling; of the coat of a neglected horse or colt.

Hence †**Sti·ckleness.** *Obs.*

1586 J. HOOKER *Hist. Irel.* 37/1 in *Holinshed*, The stiklenesse and danger of the water. 1602 CAREW *Cornwall* II. 120 b, A path..in many places, through his sticklenesse occasioning, and through his steepnesse threatning, the ruine of your life, with the failing of your foote.

Stickle (sti·k'l), *v.* Forms: 6 **styckyll,** 7 **stickell, sticle, stikle,** 6– **stickle.** [app. identical with the earlier STIGHTLE *v.*, to set in order.

For the phonology cf. *pickle* as a variant of PIGHTLE.]

†1. *intr.* **a.** To act as an official regulator of a tournament, wrestling match, or the like, in order to ensure fair play. **b.** Hence, to act as a mediator or umpire, to interpose or intervene (*between* or *among* combatants or contending parties). *Obs.*

1530 PALSGR. 736/1, I styckyll betwene wrastellers, or any folkes that prove mastries to se that none do other wronge. 1598 DALLINGTON *Meth. Trav.* I 4 b, The..Great Prouost.. of the Kings house...His Office is to stickle among the Seruants, Pages, Lacqueis, and *Filles de ioye*.., and to punish all offences in these people. 1613 HEYWOOD *Silver Age* K 2, Stay and forbeare your vp-roare, till our club Stickle amongst you. *a* 1643 W. CARTWRIGHT *Ordinary* III. v, There had been bloud-shed, if I had not stickled. 1692 DRYDEN *Juvenal* Ded. (1697) p. xvii, The same Angel.. when half of the Christians are already kill'd..stickles betwixt the Remainders of God's Host, and the Race of Fiends.

†2. *trans.* To compose (a dispute, disputants); to stop, quell (a strife or contest). Also with *forth*. *Obs.*

1577 GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* IV. (1586) 181 b, Their fights, whether it be among themselues, or one Hiue with an other, are easely stickled. 1578 BIBLE (Genev.) Almanacke, 25 June, *note*, As on this day, was the conflict at Mersbrough, betweene the Emperour Henrie the fourth, and Rodolfe duke of Sueuia, stickled forth by the Pope, Anno. 1080. 1600 HOLLAND *Livy* VII. xiv. 258 So as now they had growne to a full skirmish and battaile indeed, had not the Centurions speedily stickled them, and ended the fray. 1612 DRAYTON *Poly-olb.* xi. 428 Heere, Weever..to the Muse refers The hearing of the cause, to stickle all these stirs. 1630 — *Muses Eliz.* Nimphall vi. 36 Betwixt which three a question grew, Who should the worthiest be, Which violently they pursue, Nor stickled would they be.

†3. *intr.* To be busy, stirring, or energetic; to strive or contend pertinaciously; to take an active part (*in* a cause, affair). *Obs.*

1566 DRANT *Hor. Sat.* I. i. A ij b, She [the ant] stickleth, and bestirres her selfe, She huswyfes it right well. 1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 122/4 To stickle in a matter, *contendere, litigare*. 1630 SANDERSON 21 *Serm.* (1681) 254 Oh how we can stickle in our own causes! 1655 *Baily's Life Bp. Fisher* xvi. 119 My Lord of Rochester was the onely man that most stickled in this businesse. 1663 BUTLER *Hud.* I. ii. 437 Or Argument, in which b'ing valiant, He us'd to lay about and stickle, Like Ram or Bull, at Conventicle. 1690 DRYDEN *Amphitryon* I. 1, Nay the very Goddesses wou'd stickle in the cause of Love. 1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), To *Stickle hard in a Business*, to strive earnestly about it.

†b. To strive or endeavour *to* (do something).

1613 *Crt. & Times Jas. I* (1849) I. 277 The Lord Coke doth so stickle and fence by all the means he can make not to remove. 1658–9 in *Burton's Diary* (1828) IV. 234 'Tis apparent, how hard they stickle to impeade all. 1680 H. MORE *Apocal. Apoc.* 119 The Devil..will stickle to do as much mischief as he can among you. 1683 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1835/2 And for that end in all Elections they stickled to Chuse the most disaffected into Offices of the greatest Trust in the Government. 1727 SWIFT *Let. to Sheridan* 13 May, I hear no news about your bishops, farther than that the lord lieutenant stickles to have them of Ireland. 1732 FIELDING *Miser* II. i, The broker was forced to stickle hard to get such good ones.

†c. To contend or strive, meddle or interfere *with* (a person, etc.). *Obs.*

1647 N. BACON *Disc. Govt. Eng.* I. lix. 179 The Pope having lately been blooded against a braue Emperour, made the lesse difficulty to stickle with a valiant King. 1664 BUTLER *Hud.* II. ii. Argt., The Knight and Squire in hot Dispute..Are parted with a sudden fright Of strange Alarm, and stranger Sight; With which adventuring to stickle, They're sent away in nasty pickle.

†d. To contend *against*. *Obs.*

1659 HEYLIN *Exam. Hist.* I. 7 Our Author doth as mainly stickle against it. 1678 *Trans. Crt. Spain* 122 He stickled not against those [taxes] that were raised for the repairing of the Palace of Germany. 1709 STRYPE *Ann. Ref.* I. iii. 76 This also the Roman Prelates in the House did tooth and nail stickle against.

†e. With dependent clause: To contend or maintain *that*; to dispute *which*. *Obs.*

a 1661 FULLER *Worthies, Yorks.* (1662) 208 Although the Scotch Historians stickle with might and maine, that such Homage was performed onely for the County of Cumberland. 1678 BUTLER *Hud.* III. ii. 518 The Cause is in the lurch Between a right and mungrel Church, The Presbyter and Independent, That stickle which shall make an end on't.

4. **Stickle for —.** **a.** To strive or contend for (a desired object, an issue, principle, etc.).

1642 FULLER *Holy & Prof. St.* III. xx. 208 Pride..makes men stickle for their opinions to make them fundamentall. 1647 N. BACON *Disc. Govt. Eng.* I. lxvi. 226 They had courage enough..to stickle both with King and people for their own liberties. *a* 1680 GLANVILL *Sadducismus* I. (1682) 150 Those that so stickle and sweat for the proving their Opinion. 1728 MORGAN *Algiers* I. iv. 93 Without any of those mighty advantages so sanguinely stickled for by each Pretender to a Superiority in Purity of Morals. 1869 GOULBOURN *Purs. Holiness* x. 95 Stickling for the letter while the spirit is disregarded. 1901 RASHDALL & RAIT *New College* 207 Scholars will no longer stickle for his [Lowth's] view that Hebrew was the language spoken in Paradise. 1905 *Athenæum* 10 June 713/3 The plot..will..please those who stickle for happy endings.

†b. To take the part of, stand up for, contend on behalf of (a person). Also with *up*. *Obs.*

1652 HEYLYN *Cosmogr.* I. 41 If Servilius and others..had not stickled hard for him with the Souldiers. 1663 BUTLER *Hud.* I. iii. 516 When Fortune (as she's wont) turn'd fickle And for the foe began to stickle. 1729 *Col. Rec. Pennsylv.* III. 72 He was Mr. Penn's stiff Friend and had stickl'd for him tho' to no effect. 1703 MRS. CENTLIVRE *Love's Contriv.* IV. ii. 41 Come, come, Cousin, we never stickle up for the Person we don't care for. 1748 RICHARDSON *Clarissa* (1768) V. xiv. 152 The Widow Bevis indeed stickled hard for me.

5. To make difficulties, raise objections, haggle (*about*); to be tardy in giving one's acceptance or

compliance; to hesitate, scruple, take offence (*at*). (? Partly arising from confusion with *stick*.)

1819 KEATS *Otho* IV. i. 103 Albert! he cannot stickle, chew the cud In such a fine extreme,—impossible! 1829 I. TAYLOR *Enthus.* x. 306 An exaggerated notion of the right and duty of Christians to stickle upon their individual opinions. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. IV. v, Flying for life, one does not stickle about his vehicle. 1851 GLADSTONE in Morley *Life* III. vii. (1903) I. 406 He came back with a fresh message to go at once, and hear what Stanley had to say. I did not like to stickle, and went. 1877 MISS YONGE *Cameos* III. 148 He did not stickle at Edward calling himself King of France and England. 1879 FARRAR *St. Paul* I. xxii. 417 His soul was too large to stickle about matters of no moment.

b. To scruple or hesitate *to* (do something). (? A pseudo-archaism. Cf. 3 b and STICK *v.*[1] 15.)

1840 BARHAM *Ingol. Leg.* Ser. I. *Leech of Folkestone*, Some ..stickle not to aver that you are cater-cousin with Beelzebub himself.

Hence **Sti·ckling** *vbl. sb.* and *ppl. a.*

1611 COTGR., *Interposition*,..an intermedling in, or stickling of, controuersies. 1658 GURNALL *Chr. in Armour* II. 43 A busie stickling and ambitious disputing about truth. 1679 *Establ. Test* 25 Several stickling Itinerant Teachers. 1682 H. MORE *Annot. Glanvil's Lux Or.* 153 Some stickling imbittered Grandees of the Church. 1710 HEARNE *Collect.* (O. H. S.) II. 348 Lancaster's stickling for Sir Thomas is a plain Confirmation of it. 1848 BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.* 333 *Stickling* hesitating; delaying.

Stickleback (sti·k'lbæk). Forms: 5 **stykylbak**, 6 **sticklebanke**, **-banck**, 6–7 **stickle bag(ge**, 7 **stit(t)le bag(ge**, 8 **stittle-back**, 7–9 **stickle-back**, 7– **stickleback**. [f. OE. *sticel* prick, sting + BACK *sb.*[1] Cf. the synonymous *banstickle*, *stanstickle*, *stickling*, *tittlebat*, *prickleback*, *-bag* (N. Irel. *sprickleba*g).] A small spiny-finned fish, of the genus *Gasterosteus* or family *Gasterosteidæ*. The common three-spined stickleback, *G. aculeatus*, is found in both fresh and salt water.

Sea stickleback: see SEA *sb.* 23d.

14.. *Burlesque* in *Reliq. Antiq.* I. 85 The borbottus and the stykylbakys. 1552 HULOET, Sticklyng or stickle bagge fishe. 1599 NASHE *Lenten Stuff* B 1, The silliest millers thombe or contemptible stickle-banck. 1611 COTGR., *Artiere*, the Sharpling, Stickling, or Sticklebacke. *a* 1616 BEAUM. & FL. *Wit at Sev. Weapons* v. i, I have been seven mile in length, along the new River; I have seene a hundred stickle bags. 1647–60 HEXHAM, *Tobaes*,..a kind of Prickfish, or Stitle-bagge. 1653 WALTON *Angler* iv. 97 A small Loch, or a Sticklebag. 1656 H. MORE *Enthus. Tri.* Observ. 139 No fish, not so much as a small Stittle-bag. 1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), *Stittle-back*. 1769 PENNANT *Brit. Zool.* III. 217. 1799 A. YOUNG *Agric. Linc.* 259 Manuring... Sticklebacks in the East and West fens [are] so numerous, that a man has made 4*s.* a day by selling them at a halfpenny a bushel. 1896 LYDEKKER *Roy. Nat. Hist.* V. 403 The sticklebacks have the honour not only of representing a genus (*Gastrosteus*), but likewise a family by themselves.

Stickler (sti·klə1). Also 6 **stycker**, **stiklar**, **stickeler**, 7 **sticler**. [f. STICKLE *v.* + -ER[1]. Cf. the earlier STIFFLER, STIGHTLER.]

1. A moderator or umpire at a tournament, a wrestling or fencing match, etc., appointed to see fair play, and to part the combatants when they have fought enough (*obs.* exc. *s.w. dial.*). Hence, † One who intervenes as a mediator *between* combatants or disputants.

1538 ELYOT *Dict.*, *Interpres*,..also a stycker betwene two, whiche are at varyaunce. 1549 CHALONER *Erasm. on Folly* N iij b, Hereby it appeared that Jesus was the stickler or mediator. 1572 HULOET (ed. Higins), Stickeler in games, *Designator*, *Arbiter certaminis*. *a* 1586 SIDNEY *Arcadia* I. xvii. § 1. (1912) 105 Basilius the Judge appointed sticklers, and trumpets, to whom the other should obey. *Ibid.* § 5. 109 Basilius rising himselfe [came] to parte them, the sticklers authoritie scarslie able to perswade cholerike hearers. 1602 PARSONS *Warn-word* I. 14 Receaning for his gaine the first broken head as wrangling sticlers at wont to do. 1613–18 DANIEL *Coll. Hist. Eng.* (1626) 99 Theobald Earle of Bloys, that famous Stickler betweene the Kings of England and France. *a* 1656 USSHER *Ann.* (1658) 722 He sent Octavia..to her brother Cæsar, that she might be a stickler between them. 1659 DRYDEN *Death of Oliver* xi, Our former Chiefs, like Sticklers of the War, First sought t'inflame the Parties, then to poise. 1825 JENNINGS *Dial. W. Eng.* 72 *Stickler*, a person who presides at backsword or singlestick, to regulate the game. 1897 PHILLPOTTS *Lying Prophets* I. v. 50 You 'm like the stickler at a wras'lin' match,..you sees fair play betwixt God an' man.

Comb. 1606 SHAKS. *Tr. & Cr.* v. viii. 18 The dragon wing of night ore-spreds the earth And stickler-like the Armies seperates.

† **b.** *fig.* of things. *Obs.*

1582 STANYHURST *Æneis*, etc. (Arb.) 145 Thy nose, as a stickler, toe toe long vs parteth a sunder. 1598 NORDEN *Spec. Brit., M'sex & Herts* II. 6 The Lea..continuing her most milde course as stickler betweene Essex and Middlesex. 1618 BOLTON *Florus* III. x. (1636) 199 The tide withdrawing upon course during the skirmish, the Ocean might, as it were, seeme to have been stickler in the battell.

† **c.** A composer or reconciler *of* (strife). Cf. STICKLE *v.* 2. *Obs.*

1624 BP. HALL *No Peace with Rome* iii. Wks. (1634) 608 Those honest and good-natured men, which would needs undertake to bee the sticklers of these strifes.

† **2.** One who takes an active or busy part (*in* a contest, affair, cause, etc.); an active partisan; a (great, chief, etc.) agent, mover, or instigator.

1565 CALFHILL *Answ. Treat. Crosse*, Ep. to Martiall B j b, Erasmus a gret stickler in the crosse quarrell. 1619 DENISON *Heav. Banq.* 64 Andradius a principall stickler at the Councell of Trent, and a vehement defender thereof. 1643 *Decl. Commons* (Reb. Ireland) 22 The Queen with her Romish Priests..have been principall Actours and Sticklers herein. 1663 PATRICK *Pilgrim* v. (1687) 16 [He] is generally decry'd by all parties, as no friend to Truth, because he is no great stickler about the Questions that have vexed our unhappy days. 1690 C. NESSE *O. & N. T.* I. 30 Gleaster, that grand stickler in the Spanish Inquisition. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s. v. *Heracleonites*, They were so fond of these Mystic Interpretations, that Origen, tho' a Stickler that Way himself, was obliged to reproach Heracleon with his abusing Scripture by that Means.

† **b.** In unfavourable sense: A factious, seditious, or pragmatic contender; a wrangler, one who stirs up strife; a meddler, busybody. *Obs.*

1579, 1643: cf. *Jack-stickler*, JACK *sb.*[1] 35. 1641 QUARLES *Enchyridion* I. xlviii, True Religion is a Setler in a State, rather than a Stickler. 1692 R. L'ESTRANGE *Josephus*, *Wars* II. iii. (1733) 615 And for those Sticklers that Varus found to be least malicious, he order'd them to be kept in Custody. 1693 PENN *Some Fruits Solit.* I. § 531 A devout Man is one Thing, a Stickler is quite another. 1696 PHILLIPS (ed. 5), *Stickler*, a Busie Body in Publick Business, a Promoter of Faction and Disturbance.

† **3.** One who fights or contends *against* (a person, cause, etc.); an opponent, antagonist; one who makes difficulties or raises objections. *Obs.*

1613 JACKSON *Creed* I. xv. 78 Diomedes (who was one of the greatest sticklers against Troy). 1718 F. HUTCHINSON *Witchcraft* 63 Where they might do what they would, without being controuled by Sticklers. 1735 BP. GIBSON in Fraser *Life Berkeley* (1871) vii. 238 The men of science.. are the greatest sticklers against revealed religion. 1825 COBBETT *Rur. Rides* 197 Sir Thomas Baring appears to have been the great stickler against Mr. Hollis. 1826 CREEVEY in *C. Papers* (1903) II. 100 If a good ultra-Tory Government could be made, Canning and Huskisson must inevitably be ruined by this daring step. You never heard such language as the old sticklers apply to them. 1846 LANDOR *Imag. Conv.* Wks. II. 42 There are nowhere such stiff sticklers against idolatry, at the present day, as those gentlemen.

4. With *for*: One who contends for, pertinaciously supports, or advocates (a cause, principle, person, party, etc.); one who insists on or stands out for (something established by rule or custom, a form, ceremony, etc.).

1644 D. FEATLEY *Levites Scourge* 6 A great stickler for the new Reformation. 1654 VILVAIN *Theorem Theol.* ii. 49 Dr. Ward, a stif Stickler for effectual Grace. 1660 J. DAVIES *Hist. Chas. II*, 68 Nor wanted there some sticklers for his Majesty. 1768–74 TUCKER *Lt. Nat.* (1834) I. 61 Your sticklers for indifferency of will. 1792 A. YOUNG *Trav. France* 110 He is one of the most zealous sticklers for the popular cause. 1820 BYRON *Mar. Fal.* III. ii. 191 A stickler for the Senate and 'the Forty'. 1829 CASSAN *Bps. Bath & Wells* 162 He was a stickler for the Hanover succession. 1838 DICKENS *Nickleby* xlv, She was a great stickler for dignity and ceremonies. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* ix, Sir Pitt was a stickler for his dignity while at home. 1879 DIXON *Windsor* I. xxiii. 241 Beaufort was no stickler for pedantic rules. 1887 *Poor Nellie* (1888) 294 His father, who was somewhat of a stickler for etiquette. 1898 G. W. E. RUSSELL *Collect. & Recoll.* xxxiv. 455 Mr. Gladstone, the stiffest of sticklers for official reticence. 1901 *Scotsman* 4 Mar. 7/5 The Great Duke was a stickler for the principle that the Sovereign is the real head of the army.

† **5.** A second or backer in a contest. *Obs.*

1672 G. THOMSON *Let. to H. Stubbe* 28 Stubbe, and the rest of the Galenical Tribe, with all their Sticklers. 1678 WOOD *Life* (O. H. S.) II. 418 One of the principall parishioners and sticklers to the bishop against Oats. 1705 HICKERINGILL *Priest-cr.* I. 14 Priests of all Religions..are the Sticklers, and clap their Hands, and cry Hulloo; setting the mad and Priest-ridden Laity at work, to fight up to the Ears in Blood for them. 1711 in *10th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. v. 177 Their fathers were honest men, and sticklers to their lawful Prince. 1716 HEARNE *Collect.* (O. H. S.) V. 266 One of his great sticklers for the Degree of Master of Arts was Dr. Hudson. 1755 JOHNSON, *Stickler*, a sidesman to fencers; a second to a duellist. 1828 SCOTT *F. M. Perth* vi, My ambition of distinction in arms, and my love of strife..do not fight even-handed with my reason..but have their patrons and sticklers to egg them on.

[**Stickler**, erron. form (in Dicts.) of STICKER 2.]

Stickling (sti·klin). ? *Obs.* Also 4 **stikelinge**, 5 **styk(e)lyng(e**, **stekelyng**, 6 **styckelyng**, **stick-lyng**. [ME. *stikeling*(*e* = (M)Du. *stekeling*, MHG. *stichelinc* (mod.G. *stichling*, *stechling*), f. WGer. **stikil*, **stekal* (see STICKLE *a.*) + -ING[3].] = STICKLEBACK.

a 1387 *Sinon. Barthol.* (Anecd. Oxon.) 12 *Aspiatiles* [read *Aspratiles*], an. stikelinges. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 475/1 Stykelynge, fysche, *silurus*. *c* 1475 *Pict. Voc.* in WR.-WÜLCKER 763/29 *Hic ganerius*, a stekelyng. 1530 PALSGR. 276/1 Styckelyng a maner of fysshe. 1552 HULOET, Stickelyng or stickle bagge fishe. 1611 COTGR., *Espinoche*, a Sharpling, Shaftling, stickling. 1881 DAY *Fishes Gt. Brit.* I. 241 The..stickleback..is known as..stickling and Jackbannell, Oxfordshire (Beesley).

Stick-out, *a.* and *sb.* [f. vbl. phrase *stick out*: see STICK *v.* 32.] **A.** *adj.* That projects.

1900 ELINOR GLYN *Visits Elis.* (1906) 2 There is a woman I like, with stick-out teeth.

B. *sb.* A strike (of employés).

1845 DISRAELI *Sybil* III. i, I've..seen as great stick-outs as ever happened in this country.

† **Sti·ckpenny**. *Obs.* [STICK *sb.*[1]] (See quot.)

1601 in *N. & Q.* 10th Ser. (1905) III. 70/2 [In 1601 all the inhabitants of Cawston, Norfolk,..might take heath, ling, flags, &c., on paying the queen 13*s.* 4*d.* a year, by the name of 'Stickpenny.' Elsewhere it is stated that they gave 10*d.* yearly for 'stick pence'.]

Stick-up, *a.* and *sb.* [f. vbl. phrase *stick up*: see STICK *v.* 34.] **A.** *adj.* That sticks up; esp. of a collar = STAND-UP *a.* 1.

1873 *Punch* 10 May 191/2 We wonder who invented chignons, corsets, stick-up collars,..and high-heeled boots. 1891 KIPLING *Light that Failed* 7 Be careful with the cartridges; I don't like those jagged stick-up things on the rim.

B. *sb.* Something which sticks up.

a. A stand-up collar.

1857 *Hotten's Slang Dict.* 20 *Stick-ups*, shirt-collar. 1896 *Punch* 8 Aug. 64/1 What a big Garçon he'll be when he's out of Jackets and Turn-downs, and gets into Tails and Stick-ups!

b. (See quot.)

1881 INGERSOLL *Oyster-Industr.* (Hist. Fish. Industr. U.S.) 249 *Stickup*, a long, thin oyster, growing in mud, etc. (Dennis creek, New Jersey).

Sticky (sti·ki), *a.*[1] [f. STICK *sb.*[1] + -Y.]

1. Of plant-stems: Like a stick; woody.

1577 GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* I. 35 The best kinde hath a stickie stalke [*orig.* caule lignoso]. 1626 BACON *Sylva* § 583 But Herbs draw a Weake Iuyce; and have a Soft Stalke; And therefore those amongst them which last longest, are Herbs of Strong Smell, and with a Sticky Stalke. 1677 W. HUBBARD *Narrative* 81 The Ground-nuts running up to seed in the summer, began to grow so sticky, as they were scarce eatable. 1765 *Museum Rust.* III. 186 If he leaves it [vetch] till the seeds are nearly ripe, the stalks harden, grow sticky, and are of far less value. 1805 R. W. DICKSON *Pract. Agric.* I. 570 The stem or blade beg comes firm and sticky. 1882 *Garden* 4 Mar. 141/2 The Mezereon..is so often starved, and sticky and poor.

2. *Painting.* Characterized by hardness of outline.

1753 HOGARTH *Anal. Beauty* x. 109 Fig. 66..was..treated in a more dry, stiff, and what the painters call 'sticky' manner than the nature of flesh is ever capable of appearing in.

3. *colloq.* Of a person: Like a 'stick'; wanting in animation or grace; awkward.

1881 MRS. LYNN LINTON *My Love* I. xii. 220 A girl looks such a stick when she does not talk like the rest; and I hate sticky girls.

Sticky (sti·ki), *a.*[2] [f. STICK *v.*[1] + -Y.]

1. Having the property of sticking or adhering; adhesive; also, of a substance, viscid, glutinous.

[1727: cf. STICKINESS[1].] 1735 DYCHE & PARDON *Dict.*, *Sticky*, of a clammy Nature, apt to cleave or adhere to any Thing. 1755 JOHNSON (with quot. from Bacon: see STICKY *a.*[1]). 1823 J. BADCOCK *Dom. Amusem.* 31 A well-known sticky substance called putty. 1855 LONGF. *Life* (1891) II. 290 Everything sticky except postage-stamps. 1864 *Intell. Observer* V. 269 In like manner limpid fluids oppose less resistance than sticky ones. 1870 DICKENS *E. Drood* iii, I'm too stickey to be kissed. 1908 [MISS E. FOWLER] *Betw. Trent & Ancholme* 378 Smelling of sticky paint and varnish.

b. *Path.* Of sounds heard in auscultation: Resembling those produced in viscid substances.

1896 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* I. 681 The posterior parts of the lungs are full of sharp, sticky rales of a quality quite peculiar to the disease. 1898 *Ibid*, V. 756 [Pericardial friction sound] has also been described as 'sticky'.

c. *Racing* and *Cricket.* Of a course, a wicket: Having a yielding surface owing to wet.

1888 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 14 Mar. 11/1 'Do you think the bowler suffers much under the present law?' 'Well, he does somewhat; but only on sticky wickets.' 1894 *Westm. Gaz.* 17 July 6/3 The hurdle race... Here again the time—16 2-5 sec.—on 'sticky' turf, was excellent.

2. a. Of a horse: Apt to 'stick' at a fence, i.e. to pause before and after the leap.

1886 *St. Stephen's Rev.* 13 Mar. 11/2 He has one fatal fault for a Liverpool horse which is being sticky at his fences.

b. Of troops: Apt to hesitate in obeying commands.

1898 STEEVENS *With Kitchener to Khartum* 305 When they were told to bring out their arms and ammunition they became a bit sticky, as soldiers say. They looked like refusing [etc.]. 1902 *Macm. Mag.* Sept. 394 It was this sort of thing which earned for some troops the..admirably descriptive title of *sticky*.

3. *Stock Exchange.* (See quot.)

1901 *Times* 24 Oct. 7/5 [Local Loans Stock] is ceasing to be 'sticky', to use the Stock Exchange slang describing a security which cannot always be sold just when the holder chooses.

Sticky (sti·ki), *v. colloq.* [f. STICKY *a.*[2]] *trans.* To smear with something sticky.

1865 MRS. GASKELL *Wives & Daughters* xxxv, Cook wanted a jar of preserve,..I was sadly afraid of stickying my gloves. 1894 *Harper's Mag.* May 853/1 He's stickying all the velvet seat with his hands.

† **Sti·ctic**, *a. Obs. rare.* [ad. mod.L. *sticticus* (Paracelsus), of obscure origin.

A marginal note in *Paracelsi Opera* (1658) III. i. 20/1—'Sticticum emplastrum, alias pro punctura, Germ. *Ein Stichpflaster*'—apparently explains the word as derived from G. *stich*, a stab, puncture.]

Of a plaster: Serving to close up wounds.

1638 A. READ *Chirurg.* iii. 20 Paracelsus undoubtedly framed his stictick emplaster after this description.

Stid(e, obs. forms of STEAD.

Stiddy, var. form of STITHY, anvil.

Stidfastliche, obs. form of STEADFASTLY.

Stidie, obs. variant of STUDY *v.*

† **Sti·dy**, *a. Obs. rare*[−1]. [Of obscure origin; app. related to STITHE *a.* (Ormin's spelling implies a long *i*.)] Obstinate.

c 1200 *Ormin* 9885 For hæþendom..& hæþenn follkess

herrte Iss..stunnt & stidiȝ, dill & slaw To sekenn sawless seollþe.

Stie, obs. form of STY *sb.* and *v.*

Stiebkin: see STEIFKIN.

Stied(e, Stiek: see STEED, STEEK *v.*[1]

Stiel, obs. form of STEEL, STILL *sb.*[1]

Stiele, -ll: see STEEL, STILE *sb.*[1]

Stiep, obs. form of STEEP *sb.*[1], *a.*, *v.*[1]

Stier(e: see STEER, STIR, STYER.

Stieridge, Stierk: see STEERAGE, STIRK.

Stierne, Stieve: see STERN, STEEVE.

Stiewe, obs. form of STEW *sb.*[2]

Stife (stəif). Chiefly *dial.* Also 9 *Sc.* **stoif.** A suffocating fume or vapour.

1636 *Patent Specif.* (1856) No. 98. 1 Which Seacoales soe Charked for that they Burne without Smoake, Stife, or other Annoyaunce. 1825 JAMIESON, *Stife, Stoif*, a close sulphureous smell, particularly that arising from the burning of drossy coals. 1912 W. W. GIBSON *Fires* II. 38 The stealthy stife And deadly fume of burning coke.

Stiff (stif), *a.*, *sb.*, and *adv.* Forms: 1 **stif**, 2–stif (2–4 *also inflected* stive), 3–4 **stijf**, 3–6 **styf**, 4–6 **styfe**, (5 **stuffe**), 4–6 **styffe**, 4–7 **stiffe**, 4– **stiff**. [OE. *stíf* (once only, in a gloss) corresponds to MLG *stíf* (mod.LG. *stief*), (M)Du. *stijf*, MHG. (? from MLG.) *stîf* (mod.G. *steif*); NFris. has *styf, stif*, WFris. *stiif*, which may descend from OFris. **stîf*; the Sw. *styf*, Da. *stiv* (whence Icel. *stíf-ur*) are prob. adopted from LG. The OTeut. type **stīfo-*:—pre-Teut. **stīpo-* is cogn. w. L. *stīpāre* to crowd, *stīpes* stake, Lith. *stīprus* strong. The long vowel of OE. *stíf*, corresponding with that of the continental Teut. forms, is evidenced by the ME. spelling *stijf*, and by the pronunciation current in some mod. Eng. dialects. The present standard Eng. form, however, is abnormal as representing OE. *stíf*; it is uncertain whether a shortening has taken place from some unknown cause, or whether OE. had beside *stíf* an ablaut variant *stif*:—OTeut. type **stifo-* or **stifo-*. On the latter supposition, ME. *stef*, STEEVE *a.*, may be a variant of this word.]

A. *adj.*

I. **1.** Rigid; not flexible or pliant.

1000 *Prudentius Glosses* 272 in *Germania* N.S. XI. 394/1, *Rigentem* [*barbam*], stifne. *c* 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 139 Bare eorðe to bedde, and hard ston to bolstre, stiue here to shurte. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XVII. cxliii. (1495) 700 A thyrde kynde of wylowes is meane bytwene the two fyrste ..for it is more plyaunt than the more: and more stiffe than the lesse. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 475/1 Styffe, or starke, *rigidus*. 1530 PALSGR. 325/2 Styffe as a thyng is that wyll nat bowe, *royde*. 1577 GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* I. 45 The time of cutting of it [grass] is when the Bent beginneth to fade and to waxe stiffe. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* III. xii. 36 Horror gan the virgins hart to perse, And her faire locks vp stared stiffe on end. *a* 1677 BARROW *Wks.* (1686) III. Serm. xvi. 189 As a stick, when once 'tis dry and stiff, you may break it, but you can never bend it into a streighter posture. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* III. 559 The Garment, stiff with Ice, at Hearths is thaw'd. 1717 PRIOR *Alma* II. 35 The Gown with stiff Embroid'ry shining. 1801 in Nicolas *Disp. Nelson* (1846) VII. p. CCXXVII*, With sleet and rain, ropes stiff, and sails half set, very squally, she works like a Cutter. 1842 TENNYSON *Morte d'Arthure* 64 The many-knotted waterflags, That whistled stiff and dry about the marge. 1887 FENN *Master Cerem.* II, Isaac was in his striped jacket and the stiffest of white cravats. 1892 *Photogr. Ann.* II. 215 A narrow piece can now be nailed along the top to keep all stiff. 1913 *Standard* 14 July 4/6 An emulsion of paraffin and soft soap, applied..with a stiff brush.

2. Of the body, limbs, joints, muscles, etc.: Lacking suppleness, unable to move without pain (esp. owing to age, cold, injury, disease, exhaustion, etc.).

To have a stiff neck: to suffer from a rheumatic affection of the neck (usually caused by exposure to a draught) in which the head cannot be moved without pain.

c 1305 *St. Andrew* 95 in *E. E. P.* (1862) 101 Here armes whan hi vpward reiȝte bicome as stif as treo. 1538 ELYOT *Dict., Obrigeo*, to be or waxe styffe for colde. 1581 MULCASTER *Positions* XXXIII. (1887) 122 The body..withall is verie wearysome, and stif oftymes after. 1799 HT. LEE *Canterb. T., Frenchm. T.* (ed. 2) I. 329 When I awoke, I found my limbs stiff at once with weariness and cold. 1840 THACKERAY *Barber Cox* Feb., You and I, ma'am, I think, are too stiff to dance. 1847 C. BRONTE *Jane Eyre* XXXIV, They were stiff with their long and jolting drive from Whitcross. 1865 W. PENNEFATHER in Braithwaite *Life & Lett.* (1878) 393, I am like a stiff Irish post-horse, which, after it has stood still for an hour or two in the stable, can hardly move a limb. 1873 F. T. ROBERTS *Theory & Pract. Med.* 247 Torticollis, wry-neck, or stiff-neck. 1902 ALICE TERTON *Lights & Shadows Hospital* xi. 180 He was already possessed of one stiff leg. 1911 *Encycl. Brit.* XV. 488/2 A stiff joint may remain as the result of long continued inflammation. 1915 'F. ANSTEY' *Percy* 6, I'd a good deal sooner put up with a little stuffiness than a stiff neck!

transf. 1804 WORDSW. *Small Celandine* 19 Stiff in its members, withered, changed of hue.

b. Rigid in death. *Stiff and stark*: see STARK 4 b. *Stiff one, stiff 'un*, a corpse (*slang*).

a 1200 *Soul & Body* in Phillipps *Fragm. Ælfr. Gloss.* 5 He [*sc.* the dead man] biþ sone stif. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 7030 Astrangled he was riȝt þer, & deide atte borde al stif. *c* 1450 tr. *De Imitatione* I. XXIII. 32 He falling from hye brake his nek, he in etinge sodenly waxid stif. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 257 Those blessed armes..whiche were so sore stretched on the crosse, now all starke & styffe. 1603 R. JOHNSON *Kingd. & Commw.* 146 You shall see.. many travellers brought into the townes sitting deade and stiffe. 1831 *Ann. Reg., Law Cases* etc. (1832) 321/1 He wanted witness to fetch a stiff 'un, which witness believes meant a dead body. 1837 LADY WILLOUGHBY DE ERESBY in *C. K. Sharpe's Lett.* (1888) II. 498 He addrest him [his adversary in a duel]: 'Ah! you'll be a *stiff one* by to-morrow'. 1890 BESANT *Demoniac* I. 17 If he hadn't been such an uncommon big man he would be a dead un, too—stiff un and dead!

c. In figurative context.

1535 COVERDALE *Ps.* LXXIV. 5 Speake not with a stiff necke. 1593 SHAKS. 2 *Hen. VI*, III. i. 16 He..passeth by with stiffe vnbowed Knee Disdaining dutie that to vs belongs.

d. Of machinery, etc.: Working with excessive friction; apt to stick, hard to move.

1848 MRS. GASKELL *Mary Barton* V, The plugs were stiff, and water could not be got.

3. Rigid as the result of tension; taut. Now *rare* or *Obs.*

c 1386 CHAUCER *Somp. T.* 559 Thanne shal this cherl with bely stif and toght As any Tabour, been hyder ybroght. *c* 1611 CHAPMAN *Iliad* VIII. 260 Another arrow forth from his stiffe string he sent. 1649 MILTON *Eikon.* XXVII. 216 We shall not have it unless his arbitrary voice will so farr slack'n the stiff curb of his Prerogative, as to grant it us. 1696 PHILLIPS (ed. 5) s.v. *Set*, To set taught the shrouds, in the Navigators Dialect, is to make them stiffer when they are too slack.

4. Of a semi-liquid substance: Thick or viscous, so as to flow with difficulty or to be capable of retaining a definite shape.

c 1430 *Two Cookery-bks.* I. 15 & let þe Sirippe be rennyng, & not to styf. *c* 1450 *Ibid.* II. 71 Grynde hem thorgh a Streynour into stuffe mylke. 1594 *Gd. Huswifes Handmaid Kitchin* 40 b, Set the pan in some colde place that it [the liquor] may be stiffe: and when it is stiffe, take a sharp knife and cut away the vppermost of the gellie. 168. MOXON *Mech. Exerc.* (1703) 262 In Summer time use your Morter as soft as you can, but in the Winter time pretty stiff or hard. *c* 1770 MRS. GLASSE *Compl. Confectioner* 118 Then work it up into a stiff paste. 1827 FARADAY *Chem. Manip.* XIX. (1842) 503 If the hot part be on the convex side, it yields..much more than the stiffer glass on the cooler part. 1892 *Photogr. Ann.* II. 271 Stiff paste such as used by bookbinders.

5. Of soil: Heavy, dense; not porous or friable; difficult to work.

1523–34 FITZHERB. *Husb.* § 10 Bigge and styffe grounde, as cley. 1618 W. LAWSON *Orch. & Gard.* (1623) 4 A stiffe clay will not receiue the water. 1763 *Museum Rust.* I. 194 On some stiff spewy land I have, I sow my peas in ridges. 1866 ROGERS *Agric. & Prices* I. ii. 19 Stiff lands, on which water was apt to lie, were ridged. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk., Stiff Bottom*, a clayey bottom.

6. Tight, closely packed. Now *hyperbolically* in colloquial use: Densely crowded (*with*).

1683 (see JUSTIFY *v.* 9). 1907 *Motor Boat* 19 Sept. 182/1 There seemed as many, if not more, yachts than ever, and the water was 'stiff' with masts and rigging. 1915 *Daily News* 16 Aug. 4, I shall never forget one of his picturesque phrases about the difficulty of entering a harbour 'stiff with craft' on a dark night. 1916 *Blackw. Mag.* Feb. 284/2 The salient is stiff with guns.

7. Of a ship: Offering a high resistance to deflection from the vertical or normal floating position; stable, not crank.

A ship is more or less stiff according as the height of the metacentre above the centre of gravity is greater or less.

1627 CAPT. SMITH *Sea Gram.* xii. 56 So stiffe, she should beare a stiffe saile and beare out her lower tier in any reasonable weather. 1708 MOTTEUX *Rabelais* IV. lxiii, Our ..Vessels might not..be walt, but well trimmed, and stiff. 1837 HT. MARTINEAU *Soc. Amer.* II. 10 She [the ship] was a lovely creature, and as stiff as a church. 1889 WELCH *Text Bk. Naval Archit.* i. 21 In order that the ship may be *stiff*—i. e. difficult to incline by external forces such as wind pressure on sails.

8. *fig.* Inflexible of purpose, steadfast, resolute, firm, constant.

c 1205 LAY. 2110 Stif he wes on þonke. *c* 1300 *Beket* (Percy Soc.) 944 Somme of the Kinges conseillers to him ofte wende, And seide, bote he hulde him stif, al his lond he schende. 1548 HALL *Chron., Edw. IV* (1550) 24 b, All the tounes round about were permanent and stiffe on the parte of kyng Henry, and could not be remoued. 1602 MARSTON *Antonio's Rev.* IV. v, We must be stiffe and steddie in resolve. 1719 *Col. Rec. Pennsylv.* III. 72 He was Mr. Penns stiff Friend. 1847 C. BRONTE *Jane Eyre* XXXVII, He asked me more than once [to marry him], and was as stiff about urging his point as ever you could be. 1884 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 4 Jan. 1/1 We shall have to be a great deal stiffer about the Soudan.

b. In an unfavourable sense: Obstinate, stubborn; not amenable to reason. Now *rare*.

1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 304 Whan they shall be obstynate in malyce, & styffe as a drye stycke. 1530 PALSGR. 325/2 Styffe as ones herte is, *dur.* 1563 *Homilies* II. xviii. 255 These thynges must be considered of the man, that he be not to styffe, so that he ought to wynke at some thynges, and must gentilly expounde all thynges, and to forbeare. 1602 BP. W. BARLOW *Serm. Paules Crosse* 49 Two of thy principall, stiffe and open Papists. *a* 1677 BARROW *Wks.* (1686) III. Serm. XXXIV. 378 To be termed..a clownish singularist,..a stiff opiniatre [are opprobrious names]. 1681 DRYDEN *Abs. & Achit.* I. 547 Stiff in Opinions, always in the wrong. *a* 1715 BURNET *Own Time* III. (1724) I. 345 You know my brother long ago, that he is as stiff as a mule. 1725 T. THOMAS in *Portland MSS.* (Hist. MSS. Comm.) VI. 122 A civil well-behaved man though a stiff Presbyterian. 1838 HALIBURTON *Clockm.* Ser. II. vii. 104 Considerable stiff folks, in their way them quakers—you can't no more move 'em than a church steeple.

† **c.** *To stand stiff*: to stand firm; esp. *fig.* to be steadfast or obstinate. *Obs.*

a 1290 *S. Eustace* 24 in Horstm. *Altengl. Leg.* (1881) 212 He stod stiuest of alle. 1362 LANGL. *P. Pl. A.* IX. 28 For stonde he neuere so stif he stumbleþ in þe waggyng. 1535 COVERDALE *Prov.* XXVIII. 1 The vngodly flyeth no man chasynge him, but the rightuous stondeth stiff as a lyon. 1556 T. HOBY tr. *Castiglione's Courtyer* I. (1561) C 2, Neither will I stand stiffe that mine is better then yours. *a* 1632 DONNE *Poems* (1650) 28 Small townes which stand stiffe, till great shot Enforce them. 1655 JER. TAYLOR *Guide Devot.* (1719) 50 It is a Shame to stand stiff in a foolish or weak Argument or Resolution.

d. Of a battle, debate, etc.: Stubbornly contested, hard.

c 1250 *Owl & Night.* 5 þat plait was stif and starc and strong. *a* 1400–50 *Wars Alex.* 2050 So sture & styff was þe stoure. 1639 *Conceits, Clinches* etc. (1860) 29 One was holding a stiffe argument with a grocer concerning matters of trade. *a* 1661 FULLER *Worthies, Surrey* (1662) 77 There is a stiff contest betwixt the Dutch and Italians which should exceed in this Mystery. 1812 WELLINGTON in Gurw. *Desp.* (1837) VIII. 666 Marmont's troops are all ready for a start but I hope to be strong enough for a stiff affair with him and Soult. 1823 'JON BEE' *Dict. Turf* 166 In the ring, 'tis called 'a stiff fight' when the men stand up well to each other, giving and taking. 1868 G. DUFF *Pol. Surv.* 132 He has been elected after a very stiff contest. 1916 J. BUCHAN *Hist. War* IX. LXX. 161 To withdraw through that area meant a stiff holding battle around Brest.

9. Formal, constrained, lacking ease or grace.

a. Of bearing, manners, etc.: Unbending (expressing pride, coldness, displeasure, awkwardness, and the like); not easy or gracious; haughty.

1608 MIDDLETON *Mad World* I. A 3, He..thinkes himselfe neuer happier then when some stiffe L. or great Countesse alights, to make light his dishes. 1613 WOTTON *Reliq.* (1672) 409 It is conceived that the King hath a good while been much distasted with the said Gentleman..for too stiff a carriage of his fortune. 1754 CHATHAM *Lett. to Nephew* V. 36 Ceremonious, formal compliments, stiff civilities, will never be politeness. 1820 SCOTT *Monast.* XXIX, The knight ..thanked him with the stiff condescension of the court of Elizabeth. 1831 *Society* I. 196 Lord Glamorgan was stiff and cold in his manner to strangers. 1859 JEPHSON *Brittany* V. 57 The stiff respectabilities..of an English country neighbourhood.

b. Of style, diction, etc.: Lacking ease and grace; laboured, formal, pedantic.

1664 DRYDEN *Riv. Ladies* Prol. 20 Though his Plot's dull as can be well desir'd, Wit stiff as any you have e'r admir'd. 1710 FELTON *Diss. Classics* (1718) 114 Too scrupulous an Observation of Rules spoileth all sorts of Writings: It maketh them Stiff and Formal. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* VII. II. 247 He had enjoyed high fame as an orator, though his diction..was, towards the close of his life, pronounced stiff and pedantic. 1898 GOSSE *Short Hist. Mod. Eng. Lit.* VII. 238 A mass of stiff blank verse.

c. Of artistic form or arrangement: Excessively regular; lacking grace of line.

1779 *Mirror* No. 62. 203 In his grounds you find stiff, rectangular walks. 1813 SARAH LADY LYTTELTON *Corr.* (1912) 160, I cannot accustom myself at all to the foreign stiff way of furnishing the rooms. 1870 F. R. WILSON *Ch. Lindisf.* 23 It was..replaced by a similar stiff structure. 1912 J. L. MYRES *Dawn of Hist.* VIII. 175 A limited stock of stiff geometrical designs.

d. Of handwriting: Lacking ease and freedom; not flowing. Cf. sense 2.

1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* XLVIII, The manuscript was a fair Italian hand, though something stiff and constrained. 1885 'MRS. ALEXANDER' *At Bay* VIII, Several letters were brought to him, one, directed in a stiff, careful, unknown hand.

10. Of price, charges, rates, etc.: Unyielding, firm; having an upward tendency. Hence of a commodity or the dealers in it. Cf. 19.

1883 *Manch. Exam.* 14 Dec. 4/1 For three month's bills the terms were firm at 2⅜ per cent, but for January paper the rate was stiffer. 1886 *Cheshire Gloss.* s.v., A butcher will tell you 'You're very stiff this morning' if you will not come down at all in the price of a beast. 1888 *Daily News* 5 Nov. 7/2 Buyers..find sellers stiff. 1893 *Ibid.* 14 July 3/7 The latest reports from London show that merinos are a little stiffer.

11. Colloquial phrases. *Stiff as a poker*; *stiff in the back*, firm, resolute; *to keep* (*carry, have*) *a stiff upper lip*, to be firm, unyielding.

1800 MRS. HERVEY *Mourtray Fam.* II. 251 Lady Elizabeth, as stiff as a poker, sat with her mouth pursed up, vexed to death. 1837 HALIBURTON *Clockm.* Ser. I. x. 77 Its a proper pity sich a clever woman should carry such a stiff upper lip. 1852 MRS. STOWE *Uncle Tom's C.* x, 'Well, good-by, Uncle Tom; keep a stiff upper lip,' said George. 1887 *Spectator* 17 Sept. 1241 The Financial Secretary, who, it is supposed, will have a stiff upper lip and tightly buttoned pockets. 1894 DU MAURIER *Trilby* V. 275 Each walked off ..stiff as pokers. 1897 'A. HOPE' *Phroso* IV. (1905) 75 'Are you going to let him off?' demanded Denny, suspiciously. 'You never can be stiff in the back, Charley.'

II. Strong.

12. Of living creatures: Stout, stalwart, sturdy (cf. sense 8); esp. in alliterative phrases as † *stiff in stour*, † *stiff on steed. Obs.* exc. *dial.* (see *Eng. Dial. Dict.*)

1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 7732 So stif mon he was in armes, in ssoldren, & in leade, þat vnneþe enimon miȝte is bowe bende. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 2203 Nembrot..O babilon king stijf in stur. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 255 þe styfest, þe stalworþest þat stod euer on fete. ?*a* 1366 CHAUCER *Rom. Rose* 1270 The knyght was faire and styf in stour. *a* 1400 *Sir Perc.* 19 He was doughty of dede, A styffe body one a stede. *c* 1435 *Torr. Portugal* 1494 It were two dragons stiff and strong. 1544 BETHAM *Precepts War* I. XXXIII. Civ, Kepe thyne armye in rough and mountayne places, to make theyr bodies styffe and stronge. *a* 1677 BARROW *Wks.* (1686) III. Serm. XVI. 188 But in stout proficients the heart becometh hard and stony, the neck stiff and brawny.

† **b.** Of a drinker: 'Hard'. *Obs.*

1617 MORYSON *Itin.* III. 27 The Sweitzers are for the most part Souldiers, and stiffe drinkers. 1632 *Lyly's Mother Bombie* II. i. *Song*, We already are stiffe Drinkers. [1635 HEYWOOD *Philocoth.* 44 To title a drunkard by, wee..strive to character him in a more mincing and modest phrase, as

thus: He is a good fellow Or, A boone companion,..A stiffe Blade.]

†13. Of things inanimate: Strong; stoutly built; massive. *Obs.*

c 1400 *Destr. Troy* 1527 The styfe towne to Restore.. [Priam] Gate masons full mony. *c* 1400 *Laud Troy Bk.* 2899 Ther stode a Castel a litel ther-by, Gret, and stiff, and ful strong. *c* 1440 *York Myst.* XXIX. 268 Our stiffe tempill, þat made is of stone.

†b. Of a weapon: Hard, stout, formidable. *Obs.*

c 1250 *Owl & Night.* 78 Þi bile is stif & sarp & hoked. 13.. *K. Alis.* 2740 (Laud MS.), He groep on honde a styff spere. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* IX. 1649 With a styff suerd to dede he has him dycht. 1607 SHAKS. *Cor.* I. i. 167 Make you ready your stiffe bats and clubs.

14. Of natural agencies:

a. Strong, violent (of wind); also applied to a steady wind of moderate force.

c 1290 *Brendan* 464 in *S. Eng. Leg.* 232 Þe wynd was boþe strong and stif. 1340–70 *Alex. & Dind.* 487 Stiue stormus of þe wind stiren vp þe wawus. *c* 1425 *Noah's Ark* in *Non-Cycle Myst. Plays* 19 All mankind dead shall be With storms both stiff and steer. *c* 1565 JENKINSON in Hakluyt *Voy.* (1599) I. 345 The winde being contrary, and a stiffe gale. 1613 SHAKS. *Hen. VIII*, IV. i. 72 Such a noyse arose, As the shrowdes make at Sea, in a stiffe Tempest. 1665 G. HAVERS *P. della Valle's Trav. E. India* 2 We again spread our sails freely to the wind, which was pretty stiff. 1725 POPE *Odyss*, IV. 483 When the stiffer gales Rise on the poop, and fully stretch the sails. 1846 A. YOUNG *Naut. Dict.* 130 A fresh breeze, implies a wind in which a vessel may safely carry all her canvass; a stiff breeze, implies one somewhat stronger than this, but not so violent as a gale.

in fig. context. 1399 LANGL. *Rich. Redeles* III. 104 Many a styff storme with-stode ffor þe comunes. 1663 PATRICK *Parab. Pilgr.* I. 4 The gale proves so stiff, that our hearts are swelled therewith.

†b. Of a river: Flowing strongly. *Obs.*

13.. *K. Alis.* 3482 (Laud MS.) Þe water was wel styf & colde. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* C. 234 Styffe stremes & strezt hem strayned a whyle. ?*a* 1366 CHAUCER *Rom. Rose* 125 From an hill..Cam doun the streme ful stif and bold. *a* 1400–50 *Wars Alex.* 2589 Þai saze þe streme so stife, it stonaid þam all.

†c. Of news: Formidable, grave. *Obs.*

1606 SHAKS. *Ant. & Cl.* I. ii. 104 Labienus (this is stiffe-newes), Hath with his Parthian Force Extended Asia.

†15. Of voice, sound: Powerful, loud. *Obs.*

1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. XV. 584 [Christ] With styf voys hym called, *Lazare, veni foras.* *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Prol.* 673 This Somonour bar to hym a stif burdoun Was neuere trompe of half so greet a soun. *a* 1400–50 *Wars Alex.* 611 His steuyn stiffe was & steryn þat stonayd many.

16. In modern use, of liquors: Strong, potent. Now only of spirits-and-water.

1813 *Sporting Mag.* XLII. 131 Mr. Jenkins..to the last 'belted' his three bottles of stiff port after dinner. 1842 TENNYSON *Will Waterpr.* 78 But tho' the port surpasses praise, My nerves have dealt with stiffer. 1883 STEVENSON *Treas. Isl.* xix, Each had a good stiff glass of brandy grog.

III. Hard, difficult.

17. Of an ascent or descent: Steep so as to be difficult. In *Hunting*: Difficult (said of an obstacle or a tract of country presenting many obstacles).

1704 *Churchill's Collect. Voy. & Trav.* III. 81/1, I have seen them run up the stiffest and streightest Hills. 1715 *Leoni's Palladio's Archit.* (1721) I. 54 The Roof would be too stiff [Ital. *troppo ratta*]. 1817 *Sporting Mag.* L. 38 The ground gone over was through a stiff country. 1853 R. S. SURTEES *Sponge's Sp. Tour* xxiii. 124 His lordship charged a stiff flight of rails in the brick-fields. 1883 C. HOWARD *Roads Eng. & Wales* (ed. 3) 139 Easy going to Braunston,..into which there is a long stiff descent. 1897 MARY KINGSLEY *W. Africa* 571/1 Owing to the world being on a stiff slant hereabouts, it takes time to make it stand straight. 1903 M. A. STEIN *Sand-Buried Ruins of Khotan* xiv. (1904) 224 The next day's climb proved a stiff one.

18. That requires considerable effort; severe; laborious, toilsome.

1862 CARLYLE *Fredk. Gt.* XIII. ii. III. 414 They are dreadfully stiff reading, those Despatches of Hyndford. 1865 DICKENS *Mut. Fr.* IV. i, Your working days must be stiff 'uns if these is your holidays. 1886 STUBBS *Lect. Med. & Mod. Hist.* ii. 31 More modest men..passed a stiff examination in the History School. 1890 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Col. Reformer* xix, He encouraged him to digest a certain daily quantity of 'stiff' or improving literature. 1898 *Daily News* 22 July, What do you call a stiff pace on a level road?

19. Of a price, charge, demand, etc.: Unusually high, excessive. Cf. sense 10.

1824 DIBDIN *Libr. Companion* (1825) 730 *note*, The Denham of 1709 brought the stiff sum of 1*l.* 1*s.*..but the Donne ..produced..the far stiffer price of 4*l.* 4*s.* 1886 STEVENSON *Dr. Jekyll* i, The figure was stiff; but the signature was good for more than that, if it was only genuine. 1903 A. C. P. HAGGARD *Sport. Yarns* 225 He naturally thought 3*s.* an hour pretty stiff boat hire.

IV. 20. *Comb.* and special collocations.

a. Special collocations with sbs.: **stiff-bit, stiff field** (see quots.); **stiff sea-adder**, a provincial name of the fish *Nerophis ophidion*.

1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech., Stiff-bit*, a bit without a joint, like a snaffle; or branches, like a curb-bit. 1883 DAY *Fishes Gt. Brit.* II. 263 Stiff sea-adder. 1910 *N. Hawkins' Electr. Dict., Stiff Field*, a term sometimes applied to an intense electromagnetic field.

b. Collocations forming phrases used *attrib.*, as *stiff-arm, -clay, -land, -mud, -plate.*

1778 [W. MARSHALL] *Minutes Agric., Observ.* 24, I will not manure a stiff-land Meadow in winter. 1884 C. T. DAVIS *Bricks, Tiles* etc. (1889) 184 Stiff-clay bricks, or stiff-mud bricks as they are generally termed. 1899 *Westm. Gaz.* 7 Mar. 11/1 The boiler in English locomotives is invariably carried on a stiff-plate frame. 1909 *Ibid.* 25 Aug. 4/2 It..is a sort of stiff-arm punch which returns the ball very close to the net.

c. Combinations with sbs.: †**stiffgut**, a glutton; **stiff-leaf** *Arch.*, the term applied to the foliage of conventional form, with stiff leaf-stems, characteristic as a decoration in the Early English style; †**stiffrump** *slang*, an obstinate or haughty person; **stiff-stalk** (see quot.); †**stiff-stander**, one who makes an obstinate stand (*for*).

1630 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Gt. Eater of Kent* Ded. 2 Though you are the absolutest man of mouth and the most renowned *stifgut in this westerne angle of the world, yet we haue as great or greater eaters then your selfe. 1851 T. H. TURNER *Dom. Archit.* I. ii. 39 The shafts in the jambs have round capitals with foliage approaching to what is technically called *stiff-leaf. 1709 STEELE & ADDISON *Tatler* No. 110 ¶ 4 Ha! Is that thy Wisdom, old *Stiffrump, ha? 1884 W. MILLER *Plant-n.* 130 Mexican *Stiff-stalk, *Rigidella flammea*. 1642 H. MORE *Song of Soul* II. III. iii. 5 O You *stiff-standers for ag'd Ptolemee.

d. Parasynthetic adjs., as *stiff-backed, -bodied, -boned,* †*-hearted, -kneed, -leathered, -leaved, -lipped,* †*-minded,* †*-witted*, etc.; †**stiff-docked**, strong in the hind quarters; †**stiff-rumped** *fig.*, unbending, obstinate, proud; †**stiff-stomached**, hard-hearted; †**stiff streamed**, having a strong current.

1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* XX, The *stiff-backed prig, with his dandified airs and West End swagger. 1697 J. LEWIS *Mem. Dk. Glocester* (1789) 11 His *stiff-bodied coats were very troublesome to him in his military amusements. 1727 MRS. DELANY *Life & Corr.* (1861) I. 138 They were draped in stiff-bodied gowns of silver tissue. 1896 MRS. CAFFYN *Quaker Grandmother* 198 We're not *stiff-boned, stubborn things like men folk. 1898 MRS. WOODS in *19th Cent.* XLIV. 1000 This *stiff-collared hypocrite of a young Briton. 1523–34 FITZHERB. *Husb.* § 74 The .iiii. properties of a lyon. The fyrste is, to haue a brode breste; the seconde, to be *styffe-docked. *Ibid.* § 76 The .ix. propertyes of an hare. The fyrste is *styffe-eared. 1552 ABP. HAMILTON *Catech.* (1884) 82 The sone quhilk was inobedient, *stifhartit and thrawart to his father and mother. 1560 BIBLE (Geneva) *Ezek.* ii. 4 Thei are impudent children, and stiffe hearted. 1804 W. BLAKE in A. G. B. Russell *Lett.* (1906) 156 My good woman..is still *stiff-kneed but well in other respects. 1576 NEWTON *Lemnie's Complex.* I. ix. 74 As hard and *styffe-leathered bootes yᵗ haue lyen long vnoccupyed. 1822 *Hortus Angl.* II. 396 Aster Rigidus. *Stiff-leaved Star Wort. 1896 *Tablet* 23 May 801 A little cowardice, or complacency to *stiff-lipped colleagues, and the old inequality will be perpetuated. 1552 HULOET, *Stiffe minded or of courage, *infractus animi*. 1910 *Spectator* 5 Nov. 740/2 They are too stiff-minded. 1835 WHEWELL *Archit. Notes* (1842) 291 *Stiff-pointed curled tufts of foliage. 1715 *Phil. Trans.* XXIX. 233 *Stif-rim'd Mary-gold. 1728 SOMERVILLE *Epist. to Ramsay* I. 91 Self-conceit, and *stiff-rumpt Pride. 1812 COLMAN *Br. Grins, Knt. & Friar* I. XXX, The stiff-rumped rascals [the friars] looked so sanctified. 1540 PALSGR. *Acolastus* V. ii. Y iij, He that is so *styffe stomaked, or so harde harted. 1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* IX. 380 The *stiffe stream'd Dolf. *c* 1875 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* IV. 195 The last group of the Wild-fowl contains the *Stiff-tailed Ducks, which are recognisable by their extremely rigid tail-feathers. 1616 T. SCOT *Philomythie* etc. K 8, Where the *stiffe-vdder'd Cow long'd twice a day, To meet the merry milke-maide on the way. 1599 SANDYS *Europæ Spec.* (1632) 75 Much like to a stout-hearted and *stiff-witted Captaine, who scornes to imitate any strategeme before used by the enemy.

B. *sb.*

†1. Some stiffened article of female attire. *Obs.*

1680 *Will of Frances Dobson* in *Bedfordsh. N. & Q.* (1889) II. 237, I give to my seruant..all my working day clothes of wollen or stuffe, and also 3 of my strongest stiffs and aprons.

2. *slang.* Paper; a document, esp. a promissory note or bill of exchange; a clandestine letter.

1823 EGAN *Grose's Dict. Vulgar T.* s.v., Giving a bill instead of money is denominated, in the mercantile world, taking 'the stiff'. 1855 THACKERAY *Newcomes* vi, I wish you'd do me a bit of stiff. 1889 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 14 Feb. 4/3 The 'stiff,' as a note is called in convict parlance. 1892 M. WILLIAMS *Round London* (1893) 62 A hawker's licence, which is known among the [London] brotherhood as a 'stiff'. 1904 A. GRIFFITHS *50 Yrs. Publ. Servo.* 152 Other 'stiffs'—the prison term for anonymous or clandestine letters—were scattered about.

Comb. 1823 'JON BEE' *Dict. Turf* 166 *Stiff-dealer*, a dealer in stiff, a pseudo-merchant, or trader in moonshine paper.

3. *slang.* A corpse (= *stiff 'un*, A. 2 b).

1859 BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.* (ed. 2) 450. 1871 HAY *Myst. Gilgal* 41 They piled the stiffs outside the door. 1915 *Morn. Post* 7 Aug. 5/4 'This cigarette is all right', I said. 'Where do they come from?' 'Off that German stiff', he answered.

4. *slang.* A penniless man; a wastrel.

1899 *Daily Chron.* 10 Aug. 5/7 'Stiffs,' that is, men who work their passage by attending to cattle. 1909 *Daily Mail* 10 Aug. 4/5 England knows the tramp and the loafer,..but greater than these is the Johannesburg 'stiff'.

C. *adv.* or quasi-*adv.*

1. Stiffly, firmly, tightly, hard, etc. Phrase, *To give it to someone (pretty) stiff*: to speak severely to, to rate.

1422 YONGE tr. *Secreta Secret.* 174 The course of the ryuer So stronge and So styfe rane. *c* 1450 *Pol. Rel. & L. Poems* (1903) 133 Þe werlde, my flesch, þᵉ fende, felly þai me besale both strange & styfe. 1525 tr. *Brunswyke's Handywork Surg.* lxxiii. P iij b, Take hede that ye bynde hym not to styfe. 1680 MOXON *Mech. Exerc.* x. 182 This piece of wood is fitted stiff into a square Hole. 1712 J. JAMES *Gardening* 81 [This] makes the Joint go stiffer, or slacker, at Pleasure. 1880 J. PAYN *Confid. Agent* xliii, Giving it to her..pretty stiff.

2. In comb. with ppl. adjs. a. Rigidly, tightly, obstinately, etc. as †*stiff-holden, -rustling, -swathed.* b. So as to be stiff, in various senses, as *stiff-bent, -built, -dressed*, etc. c. †**stiff-borne**, obstinately pursued; †**stiff-girt**, *fig.* inflexible, obstinate; †**stiff-thrown**, thrown with great force.

1581 A. HALL *Iliad* III. 45 With bow *stifbent, and with quiuer, and many a shaft therein. 1647 H. MORE *Song of Soul* II. App. xxxviii, Sent out from bow stiff-bent with even string. 1624 QUARLES *Job Militant* iii, His *stiffe-bolting haire: (Not much vnlike the pennes of Porcupines). 1598 SHAKS. *2 Hen. IV*, I. i. 177 None of this..could restraine The *stiffe-borne Action. 1861 MAYHEW *Lond. Labour* III. 272 Some vessels are so *stiff-built, that they can discharge the whole of their cargo without taking in any ballast at all. 1886 *Daily News* 13 Oct. 2/6 *Stiff-dressed nets are still dull of sale. 1659 GAUDEN *Tears Ch.* II. XXX. 246 He, *stiffe-girt and inexorable, went with a short turn out of the Church. 1596 *Edw. III*, III. iii. 129 Like *stiffe growen oakes [they] will stand immouable, When whirle wind quickly turnes vp yonger trese. 1533 FRITH *Disp. Purgat.* II. K j b, An heresye is a *styffe holden opinion repugnaunte vnto scrypture. 1818 KEATS *Endym.* II. 9 Stiff-holden shields, far-piercing spears, keen blades. 1605 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. iii. 1. *Vocation* 538 A gagged Usher that doth never wear *Stif-rustling silks. 1828 MISS MITFORD *Village* III. 32 A woman..*stiff-starched and strait-laced. 1657 W. RAND tr. *Gassendi's Life Peiresc* II. 224 A great *stiff-stretched swelling arose upon the Region of his Bladder. 1666 DRYDEN *Ann. Mirab.* CXXI, The Dutch..Whose Navy like a stiff-stretch'd cord did show, Till he bore in, and bent them into flight. 1608 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. iv. IV. *Decay* 795 A *stiff-throw'n Bowl, which running down a Hill, Meets in the way some stub.

†**Stiff**, *v. Obs.* [f. STIFF *a.* (Cf. ME. STIVE *v.*, OE. *stīfian.*)]

1. *intr.* To grow strong.

1399 LANGL. *Rich. Redeles* III. 54 But as sone as þey [*sc.* young partridges] styffe and þat þey steppe kunne.

2. *trans.* To make stiff, stiffen.

1486 *Bk. St. Albans* a vij, If her goorge be wide and the bowell any thyng stiffid. 1582 STANYHURST *Æneis* IV. (Arb.) 118 But Dido affrighted, stift also in her obstinat onset,..Too the inner quadrant runneth. 1648 HEXHAM II, *Stijven, als, doecken Stijven*, to Stiffe or to Starch linnen. 1652 W. BROUGH *Sacr. Princ.* (ed. 2) 219 Covetousnesse..Lames the Hand to good Works. Stiffs the Knees to the Holy Sacrament.

Hence †**Stiffed** *ppl. a.*

1565 T. STAPLETON *Fortr. Faith* 112 b, O hard stiffed necke, o froward harte.

Stiffen (stĭ·fn), *v.* [f. STIFF *a.* + -EN⁵.] To make or become stiff or stiffer.

1. *trans.* To make stiff or rigid, e. g. by means of starch († also *absol.*), or by the addition of a lining or a support.

1622 in *Chron. Perth* etc. (Maitl. Club) 87 Margaret Melling apprehended for stiffning ruffs and overlays on a Sunday. 1624 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Praise Cl. Linen* Wks. (1630) II. 169/1 She wrings, she folds, she pleits, she smoothes, she starches, She stiffens, poakes, and sets and dryes againe. 1860 RUSKIN *Unto this Last* II. § 41 The sands of the Indus and adamant of Golconda may yet stiffen the housings of the charger. 1885 *Mag. of Art* Sept. 459/1 A circular plate of thin wrought bronze, stiffened round the edge by a beading. 1892 *Proc. Roy. Soc.* LII. 347 The strips have a great tendency to warp, and..may be stiffened by sheet brass let into a slot on the under side.

b. *Naut.* To increase the initial stability of a ship; to render less liable to heel. See STIFF *a.* 7.

1706 E. WARD *Wooden World Diss.* (1708) 22 Those strong unexpected Turnadoes..most certainly overset him, if he be not ready stiffen'd with Peru Ballast. 1861 MAYHEW *Lond. Labour* III. 272 Sixty tons of cargo will stiffen the most cranky vessel.

2. To render stiff in consistency; to thicken, coagulate.

1627 MAY *Lucan* III. E 6 b, Dy'd is the Ocean, And the waues stiffen'd with congealed blood. 1726 LEONI *Alberti's Archit.* I. 58*a*, Allow one part of Mortar to three of Rubbish ..; and when it is laid, the way to stiffen it, is to pound it heartily with the Rammer. *a* 1774 GOLDSM. *Surv. Exp. Philos.* (1776) I. 348 The polar oceans being almost continually stiffened into ice. 1869 TOZER *Highl. Turkey* II. 252 The plastic condition of the language..not as yet stiffened by conventional rules.

b. *intr.* To become stiff in consistency; to harden. Also *fig.* with constr. *into*: To assume a more definite or permanent form or character.

1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Past.* VI. 53 The tender Soil then stiffning by degrees, Shut from the bounded Earth, the bounding Seas. 1811 A. T. THOMSON *Lond. Disp.* (1818) 732 Stir until the mixture stiffens in cooling. 1856 FROUDE *Hist. Eng.* II. 35 These things which in their proper nature are but illustrations, stiffen into essential fact. 1876 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* V. xxiv. 410 The 'landsitting men' of Salisbury easily stiffened into the tenants-in-chief of the Great Charter. 1883 *Fortn. Rev.* Feb. 242 But gradually the favour will stiffen into a right.

3. *trans.* To make more steadfast, unyielding, or obstinate; *Mil.* to increase the fighting value of a force by the admixture of soldiers of better quality.

?*a* 1500 *Chester Pl., Emiss. Holy Ghost* (Shaks. Soc.) II. 130 Nowe will I sende..My ghoste to glade them graciously, ..That the[y] maie stiffned be theirby. 1632 SANDERSON *Serm.* (1681) 26 He thus stiffneth mine enemies still against me. *a* 1677 BARROW *Wks.* (1686) III. Serm. xvi. 189 So doth the man become incorrigible, who is settled and stiffened in vice. 1716 M. DAVIES *Athen. Brit.* I. 221 His Confessor and Emissary, to plod about, for to stiffen others in the old Romish Superstitions. 1883 *Broad Arrow* XXXI. 609 Foreign levies have been 'stiffened' before now by volunteers from other countries. 1898 *Daily News* 22 Feb. 5/2 The Home Secretary wants stiffening, and the House of Commons ought to stiffen him.

b. *intr.* To become hard or unyielding in temper.

1732 NEAL *Hist. Purit.* I. Pref. p. vi, The Bishops stiffened in their behaviour,..and became too severe against their Dissenting brethren. 1914 *Daily News* 12 Jan. 8 Military opinion has..stiffened in the last three weeks.

4. *trans.* To make rigid; to take away the natural suppleness or mobility of (the limbs, joints, muscles, etc.). Also *fig.*; *slang* to make a corpse of, kill; *Horse-racing*, to prevent a horse from doing its best to win.

1599 SHAKS. *Hen. V*, III. i. 7 Stiffen the sinewes, commune [*sic*] vp the blood. *c* 1611 CHAPMAN *Iliad* IV. 172 The haire stood vp on end On Agamemnon,..And stifned with the like dismay, was Menelaus to. 1750 JOHNSON *Rambler* No. 177 ₱ 3, I began to find my mind contracted and stiffened by solitude. 1798 COLERIDGE *Recant.* 46 His legs were stiffen'd with dismay. 1883 *Manch. Exam.* 30 Nov. 5/3 Considerations so powerful as these tend to stiffen the backs of the Chinese. 1888 *Daily News* 23 Nov. 7/2 Mr. Burgess threatened to blow my brains out and to 'stiffen' me. 1900 *Westm. Gaz.* 19 Dec. 12/1 Many popular country racecourses have been given up almost entirely to card-sharpers, because the public know that the horses are stiffened.

b. *intr.* Of persons: To become stiff or rigid; also, to die. Also *fig.*

1714 YOUNG *Force Relig.* II. 130 Fix'd in benumbing care, They stiffen into statues of despair. 1820 J. H. REYNOLDS *Fancy* (1906) 24, I wish'd you'd *stiffen*—that I might enclose Your royal limbs, and measure to the toes. 1859 DICKENS *Christm. Stor., Haunted Ho.* i, She [a cataleptic] would stiffen,..on the most irrelevant occasions. 1912 J. L. MYRES *Dawn of Hist.* x. 221 An indigenous culture which had passed its prime and was already stiffening.

5. *trans.* To make (a person) formal, cold, or constrained in manner; to make (an artistic composition) pedantic, laboured, or overloaded.

1763 SHENSTONE *Let. to S. Davenport* Wks. 1777 III. 347 True taste will never stiffen or over-charge any performance: it will rather be employed to smoothe, simplify, and give that ease on which grace depends. 1781 COWPER *Table-T.* 125, I pity Kings..Whom Education stiffens into state. 1863 GLADSTONE in Morley *Life* v. vi. (1903) II. 103 The people are, one and all, very easy to get on with, and Windsor, I suppose, stiffens them a little.

b. *intr.* To become formal, cold, or constrained.

1864 TENNYSON *Aylmer's F.* 273 Sir Aylmer Aylmer slowly stiffening spoke.

6. a. *intr.* Of prices, rates of interest, the market, etc.: To become stiffer (see STIFF *a.* 10 and 19).

b. *trans.* To render (prices, etc.) stiffer.

1858 *Poultry Chron.* III. 407 Barley stiffens in value. 1883 *Daily News* 1 Sept. 2/4 The efflux of gold..which would stiffen the short loan market. 1883 *Manch. Exam.* 8 Dec. 4/1 There was a good demand both for discounts and advances and the rates stiffened up very sensibly. 1898 *Daily News* 20 June 9/5 Prices both of coal and iron have been stiffened.

7. *intr.* Of wind: To increase in strength or violence.

1844 HOOD *Captain's Cow* 111 A breeze again began to rise, That stiffen'd to a gale.

8. Of an ascent: To become more steep or difficult.

1877 *Fraser's Mag.* XVI. 152 The ascent stiffened.

Hence **Sti·ffened** *ppl. a.*

1602 MARSTON *Antonio's Rev.* I. iii, The juice of life Creepes slowly through my stifned arteries. 1896 SARA J. DUNCAN *His Honor & a Lady* iii. 41 To lave his stiffened powers of artistic enjoyment in the beauties of the Parthenon.

† Stiffen-bodied, *a. Obs.* [prob. for **stiffened-bodied*, 'having a stiffened body'; see STIFFENED *ppl. a.*] Having the body (see BODY *sb.* 6) stiffened with whalebone, etc. (said of a garment).

1706 [E. WARD] *Hudibras Rediv.* (Naress.v. *Steeple-crown*), The good old dames..Were all most primitively drest In stiffen-body'd russet gowns. 1748 LADY LUXBOROUGH *Lett. to Shenstone* (1775) 12 The stiffen-bodied gown would not add charms..to a beautiful woman.

Stiffener (sti·fnəɹ). [f. STIFFEN *v.* + -ER 1.]

1. A workman who stiffens (cloth, hats, etc.).

1696 *MSS. Ho. Lords* (N. S.) II. 245 Petition of the Glazers and Buckram Stiffeners. 1892 *Labour Commission* Gloss., *Stiffener*, the person who, after the hat has been sewn, applies to it a stiffening of gelatine to make it firm and to allow it to be properly fitted to the required shape. 1915 *Morn. Post* 20 Dec. 9/4 Manglers and stiffeners, beetlers, driers and stovers.

2. Something serving to stiffen.

1842 *Civil Engin. & Arch. Jrnl.* V. 363/2 The truss acting only in this capacity of a stiffener to the rib. 1847 BRANDON *Anal. Goth. Archit.* 101 That [metalwork] which is spread over the doors of the Chapter House at York, is merely used as a stiffener. 1859 R. F. BURTON *Centr. Afr.* in *Jrnl. Geog. Soc.* XXIX. 133 A stout lath is fastened as a stiffener to the shield lengthwise. 1871 EARLE *Philol. Eng. Tongue* 557 Metre acts as a sort of stiffener to the rhythm. 1883 *Glasg. Weekly Herald* 8 Sept. 3/3 As a stiffener of fabrics algin is better than starch. 1889 WELCH *Text Bk. Naval Archit.* x. 118 The smaller bulkheads..have vertical angle-bar stiffeners 2 feet apart.

b. A band of stiff material worn round the neck to keep a neck-cloth in place. *Obs.*

1818 *Blackw. Mag.* III. 404 No patent stiffeners,—no erect shirt collars. 1866 GEO. ELIOT *F. Holt* xvi, Other anomalies now obsolete, besides short-waisted coats and broad stiffeners. 1876 *Remin. Old Draper* 157 Stiffeners were sold of various degrees of height, to suit either a long-necked or a short-necked man.

Stiffening (sti·f'niŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. STIFFEN *v.* + -ING 1.]

1. The action of the verb; the process of making or becoming stiff; *concr.* a stiffened substance.

1614 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Nipping Abuses* B 3 b, I cannot Item it [a tailor's bill)..For cutting, edging, stiffning and for lacing. 1653 JER. TAYLOR *Serm.* I. iv. 44 Like the joynts of a bulrush, not bendings, but consolidations and stiffenings. 1799 *Repert. Arts & Manuf.* X. 284 The fourth and last operation of hat-making; namely, stiffening. 1883 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 26 Oct. 12/1 The stiffening of the Egyptian army with a body of English volunteers. 1909 D. FULTON tr. *P. Comheim's Dis. Digest. Canal* 8 It is especially important to recognize abnormally increased peristalsis, the so-called 'stiffenings' of the stomach, small intestine or colon.

2. Something that serves to stiffen.

1680 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Praise Hemp-seed* (1623) 28 Being edgd with Items, stiffnings, facings, With Bumbast, Cottens, linings, and with lacings. 1758 BORLASE *Nat. Hist. Cornw.* 79 The solids were preadapted by the divine power to form the foundation, or the stiffnings (if I may so say) of the globe. 1857 MILLER *Elem. Chem., Org.* 505 Lac is extensively used as a stiffening for hats.

b. An admixture of soldiers of better quality.

1900 *Daily Mail* 3 May 6/6 The column..consisted chiefly of Yeomanry, with a stiffening of Cape Police. 1915 J. BUCHAN *Hist. War* VII. lix. 151 Only the German stiffening kept them [the Austrians] to their work.

3. *attrib.*, as *stiffening-brush, -girder, -rib*; **stiffening-order** (see quot.).

1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 386/1 A Felt makers *Stiffning Brush. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.*, **Stiffening-girder*, a truss girder which distributes the weight of the platform and load upon the suspension-chain and prevents undulation. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade*, **Stiffening-order*, a permission granted by the Customs' to take on board heavy goods, by way of ballast, to steady the ship. 1869 RANKINE *Machine & Hand-tools* App. 26 The distance between the *stiffening ribs measured on a slope of 45°.

Stiffening (sti·f'niŋ), *ppl. a.* [f. STIFFEN *v.* + -ING 2.] That stiffens: **a.** That becomes stiff or stiffer; **b.** That makes stiff or stiffer.

1704 ROWE *Ulysses* IV. i. 1722 It freezes every stiff'ning limb to Marble. 1843 LYTTON *Last of Barons* I. iv, The place where he had lain was damp and red with stiffening blood. 1863 GLADSTONE in Morley *Life* v. vi. (1903) II. 97 Walked 24½ miles. Found it rather too much for my stiffening limbs. 1898 *Educ. Rev.* XV. 456 The efforts..have usually resulted in a stiffening formalization.

† Sti·ffing, *vbl. sb. Obs.* FORMS: 6–7 **stiffin**(e, 7 **steiffing**, 7 **stiffing**. [f. STIFF *v.* + -ING 1.] That which makes stiff: **a.** *Sc.* Starch. **b.** Material such as whalebone or canvas used to stiffen a garment.

1597 in *Halyburton's Ledger* (1867) Pref. p. cxiv, Stiffine callit Amedone [*printed* Amedoue]. 1611 in Heath *Grocers' Comp.* (1869) 93 None should wear..any body or sleeves of wire, whalebone, or with any other stiffing, saving canvass or buckram only. 1613 *Extracts Rec. Convent. Burghs Scot.* (1870) II. 395 Item, for lossing and careing ilk trie steiffing frome the skoute flote to the schip or hous iiij gritt. 1636 in *Aberd. Jrnl. Notes & Q.* (1910) III. 28/2 Nine puncheons ten tries of white stiffin.

Stiffish (sti·fiʃ), *a.* [-ISH 1.] Rather stiff.

1733 W. ELLIS *Chiltern & Vale Farm.* 266 A stiffish, loamy, moist Soil. 1769 MRS. RAFFALD *Engl. Housekpr.* (1778) 245 Dip a lump of..sugar in water, boil it stiffish. 1840 HOOD *Open Question* 41 Some stiffish people think that smoking joints Are carnal sins 'twixt Saturday and Monday. 1890 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Col. Reformer* xxix, I'd given him [a horse] some stiffish days after the farthest out cattle. 1911 MARETT *Anthrop.* ii. 41 *It* is not far, though a stiffish pull, to Ash. 1915 LD. REDESDALE *Memories* I. 111, I quite admit that there ought to be a stiffish examination of the nominees.

† Sti·ffler. *Obs.* [Alteration of *stiztler* STIGHTLER, by substitution of (f) for (χ[y]).] = STICKLER. **a.** A mediator or umpire; ? one who intervenes *between* combatants. **b.** One who is active or stirring (*in* a matter); a busybody; a wrangler.

1473 *Paston Lett.* III. 98 The Kyng entententyth..to be as bygge as they bothe, and to be a styffeler atweyn them. 1565–6 ABP. PARKER *Corr.* (P. Soc. 1853) 252 The drift was (as I judged) for Dethick to continue such stifflers in the College of his pupils, to win him in time, by hook or crook, the master's room. 1585 GREENE *Planetom.* E 1 b, Promising ..neuer to be a stiffler in the like cause. *a* 1825 FORBY *Voc. E. Anglia, Stiffler*, a stickler; one who is very busy and active in any matter; as it were raising a dust.

Stiffly (sti·fli), *adv.* [f. STIFF *a.* + -LY 2.] In a stiff manner; so as to be stiff; (in various senses of the adj.).

c 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* 113 Swybe wel bi-gan þis Ercedekne holi churche bi-lede, And stifliche heold op hire riȝte. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Wife's Prol.* 380 Thus..Baar I stifly myne olde housbondes on honde, That thus they seyden in hir dronkenesse. *c* 1400 *Lay-Folks Mass-Bk.* App. III. 123 Þat he may ben myche more stiffeloker groundyd in goddis seruise. 1422 YONGE tr. *Secreta Secret.* 153 Nero of the fayrnys of the fire·blaas stifly hym reioiet. *c* 1425 *Thomas of Erceld.* 49 Hir sadille was of reuylle bone,..Stifly sette with precious stone. 1535 COVERDALE *Prov.* XXX. 29 There be thre thinges yᵗ go stiffly, but the goinge of the fourth is the goodliest of all. *a* 1555 LATIMER *Let.* in FOXE *A. & M.* (1583) 1756/1 You confesse your brothers cause wherein he so stiffely standeth, to be vniust. 1599 DALLAM in *Early Voy. Levant* (Hakl. Soc.) 85 Wheare did run a rever, so bige and stifly,..that we durste not adventur to rid over it. 1623 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Discov. Sea Lond. Salish.* Wks. (1630) II. 22/1 At last by Ramsgates Peere we stiffly Rowed, The winde and tyde, against vs blow'd and flowed. 1678 MOXON *Mech. Exerc.* v. 75 The Handle..hath a Mortess in it, as long within a quarter of an Inch as the thin piece (called the Tongue) is broad, and stifly so wide as to contain the thickness of the Tongue. 1766 *Complete Farmer* s. v. *Surbating*, The signs of this defect are his halting on both fore-legs, going stiffly. 1824 SCOTT *St. Ronan's* vii, A bow was very stiffly exchanged between the ladies. 1885 *Manch. Exam.* 24 Jan. 5/4 The client, however, has to pay for this ..more stiffly than he often imagines.

b. In comb. with pple. or adj.

1606 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. iv. 1. *Tropheis* 90 Whose harmfull point is headed stifly-straight With burnisht Brasse above an Anvil's weight. 1614 — *Bethulia's Rescue* II. 79 Noble Palm-Trees, mounting stifly-straight. 1892 E. REEVES *Homeward Bound* 319 Gardens, which rise terrace above terrace of stiffly cut trees. 1908 *Nation* 26 Sept. 892/1 The stiffly-worded Anglo-Russian note.

Stiff-necked (sti·fnekt), *a.* [f. *stiff neck* + -ED 2; after Gr. σκληροτράχηλος, Heb. *qᵉshēh ṣōref* 'hard of neck'.] Having a stiff neck. Chiefly *fig.* of persons, with Biblical reference: Obstinate, stubborn, inflexible, haughty (cf. NECK *sb.*1 3 b). † Also of a horse: That will not obey the rein.

1526 TINDALE *Acts* vii. 51 Ye stiffenecked and of vncircumcised hertes and eares. *a* 1533 FRITH *Disp. Purgat.* II. I j, Yf they be so styfnecked that they wyl not bow to the truth. 1545 BRINKLOW *Lament.* (1874) 79 The greate parte of these inordinate riche styfnecked Cytezens will not haue in their howses that lyuely worde of our soules. *c* 1550 MARY BASSET in *More's Wks.* (1557) 1366/1 If after fayre handelyng, we drawe styll stubbernely backeward, and.. contynue yet vnreasonably styffe necked, lyke a Horse and Mule whiche haue no maner of vnderstandynge. 1565 COOPER *Thesaurus* s. v. *Equus*, A stiffe necked horse that wil not be ruled. 1625 K. LONG tr. *Barclay's Argenis* IV. xix. 310 Being stiffe-necked and stronger than the Bit with which he was held in, hee carryed him forceably into the enemies' camp. 1710 *Tatler* No. 214 ₱ 1, I shall therefore give up this stiff-necked Generation to their own Obstinacy. 1867 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* (1876) I. vi. 462 One is converted, while the other seemingly goes away stiffnecked in his old errors. 1898 GISSING in *Strand Mag.* XV. 28 The stiff-necked old aristocrat had gone to London.

Hence **Sti·ff-ne·ckedly** *adv.*, obstinately; **Sti·ff-ne·ckedness,** obstinacy.

a 1555 LATIMER *Let.* in FOXE *A. & M.* (1583) 1756/1 It is no small iniquitie to keep any one poore man so long from his right and duetie so stiffeneckedly and obstinately. 1563–83 FOXE *A. & M.* 449/1 He alwayes wrote most commendable protestations agaynst obstinacye and stifnecked-nesse. 1663 J. WILSON *Cheats* II. iii, We are wilfully, stiffneckedly blind. 1699 CLAGETT *17 Serm.* 216 There will be both inconstancy and stiffneckedness. 1857 MISS WINKWORTH *Tauler's Life & Serm.* 132 *note*, He were a heretic who, after much admonition, should stiffneckedly disobey the Word of God. 1861 J. G. SHEPPARD *Fall of Rome* xi. 572 A strength of will degenerating into stiff-neckedness and obstinacy.

Stiffner, variant of STIFFENER.

Stiffness (sti·fnės). [f. STIFF *a.* + -NESS.] The state or quality of being stiff (in any sense).

1. Rigidity, inflexibility; viscosity (of liquids and semi-liquids); density, heaviness, compactness (of soil). Also *fig.*

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XVII. clxxv. (1495) 717 Somtyme a crokyd rodde is put in the fyre: and by hete of the fyre the styfnesse and hardnesse is tempred and made nesshe, and so the rodde is the more easely streyghted. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 475/1 Styfnesse, or starkenesse, *rigiditas, rigor.* 1577 GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* I. 24 b, Some grounde requireth more seede then other, as the grounde is of stiffenesse or lightnesse. 1639 O. WOOD *Alph. Bk. Secrets* 169 Incorporate all these in a morter with a pestle with oyle of white Rose, and Virgins waxe thin scraped to the stifnesse of a plaister. 1642 FULLER *Holy St.* III. XX. 206 The stiffnesse of the judgement is abated, and suppled with charity. 1726–31 WALDRON *Descr. Isle of Man* (1865) 59 A woman.. was saved by the stiffness of her hoop petticoat which kept her above water. 1869 RANKINE *Machinery & Millwork* 531 In all cases in which precision of movement is required, stiffness is essential both to the moving pieces and to the framework of a machine.

b. (See quots.)

1710 J. CLARKE tr. *Rohault's Nat. Philos.* (1729) I. 133 The Property which is called Stiffness, and which Workmen call the Power of Springing. 1824 TREDGOLD *Ess. Cast Iron* 202 The stiffness of a body is its resistance at a given deflexion.

c. *Naut.* (See quots.)

1877 W. H. WHITE *Nav. Archit.* iii. 65 This method may be used in estimating the 'stiffness' of a ship, i. e. her power to resist inclination from the upright by the steady pressure of the wind on her sails. 1913 ATTWOOD *Modern Warship* 67 The metacentric height is a measure of the stiffness of the ship.

2. Lack of suppleness (in limbs, muscles, etc.); the name of certain diseases causing rigor of muscles, esp. tetanus. Also *fig.*

1552 HULOET, Stifnes of sinowes, that the membres ne may be bowed, *tetanicus morbus, tetanos.* 1581 MULCASTER *Positions* vi. (1887) 47 Where ioyntes be to bend,..there must needes be motion: or else stifnesse will follow. 1591 PERCIVALL *Sp. Dict., Calambre*, stifnesse of the sinewes, the crampe, *Neruorum rigor, spasmus.* 1641 TATHAM *Distracted State* IV. i. (1651) 20 Whose knee dares own a stiffenesse? whose Obeysance To Adulanter dare be wanting? 1791 BURKE *Corr.* (1844) III. 365 Your mother is, bating occasional stiffness, very well. 1862 W. HUNTER *Biggar & Ho. Fleming* iv. 45 The cattle are often attacked with a disease called the 'stiffness' or 'cripple'.

† **3.** Strength, sturdiness, stoutness; violence. *Obs.*

1399 LANGL. *Rich. Redeles* III. 251 Iche rewme..Sholde stable and stonde..By styfnesse and strengthe Of steeris well y-yokyd. *c* 1460 *Promp. Parv.* (Winch.) 436 Styfnesse, or strength, *fortitudo, robur.* 1596 SPENSER *F. Q.* IV. iv. 19 And him against Sir Blandamour did ride With all the strength and stifnesse that he can. 1623 BINGHAM *Xenophon, Lipsius' Compar.* V 3, They throw stones..with such stiffenesse and strength, that the blow seemeth to come from some Engine.

4. Inflexibility in purpose, opinion, or course of action; resolution, firmness; obstinacy; haughtiness.

1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 92 Styfnes of mynde or obstinacy they haue, whyche frowardly wyll defende theyr errour. 1641 J. JACKSON *True Evang. T.* II. 161 Such as did seeke the Glory of Martyrs..out of stiffenesse of spirit. 1673 [R. LEIGH] *Transp. Reh.* 39 There has been a party of 'em in England..of such a pontifical stiffness, as if they were companions for none but princes. *a* 1677 BARROW *Serm.* Wks. 1716 II. 38 Where may we discern..that stoutness of courage and stiffness of patience which you talk of as the..issues of faith? 1690 LOCKE *Hum. Und.* IV. xvi. § 3 And yet these of all Men hold their Opinions with the greatest stiffness. 1741 C. MIDDLETON *Cicero* (1742) II. vi. 52 The other chiefs of the Aristocracy..whose stiffness had ruined their cause. 1887 RIDER HAGGARD *Allan Q.* xxi. 242 The..forces give on every side, there is no stiffness left in them.

5. Formality; constraint; lack of ease or grace; coldness, aloofness (of manners and deportment); artificiality, excessive regularity, pedantry (of style).

1638 JUNIUS *Paint. Ancients* 27 All the statues before Dædalus his time, have had a most unpleasant stifnesse. 1710 FELTON *Diss. Classics* (1718) 70 Provided he..doth not make himself a Slave to his Rules; for that will introduce a Stiffness and Affectation, which are utterly abhorrent from all good Writing. 1717 LADY M. W. MONTAGU *Let. to C'tess Mar* 18 Apr., An air so majestic, yet free from stiffness or affectation. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* III. x. 412 There is a stiffness and minuteness in most of the Chinese productions. 1765 *Ann. Reg.* II. 56 The king,..laying aside all the stiffness of state,..enjoys himself with a few select friends. 1789 BURNEY *Hist. Mus.* III. 330 The two parts in one..discover no restraint or stiffness in the melody, which continues to move with the same freedom, as if no canon had existence. 1836 [J. GRANT] *Random Recoll. Ho. Lords* xiii. 299 Before he had spoken two or three sentences, it must have been apparent..that he had not yet got rid of the formality and stiffness of school. 1907 J. A. HODGES *Elem. Photogr.* (ed. 6) 118 Introducing an unnatural stiffness into the portrait.

Stifle (stəi·f'l), *sb.*[1] Also 6–8 **stiffle**. [Of obscure origin.

Connection with STIFF *a.* is commonly assumed, but is very doubtful.]

1. The joint at the junction of the hind leg and the body (between the femur and the tibia) in a horse or other quadruped: corresponding anatomically to the knee in man.

c 1320 *Sir Tristr.* 487 [With reference to cutting up a deer.] To þe stifles he 3ede And euen ato hem schare. 1580 BLUNDEVIL *Curing Horses Dis.* cxxii. 55 b, If a Horse halt behind, the griefe must either be in the hippe, in the stiffle, in the hough [etc.]. 1726 *Dict. Rust.* (ed. 3), *Gascoin*, the hinder thigh of a Horse, which begins at the Stiffle. 1882 *Daily Tel.* 26 Oct. 3/6 Although kicked in the stifle..and badly lamed, Althotas repeated his Tuesday's victory. 1897 *Encycl. Sport* I. 329/2 (Dogs) *Stifle*, the joint in a dog's hind leg next to the buttock; the hip joint. 1907 *Q. Rev.* Jan. 204 The size of the bone at the ankles and stifles being particularly important [in the foxhound].

†2. Dislocation or sprain of the stifle-joint. *Obs.*

Quot. 1587 seems erroneous.

1580 BLUNDEVIL *Curing Horses Dis.* cxxiv. 56 b, The stiffle commeth by meanes of some side blowe, or some great straine, slipping, or sliding. 1587 MASCALL *and Bk. Cattell, Horses* (1596) 124 For a stiffle in the heele of a horse.

3. *Comb.* **stifle-bone, -cap, -pan**, the patella of a horse, the bone in front of the stifle-joint; **stifle-joint** = sense 1; **stifle-slip** (see quot.).

1610 MARKHAM *Masterp.* II. lxxii. 338 If the horse be stifled, the *stifle bone will sticke out more of the one side then of the other. 1678 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1321/4 With a white speck on the stifle bone on the far side. 1908 *Stifle cap [see quot. for *stifle slip*]. 1580 BLUNDEVIL *Curing Horses Dis.* cxxii. 55 b, If the griefe be in the stiffle, then the Horse in his going *will* cast the *stiffle joint outward. 1888 MACFADYEAN *Comp. Anat. Dom. Anim.* I. 197 The stifle joint corresponds to the knee of the human subject. The bones that enter into its formation are the femur, the tibia, and the patella. 1893 DUNMORE *Pamirs* II. 75, I..fired at the last ram, hitting him in the last leg, breaking it at the stifle joint. *c* 1720 W. GIBSON *Farrier's Guide* I. vi. (1738) 97 A small bone, somewhat round, called the Patella or *Stifle-pan. 1908 *Animal Managem.* 334 **Stifle slip*, dislocation of the *stifle cap.

Stifle (stəi·f'l), *sb.*[2] In 4 **styffle**. [f. STIFLE *v.*[1]]

†1. An asthmatic complaint, with difficulty in breathing. *Obs. rare*—[1].

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* III. xv. (Tollemache MS.) As in hem þat haue þe pirre and styffles and ben pursyf and þikke brebid [L. *ut patet in asthmaticis et anhelosis*].

2. The fact of stifling or the condition of being stifled. *rare.*

1823 LAMB *Elia* Ser. II. *Amicus Rediv.*, Life meantime was ebbing fast away, amidst the stifle of conflicting judgments. 1825 COLERIDGE *Lett., Convers.* etc. (1836) II. 188, I was ever in a stifle of my reflected anxieties. 1904 *Westm. Gaz.* 2 Nov. 1/3 The smell of trodden sods mingles with the stifle of all these poor unwashed folk in the warm moist air.

3. (See quot.)

1886 BARROWMAN *Sc. Mining Terms* 64 *Stifle*, noxious gas resulting from an underground fire.

Stifle (stəi·f'l), *v.*[1] Forms: 4 **stuf(f)le**, 5–6 **stiffl**, 6 **styfel, stiefle, stiffel**, 6–7 **styfle, stifel**, 6–8, 9 *dial.* **stiffle**, 6– **stifle**. [Of obscure origin.

The early forms *stuffle, stuffle* suggest connexion of some kind with OF. *estouffer* to stifle, smother. Cf. also STIFE, and the early forms of STEW *v.*[2] The view that the word is from ON. *stífla* to dam up (water) appears untenable on the ground both of form and sense.]

1. *trans.* To kill by stopping respiration; to kill or deprive of consciousness (a person or animal) by covering the mouth and nose, by depriving of pure air or by introducing an irrespirable vapour into the throat and lungs; to suffocate. †Also with *up*.

1513 MORE *Rich. III* Wks. 68/2 So..keping down by force the..pillowes hard vnto their mouthes, that within a while smored and stifled, theyr breath failing, thei gaue vp to god their innocent soules. 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VI* (1550) 69 b, Other write, that he was stiffeled or smoldered betwene twoo fetherbeddes. 1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 127/35 To stifil, *suffocare*. 1582 N. LICHEFIELD tr. *Castanheda's Conq. E. Ind.* 65 There is no covering to defend the sunne, whereon with the same only men are stiffeled up. [*Marg.*] Men stifled with the Sunne onely. 1592 SHAKS. *Rom. & Jul.* IV. iii. 33 Shall I not then be stifled in the Vault? 1665 *Phil. Trans.* I. 44 Fearing to be stifled by the bad Air. 1707 MORTIMER *Husb.* (1721) I. 326 You may smoke or stifle them [wasps] if they are in a hollow Tree. 1756 GRAY *Let.* Poems (1775) 245 A dirty inconvenient lodging, where, perhaps, my nurse might stifle me with a pillow. 1834 CROKER in *C. Papers* (1884) II June, One poor little boy..was nearly stifled. 1867 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* (1876) I. App. 741 For fear of a tumult the King has Eadric at once stifled to death.

b. In hyperbolic or exaggerated use. Sometimes = to affect with difficulty of breathing, produce a choking sensation in.

c 1400 *Brut* 138 Pere was grete hete...þat al stuffled himself was, & felle into a grete sikenesse. 1585 GREENE *Planetomachia* II. C 3, The Caspians fearinge to bee stiffled with sweet sauors, weare in their bosomes buds of Hemlock. 1592 *Arden of Feversham* IV. ii. 35, I am almost stifled with this fog. 1613 SHAKS. *Hen. VIII*, IV. i. 58, I am stifled With the meere rankenesse of their ioy. 1625 in Foster *Eng. Factories Ind.* (1909) III. 56 To pack and stiffle us togeather into close and aireles, unholsom corners. 1767 *Woman of Fashion* I. 41 Bundled up in a green Cloth Joseph, enough to stifle the poor Child in this warm Weather. 1824 MISS L. M. HAWKINS *Annaline* I. 87 They..found the Baronet nearly stifled with laughing. 1832 HT. MARTINEAU *Ireland* ii. 23 He almost stifled her with caresses.

c. *absol.*

1667 MILTON *P. L.* XI. 313 But prayer against his absolute Decree No more availes then breath against the winde, Blown stifling back on him that breaths it forth. 1864 TENNYSON *Aylmer's F.* 613 A breathless burthen of low-folded heavens Stifled and chill'd at once.

d. *fig.*

1579 LYLY *Euphues* Wks. (Bond) I. 248 When loue tickleth thee decline it lest it stiffle thee. 1642 FULLER *Holy & Prof. St.* V. xi. 398 The Anabaptists in like manner stifle Gods Church by crowding it into their corner. 1878 B. TAYLOR *Deukalion* II. iv. 79 Breathing high thoughts unconsciously as air; Without them stifled!

†2. To choke by compressing the windpipe; to strangle, throttle. *Obs.*

1548 *Elyot's Dict., Oblido,*..to styfle, to kyll. 1585 T. WASHINGTON tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* I. vii, [Him] they condemned to be hanged & stifled vpon the maste of the gallie.

†b. ? To numb (a limb of the body) by arresting the circulation. *Obs.*

1548 [see STIFLING *vbl. sb.*[1]]. 1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* V. 205, I would often fetch a walke, to stretch my legs, that were stifled with a stumbling beast.

†c. To cause stricture or strangulation in (a part). *Obs.* 1578 [see STIFLING *vbl. sb.*[1]].

†d. To choke, crush the life out of (a plant). *Obs.*

1530 TINDALE *Pract. Prelates* C viij b, [The ivy] waxeth greate..and sucketh the moystoure so sore out of the tre and his braunches, that it choketh and stifleth them.

†3. To suffocate by immersion; to drown. Also to choke by pouring water down the throat. *Obs.*

1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) VI. 449 A monke..fil doun of a brigge into a water, and was i-stuffed [*v.r.* y-stoffed; L. *suffocatus est*]. 1582 N. T. (Rhem.) *Mark* V. 13 The heard..were stifled in the sea. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* XXX. iv. II. 377 The hony wherein a number of bees were stifled and killed. 1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* 509 There are other kind of moustraps which do ketch mice aliue: and othersome which do kil them, either being..stifeld with water, or otherwise. 1624 *Relat. Cruel Proc. Amboyna* 11 Being a little recouered, they..poured in the water as before, eftsoones taking him downe as he seemed to be stifled. 1705 tr. *Bosman's Guinea* 346 She despairing threw her self into a deep Well, in which she was stifled.

4. To stop the passage of (the breath); to suppress, prevent the emission of, choke in the utterance (the voice, a cry, sob, cough, etc.). Also *poet.* with *up*. Also in figurative context.

c 1495 *Epit. Dk. Bedford* in *Skelton's Wks.* (1843) II. 391 Dredeful Deth..Ful dolorously his breth hath stifild. 1599 B. JONSON *Cynthia's Rev.* III. v, Then stifling a sigh or two, ..you aduance your selfe forward. 1601 MARSTON, etc. *Jack Drum's Entert.* I. A 4 b, I was not borne..To choake and stifle vp my pleasures breath. 1665 HOWARD *Ind. Queen* V. i, Name thy bold Love no more, lest that last Breath Which should forgive, I stifle with my Death. 1711 STEELE *Spect.* No. 158 ¶ 4 As if she would if possible stifle her Laughter. 1768 STERNE *Sent. Journ.* II. *Case of Delicacy*, I did not attempt to stifle my cough. *a* 1770 JORTIN *Serm.* (1771) II. iii. 47 Men..take pains to..stifle the reproofs of their conscience. 1837 DISRAELI *Venetia* I. xviii, Cadurcis tried to stifle a sob. 1868 MISS YONGE *Cameos* I. xi. 344 His last cry, ere the flames stifled his voice. 1885 *Manch. Exam.* 12 Sept. 5/2 He attempted to raise an alarm, but they stifled his cries. 1902 BUCHAN *Watcher by Threshold* 250 Stifling the voice of conscience.

†b. To repress, keep back, check the flow of (tears).

c 1677 SIR P. WARWICK *Mem.* (1701) 326, I never saw him shed tears but once,..but he recollected himselfe, and soon stifled them. 1797 MRS. INCHBALD *Wives as they were* I. i. 20 They'll suppose I have been more indiscreet [*stifling her tears*] than I really have.

c. To make mute or inaudible through intervening space or obstructing medium.

1833 HT. MARTINEAU *Charmed Sea* i. 1 Our voices were stifled in space. 1867 MORRIS *Jason* III. 247 The man whose shout the close Nemean trees Had stifled. 1891 KIPLING *Light that failed* v. 83 The fog..stifled the roar of the traffic of London beyond the railings.

5. In various figurative uses. a. To suppress, smother, keep from manifestation, expression, or activity (a feeling, passion, internal faculty, etc.).

1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* (1637) 428 Their former piety was after a manner stifled. 1654 JER. TAYLOR *Real Pres.* 26 It is an usual device amongst their writers to stifle their reason. 1788 GIBBON *Decl. & F.* xlviii. V. 26 In the mind of Irene, ambition had stifled every sentiment of humanity. 1849–50 ALISON *Hist. Europe* li. § 52. VIII. 280 The discontent of Melzi..was stifled by the title of Duke of Lodi. 1876 MOZLEY *Univ. Serm.* xv. 258 The higher mind in us is stifled and gives way to the lower.

b. To destroy, crush, suppress, deprive of vitality, prevent the working or spreading of (a movement, activity, measure, etc.); †to silence (a person, objection).

1621 ELSING *Debates Ho. Lords* (Camden) 102 The proviso for the prynters styfles the proviso for corporacions. 1668 R. STEELE *Husbandm. Calling* v. (1672) 76 Let not your faith stifle your industry. 1693 J. E. EDWARDS *Author. O. & N. Test.* 410, I will stifle this cavelling objection. 1705 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4168/2 This Insurrection was stifled in its very beginning. 1771 SMOLLETT *Humph. Cl.* 2 Apr. (1815) 7 As it was my duty to stifle this correspondence in its birth. 1857 BUCKLE *Civiliz.* I. xii. 671 It was a prolonged and systematic attempt to stifle all enquiry and punish all inquirers. *a* 1873 DEUTSCH *Lit. Rem.* (1874) 172 The Koran for a time seemed to stifle all literature. 1884 *L'pool Mercury* 22 Oct. 5/3 This..is the very way to stifle all efforts.

c. To conceal, keep from becoming known, withhold from circulation or currency, suppress (a fact, report, truth, etc.; a document, letter).

1577 STANYHURST *Descr. Irel.* vii. 26 b/2 in *Holinshed*, When hys [*sc.* Plunket's] workes shall take the ayre, that now..are wrongfully emprisoned, and in maner stiefled in shadowed cowches. 1662 STILLINGFL. *Orig. Sacræ* II. v. § 2 The other rank of those which were left to Gods hand consisted of these. 1. He that stifles and smothers his own prophecy, as Jonas did. 1687 A. LOVELL tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* II. 103 When complaints are brought to Court against any *Chan*, he lets them come to the King's Ear if the *Chan* be his Enemy, or stifles them if the *Chan* be his friend. 1700 CONGREVE *Way of World* V. ii, We stifl'd the Letter before she read so far. 1712 HEARNE *Collect.* (O.H.S.) III. 383 That Dr. Mill made a Will, and that Langhorn, or some body else, stifled it. 1788 FRANKLIN *Autobiog.* Wks. 1840 I. 209 The papers, he thought of too much value to be stifled, and advised the printing of them. 1828 SCOTT *F. M. Perth* xv, The rumour may stifle the truth for a short time.

d. To cover *up* so as to conceal from view or prevent display. *poet.*

1820 KEATS *Hyperion* I. 245 The shady visions come to domineer, Insult, and blind, and stifle up my pomp.

6. To smother or extinguish (a flame).

1726 SWIFT *Gulliver* I. v, I might easily have stifled it [the flame] with my coat. 1852 HAZLITT tr. *Huc's Tartary* xvi. (1856) 401 All the travellers, armed with felt carpets, were endeavouring to stifle the flame. 1895 'G. MORTIMER' *Tales West. Moors* 260 The smoke is choking and pungent, as it jets out through the damp, black earth that 'stiffles', or stifles, the flames.

†b. To extinguish or quench (a physical quality). 1725 *Bradley's Family Dict.* s. v. *Salt*, The Salt made White in this manner is not so salt as the Grey, because the Fire has stifled many of its Points.

†7. To choke up, impede the flow of (running water); to obstruct the passage of, absorb, quench (rays of light). *Obs.*

1629 H. C. *Disc. Drain. Fens* B 4, The riuers [being] stifled with weedes for want of a current. 1704 NEWTON *Optics* I. II. x. (1721) 161 They [coloured bodies] stop and stifle in themselves the Rays which they do not reflect or transmit. 1785 IMISON *Sch. Arts* (1790) I. 194 Its back part is black, to stifle the rays that are reflected upon it. 1794 HERSCHEL in *Phil. Trans.* LXXXV. 54, I found, that by stifling a great part of the solar rays, my object speculum would bear a greater aperture.

†8. To choke up (an orifice). *Obs. rare*—[1].

1631 SHIRLEY *Traitor* III. i. (1635) E 2, Make fast the Chamber-doore, stiffle the keyhole and the crannies, I must discourse of secret matters.

†9. To slip (money) secretly or surreptitiously *in* (a person's hand). (? A jocular or cant use.) *Obs.*

1604 MIDDLETON *Ant & Night.* D 2, With that they stifeled two or three Angels in the lawyers right hand.

10. *intr.* To be or become suffocated; to perish by stoppage of breath. In weaker sense: To feel in danger of suffocation, to feel almost unable to breathe.

1594 T. B. *La Primaud. Fr. Acad.* II. 363 We cary about vs infinite causes and meanes, whereby we are euery houre in danger of stifling, and as it were of drowning. 1847 C. BRONTE *Jane Eyre* xv, I was just beginning to stifle with the fumes of conservatory flowers and sprinkled essences. 1857 J. HAMILTON *Less. Gt. Biogr.* (1859) 314 To feel the breath stifling and the heart-strings breaking. 1902 *Westm. Gaz.* 26 Mar. 2/1 Others cannot remain in an atmosphere that is not constantly replenished with fresh oxygen; they stifle.

†b. *fig.* Of a person or an immaterial thing.

1588 T. HUGHES *Arthur* I. i. 14 What though..the shame thou suffredst for his lusts, Reboundeth backe, and stifeleth in his stocke? 1603 SHAKS. *Meas. for M.* II. iv. 158 My vnsoild Name [etc.] Will so your accusation ouer-weigh, That you shall stifle in your owne report.

Stifle (stəi·f'l), *v.*[2] *Farriery.* Also 6–8 **stiffle**.

[f. STIFLE *sb.*1] *trans.* To affect (a horse, dog, etc.) with stifle or dislocation of the stifle-bone. Chiefly in *passive*. Hence **Sti·fled** *ppl. a.*

1580 BLUNDEVIL *Curing Horses Dis.* cxxiv. 56 b, The Horse is said to be stiffled when the stiffling bone is remooued from the right place. But if it be not remooued nor losened, and yet the Horse halteth by meanes of some griefe there, then we say that the Horse is hurt in the stiffle, and not stiffled. 1607 MARKHAM *Cavel.* VII. lxxvi. 77 If hee halt behinde, he is hipped or stiffled, if he be hipped hee is past cure, if stifled [etc.]. 1639 T. DE GRAY *Compl. Horsem.* (1656) 595 Take a cord and fasten it to the pastern of the stifled legge. 1685 DANGERFIELD *Mem.* 7 Mar. 32, I went ..thence to Ashfield, where I Stifled my Horse. 1859 H. H. DIXON *Silk & Scarlet* 325 But we are forgetting Tarquin [a foxhound], who became stifled at Berkeley.

Sti·fle-burn, *v. Agric.* [f. STIFLE *v.*1 or *sb.*2 + BURN *v.*] *trans.* To burn (field-refuse and surface-soil) in heaps pressed down with small access of air. Also **Sti·fle-burning** *vbl. sb.*

1844 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* V. I. 169 Paring and Burning, or, as it is called in North Wilts, 'stifle-burning'; is a system lately introduced into the south of the county. 1849 JOHNSTON *Exp. Agric.* 257 The burning should be slowly conducted, and with little access of air, a method which is well described by the epithet of stifle-burning. 1862 in *Morton's Farmer's Cal.* 166 A neighbour stifle-burned a clover lea from which a crop of hay was just cleared.

Stifled (stəi·fld), *ppl. a.* [f. STIFLE *v.*1 + -ED 1.]

†1. Strangled. *Obs.*

1562 COOPER *Answ. Def. Truth* iii. 9 b, To make men forbeare stifled meates.

2. In the ordinary senses of the verb: Suffocated, smothered, suppressed, etc.

a 1643 W. CARTWRIGHT *To Lydia* iii. Poems (1651) 243, I hate a secret stifled flame, Let yours and mine have Voice, and Name. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* IV. 381 Such stifl'd Noise as the close Furnace hides. 1817 SHELLEY *Revolt Islam* VI. xii. 5 The blood..Of the dead and dying..Like stifled torrents, made a plashy fen Under the feet. 1820 BYRON *Mar. Fal.* IV. i, Turbulent mutterers of stifled treason. 1845 DISRAELI *Sybil* v. iv, 'Hah, hah!' said Morley, with a sort of stifled laugh.

3. Devoid of fresh air, close, stuffy.

1824 SCOTT *Redgauntlet* ch. xiii, In a stifled and subterranean atmosphere. 1863 HAWTHORNE *Our Old Home, Pilgr. Boston* (1879) 175 We were shown into a small, stifled parlor.

Stifler (stəi·flə1). [f. STIFLE *v.*1 + -ER 1.] One who or something which stifles, suffocates, smothers, suppresses, etc.

1642 H. MORE *Song of Soul* II. iii. II. xv, You stiflers now be gone. Let fall that smoring mantle. 1829 SCOTT *Demonol.* 267 Lord-keeper Guildford was also a stifler of the proceedings against witches. 1840 DICKENS *Old C. Shop* viii, My best affections have experienced, this night, a stifler. 1879 GEO. ELIOT *Theo. Such* xviii. 347 We have to consider who are the stifled people and who the stiflers.

b. *Thieves' slang.* The gallows.

1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* xxiii, I think Handie Dandie and I may queer the stifler for all that is come and gone.

c. *Mil. slang.* = CAMOUFLET.

1836 *Penny Cycl.* VI. 197/1 *Camouflet*, or *Stifler*. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.*

Stifling (stəi·flin), *vbl. sb.*1 [-ING 1.]

1. The action of STIFLE *v.*1; suffocating, smothering, suppressing, etc.; †numbing; † strangulation.

1548 PATTEN *Exped. Scot.* Pref. c vj b *marg.*, Cast in a deadly slumber with a stifelinge, & benumminge of al partes. 1578 LYTE *Dodoens* v. xxxviii. 602 The seede of wilde Carrot ..is very good agaynst the suffocation and stiflinges of the Matrix. 1711 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 21 ¶ 7 Retainers to Physick, who..amuse themselves with the stifling of Cats in an Air Pump. 1805 WORDSW. *Waggoner* i. 19 Now and then Comes a tired and sultry breeze With a haunting and a panting, Like the stifling of disease. 1882 *Garden* 18 Mar. 178/2 This hardy little plant cannot bear stifling or coddling in high heat and close air.

†2. *Farriery.* (See quot.) *Obs.*

1610 L. W. C. *Perf. Disc. Horse* (1624) B 4, For the paine in the Head, or Stifeling.

Sti·fling, *vbl. sb.*2 *Farriery.* ? *Obs.* Also 6–7 **stifeling,** 6–8 **stiffling.** [f. STIFLE *v.*2 + -ING 1.]

1. Dislocation or sprain of the stifle-joint.

1580 BLUNDEVIL *Curing Horses Dis.* cxxiv. 56 b, Of stiffling, and hurtes in the stiffle. 1639 T. DE GRAY *Compl. Horsem.* (1656) 596 Take pitch..and..annoint the stifling.

2. *Comb.* **stifling-bone** = *stifle-bone* (STIFLE *sb.*1 3); **stifling-place,** ? the region of the stifle-joint.

1580 BLUNDEVIL *Curing Horses Dis.* cxxiv. 56 b, The Horse is said to be stiffled when the *stiffling bone is remooued from the right place. 1725 *Bradley's Family Dict.* s. v., Some Blow or Stroak..which either puts out the Stiffling-Bone, or much hurts or strains the Joint. 1580 BLUNDEVIL *Curing Horses Dis.* cxxiv. 57 The *stiffling place is not so broad as the shoulder. 1702 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 3751/8 A Scar in the Stifling-place on the off Side.

Stifling (stəi·flin), *ppl. a.* [f. STIFLE *v.*1 + -ING 2.] That stifles or tends to stifle; suffocating, smothering, choking.

a 1560 PHAER *Æneid* VIII. (1562) A a iiij b, A cloud of stifling stinkinge smoke. 1602 MARSTON *Antonio's Rev.* IV. iv, Then death, like to a stifling incubus, Lie on my bosome. 1633 P. FLETCHER *Purple Isl.* II. xl, When the Chanel's stopt with stifeling mire. 1795 SOUTHEY *Joan of Arc* VIII. 593 The soil, that trampled late By multitudes, sent up its stifling clouds Of dust. 1863 GEO. ELIOT *Romola* XXXVI, As a strong body struggles against fumes with the more violence when they begin to be stifling.

b. Of hot or close air, a close room, etc.: Producing the sensation of suffocation; in which one breathes with difficulty; oppressive to the lungs. † Also quasi-*adv.*, in *stifling hot*.

1737 [S. BERINGTON] *G. di Lucca's Mem.* (1738) 105 The Weather was stifling hot. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* II. v. 184 A most intense and stifling heat. 1832 HT. MARTINEAU *Ireland* 120 The heat was stifling, from many sleepers being collected within a small space. 1899 LADY M. VERNEY *Verney Mem.* IV. 281 A stifling cell in Newgate.

c. *fig.*

1584–7 GREENE *Carde of Fancie* (1593) C iij, The stiffeling stormes of vnbrideled fancie. 1649 MILTON *Eikon.* xxvii. 514 A stifling and obstructing evil that hath no vent. 1884 R. PATON *Scott. Ch.* x. 104 The stifling atmosphere of legend and myth. *c* 1900 BRIDGES *La Gloire de Voltaire* Poems (1912) 384 Let your unwholesome flattery flow ungrudged, And with ungrudging measure shall men pour Their stifling homage back.

†d. **Stifling grass,** the Royal Fern, *Osmunda regalis*.

1692 A. SYMSON *Descr. Galloway* (1823) 78 They call this plant also by the name of stifling-grasse.

Hence **Sti·flingly** *adv.*

1839 H. ROGERS *Ess.* (1860) II. 149 They forget that it is possible for perfumes to be as stiflingly strong as ill odours. 1887 RIDER HAGGARD *Jess* xxiii, The air was stiflingly hot.

Stifner, variant of STIFFENER.

‖ **Stift.** *Obs.* [G., a bishopric.] The domain of a German prince-bishop.

1637 R. MONRO *Exped.* II. 76 He..left the Duke of Anhalt as Stat-houlder; not only over the Towne, but also over the whole Stifft of Madeburg. 1678 PHILLIPS (ed. 4), *Stift*, a German word, which hath been lately used among us for the small division of a Region or Province. 1819 SCOTT *Leg. Montrose* ii, I have myself commanded the whole stift of Dunklespiel on the Lower Rhine.

†**Stig,** *v. Obs. rare*−1. [a. ON. *styggja-sk*, f. *stygg-r* shy, wary.] *intr.* To start in alarm.

a 1400–50 *Wars Alex.* 5301 Þan stemes he with þe stoute kyng & stiggis with his name.

Stigh(e, Stighele : see STY, STILE.

†**Stight,** *sb.*1 *Obs. rare*−1. [? Corrupt form of *stiz* STY *sb.*] A path.

a 1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* xvi. 5 Mak perfit my gates in þi stretis [*v.r.* stightes, *Vulg.* semitas].

†**Stight,** *sb.*2 *Obs. rare*−1. In 4 **stycht.** [f. STIGHT *v.*] Battle array.

1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* III. 658 Till god giff grace we be of mycht Agayne our fayis to hauld our stycht.

†**Stight,** *v. Obs.* In 4 pa. t. **stiʒthed,** pa. pple. **stiʒt.** [OE. *stihtan, stihtian* = OLow Frankish *stihtan, stiftôn* (MLG., MDu. *stichten, stiften*, mod.Du. *stichten*), OHG. (MHG., mod.G.) *stiften*, ON. *stétta* (Sw. *stifta*, Da. *stifte*, Icel. *stipta*, are from LG.).] *trans.* To set in order, arrange, place.

c 825 *Vesp. Psalter* cxii. 5 Wynsum mon..stihtaþ [L. *disponet*] word his in dome. *a* 1000 *Boeth. Metr.* xx. 178 Þu..on us sawle ʒesettest, & hi siþþan eac styrest & stihtest. *a* 1122 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1086, On þam an & twentigan ʒeare þæs þe Willelm weolde & stihte Engle land swa him God uðe. *c* 1350 *Will. Palerne* 4425 Þan rauʒt sche forþ a ring a riche & a nobul, þe ston þat þeron was stiʒt was of so stif vertu, þat [etc.]. *a* 1400–50 *Wars Alex.* 195 Þai ..stallid him in a stoute stede & stiʒthed him faire. *Ibid.* 1543 A Mitre,..Stiʒt [*Dubl. MS.* stight] staffull of stanes. *Ibid.* 2693 Be þis ser Dary..deuysid his pistill þe kyng of kyngs was called...Þus, vndirstand I, was þe stile & stiʒt [*v.r.* stycht] in þare-eftir, 'ʒour satrapaires' [etc.].

†**Stightle,** *v. Obs.* Forms: 4 **stiʒ-, styʒtle, -tel, (stighle, stigle, stichle),** 4–5 **stiʒtil(l, stightill, -tel, stigh-, styghtle, styghtylle, (stighill, stihle, stihʒle, stiʒle, stithle, stithil).** See also STICKLE *v.* [ME. *stiʒtle*, frequentative f. *stiʒte* STIGHT *v.*]

1. *trans.* To dispose, arrange, set in order; to prepare, make ready; to control, rule, govern; to direct (a helm or rudder); to ordain, assign, appoint; to set or establish (in a place or position).

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 19425 (Edin.) Steuin stichlid him al bune, and þan bigan a grete sarmun. *Ibid.* 22093 Riʒt sua [sa]le þe fend him þisse Chesin stede of birþe I wisse þate beste es stiglid [*Gött.* stighlid, *Cott.* titeld] til his stalle. *c* 1350 *Will. Palerne* 1199 þat oþer was his stiward þat stiʒtled al his meyne. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* C. 402 If we..stylle steppen in þe styʒe he [God] styʒtlez hym seluen. *a* 1400 *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* xxix. iv. 20 Alle þe Iewes bi hem-selue Were stihlet to wone in a strete. *a* 1400–50 *Wars Alex.* 589 Lat him as ayre..enherit my landis, And stall we him in stede of þis to stiʒtill my rewme. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 13282 Nowthir stightill þai stere, ne no stithe ropes.

absol. 1393 LANGL. *P. Pl.* C. XVI. 40 Reson stod and stihlede as for stywarde of halle.

b. With hostile notion: To 'dispose of', put down (an antagonist).

c 1350 *Will. Palerne* 2899 þe stoutest & þe sternest he stiʒtled sone after, þat he garte þe grettest to hire prison louʒte. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 2193 All þe Renkes of my rewme will þi red folowe, As storest of strenght to stightill thy foose.

2. *intr.* To bestir or exert oneself, put forth one's strength or energy; to strive, contend, fight.

c 1350 *Will. Palerne* 3281 Moche folk him folwed þat ferli to bi-hold, how sternli he & þe [stede] schold stiʒtli to-gadere. 13.. *Gaw. & Gr. Knt.* 104 Per-fore of face so fere, He stiʒtlez stif in stalle. *c* 1450 *Merlin* xx. 333 And so haue thei medled and styghtled till they haue founde the kynge Boors vpon foote. *c* 1470 *Gol. & Gaw.* 460 Schipmen our the streme thai stithil full straught.

3. ? To intervene as mediator or umpire.

c 1440 *York Myst.* XXXI. 75 *Rex.* What? and schall I rise nowe, in þe deuyllis name? To stighill amang straungeres in stales of a state.

Hence † **Sti·ghtling** *vbl. sb.*

c 1400 *Destr. Troy* 1997 Was no stightlyng with stere, ne no stithe ropes. *c* 1450 *Merlin* xxii. 408 Gawein..made soche stightlynge a-monge hem that alle dide resorte bakke wheder thei wolde or noon.

†**Sti·ghtler.** *Obs.* In 5 **styteler.** [f. prec. + -ER1.] = STICKLER.

c 1425 *Cast. Persev.* p. 76 (Plan) Lete nowth ouer many stytelerys be with Inne þe plase.

†**Sti·ghtly,** *adv. Obs. rare.* [f. STIGHT *sb.*2 + -LY 2.] ? In due order.

1340–70 *Alisaunder* 293 Stones stirred they þo & stightlich layde On hur engines full gist to ungome [? *read* unioine] þe walles. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 6773 All the nobill anon..Gird doun of the grekes vnto grym dethe, And stird hom in the stoure stightly vnfaire.

Stigian, obs. form of STYGIAN.

Stigma (sti·gmă). Pl. **stigmata** (sti·gmătă) or **stigmas** (sti·gmăz). See also STIGME. [a. L. *stigma*, a. Gr. *στίγμα*, mark made by a pointed instrument, brand, f. root **stig-* in *στίζειν* (:—**stigy-*) to prick, puncture: see STICK *v.*]

1. A mark made upon the skin by burning with a hot iron (rarely, by cutting or pricking), as a token of infamy or subjection; a brand. Also *fig.*

1596 HARINGTON *Metam. Ajax* C 2 b, Circumcision..impressing a painefull stigma, or caracter in Gods peculiar people. 1645 RUTHERFORD *Tryal & Tri. Faith* (1845) 256 When a burning iron is put on the face of an evil-doer, it leaveth behind it a brand, or a stigma. 1778 *Sk. Tabernacle Frances* 35 His flinty Front my Stigma shou'd retain. 1863 W. H. RUSSELL *Diary North & S.* I. 246 The advertisements for runaway negroes,..the description of the stigmata on their persons—whippings and brandings, scars and cuts. 1879 FARRAR *St. Paul* (1883) 471 He was branded..with the stigmata of the Lord Jesus [cf. Gal. vi. 17]. 1891 MEREDITH *One of Conq.* i, He..thankfully received his runaway hat,..making light of the muddy stigmas imprinted by the pavement.

2. *fig.* A mark of disgrace or infamy; a sign of severe censure or condemnation, regarded as impressed on a person or thing; a 'brand'.

a 1619 FOTHERBY *Atheom.* I. xvi. § 4 (1622) 168 They set a stigma, and a note vpon all that impugne it. *a* 1623 BUCK *Rich. III*, II. (1646) 63 All such slaughters [were] from thence call'd Bartelmies..in a perpetuall Stigma of that Butchery. 1777 CHATHAM *Sp. on Addr.* 18 Nov., I..call upon your Lordships..to stamp upon it an indelible stigma of the public abhorrence. 1809 R. K. PORTER *Trav. Sk. Russia & Sweden* (1813) II. 273 (Index) Houghton gallery, purchased by Catherine, and added to the collection at the Hermitage; a stigma on this country. 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xiv. III. 410 Moderate politicians..were unwilling to put a stigma on a man..distinguished both by his abilities and by his amiable qualities. 1882 J. H. BLUNT *Ref. Ch. Eng.* II. 172 Branded with the stigma of illegitimacy.

b. A distinguishing mark or characteristic (of a bad or objectionable kind); in *Path.* a sign of some specific disorder, as hysteria.

1859 SALA *Tw. round Clock* (1861) 116 Among a family of blooming girls one who already wears the stigmata of old maidenhood. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* II. 889 The stigmas of a morphinist are plausibility and disorderliness. 1907 W. C. KRAUSS tr. *E. Mendel's Psychiatry* 84 Stigmata of Degeneration. 1916 A. BENNETT *These Twain* 38 His incorrigible vulgarity of a small manufacturer who displays everywhere the stigmata of petty commerce.

3. *pl.* Marks resembling the wounds on the crucified body of Christ, said to have been supernaturally impressed on the bodies of certain saints and other devout persons.

Sometimes extended to other marks, as crosses, sacred names, etc., supposed to be supernaturally impressed.

1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* I. 24 St. Frances with his inuisible Stigmata. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 5 Aug. 1670, Monsr Monconys..was by no means satisfied with ye stigmata of those Nunns, because they were so shy of letting him scrape the letters, which were Jesus, Maria, Joseph. 1841 EARL SHREWSBURY *Let. to A. L. Phillipps* 6 Her confessor then told us that she had the stigmata on her hands, feet, and side. 1880 AUGUSTA T. DRANE *St. Catherine of Siena* 369 During the lifetime of the Saint the stigmas remained invisible, but were not so after her death.

b. *nonce-use.* Ineffaceable stains of blood, supposed to remain on the floor of a room where a murder has been committed.

1828 SCOTT *F. M. Perth* Introd., If any Seneschal..had, by means of paint,..endeavoured to palm upon posterity suppositious stigmata,..the impostor would have chosen the Queen's cabinet and the bedroom for the scene of his trick.

4. *Path.* A morbid spot, dot, or point on the skin, esp. one which bleeds spontaneously.

1661 LOVELL *Hist. Anim. & Min.* 128 The eye [of a wolf] applied extenuats the glaucoma and stigma's. 1877 F. T. ROBERTS *Theory & Pract. Med.* (ed. 3) I. 37 Cutaneous hæmorrhages assume the form of..*stigmata*, or minute points, *petechiæ*, or rounded spots, and *vibices* or lines. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* IV. 180 The distended capillaries on the cheek, the so-called 'venous stigmata,' which are attributable to alcoholic excess.

5. *Zool.* and *Anat.* a. Each of the respiratory openings or breathing-pores in insects and other invertebrates; a spiracle. Also applied to other small openings or pores, as that of the pneumatocyst in *Hydrozoa*. (Pl. usually *stigmata*.)

1747 *Gentl. Mag.* XVII. 122/1 Such as have need of respiration have tracheas and stigmas, which admit..as much air as is..needful for the insect. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* VIII. 13 The stigmata, as they are called; or those holes on

the sides of its body, through which the animal [*sc.* caterpillar] is supposed to breathe. 1832 GRIFFITH tr. *Cuvier* XIV 3 *note*, In the crickets..and the libellulæ, the sides of the metathorax are each provided with a stigma. 1861–2 LE CONTE *Classif. Coleoptera N. Amer.* I. Introd. p. xviii, The prothoracic breathing pore or stigma or spiracle. 1888 ROLLESTON & JACKSON *Anim. Life* 103 Ascidian..The longitudinal vessels..inclose the stigmata or apertures which lead from the cavity of the pharynx to the peribranchial or atrial cavity.

b. The part of an ovisac or Graafian follicle where it ruptures to discharge the ovum.

1890 COUES *Ornithol.* 327 Such rupture of the Graafian follicle (ovisac)..occurs along a line where the..blood-vessels ..upon its surface appear to be wanting, called the stigma.

c. A natural spot or mark, as one formed by enlargement of a nervure on the fore-wings of certain insects (*pterostigma*), or the pigment- or eye-spot of an infusorian.

1826 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* III. 377. 1871 STAVELEY *Brit. Insects* 153 On the front margin of the fore-wing [of Hymenoptera] is a thickened spot or *stigma*. 1895 D. SHARP *Insects* I. 534 The Proctotrypidae..frequently have a pigmented spot or stigma on the front wings.

6. *Bot.* That part of the pistil in flowering plants which receives the pollen in impregnation, of very various form, situated either directly on the ovary (sessile) or at the summit (more rarely the side) of the style. Also applied to an analogous structure in cryptogams. (Pl. usually *stigmas*.)

1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s. v. *Seseli*, The stigmata are obtuse. 1812 *New Bot. Gard.* I. 26 The styles acuminate, and the stigmas obtuse. 1862 DARWIN *Contriv. Orchids fertilised* ix. (1877) 249 The viscid secretion of the stigmas of some Orchids. 1882 VINES tr. *Sachs' Bot.* 343 The female organs [in Cryptogams]..called archegonia, are, when..capable of being fertilised, flask-shaped bodies..prolonged into a long neck...A row of cells..passes through the neck..and is continued as far as the cells which form the so-called 'Stigma.'

7. In Ellis's Stigmatic Geometry, A point whose movement in a certain plane is determined by that of another point (the *index*) in the same plane.

1863 [see STIGMATIC B. 4]. 1864 *Rep. Brit. Assoc.* II. 2 If H and K be fixed stigmata. *Ibid.*, M is the index and P the stigma of a stigmatic straight line.

Stigmal (stiˑgmăl), *a. rare*—°. [f. STIGM-A + -AL.] Pertaining to a stigma; stigmatic (in scientific senses). In recent Dicts.

‖ **Stigmaria** (stigmēˑriă). *Geol.* Pl. **-æ.** [mod. L., f. STIGMA, in reference to the marks or scars on the fossil: see below.] A former genus of fossil plants, whose remains are found abundantly in the coal-measures; they consist of branching bodies, covered with regularly arranged depressions or scars, and are now commonly believed to be the roots of *Sigillaria* and possibly other trees, the scars being the points of attachment of the rootlets. Also *attrib.*

1845 LYELL *Trav. N. Amer.* I. 84, I was curious to know whether the *Stigmariæ* would be found here in the underclays. 1846 *Proc. Amer. Philos. Soc.* IV. 274 The fossil plant known as stigmaria was the root of a sigillaria. 1851 MANTELL *Petrifactions* i. § 2. 37 fig., Erect stem of Sigillaria with Stigmaria-roots; in a coal-mine in Nova Scotia. 1885 GEIKIE *Text-Bk. Geol.* VI. II. iv. § 1 (ed. 2) 728 There can be little doubt..that *Stigmaria* was a type of root common to more than one kind of tree.

Hence **Stigmaˑrian** *a.*, belonging to, or containing remains of, *Stigmaria*; **Stigmaˑrioid** *a.*, resembling *Stigmaria*.

1855 J. PHILLIPS *Man. Geol.* 218 This is the under-clay—the stigmarian bed. 1902 *Ann. Bot.* XVI. 559 The vascular branches of Stigmarian rootlets.

Stigmat (stiˑgmæt). *Photogr.* [? back-formation from STIGMATIC *a.*] A stigmatic lens or combination of lenses: see STIGMATIC A. 8.

1902 *Photo-miniature* Sept. 245 (Cent., Suppl.) 'Single' lenses, such as the elements forming Gray's Double Stigmat.

Stigmat, variant of STIGMATE.

Stiˑgmatal, *a. rare*—°. [f. Gr. στιγματ- STIGMA + -AL.] = STIGMAL.

1859 *Ann. Rep. Smithsonian Instit.* 1858, 187 The lateral region is that between the sub-dorsal and stigmatal lines.

Stigmate (stiˑgmĕt). Only in *plural*. Now *rare*. Also 4–5 **stygmate,** 7 **stigmatte,** 7–9 **stigmat.** [pl. *stigmates* ad. L. *stigmata* pl. of STIGMA. Cf. F. *stigmate*.]

1. = STIGMA 3.

1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) VIII. 525 She had the stygmates in her handes and feete and side. 1483 CAXTON *Golden Leg.* 314 b, Whan he hadde praid..Saynt fraunceis by his holy Signes and Stygmates he was..delyueryd of his payne. 1610 tr. *Bonaventure's Life St. Francis* xvi. 170 Graced and adorned with the Sacred Stigmattes of our Lord. 1686 AGLIONBY *Painting Illustr.* 141 A Saint Francis in Fresco, who receives the Stigmats upon his Knees. 1839 A. L. PHILLIPPS tr. *Montalembert's St. Eliz. Hungary* p. xxvii, Those five bright and glorious stigmats, which .. he [St. Francis] had received.

b. A mark as of a wound or puncture, a scar.

1861 J. H. BENNET *Shores of Mediterr.* III. xv. (1875) 545 So severely bitten [by ants] that it took weeks to efface the stigmates.

† **2.** A mark of correction or annotation in a book or manuscript. *Obs.*

1583 FULKE *Def.* Answ. Pref. 73 The Bible printed at Antwerpe,..where the margents..be full of diuerse readings, obeliskes, asterisks, stigmates.

Hence **Stiˑgmated** *a.*, marked with the stigmata.

1867 LADY HERBERT *Cradle L.* 158 The joy..with which those crossed and stigmated hands [in the badge of the Franciscan monasteries] are welcomed by the traveller.

Stigmatic (stigmæˑtik), *a.* and *sb.* [ad. med.L. *stigmaticus* (occurring in some MSS. of Cic. *De Off.* ii. 7. 25, where the true reading is *stigmatias*), f. L. *stigmat-*: see STIGMA and -IC. Fr. has *stigmatique* in sense 6 (Littré).

In early use sometimes accented *stiˑgmatic*: cf. *heˑretic.*]

A. *adj.*

1. Constituting or conveying a stigma; branding with infamy; ignominious; severely condemnatory.

1607 HEYWOOD *Wom. killed w. Kindn.* (1617) C 4, Print in my face The most stigmaticke title of a villaine. *a* 1631 DONNE *Ignat. Conclave* (1634) 17 Hee..imprinted the names of Antichrist, Iudas, and other stigmatique markes vpon the Emperour. 1870 SWINBURNE *Ess. & Stud.* (1875) 311 The application of any such stigmatic phrase to the work of Webster is absurd. 1876 — *Note Eng. Repub.* 10 Cruelty in Ireland, cruelty in Jamaica, cruelty in the plantation, cruelty in the jail, each of these in turn has naturally provoked the stigmatic brand of his approbation.

† **2.** Marked with a 'stigma' or brand, branded. In quot. 1602 app. humorously used in reference to an academic degree or distinction; cf. B. 1.

1602 *2nd Pt. Return fr. Parnass.* I. iv. 437 Any of those Stigmatick maisters of arte, that abused vs in times past. 1628 COKE *On Litt.* 158 If the Iuror bee..adiudged..to be branded, or to be stigmatique.

† **3.** Marked with or having a deformity or blemish; deformed, ill-favoured, ugly. *Obs.* (or *rare arch.*)

1597 DRAYTON *Heroical Ep., John to Matilda* 116 Hospitalls..for the crook'd, the hault, the stigmatick. 1601 YARINGTON *Two Lament. Trag.* IV. vi. in Bullen *O. Pl.* IV. 73 A loathsome toade, A one eyde Cyclops, a stigmaticke brat. 1609 HEYWOOD *Brit. Troy* VIII. ix. 171 The Muse hath made him Stigmaticke and lame. 1637 — *Dialogues* xvii. Annot. V 5, A Proverbe..*Thersite fœdior*, asperst upon any stigmatick, and crooked fellow. 1827 LAMB *Sir Jeffery Dunstan* in *Hone's Every-day Bk.* II. 843 But some little deviation from the precise line of rectitude might have been winked at in so tortuous and stigmatic a frame.

4. Pertaining to or accompanying the stigmata (see STIGMA 3).

1871 G. E. DAY in *Macm. Mag.* Apr. 490, I shall now take up the history of the stigmatic bleedings, which..occur every Friday. 1882–3 SCHAFF *Encycl. Relig. Knowl.* III. 2248 It may be said that 'stigmatic neuropathy' is a pathological condition..explicable by physical and mental conditions.

5. *Path.* Pertaining to or characterized by a stigma or stigmata (see STIGMA 4).

1898 *Syd. Soc. Lex.*

6. *Zool.* Pertaining to or having the nature of a stigma or breathing-pore.

1835 J. DUNCAN *Beetles* (Nat. Libr.) 133 In order to bring the stigmatic openings in contact with the air, they [water-beetles] are obliged from time to time to repair to the surface. 1877 HUXLEY *Anat. Inv. Anim.* vii. 435 The stigmatic openings are usually situated upon the side of the abdomen.

7. *Bot.* Pertaining to, constituting, or having the character of a stigma: see STIGMA 6. In quot. 1902, having a stigma, stigmatiferous.

1830 LINDLEY *Nat. Syst. Bot.* 19 The pollen..shed upon the stigmatic surface. 1882 VINES tr. *Sachs' Bot.* 351 Hepaticæ...The primary stigmatic cell divides into the five or six stigmatic cells of the neck. 1902 OLIVER tr. *Kerner's Nat. Hist. Plants* I. 741 If..the pollen should fall..to the ground, it would..be lost..and neither..winds nor..insects would be able to carry it..to the stigmatic flowers.

8. *Geom.* Pertaining or relating to the points called stigmata: see STIGMA 7, and B. 4 below.

1863 [see B. 4]. 1875 T. HILL *True Order Studies* 53 Hamilton's Quaternions, and Ellis's Stigmatic Geometry.

9. [Back-formation from ASTIGMATIC by omission of the privative prefix: thus etymologically equivalent to *anastigmatic*, in which the prefix is repeated. Cf. STIGMAT.] Applied to a photographic lens or combination of lenses constructed so as to correct the astigmatic aberration.

1896 *Brit. Jrnl. Photogr.* I May 280 The simplest form of a stigmatic lens consists of a glass plate with parallel plane sides. 1902 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 10) XXXI. 696/1 A..new type of anastigmatic objective..was brought out..by Messrs. Dallmeyer, under the name of 'Stigmatic'. 1902 *Westm. Gaz.* 12 May 4/2 The various models of stigmatic lenses with which the photographer is becoming somewhat bewildered. ..In practical photography..a good rapid rectilinear lens answers the purpose..and in nine cases out of ten the fine points of a stigmatic are wasted.

B. *sb.* [ellipt. use of the adj.]

† **1.** A person branded as a criminal; a profligate, villain. *Obs.* (or *rare arch.*)

In quot. 1597 app. humorously used for a person marked with an academic distinction: cf. A. 2.

1597 *Pilgr. Parnass.* II. 227 An ould drousie Academicke, an old Stigmatick, an ould sober Dromeder. 1600 *Sir J. Oldcastle* V. x. 112 Foule stigmatike, Thou venome of the country. 1642 *Consid. Duties Prince & People* 10 He himselfe the reproach of Soveraignty, and an infamous stigmatique to all posterity. 1856 C. R. KENNEDY *Demosthenes* III. 46 Some too that are slaves and stigmatics [Gr. μαστιγίας].

† **2.** A person marked with some physical deformity or blemish. *Obs.*

1594 *1st Pt. Contention* H 2, Foule Stigmaticke [said to Richard 'Crookback']. 1633 T. ADAMS *Comm. 2 Pet.* i. 4. 80 Be not then married to the world, its a mishapen stigmaticke.

3. A person marked with the stigmata (see STIGMA 3).

1885 *Times* 16 Dec. 5/2 He appeared at Paris..accompanied by his sister, Patrocinio, the famous stigmatic.

4. *Geom.* The aggregate of the curves traced by the points called stigmata (STIGMA 7); in *pl.* stigmatic geometry: see quot.

1863 A. J. ELLIS in *Proc. Roy. Soc.* XII. 442 The theory of stigmatics. An index point, supposed to move from any origin into every point on a plane, is accompanied by one or more satellite points, termed stigmata...The locus of the stigmata, corresponding to each path of the index, forms a stigmatic curve. The aggregate of these curves constitutes a stigmatic. 1875 T. HILL *True Order Studies* 162 Elements of more modern inventions, quaternions, stigmatics, &c.

5. *Photogr.* A stigmatic lens or objective.

1902 [see A. 9].

† **Stigmaˑtical,** *a. Obs.* [f. prec. + -AL.]

1. Of the nature of a 'stigma' or brand; made or inflicted by branding.

1610 GUILLIM *Heraldry* III. xx. (1632) 223 The Gentiles..vsed to..cut their flesh, and to scorch the same with stigmaticall markes. 1619 W. SCLATER *Exp. 1 Thess.* (1630) 26 *marg.*, This insolent Sectary hath..receiued..publike stigmaticall punishment.

2. = prec. A. 1.

1609 W. M. *Man in Moone* D 4 b, His Mandilion edged round about with the stigmaticall Latine word Fur. 1672 MARVELL *Reh. Transp.* I. 306 Several unnecessary additions were made, only because they knew they would be more ingrateful & stigmatical to the Nonconformists.

3. Branded, or deserving to be branded; infamous, villanous: cf. prec. A. 2.

1591 GREENE *Conny Catching* II. Wks. (Grosart) X. 90 One stigmaticall shamelesse companion amongst the rest. 1596 NASHE *Saffron Walden* Ep. Ded. 17 Some tall old sinckanter, or stigmaticall bearded Master of Arte. 1657 J. BENTHAM *Two Treat.* 13 False reports hatched..in the breasts..of alebench haunters, and other Stygmaticall varlots.

4. = prec. A. 3.

1589 GREENE *Menaphon* G j b, Tamberlaine, after his wife Xenocrate (the worlds faire eye) passed out of..this mortall life, he chose stigmatical trulls to please his humorous fancie. 1590 SHAKS. *Com. Err.* IV. ii. 22 He is deformed, crooked,.. Vicious, vngentle,..Stigmaticall in making, worse in minde. 1624 HEYWOOD *Gunaik.* VIII. 399 [Witches] are for the most part stigmaticall and ouglie. *a* 1640 J. DAY *Parl. Bees* iii. (1881) 26 A Bee that has a looke Stigmaticall.

5. = prec. A. 4.

1613 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* VIII. ii. 616 The flower of the *Granadille*..hath the marks of the Passion, Nailes, Pillar, Whippes, Thornes, Woundes, exceeding stigmaticall Francis.

Hence † **Stigmaˑtically** *adv. Obs.*, ill-favouredly, villanously. † **Stigmaˑticalness,** *rare*—°.

1622 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Sir Greg. Nonsence* Wks. (1630) II. 2/1 Giue me a Medler in a field of blue, Wrapt vp stigmatically in a dreame. *c* 1626 *Dick of Devon.* IV. i. in Bullen *Old Pl.* (1883) II. 61, I heard one of you talke most stigmatically in his sleepe—most horriferously. 1636 DEKKER *Wond. Kingd.* III. i. E 1, Any man that has a looke, Stigmatically drawne, like to a furies. 1727 BAILEY vol. II, *Stigmaticalness*, infamousness, a being branded with a Mark of Infamy.

Stigmatiferous (stigmătiˑfĕrəs), *a. Bot.* [f. L. *stigmat-* STIGMA + -(I)FEROUS.] Bearing a stigma.

1831 MACGILLIVRAY tr. *Richard's Elem. Bot.* 471 The style ..bears at its summit a variable number of stigmatiferous divisions. 1870 HOOKER *Stud. Flora* 295 Verbena,..style slender, 2-lobed, one lobe only stigmatiferous.

Stigmatiform (stigmæˑtifōm), *a. Nat. Hist.* [f. L. *stigmat-* STIGMA + -(I)FORM.] Having the form of a stigma (in sense 5 a, 5 c, or 6).

1843 HUMPHREYS *Brit. Moths* I. 111 An ovate black stigmatiform mark. 1888 HENSLOW *Orig. Floral Struct.* 292 The apex of the petal was green and stigmatiform.

Stigmatism (stiˑgmătiz'm). [f. assumed Gr. *στιγματισμός, f. στιγματίζειν to STIGMATIZE.]

† **1.** Branding; *collect.* marks made by branding, or by tattooing or the like. *Obs.*

1664 H. MORE *Myst. Iniq.* 360 No Pagan could buy nor sell, unless he had some such sacred Stigmatism upon his body.

2. *Path.* The condition of being affected with stigmata (see STIGMA 4).

1900–13 DORLAND *Med. Dict.*

3. Absence of astigmatism. [Cf. STIGMATIC A. 9.]

1890 G. M. GOULD *New Med. Dict., Stigmatism*, a condition of the refractive media of the eye in which rays of light from a point are accurately brought to a point on the retina. Synonymous with emmetropia.

Stigmatist (stiˑgmătist). [f. *stigmata*, pl. of STIGMA + -IST.] † **a.** = STIGMATIC B. 1. *Obs.* **b.** = STIGMATIC B. 3.

1607 B. BARNES *Divils Charter* III. v. F 3, I coniure thee ..By Nan Riuehomo that hote stigmatist. 1880 *Ch. Times* 28 May 343 Louise Lateau the Stigmatist.

Stigmatization (stiˑgmătəizēˑʃən). [f. STIGMATIZE *v.* + -ATION.] The action of stigmatizing, or condition of being stigmatized. *lit.* and *fig.*

1841 EARL SHREWSBURY *Let. to A. L. Phillipps* 42 Catherine Emmerich...Her stigmatization. 1854 M. D. WYATT & WARING *Mediæval Crt. Crystal Palace* 26 The youth of St. Francis..his stigmatization. 1872 J. S. SHEPARD tr. *Lefebvre's Louise Lateau* 126 One of the Friday stigmatizations of Louise Lateau. 1895 *Dublin Rev.* Apr. 489 Dr. Gourbeyre ..has collected..three hundred and twenty-one cases of stigmatisation. 1902 R. H. SHERARD *Oscar Wilde* xx. (1905) 244 How cruelly unjust was this stigmatisation.

Stigmatize (stiˑgmătaiz), *v.* [a. med.L. *stigmatizare*, a. Gr. στιγματίζειν, f. στιγματ- STIGMA:

see -IZE. Cf. F. *stigmatiser* (1552 in Hatz.-Darm.), It. *stigmatizzare*, Sp., Pg. *estigmatizar*.]

1. *trans.* To mark with a 'stigma' or brand; to brand; also to tattoo. Now *rare*.

Very frequent in the 17th c., with reference to the then common punishment of branding.

1585 T. WASHINGTON tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* IV. xxvi. 145 Amongst them [the Thracians] it was esteemed a faire and noble thing to haue the forhead stigmatized. 1637 *Brief Relat. Bastwick* etc. 15 Mr. Prynne to be stigmatized in the Cheekes with two Letters (S & L) for a Seditious Libeller. 1737 STACKHOUSE *Hist. Bible* I. iv. (1744) I. 132 God stigmatized him on the forehead with a letter of his own name. 1784 *Acts & Laws Connecticut* 8 Both of them shall be..stigmatized, or burnt on the Forehead with the Letter A, on a hot Iron. 1818 MAULE in *Misc. Scot.* I. 68 The Picts marked their skins with iron, and stigmatised them with pictures of divers animals. 1848 A. HERBERT in *Todd's Irish Nennius* Notes p. lxi, I..prefer the supposition, that [these persons] were ..simply painted..and not stigmatized.

b. *transf.* To mark with a stain, scar, or blemish.

1632 B. JONSON *Magn. Lady* III. iii, But my clothes To be defac'd and stigmatiz'd so foulely! 1705 [E. WARD] *Hudibras Rediv.* II. 19 An ill-look'd, thin-jaw'd Calves-head Rabble, All stigmatiz'd with Looks like Jews. 1893 *Scribner's Mag.* Sept. 287 The crimson panes like blood-drops stigmatize The western floor.

c. *Path.* To mark or affect with stigmata; to produce stigmata upon: see STIGMA 4. (Chiefly in *pa. pple.*)

1822-29 *Good's Study Med.* V. 697 Freckles. Cuticle stigmatised with yellowish-brown dots. 1899 *Hutchinson's Arch. Surg.* X. 179 She..[was] freckled and stigmatised.

d. To mark with the stigmata: see STIGMA 3.

1844 FABER *Sir Launcelot* (1857) 97 Francis..stigmatized in fashion as his Lord. 1872 TUKE *Illustr. Infl. Mind upon Body* 83 M. Maury states that Ursula Aguir..experienced every Friday severe pain in the place where, in a vision, she had been *stigmatised*.

e. To imprint as a brand (*lit.* or *fig.*). *rare*.

1644 MILTON *Divorce* I. i. (ed. 2) 7 Not to suffer the ordinance of his goodnes and favour, through any error to be ser'd and stigmatiz'd upon his servants to their misery and thraldome. 1647 R. STAPYLTON *Juvenal* (1670) 267 Letters stigmatized in slaves foreheads. 1822-29 [implied in STIGMATIZED c].

2. *fig.* To set a stigma upon; to mark with a sign of disgrace or infamy; to 'brand'; *esp.* to call by a disgraceful or reproachful name; to characterize by a term implying severe censure or condemnation.

1619 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Kicksey Winsey* A 7, A second Edition..wherein I will Satyrize, Cauterize, and Stigmatize all the whole kennell of curres. 1668 COWLEY *Verses & Ess., Liberty* (1669) 82 They..stick not to commit actions, by which they are more shamefully and more lastingly stigmatized. 1750 JOHNSON *Rambler* No. 78 P 12 One of the most striking passages..stigmatizes those as fools who complain that [etc.]. 1819 SCOTT *Leg. Montrose* xviii, We dare not stigmatize Argyle with poltroonery; for [etc.]. 1824 L. MURRAY *Engl. Gram.* (ed. 5) I. 532 These arts, by assisting..to stigmatize every improper idiom, tend to give greater precision..to our style. 1839-40 W. IRVING *Wolfert's R.* (1855) 149 As to their white wines, he stigmatizes them as mere substitutes for cider. 1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) V. 261 He must be stigmatized as ignorant, even though he be skilful in calculation.

b. Said of the 'brand' or mark (cf. STIGMA 2 b).

1650 J. HALL *Paradoxes* 57 It was..the first brand that stigmatized them after their fall. 1651-1883 [see STIGMATIZING *ppl. a.*].

Stigmatized (stiˈgmătəizd), *ppl. a.* [f. prec. + -ED 1.] Marked with a stigma (*lit.* or *fig.*); branded; marked with infamy, severely censured.

1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* I. ii. III. vi. 135 Let them be proued, perjured, stigmatized, convict roagues, theeues, traitors. 1657 BILLINGSLY *Brachy-Martyrol.* xi. 36 To multiply their fame, And not as markes of stigmatized shame. 1828 P. CUNNINGHAM *N. S. Wales* II. 124 Doomed to be, like the seed of Cain, a stigmatised race. 1850 MCCRIE *Menu. Sir A. Agnew* ii. 35 In these days sympathy with the slave was a rare and stigmatized thing.

b. Marked with the stigmata: see STIGMA 3.

1841 EARL SHREWSBURY *Let. to A. L. Phillipps* 44 The spiritual condition of stigmatized persons. 1872 TUKE *Illustr. Infl. Mind upon Body* 83 The flux of the Stigmata upon Fridays has been verified also in the case of..the Stigmatised of the Tyrol.

c. *Path.* Impressed as a stigma: see STIGMA 4.

1822-29 *Good's Study Med.* III. 27 The stigmatised and pathognomonic dots.

Stigmatizing (stiˈgmătəiziŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. as prec. + -ING 1.] The action of the verb STIGMATIZE; branding (*lit.* or *fig.*).

1641 MILTON *Animadv.* 63 A punishment..for the lopping, and stigmatizing of so many free borne Christians. 1641 *Remonstr. Comm.* in *Rushworth's Hist. Coll.* III. (1692) I. 442 His Majesties Subjects have been oppressed, by grievous Fines, Imprisonments, Stigmatizings, Mutilations, [etc.]. 1653 CHISENHALE *Cath. Hist.* 507 He makes those marks.. to become Brands and Stigmatizings of her errors. 1727 A. HAMILTON *New Acc. E. Ind.* II. lv. 306 For small Faults whipping and stigmatizing are common Punishments.

Stiˈgmatizing, *ppl. a.* [f. as prec. + -ING 2.] That stigmatizes: see the verb.

1650 BULWER *Anthropomet.* Pref., Art with her bold Stigmatizing hand. 1651 J. C[LEVELAND] *Poems* 39 A stigmatizing brand of Infamy. 1809 CAMPBELL *Gert. Wyom.* III. viii, Thy beloved heart..Would feel like mine the stigmatising brand! 1883 J. PARKER *Apost. Life* II. 198, I am not going to..fasten upon you some stigmatising term.

†Stigmatoˈlogy. *Obs. rare.* [f. Gr. στιγματ-, στίγμα (see STIGMA; here taken in the sense of στιγμή point) + -(O)LOGY.] The study or subject of the Hebrew accents. 1730 [see TAGHMICAL *a.*].

Stigmatose (stiˈgmătōus), *a.* [ad. mod.L. type **stigmatōsus*, f. L. *stigmat-* STIGMA: see -OSE.]

1. *Bot.* Said of a style bearing the stigma on some specified part, as along the side instead of (as usual) at the summit.

1840 PAXTON *Bot. Dict., Stigmatose*, when the stigma is long, lateral, or on one side of the style. 1870 HOOKER *Stud. Flora* 71 Malva..styles stigmatose on the inner surface.

2. *Path.* Covered or affected with stigmata.

1894 G. M. GOULD *Illustr. Dict. Med.* etc. *Stigmatose*, marked with stigmata.

Stigmatypy (stiˈgmătəipi). [f. Gr. στίγμα (see STIGMA; here taken in the sense of στιγμή point, dot) + *-typy* after STEREOTYPY or similar words.] The art or process of printing portraits, etc. with small types bearing dots of different sizes, so as to produce an effect of light and shade.

1875 SOUTHWARD *Dict. Typogr., Stigmatypy*, printing with points; the arrangement of points of various thicknesses to produce a picture.

†Stigme. *Obs. rare.* Anglicized form of STIGMA: in quots., in senses 1 and 2.

*c*1400 *Apol. Loll.* 92 3e schal not prik 3or flesch, ne mak to 3ow ani figeris, ne stigmes, þat are woundis. *a* 1619 FOTHERBY *Atheom.* I. iv. § 1 (1622) 20 None..haue..branded any nation with the marke and stigme of Atheisme.

Stih, Stiif, obs. ff. STY, path, STIFF.

Stik, obs. form of STICK *sbs.* and *vb.*

[Stike, explained in Nares as a form of STICH, is a misprint for SIKE *sb.*2 in Sackville *Induct. Mirr. Mag.* xxi.]

† Stiˈkelunge, *adv. Obs. rare*−1. [f. STICK *v.*1 + -LENG 2. The scribe of the Titus MS. app. took the word for a pple.] ? Piercingly, intently. Also **† Stiˈkelliche** *adv.* [as if f. STICKLE *a.*], in the same sense.

*c*1230 *Hali Meid.* (Bodl. MS.) lf. 58 3ef þu bihaldest ofte & stikelunge [*Titus* ofte stikelinde] on ei mon. 13.. *K. Alis.* 219 (Linc. Inn MS.), On hire he lokid stikelliche [*Laud MS.* stedfastlyk], And heo on him al outreliche.

Stilbene (stiˈlbēn). *Chem.* [f. Gr. στίλβειν to glitter + -ENE.] A hydrocarbon produced by the action of heated lead oxide on toluene, and in various other ways: used in dye-stuffs. So **Stiˈlbin** [see -IN] in the same sense.

1868 WATTS *Dict. Chem.* V. 431 Stilbene. *Ibid.* 432 Stilbin. Syn. with Stilbene. 1891 J. E. MARSH tr. *van 't Hoff's Chem. Space* 107 The attempts of Aronstein and Holleman to obtain two isomeric stilbenes.

Stilbid (stiˈlbid). *Bot.* [f. mod.L. *Stilb-um*, the typical genus of the *Stilbeæ* (f. Gr. στίλβ-ειν to glitter) + -ID.] A fungus of the group *Stilbeæ* or *Stilbaceæ*.

1846 LINDLEY *Veg. Kingd.* 607 Stilbids can hardly be associated with any of the Orders hitherto suggested. 1854 A. ADAMS etc. *Man. Nat. Hist.* 421 Stilbids (Stilbaceæ).

Stilbite (stiˈlbəit). *Min.* [a. F. *stilbite* (Haüy 1796), f. Gr. στίλβειν to glitter: see -ITE.] A hydrous silicate of aluminium and calcium, in oblique prismatic crystals with pearly lustre. Formerly not distinguished from HEULANDITE.

1815 AIKIN *Min.* (ed. 2) 209 Stilbite..occurs crystallized, lamelliform, massive, and in fasciculated acicular prisms. 1854 DANA *Syst. Min.* (ed. 4) II. 332 Stilbite, H[aüy].

‖ Stil de grain (stil də grēn). Also shortened **stil.** [Fr., according to Hatz.-Darm. corruptly a. Du. *schijtgroen*, f. *schijt* excrement + *groen* green.] A yellow pigment (see quots.).

1769 CROKER etc. *Dict. Arts & Sci., Stil de Grain*,..a composition used for painting..made by a decoction of the lycium or Avignon berry in alum-water, which is mixed with whiting into a paste, and formed into twisted sticks. 1835 G. FIELD *Chromatogr.* 84 The pigment called *Stil*, or *Stil de grain*. 1862 C. O'NEILL *Dict. Calico Printing* 20/1 The yellow lake extensively used by artists..called 'stil de grain', and manufactured in Holland, is made by preparing a decoction [etc.]. 1884 J. S. TAYLOR *Field's Chromatogr.* 162 Brown-Pink, or Stil-de-Grain, is generally prepared from Avignon berries,..or from Turkey and Persian berries.

Stile (stəil), *sb.*1 Forms: 1 stigel, stigol, stihl, stiogol, 4 stighele, 5 steyl(e, style, 6 steelle, stele, styile, -ill, styll, 7 steele, steill, stiele, 9 *dial.* steel(e, stele, 4- stile. [OE. *stigel* str. fem., corresponding to OHG. *stigilla* wk. fem. (MHG. *stiegele*), f. Teut. root **stīg-* to climb: see STY *v.*]

1. An arrangement of steps, rungs, or the like, contrived to allow passage over or through a fence to one person at a time, while forming a barrier to the passage of sheep or cattle. Cf. TURNSTILE.

Church stile: the stile giving entrance to the churchyard. (Very frequently referred to in records, directions for funeral services, etc., from the 15th to the 17th c. See CHURCH *sb.* 16 c, KIRK *sb.* 4.)

c 779 *Grant by Offa* in Birch *Cartul. Sax.* I. 326 Of þam seaðe in þa ealdan stihle. *a* 900 WÆRFERTH *Gregory's Dial.* 24 Hi þa becomon to þære stigole, þær se þeof oferstah in ðone wyrttun. 1304 in *Catal. Anc. Deeds* (1894) II. 390 [Land called] Stothamstighele. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Pard. T.* 384 Right as they wolde han troden ouer a stile An oold man and a poure with hem mette. 1430-40 LYDG. *Bochas* VIII. Prol. (1558) 1 Halfe within and half ouer the stile. *c* 1460 *Oseney Reg.* 116 Sauyng to þe same Roger and to his heyres A pathe horowgh þe middull of þe same close fro þe stile of þe forsaide church. 1470-85 MALORY *Arthur* I. iii–v. 41 So whan he cam to the chircheyard sir Arthur alist & tayed his hors to the style. 1536 *MS. Acc. St. John's Hosp., Canterb.*, Payd..for makyng off a stele & a gate. 1573 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 105 Saue step for a stile, of the crotch of the bough. 1601 *Manch. Crt. Leet Rec.* (1885) II. 168 Robert Langley shall..sett two steeles..in the syde of Asheley ffields. 1654 LAMONT *Diary* (Maitl. Club) 77 Money for the poore, that day, was gathered at the church steill and church doore. 1661 *Reg. Gt. Seal Scot.* 19/1 Going downe ane march balk betwixt Ernslaw and Swyntounmylne style till you come to the old trouch of Leit. 1726 SWIFT *Gulliver* II. i, There was a stile to pass from this field into the next. 1763 BICKERSTAFF *Love in Village* I. ix, Scene IX. A field with a stile. 1827 *Hone's Every-day Bk.* II. 905 Stiles and fieldpaths are vanishing everywhere. 1847 JAMES *Convict* iv, They soon reached the wall, over which they passed by a stone style. 1865 TROLLOPE *Belton Est.* iii. 37 Getting over stiles and through gates. 1898 J. PATON *Castlebrae* 28, I..set my foot upon a style to step over into the public roadway.

b. In figurative phrases.

a 1352 MINOT *Poems* i. 88 All þai stumbilde at þat stile. 1546 J. HEYWOOD *Prov.* I. xi. (1867) 32 To helpe a dogge ouer a style. *Ibid.* II. ix. 80 Ye would be ouer the style, er ye come at it. 1574-5 ABP. PARKER *Let.* 18 Feb. in Strype *Life* (1711) App. 181 What is ment, but to goo over the Style, where it is lowest? 1598 FLORIO *Ital. Dict.* Ep. Ded. 4 The retainer doth some seruice, that now and then..lendes a hande ouer a stile. 1639 DU VERGER tr. *Camus' Admir. Events* 112 He resolved to leape that stile, and take her to his wife. 1659 in *Burton's Diary* (1828) IV. 316, I would have it understood whether we confirm it as a law, or help a lame dog over a stile. 1675 ALSOP *Anti-Sozzo* 302 He lifted him over the Style with this. 1692 *Christ Exalted* 105 Now to help him over this stile, he troubles the Bishop. 1857 KINGSLEY *Two Y. Ago* xxv, 'I can..help a lame dog over a stile' (which was Mark's phrase for doing a generous thing). 1884 *Manch. Exam.* 20 May 5/1 It is a mere working arrangement; a lift over the stile at a crisis of some importance to the party.

2. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *stile-board, -post, -step, -way*; **stile-boot** (see quot.).

1891 HARDY *Tess* xii, The lichened *stile-boards. 1828 CARR *Craven Gloss.*, **Steel-boot*, wood claimed of the Lord, by an owner of lands, within certain manors, for making a stile. 1750 W. ELLIS *Mod. Husb.* VI. i. 126 By spurring up a gate or *stile-post before they are quite damaged, he may [etc.]. 1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* II. 65 The stell is entered by *stile-steps over the wall. 1751 PALTOCK *Peter Wilkins* I. xii. 108 Leaving only a Door-way on one Side, between two Stems of a Tree, which, dividing in the Trunk, at about two Feet from the Ground, grew from thence, for the rest of its Height, as if the Branches were a Couple of Trees a little distant from one another, which made a Sort of *Stile-way to my Room.

Stile (stəil), *sb.*2 *Carpentry.* Also 9 **style.** [Of uncertain origin; perh. a. Du. *stijl* pillar, prop, door-post.] Each of the vertical bars of a wainscot, sash, panel door, or other wooden framing.

1678 MOXON *Mech. Exerc.* v. 83 You must leave some stuff to pare away smooth to the struck line, that the Stile (that is, the upright Quarter) may make a close Joynt with the Rail (that is the lower Quarter). 1710 J. HARRIS *Lex. Techn.* II, *Stiles*, the upright pieces which go from the bottom to the top in any Wainscot, are by the Workmen called *Stiles*. 1768-74 TUCKER *Lt. Nat.* (1834) I. 290 When we look upon the wainscot of a room, where the panels are painted of a different colour from the stiles and mouldings. 1801 FELTON *Carriages* (ed. 2) II. 43 Two crests on the door-stiles 8*s*. 1825 J. NICHOLSON *Oper. Mech.* 326 His turning machine..the legs or stiles L, the puppets A, B, the cheeks *o*, *o*. *Ibid.* 593 The face of the pulley-stile of every sash-frame ought to project about three-eighths of an inch beyond the edge of the brick-work. 1825 *Greenhouse Comp.* I. 15 In the case of Grecian architecture, the mouldings of any of the orders are readily applied to the styles, rails and bars. 1844 *Civil Engin. & Arch. Jrnl.* VII. 114/2 In constructing the walls of houses, in the first instance, 'stiles' or pieces of timber are inserted at convenient distances. 1846 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* II. 715 In a rectangular frame..the tenons are commonly made on the shorter pieces, called the rails, and the mortises on the longer or the styles. 1869 BLACKMORE *Lorna D.* xxxviii, Making spars to keep for thatching, wall-crooks to drive into the cob, stiles for close sheep-hurdles, and handles for rakes. 1881 YOUNG *Ev. Man his own Mech.* § 709. 323 Nor should nails be driven into the styles of any door. 1883 M. P. BALE *Saw-mills* 336 *Stiles*, part of a window sash.

Stile, see STEEL, STYLE. **Stilet:** see STYLET.

† Stiletˈto. *Obs.* In 7 stilletato. [a. It. *stilettata*, f. *stiletto*.] A thrust with a stiletto.

1651 tr. *Life Father Paul Sarpi* 116 He thought that at the two first stilletato's he felt like two blowes strucken with fire at one instant.

Stilette (stiˈlet), variant of STYLET (*Surg.*).

Stiletto (stiˈlēto), *sb.* Pl. **-oes.** Also 7 **stilletta, stelletto, steeletto,** 7–8 **steletto, stilleto, stilletto.** [a. It. *stiletto*, dim. of *stilo* dagger, STYLUS: see -ET. Cf. STYLET.]

1. A short dagger with a blade thick in proportion to its breadth.

1611 CORYAT *Crudities* 275 They [the Venetian 'Braves'] wander abroad very late in the night..armed with a privy coat of maile,..and a little sharpe dagger called a stiletto. 1627 H. BURTON *Bait. Pope's Bull* 44 What is it but pistols, stellettoes, poysons, your vsuall weapons? 1629 QUARLES *Argalus & Parthenia* I. 12 A keene Steeletto in his trembling hand He rudely grip'd. 1674 COTTON *Fair One of Tunis* 136 He..would a thousand times have plunged his Steeletto into his own bosom, had not he had a design to have stab'd it into that of his Rival. 1711 PUCKLE *Club* (1817) 7 Some use their wits as Bravoes wear stelettoes, not for defence but mischief. 1736 B. HIGGONS *Rem. on Burnet* I. 59 As Dark-

lanthorns and Stilettoes are unlawful Weapons to attack his Person. 1783 JUSTAMOND tr. *Raynal's Hist. Indies* V. 163 Besides these, the Turks have a dagger, and the Moors a stiletto. 1841 JAMES *Brigand* v, Employing the stiletto or the drug when it suited his purpose to get rid of troublesome friends. 1864 *Reader* 18 June 771/1 She discovers a stiletto hidden in a pond.

transf. and *fig.* 1673 MARVELL *Reh. Transp.* II. 315 Your whole Book of Ecclesiastical Politie having been Writ not with a Pen but a Stilletto. 1749 BOLINGBROKE *Lett. Patriotism* 145 Simulation is a stiletto, not only an offensive, but an unlawful weapon. 1843 MACAULAY *Ess., Addison* (1897) 738 [Pope's] own life was one long series of tricks... He was all stiletto and mask. 1844 KINGLAKE *Eothen* xi, The fleas of all nations were there:—the wary, watchful 'pulce' with his poisoned stiletto [etc.]. 1872 LOWELL *Milton* Pr. Wks. 1890 I V. 85 But the thin stiletto of Machiavelli is a more effective weapon than these fantastic arms of his [Milton's].

† **2.** Short for *stiletto beard*: see 5. *Obs. rare*—1.

1638 FORD *Fancies* III. i, The very *he* that Wears a stiletto on his chin.

† **3.** A surgical instrument: ? = STYLET. *Obs.*

1698 LISTER *Journ. Paris* (1699) 233 He boldly thrusts in a broad Lancet or Stilleto into the middle of the Muscle of the Thigh near the *Anus*.

4. *Needlework*, etc. A small pointed instrument for making eyelet-holes.

1828 WEBSTER, *Stiletto*, a pointed instrument for making eyelet holes in working muslin. 1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib., Brit.* II. No. 6513, Button-hooks, nail files, corkscrews, stilettoes, tweezers, nut picks, &c. 1879 E. A. DAVIDSON *Pretty Arts* 148 This material..may with ease be penetrated by the stiletto or a strong needle.

5. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *stiletto blade, wound*; *stiletto-like* adj.; † **stiletto beard**, a pointed beard; so † *stiletto cut*, † *fashion*; **stiletto-fly** (see quot. 1895).

1621 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Superbiæ Flagellum* C 8, Some [beards] sharpe Steletto fashion, dagger like. 1635 DAVENANT *Tri. Prince d'Amour* 4 Two..swaggering Souldiers, ..their Beards mishapen, with long whiskers of the Stilletto cut. *a* 1660 *Prince d'Amour* etc. 127 The Steeletto beard, O it makes me afraid It is so sharp beneath. 1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* xxxvi, By using the three-cornered stiletto-blade as a wedge, he forced open the slender silver hinges of the casket. 1851 H. MELVILLE *Whale* xlix, With a stiletto-like cry..the negro yelled out. 1865 *Daily Tel.* 26 Oct. 2/1 There was a mean shrinking from a condemnation of Lord Palmerston's life and policy, and a stiletto-like smiting in the back. 1895 COMSTOCK *Man. Insects* 464 Family Therevidæ...The abdomen is long and tapering, suggesting the name stiletto-flies. 1911 *Daily News* 12 Jan. 2 The same day her husband's body was found on the seashore [of Naples] bearing the marks of many stiletto wounds.

Stiletto (stile·*to*), *v.* Inflected **stilettoes, stilettoed** († **stiletted**). [f. STILETTO *sb.*]

1. *trans.* To stab, esp. mortally, with a stiletto.

1613–4 BACON *Charge agst. W. Talbot* Resusc. (1657) 55 This King [Hen. IV of France] likewise, stilletted, by a Rascal votary. 1751 CHESTERF. *Let. to Son* 30 June, An excellent and short book; for which, and some other treatises against the court of Rome, he [Fra Paolo] was stilletto'd. 1835 LYTTON *Rienzi* IV. ii, How many peaceful men have been stilettoed in the day-light.

2. *nonce-use.* To mark with a 'dagger' or obelus.

1841–57 DE QUINCEY *Homer* Wks. VI. 357 Aristarchus... cancels and stilettoes the whole passage. *Ibid. foot-n.*, 'Stilettoes':—i. e., obelises, or places his autocratic *obelus* before the passage.

Stiliard, obs. form of STEELYARD 1, 2.

† **Sti·ling**, *vbl. sb. Obs.* [f. STILE *sb.*[1] + -ING[1].] The making of stiles.

1509 *Reg. Mag. Sig. Scot.* 725/2 In pratis et pasturis, clausuris le stiling.

† **Sti·lking**. *Obs.* Some part of the gear of a plough.

1523–34 FITZHERB. *Husb.* § 5 Bvt or he begyn to plowe, he muste haue his ploughe,..his oxen or horses, and the geare that belongeth to them; that is to say, bowes, yokes, landes, stylkynges, wrethynge temes.

Still (stil), *sb.*[1] Also 6 **styll, stil**, 8 *Sc.* **stiel**, 8–9 *Sc.* **stell**. [f. STILL *v.*[1]]

1. An apparatus for distillation, consisting essentially of a close vessel (alembic, retort, boiler) in which the substance to be distilled is subjected to the action of heat, and of arrangements for the condensation of the vapour produced. Also applied to the alembic or retort separately.

1562 BULLEIN *Bulwarke, Bk. Simples* (1579) 85 b, A horned Still. Bagpipe Still...Pelican Still. 1563 T. GALE *Antidot.* II. 87 Then styll them in a common styll, and keepe thys water to your vse. 1577 B. GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* IV. 193 Yf you do it in Stils made of Glasse,..your water shal haue the very taste, sauour, and propertie of the hearbe. 1579 LYLY *Euphues* (Arb.) 91 Not unlike to the damaske Rose, which is sweeter in the Still then on the stalke. 1620 *Union Inventories* (1841) 27 In the Still Howse. iiij stills, ij brasse panns, wth table and presse. 1655 CULPEPPER etc. *Riverius* I. i. 8 Put them in a Retort, or Still so called. 1731 ARBUTHNOT *Aliments* iii. (1735) 68 This fragrant Spirit is obtain'd from all Plants which are in the least aromatick, by a cold Still. 1785 BURNS *Scotch Drink* xix, Thae curst horse-leeches o' th' Excise, Wha mak the Whisky stells their prize! 1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* I, A charcoal fire, on which there was a still working. 1885 LOCK *Workshop Rec.* Ser. IV. 121/2 All ordinary distilling apparatus consists of 2 parts —one in which the heat is applied to the body to be distilled and vaporised (called the 'still'). 1899 E. J. PARRY *Chem. Essential Oils* 200 The herbs [*sc.* mint] are distilled in the green state...In England most of the stills used hold from 4 to 8 cwt. of herbs. 1901 BOLAS & LELAND *Perfumes* 14 None of the domestic stills sold for purifying water..are well *suited for making perfumes*.

fig. 1579 LYLY *Euphues* (Arb.) 101 And witte..beeing purified in the styll of wisdome. 1598 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. i. II. *Impost.* 518 God's grace, whose Still Extracts from dross of thine audacious ill, Three unexpected goods. 1873 SPENCER *Stud. Sociol.* xi. 289 When the fermenting mass of political passions and beliefs is put into the electoral still, there distils [etc.].

b. *Small-still* (*whisky*) Sc. and Anglo-Irish: 'whisky supposed to be of superior quality, because the product of a small still' (Jam.).

1822 [J. WILSON] *Lights & Shad. Scott. Life* 382 Taste the whisky, Mr. Gordon—it is sma' still, and will do harm to no man. 1835 CARRICK *Laird of Logan* (1841) 312 Another class contented themsells with sma'-stell whisky, made intil toddy. 1839 *John Bull* 11 Aug. 381/1 Retiring with his 'Riverence' to discuss small-still and the claims of the 'parsecuted Clargy'. 1856 LEVER *Martins of Cro' M.* x. 87 That is 'poteen'...It's the small still that never paid the King a farthing. 1861 G. H. KINGSLEY *Sport & Trav.* (1900) 245 A couple of black bottles, which ought to contain whisky of the smallest still.

2. † **a.** = STILL-ROOM. *Obs.* **b.** A distillery.

1533 in *Froude's Hist. Eng.* (1870) I. 44 In the Still beside the Gate. Two old road saddles, one bridle, a horse-cloth. 1654 WHITLOCK *Zootomia* 351 Shee gives that [Physick] a nobler way; more from her Purse than still, or Closet. 1845 S. JUDD *Margaret* I. xv, He engaged his services as night-warden of the Still...The 'Still,' or distillery, was a smutty, clouded, suspicious-looking building.

3. A chamber or vessel for the preparation of bleaching-liquor by the action of hydrochloric acid on manganese dioxide, or for the preparation of chlorine, of alkalis, etc.

1853 in *Abridgm. Specif. Patents, Acids* etc. (1869) 377 Improved apparatus for manufacturing chlorine or chlorides. [This consists in substituting for the] common leaden or stone still [..an iron vessel or still, having a lining of fire-bricks or tiles, etc.]. 1880 J. LOMAS *Man. Alkali Trade* 272 The liquid hydrochloric acid obtained from the sulphate of soda process is run upon a known weight of manganese binoxide in a 'still.' The best form of still is shown in Figs. 188 and 189. 1880 LUNGE *Manuf. Sulphuric Acid & Alkali* III. 26 The stills B, B[1], B[2], B[3] communicate with each other by a distributor C,..which permits any boiler to be isolated without interrupting the distillation in the others. 1910 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 11) I. 684/1 (art. *Alkali*) Both these reactions are carried out in tall cylindrical columns or 'stills,' consisting of a number of superposed cylinders, having perforated horizontal partitions, and provided with a steam-heating arrangement in the enlarged bottom portion.

4. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *still-cabin, -cock, -fire, house, nose*; **still-bottoms**, 'what remains in the still after working the wash into low wines' (*Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s. v.); **still-hanger** (see quot.); **still-hunting**, the search for illicit stills; **still-liquor**, bleaching liquor made in a still (see 3); **still-man**, a workman employed to attend to a still; **still-pot**, a small still; **still-spirit** (see quot.); **still-tub**, the condensing vessel of a still. Also STILL-BURNT, STILL-HEAD, STILL-HOUSE, STILL-ROOM, STILL-WORM.

1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s. v. *Wine*, The *still-bottoms have many uses. The distillers scald and recover their musty casks with them, and [etc.]. 1841 S. C. HALL *Ireland* I. 117 The light curl of smoke issuing from the roof of some illicit *still-cabin. 1652 in W. M. Williams *Ann. Founders' Co.* (1867) 110 They found..at Evan Evens's other great *still Cockes filled with Lead and so basely wrought, that [etc.]. 1725 G. SMITH *Distilling* 68 You must have for your *Still-fire a large Poker, Fire-shovel, [etc.]. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade*, **Still-hanger*, an engineer or worker, who fixes the stills for making rum in the West Indies. 1821 SCOTT *Let.* in *Lockhart* (1839) VI. 313 Pray write soon, and give me the history of your *still-huntings. 1844 G. R. GLEIG *Light Dragoon* ii. (1855) 17 There is not one [duty] on which I now look back with more unmixed abhorrence than the operation of still-hunting. 1869 *Abridgm. Specif. Patents, Acids* etc. 997 *Still liquor or chloride of manganese obtained in any other way..is treated [etc.]. *a* 1864 GESNER *Coal, Petrol.* etc. (1865) 167 One superintendent, two engineers, four *still-men, and four helpers. 1725 G. SMITH *Distilling* 72 The worm end, in which your *Still nose is luted. *a* 1824 in Maidment *N. C. Garland* 54 A *stell-pat they gat, and they brew'd Highland whisky. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 624 This apparatus consists of only two still-pots of cast iron. 1832 *Trans. Prov. Med. & Surg. Assoc.* VI. II. 202 These [cider dregs] were formerly collected and distilled, thus yielding a coarse ardent spirit, vulgarly called '*still-spirits.' 1826 HENRY *Elem. Chem.* II. 600 This test is so delicate, that water condensed by the leaden worm of a *still-tub, is sensibly affected by it.

Still (stil), *a.* and *sb.*[2] Forms: 1 **stille, stylle**, 3–6 **stille, stylle**, 3–7 **stil**, 4 **stell, style**, 4–6 **styl**, 5–6 **styll**, 3– **still**. [Com. WGer.: OE. *stille* = OFris. *stille*, OS. *stilli* (MLG. *stille*, whence prob. Sw. *stilla, still*, Norw. *still*, Da. *stille*), MDu. *stille* (mod.Du. *stil*), OHG. *stilli* (MHG. *stille*, mod.G. *still*):—OTeut. type **stilljo-*, **stelljo-*, f. **stel-* to be fixed, stand: see STEAL *sb.*[2]]

A. *adj.*

1. Motionless; not moving from one place, stationary; also, remaining in the same position or attitude, quiescent. **a.** as *predicate* or *complement*.

In *stand, sit, lie still* the word may be taken either as adj. or adv. In OE., however, there is evidence that in these collocations it was sometimes adv., and no evidence that it was ever adj., the constant form being *stille* (which always admits of being regarded as adv.), never *stillu*, which would be the proper form of the adj. when the subj. is fem. sing. or neut. pl. Further, in OS. and OHG. the adv. *stillo*, not the adj., is used with the verb 'to stand'. These phrases are therefore treated under STILL *adv.* 1.

Beowulf 2830 Se widfloza wundum stille hreas on hrusan,

c 888 ÆLFRED *Boeth.* xxxix. viii, He astereð þone rodor & þa tunglu, & þa eorðan gedeð stille. *c* 1205 LAY. 4516 Stille he wes iswozen on his kine-stole. *c* 1374 CHAUCER *Anel. & Arc.* 54 Mars..ne rested neuer stille But throng now here now þere. *a* 1400–50 *Wars Alex.* 263 Quen he þire sawis had sayd he in his sege lened, In stody still as a stane & starid in hire face. 1604 SHAKS. *Oth.* v. ii. 94 Hah, no more moouing? Still as the Graue. 1732 in A. Clarke *Mem. Wesley Family* (1823) 264 They were as soon taught to be still at family prayers. 1816 J. WILSON *City of Plague* I. i. 79 There it hangs Still as a rainbow in the pathless sky. 1859 REEVE *Brittany* 51 One or two women..remained still long enough to be more defined in outline. 1889 BADEN-POWELL *Pigsticking* 170 It is easy enough for a man to keep still, but the difficulty is to make the horse do so. 1897 HALL CAINE *Christian* x, The dance is over, but she can't keep her feet still.

† **b.** Abstaining from action. Const. *of* (in OE., genitive). Phrase, *To hold oneself still. Obs.*

c 1000 *Laws of Wihtræd* § 6 Sio he stille his þegnungæ oþ biscopes dom. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 408 Þe seuend o werk he hild him still. *Ibid.* 10323 Þof godd vmquil be funden still, Al mai he wirk þou quat he will. *c* 1338 R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (1725) 47 Edmunde & the erle Uctred þat tyme held þam stille. 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 3449 When þou..wille noght help bot haldes þe stylle. 1388 WYCLIF *De Eccl.* Sel. Wks. III. 346 A stiward..þat whanne many servauntis done amys, holdiþ stille, and bryngiþ in newe þat done werse. 1590 SHAKS. *Com. Err.* III. ii. 69 Hold you still: Ile fetch my sister to get her good will.

c. in attributive use. (In quot. *a* 1586: † Averse from moving about, sedentary.) Somewhat *rare*.

a 1586 SIDNEY *Arcadia* III. iv. (1912) 374 Therfore would he not employ the stil man to a shifting practise, nor the liberall man to be a dispenser of his victuals. 1798 COLERIDGE *Anc. Mar.* IV. xi, The charmed water burnt alway A still and awful red. 1817 SHELLEY *Rev. Islam* II. xii. 8 Even as a storm let loose beneath the ray Of the still moon. 1853 C. BRONTË *Villette* iii, In his absence she was a still personage, but with him the most officious, fidgetty little body possible. 1875 HUXLEY & MARTIN *Elem. Biol.* 12 The still condition of Protococcus, just described, is not the only state in which it exists. Under certain circumstances, a Protococcus becomes actively locomotive. 1897 *Encycl Sport* I. 129/2 (Bowls), *Still bowl*, a bowl at rest.

d. Of wine: Not sparkling or effervescing.

Chiefly used to designate a variety of one of those wines which have also a 'sparkling' variety, as champagne, hock, moselle.

1833 REDDING *Mod. Wines* v. 71 Champagne wines are divided into sparkling.., demi sparkling.., and still wines (*non mousseux*). 1858 HAWTHORNE *Fr. & It. Jrnls.* (1871) II. 254 Wine..somewhat resembling still champagne, but finer. 1911 *Encycl. Brit.* XXVII. 724/1 The white growths of the Loire..up to 1834 were used only as still wines.

2. Silent.

† **a.** Predicatively of a person. *To be* (*hold oneself*) *still*: to hold one's peace, refrain from speaking (*of* something). Also, † *still of noise. Obs.*

a 1000 *Ags. Gosp.* Matt. xxii. 34 Þæt he het þa saduceiscan stylle beon [Vulg. *quod silentium imposuisset Sadducæis*]. *a* 1200 *Moral Ode* 112 Þe ðe lest wat biseið ofte mest; þe hit al wat is stille. *c* 1200 *Vices & Virtues* 11 Ðus ðu dedest, and ic was stille. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 116 Ich am stille of þe more (*i. e.* I do not speak of the greater (offence)). *a* 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 373 Stille beo þu þenne & stew swuche wordes. *c* 1275 *Passion our Lord* 253 in *O. E. Misc.*, Ihesuc hym wes stille, nolde heo nowyht speke. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 19994 Fra nu forward i will O þe apostels hald me still. *c* 1305 *St. Christopher* 165 in *E. E. P.* (1862) 64 þu miȝt, quaþ þis oþer: as wel beo stille. 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 1388 *Ne sileas* [etc.]..þat es to say, be noght swa stille, þat [etc.]. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xl. (*Ninian*) 665 þai held i ame stil, þo þai wa ware, nedly for þai mycht nomare. 1382 WYCLIF *Matt.* xx. 31 Forsothe the cumpanye blamyde hem, for to be stille [Vulg. *ut tacerent*]. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Knt.'s T.* 1677 (Hengwrt MS.) And whan he say the peple of noyse al stille Thus shewed he the mygthy dukes wille. 1387–8 T. USK *Test. Love* I. viii. (Skeat) I. 67 Lo eke an olde proverbe amonges many other: He that is stille semeth as he graunted. *c* 1400 *Rule St. Benet* i. 4 Better es to be stille þan for to speke of þair lif. *a* 1425 tr. *Arderne's Treat. Fistula*, etc. 6 ȝif þou had bene stille thou had bene holden a philosophre. *a* 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* xli. 15 Be nocht of langage quhair ȝe suld be still. 1518 H. WATSON *Hist. Oliver of Castile* (Roxb.) K 1 b, Wherfore she helde her styll and sayd nothynge. *a* 1533 BERNERS *Huon* lxviii. 236 Better it is to shew the trouthe then to be styll. 1535 COVERDALE *Zech.* ii. 13 Let all flesh be still before the Lorde, for he is rysen out of his holy place. 1568 GRAFTON *Chron.* II. 794 All were still and muete, and not one worde aunswered to. 1590 SHAKS. *Com. Err.* III. ii. 69 Oh soft sir, hold you still. 1604 — *Oth.* v. ii. 46 Peace, and be still.

b. Habitually silent, taciturn. Phrase, *to keep a still tongue in one's head.*

1729 G. ADAMS tr. *Sophocles, Antig.* IV. i. II. 61 Lead me home, that he may..know how to keep a stiller Tongue, and ever be of a better Mind than now he is. 1855 KINGSLEY *Westw. Ho!* xv, He was a very still man, much as a mass-priest might be. 1859 GEO. ELIOT *Adam Bede* xxiii, 'I'll tell you what I know, because I believe you can keep a still tongue in your head if you like. 1859 TENNYSON *Grandm.* 13 Strong on his hands, and strong on his legs, but still of his tongue! 1869 HAZLITT *Eng. Prov.* 35 A still tongue makes a wise head. 1870 E. PEACOCK *Ralf Skirl.* I. 112 I'm a strange still chap mysen. 1890 W. A. WALLACE *Only a Sister* 328 He was a rare man John, a rare still 'un.

† **c.** *Prov.* (Very common in 16–17th c.) *Obs.*

c 1200 *Prov.* in *MS. Rawlinson* C. 641 lf. 13 b/1 Stille suȝe fret þere grunninde mete. 1546 J. HEYWOOD *Prov.* (1867) 22 The still sowe eats vp all the draffe Ales. 1598 SHAKS. *Merry W.* IV. ii. 109 'Tis old, but true, Still Swine eats all the draugh. 1611 FLORIO, *Acqua queta*, ..a close, slie, lurking knaue, a stil sow as we say.

3. Of a voice, sounds, utterances: Subdued, soft, not loud. Now *arch.* (Chiefly after 1 *Kings* xix. 12.)

c 1000 ÆLFRIC *Hom.* II. 410 Ðine æhta mid stylre stemne wyllað þe wregan to ðinum Drihtne. *a* 1225 *Leg. Kath.*

2005 Heo..cleopede toward heouene,..wiδ stille steuene [etc.]. *a* 1300 *Floriz & Bl.* (Camb. MS.) 37 To hire louerd heo sede wiþ stille dreme, 'Sire,' [etc.]. 13.. *K. Alis.* 7438 (Laud MS.), Alisaunder makeþ a stille cry. 13.. *Coer de L.* 177 She answeryd with wordys stylle, 'Sere, I am at my faderys wylle.' 1502 ATKYNSON tr. *De Imitatione* III. i. 195 The eris that here the styll spekynge or rownynge of almyghty god. *a* 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* xlii. 47 Sayand till hir with wirdis still [etc.]. 1531 TINDALE *Exp.* 1 *John* (1537) 87 The preste prayeth in latyne and sayeth euermore a styll Masse, as we saye. 1535 COVERDALE 1 *Kings* xix. 12 After the fyre came there a styll softe hyssinge [1611 a still small voice]. 1585 HIGINS *Junius' Nomencl.* 358/1 *Susurrus*,..a soft or still noise, as of waters, falling with a gentle streame, or of leaues from trees. 1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* 138 The louder and shriller voice of a Dogge, is called barking, the lower and stiller is called whining, or fawning. 1675 J. SMITH *Chr. Relig. Appeal* 100 To tune the still voice of the Gospel to the shrill tones of the Law. *c* 1750 GRAY *Elegy* Omitted Stanza (Mason MS.), In still small Accents whisp'ring from the Ground A grateful Earnest of eternal Peace. *a* 1777 *Transl. & Paraphr.* XXIII. iii, Gentle and still shall be his voice. 1788 GIBBON *Decl. & F.* lxix. III. 524 The still voice of law and reason was seldom heard or obeyed. 1811 SHELLEY *St. Irvyne* III. ix. 5 And, from the black hill, Went a voice cold and still.

†b. *esp.* of music; hence of instruments, performers, etc. *Obs.*

1541 in *Vicary's Anat.* (1888) App. xii. 242 To the stille minstrelles, in rewarde iiij li. 1575 GASCOIGNE *Jocasta* v. Order of last Dumb Shewe, First the Stillpipes sounded A very mournful melody. 1595 T. EDWARDS *Narcissus* (Roxb.) 40 Some with Still musicke, some with pleasing songes Some with coye smiles, [etc.]. 1600 SHAKS. *A. Y. L.* v. iv. 113 stage-dir., Enter Hymen, Rosalind and Celia. Still Music. 1602 MARSTON *Antonio's Rev.* iv. iii. stage-dir., P The still flutes sound softly. *a* 1639 T. CAREW *A Rapture* Poems (1651) 66 The gentle blasts of Western winds shall.. breath Still Musick. 1642 FULLER *Holy & Prof. St.* iv. xv. 318 Yet spake she very little to any, sighing out more then she said, and making still musick to God in her heart. *a* 1645 MILTON *Passion* 28 Me softer airs befit, and softer strings Of Lute, or Viol still. 1658 ROWLAND tr. *Mouffet's Theat. Ins.* 931 As still musick is sweeter then the loud. 1738 WESLEY *Hymns* 'Hark, dull Soul, how every Thing' iv, All the Flowers that paint the Spring Hither their still Musick bring. 1816 SHELLEY *Hymn Intell. Beauty* 34 Music by the night-wind sent Through strings of some still instrument.

†c. Secret. *Obs.*

c 1205 LAY. 4496 Stille boc runen heo senden him to ræden. 1303 R. BRUNNE *Handl. Synne* 5958 3yf þou boghtest of any seriaunt pryuyly, yn stylle cunnaunt, Pyng þat þou wystyst wel was stole. *a* 1450 *Le Morte Arthur* 3860 The bysshope ..shrove hym..Off All hys synnes loude and stylle. 1647 H. MORE *Song of Soul, Notes Psychozoia* 349 It is inconceivable that the least motions of the mind, or stillest thought should escape her.

4. Free from commotion.

a. Of water: Having an unruffled surface, without waves or violent current; motionless or flowing imperceptibly.

a 1000 *Riddles* iii. 14 Þonne streamas eft stille weorþaδ. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* II. 102 A stille water for the nones Rennende upon the smale stones. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* (1637) 699 Wharf..becometh more still, and so gently intermingleth his water with Ouse. 1735 SOMERVILLE *Chase* iv. 381 Where ancient Alders shade The deep still Pool. 1784 COWPER *Task* vi. 929 Stillest streams Oft water fairest meadows. 1803 WORDSW. *Yarrow unvisited* 43 Let..The swan on still St. Mary's Lake Float double, swan and shadow. 1834 MRS. SOMERVILLE *Connex. Phys. Sci.* xiii. (1849) 110 A stone plunged into a pool of still water. 1847 H. MILLER *Test. Rocks* viii. (1857) 337 While other fresh water fishes, such as the tench and carp, are reared most successfully in still reedy ponds.

Prov. 1791 SCOTT *Let.* in *Lockhart* (1837) I. vi. 183 Though he makes no noise about feelings, yet still streams always run deepest. 1852 MRS. STOWE *Uncle Tom's C.* xxvii, "'Still waters run deepest," they used to tell me,' said Miss Ophelia oracularly. 1895 'G. PASTON' *Study in Prejudices* xiii, Hers was a case of 'Still waters run deep'.

b. Of the air, weather: Free from commotion, quiet. Of rain: Unattended by wind, gentle.

1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 371 For the weder stille Men preise, and blame the tempestes. *c* 1500 *Melusine* xx. 107 Wel fole is he that fighteth ayenst the wynd, wenyng to make hym be styll. 1632 MILTON *Penseroso* 127 Or usher'd with a shower still, When the gust hath blown his fill. 1642 FULLER *Holy & Prof. St.* I. x. 24 But our widows sorrow is no storm but a still rain. 1795–6 WORDSW. *Borderers* II. 25 The moon shone clear, the air was still, so still The trees were silent as the graves beneath them. 1797 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Italian* xii, As it came upon the still air and descended towards the cloudless heavens. 1829 *Chapters Phys. Sci.* 296 When he has been walking in still weather on the brink of a lake. 1859 TENNYSON *Merlin & V.* 1 A storm was coming, but the winds were still. 1908 [MISS E. FOWLER] *Betw. Trent & Ancholme* 313 The air is strangely still.

†c. Quiet, gentle in disposition; meek. *Still and bold* (absol.), men of whatever temper. *Obs.*

c 825 *Vesp. Psalter* lxxv. 10 Alle stille eorδan [Vulg. *omnes quietos terræ*]. *c* 1000 in *Sax. Leechd.* III. 430 Heo wæs.. on eallum þingum eaδmod & stille. *c* 1200 ORMIN 1177 Forr shep iss all unnska efull & stille der & liþe. *c* 1300 *Havelok* 955 Him loueden alle, stille and bolde. *c* 1300 *Leg. Gregory* (Schulz) 173 þo sche held hir stille and milde, Hir sorwe was strong and sterne. *c* 1460 SIR R. ROS *La Belle Dame* 656 For þai be not rebell, bot still as stone.

d. Settled, unperturbed in mind. †Also, in mystical language, said of one that has attained to freedom from passion.

1340–70 *Alex. & Dind.* 940 Stoute is he, stedefast & stille of his herte. *a* 1400 *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* xxiii. 651 Heil, whos deore sone stod In þe Synagoge of goddes And iuged þer wiþ stille mood Princis. 1741 WESLEY *Jrnl.* 12 Feb., Others..who had constantly affirmed 'That Mr. Charles Wesley was *still* already, and would come to London no more.' 1858 G. MACDONALD *Phantastes* xv. 196 My soul was not still enough for songs.

5. In mixed sense of 2 and 4. Of places, times, conditions: Characterized by absence of noise and movement; silent, quiet, calm.

c 1205 LAY. 25481 Ah al hit wes stille in hirede and in halle. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 1203 Þay stel out on a stylle nyȝt er any steuen rysed. 1525 tr. *Brunswyke's Handywork Surg.* fix. N iv, Then shall the pacyent be layde in a styl place where he may haue rest. 1585 HIGINS *Junius' Nomencl.* 375/1 The dead or stil time of the night. 1598 SHAKS. *Merry W.* IV. iv. 28 That Herne the Hunter..Doth..at still midnight Walke round about an Oake. 1611 — *Cymb.* v. iv. 69 For this, from stiller Seats we came. 1632 MILTON *Penseroso* 78 Som still removed place will fit. 1667 — *P. L.* IV. 598 Now came still Evning on. *a* 1722 LISLE *Husb.* (1757) 29 It must be spread the first still day. 1770 G. WHITE *Selborne, Let. to Barrington* 8 Oct., Swallows and house-martins abound yet, induced to prolong their stay by this soft, still, dry season. 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* xv, And oft at midnight's stillest hour, When summer seas the vessel lave. 1816 SHELLEY *Mont Blanc* 44 In the still cave of the witch Poesy. 1816 BYRON *Ch. Har.* III. lxxxix, All heaven and earth are still—though not in sleep. 1849 FROUDE *Nemesis of Faith* 194 The room was deathly still; no sound but the heavy breathing of the child, [etc.]. 1855 TENNYSON *Maud* II. v. 70 She comes from another stiller world of the dead. 1884 W. C. SMITH *Kildrostan* 34 You've seen the Loch, on some still evening, Mirror each stone.

†b. Of a mode of life: Quiet, uneventful, dull.

1706 ADDISON *Epil. to Ld. Lansdowne's Brit. Enchanters* 14 Scenes of still Life, and Points for ever fix'd, A tedious Pleasure to the Mind bestow. 1710 FELTON *Diss. Classics* (1718) 223 The stiller Scenes of Life. 1748 RICHARDSON *Clarissa* VII. 327 What a cursed still-life this! 1781 COWPER *Retirem.* 746 Yet neither these delights, nor aught beside ..Can save us always from a tedious day, Or shine the dulness of still life away.

c. *contextually* (*poet.*) = That has become still; no longer active or audible.

c 1485 *E. E. Misc.* (Warton Club) 1 The byrd was go; my joy was stylle, For woo, alasse! myselffe I spylle. 1742 GRAY *Spring* 21 Still is the toiling hand of Care. 1822 SHELLEY tr. *Calderon's Mag. Prodig.* II. 95 Since the fury Of this earthquaking hurricane is still. 1842 TENNYSON *Break, Break* 12 O for the touch of a vanish'd hand, And the sound of a voice that is still!

†6. Of a child: Dead before birth. Cf. STILL-BORN. *Obs. rare*—1.

1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* 433 The milk of a Mare being drunk..doth cause a still childe to bee cast forth.

†7. Constant, continual; continued until now.

1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 124/4 Stil, *ingis, continuus.* 1588 SHAKS. *Titus A.* III. ii. 45 But I (of these) will wrest an Alphabet, And by still practice, learne to know thy meaning. 1594 — *Rich. III*, IV. iv. 229 But that still vse of greefe makes wilde greefe tame. 1615 CHAPMAN *Odyss.* XVII. 711 Of Ulysses (where the Thesprots dwell,..) Fame, he sayes, did tell The still suruiuall.

8. *Comb.* **still-bait** *U.S.*, bait for still-baiting; **still-baiting** *U.S.* (see quot. 1859); **still-fishing** = *still-baiting*; **still-footed** *a.*, with silent tread; **still-vaulting**, vaulting without a run.

1888 GOODE *Amer. Fishes* 58 The angler finds them at the proper seasons equally eager for fly-hook, trolling-spoon, or *still-bait. 1859 BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.* (ed. 2) 451 **Still-baiting*, fishing with a deep line in one spot, as distinguished from trolling. 1897 *Encycl. Sport* I. 82/2 (Bass) *Still-fishing. 1894 *Outing* XXIII. 395/1 The fox comes trotting, *still-footed, along this avenue. 1854 G. ROLAND *Gymnastics* 28 Every young person who has seen what is called '*still-vaulting' at Ducrow's.

B. *sb.*[2]

†1. A calm, *lit.* and *fig.* *Obs.*

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 376 *Quia post tempestatem tranquillum facit*..þat is, iblesced beo þu, Louerd, þet makest stille efter storme. 1615 BACON *Charge agst. O. St. John* Wks. 1778 II. 588 There is no better sign of *omnia bene*, than when the court is in a still. *a* 1626 — *Hen. VIII* in *Consid. War Spain* (1629) 164 He had neuer any the least..Difference.., with the King his Father, which might giue any occasion of altering Court or Counsell vpon the change; but all things passed in a Still. 1626 — *Sylva* § 193 The Vnequall Agitation of the Winds, and the like,..make them to be heard lesse Way, than in a Still.

2. Stillness, quiet. Now only *poet.* or *rhetorical.*

1608 TOPSELL *Serpents* 99 In the still of the night, when euery one besides were at rest. 1810 SCOTT *Lady of L.* III. xxvi, No murmur waked the solemn still, Save tinkling of a fountain rill. 1830 W. PHILLIPS *Mt. Sinai* I. 512 A still of limb and lip Hush'd all his brethren. 1900 N. MUNRO in *Blackw. Mag.* Oct. 449/2 His ear had not grown accustomed to the still of the valleys.

†3. A still pool. *Obs.*

1681 CHETHAM *Angler's Vade-m.* xxxiii. (1689) 179 You may Dib with the Green-drake both in Streams, and Stills.

4. *Shetland.* (See quot.) [Perh. f. STILL *v.*]

1844 W. H. MAXWELL *Scotland* xiii. (1855) 118 A brief lull occurs at high water, and is termed by Shetlanders 'the still.'

Still (stil), *v.*[1] *Pa. t.* and *pa. pple.* **stilled** (stild). Forms: 1 **stillan, styllan**, 3–5 **stille**, 5–6 **styll**, 5–7 **stil**, 6 **styll**, 4– **still**. [OE. *stillan*, cogn. w. OS. (*gi*)*stillian* trans., *stillon* intr. (LG., Du. *stillen*), OHG. *stillen* trans., *stillên* intr. (MHG., mod.G. *stillen* trans. and intr.), to make or become still, ON. *stilla* to soothe, calm, to temper, moderate, tune, *intr.* to walk with measured noiseless steps (Sw. *stilla*, Da. *stille*) related to WGer. **stillja*-STILL *a.*] To make or become still. (Very common in 16–17th c.; now chiefly *poet.* and *rhetorical.*)

I. *trans.* (In OE. sometimes with dative.)

1. To quiet, calm (waves, winds, etc.).

a 1000 *Andreas* 451 Engla eadzifa ȳðum stilde. *a* 1175 *Cott. Hom.* 229 He ȝestilde windes mid his hesne. *c* 1425 *Eng. Cong. Ireland* xlix. 126 & so the grete tempeste of that weddyr hape yn lytel whyle was I-queynt & I-stylled. 1535 COVERDALE *Ps.* lxxxix. 9 Thou rulest the pryde of the see, thou stillest the wawes therof, when they arise. 1634 MILTON *Comus* 87 A Swaine..Who with his soft Pipe..Well knows to still the wilde winds when they roar. *c* 1639 SIR W. MURE *Ps.* cvii. 30 He..brings them glade, (the tempest stild,) To their desyred heawen. 1720 POPE *Iliad* XVIII. 481 Wide with distorted Legs, oblique he goes, And stills the Bellows. 1782 PRIESTLEY *Corrupt. Chr.* I. IV. 398 Power ..to still winds and tempests. 1839 LONGF. *Wreck Hesperus* 55 And she thought of Christ, who stilled the wave On the Lake of Galilee. 1856 ROSSETTI *Blessed Damozel* 4 Her eyes knew more of rest and shade Than waters still'd at even. 1871 R. ELLIS *Catullus* xlvi. 3 Now doth Zephyrus ..Still the boisterous equinoctial heaven. 1881 W. BLACK *Beautiful Wretch* I. 166 The hot sun had stilled the water.

b. In fig. context.

1786 MME. D'ARBLAY *Diary* 10 Aug., This undid all again, though my explanation had just stilled the hurricane. 1810 SHELLEY *Marg. Nicholson, Despair* 14 Awhile it stills the tide of agony. 1840 A. CARSON *Hist. Providence* 388 He suffers the fury of the enemy to swell against his cause, but he stills it at his pleasure. 1868 HELPS *Realmah* vi. (1876) 118 Whom they stood aloof from only to break and still the opposing waves of popular opinion. 1903 MORLEY *Gladstone* IX. i. III. 220 The surface was thus stilled for the moment, yet the waters ran very deep.

c. To subdue, allay (sedition, tumult).

1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 123/37 To stil a trouble, *quietare, sedare.* 1770 LANGHORNE *Plutarch* II. 253 But Timoleon stilled the tumult, by representing, That [etc.]. 1868 NETTLESHIP *Ess. Browning* vi. 196 Who like Saturn stilled the tumult and took throne supreme.

2. To relieve (pain); to assuage, allay (an appetite, desire).

c 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* II. 59 Þæt stilδ þam sare. 1387–8 T. USK *Test. Love* III. vii. (Skeat) I. 36 Thus have I stilled my disese; thus have I covered my care. 1657 TRAPP *Comm., Esther* iii. 1 Honour is but..a glorious fancie, a rattle to still mens ambition. 1856 TRENCH *Serm. Camb.* ii. (1857) 43 He tries..to still, or at least to deaden, the undying pain of his spirit. 1876 GEO. ELIOT *Deronda* liv, But what can still that hunger of the heart which sickens the eye for beauty..? 1882 *Rep. Prec. Metals U.S.* 539 This thirst for land being stilled, we may count upon a greater stability in the number of miners.

†3. To keep back, repress, desist or refrain from (words, tears); to keep (one's tongue) still. *Obs.*

a 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 1530 Stute nu þenne, & stew þe, & stille þine wordes. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 186 þet child is wel ipaied..& stilleδ his teares. *c* 1374 CHAUCER *Troylus* II. 230 Yet were it bet my tonge for to stille Than sey a soth þat were a-yens youre wylle. *c* 1400 *Rule St. Benet* (1902) 51 *Proibe linguam tuam a malo*—In þe begining, still þi tung, And spek no þyl of ald na 3ong. *c* 1430 *Syr Gener.* (Roxb.) 307 Sore weping he coud nat stil.

4. To quiet, calm (a person's mind); to subdue (agitation, emotion); †*refl.* to compose oneself.

c 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 3924 And sente after balaam δe prest, Wiδ riche men and giftes oc, for to stillen hise [vn-]leδe mod. 1382 WYCLIF *Gen.* xliii. 31 He..stillide hym self [Vulg. *continuit se*]. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* III. 363 Sche wolde noght hirselven stille, Bot deide only for drede of schame. *c* 1400 *Beryn* 2565 Stillith 3ewe, quod Geffrey. *c* 1475 *Partenay* 2969 Geffray thaim said, 'stil you, noght dismay'. 1610 SHAKS. *Temp.* IV. 163 A turne or two, Ile walke To still my beating minde. 1818 SHELLEY *Rosal. & Helen* 874, I stilled the tingling of my blood. 1828 LYTTON *Pelham* lxx, With this reflection, I stilled the beating of my heart.

b. To appease (anger).

c 1290 *Beket* 511 in *S. Eng. Leg.* 121 Þo..radden him wende to þe kinge is wrathþe for-to stille. 1535 COVERDALE *Esther* vii. 10 Then was the kynges wrath stylled. 1891 FARRAR *Darkn. & Dawn* lxiv, Nero stood amazed—his wrath stilled before so majestic an indifference.

†5. To pacify, induce to desist from complaint or opposition. *Obs.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 13075 To sla him was he noght in will, Bot for þat wicked wijf to still. *c* 1489 CAXTON *Sonnes of Aymon* xix. 408 Reynawde was wyse and well taughte for to stylle thus hys bretherne, to whome he sayd, [etc.]. 1534 TINDALE *Rom.* Prol. 190 This fredome..ministreth that which the lawe requyreth, and where with the lawe is fulfilled, that is to vnderstond, luste and loue, where with the lawe is stylled and accuseth vs no moare. 1647 N. BACON *Disc. Govt. Eng.* I. xlvii. 130 It was but a noise to still the Clergy.

†6. To lull, soothe (a child); to induce (a person) to cease from weeping. *Obs.*

c 1315 SHOREHAM *Poems* vi. 65 Ine þe hys god by-come a chyld;..þou hast y-tamed [hyt], and i-stylld Wyþ melke of þy breste. *a* 1400 *Isumbras* 199 Nowther of tham myghte other stille, Thaire sorowe it was fulle ranke! *c* 1400 *Pilgr. Sowle* IV. i. (1483) 58 He wald styllen the child with some maner of comfortable myrthe of recreacion. *c* 1440 *Bone Flor.* 831 Allas, sche seyde, that y was borne!..Ther myght no man hur stylle. 1530 PALSGR. 736/1 Go styll the chylde, nourice, you wyll be shente els. 1545 ASCHAM *Toxoph.* (Arb.) 42 Euen the little babes..are scarce so well stilled in suckyng theyr mothers pap, as in hearynge theyr mother syng. 1599 SHAKS. *Much Ado* III. iii. 70. 1660 F. BROOKE tr. *Le Blanc's Trav.* 263 He..would still his Nephews when they cryed with plums.

7. To silence, cause (a sound) to cease. Also *fig.* to cause the cessation of (murmurs, complaints, etc.).

1390 GOWER *Conf.* III. 138 The softe word the loude stilleth. *c* 1430 *How Gd. Wife taught Dau.* 37 in *Babees Bk.*, A sclaundre reisid ille Is yuel for to stille. 1623 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Honour Concell'd* Wks. (1630) III. 124/2 And therefore 'twas ordain'd that thou shouldst come To hang the Colours vp, and still the Drum. 1631 R. BOLTON *Comf. Afft. Conse.* xvi. (1635) 314 Earthly pleasures may for the present still the noyse of an accusing conscience. 1663 PATRICK

Parab. Pilgrim (1687) 365 In this manner he quieted and still'd all its grumblings. 1671 MILTON *P. R.* IV. 428 Morning..Who with her radiant finger still'd the roar Of thunder, chas'd the clouds, and laid the winds. 1690 W. WALKER *Idiomat. Anglo-Lat.* 143, I'll still your din, i.e. make you hold your tongue. 1738 WESLEY *Psalms* XCIII. iii, The Floods, O Lord, lift up their Voice,..But God above can still their Noise. 1820 SCOTT *Monast.* XXXVII, There was a deep and solemn pause. The monks stilled their chant. 1820 KEATS *Isabella* xlvii, Those dainties made to still an infant's cries. 1821-30 LD. COCKBURN *Mem.* iv. (1874) 213 The murmur..used to be stilled when this image stuck its awful head through the lofty orifice. 1835 LYTTON *Rienzi* II. iii, The murmurs of the people were stilled. 1887 J. PAYN *Holiday Tasks* 206 We stilled our scruples by reflecting that it was very mean of the victim [etc.].

† **b.** To cause (a person) to be silent; to impose silence on (an assembly); to put to silence (an objector). *Obs.*

c 1400 *Destr. Troy* 3519 The kyng þen comaund to..fetur hir fast in a fre prisoune,..to still hir of noise. 1608 WILLET *Hexapla Exod.* 753 Aaron sinned..in not staying the people and stilling them. 1611 BIBLE *Num.* xiii. 30 And Caleb stilled the people before Moses. 1654 WHITLOCK *Zootomia* 211 But it may be, according to my Assertion, his Name will sooner still opposers than his Reasons. 1665 BRATHWAIT *Comm. Two Tales* 199 Which Answer still'd this Censor, and justified the Author.

† **8.** To check the turbulence of (a person); to compel to cease. *Obs.*

1300–1400 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) App. XX. 507 He gan to stryue To ȝenst his owene fadere, god stilde him in þis So þat raþer þane he ded he was ywis. *c* 1450 LOVELICH *Grail* xlii. 345 Eche Oþer wold han slayn In that plas ȝif they ne hadde I-stilled be. 1602 tr. *Guarini's Pastor Fido* IV. vi. M 1 b, O glorious child of great Alcides race, That monsters stilst, and wild Beastes doth deface.

† **b.** To 'quiet' by killing or stunning. ? *slang.*

1778 ANBUREY *Trav.* (1789) II. 167 We will suppose, he only orders them to knock a man down, or *to prick him*, or *still him*.

9. In occasional uses: To stop the movement or activity of.

1850 TENNYSON *In Mem.* VI. iii, O father,..Who pledgest now thy gallant son; A shot, ere half thy draught be done, Hath still'd the life that beat from thee. 1861 *Temple Bar* III. 433 To disuse cotton wholly, to still the British cotton-factories. 1866 MRS. H. WOOD *St. Martin's Eve* i, She stilled her feet and stared at the speaker. 1867 AUGUSTA WILSON *Vashti* xiv, [She] struggled to steady her voice and still the twitching tell-tale muscles about her mouth.

II. 10. *intr.* To become still or calm.

a 900 *Martyrol.* 11 Nov., Ða stylde se storm sona, and seo sæ wearð eft smylte. 1695 SIBBALD *Autobiog.* (1834) 128 When I cryed and weept upon any occasion I stilled upon the giving me the Psalms of Buchanan. 1798 W. TAYLOR in *Monthly Mag.* VI. 366 Slow beams the blooming dawn as stills the strife. Hence, down the winding stairs. *a* 1851 MOIR *Ruined Nunnery* ii, At length the winds began to still. *a* 1853 ROBERTSON *Lect.* ii. (1858) 67 The surges stilled below him, and the last cloud drifted from the sky above. 1888 *Harper's Mag.* Apr. 737 The sea only swayed a little, and stilled again. 1898 H. CALDERWOOD *Hume* viii. 153 The worst storm stills at length.

† **b.** To remain still or quiet; to keep silence.

c 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 11749 When þei were stilled a party, ffirst spak sire Ohel. *a* 1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* XXVII. 1 *Deus meus, ne sileas a me*..my god still not fra me. *Ibid.* XXXI. 3 For i stilled eldid my banes. 1450 *Paston Lett.* I. 180 Heruppon the people peacyd, and stilled unto the tyme the shire was doone. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 364/1 To Stil[l]e, *tacere*.

c. To sound softly.

1900 N. MUNRO *Doom Castle* x, A bagpipe stilled in the hall, a lute breathed a melody from a neighbouring room.

Still (stil), *v.*[2] Forms: 5–6 **stille**, 5–7 **styll**(e, 6 **styl**, 6–7 **stil**, (*Pa. t.* and *pa. pple.* **stild**), 7 **stile**, 6– **still.** [Aphetic form of DISTIL *v.*].

† **1.** *intr.* To trickle down or fall in minute drops: = DISTIL *v.* 1. *Obs.*

a 1300 *K. Horn* 676 (Camb. MS.) For Rymenhild weop ille, & horn let þe tires stille. *c* 1407 LYDG. *Reason & Sens.* 6307 Eke her stremys cristallyn That fro her chekys stylle doun Kam al of deuocioun. *c* 1450 BURGH *Secrees* 1861 Watir is profitable..neer to Citees stillyng as perlys Rounde. *c* 1470 HENRYSON *Mor. Fab.* VIII. (*Preach. Swallow*) ix, With heit and moysture stilland frome the sky. 1526 R. WHYTFORD *Martiloge* 114 b, Whan the abbot was buryed, oyle stylled out of his graue. 1534 ELYOT *Cast. Helthe* II. XXVII. (1541) 43 b, So that he drinke not a greate glutte, but in a littell quantitee, let it stil downe softly into his stomacke, as he sitteth. 1549–62 STERNHOLD & H. *Ps.* cii. 9 And mingled haue [I] my drink with teares that fro mine eyes haue stild. 1560 BIBLE (Geneva) *Deut.* XXXII. 2 My speache shal stil as doeth the dewe. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* III. ii. 29 If that any drop of slombring rest Did chaunce to still into her weary spright. 1596 LODGE *Wits Miserie* P j b, Lying continually on my backe, water stilleth vpon mine eies, yet I for sloth sake forsake not my bed. *c* 1690 ARCHIBALD in *Macfarlane's Geogr. Collect.* (S.H.S.) III. 189 The Water stills down into the Pit, wherewith they then fill their Pans.

† **b.** Of a person: To melt *into* tears. *Obs.*

1412–20 LYDG. *Troy Bk.* IV. 3614 And in-to terys he gan stille and reyne, As he wolde for verray sorwe deye.

† **2.** *trans.* To exude, discharge, or give forth in minute drops. *Obs.*

1412–1530 *Myrr. our Ladye* (1873) 285 The braunches of the bawlme tree when they are cutte, they stylle moste vertuous and swete lyquore. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 183 Whiche neuer ceased to styll the swete balme of mercy & pite. 1610 HEYWOOD *Golden Age* III. i, With rage and fury fright pale Pity hence, And drown him in the sweat your bodies still. 1646 CRASHAW *Steps, Another on Death Herrys* 35 Wet with teares still'd from the eyes Of the flinty Destinyes. *a* 1660 *Contemp. Hist. Irel.* (Ir. Archæol. Soc.) II. 60 More reason should perswade me to doe it, then Dido the queene dowager of Cartagh to stile continually waterie pearles from her charminge lookes for the absence of Eneas. 1693 DRYDEN *Juvenal* iii. 122 His once unkem'd, and horrid Locks, behold, Stilling sweet Oyl.

† **b.** To cause to distil or fall in drops. *Obs.*

1576 BAKER *Gesner's Jewell of Health* 131 b, If you styll one drop into the water. 1598 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. ii. IV. *Columnes* 703 For you my smoothest quill His sweetest hony on this Book should still. *c* 1611 CHAPMAN *Iliad* XIX. 36 She, with her faire hand, still'd into the nostrils of his friend, Red Nectar, and Ambrosia. 1624 QUARLES *Job Milit.* xvii. N 2, He pricks the Clouds, stils downe the raine by drops. 1719 D'URFEY *Pills* IV. 74 A Morn of May, which drops of Dew down stilleth.

† **c.** *fig.* To instil. *Obs.*

1551 UDALL *Erasm. Par. Matt.* iii. 1 That the thyng whiche euer should be beleued, might by lytle and lytle be stilled [1548 instylled] and put into the hartes of men.

3. To subject to the process of distillation: = DISTIL *v.* 4. Now *rare* or *Obs.*

a 1400 *Stockh. Med. MS.* ii. 455 in *Anglia* XVIII. 318 Do stille þese erbes be hemselwe. *c* 1450 *ME. Med. Bk.* (Heinrich) 102 After stille hem in a stillatorye. 1573 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 96 Herbes to still in Sommer. 1646 QUARLES *Judgem. & Mercy* (1651) 1 My recreations shall be to still Pleasure into a Quintessence. 1647 R. JOSSELIN *Diary* (Camden 1908) 42 Wee had plenty of roses; stilled some May 22. 1694 CROWNE *Married Beau* IV. 52, I'll see.. Whether it be a Flower or a Weed, Which you are stilling in this Limbeck here. *c* 1770 MRS. GLASSE *Compl. Confectioner* 274 Then still them in a limbeck with a slow fire, and take care your still does not burn.

† **b.** *transf.* To extract the essence of (meat). Also *intr.* of the meat. *Obs.*

1584 COGAN *Haven Health* clvii. 133 When it hath stilled so many houres, then take out the earthen pot,..streine out the broth [etc.]. 1591 A. W. *Bk. Cookrye* 11 b, To still a cock for a weake body that is consumed. Take a red Cock that is not too olde, and beate him to death, and..fley him and quarter him in small peeces [etc.].

4. To extract or produce by distillation. *Obs.*

a 1400 *Stockh. Med. MS.* ii. 448 in *Anglia* XVIII. 318 To stillyn [þer]of water for eyne is good. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 364/2 To Stille waters, *stillare, distillare.* 1530 PALSGR. 736/1 Stylle some Damaske water, for it is good. 1534 ELYOT *Cast. Helthe* II. viii. (1541) 24 In al cholerike feuers, the decoction of this herbe, or the water therof stilled, is right expedient. 1587 MARLOWE *1st Pt. Tamburl.* V. ii. 1946 (Brooke), The heauenly Quintessence they still From their immortall flowers of Poesy. ? *c* 1600 *Distr. Emperor* II. i. in Bullen *Old Pl.* (1884) III. 186 All the poysons and sharpe corrosyves Styll'd in the lymbecke of damde pollycie. 1660 T. WATSON in Spurgeon *Treas. David* (1874) IV. 459 When we give him the soul in a duty,..by a holy chemistry we still out the spirits. 1681 R. KNOX *Hist. Ceylon* 146 Others stilled Rack to sell. 1706–7 FARQUHAR *Beaux' Strat.* II. i, Brewing of Diet-drinks, and stilling Rose-mary-Water.

† **b.** *To still away*: to remove or drive off by distillation. *Obs.*

1628 DONNE *Serm.* (1649) II. 395 It is a miserable Alchimy and extracting of spirits, that stills away the spirit, the soule it selfe.

† **c.** *To still forth*: To yield when distilled. *Obs.*

1605 TIMME *Quersit.* II. v. 21 Those saltes, being put into a retort..with a receiver, stilleth forth a volatile salt.

† **d.** intr. *To still out*: To issue from something that is being distilled. *Obs.*

1799 G. SMITH *Laboratory* I. 436 Every drop of water, which may happen to be mixed with the wine, will still out.

† **e.** *absol.* To practise distillation. *Obs.*

? 1668 LADY LYTTELTON in *Hatton Corr.* (Camden) 54, I want..a house keeper that can preserve and still well.

Still (stil), *adv.* Forms: see STILL *a.* [OE. *stille* = OS., OHG. *stillo* (MDu., MHG., mod.G. *stille*, Du. *stil*, Sw. *stilla*, Da. *stille*) :–OTeut. type **stillō*, related to **stillja-* STILL *a.*]

† **1.** Without noise or commotion; quietly, silently; in a low voice, softly. *Obs.*

c 1205 LAY. 735 Riht al swo stille stelen swa we wolden. *a* 1225 *Juliana* (Royal MS.) 36 Heo..stille bute steſne þus to criste cleopede. *a* 1250 *Prov. Ælfred* 325 Wimmon weped..lude and stille, for to vordrye hire wille. *a* 1275 *Ibid.* B. 653 þe bicche bitit ille þau[h] [*printed* þan] he berke stille. *a* 1300 *Havelok* 2997 Seye a pater-noster stille, For him þat haueth þe rym[e] maked. *c* 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 15852 Brian stirt forþ in hure weye, & stille seide þat he wolde seye. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* I. (1495) 2 Yf I played in felde other medes Stylle other wyth noys I prayed helpe in all my dedes. 1483 CAXTON *Golden Leg.* 263 b/1 He sayd thus to hym self alle stylle. 1544 BETHAM *Precepts War* I. liv. D j b, By whyche meane, the streame beneth wyl ronne more gently and styll. 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 267 b, That they myght go styll and closely to their enemies campe.

† **b.** Secretly. *Obs.*

c 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 2015 One and stille ðo3t hire gamen wið ioseph speken and plaiȝen samen. *Ibid.* 2718 And moyses dru3 him to ðe strond, And stille he dalf him [in] ðe sond. *a* 1300 *K. Horn* 287 (Camb. MS.) Þu schalt wi> me to bure gon, To speke wiþ Rymenhild stille. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* XVII. 71 [He] held the spek preue and still.

† **c.** *Still and loud*: both in secret and openly; under all circumstances: = *loud and still*, LOUD *adv.* 1 b.

[*a* 1250: see 1.] *c* 1320 *Cast. Love* 944 Þat al he..mis-doþ his neiȝebours boþe stille and loud. *c* 1400 *Rom. Rose* 7532 Fair-Welcoming..That ofte hath pleyed with you..The fairest games..Withoute filthe, stille or loude. 1430–40 LYDG. *Bochas* III. v. (1554) 73 Among the people, both still and loude, He called was Tarquinius the proude.

2. At rest, motionless; without change of place or attitude. With certain verbs, (In ME. often in alliterative phrase *still as stone, stone still*; in mod.Eng. occas. *stock still.*)

For the justification for treating the word in this use as adv. rather than as adj. complement, see note to STILL *a.* 1.

a. *To stand still.* (Sometimes merely a more explicit synonym of the vb. STAND in senses 4, 27, and 32.)

c 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* III. 262 Seo sunne stod stille. *c* 1200 ORMIN 2137 All swa summ þe steoressmann A33 lokeþþ till an steorrne, þatt stannt a33 still upp o þe lifft & swiþe brihhte shineþþ. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 8188 þe strem all still began to stand. *c* 1300 *Leg. Gregory* (Schulz) 401 Gregorij stod stille so ston. *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (Roxb.) xii. 50 It rynnes noȝt, ne nowþer ebbez ne flowez, bot standez ay still. 1523–34 FITZHERB. *Husb.* § 132 A tree hath a properiye to growe to a certayne heyght, and whan he commeth to ,that heyghte, he standeth styll. 1526 TINDALE *Matt.* XX. 32 Then Iesus stode styll, and called them. 1533 MORE *Answ. Poysoned Bk.* Wks. 1062/1 How the running riuer of Jordane stode still. 1548 in *Vicary's Anat.* (1888) App. III. i. 134 V° other ij Aldermen..which then shall remayne and stond still in the seyd office. 1577 KENDALL *Flowers of Epigr., Trifles* 10 b, The Bowe that bended standeth still, his strength will loose and lack. 1600 SHAKS. *Sonn.* civ, So your sweete hew, which me thinkes still doth stand Hath motion, and mine eye may be deceaued. 1613 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* (1614) 740 The Ship stood still, and neither stirred forward or backwards. 1662 PLAYFORD *Skill Mus.* III. (1672) 15 When your Bass standeth still (that is to say, hath two or more Notes together in one and the same place). 1668 R. STEELE *Husbandm. Calling* iii. (1672) 38 If God's providence above, and his plough below stand still, we must all shortly beg or starve. 1711 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 129 P 1 A Clock that stands still is sure to point right once in twelve Hours. 1712 *Ibid.* No. 407 P 1 Our Preachers stand stock still in the Pulpit. 1766 GOLDSM. *Vicar* x, One of the horses took it into his head to stand still. 1828 LYTTON *Pelham* lxiv, I paused, and my heart stood still. 1858 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* XIX. I. 193 This shoot becomes a worthless tree..which after a few years' growth stands still. 1861 FLOR. NIGHTINGALE *Nursing* 32 Many people seem to think that the world stands still while they are away, or at dinner, or ill. 1877 MISS A. B. EDWARDS *Up Nile* xii. 317 Time seems to have stood as still as in that immortal palace where everything went to sleep for a hundred years.

b. *To sit, lie still.* (See the senses of the verbs.)

c 1000 ÆLFRIC *Hom.* II. 438 Hire swuster Maria sæt stille æt Drihtnes fotum. *c* 1200 ORMIN 5839 Forr leness whellp þær þær itt iss Whellpedd, tær liþ itt stille. *c* 1205 LAY. 3060 Þus seide þe mæiden..& seoðen set swþe stille. *c* 1250 *Owl & Night.* 282 Me is leof to habbe reste And siute stille in myne neste. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 243 To deþe he sset his owe fader þat he lai þer stille. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 20509 Sittes stell now mar and lesse, And hers now þes mirines. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Somptn. T.* 492 The lady of the hous al stille sat, Til she had herd what the frere sayde. *c* 1450 METHAM *Wks.* (E.E.T.S.) 60/1617 But Cleopes for fere lay ston stylle. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* I. 247 In that same hous thai socht him beselye; Bot he sat still, and span full conandly. 1530 PALSGR. 719/1, I syt styll, I remove nat, *je ne me bouge.* Let every man syt styll on payne of his lyfe. 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VI*, 171 Kyng Henry..perceyving that the duke of Yorke lay still, and made no open apparance, of assemble or commocion, returned. 1562 J. HEYWOOD *Prov. & Epigr.* (1867) 56 Folke saie, better syt styll than ryse and fall. 1611 BIBLE *Zech.* I. 11 And behold, all the earth sitteth still, and is at rest. 1671 MILTON *P. R.* III. 164 And think'st thou to regain Thy right by sitting still or thus retiring? 1688 BUNYAN *Heav. Footman* (1886) 182 He that backslideth, and he that sitteth still in sin. 1711 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 50 P 7 This lazy People sat still above three hours. 1859 MRS. CARLYLE *Lett.* III. 7, I rose at six, tired of lying still. 1901 SIR REDVERS BULLER in *Scotsman* 11 Oct. 5/8, I said.. 'He is a gallant fellow; he will sit still to the end.'

† **c.** With other verbs, as *abide, dwell.* *Obs.*

In the 15–16th c. quots. there is a transition to senses 3, 4.

1303 R. BRUNNE *Handl. Synne* 308 Dwelle ȝyt with me a woke stylle. 13.. *Seuyn Sages* (W.) 1533 The child bileft still in prisoun. 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 2746 In purgatori saules dueles stille Until þai be clensed of alle ille. *c* 1393 CHAUCER *Scogan* 39 That rustyth in myn schede stylle in pes. 1393 *Regist. Aberbrothoc* (Bannatyne Club) II. 43 Of the xxxv marcis v marcis sal dwel style in the abbotis hand ..quhillys the quer be thekyt and alurryt al abowyt with stane. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XII. XXXVI. (1495) 435 The vulture huntyth fro mydday to nyght and restyth styl fro the sonne rysinge to that tyme. *c* 1400 *Ywaine & Gaw.* 1960, I pray yow for to dwel her still. *a* 1425 tr. *Arderne's Treat. Fistula*, etc, 25 Be it [a bandage] festned fast to þe girdel vpon þe womb, and lat it abide so stille to þe tyme come þat it be eft-sones remoued. *c* 1430 *How Gd. Wife taught Dau.* 140 in *Babees Bk.*, Wheþer þat þei dwelle stille or þei wende awey. 1526 TINDALE *John* xi. 6 Then aboode he two dayes still in the same place where he was. 1554 *Interl. Youth* (Waley) B j b, Let him come if he will, He were better to bide styll. 1560 *Nice Wanton* (facs.) C ij, Where it groweth strong there wil it abide stil.

3. With reference to action or condition: Without change, interruption, or cessation; continually, constantly; on every occasion, invariably; always. *Obs.* exc. *poet.*

c 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 5645 He broȝte hom alle to is wille, And hor olde seruage made hom holde al stille. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 337 In tokne..That sche schal duelle a maiden stille. *c* 1450 *Godstow Reg.* 649 Except candyl vppon candylmes day, the whyche the seyd mynchyns shul haue stylle. 1490 CAXTON *Eneydos* XV. 58 Fame..hath..tonges.. that speken stylle without ceasse. 1535 COVERDALE *Isa.* lx. 11 Thy gates shal stonde open still both day and night. 1535 — *Eccl.* i. 4 One generacion passeth awaye, another commeth, but the earth abydeth still [1611 for ever]. 1542 UDALL *Erasm. Apoph.* 12 b, Delius..was called a cunnyng swymmer that could kepe hym selfe styll above water without perill of drounyng. 1544 BETHAM *Precepts War* II. lxviii. L vij b, It is not conuenient ne yet necessary to vse one espye styll. 1549 LATIMER *Ploughers* (Arb.) 21 That plough God woulde haue styll going. 1570 LEVINS *Manip.*

124/5 Still, *ingiter*. 1581 PETTIE tr. *Guazzo's Civ. Conv.* III. (1586) 154 They learne to liue as if they were still at the point to dye. 1600 SHAKS. *Sonn.* CXXVI, She may detaine, but not still keepe her tresure! 1613 DAY *Festiv., Serm.* vii. (1615) 20 How beit the Maister cannot still be at home, the Mistresse may. 1617 BRATHWAIT *Smoking Age* 194 *marg.*, Thus haue I prov'd Tobacco good or ill; Good, if rare taken; Bad, if taken still. *a* 1643 W. CARTWRIGHT *Ordinary* I. ii. (1651) 6 Woman was Not made to be alone still. 1669 STURMY *Mariner's Mag.* v. v. 19, 48 Miles above the Earth..There is never no Rain, Dew, Hail, Snow, or Wind, but still a clear serenity. *c* 1680 BEVERIDGE *Serm.* (1729) I. 114 Thus it is that God still governs and orders every thing in the world. 1704 TRAPP *Abra-Mulé* II. i. 494 His past Reign, which still has been attended With one continu'd Series of Misfortunes. 1704 POPE *Disc. Past. Poetry* § 10 Spenser's..Stanza is not still the same, nor always well chosen. 1737 DODDRIDGE *Hymn*, Oh God of Bethel, by whose Hand Thine Israel still is fed. 1763 GOLDSM. *Introd. Nat. Hist.* Misc. Wks. (1837) II. 517 The rook, if undisturbed, would never leave its native wood, the blackbird still frequents its accustomed hedge. 1766 REID *Let.* in Wks. 1863 I. 44/1 But you must direct them [workmen] in everything, and be still over the work. 1781 BURNS *1st Ps.* 8 The man..Who..with humility and awe Still walks before his God. 1817 COLERIDGE *Biog. Lit.* xvii. (1882) 171 The unmeaning repetitions..which an unfurnished..understanding interposes at short intervals in order to keep hold of his subject, which is still slipping from him. 1819 SCOTT *Noble Moringer* xxii, God rest the Baron in his grave, he still was kind to me! 1864 ANSTER *2nd Pt. Faust* I. 23 You never can get fools to understand How luck and merit still go hand in hand. 1865 SWINBURNE *Atalanta* 30 Howbeit these.. Devise new things and good, not one thing still.

† **b.** *Still still*: on every occasion; ever more and more. *Obs.*

1592 NASHE *Strange Newes* Observ. for Rdrs. M 2 b, I am ..constrained still still, before I am warme in any one vaine, to start away sodainely. 1593 — *Christs T.* 39 b, With example thou first exalteth them, and still still liftes them vp, till thou hast lifted vp theyr heads on thy gates. 1594 — *Terrors Nt.* Wks. 1904 I. 354 This slimie melancholy humor still still thickning as it stands still.

† **c.** *Still opece* (*opese, opeese*; corruptly *off pees, a peace*), continuously. (See PIECE *sb.* 14 b.) *Obs.*

There are 24 examples in *Syr Generydes*; otherwise the phrase occurs in our quots. only twice.

c 1440 [see PIECE *sb.* 14 b]. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* VIII. 933 3eit still off pees the ost lugyt all nycht. 1555 Still a peace [see PIECE *sb.* 14 b].

† **d.** *Still as*: whenever. *Obs.*

a 1656 HALES *Serm. Eton* iv. (1673) 60 A loose, but a rich fellow..was wont to walk the streets with a purse of money, and still as he met any man he would give him a box on the ear, and then a twelve-pence.

e. † *Still and anon*, † *still an end* (obs.): constantly from time to time. So Sc. *still and on*: 'nevertheless, notwithstanding, yet' (*Eng. Dial. Dict.*).

1591 SHAKS. *Two Gent.* IV. iv. 67 A Slaue, that still an end, turnes me to shame. 1595 — *John* IV. i. 47, I..like the watchfull minutes, to the houre, Still and anon cheer'd vp the heauy time. *a* 1894 STEVENSON in *Pall Mall Gaz.* (1895) 21 Jan. 2/3 O still ayont the muckle sea, Still are ye dear, and dear to me, Auld Reekié, still and on! 1910 N. MUNRO in *Blackw. Mag.* Feb. 221/1 'Still-and-on,' said pawky Jamie Birrell cheerily, 'one may have a turn of the raptures too, falling back on the affections when they're done.'

f. With words denoting increase or progress: Ever more and more.

1596 SPENSER *F. Q.* IV. vi. 18 Sir Arthegall renewed His strength still more, but she still more decrewed. 1605 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. iii. 1. *Vocat.* 235 All their Cattell proves, Still, still increasing like to Stares and Doves. *c* 1643 LD. HERBERT *Autobiog.* (1824) 74, I attended my studies seriously, the more I learnt out of my Books, adding still a desire to know more. 1682 SIR T. BROWNE *Chr. Mor.* III. § 6 He who thus still advanceth in Iniquity deepneth his deformed hue. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* I. 289 All below, whether by Nature's Curse, Or Fate's Decree, degen'rate still to worse. 1703 POPE *Thebais* 527 Thus still his courage, with his toils encreas'd. 1779 JOHNSON *L. P., Dryden* Wks. II. 420 Whatever subjects employed his pen, he was still improving our measures &c. 1807 J. BARLOW *Columb.* I. 216 Its form unfolding as it still draws nigh. 1820 SHELLEY *Skylark* 10 Thou..singing still dost soar, and soaring ever singest.

4. Indicating the continuance of a previous action or condition.

a. Now (or at the time in question) as formerly.

1535 JOYE *Apol. Tindale* 38 But and if Tindale wil nedis saye styll that I mocke out the Resurreccion. 1542 UDALL *Erasm. Apoph.* 255 b, If he came to any commen plaies or open sightes, it is ye guise euen yet still that reuerence bee dooen to hym. 1587 in *Cath. Rec. Soc. Publ.* V. 140 They take priests and other Catholics still very often; and now they begin to persecute also the schismatics. 1600 SHAKS. *Sonn.* civ, For as you were when first your eye I eyde, Such seemes your beautie still. 1629 *Reg. Mag. Sig. Scot.* 783/1 Minerallis..quhilkis hithertill hes lyin and still lyis obscure and hid within the bowellis and centre of the earth. 1689 in *Acts Parlt. Scotl.* (1875) XII. 79/2 Wee are still of the same mind quhich we did express in our former letter. 1711 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 164 ¶ 11 Their Tombs are still to be seen. 1760 JOHNSON *Idler* No. 100 ¶ 1 There still remain many words among us undefined. 1763 J. BROWN *Poetry & Mus.* v. 52 But the reason is still to seek. 1778 MISS BURNEY *Evelina* xi. (1791) I. 27 Seeing me still very much flurried, he led me to a seat. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) VIII. 462/2 The naval or rostral crown is still used with coats-of-arms. 1837 WHEWELL *Hist. Induct. Sci.* III. iv. I. 207 Another writer on the same subject is Menelaus,..whose three books on Spherics still remain. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* v. I. 592 Bridgewater was one of the few towns which still had some Whig magistrates. 1857 BUCKLE *Civilis.* I. xi. 626 One of those harmless prejudices that still linger round the person of the sovereign. 1893 *Law Times* XCIV. 559/2 In the deed the consideration was left blank, and for all I know it is blank still. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 558 The still vaguely defined and very multiform affection seborrhœa. 1906 E. V. LUCAS *Waud. Lond.* I. 14 When I first came to London, Piccadilly still had its goat.

¶ quasi-*adj.* That still is such. *rare.* Cf. NOW 16, THEN 9 b.

1879 TROLLOPE *Thackeray* 22 The then and still owners of that happy periodical.

b. *contextually.* Now (or at the time in question) in contrast to the future; at present, as yet.

1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* VII. 301 Hauing euer one Fruite ready to be plucked..and another comming forwards..., that as some Reape, some are growing greene, others budding forth, and some still in the floorish. 1641 J. JACKSON *True Evang. T.* I. 5 The Jews construe it [Isa. xi. 6–8], of Christ still to come, and of his temporall Monarchy. 1766 GOLDSM. *Vicar* ii, I wrote a similar epitaph for my wife, though still living. 1824 MISS FERRIER *Inher.* xliv, A few large old trees, and many young ones still in their cages. 1827 FARADAY *Chem. Manip.* xxiv. 640 By sealing up the contracted aperture of the tube whilst it is still hot. 1849 SIR G. C. LEWIS *Lett.* (1870) 213 This is still in fieri. 1864 MEREDITH *Emilia* lv, He had waxed precociously philosophic, when still a junior. 1874 GREEN *Short Hist.* ii. § 1. 62 The greater part of English soil was still utterly uncultivated.

c. After as before some point of time; in future as up to the present; further. ? *Obs.*

1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 9 And though you receyue it not at your owne wyll, knocke styll, call on and perseuer, and you shall not mysse. 1577 KENDALL *Flowers of Epigr.* 104 b, Poore haue I been, and poore I am, and poore still shall I bee. 1597–8 BACON *Ess., Regim. Health* (Arb.) 56 Discerne of the comming on of yeares, and thinke not to doe the same things still. 1611 BIBLE *Exod.* ix. 2 For if thou refuse to let them goe, and wilt hold them still, [etc.]. 1641 J. JACKSON *True Evang. T.* III. 216 If it flie from thee as swift as a Roe or Hinde, yet follow the chace still. 1702 ROWE *Tamerl.* IV. i. 1539 Oh! Death! thou gentle end of Human Sorrows Still must my weary Eyelids vainly wake In tedious Expectation of thy Peace.

† **d.** Continuously in the same direction as before; further. *Obs.*

1602 *Reg. Mag. Sig. Scot.* 456/2 Keipand the said dyke southeist through Henderstoun-burne, and thairfra still southeist keipand the said dyke till it cum to the merche. 1634 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* 182 Our course lay still from Swalley Road. *Ibid.* 186 Thence we sailed still South. 1725 DE FOE *Voy. round World* (1840) 173 To keep still on southing as well as East. 1769 *De Foe's Tour Gt. Brit.* (ed. 7) II. 365 Going still West, we came to Caermarthen.

e. In addition; after the apparent ending of a series; yet.

1790 COWPER *Let.* 27 Feb., P.S...Still another P.S. 1857 RUSKIN *Pol. Econ. Art* I. § 27 There is one thought still, the saddest of all, bearing on this withholding of early help.

5. In a further degree.

a. Used to emphasize a comparative; = yet.

1730 *Lett. to Sir W. Strickland rel. Coal Trade* 33 The Woodmongers Abuse..of a former Charter leaves still less Reason to fear they shou'd succeed. 1748 RICHARDSON *Clarissa* VII. 393 But the generosity of her mind..is what stings me most. And the more still, as it is now out of my power any way..to be even with her. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* V. 50 The lower part of the neck..is covered with still smaller feathers than those on the belly and back. 1788 J. BROWN tr. *Elem. Med.* I. 159 The sthenic diathesis, taking place in a high degree over the whole body, but in a still higher in the vessels of the skin. 1830 CARLYLE *Richter Again* Ess. 1840 II. 321 The two households stood like concave mirrors reflecting one another's keen hunger into a still keener for both. 1832 BREWSTER *Nat. Magic* ix. 243 Returning to the spot next day, he heard the sound still louder than before. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* iv. I. 494 But already that feeling had been indicated by still stronger and more terrible signs. 1884 PENNINGTON *Wiclif* viii. 247 He expresses himself still more strongly in his unprinted writings. 1912 J. L. MYRES *Dawn of Hist.* viii. 174 The Late-Minoan period is more precisely dated still.

b. Sometimes used where the comparative notion is merely implied. Now *rare* or *Obs.*

1593 SHAKS. *Lucr.* 229 The guilt beeing great, the feare doth still exceede. 1697 *C'tess D'Aunoy's Trav.* (1706) 140 Their hands have no defect, they are little, white, and well shaped. Their large sleeves..still contribute to make them appear less. 1705 ADDISON *Italy* Ded., Whatever great Impressions an Englishman must have of Your Lordship, they who have been Conversant Abroad will find 'em still improv'd. 1710 STEELE *Tatler* No. 233 ¶ 2 When thus much was obtained for him, their Minds still softened towards him. 1762 GOLDSM. *Nash* 47 Their mutton, butter, fish, and fowl, are all allowed to be excellent, and their cookery still exceeds their meat.

6. With adversative notion.

a. [Developed from sense 4.] After or at the same time with some event or condition implied to be adverse; even then.

a 1699 STILLINGFL. *Serm.* XXXVI. Wks. 1710 I. 564 If we ask, Cannot good Men differ about some things, and yet be good still? Yes. 1711 STEELE *Spect.* No. 27 ¶ 1 While they pant after Shade and Covert, they still affect to appear in the most glittering Scenes of Life. 1770 GOLDSM. *Des. Vill.* 212 For e'en though vanquished, he could argue still. 1861 FLOR. NIGHTINGALE *Nursing* 22 Nothing can make such a room healthy. Ventilation would improve it, but still it would be unhealthy.

b. Quasi-*conj.* In spite of what has been stated or conceded; nevertheless, notwithstanding, yet. Sometimes preceded by *but*, or followed by *however*.

1722 DE FOE *Plague* (1754) 7 'Tis true, St. Giles's buried two and thirty, but still as there was but one of the Plague, People began to be easy. 1779 *Mirror* No. 66 Still, however, with all these precautions to introduce the thought in a familiar and easy manner, he is aware of her displeasure. 1816 J. WILSON *City of Plague* II. ii. 67, I know well That they who love their friends most tenderly Still bear their loss the best. 1820 MILNER *Suppl. Mem. Eng. Cath.* 14 It is the law of nature and of the gospel that we should obey the constituted authority of the state...Still this obedience has its limits. 1825 MACAULAY *Ess., Milton* P 40 Still, however, there was another extreme which, though far less dangerous, was also to be avoided. 1837 P. KEITH *Bot. Lex.* 368 The quadrupeds, whose look, though prone, is still well suited to their form and condition. 1847 C. BRONTE *Jane Eyre* xvii, The soul..has an interpreter—often an unconscious, but still a truthful interpreter—in the eye. 1865 SWINBURNE *Chastelard* I. ii. (1894) 23 The legend is writ small: Still one makes out this—*Cave*—if you look. 1885 'MRS. ALEXANDER' *At Bay* vii, I confess I lost hope as she spoke, still I begged for an interview with the incoming teacher.

7. Comb. and quasi-Comb. When qualifying an attributive adj., the adv. is usually hyphened.

a. In sense 1, the hyphened collocations may be regarded as genuine combinations, but are rare.

1535 COVERDALE *Isa.* viii. 6 The people refuseth the stil-renninge water of Silo. 1897 *Standard* 2 Oct. 2/2 On the banks of the still-flowing Medway.

b. In sense 3, 'always, ever'.

Many instances of the quasi-combination resulting from the prefixing of the adv. to an adj. or ppl. adj. occur in Shakspere, though the hyphen is rarely used in the early edd. In the 17th and 18th c. the use was common, but confined to poetry; in the 19th c. it scarcely occurs, this sense of the adv. having become rare even in verse. See also STILL-GREEN *a.*

1593 SHAKS. *Lucr.* 84 In silent wonder of still gazing eyes. 1610 — *Temp.* I. ii. 229 To fetch dewe From the still-vext Bermoothes. 1597 BP. HALL *Sat.* II. ii. 30 To consume in vaine In latter Euen,..Ill-smelling oyles, or some still-watching lights. 1599 B. JONSON *Cynthia's Rev.* v. vi, Monthly, we spend our still-repaired shine, And not forbid our virgin-waxen torch To burne and blaze. 1603 J. DAVIES (Heref.) *Microcosmos* 231 That still-closed booke of secrets. 1605 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. iii. 1 *Vocat.* 553 On a still-rocking couch lies blear-ey'd Sleep. 1609 DANIEL *Civ. Wars* VIII. xcii. 226 His religious Confessor (who best Could cast, with what a violent accesse, This feuer of Ambition did molest His still-sick minde). 1615 CHAPMAN *Odyss.* XIII. 424 Thou still-wit-varying wretch! 1619 A. NEWMAN *Pleas. Vis.* C 4 b, My seruants haue..Still-liuing honors, and lou'd Fame. 1727–46 THOMSON *Summer* 1641 The generous still-improving mind. 1742 YOUNG *Nt. Th.* VI. 9 Tardy pressure's still-increasing weight. 1761 GLOVER *Medea* II. vi. 36 The settled frown, The still-renew'd upbraiding? 1780 COWPER *Progr. Error* 550 His still refuted quirks he still repeats. 1783 CRABBE *Village* II. 164 To bid the still-recurring thoughts depart. 1875 BROWNING *Aristoph. Apol.* 77 Each prim stiff phrase Of each old play, my still-new laughing-stock, Had meaning.

c. In sense 4 a, 'now as before', quasi-combinations of this kind are still formed freely.

1609 J. DAVIES (Heref.) *Holy Roode* I 3, Thy still-fresh-bleeding Wounds. 1648 J. BEAUMONT *Psyche* VI. cccii, As for the bugbear Threat of Death, behold Its confutation in still-florid Me. 1732 *Belle Assemblée* II. 210 Kerme having seen his still-admir'd Leonora in the possession of what alone could make her happy. 1772 COWPER *Let. to J. Hill* 5 Nov., The only return I can make you, for your many acts of still-continued friendship. 1855 MILMAN *Lat. Chr.* XIV. x. (1864) IX. 355 It is believed by a still-diminishing few that [etc.]. 1864 PUSEY *Lect. Daniel* (1876) 323 Most of these Psalms lament over the still-continuing abandonment to the Heathen. 1890 GROSS *Gild Merch.* I. 132 The still-existing Company of Merchants of Carlisle.

Still, obs. form of STYLE *v.*

† **Stilla·do.** *Obs.*–1 ? Erron. var. STILETTO.

1607 CHAPMAN *Bussy d'Ambois* III. ii. 465 With any friend of yours Ile lay This poore Stilladoe heere, gainst all the starres..That you did neuer good, but to doe ill.

Stillage (sti·lĕdʒ), *sb.* Also 7 **stilladge**, 9 *dial.* **stillige.** [app. a. Du. *stellagie, stellaedsie* (Kilian), now written *stellazje, stellaadje, stellage*, scaffold, stand, f. *stellen* to place + Fr. suffix *-age*: see -AGE.]

1. *Brewing.* A stand for casks. Cf. STILLING *sb.*[1], STILLION 1.

1596 *Lanc. Wills* (Chetham Soc.) III. 5 In ye buttery..a rounde old table and ij stillages for bier. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. xx. (Roxb.) 248/1 A stilladge in sellers, on which barrells are sett. 1800 *Trans. Soc. Arts* XVIII. 337 And the tubs placed..upon a stillage, near to each other. 1883 *Lancs. Brewer's Price List*, Casks should be placed on stillage, bung downwards. 1889 W. WESTALL *Birch Dene* III. 28 In one corner several casks on stillages.

2. In various industries, a stool or stand for keeping something from the ground.

1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech., Stillage*, a low stool to keep cloths off the floor of a bleachery.

Stillage (sti·lĕdʒ), *v. dial.* [f. STILLAGE *sb.*] *trans.* To place (a barrel of ale, etc.) on a stand ready for use.

1854 BRIERLEY *Tales & Sk. Lancs. Life* (1866) II. 82 There was a barrel of ale ordered to be stillaged at the door of the Blue Elephant.

† **Sti·llant,** *a. Obs.* [ad. L. *stillantem*, pr. pple. of *stillāre* STILL *v.*[2]] Distilling, issuing in drops.

1610 W. FOLKINGHAM *Art of Survey* I. v. 10 The first is either Stagnant, as standing Pooles, Ponds, Lakes,..: Or Stillant, viz. Springing or bursting forth of the bowels of the earth, as Wels, Fountaines. 1654 GAYTON *Pleas. Notes* II. ii. 37 Our Dons in blood, and won't heed Sancho's rules, But rides about the field which is all gules From his eare stillant.

‖ **Stilla·tim,** *adv. Obs.* [L. *stillātim*, f. *stilla* a drop.] Drop by drop.

1668 EVELYN *Let. to Beale* 27 Aug., I..cause aboundance of cold fountaine-water to be poured upon me *stillatim*, for a good halfe-hour together. 1846 in WORCESTER (citing FOSTER).

A NEW
ENGLISH DICTIONARY
ON HISTORICAL PRINCIPLES.

(VOLUME IX. FIRST HALF. SI.—ST.)

STILLATION—STRATUM

LIBRARY OF THE BOMBAY BRANCH OF THE ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY

BY

HENRY BRADLEY, M.A., HON. D.LITT.

NOTE.

THIS double section includes 1115 Main words, 657 Special Combinations explained under these, and 411 Subordinate entries; in all 2183. The obvious combinations recorded and illustrated number 497, making a total of 2680. Of the Main words 230 (21%) are marked † as obsolete, and 28 (2½%) are marked ‖ as alien or not fully naturalized.

Comparison with Dr. Johnson's and some recent Dictionaries gives the following figures:—

	Johnson.	Cassell's 'Encyclopædic', and Suppl.	'Century' Dict., and Suppl.	Here.
Words recorded, *Stillation—Stratum*	178	900	1426	2680
Words illustrated by quotations	146	339	373	2275
Number of illustrative quotations	676	535	1033	15395

The number of quotations in the corresponding portion of Richardson is 569.

About half the space of this section is occupied with words of native English origin. It is true that the list of words actually inherited from Old English is not very long; but it includes several words which, like *stint* sb.[1] and vb., *stir* vb., *stock* sb.[1], *stone*, *stool*, *stoop*, *stop* vb., *storm*, *straight*, *strand*, *strap*, either claim extended treatment on account of the multitude of their senses, or have given rise to a large number of compounds and derivatives, many of which have themselves a long and varied history. From Old Norse there is only *stithy* (with its variant *stith*). The French element is represented by the important words *store*, *story* sb.[1], *story* sb.[2] (or *storey*), *stout*, *strain* sb.[2] and vb., *strait*, *strange*, *stranger*, *strangle*; and French is the proximate source of some of the derivatives from Latin and Greek. Latin has furnished several words of considerable importance, as *stimulus*, *stipend*, *stipulate*, *stolid*, *stratum* (and their derivatives). From Greek (mainly through Latin and French) come *stoic*, *stole* sb.[1], *stomach*, *stratagem*, *strategy*, besides a number of scientific terms that have no popular currency, as *stoicheiology*, *stomatic* and the related words. Modern European languages have given *stiver*, *stoep* (Du.), *stockbridge*, *stove* (Flemish), *stoccado*, *strappado* (It.), and the newly-adopted *strafe* (Ger.). The only Celtic words are the Irish *stokaghe* (Spenser) and the Gaelic *strath*. Words of Oriental, African, and American Indian origin are altogether absent.

A word remarkable for the extraordinary diversity of its senses (the mutual relation of which can often only be conjectured) is *stock* sb.[1] Other words showing noteworthy sense-history are *still-life*, *stimulate*, *stir* vb., *stole* sb.[2] ('Groom of the Stole'), *stomach*, *stone* sb., *stoop* vb., *stop* sb. and vb., *story* sb.[1], *straight*, *strain* sb. and vb. A small but not uninteresting fact revealed by our quotations is that the phrase *to strain at a gnat* does not, as has been often asserted, owe its current form to a misprint in the Bible of 1611.

In etymology, the novelty that will probably attract most attention is that the long-accepted derivation of *story* sb.[2] (*storey*) is rejected, and the word shown to be ultimately identical with *story* sb.[1] *Stool-ball* and *stow-ball*, which have hitherto been regarded as one and the same word, are here distinguished as the names of entirely dissimilar games.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS, SIGNS, &c.

a. [in Etymol.] ... = adoption of, adopted from.
a (as *a* 1300) ..... = *ante*, before.
a., *adj.*, adj..... = adjective.
absol., absol. ..... = absolutely.
abst. ..... = abstract.
acc. ..... = accusative.
ad. [in Etymol.]... = adaptation of.
adv., adv. ..... = adverb.
advb. ..... = adverbial, -ly.
AF., AFr. ..... = Anglo-French.
Anat. ..... = in Anatomy.
Antiq. ..... = in Antiquities.
aphet. ..... = aphetic, aphetized.
app. ..... = apparently.
Arab. ..... = Arabic.
Arch. ..... = in Architecture.
arch. ..... = archaic.
Archæol. ..... = in Archæology.
assoc. ..... = association.
Astr. ..... = in Astronomy.
Astrol. ..... = in Astrology.
attrib. ..... = attributive, -ly.
bef. ..... = before.
Biol. ..... = in Biology.
Boh. ..... = Bohemian.
Bot. ..... = in Botany.
Build. ..... = in Building.
c (as *c* 1300) ..... = *circa*, about.
c. (as 13th c.)..... = century.
Cat. ..... = Catalan.
catachr. ..... = catachrestically.
Cf., cf. ..... = *confer*, compare
Chem. ..... = in Chemistry.
cl. L. ..... = classical Latin.
cogn. w. ..... = cognate with.
collect. ..... = collective, -ly.
colloq. ..... = colloquially.
comb. ..... = combined, -ing.
Comb. ..... = Combinations.
Comm. ..... = in commercial usage.
comp. ..... = compound, composition.
compl. ..... = complement.
Conch. ..... = in Conchology.
concr. ..... = concretely.
conj. ..... = conjunction.
cons. ..... = consonant.
Const., *Const.* ... = Construction, construed with.
Cryst. ..... = in Crystallography.
(D.) ..... = in Davies (Supp. Eng Glossary).
Da. ..... = Danish.
dat. ..... = dative.
def. ..... = definite.
deriv. ..... = derivative, -ation.
dial., *dial.* ..... = dialect, -al.
Dict. ..... = Dictionary.
dim. ..... = diminutive.
Du. ..... = Dutch.
Eccl. ..... = in ecclesiastical usage.
ellipt. ..... = elliptical, -ly.
e. midl. ..... = east midland (dialect).
Eng. ..... = English.
Ent. ..... = in Entomology.
erron. ..... = erroneous, -ly.
esp., esp. ..... = especially.
etym. ..... = etymology.
euphem. ..... = euphemistically.
exc. ..... = except.
f. [in Etymol.] ... = formed on.
f. (in subordinate entries) ..... = form of.
fem. (*rarely* f.) ... = feminine.
fig. ..... = figurative, -ly.
F., Fr. ..... = French.
freq. ..... = frequently.
Fris. ..... = Frisian.
G., Ger. ..... = German.
Gael. ..... = Gaelic.
gen. ..... = genitive.
gen. ..... = general, -ly.
gen. sign. ..... = general signification.
Geol. ..... = in Geology.
Geom. ..... = in Geometry.
Goth. ..... = Gothic (= Mœso-Gothic).
Gr. ..... = Greek.
Gram. ..... = in Grammar.
Heb. ..... = Hebrew.
Her. ..... = in Heraldry.
Herb. ..... = with herbalists.
Hort. ..... = in Horticulture.
imp. ..... = Imperative.
impers. ..... = impersonal.
impf. ..... = imperfect.
ind. ..... = Indicative.
indef. ..... = indefinite.
inf. ..... = Infinitive.
infl. ..... = influenced.
int. ..... = interjection.
intr. ..... = intransitive.
It. ..... = Italian.
J., (J.) ..... = Johnson (quotation from).
(Jam.)..... = in Jamieson, Scottish Dict.
(Jod.)..... = Jodrell (quoted from).
L. ..... = Latin.
(L.)(in quotations) = Latham's edn. of Todd's lang. ..... = language. [Johnson.
LG. ..... = Low German.
lit. ..... = literal, -ly.
Lith. ..... = Lithuanian.
LXX. ..... = Septuagint.
Mal. ..... = Malay.
masc. (*rarely* m.) = masculine.
Math. ..... = in Mathematics.
ME. ..... = Middle English.
Med. ..... = in Medicine.
med.L. ..... = mediæval Latin.
Mech. ..... = in Mechanics.
Metaph. ..... = in Metaphysics.
MHG. ..... = Middle High German.
midl. ..... = midland (dialect).
Mil. ..... = in military usage.
Min. ..... = in Mineralogy.
mod. ..... = modern.
Mus. ..... = in Music.
(N.) ..... = Nares (quoted from).
n. of action..... = noun of action.
n. of agent ..... = noun of agent.
Nat. Hist. ..... = in Natural History.
Naut. ..... = in nautical language.
neut. (*rarely* n.) = neuter.
NF., NFr. ..... = Northern French.
N. O. ..... = Natural Order.
nom. ..... = nominative.
north. ..... = northern (dialect).
N. T. ..... = New Testament.
Numism. ..... = in Numismatics.
obj. ..... = object.
Obs., *obs.*, obs. ... = obsolete.
occas. ..... = occasional, -ly.
OE. ..... = Old English (= Anglo-Saxon).
OF., OFr. ..... = Old French.
OFris. ..... = Old Frisian.
OHG. ..... = Old High German.
OIr. ..... = Old Irish.
ON. ..... = Old Norse (Old Icelandic).
ONF. ..... = Old Northern French.
Opt. ..... = in Optics.
Ornith. ..... = in Ornithology.
OS. ..... = Old Saxon.
OSl. ..... = Old Slavonic.
O. T. ..... = Old Testament.
OTeut. ..... = Original Teutonic.
orig. ..... = original, -ly.
Palæont. ..... = in Palæontology.
pa. pple. ..... = passive or past participle.
pass. ..... = passive, -ly.
pa. t. ..... = past tense.
Path. ..... = in Pathology.
perh. ..... = perhaps.
Pers. ..... = Persian.
pers. ..... = person, -al.
pf. ..... = perfect.
Pg. ..... = Portuguese.
Philol. ..... = in Philology.
phonet. ..... = phonetic, -ally.
phr. ..... = phrase.
Phren. ..... = in Phrenology.
Phys. ..... = in Physiology.
pl., *pl.* ..... = plural.
poet. ..... = poetic.
pop. ..... = popular, -ly.
ppl. a., ppl. adj.... = participial adjective.
pple. ..... = participle.
Pr. ..... = Provençal.
prec. ..... = preceding (word or article).
pref. ..... = prefix.
prep. ..... = preposition.
pres. ..... = present.
Prim. sign. ..... = Primary signification.
priv. ..... = privative.
prob. ..... = probably
pron. ..... = pronoun.
pronunc. ..... = pronunciation.
prop. ..... = properly.
Pros. ..... = in Prosody.
pr. pple. ..... = present participle.
Psych. ..... = in Psychology.
q.v. ..... = *quod vide*, which see.
(R.) ..... = in Richardson's Dict.
R. C. Ch. ..... = Roman Catholic Church.
refash. ..... = refashioned, -ing.
refl., refl. ..... = reflexive.
reg. ..... = regular.
repr. ..... = representative, representing.
Rhet. ..... = in Rhetoric.
Rom. ..... = Romanic, Romance.
sb., *sb.* ..... = substantive.
Sc. ..... = Scotch.
sc. ..... = *scilicet*, understand or supply.
sing. ..... = singular.
Skr. ..... = Sanskrit.
Slav. ..... = Slavonic.
Sp. ..... = Spanish.
sp. ..... = spelling.
spec. ..... = specifically.
subj. ..... = subject, subjunctive.
subord. cl. ..... = subordinate clause.
subseq. ..... = subsequently.
subst. ..... = substantively.
suff. ..... = suffix.
superl. ..... = superlative.
Surg. ..... = in Surgery.
Sw. ..... = Swedish.
s.w. ..... = south western (dialect).
T. (T.) ..... = in Todd's Johnson.
techn. ..... = technical, -ly.
Theol. ..... = in Theology.
tr. ..... = translation of.
trans. ..... = transitive.
transf. ..... = transferred sense.
Trig. ..... = in Trigonometry.
Typog. ..... = in Typography.
ult. ..... = ultimate, -ly.
unkn. ..... = unknown.
U.S. ..... = United States.
v., vb. ..... = verb.
v. str., or *w* ..... = verb strong, or weak.
vbl. sb. ..... = verbal substantive.
var. ..... = variant of.
wd. ..... = word.
WGer. ..... = West Germanic.
w. midl. ..... = west midland (dialect).
WS. ..... = West Saxon.
(Y.)..... = in Col. Yule's Glossary.
Zool. ..... = in Zoology.

Before a word or sense.
† = obsolete.
‖ = not naturalized.

In the quotations.
* sometimes points out the word illustrated.

In the list of Forms.
1 = before 1100.
2 = 12th c. (1100 to 1200).
3 = 13th c. (1200 to 1300).
5–7 = 15th to 17th century. (See General Explanations, Vol. I, p. xx.)

In the Etymol.
* indicates a word or form not actually found, but of which the existence is inferred.
:— = extant representative, or regular phonetic descendant of.

The printing of a word in SMALL CAPITALS indicates that further information will be found under the word so referred to.

Stillation (stilēi·ʃən). *rare*−°. [ad. L. *stillātiōnem*, f. *stillāre* to distil, issue in drops, f. *stilla* drop.] (See quots.)

1623 COCKERAM I, *Stillation*, a dropping. 1898 *Syd. Soc. Lex.*, *Stillation*, passage of a liquid drop by drop.

Stillatitious (stilăti·ʃəs), *a.* [f. L. *stillātīci-us* falling in drops (f. *stillāre*: see prec. and -ITIOUS) + -OUS.]

1. Falling in drops; issuing by drops. Also, † produced by falling in drops, as stalactites.

1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.*, *Stillatitious*, that drops or distils. 1758 BORLASE *Nat. Hist. Cornw.* 110 Near the Holy-well.. there are several stillatitious productions of a sparry kind. 1822–7 GOOD *Study Med.* (1829) V. 469 Strangury. Painful and stillatitious emission of urine.

†**2.** Produced by distillation. *Obs.*

1657 TOMLINSON *Renou's Disp.* II. xiv. 70 As when Gems or Metals are extinguished in Wine-vinegar, pure or stillatitious matter. 1666 BOYLE *Orig. Formes & Qual.* 230 The Saline Corpuscles of Stillatitious acid liquors. 1681 GREW *Musæum* IV. § i. 352 The Stillatitious Oil of Lawang Barque. 1704 J. HARRIS *Lex. Techn.* I, *Stillatitious Oils* in Chymistry, are such as are Extracted out of Mixts, by the Force of Fire.

Hence **Stillati·tiously** *adv.*, by drops.

1822–7 GOOD *Study Med.* (1829) II. 532 The urine will flow stillatitiously, and without ceasing.

Stillatory (sti·lătəri), *sb.* Forms: 4–7 **stillatorie**, 5 **-tor**, 5–6 **styllatory**, 6 **stellatour, stelletore, stillatori, stillatour, -torye, stilletorie, stillitary, -torye, styllathre, -torie, stylletorie, -ye, styllytory, -tary**, 6–7 **stillitorie**, 6–8 **-tory**, 7 **stellatour, stillotorie**, 6– **stillatory**. [ad. med.L. *stillātōrium*, f. L. *stillāre* to drip, distil: see -ORY.]

I. 1. A still. *Obs.* exc. *Hist.* and *fig.*

c 1386 CHAUCER *Can. Yeom. Prol.* 27 His forhead dropped as a stillatorie Were ful of Plantayne and of Paritorie. 1460–70 *Bk. Quintessence* 11 Putte aʒen þe watir in þe stillatorie of circulacioun til ʒe brynge it to so myche swetnes.. as ʒe dide þe brennynge watir. 1491 in *Acta Dom. Concil.* (1839) 195/2 Ane stillator price xiij s. iiij d. 1508 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* IV. 137 For making of ane bos bed to ane stellatour of silvir weyand [etc.]. 1530 in *Ancestor* (1904) XI. 182 Wynington beryth to his crest a styllytory siluer in a wreeth. 1557 *Richmond Wills* (Surtees) 91 Item iij barrelles, one stelletore, xc. ʒards of hemppen cloth, xx^{s}. 1566 DRANT *Jerem.* iii. K vij, Mine eye, lyke stillitorie runs, and weepes. 1657 *Knaresb. Wills* (Surtees) II. 223, 1 Stillotorie. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. xx. (Roxb.) 232 Doctor Crato his stillatory for the prepareing and drawing of water or oyle of Cynamon.

b. *fig.*

1579 TOMSON *Calvin's Serm. Tim.* 329/1 This is another stillitorie of his where through Christ must passe. This is a meruellous alchumiste. 1592 SHAKS. *Ven. & Ad.* 443 For from the stillitorie of thy face excelling, Coms breath perfumd that breedeth loue by smelling. 1652 BENLOWES *Theophila* To Ladies A 2, So, Stillatories be of Love; That, what was Vapour, may, by Virtue, Essence prove. 1879 MEREDITH *Egoist* I. Prelude 4 The remedy of your frightful affliction is here, through the stillatory of Comedy, and not in Science.

2. A place where distillery is carried on; a still-room; a still-house, distillery.

1602 PLAT *Delights Ladies* Epist. (1611) A 3, The Quince, Pomgranate,..Are heere maintain'd,..For Ladies closets and their stillatories. 1604 R. CAWDREY *Table Alph.*, *Stillatorie*, a distilling place. 1624 WOTTON *Elem. Archit.* I. 8 All Offices that require heat, as Kitchins, Stillatories.. or the like would be Meridionall. *c* 1710 CELIA FIENNES *Diary* (1888) 7 So many little buildings apart from each other..one for a stillitory. 1796 *Stat. Acc. Scot.* XVII. 294 Here is a stillatory which pays to the revenue £729 per annum.

3. *attrib.*

1561–2 in *Rep. Middleton MSS.* (Hist. MSS. Comm. 1911) 417 Paied to the smythe for makynge and mendynge a locke for the stillytary howse dore. 1586 BRIGHT *Melanch.* xxvii. 156 Placed over the rest as a stillitorye helme ouer the bodie.

†**II. 4.** = STILLICIDE. *Obs.*

1777 GOSTLING *Walk Canterb.* (ed. 2) 189 Stillatory is the name our workmen give to spaces between buildings..to receive the rain which runs from the roofs.

†**Sti·llatory,** *a. Obs.* [ad. med.L. **stillātōrius*, f. L. *stillāre*: see STILLATION and -ORY. Cf. F. *stillatoire* (Cotgr. 1611).] **a.** Used in distilling. **b.** (See quot. 1656.)

1579 *Lanc. Wills* (Chetham Soc.) II. 125 Plate and butre stuffe wth glasses stillatory. 1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.*, *Stillatory*, stilling, distilling, dropping.

Still-birth. [f. STILL *a.* + BIRTH, after STILL-BORN *a.*] Birth of a still-born child; an instance of this. Also *fig.*

1785 COWPER *Let. to J. Newton* 25 June, Dr. Johnson laughs at Savage for charging the still-birth of a poem of his upon the bookseller's delay. 1872 MORLEY *Voltaire* i. 6 None of it was ever the dreary still-birth of a mind of hearsays. 1889 A. NEWSHOLME *Elem. Vital Statistics* 61 Still-births are not registered in England. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* II. 980 In other animals still-birth was a constant feature.

Still-born, *a.* [f. STILL *a.* + BORN *ppl. a.*]

1. Born lifeless; dead at birth; abortive.

1607 R. C[AREW] tr. *Estienne's World Wond.* 348 Restoring children to life, which were stil borne. 1613 BP. HALL *Farew. Serm. Pr. Henry* Wks. (1625) 462 If a childe were heard cry, it is a lawfull proofe of his liuing: else if hee be dead, we say he is still-borne. 1622–3 in Swayne *Churchw. Acc. Sarum* (1896) 176, iiij still borne Children 4 d. 1773 *Gentl. Mag.* XLIII. 118 It is of importance that the still-born children, and those who die before baptism, should also be registered. 1855 *Poultry Chron.* II. 436, I have often revived apparently still-born ducklings with whisky and water. 1911 *Act* 1 & 2 *Geo. V*, c. 6 § 4 If any person.. falsely pretends that any child born alive was still-born..he shall be guilty of a misdemeanour.

2. *fig.*

1597 SHAKS. 2 *Hen. IV*, I. iii. 64 Grant that our hopes (yet likely of faire byrth) Should be still-borne. 1648 HERRICK *Hesper., Conf. Lady* 6 Winds have their time to rage; but when they cease, The leavie-trees nod in a still-born peace. 1679 DRYDEN *Tr. & Cr.* I. ii. 4, I haue with mighty anguish of my Soul Just at the Birth stifled this still-born-sigh. 1709 *Tatler* No. 110 P 7 Authors in Prose and Verse. Those of them who had produced any still-born Work. 1827 NEELE *Lit. Rem.* (1829) 22 It is a very common error to suppose that it ['Paradise Lost'] fell almost still-born from the press. 1830 MARRYAT *King's Own* XXXV, Those still-born quotations of our messmate Price are most tryingly annoying. 1858 GREENER *Gunnery* Pref. p. iii, The numerous patents taken out during the last few years, most of which have fallen still-born. 1894 JEAFFRESON *Bk. Recoll.* I. viii. 135 [His] works one and all fell still-born from the press.

Still-burnt, *a.* [f. STILL *sb.*^{1} + BURNT *ppl. a.*] Of alcoholic spirits: Damaged by burning in the process of distillation. Hence (in Dicts.) **Still-burn** *v.*

1766 SMOLLETT *Trav.* I. 44 All the brandy which I have seen in Boulogne is new, fiery, and still-burnt. 1831 T. P. JONES *New Convers. Chem.* xv. 153 Spirituous liquors which are still-burnt and otherwise badly flavoured.

Stilled (stild), *ppl. a.*^{1} [f. STILL *v.*^{2} + -ED^{1}.] Made quiet; quietened; silent.

1614 GORGES *Lucan* I. 26 And being layd, the stilled maine Reclaimes her mounted waues againe. 1820 C. R. MATURIN *Melmoth* (1892) III. xxiv. 65 Murderers exchanging their stilled and midnight whispers. 1874 L. CARR *Jud. Gwynne* I. i. 10 The sweet rhythmical music..came chiming through the stilled air. 1883 MEREDITH *Poems & Lyrics*, *Melampus* xi, He drew the Master of harmonies, voiced or stilled, To seek him.

Stilled (stild), *ppl. a.*^{2} [f. STILL *v.*^{1} + -ED^{1}.] = DISTILLED *ppl. a.*

a 1400 *Stockh. Medical MS.* i. 76 in *Anglia* XVIII. 297 Quan alle þese gresys ben i-take Stillid water þer-of lat make. 1542 BOORDE *Dyetary* x. (1870) 253 Better it is to drynke with wyne stylled waters. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* XVI. xi. I. 464 Thereupon it is called Stilled pitch. 1633 HART *Diet of Diseased* I. xv. 53 The stilled water of the plant [Marigold]..is esteemed good for red eyes. 1728 E. S[MITH] *Compl. Housew.* (ed. 2) 173 Then put in two or three spoonfuls of the same Syrup or still'd Water.

†**Sti·lledly,** *adv. Obs. rare*−^{1}. [f. STILLED *ppl. a.*^{1} + -LY^{2}.] In a stilled manner; quietly.

c 1205 LAY. 14101 Ofte heo stilledliche spæken & spilieð mid runen.

Stillehede: see STILLHEAD. *Obs.*

Stilleli, -lich(e, -like, obs. forms of STILLY.

Stillen, var. STEELEN *a.*; obs. f. STILLING *sb.*

Stiller^{1} (sti·ləɹ). [f. STILL *v.*^{1} + -ER^{1}.]

1. One who or something which makes still.

1608 J. KING *Serm. St. Mary's, Oxf.* 27 The stiller of wars, and extinguisher of rebellions. 1845–6 TRENCH *Huls. Lect.* Ser. I. i. 157 The stiller of creation's groans. 1849 *Tait's Mag.* XVI. 292/1 That is your true stiller of tempests.

2. (See quots.)

1862 C. C. ROBINSON *Dial. Leeds* 422 *Stiller*, a piece of wood placed on the surface of water in a pail to steady it, when carried any distance. 1874 R. G. WHITE *Words & Uses* 213 Floating on the top of the water was a disc of wood a little less in diameter than the rim of the pail. 'What's that, my lass?' he asked. 'That?' (with surprise); 'why, that's a stiller.'

Stiller^{2} (sti·ləɹ). [f. STILL *v.*^{2} + -ER^{1}.] One who distils; a distiller.

1580 HOLLYBAND *Treas. Fr. Tong*, *Chapelier*,..a stiller. 1615 in *Issues of Exch.* (1836) 328 To the stiller for his ordinary allowances in stilling of waters. 1757 A. COOPER *Distiller* I. ii. (1760) 20 How far the fine Stiller may profit by it, well deserves his Attention. 1902 *Blackw. Mag.* Aug. 260/1 He was a poacher and a stiller of whisky of course.

†**Sti·llery.** *Obs.* Also 7 **stillary.** [f. STILL *v.*^{2} + -ERY.]

1. ? A still. In quots. *fig.*

1595 CHAPMAN *Ovid's Banq. Sence* B 4 b, Thus should I be her notes, before they be; While in her blood they sitte with fierye wings Not vapord in her voyces stillerie. *a* 1618 SYLVESTER *Tobacco Battered* 445 Causing a moist Brain, by unceast supply Of Rheums still drawn to th' bodie's Stillary. 1624 HEYWOOD *Captives* II. ii. in Bullen *O. Pl.* IV. 142 That stillary of all infectious sinnes.

2. A distillery.

1762 tr. *Busching's Syst. Geog.* IV. 353 In it also the farm-buildings, together with the brewery and stillery. 1804 T. TROTTER *Ess. Drunkenness* i. 6 Abundance of corn, was again, for the sake of taxation, converted into poisonous spirits, by opening the stilleries.

Stillet, obs. form of STYLET.

†**Still-green,** *a. Obs.* [f. STILL *adv.* + GREEN *a.*] = EVERGREEN *a.*

1591 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* I. iii. 981 Still-green Laurel shall be still thy Lot. 1603 J. DAVIES (Heref.) *Microcosmos*, *Extasie* 249 A gloomy Bowre of stil-greene Baies. 1665 J. REA *Flora* 16 We will conclude with two other Greens, which in their beautiful still-green leaves much resemble them.

†**Sti·llhead.** *Obs. rare*−^{1}. In 4 **stillehede.** [f. STILL *a.* + -HEAD.] Quietness.

1340 *Ayenb.* 142 Þous biginþ þe zaule to louie onhede and stillehede.

Still-he·ad. [f. STILL *sb.*^{1} + HEAD *sb.*]

1. The cap, helm, or upper compartment of a still or alembic.

1694 *Act* 6 & 7 *Will. & M.* c. 18 § 1 Bottles..Called Rounds, Squares, Receivers, Retorts, Bolt-heads, Still-heads. *c* 1770 MRS. GLASSE *Compl. Confectioner* 282 Also lute the nose of the still-head to the worm. 1798 *Repert. Arts & Manuf.* (1799) X. 290 The improved patent still-head. 1856 *Debates Jamaica Assembly* I. 87 The still, the worm, the still-head, ..[etc.] shall be forfeited. 1866 SIR T. SEATON *From Cadet to Col.* I. ix. 277 This was my still, and a smaller pot, whose mouth would just go inside the larger, formed the still-head.

b. *At the still-head*: an expression used with reference to the collection of the spirit duty before the spirit has left the distillery.

1743 *Johnson's Wks.* (1787) *Debates* II. 386 By the new Bill a small Duty per gallon was laid on at the Still-head. 1878 LECKY *Eng. in 18th C.* (1883) I. 480 Lowering the duty on..spirits to 1d. in the gallon, levied at the still-head.

attrib. 1850 *Direct. Rev. Off. N.W. Prov.* 224 Licensed venders, who are bound to pay the still-head duty on the quantity of liquor for which the license is granted.

2. *Comb.* **still-headsman,** a workman in charge of a still-head.

1887 *Scott. Leader* 17 Nov. 5 Peter Paris, still-headsman.

Sti·ll-house. [f. STILL *sb.*^{1} + HOUSE *sb.*] A building in which distillation is carried on; a distillery. † See also quot. *a* 1734 (cf. STILL-ROOM b).

1558 in Feuillerat *Revels Q. Eliz.* (1908) 47 One Stylle-house in the passage leading to the garden. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* I. 59 This Gentleman had a very faire Library, full of excellent bookes, and a like faire still-house. 1695 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 3048/4 At Chichester..is a convenient Still-house ready fitted with Stills, Coppers, Hogpenns, Mill and Mill-house,..to be Lett. *a* 1734 NORTH *Lives*, *Life J. North* (1744) 249 [The custom] was for the..Gentlemen Officers to meet every Morning in a Sort of Stil-house, where a good Woman provided them with their Liquors as they liked best; and this they called their Coffee-house. *a* 1812 J. BARLOW *Poem on Hasty Pudding* (Bartlett) Joys that the vineyard and the still-house bring.

attrib. 1624 in *Archæologia* XLVIII. 151 In the still house chamber, one standing bedsteed. 1856 *Debates Jamaica Assembly* I. 87 The Hon. Gentleman himself..would not be eligible for the situation of a Still-house book keeper.

Still hunt, *sb. U.S.* [f. STILL *a.* + HUNT *sb.*]

1. A pursuit for game in a stealthy manner or under cover; stalking.

1860 MAYNE REID *Hunter's Feast* xvii, It was to be a 'still' hunt, and we went afoot. 1861 G. F. BERKELEY *Eng. Sportsman* xiv. 261 They started to a still hunt.

2. *transf.* The pursuit of any object quietly and cautiously; *esp.* (see quot. 1890).

1890 C. L. NORTON *Polit. Americanisms* 109 *Still Hunt*, originally a sporting term, but applied during the campaign of 1876 to political methods conducted in secret, or underhanded methods. 1893 *Lightning* 9 Feb. 89/2 We go on the 'still-hunt' principle.

Still-hunt, *v. U.S.* [Back-formation from STILL-HUNTING *vbl. sb.*]

1. *trans.* To hunt in a stealthy manner; to stalk.

1877 C. HALLOCK *Sportsman's Gazetteer* 81 (Cent.) The best time to still-hunt deer is just before sunset, when they come down from the hills to drink. 1885 ROOSEVELT *Hunting Trips* 327 (Cent.) The only way to get one [a grizzly] is to put on moccasins and still-hunt it in its own haunts.

2. *intr.* To hunt for game in a stealthy manner.

1881 *Scribner's Monthly* XXII. 859/1 On rainy days, we go out from camp, singly, and 'still-hunt' for deer. 1894 *Outing* XXIV. 261/1, I was not still-hunting, though I made but slight disturbance.

Still-hunter. *U.S.* [Formed as prec.: see -ER^{1}.] One who hunts game in a quiet or stealthy manner; a stalker.

1831 AUDUBON *Ornith.* I. 335 We shall therefore suppose that we are now about to follow the *true hunter*, as the Still Hunter is also called. 1895 *Outing* XXVI. 64/2 He hated that weapon with all the unreasonable pertinacity of the old school of still-hunters. 1904 T. S. VAN DYKE (*title*) The Still-hunter.

Still-hunting, *vbl. sb. U.S.* [f. STILL *a.* + HUNTING *vbl. sb.*] The practice of hunting game in a stealthy and noiseless manner.

1831 AUDUBON *Ornith.* I. 335 Still Hunting is followed as a kind of trade by most of our frontier men. 1847 RUXTON *Adv. Mexico* xxxii. 301 There are two methods of hunting buffalo—one on horseback,..the other by 'still hunting', that is, 'approaching,' or stalking, by taking advantage of the wind and any cover the ground affords. 1860 MAYNE REID *Hunters' Feast* xxiii, The simplest and most common is that which is termed 'still' hunting.

Still-hunting: see STILL *sb.*^{1} 4.

Stilliard(e, obs. forms of STEELYARD^{1}, 2.

†**Stilliardois,** *pl. Obs. rare.* [f. *stilliard* STEELYARD^{1} + F. suffix *-ois* = -ESE.] A name given to the Merchants of the Steelyard.

1552 *Acts Privy Council* N. S. IV. 98 A lettre to William Sydney, Customer of London, to suffer the Stilliardoys to lade for the parties of beyonde the sea certaine cloth.

Stillic, stillich(e, obs. forms of STILLY.

Stillicide (sti·lisəid). Also 7 **stillicid.** [Anglicized form of STILLICIDIUM.]

1. A falling of water, etc. in drops; a succession of drops. Now *rare.*

1626 BACON *Sylva* § 24 Wee see it also in the Stillicides of water, which if ther be water enough to follow, will Drawe themselues into a small thredd, because they will not discontinue. *a* 1651 CULVERWELL *Lt. Nat.* etc. II. vi. (1654) 161 Those fallings down of water, that thred and spin themselves into such slender stillicids. 1657 TOMLINSON *Renou's Disp.* 192 To Irrigation we may refer the Stillicide or Laver of

medicated waters. 1898 HARDY *Wessex Poems* 156 In the mated measured note Of..a lone cave's stillicide.

2. *Civil and Scots Law.* The dropping of rain-water from the eaves of a house upon another's land or roof; the right or the servitude relating to this.

1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.*, *Stillicide*, the dropping of the Eaves of an house. 1681 STAIR *Inst. Law Scot.* XVII. vii. 342 The next positive City-servitude is, of Stillicides or Sinks: Stillicide is the easing-drop which falleth off any house [etc.]. 1754 ERSKINE *Princ. Sc. Law* (1809) 222 No proprietor can build, so as to throw the rain water falling from his own house immediately upon his neighbour's ground, without a special servitude, which is called of stillicide.

Stillici·dious, *a.* ? *Obs. rare*⁻¹. [f. STILLICIDIUM + -OUS.] Produced by a falling in drops.

1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* II. i. 56 Crystall is..in some places not much unlike the stirious or stillicidious dependencies of Ice. 1656 in BLOUNT *Glossogr.*

‖ Stillici·dium (stilisi·diŭm). Pl. **-cidia.** [L., f. *stilla* drop + *cid-* weakened root of *cadĕre* to fall.]

1. *Civil Law.* = STILLICIDE.

1727 BAILEY vol. II, *Stillicidium*, the Droppings of the Eaves of an House. 1765–8 ERSKINE *Inst. Law Scot.* II. ix. 309. 1892 KATH. GOULD tr. *Convers. Döllinger* i. 5 The stillicidia of the Romans..did not interest me in the least.

2. *Path.* A morbid dropping or trickling.

1791 G. WALLIS *Motherby's Med. Dict.* (ed. 3) s.v. *Vagina*, They [polypous tumours in the vagina] are attended with perpetual stillicidium from the vagina. 1876 BARTHOLOW *Mat. Med.* (1879) 408 A constant stillicidium of semen. 1876 tr. *Wagner's Gen. Pathol.* 94 Stillicidium and catarrh of the lachrymal ducts.

† Stillie, *a. Her. Obs.* [f. L. *stilla* drop, after BARRY, CHECKY, etc.] Besprinkled with drops.

1572 BOSSEWELL *Armorie* II. 88 b, The fielde is Verte, Stillie, d'Argente.

† Sti·llified, *ppl. a. Obs.* [f. STILL *v.*² + -(I)FY + -ED¹.] Distilled.

1608 ROWLANDS *Humors Looking Gl.* B 4 b, Tobacco's stillified stink.

Stilliform (sti·lifɔim), *a.* [f. L. *stilla* a drop + -FORM.] Drop-shaped. In recent Dicts.

Stilling (sti·liŋ), *sb.*¹ Also 7 **steeling(e, stillinge, stylling,** 8 **stillen.** See also STILLION. [Perh. corruptly a. Du. *stelling* stand, scaffold, f. *stellen* to place. Cf. STILLAGE.] A stand for a cask, a gantry.

1604 *Ball. Coll. Oxf. Acc.* (MS.), Item, to Golidge [a carpenter] for makinge stillings for beare, and other worke, vj^s iij^d. 1665 in Halliwell *Acc. Collect. Bills* etc. (1852) 17 In the strong Beere Seller. A stylling. 1743 *Lond. & Country Brewer* III. (ed. 2) 235 They roll and tumble the Barrel backwards and forwards up and down on a Stilling. 1827 SIR J. BARRINGTON *Pers. Sk.* II. 49 Very like a beer barrel on its stilling. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.*, *Stilling*, a stand for casks. A stillion.

Stilling (sti·liŋ), *sb.*² *Mining.* [Of obscure origin.] (See quots.)

1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-mining* 240 *Stilling*, the walling of a shaft within the tubbing above the stone head. 1899 BARING-GOULD *Bk. West* II. *Corniw.* v. 63 [Tin mining] The walling on each side of a *tye* or adit is called *stilling*.

Stilling (sti·liŋ), *vbl. sb.*¹ [f. STILL *v.*¹ + -ING¹.] The action of making still; quietening; calming.

1530 PALSGR. 276/1 Styllyng or apeysing, *apeisement.* 1622 HAKEWILL *David's Vow* vii. 258 A deceit..which Nurses vse for the stilling of their Children. *c* 1698 LOCKE *Cond. Understand.* § xlv, Thus some trivial sentence, or a scrap of poetry, will sometimes get into men's heads, and make such a chiming there, that there is no stilling of it. 1792 MME. D'ARBLAY *Lett.* 20 Dec., The pretended friends of the people..wait but the stilling of the present ferment of royalty to come forth. 1846 TRENCH *Mirac.* xix. 310 They..might pluck the ripe ears for the stilling of their present hunger. 1863 MISS WHATELY *Ragged Life in Egypt* 200 It is beautiful when the sun draws in his fiery shafts to watch the stilling of the air.

Stilling (sti·liŋ), *vbl. sb.*² Also 6 **steeling, steyling, stylling, -yng.** [f. STILL *v.*² + -ING¹.]

† 1. The action of the verb STILL²; distillation.

1477 NORTON *Ordin. Alch.* v. in Ashm. (1652) 79 Liquor is in manie manners found..Some with stilling, as Waters be made. 1573–80 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 115 The knowledge of stilling is one pretie feat. 1683 TRYON *Way to Health* 554, I appeal to your selves, if your Wort would not have turned sower,..and of no use or virtue, except for Stilling.

attrib. 1545 in R. H. Lathbury *Denham, Bucks* (1904) 339 All the shelfes and formes that are in the stillinge house. 1573 in *Rep. Middleton MSS.* (Hist. MSS. Comm. 1911) 438 To the cater..for the exchaunge of a steeling pott, iiij s. 1596 in *Archæologia* LXIV. 375 For 1 dor in ye steylling house. 1600 SURFLET *Country Farm* III. lxiv. 578 The stilling vessels. 1840 *Liebig's Org. Chem. Relat. Agric.* 294 The wine in the stilling-casks.

b. *Ireland.* Illicit distillation of spirits.

1896 *Blackw. Mag.* Oct. 470/1 The Roman Catholic Bishop of Raphoe..has done more to stamp out 'stilling' than the R. I. C. could accomplish in a generation. 1912 *Ibid.* Dec. 787/2 Many parts of the Blue Ridge have long been notorious for the stilling which was carried on there, mostly on the illicit plan.

† 2. Dropping or trickling. *Obs.*

1530 PALSGR. 276/1 Styllyng or droppyng of lycour, *distillation.* 1538 ELYOT *Dict.*, *Catarrhus*, a rewme or styllynge downe of water or fleme from the heed. 1576 BAKER *Gesner's Jewell of Health* 4 The yelowe seedes within the Rose..boyled in Wyne and drunke, doth staye..the styllings downe to the Gummes.

Stilling (sti·liŋ), *ppl. a.*¹ [f. STILL *v.*¹ + -ING².] That makes still; quietening; calming.

1635 SIBBES *Serm. John* xiv. 1 (1636) 35 Thus faith becomes a quieting and a stilling grace. 1844 KINGLAKE *Eothen* iii (1847) 18 More stilling than very silence. 1873 MISS BROUGHTON *Nancy* III. 126 There is something so stilling in the far placidity of the high stars. 1902 *Academy* 22 Mar. 324/1 The touch like a stilling finger, The whisper, the sigh.

† Sti·lling, *ppl. a.*² *Obs.* [f. STILL *v.*² + -ING².] Trickling or falling in drops; distilling.

a 1542 WYATT *Poems*, '*Process of time*' 6 And yet an hert that sems so tender receveth no dropp of the stilling teres that [etc.]. 1565 GOLDING *Ovid's Met.* I. (1593) 9 And on his feathers and his breast a stilling dew did sticke.

Stillion (sti·liən). [? var. of STILLING *sb.*¹]

1. A stand for a cask; a gantry. Also, a stand or frame on which pottery is placed in the drying kiln (Knight).

1803 *Ann. Reg.*, *Chron.* 396/2 Mr. Madden..had water and beer butts thrown flat from the stillions. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 383 The casks are raised upon gawntrees or stillions. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2386 *Stillion*, a stand for casks. The rounds or cleansing vats of a brewery stand on stillions in a trough which conveys away the overflowing yeast.

2. (See quot. 1836.)

1826 *Art of Brewing* (ed. 2) 6 The beer..not suffered to remain in small quantities in the stillions or other utensils. 1836 *Penny Cycl.* V. 404/2 A trough or stillion to catch the yest. 1871 G. SCAMELL *Breweries & Maltings* xv. 74 The yeast finding its way the best way it can into the stillion beneath.

Stillish (sti·liʃ), *a.* [+ -ISH.] Somewhat still.

1648 HEXHAM II, *Stilachtigh, ofte een weynigh stil*, Stillish, or somewhat Still. 1894 C. L. MORGAN in *Nature* 6 Dec. 127/1 One [limpet] was observed to make a short excursion from and to return to its scar under stillish water.

Stillitorie, -ory(e, obs. ff. STILLATORY.

Still life. [f. STILL *a.* + LIFE *sb.*, after Du. *stilleven* (in the 17th c. also *stilstaand leven, stilliggend leven*). Cf. G. *stillleben*, in the 18th c. *stillliegende sachen* (Zedler 1744).

The Du. expressions have been found only in the sense explained below, but it is presumed that they were originally applied to representations not of inanimate objects but of living things portrayed in a state of rest.]

Inanimate objects, such as fruits, flowers, dead game, vessels, etc., as represented in painting. (For other uses see STILL *a* 5 b.)

1695 [R. GRAHAM] *Short Acc. Painters* in *Dryden's Dufresnoy's Art Paint.* 277 His peculiar happiness in expressing all sorts of Animals, Fruit, Flowers, and the Still-life. 1701 WANLEY in *Phil. Trans.* XXV. 2004 In the Still life indeed, the Eye is quickly deceiv'd. 1706 tr. *De Piles' Art Paint.* 440 Kneller..did also several Pieces in Still-Life exceedingly well. 1762–71 H. WALPOLE *Vertue's Anecd. Paint.* (1786) III. 19 He painted still-life, oranges and lemons, plate, damask curtains, cloths of gold, and that medley of familiar objects that strike the ignorant vulgar. 1859 GULLICK & TIMBS *Paint.* 51 Still-life is the exact imitation of immobile objects, such as fruit, flowers, and eatables.

attrib. 1867 *Contemp. Rev.* VI. 387 Landscapists and still-life painters ought to go through a course of real drawing. 1887 W. P. FRITH *Autobiog.* I. iv. 52 He still insisted that I should paint a composition of still-life objects. 1898 GOSSE *Short Hist. Mod. Engl. Lit.* vii. 236 But these pedestrian studies of nature had no passion in them; they were but passages of an inventory or a still-life painting.

Stillness (sti·lnės). [OE. *stilnes, -nys*, f. *stille* adj. See STILL *a.* and -NESS. Cf. OHG. *stilnissi*.] The condition or quality of being still.

1. Absence of movement or physical disturbance; motionlessness.

c 1000 ÆLFRIC *Saints' Lives* xxxi. 1053 Heo oncneow sona þæt heo alysed wæs and læg aþenod ætforan his fotum onfangenre stilnysse. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 475/2 Stylnesse, wytheowt mevynge, *tranquillitas.* 1585 HIGINS *Junius' Nomencl.* 363/2 *Malacia*,..calmenesse or stillnesse of the sea. 1617 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* IV. xviii. (ed. 3) 498 A pleasant Riuer of fresh water, if it may not rather be called a Lake for the stillnesse. 1650 FULLER *Pisgah* IV. ii. 20 They will admire as much at the stilness of our station, and dulness of our constant dwelling in one place. 1711 SWIFT *Cond. Allies* 10 If a House be on fire,..those at next Door may escape, by a Shower from Heaven, or the stillness of the Weather. 1845 MAURICE *Mor. Philos.* in *Encycl. Metrop.* II. 614/1 The capacity of health and sickness is the same; of stillness and movement; of being raised up and of falling down. 1876 GEO. ELIOT *Deronda* vii, The background of green and grey stillness. 1885 'MRS. ALEXANDER' *At Bay* ii, She..would have been rather handsome but for her extreme stillness, coldness, and want of colour. 1898 FLOR. MONTGOMERY *Tony* 19 The stillness of his figure and his utter silence. 1908 [MISS E. FOWLER] *Betw. Trent & Ancholme* 12 The stillness often betokens rain.

2. Freedom from tumult, strife, or agitation; tranquillity.

c 888 ÆLFRED *Boeth.* vii. § 1 Forðæm þu eart eac nu of þinre stillnesse aþworfen. *a* 1122 *O. E. Chron.* (MS. C.) an. 1065, Her wearð Harold eac to kynge ȝehalȝod & he lytle stillnesse þar on ȝebad þa hwile þe he rices weold. *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 115 He scal..beon on erfeðnesse anred and edmod on stilnesse. 1388 WYCLIF *Isa.* xxxii. 17 The tilthe of riȝtfulnesse schal be stilnesse and sikirnesse. 1663 PATRICK *Parab. Pilgrim* xvii. (1687) 166 Prayer is the silence of our Souls: the stilness and calm of all our Passions. 1807 WORDSW. *White Doe* IV. 150 On my Mind A passive stillness is enjoined. 1828 LYTTON *Pelham* xliii, That air of perfect repose—the stillness of a deep soul, which rests over their writings. 1885 'MRS. ALEXANDER' *At Bay* i, I love quietness, stillness—being with a few people I like.

3. Silence; freedom from noise; abstinence from speech, taciturnity.

c 1050 in Assmann *Ags. Hom.* xii. 7 Þæt we..mid micelre eadmodnysse & stilnysse us to urum drihtne ȝebiddan. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 156 Of þisse stillnesse he speked þer biuoren lutel. *c* 1374 CHAUCER *Boeth.* II. pr. 1. l. 2 After that she hadde gadered by atempre stillenesse [*modesta taciturnitate*] myn attencioun. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 475/2 Stylnesse, nowt spekynge.., *taciturnitas, silencium.* 1596 SHAKS. *Merch. V.* v. i. 56 Soft stilnes, and the night Become the tutches of sweet harmonie. 1663 PATRICK *Parab. Pilgrim* (1687) 177 Who all this while had been in a profound stilness. 1750 GRAY *Elegy* 6 All the air a solemn stillness holds. 1784 J. KING *Cook's 3rd Voy.* v. iv. III. 55 We afterward saw the natives flying, the boats retire from the shore, and passing and repassing, in great stillness, between the ships. 1796 MORSE *Amer. Geog.* I. 425 A certain stillness and gravity of manner, perhaps in some degree peculiar to commercial people. 1821 LAMB *Elia* Ser. I. *Quaker's Meeting*, What is the stillness of the desert, compared with this place? 1838 DICKENS *O. Twist* xii, The darkness and the deep stillness of the room were very solemn. 1843 RUSKIN *Arrows of Chace* (1880) I. 28 Wordsworth, read in the stillness of a mountain hollow, has the force of the mountain waters. 1892 KIPLING *Barrack-room Ballads* 174 They are lifting their heads in the stillness to yelp at the English flag!

† b. Secrecy. *Obs.*

a 1400 *Hymns Virgin* etc. (1895) 110 Stele þou nouȝt þi neiȝebors þing, Noubur wiþ stillenes ne wiþ strif. *a* 1779 WARBURTON *Serm.* vi. Wks. 1788 V. 105 In all the depth and stillness of Politics.

4. Quietness of temper or behaviour; freedom from turbulence or self-assertion. (See also STILL *a.* 4 d.)

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 414 Marie dole is stilnesse and reste of alle worldes noise. *c* 1412 HOCCLEVE *De Reg. Princ.* 1013 Eut we labour in trauaillous stilnesse. *a* 1564 BECON *Commonpl. Script.* Wks. III. 93 The goodman with stilnesse and pacience taryeth for ye health of the Lorde. 1599 SHAKS. *Hen. V*, III. i. 4 In Peace, there 's nothing so becomes a man, As modest stillnesse, and humilitie. 1738 WESLEY *Hymns* 'Meek, patient Lamb of God' ii, Give me in Stillness to sustaine Whate'er thy Wisdom shall ordain. 1745 — *Answ. Ch.* 19 Your Notion of True Stillness is, 'A patient waiting upon God'.

Stillotorie, obs. f. STILLATORY.

Sti·ll-room. [STILL *sb.*¹] **a.** *Hist.* Originally, a room in a house in which a still was kept for the distillation of perfumes and cordials. **b.** In later use, a room in which preserves, cakes, liqueurs, etc. are kept, and tea, coffee, etc. are prepared. Also *attrib.* in *still-room maid, window.*

c 1710 CELIA FIENNES *Diary* (1888) 299 On one side is a building, a summer parlour for a still room. 1810 MALONE *Let.* 30 Jan. in *Windham Papers* II. 367 Pray, what is the precise notion of a still-room..? I imagine it is a housekeeper's room, where china and stores are kept...I never once heard the word, till I heard it used by a lady, a few months ago. 1833 LOUDON *Encycl. Archit.* § 1698 A door in the housekeeper's room should open into the still-room, in which the housekeeper, assisted by the still-room maid, would make preserves, cakes, &c. 1853 DICKENS etc. *Househ. Words* Christm. No. 2/2 She used to give him a good-humoured look out of her still-room window sometimes. 1858 THACKERAY *Virgin.* xlv, A hundred years ago, every lady in the country had her still-room, and her medicine-chest, her pills, powders, potions, for all the village round. 1862 *Draper & Clothier* III. 9/2 This agreeable lady.. announced herself as 'Mrs. Brown, the still-room maid'.., Mrs. Brown had to take charge of vast quantities of stores in daily use,—goods sent in from grocers, oilmen, chandlers, and tradesmen of that class. 1865 J. B. HARWOOD *Lady Flavia* xlvi, There was babbling in milliners' work-rooms, and in what are facetiously called the still-rooms of country mansions. 1901 *Daily Chron.* 10 Sept. 10/6 Still-room Maid ..wanted immediately. 1906 *Westm. Gaz.* 7 June 12/1 The still-room of the House of Commons is badly situated, and has but a small window through which to pass supplies.

† Stillsitting, *vbl. sb. Obs.* [f. STILL *adv.* + SITTING *vbl. sb.*] Sitting still, inactivity. So **† Stillsitting** *ppl. a.*, that sits still, sedentary.

1535 COVERDALE *Isa.* xxx. 15 With stilsittinge and rest shal ye be healed. 1597 A. M. tr. *Guillemeau's Fr. Chirurg.* 3/1 That man which laboureth [will be cured] easier then a stillsittinge and idle persone.

Sti·ll-stand. [f. STILL *a.* + STAND *sb.* So Du. *stilstand*, G. *stillstand.*]

1. A stand-still. *rare.* Also spec. in *Path.*

1597 SHAKS. 2 *Hen. IV*, II. iii. 64 As with the Tyde, swell'd vp vnto his height, That makes a still-stand, running neyther way. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. III. i, And so, towards the end of 1783, matters threaten to come to a still-stand. 1878 M. FOSTER *Physiol.* III. v. § 2 (ed. 2) 479 The lymph hearts remained in a (diastolic) still-stand. 1885 T. L. BRUNTON *Text-bk. Pharmacol.* etc. xxxiii. 912 The systolic stillstand is removed, and pulsation again recommences.

† 2. *spec.* [After G. (*waffen*)*stillstand*, Du. *stilstand* (*van wapenen*).] An armistice. *Obs.*

1637 R. MONRO *Exped.* I. 74 A still-stand or cessation of Armes was concluded on by both parties, for a fortnights time. 1819 SCOTT *Leg. Montrose* xi, During a still-stand of arms.

Sti·ll water. [f. STILL *a.* + WATER *sb.*]

1. = SLACK-WATER 1.

1626 CAPT. SMITH *Accid. Yng. Seamen* 17 It flows quarter floud, high water, or a still water. 1791 SMEATON *Edystone L.* § 3 The change of direction or time of Still Water. 1808 FORSYTH *Beauties Scot.* V. 33 According as it is new made, half run, or approaching to still water.

2. (See quots.)

1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.*, *Still Water*..is also used for water under the lee of headlands, or where there is neither tide nor current. 1896 *Trans. Roy. Soc. Canada* II. ii. 210 Stillwater...A smooth place in a stream which is usually rough.

3. *attrib.*

1758 *Descr. Thames* 187 The Tench is a Still-water Fish, and delights in Ponds more than Rivers. 1834 *Oxf. Univ. Mag.* I. 307 Artificial canals or rather still-water

navigation. 1889 WELCH *Text Bk. Naval Archit.* iii. 60 If a ship happens to fall in with waves having a period twice that of her own natural or still-water period, she will infallibly capsize after the passage of a few waves.

†Stillworth, *a. Obs.* [app. f. STILL *a.* + *-worth* after STALWORTH.] Peaceful.

c 1275 LAY. 12834 And stilleworþe [*c* 1205 þa æhte] wifmen wepmenne clopes dude heom on.

Stilly (sti'li), *a.* [*f.* STILL *a.* + -LY 1.

In the modern sense 2 the word may have been suggested by STILLY *adv.* It may, however, be a distinct word, f. STILL *a.* or STILL *sb.*2 + -Y. Cf. PALY *a.*1]

†1. Secret. (Frequent in Layamon.) *Obs.*

c 1205 LAY. 2374 [He] mid stilliche ginne brohte Æstrild þer inne. *Ibid.* 17776 Forð wende þe swike..& spec wið his monnen mid stilleliche rune.

2. Characterized by stillness. Chiefly *poet.*

1776 MICKLE tr. *Camoens' Lusiad* 386 Not a blast may shake Its fluttering pinions o'er the stilly lake. 1795 COLERIDGE *Eolian Harp* 11 The stilly murmur of the distant Sea Tells us of silence. 1811 SHELLEY *St. Irvyne* iii. Pr. Wks. 1888 I. 153 The wind sighed moaningly along the stilly colonnades. 1815 MOORE *Nat. Airs,* Oft, in the stilly night, Ere Slumber's chain has bound me. 1816 BRACKENRIDGE *Jrnl.* 13 Several deer..seemed to move across this stilly scene, like the shadows of the phantasmagoria. 1830 TENNYSON *Recoll. Arab. Nts.* 103 Many a shadow-chequer'd lawn Full of the city's stilly sound. 1841 LEVER *O'Malley* lxxix, How the pale and stilly figure counts over the hours. 1865 W. G. PALGRAVE *Arabia* I. 305 This dry and stilly region. 1889 HISSEY *Tour Phaeton* 59 A stilly sheet of water.

Stilly (sti'li), *adv.* Forms: 1 **stillice,** 2 **stillice,** 3 **stilleliz, stillelike, stillliz,** 3–5 **stil(le)liche,** 4 **stilleli, stillic(h, styllyche,** 4–5 **stillelich, -ly, stilli,** 4–6 **stylly,** 5 **stillie, stylleche, styly,** 4– **stilly.** [OE. *stillice,* f. *stille* STILL *a.* + *-lice* -LY 2.] In a still manner; silently, quietly; in a low voice; †secretly.

c 1000 *De Consuet. Monach.* 266 in *Anglia* XIII. 384 *Silenter,* stillice. *c* 1200 ORMIN 16618 He wollde lernenn All stilleliz summwhatt at himm. *c* 1205 LAY. 6706 Hæhten his drihliche folc stilleluker dremen. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 82 Þe neddre, seið Salomon, stingeð al stilliche. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 4948 Þan spak ruben, þe eildest broiþer, Stilli menand til þas oþer. 1303 R. BRUNNE *Handl. Synne* 2432 Þyf þou withdrawest a mannys ryȝt Styllyche. 13.. *K. Alis.* 1562 (Laud MS.), He com & seide to þe kyng Stillich bitwene his lyppe Þat [etc.]. 1382 WYCLIF *Ecclus.* xxi. 23 The fool in laȝhing enhaunceth his vois; forsothe a wis man vnnethe stilleli shal laȝhen. *c* 1425 *Eng. Conq. Irel.* lxii. 150 Al the Iresshe.. stylly sworne ham to-gyddyr ayeyns the Englysshe. *c* 1430 *Pilgr. Lyf Manhode* II. cxxxii. (1869) 126 And took me this knyf prieueliche, whiche j bere stilleliche and in hideles. *c* 1440 *Life St. Kath.* (Halliw. 1848) 10 Ihesu Cryste they thanked moche And went ageyne full stylleche. 1598 BARRET *Theor. Warres* IV. ii. 105 In their conuersations to talke modestly, stilly, and with low voices. 1599 SHAKS. *Hen. V,* IV. Chorus 5 From Camp to Camp,..The Hummie of eyther Army stilly sounds. 1621 LADY M. WROTH *Urania* 177 So stilly did she mooue,..as trees grow without sence of increase. 1802 H. MARTIN *Helen of Glenross* III. 186, I am very sad—quietly, stilly sad. 1810 SCOTT *Lady of L.* III. xiv, The rocks, the bosky thickets, sleep So stilly on thy bosom deep. 1832 R. H. FROUDE *Rem.* (1838) I. 276 We made the rest of our voyage to Malta stilly and quickly. 1865 ALLINGHAM *50 Mod. Poems, Angela,* Stilly she glided in.

†Still-yard. *Obs.* App. = STILLION.

1725 G. SMITH *Distilling* 64 It will be necessary also to have a..Water-tub set upon a strong frame, or Still yard. *Ibid.* 66 A Still-yard or gun-tree. *Ibid.* 78 A Still-yard or pair of Gantrees.

Stillyard(e, obs. forms of STEELYARD 1, 2.

‖ Stilo novo. *Obs.* [mod.L., abl. of *stilus novus* new style.] Appended to a date: = 'New Style', i.e. according to the reformed (or Gregorian) calendar: see STYLE. Also *fig.* or *allusive.*

Similarly *stilo vetera* (abbreviated *st. v.*) = 'Old Style'.

[1589 DEE *Diary* (Camden) 31, Aug. 5th, novo stylo, Edmond Hilton went toward Stade.] 1619 W. YONGE *Diary* (Camden) 33 The 25th of December *stilo novo.* *a* 1625 FLETCHER *Woman's Prize* IV. iv, *Petru.* Now the Devill ..shoure his blessing Upon ye all: into whose custody—*Mar.* I do commit your Reformation, And so I leave you to your *Stilo novo.* 1636 MARMION *Antiquary* III. (1641) G 2, He sent me Letters beyond sea, dated *Stilo Novo.*

†Stilp. *Obs. rare*−1. [Cogn. w. (? or mistake for) *stulp,* STOOP *sb.*1] A post.

c 1380 *Sir Ferumb.* 4553 Ac he failede of ys stroke, & þe axe ful on a stilp of oke, þat bar vp ther a chayne.

Stilpnomelane (stilpnǫ·mĭlən). *Min.* [ad. G. *stilpnomelan* (Glocker 1827) f. Gr. στιλπνό-ς glittering + μελαν-, μέλας black.] A hydrous silicate of iron and aluminium, occurring in thin scales, or as a velvety coating, of a black or bronze colour.

1850 ANSTED *Elem. Geol., Min.* etc. 198. 1854 DANA *Syst. Min.* (ed. 4) II. 287.

Stilpnosiderite (stilpnǫsi·dĕrəit, -səidĭ·rəit). *Min.* [ad. G. *stilpnosiderit* (Ullmann 1814), f. Gr. στιλπνό-ς (see prec.) + σίδηρος iron: see -ITE.] 'An obsolete synonym of LIMONITE' (Chester).

1823 W. PHILLIPS *Min.* (ed. 3) 227 Stilpnosiderite..is described as occurring in oblique quadrangular prisms. 1866 LAWRENCE tr. *Cotta's Rocks Classified* (1878) 58.

Stilt (stilt), *sb.* Also 4–6 **stilte,** 5–6 **stylt(e.** [ME. *stilte,* cogn. w. (M)LG., MDu. *stelte* (mod. LG. *stelte, stilte,* Du. *stelt*), OHG. *stelza* (MHG., mod.G. *stelze*), Sw. *stylta,* Da. *stylte*; also LG. *stelter,* Norw. *styltra.*

The relation between the forms is somewhat obscure; they apparently point to three OTeut. ablaut-types **staltjōn-, *stultjōn-.* The Teut. root **stelt-* (:—pre-Teut. **steld-*) conjectured to mean 'to walk stiffly', seems to be represented also in MHG. *stolzen* to limp, Sw. *stulta* to totter, stagger, and perh. (if the word be native Teut.) in OFris. *stult,* LG. *stolt,* HG. *stolz* stately, proud (see STOUT *a.*).]

1. The handle of a plough. ? *Obs.* exc. *dial.*

c 1340 *Nominale* (Skeat) 854 *Manuel et tenoun* Handle and stilte. 1523, 1581 [see PLOUGH-STILT]. 1653 BLITH *Engl. Improver Impr.* 190 For the Plough-handles, some call them Stilts, and some Hales, and some Staves. 1798 C. CRUTTWELL *Gazetteer* (1808) s.v. *Pomona,* The plough.. is of singular construction, having only one stilt. 1829 SCOTT *Rob Roy* Introd. 2nd half, He..shot MacLaren when between the stilts of his plough. 1840 *Penny Cycl.* XVIII. 272/1 The stilts or handles, of which there may be one or two, direct the plough. 1880 [A. J. MUNBY] *Dorothy* 35 Driving her furrows so straight..Guiding the stilts with a grasp skilful and strong as a man's.

2. A crutch. *Obs.* exc. *dial.*

In quot. 1520 applied to a crutch-headed walking-stick as figured on a brass.

c 1320 *Sir Tristr.* 2956 On astilt he com þo Ful swiþe. *a* 1375 *Joseph Arim.* 335 Verely she was heled, and left her styltes thore, And on her fete went home resonably well. 14.. *Beryn* 2380 A Crepill he saw comyng..Oppon a stilt vndir his kne. 1520 *Brass in Ingoldmells Church,* Pray for the sowle of Wylliam Palmer wyth the stylt. *c* 1590 MARLOWE *Jew of Malta* II. 977 (Brooke) I haue laugh'd agood to see the cripples Goe limping home to Christendome on stilts. 1658 A. Fox tr. *Wurts' Surg.* II. xxvi. 170 This party carried it [a recovered limb] as well as any did with a stilt. 1697 in *M'Kerlie's Hist. Lands Galloway* (1870) I. 245 You..did..beatt her almost to death with the stilt wherewith she walked. *a* 1825 FORBY *Voc. E. Anglia, Stilts,* crutches.

†**b.** *gen.* A prop, support. In quot. *fig. Obs.*

1583 WARISTON *Diary* (S. H. S.) 34 God as it wer..uphalding the by three stilts of fayth love and hope.

3. Each of a pair of props, usually slender wooden poles with a foot-rest some distance above the lower end, for enabling a person to walk with the feet raised from the ground, as over a marshy place, a stream, etc., the upper end being held by the hand or under the arm, or (in a modified form) strapped to the legs, or formerly sometimes fastened beneath the feet. (The ordinary current sense.) Phrase, *to walk on* (formerly †*in*) *stilts.*

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 475/2 Stylte, *calepodium, lignipodium.* *c* 1460 *Burlesque* in *Rel. Ant.* I. 86 Dore-bundys stalkyng one styltus. 1519 HORMAN *Vulg.* 279 Let vs daunce patende, or with styltis. 1596 NASHE *Saffron Walden* V 4 b, To consume my bodie as slender as a stilt or a broome-staffe. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* I. 491 Fen-men..who stalking on high upon stilts, apply their mindes, to grasing, fishing and fowling. 1714 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 559 ₱ 6 One of these looked like a Man walking upon Stilts. 1852 THACKERAY *Esmond* I. Introd., The actors in the old tragedies,..speaking from under a mask, and wearing stilts and a great head-dress. 1863 GEO. ELIOT *Romola* I. viii, Those mysterious giants were really men..balancing themselves on stilts.

b. *transf.* Applied to long slender legs, or other natural supports (quot. 1665), of an animal, esp. a bird (cf. sense 5).

1597 A. M. tr. *Guillemeau's Fr. Chirurg.* 50 b, Those which we saye to be hipped and legged, or have a payere of goode and stedfast stiltes vnder them. 1665 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* (1677) 26 This fish..wanting fins; in place whereof she is aided with two paps, which are not only suckles, but serve for stilts to creep a shoar upon. 1709 T. ROBINSON *Vindic. Mosaick Syst.* 66 Herns..walking by the Sides of shallow Rivulets upon long Stilts. 1835–6 OWEN in *Todd's Cycl. Anat.* I. 272/1 Birds that seek their food in water..wade into rivers and marshes on elevated stilts, as in the Crane, &c.

c. *fig.* or in figurative expressions, usually with allusion to the artificially raised position or long strides of a person walking on stilts: cf. STILTED 2.

1734 tr. *Rollin's Anc. Hist.* (1827) I. 110 Æschylus..his muse seemed rather to walk in stilts than in the buskins of his own invention. 1751 FIELDING *Amelia* v. j, Booth offered to explain, but to no purpose; the colonel was got into his stilts. 1781 H. WALPOLE *Let. to W. Mason* 14 Apr., Hurlothrumbo talked plain English in comparison of this wight on stilts [Dr. Johnson]. 1818 HAZLITT *Engl. Poets* i. (1870) 13 When artists or connoisseurs talk on stilts about the poetry of painting. 1826 LANDOR *Imag. Conv., Ld. Brooke & Sidney* Wks. 1846 I. 6/1 Ambition is but Avarice on stilts and masked. 1861 C. BENSON in *Macm. Mag.* Feb. 275 The whole audience raised itself on the stilts of expectation. 1883 HALL CAINE *Cobw. Crit.* vii. 199 Lifting himself into notoriety on the stilts of blasphemy.

4. In various technical senses.

a. Each of a set of posts or piles on which a building (esp. of primitive construction) is raised from the ground, or which are fixed under water to support the pier of a bridge, etc. (In quot. 1697 *transf.*; cf. sense 3 b.)

1697 DAMPIER *Voy.* I. 54 Neither the black nor white Mangrove grow towering up from stilts or rising roots, as the red doth; but the body immediately out of the ground, like other Trees. 1712 E. COOKE *Voy. S. Sea* 315 The Houses are built with split Bamboes,..standing on Stilts, or Posts. 1739 LABELYE *Piers Westm. Bridge* 42 Which method is commonly called building upon stilts. 1772 C. HUTTON *Bridges* 100 *Stilts,* a set of piles driven into the space intended for the pier, whose tops being sawed level off about low-water mark, the pier is then raised on them. 1860 *Burn's Gloss. Techn. Terms* 4 *Stilts,* piles driven into a river at small intervals, and a surrounding row of piles driven closely together, and the interstices filled with stones, to form a foundation for a pier to be built upon. 1883 MRS. BISHOP *Golden Chersonese* 217 Below there is a village, with clusters of Chinese houses on the ground, and Malay houses on stilts, standing singly.

b. *Arch.* A vertical course of masonry placed beneath and continuous with an arch or vault so as to raise the springing of it above the general level, or for a similar purpose beneath or above a column. Cf. STILT *v.* 1 b, STILTED *ppl. a.* 1 b (*b*).

1835 R. WILLIS *Archit. Mid. Ages* vii. 77 The latter [*i. e.* clerestory or longitudinal arches] are raised upon stilts,..so as to throw their imposts considerably above those of the transverse arches. 1842 *Civil Engin. & Arch. Jrnl.* V. 80/1 The continuous stilt or too lofty stylobate of the College of Surgeons. 1908 LENA MILMAN *Sir Chr. Wren* 206 Corinthian pilasters, which, by a two-fold stilt above their capitals, reach to the great cornice.

†**c.** Some appendage to a bell. (Perh. = *stay*: see STAY *sb.*2 2 h, quot. 1871.) *Obs.*

1672 in W. O. Blunt *Ch. Chester-le-Street* (1884) 98 For cotterels, wedges, and for mending the stilt of the bell.

d. Part of a type-founder's 'lining-stick' or lining-gauge: see quot. 1688.

1683 MOXON *Mech. Exerc., Printing* xvii. 155 The Stilt is a thin flat piece of Brass-Plate about a Scaboard thick, and a Double-Pica broad. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. xxi. (Roxb.) 262/2 A Letter Founders Lining Stick;..whose seueralls are as followeth...The Stilt, a slender ledge set vnder the side, to tilt vp the fore edge, that letters lying on it may rest against the bottom ledge.

†**e.** A support for a cask. *Obs.*

1701 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 3721/3 Several Hogsheads of Claret being ready placed on Stilts,..the Claret was set running.

f. *Pottery.* A small piece of baked ware placed between pieces of biscuit ware to prevent their adhering to each other in the kiln.

1825 J. NICHOLSON *Oper. Mech.* 473 Pieces of clay..called stilts, cockspurs,..&c. are put to keep them apart. 1880 JANVIER *Pract. Keramics* 70 The pieces are supported and held apart by little fireclay instruments or props, which from their shape derive such names as pins or thimbles, watches, cock-spurs, triangles or stilts.

5. Any bird of the widely-distributed genus *Himantopus,* characterized by very long slender legs and slender sharp bills, and inhabiting marshes; a long-legged plover. Cf. TILT *sb.*2 9.

[Perh. short for *stilt-plover* or *stilt-bird* (see 6), or imitated from G. *stelze* short for *bachstelze* brook-'stilt', an alteration of the OHG. name *wazzerstelza* water-'stilt'.]

1831 *Montagu's Ornith. Dict.* (ed. Rennie) 496 Stilt (*Himantopus melanopterus,* Meyer). 1838 AUDUBON *Ornith.* IV. 247 Black-necked Stilt, *Himantopus nigricollis.* 1861 H. B. TRISTRAM *Gt. Sahara* iv. 62 The beautiful black-winged stilt, the tamest of waders. *c* 1875 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* IV. 167 The Stilts have a straight bill, but in other respects they are not unlike the Avocets.

6. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *stilt-maker, -vaulting; stilt-legged, -like* adjs.; **stilt-bird,** (*a*) = sense 5; (*b*) any long-legged wading bird, a grallatorial bird; †**stilt-bond,** ? a band by which a stilt is fastened to the leg or foot; **stilt-bug** (*U.S.*), any one of the long-legged plant-lice of the family *Berytidæ*; **stilt-heeled** *a.*, (of shoes) high-heeled; **stilt-man,** a man who walks on stilts; **stilt-petrel,** a petrel of the genus *Fregetta,* having long legs (also *stilt stormy petrel*); **stilt-plover** = sense 5; **stilt prolegs,** *Ent.*, the prolegs of a caterpillar when unusually long, so as to raise the body; **stilt sandpiper,** a long-legged N. American species of sandpiper, *Micropalama himantopus*; **stilt-shank** = sense 5; **stilt-walker,** (*a*) a person who walks on stilts (also *transf.*); (*b*) = *stilt-bird* (*b*).

1835–6 OWEN in *Todd's Cycl. Anat.* I. 287/2 The *Stilt-bird and other Waders. 1870 GILLMORE tr. *Figuier's Reptiles & Birds* 294 The Stilt Birds..obtain their name from the excessive length of their legs. *c* 1475 *Pict. Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 775/14 *Hoc subligar,* a *stiltbonde. 1895 COMSTOCK *Man. Insects* 143 Family Berytidæ. The *Stilt-bugs. 1772 NUGENT *Hist. Fr. Gerund* II. 437 On *Stilt-heel'd shoes Mounted she Struts. 1863 BATES *Nat. Amazon* ix. (1864) 247 Flocks of *stilt-legged water-fowl. *1889 *Hardwicke's Sci.-Gossip* XXV. 189/2 The curious postures assumed by the animal [a species of rotifer] upon its long *stilt-like toes. 1625 in J. P. Shawcross *Hist. Dagenham* (1904) 253 *Stilt-makers all, and tanners, shall complain of this disaster, For they will make each muddy lake for Essex Calves a pasture. 1898 *Westm. Gaz.* 27 Sept. 6/2 Stiltmakers disavow the intelligence that they are full of orders. 1552 HULOET, *Stylt man or goer on a stilte, *grallator.* 1586 *Acts Privy Counc.* N. S. XIV. 75 Providing..of xij or xvj Scatchemen or Stiltmen in the countie of Lincolne, to be chosen of the best able and most experte men. 1890 E. H. BARKER *Wayfaring in France* 37 The stiltmen observed this little comedy with quiet wonder. 1779 G. WHITE *Selborne, To Barrington* 7 May, These birds are of the plover family, and might with propriety be called the *stilt-plovers. *c* 1875 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* IV. 167 The Stilts, or Stilt plovers (*Himantopinæ*). 1826 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* IV. 354 *Stilt Prolegs. 1872 COUES *N. Amer. Birds* 253 *Micropalama,* *Stilt Sandpiper. 1852 MACGILLIVRAY *Brit. Birds* IV. 310 *Himantopus.* *Stilt-shank. 1884 COUES *N. Amer. Birds* (ed. 2) 782 *Fregetta,* *Stilt Stormy Petrels. 1861 MAYHEW *Lond. Labour* III. 151 Rope dancing and *stilt-vaulting. 1869–73 T. R. JONES *Cassell's Bk. Birds* IV. 1 The *Stilt-walkers (*Grallatores*). 1889 F. H. HERRICK in *Amer. Nat.* Nov. 943 A growth of tropical bush, in which we notice the mangrove, the stilt-walker of the tropical swamp. 1891 *Daily News* 3 Apr. 5/6 Sylvain Dornon, the stilt-walker, who is on a tour for a wager from Paris to Moscow.

Stilt (stilt), *v.* [f. STILT *sb.*]

1. *trans.* To raise as on stilts; to elevate artificially (*lit.* or *fig.*).

1649 J. H. *Motion to Parlt.* 26 Some..by the foresaid

means stilt themselves into some profession. 1802 ANNA SEWARD *Lett.* (1811) VI. 29 Southey told a friend of mine.. that it was the finest poetic work which had appeared these fifty years. So Johnson stilted up Blackmore. 1825 HONE *Every-day Bk.* I. 516 The Sole [is] adapted by the workman ..to stilt the foot. 1849 DANA *Geol.* ii. (1850) 55 The atoll usually seems to stand as if stilted up in a fathomless sea. 1882 *Pop. Sci. Monthly* XX. 389 In low water the boats often run aground on the sand-bars, and have to be stilted over them with timbers. 1884 TENNYSON *Becket* II. ii, That would stilt up York to twice himself.

b. *Arch.* To raise (an arch, vault, or other structure) above the ordinary level by a 'stilt' or course of masonry beneath (see STILT *sb.* 4 b).

1835 R. WILLIS *Archit. Mid. Ages* vii. 76 The problem of vaulting an unequally sided rectangle..had early presented itself to the Romans, who..were led to the discovery..of stilting the arches. 1845 PALEY *Gothic Mouldings* 66 Decorated bases are often stilted, or raised above the floor,..by graduated stages or tables. *a* 1878 SIR G. SCOTT *Lect. Archit.* (1879) II. 163 The Roman builders solved the problem..by what is called stilting the narrower arch; that is, raising its springing till its crown becomes level with that of the wider arch.

c. *Book-binding.* To bind (a book) in projecting covers so as to make it uniform with a volume of a larger size.

1824 DIBDIN *Libr. Comp.* 597 The third volume is often stilted, to make it dress with its companions. 1895 *Bookseller's Catalogue*, In one vol., royal octavo (stilted to folio).

†2. To fit (a plough) with a 'stilt'. *dial.*

a 1883 F. HARPER in *Mod. Scott. Poets* VI. 345 Twice forty years.. Has passed awa' sin' 'Airchie Scott' First fixed thy ribs..An' stiltit thee, an' turned thee oot A noble ploo!

3. *intr.* To walk on stilts; *fig.* (of a horse) ? to lift the legs high in walking or running, to prance.

1785 BURNS *Epist. Davie* xi, My spavet Pegasus will limp, Till ance he's fairly het; And then he'll hilch, and stilt, and jump, An rin an unco fit. 1861 W. W. WEBB in *Med. Times* 29 June 680/1 Our young Blondins do stilt over the artificial Niagaras we construct for them.

Stilted (sti·ltĕd), *ppl. a.* [f. STILT *sb.* and *v.* + -ED.]

1. Furnished with or having stilts (in quot. 1615, crutches); raised artificially as on stilts.

1615 BRATHWAIT *Loves Labyrinth* 27 Decrepit age, stilted for want of strength. 1742 YOUNG *Nt. Th.* VI. 355 Where dwarfs are often stilted, and betray A littleness of soul by worlds o'er-run, And nations laid in blood.

b. (*a*) Supported on props or posts so as to be raised above the ground. (*b*) *Arch.* Raised above the general level by a course of masonry beneath, as an arch, vault, or other structure.

1820 *Blackw. Mag.* VIII. 31 *note*, The appearance of these stilted ricks..gives a sort of peculiarity to the landscape. 1835 R. WILLIS *Archit. Mid. Ages* vii. 78 All the arches are pointed, except the central transverse rib..., which is semi-circular and stilted. 1883 MRS. BISHOP *Golden Chersonese* 168 It is a genuine Malay house on stilts...This stilted house is the barrack of eleven Malay constables. 1895 *Jrnl. R. Inst. Brit. Architects* 14 Mar. 347 Corinthian capitals, supporting stilted pointed arches.

c. Of animals, esp. birds: Having very long slender legs resembling stilts.

1869-73 T. R. JONES *Cassell's Bk. Birds* II. 162 The Stilted Fly-catchers (*Fluvicolæ*)..a group of South American birds. 1896 LYDEKKER *Roy. Nat. Hist.* V. 134 The stilted lizards.

2. *fig.* Of (or in reference to) language or style (or, *rarely*, manner or deportment): Artificially or affectedly lofty; unnaturally elevated; formally pompous. (The usual current sense.)

1820 BYRON *To Murray* 28 Sept., You are taken in by that false, stilted, trashy style. 1832 S. WARREN *Diary Late Physic.* II. iii. 134 One might wither that fellow with a word or two, the stilted noodle! 1874 GREEN *Short Hist.* x. (1878) 730 His [Pitt's] letters to his family..are stilted and unnatural in tone. 1909 RIDER HAGGARD *Yellow God* 55 It caused him to cease his stilted talk.

3. Of a plough: Having a stilt or stilts: in parasynthetic formations, as *double-*, *single-stilted*.

1844 W. H. MAXWELL *Scot.* xvi. (1855) 149 A single-stilted plough. 1911 E. BEVERIDGE *North Uist* x. 315 Double-stilted ploughs.

Hence (in sense 2) **Sti·ltedly** *adv.*; **Sti·ltedness**.

1828 LYTTON *Pelham* lxvii, There is a stiffness and stiltedness in the dialogue and descriptions perfectly ridiculous. *c* 1886 KIPLING *Lucia* 49 What the later generation is pleased to call the stiltedness of the old-time verse. 1893 G. TRAVERS *Mona Maclean* III. 252 He began somewhat stiltedly.

Stilter (sti·ltəɹ). [f. as prec. + -ER 1.]

1. A person who walks on stilts.

1845 D. COSTELLO *Tour Valley Meuse* 171 An edict of the 17th of December 1755 interdicted the Stilters from assembling in the market-place. 1898 *Strand Mag.* XV. 17 [Stilt-racing in France] There were medals offered by various towns *en route* for the first stilter to arrive there.

2. A long-legged wading bird, a grallatorial bird.

1845 KITTO *Cycl. Bibl. Lit.* s.v. *Unclean Birds*, All long-legged waders or stilters.

†**Stilth.** *Obs.* In 3 stilðe. [f. STILL *a.* + -TH.] Stillness, quietness, tranquillity.

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 156 Hwat oðer god cumeð of þisse onliche sittunge,..& of þisse seli stilðe. *c* 1230 *Hali Meid.* 41 Simplete of semblaunt & buhsumnesse & stilðe.

Stiltified (sti·ltifəid), *a.* Not in dignified use. [f. STILT *sb.* or *v.* + -(I)FY + -ED 1.] = STILTED 2.

1820 BYRON *To Murray* 7 June, Mrs. Hemans is a poet.. too stiltified and apostrophic. 1830 *Fraser's Mag.* I. 241 High-wrought romance and stiltified language. 1887 C. C. R. *Minora Carmina* 249, I care not for tragedy's stiltified ways.

So **Sti·ltify** *v. trans.* = STILT *v.* 1.

1860 C. READE *Cloister & Hearth* lxv. (1896) 201 Skinny dwarfs..cushioned and stiltified into great fat giants.

Sti·ltiness. [f. STILTY + -NESS.] The quality of being 'stilty'.

1826 *Sporting Mag.* XVIII. 382 Many [horses], owing to the severity of their training on hard ground, shewed stiltiness in their action.

Stilting (sti·ltiŋ). [f. STILT *sb.* or *v.* + -ING 1.]

1. The action or sport of walking on stilts.

1809 *Sporting Mag.* XXXIII. 316 Stilting may possibly become as fashionable in these, as tilting formerly was in better times. 1906 J. PATERSON *Wamphray* vi. 165 It was not uncommon for an expert at stilting to carry a passenger across the water.

2. *Arch.* The placing of a 'stilt' (STILT *sb.* 4 b) beneath an arch, etc. so as to raise it; *concr.* = STILT *sb.* 4 b.

1835 R. WILLIS *Archit. Mid. Ages* vii. 74 Both the larger and smaller vaults are raised above the entablature by stilting. 1869 TOZER *Highl. Turkey* II. 77 The stilting above one of the pillars..is wholly out of the perpendicular.

Stiltish (sti·ltiʃ), *a. rare.* [f. STILT *sb.* + -ISH 1.] Characterized by stiltedness. Hence **Sti·ltishness.**

1824 MEDWIN *Conversat. Ld. Byron* I. 194 He looked the Roman so well, that even 'Cato', cold and stiltish as it is, had a run. 1824 *Examiner* 694/1 His general deportment, with the exception of a little occasional stiltishness, is correspondent.

Stilton (sti·lt'n). [Name of a village in Huntingdonshire, on the Great North Road from London: see below.] *Stilton cheese*: a rich quality of cheese made at various places in Leicestershire; so called from having been originally largely sold to travellers at a coaching inn at Stilton.

1736 BAILEY *Househ. Dict.* s.v. *Cheese*, Stilton Cheese. Take two Gallons of morning milk [etc.]. 1813 BYRON *Let.* 3 Oct., Pray accept a Stilton cheese from me. 1904 *Century Mag.* Feb. 534/2, I'll..show you brass that is brass, all green in the creases, like Stilton cheese.

b. *ellipt.* as *sb.* = Stilton cheese. Also *fig.*

1835 DICKENS *Sk. Boz, Parl. Sk.*, Mark the air with which he gloats over that Stilton. 1867 LOWELL *Study Wind., Gt. Publ. Character* (1871) 70 We prefer a full, old-fashioned meal, with its side-dishes of spicy gossip, and its last relish, the Stilton of scandal, so it be not too high. 1913 *Times* 9 Aug. 19/6 Cheese,..finest Cheshire and cheddar, 72s. to 74s.;..Stiltons, 10d. to 1s. per lb.

slang. 1859 *Hotten's Slang Dict.* 102 'That's the stilton', or 'it is not the stilton', i. e. that is quite the thing, or that is not quite the thing;—polite rendering of 'that is not the cheese'.

Stilty (sti·lti), *a.* [f. STILT *sb.* + -Y.]

1. Resembling stilts; *esp.* in *Racing slang*, said of a horse's legs when long and stiff in action.

1826 [implied in STILTINESS]. 1828 *Edin. Rev.* XLVII. 433 The solemn and stilty tread of the Athenian buskin. 1863 *Sporting Mag.* Sept. 230 The odds on him were speedily reduced..for he turned out to be one of the stilty sort, with a pair of awful fore-legs.

2. *fig.* = STILTISH *a.*

1846 WORCESTER (cites *Q. Rev.*). 1873 WAGNER tr. *Teufelsdröckh's Hist. Rom. Lit.* II. 159 His stilty tone and artificial conciseness. 1889 GRETTON *Memory's Harkback* 317 Macready..I once accidentally met..at dinner...I remember ..my impression of him as stilty.

Stilus: variant of STYLUS.

Stim, slang abbrev. of STIMULANT *sb.*

1882 *Society* 11 Nov. 22/2 Stop..the 'nips,' the 'stims,' the 'sherries and Angosturas.'

†**Stime,** *v. Obs.*, var. STEEM *v.*1, to estimate.

1535 in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* Ser. II. II. 71 Mr. Pole is continual in writing of his work...By al the next monith I stime that his labor shal take end. 1543 *St. Papers Hen. VIII*, IX. 537 It is stimid that the Turke shold be of retorne in Constantinople.

Stime (*Sc.* and *north.*): see STYME.

Stimie, variant of STYMIE (*Golf*).

Stimmer (sti·məɹ), *v.* ? *Obs. rare.* In 7 stymmer. [Of obscure origin; app. phonetically symbolic: cf. *shimmer*, *flimmer*.] *intr.* To move about irregularly.

1616 SURFLET & MARKHAM *Country Farm* III. ii. 426 So soone as you perceiue the smoake to stymmer or runne about the edges of the panne. 1808 JAMIESON, To *Stimmer*, to go about in a confused manner.

Stimpart (sti·mpärt). *Sc.* Also -ard. [? Contracted from *saxteent* (sixteenth) *part* (sc. of a firlot). Cf. FORPIT.] a. A measure of capacity, the fourth part of a peck: = FORPIT, LIPPY. (Inaccurately glossed by Burns as 'the eighth part of a Winchester bushel'.) b. *transf.* The fourth part of a 'rig' or ridge of land (yielding a quarter of a peck of flax seed).

1786 BURNS *To Auld Mare* xvii, A heapet stimpart, I'll reserve ane Laid by for you. 1896 J. LAMB *Ann. W. Kilbride* ix. 227 The flax grown was only in small patches for family use, often a mere headrig yielding two or three stimpards. 1906 *Scott. Rev.* 22 Nov. 571/1 The usual order to the grocer..was for a stimpart of oatmeal.

Stimulable (sti·miŭlăb'l), *a. rare.* [as if ad. L. **stimulābilis*, f. *stimulāre*: see STIMULATE *v.* and -ABLE.] Capable of being stimulated.

1803 W. TAYLOR in *Monthly Mag.* XIV. 488 The organ of idealisation is alike stimulable by each specific class of sensations, whereas the organ of sense is only irritable to its appropriate stimulus.

Stimulance (sti·miŭlăns). *rare*—1. [Formed as next: see -ANCE.] Stimulating quality.

1856 SIMPSON *Covenanters of South* 277 So powerful was the stimulance of his avarice.

Stimulancy (sti·miŭlănsi). Now *rare.* [f. STIMULANT *a*: see -ANCY.] Stimulating quality.

1799 W. TAYLOR in Robberds' *Mem.* I. 311 Hexameters.. are less favourable to..the highest stimulancy of style, than blank verse. 1824 *Blackw. Mag.* XVI. 3 The narrow-minded bigotry which sets up either Madeira or Sherry at the expense of the other's ancestral stimulancy. 1825 COLERIDGE *Aids Refl.* Addr. to Rdr., Let then its comparative merits and demerits, in respect of style and stimulancy, possess a proportional weight. 1851 T. T. LYNCH *Lett. Scattered* (1872) 175 Recollections and wit have had especial charm and stimulancy.

Stimulant (sti·miŭlănt), *a.* and *sb.* [ad. L. *stimulantem*, pr. pple. of *stimulāre*: see STIMULATE *v.* Cf. F. *stimulant* (18th c. in Hatz.-Darm.), Sp. *estimulante*, It. *stimolante*.]

A. *adj.* Having the property of stimulating.

1. = STIMULATING 1. Now *rare.*

1803 SOUTHEY in *Ann. Rev.* I. 18 The adventurers had so much of what was stimulant as well as true to relate. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* III. iv. vi, This is the celebrated 'Law of the Forty Sous'; fiercely stimulant to Sansculottism. 1875 LOWELL *Wordsw.* Writ. 1890 IV. 354 Religious canticles stimulant of zeal.

2. *Phys.* and *Med.*

a. Exciting an organ, or the organism, to increased activity; quickening some vital function or process. Now more commonly expressed by STIMULATING (sense 2).

1772 W. FALCONER *Ess. Bath Waters* I. 399 Where the effects of the water, particularly the stimulant and astringent, are desired in their full extent. *Ibid.*, Yet their stimulant qualities may prove too violent a shock for a tender frame to endure. 1788 J. BROWN tr. *Elem. Med.* I. 13 *note*, Those who have been accustomed to more stimulant meals. 1836-41 BRANDE *Chem.* (ed. 5) 428 Ammonia is very pungent and acrid,..but when diluted by mixture with common air, agreeably stimulant. 1839 HALLAM *Hist. Lit.* II. vii. § 44. II. 316 We are now so accustomed to a more stimulant diet in fiction, that few would read it through with pleasure. 1861 BENTLEY *Man. Bot.* 562 Aromatic, Carminative, Stimulant, and Tonic Umbelliferæ.

b. *spec.* Applied to alcoholic drinks. *rare.* (Cf. B. 2 b.)

1872 J. G. MURPHY *Comm. Lev.* x. 8-11 Abstinence from stimulant drinks.

c. Acting as a stimulus (see STIMULUS 3); exciting the functional activity of an organ. (Cf. B. 2 c.) *rare.*

1785 CULLEN *Institt. Med.* I. (ed. 3) 66 Whatever can excite the contraction of muscular fibres is called a Stimulus; and in general, the means of exciting contraction are called Stimulant Powers. 1788 J. BROWN tr. *Elem. Med.* I. 6 The same exciting powers..ought to be denominated stimulant, or stimuli.

B. *sb.* Something that stimulates.

1. Something that rouses or incites to action; an incentive, a stimulus. Now *rare* exc. with some figurative notion of sense 2.

1794 R. J. SULIVAN *View Nat.* I. 30 A powerful stimulant to others, to employ their invention and ability. 1847 G. HARRIS *Life Hardwicke* I. 354 The pecuniary remuneration in every office of this kind is the direct and immediate stimulant to exertion and enterprise. 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xiii. III. 283 Even now the stimulants which he applied to his torpid and feeble party produced some faint symptoms of returning animation. 1873 HAMERTON *Intell. Life* II. i. 44 The three intellectual pursuits—literature, science, and the fine arts—are all of them strong stimulants.

2. *Phys.* and *Med.* Something that temporarily quickens some vital process, or the function of some organ; a stimulant agent.

1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v., Stimulants produce Pain, Heat, Redness. 1772 W. FALCONER *Ess. Bath Waters* I. 338 The Bath Waters are in general indicated as stimulants, in cases of languid motion. 1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 268 In disorders of an inflammatory nature, electricity, as it is a stimulant, should not be resorted to. 1831 J. DAVIES *Mat. Med.* 134 Diffusible or general stimulants... Such..stimulating remedies as do not appear to act..on a particular organ, but the exciting action of which is equally felt throughout the whole economy. 1832 BREWSTER *Nat. Magic* xiii. 347 The operation of this remarkable stimulant [nitrous oxide]. 1870 YEATS *Nat. Hist. Comm.* 148 Pepper is a warm carminative stimulant. 1875 H. C. WOOD *Therap.* (1879) 114 Cardiac stimulants..increase the..force of the circulation. 1882 EDISON in A. A. Reade *Study & Stimulants* (1883) 45 When so engaged I almost invariably chew tobacco as a stimulant. 1882 A. J. ELLIS *Ibid.* 46, I never took tobacco in any shape or form. For twenty-five years I have taken no sort of stimulant, not even tea or coffee. 1885 DR. RANNEY in *Harper's Mag.* Mar. 641/2 The abuse of stimulants, in the form of alcohol, tobacco, tea, and coffee.

b. *spec.* Applied to alcoholic drinks. (The most usual current sense.)

1865 LIVINGSTONE *Zambesi* xxi. 427 The..craving for stimulants. 1899 A. C. BENSON *Life Abp. Benson* I. i. 10 In one of his many serious illnesses he refused all stimulants.

c. Something that excites an organ to its functional activity. (Cf. A. 2 b.) *rare.*

1880 HUXLEY *Crayfish* iii. 116 Sonorous vibrations..act as the stimulants of a special nerve.

Hence **Sti·mulantly** *adv.*

1814 W. TAYLOR in *Monthly Rev.* LXXV. 161 Such sayings..when stimulantly expressed, are easily remembered.

Stimulate (sti·miŭleit), *v.* [f. L. *stimulāt-*, ppl. stem of *stimulāre*, f. *stimulus*: see STIMULUS.

Cf. F. *stimuler* (14th c.), Sp., Pg. *estimular*, It. *stimolare*.]

†1. *trans.* To prick, sting, afflict. *Obs. rare*—1.

a 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VII*, 57 Kyng Henry..euer punched, stimulated and pricked with the scrupulous stynges of domesticall sedicion.

2. To rouse to action or exertion as by pricking or goading; to spur on; to incite (a person) *to do* something; to impart additional energy to (an activity, a process).

1619 HUTTON *Follie's Anat.* etc. D 6, My..distemperd thoughts, Do stimulate proud Silla's Ire. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 27 Feb. 1644-5, The 3 races of the Barbarie horses, that run..without riders, onely having spurrs so placed on their backs,..as by their motion to stimulate them. 1759 HUME *Hist. Eng., Hen. VIII*, iii. I. 147 Hearing of the pope's captivity, they were farther stimulated to undertake the war with vigour for the restoring his liberty. 1768–74 TUCKER *Lt. Nat.* (1834) II. 526 The pricks of conscience will not so much afflict and torment us, as stimulate our resolution and excite our diligence. 1817 JAS. MILL *Brit. India* v. ix. II. 694 They..stimulated and importuned him, to bring forward a scheme of improvement. 1832 HT. MARTINEAU *Hill & Valley* v. 77 To stimulate production by useful..labour. 1836 DICKENS *Sk. Boz, Black Veil*, To..stimulate him to fresh exertions. 1842 LEVER *J. Hinton* xviii, You have stimulated my curiosity. 1863 GEO. ELIOT *Romola* II. xxii, They..stimulated their prisoners to beg.

absol. 1789 J. MOORE *Zeluco* lxviii. (1797) II. 188 Contemptuous language may stimulate to..revenge. 1815 JANE AUSTEN *Emma* v, Where Miss Taylor failed to stimulate, ..Harriet Smith will do nothing.

3. *Phys.* To act as a stimulus to (see STIMULUS 1, 3). a. To excite (an organ) to increased activity, to quicken the action or function of. Also with the action or function as obj.

1707 FLOYER *Physic. Pulse-Watch* 201 In general we use Medicines of the same Taste, as the secreted Humours, to stimulate their Excretion. 1798 R. JACKSON *Hist. & Cure Fever* 260 Wine, brandy and opium stimulate the system to increased action. 1809 *Med. Jrnl.* XXI. 103 Oxygen stimulates the pulmonic vessels, and..makes them propel their contents. 1843 R. J. GRAVES *Syst. Clin. Med.* xi. 119, I frequently prescribe small doses of hydrargyrum cum cretâ, with the view of gently stimulating the liver.

absol. 1662 J. DEGRAVERE *Thesaurus Remediorum* (ed. 2) 16 Signes indicating Purgation...A looseness or flux of humors stimulating to expulsion. 1732 ARBUTHNOT *Rules of Diet* in *Aliments*, etc. 261 Things which stimulate in the extreme Degree, excite pain. 1842 ABBY *Water Cure* 75 With bandages, put on tight to stimulate, upon the whole limb.

b. To excite (a tissue or structure) to its specific activity.

1878 ROY in *Jrnl. Physiol.* I. 475 When the muscle was stimulated directly by the induced current.

4. To administer stimulants to.

1905 *Brit. Med. Jrnl.* No. 2317. 1139 No one familiar with infectious diseases would systematically stimulate all cases.

b. *intr.* for *refl.* To indulge in (alcoholic) stimulants. Now only *colloq.* (? *U.S.*) Also in *passive*, To be affected by alcoholic drinks.

1800 *Med. Jrnl.* III. 50 Men of strong constitutions began to stimulate in excess very early in life. 1839 MARRYAT *Diary Amer.* Ser. I. II. 224 [Examples of American language.] He stimulates too much. 1882 O'DONOVAN *Merv Oasis* I. 449 A servant brought in a silver tray, upon which were large glasses of..arrack...We were all slightly stimulated before a move was made towards the dinner table. 1898 TALMAGE *Serm.* in *Chr. Herald* (N.Y.) 30 Mar. 268/4 Now he must brace himself up. Now he stimulates.

Hence **Sti·mulated** *ppl. a.*

1887 BURDON-SANDERSON, etc. *Transl. For. Biol. Mem.* I. 255 The tract of nerve lying between the stimulating electrodes I call the stimulated region. *Ibid.* 273 Electrical phenomena in stimulated nerves. 1900 W. S. HALL *Text-bk. Physiol.* 52 The action of stimuli is..transient, *i.e.* the stimulated organism returns..to its former state of rest.

Stimulating (sti·miŭlēitiŋ), *ppl. a.* [f. STIMULATE *v.* + -ING 2.] That stimulates.

1. Rousing to action or exertion; spurring or urging on; inciting; *spec.* inciting to mental activity.

a 1732 GAY *Fables* II. xv. 87 Urg'd by the stimulating goad, I [the ox] drag the cumbrous waggon's load. 1828 P. CUNNINGHAM *N. S. Wales* (ed. 3) II. 132 Urged on by the stimulating excitement afforded by publicity. 1873 R. W. CHURCH *Influences Chr. Nat. Charact.* ii. 87 The sentences of Seneca are stimulating to the intellect. 1908 J. WELLS *Stewart of Lovedale* iv. 29 Admirable and stimulating as he was as a preacher, Mr. Stewart was even more stimulating as a teacher.

2. *Phys.* and *Med.* = STIMULANT A. 2 a, c.

1684 tr. *Bonet's Merc. Compit.* XIX. 694/2 Aphrodisiacks are either 1. strengthners..Or 2. Stimulating. 1732 ARBUTHNOT *Rules of Diet* in *Aliments*, etc. 255 Salts which make it pungent and stimulating. 1793 T. BEDDOES *Calculus*, etc. 198 The stimulating quality of light upon plants. 1836 A. COMBE *Physiol. Digestion* 270 Quantities of stimulating animal food. 1842 LOUDON *Suburban Hort.* 57 Sea-weed is still more readily decomposed..and hence this manure is stimulating as well as enriching. 1898 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* V. 284 A stimulating liniment containing turpentine and iodine.

b. *spec.* = STIMULANT A. 2 c. Now *rare.*

1840 MACAULAY *Ess., Clive* P 37 Stimulating drugs were employed to aid the effect of religious zeal, and the besiegers, drunk with enthusiasm, drunk with bang, rushed furiously to the attack. 1872 J. G. MURPHY *Comm. Lev.* x. 10, 11 Abstinence..from stimulating drinks.

Stimulation (stimiŭlēi·ʃən). [ad. L. *stimulātiōnem*, n. of action f. *stimulāre* to STIMULATE. Cf. F. *stimulation* (14–15th c. in Hatz.-Darm.), Sp. *estimulacion*, Pg. *estimulação*, It. *stimolazione.*] The action of stimulating or condition of being stimulated.

1. A pricking, goading, or spurring on to action; incitement; †pricking or compunction of conscience (*obs.*).

1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 263 Yᵉ stimulacyons of the flesshe. 1640 LD. DIGBY *Sp.* in Rushw. *Hist. Coll.* III. (1692) I. 171 The Danger, when either true, or pretended Stimulation of Conscience hath once given a multitude Agitation. 1751 JOHNSON *Rambler* No. 145 P 5 That industry which the stimulations of necessity..enforce. 1860 MILL *Repr. Govt.* (1865) 27/2 To supply reasons to his understanding, and stimulation to his feeling. 1873 E. H. CLARKE *Sex in Educ.* 106 The same girls are apt to be quick, ..and need not stimulation, but repression.

2. *Phys.* and *Med.* The action of a stimulus. a. Excitation to increased activity, quickening of some vital function or process (cf. STIMULUS 1). In quot. 1733 *loosely*, stimulating property (cf. STIMULUS 1 b). b. Excitation of an organ or tissue to its specific activity (cf. STIMULUS 3).

1733 CHEYNE *Eng. Malady* II. vii. § 2 (1734) 186 The Bile, by its natural Acrimony and Stimulation [etc.]. 1799 *Med. Jrnl.* II. 217 The vaccine poison..produces inflammation, a little tumour, and sometimes pustule, which are not the effects of the specific stimulation of the matter. 1834 J. FORBES *Laennec's Dis. Chest* (ed. 4) 373 The stimulation communicated to or subtracted from the brain by the light. 1843 R. J. GRAVES *Syst. Clin. Med.* xv. 183 We should resort to stimulation by wine. 1879 CARPENTER *Ment. Phys.* App. 719 Muscles..can be thrown into contraction by stimulation of these lower centres. 1900 W. S. HALL *Text-bk. Physiol.* 52 A muscle-cell responds to all stimuli by contracting, a gland-cell by secreting, while the stimulation of the optic nerve can only produce the sensation of light.

Stimulative (sti·miŭlətiv), *a.* and *sb.* [f. L. *stimulāre*: see STIMULATE *v.* and -ATIVE.]

A. *adj.* Having the property of stimulating; of a stimulating nature or character. Const. *of, to.*

1791 NEWTE *Tour Eng. & Scot.* 200 This would be like spreading the stimulative power of manure over large tracts of waste land. 1836 HOR. SMITH *Tin Trump.* (1876) 217 More stimulative of the risible faculties. 1854 MILMAN *Lat. Chr.* III. ii. I. 271 Ulphilas..left out the Books of Kings, as too congenial and too stimulative to their warlike propensities. 1906 E. A. ABBOTT *Silanus* xvi. 143 This belief I found also stimulative to well-doing.

B. *sb.* Something having a stimulating quality; a motive inciting to action; a stimulus, incentive. Now *rare* or *Obs.* (Common *c* 1750–1800.)

1747 RICHARDSON *Clarissa* (1811) I. xxxi. 225 There are so many stimulatives to such a spirit as mine in this affair, besides love. 1790 *Bystander* 297 Otherwise there could be no stimulative to industry, no encouragement to invention.

†b. = STIMULANT B. 2. *Obs. rare*—1.

1808 *Ann. Reg., Charact.* 68 Coffee is not a favourite drink with the Spaniards; he needs no stimulative.

Stimulator (sti·miŭlēitəɹ). Also 7 -er. [a. L. *stimulātor*, f. *stimulāre*: see STIMULATE *v.* Cf. F. *stimulateur*, Sp., Pg. *estimulador*, It. *stimolatore.*]

1. *gen.* One who or something which stimulates.

1614 JACKSON *Creed* III. 208 *marg.*, See the stimulator. 1684 tr. *Bonet's Merc. Compit.* XIX. 694/2 Cantharides are the strongest amongst these stimulaters. 1717 L. HOWELL *Desiderius* 55 The Indulgence of the Body being too often the great Stimulater of the Soul to vile Practices. 1768–74 TUCKER *Lt. Nat.* (1834) II. 549 The appetites are the great stimulators of action. 1851 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* XII. II. 357 This great stimulator of a vegetable soil. 1890 *Ch. Times* 3 Jan. 9/1 A practical administrator and stimulator of work in his great diocese.

2. *spec.* In the psychological laboratory, an instrument for communicating a stimulus.

1905 E. B. TITCHENER *Exper. Psychol.* II. 1. 153 For simple reactions to noise we may use the..Sound stimulator. *Ibid.* 157 Pressure stimulators (areal) for break and make. *Ibid.* 163 Make and break stimulators for taste.

3. *U.S.* One addicted to the use of stimulants.

1891 *Cycl. Temp. & Prohib.* 621/1 The stimulator then resorts to his old remedy.

Stimulatory (sti·miŭlətŏri), *a.* and *sb. rare.* [f. L. *stimulāre*: see STIMULATE *v.* and -ORY. Cf. It. *stimolatorio.*] a. *adj.* = STIMULATIVE *a.* b. *sb.* = STIMULANT *sb.* 2.

1758 *Herald* No. 27. II. 187 That policy which contrives gratification..so stimulatory of a military spirit. 1812 J. SMYTH *Pract. Customs* (1821) 32 The powdered root of this plant is used as a stimulatory.

Stimulatress. *rare*—0. [f. STIMULATOR + -ESS.] A female stimulator; a woman (or something personified as female) that stimulates.

1846 WORCESTER, *Stimulatress* [citing SUMNER]. 1850 OGILVIE, *Stimulator, Stimulatress*, one who stimulates.

‖ **Stimula·trix.** *Obs. rare.* [L., f. *stimulāre*: see STIMULATE *v.* and -TRIX.] = prec.

1611 COTGR., *Stimulatrice*, a stimulatrix, an instigatrix. 1796 BURNEY *Mem. Metastasio* III. 6 The violent efforts to which this troublesome stimulatrix has obliged us to have recourse.

†**Stimule.** *Obs. rare*—1. [Anglicized form of STIMULUS. Cf. F. *stimule* = STIMULUS 4.] A goad.

1583 STUBBES *Anat. Abus.* I. G vij b, Doth not yᵉ Lord.. as it were with a stimule, or prick by his mandat..stirre them vp to the same.

Stimulose (sti·miŭlōus), *a. Nat. Hist.* [ad. mod.L. *stimulōsus* f. STIMULUS: see -OSE. Cf. F. *stimuleux* in the same sense.

Late L. had *stimulōsus* in the sense 'stimulative'.]

Covered with stings or stinging hairs.

1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1100/2.

Stimulus (sti·miŭlŭs). Pl. **stimuli** (sti·miŭlai). [Originally a mod.L. use (in medical books) of L. *stimulus* goad, of doubtful origin; perh. f. root **sti-* in *stilus*: see STYLUS.

Cf. F. *stimulus* (Phys.), *stimule* (Bot.); Sp., Pg. *estimulo*, It. *stimulo, stimolo* (and popular forms in dialects, e.g. Milanese *stombol*, Veronese *stombio*, Sardinian *strumbula*), Rumanian *stramur.*

The following quot. exemplifies the mod.L. medical use:

a 1614 PLATERUS *Observ. in Hominis Affectibus* I. (1641) 255 In Impotentia [etc.] Ad stimulum addendum, primum exterioribus illud tentare volui, jubens perinæi regionem..calide inungere oleo nucum in quo Formica & Cantharides decoctæ fuerint.]

1. *Phys.* Something that acts as a 'goad' or 'spur' to a languid bodily organ; an agency or influence that stimulates, increases, or quickens organic activity.

1684 tr. *Bonet's Merc. Compit.* XIX. 694/2 The Indian Chocolad..both increases Seed and adds a *stimulus.* 1732 ARBUTHNOT *Rules of Diet* in *Aliments*, etc. 276 By weakening the force of any Stimulus. 1750 J. THEOBALD *App. Medulla Med. Univ.* 55 In all Cases where the Nerves want a Stimulus to help them to perform their destined Offices. 1822 SCOTT *Kenilw.* XX, One of those unfortunate persons, who, being once stirred with the vinous stimulus, do not fall asleep like other drunkards, but [etc.]. 1843 R. J. GRAVES *Syst. Clin. Med.* X. 115 An attack of pneumonia, coming on in fever, frequently acts as a stimulus to the economy. 1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) V. 68 The physician.. would tell us that you cannot restore strength by a stimulus.

b. Stimulating property, action, or effect; stimulation or quickening of organic activity.

1684 tr. *Bonet's Merc. Compit.* XIX. 695/1 That..such Medicines be made use of as comfort the vital faculty, and yet have a gentle Stimulus withal. 1758 E. WRIGHT in *Phil. Trans.* L. 598 This salt is not only astringent, and consequently a strengthener, but at the same time acts with a gentle stimulus. 1785 PALEY *Moral Philos.* IV. ii. (1818) II. 13 As the liquor loses its *stimulus*, the dose must be increased. 1841 A. COMBE *Physiol. Digestion* (ed. 3) 292 They are less stimulating...Indeed, from this very want of stimulus, they are apt to disagree with weak stomachs, unless seasoned. 1847 W. C. L. MARTIN *Ox* 178/2 Common salt as an aperient often acts well..perhaps from the stimulus it gives to the stomach.. 1861 FLOR. NIGHTINGALE *Nursing* 73 It is not a sleeping dose he wants, but food or stimulus.

2. *gen.* An agency or influence that stimulates to action or (const. *to*) that quickens an activity or process.

1793 *Brit. Critic* II. 362 We should expect even the voluntary productions of the pen, without this violent stimulus, to be sufficient to support the honour of the society. 1803 WINDHAM *Sp.* (1812) II. 154 Measures so chosen.., as to become a powerful stimulus to recruiting. 1830 MISS MITFORD *Village* Ser. IV. 80 *note*, A person of great..talent, who, ..if she were prompted by either of those two powerful *stimuli*, want of money or want of admiration, to take due pains—would..become a clever writer. 1833 HT. MARTINEAU *Loom & Lugger* I. i. 12 There is no stimulus to improvement like fair competition. 1834 MARRYAT *P. Simple* xv, The ship..reminded me of a goaded and fiery horse, mad with the stimulus applied. 1863 FAWCETT *Pol. Econ.* I. v. (1876) 63 Gold may have been the primary stimulus of Australia's prosperity. 1873 SPENCER *Study Sociol.* viii. 194 The needs of defence and attack were the chief stimuli to the cultivation of arts.

b. A quickening impulse; also, in generalized sense, quickening influence, stimulation.

1794 *Brit. Critic* III. 518 Those young Academicans..will receive from the perusal of his book a powerful stimulus to their ambition. 1833 HT. MARTINEAU *Vanderput & S.* vi. 99 The turn of exchange had given such a stimulus to importation. 1849 C. BRONTE *Shirley* i, Do you expect passion, and stimulus, and melodrama? 1856 KANE *Arctic Expl.* II. xviii. 189 Their health improved under the stimulus of a new mode of life. 1865 M. ARNOLD *Ess. Crit., Joubert* (1875) 319 They become..a source of stimulus and progress for all of us. 1911 T. B. KILPATRICK *N. T. Evangelism* iii. 76 These questions will come to him with rebuke and stimulus.

3. *Phys.* Something that excites an organ or tissue to a specific activity or function; a material agency that produces a reaction in an organism.

Developed from the older physiological sense 1.

1793 T. BEDDOES *Calculus*, etc. 191 Those stimuli which.. act continually more or less upon the irritable fibre, are, heat, light, nourishment, air, the circulation of the blood, the stimulus of generation, and the nervous stimuli. 1837 P. KEITH *Bot. Lex.* 224 Life is that energy, or attribute, of organized structures which renders them capable of receiving and of obeying the impulse of stimuli. 1848 CARPENTER *Anim. Phys.* 19 Muscles..are composed of a tissue which has the power of contracting suddenly and forcibly, when peculiar stimuli are applied to it. 1880 C. & F. DARWIN *Movem. Pl.* 4 The tip is sensitive to various stimuli, especially to very slight pressure. 1900 W. S. HALL *Text-bk. Physiol.* 52 Stimuli classified. The following forms of energy act as stimuli for most cells: (i) Heat, (ii) Light, (iii) Electricity, (iv) Mechanical Stimuli, (v) Chemical Stimuli.

transf. 1852 MILL *Dissert. & Discuss., Enfranch. Women* (1859) II. 438 What makes intelligent beings the power of thought; the stimuli which call forth that power are the interest and dignity of thought itself.

b. Influence or effect in calling forth some specific reaction of a tissue; irritation of a nerve or other sensitive structure.

1785 CULLEN *Instit. Med.* I. (ed. 3) 73 The force of contraction, or the vigour of muscular fibres, will be always as the force of stimulus, and the vigour of the animal, nervous, and inherent powers taken together. 1837 P. KEITH *Bot.*

Lex. 327 Rest, which they thus obtain after having been exposed throughout the day to the stimulus of light. 1841 *Penny Cycl.* XXI. 181/2 The infusion of tobacco, and hydrocyanic acid, appear to destroy completely the sensibility of the heart, so that it no longer responds to the stimulus of the blood. 1872 HUXLEY *Physiol.* viii. 187 The great majority ..of the movements of the body..are the effect of an influence (technically termed a stimulus or irritation) applied..to the ends of afferent nerves. 1882 GASKELL in *Jrnl. Physiol.* IV. 67 Since then the ventricle does not contract after the auricle because separate stimuli pass from the sinus to the ventricle along nerve fibres, but does contract [etc.]. 1900 W. S. HALL *Text-bk. Physiol.* 75 The following laws of electrical response may be formulated: Law I. The make stimulus is kathodic; the break stimulus is anodic.

4. *Nat. Hist.* A sting, a stinging hair. *rare* (? only as Latin).

1760 J. LEE *Introd. Bot.* III. xviii. (1765) 213 *Stimuli*, Stings, keep off naked Animals by their venomous Punctures. 1764 BERKENHOUT *Clavis Angl. Bot., Stimuli*, stings: a species of *Arma* growing upon some plants for their defence...Linnæus divides the *stimuli* into *pungentes* and *urentes*. 1796 WITHERING *Brit. Plants* (ed. 3) I. 84 *Stimuli*, stings. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1100/2. 1909 *Century Dict.* Suppl., *Stimulus*. 6. In *entom.*, a stinging-hair.

Stimy, variant of STYMIE (*Golf*).

Stinch(e, obs. forms of STANCH *v.*, STENCH.

Stinck(e, obs. ff. STINK *sb.* and *v.*

† Stine. *Obs. rare*$^{-1}$. ? Support.

c 1420 *Liber Cocorum* (1862) 34 Take floure and rere þo cofyns fyne, Wele stondand withouten stine.

Stine, variant of STYAN *dial.*

Sting (stiŋ), *sb.*[1] *Sc.* and *north.* Forms: 1 stæng, (-ncg), 1, 4 steng, (1 -ngc, -ngc, -nc, -gn); 5 steyng, 5–6 steing; 1, 5–6 styng, 5– sting. [OE. *steng* masc.: see STANG *sb.*[1]]

1. A pole, staff.

c 725 *Corpus Gloss.* (Hessels) C 450 *Clava*, steng [*Epinal* stegn, *Erfurt* steng]. *a* 900 *O. E. Martyrol.* 8 Aug. 142 Þa het se dema hi nacode gebindan to anum stenge ond hi bærnan mid fyre. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xxxvi. (*John Baptist*) 850 His harme..stud strekit þare a hyldry steng as it ware. 1508 DUNBAR *Poems* vi. 100 Et duos rusticos de rure Berand a barell on a styng. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* III. ix. 87 With ane scharpit and brint sting of tre, Out did we boir and pyke his mekle E. 1571 *Wills & Inv. N. C.* (Surtees) I. 361, ij stynges for ye wayne x^{s}. 1580 *Shipping List of Dundee* in *D. Wedderburne's Compt. Bk.* etc. (S.H.S.) 198 Sex thousand steingis. 1643 *Orkney Witch Trial* in *Abbotsf. Club Miscell.* I. 177 If it war the dead manis sting which trublit him, it wold cuir and heale him. 1703 in W. Maitland *Hist. Edin.* (1753) 329 Twentie four Sayes, and threttie sex Stings with Knags, whereof sex standing full of Water, and the Stings hanging by them, [etc.]. 1724 in Cramond *Ann. Banff* (1893) II. 219 For a sting to drive the oxen, 1s. Sc.

þ. A pole or staff or club used as a weapon; the shaft of a pike or spear. Often *staff and sting*.

a 900 *O. E. Martyrol.* 20 Jan. 27 Þa het he hine mid stengum þyrscan. *c* 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Matt. xxvi. 47 *Fustibus*, stencgum [*c* 975 *Rushw.* stængum]. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 24029 (Edin.) Þai draw him forþe with staf and steng. *c* 1470 HENRYSON *Mor. Fab., Fox, Wolf & Cadger* 151 That had not in my hand sa mekle gude, As staf or sting, 3one truker for to strike. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* II. 49 Vpon the hed ane with the steing hitt he. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* IX. viii. 126 The Troianis..dang thame down with pikkis and poyntit styngis. 1535 STEWART *Cron.* (Rolls) II. 96 With staf and sting syne slew richt mony ane. 1550 LYNDESAY *Sqr. Meldrum* 254 Bot thair wes daylie skirmishing, Quhair men of armis brak monie sting. 1590–91 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* IV. 587 With thair lance staffis and stingis [they] gave him divers bauch, blaa and bludie straikis.

c. (*To carry*) *with* or *by sting and ling* [? LINE *sb.*[2]]: with a rope suspended from a pole borne on two or more persons' shoulders. Also *sting and ling* (without prep.); also *fig.* = bodily, by force.

1571 R. BANNATYNE *Jrnl.* (1806) 130 He..was borne up with sex workmen with sting and ling, and Mr. Robert Maitland haulding up his heid. 1615 *Chron. Perth* in R. Chambers *Dom. Ann. Scot.* (1858) I. 453 Upon Fasten's E'en there was twa puncheons of Bourdeaux wine carriet, sting and ling, on men's shoulders, on the ice, at the mids of the North Inch. 1816 SCOTT *Antiq.* xliv, He..never intended to look near the place again, unless he had been brought there sting and ling. 1883 MARTINE *Reminisc. Haddington* 143 Cut figures of two brewer's men, in antique dress, carrying a barrel of ale 'Sting and Ling'.

2. A pointed instrument used in thatching.

1808 JAMIESON. 1815 *Notes to Pennecuik's Descr. Tweeddale* 88 (Jam.) The thatch..is thrust into holes previously made obliquely upwards in the divots by an iron-shod, dove-tailed-pointed hand instrument, called a sting. 1893-4 *Northumb. Gloss.*

3. *Comb.*, as **sting-burden**, *-lift*, *-man*, **†-sowel**; **† stingis-dint**, a fine for an assault with a stick.

1701 in J. Bulloch *Pynours* (1887) 73 Crews for caryeing *sting burdens. 1153-95 *Carta Hugonis* in *Boldon Bk.* etc. (Surtees) p. xlii, In burgo non debet blodwite nec merchete nec heriot nec *stengesdint [*printed* -duit] exigi. 14.. *Burgh Lawis* xvii. in *Anc. Laws Scot.* (Burgh Rec. Soc.) 10 Quod infra burgum non debet exaudiri blodewit nec styngis-dynt nec merchet. 1701 in J. Bulloch *Pynours* (1887) 74 Each *Sting lift caried by two men is to pay the double of ane back burden. 1554 *Extracts Burgh Rec. Edin.* (1871) II. 313 To vj *stingmen of the town to beir thir foirsaids stanis furth of the querrellis viij^{s}. 1583 *Ibid.* (1882) IV. 303 The persouns vnderwrittin to be polkmen and stingmen and metters vpoun the said schoir. 1235-52 *Rentalia Glaston.* (Somerset Rec. Soc.) 88, j palum quem vocant *stiŋ soghles.

Sting (stiŋ), *sb.*[2] Forms: 1 stincg, 4 *Kent.* steng, 5–6 stynge, 5–7 stinge, 1, 5–6 styng, 1, 4, 6– sting. [f. STING *v.*[1]

It is possibe that two words from the root of the vb. have coalesced: OE. *sting*:—prehist. **stingo-z* and OE. *styng* (Kentish ME. *steng*):—**stungi-z* (= OHG. *stung*). A dial. form *stinge* (stindʒ) appears to represent yet another formation, OE. **stenge* or **stengea*. Cf. Norw. *styng* masc., prick, sting.]

1. a. The act of stinging. **b.** The fact or effect of being stung; the wound inflicted by the *aculeus* of an insect, the telson of a scorpion, the fang of an adder, etc.; the pain or smart of such a wound.

c 900 *Bæda's Hist.* II. ix. (1890) 123 Næfde he scyld æt honda, þæt he þone cyning mid scyldan meahte: sette þa his lichoman betweoh beforan þam stynge. *a* 950 *Guthlac* (Prose) xvi, Þa besloh se þorn on þone fot, and swa strang wæs se sting þæs þornes, þæt he eode þurh þone fot. *c* 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* I. 272 Wið scorpiones stincg genim þas ylcan wyrte..lege to ðam stinge. *c* 1315 SHOREHAM *Poems* IV. 86 Þe wonde swelþ an akeþ, So doþ þe naddre steng. 1593 SHAKS. 2 *Hen. VI*, III. ii. 325 Their softest Touch, as smart as Lyzards stings. 1636 MARMION *Antiquary* IV. (1641) G 4, Why did you send this serpent to my bosome, To pierce me through with greater cruelty, Than Cleopatra felt from stings of Adders? 1748 *Anson's Voy.* II. viii. 217 A most mischievous serpent..whose sting they believed to be inevitable death. 1865 *Hardwicke's Sci.-Gossip* 1 July 166/1, I am told by fishermen that many instances are known of persons losing the use of a hand by this sting [*sc.* of the weever-fish]. 1875 RUSKIN *Hort. Inclus.* (1887) 33 The pang of a nice deep wasp sting.

b. The smart or irritation produced by touching a nettle or similar plant.

1878 T. F. T. DYER *Engl. Folk-lore* 172 To cure the sting of a nettle, the person stung must [etc.]. 1884 R. FOLKARD Jun. *Plant Lore* 313 It is a common practice..for anyone suffering from the stings of a Nettle to apply a cold Dock-leaf to the inflamed spot.

2. A sharp-pointed organ in certain insects and other animals (e.g. bees, wasps, scorpions) capable of inflicting a painful or dangerous wound. Applied also to the fang or venom-tooth (and erroneously to the forked tongue) of a poisonous serpent.

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XII. v. (1495) 414 Many males of been ben wythout stinges. 1523-34 FITZHERB. *Husb.* § 122 It is a sayenge that she [the drone] hath loste her stynge, and than she wyl not labour as the other do. 1530 PALSGR. 276/1 Styng of a serpent or any other venomous beest, *esguillon*. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* I. i. 15 Her huge long taile..Pointed with mortall sting. *Ibid.* I. i. 23 A cloud of combrous gnattes do him molest, All striuing to infixe their feeble stings. *c* 1611 CHAPMAN *Iliad* III. 32 A serpent..Her blew necke (swolne with poison) raisd, and her sting out. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Ecl.* III. 145 Beware the secret Snake that shoots a Sting. 1726 SWIFT *Gulliver* II. iii, I took out their stings, found them an inch and a half long, and as sharp as needles. 1861 HULME tr. *Moquin-Tandon* II. v. ii. 276 When not in use, the sting [of the bee] is completely enclosed in the abdomen.

3. *Bot.* A stiff sharp-pointed tubular hair, which emits an irritating fluid when touched. † Also applied to a thorn.

1567 MAPLET *Gr. Forest* 62 b, The Thorn tree is armed about with Dart and sting. 1578 LYTE *Dodoens* IV. lxiv. 526 White Cotton Thistel..The stalke is great & thicke set full of prickley stings. 1597 MIDDLETON *Wisd. Solomon* iv. 4 The nettle hath a sting, the rose a thorn. 1857 MISS PRATT *Flower. Pl.* V. 23 The sting of the Nettle is a tubular hair.

4. A spike used for driving cattle.

1833 TENNYSON *Palace of Art* 150 The people here, a beast of burden slow, Toil'd onward, prick'd with goads and stings.

5. In many *fig.* uses; e.g. an acute pain or sharp wound inflicted on the mind or heart; something which (or that element in anything which) inflicts acute pain; the 'point' of an epigram or sarcasm; something which goads to action or appetite, a sharp stimulus or incitement.

c 1412 HOCCLEVE *De Reg. Princ.* 3909 Yf..fortunes stynge hym ouerthwerte. 1526 TINDALE 1 *Cor.* xv. 56 The stynge of deeth is synne. *a* 1586 SIDNEY *Arcadia* III. (1598) 367 The renewed sting of iealosie. 1600 SHAKS. *A. Y. L.* II. vii. 188 Freize, freize, thou bitter skie..thy sting is not so sharpe, as freind remembred not. 1601 — *All's Well* III. iv. 18 Ah what sharpe stings are in her mildest words! 1603 — *Meas. for M.* I. iv. 59 One, who neuer feeles The wanton stings, and motions of the sence. *c* 1611 CHAPMAN *Iliad* XIII. 233 Be assur'd, my spirite needs no stings To this hote conflict. 1657 in *Verney Mem.* (1907) II. 52 His letter to you I hope will be full of douceur with out a stinge at the tayle of it. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* III. 326 Too soon they must not feel the Stings of Love. 1713 ADDISON *Cato* v. i, Portius, no more! your words leave stings behind 'em. 1770 LANGHORNE *Plutarch, Marcellus* II. 399 This [result of an ambuscade] added stings to Marcellus's desire of an engagement. 1818 HALLAM *Mid. Ages* (1872) I. 67 The sting of taxation is wastefulness. 1823 LAMB *Elia* Ser. II. *Pop. Fallacies* xii, The innocent prattle of his children takes out the sting of a man's poverty. 1842 MACAULAY *Fredk. Gt.* Ess. 1851 II. 672 For that end it was necessary that Prussia should be all sting. 1849 — *Hist. Eng.* vi. II. 129 They never worked till they felt the sting of hunger.

b. In generalized sense: Stinging quality, capacity to sting or hurt; a (specified) degree or amount of this.

1863 *Lillywhite's Cricket Scores* III. 74 He..often took the 'sting' out of the bowling, by getting his runs remarkably slow. 1876 TREVELYAN *Macaulay* vii. II. 4 This passage, as it now stands, has been deprived of half its sting. 1893 'Q.' (Quiller-Couch) *Delect. Duchy* 342 The firemen..robbed the epigram of all its sting. 1896 *Daily News* 29 June 7/2 When once collared the Yorkshire bowling lacks sting. 1900 J. G. FRAZER *Golden Bough* (ed. 2) III. 92 To give more sting to every blow the whip-lashes are knotted.

6. The tapering point of a pointer's tail. Cf. *sting-tail* (*a*) in sense 8.

1872 T. PEARCE *Dog* 119 The genuine sort [of Pointers] has a tail thick at the root, and gradually tapering to an absolute point or 'sting.' *Ibid.* 122 At last we have seen the sting of her fine stern above the rushes.

† 7. *Mus.* = *sting-grace* in sense 8. *Obs.*

1676 MACE *Musicks Mon.* 109 The Sting, is another very Neat, and Pritty Grace; (But not Modish in These Days).

8. *Comb.*, as *sting-proof* adj.; **sting-bull**, the greater weever, *Trachinus draco*; **sting-fish**, (*a*) the lesser weever, *Trachinus vipera*; (*b*) the sea-scorpion, *Cottus scorpius*; **† sting-free** *a.*, exempt from, or proof against, being stung; **† sting-grace** *Mus.*, a particular tremolo effect in lute-playing; **sting-moth**, the Australian moth, *Doratifera vulnerans*, the larva of which is able to sting; **sting-nettle**, *Urtica dioica* and other species; **sting-tail**, (*a*) a tail tapering to a point, as in the pointer (cf. 6); (*b*) *U.S.* = STING-RAY; **sting-tailed** *a.*, having a sting in the tail (also *fig.*); **sting-winkle** (see quot.); **† sting-worm**, ? a worm supposed to sting cattle (cf. TAINT-WORM). Also **STING RAY**.

1836 YARRELL *Brit. Fishes* I. 20 The Great Weever, *Sting-bull, Sea Cat. *Ibid.* I. 25 Lesser Weever, Otter-pike, *Sting-fish. 1863 COUCH *Fishes Brit. Isl.* II. 8 Sting-fish..*Cottus Scorpius*. 1644 S. KEM *Messengers Prepar.* 27 Nothing can arme death to hurt us but sin, otherwise thou art hard, *sting-free. 1658 ROWLAND *Mouffet's Theatr. Ins.* 907 If you would indeed resolve to go sting-free, or at least heal your self being stung. 1676 MACE *Musick's Mon.* 126 Those Three Notes also to have the *Sting-Grace. 1863 WOOD *Illustr. Nat. Hist.* III. 537 *Sting-moth, *Doratifera vulnerans*. 1822–7 GOOD *Study Med.* (1829) V. 132 Both *sting-nettles and flagellations..are said to have worked wonders. 1869 BLACKMORE *Lorna D.* vii, I rubbed them [my toes] well with a sprout of young sting-nettle. 1886 H. P. WELLS *Amer. Salmon Fisherm.* 85 Kid gloves are *sting-proof. 1872 T. PEARCE *Idstone Papers* iii. 30 That pointer, with his graceful lines, *sting-tail, and polished coat. 1881 INGERSOLL *Oyster-Industr.* (Hist. Fish. Industr. U.S.) 249 Sting-tail.—The sting-ray, *Dasybatis centrura*. (New York.) 1611 SPEED *Hist. Gt. Brit.* IX. xxiv. § 104 Those *sting-tailed Locusts, arising with foggy smoake from the bottomlesse pit. 1905 *Q. Rev.* Jan. 30 Sting-tailed witticisms. 1851 WOODWARD *Mollusca* 106 Murex Erinaceus..is called '*sting-winkle' by fishermen, who say it makes round holes in the other shell-fish with its beak. 1577 GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* III. 134 b, If he [a bullock] swell of the Taint, or *Stingworme, geue him Vrine, Salt & Tryacle to drinke.

Sting (stiŋ), *v.*[1] Pa. t. and pa. pple. **stung** (stʌŋ). Forms: *Inf.* 1 stingan, stincgan, 3 stincgen, 3–6 stingen, 4–5 styngen, -yn, 3–6 stinge, 4–6 stynge, 5 styngge, 6 styng, 3– sting. *Imper. sing.* 3 sting, stink. *Pa. t.* 1–7, 8–9 *dial.* stang, 3–6 stong, (5 stoong), 6– stung; *pl.* 1 stungon, 2–3 *Orm.* stungenn, 3 stounge(n, 3–4 stungen, 3–5 stonge, stongen; *weak* 6–7, 9 *dial.* stinged, 9 *dial.* stunged. *Pa. Subj.* 3*rd sing.* 2–3 stunge. *Pa. pple.* 1–4 stungen, 2–3 istungen, *Orm.* -stungenn, 3 istunge, 4–5 stungyn, 4–6 stunge, 6– stung; 3–5 ystonge(n, istonge, (3 istounge, 4 ystonnge, stoungen), 3–6 stongen, (4 stangen, 5 stonken), 6 stonge, stongue, stoung, 6–7 stong; *weak* 5–6 stynged, -yd, 6–7, 9 *dial.* stinged. [OE. *stingan* str. vb. corresponds to ON. *stinga*, pa. t. *stakk*, pl. *stungu*, pa. pple. *stungenn* (Sw.; Norw. *stinga*, Da. *stinge*) to stick, stab, pierce, f. Teut. root **steyg-*: **stayg-*: **stuyg-* to pierce, whence STANG *sb.*[1] and *v.*[1] (A Gothic imperative *us-stagg*, occurring only once, is commonly regarded as a mistake for **us-stigg*, and as belonging to the verb = OE. *stingan*; this, however, is not certain, as the Goth. vb. may have been of the reduplicating conjugation, with pres.-stem from the *a* grade of the root.)

The pre-Teut. root **steygh-*, according to some scholars, is found in Gr. στάχυς (:—**stynghus*) ear of corn.]

† 1. *trans.* To pierce with a sharp-pointed weapon or instrument. (Cf. THROUGH-STING *v.*) Phr. *to sting to death. Obs.*

993 *Battle of Maldon* 128 He mid gare stang wlancne wicing. *c* 1205 LAY. 27597 Boccus mid his spere stronge Bedver hafde istunge. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 26018 Wit thorn, glaiue, nail,..Wit quilk þat crist for us was stongen. *c* 1315 SHOREHAM II. 116 A knizt wyþ one scharpe spere Stang hyne iþe ryzt syde. 13.. *K. Alis.* 3717 (Laud MS.), He..smyteþ a Duk arabian..And to þe deþ haþ hym stunge. *c* 1394 *P. Pl. Crede* 553 Þei ben y-sewed wiþ whiȝt silk & semes full queynte, Y-stongen wiþ stiches þat stareþ as siluer. *c* 1430 *Syr Gener.* (Roxb.) 5000 Thurgh the bodie he him stoong. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 290/2 Lawncyn, or stynge wythe a spere, or blode yryne, *lanceo*. 1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* XXI. x. 655 There was laementacyon as they had be stungyn wyth sperys.

2. 'To pierce or wound with a point darted out, as that of wasps or scorpions' (J.). Said also of venomous serpents and some other animals which inflict sharp or poisonous wounds. Phr. *to sting to death*; also *to sting to the quick* (now rare in literal sense: see 5).

c 888 ÆLFRED *Boeth.* xxxi. § 2 Swa swa seo beo sceal losian þonne heo hwæt irringa stingð. *c* 1200 ORMIN 17441 Þa neddress þatt stungenn þe menn. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 3896 Þor-fore hem cam wrim-kin among, ðat hem wel bitterlike stong. *c* 1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* 206/232 Þe Crapoudes..stoungen heom þoruȝ heore heortene with heore foule wrottes grete. 13.. *Seuyn Sag.* (W.) 759 The adder so the grehound stang.

1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* XXI. iv. 845 An adder..stonge a knyght on the foot & whan the knyght felte hym stongen [etc.]. 1530 PALSGR. 736/1, I wene this adder hath styngyd me. 1578 LYTE *Dodoens* V. XXV. 584 Good to be dronken of them which are stongue with Bees and Waspes. 1587 R. CROMPTON *Short Decl. End Traytors* D iij b, Some times they were stinged to death, with fierie Serpents of straunge kind. 1630 *True Trav. John Smith* XXVII. 58 Stung neere to death with a most poysoned taile of a fish called Stingray. *c* 1662 in *Verney Mem.* (1907) II. 262 Little flyes which sting our hands and faces. 1726 [see QUICK *sb.*1 4]. 1849 MRS. CARLYLE *Lett.* II. 76 Stung by a wasp. 1878 HARDY *Ret. Native* IV. vii, Stung by an adder.

absol. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 206 Þe scorpiun..stingeð mid te teile. *c* 1394 *P. Pl. Crede* 648 Þer is no waspe in þis werlde þat will wilfulloker styngen. 1590 SHAKS. *Mids. N.* III. ii. 73 With doubler tongue Then thine (thou serpent) neuer Adder stung. 1895 P. HEMINGWAY *Out of Egypt* II. 188 He flung the truth from him as one might fling a viper that had stung.

b. To insert (venom) by stinging. *nonce-use.*

1648 WINYARD *Midsummer-Moon* 2 His skull is a meer nest of hornets, which sting into him their own waspishnesse.

c. *transf.* and *fig.* To inflict a sharp or mortal hurt upon. (Cf. sense 1.)

a 1400 *St. Alexius* 1017 (MS. Laud 622) Deþ! why nyltou me stynge? *c* 1495 *Epitaph Dk. Bedford* in *Skelton's Wks.* (1843) II. 392 Thou, dolorous Deth, to the herte hast him stynged [*rimes with* reuenged]. 1559 *Mirr. Mag., Henry Percy* iv, I had a son which so the Scottes did sting, That being yong, and but a very spring Syr Henry Hotspur they gaue him to name. *a* 1653 BINNING *Sinner's Sanct.* XXVIII. Wks. (1735) 313 He suffered Death to sting him, and by this hath taken the Sting from it. 1878 JEFFERIES *Gamekeeper at Home* ix. 194 Two fired,..'stinging' one man in the leg. 1883 *Daily News* 20 Sept. 6/7 The little vessel..taking her chance of stinging or demoralising the enemy.

† **d.** *slang.* To rob or cheat. **Obs.*

1812 J. H. VAUX *Flash Dict., Sting*, to rob or defraud a person or place is called *stinging* them, as, that *cove* is too *fly*; he has been *stung* before; meaning that man is upon his guard; he has already been trick'd. 1823 EGAN *Grose's Dict. Vulgar T.*

3. Of certain plants, etc.: To produce by contact a kind of rash or inflammation, accompanied with a burning sensation and itching, in (a person's skin). Also *absol.* (cf. STINGING *ppl. a.*).

1548 *Elyot's Dict.* s.v. *Compungo*, Ye must beware that he bee not stounge with a nettle. 1565 COOPER *Thesaurus* s.v. *Compungo*, He is stinged with a nettel. 1583 MELBANCKE *Philotimus* C iij, Play with the nettle neuer soe nimbly & it will sting thee. 1665 G. HARVEY *Disc. Plague* (1673) 133 A pricking of the intire skin, as if stung with Nettles. 1845 DARWIN *Voy. Nat.* XX. (1879) 464, I was a good deal surprised by finding two species of coral..possessed of the power of stinging. 1882 J. SMITH *Dict. Pop. Names Plants* 392 Lobed leaves, covered..with stiff hairs,..which sting fearfully. 1898 EVA EICKES *Gen. Nursing* X. (1900) 129 The discomfort of the mustard stinging in little patches is thus prevented.

b. *refl.* To get stung. *colloq.*

1663 TUKE *Adv. Five Hours* I. 14 I've touch'd a Nettle, and have stung my self.

4. *transf.* To affect with a tingling pain, a burning sensation, or the like.

1615 CHAPMAN *Odyss.* XIII. 128 As..foure braue horse Before a Chariot, stung into their course With feruent lashes of the smarting Scourge. *a* 1628 F. GREVIL *Life Sidney* xii. (1652) 149 He judiciously observing the pangs his wound stang him with by fits. 1853 'C. BEDE' *Verdant Green* I. xi, His whole person put in chancery, stung, bruised, [etc.]. 1878 C. STANFORD *Symb. Christ* VII. 186 When stung by a spark of fire we start in agony.

b. *absol.* (Cf. STINGING *ppl. a.*)

1735 SOMERVILLE *Chase* IV. 423 With quick Sensation now The fuming Vapour stings. 1881 MISS YONGE *Lads & Lasses Langley* ii. 64 'Well, it don't sting like the other,' said Frank,..as if he thought stinging a good quality in beer. 1891 FARRAR *Darlen. & Dawn* XXXIX, He felt the curling lash..come stinging round his body.

5. *fig.* To affect with a sudden sharp mental pain or an access of painful emotion or irritation; to drive *to* or *into* (rage, madness, etc.) by some sharp passion or vexation; to goad or stimulate *to* or *into* (action).

c 1386 CHAUCER *Pard. T.* 85 Thanne wol I stynge hym with my tonge smerte. *a* 1400–50 *Wars Alex.* 667 Oft storbis me þi statour & stingis me ȝerne þat þi personale proporcion sa party is to myne. 1537 STARKEY *Let. to the King* in *Life & Lett.* (1878) p. l, The dethe of them wych suffryd in the cause hathe so stonge hys hart. 1600 *Weakest goeth to Wall* B 4, I am so stung with this indignitie. *a* 1602 W. PERKINS *Cases Consc.* (1619) 64 Their great and capitall sins, that stinged and wounded their consciences. 1700 DRYDEN *Pal. & Arc.* 234 Scarce had he seen, but, seiz'd with sudden Smart, Stung to the Quick, he felt it at his Heart. 1726 [see QUICK *sb.*1 4]. 1766 GOLDSM. *Vic. W.* XXIV, Little villany can at any time get within the soul, and sting it into rage. 1769 *Junius Lett.* XXIX. 133 A man may be quite indifferent about one part of a charge, yet severely stung with another. 1787 *Generous Attachment* I. 136 MRS. Penelope..stung with curiosity, came in. 1836 *Penny Cycl.* V. 290/1 Stung to madness by defeat. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. v. vii, This poor Legislative, spurred and stung into action by a whole France. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* vii. II. 224 The jurymen themselves were stung by remorse when they thought over what they had done. 1864 BURTON *Scot Abr.* I. iv. 177 Mary stung the dowager occasionally with her sarcastic tongue. 1891 F. H. WILLIAMS *Atman* vi. 296 The torrent of his thoughts and fears..stinging him to effort.

absol. 1725 RAMSAY *Gentle Sheph.* IV. ii. (1769) 77 The spleen, tint honour, and affronted pride, Stang like the sharpest goads in gentry's side. 1748 JOHNSON *Van. Hum. Wishes* 119 Remember'd folly stings. 1859 BOYD *Recreat. Country Parson* vi. 211 Further brooding over the subject would only vex and sting and do no good.

6. *intr.* To feel sharp pain or distress; to smart. Of a wound or sore: To shoot or throb with pain.

1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* XXXI, The groans of a person stinging under defeat. 1856 P. THOMPSON *Hist. Boston* 725 *Stang*, or *Sting* (to), to throb, with great pain. 1912 *19th Cent.* Nov. 1015 The West [of U.S.A.] was stinging with want.

Sting (stiŋ), *v.*2 *Sc.* and *north.* Also (*midland dial.*) **stinge** (stindʒ). [f. STING *sb.*1; the variation in pronunciation is normal, as the *sb.* has an umlaut-vowel.] *trans.* To thatch or repair thatch with a 'sting' or pointed tool.

1707 in *Lady G. Baillie's Househ. Bk.* (S.H.S.) p. lxiv, For 85 threve oat stra crop 1707 @ 6s. to sting the house, £2. 2s. 6d. 1710 *Ibid.* 238. 1815 *Pennecuik's Wks.* 89 (E.D.D.) Heath is neither sewed nor stinged. 1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss., Stinge*, to repair thatched buildings by driving up the old thatch, and pushing in the new halm by means of the stinger. 1876 *Whitby Gloss., Sting in*, to tuck in with a 'stinging-prod' [defined as 'a long iron point']. 1881 *Leicester Gloss., Stinge.* 1893–4 *Northumb. Gloss., Sting.*

Sting, obs. f. STINK *v.*

Stingaree (stiŋgărī, stiŋgărī). *U.S.* and *Austral.* [Corrupt f. STING-RAY.] A sting-ray, esp. *Trygon centrura* (*Dasyatis centrurus*).

1859 BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.* (ed. 2) 451. 1871 *Field* 25 Nov. 457/2 The spear of the stingaree. 1882 JORDAN & GILBERT *Syn. Fishes N. Amer.* 47 *Dasyatis centrurus*, Common Sting Ray; Clam Cracker; Stingaree. 1887 MRS. D. DALY *S. Australia* 330 Sharks, stingarees,..you see swimming about.

Hence **Stingareeing** *vbl. sb.*, the sport of catching stingarees.

c 1870 G. H. KINGSLEY *Sport & Trav.* iii. (1900) 57, I confess that I love 'stingareeing' for its own sake, as a sport. 1871 *Field* 25 Nov. 457/2 Few [sports] beat our afternoon's stingareeing!

Stinged (stiŋd), *a.* [f. STING *sb.*2 + -ED 2.] Furnished or armed with a sting (*lit.* and *fig.*).

1552 HULOET, Prycked or stynged, *Aculeatus.* 1608 TOPSELL *Serpents* 88 You shall haue all those that lacke stinges presently come flying about you, which the stinged wasps neuer are seene to doe. 1782 J. BROWN *View Nat. & Revealed Relig.* V. ii. (1796) 355 Christ's death being stinged by the curse, he met it with agony and terror. 1858 W. R. PIRIE *Ing. Hum. Mind* VII. 348 The drones..are killed by the more numerous stinged masses. *a* 1882 CHRISTINA G. ROSSETTI *Ballad of Boding* 27 Stinged Worm meseemed loathly in his place.

† **Stinged,** *ppl. a. Obs.* [Irregular weak pa. pple. of STING *v.*1] Wounded by stinging, stung.

1565 STAPLETON tr. *Bede's Hist. Ch. Eng.* 14 Forthwyth all the force of the venim was staynched, and the swelling of the stinged bodies vtterly asswaged. 1577 KENDALL *Flowers of Epigr., Trifles* 24 b, At last with tinglyng stynged hande, he comes his mother to. 1682 OTWAY *Venice Preserved* V, When our sting'd hearts haue leap'd to meet each other.

Stinger1 (stiŋəɹ). [f. STING *v.*1 + -ER 1.]

1. One who stings; applied *fig.* to Death. Also, one who goads or instigates; one who has a sharp tongue.

1552 HULOET, Prycker or stynger, *Stigator, stimulator.* 1577 KENDALL *Flowers of Epigr., Trifles* 13 To stingers suche a stingyng crowne, of Nettelles doeth belong. 1602 CHETTLE *Hoffman* III. (1631) F 1 b, Haue ye not heard I haue bin a stinger, a tickler, a wormer. 1611 COTGR., *Esguillonneur*, a pricker, stinger. 1612 *Benvenuto's Passenger* II. ii. 511 Pratlers, tatlers, stingers [Ital. *mordaci*]. *a* 1628 SYLVESTER *Triumph Faith* III. ii, Life of our life, our death's death, Stinger's sting. 1827 LAMB *Poems, Epicedium, Going or Gone* 5 Death, that last Stinger.

2. An animal or plant that stings.

1593 G. HARVEY *Pierce's Super.* 143 The gad-fly is a little creature; but some little creatures be stingers. 1602 [see VENGIBLE *a.* 2]. 1616 T. SCOT *Philomythie* B 1 b, He longs for hony, That mongst the angry Waspes thrusts his bold fingers, And from their neasts in Summer, hunts those stingers. 1862 T. W. HARRIS *Insects Injur. Vegetation* (ed. 3) 512 The insects of this order [Hymenoptera] may be divided into two groups, Stingers and Piercers. 1880 C. R. MARKHAM *Peruv. Bark* 293 The *Girardinia Leschenaultii*, or Nilgiri nettle, a most virulent stinger.

3. Something that stings or smarts; e.g. a sharp blow, or the hand that delivers it; something that causes sharp distress, a pungent speech or crushing argument; a sharp frost. Now *colloq.*

1576 GASCOIGNE *Grief of Joy* IV. XXIII, But that so sweete a synger Shoulde dye so sone: that sorrowe seemde a stynger. 1623 WEBSTER *Devil's Law-Case* IV. ii. I 2 b, *San.* That's a stinger, tis a good wench, be not daunted. 1823 'JON BEE' *Dict. Turf, Stinger*, a sharp and rapid hit. 1853 R. S. SURTEES *Sponge's Sp. Tour* (1893) 355 My eyes, but we're in for a stinger! 1855 BROWNING *Fra Lippo* 90 Old Aunt Lapaccia trussed me with one hand, (Its fellow was a stinger as I knew). 1861 DICKENS *Gt. Expect.* XXV, At nine o'clock ..the gun fires...And when you hear him go, I think you'll say he's a Stinger. 1900 UPWARD *Ebenezer Lobb* 46, I wrote him back a stinger which he will not soon forget. 1904 WELLS *Food of Gods* II. i. 166 One [button] hit me a regular stinger just 'ere, mum.

Stinger2 (stiŋəɹ, stindʒəɹ). *Sc.* and *dial.* [f. STING *v.*2 + -ER 1.] A thatcher; a thatching-tool.

1808 JAMIESON *Stinger*, a mender of thatched roofs; so called, because he uses a sting or short pointed stick in doing his work. 1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss., Stincher* or *Stinger*, a tool, described under its synonyme *Battledore.* Used by thatchers when repairing a roof, but not..when a whole building is newly thatched.

† **Sting-hum.** *Obs. slang.* (See quot.)

a 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew, Sting-hum*, a Niggard.

Stingily (stiˈndʒili), *adv.* [f. STINGY *a.* + -LY.2] In a stingy manner.

1682 *Dryden's Satyr to Muse* 194 As loud he roard 'gainst the Prerogative, As sharply blam'd as Stingily wou'd give. 1701 HOWE *Some Consid. Pref. Enquiry* 28 Such as are..not so stingily bigotted to a Party as he. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* III. I. i, Nor are Patriotic Gifts wanting..nor stingily given. 1865 HOLLAND *Plain Talk* vii. 255 One is a man of wealth, who hoards his money, or spends it stingily or selfishly.

Stinginess (stiˈndʒinės). [-NESS.] The quality of being stingy; niggardliness, meanness.

1682 NORRIS *Hierocles* 100 In expence of Money, Profusion and Stinginess. 1700–5 in Noake *Monast. Worcester* (1866) 611 Good wine, poor soules, is so above 'em, Their stingienes won't that allow 'em. 1748 SMOLLETT *Rod. Random* XIX, The stinginess of her father, who refused to part with a shilling to promote the match. 1876 CREIGHTON *Age Eliz.* IV. i. 124 Elizabeth..learnt an economy which soon became habitual to her and degenerated into stinginess.

Stinging (stiˈŋiŋ), *vbl. sb.* Also 5–6 *erron.* **stynkyng(g)e.** [f. STING *v.*1 + -ING 1.] The action of wounding with a sting; an instance of this.

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XIII. XXVI. (1495) 461 The juys of euery fysshe helpyth agaynst venemouse styngynges. *c* 1450 *M. E. Med. Bk.* (Heinrich) 184 Ageyns bytynnge or stynkyngge of scorpyons or of serpentes. 1538 ELYOT *Dict.* s.v. *Psylli*, They also do cure the styngynge and poysonynge of serpentes by soukynge the place whyche is venymed. 1658 ROWLAND tr. *Mouffet's Theat. Ins.* 926 Physicians have found out many remedies against the stingings of Wasps. 1823 J. BADCOCK *Dom. Amusem.* 98 A good remedy for stinging of nettles. 1832 S. WARREN *Diary Physic.* II. ii. 77 Comparing the pain to that which might follow the incessant stinging of a wasp at the spinal marrow.

b. *transf.* and *fig.*

a 1300 *E. E. Psalter* lix. 3 Þou dranke vs with wine of stinginge [*vino compunctionis*]. *c* 1400 *Apol. Loll.* (Camden) 29 Bi for þat bats were made in religioun bi stinging of þe fend [*Diaboli instinctu*]. 1506 *Kal. Sheph.* (Sommer) 163 Swete wordis with a venemous stynkynge of the tayle. 1579 J. FIELDE *Calvin's 4 Serm.* i. 8 b, The prickes & stingings they haue in their consciences. *a* 1631 DONNE *Poems*, 'Goe, *and catch a falling starre*' 6 Teach me to heare Mermaides singing, Or to keep off envies stinging. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* Sept. 1646, This night I felt such a stinging all about me that I could not sleepe. 1855 SINGLETON *Virgil* II. 440 Drances, whom the fame Of Turnus spurred with crooked jealousy, And bitter stingings.

c. stinging-cell *Zool.*, a nematocyst.

1885 PENNINGTON *Brit. Zoophytes* 138 The stinging or urticating cells, or nematocysts, contain the stinging threads. 1892 J. A. THOMSON *Outl. Zool.* x. 127 On the tentacles [of *Hydra*] especially, one can see..numerous clumps of clear stinging-cells.

Stinging (stiˈŋiŋ), *ppl. a.* [+ -ING 2.]

1. That stings, that has power to sting; used (often as a specific designation) of animals.

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 82 Iherest tu hu Salomon eueneð bachitare to stinginde neddre? 1382 WYCLIF *Exod.* xxiii. 28 Stynggynge flies. 1569 SPENSER *Vis. Petrarch* 78 A stinging Serpent by the heele hir caught. 1588 SHAKS. *Tit. A.* V. i. 14 Like stinging Bees in hottest Sommers day. 1670 MILTON *Hist. Brit.* I. 21 Swarmes of stinging Flies, whereof men dy'd. 1854 A. ADAMS etc. *Man. Nat. Hist.* 228 Stinging-Ants (Myrmicidæ). 1862 T. W. HARRIS *Insects Injur. Vegetation* (ed. 3) 513 The stinging Hymenoptera. 1892 J. A. THOMSON *Outl. Zool.* X. 121 Cœlenterata or Stinging-animals.

b. of plants.

1525 tr. *Brunswyke's Handywork Surg.* XCII. R ij b, With water of the styngynge nettylles. 1593 SHAKS. *Rich. II*, III. ii. 18 Yeeld stinging Nettles to mine Enemies. 1776 J. LEE *Introd. Bot.* Explan. Terms 380 *Urens*, stinging, armed with stings. 1845 DARWIN *Voy. Nat.* XX. (1852) 464 In the East Indian sea, a stinging sea-weed is said to be found. 1874 *Treas. Bot.* Suppl. 1344/2 Stinging-bush, *Jatropha stimulans.* 1887 HILLHOUSE *Strasburger's Handbk. Pract. Bot.* 77 The stinging hairs of the common stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*). 1890 LUMHOLTZ *Cannibals* 252 The stinging-tree (*Laportea moroides*).

2. *transf.* That produces a sharp pain or tingling smart, a burning sensation, or the like. Said also of the pain or sensation.

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 225 Er þat styngande storme stynt ne myȝt. 1597 A. M. tr. *Guillemeau's Fr. Chirurg.* 3/4 He hath a verye prickinge and stinginge payne. 1610 SHAKS. *Temp.* I. ii. 329 Thou shalt be pinch'd As thicke as honycombe, each pinch more stinging Then Bees that made 'em. 1820 KEATS *Isabella* xiv, And many once proud-quiver'd loins did melt In blood from stinging whip. 1825 SCOTT *Betrothed* iii, 'Good ware,' he said, 'Master Butler, strong stinging ware. 1839 LONGF. *Wreck of Hesperus* 34 He wrapped her warm in his seaman's coat Against the stinging blast. 1862 MILLER *Elem. Chem., Org.* (ed. 2) 333 A concentrated acid liquid, which produces a stinging sensation when applied to the skin. 1866 G. MACDONALD *Ann. Q. Neighb.* XXIX. (1878) 505 Fierce showers of stinging hail. 1889 JESSOPP in *Dict. Nat. Biog.* XVII. 230/1 She gave Essex a good stinging blow on the face. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 393 Shooting, darting, or stinging pains.

3. *fig.* That causes sharp mental pain or irritation, poignant; that goads or stimulates. Of speech: Biting, pungent.

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 294 Þe delit of þe stincgende lust. *a* 1529 SKELTON *Agst. Venomous Tongues* Wks. I. 134 Malicious tunges..Are sharper then swordes.., More stinging then scorpions. 1567 TURBERV. *Epit., Epigr.* etc. 35 b, Doe thy worst to mee thou stinging spite. 1600 tr. *Garzoni's Hosp. Inc. Fooles* 96 They studied quicke and stinging sayings, for the sharpning of their wits. 1647 J. HALL *Div. Poems* II. 82 How stinging are our sorrowes! *a* 1732 T. BOSTON *Crook in Lot* (1805) 31 How could he miss of a stinging remembrance of the cheat he had..put upon his own father? 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* XV. III. 541 Eloquent vituperation

and stinging sarcasm. 1885 *Manch. Exam.* 8 May 5/1 Except a stinging rejoinder from Mr. Pember, nothing more was said.

†**4.** Mus. *Stinging grace* = *sting-grace*: see STING *sb.*² 7, 8. *Obs.*

1676 MACE *Musick's Mon.* 131 You must Pause, and use the Stinging Grace a Pritty while.

Hence **Sti·ngingly** *adv.*, **Sti·ngingness.**

1667 H. MORE *Div. Dial.* II. xvii. (1713) 142 A Grief..set off more stingingly to us by the more flush and full representations of another's Happiness. 1727 BAILEY vol. II, *Stingingness*, stinging Quality. 1748 T. SMITH *Jrnl.* (1849) 270 Cold, and the year ends stingingly. 1873 LYTTON *K. Chillingly* I. viii, Not exactly in those words—more covertly, and therefore more stingingly. 1888 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 16 May 11/1 The Government..was stingingly criticised from the Opposition benches.

†**Sti·ngle.** *Obs. rare.* In 4 **stengle**, 5 **styngill.** [OE. **stęngel*, f. *stęng* STING *sb.*², the suffix denoting an implement: see -LE 1.] = STING *sb.*² 2.

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XII. v. (Bodl. MS.) Been þat beþ vnbuxome to þe kinge..deye wiþ þee wounde of heere strengþe of here stengles. 1422 YONGE tr. *Secreta Secret.* 181 The bee is a Passynge wrathfull beste and full of fyght, and for vengeaunce they lewyth thar Stynglll in the wonde, but the kynge of bees Is wythout a stynglll.

Stingless (sti·ŋlės), *a.* [f. STING *sb.*² + -LESS.] Having no sting. *lit.* and *fig.*

1554 T. MARTIN *Marr. Priests* xiv. Mm ij b, [They] were nowe able..to treade vnder fote the head of their lustes, as of a stingles serpent. 1601 SHAKS. *Jul. C.* v. i. 35. 1604 WEBSTER *Marston's Malcontent* Induct. A 3 b, There are a sort of discontented creatures that beare a stinglesse enuie to great ones. 1618 CHAPMAN *Hesiod's Georg.* I. 15 The slothfull man is like the sting-lesse Drone. 1724 DERHAM in *Phil. Trans.* XXXIII. 55 These sting-less Male Wasps. 1859 DARWIN *Orig. Spec.* iii. (1873) 59 In Australia the imported hive-bee is rapidly exterminating the small, stingless native bee. 1872 MINTO *Eng. Prose Lit.* I. i. 52 So playful and stingless is his humour.

Stingo (sti·ŋgo). *slang.* [f. STING *v.*¹ (in allusion to the sharp taste) + *-o*, perh. simulating a Sp. or Ital. ending.] Strong ale or beer.

a 1635 RANDOLPH *Hey for Honesty* II. vi, Come, let's in, and drink a Cup of stingo. 1665 BRATHWAIT *Comment Two Tales* 32 Returning with a large Quart of mighty Ale, that might compare with Stingo, for it would cut a Feather. 1756 *Connoisseur* No. 105 He would give me a cup of the best Yorkshire Stingo. 1826 *Sporting Mag.* XVII. 375 A glass of his Lordship's old Shropshire stingo. 1891 N. GOULD *Double Event* 307 Host Barnes had tapped a barrel of double stingo for the occasion.

attrib. 1810 *Splendid Follies* II. 157 My stingo cup.. was the horn of a d——d fine buffalo. 1861 *Bentley's Misc.* XLIX. 171 In prose fiction, too, has Thomas Hood turned out some stingo samples of storm-brewing. 1870 DISRAELI *Lothair* xxvii, Tea-gardens and stingo houses.

Sting ray. [STING *sb.*²]

Any fish of the genus *Trygon* or family *Trygonidæ*, esp. *Trygon pastinaca*. The long tapering tail is armed near the middle with a flattened sharp-pointed bony spine, serrated on both sides, capable of inflicting a severe wound.

1624 CAPT. SMITH *Virginia* II. 27 Stingraies, whose tailes are very dangerous. 1676 T. GLOVER *Acc. Virginia* in *Phil. Trans.* II. 625 There is also a fish called a Sting-ray, which much resembleth a Skate, only on one side of his tayl grows out a sharp bone like a bodkin about four or five inches long. 1881 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* V. 43 The Sting Rays form a large family, about twenty-four species of the genus Trygon being known.

Stingy (sti·ndʒi), *a.* Also 7 **stingie.** [Perh. f. STING *sb.*² or *v.*¹ + -Y.

On the assumption that the *sb.* represents OE. *styng*:—**stungi-*, the pronunciation (sti·ndʒi) is explicable. It is possible that some of the examples under sense 1 represent a distinct word, pronounced (sti·ŋi), which is still occasionally heard in colloquial use. For the current sense 4, cf. the dial. *skingy* of the same meaning (*Eng. Dial. Dict.*).]

1. Having a sting; stinging, sharp, virulent. Chiefly *fig.* of controversy, or the like. *Obs.*

c 1615 D'EWES *Jrnl.* (1783) 13 This discontent gave many satirical wits occasion to vent themselves into stingie libels, in which they spared neither [etc.]. 1654 TUCKNEY *Death disarmed* 41 But in particular would we not have our death too stingy, and its sting deadly. 1657 R. B[ADDILY] *Life Bp. Morton* (1669) 23 Those virulent and stingie Pamphlets. 1681 HICKERINGILL *News fr. Doctor's Comm.* 1 It is..vulgarly known, that the Waspish Swarms in Doctors Commons, have been as stinging as stingy against Mr. Hickeringil. 1682 — *Hist. Whiggism* I. 17, I know your meaning, Whigg, and your stingy Reflection and Innuendo. 1705 — *Priest-cr.* I. 17 The Sting of a Scorpion is not more fatal, more incurable, and more venemous than a stingy and enraged Priest, especially..when you meddle with the Craft by which he gets his Wealth.

Mod. colloq. Those are very stingy (sti·ŋi) nettles.

b. Of weather, etc.: Sharp, biting, cold. *dial.*

1823 E. MOOR *Suffolk Words* s.v., Sharp, unsettled weather, inclining to rain, would also be called stingy. 1893 in Cozens-Hardy *Broad Norf.* 14 'It dew fare wonerful stingy', says the rustic, when the wind is in the east.

2. Bad-tempered, irritable, peevish, cross. *dial.*

1787 [J. BEATTIE] *Scoticisms* 81 *Stingy*, in many parts of Scotland, conveys the notion of peevish, or captious. 1796 GROSE *Olio* 113 So, then stingy means peevish or touchy! *a* 1800 PEGGE *Suppl. Grose, Stingy*, cross, untoward. Norf. *c* 1800 *Earl of Boyn* xvii. in Child *Ballads* IV. 316 She turned her about wie a very stingy look. 1808 *Spec. Yorksh. Dial.* 30 My mam grows se stingy, she scauds, an' she fleeghts. 1823 E. MOOR *Suffolk Words, Stingy*, snappish—waspish—unruly—ill-tempered—quarrelsome. 1828 CARR *Craven Gloss., Stingy*, crabbed, ill-humoured.

†**3.** ? Narrow-minded, illiberal. *Obs.*

1694 PENN *Acc. Rise & Progr. Quakers* ii. 53 These things ..rendered this People Stingy and Conceited in such Persons Opinions. 1701 HOWE *Some Consid. Pref. Enquiry* 32 'Tis not to be let pass, that you, or your Author, industriously represent the Primitive English Puritans..as if they were generally of your stingy, narrow Spirit.

4. Of persons, actions, etc.: Niggardly, penurious, mean, close-fisted.

1659 T. PECKE *Parnassi Puerp.* 21 Courtiers I ask ye nothing: for ye are Stingy in giving. 1698 FRYER *Acc. E. India & P.* 162 He lavishes into Excesses not approved of by that stingy Tribe. 1707 HEARNE *Collect.* 27 Jan. (O.H.S.) I. 323 He was a stingy, niggardly Fellow. *a* 1770 JORTIN *Serm.* (1771) VII. xi. 213 Liberal in promises, and stingy in performances. 1838 LYTTON *Alice* IV. vi, Without being stingy, the admiral had a good deal of economy in his disposition. 1866 GEO. ELIOT *F. Holt* Introd. I. 12 He perhaps remembered the fathers of actual baronets, and knew stories of their extravagant or stingy housekeeping.

b. const. *of.*

1723 *Portland Papers* (Hist. MSS. Comm.) VI. 76 So very stingy and saving of their ground are these yeomen of Kent. 1771 N. NICHOLLS *Correspond. w. Gray* (1843) 121 If you knew the pleasure your letters give me, I think you would not be quite so stingy of them. 1885 MABEL COLLINS *Prettiest Woman* v, Who is she, to be so stingy of her smiles. 1893 J. A. SYMONDS *Michelangelo* I. ii. § 8. 83 He was never stingy of cash.

c. Betokening meanness; doled out sparingly or grudgingly.

1849 D. G. MITCHELL *Battle Summer* (1852) 250 Workmen too proud to buy such stingy dinner, snuff the fumes wishfully. 1865 TROLLOPE *Belton Est.* xvii. 193 With stingy breakfasts and bad dinners for herself. 1878 T. CUYLER *Pointed Papers* 103 Christ is put off with a stingy hour or two on the Sunday.

5. Scanty, poor in quantity or amount.

1854 Miss BAKER *Northampt. Gloss., Stingy*, thin, weak; applied to the hair of an animal. 1863 LONGF. *Wayside Inn, Birds of Killingworth*, When your teams Drag home the stingy harvest.

Stink (stiŋk), *sb.* Forms: 3–4 **stinc**, 4 **stenke**, **stinck**, **stync**, 4–5 **stynke**, 4–6 **stynk**, 4–7 **stinke**, 7 **stincke**, 4– **stink.** [f. the vb.

Perh. in some instances a dialectal variant of *stinch*: see STENCH *sb.* 3.]

1. A foul, disgusting, or offensive smell: = STENCH *sb.* 2.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 11860 þe roting þat him rennes vte, þe stinck þat ai es him a-bute, Ne mai na liueand man it thole. 1382 WYCLIF *Joel* ii. 20 The stynk of hym shal stye vp. *c* 1420 *Sir Amadace* (Camden) vi, Suche a stinke in the chapelle he hade, That dwelle ther he ne myȝte. 1562 TURNER *Herbal* II. 62 b, I am suere that the white laus tibi hath the stynk that Dioscorides speketh of. 1611 BIBLE 2 *Macc.* ix. 10 And the man that thought a little afore he could reach to the starres of heauen, no man could endure to carry for his intollerable stinke. 1674 BOYLE *Excell. Theol.* II. iii. 150 Why the smell of Castor or Assa Fœtida produces in most persons that which they call a stink rather than a perfume. 1727 POPE *Thoughts Var. Subj.* lxxv, A little Whiff of it [ambergrise]..is very agreeable; but when a Man holds a whole Lump of it to your Nose, it is a Stink. 1857 HUGHES *Tom Brown* II. iii, He had been kicking up horrid stinks for some time in his study. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* IV. 676 Hajek has detected in ozæna a short bacillus..which possesses the property of decomposing organic substances with the formation of a penetrating stink.

b. *fig.*

1673 BUNYAN *Differ. Judgm.* 8 The Persons..are now a stink, and reproach to religion.

2. Evil-smelling quality, offensive odour: = STENCH *sb.* 3.

c 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 2556 Summe he deden in vn-ðewed swinc, for it was fuȝel and ful o stinc. *c* 1366 CHAUCER *A. B. C.* 56 But if þou my socour bee To stink eterne he wole my gost exile. *c* 1440 *Alphabet of Tales* 171 Yitt sho mott not com att hur for stynk with-oute sho had at hur nece many wele-saueryng spycis. 1528 LYNDESAY *Dreme* 325 That myrke Mansioun is tapessit with stynk. 1608 ROWLANDS *Humors Looking Gl.* B 4 b, One of the damned crew that liues by drinke, And by Tobacco's stillified stink. 1745 SIR C. H. WILLIAMS in Jesse *Selwyn & Contemp.* (1843) I. 65 But when the first [cracker] went off she threw the rest on the tea-table, where, one after another, they all went off, with much noise and not a little stink. 1882 'OUIDA' *In Maremma* I. 184 There is so much stink of oil and sickly smell of silkworms.

b. *fig.*

1303 R. BRUNNE *Handl. Synne* 6518 The syxte synne ys glotonye; þat ys a shameful vyleynye þat men doun of mete and drynk, For ouermoche ys abominable & stynk.

3. *slang.* (See quots.)

1812 J. H. VAUX *Flash Dict.* s.v., When any robbery of moment has been committed, which causes much alarm, or of which much is said in the daily papers, the family people will say, there is a great stink about it. 1851 MAYHEW *Lond. Labour* I. 250 The newspapers..had raised before the eye and mind of the public, what the 'patterers' of his class proverbially call a 'stink',—that is, had opened the eyes of the unwary to the movements of 'Chelsea George'.

4. *pl.* University and Public School slang for Natural Science (originally, for Chemistry) as a subject of study or university examinations.

1869 'WAT. BRADWOOD' *O. V. H.* v, He had abandoned further classics in final schools, and was aiming sedulously at a class in 'stinks'. 1900 FARMER *Publ. Sch. Word-bk., Stinks* subs. (general).—Chemistry. Also as a nickname for a lecturer thereon. 1902 *Daily Chron.* 12 Nov. 7/1 The old public schools..look on Mathematics as "tics' and Natural Science as 'stinks,' presumably from the days when Chemistry was the only branch of Natural Science taught.

5. *Comb.*: **stink-ball**, a missile contrived for the purpose of emitting a suffocating vapour when thrown among the enemy (see quot. 1802); **stink berry** *U.S.*, the yellow buckthorn; **stink-bird**, the name in British Guiana for the Hoactzin, *Opisthocomus cristatus*; **stink brand** = *stinking smut*; **stink-bug** (see quots.); **stink bush**, (*a*) a species of star-anise (*Illicium floridanum*), a shrub growing in the southern United States (*Funk's Stand. Dict.* 1895); (*b*) *Austral.*, the rutaceous tree, *Zieria smithii*; **stink-cat** *S. African*, the zoril or mariput, *Zorilla striata*; **stink-fly**, a fly belonging to the genus *Chrysopa*; **stink gland**, a gland in certain animals producing a fetid secretion; **stink grass**, an ill-scented grass, *Eragrostis major*; **stink pheasant** = *stink-bird*; **stink quartz**, a variety of quartz, which emits a fetid odour when struck; **stink-rat** *U.S.* = STINK-POT 4 (*Cent. Dict.*); **stink-shad**, the mud-shad, *Dorosoma cepedianum*; **stink-trap** = *stench-trap*, STENCH *sb.* 5; **stink-tree**, (*a*) some tree native in Ceylon, having a disgusting odour; (*b*) *dial.* the name in the Isle of Wight for the guelder rose; **stink-turtle** = STINK-POT 4; **stinkwort** *Austral.*, a plant of the genus *Scrophularia*.

1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl., s.v. *Ball*, *Stink-balls, those which yield a great stench when fired to annoy the enemy. 1802 C. JAMES *Milit. Dict.* s.v. *Ball, Stink-balls* are prepared by a composition of mealed powder,..assa-fœtida, seraphimgum or ferula, and bug and stinking herbs. 1869–73 T. R. JONES *Cassell's Bk. Birds* III. 281 The Hoactzin, or *Stink Bird. 1891 *Century Dict.*, *Stink-bug*, any one of several malodorous bugs, particularly the common squash-bug, *Anasa tristis*, of the *Coreidæ*. 1902 L. O. HOWARD *Insect Bk.* 313 The stink-bugs and their allies. (Family *Pentatomidæ*.) 1899 RIDER HAGGARD *Swallow* 50, I have shammed dead like a *stink-cat when dogs are about. 1902 L. O. HOWARD *Insect Bk.* 222 *Chrysopidæ*,..sometimes..called *stink flies. 1887 F. G. HEATHCOTE in *Phil. Trans.* CLXXIX. II. 164 These organs..are the first pair of *stink glands. 1884 GOODE *Nat. Hist. Aquat. Anim.* 610 In the Chesapeake region it is known as the 'Mud-Shad', 'Winter Shad', or '*Stink Shad'. 1782 in *Abridgm. Specif. Patents, Drains & Sewers* (1874) 5 This machine or *stink trap is let into lead or any other sort of pipes. 1873 SPENCER *Study Sociol.* iii. (ed. 6) 67 Infecting gases that are kept out only so long as stink-traps are in good order. 1906 *Hasluck's Sanitary Conveniences & Drainage* xv. 151 A 'trap', or 'stink-trap', as it was formerly called, is [etc.]. 1795 *Thunberg's Trav.* IV. 234 The *stink-tree was called by the Dutch *Struit-hout*,..on account of its disgusting odour, which resides especially in the thick stem and the larger branches. 1842 BROMFIELD in *Phytologist* (1848) III. 421 *Viburnum Opulus*..is sometimes called stink-tree in this island [Isle of Wight]. 1890 *Kapunda Herald* 25 July 2/5 The following letter was received from Mr. J. McDougall ..regarding a sample of *stinkwort sent to him:—'This sample has been duly examined, and I am satisfied that it is useless as a raw material from which to make paper stock'. 1897 *Westm. Gaz.* 23 July 8/1 The Bill which has just been introduced into the New South Wales Parliament for the destruction of noxious weeds..has a scheduled list of weeds, including thistle, stinkwort, and several others.

Stink (stiŋk), *v.* Forms: 1 **stincan**, 3 **stinke-n**, 4 **stenk**, **stinc**, **stynke-n** (4–5 **sting**, **styng**, **styngk**), 4–6 **stynk**, 4–7 **stinke**, **stynkkyn**, 5–6 **stynke**, 6 **styncke**, 6–7 **stincke**, 4– **stink.** *Pa. t.* 1–4 **stanc**, **stonc**, 3–4 **stonk**, *pl.* **stunken**, 4–5 **stonke**, 4–7 **stanke**, 5 **stongke**, 6 **stonck**, **stunck**, 6–9 **stunk**, 7 **stunke**, 8– **stank**; weak forms 5 **stynkid**, 6 **stinckett**, **stynked.** *Pa. pple.* 5 **stonken**, 6 **stuncke**, 7– **stunk**; weak 5 **stynked.** [Com. WGer.: OE. *stincan* str. vb. = OFris. **stiunka* (WFris. *stjonke*), (M)Du., (M)LG. *stinken* (whence Sw. *stinka*, Da. *stinke*), OHG. *stinchan* (MHG., mod.G. *stinken*):—WGer. **stiŋkwan*, f. Teut. root **stiŋkw-* (:**staŋkw-*: **stuŋkw-*; see STENCH *sb.* and *v.*).

The root is coincident in form with that of Goth. *stiggan* to come into collision, ON. *stokkva* str. vb. (MSw. *stinka*, *stiunka*) to spring, leap, fly off, and the causative form Goth. *gastaggjan* to collide with, ON. *stokkva* wk. vb. (MSw. *stänkia*, mod.Sw. *stänka*) to cause to spring, sprinkle, OE. *stęncan* to scatter, disperse. The identity of the root is possible, but in view of the great diversity in meaning it cannot be positively asserted.]

†**1.** *intr.* To emit a smell or vapour of any kind; to smell (sweetly or otherwise). *Obs.*

c 725 *Corpus Gloss.* 895 *Flagrans*, stincendi. *c* 1000 ÆLFRIC *Gram.* XXXVII. (Z.) 220 Ic stince swote. *c* 1200 ORMIN 8794 To strawwenn gode gresess þær, þatt stunnkenn swiþe swete.

2. To emit a strong offensive smell; to smell foully. (In early examples, a contextual use of sense 1.) Const. *of.*

Now implying violent disgust on the part of the speaker; in ordinary polite use avoided as unpleasantly forcible.

c 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* II. 236 Eal se lichoma stincð fule. *c* 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 37 Dis oref..stincð fule for his golnesse. *c* 1200 ORMIN 4782 & all he toc forrþrihht anan To rotenn & to stinnkenn. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 326 Lazre þet stonc so long he hefde ileien i þer eorðe. *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (Roxb.) ii. 5 Þai trowed þat Cristez body schuld hafe stynked. *c* 1450 *Mirk's Festial* 84 How his brethe stinkyth. 1533 J. HEYWOOD *Johan* A j, I wolde bete her..that she shall stynke. 1535 COVERDALE *Exod.* viii. 14 The land stanke of them. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* I. i. 20 A floud of poyson..Which stuncke so vildly, that it forst him slacke His grasping hold. *a* 1632 DONNE *Poems, Elegy* iii. 31 Waters stincke soone, if in one place they bide. 1717 PRIOR *Alma* I. 51 When Cabbage stinks, or Roses smell. 1769 G. WHITE *Selborne, Let. to*

Pennant 30 Aug., I wish I had not forgot to mention the faculty that snakes have of stinking *se defendendo*. **1820** SHELLEY *Sensit. Pl.* III. 57 The dock, and henbane, and hemlock dank,..stifled the air till the dead wind stank. **1889** J. K. JEROME *Three Men* iv, The High Street stunk of oil. **1899** MARY KINGSLEY *W. Afr. Stud.* i. 3, I myself saw certainly not less than 70 crocodiles at one time, let alone smelling them, for they do swarm in places and stink always.

b. *fig.* To be offensive; to be abhorrent; to savour offensively *of* something. Phrase, to *stink in* (a person's) *nostrils*.

a **1225** *Ancr. R.* 138 Auh swuch sacrefise stinkeð to ure Louerd. **1303** R. BRUNNE *Handl. Synne* 8312 Þese twey cytees, boþe þey sank, For þey hadde ioye at synne þat stank. *c* **1450** *Mirk's Festial* 68 For oure forme synne stanke soo yn Godys nase, þat [etc.]. **1535** COVERDALE *Prov.* x. 7 The name of the vngodly shal stynke. **1608** SHAKS. *Per.* IV. vi. 145 He makes our profession as it were to stincke afore the face of the gods. **1612** *Benvenuto's Passenger* t. ii. 141 A false wicked tongue stinckes of an hereticall conscience, but what then? **1674** in *Verney Mem.* (1907) II. 359 To make me stincke in the nostrills of my ould associates. **1867** GOLDW. SMITH in Brodrick *Ess. Reform* 230 Reputed renegades, whose names stank in the nostrils of the party which they had left. **1886** STEVENSON *Dr. Jekyll* i, We told the man we could..make such a scandal out of this, as should make his name stink from one end of London to the other.

Prov. c **1386**, **1539** [see PROFFERED *ppl. a.*]

†**c.** *To stink out*: to go out with a stink. *Obs.*

a **1637** B. JONSON *Underwoods, Execr. Vulcan* 188 Or in the Bell-Mans Lanthorn, like a Spy, Burn to a Snuff, and then stink out and dye.

†**d.** *trans.* To smell offensively of. *Obs.*

a **1225** *Ancr. R.* 86 Þus þe ualse uikelare..wriеð hore fulðe so þæt heo hit ne muwen stinken...Vor ȝif heo hit stunken, ham wolde wlatien þer aȝean.

3. quasi-*trans.* with complement. *To stink to death*, to kill by emitting a bad smell. Chiefly *hyperbolical*.

1624 MIDDLETON *Game at Chess* v. iii, Hee would hazard to be stunk [*v.rr.* stung, strucke] to death. **1789** MRS. PIOZZI *France & Italy* I. 173 Chicken-coops, which stink one to death. **1835** BROWNING *Paracelsus* III. 443 Such a suffumigation as, once fixed, Had stunk the patient dead ere he could groan.

4. *trans.* To fill (an animal's earth) with suffocating fumes. Also, to drive (animals or persons) *out* of a place by stench or suffocating fumes.

1781 BECKFORD *Th. Hunting* (1802) 338 In open countries foxes, when they are much disturbed, will lie at earth. If you have difficulty in finding, stinking the earths will sometimes produce them again. *Ibid.*, Badgers..they may be caught by stinking them out of a great earth. **1860** READE *Cloister & Hearth* xliii. (1896) 125 Then with his own hands he let down by a rope a bag of burning sulphur and pitch, and stunk them out. **1880** *Brit. Med. Jrnl.* 7 Aug. 207/2 Treatment..to stink the [Guinea] worm out.

5. To cause to stink.

a **1300** *Sat People Kildare* xiv. in *E. E. P.* (1862) 155 Daþeit ȝur curteisie, ȝe stinkeþ al þe strete. **1733** W. ELLIS *Chiltern & Vale Farm.* 294 If its Leaf or Seed is rubbed, it will stink the Hands for four or five Hours. **1896** FLORA A. STEEL *Face of Waters* I. vi. (1903) 63 One dead fish stinks a whole tank.

6. Comb. in phr. used subst., as **Stink-alive**, the bib or pout, *Gadus luscus*.

1863 J. G. WOOD *Illustr. Nat. Hist.* III, 306 The Pout is graphically termed by the fishermen the Stinkalive, because it becomes putrid so soon after death.

Stinkard (stiˑŋkəɹd). Also 7 **stinckard**, **-erd**, **stinkarde**, 8 **stincard**. [f. STINK *v.* + -ARD.]

1. One who stinks. Formerly often used as a term of abuse. Now *rare* or *Obs.*

c **1600** *Timon* I. ii. (1842) 6 Out, out, thou stinckard, mans grand enemy.. **1601** B. JONSON *Poetaster* IV. i, The Gods were a sort of Goslinges, when they suffred so sweete a breath to perfume the bed of a stinkard. **1612** CHAPMAN *Widows' T.* I. i. C 3 b, Your vnapprehending Stinckerd is blest with the sole prerogatiue of his Wiues chamber. **1684** OTWAY *Atheist* I. i. 7 The most insufferable Stinkard living. **1700** CONGREVE *Way of World* IV. xi, Your Turks are infidels, and believe not in the grape: your Mahometan, your Mussulman is a dry Stinkard.

†**b.** See quot. **1777**. Also *attrib. Obs.*

1777 ROBERTSON *Hist. Amer.* IV. (1778) I. 344 Among the Natchez..Some families were reputed noble...The body of the people were considered as vile...The former were called Respectable; the latter the Stinkards. **1792** W. BARTRAM *Trav. Carolina* 464 Those numerous remnant bands or tribes..generally speak the Stincard language.

2. A name given to various ill-smelling animals.

1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* III. 380 The Stinkards. This is a name which our sailors give to one or two animals of the weasel kind, which are chiefly found in America. *Ibid.* IV. 80 [The musk rat] is denominated by them [the savages of Canada] the stinkard. **1822** SOUTHEY in *Q. Rev.* XXVI. 281 The stinkard, who it seems is a sure shot at five feet distance, retreated leisurely..and stopt when the unhappy Jesuit drew nigh. **1843** J. E. GRAY *List Mammalia Brit. Mus.* 69 The Stinkard or Teledu. *Mydaus meliceps*. Java.

3. A shark of the genus *Mustelus*.

1883 DAY *Fishes Gt. Brit.* II. 296 *Mustelus vulgaris*... Smooth-hound,..Stinkard, in Ireland, due to its colour.

4. = STINKER 5, STINK POT 3.

1850 SCORESBY *Cheever's Whalem. Adv.* iii. (1858) 40 Gonies, stinkards, horse-birds..had all many a good morsel of blubber.

†**Stiˑnkardly**, *a. Obs.* [f. STINKARD + -LY 1.] Stinking, disgusting, contemptible.

1609 B. JONSON *Epicœne* IV. ii, You notorious stinkardly Beareward, do's my breath smell? **1618** MYNSHUL *Ess. & Charact. Prison* 31 A rabble of such stinkardly companions, with whom no man of any reasonable fashion, but would scorne to conuerse.

Stinker (stiˑŋkəɹ). [f. STINK *v.* + -ER 1.] One who or something which stinks.

1. = STINKARD 1. *vulgar*.

1607 DEKKER & WEBSTER *North.w. Hoe* IV. i. F 1 b, I smelt out my noble stincker Greensheild in his Chamber. **1622** MASSINGER & DEKKER *Virg. Martyr* II. i. D i, This boone Bacchanalian stinker did I make legges to. **1898** *Daily News* 23 July 9/4 He had called her 'a stinker' and 'a stinking idiot.' **1911** WEBSTER, *Stinker* (slang), one who is disgustingly contemptible, a stinkard.

†**2.** A pot or jar containing a disinfectant. *Obs.*

1665 G. HARVEY *Disc. Plague* (1673) 154 The Air may be purified..by burning of Stinck pots or Stinckers, as they call them, in contagious Lanes.

3. Anything that emits an offensive smell. *vulgar*.

1898 *Westm. Gaz.* 29 Oct. 6/3 These gas cars were locally although vulgarly called 'Stinkers.' **1907** *Daily Chron.* 13 Aug. 2/7 Suppose I am compelled to smoke a cigar, I may purchase a few nasty penny 'stinkers,' and keep within the order of the restaurant edict.

4. *pl.* (See quot. 1841.) *local*.

1841 HARTSHORNE *Salop. Ant.* Gloss., *Stinkers*, Stinking-coal, a very inferior kind of coal which bears its title from the disagreeable smell of sulphur which it emits in burning.

5. A sailor's name for the giant fulmar (*Ossifraga gigantea*) and other ill-smelling petrels.

1896 NEWTON *Dict. Birds*, *Stinkpot*, *Stinker*, sailors' names for some of the Petrels. **1906** W. L. SCLATER *Stark's Birds S. Africa* IV. 475 *Majaqueus æquinoctialis*... Stinker' of Sealers and Whalers.

Stink-horn (stiŋkˌhɔ̄ɹn). [f. STINK *sb.* + HORN *sb.*] A name for various ill-smelling fungi.

1724 *Ray's Synopsis Meth. Stirpium Brit.* (ed. 3) 12 Fungus phalloides...This is known to all our Country People by the Name of Stinkhorns; *Dr. Richardson.* **1755** *Gentl. Mag.* XXV. 545 Being known in Yorkshire by the name of *Stink-horns.* **1882** J. SMITH *Dict. Pop. Names Plants* 393 Stink-horn, or Stinking Polecat, *Phallus impudicus* and *P. fœtidus*, fungi of the Lycoperdaceæ alliance...An allied species is *Clathrus cancellatus*, the Lattice Stink-horn.

†**Stiˑnkibus**, *slang. Obs.* Also **-ubus**. [f. STINK *sb.* + *-ibus* Latin ending of dat. pl.; cf. *circumbendibus, recumbentibus, muckibus.*] Bad liquor, esp. adulterated spirits.

1706 E. WARD *Wooden World Diss.* (1708) 99 He shall gulp ye down the rankest Stinkibus with as good a Gusto, as a Teague does Usquebaugh. **1721** SMOLLETT *Humph. Cl.*, 5 June, Let 'em have plenty of blankets, and stinkubus, and wampum. **1899** BARING-GOULD *Bk. of West* II. 276 Such deteriorated spirits were known amongst the coast-guardsmen as 'stinkibus.'

Stinking (stiˑŋkiŋ), *vbl. sb.* [-ING 1.] The action of the verb STINK; an instance of this.

a **1320** *Sir Tristr.* 1177 No man miȝt bi him stand For stinking of his wounde. *c* **1460** J. RUSSELL *Bk. Nurture* 302 in *Babees Bk.*, Þy tethe be not pikynge,..ne stynkynge of brethe on youre souerayne castynge. **1617** MORYSON *Itin.* I. 43 The waters dividing the streetes, slowly or not at all moved, are in this City..subject to stinking. **1822** SHELLEY *Scenes fr. Faust* ii. 213 What glimmering, spurting, stinking, burning.

Stinking (stiˑŋkiŋ), *ppl. a.* [-ING 2.]

1. That stinks; offensively smelling.

To cry stinking fish: see CRY *v.* 5 b.

c **1000** ÆLFRIC *Hom.* I. 86 Him stod stincende steam of ðam muðe. *c* **1200** ORMIN 8195 To strawwenn gode gresess ..Biforenn þatt stinnkennde lic. **1338** R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (1725) 177 Richard was hastif, & ansuerd þat stund, Certes þou lies cheitif, & as a stinkand hund. *a* **1400** *Prymer* (1895) 69 Lord, þat reisidist stynkynge lazar fro his graue, graunte hem reste! **1532** *Psalter of Jesus* [illegible] b, Thy grace lorde, ..defende me fro the stynkynge aungell and the spyryte of pestylence. **1604** JAS. I *Counterbl. Tobacco* (Arb.) 101 The loathsome, and hurtfull vse of this stinking Antidote. **1777** ROBERTSON *Hist. Amer.* IV. Wks. 1851 V. 348 A fire of stinking herbs is kindled underneath, so as he may..be involved in its smoke. **1899** *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VII. 602 Large stinking cholesteatomatous cavity in mastoid. **1908** C. BIGG *Orig. Chr.* xiv. (1909) 178 Many other of the captives died in that sunless, stinking dungeon.

Comb. **1604** F. T. *Case is Altered* C 3, Gagge toothed, slandering tongue, foh, stinking breathed. **1756** MRS. CALDERWOOD in *Coltness Collect.* (Maitl. Club) 117, I think she is a pert, stinking-like husy.

b. said of an odour.

1611 BIBLE *Eccl.* x. 1 Dead flies cause the oyntment of the Apothecarie to send foorth a stinking sauour. **1621** LODGE *Summary Du Bartas* I. 261 He yeeldeth a stinking smell.

c. Used as a vague epithet connoting intense disgust and contempt. Now only *vulgar*.

Very common in 14th–17th c.

a **1225** *Ancr. R.* 164 Auh hit, anonde meidelure, mei loosen his holinesse mid a stinkinde wil. *c* **1380** WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* III. 101 Stynkynge pryde. *c* **1450** *Mirour Saluacionn* (Roxb.) 149 Wasshe me out of bandes of my stynking synne vile. *c* **1530** *Songs, Carols*, etc. (1907) 111 Thou stynkyng coward! *a* **1564** BECON *Supplic.* Wks. III. 29 b, Banyshe out of the congregation that most vile & stincking Idol the Masse. **1684** OTWAY *Atheist* I. i. Where I..got no Meat, but such as the old *Succubus* his Wife bought at a stinking Price. **1710** HEARNE *Collect.* (O.H.S.) II. 351 A man of Parts, but a most vile, stinking Whigg. **1898** [see STINKER 1].

†**d.** quasi-*adv. Obs. rare.*

1589 NASHE *Martin Marprelate* Wks. (Grosart) I. 164 Their iests be so stinking stale, as you must holde your nose while you reade them. *a* **1661** HOLYDAY *Juvenal* (1673) 263 Half a silurus, which is now stinking-ripe.

Mod. Sc. (*vulgar*) I'd be stinkin' fond (to do something) = 'I should never think of it', 'I should certainly not'.

2. Special collocations: **stinking badger** = TELEDU (Cassell 1888); **stinking bird** = *stinkbird*; **stinking bug** = *stink-bug* (STINK *sb.* 5); **stinking bunt** = *stinking smut* (*Cent. Dict.* 1891); **stinking coal** *dial.* = STINKER 4; **stinking ill**, a disease of sheep; **stinking pheasant** = *stink pheasant* (Webster 1911); **stinking polecat**, one of the skunks or *Mustelidæ*; **stinking rust, smut**, a fungoid disease of plants.

1862 in Veness *El Dorado* (1866) App. 154 Eggs of Opisthocomus cristatus *Stinking bird, or Canje Pheasant. **1815** KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* viii. (1818) I. 231 Nothing can exceed the irritation caused by the *stinking bugs when they get into the hair or between the linen and the body. **1803** PLYMLEY *Agric. Shropsh.* 53 Brown rock, called the *stinking-coal rock. **1868** PARTON *Shropsh. Coal-Field* 4 The Stinking Coal, is noted for containing a great proportion of sulphuret of iron. *a* **1807** A. DUNCAN in *Prize Ess. Highl. Soc.* III. 364 On opening the body, it emits a strong sulphureous smell, characteristic of the disease; hence it is sometimes called the *stinking ill. **1791** SMELLIE *Buffon's Nat. Hist.* VII. 295 The Mouffettes, or *Stinking Polecats. **1861** *Chamb. Encycl.* II. 155/1 The disease in wheat..which is also called Smut-balls, Bunt, Pepper Brand, or *Stinking-Rust. **1891** *Century Dict.* s.v. *Smut*, The *stinking smut is caused by two species of fungus.

b. In many names of plants, as *stinking camomile, hellebore, horehound, iris, maidweed* (*mayweed, maythe*), *motherwort, nightshade*, for which see the sbs. Also **stinking ash**, box elder (Webster 1911); **stinking bean trefoil** (see quot.); **stinking Billy** or **Willie**, the common ragwort, *Senecio Jacobæa* (Eng. Dial. Dict.); **stinking Bob**, herb Robert, *Geranium Robertidnum* (ibid.); **stinking cedar**, any species of *Torreya*; **stinking Christopher**, various kinds of figwort, *Scrophularia* (E.D.D.); **stinking crane's bill** (see quot.); **stinking gladdon**, *Iris fœtidissima*; **stinking grass** = *stink grass*, STINK *sb.* 5 (W. 1911); **stinking gum**, an Australian gum tree (*Eucalyptus tereticornis*) whose leaves have a strong cimicine smell (ibid.); **stinking morel** = STINK-HORN; **stinking orach** = *stinking motherwort*; **stinking polecat** = STINK-HORN; **stinking Roger**, *Scrophularia* and other plants (E.D.D.); †**stinking tree** = *stink-tree* (*b*); **stinking trefoil** = *stinking bean trefoil*; **stinking weed**, (*a*) *Cassia occidentalis*; (*b*) *Senecio Jacobæa*; **stinking wood**, a name for various trees the timber of which has a fetid smell, esp. *Cassia occidentalis* and *Anagyris fœtida*; **stinking yew** = *stinking cedar*.

1816 T. GREEN *Univ. Herbal* I. 94/1 *Anagyris Fœtida*, *Stinking Bean Trefoil,..grows wild in France, Spain, [etc.]. **1866** *Treas. Bot.* s.v. *Cedar*, *Stinking Cedar, *Torreya taxifolia*. **1857** ANNE PRATT *Flower. Pl.* II. 40 *Geranium Robertianum* (*Stinking Crane's-bill or Herb Robert). **1597** GERARDE *Herbal* I. xxxvii. 53 *Stinking Gladdon hath long narrow leaues like Iris, but smaller. **1670** RAY *Catal. Plant. Angl.* 84 Cotula fœtida...*Stinking Mayweed or Maithes. **1777** J. LIGHTFOOT *Flora Scotica* II. 1044 *Phallus impudicus*..*Stinking Morel. **1597** GERARDE *Herbal* II. xlii. 258 *Stinking Orach is called of Cordus *Garosmus*, bicause it smelleth like stinking fish. **1874** *Treas. Bot.* Suppl. 1344/2 *Stinking Polecat, *Phallus impudicus*. **1681** GREW *Museum* II. § i. i. 180 Part of an Arm of the *Stinking-Tree. **1548** TURNER *Names Herbes* 12 Anagyris..maye be called *stynkynge trifoly in englishe, or beane tree. **1756** P. BROWNE *Jamaica* 224 *Stinking-weed. This plant is very common about Kingston. **1777** J. LIGHTFOOT *Flora Scot.* II. 1132 *Senecio Jacobæa*..The stinking weed. **1793** J. TRAPP tr. *Rochon's Voy. Madagascar* Prelim. Disc. p. xxviii, Tacamacca, *stinking-wood, and ever so many other valuable trees. **1862** E. BALFOUR *Timber Trees India* etc. 77 *Chee Neb* Burm. Stinking Wood. Eng. **1866** *Treas. Bot.*, *Torreya*, a genus of *Taxaceæ*, to which the name of *Stinking Yews has been given.

Stinkingly (stiˑŋkiŋli), *adv.* [f. STINKING *ppl. a.* + -LY 2.] In a stinking manner.

1545 ELYOT *Dict.*, *Rancide*, aduerbe, stynkyngly. **1603** SHAKS. *Meas. for M.* III. ii. 28 Canst thou beleeue thy liuing is a life, So stinkingly depending? **1667** H. MORE *Div. Dial.* II. xviii. (1713) All these would have infinitely a worse Scent to our Souls, than this which you say is so stinkingly evil can have to our Noses. **1727** BAILEY vol. II, *Fulsomly*, stinkingly, loathsomly, nastily.

Stinkingness (stiˑŋkiŋnės). [f. STINKING *ppl. a.* + -NESS.] The quality of being stinking.

1382 WYCLIF *Lev.* xviii. 19 To the womman that suffreth flux of blood thow shalt not goo, ne opne the stynkyngnes of hir. **1631** *Celestina* ix. 106 This [wine] takes away the stinkingnesse of the breath. **1886** *United Ireland* 24 Apr. 4/6 The black, sticky, stinkingness of coal tar.

Stiˑnk-pot. [f. STINK *sb.* + POT *sb.*, after Du. *stinkpot.*]

†**1.** = STINKER 2. *Obs.* **1665** [see STINKER 2].

2. A hand-missile charged with combustibles emitting a suffocating smoke, used in boarding a ship for effecting a diversion while the assailants gain the deck.

1669 STURMY *Mariner's Mag.* I. ii. 20 Ply your Hand-Granadoes and Stink-Pots. **1798** Z. MACAULAY in Visctess. Knutsford *Life & Lett.* (1900) 185 She was prepared with stink-pots for boarding. **1875** KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.*, *Stink-pot*, a vessel used by the Chinese and Malay pirates to throw on board a vessel to suffocate the crew. **1906** *Westm. Gaz.* 24 Mar. 10/2 A piratical fleet closed round her, threw a stinkpot into the engine-room, and overpowered the crew.

Comb. **1704** SWIFT *Batt. Bks.* Misc. (1711) 242 Paracelsus brought a Squadron of Stink-Pot-Flingers from the snowy Mountains of Rhœtia.

transf. **1748** SMOLLETT *Rod. Random* xi, I'll teach you to empty your stink-pots on me. **1913** J. G. FRAZER *Golden Bough* VI. *Scapegoat* iii. 133 The girls discharge their stink-pots in the faces of their adversaries.

fig. 1738 WARBURTON *Div. Legat.* I. Ded. p. xxii, Your Scurrilities, those Stink-pots of your offensive War. 1778 WARNER in Jesse *Selwyn & Contemp.* (1844) III. 317 Venice is a stink-pot, charged with the very virus of hell! 1807 J. KING (*title*) The Beauties of the Edinburgh Review, alias, the Stink-pot of Literature.

3. A sailor's name for a petrel. Cf. STINKER 5. Also, in S. Africa, applied to the Sooty Albatross, *Phœbetria fuliginosa*, and the Cape hen, *Majaqueus æquinoctialis* (Pettman *Africanderisms*).

1865 *Hardwicke's Sci.-Gossip* 1 Oct. 239/1 The Stink-pot of sailors is the Black Petrel (*Procellaria æquinoctialis*, L.).

4. A name given to the musk turtle, *Cinosternum odoratum* or *Aromochelys odorata*.

1844 J. E. GRAY *Catal. Tortoises* etc. *Brit. Mus.* 34 The Stink-Pot. Kinosternon odoratum. 1903 *Nature* 1 Oct. 531/2 Fourteen Stink-pot Terrapins.

Stinkstone. *Min.* [f. STINK *sb.* + STONE *sb.* After G. *stinkstein*, which is sometimes used in Eng.] A name given to various limestones which give out a fetid odour on being scratched or struck.

1804 R. JAMESON *Min.* I. 521 Stink Stone... Colour is wood brown, 1823 W. PHILLIPS *Introd. Min.* (ed. 3) 156 Swine-stone, or Stinkstone,..gives out a strong fetid odour when scraped. [1856 PAGE *Adv. Text-bk. Geol.* xii. 141 Others, when rubbed..emit a highly fetid odour, and are well known as 'stinksteins' and 'swinestones'.] 1859 BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.* (ed. 2) 451 *Stinkstone*, swinestone, a variety of carbonate of lime, which emits a fetid odor on being struck.

Stinkweed. [f. STINK *sb.* + WEED *sb.* Cf. WFlem. *stinkwied*, the stinking camomile.]

a. The cruciferous plant *Diplotaxis muralis*.

1793 in Britten *Old Country Words* (E.D.S.) 110 The farmers here [Kingsgate, Kent]..have, on account of its very offensive smell, given it the name of stink-weed. *a* 1824 HOLDICH *Ess. Weeds Agric.* (1825) 57 Sand Mustard, Isle of Thanet Stink-weed (*Sinapis muralis*). 1884 W. MILLER *Plant-n.* 130.

b. *U.S.* The Thorn Apple, *Datura Stramonium*.

1804 C. B. BROWN tr. *Volney's View Soil U.S.* 69 *note*, These banks, and all the slopes along the Ohio, abound with the stramoneum (stink-weed), which is said to have been brought hither accidentally from Virginia. 1859 BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.* (ed. 2) 219 Jamestown weed... The Thorn Apple (*Datura stramonium*). Its Northern name is Stinkweed.

Stinkwood. [f. STINK *sb.* + WOOD *sb.*, partly after Du. *stinkhout*.] A name given in certain colonies to various trees the wood of which has an unpleasant odour; the wood of any of these trees.

1731 MEDLEY *Kolben's Cape Gd. Hope* II. 260 The Stink-wood tree grows to the size of an oak. 1827 HELLYER in *Bischoff's Van Diemen's Land* (1832) 175 The timber in this district I found to be principally myrtle, sassafras, and stinkwood. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1100/2 *Stinkwood*, the useful wood of *Oreodaphne bullata*, which has a most unpleasant odour lasting for a long time. Also that of *Fœtidia mauritiana* and *Zieria macrophylla*. 1882 J. SMITH *Dict. Pop. Names Plants* 240 Laurel, Cape of Good Hope (*Laurus bullata*)..well known in the Cape Colony as Stinkwood. 1898 *Daily News* 13 May 7/3 From South Africa come feather Court dresses, a stinkwood walking stick [etc.]. 1898 MORRIS *Austral. Eng.* 439 *Stinkwood*... In Tasmania..the timber of *Zieria smithii*, Andr., N. O. *Rutaceæ*.

Stint (stint), *sb.*[1] Forms: α. 4–6 **stynt**, (5 **styntt**), 5–6 **stynte**, (6 **styntte**), 5–7 **stinte**, 4– **stint**. β. 4– **stent**. [f. STINT *v.*

In certain senses this sb. seems to have coalesced with the etymologically unrelated STENT *sb.*[1] Cf. the similar confusion noted under STINT *v.*]

I. The action of the verb STINT.

†1. Cessation of action or motion, pause, stay. Phrase, *to make a stint*: to stop. *Withouten stint, but stint* (Sc.): without stopping, unceasingly. *Obs.*

α. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 12977 Þat warlau him in armes hint, And bar him forth wit-vten stint. *c* 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 6815 Made þey neuere stynt ne stal Tyl þey come to þe Romayns wal. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* II. 140 And syne, for-owtyn langir stynt, The horss he sadylt hastely. 1430–40 LYDG. *Bochas* VI. i. (1554) 144 b, Whan Fortune had said her wil..Made a stint, and sobrely stode still, Iohn Bochas sate & heard [etc.]. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* X. 286 Fra forgyt steyll the fyr flew out but stynt. 1576 FLEMING *Panopl. Epist.* Epitome A ij, As of Trees,..Birdes, Beastes, yea and Men, there is a degree in growing, a stint or staying, and a diminishing. 1594 MARLOWE *Dido* IV. ii, And I will ..drop out both mine eyes in drisling teares, Before my sorrowes tide haue any stint. 1613 JACKSON *Creed* I. 19 True Christian beliefe admits no stint of growth in this life, but still comes nearer and nearer to that euidencie of knowledge.

β. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 17700 And bi þe hand þan he me hent, And forth me brogt, wit-vten stent. *c* 1400 *Sc. Trojan War* II. 578 After þe forme of sacrament Swore in old tyme wyt-outen stent.

†b. *Hunting.* A check or stop in the running of hounds owing to the loss of the scent; chiefly in the phrases *to be on* (*a*) *stint, to fall upon stint. Obs.*

c 1400 *Master of Game* (MS. Digby 182) i, The other rennyth goynge aboute and then abideth, wherfore the houndes ben þe ofter on stint. *Ibid.* xxxiii, It were goode to assigne somme of þe horsemen amonge þe relayes to helpe þe more redely þe houndes, if þei falle vpon stynte. *Ibid.*, If so be þat þe houndes haue enboysed, or be ouershete, or þat þe be on a stynte be any oþer wyse, what hunter..þat perceueth it first, shulde blowe þe stynte.

2. Limitation, restriction.

†a. with respect to mode of action. *Obs.*

1593 NASHE *Christ's T.* 47 Whereas God stinted him, what Trees and fruites he should eate on, and goe no further, hee [the Serpent] entist him to breake the bondes of that stint. 1610 BP. HALL *Apol. Brownists* xxxvii. 93 If stinting our prayers be a fault..it is well that the Lords prayer it selfe beareth vs company... To denie that it may be vsed intirely in our Sauiours wordes, is..a fanaticall curiousnesse: yeelde one and all; for if the matter be more diuine, yet the stint is no lesse faulty. 1614 — *Contempl.* II. vii. 318 It had beene as easie for the Angell to strike Balaam, as to stand in his way..: But euen the good Angels haue their stints, in their executions. 1633 HERBERT *Temple, Praise* (No. 3) iv. 152 Angels must have their joy, Devils their rod, the sea his shore, The windes their stint..

b. with reference to amount, quantity, or degree. *Without stint*: with no fixed limit of amount, unstintedly.

In this phrase the sb. now tends to be interpreted in sense 2 c.

1651 HOBBES *Leviathan* I. xvi. 82 Every man..owning all the actions the Representer doth, in case they give him Authority without stint. 1675 — *Odyss.* (1677) 120 The gods do call it moly, And gather it, who have no stint of might. 1797 BURKE *Regic. Peace* iii. Wks. 1808 VIII. 420 Its armies, its navies, are given to them without stint or restriction. 1844 DISRAELI *Coningsby* VII. ii, Each poured forth his mind without stint. 1876 J. G. HOLLAND *Seven Oaks* xix, His wife and children had money lavished on them without stint. 1888 BRYCE *Amer. Commw.* II. II. xlvii. 212 But in all Congress may exercise without stint its power to override the statutes passed by a Territorial legislature.

c. Excessive restriction in the supply of anything, esp. of the necessaries or comforts of life; the condition of being kept scantily supplied.

1820 SCOTT *Fam. Lett.* 26 July, It can never be my wish ..that you should feel any stint. 1843 LYTTON *Last Bar.* I. v, Of furniture there was a woeful stint. 1863 GEO. ELIOT *Romola* I. ix, He..to whom life had hitherto had some of the stint and subjection of a school. 1881 EMMA R. PITMAN *Mission Life in Greece* 285 There was no need for stint where supplies were always at hand.

3. The putting a mare to the stallion. Cf. STINT *v.*

1764 *Museum Rust.* II. lxxix. 276 Inn-keepers, or jockeys, who can..by publishing a high premium for a stint, make the horse in their possession very famous.

II. Limited or fixed amount.

4. An allotted amount or measure; a prescribed or customary portion; an allowance. Now *rare* or *Obs.* (exc. as in b). Cf. sense 7.

a. c 1485 *Digby Myst.* (1882) II. (*Mary Magd.*) 1807, I gyff yow be-syde yower styntt, Eche of yow a marke for yower wage. 1555 WATREMAN *Fardle Facions* I. vi. 84 Thei come to the Graues of their kyndreade, and there when they haue praied their stinte, laye them doune..to slepe. 1574 T. NEWTON *Health Mag.* D iij, So that the thyng it self be neither ouercharged with to much, nor yet debarred from that stinte and sufficiencie that is needefull. 1570–6 LAMBARDE *Peramb. Kent* 125 Fiue and twentie were continually to watche and warde within the Castell for their seuerall stintes of time. 1620 SHELTON *2nd Pt. Don Quix.* lix. 398 The Beasts hee carried to the Stable, and gaue them their stint. *a* 1623 FLETCHER *Love's Cure* II. i, Put me to a certain stint Sir, allow me but a red herring a day. 1633 BP. HALL *Hard Texts, O. T.* 15, I will therefore set him a stint of yeares, before his common destruction. 1663 PEPYS *Diary* 24 Dec., I hope before I go I shall set myself such a stint as I may not forget myself. 1690 DRYDEN *Amphitryon* II. ii, Take back your seventy years, (the stint of Life). 1704 SWIFT *T. Tub* v. 122 Forty or fifty Pages of Preface and Dedication, (which is the usual Modern Stint). 1791 COWPER *Odyss.* VIII. 477 Wisdom beyond the common stint I mark In this our guest. 1809 MALKIN *Gil Blas* VIII. v. (Rtldg.) 287 There was..a scanty breakfast set out,..I never knew what it was to exceed this stint during the day.

β. 1447 BOKENHAM *Seyntys, Eliz.* (Roxb.) 277 Thow she ..Constreynyd wer to bedde yet in no degre Tyl hyr stent wer seruyd [*sc.* the omitted orisons were said] she ne wolde slepe.

b. *One's stint*: an amount which one has resolved not to exceed.

1603–26 BRETON *Poste Mad Lett.* (Grosart) 9/1 For aparell, I will keepe my stint, and care for no fond fashion. 1683 H. SAVILE *Let. 3 May* in M. Morrison *Catal. Autographs* (1892) VI. 80 There I lost last night my twenty guinnyes, wch is my stint. 1732 SWIFT *Let. to Gay* 4 May, My stint [of wine] in company is a pint at noon, and half as much at night. 1824 MISS MITFORD *Village* I. 230 Three rubbers were our stint; and we were often game and game in the last before victory declared itself. 1846 MRS. GORE *Eng. Char.* (1852) 60, I can't afford half-crowns every day. A shilling is my stint for such jobs.

†c. *To live at stint*: to live at a fixed rate of expenditure. *Obs.*

1681 OTWAY *Soldiers Fortune* IV. i, I do not enjoy my self with that freedom I wou'd do, there is no more pleasure in living at stint, then there is in living alone.

5. A measure, rate, gauge of amount, price, size, etc. fixed by authority. Chiefly in the phrases *to set*, etc. *at one stint, to appoint, set a stint.*

a. 1485 *10th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. v. 320 In case that hydes come to an heigher or a lougher price than they bene nowe, that then the Maire..shal sett the saide crafte att one stynte accordynge to rayson. 1568 GRAFTON *Chron.* II. 168 The standard of the ounce was euer at one stynt, although the valuation of coynes altered. *a* 1600 HOOKER *Eccl. Pol.* VII. xxiii. § 11 Convenient it was to provide that there might be a moderate stint appointed to measure their expenses by. 1601 J. WHEELER *Treat. Comm.* 57 There is a stint, and reasonable proportion allotted, and set..what quantite..euery man may ship out. 1611 CORYAT *Crudities* 137 But belike there is a limitation of the summe that is owed; for that if the summe..be aboue the stint, he shall not be released. 1715 N. BLUNDELL *Diary* (1895) 133 Severall Stints were set for the better Regulating the Affairs of the Parish. 1794 A. YOUNG *Agric. Suffolk* 78 A child's stint..for beaiding nets..is four-pence a day.

β. 1606 HOLLAND *Suetonius* 54 The number of Senatours growing still to a shameful and confused company..he reduced to the auncient stent [L. *modum*].

fig. 1534 MORE *Dial. agst. Trib.* I. Wks. 1152/2 Both for release and reward, tempored after such rate as his..wysedome shal se conuenient for vs: wherof our blynde mortality can not here imagine nor deuyse the stynt. 1534 — *Treat. Passion* Wks. 1290/2 God..limited of his owne wisedome and goodnes, after what rate and stynt, the commoditie therof shoulde be employed vppon vs.

†b. Usual or customary measure. *Obs.*

1664 POWER *Exp. Philos.* II. 90 The Quicksilver will fall down to its wonted pitch and stint of 29. inches. 1733 CHEYNE *Eng. Malady* III. iv. (1734) 354 My Appetite and Digestion return'd to their usual Stint towards my new Food. 1747 J. RELPH *Misc. P.* 121 The snow has left the fells and fled..And to their stint the becks are fawn.

6. The limited number of cattle, according to kind, allotted to each definite portion into which pasture or common land is divided, or to each person entitled to the right of common pasturage; also, the right of pasturage according to the fixed rate.

a. 1569 in W. H. Turner *Select. Rec. Oxford* (1880) 327 Portemeade: Rate and Stynte of Cattell. *Ibid.*, Stynt to be kept for Cattell in Portmead... The Baillies..shall yerely oversee that every man shall kepe his stynt of beastes in Port meade. 1597 *Pain Roll of Manor of Scawby, Lincs.* (MS.), None within this Lordshippe shall keepe but for every Oxgange 40 sheepe..accordinge to the old Stinte, in paine of x*s*. 1687 in *Croke's Case of Otmoor* (1831) 37 And if any take in joicement sheep, they shall not exceed the number of their stint in the townships. 1785 *Woodmansey Inclosure Act* 2 Proprietors..enjoy common of pasture..by a certain determinate stint. 1844 *Min. Evid. Sel. Comm. Commons' Inclosure* 26 By a stint, I mean the right of pasturage for one animal, or for a certain number of animals, according to age, size, and capability of eating. 1869 *Spectator* 17 Apr. 472/1 It was desirable to utilize..that portion of the soil of England which was lying unenclosed, and subject to all manner of rights of common, turbary, stints, and the like.

β. 1437 *Dunfermline Reg.* (Bannatyne Club) 285 The land liand betuix the estir oxgang and the orchard..[be] comon to bath the partis. Alsua bath þe partis sel kepe lauchful stent and noth excede. 1842 *Q. Jrnl. Agric.* XII. 52 In the oldest plantations, his young cattle were going to four times the stents the land had ever kept before it was so planted.

b. *gen.* Any kind of limitation of right of pasturage.

1766 BLACKSTONE *Comm.* II. iii. 34 All these species, of pasturable common, may be and usually are limited as to number and time; but there are also commons without stint, and which last all the year.

7. An allotted portion of work; a definite task. *To work by stint* (see quot. 1891).

a. a 1530 HEYWOOD *Weather* (Brandl) 447 No water haue we to grynde at any stynt. *c* 1566 *Merie Tales of Skelton* in *Skelton's Wks.* (1843) I. p. lxvi, They wanted of their mele, and complained..that they could not make their stint of breade. 1683 MOXON *Mech. Exerc., Printing* xxiv. P 15 The First [Press-man] takes his choice to Pull or Beat the agreed stint first. 1749 BERKELEY in Fraser *Life* viii. (1871) 320 Their stint, on account of health, is an hour and half a day for painting. 1803 T. NETHERTON in *Naval Chron.* XV. 314 The Caulkers..are employed by stint on new work. 1866 CARLYLE *Remin.* (1881) I. 285 Here..I..took to doing 'German Romance' as my daily work, 'ten pages daily' my stint. 1891 *Labour Commission* Gloss. *s.v.*, If a man is engaged to work for eight hours, and a certain quantity of work given him to perform in that time, he is said to be working by stint. 1904 KIPLING *Traffics & Discov.* 369 They were letting in the water for the evening stint at Robert's Mill,

β. 1773 R. FERGUSSON *Farmer's Ingle* ix, Yet frae the russet lap the spindle plays Her e'ening stent reels she as weel's the lave. 1789 ROSS *Helenore* I. (ed. 3) 49 Their stent [1768 task] was mair than they cou'd well mak out. 1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* III. 754 On shifting the workers from one stent to another. 1887 *Kentish Gloss., Stent*, a word used by the oyster dredgers in North Kent, to denote that amount or number of oysters, fixed by the rules of their association, which they may dredge in one day. 1898 E. P. EVANS *Evol. Ethics* V. 176 Spinoza had to secure his subsistence by grinding his stent of lenses before he could gratify his love of philosophy.

b. *Mining.* (See quots.)

a. 1850 OGILVIE, *Stint*...In coal mines, a measure of work two yards long by one broad, which each miner clears before he removes to another place. 1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coalmining, Stint.* I. (Midland.) A measure of length by which colliers hole and cut coal...*a*. (Gloucestershire.) A certain number of trams filled per man per day. 3. (South Staffordshire.) A collier's day's work. 1888 *Daily News* 5 Oct. 2/5 The minimum wages was fixed at 3*s*. 4*d*. per day or stint for thick-coal men.

β. 1864 *Daily Tel.* 26 Oct., What is termed a day does not represent a day's work..but a certain cubical quantity of coal known as a 'stent'.

†c. As advb. accusative: In fulfilment of an appointed task. *Obs.*

1618 R. BOLTON *Florus* II. vi. (1636) 98 That most dangerous Captaine having..markt..where..the Easterne winde blew stint as it were [L. *quasi ad constitutum*].

8. Prescribed, destined, or customary limit.

†a. of spatial extension or progress. Also, destination or goal of a journey. *Obs.*

a. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* V. ix. I. 98 The ordinarie heighth of it is sixteene cubites. Vnder that gage the waters overflow not all. Above that stint, they are a let and hinderance. 1618 RALEGH *Rem.* (1644) 114 You are now imbarked in your final voyage, and not far from the stint and period of your course. 1690 LOCKE *Hum. Und.* II. xiii. § 5 This Power of repeating, or doubling any Idea we have of any distance,..without being ever able to come to any stop or stint.

β. 1509 BARCLAY *Shyp of Folys* 18 If thou be dampned, than art thou at thy stent. 1563 SACKVILLE *Induct. Mirr. Mag.* vi, Erythius that in the cart fyrste went Had euen nowe attaynde his iourneyes stent.

†b. of duration. *Obs.*

1587 T. HUGHES *Misfort. Arthur* I. ii. 75 *Fron.* How can

you then attempt a fresh offence? *Guen.* Who can appoint a stint to her offence? 1596 SPENSER *Astrophel, Mourn. Thestylis* 51 No humble speech nor mone, may moue the fixed stint Of destinie or death. 1620 QUARLES *Feast for Worms* viii. G 4 b, The stint of Niniuey was forty dayes, To cry for grace, and turne from euill wayes. 1633 Bp. HALL *Hard Texts, O. T.* 144 God keeps the stint of their life secret from them. *a* 1659 Bp. BROWNRIG *Serm.* (1674) I. iv. 62 Satan set a stint to Job's suffering. 1693 EVELYN *De La Quint. Compl. Gard., Kefl. Agric.* 68 Every Plant has a peculiar, determinate, certain, and infallible Stint or Term, for the Beginning and Duration of its Action.

† **c.** of expansion or increase. *Obs.*

1598–1603 STOW *Surv.* (1908) II. 205 The number of the Citizens..farre exceedeth proportion of Hippodamus, which appoynted 10000 and of others which haue set downe other numbers, as meete stintes in theyr opinions to bee well gouerned. 1606 BRVSKETT *Civil Life* 192 For that mans desires had their determinate stint, wheras Alexanders increased stil, the more he enlarged his dominions. 1645 MILTON *Colast.* 12 A man..puft up with no luck at all, above the stint of his capacity. 1729 BUTLER *Serm.* Wks. 1874 II. 140 Every one of our passions and affections hath its natural stint and bound.

9. (See quot.)

1792 G. CARTWRIGHT *Jrnl. Labrador* I. Gloss. p. xv, *Stint*, the dam made by beavers across a stream, to raise the water to a height convenient for their purpose.

10. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *stint allowance*; **stint-holder**, a holder of a stint of pasture; **stint-holer** *Mining* (see quot.); † **stint-key** (? *nonce-wd.*), a key which checks the supply (of ale); in quot. *fig.*

a 1814 *Sailors' Ret.* I. vii. in *New Brit. Theatre* II. 328 British sailors shall find there's no *stint allowance at Growl-Hall. 1894 *Carlisle Patriot* 4 May 3/7 (Cumbld. Gloss.) The annual meeting of *stintholders:..was held at the Wheatsheaf Inn. 1891 *Labour Commission* Gloss., **Stint-holer*, the man who undercuts the coal by 'piece'. 1827 C. WEBBE *Harvest-Home* iv, And the quaint and jocund tale Takes the *stint-key from the ale.

Stint (stint), *sb.*[2] Also 5–6 **stynt(e, 6 styntt.** *β.* 6 **stent.** [Of obscure origin.] A common name for any of the smaller Sandpipers (genus *Tringa*), esp. the Dunlin. Also a provincial name for the Sanderling (*Calidris arenaria*).

a. 1466 *Introniz. Abp. Nevell* in Leland *Collect.* (1774) II. 6 Quayles and Styntes rost. 1519 in *Archæologia* XXV. 422, iij Plovers, iij Spowes, & iij Stynts. 1521–2 *Durh. Household Bk.* (Surtees) 129, 6 dd stynts, 12 d. 1½ dd dunlyngs, 6d. 1622 DRAYTON *Poly-olb.* XXV. 339 For near this batning Isle [Axholme], in me is to be seen..The Puet, Godwin, Stint, the palate that allure. 1688, 1774, 1837 [see PURRE[1]]. 1893 in Cozens-Hardy *Broad Norf.* 49 There's a rare mess of stints on Breydon sometimes. 1902 C. J. CORNISH *Naturalist on Thames* 245 Canvey Island...Stints ..were tting everywhere on the mud and ooze.

β. 1579 Stent [see STAMPINE].

b. With distinguishing prefix (see quots.).

1843 YARRELL *Brit. Birds* II. 643 The Little Sandpiper, or Little Stint..goes through seasonal changes of colour in its plumage. 1848 C. A. JOHNS *Week at Lizard* 331 Temminck's Stint (*Tringa Temminckii*).—Very rare. 1898 MORRIS *Austral Eng.* 439 The Australian species are Curlew Stint *Tringa subaruata*, Gmel. Little Stint *T. ruficollis*. Sharp-tailed Stint *T. acuminata*, Horsf.

Stint (stint), *v.* Forms *α.* 1 **stintan**, 3 *Ormin* **stinntenn**, 3–5 **stunt**, (3 **stunte**, 5 **stonte**), 4–6 **stynte, stinte**, (4 **stynt, t, 5 styntte**), 4–7 **stynt**, 3–**stint**; *β.* 3–7 **stente**, 4–**stent**. *Pa. t.* (contracted forms); *α.* 3 **stunte**, 4 **stinte**, 4–5 **stynt(e, stint**; *β.* 3–5 **stent(e.** *Pa. pple.* (contracted forms); *α.* 3 **stint**, 4 **stunt**, 1-**stunt**, y-**stynt**, 1-**stynt**, **stynte**, 4–6 **stynt**, 5 **stinte**; *β.* 5 **stente.** [OE. *styntan* to blunt, dull; the simple vb. occurs only once (in *Corpus Gl.*, rendering L. *hebetare*), but cf. the compounds *ástyntan*, to blunt, dull, to check, stop (ME. ASTINT *v.*), *ætstyntan* to blunt (teeth), make ineffective (ME. ATSTUNT *v.*), *forstyntan* to blunt. The OE. verb corresponds formally to OScandinavian **stynta* (MSw. *stynta*, OIcel. *stytta*) to shorten :–OTeut. type **stuntjan*, f. **stunto-* adj. (OE. *stunt* stupid, foolish, MHG. *stunz* stumpy, MSw. *stunt-er*, OIcel. *stutt-r* short, scanty: cf. STUNT *a.* and *v.*). It is uncertain whether the ME. and mod. E. senses of the vb. are developed from unrecorded senses in OE., or are due to Scandinavian influence.

In certain uses this vb. closely approaches in meaning the etymologically unrelated STENT *v.*[1] Apparently some confusion has taken place between the two verbs, and as the phonetic variants *stent*, *stint* are common to both, it is sometimes doubtful to which verb a particular use belongs.]

I. To cut short, cease, stop.

1. *intr.* To cease action; to leave off (doing something); to desist, forbear. Now only *arch.* and *dial.* Const. † *of, in,* † *fro,* and *to* with inf.

a. c 1200 ORMIN 12844 þatt menn þa shulldenn blinnenn, & stanndenn stille, & stinntenn þa To þewwtenn Godd tatt wise. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 202 Þe ueorðe hweolp is Idelnesse: þet is, hwo se stunt mid alle. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 1740 Of his precheing þan con he stint. *Ibid.* 26059 If he ne had of his folis stint.. *c* 1305 *Land Cokayne* 99 Þer beþ briddes..þat stinteþ neuer by har miȝt Miri to sing dai and niȝt. 13.. *Bonaventura's Medit.* 878 Fro wepyng she ne myȝt stynte no stounde. *c* 1369 CHAUCER *Dethe Blaunche* 1213 With sorweful herte..stynt ynge in my tale For ferde. *c* 1420 *Chron. Vilod.* 4096 Bot euer þey song & dauncede yliche fast & nolde not stonte þere for no-mone. *c* 1460 *Oseney Reg.* 12 That þat parte þe which my modur holdeth, whenne so euer she stynteth to holde hit, þat hit come in to þe lordeship of the church. 1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* I. xv. 56 He stynte not tyl he had slayne xx knyȝtes. *c* 1520 SKELTON *Magnyf.* 2188 Holde thy hande, dawe, of thy dagger, and stynt of thy dyn. 1536 BELLENDEN *Cron. Scot.* (1821) II. 423 Als soue as the Inglismen wer cumin to this hill, thay stintit of thair fleing. 1556 ROBINSON *More's Utopia* (1895) p. xcix, But I wil neuer stynte, nor rest, vntil I haue gotte the full and exacte knowledge hereof. 1576 GASCOIGNE *Steele Gl.* (Arb.) 67 Art thou a seruing man? then serue againe, And stint to steale as common soldiours do. 1592 SHAKS. *Rom. & Jul.* I. iii. 48 Pretty foole it stinted, and said I. *a* 1650 *K. John & Bishop* viii. in Child *Ballads* I. 411 And thirdly, tell mee or euer I stinte, What is the thing, bishopp, that I doe thinke. 1677 W. HUGHES *Man of Sin* II. ii. 25 The strange Amazing Proofs made use of by them! But it is flatly necessary, that I should bound myself:..I will stint at Twelve. 1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* x, 'Whisht, Effie,' said her sister; 'our father's coming out o' the byre.'—The damsel stinted in her song. 1819 SHELLEY *Peter Bell* VI. xxiv. 5 Their fierce successors, who..would neither stint nor stick Our flesh from off our bones to pick. 1869 BROWNING *Ring & Bk.* VIII. 240, I see him strain on tip-toe, soar and pour Eloquence out, nor stay, nor stint at all. 1881 *Leicestersh. Gloss.* s. v., Coom, yo' stint, or oi'll meek ye!

β. a 1300 *Cursor M.* 3842 Abute hir hals þan he hir hent, And þris he kyst hir ar he stent [*other texts* stint]. 13.. *Guy Warw.* 849 Of rideing wil þai neuer stent To þai com to þe turnament. *c* 1385 CHAUCER *Clerk's T.* 678 But natheless, for ernest ne for game He of his crueel purpos nolde stente. *c* 1470 HARDING *Chron.* XXXIII. v, For whiche [his death] his people of wepyng coulde not stent. 1563 SACKVILLE *Induct. Mirr. Mag.* xxxii, To her selfe oft would she [Remorse] tell Her wretchednes, and cursing neuer stent To sob and sigh. *c* 1590 J. STEWART *Poems* (S.T.S.) II. 42 O gif thy luifers knew, thay vold not stent To giwe the ayde. 1785 R. FORBES *Ulysses Answ. Ajax* lxxiii, I..Syne took his coach, an' milk-white staigs, 'Ere ever I wad stent.

† **b.** with pr. pple. *Obs.*

c 1430 *Pilgr. Lyf Manhode* III. xliii. (1869) 159 Whan the first hath stinte etinge..that oother..seith he wole ete also. 1518 H. WATSON *Hist. Oliver of Castile* (Roxb.) D 4, In suche sorowe he neuer stynted rydynge tyll that he came to a lytell vyllage. 1565 COOPER *Thesaurus* s. v. *Comprimo, Lachrymas comprimere*, to stint weepyng.

† **c.** To cease to speak *of*. *Obs.*

c 1450 *Merlin* x. 145 But now stenteth the tale of hem, and returneth to speke of the vij kynges. *Ibid.* xv. 253 Of hem I shall stinte, and tell of the parliament that kynge Brangue heilde.

† **2.** Of processes, conditions, impersonal agencies: To cease, abate come to an end. *Obs.*

a. c 1205 LAY. 31891 Þe quale gon to stunte. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 6026 Þe tres it [the tempest] brake, þe gresse it brint, At þe land iessen it stint. 1340–70 *Alex. & Dind.* 91 Men seþ wel þat þe see seseþ & stinteþ, But whan þe wind on þe watur þe wawus arereþ. *c* 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 1630 Bot at þe last, when þair lyfe sall stynt, þan sall all ioy be fra þam tynt. *c* 1374 CHAUCER *Boeth.* II. pr. v. (1868) 45 Certis þan is þilke moneye precious, whan it..stynteþ to ben had by vsage of large ȝeuyng. *c* 1375 *Cursor M.* 23172 (Fairf.) ȝour sorou salle neuer stint. *c* 1400 *Pilgr. Sowle* (Caxton) II. lxv. (1859) 59 Hit is ful hye tyme, that the discencion of you bothe stynte, and take an ende. *c* 1460 *Towneley Myst.* I. 161 We mon haue payne that neuer shall stynt. 1589 GREENE *Menaphon* (Arb.) 28 Streaming teares that neuer stint. 1628 WITHER *Brit. Rememb.* II. 489 Nor can I finde a reason how it [the plague] stinted, Or how our totall ruine was prevented. 1681 W. ROBERTSON *Phraseol. Gen.* s. v. *Stint*, Weeping stinteth: *arescit lachryma.*

β. c 1374 CHAUCER *Troylus* III. 1238 Right so Criseyde whan hire drede stente, Opned hire herte and tolde hym hire entente. *c* 1384 — *H. Fame* I. 221 Ther saw I how the tempest stent. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* IX. 239 Weyll bruk thow it! all thus stentis our stryff. 1530 *Dial. betw. Gentl. & Husbandman* 452 (Arb.) 147 Their furious malice never stentyd till they had the lights oute quenchyd. 1587 T. HUGHES *Misfort. Arthur* I. Chorus 23 In Brytain warres and discord will not stent: Till Vther's line and offspring quite be spent.

3. To cease moving, pause in a journey, to halt, stop, stand still. † Also, to turn aside from pursuit, to stay in conflict. *Obs.*

a. c 1290 *Becket* 1118 in *S. Eng. Leg.* 138 Fiue and twenti mile he wende..Are he stunte in anie stude. *c* 1290 *Magdalene* 187 ibid. 467 In one olde porche hy stunten al þat nyȝht. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 4321 For bettur it es bi-time to stint þan folu þi prai þat es bot tint. *c* 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 13025 Wilde he [Beofs] nere stynte ne ses Vntil he cam in to alle þe pres þer Petron was. 1338 — *Chron.* (1725) 10 Hard was þe bataile, als þei togider stynt. 1362 LANGL. *P. Pl.* A. VI. 66 Twei stokkes þer stondeþ but stunt þou not þere. 1430–40 LYDG. *Bochas* I. vii. (1544) 9 b, He fond..a place pleasant of larges wheras he stynt and gan a citie rayse. *c* 1475 HENRYSON *Poems* (S.T.S.) III. 39 For seik hir suth I sall, And noþer stynt nor stand for stok nor stone. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* VI. v. 75 Anchises son tho stintis a litle stound, And baith his futsteppis fixit in the ground. *a* 1650 *Rising in North* XXXVIII. in Child *Ballads* III. 406 Vntill they came to Yorke castle, I-wis they neuer stinted nor blan. *c* 1749 *Robin Hood & Allen a Dale* xv. ibid. 174 He hasted over the plain, He did neither stint nor lin, Vntil he came unto the church. 1768 ROSS *Helenore* 20 But I shall never stint, Till o' the truth the verity be kent; Tho' to the warld's end my race should be. 1818 SCOTT *Rob Roy* xxi, But come on, what stint ye for?

β. 13.. *Sir Beues* 4025 Ne stente neuer sire Saber, Til þat he in Ingelonde were. *c* 1400 *Pilgr. Sowle* (Caxton) II. lvii. (1859) 55 And so I stent a whyle to see what maner thyng hit was, that hadde suche a wykked sauour. *a* 1450 *Le Morte Arth.* 1844 The other All agayne than stente; Aftyr hym dorste folowe no moo. 1745 A. SKIRVING *Transent Muir* I. in *Herd's Coll. Sc. Songs* (1776) I. 109 The Chevalier ..Did march up Brisle brae, man, And thro' Tranent, e'er he did stent.

† **b.** Of a thing: To cease moving, to come to a stop. *Obs.*

a. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 197 Hire Schip goth in among hem alle, And stinte noght, er it be falle And [etc.]. *c* 1430 *Syr Gener.* (Roxb.) 161 The sheld he put vnto that dint, And in the sheld the stroke stint. 1533 BELLENDEN *Livy* I. xv. (S.T.S.) I. 85 Thir treis [*sc.* huge rafts of fire)..war inflammyt cruelly be þe violent wyndis, and styntit never quhil þai come..to þe pillaris of þe brig.

β. c 1374 CHAUCER *Troylus* I. 273 Þurgh þat rout his eye perceyvid and so depe hit went Til on Cryseyd hit smote & þer it stent. *a* 1420 *Aunters of Arthur* 579 (Douce MS.) He bronched him yne withe his bronde,..þe swerd stent for no stuf, hit was so wel steled.

† **c.** Of a stream, blood: To cease flowing. *Obs.*

1340–70 *Alex. & Dind.* 530 ȝe [with your thirsty armies] maken stinte of his strem a stronde ful huge, þat nilus.. namned is wide. 1579–80 NORTH *Plutarch, Antonius* (1595) 1004 The wounde..killed him not presently, for the bloud stinted a litle when he was layed. 1616 R. C. *Times Whistle* 2808 The springs of lust..being drawne dry The lesser streames would stint immediatly. 1626 G. E. *Vicary's Englishm. Treasure* 68 Take..Nettles and bruse them, and then lay them upon the wound..and it will stynt presently.

† **d.** Of the sun: To stand still (in its apparent course) at the summer and winter solstice. *Obs.*

1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) I. 329 Þe sonne stynteþ twyes a ȝere: ones a somer, whan he goþ no heiȝer; and eftsones a wynter, whanne he goþ no lower.

† **e.** To turn *aside, backward*. *Obs.*

c 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 7424 For þe Saxons did þem bakward stynt. *Ibid.* 10864, I trowe his stede a syde stynt.

† **4.** To abstain from moving, stand still; to remain in a place, to stay. *Obs.*

a. 1340–70 *Alisaunder* 386 Þei þat stint at hur stroke stirred no more. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) II. 309 And at þe meuynge and styntynge of þat boole þe Egipcians meued and stynte vp on þe erthe [*ad cujus motum seu stationem Ægyptii in terra movebantur seu stabant*]. *a* 1450 *Le Morte Arth.* 3947 Syr Ector tent not to hys stede, Whedyr he wold stynt or Renne Away. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* XI. 628 Quhen twa was ded, the tothir wald nocht stynt, Maid thaim to fle.

β. c 1385 CHAUCER *L. G. W.* II. 116 Whan this was don no lengere sche ne stente. *a* 1450 *Le Morte Arth.* 3936 At the laste they myght no lenger stent.

† **5.** *trans.* To cause (a person) to cease action, to cause to desist. Const. *of, from. Obs.*

a. 1338 R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (1725) 220 Sir Gilbert herd say of þer dedes ille, Of non þe had ay to stynt ne hold þam stille. 13.. *Will. Palerne* 4056 Þe king..was so styf in a studie þat non him stint miȝt. 1387–8 T. USK *Test. Love* III. iv. (Skeat) 108 Tho liste me a litel to speke, and gan stinte my penne of my wryting, and sayde in this wyse. *c* 1450 *Brut* II. 331 Þe King sent his lettres to þe Erle of Warwyk, chargyng hym..þat he shulde stynt, redresse & amende the evel doers & brekers of his pees. *c* 1489 CAXTON *Blanchardyn* 149 The kynge byganne..to wepe and so ded blanchardyn, so that Sadoyne nor Beatryx..coude do no thynge to stynte them. 1653 MILTON *Ps. viii.* ii, Out of the mouths of babes and sucklings thou Hast founded strength because of all thy foes To stint th' enemy.

β. c 1386 CHAUCER *Knt.'s T.* 510 And if he herde song or Instrument, Thanne wolde he wepe he myghte nat be stent. 1819 TENNANT *Papistry Storm'd* (1827) 107 That frae nocturnal 'sault may stent Thir rybalds o' the Testament.

6. To discontinue (an action); to hold in check, restrain (one's own actions or organs of action). Now *arch.* and *dial.*

a. 13.. *Will. Palerne* 61 Þe child com of þe caue & his crynge stint. *a* 1366 CHAUCER *Rom. Rose* 1441, I mote my tonge stynten nede. *c* 1386 — *Miller's Prol.* 36 The Reue answerde and seyde 'stynt thy clappe'. 1423 JAS. I *Kingis Q.* 118 The lytill birdis smale Styntith thaire song. 1563 B. GOOGE *Eglogs* vii. (Arb.) 57, I neuer could as thou canst stynt, the teares of my complaynt. 1592 R. WILMOT *Tancred & Gismund* II. iii, He..ere I scarce had My tale out tolde, praid me to stint my suite. 1613 SHAKS. *Hen. VIII*, I. ii. 76 We must not stint Our necessary actions, in the feare To cope malicious Censurers. 1618 ROWLANDS *Sacred Mem.* 37 Weepe not he said, but stint thy vse of teares. 1624 J. USHER in *Lett. Lit. Men* (Camden) 131 In continueing the History of the Brittish..beyond the yeare 600 (where I purposed to stint my selfe). *a* 1633 AUSTIN *Medit.* (1635) 29 Cease, all Creatures; peace all Things;.. Stint your ever-humming noyce. 1839 BAILEY *Festus* (1852) 394 Stint your breath. 1868 MORRIS *Earthly Par., Doom Acrisius* I. 266 The thin jackals waiting for the feast Stinted their hungry howls as he passed by. 1876 ROBINSON *Whitby Gloss.* s. v., 'Stint your hand,' withold it, as in the act of pouring. 1886 R. F. BURTON *Arab. Nts.* (abr. ed.) I. 127 They stinted not their going..till all went down by the trap-door.

β. c 1420 *Chron. Vilod.* 4098 Bot þe parson..badde hem þat þey shulde stent hurre song or ellus þens gone. *a* 1440 *Sir Degrev.* 206 His game wolt he never stent. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* II. iv. 12 Yet n'ould she stent Her bitter rayling. 1881 *Leicester Gloss.* s. v., Yo' stent yer nize!

† **b.** To stay or suspend (a lawsuit). Cf. ASTINT *v.* I. *Obs.*

1491 *Churchw. Acc. St. Dunstan's, Canterb.* (MS.), Be the consent of the executores the ple was stentyd.

† **7.** To cause to cease, bring to an end, check, stop (an event or state of affairs, actions of others). *Obs.*

Often in alliterative phrase, *to stint the strife.*

a. a 1310 in Wright *Lyric P.* viii. 31 A stythye stunte hire sturne stryf, that ys in heovene hert in-hyde. *c* 1366 CHAUCER *A. B. C.* 63 Panne shalt þou bope stinte al his greuaunce And make oure foo to failen of his praye. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* V. 184 And syne he drew him to the hicht, To stynt bettir his fais mycht. *c* 1402 LYDG. *Compl. Bl. Knt.* 256 And tonges false..Han gonne a werre that wil not stinted be. 1544 BETHAM *Precepts War* I. clxiii. H vj, To stint the weapynges and skrykes of women. 1588 SHAKS. *Tit. A.* IV. iv. 86 The Eagle suffers little Birds to sing,.. Knowing that with the shadow of his wings, He can at pleasure stint their melodie. 1613–16 W. BROWNE *Brit. Past.* I. ii. 43 She..stints his cry With many a sweet and pleasing Lullaby. 1680 C. NESSE *Church Hist.* 160 Strife is easier stirred than stinted. 1763 *Brit. Mag.* IV. 495 Stinting flame by bating fuel.

β. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Knt.'s T.* 2442 Swich strif ther is bigonne..Bitwixe Venus..And Mars..That Iuppiter was bisy it to stente. 1548 UDALL, etc. *Erasm. Par. Acts* iv. 5–7 It was no common or smalle matter, whiche they so carefully labored to stente.

† b. To assuage, quench (grief, pain, appetite).

-a. *c* 1374 CHAUCER *Troylus* v. 686 Yeringe him hope..That she shal come, and stinten [MS. Harl. 2280 stenten] al his sorwe. 1533 ELYOT *Cast. Helthe* (1541) 81 b, The powrynge of cold water upon ones head hath stinted the reume. 1580 LYLY *Euphues* (Arb.) 107 Achilles speare could as wel heale as hurt; the scorpion though he sting, yet he stints the paine. 1583 MELBANCKE *Philotimus* T ij, If this construction be applied to your stomacke, it will be a good confection to stint your shameles loue. 1620 QUARLES *Feast for Worms* ii. D 2 To stint his griefe, He chuses death.

β. *c* 1374 Stenten [see *a.* above]. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* xxiv. vi. II. 177 All the rest doe..stent the inveterat cough. 1666 G. HARVEY *Morbus Angl.* vi. (1672) 15 But the other implyes a very difficult cure, not by restoring the Spermatick parts ..but onely by stenting and removing the Corruption of the forementioned Essentials.

† c. To stop (rain, tempest, fire, etc.). *Obs.*

a. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 9151 Helias, þat prophet,..þat stint þe rain thoru his praiyer. 1538 ELYOT *Dict., Restinguo*, to stint or put oute, or cesse, as fyre, lyght, and thurst. 1690 C. NESSE *Hist. & Myst. O. & N. T.* I. 127 God stinted and stilled the flood.

β. 1594 *Selimus* G 4, The god that vales [sic] the seas, And can alone this raging tempest stent.

† d. To cause (a thing) to leave off its action.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 476/1 Styntyn or make a thynge to seȝyn of hys werke or mevynge, *obsto*. 1674 N. FAIRFAX *Bulk & Selv.* 127 A whole set or draught of springs,..some bigning or growing, others barely stirring or twitching, and after all so long stinted and so often checkt.

† e. ? To deprive of force, make of none effect.

a. 1509 BARCLAY *Shyp of Folys* 258 b, Thou wretchyd lust dost stynt abate and swage The strength of man, and his audacyte. 1631 GOUGE *God's Arrows* III. § 43. 258 Where faith hath failed, the divine power hath been stinted.

β. 1619 SIR A. GORGES tr. *Bacon's De Sap. Vet.* 127 As for simple bodies, their powers are not many, though certaine and violent, as existing without being weakned, diminished, or stented by mixture.

8. To cause (a fluid, etc.) to stop flowing or emanating; esp. to staunch (blood). *Obs.* exc. *dial.*

a. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* VII. lxx. (1495) 290 Some medycynes constreyne and stynten blode. *a* 1400 *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* xxviii. 13 Heil sterre þat neuer stunteþ liht. 1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* VII. xviii. 241 The mayden Lynet..vnarmed hym and serched his woundes and stynted his blood. 1528 PAYNEL *Salerne's Regim.* b iiij b, The vtilite is to make thycke the thynne bloud, to stynte the superfluous runnynge therof. 1599 BRETON *Disc. Scholler & Souldiour* 30 A Cobweb and Salt..will Stint a bleeding.

β. 1548 *Elyot's Dict.* s. v. *Sisto, Sistere sanguinem*, to stent bleedyng. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* XXVI. xiii. II. 263 The juice if it bee conveighed up into the nosthrils, stenteth bleeding at nose. 1657 BILLINGSLY *Brachy-Martyrol.* xxi. 76 Nor shall the opened vein be stented. 1891 *Hartland* (Devon) *Gloss., Staint*, to stanch. Some people have the power of 'staintin' blid' by repeating a charm.

† 9. To cause (a person, animal, oneself) to cease moving, to bring to a stand. *Obs.*

Stent survives *dial.* in Somerset and Devon in the sense 'to bring (a horse) to a stand' (said of difficulties or obstacles). See *Eng. Dial. Dict.*

a. *a* 1330 *Otuel* 1571 King karnifees him haueþ istunt. *c* 1400 *Song Roland* 460 Then he stintid his sted & stod still sone. *c* 1450 *Merlin* x. 154 For the kynges were stynted at the entre of the forest by a river. 1450–1530 *Myrr. our Ladye* 42 As a man that rennyth downewarde from an hye hyl: he may not stynte hymselfe,..tyll he comethe to the vale. 1533 BELLENDEN *Livy* II. xxvi. (S.T.S.) I. 238 Þe consul, seand þe place vnganand for batall, styntit his army. 1680 H. MORE *Apocal. Apoc.* 82 Nor were they stinted here, but won also a great part of Italy.

β. *c* 1450 *Cov. Myst.* (1841) 396 Go stent me yone body wyth ypure stonys.

† b. To stop (a blow). *Obs.*

a 1330 *Otuel* 497 þat strok ich mente to þe, & now it is on þi stede istunt. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* VI. 567 Quhan euir thai hyt, na harnes mycht thaim stynt.

10. To check the growth of (an animal, plant); to arrest (growth); to force (a plant) *into* bloom by restricting its supply of nourishment. Cf. STUNT *v.*

1735 SOMERVILLE *Chase* IV. 117 The laborious Chace Shall stint his [a young hound's] growth. 1789 E. DARWIN *Bot. Gard.* (1791) I. IV. 478 Where cruder juices swell the leafy vein, Stint the young germ, [etc.]. 1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* II. 698 Young pigs are very susceptible of cold, and if exposed to it..their growth will be..stinted. 1844 LD. BROUGHAM *Brit. Const.* xv. (1862) 234 The vices and the weaknesses, which peaceful times and regular government either nip in the bud, or stint in their growth. 1845 *Florist's Jrnl.* (1846) VI. 147 The plant..was stinted into a blooming condition.

II. To limit, apportion, or appoint definitely.

11. *trans.* To set bounds, ends, or limits to, to limit in extent or scope, to confine to certain limits. Now *rare*. Also, † to fix the maximum price of. Const. † *at*, *to*.

1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* IV. Prol. 260 To stint all thing salue thine awin appetite, So was in luif thi frawart destanie. 1591 SAVILE *Tacitus, Hist.* IV. xl. 199 To moderate and stint the public expenses. 1604 T. WRIGHT *Passions* VI. 346 Those wise and godly men which every day allot themselves a certaine time, stinting their howers for meditation. 1621 T. WILLIAMSON tr. *Goulart's Wise Vieillard* 7 By him, who hath the houre glasse of our life in his hand, who hath stinted our dayes how long they shall runne. 1624 CAPT. SMITH *Virginia* IV. 165 Corne was stinted at two shillings six pence the bushell. 1640 FULLER *Joseph's Coat* etc. 59 The Passeover by God was stinted to bee used no oftner. 1643 BAKER *Chron., Jas. I* 140 And to keep the Order from swarming, he stinted it within the number of onely 200. 1661 POWER *Exp. Philos.* Pref. b j b, They..that..think the particles of Matter may be too little, and that nature is stinted at an Atom, and must have a *non ultra* of her subdivisions. 1727 GAY *Fables* xiv. 47 Stint not to truth the flow of wit, Be prompt to lye, whene'er 'tis fit. 1781 COWPER *Retirem.* 719 Friends (for I cannot stint..that name to one). 1813 BYRON *Br. Abydos* I. xiv, Nor these [battlements] will rash intruder climb To list our words, or stint our time. 1863 KINGLAKE *Crimea* (1877) I. ii. 22 The law of nations does not stint the right of executing justice. 1870 J. H. NEWMAN *Gram. Assent* II. viii. 259 When words are substituted for symbols, it will be its aim to circumscribe and stint their import as much as possible.

† b. *intr.* Of a portion of land: To end, have its boundary or limit. *Obs.*

1613 *North Riding Rec.* (1886) IV. 143 Thone acre a brode wrangland, stinting att the strete.

12. *trans.* To limit (the pasturage of common land) to a certain number of cattle; also, to assign a limited right of pasturage to (a person).

14.. *Coventry Leet-bk.* 438 Item,..the Maister of S. Jones ..to go vnstynted, and the Comons of the Cite be stynted, no man to passe his rate. 1523 FITZHERB. *Surv.* 3 b, In the whiche close euery man is stynted and sette to a certayntie howe many beestes he shall haue in the same. 1652 BLITHE *Eng. Improv. Impr.* (ed. 3) App., That all Commons..may be stinted or limited to a set number of cattell. 1808 J. C. CURWEN *Hints Econ. Feeding Stock* 51 A dry sheltered pasture ..which had been so hard stinted as to afford them [the cows] little or no food. 1831 CROKE *Case of Otmoor* 23 Otmoor was not a common without stint; but was liable to be stinted by Orders from the Moor Court. 1880 J. WILLIAMS *Rights of Common* 84 A frith man..was appointed by the cattle gate owners to take care that Bretherdale Bank was properly stinted.

† b. To hold a stint of. Also *absol.* *Obs.*

1686 *Grassmen's Acc.* (Surtees) 95 Every inhabitant which stints in ye Common pasture shall send a mowder to scayle ye 3^d Common pasture. 1698 *Ibid.* 93 All and every person qualifyed to stint ye 3^d Moor shall pay Threepence per Gate yearly for each Gate they shall stint.

† 13. To prescribe or appoint definitely (a course of action, an amount, place, time, etc.); to restrict (a person) to a particular course of action or the like. *Obs.*

a 1513, 1586 [see STINTED *ppl. a.* 1, 1 b]. 1590 J. GREENWOOD *Collect. Sclaund. Art.* B ij b, We wonder..that they dare be so bold as to set & stint the holy ghost, what, when, and how manie words to vtter in prayer. 1610 [see STINT *sb.*[1] 2 a].

absol. 1641 MILTON *Animadv.* 19 *Remon.* And if the Lord's Prayer be an ordinary, and stinted form, why not others? *Ans.* Because there bee no other Lords that can stint with like authority.

† b. *intr.* To fix a time for something. *Obs.*

1656 in *Burton's Diary* (1828) I. 231 He fully stinted to have been in York that night.

14. *trans.* To restrict (a person, his share or right) with respect to quantity or number; to limit in amount of allowance or indulgence.

a. 1592 NASHE *P. Penilesse* E 4 b, Yron cups..with yron pinnes in them, to stinte euery man how much he should drinke. 1593 — *Christ's T.* M 3, God stinted him, what Trees and fruites he should eate on. *a* 1617 BAYNE *On Eph.* (1658) 84 He hath not stinted us to any certain degree of knowledge. 1639 FULLER *Holy War* III. xiv. 132 Wives he might have kept sans number, but stinted himself to one or two. *a* 1692 SHADWELL *Volunteers* I. i, *Eugen.*..May you.. live till you shall wish to dye...*Teres.* I vow, I wish you may live an Hundred Years...*M. G. Bl.* A Dod Wench, that's not so well, thou stint'st me. 1710 ADDISON *Tatler* No. 255 P 2 We ought to stint our selves in our most lawful Satisfactions. 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xv. III. 591 Had he been wise he would have..stinted himself to one bottle at a meal.

β. 1567 MAPLET *Gr. Forest* 105 He, fearing the Female to lauish and to be no sparer of such vittailes as they haue, ..stenteth the Female and glueth hir hir task. 1678 SIR G. MACKENZIE *Crim. Laws Scot.* II. xv. § vi. (1699) 214 The Justice Court has its Macers, in which they are not stented to a particular number. 1724 RAMSAY *Tea-t. Misc.* (1733) I. 58 Baith I canna get To ane by law we're stented. 1842 J. AITON *Dom. Econ.* (1857) 150 Set the jobs by the piece, and not by day's wages...Give the preference to the men of your own parish. Don't stent them too tightly. 1860–95 J. NICHOLSON *Kilwuddie* (ed. 4) 166 (E.D.D.) Though stented to twa meals a day. 1894 *Northumb. Gloss., Stent*,..to limit. 'Aa's stented tiv an oor at dinner.'

15. (Now the most frequent use.) To limit unduly in supply; to keep on short allowance, to scant. Const. *of*.

a. 1722 DE FOE *Plague* (1754) 136 If you stint us, we shall make ourselves the better allowance. 1769 GOLDSM. *Des. Vill.* 40 One only master grasps the whole domain, And half a tillage stints thy smiling plain. 1794 *Girlhood of M. J. Holroyd* (1896) 262 The Horse..has been stinted of his Oats ever since. 1812 COMBE *Picturesque* xxii, A work like this must not be stinted, Two thousand copies shall be printed. 1842 A. COMBE *Physiol. Digestion* (ed. 4) 254 It is no uncommon practice to stint the healthy appetites of the young. 1850 MRS. JAMESON *Leg. Monast. Ord.* (1863) 404 Of virtuous and religious parents who stinted themselves of necessary things. 1875 SWINBURNE *Ess. Chapman* 65 The double thread of the main plot is stinted of room to work in. 1885–6 SPURGEON *Treas. Dav. Ps.* cxxvii. 2 They stint themselves in their meals. 1907 J. H. PATTERSON *Man-Eaters of Tsavo* App. I. 324 But stint them of their rice, and they at once become sulky mutineers.

β. 1865 W. H. L. TESTER *Poems* 166 (E.D.D.) Dinna stent us whan ye carve.

b. To limit (a supply) unduly; to give in scanty measure.

1838 PRESCOTT *Ferd. & Is.* (1846) II. xviii. 136 They were not disposed to stint the measure of it when his deserts were once established. 1880 'V. LEE' *Italy* III. ii. 108 The deputation of patricians..stinted neither trouble nor money to obtain first rate performers.

absol. 1878 MARIE A. BROWN *Nadeschda* 17 On the way pluck roses, do not stint.

c. *intr.* for *refl.* To 'pinch', go short. ? *dial.*

1848 MRS. GASKELL *Mary Barton* xxxvii, But it's in things for show they cut short; while for such as me, it's in things for life we've to stint. 1865 — *Wives & Dau.* xliii, I would have stinted and starved if mamma and I had got on.. happily together.

16. *dial.* To apportion a 'stint' of work to (a person); also, to fix upon a definite portion of work as a stint. (Cf. STINT *sb.*[1] 7.)

1794 A. YOUNG *Agric. Suffolk* 76 Boys spin hemp, stinted at six-pence a day, one with another. 1866 W. GREGOR *Banff Gloss., Stent*, to appoint a certain work; as, 'They stentit thimsels wee thir spinnan.' 1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-mining* 241 *Stint*, to fix upon, or agree to, a certain number of trams being filled per stall per day.

b. To assign (a workman) *to* a definite task.

1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* III. 753 The field-workers of the farm..are placed or *stented* to the work, as it is termed, at every 2 rows. *Ibid.* 1058.

17. *passive.* Of a mare: To be served (by a horse): see quot. 1856. Const. *to*. Also of a ewe: To conceive.

1823 'JON BEE' *Dict. Turf* s. v., A mare which has received a horse is said to be stinted to him. 1856 'STONEHENGE' *Brit. Rural Sports* II. I. vii. 343/1 It is usual after putting the mare to the horse to take her to him every nine days, until she refuses him, when she is considered 'stinted'. 1884 *West. Morn. News* 30 Aug. 1/6 Most of the ewes are stinted early in lamb.

Stintage (stĭ·ntĕdʒ). [f. STINT *sb.*[1] or *v.* + -AGE.]

1. *a.* = STINTING *vbl. sb.* 2. b. The allotment of 'stints'. (Cf. STINT *sb.*[1] 6.)

1641 BEST *Farm. Bks.* (Surtees) 116 In the middle *field* beyond Keldiegate where the flatte runnes out, that is called the stintage, and that which is up towards the Spellowe heads is sayd to bee above the stintinge. 1894 *Carlisle Patriot* 4 May 3/7 (Cumbld. Gloss.) The old herds were reappointed for the summer stintage.

2. Niggardly apportionment.

1882 J. WALKER *Jaunt to Auld Reekie* 250 Thy mean penurious stintage O' earthly pleasure.

† **Sti·ntance.** *Obs. rare*[−1]. [f. STINT *v.* + -ANCE.] Cessation, limitation.

1605 *Lond. Prodigal* I. i, Nay, I cannot weepe you extempory: mary, some two or three dayes hence, I shall weep without any stintance.

Stintch, obs. f. STENCH.

Stinted (stĭ·ntĕd), *ppl. a.* [f. STINT *v.* + -ED[1].]

† 1. Fixed or limited by authority or decree; appointed, set. *Obs.*

a. *a* 1513 FABYAN *Chron.* VII. (1533) 27/2 Where the mayre and comynaltye of the cytye, hadde by the kynges graunte the cytye to ferme..for astynted and ascertayned summe of money. *c* 1550 *Disc. Commw. Eng.* (1893) 86 And some other, as gentlemen,..servingmen, and all other livinge by anie rated and stinted rent or stipend, are greate loosers by it [*sc.* by the alteration of the coinage]. 1593 NASHE *Christ's T.* 28 The Earth left to be so fruitfull as it wont. No season but it exceeded hys stinted temprature. 1611 CORYAT *Crudities* 569 If any should dare..to passe by any of these places, and not pay the stinted summe of Money. 1644 MILTON *Divorce* II. xiv. 58 Of popular vices those that may bee committed legally, will be more pernicious then those..not under a stinted priviledge to sin orderly and regularly. *a* 1716 SOUTH *Serm.* (1744) XI. 226 The creatures also have their set and stinted times allotted them, beyond which they can do nothing with success.

β. 1786 *Har'st Rig* xxxii, Now when the stented time is past Which they're allowed to break their fast The master comes.

† b. In the controversies of the 17th c. freq. applied (echoing Barrowe's use: see quot. 1586) to set liturgical forms as opposed to 'free' prayer. *Obs.*

1586 BARROWE *Exam.* (1593) B j b, Quest. 2. Wither he thinketh that any Leitourgies, or prescript formes of prayer may be imposed vpon the church: and whither al read and stinted prayers be mere babling in Gods sight? Ans. I finde in the worde of God no..such stinted leitourgies prescribed. 1610 BP. HALL *Apol. Brownists* xxxvii. 92 The Priest was appointed of old to vse a set forme vnder the law,..so the people,..Both of them a stinted Psalme for the Sabboth. 1649 MILTON *Eikon.* xvi. 151 He with sighs unutterable by any words, much less by a stinted Liturgie, dwelling in us, makes intercession for us. 1712 LD. KING *Primitive Ch.* II. 33 Now these other prayers which made up a great part of Divine Service were not stinted and imposed forms.

2. Of pasture: Divided into or subject to rights of pasturage; limited to the pasturing of a definite number of cattle.

1690 *Andros Tracts* (1868) I. 97 The Proprietors of the stinted Pasture in Charlestown. 1700 *Mem. St. Giles's* (Surtees) 96 The many Whins that groweth on Gilligate Moor (or stainted Pasture) do very much damnifie the said moor. 1796 W. H. MARSHALL *W. England* II. 136 They were made from the unreclaimed forest state; without the intervention of common fields or stinted pastures. 1854 *Spec. Rep. Inclosure Comm.* 3 Wanwood stinted pasture. *Ibid.*, Common fields and lands, subject to stinted rights. 1892 M. C. F. MORRIS *Yorks. Folk-Talk* Gloss. *s.v.*, A stinted pasture is a pasture limited to carry so many sheep.

3. Limited in quantity, scanty.

1629 GAULE *Pract. Theories* 169 Mine owne Infinicie [*sic*] enlarges me to Wrath aboue their stinted Capacities. 1783 CRABBE *Village* I. 169 Nor mock the misery of a stinted meal—Homely, not wholesome; plain, not plenteous. 1819 SCOTT *Ivanhoe* xxvi, I would rather remain in this hall a week without food save the prisoner's stinted loaf. 1863 KINGLAKE *Crimea* (1876) I. xl. 168 This order..conferred but a narrow and stinted authority. 1864 TENNYSON *Enoch*

Ard. 823 He..help'd At lading and unlading the tall barks That brought the stinted commerce of those days. **1890** *Spectator* 15 Feb., [He] made an insufficient and stinted apology, when at last it became evident that an apology must be made.

b. Limited in scope, narrow.

1710 Berkeley *Princ. Hum. Knowl.* § 81 My own few, stinted, narrow inlets of perception. **1760–72** H. Brooke *Fool of Qual.* (1809) IV. 148 [They] would have thrust me wholly from Christ, if I did not consent to receive him within their stinted pale.

4. Of a plant or animal: Checked in growth, undeveloped; hence, undersized. Cf. Stunted.

1759 tr. *Duhamel's Husb.* I. xii. (1762) 63 When plants grow stinted or sickly in a poor soil. **1763** Mills *Pract. Husb.* IV. 320 If they make thriving shoots, which have not a ragged or stinted appearance. **1795** Burns *Destr. Drumlanrig Woods* iv, And scarce a stintit birk is left To shiver in the blast its lane. **1842** *Florist's Jrnl.* (1846) III. 83 If the situation is much exposed and the soil very poor, the dog-rose is very stinted, and soon ceases to grow.

transf. **1831** Carlyle *Sartor Res.* I. i, Perhaps it is proof of the stinted condition in which pure Science..languishes among us. **1864–8** Browning *Y. Lee's Wife* VIII. iii, Who art thou, with stinted soul And stunted body?

5. Of a mare or she-ass: In foal.

1847 Halliwell, *Stinted*, in foal, as a mare. *West.* **1884** *W. Sussex Gaz.* 25 Sept., A female donkey, stinted.

Hence **Sti·ntedly** *adv.*, **Sti·ntedness.**

1827 Carlyle *Misc., Richter* (1840) I. 21 It is..a nature in harmony with itself, reconciled to the world and its stintedness and contradiction. **1863** Geo. Eliot *Romola* xxxviii, He was content to lie hard, and live stintedly. **1892** Tennyson *Foresters* 2. i, Now you know why we live so stintedly.

Stinter (sti·ntəɹ). [+ -er[1].] One who or something which stints, in the senses of the verb.

1598 Sylvester *Du. Bartas* II. i. 1. *Eden* 140 If there..the Sun (the Season's stinter) Made no hot Summer, nor no hoary Winter. **1611** Cotgr., *Limiteur*, a limiter, bounder, stinter. **1701** *Mem. St. Giles's* (Surtees) 96 All these present Inhabitants..not booked as Stinters, or y[t] have not paid for ..their Gates on our stinted Pasture..shall have no right there without paying..Six pounds in hand for their six Gates. *a* **1716** South *Serm.* (1727) II. 112 Let us now see whether a Set-form, or this Extemporary way, be the greater hinderer, and stinter of it [the Spirit of Prayer].

Sti·ntily, *adv. nonce-wd.* [f. Stinty *a.* + -ly[2].] In a stinted or niggardly manner.

1881 Count Orsi *Recoll.* 28 The inefficiency of the police, so badly organised, and composed of men stintily paid.

Sti·nting, *vbl. sb.* [f. Stint *v.* + -ing[1].]

1. The action of the verb Stint in various senses; †stopping, ceasing, coming or bringing to an end (*obs.*); limiting, apportioning within limits; undue limitation, scant supply.

1338 R. Brunne *Chron.* (1725) 1 Had þei no styntyng, bot þorgh alle þei ran. **1340** Hampole *Pr. Consc.* 7016 Right swa þe devels salle ay dyng On þe synfulle, with-outen styntyng. *c* **1420** *Prymer* (MS. Douce 275 lf. 6 b), To thee cherubyn and ceraphin crien with voice with outen stentinge. *c* **1470** Henry *Wallace* VI. 46 And thus began the styntyn off this stryff. **1508** Dunbar *Flyting* 5 Bot had thay maid of mannace ony mynting In speciall, sic stryfe sould ryse but stynting. **1656** Bramhall *Replic.* 37 They have no Liturgy at all, but account it a stinting of the Spirit. *a* **1692** Pollexfen *Disc. Trade* (1697) 59 It may occasion prejudicial Retaliations,..and if too much Practised, may prove a Stinting of Trade. **1839** Thackeray *Fatal Boots* Feb., I always was fond of good wine..and, by Jupiter! on this night I had my little skinful,—for there was no stinting. **1907** *Macm. Mag.* Jan. 235 There is absolutely no stinting of vivid impressions on first treading Indian soil.

† **b.** *Stinting of the sun* = Solstice. *Obs.*

1387 Trevisa *Higden* (Rolls) I. 327 In þe somer tyme aboute þe styntynge of þe sonne.

2. *concr.* (See quot. 1889.)

1641 [see Stintage 1]. **1669** *North Riding Rec.* IV. 169 That is to say, two lands and one gaire, part thereof lying on the west stintinge of the Wetlands of Thirske. **1889** *N. W. Linc. Gloss., Stinting*, a portion of the common meadow set apart for the use of one person..In an Amcotts rental of the sixteenth century, I have met with a place called the 'upper stinting'.

Sti·nting, *ppl. a.* [-ing[2].] That stints.

1867 *Morn. Star* 12 Mar., The..dilution..requires to be added with a stinting hand.

Hence **Sti·ntingly** *adv.*

1857 Geo. Eliot *Scenes Cler. Life* (1858) II. 176 He often ate his dinner stintingly, oppressed by the thought that there were men, women, and children, with no dinner to sit down to.

Stintless (sti·ntlės), *a.* [f. Stint *sb.*[1] + -less.]

†**1.** That may not be stinted or caused to cease; that may not be assuaged or satisfied. *Obs.*

1587 T. Hughes *Misfort. Arthur* Epil. 8 See heere..The lasting panges: the stintlesse greefes: the teares. **1598** Rowlands *Betray. Christ* G j b, His life was nothing els but stintlesse passion. **1657** S. Purchas *Pol. Flying-Ins.* 114 Only resolution can make them give back, give over, they will make many tedious and stintlesse onsets.

2. Supplied without stint.

1844 Ld. Brougham *A. Lunel* I. i. 22 But, oh heavens! how much besides of this ceaseless and stintless chatter passed through both ears without..reaching the mind. **1889** Ruskin *Præterita* III. 18 The only constant form of pure religion [is] in useful work, faithful love, and stintless charity.

3. quasi-*adv.* Ceaselessly.

1598 Rowlands *Betray. Christ* G iv, The Virgine mother cheefe in mournefull teares, With holy Maries twaine that stintlesse wept.

Stinty (sti·nti), *a. rare*[−1]. [f. Stint *sb.*[1] + -y.] Stinted, meagre, niggardly.

1849 Rock *Ch. of Fathers* II. vii. 327 Those endowments which our Anglo-Saxon forefathers made..were neither few nor stinty. **1876** *Whitby Gloss., Stinty*, niggardly.

Stiony, variant of Styany *dial.*

Stip, Stipand, obs. ff. Steep *sb.*[1], Stipend.

Stipate (stəi·pĕt), *a. Bot.* [ad. L. *stīpātus*, pa. pple. of *stīpāre*: see next.] Crowded.

1871 W. A. Leighton *Lichen-flora* 83 Smooth or longitudinally rugulose, dispersed or stipate.

† **Stipate,** *v. Obs. rare.* [f. L. *stīpāt-*, ppl. stem of *stīpāre*, to crowd, to accompany in crowds.] In *passive*, To be attended by a crowd.

1587 Fleming *Contin. Holinshed* III. 1013/2 The duches of Clarence, the lord Dineham,..and the baron of Carew,.. came to this citie, being accompanied and stipated with a thousand fightingmen.

Stipation (stəipē·ʃən). [ad. L. *stīpātiōnem*, f. *stīpāre*: see prec. and -ation.]

†**1.** 'A guarding or enuironing about' (Cockeram 1623). *Obs.*—[6]

2. *Bot.* 'An accumulation in the tissues or cavities' (B. D. Jackson *Gloss. Bot. Terms*, 1900).

Stipe (stəip), [a. F. *stipe*, ad. L. *stīpes* (*stīpit-*) log, post, tree-trunk (in mod.L. = sense 1).]

1. *Bot.* A footstalk; in various applications: the stalk which supports the pileus of a fungus; the leafstalk of a fern; the support of a gynæceum or a carpel; = Stipes 1.

1785 Martyn *Lett. Bot.* xxxii. (1794) 499 From these arises a stipe or stem supporting hollow conical receptacles. **1821** Sir J. E. Smith *Gram. Bot.* 8 *Stipes*, a Stipe, is the Stem of a Frond as in Ferns, where it is commonly scaly; or the stalk of a Fungus. **1837** P. Keith *Bot. Lex.* 46 If the stipe of *Aspidium Filix-mas* is divided by a transverse section, the section will exhibit [etc.]. **1861** H. Macmillan *Footn. Page Nat.* 214 The tubercle rapidly increases, until at last it produces from its interior, a long, thick, fleshy stem or stipe, surmounted by a pileus.

Comb. **1873** E. Balfour *Cycl. India* (ed. 2) V. 571 Stipe-clasping brake, *Pteris amplexicaulis*.

2. *Anat.* 'A stem: applied to two branches, anterior and posterior, of the zygal or paroccipital fissure of the brain.'

1891 *Century Dict.* citing B. G. Wilder.

3. *Zool.* = Stipes. **1891** *Century Dict.*

Stipe, obs. form of Steep *a.* and *v.*

† **Stiped.** *Bot. Obs.* [f. Stipe + -ed[2].] = Stipitate *a.*

1785 Martyn *Lett. Bot.* xxvi. (1794) 378 *note*, In others it [the down] is stiped or stipitate; that is, has a stem interposed between it and the seed.

Stipel (stəi·pĕl). *Bot.* Also 9 **stipelle.** [ad. F. *stipelle*, ad. mod.L. *stipella*: see next.] (See quots.)

1821 S. F. Gray *Brit. Plants* I. 84 Stipelle. *Stipella*, a kind of stipule placed at the base of the leaflets on the common petiole. **1835** Lindley *Introd. Bot.* (1839) 144 In pinnated leaves there is often a pair of stipules at the base of each leaflet, as well as two at the base of the common petiole: stipules, under such circumstances, are called stipels.

‖ **Stipella** (stipe·lă). *Bot.* [mod.L., dim of L. Stipula.] = prec.

1832 Lindley *Introd. Bot.* 99 Stipulæ, under such circumstances, are called stipellæ. [Cf. prec., quot. 1835.] **1870** Hooker *Stud. Flora* 3 Thalictrum minus...Various forms have sometimes stipellæ to the leaflets.

Stipellate (stipe·lĕt), *a.* [ad. mod.L. *stipellātus*, f. *stipella*: see prec. and -ate[2].] Furnished with stipels. Also † **Stipe·llated** *a.*

1821 S. F. Gray *Brit. Plants* I. 80 Leafstalks..Stipellated, *stipellati*. Secondary, &c. leafstalks furnished at their base with small stipules. **1845** A. Gray *Bot. Text-bk.* (ed. 2) 123 Stipellate. **1870** Hooker *Stud. Flora* 84 Leguminosæ..leaflets often stipellate.

Stipend (stəi·pend), *sb.* Forms: 5 **stipendy,** 5–6 **stipende,** 6 **stipound, stipent,** *Sc.* **stepende, stipand,** 6–8 **stypend(e,** 7 **stipen, stippyant,** *Sc.* **steipen,** 8 **stypand,** 6– **stipend.** [a. OF. *stipende, stipendie*, ad. L. *stīpendium*, for **stipipendium*, f. *stip-em* (nom. *stips* only in glosses) money payment, wages, alms, f. *pendĕre* to weigh, hence to pay. Cf. It. *stipendio*, Sp., Pg. *estipendio*.]

1. The pay of a soldier. Now *rare.*

1432–50 tr. *Higden* (Rolls) III. 441 If the faders diede theire sonnes scholde haue theire stipendy. **1555** Eden *Decades* (Arb.) 127 Many offered them selues to goo with him of theyr owne charges withowt the kynges stipende. **1582** N. T. (Rhem.) *Luke* iii. 14 And he said to them,..be content with your stipends. **1600** J. Pory tr. *Leo's Africa* III. 169 Neither had they any other weapons but hand-bowes.. vnto which attendants the King allowed a large stipend. **1653** Jer. Taylor *Serm. Yr., Winter* iii. 35 It is the gift of God; a donative beyond the ὀψώνιον, the military stipend. **1670** Milton *Hist. Brit.* III. 112 Others..were..entertain'd without suspicion on these terms, that they should bear the brunt of War against the Picts, receaving stipend and some place to inhabit. **1845** Stephen *Laws Eng.* I. 176 The temporary use of land was bestowed on the one hand, as the stipend for military service to be performed on the other. **1855** Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* xxi. IV. 546 The citizen was heavily taxed for the purpose of paying to the soldier the largest military stipend known in Europe. **1875** Merivale *Gen. Hist. Rome* xxxi. (1877) 224 Cicero..earned under the auspices of Strabo his first and only 'stipend'.

† **b.** *At one's own stipends*, i. e. 'charges': cf. 1 Cor. ix. 7 (Vulg.), *Quis militat suis stipendiis unquam?*

1432–50 tr. *Higden* (Rolls) III. 189 The Romanes vsede this consuetude, that men vsenge batelles scholde lyve of .theire propre stipendies and goodes [L. *ut bellatores militarent stipendiis propriis*]. **1596** Dalrymple tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* I. 104 Baith the nobilitie and the haill peple fechtes vpon thair awne stipends.

† **c.** Military service. *Obs.*—[1] [A Latin use.]

1604 Edmonds *Observ. Cæsar's Comm.* 2 The law required euery man to perfect the complete number of twentie yeares stipend.

2. A salary or fixed periodical payment, made (annually or at shorter intervals) to a clergyman, teacher, or public official, in requital of his services.

In Scotland practically confined to the payment received by a clergyman. In England it is the usual word for the pay of a curate or other clergyman remunerated at a fixed rate, of a superior schoolmaster, of a professor, of a judge. The official income of a minister of state, on the other hand, or that of a civil servant, is more commonly called *salary*.

1432–50 tr. *Higden* (Rolls) V. 403 The consuetudo of the churche of Rome is that iiij^{i} porcions be made of every stipendy congruente; oon porcion to the bischoppe and to his howseholde; the seconde porcion to the clergy [etc.]. **1480** in *Bury Wills* (Camden) 61, I wole y[t] the seid chauntry priest haue for his stipende yerely x. marc' of lawfull money. **1523** *Lincoln Wills* (1914) I. 118 To an honest prest..to his stipound the sowme of vl. **1545** Brinklow *Compl.* ix. (1874) 22 That all iudges and pleaters shuld lyue vpon a stypend, & cetera. **1553** *Respublica* III. vi. 860 This bag..is bribes above my stipende in offecis. **1564** *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* I. 287 The ministeris gettis na payment of thair appointit stipends. **1575** Gascoigne *Glasse of Govt.* Wks. 1910 II. 14 It shall nowe bee our partes to understand what stipend may content you [*sc.* tutors] for your paines. **1591–5** Spenser *Col. Clout* 746 For Cynthia doth in sciences abound, And giues to their professors stipends large. **1599** *Shuttleworth's Acc.* (Chetham Soc.) 117 To Mr. Saunders, the late vicar of Bolton, being last of his half yeares stipend,..xxv^{s}. **1643** Baker *Chron., Jas. I*, 151 Edward Allin..founded a faire Hospitall at Dulwich..to have a Schoolemaster with dyet, and a convenient stipend. **1649** Lamont *Diary* (Maitl. Club) 11 At his transportation, the steipen of the said parish was augmented by the Earle of Keelly. *c* **1730** Ramsay *Vision* xiv, Will preists without their stypands preich? **1782** V. Knox *Ess.* liii. I. 235 The stipends of the most useful part of the clergy, those who officiate, are often not greater than the earnings of a hireling mechanic. **1786** Burns *Ordination* 39 That Stipend is a carnal weed He takes but for the fashion. **1818** Scott *Hrt. Midl.* viii, What have I been paying stipend and teind, parsonage and vicarage, for, ..an I canna get a spell of a prayer for't? **1849** Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* iii. I. 309 In fact, however, the stipends of the higher class of official men were as large as at present, and not seldom larger. **1861** [Trevelyan] *Horace at Univ. Athens* (1862) 37, I shall make bold to take the college plate, And lay a tax of ninety-nine per cent On all the fellows' stipends and the rent. **1883** *Athenæum* 30 June 828/1 A superintendent of the workshops must be paid a stipend sufficient to secure a man combining scientific knowledge.. and practical ability. **1883** Bosw. Smith *Ld. Lawrence* I. xi. 309 The stipend of the teacher was precarious enough.

† **b.** In generalized sense. *Obs.*

1549 *Supplic. to King* (E.E.T.S.) 29 Suche which haue receyued lyuinge and stypende to be in their churches. **1539** *Act* 31 *Hen. VIII*, c. 9 Reders of Grece, Ebrewe, and Latten to have good stipend. **1559** Bp. Cox in Strype *Ann. Ref.* (1709) I. vi. 100 We fear God will not bear it well, That the Stipend of his holy Ministry should be diminished or impaired. **1579–80** North *Plutarch, Alexander* (1612) 676 Philip..sent for Aristotle..to teach his son, vnto whom he gaue honourable stipend.

† **3.** *gen.* Payment for services, wages. *Obs.*

1514 Barclay *Cit. & Uplondyshm.* (Percy Soc.) 23 Some gladly borowe, and never paye agayne, Some kepe from servauntes the stipend of theyr payne. **1551** T. Wilson *Logic* 51 Noble men are desirous to haue a good horse-keeper that can keepe their horses well, and they spare not to giue great stipends to such. **1586** Warner *Alb. Eng.* IV. xxii. (1592) 97 Yet, wot I, neuer Traytour did his Treasons Stypend mis. **1614** Ralegh *Hist. World* IV. vii. § 1. 294 The Generall consecrated a Temple to them [Castor and Pollux] as a stipend for their paines. **1621** Burton *Anat. Mel.* II. ii. IV. 341 Many Gentlemen..will..voluntarily vndertake that to satisfie their pleasure, which a poore man for a good stipend would scarce be hired to vndergoe. **1637** Marmion *Cupid & Psyche* II. ii. K 3 b, And a poore man, though tyde serve, and the wind, If he no stipend bring, must stay behind. **1642** Milton *Apol. Smect.* Wks. 1851 III. 315 How can we believe ye would refuse to take the stipend of Rome, when ye shame not to live upon the almes-basket of her prayers? **1825** W. Irving *Wolfert's Roost* (1855) 175 The porter and his wife act as domestics.. making their beds, arranging their rooms,..and doing other menial offices, for which they receive a monthly stipend. **1856** Sir B. Brodie *Psychol. Inq.* (1862) II. v. 149 The boys are generally taken away from school as soon as they are able to earn some small stipend. **1863** *Confess. Ticket-of-Leave Man* 51 Every postman has his 'walk', as you know; and certain houses in the City pay their postman a stipend for the speedier delivery of their letters every morning.

† **b.** In 16–17th c. often in echoes of Rom. vi. 23 (Vulg.), *Stipendia enim peccati mors.*

1549 Latimer *7th Serm. bef. Edw. VI* B b v, [Christ] toke vpon hym our synnes...I meane not so, not to do it, not to commit it, but to purge it, to cleanse it, to beare the stypende of it. ?**1554** Coverdale *Hope of Faithful* xxv. 172 The..bible..sayeth euidently: death is y[e] stypende or rewarde of synne. **1575–85** Abp. Sandys *Serm.* xix. 330 Seeing our sinne with the remembraunce of the stipende due for the same, wee [etc.]. **1620** Quarles *Feast for Worms* Med. vi. F 3, Lo, Death is..The iust procured stipend of our sinne. **1629** R. Hill *Pathw. Piety* (repr.) II. 58 For the stipend and wages of sin is death.

4. A fixed periodical payment of any kind, e. g. a pension or allowance, † a tax. Also, † *to keep in stipend*, to defray the maintenance of.

1545 Ascham *Toxoph.* II. (Arb.) 130 The Romaynes..appoynted..the Censores to alow out of ye common hutche yearly stipendes for ye findinge of certayne Geese. **1555** Eden *Decades* (Arb.) 290 A certeyne stypende in maner of almes. **1560** Daus tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 114 This annual

stypende, called of the common people Peter pence. 1560 Gresham in Burgon *Life* (1839) I. 310 Most humblye desiring you to be so good Father unto hym..as to augment his stipend to one hundrethe crowns more by the yere;..wherebye a maye meynteyne hymselfe somethinge like your eldest son. 1607 Topsell *Four-f. Beasts* 200 There was no meane prince in all India which was not Lord of many Elephants. The king of Palibotræ kept in stipend, eight thousand euery day. 1607 *B. N. C. Muniments* 23. 81 Received of the Renter-warden of the Skinner Company for a yearly Stippyant for a Scholler. *a* 1652 Brome *Queenes Exch.* I. ii. (1657) B 4, Allowing you That yearly stipen formerly I gave you. 1694 E. Phillips tr. *Milton's Lett. State* 36 It is..most unjust that they [*sc.* guests and strangers] should be compell'd to pay publick Stipends in a Foreign Commonwealth to him from whom they are..deliver'd at home. 1751 Eliza Haywood *Betsy Thoughtless* IV. 45 For I confess my self utterly unable to maintain a family, like our's, on the nigard stipend you have allotted for that purpose. 1766 Blackstone *Comm.* II. xxx. 454 Hiring is always for a price, a stipend, or additional recompense; borrowing is merely gratuitous. 1783 Burke *Rep. Affairs of India* Wks. 1842 II. 60 On the same complicated principles the subsequent resolution of the board professes to allow the nabob the management of his stipend and expences. 1838 Dickens *Nich. Nick.* xxxiv, Mr. Mantalini waited,..to hear the amount of the proposed stipend. 1848 — *Haunted Man* i. 24 His very picter..hangs in what used to be..afore our ten poor gentlemen commuted for an annual stipend in money, our great Dinner Hall.

† **b.** A dole or allowance in kind. *Obs. rare.*

1631 Weever *Anc. Funeral Mon.* 332 A weekly stipend of bread to the poore.

† **c.** Income. *Obs.*

1605 Chapman *All Fooles* I. i. B 4, That knights competency you haue gotten With care and labour; he with lust and idlenesse Will bring into the stypend of a begger. 1612 W. Parkes *Curtaine-Dr.* (1876) 20 Yeerely, or certaine stipend hath he none.

5. *attrib.* as † *stipend coin, wage(s.*

1532 *Test. Ebor.* (Surtees) VI. 23, v li. for his stipent wage. 1538 Bale *Bapt. Preach.* in *Harl. Misc.* (1744) I. 102 For your peynes ye haue appoynted by the emproure Your stypende wages. 1591 *1st Pt. Troubl. Raigne John* D 3, And here in mariage I doo giue with her..thirtie thousande markes of stipend coyne.

† **Sti·pend,** *v. Obs.* Also 7 **stipen.** [f. Stipend *sb.* Cf. F. *stipendier* (15th c. in Hatz.-Darm.), Sp. *estipendiar*, It. *stipendiare*; also L. *stipendiārī* to be in receipt of pay.]

1. *trans.* To pay as a reward. (In the Fr. orig. *stipendier* is used as in 2 below; Caxton has mistaken or altered the construction.)

1490 Caxton *Eneydos* ix. 38 She wolde rewarde theym wyth suche guerdons as apperteyneth to grete and hie goddys to be stypended.

2. To provide with a stipend, salary, or pension.

1597 Warner *Alb. Eng.* IX. liii. 240 Scarse will their Studies stipend them, their wiues and Children cote. 1601 in Foley *Rec. Eng. Prov. S. J.* (1880) VI. 735 He hath stipened one Allen, a soldier, a cunning fellow, for that purpose. 1620 Shelton *2nd Pt. Quix.* xlvii. 306, I, Sir, am a Physician, and am stipended in this Iland to bee so to the Gouernours of it. 1636 *Direct. Cure of Plague* B 3 b, Three Chirurgions..are also to be stipended by the City. 1651 tr. *Life Father Paul Sarpi* (1676) 60 In Rome after they were secur'd and stipended for a time, it came after to a resolution of casting them into Prison.

† **Stipendary,** *a.* and *sb. Obs.* Also 6 **stypendare.** [f. Stipend *sb.* + -ary.]

A. *adj.* = Stipendiary *a.*

1540 *Act* 32 *Hen. VIII*, c. 23 § 3 All and singulier stipendary preestis. 1552–3 *Inv. Ch. Goods Stafford* 84 Rychard Forsett..solde the ornaments of a stypendare prest ther.. for the sume of ijs. 1584 B. R. tr. *Herodotus* I. 23 The souldiers stipendary. 1591–2 in Swayne *Churchw. Acc. Sarum* (1896) 298 Curates stipendary nobles dew for two yeares..13s. 4d. 1604 Edmonds *Observ. Cæsar's Comm.* 2 According to the proportion of their stipendary time, as the Equites were admitted Tribunes at fiue yeares, so were the legionarie footmen at ten. 1604 Bancroft in *Neal's Hist. Puritans* (1754) I. 435 These are either stipendary curates, or stipendary lecturers, or men beneficed. 1612 R. Fenton *Usury* 92 Stipendarie maintenance was first the inuention of that Idolater Micha. 1619 T. Milles tr. *Mexia's* etc. *Treas. Anc. & Mod. Times* II. 336/2 We haue distributed the people gouernd in common by the Cantons of Switzerland, into fiue stipendary Townes, [etc.].

B. *sb.* = Stipendiary *sb.*

1530–1 *Act* 22 *Hen. VIII*, c. 15 § 1 All persones Vicars Curates Chauntrie Prestes Stypendaries. 1549 in *Eng. Gilds* (1870) 223 All the stipendaryes above wrytton have hadd..ij.s. wekelye ffor theyr dyett. 1561 Abp. Parker in Cardwell *Docum. Ann.* (1839) I. 272 Stipendaries, and curates, and all such beneficed men. 1584 B. R. tr. *Herodotus* II. 116 When as..Apryes on the one side with his stipendaries, and on the other side Ainasis with an huge army of the Ægyptians were come into the City Memphis, they closed battaile. 1602 [? Marston] *Jack Drums Entert.* II. D 3, As if she knew you more then for a youth, A younger brother, and a stipendary. 1625 Massinger *New Way* I. i. (1633) B 4, Money from thee? From a boy? a stipendary? one that liues At the deuotion of a stepmother. 1657 Sparrow *Bk. Com. Prayer* (1661) 89 By Curates here are not meant Stipendaries..But all..to whom the Bishop..hath committed the cure of souls. 1660 Coke *Justice Vind.* 49 Like a Mercenary stipendary to Lewis the 13...he makes neither King nor People judge of succession.

Stipended, (*ppl.*) *a. rare.* [f. Stipend *sb.* or *v.* + -ed.] That receives a stipend.

1613 F. Robartes *Revenue Gosp.* 137 When the stipended Minister is at his stint, and can get no further.

† **Stipe·ndial,** *a. Obs.*—° [f. L. *stipendi-um* Stipend *sb.* + -al.] 'Belonging to wages or hire' (Blount *Glossogr.* 1656).

Stipendiarian, *a. rare.* [f. L. *stipendiāri-us* Stipendiary + -an.] Characteristic of a stipendiary or mercenary soldier.

1796 W. Seward *Anecd.* III. 382 Lord Chatham was obliged to call in to its aid the mercenary troops of other Nations...He never so completely saturated stipendiarian rapacity, that [etc.].

Stipendiarist. *rare*⁻¹. [f. L. *stipendiāri-us* (see next) + -ist.] = Stipendiary B 1.

1834 Cobbett *Hist. Geo. IV*, II. x. 505 The poor stipendiarists who officiated were left with means inferior to those of journeymen tradesmen.

Stipendiary (stəipe·ndiări), *a.* and *sb.* Also 7 *Sc.* **stipendiar.** [ad. L. *stipendiārius*, f. *stipendium*: see Stipend *sb.* and -ary.]

A. *adj.*

1. That receives a stipend. Of a soldier (now *rare*): Serving for pay, mercenary.

Stipendiary magistrate: in England, a salaried official exercising judicial functions similar to those exercised by the unpaid justices of the peace.

In quot. *c* 1545 the MS. may have had *stipendary*.

c 1545 in *Burnet's Hist. Ref.* (1681) II. II. Rec. I. xxvii. 152 Salaries, or Wages of Stipendiary Priests. 1611 Speed *Hist. Gt. Brit.* IX. viii. 532 He makes it his first care to fasten to himself, by present largesse, and large promises of future fauours,..all the Stipendiarie Souldiers..of his deceased Brother. 1617 Morvson *Itin.* III. 251 Five stipendiary Cities,..so-called, because they serve the Sweitzers in warre at their stipend. *c* 1620 *Ibid.* IV. (1903) 426 Sigonius the Popes stipendiary Professor of historyes in this Vniversity [Bologna]. 1625 Hart *Anat. Ur.* I. i. 10 Each Citie ..hath moe or fewer of those stipendiarie Physitians. 1665 *Surv. Affaires Netherlands* 169 The Ministers..being Poor, and stipendiary, being allowed seldom above £50 a year. 1813 *Hansard's Parl. Deb.* XXVI. 100 Sir Samuel Romilly was against the principle of the [Manchester Justices'] Bill, inasmuch as it went to introduce stipendiary magistrates in the place of that respectable class of magistrates, who in this county discharged the functions of magistracy gratuitously. 1827 M. Sutton *Ibid.* XXXVI. 91 A bill 'to consolidate and amend the laws..for the support and maintenance of stipendiary curates in England'. 1828 Hallam *Mid. Ages* viii. II. (1819) II. 428 William [I]..had always stipendiary soldiers at his command. 1839 *Act* 2 & 3 *Vict.* c. 15 § 2 Any such Stipendiary Justice to sit and act as a Justice of the Peace of the said County [of Stafford]. 1850 Dickens *Dav. Copp.* xxvi, My very carpet bag was an object of veneration to the stipendiary clerks. 1859 Meredith *R. Feverel* I, Adrian became stipendiary officer in his uncle's household. 1863 H. Cox *Instit.* III. viii. 703 Stipendiary troops, both national and foreign. 1865 Dickens *Mut. Fr.* II. i, Mr. Bradley Headstone, highly certificated stipendiary schoolmaster. 1868 *Stephens' Laws Eng.* (ed. 6) II. 685 *note*, In certain populous districts, viz., in the metropolis and elsewhere, it has become the practice to appoint paid (or stipendiary) magistrates, and generally with additional powers. 1875 Stubbs *Const. Hist.* II. xvii. 555 To make the king a mere stipendiary officer.

2. Pertaining to a stipend or stipends; of the nature of a stipend. Also, of services: Paid for by a stipend.

1659 Milton *Hirelings* 104 That the magistrate..should take into his own power the stipendiarie maintenance of church-ministers,..can stand neither with the peoples right nor with Christian liberty. 1839 Hallam *Lit. Europe* II. II. § 9. 63 Did they perceive an unjust prejudice against stipendiary instruction? they gave it gratuitously. 1844 H. H. Wilson *Brit. India* III. 366 The non-compliance of the Government with his application for an augmented stipendiary grant.

3. *Roman Law.* (See quot.)

1880 Muirhead *Gaius* ii. § 21 Stipendiary lands are those situated in provinces regarded as specially belonging to the Roman people; tributary those lying in provinces held to belong specially to the emperor.

B. *sb.*

1. One who receives a stipend; a salaried clergyman or teacher; † a pensioner.

In quot. *c* 1584 the MS. may have had *stipendaries*.

c 1584 Abp. Loftus in Nicolas *Life Sir C. Hatton* (1847) 358 In the mean season, the several cures of the incumbents of the church must be left to unlearned stipendiaries. 1636 *Direct. Cure Plague* B 3, That these Doctors bee stipendiaries to the City for their liues. 1638 Sir T. Herbert *Trav.* (ed. 2) 106 They..post to Lahore to apprehend Sheryar whom they heard was baffled by Godgee Abdul-Hassen once his stipendiary. *a* 1668 *Chron. Perth* (Maitl. Club) 5 He taucht on Sonday befoir none the 28 of September preceding in eodem anno, his executouris cravit ane an, bot gott nane, he was ane nakit stipendiar. 1737 Glover *Leonidas* v. 228 [viii. 261] If thou be'st some fugitive, who, lost To liberty and virtue, art become A tyrant's vile stipendiary. 1817 Coleridge *Lay Serm.*, '*Blessed are ye*' 33 The agriculturalist, the manufacturer, or the tradesman (all in short but annuitants and fixed stipendiaries).. would shortly have [etc.]. 1845 Sumner *True Grandeur Nations* (1846) 15 A little cheese and a few vegetables are all that can be afforded to the sick and wounded, those sacred stipendiaries upon human charity. 1849–50 Alison *Hist. Europe* I. v. § 34. 594, I know but three ways of living in society: you must be either a beggar, a robber, or a stipendiary. 1853 Dickens *Bleak Ho.* xx, Mr. Guppy's two fellow-stipendiaries are away on leave.

† **b.** A stipendiary soldier, a mercenary. *Obs.*

1768 Boswell *Corsica* ii. (ed. 2) 109 It may well be believed, that venal stipendiaries..could not oppose an army of brave men. 1778 G. Stuart *View Soc. Europe* 116 [The fines, etc. levied by the crown] were to produce, in every country of Europe, a multitude of stipendiaries. These forces were a mixture of all nations. 1817 G. Chalmers *Churchyard's Chips* Pref. 26 Churchyard and the English stipendiaries, were under Captain Morgan at the siege of Tergues.

c. A stipendiary magistrate (see A 1).

1875 H. Crompton in *Fortn. Rev.* XXIV. 696 There has been among the stipendiaries as well as among the unpaid magistrates a most extraordinary laxity with reference to crimes of violence. 1881 W. S. Shirley *Magisterial Law* 6 Stipendiaries and police magistrates are appointed not by the Lord Chancellor, but by the Home Secretary.

2. *Rom. Ant.* A tributary, tax-payer.

1627 Mageóghagan tr. *Ann. Clonmacnoise* (1896) 46 Julius Cæsar after that he had Conquered the Gales and Brittans ..made the Brittans stypendiaries.

Stipendiate (stəipe·ndiĕt), *v.* Now *rare* or *Obs.* [f. L. *stīpendiāt-*, ppl. stem of *stīpendiārī*: see Stipend *v.*] *trans.* To pay a stipend to.

1656 Harrington *Oceana* 82 The Emperours must long before this have found out some other way of support; and this was by Stipendiating the Gothes. *a* 1677 — *Syst. Politics* Oceana etc. (1700) 507 A Clergy not well stipendiated is to absolute Monarchy or to Democracy as great an Infamy. *a* 1700 Evelyn *Diary* 14 Sept. 1644, All the sciences are taught in the vulgar French by Professors stipendiated by the greate Cardinal. 1860 I. Taylor *Ult. Civiliz.* 14 It is good to endow colleges, and to found chairs and to stipendiate professors.

† **Stipe·ndious,** *a. Obs.*—° [ad. L. *stīpendiōsus*, f. *stīpendi-um* Stipend *sb.*] (See quot.)

1656 Blount *Glossogr.*, *Stipendious*, that hath often been retained in wars, and served for wages.

Stipendless (stəi·pendlĕs), *a.* [f. Stipend *sb.* + -less.] That has no stipend.

c 1700 in *Maidment's Bk. Scott. Pasquils* (1868) 306 My heart, my heart, take this propyne, Sent by a stipendless divyne. 1892 *Daily News* 18 Feb. 3/3 The vicar was left stipendless.

Sti·per. *Obs.* exc. *dial.* (see *Eng. Dial. Dict.*) [OE. *stipere*. Cogn. w. the synonymous LG., MDu., MHG. *stīper*, Flem. *stijper*.] A prop.

a 1000 Ælfric *Gloss.* in Wr.-Wülcker 126/10 *Destina, uel postis, uel fulcimen*, stipere. *a* 1400 *Disp. Mary & Cross* 127 in *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* 615 Þe stipre [? *MS.* scipre] þat is vnder þe vyne set May not bringe forþ þe grape.

‖ **Stipes** (stəi·pīz). Pl. **stipites** (sti·pitīz). Also anglicized as Stipe, q.v. [L. *stīpes* (stem *stīpit-*); see Stipe.]

1. *Bot.* A stalk, esp. of some special kind, other than an ordinary leaf- or flower-stalk; e.g. one supporting a carpel or other part of a flower, or the pappus of the 'seed' or fruit of some composites; that of the frond of a fern or sea-weed (also, the stem or caudex of a tree-fern); that supporting the pileus or cap of certain fungi.

1760 J. Lee *Introd. Bot.* I. vii. (1765) 15 *Pappus*, a Down, ..a feathery or hairy Crown..connected with the seed by *Stipes*, a Trunk, which here signifies the Thread on which the Down is raised and supported. 1796 Withering *Brit. Plants* (ed. 3) I. 84 *Stipes*, a pillar, or pedicle. Also the stem of some kind of Fungi. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XVII. 597 The *stipites* or younger branches are directed for use, and may be employed either fresh or dried. 1830 Lindley *Nat. Syst. Bot.* 307 The stipes of Ferns, composed only of the united bases of the leaves or fronds, is scarcely analogous to the trunk of Vascular plants. 1847 Henfrey *Outl. Bot.* 114 When the *indusium* is torn by the expansion of the *pileus* and the elongation of the *stipes* or stem. 1864 T. Moore *Brit. Ferns* 10 The fronds of Ferns consist of two parts—the leafy portion; and the stalk, which latter is called the *stipes*. 1871 W. A. Leighton *Lichen-flora* 41 Stipites and capitula cinereo-suffused. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* I. 274/1 Morel,..one of the few fungi..which may be eaten with safety. The stipes or stalk is hollow.

2. *Zool.* A part or organ resembling a stalk; *esp.* the footstalk or second joint of the maxilla of an insect; also applied to certain parts of the mouth-appendages in myriapods.

1826 Kirby & Sp. *Entomol.* III. 357 *Stipes* (the Stalk). 1861–2 Le Conte *Classif. Coleoptera N. Amer.* I. Introd. p. xii, The hind portion or base of the maxillæ is composed of two pieces; the one articulating with the head is called the *cardo*, the second piece the *stipes*; attached to the stipes are the appendages. 1877 Huxley *Anat. Inv. Anim.* vii. 429 The short and almost rudimentary palp is attached to the extremity of the stipes. 1895 D. Sharp *Insects* I. 95 The maxilla is a complex organ consisting of numerous pieces, viz. cardo, stipes, palpiger, galea, lacinia, palpus.

Stipiform (stəi·pifōm), *a. Bot.* and *Zool.* [ad. mod.L. *stīpiformis*, f. L. *stīpi-* (nom. *stīps*) collateral form of *stīpit-* Stipes: see -form.] Having the form or character of a stipe: applied esp. to the stems of certain dicotyledonous trees, of simple structure like those of lower classes.

1821 S. F. Gray *Brit. Plants* I. 55 Stem..Stipiform,.. growing like those of palm-trees; with a bunch of leaves at top, and bearing the marks where the old leaves have fallen off. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1101/1 *Stipiform*, having the appearance of the trunk of an endogenous tree; as the papaw and other simple-stemmed exogens.

† **Sti·pit.** *Obs. rare*⁻¹. [ad. It. *stipite*, a. L. *stīpitem*, Stipes.] A post, an upright.

1592 R. D. *Hypnerotomachia* 54 A frame of three feete,. To the which were three stypits [It. *Sopra elquale erano tre stipiti infixi*]. *Ibid.*, Betwixt one and other of the stypets, there hung [etc.].

Stipitate (sti·pitĕt), *a. Bot.* and *Zool.* [ad. mod.L. *stīpitātus*, f. L. *stīpit-* Stipes: see -ate 2.] Having or furnished with a stipes or stipe; stalked.

1785 Martyn *Lett. Bot.* xxvi. 381 Tragopogon or Goat's-beard is known by..its..feathered stipitate down. 1818 T. Nuttall *Genera N. Amer. Plants* II. 73 Capsule siliquose, stipitate. 1837 P. Keith *Bot. Lex.* 43 Of the Stipitate Fungi a great many are furnished with a sort of conical or flattened production surmounting the stipe,..[called] the cap or pileus. 1845 Lindley *Sch. Bot.* iv. (1858) 87 Pappus feathery, stipitate, or sessile. 1846 Dana *Zooph.* (1848) 157 Coralla..stipitate. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1101/1 *Stipitate*,

elevated on a stalk which is neither a petiole nor a peduncle; as, for example, some kinds of carpels. 1870 HOOKER *Stud. Flora* 363 Iris..sepals large, stipitate, reflexed, stipes channelled; petals smaller, suberect stipitate, margins of stipes involute. 1882 H. J. CARTER in *Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist.* Ser. v. IX. 283 *Fibularia ramosa*. Stipitate, subcylindrical, solid, [etc.].

Also † **Stipitated** *a. Obs.* (in the same sense).

1822 J. PARKINSON *Outl. Oryctol.* 41 *Sessile calix*—Turbinated, stipitated.

Stipites, pl. of STIPES.

Stipitiform (stiˈpitifɔ̄m), *a. Bot.* and *Zool.* [ad. mod.L. *stipitiformis*, f. L. *stipit-* STIPES: see -FORM.] Having the form of a stipes; stalk-shaped; stipiform.

1859 J. B. SANDERSON in *Todd's Cycl. Anat.* V. 228/1 Cylindrical bodies..borne each at the extremity of a stipitiform cell are named stylospores. 1874 R. BROWN *Man Bot.* 613 *Stipitiform*, resembling a stalk or stem.

Stiple, obs. form of STEEPLE.

Stipone, -onie, -ony, var. ff. STEPONY *Obs.*

Stipound, obs. f. STIPEND.

Stipple (stiˈpˈl), *sb.* [In sense 1 prob. a. Du. *stippel*, dim. of *stip* point; in sense 2 f. STIPPLE *v.*]

† **1.** *pl.* Dots or small spots used in shading a painting, engraving, or other design. *Obs.*

1669 A. BROWNE *Ars Pict.* 96 How to draw with Indian Ink...Dash on your shadows very faintly, and deepen it by degrees,..then finish it with stipples.

2. The method of painting, engraving, etc. by means of dots or small spots, so as to produce gradations of tone; the effect so produced; dotted work done with the point of a brush, a pencil, or a graver. Also *transf.* applied to natural appearances resembling this.

1837 *Penny Cycl.* IX. 442/1 Engraving in stipple, as practised by Bartolozzi, Ryland, and others, in imitation of chalk drawings. 1843 RUSKIN *Mod. Paint.* I. II. II. v. § 16. 198 The stipple of the miniature painter would be offensive on features of the life size. 1912 *Daily News* 17 Apr. 4 A hedge sprinkled with many kinds of green stipple.

b. An engraving produced by this method.

1864 BURTON *Scot Abr.* II. 248 Like the other engravings.. a meagre stipple. 1907 *Tregaskis' Catal.* 29 July 47 The extra illustrations comprise..a series of 100 stipples, printed in brown.

3. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *stipple artist, engraver, engraving, plate, print, shading*: **stipple graver**, an engraving tool for stippling, having the point bent downwards; **stipple-paper**, drawing-paper with an embossed surface which can be scraped off so as to intensify the high lights of a picture.

1841 T. H. FIELDING *Art Engraving* 63 The process of stipple engraving is very simple. *Ibid.* 64 The lighter parts are laid in with the dry-point or stipple graver. 1880 *Printing Times* 15 May 96/1 Wanted, a young chromolitho stipple artist. 1886 W. WALKER in *R. A. M. Stevenson's Delaborde's Engrav.* 320 The stipple engraver William Walker. 1896 H. HOLIDAY *Stained Glass* i. 23 Stipple-shading..is in common use. 1908 A. M. HIND *Engraving & Etching* 299 The lighter kind of crayon and stipple prints. *Ibid.*, One of the pure stipple plates.

Stipple (stiˈpˈl), *v.* Also 9 **stippule**. [a. Du. *stippelen*, freq. of *stippen* to prick, speckle, f. *stip*, a point.]

1. *trans.* To paint, engrave, or otherwise design in dots; to produce gradations of shade or colour in a design by means of dots or small spots. **a.** with the design, or object represented, as obj. Also with *up*.

1760–2 GOLDSM. *Cit. W.* xlviii, Don't you think..that eyebrow stippled very prettily? 1807 J. LANDSEER *Lect. Engraving* 125 Perceiving that it was peculiarly expressive of softness, Agostino Veneziano, and Boulanger sometimes stippled their flesh, and Julio Campagnola his back-grounds also. 1862 *Athenæum* 30 Aug. 281 To grind at the mechanical practice of statue-copying alone, until he gets the bone-polishing power of stippling up antique forms with chalk to the regulation pitch.

fig. 1879 MRS. A. EDWARDES *Vivian* xii. 208 [In amateur theatricals] Every point..ought to be laboured at, stippled up like a miniature. 1892 BARING-GOULD *Trag. Caesars* I. 232 The characteristics of the man..sketched by Tacitus and stippled by Suetonius.

b. with the pigment as obj. Also with *in*.

1840 THACKERAY *Pict. Rhapsody* Wks. 1900 XIII. 331 The painter has been touching up the figures..with.. orange-colour; and you may see how this is stippled in upon the faces and hands. 1871 B. TAYLOR *Faust* (1875) II. Pref. p. vi, The master hand is still recognized, trembling with age and stippling in the color with slow and painful touches. 1902 E. R. SUFFLING *Glass Painting* vi. 104 A thin mat of colour should be either badgered over the whole surface, or else finely stippled with a French stippler.

c. with the surface or substratum as obj.

1852 *Beck's Florist* 265 In one of the large stoves formerly used as an Orchid-house,..the panes have..been..re-glazed, and painted on the outside, 'stippuled', to prevent the rays of the sun from injuring the leaves. 1882 *Hardwicke's Sci.-Gossip* Jan. 2/2 A portion of the field should be disclosed to be carefully stippled up to an even tone. 1890 W. J. GORDON *Foundry* xi. 215 A transparent plate is hatched or stippled in parallel lines.

d. *intr.* or *absol.*

1868 W. SUTHERLAND *Pract. Guide Ho. Decoration* 20 [House painting.] It is best to use the large round stippling brushes to stipple with.

2. *transf.* in reference to natural processes or effects resembling this kind of painting or engraving.

a 1774 GOLDSM. *Surv. Exp. Philos.* (1776) II. 316 That each ray be diffused upon the cornea, and from thence be converged into a point, which will help to stipple or point out the image..upon the back of the eye. 1839–52 BAILEY *Festus* 532 Like silver raindrops stippled in the ground. 1867–77 G. F. CHAMBERS *Astron.* I. I. 17 Minute pores or dots which stipple the Sun's surface. 1894 *Forum* (N.Y.) Oct. 211 The Virginia-creeper stipples the church walls with green in summer and..scarlet in winter.

Stippled (stiˈpˈld), *ppl. a.* [f. prec. + -ED 1.]

1. Painted, engraved, etc. with dots: see the verb.

1811 *Self Instructor* 525 An elegantly finished stippled engraving. 1849 H. MILLER *Footpr. Creator* x. 199 Dots that somewhat resemble the stippled markings of the miniature painter. 1884 *Harper's Mag.* Mar. 583/2 A stippled painted wall.

2. *transf.* Of natural objects: Having a dotted or minutely spotted appearance like stippled painting or engraving.

1876 J. G. JEFFREYS in *Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist.* Ser. IV. XVIII. 496 Inside glossy and stippled, showing under the microscope traces of longitudinal striæ. 1876 HARDY *Ethelberta* xli. II. 152 Unexpected breezes..rasped the smooth bay in evanescent patches of stippled shade. 1899 CAGNEY tr. *von Jaksch's Clin. Diagn.* ii. (ed. 4) 104 Varieties of coating [of the tongue] distinguished as 'stippled', 'coated', plastered', 'furred', and 'encrusted'.

Stippler (stiˈplɔr). [f. STIPPLE *v.* + -ER 1.]

1. One who stipples; an artist who paints, engraves, etc. in stipple.

1875 BESANT & RICE *With Harp & Crown* xii. 112 A stippler of photographs. 1894 SALA *Lond. up to Date* 181 He is a 'stippler' engaged at a photographer's studio.

2. A brush or engraving-tool used for stippling.

1891 in *Century Dict.* 1902 [see STIPPLE *v.* 1 b].

Stippling (stiˈpˈliŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. STIPPLE *v.* + -ING 1.] The action of the verb STIPPLE; the process or art of painting, engraving, etc. in dots; the design or shading so produced; dotted work: = STIPPLE *sb.* 2.

1807 J. LANDSEER *Lect. Engraving* 124 Stippling is a mode of producing prints by means of combinations of dots. 1868 LOCKYER *Guillemin's Heavens* (ed. 3) 43 Darker..portions ..often pretty thickly covered with dark dots, like stippling with a soft lead pencil.

attrib. 1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib., Brit.* II. No. 4582, Graining Tools,..stippling brushes.

b. *transf.* Applied to natural appearances resembling stippled painting or engraving.

1851 J. P. NICHOL *Archit. Heavens* 49 An exceedingly delicate and uniform dotting or stippling of the field of view. 1904 *Brit. Med. Jrnl.* 10 Sept. 599 A large cell..showing a uniform basophile stippling or granulation.

Stipply (stiˈpˈli), *a.* [f. STIPPLE *sb.* + -Y.] Having the character of or resembling stipple.

1892 G. S. LAYARD *C. Keene* xii. 376 Breaking up of the lines into infinitesimal curves and dots, which gave a lithographic or stipply appearance.

Stippyant, obs. form of STIPEND.

Stiptic, -ik, -ike, etc., obs. ff. STYPTIC, etc.

‖ **Stipula** (stiˈpiŭlă). Pl. **stipulæ**, also **stipulas**. [mod.L. use of L. *stipula*, straw, STUBBLE, app. a dim. formation cogn. w. *stipes*: see STIPES. The mod. botanical use of the L. word is due to Linnæus, who seems to have misunderstood (or perhaps intentionally given a new interpretation to) a definition which occurs in dictionaries of the 16th and 17th c., and goes back to Isidore *Etym.* XVII. iii. § 18, 'Stipulæ sunt folia seu vaginæ, quibus culmus ambitur'. Cooper *Thes.* (1565) has '*Stipula*..the husk that closeth in the straw', and Fuchs *De Hist. Stirp. Comm.*, Vocum difficilium explicatio, 'Stipulæ folia sunt culmum ambientia', which could easily be mistaken for a loose expression of the Linnæan sense.]

= STIPULE *sb.* **a.** *Bot.* **b.** *Ornith.* (*Cent. Dict.* 1891.)

1762 SOLANDER *Gardenia* in *Phil. Trans.* LII. 655 The plant..must be very different from a Jasmine..from the unlikeness in its leaves and stipulas. 1793 MARTYN *Lang. Bot., Stipula*, a Stipula or Stipule...A scale at the base of the nascent petioles—or peduncles. 1807 J. E. SMITH *Phys. Bot.* 219 The most..usual situation of the Stipulas is in pairs, one stipula on each side of the base of the foot-stalk.

Stipulaceous (stiːpiŭlēˈʃəs), *a.* [f. mod.L. *stipulāce-us*, f. *stipula*: see prec. and -ACEOUS. Cf. F. *stipulacé*, *-ée*.] Of the nature of or composed of stipules: see also quot. 1900.

1760 J. LEE *Introd. Bot.* III. xv. (1763) 205 Stipulaceous Buds. 1777 J. LIGHTFOOT *Flora Scot.* II. 623 The plant [Frog-bit] increases by runners, furnished with pendulous gems...These gems consist of two stipulaceous scales, folded together. 1900 B. D. JACKSON *Gloss. Bot. Terms, Stipulaceous* (1) belonging to a stipule; (2) with large stipules.

Stipulane (stiˈpiŭlān), *a. Bot. rare*—°. [ad. mod.L. *stipulāneus*, f. STIPULA.] (See quot.)

1821 S. F. GRAY *Brit. Plants* I. 86 Stipulane, *stipulanea*. Formed of stipules.

Stipulant (stiˈpiŭlănt). *Roman Law.* [ad. L. *stipulantem*, pr. pple. of *stipulāre* to STIPULATE.] = STIPULATOR 1.

1880 MUIRHEAD *Gaius* III. 100 If the obligation be made coincident with the last breath of the stipulant or promiser. *Ibid.* 105 The stipulant must hear the words of the promiser.

Stipular (stiˈpiŭlăr), *a. Bot.* [ad. mod.L. *stipulāris*: see STIPULA and -AR. Cf. F. *stipulaire*.] Of, belonging to or furnished with stipules; situated on, near or in the place of a stipule.

1793 MARTYN *Lang. Bot.* s.v. *Stipularis*, A Stipular bud. Formed of stipules or scales. 1829 T. CASTLE *Introd. Bot.* 104 Thorns, according to attending peculiarities, are..called cauline, terminal,..pericarpal, stipular, [etc.]. *Ibid.* 105 Stipular—situated on the stipule, as in the mimosa nilotica.

1872 OLIVER *Elem. Bot.* II. 277 Observe..the ligule, a scale-like stipular projection at the base of the blade of the leaf. 1887 BENTLEY *Man. Bot.* (ed. 5) 141 The leaf..consists of three distinct parts; namely..the lamina, or blade;..the petiole or leaf-stalk; and of a third or stipular portion.

Stipulary (stiˈpiŭlări), *a. Bot.* [f. prec. + -Y.] (See quot. 1900.)

1830 LINDLEY *Nat. Syst. Bot.* 154 Leaves [of the Sundew tribe] alternate, with stipulary cilliæ. 1900 B. D. JACKSON *Gloss. Bot. Terms, Stipulary*, (1) occupying the place of stipules, as some tendrils; (2) formed of stipules (Crozier).

Stipulate (stiˈpiŭlĕt), *a. Bot.* [ad. mod.L. *stipulāt-us*, f. STIPULA: see -ATE 2.] (See quot. 1900.)

1776 J. LEE *Introd. Bot.* Explan. Terms (ed. 3) 380 *Stipulatus*, stipulate, having stipula. 1830 LINDLEY *Nat. Syst. Bot.* 26 Alternate stipulate leaves. 1870 HOOKER *Stud. Flora* 326 Euphorbiaceæ..Leaves usually alternate, simple, often stipulate. 1900 B. D. JACKSON *Gloss. Bot. Terms, Stipulate* (1) having stipules, or conspicuously provided with them; (2) with scales which are degenerate stipules.

Hence † **Stipulated** *a.* = STIPULED *a.*

1829 T. CASTLE *Introd. Bot.* 51 Stipulated—when they are furnished with stipules at the axilla of each leaf.

Stipulate (stiˈpiŭlēt), *v.* Pa. t. and pa. pple. **stipulated**; 8 *Sc.* pa. pple. **stipulate**. [f. L. *stipulāt-*, ppl. stem of *stipulārī* (deponent, with pa. pple. also in passive sense). Of doubtful origin; according to Paulus (*c* 200 A.D.), f. an Old Latin *stipul-us* firm. Cf. F. *stipuler*, Sp. *estipular*, It. *stipulare*.

The alleged L. *stipulus* adj., if genuine, is prob. f. the root **stīp-* to be firm; cf. *stipes* log, trunk (see STIPES), *stipāre* to pack tightly; also STIFF *a.*]

1. *intr.* **a.** *Roman Law.* To make an oral contract in the verbal form (of question and answer) necessary to give it legal validity. Said *spec.* of the party who asks the question.

1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.*, *Stipulate*, to require and demand a thing to be given him, or done for him with ordinary words of the Law, to require by, or make a covenant, to promise effectually what he is required to do. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v. *Stipulation*, By the ancient Roman Law, no Body could Stipulate, but for himself; but as the *Tabelliones* were publick Servants, they were allowed to Stipulate for their Masters. 1880 MUIRHEAD *Gaius* III. 105 That mutes can neither stipulate nor promise is quite plain.

† **b.** *gen.* To contract, make a bargain, settle terms, covenant (*with* a person or persons). *Obs.*

a 1624 LD. HERBERT *Autobiog.* (1886) 192 Henry the Fourth and the King my master had stipulated with each other, that whensoever anyone of them died, the survivor should take care of the other's child. *a* 1677 BARROW *Serm.* XXXII. Wks. 1687 I. 467 Could he present a sacrifice, or disburse a satisfaction to his own justice? Could God alone contract and stipulate with God in our behalf? 1785 PALEY *Mor. Philos.* VI. iii. 419 In all stipulations,..the parties stipulating must both possess the liberty of assent and refusal, and also be conscious of this liberty.

2. *trans.* Of an agreement, or of both contracting parties: To specify (something) as an essential part of the contract.

c 1645 HOWELL *Lett.* I. III. XX. (1650) 66 He desir'd a valuable caution for the performance of those Articles which were stipulated in their favor. 1711 SWIFT *Cond. Allies* 53 When Portugal came, as a Confederate into the Grand Alliance, it was stipulated, That [etc.]. 1727 — *Poisoning E. Curll* Misc. (1732) 25 You shall have your third Share of the Court Poems, as was stipulated. 1751 JOHNSON *Rambler* No. 103 ¶ 14 He knows..the jointure stipulated by every contract. 1755 in *Nairne Peerage Evid.* (1874) 37 Before the term of payment of his patrimony became due as stipulate by the 5th bond. 1788 GIBBON *Decl. & F.* I. V. 199 The marriage-contract..stipulates a dowry of twelve ounces of gold and twenty camels. 1791 BOSWELL *Johnson* an. 1747 (1904) I. 125 The booksellers who contracted with Johnson ..were Mr. Robert Dodsley, [etc.]...The price stipulated was fifteen hundred and seventy-five pounds. 1819 J. MARSHALL *Const. Opin.* (1839) 156 The time of payment stipulated in the contract was extended by law. 1847 MRS. A. KERR tr. *Ranke's Hist. Servia* 260 A secret article of that treaty stipulated that Turkey should be invited to join in the alliance against Russia. 1855 CARLYLE *Prinzenraub* Misc. 1857 IV. 355 So he..made the Treaty of Passau with him.. by which..many liberties were stipulated for the Protestants. 1909 FIRTH *Last Years Protectorate* I. vii. 202 He was not provided with the 2000 cavalry stipulated in the treaty.

3. Of one of the parties to an agreement, or a person making an offer: To require or insist upon (something) as an essential condition. Now only with clause or inf. as obj.

1685 CROWNE *Sir C. Nice* v. 54 Did not I stipulate upon the surrendry of my self to this House, to be kept from Women? *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 29 Aug. 1678, The D. of Norfolk..sent to me to take charge of the bookes and remove them, onely stipulating that I would suffer..Sir William Dugdale, to have such of them as concern'd Heraldry. 1712 SWIFT *Rem. Barrier Treaty* 6 To undertake for a great deal more, without stipulating the least Advantage for Her self. 1781 GIBBON *Decl. & F.* XXV. (1787) II. 525 They stipulated only a safe and honourable retreat: and the condition was readily granted by the Roman general. 1782 COWPER *Hope* 334 The deed, by which his love confirms The largess he bestows, prescribes the terms...He stipulates, indeed, but merely this—That man [etc.]. 1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* xxiii, I did but stipulate he would remove his hateful presence, and I drank whatever he offered. 1827 — *Surg. Dau.* iv, All I stipulate, is to know the day. 1857 H. MILLER *Test. Rocks* vi. 231 Cromwell, in commissioning a friend to send him a helmet, shrewdly stipulated that it should be a 'fluted pot.' 1862 HOOK *Lives of Abps.* II. ii. 95 He had stipulated..that they should erect and endow two abbeys and four hospitals. 1886 H. D. TRAILL *Shaftes-*

bury i. 4 Old Sir Anthony Ashley..had stipulated with Sir John Cooper that the name of Ashley should go with the estates.

4. *intr.* To make an express demand *for* something as a condition of agreement.

1790 *Dallas' Rep.* I. 105 What do treaties stipulate for to guard against violence on the seas? 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* xxxiii, Her prudence..had saved her from mentioning the name of Valancourt to Montoni,..and of stipulating for his release. 1796 JANE AUSTEN *Sense & Sens.* ii, He did not stipulate for any particular sum, my dear Fanny; he only requested me, in general terms, to assist them. 1832 HT. MARTINEAU *Homes Abr.* iv, His wife was to be a domestic servant in the same farm where he was shepherd; and even little Susan was carefully stipulated for. 1844 H. H. WILSON *Brit. India* II. v. II. 209 That officer was directed..to enter into a preliminary engagement with the Nawab, which should stipulate at present for nothing more than *military* service. 1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* I. xvi. 113, I had stipulated for ten minutes' sleep on reaching the summit. 1913 R. LUCAS *Ld. North* I. ii. 35 Pitt stipulated for condemnation of the Stamp Act and general warrants.

5. *trans.* To promise, give surety for, guarantee. Now only (somewhat *rare*) with clause or infras obj.

1737 WATERLAND *Eucharist* Introd. 22 All which is solemnly entred into for the present, and stipulated for the future, by every sincere and devout Communicant. 1759 HUME *Hist. Eng. Tudors, Hen. VIII*, i. 80 He required, that John should stipulate a neutrality in the present war. 1771 GOLDSM. *Hist. Eng.* I. 286 He required the prisoner to be delivered up to him, and stipulated a large sum of money to the duke as a reward for this service. 1796 MORSE *Amer. Geog.* I. 150 Ceded to the French, who stipulated to erect no fortifications on these islands. 1839 THIRLWALL *Greece* xvii. III. 41 To recover the Athenian prisoners,..the Athenians stipulated to withdraw all their troops from Bœotia. 1858 LD. ST. LEONARDS *Handy Bk. Property Law* v. 28 You should not sign a contract for the purchase of the estate until your solicitor has seen and read the leases, unless the vendor will stipulate in writing that they contain such covenants only as are justified by the custom of the country.

† b. *absol.* To become surety or bail (*for* another). *Obs.*

1692 WOOD *Life* 18 Nov. (O.H.S.) III. 407, I appeared [in the vice-chancellor's court]—where Benjamin Wood stipulated for me in 40 *li.* 1809 SCOTT *Anne of G.* xvi, 'Insolent hind!' replied the Knight, 'dost thou stipulate? *thou* offer thy paltry word as a pledge betwixt the Duke of Burgundy and Archibald de Hagenbach?'

Hence **Sti·pulating** *ppl. a.*, stipulatory.

1737 WATERLAND *Eucharist* iv. 104 The Covenant-Charter, was given soon after the Fall, to Mankind in general, and has been carried on thro' successive Generations, by new stipulating-Acts in every Age.

Stipulated (sti·piŭlēitĕd), *ppl. a.* [f. STIPULATE *v.* + -ED 1.] That has been specified in the conditions of a contract or undertaking.

1742 KAMES *Decis. Crt. Sess. 1730-52* (1799) 41 The children are creditors and fiars of the stipulated sums. 1775 JOHNSON *Tax. no Tyr.* 59 After the expiration of the stipulated term. 1815 J. CORMACK *Abol. Fem. Infanticide Guzerat* viii. 130 Promises..always clogged with the stipulated condition, that the example should be first set by some nominated chief. 1845 MCCULLOCH *Taxation* Introd. (1852) 3 Lands were held as fiefs of the crown, on condition of their possessors performing certain stipulated services. 1848 WHARTON *Law Lex., Stipulated damage*, liquidated damage [i.e. as distinguished from a penalty, which is both uncertain and unascertained]. 1879 H. GEORGE *Progr. & Pov.* I. iii. (1881) 48 The men..are paid their stipulated wages in coin.

Stipulation 1 (stipiŭlēi·ʃən). [a. L. *stipulātiōn-em*, agent-n. f. *stipulārī*: see STIPULATE *v.* and -ATION. Cf. F. *stipulation*, Sp. *estipulacion*, It. *stipulazione*.] The action or an act of stipulating, in various senses of the verb.

† **1.** An engagement or undertaking to do something. *Obs.*

1552 HULOET, *Stipulation*, bonde, bargayne, obligation, or promise to do, perfourme, & satisfye ye thinge for the whyche suche stipulation or bond is made, whether it be for paiment of any summe of mony, or other act to be performed,..*stipulatio*. 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 264 b, The Emperour pardoned them al, taking stipulation of them, that they should no more weare armure against him [L. *accepta fide ne* etc.]. 1597 HOOKER *Eccl. Pol.* v. § 64. 156 Because the answere which they make to the vsuall demaunds of stipulation proposed in baptisme is not their owne. *a* 1618 SYLVESTER *Honour's Farew.* 127 Wks. (Grosart) II. 288 To trust our Soule with such whose Stipulation Cannot repaire, cannot reprive, Damnation. 1624 DONNE *Serm.* xliii. (1640) 427 Thou art bound to live according to that stipulation and contract, made in thy behalfe, at thy receiving of that Sacrament [of Baptism]. 1660 R. COKE *Justice Vind.* 2 A Contract is the mutual stipulation of two or more, that they will do or give. 1674 OWEN *Holy Spirit* (1693) 94 The stipulation of Obedience on our part is consequential thereupon. 1719 W. WOOD *Surv. Trade* 294 We can have no Security that the Subjects of those Nations shall not clandestinely Trade to the South-Seas, notwithstanding such Stipulation to the contrary, if they find any Advantage therein.

† **2.** A contract, agreement, treaty. *Obs.*

1649 MILTON *Tenure Kings* 28 All which..bore witness that regal power was nothing else but a mutuall Covenant or stipulation between King and people. 1681-6 J. SCOTT *Chr. Life* II. vii. § 9 Wks. 1718 I. 444 That which unites them is..their being obliged together under the same Laws and Stipulations. 1711 SWIFT *Cond. Allies* 33 Which is the only Article that I can call to mind, in all our Treaties or Stipulations, with any view of Interest to this Kingdom. *Ibid.* 47 The Emperor..was by Stipulation to furnish Ninety thousand Men against the Common Enemy. 1818 CRUISE *Digest* (ed. 2) III. 24 He doubted..whether a covenant, that the mortgagee should present..was not void; being a stipulation for something more than the principal and interest.

b. *Roman Law.* The action of making a contract or agreement in the verbal forms legally binding; a contract or agreement so made.

a 1623 SWINBURNE *Spousals* (1686) 6 Concerning the Form, so precise were the ancient Romans in the observation thereof, that they did not for a long time admit any other manner of contracting Spousals, but by stipulation. 1681 STAIR *Inst. Law Scot.* x. viii. 116 Instead of the remeids of Stipulation, the inconveniences that rejected naked Paction among the Romans, are remeided with us by this means. 1837-9 HALLAM *Hist. Lit.* II. ii. iv. § 82 He dwells on the folly of keeping up the old forms of stipulation in contracts. 1871 POSTE *Gaius* 311 The dumb cannot stipulate or promise, nor can the deaf, for the promisee in stipulation must hear the answer, and the promisor must hear the question. 1880 W. A. HUNTER *Introd. Roman Law* 101 Although the validity of a stipulation depended upon its being made orally, there was nothing to prevent..the practice of recording the terms of the stipulation in writing.

3. a. A giving security for the performance of an undertaking. (Cf. STIPULATE *v.* 5 b.)

Now only in the language of the Admiralty Courts, after quot. 1648.

1648 COKE *Instit.* IV. xxii. 135 Whereas time out of minde the Admirall Court hath used to take stipulations for appearance and performance of the Acts and Judgements of the same Court: It is now affirmed..that [etc.]. 1768 BLACKSTONE *Comm.* III. vii. 108 These courts [of Admiralty]..also take recognizances or stipulation of certain fidejussors in the nature of bail.

† **b.** The action of giving security for an assertion; asseveration, assurance. *Obs.*

1720 *Wodrow Corr.* (1843) II. 488 From this method of stipulation, by a solemn appeal to God's omniscience, with implied imprecations to him as a Judge. 1737 WATERLAND *Eucharist* Introd. 22 They are supposed, when worthily performed, to carry in them all dutiful Allegiance to God,..a Stipulation of a good Conscience, and [etc.].

4. The action of specifying as one of the terms of a contract or agreement; a formulated term or condition of a contract or agreement.

1750 JOHNSON *Rambler* No. 75 P 11, I have never discovered any lady who did not think wealth a title to some stipulations in her favour. 1766 BLACKSTONE *Comm.* II. xx. 299 Next follow the terms or stipulations..upon which the grant is made. *a* 1802 BP. S. HORSLEY *Serm.* (1826) III. xlii. 266 Hence, we may understand..with what equity and reason salvation is promised in Scripture to faith, without the express stipulation of any other condition. 1817 SELWYN *Law Nisi Prius* (ed. 4) II. 1063 In a case where there was a stipulation between three persons who appeared to the world as partners, that one of them should not participate in the profit and loss. 1844 H. H. WILSON *Brit. India* III. 155 The stipulation of the treaty of Yandabo providing for the permanent residence of a representative of the British Government, at the capital of Ava. 1889 S. WALPOLE *Life Ld. John Russell* II. xxviii. 313 The stipulations on which the two emperors had agreed at Villafranca.

5. The action of stipulating for or insisting on something as a condition of agreement; an instance of this, a condition stipulated for.

1792 *Anecd. Pitt* II. xxii. 40 Pensions were thrown about indiscriminately..The only stipulation was, 'Give us your vote.' 1845 DISRAELI *Sybil* v. xi, I did not preface it by a stipulation of confidence, because that is idle. 1878 BOSW. SMITH *Carthage* 275 The stipulation made by the ease-loving inhabitants and granted by Hannibal, that no Capuan citizen should be required to serve in his army.

Stipulation 2 (sti·piŭlā·ʃən). *Bot.* [ad. mod. L. *stipulātiōn-em*: see STIPULA and -ATION.] The arrangement of the stipules.

1760 J. LEE *Introd. Bot.* III. xvii. (1765) 209 By Stipulation is meant the Situation and Structure of the Stipulæ at the Base of the Leaves. 1830 LINDLEY *Nat. Syst. Bot.* 24 Their stipulation points out their affinity with Urticeæ.

Stipulator (sti·piŭlēitəɹ). [a. L. *stipulātor*, agent-n. f. *stipulārī* to STIPULATE. Cf. F. †*stipulateur* (Cotgr.).]

1. *Roman Law.* (See quots. and STIPULATE *v.* 1.)

1611 COTGR., *Stipulateur*, a stipulator; he that intending to bind another by words, asketh him whether he will giue, or doe, such a thing or no. 1861 MAINE *Anc. Law* ix. (1876) 329 In speaking of a party to a contract, it is always the Stipulator, the person who asks the question, who is primarily alluded to.

† **2.** One who makes a formal promise or pledge on behalf of another; a sponsor, surety, bail. *Obs.*

1619 DONNE *Pseudo-martyr* 348 They which were our stipulators at the Font. 1716 *Case Dr. Aylife* 32 The Doctor..had not Time allow'd him that Day to prepare himself with a Proctor and Stipulator (which the Common Law calls Bail).

Stipulatory (sti·piŭlēitəri), *a.* Now *rare.* [ad. mod.L. *stipulātōrius*, f. *stipulārī*: see STIPULATE *v.* and -ORY.]

1. Of the nature of or characterized by stipulation, in various senses.

1658 J. R. *Christian Subject* vii. 101 A limited power, bounded in by Oaths, Laws, Covenants, and solemn Stipulatory acts, contracted betwixt the Magistrate and the Subjects. *a* 1662 SANDERSON *Cases Consc.* (1678) 14 Whereunto agree those forms so frequent in holy Scripture, in Oaths both assertory, and stipulatory. 1695 *Whether Parliament be not in Law dissolved* etc. 17 There is no Original Contract, nor Stipulatory Agreement. 1702 H. DODWELL *Apol.* § 23 in S. Parker *Cicero's De Finibus*, This is implied in the Baptismal Stipulation, inasmuch as the Signs there used are stipulatory, and stipulatory on our part, as well as God's. 1704 in H. M. R. Reid *Cameronian Apostle* (1896) 236 That all compacts and covenants..are mutual and stipulatory, binding each party conditionally to the performance of what they have engaged. 1880 MUIRHEAD *Gaius* II. 38 You must..take from him a stipulatory engagement for the same debt.

2. Constituted by stipulation or agreement.

1762 tr. *Busching's Syst. Geog.* IV. 492 He bequeathed..the county of Pyrmont to his cousins the Counts Christian and Wolrad of Waldeck, his stipulatory successors and cousins.

Stipule (sti·piul), *sb. Nat. Hist.* [a. F. *stipule*, ad. mod.L. STIPULA. Cf. Sw. *stipel*.]

1. *Bot.* A lateral appendage (often resembling a small leaf or scale) borne in pairs upon the leaf-base of certain plants. Also applied to a similar appendage in Characeæ, and to the paraphyllum of mosses.

1793 MARTYN *Lang. Bot.*, *Stipula*, a Stipula or Stipule... A scale at the base of the nascent petioles. 1800 *Asiatic Ann. Reg.* 276/1 Stipules lateral, paired, ovate, acuminated. 1875 BENNETT & DYER *Sachs' Bot.* 192 Stipules may be considered as lateral branches of the leaves which arise at their very point of insertion;..each single stipule is usually bilaterally unsymmetrical, and its shape is therefore such that [etc.]. *Ibid.* 281 From the basal nodes of Chara other foliar structures also arise,..which Braun calls Stipules.

2. *Ornith.* A newly sprouted feather; a pin-feather. [So F. *stipule* (Littré).] 1891 *Century Dict.*

Hence † **Sti·puleless** *a.*

1802 R. HALL *Elem. Bot.* Dict., Stipule-less, *exstipulatus*, without stipules.

† **Sti·pule,** *v. Obs. rare*—1. [a. F. *stipuler*: see STIPULATE *v.*] *trans.* = STIPULATE *v.* 2.

1623 tr. *Favine's Theat. Hon.* I. i. 11 Among Masles, the eldest..ought to be acknowledged by his Fathers Armes: If he [*mistranslation for* it] be not otherwise stipuled by Contracts of marriage, of donation, or of substitution. [Orig. *s'il n'est autrement stipulé* [etc.].]

† **Stipulean,** *a. Bot. Obs.*—° [ad. mod.L. *stipuleānus*, irreg. f. STIPULA.] (See quot.)

1821 S. F. GRAY *Brit. Plants* I. 90 Stipulean, *Aculei stipuleani*. Growing near the leaves, and appearing to rise from stipules changed. *Ibid.* 91 Tendrils..Stipulean, *stipuleani*. Resulting from the change of a stipule.

Stipuled (sti·piŭld), *a. Bot.* [f. STIPULE *sb.* + -ED 2.] Furnished with stipules, stipulate.

1793 MARTYN *Lang. Bot.*, *Stipulatus caulis*, a Stipulate or stipuled stalk. Having stipules on it. 1833 HOOKER in *J. E. Smith's Eng. Flora* V. i. 109 The gemmiferous elongations alone stipuled. 1855 ANNE PRATT *Flower. Plants* V. 94 *Salix stipularis* (The Stipuled or Auricle-leaved Osier or Willow). 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1140/2 Trees..having alternate, simple, stipuled leaves.

Stipuli·ferous, *a. Bot.* [f. mod.L. *stipulifer*, f. STIPULA: see -FEROUS. Cf. F. *stipulifère*.] Bearing stipules.

1900 B. D. JACKSON *Gloss. Bot. Terms.*

Stipuliform (sti·piŭlifɔm), *a. Bot. rare.* Also **stipuleæform.** [f. L. type *stipuliform-is*, f. STIPULA: see -FORM.] Having the form of a stipule.

1870 HOOKER *Stud. Flora* 26 Cardamine Impatiens... Petioles with stipuliform fringed auricles. 1900 B. D. JACKSON *Gloss. Bot. Terms*, *Stipulæform*, *stipuliform*, shaped as though a stipule.

Stipulode (sti·piulōud). *Bot.* [f. STIPULA + -ODE.] A stipular organ of one cell, in one or more rows subtending the branchlets in *Chara*.

1880 H. & J. GROVES in *Jrnl. Bot.* Apr. 100 Lower circle of stipulodes very short. 1881 *Ibid.* Jan. 2 It is usual among Charas for a correlation to exist between the stipulodes and the bract cells.

Stipulose (sti·piulōus), *a. Bot.* [ad. mod.L. *stipulōs-us*, f. *stipula*: see STIPULE and -OSE. Cf. F. *stipuleux*, *-euse*.] Having very large stipules.

1900 B. D. JACKSON *Gloss. Bot. Terms.*

Stipye, obs. form of STEEPY.

Stir (stəɹ), *sb.*1 Forms: see STIR *v.* [f. the verb. ONorthumbrian had *gestir* (only once, glossing *actio* in *Rit. Dunelm.* 187). The cognate ON. *styr-r* masc. (see STIR *v.*) may possibly be in part the source of the Sc. and northern uses, which (in the β forms) are recorded from the 14th c.] The action or an act of stirring, in various senses.

1. Movement, considered in contrast to or as an interruption of rest or stillness; slight or momentary movement; movement of disturbance, agitation. († In quot. 1589, motion in general.) *On the stir* (rare): astir, stirring.

a. 1562 J. HEYWOOD *Prov. & Epigr.* (1867) 100 At stur of euery mouse. 1589 PUTTENHAM *Eng. Poesie* II. iii. (Arb.) 81 Some [words] aske longer, some shorter time to be vttered in, and so, by the Philosophers definition, stirre is the true measure of time. 1660 SHARROCK *Vegetables* 92 Heterogeneous things, upon their meeting, ordinarily cause that stir which is thought..to have great influence upon vegetation. 1803 SOUTHEY *Inchcape Rock* 1 No stir in the air, no stir in the sea. 1805 WORDSW. *Waggoner* i. 22 Hush, there is some one on the stir! 'Tis Benjamin the Waggoner. *a* 1821 KEATS *Hyperion* i. 7 No stir of air was there. 1845 BROWNING *Time's Revenges* 58 The stir Of shadow round her mouth. 1885 STEVENSON *Child's Gard. Verses* 14 Not a stir of child or mouse. 1898 'H. S. MERRIMAN' *Roden's Corner* iii. 32 Presently there was a stir at the door, and Cornish entered the large room.

β. *c* 1470 [see 4]. *c* 1480 HENRYSON *Mor. Fab., Fox, Wolf & Cadger* 116, I trow ȝe haif bene tussillit with sum tyke, That garris ȝow ly sa still withouttin steir.

2. Active or energetic movement of a number of persons (or animals); bustle, activity. (In some cases hardly distinguishable from 3.)

c 1586 C'TESS PEMBROKE *Ps.* I. LXXXVIII. iii, As one who free from strife, And sturr of mortall life Among the dead at rest doth sitt. 1634 MILTON *Comus* 5 Above the smoak and stirr of this dim spot, Which men call Earth. 1712-13 SWIFT *Jrnl. to Stella* 21 Mar., Company will come, and a stir, and a clutter. 1784 COWPER *Task* III. 739 The stir of commerce. 1836 THIRLWALL *Greece* XXV. III. 375 The stir of

preparation immediately began. 1863 Geo. Eliot *Romola* x, By this time the stir of the Festa was felt even in the narrowest side-streets.

3. Commotion, disturbance, tumult; general excitement; fuss. Now usually with *a*; the plural, now rare, was formerly common, esp. in the sense 'publick disturbance, tumultuous disorder' (J.), riot, insurrection. Phrase, †*to keep a stir.*

a. sing. a 1547 Surrey *Æneis* iv. (1557) G ij, Her sister Anne, spritelesse for dread to heare This fearefull sturre, with nailes gan teare her face. 1549 in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* Ser. I. II. 168 If you forsake to come to this..peaxable agrement,..the inconveniences which may ensue upon stirre must grow of yow. a 1557 Mrs. M. Basset tr. *More's Treat. Passion* M.'s Wks. 1390/1 Sundry matters as in such a sodain styrre very sore perplexed them. 1579 J. Field tr. *Calvin's 4 Serm.* i. 8 But what a blundering and stirre keepe they heere? 1629 Hobbes *Thucyd.* II. 112 Being then at their wits end, they kept a stirre at Pericles. 1655 Baxter *Quaker's Catech.* 19 Your Prater also made a stirre with me for calling the sacred Languages the Originall. 1671 Trenchfield *Cap Gray Hairs* (1688) 17 There are many things we make no small stir about. 1732 Berkeley *Minute Philos.* (1732) I. 56 Glaucus, who used to say, that Statesmen and Lawgivers may keep a stir about right and wrong, just and unjust, but that, in truth [etc.]. 1782 Cowper *Mut. Forb.* 21 For one slight trespass all this stir? 1802 Wordsw. *To Small Celandine* 15 I'm as great as they, I trow, Since the day I found thee out, Little Flower!—I'll make a stir, Like a sage astronomer. 1847 James *Convict* xiv, The Chartists are making a great stir about here just now. 1885 'Mrs. Alexander' *At Bay* viii, He always came to the front when there was any stir in the Lambert affair.

pl. 1555 Eden *Decades* (Arb.) 86 The Leauetenaunt asked hym what al these sturres and tumultes ment. 1575-85 Sandys *Serm.* v. 85 His Apostles are not breeders of stirs and mutinies, they are messengers sent to make peace. 1650 S. Clarke *Eccl. Hist.* I. (1654) 26 They never intended any stirs or rebellions against the Empire. 1680 Morden *Geog. Rect., Modena* 209 Great Stirs between the Popes and the old Dukes of Ferrara. 1847 Emily Brontë *Wuthering H.* iv, He complained so seldom, indeed, of such stirs as these, that I really thought him not vindictive. 1876 Freeman *Norm. Conq.* IV. xx. 531 The stirs [ed. 1871 commotions] which were soon to arise on the side of Maine, Anjou, and Brittany. 1896 Crockett *Grey Man* xl. 268 Thrusting myself into all the stirs and quarrels.

β. 1375, *c* 1375, a 1568 [see 4]. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 7398 The stere was full stithe; here starf mony knightes. 1570 *Sat. Poems Reform.* x. 196 Brother, allace, had ȝe bene heir, I had not cum in all this sturt and steir. 1728 Ramsay *Step-daughter* 8 My Step-dame..keeps the hale House in a steer. 1873 C. Gibbon *Lack of Gold* vi, Annie's grandmother, a bairn then, was in the thick of the steer. 1912 R. M. Fergusson *Ochil Fairy T.* 45 A terrible steer got up among the ponies, that began jumping about like mad beasts.

†**4.** *On steer* (cf. senses 1–3): astir, in motion; in a state of commotion or tumult. *Sc. Obs.* (see Astber *adv.*)

1375 Barbour *Bruce* vii. 344 Swa that the host wes all on steir. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xi. (*Simon & J.*) 343 Nere al þe land of babylone one stere mad þai. *c* 1470 *Rauf Coilȝear* 411 He saw na thing on steir. a 1568 A. Scott *Poems* (S. T. S.) ii. 112 Syne eftir denner raiss the din, And all the toun on steir.

5. *fig.* Movement of feeling or thought; emotion; impulse; intellectual activity.

1563 J. Man tr. *Musculus' Commpl.* 438 b, Thys sayeth Lactance. By whyche wordes he dothe not take from God the commotion and sturre of anger, but that onelye whyche is ioyned with fault. 1611 Shaks. *Cymb.* I. iii. 12 He did keepe The Decke, with Gloue, or Hat, or Handkerchife, Still wauing, as the fits and stirres of 's mind Could best expresse how slow his Soule sayl'd on. 1820 Keats *Isabella* i, They could not in the self-same mansion dwell Without some stir of heart. 1849 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* iii. I. 409 In this, as in every great stir of the human mind. 1878 Spurgeon *Treas. Dav.* Ps. cxiv. 4 God's power of creating a stir in lethargic minds. 1899 Bridges *New Poems* viii. (1912) 339 Fair Thy dreams..Yea, godlike when thou hast the skill To steal a stir of the heavenly thrill.

6. An act of stirring something, e.g. a liquid, etc.; a poke, jog; *fig.* a rousing.

1818 Cobbett *Pol. Reg.* XXXIII. 71 Public opinion had received a great stir. 1857 Hughes *Tom Brown* II. viii, 'Eh, Arthur?' said Tom, giving him a stir with his foot. 1904 *Daily News* 2 Dec. 6 Each of the family took a stir... A Christmas pudding required much stirring.

Stir, *sb.*[2] *Sc.* Vulgar corruption of Sir.

1784 Burns *'There was a birkie born in Kyle'* vi, Guid faith, quo' she, I doubt you, Stir. 1816 Scott *Old Mort.* viii, Troth, stir,..neshessity, stir—I'm seeking for service, stir.

Stir (stɔ̄r), *sb.*[3] *slang.* A prison.

1851 Mayhew *Lond. Labour* I. 421. I was in Brummagem, and was seven days in the new 'stir' (prison). 1896 A. Morrison *Child Jago* 313 A man has time to think things out, in stir. 1907 *Times* 2 July 15/3 The prisoner..said, 'It is all right. I'll go to stir (prison) over this lot. I did not intend to kill her.'

Stir (stɔ̄r), *v.* Inflected **stirred, stirring.** Forms: α. 1 **styrian,** 2–4 **sturie** (4 **styry**), 3–5 **sture,** 3–8 **stire,** 4–6 **styrre,** 4–7 **stirre,** 5–6 **sterre,** 4–8 **styre,** 5–6 **styr,** 5–7 **stur(re,** 6–7 **stirr,** 4– **stir.** β. 3–7 **stere,** 4 **steore,** 4–5 **steri(e,** *Sc.* **steyr(e,** 4–6 **ster,** (4 *inf.* **stern),** 4–7 *Sc.* **steir,** 5 **stear, steure,** 5–6 **stier(e,** (*Sc.* **steire**), 5–9 (chiefly *Sc.* and *north.*) **steer,** 6 **steere,** 6–7 **steare.** γ. 3 **storie,** 5 **storre,** 5–6 **store,** 6 **stoure, stowre, stoore.** [OE. *styrian* corresponds to MSw. *styra* or *styria* (once; the reading is doubtful), Norw. *styrja* to make a disturbance (? Da. *for-styrre* to disturb, influenced by G. *verstören*);—OTeut. type, **sturjan,* related to **sturi-z* masc., a stir, disturbance (ON. *styr-r*, Norw. *styr*); the same Teut. root, according to some scholars, appears in **sturmo-z* Storm *sb.* An ablaut-variant **staurjan* is believed to be represented in OFris. *to-stēra*, OS. *to-stōrian* to destroy (MDu., mod.Du. *storen* to disturb), OHG. *stōrren, stōran* (MHG. *stæren*, LG., mod.G. *stören* to disturb, whence Sw. *störa*).

For the phonology of the β forms (chiefly northern), cf. Speer *v.*, where the northern form is the only one common in literary use, and is therefore adopted as the typical form in the Dictionary.]

I. Transitive senses.

1. To move, set in motion; *esp.* to give a slight or tremulous movement to; to move to and fro; to shake, agitate.

a. a 1023 Wulfstan *Hom.* xlix. (1883) 255 Ic mine hearpan genam and mine strengas styrian ongan. *c* 1220 *Bestiary* 520 Storm stireð al ðe se. a 1400 *King & Hermit* 477 The frere gaff hym a bow in hond...He myȝt oneth styre þe streng. *c* 1440 *Jacob's Well* 6 þe watyr in þe se is styred wyth þe wynde. 1536 *Stories & Proph. Scripture* M j, The earthe hath bene styrred and hath quaked. 1651 Hobbes *Leviath.* I. ii. 4 When a thing lies still, unlesse somewhat els stirre it, it will lye still for ever. 1817 Shelley *Rev. Islam* III. xxx, The shrill sea-wind, whose breath idly stirred My hair. 1847 James *Convict* iv, A brisk gale stirring the air. 1887 F. Francis Jun. *Saddle & Mocassin* 123 'Get up, or I'll beat the stuffing out of you!' he says mildly, stirring the reins at the same time.

β. *c* 1384 Chaucer *H. Fame* 817 Euerych ayre other stereth More and more and spedie vpbereth. *c* 1530 *Judic. Urines* II. viii. 34 Whan..the humours be moche Agitat and moued and stered in the vessels. 1567 Golding *Ovid's Met.* v. 431 Calliope..with hir thumbe gan steare The quiuering strings. 1615 Chapman *Odyss.* xxi. 324 He warm'd and suppl'd it, yet could not stere To any draught, the string [of the bow], with all his Art.

b. To move (a limb or member); chiefly, now almost always, in negative or similar expressions: to make any or the slightest movement with.

To stir one's stumps: see Stump *sb.* †*To stir one's tail* (Sc. obs.), to bestir oneself, make a disturbance.

a. *c* 1205 Lay. 17434 He..sturede his tunge alse he bede sunge. a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 130 Ase brid hwon hit wule vleon stureð his hwingen. 1388 Wyclif *Ps.* xxi[i]. 8 Alle men seynge me scorneden me; thei..stiriden the heed. *c* 1440 *Alphabet of Tales* 96 He garte bynd hym þer-so with rapis, þat he myght nowder stur hand nor fute. 1567 Palfreyman *Baldwin's Mor. Philos.* I. ii. (1600) 31 b, Socrates..vsed sometime through vehemencie of his communication to shake his hand, and stirre his finger. 1590 Spenser *F. Q.* III. vii. 45 Unable to arise, or foote or hand to styre. 1676 C. Hatton in *H. Corr.* (Camden) I. 134 They..soe bruised his arme y^t he wase never able to stirr it after. 1712 Addison *Spect.* No. 369 P 9 The Gods..do not stir their Feet, nor proceed Step by Step. 1823 Scott *Quentin D.* xx, 'I will not stir a foot', said the Countess, obstinately. 1825 — *Talism.* iii, Thy companion had been slain by thy side,..without thy stirring a finger in his aid. 1887 J. Payn *Holiday Tasks* 65 Sometimes he would sign anything in the most obliging manner, and sometimes refuse to stir a finger.

β. 1377 Langl. *P. Pl. B.* xvii. 54 He myȝte neither steppe ne stonde ne stere fote ne handes. *c* 1400 tr. *Secreta Secret., Gov. Lordsh.* 116 He þat..with spekyng sterys his hondes, he ys fowl, eloquent, and deceyuant. a 1572 Knox *Hist. Ref.* IV. Wks. 1848 II. 331 Hir Uncles war begyning to steir thair taill [*v. r.* taills], and to truble the hoill Realme of France. a 1578 Lindesay (Pitscottie) *Chron. Scot.* (S.T.S.) I. 412 Auchtorite nor power spreitwall..micht nocht that tyme prevaill quhan Dame Curia began to steir hir taill. 1609 Skene *Reg. Maj., Baron Crts.* xv. 104 b, The quhilk partie, sall say, in this maner incontinent, fra the dome be given or he steir his taes, quhere his heill stude.

†c. To move about (something held in or grasped by the hand); to wield (a weapon); to brandish, flourish; to actuate, manage, ply (an instrument or mechanical applianee). *Obs.*

c 1205 Lay. 2197 Heo stureden heora wepnan. 13.. *Gaw. & Gr. Knt.* 331 Now has Arthure his axe, & þe halme grypez, & sturnely sturez hit aboute. 1575 Gascoigne *Glasse of Govt.* Wks. 1910 II. 43 To stir an ore, in every forward boate. 1603 J. Davies (Heref.) *Microcosmos* 145 He..left a Sonne..Who being yong, could not yet stirre the sterne. 1607 Earl Stirling *Jul. Cæsar* II. i. S 1, Th' insolent..Stirre now their tongues, as we did then our swords.

†d. To send forth, utter, cause to be heard (a voice or sound); also, to make (a gesture). *Obs.*

a 1000 *Boeth. Metr.* xiii. 49 þonne hi ȝeheraþ hleoðrum bræȝdan oðre fuȝelas, hi heora aȝne stefne styriaþ. a 1300 *Cursor M.* 24101 Mi steuen þat i was wont to stere, Vnnethes moght i self it here. *c* 1614 Sir W. Mure *Dido & Æneas* II. 529 So still he stands, nor voyce nor gesture steirs.

†e. To cause to move along or away; to drive, convey, impel; also *fig. Obs.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 29546 Cursing..steres his cristendame fro, and liuers him to þe find his foo. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 3709 A shippe, þat was stird with the storme streght out of warde. *c* 1410 *Sir Cleges* 150 Sche hym comfortt̄yd..Hys sorowe away to stere. 1575 Churchyard *Chippes* 93 b, Your dealyngs rash, and wretched reuels rued With sticks did stoer, from hiue the quiet Bees.

f. To move (something) from its place; to shift, displace. Chiefly (now always) with negative or its equivalent (implying ineffectual effort): (to be unable) to move or shift in the slightest degree. ? Now *rare* or *Obs.*

a. a 1000 *Boeth. Metr.* vii. 25 Swa bioð anra ȝehwæs monna modsefan miclum awezede, of hiora stede styrede. *c* 1205 Lay. 17403 ȝif ȝe hine [*sc.* a stone] maȝen sturien, *c* 2330 *Arth. & Merl.* 2832 King Nanters..No miȝt it [*sc.* the sword] drawe out of þe ston, Ne no gentil man of priis No miȝt it ones stiren. *c* 1450 *Mirk's Festial* 274 He layde hond to Martyns body,..but he myght not sture hit by no craft þat he cowthe. a 1628 Preston *Breastpl. Faith* (1630) 57 If you take other metall than Iron, the Load-stone will not stirre it. 1693 Moxon *Mech. Exerc.* (1703) 283 Take away the Centre Rule, but stir not the Wainscot. 1719 De Foe *Crusoe* I. (Globe) 123 A great Block of hard Wood..as big as I had Strength to stir. 1759 Franklin *Ess.* Wks. 1840 III. 110 Laying heavy burdens on men's shoulders, which they themselves would not stir with a single finger.

β. a 1300 *Cursor M.* 16568 þeþen moght þai for na might it stere a fote o strete. 1382 Wyclif *Wisd.* iv. 19 He shal..stern hem [Vulg. *commovebit*; 1388 moue hem] fro the foundemens. *c* 1470 Henry *Wallace* v. 425 The Gask hall standand..With out harme, nocht sterd off it a stane. 1557 Phaer *Æneid* v. (1558) N j b, Your prises certayn ben, shall no man them from order stere.

g. To rouse or disturb with a push.

1590 Spenser *F. Q.* II. v. 2 His steed..fomed yre, When with the maistring spur he did him roughly stire. a 1722 Lisle *Husb.* (1757) 323 The rams would keep moving and stirring the ewes all night in the fold. 1891 Kipling *Light that Failed* ix. (1900) 165 Binkie turned over on his back on the hearth-rug, and Dick stirred him with a meditative foot.

2. *refl.* To move oneself or one's limbs; to move or walk about; to take bodily exercise; to move from one's place. (Rarely of inanimate things.) Now *rare* or *Obs.*; replaced by the intransitive use (I-I, 12).

c 888 Ælfred *Boeth.* xxxv. § 7 Þa stanas hi styredon for þy swege. *c* 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* I. 316 He sceal gan & hyne styrian. 13.. *Cursor M.* 5138 (Gött.) He miht noght stir him of þat sted. 1470–85 Malory *Arthur* VIII. viii. 284 He myȝt not..vmethe stere hym of his lymmes. 1561 Hollybush *Hom. Apoth.* 44 b, Let him walke and steare himself without ceasynge. 1704 Fuller *Med. Gymn.* (1711) 21 The more a Man stirs himself, the more Animal Spirits are made in the Brain. 1871 B. Taylor *Faust* (1875) II. II. iii. 114 Stir yourselves, ye whispering rushes.

3. To agitate with the hand or an implement so as to alter the relative position of the parts of:

a. a liquid, or a soft or semi-liquid mass; *esp.* to agitate with a more or less circular continuous movement, as with a spoon, so as to mix the particles or promote solution of solid matter; also (*rarely*) to 'trouble', render turbid. Also with adv., as *about, round.*

a. *c* 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* II. 76 Styre mid sticcan. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 8937 Ilk dai..þar lighted dun..Angels,..For to stir þe stang. *c* 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* XII. 588 Let stire hit wel and aysel mynge into. 1523-34 Fitzherb. *Husb.* § 44 Put all in-to the sayde panne, and styrre it aboute. 1561 tr. *Calvin's 4 Serm. Idol.* i. C j, But what nede we herin to stirre the truth, as yf we shuld bloundre and trouble a water that is pure and clear. 1579 Gosson *Sch. Abuse* (Arb.) 21 Amplyfying that which the more it is stirred, the more it stinkes. 1640 T. Brugis *Marrow of Physicke* II. 151 Set them off the fire, and with the backe of a Spoone, stirre them. 1769 Mrs. Raffald *Engl. Housekpr.* (1778) 205 Boil it and keep stirring it all the while. 1802 Wordsw. *Resol. & Indep.* xii, He the pond Stirred with his staff, and fixedly did look Upon the muddy water. 1905 R. Bagot *Passport* xxi. 212 Idly stirring her little cup of black coffee. 1915 'F. Anstey' *Percy* 121 To be home in time to stir our Christmas pudding.

β. 1375 in Horstmann *Altengl. Leg.* (1878) 138/1 God sente eche day an angel..And to þat tre he wente..þe water panne sterede ful sẽn. *c* 1400 tr. *Secreta Secret., Gov. Lordsh.* 85 Lat þe sethinge be steryd and strenyd to it bycome cleer. 1535 Coverdale *Ezek.* xxxii. 12 The catell..shal come no more vpon the waters: so that nether mans fote ner beastes clawe, shal stere them eny more. 1787 Burns *Holy Fair* xx, Sit round the table,..An' steer about the toddy. 1878 'Saxon' *Gallov. Gossip* 222 He had yin Micht a served for a spurtel for steerin his brose.

(*b*) To mix (*in, together*, etc.) by stirring.

c 1420 *Liber Cocorum* (1862) 30 Do wyne þerto and venegur gode, Sture hom wele togeder. 1599 A. M. *Gabelhouer's Bk. Physic* 180/1 Take..whyt leade, & stirr it therin. *Ibid.* 183/1 Then stirr them al together, & let it stand. *c* 1770 Mrs. Glasse *Compl. Confectioner* 17 Stir in the sugar by degrees. 1827 Faraday *Chem. Manip.* vi. (1842) 174 More water should then be added, and the whole stirred together. 1915 'F. Anstey' *Percy* 124 The tokens were bound to turn up, as I had stirred them well into the pudding with my own hand.

(*c*) *absol.*

1712 Motteux *2nd Pt. Quix.* xii. (1749) III. 91 The more ye stir, the more 'twill stink. 1806 A. Hunter *Culina* (ed. 3) 24 Taking care to stir, or shake, only one way. 1853 Lytton *My Novel* (Hoppe), The more you stir in it the more it stinks.

b. a collection of solid bodies or particles; *esp.* to poke (burning coals, a fire) so as to promote combustion. † *To stir coals* (fig.): see Coal *sb.* 11.

a. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 3580 He..dede ðat calf melten in fir, And stired it al to dust sir. *c* 1386 Chaucer *Can. Yeom. Prol. & T.* 725 He stired the coles. *c* 1532 Du Wes *Introd. Fr.* in *Palsgr.* 956 To styrre the fire, *tiscr.* 1765 *Museum Rust.* IV. 467 The [flax] seed..must be stirred every two or three days. 1888 'J. S. Winter' *Bootle's Childr.* ii, Seizing the poker and stirring the fire vigorously.

β. 1557 Phaer *Æneid* v. (1558) O iij, He steres the sleping brandes, And Troian sacred fyer. a 1794 *Donocht-Head* 22 in *Burns' Wks.* (1809) IV. 176 I'll steer my fire, I'll make it bleeze a bonnie flame. 1806 R. Jamieson *Pop. Ballads* I. 348 He steer'd the ingle, and dichtit his beik.

c. soil or earth, as with an agricultural implement; *spec.* to plough across the furrows made by a former ploughing.

a. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 365/1 To Styr lande, *barectare.* 1523-34 Fitzherb. *Husb.* § 141 He wolde haue his landes plowed, donged, sturred, or sowen. 1686 tr. *Chardin's Trav. Persia* 125 The Earth had been stirr'd. 1731-33 Tull *Horse-Hoeing Husb.* xx. 291 This Sort of Land must not be

stirred, i.e. plowed the second time in wet Weather. 1842 Loudon *Suburban Hort.* 127 There is no mode of stirring the soil, whether by picks, forks, or hoes, which may not be performed with this implement [spade].

β. 1523–34 Fitzherb. *Husb.* § 16 The rayne shall beate the lande so flat, and bake it so hard to-gyther, that if a'drye Maye come, it wyll be to harde to stere in the moneth of June. 1843 Hardy in *Proc. Berw. Nat. Club* II. No. 11. 63 The ground for the barley crop..required to be twice.. ploughed; once in the back end, and again in spring,—the latter process being termed 'steering the barley seed.'

4. *fig.* To move from a fixed or quiet condition; to disturb, trouble, molest; to put into tumult or confusion, to upset. *Obs.* exc. *dial.*, or as merged in other senses.

α. c950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Mark v. 35 Huætd lengc styres ðu [Vulg. *vexas*] done laruu? 1154 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1140, þa was al Engle land styred mar þan ær wæs. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 268 Þu nouhst nout sturien ne trubien þine heorte. *a* 1340 Hampole *Psalter* xii. 5 If þai stire vs fra stabilnes of thoght. *c* 1400 *Laud Troy Bk.* 4868 That the Gregeis vs not sterre, To take oure toun with arte and scleght. 1599 B. Jonson *Ev. Man out of Hum.* Prol. 83, I will not stirre your patience. 1602 Chettle *Hoffman* i. (1631) B 2, Sweare..to ayd assist me, not to stirre Or contradict me in any enterprise. *c* 1620 *Hist. Feuds & Conf. Clans* (1818) 31 Angus Macconald,..did not stir the pledges [hostages], who were innocent of what was done unto his lands in his absence. 1634 Milton *Comus* 371, I do not think my sister..so unprincipl'd..As that the single want of tight and noise..Could stir the constant mood of her calm thoughts.

β. *c* 1374 Chaucer *Troylus* i. 228 (Harl. 1239) He..wende nothyng had hade suche myght A-3en his wille that schulde his hert stere. *c* 1394 *P. Pl. Crede* 829 Studye þou nouȝt þeron ne stere þi wittes. 1456 Sir G. Haye *Gov. Princis* (S.T.S.) II. 82 He that all steris and misgovernis. *c* 1480 Henryson *Mor. Fab., Trial Fox* 922 My micht is merciabill, And steiris nane that ar to me prostrait. *c* 1550 Bale *K. Johan* (Camden) 33, I pray the,..my pacyens no more stere. 1786 Burns *Twa Dogs* 187 Nae cauld nor hunger e'er can steer them. 1816 Scott *Old Mort.* xlii, Nane durst steer me when he was in power.

5. To rouse from rest or inaction; to excite to movement or activity.

c 1200 Ormin 5845 Þurrh þatt te faderr gaþ þærto & stireþþ itt & waccneþþ. *c* 1550 *Battle of Otterburn* iii. in Child *Ballads* III. 295/1 Vpon Grene Lynton they lyghted dowyn, Styrande many a stage. 1596 Shaks. *Tam. Shr.* I. i. 182 Nay, then tis time to stirre him fro his trance. 1607 Topsell *Four-f. Beasts* 585 The Leopard when he was stirred ranne too and fro distracted. 1816 Scott *Antig.* xxxvi, He's steered the town to get awa an express to fetch his carriage. 1829 — *Anne of G.* xxvi, Follow forth your own ..objects, without stirring a nest of hornets.

† **b.** To excite to activity, to stimulate (a bodily function, 'humour', etc.): also with the person as obj. *Obs.*

c 1000 [see Stirring *ppl. a.* 3 a]. *c* 1400 tr. *Secreta Secret., Gov. Lordsh.* 73 Somer tyme ys hoot and drye, and þanne þe rede colere ys steryd. *c* 1491 *Chast. Goddes Chyld.* 20 The wycked humours ben styred and make the stomocke replete. 1609 [see Stirring *ppl. a.* 3 a]. 1686 tr. *Chardin's Trav. Persia* 235 The Remedy..that kills in one Country, does but only stir a Man in another.

† **c.** *To stir one's time*: to make vigorous use of one's opportunity. *Sc. Obs.*

a 1578 Lindesay (Pitscottie) *Chron. Scot.* (S.T.S.) II. 30 Seing this devissioun amangis the nobilietie of Scotland, they steirit thair tyme and wssit thair weiris the mair scharpelie. 1591 R. Bruce *Serm. Edin.* S 7 b, His enemies were aloft, sturring their time, rageing in murther, oppression and bloode.

† **6.** *refl.* To bestir oneself; to be active; to act briskly or energetically; in early use often, to fight valiantly. *Obs.* (replaced by *bestir*; see also 14).

α. *c* 1205 Lay. 10195 Heo ferde forð rihtes..& stureden heom seoluen. 1297 R. Glouc. (Rolls) 3663 Þe king adde er among þe scottes ystured him uol wel. *a* 1320 *Sir Tristr.* 1082 He stird him as a knizt. 1573 Tusser *Husb.* (1878) 139 Good husbandrie lusteth himselfe for to stur.

β. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 23757 If we stitli all wil vs ster, crist help sal be us ner. *c* 1400 *Gamelyn* 515 Stere the, good Adam, and lat ther noon flee. 1456 Sir G. Haye *Law Arms* (S.T.S.) 64 [He] sa stoutly sterit him amang thame..that thare durst nane cum on him allane. 1470–85 Malory *Arthur* xviii. xvii. 755 When he was vpon his hors he stered hym fyersly.

γ. *a* 1225 *St. Marher.* 14 Hwen..he letten me nawt, ne ne storið hamseolf,..ich leade ham..iþe ladliche lake of þe suti sunne. *c* 1275 Lay. 15254 Hahtliche þou storiep.

b. To begin to act; to busy oneself *to do* something: = 14 b. *rare.*

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 306 He ne der, uor fearlac, sturien him touward sunne. *c* 1425 *Engl. Cong. Irel.* (1896) 86 None Iresshe-man ne durst hym styrre, wer to begynne. 1870 Burton *Hist. Scot.* lv. V. 341 The..French ambassador.. stirred himself not only to keep this project alive, but to bring it to a practical conclusion.

7. To move to action, urge, incite, instigate, stimulate. Also formerly in weaker or more general sense: To prompt, induce, persuade.

α. *c* 897 Ælfred *Gregory's Past. C.* 175 S[u]a sceal æghwelc lareow to anre lufan..mid mislicum manungum his hieremonna mod styrigean. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 130 Þe hwingen þet bereð ham upward, þet beoð gode þeauwes þet heo moten sturien into gode werkes. 1340 Hampole *Pr. Consc.* Prol. 154 Som thyng..þat myght styrre þam to gude lyfyng. *Ibid.* 157 To knaw þat, myght þam stir and lede Til mekenes. 1388 Wyclif *Deut.* xxxii. 11 As an egle stirynge his briddis to fle [Vulg. *provocans ad volandum pullos suos*]. 1474 Caxton *Chesse* iii. v. (1883) 122 To take away all the thynges that miht styre or meue his men to lecherye. 1553 T. Wilson *Rhet.* 8 b, The onely namyng of theim, will stirre honest hartes, to speake well of them. 1595 Shaks. *John* II. i. 63 An Ate, stirring him to bloud and strife. 1781 Cowper *Charity* 118 He..Imports what others have invented well, And stirs his own to match them, or excel. 1821 Scott *Kenilw.* xii, Can ye not stir his mind to any pastimes? 1858 Froude *Hist. Eng.* III. xiii. 163 The untruth of the stories by which they had been stirred to rebellion. 1893 Traill *Soc. Eng.* Introd. p. xxxii, The Revival of Letters stirred the human mind into more vigorous activity.

β. 1303 R. Brunne *Handl. Synne* 5186 Hyt steryþ a man hym self to slo. 138. Wyclif *Sel. Wks.* I. 149 Who ever stere men to yvel lyfe. *c* 1440 Capgrave *Life St. Kath.* v, 1679 Men wil wene that thou be ny wood To sle th[is] puple ..And lete me scape whiche stered hem alle. *c* 1470 in *Som. & Dorset N. & Q.* (1905) Sept. 303 [He] provokid and stered his saide Dogge to renne uppon youre saide Bysecher. 1513 Douglas *Æneis* vi. i. 102 To ask ansueris Now is the tyme; Io, Io, the God me steris! 1549 Coverdale etc. *Erasm. Par.* 1 *Pet.* i. 3–9 Being prouoked by no merites of ours, but stiered frely of his owne mercye. 1657 in *Burton's Diary* (1828) I. 415, I hope, that neither the humour of..unwise people, nor yet..[etc.] shall steer me to give other than such an answer as may be ingenuous and thankful.

† **b.** To urge with a view to persuasion; try to persuade, exhort, entreat. *Obs.*

α. *c* 1380 Wyclif *Wks.* (1880) 41, I conseile, amoneste, and stire my freris. *c* 1449 Pecock *Repr.* II. vi. 17 Peter stireth tho same men for to haue pacience. 1534 Berners *Golden Bk. M. Aurel.* (1546) P viii, This younge manne,..was importunately stirred by his naturall friendes. 1560 Ingelend *Disob. Child* H j, You hearde that by Sentences auncient and olde He styred his Sonne as he best thought.

β. 1387–8 T. Usk *Test. Love* I. viii. (Skeat) 1 Eft gan Love to sterne [*read* steren] me with these wordes. *c* 1440 *Gesta Rom.* xlii. 127 (Add. MS.) A man..sterid his sone to gete hym frendes. 1544 S. Fish *Supplic. Hen. VIII*, 24 The Holy Ghoste, which moueth & steareth vs euer to mortefye the fleshe.

8. To excite to feeling, emotion, or passion; to 'move', affect.

α. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 296 O sihð þet tu isihst, oðer on elpi word þet tu mis-iherest ȝif hit out stured þe, cwench hit mid teares of watere. *c* 1380 *Sir Ferumb.* 2795 Alas! loue, wo dost þou me, þov sturest al my blod. 1382 Wyclif *Matt.* xxi. 10 Whan he had entrid in to Jerusalem, al the cite was stirid, seyinge, who is this? 1382 — *Luke* xv. 20 Whanne he was 3it fer, his fadir syȝ him, and he was stirid [1388 stirrid] by mercy. *c* 1400 Maundev. (Roxb.) xiii. 58 A wikked man..kest a brynnand fyrebrand at oure Lord for to stirre him til ire. 1553 T. Wilson *Rhet.* 92 b, Anye one that myndeth by hys vtteraunce to stirre the hartes of menne. 1630 R. N. *Camden's Elis.* I. 21 The Bishop of Rome..being now more stirred, commanded Sir Edward Carne..to lay down his Office of Embassadour. 1799 Wordsw. *Fountain* 30 My eyes are dim with childish tears, My heart is idly stirred. 1865 Trollope *Belton Est.* ix. 99 Words..that really stir the soul, and bring true comfort to the listener. 1889 Jessopp *Coming of Friars* iii. 113 The story of a great man's life still stirs the heart.

β. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xvii. (*Martha*) 321 To compunccione þu [? *read* þe] suld steyre, þe instance of myn prayer sere. *a* 1400–50 *Wars Alex.* 4256 Leue ȝe noȝt we be to heȝe ne hauten of will..or sterid to enuy. 1481 Caxton *Godfrey* clx. 235 By thyse wordes were the barons gretely stered and meuyd. 1530 Palsgr. 735/1 Beware thou stere him nat to anger. 1581 A. Hall *Iliad* iv. 66 Then Agamemn appeared No whit to yeelde,..or ought with feare was steard.

γ. *c* 1440 *Gesta Rom.* xlvi. 181 (Harl. MS.) Whenne Ionathas sawe hir, he was I-storid to an vnlawfull maner of love.

b. To affect with strong emotion; to move strongly (a person, his spirit, 'blood', etc.).

c 1489 Caxton *Blanchardyn* ii. 15 That sore mouyd and styryd his noble and hyghe corage. *c* 1610 Beaum. & Fl. *Maid's Trag.* I. i, The musicke must be shrill and all confus'd That stirs my blood. 1822 Byron *Juan* viii. lv, So was his blood stirr'd while he found resistance. 1905 R. Bagot *Passport* xxvi. 279 The news of Sor Beppe's dismissal from the office of *fattore* had stirred public opinion in and around Montefiano to its depths.

9. To excite, occasion.

a. To excite or provoke (passion); to prompt, evoke or occasion (anger, hatred, affection, suspicion, also † laughter, fear, etc.); formerly in wider use, † to occasion (an event, mental or bodily condition).

α. *c* 1000 Ælfric *Hom.* II. 298 Ne dranc he wines drenc, ne nan ðera wætena þe druncennysse styriað. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 198 Þeo..þet beoð of muchel speche ȝelpeð,..gabbeð,.. sturieð leihtres. *c* 1430 in *Pol. Rel. & L. Poems* 197 To stire mi wrabþe þou wolt a-saye. *c* 1450 *Mirk's Festial* 158 Forto styre your deuocyon. 1538 Elyot *Dict.*, *Conflare inuidiam, inimicitias, odium*, to stire or procure enuy, hostilitie, hate. 1580 E. Knight *Trial Truth* 15 b, This part of Scripture may iustly stirre a feare in vs. 1667 Milton *P. L.* viii. 308 Each Tree Load'n with fairest Fruit,..stirr'd in me sudden appetite To pluck and eate. 1760 Lloyd *Actor* 105 A fault which stirs the critic's rage. 1823 Scott *Quentin D.* xxvi, If nothing occurs to stir the rage of this vindictive madman, I am sure of victory. 1847 Tennyson *Princess* iv. 11 Blissful palpitations in the blood, Stirring a sudden transport rose and fell. 1871 Morley *Voltaire* (1886) 5 Antipathy against Voltaire to a degree that..must now and then have even stirred a kind of reacting sympathy.

β. 1430–40 Lydg. *Bochas* v. i. (1554) 114 Husbandes..had in maner a suspeccion Stiered by the serpent of false gelousye Toward Spurina. *c* 1450 *St. Cuthbert* 6627 þat sight sterid his deuocioun. 1513 Douglas *Æneis* I. x. 7 Within hir banis grene The hote fyir of luif to kendle and steir. *a* 1586 Sidney *Astr. & Stella* xxv, Vertue..with vertuous care to ster Loue of herselfe, tooke Stella's shape.

γ. 1558 W. Forrest *Grysilde Seconde* (Roxb.) 72 Synne, sore of Kyngis, stoorthe Goddys maledictioun.

† **b.** To instigate, set going, set on foot (strife, commotion, etc.). *Obs.*: cf. *stir up* 16 e.

α. *a* 1023 Wulfstan *Hom.* xviii. (1883) 106 Saca and wraca he styrede ȝelome. *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 113 He ne flit mid cheste ne he sake ne sturað. 1521 Fisher *Serm. agst. Luther* i. Wks. (1876) 312 In lyke maner..hathe rysen many a tyme some blacke clowde of heresy, & stered suche a tempest..that [etc.]. 1563–83 Foxe *A. & M.* 248/2 The French king..stirred warre in Normandy. *c* 1620 *Women Saints* 150 So that they stirre a greater tumult than euer the people had donne before. 1669 Dryden *Tyr. Love* III. i. (1670) 23 The Souldiers love her Brother's memory; And for her sake some Mutiny will stir.

β. 1390 Gower *Conf.* I. 284 So that thou miht the betre lere What mischief that this vice stereth. 1426 Audelay *Poems* 18 That steren stryf and wrath.

10. To bring into notice or debate; to move, raise, moot (a subject or question). Now *rare.*

α. *Beowulf* 873 Secg eft onzan siþ Beowulfes snyttrum styrian. 1390 Gower *Conf.* I. 174 Many envious tale is stered, Wher that it mai noght ben ansuered. *c* 1400 tr. *Secreta Secret., Gov. Lordsh.* 55 To stirre doutablys questions, honestly to aske hem, and discretly answore hem. 1444 *Rolls of Parlt.* V. 122/1 Yef ther be eny mater or maters stirred, desired or moeved bi the Baillifs. 1580 Spenser *Three Proper Lett.* A iij, Little newes is here stirred. 1607–12 Bacon *Ess., Of Great Place* (Arb.) 286 Preserve the rightes of thie place, but stirre not questions of Iurisdiccion. *a* 1676 Hale *Hist. Common Law* iii. (1713) 49 Many Cases..wherein the Question was not stirred. 1785 Paley *Mor. Philos.* vi. viii. (1818) II. 246 That..a doubt once decided may be stirred no more. 1831 Scott *Cast. Dang.* iv, 'I shall not stir the question,' said the minstrel. 1890 C. Martyn *W. Phillips, Agitator* 202 To the petition he stirred,..the Committee returned a brutal denial.

β. *c* 1374 Chaucer *Boeth.* III. pr. xii. (1868) 106 But na-þeles yif I stered resouns þat ne ben nat taken fro wiþ oute þe compas of þe þinge of whiche we treten. *a* 1548 Hall *Chron., Hen. VI*, 145 Who that..moued or stered the matter firste vnto your Lordeship, counsailed you neither for your worship nor profite.

† **b.** To bring forward as an example, to instance. 1340 *Ayenb.* 226 To loki þet stat of wodewehod one ssel sterie þe uorbisne of þe turle.

II. Intransitive senses. (See also 3 a (*e*).)

† **11.** To move (continuously, or in general sense); to be in motion; *spec.* to move as a living being. (Cf. the reflexive sense 2.)

a. *a* 1000 Ælfric *Gen.* i. 26 Ealle þa creopende, þe stirað on eorðan. *a* 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 361 Cleopest þeo þinges godes, þt nowðer sturien ne mahen ne steoren ham seoluen. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 422 Water þet ne stured nout readliche stinked. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 403 By forty dayez wern faren, on folde no flesch styryed. *c* 1400 tr. *Secreta Secret., Gov. Lordsh.* 98 Fyssh of þe water, þat goop on foure feet, & þat stirrys vpon wombe. 1583 Melbancke *Philotimus* E j, He..that hath an ore stirringe in other mens boates. 1633 G. Herbert *Temple, Assurance* vi, While rocks stand, And rivers stirre.

β. *c* 1384 Chaucer *H. Fame* 567 And here with alle I gan to stere And he me in his fete to bere. 1456 Sir G. Haye *Law Arms* (S. T. S.) 75 Thingis that ar corporale in this erde steris necht..with the moving of it. 1538 Bale *God's Promises* II. (facs.) B j b, I wyll destroye..all that on earthe do stere. 1587 Turberv. *Trag. T.* vi. 87 b, The winde so slender was To cause the ship to steare.

† **b.** To move or pass from one place to another; to come or go. *Obs.*

Some of the quots., esp. in β, may belong to Steer *v.*[1] 4.

a. *a* 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 796 Ȝe alles to strif beoð isturet hidere. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 3252 Qua him sagh moght vnderstand He stird was of a riche land. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 959 Iason.. Busket to the bank and the bote tok, Stird ouer the streame streght to þe lond. 1581 W. S. *Compend. or Briefe Exam.* 8 Wee might sturre from on place to an other.

β. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 4959 Nour-quider mai we stere. *c* 1450 *Mirk's Festial* 145 þis man steryd ynto anoþyr howse. *c* 1470 *Rauf Coilȝear* 12 Mony stout man steiris Of town with the King. 1513 Douglas *Æneis* xii. viii. 12 Turnus.. Persauyt thame thus sterand throw the plane.

γ. 1513 Douglas *Æneis* I. i. 65 Thair stewinnis stowrand fast throw the salt fame. *a* 1568 *Wyf Auchtermuchty* ix. in *Bannatyne MS.* (Hunter. Club) 344 Than to the kyrn that he did stoure.

12. To pass from rest to motion, to begin to move; to make a slight movement, to move lightly (esp. to and fro); to make any movement, to move at all or in the least (chiefly with negative); to leave one's place, to budge; not to remain still; *occas.* to show signs of life or consciousness (after sleep or a faint).

a. *c* 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Matt. xi. 7 ferd *vel* puulsper from uinde styrende *vel* sceæcende. *a* 1000 Ælfric *Josh.* x. 12 Ne stira þu sunne of þam stede. *c* 1200 Ormin 2810 Min child tatt i min wambe lip..bigann..To stirenn & to buttenn. *c* 1205 Lay. 17421 Beoð alle stille þæt na man þer ne sturie. *c* 1220 *Bestiary* 18 Stille lið ðe leun, ne stireð he nout of slepe Til [etc.]. 1377 Langl. *P. Pl.* B. xx. 102 Lered ne lewed he let no man stonde, That he hitte euene þat euere stired after. *c* 1400 Maundev. (Roxb.) iv. 12 Men may see þare þe erthe of þe toumbe..stirre and moue, as þer ware a qwikke thing under. 1470–85 Malory *Arthur* I. xiv. 53, I wold that..they stere not tyll ye and your knyghtes haue foughte with hem longe. 1577 B. Googe *Heresbach's Husb.* III. 115 b, The eares must bee shorte, standing vpright, and stirring. 1602 R. Johnson *K'ingd. & Commw.* (1603) 120 Diuers..gentlemen..who neuer stirre from the side of the captaine Generall. 1602 Chettle *Hoffman* IV. (1631) H 2, Art sure she is a sleepe!..She stirs not, shee is fast. *Ibid.* H 2 b, She stirs, and when she wakes obserue me well. 1604 Shaks. *Ham.* I. i. 10 *Barn.* Haue you had quiet Guard? *Fran.* Not a Mouse stirring. 1660 F. Brooke tr. *Le Blanc's Trav.* 38 Whether they snore, or stir much in their sleepe. 1667 Dryden & Dk. Newcastle *Sir M. Mar-all* III. i, [Lady has fainted away] *Rose.* Open her Mouth with a Dagger. *2 Wom.* She stirs; she revives, merciful to us all. 1704 Cibber *Careless Husb.* III. 35 Nay, you shan't stir a step. 1711 Addison *Spect.* No. 112 P 5 Nobody presumes to stir till Sir Roger is gone out of the Church. 1717 Prior *Alma* III. 116 From every leaf that stirs, she flies. 1765 Blackstone *Comm.* I. i. 125 Life ..begins in contemplation of law as soon as an infant is able to stir in the mother's womb. 1829 Southey *All for Love* VII. xlviii, He stirr'd not from his station. 1855 Tennyson *Maud* I. xxii. iii, All night has the casement jessamine

stirr'd To the dancers dancing in tune. 1863 Mrs. H. Wood *Verner's Pride* xlv, I was so took aback..that I could neither stir nor speak. 1885 'Mrs. Alexander' *At Bay* x, She..stood for an instant..in silent, prayerful thought. Glynn waited till she stirred.

β. *c* 1220 *Bestiary* 404 Ne stereð ȝe noȝt of ðe-stede, *a* 1400 *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* 604 Þer water is most deope, þe lesse þer þen steres he. *c* 1430 *Chev. Assigne* 147 They stoden alle stylle for stere þey ne durste. 1567 Golding *Ovid's Met.* v. 116 Downe he fell and could not after steare. 1616 J. Lane *Contn. Sqr.'s T.* VII. 480 While tonges well much maie talke, but no hand steare. 1786 *Hart's Rig* xiv, They vow they'll never steer Sae lang's he has a cut to shear, But bide wi' him till fields are clear.

γ. 14.. *Guy Warw.* 3869 Loke, ye store not of þat stedde. *c* 1420 *Chron. Vilod.* 3108 Þe clothe þat honged vpone hurre tombe þere þo Meue ofte & store wondere fast. *c* 1450 *Erle of Tolous* 755 He durst not store, nor make no mone, To make the lady afryght.

b. To go out (from a house or place of abode); usually with † *abroad*, † *forth*, *out*: almost always with negative. Rarely of inanimate things.

α. 1567 Maplet *Gr. Forest* 86 b, The Frog saith Aristotle liueth quietly all the time of cold weather, and neuer stirreth abrode. 1601 Shaks. *Jul. C.* II. ii. 38 *Cæs.* What say the Augurers? *Ser.* They would not haue you to stirre forth to day. 1644 Milton *Areop.* (Arb.) 59 Unoffensive books must not stirre forth without a visible jaylor in thir title. 1713 Swift *Jrnl. to Stella* 4 Apr., I came home at seven, and have never stirred out. 1743 Bulkeley & Cummins *Voy. S. Seas* 217 [We] were told by the Captain, we must not stir out of the Ship. 1823 Scott *Quentin D.* xii, He dare not stir far from his own Forest of Ardennes. 1847 Pusey in Liddon *Life* (1893) I. vi. 118 These [MSS.] never stir out of the walls of the Bodleian. 1872 Ht. Martineau *Life in Wilds* iii. 33 They could not stir till they had provision for their journey.

γ. ? *a* 1500 *Chester Pl., Purif.* 91 Yet storred I not out of this place.

† c. Of a voice: To sound. (Cf. 1 d.) *Obs.*

c 1205 Lay. 28161 Þa umbe stunde stefne þer sturede.

d. Of a colour: To move, be affected.

1792 *Trans. Soc. Arts* X. 199 This manufacture improves every time it is washed; and the colours never stir by washing.

e. To show signs of growth; to bud. *rare*[−1].

1843 *Penny Cycl.* XXVII. 457/1 A northern aspect is thought best, as the vines do not stir so soon in spring.

f. *fig.* To begin to show signs of 'life' or activity (as an intellectual movement or the like).

1873–1909 [implied in Stirring *vbl. sb.*[2] 2 d].

13. To move about in a place, to 'be about'; chiefly in *pres. pple.* (often *spec.* = out of bed, up and about).

α. *c* 1205 Lay. 23756 Þat hit dæi wes amarȝen duȝeðe gunne sturien [*c* 1275 gan to storie]. *c* 1374 Chaucer *Troylus* III. 692 But boden go to bedde with myschaunce, If ony wight was sterynge ony where. *a* 1533 Berners *Huon* lxi. 213 They coude se no man sterynge within the castell. 1606 Shaks. *Tr. & Cr.* I. ii. 52 *Cre.* Hector was gone but Hellen was not vp. *Pan.* E'ene so: Hector was stirring early. 1619 in Foster *Eng. Factories India* (1906) 99 If any stronge drinke be stirringe. 1702 Steele *Funeral* II. 17 How often must I tell you my Lord is not stirring: His Lordship has not Slept well. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* II. v. 176 Had any ships been stirring in these seas..we must have met with them. 1825 Scott *Betrothed* xiii, Notwithstanding there are now no Welsh knaves stirring, yet the marches are never free from robbers. 1848 Dickens *Dombey* xviii, When no one in the house was stirring, and the lights were all extinguished. 1884 Henley & Stevenson *Adm. Guinea* IV. i. (1892) 244 *Arethusa* (*listening*). St! my father stirring in his room!

γ. *c* 1275 [see α]. 1555 Eden *Decades* (Arb.) 114 When he had contynued a whyle in the haven, and sawe noo man stouryng.

b. *transf.* To be in circulation, be current; chiefly in *pres. pple.* Now somewhat *rare*: chiefly of news (cf. c).

1423 *Rolls of Parlt.* IV. 257/2 Be ther never so muche white moneye forged, that shall be but litell the more sturryngne among the poeple. 1608 Bp. Hall *Charact.* II. 79 No newes can stir but by his doore. 1634 W. Tirwhyt tr. *Balzac's Lett.* (vol. I) 287 To let you know what newes is stirring. 1691 Wood *Life* (O. H. S.) III. 370 [The] University very empty and dead: and money but little stirring. 1711 Addison *Spect.* No. 10 P 5 Asking..whether there was any News stirring? *c* 1850 *Arab. Nts.* (Rtldg.) 646 He asked the host if there were any news stirring.

c. To go on, happen, take place; chiefly in *pres. pple.* = going on, 'on foot'.

1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 35 Euery thyng that stereth by hym, or that he seeth or hereth, he iudgeth to be a reuelacyon. 1596 Shaks. *Merch. V.* III. i. 99 No ill luck stirring but what lights a my shoulders. 1684 Otway *Atheist* I. i, What Sins are stirring in this noble metropolis. 1722 De Foe *Plague* 141 There's no Trade stirs now. 1882 Pebody *Engl. Journalism* xx. 152 Telegrams from every part of the world where there is anything stirring that is of the slightest interest to Englishmen.

14. To move briskly or energetically; to be on the move, be active, 'look alive', bestir oneself. Cf. the refl. use 6.

α. *c* 1205 Lay. 9334 He..sturede i þon compe al se hit þe king weore. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 152 Vor þui mine leoue sustren, bi nihte, ase þe niht fuel þet ancre is to iefned, beoð ȝeorne sturiinde. 1573 Tusser *Husb.* (1878) 169 Make maide to be clenly,..and teach hir to stirre, when hir mistresse doth speake. 1602 Middleton *Blurt, Master-Constable* II. ii. 3 Trivia, Simperina, stir, stir, stir: one of you open the casements. 1608 Shaks. *Per.* II. i. 16 Looke how thou stirr'st now! 1830 Gen. P. Thompson *Exerc.* (1842) I. 301 Every free man in the civilized world is put on his defence, and called upon to be stirring for the preservation of all that he may wish to keep. 1841 Thackeray *Gt. Hoggarty Diam.* xii, Her husband stirred and bustled about until the requisite leave was obtained. 1849 W. S. Mayo *Kaloolah* vi. (1850) 57 Let's stir round and do something. 1884 W. C. Smith *Kildrostan* 34 Ina, your heart is low, as one will be Who sits down in a mist instead of stirring To keep the blood warm.

β. *c* 1400 *Gamelyn* 519 (Corpus MS.) Stere {*v.rr.* Bi-, Bystere] good adam and late þer none flee. *c* 1400 *Beryn* 548 So she sterith aboute this house in a wood rese. *c* 1400 *Ragman Roll* 134 in Hazl. *E. E. P.* (1864) I. 75 Joly and lyght is your complexicion, That steryn ay, and kunne nat stonde still. *c* 1470 Henry *Wallace* v. 838 The hardy Scottis so steryt in that sted. *c* 1470 *Gol. & Gaw.* 559 Wondir sternly thai steir on thair stent stedis. 1538 Starkey *England* (1878) 82 So in our commynalty, certayn partys ther be wych euer be mouyng and sterryng.

γ. *c* 1275 Lay. 9334 He..storede in þan fihte.

b. *fig.* To be active or occupied *about* something; to move or bestir oneself *in* a matter, to begin to act.

α. *c* 1205 Lay. 18845 On hir he scal streonen þat scal wide sturien. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 4047 Now wete yche..þat stares vpon stories, & stirs in bokys, þat [etc.]. 1618 in Foster *Eng. Factories India* (1906) 19 If it bee prooved Mogolls goods, and that the King stirr in yt, I know this people. 1620 [G. Bryddes] *Horæ Subs.* 304 A mans nature is to stirre more for the recouery of a good, which they once enioyed, then for the acquisition of what they are ignorant of. 1622 Callis *Stat. Sewers* (1647) 152 Surely this point hath heretofore been much stirred in, and not without some cause. 1653 W. Ramesey *Astrol. Restored* 183 Neither is it safe for those Rebels to stirr when she [i. e. the Moon] is weak. 1709 Hearne *Collect.* (O.H.S.) II. 175 The writer..was.. advis'd..to stir for it. *c* 1721 Marq. Tullibardine in *10th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. I. 126, I pray the capacity of those who are most able to stir about your Majesty's concerns, be well employed in [etc.]. 1818 Scott *Br. Lamm.* xv, The improbability of the young Master of Ravenswood's finding friends in parliament, capable of stirring in so weighty an affair. 1871 Freeman *Norm. Conq.* (1876) IV. xviii. 144 While Exeter was in arms, York did not stir, and when York did stir, Exeter had no longer the power of stirring.

β. *c* 1480 Henryson *Test. Cress.* 469 Fortoun is fikkill, quhen scho beginnis & steiris. *a* 1560 Phaer *Æneid* IX. (1562) Dd ij b, Gods, gods, o countrey gods, in whose protection Troy still steeres. 1647 *Ded. Epist. to Earl Pembroke* in *Beaum. & Fletcher's Wks.*, But directed by the example of some, who once steered in our qualitie..we have presumed to offer to your Selfe, what before was never printed of these Authours. 1891 'H. Haliburton' *Ochil Idylls* 40 At fifty, wi' a conscience clear, The man that sits, as I do here, Haund-haill, an' neither slow to steer Nor quick to tire.

c. To make a disturbance, commotion, or tumult; to rise in revolt or insurrection. Now *rare* and merely contextual.

c 1205 Lay. 10717 In Lundene stureden þa leoden. 1399 Langl. *Rich. Redeles* III. 269 To strie strouters þat sterede ȝeine rithis. *c* 1425 Wyntoun *Cron.* III. i. (S.T.S.) II. 273 Þe kynge of Moab than, Eglon, Had vndyr hym in subieccion Þe folk of Israel fourteyn ȝhere, Qwhil Ayot begouthe to steyr.. 1502 *Ord. Crysten Men* (W. de W.) IV. iv. (1506) 173 Good werkes that ben done for the loue of god stere put and knocke at the gate of mercy dyuyne. *a* 1550 *Lynn Chron.* in *Six Town Chron.* (1911) 185 In this yere the Skots begane to store and the deweke of glossytr was sent to them but he retorned with out battell. 1570 Levins *Manip.* 190/25 To sturre, neutre, *tumultuare*. 1648 Gage *West Ind.* 72 The King..was quiet and peaceable, and stirred not against him. 1891 Farrar *Darkn. & Dawn* li, 'Is not your nation seditious and turbulent?' 'It is not,' answered Ishmael. 'We never stir unless we are wronged.'

15. To be roused or excited, as feeling, passion, etc.

a 1000 *Boeth. Metr.* xxii. 64 Mid þæm biszum þe on breostum styreð. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 5052 Joseph beheild þan beniamin, Him stird al his blod wit-in. 1558 Phaer *Æneid* II. D iv b, Sometime when tyryd ben their harts their manful stomacks steres [L. *victis redit in præcordia virtus*] And down their conquerours they quell. 1575 Churchyard *Chippes* 2 b, Our rage was great,..Our stomackes storde, as we did this behoalde. 1577–82 Breton *Toyes of an Idle Head* (Grosart) 39/1 And then doo what I can, alas, my Heart beginnes to sturre. 1596 Shaks. *1 Hen. IV*, I. iii. 190 The blood more stirres To rowze a Lyon, then to start a Hare. 1704 Cibber *Careless Husb.* I. i. 10 My Blood stirs at the very thought on't. 1841 Dickens *Barn. Rudge* lxxxi, His wrath so stirred within him, that he could have struck him dead. 1847 Tennyson *Princess* v. 258, I..felt the blind wildbeast of force..Stir in me as to strike.

III. 16. Stir up.

a. *trans.* To set in motion, agitate; to push or poke so as to displace, disturb, or mix the parts of: cf. 1, 3.

To stir up with a long pole (humorous, with allusion to a wild-beast showman 'stirring up' his beasts): to rouse from rest or inaction, to provoke to activity: cf. d, also 5, 7.

1340–70 *Alex. & Dind.* 487 Stiue stormus of þe wind stiren vp þe wawus. 1535 Coverdale *Deut.* xxxii. 11 As an Aegle stereth vp hir nest, and flotereth ouer hir yonge. 1679 *Trials of Green* etc. *for Murder of Sir E. Godfrey* 39, I was in the Parlor and stirred up the fire. 1823 'Jon Bee' *Dict. Turf* 166 'Stir 'em up with a long pole, as the fellow does with the beestes,' alludes to the bellowings of these latter. 1826 J. Smith *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 684 Stir up and dress the soil of flowers and shrubs in pots. 1827 Faraday *Chem. Manip.* xviii. (1842) 481 It is best..to effect the mixture..by stirring up the mass lightly with a pointed stick or a fork. 1857 Hughes *Tom Brown* II. ii, Stir him up with a long pole, Jack, and hear him swear like a drunken sailor! 1912 C. Johnston *Why World laughs* 2 Whenever the dance showed signs of flagging, the policeman stirred them up with a long pole.

† b. To rouse from sleep or rest, to wake up. (Cf. 5.) *Obs.*

1526 Tindale *Acts* xii. 7 He smote Peter on the syde and steryd him uppe. 1533 More *Answ. Poysoned Bk.* Wks. 1092/2 He that eateth my fleshe and drynketh my blonde, hath life euerlasting, and I shall stere hym vp in the last day. 1611 Bible *Song Sol.* viii. 4, I charge you..that ye stirre not vp, nor awake my loue vntill he please. 1683 Salmon *Doron* I. 146 [It] gently awakes, or stirrs them up.

† c. To 'raise up', call into being. *Obs.*

1526 Tindale *Rom.* ix. 17 Even for thys same purpose haue I stered the uppe [Gr. ἐξήγειρά σε], to shewe my power on the. 1532 More *Confut. Tindale* 284 We saye also that god hath dayly stered vp & dayly doth sterre vp new prophetes in sundry partes of hys catholyke chyrche. 1535 Coverdale *Deut.* xxv. 7 My kynsman refuseth to stere vp [Vulg. *suscitare*: Luther *erwecken*] a name vnto his brother in Israel and wyl not marye me. *a* 1548 Hall *Chron., Hen. VIII*, 198 b, The dispensacion by the lawe of Deuteronomi of styrryng vp the brothers sede. 1561 Winjet *83 Quest.* Wks. (S.T.S.) I. 52 An wngodly and wickit peple sterit vp to be Godis scurge. 1564 tr. *P. Martyr's Comm. Judges* 200 b, When God decreed to sende any notable and excellent man, he verye often tymes stynred hym vp out of a barren woman.

d. To rouse to action, activity, or emotion; to rouse from indifference or sloth; to incite, instigate, stimulate: cf. 7.

α. 1545 Brinklow *Compl.* iii. (1874) 16 God shal sturre vp the hartys euen of his own fryndes agaynst him. 1590 Spenser *F. Q.* II. iv. 42 His am I Atin, his in wrong and right, That..stirre him up to strife and cruell fight. *a* 1591 H. Smith *Serm.* (1594) 529 That all the world may take heede how they stirre vp the Lyon of Iudah. *a* 1644 Quarles *Sol. Recant.* xii. 11 The wise mans words are like to Goads, that doe Stir up the drowzy, and spur up the slow. 1665 Manley *Grotius' Low C. Wars* 403 At which time..they stirred him up to recover the Right and Title of Oneal. 1671 Milton *Samson* 1251 He will..with malitious counsel stir them up..yet further to afflict thee. *a* 1720 Sewel *Hist. Quakers* (1795) I. II. 129 The constable stirred up the rude people, and cried, Kill him [Cf. *Acts* vi. 12 etc.]. 1838 J. L. Stephens *Trav. Russia* 107/1 The French..were always suspected of being political emissaries to stir up the Poles to revolution. 1885 'Mrs. Alexander' *At Bay* v, I shall write to my lawyers to stir up our detectives. 1890 *Boston* (Mass.) *Jrnl.* 4 Aug. 1/8 The Pennsylvania Road has stirred up a hornet's nest. 1894 Bridges *Feast of Bacchus* I. 44 Stirring up your servants.

β. *a* 1500 *Prophecy* 34 in *Bernard. de cura rei fam.* 33 Þe stepsonys of þe lyonne steryt vp at ones, þe leoperde sall þame stryke doune. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 10 We ought the more to..stere vp our hertes to deuocyon. 1549 *Bk. Com. Prayer* 97 b, *Collect 25th Sunday after Trinity*, Stiere vp we beseche thee, O Lord, the wylles of thy faythfull people. 1570 Buchanan *Admonitioun* Wks. (1892) 22 Nowther honour nor commoun weill sterit ȝow up than. 1641 *Sc. Acts Chas. I* (1817) V. 579/2 To give ordour to the seuerall ministeris..to steir vp the peopill of thair particular parosches..to extend þr liberalitie þto.

γ. 1555 Eden *Decades* (Arb.) 113 Vaschus Nunnez..stoured vp certeyne lyght felowes agaynst Ancisus.

e. To excite, provoke, induce; to raise, set on foot (strife, disturbance, etc.); to arouse (feeling or emotion): cf. 9.

α. 1538 Elyot *Dict., Irrito*, to prouoke, to kendyl wrathe, to styrre vppe. 1544 Betham *Precepts War* I. iii. B iv, It is a lyght thyng to styre vp battayl, but to leaue of with glorye..is an harde thyng. 1546 Bp. Gardiner *Detect. Devil's Sophistrie* 16 Y⁶ deuyll..sturreth vp this abhominable heresy. 1622 L. Digges tr. *Cespedes' Gerardo* 2 The sad spectacle stirred vp the poore mens compassion. 1634 Milton *Comus* 174 Merriment, Such as the jocond Flute.. Stirs up among the loose unleter'd Hinds. 1683 W. Lloyd in *Lett. Lit. Men* (Camden) 187 Such songs as are most apt to stir up devotion. 1711 Addison *Spect.* No. 163 P 6 Authors who are apt to stir up Mirth in the Mind of the Readers. 1820 Scott *Monast.* vi, Whet the temporal sword if it be necessary, and stir up the courage and zeal of your loyal vassals. 1855 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* xiv. III. 464 He did not conceive that he was bound to be always stirring up sedition against them. 1891 Farrar *Darkn. & Dawn* vii, Unless they stir up a riot at Rome I shall not trouble the Emperor by mentioning them.

β. *c* 1530 *Spirituall Counsayle* G j, That I myghte stere up in me a fresche remembraunce of thy moste blyssed deathe. 1549 Coverdale *Erasm. Par. Rom.* xvi. 25–27 The misterie, whiche..nowe is opened..to stere vp obedience to the fayth published among all nacions. 1567 Drant *Horace, Ep.* II. i. G vij, That poet on a stretched rope maye walke and neuer fall, That can stere vp my passions or quicke my sprytes at all.

γ. *a* 1555 Philpot *Exam.* etc. (Parker Soc.) 380 The Jews ..for the ceremonies of their country and rites eftsoons stored up great controversies.

IV. 17. *Comb.* with sb. in obj. relation: **stir-passion**, something that stirs or excites passion; **stir-strife** *a.*, that stirs or excites strife. *nonce-wds.* See also Stirabout, Stir-up.

1586 Warner *Alb. Eng.* v. xxiii. (1589) 104 That heard the Pope, canonizing the stir-strife Priest a Saint. 1604 T. Wright *Passions* v. 185 It were requisite for an excellent stir-passion to have in a readinesse all those places.

Stirabout (stɔ̄·răbout). Also 9 **stirrabout**. [f. verbal phrase *stir about*: see Stir *v.* and About *adv.*]

1. a. Porridge made by stirring oatmeal (or occas. some other meal) in boiling water or milk. (Originally *Anglo-Irish.*)

1682 Piers *Descr. West-Meath* (1770) 121 They..have to their meal one formal dish,..which some call, stirabout or hasty pudding, that is flour and milk boiled thick. 1708 W. King *Art of Cookery* Let. ix. 149 Milk Porridge,..Flumary, Stir about, and the like. 1812 Mar. Edgeworth *Absentee* xi, If your honour takes stirabout, an old hand will engage to make that to your liking, any way. 1838 Dickens *Nich. Nick.* viii, The boys, having previously had their appetites thoroughly taken away by stir-about and potatoes. 1843 Thackeray *Irish Sk.-bk.* xiv, Look at them..over a bowl of stir-about. 1873 E. Smith *Foods* 159 Maize..is very commonly made into pudding.. It is now known in Ireland as Stirrabout, and in Italy as Polenta. 1894 D. C. Murray *Making of Novelist* 102 One pint of stirabout made of Indian meal.

b. (See quot. 1828.)

1828 CARR *Craven Gloss.*, *Stir-about*, oatmeal and drippings stirr'd about in a frying pan. 1863 MRS. GASKELL *Sylvia's L.* xliv, I've made mysel' some stirabout for my supper.

c. *fig.* A bustle, a state of confusion.

1905 E. ARMSTRONG in *Eng. Hist. Rev.* Jan. 158 This *guazzabuglio*, this stirabout of republic within republic [*sc.* Siena]. 1915 *Times* 28 May 9 The formation of this new office [the Ministry of Munitions] is the one outstanding fact in the political stirabout.

2. A bustling person.

1870 J. NICHOLSON *Idylls* 54 She's sic a steer-about, sae fu' o' mirth an' fun. 1903 *Westm. Gaz.* 17 Sept. 3/2 The 'stir-about' is not a popular person with his masters.

attrib. 1837 T. HOOK *Jack Brag* i, Get a sensible, stir-about husband.

Stirage, Stirap: see STIRRAGE, STIRRUP.

Stirdy, obs. form of STURDY.

Stire (stəi·ə1). Also 8–9 **styre**, 9 **stere**. [Of obscure origin. Cf. the synonymous STIROM.] A kind of cider apple; also the cider made from it. Also *attrib.*

1699 in *Chesh. Gloss.* s.v., [The lessor] shall enjoy..one measure of apples or crabs commonly called stires, [etc.]. 1743 *Lond. & Country Brew.* III. (ed. 2) 246 In bottling their Styre Cyder. 1754 *Compleat Cyder-man* 66 Others [said] that the Styre Apple makes the best Cyder. 1826 *Art of Brewing* (ed. 2) 167 Stire cider, in the same state, sells for £5. 1853 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* XIV. II. 446 Some sort of apples, as the 'stere' and 'Haglor crab', in very dry seasons will only yield 1 hogshead of juice to 3 of fruit.

Stire, obs. form of STEER *v.*, STIR *v.*

Stirepp, obs. form of STIRRUP.

Stirer, Stirhap, -hop: see STIRRER, STIRRUP.

‖ **Sti·ria.** *Obs.* Also *erron.* **styria.** Pl. **stiriæ, stirias.** [L. *stīria*, icicle.] A concretion (e.g. a stalactite, an efflorescence) resembling an icicle.

1666 BOYLE *Orig. Formes & Qual.* 267 The copious shining Styriæ [1667 Stiriæ] that enoble the darker Body. 1681 COTTON *Wond. Peak* 9 By which the Stiria longer, bigger grows. *a* 1722 LISLE *Husb.* (1757) 8 The atoms of heterogeneous juices will sometimes shoot themselves up in different angular stirias.

† **Sti·riate,** *a. Obs.*–1. [f. L. *stīria* (see prec.) + -ATE 2.] Formed into 'stiriæ'. Hence **Sti·riated** *a.* in the same sense.

1664 POWER *Exp. Philos.* I. 52 Like a diaphanous heap of Icycles or striated Niter. 1669 W. SIMPSON *Hydrol. Chym.* 53 What remained was a bright styriate floscule. 1681 GREW *Museum* III. § ii. iii. 334 Styriated Antimony..from Cornwall. 1712 J. MORTON *Nat. Hist. Northamptonsh.* 154, I observed several of the Striated Stalactitæ (or Sparry Icycles) hanging down from the Bank-side.

† **Sti·ricide.** *Obs.*–0 [ad. late L. *stīricidium*, f. *stīria* (see STIRIA) + *cid-*, *cadĕre* to fall.] (See quot.)

1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.*, *Stiricide*, the dropping of a house with ice-sickles.

Stiring, obs. form of STIRRING.

† **Sti·rious,** *a. Obs.* [f. STIRIA + -OUS.] Pertaining to or formed like an icicle or a 'stiria'.

1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* II. i. 56 Crystall is..not much unlike the stirious or stillicidious dependencies of Ice. 1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.*, *Stirious*, pertaining to a drop of ice, or an Icesickle. 1670 E. BROWN in *Phil. Trans.* V. 1193 A third [salt], to be found of somewhat stirious or long shoots.

Stiripe, stirippe, obs. ff. STIRRUP.

Stirk (stɔ̄ik). Forms: 1 **stírc, stíorc, stýrc, stýric**, 5 **stirkke, styyrke, strike**, 5–6 **strik**, 5–7 **stirke**, 5–9 **styrk**, 6 **steirk, sterke, stierke, striack, stryk, styrke**, 6–7 **sturke**, 7–9 **sturk**, 4– **stirk**. [OE. *stírc, stíorc, stýrc, stýric*, neut., app. a diminutive f. *stéor* STEER *sb.*1 + *-ic*, a variant (not found elsewhere) of *-oc, -uc*: see -OCK. Cf. MLG. *sterke, starke* (mod.G. *sterke, stärke*, ? from LG.), MDu., mod.Du. dial. (Gelderland) *sterke*, early mod.Du. *stierick* (Kilian, who marks it 'Sicambrian', i.e. Gelderland, etc.), fem., a heifer, a cow that has not yet calved. Another diminutive formation is MDu. *stierken* bull-calf.

Kluge and Falk & Torp reject the connexion with OTeut. **steuro-* STEER *sb.*1, and compare HG. dial. *sterck* ram or hog, OHG. *stero* (HG. dial. *ster*) ram, which they refer to the root **ster-* of Goth. *stairō* fem. adj., barren, L. *sterilis* STERILE *a.* But the relationship of these words is obscure.]

1. A young bullock or heifer, usually between one and two years old.

The mod. application varies in different localities. In the midland counties generally the word denotes only the female; in Scotland it is chiefly applied to the male; in northern England and Lincolnshire it is applied to either sex, often with defining word as *bull-stirk, cow-, heifer-*, or *quey-stirk*.

8.. *Kentish Glosses* in Wr.-Wülcker 70/12 *Quam ad vitulum saginatum*, ðonne to fettum stiorce. *a* 1000 *Voc.* ibid. 195/29 *Bucula, iuuenca, uitula*, stirc. *a* 1000 *Ags. Gosp.* Luke xv.23 Bringaðan fætt styric[Vulg. *vitulum*]&of-sleað. *c* 1000 ÆLFRIC *Lives Saints* xv. 183 Þæt þridde [*sc.* the third evangelist] stod anum styrce gelic [*cf.* þæs ceolfes gelicnyss 192]. 10.. *Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 321/9 *Iuuencus*, styrc. 1377 in *Test. Karleol.* (1893) 117 Lego..Margarete del Hall unam vaccam bonam cum uno stirk. *c* 1425 *Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 669/9 *Hic bouiculus*, styrk. 1448–9 in *Finchale Priory Charters* etc. (Surtees) p. cclvii, Item xxviij twynters. Item xxxiij striks. 1484 in *Acta Dom. Concil.* (1839) 95*/1 Three ky,..twa stirkis. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* v. vi. 75 The stirkis for the sacrifice..War newly brittnit [L. *cæsis..juvencis*]. 1601 in *Housek. Ord.* (1790) 288 All beeves, muttons, veales, sturkes [etc.]. 1669 CHAMBERLAYNE *Pres. St. Eng.* 298 Yearly was spent [at the King's tables]..400 Sturks or young Biefes. 1784 *Ramsay's Tea-t. Misc.* (1733) II. 181 My bairn has tocher of her awin;..A Stirk, a staig, and acre sawin. 1808 *Compl. Grazier* (ed. 3) 97 *note*, The bull..when turned a year old..is a stirk, or yearling-bull. 1858–62 RAMSAY *Remin.* ii. (1870) 28 A twa-year-auld stirk. *Prov.* 1721 J. KELLY *Sc. Prov.* 309 There was ay some Water where the Stirk drown'd.

2. Used as a term of abuse: a foolish person.

c 1590 MONTGOMERIE *Sonn.* lxx. 13 Thou art a stirk, for all thy staitly stylis. 1728 RAMSAY *Last Sp. Miser* xv, I took them a' for stirks That loo'd na money. 1788 BURNS *Calf* ii, I doubt na, Sir, but then we'll find, Ye're still as great a Stirk. 1847 LE FANU *T. O'Brien* 213 Sure he's never where he ought to be—the sturk. 1894 A. GORDON *Northw. Ho!* 303 What's the guid o' learnin' when it turns decent countra lads intae stirks an' asses?

3. *attrib.* and *Comb.*

c 1470 HENRYSON *Mor. Fab.* x. (*Fox & Wolf*) xvii, The deuill ane stirk taill thairfoir sall ye haif. 1567 in Picton *L'pool Munic. Rec.* (1883) I. 109 A stag or stirk buckskin jerkin. 1573 in *Lanc. & Cheshire Wills* (Chetham Soc.) II. 139 Item one cowe hede one striack skyne and one fole skyne, viji*. 1601 in *Housek. Ord.* (1790) 289 The Clerke [of the Accatry] hath for his fee all the calves skinnes, and stirk skinnes. 1651 *Manch. Crt. Leet Rec.* (1887) IV. 68 For sellinge a stirke beefe wch wee were informed had the turne. 1891 'H. HALIBURTON' *Ochil Idylls* 134 The haflin wi' his stirk-like glowre.

Hence **Sti·rkie** (*Sc.*), † **Sti·rkin,** diminutive formations used in the same sense.

1559 *Will of W. Percky* (Somerset Ho.) Styrkyns & hecfordes of ij yeres olde. 18.. *Prov.* in *Ramsay's Remin.* v. (1870) 153 There's aye water where the stirkie drouns.

Stirk, obs. Sc. form of STRIKE *v.*

† **Sti·rket.** *north. Obs.* [f. STIRK + -ET.] ? A stirk.

1313 *Bolton Compotus* 270 b, Pro viij. stirkettes emptis de executoribus Magistri Ade de Herteford' et venditis xvj. s. 1348 *Durham Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 42 In 3 styrket emp. in villa, 7*s.* 6*d.* 1411 in *Finchale Priory Charters* etc. (Surtees) p. clviii, iiij vaccæ j stot ij quioks, ij stirketts. 1485 *Inv.* in *Ripon Chapter Acts* (Surtees) 372, x stirkettes.

Stirkin, Stirlene: see STRICKEN, STARLING.

Stirless (stɔ̄·ləs), *a.* [f. STIR *sb.* and *v.* + -LESS.] Not stirring, motionless.

Frequent in Byron, Charlotte Bronte, and P. J. Bailey.

1816 BYRON *Pris. Chillon* ix, Silence, and a stirless breath Which neither was of life nor death. 1819 — *Juan* II. cxliv, O'er him lay the calm and stirless air. 1824 CARLYLE in Froude *Life* (1882) I. 214, I delight to see these old mountains lying in the clear sleep of twilight, stirless as death. 1833 L. RITCHIE *Wand. Loire* 198 The river..in which the stirless trees on the banks were reflected. 1839–48 BAILEY *Festus* i. 4 Ye who stand Stirless. 1849 C. BRONTE *Shirley* xiii, She would spend a sunny afternoon in lying stirless on the turf. 1873 LE FANU *Willing to Die* 337 The boat was now three lengths away;..out on the bosom of the stirless water. 1896 CROCKETT *Grey Man* i. 2 It was a stirless night.

Hence **Sti·rlessly** *adv.*; **Sti·rlessness.**

1825 *Blackw. Mag.* XVIII. 447 On their orbs the light Smote and sate stirlessly. 1888 W. CLARK RUSSELL *Death Ship* xxiv, The captain..held his place with the entranced stirlessness I was now accustomed to see in him.

Stirling, Sc. form of STARLING.

† **Sti·rment.** *Obs.* [f. STIR *v.* + -MENT.] An incitement, provocation.

c 1460 *Promp. Parv.* (Winch.) 143 Egment, or styrment, *incitamentum*.

Stirne, obs. form of STERN *a.*

† **Sti·rom.** *Obs.* [Of obscure origin.] A kind of apple, and the cider made from it: = STIRE.

1708 J. PHILIPS *Cyder* II. 351 Stirom, firmest Fruit, Embottled (long as Priameian Troy Withstood the Greeks) endures, e'er justly mild. 1740 SOMERVILLE *Hobbinol* I. (1749) 45 Slumb'ring secure, with Stirom well bedew'd, Fallacious cask.

Stiro·metry, obs. f. STEREOMETRY.

1619 H. LYTE *Art of Tens* 21 Likewise may you finde the stirometrie or square of anie thing by the foresaid table.

Stirop(e, -opp(e, obs. forms of STIRRUP.

Stirp (stɔ̄rp). Also 6 **styrpe**, 6–7 **stirpe.** Also in L. form STIRPS. [ad. L. *stirpem* (nom. *stirps, stirpes, stirpis*), stock, stem (lit. and fig.). = STEM *sb.*, STOCK *sb.*, in various figurative senses.]

1. The stock of a family; a line of descent; a race, clan, or sept; the descendants of a common ancestor. Also *abstr.*, pedigree, lineage. Now somewhat *rare*.

The word became obsolete in the 17th c., and reappears (in affected literary use) about the middle of the 19th c.

1502 ARNOLDE *Chron.* 60 b/1 Abdalazys Soldan of babilon,..emperor of the worlde and of yᵉ feith of machamet,..lyuylly [*read* lynylly] descendid from the stirp of prophettis. *c* 1530 *Crt. of Love* 16 No termys digne unto her excellence, So is she sprong of noble stirpe and high. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Edw. IV*, 249 b, His sequele and lineal succession, as the verie Images and carnall portratures, of his stirpe, line and stemme, naturally discended. 1568 GRAFTON *Chron.* II. 911 The Lady Margaret liyng in Flaunders,..ioyfully receyued and welcommed mee, as the onely type and garland of her noble stirpe and linage. 1569 *Ir. Act.* 11 *Eliz.* c. 4 (1621) 304 Fiue persons of the best and eldest of euerie stirpe or nation of the Irishrie..shall be bound to bring in..all idle persons of their surname. 1625 BACON *Ess., Nobility* (Arb.) 191 Democracies..are commonly more quiet..then where there are Stirps of Nobles. *a* 1626 — *New Atl.* 25 They haue some few Stirps of Iewes, yet remaining amongst them, whom they leaue to their owne Religion. *a* 1635 NAUNTON *Fragm. Reg.* (Arb.) 14 Now leaving her stirp, I come to her Person. 1654 VILVAIN *Enchir. Epigr.* IV. xli. 71 b, Ther were two Kings of English stirp descended, Who when thos Danes died to the Throne ascended. 1665 J. WEBB *Stone-Heng* (1725) 152 People..of another Stirp. 1854 THOREAU *Walden* 283 Still grows the vivacious lilac..the last of that stirp, sole survivor of that family. 1869 LOWELL *Under Willows* 141 Loved by some maid Of royal stirp. 1896 KIPLING *Seven Seas, Song of Cities* xiii, The northern stirp beneath the southern skies—I build a Nation for an Empire's need. 1906 C. MERCIER *Scheme of Educ. Comm. Care of Feeble Minded* 3 If the community is disposed, not only the individual, but the stirp is exterminated.

† b. Ancestral stock. *Obs.*

1573 LEOID *Pilgr. Princes* (1586) 76 Auerni boasted of their stirpe and stocke, the ancient Troians.

† 2. A scion, member of a family. *Obs.*

1574 J. JONES *Nat. Bēg. Growing & Living Things* 49 The worthy and famous Stirpe of your auncient, most honorable, and trustie Stock. 1629 L. O[WEN] *Speculum Iesuit.* 30 Another Alexander Farnesius a Cardinall of Rome, a wicked stirp of that stocke.

¶ 3. Used for: ? Chief representative. *Obs.*

1523 J. T. *Bradshaw's St. Werburge* Prol. 2 Alas, of Chestre ye monkes haue lost a treasure, Henry Bradsha the stirpe of eloquence!

4. *Eugenics.* (See quot.)

1875 GALTON in *Contemp. Rev.* XXVII. 81, I beg permission to use, in a special sense, the short word 'stirp',.. to express the sum-total of the germs, gemmules, or whatever they may be called, which are to be found..in the newly fertilized ovum—that is, in the earliest pre-embryonic stage—from which time it receives nothing further from its parents, not even from its mother, than mere nutriment... This word 'stirp'..is equally applicable to the contents of buds. *Ibid.* 84 As the stirp whence the child sprang can only be half the size of the combined stirps of his two parents, it follows that [etc.]. 1910 *19th Cent.* Sept. 490 Certain variations in the quasi-independent 'stirp' or 'germ substance' of the reproductive egg-cells and sperm-cells.

Hence **Sti·rpal** *a.*, pertaining to a 'stirp' (sense 4).

1875 GALTON in *Contemp. Rev.* XXVII. 82 Organization wholly depends on the mutual affinities and repulsions of the separate germs; first in their stirpal, and subsequently during all the processes of development.

Stirpiculture (stɔ̄·rpikʉ·ltiŭr). [f. L. *stirpi-* (see STIRP, STIRPS) + *cultūra* CULTURE *sb.*] The production of pure races or stocks by careful breeding.

1870 J. H. NOYES *Sci. Propagation* 12 It is one thing to seek in any existing race the best animals we can find to breed from..; and it is another thing to start a distinct family and keep its blood pure by separation from the mass of its race. It is this last method that has produced the Ayrshires, the short-horns, and the Leicesters. It deserves a distinct name, and we will take the liberty to call it stirpiculture. 1883 in OGILVIE. 1891 *Amer. Naturalist* Oct. 932 Mrs. Anita Newcomb McGee read a paper entitled 'An Experiment in Human Stirpiculture'. 1904 GALTON in *Sociological Papers* I. 78 Mr. Wells spoke of 'stirpiculture' as a term that had been used by others and was preferable to 'eugenics'. I may be permitted to say that I myself coined that word and deliberately changed it for eugenics.

Hence **Stirpicu·ltural,** *a.*, pertaining to stirpiculture; **Stirpicu·lturist,** one who is interested in stirpiculture.

1891 *Amer. Naturalist* Oct. 932 Of the stirpicultural children only one has since died. 1903 A. J. MCLAUGHLIN in *Pop. Sci. Monthly* Jan. 231 (Cent. Suppl.) The stirpiculturist, noting the poor physique..of some of the immigrants, fears race degeneration.

Stirpital (stɔ̄·rpităl), *a. Law.* [Badly f. L. *stirps* (see STIRPS); the correct form would be **stirpal.*] Pertaining to division *per stirpes*.

1886 PEARSON in *Law Rep.*, 31 *Chanc. Div.* 689 A division of the proceeds of sale *per stirpes* is more in accordance than a division *per capita* with the original stirpital division of the income.

‖ **Stirps** (stɔ̄·rps). Pl. **stirpes** (stɔ̄·rpiz). [L. *stirps* stem, stock: see STIRP.]

1. *Law.* A branch of a family; the person who with his descendants forms a branch of a family. Chiefly in L. phrase *per stirpes*: see PER *prep.* I. 10; also *in stirpes*.

1681 STAIR *Inst. Law Scot.* XXVI. iv. 84 They would not succeed *in capita*, the whole Successors getting Equal Share, but *in stirpes*. *a* 1768 ERSKINE *Inst. Law Scot.* III. viii. § 12. (1773) 547 Succession *in stirpes*, or by the stock, makes the partition..according to the number of the stocks or stirpes from whom these heirs derive right. 1771 *Encycl. Brit.* II. 937/2 The share belonging to their ascendent or *stirps*, whom they represent. 1862 BROUGHAM *Brit. Const.* App. iii. 430 His brothers succeed to the exclusion of his issue female, and each brother becomes a stirps.

2. *Zool.* Used variously (often vaguely) as a term of classification: a family, subfamily, group, etc.

1863 HUXLEY *Man's Place Nat.* II. 103 The..practically infinite divergence of the human from the Simian stirps.

3. *Bot.* (See quot.)

1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1101/1 *Stirps*, a race or permanent variety: as the Red Cabbage.

Stirrage (stɔ̄·rĕdʒ). *dial.* Also 6 *Sc.* **sterage, stirage**, 9 *dial.* **stirridge**, etc. (see *Eng. Dial. Dict.*). [f. STIR *v.* + -AGE.] Stirring, movement, commotion.

1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* II. xi. 82 And me..Ilk swouch of wynd, and every quhisper now, And alkyne sterage affrayit. 1535 STEWART *Cron. Scot.* (Rolls) II. 660 To remane..Without sterage ay still as ony stone. *c* 1590 J. STEWART *Poems* (S. T. S.) II. 27 He stabill stands, And dois no stirage mak. 1621 GRANGER *Eccl.* xii, 4. 320 Old men..cannot sleepe soundly,..euery small stirrage waketh them. 1892 SARAH HEWITT *Peas. Sp. Devon* 128 My ivers, whot a stirridge yu make vur nort at awl!

Stirrage, obs. form of STEERAGE.

Stirrah (ste·rä). *Sc.* Also 7 **stirrow.** [Perh. corruption of SIRRAH; cf. *stir* for *sir*, STIR *sb.*2].

1. A young fellow.

1665 Sir J. Lauder (Ld. Fountainhall) *Jrnls.* (S. H. S.) 17 Being oftner in telling of his beads then both his other 2 companions fat-looged stirrows ware. 1768 Ross *Helenore* 7 Ralph..A dainty stirrah had, twa years out gane. *a* 1779 D. Graham *Jockey & Maggy* v. Writ. 1883 II. 41 She's born a bra wally thumping stirra. 1811 A. Scott *Poems* (ed. 2) 177 Here they dwalt, till Cairnan' Abel, Twa fine stirrahs, blest their bour.

2. 'A term of contempt, apparently corrupted from *Sirrah*'. (Jam.)

1816 Scott *Antiq.* xv, Stirra, this is no the road to Monkbarns. *Ibid.* xxi, Ay, and then, when the dogs barked at the lone farm-stead, the gudewife wad cry, 'Whisht, stirra, that'll be auld Edie'. 1818 Hogg *Brownie*, etc. *Woolgatherer* II. 125. 'My faith, stirra!' said she,..'My faith, man, but ye're soon begun to a braw trade!'

† Stirrance. *Obs. rare*—1. [f. Stir *v.* + -ance.] Disturbance.

1623 Markham *Cheap Husb.* (ed. 3) II If the Rider can..giue as well directions for the preseruation of a horses health, and the auoidance of sturrance and sicknesse, as put in practise artfully euery violence to be vsed in his lessons.

Stirrand, Stirrap, obs. ff. Stirring, Stirrup.

Stirre, obs. form of Steer *v.*[1]

Stirred (stɔ̈rd), *ppl. a.* [f. Stir *v.* + -ed 1.] Moved, agitated, excited, etc.: see the various senses of the verb. Also with *up*: see Stir *v.* 16.

1483 *Cath. Angl.* 365/1 Stird (*v. r.* Styrryde), *motus, agitatus.* 1538 Elyot *Dict.*, *Percitus*, styrred. 1545 *Ibid.*, *Concitatus*, stered, prouoked, meued. 1577 Kendall *Flowers of Epigr.* 65 Is this (at last quoth he) Of all your sturred strife the cause? 1593 Q. Eliz. *Boeth.* II. met. ii. 24 Sandz such store by raging flawes as stured sea turnes vp. 1607 Topsell *Four-f. Beasts* 307 He inclined him [his horse] first of al to lay away his stirred and angry minde. 1707 Mortimer *Husb.* 448 [Cabbages] may be..transplanted..into a very rich and well stirred Mould. 1827 Steuart *Planter's Guide* (1828) 496 Let a trench then be..cut as deep nearly as the depth of the trenched ground, or stirred earth, of which the orchard-soil has been originally formed. 1860 Ellicott *Life Our Lord* iv. 187 A storm of wind bursts upon the lake, and the stirred-up waters beat in upon the boat. 1862 Meredith *Mod. Love* xlii. 74 Thoughts black as death, Like a stirr'd pool in sunshine break.

Stirred, obs. form of Starred *ppl. a.*

† Stirree. *dial. Obs.* [Irregularly f. Stir *v.*] A light cross furrow ploughing of a fallow. Also *attrib.* Hence † **Stirree** *v. trans,* to give a 'stirree' to (land).

1733 W. Ellis *Chiltern & Vale Farm.* 55 A Fallow and a Stirree is enough for a Chalk. *Ibid.* 308 The more industrious Man will give his Wheat Land a Fallow in April, and two Stirrees between that and sowing time. *Ibid.* 319 This is the strongest and largest Plough imployed at Fallow and Stirree Times. 1750 — *Mod. Husb.* IV. i. 21 (E. D. D.) They stirree it at the beginning of this month.

Stirrer (stɔ̈·rəɹ). Forms: see Stir *v.* Also 7 **stirrier** (sense 3 b). [f. Stir *v.* + -er 1.] One who or something which stirs, in various senses.

1. One who or something which excites or provokes something, as strife, passion, etc., or incites a person to something; an inciter, instigator; † a promoter (*obs.*); † an exhorter (*obs.*).

1382 Wyclif 2 *Macc.* iv. 1 Symont..spake yuel of Onye, as..he hadde be stirer of yuels [Vulg. *incentor malorum*]. 1399 *Rolls of Parlt.* III. 451/2 The man..sayd, that he was noght controevour, ne fyrst doer, no styrer of the Bille. *c* 1449 Pecock *Repr.* III. viii. 324 Bischopis and abbotis, whiche schulden be grete sterers to the lay partie into deedis of pitee. 1455 *Rolls of Parlt.* V. 282/1 Thaire Assistours, Helpours, Sturrers, Confortours, and Counseillours aforesaid, 1543 in W. H. Turner *Select. Rec. Oxford* (1880) 170 Itt appeared the Mayor to have ben a great sturrer of this garboyle. 1545 *King's Primer, Lands, Hymn* C iij b, Christ the styrer of the hert. 1599 Thynne *Animadv.* (1875) 74 This woorde 'Minoresse' sholde bee 'Moueresse,' signyfyinge 'a mover or styrrer to debate'. 1609 Holland *Amm. Marcell.* xiv. ix. 21 The principall stirrers of those tumults and seditions. 1632 Marmion *Holland's Leaguer* II. ii. D 4, With Musicke, Songs, and dancing, such as are The stirrers of hot appetites. 1635 H. Sydenham *Serm.* (1637) 74 This is..the prime wheele and stirrer of all our turbulent motions. 1695 Locke *Reasonabl. Chr.* (1696) 178 A stirrer of Sedition against the Publick Peace. 1817 Byron *Manfred* I. i. 101, I am the Rider of the Wind, The Stirrer of the storm. 1849 James *Woodman* xix, This Morton is..the stirrer of every trouble in the realm. 1876 Morris *Sigurd* IV. 378 No stirrer nor stayer of strife. 1890 *Illustr. Lond. News* 6 Sept. 298/3 You a stirrer of passions—you a minstrel!

b. Often with *up*: cf. Stir *v.* 16.

1532 Tindale *Exp. v–vii. Matt.* (?1550) 19 Cursed be..sterers [1573 stirrers] vp of princes to batayle & warre. 1563–83 Foxe *A. & M.* 1257/2 He was a stirrer vp of sedition & commotion. 1596 Dalrymple tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* II. 357 He was author, and steiryr vp of the first president of Orknay. 1603 Knolles *Hist. Turks* (1638) 57 The chiefe stirrer vp of the King vnto this war, was one Gerbert. 1605 A. Warren *Poor Man's Pass.* E 2 b, Sedition-sowers, stirrers vp of strife. 1641 J. Jackson *True Evang. T.* 37 Maximinus, the stirrer up of the sixt Persecution. 1716 Atterbury *Serm.* (1734) I. 222 There is scarce any Truth so bright and clear, but that an Industrious Stirrer up of Doubts may do somewhat towards clouding and darkning it. 1800 Coleridge *Piccolom.* I. xii. 66 That long-practised stirrer-up Of insurrection, 1908 *Academy* 6 June 853/2 Goethe was undoubtedly..a tireless stirrer-up of ideas.

† **c.** One who makes a commotion, or raises a tumult; an agitator. *Obs.*

c 1450 tr. *De Imitatione* III. xxviii. (1893) 97 Kepe þou þiself in gode pees, and lete þe stirer stire [L. *dimitte agitantem agitare*] as muche as he wol. 1577 tr. *Bullinger's Decades* III. ix. 449 These fellowes are seditious stirrers. 1610 Carleton *Jurisd.* 125 These Pharises, he describeth to be seditious and intollerable stirrers in States. 1612 Paule *Abp. Whitgift* 48 The afore-said stirrers, and seditious attempts of sundry persons in this our Archbishops time. *a* 1637 B. Jonson *Underwoods, To Mem. Sir L. Carv* 30 What did this Stirrer, but die late? *a* 1660 *Contemp. Hist. Irel.* (Ir. Archæol. Soc.) I. 101 This good man will not trust any bodie..but those religions that are inative styrers of the present and other faction.

2. In physical sense: **a.** An instrument or appliance for stirring a liquid or the like.

c 1450 *Two Cookery Bks.* II. 107 Sterre it well with ij sturrers. 1600 Surflet *Country Farm* v. xxiii. 725 Leauing the same for the space of an howre to drinke in this water: afterward they put the meale aside with their stirrers. 1688 Holme *Armoury* III. xx. (Roxb.) 247/1 The Third, is called a Padle or Mundle..; some call it a sturer; which is to stire vp the Tallow and turn it about in the pan whilest it is in melting. 1803 *Phil. Trans.* XCIII. 122 The whole being well melted, was stirred with a large earthen stirrer. 1813 Rudge *Agric. Surv. Glouc.* 222 The stirrer, reever, and shovel used in the process [of cider making]. 1827 Faraday *Chem. Manip.* vi. (1842) 174 Besides these vessels, stirrers are frequently required in the progress of these operations. They should be made of solid glass rod. 1845 G. Dodd *Brit. Manuf.* V. 67 (Vinegar.) The mash-tuns..are circular vessels with a central 'stirrer' or instrument for keeping in constant agitation the ingredients which may be in the tuns. 1852 Morfit *Tanning & Currying* (1853) 163 To make a fresh vat, quicklime is thrown in, covered with water, and agitated with a stirrer. 1856 J. C. Morton *Cycl. Agric.* s.v. *Plough*, The stirrer, or acting tine, has a chisel-edge with a sloping front, down the middle of which is a vertical tine. 1884 *Health Exhib. Catal.* 110/1 Model Steam Jam Boiling Pan, with Revolving Stirrer in action.

b. One who troubles (a stream).

1851 Trench *Poems, Leg. Alhambra* 36 How, rising from that watery floor, A Moorish maiden..stands before The stirrer of the stream.

3. a. One who moves about; *esp.* in *early stirrer*, one who is up early.

1538 Elyot *Dict.*, *Ambulator*, a walker or styrer. *a* 1560 Phaer *Æneid* VIII. Z i, Nor morning styrer lesse, Æneas then abroad was stalkt. 1597 Shaks. *2 Hen. IV*, III. ii. 3 An early stirrer, by the Rood! 1607 Dekker *Westw. Hoe* II. i. B 4, I had not thought..you had bin such an early stirrer. 1620 Fletcher *Chances* I. iii, And longer to expect my friend may pull me Into suspition of too late a stirrer, Which all good Governments are jealous of. 1638 Baker tr. *Balzac's Lett.* (vol. III.) 131 The Prince I speak of, is a stirrer, and makes no stay any where. ?1828 Coleridge *Alice du Clos* 143 Two stirrers only met my eyes, Fair Alice, and one more. 1855 Dickens *Dorrit* II. xxv, They both looked up at the sunny morning sky, into which..the breath and voices of a few early stirrers were peacefully rising.

b. A person or animal that moves briskly; one who bestirs himself, an active person. † Of a horse: see Stirring *vbl. sb.* 3 b, Stirring *ppl. a.* 2 b.

1573 Tusser *Husb.* lxxiii. (1878) 164 As huswiues keepe home, and be stirrers about, So speedeth their winnings. ?1575 Blundevil *Art of Riding* II. i. D vj, If your horse be nimble:..you maye make him a sterer, by teachinge him to bounde aloft, and to yarke withall: to galloppe [etc.]. 1611 Cotgr., s.v. *Reposer, Qui va, il leche; qui repose, il seiche*; Prov. The stirrer thriues, the lazie house-Doue pines. 1639 T. de Gray *Compl. Horsem.* 6 Instead of a stirrier or horse for mannage, you have bred him fit for nought. 1657 Ligon *Barbadoes* (1673) 58 For Hawkes, I never saw but two, and those the merriest stirrers that ever I saw fly.

Stirrer, Stirrile, -ill, obs. ff. Steerer, Sterile.

Stirring (stɔ̈·riŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. Stir *v.* + -ing 1.] The action of the verb Stir, in various senses.

1. The action of moving (in general sense); movement, motion. *Obs.* or *arch.*

c 888 Ælfred *Boeth.* xx, Ascirped mid þære styringe hire ægenre frecennesse [L. *ipsius adversitatis exercitatione prudentem*]. *Ibid.* xxi, Ðara unstillena ȝesceafta styring ne mæȝ no weorðan ȝestilled. *c* 1055 *Byrhtferth's Handboc* in *Anglia* VIII. 318 Momentum, þæt ys styrung. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 23678 Sun and mone and stern and lift, þat ai wit stiring ar nu scift,..fra þat time stil sal þai stand. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* iv. (*James*) 76 Quhow his master þe his slicht had rewit hym steringe & mycht. *c* 1400 *Secreta Secret., Gov. Lordsh.* 66 Þe seconde partye [of Astronomye] ys of þe qualyte & of þe manere to knowe þe sterynge of þe firmament. *c* 1530 *Judic. Urines* II. vii. 30 Pulmo the lunges is a membre softe and tendre..hauynge..ii. menynges, yᵗ is to say, ii. maner of sterynges. 1613 Purchas *Pilgrimage* (1614) 744 The sterne that with little locall stirring guideth so many Ships. 1674 N. Fairfax *Bulk & Selv.* Contents, Bearing is neither rest nor stirring, but the keeper or spring of stirring.

2. A beginning to move; a slight or momentary movement; (with negative) any or the least movement.

1340 Hampole *Pr. Consc.* I. 822 His [*sc.* a dying man's] pouce es stille, with-outen styringes. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xxix. (*Placidas*) 134 He..lay stil..but steryng of fut ore hand. *a* 1425 tr. *Arderne's Treat. Fistula*, etc. 24 Þat it be not hurt þrui..sodayn styrryng of þe pacient wiþ þe poynt of þe rasour or of þe launcette. 1548 Hall *Chron., Edw. IV*, 215 They made no stirryng, nor once shewed them selfe in sight. 1805 Wordsw. *Fidelity* 6 He..searches with his eyes ..And now at distance can discern A stirring in a brake of fern. 1871 Burr *Ad Fidem* xvi. 349 Subtle stirrings of the air, that show the coming cyclone. 1909 H. J. Newbolt *New June* lxvii, The spark..was but smouldering and creeping..The first stirring of the flame was close at hand.

b. The action of leaving one's place, or of going out of doors.

1698 Fryer *Acc. E. India & P.* 76 Here being no stirring out to Sea, or travelling in the Country. 1710–11 Swift *Jrnl. to Stella* 10 Jan., He had no thoughts of stirring till summer. 1755 Elisa Young in *A. Young's Autobiog.* (1898) 15 We have had so much rain lately that there has been no stirring.

† **c.** *fig.* Change, alteration, variation. *Obs.*

a 1240 *Ureisun* in *O. E. Hom.* I. 189 [Crist] þet is euer ilic wiþ-uté truchunge, þet halt euer anon wiþ-ute sturunge. *Ibid.* 203 Wið-ute sturiunge.

d. *fig.* Beginning of action or activity; esp. of mental faculties, intellectual movements, or the like.

1387–8 T. Usk *Test. Love* I. Prol. (Skeat) 82 This book shal be of love, and the pryme causes of steringe in that doinge. 1711 Addison *Spect.* No. 257. P 9 Those weak Stirrings and Tendencies of the Will. 1873 Symonds *Grk. Poets* v. 111 The very earliest stirrings of conscious art in Greece. 1909 *Edin. Rev.* July 154 The stirrings of an independent life in the..peoples.

† **3.** Active movement; bodily exercise. *Obs.*

c 1400 tr. *Secreta Secret., Gov. Lordsh.* 71 Stirynge before þe mete sterith þe hete of þe stomak. *a* 1400–50 *Wars Alex.* 781 Quat of stamping of stedis & stering of bernes, All dymed þe dale. 1561 Hollybush *Hom. Apoth.* 40 b, Let him use moderate walkinge or stearing. 1562 J. Heywood *Prov. & Epigr.* (1867) 180 Great sturryng, small mouyng. 1626 Bacon *Sylva* § 62 Excesse of Meat, Excesse of Drinke, Extraordinary Fasting, Extraordinary Stirring. 1719 De Foe *Crusoe* II. (Globe) 512 Stirring about, and Trading..had ..more Pleasure in it..than sitting still.

† **b.** Of a horse: The designation of a particular kind of pace. Cf. Stirrer 3 b, Stirring *ppl. a.* 2 b.

1477 *Paston Lett.* III. 186 The gentyllest hors in trotting and sterying that is in Calis.

4. Violent movement, commotion.

a. In physical sense. ? *Obs.* (In early quots. contextual or lit. from L. *motus.*)

c 1000 *Ags. Gosp.* Matt. viii. 24 Ða wearð mycel styrung [Vulg. *motus*; *c* 1160 *Hatton* steriung] ȝeworden on þære sæ. *Ibid.* Matt. xxiv. 7 Eorþan styrunga [*c* 1160 *Hatton* eorðe steriunge; Vulg. *terræ motus*]. 1382 Wyclif *Matt.* viii. 24 A grete steryng [1388 stiring] was maad in the see.

b. Tumult, uproar; political disturbance, sedition; insurrection. *Obs.* or merged in other senses.

a 1154 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 975, & com þa on þam eaftran ȝeare swiðe mycel hungor, & swyðe mænigfealde styrunga ȝeond Angel cyn. 1415 Ld. Scrope in *43rd Rep. Dep. Kpr. Publ. Rec.* 590 A gret stiring of Lolardis. 1529 Rastell *Pastyme* (1811) 281 A newe styrrynge began in the northe contrey. 1665 *Clarke Papers* (Camden) III. 28 There is noe stirring in Wales, nor any in armes that wee know of except these in Dorsetshire. [1828 Carr *Craven Gloss.*, *Stirrings*, a bustle, a commotion.]

† **c.** Disturbance of mind or feelings. *Obs. rare*—1. (rendering L. *motus.*)

a 1400 in *Pol. Rel. & L. Poems* (1903) 256 Wiþ weopinge we comen, Wiþ weopinge we passun. Wiþ steriinge we byginnen, Wiþ steriinge we enden.

5. The action of setting in motion, agitation. Now *rare* or *Obs.*

c 1000 *Ags. Gosp.* John v. 4 Æfter þæs wæteres styrunge. 1665 *Phil. Trans.* I. 52 Almost any Ventilation and stirring of the Air doth refrigerate. 1712 M. Henry *Daily Commun.* (1822) 328 The sick and sore in Bethesda's pool waited for the stirring of the water.

† **b.** Shaking (of the head). *Obs. rare.*

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 188 Hore hefden sturiunge [*v. r.* schakinge] upon him. *a* 1300 *E. E. Psalter* xliii. [xliv.] 15 Þou set us ..Stiringe of heved [L. *commotionem capitis*] in folke to be. *a* 1325 *Prose Psalter* ibid., Stirieng of heued.

6. Agitation with the hand or an implement so as to shift or mix the parts:

a. of a liquid, of coals, etc.: see Stir *v.* 3 a, b.

1398 Trevisa *Barth. De P. R.* xix. cxxviii. (1495) 935 Lebes is a vessell of brasse to sethe flesshe therin and taketh blaknesse of often brennynge and vnclennesse and nedeth therfore ofte styryng and wypynge. 1611 Cotgr., *Patouil*, ..a making foule by much sturring. 1640 T. Brugis *Marrow of Physicke* II. 151 Boyle it with stirring. 1782 J. Brown *Nat. & Revealed Religion* III. ii. 238 The stirring of a wasps' nest makes them rage and sting the more.

b. of soil; *spec.* a second ploughing (see Stir *v.* 3 c); also *concr.* land that has just been 'stirred'.

14.. *Lat.-Eng. Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 582/27 *Febrimacio*, sturrynge of londe. 1523–34 Fitzherb. *Husb.* § 17 If it be layde vpon the sturrynge, at euery plowynge it shall medle the donge and the erthe togyder. 1577 Googe tr. *Heresbach's Husb.* I. 21 b, Through many stirringes, your Fallowe is brought to so fine a moulde, as it shall neede very little or no harrowing at all when you sowe it. 1677 Plot *Oxfordsh.* 239 Some short time before the second tilth, which they call stirring. 1725 *Bradley's Family Dict.* s.v. *Fallow-Ground*, Fallowing is the first Ploughing for Barley, as Stirring is the second, and Sowing the third. 1805 R. W. Dickson *Pract. Agric.* I. 9 In cross-ploughing or stirring, they [*sc.* the coulters] may be set three-fourths of an inch towards the land. 1865 *Chamb. Encycl.* VI. 347/2 Hoeing or other stirring of the soil is beneficial.

7. The action of rousing or exciting to activity or emotion; incitement, instigation, provocation; † prompting, suggestion, inducement, persuasion.

1399 *Rolls of Parlt.* III. 452/1 By waye of counseill and styryng. 1420–2 Lydg. *Siege Thebes* I. 235 Thorgh his styring, and exortacioun With hym they went. 1507 in *Sel. Cases Star Chamber* (Selden Soc.) I. 271 They wold haue it sold & so by thair assentes & steringes it was sold for xx li. 1530 Palsgr. 276/2 Styrryng to angre, *irritation.* 1568 Grafton *Chron.* II. 124 The cause of this warre..was made by the styryng of a Frenche man. 1656 J. Harrington *Oceana* (1658) 155 What convenience is there for debate in a crowd, where there is nothing but jostling, treading upon one another, and stirring of blood? 1892 Kipling *Light that Failed* x. 205 He..remembered to stir Bessie, who needed very little stirring, into a tremendous rage.

b. Also with *up*: cf. Stir *v.* 16 d, e.

† *c* 1580 [H. Nicholas] (*title*) The Fift Epistle: a stirring vp of the Heart to the Humiliation or Following of Jesus. 1586 A. Day *Eng. Secretorie* I. (1625) 47 In matter of exhortation or stirring vp to wel-doing. 1675 J. Owen *Indwelling Sin* x. (1732) 127 Warnings, Calls, Excitations, or

Stirrings up. 1857 J. D. Borthwick *Three Yrs. California* ii. 42 He was such a dreadfully crabbed old rascal that I thought the stirring up he got was quite necessary to keep him sweet. 1914 *Evening Standard* 10 Nov. 6 Yesterday London got just what it wanted—a stirring up.

8. Inward prompting, suggestion, or incitement; impulse; in later use, inward movement of feeling or desire (cf. 2 d).

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 294 Eadi is he..þat..to brekeð..þe ereste sturunges hwon þet fleshs ariseð. *a* 1340 Hampole *Psalter* ii. 10 Wickid steryngе of pride ire enuye couaitis iolifte and oþer vices. *c* 1400 *Apol. Loll.* 67 Oft he [a judge] folowiþ his steringis [*suae voluntatis motus .. sequitur*], & not þe meritis of causis. 1636 Massinger *Bashful L.* iii. i, I.. begin To feel new stirrings, gallant thoughts. 1746 Wesley *Princ. Methodist* 21 He has Power over all the Stirrings and Motions of Sin, but not a total Freedom from them. 1864 Bryce *Holy Rom. Emp.* iv. (1875) 42 The lofty..mind of Charles was not free from the stirrings of personal ambition. 1884 W. C. Smith *Kildrostan* 65, I Begin to feel a stirring in my veins, As if I must be off into the woods.

† **b.** An affection of the mind, an emotion. *Obs.*

1552 T. Wilson *Logic* 21 There be .iiii. stirringes [1551, perturbacions] principall..in..the mynd... *Libido, seu cupiditas*, Lust or desire. *Leticia*. Mirthe. *Egritudo*. Grief. *Metus*. Feare.

9. *attrib.* and *Comb.*: in sense 5 a ('used for stirring'), as *stirring-apparatus, -bar, -buddle, -rod, -spoon*; in sense 5 b ('for stirring'), as *stirring-time*.

1877 Raymond *Statist. Mines & Mining* 399 A convenient *stirring-apparatus consists of two oblique blades fixed to the base of a vertical shaft. 1839 Ure *Dict. Arts*, etc. 1025 The mixture is agitated..by hand with the *stirring-bar. *Ibid.* 751 The *stirring buddle, or chest for freeing the schlamms or slimy stuff from clay. 1839 Ure *Dict. Arts* 1264 The capital should be provided with a stuffing-box, through which a *stirring-rod may pass down to the bottom of the still. 1895 *Arnold & Sons' Catal. Surg. Instrum.* 328 Stirring-rod. 1915 Tremearne *Bori Beliefs* in *Jrnl. R. Anthrop. Inst.* XLV. 34 Making a porridge of flour, and then scraping it off from the *stirring-spoon with her fingers. 1523–34 Fitzherb. *Husb.* § 16 The wiedes shall take suche roote, er *sterynge-tyme comme, that they wylle not be cleane tourned vndernethe.

Stirring, *ppl. a.* [f. Stir *v.* + -ing 2.] That stirs, in various senses of the verb.

1. Moving; that is in motion, or capable of motion; moving about or along; moving lightly or tremulously.

In quot. *c* 1440, loose, not fixed; in quot. 1597 *transf.* moving from one note to another.

c 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Matt. Introd. 6 Trewum styrendum *vel* cerrendum. *c* 1384 Chaucer *H. Fame* 478 Yf y kan See owghwhere any stiryng man. *c* 1400 Maundev. (1839) xv. 162 Thei be not steryngе ne mevable. *c* 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* ii. 141 Stiryng stonys [L. *mobiles lapides*] Commyxt with mold. 1597 Morley *Introd. Mus.* 81 If your descant should be stirring in any place, it should bee in the note before the close. 1611 Cotgr., *Grouillis*, a stirring heape of wormes, or other vermine. 1819 Keats *Indolence* v, A lawn besprinkled o'er With flowers, and stirring shades.

† **b.** *fig.* Changeful, unstable, inconstant. *Obs.* (Cf. the quot. from the same poem under sense 2.)

c 1400 *Destr. Troy* 8057 Hit is a propertie..To all wemen ..To be vnstable & not stidfast, styrond of wille.

2. Moving briskly, active, lively, agile; energetic in action; actively occupied, busy, bustling.

c 1400 tr. *Secreta Secret., Gov. Lordsh.* 104 Swyft and stirrand as goote. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 3833 A stythe man of his stature, stirond of wille, Menyt [*?read* Meuyt] hym to mony thinges, & of mynde gode. 1588 Shaks. *L. L. L.* v. ii. 16 Such a merrie nimble stirring spirit. 1628 Feltham *Resolves* I. xxx. 96 Naturall heate does more actuate the stirring Genius of Man. *a* 1641 Bp. Mountagu *Acts & Mon.* (1642) 263 Watch [was] set upon her, lest she being a stirring woman, should raise a tumult. 1709 Steele *Tatler* No. 180 ¶ 1 He..wanted a stirring Man to take upon him his Affairs. 1845 J. Coulter *Adv. in Pacific* xvii. 280 The missionaries, or stirring mercantile people, whose professions kept them moving quickly about. 1849 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* ii. I. 182 No man could be a stirring and thriving politician who was not prepared to change with every change of fortune.

† **b.** *Stirring horse*: a courser. Cf. Stirrer 3 b, Stirring *vbl. sb.* 3 b.

1375 Barbour *Bruce* xi. 129 Mony ane sturdy sterand steid. *c* 1476 *Gol. & Gaw.* 588 On ane sterand steid, that sternly will stert. 1477 *Paston Lett.* III. 183 That he be well trottyng of his owne corage, with owte fors of sporis, and also a steryng hors. 1538 Elyot *Dict., Sternax*, a steerynge or ploungynge horse. *a* 1548 Hall *Chron., Hen. VII*, 53, I omit farther the costly apparel..the massy cheynes, the stirryngе horses. 1551–2 Edw. VI *Jrnl.* (Roxb.) 392 Tou genettes, a sturring horse, and tow litle moyles. 1598 Stow *Surv.* 76 Hench men twaine, vpon great stirring horses following him. 1614 Rich *Honestie of Age* (1615) 28 Fitter to ryde in a Curtizans Coach vp and downe the streets, then to bestride a stirring Horse in the Field.

c. Characterized by or full of stir or activity.

1647 Boyle in Birch *Life* (1744) 76 Qualities, that in this stirring and necessitous age..make very unfrequent matches in the self-same person. 1800 Wordsw. *Michael* 81 She was a woman of a stirring life, Whose heart was in her house. 1849 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* ix. II. 484 The stirring market town of Brixham. 1853 Lytton *My Novel* viii. vii, You come from London? Stirring times for you English. 1873 Mrs. Brookfield *Not a Heroine* I. 32, I want a more stirring occupation.

3. That excites or incites. † **a.** Physically stimulating, stimulant. *Obs. rare.*

c 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* II. 106 Sele him oft styrgendne drenc. 1609 Dekker *Guls Horn-bk.* viii. 34 Capon is a stirring meate sometime.

b. Inciting to action, or inducing emotion; rousing, stimulating, animating, inspiriting; exciting, moving, thrilling.

1421 Hoccleve *Minor Poems* xxiii. 519 But thogh thy wordes sharpe & stirynge seeme, To many a man profyten they but lyte. 1530 Palsgr. 325/2 Steryng or provokyng to do a thyng, *incitatif*. 1645 Rutherford *Tryall & Tri. Faith* xxii. 255 If God should withdraw his stirring and prædeterminating influence. 1873 Black *Pr. Thule* xxvi. 246 Cheerful and stirring music. 1888 Burgon *Lives 12 Gd. Men* II. vi. 77 Lives..without stirring incidents.

Stirringly (stə·rĭŋli), *adv.* [f. prec. + -ly 2.] In a stirring manner.

1. So as to stir to action or emotion; rousingly, excitingly, movingly.

1382 Wyclif *Ps.* xciii. [xciv.] 4 Thei shul steringli seyn [1388 Thei schulen telle out; Vulg. *effabuntur*], and speke wickidnesse. 1866 *Reader* 26 May 524 It is in the portrayal of the more stirringly emotional that his dramatic genius is most at home. 1900 P. C. Simpson *Fact of Christ* vi. 185 We men to whom this life calls so stirringly and strongly.

2. With brisk movement, actively. *rare*—1.

1889 *Hardwicke's Sci.-Gossip* XXV. 199, I..found them stirringly busy; and in the nest were some sixty or seventy pupæ, and six or seven female ants.

Stirrow, Stirrun: see Stirrah, Stern *a.*

Stirrup (stĭ·rŏp, ste·rŏp), *sb.* Forms: 1 stigrâp, stirâp, 2–7 stirop, 3–5 stirap, 3–6 stirope, 4 stirhap, stroupe, 4–6 sterap, styrop(pe, 5 sterep, -opp, stiroppe, stirrap, storrope, styrope, -up, 5–6 sterop(pe, sturope, styrope, 5–7 sterope, 6 sterrep, stirepp, -hop, -ip(p)e, stor(r)ap, -oppe, sturropp, styrrep(e, -op(p)e, -uppe, 6–7 styrrop, 6–8 stirrop, 7 sterrup, stiropp, stirropp(e, sturrop, styrrup, 7–8 stirup, 8 sterrop, 4– stirrup. [OE. *stigrâp*, f. *stig-e* climb (f. wk. grade of *stîgan* to climb: see Sty *v.*) + *râp* Rope *sb.* Cf. OS. *stigerêp* (MLG. *stegerêp*), MDu. *stegereep* (W Flem. *steegreep* stirrup-leather, stirrup), OHG. *stegareif* (MHG. *stegereif*, mod.G. *stegreif*), ON. *stigreip*.

As the etymology shows, the original 'stirrup' must have been a looped rope. In some of the continental Teut. langs. the word has been used for the stirrup-leather, the stirrup itself having a special name, MDu. *böghel* (Du. *beugel, stijgbeugel*), whence mod.G. *bügel, steigbügel*, Sw. *stigbygel*, Da. *stigbøile*.]

1. A contrivance suspended from the side of a saddle to serve as a support for the foot of the rider; in modern times, an arched piece of metal (rarely of wood, leather, etc.) closed by a flat plate to receive the sole of the boot.

To lose one's stirrups [= F. *perdre les étriers*]: to let one's feet accidentally slip out of the stirrups (for the figurative use see c).

c 1000 Ælfric *Gloss.* in Wr.-Wülcker 120/2 *Scansile*, stirap. *a* 1100 *Voc.* ibid. 332/11 *Scansile*, stigrap. *c* 1175 *Soul & Body* in *Fragm. Ælfric's Gloss.*, etc. (1838) 6 On stirope stonden mid fotan. *c* 1290 *Beket* 248 in *S. Eng. Leg.* 113 His loreins weren al of seluer, stirapes and spores al-so. *a* 1320 *Sir Tristr.* 3261 His stirops he made him tine, To grounde he him wrong. 1338 R. Brunne *Chron.* (1725) 190 He smote him in þe helm, bakward he bare his stroupe. 1375 Barbour *Bruce* III. 143 The King, in full gret hy, Strak at the tothir wigorusly, That he eftir his sterap drew. *c* 1386 Chaucer *Shipm. Prol.* 1 Ovre Ost vppon his stiropes stood anoon And seide good men herkeneth euerychoon. *a* 1400–50 *Wars Alex.* 3615 He standis vp in his stereps in starand maylis. *c* 1435 *Torr. Portugal* 987 Torrent in the storrope stod And prayd to god, þat dyed on Rode. *c* 1450 *Merlin* x. 164 Ban..ficched hym in the styropes so harde that the Iren bente. 1470–85 Malory *Arthur* x. xlvi. 487 There with alle sire Palomydes lost his steroppes and lay vp ryght on his horsbak. 1549 in *Archæologia* XXV. 555 Pd..for the vernyshyng of a styrepe iiij^d. 1585 T. Washington tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* I. viii. 8, [I saw] Moores mounted on..horses without saddel, bridle, stirrops or spurres. 1686 Plot *Staffordsh.* 377 Of Stirrups they also make these several sorts, the swivel, barr'd, Rippon, and plain stirrop. *a* 1700 Evelyn *Diary* Apr. 1646, Instead of stirrups we had ropes tied with a loope to put our feete in. 1728 Chambers *Cycl.* s.v., Stirrops are allowed a modern Invention: Menage observes, that St. Jerom is the first Author who mentions them. 1820 Scott *Monast.* ix, I am a rude man, bred to lance and stirrup, and not used to deal with book-learned men and priests. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* I. II. vi, Now no man on a level with his age but will trot *à l'Anglaise*, rising in the stirrups. 1845 Ford *Handbk. Spain* I. 57 The stirrups are the primitive Moorish, copper or iron boxes of a triangular shape, in which almost the whole foot rests. 1886 Hall Caine *Son of Hagar* I. i, So when I put my feet into the stirrups, there they stuck.

b. *To hold the stirrup*: lit. in helping a person to mount, esp. as a manifestation of homage or reverence; hence *fig.* to be subservient.

Sometimes with allusion to the rendering of this act of homage by certain emperors to the pope.

a 1548 Hall *Chron., Hen. VII*, 52 When the kynge approched, the duke at his lightynge offred to holde his styrope. 1593 Shaks. 2 *Hen. VI*, iv. i. 53 Hast thou not kist thy hand, and held my stirrop? 1601 Dent *Pathw. Heaven* 222 They doe but hold the stirrup to their owne destruction. 1636 Rutherford *Lett.* (1862) I. 179 It becometh not Christ to hold any man's stirrup. 1661 Glanvill *Van. Dogm.* 228 Opinions hold the stirrup, while vice mounts into the saddle. 1675 E. Wilson *Spadacrene Dunelm.* 34, I hold the stirrop to Pyrotechnical Philosophy. 1763 Churchill *Duellist* III. 136 Who was so mean..That he would..hold a stirrup for the Devil. 1908 J. Gairdner *Lollardy* I. 49 The fiery Frederic Barbarossa held the stirrup of Pope Alexander III.

c. In various figurative expressions.

1601 W. Cornwallis *Ess.* II. xl. Cc 3, By Marius and Sylla, the Romaines state lost her sturrops; by Cæsar, and Pompey was cast out of the Saddle. 1642 Bridge *Serm. Norf. Volunteers* 22 Make use of your experience as a stirrup to get up your spirits to the promise. *a* 1647 Boyle *Wks.* 1772 I. *Life* p. xiii, It could not be unwelcome to be of a quality, that was a handsome stirrup to preferment. 1647 Trapp *Comm. 2 Pet.* ii. 12 Some men..fall beneath the stirrup of reason. 1657 in *Burton's Diary* (1828) I. 412 The plaintiff will ride post with *Festina*, but *Lenté*, quoth the defendant, and puts the plaintiff's foot many times besides the stirrup by Essoins, Imparlances,..or the like. 1690 C. Nesse *Hist. & Myst. O. & N. Test.* I. 125 Rebels against God fall below the stirrup of sense. 1727 P. Walker *Life R. Cameron* in *Biogr. Presbyt.* (1827) I. 287 He got a Dispensation from the Pope to make a Stirrup of our Covenants to mount the Throne of Britain. 1866 Dickens *Boy at Mugby* Christm. Stor. (1874) 331 Excitement was up in the stirrups. Expectation stood a-tiptoe.

† **d.** *Yeoman, Groom of the stirrup*: former officers in the Royal Household (Master of Horse's department). *Obs.*

1526 in *Househ. Ordin.* (1790) 203 The wages of the yeoman of the stirrop at 3d. per diem. *Ibid.* 204 Five Groomes of the Stirrop every of them at 2d. per day. 1538 Elyot *Dict., Strator*, he that helpeth his mayster to horsebacke, yeman of the styrope. 1547 in *Lett. & Papers Hen. VIII* (1910) XXI. II. 401 Belle, groom of the stirrup. 1647 Haward *Crown Revenue* 23 Yeoman of the Stirrup: Fee, *per diem* 9. d. 1692 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 2809/3 The Yeoman of the Stirrup.

2. Applied to various kinds of foot-rest analogous to the stirrup. **a.** *Antiq.* In a crossbow, a rest in which the foot is placed in order to steady the bow while it is being bent.

1371–3 *MS. Acc. Exch. K. R.* 397/10 m. 3, ij vicz ad tendendum balistas, xviij. stirops pro balistis.

b. *Shoemaking.* (See quot. 1886.)

With quot. *c* 1820 cf. Stirrup *v.* 3.

1597 Deloney *Gentle Craft* Wks. (1912) 89 The Stirrop holding fast while we sowe the Cow-hide. 1611 Cotgr., *Tire-pied*, a Shoomakers stirrup. 1735 Dyche & Pardon *Dict., Stirrup*, ..also an Instrument used by Shoemakers to put over their Knee and under their Foot to hold their Work tight upon their Knee. *c* 1820 J. Kitto in Eadie *Life* (1857) 32 S—..bids us, under pain of the stirrup, make a pair of shoes per diem. 1886 *W. Somerset Word-bk., Stirrup*, a shoemaker's strap, with which he keeps the last firm upon his knee.

† **c.** [= F. *étrier*.] A kind of footless stocking having a strap which passes underneath the foot. Also, the strap itself. *Obs.*

An alleged example *c* 1530 *Hychescorner* 799 is an error for *sterlups*: see Startup, a kind of boot.

1659 Howell *Lex. Tetragl.* II. xxxiii, The stirrop of the hose, *l'estrier de la chaussette*. 1685 *Rec. Scott. Cloth Manuf. New Mills* (S.H.S.) 87 Noe more silk or worset stockens be made with stirups. 1714 *Fr. Bk. of Rates* 123 And to these Stockings or Stirrups of Silk, which shall be hereafter imported, his Majesty ordains, that [etc.]. 1746 *Gentl. Mag.* XVI. 407 (Exmoor Vocab.) *Stirrups*, a kind of buskins.

d. *Netting.* A contrivance consisting of a foot-board suspended by ribbons, serving to keep the work in place.

1844 Mrs. H. Owen *Ladies' Bk. Needlework* (ed. 2) 2 A netting vice or stirrup. 1870 *Mag. for Young* 6 Her foot in a netting stirrup. 1882 Caulfeild & Saward *Dict. Needlework* 358/1 For ordinary Netting the plain Stirrup is the best, as the whole weight of the foot is upon it.

e. *Surg.* An appliance used in operations for extension.

1884 W. Pye *Surgical Handicraft* 187 The use of the stirrup and weight, introduced first for extension in hip disease, was soon applied to fractures. 1896 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* I. 426 If the nurse be desired to apply an extension in cases of hip-disease the ends of the stirrup must be well above the knee.

f. *nonce-use.* (See quot.)

1585 Higins *Junius' Nomencl.* 169/2 *Encentris*, ..an iron stirrup, or a shooe driuen full of iron nayles poynted, which they vse that goe vpon ice: an icespur.

g. *Mining.* (Cornwall.) A foot-rest attached to the rope by which men were let down and drawn up the shaft.

1602 Carew *Cornwall* I. 11 The workmen are let down and taken vp in a Stirrup, by two men who wind the rope. 1778 Pryce *Min. Cornub.* 158 From the axis hangs a sort of an iron stirrup..by its two hooks.

h. A stirrup-like foot-rest for working a bellows.

1843 Holtzapffel *Turning* I. 436 The bellows are..worked by the foot,..by a chain from the rocking-shaft terminating in a stirrup.

i. (See quot.)

1901 H. E. Bulwer *Gloss. Techn. Terms Ch. Bells* 5 *Stirrup*, a separate loop of rope, or leather, attachable to the end of a rope for chiming with the foot.

3. *Anat.* = Stapes.

1615 Crooke *Body of Man* 592 The first is called..*Malleolus* the Mallet or the Hammer. The second *Incus* the Anuill or the Stithy. The third *Stapes* the Stirrop. 1730 Chamberlayne *Relig. Philos.* I. xiii. § 5 The Auditory Bones are four in Number, the Hammer, the Anvil, the Stirrup, and between the Anvil and Stirrup there lies a small Bone. 1879 G. Prescott *Sp. Telephone* 5 A mechanical apparatus of wonderful delicacy..consisting of a series of bones termed respectively the hammer, anvil and stirrup.

4. Something shaped like a stirrup. **a.** *gen.*

1684 R. Waller *Nat. Exper.* 110 To observe by the Sound the like Dilatation in a Stirrup of Glass. 1874 *Spons' Dict. Engin.* VIII. 2938 Any part of a machine resembling in shape or in functions the stirrup of a saddle, is called the stirrup.

b. A U-shaped clamp or support.

c 1450 *Reg. Vestments* etc. *St. Andrews* in *Maitl. Club Misc.* III. 205 Item thre stirrapis for the lampys. 1496–7 *Rec. St. Mary at Hill* 224 To the Smythe for iij Stays and

a litill Sterope and a forth Right dogge of Iryn for the Roode-lofte. 1507 in *Rokewode's Suff.* 150 (Promp. Parv. 202 *note*) For goions and colars, with ij stirreppis for my bruge, weiyng 36½ lb. 1531 *Lett. & Pap. Hen. VIII*, V. 185 For a sterop for the drawe-bryge. 1536–7 in W. H. St. John Hope *Windsor Castle* (1913) I. 265 A great storrap for to bear the gutter of the leades over the steres. 1844 *Civil Engin. & Arch. Jrnl.* VII. 149/2 A stirrup..supporting the table. 1850 Denison *Clock & Watch-m.* 86 The old form of mercurial pendulum was that of a glass cylinder standing on a stirrup at the bottom of a rod. 1869 Rankine *Machine & Hand-tools* Pl. P 11 The smaller end of the taper mandril is supported in a movable bearing in the balanced lever, the upper end of which is secured by the stirrup. 1866 R. M. Ferguson *Electr.* (1870) 3 Let us suspend a magnet..by a stirrup of paper, hanging from a cocoon thread. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech., Stirrup*, a band or strap which is bent around one object and is secured to another by its tangs or branches. *Ibid., Stirrup* (Carpentry), *a.* a device for holding a rafter-post or strut to a tie...*b.* an iron strap to support a beam. 1883 Gresley *Gloss. Coal-mining* 241 *Stirrups*, a screw joint suspended from the brake-staff or spring-pole, by which the boring rods are adjusted to the depth of the borehole. 1884 F. J. Britten *Watch & Clockm.* 189 The parts of the stirrup may with advantage be annealed after they are finished. 1894 Bottone *Elect. Instr. Making* 22 The wire or fibre which supports the 'stirrup' in which is placed the magnetic needle or insulating rod.

†**c.** Some kind of appendage to a bell. *Obs.*

1341–2 *Ely Sacr. Rolls* II. 118 In vj steropis et iiij bondes pro Baunse [*sc.* a bell so named] rod. 1474 in T. North *Bells Northamptonsh.* (1878) 371 For makyng of a storop to the sayd bell, iij*d.*; *c* 1520 in C. Welch *Churchw. Acc. All-hallows, Lond. Wall* (1912) 56 Item for a sterope for the gret bell, ij*d* ob. 1683 *Churchw. Acc. Pittington* etc. (Surtees) 252 For one stirrup for the 2nd bell and altering another.

5. *Naut.* **a.** (See quot. 1867.)

1495 *Naval Acc. Hen. VII* (1896) 152 Boltes with rynges and Styroppes of dyuerse makynges. 1626 Capt. Smith *Accid. Yng. Seamen* 12 The boule spret, the pillow, the sturrop, the spret sayle. 1769 Falconer *Dict. Marine* (1780) s. v. *Horse*, It [*sc.* the horse] is usually suspended thereto [*i.e.* to the yard] at proper distances, by certain ropes called stirrups, which hang about two feet under the yard, having an eye in their lower ends through which the horse passes. 1834 Marryat *P. Simple* vi, 'Captain of the foretop,' said he, 'up on your horses, and take your stirrups up three inches.'—'Ay, ay, sir.' (I looked and looked, but I could see no horses.) 1867 Smyth *Sailor's Word-bk., Stirrups*, ropes with eyes at their ends, through which the foot-ropes are rove, and by which they are supported.

b. (See quots.)

1627 Capt. Smith *Sea Gram.* xi. 53 When a Ship hath lost a peece of her Keele,..you must patch a new peece vnto it, and bind it with a stirrop, which is an iron comes round about it and the Keele. 1691 T. H[ale] *Acc. New Invent.* 49 New Stirrups put on to secure the false Keel. *c* 1850 *Rudim. Navig.* (Weale) 153 *Stirrup*, an iron or copper plate that turns upwards on each side of a ship's keel and dead-wood, at the fore-foot, or at her skeg, and bolts through all.

†**6.** *False stirrup*: the mace carried by a knight. It has been suggested that the mace was so called because it hung down from the side of the saddle.

14.. Sir G. Have *Bk. Knychthede* vi. (S.T.S.) 47 Item, a masse is gevin him..the quhilk masse is lyknyt till a false sterap. *Ibid.*, Quhen he has implyde his spere, his lang suerd, his polax, his false sterap.

7. In reinforced concrete construction, each of the vertical or diagonal members which bind together the upper and lower reinforcement of a beam, etc.

1909 *Concrete & Constructional Engin.* IV. 250 When vertical stirrups are used they take little stress until a diagonal crack has formed.

8. *attrib.* and *Comb.* as *stirrup-buckle, -holder*; *stirrup-shaped* adj.; *stirrup* †*-fashion, -wise* advs.; †**stirrup-band** = sense 5 b; **stirrup-bar**, (*a*) each of the bars on a saddle-tree to which a stirrup-strap is attached; (*b*) the bar of a stirrup on which the foot rests; **stirrup-bone** = sense 3; **stirrup-dram** = Stirrup-cup; **stirrup-fast** *a.* (nonce-wd.), having the feet secure in the stirrups; **stirrup-foot**, (*a*) the left forefoot of a horse; (*b*) the left foot, the foot used first in mounting a horse; **stirrup-glass** = Stirrup-cup; †**stirrup-hose** = sense 2 c; **stirrup-ladder**, a thatcher's short ladder holding to the roof with spikes (Halliw.); **stirrup lantern**, (see quot.); †**stirrupman**, = *yeoman of the stirrup* (see 1 d); hence †**stirrup-manship**; †**stirrup money**, a fee or perquisite of a groom; **stirrup-piece**, (*a*) (see quot. 1850); (*b*) *nonce-use*, a poem relating to riding; **stirrup side**, ? the left side of a horse (cf. *stirrup-foot*); **stirrup-stocking** = sense 2 c; **stirrup-stone**, ? a stone used for mounting a horse; **stirrup-strap**, a leather strap by which a stirrup is suspended; **stirrup-vase** *Archæol.* [misrendering of G. *bügelkanne*, formed after *bügeleisen* flat-iron], a 'pseud-amphora' with a square-cut handle on either side of the false spout; **stirrup-verse**, a verse at parting; †**stirrup-way**, a bridle-path.

1407 *MS. Acc. Exch. K. R.* 44/11 (1) m. 4, ij ligaturis ferri vocatis *steropebandes. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2012/2 (art. *Saddle-tree*) Two *stirrup-bars are added and iron staples for the valise. 1891 Kipling *Light that Failed* vi. 89 He has slipped his foot from the stirrup-bar. 1646 Sir T. Browne *Pseud. Ep.* v. xiii. 253 Concerning the invention of the stapes or *stirrop bone. 1884 Coues *N. Amer. Birds* 185 The stapes, or 'stirrup-bone.' *a* 1774 Goldsm. tr. *Scarron's Com. Romance* (1775) I. 288 The tongue of the *stirrup-buckle had torn his stockings. 1815 Scott *Guy M.* xxii, Tib Mumps will be out wi' the *stirrup-dram in a gliffing. 1612 *Benvenuto's Passenger* i. i. 25 Reache me my needleworke bootehose, or those of cloth made *stirrop fashion. 1827 Carlyle *Germ. Rom.* I. 308 The latter..with difficulty kept his saddle, and scarcely continued *stirrup-fast. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl., The *stirrup-foot is the near, or left foot before. 1823 Lockhart *Sp. Ball., Escape of Gayferos* vi, The stirrup-foot and the hilt-hand see that ye sunder both. 1775 Ash, **Stirrupglass*, the glass drank on horseback at parting. 1818 *Brathwait's Barnabees Jrnl.* Introd. 18 Taking leave of his host at the Inn door..by having a stirrup glass. 1552 Huloet, *Stirope holder, or yoman of the stirope, *strator*. 1626 T. H[awkins] *Caussin's Holy Crt.* 79 How many tymes he hath made himselfe a stirrop-holder, or foot boy. 1659 Howell *Lex. Tetragl.* II. xxxiii, *Stirrop-hose, *chaussettes à estrier*. 1664 *Tarif Fr. King & Council* (1713) 12 Two pair of stirrup Hose to pay as one. 1824 *Reg. Arts & Sci.* I. 122 The *Stirrup Lantern is a small square lantern, fixed at the bottom of a stirrup by means of two screw rings on each side. 1524 *Reg. Privy Seal Scot.* I. 492 Ane Letter to Robert Gib, of the gift of the service of *steropmanschip to the king..siclik as ony uthir *steropman to the king had of before. 1756–7 tr. *Keysler's Trav.* (1760) IV. 475 *Stirrup money for the grooms. 1850 Ogilvie, **Stirrup piece*, a name given to a piece of wood or iron in framing, by which any part is suspended; a vertical or inclined tie. 1875 Stedman *Victor. Poets* ix. 302 That superb stirrup-piece..How they brought the good news'. 1900 *Engineering Mag.* XIX. 755/1 Current is taken off the conductors by three *stirrup-shaped wires. 1663 Butler *Hud.* I. ii. 96 Rais'd upon his desperate foot On *stirrup side he gaz'd about. 1611 Cotgr., *Chaussettes à estrier*, *stirrup stockings. 1662 in *Verney Mem.* (1894) III. 382, 6 Pair thread stirrup stockings. 1748 Richardson *Clarissa* V. 10 He could let me have a pair of coarse, but clean stirrup-stockens, if I pleased. 1838 Lytton *Alice* iv. iii, The peacock, who, perched on an old *stirrup-stone, was sunning his gay plumage. 1775 Ash, **Stirrup-strap*..the strap of leather by which the stirrup is suspended. 1890 Doyle *White Company* xxxvii, Stooping down he loosened the stirrup-straps. 1905 A. J. Evans *Prehist. Tombs Knossos* in *Archæologia* LIX. 510 The *stirrup-vases or false-necked amphoras. 1680 [J. Speed] *Batt upon Batt* 12 No *stirrup-Verse at Grave before she go? 1736 J. Lewis *I. of Tenet* (ed. 2) 38 *Shire-way*, a Way or only Horse or Foot Passengers; a Bridle or *Stirrup-way. 1610 R. Vaughan *Water-workes* R 3 b, A Ring of ground..scituate *stirrope wise.

Stirrup (stĭ·rŭp), *v.* [f. Stirrup *sb.*]

1. *trans.* To supply with or as with stirrups.

1610 Guillim *Heraldry* iv. xv. (1611) 233 He beareth argent three saddles stirroped sable. 1684 *Rec. Scott. Cloth Manuf. New Mills* (S.H.S) 64 Orders lykways the silk stocken stiruped in the head be maid wydder in the topps.

†**2.** *refl.* To rise in the stirrups; in quot. *fig.* to pride oneself *upon* something. *Obs.* (? *nonce-use.*)

1672 Marvell *Reh. Transp.* II. (1673) 85 This is that man who insists so much and stirrops himself upon the Gravity of his Profession.

3. *trans.* To flog with a stirrup-leather or with a shoemaker's stirrup. *slang.*

1735 Dyche & Pardon *Dict., Stirrup* v., to thrash or beat a Person with a Shoe-makers Stirrup.

4. *Naut.* To attach stirrups to.

1748 *Anson's Voy.* I. x. 104 We exerted ourselves..to stirrup our shrouds.

Hence **Sti·rruped** *ppl. a.*, provided with a stirrup; **Sti·rruping** *vbl. sb.*, a flogging with a stirrup-leather.

1685 *Rec. Scott. Cloth Manuf. New Mills* (S.H.S.) 87 That they may be made long and well marreilled and full in the top as if had stiruped head. *c* 1820 J. Kitto in Eadie *Life* (1857) 32 [The beadle] gravely gave us a stirruping all round. 1878 Stevenson *Inland Voy.* 184 The stirrupped foot projects insolently from the frame.

Stirrup-cup. [Cf. F. *le vin de l'étrier, le coup de l'étrier.*] A cup of wine or other drink handed to a man when already on horseback setting out for a journey; a parting glass.

1681 T. Flatman *Heraclitus Ridens* No. 29 (1713) I. 187 Let's have one Stirrop Cup of Character; it's the only modish Liquor now. 1683 G. Meriton *Praise Yorksh. Ale* (1685) 27 Wee'l have with you, a merey Stirrup Cupp. 1808 Scott *Marm.* I. xxxi, Then came the stirrup-cup in course. 1899 Lady M. Verney in *Verney Mem.* IV. 328 Such guests were sure of a hearty welcome and a potent stirrup-cup.

¶ **b.** Used for: A drink offered to an arriving guest before he has dismounted.

1869 Tozer *Highl. Turkey* II. 240 [She] goes out to meet him and offer him the stirrup-cup.

¶ **c.** Applied to the drinking-vessel.

1865 Kingsley *Herew.* xv, Torfrida stood to welcome them, as fair as day a silver stirrup-cup in her hand.

Stirrup-iron. Now somewhat *rare.*

1. The metal portion of a stirrup, the stirrup proper (in the modern sense) as distinguished from the strap supporting it.

1474 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* I. 36, j quarter of blew vellus to couir the Qwenis stirrap irnis, price xvs. 1533 *Ibid.* VI. 88 For spurris, brydill bittis, sterap irnis, girth buklis. 1683 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1810/4 New Stirrop-Leathers, old Stirrop-Irons. 1782 *Phil. Trans.* LXXII. 371 One of the stirrup-irons..exhibits some appearances of fusion on the arch through which the stirrup-leather passes. 1853 R. S. Surtees *Sponge's Sp. Tour* (1893) 318 As he dangled his spurs against his stirrup-irons. 1875 Whyte-Melville *Riding Recoll.* xii. (1879) 70 Till the welcome heather is brushing your stirrup-irons once more.

2. An iron strip to hold the end of a beam or girder.

1838 *Civil Engin. & Arch. Jrnl.* I. 178/2 The parts of the vertical timbers above the roadway are..secured by stirrup-irons, bolts, and wedges, to the main ribs.

Stirrup-leather. The leather strap by which a stirrup hangs from the saddle.

1539 *Earl Derby's Exped.* (Camden) 46 Proj pare styrop., ět styrop lethres, viij s. pr. 1394–5 *Durham Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 599 In 2 par. de Stirhaplethirs et 1 pari de Stiraps, 18*d.* 1470 *York Memo. Bk.* (Surtees) I. 92 To make stirrop-lethyrs of blak barked lethir. 1591 Greene *Conny Catching* II. Wks. (Grosart) X. 77 Stirhops and stirhop leathers, so quaintly and artificially made that it may bee put in the slop of a mans hose. 1620 Shelton *2nd Pt. Quix.* xiv. 87 So he ran after his Master, laying hold vpon one of Rozinantes stirrup leathers. 1701 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 3717/4 He had on a plain Leathern Saddle with new Stirrup-Leathers. 1890 'R. Boldrewood' *Col. Reformer* xvi, The length of the stirrup-leathers conveyed..the fact that the rider..was an individual of unusual length of limb. 1895 Sir H. Maxwell *Duke of Britain* xii. 171 Numidian lancers..riding with very short stirrup-leathers after the African custom.

attrib. 1653 Urquhart *Rabelais* I. xxxv, He most nimbly ..shifting his feet in the stirrup, performed the stirrup leather feat.

b. As an instrument for flogging.

1611 Cotgr., *Stafilade*, a lash, or thwacke with a stirrup-leather. 1652 J. Wright tr. *Camus' Nat. Paradox* IX. 226 The Souldiers..laced their shoulders so well with their stirrop-leathers, that they made them swim in their own blood. 1726 N. Blundell *Diary* (1895) 221, I had seaven Lads of this Town beaton at my Gate-Hous with a Sterrop-Leather. 1831 Scott *Cast. Dang.* xii, Flagellation with belts, stirrup-leathers, or surcingles.

Stirrupless (stĭ·rŭp-, ste·rŭplĕs), *a.* [f. Stirrup *sb.* + -less.] Without stirrups.

c 1430 *Syr Gener.* (Roxb.) 7270 Ageyn dressed him [Generides] Without bridel and stiroples. 1613 J. Taylor (Water P.) *Laugh & be fat* Wks. (1630) II. 70/2 Thy riding Stirrop-lesse. 1879 J. Beerbohm *Patagonia* 98, I had to ride stirrupless back to Santa Cruz.

Stirrup-oil. *jocular.* [Cf. Stirrup-leather b.] (See quots.)

1679 Coles *Eng.-Lat. Dict.* (ed. 2), To give one some Stirrup-oyl, *aliquem fustigare*. 1825 Hone *Every-day Bk.* I. 411 They send to a cobbler's for a pennyworth of the best 'stirrup-oil.' 1854 Miss Baker *Northampt. Gloss.* s. v., One of the old jokes practised on the 1st of April is the sending a raw lad to a saddler's or cobler's for a 'penn'orth of stirrup-oil,' when he is termed an April fool, and his ignorance enlightened by the application of a stirrup-leather across his shoulders.

Sti·r-up, *sb.* and *a.* [f. the verbal phrase *stir up*: see Stir *v.* 16.]

A. *sb.* The action of stirring up, or condition of being stirred up; agitation, commotion.

18.. *New Monthly Mag.* (Flügel), The stir-up of the ashes. 1845 Browning *Flight of Duchess* xvii, How it gives the heart and soul a stir-up As if [etc.]. 1900 *Daily News* 17 Oct. 6/7 The stir up at Oxford afforded a lesson for the whole country. 1908 *Westm. Gaz.* 16 Dec. 14/3 The 'stir-up' is welcomed, however, as it will disturb the food on the rocky ground and sand-banks.

B. *adj.* or *attrib.*

1. Having the quality of stirring up; rousing.

1890 *My Curates* II. (ed. 8) 12, I was aware of my own want of power to fulfil the office of a 'stir-up' preacher.

2. *Stir-up Sunday* (colloq.): the Sunday next before Advent: so called from the opening words of the Collect for the day.

The name is jocularly associated with the stirring of the Christmas mincemeat, which it was customary to begin making in that week.

a 1825 Forby *Voc. E. Anglia, Stir-up-Sunday*, the last Sunday after Trinity. 1854 Miss Baker *Northampt. Gloss., Stir-up Sunday*, the twenty-fifth or last Sunday after Trinity; on which day the Collect in the Book of Common Prayer commences with the words 'Stir up', from which this name has arisen. 1867 *Hurst Johnian Mag.* Dec. 308 Stir-up Sunday. The sermon on this day was preached by the Ven. the Archdeacon of Chichester. 1904 *Daily Chron.* 30 Nov. 8/4, I believe those who love Christmas most ardently are the boarding school boys and girls, who have just noted with a thrill of joy 'Stir-up Sunday!'

Stirup, obs. form of Stirrup.

Stitch (stĭtʃ), *sb.*[1] Forms: 1 **stice**, 3–6 **stiche**, 4–6 **stych(e**, 5 **steche**, 5–6 **stytche**, 6–8 **stich**, 6–7 **stitche**, 6– **stitch**. See also Steek *sb.* [OE. *stice* str. masc., corresp. to OFris. *steke* prick, stab, OS. *stiki* (Gallée), point, thrust (MLG. *steke*), OHG. *stih* (MHG., mod.G. *stich*) prick, sting, stab, stitch (Da. *stik*, Sw. *stick*, stab, stitch, prob. from LG.), Goth. *stik-s* point of time:—OTeut. **stiki-z*, f. **stik-* root of Stick *v.*]

I. A thrust, stab.

†**1.** A prick, puncture, or stab, inflicted by a pointed implement. Only OE.

c 897 Ælfred *Gregory's Past. C.* xxxvi. 261 Se ðe us gehælеð from ðæm stice urra synna [*a peccatorum nos punctionibus salvans*]. *c* 1000 *Ags. Laws Æthelb.* lxvii, Gif man þeoh ðurhstingþ, stice gehwilce vi. scillingas.

2. A sharp sudden local pain, like that produced by the thrust of a pointed weapon; esp. (now only) an acute spasmodic pain in the intercostal muscles, called more fully *a stitch in the side.* Also in generalized or collective sense.

c 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* II. 174 Wið miltewærce & stice. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 282 Al so, on eðelich stiche oðer on eðelich eche makeð uorte understonden hwu lutel wurð is prude. *c* 1230 *Hali Meid.* 35 Stiches i þi lonke. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 475/1 Stycche, peyne on þe syde, *telum*. 1490 Caxton *Eneydos* xxviii. 110 The gowte or the poplesie, the stytches or the paralesye. *a* 1500 *Brut* 604 Afcyr þat, ther fylle a gret dissese in Engelond callyd þe stych, þat moche people deyde sodeynly þerof. 1533 Elyot *Cast. Helth* (1541) 83 b, Stytches and grefes in the sides. 1561 Hollybush *Hom. Apoth.* 20 If a man hath a stiche about the hart. 1601 Shaks. *Twel. N.* III. ii. 73 If you desire the spleene, and will laughe your selues into stitches, follow me. 1683 Ashmole

Diary (1774) 366 A stitch took me at the setting on of my left hip. 1713 *Phil. Trans.* XXVIII. 122 Pains and Stitches behind the Ears. 1748 SMOLLETT *Rod. Rand.* xxvii, The third [patient] complained of a pleuritic stitch. 1886 STEVENSON *Kidnapped* xxiv, I had a painful stitch in my side, which never left me. 1898 P. MANSON *Trop. Diseases* xxiii. 354 Fuller inspiration is attended with stitch. 1898 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* V. 198 The agonising stitch of pleurisy.

† b. *fig.*

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 110 In his seli soule..he hefde þe stiche of sori & seoruhful pine. 1622 BACON *Hen. VII*, 182 Thinking now that hee should be cured of those priuie Stitches which hee had long had about his Heart. 1661 BURNEY *Κέρδ. Δώρον* 128 The King hates bribes...These are stitches to the Prince's sides.

¶ c. A stiff and affected carriage of the body has sometimes been jocularly compared to the effect of a stitch in the side.

1599 B. JONSON *Cynthia's Rev.* III. iv. (1601) F 2 b, One that..Salutes a friend, as if he had a stitch. 1865 DICKENS *Mut. Fr.* I. ix, Mrs. Wilfer, majestically faint, and with a condescending stitch in her side: which was her company manner.

† 3. *transf.* A contortion of the face, a grimace.

1619 FLETCHER *M. Thomas* II. ii. (1639) D 3, Leave your stiches. *a* 1625 — *Captain* II. ii, If you talke Or pull your face into a stich againe.

† 4. *fig.* A grudge, dislike, spite, ground of complaint. Chiefly in phr. *to have* or *take a stitch against* (rarely *at*) (a person). *Obs.*

a 1592 H. SMITH *Serm.* (1594) 224 Therefore his Maiestie hath a stitch against her, as Salomon had to Shimei. 1625 BP MOUNTAGU *App. Cæsar* 121 Their whole stitch is against the Church Representative in a Generall Councell. *a* 1639 W. WHATELEY *Prototypes* II. XXX. (1640) 100 We sometimes take such a stitch and spleene against those whom nature hath tyed to us. 1652 HEVLYN *Cosmogr.* Introd. 19 The Princes of Italy, and the Florentines, have a stitch at Venice. 1679 ALSOP *Melius Inq.* I. i. 94 Against these persons the Enquirer has a desperate stitch.

II. A movement in sewing or the like.

5. a. Each of the movements of a threaded needle in and out of a fabric which is being sewn. Also, the like movement with the awl in shoe-making.

c 1290 *St. Mark* 12 in *S. Eng. Leg.* 362 Þe soutare at þe furste stiche fuel vuele is hond he pişte. *a* 1542 WYATT *Poems*, *'Who hath heard'*, She..wisshed eche stitche as she did sit & soo had prykt my hert. 1562–75 *Gammer Gurton* Prol. 1 As Gammer Gurton, with manye a wyde styche, Sat pesynge and patching of Hodg her mans briche. 1594 LYLY *Mother Bombie* I. iii, Euery stitch in her sampler is a pricking stitch at my heart. 1794 *Rigging & Seamanship* I. 92 In the merchant-service it is common to stick the seams with two rows of stitches, when the sail is half worn. 1840 THACKERAY *Shabby-genteel Story* v, She had not gone through many pages, or Becky advanced many stitches in the darning of that table-cloth. 1875 *Plain Needlework* 14 This causes the needle to go in slanting, and so making one half of the stitch wider than the other half. 1878 *Encycl. Brit.* VIII. 162/1 Probabilities forbid us from believing that Matilda and her waiting maids ever did a stitch on this canvas.

Prov. 1793 *Friendly Addr. Poor* 14 A stitch in time may save nine. 1855 BOHN *Handbk. Prov.* 301 A stitch in time saves nine.

b. The portion or loop of thread or yarn left in the fabric as a result of this movement, and forming (usually in a series) the material by which the parts of the sewn fabric are held together.

1394 *P. Pl. Crede* 553 Þei ben y-sewed wiþ whist silk & semes full queynte, Y-stongen wiþ stiches þat stareþ as siluer. 1399 *On K. Richard's Ministers* in *Pol. Poems* (Rolls) I. 363 Hit is so roton on ych a side, Ther nul no stych with odur abyde, to set theron a clout. *a* 1529 SKELTON *P. Sparowe* 212, I toke my sampler..To sowe with stytchis of sylke My sparow whyte as mylke. 1662 DRYDEN *Wild Gallant* I. i, The Stitches of thy Doublet are so far asunder, that it seems to hang together by the Teeth. 1768 STERNE *Sent. Journ., Temptation*, A stitch or two had broke out in the gathers of my stock. 1821 DIBDIN *Bibliogr. Tour* I. 379 (Bayeux Tapestry) The stitches, if they may be so called, are threads laid side by side—and bound down at intervals by cross stitches, or fastenings—upon rather a fine linen cloth. 1844 *Newton's Lond. Jrnl.* Conj. Ser. XXV. 247 When the stitch which fastens on the outer sole is passed through the strip of leather, it draws the strip over the stitches that unite the upper leather to the inner sole, thus concealing them. 1886 *Encycl. Brit.* XXI. 831/1 They [the soles] are stitched to the welt, about twelve stitches of strong waxed thread being made to the inch.

fig. a 1586 SIDNEY *Arcadia* III. xxi. § 3 *If* in the mean time one of them did not pull out their ill-wrought stiches of vnkindnes. 1593 NASHE *Four Lett. Conf.* (end), Finally, Printers haue many false stiches, which are thus to bee drawen vp.

c. In machine sewing, a single motion of a needle and shuttle carrying the thread through the fabric; or the loop or interlocked thread thus produced.

1844 *Newton's Lond. Jrnl.* Conj. Ser. XXV. 305 When the work has passed through the machine, it will be found that a running stitch has been produced. 1883 S. CHAPPEL *Sewing Machine* 23 The machine will now gather the work, and the longer stitch you have on the fuller the gathering will be.

d. Phr. *Stitch by stitch*: used to describe strong and careful sewing in which one stitch is performed at a time (as distinct from 'running'); also *fig.*

1566 T. STAPLETON *Ret. Untr. Jewel* Pref. ¶¶¶¶2 b, But for one man to answer the whole, and that stitche by stitche (as the Replier requireth) bothe the time woulde be so longe, that many a soule in the meane might perish,..and also the booke woulde be so greate that [etc.]. *Ibid.* IV. 195 b, M. Iewelles whole Replie in these matters hath bene at longe and stitche by stitche confuted. 1880 [MRS. L. S. FLOYER] *Plain Hints Exam. Needlew.* 107 The slow stitch-by-stitch movement [run]..in good plain work.

e. In emphatic phrases with a negative or the like: A single movement with the needle; *fig.* a 'stroke' of work of any kind.

1581 PETTIE *Guazzo's Civ. Conv.* II. (1586) 116 b, The other would not worke a stitch, but goeth loytering up and downe all daie long. 1623 MIDDLETON *More Dissemblers* I. iv, I must either have the Song..or I'll not do a stitch of service for you from one weeks end to the other. 1768–74 TUCKER *Lt. Nat.* (1834) I. 648 If men knew what was just enough to carry them to heaven, they would not do a stitch more than absolutely necessary. *Ibid.* II. 528 The shoe-maker earns enough in four days to maintain him the whole week, so he never will do a stitch of work before Wednesday morning.

6. *Surgery.* The movement of the needle through the edges of a wound when it is being sewn up; each loop of thread or other material fastened in the skin or flesh as a result of the operation.

Royal stitch: see ROYAL *a.* 15. † *Dry stitch* (= mod.L. *sutura sicca*): an appliance of sticking plaster serving the purpose of a suture.

1525 tr. *Brunswyke's Handywork Surg.* xiii. C iij, Ye shall set the fyrst stiche in ye myddis of the woundys lyppys, the other a fynger brode betwene euery .ii. stiches. 1674 tr. *G. Fabritius* (*Hildanus*) *Cista Milit.* 32 In wounds of the face I never use Needle, but that which is called the *dry stitch*. 1749 GATAKER tr. *Le Dran's Oper. Surg.* 35 If the wound has one or more hanging lips of an irregular figure, the first stitch must be made at the angle of each lip. 1894 *Lancet* 3 Nov. 1028/2 The serous surfaces were apposed by several Lembert's stitches. 1908 *Animal Managem.* (Vet. Departm., War Office) 327 Stitches should be..not drawn so taut as to cause any tension on the skin.

7. A single complete movement of the needle or other implement used in knitting, netting, crochet, embroidery, lace-making, etc.; the portion of the work produced by such a movement. Phr. *to let down, drop, take up a stitch.*

1599 MINSHEU *Sp. Dict., Dial.* 2 Looke well if the stockings haue any stitches broken in them. 1620 SHELTON *2nd Pt. Quixote* xliv. 288 As he pulled off his stockings, there broke from him..some foure and twenty stitches and a halfe, that made his stocking looke like a Lettice-window. 1773 JOHNSON (ed. 4), *Stitch*,..a link of yarn in knitting. 1818 MRS. SHERWOOD *Fairchild Family* I. xxiv. (1829) 257 She had been knitting,..but she dropped several stitches. 1844 CORNELIA MEE *Comp. Work-table* 25 Knit 15 stitches plain. 1844 MRS. H. OWEN *Ladies' Bk. Needlework* (ed. 2) 2 Netting..The stitch is formed by taking the mesh in your left hand, [etc.]. 1881 *Encycl. Brit.* XII. 299/1 The stocking-frame,..which mechanically produces the looped stitch.

fig. 1862 *Sat. Rev.* 8 Feb. 148 When a dropped stitch is taken up in the personal biography of one who..has influenced the religious life of millions, it is [etc.]. 1881 *Times* 16 July 11/2 The Committee..will be enabled to take up the stitches dropped in the process [of examining the bill].

8. *Bookbinding.* A fastening of leaves, esp. those of pamphlets, with thread or wire drawn through a hole previously pierced. Cf. STITCH *v.* 5.

1835 HANNETT *Bibliopegia* II. (1865) 224 The third sheet having only one stitch.

9. A particular mode of using the needle or other implement, in sewing, knitting, embroidery, etc.; the kind or style of work thus produced.

See also BACK-, CHAIN-, CROSS-, FEATHER-, HEM-, WHIP-STITCH; BREDE *sb.*[3] 4, BUTTON-HOLE *sb.* 4, CORAL *sb.*[1] 9, DAMASK *sb.* 10, DOT *sb.*[1] 8, FLEMISH *a.* 3, GERMAN *a.*[2] 4, GOBELIN 1, HERRING-BONE *sb.* 2 a, HONEY-COMB *sb.* 6, IRISH *a.* 2 c, LOCK *sb.*[2] 20, QUEEN *sb.* 13, RIBBED *ppl. a.* 2 b, ROPE *sb.*[1] 9, RUSSIAN *a.* 2 d, SATIN *sb.* 8 a, SPIDER *sb.* 10, STEM *sb.*[1] 8, etc. For *true-stitch* (lit. and fig.) see TRUE *a.* D. 1 c.

1624 in *Archæologia* XLVIII. 144 A long cushion of Irish stitch. 1640 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Prayse of Needle* A 2, Fine Ferne-stitch, Finny-stitch, New-stitch, and Chain-stitch, Braue Bred-stitch, Fisher-stitch, Irish-stitch, and Queen-stitch, The Spanish-stitch, Rosemary-stitch, and Mowse-stitch. 1677 PLOT *Oxfordsh.* 259 He also represents in a most exquisite manner, both the Irish and Bredth stitch in Carpets and Screens. 1758 JOHNSON *Idler* No. 23 ¶ 7 When she is engaged in teaching them a new stitch. 1856 MRS. PULLAN *Lady's Dict. Needlework.* 1890 SARA J. DUNCAN *Social Depart.* 121 Upstairs there were no trivialities in Kensington stitch, or any other stitch.

fig. 1565 T. STAPLETON *Fortr. Faith* I. vii. 37 b, I will with an other stitche worke this matter againe.

10. A loop of thread or yarn as an ultimate constituent of a sewn or woven fabric; hence, any the least piece of fabric or clothing. *Every stitch*, all the clothes one is wearing; every available piece (of sail); *occas.* every part (of a structure); every 'inch' (of a person).

?*a* 1500 *Chester Pl.* iii. 75, I will goe to gather sticke, the ship for to cleane and piche; anoynted yt must be every stich, board, tree, and pyn. 1817 BYRON *Beppo* iv, You'd better walk about begirt with briars, Instead of coat and smallclothes, than put on A single stitch reflecting upon friars. 1837 DISRAELI *Venetia* VI. x, A boat,..with every stitch of canvas set. 1854 H. MILLER *Sch. & Schm.* (1858) 16 The master..gave instant orders to lighten every stitch of sail. 1883 CLELAND *Inchbracken* xi. 88 Ducking me in burns till I haven't a dry stitch on my back! 1885 MARQ. DUFFERIN in Lyall *Life* (1905) II. 74 A mass of human beings with scarcely a stitch on their bodies.

11. *A good stitch*: a considerable distance (in walking). *dial.*

1684 BUNYAN *Pilgr.* II. 148 You have gone a good stitch, you may well be a weary; sit down. 1901 F. E. TAYLOR *Folk-Speech S. Lancs.* (E. D. D.), He's come a lung stitch.

12. *jocular.* A tailor. Also *man of stitches.*

a 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew*, *Stitch*, a Tayler. 1809 T. DONALDSON *Poems* 32 Had ye but tauk'd about the yarn, The needle, or the clout; Then Stitch an' I had try'd to learn To gien ye word about. *c* 1848 J. KEEGAN *Leg. & Poems* (1907) 466 There being no other rival 'stitch' in the neighbourhood, Dandy thought he might..'set up' in his defunct master's place. 1871 B. TAYLOR *Faust* (1875) I. v. 91 He called his man of stitches, The tailor came straightway.

III. 13. *Comb.*, as *stitch-hole*; *stitch-like* adj.; **stitch-bird**, *Pogonornis cincta* of New Zealand, the clicking note of which has a fancied resemblance to the word 'stitch'; † **stitch-broth**, some kind of mulled beverage (? for curing stitches); † **stitch-dropped** *a.*, said of knitted work in which one or more stitches have been dropped; similarly † **stitch-fallen** (in quot. *fig.*); **stitch-man**, a workman employed in stitching (now esp. shoes); **stitch-wheel**, a toothed wheel used for marking equidistant holes for stitching leather; = PRICKER 4 b (*g*); **stitch-while**, in phr. *every stitch-while*, every moment, at brief intervals (now *dial.*); **stitch-work**, embroidery, tapestry.

1873 W. L. BULLER *Birds New Zeal.* 98 *Pogonornis cincta.* (*Stitch-bird.*) 1635 HEYWOOD *Philocoth.* 48 We have moreover..*Stitch-broth brew'd with rose-water and Sugar, Burn'd Sacke, Burn'd Wine, Muld-Wine. 1834 *Tait's Mag.* I. 631/1 The *stitch-dropped stocking. 1693 DRYDEN *Juvenal* x. 309 A *stitch-fal'n Greek, that hangs below the Jaw. 1898 J. T. FOWLER in *Durham Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 114 A small membrane with *stitch-holes at the foot. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* IV. 162 *Stitch-like pains in the right side of the chest. 1710 in *Jrnl. Brit. Archæol. Assoc.* (1868) XXIV. 331 *Stitch-men. [The name given to the association of tailors, mercers, drapers, cappers, hatters, glovers, and skinners of Ludlow.] 1844 *Mechanics' Mag.* XL. 42 (Shoemaking) The English workman, who, as a stitchman, is far superior to the French. 1894 *Daily News* 22 Sept. 6/7 The defendant was..a stitch-man, of Northampton. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.*, *Stitch-wheel. 1620 SHELTON *2nd Pt. Quix.* xi. 63 Rozinante..perceiuing the libertie he had, stayed euery *stitch-while [*a cada passe*] to feede vpon the greene grasse. 1896 *Warwicksh. Gloss.* s.v., It teks me every stitchwhile to keep them children's clothes tidy. 1848 LYTTON *Harold* IX. i, The notable 'stitchwork' of Matilda the Duchess. 1863 HAWTHORNE *Old Home, Civic Banq.* II. 247 They [*sc.* tapestry figures] ..vanish drearily into the old stitch-work of their substance when you try to make them out.

† **Stitch**, *sb.*[2] *Obs.* Forms: 1 **stycce**, **sticce**, (*Northumb.* **stycge**, *pl.* **stycas**, **stycgce**), 2–3 **stuc(c)he** (ii), 3 **sticche**, **stec(c)he**, 4 *Kent.* **stechche**. [Com. Teut. (wanting in Gothic): OE. *stycce* str. neut. = OS. *stukki*; MDu. *stucke*, *stic* (mod.Du. *stuk*), OHG. *stucchi* (MHG. *stücke*, mod.G. *stück*), ON. *stykki* (Sw. *stycke*, Da. *stykke*) :—OTeut. **stukkjo-m*, cogn. w. **stukko-z* STOCK *sb.*] A fragment, piece.

In ONorthumbrian applied to 'the widow's mite'.

c 825 *Vesp. Psalter* cxlvii. 17 *Frusta panis*, stycce hlafes. *c* 900 *Bæda's Hist.* III. vi. (1890) 166 Se cyning..bebead, þæt mon þone disc tobræce to styccum [*v.rr.* sticcum, sticum]. *c* 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* John xix. 23 [Hia] worhton feuoer dælo, eghuoelcum anum cempan dæl *vel* stycz. [*Rushw.* stycce]. *a* 1200 *Moral Ode* 189 in *O. E. Hom.* I. 171 We ȝeueð unede for his luue a stuche of ure brede. *c* 1205 LAY. 16703 Samuel ..al to-swadde þene king in Jerusalemus chepping, & þa stucchen [*c* 1275 sticches] tarueden wide ȝeond þa straten. *a* 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 1992 Smit se smeðliche herto, þat alle þeos fowr hweoles tohwiðeren to stucchen. 1340 *Ayenb.* 111 Þet is to zigge þet me ssel recordi zueteliche and smalliche be little stechches alle þe guodnesses of oure lhorde.

Stitch (stiʧ), *sb.*[3] Now *dial.* Forms: *a.* 5–6 **steche**, 8 **stech**, **steach**, 8–9 **stetch**, **steatch**. *β.* 7 **stich(e**, **stytch**, 6–9 **stitch**. [Prob. orig. identical or cogn. w. STITCH *sb.*[1] Cf. WFlem. *steek*, Fris. *steke* in sense 1.]

† 1. ? The act of cutting or dividing the earth with the share in ploughing; the (greater or lesser) depth to which the share is driven in making a furrow. Phr. *to take stitch*, to drive the share into the soil.

1600 HOLLAND *Livy* XLII. ii. 1117 The clots of earth, that were turned with the plow as it took stitch and made furrow. 1601 — *Pliny* XVII. iv. I. 503 In Syria, the husbandmen goe lightly over with their plough, and take no deep stitch in making their furrowes. 1620 MARKHAM *Farew. Husb.* ii. 14 Taking a good stitch (as they call it in Husbandry). *Ibid.* ix. 65 You shall plow vp the ground againe with somewhat a better and deeper stytch then you did before. 1653 BLITHE *Eng. Improver Impr.* 101 Plow it..of such a stitch or depth as the Land will bear.

2. A ridge or balk of land; esp. a strip of ploughed land between two water-furrows; also, a narrow ridge in which potatoes, etc. are grown.

a. 1493 *Will of Hilbrond, Cambridge* (Somerset Ho.) ij. stechys of my whete. 1576 *Hibaldstow Fine Roll* in *N.W. Linc. Gloss.* (1889) s.v. *Steche*, Robert Ponton for his son carrying ij hors tyed together up the steche ij[d]. 1764 *Museum Rust.* III. 321 Fourth ploughing, a clean earth; draw it on to the steach. 1780 *Lett. & Pap. Bath Soc.* I. 15 A whole field was sown, and set, in alternate stetches. 1794 A. YOUNG *Agric. Suffolk* 24 In some districts, six, eight, and ten feet steatches, a little arched, are used. 1852 J. CAIRD *Eng. Agric.* 153 (Suffolk) It is ploughed into 'stetches' about 8 feet 2 inches in width. 1910 *Essex Rev.* Apr. 59 The field was ploughed..in stetches 16½ feet wide.

β. 1610 FOLKINGHAM *Feudigr.* III. i. 48 Small Ridges or Stitches are accomodated to cold and stiffe ground...These Stitches are common in Norfolke and Suffolke. *c* 1611 CHAPMAN *Iliad* XVIII. 495 Men at plow..that draue earth here and there, And turnd vp stitches orderly. 1664 SPELMAN *Gloss., Selio*,..A stiche of lande. 1763 *Museum Rust.* I. 21 A method of mowing wheat that grows on high ridges, as [well as] that which grows on stitches and flat lands. 1764 *Ibid.* II. 4 For coleseed, I lay it in broad lands, the stitches

being pretty high in the middle. 1813 A. YOUNG *Agric. Essex* I. 199 On the strong land in the maritime district, eights, as they call them, stitches of eight furrows are general. 1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss.*, *Stitches*, balks, or portions of grass land in arable fields. 1893 in Cozens-Hardy *Broad Norf.* 3 *Rig*, *stitch* are both used to describe the space between two double furrows.

b. *attrib.*

1733 W. ELLIS *Chiltern & Vale Farm.* 324 Broad Land and stitch Ploughings. 1750 — *Mod. Husb.* VI. i. 45 (E.D.S.) Wheat lying in the stitch-shape lies too high and dry. *Ibid.* 48 It lay in the stitch-posture.

Stitch (stitʃ), *sb.*^{4} Now *dial.* In 7 *pl.* **stiches.** [Of uncertain origin; identity with STITCH *sb.*^{1} or *sb.*^{2} is possible.] A shock of corn consisting of a number of sheaves set up together in the field.

1603 HOLLAND *Plutarch's Mor.* 462 When the corne was newly reaped and cut downe, seeing the shocks and sheaves, cocks and stiches rannged even and orderly,..he rejoiced. 1838 HOLLOWAY *Prov. Dict.*, *Stitch*, ten sheaves of corn set up together in the field; a shock of corn. 1891 HARDY *Tess* xiv, Every one placing her sheaf on end against those of the rest, till a shock, or 'stitch' as it was here called, of ten or a dozen was formed.

†**Stitch,** *sb.*^{5} *Obs.* Short for STITCHBACK.

1742 *Lond. & Country Brew.* I. (ed. 4) 23 For brewing strong brown Ale called Stitch.

Stitch (stitʃ), *v.*^{1} Forms: 3 **stic(c)hen,** (3*rd sing.* **stihð,** *pa. t. sing.* **stiȝte,** *pl.* **stihten,** *pa. pple.* **istihd**), 6 **sty(t)che, sti(t)che, stech(e,** *Sc.* **stik(e,** 7–8 **stich,** 6– **stitch.** Also STEEK *v.*^{3} [f. STITCH *sb.*^{1}; cf. (M)LG., MDu. *sticken* (mod.Du. *stikken*), OHG. *sticchen* (mod.G. *sticken*).]

I. To prick, stab.

†**1.** *trans.* To stab, pierce; *transf.* to afflict with a 'stitch' or sharp sudden pain. Also *fig.* Also *thorough-stitch. Obs.*

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 272 Heo þuruh stihten Isboset adun into schere...þe ueond þuruh stihð þet scher hwon delit of lecherie þurleð þe heorte. *c* 1230 *Hali Meid.* 9 Nat tah na mon bute ham self hwat ham sticheð ofte. *c* 1250 *Hymn to Virgin* i. 53 in *Trin. Coll. Hom.* App. 257 Þe ne stiȝte, ne þe ne priȝte, in side, in lende, ne elles where. 1525 tr. *Brunswyke's Handywork Surg.* xl. I ij b, The mouth is somtyme hewen that the cheeke hangeth of,..and somtyme it is stytched with a dagger, or with a spere. 1598 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. i. III. *Furies* 604 And in the end stitcht full of stings he dies. *c* 1620 Z. BOYD *Zion's Flowers* (1855) 91, I must by and by, Stitcht full of stings With paine lye downe and dye.

†**b.** To make (a wound) by stabbing. *Obs.*

1527 ANDREW *Brunswyke's Distyll. Waters* F j b, The same water heleth very well all fresshe woundes where they be hewen or stytched.

2. ?To make (the 'eye' or hole in a mill-stone) by piercing with a pick.

c 1900 *Trade Circular, Millstone Tools*, Mill Picks for stitching eyes, peak stones, &c.

II. To fasten or adorn with stitches.

3. *trans.* To fasten together or join (pieces of textile material, leather, etc.) by stitches; to make or mend (a garment, etc.) by thus joining its parts. Also with *together*; for *stitch up* see 9 a.

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 424 Hore hesmel beo heie istihd [*MS. C.* Hare cop beo hecȝe i-sticched]. 1525 tr. *Brunswyke's Handywork Surg.* xiii. C iij b, Whan yᵉ cloutis be well drye, than sowe them or styche them togeder. 1530 PALSGR. 736/2, I stytche, as a taylour doth a garment. 1587 MASCALL *Cattle, Horses* (1596) 119 The Carter ought to haue skill how to mend his harnaise, to stitch and sow it when any part or parcell thereof decayeth. 1709 W. KING *Art of Love* VI. 784 Full many a feather With twine of thread he stitch'd together. 1709 T. BAKER *Mrs. Centlivre's Busy Body* Prol., Court Ladies will..stitch a Gown, to pass the time away. 1791 COWPER *Iliad* XII. 359 The forger of that shield..with thickest hides throughout Had lined it, stitch'd with circling wires of gold. 1819 BYRON *Juan* II. lxi, Two blankets stitch'd together, answering ill Instead of sail. 1850 *Mechanics' Mag.* LII. 195 The thread is passed through the eye of the needle, and the fabric to be stitched placed between the wheels, to which rotary motion is communicated. 1885 J. B. LENO *Boot & Shoemaking* 144 When stitching strong work, run a piece of rag to which soap or beeswax has been applied, round the welt.

fig. 1602 MARSTON *Ant. & Mel.* III. E 4 b, Honest muskcod, twill not be so stitched together. 1629 WOTTON *Lett.* (1907) II. 318 Some think the Parliament doth yet hang upon a thread, and may be stitched again together.

b. *Shoemaking.* (See quot. 1895.)

1895 HASLUCK *Boot Making* 57 Shoemakers call all work sewn that is treated with a round awl; while stitching is only technically applied where the square awl is used.

4. *Surgery.* To unite the edges of (a wound) by drawing stitches through the flesh. See also 9 b.

1580 HESTER tr. *Fioravanti's Disc. Chirurg.* 12 The pleggits of Tow which is layd vpon woundes when they are first stitched. 1585 HIGINS *Junius' Nomencl.* 262/1 *Fibula*,..a kind of instrument wherewith a wound is stitched and drawne together. 1676 WISEMAN *Chirurg. Treat.* V. viii. 372 It may be reasonable to lay open the Wound, and stitch the Gut with the Glovers Stitch.

5. *Bookbinding.* To fasten together (a number of sheets or sections) by passing the thread or wire through all the sheets at once. Occas. with *up*, *together*. Distinguished from *sew*: see SEW *v.*^{1} 1 e.

1566 *Star Chamber Decree* in Arber *Transcr. Stationers' Reg.* (1875) I. 322 No person shall..put to sale, bind, stitch, or sowe, anie such Bookes or Copies. *a* 1670 HACKET *Life Abp. Williams* I. (1693) 159 The Collection of all the precedent Passages were gathered by that Lord himself, and stitched up into one Book. 1712 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 529 ⁋ 2 All Pamphlets, or Works that are only stitched. 1827 SCOTT *Surg. Dau.* Pref., As soon as I became possessed of my first volume, neatly stitched up and boarded. 1912 LADY F. BALFOUR *Life J. MacGregor* 270 His sermons were stitched..by his own hands.

6. To fasten or attach (something) by sewing. Const. *to*; also *in*, *into*, *on*, *upon*. Also with adv., as *on*, *in*.

1530 PALSGR. 736/1, I stytche, I fastyn one thyng to another with stytches of nedyll and threde, *je affiche*. *Ibid.* 736/2 Stytche on thys claspe better, *affichez ceste agraffe mieulx*. 1687 A. LOVELL tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* I. 56 Within doors they cover their head with a Cap of red cloth,..to the middle whereof they stitch a round of Pearles. 1833 [S. SMITH] *Lett. J. Downing* xxii. (1835) 131, I sot down behind him, and stitched on the button in three minits. 1857 RUSKIN *Pol. Econ. Art* i. 32 Those stupid tailors' 'prentices who are always stitching the sleeves in wrong way upwards. 1883 S. CHAPPEL *Sewing Machine* 20 It makes a very neat trimming which may afterwards be stitched on to any article as desired.

fig. 1589 *Pappe w. Hatchet* (1844) 35 Stitch charitie to thy faith, or rip faith from thy works. 1591 LYLY *Endimion* I. i, My thoughts Eumenides are stitched to the starres. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* (1637) 540 Unto his glorious exploits they stitched also ridiculous miracles. *a* 1637 B. JONSON *Horace's Art Poet.* 19 Ye have oft-times, that may o'er-shine the rest, A Scarlet Piece, or two, stitch'd in. 1818 SCOTT *Br. Lamm.* xii, I'se warrant he'll stitch our auld lands of Ravenswood to her petticoat tail. *a* 1901 F. W. H. MYERS *Human Personality* (1903) I. 11 Stitching the threadbare metaphysical arguments into a more stable fabric.

b. To enclose *in* or *into* a cover or receptacle secured by stitching. Also with *away*. Cf. 9 c.

1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* xxxii, She stitched away the major part of her trinkets, bills, and bank-notes about her person. 1885 'MRS. ALEXANDER' *At Bay* ix, I had nigh a thousand pounds' worth stitched in my belt.

7. To ornament with stitches; to embroider.

a 1529 SKELTON *E. Rummyng* 69 She..gyrdeth in her gytes Stytched and pranked with pletes. 1535 in *Archæologia* IX. 248 Three cootys of grene clothe styched with grene silke. 1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 150/26 To stitche, *acu pingere*. 1641 *Invent. Goods C'tess Arundel* in *Burlington Mag.* (1912) Jan. 235/2 Seauen Peeces of Indian Twilt hangings stitcht with Orenge Coloᵉ silke. 1710 SIBBALD *Fife & Kinross* I. viii. 34 Wearing White Shirts, stitcht with Red Silk, upon their Armour. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. v. viii, Tricolor stitched by their own needle. 1905 R. BAGOT *Passport* i. 2 Its button-holes stitched with red.

8. *absol.* and *intr.* To make stitches; to work with a needle and thread. *To stitch away*, to go on sewing energetically.

1697 DE FOE *Ess. Projects* 282 To teach them [Women] to Stitch and Sow, or make Bawbles. 1712 MOTTEUX *2nd Pt. Quix.* xliii. (1749) IV. 62 Go on, go on, friend, said Don Quixote, thread, tack, stitch on, heap proverb on proverb, out with 'em, man, spew them out. 1843 HOOD *Song of Shirt* i, Stitch! stitch! stitch! 1853 MOTLEY in O. W. Holmes *Life* (1878) 72 There is nothing for it but to penelopize, pull to pieces and stitch away again. 1853 MRS. GASKELL *Ruth* i, More than a dozen girls sat in the room..stitching away as if for very life. 1865 FLOR. MARRYAT *Love's Conft.* I. viii. 128 She took her work and..stitched in silence.

9. Stitch up. *trans.* (See also 5.)

a. To make or put together by sewing; sometimes with implication of hasty or inferior work. Also *fig.*

1590 NASHE *Pasquil's Apol.* C 3 b, By the end I haue giuen the Welch-man to his *All*, he may stitch vp his *Euerie* when it pleaseth him. 1663 BUTLER *Hud.* I. ii. 724 Did no Committee sit, where he [the Devil] Might cut out journy-work for thee;..To stitch up sale and sequestration? 1701 STEELE *Funeral* v. i, She has out of Impatience to see her self in her Weeds, order'd her Mantua-Woman to stich up any thing immediately.

b. To close (an orifice, a wound), to mend (a rent), by sewing the edges together. Also *fig.*

1580 HESTER tr. *Fioravanti's Disc. Chirurg.* 35 b, Then hee was caryed to a Chyrurgian, and hee stitched him vp. *a* 1586 SIDNEY *Arcadia* II. v. § 6 (1912) 182 It is in your hand as well to stitch up his life againe, as it was before to rent it. 1643 BAKER *Chron.*, *Stephen* 68 Seeking to stitch up the breaches which the violence of warre had made. 1657 *Penit. Conf.* xi. 307 Be sure of the Confessor, his mouth is stitched up. *a* 1677 BARROW *Serm.* Wks. 1716 I. 183 No thread can stitch up a good name torn by calumnious defamation. 1679 J. YONGE *Currus Triumph.* 79, I dressed him with hot Ol. Terebinth, which restraining the flux, gave me opportunity to stitch up the wound. 1712 MOTTEUX *Quix.* IV. iii. (1749) II. 29, I am sure he would rather have stitch'd up his lips, or bit off his tongue, than have spoken a word, that should make him incur your displeasure.

c. To enclose *in* a cover or receptacle and secure it by sewing. Also *fig.*

1589 R. HARVEY *Pl. Perc.* Ded., Peace stichd vp in a Gaberdine without pleat or wrinckle. 1853 KANE *Grinnell Exp.* xxix. (1856) 254, I had this journal of mine stitched up in its tarred canvas-bag.

d. To tighten or confine (a fabric) by sewing the parts closer together.

1704 SWIFT *T. Tub* xi. (ed. 3) 207 He hired a Taylor to stitch up the Collar so close, that it was ready to choak him.

e. ?To strengthen with extra stitches.

1794 *Rigging & Seamanship* I. 92 The seams of courses and topsails are stuck or stitched up, in the middle of the seams, along the whole length, with double seaming-twine.

Stitch (stitʃ), *v.*^{2} *dial.* [Goes with STITCH *sb.*^{3}] *trans.* To turn up (the ground) in ridges in order to cover or protect the roots of potatoes, etc.; to earth *up*. (See also quot. 1866.)

1805 *Trans. Soc. Arts* XXIII. 31 In June, they were run through with the potatoe harrow, and made quite flat before they could be stitched up again. 1828–32 WEBSTER, *Stitch*..To form land into ridges, (N. England.) 1866 BROGDEN *Provinc. Words Lincs.* 196 *Stitch-up*, to plough very deeply. 1899 *Cumbld. Gloss.*, *Stitch*, to form the ridge on which potatoes or turnips are grown.

Stitch (stitʃ), *v.*^{3} *dial.* Also **stich(e, stych(e.** [f. STITCH *sb.*^{4}] *trans.* To set up in 'stitches' or shocks. Also with *up*.

1674 FLAVEL *Husb. Spiritualized* XV. 129 After these follow the binders, who stitch it up. *Ibid.* 138 Down go the laden ears flat to the ground; Which those that follow having stitcht and bound, It's carted home unto the Barn. 1794 WEDGE *Agric. Warw.* 23 For pease and beans styched, from 2s. 6d. to 5s. per acre. 1879 MISS JACKSON *Shropsh. Word-bk.* s.v. *Stiche*, Stiche up them beäns i' rucks. 1886 *W. Somerset Word-bk.* s.v., To *stitchy* is to set up the sheaves, when bound, in rows of stitches.

†**Sti·tchback.** *Obs.* [f. STITCH *v.*^{1} + BACK *sb.* Cf. STEELBACK.] A kind of strong ale.

1671 CHAMBERLAYNE *Pres. St. Eng.* I. ii. (ed. 5) 56 There are sold in London..many sorts of Ales very different, as Cock, Stepony, Stich-Back, [etc.]. *a* 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew*, *Stitch-back*, very strong Ale. 1719 D'URFEY *Pills* VI. 224 Here's stitch-Back that will please your Wives.

Stitched (stitʃt), *ppl. a.* [f. STITCH *v.*^{1} + -ED^{1}.] In senses of the verb: *esp.* **a.** Embroidered, worked with ornamental stitches.

1583 *Rates Custom Ho.* E vj b, Stiched cloth to woork on the elle, xx. d. 1598 MARSTON *Sco. Villanie* III. xi. 229 A sticht Taffata cloake. 1624 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Praise Cl. Linen* Wks. (1630) II. 168/1 Ruffes..the plaine, the stich'd, the lac'd, and shagge. 1713 in Halliwell *Acc. Collect. Bills* etc. (1852) 37 Paid for a box and cord to send yᵉ stiched gowne and coate 00 01 02. 1886 W. J. TUCKER *E. Europe* 428 Table-cloths were adorned with stitched scrolls.

b. Of a book or pamphlet: Fastened with stitches; in early use = SEWED *ppl. a.*; in present use, fastened together by a thread or wire which passes through all the sections at once.

1658 WOOD *Life* (O.H.S.) I. 264 To Godwin for stitched bookes, 4*s.* *a* 1697 AUBREY *Lives* (1898) I. 131 He wrote a stich't treatise of mines. 1716 M. DAVIES *Athen. Brit.* I. Pref. 66 'Tis not much to be question'd but of all Modern Pamphlets,..the English sticht Sermons to be the most Edifying, Useful and Instructive. 1716 POPE, etc. *Further Acc. E. Curll* ⁋ 1 The author of a three-penny stitched book.

†**Sti·tchel**^{1}. *Obs.* Also 7 **stichel,** 9 *dial.* **stichal(l, stetchel, -il.** [Etymology unknown; perh. the same word as next.] A term of reproach applied to (*a*) a grown-up person, (*b*) a child.

1659 *Lady Alimony* v. iii. I 4 b, Barren Stichel! that shall not serve thy turn. 18.. *MS. Gloss. Lincs.* in *Halliwell* s.v. *Stichall*, This term, which in some places has *Bub* prefixed to it, appears to be a word of reproach, used to children principally by their parents.., e.g. 'Get out of the way, you bub-stichal'; and, 'what a young stichall he must be to bring such a message!' 1866 BROGDEN *Provinc. Words Lincs.* 196 *Stetchel*, *stitchel*, a troublesome child.

Sti·tchel^{2}. *local.* ?*Obs.* [Of obscure etymology. Cf. STICKLE *a.* 4 and Fris. *stikelich hier*, *stikelhierrich* adj.] A kind of hairy wool. Also *stitchel hair*. Also **Stitchy** (?*adj.*), in comb. *stitchy-haired* adj.

1775 *Essays Agric.* 342 Stitchel hair (in France *Jarre*) is a kind of short opaque white-like hair that grows up among the fleeces of some kinds of sheep. 1828–32 WEBSTER, *Stitchel*, a kind of hairy wool. (*Local.*) 1839 *Compl. Grazier* IV. iii. (1846) 215 The pelt, or coat [of the sheep], should always be attentively examined, in order to ascertain whether it is not *stitchy-haired*.

†**Sti·tchen.** *Obs.* In 3 **stucchen** (ü). [dim. of STITCH *sb.*^{2}: see -EN^{1}.] A small part or piece; *spec.* a division or section of a discourse.

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 14, I þisse distinctiun beoð fif cheapitres alse vif stucchenes efter þe vif wittes. *Ibid.* 428 Ȝe ancren owen þis lutle laste stucchen reden to our wummen eueriche wike enes. *a* 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 2006 (MS. R.) Stucchenes [*pl.*; *the other MSS. have* stucchen *pl.*].

Stitcher (sti·tʃəɹ). [f. STITCH *v.*^{1} + -ER^{1}.]

1. One who stitches or sews. In literary use as a general term; in technical use, a person employed in some operation specifically called 'stitching' (e.g. in shoemaking, bookbinding). †Formerly also a contemptuous term for a tailor.

1589 NASHE *Anat. Absurd.* B 4 b, Some stitcher, Weauer, spendthrift, or Fidler. *a* 1613 OVERBURY *A Wife* etc. (1638) 258 Shee that sets the first quest of enquiry amongst her gossips for new fashions shall not refuse a stitcher for her second husband. 1805 *Mod. London* 443 Printers, engravers, stitchers, binders, type-founders. 1858 ADEL. A. PROCTER *Leg. & Lyrics* 212 Where the weary stitcher Toils for daily bread. 1878 SIMPSON *Sch. Shaks.* I. 142 The stitcher or binder..confounded the previous confusion by misplacing several of the scenes. 1886 *Athenæum* 7 Aug. 180/3 The Sicilian stitchers..who supplied models to the Venetians.. for needlework.

b. In combination with *to* adv. In quot. fig.

a 1637 B. JONSON *Under-woods, Epigr. to Counsellor* 8 The names..Of Hirelings, Wranglers, Stitchers-to of strife.

2. A tool or machine used for stitching.

1862 *Times* 12 June 6/2 The blank sole-cutting machine will cut out 60 soles in a minute, and the stitcher will stitch them on..at the rate of about 50 seconds for each shoe. 1901 *Munsey's Mag.* XXV. 439/2 Carrying the magic power of steam to stitchers and folders.

Stitchery (sti·tʃəri). [f. STITCH *v.*^{1} or STITCHER: see -ERY 2. (App. coined by Shaks.)] Needlework.

1607 SHAKS. *Cor.* I. iii. 75 Come, lay aside your stitchery. 1780 C. BURNEY in *Early Diary F. Burney* (1889) II. 289, I have really been so hard fag'd with stitchery in new rigging papa's old shifets (as Mrs. Market calls em). 1897 L. F. DAY *Windows* (1909) 145 As well might the needlewoman go to a glazier to design her stitchery.

Stitching (sti·tʃiŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. STITCH *v.*^{1} + -ING^1.] The action of the verb, in different senses.

† **1.** The feeling of a sharp sudden pain. *Obs.*

1561 HOLLYBUSH *Hom. Apoth.* 29 b, [He hath] great stichynge when the ague commeth vpon hym. 1599 A. M. tr. *Gabelhouer's Bk. Physicke* 2/2 Therwith annoyncte the place of the stitchinge.

2. The action of fastening or uniting by stitches. Also, ornamentation with stitches.

1521–2 *Rec. St. Mary at Hill* 314 Item, paid for new bandyng and stichyng of iij su[r]plyses x d. 1678 *Orders, Rules & Ordin. Stationers' Co.* 23 The Imprinting, Binding, Stitching, Publishing or Dispersing of any such Book. 1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* I. (Globe) 232 With a great deal of Pains, and awkward tedious stitching..I at length made..a Shoulder of Mutton Sail. 1857 RUSKIN *Pol. Econ. Art* ii. 161 If the sempstresses tried to break each other's needles, that each might get all the stitching to herself.

3. *concr.* **a.** Stitches collectively; i.e. the portions or loops of thread, etc. fastened in the material as the result of sewing. Also, a series of stitches.

1562 J. HEYWOOD *Prov. & Epigr.* (1867) 179 The barres of mens breeches haue such strong stitching. 1597 A. M. tr. *Guillemeau's Fr. Chirurg.* 15/1 Betwixt the which stitching, we lay as yet other. 1875 R. F. MARTIN tr. *Havrez' Winding Mach.* 60 This would be quite certain to wear out the stitching of the flat ropes. 1885 *Daily News* 7 May 5/2 Pearl-grey Derby gloves..with three black stitchings. 1915 *Blackw. Mag.* May 683/1 The stitching had given way.

b. The thread, silk, or other material of which stitches are made. Also *pl.*

1614 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Nipping Abuses* B 3 b, For bumbast, stitching, binding, or for buckram. 1826 *Haberdasher's Guide* 16 Stitchings, a strong white thread.

c. A bundle of sheets of paper stitched together.

1679 WOOD *Life* (O.H.S.) II. 471 Sent to Sir William Dugdale, three stitchings or bundells containing corrections on his baronagium; the 1 stitching containes 5 papers, the 2d, 7 papers; the 3d., 11 papers.

4. *attrib.*, as *stitching-awl, needle, silk, thread*; † **stitching quill** *Surgery*, a tubular needle.

1552 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* X. 71 Item for stiking silk and buttonis to the samyn coit xvj s. 1585 HIGINS *Junius' Nomencl.* 251/2 *Acus Babylonia*,..a fine stitching needle. 1589 *Acc. Bk. W. Wray* in *Antiquary* XXXII. 78 A q' white stechinge silke, viij d. 1674 tr. *G. Fabritius* (*Hildanus*) *Cista Milit.* 22 A stitching Quill [L. *cannula fenestrata*], which is used in stitching Wounds. 1681 GREW *Musæum* I. § iv. i. 62 Thick as a Taylors Stitching-Thread. 1699 E. WARD *Lond. Spy* IV. 11 With here and there a Remnant of Basting-Thread and Stitching-Silk hanging upon his Coat. 1767 GOOCH *Treat. Wounds* I. 154 Which is a better method in general, than to use the stitching quill. 1895 HASLUCK *Boot Making* 57 The stitching-awl..is a similar tool to the sewing-awl, with the exception of being flat.

Stitching (sti·tʃiŋ), *ppl. a.* [f. STITCH *v.*^{1} + -ING^2.] † Of a pain, esp. in the ribs: Sharp and spasmodic, lancinating.

1699 ROKEBY in *Surtees Soc. Miscell.* (1861) 63, I fell so ill with violent stitching paines in my breast and back. 1790 MRS. WHEELER *Westmld. Dial.* (1821) 112 My deaam gat a bad stitchin pain in her side this summer wie forkin hay.

† **Sti·tchmeal,** *adv. Obs.* [OE. *stycce-, sticce-, sticmælum* (see Bosw.-Toller), f. *stycce*: see STITCH *sb.*^{2} and -MEAL.] In separated pieces; in 'stitches' of land. (In quot. 1602 with *by* prefixed; there is prob. a reference to STITCH *sb.*^{3}.)

c1000 ÆLFRIC *Hom.* I. 508 Þæs muntes cnoll..is sticmælum mid wuda oferwexen, and eft sticmælum mid grenum felda oferbræded. 1602 CAREW *Cornwall* I. 66 Their grounds lay all in common, or onely deuided by stitch-meale.

Stitchwort (sti·tʃwɒɹt). [f. STITCH *sb.*^{1} + WORT (see quot. 1657).] A name for *Stellaria Holostea*. Also a book-name for the genus.

c1265 *Voc. Plants* in Wr.-Wülcker 557/30 *Ualeriane*, stichwurt. a1387 *Sinon. Barthol.* (Anecd. Oxon.) 27 *Lingua avis*, i. stichewort i. pigle. a1500 *MS. Bodl. 536* lf. 33 Pygla maior i. pygyll or steche wort. 1516 *Gt. Herbal* lxiii. (1529) D v b, De lingua anseris. Goos byll, or stychewort. 1597 GERARDE *Herbal* I. xxxii. 42 Stitchwoort. 1657 COLES *Adam in Eden* cxlvi, It is called in English Stitch-wort, for its property in helping Stitches and pains in the sides. 1726 THRELKELD *Syn. Stirp. Hibern.*, *Holosteum vernum*,..The greater Stichwort. 1770 BERKENHOUT *Nat. Hist.* II. 44 *Sagina Erecta.* Least Stichwort. 1861 S. THOMSON *Wild Flowers* (ed. 4) III. 187 The stellarias, or stitchworts. 1876 'ANNIE THOMAS' *Blotted out* xxix. 263 The great pure white, starlike blossoms of the stitchwort.

Stitchy: see STITCHEL^2.

Stith (stiþ), *sb.* Forms: 4 **stiþ(e, (steyth)**, 4–7 **styth**, 5 **stethe, stede**, 5–7 **stythe**, 6–7 **stithe**, 4– **stith**. [See STITHY.]

1. = STITHY *sb.* 1. *Obs.* exc. *north.*

c1300 *Havelok* 1877 [They] beten on him so doth þe smith With þe hamer on þe stith. c1386 CHAUCER *Knt.'s T.* 1168 The Smyth That forgeth sharpe swerdes on his Styth. 1426 LYDG. *De Guil. Pilgr.* 10973 Wyth-inne an hevy styth off stel, A ffethre sholde entre as wel As any doctryne..Sholde entre in-to hys hed. 1465 in *Finchale Priory Charters* etc. (Surtees) p. ccxcix, ij stethes, ij foyrhamers [etc.]. 1494 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* I. 250 Item, for tussen of the stede to the smede viij d. 1584–7 GREENE *Carde of Fancie* (1593) D 4 b, Valericus..determined to strike on the Stith while the yron was hot. 1586 WHITNEY *Choice of Emblems* 192 For there with strengthe he strikes vppon the stithe [*rhyme-word* pith]. 1609 HEYWOOD *Brit. Troy* VIII. xxi. 174 Most thinke Lame Vulcan on the Styth first wrought. 1787 GROSE *Prov. Gloss.*, *Stith*, an anvil. 1823 E. MOOR *Suffolk Words*, *Stith*, a smith's anvil. 1866 W. HENDERSON *Folk Lore N. C.* i. 27 They placed a charge of gunpowder in the stith, or anvil of the blacksmith's shop, and fired it.

† **2.** = STITHY *sb.* 2. *Obs. rare*$^{-1}$.

1633 P. FLETCHER *Purple Isl.* v. xliii, The first [bone] an Hammer call'd, whose out-grown sides Lie on the drumme; but, with his swelling end Fixt in the hollow Stithe.

Stith (stəiþ), *a. Obs.* exc. *Sc.* Forms: 1–3 **stið**, 4 **stiþ, styþ, (3 stitth)**, 4–5 **styth**, 5 **stythe**, 5–7 **stithe, (5 steyth)**, 3– **stith**; *Sc.* 8–9 **styth**, 9 **stythe**. [OE. *stíð* = OFris. *stîth*, ON. *stinn-r* (MSw. *stind-er*):—OTeut. *stenþo- (a type *stenþjo- appears in MLG. *stîde*, WFlem. *stijde, stide*).]

1. Of material things: Not bending or giving easily, unyielding, stout, strong. ? *Obs.* exc. *Sc.*

Beowulf 1533 (Gr.) Hit [a sword] on eorðan læȝ, stið and styleȝ. c1000 *Sax. Leechd.* I. 288 Ðeos wyrt..hafað lange leaf & stiþe. 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xii. (*Mathias*) 278 [He] went furtht & hyme-self can hynge with a cord bath styth & strange. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* x. 364 A cruk thai maid..Of irn, that wes styth and square. a1400–50 *Wars Alex.* 5461 And all þe strands of þe streme stode full of stith reedis. c1400 *Destr. Troy* 1997 Was no stightlyng with stere, ne no stithe ropes, Ne no sayle, þat might serue for vnsound wedur. *Ibid.* 13282. a1420 *Aunters of Arthur* 591 Stiþe stapeles of stele þey strike done stiȝte. c1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 5005 He was taken, And in to stithe fettirs schakyn. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* x. vi. 17 Bend vp ȝour ayris styth, and rays ȝour schippys. [1871 P. H. WADDELL *Psalms in Scottis* xxxi. 4 Redd me frae the girns they hae happit for me; for yerlane are my stoop sae styth.]

† **b.** Of a place of defence or confinement: Strong, stout; formidable, powerful. *Obs.*

c1000 *Ags. Ps.* lx. 2 Þu me ȝelæddest mid lufan hyhte, wære me stranga tor, stið wið feondum. c1320 *Sir Tristr.* 897 Tounes þai ȝold him skete And cites stiþe of stan. 1340–70 *Alisaunder* 91 They..turned tit to a towne þat Attanus hyght, A stiþ stede, & a strong. c1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xl. (*Ninian*) 946 [He was] put in pressone stith of stane. c1425 WYNTOUN *Cron.* VII. 3202 Þis Kynge..made hym for to duel In til Edynburgh þe stythe castel.

2. Inflexible, rigid, stiff.

† **a.** (*OE.* only.) Of the neck: = STIFF *a.*

c897 ÆLFRED *Gregory's Past C.* xxxiii. 228, & him ðone stiðan swioran [L. *rigida colla*] fortræde.

b. *Sc.* Rigid (in death). ? *Obs.*

1755 R. FORBES *Ajax' Sp.*, *Jrnl. fr. Lond. to Portsmouth* 30 An' the horses tak a brattle now, they may..ding me yavil, an' as styth as gin I had been elf-shot. 1768 ROSS *Helenore* 8 Up by the lambie's lying yonder styth. 1808 JAMIESON s.v. *Stith* 3 Sheet styth, shot dead, Aberd.

c. *Sc.* Of a rope: Taut. ? *Obs.*

1825 JAMIESON, *Stith, Styth*..3. Stiff, in consequence of being stretched; applied to a rope, Upp. Clydes.

† **3.** Hard, severe, stern, harsh, austere, cruel towards persons or things. *Obs.*

c897 ÆLFRED *Gregory's Past. C.* xvii. 126 Sie ðær eac reðnes [in a ruler], næs ðeah to stið. a1000 *Cædmon's Gen.* 2848 (Gr.) Stiðum wordum, spræc him stefne to. a1122 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1086, Ac he wæs swa stið þat he ne rohte heora eallra nið. c1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 95 He demað stiðne dom þam forsunegede on his efter to-come.

† **4.** Inflexible of purpose, immovable, steadfast; also, obstinately firm, stubborn. *To stand stith*, to stand firm. *Obs.*

c1000 *Ags. Ps.* cxlvii. 6 For andwlitan celes, þær æni ne mæȝ him standan, stiðe mode. c1205 LAY. 10083 Þes wes ræh þes wes strong Þes wes stið æn þonke. c1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 1591 Esau wifuede us to dere Quan he..Toc of kin ðe canaan bi-gat, For-ði he maked him stið & strong. a1300 *Cursor M.* 61 (Cott.) He þat stitthest wenis at stand [c1375 (Fairf.) stiþest to stande], Warre hym his fall is nexst his hand. 1338 R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (1725) 194 My broþer Safadyn Is riche of tenement, his sonnes strong & stith, Þer wille wille not be went. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* VIII. 384 A lord..so veill bowrdand, And in battale so stith to stand.

5. Intense in degree or quality; not mild or weak; severe, violent, strong.

† **a.** of a conflict, contest, etc. *Obs.*

c1000 *Battle of Maldon* 301 Þær wæs stið ȝemot. a1300 *Cursor M.* 3461 Þair strut it was vn-stern stith. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* IX. 343 Thar wes oft bikkyrring stith & stout. c1400 *Destr. Troy* 9679 The store was full stith.

b. of the weather, a storm, etc. ? *Obs.*

c1100 *O. E. Chron.* (MS. D.) an. 1048, Her wæs se stiþa winter. *Ibid.* an. 1052, He..feng swa stið weder þat he uneaðe a wæiȝ com. c1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 3266 Ðhunder, and leuene, and rein ðor-mong, God sente on ðat hird, stið and strong. c1400 *Sc. Trojan War* I. 413 And wedderis styth [wald] Baith ger fall rayn and haile. c1420 *Sir Amadace* (Camd.) xlviii, Stithe stormes me ore-drofe. 1801 W. BEATTIE *Fruits of Time Parings* (1871) 24 Perforce of endrift styth He is oblig'd to seek a lyth Amo' the byres.

† **c.** of a stream. *Obs.*

1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* x. 84 Ane vattir..That ran doun by the hillis syde, And wes rycht styth, bath deip & wyde. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* v. 64 Quhair that Ionium clepit is the see, And als forgane the stith stremis of Malee.

† **d.** of things affecting the taste or smell. *Obs.*

c1000 *Sax. Leechd.* I. 156 Ȝenim þysse wyrte sæd..ȝemencged mid stiþum ecede. c1400 *Destr. Troy* 932 Iason ..Dange on the deuyll..Tyll the stremys of stynke & of stythe venum Past out in the place pyne to be-holde. 1674 RAY *N. C. Words* 45 Stithe Cheese, i. e. strong Cheese.

† **e.** of the voice, a noise. *Obs.*

c1000 *Ags. Ps.* liv. 17 Þæt þu bliðe me, mine stefne, stiðe ȝehyre. a1300 *Cursor M.* 22527 All bestes..cri sal wit stiþer steuen þan nu mai do ten or elleuen, All for dred. a1400–50 *Wars Alex.* 1251 Sa stithe a steuyn..As it was semand to siȝt as all þe soyle trymblid.

† **6.** Stout, stalwart, valiant, mighty. *Obs.*

Chiefly in alliterative phrases in ME. poetry.

a1300–1400 *Cursor M.* 18181 (Gött.) Sua stith [*Cott.* stijf] in sture, and king of bliss, Dede and alsua liuand [þou] es. c1320 *Sir Tristr.* 66 A turnament þai ches Wiþ kniȝtes stiþe on stede. c1325 *Metr. Hom.* (1862) 10 [John the Baptist] said a stither gom than I, Efter me sal com in hy. a1330 *Amis. & Amil.* 1303 On stedes that were stithe and strong, Thai riden togider with schaftes long. c1400 *Rowland & Otuel* 485 Þis was a stythe stroke of a knyghte, & no thynge of a childe! c1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* IV. 912 A staloun asse ybolked, brawny, sadde And large ylimed, stronge & steyth. c1450 HOLLAND *Howlat* 697 In flesche tyme, quhen the fische war away flemyt, Quha was stewart bot the Stork, stallwart and styth. c1470 *Gol. & Gaw.* 678 Right styth, stuffit in steill, thai stotit na stynt, But buskit to battaille.

absol. c1400 *Destr. Troy* 21 But olde stories of stithe þat astate helde, May be solas to sum þat it segh neuer.

† **Stith,** *adv. Obs.* Forms: 1–2 **stiðe**, 4 **stith(e, styth.** [OE. *stîðe*, f. *stíð* STITH *a.*] Strongly, stoutly, firmly; violently; harshly, severely.

a1000 *Cædmon's Gen.* xlii. 30 (Gr.) And hu stiðe se landhlaford spræc wið hiȝ. a1122 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1006, Forþan þe hi hæfdon ælce scire on West Sexum stiðe ȝe marcod mid bryne. a1310 in Wright *Lyric P.* 99 Bote er aȝeyn the [God] stith y stod, Er ant late, loude ant stille. 1325 *Metr. Hom.* (1862) 4 Hou thai mai..stithe stand igain the fend. c1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 3173 He says..Þat ay þe styther þat ilk man here Gyves his lykyng..Til veniel syns,..Þe langer sal he pyned be In purgatory. c1380 *Sir Ferumb.* 631 Hure strokes fulle so styþ & sare þay schulde so doþ þe þonder.

b. *Comb.* In Layamon prefixed to adjs. of ppl. form, forming combs. equivalent to parasynthetic derivatives of STITH *a.*: **stith-bewalled**, strongly walled; **stith-imained**, having a strong force; **stith-imoded** (cf. OE. *stíðmód*), stout-hearted.

c1205 LAY. 25820 And forð he gon steppen stið imainede eorl. *Ibid.* 26022 Arður gon step vorð stið imoded kempe. *Ibid.* 30697 Eorð-hus heo hureden stið biwaled on eorðen.

† **Stith,** *v. Sc. Obs.* [f. STITH *a.* (OE. had *ȝestîðian* intr., to become strong).] *trans.* To set firmly, to cause to remain immovable.

c1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xliv. (*Lucy*) 242 Þe haly gast had sa stithit hire, þat nane of þai mycht of þat place a fute hire stere. *Ibid.* 270 It is of criste þe benyfice, þat stithis me on þis wyse.

Stith, obs. form of STYTHE.

† **Stithe.** *Obs. rare*$^{-1}$. A STY in the eye.

1797 M. UNDERWOOD *Treat. Disorders Childhood* II. 43 The Stithe, or Stye. The stithe is a small inflamed tumour on the edge of the eye-lids.

Stithe: see STITH, STYTHE.

Stithil, stithle, variants of STIGHTLE *v. Obs.*

† **Sti·thly,** *adv. Obs.* [f. STITH *a.* + -LY^2.] Strongly, stoutly, valiantly, severely, etc. (see the senses of STITH *a.*).

a1300 *Cursor M.* 2291 A wygur was mad wit his red, And command stithli til his men Als god þai suld it knau and ken. *Ibid.* 18933 Langage þat þai suld haf of ful knaulage To stand ai stitli for þe fai. c1325 *Metr. Hom.* (1862) 83 Sa stithelic igain him ras The fend, that him feld in place. c1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xxxiii. (*George*) 940 Sa stythly Inuch can þai ficht. *Ibid.* xxxv. (*Thaddæus*) 55 Þane til a chawmir stithly made,..quare-in al hyre tresoure wes. c1400 *Destr. Troy* 1240 He..stert vp stithly, straght out a swerde, And flange at the freike. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* V. vii. 110 Syne stithlie in the sandis wpstandis he.

Stithy (sti·ði), *sb.* Forms: *α.* 3–4 **steþi**, 4 **stethie**, 4–5 **stiþi**, 4 **stithi**, 4–7 **stithie**, 5–6 **stethy, stythy(e**, 6 **stythie, (5 styhthy**, 6 **stethye, stithye**, 7 **stythe)**, 7– **stithy**; *β.* chiefly *Sc.* and *north.* 4–6 **stedy**, 5 **stedye**, 6 **steddye, -ie, stedee, steadie**, 9 **steddy, steady**; 6 **styd(d)y, styddie, stidhy**, 6, 9 **stiddie**, 7– **stiddy**; *γ.* only *Sc.* and *north.* 5–6, 8–9 **study**, 6, 8–9 **studdie**, 6–9 **studdy**, (6 **stude, studie**, 9 **stoddy**). [a. ON. *steði* wk. masc. (accus. *steðja*):—prehistoric *staþjan-, f. Teut. root *sta- to STAND.

Normally the ON. *steði* should become *steþe in ME. This is represented by STITH *sb.*, most of the forms of which, however, show irregular vowel-change. The disyllabic forms here may be compared with those of SMITHY from ON *smiðja* wk. fem.]

1. An anvil.

α. 1295 *MS. Exch. Acc.* 5/8 Et viij d. in uno stithi et stithistok portando..usque ad placeam galee. a1300 *Cursor M.* 23237 Als it war dintes on a steþi þat smythes smittes in a smeþey. c1340 *Nominale* (Skeat) 507 *Tenailes enclume et fow*, tonges stethie and bely. c1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xxxviii. (*Adrian*) 454, 457 Þe emperoure..gert bryng hyme a gret steþi. sone þai sanctis..to þe stedy brocht wes þane..& gert þar theis brokine be sa smal [etc.]. c1423 *Inv.* in Raine *Abps. York* (Rolls) III. 306 Pro j incude magna, vocata stethy, de ferro. 1483 CAXTON *Golden Leg.* 288/4 He commanded to brynge forth an anuelt or a stythye. 1572 BOSSEWELL *Armorie* II. 123 b, The Anuild..is an auncient addycion of armory, and is called in ye Northerne tongue a Stethye. 1656 TRAPP *Comm. Mark* vii. 33 The wise Lapidist brings not his softer stones to the stithy. 1662 HIBBERT *Body Divinity* I. 108 Mans heart..like the stithy, is still the harder for beating. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl., App., Stithy, or Stuthy. 1812 SCOTT *Rokeby* I. xxxi, While on the stithy glows the steel. 1867 CARLYLE *Remin.* (1881) II. 42 Well do I remember our return.., with the clink of Alick's stithy alone audible. 1870 *Good Words* Apr. 253/2 [A nail-shop] in which a..sharp young fellow..is shedding showers of ruddy sparks from his 'stithy', or small anvil. 1890 A. J. ARMSTRONG *Ingleside Musings* 153 But hear the sang, the ringin' stithy sings.

fig. 1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* xviii, 'Let me sleep on that hard point,' said Varney; 'I cannot else perfect the device I have on the stithy.' 1869 LOWELL *Fam. Epist. Friend* 76 Let whoso likes be beat, poor fool, On life's hard stithy to a tool.

β. c1375 Stedy: see *α.* c1425 WYNTOUN *Cron.* I. v. 227 Iwball..wes the first þat musik fand, Wiþ hameris clynkand on a stedye [*v.rr.* stythy, study]. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* VIII. xi. 67 Five..citeis, Thar wapynnis to renew..Sett vp

forgys and steyle stydyis fyne. 1565 JEWEL *Repl. Harding* VIII. 387 Job saithe, *Stetit cor eius sicut incus*: His harte stoode as a steadie.. 1583 MELBANCKE *Philotimus* T ij, The more you strike iron vpon the stidhy, the harder & tougher ye iron is. †1868 ATKINSON *Cleveland Gloss.*, *Stiddy*, (often pr. stithy), an anvil. 1894 P. H. HUNTER *James Inwick* x. 131 It was a waly hammer he swung, an' ..whan he brocht it doun, he gart the stiddy dirl an' the sparks flee. 1902 BARING-GOULD *Nebo* ii. 9 Each 'jack' has in it socket holes. Into one of these..the 'steady' is inserted, a ship of steel, upon which the worker places the white-hot end of his rod, and hammers it into shape.

γ. *c* 1425 Study: see β. α 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* xxxiii. 52 As blaksmyth bruikit was his pallatt, ffor battering at the study. 1583 *Rec. Elgin* (New Spalding Club 1903) I. 172 Ane battering studdy. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 379/2 A Pewterers..Bossing Studdy, or Stiddy. 1785 BURNS *Scotch Drink* xi, [He] Brings hard owrehip..The strong forehammer, Till block an' studdie ring an' reel. 1841 HARTSHORNE *Salop. Ant.* Gloss., *Study*, a small anvil used in manufacturing nails. 1864 J. BROWN *Jeems the Doorkeeper* 18 You hear the ring of the blacksmith's study, you see the smoke of his forge. 1900 C. MURRAY *Hanewith* 17 But see him..in his smiddy, An' mark the thuds that shape the shoon, An' dint the very studdy.

b. *transf.*

c 1620 A. HUME *Brit. Tongue* I. iv, The hammeres are the nether lip, the top of the tongue, and the midle tongue. The stiddies the overlip, the outward teeth, the inward teeth, and the roofe of the mouth.

†**2.** *Anat.* The anvil bone of the ear = INCUS 1. (Cf. ANVIL 3 b.) *Obs. rare.*

1578 BANISTER *Hist. Man* I. 11 This is the second Ossicle, called by the name of a stedy or anuell. 1615 CROOKE *Body of Man* 592 Those two [bones of the ear] which are knowne by the names of the Anuill or the Stithy, and the Mallet or Hammer.

3. A forge, smithy.

α. 1602 SHAKS. *Ham.* III. ii. 89 (1604 Qo.) My imaginations are as foule As Vulcans stithy. 1850 JAMES *Old Oak Chest* I. 149 On this green, detached from all other houses, stood the stithy. 1876 MORRIS *Sigurd* III. 178 When the day of the smith is ended and the stithy's fire dies out.

β. *a* 1661 FULLER *Worthies, Linc.* (1662) 169 James Yorke a Blacksmith of Lincolne..is a Servant as well of Apollo as Vulcan, turning his Stiddy into a Study, having lately set forth a Book of Heraldry. 1825 BROCKETT *N. C. Gloss.*, *Stiddy, Stithy*,..used sometimes..for the smith's shop.

†**4.** A disease incident to horses and oxen. *Obs.*

1600 SURFLET *Country Farm* I. xxiii. 132 The stithie [orig. F. *l'encueur*] hapning to the oxe, being otherwise called a mallet or hammer, is knowen when the beast hath his haire standing vpright, [etc.]. 1611 COTGR., *Encueur*, the Stithie; (a disease of horses, and cattell). *Ibid.*, *Marteau*, a hammer ..; also, the Stithie (a beasts disease). 1706 in PHILLIPS; and in some later Dicts.

5. *attrib.* and *Comb.*: (sense 1) as *stithy-man, -work*; **stithy-stock**, the stock or base of an anvil.

1597 BP. HALL *Sat.* II. i. 27 The subtile *Stithy-man. 1295 *Stithistok* [see 1]. 1585 HIGINS *Junius' Nomencl.* 305/2 *Acmotheta*, .. the anuile or stithe stocke. 1888 *Sheffield Gloss.*, *Stiddy-stock*, a stand for an anvil. 1839 CARLYLE *Chartism* viii. 158 He had learned metallurgy, *stithy-work in general.

Hence †**Sti·thy** *v.*, *trans.*, to forge. *lit.* and *fig.*

c 1420 WYCLIF *Josh.* Prol., Wite he me not in to repreuynge of oold men newe thingis to stithie [Vulg. *sciat me non ut reprehensionem veterum nova cudere*]. 1606 SHAKS. *Tr. & Cr.* IV. v. 255 But by the forge that stythied Mars his helme, He kill thee euery where.

Stitic, Stitical, obs. ff. STYPTIC, STYPTICAL.

Stitle bagge, obs. form of STICKLEBACK.

†**Sti·tling.** *Obs. rare.* Also 5 **stytlyng.** Corrupt form of STICKLING, a stickleback.

c 1425 *Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 641/28 *Hic scorpio*, stytlyng. 1823 *Dame Wiggins of Lee* in *Ruskin's Wks.* (1903) II. 521 To comply with their wish To spend all their play-time In learning to fish For stitlings.

Stittle-back, -bag, obs. ff. STICKLEBACK.

†**Stitty stitty,** *a. nonce-word.* A derisive epithet applied to a stammerer.

1600 *Look about You* [ix.] G 2 b, Come to the Buttery bar, stitty stitty stammerer,..we'll drinke trylill Ifaith.

†**Stive,** *sb.*[1] *Obs. rare*[−1]. In 4 styue. [Var. of STEW *sb.*[1], a. OF. *estuve*.

The rhyme *stywes*: *lywes* (sb. pl.) shows that the word is not merely a different spelling of *stue*, *stewe*.]

= STEW *sb.*[1] 4.

c 1386 CHAUCER *Friar's T.* 34 'They han of us no Iurisdicciouu, Ne neuer shullen, terme of alle hir lyues.' 'Peter! so been the wommen of the styues' Quod the Somnour, 'y-put out of my cure!'

†**Stive,** *sb.*[2] *Obs. rare*[−1]. [Of obscure origin; perh. some error.] ? The eyeball or the pupil.

1641 BEST *Farm. Bks.* (Surtees) 79 Whearby groweth (as it weare) a scumme over the stive of the eye.

†**Stive,** *sb.*[3] *Obs.* [? f. STIVE *v.*[3] (sense 3 b).] (See quot.)

1688 HOLME *Armoury* II. 252/1 A Stive, or Stove, is a thing made of straw, almost after the manner of a Bee-Hive, to put the Cock in, to keep him warm.

Stive (stəiv), *sb.*[4] [a. Du. †*stuive* (given by Kilian as obs.), related to *stuiven* to rise as dust. Cf. mod.Du. *stuifmeel* floating dust of flour.

The word seems to have belonged orig. to Pembrokeshire, where there was a Flemish colony, and to E. Anglia, where words from Du. are frequent.]

Dust; esp. the floating dust of flour during the operation of grinding.

1793 *Gentl. Mag.* Dec. 1084 *Stive*, dust. Pembrokeshire.—Dust is there only used to signify *sawdust*. *a* 1825 FORBY *Voc. E. Anglia*, *Stive*, dust. We use the word in no other sense. 1853 GLYNN *Power Water* 138 The dust, or 'stive,' as millers call it. 1907 *Times* 15 Feb. 3/1 The filtering medium, whatever it was, speedily got choked by the stive or dust.

b. *Comb.*

1907 *Times* 15 Feb. 3/1 The air passing out through the cone was by no means free from impurities, and a second apartment or stiveroom was required as a settling chamber.

†**Stive,** *sb.*[5] *Obs.* [a. OF. *estive*, latinized *stiva*.] A kind of bagpipe. Cf. STIVOUR.

c 1290 *St. Thomas* 80 in *S. Eng. Leg.* 379 Tabours and fibele and symphanye, stiues and harpingue.

†**Stive,** *sb.*[6] *Obs. rare*[−1]. [ad. L. *stiva* (in the original passage).] A plough-tail.

1693 [N. TATE] tr. *Cowley's Hist. Plants* IV. 177 The same Right-hand guides now the humble Stive, And Oxen Yoaks, that did fierce Nations drive.

†**Stive,** *v.*[1] *Obs. rare.* [ME. *stīven*, OE. *stīfian*, f. *stīf* STIFF *a.*] **a.** *intr.* To become stiff (OE. only). **b.** *trans.* To make stiff.

c 1000 ÆLFRIC *Gram.* xxvi. (Z.) 154 *Rigeo* ic stifize. 13.. *Will. Palerne* 3033 Þe hote sunne hade so hard þe hides stiued, þat [etc.].

Stive (stəiv), *v.*[2] Now chiefly *Sc.* [a. OF. *estiver*, otherwise adopted as STEEVE *v.*[2]] *trans.* To compress and stow (cargo) in a ship's hold. Also *transf.* to pack tightly; to crowd (with things or people). Also with *up*.

a 1320 *Sir Tristr.* 1169 In botes þai gun him stiue And drouȝ him to þe land. 1615 G. SANDYS *Trav.* I. 15 You would..admire if you saw them stiue it in their ships: enforcing a sacke as big as a woolt-packe into a roome at the first too narrow for your arme. *a* 1639 WOTTON *Parallel Essex & Buckhm.* (1641) 7 His chamber being commonly stived with friends or Suitors of one kinde or other. 1659 T. PHILIPOTT *Vill. Cant.* 2 Four Syllables..all confusedly shuffled and stiv'd into this one word Gavelkind. 1781 in *Hone's Every-day Bk.* II. 836 Corn [shall] be brought fairly to market, not stived up in granaries. 1844 'JON. SLICK' *High Life N. York* II. 13 The cabin was so stived up with onion barrels..that I hadn't no room to fix up in. 1888 DOUGHTY *Arabia Deserta* I. 203 The locust meat is stived in leathern sacks.

Stive (stəiv), *v.*[3] [app. a variant of STEW *v.*, a. OF. *estuver*. Cf. STIVE *sb.*[1] In mod. use often with mixture of the sense of STIVE *v.*[2], to pack tightly, and sometimes associated with STIFLE *v.*]

†**1.** *trans.* To boil slowly: = STEW *v. Obs. rare.*

c 1390 *Forme of Cury* (1780) 37 Do the flessh therewith in a Possynet and styue [*printed* styne] it. [1743 LYE in *Junius' Etymol.*, Stive or stew meat, *carnem lento igne coquere*. Su. *stufwa à stew*, Laconicum, q.v. Hinc to stive one, *Aliquem æstu ferè suffocare*.]

2. To shut up in a close hot place; to stifle, suffocate.

a 1722 LISLE *Husb.* (1757) 444 [The sparrow] chooses then, when the weather grows warm,..to build sub dio, and not to stive herself up in nests under the eaves of a house. [1743: see sense 1.] 1748 RICHARDSON *Clarissa* (1811) VII. 132, I have one half of the house to myself;..while..the two musty nieces are stived up in the other half. 1837 T. HOOK *Jack Brag* xvii, You did not suppose I was going to be stived up in this place. 1840 GEO. ELIOT in Cross *Life* (1885) I. 77 O how luxuriously joyous to have the wind of heaven blow on one after being stived in a human atmosphere. 1865 J. PAYN *Married beneath him* III. 181 What your husband needs is an immediate change of air and scene. He has been stived up here in town too long.

3. *intr.* To 'stew', suffocate.

1806 J. BERESFORD *Miseries Hum. Life* V. I. 83 The holes of happiness in which you have been stiving for the last two or three months. 1876 GEO. ELIOT *Dan. Der.* liv, One can get rid of a few hours every day in that way, instead of stiving in a damnable hotel.

b. Of a fighting-cock (cf. STOVE *v.* and STIVE *sb.*[3]).

1704 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4063/4 The said Pens are now..built over the Pit, and very convenient to the Sparring and Stiving Rooms, much to the Advantage of the Feeders, and Cocks feeding, sparring and stiving.

Hence **Stived** *ppl. a.* (chiefly in comb. *stived-up*), deprived of fresh air; **Sti·ving** *vbl. sb.*, *attrib.* in *stiving-room* (sense 3 b); **Stiving** *ppl. a.*, suffocating.

1598 BRANDON *Octavia* II. B 7, What monstrous greefe, what horror, thus constrains My stiuing hart, his lodging to forsake. 1704 Stiving room [see 3 b]. 1847 L. HUNT *Men, Women & Bks.* (1876) 74 Sofa-bedsteads..in 'stived-up' little rooms. 1880 B. W. RICHARDSON in *Fraser's Mag.* Nov. 670 The stived-up children of the metropolis. 1894 N. BROOKS *Tales of Maine Coast* 59, I mounted to the fifth story of the rickety, stived building.

Stive, obs. f. STEEVE *a.* and *v.*[1], STIFF *a.*

Stiver (stəi·vəɹ), *sb.* Forms: 6 **stufer, stuver, styfer, stever,** 6–8 **styver,** 8 **stuyver,** 9 **stuiver,** 6– **stiver.** [a. Du. *stuiver*, (M)LG. *stüver*, whence mod.G. *stüber*, Da. *styver*, Sw. *styfver*. Of obscure origin: etymologists connect it with LG. *stūf* stumpy, cut short.]

1. A small coin (originally silver) of the Low Countries; in present use applied to the nickel piece of 5 cents of the Netherlands (one-twentieth of a florin or gulden, or about a penny English).

1502 in *Lett. & Papers Rich. III & Hen. VII* (Rolls) II. 111 The crowne..is valued at xxxv^li stufers and an di. and xij. grotes sterlinge maketh only xxx^li stufers. 1527 E. LEE in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* Ser. III. II. 94 Doble ducats, single ducats, .. stufers, and black monaye. 1535 JOYE *Apol. Tindale* 22 The printer came to me agen and offred me ij stuuers and an halfe. 1543 RECORDE *Gr. Artes* K iij b, A single stiuer is 1 d. ob. q. The double stiuer is 3 d. q. 1547 BOORDE *Introd. Knowl.* xi. (1870) 153 A gelder areris is worth .xxiii. steuers: .xxiii. steuers is worth .iii. s. 1585 HIGINS *Junius' Nomencl.* 309/2 Fortie stiuers of Dutch coyne, which maketh a Noble of our monie: or a summe much thereabouts. 1697 DAMPIER *Voy.* (1729) II. i. 162 Some of them keep Tea-houses, where for a Stiver, a Man has near a Pint of Tea. 1756 MRS. CALDERWOOD in *Coltness Collect.* (Maitl. Club) 133 A stiver is rather more than our penny. 1838 *Murray's Handbk. N. Germ.* 4 The towing horse is ridden by a lad..who receives a few cents at each stage; and is well paid with a stiver. 1839 W. CHAMBERS *Tour Holland* etc. 27/1 The [school] fee is one cent. a-day, or the fifth part of a stiver, which is less than an English farthing.

2. Used (like *penny*) as a type of a coin of small value, or of a small amount of money; *accas.* a small quantity of anything, a 'bit'. *Not a stiver* = nothing.

1622 FLETCHER *Beggars' Bush* I. ii, Set him free And you shall have your money to a Stiver. 1766 GOLDSM. *Vic. W.* xxxi, As for that lady's fortune, sir, you shall never touch a single stiver of it. 1822 BYRON *Werner* I. i. 409 He has not a stiver. 1842 BROWNING *Pied Piper* x, With him I proved no bargain-driver, With you, don't think I'll bate a stiver! 1872 CALVERLEY *Fly Leaves* 38, I come,..nor care a stiver; For trades are brisk and trades are slow, But mine goes on for ever. 1883 OLIVE SCHREINER *Afr. Farm* I. ix, That boy Waldo..has not done a stiver of work all day. 1909 *Blackw. Mag.* Nov. 672/1 They didn't care a stiver if my head was blown off.

3. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as †*stiver style*; †**stiver cramped** *a.*, short of money.

1649 J. JEPHSON in *Lovelace's Lucasta* To Author a 4 b, Though som thy prayse in rich stiles sing, I may In stiver stile write Love as well as they. 1785 GROSE *Dict. Vulgar T.*, *Stiver cramped*, needy, wanting money.

Hence **Sti·verless** *a.*, without a stiver; penniless.

1839 J. P. KENNEDY *Rob of Bowl* xvii. (1860) 208 You go abroad unattended, stiverless.

Stiver (stī·vəɹ), *v. dial.* [f. ME. *stive* STIFF *a.* + -ER 5.] *intr.* To stand stiff. Chiefly of the hair, etc.: to bristle, become rough, stand on end. Hence **Sti·vered** *ppl. a.*, **Sti·vering** *ppl. a.* Also **Sti·very** *a.*, bristly, rough.

1790 GROSE *Prov. Gloss.* (ed. 2), *Stivering* or *Stubwering up against*, standing stiff. West. 1832 *Blackw. Mag.* XXXI. 592 His tail he tuck'd into his pantaloons, With a Brutus, all stivering and hairy. *a* 1855 A. CROSSE *Memorials* (1857) 124, I saw that her hair was stivered; the cat was evidently ill. 1889 *Reports Provinc., Devon* (E. D. D.), The birds look big in winter with their feathers all stivered out.

†**Stivour.** *Obs.* [a. OF. **estiveor*, agent-n. f. *estiver* to play on the *estive*: see STIVE *sb.*[5]] A performer on a kind of bagpipe.

13.. *Guy Warw.* (1891) 306 Organisters & gode stiuours. 13.. *K. Alis*, 2566 (Laud MS.), Mery is þe blast of þe stiuour. *c* 1330 *Arth. & Merl.* 6558 Þer were trumpes & fibelers & stiuours & tabourers.

Stivy (stəi·vi), *a.* [f. STIVE *v.*[3] + -Y.] Stuffy.

1849 ALB. SMITH *Pottleton Legacy* xxvi. 280 Kind spinsters are always found..to shut themselves up in stivy rooms on hot Sunday summer afternoons. 1899 M. HEWLETT in *Blackw. Mag.* Feb. 339/1 The sun of her smile was like a clean breath in the stivy den.

Stiward, obs. form of STEWARD.

Stiwe, obs. form of STEW *v.*

Stiyng(e, var. forms of STYING.

‖**Stoa** (stō·ă). *Gr. Antiq.* Pl. **stoas, stoai.** [Gr. στοά.] A portico, roofed colonnade; *spec.* the great hall at Athens (adorned with frescoes of the battle of Marathon), in which Zeno lectured, and from which his disciples were called Stoics; by Milton called 'the painted Stoa' (transl. of Gr. ἡ στοὰ ἡ ποικίλη: see POECILE).

1603 HOLLAND tr. *Plutarch's Mor.* 279 Call to minde..the ..famous Philosophers, either in Lycæum or the Academie: go to the gallerie Stoa [etc.]. 1671 MILTON *P. R.* IV. 253 His who bred Great Alexander to subdue the world, Lyceum there, and painted Stoa next. 1775 R. CHANDLER *Trav. Asia Minor* xviii. 59 Large quadrangular stoas or porticoes. 1842 W. C. TAYLOR *Anc. Hist.* IX. § 3 (ed. 3) 230 At the east were erected two splendid stoai, or porticoes. 1898 *Edin. Rev.* Oct. 359 Temples and stoas were still standing.

Stoach (stōʊtʃ), *v. dial.* Also 8 **stolch,** 9 **stooch, sto(t)ch.** [Of obscure origin: cf. STODGE *sb.*] *trans.* To trample (wet ground) into holes. Also *absol.* or *intr.* Comb. **stoach-way** (see quot. 1853).

1733 W. ELLIS *Chiltern & Vale Farm.* 20 Neither the Turnep, nor artificial Grass will answer, by reason of the Cattles stolching. 1836 W. D. COOPER *Sussex Gloss.* 31 *Stoach*, to make an impression on wet land, as oxen do in winter. E. 1853 *Ibid.* (ed. 2) 79 *Stoache-way*, the Channel at low water, which lies between the pier-head and the deep water, running through low sand. So used at Rye Harbour. 1910 KIPLING *Rewards & Fairies* 282 The ground about was poached and stoached with sliding hoof-marks.

Hence **Stoa·chy** *a.*, dirty.

1836 W. D. COOPER *Sussex Gloss.* 31 A stoachy road.

Stoage, obs. form of STOWAGE.

Stoak, *v. Naut.* ? *Obs.* (See quots. *a* 1625, 1644.)

a 1625 *Nomenclator Navalis* (Harl. MS. 2301), When the water cannot come to the well then we say that the Shipp is stoaked. 1644 MANWAYRING *Seamans' Dict.* 102 When the limber-holes, have some ballast, or any thing else got into them, so that the water cannot passe, we say the limbers are Stoaked: also when any thing is gotten in, or about the bottom of the Pump, so that it cannot draw water, we say the Pump is Stoaked. (So 1658 in PHILLIPS; and in later Dicts.)

Stoak, Stoal(e, Stoan(e, Stoap(e, Stoare: see STOKE, STOLE, STOOL, STONE, STOUP, STORE.

Stoat (stōʊt), *sb.* Forms: 5 **s[t]ot, 5–6 stoote,**

5–9 **stote**, 9 **stoot**, 7– **stoat**. [Of obscure origin: there appears to be no ground for assuming connexion with STOT.] The European ermine, *Putorius erminеus* or *Mustela erminea*, esp. when in its brown summer coat.

c 1460 *Porkington MS.* 10 lf. 189 þis byne þe bestes of þe stynkyng fute. The folmard..þe ottur þe stote and þe polcatte. 1486 *Bk. St. Albans* f iv b, The Squyrell, the Whitrat, the S[t]ot, and the Pulcatte. 1552 HULOET, Stoote, beast or vermyne whyche kylleth rabettes, *ferunculus*. 1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 178/7 A stote, vermine, *furunculus*. 1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* 219 It is said..that if the head of a wolfe be hanged vp in a doue-cote, neither cat, Ferret, weasil, Stoate, or other noysome beast dare to enter therein. 1629 MIDDLETON *Tri. Love & Antig.* D 1, The names of those Beasts, bearing Furr,..Ermine, Foyne, Sables,..Minck, Stote, Miniuer, [etc.]. *a* 1722 LISLE *Husb.* (1757) 417 When they are penned up they are more secure from the stote. 1768 PENNANT *Brit. Zool.* I. 84 The weesel being usually mistaken for a small stoat. 1823 E. MOOR *Suffolk Words, Stoot*, a species of pole-cat or weazle. 1872 TENNYSON *Gareth & Lynette* 871 Lion and stoat have isled together, knave, In time of flood. 1894 LYDEKKER *Roy. Nat. Hist.* II. 64 The stoat or, as it is generally called when in winter dress, the ermine (*Mustela erminea*), is closely allied to the weasel. 1897 'OUIDA' *Massarenes* xxxix, You are as keen after gold as a stoat after poultry.

fig. 1854 WISEMAN *Fabiola* II. vi. 173 You came here as a famous plot-hunter, a sort of stoat, to pull conspirators out of their nests.

b. *Comb.*, as *stoat-hunting*; **stoat-weasel**, a stoat.

1836 MRS. SHERWOOD *Henry Milner* III. iii, To remember it was Sunday, and no day for stoat hunting. 1882 J. HARDY in *Proc. Berw. Nat. Club* IX. iii. 427 Stoat-weasels..still hold their ground.

Stoat (stōut), *v. Tailoring.* [Of obscure origin.] *trans.* To sew with a particular kind of invisible stitch, which passes only half-way through the cloth. Hence **Stoa·ted**, **Stoa·ting** *ppl. adjs.*; **Stoa·ting** *vbl. sb.*

1888 *1st Rep. Sel. Comm. Sweating Syst.* 1029 Tailors' Log. Stoated and double pricked edges 3*s. od.* 1888 *Daily News* 21 Sept. 4/7 Enduring fierce rebuke from 'the boss' for a shoulder awkwardly wadded, or a badly 'stoated' edge. 1901 HASLUCK *Tailoring* 21 There are three kinds of absolutely invisible stitches which are used to repair tears... These are stoating, fine-drawing, and rentering. *Ibid.*, The tear to be stoated must have firm edges; it is impossible to stoat ravelled edges such as most serges have.

Stoat, dial. form of STOUT *sb.*, horse-fly.

Stoater (stōu·tər). *Racing.* [Of obscure origin: ? identical with STOTER.] A heavy stake.

1860 *Sporting Mag.* Nov. 306 Owners back their horses for such 'stoaters,'..that [etc.]. 1861 *Ibid.* Dec. 448 We did not back her for 'a stoater,' or get 'on' for 'a monkey,' or 'a century,' or even wager that one 'pony' would win us another. 1862 *Baily's Mag.* Aug. 96 When it was known before starting the sum Lord Portsmouth stood on his filly, there was a perfect furore to back her, as a pony would be 'a perfect stoater' for him.

Stoave, obs. form of STOVE.

Stob (stɒb), *sb.*[1] Now only *Sc.* and *dial.* Also 7–9 **stobb**. [Partly a variant (sometimes merely graphic), partly a cognate, of STUB *sb.*[1], q. v. for the etymology. (It seems impossible accurately to separate the two words, as they appear always to have been to a great extent synonymous; the examples written with *o* are therefore placed here, even when it is not unlikely that they properly belong to STUB *sb.*[1]) Cf. STAB *sb.*[2]]

†1. A stump, portion remaining after mutilation.

c 1420 *Chron. Vilod.* 4326 Bot þe flesshe from þe stobbus of his lymus was clene a-way.

b. *fig.* (See quot.)

1825 BROCKETT *N. C. Gloss., Stob*,..metaphorically,..an ignorant, stupid fellow.

2. A stick, a twig broken off.

1321 *Charter in Verse* (late copy) With grene ant wilde, stob ant stokke. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* XI ii. 18 Bund with the syonys or the twyistis sle Of small rammell or stobis of aikin tre [L. *virgis et vimine querno*]. 1827 TENNANT *Papistry Storm'd* 170 Sae stanes, stobs, sticks, come peltin' aff Dean Annan.

3. A stake; a post; also a gibbet. † *Rogue stob*, a whipping-post.

1530 LYNDESAY *Test. Papyngo* 169 Boreas blew one blast,..Quhilk..blew hir..Doun to the ground,..Vpon ane stob scho lychtit, on hir breist; The blude ruschit out. 1552 — *Monarche* I. 1538 Quhalis and Monstouris of the seis Stickit on stobbis, amang the treis. 1550 *Abstr. Protocols Town Clerks Glasgow* (1894) I. 18 The twa biggit howssis nixt adjacent thairto upone the sammyn syide gangand to the lyne stobbis. 1626 in R. Welford *Hist. Newcastle* (1887) III. 276 For making clasps to the rogue stob, 1s. 2d. *a* 1670 SPALDING *Troub. Chas. I* (Bannatyne Club) I. 44 He was taken and headed, and his right hand sett upon ane stob. 1795 *Statist. Acc. Scot.* XV. 321 The different articles made from these woods are sold at the following prices on the spot: stobs at 4*s.* the hundred, four feet long; [etc.]. 1842 J. AITON *Dom. Econ.* (1857) 268 Almost every boy knows how to knock up a rabbit hutch...A few stobs, boards, and nails, is all that is required. 1860–62 *Trans. Tyneside Field Club* V. 90 (E.D.D.) In former times, a pilgrimage was sometimes made ..to Winter's Stob, or gibbet, for a piece of the wood to rub the tooth with in toothache. 1882 *Trans. Glasgow Archaeol. Soc.* II. ii. 129 Stobs had been inserted in the bank of the river. 1883 C. F. SMITH *Southernisms* in *Trans. Amer. Philol. Soc.* 53 *Stob*, 'a small post or stake or stump of a shrub,' commonly so used in many, if not all, parts of the South. 1893 T. N. PAGE *In ole Virginia* 140 A few hens loitering about..and a runty pig tied to a stob.

†b. (*To have* or *hold*) *stob and stake*: to hold property (in a place). *Obs.*

1489 *Extracts Burgh Rec. Edin.* (1869) I. 57 Hafand nother stob nor stake within this towne. 1529 *Extracts Rec. Convent. Burghs Scot.* (1870) I. 510 That tha cum and duell within the burgh and hald the stob and stack within the same. 1596 *Extracts Aberd. Reg.* (1848) II. 133 All burgessis of gild..sall dwell,..hauld stob and stack, fyre and flett, within the burghs quhair thay are frie.

†c. *Every stob*: the whole of a building. *Obs.*

1726 *Wodrow's Corr.* (1843) II. 137 His mother..has the mill in farming, where every stob was burnt.

†4. A short thick nail. *Obs.*

1496 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* I. 295 Item, for iij[c] stobbis to the vyralis of the cartis, vs. iiijd. 1532–3 *Durham House. Bk.* (Surtees) 160 Pro 100 stobbys, pro molendino de Hessylden, 4d.

5. A thorn; a prickle; a splinter.

1637 RUTHERFORD *Let. to Meine* (1664) 167 Lest a stob strike up in your foot, and cause you to halt all your dayes. 1851 W. ANDERSON *Rhymes* (1867) 26 (E.D.D.) Pickin stobs frae laddies' feet.

6. A thatch-peg.

1837 *Finchale Priory Charters* etc. (Surtees) p. cccl, The wooden pins or stobs used in fastening thatch to the roof of a building. 1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* III. 1097 There are still other modes of thatching stacks, such as sticking in handfuls of straw..and keeping them down with stobs of willow.

7. A saddlers' awl. Cf. *stab-awl*, STAB *sb.*[1] 4.

1872 *N. & Q.* Ser. IV. IX. 476 The 'brog,' a small boring instrument, is in Scotland sometimes called 'a borin stob.' 1881 *Times* 4 Jan. 11/4 The man..said Cruickshank, a saddler, had deliberately stabbed him with a 'stob' or awl.

8. *Coal-mining.* (See quot.)

1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-mining* 241 *Stobb*, a long steel wedge used in bringing down coal after it has been holed.

9. *attrib.* and *Comb.*: **stob-feather** (see quot.); **stob-mill**, a windmill pivoted upon a central post; **stob-nail**, = sense 4; **stob-net**, a fishing net supported on stakes; **stob-pin**, = sense 4; **stob-thatch**, roofing consisting of broom or brushwood laid across the rafters; also *attrib.*; hence *stob-thatched* adj.

1825 BROCKETT *N. C. Gloss.*, **Stob-feathers*, the short unfledged feathers that remain on a fowl after it has been plucked. 1882 *Archæol. Æliana* Ser. II. IX. 20 *Stob-mill of the antique mould. 1884 *Newcastle Daily Chron.* 28 Aug. 4 An old stob-mill..looks over the mural defences of Newcastle. 1728 *Extracts Burgh Rec. Glasgow* (1909) 308 A late method of fixing the iron bands to the trades of carts by square headed *stob nailis. 1806 MORISON *Decis.* XXXIII. 14283 Salmon fishing in the river Leven, by means of *stob-nets. 1571 *Wills & Inv. N. C.* (Surtees 1835) 362, iiij[m] *stob pynnes iiij[s]. *c* 1748 *Ballad* in D. Mitchell *Hist. Montrose* (1866) 76 The roofs were made o' auld *stob thack, The wa's o' plastered fir. 1888 D. GRANT *Scotch Stories* 29 The dwellin' hoose..[was] a canty stob-thack but-an'-ben. 1792 *Statist. Acc. Scot.* II. 534 A very few of them have been *stob-thatched, or covered with a deep coat of straw. 1871 W. ALEXANDER *Johnny Gibb* (1873) 197 His cosy 'stob-thacket' house.

†Stob, *a.*[2] *Obs.* [f. STOB *sb.*[1]] = STAB *sb.*[2]

1653 W. RAMESEY *Astrol. Restored* 258 Let the Roman emperor have a care of a stob.

†Stob, *a. Obs.* [f. STOB *sb.*[1]] Stumpy.

a 1500 *Anc. Scott. Proph.* i. 107 in *Bernard. de cura rei fam.* (E.E.T.S.), Þar sall A batell be, Be-syde a stob crose of stane þat standis on A mure.

Stob (stɒb), *v.*[1] *dial.* [Prob. f. STOB *sb.*[1] Cf. STAB *v.*] *trans.* To stab. Also *fig.*

1529 RASTELL *Pastyme* (1811) 132 Swanus..stobyd hym [Alphege] to deth at Greenwych. 1607 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* XIV. 482 [They] with thair drawin suordis..stobbit the beddis within the said hous for my bodilie harme. 1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* III. 91 My designe is, to stob him with a knife this night. 1643 BAKER *Chron., Edw. VI*, 74 A Commissioner..was suddenly by a Priest stobbed into the body with a knife. 1678 SIR J. LAUDER (Fountainhall) *Hist. Notices* (Bannatyne Club 1848) I. 186 They say Major Johnston undertook to stob him, if he had attempted ane escape. 1683 TRVON *Way to Health* 456 No Swearing, nor stobbing Heaven with dreadful Execrations. 1700 in *Spalding Club Miscell.* (1846) III. 186 M[c]Phersone came in to his house, and spilt his ale, and stobbed the bed, seeking the deponent.

Stob (stɒb), *v.*[2] *Sc.* and *north. dial.* Also 6 *Sc.* **stoib**. [f. STOB *sb.*[1]]

1. *trans.* (See quot. 1855.)

1550 *Abstr. Protocols Town Clerks Glasgow* (1894) I. 18 Twa howssis on the eist syide..as thai are now stobbit. 1605 *Ibid.* (1896) II. 116 Ane peice of waist grund..as the samin is alreddie stobbit and martchit. 1855 *Whitby Gloss., Stob*, to stick stobs, or small posts or quasi-posts, into the ground for the purpose of defining the limits, or the shape of any thing, as a Railway, a house, an enclosure.

2. To roof with stob-thatch.

1535 STEWART *Cron. Scot.* (Rolls) III. 227 Tynchis [he] gart mak..And stoibbit thame with ryce quhen that wes done. 1900 C. MURRAY *Hamewith* 30 And the thatch ance sae neatly stobbit Has lang been scant and bare.

Stob(b)all, stob-ball: see STOW-BALL.

†Sto·bber. *Sc. Obs.* In 7 **stober**. [f. STOB *v.*[2] + -ER[1].] ? One who roofs with 'stob-thatch'.

1650 in J. Davidson *Inverurie* (1878) 321 To Alex. Lassen, stober, 20 sh. [1878 ibid. 322 The deals and wands, and the stobber's account, indicate repairs including some thatching work.]

Stobe, obs. var. STUB *v.*

Stoberlie, -nesse: see STUBBORNLY, -NESS.

†Sto·bhert. *Obs. rare*[−1]. An alleged name for the hare.

a 1325 *Names of Hare* in *Rel. Ant.* I. 133.

Stobill, Stoble, Stobul(l, obs. ff. STUBBLE.

Stoburne, obs. form of STUBBORN.

†Sto·bwort. *Obs.* [? f. STOB *sb.*[1]] Wood-sorrel: = STAB-*wort*, STUBWORT.

1597 GERARDE *Herbal* Suppl., Stobwort is *Oxys.* 1665 LOVELL *Herbal* (ed. 2) 417 Stob-wort, see Wood sorrel.

Stocade, variant of STOCKADE.

Stocado: see STOCCADO, STOCKADO.

Stocah, Stocata: see STOKAGHE, STOCCADO.

Stocbred: see STOCKBRIDGE.

Stoccade, variant of STOCKADE and see next.

Stoccado (stɒkā·dō), *sb. Obs.* exc. *arch.* Forms: 6–7 **stockado, stoccado, stoc(c)ata**, (7 **stookado**), 6 **stoccato**, 7 **stocado, stoc(c)ada**, 9 *arch.* **stoccata, stoccado**, (**stocado**); 6–7 **stackado**, 7 **stacado**, 9 **staccato**; 8 **stoccade** (*anglicized, rare*). [Corruptly a. It. *stoccata*, f. *stocco* point of sword, dagger. Cf. the corresponding Sp., Pg. *estocada* (which may be the source of some forms), and Fr. *estocade* (from Sp.); and cf. -ADO 2.] A thrust or stab with a pointed weapon.

1582 HESTER *Secr. Phiorav.* II. xli. 123 [He] tooke hym by the coller and gaue him fiue stockadoes in the breast to haue slaine hym. 1595 SAVIOLO *Practise* I. 10 Let him [the scholar]..thrust his Rapier vnder his teachers, and giue him a thrust or stoccata in the belly. 1598 SHAKS. *Merry W.* II. i. 234. 1603 [see MANDRITTA]. 1657 LIGON *Barbadoes* 52, I have seen some of these Portugall Negres..play at Rapier and Dagger very skilfully, with their Stookados, their Imbrocados, and their Passes. 1698 FRYER *Acc. E. India & P.* 156 Whom when they meet they must give him the Way with a Cringe and Civil Salute, for fear of a *Stockado*. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. III. iii, We behold two men..flourishing and thrusting, stoccado and passado. 1860 WHYTE MELVILLE *Holmby House* XV, [temp. *c* 1650] Your staccatos and passados, and cursed Italian tricks of fence.

fig. and *in fig. context.* 1596 HARINGTON *Metam. Ajax* Prol. B 5 b, I..entred the lists with him & fighting after the old English maner without the stockados, (for to voine or strike below the girdle, we counted it base and too cowardly) after halfe a score downeright blowes, we grew to be friends. 1656 EARL MONM. tr. *Boccalini's Advts. fr. Parnass.* (1674) A 2 b, My Author..gives sometimes very home and sharp Stockadoes. 1716 M. DAVIES *Athen. Brit.* II. 403 Those injur'd Fathers..are doubtless the more sensible of such Mortal Stoccades, as coming from pretended filial Hands.

Hence **†Stocca·do** *v. trans.*, to stab with a pointed weapon.

1676 D'URFEY *Madam Fickle* v. ii, 'Twas well my Lord your Valor interpos'd betwixt me and the danger, by Heaven I had been stockado'd else.

Stoccado, -ata, var. ff. STOCKADO *Obs.*

Stoce, var. *stows*, STOW *sb.*[2] (*Mining*).

Stochastic (stɒkæ·stik), *a.* Now *rare* or *Obs.* [ad. Gr. στοχαστικός, f. στοχάζεσθαι to aim at a mark, guess, f. στόχος aim, guess.] Pertaining to conjecture.

1662 J. OWEN *Animadv. on Fiat Lux* Pref. 4 But yet there wanted not some beams of light to guide men in the exercise of their Stocastick [*sic*] faculty. 17.. J. WHITEFOOT in *Sir T. Browne's Whs.* (1712) I. p. xxxvii, Tho' he [Browne] were no Prophet,..yet in that Faculty which comes nearest it, he excelled, *i. e.* the Stochastick, wherein he was seldom mistaken, as to future Events. 1720 SWIFT *Right of Preced. betw. Physicians & Civilians* 11, I am Master of the Stochastick Art, and by Virtue of that, I divine, that those Greek Words..have crept from the Margin into the Text.

Hence **†Stocha·stical** *a.* in the same sense; **†Stocha·stically** *adv.*

a 1688 CUDWORTH *Freewill* (1838) 39 We..may and often do proceed to making a judgment in the case one way or other, stochastically or conjecturally. *Ibid.* 40 There is need and use of this stochastical judging and opining concerning truth and falsehood in human life.

Stochiometry, obs. form of STOICHEIOMETRY.

Stock (stɒk), *sb.*[1] Forms: 1 **stocc**, 1–4, 6 **stoc**, 2–7 **stoke**, 3–7 **stocke, stok(ke**, (5 ?**stolke**), 5–6 **stokk**, 7 *Sc.* **stouk**, 4– **stock**. *Pl.* 3 **stocken**, 4 **stockus, stokes, stokken, stokkus, stouks**, 4–5 **stokkes**, 4–6 **stockys, stokkes**, 4–7 **stockis, stok(k)is**, 5–6 **stokkys**, 6 **stokys**, 7 **stox**. [OE. *stoc*(*c* masc., corresp. to OFris. *stok* tree-trunk, stump, OS. *stok* (Gallée) stick, pole (MLG. *stok* stump), (M)Du. *stok*, OHG., MHG. *stoc* stick, tree-trunk (mod.G. *stock* stick), ON. *stokk-r* tree-trunk, block, log (MSw. *stokk-er*, Sw. *stock*, Da. *stok* stick):—OTeut. **stukko-z*. Cf. Du. *stuk*, G. *stück* (:—OTeut. **stukkjo-m* neut., piece) and OFris. *stok* stiff. The connexions outside Teut. are doubtful: see Kluge, Franck, and Falk & Torp.

The Teut. word is the source of OF., Pr. *estoc* trunk; stump (mod.F. *étoc*, altered to *étau* vice), It. *stocco* rapier (whence OF. *estoc*).]

I. Trunk or stem.

1. A tree-trunk deprived of its branches; the lower part of a tree-trunk left standing, a stump. *Obs.* or *arch.*

In this sense (also in b and c) often associated with *stone.*

862 *Charter* in *O.E. Texts* 438 Danne fram langan leage to ðam won stocce. 971 *Blickling Hom.* 189 He gefeol on þone stocc be þære stænenan stræte þe is háten Sacra uia. 11.. *Fragm. Ælfric's Gram.* (1838) 3 Ligna, drize wude, truncus, stoc, stirps. *c* 1250 *Owl & Night.* 25 Þo stod on old stok þar byside. *c* 1325 *Sir Orpheo* 332 Over stok, and over stone. *c* 1374 CHAUCER *Boeth.* v. met. i. (1868) 152 Þe stokkes araced wiþ þe flood [L. *vulsi flumine trunci*]. *c* 1480

HENRYSON *Orpheus* 179 For seke hir suth I sall, and nouthir stynt nor stand for stok no stone. 1509 BARCLAY *Ship of Fools* 269 b, Hange vp the scapler .. Vpon a tre clene dede, or rottyn stocke. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* I. ix. 34 All about old stockes and stubs of trees, Whereon nor fruit nor leafe was euer seene. 1613 [STANDISH] *New Direct. Planting* 6 Seldome good Timber groweth of old stockes. 1704 N. BLUNDELL *Diary* (1895) 22, I ploughed with a Culter..to find Stocks. 1706 DE FOE *Jure Divi* XI. 9 *note*, If the Parliament of England sets the Crown upon that Stock, (pointing to a Stump that stood by) I'll [etc.]. 1727 SWIFT *Poems Market-hill, Thorn* 33 The magpye, lighting on the stock, Stood chatt'ring. 1810 SCOTT *Lady of L.* I. vii, O'er stock and rock their race they take. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. iv. vii, Over cliffs, over stock and stone. 1868 CUSSANS *Heraldry* (1893) 104 The Stump of a Tree is sometimes called a Stock. 1877 STEVENSON *Will o' the Mill* i, Only he, it seemed, remained behind, like a stock upon the wayside.

†**b.** A log, block of wood; occas. wood as a material. *Obs.*

c 1000 ÆLFRIC *Saints' Lives* xxxi. 856 Þær lazon stoccas. *c* 1205 LAY. 626 Mid stocken & mid stanen stal fiht heo makeden. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Knt's. T.* 2076 Ne how the fyr was couched first with stree And thanne with drye stokkes clouen a thre. 1422 YONGE tr. *Secreta Secret.* 239 Suche a stomake is like a grete fyre that hath Powere to braunte grete shydis and stokkis. *c* 1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 780 Made of stane and noȝt of stok. *c* 1485 *Digby Myst.* I. 154 I am right wele a-paid, if I do not wele, ley my hed vpon a stokke. 1501 DOUGLAS *Pal. Hon.* II. xxvii, Doun on ane stock I set me sudianelie. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* (1637) 251 A stocke of wood hollowed [for a coffin]. 1792 G. CARTWRIGHT *Jrnl. Labrador* I. Gloss. p. xv, *Stock of Timber*, a piece of timber, intended to be sawed. 1806 PIKE *SourcesMississ.* (1810) 61 My men sawed stocks for the sleds.

c. As the type of what is lifeless, motionless, or void of sensation. Hence, a senseless or stupid person.

1303 R. BRUNNE *Handl. Synne* 940 Dowun he smote hys mattok, And fyl hym self ded as a stok. *c* 1330 *Arth. & Merl.* 3855 Arthour on hors sat stef so stok. *c* 1407 LYDG. *Reson & Sens.* 6411 As deffe as stok or ston. *c* 1440 *Alphabet of Tales* 356 Evur sho talkid vnto hym wurdis to provoce hym to luste of his bodie, and yit be no wyse myght sho induce hym þerto, ..he was a stokk, sho sayd, & no man. 1569 UNDERDOWNE *Heliodorus* IV. 59 Yee vnhappy people, howe longe will ye sitte still, dombe like stockes? 1594 SPENSER *Amoretti* xliii, That nether I may speake nor thinke at all, But like a stupid stock in silence die! 1640 SIR E. DERING *Carmelite* (1641) B ij, I am not so credulous to thinke every Stock a Stoicke. 1644 MILTON *Educ.* 3 I doubt not but ye shall have more adoe to drive our dullest and laziest youth, our stocks and stubbs from the infinite desire of such a happy nurture then we have now [etc.]. 1714 LADY M. W. MONTAGU *Let. to Mrs. Hewet* Nov. (1887) I. 35, I am glad she is not such a stock as I took her to be. 1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* II. (Globe) 344 The Fellow stood mute as a Stock a good while. 1775 SHERIDAN *Rivals* III. i, What a phlegmatic sot it is! Why, sirrah, you're an anchorite!—a vile, insensible stock. 1809 MALKIN *Gil Blas* IX. vi. (Rtldg.) 320, I..left him in the street like a stock, staring at my termagant loquacity. 1861 DICKENS *Gt. Expect.* XXXVIII, You stock and stone!..You cold, cold heart! 1888 BARRIE *When Man's Single* i, Joey Fargus was the stock's name. 1896 K. SNOWDEN *Web of Weaver* xviii. 207 'Ye are not fain to see me, then?' I stood like a stock, letting her think so.

d. Applied contemptuously to an idol or a sacred image. Chiefly in the phrase *stocks and stones* = 'gods of wood and stone'.

c 1000 ÆLFRIC *Deut.* xxviii. 36 Þe þeouiaþ fremdum godum, stoccum and stanum. *a* 1225 *St. Marher.* 1 Heðene mawmez of stockes, ant of stanes, werkes iwrahte. *c* 1374 CHAUCER *Troylus* III. 589 He swor hir, yis, by stokkes and by stones, And by the goddes that in hevene dwelle. 1390 GOWER *Conf. II.* 178 How myhte a mannes resoun sein That such a Stock mai helpe or grieve? *c* 1449 PECOCK *Repr.* II. ix. 198 Þei worschipiden ymagis of stoonys or of stockis. 1529 MORE *Dyalogue* I. Wks. 140/1 Of al our Ladies saith one, I loue best our Lady of Walsingam. And I saith yᵉ other our Lady of Ippiswitch. In whiche woordes what meneth she but her..affeccion to the stocke yᵗ standeth in the chapel of Walsingam or Ippiswiche. *a* 1591 H. SMITH *Sinful Mans Search* (1592) B 6, That ye be not seduced to offer your petitions to strange gods, as Saints, stockes or stones. 1611 BIBLE *Jer.* iii. 9, *Wisd.* xiv. 21. 1640 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Differing Worships* 4 Imploring aid ..From ragges and reliques, stones, and stocks of wood. 1655 MILTON *Sonn.* xiii. 4. 1825 SCOTT *Talism.* xxviii, Those whom we regard as idolaters, and worshippers of stocks and stones. 1874 SAYCE *Compar. Philol.* viii. 332 There was a worship of nature instead of stocks and stones.

†**e.** (*To lose*) *stock and block*: everything, one's whole possessions. *Obs.*

1675 BROOKS *Golden Key* Wks. 1867 V. 244 Adam, like the prodigal son, ..quickly lost stock and block, as some speak. 1725 N. BAILEY *Fam. Colloq. Erasm.* (1733) 236 Before I came Home, I lost all, Stock and Block. 1775 J. MURRAY *Lett.* (1901) 194 Jack Clark..offered to send Providence wagons to move us stock and block to a place of safety. 1809 MALKIN *Gil Blas* XII. vi. (Rtldg.) 431, I had taken it for granted that..the verb-grinders..to whom I had given the plant of this Genoese bastard would lose stock and block.

†**f.** *Stock and stovel* (Law): see quot. 1753. *Obs.*

?15.. *Charter* in *Blount's Law Dict.* (1691) s.v. *Stoc*, Præterea si homines de Stanhal dicti Abbatis inventi fuerint in bosco prædicti W. cum forisfacto ad Stoc & ad Stovel,.. malefactor pro delicto, qui taliter inventus est, reddet tres solidos. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl., *Stoc and Stovel*, in our old writers, a forfeiture where any one is taken carrying *stipites* and *pabulum* out of the woods.

2. The trunk or stem of a (living) tree, as distinguished from the root and branches.

†(*To sell wood*) *upon the stock*: standing.

1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 676 What es man in shap bot a tre Turned up þat es doun,..Þe stok nest þe rot growand Es þe heved with nek folowand. 1382 WYCLIF *Job* xiv. 9 His stoc at the smel of water shal burioune. *c* 1430 *Pilgr. Lyf Manhode* III. xxi. (1869) 146 Sumtime the wooderes solden here wode up on the stok. *c* 1449 PECOCK *Repr.* I. vi. 28 Tho bowis grewen out of stockis or tronchons, and the tronchons or schaftis grewen out of the roote. *a* 1500 in *Arnolde's Chron.* 168 Doo donge medlide with strawe aboute the stoke toward the roete of a good thiknes. ?*a* 1500 BOLLARDE in Turner *Dom. Archit.* (1851) I. 144 Take many rype walenottes, and water hem a while,..and ther shalbe grawe therof a grett stoke, that we calle masere. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 43 Of the whiche tree, fayth, hope, & charite, be compared to the stocke, to the barke, & to the sap. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* II. 84/2 The Stock [of a tree is] next to the root. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* II. 264 Strong Stocks of Vines it will in time produce. 1705 tr. *Bosman's Guinea* 291 The Stock of these Trees, if they deserve that name, grow to once and a half or twice Man's height. 1846 TENNYSON *Golden Year* 62 Like an oaken stock in winter woods. 1857 HENFREY *Elem. Bot.* § 57 The Stock or caudex is an undivided woody trunk.

fig. 1340 *Ayenb.* 19 Þe oþer boȝ þet comþ out of þe stocke of prede zuo is onworhnesse. 1447 BOKENAM *Seynlys, Anna* 110 Of this floure..This gracyous Anne was stoke & rote. 1513 BRADSHAW *St. Werburge* I. 3163 The tryed stock of truth and the grounde of grace Is pyteously decayed. 1531 TINDALE *Expos.* I *John* (1537) 54 As ther is no synne in Christ yᵉ stock, so can ther be none in the quycke membres that lyue & grow in him. *a* 1536 *Songs, Carols* etc. (E.E.T.S.) 6 The blessid stoke þat yt on grew, Yit was Mary, that bare Jhesu. 1647 COWLEY *Mistress, Tree* iii, What a few words from thy rich stock did take The Leaves and Beauties all? 1812 CARY *Dante, Parad.* IV. 126 Thence doth doubt Spring, like a shoot, around the stock of truth. 1884 tr. *Lotze's Metaphysic* I. iv. 89 The impossibility .. of attaching the manifold of change by a merely outward tie to the unchangeable stock of the Thing.

b. The hardened stalk or stem of a plant. (Jam.) Chiefly *Sc.*

1629 *Orkney Witch Trial* in *N. B. Advertiser* Oct. 1894, [He] baid his wyff geve yow thrie or four stokis of kaill. 1783 BURNS *Death Poor Mailie* 38 To slink thro' slaps, an' reave an' steal, At stacks o' pease, or stocks o' kail. 1913 J. G. FRAZER *Golden Bough* (ed. 3) *Balder* II. xi. 193 One ..gave him several severe blows with the stock of a plant.

c. *Bot.* = RHIZOME.

1832 MACGILLIVRAY tr. *A. Richard's Elem. Bot.* ii. 47 The Stock or Rhizoma. This name has been given to the subterranean and horizontal stems of perennial plants, entirely or in part concealed under ground. 1863 OLIVER *Bot.* (1873) 5 A portion of the stem, which is thickened and more or less buried underground,..is called the stock.

3. Figurative uses developed from sense 2.

a. The source of a line of descent; the progenitor of a family or race. In *Law*, the first purchaser of an estate of inheritance.

c 1393 CHAUCER *Gentilesse* 1 The firste stok, fader of gentilesse. *a* 1425 *Cursor M.* 9240 (Trin.) Þus was þe ton þe toþeres stok. *c* 1440 *Jacob's Well* 49 In ony of þise thre lynes afore-seyd, go to þe stok, þat is fadyr or modyr, & noumbre noȝt hem, but þe first persone, þat comyth of þat stok is þe first degre. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 210 Go to yᵉ stocke of our progeny, & consyder it well. 1583 MELBANCKE *Philotimus* D iij, If a man should desire an herauld to sift out her pettigree,..her stock would be found to be the maine sea, wereof she is nothing but the ouerture and ofscombe. 1594 T. B. *La Primaud. Fr. Acad.* II. 15 Hee that was the stocke of all mankinde. 1620 T. GRANGER *Div. Logike* 292 The common stocke in a Kindred, or Tribe, is the Father, and Mother from whence the whole progeny, or issue is deriued. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* XII. 7 Thus thou hast seen one World begin and end; And Man as from a second stock proceed. 1765 BLACKSTONE *Comm.* I. iii. 210 The title to the crown is..not quite so absolutely hereditary as formerly; and the common stock or ancestor, from whom the descent must be derived, is also different. Formerly the common stock was king Egbert; then William the conqueror. 1871 FREEMAN *Norm. Cong.* xviii. (1876) IV. 249 But one of Swegen's many sons might well become the stock of a new dynasty. 1886 F. W. MAITLAND in *Law Q. Rev.* Oct. 485 To constitute a new stock of descent a very real possession was necessary.

†**b.** The original from which something is derived. *Obs.*

a 1616 BEAUM. & FL. *Bonduca* v. iii, Brave soldier yeeld; thou stock of Arms and Honor, thou filler of the world with fame and glory. 1650 FULLER *Pisgah* III. vii. 391 In some resemblance of the seven Planets, amongst which the Sun, the stock of light, stands in the midst. 1756 BURKE *Subl. & B.* I. v. (1759) 57 The delight which arises from the modifications of pain confesses the stock from whence it sprung.

c. A line of descent; the descendants of a common ancestor, a family, kindred.

1382 WYCLIF 1 *Sam.* xvii. 55 Abner, of what stok descendide [Vulg. *de qua stirpe descendit*] this ȝong man? *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Knt.'s T.* 693 Of his lynage am I, and his of sprynge, By verray ligne, as of the stok roial. 1430-32 *Rolls of Parlt.* IV. 378/1 All the braunches of the Stok Riall. 1477 *Paston Lett.* III. 190, I..ame better content nowe, that he sholde have hyr, than any other,..consyderyd hyr persone, hyr yowthe, and the stok that she is comyn offe. 1547 *Bk. Marchaundes* e iiij b, A yong child comen of a good stocke and riche kinred. *c* 1586 C'TESS PEMBROKE *Ps.* LXXII. ix, Eternall Lord, whom Jacobs stock adore. 1662 STILLINGFL. *Orig. Sacræ* III. iv. § 1 They all were originally of the same stock. 1671 MILTON *Samson* 1079 Men call me Harapha, of stock renown'd. 1693 G. STEPNY in *Dryden's Juvenal* VIII. (1697) 214 From a mean Stock the Pious Decii came. *a* 1704 T. BROWN *On Beauties* Wks. 1730 I. 44 Unite two stocks to form the witty she, Dorinda's sense, and Flavia's repartee. 1827 HALLAM *Const. Hist.* xvii. (1876) III. 341 The national prejudices ran in favour of their ancient stock of kings. 1840 THACKERAY *Shabby-genteel Story* i, The Crabbs were of a very old English stock. 1857 G. A. LAWRENCE *Guy Liv.* xviii. 168 That girl comes of the wrong stock to give up anything she has fancied without a struggle. 1870 BRYANT *Iliad* II. I. 67 A warrior of the stock of Hercules was leader. 1879 HOWELLS *Lady of Aroostook* iii, An ancestral consumption, his sole heritage from the good New England stock of which he came. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 137 A lady of calm, well-balanced nervous system, well nourished and of healthy stock. 1900 J. HUTCHINSON in *Archives Surg.* XI. 210 Most local inflammations of the skin which are definitely blue, occur to those who are of gouty stock.

d. A race, ethnical kindred; also, a race or family (of animals or plants); a related group, 'family' (of languages). Also (cf. a, b), an ancestral type from which various races, species, etc. have diverged.

1549 COVERDALE *Erasm. Par. Rom.* Iv. 1 Of whom as father & beginner of theyr stocke, the whole nacion of Jewes are wont specially to crake & glory. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* (1637) 121 One of Nemethus his progenie, that is, of the Scythian stocke. 1613 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* (1614) 152 They haue Priests of the posteritie of Aaron which resteth in peace, who marrie not with any other but the men or women of their owne stocke. 1738 WESLEY *Psalms* LXXX. x, Thou didst the Heathen Stock expel. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* III. 61 Were there but one of these wild animals, the enquiry would soon be ended; and we might readily allow it for the parent stock. 1813 PRICHARD *Phys. Hist. Man* vii. § 6. 392 The interior of Malaya, where they have left remnants of their stock in the black savages of the mountains. 1815 ELPHINSTONE *Acc. Caubul* (1842) I. 405 The languages of the inhabitants were probably all derived from the ancient Persian stock. 1822 *Malte-Brun's Univ. Geog.* I. 570 The stock or family of the languages of Eastern Asia, or of the Monosyllabic languages, differs entirely from that of the Indo-Germanic languages. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* I. ii. 272 A population, sprung from the English stock, and animated by English feelings. 1859 DARWIN *Orig. Spec.* I. (1872) 13 In the case of strongly marked races of some other domesticated species, there is presumptive or even strong evidence, that all are descended from a single wild stock. 1862 HUXLEY *Lect. Working Men* 140 We know that all varieties of pigeons of every kind have arisen by a process of selective breeding from a common stock, the Rock Pigeon. 1868 GLADSTONE *Juv. Mundi* ii. (1870) 41 Even this is considerably older than the date of any family which we can connect with..the Hellenic stock. 1911 W. W. FOWLER *Relig. Exper. Romans* iv. 69 When a stock or tribe (*populus*) after migration took possession of a district.

†**e.** Pedigree, genealogy; a genealogical tree. *Obs.*

c 1550 CHEKE *Matt.* i. 1 (1843) 27 This is yᵉ book of Jesu Christes stock. 1552 LATIMER *Serm., Christmas Day* (1584) 273 Shee boasted not of her stocke to be of the linage of noble king Dauid. 1615 CHAPMAN *Odyss.* XI. 294 When, seuerally All told their stockes [Gr. *ἑκάστη δὲ γόνον ἐξαγόρευεν*]. 1657 WOOD *Life* (O.H.S.) I. 225 In the north window opposit to the former is the stock of Jesse.

f. Kind, sort. Now *dial.* (see quot. 1787).

c 1450 LYDG. & BURGH *Secrees* 2001 Good breed of whete, fflesh that wel savours, Of tarrage and stok, good and holsom wyne. 1614 JACKSON *Creed* III. 101 It would argue either Antichristian blindness not to see, or impudency of no meaner stocke, not to acknowledge that [etc.]. 1787 W. H. MARSHALL *E. Norfolk* (1795) II. 389 *Stock.* Species of a crop. *Mod.* (*Norfolk*) Where did you get that stock o' wheat from? Oh, I ha' had that stock for years.

g. Feudalism. *Native* (or *villein*) *of stock*, a mod. rendering of med.L. *nativus de stipite*, a serf by inheritance.

1828 tr. *Assession Roll* (Duchy of Cornwall) 11 *Edw. III* in Manning & Ryland *Rep. Cases K. B.* (1830) III. 162 Robert Ceron, a villein of stock, holds the Lord Duke, in villenage, in Tyngaran, 1 messuage, 5 acres of land English. *Ibid.* 193 John, son of Ralph (Ranulf) of Tremaba, a villein of stock [foot-note *Nativus de stipite*], who at the last assession was admitted to one messuage..is now granted.. To hold in form of stock [foot-note *in forma stipitis*].

h. Used for: Inherited constitution, 'breed'. *rare.*

1866 ALGER *Solit. Nat. & Man* IV. 243 His toughness of stock and copiousness of force enabled him to weather the storms of nearly a century.

4. A stem in which a graft is inserted.

c 1400 *Pylgr. Sowle* IV. ii. (Caxton 1483) 58 When that this graffe had taken kynde and moysture of this stock on whiche hit was ymped. *a* 1500 in *Arnolde's Chron.* (1811) 164 Take a graf of an apyll tree and graf it in a stoke of elme or aller and it shal bere redde aplys. 1577 GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* II. 73 b, When you haue thus set in your graffe in the stocke. 1664 EVELYN *Kal. Hort., Jan.* (1679) 8 Gather Cyons for Graffs before the buds sprout; and about the latter end, Graff them in the Stock, Pears, Cherries and Plums. 1725 *Bradley's Family Dict.* s.v. *Grafting*, The Stock for Slit-Grafting should be an Inch at least. 1858 CARPENTER *Veg. Phys.* § 311 He chooses a stock, or stem deprived of its own buds, and cuts off its top in a sloping direction, so as [etc.]. 1903 W. H. HUTTON *Infl. Christianity* v. 225 He..grafted apples upon the wild stocks.

fig. *c* 1480 HENRYSON *Poems* (S.T.S.) III. 140 Fals titlaris now growis vp full rank, nocht vmpit in the stok of cheretie. 1642 FULLER *Holy & Prof. St.* IV. iii. 250 He was contented to be the stock whereon Wolsey should be grafted. 1754 SHERLOCK *Discourses* I. vi. 197 When once they had grafted the Slips of Superstition upon the Stock of Nature. 1796 BURKE *Regic. Peace* I. 101 The wise Legislators..who aimed at..grafting the virtues on the stock of the natural affections.

†**5.** The 'trunk' of a human body. *Obs.*

Quot. 1590 is prob. a conscious transferred use of sense 1.

1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) III. 233 Þe stok of a man [L. *truncus homo*] fouȝt wiþ his teeþ as it were a wood beest. 1398 — *Barth. De P. R.* v. l. (1495) 168 The stocke of the body begynnyth at the necke and stretchyth to the buttockes. *c* 1440 *Jacob's Well* 32 Þanne he bad, þat þe stok of his [body] schulde be leyde in a carte. *c* 1550 RAYNALDE *Birth Mankynde* I. (1565) 43 b, In this first figure is set forth the tronke or stocke of a womans body. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* I. viii. 10 He smote off his left arme..; Large streames of bloud out of the truncked stock forth gushed.

†**6.** A post, stake. *Obs.*

c 1000 ÆLFRIC *Saints' Lives* xxvi. 260 Ða sæde se preost him Ic hæbbe of þam stocce þe his heafod on stod. *c* 1275

Lay. 16706 Samuel nam Agag þare king..and lette hime faste to one stocke [c 1205 stake] bynde. 1294 *Exch. Acc.* 5/2 Pro wyndase et wyndase stockez xvs. vid. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xix. (*Cristofore*) 568 Þane þe fellone tyrand king..behynd his bak his handis bath til a gert stok gert bynd [hym] rath. 1382 Wyclif *Josh.* x. 26 And Josue smoot, and slewȝ hem, and hongide vpon fyue stokkis [Vulg. *super quinque stipites*]. 1409–10 in Hudson & Tingey *Rec. Norwich* (1910) II. 56 [To William Morton, carpenter, for a] stok. 1548 Latimer *Ploughers* (Arb.) 23 He shall lye sycke at theyr doore betwene stocke and stocke. 1599 Peele *Sir Clyomon* xvi. 54 I'll beat thee like a stock. 1688 Holme *Armoury* III. 311/2 Whipping Post (or Whipping Stock)..To this Post is [*sic*] Offenders and Petty Rogues and Vagabonds made fast while they are Whipt.

7. The main upright part of anything; the vertical beam, stem (of a cross).

1382 Wyclif *Num.* viii. 4 The myddil stok [of the candlestick: Vulg. *medius stipes*]. *c* 1400 Maundev. (Roxb.) ii. 5 Þe stock [of the Cross] þat stude in þe erthe..was of cedre. 1463 in *Fabric Rolls York Minster* (Surtees) 134 Thomæ Spence de Pontesfracto pro j stoke pro le tryndiles, 20d. 1899 R. S. Hawker in Baring-Gould *Vicar of Morwenstow* vii. (1876) 198 It was ..a pentacle of stars, whereof two shone for the transome and three for the stock.

8. *pl.* An obsolete instrument of punishment, consisting of two planks set edgewise one over the other (usually framed between posts), the upper plank being capable of sliding up and down. The person to be punished was placed in a sitting posture with his ankles confined between the two planks, the edges of which were furnished with holes to receive them. Sometimes there was added similar contrivances for securing the wrists.

The synonymous med. L. *cippi*, F. *ceps*, suggest that this use of *stock* is an application of sense 6, the reference being to the two side-posts of the apparatus.

c 1325 *Gloss. W. de Bibbesw.* in Wright *Voc.* 163 E pur ço ke seygnur fet coingner Soun neif en ceps [*glossed* stockes] pur chastier. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 46 On payne of enprysonment & puttyng in stokkez. 1362 Langl. *P. Pl. A.* iv. 95 Bote Reson haue reuþe of him he resteþ in þe stokkes Also longe as I lyue. *c* 1380 *Sir Ferumb.* 1186 Bynd hem herde wyþ yre & steel, & pote hem in stokkes of trow. 1503 *Act* 19 *Hen. VII*, c. 6 § 4 It shalbe lawefull..to put theym into the Stokkis and theym so to kepe till the next Market day. 1533 J. Heywood *Pard. & Frere* 602 (Pollard) Wherfore by sayntt John, thou shalt not escape me, Tyll thou hast scouryd a pare of stokys. 1598 Shaks. *Merry W.* iv. v. 123 But that my admirable dexteritie of wit,..deliuer'd me, the knaue Constable had set me ith' Stocks, ith' common Stocks, for a Witch. 1620 *Reg. Mag. Sig. Scot.* 784/2 To hald and have stockis, joggis, prissounhousis, pit and gallous. 1620 Rowlands *Nt.-Raven* (1872) 3 Whores and Whoremongers trading for the Fox, And reeling Watch-men, carrying Rogues to Stox. 1632 in E. B. Jupp *Carpenters' Co.* (1887) 301 Theis workes..belong vnto the..Carpenters ..The makinge of..stocks cages and whipping postes. 1687 Otway *Soldier's Fortune* iv. i. 45 Constable, watch, stokes, stokes, stokes, murder—. 1769 Blackstone *Comm.* IV. xxix. 370 [Other punishments] Such as whipping, hard labour in the house of correction, the pillory, the stocks, and the ducking-stool. 1841 Hood *Tale of Trumpet* 701 Over the Green, and along by The George, Past the Stocks, and the Church, and the Forge. 1901 *Westm. Gaz.* 21 Dec. 10/1 Since my ordination (it was in 1870) I have seen a man in the stocks as a punishment for drunkenness. 1905 Ld. Coleridge *Story Devonshire House* ii. (1906) 22 In the churchyard may be seen the time-worn stocks.

const. as sing. 1573 *New Custom* II. iii. C iij, Euery stockes should be full, euery prison, and iayle. 1612 [see c]. 1853 Lytton *My Novel* III. ii, The stocks stood staring at him mournfully from its four great eyes. *Ibid.* III. xxiv, Now the stocks is rebuilt, the stocks must be supported.

† **b.** *sing. Obs. rare.*

1382 Wyclif *Job* xiii. 27 Thou hast putte in the stoc [Vulg. *in nervo*] my foot. *c* 1460 *Oseney Reg.* 86 Noþer to put þere men in preson or in-to bondys or in-to stocke for oony trespase or forfet.

c. in figurative context.

1387–8 T. Usk *Test. Love* I. iii. (Skeat) 144 Thus strayte, lady, hath sir Daunger laced me in stockes, I leve it be not your wil. *c* 1440 *Jacob's Well* 186 Whanne god settyth þe in stockys of sykenes, or in prisoun of deth-euyll. 1612 Beaum. & Fl. *Coxcomb* II. i, Was ever man but I in such a stockes? 1805 A. Knox *Rem.* (1834) I, 27 Their feet are, as it were, made fast, in the stocks of appetite and passion. 1848 L. Hunt *Jar of Honey* Pref. 23 Put thine own pride and cruelty in the stocks. 1878 *Masque of Poets* 153 The world would end, were Dulness not, to tame Wit's feathered heels in the stern stocks of fact.

d. *loosely* in *pl.* †(*a*) Fetters. *Obs.* (*b*) The pillory.

c 1430 Lydg. *Bochas* VIII. vi. (1554) 180 b/1 This hardy princesse [Zenobia]..with stockes of gold [L. *aureis compedibus*] was brought to the cite. *c* 1825 Choyce *Log of Jack Tar* (1891) 26 They put his neck in the stocks and kept him there until he was sober. 1860 Whittier *Quaker Alumni* 102 The priestcraft that glutted the shears, And festooned the stocks with our grandfathers' ears.

e. *transf.* (*a*) *The shoemaker's stocks* (jocularly): Tight boots. (*b*) Applied to certain callisthenic contrivances formerly used in girls' schools.

1666 Pepys *Diary* 22 Apr., Being in the shoemaker's stockes I was heartily weary. *a* 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew, Shoe-makers-stocks*, pinch't with strait Shoes. 1831 Mrs. J. Sandford *Woman* xii. (1834) 182 The modern school-room ..might pass in succeeding centuries for a refined inquisition. There would be found stocks for the fingers, and pulleys for the neck, [etc.]. 1823 Grace Kennedy *Anna Ross* (ed. 6) 46 Her poor little feet were placed in stocks, because her Mamma said she turned her toes in when she walked. 1880 J. F. South *Househ. Surg.* (ed. 4) 331, I do not know whether that miserable invention, the stocks, is still in existence.

9. [*? transf.* from 8.] A frame in which a horse is confined for shoeing. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2391.

II. A supporting structure.

† **10.** The block or table on which a butcher or a fishmonger cuts his goods. *Sc. Obs.*

1488 *Extracts Burgh Rec. Edin.* (1869) I. 56 Baith in slaing and breking as a craftisman honestlie at his stok. 1508 *Ibid.* 114 It is ordanit that..the sellares and brekkaris of the greit fische haif thair stoks and grayth thairdone for that intent. *Ibid.*, At [= that] all thair [*sc.* the fleshers] stokis be of ane tenth. 1577 *Extracts Burgh Rec. Glasgow* (1876) I. 64 It sall nocht be lesum to na freman to hawe flesche stokis ma nor ane in the land marcat.

† **b.** *The Stocks, the Stocks Market*: the name of a market for meat, fish, etc. in the City of London, on or near the site of the Mansion House.

Stow *Survey* (1598) 178 alleges that the market was so called because it was built on the site where 'had stocode a payre of stoekes, for punishment of offendors'; but this is probably a mere guess.

a 1350 *Chron. Edw. I & Edw. II, Ann. Lond.* (Rolls, 1882) I. 90 [In 1282 Henry le Waleis built] domos..apud Wolchirchehawe, quae vocantur Hales, Anglice Stockes. *c* 1483 *Chron. Lond.* (1827) 137 This yere [1450] the stokkes was dividid bitwene fisshmongers and bochers. 1564 *Two London Chron.* (1910) 38 And at ye Stokes was a great pagaunte made at ye cities cost. 1587 Fleming *Holinshed's Chron.* III. 1348/2 West towards the Stocks market. 1721 Amherst *Terræ Fil.* No. 36. 192 A fruiterer's apprentice at Stocks-market. 1769 *De Foe's Tour Gt. Brit.* (ed. 7) II. 110 The Mansion-house, built in the Place where Stocks-market used to be kept.

† **c.** (See quot.) *Obs.*

Scott's explanation is perh. erroneous; his source may have used *black stock* in sense 14.

1831 Scott *Castle Dang.* i, When was it that I hungered or thirsted, and the black stock of Berkley did not relieve my wants? [*footnote*, The table dormant, which stood in a baron's hall, was often so designated.]

11. A gun-carriage. Cf. Gun-stock.

1496 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* I. 289 Giffin for bering of a ryvin gunstok fra the Kingis Werk to Johne Lammys smythy to bynd it, xiiij d. 1497 *Naval Acc. Hen. VII* (1896) 246 Elmyn tres..for..makyng of Gonne stokkes for Gonnes belongyng to the seid Ship. 1578 *Invent. R. Wardr.* (1815) 248 Ane double cannon of fonte..montit upoun ane new stok. 1580 Hollyband *Treas. Fr. Tong, Affuster*, as Affuster l'artillerie, to sette the artillerie in the stocke or frame. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* II. vii. 213 The Carpenters were ordered to fix eight stocks in the main and fore-tops, which were properly fitted for the mounting of swivel guns.

12. The outer rail of a bedstead; the side of a bed away from the wall; *pl.* a bedstead. *Obs.* exc. *Sc.* (local). Cf. Bedstock. [So ON. *stokkr.*]

1525 tr. *Brunswyke's Handywork Surg.* lxxi. P ij b, And he must be bounde to .iii. or .iiii. places of ye bedstede and ye hole foote must be bounde to the stock that ye pacyent may not drawe it vp to hym. 1544 *Test. Ebor.* VI. 213 The bede and the stokes that I lie in. 1562 *Richmond Wills* (Surtees) 156 Stocks of a bedde and bleckfatts, iiij^s^. 1629 Z. Boyd *Last Battell* 71 (Jam.) Hezekiah turned his backe to the stocke, and his face to the wall. 1775 Goldsm. *Scarron's Com. Rom.* I. 35 It will be proper to observe that the bed was so placed as to be close to the wall; Rancour went into it first, and the merchant going after him lay at the stock which was considered as the place of honour. 1796 W. H. Marshall *Yorksh.* (ed. 2) II. 347 *Stock*; the outer rail of a bedstead; or the front side of a bed, which is placed against a wall.

13. *pl.* The framework on which a ship or boat is supported while in process of construction.

1422 *Foreign Acc.* 61, m. 43 (Publ. Rec. Office) Ad extra-hend' et deducend' dictam navem extra idem wose supra-stokkes in quâdam fossurâ vocatâ le dook..apud Deptford'. 1425 *Ibid.* 59, m. 22 d, Propter debilitatem et confracciones ejusdem posita fuit in quodam dok supra stokes ibidem de novo construend'. 1615 E. S. *Britains Buss* in Arber *Eng. Garner* III. 624 At length, I was informed..that one Roger Godsdue, Esquire,..had on the stocks at Yarmouth, five Busses. 1627 Capt. Smith *Sea Gram.* i. 1 The stockes are certaine framed posts, much of the same nature upon the shore, to build a Pinnace, a Catch, a Frigot, or Boat, &c. 1638 Heywood *Royal Ship* 13 Had not the famous Archimedes devised new Engines to rowle her [the vessel] out of the stocks into the water. 1670 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4039/4 There is now upon the stocks an extraordinary large ship of 2500 Tuns. 1704 J. Harris *Lex. Techn.* I, *Stocks*; so the Ship-Carpenters call a Frame of Timber, and great Posts made a-shore to build Pinnaces, Ketches, Boats, [etc.]..Hence we say, a Ship is on the Stocks, when she is a Building. 1755 *New-York Mercury* 14 July 3/1 One of the Gallies [is] planked and compleatly rigged on the Stocks. 1769 Falconer *Dict. Marine* (1780). 1790 Beatson *Nav. & Milit. Mem.* II. 34 Having ..set upon the stocks two ships. 1810 Wellington in Gurw. *Disp.* (1836) VI. 568 Having completed the boats which were on the stocks. 1875 *Comte de Paris' Hist. Civ. War Amer.* I. 448 They..only succeeded in destroying one of the stocks for ship-building.

b. *fig.*, esp. in phrase *on the stocks*, said e.g. of a literary work planned and commenced.

1669 C. F. *Pluto Furens* Ep. Ded., Until my other Play be finished, which is now on the Stocks. 1693 Dryden *Love Triumph.* IV. i, Farewel; you know I have other business upon the Stocks. 1765 Foote *Commissary* II. (1782) 45, I made these rhimes into a duet for a comic opera I have on the stocks. 1783 *Virginia Hist. Mag.* V. 390, I'm desirous to provide in the best manner I possibly can for my wife, a son, two daughters, and a child which I expect is in the stocks. 1828 P. Cunningham *N. S. Wales* (ed. 3) II. 282 A worthy elder, shocked at the scandal of such a numerous illegal progeny being all 'on the stocks' at once, waited on his pastor to condole upon the subject. 1836 J. H. Newman *Lett.* (1891) II. 163, I have had a long letter on the stocks for you for the last fortnight. 1868 E. FitzGerald *Lett.* I. 315 We shouldn't go off the stocks easy (pardon nautical metaphors). 1898 *Athenæum* 4 June 724/1 The 'Encyclopædia Britannica', the ninth edition of which was on the point of being put on the stocks.

14. *dial.* A ledge at the back or the side of a fireplace, on which a kettle or pot can be placed when removed from the fire: = Hob *sb.*[2] 1.

1592 Warner *Alb. Eng.* IX. xlvii. (1612) 218 Cowring ore two sticks a crosse, burnt at a smoakie stocke. *a* 1613 Overbury *Wife, News* (1616) Q 6, That a Wise-rich-man is like the backe or stocke of the Chimney, and his wealth the fire, it receiues not for its owne need, but to reflect the heat to others good. 1823 E. Moor *Suffolk Words, Stock*, the plate, or place, at the back of the fire, or immediately above it. 1854 Miss Baker *Northampt. Gloss., Stock*; the horizontal space at the side of a grate. *Mod.* (*Northants.*) I put the tea-kettle on one of the stocks and the saucepan on the other.

15. *Brick-making.* a. = *stock-board* (see 65).

1683 J. Houghton *Collect. Lett. Improv. Husb.* II. vi. 188 In the middle we fasten with Nails a piece of board, which we call a Stock; this Stock is about half an Inch thick, and just big enough for the Mould to slip down upon. *Ibid.*, Then rubbing the Stock and inside of the Mould with Sand, with the Earth he forms a Brick. 1703 [see *stock-brick* in 65]. 1753 Chambers *Cycl.* Suppl. s. v. *Brick*, Stock-bricks ..are made on a stock, that is, the mould is put on a stock, after the manner of moulding or striking of tiles.

b. Short for *stock-brick* (see 65).

c 1738 in E. B. Jupp *Carpenters' Co.* (1887) 567 The Brick-work for £5. 10 per Rod and to do the same with Stocks. 1833 Loudon *Encycl. Archit.* § 79 To pave the back kitchen ..with common stocks, bedded in sand. 1837 *Civil Engin. & Arch. Jrnl.* I. 34/1 Brickwork, consisting of sound, hard, and well-burned square stocks. 1858 Simmonds *Dict. Trade, Stocks*,..the red and grey bricks which are used for the exterior of walls and fronts of buildings. 1892 *Daily News* 16 Dec. 2/2 Decorated with red 'Newbiggin' stone and picked London stocks. 1905 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 29 May 8/2 Brick; of the kind known as dark purple stock.

16. The support of the block in which the anvil is fixed, or of the anvil itself.

1295 Stithistokke [see Stithy *sb.* 5]. 1790 Cowper *Odyss.* VIII. 336 To the stock he heaved His anvil huge. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2389 That to which others are attached, or in which they are inserted, as,..The anvil to its stock or pillar.

17. A stand or frame supporting a spinning-wheel or a churn.

1688 Holme *Armoury* III. 286/2 The large Spinning Wheele..consists in these parts. The Stock standing on four Feet. The Standard [etc.]. 1858 Arnot *Laws fr. Heaven* Ser. II. xlix. 400 She kept a Bible lying open on the 'stock' of the wheel.

† **18.** A roller for a map. *Obs.*

1737 in *10th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. I. 479 The Maps are very large, there was no possible way of sending them by Post..than by rolling them upon a Stock.

† **19.** A perch for a bird. *Obs.* [So Du. *stok.*]

1575 Turberv. *Bk. Falconrie* 79 When you haue showed hir the perche or stocke, and tyed hir vpon it, put with hir vpon the sayde pearche or stocke some Pullet.

III. A box, hollow receptacle. Cf. Trunk *sb.* 2.

† **20.** An alms-box. [So G. (*almosen*) *stock*, Du. (*offer*) *stok.* Cf. F. *tronc.*] *Obs.*

c 1400 Love *Bonavent. Mirr.* (1907) 188 A coffre hauynge a hole abouen in manere of stokkes that ben now vsed in chirches. 1419 *Mem. Ripon* (Surtees) III. 146 Et in sal. unius hominis facientis j stok propter oblac. in le Crudys, 3*d.* ex convencione. 1504 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* II. 266 Item, to the Kingis offerand in the stock at Sanct Duthois towm, xiiij s. 1527 *Churchw. Acc. St. Giles, Reading* 30 Of Willm A Dene for the stokk of the masse xl^s^.

† **21.** A trough; a basin; a stoup, esp. one used for holy water. (See *holy-water stock*, Holy water 2.) *Obs.*

c 1450 *Maitl. Club Misc.* III. 203 Ane crem stok of siluer with ane closour of siluer. 1486 *Bk. St. Albans* b viij b, It behouyth that yowre hawke haue a fedyng stokke in hir mewe. 1500 *Will of Odingsellis* (Somerset Ho.), Holy Water stoke. 1554 in Fuller *Hist. Waltham Abbey* (1655) 17 A Stock of brass for the Holy-water. 1591 G. Fletcher *Russe Commw.* (Hakl. Soc.) 135 They doe not onely hallow their holie water stockes and tubbes ful of water, but all the rivers of the countrey once every yeere.

b. (See quot. 1877.)

1872 *Shipley's Gloss. Eccl. Terms* 334 *Oil Box.* .. Also called Oil Stock. 1877 F. G. Lee *Gloss. Liturg. & Eccl. Terms* 384 *Stock*... A vessel containing oils blessed for use in the Christian sacraments is so called in ordinary parlance.

22. (More fully *fulling-stock*, Fulling *vbl. sb.*) In a fulling-mill: Originally, the wooden trough or box in which the cloth is placed to be beaten by the 'faller' or mallet; hence, this receptacle together with the 'faller'. In modern use, *stock* is often taken to denote the 'faller' or mallet itself.

1377 Langl. *P. Pl.* B. xv. 445 Cloth..is nouȝt comly to were, Tyl it is fulled vnder fote or in fullyng stokkes. 1506–7 *Durham Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 252 Pro factura de lez stoke 13*s.* 4*d.* 1674 Petty *Discourse Roy. Soc.* 64 The same is true of water gushing out upon the floats of under-shot Mills: as may be seen in the Stampers of Paper-Mills, the Stocks of Fulling-Mills [etc.]. 1677 Yarranton *Eng. Improv.* 109 Our Fulling-Mills that we now have, our Fallers are taken up a great height, and so fall down into the Stock upon the Cloth. *Ibid.*, The Mills that go by Wind, the Fallers, or Feet, fall down perpendicular into the Stock, through a square hole, where the Cloth is, and so attracts no Wind, nor can any Air get into the Stock or Chest where the Cloth is. 1844 G. Dodd *Textile Manuf.* iii. 103 The 'fulling-stocks'..are hollow receptacles in which an enormous oaken hammer or stock vibrates up and down, each stock being kept in motion by machinery connected with a steam-engine. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* IV. 342 By steeping the cloth in alkaline liquor, and beating it in the fulling stocks.

23. *Tanning.* (See quot. 1885.)

1882 Paton in *Encycl. Brit.* XIV. 383/2 The softening of

these materials is helped and rendered thorough by working them for some time in the stocks after they have been well soaked. **1885** H. R. Procter *Tanning* 136 The 'stocks,'.. consist of a wooden or metallic box, of peculiar shape, wherein work 2 very heavy hammers, raised alternately by pins in a wheel, and let fall upon the hides, which they force up against the side of the box with a sort of kneading action.

IV. The more massive portion of an instrument or weapon; usually, the body or handle, to which the working part is attached.

24. The heavy cross-bar (originally wooden) of an anchor.

1346 *Exch. Acc.* 25/7 Pro ij hankerstokkes duorum ancor' ejusdem navis. **1407** *MS. Acc. Exch. K. R.* 44/11 (1) m. 3 In duobus ancrestokes inde faciendis. **1485** *Cely Papers* (Camden) 185 Item pd by me for iij hanker stokes..xv d. **1497** *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* I. 379 Item, for thre geestis to be stokkis to ankyrris, and other grath to the schippis, —s. **1515** E. S. *Britain's Buss* in Arber *Eng. Garner* III. 628 And so the four anchors, and their four stocks will come to £18 0 0. **1688** Holme *Armoury* III. xv. (Roxb.) 29/1 The Anchor stock, is the peece of tymber fitly wrought and fastned at the nutts, below the eye, crossing the flookes. **1748** *Anson's Voy.* III. vi. 345 To fix two..anchors into one stock. **1825** H. B. Gascoigne *Path Nav. Fame* 50 The circling Capstan merrily runs round, Until the Stock a proper height is found. **1839** Ure *Dict. Arts* 45 The stock of the anchor is made of oak. ? **1867** Smyth *Sailor's Word-bk.* 657.

b. Naut. phrase, *stock and fluke*.

1825 Cobbett *Rur. Rides* 9 Nov. (1885) II. 5 The new owner of the estate..bought it 'stock and fluke' as the sailors call it; that is to say, that he bought movables and the whole. **1867** Smyth *Sailor's Word-bk.*, *Stock and Fluke*, the whole of anything.

25. The block of wood from which a bell is hung.

1474–5 in Swayne *Churchw. Acc. Sarum* (1896) 20 It' in tymber for the stokke and uphongyng of the same [bell] xxij d. **1526–7** *Rec. St. Mary at Hill* (1905) 340 For mendyng of the Stokke of the Saunctus bell iiij d. **1706** in J. Watson *Jedburgh Abbey* (1894) 91 [To see if the bells] be sound in their hanging upon the stocks. **1871** Wigram *Change Ringing Disentangled* 2 He will see that it [the bell] is fastened to the under-side of a block of wood, called the 'stock'. **1906** Raven *Bells* 291 The bells are rung from the stock, without wheel or rope.

26. The 'hub' of a wheel.

1585 Higins *Junius' Nomencl.* 268/1 *Modiolus rotæ*,..the stocke or naue wherein the spokes be fastened. **1876** Voyle & Stevenson *Milit. Dict.* 409/2 *Stock*, the nave of a wooden wheel. **1879** *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* IV. 206/1 The stock or hub..should be in growth as near as possible the size required.

† **27.** = Saddle-tree. *Obs.*

1497 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* I. 372 Item, agane Yule, to turs our the Month, for ane stok of ane sadil. **1553** *Ibid.* X. 175 Item,..for making of the stok and sadill heirto.

28. The wooden portion of a musket or fowling-piece; the handle of a pistol.

1541 *Act* 33 *Hen. VIII*, c. 6 § 2 Any handgune..shalbe in the stock and gonne of the lenghe of one hole Yarde. **1591** Garrard *Art of Warre* 10 Raising up the crooked end of the stocke to his breast. **1641** J. Langton in *Llsmore Papers* Ser. II. (1888) V. 8 Our men..knocked some of them in the heade with the stocks of theire peeces. **1664** Evelyn *Sylva* viii. § 4. (1679) 50 Walnut..is of singular account..with the Gunsmith for Stocks. **1719** De Foe *Crusoe* I. (Globe) 261 The Captain..knock'd him down with the Stock of his Musket. **1741** *Compl. Family-Piece* II. i. 320 As for Stocks, Walnut-Tree or Ash are very good for Use. **1830** *Hobart Town Almanack* 115 My trusty Manton, which falling under his right side,..was broken in the handsome stock. **1860** *All Yr. Round* No. 72. 500 The stock is divided into the nose-cap, the upper, middle, and lower bands, the swell [etc.]. **1879** *Martini-Henry Rifle Exerc.* 42 Grasping the stock with the left hand.

b. Phrase, *stock, lock, and barrel* (also *lock, stock, and barrel*: see Lock *sb.*2 5): the whole of a thing; also *advb.*, every whit, entirely.

1830 Galt *Laurie T.* II. viii. (1849) 66 Even the capital likewise—stock, lock, and barrel, all went. **1868** E. Yates *Rocks Ahead* III. iii, 'Cut the whole concern, stock, lock and barrel', said his lordship. **1905** *Times* 7 July 10/3 [Sir George White said:] He was not a Scotsman; he was..lock, stock, and barrel an Irishman.

29. The handle (of a whip, fishing-rod, etc.).

1695 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 3044/4 All sorts of Whips, the Stocks of the best Greenland Whalebone. **1787** T. Best *Angling* (ed. 2) 9 The best manner of making..Rods. The best time to provide stocks is in the winter solstice. **1882** Stevenson *New Arab. Nts.* (1922) 321 The stock of a lance even rattled along the outer surface of the door.

30. The attachment of a seal.

1712 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4815/4 Two Seals with Gold Stocks.

31. The part of a plough to which the share is attached.

1578 *Knaresb. Wills* (Surtees) I. 133 One new stocke and two plow cloutes, (etc.). **1733** W. Ellis *Chiltern & Vale Farm.* 318 Three Holes in the upper part of the Stock.

32. (More explicitly *bit-stock*.) A carpenter's boring tool: = Brace *sb.*2 6.

1794 *Rigging & Seamanship* I. 152 *Stock*. A wooden instrument to bore holes with, by fixing a bit in the lower end, and a pin with a round head in the other end. **1812** P. Nicholson *Mech. Exerc.* 126 Stock and Bits. **1858** Simmonds *Dict. Trade*, *Stock and bit*, an instrument for boring wood, used by carpenters; a centre-bit.

33. An adjustable wrench for holding screw-cutting dies.

1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib., Brit.* II. No. 6139, Wrought-iron welded tubes; stocks, taps, and dies. **1902** P. Marshall *Metal Working Tools* 61 The die which cuts the thread is made in two halves, and is placed in a 'stock,' or holder, fitted with an adjusting screw...A set of stocks and dies consists of one stock with a series of interchangeable dies to cut threads of different sizes.

34. The shorter and thicker of the two pieces composing a T-square or an L-square.

1815 J. Smith *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 699 A thin flat ruler called the blade, let perpendicularly into the middle of another piece called the stock...The blade being laid on the paper, and the stock brought up close to the edge of the board, it is very readily used in ruling. **1857** W. Binns *Elem. Orthogr. Projection* i. (1862) 6 Place the stock of the T square against the left hand side of the drawing-board. **1902** P. Marshall *Metal Working Tools* 15 This of course can only be the case when the blade and the stock have their respective inner and outer surfaces perfectly parallel.

35. In a plane, the block in which the plane-iron is fitted. † Also, the block carrying the axe of a 'maiden' or beheading instrument.

1639 in J. J. Cartwright *Chapters Hist. Yorks.* (1872) 339 They let runne the stock wth ye hatchet in. **1815** J. Smith *Panorama Sci. & Art* I. 107 The block of wood in which the blade or Chisel of a plane is fixed, is called the stock.

36. The head of a brush (in which the bristles are inserted). Also, the wooden head of a wool-card.

1835 Ure *Philos. Manuf.* 145 [The two rows of teeth] are fixed into a wooden stock or head *c*, which..has a handle *d* fixed into it. **1837** Whittock *Bk. Trades* (1842) 84 (Brush-maker), The wood, or 'stock', thus shaped has afterwards a number of small holes drilled through it at regular distances.

37. The wooden case of a lock.

1833 Loudon *Encycl. Archit.* § 84 And..eight-inch fine plate stock locks (locks with a wooden back, or stock).

38. *Flax-dressing.* One of the beaters in a scutching-mill. (Cf. 22).

1776 Young *Tour Irel.* (1780) I. 313 Two beetling cylinders, ..a pair of stocks, a washing wheel. **1860** *Ure's Dict. Arts* II. 234 Short arms, to which are nailed the stocks, which are parallelogram shaped blades of hard wood, with the edges partially sharpened.

V. Concrete senses of uncertain or mixed origin.

† **39.** A mouse-trap. [Cf. Mouse-*stock* and Norw. *stok* trap (for birds).] *Obs.*

c **1175** *Lamb. Hom.* 53 Þurh þe sweote smel of þe chese, he bicherreð monie mus to þe stoke.

40. A stocking. Now only *dial.* See Nether-stock, Upper stock.

The *upper stock* was the upper and wider part, and the *nether stock* the lower part, of the hose. Without the defining word, *stock* denoted the Netherstock or stocking.

1456–7 in *Fabric Rolls York Minster* (Surtees) 208 Meam subtuniculam de harden cloth, cum stokkes de correo. **1530** *Privy Purse Exp. Hen. VIII* (1827) 94 Euery one of them ij payer of hosen and ij payer of stockis. **1546** *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* IX. 27 Tua elnis fyne purpure welwote to be ane pair of stokes of hois to the said James..viij li. **1564** *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* I. 308 Ane pair of almany stokkis of blak sating, drawin out with taffeteis. **1577–87** Hooker *Chron. Irel.* 89/2 in *Holinshed*, He hit vpon the letter, bare it awaie in the heele of his stocke. *a* **1592** Greene *Vision* Wks. (Grosart) XII. 209 His legs were small, Hosd within a stock of red. **1596** Shaks. *Tam. Shr.* III. ii. 67 With a linnen stock on one leg, and a kersey boot-hose on the other. **1612** Drayton *Poly-olb.* XVI. 350 Before the costly Coach, and silken stock came in. **1876** *Mid-Yorksh. Gloss.* 137 Now then, I am ready for going—stock, shoes, and gaiter.

41. A swarm of bees.

[Cf. Du. *stok*, G. *stock*, a hive; but connexion is doubtful on account of the difference in sense. Cf. however quot. 1675, where the word appears to have the Du. sense.]

1568 *MS. Acc. St. John's Hosp., Canterb.*, There is a swarme found by Wylson and a seruante..seruaunt to haue the fyrste swarme and Wilson the next and so the stocke remayne to the house. **1577** Googe *Heresbach's Husb.* IV. 177 b, You may soone learne where theyr [*sc.* bees'] stockes [L. *examina*] be. **1649** Ogilby *Virg. Georg.* II. (1684) 89 In rugged Bark the Bees conceal their Stocks [L. *examina*]. **1675** Gedde *New Discov. Bee-houses* 30 A stock full of Bees and Honey. **1679** M. Rusden *Further Discov. Bees* 68 A swarm in May, or June, is called a Stock at Michaelmas. **1793** *Trans. Soc. Arts* V. 287 The greatest number of Stocks of Bees, not fewer than thirty.

42. The portion of a tally which was given to the person making a payment to the Exchequer.

The counterpart kept in the Exchequer was called the *foil* or *counterstock*. In Anglo-L. the terms were *stipes* and *folium*. Cf. F. *souche* (lit. tree-trunk), the longer of the two portions of a tally, hence also the counterfoils in a register or cheque-book.

a **1601** Sir T. Fanshawe *Pract. Exch.* (1658) 98 The joyners of the tallies..do see if the stock and the file do agree in hand, letter, and joyning. **1642** C. Vernon *Consid. Exch.* 44 The said stocke is delivered to the party that paid the money for his discharge, and the foile is cast into the Chamberlaines chest. **1671** E. Chamberlayne *Pres. St. Eng.* II. (ed. 5) 101 The Counterfoyles of the Talleys..so exactly ranged..that they may be found out, to be joyned with their respective Stock or Tally. **1714** [Bp. Atterbury] *Eng. Advice to Freeholders* 4 Boroughs are rated on the Royal Exchange, like Stocks and Tallies.

43. [Short for Stock-gilliflower.] **a.** Any plant of the cruciferous genus *Matthiola*. **b.** *Virginian stock*: the cruciferous plant *Malcolmia maritima*, having flowers somewhat resembling those of the stock-gilliflower.

1664 in *Verney Mem.* (1907) II. 208 To smell the sucklins and the stocks and to see the new trees grow. **1728–46** Thomson *Spring* 533 The..lavish stock that scents the garden round. **1760** J. Lee *Introd. Bot.* App. 328 Stock, Virginian, *Hesperis*. **1796** C. Marshall *Gardening* xix. (1813) 347 The French stock is very floriferous, and most apt to come double. **1844** Lady G. Fullerton *Ellen Middleton* (1854) III. xx. 49 The delicate lilac flowers of the Virginian Stock. **1866** M. Arnold *Thyrsis* vii, And stocks in fragrant blow. **1894** Bridges *Garden-Sept.* Poems (1912) 305 Stocks Of courtly purple, and aromatic phlox. **1908** R. Bagot *A. Cuthbert* xix. 237 The sweet night-flowering stock.

44. A kind of stiff close-fitting neckcloth, formerly worn by men generally, now only in the army.

In the first quot. app. the collar-band of a shirt.

a **1700** Evelyn *Diary* June 1645, They [the Venetian nobility] also weare their collar open to shew the diamond button of the stock of their shirt. **1731** *Gentl. Mag.* I. 454 He lay in his Stock, which was so tight about his Neck, that it near strangled him. **1742** *Whyte's Poems* in Fairholt *Costume* (1860) 591 The stock with buckle made of plate Has put the cravat out of date. **1753** *Lond. Mag.* Oct. 480/2 Let the stock be well plaited, in fanciful forms. **1755** Johnson, *Stock*, something made of linen; a cravat; a close neckcloth. **1764** *Boston Even. Post* in Alice M. Earle *Costume Col. Times* (1894) 169 Newest fashion'd plaited Stocks. **1781** Cowper *Let. to Unwin* 23 May, My neckcloths being all worn out, I intend to wear stocks. In that case, I shall be obliged to you if you will buy me a handsome stock-buckle. **1802** C. James *Milit. Dict.*, *Stock*, a part of an officer's dress which consists generally of black silk or velvet, and is worn round the neck...The soldier's stock is of black ribbed leather...Red stocks were formerly worn in the guards. **1806** Sir R. Wilson *Jrnl.* 11 Feb. *Life* (1862) I. 307 The issue of an order this morning for every officer in the garrison [of Cape Town] to wear black leather stocks! **1818** Scott *Rob Roy* i, He had the same..suit of light brown clothes,..the same stock, with its silver buckle. **1825** Sir H. Cockburn *Memor.* ii. 131 The disclosure of the long neck by the narrow bit of muslin stock. **1837** Dickens *Pickw.* ii, An old stock, without a vestige of shirt collar, ornamented his neck. **1840** J. P. Kennedy *Quodlibet* x, (1860) 137 His shirt collar was turned down over a narrow horse-hair stock. **1868** *Queen's Regul. Army* § 604 *g*, The wearing of Stocks may be dispensed with on the line of March. **1892** Kipling *Barrack-room Ballads*, *Cells* 16 But I fell away with the Corp'ral's stock, and the best of the Corp'ral's shirt.

b. An article of clerical attire, consisting of a piece of black silk or stuff (worn on the chest and secured by a band round the neck) over which the linen collar is fastened.

1883 *Offic. Yearbk. Ch. Eng.* p. iv (Advt.), Clerical Collars and Stocks...Stuff Stocks 3/6; Silk do., 5/-; Stock Bands 5/6 per dozen.

45. The udder of a cow. Now *dial.*

1608 Topsell *Serpents* 218 Afterward that Cowes vdder or stocke dryeth vppe, and neuer more yeeldeth any milke. *Mod.* (Kent), This cow has a very large stock but I don't know that she'll give over-much milk.

46. A rabbit-burrow. Now *dial.* Cf. Stop *sb.*

1741 *Compl. Family-Piece* II. i. 303 The Bucks will kill their young ones, if they can come at them; and therefore Nature hath so decreed it, that the Does prevent them by stopping or covering their Stocks or Nests with Earth or Gravel. **1876** *Surrey Gloss.* **1883** *Hampsh. Gloss.*

VI. A fund, store.

The senses grouped under this head are not found in the other Teut. languages except by adoption from English. Their origin is obscure, and possibly several different lines of development may have blended. Thus the application of the word to a trader's capital may partly involve the notion of a trunk or stem (branch I) from which the gains are an outgrowth, and partly that of 'fixed basis' or 'foundation' (branch II): cf. Fund. Sense 47 may be derived immediately from that of 'money-box', and have given rise to uses coincident with senses of different origin. The application to cattle is primarily a specific use of the sense 'store', but the notion of 'race' or 'breed' (sense 3) has had some share in its development.

† **47.** A sum of money set apart to provide for certain expenses; a fund. *Obs.*

1463 *Bury Wills* (Camden) 17 A stoke to fynde yerly ij taperis lyght. **1547–8** in E. Green *Somerset Chantries* (1888) 10 Redy money gyven by Robte Holcombe to remayne in stocke to the saide use [*sc.* lights]. **1548** in Hudson & Tingey *Rec. Norwich* (1910) II. 126 All guylde stockis whatsoeuer their be withyn this citie shalbe employde towardes the fyndyng feyeng of the rever of the same citie. *c* **1550** *Yorksh. Chantry Surv.* (Surtees) II. 478 There is a stoke of xxij *s.* yeven to the finding of a light in the said chapell. **1553** *Invv.* in *Ann. Dioc. Lichf.* (1863) 7, xxj s. which remayned as a stoke to finde tapers in the churche. **1589** Nashe *Martin Marprelate* Wks. (Grosart) I. 80 That reuerend Elder of your Church, who being credited with the stocke of the poore,..was compelled to keepe it to himselfe, because [etc.]. **1638** R. Baker tr. *Balzac's Lett.* (vol. III.) 156, I feare mee, the Stocke that was appoynted for paying of me, will goe some other way. **1645** in Arber *Transcr. Stationers' Reg.* (1875) I. 590 The Committee..resolved upon the Companies sudden setting upon the printing the Bible by a new Stock. **1663** Gerbier *Counsel* b 3, Venturing a stock to fetch *Aurum Horizontale* from the East Indies. **1676** Earl Essex in *Essex Papers* (Camden) 55 There will be a surplus of near 3000 l, [*MS.* 3000*li*] which may be kept in stock for any contingency. **1690** *Andros Tracts* II. 42 To make a Voluntary Subscription for a stock to bear the Charges of a Triall at Law. **1718** Hickes & Nelson *J. Kettlewell* II. xxv. 127 He set aside for a standing Stock..One Hundred Pound. [**1881** C. R. Rivington *Rec. Stationers' Co.* 18 There were originally five different trading stocks, called respectively the Ballad Stock, the Bible Stock, the Irish Stock, the Latin Stock, and the English Stock.]

† **48.** A capital sum to trade with or to invest; capital as distinguished from revenue, or principal as distinguished from interest. *Obs.*

1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 28 b, This rychesse he hath gyuen to vs as a stocke to occupy in our dayly exercyse, for the profyte of our owne soules. **1546** J. Heywood *Prov.* II. ix. (1867) 77 How can ye now get thrift, the stocke beyng gone? Which is thonely thing to reise thrift vpon. **1561** Awdelay *Frat. Vacab.* 8 Some yong Marchant man or other kynde of Occupier, whose friendes hath geuen them a stock of mony to occupy withall. **1573** *New Custom* II. iii. C iij b, The heyre Had substanciall reuenewes, his stocke also was faire. **1581** *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* III. 435 To..redeliver the same [*sc.* gold and silver] cunyeit to the said maister Thomas in prentit money, stok and proffite. **1613** J. White

Two Serm. (1615) 69 Prisoners, and distressed housholders, yong tradesmen that want stocks: must be thought on. 1614 RALEGH *Hist. World* v. ii. § 2. 377 He thinkes that all this is too little for a stock, though it were indeede a good yearlie Income. 1677 YARRANTON *Eng. Improv.* 47 Let each County begin with two thousand Pounds Stock apiece. *Ibid.* 98 The Factors would joyn stock together, and set up our Trade in some other place. 1681–6 J. SCOTT *Chr. Life* (1747) III. 454 A Master coming to take account of his Servants, among whom he had entrusted a Stock of Ten Pounds. 1694 E. PHILLIPS tr. *Millon's Lett. State* 287 Lest he should lose his Ship and Lading; together with his whole principal Stock. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 13 Aug. 1641, The reson of this store of pictures and their cheapness proceedes from their want of land to employ their stock. 1760 *Cautions & Adv. Officers of Army* 8, I hope you will thoroughly weigh with yourself whether you are possessed of a sufficient Stock to enable you to discharge your Duty without repining.

fig. 1595 DANIEL *Civ. Wars* II. iv, And on the Hazard of a bad Exchange Have ventur'd all the Stock of Life beside. *a* 1652 J. SMITH *Sel. Disc.* v. iv. (1821) 155 To prepare our own souls more and more to receive of his liberality,..that the stock which he is pleased to impart to us may not lie dead within us. 1665 HOWARD *Ind. Queen* II. i, Why should you waste the Stock of those fair Eyes?

† **b.** *To spend upon the stock*: to trench on one's capital. *Obs.*

1617 MORYSON *Itin.* I. 109 And lest by spending upon the stocke, my patrimony should be wasted I [etc.]. 1662 GURNALL *Chr. in Arm.* III. 253 That Minister must needs spend upon the stock, that hath no comings in from a constant Trade in his Study.

† **c.** An endowment for a son; a dowry for a daughter. Also *fig. Obs.*

1527 *Lanc. Wills* (Chetham Soc.) I. 17 Item to hyr son Justinean xx^{li} to make hym a stokke wt. 1582 MULCASTER *Positions* v. (1887) 34 To write and read wel which may be iointly gotten is a prety stocke for a poore boye. 1605 *Lond. Prodigal* v. i. 400 Why this is well, and toward faire Luce's stocke, heres fortie shillings. *c* 1639 COWLEY *Misc., To Ld. Falkland* 32 Whilst we like younger Brothers, get at best But a small stock, and must work out the rest. 1685–6 STILLINGFL. *Serm.* (1698) III. i. 3 Therefore nothing would satisfie him [the young prodigal] unless he were intrusted with the Stock which was intended for him.

† **d.** *In stock*: possessed of capital. *Out of stock*: without means. (Cf. *in, out of funds*.)

1648 in Willis & Clark *Cambridge* (1886) I. 256 In regard y^t ye Colledge is wholey out of stocke,..ye chest-keepers wer requested to [etc.]. 1671 [S. COLLINS] *Pres. St. Russia* xii. 51 This put the man in stock, whereby he began to drive a Trade.

† **e.** fig. phrase. *Upon the stock of*: on the ground or basis of. *Obs.* Very frequent in Jer. Taylor.

1647 CLARENDON *Hist. Reb.* vi. § 229 Which [help] they had no hope to procure but upon the stock of alteration of the government of the Church. 1649 JER. TAYLOR *Great Exemp.* II. vi. 11 He who beleeves upon the onely stock of education, made no election of his faith. *Ibid.* II. vii. 33 Upon the same stocke S. Chrysostome chides the people of his Diocese for walking, and laughing and prating in Churches. 1692 SOUTH *12 Serm.* (1697) I. 275 Few practical Errors in the world are embraced upon the Stock of Conviction, but Inclination. 1821 LAMB *Elia* Ser. I. *My First Play*, The theatre became to me, upon a new stock, the most delightful of recreations.

† **49.** An estate or property that produces income; a person's total property. *Obs.*

1552 LATIMER *Serm. St. John Evang.* (1584) 282 It shall not be a diminishing of theyr stockes, but it shall be rather an increase then a diminishing. 1579 SPENSER *Sheph. Cal.* July 192 They han great store and thriftye stockes. 1587 TURBERV. *Trag. Tales* (1837) 22 Whose land and fee descended orderly Unto the Sonne, with store of other stocks. 1646 CRASHAW *Steps* 97 The steward of our growing stocke. *c* 1665 MRS. HUTCHINSON *Mem. Col. Hutchinson* (1885) I. 185 But they, having stocks and families, were not willing to march as far as the army. *a* 1687 PETTY *Pol. Arith.* ii. (1691) 38 If the Stocks of laborious and ingenious Men.. should be diminished by a Tax, and transferred to such as do nothing at all, [etc.]. 1771 BEATTIE *Minstrel* I. xiv, An honest heart was almost all his stock.

† **b.** *Public stock*: the property held for public purposes by a nation, municipality, or community.

1663 PATRICK *Parab. Pilgrim* (1687) 115 A poor Widow, who had cast all her living into the publick stock. 1701 W. WOTTON *Hist. Rome* (*Marcus*) iv. 60 The Public Stock was well near exhausted by Verus's Prodigality. *c* 1710 CELIA FIENNES *Diary* (1888) 92 They have a great publick stock belonging to ye Corporation. 1770 LANGHORNE *Plutarch* (1879) I. 184/2 It appears..that the public stock of the Athenians amounted to 9700 talents.

c. Movable property.

1776 ADAM SMITH *W. N.* v. ii. II 412 The funds or sources, of revenue which may peculiarly belong to the sovereign or commonwealth must consist either in stock or in land.

† **d.** The aggregate wealth of a nation. *Obs.*

1640 PYM in Rushw. *Hist. Coll.* III. (1692) I. 22 By which means the Stock of the Kingdom is diminished. 1719 W. WOOD *Surv. Trade* 154 There is not any thing more certain, than that our West-India Trade has greatly enlarged our Stock. 1729 SWIFT *Modest Proposal* 12 The Nation's stock will be thereby encreased fifty thousand pounds *per Annum*. 1796 BURKE *Regic. Peace* ii. (1892) 110 If we look to our stock in the Eastern world, our most valuable and systematick acquisitions are made in that quarter. 1825 MCCULLOCH *Pol. Econ.* II. ii. 92 The whole produce of industry belonging to a country is said to form its stock.

† **50.** The business capital of a trading firm or company. *In stock* (said of a person): in the position of a partner. *Obs.*

c 1600 HENSLOWE *Diary* (1845) 276 A Note of all suche bookes as belong to the Stocke. 1613 TAPP *Pathw. Knowl.* 233 Two Marchants are in Company, B putteth in 200 li more then A, B continueth in stocke 5 moneths, and A. 7 moneths i, they gaine one as much as the other; the question is [etc.]. 1669 W. A[GLIONBY] *Pres. St. United Provinces* 159 Many..put in different summes, which all together made up six hundred thousand pound, the first stock upon which this [Dutch East India] Company has built its prodigious Encrease. 1694 J. HOUGHTON *Collect. Improv. Husb.* No. 122 P 4 Lately a Company of Gentlemen have made a Stock for Improvement of Tanning with Birch-Bark..Their Tannery is at Holloway. 1697 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 3303/3 Each Member having Five hundred Pounds in the Stock of the Bank. 1798 HUTTON *Course Math.* (1806) I. 124 They admit K as a third partner, who brought into stock 2800*l.* 1844 H. H. WILSON *Brit. India* I. 494 As the state of the money market rendered it unadvisable to increase the Company's capital stock,..the Court applied to the House for such aid as [etc.].

b. In Bookkeeping by Double Entry, the heading (more fully *stock account*: see 65) of the ledger account which summarizes the assets and liabilities of the trader, firm, or company to whom the books belong.

1588 MELLIS *Briefe Instr.* D vij, Then for your Creditor goe to the letter S. and there enter stocke as followeth: Stocke is in folio 2. 1674 J. COLLINS *Introd. Merchants-Acc.* B 3 b, *John Speed* Debitor. January 2 To Stock owing by him..100 l. 00 s. 00 d. *Ibid.* B 4, *Per contra John Speed* Creditor. January 7 By Stock for Three Months rebate [etc.]. 1732 J. CLARK in *B. F. Foster's Double Entry eluc.* (1852) Pref. p. iii, Let it be supposed that the account of Stock is a real person employed to take care of my estate, and to render an account of the improvement he has made of it. 1771 *Encycl. Brit.* I. 589/2 Therefore this accompt is closed, by being debited or credited to or by Stock, for the difference of its sides. *Ibid.* 593/2 Accordingly in your new Journal, the several particulars on the Dr side must all of them be made Drs to Stock. *c* 1789 *Ibid.* (ed. 3) III. 368/2 Thirdly, Accounts of Stock, Profit, and Loss. 1828–32 WEBSTER, *Stock*, in *book-keeping*, the owner or owners of the books. 1852 B. F. FOSTER *Double Entry eluc.* (ed. 5) 4 When the assets exceed the debts, Stock or the proprietor is a creditor for the surplus, or, in the event of insolvency debtor for the deficiency.

† **51.** Money, or a sum of money, invested by a person in a partnership or commercial company. *Obs.*

c 1645 HOWELL *Lett.* (1650) II. 12 By reason of the generality of commerce,—the banks, adventures, the common shares and stocks which most have in the Indian and other companies,—the wealth doth diffuse it self here in a strange kind of equality. 1647 CLARENDON *Hist. Reb.* IV. § 248 They [the Commons] were no way guilty of the troubles, the fears, and public dangers, which made men withdraw their stocks, and keep their money by them. 1685 *Caldwell Papers* (Maitl. Club) I. 146 The East India Companie..had very little advantage..which he had reason to know, because he himselfe had a stock in it.

fig. 1686 GOAD *Celest. Bodies* III. ii. 434 When I consider that I do hereby advance a Stock towards the Discovery of the Cause, whether Celestial or no, I shall find some Mitigation of Censure. 1710 STEELE *Tatler* No. 225 P 2 All..Deviations from the Design of pleasing each other when we meet, are derived from Interlopers in Society, who want Capacity to put in a Stock among regular Companions.

52. The subscribed capital of a trading company, or the public debt of a nation, municipal corporation, or the like, regarded as transferable property held by the subscribers or creditors, and subject to fluctuations in market value. Also, in particularized sense, a kind of stock, a particular fund in which money may be invested.

In expressions like *to buy or sell stocks*, the word may be partly an application of sense 42, 'tally'. Cf. quot. 1714 under that sense.

In modern British use the application of the word is narrowed; the subscribed capital of a public company is called *shares* when it is divided into portions of uniform amount, and *stock* when any desired amount may be bought or sold. In British use, also, when there is no specific indication, *stock* is usually taken to refer to those portions of the National Debt, the principal of which is not repayable, the government being pledged only to the payment of interest in perpetuity.

a 1692 POLLEXFEN *Disc. Trade* (1697) A 4 b, Whether any profit can arise to the Nation by the advance of Stocks. 1708 SWIFT *Abol. Chr.* Misc. (1711) 181 The Bank, and East-India Stock, may fall at least One *per Cent.* 1714 MACKY *Journ. Eng.* I. ix. 113 You will see Fellows, in shabby Cloaths, Selling Ten or Twelve Thousand Pounds in Stock, though perhaps he mayn't be worth at the same time Ten Shillings. *a* 1763 W. KING *Pol. & Lit. Anecd.* (1819) 105 Sir William..had a fair estate in land, a large sum of money in the stocks, and [etc.]. 1777 SHERIDAN *Sch. Scand.* III. i, He is forced to sell stock at a great loss. 1781 D. HARTLEY *Consid. Renewal Bank Charter* 18 One hundred pounds of Bank stock is now worth about 110 *l.* 1784 COWPER *Task* IV. 16 The fall of stocks. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXIII. 71/2 *Stocks*, a term applied to the various 'Funds' which constitute the national debt. 1845 MCCULLOCH *Taxation* III. ii. (1852) 450 Though it be true..that four and five per cent. stocks have always borne a lower relative value in the market than three per cent. stock, it is not true that [etc.]. 1889 *Act* 52 & 53 *Vict.* c. 32 § 9 The expression 'stock' shall include fully paid-up shares. 1898 W. J. GREENWOOD *Business Pract.* 42 *Stock*, Capital in a lump sum divisible into unequal amounts, large or small, to suit investors, instead of in shares of fixed or equal instalments. English Government Consols are of this kind; also the stocks of some railway companies. 1913 *Times* 9 Aug. 17/6 Furness stock did not move on the announcement of an interim dividend at the rate of 2 per cent.

b. fig. phrase (colloq. or slang). *To take* (*large* etc.) *stock in* (rarely *of*): to be interested in, attach importance to, give credence to.

1878 *Masque of Poets* 216 All which I do most potently believe, Taking large stock in Natural Selection. 1885 *Homiletic Rev.* Aug. 134 Educated, and I believe scientific men, took stock in it [Blue Glass theory of cure]. 1892 BRET HARTE *First Family Tasajara* v, I never took stock of that story. 1902 *Daily Chron.* 1 Apr. 6/3 There are many tales of the manifestation of natural gas in Sussex, which I do not take much stock in.

53. A collective term for the implements (*dead stock*) and the animals (*live stock*) employed in the working of a farm, an industrial establishment, etc. See also ROLLING STOCK.

1519 *N. C. Wills* (Surtees 1908) I. 106 That my sonne.. have my ferme of Lenwyke..with the stocke theruppon. *a* 1676 HALE *Prim. Orig. Man.* (1677) 214 The Stock being exhausted one Year, left little for the supply of Tillage, Husbandry, or Increase for the next. 1788 PRIESTLEY *Lect. Hist.* v. xliv. 324 Cattle..bear a much lower price than corn, which requires more art, labour, and stock to raise it. 1826 *Art of Brewing* (ed. 2) 140 The costs of rents, of taxes, of agricultural stock, and of labourers' wages, are much less now than heretofore in our memory they have been. 1836 [MRS. TRAILL] *Backwoods of Canada* 26 Live and dead stock that go or are taken on board. 1841 W. SPALDING *Italy & Ital. Isl.* III. 246 The tenant was to find his own stock and tools. 1851 GREENWELL *Coal-Trade Terms, Northumb. & Durh.* 52 Colliery stock comprises the establishment of engines, waggons, horses, and materials of every description requisite to carry on a colliery. 1863 H. COX *Instit.* III. v. 658 Inspectors, who report on the sufficiency of the works and stocks of railways.

† **b.** Scots Law. *Stock and teind*: the gross produce of a farm, fishery, etc., without deduction of the tithe. *Obs.*

1574 in *Reg. Mag. Sig. Scot.* 1586, 367/2 Que salina esset libera a decimis, eo quod decime nunquam solite sunt separari, sed una *lie stok* et *teind* intromissa sunt. 1588 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* IV. 280 Baith stok and teind thairof. [1651 in Agnew *Hered. Sheriffs Galloway* (1893) II. 73 Salcharie pays in stock and teind thretty bolls victual, 300 marks money.]

54. *spec.* = LIVE STOCK; the animals on a farm; also, a collective term for horses, cattle, and sheep bred for use or profit.

1523–34 FITZHERB. *Husb.* 39 It is conuenient, that he rere two oxe calues, and two cowe calues at the least, to vpholde his stocke. 1608 ROWLANDS *Humors Looking Glasse* (1872) 15 This poore man had a Cow twas all his stocke. 1649 MILTON *Eikon.* 220 The people he accounts his Heard, his Cattell, the Stock upon his ground. 1660 F. BROOKE tr. *Le Blanc's Trav.* 348 They keep stocks of tame Deer. 1744 M. BISHOP *Life & Adv.* 4, I frequently rode out with him in a Morning to look at his Stock. 1796 W. H. MARSHALL *Yorksh.* (ed. 2) II. 347 *Stock*; livestock. 1801 *Farmer's Mag.* Apr. 228 Drovers are now buying lean stock briskly at good prices. 1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* xliv, The proofs he had given of his skill in managing stock. 1851 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* § 4065 (1855) II. 240/1 Salted hay is much relished by all kinds of stock. 1890 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Col. Reformer* ix, But few stock were visible on the plain.

b. Applied to slaves.

1828–32 WEBSTER, *Stock*, in the West Indies, the slaves of a plantation. 1837 HT. MARTINEAU *Soc. Amer.* II. 41 Her [Virginia's] revenue is chiefly derived from the rearing of slaves as stock for the southern market.

55. A quantity (of something specified, whether material or immaterial) accumulated for future use; a store or provision to be drawn upon as occasion requires. Phrase, *to lay in a stock*.

1638 ROUS *Heav. Acad.* I. 4 Let him gather a stock of them, and lay them up for his use. 1639 FULLER *Holy War* III. xi. (1640) 126 A Prince (as writers report) having a sufficient stock of valour in himself, but little happy in expressing it. *a* 1662 HEYLIN *Laud* (1668) 391 By making this agreement with them he put them into such a stock of Reputation, that [etc.]. 1693 C. DRYDEN *Juvenal's Sat.* VII. 200 But oh, what stock of Patience watits the Fool, Who wastes his Time and Breath in teaching School! 1711 in *10th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. I. 142 When he has acquir'd to himself a good stock of reputation perhaps he will not envy ours. 1728 GAY *Let. to Swift* 16 May, I..am in hopes to lay in a stock of health. 1738 *Common Sense* (1739) II. 112 She dyes, alters, and turns her little Stock of Finery into all the Changes which Fancy and Affectation produce in every Brain of Quality. 1750 JOHNSON *Rambler* No. 109 P 1 You have not yet exhausted the whole stock of human infelicity. 1771 FRANKLIN *Autobiog.* Wks. 1840 I. 18, I wanted a stock of words. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* II. 133 When..a stock of provisions sufficient to support them the whole way, would be more than they could carry,..they [etc.]. 1790 BURKE *Fr. Rev.* Wks. 1808 V. 273 That stock of general truth, for the branches of which they contended with their blood. 1804 *Med. Jrnl.* XII. 305 It is frequently observed in the inoculated cow-pox. I have seen it..after I had been using matter from the same stock for upwards of three years. 1812 SHELLEY *Devil's Walk* xvi, For he is fat,..How vast his stock of calf! 1843 [PYCROFT] *Hints to Freshmen* 16 Lay in a stock of Bryant's Regalias and Castle's Sylvas, to acquire condition in your absence. 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xii. III. 228 The stock of cannon balls was almost exhausted. 1907 J. A. HODGES *Elem. Photogr.* (ed. 6) 81 An ever-increasing stock of glass negatives.

† **b.** Complement of population; also, a large number (of persons). *Obs.*

1674 T. LOWER in *Jrnl. Friends Hist. Soc.* (1913) July 144 Seeinge such stockes of Quakers did resort to him. 1690 CHILD *Disc. Trade* (1698) 246 With us, after that with long civil wars the land was half unpeopled, so as till of late years, it came not to its full stock of people again.

c. *Mining.* (See quot.)

1709 T. ROBINSON *Nat. Hist. Westm. & Cumb.* xv. 85 To see that rich Vein, and the Stock of Ore upon the Bank, which was like a little Mountain. 1886 G. P. MERRILL in *Ann. Rep. Smithsonian Inst.* II. (1889) 525 *Stock*, the useful rock taken from a quarry. 1909 *Century Dict.* Suppl., *Stock*, the material removed from a quarry which is of suitable size to be worked into marketable articles.

56. The aggregate of goods, or of some specified kind of goods, which a trader has on hand as a

provision for the possible future requirements of customers.

1696-7 *Act* 8 & 9 *Will. III*, c. 7 § 10 The several Stockes of Paper Parchment Pastboard or Vellum. 1736 *Gentl. Mag.* VI. 591/2 They all brew great Quantities, which they keep by them as a Stock in Hand. 1814 Scott *Let.* in *Lockhart* (1837) III. x. 322 That having resolved, as they are aware, to relinquish publishing, you only wish to avail yourselves of this offer to the extent of helping off some of your stock. 1833 Ht. Martineau *Loom & Lugger* II. ii. 21 She might look through her father's stock many times. 1833 J. Holland *Manuf. Metals* II. 112 A large depôt of arms had been established in the Tower; and it was known to some in the trade, that of this warlike stock the government were desirous to dispose. 1848 Thackeray *Van. Fair* xxxv, The sculptors of those days had stocks of such funereal emblems in hand. 1851 Hawthorne *Ho. Sev. Gables* v. (1852) 59 'We must renew our stock, Cousin Hepzibah!' cried the little saleswoman. 1868 M. Pattison *Academ. Org.* v. 167 We have not cared to keep on hand a larger stock than we could dispose of in the season. 1881 W. S. Gilbert *Foggerty's Fairy* I. (1895) 35 You are in trade?.. So am I. Wholesale. What's your stock?- *Tal.* Mine's cheese. 1885 *Manch. Exam.* 3 June 5/3 The market is reported to be glutted, and the production has of late been largely going into stock. 1899 *Daily News* 1 Nov. 3/1 The authorities at Enfield say that they are well supplied with these guns out at the Cape, and that they are working for stock.

b. Take stock. In commercial use, to make an inventory of the merchandise, furniture, etc. in one's own (*rarely* in another's) possession, recording its quantity and present value. Hence *fig.*, to make a careful estimate of one's position with regard to resources, prospects, or the like. *To take stock of*: to reckon up, evaluate; also *colloq.* to scrutinize (a person) with suspicion or interest.

1736 *Country Jrnl. or Craftsman* 14 Aug. 1/1 [Innkeeper to Exciseman.] Goodmorrow.. Mr. Gage...I hope you have no Information against Me...Did you not take Stock but last Night? 1825 Coleridge *Aids Refl.* (1831) 184 How vague and general these [thoughts] are even on objects of Sense, the few who at a mature age have seriously set about the discipline of their faculties, and have honestly *taken stock*, best know by recollection of their own state. 1826 *New Monthly Mag.* XVI. 19 It may therefore be worth while at this commencement of a new year for us to balance accounts with our readers, and, in the trader's phrase, to 'take stock'. 1840 Macaulay *Ess., Clive* P 7 The business of the servant of the Company was not, as now, to conduct the judicial, financial, and diplomatic business of a great country, but to take stock [etc.]. 1857 Borrow *Rom. Rye* xlvi, One day, being at a place called the Escurial, I took stock, as the tradesmen say, and found I possessed the sum of eighty dollars won by playing at cards. 1865 *Slang Dict.* 247 To take stock of one, to scrutinize narrowly one whom you have reason to suspect. 1867 W. Johnson in Farrar *Ess. Lib. Educ.* (1867) 333 You will find the historian taking stock of human knowledge for the end of the Middle Ages. 1877-81 Voyle & Stevenson *Milit. Dict.* Suppl. 36/2 A combatant officer appointed to 'take stock', either at home or abroad, is entitled to receive extra pay of 5*s.* a day. 1883 Froude *Short Stud.* IV. II. i. 166 It is, perhaps,..occasionally well to take stock of our mental experience. 1885 Miss Braddon *Wyllard's Weird* ii, How is it that you who are so sharp could not contrive to spot him when you took stock of the passengers? 1893 *Times* 30 May 9/3 It is always the custom with practical politicians to take stock of what has been done..and what can be done. 1896 *N. & Q.* Ser. VIII. IX. 158/2 A narrow squint window at the back of one of them enabled its occupant to take stock of any one who might knock at the door of his neighbour.

c. *In stock*: in the possession of the trader.

1618 in J. Charnock *Hist. Mar. Archit.* (1801) II. 237 There will remaine in stock at Deptford 738 t. 14 c. 0-q. 9 lb. 1891 *Law Rep., Weekly Notes* 44/1 The defendant had about forty copies of the impression in stock which he desired to sell. 1898 W. J. Greenwood *Commerc. Corresp.* (ed. 2) 34 I intend to dispose of the whole of the goods in stock.

57. The liquor made by boiling meat (with or without vegetables, etc.) and used as a foundation for soup.

1764 Eliz. Moxon *Eng. Housew.* (ed. 9) 119 You must make your stock the day before you use it. 1844 H. Stephens *Bk. Farm* II. 169 Its decoction forms an excellent stock for various dishes. 1870 Dickens *E. Drood* vi, Stock for soup became fragrant in the air of Minor Canon Corner. 1886 *Sat. Rev.* 6 Mar. 328/2 Vatel himself..would not have hesitated to make a stock for his master Condé, or his king Louis the Magnificent, out of cod's-heads.

b. *gen.* The raw material from which anything is made; material. Chiefly with prefixed word as in Paper-stock, *soap-stock*.

1873 Spon *Workshop Rec.* Ser. I. 350 In its natural state, fat..is always associated with..foreign matters, which must be separated before it can be used as candle stock. 1875 Paper-stock [see Paper *sb.* 12]. 1882 *Encycl. Brit.* XIV. 384/2 In these the stock is exposed to the strongest tanning liquors.

58. *Card-playing.* **a.** In certain games, the portion of the pack of cards which is not dealt out, but left on the table to be drawn from according to the rules of the game.

[Cf. Du. *stok*, Norw. *stokk*, in the same sense.]

1584 R. Scot *Discov. Witcher.* XIII. XXVII. (1886) 273 Throw upon the Stocke the nether card. 1607 Heywood *Wom. Killed w. Kindn.* (1617) E 2 b, This Queene I haue more then mine owne, you see. Giue me the stocke. 1674 Cotton *Compl. Gamester* vi. (1680) 65 [Gleek] The Dealer delivers the Cards by four till every one hath twelve, and the rest are laid on the Table, for the Stock, being in number eight. *Ibid.* vii. 69 [L'Ombre] There will remain thirteen Cards in the Stock. 1732 Swift *Poems, Beasts' Confess.* 193 He heard there was a club of cheats, Who..Could change the stock, or cog a dye. 1830 Hardie *Hoyle* 44 (Piquet) *Talon*, or stock, is the eight remaining cards, after twelve are dealt to each person. 1878 H. Gibbs *Ombre* 19 After dealing he places the remaining thirteen cards before him, and they are called the Stock.

b. The set of cards used in a particular game (whether a pack, or one or more incomplete packs).

1584 R. W. *Three Ladies Lond.* II. A iiij, Nowe all the Cardes in the stock are delte about. 1895 G. J. Manson *Sporting Dict.*, [In Bezique.] *Stock*, the number of packs of cards corresponding with the number of players, shuffled together and ready to be dealt.

† c. = Hand *sb.* 23. *Obs.*

1637 Rutherford *Lett.* (1836) I. 357 That Kirk and Commonwealth are in his hand, like a stock of cards, and that he dealeth the play to the mourners of Zion [etc.]. *c* 1641 Cleveland *Smectymnuus* Poems (1677) 39 So many Cards ith' Stock, and yet be bilk'd? 1659 *Shuffling, Cutting & Dealing* 6 Shall I not play? My Lord Protector hath given me a Stock, and I'le pack the Cards with all the Cavalier-Gamesters in the Town.

VII. 59. In imitation of compounds like Leaning-*stock*, Whipping-*stock*, where the sb. has the sense 1 b or 5, there have been formed many combinations of *stock* with a preceding vbl. sb., which designate a person as the habitual object of some kind of contemptuous or unpleasant treatment. (There is probably in these formations some notion of sense 1 c, the implication being that the person is treated as if incapable of feeling.) Examples, which appear in this Dictionary as main words or under their first element, are *floating-, gauring, gazing-, jesting-, laughing-, mocking-, pointing-, sporting-, talking-, torturing-stock*; the following quots. contain one or two nonce-words that have not been registered in their alphabetical place.

1545 Hen. VIII *Sp. Parlt.* (1642) A 4, Not to dispute, and make Scripture a railing and taunting-stocke against Priests and Preachers. 1580 Lyly *Euphues & his England* (Arb.) 444 Then shall you be like stars to the wise, who are now but staring stockes to the foolish. 1630 B. Jonson *New Inn* I. vi. (1631) C 2, Therefore [she] might indifferently be made The courting-stock, for all to practise on.

VIII. Combinations.

60. Similatively (with ref. to sense 1 c), as † *stock-log*; *stock-headed, -like* adjs. Also **stock-blind, -dead, -deaf** adjs., as blind (etc.) as a stock. Hence perh. **stock-full** *a. rare*—1, chock-full, cram-full. Also Stock still.

[Cf. Du. *stokblind*, G. *stockblind*; G. *stocktaub* stock-deaf; Du. *stokstijf*, G. *stocksteif* stiff as a poker; Du. *stokoud* very old; G. *stockdunkel, -finster* pitch-dark.]

1675 Wycherley *Country Wife* II. i. 21 True Lovers are blind, *stockblind. 1802 Beddoes *Hygeia* I. 32 He was stock-blind; so could not judge of me by my exterior. 1662 J. Davies tr. *Olearius' Voy. Ambass.* 136 A corpulent, fat Man..fell down *stock-dead, as soon as he came to the shrine. 1865 Tylor *Early Hist. Man.* iv. 71 Though he is *'stock-deaf', he has a bodily feeling of music, and different instruments have different effects upon him. 1782 Miss Burney *Cecilia* v. xii, I'm sure the garden is so *stock full, that if there was to come many more, I don't know where they could cram 'em. 1904 M. Hewlett *Queen's Quair* II. vii. 279 That *stock-headed starer out of painted eyes. 1878 Browning *Poets Croisic* lxi, Does he stand *stock-like henceforth? 1689 Hickeringill *Ceremony-Monger* iii. Wks. 1716 II. 408 [My Ceremony-Monger] is the great *Stock-logg of the Church, that has neither fire nor heat within.

61. In sense 4, as *stock-grower*, † *-head*; † **stock-grafted** *a.*, grafted by means of a slit or cleft in the stock; † **stock-grafting**, cleft-grafting.

1523-34 Fitzherb. *Husb.* § 138 Take toughe cleye..and ley it vppon the stocke-heed. 1707 Mortimer *Husb.* (1721) II. 265 Medlars may be cleft, or Stock-grafted, on the White Thorn. 1731 Miller *Gard. Dict.* s. v. *Grafting, Cleft Grafting*, which is also call'd *Stock* or *Slit-grafting*. 1842 Loudon *Suburban Hort.* 562 As practised by the stock-growers in propagating plum and Paradise stocks.

62. In sense 52, as *stock* †*-bill, -board, -dealer, -list,* † *-office, -watering*; **stock certificate**, a document issued by the Treasury, entitling the holder to a certain amount of a particular government stock; **stock-indicator, -ticker**, a telegraphic instrument for recording variations in the price of stock; **stock receipt** (see quot.).. Also Stock-broker, etc.

1760-72 H. Brooke *Fool of Quality* (1809) IV. 80 [He] produced bank and *stock bills to the amount of..five thousand pounds. 1872 Cuyler *Heart-Life* 123 The reckless gambling operations of *stock-boards or 'the street'. 1863 *Act* 26 & 27 *Vict.* c. 28 § 6 A *Stock Certificate..shall entitle the Bearer to the Stock therein described. 1902 *Westm. Gaz.* 30 Sept. 10/1 A firm of *stock-dealers. 1891 *Century Dict.*, *Stock-indicator. 1858 Simmonds *Dict. Trade*, **Stock-list*, a list published daily or periodically, enumerating the leading stocks dealt in; the prices current; the actual transactions, etc. 1737 J. Chamberlayne *St. Gt. Brit.* II. (ed. 33) 171 (South Sea office) Chief Clerk of the *Stock-office. 1901 Cordingley *Dict. Stock Exch. Terms* 86 **Stock Receipt*. This is a Receipt, in printed form, filled in by the seller of Consols and other Registered Stocks and given by him to the buyer at the time the transfer is made. 1886 *Boston* (Mass.) *Jrnl.* 17 July 2/3 The *Stock Ticker. 1899 *Westm. Gaz.* 20 Apr. 10/2 A narrow strip of paper resembling a stock-ticker tape. 1883 *Nation* (N. Y.) 11 Oct. 307/2 '*Stock-watering' means simply an increase in the number of shares into which the property of a corporation is divided.

63. In sense 54, as *stock-breeder, -car, -dealer, -farm, -farmer, -farming, -feed, -feeding, -food, -grower, -house*,. † *-husbandry, -master, -minder, -owner, -raiser, -raising, -ranch, -range, -run, -station, -train, -yard*; **stock-horse** *Austral.*, a horse trained to carry a stock-rider; **stock-hut** *Austral.*, the hut of a stockman; **stock-rider** *Austral.*, a man employed to ride after cattle on an unfenced station; **stock-riding**, the occupation of a stock-rider; **stock-route** *Austral.*, a right of way for travelling cattle through occupied land; **stock-whip** *Austral.*, a whip for driving cattle. Also Stockholder, -keeper (etc.), Stockman.

1815 *Sporting Mag.* XLV. 194 Mr. George Flower..Merino *stock-breeder. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2390 **Stock-car*, a railway-car for carrying cattle, horses, sheep, hogs, etc. 1898 Kipling *Day's Work* 222 There were oil-cars, and hay-cars, and stock-cars full of lowing beasts. 1885 *Manch. Exam.* 17 Mar. 5/2 Duties on live meat in Germany fall in protecting *stockdealers. 1806 *Sydney Gaz.* in O'Hara *Hist. N. S. Wales* (1817) 289 Well adapted either to an arable or *stock farm. 1768 *Ann. Reg.* 149 The *stock farmers have greatly suffered, as the lambs were much hurt. 1865 Trollope *Bellon Est.* xvi. 183 In *stock-farming the chief thing is not to have too many beasts. 1915 *Edin. Rev.* Jan. 83 The Ana (or Aana) tree..is said to give the best *stock-feed in the whole world. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* III. 37 Crops used for *stock-feeding. 1894 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* Dec. 646 A proportion of the produce grown is retained on the farm, as *stock-food or litter. 1876 *Chamb. Jrnl.* 30 Dec. 845/1 The experience of *stock-growers from all sections for the last few years has proved [etc.]. 1865 H. Kingsley *Hillyars & Burtons* I, An aged *stockhorse, which I had bought very cheap. 1808 *Sydney Gaz.* in O'Hara *Hist. N.S. Wales* (1817) 317 To be sold..with a good dwelling-house, barn, stable, *stock-houses, and a capital stock-yard. 1801 *Farmer's Mag.* Aug. 285 The general run of the soil of this tract..renders it very eligible for what is called the *stock-husbandry. 1828 P. Cunningham *N. S. Wales* (ed. 3) II. 30 They..paid a visit to a *stock hut inhabited by three freemen, at Putty. 1864 *Intell. Observer* Jan. 390 Veterinarians, sheep-breeders, *stock-masters, and others practically acquainted with the diseases of our domesticated animals. 1859 Bartlett *Dict. Amer.* (ed. 2) 451 **Stock-minder*, one who takes care of cattle on the great prairies. 1865 *Daily Tel.* 18 Oct. 6/4 The Belgian Government has conferred a great boon..on its *stock-owners [by checking a cattle plague]. 1874 Raymond *6th Rep. Mines* 314 A part..of the large grant..on which numerous ranch-men and *stock-raisers are said to have settled. 1868 *Rep. U.S. Commissioner Agric.* (1869) 148 Study of plants, meadows, and *stock-raising. 1876 *Chamb. Jrnl.* 30 Dec. 845/1 Eventually the stock-raising interests will be driven to the northern buffalo grass region. 1871 in S. De Vere *Americanisms* (1872) 129 An *estancia* or *stock-ranch. 1859 Bartlett *Dict. Amer.* (ed. 2) 451 **Stock-range*, the prairie or plain where cattle range or graze. 1882 *Century Mag.* Aug. 511/1 The hill country is all open as a stock-range. 1862 *Cornhill Mag.* Jan. 32 Broke in by one of my *stock-riders up to fifteen stone. 1872 *Routledge's Ev. Boy's Ann.* 108/1 The Grant brothers had been doing some very tidy bits of *stock-riding too. 1890 'R. Boldrewood' *Col. Reformer* xviii, The stock-riding contingent. 1886 P. Clarke *'New Chum' in Austral.* 197, I saw it on the *stock-route to Bathurst. 1828 P. Cunningham *N. S. Wales* (ed. 3) II. 147 You oblige the settler to improve the grant, instead of keeping it as a mere *stock-run. 1858 Simmonds *Dict. Trade*, **Stock-station*, a district for rearing and herding cattle. 1859 Bartlett *Dict. Amer.* (ed. 2) 451 **Stock-train*, a train of railroad cars loaded with cattle. 1857 W. Howitt *Tallangetta* I. 100 The *stock-whip, with a handle about half a yard long and a thong of three yards long, of plaited bullock-hide, is a terrible instrument in the hands of a practised stockman. 1802 *Barrington's Hist. N. S. Wales* x. 373 A young ox was missed from the *stock-yard at Toongabbe. 1858 R. S. Surtees *Ask Mamma* lxvi. 300 The first result we see of a gentleman farming being the increase of the size of his stock-yard.

b. Indicating an animal that is chosen or kept for breeding purposes, as *stock dog, mare*, etc. Also *stock-getter*.

1801 *Farmer's Mag.* Apr. 222 The season throughout has been remarkably favourable to stock sheep. 1851-61 Mayhew *Lond. Labour* III. 15/2 A black tan terrier..which was the greatest stock dog in London of that day. 1854 *Poultry Chron.* II. 404 The purchase of fowls intended for *stock-birds should not now be delayed. 1862 *Cornhill Mag.* Jan. 32 A handsome little *stock-mare. 1862 H. H. Dixon *Scott & Sebright* iii. 165 Till within the last three years he [a stallion] was a very sure stock-getter. 1886 C. Scott *Sheep-Farming* 74 It..is only advisable with some very special *stock-ram, whose progeny are valuable. 1891 *Century Dict.*, *Stock-fish*,..fish adapted or used for stocking rivers, ponds, lakes, etc. 1909 *Westm. Gaz.* 13 Feb. 16/2 Another hundred good stock trout have been placed in the Henley waters. 1909 *Chamb. Jrnl.* Apr. 219/1 It is very difficult to get good *stock-ducks of the pure Aylesbury strain.

64. In names of birds: **stock annet**, the common sheldrake, *Tadorna cornuta*; **stock drake** [cf. Da. *stok-*, Norw. *stokk-*, Sw. *stock-and*), **duck**, the mallard or wild duck, *Anas boscas*; **stock eagle, -eekle**, etc. [Hickwall] *dial.*, the green woodpecker; **stock owl**, the eagle owl, *Bubo ignavus*; **stock pigeon** = Stock-dove; **stock whaup**, the curlew, *Numenius arquata*.

1852 Macgillivray *Brit. Birds* V. 22 *Tadorna Vulpanser*. ..*Stockannet. 1772 Forster in *Phil. Trans.* LXII. 419 Mallard Drake...It is called *Stock Drake at Hudson's Bay. 1805 G. Barry *Hist. Orkney Isl.* 301 The Mallard,..our *stockduck. 1884 *Upton-on-Severn Gloss.*, **Stock-eekle*, a woodpecker. 1899 A. H. Evans *Birds* (Camb. Nat. Hist.) 463 With which name [*sc.* 'Log-cocks'] may be compared that of 'Stock-eagle', i.e. 'Stump-eagle', given in the West of England to the Greater Spotted Woodpecker. *a* 1688 J. Wallace *Descr. Isl. Orkney* (1693) ii. 16 Sometime the *Stock-oul and Bittern have been seen in this Country. 1805 G. Barry *Hist. Orkney Isl.* 312 The Eagle Owl.., our *kaigle* or stock-owl. 1783 Latham *Gen.*

Synopsis. Birds II. 11. 604 *Stock Pigeon, *Columba œnas.* 1813 G. Low *Fauna Orcad.* 80 The larger curlew, called here *Stock-Whap.

65. Miscellaneous special comb.: **stock account** *Book-keeping* (see 50 b); **stock beer,** beer that is stored for ripening before being drunk; **stock-board,** (*a*) the wooden board which forms the bottom of a brick-mould; (*b*) in an organ, the upper board of a soundboard, above the sliders, on which the pipes immediately rest; (*c*) see 62; **stock-book,** a book in which an account is kept of goods in stock.; †**stock-bow,** a crossbow; **stock-brick** [cf. sense 15], a hard solid brick, pressed in the mould; **stock-brush,** a brush with the bristles set in a flat stock or head; †**stock-buckle,** a buckle used to secure the stock or cravat; **stock-company,** (*a*) ? a joint-stock company; (*b*) a company the capital of which is represented by stock; †**stockis-dynt** *Sc.* = *stingis-dint* (see STING *sb.*[1] 3); †**stock-drawers,** stockings; **stock-father,** the progenitor of a stock or race; †**stock-fowler,** a kind of cannon or mortar (cf. *stock-gun* and FOWLER 3); **stock-frost** *local,* ground-ice; **stock-gang,** a 'gang' or set of mill-saws arranged to cut a log into boards at one passage through the machine; †**stock-gold** *Theatr.,* 'property' gold; †**stock-gun** (cf. *stock-fowler*); †**stock-honey** (see quot.); †**stock-hose,** hose of stout material worn over thinner hose; †**stock-house,** a prison where offenders were set in the stocks; **stock-ice** *local* = *stock-frost*; **stock-knife,** †(*a*) ? a knife for cutting wood; (*b*) a cutting instrument pivoted on a block (cf. *stock-shave*); **stock-maker,** a maker †(*a*) of gun-carriages; (*b*) of musket-stocks; (*c*) see quot. 1858; †**stock-nail** [cf. MDu. *stoknagel*], a thick nail; **stock-nut,** the hazel-nut; **stock-pot,** a pot in which stock for soups is boiled and kept; also *fig.*; †**stock-punished** *pa. pple.,* punished by being set in the stocks; **stock-purse,** a fund kept for the common purposes of a group of persons; **stock-room,** (*a*) a room in which reserve stock is stored; (*b*) a room in a hotel in which commercial travellers display their samples; **stock-saddle,** †(*a*) *Sc.* ? a saddle with a wooden tree; (*b*) in the Western U.S., a saddle with a heavy tree and steel horn to give resistance in using a lariat; **stock-saw,** a saw used in a stock-gang; **stock-shave** (see quot.); **stock-shears** (see quot.); †**stock-sleeve** (see quot.); †**stock-starve** *v. trans.,* to keep (a tradesman) short of stock; **stock-stone,** a flat stone fixed in a handle, used for scouring and stretching leather; **stock-tackle** *Naut.,* a tackle used for raising the stock of an anchor perpendicular; **stock-trail,** used *attrib.* to designate a gun-carriage in which the trail at the end of the stock rests upon the ground when the gun is unlimbered for firing; †**stock-tree** *Sc.,* ? a wooden saddle-tree; †**stock-wheel** *Sc.,* ? a wheel for a gun-carriage.

1771 *Encycl. Brit.* I. 589/2 *Stock-accompt..contains, upon the Dr side, the debts due by the merchant when the books were begun, The Cr side contains his ready money, effects, and debts due to him at the same time. 1826 *Art of Brewing* (ed. 2) 64 Keep some *stock beer for flavouring your best ale. 1836 *Penny Cycl.* V. 404/2 The beer is by this means also rendered flat, which is necessary for stock or store beer that is to be kept some time before coming into use. 1850 E. DOBSON *Bricks & Tiles* 133 The brick mould is placed on a *stock board, which is made to fit the bottom of the mould. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech., Stock-board* [in an organ]. 1901 *Westm. Gaz.* 27 Aug. 2/1 The President.. seats himself, pen in hand, at the [canteen] *stock-book, while the subalterns run over the different articles. 1598 FLORIO, *Balista*,..a crosse-bow, a *stock-bow or tillar. [1887 *Kent. Gloss., Stock-bow,* a cross-bow.] 1683 J. HOUGHTON *Collect. Lett. Improv. Husb.* II. vi. 186 We make two sorts of Bricks, Viz. *Stock-Bricks and Place-Bricks; the Stock-Bricks are made solid, strong, and..hard. 1703 R. NEVE *City & C. Purchaser* 42 Stock-bricks..are made upon a Stock, viz. The Mold is put on a Stock, after the manner of Molding, or Striking of Tiles. 1883 *Specif. Alnwick & Cornhill Rlwy.* 3 The whole of the bricks for the face of any work..of the arches are to be stock bricks. 1693 MOXON *Mech. Exerc.* (1703) 249 Brishes, of three sorts, viz. A *Stock Brish, a Round Brish, and a Pencil. With these Brishes, they wet old Walls before they mend them. 1876 *Encycl. Brit.* IV. 403/2 Brushes with the tufts placed side by side on flat boards, as plasterers' brushes, are called stock-brushes. 1748 SMOLLETT *Rod. Random* xliv, A diamond *stock-buckle. 1815 SCOTT *Guy M.* xxxvii, A well-brushed black suit, with very clean shoes and gold buckles and stock-buckle. 1827 — *Surg. Dau.* Pref., Half-ashamed,..yet half-proud of the literary *stock-company, in which he has got a share. 1905 *Outlook* 7 Oct. 471/1 Within the last two years there have been three exposures of gigantic stock-company frauds [in America]. 14.., *Burgh Lawis* xvii. in *Anc. Laws Scot.* (Burgh Rec. Soc.) 10 It is to wyt at in burgh sall nocht be herde bludewyt na yit *stockisdynt na merchet [etc.]. 1676 COLES *Dict.,* **Stock-drawers,* stockings. 1600 HOLLAND *Livy* v. xxiv. 196 Romulus..the first *Stocke-father and beginner of the cittie of Rome. *c* 1640 J. SMYTH *Lives Berkeleys* (1883) I. 207 Hee is the stock-father of that honored family of the Berkeleys of Wymondham. 1895 W. P. W. PHILLIMORE in *New Eng. Gen. Hist. Register* Oct. 450 Edward Garfield, of Watertown, Mass., the stock-father of the American family. 1669 STURMY *Mariner's Mag.* I. ii. 19 See that our Murtherers and *Stockfowlers have their Chambers fill'd with good Powder. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. xviii. (Roxb.) 138/1 They are of some called Murthers and slings, or sling peeces, because they are slung in their holds to turne any way. Some call them Stock-fowlers; and Fowlers or Foulers. 1856 *N. & Q.* Ser. II. I. 151/2 *Stock-frost..The watermen of Norfolk unanimously believe in the possibility of the water freezing at the bottom of a river. 1908 *Nature* 30 Jan. 295/2 What is locally called 'stock frost'..is known to the scientific world..as 'ground ice'. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.,* *Stock-gang. 1880 *Lumberman's Gaz.* Jan. 28 They [i. e. the rafts] are then cut into boards by 'stock gang' saws. 1713 *Guardian* No. 95 ¶ 1 Fourscore Pieces of *Stock-Gold, and thirty Pieces of Tin-Silver. 1465 *Paston Lett.* III. 436 Item, a *stokke gonne with iij. chambers. 1750 W. ELLIS *Mod. Husb.* V. i. 106 (E. D. S.) Those bees that swarmed the year before, we take up now, and then it is called *stock-honey. 1638 JUNIUS *Paint. Ancients* 155 They afterwards begun to use hose, drawing over them some thicker kind of *stock-hose. 1553 in W. H. Turner *Select. Rec. Oxford* (1880) 215 They..had him..to Bocardo, and did sette him in the *stocke howse. 1725 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 6403/4 Prisoner in the Stockhouse or Goal of Kingstone. 1879 *Hardwicke's Sci.-Gossip* XV. 142/2 What are the phenomena which go, in the Norfolk district at least, by the name..of 'stock-frost', 'stock-ice?' 1583 *Rates Custom Ho.* C viij, Kniues called *stock kniues course vngilt the dosen, xvi.s. viii. d. 1799 J. WOOD *Princ. Mechanics* iv. (ed. 2) 93 Those [levers] in which the forces act on contrary sides of the center of motion,..and those in which they act on the same side, as the stock knife. 1579 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* III. 205 Wrichtis, *Stokmakaris and Quheill makaris. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* III. v. vi, Deft Stock-makers do gouge and rasp. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade, Stock-maker,* a manufacturer of stiff neck-bands worn by men. 1596 *Shuttleworths' Acc.* (Chetham Soc.) 107 Stone nales, *stocke nailes, clagge nales. 1833 R. WALKER *Flora Oxfordsh.* 284 *Corylus Avellana.* Common Hazel-nut or *Stock-nut. 1853 SOYER *Pantroph.* 260 The Chief of the cooks, the Archimagirus,..embraces at a single glance the series of *stock-pots and brick stoves. 1891 AINGER in Edith Sichel *Life & Lett.* (1906) 253 The schoolboy verses..will at once go into the Lamb 'Stock-pot'—my Commonplace Book. 1605 SHAKS. *Lear* III. iv. 140 (Qos.) Who is whipt from tithing to tithing, and *stock-punisht and imprisoned. *a* 1665 W. GUTHRIE *Serm.* in Tweedie *Sel. Biog.* (Wodrow Soc.) II. 75 We have all one common profession, interest, *stockpurse. 1802 C. JAMES *Milit. Dict., Stock Purse,* a certain saving which is made in a corps, and which is applied to regimental purposes. 1832 G. DOWNES *Lett. Cont. Countries* I. 67 A small stock-purse is maintained, for the support of the enfeebled and superannuated. 1825 HANSARD *Typogr.* 243 Another large and convenient room, denominated the *Stock-room, in which the trading business of the [Stationers'] Company is transacted. 1877 *'The Road': Leaves Sk.-bk. Commerc. Trav.* 53 The Commercial-Room is ample; there are dining, coffee, bath and stock rooms. 1888 JACOBI *Printers' Vocab.* 133 *Stock room,* the department allotted to the storing of paper or printed stock. 1537–8 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* VI. 380 For thre quarteris of fyne gray clath to cover ane *stok sadill to the Kingis grace. 1888 T. ROOSEVELT in *Century Mag.* Apr. 863/2 For a long spell of such work a stock-saddle is far less tiring than the ordinary Eastern or English one. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.,* *Stock-saw. 1794 *Rigging & Seamanship* I. 252 **Stock-shave,* a large sharp-edged cutting knife, with a handle at one end and a hook at the other, by which it hooks in a..staple..driven in an elm block; it is used to pare off the rough wood from the shells of blocks, &c. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 386/2 Two other working Tools of the Needle-makers. The first is their *Stock-Shears, with these they cut the Wyer to that length as the Needle is to bear. 1611 COTGR. s.v. *Lombard, Manche Lombarde,* a *stocke-sleeue; or fashion of halfe-sleeue, whose vpper part is raised, and full of plaits, or gathers. 1727 DE FOE *Eng. Tradesm.* (1732) I. vi. 67 Those adventures..*stock-starve the Tradesman, and impoverish him in his ordinary business. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.,* *Stock-stone. 1815 *Falconer's Dict. Marine* (ed. Burney), *Stock-Tackle. 1860 A. MORDECAI *Rep. Mil. Comm. Europe* (1861) 62 (Funk) These were no doubt designed for firing with larger charges..than the *stocktrail carriage admits of. 1470 *York Memo. Bk.* (Surtees) I. 92 That..no saddiller..make any sadelles of trees that er calde *stokke trees or Scottes trees. 1547 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* IX. 103 For tua botis..hir *stoke quhelis and necessaris.

B. *adj.* (in attributive use only). That is kept in stock (see A 56 c).

1. Kept regularly in stock for sale, as *stock book, lot*; **stock size,** a size (of ready-made garments) regularly kept in stock; used *attrib.* or predicatively to designate a person whom such a size fits.

a 1625 FLETCHER *Nice Valour* v. iii, For they begin already to engross it, And make it a *Stock-book. 1858 COOPER *Ath. Cantabr.* I. 249 The Sick Man's Salve was long a stockbook with the 'Stationers' company. 1898 W. J. GREENWOOD *Commerc. Corresp.* (ed. 2) 31 We particularly wish to call your attention to the *stock lots as per particulars noted at foot. 1897 *Daily News* 9 Jan. 6/3 The happy woman who possesses what we may call a *stock-size figure. 1900 *Ibid.* 28 July 6/7 Those who are fortunate enough to be a 'stock' size can save many shillings by buying these ready-made articles.

b. Designating a medicinal or chemical preparation which is kept ready for use, or the vessel in which such a preparation is stored.

1863 J. HUGHES *Pract. Photogr.* (1866) 11 When you have done for the day, return what [collodion] remains back into the stock-bottle. 1882 *Encycl. Brit.* XIV. 390/1 These [chemicals] are mixed together in one large stock tank. 1898 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* V. 424 If the specific gravity is to be lowered, this stock solution is diluted with water. 1907 J. A. HODGES *Elem. Photogr.* (ed. 6) 49 It is better to keep both the stock gold and the stock platinum solutions in the dark.

2. *Theatr.* **stock piece, play,** etc., one which forms part of a *répertoire*; **stock company,** a company who regularly act together at a particular theatre; **stock actor,** etc., a member of a stock company, or one who acts in stock pieces.

1865 W. DONALDSON *Recoll. Actor* 95 A large proportion of the *stock actors were..without talent or experience. 1830 G. COLMAN *Random Rec.* II. 6 Miss Lee's 'Chapter of Accidents', long and justly rated as a *stock Comedy. 1864 P. PATERSON *Glimpses Real Life* 37, I..being at the time one of the *stock company of the Beverley Theatre, New York. 1782 D. E. BAKER *Biogr. Dramatica* II. 84/2 The *Way to keep him*..still stands on the *stock-list of the theatre. 1887 T. A. TROLLOPE *What I remember* II. xii. 209, I subsequently took Sir Anthony [in 'The Rivals'] which remained my *stock part for years. 1805 SOUTHEY in *Ann. Rev.* III. 76 Their classical *stock pieces. 1761 VICTOR *Theatres Lond. & Dublin* I. 65 Time..wasted in rehearsing old *Stock Plays, for the Sake of the new Performers to be introduced in them. 1807 *Director* I. 260 The Beggars Opera is what is termed a stock play with us. 1847 *Theatr. Times* II Sept. 283/2 Mr. Gustavus V. Brooke is perhaps the greatest favourite in the provinces, as a *stock tragedian.

3. *fig.* in reference to intellectual or literary topics: Kept in stock for use; commonly used or brought forward, constantly appearing or recurring, in conversation, discussion, or composition; belonging to a staple or stock-in-trade of subjects, arguments, phrases, quotations, etc.; hence, commonplace, trite, conventional.

1738 SWIFT *Pol. Conversat.* Introd. 40 The old Stock-Oaths. 1803 MAR. EDGEWORTH *Pop. Tales, To-morrow* i, A line which has become a *stock line among writing-masters' copies. 1835 DICKENS *Sk. Bos., Mr. Watkins Tottle* ii, The master of the house, who was burning to tell one of his seven stock stories. 1853 KINGSLEY *Hypatia* ix. 109 The humble stock-phrases in which they talked of their labours of love. 1861 MILL *Utilit.* ii. 36 The stock arguments against utilitarianism. 1865 M. ARNOLD *Ess. Crit.* v. 172 Heine's..utter rejection of stock classicism and stock romanticism. 1871 MORLEY *Crit. Misc., Vauvenargues* 14 The stock moralist, like the commonplace orator of the pulpit, fails to touch the hearts of men. 1895 *Bookman* Oct. 26/2 The history has been sadly confused and distorted by stock quotations from the fathers.

†**Stock,** *sb.*[2] *Sc. Obs.* [ONorthumbrian *stocc,* a. (O)Irish *stoc* (Gael. *stoc*), a trumpet. In Sc. the word seems to have been taken up afresh from Gaelic and associated with STOCK *sb.*[1]

Initial *st* is very rare in native Irish words, and *stoc* is commonly believed to be a loan-word; but it occurs in early Middle Irish, so that adoption from English is improbable.]

a. *OE.* A trumpet. **b.** *Sc.* In the combs. **stock-horn, stock-in-horn, stock-and-horn,** a wind instrument formerly used in Scotland (see quots.).

a. *c* 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Matt. vi. 2 Bema *vel* stocc [gl. *tuba*].

b. 1597 SKENE *De Verb. Sign.* s.v. *Menetum,* To blaw ane stock horne, quhilk commounlie is maid of Timmer & wood, or tree, with circles & girds of the same, quhilk is zet vsed in the Hie-lands and Iles of this realme. 1725 RAMSAY *Gentle Sheph.* i, When I begin to tune my stock and horn. 1815 *Notes to Pennecuik's Descr. Tweeddale* 96 (Jam.) The original genuine Scottish pastoral pipe, consisting of a cow's *horn,* a hower-tree *stock,* from *stoc,* in Gaelic, a pipe, called the *Stock-in-horn,* with stops in the middle, and an oaten reed at the smaller end for the mouth piece. 1827 *Hone's Every-day Bk.* II. 20 The *kythels,* or stock-and-horn, a musical instrument made of the thigh bone of a sheep and the horn of a bullock. 1844 *Ayrsh. Wreath* 170 The first instrument he played on was a stock and horn.

†**Stock,** *sb.*[3] *Obs.* [a. F. *estoc,* ad. It. *stocco,* prob. of Teut. origin: cf. STOCK *sb.*[1]]

1. A thrusting sword. Also comb. *stock-sword.*

1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* VII. xii. 59 Wyth round stok suerdis faucht thai in melle, Wyth poyntalis, or wyth stokkis Sabylyne. 1536 BELLENDEN *Cron. Scot.* X. xvi. (1821) II. 176 Thay..had..stok swerdis, quhom na armour micht resist. *a* 1572 KNOX *Hist. Ref.* Wks. 1846 I. 177 A stog sweard.

2. *Fencing.* A thrust with a pointed weapon.

1598 SHAKS. *Merry W.* II. iii. 36 To see thee passe thy puncto, thy stock, thy reuerse, thy distance, thy montant. 1602 *2nd Pt. Ret. fr. Parnass.* I. ii. (1606) B 3, Here is a fellow Iudicio that carried the deadly stocke [MS. *variant* stockado] in his pen. 1602 MARSTON *Antonio's Rev.* I. iii. B 2, And if a horned diuell should burst forth, I would passe on him with a mortall stocke. 1604 — *Malcontent* II. ii. C 4, The close stock, o mortall wench.

Stock (stɒk), *sb.*[4] *Mining* and *Geol.* [a. G. *stock* (lit. 'stick').] (See quots.)

1882 GEIKIE *Text-bk. Geol.* IV. ix. § 2. 597 The cavernous spaces dissolved out in some rocks..may be filled with.. ores. Irregular metalliferous masses of this kind have long been known in Germany by the name of *stocks* (*Stöcke*). 1901 RANSOME in *Ann. Rep. U. S. Geol. Surv.* II. 255 Stocks are those ore bodies commonly referred to as 'chimneys'.

Stock (stɒk), *v.*[1] Forms: 4–6 stok(ke, 6 stoke, 5–7 stocke, 6– stock. [f. STOCK *sb.*[1] – (Independent formations relating to various senses of the sb.) Cf. Du. *stokken,* G. *stocken,* Sw. *stocka,* to provide (an anchor) with a stock, to hive (bees), to provide with sticks or props; *intr.* to stop flowing, come to a stop. Also G. *stöcken* to put in the stocks, to provide with sticks.]

I. Senses relating to material senses of the sb.

†**1.** *trans.* To set in the stocks; to punish by confining the feet (occas. the hands) in stocks; in early use, to subject to rigorous imprisonment. *Obs.*

c 1325 *Glass. W. de Bibbesw.* in Wright *Voc.* 163 E pur ço ke seygnur fet coingner [*glossed* stokken] Soun neif en ceps pur chastier. 1338 R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (1810) 121 Scho stokked

[*ad fet mettre en ceppes*] Kyng Steuen. *c*1374 CHAUCER *Troylus* III. 380 Rather deye I wolde,..stokked in presoun. 1430-40 LYDG. *Bochas* I. xv. (1554) 32 To hue in-prison..And to be stocked under key and locke. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 476/2 Stokkyn, or settyn in stokkys, *cippo*. 1451 *Paston Lett.* I. 190 They stokked hym and hesa sone at Swafham. 1534 MORE *Comf. agst. Trib.* III. Wks. 1245/2 He neither nedeth to coller vs nor to stocke vs for any feare of scaping away. 1571 *Life Y. Story* in Morgan *Phoenix Brit.* (1732) I. 292 Some were stocked in both Feet and Arms; some also were stocked by both their Feet and by both their Thumbs, and so did hang in the Stocks. 1641 G. RALEIGH *Albania* 13 She came by a Constable stocking the Drunkard. *a* 1661 FULLER *Worthies, Yorks.* (1662) 191 The Hand steals, the Feet are stocked. 1694 PENN *Rise & Progr. Quakers* v. 85 Being often Stockt, Stoned, Beaten, Whipt and Imprisoned.

† **b.** *transf.* and *fig.* *Obs.*

1591 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* I. vi. 77 The Dragon..doth fold About his fore-legs, fetter'd in such order, That stocked there he now can stir no further. *a* 1618 — *Job Triumph.* II. 333 In his Ruffe, and at his greatest height, Hee shall be stocked in full many a Strait.

¶ with allusion to STOCK *sb.*[1] 2.

a 1637 B. JONSON *Sad Sheph.* II. i, Whilst shee (poor Lasse) is stock'd up in a tree: Your brother Lorells prize!

† **c.** ? To fasten or confine (the tongue) as a punishment. *Obs.*

1568 V. SKINNER tr. *Gonsalvius' Sp. Inquisit.* 51 b, Streight way the felow should be sure to haue his mouth gagged, or his toung stocked, to teach him to be quiet.

2. To fasten to or fit with a stock: esp. **a.** To fix (a bell) to its stock.

1483-4 in Swayne *Churchw. Acc. Sarum* (1896) 34 The lytell Belle that was newe stokyt. 1600-1 in Garry *Churchw. Acc. St. Mary's, Reading* (1893) 86 Item to Richard hames for stoking the Belles & hanginge them, vijs. vjd. 1679 in *Trans. Shropsh. Arch. Soc.* Ser. III. (1908) VIII. 37 For stocking of ye Treble Bell..6. 8. 1857 LUKIS *Church Bells* 28 The heavy expense..of taking the bell down to be stocked afresh.

b. To fit (a gun, crossbow) with a stock.

1539 in *Archæologia* XI. 436 A fowler of iron stokked and bounde with iron. 1541 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* VIII. 119 Gevin to Johnne Drummond to stok ane grete culvering with,..xviij s. 1634 W. WOOD *New Eng. Prosp.* (1865) 19 Our Gunnes that are stocked with English Wallnut. 1649 in W. M. Myddelton *Churk Castle Acc.* (1908) 27 For stocking a crosse bow. 1747 *Gentl. Mag.* XVII. 101 A fine gun, which he forged, stocked, made, and completed himself. 1832 *Westm. Rev.* XVII. 327 Shungie the great warrior..succeeded in stocking one of his musquets in a very elegant manner. 1904 *Field* 6 Feb. 209/3 There is..no other plan of efficiently stocking a ready-made gun.

c. *Naut.* To fix the stock upon (an anchor).

1769 COOK *Jrnl. 1st Voy.* (1893) 86 The Carpenter employ'd in stocking the Anchors. 1803 T. NETHERTON in *Naval Chron.* XV. 214 Those employed in..stocking anchors.

d. (See quot.)

1911 WEBSTER, *Stock*..3...to secure, by or to a stock; as, two plows *stocked* to one frame.

e. Naut. *To stock to*: to haul (an anchor) into a perpendicular position by means of a stock-tackle.

1815 *Falconer's Dict. Marine* (ed. Burney), To Stock-to the Anchor. *c* 1860 H. STUART *Seaman's Catech.* 57 It is then stocked to, and lashed, and the stock tackle is unhooked. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.*

† **3. a.** ? To cover (the leg) with a stock or stocking. *rare*—[1]. **b.** To cover (hose) with some stronger material; to strengthen (stockings) with pieces of cloth sewn on. *Obs.*

1430-40 LYDG. *Bochas* IX. x. (1554) 201 b, Their breche enbroudred after ye guise of old, Fret with pearle, legge stocked to the kne. 1520 in *Archæologia* XXV. 435 A yerd of black to stock my master's hose. 1545-6 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* VIII. 443 Ane pair of hois of his gracis stokkit with blew velvot. 1691 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 2633/4 Grey Breeches, and grey Stockings newly stock'd.

† **4.** ? To make a stock of, use as a stock for grafting. *Obs. rare*—[1].

1528 TINDALE *Wicked Mammon* G viij, God..planteth them in the garden of his mercye, and stocketh them & graffeth the spiryte of Chryst in them.

5. *Leather-manuf.* To beat (hides) in the stocks.

1883 R. HALDANE *Workshop Rec.* Ser. II. 367/1 When the skins are dry, they are 'stocked' with oil again.

II. 6. To root up, pull up by the roots (trees, stumps, weeds, etc.); to extirpate by digging or grubbing; to fell (a tree) by digging round and cutting its roots with a mattock or similar instrument.

a. simply.

c 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* X. 92 This tyme is to be stocked euery tre. 1612 DRAYTON *Poly-olb.* XIV. 57 The painfull laborers hand shall stock the roots, to burne. 1686 PLOT *Staffordsh.* 210 Two able workmen were 5 days in stocking or felling it down. 1733 W. ELLIS *Chiltern & Vale Farm.* 300 Stocking them [*sc.* thistles] with an Iron Paddle. 1790 W. H. MARSHALL *Rur. Econ. Midl.* I. 102 Three methods of felling are here in use. Stocking, Axe-grubbing, and Axe-falling. 1839 SIR G. C. LEWIS *Gloss. Heref., To stock*,..To strike and wrench with an axe having a flat end. 1881 *Leicest. Gloss., Stock*, to cut off the branches from the trunk, or the long roots from the stump of a tree.

b. with *up* (very frequent); rarely *out*.

1458 *Anc. Deed* A. 7587 (P.R.O.), To stokke and hewe vppe be þe Rotes alle maner of Busshes bornes and trees. 1523 FITZHERB. *Surv.* 4 b, Demeyne woode..whereof the lorde at his pleasure may assert, stocke vp by the rootes [etc.]. 1678 BP. H. CROFT *Second Call* 47 The Husbandman finding but a few Thistles and Briars in his Meadow, stocks them up. 1733 W. ELLIS *Chiltern & Vale Farm.* 134 The Root..should not be sawed or cut down at bottom, but stock'd and grub'd entirely up. 1798 J. MIDDLETON *Agric. Middlesex* 119 This tract of land..abounded with trees and bushes, which seemed to make it necessary for the cultivator to..stock out the roots. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts*, etc. 1104 Instead of stocking up his rattoons, holing, and planting the land anew, the planter suffers the stoles to continue in the ground. 1881 *Leicest. Gloss., Stock-up*, to stub up, grub up.

fig. 1579 TOMSON *Calvin's Serm. Tim.* 765/1 He saith wee must stocke vp all the thorns that are in vs. 1609 HOLLAND *Amm. Marcell.* XXX. iii. 381 That the occasion of discord might not possibly bee stocked up by the rootes, without [etc.]. 1643 TRAPP *Comm. Gen.* XXVI. 10 The Apostle Paul so strives to stock up by the roots that wretched opinion. 1674 J. B[RIAN] *Harv. Home* vii. 47 A root of bitter gall, And wormwood, never stockt up wholly.

c. *transf.* To pull up (stones, a fence); to break or loosen (the surface of the ground with a pick). Usually with *up*.

1802 W. HUTTON *Life* 78 At the foot of this artificial hill stood the castle. The people of the country have stocked up the stones to the very foundation for building and the roads. 1879 T. CODRINGTON *Macadamised Roads* 91 The practice of picking up or loosening the surface of a road with a pick, sometimes called 'stocking'. *Ibid.* 92 Picking or stocking up the surface before laying fresh materials. 1907 *Gentl. Mag.* July 38 This waste land would be only gradually stocked, or grubbed up.

III. To check in growth; to stiffen.

7. To stunt, check in growth (a plant or animal). Chiefly in pa. pple. *stocked* (mod. dial. also *stocken, stoken*). Also *intr.*, to be stunted in growth. *dial.*

1607 MARKHAM *Caval.* I. 88 If anye of them [*sc.* mares]..eyther through want of milke, or the doggednes of some vnnaturall quality, shall stocke and starue their foales. 1652 R. ROBINSON *Christ all & in all* xvii. (1656) 362 The husbandman useth to say of his corne in a time of long drought, that it is stocked, yet that corne when the raine comes, will shoot up. 1712 J. MORTON *Nat. Hist. Northamptonsh.* 385 The Corn that's thus discolour'd, is usually stock'd, as the Husbandmen call it, that is, does not come up to the Strength and Perfection of the rest that escapes this Injury. 1848 A. B. EVANS *Leicestersh. Words* 91 *Stocked*, stopped in growth. 'The lambs are almost stocked by the cold weather.' 1851 [see 9]. 1853 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* XIV. II. 452 The most profitable mode of bringing young or store stock to market is, never to allow them to 'stock', or be impeded in their growth. 1879 MISS JACKSON *Shropsh. Word-bk., Stoken*, stunted in growth; impoverished in condition; said of animals that have been badly fed and attended to.

† **8.** *refl.* ? To be stubborn, refuse obedience; to render oneself callous or incapable of feeling. *Obs.*

1610 J. ROBINSON *Justif. Separ.* I. 23 We must so enioy experienced good things, as we stock not our selves in respect of other things, as yet vntryed. 1634 CANNE *Necess. Separ.* 107 Sound comfort flowes from sincere obedience: and therefore whosoever stocks himselfe in any the least parts of the revealed will of God, he is as Iehu, rotten at the best, even when he manifesteth most shew of Religion.

9. *local.* To indurate (stone) by exposure to the weather. ? *Obs.*

1712 J. MORTON *Nat. Hist. Northamptonsh.* 489 Should the [Slate] Stones lie expos'd to Sun and Wind, before the Frosts appear, it would in such manner set or *stock* the Vein, as the Workmen speak, that they wou'd not cleave. 1851 STERNBERG *Northampt. Dial.* 106 Some kinds of stone are said to be *stocked*, when, by exposure to the weather, they become indurated. Wheat, also, is said to be *stocked* when its growth has been checked by an analogous cause.

10. *intr. Sc.* (See quot.)

1808 JAMIESON, *Stock*, to become stiff, to be benumbed... we say that one *stocks*, or that the limbs *stock*, from cold or want of exercise.

† **IV. 11.** *pass.* To have place in a stock or genealogy. *Obs. rare*—[1].

1611 B. JONSON *Catiline* III. F 4, A person both of Blood and Honor, stock't In a long race of vertuous Ancestors.

V. To supply with a 'stock', fund, or store.

12. *trans.* To supply or provide with stock or with a stock; e.g. to furnish (a farm, estate, etc.) with live or dead stock; to fill (a pond, river) with fish; to furnish (a shop) with a stock-in-trade; to store or supply with goods, commodities, appliances, etc.

1622 FLETCHER *Prophetess* v. iii, He has bought the great Farm..And stock'd it like an Emperour. 1648 *Hunting of Fox* 41 Your Cattell that should stocke your grounds. 1670 COVEL in *Early Voy. Levant* (Hakl. Soc.) 120 There were several sorts of fruit brought to us..with which we stock't ourselves. 1683 [R. NORTH] *Discourse Fish & Fish-ponds* xiii. (1713) 48 The Fish wherewith you stock the Waters. 1707 FREIND *Peterborow's Cond. Spain* 164 Your Lordship knows how well stock'd with Mony you left us. 1727 DE FOE *Eng. Tradesm.* (1732) I. vi. 61 Some Tradesmen are fond of seeing their shops well stock'd, and their warehouses full of goods. 1776 GIBBON *Decl. & F.* xiv. (1782) I. 504 The country was plentifully stocked with provisions. 1812 CRABBE *Tales* xxi. 180 Here, take my purse..('Tis fairly stock'd). 1832 HT. MARTINEAU *Hill & Valley* iv. 64 Some laid out their earnings in stocking a little shop. 1857 LIVINGSTONE *Trav.* iv. 85 Many of his cattle burst away from him...He stocked himself again among the Batleti. 1857 TROLLOPE *Barchester T.* xxxix, Instead of putting his money by to stock farms for his sons. 1899 LADY M. VERNEY *Verney Mem.* IV. 29 The cellar was stocked with Rhenish Wine.

b. in general, transferred, and figurative uses.

1623 MASSINGER *Bondman* III. iv, Shee from the magazine of her proper goodnesse, Stock'd me with vertuous purposes. 1655 FULLER *Ch. Hist.* III. 29 With many such memorable passages, the reader may stock himself from the pens of the civil Historians. 1695 J. EDWARDS *Perfect. Script.* 353 Here..occurs such a plenty..as is able to stock an antiquary of the first size. *a* 1701 MAUNDRELL *Journ. Jerus.* (1732) 45 Sidon is stockt well enough with Inhabitants. 1751 *Affecting Narr. of Wager* 9 The Island is thoroughly stock'd with Churches and Chapels. 1818 SCOTT *Br. Lamm.* XXX, Those legendary heroines, with whose adventures, for want of better reading, her memory had become stocked. 1889 CASSAN *Bps. Bath & Wells* 134 It looks not well, to see a Cathedral or diocese stocked with relatives and family connections. 1864 MCLAUCHLAN *Scott. Ch.* (1865) 416 David changed the priory into an abbey and stocked it with monks from Canterbury in 1124. 1885 *Truth* 28 May 841/1 The office is stocked with the scions of the families or the friends of Judges.

† **13.** To provide with capital or funds. *Obs.*

1615 E. S. *Britaines Busse* E 1 b, The First yeares cleare Gaine will stocke him or them so sufficiently for the use of this busse, as [etc.]. 1654 H. L'ESTRANGE *Chas. I* (1655) 123 Never King had a greater mind to the work, then King Charles, had he been stockt for it: but poverty..kept him short.

† **14.** To invest (money). Also with *in, out*. *Obs.*

1683 *Repr. Advantages Manuf. Woollen-cloath* 20 Each Member drawes a lot for every 100 Pound he Stocks in. 1710 in W. M. Morison *Dict. Decis.* (1817) 16187 Watson..bequeathed..the sum of 5,400 marks Scots to be stocked in a responsible debtor's hand. 1794 *Cases Court Sess.* 70 Although this minister is to sell the marl, he does not apply the price to his own use; it is to be stocked out for the benefit of the incumbent.

15. To lay up in store; to form a stock or supply of (a commodity). Also with *up*.

1700 T. BROWN *Amusem. Ser. & Com.* 114 Every day a Crop is gather'd, and every Night stockt up in Baskets. 1735 DYCHE & PARDON *Dict., Stock*,..also to lay in a large Quantity of any sort of Goods, &c. 1755-73 JOHNSON (ed. 4), *Stock*..to lay up in store; as, he stocks what he cannot use. 1823 SCOTT *Quentin D.* xviii, The wine was stocked in the deep vaults of Bracquemont, by my great-grandfather.

b. *esp.* To keep (goods) in stock for sale.

1884 *Bookseller* 1178/1 To refuse to stock the goods of the publishers who supply these cutters out. 1886 *Cyclist* 6 Oct. 1324/1 It will be perfectly safe to stock a well-considered variety of this style of machine. 1888 *Spectator* 21 July 1016 (Advt.), All the..Wholesale Houses regularly Stock it.

16. *absol.* To provide stock; to lay in a stock or supply. Also with *up*.

1850 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* XI. II. 615 Although my land is of very inferior quality, I stock heavily. 1876 CALLIS *Cutlery* (Brit. Manuf. Industr.) 173 His fellow, who works for a house that does not 'stock,' has to collect the material from half a dozen warehouses. 1890 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Squatter's Dream* vii. 68, I shall decide to stock up as soon as the fences are finished. 1897 HOWELLS *Landlord at Lion's Head* 416 She was over to Lovewell stockin' up for Thanksgivin'. 1908 *Nation* 22 Aug. 734/1 They 'stock' year by year: but they do so with fish reared from native spawn.

VI. Various technical and dial. senses.

17. *pass.* Of a female animal; To be impregnated.

1478, 1490 [see STOCKED 2]. 1894 *West Sussex Gaz.* (advt.), Three-year-old Jersey Cow, stocked March 5th.

18. *trans.* To leave (a cow) unmilked in order that she may make a good show at market.

1683 TRYON *Way to Health* 485 Neither do our leathern Dublets stock their Cows, that is [etc.]. 1798 J. LAWRENCE *Treat. Horse* II. 156 There is also a cruel folly prevalent among cow-jobbers, namely that of stocking the cows, as it is called. 1847 [see STOCKING *vbl. sb.* 4].

19. *intr.* Of corn, grass, etc.: To send out shoots, sprout, tiller. ? Now only *Sc.*

1574 R. SCOT *Hop Garden* (1578) 18 The Hoppe never stocketh kindelye vntyll it reache higher than the Poale. 1577 GOOGE tr. *Heresbach's Husb.* I. 37 b, Yf you mingle Otes with the seede of Medica, and sowe them, they wyll cause them to stocke very well. 1799 J. ROBERTSON *Agric. Perth* 164 Land in good order ought to be sown thin, because the grain will stock, the straw will be strong [etc.]. 1825 JAMIESON. 1856 MORTON *Cycl. Agric., Provincialisms, Stocking* (Scot.), the tillering of grain crops in spring. *a* 1882 *Scotsman* (O.) About two months ago broad blanks were to be seen on many oatfields, and though they have stocked a little, the crop is yet far too thin.

20. *trans.* To sow (land) with grass or clover. Also with *down*: To lay down to grass, etc. *U.S.*

1828-32 WEBSTER, *Stock*..to supply with seed; as, to *stock* land with clover or herdsgrass. *American farmers.* 1870 *Daily News* 16 Apr., In the following year it is sown to oats, and 'stocked down' with clover and grass seed. 1891 *Century Dict., Stock*..to furnish with a permanent growth, especially with grass: as, to *stock* a pasture. 1911 WEBSTER, *Stock down*, Agric., to sow, as plowed land, with seed of grass or other permanent forage crop.

b. Of weeds: ? To overrun, choke (land) with their growth.

1765 *Museum Rust.* IV. 187 If they are suffered to seed, they will soon stock the land.

21. To cause to be cropped or eaten by cattle; to use (land) as pasture.

1794 VANCOUVER *Agric. Cambridge* 188 The first year of the new grass it is stocked very hard with sheep. 1863 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* XXIV. 625 There is a limit to the extent to which we can stock and crop land. *Ibid.* 636 The best plan was to place them upon old grass-land, which had not been stocked with sheep through the previous part of the year. 1886 *W. Somerset Word-bk.* s. v., It is common to let pasture 'only to be stocked'—i. e. depastured, not to be mown for hay. 1909 *Nation* 18 Sept. 881/1 Fields of dry grey uneaten bennets that have been too sparsely stocked.

22. *intr.* Of live stock: To bear being crowded on pasture land.

1863 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* XXIV. 477 The Shropshires [i. e. sheep] upon the rich and heavy land of the Vales have this peculiar merit: they will stock thickly.

23. *trans.* **a.** To put (playing cards) together in a pack. **b.** To arrange or shuffle fraudulently.

1735 DYCHE & PARDON *Dict., Stock*,..in *Gaming*, to put the Cards together again without playing them. 1828-32 WEBSTER, *Stock*..4. To pack; to put into a pack; as, to stock cards. 1865 *Slang Dict.* 247 To stock cards, is to arrange cards in a certain manner for cheating purposes. 1894 [see STOCKED *a.* 7].

Stock (stɒk), *v.*2 Now *dial.* [?ad. OF. *estoquier*, *estoquer*, to strike with the edge or point of a weapon. Cf. STOCK *sb.*3 and STOKE *v.*1]

†**1.** *trans.* To strike or hit with a thrust of a pointed weapon. *Obs. rare*—1.

a 1625 FLETCHER *Love's Cure* III. iv, In my young daies A Chevalier would stock a needles point, Three times together.

2. Of a bird: To peck, peck at; to make (a hole) by pecking. Also, to root *up* with the beak (cf. STOCK *v.*1 6). Also *intr.* To peck *away* (*at*).

1653 BAXTER *Chr. Concord* 24 Some Birds first make their way into a hard tree by stocking a hole in it. 1674 FLAVEL *Husb. Spiritualized* xiii. 115 Corn..but slightly covered is stockt up as soon as it begins to sprout by Rooks and other devouring fowls. 1843 *Zoologist* I. 368 Rooks have at times seriously injured fields of young grass, by stocking up the red clover plants. 1844 E. JESSE *Sc. & T. Country Life* I. 213 He observed a young cock..stock with his beak the mice as fast as they fell to the ground. 1845 DARWIN *Voy. Nat.* iii. (ed. 2) 57 The Polyborus Chimango..injures the potato-crops in Chiloe by stocking up the roots when first planted. 1890 *Glouc. Gloss.*, *Stock*, to peck; of a bird pulling up seed corn.. 1893 *Cornhill Mag.* Nov. 505 There were the old rooks stocking away at the grubs and chafers.

Stockade (stɒkē·d), *sb.* Also 8–9 **stoccade**, (9 **stocade**). [a. F. †*estocade*, corruption of *estacade*, a. Sp. *estacada*: see STACCADO, STOCKADO.

In the 17th c. the Fr. word was occasionally miswritten *estocade*, by confusion with *estocade* sword-thrust, STOCCADO. This may be in part the source of the Eng. form.]

1. A defensive barrier of stakes or piles placed across a harbour or river, around a building, village, and the like; spec. in *Fortification*, a barricade for entrenchments and redoubts, usually made of timber, furnished with loopholes for gun-fire.

1614 GORGES *Lucan* II. 77 *marg.*, The like [*i.e.* a boom across the harbour's mouth] was vsed by the Spaniards before Antwerpe, which they tearmed a Stockade. 1777 MASON *Eng. Garden* II. 293 As, round some citadel, the engineer Directs his sharp stoccade. 1810 WELLINGTON in Gurw. *Disp.* (1838) VI. 11 To secure effectually the breach on the left of the line..by a stockade. 1812 J. HENRY *Camp. agst. Quebec* 19 The Fort..consisted of old Block-houses and a stocade. 1834–47 J. S. MACAULEY *Field Fortif.* (1851) 92 Of Stoccades. If the work were a lunette, a stoccade, or strong palisade may be placed across the ditch. 1852 DOVETON *Burmese War* i. 19 Rangoon..presented an assemblage of fragile bamboo tenements..encircled by a wooden fence,..known to us by the name of a 'stockade'. 1865 LIVINGSTONE *Zambesi* XXVII. 557 On the 11th October we arrived at the stockade of Chinsamba. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* I. 162 Stoccades are formidable parapets constructed entirely of wood in situations not exposed to artillery fire...Ordinary stoccades consist of a row of upright timbers 12 or 14 inches in diameter, and from 10 to 15 feet in length. 1892 Col. G. PHILIPS *Text Bk. Fortif.* (ed. 5) 74 A Stockade is a defensible rifle-proof wall, made usually of timber or railway iron, and provided with loopholes to fire from.

2. *transf.* a. (See quots.)

1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade*, *Stockade*, a fortification or fence of pointed stakes, in New Zealand called a pah; a cattle-pen. 1905 W. E. B. DU BOIS *Souls of Black Folk* vii. 126 The high whitewashed fence of the 'stockade,' as the county prison [Dougherty, Georgia, U.S.] is called.

b. *Hydraul. Engin.* A row of piles serving as a breakwater or as a protection to an embankment.

1891 *Century Dict.* 1895 *Daily News* 21 Mar. 5/3 One of the gales of February..destroyed 3,000 square yards of the stockade between Willop and Dymchurch.

3. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *stockade timber*, *work*; *stockade-like* adj.; **stockade fort** [FORT *sb.*1 1 c] *Brit. N. Amer.* and *U.S.*, a fortified trading station, **stockade tambour** (cf. TAMBOUR *sb.* 6).

1756 WASHINGTON *Lett.* Writ. 1889 I. 397, I am directed to evacuate all the *stockade forts. 1809 W. IRVING *Knickerb.* (1861) 65 The land being thus fairly purchased of the Indians, ..a stockade fort and trading house were forthwith erected. 1894 *Outing* (U.S.) XXIV. 337/1 A *stockade-like inclosure. 1892 Col. G. PHILIPS *Text Bk. Fortif.* (ed. 5) 164 A *stockade tambour may be from 6 to 9 feet broad inside, and long enough for three or four men firing each way. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* II. 129/2 This brings the loopholes close to the ground, and exposes as little as possible of the *stoccade timbers. *Ibid.*, As a rule the side and front walls are constructed of *stoccade work.

Stockade (stɒkē·d), *v.* [f. STOCKADE *sb.*] *trans.* To protect or fortify with a stockade. Also with advs. *in*, *off*, *round*.

1755 T. FORBES in *C. Gist's Jrnls.* (1893) 150 This Fort was composed of four Houses built by way of Bastions and the intermediate Space stockaded. 1775 ADAIR *Amer. Ind.* 183 Having placed the dead on a high scaffold stockaded round. 1811 WELLINGTON in Gurw. *Disp.* (1838) VII. 413 The breach at Badajoz can scarcely be more than stockaded. 1855 KINGSLEY *Westw. Ho!* xxi, We must..stockade a camp, and get our sick and provisions thither. 1864 CARLYLE *Fredk. Gt.* XVI. xiv. IV. 474 Who landed, accordingly, on that rough shore; [and] stockaded themselves in. 1893 SELOUS *Trav. S. E. Africa* 297 João's town was well built and very strongly stockaded. 1897 MARY KINGSLEY *W. Africa* 148 A sweetly amicable style for factories, who as a rule firmly stockade themselves off from their next door neighbours.

Hence **Stocka·ding** *vbl. sb.*, the action of the verb; also, *concr.* stockade-work.

1855 KINGSLEY *Westw. Ho!* xxi, I know nought about stockading; but Sir Francis would have given the same counsel. 1881 MRS. C. PRAED *Policy & P.* I. 59 Rough stockading..divided the settlers' paddocks from the road. 1897 HENTY *On Irrawaddy* 175 Even the women had been compelled to labour in the work of stockading.

Stockaded (stɒkē·dĕd), *ppl. a.* [f. STOCKADE *sb.* or *v.* + -ED.] Protected with a stockade.

1778 T. HUTCHINS *Topogr. Descr. Virginia* etc. 29 Ouiatanon is a small stockaded fort. 1834 M. SCOTT *Cruise Midge* ii, The fort..was a stockaded enclosure. 1908 SIR H. JOHNSTON *G. Grenfell* I. xi. 197 They suddenly burst out of their own stockaded settlement on the rest of the town.

b. Of an island: Artificially formed by driving piles into the bed of the water.

1863 LYELL *Antiq. Man* 30 These 'stockaded islands,' as they [*i.e.* Irish lake-dwellings] have been sometimes called.

†**Stocka·do**, *sb. Obs.* Forms: 7 **stocado**, 7–8 **stoccado**, **stoccata**, 7, 9 **stockado**. [Altered form of STACCADO, as if f. STOCK *sb.*1 Cf. STOCKADE *sb.*] = STOCKADE *sb.* 1.

[1589 P. IVE *Fortif.* 38 Place in the riuer..a stackado of great piles to keepe an enemy out.] 1609 E. GRIMESTONE *Gen. Hist. Netherl.* XII. 878 They of Antuerpe made new engines to breake and burne the bridge and Stocadoes [orig. F. *les estocades*] which the prince of Parma had made. 1615 HEYWOOD *Foure Prentises* I. Wks. 1874 II. 242 Stockadoes, Palizadoes, stop their waters. 1638 R. BAKER tr. *Balzac's Lett.* (vol. II) 204 A simple Captaine of Holland, who talkes nothing but Stoccadoes; and Circumvallation. 1783 W. F. MARTYN *Geog. Mag.* II. 509 A small fort surrounded by Stoccadoes. 1809 *Ann. Reg.* 215 In order to protect them against fire ships, stockadoes, raised on piles, were placed 250 fathoms higher up the river.

b. *attrib.*, as *stockado rail*; **stockado fort** ? = *stockade fort* (see STOCKADE *sb.* 3).

1760 *Brit. Chron.* 4 Apr. 326 It seems intended to surround the lawn in St. James's Park with a stoccado rail. 1766 STORK *Acc. E. Florida* 34 Forming a second communication between the stoccata fort..and fort Mosa.

†**Stocka·do**, *v. Obs.* [f. STOCKADO *sb.*] = STOCKADE *v.*, also with *about*, *round*.

1647 SPRIGGE *Anglia Rediv.* III. i. (1854) 133 Several works commanding one another,..being pallisadoed and stockadoed. 1699 DAMPIER *Voy.* II. 1. 160 The back part is stockadoed round with great Trees, set up on end. 1701 C. WOLLEY *Jrnl. New York* (1860) 50 They fence and stockado their graves about. 1765 R. ROGERS *Acc. N. Amer.* 246 The Indians..do not neglect to fortify themselves, many of their towns being well stockadoed.

Hence †**Stocka·doed** *ppl. a.*

1675 in *J. Easton's Narr.* (1858) 75 Where there is not a Block House or some stockadoed or palisadoed House.

Stockado, variant of STOCCADO.

Stockage (stɒ·kĕdʒ). [f. STOCK *v.* after *pasturage*.] The action of putting cattle on land to feed on the crop. (Cf. STOCK *v.* 21.)

1884 *Advt., Taunton, Somerset*, Sale of a small..Estate with excellent Homestead and right of Stockage on the Hill.

†**Stockant**, *a. rare*—1. [f. STOCK *sb.*1 8, after *couchant*, etc.] Frequently set in the stocks.

1652 BROME *Jovial Crew* II. E 1, *Mer.* Couchant and Passant, Guardant, Rampant Beggars. *Vin.* Current and vagrant— *Hil.* Stockant, whippant Beggars!

†**Stockard** 1. *Obs.* Alleged name of a bird.

1579 HAKE *Newes out of Powles* iv. (1872) D ij b, Stent, Stockard, Stampine, Tanterueale, and Wigeon of the best. 1610 W. FOLKINGHAM *Art of Survey* IV. iii. 83 Fowling may be for the Bittour,..Pyntayl, Stockard, Duck, [etc.].

†**Stockard** 2. *Obs. rare.* ? = STOCKING *sb.*

1597 in Hore *Hist. Wexford* (1900) I. 280 One bed tik, 2 hatts, 3 prs. stockards, 24 lbs. pewter.

†**Sto·ckbridge**. *Obs. rare.* Also **stocbred**. [a. MFlem. *stocbreet* (MLG. *stockbrêt*, MHG. *stockbreit*), lit. 'yard-wide' (*stok* yard measure, *breet* BROAD *a.*). The later form coincides with the name of a town in Hants.] Some kind of cloth.

1526 J. HACKET *To Wolsey* 4 July (*MS. Cott. Galba* B. IX. 22) The bourgessys of the sayd town [Bruges] cawssyd to bryng fro Andwerp and fro the Sclus manny kersseys and stocbreds. 1583 *Rates Custom Ho.* G ij, Rates for clothes, ..Streits Stockbridges Cardenals.

Sto·ck-bro·ker, stockbroker. [STOCK *sb.*1] A broker who, for a commission, buys and sells stocks on behalf of clients.

1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey) s. v. *Broker*, *Stock-Brokers* are such as buy and sell Shares in the joynt Stocks of a Company, or Corporation, for any Person that shall desire them. 1746 W. THOMPSON *R. N. Adv.* (1757) 46 Usurers, Stock-Brokers, and Merchants. 1834 MARRYAT *P. Simple* I, My father had told me that Mr. Handycock was his stock-broker. 1867 TROLLOPE *Chron. Barset* I. XXXVII. 320 A man may be a stockbroker though he never sells any stock.

So **Sto·ck-bro·kerage, -bro·kery**, the business of a stock-broker; **Sto·ck-bro·king** *vbl. sb.* and *ppl. a.*

1792 A. YOUNG *Trav. France* 513 The banking, money-changing, and stock-broking writers, with Necker at their head. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. III. viii, From the dens of Stock-brokerage. 1869 W. S. GILBERT *Bab Ball., Disillusioned* 29 With vulgar, coarse, stock-broking face. 1874 M. COLLINS *Transmigr.* III. viii. 127, I was specially anxious to transfer stockbrokery to Algy. 1885 *Law Rep.*, 15 *Q. B. Div.* 116 An account in respect of stockbroking transactions carried on between them. 1896 *Daily News* 9 Nov. 3/4 He was now learning stockbroking in the city.

Stock-card. [f. STOCK *sb.*1 + CARD *sb.*1] A large wool-card fastened to a stock or support. (See STOCK *sb.*1 2 a.)

1562 *Richmond Wills* (Surtees) 156 Stockcards and hande cards iij^{s} iiij^{d}. 1585 HIGINS *Junius' Nomencl.* 254/1 *Pecten*, ..a wooll card, or stocke card. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 285/2 The Stock Card is of the same nature as the Wool Card only of a larger size, having a double handle fixt on the middle of the Board, by which the Workman holdeth with both Hands, and so Cards Wool (for it is only for Wool) upon another such like Card, but larger [etc.]. 1827 *Edin. Rev.* XLVI. 5 This..most ingenious..person adapted the stock-cards used in the woollen manufacture to the carding of cotton. 1835 URE *Philos. Manuf.* 170 The ancient plan of flat hand or stock-cards.

Hence † **Stock-card** *v. trans.*, to tease or scribble (wool) with a stock-card. **Stock-carder**, one who uses a stock-card.

1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s. v. *Woollen Manufactory*, A Pack ..of short Wool..employs..three Men to Sort, Dry, Mix, and make it ready for the Stock-Carder; five to Scribble, or Stock-Card it [etc.].

Sto·ck-dove. Forms: see STOCK *sb.*1 and DOVE. Also 4–6 **-dowe**, 5 **-dowef**. [Cf. Flem. † *stockduive* (Kilian), G. *stocktaube* (= *holztaube*, *hohltaube*). Prob. so named as living in hollow trees.

The conjecture that the name was given because this kind of pigeon was supposed to be the 'stock' or ancestral form of the domestic pigeon is unlikely.]

The wild pigeon, *Columba œnas*.

c 1340 *Nominale* (Skeat) 804 *Coloumbe ramer et vanele* Stokdowe and lapwynge. *c* 1425 *Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 640/3 *Hic palumbus*, stokedowef. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 476/2 Stokke Dowe, *palumba*, *palumbes*. *c* 1530 in *Archæologia* XXV. 498 To Osbert Reds sone, for bryngyng of stockdowes, ijd. 1584 LYLY *Sappho* IV. iii. 3 Me thought I saw a Stockdoue or woodquist, I knowe not how to tearme it. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Past.* I. 77 Stock-Doves and Turtles tell their am'rous pain. 1766 PENNANT *Brit. Zool.* I. 391 Rock-Pigeons have been often seen mixed with the flights of Stock Doves. 1867 TEGETMEIER *Pigeons* 13 The Stock Dove usually breeds in the hollows of decayed trees, sometimes in deserted rabbit burrows. 1895 LYDEKKER *Roy. Nat. Hist.* IV. 371 The stock-dove..often confused with the rock-dove, which it resembles in size and general colour, although distinguished by having the rump grey instead of white.

Stocked (stɒkt), *a.* and *ppl. a.* [f. STOCK *sb.*1 and *v.*1 + -ED.]

†**1.** Set in the stocks, imprisoned. *Obs.*

c 1425 *Found. St. Bartholomew's* (E.E.T.S.) 27 Oure lord ihesu criste, the whiche losith stokkid men. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 476/2 Stokkyd, yn stokkys, *cip(p)atus*.

2. Of a female animal: Impregnated, breeding.

1478 *Acta Audit.* (1839) 74/2, xij stokit meris and a stag of a 3ere auld. 1490 *Acta Dom. Concil.* (1839) 146/2 A stokkit mere and hir foloware price iiij li.

3. Of a fire-arm, a tool: Furnished with a stock.

1497 *Naval Acc. Hen. VII* (1896) 290 Serpentynes..stokked cxvj, vnstokked xxv. 1594 in *Highland Papers* (S.H.S. 1914) I. 183 He schot him with my reid stocket hagbit. 1635 *Relat. Maryland* vii. 45 Item, 2 Piercers stocked. 1648 *Bury Wills* (Camden) 217 My little black stocked peece inlayed with silver, and my case of redd stocked pistolls.

†**4.** Of hose. Cf. STOCK *v.*1 3 b.

1598 E. GUILPIN *Skial.* (1878) 48 The long stockt hose, or close Venetian.

5. Of a tree: ? Rooted up or felled.

a 1595 SOUTHWELL *St. Peter's Compl.* (1602) 72 Like stocked tree whose branches all doe fade.

6. Furnished with a stock or store. Also with adv., as *well-stocked*.

a 1796 BURNS '*Thou's welcome, wean*' vi, Twill please me mair to hear an' see 't, Than stocket mailens. 1829 F. GLASSE *Belgic Past.* iii. 46 Had your sires toil'd a century, or more, With a stock'd farm, they had not heap'd the store Which Strephon claims. 1859 REEVE *Brittany* 228 We were led..through a large and well-stocked garden. 1897 MEREDITH *Amazing Marriage* I. xv. 169 She could get up enthusiasm for a stocked hamper. 1909 *Edin. Rev.* Oct. 319 A barely stocked purse.

7. Of cards: Fraudulently arranged or dealt.

1894 J. N. MASKELYNE *Sharps & Flats* vi. 147 He is enabled to know when the stocked cards are being given off and who has them.

Stocken-apple: see STOCKING-APPLE.

Stocker (stɒ·kəɹ). [f. STOCK *v.*1 and *sb.*1 + -ER1.]

1. A workman who makes or fits stocks, esp. gun-stocks.

1641 *Sc. Acts Chas. I* (1870) V. 562/2 Stockeres of Gunes. 1881 GREENER *Gun* 249 The stocker upon receiving the stock first roughs it into shape. 1886 *Daily Tel.* 9 Feb. 7/5 Gun Maker. Wanted a stocker and screwer. 1892 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade* Suppl., *Stocker*, a man engaged in making stock-locks.

2. A workman employed in felling or grubbing up trees. *local.*

1686 PLOT *Staffordsh.* 211 Under the hands of Francis Mærshall, Thomas March, Stockers. 1890 *Gloucester Gloss.*, *Stockers*, men employed to clear out the butt of a tree ready for felling.

3. *local.* (See quot.)

1879 MISS JACKSON *Shropsh. Word-bk.*, *Stocker*, an implement used for 'stocking' up turnips; it has two prongs and a handle four feet long.

4. *U.S.* and *Canada.* An animal, esp. a young steer or heifer, sold to be finally butchered, but kept as stock until matured or fattened; distinguished from *killer*. (W. 1911.)

1881 *Chicago Times* 1 June, Stockers and feeders were dull and weaker. 1891 *Daily News* 2 July 6/4 Animals for fattening known as stockers. 1891 *Times* 1 Oct. 9/4 The bulk of the Canadians were only stockers.

5. *dial.* Fish of other kinds taken when fishing for herring or pilchards (E.D.D.); a sum of money accruing to a member of the crew as his share in this. Also *attrib.* as *stocker-bait*.

1883 CLARK RUSSELL *Sailors' Lang.*, *Stocker-bait*, small fish given by smack-owners to their apprentices to sell for their own profit. 1904 in *Eng. Dial. Dict.* s. v., (Cornwall.) We get some mackerel and pollock in the pilchard nets or the herring nets. That goes for what we call 'stocker'. The crew divides that. 1914 *Times* 14 July, Stocker is explained as being money received from the sale of tails of a fish

called the monk, roes, shell-fish, &c. *Ibid.*, They took the stocker, they sold it, and they handed the proceeds to some member of the crew for division between himself and the other members entitled to it.

Stock exchange. ¶A market for the buying and selling of public securities; the place or building where this is done; an association of brokers and jobbers who transact business in a particular place or market.

Often with capital initials as the name of a particular building, esp. that in the City of London.

1773 *Lond. Chron.* 13–15 July 50/3 Yesterday the Brokers and others at New Jonathan's, came to a resolution, that instead of its being called New Jonathan's, it should be named 'The Stock Exchange,' which is to be wrote over the door. 1809 *Morn. Herald* 18 May 3/3 Yesterday, being a Holiday, no Business was done at the Stock Exchange. 1887 *Encycl. Brit.* XXII. 557/1 In active times the business transacted daily on the London stock exchange amounts to an enormous total. 1905 Miss Broughton *Waif's Progr.* ii. 17 He is on the Stock Exchange!

Stockey, variant of Stocky.

Stock-fish, sto·ckfish. For forms see Stock *sb.*[1] and Fish *sb.*[1]; also 3 -fhis, 4 -fihs, -fys, 5 -fisch(e, -physhe, *pl.* -fyscheys. [Prob. a. (M)Du. *stokvisch* = MHG. *stocvisch* (G. *stockfisch*), MSw. *stokfisker* (Sw. *stockfisk*, Da. *stokfisk*); f. Du. *stok* Stock *sb.*[1]; the reason for the designation is variously conjectured.] A name for cod and other gadoid fish cured by splitting open and drying hard in the air without salt.

1290 in J. Stevenson *Docum. illustr. Hist. Scot.* (1870) I. 139 Pro cc stokfhis, xviij *s.* 1350 in *Registr. Monast. de Winchelcumba* (1892) 264 Dimidium centum duri piscis de stocfish, videlicet coursfish. 1436 *Pol. Poems* (1859) II. 191 Of the comodius stokfysshe of Yselonde. 1450–4 in *Oxf. Stud. Soc. & Legal Hist.* (1914) IV. 199, ix° Stockfisshes and an c iiij[xx] Saltfisshes. 1555 Eden *Decades* (Arb.) 303 From hense [Norway] is brought into all Europe a fysshe of the kindes of them whiche we caule haddockes or hakes indurate and dryed with coulde, and beaten with clubbes or stockes, by reason whereof the Germayns caule them stockefyssh. 1617 Morvson *Itin.* III. 99 In Norway they catch great store of Stockfish, which they beate with cudgels, and dry with cold. 1796 Morse *Amer. Geog.* II. 18 (Norway) Stock-fish in great numbers are caught and dried upon the rocks without salting. 1856 Kane *Arctic Expl.* I. ii. 22 The stockfish, dried in the open air, without salt.

b. In figurative, proverbial and jocular expressions. (Often with reference to the beating of the fish before cooking.)

1515 Barclay *Egloges* i. (1570) A ij, And as a stockfishe wrinkled is my skinne. 1552 Huloet, s. v. *Beate*, Beate often as a stockfyshe is beaten, *retundo*. 1560 Becon *Catechi.* vi. Wks. I. 522 b, Those parents..whiche furiously rage against their children, and without consideration beat them as stockfish. 1575 R. B. *Apius & Virginia* (facs.) B j, As stout as a Stockefish. 1610 Shaks. *Temp.* III. ii. 79 By this hand, Ile..make a Stockfish of thee. 1666 *Third Advice to Painter* 30 Beat him to Stock-fish, else he'l ne'r be good. 1680 Otway *Caius Marius* v. ii, As dead as a Herring, a Stock-fish or Door-Nail. 1841 Dickens *Barn. Rudge* lvi, Old John sat, mute as a stock-fish. 1859 Meredith *R. Fevered* xxxvii, London is as dead as a stock-fish.

c. In contemptuous address to a person.

1596 Shaks. 1 *Hen. IV*, II. iv. 271 Away ..you stocke-fish.

d. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *stockfish-bone, -monger, -sound*; **stockfish-hammer,** a hammer for beating the fish before cooking; † **stockfish-wood,** an American wood resembling logwood.

1299 in R. R. Sharpe *Cal. Lond. Lett.-Bk. C.* (1901) 55 Stocfismongers. 1350–1 in W. H. St. John Hope *Windsor Castle* (1913) I. 161 In Cvj stokfisshsondis emptis pro glu inde faciendo. *c* 1430 Lydg. *Min. Poems* 23 A stokefisshe boon in dirkeness geveth a light. 1480–1 *Durham Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 97, ij Stokfisshammers. 1699 Dampier *Voy.* II. ii. 57 Of these sorts Blood wood and Stock-fish-wood are of the natural growth of America. 1766 Entick *Lond.* IV. 6 Robert March, a stock-fish monger.

Hence † **Sto·ckfished** *pa. pple.*, made hard as a stock-fish.

1654 Gayton *Pleas. Notes* III. i. 68 So verily I believe, that our Knight's parts would oe stockfisht, and solidated by continuall contusions, threshings, and quassations.

Sto·ck-gillyflower. Forms: see Gillyflower; also 6 **gyllofer, gelefloure, -flower, gille-,** 7 **jellyflower.** [Cf. Flem. *stokvioliere* 'viola lignescens' (Kilian), now *stokviolier, -f(e)lier, stoffelier* (De Bo).] The plant *Matthiola incana*; so called as having a woody stem, in distinction from clove-gillyflower. (See also Stock *sb.*[1] 43.)

1530 Palsgr. 276/2 Stocke gyllofer, *armorie bastarde*. 1548 Turner *Names Herbes* 80 Purple and blew stock-gelefloures. 1655 Moufet & Bennet *Health's Improv.* iii. 19 Stock-gillyflowers. 1677 Grew *Anat. Plants*, etc. (1682) 271 The Purple Flower of Stock-July Flowers. 1894 Blackmore *Perlycross* xlii, With..stock-gilly flowers in their hands.

Sto·ckholder.

1. One who is a proprietor of stock in the public funds or the funds of a joint-stock company, etc. Also (now *U.S.*) used more widely to include the meaning of 'shareholder'.

1753 *Scots Mag.* Mar. 116/1 The stockholders in the Silesia loan. 1776–83 Justamond tr. *Raynal's Hist. Indies* I. 359 The stock-holders will be mistrustful, the shares will be depreciated, and the Company will fall to ruin. 1844 H. H. Wilson *Brit. India* III. 498 The India stockholders would be left without any available means of realising their dividends. 1856 Emerson *Eng. Traits, Wealth* Wks. (Bohn) II. 72 It draws the nobility into the competition as stockholders in the mine, the canal, the railway. 1883 *Harper's Mag.* Nov. 943/1 Its stockholders pocket comfortable dividends of seven per cent. 1904 *Athenæum* 2 July 8/1 The use of 'stockholders' in the sense of shareholders is admissible in a work designed for American readers only. 1912 *Times* 19 Oct. 18/5 The Three-and-a-Half per Cent. Debenture stockholders.

2. A member of the Stationers' Company. ? *Obs.*

1825 Hansard *Typogr.* 276 The trading concerns [of the Stationers' Company] are managed by a regular committee of nine members; viz., the master, the two wardens, and six other stock-holders, who are annually chosen. *Ibid.*, The livery (stock-holders) are summoned to elect.

3. *Austral.* An owner of large herds of cattle or flocks of sheep.

1819 W. C. Wentworth *Descr. N.S. Wales* 97 The system which the great stockholders almost invariably pursue. 1824 E. Curr *Acc. Van Diemen's Land* 83 The most negligent stock-holders now carefully house their wool.

So **Sto·ckholding** *vbl. sb.* or *ppl. a.*

1830 *Debates in Congress* 10 May 927 The great stockholding interest, whose funds are in the various stocks, which, altogether, constitute the national debt.

Stockily *adv.*: see after Stocky *a.*

Stockinet (stǫkine·t). Also **stockinett(e, stockinnet, stockingett(e, -nette.** [Prob. a perversion (as if f. Stocking *sb.* + -et, -ette) of the older *stocking-net*: see Stocking *sb.* 6 b.]

1. A knitted textile fabric of considerable elasticity used chiefly in the making of undergarments. Also *stockinet cloth, material.*

1824– [see 3]. 1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib., Brit.* II. No. 4176, Woollen Manufacturers...[Exhibiting] Elastic stockingetts. 1880 *Cassell's Fam. Mag.* VI. 442 The stockingette material, or elastic cloth,..is being adapted to whole dresses, tunics [etc.]. 1881 *Ibid.* VII. 122 Stockingnette has proved this winter a bad investment. 1890 *Textile News* 20 June, Stockinettes and fancy woollens. 1905 *Daily News* 28 Mar. 12 An important clue was found in the discovery of three masks of black stockingette.

2. A garment made of stockinet. (Short for *stockinet pantaloons, shirt.*)

1837 T. Hook in *New Monthly Mag.* L. 155 The dancing-master in his stockinets and pumps. 1838 Poe *Narr. A. G. Pym* vii. Wks. 1895 V. 91 The shirt..was a blue stockinet, with large white stripes running across.

b. ? = Stocking 1 b. (*nonce-use.*)

1864 Ticknor *Life Prescott* 201 A full-length of Cortés,.. his nether extremities in a sort of stockinet, like the old cavaliers of the sixteenth century.

3. *attrib.* (or *adj.*) Made of stockinet.

1824 W. Irving *T. Trav.* II. 28 He wore a pair of dingy-white stockinet pantaloons. 1884 *Girl's Own Paper* 29 Nov. 138/3 The lady working..wears a stockingette jacket.

Stocking (stǫ·kiŋ), *sb.* Also 6–8 **stockin,** 7 **stocken,** (6 **stokyng**). [f. Stock *v.*[1] (sense 3) + -ing[1].]

1. A close-fitting garment covering the foot, the leg, and often the knee, now usually made of knitted or woven wool, silk, or cotton. Usually *pl.*

1583 Stubbes *Anat. Abus.* II. 39 Othersome buy cloakes, ..caps, coates, stockings, and the like. 1586 *Acc. Bk. W. Wray* in *Antiquary* XXXII. 76 Mony for a p[r] of stokyngs. 1593 *Knaresb. Wills* (Surtees) I. 195 My best under stockinges. 1603 [see Jersey 1]. 1607 E. H. *Stow's Chron.* 477 This yeare 1589 was diuised and perfected the Art of knitting or weauing of silke stockings,..and diuerse other things by engines or steele Loomes by William Lee. 1613 Shaks. *Hen. VIII*, I. iii. 30 Renouncing cleane The faith they haue in Tennis and tall Stockings, Short blistred Breeches. 1648 Sir J. Turner *Mem.* (Bannatyne Club) 59 Riseing nixt morning, I misd one linnen stocking, one halfe silke one and one boothose, the accoustrement under a boote for one leg. 1697 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 3269/4 [Stolen] out of a Bag, half a dozen pair of Roll Stockins, and 18 pair of short Stockins. 1785 Burns *1st Epist. J. Lapraik* ii, On Fasteneen we had a rockin, To ca' the crack and weave our stockin. 1812 *2nd Rep. Comm. Framework-Knitters* 93 Socks..are half-stockings, or rather what is called pantaloon stockings. 1902 Eliz. L. Banks *Newspaper Girl* 78, I hurriedly pulled on my stockings, buttoned my boots,..and started out.

Proverbial, etc. 1695 Congreve *Love for Love* II. i, *Nurse.* Pray Heav'n send your Worship good Luck..for you have put on one Stocking with the wrong side outward. 1739 Byrom *Jrnl. & Lit. Rem.* (1856) II. i. 223 The chief fault it had was that of King Stephen's stockings, the costing too little price.

† b. ? A kind of legging or long boot, a 'boot-hose' or 'boot-stocking'. *Obs.*

1676 Wood *Life* 21 Apr. (O. H. S.) II. 344 To Mr. Prince for a pair of riding leather stockings, 5*s.*

2. A stocking used **a.** as a purse or receptacle for storing one's money; hence, a store of money; also with qualifying word, as *big, fat, long stocking.*

1873 A. G. Murdoch *Lilts on Doric Lyre* 90 (E. D. D.) He wi' him had brocht A stocking weel padded wi' siller. 1876 S. R. Whitehead *Daft Davie* iii. 57 She had a 'stocking' gathered to meet the wants of an evil day. 1899 G. Ford *'Postle Farm* xxxvii. 192 Granfer's got money laid by in a stockin' up the chimney. 1903 Farmer *Slang* s.v., *Long-stocking* (common), means in plenty; resources.

b. as a receptacle for the presents supposed by children to be deposited in it by 'Father Christmas' (or, in *U.S.*, by Santa Claus) on Christmas eve.

1853 Susan & Anna B. Warner *Christmas Stocking* (1854) 3 Little Carl always hung up his stocking, and generally had it filled. 1883 *Harper's Mag.* Dec. 15/2 The saint who generously filled the Christmas stocking.

3. a. A surgical appliance resembling a stocking. *Elastic stocking*, a covering of elastic webbing worn as a remedial support for the leg, esp. when affected with varicose veins. b. A bandage for the leg of a horse.

[1676 Wiseman *Chirurg. Treat.* II. ii. 190 In stead of a Rowler I put on a laced Stocking.] 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech., Stocking*...(Farriery.) A device for remedying injuries to the tendons, varicose veins, etc., occurring in the lower part of a horse's leg. 1884 T. Bryant *Surg.* I. 566 When exercise is allowed, steady pressure by a well-applied bandage ..should be maintained, or an elastic stocking worn. 1894 [implied in Stockinged].

4. *transf.* Applied to the surface or coat of the leg (or the lower part of it) of a bird or beast, when of different colour from the body.

1821 Scott *Kenilw.* xl, 'And what didst thou learn there, forward imp?' 'To catch gulls, with their webbed feet and yellow stockings,' said the boy. 1856 H. H. Dixon *Post & Paddock* ii. 37 He was a very handsome rich bay, with a white stocking on his off hind leg. 1879 L. Wright *Pigeon Keeper* 124 The Beard [kind of pigeon] is usually only white at the ends of the thighs, or the 'stockings'. 1893 R. Lydekker *Horns & Hoofs* 11 The absence of white 'stockings' as a distinctive feature of most of our domestic breeds [of cattle]. 1908 *Animal Management* (Vet. Departm., War Office) 33 When the white hair extends just above the fetlock it is sometimes called a sock, and when much higher a stocking or leg.

5. Phrases.

a. *To stand* (a specified height) *in one's stockings*, i.e. without one's shoes. Cf. Stocking-foot c.

1855 Smedley *H. Coverdale* i, Harry Coverdale stood six feet one in or out of his stockings. 1883 *Harper's Mag.* Dec. 166/1 He stands over seven feet in his stockings.

b. *To throw the stocking*: said with reference to an old custom according to which on the wedding night the bride's stocking was thrown among the guests; it was supposed that the person hit by it would be the first of the company to be married.

For other forms of this custom see *Eng. Dial. Dict.* s.v.

1694 N. H. *Ladies Dict.* 509/1 The Stockin being motioned, the Bride must sit up to have it thrown at her Nose, that the Batchellours may know by him that first hits it, who is to be marryed next. 1709 [W. King] *Usef. Trans. Philos.* Mar. & Apr. 12 The Sack-Posset was eaten and the Stocking thrown. 1737 Pope *Hor. Epist.* I. i. 148 At am'rous Flavio is the stocking thrown? *a* 1833 Anderson *Cumbld. Ball.* (1904) 126 What! breyde forgat flingin the stokin. *a* 1845 Barham *Ingol. Leg.* III. *Wedding Day*, They all come ..To dance at her bridal, and help 'throw the stocking';— A practice that's now discontinued as shocking.

6. = *Stocking web* (see 7 b).

1812 *Rep. Committee Framework Knitters Petit.* 18 There are goods made up into a large piece of stocking, and cut out, instead of being properly shaped on the stocking frame.

7. *attrib.* and *Comb.*: **a.** simple attrib., as *stocking-heel, -manufactory, -manufacture, thread, -trade*:

1891 Hardy *Tess* vii, I declare there's a hole in my *stocking-heel! 1812 *1st Rep. Comm. Framework-Knitters* App. 48 Are you acquainted with the *stocking manufactory in general? 1765 *Par. Reg. Calverton* in Felton *Hist. Machine-wrought Hosiery* (1867) 30 The *Stocking manufacture very bad last year and this. 1833 J. Rennie *Alph. Angling* 37 These water blood-worms..are not much thicker than a *stocking thread. 1819 *Rep. Sel. Comm. Framework-Knitters* 10 The number now employed in the *stocking trade in Leicester.

b. quasi-*adj.* with the meaning 'made with the stocking-stitch, knitted, made of stockinet', as *stocking-cap, cloth, material, night-cap, -piece, stuff, -web*; **stocking-net** (rarely † *knit*; also *attrib.*), see quot. 1884 and cf. Stockinet.

1902 *Daily Chron.* 14 Feb. 7/5 The captain offered him a *stocking-cap, and he objected to wear it. 1880 *Cassell's Family Mag.* VI. 311/1 Bège tricot, woven as closely as possible to resemble *stocking-cloth. 1880 Mrs. L. S. Flover *Hints Exam. Needlew.* 55 Pieces of *stocking material (coarse) for darning. 1804 in *Abridgm. Specif. Patents, Wearing Apparel* II. (1875) 19 A method of double seaming and uniting the inside of *stocking net work. *Ibid.*, *Stocking knit work. 1832 *Patent* in *Newton's Lond. Jrnl.* (1838) XII. 275 Machinery..for making or manufacturing stockings, stocking-net, or framework knitting. 1884 Rowlett *Technol. Framework Knitting* I. 101 Stocking Net, *i.e.* plain framework made from woollen yarn on circular frames. ..Of late years this has largely come into use for ladies' jersies. 1818 Scott *Rob Roy* xxviii, [He] wore the trews, ..wove out of a sort of chequered *stocking stuff. 1843 *Penny Cycl.* XXVII. 180/2 One continuous thread forms both warp and weft, if we may apply these terms to the *stocking-web. 1884 *Cassell's Family Mag.* Feb. 185/2 The stocking-web jackets..fit the figure quite closely.

c. objective, as *stocking-darning, -knitter, -knitting, -maker, -making, -manufacturer, -mender, -presser, -seller.*

1839 Dickens *Nich. Nick.* ix, Mrs. Squeers being engaged in the matronly pursuit of *stocking-darning. 1728 Chambers *Cycl.* s.v., The Company of *Stocking-knitters establish'd at Paris in 1527, took for their Patron St. Fiacre. 1830 Scott *Hrt. Midl.* Introd., She..knit feet to country-people's stockings, which bears about the same relation to *stocking-knitting that cobbling does to shoe-making. 1619 *Cauterb. Marriage Licences* (MS.), Starr of Cranbrook, *stocken-maker. 1812 *1st Rep. Comm. Framework-Knitters* App. 44 There are four descriptions of persons concerned in the *stocking-making business. *a* 1876 M. Collins *Pen Sketches* (1879) I. 149 Avoiding the dreary stocking-making town of Shepton Mallet. 1793–4 *Matthews's Bristol Directory* 11 Bailey, Henry, *Stocking-manufacturer. 1594 Nashe *Terrors Nt.* Wks. (Grosart) III. 249 [They will] steale out a signe ouer a Coblers stall, lyke Aqua vitæ sellers and *stocking menders. 1686 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 2166/4 Mr. Edward Bonsaw, *Stocking-Presser. 1599 B. Jonson *Cynthia's Rev.* II. i, He beates a Tayler very well, but a *Stocking-seller admirably.

d. Special comb.: **stocking board,** a board upon which stockings when wet are stretched and

dried to shape; **stocking leg**, that part of a stocking which covers the leg; also as a receptacle for money (see 2 above); **stocking legger**, ? one whose occupation was the seaming of stocking-legs; **stocking loom, machine** = STOCKING FRAME; †**stocking man**, a stocking-maker; **stocking needle**, a darning-needle; **stocking-sole**, the sole, or that part of a stocking which comes under the tread of the foot; *in, on one's stocking-soles*, without one's shoes (cf. 5 a above and STOCKING-FOOT c); **stocking-stitch**, the stitch used in hosiery (see quot.); **stocking-throwing** (see 5 b above); **stocking-top**, ? the upper part or leg of a stocking; **stocking-trimmer** (see quot. 1858); **stocking-weaver**, one who weaves with a stocking-frame; **stocking-yarn**, the thread used in making hosiery. Also STOCKING-FOOT, STOCKING-FRAME.

1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib.* II. xxvii. 56 Glove and gauntlet trees and *stocking boards. 1861 R. QUINN *Heather Lintie* (1863) 225, I've..A *stockin' leg weel crammed, I trow, Wi' glancin' gowd sae yelly. 1727 *Brice's Weekly Jrnl.* 10 Feb. 2 Thomas Herbert, jun. of London, *Stocking-legger. 1715 A. HILL *Acc. Beech-Oil Inv.* 22 And thus the ingenious *Stocking Loom..was first invented. 1843 *Penny Cycl.* XXVII. 180/1 A singular confusion pervades the early history of the *stocking-machine. 1622 in *Crt. & Times Jas. I* (1848) II. 346 *Stocking-men, Haberdashers, point-makers, and other mean trades. 1886 A. D. WILLOCK *Rosetty Ends* (1887) 148 So, takin' a bittie o' paper, he wrote on it, 'Dear Mary', an' wi' a *stockin' needle an' a bit worsit he steekit it on the inside o' the collar. 1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* 575 Thereof [of the otter-skin] also in Germany they make..*stocking-soles. 1827 SCOTT *Surg. Dau.* v, A gallant young fellow like you, ..six feet high on your stocking-soles. 1889 BARRIE *Window in Thrums* xxi, Tibbie went ben the house in her stocking-soles, but Jess heard her. 1805 *6th Rep. Deputy Kpr. Publ. Rec.* App. II. 154 Specification of..some new and improved kinds of *Stocking stitch, and warp work. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 648 The whole piece is composed of a single thread..looped together in a peculiar manner, which is called stocking-stitch, and sometimes chain-work. 1885 *Scribner's Monthly Mag.* XXX. 393/1 *Stocking-throwing and other such customs long lingered among the backwoodsmen of the colonies. 1664 *Charter Framework-Knitters Co.* § 26 And these [appointed members] to prove, try, and see whether all *stocking-tops,..or any other thing..be workmanlike wrought. 1723 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 6194/9 Henry Hunt,..*Stocking-Trimmer. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade, Stocking-trimmer*, a decorator or ornamenter of stockings; one who removes loose threads or imperfections. 1697 DE FOE *Ess. Projects* 24 For which I refer to the Engine it self, to be seen in every *Stocking-Weaver's Garret. 1866 CARLYLE *Remin.* I. 85 Joe Blacklock [was] a rickety stocking-weaver. 1835 URE *Philos. Manuf.* 343 So high is the character of their *stocking-yarns and threads. 1882 CAULFEILD & SAWARD *Dict. Needlework* 463 *Stocking Yarn*..is Cotton thread, and is spun softer and looser than either Mule or Water Twist. Two threads are afterwards doubled together, and then slightly twisted round each other.

Stocking (stǫ·kiŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. STOCK *v.*[1] (occas. STOCK *sb.*[1]) + -ING[1].]

1. The action or process of fixing (a bell) to its stock, or furnishing (a gun) with a stock.

1450 *Durham Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 240 Et Joh'i Cales pro le stokkynge unius campane ad eccl. predictam, *4d.* 1546 *Acts Privy Counc.* 23 May (1890) 423 Item; a warraunte ..for xx markes in preste to the saide Mr. Darcy for the stocking of gonnes and other thinges there. 1588–9 in Garry *Churchw. Acc. St. Mary's, Reading* (1893) 68 Item for the newe stokinge of the Bels, ij*s.* vj*d.* 1703 in *J. Watson's Jedburgh Abbey* (1894) 91 A collection at the kirk door for payment of the little bell's casting, stocking, and other expenses. 1844 *Queen's Regul. Army* 99 For the Stock and new stocking Muskets and Carbines,..10*s.* 6*d.*

b. The parts forming the stock of a gun.

1532 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* VI. 156 To tua pynouris that tursit the gunnis to the stokkin in the castell. 1858 GREENER *Gunnery* 395 From imperfections in the stocking of the gun. 1870 *Athenæum* 8 Oct. 471/1 Faults..in..the lever, the stocking, and the ammunition [of the Martini-Henry rifle].

2. a. The uprooting of trees or plants. Also with *up*. Also *pl.* (see quot. 1851). b. (See quot. 1611.)

c 1460 FORTESCUE *Abs. & Lim. Mon.* xiii. (1885) 141 As it now well apperith be the new husbondry þat is done þer.. in grobbyng and stokkyng off treis [etc.] 1534 [see sense 8, *stocking-iron*]. 1611 COTGR., *Tronquement*, a trunking, stocking, or cutting off. 1613 [STANDISH] *New Direct. Planting* 3 It were very conuenient, that the stocking vp of Woods were preuented,..for..within a very few years there wil be little or no wood left for any vse, the stocking & stubbing is so great. 1733 W. ELLIS *Chiltern & Vale Farm.* 363 The Felling and Stocking up of Trees. 1851 STERNBERG *Northampt. Dial., Stockins*, land reclaimed from the woods.

3. The action of supplying with a stock or store; the furnishing (a farm) with cattle and implements or (a garden) with plants; also, keeping in stock.

1663 *Act* 15 *Chas. II*, c. 1 § 15 All..Implements of Husbandry, and all other things whatsoever, imployed in the Husbanding Stocking and Manureing of their..Lands. 1766 BLACKSTONE *Comm. II.* 7 So long as it [migration] was confined to the stocking and cultivation of desart uninhabited countries, it kept strictly within the limits of the law of nature. 1813 SCOTT *Fam. Let.* 23 Mar. (1894) I. ix. 277, I have been here for some days directing..the stocking of a garden. 1858 *National Rev.* Oct. 344 The natural pursuits of men make..a complete stocking of the mind more ..necessarily a duty with them than with women. 1886 C. SCOTT *Sheep-Farming* 89 The only chance of rearing good lambs in such cases, lies in thin stocking, and giving a liberal supply of dry nourishing food. 1892 *Daily News* 5 Sept. 7/1 So far as the house coal trade is concerned,.. there is no reason for taking a despondent view:..Winter stocking will soon set in in earnest.

b. *concr.* The cattle, farm implements, etc. as distinguished from the crops of a farm.

1730 T. BOSTON *View this & other World* 251 Abraham was rich in silver and gold, and Job in stocking. 1965 *Pet. in Walker v. Spence* 5 He had neither servants nor stocking proper for his farm. 1815 SCOTT *Guy M.* xii, And the furniture and stocking is to be roupit at the same time on the ground. 1818 MISS FERRIER *Marriage* xi, I shall advance you stocking and stedding. 1856 MORTON *Cycl. Agric.* II. 726/1 The stocking of a farm is the crop, cattle, and implements.

4. (See quot. and cf. STOCK *v.*[1] 18.)

1847 EVANSON & MAUNSELL *Managem. Childr.* (ed. 5) 50 *note*, Nurses who have not a good supply of milk will, occasionally, be found to adopt a practice commonly employed with milch cows when brought to market, and called by the cattle dealers, stocking; that is, they allow the milk to accumulate in their breasts.

5. Detention in the stocks.

1534 MORE *Comf. agst. Trib.* III. xx. (1553) S ij, That strayte kepynge, collerynge, boltynge, and stockynge,..which..is vsed in these speciall priesonmentes. 1563–83 FOXE *A. & M.* 1917/2 Then began they to threaten him with whippyng, stockyng, burnyng, and such like. 1679 PENN *Addr. Prot.* II. 220 Whence comes..Beatings, Bruisings, Stockings, Whippings, and Spilling of Blood for Religion? 1822 SCOTT *Nigel* iii, Such idle suitors are to be..punished for their audacity with stripes, stocking, or incarceration.

6. Treatment in the stocks of a fulling mill or tannery.

1883 R. HALDANE *Workshop Rec.* Ser. II. 367/1 After..the drench, the skins are..removed..to the stocks, where they are beaten..with heavy tilt-hammers. When soft, oil..is sprinkled on them, and the 'stocking' is continued.

7. *slang.* (See STOCK *v.*[1] 23.)

1887 F. FRANCIS Jun. *Saddle & Mocassin* 228 A tenderfoot got in amongst the gamblers on board..and what with 'strippers', and 'stocking', and 'cold decks',..he hadn't the ghost of a chance.

8. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as (sense 1) *stocking-room*, (sense 2) *stocking-hoe*, † *-iron*, (sense 3) *stocking plant, -pot.*

1863 *Jrnl. Royal Agric. Soc.* XXXIV. 281 Some used *stocking-hoes and grubbed the ground 5 inches deep. 1534 MORE *Comf. agst. Trib.* III. xv. (1553) Q iiij b, He causeth like a good husband man his folke to come afield, ..and with their hookes & their *stocking yrons, grubbe vp these wicked wedes & busshes of our earthly substance. 1849 *Florist* 199 Those who are desirous of having *stocking plants [of pelargoniums] must cut their specimens down boldly. 1840 *Florist's Jrnl.* (1846) I. 153 The plants..were raised from cuttings put into *stocking-pots. 1833 J. HOLLAND *Manuf. Metal* II. v. 106 The *stocking-room [for guns] is fitted with..the tools usually found in a cabinet maker's shop.

Stocking (stǫ·kiŋ), *v.* [f. STOCKING *sb.*]

1. *trans.* To furnish with stockings.

1755 JOHNSON, To *Stocking*, v. a., To dress in stockings. 1874 in W. Knight *J. C. Shairp* xiii. (1888) 315 The boys may be stockinged; will the mind be clothed and fed? 1892 *The Voice* (N.Y.) Apr. 28 Enough..cotton to stocking every foot.

†2. To kill with a weapon consisting of a stone placed in the foot of a stocking. (Said of a soldier's wife or a camp-follower.) *Obs.*

1762 in *Grimston Papers* (MS.), As she had a regular education in Flanders, will be of great service when we come to action, in stripping, despatching, fleecing and stockinging the enemy.

Stocking-apple. In 7 **stocken-, -in, stoken-.** [? f. STOCKING *vbl. sb.* in the sense 'keeping in stock'.] A kind of cider-apple. *local.*

1629 PARKINSON *Parad.* (1904) 588 The Stoken apple is a reasonable good apple. 1656 BEALE *Heref. Orchards* (1657) 45 The apples we commend for grafts, are the Stockin-apple [etc.]. 1676 WORLIDGE *Cyder* 163 The Stocken or Stoken-Apple is likewise in esteem there [in the cider countries], although not known by that name in many places. 1764 *Museum Rust.* II. x. 37 These [cider apples in Herefordshire] go under various names, as..the stocking-apple,..&c.

Stockinged (stǫ·kiŋd), *ppl. a.* [f. STOCKING *sb.* or *v.* + -ED.]

1. Furnished with stockings or with a stocking.

1608 DEKKER *Work for Armourers* (1609) F 1 b, The kerzy stockingd Whoresons. 1693 DRYDEN *Juvenal* III. 397 Stockin'd with loads of fat Town-Dirt he goes. 1887 STEVENSON *Manse* in *Scribner's Mag.* I. 613/1 Nothing of this would cross the mind of the young student, as he posted up the Bridges with trim, stockinged legs.

transf. 1894 SALA *Lond. up to Date* 349 Those three slender quadrupeds, all stockinged and hooded..which are being carefully conducted to a horse-box.

2. Of the foot: Covered with a stocking only.

1862 *Cornhill Mag.* May 570 She had taken her shoes off, and came in her stockinged feet up to my bedside. 1892 HARDY *Tess* xxxvii, He slid back the door-bar and passed out, slightly striking his stockinged toe against the edge of the door.

3. Of a bird: Feathered on the shank.

1855 *Poultry Chron.* III. 153 The Stomacher Pigeons.. are 'stockinged', or feathered to the toes with small feathers.

Stockinger (stǫ·kiŋəɹ). [f. STOCKING *sb.* + -ER[1].] One who works at a stocking hand-loom, a framework knitter, stocking weaver.

1741 *Manch. School Reg.* (1866) I. 16 Thomas son of Thomas Steele of Manchester, Stockiner. 1812 *Rep. Committee Framework-Knitters Petit.* 30, I applied for work to what we call a bag-hosier, which is a master stockinger. 1843 *Penny Cycl.* XXVII. 181/1 [Stocking-frame] There are three classes of operatives engaged: the 'winders',.. the 'stockingers', or 'framework knitters', who work the thread up into a knitted fabric; and the 'seamers'. 1873 *Echo* 22 Sept. 2/2 When..all the collieries are opened out ..the 'stockinger' will disappear in favour of the miner.

Stockingett(e: see STOCKINET.

Stocking-foot. That part of a stocking which covers the foot.

1766 SHARP *Fracture* in *Phil. Trans.* LVII. 86, I do not always remove the shoe and stocking-foot. 1853 R. S. SURTEES *Sponge's Sp. Tour* lxviii, What a convenience to have one's wife's maid to sew on one's buttons, and keep one's toes in one's stocking-feet! 1884 ROWLETT *Technol. Framework Knitting* II. 342 Socks or half-hose. The feet are made in the same way as stocking feet.

b. As a purse or receptacle for money laid by. Chiefly *fig.*

1894 'H. HALIBURTON' *Fourth in Field* II. 75 The cadger was just as eager to make the petty disbursement from his 'stocking-foot' or leather pouch. 1915 J. BUCHAN *Nelson's Hist. War* V, xl. 153 For them [*i.e.* the Treasury bonds] the peasant and the small tradesman brought out his store of gold from the stocking-foot.

c. (*In, on*) *one's stocking feet*: with only one's stockings on one's feet, without one's shoes.

1802 R. ANDERSON *Cumbld. Ball.* (1808) 13 Wully..in his clogs top teyme did beat; But Tamer, in her stockin feet, She bang'd him out and out. 1809 W. IRVING *Knickerb.* III. iii. (1820) 178 Leaving their shoes at the door, and entering devoutly on their stocking feet. 1854 THACKERAY *Newcomes* viii, Binnie found the Colonel..arrayed in what are called in Scotland his stocking-feet. 1858 TROLLOPE *Doctor Thorne* xii, In his stocking-feet..he was five feet five. 1901 THEODORA W. WILSON *T' Bacca Queen* xxvii. 247 Her husband was seated in stocking feet in the rocking-chair.

Stocking-frame. A machine for producing material composed of the looped stitch used in knitting; a knitting machine.

The invention of a machine for making plain stocking-net to supersede hand-knitting is believed to have been made in 1589 by William Lee M.A., St. John's Coll. Cambridge, a native of Woodborough, near Nottingham.

1710 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4649/4 Wm. Brown,..by Trade a Stocking-frame Smith. 1765 *Museum Rust.* IV. 392 Improvement of the Stocking-frame. 1881 *Encycl. Brit.* XII. 300/1 The inventor of the round stocking-frame was..Sir Marc I. Brunel, who in 1816 patented his machine under the name of the *Tricoteur*.

Stockingless (stǫ·kiŋlĕs), *a.* [f. STOCKING *sb.* + -LESS.] Without stockings.

1748 RICHARDSON *Clarissa* (1768) VIII. xix. 51 They were all slip-shod; stockenless some; only under-petticoated all. 1775 S. J. PRATT *Liberal Opin.* cxiii. (1783) IV. 62 A little stockingless boy. 1825 [see SHOELESS]. 1869 ROSSETTI *Diary* 28 June, in *Athenæum* (1882) 15 July 79/1, I called on Trelawny..He retains his ancient habit of going stockingless. 1907 C. C. BROWN *China in Legend & Story* xvii. 246 His stockingless feet had been thrust into cheap shoes.

Sto·ck-in-trade. Also †**stock of trade** (*obs.*). The goods kept on sale by a dealer, shopkeeper, or pedlar. Also, a workman's tools, appliances, or apparatus.

[1666 MARVELL *Let.* 13 Nov., Wks. 1776 I. 59 Catell, corn, and houshold furniture shall be exempted, and all such stock for trade, as is already tax'd by the land tax.] 1762–71 H. WALPOLE *Vertue's Anecd. Paint.* (1786) V. 214 He retired to Richmond, and..sold part of his plates and stock in trade by auction. 1775 *Pennsylv. Even. Post* 20 June 258/1 To be sold, The Stock in Trade of the late Evan Morgan, deceased. 1851 BORROW *Lavengro* III. xix, 235–6 She..died, leaving me her cart and stock in trade.

b. *transf.* and *fig.* (esp. of mental equipment and resources).

1784 BARRY *Lect. Painting* iv. Wks. 1809 I. 481 Men of mean intellects, who, incapable of meddling with the *ideal*, will operate solely with these mechanical principles, as their entire stock of trade. 1842 DE QUINCEY *Cicero* Wks. VI. 185 Such charges were the standing material, the stock-in-trade of every orator. 1874 SAYCE *Compar. Philol.* vii. 274 The conception of plurality was not part of the primary stock-in-trade of mankind. 1877 BLACK *Green Past.* i, A whole stock-in-trade of things that a good many girls seem to get on very well without. 1878 LOCKYER *Stargazing* 233 The stock-in-trade of the modern astronomer. 1910 *Q. Rev.* Jan. 162 The manual labourer is himself his own stock-in-trade.

Stockish (stǫ·kiʃ), *a.* [f. STOCK *sb.* + -ISH.]

1. Resembling a stock or block of wood; esp. of a person, excessively dull, stupid or 'wooden'.

1596 SHAKS. *Merch. V.* v. i. 81 Naught so stockish, hard, and full of rage, But musicke for time doth change his nature. 1612 T. TAYLOR *Comm. Titus* i. 7 A stockish senselessnesse, or a sufferance of any evill, without any great sense of it. 1641 LD. BROOKE *Eng. Episc.* I. ix. 53 The issue will be slavish, grosse superstition, and stockish Idolatry. 1816 COLMAN *Br. Grins, Fire!* xvii, Touched by vivific flame, the stockish dirt Fermented, and became no more inert. 1842 EMERSON *Lect., Transcendentalist* Wks. (Bohn) II. 285 These persons are not by nature melancholy,..they are not stockish or brute. 1842 J. FOSTER *Life & Corr.* (1846) II. 347 The stockish stupidity of those Chartists. 1881 STEVENSON *Virg. Puerisque, Apol. Idlers* 124 Many..come out of the study with an..owl-like demeanour, and prove dry, stockish, and dyspeptic in all the better and brighter parts of life.

2. Short and thick-set, stocky. *rare*[−1].

1913 N. MUNRO *New Road* xviii, A stockish little man dressed in the Highland habit.

Hence **Sto·ckishly** *adv.*, **Sto·ckishness.**

1837 BROWNING *Strafford* III. iii, O stockishness! Wear such a ruff, and never call to mind St. John's head in a charger? 1846 — *Soul's Trag.* II. Poems (1909) 358/1, I understand only the dull mule's way of standing stockishly. 1914 H. NEWBOLT *Aladore* xxvi, Then he stood before her stockishly, like a thing of wood.

†Stock-job, *sb. Obs. rare*⁻¹. [Formed as next.] ? An act of stock-jobbing.

1719 D'Urfey *Pills* II. 101 Where Fools manage Bargains by way of Stock-jobb.

†Stock-job, *v. Obs.* [Back-formation on Stock-jobber, -jobbing.] **a.** *trans.* To apply the methods of stock-jobbing to, deal with according to the practices of a stock-jobber, employ in stock-jobbing; also *fig.* Also with complement, to bring *down*, throw *away*, bring *into* (a state), by these methods and practices.

1697 De Foe *Ess. Projects* 13 At last..it has been Stock-Jobb'd down to 10, 12, 9, 8 *l.* a Share. 1701 — *Freeholder's Plea* Collect. Writ. 1703 I. 182 Let us be careful that we are not bought and sold, Stock-job'd into Ruin. 1703 T. Baker *Tunbridge-Walks* II. 23 Before I'de have a Wit inherit my Estate, I'de Stockjobb it away at Jonathan's. 1720 Ramsay *Rise & Fall of Stocks* 22 We madly, at our ain expenses, Stock-job'd away our cash and senses. 1721 — *Answ. Burchet* 12 Let the greedy bike Stock-job the warld amang them as they like.

b. *intr.* To practise stock-jobbing.

1721 Amherst *Terræ Fil.* iv. 19 Only to enable one man.. to game, to wench, to stock-job, and indulge himself in all the vanities and vices of the world.

Stock-jobber. A member of the Stock Exchange who deals in stocks on his own account; = Jobber² 4.

a 1626 Sir J. Davies in Carte *Hist. Eng.* (1755) IV. 194/1 He had..played the stock-jobber in buying the debentures, tallies and ticquets,..at a great discompt. *a* 1692 Shadwell (*title*) The Volunteers, or the Stock-Jobbers. A Comedy. 1697 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 3280/2 An Act to Restrain the Number and Ill Practices of Brokers and Stock-Jobbers. 1723 *Ibid.* No. 6136/4 Thomas Shank,..Broker and Stockjobber. 1750 Johnson *Rambler* No. 20 ₱ 5 The son of a wealthy stock-jobber, who spends his morning under his father's eye in Change Alley. 1755 — *Dict., Stockjobber*, a low wretch who gets money by buying and selling shares in the funds. 1838 Lytton *Alice* III. i, Lord Vargrave..was..suspected of selling his state information to stock-jobbers. 1858 Simmonds *Dict. Trade, Stock-jobber*, an outsider or intermediate agent between the buyer and seller of public securities, who makes a marginal price at which shares, etc. are to be bought or sold in the Stock-exchange.

b. *U.S.* 'A stockbroker; often used somewhat contemptuously or to suggest unscrupulousness' (W. 1911). 1895 in *Funk's Stand. Dict.*

Hence **Stock-jobbery** *jocular*, stock-jobbing.

1882 Ogilvie, *Stock-jobbery*, the practice or business of dealing in stocks or shares; used in a disparaging sense. 1897 *Daily News* 22 May 5/1 Was the Jameson plan conceived or abetted in the interests of stock-jobbery?

Stock-jobbing, *vbl. sb.* and *ppl. a.*

A. *vbl. sb.* The business of a stock-jobber; buying and selling of stock as practised by a jobber; *loosely*, speculative dealing in stocks and shares.

Often with unfavourable implication of rash or dishonest speculation; esp. with reference to the abuses of the early 18th c., which led to condemnation by Act of Parliament (see quot. 1734).

1692 Motteux *Gentl. Jrnl.* I. 12 The modern Trade, or rather Game, called Stock-Jobbing. 1694 J. Houghton *Collect. Improv. Husb.* No. 97 ₱ 1 Joint Stocks, and of the various dealings therein, commonly called Stock-Jobbing. *a* 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew, Stock-jobbing*, a sharp, cunning, cheating Trade of Buying and Selling Shares of Stock in East-India, Guinea and other Companies; also in the Bank, Exchequer, &c. 1711 Steele *Spect.* No. 114 ₱ 5 Usury, Stock-jobbing, Extortion and Oppression, have their Seed in the Dread of Want. 1734 *Act 7 Geo. II*, c. 8 § 1 The wicked, pernicious and destructive Practice of Stock-jobbing. 1874 L. Stephen *Hours in Libr.* (1892) II. iv. 117 The selfishness which degrades political warfare into a branch of stock-jobbing. 1888 E. J. Goodman *Too Curious* xii, All that has been said about stock-jobbing being morally as bad as betting on racehorses.

B. *ppl. a.* (and attrib. use of the vbl. sb.). That deals in stocks and shares; concerned with this business or traffic.

a 1692 Pollexfen *Disc. Trade* (1697) A 5 b, To advance Stocks, and Stock-Jobbing Trades. 1719 D'Urfey *Pills* II. 324 So may your wise Stock-jobbing Crimp go on. 1790 Burke *Fr. Rev.* 77 All you have got for the present is a paper circulation, and a stock-jobbing constitution. 1823 W. Cobbett *Rur. Rides* (1885) I. 321 Margate..is..thickly settled with stock-jobbing cuckolds at this time of the year. 1888 E. J. Goodman *Too Curious* xxii, This is really no stock-jobbing dodge, but a bonâ-fide thing.

Stock-keeper.

†1. ? An official in charge of a stock or fund of money (with jocular allusion to the punishment of the stocks). *Obs.*

1589 [Nashe] *Pasquil's Return* B iij b, The stocke-keeper of the Bridewel-house of Canterburie; he must carrie the purse, to defray their charges.

2. a. One who keeps cattle; a stock-farmer.

1912 *Times* 19 Oct. 7/4 Stock-keepers on both sides of the Channel had begun to hope that the necessary period of quarantine for Irish cattle might soon be at an end.

b. *Austral.*, etc. A herdsman or shepherd; = Stockman 1.

1806 *Sydney Gaz.* in O'Hara *Hist. N. S. Wales* (1817) 264 Anthony Size, stock-keeper at Prospect. 1821 in E. Curr *Van Diemen's Land* (1824) 154 Prisoner servants employed..as stock keepers. 1881 *Instr. Census Clerks* (1885) 37 Agricultural Labourer..Stock Keeper.

3. One who is in charge of the stock of a warehouse.

1902 *Daily Chron.* 9 Dec. 9/6 (Advt.), Situation in a London warehouse..as checker, stockkeeper, or clerk.

So **Stock-keep** *v.*, *nonce-wd.*, to tend cattle, etc.

Stock-keeping *vbl. sb.*

1886 C. Scott *Sheep-Farming* 30 Where..the farmer understands the business of stock-keeping and stock-feeding. 1890 'R. Boldrewood' *Col. Reformer* x, [I can] drive bullocks, stock-keep, plough. 1907 M. C. F. Morris *Nunburnholme* 252 Stock-keeping was but little understood.

Stockless (stɒ·klés), *a.* [f. Stock *sb.*¹ + -less.]

1. Without a stock; spec. of an anchor.

1886 *St. James's Gaz.* 14 Jan. 6/2 He fired off his stockless gun. 1901 *Westm. Gaz.* 5 July 1/2 Stockless anchors. 1909 *Light Keeper* June 3 The use of stockless anchors has now become universal in the mercantile marine.

2. Without agricultural stock.

1901 *Scotsman* 16 Apr. 8/3 The conclusion of the campaign will find the conquered colonies practically stockless.

Stock-lock. [f. Stock *sb.*¹ + Lock *sb.*] A lock enclosed in a wooden case, usually fitted on an outer door.

1365-6 in Brayley *Anc. Palace Westminster* (1836) 192, 18 stokloks. 1394 in *Archæologia* XXIV. 308, ij stoklokkes. 1416-17 *Durham Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 614 In 10 stoklockys et aliis feturlockys. 1534-5 in W. H. St. John Hope *Windsor Castle* (1913) I. 264 For a doble hoopped stocke lock sett vppon the Colege garden dore to save the Kynges plaet locke oon to the begynnyng of somere, xvj d. 1601 *Shuttleworths' Acc.* (Chetham Soc.) 138 A stocke locke for the chamber dower at Symonston, viij³. 1677 Moxon *Mech. Exerc.* ii. 21 Street-door Locks, called Stock-Locks. 1737 *Salmon's Country Builder's Estimator* (ed. 2) 111 Plate Stock-Locks. 1757 *Phil. Trans.* L. 106 Ripping off a small stock-lock from the door, [it] burst it open. 1771 Roland Le Virlovs *Dict. Archit.* III. Vocab. 184 Stock-lock, *serrure à pêle* [= *pêne*] *dormant*. 1833 Loudon *Encycl. Archit.* § 84 Stock locks (locks with a wooden back, or stock). 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 416/2, 191 men [employed] in the manufacture of stock-locks.

Hence **†Stock-lock** *v. trans.*, to double-lock. (? Some error.)

1771 Roland Le Virlovs *Dict. Archit.* III. Vocab. 184 To Stock-lock, *fermer à double tour*.

Stockman.

1. A man employed to look after cattle or other live stock. Chiefly *Austral.*

1806 *Sydney Gaz.* in O'Hara *Hist. N. S. Wales* (1817) 295 The evidence of the stock-men, who did not attend [the inquest], being essential. 1830 *Hobart Town Almanack* 103 A group of Mr. E. Lord's stockmen. 1881 *Instr. Census Clerks* (1885) 37 Agricultural Labourer...Stockman. 1891 T. E. Kebbel *Old & New* 167 Shepherds, waggoners and stockmen are paid at a higher rate. 1900 *Oxf. Times* 24 Nov. 1/4 Wanted,—Steady, Industrious Married Man for Breeding Flock, and as Stockman.

2. One who raises live stock; a stock-farmer.

1856 *Farmer's Mag.* Jan. 22 Such a division of labour between farmers and stockmen, and between farmers and dairymen, as has been found to work well in some parts of Scotland and England. 1886 C. Scott *Sheep Farming* 137 In those days the farmer who supplied the best food and the most whisky was accounted the best stockman.

Stock-market.

1. a. A place where stocks or securities are bought and sold. **b.** The traffic in stocks and shares at such a place.

1809 R. Langford *Introd. Trade* 55 The dividend warrants ..can be sold in the Stock Market. 1876 Bancroft *Hist. U. S.* III. vi. 370 He never grew giddy with the hazards of the stock-market. 1912 *Times* 19 Dec. 16/3 Stock markets on the whole were steady at the close, after opening dull.

2. A cattle-market; trade in live stock.

1858 Simmonds *Dict. Trade, Stock-market*,..a place for the sale of cattle. 1890 'R. Boldrewood' *Col. Reformer* xxiii, A favourable change would take place in the stock-market.

Stock of trade: see Stock-in-trade.

Stock still, stock-stiill, *a.* [See Stock *sb.*¹ 59 and cf. Du. *stokstil*, G. *stockstill*.] As still as a stock or log; quite motionless. Usually *to stand stock still*; rarely with other vbs. or *attrib.*

c 1470 *Gol. & Gaw.* 108 In stede quhare he lay, Stok still as ane stane. 1574 Hellowes *Gueuara's Fam. Ep.* (1577) 81, I holde him not for a good beast, that when they lade him, will stand stock stil, and when they vnlade him will yerke out behinde. 1664 Butler *Hud.* II. ii. 230 Like Mules, who if th' have not their will To keep their own pace, stand stock still. 1712 Addison *Spect.* No. 407 ₱ 1 Our Preachers stand stock-still in the Pulpit. 1782 Wolcot (P. Pindar) *Odes to R. A.'s* ix, A brother ensign spies the stock-still lad. 1841 Dickens *Barn. Rudge* xxxiii, The clock—which was very near run down, and would have stood stock-still in half an hour. 1905 Miss Broughton *Waif's Progr.* xviii. 200 A horrible suspicion..stopped the observer's feet stock still.

Stock-taker. A person employed in stock-taking.

1794 in J. Lloyd *Old S. Wales Iron Works* (1906) 168 If any Slabs, Planks, etc., are delivered..an account of them must be taken by the Company's Agent or Stocktaker. 1892 *Labour Commission* Gloss., *Stock-takers*, the men who keep account of the working of iron or of the iron..used in the process of working malleable iron. 1909 *Westm. Gaz.* 14 May 6/4 Abolishing the office of stocktaker, and entrusting the accountant..with the duty of verifying the stock.

Stock-taking. [See Stock *sb.*¹ 56 b.] A periodical examination, inventorying, and valuation of the stock or goods in a shop, warehouse, etc.

1858 Simmonds *Dict. Trade, Stock-taking.* 1861 *Draper & Clothier* III. 94/2 At Nottingham, the large houses have been engaged in stock taking. 1884 *Manch. Exam.* 14 Oct. 4/4 The stocktaking of this company..was made on Saturday.

b. *fig.*

1884 R. W. Church *Bacon* 82 He sat down to make a minute stock-taking of his position and its circumstances.

1888 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 2 Apr. 11/1 The theological stock-taking with which this closing part of the century is busy.

Hence **Stock-take** *v.* (back-formation).

1892 Mrs. H. Ward *David Grieve* II. 304 He would go over two or three times a year to stock-take and make up accounts.

Stock-work. Also **-werk.** *Mining.* [repr. G. *stockwerk*. See Stock *sb.*¹ 55 c.] A deposit (esp. of tin) in which the ore is distributed through a large mass of rock.

1839 Ure *Dict. Arts* 1241 The Cornish ores occur..2. in stockwerks, or congeries of small veins. 1845 *Encycl. Metrop.* VI. 771/2 The stock-work of the German miners is to be considered as a mass of rock impregnated with metallic matters, in numerous small veins, which come together irregularly, so as to make particular parts extremely rich. 1881 Raymond *Mining Gloss., Stockwork* (Germ., *Stockwerk*). An ore-deposit of such a form that it is worked in floors or stories. It may be a solid mass of ore, or a rock-mass so interpenetrated by small veins of ore that the whole must be mined together.

Stocky (stɒ·ki), *a.* [f. Stock *sb.*¹ + -y.]

†1. Made of a stock, made of wood. *Obs. rare*⁻¹. Misprinted *stokly* in *Min. P. Vernon MS.* (E.E.T.S.).

a 1400 *Disp. Mary & Cross* 518 in *Leg. Rood*, On a stokky stede [i.e. the Cross] He Rod we Rede.

2. Of a plant: Of stout and sturdy growth; not 'drawn up', 'weedy', or spindling.

1622 Drayton *Poly-olb.* xxvii. 303 Those scattered trees ..send from their stocky bough, A soft and sappy Gum. 1846 J. Baxter *Libr. Pract. Agric.* (ed. 4) II. 20 The plants so taken out must be planted on another compartment at the same distance, and they will come to full stocky hearts in April and May. 1883 W. Robinson *Eng. Flower Garden* II. 109 Vigorous stocky shoots from the buried joints of the plant. 1898 F. W. Card *Bush Fruits* 360 It is generally believed that stockier and better plants are obtained from cuttings.

b. Of a root: Woody, as distinguished from fibrous.

1915 *Times* 25 Sept. 9/5 Take up some of the outer runners with good fibrous roots and replant them carefully at once. Old plants with stocky roots will not move well.

3. Of a person, animal, etc.: Of stout and sturdy build; short and thick-set.

1676 *Poor Robin's Intell.* 23-30 May 1/1 A well-set Fellow of very good natural parts, having a broad back, and a stocky leg, [etc.]. 1711 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4917/4 Lost.., a stockey bright bay Gelding. 1712 Addison *Spect.* No. 433 ₱ 6 They had no Titles of Honour among them, but such as denoted some Bodily Strength or Perfection, as such an one the Tall, such an one the Stocky. 1725 *Brice's Weekly Jrnl.* 5 Nov. 4 He is a fair stocky Fellow. 1826 Cobbett *Rur. Rides* (1885) II. 174 A particular race of sheep, called the Cotswold breed..They are short and stocky. 1864 *Daily Tel.* 13 Aug., Well-built stocky horses, for artillery and other military work. 1888 *Harper's Mag.* Apr. 783 Sturdy and stocky as a Jersey bull. 1900 W. R. Moody *Life D. L. Moody* vii. 69 A young man..short and stocky in figure. *Comb.* 1905 Gunter *Conscience of a King* vi. 90 A rather thickset stocky built woman.

b. *fig.* of a quality.

1882 H. E. Scudder *Noah Webster* i. 3 His square, upright tombstone..commemorates the stocky virtues of integrity and piety.

4. *dial.* ? Not amenable to control, intractable; full of spirits, boisterous.

1836 W. D. Cooper *Sussex Gloss.*, *Stockey*, irritable, headstrong, and contrary, combined. 1856 Geo. Eliot *Scenes* I. 86 Little Dickey, a boisterous boy of five..was squatting quiet as a mouse at her knee...He was a boy whom Mrs. Hackit, in a severe mood, had pronounced 'stocky'..; but seeing him thus subdued into goodness, she smiled at him. 1866 Mrs. H. Wood *Elster's Folly* II. xiii. 323 Afore that drownding of his Lordship last year, Davy was the boldest and stockiest rip going.

5. Of manner, etc.: Stiff, severe.

1876 Jane E. Hopkins *Rose Turquand* ii, 'Good morning, Rose', said Mrs. Adair, in her stockiest tones, touching it with two frosty fingers.

Hence **Stockily** *adv.*, **Stockiness.**

1890 *Christian World Pulpit* XXXVIII. 359/1 The stockiness and sturdiness of coming generations. 1892 *Harper's Mag.* LXXXIV. 530/1 A pair of stockily built horses.

Stocyen, variant of Stoician. *Obs.*

Stoddy, rare variant of Stithy.

Stode, obs. variant of Stud.

Stodge (stɒdʒ), *sb.* [f. Stodge *v.*]

1. A thick liquid mixture.

a. Thick, tenacious mud or soil.

1825 J. Jennings *Observ. Dial. W. Eng.*, *Stodge*, any very thick liquid mixture. 1881 Whitehead *Hops* 44 In wet weather the horses feet make a great stodge in ploughing.

b. Food of a semi-solid consistency, esp. stiff farinaceous food.

1841 Hartshorne *Salop. Ant.* Gloss., *Stodge*, a thick mess of oatmeal and milk, or any food which is semi-solid. 1874 Mrs. H. Wood *Master of Greylands* xxiii, The soup I make is not a tasteless stodge that you may almost cut with the spoon. 1891 Sara J. Duncan *Amer. Girl in Lond.* xxiii. 247 Oh, we'd like to [eat] but we can't...We're still in training you know...Fellows have got to train pretty much on stodge.

2. a. 'Stodging', gorging with food. **b.** A heavy, solid meal. Chiefly *school slang.*

1894 N. Gale *Cricket Songs* 32 O Bowler, Bowler, when the Swells all frown And say your non-success is due to Stodge. 1904 P. White *Tri. Mrs. St. George* viii, Here was a real live soldier..eating mutton, potatoes, and greens —the usual Thursday stodge!—along with a lot of kids!

3. 'Stodgy' notions.

1902 Elinor Glyn *Reff. Ambrosine* ix. 199 Avoid stodge ..and..that sentimental mawkish dismal point of view, that..

dramatically wrote up over everything 'Duty' with a huge 'D.'

Stodge (stɒdʒ), *v.* [Of obscure origin; perh. phonetically symbolic after words like *stuff*, *podge*; cf. also STOG *v.*, STOACH *v.*]

1. *trans.* To fill quite full, to fill to distension. † Also, to stuff *in* as a filling material (*obs.*).

1674 DRYDEN in Johnson *L. P., Dryden* (1781) II. 21 It is a kind of gibblet-porridge,..stodged full of *meteors, orbs, spheres* [etc.]. 1685 H. MORE *Paralip. Prophet.* xli. 357 To bring in the Ostrogoths here, is as if one stuffing a Pillow with feathers, should so forget himself, as to stodge in pieces of Brick or Clay. 1790 W. H. MARSHALL *Rur. Econ. Midl.* II. 443 *Stodged*; filled to the stretch; as a cow's udder with milk. 1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss., Stodged*, filled to the stretch; crammed full... If things were crushed very closely into a sack, it would be stodged.

b. esp. To gorge with food.

1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss.* s.v., Sometimes it is applied personally: 'If you eat all that, you will be stodged full'. 1860 *Hotten's Slang Dict.* 229. 1895 ALLBUTT in *Contemp. Rev.* Feb. 220 A 'City man'..stodges his stomach with rich food three times a day.

absol. 1911 BARRIE *Peter & Wendy* vii. 114 He could eat, really eat, if it was part of a game, but he could not stodge just to feel stodgy.

c. *fig.* Also *to stodge off*: to repulse by a surfeit.

1876 SIR J. PAGET *Mem. & Lett.* II. iv. (1901) 282 We had begun to feel 'stodged': the mediæval art at Florence, especially, had quite filled us. 1894 BLACKMORE *Perlycross* xxxi, I thought I was a pretty plucky fellow,..but I'll show you where I was stodged off. 1909 *Westm. Gaz.* 11 Dec. 3/1 Alas! it is mostly fiction that gluts the market, 'stodges' the reader, and..kills the few living books.

2. *dial.* (See quots.)

a 1825 FORBY *Voc. E. Anglia, Stodge*, to stir up various ingredients into a thick mass. 1895 *Dial. Notes* (Amer. Dial. Soc.) I. VIII. 394 *Stodge*, to muss or mix up. Ind.

3. *pass.* To be stuck in the mud, to be bogged. (Cf. STOG *v.*[2])

1873 W. P. WILLIAMS & W. A. JONES *Gloss. Somerset* 36 Pendummer Where the Devil was stodged in the midst of zummer. 1902 C. G. HARPER *Cambridge, Ely*, etc. *Road* 54 Enfield Highway..was until quite recently stodged in sloughs.

4. *intr.* To work steadily *at* (something 'stodgy' or tedious). *colloq.*

Hence **Stodged** *ppl. a.*, **Sto·dging** *vbl. sb.* and *ppl. a.*

1873 W. P. WILLIAMS & W. A. JONES *Gloss. Somerset.* 36 *Stodged* adj. stuffed with eating. 1898 ELLEN T. FOWLER *Conc. Isabel Carnaby* 124 Admiration is like porridge—awfully stodging, but you get hungry again almost as soon as you 've eaten it. 1903 *Longm. Mag.* Oct. 527 The 'stodged' schoolboy again, for whom fielding out is a grievance. 1912 *Daily News* 31 Dec. 9 There must be no eating when not hungry and no 'stodging' between meals.

Stodge-full, *a.* [f. vbl. phr. *to be stodged full*: cf. STODGE *v.* 1.] Full to distension or repletion.

1847 HALLIWELL, *Stodge-full*, quite full, or unable to contain more. 1883 *Chamb. Jrnl.* 725 Stodge-full of receipts for cattle drinks and sheep dressings.

Stodgy (stɒ·dʒi), *a.* [f. STODGE *v.* + -Y.]

1. Of a thick, semi-solid consistency.

1823 E. MOOR *Suffolk Words, Stodjy*, thick—clavey—clogsome. Such as a heavy road. 1887 *Kentish Gloss., Stodgy*, thick; glutinous; muddy. 'The church path 's got middlin' stodgy.'

b. Of food, esp. of farinaceous food: Thick, glutinous.

1858 SPURDENS *Suppl. to Forby's Voc. E. Anglia, Stodgy*, thick, as porridge: *pulmentum crassum*. 1866 *Lond. Rev.* 2 June 608/2 A stodgy mass of paste in which potatoes and odds and ends of food have been mixed. *a* 1890 R. F. BURTON in Isabel Burton *Life* (1893) I. 74 This cannibal meal was succeeded by stodgy pudding. 1906 OLIVE C. MALVERY *Soul Market* ix. 156 The meat was almost raw, the potatoes stodgy.

c. Of food or a meal: Heavy, solid, hard to 'get through'.

1884 *Harper's Mag.* Oct. 709/2 The stodgy *table d'hôte*. 1889 C. KEENE in *Life* xiii. (1892) 409 It's a stodgy feed—soup, fish, flesh, and fowl, etc.

2. *fig.* Dull, heavy; wanting in gaiety or brightness. **a.** of literary composition, a subject of conversation, etc.

1887 *Longman's Mag.* May 107 The most merciless and interminable romance that ever lowered the circulation of a magazine, and then appeared in three stodgy volumes. 1895 JOWETT in L. A. Tollemache *Benjamin Jowett* 8, I must make a bargain with you that, when we take a walk together, you don't put more than one of your stodgy questions! 1906 'G. THORNE' *First it was ordained* 106 In England, art must be obvious and stodgy before people think it's respectable. 1907 *Academy* 28 Sept. 948 Stodgy sonnets to the moon.

b. of a person, ceremony, one's life.

1895 *Brit. Weekly* 28 Mar. 370/1 There are experiences which grave the brow in spite of a man. But, on the other hand, to grow stodgy is no mark of grace. 1904 S. MACNAUGHTAN *Gift* II. ii. 127 The wedding was a stodgy affair. 1905 ELIN. GLYN *Viciss. Evangeline* 101, I have not felt like writing; these last days have been so stodgy,—sticky I was going to say! Endless infant talk!

c. *fig.* of a quality.

1894 DU MAURIER *Trilby* (1895) 74 It fosters..self-respect, and not a few stodgy practical virtues as well.

3. Of a person: Bulky in figure (usually connoting stiffness and clumsiness in movement).

1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss.* s.v., He's a stodgy little man. 1879 J. PAYN *High Spirits* (ed. 2) I. 208 He was a stodgy, pursy, plethoric old fellow. 1895 *Century Mag.* Feb. 540 The stodgy plumpness of John Bull.

4. Of things: Bulky, 'fat', distended.

1860 GEO. ELIOT *Mill on Floss* I. v, 'You don't know what I've got in my pockets. ..' No,' said Maggie, 'How stodgy they look.'

Hence **Sto·dgily** *adv.*, **Sto·dginess.**

1899 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 31 July 4/1 That portion of the reading public which likes its fiction solid even to stodginess. 1904 *Sat. Rev.* 2 Jan. 18/2 Subjects..when handled stodgily are not worth reproducing.

Stodie, Stodier, obs. ff. STUDY, STUDIER.

Stodul, stodyll, obs. forms of STUDDLE.

Stody, obs. form of STUDY *sb.* and *v.*

Stœchados, variant of STECHADOS *Obs.*

‖ **Stœchas** (stĭ·kæs). Also 6 **stechas, stichas,** 8 *erron.* **stæchas.** See also STECHADOS, STICKADOVE. [L., a. Gr. στοιχάς.

According to Pliny the plant was so called because imported from the *Stœchades* islands (Gr. Στοιχάδες, lit. 'standing in a row', f. στοῖχος row), now *Les Iles d'Hyères*.]

The plant French Lavender, *Lavandula Stœchas.*

1548 TURNER *Names Herbes* 77 Stechas, may be called in english stichas or Lauender gentle. 1597 GERARDE *Herbal* II. clxx. 470 The later phisitions affirme, that Stœchas, and especially the flowers of it are most effectuall against paines of the head. 1725 *Bradley's Family Dict.* II. 6 K 4 *b*, The Stœchas is of a bitter taste and a little astringent. 1831 J. DAVIES *Manual Mat. Med.* 181 The Stœchas or French Lavender. *Lavandula stœchas*, Lin. A plant, native of the south of France... A syrup of stœchas, P., is prepared from this plant, and is added to antispasmodic mixtures.

Stœchiogeny, -ology: see STOICH-.

Stoel(e, obs. forms of STOLE *sb.*[1].

‖ **Stoep** (stūp). *South Africa.* [Du., related to STEP *sb.* and *v.*

In the U.S. the Du. word has been adopted with the anglicized spelling STOOP.]

A raised platform or verandah running along the front and sometimes round the sides of a house of Dutch architecture.

1822 BURCHELL *Trav. S. Africa* I. iii. 71 In front of each house, and of the same length, is a paved platform... This platform is called the *Stoep* (step). 1849 E. E. NAPIER *Excurs. S. Africa* I. 182 The 'stoep' is a narrow terrace raised outside most of the Dutch houses, where the owner may, towards evening, be generally seen smoking his pipe. 1883 OLIVE SCHREINER *Afr. Farm* II. vi. (1889) 201 On the 'stoep' a group of men and boys were smoking. 1890 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 20 Jan. 2/1 On the stoep—that terraced verandah which is the unfailing appendage of a Dutch house—the good wife stands to welcome us.

b. *Comb.* **stoep-room,** a small room having entrance and exit by the stoep only.

1880 HELEN M. PRICHARD *Friends & Foes in Transkei* xvii. 122 Two very miniature 'stoep-rooms', as they are called at the Cape. (Small rooms stolen out of each end of the verandah.)

Stof, obs. form of STUFF.

† **Stoffa·do.** *Obs. rare*—°. [Prob. an error: cf. STUFFATA and It. *stoffa* STUFF *sb.*] (See quot.)

1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 84/2 Stoffado, is a term for the Stuffing of any joint of Meat, or Belly of any Fowl, [etc.].

† **Sto·fne,** *v. Obs. rare*—[1]. [a. ON. *stofna*, to found, establish, f. *stofn* foundation, stem: see STOVEN.] *trans.* To found.

c 1200 ORMIN 14561 Þatt erþliȝ shaffte mihhte ben Þurrh hemm efftsone stoffnedd.

Stog (stɒg), *sb.*[1] *Sc.* Also 6 **stogg.** [f. STOG *v.*[1] Cf. STUG *sb.*] A stab.

1587 W. FOWLER *Wks.* (S. T. S.) I. 69 So able war, and quik, for to awaird or to eshew the blow, the stogg, and prik. *c* 1590 J. STEWART *Poems* (S. T. S.) II. 93 Be dints and stogs of dochtie Durandal The craig and wreat he claiwe in stelpis small. 1863 J. NICHOLSON *Kilwuddie* I. xiv, In that famous muirlan' battle Trooper loons gat mony a stog.

Stog (stɒg), *sb.*[2] *dial.* [f. STOG *v.*[2]] A sticking (in a bog).

1890 BARING-GOULD *Old Country Life* xiii, Though sure of a stogg to the girths in a bog.

Stog (stɒg), *v.*[1] *Sc.* [Perh. f. *stog-* in *stog-sword*, var. *stock-sword* STOCK *sb.*[3] Cf. STOCK *v.*[2]] † **a.** *trans.* To stab (a person); to prod or pierce (a thing) with a weapon. Also with *through*. Cf. STUG *v. Obs.*

a 1572 KNOX *Hist. Ref.* Wks. 1846 I. 361 One of the Bischopis sonis stogged throuch with a rapper one of Dundie. 1576 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* II. 553 He come upoun him with a drawin sword, and purposing to have slane him he stoggit him be chance throw the oxtare. 1607 *Ibid.* VII. 449 [They] with drawin swordis, durkis, and daigaris barbarouslie stoggit the daskis of the said scoole.

† **b.** *intr.* To make a stab with a weapon. *Obs.*

c 1590 J. STEWART *Poems* (S. T. S.) II. 31 Quhyls stif thay stog, And quhyls they bend about To schaw tham maisters of the fensing art.

c. *trans.* To thrust the tool too deep in the wood in turning, chipping, or planing. 1825 JAMIESON.

d. To probe soil, a pool or marsh with a stick or pole. 1825 JAMIESON.

Stog (stɒg), *v.*[2] [Perh. phonetically symbolic after *stick, bog* or the like. Cf. STODGE *v.*, STUG *v.*]

1. *pass.* To be stuck in mud, mire, bog or the like; to be bogged.

1855 KINGSLEY *Westw. Ho!* v, If any of his party are mad, they'll try it, and be stogged till the day of judgment. There are bogs..twenty feet deep. 1863 — *Water Babies* ii. 62 Stogged in a mire you never will be, I trust. 1883 M. G. WATKINS *In the Country* 7 Let them be in peace, unless you wish to be 'pixie-led', and left 'stogged' in a deep swamp.

2. *intr.* To walk clumsily or heavily; to plod *on.*

1818 HOGG *Brownie of Bodsbeck* iii, I slings aye on wi' a gay lang step;..Stogs aye on through cleuch and gill. 1824 MACTAGGART *Gallovid. Encycl.* 398 How angry did he [a corbie] hotch and stog, And croak about, Owreturning stanes. 1894 J. SHAW in R. Wallace *Country Schoolm.* (1899) 354 *Stog*, to walk heavily.

Stoggie (stɒ·gi), *sb. dial.* Also **stoggy.** [f. *stog-* in *stogdoo* Sc. var. of STOCKDOVE + -IE.] The stock-dove, *Columba œnas.*

1864 ATKINSON *Prov. Names Birds* s. v. 1890 J. NICHOLSON *Folk-Lore E. Yorksh.* 130 The stockdove..is locally known as a 'stoggie'.

Stoggie (stɒ·gi), *a. Sc.* and *dial.* **stoggy.** [Of obscure origin. Cf. STOCKY *a.*] Rough, rough and coarse, strongly made.

1825 JAMIESON, *Stoggie*, 1. Rough in a general sense, Upp. Clydes. 2. As applied to cloth, it denotes that it is both coarse and rough, ibid. 1895 *E. Angl. Gloss., Stoggy*, thick, broad, and strongly made.

Stogy (stō·ugi), *a.* and *sb. U.S.* Also **stoga, stoggie.** [Orig. *stoga*, short for *Conestoga*, the name of a town in Pennsylvania, used *attrib.* in *Conestoga wagon* (see Thornton *American Glossary*). It is alleged that *stoga boots* and *stoga cigars* were so called because they were used by the 'stoga drivers', i. e. the drivers of the Conestoga wagons plying between Wheeling and Pittsburgh.]

A. *adj.* The distinctive epithet **a.** of a rough heavy kind of boots or shoes; **b.** of a long, slender, roughly made kind of cigar or cheroot.

a. 1847 JOEL PALMER *Jrnl.* 117 (Thornton *Amer. Gloss.*) [I bought] a pair of stoga shoes, made in one of the eastern states. 1859 ALICE CARY *Pict. Country Life* 102, I want for you to make me a pair of tip-top stogy boots. 1876 DAVIS *Polaris Exp.* App. 669, 1 case men's stoga boots. 1892 GUNTER *Miss Dividends* (1893) 185 Stoggie boots aren't quite as nice as patent-leathers.

B. *sb.* **a.** A 'stogy boot. **b.** A 'stogy' cigar.

a. 1853 *Putnam's Mag.* July 31 Boot and shoe, pump and stoga, coming to that [*sc.* the gutter] at last. 1892 *Dialect Notes* (Amer. Dial. Soc.) I. 229 Kentucky Words... Conostogas:..brogans. {In Michigan 'stogies'.} 1908 GUNTER *Prince Karl* VII. 296 Rawdon cried: 'We've heard enough of you!' and with his own stogie kicked out the soap box from under the little desperado's feet.

b. 1892 *Dialect Notes* (Amer. Dial. Soc.) I. 237 Notes from Missouri...*Stogies*,..cheap cigars. 1897 KIPLING *Capt. Courageous* I. 6 'It would take more'n this to keel me over,' he said, ignorant that he was lighting that terrible article, a Wheeling 'stogie'. 1902 *Daily Record* 21 July 2 Stogies, Tobies and other cigars of a cheroot style.

Stoib, obs. Sc. f. STOB *v.*[2]

Stoic (stō·ik), *sb.* and *a.* Forms: 4 *pl.* **stoycis,** 6 **stoyck, 6–7 -icke, -ik(e, -yk(e, -ique,** 6–8 **stoick,** 7– **stoic.** [ad. L. *stōicus*, a. Gr. στωϊκός, f. στοά 'the Porch' in which Zeno lectured: see STOA. Cf. F. *stoïque*, It. *stoico.*

Wyclif's *stoycis* is L. *stoici* with an Eng. plural ending.]

A. *sb.*

1. One of a school of Greek philosophers (founded by Zeno, fl. *c* 300 B.C.), characterized by the austerity of its ethical doctrines for some of which the name has become proverbial (see 2).

1382 WYCLIF *Acts* xvii. 18 Forsothe summe Epicureis, and Stoycis [1388 Stoisens], and philosofris disputiden..with him. 1575 GASCOIGNE *Glasse Govt.* Wks. 1910 II. 18 Aristo the Stoicke. 1589 NASHE *Anat. Absurd.* C 1 *b*. It is an old Question,..whether it were better to haue moderate affections, or no affections? The Stoicks said none. 1625 BACON *Ess., Anger* (Arb.) 565 To seeke to extinguish Anger vtterly, is but a Brauery of the Stoickes. 1671 MILTON *P. R.* IV. 280 With those Sirnam'd Peripatetics, and the Sect Epicurean, and the Stoic severe. 1725 WATTS *Logic* (1822) 86 The Stoics..talk of fate, which is superior to the gods. 1837–9 HALLAM *Hist. Lit.* (1847) III. 11 Testi had taken..Horace for his model; and perhaps like him he wished to appear sometimes a stoic, sometimes an epicurean.

attrib. 1725 YOUNG *Love Fame* I. 233 Fools grin on fools, and Stoic-like, support, Without one sigh, the pleasures of a court. 1891 FARRAR *Darkn. & Dawn* IX, And, therefore, Stoic-fashion, men must accustom themselves to regard all calamities as matters of indifference.

2. One who practises repression of emotion, indifference to pleasure or pain, and patient endurance.

1579 GOSSON *Sch. Abuse* (Arb.) 45, I make iuste reckoning to bee helde for a Stoike, in dealing so hardely with these people. 1596 SHAKS. *Tam. Shr.* I. i. 31 Onely (good master) while we do admire This vertue, and this morall discipline, Let's be no Stoickes, nor no stockes I pray. 1599 B. JONSON *Ev. Man out of Hum.* I. i, But Stoique; where (in the vast worlde) Doth that man breath, that can so much command His bloud and his affection? 1657 TRAPP *Comm. Job* i. 20 He stirreth not at the three first doleful tidings, but this fourth startleth him; for he was neither a Stoick, nor a stock. 1726 SWIFT *Stella's Birthday* 50 That patience under tort'ring pain, Where stubborn stoicks wou'd complain. 1772 BURKE *Let. Bp. Chester* Corr. (1844) I. 278 In some few things, I fancy I am grown almost a stoic; but your lordship's unkindness has attacked me on a side on which I was absolutely unguarded, and I bear it like a girl. 1809 CAMPBELL *Gertrude* I. xxiii, A stoic of the woods—a man without a tear. 1812 SCOTT in *Sotheran's Catal.* No. 12 (1899) 48; I am somewhat of a Stoic in family discipline, which was the old Scottish system. 1854 J. S. C. ABBOTT *Napoleon* (1855) I. i. 23 Stoic as he was, his stoicism then forsook him, and he wept like a child. 1855 TENNYSON *Maud* I. iv. iv, I..smile a hard-set smile, like a stoic, or like A wiser epicurean, and let the world have its way.

B. *adj.*

1. Of or belonging to the school of the Stoics or to its system of philosophy.

1607 T. Rogers *39 Art.* i. (1625) 5 The Stoike Philosophers. 1634 Milton *Comus* 707 O foolishnes of men! that lend their ears To those budge doctors of the Stoick Furr. 1712 Addison *Spect.* No. 397 ₱ 1 As the Stoick Philosophers discard all Passions in general, they will not allow [etc.]. 1817 Scott *Rob Roy* xii, No Stoic philosopher, superior to his own passion and that of others, could have received an insult with a higher degree of scorn. 1848 Lytton *Harold* x. ii, Harold's stern philosophy and stoic ethics were shaken to the dust.

2. = Stoical *a.* 2.

1596 Spenser *F. Q.* iv. Prol. iii, The which these Stoicke censours cannot well deny. 1807 Crabbe *Par. Reg.* iii. 433 Yet far was he from stoic pride removed; He felt humanely, and he warmly loved. 1813 Byron *Corsair* iii. xxi, Full many a stoic eye and aspect stern Mask hearts where grief hath little left to learn. 1849 M. Arnold *To Gipsy Child* 29 Is the calm thine of stoic souls, who weigh Life well, and find it wanting..? 1913 Mrs. F. H. Burnett *T. Tembarom* x, The same factor may..have aided him to preserve a certain stoic, outward composure.

Hence † **Sto·icly** *adv.* (*rare*) = Stoically.

1612 W. Martyn *Youth's Instruct.* 69 In your pleasures, not to be wanton, nor Stoickly to passe by them.

Stoical (stō·ikăl), *a.* Also 6–7 **-all.** [f. L. *stōic-us* (see prec.) + -al.]

1. Of or belonging to the Stoics; characteristic of the Stoic philosophy.

1432–50 tr. *Higden* (Rolls) IV. 205 This Cato was a philosophre of the stoicalle secte. 1586 T. B. *La Primaud. Fr. Acad.* I. 275 Standing much upon that stoicall opinion, that onely a wise and good man is free, and that all wicked men are bond men and slaves. 1662 Stillingfl. *Orig. Sacræ* III. ii, § 10 Which consequence is unavoidable on the Stoical Hypothesis of Gods being corporeal and confined to the World. 1778 Reid *Ess. Active Powers Man* III. iii. 218 We cannot but admire the Stoical system of morals. 1869 Lecky *Europ. Mor.* I. ii. 237 The stoical system of ethics was in the highest sense a system of independent morals. 1887 Mahafey & Gilman *Alexander's Empire* xxvii. 253 Such was already the result of Stoical teaching on the world!

2. a. Of temper or disposition, or its manifestations: Conformable to the precepts of the Stoic philosophy; characterized by indifference to pleasure and pain.

1571 Golding *Calvin on Ps.* lxi. 3 A hart that is benommed with Stoicall hardnes ageinst greefs and trubbles. 1596 Lodge *Marg. Amer.* 74 Now let each of you bethinke him of mirth not of majestie, I will have no stoicall humor in this arbour. 1622 Peacham *Compl. Gentl.* i. 2 For hardly they are to be admitted for Noble, who..consume their light..in contemplation, and a Stoicall retiredneese. 1739 Cibber *Apol.* (1756) II. 31 My stoical way of thinking may be no rule for a wiser man's opinion. 1823 Scott *Quentin D.* vi, He looked around him in agony, and was surprised ..to see the stoical indifference of his fellow-prisoners. 1856 Froude *Hist. Eng.* (1858) I. ii. 99 The English nation would have looked on with stoical resignation if pope and papacy had been wrecked together. 1874 Green *Short Hist.* viii. § 10 We feel his [Milton's] inmost temper in the stoical self-repression which gives its dignity to his figures.

b. Of a person: Resembling a Stoic in austerity, indifference to pleasure and pain, repression of all feeling, and the like.

1577 Northbrooke *Dicing* (1843) 83 If I should vtterly deny all kinde of such playes, then shoulde I bee thought too stoicall and precise. 1589 Nashe *Anat. Absurd.* B 2 b, Antient antiquitie was woont to bee such a stoycall obseruer of continencie, that women were not permitted so much as to kisse their Kinsmen. 1596 Warner *Alb. Eng.* xi. lxi. (1602) 268 Nor was he stoicall in ought, but affable in all. 1612 Selden *Illustr. Drayton's Poly-olb.* viii. 132 The Scythian was..so Stoicall, as not to care for the future, hauing prouision for the present. 1631 Brathwait *Whimzies* 66 He is too stoicall that is wholly for his cell, and nothing for the world. *a* 1661 Fuller *Worthies, Essex* (1662) 332 One saith of him [Wm. Gilbert] that he was Stoicall, but not Cynicall, which I understand Reserv'd, but not Morose. 1849 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* vii. II. 170 He was a different man from the reserved and stoical William whom the multitude supposed to be destitute of human feelings. 1855 Prescott *Philip II*, I. i. ii. 7 Every one, even the most stoical, was touched by this..scene. 1891 Hardy *Tess* xxxiii, She had much questioned if they would appear at the parting moment; but there they were, stoical and staunch to the last.

Hence **Sto·icalness.**

1727 Bailey vol. II, *Stoicalness*, a holding the Principles of the Stoicks, that wise Men ought to be free from Passions, and that all Things were governed by Fate. 1818 in Todd.

Stoically (stō·ikăli), *adv.* [f. prec. + -ly 2.]

1. In the manner of a Stoic; like the Stoics of old; in accordance with the principles of the Stoical philosophy.

1607 Walkington *Opt. Glass* vii. 64 b, [A man] alwaies stoically visaged, like grout headed Archesilas. 1612 *Benvenuto's Passenger* ii. i. 455 Though the Stoicks stoically haue held the contrarie. 1630 Wadsworth *Pilgr.* iii. 25 The least fault he did they Stoically interpreted to bee equall to the greatest. 1682 Sir T. Browne *Chr. Mor.* iii. § 12 Be not Stoically mistaken in the equality of sins.

2. With the indifference or fortitude of a stoic.

1812 Henry *Camp. agst. Quebec* 60 The laugh of the company was against me, but it was borne stoically. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* I. i. i, Paris is stoically calm. 1841 Dickens *Barn. Rudge* ii, He tried to look stoically at the tavern. 1879 Beerbohm *Patagonia* xi. 167, I sat down beside it waiting as stoically as I could for night-time.

Stoicheiology (stoikəi·ŏlŏdʒi), **stœchiology** (stăkiɒ·lŏdʒi). *rare.* [f. Gr. στοιχείο-ν element + -logy. Orig. ad. the G. form *stöchiologie.*] The science of elements. a. In Oken's use: see quot.

1847 A. Tulk tr. *Oken's Elem. Physiophilos.* 68 Stöchiology. Functions of the Elements. 1869 R. Fowler *Med. Vocab., Stœchiology*, a treatise on, or the theory of, elementary substances.

b. *Logic.* (See quot.)

1837–8 Sir W. Hamilton *Logic* v. (1860) I. 72 We proceed to the doctrines which make up the science itself, and commence the First Great Division of Pure Logic—that which treats of its elementary or constituent processes,—Stoicheiology. *Ibid.* xxiv. II. 3 In its Stoicheiology or Doctrine of Elements, Logic considers the conditions of possible thought.

c. *Phys.* The study of the principles of animal tissues; a system of therapeutics based on this.

1875 J. F. Churchill *Consumption* x. 385 My doctrine of stœchiology is diametrically opposed to this.

Hence **Stoicheiolo·gical, stœchiolo·gical** *a.*

1875 J. F. Churchill *Consumption* x. 384 Stœchiological medicine—Inhalants. *Ibid.* 391 This stœchiological doctrine..gives us a fundamental classification of diseases.

† **Stoicheioma·tical,** *a. Obs. rare*—1. In 7 *erron.* **stocheio-.** [f. mod.L. *stoicheiōmatic-us* (ad. Gr. στοιχειωματικοί pl., persons who cast nativities, f. στοιχείωμα sign of the Zodiac) + -al.] Pertaining to the casting of nativities.

1658 J. Robinson *Eudoxia* x. 55 The slow proreption of Every Sidus, out of his proper Sign almost unto the subsequent,..doth overturn the grand Pillar of Stocheiomatical Art [orig. *artis stoicheiomaticæ*].

So † **Stoicheioma·tic,** *sb. Obs.*, a caster of nativities.

1662 Stanley *Hist. Chaldaick Philos.* I. iii. iii. (1687) 1050/1 These the Greeks term also στοιχεῖα,..and the makers of them Stoicheiomaticks.

Stoicheiometry (stoikəiɒ·mĕtri), **stœchiometry** (stăkiɒ·mĕtri). *Chem.* Also † **stochi-, †stœchi-, stoichiometry.** [f. Gr. στοιχείο-ν element + -metry.] The process or art of calculating or determining the equivalent and atomic weights of the elements participating in any chemical reaction; the science of estimating chemical elements; the branch of science concerned with the determination of atomic weights. (See also quot. 1880.)

The term was introduced by J. B. Richter in his *Anfangsgründe der Stöchiometrie, oder Messkunst chemischer Elemente* (1792), to denote the determination of the relative amounts in which acids and bases neutralize each other.

1807 T. Thomson *Chem.* II. 559, I have not been able to procure a sight of Richter's very curious..writings on Stechiometry, in which his observations on the fluates are to be found. 1845 W. Hamilton *Hand-bk. Terms Arts & Sci.*, *Stœchiometry*, the Geometry of chemical elements. 1880 Tyndall *Heat* xviii. (ed. 6) 571 The doctrine of the conservation of force, or, as I should express it, Physical Stoichiometry. 1908 S. Young (*title*) Stoichiometry.

Hence **Stoicheio-, stœchiome·tric, -al** adjs.

1887 *Brit. Jrnl. Photogr.* 27 May 330/2 Much too small [a proportion of colouring matter] to represent a stoichiometrical composition. 1892 *Nature* 24 Mar. 497/2 The late Prof. Stas had left..a..memoir describing the results of several further stöchiometrical investigations. *Ibid.*, The stöchiometric relation of silver to potassium chloride.

† **Stoicheio·tical,** *a. Obs. rare*—1. In 7 **stoichiotticall.** [f. late Gr. στοιχειωτικ-ός (f. στοιχειοῦν to enchant, f. στοιχεῖον element) + -al.] Pertaining to magic.

1646 J. Gregory *Notes & Observ.* (1650) 35 But the meaning of the Images [of the Emrods and Mice 1 Sam. vi. 5] is Stoichiotticall.

† **Stoi·cian.** *Obs.* In 4 **Stoi-, Stoycien, -yen, Stoisen,** 5 **Stocyen.** [a. F. *stoïcien* (14th c.), f. L. *stōic-us*: see Stoic and -ian.] = Stoic *sb.* 1.

c 1374 Chaucer *Boeth.* v, met. iv. (1868) 166 Philosophers þat hyȝten stoiciens. 1388 Wyclif *Acts* xvii. 18 Epeicureis, and Stoisens [1382 Stoycis]. 1426 Lydg. *De Guil. Pilgr.* 20182 And the Stocyens wolde Holden with me, (yiff they wer here). 1545 Ascham *Toxoph.* II. (Arb.) 165 Plato, Aristotle, and the Stoicians. 1814 *Sporting Mag.* XLIII. 267 Have not Philosophers, Stoicians,..and Rhetoricians Left sense's cold, insipid shrine To bend 'fore Altars feminine?

Stoicism (stō·isiz'm). [ad. mod.L. *stōicismus*, f. L. *stōicus*: see Stoic and -ism. Cf. F. *stoicisme* (17th c. in Hatz.-Darm.).]

1. The philosophy of the Stoics.

1626 [Featley] *Pelagius rediv.* D 1 b, This Doctrine bringeth into the Church..Stoicisme. 1694 G. Stanhope tr. *Epictetus' Mor.* Pref., The same Difficulty lies against Stoicism, with regard to Civil Society. 1712 Addison *Spect.* No. 243 ₱ 5 Stoicism, which was the Pedantry of Virtue, ascribes all good Qualifications, of what kind soever, to the virtuous Man. 1863 E. V. Neale *Anal. Thought & Nature* 99 But when we meet stoicism in the works of Epictetus and Marcus Aurelius, we find a remarkable change. 1910 *Q. Rev.* Apr. 575 Stoicism, with a disposition to regard man as a self-sufficing unit, becomes aristocratic, whereas Christianity in its essential characteristics is democratic.

2. Conduct or practice conformable to the principles of the Stoics; austerity, repression of feeling, fortitude.

1630 Brathwait *Eng. Gentlem.* (1641) 102, I admit of no such strict Stoicisme; but rather..to use wine or any such strong drinke to strengthen and comfort Nature. 1665 Glanvill *Scepsis Sci.* xxvii. 168 This unmoved apathy in opinionative uncertainties, is a warrantable piece of Stoicism. *a* 1721 Prior *Vicar of Bray & Sir T. Moor* 577 Wks. 1907 II. 261, I am afraid your Lordship may grow Angry, which would be a little against Your Stoicism. 1820 W. Irving *Sketch Bk.* II. 260 This last outrage overcame even the stoicism of the savage. 1855 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* xix. IV. 282 It was said that William so far forgot his wonted stoicism as to utter a passionate exclamation at the way in which the English regiments had been sacrificed. 1871 *Standard* 23 Jan., Paris received the news of General Chanzy's check..without losing its stoicism.

† **Stoi·city.** *Obs. rare*—1. [ad. F. *stoïcité*, f. L. *stōic-us* Stoic: see -ity.] A stoical attitude.

1609 B. Jonson *Sil. Wom.* I. i, Leaue this Stoicitie alone, till thou maks't Sermons.

Stoicize (stō·isoiz), *v.* [f. L. *stōic-us* Stoic + -ize.] *trans.* To render stoical, imbue with stoicism.

a 1864 T. Archer in *Mem.* (1867) 318 [This principle] may stoicize, may petrify your hearts.

Stoicly *adv.*: see after Stoic.

Stoil-ball, obs. form of Stool-ball.

Stoile, stoill: see Stole *sb.*1, Stool.

Stoir(e, obs. Sc. forms of Store.

Stoisen, variant of Stoician *Obs.*

Stoit (stoit), *v. dial.* [? a. Du. *stuiten* to rebound, bounce (? adopted as a term of some ball-game). But cf. Stot *v.* in similar senses.]

1. *Sc.* a. *intr.* 'To rebound, bounce' (*Eng. Dial. Dict.*). b. To move unsteadily, stumble, lurch; to walk with unsteady movements. Also with *about, along.*

1719 W. Hamilton *Ep. Ramsay* ii. 62 Wi' writing I'm sae bliert and doited, That when I raise, in troth I stoited. 1787 Burns *To Miss Ferrier* iii, Last day my mind was in a bog; Down George's Street I stoited. 1794 — '*Contented wi' little*' iv, Blind Chance, let her snapper and stoyte on her way. 1818 Scott *Hrt. Midl.* xxx, I wish ye had seen him stoiting about, aff ae leg on to the other, wi' a kind o' dot-and-go-one sort-o' motion. 1864 Latto *Tammas Bodkin* xii, We were stoitin' alang, deeply immersed in oor ain cracks.

2. Of pilchards: To leap above the surface of the water.

1825 *Encycl. Lond.* XX. 435/1 They call the jumping of the fish stoiting. 1836 Yarrell *Brit. Fishes* II. 101 The Herring..rarely springs from the water, or stoits, as it is called. 1899 Baring-Gould *Bk. of West* II. xix. 315 The scan-boat is rowed in a circular course round where the fish are stoiting.

Hence **Stoit** *sb.*, a lurch. Phr. *to play stait*, to lurch or stagger.

1808 A. Scott *Poems* 164 But fegs, wi' mony a stoit an' stevel, She [*sc.* a filly] rais'd a trot. 1881 D. Thomson *Musings among Heather* 118 Rab's road seem'd shorter than 'twas wide, For he play'd stoit frae side to side.

Stoiter (stoi·tər), *v. Sc.* and *north.* [Frequentative f. Stoit *v.* Cf. north. dial. *stotter, stauter, stowter* in similar senses (see *Eng. Dial. Dict.*).] *intr.* To swerve from side to side in walking; to walk with staggering or tottering steps; also with *up.*

c 1730 Ramsay *Vision* xix, They stoyter hame to sleip. 1785 Burns *Jolly Beggars* xvi, As length wi' drink and courting dizzy, He stoiter'd up and made a face. 1837 R. Nicoll *Poems* (1843) 91 Now wi' a staff about the dykes, He stoiters, auld, and beld and wan. 1893–4 Stevenson *Heathercat* ii, Poor, blind, besotted creature—and I see you stoytering on the brink of dissolution.

Hence **Stoi·tering** *ppl. a.*, staggering, tottering. Also **Stoiter** *sb.*, a stumble; phr. *to play stoiter*, to stagger.

1789 R. Fergusson *Poems* II. 86 Till he can lend the stoitering state a lift Wi' gowd in gowpins as a grassum gift. *a* 1838 Rodger *Poems, Colin Dulap* 59 While wauchlin' alang between sober and fou, Wi' a stoiter to this side, to that side a stap. 1890 J. Service *Thir Notandums* vi. 31 Laird Speckie played stoiter to a corner and fell asleep.

Stok, obs. form of Stock.

‖ **Stokaghe.** *Obs.* In Johnson and later Dicts. **stocah.** [Irish *stócach*: cf. the later Stalko.] An attendant on a 'kerne' or Irish foot-soldier.

1596 Spenser *State Irel.* Wks. (Globe) 672/1 He..thence-foorth becometh either an horseboy, or a stokaghe to some kearne. *Ibid.* 677/2 Kearne, Stokaghs, and Horseboyes.

† **Stoke,** *sb.*1 *Obs.* [OE. *stoc* neut. (gen. *stoces*); prob. f. the same root as *stoc*(*c* masc. (gen. *stocces*) Stock *sb.*1] = Place *sb.*, in various senses.

Common in place-names, as Bishopstoke, Winterstoke.

a 900 Wærferth tr. *Gregory's Dial.* 12 Þæt aborstene clif hreas þa of duneweard..oþ þæt hit com þær hit mynte feallan ofer þæt mynster, and þæt þonne wære hryre ealles þæs stoces. *Ibid.* 172 Þa sona in Cassinum þæt stoc [*v.rr.* in C. þære stowe, on C. þam stocwic]. *c* 1200 Ormin 1049 Uppo þatt oferrwerrc þe33 haffdenn liccness metedd Off Cherubyn,& haffdenn itt O twe33enn stokess metedd. *Ibid.* 15694 Inn o þre stokess nemmneþþ wel þa posstless hise brehre.

† **Stoke,** *sb.*2 *Obs.* [f. Stoke *v.*1 Cf. Stock *sb.*8 3.] A thrust with a weapon, a stab.

13.. *K. Alis.* 7398 (Laud MS.), To don oþer vilanye Oiþer wiþ stoke oiþer wiþ dynte þat is al hir entente. *c* 1400 *Ywaine & Gaw.* 2481 Sethin with a stoke to him he stert, And smate the geant unto the hert.

† **Stoke,** *sb.*3 *Obs.* [prob. a. Du. *stok*, lit. stick'; see Stock *sb.*1] A yard in measurement.

1538 in *Lett. Suppress. Monasteries* (Camden) 180 Whych be compased in with the walles lxx. stokes of length, that is, fete ccx. 1547 *Ludlow Churchw. Acc.* (Camden) 30 Item, ..for mendynge the vestmentes, and for ij. stokes and a hallf of locram to lyne them withalle, iij s. vijd.

† **Stoke,** *v.*1 *Obs.* [Perh. a. OF. *estoquier*: see Stock *v.*2]

1. *trans.* To pierce, stab (a person).

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 24356 Wit spere þai stoked him wit wrang. *c* 1375 *Ibid.* 7667 (Fairf.) Þe king þen hent a sper ful sharp

to stoke him þorou-out þe wagh. *c* 1380 *Sir Ferumb.* 4615 And þan was Char[lis] wonder grym, And aȝeyn hym renneþ, & stokeþ hym By-twene ys browes rowe.

2. *intr.* To make a thrust (*at*).

c 1375 *Cursor M.* 7623 (Fairf.) Þe king stoket at him wiþ a spere. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Knt.'s T.* 1688 Ne short swerd for to stoke with poynt bitynge. ? *a* 1400 *Morte Arth.* 2554 Fulle stowttly they stryke, thire steryne knyghttes, Stokes at the stomake with stelyne poyntes.

3. *trans.* To thrust, drive home (a sword).

1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* IX. vii. 140 The swerd, wyghtly stokit, or than was glaid Throu owt hys cost. *Ibid.* x. xiii. 135.

Stoke (stōᵘk), *v.*² Also 8 **stoak.** [Back-formation from STOKER.]

1. *trans.* To feed, stir up, and poke the fire in (a furnace), to tend the furnace of (a boiler). Also with *up*.

1683, etc. [? Implied in STOKING *vbl. sb.*² c]. 1735 DYCHE & PARDON *Dict.*, *Stoak* or *Stoke* v. to stir up, rake, cook, feed and look after a great Fire, such as Brewers, Distillers, Glass-houses, &c. use. 1838 HOLLOWAY *Prov. Dict.*, To *stoke*, to stir the fire. 1864 *Reader* 2 July 9 Who shall stoke the furnace of the steamship? 1883 M. P. BALE *Saw-Mills* 224 In stoking Cornish or Lancashire boilers by hand three systems of firing are in vogue. 1909 G. M. TREVELYAN *Garibaldi* xi. 202 First the fires had to be lit and stoked.

absol. 1867–72 N. P. BURGH *Marine Engin.* (1881) 375 Stoke freely when under steam. 1892 *Black & White* 16 Jan. 76/1 The German ships had been stoking up.

b. *fig.*

1837 HOOD *Ode to R. Wilson* 391 Sufficiently by stern necessitarians Poor Nature, with her face begrim'd by dust, Is stok'd, cok'd, smok'd, and almost chok'd. 1882 BERESFORD-HOPE *Brandreths* III. xxxix. 95 It [a prize fight] was stoked by an Irish adventurer who [etc.]. 1915 *Blackw. Mag.* Aug. 265/1 Neither the British nor the German soldier has been able to stoke up that virulent hate.

2. *transf.* (*jocular*). To feed (oneself or another) as if stoking a furnace; to 'shovel' (food) into one's mouth steadily and continuously.

1882 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 12 July 2/2 Mr. Warton vigorously stoked himself with snuff in the exuberance of his delight. 1894 SALA *London up to Date* 34 He eats, or, rather, he 'stokes' his meal, till the veins in his forehead swell. 1897 MISS BROUGHTON *Dear Faustina* xv, The denizens of this A. B. C...are *stoking* themselves stolidly. 1900 KIPLING in *Daily Mail* 25 Apr. 4/4 So they stoked them—'the 'arf that 'adn't the use of their 'ands'—and they re-dressed their bandages. 1915 *Blackw. Mag.* May 686/1 There's folks as cant stoke hot tea upon sorsiges.

absol. 1882 BESANT *All Sorts* xvii, Dinner in the middle of the day, of course...At the East End everybody stokes at one. 1897 KIPLING *Capt. Courageous* ii. 41 Then they stoked in silence till Dan drew breath over his tin cup and demanded of Harvey how he felt. 'Most full.'

3. In combination, as *stoke-hearth*, *-house*.

1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 1248 The stoke-hearth [of a smelting furnace]. 1903 *Westm. Gaz.* 27 Jan. 7/1 It was heated by means of hot-water pipes, fed from a stoke-house.

Hence **Stoked** *ppl. a.*

1908 *Daily Chron.* 2 May 6/1 Hand-stoked retorts were shut down, and now the whole of the gas is to be manufactured in inclined or mechanically stoked retorts.

Stoke, obs. f. STOCK; obs. pa. t. and pa. pple. of STEEK *v.*

Stokehold (stōᵘ·khoᵘld). [f. STOKE *v.*² + HOLD *sb.*²] An apartment containing the ship's boilers, where the stokers tend the furnaces.

1887 W. S. HUTTON *Pract. Engin. Hand-bk.* 112 Closed stokeholds working under air-pressure are better ventilated than open stokeholds. 1908 W. W. JACOBS *Salthaven* ii, In the stokeholds of Vyner & Son's steamships he talked learnedly on coal with the firemen.

b. *attrib.*

1893 *Westm. Gaz.* 28 Dec. 5/2 At one time the water in the ship was above the level of the stokehold plates. 1896 KIPLING *Seven Seas, M'Andrews' Hymn* 37 Three feet [of water] were on the stokehold-floor—just slappin' to an' fro.

Stoke-hole. [Partly an adoption, partly a transl., of Du. *stookgat*, f. *stoken* to stoke + *gat* hole].

1. The space in front of a furnace where the stokers stand to tend the fires; the aperture through which the fire is fed and tended; also *Naut.* a hole in the deck through which the fuel is passed for storage.

1660 *J. Okie's Lament.* xiv, I'le Cunningly retreat again into my warm Stoke Hole [of a brewery]. 1683 MOXON *Mech. Exerc., Printing* xviii. 163 The Stoke-Hole four Inches wide, and six Inches long. 1840 *Civil Engin. & Arch. Jrnl.* III. 349/2 The space between the engines and the boilers [of a steamship], usually called the stoke-hole. 1846 A. YOUNG *Naut. Dict.* 322 *Stoke-hole*, a scuttle in a steamer's deck, to admit fuel for the engine. 1892 E. REEVES *Homeward Bound* 147 Lascars are employed on the decks and Zanzibar men in the stoke-hole.

attrib. 1660 *J. Okie's Lament.* vii, They say I am indited; ..Would the Inditement was rak't in my Stoake hole Embers.

2. (See quot.)

1785 *Specif. of Phillips' Patent* No. 1477, That species of ..fireplaces commonly called copper holes or stoke holes.

†**3.** *fig. Obs.*

1768 [W. DONALDSON] *Life Sir B. Sapskull* I. iv. 32 They scower the inside of their flower-pots, at the same time they make a stoke-hole of their throats.

Stoker (stōᵘ·kəɹ). Also 8 **stoaker.** [a. Du. *stoker*, agent-n. f. *stoken* to feed (a fire), to stoke.]

1. One who feeds and tends a furnace.

1660 *J. Okie's Lament.* i, Of a Famous Brewer my purpose is to tell,..The Noble Stoker Okey that doth the rest Excel. 1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), *Stoaker*, one that looks after the Fire and some other Concerns in a Brew-house. 1707 [E. WARD] *Barbacue Feast* 9 The Stoaker..by the Help of Breath and Bellows, blew up as rare a Charcoal Fire as ever was kindl'd in Term-Time. 1798 M. NOBLE *Eng. Regicides* I. 104 John Okey..was first a dray-man, then a stoaker in a brewhouse at Islington. 1846 A. YOUNG *Naut. Dict.* 323 *Stoker* or *Fireman*, a person employed to feed and trim the fires for the boilers of marine steam-engines. 1853 LYTTON *My Novel* IX. i, Ten to one but he is saying—'Not sixteen miles an hour! What the deuce is the matter with the stoker?' 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* I. 284/2 The stoker should open the furnace-doors and push back a portion of the fuel, so as to make a space in front for the fresh supply.

b. *Mechanical stoker*: an apparatus for automatically feeding fuel into a furnace.

1884 R. MARSDEN *Cotton Spinning* 349 Mechanical stokers.—The question of stoking by machinery is an open one. 1893 *Lightning* 9 Feb. 86/2 Lancashire boilers are used, fitted with Vicar's mechanical stokers.

c. *fig.*

1737 M. GREEN *Spleen* 320 A prince's cause, a church's claim, I've known to raise a mighty flame, And priest, as stoker, very free To throw in peace and charity. 1893 T. M. HEALY in *Westm. Gaz.* 2 Nov. 2/2 At its head was a moderate ..leader, averse, except when driven to it by the 'stokers' of the movement, to lend his approval to extreme demands.

2. *pl.* Small particles of black gritty matter which escape through the funnel of a steam-engine.

1899 F. T. BULLEN *Way in Navy* 67 These ships..provide us instead with a never-ceasing supply of 'stokers,' a sort of fine black hail of grit that covers everything. It is not soft like soot.

Stokerage (stōᵘ·kərėdʒ). *nonce-wd.* [f. STOKER *sb.* + -AGE.] The action or the services of a stoker.

1895 *Daily News* 25 Apr. 7/2 The absence of the necessity of stokerage,..and the simplicity of construction of the furnaces.

Stokerless (stōᵘ·kəɹlės), *a.* [f. STOKER *sb.* + -LESS.] Without a stoker.

1862 *Illustr. Lond. News* 11 Jan. 51/3 You may as well try to stop a stokerless steam-engine as a savant.

Stokery (stōᵘ·kəri). [f. STOKE *v.*² + -ERY.] A place where stoking is done.

1901 *Rep. Brit. Assoc.* 791 Very complete remains of baths were found, with two brick-built hypocausts and a stokery.

†**Sto·king,** *vbl. sb.*¹ *Obs.* [f. STOKE *v.*¹ + -ING ¹.] The action of thrusting with a weapon.

1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* XVII. 785 With staffing, stoking, and striking Thar maid thai sturdy defending.

Comb. 1417 in *MS. For. Acc.* 8 *Hen.* V, G/1, xij debilibus stokyns sperres. 1420 in *MS. For. Acc.* 3 *Hen.* VI, H b, Cum .x. stoken' speres .viij. duodenis dartes.

Stoking (stōᵘ·kiŋ), *vbl. sb.*² [f. STOKE *v.*² + -ING ².] The action of the verb; the operation of tending a furnace and feeding it with fuel.

1854 J. SCOFFERN in *Orr's Circ. Sci., Chem.* 193 Inequality of stoking, and inequality of water-supply are amongst the causes. 1884 *L'pool Mercury* 18 Feb. 5/4 The pumping of water in and for the prison is valued at £301..and stoking at £166.

b. *transf.* and *fig.*

1892 *Fabian News* Apr. 5/1 There is always a great waste of energy in canvassing, 'stoking up,' etc., by which no one is made any better or wiser. 1892 'OUIDA' in *Fortn. Rev.* LII. 782 'Stoking'..is the one joy which never palls on the human machine, until he pays for it with dyspepsia and gout.

c. *attrib.*, as *stoking-hole*, *-iron*, *-place*, *-rod.*

1683 MOXON *Mech. Exerc., Printing* xi. ¶ 23 The *Stoking-hole lying far under the Caldron. 1794 *Trans. Soc. Arts* XII. 262 The stoking-hole of the furnace. 1876 E. M. SHAW *Fire Protection* 142 *Stoking irons..namely, 1 shovel, 1 rake, 1 pricker. 1741 SYMPSON *Hypocaust* in *Phil. Trans.* XLI. 856 The *Præfurnium*, (*Stoking-place). 1901 *Daily News* 5 Jan. 3/1 The caretaker brought a long *stoking rod.

Stokked, obs. weak pa. pple. of STEEK *v.*¹

1519 in *Fabric Rolls York Minster* (Surtees) 268 Nowe, often tymes, the dure is stokked.

Stokyn, obs. pa. pple. of STEEK *v.*¹ and *v.*²

Stokyng, obs. form of STOCKING *sb.*

Stol, rare obs. f. STALL *v.*¹; obs. f. STOOL.

‖**Stola** (stōᵘ·lă). *Ant.* [L. *stola*, ad. Gr. στολή: see STOLE *sb.*¹] A long robe worn by Greek and Roman women; chiefly referred to as the distinctive dress of Roman matrons.

1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s.v., The *Stola* of the ancient Romans, &c. was..a kind of Robe fitter for Women than Men. 1847 LEITCH tr. *C. O. Müller's Anc. Art* § 341. 351 Among the higher ranks a dress similar to the Ionic came in fashion, to which belonged the Stola, consisting of a tunic with broad border. 1861 PALEY *Æschylus* (ed. 2) *Choeph.* 161 *note*, Βαθύζωνος..and βαθύκολπος..are epithets not very easily explained...Probably the loose and ample folds of the stola ..are meant. 1891 FARRAR *Darkn. & Dawn* i, The long *stola* worn by noble matrons.

Stolated (stolēⁱ·tėd), *a. rare.* [f. L. *stolāt-us* (f. STOLA: see -ATE ²) + -ED ¹.] Wearing a stola or stole: **a.** *lit.* of a sculptured female figure; **b.** *transf.* in *Zool.* as rendering of mod.L. *stolatus*, the specific name of a snake.

1802 SHAW *Gen Zool.* III. 542 Stolated Snake..*Coluber Stolatus.* 1856 W. H. SMYTH *Roman Family Coins* 51 A stolated and helmed female.

Stolch, obs. f. STOACH *v.*, *dial.*

Stolde, obs. pa. t. of STELL *v.*

†**Sto·ldred.** *Obs.* [App. f. ME. *stulþ* (a. ON. *stulð-r*, *stuld-r*, STOUTH) + -RED.] Stealth.

1654 E. JOHNSON *Wonder-working Provid.* 27 When the best choice our Orthodox Ministers can make is to take up a perpetuall banishment..their poore sheepe they may not feede, but by stoledred. 1657 BILLINGSLY *Brachy-Martyrol.* xxix. 107 Some little corn by stoldred brought to town, Each pound was valued at half a crown.

Stole (stōᵘl), *sb.*¹ Forms: 1 **stol**, 4, 6 **stoele**, 4–6 **stoole**, 4, 7 **stool**, 5 **stoll**, 5–6 **stolle**, 6 **stoale**, **stoel**, **stoile**, **stoill**, **stoyle**, **stoyll**, 7 **stoal**, 4– **stole.** [ad. L. *stola*, ad. Gr. στολή, orig. equipment, array, clothing, hence a robe, garment, f. root of στέλλειν to place, array. Cf. OF. *estole* (mod.F. *étole*), Sp., Pg. *estola*, It. *stola*. The use of L. *stola* = sense 2 has not been found earlier than the 9th century; its origin is obscure.]

I. A long robe.

†**a.** In translations from or allusions to passages of the Vulgate or patristic texts. *Obs.*

First or *prime stole*, transl. of Vulg. *stolam primam* (Gr. στολὴν τὴν πρώτην), 'the best robe' in the parable of the Prodigal Son.

c 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Mark xii. 38 From uðuutum ðaðe wallas in stolum geonga. *a* 1000 *Durham Ritual* (Surtees) 45 Stol wvldres ȝiȝeride hine *stola glorie induit eum* [Ecclus. xlv. 7]. *a* 1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* xxix. 15 He..vmgifs vs.. with gladnes of þe first stole. 1380 *Lay Folks Catech.* (Lamb. MS.) 1115 [Crist] wyle cloþe our sowlys..with þe stole of vndedlynesse. 1382 WYCLIF *Isa.* lxiii. 1 Who is this that cam fro Edom..? this shapli in his stole? *c* 1449 PECOCK *Repr.* IV. ix. 473 Pharisees..louen forto walke in stolis. *c* 1450 *Godstow Reg.* 17 Þat we ben cladde in a snow whyȝt stole Thorgh þe vertue of þe holy goost. *c* 1520 NISBET *N. T., Apoc.* vi. 11 And quhite stolis, for ilk saule a stole, war gevin to thame. 1540 PALSGR. *Acolastus* v. v. Bbj b, Brynge forth..at ones the fyrst stole. 1561 DAUS tr. *Bullinger on Apoc.* (1573) 92 The saintes (saith S. Gregory) enioy as yet but one stole or robe a peece. 1596 T. BELL *Surv. Popery* III. ix. 366 These (saith S. John) are they which came from great tribulation & washed their stoales, and made them white in the bloud of the Lambe. 1648 BP. HALL *Select Th.* xiii. 52 It must be the main care of our lives, how to put on Christ upon our souls: This is the prime stole wherewith the father of the Prodigal, graceth his returned son. 1649 JER. TAYLOR *Great Exemp.* III. Ad Sec xv. 95 They might be reinvested with a robe of his righteousnesse wearing that till it were changed into a Stole of glory [cf. Ecclus. xlv. 7]. *c* 1850 NEALE *Hymns East. Ch.* 94 In that same hour I lost the glorious stole Of innocence.

b. In poetic or rhetorical use. Often *fig.*

1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* I. i. 45 Her all in white he clad, and ouer it Cast a blacke stole. 1593 PEELE *Hon. Order Garter* B 4, Fame in a Stoale of purple, set with eyes, And eares, and tongues, carryed a golden Booke. 1597 SHAKS. *Lover's Compl.* 297 There my white stole of chastity I daft. *c* 1620 T. ROBINSON *Mary Magd.* I. 10 How night..Put on the glitteringe stole of brightest day. 1632 MILTON *Penseroso* 35 And sable stole of Cipres Lawn, Over thy decent shoulders drawn. 1742 SHENSTONE *Schoolmistr.* 64 A russet stole was o'er her shoulders thrown. 1753 T. WARTON *Ode Approach Summer* 255 When mild Morn in saffron stole First issues from her eastern goal. 1793 COLERIDGE *Songs of Pixies* 95 Graceful Ease in artless stole. 1845 L. HUNT *Poems, Fancy Concert* 37 With their singers in lily-white stoles. 1878 B. TAYLOR *Pr. Deukalion* II. ii. 61 The phantom purple underneath thy stole We see.

c. With reference to classical antiquity. (Cf. STOLA.) Also (in Scott) quasi-*arch.* with reference to mediæval costume.

1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) I. 223 In Albist[e]rio..were i-made white stolis for emperours [L. *ubi fiebant stolæ imperatorum*]. *c* 1510 *Virgilius* (Doesborcke) A iiij b, And there he sawe his vnkell a fore hym stand in his emperly stole. 1725 POPE *Odyss.* VI. 88 The blooming virgin with dispatchful cares Tunics, and stoles, and robes imperial bears. 1790 COWPER *Odyss.* IV. 378 Beside him, Helen of the sweeping stole. 1811 SCOTT *Fam. Lett.* 4 Apr. (1894) I. 212 The lady..should I think have a sort of stole or loose upper garment. 1812 BYRON *Ch. Har.* II. ii, The warrior's weapon and the sophist's stole Are sought in vain. 1847 LEITCH tr. *C. O. Müller's Anc. Art* § 246. 223 His courtiers in two different regularly alternating costumes,—the Median stole and the candys. 1850 BLACKIE *Æschylus* I. 110 See! my rent and ragged stole Speaks the conflict of my soul.

¶ **d.** Some writers have carelessly or ignorantly supposed the ecclesiastical 'stole' (sense 2) to be a gown or surplice.

1805 SCOTT *Last Minstrel* V. xxx, Behind, four priests, in sable stole, Sung requiem for the warrior's soul. 1831 CARLYLE *Sartor Res.* III. xi, The fair fabric of Society itself, with all its royal mantles and pontifical stoles. 1840 BARHAM *Ingol. Leg., Jackdaw of Rheims* 35 Six little Singing-boys,—dear little souls! In nice clean faces, and nice white stoles. 1869 B. TAYLOR *By-Ways Europe* I. 219 Here the rustling of stoles and the muttering of prayers suggest incantation rather than worship.

2. *Eccl.* A vestment consisting of a narrow strip of silk or linen, worn over the shoulders (by deacons over the left shoulder only) and hanging down to the knee or lower.

c 1025 *MS. Laud* 482 f. 48 a, Scryde hine mid..alban & stolan & handline [etc.]. 13.. *K. Alis.* 4714 A withthe was heore stole, certes, With on othir they weoren y-gurte. *c* 1315 SHOREHAM *Poems* I. 1403 And nou þe stole a-fongeþ hy Ope here scholder lefte. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Merch. T.* 459 Forth comth the preest with stole aboute his nekke. *a* 1400–50 *Wars Alex.* 1581 Þan fyndis he in þis opire flote fanons and stolis Practisirs & prematis & prestis of þe lawe. 1481 CAXTON *Godfrey* cxli. 209 The men of the Chirche reuested with awbes and stooles. 1485 *Device for Coronation Hen. VII* in *Rutland Papers* (Camden) 18 The armyll is made in manner of a stole wovyn with gold & set with stones, to be putt by the Cardinall aboute the Kinges necke. *c* 1550 BALE *K. Johan* 1147 Put on yowr stolle then, and, I pray yow in Godes name, sytt. 1552 *Invent. Ch. Goods York*, etc. (Surtees) 42 Item, ij old whyt vestmentes with albe, and stoill, and fannells. 1561 T. NORTON *Calvin's Inst.* IV. xix. (1634) 329 Upon the Deacon that is ordered, the Bishop..layeth a prayer booke and a

Stoale upon his left shoulder. 1579 Fulke *Heskins Parl.* 84 M. Heskins mainteyneth reseruation by dipping of stoales, and linnen clothes in ye cup. 1764 in J. H. Harting *Hist. Sardinian Chapel* (1905) 23 Two copes with a large stole embroidered in gold thread, with gold fringe round the back. 1844 Lingard *Anglo-Sax. Ch.* (1858) II. ix. 69 The usual episcopal vestments, the amise..stole [etc.]. 1865 Walcott *Cathedr.* 93 A canon was to wear in all places the insignia of his rank;..in England now a broad scarf instead of the narrow stole. 1877 J. D. Chambers *Div. Worship* 48 The Stole, if worn by the Deacon, should be worn suspended over the left shoulder. 1885 *Notes on Angels* 38, 4. The Dominions, 5. The Virtues, and 6. The Powers wear albs down to the feet, golden girdles, and green stoles. 1904 Mrs. Creighton *Life Bp. Creighton* II. 35 Each man to be ordained priest was bidden to bring his stole in his hand.

†**b.** Often referred to as the vestment worn by a priest when engaged in exorcism or conjuration.

*c*1450 Lovelich *Graal* xlv. 312 Thanne the Goode Man took haliwater Anon, and his stole, and gan forth to gon. *c*1590 Greene *Fr. Bacon* iv. iii. 1835 Coniuring and adiuring diuels and fiends, With stole and albe and strange Pentagonon. 1598 Barckley *Felic. Man* i. (1603) 55 Taking his stole and other instruments for his conjuration with him, to the sicke woman hee goeth. 1626 L. Owen *Spec. Jesuit.* (1629) 42 When the Coniurer did but touch her with the stole or with some of his rotten Relikes.

c. *Hist.* In the names of certain knightly orders: see quots.

1728 Chambers *Cycl.* s. v. *Stole, Order of the Stole*, an Order of Knights instituted by the Kings of Arragon... The first Time we hear of it is under Alphonsus V, who mounted the Throne in 1416...*Order of the Golden Stole*, a military Order at Venice; thus called from a golden Stole which the Knights wear over the Left Shoulder.

d. An embroidered strip of linen, hanging down in front of an altar.

1513 in *Archæologia* LXVI. 340 Itm a frontlett for an auiter wrought in the stole. 1845 *Ecclesiologist* IV. 103 We have not spoken of the stoles of the altar, because their use ..was never general...They occur in..Van Eyck's..Adoration of the Lamb.

3. A woman's fur or feather garment, something in the shape of an ecclesiastical stole, worn over the shoulders and hanging down nearly to the feet.

1889 *Advt. Furs*, Victorias, Capes, Stoles, and Muffs, in every description of fur. 1892 *Lady* 29 Dec. 826/3 One sees a cloak lined with sable..accompanied by a stole and muff to match. 1904 *Daily Mail* 28 Mar. 1/4 Fashionable feather stoles, Good Feather,..10/6. 1906 *Ch. Times* 28 Dec. 848 Advt., Real Russian Sable Hair long throwover Stole with extra fine quality tails.

4. *attrib.* (senses 2, 3) as *stole-end, -front, -tab*; *stole-like*, adj. and adv.; **stole-fees** *pl.* [after G. *stolgebühren*] = Surplice-*fees*.

1896 *Daily News* 7 Mar. 6/3 Jackets..with Watteau pleats at the back and *stole ends in front. 1845 Sarah Austin *Ranke's Hist. Ref.* v. iii. 111. 83 The greater part of the *stole fees were abolished. 1897 Taunton *Engl. Black Monks* I. 56 Master Vicar..got his one-third clear, a house free of rent, and all his stole fees and dues. 1892 *Daily News* 16 June 6/1 The collar had *stole fronts, and the bodice was finished with black ribbons. 1876 Rock *Textile Fabrics* 90 A *stole-like band of rich white tissue. 1865 *Direct Angl.* (ed. 2) 24 The Amyss..is a large fur cape..; its 'tippets', i. e. two strips of fur in front, fall, *stole-like, below the knees. 1903 *Daily Chron.* 25 July 8/4 The collar.. forms *stole-tabs upon the shoulders.

Stole (stōul), *sb.*2 Also 5–6 stoole, 6 stoolle, stowle. [Commonly identified with Stole *sb.*1; to which the unauthenticated sense of 'royal robe' is assigned. But there seems to be little doubt that the 'stole chamber', served by the Groom or Yeoman of the Stole, was originally the room containing the king's close-stool, and that the word is properly a variant of Stool *sb.*1 As, however, the word as thus used was for centuries entirely dissociated from *stool*, and latterly had a different spelling, it is necessary to treat it separately.

In accounts of coronation ceremonies the king is said to have worn an ornament resembling a stole (Stole *sb.*1 2); but it does not appear that this was actually *called* a 'stole' until modern times. The view that the Groom of the Stole derived his designation from this ornament is quite improbable.

Sir H. Nicolas's supposition, that the 'stole' was a kind of packing-chest, is a mistaken inference from the *stole* and *male* being mentioned together in certain documents.]

1. *Groom of the stole*: the title of a high officer of the king's household (formerly sometimes also in the household of a prince of the blood), ranking next below the vice-chamberlain of the household. Also †*yeoman of the stole*.

For the duties of the office as understood at various times, see the quots. In the household of a queen or a princess, the office and title were held by a lady. Under Queen Victoria no groom of the stole was appointed, and the office has not since been revived.

†*a* 1480 in *Househ. Ord.* (1790) 41 The King's chamberlayn to assigne for the ii. garderobes and the King's chambre, for the male and stoole, and other stuffe nedeful, to the some of xii. or xvi. sompter horses. 1502 *Privy Purse Exp. Eliz. of York* (1830) 45 Item the vi^th^ day of Septembre for cariage of the Quenes stole from London to Oxonford and from Oxonford to Langley, xiiij d. *Ibid.* 81 For bering shetes trussing sheetes and sheetes for the stoele.] 1455 in *Househ. Ord.* (1790) *18 Yomen of the Chambre [8 names]. Gromes of the Chambre [9 names]. Yoman of the Stoole, William Grymesby. 1526 *Ibid.* 156 It is the King's pleasure, that Mr. Norres shall be in the roome of Sir William Compton, not onely giveing his attendance as groome of the King's stoole, but also in his bed-chamber [etc.]. 1596 Harington *Metam. Ajax* Answ. Let A vj b, A seuenth (whome I woulde gesse by his writing to bee groome of the stoole to some Prince of the bloud of Fraunce) writes a beastly treatise onely to examine what is the fittest thing to wipe withall, alledging that white paper is too smooth [etc.]. 1647 Clarendon *Hist. Reb.* v. § 31 Groom of the Stole, which hath the reputation and benefit of being first Gentleman of the Bed-Chamber. 1669 E. Chamberlayne *Pres. St. Eng.* 262 Gentlemen of the Bed-Chamber, whereof the first is called Groom of the Stole, that is (according to the signification of the word in Greek, from whence first the Latines, and thence the Italian and French derive it) Groom or Servant of the Robe or Vestment. He having the Office and Honour to present and put on His Majesties first Garment or Shirt every morning, and to order the things of the Bed-Chamber. *Ibid.* 326 Officers and Servants belonging to Her Royal Highness the Dutchess [of York]. Groom of the Stole, Countess of Rochester. 1702 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 3820/3 His Excellency had Audience of His Royal Highness Prince George of Denmark, being received..by the Rt. Hon. the Lord Delawar, Groom of the Stool to His Royal Highness. 1710 J. Chamberlayne *Pres. St. Gt. Brit.* II. III. (ed. 23) 541 Sarah Dutchess of Marlborough, Groom of the Stole.

2. The office of Groom of the Stole.

1911 J. H. Rose *Pitt & Gt. War* v. 125 Dundas requested that he should have the first claim for the Privy Seal for Scotland, provided that Lord Chatham did not take the Stole. 1911 Riker *Henry Fox 1st Ld. Holland* II. x. 239 The man who..had once struggled, single-handed, to procure Bute the Stole.

3. *attrib.* in *stole-chamber, -room*.

1532–3 in W. H. St. John Hope *Windsor Castle* (1913) I. 263 A Copple off Crosse Jamewis tynned ffor a new dore in the Kyngs stole chambre. 1676–7 *Ibid.* 315 The Kings Privy Backstairs & Closett and Stoole Roome. 1680–2 *Ibid.* 321 Isaac Thompson Engineer for making ij^o^ new Close Stooles for his Matie, One with two frames of Pullyes..and for Silvering the same to Keepe it from Rusting, & fitting & setting it up in his M^ties^ Stoole Roome. 1686–8 *Ibid.* 329 The lord Walgraves and Comptrollers Stoole Roomes.

Stole (stōul), *sb.*3 *Bot.* [Irregularly ad. L. *stolo*: see Stolon. (The anomalous form may have been due to confusion with *stole* var. Stool *sb.*, tree-root.)] = Stolon.

1806 Turton *Linné's Syst. Nat.* VII. Expl. Terms, *Stole*, a sucker or scion from the root of plants. 1832 *Planting* 91 in *Libr. Usef. Knowl., Husb.* III. Stole.—The first stage of growth of a shoot emitted or sent out from the sides of a root or stub or coppice-stool. 1835 Lindley *Introd. Bot.* (1848) I. 182 The Stole (stolo), which may be considered the reverse of the sucker. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1101/2 Stole, stolon.

Stole (stōul), *v.*1 [f. Stole *sb.*1]

1. *trans.* To provide (an altar, a church) with altar-stoles: see Stole *sb.*1 2 d.

*c*1475 *Crabhouse Reg.* (1889) 60 The Prioresse..pathed the chirche and the quere, and stolid it,..the veyl of the chirche with the auter-clothes in sute cost xl *s.* 1848 B. Webb *Cont. Ecclesiol.* 165 A most singular altar is shewn in this window, stoled both in front and in the side. *Ibid.* 343 Several frontals are merely painted; but I remarked that they represented superfrontals properly fringed and stoled.

2. [See Stoled *ppl. a.*]

Stole (stōul), *v.*2 *rare.* [f. Stole *sb.*3] *intr.* Of a plant: To develop stolons.

1824 Loudon *Encycl. Gard.* (ed. 2) 1225/2 *Succisæ repullulant*, trees which stole, or which being cut over spring again. 1846 Mrs. Loudon *Gardening for Ladies* 80 The verb, to *stole*, which signifies the power most deciduous trees possess, of sending up new stems from the collar of their roots when cut down.

Stole (stōul), *ppl. a. Obs.* exc. *dial.* and *technical.* [Strong pa. pple. of Steal *v.*] = Stolen *ppl. a.*

1393 Langl. *P. Pl.* C. xviii. 40 'Lord leyue' quap þe lede 'no stole þyng be here'. 1444 Lydg. in *Pol. Poems* (1859) II. 220 Tyl it be loost, stoole thyng is nat sought. 1884 *Encycl. Brit.* XVII. 359 Dead netting is a piece without either accrues or stole (stolen) meshes.

Stole, pa. t. and pple. of Steal *v.*; obs. f. Stool.

Stoled (stōuld), *ppl. a.* [f. Stole *sb.*1 (? and *v.*1) + -ed.] Wearing a stole (in various senses of the sb.)

In the first quot. apparently misused for 'surpliced'.

1546–7 *Test. Ebor.* VI. 254 To every clerke iiij d. and every childe, being stolde, ij d. 1610 G. Fletcher *Christ's Tri.* II. xvii, After them flewe the Prophets, brightly stol'd In shining lawne. 1629 Milton *Hymn Nativ.* xxiv, In vain ..The sable-stoled Sorcerers bear his worshipt Ark. 1787 Polwhele *Engl. Orator* II. 90 Where..amid the stoled Tribe Persuasion's swift-descending Genius swells The Oration's Period. 1808 Scott *Marmion* VI. Introd., That only night in all the year, Saw the stoled priest the chalice rear. 1839 Mrs. Browning *Sabbath Morn.* xii, Though this sabbath comes to me Without the stoled minister, Or chanting congregation. 1842 Tennyson *Morte d'Arthur* 197 All the decks were dense with stately forms Black-stoled, black-hooded, like a dream. 1865 Neale *Hymns Paradise* 43 The purple stoled Confessors. 1873 R. Wilton *Wood Notes* 33 At the Lord's Table, waiting, robed and stoled Till all had knelt around, I saw a sign.

Stolen (stōu·lən), *ppl. a.* Forms: see Steal *v.* [Pa. pple. of Steal *v.*] In senses of the verb.

1. Obtained by theft.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 4875 Qua-so es tan wid stoln thing, He wil þat do him to hing. *c* 1380 Wyclif *Wks.* (1880) 154 þere comeþ a pardoner wiþ stollen bullis & false relekis. 14.. *Burgh Lawis* lxxxvii. in *Anc. Laws Scot.* (Burgh Rec. Soc.) 42 Of stollyn gudis fundyn in the fayre. *c* 1440 *Jacob's Well* 201 3if þou..kepyst treccherously in pryuite stolyn thynges or obere thinges falsly get. 1583 *Leg. Bp. St. Androis* 325 in *Sat. Poems Reform.* xlv, Mercurius..Could not so weill of stowen geir tell, As could [etc.]. 1607 Shaks. *Cor.* v. vi. 89 Do'st thou thinke Ile grace thee with that Robbery, thy stolne name Coriolanus in Corioles? 1611 Bible *Prov.* ix. 17 Stollen waters are sweet. *c* 1640 H. Bell *Luther's Colloq. Mens.* (1652) 309 The wealth of Popedom (saith Luther) is meerly robbed and stollen wealth. 1771 *Junius Lett.* lxv. 328 The stolen goods were found upon him. 1862 Paley *Æschylus* (ed. 2) *Supplices* 897 *note*, [Hermes] the god of theft and abduction, and the recovery of stolen property. 1911 Trevelyan *Garibaldi & Making of Italy* vii. 147 The men were disconsolately cooking some stolen lambs.

2. Accomplished or enjoyed by stealth, secret. Of a marriage: cf. Steal *v.* 5 d.

13.. *Gaw. & Gr. Knt.* 1659 Such semblaunt to þat segge semly ho made, Wyth stille stollen countenaunce. *c* 1624 Chapman *Hymn to Hermes* 158 To shunn, of his stolne steps, the Tract. 1632 Massinger *City Madam* II. i, And pleasures stol'n being sweetest [etc.]. 1693 Dryden *Juvenal* x. 521 'Tis no stol'n Wedding, this; rejecting awe, She scorns to Marry, but in Form of Law. *a* 1797 Burns *'Twas na her bonie blue e'e*, The bewitching, sweet, stown glance o' kindness. 1803 Jane Porter *Thaddeus* i, I have already erred enough in consenting to this stolen marriage. 1832 S. Warren *Diary Late Physic.* II. iv. 211 Few people, indeed, are so disposed to 'make the most' of their time at the opera as medical men, to whom it is a sort of stolen pleasure. 1837 Dickens *Pickw.* liv, Arabella wrote..to say she had made a stolen match without her husband's father's consent. 1884 *Y. Marshall's Tennis Cuts* 65 We remembered that no cricket had ever been half so delightful as those stolen single-wicket matches in our night-gowns. 1905 R. Bagot *Passport* iii. 28 The girl at whom she had cast stolen glances of curiosity.

b. *Stolen march*: see Steal *v.* 5 e.

1759 Dilworth *Pope* 21 It appears by Mr. Pope's frequent stolen marches on the public [etc.]. 1766 Goldsm. *Vicar* xvi, Our spirit took the alarm at this stolen march upon us.

c. Of a hen's nest: Made in a concealed place.

1854 *Poultry Chron.* I. 615 Eggs are to be sought after, and what a triumph is the discovery of a stolen nest!

3. Of time: Obtained by contrivance.

1585 Higins *Junius' Nomencl.* 367/1 Stolne time, or time gotten by snatches from other busines. 1611 B. Jonson *Catiline* I. i, These my retirements, and stolne times for thought.

4. In *Baseball*: see quots.

1897 *Encycl. Sport* I. 79/2 (Baseball) *Stolen Base*, a base obtained by a runner without help from a hit by a batsman. 1891 N. Crane *Baseball* 61 The record is still hardly complete without showing the number of sacrifice hits and stolen bases by each player.

5. Of a crop: Interpolated in a rotation of crops.

1861 *Times* 10 Oct., Stolen crops of winter vetches..being also taken.

6. *Netting.* Of a mesh: Intentionally missed. (See Steal *v.* 7.)

1884 [see Stole *ppl. a.*].

7. *Comb.* **stolen-wise** *adv.*, stealthily.

1813 Scott *Bridal of Triermn.* II. xiii, And Lancelot, that evermore Look'd stol'n-wise on the Queen.

Stolethery, obs. form of Stoutherie.

Stolid (stǫ·lid), *a.* [ad. L. *stolidus*, related to *stultus* foolish, f. root **stel-* to stand or cause to stand still: cf. Still *a.* Cf. F. †*stolide* (16–17th c. in Godef.), Sp. *estólido*, It. *stolido*.

Not in Johnson 1755 (who has *stolidity*), and hardly occurring before the 19th c.]

Dull and impassive; having little or no sensibility; incapable of being excited or moved. Also of actions, demeanour, expression of countenance, etc.

c 1600 *Timon* II. iv. (1842) 32 That I..should bee caste into prison by stolidde, not by solidde, persons. 1623 Cockeram I, *Stolide*, foolish. 1656 Blount *Glossogr.*, *Stolid*, fooling, fond, leud of condition, unadvised, dull, doltish. 1816 Scott *Old Mort.* xiv, Morton recognised the stolid countenance of Cuddie Headrigg. 1831 Carlyle *Sartor Res.* I. iv, With some half-visible wrinkle of a bitter sardonic humour, if indeed it be not mere stolid callousness. 1856 Kane *Arctic Expl.* II. xxix. 290 With a stolid expression of wonder, he stared for a moment. 1858 Doran *Court Fools* 29 The philosophical envoy approached the stolid Roman. 1868 J. H. Blunt *Ref. Ch. Eng.* I. 5 The stolid opposition with which their better aspirations were met by those in authority. 1902 Mrs. Lane in *Fortn. Rev.* June 1009 How I wish I could clap a big, stolid, conservative, frost-bitten English matron into a snug American house.

Comb. 1862 Whyte Melville *Queen's Maries* II. 181 He was a stolid-looking fellow too. 1901 C. Holland *Mousmé* 261 The dark consulting room with its stolid-looking oak-and-leather chairs.

Hence **Sto·lidly** *adv.*, **Sto·lidness.**

1727 Bailey vol. II. *Stolidness*, Foolishness. 1857 Dickens *Dorrit* I. xxx, As often as Mr. Blandois clinked glasses.. Mr. Flintwinch stolidly did his part of the clinking. 1860 *All Year Round* No. 73. 552 There is a superb stolidness about her; a stolidness that could be wakened into savageness. 1867 Parkman *Jesuits N. Amer.* viii. (1875) 88 Often the patient was stolidly silent. 1877 E. R. Conder *Basis Faith* ii. 81 These simple primary atoms, stolidly inert when none but its own kind are present. 1885 *Law Times* LXXIX. 37/2 Powers..of which vestries..have stolidly refused to avail themselves.

Stolidify (stŏli·difəi), *v. rare.* [f. L. *stolid-us* Stolid *a.* + -(i)fy.] *trans.* To render stolid.

1827 *Blackw. Mag.* XXI. 654 His brain was too stolidified, and too conversant with wine and good eating.

Stolidity (stŏli·dĭti). [ad. L. *stoliditāt-em*, f. *stolid-us* Stolid *a.* Cf. F. †*stolidité* (15–17th c., in Godef.), It. *stolidità*.] The attribute of being stolid; dull impassiveness; incapacity for feeling.

1563–83 Foxe *A. & M.* 1598/1 In which wordes note (good reader) not only the absurditie of doctrine, but also the stolidity of the reason. 1607 Topsell *Four-f. Beasts* 629 Aristophanes reproaing the stolidity of the Athenians, calleth them sheepe. *a* 1661 Fuller *Worthies, Notts.* (1662) 316 Men in all Ages have made themselves merry with singling out some place, and fixing the staple of stupidity and stolidity therein. 1691 Hartcliffe *Virtues* 277 A principal defect of the Mind, which may be called Stolidity, or the

Extremity of Dulness. 1826 DISRAELI *V. Grey* v. iii, The look of complacent and pompous stolidity. 1849 MISS MULOCK *Ogilvies* xix, Leigh's countenance relapsed into its customary stolidity. 1869 TOZER *Highl. Turkey* II. 221 We received the announcement with the stolidity of true Britons. 1910 *Q. Rev.* Apr. 567 His aim is to cultivate 'a good healthy stolidity.'

Stoli(e : see STEAL *v.*, STOLE *sb.*[1], STOOL.

Stolled, -en, etc., obs. pa. pple. of STEAL *v.*

Stoln(e, obs. pa. pple. of STEAL *v.*

‖ **Stolo** (stō'lo). Pl. **stolones** (stŏlō'nīz). [L.: see STOLON.]

1. *Bot.* = STOLON 1. *rare.*

1725 *Bradley's Family Dict.* s.v. *Elm*, Where the Suckers and Stolones are supernumerary. 1796 WITHERING *Brit. Plants* (ed. 3) I. 84 *Stolo*, a sucker. 1807 J. E. SMITH *Phys. Bot.* 120 When the *stolo* has taken root. 1849 BALFOUR *Man. Bot.* 638.

2. *Zool.* = STOLON 2. *Stolo prolifer*, the germ-stock of certain compound organisms.

1878 F. J. BELL tr. *Gegenbaur's Comp. Anat.* 391 The parent sending forth a runner (stolo) which is composed of form-elements belonging both to ectoderm and endoderm. *Ibid.*, What is performed in the Ascidiæ by means of off-shoots starting from the surface of the body, is carried out in the Cyclomyaria and Thaliadæ by a special organ—the germ stock or stolo prolifer. 1887 *Athenæum* 5 Feb. 194/2 The peculiar mode of budding in Pyrosoma..from a ventral stolo prolifer.

Stolon (stō'lŏn). Also 9 †**stollen.** [ad. L. *stolōn-em, stolo*, sucker of a plant. Cf. F. *stolon.*]

1. *Bot.* (See quot. 1880.)

1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* XVII. i. I. 499 They of the noble Licinian familie had for their addition Stolons (that is to say, the unprofitable watershoots that put forth from the root or tree it selfe, and never prove or come to any good). 1802 R. HALL *Elem. Bot.* Dict., Stolon, *stolo*, a shoot or scion, from the root of a plant, by which it may be propagated. 1840 J. BUEL *Farmer's Comp.* 161 The habits of many plants, in sending abroad roots and stollens, to establish a progeny in fresh, unexhausted soil. 1861 BENTLEY *Man. Bot*, 112 The sucker can scarcely be said to differ in any essential particulars from the stolon. 1863 BERKELEY *Brit. Mosses* iii. 13 The tips of these creeping stolons rise above the surface. 1880 A. GRAY *Struct. Bot.* iii. 53 A Stolon is a prostrate or reclined branch which strikes root at the tip, and then develops an ascending growth, which becomes an independent plant. 1882 F. DARWIN in *Nature* 20 Apr. 580 The stolons of the strawberry.

2. *Zool.* Each of the connecting processes of the cœnosarc of a compound organism.

1846 DANA *Zooph.* iv. (1848) 58 These shoots are called stolons or creepers by Ehrenberg. 1856 W. CLARK *Van der Hoeven's Zool.* I. 78 The common body is made up of stolons, connecting tubes erect, ventricose, striated, each containing a Polyp. 1875 HUXLEY in *Encycl. Brit.* I. 130/2 The Zoanthidæ differ from the Actinidæ in little more than their multiplication by buds, which remain adherent, either by a common connecting mass or cœnosarc or by stolons. 1880 F. P. PASCOE *Zool. Classif.* (ed. 2) 294 *Stolons.* In zoology connecting processes of the cœnosarc, &c.

3. Comb. *stolon-like* adj.

1849–52 T. R. JONES in *Todd's Cycl. Anat.* IV. 1217/2 This stolon-like body is closed at the free extremity. 1882 *Garden* 28 Jan. 66/3 The corms produce long stolon-like shoots.

Stoloniferous (stŏu-, stŏlŏni'fĕrəs), *a. Bot.* and *Zool.* [f. mod.L. *stolōnifer*, f. *stolōnem* STOLON: see -FEROUS.] Producing stolons.

1777 ROBSON *Brit. Flora* 6 *Stoloniferous*, having scions, suckers or barren shoots, as in Creeping Crowfoot and Meadow Bugle. 1786 ABERCROMBIE *Gard. Assist., Arrangem.* 65 Stoloniferous, or shoot-bearing Chinese saxifrage. 1840 J. BUEL *Farmer's Comp.* 161 Even the delicate stoloniferous rose is constantly changing its location in this way. 1865 *Intell. Observer* No. 40. 301 Traversed at D by a stoloniferous passage. 1872 BRADY in *Monthly Microsc. Jrnl.* July 33 (In the Foraminifera) It is not..unusual to find..two segments connected by a stoloniferous tube. 1899 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* Mar. 113 So strong is the habit of stoloniferous growth.

Hence **Stoloni'ferously** *adv.*

1864 COBBOLD *Entozoa* 264 The generally-received notion that the heads bud out stoloniferously, as it were, is altogether disproved.

Stolp(e, obs. forms of STOOP *sb.*, post, STOUP.

Stoltherie, -erye, obs. ff. STOUTHRIE.

Stolyn, obs. pa. pple. of STEAL *v.*

Stolzite (stō'ltsəit). *Min.* [f. *Stolz* (see quot. 1868) + -ITE.] Tungstate of lead.

1868 DANA *Syst. Min.* (ed. 5) 606 Stolzite..Tungstate of Lead. *Ibid.* 607 This species was first made known, according to Breithaupt, by Dr. Stolz, of Teplitz. 1878 GURNEY *Crystallogr.* 78.

Stom, var. of STAM *sb.*[3] *dial.*, STUM *sb.* and *v.*

‖ **Stoma** (stō'mă). Pl. **stomata** (stō'mătă). [mod.L., a. Gr. *στόμα* mouth.]

1. *Anat.* and *Zool.* A small opening in an animal body; an aperture, orifice, pore (as of a lymphatic or other vessel, an air-tube, etc.).

1684 *Blancard's Phys. Dict., Stoma*, the Mouth, as also the Mouths of any Vessels. 1875 W. TURNER *Introd. Hum. Anat.* I. 140 Scattered..over this surface are the minute orifices, or stomata, which open into lymphatic vessels. 1881 MIVART *Cat* 217 The lymphatic vessels communicate with the peritoneal cavity by definite apertures called stomata. 1888 ROLLESTON & JACKSON *Anim. Life* 240 The complete mesentery..will be seen to have two perforations. One of these, the inner septal stoma..is found universally among Sea-Anemones...The other perforation or outer septal stoma occurs in very few instances.

2. *Bot.* One of the minute orifices in the epidermis of plants, especially of the leaves, occurring as a slit between two (or in some cases more) cells of special structure (guard-cells), and opening into intercellular spaces in the interior tissue so as to afford communication with the outer air; a breathing-pore. (Sometimes used for the whole structure, including the guard-cells.)

1837 P. KEITH *Bot. Lex.* 231 The leaves..inhale..gases through means of their stomata. 1851 CARPENTER *Man. Phys.* (ed. 2) 55 The stomata are bounded by two or more cells, in such a manner that they can be opened or closed by changes in the form of these. 1884 BOWER & SCOTT *De Bary's Phaner.* 34 The apparatus consisting of the pair of cells with the slit is called a pore or stoma. *Ibid.* 45 Stomata ..are completely absent in roots.

‖ **Stomacace** (stŏmæ'kăsē). *Path.* [L. *stomacacē* (Pliny), a. Gr. στομακάκη (Strabo), in the MSS. στοματακάκη, prob. f. *στόμα* mouth + *κάκη* dung. The second element is usually explained as *κάκη* vice; but this word occurs only in a moral sense.]

An ulcerous or scorbutic affection of the mouth; scurvy of the gums; ulcerative stomatitis.

1657 TOMLINSON *Renou's Disp.* 360 Britannica doth with a peculiar faculty respect stomacace [*misprr.* -cate] and scelerybe. 1857 DUNGLISON *Med. Lex.*, *Stomacace...Cancer Oris, Canker*..Fœtor of the mouth with a bloody discharge from the gums. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* III. 334 Ulcerative Stomatitis (Phlegmonous stomatitis,..Stomacace, Putrid sore mouth) is an affection of very varying severity.

Stomacal: see STOMACHAL.

Stomach (stʊ'măk), *sb.* Forms: α. 4–6 **stomak,** 4–7 **-ake, -ac, -ack,** 5–7 **-acke;** (5 **-oke, -ocke,** 5–6 **-ok,** 6 **stommok, stumack, stomacque,** 7 **stamocke,** 8 *Sc.* **stamock**); β. 6 **stomache,** 6– **stomach** (9 *Sc.* **stammach**). [a. OF. *estomac, stomaque, stomeque* (mod. F. *estomac*) ad. L. *stomachus*, a. Gr. στόμαχος, orig. the throat, gullet, hence the mouth or orifice of any organ, esp. of the stomach, and later the stomach itself; f. *στόμα* mouth. Cf. Pr. *estomac*, Sp. *estómago*, Pg. *estomago*, It. *stomaco.*

The Gr. senses occur in Latin, where however the usual sense is 'stomach,' with various fig. applications, e.g. 'appetite,' 'indignation,' 'courage,' etc.]

I. In a human or animal body: The internal pouch or cavity in which food is digested.

In man, the stomach is a dilatation of the alimentary canal, occupying the upper part of the left side of the abdomen. In some animals there are several stomachs, through which the food passes in succession; thus in ruminants there are the first stomach (paunch, rumen), the second stomach (honeycomb, reticulum), the third stomach (omasum, psalterium), and the fourth or true stomach (abomasum).

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* C. 274 & þer he [Jonah] festnes þe fete & fathmez aboute, & stod vp in his [the whale's] stomak, þat stank as þe deuel. *c* 1374 CHAUCER *Boeth.* III. met. xii. (1868) 107 þe fowel þat hyȝt voltor þat etiþ þe stomak or þe giser of ticius [erron. tr. L. *Tityi jecur*]. *c* 1374 — *Troylus* I. 737. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* III. 542 That soucht nane othir salss thair-till Bot appetyt..For weill scowryt war thar stomakys. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* v. xxxviii. (1495) 152 The stomak is beclipped in on place wyth the lyuer. *a* 1400–50 *Wars Alex.* 4436 Youre mawis ȝe fill,..Stuffis so ȝour stomake with stullis & of wynes, þat [etc.]. 1406 HOCCLEVE *La Male Regle* 150 A draght of wyn..To warme a stomak with. 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* xxvii. 52 In to his stommok wes sic ane steir, Off all his dennar quhilk he coft [*var.* cost] deir. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 36 Somtyme of great replecyon or fyllyng of yᵉ stomacke, or surfet. *c* 1623 LODGE *Poor Mans Talent* E 2, The stomacke is the storehouse of the Bodie. 1650 BULWER *Anthropomet.* xi. 117 The Gullet moveth the meat into the Stomack by natural instruments. 1664 E. BROWNE *Jrnl.* in *Sir T. Browne's Wks.* (1836) I. 54, I being desirous to see the inside of a man's stomache, hee cut one up for me which hee had by him. 1686 tr. *Chardin's Trav. Persia* 168 It is not to be imagin'd what an empty stomach I had all the while that I was in Mingrelia. 1833 N. ARNOTT *Physics* I. III. v. 661 A full stomach produces tension and projection of the belly. 1834 MCMURTRIE tr. *Cuvier's Anim. Kingd.* 482 In the middle of the inferior margin [of the rib in Medusæ] is the mouth, a wide aperture opening into a stomach placed transversely in the thickness of the rib. 1847 W. C. L. MARTIN *Ox* 144/2 The second stomach is the reticulum or honeycomb...The third stomach is termed manyplus, manyplies, manifold, and other names, in allusion to its internal foliations. 1873 MIVART *Elem. Anat.* 441 The stomach..is a simple, somewhat pear-shaped bag, curved so that its upper surface is concave. 1884 DAY *Fishes Gt. Brit.* I. p. lii, This gizzard-like stomach is evidently employed for grinding up hard food. 1901 *Daily Chron.* 26 July 3/4 The oyster and his fellow mollusca..like man himself,..possess that test of biological greatness, a true stomach.

transf. 1605 ROWLANDS *Hell's broke loose* 20 Our Purses may haue emptie stomackes all.

fig. *c* 1440 *Jacob's Well* 117 Takyth þe tryacle of my techyng in-to þe stomak of ȝoure soule.

† **b.** *To defy* or *digest the stomach*: see DEFY *v.* 3 b, DIGEST *v.* 4 f.

c. *On an empty stomach*: fasting. *On a full stomach*: immediately after a copious meal.

1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* 376 A Horsse may haue shortnesse of breath, by hasty running after drinking, or vpon a full stomach. 1663 BAYFIELD *Treat. De Morb. Capitis* 88 Barley masticated, or chewed, upon an empty stomach. 1744 BERKELEY *Siris* § 3 About half a pint night and morning on an empty stomach. 1780 *Mirror* No. 98 Whenever he read on an empty stomach, he was apt to be disturbed with uneasy yawnings. 1865 ANNIE THOMAS *On Guard* xxvii. II. 178 Mrs. Green made some shadow of a protest against the brandy being taken on an empty stomach.

d. Viewed as the organ of digestion. Often with epithet, as *weak, strong, good,* etc.

c 1380 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* III. 133 þo stomak of a man schulde deffye his mete. *c* 1400 *Lanfranc's Cirurg.* 13 Forbede hem neiþir wiyn ne fleisch, for þe stomak þat is so feble he myȝte nouȝt engendre nessessarie mater of blood þat longiþ to þe wounde. *c* 1430 LYDG. *Min. Poems* (Percy Soc.) 23 The wolf..Saide he [the lambe] maadde his water unholsom, His tender stomake to hinder and undispose. 1519 *Knaresb. Wills* (Surtees) I. 8 Hole in mynde and wake in stomak. 1599 BUTTES *Dyets drye Dinner* I 1, Signifying the holesomneese thereof to a good stomacke. 1612 WOODALL *Surg. Mate* Wks. (1653) 70 Mace..strengtheneth the stomack. 1631 T. POWELL *Tom of All Trades* 31 A Citizens wife of a weake stomacke. 1669 DRYDEN *Tempest* II. (1670) 18 This [Brandy] works comfortably on a cold stomach. 1779 *Mirror* No. 9, I am a Scotsman of a good plain stomach. 1853 SOYER *Pantroph.* 73 The cucumber, although but little nutritious, does not agree with cold stomachs. 1856 *Athenæum* 26 Apr. 515/3 A brewage so composed can only be fitting for the stomachs of Belphegor and his brethren.

transf. 1612 STURTEVANT *Metall.* (1854) [115] The seuerall sorts of Raw matters, which are the things that the Stomack of the Furnace worketh upon.

fig. 1589 *Pappe w. Hatchet* in *Lyly's Wks.* (1902) III. 399 His conscience hath a colde Stomacke.

e. as the seat of hunger, nausea, discomfort from repletion, etc. *To lie* (*heavy*) *on one's stomach*; (of food) to cause indigestion. (See also TURN *v.* 12, 12 b.)

c 1394 *P. Pl. Crede* 765 A great bolle-full of benen were betere in his wombe,..Pan..comeren her stomakes wiþ curious drynkes. 1513 *Life Hen. V* (Kingsford 1911) 64 To..indure the rage and boysterous of the sea, wᵗʰout accombrance and disease of his stomache. *c* 1582 MORE *De quat. noviss.* Wks. 991/1 And than the head aketh, & the stomake knaweth, and the next meale is eaten wᵗ out appetite. 1587 *Gude & Godlie B.* (S.T.S.) 36 He wuld haif eitin with the swyne, His hungrie stomok to fulfill. 1610 SHAKS. *Temp.* II. ii. 118. 1649 JER. TAYLOR *Great Exemp.* Pref. P 18 He knew that some appetites might be irregular, just as some stomackes would be sicke. 1709 T. ROBINSON *Vindic. Mosaick Syst.* 59 The Dog..when he finds himself sick at Stomach..presently runs to Grass, and having eaten it, it gives him a Vomit, and the Dog is well. 1711 SWIFT *Jrnl. to Stella* 5 Sept., I ate sturgeon, and it lies on my stomach. 1774 BURKE *Amer. Tax.* (C.P.S.) 95, I am sure our heads must turn, and our stomacks nauseate with them. 1786, 1807 (see SICK *a.* 1 c). 1829 SOUTHEY *Pilgr. Compostella* IV. Poet. Wks. VII. 264 Not till he had confest,..did he feel His conscience and stomach at rest. 1842 MACAULAY *Ess., Frederic Gt.* P 8 Sometimes he was forced to swallow food so nauseous that he could not keep it on his stomach. 1852 THACKERAY *Esmond* III. v, 'Twas the stomach that caused other patriots to grumble, and such men cried out because they were poor.

f. as the part of the body that requires food; hence, put for the body as needing to be fed.

1904 *Windsor Mag.* Jan. 268/2 'An army marches on its stomach.' '*C'est la soupe qui fait le soldat.*' These Napoleonic aphorisms..have been [etc.].

fig. *c* 1530 TINDALE *Jonas* Prol. A vij b, God oure father & scolemaster fedeth vs & teacheth [*printed* teached] vs accordinge vn to the capacite of oure stomakes.

† **g.** Used to render L. *jecur* (liver) as the supposed seat of lust. *Obs.*

Cf. the original passage, *De Proeliis Alexandri*, 'Cupidinem deam iecoris existimas.'

1340–70 *Alex. & Dind.* 686 ȝe sain þat he [Cupidus] is a soþ god..þat haþ þe stomak in stat stifly to kepe, For þere be hete that men han is holden wiþ-inne þat enforceþ þe flech folie to wirche. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* II. 177 Cupide..was the sire Of the stomak, which builleth evere, Wherof the lustes ben the levere.

¶ **2.** Some of the earlier anatomists (following, ultimately, Galen) attempted to restore to the word its original Gr. sense of œsophagus or gullet, and to give the name *ventricle* to what is 'improperly' called the stomach.

1541 COPLAND *Galyen's Terap.* 2 H j b, We must gyue medicamentes to drynke to hym yᵗ hath his ventricle vlcerate, whiche vulgarily is called yᵉ stomacke, & yf the bulke yᵗ proprely is called yᵉ stomacke, yᵗ the grekes cal œsophagus [*sic*] be vlcerate, the sayd medycaments ought nat to be taken & swalowed at ones, but by lytel & lytell. 1578 BANISTER *Hist. Man* v. 68 The begynnyng of the stomache is at the roote of the toung, in the lower part of the iawes behynd Larinx. *Ibid.* 70 The Ventricle consisteth of two broad and thinne coates together ioyned, euen as the stomach or throte, but somewhat unlike. 1658 ROWLAND tr. *Mouffet's Theat. Ins.* 1121, I mean by the stomach the mouth of the ventricle, taking the word stomach improperly, for properly it signifies the throat...the properly called stomach, that is, the throat is fenced with most strong bones.

3. The part of the body containing the stomach, the belly, abdomen; sometimes (formerly often) applied to the chest.

c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* x. (*Matthew*) 488 He..his gret sorow for to slak, hyme-selfe into þe stomak strak, & ȝeld þe gaste. *c* 1400 *Laud Troy Bk.* 20929 He was al bare but his hauberke On his brest & his stomak. *c* 1440 *Gesta Rom.* xvi. 56 (Harl. MS.) Þere came an arowe, & smote him at þe stomak, & he felle doun ded. 1530 PALSGR. 276/2 Stomake, *estomac, poictrine.* 1567 FENTON tr. *Bandello* xiii. (1898) II. 245 Her stomake also, some what raised by two rounde and precius dugges..was covered with a brave and softe vaile,..whyche hyndred no waye the viewe of her travellynge brestes. 1585 T. WASHINGTON tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* II. vii. 37 b, About their neck and vpon their stomacke, they were many chaines, tablets, & other trynkets. *a* 1605 MONTGOMERIE *Misc. Poems* xxvii. 3, I wot ȝe neuer kneu A harte more treu within a stomok stik. 1748 SMOLLETT *R. Rand.* xxvii, Many cross-buttocks did I sustain, and pegs on the stomach without number. 1847 MARRYAT *Childr. N. Forest* iv, The dog..dragged himself on his stomach after Edward. 1863 KINGSLEY *Water-Bab.* vi. (1869) 271 So they lived miserably on roots and nuts, and all the weakly little children had great stomachs, and then died. 1888 RIDER HAGGARD *Maiwa's Revenge* i, Good crawled upon his stomach.

transf. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* lxii, With..his hand in the stomach of a voluminous white waistcoat. 1902 CORNISH *Naturalist Thames* 8 Barometers, if tapped violently in the centre of their mahogany stomachs.

†4. *Sc.* = STOMACHER. Also, a chest-covering for a horse. *Obs.*

1473-4 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* I. 38 Deliuerit to Caldwele..j elne of satyne for stomokis to the Quene. 1488-92 *Ibid.* 80 Item, in the same box, a stomok. 1500-20 DUNBAR *Poems* xxvii. 11 With mony lymmar loun,..Off stomok steillaris and clayth takkaris. 1506 [see SHAKER 6]. 1508 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* IV. 22 Item for vj quartaris quhit dames to be foure stomo[k]is for hors housouris, xlij s. 1540-1 *Ibid.* VII. 423 The litill copburd of silver witht certane stomokkis, perle bedis, [etc.]. 1558 *Extracts Aberd. Reg.* (1844) I. 309 The wrangous reiffing and away taking fra hir of ane plyd,..ane bukrame apprówne, ane stomak.

5. Appetite or relish for food. *Obs.* exc. (somewhat *arch.*) with const. *for.*

c 1386 CHAUCER *Somp. T.* 139 The body is ay so redy and penyble To wake, that my stomak is destroyed. 1514 BARCLAY *Cyt. & Uplondyshne.* (Percy Soc.) 1 A lordes stomake & a beggers pouche Full yll accordeth. 1555 EDEN *Decades* (Arb.) 182 They haue no stomacke to their meate. 1560 T. WILSON *Rhet.* (1563) 72, I haue no liste to eate now; it is to earely for me, my stomacke is not yet come to me. 1590 SHAKS. *Com. Err.* I. i. 40 You haue no stomacke, hauing broke your fast. 1642 FULLER *Holy & Prof. St.* III. xiii. 185 A rich man told a poore man that he walked to get a stomach for his meat. *a* 1654 SELDEN *Table-T.* (Arb.) 88 'Tis a good rule, eat within your Stomack, act within your Commission. 1674-7 J. MOLINS *Anat. Observ.* (1896) 19 The Boy came to his Stomack, and would goe. *a* 1722 LISLE *Husb.* (1757) 271 Such working every other day..would get them a stomach to their meat. 1726 SWIFT *Gulliver* II. iii, I had quite lost my stomach, and was almost reduced to a skeleton. 1746 *Oxf. Sausage* (1764) 34, I..Rode for a Stomach. 1766 *Complete Farmer* s.v. *Purging*, Horses that fall off their stomach,..should have a mild purge or two. 1841 JAMES *Brigand* v, Heaven send us all as good food as I have a good stomach. 1855 THACKERAY *Newcomes* II. xxxvii. 334 'You must go back to your dinner.' In vain I pleaded that I had no stomach for it. 1859 TENNYSON *Enid* 1062 And Enid took a little delicately, Less having stomach for it than desire To close with her lord's pleasure. 1867 HOWELLS *Ital. Journ.* 95 The lions had no stomach for Glaucus on the morning of the fatal eruption.

b. *fig.* Relish, inclination, desire (for something immaterial).

1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* XIII. vi. 76 Agane his stomak..the contrak is ybrokken. 1596 SHAKS. *Merch. V.* III. v. 92 Nay, let me praise you while I haue a stomacke. 1610 — *Tempest* II. i. 107 You cram these words into mine eares, against the stomacke of my sense. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* (1637) 313 These matters, I assure you, it goes against my stomacke to relate. 1622 BACON *Hen. VII*, 38 It was an Act against his stomacke, and put vpon him by necessitie and reason of State. *a* 1660 *Contemp. Hist. Irel.* (Ir. Archæol. Soc.) II. 27 The captain against his stamocke condescended. 1682 BUNYAN *Holy War* (1905) 369 The Captains..did do such execution with their stones, that they made him, though against stomach, to retreat. 1722 DE FOE *Plague* 65, I had no stomach to go back again to see the same dismal scene over again. 1793 DR. BURNEY in *Mme. D'Arblay's Diary & Lett.* (1891) III. 479, I have little stomach to write. 1870 EMERSON *Soc. & Solit., Books* Wks. (Bohn) III. 82 And if one lacks stomach for Mr. Grote's voluminous annals, the old slight and popular summary of Goldsmith..will serve. 1902 BUCHAN *Watcher by Threshold* 286, I had no stomach for more mysteries.

†6. Used (like 'heart', 'bosom', 'breast') to designate the inward seat of passion, emotion, secret thoughts, affections, or feelings. *Obs.*

1482 *Cely Papers* (Camden) 131 The wyche y onderstond ye taked sor at yowre stomak. 1537 STARKEY in Strype *Eccl. Mem.* (1721) I. App. lxxxi. 197, I trust..your bounden duty to your Sovereign Lord & Master shal so prevail in your stomac, that you [etc.]. 1537 CRANMER *Let. to Cromwell* Misc. Writ. (Parker Soc.) II. 348 Your good mind towards me concerning my debts to the king's highness, which of all other things lieth most nigh unto my stomach. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VIII*, 164 b, They knew nothyng of all his doynges, whiche sore greved their stomackes. 1571 WALSINGHAM in Digges *Compl. Ambass.* (1655) 152 The common people ease their stomacks onely by uttering certain seditious words. 1599 CHAPMAN *Hum. Day's Mirth* E 2 b, Nay I do not cry, but my stomacke waters to thinke that you should take it so heauily. 1642 D. ROGERS *Naaman* 346 Evill which causeth such a fulsomenesse and wearinesse in Gods stomacke. 1663 BUTLER *Hud.* I. iii. 222 This said, his grief to anger turn'd, Which in his manly stomach burn'd. 1707 ADDISON *Rosamond* II. ii. 16 My Stomach swells with secret Spight To see my fickle, faithless Knight..So little his own Worth to know. 1721 STRYPE *Eccl. Mem.* I. I. xi. 98 Nor cared they to meddle openly against the Emperor, especially in this, which he took so much to Stomach.

†b. *To utter (the bottom of) one's stomach*: to disclose one's inmost thoughts. Similarly, *to fish out the bottom of a person's stomach. Obs.*

1537 CROMWELL in Merriman *Life & Lett.* (1902) II. 92 As you may therby fishe out the botom of his stomake, and aduertise his Maieste howe he standethe disposed towardes him. 1538 *Ibid.* 128, I cannot but..be glad, that ye so frankely utter your stomache to me. 1604 HIERON *Preachers Plea* 28 But such as I am shall often heare them talke at libertie, and vtter the very bottome of their stomackes.

†c. In various phrases, *To pierce one's stomach, sink (deep) into one's stomach, to stick in one's stomach*: said of something that makes a lasting (esp. painful) impression on the mind. *Obs.*

1387-8 T. USK *Test. Love* II. viii. (Skeat) I. 15 It may not sinke in my stomake til I here more. 1509 FISHER *Funeral Serm. C'tess Richmond* Wks. (1876) 298 Dauyd sayth..*zelaui super iniquos*..it perceth my stomacke to se the rest & ease that synners often haue. *c* 1536 in *Priory of Hexham* (Surtees) I. App. p. clix, There is somewhat that stykkes in their stomakkes. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Edw. IV*, 207 These reasons..sancke in the Dukes stomacke. 1565 COOPER *Thesaurus* s.v. *Mordeo*, Thy letters did much greue me, or pinche me at the stomake. 1579 RICE *Invect. agst. Vices* H j b, Now, therefore do I sore muse, how this question..could sinke into any honest, & specially, into any Christian mans stomake, to demaunde, what [etc.]. 1643 BAKER *Chron., Eliz.* (1653) 558 For this new Earl [of the Holy Empire] stuck in the stomacks of the English Barons, who inwardly grudged to give him place. 1691 WOOD *Athenæ Oxon.* (1817) III. 369 Which usage sunk so deep into his stomach, that he [Selden] did never after affect the bishops and clergy. 1708 MRS. CENTLIVRE *Busy Body* v. iv, Does not your hundred pounds stick in your stomach? 1781 COWPER *Madan's Answ. Newton* 8 Which stuck in M.'s stomach as cross as a bone. 1809 MALKIN *Gil Blas* x. vii. (Rtldg.) 356 This declaration stuck in his stomach. 1828 CARR *Craven Gloss.*, 'To stick in the stomach,' to remain in the memory with angry resentment.

†7. Temper, disposition; state of feeling with regard to a person; *occas.* friendly feeling, friendliness. *Obs.*

1476 SIR J. PASTON in *Paston Lett.* III. 160 He also hathe tolde me moche off hys stomake and tendre faver that he owythe to yow. *c* 1489 CAXTON *Sonnes of Aymon* xii. 288 And I behelde vpon my bredern, & knewe their stomackes. 1535 COVERDALE *Prov.* xi. 17 He y^t hath a gentle liberall stomacke, is merciull. 1553 BRENDE *Q. Curtius* VI. 98 Antipater therefore which knew ful wel his stomake, durst not vse the victory accordinge to his owne will.. 1565 COOPER *Thesaurus* s.v. *Animus*, *Nec vnus in te ego hos animos gessi*, Not only I had that stomake towarde you. 1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* 307 When he had gotten perfect intelligence and vnderstanding of the Horsses stomacke, he..addressed himselfe to mount on his backe. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* (1637) 51 The auxiliarie souldiers likewise were of the same stomack.

b. With various adjs. (e.g. *bold, high, proud, malicious*) or other qualifying words. (The combination of adj. and sb. is sometimes equivalent to the sb. in sense 8.)

c 1510 MORE *Picus* Wks. 5/1 He was verie quicke, wise, and subtile in dispicions, and had great felicitee therein, while he had that high stomak. 1535 COVERDALE *Prov.* xvi. 18 After a proude stomake there foloweth a fall. 1536 in *Priory of Hexham* (Surtees) I. App. p. cxxxi, He did nothyng..but of a willyng malicys stomak. 1548 HALL *Chron., Edw. IV*, 218 Erle of Warwicke, whose stoute stomacke, and invincible corage,..caused death before..old age. 1565 COOPER *Thesaurus, Sublimitas animi*, lofty stomake or courage. 1573 G. HARVEY *Letter-bk.* (Camden) 14 A wurthi pattern of a noble stummock. 1576 RALEGH in Gascoigne *Steele Glas* (Arb.) 47 For spyteful tongs, in cankred stomackes plaste, Deeme worst of things, which best (percase) deserued. 1617 HIERON *Penance for Sin* xix. (1619) 283 It is scarcely to bee thought that that mans soule is truely taught of God, who is backward, especially out of height of stomake, to bee a Teacher vnto others. 1632 QUARLES *Samson* iii, Great God! whose power hath so oft prevail'd Against the strength of Princes, and hast quail'd Their prouder stomackes. *a* 1662 FULLER *Worthies, Durh.* (1662) 294 This Ralph was a Prelate of High Birth, haughty Stomach, great Courtship, [etc.]. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* III. 322 Before his Training, keep him poor and low: For his stout Stomach with his Food will grow. 1709 STRYPE *Ann. Ref.* I. xxxv. 348 But Bourne, notwithstanding, had an angry Stomack against the Bishop. 1772 J. FLETCHER *Logica Genev.* 29 The proud and haughty stomachs of the daughters of England are so maintained with divers disguised sorts of apparel, that [etc.]. 1835 LYTTON *Rienzi* v. v, His stomach is too high for that now. 1881 BLACKIE *Lay Serm.* viii. 263 Middleton, soon after this hasty provocation of the stout old Scottish stomach, fell into discredit.

8. In various senses relating to disposition or state of feeling.

†a. Spirit, courage, valour, bravery. *Obs.*

Phrase, *to take stomach* (often with dat. of refl. pron.).

c 1532 DU WES *Introd. Fr.* in *Palsgr.* 904/2 The stomake, *le courage*. 1534 MORE *Comf. agst. Trib.* II. Wks. 1171/1 A merye tale wyth a frende, refresheth a manne..and amendeth his courage and hys stomake. 1538 STARKEY *England* (1878) 27 Yet the grete frute..wych may..yssue of the same may somewhat encorage vs and gyue vs stomake. 1540 HYRDE tr. *Vives' Instr. Chr. Wom.* (1592) I 3, Against these darts of the divell..let her take the buckler of Stomacke. 1544 BALE *Exam. Oldcastle* 26 b, He toke stomake vnto him agayne. 1565 COOPER *Thesaurus, Afferre animum alicui*, to encourage; to geue stomake. 1569 UNDERDOWNE *Heliodorus* IV. 55 After shee knewe her selfe, and had taken stomake vnto her, shee..saide [etc.]. 1571 *Homily agst. Disobedience* II. D j b, Lustie and couragious captaines, valiaunt men of stomacke. 1579 FENTON *Guicciard.* VII. (1599) 270 The king of Romains also taking stomack by the greatnesse of his son, solicited to passe into Italy. 1606 SHAKS. *Tr. & Cr.* II. i. 137 Hector..Will with a Trumpet,..To morrow morning call some Knight to Armes, That hath a stomacke. 1611 CHAPMAN *Iliad* IX. 335 Let him take stomacke to repell Troyes firie threatenings. 1645 FULLER *Good Th. in Bad T.* 172 John Courcy, Earl of Vlster, was chosen Champion for the English; A Man of great Stomack and Strength. 1663 BUTLER *Hud.* I. ii. 307 Instead of Trumpet and of Drum, That makes the Warrier's stomach come; A squeaking Engine he apply'd.

†b. Pride, haughtiness; obstinacy, stubbornness.

a 1513 FABYAN *Chron.* VII. 643 For ye great stomake of the father, y^t he wolde not be condycioned with of ye sone. 1575-85 ABP. SANDYS *Serm.* x. 169 Zeale without knowledge is not zeale but stomacke. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* II. vii. 41 Sterne was his looke, and full of stomacke vaine. 1613 SHAKS. *Hen. VIII*, IV. ii. 34 He was a man Of an vnbounded stomacke, euer ranking Himselfe with Princes. 1641 MILTON *Animadv.* Wks. 1851 III. 239 They were..for stomach much like to Pompey the great, that could indure no equall. 1674 J. HOWARD *Engl. Mounsieur* II. i. 26 Oh—is your stomack come down. 1692 R. L'ESTRANGE *Fables* CCXV. 188 Now 'tis not Courage but Stomach, that makes many People Break, rather then they will Bend. 1765 FOOTE *Commissary* I. Wks. 1799 II. 9 Oh ho! what, I suppose his stomach's come down.

†c. Anger, irritation; malice, ill-will, spite; vexation, pique. *Obs.*

c 1540 *Life Bp. Fisher* (E.E.T.S.) p. xlix, Whereat the Cardinall tooke such hartie displeasure against the Emperour that ever after he bare him in stomacke. 1559 ABP. PARKER in N. Johnston *King's Visit. Power* (1688) 216, I shall be bold in secretys to Wright it..to avoid som Stomake that ellys might be taken. 1568 T. HOWELL *Newe Sonets* (1879) 139 Wordes be but winde, to purge his heate, His stomacke to abate. 1592 WOTTON *Let. 10 July Relig. W.* (1685) 675 Having left a stipend..of 1200 Crowns, upon Stomach to see himself cross'd in the Court by the Archbishop of Pisa. 1603 KNOLLES *Hist. Turks* (1621) 440 Zemes more upon stomacke and desire of revenge, than [etc.]. 1612 SPEED *Hist. Gt. Brit.* IX. xiii. § 67 But the King vpon a stomacke doth it. 1633 BP. HALL *Hard Texts* Eccl. x. 4 If the Prince be angry with thee, doe not in a stomach or froward pettishnesse give up thine office. 1641 MILTON *Ch. Govt.* II. Wks. 1851 III. 140 Not suddenly to condemn all things that are sharply spoken, or vehemently written, as proceeding out of stomach, virulence and ill nature. 1643 BAKER *Chron., Edw. I*, 131 Others of the nobility..took stomach against him. *a* 1825 FORBY *Voc. E. Anglia, Stomach*, anger.

9. *Brewing.* See quot. [Perhaps a corruption of some other word; perh. a fanciful use of 8 a.]

1835 W. BLACK *Brewing* 52 What is technically called the stomach or vinous vapour begins to be smelt, and continues to acquire strength until the process [of fermentation] is concluded. *Ibid.* 104 Stomach means the pungency, but more particularly the odour of the vapour evolved during fermentation; by which an experienced brewer should at all times be able to judge how the process is going on. 1882 E. G. HOOPER *Man. Brewing* (ed. 2) 240 The proper cleansing point is fixed in different ways, and whilst one judges by the heat of the wort ceasing to rise, another goes by the diminution in pungency of the odour or 'stomach' exhaled.

10. *attrib.* and *Comb.* a. Simple attrib., pertaining to the stomach, as *stomach-blood, -catarrh, -complaint, -digestion,* †*fit, -wall, -wound*; good for the stomach, as *stomach-drink, -essence, -pill, -wine*; b. objective and locative, as *stomach-stretching*; *stomach-hating, -healing, -qualmed, -sick, -soothing, -turning, -twitched, -whetting, -worn*, adjs.; c. special comb., †**stomach-anger** *nonce-wd.*, concealed anger; **stomach-bag** = CHEESELIP 1 2; **stomach cough**, a cough supposed to proceed from indigestion; †**stomach grief**, bitter anger; †**stomach-gut**, the duodenum; **stomach-piece** *Naut.* (see quot.); **stomach pocket** *Zool.*, in Medusæ, a cavity serving as a stomach; **stomach-pouch**, (*a*) the protuberant abdominal pouch found in certain ducks and geese; (*b*) = prec.; **stomach-pump**, a kind of pump or syringe for emptying the stomach (esp. in cases of poisoning) or for introducing liquids into it; **stomach-staggers**, a variety of staggers (STAGGER *sb.*1 2) caused by distension of the stomach; **stomach sweetbread**, the pancreas, as distinguished from the 'throat sweetbread' or THYMUS; **stomach-syringe** = *stomach-pump*; †**stomach-tight** *a. Sc.*, hungry; **stomach-tooth** (see quot.); **stomach-tube**, (*a*) 'a siphon used in washing out the stomach'; (*b*) 'a feeding tube' (Dorland *Med. Lex.*); **stomach-warmer**, a flat vessel of tin-plate, to be filled with hot water and applied to the pit of the stomach; **stomach-wise** *adv.* (*nonce-wd.*), (crawling) on one's stomach; **stomach-worm**, (*a*) a common intestinal round worm, *Ascaris lumbricoides*, sometimes found in the human stomach (= MAW-WORM), (*b*) *slang* (see quot. 1788).

1640 BP. REYNOLDS *Passions* xxxi. 317 Neither can I like that close and dissembled, that politick and *stomacke Anger, which cunningly shrowds it selfe under a calme and serene countenance. 1717 *Dict. Rust.* s.v. *Cheeslip-bag*,.. 'Tis the *Stomach-bag of a young Sucking Calf that never tastes any other food than Milk. 1847 W. C. L. MARTIN *Ox* 37 The first thing to be done is to clear the stomach-bag. 1666 G. HARVEY *Morbus Angl.* xxx. (1672) 90 If the evacuated blood be florid, it's *Stomach-blood. 1910 *Daily Chron.* 5 Apr. 9/2 Niemeyer,..speaking of the value of this fluid in *stomach-catarrh, is found saying [etc.]. 1824 SCOTT *St. Ronan's* iii, The gentlemen were as liable to *stomach complaints, as the ladies to nervous disorders. 1875 T. K. CHAMBERS *Man. Diet* 287 '*Stomach cough' and 'Stomach sore throat'..are best treated by [etc.]. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 369 The sensations accompanying *stomach and intestinal digestion are felt excessively. 1903 *Daily Chron.* 20 Feb. 3/5 Thus tea and coffee both retard stomach-digestion powerfully. 1766 *Complete Farmer* s.v. *Purging*, When horses lose their appetites after purging, it is necessary to give them a warm *stomach drink. 1672 G. THOMSON *Let. to H. Stubbe* 25 A Vindication of the Author's *Stomach-Essence, and other effectual Remedies. *a* 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew, Qualm*, a *Stomack-Fit.. 1533 T. WILSON *Rhet.* 106 b, *Stomake grief [margin, *Iracundia*], is when we will take the matter as bote as a tost. 1585 HIGINS *Junius' Nomencl.* 31/2 *Intestinum primum*,..the *stomach gutte, or maw gut. 1620 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Praise Hemp-seed* (1623) 21 Iniunctions for some *stomacke hating Fast. 1735 SOMERVILLE *Chace* I. 378 Each *Stomach-healing Plant Curious they crop. 1846 A. YOUNG *Naut. Dict.* 14 *Apron*, or **Stomach-piece*, a piece of curved timber which is bolted on the inside of a vessel's main-stem, to strengthen it and to give shifts to its scarphs. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.*,

Stomach-piece, a compass-timber fayed to the stem and keel. An apron. 1662 J. DEGRAVERE *Thesaurus Remed.* (ed. 2) 35 First clense downward with the *stomack pills. 1885 W. K. BROOKS in *Mem. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist.* III. 361 The Narcomedusæ...Radial canals absent, or present as flat radial *stomach pockets. 1854 *Poultry Chron.* I. 498 The duck of this kind has at a very early age a great development of its '*stomach pouch.' 1871 ALLMAN *Gymnobl. Hydroids* 84 The fact of their having twelve tentacles and twelve stomach-pouches instead of eight. 1822–9 *Good's Study Med.* (ed. 3) I. 119 Until Dr. Physic proved the utility of the *stomach pump in the case of a child poisoned with laudanum, the invention gained little attention. 1899 CAGNEY tr. *von Jaksch's Clin. Diagn.* v. (ed. 4) 151 The handle is removed and the sound connected with a stomack-pump. 1612 SHAKS. *Cymb.* III. iv. 193 If you are sicke at Sea, or *Stomacke-qualm'd at Land, a Dramme of this Will driue away distemper. 1613 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* (1614) 289 He proued *stomack-sick to his expedition also. 1657 W. RAND tr. *Gassendi's Life Peiresc* I. 98 He withdrew himself [to sit by the Mainmast] that he might not be Stomach-sick. 1664 H. MORE *Exp. 7 Epist.* ix. 149 Christ here expresseth how nauseous and stomack-sick he is against his Church under this Intervall and Title of Laodicea. 1876 BRISTOWE *Th. & Pract. Med.* (1878) 201 Spirits of chloroform, bismuth, or other *stomach-soothing drugs. 1831 YOUATT *Horse* vii. 103 In *Stomach-staggers the horse stands dull, sleepy, staggering. 1648 G. DANIEL *Eclog* iii. 79 T'allay The *Stomacke-Stretchings of the former Day. 1822–9 *Good's Study Med.* (ed. 3) I. 119 A *stomach syringe, for diluting and washing away various poisons introduced into the stomach...was first suggested by Renault. 1715 RAMSAY *Christ's Kirk Gr.* II. xviii, But ithers that were *stomach-tight, Cry'd out, [etc.]. 1890 BILLINGS *Nat. Med. Dict* II. 594 **Stomach tooth*, canine tooth of lower jaw of first dentition, so called because of gastric disturbance frequeatly accompanying its eruption. 1857 DUNGLISON *Med. Lex.* s.v. *Tube, Tube Œsophageal*, **Stomach Tube*, a long elastic gum tube, capable of being passed into the œsophagus or stomach. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* III. 437 Emetics...may be given when the use of the stomach-tube is inadvisable. 1875 BROWNING *Aristoph. Apol.* 197 The *stomach-turning stew. 1804 COLERIDGE *Lett.* (1895) 457, I am as asthmatic and *stomach-twitched as when with you. 1871 ALLMAN *Gymnobl. Hydroids* 84 The internal surface of the *stomach walls. 1835 DICKENS *Sk. Boz, River*, A flat bottle like a *stomach-warmer. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade, Stomach-warmer* a metal vessel for holding hot water to place on the stomach. 1631 QUARLES *Samson* x, Their *stomacke-whetting Sallats. 1677 J. BEALE *Nurseries*, etc. ii. 24 Poitiers (where I always met with excellent *stomach-wine). 1750 J. THEOBALD *App. Medulla Med. Univ.* 67 Stomach Wine. Take Half an Ounce of Gentian-root, [etc.]. 1893 K. GRAHAME *Pagan Ess.* 131 Where a rabbit could go, a boy could follow, albeit *stomach-wise, and with one leg in the stream. 1647 TRAPP *Comm. Mark* ix. 50. 27 *Stomack-worms are killed with salt. 1666 G. HARVEY *Morbus Angl.* xvii. (1672) 35 Whence they are called Stomach or Maw-worms. 1788 GROSE *Dict. Vulgar T.* (ed. 2) s.v., The stomach worm gnaws; I am hungry. 1812 [SOUTHEY] *Omniana* I. 229 The same man, sick, dyspeptic, and *stomach-worn, 1905 *Brit. Med. Jrnl.* 4 Mar. 471 The upper part of the *stomach wound was closed.

Stomach (stʊ·măk), *v.* Forms: see the sb. [f. STOMACH *sb.* Cf. L. *stomachāri* to be resentful, to be angry with, F. *s'estomaquer* to take offence.]

†**1.** *trans.* To be offended at, resent. *Obs.*

1523 CROMWELL in Merriman *Life & Lett.* (1902) I. 36, I stomak as a sory Subiect may doo, the high iniuries done by the saide Francoys. 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 382 Than began he to stomack the matter, & was right sore offended. *a* 1591 H. SMITH *Restit. Nebuchadnezzar* 33 So God doth stomacke sinnes in those that beare his owne person. 1611 B. JONSON *Catiline* III. F 1 b, Publicke report, That giues you out, to stomacke your repulse. 1649 MILTON *Eikon.* 110 Parlament is call'd, not by the King, but by the Law, to be his Counselers & Dictators, though he stomac it. 1678 *Lively Oracles* II. ix. 246 We daily...receive those things with contentment...from an intimate...which if spoken by a stranger or enemy, would be despis'd or stomach'd. 1739 GRAY *Let.* Poems (1775) 47 Moreover I think I have reason to stomach your last piece of gravity. 1741 RICHARDSON *Pamela* (1824) I, 115 In such a manner as might show I would not disoblige on purpose, though I stomached this matter very heavily too. 1780 JOHNSON in *Boswell* (1904) II. 341 An Englishman would have stomached it, and been sulky. *a* 1825 FORBY *Voc. E. Anglia, Stomach*, to resent.

†**b.** with clause or infinitive as obj. *Obs.*

1587 NORTON tr. *Calvin's Inst.* IV. vii. (ed. 4) 377 *marg.*, The Bishop of Rome stomoking that the Bishop of Constantinople should come so neere as to bee made by a councell next him in authoritie. 1594 *Mirr. Policy* (1599) K ij, When as Iulius Cæsar scorning a superior, and Pompey stomacking to haue any equall to himself, did both striue for the principality. *a* 1641 BP. MOUNTAGU *Acts & Mon.* (1642) 289 Alexander...stomacked that Antipater was all in all with his Father.

c. To be offended with (a person).

a 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. IV*, 30 Jhon duke of Burgogn...stomaked and envied the Duke of Orliance. 1583 STOCKER *Civ. Warres Lowe C.* IV. 52 b, The Magistrate and all the Citezeins did wonderfully stomacke the Catholickes, in so muche, that [etc.]. 1652–62 HEYLIN *Cosmogr.* III. (1676) 222/1 Both Nations hated by the Natives...but of the two the Spaniard looked on by the people as the more a Gentleman; the other stomached and despised for their sordid dealings. 1671 WOODHEAD *St. Teresa* II. ii. 6, I was very much stomacked by all my Monastery, because I would erect another, more recluse.

†**d.** *intr.* To take offence, feel resentment. *Obs.*

1567 PALFREYMAN *Baldwin's Mor. Philos.* To Rdr. (1600) A vj b, Not as though I...should swell or stomack against any man. 1591 SAVILE *Tacitus, Hist.* II. xxviii. 69 The Auxiliaries mourned the Legions stomacked. 1648 GAGE *West Ind.* 208 The good Archbishop...corrected some things in it...which we already hear they have stomached at. 1650 S. CLARKE *Eccl. Hist* (1654) I. 142 Herodias rageth afresh, stomacketh anew. *a* 1662 HEYLIN *Laud* (1668) 359 The Archbishop had long stomackt at the Insolencies of Matthews.

1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), To *Stomach* or *Stomach at*, to be angry at, to resent a thing. 1706 J. SERGEANT *Acc: Chapter Bp. Chalcedon* (1853) 85 The Cardinals...who...stomached at the authority of the chapter.

†**2.** *trans.* To excite the indignation of, to offend, vex. *Obs.*

1588 A. MUNDAY *Palmerin of Eng.* I. xi. (1639) E 1 b, Palmerin was chosen chiefe Defendant, which somewhat did stomack the sonnes of Primaleon. 1652–62 HEYLIN *Cosmogr.* III. (1676) 136/1 These insolent and unsufferable pranks committed so commonly by these masterful slaves so exceedingly stomached Bajazet the second, that [etc.]. 1675 ALSOP *Anti-Sozzo* 693 But the Apostle has said enough in this Chapter to stomack the Pride and Restifness of humane Wisdom.

3. To turn the stomach of, to nauseate. *rare.*

1796 ELIZA HAMILTON *Lett. Hindoo Rajah* (1811) II. 298 Some of us were so much stomached, that we did not much like to go. 1866 HOWELLS *Venet. Life* 76 It is not that the restaurants are very dirty—if you wipe your plate and glass carefully before using them, they need not stomach you.

†**4.** To inspire with resentment, fury or courage; to incite. *Obs.*

1541 PAYNEL *Catiline* xxxix. 56 b, Tell me I pray you, wherto serueth that oration? was it to stomake you ageynst the conspiracy [L. *an uti vos infestos conjurationi faceret*]? 1545 BALE *Image Both Ch.* I. vi. (1550) F j, When he had stomaked theim by the holy ghost, to shote forth his worde without feare. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VII*, 7 To encourage, stomacke and entyce many other to be aiders, assisters & partakers of the same conspiracy. *Ibid., Hen. VIII*, 163 b, Which fordele might perchance so stomacke him yᵗ he would agre to no new condicions nor agrementes.

5. To brook, endure, put up with, tolerate.

1677 SIR H. CAPELL in *Essex Papers* (Camden) II. 128 Treas[urer] ill stomachs Ormond's carrying this businesse. 1814 LADY BURGHERSH *Lett.* (1893) 232, I confess I cannot stomach treating these people *de princes*. 1814 SCOTT *Wav.* lvii, So that Fergus was compelled to stomach this supposed affront. 1845 JAMES *Arrah Neil* vi, Dry stomached the affront till the time came for his revenge. 1861 HUGHES *Tom Brown Oxf.* xiii, In the end he could not stomach such a backsliding. 1862 *London Rev.* 30 Aug. 190 He cannot stomach 'a filthy compound of bones and alum'. 1874 *Slang Dict.* 311 *Stomach*, to bear with, to be partial to. Mostly used in a negative character,—as, 'I can't stomach that.' 1880 L. TENNYSON in *19th Cent.* Jan. 67 The first two evils he was obliged to stomach as best he might. 1887 BESANT *World went* iii, The study of the Latin language...he could not stomach. 1894 BARING-GOULD *Kitty Alone* III. 49 But that Pepperill's niece...should have the temerity to refuse his son was a fact he could not stomach.

6. To take into or retain on the stomach, to digest. *nonce-use.*

1822 PRAED *Poems* (1866) I. 66 Iron and steel, for an early meal, He stomached with ease. 1854 S. DOBELL *Balder* I. 3 Vales, mountains, trees, And stones of home,...anon Are stomached by mine hunger.

7. To climb by laying the stomach against.

1884 *Century Mag.* Dec. 195/1 Now creeping under an uprooted tree...; then 'stomaching' a prostrate log three or four feet in height.

Stomach-ache (stʊ·măk,ēik). Pain in the stomach or abdomen. Also *fig.*

1763 BICKERSTAFF *Love in Village* III. ix, Well, aunt, you have been complaining of the stomach-ach all day. 1839 J. H. NEWMAN *Lett.* (1891) II. 286, I must confess it has given me a stomach-ache. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* IV. 241 In lead colic the more or less persistent 'stomach ache' ...will usually assist in the diagnosis.

Hence **Stomach-achey** *a.* (*nonce-wd.*) productive of stomach-ache.

1860 H. MAYHEW *Upper Rhine* ii. 65 A pickle that may be excellent...but which is sad stomach-achey wash. 1885 'L. MALET' *Col. Enderby's Wife* III. ix, What a windy, stomach-achy sort of reward it promises to be!

Stomachal (stoˈmăkăl), *a.* [ad. mod.L. *stomachālis*, f. L. *stomach-us* STOMACH *sb.*: see -AL. Cf. F. *stomacal* (in 16th c. *-chal*), Sp. *estomacal*, It. *stomacale*.]

1. Pertaining to the stomach, gastric; of the nature of or serving the purpose of a stomach.

1582 HESTER *Secr. Fiorav.* I. xxxviii. 45 Flebothomie euacuateth the stomochall humors that are cause of that corruption [in gout]. 1683 SNAPE *Anat. Horse* I. ix. (1686) 18 The Stomachal Arteries are twigs from the Coeliacal branch of the *Arteria magna*. 1841 *Penny Cycl.* XXI. 425/2 A curved longitudinal furrow, which circumscribes laterally the stomachal region. 1859 G. H. LEWES *Physiol.* I. iii. 201 Our knowledge of the stomachal process has been rendered more accurate. 1880 *Encycl. Brit.* XXI. 1000/1 Near the middle of the body the canal is dilated into a stomachal cavity. 1881 HULME tr. *Moquin-Tandon* II. VII. ii. 344 The alimentary canal [of the Oxyurus] has the appearance of three stomachal dilatations which succeed each other. 1891 W. A. HAMMOND *Dis. Nerv. Syst.* 49 In stomachal vertigo the attacks of dizziness are often severe. 1896 A. WILLEY in *Q. Jrnl. Microsc. Sci.* XXXIX. 336 The stomachal axis of Ctenoplana.

2. Of remedies: Good for the stomach.

1599 A. M. tr. *Gabelhouer's Bk. Physicke* 117/1 An excellent stomacalle pouldre. 1603 FLORIO *Montaigne* II. xxxvii. 436 Let her hardly remit this vocall lithernesse vnto evill, if it be neyther cordiall, nor stomacall. 1612 WOODALL *Surg. Mate* Wks. (1653) 63 They are very stomachal, for they refresh much the stomack. 1707 *Curios. Husb. & Gard.* 235 Balm...is...stomachal and diuretick.

†**Stomachate,** *a. Sc. Obs.* In 6 **-chat, -chait, -kat.** [ad. L. *stomachātus*, pa. pple. of *stomachārī*: see STOMACH *v.*] Indignant, angry.

c 1550 ROLLAND *Crt. Venus* II. 563 Richt stomakat in hart ay haiffand dreid. *Ibid.* III. 253 Than Venus said in mind half stomachat, Of the assyis nane salbe alterat. *Ibid.* IV. 227 For I lang eir was sa hie stomachait At Desperance for his greit rebellioun.

Stomached (stʊ·măkt), *a.* and *ppl. a.* Forms: see STOMACH *sb.* [f. STOMACH *sb.* and *v.* + -ED.]

1. Having a stomach. In quots. only as the second element of parasynthetic formations, having a stomach of the specified kind or condition.

1540 HYRDE tr. *Vives' Instr. Chr. Wom.* (1592) R 2, Likewise as of men, he who is most like stomacked unto a woman, nor lusty couraged, wil remember injurie longest. 1567 MAPLET *Gr. Forest* 83 b, There are some so eger and stout stomaked that they haue [etc.]. 1589 GREENE *Menaphon* (Arb.) 86 And with that Carmela was so full stomackt that she wept. 1615 S. WARD *Coal fr. Altar* 79 This want of reformation makes the queasie stomacked Brownists cast them selues out of our Church. 1710 FULLER *Pharm. Extemp.* a 3, When Patients are so weak Stomach'd...that they cannot...admit of the Bark. 1843 JAMES *Forest Days* (1847) 66 A jolly, large-stomached personage.

†**2.** In senses of STOMACH *v.*: Offended; incited, encouraged. *Obs.*

1599 JAS. I *Basil. Doron* To Rdr. (1603) A 4 b, I will the more narrowly rippe up the wordes, whereat they seeme to bee somewhat stomacked. 1623 COCKERAM 1, *Stomaked*, angered, hartened. *c* 1712 G. GUTHRIE in *Monogr.* (1900) 10 Alexander suggested to his father that if he would allow him he could make money by his skill in musick, which the stomached father resented with no less than a pistoll.

Stomacher[1] (stʊ·mătʃəɹ, stʊ·măkəɹ). Forms: 5 **stomakere, stomechere, stomachyr,** 5–6 **stomachere,** 5–6, 8 **stomager,** 6 **stomackger,** (8 **stomatcher**), 6– **stomacher** [app. f. STOMACH *sb.* + -ER[1]: but see below.

The alleged F. *estomachier* appears to be recorded only by Palsgrave. If it be genuine, and the source of the Eng. word, it would account for the pronunciation (stʊ·mătʃəɹ), which is given in the pronouncing dictionaries of Kenrick (1773), Sheridan (1780), Walker (1791), Smart (1836), Worcester (1860), in Cassell's *Encyclopædic Dict.* (1888), and in *Webster's Dict.* (1828–1886). The genuineness of this pronunciation is attested by the spellings *stomager* (1450–1727), *stomackger* (1575), *stomatcher* (17..), and *stomacher* (*c* 1450 onwards): the spelling with *k* is evidenced only once (*c* 1466), though the word occurs frequently in writers who wrote the word *stomach* with *k*. The pronunciation (stʊ·măkəɹ) was given by Ogilvie *Imperial Dict.* (1850) and appears in later editions of that work and in recent U. S. dicts. *It is not impossible that estomachier* was really formed in late Anglo-French, and is the source of the Eng. word. For the sense cf. the misuse of *stomach* for 'chest' (STOMACH *sb.* 3).]

†**1.** ? A waistcoat or pectoral of mail. *Obs. rare*[−1].

1450 in *Rep. MSS. Ld. Middleton* (1911) 114, I will...my felowe John Shipton for to have my dubbelet of mayell, my stomager of mayell, and a salet.

†**2.** A kind of waistcoat worn by men. *Obs.*

c 1450 *Coventry Myst.* (Shaks. Soc.) 241 A stomachere of clere reynes. 1466 *Mann. & Househ. Exp.* (Roxb.) 382 Item, the same day my mastyr paid fore a stomakere of velvet, ij.s. iiij.d.. 1478 *Paston Lett.* III. 237, I beseche yow to sende me a hose clothe...and a stomechere and ij schyrtes. 1508–13 *Bk. Keruynge* in *Babees Bk.* (1868) 282 Than warme his petycote, his doublet, and his stomachere. 1530 PALSGR. 276/2 Stomacher for one's brest, *estomachier*. 1575 TURBERV. *Falconrie* 16 The furryers doe vse their skynnes for stomackgers, to guard and defend the brest against the force of feruent colde. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* III. 167 They use large stomachers of furre or lambe skinnes. *a* 1625 FLETCHER *Mad Lover* III. i, Talking to an old man is like a stomacher, It keeps his blood warm. 1693 CONGREVE *Double Dealer* III. i. (1694) 33 The first Favour he receiv'd from her was a piece of an old Scarlet Petticoat for a Stomacher. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* May 1645 (Lucca), Embroidred stomachers generaly worn by gentlemen in these countries. 1702 BAYNARD *Cold Baths* II. (1709) 375 He wore a quilted Stomacher. 1715 tr. *Pancirollus' Rerum Mem.* I. IV. ii. 147 They wore also Stomachers, but in cold Weather most commonly woollen Shirts.

†**b.** A medicated cloth applied to the chest. *Obs.*

1577 FRAMPTON *Joyfull Newes* I. 7 In griefes of the Stomake, it [this plaister] doth a meruelious effect, applied after the maner of a Stomacher. 1584 COGAN *Haven Health* xlviii. 56 The herbe...put in a lynnen bagge and laide as a stomager next the skinne comforteth a colde stomacke well. 1682 *Digby's Chym. Secr.* II. 203 Take Wormwood...; of these make a Stomacher, and apply it.

3. An ornamental covering for the chest (often covered with jewels) worn by women under the lacing of the bodice.

1535 COVERDALE *Isa.* iii. 24 Instead of a stomacher [so 1560 (Geneva), 1611, 1884 (Revised)], a sack cloth. 1566 *Engl. Ch. Furniture* (Peacock 1866) 56 Wherof his wief made of one a stomacher for her wench. 1580 LYLY *Euphues Eng.* To Ladies (Arb.) 222 If a Tailour make your gowne too little, you couer his fault with a broad stomacher. 1611 SHAKS. *Wint. T.* IV. iii. 226 Golden Quoifes, and Stomachers For my Lads, to giue their deers. 1653 H. COGAN *Diodorus Sic.* 161 The Goddesse Minerva...killed this cruell monster, and of her skinne made her selfe a stomacher. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 94/2 The Stomacher is that peece as lieth under the lacing or binding on of the Body of the Gown. 1702 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 3806/8 Lost..., a Diamond Stomacher with a row of Rose Diamonds down the middle. *c* 1710 CELIA FIENNES *Diary* (1888) 252 Their stomatchers some were all Diamonds. 1727 DORRINGTON *Philip Quarll* 163 Which seem'd to adorn her Bosom far more than the richest Stomager made of Diamonds or Pearls could do. 1731 *Gentl. Mag.* I. 289 Sometimes the stomacher rises almost to the chin. 1737 *Ibid.* VII. 513/2 The Princess of Wales had on an exceeding rich Stomacher. 1762 *Brit. Mag.* II. 446 The rich diamond stomacher for our intended queen is quite finished. 1837 DICKENS *Pickw.* xlix, An old-fashioned green velvet dress, with a long waist and stomacher. 1868 *Morn. Star* 7 Mar., Ornaments: Diamond necklace and stomacher. 1880 *Cassell's Family Mag.* VI. 758/2 Several of the winter dresses are laced in front over a stomacher.

attrib. 1753 *Lond. Mag.* Sept. 396/2 Before, for your breast, pin a stomacher bib on.

†**b.** *transf.*

1611 SHAKS. *Cymb.* III. iv. 86 Away, away Corrupters of my Faith, you [*sc.* letters that she had carried in her bosom] shall no more Be Stomachers to my heart. 1613 DONNE *Epithalam.* 8 The houshold Bird with the red stomacher. 1717 J. DENNIS *Orig. Lett.* (1721) I. 33 You look full over Box Hill, and see the Country beyond it,..and, over the very Stomacher of it, see St. Paul's at five and twenty Miles Distance.

†**Sto·macher** [2]. *Obs.* In 7 **stomaker.** [f. STOMACH *v.* + -ER [1].] One who 'stomachs' or resents.

1608 CHAPMAN *Byron's Trag.* v. R 3, By my loue..command them To..proue no stomakers of my misfortunes.

Stomacher [3] (stŏ·măkəɹ). *Pugilism.* [f. STOMACH *sb.* + -ER [3].] A blow on the stomach.

1814 *Sporting Mag.* XLIII. 68 B. gave C. a stomacher. 1831 *Blackw. Mag.* XXX. 979 [He] seems to have given his adversary a facer and a stomacher, right and left. 1832 MARRYAT *N. Forster* xlvii, A stomacher, and both down!

Stomachful (stŏ·măkfŭl), *sb.* [f. STOMACH *sb.* + -FUL [2].] As much as will fill one's stomach.

1865 G. MACDONALD *Alec Forbes* II. xxv. 238 Ye'll be laid up yersel' gin ye dinna get a stammachfu' o' the caller air noo and than. 1891 HERMAN *His Angel* viii. 179, I guess you've had your stomachful of the law.

†**Sto·machful,** *a. Obs.* [f. STOMACH *sb.* + -FUL [1].] Full of 'stomach' (STOMACH *sb.* 8).

1. Obstinate, self-willed. (Often said of horses; also of children.)

1600 SURFLET *Country Farm* I. xxiii. 130 If he [the ox] be stomackfull,..cause him to smell your hande oftentimes, that so hee may be acquainted with you. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* I. 623 A very shrewd, stout, and malapert stomackfull woman. 1633 T. ADAMS *Exp. 2 Peter* ii. 12. 835 A stomackfull horse, that will not be stopp'd in his carrier with the sharpest bit. 1643 T. GOODWIN *Trial Chr. Growth* 154 Like a stomachfull boy, that cryes he cannot have the victory, yet is weak, and easily laid on his back. 1676 MARVELL *Mr. Smirke* 61 (bis) But the few sincere or stomachfull Bishops..expiated so in some measure, what they had committed in the Nicene Council. 1690 LOCKE *Educ.* § 112 The obstinate or stomachful crying [of children] should by no means be permitted. 1710 M. HENRY *Expos. O. & N. T.* (1725) III. 522/2 A stomachfull high-spirited Child must be subdued betimes. 1778 FOOTE *Trip to Calais* II. Wks. 1799 II. 361 You sullen, sulking, stomachful slut! 1797 MRS. A. M. BENNETT *Beggar Girl* (1813) V. 38, I suppose you was too stomachful to wait on her after the gentleman died. 1828 CARR *Craven Gloss., Stomach-full,* proud, obstinate.

2. Resentful, angry, malignant.

1610 BP. HALL *Apol. agst. Brownists* Ep. Ded. 2 From the other, I receiued..a stomakful Pamphlet. 1625 PURCHAS *Pilgrims* II. 1216 Thomas Becket was slaine in his Church at Canterburie..by..Courtiers..which had heard some stomackfull speeches of the King, touching the said Archbishop. 1765 J. ADAMS *Diary* 29 Dec., Wks. 1850 II. 169 Major Miller, forsooth, is very fearful that they will be stomachful at home, and angry and resentful.

3. Spirited, courageous.

1610 GUILLIM *Heraldry* III. xiv. (1660) 172 The Males are more stomachfull, and of greater courage than the Females. 1658 tr. *Porta's Nat. Magick* II. vi. 37 We see, how to generate a dog as stomackful as a Lion. 1676 WYCHERLEY *Pl. Dealer* III. i. (1677) 39 Nay, but if I had but any Body to stand by me, I am as stomachful as another. 1809 W. IRVING *Knickerb.* v. viii. (1861) 173 In the interim the stomachful heroes of Pyquag would have been choked with their own onions.

Hence †**Sto·machfully** *adv.*; †**Sto·machfulness.**

1612 COTGR., *Ireusement,* irefully, wrathfully, stomackefully. 1614 BP. HALL *Contempt.* v. *Golden Calf* 117 While so many thousand Israelites were slaine, that had stomachfully desired the Idoll. 1621 T. GRANGER *Eccles.* ix. 17. 248 Pride, stomachfulnesse, headinesse,..auaile little. 1664-5 PEPYS *Diary* 28 Feb., I..did give her very provoking words, ..which she took very stomachfully, and reproached me justly with mine. 1682 BUNYAN *Holy War* (1905) 302, I have often heard him say, and that with great stomachfulness, that he believed that there was neither God, Angel, nor Spirit. 1747 RICHARDSON *Clarissa* (1749) II. 113 Only this Miss, That your stomachfulness had swallowed up your stomach. 1755 JOHNSON, *Chuffily,* surlily, stomachfully.

Stomachic (stomæ·kik), *a.* and *sb.* [ad. L. *stomachicus,* a. Gr. στομαχικός, f. στόμαχ-os STOMACH *sb.*: see -IC. Cf. F. *stomachique,* Sp. *estomáquico,* Pg. *estomachico,* It. *stomachico.*] **A.** *adj.*

1. Of or pertaining to the stomach; gastric.

1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.* s. v. *Vein,* Stomachick vein (*vena stomachica*). 1677 tr. *Groeneveldt's Treat. Stone* 33 The stomachic branch of the sixt pair. 1690 J. EDWARDS *Demonstr. Exist. God* II. (1696) 60 Others hold that this stomachick ferment proceeds immediately from the blood. 1771 *Encycl. Brit.* I. 254/2 The stomachic plexus, formed by the eighth pair [of nerves]. 1799 *Med. Jrnl.* II. 398 The author ..treats..of the great stomachic gland. 1808 SCOTT in *Lockhart* I. i. 49, I have..only had to complain of occasional headaches or stomachic affections. 1856 EMERSON *Eng. Traits, Manners* Wks. (Bohn) II. 46 The Englishman speaks with all his body. His elocution is stomachic—as the American's is labial. 1875 H. C. WOOD *Therap.* (1879) 51 The nitrate of silver is useful in stomachic..diseases. 1881 *Encycl. Brit.* XIV. 630/2 Whilst the mullet has a fleshy stomach like a bird, others have no stomachic dilatation.

b. Of an ailment: Caused by disorder of the stomach.

1878 A. M'L. HAMILTON *Nerv. Dis.* 123 Stomachic Vertigo is common, and is produced, directly after a hearty meal, or else when the stomach is entirely empty.

†**2.** Having or subject to disorder of the stomach.

1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.* 1661 LOVELL *Hist. Anim. & Min.* 238 Partridge,: it helps the cœliack and stomachick persons.

3. Good for the stomach.

1665 G. HARVEY *Disc. Plague* (1673) 146 Likewise Pestilential stomachick Emplasters applied to the Stomach. 1732 J. MARTYN tr. *Tournefort's Hist. Plants* I. 91 The root is stomachick, pectoral, diuretick, and provokes the menses. 1754-64 SMELLIE *Midwifery* II. 45 He ordered..three or four ounces every morning of the following Stomachick wine. 1833 L. RITCHIE *Wand. by Loire* 110 A red wine celebrated for its rich colour and stomachic qualities. 1846 SOYER *Cookery* 58 This potage, though complicated, is very easily made with a little practice; it is entirely new, very, stomachic and wholesome. 1876 DUNGLISON *Med. Lex. Tinctura Absinthii Composita*...Tonic, stomachic, vermifuge, and carminative. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 550. A stomachic or febrifuge mixture.

B. *sb.* A stomachic medicine.

1735 BRACKEN in *Burdon's Pocket Farrier* 41 *note,* It is a better Stomachick than most Compounds out of an Apothecary's Shop. 1850 DICKENS *Dav. Copp.* vii, It was exactly the compound one would have chosen for a stomachic.

Hence **Stoma·chicness.** *rare*—[0].

1727 BAILEY vol. II, *Stomachickness,* stomachick Quality, or Helpfulness to the Stomach.

Stomachical (stomæ·kikăl), *a.* and *sb.* [f. STOMACHIC + -AL.] **A.** *adj.*

1. = STOMACHIC *a.* 1.

1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* xx. xvii. II. 66 Dieuches used..to give also the seed beaten to pouder with Mints in wine, for ..the defluxion Stomachicall. 1651 BIGGS *New Disp.* § 285 Whatsoever is taken in a surfet, above the native power of the stomachicall ferment. 1708 *Brit. Apollo* No. 38, 3/2 You must Chasten your Belly, And forbear the Stomachical Prizes. 1822 L. STURGEON (*title*) Essays, Moral, Philosophical, and Stomachical, on the..Science of Good-living.

2. = STOMACHIC *a.* 3.

1603 F. HERING *Cert. Rules* (1625) B 2, Take three or foure cordiall and stomachicall pilles. 1725 *Bradley's Family Dict.* s. v. *Balm,* Balm-mint..is stomachical, cordial, and excites the Appetite and Wind.

†**B.** *sb.* = STOMACHIC B. *Obs.*

1657 *Physical Dict., Stomachicals,* medicines peculiar to the stomach. 1689 J. MOYLE *Abstr. Sea Chyrurg.,* These are inferiour to no stomachicals in the whole World.

Hence **Stoma·chically** *adv.*

1684 tr. *Bonet's Merc. Compit.* XVI. 565 As when they say, A Man swoons stomachically. 1898 *Daily News* 12 Jan. 6/6 He seemed to suddenly double up as if stomachically stricken.

Stomaching (stŏ·măkiŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. STOMACH *v.* + -ING [1].] The action of STOMACH *v.*; †feeling or cherishing indignation or bitterness.

1549 CHEEKE *Hurt Sedit.* (1641) 14 Where disobedience is thought stoutnesse, and sullennesse is counted manhood, and stomaking is courage. 1582 N. T. (Rhem.) 2 *Cor.* xii. 20 Contentions, emulations, stomakings. 1606 SHAKS. *Ant. & Cl.* II. ii. 9 Tis not a time for priuate stomacking. 1671 WOODHEAD *St. Teresa* II. 99 When it is with Perturbation, and Passion, Stomacking, and repining at the Prioress, let them take it for a manifest Temptation.

†**Sto·maching,** *ppl. a. Obs.* [f. STOMACH *v.* + -ING [2].] Full of malignity; given to cherish anger or resentment.

1577-87 HOLINSHED *Hist. Scot.* 260/2 The whole nation, against which the chiefest part of his booke seemeth to be a stomaching inuectiue. 1579 TOMSON *Calvin's Serm. Tim.* 859/1 Wee are so stomaking of nature, that if a man displease vs we woulde that God shoulde straight wayes lighten against him.

†**Stoma·chious,** *a. Obs.* [f. STOMACH *sb.* + -IOUS.] = STOMACHOUS.

1611 SPEED *Hist. Gt. Brit.* IX. vi. § 69 A Lady no lesse proud, and stomachious then himselfe.

Stomachless (stŏ·măklĕs), *a.* [f. STOMACH *sb.* + -LESS.]

†**1. a.** Having no appetite. **b.** Unresentful. *Obs.*

1626 in *Cosin's Corr.* I. (Surtees) 87 You will say this is nothing. I feele it some thing yet, being weake and stomacklesse. 1697 R. PIERCE *Bath Mem.* I. ii. 31 He was Stomachless, nautiated every thing they offer'd him to eat. 1722 *Phil. Trans.* XXXII. 30 This Application produced no considerable Alteration in the Dog; he neither appear'd sleepy nor stomachless. 1727 BAILEY vol. II, *Stomachless,* wanting an Appetite; also, not apt to resent.

2. Destitute of a stomach.

1865 H. J. SLACK in *Intell. Observer* VII. 96 A stomachless, organless thing, like the Gregarina.

Hence **Sto·machlessness.**

1657 TRAPP *Comm. Job* xxxiii. 21. 292 What marvel if.. extreme stomacklesness cause leaness and deformity.

†**Stomacho·sity.** *Obs.*—[0] [ad. assumed L. **stomachōsitās,* f. *stomachōs-us*: see STOMACHOUS *a.* and -ITY.] 'Anger, indignation, disdain.'

1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.*, *Stomachosity.*

†**Sto·machous,** *a. Obs.* [ad. L. *stomachōsus,* f. *stomach-us* STOMACH *sb.*: see -OUS.] **a.** Spirited, courageous. **b.** Resentful, bitter, irascible; stubborn, obstinate.

1547 RECORDE *Judic. Urvne* A iii, Stomachouse horses, whiche contemptuously passe by the barkynge of curres. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* II. viii. 23 Who..with sterne lookes, and stomachous disdaine, Gaue signes of grudge and discontentment vaine. *a* 1641 FINETT *Philox.* 163 These and other the like Stommachous Speeches he let fall in my hearing. 1658 PHILLIPS, *Stomachous,* angry, disdainfull.

Hence †**Sto·machously** *adv.*

1593 G. HARVEY *New Lett.* A 3, I haue often bene compassionatly sory (or shall I say? stomachously angry) to read how [etc.].

Stomachy (stŏ·măki), *a. dial.* [f. STOMACH *sb.* + -Y.]

1. Ready to take offence, irritable.

1825 JENNINGS *Observ. Dial. W. Eng.* 73 *Stomachy,* obstinate, proud, haughty. 1889 BROCKETT *N. C. Gloss.* (ed. 2), *Stomachy,* easily offended, resentful—stomachful. 1876 HARDY *Ethelberta* xlvi, 'Now never be stomachy, my good soul,' cried Sol from the fireplace.

2. High-spirited.

1896 BARING-GOULD *Broom-Squire* I. 3 'He's a stomachy (sturdy) young chap,' she said, patting the babe with the now disengaged hand.

3. Big-bellied, paunchy.

1889 STEVENSON *Ballantrae* 21 A little, bald, solemn, stomachy man, a great professor of piety.

Stomager, obs. form of STOMACHER.

Stomapod (stŏ·măpŏd), *a.* and *sb. Zool.* [f. mod.L. *Stomapoda* neut. pl. (Latreille, 1817), irreg. f. Gr. στόμα mouth + ποδ-, πούς foot.] = STOMATOPOD.

1833 GRIFFITH tr. *Cuvier* XIII. 240 The Squillæ have received the denomination of Stomapods. *a* 1843 *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) VII. 275/2 The two most highly developed Orders [of Crustaceans], viz. the Decapod and Stomapod. 1857 AGASSIZ *Contrib. Nat. Hist. U.S.* I. 110 In the classification of Dana, his first type embraces Decapods and Stomapods.

So **Stomapo·diform** *a.*, having the form of, or resembling, a stomapod; applied to certain insect larvæ. **Stoma·podous** *a.* = *stomapod*; also applied to the mouth in certain arachnids, etc. when resembling or analogous to that of a stomapod crustacean.

1826 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* III. xxx. 165 [Primary Forms of Larvæ.] Stomapodiform...Ex. *Mantis. Ibid.* IV. xlvi. 309 Mouth...Stomapodous...When the Legs and Sternum act the part of Maxillæ, Labium, and Palpi. Ex. *Araneidæ, Scolopendra,* &c.

Stomata, plural of STOMA.

Stomatal (stŏ·mătăl), *a. Bot.* and *Zool.* [f. Gr. στοματ-, στόμα (see STOMA) + -AL.] Pertaining to or connected with a stoma or stomata; of the nature of a stoma; *loosely,* having stomata, stomatous.

1861 BENTLEY *Man. Bot.* 43 Generally..the stomatal cells are placed nearly or quite on a level with those of the epidermis. In other cases,..the stomatal cells are below the epidermal ones, while in some rare instances again they are above them. 1894 F. DARWIN & ACTON *Physiol. Plants* 93 Stomatal transpiration. 1897 *Nature* 17 June 167/1 The stomatal surface of a leaf.

Stomate (stō·mēt), *sb. Bot.* [app. formed as an Eng. sing. for the pl. **stomata**: see STOMA. Cf. F. *stomate,* and STIGMATE.] = STOMA 2.

1835 LINDLEY *Introd. Bot.* (1848) I. 137 In most plants the cuticle has..openings..called Stomates, Stomata, or Stomatia. *Ibid.* 141 Another singular kind of stomate. 1877 HUXLEY & MARTIN *Elem. Biol.* 73 Stomates are absent in the epidermis of the root.

Stomate, *a. rare*—[0]. [app. f. STOMA + -ATE [2]; but prob. a fiction of mod. Dicts. due to mistaking the sb. (see prec.) for an adj.] 'Having stomata' (Ogilvie *Suppl.* 1855: hence in later Dicts.).

Stomatic (stomæ·tik), *a.* and *sb.* [ad. mod.L. *stomaticus,* a. Gr. στοματικός, f. στοματ-, στόμα mouth: see STOMA and -IC. Cf. F. *stomatique,* It. *stomatico,* Sp. *estomático.* (The sb. is in L. *stomaticē,* a. Gr. στοματική, fem. of the adj.).]

1. a. *adj.* Of a medicine: Good for diseases of the mouth. **b.** *sb.* A 'stomatic' medicine. ? *Obs.*

The explanation in quot. 1656 is app. an error. In the bracketed quots. the word is misused for *stomachic*; the same blunder has been common in Fr., Sp., and It.

1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.*, *Stomatick*..that hath a sore or swelling in the mouth. 1657 TOMLINSON *Renou's Disp.* I. vi. 10 *Stomatick* [medicaments] to the mouth. [1678 SALMON *Lond. Disp.* 588/1 It is designed for a Stomatick to comfort and warm a cold and weak Stomach. 1683 — *Doron Med.* II. 174 It is a good Cephalick, 'Stomatick' and hysterick. 1699 — *Bate's Disp.* (1713) 242/1 Besides all this, it is an excellent Stomatick, strengthens the Ventricle, causes..a quick Digestion, 1741 *Compl. Family-Piece* I. i. 3 Take of the Stomatick-Pill with Gums.] 1857 DUNGLISON *Med. Lex.* s. v., Dentifrices, masticatories, &c., are stomatics.

2. *Bot.* and *Zool.* = STOMATAL.

1835 LINDLEY *Introd. Bot.* (1848) I. 141 The stomatic apparatus. 1890 *Hardwicke's Sci.-Gossip* XXVI. 172/2 The stomatic cells.

So †**Stoma·tical** *a. Obs.*

In the bracketed quots. the word is misused for *stomachical*; cf. the similar misuse of STOMATIC.

[1547 BOORDE *Brev. Health* ccclviii. 115 Let the pacient purge hym selfe..with pylles stomatical.] 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* xxiii. vii. II. 170 This was the stomaticall medicine [L. *Hæc erat stomatice*] of the auncients. [1662 CHANDLER *Van Helmont's Oriat.* 201 This is a sharp, hungry, stomatical [L. *stomachicum*], specifical, and humane ferment.]

Stomatiferous (stŏmătĭ·fĕrəs), *a. Bot.* [f. mod.L. *stomat-* STOMA + -(I)FEROUS.] Bearing stomata.

1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1101/2 *Stomatiferous,* bearing stomates.

‖ **Stomatitis** (stŏmătəi·tis). *Path.* [mod.L. f. Gr. στοματ-, στόμα mouth + -ITIS.] Inflammation of the mucous membrane of the mouth.

1859 J. TOMES *Dental Surg.* 508 Follicular stomatitis is commonly associated with eruptions about the face and lips. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 527, I have traced the connection of impetigo with..ulcerative stomatitis [etc.].

Hence **Stomatitic** (-ĭ·tik) *a.*, pertaining to or affected with stomatitis.

1901 *Lancet* 20 July 133/1 Those unhappy children who are born with teeth—blighted probably by stomatitic inflammation in utero—which are teeth but in name.

‖**Stomatium** (stomē·ʃiǒm). Pl. **-ia.** [mod.L., dim. of STOMA, on Gr. type *στομάτιον.] = STOMA.
835 [see STOMATE]. 1866 *Treas. Bot., Stomate, Stomatium.*

Stomato- (stǫ·mătǒ), repr. Gr. στοματο-, combining form of στοματ-, στόμα mouth (see STOMA): occurring in modern scientific terms, chiefly zoological. ‖**Sto:matode·ndron** (pl. **-dendra**) [Gr. δένδρον tree], each of the dendritic branches bearing minute polyps in the family *Rhizostomidæ* of hydrozoans. **Sto:matoga·stric** *a.* [GASTRIC], pertaining to or connected with the mouth and stomach; applied to a system of visceral nerves in invertebrates. **Sto·matogna:th** [Gr. γνάθος jaw], a generic term for the hard structures or 'teeth' in the stomodæum of various classes of animals, as molluscs, crustaceans, annelids, rotifers, etc. **Stomato·logy** [-LOGY], the scientific study of the mouth; hence **Sto:matolo·gical** *a.*, relating to stomatology; **Stomato·logist**, one versed in stomatology. **Sto:matomo·rphous** (-mǭ·ɹfəs), *a. Bot.* [Gr. μορφή form], mouth-shaped. **Sto·matopla:sty** [-PLASTY], plastic surgery of the mouth (or of the *os uteri*); hence **Sto:matopla·stic** *a.*, pertaining to stomatoplasty. **Stomato·poroid** *a.* [f. mod.L. *Stomatopora* (f. Gr. πόρος pore) + -OID], resembling or characteristic of a coral of the fossil genus *Stomatopora*. **Sto·matosco:pe** (-skōᵘp) [-SCOPE], an instrument for examining the interior of the mouth. See also STOMATOPOD.

1859 HUXLEY *Oceanic Hydrozoa* 18 In the *Rhizostomidæ*, a complex tree-like mass, whose branches, the *stomatodendra, end in, and are covered with, minute polypites..is suspended from the middle of the umbrella. 1848 CARPENTER *Anim. Phys.* 342 Other small ganglia and nerves, connected with..mastication and digestion..are called *stomato-gastric. 1895 D. SHARP *Insects* I. 120 Stomato-gastric nerves of Cockroach. 1900 W. B. BENHAM in *Proc. Zool. Soc.* 982 *note*, I would suggest..'*stomatognath' as a convenient term by which to refer to the various chitinous, or calcified, or siliceous 'teeth' or 'jaws' occurring as specialized thickenings of the lining of the stomodæum. 1913 *Times* 13 Aug. 3/3 At the final session of the *Stomatological Section the subject of dental disease as a cause of pain in remote parts of the body was discussed. 1913 *Publ. Opinion* 15 Aug. 166/2 The *stomatologists of the Medical Congress held a meeting in the Dental Hospital. 1895 *Westm. Gaz.* 22 June 8/1 The Science of *Stomatology. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1101/2 **Stomatomorphous*, mouth-shaped. 1857 DUNGLISON *Med. Lex.*, **Stomatoplastic*, **Stomatoplasty*. 1860 R. FOWLER *Med. Vocab.*, *Stomatoplasty*, the operation for remedying a contracted aperture of the mouth. 1880 *Brit. Med. Jrnl.* 27 Mar. 483/2 Stomatoplasty.—Dr. Mapother described a case of contracted mouth and nostrils from cicatrices after lupus. 1889 E. A. WALFORD in *Q. Jrnl. Geol. Soc.* XLV. III. 566 The interweaving of the *Stomatoporoid branches gives rise to another phase of growth, Tubuliporoid. 1855 DUNGLISON *Med. Lex.*, *Stomatoscope. 1866 *Sci. Rev.* July 62/3 The Stomatoscope..promises to be very useful in dental surgery,..It consists of a spiral wire of platinum..enclosed in a box-wood cup, and..brought to a red heat by the current..from a small galvanic battery; and a small mirror which reflects the light.

Stomatodæ·um. *Embryology.* [Intended as a correction (after *Stomato-*) of the irregularly-formed STOMODÆUM.] = STOMODÆUM. Hence **Stomatodæal** *a.* = STOMODÆAL.

1887 A. M. MARSHALL & HURST *Jun. Zool.* 141 The stomatodœum or anterior portion of the [alimentary] canal [of a crayfish]. 1888 HUXLEY & MARTIN *Elem. Biol.* (ed. 2) 171 The stomatodæum; a sac-like involution of the epidermis abutting against [the mesenteron]. 1893 A. M. MARSHALL *Vertebr. Embryol.* 148 The stomatodæal pit rapidly deepens.

Stomatode (stǫ·mătoᵘd), *a.* and *sb.* *Zool.* [f. mod.L. *Stomatōda* neut. pl., irreg. f. Gr. στοματ-, στόμα mouth, on the supposed analogy of names like *Cestoda*, *Nematoda*.] **a.** *adj.* Pertaining to the *Stomatoda*, a group of *Protozoa* characterized by having a mouth. **b.** *sb.* A member of the *Stomatoda*.

1870 H. A. NICHOLSON *Man. Zool.* I. 59 The Infusoria, or Stomatode Protozoa.

Stomatopod (stǫ·mătopǫd), *a.* and *sb.* *Zool.* [f. mod.L. *Stomatopoda* neut. pl., later and more correct form for Latreille's *Stomapoda*: see STOMAPOD.] **a.** *adj.* Belonging to the *Stomatopoda*, an order of malacostracous crustaceans, orig. (in form *Stomapoda*: see STOMAPOD) synonymous with *Gastrura*, now restricted to the family *Squillidæ*. **b.** *sb.* A stomatopod crustacean.

1877 HUXLEY *Anat. Inv. Anim.* vi. 361, I believe that the tergum of the seventh (or first thoracic) somite is obsolete, as in a Stomatopod.

So **Stomatopodous** (-ǫ·pǒdəs), *a.* = prec. **a.**

Stomatous (stǫ·mătəs), *a.* [f. mod.L. *stomat-* STOMA + -OUS.] Having or furnished with stomata. Also **Sto·matose** *a.*

1880 WEBSTER Suppl., *Stomatous*. 1909 *Cent. Dict.* Suppl., *Stomatose*.

Sto·mber, *v.* *Obs.* exc. *dial.* [var. of *stamber*, STAMMER *v.*]

1. *intr.* To stumble.

1588 A. KING tr. *Canisius' Catech.*, *Certane Prayers* 34 Thame that hes stombered thow liftes vp agane. 1879 Miss JACKSON *Shropsh. Word-bk.*, *Stombering*, walking in a heavy, stamping, stumbling way.

2. *trans.* To confuse. (Cf. STAMMER *v.* 4.)

1841 HARTSHORNE *Salop. Ant.* Gloss., *Stomber*, to confuse. 1879 Miss JACKSON *Shropsh. Word-bk.*, *Stombered*, confused. 'I got stombered o'er it.'

Stomble, stomel(e, obs. forms of STUMBLE.

Stomere, var. STUMMER *v.* *Obs.*, to stumble.

Stomle, obs. form of STUMBLE *v.*

Stommok, obs. form of STOMACH.

Stomochord (stǫ·mokǭɹd). *Zool.* [f. Gr. στόμα mouth + χορδή CHORD *sb.*[1], after *notochord*.] Name proposed by Willey for the so-called 'notochord' of *Enteropneusta*: see quots. Hence **Stomocho·rdal** *a.*, pertaining to or having a stomochord.

1899 WILLEY in *Q. Jrnl. Microscop. Sci.* XLII. 234 MM. Delage and Hérouard retain the designation notochord applied by Bateson to the diverticulum from the throat which projects into the proboscis, where it acquires a rigid consistency and sustaining properties. I prefer to call this structure by a non-committal name, and propose the term stomochord. 1902 G. H. FOWLER in *Encycl. Brit.* XXIX. 251/1 The stomochord is a forward dorsal diverticulum of the gut in the collar region, which pushes before it the wall of the præ-oral body cavity or protocœle.

Stomocke, -ok, -oke, obs. ff. STOMACH.

‖**Stomodæum, -eum** (stǫmodī·ǒm). *Embryology* and *Zool.* Pl. **-æa, -ea** (-ī·ă). [mod.L. irreg. f. Gr. στόμα mouth + ὁδαῖος that is on or by the road.] The anterior portion of the digestive tract, beginning as an invagination of the epiblast.

1876 RAY LANKESTER in *Q. Jrnl. Microsc. Sci.* XVI. 64 A second invagination forms the true mouth and the stomodæum. [*Foot-note*] This term and its correlative 'proctodæum' I propose for the oral and anal invaginations. 1900 G. C. BOURNE in *Ray Lankester's Treat. Zool.* II. *Anthozoa* 7 The elongation of the mouth and stomodaeum confers a bilateral symmetry on the Anthozoan zooid.

Hence **Stomodæal, -eal** (-ī·ăl) *a.*, belonging to or constituting a stomodæum.

1883 RAY LANKESTER in *Encycl. Brit.* XVI. 637/1 (Mollusca) Both behind and before the stomodæal invagination. 1892 E. B. WILSON in *Jrnl. Morphol.* VI. 418 The stomodæal arc rapidly enlarges. *Ibid.*, The stomodæal glands.

Stomok, obs. form of STOMACH.

Stomp, *v.* Used by Browning (to obtain a rime) for *stump* or *stamp*.

1845 BROWNING *Englishm. Italy* 272 And then will the flaxen-wigged Image Be carried in pomp Thro' the plain, while in gallant procession The priests mean to stomp.

Stomp, dial. pronun. of STAMP.

Stompe, obs. form of STUMP.

†**Sto·mper,** *v.* *Obs.* *rare*⁻¹. [f. STAMPER *sb.* (see sense 3 a).] *trans.* To pound with a pestle.

c 1420 *Liber Cocorum* (1862) 30 Take mustarde and let hit drye..Stomper hit in a morter fyne.

‖**Stompneus** (stǫ·mpnǒs). *S. Africa.* [Du. = blunt nose.] A fish, *Chrysophrys globiceps*, caught in great abundance round the Cape during summer (Pettman *Africanderisms* 1913). Also *stump-nose* (see STUMP *sb.*).

1705 tr. *Bosman's Guinea* 261 Several sorts of Bream, Stompneuses, or flat Noses. 1791 tr. *Le Vaillant's Trav. Africa* I. 22 There are plenty of fish at the Cape. Among those most valued..are..the stompneus [etc.].

Ston, obs. form of STONE, STUN.

Stonage (stōᵘ·nédʒ). [f. STONE *sb.* + -AGE.]

†**1.** Stones collectively. *Obs.*

1618 CHAPMAN *Hesiod* II. 29 Draw ashore Thy Ship; and fence her round with stonage store, To shield her ribs against the humorous Gales.

2. Weight measured in stones. *nonce-use.*

1882 H. C. MERIVALE *Faucit of B.* II. II. i. 149 Six good feet of height, and a stonage coming nearer to fourteen than to thirteen on the average.

Stonage, obs. form of STONEHENGE.

Stonch, obs. form of STANCH *v.*

†**Stond.** *Obs.* [App. a dial. variant of STAND *sb.*, adopted by certain writers in special uses.]

1. *Falconry.* Cf. STAND *sb.*[1] 7.

1580–3 GREENE *Mamillia* I. 4 b, The hawke that commeth at the first cal, wil neuer be stedfast on the stond. 1587 — *Carde of Fancie* (1593) E 3 b, The Hawke that bates at euerie cast of the Lure will neuer be stedfast on the stonde.

2. Impediment, stoppage. (Only in Bacon.)

1605 BACON *Adv. Learn.* II. xxii. § 10 That..you may work out the knots and stondes of the mind. 1612 — *Ess., Studies* (Arb.) 11 Nay, thear is no stond or impediment in the wit, but may be wrought out by fit studies. *a* 1626 — *Disc. touching Helps Intell. Powers* Resusc. (1657) 277 The Removing of the Stonds, and Impediments, of the Mind, doth often clear, the passage, and Current, to a Mans Fortune.

Stond(e, obs. forms of STAND, STOUND.

Stondard, -art(e, obs. forms of STANDARD.

Stondenegosse, -gousse: see STANDENGUSS.

Stonderde, -ert, obs. forms of STANDARD.

c 1550 *Battle of Otterburn* lvii, The stonderdes stode styll on eke a syde.

Stone (stōᵘn), *sb.* Forms: 1–3 (4–5 *Sc.* and *north.*) **stan**, 3 **stæn**, 3–5 **ston**, 4–5 **sten**, 4–6 **stoon** (5–6 **stoone**), 4–9 (*Sc.* and *north.*) **stane**, 5 *Sc.* **stayne**, (**stein**), 5–7 **stonne**, 6 **stoan(e**, **steane**, 6–7 *Sc.* **stain(e**, 7 *Sc.*, 8–9 *dial.* **stean**, 4– **stone**. [Common Teut.: OE. *stán* str. masc. corresponds to OFris. *stên*, (WFris. *stên*, *stien*, NFris. *stín*, *stíæn*), OS. *stên* (LG., Du. *steen*), OHG. (MHG., mod.G.) *stein*, ON. *stein-n* (Sw., Da. *sten*), Goth. *stain-s*;—OTeut. **staino-z*, cogn. w. OSl. *stêna* (Russ. стѣна) wall, and Gr. στία, στῖον pebble.]

I. A piece of rock or hard mineral substance (other than metal) of a small or moderate size.

c 888 ÆLFRED *Boeth.* xxxiv. § xi, Ʒif þu þonne ænne stan teclifst, ne wyrð he næfre ʒegadrod swa he ær wæs. c 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 9 Me þe sculde nimen and..þe al to-toruion mid stane. c 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 1604 He lay bi lusan ut on niʒt, A ston under hise heued riʒt. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 7581 He tok fiue stans rond. c 1412 HOCCLEVE *De Reg. Princ.* 1805 A stoon no thyng ne felith. 1573 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 80 The sticks and the stones go and gather vp cleene. 1686 W. HARRIS tr. *Lemery's Course Chem.* 214 There have been who gazing too earnestly upon the Stars above, have not perceived the stone at their feet, that caused them to stumble. 1798 COLERIDGE *Anc. Mariner* 17 The Wedding-Guest sat on a stone. 1812–16 PLAYFAIR *Nat. Phil.* (1819) I. 323 The Stones which have..been ascertained..to fall down from the air. 1833 *Penny Cycl.* I. 150/1 Aerolites, called also Meteoric Stones. 1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) III. 64 A dog who..quarrels with the stones which are thrown at him.

†**b.** A rock, cliff, crag; a mass of rock; rocky ground. *Obs.*

c 825 *Vesp. Psalter* xxvi. 6 [xxvii. 5] In stane upahof mec. c 1000 *Rule St. Benet* (1888) 5 Hit ne feoll forþam þe hit wæs ʒestaðelod ofor þam stane. c 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 155 Sum of þe sed ful uppe þe ston and dride þere. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 16762+83 þe son wex merke, þe erth quoke, þe stons clef. c 1400 *Laud Troy Bk.* 4133 Lest thei..breke her schippus on cragges and stones. c 1430 *Prymer* (1895) 65 He ordeyned my feet on a stoon. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* IX. vii. 174 Quhil the famyl and ofspring of Enee The stane, immovable of the Capitolie Inhabitis. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* Apr. 1646, Some of these vast mountaines were but one entire stone.

fig. *a* 1230 *Vices & Virtues* (1888) 27 And uppe þese stane ðe ðu hier hafst ʒenamd, Crist, godes sune, ich wille araren mine cherche. c 1400 *Rule St. Benet* 189 Þis stone es crist, þat we on call. 1535 COVERDALE *Deut.* xxxii. 4 Perfecte are the workes of the Stone for all his wayes are righteous.

2. The hard compact material of which stones and rocks consist; hard mineral substance other than metal.

1154 *O. E. Chron.* (Canterb. MS.) an. 1020, Se cyng..let timbrian ðar an mynster of stane & lime. c 1200 ORMIN 4129 Þatt cnif wass..Off stan, & nohht off irenn. *a* 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 266 Maumez of treo oðer of stan. 13.. *K. Horn* 905 (Harl.) A chirche of lym & ston. c 1384 CHAUCER *H. Fame* 70 The god of slepe..That dwelleth in a cave of stoon. c 1400 MAUNDEV. (Roxb.) i. 4 A brigg of stane þat es ouer þe ryuer. 1542 BOORDE *Dyetary* viii. (1870) 249 Stand nor syt long bareheed vnder a vawte of stone. 1590 in *Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.*, *Var. Coll.* IV. 284 Perceiving as well muche sand as stone..fetched from the sea-side. 1613 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* (1614) 229 Mount Sinai..whose top..is hard stone of yron colour. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* I. 27 We find layers of stone often over the lightest soils. 1826 *Art of Brewing* (ed. 2) 193 In Gloucestershire, and other parts of England, where stone is abundant. 1869 LOWELL *Cathedral* 283 Imagination's very self in stone!

b. as material for lithography.

c 1806 in *Archæol. Jrnl.* (1894) Ser. II. I. 111 The art of printing from stone called Polyautography. 1838 W. C. HARRIS *Narr. Exped. S. Africa* frontisp., Moselekatse, King of the Amazooloo. On Stone by W. C. Harris. 1864 *Scott. Metr. Psalter of 1635* title-p., Printed from stone, by Maclure and Macdonald, Lithographers to the Queen.

c. A particular kind of rock or hard mineral matter.

c 1400 tr. *Secreta Secret.*, *Gov. Lordsh.* 87 Of propertez of stones, and of vertuz of herbes. 1480 CAXTON *Mirr. World* 92 In Archade is a stone whiche in no wyse may be quenchyd after it is sette a fire. 15.. in *Dunbar's Poems* (1893) II. 306 He knew the vertew of erb and stone. 1731 *Historia Lit.* III. 353 Semitransparent Stones, as Agat. 1796 KIRWAN *Elem. Min.* (ed. 2) I. 2 Stones differ from earths principally in cohesion and hardness. 1860 tr. *Lagrange's Chem.* I. 154 Many stones contain silex. 1841 *Penny Cycl.* XXI. 173/2 The material is a white calcareous stone, obtained in the neighbourhood.

d. *spec.* = PHILOSOPHERS' STONE.

1390 GOWER *Conf.* II. 88 This Ston..makth multiplicacioun Of gold. 1450 LYDG. *Secrees* 986 Al worldly tresour breeffly shet in Oon, Is declaryd in vertu of this stoon. 1610 B. JONSON *Alch.* Argt. 11. 1822 BYRON *Werner* III. i. 328 Thou more than stone of the philosopher!

e. = STONEWARE. Chiefly attrib.: see 17 b.

1642 *Rates of Merchandizes* 57 Whistles, cocks or Birds of stone. 1851 [see STONE-FRUIT 2].

†**f.** A mirror. *Obs.* *rare*⁻¹. Cf. *specular stone*, SPECULAR *a.* 1, 1 b.

1605 SHAKS. *Lear* V. iii. 262 Lend me a Looking-glasse, If that her breath will mist or staine the stone, Why then she liues.

3. a. As a type of motionlessness or fixity; esp. in phr. (*as*) *still as a stone*. ? *Obs.* (Cf. STONE-STILL.)

a 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 1253 Þe nan ne seide na wiht, ah seten stille ase stan. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 102 He lay stille as eny ston. 1535 COVERDALE *Exod.* xv. 16 Let feare and drede fall vpon them..that they maye be as styll as a stone. 1657 FULLER *Serm., Best Employm.* 12 Sit not there as a stone upon a stoole.

†**b.** As an emblem of stability or constancy; in phr. *sad*, *stable*, *steadfast*, *true as stone*. *Obs.*

c 1320 *Sir Tristr.* 115 Rohand, trewe so stan. c 1425 *Hampole's Psalter* Metr. Pref. 46 Euery word is sad as stone and sothly sayd, ful sykerly. c 1440 CAPGRAVE *Life St. Kath.* IV. 1251 He hath made hir hardy and stable as þe stoone. c 1450 *Godstow Reg.* 22, I wyl be as stedfast as any stone.

c. As a type of hardness, and hence as an emblem of insensibility, stupidity, deadness or the like; esp.

in phrases of comparison with various adjs. as *blind, cold, dead, deaf, dumb, hard*, etc. (Cf. 19.)

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 12028 He fel dun ded as ston. 13.. *Seuyn Sages* (W.) 2359 He bicam blind so ston. *c* 1400 *Rom. Rose* 2409 Dom as a stoon. *c* 1400 *Pety Job* 318 in *26 Pol. Poems* 131 Me thynketh myn hert ys harder than a ston. 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* xv. 9 He that dronis ay as ane bee Sowld haif ane heirar dull as stane. 1599 SHAKS. *Hen. V*, II. iii. 26 All was cold as any stone. 1601 — *All's Well* II. i. 76 A medicine..able to breath life into a stone. 1791 HAMPSON *Mem. Wesley* II. 133 The man continued as blind as a stone. 1837 P. KEITH *Bot. Lex.* 116 The albumen..in the seed of the coffee plant..is horny, and in that of the Date-palm it is said to be as hard as a stone. 1841 HOOD *Tale Trumpet* 42 She was deaf as a stone.

4. *transf.* and *fig.* Something resembling stone or a stone: **a.** in physical sense: A hard concretion.

1893 BARING-GOULD *Cheap Jack Zita* III. 119 The frost had set in..and..the Lark was turned to stone within its embankments.

b. in figurative sense, chiefly as the supposed substance of a 'hard' heart; also, a 'hard' or unfeeling person, or heart; † also, a stupid person, blockhead; a silent person.

1388 WYCLIF *Ezek.* xxxvi. 26 Y schal do awei an herte of stoon [1382 a stonen herte] fro 3oure fleisch. *a* 1400 *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* 628/266 Þe lewes weoren harde stones. 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* lxxv. 40 3our invsing wald perss ane hairt of stane. 1591 SHAKS. *Two Gent.* II. iii. 11 He is a stone, a very pibble stone, and has no more pitty in him then a dogge. 1598 R. BERNARD tr. *Terence, Heautontim.* v. i, Signes..whereby I might haue perceiued it, had not I beene a very stone [*ni essem lapis*]. 1612 *Two Noble K.* I. i. 140 Your sorrow beates so ardently upon me, That it shall make a counter reflect gainst My Brothers heart, and warme it to some pitty, Though it were made of stone. *a* 1659 T. PESTEL *Psalm for Christmas Day Morning*, Joyn then all hearts that are not stone,..To celebrate this holy One. 1746 HERVEY *Medit.* (1818) 147 The heart of stone is taken away, and a heart of flesh..is introduced in its stead. *a* 1772 GRAY *Dante* 54 Nor wept, for all Within was Stone. 1837 DICKENS *Pickw.* xiv, Tom Smart said the widow's lamentations when she heard the disclosure would have pierced a heart of stone. 1852 MRS. STOWE *Uncle Tom's C*, xxxiv, He..said he should come back; but it didn't deceive me, I knew that the time had come. I was just like one turned into stone.

5. A piece of stone of a definite form and size (usually artificially shaped), used for some special purpose. (Often as the second element of a compound: cf. definitions below.)

a. for building, or as a part or element of a building. (See also COPING-STONE, CORNER-STONE, FOUNDATION-*stone*, etc.)

c 825 *Vesp. Psalter* ci. 15 [cii. 14] Forðon welzelicad hefdun ðeowas ðine stanas his. *c* 1200 ORMIN 16285 Swa þezz stodenn..To wirkenn o þe temmple, þatt draȝhenn sweord wass inn an hannd, & lim & stan inn oþerr. *c* 1400 *Laud Troy Bk.* 3374 Noble Troye..A-doun is throwen, with ston an[d] wal. 1427 in Heath *Grocers' Comp.* (1869) 4 In here tyme..was the furste stoon leyd of the Groceres place in Conyhoope-lane. 1552 ABP. HAMILTON *Catech.* (1884) 28 A Mason can nocht hew ane evin aislair staine without directioun of his rewill. 1594 SHAKS. *Rich. III*, IV. i. 104 Looke backe with me vnto the Tower. Pitty, you ancient Stones, those tender Babes, Whom Enuie hath immur'd within your Walls. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* (1637) 696 With the stones hewed out of it..Sant Peters at Yorke was reedified. 1796 H. HUNTER tr. *St. Pierre's Study Nat.* (1799) II. 132 Water..diffused..through the air..attaches itself, to the glass-windows and the polished stones of our houses. 1833 LOUDON *Encycl. Archit.* § 79 To build all the foundations..with stones properly headed. 1867 H. MACMILLAN *Bible Teach.* xii. (1870) 232 It is built up, stone by stone, from the level of the earth.

b. for paving.

(See also HEARTHSTONE, PAVINGSTONE, etc.)

1427–8 *Rec. St. Mary at Hill* (1905) 68 Also for a goter ston for þe same gate, xiiij d. 1612 *Two Noble K.* v. iv. 68 On this horse is Arcite Trotting the stones of Athens. 1682 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1694/4 An Iron Grey Gelding...a little tender-footed on the Stones. 1738 *Gentl. Mag.* VIII. 549/1 He was driven over the Stones in a Hackney Coach. 1840 DICKENS *Old C. Shop* xix, Horses clattered on the uneven stones. 1842 [see PAUPER 1 c]. 1851 MRS. BROWNING *Casa Guidi Wind.* I. 601 On the stone Called Dante's,—a plain flat stone, scarce discerned From others in the pavement.

c. A block, slab, or pillar of stone set up as a memorial, to impart information, or for some ceremonial purpose: *e. g.* as an altar, a monument, a boundary-mark, etc.

See also HOAR-STONE 2, MILESTONE, SHIRE-*stone*, STANDING STONE.

847 *Charter* in *O. E. Texts* 434 On ðone stan æt ðære flodan. *c* 1205 LAY. 9959 He lette a-ræren anan enne swuðe sælcuð stan: he lette þer on grauen sælcuðe run-stauen hu he Rodric of-sloh. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 158 Evene vp riȝht & swiþe heiȝ, þat wonder hit is to se, þe stones stondeþ þere so grete. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 979 3ee sal do bren it on a stan. 1450–80 tr. *Secreta Secret.* lviii. 33 It was founde writen in a stone of þe tunge of Caldee. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* I. 121 The croune he tuk apon that sammyne stane At Gadalos send with his sone fra Spane. 1581 *Cov. Leet Bk.* 822, & so Crosse ouer to the corner of Babethorp-wast vnto another stone there sett. 1598–1603 STOW *Surv.* (1908) I. 224 On the south side of this high streete..is pitched vpright a great stone called London stone. 1716 ADDISON *Freeholder* No. 18 P 5 As ridiculously puzzled..as a man that counts the Stones on Salisbury-plain, which can never be settled to any certain number. 1827 G. HIGGINS *Celtic Druids* 212 Some of these stones erect have crosses cut upon them. 1831 SCOTT *Ct. Robt.* xx, The troth I had plighted to Hereward at the stone of Odin.

d. *spec.* = GRAVESTONE 2, TOMBSTONE.

13.. *Cursor M.* 193 (Gött.) Lazar þat ded lay vnder stan. 1303 R. BRUNNE *Handl. Synne* 8780 Lordes are besy aboute to haue Proude stones lyggyng an hye on here graue. 1436 *E. E. Wills* 105, I woll þat there be leyde vpon my body a stone of Marble. *a* 1585 MONTGOMERIE *Cherrie & Slae* 567 Than sall be graud vpon the stane Quhilk on thy graue beis laid [etc.]. 1687 A. LOVELL tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* I. 58 When the Grave is filled up, they erect a stone over the head of the deceased. 1750 GRAY *Elegy* 116 The lay, Grav'd on the stone beneath yon aged thorn. 1767 JAGO *Edge-hill* IV. 332 Alike the simple Stone And Mausoleum proud, his Pow'r attest, In wretched Doggrel, or elab'rate Verse. 1850 THACKERAY *Pendennis* lxxi, The stone closes over Harry the Fourth, and Harry the Fifth reigns in his stead. 1900 BP. W. HOW *Lighter Moments* 22 A stone-mason..brought a stone to put into the churchyard.

e. As an object of idolatrous worship; chiefly *pl.* in conjunction with *stocks*; see STOCK *sb.* 1 d.

c 1400 *Apol. Loll.* 89 Wat honor of God is þis, to ren about bi tre, and stone, and formis, and honor as God veyn figeris?

† **f.** A gun-flint. *Obs.*

1611 BEAUM. & FL. *Knt. Burning Pestle* v. i, *Ralph*: Wheres the stone of this Peece? 2 *Sold.* The Drummer took it out to light Tobacco.

g. A rounded stone or pebble formerly used as a missile in war, being thrown with the hand, discharged from a sling, or shot from a fire-arm (cf. GUNSTONE); † *stone of iron*, a cannon-ball (*obs.*).

c 1205 LAY. 626 Mid stocken & mid stanen stal fiht heo makeden. *c* 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 3030 Grete stones wyþ slynges [they] caste. *c* 1450 *Brut* 434 A traitour..shotte a Gonne, and the stone smot this good Erle of Salusbury. 1511 *Guylforde's Pilgr.* (Camden) 8 An other pece..shoteth a stone of irron of .ij. fote depe. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VIII*, 113 The Frenchemen shot out ordinaunce, quarelles and stones. 1573–5 GASCOIGNE *Flowers* Wks. 1907 I. 81 The harquebush doth spit his spight, with prety persing stones. 1581 A. HALL *Iliad* III. 47 The Greekes cease not to martch, their stones & darts at random flye. 1705 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4097/1 They..ply the Enemy ..with Bombs and Stones, from 6 Mortars. 1745 P. THOMAS *Jrnl. Anson's Voy.* 288 Each of those they had loaded with ..Flint Stones and Shot. 1867 A. L. GORDON *Poems* (1912) 94 Like a bird on the wing, or a stone from a sling.

h. A shaped piece of stone for grinding or sharpening something, as a GRINDSTONE, MILLSTONE, WHETSTONE.

1578 *Invent. R. Wardr.* (1815) 260 Ane man mylne with hir stanys and hir haill tymmer werk. 1599 BRETON *Wil of Wit* (Grosart) 11/1 The stone, that Wit must whet himselfe vpon. 1751 *N. Jersey Archives* XIX. 1 A Large..gristmill, with two pairs of stones. 1886 STEVENSON *Kidnapped* xxvi, Shearers worked all day in a field..and we could hear the stones going on the hooks.

i. A flat slab or tablet for grinding something upon, or for smoothing or flattening something (see also FLATTENING-*stone*, SLEEKSTONE, etc.); in *Printing* = IMPOSING-*stone*; also a slab of stone for lithography (see 2 b).

14.. *Crafte of Lymnynge* in *E. E. Misc.* (Warton Club) 72 Grynde vermelone one a stone with newe glayre. *a* 1550 [see *mustard-stone*, MUSTARD *sb.* 3 c]. 1573 *Art Limming* 5 b, Grind Synapour lake & Synapour topes ech by him selfe on a Painters stone. 1683 MOXON *Mech. Exerc., Printing* xvii. P 2 The Stone is commonly about eighteen Inches diameter, having both its Sides truly Rub'd flat and smooth. *Ibid.* xxiv. P 17 They are to be Ground with a Mullar on a smooth Marble Stone. *c* 1806 in *Archæol. Jrnl.* (1894) Ser. II. I. 212 A drawing..intended to be printed is made on a stone with a pen and a particular ink or with a kind of chalk. 1827 FARADAY *Chem. Manip.* xix. (1842) 535 Glass may be ground on almost any flat stone with a coarse grain, by means of a little sharp sand and water. 1886 FURNIVALL in *Shaks. Ven. & Ad.* (1st Qo. facs.) p. xix, *Troilus and Cressida* is partly on the stone.

j. A heavy stone used in athletic sports. Phrases, *to cast, put*, or *throw the stone*: see also PUT *v.*[1] 2, *v.*[2] 2.

c 1300–1816 [see PUT *v.*[1] 2, *v.*[2] 2]. 1518 H. WATSON *Hist. Oliver of Castile* (Roxb.) C 1 b, Dysportes..vsed by noble men..as..tennys, lepe, sprynge, wrastle, cast the stone, cast the barre, or ony other games. 1561 HOBY tr. *Castiglione's Courtier* I. (1577) D vj, It is meet for hym also to haue the Arte of swymming, to leape, to runne, to caste the stone. 1620 [see CURLING-STONE]. 1638 NABBES *Totenham-Court* II. ii. (Bullen) I. 120 He pitcheth the barr and throws the stone. 1849 *Chambers's Inform.* II. 649/2 Each person..causing his stone to slide towards the opposite end of the rink. 1891 [see CURLING-STONE].

† **6.** A vessel of stone, or of stoneware; a stone jar, cistern, etc. *Obs.* (Cf. STEAN.)

c 1450 LOVELICH *Grail* lv. 165 Thanne let he fyllen a ston [Fr. *vne cuue*]..Ful of water. *c* 1450 *Mirk's Festial* 52/8 Þen bade Ihesus seruandus full syxe stones þat stoden þer wyth watyr. 1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* IV. viii. 128 Oute of that pype ranne water..in a stone of marbel. *a* 1722 LISLE *Husb.* (1757) 206 The maltsters used to fling the barley out of the cistern or stone into the floor.

7. A precious stone: see PRECIOUS *a.* 6 a.

c 825 *Vesp. Psalter* xviii. 11 [xix. 10] Wilsum ofer gold & stan. *c* 1200 ORMIN 8170 E33whær bisett Wiþþ deorewurrþe staness. *c* 1300 *Havelok* 1633 A gold ring drow he forth anon, An hundred pund was worth þe ston. 1340 *Ayenb.* 140 He louede betere þe bestes þet god him made þanne he dede gold oþer stones of pris. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Clerk's T.* 1062 With a coroune of many a riche ston Vp on hire heed. *c* 1475 *Rauf Coilȝear* 468 His Basnet was bordourit and burneist bricht With stanes of Beriall cleir, Dyamountis and Sapheir, Riche Rubeis in feir. 1503 DUNBAR *Thistle & Rose* 102 This lady..crownit him with dyademe Off radyous stonis. 1568 GRAFTON *Chron.* II. 383 A riche crowne of gold garnished with stone and pearle. 1594 SHAKS. *Rich. III*, I. iv. 27 Inestimable stones, vnvalewed Iewels. 1611 — *Cymb.* II. iv. 40 Sparkles this Stone as it was wont? 1753 *Lond. Mag.* Oct. 480/2 His buckles of stones, of five guineas price. 1910 H. A. MIERS in *Encycl. Brit.* VIII. 161/2 The River Diggings on the Vaal river are still worked upon a small scale..The stones, however, are good.

8. A lump of metallic ore. *Obs.* exc. in *stone of tin*, a lump of tin ore.

c 888 ÆLFRED *Boeth.* xxxiv. § 8 Þa gyldenan stanas, & þa seolfrenan, & ælces cynnes ȝimmas. 1778 W. PRYCE *Min. Cornub.* 81 A few Stones of Tin are found. 1895 *Times* 7 Jan. 3/4 The agents report good stones of tin coming from Trevannance engine shaft.

† **b.** = LOADSTONE. *Obs.*

1390 GOWER *Conf.* III. 293 He hath his rihte cours forth holde Be Ston and nedle, til he cam To Tharse. 1436 *Libel Eng. Policy* in *Pol. Poems* (Rolls) II. 191 Of Yseland to wryte is fytille nede;..Men have practised by nedle and by stone Thider-wardes wythine a lytel whylle. 1631 W. FOSTER *Sponge Weapon-salve* 25, I deny that the Loadstone doth worke upon the North-pole. The pole rather workes upon the stone.

9. = HAILSTONE.

1422 YONGE tr. *Secreta Secret.* 198 God keste ham downe wyth grete Stonys of hawle. 1606 SHAKS. *Ant. & Cl.* III. xiii. 160 If I be so, From my cold heart let Heauen ingender haile, And poyson it in the sourse, and the first stone Drop in my necke. 1753 *Scots Mag.* June 307/1 Some of the stones measured three inches about.

10. A hard morbid concretion in the body, esp. in the kidney or urinary bladder, or in the gall-bladder (GALL-STONE); also an intestinal concretion in some animals (*bezoar stone*: see BEZOAR 2 a): = CALCULUS 1. Also, the disease caused or characterized by the formation of such a concretion; lithiasis. (In hawks = CRAY 2.)

c 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* II. 238 Ðn þære blædran stanas weaxað. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* VII. lv. (1495) 268 Of gleymy humours in the reynes and in the bledder comyth the stone. 1483 CAXTON *Cato* e viij b, [Mustard] purgeth..the brayne and heyleth and breketh the stone. 1486 *Bk. St. Albans* C vij b, When yowre hawke may not metese then she hathe thatt sekenes calde the stoon. 1533 ELYOT *Cast. Helthe* (1541) 23 Chese ingendreth yll humours, and bredeth the stone. 1597 GERARDE *Herbal* II. ecccciii. 888 The seede and roote of Saxifrage drunken with wine.. breaketh the stone in the kidneies and bladder. 1620 VENNER *Via Recta* viii. 177 To liue fettered with gouts,..& tormented with stones. 1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* II. v. I. v. 474 Bezoar stone...I haue seene [some] that haue beene much displeased with faintnesse,..& taking the weight of three grains of this stone..haue beene cured. 1628 in Foster *Eng. Factories India* (1909) III. 206 Very sick, being newly cutt for the stone. 1709 STEELE *Tatler* No. 27 P 2 In the Pangs of the Stone, Gout, or any acute Distemper. 1797 M. BAILLIE *Morbid Anat.* (1807) 373 Stones have sometimes been found in the cavity of the uterus. 1846 G. E. DAY tr. *Simon's Anim. Chem.* II. 442 Of 59 small stones taken from a man aged 45 years, 24 consisted of urate of ammonia and 35 of uric acid. 1859 JEPHSON *Brittany* vii. 89 Mineral waters, said to be beneficial in cases of stone and dropsy. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* IV. 233 The stones may have passed into the bowel.

b. A hard natural formation in an animal.

See also *crab-stone* (CRAB *sb.*[1] 11), *ear-stone* (EAR *sb.*[1] 10).

1605 [see CRAB'S-EYE]. 1681 LOVELL *Hist. Anim. & Min.* Isagoge d 6, All kinds of stones found in the heads of fishes, powdred and drunk in wine, help the collick. *Ibid.* 190 Crab...The eyes or stones..breake the stone.

11. A testicle: chiefly in *pl. Obs.* exc. in vulgar use. (See also BALLOCK-*stone*.)

1154 *O. E. Chron.* an. 1124 ad fin., Six men spilde of here æzon & of here stanes. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) IV. 289 Þe rotynge of his priue stones. *a* 1450 *Knt. de la Tour* 71 They toke a knyff, and cutte awey the monkes stones. 1542 BOORDE *Dyetary* xviii. (1870) 277 The stones of a cockerell, & the stones of other beestes that hath not done theyr kynde, be nutrytyue. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* I. 163 The Toscanes hold Rammes stones fried for a great daintie. 1668 CULPEPER & COLE *Barthol. Anat.* Introd., The action of the Liver is blood-making, of the Stones, Seed-making. 1713 J. WARDER *True Amazons* 10 In the very shape of the Stones of a Lamb.

† **b.** In old names of various species of orchis, as DOGSTONES, *fool's stones* (FOOL *sb.*[1] 7 c), *fox-stones* (FOX *sb.* 16); hence used in *plural* as a generic term for 'orchis'. *Obs.*

1562 TURNER *Herbal* II. 152 Ye other kindes [of orchis] ar in other countrees called fox stones or hear stones, & they may after ye Greke be called dogstones. 1597 GERARDE *Herbal* I. xcvii. 155, I haue placed it..next vnto the Lillies, before the kinds of *Orchis* or stones. *Ibid.* xcviii. 156 *Tragorchis*, or Gotes stones:..*Testiculus odoratus*, or sweete smelling stones:..*Testiculus Pumilio*, or Dwarffe stones.

12. The hard wood-like endocarp of a *stone-fruit* or drupe, inclosed by the pulpy pericarp, and inclosing the seed or kernel. Also applied to the hard seeds of some pulpy fruits, as the grape.

1523–34 FITZHERB. *Husb.* § 140 Cheryes..maye be sette of stones. 1591 A. W. *Bk. Cookrye* 10 b, Great Raisins, the stones taken out. 1603 SHAKS. *Meas. for M.* II. i. 110 Cracking the stones of the foresaid prewyns. 1620 VENNER *Via Recta* vii. 120 In the eating of Grapes..that neither the skinnes, nor the kernels or stones in them be swallowed downe. 1796 WITHERING *Brit. Plants* (ed. 3) I. 252 Prunus. ..S[eed] Vessel nearly globular, pulpy, including a nut or stone. 1870 HOOKER *Stud. Flora* 108 Bird Cherry..Stone globose. 1882 VINES tr. *Sachs' Bot.* 122 The stone is the inner layer of the fundamental tissue of the same foliar structure of which the outer layers form the succulent flesh of the fruit.

13. A name for a domino.

1865 *Compl. Domino-player* 19 [At vingt-et-un] the dealer then slides the players one domino or stone each. 1870

Routledge's Ev. Boy's Ann. 274 Stones... The name by which the domino is called at vingt-et-un.

14. A measure of weight, usually equal to 14 pounds avoirdupois (¼ of a hundredweight, or half a 'quarter'), but varying with different commodities from 8 to 24 pounds. The stone of 14 lb. is the common unit used in stating the weight of a man or large animal. (Collective pl. usually *stone*.) See also STONE-WEIGHT.

1339 *Earl Derby's Exp.* (Camden) 76/16 Pro x stone lini. *a* 1400 *Sir Perc.* 2024 The clobe wheyhed reghte wele,..The hede was of harde stele, Twelve stone weghte! There was iryne in the wande, Ten stone of the lande. 1465 *Manners & Househ. Exp.* (Roxb.) 200 Item, in aparayll of the said shippe;..ropes for hyr srowde, the wyche weyid xv. stone iij. li., prise the stone, xxj.d. 1474 *Stat. Winch.* in *Cov. Leet Bk.* 396 The wich kepes weyght & mesure i li. the halfe C, xxv^ti li. the quartern, xij li. & halfe the halfe quartern, be wich was called of olde tyme beyng Stone of London, & vj li. & a quartern ys the halfe Stone, as it appereth in Magna Carta. 1483 in *Acta Dom. Concil.* (1839) 83*/2, ix stane of chese,..ten stane of butter. 1495 *Act* 11 *Hen. VII*, c. 4 § 2 Be it also enacted that ther be but only..xiiij lb. to the stone of Wolle. 1520 *Cov. Leet Bk.* 668 That no taloo be solde by-twene this & the next lete a-bove ij s. the Stoine. 1542 RECORDE *Gr. Artes* (1575) 203 In woolle..the 14 pounde is not named halfe quarterne, but a Stone. 1609 SKENE *Reg. Maj., Stat. Robt. III*, 56 b, The stane to wey woll and other things, sould haue fiuetene punds. Ane stane of walx, aucht. Twelue London punds makes ane stane. 1674 JOSSELYN *Two Voy.* 15 Of Sugar and Spice 8 pound make the stone. 1730 CHENY *List Horse-Matches* 68 Fourteen Hands to carry Nine Stone. 1825 R. P. WARD *Tremaine* I. xviii. 123 He rose up, as well as sixteen stone would permit. 1845 G. DODD *Brit. Manuf.* IV. 96 The wool comes in bags containing about ten stones each—a 'stone' in this commodity being twenty-four pounds. 1846 *Baxter's Libr. Pract. Agric.* I. 213 A calf..eighteen weeks old, weighing..33 stone. 1887 'M. RUTHERFORD' *Revol. Tanner's Lane* i. (ed. 8) 7 A drayman weighing about eighteen stone. 1913 *Times* 19 Aug. 14/5 Quotations per stone of 8 lb...Beef.. Mutton.

b. A piece of metal of this weight, used in weighing, or (as in quot.) as a standard.

1556 *Peebles Burgh Rec.* (1872) 235 The commoun stane to be put in sure keping in the commoun Kist.

15. In collectors' names of certain moths: see also MOCHA 1 2.

1775 M. HARRIS *Engl. Lepidoptera* 45 Phalæna...Stone, mocha...Stone, pale mocha. 1832 J. RENNIE *Consp. Butterfl. & Moths* 64 *Xylina*...The Stone (*X. petrificata*..) Wings ..pale grey brown. *Ibid.* 114 *Ephyra*...The Mocha Stone (*E. porata*..).

16. Proverbial phrases.

† **a.** *To boil, roast,* or *wash a stone*: to labour in vain, expend effort with no result. *Obs.*

1522 SKELTON *Why not to Court* 109 They may..elles go rost a stone. 1546 J. HEYWOOD *Prov.* II. ii. (1867) 46, I doo but roste a stone. In warmyng hir. *c* 1548 in Strype *Eccl. Mem.* (1822) II. ii. 316 Or els he washeth a stone, that is to say, he laboureth in vayne. 1895 *Westm. Gaz.* 22 May 6/1 Like the old saying:—'Boil stones in butter and you shall sup the broth.'

b. *To kill two birds with one stone*: to accomplish two different purposes by the same act or proceeding.

1656 [see BIRD 6]. 1696 *Growth of Deism in Eng.* 11 Thereby they kill two or three Birds with one stone. 1847 MRS. SHERWOOD *Fairchild Fam.* III. xxi. 273 So..she will be killing two birds with one stone.

c. *To leave no stone unturned* (also formerly *to move, roll,* or *turn every stone* or *all stones*): to try every possible expedient in order to bring about a desired result.

c 1550 *Dice-Play* B vj, He wil refuse no labor nor leaue no stone vnturned, to pick vp a penny. 1569 UNDERDOWNE *Heliodorus* VIII. 108 b, Now turne euery stoane, deuise al maner of meanes. 1600 HOLLAND *Livy* XXV. xxiii. 565 Hee would leave no stone unrolled, but trie all waies that could be devised. 1637 GILLESPIE *Eng. Pop. Cerem.* Epist. B 2 b, They make so much adoe, and move every stone against us. 1648 J. BEAUMONT *Psyche* x: lxx, Still he persever'd all stones to roll, Which might that one in Judas' Bosom move. 1670 G. H. tr. *Hist. Cardinals* II. iii. 190 [He] has left no stone unturn'd to arrive at his designs. 1791 BURKE *Corr.* (1844) III. 349 We shall not be negligent; no stone will be left unturned. 1873 STANLEY *Serm. East* 108 He left no stone unturned to do the work which was set before him.

d. (*a*) † *To roll the stone*: to discuss a matter (*obs.*). (*b*) *To set* († *put*) *a stone rolling*: to start a course of action which may lead to unforeseen, esp. disastrous, consequences. (*c*) Prov: *A rolling stone gathers no moss*: see MOSS *sb.* 3 b, ROLLING STONE 1. (*d*) † *To stand on a rolling stone* (etc.): to be in a precarious position where one is likely to fall or suffer disaster (*obs.*).

1581 R. GOADE in *Confer.* III. (1584) Q iiij, This stone hath bene rowled enough. 1592 KYD *Spanish Trag.* I. iii. 317 Whose foote is standing on a rowling stone. 1602 FULBECKE *Pandectes* 78 How murther hath beene punished..I haue shewed I hope sufficientlie..so that I shall not need here to rowle the same stone. 1613 SHAKS. *Hen. VIII* v. iii. 104, I told ye all When we first put this dangerous stone a rowling, 'Twold fall vpon our selues.

† **e.** *To spring* or *be sprung of* (*a, the*) *stone*: used in similative expressions indicating the absence of any known ancestry or kinsfolk. *Obs.*

1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 6720 Seint Edward in normandie was þo bileued al one As bar, as wo seiþ, of þe kunde as he sprong of þe stone. *a* 1300 *K. Horn* (Camb.) 1026 Horn him þede alone, Also he sprunge of stone. *a* 1400 *Sir Pere.* 1043 Als he ware sprongene of a stane, Thare na mane hym kende.

† **f.** *To take a stone* (*up*) *in the ear*: (of a woman) to lapse from virtue. *slang. Obs.*

1691 SHADWELL *Scowrers* II. 19 Did you see who went off with your Aunt! is she given to stumble? will she take a Stone in her Ear? 1702 T. BROWN *Lett. fr. Dead* Wks. 1730 II. 92 Madam, I much rejoice to hear, You'll take a stone up in your ear; For I'm a frail transgressor too.

g. *To throw* (*cast*) *a stone* or *stones* (*at*): to make an attack (upon), or bring an accusation (against). So *to cast the first stone* (in allusion to John viii. 7).

1568 *Sat. Poems Reform.* xlvii. 83 Quhat cummer castis the formest stane,..At tha peure winschis ze wrangus lie suspect. 1579 FULKE *Heskins' Parl.* 325 Will not all the Grammarians, Logicians, and Rhetoricians..throwe stones at him? *a* 1633 [see GLASS *sb.*¹ 1]. ·1670 [see GLASS WINDOW]. 1674 HICKMAN *Hist. Quinquart.* (ed. 2) 109 The Doctor, as if he were perfectly free from this crime, thus throweth his stones at others. 1754 SHEBBEARE *Matrimony* (1766) II. 102 Thee shouldst not throw stones, who hast a Head of Glass thyself. 1827 SCOTT *Chron. Canongate* v, It is not, however, prudent to commence with throwing stones, just when I am striking out windows of my own. 1869 [see GLASS-HOUSE 2].

h. *Stone of stumbling* († *scandal*, † *slander*, etc.): an occasion of scandal or stumbling, a stumbling-block (Vulgate *petra scandali*). † *Stone of touch* = TOUCHSTONE (*obs.*).

1382 WYCLIF *Isa.* viii. 14 The Lord..shal be..in to a ston ..of offencion [1388 a stoon of hirtyng], and in to a ston of sclaunder [COVERD. stone to stomble at, y^e rock to fall vpon; 1611 for a stone of stumbling and for a rocke of offence] to the two houses of Irael. 1604 A. CRAIG *Poet. Ess.* (1873) 13 Be thou the stone (precellent Prince) of tuch, For to secerne the honest mindes from such. 1639 S. DU VERGER *Camus' Admir. Events* III She was accounted as a stone of scandall which ought to bee cast forth of the City. 1695 tr. *Misson's Voy. Italy* II. 107 His Authority has been always a Stone of Stumbling to those who are wont to make Prejudice their Rule of Faith. 1911 B. NIGHTINGALE *Ejectd of 1662 in Cumbld. & Westmld.* I. 701 Hutchinson's error has..been quite a stone of stumbling to subsequent writers.

i. Phrases of comparison, with adjs. (*cold, dead, hard,* etc. as (*a*) *stone*): see 3 c.

17. *attrib.* passing into *adj.* **a.** Consisting of stone; made or built of stone.

a 1000 *Cædmon's Gen.* 1700 (Gr.) Him on laste þu stiðlie stántorr. *a* 1000 *Ruin* 39 (Gr.) Stanhofu stodan. 1402–3 *Durham Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 217, i stanetrogh et i tretrogh. 1420 *Engl. Misc.* (Surtees) 17 The stane house toward the kynges strete. *c* 1483 in Nicolas *Chron. Lond.* (1827) 7 In this yere the stone brigge of Londone was first begoune to make. 1552 HULOET, Stone crosse, *pyramis.* *a* 1578 LINDESAY (Pitscottie) *Chron. Scot.* (S.T.S.) I. 176 [He] bigit money stain house. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* (1637) 333 A very goodly stone bridge of arch-work. 1663 GERBIER *Counsel* 18 The Stone or wooden Figure. *a* 1672 WOOD *Life* (O.H.S.) I. 43 M. Anthony Wood..was borne in an antient stone-house opposite..Merton Coll. *a* 1728 WOODWARD *Fossils Method* II. 39 The Stone-Weapons,..were all cut out, and made, before the Discovery of Iron. 1766 SMOLLETT *Trav.* I. 351 The olives..are..ground into a paste by a mill-stone, set edge-ways into a circular stone-trough. *Ibid.* II. 46 A range of antient Roman stone-coffins. 1776 G. SEMPLE *Building in Water* 89 The Water that had fallen on the Urn from the Lime-stone..had petrified and made a Stone-crust on the outside thereof. 1805 R. W. DICKSON *Pract. Agric.* I. Plate XIII, A common stone roller..for rolling arable lands. 1820 SCOTT *Anne of G.* xiv, The sword, escaping from his hold, rolled on the stone floor with a heavy clash. 1833 TENNYSON *Lady Clara* 23 The lion on your old stone gates. 1837 DICKENS *Pickw.* xxii, At last he reached a stone hall. 1841 BREES *Gloss. Civil Engin.* 24 Stone blocks were introduced in place of wooden sleepers. 1908 [MISS E. FOWLER] *Betw. Trent & Ancholme* 29 A stone quern.

b. Made of stoneware; also *transf.* of ginger-beer contained in stoneware bottles.

c 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Mark xiv. 3 & mið-ðy zebrocen wæs þæt stan fæt to-dælde..ofer heafud his. 1479–81 *Rec. St. Mary at Hill* (1905) 101 Item, for a stone potte to put in oyle, j d ob. 1547 *Test. Ebor.* (Surtees) VI. 256 My stone cup withe the silver cover. *c* 1600 *Aec. Bk. W. Wray* in *Antiquary* XXXII. 80 Beate them well in a stone morter. 1626 in Jewitt *Life Wedgwood* (1865) 37 To grant vnto them our royall priveledge for 'The sole making of the Stone-Potte, Stone Jugge, and Stone Bottle', within our Dominions. 1642 *Rates of Merchandizes* 54 Stonebirds or Whistles. [Cf. *Ibid.* 57 Whistles, cocks or Birds of stone.] 1676 WORLIDGE *Vinet. Brit.* 103 Glass-bottles are preferr'd to Stone-bottles, because that Stone-bottles are apt to leak. *a* 1756 ELIZA HAYWOOD *New Present* (1771) 215 Always keep your pickles in stone jars. 1782 COWPER *Gilpin* 66 Mistress Gilpin..Had two stone bottles found, To hold the liquor that she lov'd. 1851–4 TOMLINSON *Cycl. Arts* (1867) II. 196/2 The contents of the basket are turned into a stone or iron vessel. 1884 *B'ham Daily Post* 28 July 3/4 Mineral-water Trade..stone beer. 1904 H. BESWICK *Last Karkawber* etc. 37 While I sipped my stone-ginger.

c. Applied to substances in a solid or massive (as distinct from liquid or powdered) form, as *stone alum*, STONE-BLUE, *stone ochre*, STONE-PITCH.

1608 TOPSELL *Serpents* 42 Mustard-seede three scruples, ..Stone-Allom and Opopanax, of either halfe an ounce. 1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 802 A thin coat of gold size..composed of stone ochre ground in fat oil.

d. Of, pertaining or relating to stone or stones (in various senses).

1826 A. C. HUTCHINSON *Pract. Observ. Surg.* 313 The paucity of stone cases occurring in tropical climates. 1833 LOUDON *Encycl. Archit.* § 1244 Constructing them..either on the wooden model or the stone model. 1879 RUSKIN *Hortus Incl.* (1887) 67 It is delightful of you to be interested in that stone book. 1911 W. W. SKEAT in *Folk-lore* (1912) XXIII. 60 The best-known stone superstition is that the celt was a thunderbolt.

e. *ellipt.* Belonging to the STONE AGE.

1864 J. HUNT tr. *Vogt's Lect. Man* xii. 340 The stone skull ..is still narrower than the Lapp skull. *Ibid.* 368 The stone people of Europe knew of no metal. 1880 DAWSON *Fossil Man* i. (1883) 7 The earlier Stone folk are known to us only by their graves.

f. (from II.) Of male domestic animals: Not castrated, entire, as *stone-ass, -colt, -ram,* STONE-HORSE; † hence allusively of men = lascivious, lustful, as *stone-priest, -puritan.*

1602 CHETTLE *Hoffman* II. (1631) C 3, I could helpe you now to a stone mule, a *stone-asse. *a* 1722 LISLE *Husb.* (1757) 355 A mare takes a stone-ass. 1691 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 2710/4 A Cream-coloured young *Stone-Colt. 1778 *Eng. Gazetteer* (ed. 2), Benager..near Mendip-hills; has a fair for stone colts at Whitsuntide. 1608 *Merry Devil Edmonton* iv. i. (facs.) E 1, The *stone Priest steales more reuenues then halfe the country. 1663 DRYDEN *Wild Gallant* v. ii, Who have I got, a Stone-Priest by this good Light. 1614 B. JONSON *Barth. F.* III. ii, Fine ambling hypocrites! and a *stone-puritane. 1764 *Ann. Reg.* II. 20/1 Their winter garment is made of deer or *stone-ram skins with the hair on.

g. With preceding numeral, forming an attrib. or adj. phrase, in sense (*a*) set with a (specified) number of (precious) stones; (*b*) weighing (so many) stone; hence *transf.* applied to the prize in a race in which the horses carry the specified weight.

1683 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1865/8 A Seven Stone Diamond Ring. 1705 *Ibid.* No. 4149/4 A 12 Stone Plate..will be run for..by Hunters.

18. Obvious Combinations (unlimited in number): **a.** attrib. as *stone-heap, -marl* (MARL *sb.*¹ 1 b), *-merchant, -quarry, -ship, -volley, -worship,* etc. **b.** objective, etc., as *stone-caster, -digger, -gatherer,* † *-graver, -hewer, -setter, -shooter, -worshipper*; *stone-casting, -cleaving, -darting, -eating, -moving, -rolling, -throwing, -worshipping* sbs. and adjs.; *stone-like* adj.; **c.** instrumental, locative, and parasynthetic, as *stone-builder*; *stone-arched, -bladed, -built, -coated, -edged, -faced, -floored,* † *-living* (living in stone), *-paved, -pillared, -ribbed, -roofed,* etc., adjs.; *stone-face* vb.

1822 SCOTT *Nigel* x, The old *stone-arched hall. 1893 H. BALFOUR in *6th Ann. Rep. Univ. Mus. Oxford* 24 *Stone-bladed axe. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. I. x. Spade-men, barrow-men, *stone-builders. 1913 SIR H. JOHNSTON *Pioneers Australasia* viii. 266 This vanished race of stone-builders whose works stretch across the Pacific. 1798 *Times* 28 June 4/1 A large *stone-built Farm House. 1598 GRENEWEY *Tacitus, Ann.* II. v. (1622) 39 The Captaine..commaunded the sling-casters and *stone-casters to let freely at them. *a* 1400 *Octovian* 895 At wrestelyng, and at *ston castynge, He wan the prys. 1644 DIGBY *Nat. Soul* Concl. 457 In halfe yeare nights;..in perpetuall *stonecleauing coldes. 1884 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* Suppl. 866/2 Stone cleaving Machine..for dividing granite. 1767 *Phil. Trans.* LVII. 411 A clean *stone-coated retort. 1769 PENNANT *Brit. Zool.* III. 145 The stone-coated worms which the fishermen call hadock meat. 1599 NASHE *Lenten Stuffe* 12 Their *stondarting engines. 1562 in *Archæologia* XXXVI. 301 To Dorye the *stone dyggere..for xxxiij. dayes dyggynge of stone and chalke. 1864 in *Life W. Pennefather* (1879) 389 Including stone-diggers, there were representatives from more than thirty..villages. 1815 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* xii. (1818) I. 391 The *stone-eating caterpillars recorded in the Memoirs of the French Academy..are now known to erode the walls..solely for the purpose of forming their cocoons. 1895 K. GRAHAME *Golden Age* 45 Terrace of shaven sward, *stone-edged. 1852 WIGGINS *Embanking* 125 The cost of *stone-facing a sea-bank. 1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* VIII. 375 Where huge and hilly lands Haue *stone-fac'd scurrile bounds. 1874 *Contemp. Rev.* Oct. 762 The churches are proud of their stone-faced interiors. 1841 DICKENS *Barn. Rudge* lviii, A *stone-floored room. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2396/2 **Stone-gatherer*, a machine for picking up loose surface stones in fields. 1894 LADY M. VERNEY *Verney Mem.* III. 132 Stone-gatherers should be set to work on some of the fields. 1530 TINDALE *Exod.* xxviii. 11 After the worke of a *stonegrauer..shalt thou graue the .ii. stones with the names of the children of Israel. 1904 SPENCER & GILLEN *North. Tribes Central Australia* xxiii. 671 A *stone-headed spear. 1382 WYCLIF 2 *Kings* x. 8 Puttith hem at the two *stone hepis [Vulg. *ad duos acervos*]. 1579–80 NORTH *Plutarch, Alcib.* (1595) 217 Many carpenters, masons, *stone hewers, and other workmen. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. vi. viii, Heavy Monge the Mathematician, once a stone-hewer. 1776 DA COSTA *Elem. Conchol.* 2 A Shell..a kind of *stone-like calcareous covering..in which the whole animal..lives included as in a house. 1855 LYNCH *Rivulet* XXVI. i, While the law on stone is written, Stone-like is the mighty word. 1631 W. FOSTER *Sponge Weapon-salve* 25 But of *Saxanimalia* *stone-living creatures never did I heare. 1760 R. BROWN *Compl. Farmer* II. 44 Cow-shut or *stone-marle is commonly found under clay. 1805 R. W. DICKSON *Pract. Agric.* I. 238 It is distinguished..into shell, clay, and *stone* marle..the stone marle has different proportions of sand united with the calcareous matter and the clay. 1610 HEALEY *St. Aug. Citie of God* XVIII. xiii. 678 The fictioh..of Amphion and his *stone-mooving musicke. *a* 1593 MARLOWE *Ovid's Elegies* III. i. 3 A *stone-paū'd sacred spring. 1819 SCOTT *Leg. Montrose* xiii, On the floor of a damp and stone-paved dungeon. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* VII. lvi. I. 188 Cadmus..found out *stone quarries first. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* III. vi. iii, He has to fly again, to skulk, round Paris, in thickets and stone-quarries. 1817 SCOTT *Harold* IV. i. 2 The long Gothic aisle and *stone-ribb'd roof. 1606 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. iv. I. *Tropheis* 1045 *Stone-rowling Tay. 1903 *Daily Chron.* 31 Mar. 9/1 Wheelbarrow races and stone-rolling competitions. 1825 R. WILSON. *Hist. Hawick* 56 The building..being *stone-roofed, was preserved. 1725 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 6432/5 Simon Dyer,..*Stone-setter. 1849 W. R. O'BYRNE *Naval Biog. Dict.* 850/2 An attempt to sink two *stone-ships at the entrance of the harbour. 1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) III. 700 Two archers, two slingers, three *stone-shooters. 1598 GRENEWEY *Tacitus, Ann.* XIII. ix. (1622) 191 The sling-

casters and *stone-throwers had a place appointed them. 1880 GOLDW. SMITH *Cowper* ii. 32 He..became the mark for a little *stone-throwing. 1881 W. E. FORSTER in T. W. Reid *Life* (1888) II. 321 An obstructing, stone-throwing mob. 1861 M. PATTISON *Ess.* (1889) I. 45 A *stone-vaulted kitchen. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. III. viii, It has passed from..duelling, to street-fighting; to *stone-volleys and musket-shot. 1838 AKERMAN in *Numism. Jrnl.* II. 216 The *stone-worship of the ancients illustrated by their coins. 1844 LINGARD *Anglo-Sax. Ch.* (1858) I. iv. 152 *note*, We forbid *stone-worshippings.

19. In adverbial comb. with adjs. or ppples., in similative sense (cf. phrases in 3), and hence occas. as a mere intensive (= very, completely): as in *stone-asleep*, †*-astonied*, *-cold*, *-dead*, *-deaf*, *-dumb*, *-hard*, †*-naked*, †*-old* (Sc. *stane-auld*), *-silent*; STONE-BLIND, also STONE-STILL *adv.* and *adj.* Also with adjs. of colour (which may also be used as sbs.), as *stone-brown*, *-buff*, *-grey*.

1826 HOOD *Last Man* 64 The folks were all *stone-asleep. 1596 R. L[INCHE] *Diella* (1877) 60 *Stone-astonied, like a Deare at gaze. 1894 R. B. SHARPE *Birds Gt. Brit.* I. 65 Eggs.—Four to six in number. Ground-colour, *stone-brown..scribbled and blotched all over with black. 1882–4 *Yarrell's Brit. Birds* (ed. 4) III. 561 The nestling is of a *stone-buff on the upper parts. 1592 BRETON *Pilgr. Paradise* (Grosart) 12/1 Thou *stone-colde hart. 1836 T. HOOK *G. Gurney* I. 139 The lamb was stone cold, and the fish boiled to pieces. 1855 MILMAN *Lat. Chr.* XIV. iii. (1864) IX. 123 His text-book was the rigid, stone-cold Sentences of Peter the Lombard. *c* 1290 *St. Agnes* 76 in *S. Eng. Leg.* 183 He fel a-doun *stan-ded. 1532 TINDALE *Expos. 1 John* (1537) 55 We were stone dead and wythout lyfe or power to do or consent to good. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* II. xi. 43 As when Ioues harnesse-bearing Bird from hie Stoupes at a flying heron.. The stone-dead quarrey fals. 1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* II. (Globe) 331 He dropt down stone-dead. 1888 BRYCE *Amer. Commw.* lxxxix. III. 217 Keep up the fight until it [the power of corruption] is stone dead. 1837 LOCKHART *Life Scott* (1839) IX. 197 A man almost literally *stone-deaf could not discharge..the highest duties of a parish-priest in a satisfactory manner. 1872 A. J. C. HARE *Story My Life* (1900) IV. xvi. 50 She is quite stone-deaf, so we..correspond on a slate. 1888 F. R. STOCKTON in *Century Mag.* Feb. 622, I did say to myself..Now Elizabeth is so *stone dumb that she'll jus' stay here an' do the little I tell her to do. 1878 TRIMEN *Regiments Brit. Army* 21 Its uniform when raised was *stone-grey. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 884, & steken þe 3ates *ston-harde wyth stalworth barrez. *a* 1400 *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* 618/222 Iewes ston-hard in sinnes merk. 1594 SHAKS. *Rich. III*, IV. iv. 227 The murd'rous Knife was dull and blunt, Till it was whetted on thy stone-hard heart. 1875 TENNYSON *Q. Mary* I. v, He is..Stone-hard, ice-cold—no dash of daring in him. *c* 1450 *Mirour Saluacioun* (Roxb.) 77 Ȝe tirvid hym *stone naked azeinward scornfully. *c* 1800 *Johnnie o Cocklesmuir* xi. in Child *Ballads* III. 9 By there came a *stane-auld man. 1862 CARLYLE *Fredk. Gt.* XII. X. (1865) IV. 235 Friedrich..was *stone-silent on this matter.

20. Special comb.: †**stone-bag**, ? a bag carried on board ship, containing stones to be used as shot; **stone-bark** *Bot.*, bark consisting chiefly of hardened and thickened cells (cf. *stone-cell*); **stone-barrow** [BARROW *sb.*[3]], a barrow for carrying stones; †**stone-binder** = OSTEOCOLLA; **stone-boiler**, one who practises *stone-boiling*; **stone-boiling**, the process of boiling water by putting hot stones in it, as practised by certain primitive tribes; **stone-brash** [BRASH *sb.*[2]], a subsoil consisting of loose broken stone; also *attrib.*; **stone-breaker**, a person employed in, or a machine used for, breaking stones; so **stone-breaking**; **stone-broke** *a. slang*, 'hard up', ruined (cf. *stony-broke*, STONY *a.* 6 c); **stone-buckle**, a buckle set with precious stones; **stone-butter** [after G. *steinbutter*; cf. *rock-butter* BUTTER *sb.*[1] 3], a name for alum occurring in soft masses greasy to the touch; **stone-canal** *Zool.*, a canal forming part of the water-vascular system in Echinoderms, usually with calcareous walls, leading from the madreporic plate to the circumoral water-vessel; †**stone-case**, (*a*) ? an enclosed millstone for grinding apples for cider; (*b*) a case to contain a stone; **stone-cell** *Bot.*, one of a number of greatly hardened and thickened cells occurring in certain plants; **stone-china**, a kind of stoneware (see quot. 1825); **stone circle** *Archæol.*, = CIRCLE *sb.* 12; †**stone-colic**, colic attributed to the presence of a stone in the kidneys (see 10); **stone-colour**, the (usual) colour of stone, a yellowish or brownish grey, also *attrib.*; so **stone-coloured** *a.*; **stone-crusher**, a machine for crushing or grinding stone, a stone-breaker; **stone-delf** (now *dial.*) a stone-quarry; †**stone-doublet** *slang*, a prison; †**stone-drawer**, (*a*) a surgical instrument for extracting a stone from the bladder; (*b*) a man who digs stone from a quarry, a quarryman; **stone-dresser**, one who dresses or shapes stone for building; also, a machine for this purpose; so **stone-dressing** (also *attrib.*); **stone-drop** (*nonce-wd.*), poetic name for a stalactite; **stone-eared** *a.*, 'hard of hearing', deaf (in quot. in *fig.* sense); **stone-eater**, a conjurer who pretends to swallow stones (see also 20 b); **stone-element** *Bot.*, a hard element of tissue (cf. *stone-cell*); **stone-engraving**, the art or process of engraving on stone, lithography; **stone era** = *stone period*; **stone-etching**, the art or process of etching on stone; **stone-eyed** *a.*, (*a*) ? having the eyes fixed or motionless; (*b*) dull-sighted, 'blind' (*fig.*); **stone-fall**, a fall of meteoric stones, or of loose stones on a mountain slope; **stone fence**, (*a*) a fence made of stones, a stone wall; (*b*) *U.S. slang*, name for various intoxicating drinks (see quots.); **stone-gall** [GALL *sb.*[2] 4]: see quot.; **stone-getter**, a workman who gets stone from a quarry, a quarryman; †**stone-glass** = *glass-stone* (see GLASS *sb.*[1] 16); **stone-grave**, †(*a*) = *stone-pit*; (*b*) a prehistoric grave containing stone implements (also *attrib.*); †**stone-grist**, ? the privilege of using a grind-stone; **stone-ground** *a.*, ground by means of millstones; cf. *stone-mill* (*c*); †**stone-gun**, a gun for firing stone shot; **stone-hammer**, a hammer for breaking or rough-dressing stones; **stone hand** (*Printing*) = STONEMAN[1] 1; **stone harmonicon**: see quot., and cf. *rock harmonicon* (ROCK *sb.*[1] 9); **stone-head**, the top of the stratum of solid stone or bed-rock beneath the loose or soft superficial deposit; also = next; **stone-heading** *Coal Mining*, a heading driven through stone or rock; **stone-hearted** (now *rare*) = STONY-HEARTED; **stone-heled** (-healed, -hilled) *a.* [HELE *v.*[2] 2], covered or roofed with stone (*obs.* or *dial.*); **stone-honey** (see quot.); †**stone-hook**, ? one of a pair of hooks for lifting blocks of stone; **stone-knife** *House-painting*, a larger form of palette-knife used for mixing colours on the slab; **stone-layer** (? *obs.*), a workman who lays stones in building (cf. *bricklayer*); **stone-laying**, the laying of stones in building; *spec.* the ceremonial laying of the foundation-stone of a public building, esp. a church; **stone-lifter**, (*a*) a machine for hoisting stones; (*b*) a name for the Australian fish *Kathetostoma læve*, of the family *Uranoscopidæ*; **stone-lime**, lime made from limestone (as distinguished from *chalk-lime*); **stone-marble** *Bookbinding*, one of the many ways of marbling books; † **stone marl** = next; **stone marrow** [after G. *steinmark*, latinized by Agricola as *stenomarga*], name for a kind of spongy limestone (= LITHOMARGE); **stone-mill**, (*a*) a mill for grinding stone, a stone-crusher; (*b*) a machine for dressing stones; (*c*) a mill in which millstones (not rollers) are used for grinding the flour; so **stone-milled** *a.* = *stone-ground*; †**stone-mushroom**, ? = *mushroom coral* (MUSHROOM 6 c); †**stone-nail**, ? a nail for fixing stone slates (cf. STONE-BROD); **stone-oil**, a name for a kind of bitumen (see quot. 1838), or for petroleum or rock-oil; also erron. applied to a mixture of petrosilex and water used as a glaze for pottery; **stone period** *Archæol.*, = STONE AGE; also, a portion of the stone age; also *attrib.*; **stone-pit**, a pit from which stones are dug, a quarry; **stone-plant**, †(*a*) a fossil or petrified plant (= ROCK-PLANT 1); (*b*) a plant growing in stony or rocky places (= ROCK-PLANT 2); **stone-pock** *Path.*, a hard suppurating pimple; a disease characterized by such pimples, as acne; **stone-polisher**, one engaged in polishing stones for building or other purposes; also, a machine for this purpose; so **stone-polishing** (also *attrib.*); **stone-printer**, a lithographic printer; **stone-put** *Sc.* [PUT *sb.*[1] 2] = STONE'S THROW; †**stone-roche** = ROCK *sb.*[1] 2 a; **stone-saw**, a saw, usually without teeth, for cutting stone into blocks or other shapes for building or other purposes; **stone-sawyer**, a man who works a stone-saw; **stone-sclerenchyma** *Bot.*, sclerenchyma or hard tissue formed of *stone-cells*; **stone-shower**, a shower or fall of meteoric stones; †**stone-shrub**, name for a kind of coral; **stone-slate**, a roofing slate made of thin stone; **stone-square** *Brewing*, a square fermenting-tank made of stone; **stone-squarer**, one who squares or shapes stone for building, a stone-cutter, stone-dresser; **stone tint** = *stone-colour*; **stone-turf**, ? a hard or compact kind of turf; **stone-user**, one who uses stone for weapons, etc., a man of the STONE AGE; so **stone-using** *a.*; †**stone-wring** (*Sc.* stane-), ? = *stone-colic*; **stone-yard**, a yard in which stone-breaking or stone-cutting is done; *fig.* a part of the sea full of rocks. See also STONE AGE, STONE-AX, STONE-BLIND, STONE-BOAT, STONE-BOW, etc.

1346 *MS. Acc. Exch. K. R.* 25/7 no. 2 In emendacione..iiij. anulorum ferri pro iiij. *stonbagges et ij. ligulis ferreis pro le top castel. 1388 in Nicolas *Hist. Royal Navy* (1847) II. 476, iii. stonebagges febles. 1884 BOWER & SCOTT *De Bary's Phaner.* 540 In other cases [these cells] form larger groups, ..inserted in the soft tissue, the number and size of which may increase in the older parts of the cortex..so that the old cortex has been appropriately termed '*stone-bark' by Hartig. *c* 1470 HENRYSON *Mor. Fab.* XIII. (*Frog & Mouse*) xx, To the war better beir the *stane barrow, Than to be matchit with ane wickit marrow. 1480–1 *Durham Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 96 Pro factura unius hollbarowe et 2 stanebarowes, 6*d.* 1791 G. WALLIS *Motherby's Med. Dict.* (ed. 3) 563/2 *Osteites*, *Osteocolla*, called also..*stone-binder. 1865 TYLOR *Early Hist. Man.* ix. 262 A North American tribe,..the Assinaboins or '*Stone-Boilers'. *Ibid.*, This intermediate process, which I propose to call *Stone-Boiling. 1883 tr. *Joly's Man before Metal* II. i. 204 *note*, The process known as 'stone-boiling', which consists in obtaining boiling water by means of stones heated directly in the fire and then dropped in the water. 1677 PLOT *Oxfordsh.* 242 Another sort of Land they call *Stone-brash, consisting of a light lean Earth and a small Rubble-stone. 1794 T. DAVIS *Agric. Wilts* 149 The stone-brash land in the north-west part of the district. 1860 *Times* 4 Jan. 10/5 A flinty soil sucks its surface dry, a thin Stonebrash soil lets the rain run through it. 1843 BETHUNE *Scott. Peasant's Fireside* 127 My attention was arrested by one of the *stonebreakers. 1868 *Rep. U. S. Commissioner Agric.* (1869) 355 The cost..has..been..reduced by the introduction of the 'Blake Stone-Breaker'. 1851 MAYHEW *Lond. Labour* I. 357 We found that we could obtain employment at *stone-breaking. 1873 *Spons' Dict. Engin.* VII. 2544 Blake's Stone-breaking Machine. 1888 RUTLEY *Rock-Forming Min.* 12 Not every kind of hammer..is suitable for stone-breaking. 1888 F. HUME *Mme. Midas* I. ii, I'm nearly *stone broke. 1889 BESANT *Bell St.-Paul's* I. 7 The stone-broke sporting man. 1748 SMOLLETT *Rod. Random* xliv, A set of *stone buckles for the knees and shoes. 1756 A. MURPHY *Apprentice* I. i, Wearing stone-buckles, and cocking his hat. 1796 KIRWAN *Elem. Min.* (ed. 2) II. 14 [Alum] is found in soft brittle masses, that feel somewhat greasy, and thence called by the Germans *Stone Butter. 1887 H. BURY in *Phil. Trans.* CLXXIX. II. 277 The tube thus formed..is the equivalent of the '*stone-canal' of other Echinoderms. 1664 DR. SMITH in *Evelyn's Pomona* 46 The Cider that is ground in a *Stone-case is generally accused to taste unpleasantly of the Rinds, Stems and Kernels of the Apples. 1664 PEPYS *Diary* 27 Aug., Thence to my case-maker for my stone case. [Cf. 19 Aug. *ante*..a case, for to keep my stone, that I was cut of, in.] 1884 BOWER & SCOTT *De Bary's Phaner.* 540 '*Stone-cells' in the external cortex. 1825 J. NICHOLSON *Oper. Mech.* 479 *Stone-china is formed of a compound of Cornish-stone and clay, blue clay, and flint. 1847 DICKENS *Haunted Man* I, It's surprising how stone-chaney cateches the heat, this frosty weather. 1827 HIGGINS *Celtic Druids* 234 From these stones, the place became called the place of the *stone circle. 1821 SCOTT *Ct. Robt.* XX, The practice of youths and maidens plighting their troth at the stone circles dedicated, as it was supposed, to Odin. 1901 *Scotsman* 12 Mar. 4/8 Six distinct varieties of stone circles. 1603 FLORIO *Montaigne* III. xiii. 651 Since I have had the *stone-chollike. 1695 *Phil. Trans.* XIX. 77 Nephritick Pains, commonly called, the Stone-Colick. 1663 GERBIER *Counsel* 83 A fair *Stone-colour in oyl. 1762–71 H. WALPOLE *Vertue's Anecd. Paint.* (1786) II. 193 In a corner in stone colour is a statue of peace. 1808 *Fashionable Biogr.* 75 Light stone-colour musquito pantaloons. 1894 R. B. SHARPE *Birds Gt. Brit.* I. 34 In some specimens the ground-colour of the egg is yellowish or creamy stone-colour. 1790 *Phil. Trans.* LXI. 254 A kind of light *stone-coloured varnish. *c* 1850 LYTTON in *Life & Lett.* (1883) I. 117 A comely plump matron in a stone-coloured silk gown. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2392/1 *Stone-crusher*, a mill for grinding stone or ore. 1912 *Blackw. Mag.* Aug. 265 These wagons are emptied direct into a stone-crusher. ? 1972 *Charter of Eadgar* in Birch *Cartul. Sax.* III. 586 Andlang sices to þan *stan ȝedelfe. 1356 in Owen & Blakeway *Hist. Shrewsbury* (1825) II. 462 Versus le Whyte stanydelf. 1894 *Yorks. Weekly Post, Xmas No.* 1, Boggart Hole is a forsaken stone-delf. 1694 MOTTEUX *Rabelais* IV. xii, In danger of miserably rotting within a *stone Doublet. 1767 THORNTON tr. *Plautus* II. 322 *note*, He talks of the prison as of a garment; like as the cant-word is with us,..a Stone-doublet. 1775 JEKYLL *Corr.* (1894) 19 A stone doublet, which fathers have a legal right to clap upon their sons for extravagance. 1597 A. M. tr. *Guillemeau's Fr. Chirurg.* 16 b/2 A little *stone-drawer, may be vsed to drawe out a bullet. 1703 T. N. *City & C. Purchaser* 19 An ancient experienced Stone drawer. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade*, **Stone-dresser*, one who tools, smooths, and shapes stone for building purposes. 1875 [see STONE-CUTTER 1 b]. 1845 *Builder* 15 Feb. 83/2 *Stone Dressing Machinery. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* IV. 728 Constant exposure to dust.. as in..stone-dressing. 1810 SOUTHEY *Kehama* XIII. v, Hung Like *stone-drops from the cavern's fretted height. 1895 *Dublin Rev.* Apr. 356 Had Mr. Swinburne been less stone-eyed and less *stone-eared. 1820 SCOTT *Monast.* Answ. Introd. Ep., The guisards, the *stone-eater, and other amusements of the season. 1884 BOWER & SCOTT *De Bary's Phaner.* 127 The *stone-elements ('stone-cells' of the Pharmacologists), so called after the stony bodies in the flesh and stalk of many pears, which are composed of them. 1891 *Century Dict.*, *Stone-engraving. 1911 MCEWEN *Hist. Ch. Scot.* I. vii. 144 The Scottish type of Stone-engraving. 1873 MATH. BLIND tr. *Strauss' Old Faith & New* 231 This *stone-era already bears a certain stamp of civilization. 1807 J. LANDSEER *Lect. Engraving* 143 The *Stone-etching is calculated..to render a faithful fac-simile of a painter's sketch. 1890 HALL CAINE *Bondman* I. v, Stephen Orry grew woe-begone and *stone-eyed. 1895 [see *stone-eared* above]. 1868 LOCKYER *Elem. Astron.* § 316 A third *stonefall occurred at Orgueil, in the south of France, on the..14th of May, 1864. 1901 *Westm. Gaz.* 26 July 5/3 The mountain this year is more difficult than usual...Stone-falls have been frequent. 1809 *Stone-fence [see COBBLER 3]. 1844 'JON. SLICK' *High Life New York* I. 37, I might as well a been talking to a stun fence. 1856 KINGSLEY in *Life & Lett.* xiv. (1879) II. 29 Climbing cliffs, and shoving down stone fences. 1859 FOWLER *Southern Lights* 52 *A Stone-fence*. Ginger-beer and brandy. 1872 SCHELE DE VERE *Americanisms* 217 Now he is asked to take a Stone Fence, and now a Railroad, but both are simple whiskey. 1889 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 20 June 3/2 'Stone fence' is the euphonious cognomen given to whisky which is drunk with cider instead of water. 1850 OGILVIE, **Stone-gall*, the name given by workmen to a roundish mass of clay, often occurring in variegated sandstone. Stone-galls lessen the value of stones for building. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 394/1 The Mattock..is much used with *stone

Getters in Quarries. 1870 *Inquiry Yorksh. Deaf & Dumb* 4 He has been employed as a stone-getter, and stone-dresser. 1585 HIGINS *Junius' Nomencl.* 413/2 Glasse stone, or *stone glasse, which may be cut into very small and thin panes, which in old time they vsed in stead of glasse windowes. *c* 1205 LAY. 31881 þat folc flah in to wuden..leien in þa *stan-graffen. 1878 J. C. SOUTHALL *Epoch of Mammoth* xv. 264 Another find of this sort..occurring in a large stone-grave near Stubnitz. 1883 *Science* II. 25/1 Mound-builders and stonegrave people. 1235–52 *Rentalia Glastonb.* (Somerset Rec. Soc.) 224 Henricus Faber pro j *stanegrist xijd. per annum. ? 1905 *Macm. Mag.* Nov. 50 It is hoped the public are beginning to insist upon having *stone-ground flour. 1495 *Naval Acc. Hen. VII* (1896) 194 *Stone gonnes of yron in the Wast of the seid Shipp. 1411 in *Finchale Priory Charters* etc. (Surtees) p. clviii, Item ij *stanehammers. Item ij hamers pro sclattis. 1533–4 in W. H. St. John Hope *Windsor Castle* (1913) I. 264 For iij stone hamors ffor the bryklayers to work wyth...xviij[d]. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2398/1 *Stone-hammer*, a chipping hammer used by stone-masons in rough-dressing stone. 1896 *Daily News* 7 Dec. 12/5 Overseer wanted for Evening and Weekly. Must be a..smart *stone hand. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.*, **Stone Harmonicon*, a musical instrument consisting of a number of bars or slabs of stone,..played like the dulcimer. 1708 J. C. *Compl. Collier* (1845) 15 To dig till we sink down to the *Stone head. 1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-mining* 242 *Stone-head.* 1. A heading driven in stone. 2. (N.) The first hard stratum met with underlying quicksand. 1892 *Labour Commission* Gloss., **Stone Headings*, Drivages other than coal formed in stone. 1569 T. NORTON *Warn. agst. Papists* A ij, He is obstinately *stone harted. 1640 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Differing Worships* 9 St. Steven..prayd..For his stone-hearted stony enemies. 1899 *Daily News* 11 Oct. 8/4, I would not be stone-hearted. 1578 LYTE *Dodoens* I. xxxii. 46 Tyled, or *stone healed houses. *Ibid.* II. iii. 151 Olde walles & stonehilled houses. 1623 G. MARKHAM *Eng. Housew.* 47 Take the iuice of red Fennell, and the iuyce of Sen greene and *stone hony, and mixe them very well together. 1623 C. BUTLER *Fem. Mon.* vi. (1634) 108 While it continueth liquid,..it is called Live-hony, when it is turned white and hard (euen like unte sugar) it is called Corn-hony, or Stone-hony. 1814 tr. *Klaproth's Trav. Cauc.* 263 The stone-honey..is dissolved in water, and drunk. 1909 *Westm. Gaz.* 14 Apr. 4/1 The Chinese histories of 1,800 years ago,..frequently speak of 'stone honey' as coming from Tonquin and the various States of India. 1396–7 *Durham Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 214, 1 par de *stanhokes. 1426–7 *Rec. St. Mary at Hill* (1905) 66 A peire stone hokis. 1875 E. A. DAVIDSON *House-painting*, etc. 1 A *Stone Knife. 1562 in *Archæologia* XXXVI. 301 To one other *stone leyere for x dayes,..iiij s. ij d. 1669 *Canterb. Marriage Licences* (MS.), John Mathewes,..stonelayer. 1562 in *Archæologia* XXXVI. 302 In Masonrye worke and *stone leynge. 1898 J. T. FOWLER *Durham Cathedral* 22 On the occasion of the stone-laying. 1884 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* Suppl. 867/1 **Stone lifter.* Shepherd's lifter..has a pair of eccentric lever griping jaws, pivoted in a frame. 1898 MORRIS *Austral Eng.* 441 *Stone-lifter*, a Melbourne name for the fish *Kythetostoma læve.* 1709 MORTIMER *Husb.* (1721) I. 86 The *Stone-Lime is much the best for Land. 1847 A. SMEATON *Builder's Man.* 27 Builders are accustomed..to use more sand with stone-lime than with chalk-lime. 1818 *Art Bookbinding* 82 *Stone marble. 1681 GREW *Museum* III. § iii. iii. 347 *Stone Marrow. *Stenomarga Agricolæ*, i. e. *Saxi Medulla*: because found between the Commissures of great Stones. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 771 Spongy limestone, usually called Agaric mineral, stone marrow, etc. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2398/2 *Stone-mill. 1901 *Daily Chron.* 7 Aug. 7/6 Bread composed of *stone-milled flour. 1687 *Stone-Mushromes [see *stone-shrub*]. 1469–70 in Swayne *Churchw. Acc. Sarum* (1896) 13 Et in iiij m'l clauis voc' *stone nayle occupatis supra Capellam be' Marie. 1586 *Shuttleworths' Acc.* (Chetham Soc.) 31 For a quarterone of a thousand of stone nalles, vj[d]. 1612 *Ibid.* 201 Twoe hundreth of stone naile for the leades, vij[d]. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 300/1 Stone Nails, or Lath Nails. 1838 T. THOMSON *Chem. Org. Bodies* 721 This bitumen [found at Bechelbronn (Bas Rhin)]..is known in the neighbourhood under the name of *stone oil. 1880 JANVIER *Practical Keramics* 154 The proportions..for the best glaze are about ten of petrosilex and water (stone-oil) to one of lime and water (fern oil, lime oil). 1849 W. J. THOMS tr. *Worsaae's Primeval Antig. Denmark* 11, iii. 106 The cromlechs of the *stone-period. 1864 J. HUNT tr. *Vogt's Lect. Man* xii. 342 The Lapps present..in their cranial structure a greater affinity with the stone-period people than with the Romanic-type. 1880 DAWSON *Fossil Man* i. (1883) 11 A still earlier Stone period, that more properly named the Palæolithic, appears to be indicated by [etc.]. *c* 1325 in *Kennett's Par. Antiq.* (1818) I. 570 Quatuor rodæ terræ jacent super le *Staneputtes. 1525 in *Archæologia* XXV. 478 For dyggyng of xliiij lode of stone & for makyng of the stone pytte. *a* 1723 WOODWARD *Nat. Hist. Fossils* I. (1729) 107 Found frequently in the Stone-pits about Oxford. 1859 *Sporting Mag.* Jan. 4 [The fox] went to ground in a stone-pit. 1676 *Phil. Trans.* XI. 736 In a Mine where the *Stone-plants grow. 1883 STEVENSON *Silverado Squatters* 236 About the spurs of the tall pine, a red flowering stone-plant hung in clusters. 1818–20 E. THOMPSON *Cullen's Nosol. Meth.* (ed. 3) 342 Acne; *Stone Pock. 1822–9 *Good's Study Med.* (ed. 3) V. 584 When this species becomes inflamed, it lays a foundation for a varus or stone-pock. 1704 *Collect. Voyages & Trav.* III. 656/1 The *Stone-Polishers make them thinner. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.*, **Stone-polishing Machine*, a machine for giving the final dressing and gloss to the surface of stone. 1819 J. HODGSON in J. Raine *Mem.* (1857) I. 260, I called..at a *stoneprinter's in Lincoln's Inn Fields. 1896 N. MUNRO *Lost Pibroch* (1902) 70 A *stone-put further. *c* 1200 *Vices & Virtues* 45 For us eft to warnin wið ðo *stanroches of ðe harde hierte. 1843 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* I. 169 The *stone-saw, a smooth iron blade fed with sand and water. 1890 'M. RUTHERFORD' *Miriam's Schooling* etc. 155 He sat at one end of the heavy stone-saw, with David Trevenna,..at the other. 1845 G. DODD *Brit. Manuf.* IV. 17 If we watch..a *stone-sawyer, we shall..see that the saw frequently 'jars'. 1884 BOWER & SCOTT *De Bary's Phaner.* 540 The formation of *stone-sclerenchyma. 1687 A. LOYELL tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* I. 166 We bought of these poor Greeks several stone-Mushromes, which in that place are got out of the Red-sea; as also small *Stone-shrubs, or branches of Rock, which they call white Coral. 1530 PALSGR. 706/1, I sclate a house with *stone slates, *je couuers de pierre.* 1880 SIR E. BECKETT *Bk. Building* (ed. 2) 183 In some places a thin kind of stone slates are used,..they make picturesque roofs but rather heavy. 1882 E. G. HOOPER *Man. Brewing* (ed. 2) 237 There is another system of fermentation..known as the *stone-square system. The fermenting tank here is a large square, constructed of stone. 1888 F. FAULKNER *Mod. Brewing* (ed. 2) 187 The original closed box, denominated a Yorkshire stone square. 1611 BIBLE 1 *Kings* v. 18 And Solomons builders, and Hirams builders, did hewe them, and the *stone-squarers. 1833 LOUDON *Encycl. Archit.* § 235 The cement chimney shafts to be coloured..of a good warm *stone tint. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XII. 105/2 That called in England by the name of *stone-turf contains a considerable proportion of peat. 1915 H. R. HALL *Anc. Hist. Near East* ii. 32 The earlier Greeks..were still *stone-users. 1870 GREENWELL in *Trnl. Ethnol. Soc.* (N. S.) II. 420 The supply of flint [at Grime's Graves], in itself a mine of wealth to a *stone-using people. *c* 1500 *Rowlis Cursing* 61 in Laing *Anc. Poet. Scot.*, The *stane-wring, stane and stane blind. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade*, **Stone-yard*, a contractor's or other yard where paupers are set to break stones. 1886 STEVENSON *Kidnapped* xiii. 115 If I had kent of these reefs..it's not sixty guineas..would have made me risk my brig in sic a stoneyard! 1899 A. C. BENSON *Life Abp. Benson* I. v. 161 A small walled garden..with a rockery of broken carvings from the stone-yards.

b. In names of animals, as **stone-bass**, † (*a*) a fish of the genus *Pagrus*, found in the West Indies; (*b*) a fish of the genus *Polyprion* (family *Serranidæ*), characterized by a bony ridge on the operculum, and serrated spines on the anal and ventral fins; **stone-bird**, (*a*) the vinous grosbeak = MORO [3]; (*b*) = *stone-snipe* (*a*); **stone-biter**, (*a*) the hawfinch; (*b*) *Orkney & Shetl.* the common cat-fish or wolf-fish [= Icel. *steinbítr*, Da. *stenbider*, Norw. *steinbit*, Du. *steenbijter* (Kilian)]; **stone-borer**, a bivalve mollusc that bores into stones or rocks; **stone-cat**, a N. American fresh-water cat-fish of the genus *Noturus*; **stone-centipede**, a centipede of the family *Lithobiidæ*, found in stony places; **stone-coral**, hard or scleroderm-atous (as distinguished from sclerobasic), or massive (as distinguished from branching) coral; **stone-crab**, (*a*) name for various species of crab (see quots.); (*b*) applied locally in *U.S.* to the dobson or hellgrammite, the larva of a neuropterous insect, used as a bait in angling; **stone-crawfish**, a European species of crawfish or crayfish, *Astacus torrentium*; **stone-cricket**, a wingless insect of the genus *Ceuthophilus* or other genera of *Locustidæ*, found under or among stones; **stone curlew**, see CURLEW 3; **stone-eater**, = *stone-borer*; **stone falcon** [G. *steinfalke* (Gesner)], a name for the merlin; **stone-fish**, a name for various fishes harbouring under stones (see quots.); **stone-flower** = STONE-LILY; **stone-fox** [= Du. *steenvos*], the Arctic fox, *Canis lagopus*; † **stone-grig** [GRIG *sb.*[1] 3], local name for a species of eel or lamprey; **stone hawk** = *stone falcon*; **stone-lifter** (see 20 a); **stone-loach**, a species of loach, *Cobitis barbatula*; **stone-lugger** = *stone-roller*; **stone-marten**, the beech-marten (*Mustela foina*), or its fur; **stone-owl**, *U.S.* the saw-whet owl, *Nyctala acadica*, which frequents quarries or rocks; **stone-pecker** (*Sc.* **stane-**), local name for the TURNSTONE, and for the purple sandpiper, *Tringa striata* or *maritima*; **stone-perch**, a small fish allied to the perch (= POPE *sb.*[1] 4, RUFF *sb.*[1] 2); **stone-piercer** = *stone-borer*; **stone-plover**, see PLOVER 2; **stone-roller**, name for two N. American fresh-water fishes (see quots., and cf. *stone-lugger* and *stone-toter*); **stone-runner**, a name for the ringed plover, or the dotterel; also applied to some species of sandpiper; **stone-snipe**, (*a*) the stone-curlew, *Œdicnemus scolopax*; (*b*) a large N. American bird of the snipe family, *Totanus melanoleucus*; also applied to other species of *Totanus*; **stone-sponge**, a lithistid sponge; **stone-sucker**, a fish belonging or allied to the genus PETROMYZON, a LAMPREY (see the etymologies of these words); **stone-thrush**, a local name of the missel-thrush; † **stone-tivet** [? TEWHIT], ? the lapwing; **stone-toter** [TOTE *v.*], a N. American fresh-water fish, *Catostomus* or *Hypentelium nigricans*, also called *stone-lugger* or *stone-roller* (see quot. 1817); also applied to the genus *Exoglossum*. See also STONEBUCK, STONECHAT STONE-FLY, STONEHATCH, STONE-SMATCH.

1698 FRYER *Acc. E. India & P.* 12 There is another Fish they call a *Stone-Bass,..of a Colour sandy, but has a Relish equal to our Soles. 1725 SLOANE *Jamaica* II. 286 *Pagrus totus argenteus*. A Stone-Basse. This is taken in all the Rivers of this Island,..they are altogether of a white Colour, and are..one of the best sort of Fish they have in Jamaica. 1822 COUCH in *Trans. Linn. Soc.* XIV. 81 Sciæna...Stone Basse—This species, which is common in more southern latitudes..approaches the Cornish coast under peculiar circumstances. When a piece of timber covered with Barnacles is brought by the currents from the regions which these fishes inhabit, considerable numbers of them sometimes accompany it. 1883 *Fisheries Exhib. Catal.* 270 Special Line, ..used in fishing for Stone Bass or Wreck-fish. 1731 MEDLEY *Kolben's Cape G. Hope* II. 157 There are in the Cape countries great numbers of Haw-Finches...They are call'd likewise *Stone-Biters. 1743 *Phil. Trans.* XLII. 612 Other Fish, as Sharks, Holly-butts,..Stone-biters. 1854 A. ADAMS etc. *Man. Nat. Hist.* 153 *Stone-borers (Saxicavidæ). 1882 JORDAN & GILBERT *Syn. Fishes N. Amer.* 97 *Naturus*, *Stone Cats. 1854 A. ADAMS etc. *Man. Nat. Hist.* 266 *Stone-Centipedes (Lithobiidæ). 1880 F. P. PASCOE *Zool. Classif.* 32 Sclerodermata. (*Stone-corals.) 1713 PETIVER *Aquat. Anim. Amboinæ* Tab. i, *Cancer saxatilis*..*Stone Crab. 1853 T. BELL *Stalk-eyed Crustacea* 165 Northern Stone-crab. *Lithodes Maia*. 1884 GOODE *Nat. Hist. Aquat. Anim.* 772 The Stone Crab, *Menippe mercenarius*,..is one of the two edible species of Crabs occurring upon the Southern Atlantic coast of the United States. 1815 S. BROOKES *Conchol.* 157 *Stone Eater. *Mytilus lithophagus.* 1854 WOODWARD *Mollusca* II. 243 The boring shell-fish have been called 'stone-eaters' (lithophagi). 1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.*, **Stonefaulcon* (*Lithofalcus*..) so called from the stones and rocks where she eyries, or builds her nest. 1678 RAY *Willughby's Ornith.* II. ix. 80 The Stone-falcon,..*Falco Lapidarius.* 1862 WOOD *Illustr. Nat. Hist.* II. 77 The Merlin..from this habit of perching on pieces of stone..has derived the name of Stone Falcon. 1668 CHARLETON *Onomast.* 135 *Alphestes*..Belgis Stein-Fish, i. e. *Stone-fish. 1710 SIBBALD *Hist. Fife* 51 *Gunnellus Cornubiensium*, the Butter Fish of the English, our Fishers call it the Stone-fish. 1881 DAY *Fishes Gt. Brit.* I. 204 Shanny or shan:..Stone-fish, Parnell. 1896 *Strand Mag.* XII. 354/2 Another fish that is unpleasant to meet is that known as the stone-fish. It is small,..but its bite is poisonous. Apparently, it makes its home under the pearl shell, for it is only when picking up a shell that a diver is bitten. 1847 ANSTED *Anc. World* iii. 49 The simple forms of the crinoids or *stone-flowers. 1832 J. BREE *St. Herbert's Isle* 48 Through the night the hungry *stone-fox howls. 1884 *Chamb. Jrnl.* 5 Jan. 10/2 The stone-foxes and wolverines having destroyed the provision depôts. 1666 MERRETT *Pinax* 188 *Lampetra parva fluviatilis*..*Herefordiensibus*, a *Stone Grig. 1736 AINSWORTH, The *stone hawk, *lithofalco.* 1863 H. G. ADAMS *Birds of Prey* 46 The Merlin..makes its..nest..in the holes generally amid pieces of rock, hence one of its common names, Stone or Rock Hawk. 1825 HONE *Every-day Bk.* I. 697 When he essay'd to war on dace, bleak, bream, *stone-loach or pike. 1883 DAY *Fishes Gt. Brit.* II. 204 Stone-loach, due to its fondness for secreting itself beneath a stone. 1882 JORDAN & GILBERT *Syn. Fishes N. Amer.* 130 *Catostomus nigricans*, Stone Roller, Hammer-head; *Stone-lugger. *Ibid.* 149 *Campostoma anomalum*, Stone-roller; Stone-lugger. 1841 J. H. FENNELL *Nat. Hist. Quadrupeds* 106 *note*, Besides beech marten, it is called *stone marten, martern, marteron, martlett, and mouse-hunt. 1882 GAMBELL & SAWARD *Dict. Needlework* 463/1 Stone Marten..This fur is much esteemed throughout Europe. 1869–73 T. R. JONES *Cassell's Bk. Birds* II. 87 The *Stone Owls (*Athene*). *Ibid.* The Stone Owl Proper (*Athene noctua*). 1904 *Brit. Med. Jrnl.* 17 Sept. 644 Transformations undergone by a blood parasite of the stone-owl when taken into the stomach of a mosquito. 1731 MEDLEY *Kolben's Cape G. Hope* II. 157 The *Stone-pecker. The Dutch call this Bird *Strand Loper*, i. e. Shore-Courser. 1885 SWAINSON *Prov. Names Birds* 187 Turnstone ..Stanepecker (Shetland Isles). *Ibid.* 194 Purple Sandpiper (*Tringa striata*)..Stanepecker (Shetland Isles). 1888 GOODE *Amer. Fishes* 2 The *Stone-perch, Pope, Ruffe,..which somewhat resembles the Perch,..is..not found in America. 1713 PETIVER *Aquat. Anim. Amboinæ* Tab. 19/13 *Pholas*..*Stone Peircer. 1768 PENNANT *Brit. Zool.* (1776) I. 293 This [red-headed Linnet] seems to be the species known about London under the name of *stone redpoll. 1802 MONTAGU *Ornith. Dict.*, s. v. *Redpole*, Lesser, Numbers [are] frequently taken about London..: it is there called Stone Redpole. 1882 *Stone Roller [see *stone-lugger*]. 1681 GREW *Museum* I. § 4 iv. 77 The Egg of a *Stonerunner. 1802 MONTAGU *Ornith.* s. v., *Stone-runner*, many of the Sandpipers so called. 1849 *Zoologist* VII. 2392 The ringed plovers are 'stone-runners'. 1785 PENNANT *Arct. Zool.* II. 468 *Stone Snipe. With a black bill: head, neck, and breast spotted with black and white...Double the size of a Snipe. 1864 WEBSTER, *Stone-snipe*,..a large snipe (*Gambelia melanoleuca*), common in the United States. 1887 *Cassell's Encycl. Dict.*, *Stone-snipe*, stone-curlew,..*Œdicnemus scolopax*. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl., *Petromyzon*, the *stone sucker,..a genus..comprehending the lamprey, etc. 1851 GOSSE *Nat. Hist., Fishes* 319 *Petromyzonidæ*. (Stone-suckers.) 1885 SWAINSON *Prov. Names Birds* 2 Missel Thrush...*Stone thrush (Dorset). 1579 HAKE *Newes out of Poules* iv. (1872) Dijb, *Stonetiuets, Teale, and Pecteales good, with Busterds fat and plum. 1817 PAULDING *Lett. fr. South* (Bartlett), The most singular fish in this part..is..the *Stone-toter, whose brow is surmounted with several little sharp horns, by the aid of which he totes small flat stones..in order to make a snug little inclosure for his lady. 1868 SIR J. RICHARDSON etc. *Mus. Nat. Hist.* II. 123 The species of *Exoglossum* are named 'Stone-toters,' because they pile up little heaps of small stones, among which they deposit their spawn.

c. In names of plants (either growing in stony places, or having some part hard like stone), or their fruits, etc.: as † **stone apple** = *stone pippin*; **stone basil**, the wild basil, *Calamintha Clinopodium*, or basil-thyme, *C. Acinos*; **stone-beech**, a variety of the common beech (see quot.); **stone-berry**, the dwarf cornel of N. America, *Cornus canadensis*; **stone-brake**, the rock-brake or parsley-fern, *Allosorus crispus*; **stone bramble**, a species of bramble, *Rubus saxatilis*, growing in stony places, with bright red fruit; **stone-clover**, = HARE'S-FOOT 1; **stone-fern**, *Asplenium Ceterach*; also applied to other ferns growing in stony places (see quots.); † **stone-grape**, ? a grape with stones or hard seeds; **stone-leek**, the rock or Welsh onion, *Allium fistulosum*; in quot. 1904 app. misused for HOUSELEEK; **stone-lichen**, any lichen growing on stones or rocks; spec. *Parmelia*

saxatilis (= STANERAW); **stone liverwort** = LIVERWORT 1; **stone-mint**, the American dittany, *Cunila Mariana*; †**stone-moss**, ? the orchil lichen, *Roccella tinctoria*; **stone orpine**, *Sedum reflexum*; †**stone-pepper**, an old name for STONECROP; †**stone pippin**, a variety of apple (? with hard fruit); **stone-root**, a N. American aromatic labiate herb, *Collinsonia canadensis*, also called *horse-balm* or *rich-weed*; †**stone-rue**, an old name for the fern WALL-RUE, *Asplenium Ruta-muraria*; **stone-seed**, English rendering of *Lithospermum*, a genus of *Boraginaceæ*, so-called from their hard 'seeds' or capsules; **stone-turnip**, a variety of turnip; **stone-weed**, (*a*) = *stone-seed*; (*b*) local name for knotgrass, *Polygonum aviculare*; (*c*) ? a weed growing on stone or rock; **stonewood**, name for various trees with very hard wood (see quots.), or the wood itself. See also STONEBREAK, STONECROP, etc.

1741 *Compl. Family-Piece* II. iii. 383 Apples. [July.] Deux Ans or John Apple, *Stone Apple, Oaken Pin. 1597 GERARDE *Herbal* II. ccxiii. 548 *Acynos*. *Stone Basill. 1886 BRITTEN & HOLLAND *Plant-n.*, Basil, Field, Stone, or Wild: Book-names for *Calamintha Clinopodium* and *C. Acinos*. 1884 BOWER & SCOTT *De Bary's Phaner.* 532 An..individual variation in those stems of Fagus silvatica occasionally occurring which are called *Stone-beeches, and are conspicuous from their thick, furrowed bark. 1837 P. H. GOSSE in *Life* (1890) 107 Here the scarlet *stoneberry (*Cornus Canadensis*) was abundant. 1796 WITHERING *Brit. Plants* (ed. 3) III. 304 Stone Fern. Crisped Fern. Parsley Fern. *Stone Brakes. 1744 J. WILSON *Synopsis Brit. Plants* 117 *Chamærubus saxatilis*...The *Stone-bramble, or Raspis. 1552 HULOET, *Stoneferne herbe, *Asplenium, Citrac, Scolopendra*. 1777 JACOB *Catal. Plants* 38 *Pteris aquilina*, Small-branched Stone-Fern. 1796 [see *stone-brake*]. 1820 T. GREEN *Univ. Herbal* II. 218 *Osmunda Crispa*; Curled Osmunda, or Stone Fern. 1863 PRIOR *Plant-n.*, Stone-fern, from its growth on stone-walls, *Ceterach officinarum*. *c* 1475 *Pict. Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 810/17 *Hic acinus*, a *stongrape. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 40/2 The Welsh Onion..is a native of Siberia and certain parts of Russia, where it is known as the Rock Onion, or *Stone Leek. 1904 A. C. BENSON *House of Quiet* (1910) 164 The stone-leek on the roof of mellowed barns. 1861 *Stone lichen [see STANERAW]. 1854–67 *Stone-mint [see DITTANY 3]. 1681 GREW *Museum* III. § ii. i. 326 The several Styriæ or Capillary parts..growing together almost like those of the little *Stone-Moss. 1763 in *6th Rep. Dep. Kpr. Publ. Rec.* App. II. 132 Making Orchell from Rock or Stone Moss. 1777 ROBSON *Brit. Flora* 318 *Byssus aurea*...Saffron Byssus. Silken Stone-moss. 1866 *Stone Orpine [see STONEHORE]. 1597 GERARDE *Herbal* Tables Eng. Names, Stone hore, that is *Stonepepper, or Stone crop. 1767 ABERCROMBIE *Ev. Man his own Gardener* (1803) 671/2 Apples..Kirtin pippin, *Stone pippin. 1848 BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.* 335 **Stone-root*, a plant used in medicine. Its properties are diuretic and stomachic. 1872 SCHELE DE VERE *Americanisms* 399 The Stone-Root (Collinsonia canadensis), the flowers of which have an odor like lemons, is also known as Rich Weed from this fragrance. 1548 TURNER *Names Herbes* 86 Saluia vita or Ruta muralis ..maye be called in english *Stone Rue, or wal Rue. 1578 LYTE *Dodoens* III. lxviii. 408 *Ruta Muraria*, Stone Rue, or Wall Rue. 1833 *Wauldby Farm Rep.* 105 in *Libr. Usef. Knowl., Husb.* III, The variety called the white *stone turnip. 1847 DARLINGTON *Amer. Weeds* 243 Field Lithospermum. *Stone weed. Gromwell...Formerly a reputed cure for the stone in the bladder, from the stony-like appearance of its seeds. 1847 HALLIWELL, *Stoneweed*, knot-grass. *Suffolk*. 1913 M. HEWLETT in *Engl. Rev.* Mar. 534 Her garment..seemed to grow upon her as a creeping stone-weed grows. 1863 BATES *Nat. Amazon* ix. 238 A suitable canoe ..of about six tons' burthen, strongly built of Itaúba or *stone-wood, a timber of which all the best vessels in the Amazons country are constructed. 1889 MAIDEN *Usef. Plants Australia* 390 *Callistemon salignus*..'Stonewood'. *Ibid.* 604 *Tarrietia argyrodendron*..'Stonewood'.

Stone (stōun), *v.* Forms: see prec.; also (*Sc.* and *north.*) 4 stain, 6 staan, staen. [Early ME. *stānen*, f. *stān* STONE *sb.* Cf. STEEN *v.*]

1. *trans.* To throw stones at, pelt with stones; *esp.* to put to death by pelting with stones.

c 1200 *Ormin* 1968 Þho munnde affterr þe laþeboc To dæþe ben istanedd. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 19456 Þar-for on steuen all þai stert, þai draf him vte o-tun allan, And þai demed him to stain. 1382 WYCLIF *Exod.* xvii. 4 What shal Y do to this puple? 3it a litil while, and it shal stonen me. *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (Roxb.) x. 40 Þe kirke of saynt Steuen, where he was staned to deed. *c* 1450 *Mirour Saluacioun* (Roxb.) 142 Ysay prophete was sawen and stonyd was Jeremye. 1535 COVERDALE *Matt.* xxi. 35 The husbandmen caught his seruauntes: one they bett,..the thirde they stoned. 1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* I. 123 Gif a Sou eit his þoung, stane him [L. *lapidibus obruito*], and eit nocht his flesche. 1611 SHAKS. *Wint. T.* IV. iv. 807 Some say hee shall be ston'd: but that death is too soft for him (say I). 1781 GIBBON *Decl. & F.* xxx. II. 149 Cowards were stoned to death. 1843 LYTTON *Last Bar.* I. vi, Were he to walk the streets, they would stone him. 1909 *Blackw. Mag.* Sept. 369/2 Henry splashed about in the shallows, stoning the little fishes.

†**2.** To turn into stone, or make hard like stone; to petrify. (Chiefly *fig.*) *Obs.*

1604 SHAKS. *Oth.* V. ii. 63 O periur'd woman, thou do'st stone my heart. 1634 HABINGTON *Castara* (Arb.) 38 Till I shall see That heart so ston'd and frozen, thaw'd in thee. 1853 MISS SHEPPARD *C. Cachester* II. 64 When André looked up, he..seemed almost stoned with surprise.

3. To furnish or fit with stones; to pave, or build up, with stone or stones. (See also quot. 1877.)

1600 *Weakest goeth to Wall* C3 Were your streets through ston'd with Dyamonds. 1703 S. SEWALL *Diary* 16 Apr. (1879) II. 77 He is stoning the Cellar. 1877 E. LEIGH *Cheshire Gloss.*, 201 To stone a road, is to put large stones or boulders on the road, to force carriages, carts and horses to go over the fresh laid metal, instead of the beaten part of the road. A dangerous but general custom in Cheshire. 1890 *Church Bells* 3 Jan. 80/1 The vacant space above and at the sides being stoned in. 1893 BARING-GOULD *Cheap Jack Zita* II. xvii. 72 Where a highway has been new stoned.

†**b.** To administer stones to (a falcon) as a purgative. *Obs.*

1618 LATHAM *New Bk. Falconry* (1633) 147 They be as hard Hawkes as any be, and must bee stoned and set to a sound stomacke when they should flie.

c. (with *out*) ? To displace by stone. *nonce-use.*

1858 HAWTHORNE *Fr. & Ital. Note-bks.* (1871) II. 58 The earth, I think, is too much stoned out of the streets of an Italian city—paved..quite across, with broad flagstones.

4. To rub or polish with a stone; to sharpen on a whetstone; in *Leather Manuf.* to scour and smooth with a stock-stone.

1688 [see STONING *vbl. sb.* 3]. 1878 MRS. H. WOOD *Pomeroy Abb.* II. xvii, I was on my hands and knees, stoning the passage flags. 1884 F. J. BRITTEN *Watch & Clockm.* 201 Brass services are generally 'stoned' preparatory to polishing, that is, rubbed square with a blue stone or water of Ayr stone and water or oil. 1885 H. R. PROCTER *Tanning* 183 In the Lancashire district, butts are generally..'stoned', so as to remove the whole of the bloom. 1885 STEVENSON *Child's Gard. Verses* (1895) 83 When the scythe is stoned again.

5. To take the stones out of (ground); to clear or free from stones. ? *Obs.*

c 1475 *Cath. Angl.* 359/2 (Addit. MS.), To Stane, *depetrare, petras removere*. 1563 HYLL *Art Garden.* (1593) 46 It needeth not after to be weeded or stoned. 1628 [see STONING *vbl. sb.* 4].

†**6.** To deprive of the testicles, castrate, geld. *Obs.*

1584 *Shuttleworths' Acc.* (Chetham Soc.) 20 The smith of Ecclestone for stoninge work horsies, xvj^d.

7. To take the stones out of (fruit): see prec. 12.

1639 O. WOOD *Alph. Bk. Secrets* 19 With..a few Raysins of the Sun stoned. 1665 W. HUGHES *Compl. Vineyard* 17 This way you may also make Gooseberry Wine,..Wine of Plumbs, &c., but these last must be stoned. 1675 HANNAH WOOLLEY *Gentlew. Comp.* 187 Goosberries..cut off their heads and stone them. 1709 W. KING *Art of Love* V. 703 Stoning currants in whole bunches. 1769 MRS. RAFFALD *Eng. Housekpr.* (1778) 241 Stone a pound and a half of cherries. 1845 ELIZA ACTON *Mod. Cookery* (ed. 2) 416 The peaches and apricots should be merely skinned, halved, and stoned. 1874 MRS. H. WOOD *Master of Greylands* xix. 225 With not a raisin in the house stoned for plum-pudding!

8. *intr.* Of a fruit (drupe): To form a stone in the process of growth.

1842 LOUDON *Suburban Hort.* 479 A few days before, and a few days after, the crops begin to stone, is the most critical period in forcing. *Ibid.* 592 The peach border will require occasional watering,..but water ought to be withheld when it is stoning and when it is ripening. 1852 *Bech's Florist* 176 The fruit sets well and stones freely.

Stone, obs. form of STUN *v.*

Stone, obs. Sc. pa. pple. of STEAL *v.*

Stone age. *Archæology.* The period or stage in the development of human culture which is marked by the exclusive or greatly predominant use of stone as material for weapons and implements, in contradistinction to the later 'ages' in which bronze or iron was used.

The *Stone age* is divided into the PALÆOLITHIC and NEOLITHIC periods.

[1863 LYELL *Antiq. Man* ii. (ed. 2) 10 The age of stone in Denmark coincides with the period of the first vegetation, or that of the Scotch fir.] 1864 J. HUNT tr. *Vogt's Lect. Man* xii. 343 Long heavy skulls, which differ entirely from those of the stone-age. 1874 PITT-RIVERS *Evol. Culture, Princ. Classif.* (1906) 14 The Fijians..at the time of their discovery were still in the stone age.

attrib. 1878 J. C. SOUTHALL *Epoch of Mammoth* iv. 45 In the Stone-Age lake-stations, pottery (hand-made) is found in abundance. 1910 HADDON *Races of Man* 20 The Tasmanians..never advanced beyond an early stage of stone-age culture.

Stone-ax.

1. A two-edged ax used for hewing stone.

c 1000 ÆLFRIC *Gloss.* in Wr.-Wülcker 141 *Bipennis*, twibille *uel* stanæx. *c* 1357 *Durham Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 560 Pro Stanaxes, Hakkes, [etc.]. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 359/2 A Sstane axe, *vbi* A mason' Axe. 1533 *MS. Rawl. D.* 776 lf. 147 b, For a stone axe ffor lyk vse. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.*, *Stone-axe*, an axe with two somewhat obtuse edges, used in spawling and hewing stone.

2. An ax made of stone.

1864 H. WOODWARD in *Intell. Observ.* V. 180 Stone axe of Serpentine. 1865 LUBBOCK *Preh. Times* iv. (1878) 98 The North American stone axe or tomahawk.

Stone-blind (stōun,blei·nd), *a.* (*sb.*) (Also as two words.) [STONE *sb.* 19.] Blind as a stone; completely blind. **a.** *lit.*

c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xii. (*Matthias*) 420 Sic a drynk þat quha-euire of it cane taste, he worde stane-blynde. 1592 GREENE *Conny Catching* II. Wks. (Grosart) X. 85, I haue seen men ston-blind offer to lay bets. 1742 *Phil. Trans.* XLII. 264 The famous Statuary Ganibasius,..though stone-blind, could by Feeling make a Statue in Clay. 1891 KIPLING *Light that Failed* xiii, Dick Heldar..has gone blind...He has been stone-blind for nearly two months.

b. *fig.* (In quot. 1849 a humorous strengthening of BLIND *a.* in sense 10.)

1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* I. 128 Quha now, nocht staue blind,..wil nocht sinceirlie grant, the forme of Scotland..to be elegant? 1648 *Petit. Eastern Assoc.* 17 So stoneblinde, as not to see..worse in themselves. 1849–50 DICKENS *Dav. Copp.* xxiii, A little half-blind entry where you could see hardly anything, a little stone-blind pantry where you could see nothing at all. 1864 LOWELL *Rebellion Writ.* 1890 V. 119 In disputable matters, every man sees according to his prejudices, and is stone-blind to whatever he did not expect or did not mean to see.

Hence **Stone-blindness.**

1868 MILMAN *St. Paul's* xiii. 345 Laud's stone-blindness to the signs of the times. 1869 SPURGEON *Treas. Dav.* xxiv. 4 Stone-blindness in the eyes arises from stone in the heart.

†**c.** as *sb.* = *stone-blindness. Obs. nonce-use.*

c 1500 *Rowlis Cursing* 61 in Laing *Anc. Poet. Scot.*, The stane-wring, stane and stane blind.

Stone-blue. [See STONE *sb.* 17 c and BLUE *sb.* 2 b; cf. POWDER-BLUE.]

1. A compound of indigo with starch or whiting, used by laundresses. Also *attrib.*

1675 in *Abridgem. Specif. Patents, Bleaching* etc. (1859) 7 [The art] of making out of the vseless dust or powder of indigo, stone blewe, flatt indigo, and powder blewe. 1786 *Act 26 Geo. III* c. 51 § 21 Great Quantities of Starch are used in the making of Stone Blue. 1836 E. HOWARD *R. Reefer* xxxvii, A washerwoman's stone-blue bag. 1836–41 BRANDE *Chem.* (ed. 5) 1091 Stone-blue is a compound of indigo or prussian blue and the inferior kinds of starch.

2. The blue colour of this, or a dress of this colour. (Cf. POWDER-BLUE 2.)

1906 *Daily Chron.* 5 Oct. 4/5 Mrs. Cyril Ward, in stone-blue.

Stone-boat.

1. A boat for transporting stones.

c 1336 *Durham Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 533 Qui..reduxerunt Batellum vidz. le Stanbate. 1471 *Extracts Burgh Rec. Edin.* (1869) I. 25 Of ilk stane bot lossand in the havin j d. 1505 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* II. 280 Ane stane bote at the New Havin. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* s.v. *Stone-vessel*, De Cessart's machine for throwing large stones into the sea consisted of a pontoon carrying an inclined plane [etc.]. [*title of figure*] De Cessart's Stone-Boat.

2. *U.S.* A flat-bottomed sled used for transporting or removing stones, and for other purposes.

1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* s.v., The rise in front enables the stone-boat to ride over small obstacles. 1906 *Daily Chron.* 21 Sept. 4/4 They fetch the water every day in a barrel fixed in a kind of sled called a stone boat.

Stone-bow (stōu·nbōu). [Cf. MHG. *steinboge* = sense 2, ON. *steinbogi* = sense 1.]

1. [Bow *sb.*^{1} 3.] An arch of stone. *Obs.* exc. as the name of one of the gates of Lincoln.

Beowulf 2545 Ʒeseah ða be wealle Stondan stanbogan.

†**2.** [Bow *sb.*^{1} 4.] A kind of cross-bow or catapult used for shooting stones. *Obs.*

1419 *Liber Albus* (Rolls) I. 278 Quod nullus portet arcum vocatum 'Stone-bowe'. 1543 *Acts Privy Council* (1890) I. 104 Breaking wyth stonebowes off certeyne wyndowes. 1601 SHAKS. *Twel. N.* II. v. 51. 1611 BEAUM. & FL. *King & No K.* v. i, Children will shortly take him for a Wall And set their Stone-bows in his forehead. 1660 *Act 12 Chas. II* c. 4 Sched. s.v., Bowes, vocat. stone-bowes of steel, the piece, x. s.

Stonebreak (stōu·nbreik). ? *Obs.* [f. STONE *sb.* + BREAK *sb.*^{1} (or *v.*), after Du. *steenbreek* (†-*breke* Kilian) = G. *steinbrech.*] = SAXIFRAGE 1. (See also quot. 1739 and cf. BREAKSTONE.)

1548 TURNER *Names Herbes* 87 The other duche saxifrage hath leaues lyke Tyme & it may be called in englishTimestonebreake. 1597 GERARDE *Herbal* II. CCXCV. 693 The first is called..white Saxifrage, or white Stonebreake: The second is called golden Saxifrage, or golden Stonebreake. 1739 P. MILLER *Gard. Dict.* II. Index, Stone-break, see *Alchymilla* and *Saxifraga*. 1863 PRIOR *Plant-n.*, Stonebreak,..so named from its supposed power of rending rocks, and thence employed to break stone in the bladder, *Saxifraga*.

†**Stone-brod.** *north. Obs.* Also **stan-, stane-.** [f. STONE *sb.* + BROD *sb.*^{1}] A nail or peg for fixing stone slates; a slate-pin.

1363–4 in *Finchale Priory Charters* etc. (Surtees) p. lxiv, Et v^m de stanbrods et lednaill' emptis. 1419 in *Fabric Rolls York Minster* (Surtees) 38 In v. m stanebrod, 6s. 8d. 1457 *Ibid.* 69, xxj. m stonebrodes. 1543 *Mem. Fountains Abb.* (Surtees) 404 For one thousande stonebrode xiij d.

Stonebuck (stōu·nbuk). Also 7–8 **-bock.** [f. STONE *sb.* + BUCK *sb.*^{1}; found in OE., but formed afresh in the 16th c. after the Ger. form.]

1. The ibex: = STEINBOCK.

c 1000 ÆLFRIC *Gram.* ix. (Z.) 68 *Hic cynyps* þes stanbucca. 1585 HIGINS *Junius' Nomencl.* 51/2 *Tragelaphus*,..a stone-buck or goathart. 1668 CHARLETON *Onomast.* 7 *Capra Ibex* ..The Stone-bock. 1749 WEST *Odes Pindar*, etc. (1753) I. 253 The..branching Stone-buck bearded like a Goat. 1910 A. HILDIERS *Master Girl* ii. 59 She could see that chamois and stone-buck had come down.

2. = STEENBOK. *rare*—°. (Perh. an error.)

1855 OGILVIE Suppl., *Stone-buck*, the steinbok [1883 steenbok], an animal of the antelope kind.

Stone-cart. A cart for carrying stones.

? *c* 1357 *Durham Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 559 In flekes empt. pro le Stankart pro calce et sabulo cariand. 2s. 1557 in *Lancs. & Cheshire Wills* (1884) 61 Implements of husbandrye ..a stone carte. 1867 J. K. HUNTER *Retrosp. Artist's Life* iii. (1912) 28 It was what was known as a stone cart—one without sides.

Stone-cast, stone's cast. Now *rare.* [CAST *sb.* 1 c.] = STONE'S THROW.

a. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 15605 A stancast þan fra þaim he yode. *a* 1400–50 *Wars Alex.* 3614 Mare þan a stanecast..be-fore his knistis all He standis vp. *c* 1520 SKELTON *Magnyf.* 2174, I warant the, it is but a stone caste. 1634 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* 106 It has a River a stone cast over. 1730 T. BOSTON *Mem.* x. 280, I was told that one was a-dying little more than a stone-cast from the church. 1862 MRS. CARLYLE *Lett.* III. 127 This house is within a stone-cast of the sea.

β. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) I. 215 Pilers as hi^3 as a stones cast. 1485 *Yorks. Archæol. Soc., Record Ser.* XLI.

3 The house of one William Slatter..is..a stonys cast fro the house of John Johnson. 1562 *Child Marriages* 206 They mett William Plumpton a stones cast from the old house. 1634 Sir T. Herbert *Trav.* 29 His body..buried..where not a stones cast further, sleepes Tom Coriats bones. 1793 Smeaton *Edystone L.* § 87 We got within a stone's cast of the rock. 1886 T. Frost *Remin, Country Journalist* viii. (1888) 96 Within a stone's cast of the parish church.

Stonechat (stōu·nˌtʃæt). [f. Stone *sb.* + Chat *sb.*[2], 'from the similarity between its alarm note and the striking together of two pebbles' (Swainson).] A small bird, *Pratincola* (or *Saxicola*) *rubicola*, inhabiting heaths, commons, etc. in Britain and various parts of Europe. (Also called *stonechat warbler.*) Also improperly applied to several allied species, as the whinchat, *P. rubetra*, and the wheatear, *S. œnanthe*. Also, with defining word, applied to other species.

1783 Latham *Gen. Synopsis Birds* II. i. 448 Stone-Chat.. *Motacilla rubicola*. 1797 Bewick *Brit. Birds* I. 233 The Stonechat. Stone-smit[c]h, Moor Titling. 1817 Stephens in *Shaw's Gen. Zool.* X. 709 Stone-chat Warbler. (Sylvia Rubicola.) 1839 Macgillivray *Brit. Birds* II. 279 *Fruticicola Rubicola*. The Black-headed Bushchat. Stonechat. Stonesmich. Stonechatter. 1865 A. L. Adams in *Pop. Science Rev.* IV. 326 A good many stone-chats spend the winter in Britain. 1872 J. H. Gurney *Andersson's Birds Damara Land* 102 *Pratincola torquata* (Linn.) South-African Stone-chat. 1873 E. Balfour *Cycl. India* (ed. 2) V. 573/2 The pied stone-chat (Saxicola picata) may be seen hopping about in the Dekhan.

Also called **Stone-chacker, -chatter, -chatterer, †-check** (Speinchek). Also **Stone-clink**; Stone-smatch, -smitch, etc.

1853 F. O. Morris *Brit. Birds* III. 170 Wheatear. Fallow-chat. White-tail. *Stone-chacker. 1544 Turner *Avium Præcip.* I r b, Qualis est auicula Anglis *stonchattera, aut mortettera dicta. 1783 Latham *Gen. Synopsis Birds* II. i. 450, I have ever thought it exactly imitating the clicking of two stones together, one being held in each hand. If others have thought the same, it will easily account for the reason of its being called the Stone-Chatter. 1837 M. Donovan *Dom. Econ.* II. 145 The Stonechatter, although an insignificant little bird, is prized by lovers of curious eating. 1823 A. Small *Roh. Antiq. Fife* 235 The little light blue bird called the *Stone-chatterer, from its delighting to be amongst, and building its nest under stones. 1668 Charleton *Onomast.* 88 *Cæruleo*, the Clot-bird, Smatch, or *Stone-Check. 1885 Swainson *Prov. Names Birds* 11 Stonechat..*Stone clink; Chickstone.

Stone-coal (stōu·nˌkōu·l). (Also as two words.) [Cf. Ger. *steinkohle*, Du. *steenkool*.]

†1. Mineral coal, as distinguished from charcoal: = Coal *sb.* 5. *Obs.*

1585 Higins *Junius' Nomencl.* 377/2 Seacole: Smithes cole: stone cole. 1602 R. Carew *Cornwall* I. 21 Stone cole, fetched out of Wales. 1673 H. Stubbe *Further Vind. Dutch War* App. 126 To digg for any Quarry of Stone, or Mine for Oare, or Stone-coles. 1741 *Phil. Trans.* XLI. 672 This Bishoprick (Liege) has rich Mines of *Houille* or Stone-coal.

2. Any hard variety of coal, esp. anthracite.

1708 J. C. *Compl. Collier* (1845) 19 The Stone-Coal is so called because it has a sort of Stone, which is in the Bed or Vein of Coal. 1712 *Phil. Trans.* XXVII. 541 A Coal like Cannal-Coal, by the Miners called Stone-Coal. 1823 W. Phillips *Min.* (ed. 3) 366 Slaty Anthracite..is found in the coal-formation near Walsal in Staffordshire (Stone Coal). 1877 Raymond *Statist. Mines* 237 Lignite, shale, stone-coal, and fire-clay. 1883 Gresley *Gloss. Coal-mining* 242 *Stone coal*, anthracite,..Also certain other very hard varieties of coal.

Stonecrop (stōu·nkrɒp). Forms: 1 **stáncrop**, 4–5 **stancroppe**, 5 **stoon-, stonocroppe**, 5–6 **stonecrop**, 5–8 **stone crop**, 6 **stone croppe**, 7 **stone cropp**, 8–9 **stone-crop**, 7– **stonecrop**. [OE. *stáncrop*: see Stone *sb.* and Crop *sb.* (? sense 3).] The common name of *Sedum acre* (N.O. *Crassulaceæ*), a herb with bright yellow flowers and small cylindrical fleshy sessile leaves, growing in masses on rocks, old walls, etc.; also applied (with or without defining word) to other species of *Sedum*, esp. those of similar growth, and of allied genera, as the N. American *Penthorum*.

c 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* II. 354 Cassuc þefan þorn, stan crop. *a* 1387 *Sinon. Barthol.* (Anecd. Oxon.) 17 *Crassula minor*, vermicularis, an. stancroppe. *c* 1400 *Lanfranc's Cirurg.* (1894) 185 Leie þerevpon a lynnen cloop wet in þe iuys of stoncroppe. *c* 1450 *M. E. Med. Bk.* (Heinrich) 113 Item drynke stancroppe wyþ wermot & hit wol slee hem. 1548 Turner *Names Herbes* 72 Sedum...The seconde kynde is called in English thryft or stoncroppe. The thyrd kinde is called in Englishe Mouse tayle or litle stoncroppe. 1678 Phillips (ed. 4), *Stonecrop*,..an Herb of a very hot temperature, sharp and biting. 1777 Jacob *Catal. Plants* 103 *Sedum annuum*, Mountain Stone-crop. *Ibid.* 104 *Sedum reflexum*, Yellow Stone-crop, or Prick-madam...*Sedum acre*, Stone-crop, or Wall-pepper. 1782 J. Scott *Poet. Wks.* 100 Along my wall the yellow stonecrop grows. 1862 Miss Braddon *Lady Audley* i, An ancient wall..overgrown with trailing ivy, yellow stonecrop, and dark moss. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 861/1 *Penthorum sedoides* commonly goes by the name of Virginian Stonecrop in the United States.

b. *Stonecrop tree, Shrub* or *Tree stonecrop*: names for *Suæda* (*Salsola*) *fruticosa*.

c 1710 Petiver *Catal. Ray's Eng. Herbal* Tab. viii, Tree Stonecrop. 1721 Mortimer *Husb.* II. 189 The greater Stone-crop Tree is a beautiful green. 1796 Withering *Brit. Plants* (ed. 3) II. 278 *Salsola..fruticosa*..Shrub Stone-Crop, or Glasswort.

Stone-cutter (stōu·nˌkʌtəɹ).

1. One who cuts or carves stone; a workman engaged in shaping stone for building, ornamental, or other purposes; one who carves figures or inscriptions on stone.

Stone-cutter's disease or *phthisis*, an affection of the lungs, incident to stone-cutters, caused by inhaling the fine dust of the stones.

1540 in *Lett. & Papers Hen. VIII* (1898) XVI. 195 Dirrike Johnson, stone cutter. 1585 Higins *Junius' Nomencl.* 505/1 *Lapicida*,..a quarrier: a hewer of stone: a stone cutter. 1605 Shaks. *Lear* II. ii. 63. 1684 Boyle *Porousn. Solid Bodies* vi. 101 The invention of staining or colouring white Marble,.. casually lighted upon by an ingenious Stone-cutter in Oxford. 1724 De-Foe *Tour Gt. Brit.* I. iii. 69 This Island [Portland]..the Inhabitants being almost all Stone-Cutters, we found there was no very poor People among them. 1829 S. Shaw *Staffordsh. Potteries* 131 The old Inscription was almost effaced, when two of the parish servants..paid a stone cutter to sink the letters. 1866 A. Flint *Princ. Med.* (1880) 186 *Chalicosis pulmonum* is the name given to the pulmonary changes induced by the inhalation of stone-dust. It is also called stone-cutter's phthisis. 1877 Ruskin *St. Mark's Rest* iv. (1894) 47 Desiring to show, not a mere symbol of a living man, but the man himself, as truly as the poor stone-cutter can carve him. 1896 Leask *Hugh Miller* ii. 44 He was feeling the first effects of the stone-cutters' disease. 1908 W. M. Ramsay *Luke the Physician* xii. 362 Then I conjecture that..the stone-cutter accidentally omitted the fourth hexameter.

b. A machine for cutting or shaping stone.

1875 Knight *Dict. Mech., Stone-cutter*, a machine for working a face on a stone or ashlar...It differs from the stone-dresser, which may be said to begin its duty after the surface is fairly flattened. 1884 *Ibid.* Suppl. s. v. *Stone Cutting Machine*, Atchison's stone cutter.

†2. A surgeon who 'cuts for the stone' (Cut *v.* 26 b); a lithotomist. *Obs.*

1655 Moufet & Bennet *Health's Improv.* (1746) 218 No People in the World are more subject (than the Netherlanders) to that Disease [*sc.* stone], as the Number and Excellency of Stone-cutters in that Country may plainly prove. 1787 *Phil. Trans.* LXXVIII. 32 The Egyptians..had..not only regular physicians..but likewise stone-cutters, oculists, aurists, &c.

So **Sto·ne-cutting**, the process or art of cutting or shaping stone; also *attrib.*

1611 Cotgr., *Statuaire*, (the art of) Stone-cutting, or Statue-making. 1828 P. Nicholson (*title*) A popular.. treatise on Masonry and Stone-cutting. 1838 Ht. Martineau *Western Trav.* I. 225 The stone-cutting department.

Stoned (stōund), *ppl. a.* and *a.* [f. Stone *v.* and *sb.* + -ed.]

1. Pelted with stones.

1483 *Cath. Angl.* 359/2 Stanyd, *lapidatus*.

2. †**a.** Built of stone; fortified with stone. *Obs.*

a 1400–50 *Wars Alex.* 4352 Make we na vessall of virre.. Ne store staned strenthis.

b. Paved with stones.

1868 *Rep. U. S. Commissioner Agric.* (1869) 356 Depressions in the stoned surface cannot be well repaired without 'picking up' the metal to the depth of several inches.

†3. Made of stoneware: = Stone *sb.* *attrib.* (17 b). *Obs. rare*—[1].

1593 *N. Country Wills* (Surtees) II. 157 Twoe stoned pottes garnished with silver.

4. Of a male animal (esp. a horse): Having testicles, not castrated, entire: = Stone *sb.* *attrib.* (17 f). ? *Obs.*

1513 Douglas *Æneis* IV. Prol. 59 Quhow thine vndantit mycht Constrenis so sum tyme the stonit hors. 1535 Coverdale *Jer.* v. 8 In the desyre of vnclenely lust they are become like the stoned horse. 1559 in Kempe *Losely MSS.* (1836) 177, I do geve unto William More, esquire, thre stoned coltes and thre geldinges. 1617 Moryson *Itin.* III. 133 They have no Gueldings or ambling Nagges,..but commonly use trotting and stoned Nagges. 1688 *Phil. Trans.* XVIII. 121 There is a Law, that no Horse shall be kept stoned under a certain size.

†**b.** *transf.* Lascivious: cf. Stone *sb.* 17 f. *Obs.*

1607 R. C[arew] tr. *Estienne's World of Wonders* 184 These stoned Priests haue manifested by their practises [etc.].

†5. Of fruit: Having a stone or stones. *Obs.*

1513 Douglas *Æneis* III. ix. 111 Stanit heppis, quhilk I on buskis fand. 1681 Grew *Museum* II. § i. ii. 188 A Stoned Fruit in shape.. like a Quince. 1705 Beverley *Hist. Virginia* II. iv. (1722) 112 Of stoned Fruits, I have met with three good Sorts: viz., Cherries, Plums, and Persimmons.

6. Of fruit: Deprived of the stone or stones.

1728 E. S[mith] *Compl. Housew.* (ed. 2) 256 Put in 2 handfuls of ston'd Raisins. 1743 *Lady's Companion* (ed. 4) I. 438 Put in some Capers, ston'd Olives, and a Drop of Vinegar. 1764 Eliza Moxon *Eng. Housew.* (ed. 9) 159 A pound of ston'd gooseberries. 1846 Sover *Gastron. Regen.* 533 Line a charlotte mould..with various kinds of fruits (such as stoned cherries, strawberries, [etc.]). 1902 *Daily Chron.* 15 Feb. 8/4 Butter a pudding mould, and cover the inside with stoned raisins.

Stonedemel, variant of Stoundmeal.

Stone-dike, -dyke. (Also as two words.) [Cf. G. *steindeich*.] A dike constructed of stone; a stone fence or embankment. Also *attrib.* (in quot. = enclosed with a stone-dike).

1553–4 *Extracts Burgh Rec. Edin.* (1871) II. 289 The making of the stane dike on the north side of the South Loch, to hauld in the watter thairof. 1731 *Mem. Capt. Creichton* in *Swift's Wks.* (1762) X. 225 Sir John Cogheran lay with a Party, in a Stone-Dike-Park, about ten Miles off. 1842 J. Aiton *Dom. Econ.* (1857) 159 Stone-dikes are of all fences the readiest and most complete...Stone-dike inclosures are generally of dry stone.

Hence **Stone-dike** *v.*, *intr.* to build stone-dikes; **Stone-diked** (-dəikt) *a.*, enclosed with stone-dikes; **Stone-diker**, one who builds stone-dikes.

1870 J. Brown *Lett.* (1907) 201 They had been stonedyking since October. 1897 *Daily News* 30 Sept. 6/2 Some village sanctuary on a Yorkshire or Lancashire upland among the stone-dyked fields. 1901 R. M. F. Watson *Closeburn* iii. 37 David was a stone-dyker by trade.

Stone-fly. An insect of the family *Perlidæ*, whose larvæ are found under stones in streams; esp. *Perla bicaudata*, much used (in the larval or the perfect state) as a bait in angling; also, an artificial fly made in imitation of this. Also *attrib.*

a 1450 *Fyschynge w. Angle* (1883) 23 In May take a ston flye and þe bub vndur þe cow torde and the dor worme [etc.]. 1653 Walton *Angler* iv. 97 There are as many sorts of flies as there be of fruits:..as the dun flie, the stone flie, the red flie, [etc.]. 1741 *Compl. Family-Piece* II. ii. 334 The Stone or May Fly, the Body make of Black Wool.., and the Wings make of a Drake's Down. 1841 E. Newman *Hist. Insects* 107 The May-flies or caddews, stone-flies, &c., frequent watery places. 1872 J. G. Wood *Insects at Home* 265 Larvæ of May-flies..I take in plenty, but not one single Stone-fly larva have I found. 1896 Lydekker *Roy. Nat. Hist.* VI. 171 The stone-flies (*Perlidæ*).

Stone-fruit.

1. [Stone *sb.* 12.] A fruit having the seed or kernel surrounded by a 'stone' or hard endocarp within the pulp; a drupe. (Also collectively: cf. Fruit *sb.* 2 a.)

1523–34 Fitzherb. *Husb.* § 140 All maner of stone fruite, and nuttes. 1600 Surflet *Country Farm* III. xliv. 511 Plum trees, and other trees bearing stone fruit. 1675 Cotton *Planters Man.* title-p., All sorts of Fruit-Trees, whether Stone-fruits, or Pepin-fruits. 1842 Loudon *Suburban Hort.* 441 It ought not to be gathered till it is quite ripe, which in stone fruits and berries is known by its softness and fragrance. 1883 *Evang. Mag.* Oct. 460 The kind of fruit called a 'Drupe',..generally known as a 'stone-fruit'.

attrib. 1721 Mortimer *Husb.* (ed. 5) II. 305 Stone-Fruit Trees generally bear on the Branches of the foregoing Year. 1855 Delamer *Kitch. Gard.* (1861) 145 Stone-fruit-trees are almost always budded instead of being grafted.

2. (As two words.) [Stone *sb.* 2 d, 17 b.] Imitation fruit made of stoneware, used as chimney ornaments.

1851 Mayhew *Lond. Labour* I. 371/1 Of stone fruit there are now usually six street sellers...The fruit is principally made at Chesterfield in Derbyshire...The most saleable fruits are apples, pears, peaches, apricots, oranges, lemons, and cucumbers. The cucumbers, which are sometimes of pot as well as of stone..are sometimes made to serve for gin-bottles.

Stonegall, corrupt form of Staniel, the kestrel.

1602 Fulbecke *2nd. Pt. Parallel* Ep. Ded. 2 A pray to be pursued, not of the Stonegalle, the Muskette, and the Merlin, but of..birdes of an higher wing. 1863 H. G. Adams *Birds of Prey* 47 The Kestrel, variously called Kastrel, Windhover, Stonegall, Steingall or Stannel.

Stonege, obs. form of Stonehenge.

Stonehatch (stōu·nhætʃ). [f. Stone- *sb.* + ? stem of Hatch *v.*[1] (see quot. 1882–4).] The ring-plover or stone-plover, *Ægialitis hiaticula*.

1852 Macgillivray *Brit. Birds* IV. 116 *Charadrius Hiaticula*. The Common Ring-plover...Stonehatch. Stone Plover. 1882–4 *Yarrell's Brit. Birds* (ed. 4) III. 258 The nest is only a slight hollow in the sand..; but sometimes..lined or covered with a number of small stones about the size of peas, upon which the eggs are laid, and this habit has gained for the Ringed Plover..the provincial name of Stone-hatch.

Stonehenge (stōunhe·ndʒ). Forms: *a.* 2 **Stanenges, Stanenheng, Stanheng**, 3–4 **Stonheng(e**, 5 **Stone hengles, Stonehenges**, 5– **Stonehenge**. *β.* 6 **stonege**, 7 **stonage**. [f. Stone *sb.*; the second element may have meant something 'hanging' or supported in the air: cf. OE. *henge-clif* 'præruptum' (*Suppl. to Ælfric's Glossary*); in the compound the word was prob. originally plural.

A spurious form *Stanhengest* occurs in some Latin chronicles (*a* 1500) in connexion with a story of a massacre of British nobles by Hengist at Stonehenge.)

Name of a celebrated stone circle on Salisbury Plain; hence applied allusively to similar structures elsewhere.

a. 12.. Henry of Huntingdon *Hist. Angl.* I. (Rolls) 12 Quatuor autem sunt, quæ mira videntur in Anglia...Secundum est, apud Stanenges. 12.. Geoffrey of Monm. *Hist. Brit.* XI. iv. (1844) 204 Intra lapidum structuram sepukus fuit, quæ haud longe a Salesberia mira arte composita, Anglorum lingua Stanheng nuncupatur. 1297 R. Glouc. (Rolls) 3222 Ac arst was þe king ybured..Wiþinne þe place of stonheng [*v.rr.* þe stonheng; stonhenge]. 1470 Harding *Chron.* lxx. (1812) 117 The Giauntes carole,..The stone hengles [*v.r.* Stonehenges], that nowe so named been. *Ibid.* lxxxvi. 150 Whiche called is the stone Hengles [*v.r.* Stonehenge]. 1610 Holland *Camden's Brit.* I. 251 (Wilshire) Certaine mighty and unwrought stones,..upon the heads of which, others like ouerthwart peeces do beare and rest crossewise,..so as the whole frame seemeth to hang: whereof we call it Stonehenge. *a* 1722 Toland *Hist. Druids* Coll. Pieces (1726) I. 23 Hard by is her Temple; being a sort of diminutive Stonehenge. 1801 J. Barrow *Trav. S. Africa* I. 373 The..fragments..rolling from the upper ridges, had tumbled on each other, forming natural..colonnades, and Stonehenges. 1821 Scott *Pirate* xl, A rising ground, whence they commanded a full view of the Orcadian Stonehenge. 1840 Dickens *Old C. Shop* xxxvi, A dreary waste of cold potatoes, looking as eatable as Stonehenge.

β. 1547 Boorde *Introd. Knowl.* i. (1870) 120 Vpon the playn of Salysbury is the stonege, whyche is certayne great stones, some standyng, and some lyenge ouerthwart. 1647 G. Tooke *Belides* 39 As who with skill,..his journey manage will, Does often from the beaten road withdraw, Or to behold a Stonage, taste a Spaw, Or [etc.]. *a* 1670 [Gibbons] *Fools Bolt soon shot at Stonage* in Hearne *P. Langtoft's*

Chron. II. 505 The Israelites..did by God's commandꝛerect a stonage of twelve Stones in the midst of Jordan. 1901 C. LESLIE *Short Method with Deists* I. (ed. 3) 17 Ther is the Stonage in Salisbury-Plain. Every body knows it. *Ibid.* 18 Now let us Compare this with the Stonage, as I may call it, or Twelve Great Stones set up at Gilgal.

† Stonehore. *Obs.* Also 5 stonore, 6 stonnord, 7 stonnard, (ston-ehore). [f. STONE *sb.*; the second element is obscure.] = STONECROP (*Sedum acre* or *S. reflexum*).

a 1400–50 *Stockh. Med. MS.* 173 Stonore or stoncrop: *crassula minor.* 1541 *Bk. Properties Herbs* B vj, Crassula minor. Thys herb is called Stonehore or Stonecroppe. 1579 LANGHAM *Gard. Health* 623 Stonhore or wall-pepper, causeth vomite, taken with vineger,..and is good against feuers. 1597 GERARDE *Herbal* II. CXXXVII. 415 The Englishmen [call this] Stonecrop and Stonehore, little Stonecrop, Pricket, [etc.]. *Ibid.* Suppl., Stonnord is Stonecrop. 1640 PARKINSON *Theat. Bot.* 735 Wee [call it] in English Prickmadam, Stonecrop or Great Stonecrop,..Stonehore and Mouseetaile. 1665 LOVELL *Herbal* (ed. 2) 417 Stone hore, see Stone pepper, or Stone crop. Stonnard and Ston-chore, see Stonecrop.

Stone-horse. [STONE *sb.* 17 f.] An uncastrated of entire horse; a stallion. Now only *dial.*

1600 J. PORY tr. *Leo's Africa* III. 156 They carrie stone-horses about with them, which for a certaine fee, they will let others haue to couer their mares. 1679 SHADWELL *True Widow* III. 43 I'll hold you six to four of the Gelding against the Mare; gold to silver on the bay Stone-horse against the Flea-bitten. 1781 W. BLANE *Ess. Hunting* (1788) 69 The Doctor galloped his grey stone-horse forty miles on end. 1847 NICOLAS *Sir C. Hatton* 340 In the 33rd Hen. VIII. an Act was passed that..every other person whose wife wore any French hood..should maintain one stone trotting horse. [The Act itself has *stoned.*]

b. Applied allusively to a man.

1580 FULKE *Dangerous Rock* 167 But what if your popish geldings, by neying at euery mans wife,..proue them selues to be stone horses. 1640 SHIRLEY *St. Patrick* v. i. H 2, Cannot a Mare come into the ground, but you must be leaping you stone horses.

c. *attrib.*

1546 in Phillipps *Wills* (*c* 1830) 487 A stone horsse colte. 1728 E. S[MITH] *Compl. Housew.* (ed. 2) 243 Strain the Posset on 7 or 9 globules of Stone-Horse dung tied up in a cloth. 1836 R. FURNESS *Astrologer* II. Wks. (1858) 152 Bear's grease,..fox-lungs, stone-horse warts.

Stone jug. (Also with hyphen.)

1. A jug made of stoneware.

1596 SHAKS. *Tam. Shr.* Ind. ii. 90 Yet would you..raile vpon the Hostesse of the house,..Because she brought stone-Iugs, and no seal'd quarts. 1906 *Westm. Gaz.* 22 June 8/2 The Apollinaris Co...now bottles the water in stone jugs.

2. *slang.* A nickname for Newgate prison, or for a prison in general.

1796 *Grose's Dict. Vulgar T.* (ed. 3), *Stone jug*; Newgate, or any other prison. 1838 DICKENS *O. Twist* xliii, He shall be kept in the Stone Jug, Charley, like a gentleman.

† Stone-lath. *north. Obs.* In 4 stanlat, 5 stanelatte. A lath on which stone slates were fastened with 'stone-brods' (see STONE-BROD).

1370–1 *Durham Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 209 Et in mill. stanlat empt. cum cariagio ad dictam ecclesiam, 12s. 1d. 1421 *Fabric Rolls York Minster* (Surtees) 44 In m. m. stanelattes emptis, cum cariagio de Byrnand de Cattall, 14s. 8d.

Stoneless (stō·nlĕs), *a.* [f. STONE *sb.* + -LESS.] Destitute of stone or stones; having or containing no stone.

1823 COBBETT *Rur. Rides* (1885) I. 264 A fine, buttery, stoneless loam. 1898 F. DAVIS *Silchester* 62 In a stoneless country, the fabric of the deserted city would rapidly be appropriated as building material.

b. Having no tombstone.

1834 *Fraser's Mag.* X. 654 The nameless, stoneless, lime-filled grave-hole. 1882 J. WALKER *Jaunt to Auld Reekie* 162 A digging sexton..points to a stoneless grave.

c. Of fruit: see STONE *sb.* 12.

1825 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 673 Barberry,.. stoneless. 1860 *Times* 14 Nov. 9/6 A favorite fruit with the Chinaman is the classic lotos..; it is full of stoneless kernels. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* I. 243/2 Stoneless sultana raisins from Smyrna.

Hence **Sto·nelessness.**

1891 *Athenæum* 30 May 708/1 Is it quite certain that the vallum..is not..marked by the same virtual stonelessness?

Stonelet (stō·nlĕt). *nonce-wd.* [f. STONE *sb.* + -LET.] A little stone.

1899 *Edin. Rev.* Apr. 326 Black and white stonelets.

Stone-lily.

Name for a fossil crinoid or encrinite, from its resemblance to a lily on its stalk.

1808 PARKINSON *Organic Rem.* II. 174 The Encrinus, *Lilium lapidium*, or Stone Lily. 1828 G. YOUNG *Geol. Surv. Yorks. Coast* 207 Zoophytes distinguished by the names Encrinites and Pentacrinites, or the more familiar term Stone lilies. 1881 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* V. 154 Other Groups, such as the Stone Lilies and Sea Anemones.

Stoneman (stō·nmăn). Pl. **-men.**

1. *Printing.* A compositor who imposes pages of type on the imposing-stone.

1875 SOUTHWARD *Dict. Typogr.* 1904 DE VINNE *Mod. Book Composition* 301 (Cent. Suppl.) Front and tail margins can be most accurately made by the stoneman, for they cannot be predetermined with precision by guesswork.

2. *Coal Mining.* A man employed in driving stone-headings, and in making and repairing 'roads'.

1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-mining.* 1891 *Star* 8 July 3/4 All the enginemen were doing eight hours shifts, while the stonemen and others did still more.

3. A man who works in stone; a stone-cutter, stonemason.

1912 E. RHYS in *Engl. Rev.* Nov. 517 He saw the bob-tailed rabbits above the stoneman's pit.

Stonemason (stō·nˌmē·sn), *sb.* [f. STONE *sb.* + MASON *sb.*[1]] A workman who shapes and lays stones in building: = MASON *sb.*[1] 1.

Stonemason's lung (Path.): cf. *stone-cutter's disease* (STONE-CUTTER 1).

1809 *Lond. Chron.* 22 Aug. 181/2 Seven stone-masons were landing a stone in Cumberland-street. 1824 SCOTT *St. Ronan's* II, Jock Ashler the stane-mason, that ca's himsell an arkiteck. 1905 ROLLESTON *Dis. Liver* 185 An analogous form [of hepatic cirrhosis] associated with stone-mason's lung-silicosis.

Hence **Stonemason** *v.*, *trans.* to carve or work as a stonemason; **Stone-masonry,** the art of, or work executed by, a stonemason: = MASONRY 1, 2.

1859 DICKENS *Lett.* (1880) II. 95 One of the balustrades of the destroyed old Rochester bridge has been..presented to me by the contractor..and has been duly *stonemasoned and set up on the lawn. 1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* XXXII, Despite the superior advantage of *stone-masonry. 1897 A. DRUCKER tr. *Ihering's Evol. Aryan* 110 The difference between timber-work and stone-masonry.

Stonen (stō·nĕn), *a.* Now only *dial.* or *rare arch.* Forms: *α.* 1 stænen, 3 stænen, 2–3 stenen. *β.* 2–3 stanen, 4 stoonen, 5 stonun, 5–6 -yn, (7 stoneing), 3–5, 9 stonen. [OE. *stǽnen* = OFris. *steinen*, OHG., MHG. *steinîn*, Goth. *stainein-s*:—OTeut. **stainīno-* f. **staino-* STONE *sb.* The *β* forms are refashioned after the *sb.*]

1. Made or consisting of stone: = STONE *sb. attrib.* (17 a).

a 900 *O. E. Martyrol.* 15 May 83 God sealde..his bebodu ..on twam stænenum bredum. *c* 1205 LAY. 9241, & al abuten ouer al he makede stænene wal. *Ibid.* 12424 Ænne strongne stanene wal. *Ibid.* 14227 Þer uppe stenene [1275 stonene] wal. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 378 Ineiled o rode, and ine stoneine þruh biclused. 1388 WYCLIF *2 Cor.* iii. 3 Writun.. not in stony [*v.r.* stonen] tablis, but in fleischli tablis of herte. *c* 1400 *Apol. Loll.* 90 Þe hebun men had sex kyndis of similacris, cleyen, treen, brasun, stonun, silueren, & golden. *c* 1450 *Brut* 404 Grete houngir brekithe herd stonen wall yn hir grete nede. 1528 in Phillipps *Wills* (*c* 1830) 106 My great stonyn trough. 1643 in *N. & Q.* 5th Ser. VIII. 497/1 He pulled down a stoneing cross. 1879 FARRAR *St. Paul* II. 103 Ye are our Epistle, says St. Paul,..written..not on stonen tablets, but on fleshen tablets. *Mod. dial.* (*Berks.*) Have you come over the stonen bridge? [i. e. a stone thrown across a ditch or narrow stream.]

† b. *fig. Obs.*

971 *Blickl. Hom.* 105 Hie wæron stænenre heortan & bindre. 1430–40 LYDG. *Bochas* IV. ix. (1554) 105 b, No man had so hard a stonen hert That might..his yen kepe drye.

2. Made of stoneware: = STONE *sb. attrib.* (17 b).

c 1000 *Ags. Gosp.* John ii. 6 Þær wæron soðlice aset six stænene [*c* 1160 *Hatton* stenene] wæter-fatu. *c* 1200 ORMIN 14029 Sexe stanene fetless. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 477/1 Stonyn pott or oþer wessel.

Stone-parsley. [= F. *pin de pierre*; cf. also G. *steinpinie* (in some Dicts.). The reason for the name is obscure; it has been supposed to refer to the hardness of the seeds.] A species of pine-tree, *Pinus Pinea*, a native of Southern Europe and the Levant, with edible seeds. Also applied to other species, as *P. Cembra* (Swiss Stone-pine).

1759 P. MILLER *Gard. Dict.* (ed. 7) s.v. *Pinus*, The cultivated Pine Tree, commonly called the Stone Pine. 1785 MARTYN *Lett. Bot.* XXVIII. 444 The Stone-Pine has also double leaves. 1846 LINDLEY *Veg. Kingd.* 229 [The seeds] of the Stone Pine of Europe, Pinus Pinea,..[and of] Pinus Cembra, Pinus Lambertiana..are all eatable when fresh. 1887 G. NICHOLSON *Dict. Gard.* s.v. *Pinus*, *P. Cembra*. Swiss Stone Pine.

attrib. 1822 *Hortus Angl.* II. 498 P[inus] Pinea. Stone Pine Tree. 1874 STEWART & BRANDIS *Flora N. West India* 516 The celebrated Stone Pine forest..near Ravenna. 1875 KINGSTON tr. *Jules Verne's Abandoned* VII. (1886) 90 [The monkey] ate with relish some stone pine almonds.

Stone-pitch. ? *Obs.* [f. STONE *sb.* (see 17 c) + PITCH *sb.*[1] Cf. G. *steinpech*, bitumen.]

1. Pitch in the solid form; hard or dry pitch.

c 1450 *M. E. Med. Bk.* (Heinrich) 174 Spaynysche code & stanpicche. [*Harl. MS.* 1600 half a pond of stanpiche.] 1579 LANGHAM *Gard. Health* 493 Stone or drie Pitch, hath the vertues of Tarre or liquid Pitch, but not so strong. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* I. 411 Plankes of oke with nailes driven into them, cemented with stone-pitch. 1668 CHARLETON *Onomast.* 236 *Bitumen*..Stone-Pitch.

2. (Meaning obscure.)

1589 in H. Hall *Soc. Eliz. Age* (1886) 225 Supper eodem. A shoulder of mutton,..Bred & beare,..Stone pytche.

Stoner[1] (stō·nəɹ). Also 4 staner. [f. STONE *v.* + -ER[1].] One who stones or pelts with stones (esp. so as to kill).

a 1350 *Stephen* 217 in Horstm. *Altengl. Leg.* (1881) 30 Saul, þat þe staners clothes held. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 477/1 Stonare, or he þat stonythe..*lapidator*. 1623 BINGHAM *Xenophon* 99 The stoners of the Ambassadors. 1680 C. NESSE *Church Hist.* 359 With this word, as with a stone, he knockt those stoners, for such they would have been to the woman, on the head. 1867 LIDDON in J. O. Johnston *Life & Lett.* v. (1904) 110 The stoners of St. Stephen.

Stoner[2] (stō·nəɹ). [f. STONE *sb.* + -ER[1].]

† 1. One skilled in precious stones: = LAPIDARY *sb.* 1 b. *Obs.*

c 1440 *Gesta Rom.* lxv. 286 (Harl. MS.) Gwido..went to a stoner, and saide to hym, 'good man, I pray þe tell me þe vertu of þis ston.'

2. In comb. with prefixed numeral: A person weighing, or a horse carrying, (so many) stone (STONE *sb.* 14).

1862 WHYTE MELVILLE *Inside Bar* iii. 264 Your nags is hardly thirteen-stoners, sir—not in a country like this. 1896 CONAN DOYLE *Rodney Stone* viii. 293 'Your man brought the scale down at thirteen-three and Harrison at thirteen-eight.' 'He's a fifteen-stoner from the loins upwards', cried Dutch Sam.

Stone-raw. Southernized form of STANE-RAW.

1802 SCOTT *Minstrelsy* II. 215 The usual dress of the fairies is green; though on the moors, they have been sometimes observed in heath-brown, or in weeds dyed with the stoneraw, or lichen. 1853 G. JOHNSTON *Bot. E. Bord.* 265 *Parmelia saxatilis*...Stoneraw: Staney-rag. It is employed..in dyeing stockings and nightcaps of a dirty orange-brown colour.

† Sto·nern, *a. Obs.* [Corrupt form of STONEN: cf. EARTHERN, and G. *steinern.*] = STONEN 1.

1753 W. MAITLAND *Hist. Edin.* I. i. 11 The Buildings which before had Stonern Fronts, were now converted into Wood. 1822 SCOTT *Nigel* ii, The West-Port is of stonern work.

Stonery (stō·nəɹi). *rare.* [f. STONE *sb.* + -ERY.] An artificial collection or pile of stones; a rockery.

1833 LOUDON *Encycl. Archit.* § 1979 Stoneries, as they are sometimes called, might be made little geological museums. 1889 *Advt.*, Seeds for Stonery or Grotto.

Stonesfield (stō·nzfīld). Name of a village in Oxfordshire: used *attrib.* in **Stonesfield slate** (*Geol.*), a stratum of thin-bedded limestone and calcareous sandstone forming part of the Great Oolite series in Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire.

Stonesfield slates, i.e. slabs of limestone from this formation, are used for roofing.

1839 G. ROBERTS *Dict. Geol., Stonesfield*, near Oxford; slate containing pterodactyles, &c., a lower portion of the great oolite. 1855 *Orr's Circ. Sci., Inorg. Nat.* 71 Great oolite, Stonesfield slate, Fuller's earth. 1865 PAGE *Handbk. Geol. Terms, Stonesfield Slate*,..celebrated for its being the rock in which English geologists first detected mammalian remains..of Secondary epoch. 1885 GEIKIE *Text-bk. Geol.* VI. iii. (ed. 4) 795 The fossils of the Stonesfield Slate are varied and of high geological interest.

Stone-shot.

1. [SHOT *sb.*[1] 14.] Stones used as missiles, esp. as shot for cannon: cf. STONE *sb.* 5 g. Also a single stone used as a cannon-ball.

1667 PEPYS *Diary* 28 Apr., A ship of near 500 tons was there found..supposed of Queene Elizabeth's time,..with a great deal of stone-shot in her,..which was shot then in use. 1712 MOTTEUX *Quix.* III. viii. (1749) I. 184 The other slaves..pouring vollies of stone-shot at the guards. 1876 VOYLE & STEVENSON *Milit. Dict.* 410/1. 1910 *Encycl. Brit.* II. 685/2 [In 1807] a stone-shot weighing some 700 lb. cut the mainmast of Admiral J. T. Duckworth's flagship in two.

† b. [SHOT *sb.*[1] 7 b.] The act of discharging stones from a gun. *Obs.*

1692 in *Capt. Smith's Seaman's Gram.* II. xvi. 125 In loading your Gun for a Stone-shot you are not to give her the same Charge of Powder as for one of Lead or Iron.

2. [SHOT *sb.*[1] 8.] = STONE'S THROW.

1847 TENNYSON *Princess* V. 51 He show'd a tent A stone-shot off.

Stone-smatch, -smitch (stō·nˌsmæʧ, -smiʧ). Also -smach, -smich, corruptly -smick, -smickle. [f. STONE *sb.* + SMATCH *sb.*[2] Cf. G. *steinschmätzer.*] A name for the STONECHAT (also applied to the wheat-ear).

1668 WILKINS *Real Char.* 151 Living..upon stony places or open Heaths..Stone Smich. *a* 1672 WILLUGHBY *Ornith.* II. XV. § 3 (1676) 169 *Oenanthe nostra tertia*: *Muscicapa tertia* Aldrov.:..The Moor-Titling: The Stone-smich or Stone-chatter. 1709 J. LAWSON *Hist. Carolina* 146 The Snow-Birds are most numerous in the North Parts of America...They are like the Stones Smach, or Wheat-Ears. 1736 AINSWORTH, Stonesmickle (bird), *Muscinapa.* 1790 GROSE *Prov. Gloss.* (ed. 2) Suppl., *Stone-chat* or *Stone-smatch*, the bird called in the south a wheat-ear. 1797 [see STONECHAT].

Stone's throw (stō·nzˌþrōu:). Also (*rarely*) **stone-throw.** [THROW *sb.*[2] 6.] The distance that a stone can be thrown by the hand; vaguely used for a short or moderate distance.

a. 1581 A. HALL *Iliad* III. 45 For who can see a stones throw of ought thing in land or plaine? 1712 [see THROW *sb.*[2] 6]. 1832 R. & J. LANDER *Exped. Niger* II. viii. 3 The Niger here..is not more than a stone's-throw across at present. 1889 JESSOPP *Coming of Friars* V. 218 Three mighty churches, all within a stone's throw of one another.

β. 1875 MCILWRAITH *Guide Wigtownsh.* 19 The ruins of the little chapel are within a stone-throw of the road. 1895 W. M. MACPHERSON *Ch. & Priory Monymusk* i. 41 The

little Romanesque church and tower..were built..within a stone throw of their altar.

Stone-still, *adv.* and *predicative adj.* [See STONE *sb.* 19 and STILL *adv.* and *a.*; cf. STOCK-STILL.] As still as a stone; perfectly still or motionless. Usually after *sit, stand, lie,* etc.

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 414 Sitte ȝe mid Marie ston-stille ed Godes fet, and hercneð him one. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* i. (*Peter*) 491 Þe body lay stan still. *c* 1475 *Hunt. Hare* 42 Jac Wade hase a dogge..wyll take a bull, And hold hym ston-styll. 1595 SHAKS. *John* IV. i. 77, I will not struggle, I will stand stone still. 1668 L'ESTRANGE *Vis. Quev.* vii. 212 At the very name of Priest,..Lucifer stood stone-still, as mute as a fish. ? 1718 POPE *Let. to Duke Buckhm.* Wks. 1886 X. 149, I imagined it had been a village in Amphion's time, where all the cottages having taken a country dance together, had..stood stone-still with amazement ever since. 1859 MEREDITH *R. Feverel* i, She lay stone-still in a trance of terror.

† **b.** Perfectly quiet or silent. *Obs.*

1338 R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (1725) 266 Nouþer suld werri bi lond, no in water bi schip, Bot hold þam stone stille in pes at þer cumre. *c* 1425 *Seven Sag.* (P.) 1735 Scho sewyd hyr modyr wylle, And went hom al ston stille.

† **Sto·nesuck.** *Obs.* In 3 stoansuke. [f. STONE *sb.* + SUCK *v.*] Parsley.

c 1265 *Voc. Plants* in Wr.-Wülcker 556/11 *Petrosillum,* peresil, stoansuke.

Stone-wall, *sb.* Now usually as two words.

1. A wall built of stones; now esp. of rough stones without mortar, as a fence between fields, etc.

c 825 *Vesp. Psalter* lxi[i]. 4 Stanwalle [*dative*: gl. *macheriæ*]. *c* 1205 LAY. 15846 Nulle hit nauere god..þæt þi castel stonde..ne nauere þi stan wal stille ne ligge. *c* 1385 CHAUCER *L. G. W.* 713 There was but a ston wal hem be-tweene. 1463 *Bury Wills* (Camden) 20 The stoon wal be the strete syde. 1546 J. HEYWOOD *Prov.* (1867) 39 Hunger perseth stone wall. 1621 in *Trans. Cumb. & Westm. Archæol. Soc.* (1903) III. 155 That all the Tennants..make their dike.. with Stonewall Five foote high with Cape and Coble. ? *c* 1640 LOVELACE *Poems, To Althea* iv, Stone Walls doe not a Prison make. 1768 PENNANT *Brit. Zool.* II. 269 Hills, especially those that are fenced with stone walls. 1856 EMERSON *Engl. Traits* v, Wks. (Bohn) II. 43 The last Reform-bill took away political power from a mound, a ruin, and a stone-wall, whilst Birmingham and Manchester..had no representative. 1908 [MISS E. FOWLER] *Betw. Trent & Ancholme* 21 A low stone wall and coping.

2. *Australian Polit. slang.* Parliamentary obstruction, or a body of obstructives: cf. *stone-wall* vb., etc. below.

1876 *Victorian Hansard* Jan. XXII. 1387 (Morris) Mr. G. Paton Smith wished to ask..whether the six members.. constituted the 'stone wall'..which was to oppose all progress? 1898 *Daily News* 22 Oct. 2/1 The New Zealand Legislation..indulging in what is known in colonial parlance as a 'stone wall'.

3. *attrib.* and *Comb.*

1880 'BROOKSBY' *Hunting Countries* II. 201 Stonewall jumping. *Ibid.* 205 Here you get on to the stone wall country, and may not see a hedge all day. 1890 *Catholic News* 20 Sept. 7/3 It displayed..the usual stone-wall stupidity. 1895 LD. SALISBURY in *Standard* 6 July 5 When a Standing Committee by a stonewall majority passed every word of a Bill in spite of every attempt to amend it. 1901 *Daily Chron.* 29 Aug. 6/3 What excellent stone-wall jumpers almost all the horses were.

Hence **Stonewall** *v.* (*a*) *intr., Cricket slang,* to block balls persistently, to play solely on the defensive; also *transf.*; (*b*) *Polit. slang,* orig. and chiefly *Australian,* to obstruct business by lengthy speeches or otherwise, to practise obstruction; also *trans.* to obstruct (business). **Stone-walled** (-wɔ̄ld) *a.*, having or enclosed by a stone wall or walls. **Stonewaller,** one who 'stone-walls' (in either sense). **Stone-walling** *vbl. sb.*, (*a*) the process of walling with stone; *concr.* (usually as two words) stone walls collectively, or a length of stone wall; (*b*) *Cricket* and *Polit. slang,* persistent blocking or obstruction (see *stonewall* vb. above); also *attrib.* **Stone-walling** *ppl. a.*, that 'stonewalls', obstructive.

1889 *Played On* 34 A brother professional..began to *stone-wall in a distracting manner. 'Take care of your wicket and let the runs take care of themselves,' was his motto. 1914 *Daily News* 15 Apr. 9 Complaint that the Church has been too long stone-walling was made at the annual conference of the Wesley Guild. 1916 *Contemp. Rev.* Nov. 576 Obstruction did not merely consist in stonewalling Government business. 1786 G. FRAZER *Dove's Flight* 41 She takes her flight to her *stone-walled refuge. 1891 *Field* 7 Mar. 345/3 Barchard in goal..showed marvellous stopping powers...In him the North possess a regular '*stonewaller'. 1799 A. YOUNG *View Agric. Lincoln.* 32, 518 yards of chopped *stone walling. 1875 *Encycl. Brit.* II. 388/2 Over this structure there was clearly another..as extensive remains of fine-stone-walling still exist. 1880 *Gentl. Mag.* Jan. 64 If '*stone-walling' tactics are adopted by the oppositionists. 1892 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 5 Sept. 1/2 It is for cricket such as this..that the opponents of stone-walling sigh. 1902 *Daily Chron.* 23 Apr. 3/2 Of 'stone-walling' cricketers, Lord Granville [Gordon] entertains a very poor opinion.

Stoneware (stōu·nwēəɹ). (Also with hyphen, or as two words.) A hard dense kind of pottery ware, made from very siliceous clay, or a mixture of clay with a considerable amount of flint or sand.

1683 *Digby's Chym. Secr.* II. 207 Take an Earthen Pan of Stone-ware. 1747 BERKELEY *Tar-water in Plague* Wks. III. 487, I use tar-water made in stone ware or earthen very well glazed. 1827 FARADAY *Chem. Manip.* xv. (1842) 373 Bottles..on sand, placed in a bowl or cup of common stone ware. 1880 JANVIER *Pract. Keramics* 136 Very fine stone-wares, mostly iron-body, are made in Japan and China.

b. *attrib.*

1783 *J. Tait's Directory Glasgow* (1872) 54 Oliphant Francis, stone ware dealer, King's street. 1807 T. THOMSON *Chem.* (ed. 3) II. 302 The paper, while still moist, is applied to the stoneware biscuit and pressed upon it. 1849 S. SHAW *Staffordsh. Potteries* 173 His beautiful and excellent Stone Ware Pottery. 1833 N. ARNOTT. *Physics* (ed. 5) II. 39 A black stone-ware teapot..will radiate away 100 degrees of its heat in the same time that a pot of polished metal will radiate only 12 degrees. 1854 RONALDS & RICHARDSON *Chem. Technol.* (ed. 2) I. 229 The smoke and hot gases are caused to circulate in an extensive series of metallic or stoneware flues. 1884 C. T. DAVIS *Bricks, Tiles,* etc. (1889) 308 The interval between the South Amboy fire-clay bed and the stoneware clay bed.

Stone-weight. (Now usually as two words.) A measure of weight: = STONE *sb.* 14. Also, a piece of metal of this weight, used in weighing, or as a standard.

a 1400 [see STONE *sb.* 14]. 1552 *Extracts Rec. Convent. Burghs Scot.* (1870) I. 2 The stane wecht of Lanark. 1628 in *Maitl. Club Misc.* III. 369 For bringing from Edinburgh to Stirling xiij stane wecht of Calk oyle and Culloures. 1658 GURNALL *Chr. in Arm.* II. 33 If a pound weighs down the scale, there is no doubt then but a stone weight will do it. 1835 *Act* 5 & 6 *Will. IV*, c. 63 § 11 By local Customs..the Denomination of the Stone Weight varies.

Stonework (stōu·nwɔɹk). (Also with hyphen, or occas. as two words.) [Cf. OS. *stênwerk*, MHG., mod.G. *steinwerk.*]

1. Work built of stone; masonry.

c 1000 ÆLFRIC *Saints' Lives* xxvii. 29 He..worhte þa of seolfre ænne heahne stypel on stanweorces ġelicnysse. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) II. 81 Vawtes of stoonwerk wonderliche i-wrouȝt. 1412–20 LYDG. *Troy Bk.* II. 698 With spoutis þorus & pipes..From þe ston-werke to þe canel rauȝt, 1556 *Chron. Grey Friars* (Camden) 75 The goodly stoneworke that stode behynde the hye alter. 1609 HOLLAND *Amm. Marcell.* XXIV. i. 241 The sculces or floudgates made of stone worke. 1776 G. SEMPLE *Building in Water* 73 All that soft Slutch would be thrown out, and a firm Stone-work put in the Place of it. 1837 *Penny Cycl.* IX. 165/2 A course of stone-work imbedded in cement. *a* 1894 LAYARD *Autobiog.* (1903) I. iii. 146 The Lion of St. Mark carved in the stone-work.

b. Artistic work of any kind executed in stone.

1910 D. G. HOGARTH in *Encycl. Brit.* I. 248/1 The magnificent gold work of the later period..should be compared with stone work in Crete, especially the steatite vases with reliefs found at Hagia Triada.

2. The process of working in stone, as in building; the labour or task of a mason.

1793 SMEATON *Edystone L.* § 93 Whether there was any kind of mortar or cement used in the stone-work. 1870 J. L. AIKMAN *Centenary Anderston Ch., Glasgow,* Hist. Sk. 60 The stone-work was let to Mr. Broom, builder.

b. *Coal Mining.* The work of driving headings through stone or rock: cf. *stone-heading* (STONE *sb.* 20).

1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-mining* 242 *Stone work,* driving of drifts or galleries in measures.

So **Stone-worker,** a worker in stone; one who shapes or carves stone, as in building or sculpture. **Stone-working,** the process of working in stone (also *attrib.*). **Stone-works,** (*a*) an establishment for preparing stone for building, decorative, or other purposes; (*b*) an establishment for making artificial stone.

1898 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* V. 253 The pulmonary fibrosis of metal-grinders, of *stone-workers..and some other trades, is popularly known as consumption. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.*, *Stone-working Tools. 1905 MISS A. S. GRIFFITH tr. *Capart's Prim. Art Egypt* ii. 50 As a question of stone-working it is astonishing to find primitive man making rings in flint. 1731 W. HALFPENNY *Perspective* 34 Mr. Allen's *Stone-Works, near the City of Bath. 1878 JEWITT *Ceramic Art* I. 163 At the commencement Mr. Ransome had..his stone-works at Ipswich.

Stonewort (stōu·nwɔɹt). [f. STONE *sb.* + WORT. Cf. G. *steinwurz.*] Name for several different plants.

† **1.** The fern *Asplenium Ceterach,* also called *stone fern* (STONE *sb.* 20 c). *Obs.*

1585 HIGINS *Junius' Nomencl.* 135/1 *Scolopendrium, calcifraga,*..fingerferne: ceterach or stonewoort. 1647 HEXHAM I. (Herbs), Fingerferne, or stone-wort, *Steen-varen.*

2. With defining words, applied to species of *Sison* and other umbelliferous plants. (Cf. STONE-PARSLEY.)

1796 WITHERING *Brit. Plants* (ed. 3) II. 300 *Sison Amomum*...Bastard Stone Parsley. Hedge Stonewort. *Ibid.*, [*S.*] *segetum*...Corn Parsley, or Stonewort. 1799 J. HULL *Brit. Flora* I. 62 *Sison inundatum*...Water Stonewort. *Ibid., Sison verticillatum,*..Verticillate Stonewort. 1855 *Sowerby's Eng. Bot.* (ed. 3) IV. 107 *Sison Amomum*... Hedge Stonewort. *Ibid.* 108 *Trinia vulgaris*...Glabrous Stonewort.

3. A book-name for the genus *Chara,* from the calcareous deposits on the stem; also extended to the N.O. *Characeæ.*

1816 T. GREEN *Univ. Herbal* I. 285 *Chara Tomentosa*; Brittle Chara, or Stonewort. *Ibid., Chara Vulgaris*; Common or Stinking Chara, or Stonewort. *Ibid., Chara Flexilis*; Smooth Chara, or Stonewort. 1854 A. ADAMS etc. *Man. Nat. Hist.* 535 Stone-worts (Characeæ). 1875 HUXLEY & MARTIN *Elem. Biol.* 42 Stoneworts (Chara and Nitella).

Stoney, var. of STONY *a.* and *v.*

Stong, obs. pa. t. and pa. pple. of STING *v.*[1]

Stong(e, obs. or north. ff. STANG *sb.*[1] and *sb.*[2]

Stongke, obs. pa. t. of STINK *v.*

† **Sto·nied,** *ppl. a.*[1] *Obs.* [f. STONY *v.* + -ED[1].] Stupefied, benumbed, etc. Cf. ASTONIED.

a 1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter, Prayer Habakkuk* 510 In maunce of endles fyre, þou sall make þaim as stunayd men for wa þat is cumand till þaim. 1382 WYCLIF *Prov.* xvi. 30 [He] that with stonesid eyen [1388 iȝen astonyed; Vulg. *attonitis oculis*] thenketh shreude thingis. 1602 tr. *Guarini's Pastor Fido* IV. v. M 1, Fresh water may restore her stonied sprights. 1682 D'URFEY *Butler's Ghost* 134 That tumbling backwards o're a Stool, The stunnied Statesman with the blow Was left at the mercy of his Foe.

† **Sto·nied,** *ppl. a.*[2] *Obs. rare.* [f. as if **stony* vb., f. STONY *a.* + -ED[1].] That has become hard as a stone, stony.

1590 FENNE *Frutes, Hecubaes Mishaps* Cc 4 b, What stonied heart..would this not make to melt?

Stonify (stōu·nifai), *v. rare.* [f. STONE *sb.* or STONY *a.* + -FY.] *trans.* To make stony, or turn into stone; to petrify. Also *absol.*

1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* I. 363 Wilkes of stone or Shell-fish stonified. 1633 J. FISHER *Fuimus Troes* II. v. D 1 b, Whose most vgly shapes..[they] May kill, and stonifie without all weapons. 1763 *Ann. Reg., Char.* 28/2 Flints..are.., if the expression may be allowed, more *stonified* than other stones. 1887 W. C. RUSSELL *Frozen Pirate* I. xi. 160 The temperature below had not the severity to stonify me to the granite of the men at the table.

Hence **Sto·nified** *ppl. a.* Also **Sto·nifiable** *a.*, capable of being stonified.

1662 J. CHANDLER *Van Helmont's Oriat.* 247 Every stonyfiable juyce hath its own determined..hardness. 1888 R. C. MACLAGAN *Scott. Myths* 144 This stonified head. 1890 W. C. RUSSELL *Ocean Trag.* III. xxxiii. 218 The stonified ship [a ship encrusted with shells, etc.] shook to the mighty discharge.

Stonily (stōu·nili), *adv.* [f. STONY *a.* + -LY[2].] In a stony manner. Chiefly *fig.*: cf. STONY 5.

a 1845 BARHAM *Ingol. Leg., Blasph. Warn.* 722 And very few saw..A small stony Saint...Beckon stonily downward to some one below. 1859 W. H. GREGORY *Egypt in 1855–6* II. 35 The huge columns of the central hall, the colossal figures gazing stonily upon me..fell like a waking nightmare upon my imagination. 1899 CONAN DOYLE *Duet* 248 Harrison began to laugh, and then turned stonily solemn.

Stoniness (stōu·ninės). [f. as prec. + -NESS.] The quality or condition of being stony.

1. *lit.* The fact of having the character of stone, or being full of stones (or of hard substance like stone).

1600 SURFLET *Country Farm* II. liv. 369 Figges...Their stonines or being without stones. 1665 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* (1677) 38 Arabia Petrea (named so either from the Stoniness thereof or from Petra..the Capital City. 1789 W. H. MARSHALL *Glouc.* II. 40 Notwithstanding the stoniness of the soil.

b. *concr.* Stony matter or deposit. *rare.*

1653 BLITHE *Eng. Improv. Impr.* (ed. 3) 33 Oft-times thou commest immediately unto a little Gravill, or Stoniness. 1760 R. BROWN *Compl. Farmer* II. 5 Where anything of small gravel or stonyness is to be found.

2. *fig.* Hardness, insensibility, unfeelingness.

1571 GOLDING *Calvin on Ps.* xviii. 26. 62 God hardeneth himself..and becometh steely against their stonnynesse. 1626 J. COTTON in *Ussher's Lett.* (1686) 339 Before the Heart be changed from Stoniness to Brokenness. 1854 T. T. LYNCH *Lett. to Scattered* etc. (1872) 383 The stoniness of his own heart may remain.

Stoning (stōu·niŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. STONE *v.* + -ING[1].] The action of the verb, in various senses.

1. Pelting with stones; esp. (in ancient times) as a form of capital punishment.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 19467 Quils þai him wit staning queld. *c* 1400 *Sc. Trojan War* II. 1595 With mony bitter panes Of stanyng of hir moder schene. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 477/1 Stonynge, *lapidacio.* 1548 *Elyot's Dict., Lapidatio,* a stonyng, a hurlynge of stones. 1657 BILLINGSLY *Brachy-Martyrol.* viii. 27 The Christians underwent all wrongs, As Scourgings, stonings. 1849 M. ARNOLD *Sick King in Bokhara* 112 They..sentenc'd him..To die by stoning. 1886 C. BIGG *Chr. Platonists Alexandria* iv. 217 He narrowly escaped stoning in the streets.

2. Paving, building up, or repairing with stones. Also *concr.*

1797 J. CURR *Coal Viewer* 13 These roads..are laid..upon wood, (after..stoneing about ten or twelve inches thick for a foundation). 1819 [see GARLAND *sb.* 7]. 1867 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* Ser. II. III. ii. 664 At the entrances to large rivers it was sometimes necessary..to have careful stoning, because the work was frequently tested by heavy seas.

3. Rubbing or scouring with a stone. Also *attrib.*

1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 92/2 (Wool carding) Stoning of it [*sc.* the Card] is burnishing of it. 1882 *Encycl. Brit.* XIV. 387/1 In machine currying the tanned hides..are struck out in a 'stoning' machine. 1884 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* Suppl., *Stoning Jack,* a machine in which the jack is furnished with a stock stone to work the leather.

4. Clearing (ground) of stones; taking the stones out (of fruit).

1628 BP. HALL *Fast Serm.* 27 To what purpose is the fruitfulnesse, fencing, stoning, if the ground yeeld a plentiful Crop of..Weedes? 1747 MRS. GLASSE *Cookery* 154 To preserve Gooseberries whole without stoning.

5. Formation of the stone in fruit. Also *attrib.*

1842 LOUDON *Suburban Hort.* 475 The setting and stoning of fruit...The fruit is thinned before and after the stoning season. *Ibid.* 484 When the stoning is completed and the fruit begins to swell.

Sto·ning, *ppl. a.* [f. as prec. + -ING[2].] That stones, in senses of the vb.; † petrifying.

1623 W. LISLE *Ælfric's O. & N. Test.* To Rdrs. P 4 To mould the dow of artificiall marble, and bake it in Killes for

building..or tempered with clammy and stoning waters, to plaster and polish it with tooles appliable vnto all formes. 1891 MEREDITH *One of our Conq.* xxxii, A man whose appearance breathed of offering her common ground, whereon to meet and speak together, unburdened by the hunting world, and by the stoneing world.

† Sto·nish, *a. Obs.* [f. STONE *sb.* + -ISH 1.] Resembling, or having the character of, stone; stony. (Chiefly *fig.*)

c 1450 *Mirour Saluacioun* (Roxb.) 158 Harde and stonysshe ware yᵗ hert. 1530 PALSGR. 302 *Pierreux*, stony or stonysshe. 1551 ROBINSON tr. *More's Utopia* II. (1895) 206 Is there annye man so possessed wyth stonyshe insensibilitie..?

† Sto·nish, *v. Obs.* Forms: 5 *Sc.* **stunys, stonisch,** 5–6 *Sc.* **stonis, -ys, -eis,** 6 *Sc.* **stwnys, stunnys**; 6 **ston(n)ysh(e,** 6–7 **stonish.** [aphetic f. ASTONISH *v.*] *trans.* To stun mentally, shock, surprise. = ASTONISH *v.* 2–4.

c 1470 HENRY *Wallace* VI. 349 The fyrst cownter so gret abaysing maid, That all the ost was stunyst of that sicht. *c* 1470 *Rauf Coilzear* 175 For I am stonischit at this straik, that hes me thus steird. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* XI. i. 44 So that..na delay May stoppin 30u, nor stunnys ane other day Be 30ur awin sleuth. 1530 PALSGR. 736/2 I stonyshe, *jestonne*. He stonyshyd me. 1592 SHAKS. *Ven. & Ad.* 825 Whereat amas'd..Or stonisht, as night wandrers often are, Their light blowne out..Euen so confounded in the darke she lay. 1612 T. TAYLOR *Comm. Titus* i. 15 Labour in hearing the word, to finde it..to shake and stonish thy soule.

Hence **† Sto·nished** *ppl. a.*, **† Sto·nishing** *vbl. sb.* Also **† Sto·nishment.**

c 1520 M. NISBET *N. T. in Scots* Acts iii. 10 And thai war fillit with wonndring, and stonysing of mynde [1388 WYCLIF stoniynge]. 1530 PALSGR. 276/2 Stonnyshyng abashing, *estonnissement*. 1594 R. C[AREW] *Tasso* II. xxi, T'was stonishment [It. orig. *stupor*]..If t'were not loue that stir'd his villaine hart. 1595 SPENSER *Amoretti* xvi, The whiles my stonisht hart stood in amaze.

Stonk(e, -en, obs. pa. t. and pple. of STINK *v.*

Stonkerd, obs. form of STUNKARD *a.*

Stonnard, stonnord: see STONEHORE.

Stonné, obs. form of STONE.

Stonore, variant of STONEHORE.

Stont, variant of STOUND *sb.*, STUNT *a.*

Stont(e : see STAND *v.*, STINT *v.*

Stony (stōu·ni), *a.* Forms: 1 **stániz, 3 stoni,** 3–4 **stani,** 4–5 **stany,** 5–6 **stonye,** 6 **stoany,** *Sc.* **staany,** 6–7 **stonie,** 7 *Sc.* **stanie,** 7–9 **stoney,** 4– **stony.** [OE. *stániz* = OHG. *steinag*, Goth. *stainahs* :—OTeut. **stainago-, -axo-,** f. **staino-* STONE *sb.*: see -Y. (OE. had also *stænig* :—OTeut. type **stainīgo-*.)]

1. Abounding in, or having the character of, stone or rock; full of rocks; rocky. Now *rare* or *Obs.*

† *Stony sea*: the Adriatic.

c 975 *Rushw. Gosp.* Matt. xiii. 5 Þæt obere þonne gefeollon on staniz lond. *c* 1325 *Metr. Hom.* 52 That gat that ledes Til hel..es stany and thornye Wit couaitys, and gletounye, [etc.]. *c* 1382 WYCLIF *Acts* xxvii. 27 In the stoony see [Vulg. *in Adria*]. *c* 1440 *Gesta Rom.* viii. 39 (Harl. MS.) The wey toward the cite was stony, þorny, and scroggy. *a* 1500 *Medulla Gram., Adriaticus*, stonye. 1526 TINDALE *Mark* iv. 5 Some [seed] fell on a stony [1611 on stony; R.V. on the rocky] grounde, where it had not moche erth. 1638 JUNIUS *Paint. Ancients* 92 Hee betooke himselfe to a stony place of a reasonable height. 1709 T. ROBINSON *Nat. Hist. Westmld. & Cumbld.* xv. 87 Those high, steep, and stony Mountains, which are called the Skrees. 1832 TENNYSON *Mariana in the South* iv, Day increased from heat to heat, On stony drought and steaming salt.

b. Full of or abounding in stones; containing many stones.

c 1400 *Promp. Parv.* 477/1 Stony, or full of stonys, *lapidosus, petrosus*. *c* 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* XIII. 38 In stony grounde ek loueth he to stonde. 1538 ELYOT *Dict., Calculosus locus*, a stonye place. 1669 WORLIDGE *Syst. Agric.* (1681) 260 Eels commonly abscond themselves under stones in stony Waters. 1765 *Museum Rust.* IV. 219 He excludes both stoney and clayey soils from the use of his plough. 1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 587 A gravelly soil consists chiefly of small stones from the size of a pea to that of a walnut, but when a large proportion of the stones are of the latter size or larger, the land is said to be stony. 1855 TENNYSON *Brook* 39, I chatter over stony ways.

† **c.** Of fruits: Having a stone; also, abounding in stone-like seeds. *Obs.*

1585 HIGINS *Junius' Nomencl.* 97/1 *Pomum calculosum, lapidosum*,..stonie fruite, or such fruit as hath a grauellie core. 1681 LANGFORD *Plain Instr. Fruit-trees* 135 The English [Quince] is the most stony. 1683 POYNTZ *Pres. Prosp. Tobago* 8 Guavers are a Fruit that's very stony. 1784 COWPER *Task* I. 120, I fed on scarlet hips and stony haws.

2. † **a.** Made of stone. *Obs.*

1382 WYCLIF *2 Cor.* iii. 3 Writun..not in stoony [1388 stony, stoneri] tablis but in fleischly tablis of herte. *c* 1447–8 *Shillingford Lett.* (Camden) 85 Wher was never no stale but a stony walle. 1552 T. WILSON *Logic* E iij, Euen as Moses receyued the same [law] of God in stony tables. 1611 CORYAT *Crudities* 58 A faire stonie Bridge. 1612 *Two Noble K.* v. i. 62 The stony girthes of Cities. 1776 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* I. 382 Another noise..like the rattling of a great cart, upon a stony pavement.

b. Of the nature of stone.

1695 WOODWARD *Nat. Hist. Earth* II. (1723) 78 The Stoney Matter of the Strata. 1827 FARADAY *Chem. Manip.* xiii. (1842) 302 Ordinary earthy or stony matter. 1871 G. MACDONALD *Sonn., conc. Jesus* xiv, When the soaring skylark sings How shall the stony statue strain to hear?

c. Consisting of stones; *occas.* inflicted by stones. Chiefly *poet.* ? *Obs.*

a 1586 C'TESS PEMBROKE *Ps.* LXXIX. i, Jerusalem..hath suffred..utter wrack, To stony heapes her buildings turned. 1611 CORYAT *Crudities* 103 A certaine stony circle that appeareth a little aboue the ground. 1657 BILLINGSLY *Brachy-Martyrol.* iv. 19 Holy Steven Did through a Stony-volley go to heaven. 1697 DRYDEN *Æneid* IX. 1092 His golden helm gives way with stony blows Battered. 1736 GRAY *Statius* I. 18 Batter Cadmus walls with stony showers.

3. Pertaining or relating to stone or stones. *rare.*

1847 TENNYSON *Princess* iii. 343 Chattering stony names Of shale and hornblende, rag and trap and tuff, Amygdaloid and trachyte. 1849 H. MILLER *Footpr. Creator* xv. (1874) 290 The stony science. 1864 RUSKIN in *Reader* IV. 678/1, I..have been at stony work ever since, as I could find time.

4. Resembling stone in consistence; hard like stone; very hard.

1523–34 FITZHERB. *Husb.* § 137 A peare or a warden wolde be graffed in a pyrre-stocke,..and some men graffe theym in a whyte-thorne, and than it wyll be the more harder and stonye. *c* 1586 C'TESS PEMBROKE *Ps.* cv. ix, Noe rayny cloude but breakes in stony haile. 1664 EVELYN *Kal. Hort., Feb.* (1679) 10 Set all sorts of Kernels and stony-Seeds. 1834 MCMURTRIE *Cuvier's Anim. Kingd.* 470 A layer of stony granules, which form an extremely indurated crust. 1857 DICKENS *Dorrit* II. i, The thin, hard, stony wine. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* III. 884 Formation of a stony concretion..in the nose..a rhinolith.

b. Of a quality (as hardness, colour): Like that of stone.

1565 COOPER *Thesaurus, Lapidea duritia*, a stonie hardenesse. 1796 WITHERING *Brit. Plants* (ed. 3) IV. 64 Root single, central, of a stony consistence. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* IV. 747 There is very marked induration..often stony hardness. 1910 W. PARKER in *Encycl. Brit.* XI. 352/2 In colour they range from a pale stony or yellowish shade to a rich dark brown.

5. *fig.* **a.** 'Hard', insensible, or unfeeling, as if consisting of stone; hardened, obdurate.

?*c* 1230 *Hali Meid.* 22 Stani were his heorte 3ef ha ne mealt i teares. *a* 1250 *Prov. Ælfred* B. 694 He hauit stoni herte, po-þing him ne smerteþ. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 288 b, The herte begynneth to..melte..whiche before was all harde and stony as a flynte. 1595 MARKHAM *Sir R. Grinuile* To Earl Sussex 4 Sauing the Muse by stonie times vndoone. 1596 SHAKS. *Merch. V.* IV. i. 4 A stonie adversary, an inhumane wretch, Vncapable of pitty. *a* 1640 J. BALL *Treat. Covt. Grace* (1645) 340 A fleshie heart cannot be received by a stony, but the stony is removed by the fleshie. 1648 J. BEAUMONT *Psyche* XIV. cxliii, From the staring People's stony eye He of compassion not one drop had wrung. 1847 C. BRONTË *Jane Eyre* iv, She introduced me to the stony stranger. *a* 1854 H. REED *Lect. Eng. Hist.* x. (1856) 187 The tyrant's indurated and stony conscience.

absol. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* XI. 4 Prevenient Grace descending had remov'd The stonie from thir hearts.

b. Rigid, fixed, motionless; destitute of movement or expression: esp. of the eyes or look.

1642 H. MORE *Song of Soul* III. iii. 44 Some Giant..With stony staring eyes. 1813 SCOTT *Trierm.* II. xxvi, Long shall close in stony sleep Eyes for ruth that would not weep. 1855 TENNYSON *Maud* I. xiii. 22 He..Gorgonised me from head to foot With a stony British stare.

c. Of fear, grief, etc.: 'Petrifying', stupefying: having no relief.

1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* I. vi. 37 Suddein cold did ronne through every vaine, And stony horrour all her scences fild. *Ibid.* II. viii. 46 The stony feare Ran to his hart. 1794 W. BLAKE *Songs Exper., Earth's Answ.* 4 Stony dread! 1882 'EDNA LYALL' *Donovan* iv, A stony speechless sorrow.

d. *slang.* Short for *stony-broke* (see 6).

1890 [R. C. LEHMANN] *Harry Fludyer* 122 Pat said he was stoney or broke or something but he gave me a sov. 1894 W. H. WILKINS & H. VIVIAN *Green Bay Tree* I. 25, I shall be quite stony if this goes on. 1905 VACHELL *Hill* ix. 193 You'll have to wait till I have the money. I'm stoney now.

6. Combinations, etc. **a.** In advb. comb. with adjs., as † *stony-blind* (= STONE-BLIND), *-pitiless*.

b. Parasynthetic formations, as *stony-eyed, -jointed, -toed, -winged* adjs. **c.** Special comb. and collocations: † **stony bone** (tr. med.L. *os petrosum*: see PETROSAL; cf. ROCKY *a.*1 3 a), the petrous portion of the temporal bone, containing the internal ear; **stony-broke** *a. (slang)* = *stone-broke* (STONE *sb.* 20); † **stony coal** = STONE-COAL; **stony cobbler** (see quot.); **stony colic,** colic due to an intestinal concretion (cf. *stone-colic*, STONE *sb.* 21); **stony coral** = *stone-coral* (STONE *sb.* 21 b); † **Stony Mountains,** the Rocky Mountains (see ROCKY *a.*1 1 b); † **stony sage** (see quot.).

1587 W. FOWLER *Wks.* (S.T.S.) I. 39/73 The man is *stony blinde that can not see the Sun. 1615 CROOKE *Body of Man* 487 The *stony-bone. 1677 tr. *Groeneveldt's Treat. Stone* 9 The *Os petrosum*, or Stony-bone in the Organ of our Hearing. 1894 ASTLEY *50 Yrs. My Life* II. 84 Though *stony broke, it still reposes on my sideboard. 1895 MARIE CORELLI *Sorrows of Satan* x, I'm cleaned out—'stony-broke', as the slang goes. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* III. 93 The County of Namures..hath Mines of Iron and plenty of *stony Coale. 1880 DAY *Fishes Gt. Brit.* I. 82 Little- or lesser-weever:..*Stony-cobbler. 1822–9 *Good's Study Med.* (ed. 3) I. 252 Enterolithica. *Stony colic. From bezoards and other intestinal concretions. 1882 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* VI. 277 The *Stony-Corals are well-known forms of animal life. 1859 'O. MEREDITH' *Wanderer* (ed. 2) 177 Each *stony-eyed corpse there. 1767 ELLIS *Corallines* in *Phil. Trans.* LVII. 408 The *stony-jointed Corallines. 1811 PINKERTON *Mod. Geog.* 542 The ridge called the *Stoney Mountains. 1818–22 *Encycl. Metrop.* XIV. 305/2. 1604 *Meeting of Gallants at Ordinary* (Percy Soc.) 7 Are not my Acts More *stony-pittiesse? 1548 TURNER *Names Herbes* 73 Sideritis prima..may be called in englishe walsage or *stonisage. 1845 DICKENS *Chimes* i. 6 A breezy,..blue-nosed, red-eyed, *stony-toed, tooth-chattering place it was, to wait in, in the winter-time. 1855 BAILEY *Mystic* 45 Dragon *stony-winged.

† Sto·ny, *v. Obs.* Forms: 4–5 **stoney, stonay, stunay,** 4 **stonye,** (**stoneze**), 5 **stuny, stonyyn** (*Promp. Parv.*), 7 **stunny,** 4–7 **stony.** *Pa. t.* 4 **stoneyd, stoneȝed,** *Sc.* **stonait, -ayit,** 5 **stonayd(e, stonaid,** 4–7 **stonyed.** *Pa. pple.* 4 **stoneyd, -eyed,** *Sc.* **stonayit,** 4–5 **stonayd,** 5 **-ayde, -ayed,** *Sc.* **stonayt,** 5–6 **stonyed,** (6 **stonied**), 7 **stunnied.** See also STOYNE *v.* [Aphetic f. ASTONY *v.* (Prob. sometimes confused with STUN *v.*)]

1. *trans.* To stupefy with noise or with a shock to the mind or feelings, benumb the faculties of (a person); to confound, amaze. Also *pass.*

c 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 16629 Cadwaladres, when he þys herde,..Stoneyed he was a wel god prowe. *a* 1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter, Prayer Habakkuk* 510 *In furore obstupefacies gentes*..in breth þou sall stunay gengo. *c* 1340 — *Pr. Treat.* 43 þise wordes when I here thaym or redis þam stonyes me and makis me gretly ferd. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* I. 299 Thair wes nane auentur that mocht Stunay hys hart. 1399 LANGL. *Rich. Redeles* II. 125 Þus ȝe derid hem vnduly.., And stonyed hem with stormes þat stynted neuere. *c* 1450 in Aungier *Syon* (1840) 354 Yf the hyghe mas be bygon they schalle synge Ab inimicis..withe oute the chirche, for stonyeng of the preste at auter. 1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* III. vii. 107 Syr gauayne was so stonyed of the deth of this fair lady that he wiste not what he dyd. 1596 SPENSER *F. Q.* V. xi. 30 Then gan she cry much louder then afore,.. And Belge selfe was therewith stonied sore. 1612 DEKKER *Loud. Tri.* C 4 b, *Envy*...Come You clouen-footed-brood of Barathrum Stop, stony her, fright her with your shreeke? 1660 BOYLE *New Exp. Phys. Mech.* v. 52 So loud and vehement a noise, as stony'd those that were by. 1688 S. JOHNSON *Purgatory Prob'd* Pref. 1 This Miracle stunnied the Dominicans for some time.

2. To amaze or stupefy with a blow, stun.

c 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 12377 Arthur was stoneyd, stakered, & stynt, But 3ut fel he nought for þat dynt [of the giant]. 1370 *Leg-Folks Mass-Bk.*, App. IV. 354 Lord greue ȝe not for þat dunt He stoneyed me and made me stunt Stille out of my steuene. *c* 1400 *Sege Jerusalem* (E.E.T.S.) 50 þe worst wrecche in þe wone; may on walle lygge, Strike doun with a ston; & stuny many knyztes. *c* 1450 *Merlin* XVI. 265 But he was stonyed of the stroke that he myght not stonde on his feet. 1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* I. xvi. 58 He..smote hym on hyhe vpon the helme a grete stroke and stonyed hym sore. 1642 R. CARPENTER *Experience* II. vii. 163 [They] cut off their fingers, when many of them were alive, and onely stunnied. 1645 FEATLY *Dippers Dipt* (1646) 2 *margin*, The venturous Scotchman was so stunnied with this blow that he gave in.

3. To induce insensibility or loss of function in (a body or limb); to benumb, deaden.

1382 WYCLIF *Gen.* xxxii. 32 Therthurȝ that he towchide the synwe of his hipe, and it was stoneyd [Vulg. *obstupuerit*, 1388 dried]. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XVII. cxii. (Tollem. MS.), Oyle may be so colde, þat he schall stony þe membre þat is bawmid þerwith. *c* 1403 LYDG. *Temple of Glas* 683 Bicause he seith, þat stoneiþ al my bloode, I am so symple & she is so goode. *c* 1530 *Judic. Urines* III. ii. 48 Yf that parte of the hede be agreued & stuffed or stonyed, through euyll humours and fumosites. 1684 tr. *Bonet's Merc. Compit.* IX. 335 The things that kill or stony them [i. e. worms] are all bitter, sharp, inciding, astringent things.

4. *intr.* To be stupefied with wonder or with fear.

1382 WYCLIF *Isa.* xiii. 8 Eche to his neȝhebore shall stoneȝe [1388 schal wondre. Vulg. *stupebit*]. *Ibid.* xix. 16 In that dai Egipt shal be as wymmen, and thei shul stoneȝen and dreden. 1436 *Libel Eng. Policy* in *Pol. Poems* (Rolls) II. 200 By lande and see so welle he hym acquite, To speke of hym I stony in my witte. *c* 1440 *York Myst.* XXX. 223 Loo! he stonyes for vs, he stares where he standis.

5. To break, crush.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 476/2 Stonyyn, or brese werkys, *briso*.

Hence † **Sto·nying** *vbl. sb. Obs.*

c 1315 SHOREHAM *Poems* I. 954 Per-fore þy schryfte, man, schel be Wyþ-oute stoneynge. 1382 WYCLIF *Jer.* xix. 8 And Y shal sette this cite in to stoneyng [1388 wondring. Vulg. *in stuporem*]. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XVII. ix. (1495) N vj b, Anetum sodde wyth oyle releasyth shrynkynge & stonyenge of synewes [L. *rigorem nervorum*]. *c* 1430 *Life of St. Kath.* (Gibbs MS.) 76 Whiche hath turned us alle in suche stonyynge and merueylyng. *c* 1530 *Judic. Urines* II. xii. 40 b, Litargia the lytargye is a stonyng of the brayne, wᵗ forgetfulnes. *Ibid.* 42 [This] sheweth brestyng bresyng or stonyng of sum veyne in yᵉ body. 1665–6 *Phil. Trans.* I. 223 The other [person struck by thunder or lightning]..besides a present stonying or numness, had no other hurt.

Stony-hearted (stōu·ni,hā·rtĕd), *a.* Having a stony heart; cruel, unfeeling, merciless.

1569 UNDERDOWNE *Heliodorus* VII. 93 There is no man so stoany harted, but he shal be made to yeelde with our flatteringe allurmentes. 1596 SHAKS. *1 Hen. IV* I. ii. 28 The stony-hearted Villaines. 1603 KNOLLES *Hist. Turkes* (1638) 44 For who was so stony hearted; whom his sweet words and abundant teares..might not haue moued. 1822 DE QUINCEY *Opium Eater* I. (1903) 183 So then, Oxford Street, stony-hearted stepmother,..at length I was dismissed from thee! *a* 1851 D. JERROLD *St. Giles* XV. 150 His coarse and stony-hearted brethren at the bar.

Hence **Stony-hea·rtedness.**

1673 HICKERINGILL *Greg. F. Greybeard* 258 They are so rooted in pride, stony heartedness and opinion of themselves. 1888 *Voice* (N. Y.) 19 Jan. 5 Mayor Chapin..refuses to perform the marriage ceremony...His stony-heartedness will blight the joy of many an intending Brooklyn couple.

† **Stoo,** *int. Obs. rare.* An exclamation used to urge on hounds. Cf. STABOY, STEEBOY, STUBOY.

1673 (*title*) S'too him Bayes: Or some Observations upon the Humour of Writing Rehearsal's. Transpros'd. 1692 *Christ Exalted* § cv. 85 In bringing out his Molossi and whaffling Whelps, and crying, Stoo Dogs, stoo.

Stoo, variant of STOW *v.*2, *dial.*, to crop.

Stoobber, Stood, obs. ff. STUBBER, STUD.

Stook (stuk), *sb.* Forms: 5–6 stowk, stoqke, 5–7 stowke, 5–6, 8–9 *dial.* stouk, 6 stuk, 9 *dial.* stuck, 6– stook. [ME. *stouk*, a. or cogn. w. MLG. *stûke* (WFlem. *stuik*) = HG. dial. *stauche* fem.; formally coincident (though etymological identity is doubtful on account of the difference of meaning) with a widespread Teut. word meaning sleeve: MLG. *stûke*, OHG. *stûhha* (MHG. *stûche*, mod.G. *stauche*), (O)Icel. *stúka* (? from Ger.).

The form *stook* is orig. n. dial.: cf. *hoose* (hūs) = house. It has, however, become current in other dialects, though the regular forms *stowk* and *stuck* are also used.]

1. = SHOCK *sb.*[1] 1.

14.. *Nom.* in Wr.-Wülcker 725/31 *Hec congelima*, a scowk [*read* stowk]. *c* 1460 *Towneley Plays* xxx. 315 His hede is like a stowke hurlyd as hoggys. 1494 in W. Ross *Busby & Neighb.* i. (1883) 22 Ilk person haffand ane pleugh—sall pay ane thraif of aits..and ilk half-pleugh a stouk. 1530 TINDALE *Exod.* xxii. 6 Yf fyre breake out and catch in the thornes, so that the stoukes of corne..be consumed therwith. 1586 *Durham Wills* (Surtees) II. 132 Otes, reaped anno 1586, ccxl threves, at v stookes a boll, 28 l. 16 s. 1620 MARKHAM *Farew. Husb.* xiii. 103 [They] lay them in stoucks of twenty or of foure and twenty sheaues a piece. *c* 1730 RAMSAY *Fable* xix. 68 They'll start at winlestraes, yet never crook, When Interest bids, to lowp out o'er a stowk. 1785 BURNS *To J. M'Math* i, While at the stook the shearers cow'r To shun the bitter blaudin' show'r. 1814 SIR J. SINCLAIR *Syst. Husb. Scot.* I. 333 Carts in this way will easily carry at once from ten to twenty stooks. 1827 HOOD *Ruth* iv, Thus she stood amid the stooks, Praising God with sweetest looks. 1865 W. WHITE *Eastern Eng.* II. 64 The great undulating upland stretches away to the southwards field after field; here waving grain, there rows of 'stooks'. 1894 *Times* 23 July 13/1 The prospect which a fortnight ago seemed certain of seeing wheat in stook by the end of the month is rapidly vanishing. 1898 J. A. GIBBS *Cotswold Village* 36 The vicar's man went into the cornfields and placed a bough in every tenth 'stook'. 1916 *Times* 4 Aug. 3 The cutting of winter oats is now common in the home counties, and the crops are bulking well in stook.

attrib. 1743 R. MAXWELL *Sel. Trans. Soc. Improv. Agric. Scot.* 328 The Lint is tied and set up Stook-ways. 1876 *Whitby Gloss.*, *Stookbands*, twisted straw ropes for sheaf-binding.

¶ **b.** Used for: A pile, mass.

1865 E. BURRITT *Walk to Land's End* 327 No furzy hill in the two counties wearing a stook of rocks on its head for hair-pins, could be better fitted [etc.]. 1892 HENLEY *Song of Sword, Lond. Voluntaries* i. 41 [The trees] stand Beggared and common, plain to all the land For stooks of leaves.

c. *Stook of duds*: see quot. 1901.

1831 CARLYLE *Sartor Res.* III. x, In Scotland, again, I find them entitled *Hallanshakers*, or the *Stook-of-Duds* Sect; any individual communicant is named *Stook-of-Duds* (that is, Shock of Rags), in allusion, doubtless, to their professional Costume. 1901 *Eng. Dial. Dict.* s.v. *Stook sb.*[1] 2, *Stook-of-duds*, a person so wrapped up as to suggest a shock of corn.

2. A bundle of straw. *dial.*

1571 in *Reg. Mag. Sig. Scot.* 1576, 709/1, 3 den. for thre stoukis (*sarcinis*) of custome stray. 1876 *Whitby Gloss.* s.v., 'A stook of straw', a bound bundle for thatching with. 1901 JANE BARLOW *Ghost-bereft* 86 The furze 'ill be thick as a stook of good thatch ivery day of the year.

†**3.** A cock (of hay). *Obs. rare.*

1600 SURFLET *Country Farm* IV. vi. 638 You must make it [your hay] into a high cocke with a narrow top..; and although there come no raine, yet it will be good to make these great stoukes [orig. F. *meulons*].

4. *Coal-mining.* [Perh. a different word: cf. STOOP *sb.*[1]] **a.** The portion of a pillar of coal left to support the roof.

1826–30 T. WILSON *Pitman's Play* (1843) 59 They jenkin a' the pillars doon, And efter tyek the stooks away. 1840 *Civil Engin. & Arch. Jrnl.* III. 68/2 In the Newcastle pits ..blocks or 'stooks' of considerable strength are suffered to remain, for the purpose of protecting the colliers from the exfoliation of the roof. 1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-mining* 242 *Stook* [Northumb. & Durham], a pillar of coal about four yards square, being the last portion of a full-sized pillar to be worked away in board and pillar workings. 1891 KIPLING *City Dreadf. Nt.* 82 The chipped-away legs of the pillars [of coal] are called 'stooks'.

b. *Stook and coil, stook and feathers*: see quots.

1808 BALD *Gen. View Coal Trade Scot.* 12 (Jam.) The mode then practised in sinking through hard strata, was by a set of tools termed stook and coil, or stook and feathers... Two long slips of iron, named the feathers, were placed down each side of the hole, and betwixt these a long tapering wedge, termed the stook was..driven down. 1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-mining* 242 *Stook and feather*, a wedge for breaking down coal, worked by hydraulic power, the pressure being applied at the extreme inner end of the drilled hole. 1886 J. BARROWMAN *Sc. Mining Terms* 64 *Stook and Coil*, or *Stook and Feathers*, a mode of wedging rocks.

Stook (stuk), *v.* [f. STOOK *sb.*; cf. MLG. *stûken*, WFlem. *stuiken*, G. *stauchen*.] *trans.* To set up (sheaves) in stooks. Also with *up*.

c 1575 SIR J. BALFOUR *Practicks* (1754) 220 The fruitis of the samin benefice beand separate fra the ground, be scheiring, stouking or stakking thairof. 1592 *Sc. Acts Jas. VI* (1814) III. 583/2 Quhen as the cornis ar standand vpon the grounde stoukit. 1611 COTGR., *Endizeler les gerbes*, to stonke [*read* stouke], or shocke vp sheaues of corne; to set, or make them vp in (tenne-sheaued) halfe-thraues. 1652 LAMONT *Diary* (Maitl. Club) 43 About Dundie in Angus ther was beare stowked. 1765 *Museum Rust.* IV. 457 If the flax be so short and branchy as to appear most valuable for seed, it ought, after pulling, to be stooked. 1794 A. PRINGLE *Agric. Westmorland* 31 Four men may cut, tie, and stook, a customary acre in a day. 1823 A. SMALL *Rom. Antiq. Fife* 135 Corn, ..taken out of a place where it has not much air to dry it, and stooked up thick on the ground. 1851 H. STEPHENS *Book of Farm* (ed. 2) II. 336/1 The corn is stooked upon the ridge where it grew. 1887 HALL CAINE *Deemster* viii, They were stooking the barley in the glebe.

b. *absol.*

1641 BEST *Farm. Books* (Surtees) 54 Oftentimes a painfull fellowe will not refuse to stooke after 7 or 8 Sythes, if the binders will but .. throwe him in the sheaves. 1799 J. ROBERTSON *Agric. Perth* 159 Seven reapers generally have a man to bind and stook after them. 1868 G. MACDONALD *R. Falconer* I. 262 Lasses to cut, and lasses to gether, and lasses to bin', and lasses to stook.

Hence **Stooked** *ppl. a.*, **Stoo·king** *vbl. sb.*

1575 Stouking [see the vb.]. 1787 BURNS *Answ. Gudwife Wauchope-House* i, Still shearing, and clearing The tither stooked raw. 1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* III. 1066 In stooking, bean-sheaves are set up in pairs against one another. 1884 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 21 June 6/1 The cutting, the 'stooking', and the gathering into the stackyard of their corn. 1884 *St. James's Gaz.* 22 Aug. 14/2 Fields of shocked or stooked corn. 1900 CROCKETT *Fitting of Peats* iv. *Love Idylls* (1901) 27 After the manner of stooked sheaves in a harvest-field.

Stook, dial. variant of STOUK *sb.* handle.

Stookado, rare obs. form of STOCCADO.

Stooke, obs. pa. t. and pa. pple. of STICK *v.*

Stooker (stu·kəɹ). [f. STOOK *v.* + -ER[1].] One who arranges sheaves in stooks.

1641 BEST *Farm. Bks.* (Surtees) 54 Wee allowe one stooker usually to 3 binders or 6 Sythes. 1822 J. WILSON *Lights & Shadows Sc. Life* 214, I was a stooker and a bandster on the Corn-rigs. 1904 *Dundee Advertiser* 20 July 5 Where the stookers have been able to keep up, what was..a waving mass of golden grain is now a regular succession of rows of stooks.

Stoo·kless, *a.* [f. STOOK *sb.* + -LESS.] Without a stook or stooks.

1883 A. WILSON *Nether Lochaber* lviii. 371 The field from head-rig to head-rig is but bare and stookless stubble.

Stool (stūl), *sb.* Forms: 1 stool, 1–2 stól, 3–4 stol, 4 stule, 4–7 stole (also 9 in sense 13), stoole, 5 stoll, 5–6 stolle, 6, 8 stoul, (6 stoule, -lle, stoale, stowle, stoel, *north.* stoile), 6–7 stowell, (stowll), 5– stool; *Sc.* 4–6 stule, 6 stuill, -yll, stwyll, stul(l, stwle, 7 stuile. [Com. Teut.; OE. *stól* masc. = OS. *stôl* (Du. *stoel*), OHG., MHG. *stuol* (mod.G. *stuhl*), ON. *stóll* (Sw., Da. *stol*), Goth. *stōl-s* throne:—OTeut. **stōlo-z*, prob. f. root **stō-*: *sta-* to STAND. Cf. OSl. *stolŭ* throne, seat.]

†**1.** Any kind of seat for one person; often, a chair of authority, state, or office; esp. a royal or episcopal throne. (Hence occas. = SEE *sb.*[1] 2 b.) *Obs.*

Porphyry stool: cf. *porphyry chair*, PORPHYRY 5 b.

c 897 ÆLFRED *Gregory's Past.* C. lvi. 435 Swa micle swa se bið beforan ðe on ðæm stole [L. *cathedra*] sitt ðæm oðrum ðe ðær ymb stondað. *a* 1000 *Cædmon's Gen.* 260 (Gr.) Wið þone hehstan heofnes wealdend, þe siteð on þam halʒan stole. *a* 1100 *Gerefa* in *Anglia* (1886) IX. 264 Man sceal habban..sceamelas, stolas, læflas. *c* 1205 LAY. 12657 A þan daʒen at seint Pauwel wes þe ærchebiscop stol [*c* 1275 stolle]. *Ibid.* 24287 Þe biscop stole [*c.* 1275 stol] wes at sein Aaron. ? *a* 1300 *Shires England* 13 in *O. E. Misc.*, Þis bispryche wes hwylen two bispriche, þeo oþer stol wes at remmesbury. *c* 1320 *Seuyn Sag.* 1889 [The barber] set her on a stol,..And gan to smiten hire on the veyn, And sche bledde. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* II. 151 The Bruce..raid to Scone, for to be set In kingis stole, and to be king. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xxxiii. (*George*) 541 On þe morne gert he grathit be a stule in place of Iugment. 1387–8 T. USK *Test. Love* I. v, Suche persons as loven the first sittinges at feestes, the highest stoles in churches and in hal. *a* 1450 *Knt. de la Tour* xxiii. 33 Sethe y am come and must sitte, late me haue sum quyshon or a stole. 1535 COVERDALE *Ps.* xciii. [xciv.] 20 Wilt thou haue eny thinge to do with the stole of wickednesse [1611 Bible, throne of iniquitie; Luther *dem schädlichen Stuhl*]. 1549 ALLEN *Jude's Par. Rev.* iv. 1 Gods stoole or seate in heauen sygnified the euerlastynge state and continuaunce of the power..of god. 1558–9 in J. W. Burgon *Life Gresham* (1839) I. iv. 248 Before the stoole of estate satt an other mayde. 1648 MILTON *Observ. Art. Peace* Wks. 1851 IV. 568 In vain were the Bishops..forbid to sit..in the House, if these men..be permitted more license on their Presbyterial Stools. 1677 W. HUGHES *Man of Sin* II. xii. 227 How? Bring Paul to the Porph'ry Stool?

fig. phrases. 1565 T. STAPLETON *Fortr. Faith* 27 If Scripture telleth vs it [*i.e.* the church] is at Wittenberg,..then the Ciuill Lutherans haue the church only: Caluin, Illyricus, Osiander, and all their adherents are put beside the stoole. 1579 W. WILKINSON *Confut. Familye of Loue* B i b, Right discerning .. commeth .. by them that are set in the right place of iudgement by the Lord himselfe, and not by those that sitt on their owne stoole. 1818 SCOTT *Br. Lamm.* xxviii, He is an old man, and a minister of state...You had more need to think of making up to Miss Lucy Ashton the disgrace..than of interfering with a man too old to fight, and on too high a stool for your hand to reach him.

†**b.** A church pew. *Obs.*

1570 *Minute-bk. Archdeaconry of Essex* 5 b (MS.), He refusyth to syt in the stole where the church wardens do place him. 1616 *Min. Archdeaconry of Colchester* fol. 27 (MS.), A couple that came to be married, which, by..custome, should have sitten in the stoole aforesayd.

†**c.** ? A seat by a grave or tomb. *Obs.*

1463 *Bury Wills* (Camden) 15 No stoon to be steryd of my graue, but a pet to be maad vnder the ground sille ther my lady Schardeloue was wont to sitte, the stoolys removyd, and the body put in. 1526 *Cartular. S. Nicholai Aberd.* (New Spalding Club) I. 155 Our collectour..shall ʒeirlie sett ane honest stuill apoun ye said Jhonis sepultur decorit with bakin and arress as wss is. 1537 *Reg. Aberd.* (Maitl. Club) I. 414 Tway schillingis to þe sacristene for þe settyng of þe stwyll at his graif. 1539 in *Abstr. Protocols Town Clerks Glasgow* (1897) IV. 119 That the said vicar..warne the sacrista minor of revestry to cuyr ane stuyll honestlie and fynd twa wax preckattis byrneand..aboue the lair of Jhonn Painter.

†**d.** A seat for an offender. See CUCKING-STOOL, CUTTY-STOOL, PINING-*stool*, *stool of* REPENTANCE.

c 1308 [see CUCKING-STOOL]. 1562 *Maitland Club Misc.* III. 327 In ye essemble of ye congregacion to syt vpon ye penitent stuil tym of ye seruice. 1714 GAY *Sheph. Week* III. 105 Where the high stool On the long plank hangs o'er the muddy pool, That stool, the dread of every scolding quean. 17.. W. FORBES *Dominie Depos'd* I. xxiv, Sae shall they never mount the stool, Whereon the lassies greet an' howl. *Ibid.* II. xxvii, Ye've play'd the fool, Anither now your post maun bruik, An' you the stool.

e. *West Africa.* (See quots.)

1819 BOWDICH *Mission to Ashantee* 231 Saï Tootoo..was presented with the stool, or made king. *Ibid.* 236 This monarch..raised his favourite captains to the vacant stools, uniting three or four in one. *Ibid.*, *footnote*, 'To succeed to the stool,'..is the common expression for succeeding to a property even in private life. The same stool, or seat, descends through many generations. 1909 D. MOORE *We Two in West Africa* 146 On the 'Coast'..the chief of a tribe is said to be on the stool of that tribe...The word stool is nearly always used instead of tribe.

2. A wooden seat (for one person) without arms or a back; a piece of furniture consisting in its simplest form of a piece of wood for a seat set upon legs, usually three or four in number, to raise it from the ground.

The OE. instances belong properly to the general sense 1. Often with qualifying word indicating its form or use, as *round, three-legged, camp-, music-stool* and the like.

[*c* 725 *Corpus Gloss.* (Hessels) T 309 *Tripes*, stool. *c* 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* II. 76 Ʒewyrc þonne stol of þrim treowum niþan ðyrele site on bydene.] 1390 GOWER *Conf.* III. 224 The kinges fol Sat be the fyr upon a stol. *c* 1425 *Cast. Persev.* 2599 in *Macro Plays* 154 Worldis wele is lyke a iij-foted stole, it faylyt a man at hys most nede. 1434– [see JOINT-STOOL]. *c* 1520 SKELTON *Colin Clout* 30 Let hym go to scole, On a thre foted stole That he may downe syt. 1592 *Arden of Feversham* v. i. 131 Place Mosbie, being a stranger, in a chaire, And let your husband sit vpon a stoole. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* (1637) 441 Young lads..with stooles fastened to their buttockes to milke [ewes]. 1631 GOUGE *God's Arrows* IV. § 15 In the garret were set some stooles, and chaires for the better sort. 1709 STEELE *Tatler* No. 80, ¶ 3 A servant brought a round Stool, on which I sat down. 1784 COWPER *Task* I. 86 Thus first necessity invented stools, Convenience next suggested elbow-chairs. 1886 W. J. TUCKER *E. Europe* 310 The legs and seats of the stools,—for chairs there were none,—were coloured in harmony with the test.

b. A high seat of this kind for convenience of writing at a high desk; more fully *office stool*. Hence, a situation as clerk in an office.

1837 [see OFFICE *sb.* 12]. 1842 TENNYSON *Audley Court* 44 Oh! who would cast and balance at a desk, Perch'd like a crow upon a three-legg'd stool? 1852 DICKENS *Bleak Ho.* xx, Mr. Guppy suspects everybody who enters on the occupation of a stool in Kenge and Carboy's office, of entertaining ..sinister designs upon him.

c. A low short bench or form upon which to rest the foot, to step or kneel. Chiefly = FOOTSTOOL. Sometimes used as a child's seat.

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 166 Vor þi alle þe halewen makeden of al þe world ase ane stol [*v.rr.* scheomel, schamel] to hore uet, uorto arechen þe heouene. 1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. v. 394, I may nouʒte stonde ne stoupe ne with-oute a stole knele. 1382 WYCLIF *Matt.* xxii. 44 Til that I put thin enmyes a stole of thi feet. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XIV. ii. (1495) 465 The erthe is callyd the stole of goddys owne fete. 1468 in *Archæologia* X. 197 Item, payd Will. Pylche for makyng of the stole to the funte and keverynge of the same, xx d. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 476/2 Stool, *scabellum*. 1567 *Gude & Godlie Ball.* 50 And war the warld ten tymes sa wyde,.. Unworthie it war, ʒit to the, Under thy feit ane stule to be. 1827 LYTTON *Pelham* xii, You must not lounge on your chair—nor put your feet upon a stool. 1858 — *What will He do* I. vi, Sophy left her seat, and placed herself on a stool at her grandfather's knee.

†**d.** *Stool and ball*, the implements used in the game of STOOL-BALL. *Obs.*

1619 *Pasquil's Palm* (1877) 152 When country wenches play with stool & ball.

3. *fig.* **a.** Proverb, *To fall, come to the ground, sit between two stools*: to incur failure through vacillation between two different courses of action.

1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 15 Bot it is seid.: Betwen tuo Stoles lyth the fal, Whan that men wenen best to sitte. *Ibid.* II. 22 O fol of alle foles, Thou farst as he betwen tuo stoles That wolde sitte and goth to grounde. *a* 1536 *Prov.* in *Songs, Carols* etc. (E.E.T.S.) 129 Betwen two stolis, the ars goth to grwnd. 1613 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* (1614) 610 Guageda betwixt two stooles had vnquiet sitting, paying tribute both to the Kings of Telensin, and the Arabians. 1717 PRIOR *Alma* I. 231 Poor Alma sits between two stools. 1765 LD. HOLLAND in Jesse *Selwyn & Contemp.* (1843) I. 380, I only hope Sir Charles Bunbury has not lost his Paris place, and dropped, as I fear he has, between two stools. 1857 TROLLOPE *Barchester T.* xx, Truly he had fallen between two stools. 1867 — *Chron. Barset* xxxv, She was like to fall to the ground between two stools,—having two lovers, neither of whom could serve her turn.

b. Phrases.

1605 SHAKS. *Macb.* III. iv. 82 But now they rise againe With twenty mortall murthers on their crownes, And push vs from our stooles. 1730 T. BOSTON *Mem.* x. (1899) 276 The work was begun on Thursday with a sermon on Amos vi. 1, which I believe drew the stool from under most of us. 1749 FIELDING *Tom Jones* I. xiii, One of the Maxims..is, when once you are got up, to kick the Stool from under you. In plain English, when you have made your Fortune by the good Offices of a Friend, you are advised to discard him as soon as you can.

†**4.** The lair of a hare; = FORM *sb.* 21, SEAT *sb.* 10

1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* 272 In such places doth the

Hare seek her lodging:..Then let him [the hunter] draw his nets round about them..and then raise her from her stoole.

5. A seat enclosing a chamber utensil; a commode; more explicitly *stool of ease*. Also, a privy.

For *Groom of the stool* (*stole*), see STOLE *sb.*[2]

1410–1869 [see CLOSE-STOOL]. 1501 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* II. 25 Item,..giffin for ane stule of es bocht to the King viij d. 1516–17 *Rec. St. Mary at Hill* (1905) 292 Paid for makyng clene of the Rectors stolys ij d. 1528 A prevey stole [see PRIVY *a.* 8 c]. 1561 *Invent. R. Wardr.* (1815) 139 Item ane stuill of ease coverit with crammosie broun velvot. 1573 L. LLOID *Pilgr. Princes* (1586) 145 The Emperour Heliogabalus was killed vpon his stole at his easement. 1645 MILTON *Colast.* 13, I send them by his advice to sit upon the stool and strain.. 1768–74 TUCKER *Lt. Nat.* (1834) II. 147 If Alexander and Cæsar could never be easy off the stool, I would not deny them that needful utensil.

b. In phrases originally meaning 'the place of evacuation', now (without *the*) the action of evacuating the bowels.

1542 BOORDE *Dyetary* viii. (1870) 248 Than go to your stole to make your egestyon. 1558 WARDE tr. *Alexis' Secr.* 32 b, The sayde pylles..prouoke not to the stoole. 1602 *2nd Pt. Return fr. Parnass.* I. ii, They..write as men go to stoole, for needes. 1676 MARVELL *Mr. Smirke* 33 Though they be reading Papers of State, or at the Stool more seasonably [he] obtrudes his Pamphlet. 1705 *Phil. Trans.* XXV. 2110 He did not go to Stole for a fortnight or three weeks together. *Ibid.* 2111 When he dy'd it was nine weeks after he had any Stole. 1726 SWIFT *Gulliver* III. vi, Men are never so serious, thoughtful, and intent, as when they are at stool. 1871 NAPHEYS *Prev. & Cure of Dis.* III. ix. 980 To go to stool twice a day. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VII. 263 When the veins are congested by straining at stool.

c. The action of evacuating the bowels; an act of discharging fæces. *By stool*: by fæcal as distinguished from other means of evacuation.

1533 ELYOT *Cast. Helthe* (1541) 38 b, By experience and diligent serch by their stoole, their nourices shal perceyve what digesteth wel. 1596 HARINGTON *Metam. Ajax* C 5, Hee heard him say, hee thanked God, hee had had a good stoole. 1623 HART *Arraignm. Urines* I. 2 Having his vacuations by stoole as orderly as other healthfull men. *a* 1625 FLETCHER *Noble Gent.* v. i, I fear this loss of honor will give him some few stools. 1663 PEPYS *Diary* 24 May, Having taken one of Mr. Holliard's pills last night it brought a stool or two this morning. 1682 *Digby's Chymt. Secrets* II. 228 A second Dose..will work either by Stool or Vomit, or Sweat. 1783 WESLEY *Jrnl.* 16 Mar., It gave me four or five and twenty stools, and a moderate vomit. 1843 R. J. GRAVES *Syst. Clin. Med.* X. 110, I do not feel the least anxiety if the patient remains without having a stool for two or three days. 1875 H. C. WOOD *Therap.* (1879) 106 The stools are at times normal in character and frequency.

fig. 1592 NASHE *Four Lett. Confut.* 11 A Letter whereof his inuention had a hard stoole, and yet it was for his ease.

d. A discharge of fæcal matter of a specified colour, consistency, etc.; the matter discharged (chiefly *pl.*).

1597 A. M. tr. *Guillemeau's Fr. Chirurg.* 3 b/2 The patient can nether retayne his vrine, *Spernia*, or Stole. *Ibid.* 4/1 His vrine bloodye; his stoels like matter. 1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* 104 Her nature is to hide her own dung..the little Mouse being able by that stoole, to smell the presence of her mortall foe. 1698 SLOANE in *Phil. Trans.* XX. 69 Stools resembling the Dregs of Wine. 1789 W. BUCHAN *Dom. Med.* (1790) 497 He must..drink freely of water-gruel to prevent bloody stools. 1845–6 G. E. DAY *Simon's Anim. Chem.* II. 386 Calomel is frequently given..: its administration is succeeded by numerous, very green, bilious stools. 1871 GARROD *Mat. Med.* (ed. 3) 97 It often produces in children the so-named calomel stools, or green-coloured fæces.

†6. A frame upon which to work embroidery or tapestry. *Obs.*

c 1385 CHAUCER *L. G. W.* 2352 So that she werkyn & enbroude couthe And weuyn in hire stol the radyuore. ?*c* 1475 *Promp. Parv.* 305/2 (Camb. MS.) Lyncet, a werkynge stole, *liniarium.* 1502 *Privy Purse Exp. Eliz. of York* (1830) 7 Item..for the stuff and making of iiij working stoles for the Quene..vs. iiij d. 1513 *Papers 5 Hen. VIII* No. 4101 (P.R.O.), A frontlett for an aulter wrought in the stole. 1523 SKELTON *Garl. Laurel* 790 To weue in the stoule sume were full preste, With slaiis, with tauellis, with hedellis well drest. 1538 ELYOT *Dict.*, *Licia*, be thredes, whiche sylke women do weaue in lyncelles or stooles. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron.*, *Hen. VIII*, 7 On their heades bonets of Damaske, syluer flatte wouen in the stole.

7. *Naut.* **a.** (See quot. 1867. Cf. CHANNEL *sb.*[2]) **b.** (See quot. *c* 1850.) **c.** (See quot. 1846.)

a. 1711 W. SUTHERLAND *Shipbuild. Assist.* 37 Backstays or Topmast Shrouds are to be fasten'd down to the Channels, or Stools fixed for that purpose. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.*, *Stool*, a minor channel abaft the main channels, for the dead-eyes of the backstays.

b. 1750 BLANCKLEY *Nav. Expositor.* *c* 1850 *Rudim. Navig.* (Weale) 153 *Stools*,..ornamental blocks for the poop lanterns to stand on abaft.

c. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XVII. 395/2 This line will represent the lower edge of the rail that comes to the middle stool. 1830 HEDDERWICK *Mar. Archit.* 120 *Stools*, pieces of plank which are bolted edgeways to the quarters of small vessels, to form the mock quarter-galleries. 1846 A. YOUNG *Naut. Dict.* 323 *Stool*, the lowest transom of a vessel's stern-frame; or, more correctly, a chock introduced beneath the lowest transom: to it the lower ends of the fashion-pieces are secured.

8. *Brickmaking.* A brick-moulder's shed or workshop; also, the gang of workmen employed in one shed; also, a moulder's bench.

1693 J. HOUGHTON *Collect. Improv. Husb.* No. 70 ¶ 1 There are usually employed about a Stooles Work four Men, and two Boyes: The first, an Earth-maker that prepares the Earth. The second a Carter,..to bring the Earth to the Stool. *Ibid.* ¶ 3 A Stool does ordinarily make..eight Thousand in a Day. 1850 E. DOBSON *Bricks & Tiles* I. 34 In slop moulding, the mould is simply laid on the moulding stool. *Ibid.* 37 The area occupied by each stool is greater than in making slop-moulded bricks. 1886 *Standard* 10 May 8/5 To be let, a brickfield with four stools. 1891 *Ibid.* 24 Jan. 2/8 To distribute the funds to the different fields according to the number of stools or moulders' sheds worked.

9. *Arch.* The sill of a window. *Obs.* exc. *U.S.*

1663 GERBIER *Counsel* 88 For the Capitol, to the stooles of those windowes. 1682 SIR C. WREN in W. H. St. John Hope *Windsor Castle* (1913) II. 387 By cleansinge from moss & weeds all the coapings of the Buttresses,..the stooles of the Windowes,..[etc.]. 1891 *Century Dict.* s.v., *Stool of a window*, or *window-stool*, in arch., the flat piece on which the sash shuts down, corresponding to the sill of a door. 1911 WEBSTER s. v. [adds] In the United States, the narrow shelf fitted on the inside against the actual sill.

10. A base or stand upon which a thing is set to raise it above the ground or general surface.

1481–3 in W. H. St. John Hope *Windsor Castle* (1913) II. 404 Cxx et xxxviij pedibus Chaptrelles et Braces. xvij Stolys. xlii. Botraces. cix panelles. 1535 COVERDALE *2 Chron.* iv. 14 He made the stoles also and yᵉ kettels vpon the stoles [Luther *Gestühle*]. 1554–5 *Extracts Burgh Rec. Edin.* (1871) II. 309 For twa greit bakis to be stullis to the malt myln [etc.]. 1566 *Reg. Mag. Sig. Scot.* 763/2 Dicti commendatarius [etc.] sustentarent dimidietatem scabelli lie mylne stuill. 1641 *Invent. Goods C'tess Arundel* in *Burlington Mag.* (1911) Nov. 98/1 In the Seller..is noething, but two stowelles to sett beare on & two Shelues. 1683 MOXON *Mech. Exerc.*, *Printing* xv. ¶ 2 So much of this Bottom-Plate..is called the Stool,..because on it the lower end of the Matrice rests. 1827 FARADAY *Chem. Manip.* iv. (1842) 97 This furnace..being raised upon a stool so as to bring the aperture of the air-chamber to a level with the nozzle of the bellows. 1888 JACOBI *Printers' Vocab.* 133 *Stool*, a platform or stage on which paper or printed work is stacked.

b. The stand of a beehive. ? *Obs.*

1523–34 FITZHERB. *Husb.* § 122 Set a stole or a forme nyghe vnto the swarme,..shake the bees in-to the hyue, and shortely sette it vppon the stole. 1609 C. BUTLER *Fem. Mon.* (1634) 14 As many as fall beside the stool, when it waxeth dark, ten to one they lie abroad all night. 1774 *Phil. Trans.* LXV. 274 We have seen fleas..swarming at the mouths of these holes like bees on the stools of their hives.

11. A bench, counter, table, trestle. *Sc.* and *north.*

1519 *Reg. Aberd.* (Maitl. Club) II. 177 The baikhouss witht..ij bakin stulis. 1559 *Richmond Wills* (Surtees) 135 The mylke house..a fleke, a stole. 1559 *Peebles Burgh Rec.* (1872) 257 The inqueist findis Thomas Dikesone in the wrang for..castin of his [John Edmond's] flesche stule in the gutter. 1870 J. K. HUNTER *Life Studies of Char.* xlvi. 282 There was nae word o' John comin' wi' the spokes and stools [trestle for a coffin].

12. *Mining.* (See quot. 1851.)

1653 MANLOVE *Lead-mines* 62 Then must the Miners chase the stole to th' stake; From meer to meer. 1670 PETTUS *Fodinæ Reg.* 86 And the Miners shall work their Meers duly, and shall chuse their Stool on that one part there as he may find Mine between two Walls. 1747 HOOSON *Miner's Dict.* N iv b, When the old-man is cleared out from a Shaft-foot, Forfield, Stool, or Stope, we say we have bared it. 1778 W. PRYCE *Min. Cornub.* 63 The end or stool of the vein will run of itself, like sand. 1851 TAPPING *Gloss. to Manlove*, *Stool*, is where the miners leave digging deeper and work in the ends forward; the end before you is called the stool...The term stool has also another signification, which is so far as the miner cuts before him, which is about two yards high.

13. [Cf. Du. *stoel* in similar uses. (In technical language sometimes spelt *stole*.)] **a.** The stump of a tree which has been felled; also the head of the stump, from which new shoots are produced.

1577–87 HOLINSHED *Chron.* I. 195/2 When a grene tree is cut in sunder in the middle, and the part cut off is caried three acres bredth from the stocke, and returning againe to the steale, shall ioine therewith. 1686 PLOT *Staffordsh.* 209 The stooles or stumps of many trees. 1769 D. BARRINGTON *Indig. Trees* in *Phil. Trans.* LIX. 33 No pine or fir ever shoots from the stool. 1842 LOUDON *Suburban Hort.* 286 If a graft is inserted either in the collar or stool, or in the amputated head, it will give an immediate direction to the sap. 1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* I. 116 The stools of hard-wood trees,..set on end.., form a very durable flooring. 1874 LYELL *Elem. Geol.* xxiv. 421 All the stools of the fossil trees dug out by us divided into four parts. 1886 *Cheshire Gloss.* s. v. *Stoo*, Clap yon owd stoo a' top o' th' foire. 1899 R. MUNRO *Prehist. Scotland* ii. 29 As evidence..we can still point to the stools of huge trees, at the bottom of extensive tracts of moorland peat.

b. *Forestry.* A stock or stump of a tree felled or headed for the production of coppice-wood, underwood, saplings, or young timber. Also a set or group of stumps.

a 1722 LISLE *Husb.* (1757) 365, I proposed to cut coppice-wood for the fire: my woodward said, it would not hurt the stools to cut it so late, but it would never..burn well. 1827 STEUART *Planter's G.* (1828) 298 The making up into one set or stool separate plants of the same species. 1832 *Planting* 41 in *Libr. Usef. Knowl.*, *Husb.* III, The parent wood of coppice stools is most frequently suffered to rise too high from the roots. 1880 JEFFERIES *Gt. Estate* (1881) 82 Between the stoles [of the copse]..the ground was quite covered in spring with dark-green vegetation. 1894 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* June 243 The [willow] rods being cut off close to the stools.

c. *Forestry* and *Horticulture.* The base of a plant cut down to produce shoots or branches for layering. Also, a plant laid down for layering (*rare*).

1789 *Trans. Soc. Arts* VII. 126, I have likewise procured several small stools of the black mulberry [for propagating]. 1813 C. MARSHALL *Gardening* xix. (ed. 5) 317 In order to obtain suckers and shoots for layers [of elm], stools are to be formed, by cutting down some young trees, almost close to the ground. 1825 *Greenhouse Comp.* I. 221 Where entire plants are layed down to produce layers, they are called stools; and the main root remains there as a stool for several years. 1842 LOUDON *Suburban Hort.* 711 Having been much troubled with caterpillars on our gooseberry stools in the nursery. 1880 C. R. MARKHAM *Peruv. Bark* 223 He afterwards went round to all the old stools and put in as many layers from them as possible.

d. *Horticulture.* The base containing the latent buds in plants which annually throw up new stems or foliage to replace the old.

1790 *Phil. Trans.* LXXX. 350 Stool of [sugar] canes (which is the assemblage of its numerous roots where the stems begin to shoot out) is almost impenetrable to rain. 1824 LOUDON *Encycl. Garden.* § 3339 Stools [of the strawberry] of two years standing, which have borne one crop, may be put into pots in August. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 1194 Rattoons (a word corrupted from *rejettons*) are the sprouts or suckers that spring from the roots or stoles of the canes that have been previously cut for sugar. 1842 *Florist's Jrnl.* (1846) III. 95 Chrysanthemums may be struck and the old stools turned out. 1846 *J. Baxter's Libr. Pract. Agric.* (ed. 4) II. 231 As the finest..of these fruits [raspberries] are..the produce of strong and well-ripened canes, it becomes necessary that the stools should have every advantage afforded them. 1877 S. HIBBERD *Amateur's Kitchen Gard.* 158 Manure should be spread around the stool to insure some benefit to the roots of the [rhubarb] plant. 1882 *Garden* 14 Jan. 17/3 Each stool consisting of about eight canes.

e. A cluster of stems or foliage springing from a stool or from the same root; the complement of stalks produced by one grain of corn.

1712 J. MORTON *Nat. Hist. Northamptonsh.* 154 They much resembled the Bottom of a Cluster, or Stool, as it is here called, of large Rushes. 1807 *Prize Ess. & Trans. Highl. Soc.* III. 476 A single stole of corn growing in a dung hill, has plenty of air, light, and heat. 1880 F. W. BURBIDGE *Gardens of Sun* v. 94 Each tuft or stool [of rice] being about eight inches from its neighbours. 1882 *Contemp. Rev.* Aug. 233 From one wheat grain there were eighty-five stalks to the stool. 1887 BLACKMORE *Springhaven* III. vii, His shelter was a stool of hazel, thrown up to repair the loss of stem. 1894 — *Perlycross* vii, A great stool of fern.

f. *A fine, good stool* (of clover, of timber): clover or timber well stooled (see STOOL *v.* 3).

1801 *Farmer's Mag.* Nov. 461 This year, the field was in barley, and yielded seven bolls per acre, leaving as fine a stool of young clover and rye-grass as ever I saw. 1814 *4th Rep. Comm. Irish Bogs* II. 188 The country possesses a good stool of timber.

transf. 1831 J. WILSON *Noct. Ambr.* Wks. 1856 III. 327 Hecate a beauty! I aye thocht she had been a furious fricht—black-a-viced, pockey-ort, wi' a great stool o' a beard.

g. A shoot or layer from the stump or base of a plant. [Confused with L. *stolo*: see STOLE *sb.*[3], STOLON.]

1818 TODD, *Stool*, 4. [*stolo* Latin], a shoot from the trunk of a tree. 1821 S. F. GRAY *Brit. Plants* I. 52 Stool, *Stolo*. A branch from the head of the root, bending down, taking root, and emitting leaves. 1824 MACTAGGART *Gallovid. Encycl.*, *Stowl* or *Stole*, a scion from a root.

†14. a. The scar left by a wound, a cicatrix. *Obs. rare*⁻¹. (Cf. STADDLE *sb.* 6.)

1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* xx. i. II. 36 The root [of wild cucumber]..reduceth the stooles or skars left after any sore..to their fresh and native colour againe.

†b. The 'eye' of an apple, pear or quince.

1671 GREW *Anat. Plants* I. vi. § 2 Most of them [i.e. the branches of the endocarp of an apple] enarching themselves towards the Cork or Stool of the Flower. *Ibid.* II. § 9 [of a pear]. *Ibid.* § 10 [of a quince].

†15. The head or top of a mushroom. (Cf. *stool* in TOADSTOOL.) *Obs. rare*⁻¹.

1743 PICKERING *Seeds of Mushrooms* in *Phil. Trans.* XLII. 595, I began with one of the Gills carefully separated from the Head, or Stool, without bruising.

16. *U.S.* (See quot.)

1881 INGERSOLL *Oyster-Industr.* (Hist. Fish. Industr. U.S.) 249 *Stools*.—Material spread on the bottom for oyster spawn to cling to.

17. †a. ?Some part of a plough. *Obs. rare*⁻¹. (Possibly an error.) **b.** The shank of a rake or hay-fork (*Northumbld. Gloss.* 1893–4).

1523–34 FITZHERB. *Husb.* § 5 It is necessarye for hym to lerne to make his yokes, oxe-bowes, stooles, and all maner of plough-geare.

18. *U.S.* A decoy-bird (perh. short for *stool-pigeon*), esp. one used in shooting wildfowl; also a perch upon which a decoy-bird is set. (Cf. STALE *sb.*[3], STALL *sb.*[2])

1859 BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.* (ed. 2) 452 *Stool*, an artificial duck or other water-fowl used as a decoy. 1872 SCHELE DE VERE *Americanisms* 211 Stool-Pigeon...In the former [literal signification] it means the pigeon, with its eyes stitched up, fastened on a stool, which can be moved up and down by the hidden fowler. 1874 J. W. LONG *Amer. Wild-fowl* xvii. 205 Wood-ducks..are not easily decoyed, either by stools or calls. 1895 G. J. MANSON *Sporting Dict.*, *Stool*, a decoy for snipe, plover, and peach-birds. 1902 GREENOUGH & KITTREDGE *Words* 363 A stool pigeon..is a 'decoy pigeon', so called from its being tied to a stool.

19. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, (sense 2) as *stool cover*; (sense 5), as †*stool door*, †*house*, †*pan*; (sense 13), as *stool-growth*, *shoot*; (sense 7 c), as *stool rail*; appositive (sense 1), as *stool stone*; objective, as *stool-bearer*, *-bearing*, *-casting*; similative, as *stool-like* adj.

1518 *Perth Hammermen Bk.* (1889) 2 The *stule berer. 1821 S. F. GRAY *Brit. Plants* I. 42 *Stool-bearing. *Stoloniferæ*. Throwing out stools, *stolones*, which take root. 1637 LD. WARISTON *Diary* 23 July (S.H.S.) 265 Thair rayse..sik ane outcrying quhat be the people's murmuring, mourning, rayling, *stoolcasting, as the lyk was never seien. 1837 A. HAYWARD *Lett.* (1886) I. 60, I am quite charmed with the *stool cover. 1564 in *Archæol. Cant.* (1874) IX. 234 Itm

payd..for makyng and setting on of ij payer of Charnayles [hinges] uppon a *stoole doore, vj d. 1909 *Nation* 1 May 156/2 We push through the rods of the *stool-growth with difficulty. 1541-2 *MS. Rawl. D. 781* lf. 160 Item in ye *Stolle howse ij quarelles mendyd—j d. 16.. in *Archæologia* LXIV. 390 The Stowll hous. 1868 *Rep. U. S. Commissioner Agric.* (1869) 251 A hedge becomes thin at the base..the sap ascending and forming a spreading, *stool-like form of growth. 1620 in *Union Inventories* (1841) 26, xj *stoole pams. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. xiv. (Roxb.) 9/2 He beareth Gules, a stoole pan, or close stoole pan, Argent. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XVII. 395/2 Set off the depth of the middle *stool rail above the line already drawn. 1907 *Blackw. Mag.* Apr. 488/2 Self-sown seedlings and *stool-shoots being then left to come up naturally. 1664 J. WEBB *Stone-Heng* (1725) 198 One only simple Circle of about twelve Slabbs of Stone, with a *Stool-stone for the King.

b. Special comb.: **stool-bed** (see quot. 1879); **stool-bent** (see quot. 1789); **stool-crab** (see quot.); **stool land** *West Africa* (see quot., cf. 1 f.); **stool-mail** *Sc.*, a fine imposed upon a person condemned to the stool of repentance; **stool-pigeon** *U.S.*, a pigeon fastened to a stool as a decoy; chiefly *fig.* of a person employed, especially by gamblers, as a decoy; **stool-pipe** (see quot.); † **stool table**, ? a table on trestles; † **stool-wagon** [G. *stuhl-wagen*], a German chaise.

For *stool-chamber, -room*, see STOLE *sb.*²

1859 F. A. GRIFFITHS *Artil. Man.* (1862) 126 Place *stool-bed and quoin. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* II. 391/2 A third point of support for the gun..is supplied..by a 'quoin', placed immediately under the breech, and resting on a block called a 'stool-bed'. 1789 J. LIGHTFOOT *Flora Scot.* 1131 *Juncus squarrosus.* *Stool-Bent. *Scotis australibus.* 1835 S. OLIVER [W. A. Chatto] *Rambles Northumbld.* 165 Spreats and stool-bent, which, in moist places, always indicate the spot where the pedestrian may be sure of firm footing. 1880 *E. Cornw. Gloss.*, **Stool-crab*, the male of the edible crab, *Platycarcinus pagurus.* 1909 D. MOORE *We Two in West Africa* 146, I..mean the lands belonging to the tribe governed by the chief in question. On the 'Coast' these are called *stool lands. 1837 *Voluntary Ch. Mag.* Nov. 493 It was pounded by the session because its owner would not pay the *stool-mail for having had a bastard child. 1859 BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.* (ed. 2) 452 **Stool-pigeon*, a decoy robber, in the pay of the police, who brings his associates into a trap laid for them. 1865 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 13 Nov. 2 The harrowing narrative of 'Antilles' may be after all only an ingenious 'stool-pigeon,' concocted for the purpose of terrifying the Republican party. 1906 L. H. VINCENT *Amer. Literary Masters* 46, I am not going to be made a stool-pigeon to attract birds of passage that may be flying about. 1886 J. BARROWMAN *Sc. Mining Terms* 64 **Stool-pipe, Stool-piece*, the pipe on which a column of pipes rests. 1630 *Maldon* (Essex) *Documents* Bundle 217 No. 22 In the hall..1 *stoole table. 1829 *Sporting Mag.* XXIV. 201 Four horses were next put to the *stool-wagon, and we drove to Faulenrost.

Stool (stūl), *v.* Also 6, 9 stole. [f. STOOL *sb.*]

1. *trans.* To put or set (a person) on a stool.

a. To condemn (a person) to the stool (of repentance), *nonce-use.* In quot. *absol.*

1682 HICKERINGILL *Hist. Whiggism* II. 38 Horning, Cursing, Damning, Imprisoning, Stooling or Fooling upon the Stool of Repentance.

b. *West Africa.* (Cf. STOOL *sb.* 1 f.)

1898 R. A. FREEMAN *Trav. Ashanti* i. 3 Until the king [of Ashanti] had been enthroned on the gold stool his title was not officially recognised...But the ceremony of 'stooling' a new king was one that involved considerable expense.

2. *intr.* To evacuate the bowels; also *trans.*, to evacuate as excrement.

1545 RAYNALDE *Byrth Mankynde* P j, The greate labour and payne the whiche the partie hath in..enforsynge her selfe other to stole or to make water. 1843 R. J. GRAVES *Syst. Clin. Med.* v. 57 They are..almost constantly confined to bed except when rising to stool.

3. Of a plant: To throw up young shoots or stems; of corn, grass, herbage, to throw out lateral shoots producing a thick head of stems or foliage. Also with *out, forth.*

1789 *Trans. Soc. Arts* I. 260 Some sorts of Cotton did not rattoon or stool so well as others. 1790 W. H. MARSHALL *Midl.* II. 443 To *Stool*; to ramify as corn. 1795 VANCOUVER *Agric. Essex* 152 Strong and luxuriant shoots stool forth. 1830 M. T. SADLER *Law Popul.* I. 93 Wheat is one of those plants which, according to the phraseology of agriculturists, stools; that is, throws out lateral roots capable of producing separate stems. 1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* III. 857 New grass, if moderately eaten down in spring, stools out, and affords a thicker cutting at hay time. 1853 G. JOHNSTON *Nat. Hist. E. Bord.* I. 121 The herbage..does not spread nor stool upon the ground. 1869 BLACKMORE *Lorna Doone* xxxviii, I worked very hard in the copse of young ash,..cutting out the saplings where they stooled too close together.

fig. 1835 *Tait's Mag.* II. 491 From the original hardy stem of the Surrey yeomen, this vigorous branch 'stooled out', and put forth arms.

4. *trans.* To entice (wild-fowl) by means of a decoy-bird; also *intr.* (of a bird) to come (well) to a decoy. *U.S.*

1859 BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.* (ed. 2) 452 *Stooling*, decoying ducks or other fowls by the means of 'stools'. 1874 J. W. LONG *Amer. Wild-fowl* xviii. 209 Widgeon..stool well to almost any decoys.

5. *Mining.* To work (a vein). Cf. STOOL *sb.* 12.

1824 MANDER *Derbysh. Miner's Gloss.* 69 Then it is common to say; the vein is Stoled, or Stooled, ten or twelve fathoms.

Stool, obs. form of STOLE *sb.*¹ and *sb.*²

Stool-ball. [f. STOOL *sb.* + BALL *sb.*

The 'stool' was the wicket (see STOOL *sb.* 2 d); perh. it was originally an ordinary stool.]

1. An old country game somewhat resembling cricket, played chiefly by young women or, as an Easter game, between young men and women for a 'tansy' (TANSY 3) as the stake. Still played (in modified forms) by women and children in some districts, esp. in Sussex. (Quite distinct from STOW-BALL.)

a 1475 *Myrc's Par. Pr.* 11 *note*, Hand ball, fott ball, stoil ball & all manner other games out cherchyard. 1564 in *Shirburn Ball.* (1907) 48 [At Midsummer sessions at Maldon, 1564, complaint was made against the constables that they had suffered] stole-ball (to be played on Sundays). 1567 DRANT *Horace's A. P.* B iiij, The stoole ball, top, or camping ball if suche one should assaye As hath no mannour skill therin,..Theye all would..laughe at hym aloude. *a* 1586 SIDNEY *Arcadia, Sonn.* (1622) 493 A time there is for all: my mother often sayes, When she with skirts tuckt very hie, with gyrles at stoolball playes. 1612 *Two Noble K.* v. ii. 101 *Wooer.* What shall we doe there, wench? *Daugh.* Why, play at stoole ball. 1615 CHAPMAN *Odyss.* VI. 139 Till which time (hauing din'd) Nausicae With other virgins, did at stool-ball play. 1648 HERRICK *Hesper., Stool-ball* (1915) 238 At Stool-ball, Lucia, let us play, For Sugar-cakes and Wine; Or for a Tansie let us pay, The loss or thine, or mine. 1677 *Poor Robin's Almanack* 19 Apr., Observ., Young men and maids Now very brisk, At Barley-break and Stool ball frisk. 1711 STEELE *Spect.* No 71 P 2 Betty [was] a publick Dancer at May-poles, a Romp at Stool-Ball. 1715 N. BLUNDELL *Diary* (1895) 134 The Young Weomen treated ye Men with a Tandsey as they had lost to them at a Game at Stoole Balle. 1801 STRUTT *Sports & Past.* II. iii. § 11. 76, I have been informed, that a pastime called stool-ball, is practised to this day in the northern parts of England. 1898 *Encycl. Sport* II. 412 Stool-ball...The game..has of late years changed considerably...Thus, while formerly the hand was used to strike the ball, a bat is now used...The stools have been superseded by 'targets', which are round boards ..fastened to posts.

attrib. 1614 BRETON *I would & I would not* lxxix, Pary-away, And for a Tanzey, goe to Stoole-Ball-play. 1615 CHAPMAN *Odyss.* VI. 165 Her meane was this (though thought a stool-ball chance).

2. A ball used in the game described above.

1690 *Pagan Prince* xiv, 42 And when they see a Cannon Bullet coming toward ye..[they] will catch it like a Stool Ball, and throw it to the Devil. 1819 SCOTT *Ivanhoe* xxvi, Kind service cannot be chucked from hand to hand like a shuttlecock or stool-ball.

Stoole, obs. form of STOLE *sb.*¹ and *sb.*²

Stoole(n, obs. pa. pple. of STEAL *v.*

Stooling (stū·liŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. STOOL *v.* and *sb.* + -ING¹.]

1. The action or process of evacuating the bowels; also, *concr.* the matter evacuated.

1599 MINSHEU *Span. Gram.* 81 *Rézias camaras.* Strong stoolings. *a* 1610 HEALEY *Epictetus* (1636) 82 To bee alway conversant in corporall matters:..in much eating, drinking, stooling. 1695 *New Light Chirurg. put out* 38 The Stooling of bloody Excrement. 1895 ELWORTHY *Evil Eye* 74 'Tis a very bad thing to throw a child's stooling in the fire.

2. The action of throwing up young shoots or stems; of corn, etc., the forming of a thick head from lateral shoots.

1854 Miss BAKER *Northampt. Gloss., Stooling*, the second germination of corn. 1868 *Rep. U. S. Commissioner Agric.* (1869) 254 Trimming does thicken the surface of the hedge by causing a stubbed, stooling form of growth. 1901 *Dundee Advertiser* 15 Jan. 4 The 'stooling' or tillering habits of these varieties [of oat] being weak.

3. *concr.* The framework supporting a mill (cf. STOOL *sb.* 10).

1558 in *Reg. Mag. Sig. Scot.* 1565, 411/1 Sustentarent dicta molendina in omnibus necessariis, nisi tantum in *ly stuling* quod [etc.]. 1606 *Ibid.* 616/1 *Lie stuilling* cum *mylnedame* et *mylneleid* sustentando.

Stoolle, obs. form of STOLE *sb.*²

† **Stool-work.** *Obs.* [? f. STOOL *sb.*⁶ + WORK *sb.*] Embroidery or tapestry work of the kind made on a 'stool'.

1526 in Gutch *Collect. Cur.* (1781) II. 315 Item deliverid oone corse of Stole Wurke for the same Buckill and Pendent, xiij s. iiij d. *c* 1534 in J. Lewis *Life Bp. Fisher* (1855) II. 297 A vestment..wyth a crose of golde of stole warke wroght wyth daysys. 1547 in Feuillerat *Revels Edw. VI* (1914) 14, viij partlettes of Blewe Sarcenet with colers of golde stoleworke. 1547 *Inv. of Gwarderobes, etc.* (Harl. MS. 1419) 408 b, A Horne of Brasse garnisshed with nedle worke with a Bawdricke of Stole worke. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VIII*, 83 Bonnettes of stoole worke of golde of damaske. *c* 1555 in Feuillerat *Revels Q. Mary* (1914) 192, iiij^or Quoyffes sylver & gylte stoleworke.

Stooly (stū·li), *a.* [f. STOOL *sb.* + -Y¹.] Of the nature of a stool (see STOOL *sb.* 13).

1868 *Rep. U. S. Commissioner Agric.* (1869) 258 There will be layers enough when the hedge is again laid to admit of these stakes being cut out if they become stooly where previously cut off.

Stoom, Stoomp: see STUM, STUMP.

Stoon(e, obs. forms of STONE.

Stoop (stūp), *sb.*¹ Now only *dial.* Forms: *α*. 5 **stolpe**, 5–9 **stulp(e**, 6 **stoulpe**. *β*. 5–7 **stowpe**, 6 **stuipe, stouppe, stowppe**, 6–8 **stoope**, 6–9 **stoup(e**, 7–9 **stope, stowp**, (7 **stoppe**), 7– **stoop**. [Late ME. *stulpe, stolpe*, a. ON. *stolpe* (Icel. *stólpi*, Sw., Da. *stolpe*); prob. cogn. w. Russian СТОЛБЪ post, pillar.

It is doubtful whether the word has any connexion with MLG. and early mod.Du. *stolpe, stulpe* lid (according to Kilian also beam, rafter), mod.Du. *stolp, stulp*, mod.G. *stulpe* (from LG.).

The *β* forms may possibly partly represent a distinct but synonymous word, a. or cogn. w. OFris. *stūpa*, MLG., MDu. *stūpe* whipping-post, stake, punishment of flogging, MHG. *stūpe* (from MLG.; mod.G. *staupe*) flogging.]

1. A post, pillar.

α. 1439 *Rec. Carpenters' Co.* (1914) II. 4 Paide for ij Stulpes and ye settinge up, *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 481/1 Stulpe, or stake, *paxillus.* *c* 1450 *Brut* 462 Whan the Kyng had riden thurgh Suthwerk, and come to the stulpes without London Brigge. 1490–1 *Rec. St. Mary at Hill* (1905) 167 Item, to Byrd, carpenter, for stolpes & Reylles, viij s. iij d. *Ibid.* 168 Paide to paris ffor settyng of stulpis and ledgis & nayllis..v d. 1494 in *Househ. Ord.* (1790) 127 The cradle to have five stolpes, three at the head, and twoe at the feet, and the King's armes on the middle stolpe. 1530 PALSGR. 277/1 Stoulpe before a doore, *souche.* 1555 PHAER *Æneid* II. (1558) E j b, The walles with skalyng ladders layde, & stulps of scaffolds hie, And vp by stayres thei clyme. 1579 *Abstr. Dewsbury Court Roll* in *Yorks. Archæol. Jrnl.* XXI. 410 Roger Hirste shall make a newe gate and newe stulpes. 1736 AINSWORTH *Lat.-Eng. Dict.* Art. T, Save that the transverse plank lay not quite on the top of the erect stulp, but across it a little lower.

β. 1463 in *Fabric Rolls York Minster* (Surtees) 134 For a newe stowpe to ye grate yates, 10d. 1552 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* X. 112 Item, to ane turnour turnand stoupis of beddis and charis in the said castell..iij li. iiij s. 1600 in Hore *Hist. Newmarket* (1885) I. 95 Whereas Hugh Wyrrall, gentleman, had caused a stoope to be sett on Doncaster More at the west end of the horse race. 1682 W. BLUNDELL *Cavalier's Notebk.* (1880) 267 The stoop, commonly called the chair, where the horse course on Crosby Marsh doth usually begin and end. 1685 COTTON tr. *Montaigne* (1711) I. xxxviii. 335 Stoops dive deeper and deeper into the earth by being moved up and down. 1709 in *Slingsby's Diary* (1836) 192 Upon her Lady-ships promise that the said Gate, & Stoups, & all things belonging to it should be hung. 1756 MRS. CALDERWOOD in *Cottness Collect.* (Maitl. Club) 226 A chair, with one carved bar close to the bottom behind, eight other turned bars, the stoops and four cross bars in the back, a rush bottom. 1790 *E. Hesterton Inclos. Act* 6 Guarded with substantial stoops and rails. 1823 WILLSON *Gloss. Gothic Archit.* (ed. 2) 21 *Stoup*, a post. A pedestal, or small pillar, for a statue to stand upon. 1829 GLOVER *Hist. Derby* I. 190 Substantial stone stoops or posts for gates are in general use.

in fig. context. 1637 RUTHERFORD *Lett.* (1664) 254 Our Salvation is fastened with God's own hand and with Christ's own strength to the strong stoup of God's unchangeable nature. Mal. 3. 6.

2. *fig.* A person or thing that supports or sustains; a 'prop', 'pillar'. *Sc.*

a 1572 KNOX *Hist. Ref.* IV. Wks. 1848 II. 411 Ledingtoune and the Maister of Maxwell were that nycht the two stoupeis of hir chair. 1640 R. BAILLIE *Lett. & Jrnls.* (Bannatyne Club) I. 282 Since he heard of Ratcliffe prisoned, and Wentford's death, his two stoups, his heart is a little fallen. 1721 RAMSAY *To Earl Dalhousie* 2 Dalhousie of an auld descent, My chief, my stoup, and ornament. 1821 GALT *Ann. Parish* XXVI. (1895) 167 All [invited] in addition to our old stoops from the neighbouring parishes. 1863 R. PAUL in B. Bell *Mem.* (1872) 266 He..is..a great stoop to the Free Church. 1896 BARRIE *Marg. Ogilvy* ii, He was a great 'stoup' of the Auld Licht kirk.

† **3.** *Cant.* The pillory. *Obs.*

1795 POTTER *Dict. Cant* (ed. 2). 1812 J. H. VAUX *Flash Dict.*

4. *Mining.* (See quot. 1881.) **Stoop-and-room** = *pillar-and-stall*: see PILLAR *sb.* 7.

1881 J. SANDS *Sh. Transcript* 30 'Stoops', or massive pillars of coal, were left to support the roof. 1881 RAYMOND *Mining Gloss.*, Stoop-and-Rooms. 1888 B. H. BROUGH *Mine-Surv.* 7 The 'post and stall' system,..known..in Scotland as 'stoup and room', and the 'long-wall' system. 1890 WALLACE *Alston Moor* 141 (E.D.D.) From these levels short cross-cuts were made..into the vein, and its contents mined by stoups. 1899 *N. B. Daily Mail* 21 June 5 The adjoining 'stoop' was finished last Wednesday. That was about half a mile from the pit bottom.

5. *attrib.* as † *stoop bedstead*; (sense 4) *stoop-road, -side*; **stoop-net**, a fishing-net supported on a pole.

1593 *Wills & Inv. N. C.* (Surtees 1860) 228 In the south turrett. One *stoupe bedstead, teaster, valens and curtaines. 1806 MORISON *Decis.* XXXIII. 14471 The *stoop-net is quite a different kind of net from the pock-net, being a much larger net, with the mouth of it fastened to three pieces of wood, fixed in the form of a triangle. To this triangle is fixed a large pole, by which a person in a boat holds it while he is fishing. 1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-mining* 243 **Stoop roads*, roads driven in the solid or whole coal on the stoop and room system. 1887 P. MCNEILL *Blawearie* 33 Hanging his lighted lamp on the *stoopside.

Stoop (stūp), *sb.*² Also 6–7 **stoupe, stoope**, 7 (? *erron.*) **stop(pe**. [f. STOOP *v.*¹]

1. An act of stooping; a bending of the body forwards; a bow.

1571 CAMPION *Hist. Irel.* (1633) 69 The Generall also himselfe, digging with a pykeaxe, a desperate villaine..watched his stoope, and clove his head with an axe. 1603 B. JONSON *Sejanus* I. (1605) B 3, *Cor.* Here comes Seianus. *Sil.* Now observue the stoupes, The bendings, and the falls. *Arr.* Most creeping base! 1668 DRYDEN *Even. Love* Epil. 14 Up starts a Mounsieur, new come o'er, and warm In the French stoop, and the pull-back o' th' Arm. 1760 C. JOHNSTON *Chrysal* (1822) I. 263 Some unlucky stoop burst the string that tied his breeches. 1833 CHALMERS in *Hanna Mem.* (1851) III. 370 A passage often narrow and requiring a very low stoop. 1885 *Spectator* 25 July 977/2 His trick was done by a peculiar method of stooping, and of concealing the stoop behind a skirt.

transf. 1684 R. WALLER *Nat. Exper.* 130 The Amber being hung at liberty by a thread in the Air,..when it was rubb'd and heated, made a stoop to those little Bodies, which likewise proportionally presented themselves thereto, and readily obey'd its call.

b. *fig.* A condescension, a voluntary descent from superiority or dignity.

1636 SHIRLEY *Duke's Mistr.* III. i. (1638) E 2 b, Have you obteyn'd so much As one stoope to your wanton avarice, One bend to please your inflam'd appetite? 1681 DRYDEN

Span. Friar IV. ii, Can I, can any Loyal Subject see With Patience, such a Stoop from Sovereignty? **1842** J. SHERMAN in Allon *Mem.* (1863) 294 To give us a claim to all His perfections..is such a stoop of the Divine Majesty as exceeds the utmost stretch of human imagination. **1856** SPURGEON *Serm. N. Park St. Pulpit* 126 It would have been a stoop more immense than if a seraph should have changed himself into an emmet. **1890** *Spectator* 22 Nov., She certainly 'stoops to deceit' often enough for the stoop to leave a very vivid impression on the reader's mind.

† **c.** *To give the stoop*: to bow; *fig.* to yield, give way. *Obs.*

1623 B. JONSON *Time Vind.* (1640) 94 T' have giv'n the stoop, and to salute the skirts Of her, to whom all Ladies else are flirts! *a* **1670** HACKET *Abp. Williams* II. (1693) 186 O that a King should give the stoop to such as these?

2. A stooping attitude; a temporary or permanent bent position of the back or shoulders.

1716 LADY M. W. MONTAGU *Let. to Lady Rich* 20 Sept., I can assure you that,..a small stoop in the shoulders, nay, even gray hairs, are no objection. **1825** *Lond. Med. & Phys. Jrnl.* LIV. 210 On the Means generally used with the intention of curing a Stoop. **1862** MISS BRADDON *Lady Audley* x, The lazy horses..dropping their heads with a weary stoop under the afternoon sunshine. **1863** GEO. ELIOT *Romola* v, His tall spare frame had the student's stoop of the shoulders. **1899** *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 77 Associated with the forward stoop is a tendency to take quick steps. **1904** A. C. BENSON *House of Quiet* xix. (1907) 115 He was a tall thin man, with a slight stoop.

† **3.** Descent, declivity (of a mountain); a downward slope or incline. *Obs.*

1611 SPEED *Hist. Gt. Brit.* IX. x. §.7 As he was entring into Savoy, at the stoope, or descent of the Alpes, very many of the..Peeres of England met him. **1711** *Milit. & Sea Dict.* (ed. 4) s. v. *Chemise*, When the Soil was sandy and loose; and therefore could not support it self, without allowing it too great a *Talus*, or Stoop.

b. *dial.* (See quot.)

1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss.*, *Stoop*, a fall of water in a river.

4. The action of descending from a height; *spec.* the swoop of a bird of prey on its quarry, or the descent of a falcon to the lure. Also *fig.*

c **1586** C'TESS PEMBROKE *Ps.* CXIX. Q. i, Lett not these that soare to high By my low stoope, yet higher fly. *a* **1586** SIDNEY *Arcadia* III. (1598) 261 (Amphialus' Dream 56) More swift then falcons stoope to feeding Falconers call. *c* **1611** CHAPMAN *Iliad* XXIII. 91 Like matter vaporous The spirit vanisht vnder earth, and murmur'd in his stoope. *a* **1616** BEAUM. & FL. *Wit without M.* IV. i. (1639) G 4 How daintily she [the lady] flies upon the lure, and cunningly she makes her stoppes. **1645** WALLER *To Mutable Fair* 16 Poems 120 Now will I wander through the ayre, Mount, make a stoope at every Fayre. **1774** GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* VI. 48 Some waterfowls subsist by making sudden stoops from above, to seize whatever fish come near the surface. **1823** BYRON *Age of Bronze* vii, Vulture-plumed guerrillas, on the stoop For their incessant prey. **1845** DARWIN *Voy. Nat.* iii. (1879) 54 Its stoop..is very inferior in force and rapidity to that of a hawk. **1885–94** BRIDGES *Eros & Psyche* Nov. 12 As an eagle..checks his headlong stoop With wide-flung wing. **1891** HARTING *Bibl. Accipitr.* 230 *Stoop*, the swift descent of a falcon on the quarry from a height.

5. Comb.: **stoop-necked** *a.*, having the neck bent downwards; **stoop-shouldered** *a.*, having a stoop in the shoulders.

1773 *Pennsylv. Gaz.* 7 July 3/3 Run away from the subscriber, an English servant girl,..about 20 years of age, a little stoop shouldered. **1887** C. G. D. ROBERTS *Poems* (1903) 56 Black on the ridge, against that lovely flush, A cart, and stoop-necked oxen. **1899** *Royal Mag.* Feb. 384/1 An old woman of seventy, thin, stoop-shouldered—from long years of bending over her cobbler's bench..

Stoop (stūp), *sb.*[3] *U.S.* and *Canada.* Also **9 stoup.** [a. Du. *stoep*: see STOEP.] 'An uncovered platform before the entrance of a house, raised, and approached by means of steps. Sometimes incorrectly used for *porch* or *veranda*.' (*Cent. Dict.*)

1789 *Massachusetts Spy* 20 Aug. 3/2 Several persons were in a stoop and at windows within fifteen or twenty feet from the tree. **1833** [MRS. TRAILL] *Backwoods of Canada* ix. (1836) 142 The Canadians call these verandahs 'stoups'. **1837** HAWTHORNE *Amer. Note-bks.* 13 July (1883) 58 Councillors seated about, sitting on benches near the bar, or on the stoop along the front of the house.. **1856** MISS WARNER *Hills Shatemuc* ii, He was cleaning the harness of the wagon, and he took it out into the broad stoop outside of the kitchen door. **1883** STEVENSON *Across the Plains* (1896) 16 The clear, bright, gardened townships spoke of country fare and pleasant summer evenings on the stoop.

Stoop (stūp), *v.*[1] Pa. t. and pa. pple. **Stooped** (stūpt). Forms: 1 **stúpian**, 2–4 **stupen**, 4–7 **stoupe** (4 **stope**), 5 **stowpe**, 7 **stoup**, 6 **stoope**, 6– **stoop.** [OE. *stúpian* wk. vb. corresp. to MDu. *stûpen* (WFlem. *stuipen*, now conjugated strong), ON. *stúpa* (once, in inf.; MSw., Sw. *stupa* wk. vb., Norw. *stupa* str. vb.); related by ablaut to OTeut. **staupo-* STEEP *adj.* For the phonology of the mod. Eng. form cf. *coop*, *droop*, where ME. *ō* before *p* has similarly remained unchanged instead of becoming (ou).]

I. To bow down, to descend.

1. *intr.* Of a person: To lower the body by inclining the trunk or the head and shoulders forward, sometimes bending the knee at the same time. Often with *down*.

c **893** ÆLFRED *Oros.* VI. xxiii, Þæt he swa oft sceolde stupian swa he to his horse wolde, & he þonne se cyning hæfde his hrycg him to hliepan. *a* **1225** *Juliana* 72 As ha schulde stupen ant strecchen forð þe swire [*sc.* to be beheaded]. *c* **1275** *Passion our Lord* 559 in *O. E. Misc.*, He adun stupede and lokede myd eye. *a* **1300** *Cursor M.* 13728 He stuped dun, and wit his hand He wrat a quil in to þe sand. **1303** R. BRUNNE *Handl. Synne* 5613 He stouped down to seke a stone. **13..** *K. Alis.* 1103 Alisaundre anvied was; Over the table he gon stoupe, And smot Lifias with the coupe. **1377** LANGL. *P. Pl. B.* V. 394, I moste sitte .. I may nouȝte stonde ne stoupe ne with-oute a stole knele. *c* **1380** *Sir Ferumb.* 4065 As lef me were her stope adoun, & lete gurd of myn heued. **1388** WYCLIF *John* XX. 5 And whanne he stoupide, he sai the schetis liynge, netheles he entride not. *a* **1400** *Octouian* 1141 In haste the geaunt stupte adoun, With the left hond to take vp the fachoun. *c* **1400** *Rom. Rose* 2662 Than shalt thou stoupe, and lay to ere, If they within a-slepe be. *c* **1450** *Merlin* VII. 119 He..smote the kynge loth vpon the helme that he made hym stoupe on the arson of his sadell. **1470–85** MALORY *Arthur* IX. XXXIII. 391 Thenne sir Tristram was ware of hym & there he stouped a syde. *a* **1500** *Abraham* 378 in *Brome Bk.* 66 But, fader, wyll I stowppe downe lowe, ȝe wyll not kyll me with ȝowre sword, I trowe? **1530** PALSGR. 737/2, I stowpe downe to take upe a thyng, *je me penche*. **1553** EDEN *Treat. New Ind.* (Arb.) 25 All suche as wayte on hym, stoup downe & make lowe curtesie. **1565** COOPER *Thesaurus* s. v. *Pronus*, Thou stouppest downe & drinkest water. **1584** COGAN *Haven Health* i. (1612) 3 Stouping and rising oftentimes,..these doe excercise the backe and loines. **1590** SPENSER *F. Q.* I. v. 12 He..with so exceeding furie at him strake, That forced him to stoupe upon his knee. **1603** G. OWEN *Pembrokeshire* (1891) 253 A man on horsbacke, may well ride vnder it, without stowpinge. **1603** B. JONSON *Panegyre K. Jas.* 23 Beside her stoup't on either hand, a maid. **1649** E. REYNOLDS *Hosea* VII. 124 Angels..stoope down with their faces towards the mercy Seat. **1697** DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* III. 169 The Youthful Charioteers with heaving Heart..Stoop to the Reins, and lash with all their Force. **1794** MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* XXXVIII, Dorothée, now stooping to pick up something that had dropped from among the papers, suddenly exclaimed [etc.]. **1847** C. BRONTË *Jane Eyre* XXXIV, He raised his head suddenly from the desk over which he was stooping. **1863** GEO. ELIOT *Romola* XII, He had just stooped to reach his manuscript, which had rolled down. **1900** L. HUXLEY *Life Prof. Huxley* II. VI. 65 To stoop over the microscope was a physical discomfort.

¶ **b.** In ME. poetry occas. used for: To fall headlong. *Obs.*

13.. *Sir Beues* 3817 Taile ouer top he made him stoupe. *c* **1400** *Destr. Troy* 7256 He hit on his helme with a heuy sword, þat greuit hym full gretly, gert hym to stoupe. *c* **1430** *Syr Gener.* (Roxb.) 3821 With his launce grete and square To Sir Abel grymlie he bare That he made him low stoupe Bakward ouer his hors croupe.

c. Said of the head or shoulders.

1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* VIII. 297 With hedis stowpand and speris straucht Richt to the kyng thar vay thai raucht. **1576** GASCOIGNE *Grief of Joye* II. li, Owre showlders stowpe, wch erst stood bolt upright. *a* **1616** ? BEAUM. & FL. *Faithful Friends* I. i. MS. Dyce Collect. No. 10. 4 The Sabines are in Armes, whose Stuborn neckes These many yeares stoopt to the yoake of Roome. **1663** BUTLER *Hud.* I. i. 286 His Back, or rather Burthen show'd As if it stoop'd with its own load.

† **d.** Of a quadruped: To crouch. *Obs.*

1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* I. vi. 25 He would learne The Lyon stoup to him in lowly wise. *a* **1625** FLETCHER *Nice Valour* IV. i, This fellow..Stoops like a Cammell, that Heroick beast, At a great load of Nutmegs.

e. Of a dog: To put its nose to the ground to find a scent.

1523–34 FITZHERB. *Husb.* § 41 It is harde to make an olde dogge to stoupe. **1781** P. BECKFORD *Th. Hunting* (1802) 91 When your young hounds stoop to a scent,..you may then begin to put them into the pack. **1897** [see STOOPING *vbl. sb.*].

2. *fig.* **a.** To 'bow' to superior power or authority; to humble oneself, yield obedience. Const. *to*, *under*. Now somewhat *rare*.

1530 PALSGR. 737/2 Thought you be never so prowde a varlet, I wyll make you stowpe or you go. **1535** COVERDALE *Job* IX. 13 He is God..the proudest of all must stoupe vnder him [Luther: *unter ihn müssen sich beugen*]. **1555** EDEN *Decades* (Arb.) 52 Stoope Englande stoope, and learne to knowe thy lorde and master. **1570** LEVINS *Manip.* 221/30 To stoupe, *humiliare se*. **1610** HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* (1637) 118 By the Scots that infested them out of Ireland, they were made to stoop. *c* **1640** SHIRLEY *Cont. Ajax & Ulysses* (1659) 128 Early or late, They stoop to fate, And must give up their murmuring breath, When they pale Captives creep to death. **1642** FULLER *Holy St.* II. xxi. 134 Here Drake received a dangerous wound, though he valiantly conceal'd it for a long time, knowing if his heart stooped, his mens would fall. **1646** H. P. *Medit. Seige* 98 He hath..made his desires stoope unto his reason. **1666** DK. NEWCASTLE in *11th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. v. 14 His..victory over his enemies, which will make all his neyghbor kinges stoope to him. **1710** O. SANSOM *Acc. Life* 43 Because I would not stoop under them, ..to promise to go to no more Meetings..they Fined me Five Pounds. *a* **1715** BURNET *Own Time* III. (1724) I. 523 The Duke now seemed to triumph in Scotland. All stooped to him. **1752** YOUNG *Brothers* IV. i, Tho' Thrace by conquest stoops to Macedon, I know my rank. **1837** THIRLWALL *Greece* XXIX. IV. 104 A Spartan generally found it the hardest of all things to stoop.

† **b.** To submit *to* something burdensome. *Obs.*

1611 B. JONSON *Catiline* IV. i, Good and great men: that know how To stoupe to wants, and meete necessities. **1621** T. WILLIAMSON tr. *Goulart's Wise Vieillard* 105 Why should hee which knowes, and takes himselfe to be a man,..refuse to put vnder his shoulder and stoope to those ieopardies, burthens, and crosses. **1621** in Foster *Eng. Factories Ind.* (1906) 265 More losse then wee have reason to stoope unto. **1647** N. BACON *Disc. Govt. Eng.* I. iv. 73 It had been better for them to have stooped to hard conditions with the Picts.

c. To condescend *to* one's inferiors or *to* some position or action below one's rightful dignity.

1579 W. WILKINSON *Confut. Fam. Love* 18 God..stoupeth and lispeth with us that we may understand him. **1661** BOYLE *Style Script.* (1675) 241 The Divine inspirer of the Scripture, ev'n when his style seems most to stoop to our capacities; doth yet retain a prerogative above meerly humane writings. *a* **1669** STILLINGFL. *Six Serm.* v. 195 Is Religion a beggarly and contemptible thing, that it doth not become the greatness of your mindes to stoop to take any notice of it? **1671** TRENCHFIELD *Cap Gray Hairs* (1688) 4 And tho some Fathers..have undertook to give advice unto their Sons;..yet there's not any (that I know of) hath stoopt so low, to give advice to an Apprentice **1687** T. BROWN *Saints in Uproar* Wks. 1730 I. 78, I can hardly believe that such nice, well-bred ladies, as those are, would stoop to so vile a drudgery. **1703** DE-FOE in *15th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. IV. 61 Nor is there anything so mean (which I can honestly stoop to do) that I would not submit to, to obtain her Majesty's favour. **1766** GOLDSM. *Vicar* XXX, If you can stoop to an alliance with a family so poor as mine, take her. **1773** — (*title*) She stoops to conquer. **1820** W. IRVING *Sketch Bk.* I. 195 Stooping from his high estate to sow the sweet flowers of poetry and song. **1868** BROWNING *Ring & Bk.* I. i. 139 A Latin cramp enough..But interfilleted with Italian streaks When testimony stooped to mother-tongue. **1867** FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* (1876) I. iv. 193 The Aquitanian princes now and then stooped to pay a nominal homage.

d. To lower or degrade oneself morally; to descend *to* something unworthy.

1743 BULKELEY & CUMMINS *Voy. S. Seas* Ded. p. iv, A British Seaman hath a Spirit too brave to stoop to so degenerate a Practice. **1751** JOHNSON *Rambler* No. 96 ¶ 5 Many whom their conscience can scarcely charge with stooping to a lie, have [etc.]. **1855** MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xxi. IV. 555 He..was incapable of stooping to an act of baseness. **1891** FARRAR *Darkn. & Dawn* xxxiv, Her son stooped to the most ignoble methods for rendering her life miserable.

3. Of a thing: To incline from the perpendicular; to bend down; to slope; to hang over.

c **1000** *Sax. Leechd.* III. 266 Ȝyf seo sunne hine [the new moon] onælð ufan þonne stupað he [*i.e.* has the concave side inclined downward]. **1340** *Ayenb.* 151 Uor he nimþ hede þet his tour ne hongi ne stoupi. *c* **1374** CHAUCER *Troylus* II. 968 As flouris, thurgh cold of nyghte Yclosid, stoupyn in her stalkys lowe. **1422** YONGE tr. *Secreta Secret.* 233 He that hath a longe noose and Sum-whate stowpynge and strachynge toward the mouthe, he is worthy and hardy. *Ibid.* 234 Who-so hath a leiand Plate noose amyd, stoupynge to-warde the butte, he is a iogoloure. **1592** SHAKS. *Ven. & Ad.* 1028 The grasse stoops not, she treads on it so light. **1615** J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Fair & Foul Weather* B 1 b, With a troope Of full mouth'd windes, that made great oakes to stoope. **1702** *Milit. Dict.* s. v. *Bomb*, Rowling down Bombs upon them along a Plank set stooping towards their Works. **1683** TEMPLE *Mem.* Wks. 1731 I. 419 Nimeguen is seated upon the Side of a Hill, which..stoops upon the River Waal. **1827** SCOTT *Highl. Widow* i, The rocks and precipices which stooped down perpendicularly on our path. **1829** — *Anne of G.* ii, He felt the huge cliff on which he stood, tremble, stoop slowly forward, and gradually sink from its position. **1885** *Athenæum* 23 May 669/1 The crests of the rushes.. are not stirred sufficiently to make them stoop.

† **b.** Of a heavenly body: To bend its course downward; to begin to descend. *Obs.*

1615 CHAPMAN *Odyss.* XII. 444 In Nights third part; when stars began to stoope; The Cloud-assembler, put a Tempst vp. **1631** KNEVET *Rhodon & Iris* IV. iii. G 2 b, I saw the blazing meteor stoupe, And bend his course toward the humble Center.

† **c.** *Naut.* To heel over. *Obs.*

1663 SIR W. PETTY in Rigaud *Corr. Sci. Men* (1841) I. 103 Our vessel..hath sailed by and large, to the admiration of some hundred seamen..for..keeping a wind,..not stooping, staying and steering. **1691** T. H[ALE] *Acc. New Invent.* 121 The line unto which she stoops upon a Wind of either side. *Ibid.* 124 The Ship upon a Wind, is to stoop upon a certain Angle.

4. To stand or walk with the shoulders bent or the upper part of the body inclined forwards; esp. to have habitually or permanently this kind of attitude.

1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 777 His sight wax dym..His bak waxes croked, stoupand he gas. **1387** TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) II. 185 In his elde þe stature bowep and crokep and stoupeþ adoun. **1474** CAXTON *Chesse* II. ii. (1883) 29 So olde that he stowped & quaqued for age. **1530** PALSGR. 737/2 Sche is but a yong wenche and yet sche stowpyth and sche were an owlde woman. **1605** *Proclam. Search T. Percy* 5 Nov., He stoupeth somewhat in the shoulders. **1611** BIBLE 2 *Chron.* XXXVI. 17 The king of the Caldees..had no compassion vpon..olde man, or him that stouped for age. **1776** *Pennsylv. Even. Post* 30 Apr. 220/1 Two..servant women. One..tall and lusty, stoops in her shoulders. **1838** LYTTON *Alice* II. iii, Cissy, my love, don't stoop so. **1856** COMPAING & DEVERE *Tailor's Guide Cutting* 9 A man stoops, when, instead of standing upright, he usually carries his body forward, and becomes shorter in front and longer behind. **1905** ELIN. GLYN *Viciss. Evangeline* 89 She was very tall and thin, and stooped dreadfully.

† **5.** To descend from a height. *Obs.*

1608 B. JONSON *Masque at Ld. Hadington's Marr.* Wks. (1616) 939 Venus, is this a time to quit your carre? To stoope to earth? to leaue alone, your starre, Without your influence? **1633** P. FLETCHER *Purple Isl.* XI. XXXV, Soon stoops the speedie Herauld through the aire. **1697** DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* IV. 75 The winged Nation wanders thro' the Skies,..Then stooping on the Meads and leafy Bow'rs, They skim the Floods, and sip the purple Flow'rs. **1847** TENNYSON *Princess* VII, The cloud may stoop from heaven and take the shape With fold to fold, of mountain or of cape.

† **b.** To be lowered in amount or degree. *Obs.*

1572 MALIM tr. *Martinengo's Famagusta* 9 b, All our prouision within the Citie stooping very lowe. **1608** CHAPMAN *Byron's Consp.* I. ii. 182 Your highnesse makes the light of this Court stoope, With your so neere departure.

6. Of a hawk or other bird of prey: To descend swiftly on its prey, to swoop (const. *at*, *on*); also, to descend to the lure. Also *fig.*

1575 TURBERV. *Falconrie* 123 The Almaines doe flee at the

Pye with a lease or twoo caste of Falcons at once, and they make them to mownte and to stowpe. 1577 GRANGE *Golden Aphrod.* G ij b, With lure I play the Faukner kinde, ..I shake my fiste, I whistle shrill, but nought will make hir stoupe. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* II. xi. 43 As when Joves harnesse-bearing Bird from hye Stoupes at a flying heron with proud disdayne. 1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* II. ii. III. (1624) 208 A Hawke..when the game is sprung, comes down amaine, & stoupes vpon a sudden. 1675 TRAHERNE *Chr. Ethics* 457 An eagle cannot stoop at flies. 1717 BOLINGBROKE *Let. to Sir W. Windham* (1753) 147 Whether the priest had stooped at the lure of a cardinal's hat,..I know not. 1779 SHERIDAN *Critic* I. i, The follies and foibles of society are subjects unworthy the notice of the comic muse, who should be taught to stoop only at the..blacker crimes of humanity. 1825 SCOTT *Betrothed* xxiii, At length one of the falcons had reached a pitch from which she ventured to stoop at the heron. 1828 SIR J. S. SEBRIGHT *Hawking* 27 The magpie is to be driven from his retreat, and the hawk, if at a good pitch, will stoop at him as he passes to another bush. 1847 C. BRONTE *Jane Eyre* (ed. 2) Pref., Fielding could stoop on carrion, but Thackeray never does. 1895 J. G. MILLAIS *Breath fr. Veldt* (1899) 121 Tawny eagle stooping at wounded steinbuck.

b. *trans.* = To stoop at or on. ? *Obs.*

1575 TURBERV. *Falconrie* 154 Then shall you first cast off a well quarried or make Hawke, and let hir stoupe a fowle vpon a brooke or a plashe. 1583 T. WATSON *Poems* (Arb.) 83 In time all haggred Haukes will stoope the Lures. 1607 DEKKER & WEBSTER *Northw. Hoe* v. i. G 4 b, See the hawke that first stoopt my phesant is kild by [etc.]. 1628 FLETCHER *Loyal Subj.* I. ii, He flies to stoop our favours.

II. Causative uses.

7. *trans.* To cause to bow down, bring to the ground; *fig.* to humiliate, subdue. Now *rare.*

c 1205 LAY. 25930 Mon ne mæi mid strenðe stupen hine to grunde. 1594 KYD *Cornelia* II. 153 [Caesar] that toyld To stoope the world and Rome to his desires. 1594 CHAPMAN *Shadow of Nt.* B iij, Shoote, shoote, and stoope his pride. *c* 1600 *Distr. Emperor* IV. iii. in Bullen *O. Pl.* (1884) III. 236, I cannot stoope the harte of Ganelon. *c* 1611 CHAPMAN *Iliad* VI. 407 The Gods may stoupe me by the Greekes. 1615 — *Odyss.* V. 321 He fell to felling downe; And twentie trees he stoopt, in litle space. 1616 NICCOLS *Overburies Vis.* (1873) 13 Hee, whose conquering stroke Did stoope our neckes to Norman rule. *a* 1630 S. PAGE *Ps.* xii. 6 in Spurgeon *Treas. Dav.* I. 155 [The snares] of our own sins..Keep down our heads, and stoop us that we cannot look up. 1742 YOUNG *Nt. Th.* IX. 855 Turn we, nor will hear..what they [the stars] would impart For man's emolument, sole cause that stoops Their grandeur to man's eye? 1839 *Blackw. Mag.* XLVI. 279 The worst symptom is at home, in the wretched impolicy which stoops Government to the rabble. 1856 LEVER *Martins of Cro' Martin* xli, A very large, powerfully-built man, somewhat stooped by age. 1901 JANE BARLOW *Ghost-hereft* 65 The wind in the trees stooped the straightest that stood All its own way.

† b. *passive.* To be curved downwards. *Obs.*

1682 GREW *Musæum* I. § 5 i. 100 The Brasilian Frog-fish ..hath a black Horn on his Forehead, stooped forwards.

8. To bow (the head, † face, neck, knee); to incline (one's ear). Also *to stoop an eye on* (? nonce-use), to deign to glance at.

1634 MILTON *Comus* 333 Thou fair Moon..Stoop thy pale visage through an amber cloud. 1655 W. HAMMOND *On death of Brother* Poems 67 But stoop thine eare ill-councelld youth, and hark. 1771 *Muse in Miniature* 146 To him I stoop the penitential knee. 1777 POTTER *Æschylus, Prometh. Chain'd* 56 *Chorus.* What, shall high Jove bend to a greater lord? *Prometheus.* And to a yoke more galling stoop his neck. 1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* xxii, With his face stooped against his hands. 1825 — *Talism.* vii, He then stooped his lofty crest, and entered a lowly hut. 1831 JAMES *Phil. Augustus* I. xv, He pushed his way through the foliage, stooping his head to prevent the branches striking him in the face. 1866 TYNDALL *Glac.* I. xxii. 155 In getting through the rocks..I once had occasion to stoop my head. 1885-94 BRIDGES *Eros & Psyche* May xix, Here Zeus, in likeness of a tawny bull, Stoop'd on the Cretan shore his mighty knee. 1904 WEYMAN *Abbess of Vlaye* xi, This puling girl on whom the Captain of Vlaye had stooped an eye.

b. *refl.* or quasi-*refl.* = sense 1.

1808 SCOTT *Marm.* VI. xxx, She stoop'd her by the runnel's side. 1814 — *Lord of Isles* III. xii, Where Coolin stoops him to the west, They saw upon his shiver'd crest The sun's arising gleam. 1849 ROCK *Ch. of Fathers* I. viii. (1903) III. 65 While he..stoops him down to read the legend.

c. *fig.* To condescend to apply (one's thoughts, etc.) to something unworthy.

1588 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* I. i. 143 Let other-some (whose fainting Spirits do droop) Down to the ground their meditations stoop. 1698 COLLIER *Short View* i. 3 I'm sorry the Author should stoop his Wit thus Low. 1718 POPE *Iliad* XI. 95 None stoop'd a Thought to base inglorious Flight. 1866 LYTTON *Lost Tales Miletus* Pref. p. vii, In this selection I have avoided..the more licentious themes, to which..the Boccacios of Miletus sometimes stooped their genius.

† **9.** To let down, lower, 'vail'. Often *Naut.* and *Mil.* to lower (a sail, an ensign). *Obs.*

1530 TINDALE *Gen.* xxiv. 14 The damsell to whom I saye, stoupe doune thy pytcher and let me drynke. 1593 DRAYTON *Sheph. Garland* IX. xv, With that fayre Cynthya stoups her glittering vayle, And diues adowne into the Ocean flood. 1597 — *Heroic. Ep., Q. Isab. to Rich. II,* 104 Nor durst his slugging Hulks approch the strand, Nor stoop'd a top as signall to the Land. 1612 — *Poly-olb.* VIII. 212 Nor with that Consull ioyn'd, Vespasian could..make them stoope their saile. 1639 S. DU VERGER tr. *Camus' Admir. Events* 180 Fortune is constrained to stoope her ensign before her. 1672 T. VENN *Milit. Observ.* 175 You shall see some Ensigns let fly their Colours, when they should sink them; and some to stoop them to Pesants or Comrades, when Superiors have gone unsaluted. 1687 A. LOVELL tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* II. 24 They made many bows to the East lifting up the right hand to their head, and then stooping it down to the ground. 1697 COLLIER *Ess. Mor. Subj.* II. 56 A Man must stoop his hand for his Friend, and raise him up towards his own Ground.

fig. *a* 1629 FOTHERBY *Atheom.* (1622) Prol. p. XVIII, The highest points, which I have carefully indeauoured to stoop and demitte, euen to the capacitie of the very lowest.

b. Of a bird, etc.: To direct (its flight) downwards.

1810 SCOTT *Lady of L.* II. xxxiii, Like the ill Demon of the night, Stooping his pinions' shadowy sway Upon the nighted pilgrim's way. 1824 — *St. Ronan's* vi, This is not the way of the world, my good sir, to which even Genius must stoop its flight.

† **10.** To put down, stake (money) on a game.

c 1550 *Dice-Play* (Percy Soc.) 27 He that will not stoop a dodkin at the dice, per chaunce at cardes will spend God's cope. 1591 GREENE *and. Pl. Conny Catching* (1592) B 4 b, The Conny-catchers..began to lay the plot how they might make him stoope all the money in his purse. 1592 — *Def. Conny Catching* To Rdr., Some that would not stoope a farthing at cardes, would venter all the byte in their boung at dice.

† **11.** To plunge (a knife) *in* a person's body. *Obs.*

1662 LAMONT *Diary* (Maitl. Club) 145 [He] was strangled in his bed priuately, and, fearing he sould recouered, a knife was stooped in his throat.

12. To tilt (a cask). Now *dial.* Cf. STEEP *v.* 2, 3.

a 1670 HACKET *Abp. Williams* I. (1692) 59 To stoop this Vinacre to the very Lees. 1788 G. KEATE *Pelew Isl,* XXV. 312 The only conveniency they had of keeping water..was in thick bamboos, that had a bore of five or six inches diameter; these they placed upright, and stooped them when they wanted to pour any out. 1823 J. BADCOCK *Dom. Amusem.* 161 Stoop the vessel sideways. 1838 HOLLOWAY *Prov. Dict.,* To *stoop,* to put a piece of wood behind a cask that is nearly empty, so as to raise the hinder part, in order to let the contents run out.

13. To train (a dog) to 'stoop' for a scent. Cf. 1 e.

1781 P. BECKFORD *Th. Hunting* (1802) 85 It is now time to stoop them to a scent. 1826 J. COOK *Fox-hunting* 23 You will soon find they [the young hounds] will 'down with their noses' without being unnaturally stooped to Hare.

III. 14. *Comb.*: † **stoop-frog** (? *nonce-wd.*), an oppressor of frogs (the King Stork of the fable).

1602 WARNER *Alb. Eng.* VI. XXXII. 160 This stoope-Frog Æsops Storke.

† **Stoop,** *v.*[2] *Obs. rare.* [f. STOOP *sb.*[1]] *trans.* To mark *out* with 'stoops' or posts.

1663 W. BLUNDELL *Crosby Rec.* (1880) 222 This course, as it is now used upon the marshes..was stooped out by me.. A.D. 1654. 1756 in Picton *L'pool Munic. Rec.* (1886) II. 154 Ordered,..that the horse causeway..be repaired at the expence of the Corporation so for as it extends within our liberties; and to be stoop'd out.

Stoop, VAR. STOUP; obs. form of STUPE.

Stoop and roop, roop and stoop, *advb. phr. Sc.* and *north. dial.* [Of obscure origin; the 18th c. forms point to ME. *ū* as in STOOP *v.*[1] Probably this and *stout and rout* in quot. *c* 1375 are corruptions of some rhyming phrase, of which perh. only the first word was significant. Cf. Da. *rub og stub* (Norw. *rubb og stubb,* Sw. *rubb och stubb*) and the Sc. and north. dial. *stump and rump* in the same sense.] Completely, entirely.

[*c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* XXXVII. (*Vincencius*) 353 Pane gert he his body bere al bare to bestis..til ete hyme bath stout & rout.] 1728 RAMSAY *Monk & Miller's Wife* 184 They snapt her up baith stoup and roup. *c* 1746 J. COLLIER (Tim Bobbin) *View Lancs. Dial.* (1770) 21 Tum took Care oth' tother, steawp on reawp. 1816 SCOTT *Bl. Dwarf* X, We are ruined stoop and roop. 1826 J. WILSON *Noct. Ambr.* Wks. 1855 I. 161 You set yoursel to listen to a no verra bricht discoorse, as if you had taken an oath to devour 't frae stoop to roop. 1834 M. SCOTT *Cruise Midge* I, And tipping the wink, we hove him bodily stoop and roop overboard.

Stooped (stūpt), *ppl. a.* [f. STOOP *v.*[1] + -ED[1].]

1. a. On which a bird of prey is stooping. **b.** Of a bird of prey: That has swooped down.

1606 CHAPMAN *Gentl. Usher* I. i. A 2 b, A cast of Faulcons on their merry wings, Daring the stooped prey that shifting flies. 1819 KEATS *Lamia* I. 67 While Hermes on his pinions lay, Like a stoop'd falcon ere he takes his prey.

2. Of the head or shoulders: Bent downwards. Of a person: Bowed, having a stoop, stooping.

1865 SWINBURNE *Chasteland* I. i. 8 Which one is that, stooped somewhat in the neck, That walks so with his chin against the wind? 1873 Miss BROUGHTON *Nancy* XXII. II. 61 Barbara's stooped head is hidden by her hands. 1876 *World* No. 115. V. 13 He is paler, and stooped, and supports his tottering steps with a stout walking stick. 1881 MAY LAFFAN in *Macm. Mag.* XLIV. 380 A little stooped old woman. 1897 HOWELLS *Landlord at Lion's Head* 238 Over their stooped shoulders..Westover saw Alan.

3. Of a vessel: Tilted, inclined.

1865 SWINBURNE *Poems & Ball., Ilicet* 49 The stooped urn filling, dips and flashes.

Stooper (stū·pəɹ). [f. STOOP *v.*[1] + -ER[1].]

1. (See quot. 1854.)

1784 *Cries of London* 101 Any Work for the Cooper?..Whene'er a vessel gets a bruize By slipping off the stooper, Old Farrell I would have you chuse, As soon as any Cooper. 1854 Miss BAKER *Northampt. Gloss., Stooper,* a wedge for stooping or tilting a barrel.

2. One who stoops or bends down; one who has a stoop.

1892 *Daily News* 3 Mar. 5/3 At one lace-making village ..it was observed that there were no 'stoopers' except the invalids and weakly ones. 1912 D. CRAWFORD *Thinking Black* IV. 59 Good gleaners must be good stoopers.

† **Stoop-gallant,** *sb.* [f. STOOP *v.*[1] + GALLANT *sb.* = F. *trousse-galant,* recorded *a* 1590 in Paré *Œuvres* XXII. v. (1641) 530.

The Fr. equivalent is an objective compound of the vb.-stem; it is uncertain whether the Eng. word is a compound of the same type, or a phrase with the verb in the imperative and the sb. used vocatively. Cf. the following quot.

1551 *Loughborough Register* in J. Nichols *Hist. Leicester* (1804) III. II. 891/2 The Swat, called New Acquaintance, alias Stoupe, Knave, and know thy Master.]

Something that humbles 'gallants'; originally, a name for the 'sweating sickness'; later used *gen.* Also *attrib.* or *adj.*

†1551 in *Gentl. Mag.* (1808) LXXVIII. II. 1057 The hote Sickness, called Stup-gallant. *a* 1560 T. HANCOCK in *Narr. Reform.* (Camden) 82 The posting swet, that posted from towne to towne, throwghe England, and was named stope gallant, for hytt spared none, for ther were dawncyng in the cowrte at 9 a'clooke thatt were deadd or aleven a'clocke. *a* 1572 BP. J. LESLIE *Hist. Scot.* (Bannatyne Club) 81 Thair wes ane seknes universallie in the moneth of September [1510] in Scotland,..it wes callit be the peple stoup galland. 1579 SPENSER *Sheph. Cal.* Feb. 90 Youngth is a bubble, Whose way is wildernesse, whose ynne Penaunce, And stoopegallaunt Age the hoste of Greeuaunce. 1583 MELBANCKE *Philotimus* K ij, Old cramped sires in their stoupe gallant age. 1596 NASHE *Saffron Walden* Wks. 1910 III. 114 Comedie vpon Comedie he shall haue..One shal bee called..*Stoope Gallant,* or *The Fall of pride.* 1862 WRAXALL tr. *Hugo's Les Misérables* III. lxvii. 332 Your stoop-gallant is called cholera.

¶ Used allusively as verbal phrase.

a 1661 FULLER *Worthies, Surrey* (1662) 84 His Lordship..enforced them to stoop gallant, and to vail their Bonnets for the Queen of England.

Stooping (stū·piŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. STOOP *v.*[1] + -ING[1].] The action of the verb, in its various senses; an instance of this.

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* VIII. xiii. (1495) 320 In aege ..the planete mars disposyth to stowpynge and crokydnesse. *c.* 1412 HOCCLEVE *De Reg. Princ.* 1019 Stomak is on whom stowpyng..Annoyeth soore. 1592 *Soliman & Pers.* 1481 Nay, then, I see, my stooping makes her proud. 1653 H. COGAN tr. *Pinto's Trav.* xix. 65 Looking towards the point of the Island from whence the Kite came, we perceived divers others, that in their flying made many stoopings. 1754 CHATHAM *Lett. to Nephew* V. 34 As to the carriage of your person, be particularly careful..not to get a habit of stooping. 1799 UNDERWOOD *Dis. Childhood* (ed. 4) II. 87 The height which he may have lost in consequence of that stooping which the disorder had induced. 1897 *Encycl. Sport* I. 583/1 (Hunting, fox) *Stooping* (of hounds), putting their noses to the ground. A hound is said to stoop to a scent when he has once taken to speaking to it.

b. *Comb.*: † **stooping-horse** = STALKING-HORSE.

1659 D. PELL *Impr. Sea* 22 *note,* Counterfeit Religion is made a mere stooping horse of.

Stooping (stū·piŋ), *ppl. a.* [f. STOOP *v.*[1] + -ING[2].] That stoops.

1. Of the body, head, shoulders, etc., also of the posture: Bowing down, inclining or leaning forward; chiefly, having a habitual stoop, as from age or infirmity.

c 1290 *Clement* 238 in *S. Eng. Leg.* 330 Pouere and stoupinde and miseise, he bi-gan to siken sore. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Merch. T.* 494 Whan tendre youthe hath wedded stoupyng age. 1422 YONGE tr. *Secreta Secret.* 223 Hey vprerid shuldris; the body Sumwhate Stowpynge. 1538 ELYOT *Dict., Cernuus,* stowpynge or lookynge downewarde. 1558 PHAER *Æneid* VIII. (1562) B b j, Y^e king him self of stoupyng age Eneas next him toke for mate. 1593 SHAKS. *Rich. II,* III. iii. 48 How farre off from the mind of Bullingbrooke It is, such Crimson Tempest should bedrench..King Richards Land, My stooping dutie tenderly shall shew. 1609 HEYWOOD *Brit. Troy* VIII. xv. 172 They can make..the Foole wise, The stooping Straight. 1771 SMOLLETT *Humphry Cl.* 6 May (1815) 71 Mrs. Tabitha Bramble is..flat-chested, and stooping. 1807 J. BARLOW *Columb.* III. 497 Forbear to tell my stooping sire His darling hopes have fled a coward fire. 1816 SCOTT *Bl. Dwarf* IV, Getting up from his stooping posture. 1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) III. 103 The usurer with stooping walk pretends not to see them. 1908 W. CHURCHILL *Mr. Crewe's Career* VII. 95 Mr. Crewe was ushered out by the stooping Secretary.

Comb. 1594 LYLY *Mother Bombie* I. III. He doats, he is stooping old, and shortly must die.

b. Of things: Inclined from the perpendicular.

1621 G. SANDYS *Ovid's Met.* V. (1632) 183 Wandring in the Ort-yard, simply shee [Ceres] Pluckt a Pomegrannet from the stooping Tree. 1915 *Glasgow Herald* 28 May 8 On the farther side (seen by me past the shoulder of a dark alder and stooping scrub of hazels,..upon the nearer bank).

† **2.** Of a person's fortunes: Declining. *Obs.*

1608 *Yorks. Trag.* I. iii. 15 A good and sure reliefe To al his stooping fortunes. 1611 SPEED *Hist. Gt. Brit.* IX. xvi. (1623) 841 King Henries fortunes in France were desperately stooping.

3. Of a bird of prey: That is making its stoop.

1754 BOYER *Gt. Theat. Honour* (ed. 2) 116 Stooping (is said of a Bird of Prey that makes a stoop at the Game), *Fondant.* 1895 CROCKETT *Men of Mosshags* VIII. 59 The wide pleasant moors where..the stooping wild birds cried all the livelong day.

Hence **Stoo·pingly** *adv.*, with the body bent or bowed down.

1530 PALSGR. 842/2 Stowpyngly, *en cambrant.* 1547 BOORDE *Brev. Health* (1552) 59 *Gibbositas.*..In Englyshe it is named crokydnes of the backe or shoulders, makyng a man to go stoupyngly. 1561 T. NORTON *Calvin's Inst.* III. 240 We may safely folow the Scripture, whiche as with a motherly pace goeth stoupyngly [L. *submissius graditur*], least it shoulde forsake our weakenesse. 1885 *New Monthly Mag.* XIV. 130 He walks stoopingly. 1891 *Daily News* 21 June, The well-known figure, somewhat stoopingly, progressed to the seat apportioned. 1906 E. V. LUCAS *Listener's Lure* 63 The giant stoopingly emerged from the back compartment.

Stoo·py, *a. rare.* [f. STOOP *sb.*[2] or *v.*[1] + -Y.] Having a stoop.

1905 MRS. BARNES-GRUNDY *Vacill. Hazel* VI. 82 A young, stoopy man walked into the room.

Stoor(e : see STIR, STORE, STOUR.

Stoot(e : see STOAT, STUT.

‖ **Stooter.** *Obs.* In 6–7 **stoter.** [Du. *stooter.*] A Dutch coin worth two stuivers and a half.

1598 W. PHILLIP tr. *Linschoten* I. xxx. 58 There are many Indians that are daily hired..and haue 12. *Basdrucos* the day, which is as much as two stiuers or a stoter. 1609 ROWLANDS *Dr. Merrieman* (1877) 14 Now for a Stoter you a Box may haue, That will the liues of halfe a dozen saue. 1616 B. JONSON *Devil an Ass* III. iii. 32 Where could you ha'..Beene satisfied with a leape o' your Host's daughter, In garrison, a wench of a stoter! or, Your Sutlers wife, i' the leaguer, of two blanks! 1811 P. KELLY *Univ. Cambist* I. 14 Amsterdam..[Silver Coins] Stopters, [reckoned] at 2½ Stivers.

Stooth (stūþ). *dial.* Forms: 3–9 **stothe**, 5 **stuthe**, **stoth**, 6 **stoothe**, **stoith**, (pl. **stoithez**, **stoys**), 9 **stooth**. [Either repn. OE. *stuðu* var. of *studu* STUD *sb.*, or a. the equivalent ON. *stoð*.]

1. A post, an upright lath; now only one of the upright battens in a lath-and-plaster wall. **b.** Comb. *stooth-and-plaster*; † **stooth-stone**, a stone post.

1295 *Acc. Exch. K. R.* m. 13 Et xxij s. in Trussurs, Girdelinges et Stothes emptis de eodem. 1352–3 *Ely Sacr. Rolls* (1907) II. 152 Pro cariagio de ix^{xx} sparris et cc stothys quercinis, 18 s. 6 d. 1410–11 in Hudson & Tingey *Rec. Norwich* (1910) II. 58 [For two spars, 3] stothis [and other timber]. 1453 *Mem. Ripon* (Surtees) III. 160 Et de 3*d.* sol. pro stuthes de ligno eidem operi. *c* 1460 *Promp. Parv.* (Winch. MS.) 446 Stoth of an hows, *posticulus*. 1497–8 in *Fabric Rolls York Minster* (Surtees) 90 Emendacione unius les stothe in zona pro cornu Sancti Willelmi. *c* 1530 *Ibid.* 355 Operantibus super reparacionem murorum stabuli circa soletrees et stoothes,..etc. 13 s. 2 d. 1532–3 *Durham Housek. Bk.* (Surtees) 173 Pro sarracione 12 rod in wyndbalks, stoys, pouynchys, 4 s. 8 d. 1533–4 *Ibid.* 270 Pro sarracione 1 rod in bords et stoythez, 2 s. 8 d. 1552 in *Fabric Rolls York Minster* (Surtees) 355 For setting in iij stothes. 1566 *Leverton Churchw. Acc.* in *Archæologia* XLI. 364, ii altar stones for stothe stones. 1893 H. D. RAWNSLEY in *Westm. Gaz.* 14 Nov. 2/1 He..showed me the stooth and plaister partition that had at one time formed his [Wordsworth's] bedroom outer wall.

† **2.** A stud or knob. *Obs.*

1397 *Durham Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 445 Et vj stothes deaurat. ex donacione domini Ricardi de Castro Bernardi. 1428 in *Engl. Misc.* (Surtees) 1 For stuthes of xxxiij gyrdels of menged metaill..tin and lede. ? *c* 1475 *Reg. Guild Corpus Chr. York* (Surtees) 295 A blak gyrdill, ye pennaunt and ye buccle golde, with vij stuthes,..a blew girdill, pennaunt and ye bocle silver and gilt, with xxxij stothez.

† **3.** The list of a web of cloth. *Obs.*

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 476/2 Stothe, of a clothe [*Winch.* stoth], *forago*.

Hence † **stooth·ed** *a.*, having studs.

1467 *York Memo. Bk.* (Surtees) I. 165 Ther shall no man ..make or garre make any double stothed girdilles to sell.. uppayn of iijs. iiijd.

Stoothe (stūð), *v. dial.* Also 6 **stothe**, 9 **stooth**. [f. STOOTH.]

† **1.** *trans.* To garnish with studs or knobs. = STUD *v.* *Obs.*

1530 *Knaresb. Wills* (Surtees) I. 26 A gyrdell stothed with sylver.

2. To furnish (a wall) with the framework on which the lath-and-plaster is fixed; to build with lath and plaster.

1825 JAMIESON *Stooth.* 1833 LOUDON *Encycl. Archit.* § 925 The whole of the insides of the external walls are to be properly stoothed (battened). *a* 1860 J. YOUNGER *Autob.* (1881) 365, I could only bring him to an agreement to stooth the bed-length of the damp back wall,..for which stoothing I engaged to pay him full five per cent. in advance of rent.

Hence **Stoothed** *ppl. a.*; **Stoothing** *vbl. sb.*, the action of the vb.; *concr.* a wall or partition of lath and plaster; also *attrib.*

1770 HUTTON *Mensuration* 591 Ceiling joists to both storys. Stoothed partitions. Deal flooring. 1788 W. H. MARSHALL *Yorksh.* II. 356 *Steathing*; a lath and plaister partition. 1833 LOUDON *Encycl. Archit.* § 980 Roofing, lintels,..stoothings (stud-work, or quartering; that is, wooden framework for lath and plaster partitions). *Ibid.* § 982 The ceilings of all the rooms, passages, and of the staircase with stoothing partitions, to have two-coated lath-plaster. 1833 RAINE *Brief Acc. Durham Cath.* 108 Portions of the stoothing were removed. 1884 *Congregational Year Bk.* 401 The clerestory arches are constructed of rough framing and stoothing. 1893 S. O. ADDY *Hall of Waltheof* 173 This wooden framework which fills up the interstices is locally known as 'studding' or 'stoothing'.

Stoove, Stoover: see STOVE, STOVER.

Stoowre, obs. form of STOWER [1].

† **Stop,** *sb.*[1] *Obs.* Forms: 1 **stoppa**, 4–6 **stoppe**, 5–6 **stopp**, 4–9 **stop**. [OE. *stoppa* wk. masc. = OS. *stoppo*:—WGer. **stoppōn*- f. OTeut. **stup*- ablaut-var. of **staup*-: see STOUP.]

1. A pail or bucket.

c 725 *Corpus Gloss.* B. 147 *Blohonicula*, stoppa. *c* 890 WERFERTH tr. *Gregory's Dial.* 11 Þa becom an fisc in þone wæterstoppan. *c* 1000 ÆLFRIC *Gloss.* in Wr.-Wülcker 123/24 *Situla*, stoppa. *c* 1340 *Nominale* (Skeat) 497 *Paile*..Stoppe. 1397–8 *Durham Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 601 Pro stoppes correi empt. pro camera d'ni Prioris. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 477/1 Stoppe, vessel for mylkynge, *mulctra*. 1491 *Acta Dom. Concil.* (1839) 195/2 Five barellis,..thre treyn stoppis. 1548 in Hudson & Tingey *Rec. Norwich* (1910) II. 174 To serche for stoppes, roopes, ladders and bokettes of lether. 1787 W. H. MARSHALL *E. Norfolk* (1795) II. 389 *Stops*, small well-buckets. 1895 *E. Anglt. Gloss.*, *Stop*, the bucket of a well; formerly any bucket.

2. A holy-water stoup.

1419 Holiwaterstop [see HOLY WATER 2]. 1426–7 *Rec. St. Mary at Hill* (1905) 67 Also for primyng of þe haly water stop, viij d. 1483 *Act* 1 *Rich. III*, c. 12 That no merchaunt Straungier..brynge into this Realme of Englond..halywater stoppes. 1552 in *Archæol. Cant.* (1874) IX. 273 Item a holy water stopp of latten.

3. *Sc.* A pitcher, flagon, tankard. Also *attrib.*

1489 *Acta Dom. Concil.* (1839) 131/1 A stop comptor, a gret pot, & a half galloun stop. 1490 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* I. 175 A water stop of siluer. 1491 *Acta Dom. Concil.* (1839) 176/2 A quarte stop price ij s. 1496 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* I. 321 For five vnce of siluir of maid werk in a stop lid of the Kingis. 1540 *Ibid.* VII. 312 Ane silver stop weyand xij punde wecht twa vnces. 1697 *Invent.* in *Scott. N. & Q.* (1900) Dec. 90/2 A tinn quart stop, a pynt.

Stop (stɒp), *sb.*[2] Forms: 5–7 **stopp**, 6–7 **stoppe**, (**stope**), 5– **stop**. [f. STOP *v.* Cf. MDu. *stoppe* (mod.Du. *stop* fem., bung, darn).]

I. Action of stopping.

1. The action or an act of impeding, obstructing, or arresting; the fact of being impeded or arrested; a check, arrest, or obstruction (of motion or activity).

1544 BETHAM *Precepts War* I. clxxxviii. I iij b, That thy souldiours maye haue plentye, withoute any stop or entercourse of theyr enemyes. 1592 *Soliman & Pers.* I. v. 15 Through which our passage cannot finde a stop Till it haue prickt the hart of Christendome. *c* 1610 SIR J. MELVIL *Mem.* (Bannatyne Club) 350 They..entrit into the toun without stop. 1690 T. BURNET *Theory Earth* III. ix. 76 Therefore we must not suppose such an Universal stop of waters. 1722 DE FOE *Col. Jack* ii, He..had the money paid him without any stop or question asked. 1738 [G. SMITH] *Cur. Relat.* II. 314 There was a general Stop of Trade. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. I. xi, Our Federate Volunteers will file through the inner gateways...Nay there, should some stop occur, [etc.]. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* xvi, If people only made prudent marriages, what a stop to population there would be!

b. An act of stopping the ball in a ball-game.

1773 J. DUNCOMBE *Surrey Triumphant* xlix, Davis, for stops and catches fam'd.

c. The order given to a fire-brigade station not to continue sending out in force. Also *stop-message*.

1872 *Routledge's Ev. Boy's Ann.* 114/2 Roused me four times..for stops for chimbleys [*note*, a fireman's warning]. 1890 *Times* 25 Apr. 10/2 The fire was so well under control that a *stop* message was despatched.

† **d.** *To give a stop to* (an agent or activity): to check or arrest the progress of. *Obs.*

a 1586 SIDNEY *Arcadia* II. (Sommer) 175 b, But Basilius (swearing he would put out her eyes, if she stird a foote to trouble his daughter) gaue her a stoppe for that while. 1611 G. H. tr. *Anti-Coton* 63 Words that had given vs the stop, had they been put in the entrance (of his discourse). 1678 BUTLER *Hud.* III. i. 286 In hast I snatch'd my weapon up, And gave their Hellish Rage a stop. 1693 LOCKE *Educ.* § 107 'Tis a great Step towards the mastery of our Desires, to give this stop to them, and shut them up in Silence.

† **e.** *To make* (*a*) *stop of* = f. *Obs.*

1633 BROME *Antipodes* I. vii. (1640) D 1 b, What's he? One sent, I feare, from my dead mother, to make stop Of our intended voyage. 1638 R. BAKER tr. *Balzac's Lett.* (vol. II.) 56 This is..not to make a stoppe of contentments but to husband them. 1673 TEMPLE *Ireland* Wks. 1731 I. 110 This made a sudden and mighty Stop of that Issue of Money.

f. *To put a stop to* (an activity, something active): to check, restrain; to arrest the progress of; to bring to an end, abolish.

1678 DRYDEN *Tr. & Cr.* I. i. (1679) 3 But you grave pair, ..Must put a stop to these incroaching ills. 1687 A. LOVELL tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* I. 26 For putting a stop to these fires, there are men called *Baltadgis*. 1702 *Reasons for addressing his Maj. to invite the Electress*, etc. 2 Putting all imaginable Stops to what they cannot barefac'dly hinder. 1735 JOHNSON *Lobo's Abyssinia, Descr.* xi. 111 That a stop might be put to the inroads of the Galles. 1789 BRAND *Hist. Newcastle* II. 304 The coal-trade at Newcastle was for some time put a stop to by a mutiny of the keelmen. 1879 M. J. GUEST *Lect. Hist. Eng.* xvii. 166 Henry..put a stop to this. 1885 'MRS. ALEXANDER' *Valerie's Fate* ii, This is very curious,..and must be put a stop to.

2. In certain specific uses: A veto or prohibition (*against*); an embargo (*upon* goods, trade); a refusal to pass tokens; an order stopping payment of a bank note, cheque, or bill.

Stop of the exchequer, the suspension of payment of the Government debt to the London goldsmiths in 1672.

1634 in J. Simon *Ess. Irish Coins* (1749) 115 Complaints..concerning the stop and refusall of farthing tokens. 1675 *Essex Papers* (Camden) I. 293 To take off the stopp in the Court of Exchequ^{r} against the Convicting of Papists. 1723 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 6133/4 A Stop is put against any Claim at the South-Sea-Office. *a* 1734 R. NORTH *Life Ld. Keeper Guilford* (1826) I. 178 Hence proceeded the stop of the Exchequer. 1855 F. PLAYFORD *Pract. Hints Investing Money* 44 A 'Writ of Distringas' is a process, by which persons beneficially interested in any Stock standing in the name of other parties may..place a *Distringas* or stop on the transfer thereof. 1863 H. COX *Instit.* III. vii. 683 *note*, An Order in Council..directed a stop to be made of payment of Exchequer moneys. 1892 CORDINGLEY *Commerc. Guide* 160 A 'stop' is usually put on bank notes, cheques, bills of exchange, bonds and similar documents when they have been lost or stolen. The 'stop' consists in writing a letter to the banker from whom the documents are payable, giving him instructions not to pay them, or not to do so without inquiry. 1907 — *Lond. Commerc. Dict.* 162 In such cases ..it is usual to land the goods on arrival and put a 'Stop' upon them—that is, instruct the wharfinger..not to part with them until the freight has been paid.

3. The act of filling or closing up an aperture.

1593 SHAKS. 2 *Hen. VI*, III. i. 288 A Breach that craues a quick expedient stoppe.

4. The act of coming to a stand; a halt in a journey or walk; a cessation of progress or onward movement. Often coupled with *stay*. Phr. *to make a stop*.

? 1575 BLUNDEVIL *Art of Riding* ii, iv. E v b, I tolde you before, that you shuld trot your horse right out in the midle forowe betwixte the ringes vntill you come to the place of stop. *c* 1586 C'TESS PEMBROKE *Ps.* civ. ix, Thou makst the sunne ..Well knowe the start and stop of dayly race. *a* 1625 FLETCHER *Hum. Lieut.* III. i, When he took leave now, he made a hundred stops. 1648 J. BEAUMONT *Psyche* II. xlix, How Kingdoms sprung, and how they made their stop, I well observ'd. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* III. 173 No Stop, no Stay, but Clouds of Sand arise. 1776 ENTICK *London* I. 489 The next stop was at a pageant at Leadenhall. 1805 WORDSW. *Waggoner* I. 36 Many a stop and stay he makes. 1839 DICKENS *Nich. Nick.* xxv, Mrs. Crummles advancing with that stage walk which consists of a stride and a stop alternately. 1887 F. FRANCIS Jun. *Saddle & Mocassin* 168 He [the pony] would check and counter-check in mid-career each break of the truant's with stops and turns so sudden, that once [etc.].

b. A halt or stay occupying some considerable space of time; a stay or sojourn made at a place, esp. in the course of a journey.

1650 R. STAPYLTON *Strada's Low C. Wars* III. 50 Her husband Octavio Duke of Parma (who never liked the stop of the Spanish army in the Netherlands). 1659 RUSHW. *Hist. Coll.* I. 76 From thence [they] rode Post to Paris, where they made some stop. 1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* II. (Globe) 581 Nor did we make any long Stop here, but hastned on towards Jarawena. 1793 L. WILLIAMS *Children's Friend* I. 221 So I staid, upon thorns. And father, uneasy at my stop, came soon afterwards. 1881 J. HATTON *New Ceylon* v. 137 From six in the morning till about eight in the evening they held their way, with but three stops of about half an hour each. 1895 *Cornh. Mag.* Oct. 407 The train was a good deal behind time, and therefore the stop was curtailed as much as possible.

c. A place at which a halt is made; a stopping-place (for coaches, etc.).

1889 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 2 Jan. 4/2 The next stage was to Cuckfield, to which stop the team consisted of four geldings. 1913 *Daily Graphic* 26 Mar. 7/4 There should be separate and fixed stops for 'buses and trams.

5. A block or obstruction of traffic caused by the overcrowding of vehicles.

a 1626 BACON *Apoph.* § 86 Wks. 1778 I. 539 A citizen of London passing the streets very hastily, came at last where some stop was made by carts;..where being in some passion that he could not suddenly pass [etc.]. 1683 LUTTRELL *Brief Rel.* I. 249 The justices of peace..have..made an order for the clearing the narrow streets of hackny coaches, to prevent any stops that may happen thereby. 1690 CROWNE *Eng. Frier* III. 27 As soon as ever the stop of coaches is over, my Lady will drive like mad. 1712 STEELE *Spect.* No. 515 P 1 To St. Paul's Church-yard, where there was a Stop of Coaches attending Company coming out of the Cathedral. 1739 *Joe Miller's Jests* No. 205 A Fellow once standing in the Pillory at Temple-Bar, it occasioned a Stop, so that a Carman with a load of Cheeses had much ado to pass.

6. A cessation, coming to a pause or end (of any activity, process, etc.).

1483–4 *Cely Papers* (Camden) 146 Yff they schuld be stoppyd ther wold come noo moo merchauntes heder the whych schuld cause a grett stopp. 1596 SHAKS. 1 *Hen. IV*, v. iv. 83 And Time, that takes suruey of all the world, Must haue a stop. 1634 MILTON *Comus* 552 At which I ceas't, and listen'd them a while, Till an unusuall stop of sudden silence Gave respit [etc.]. 1690 LOCKE *Hum. Und.* III. vii. § 5 Here it intimates a stop of the Mind, in the course it was going, before it came to the end of it. 1752 tr. *Rameau's Treat. Musick* 69 These Cadences introduce a Sort of a Stop or Rest, during a Piece. 1889 *Eng. Illustr. Mag.* Dec. 256 The band came to a stop. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* II. 976 In tobacco intermittence the patient is always conscious of the stop and roll forward [of the heart].

b. A pause or breaking-off made by one speaking.

1561 HOBY tr. *Castiglione's Courtier* II. (1900) 199 Here M. Bernarde makinge a little stopp. 1593 SHAKS. *Rich. II*, v. ii. 4 *Yorke*, Where did I leaue? *Duch.* At that sad stoppe, my Lord, Where [etc.]. 1604 — *Oth.* III. iii. 120 And for I know thou'rt full of Loue, and Honestie, And weigh'st thy words before thou giu'st them breath, Therefore these stops of thine, fright me the more. 1663 PATRICK *Parab. Pilgr.* xvi. (1687) 137 The first words..which he uttered when the other made a little stop, was this vehement exclamation. 1848 DICKENS *Dombey* xli, The smiling and unconscious look of Florence brings him to a dead stop. 1859 MEREDITH *R. Feverel* xxxviii, Her voice sounded to him like that of a broken-throated lamb, so painful and weak it was, with the plaintive stop in the utterance.

† **c.** Hesitation, holding back; a pause for consideration before acting. *Obs.*

1535 COVERDALE *Isa.* xliv. 7 Let him tell you forth planely thinges, that are past and for to come: yee and that without eny feare or stoppe. 1560 PILKINGTON *Aggeus* E v, And almost as many yeres haue we..buylded our owne houses goodly without any stoppe or feare. 1561 HOBY tr. *Castiglione's Courtier* II. (1900) 138 Nor to geve himselfe so for a prey to friend..that without stoppe a manne shoulde make him partaker of all his thoughtes.

† **d.** *At a stop*: at a standstill; at a nonplus.

a 1626 BACON *Holy War* Misc. Wks. (1629) 98 At which sudden Question, Martius was a little at a stop. 1685 LADY RUSSELL in *Buccleuch MSS.* (Hist. MSS. Comm.) I. 342 Lord Dorset's match seems to be at a stop. 1722 DE FOE *Plague* (1884) 127 As Navigation was at a Stop.

† **e.** The 'end' or purpose of an action. *Obs.*

1551 RECORDE *Pathw. Knowl.* Epist. to King, All do agre, that felicitie is and ought to be the stop and end of all their doynges.

II. Something that stops, arrests, or blocks.

7. Something that arrests or hinders motion or activity; an impediment, obstacle. ? *Obs.*

c 1508 Wolsey in *Lett. Rich. III & Hen. VII* (Rolls) I. 446 That ther shuld be in hym no stop [nor] let but perfygt indever that suche a amyte and confederacon s[hould be made] suerly betwyx them. 1513 Douglas *Æneis* IX. iii. 160 Quhat meyn thai be this myddill mantill wall? This litill stop of dykis and fouseys all? 1526 Tindale *Eph.* ii. 14 He..whych..hath broken doune the Wall in the myddes, that was a stoppe bitwene vs. 1548 Hall *Chron., Hen. IV*, 25 For the which cause he conceiued so great an hatred.. against the Duke of Orleaunce (as the onely stop and let of his..renoume). 1588 Shaks. *L. L. L.* I. i. 70 These be the stops that hinder studie quite. 1635–56 Cowley *Davideis* III. 948 He curst the Stops of Form and State, which lay In this last Stage like Scandals in his Way. 1665 Hooke *Microgr.* 131 A stiff, hard, and hollow Cane, or Reed, without any kind of knot, or stop, from its bottom. 1725 N. Robinson *Th. Physick* 31 The Dregs or Fæces [will] descend, and surmount all those Stops, Letts, and Impediments, that arise from the Plicæ or Wrinkles of the Intestines.

† b. Something that finishes or brings to an end. a 1586 Sidney *Arcadia* IV. (1598) 326 Blessed be thou, o night, ..thou art the stop of strife, and the necessarie truce of approching battels. 1628 [see 18 b].

8. a. A weir or dam across a river; a sluice or floodgate. ? *Obs.*

1585 Higins *Junius' Nomencl.* 302/2 *Septum*, ..a sluce: a floudgate, or water stop. 1641 J. Taylor (Water P.) *Last Voy.* A 4 b, Every Stoppe and Weare. 1681 Delaune *Pres. St. Lond.* 199 They took care to clear..the River Westward of about 70 Stops or Hatches, consisting of divers great Stakes and Piles, erected by Fishermen for their private lucre. 1793 *Rep. Comm. Ho. Comm.* (1803) XIV. 233 Between Day's and Sutton Locks there requires a stop or pound lock at or near Clifton Ferry. 1800 *Trans. Soc. Arts* XVIII. 283 Two stops or cloughs, one to each lock, which serve as lock-gates to the south end.

b. A blind alley in a maze.

1666 G. Harvey *Morbus Angl.* xxvi. (1672) 58 Like a Labyrinth divided into several stops, turnings or windings, where at each division we must halt, [etc.]. 1728 Switzer *Ichnogr. Rust.* II. 219 Six different entrances, whereof there is but one that leads to the centre, and that is attended with some difficulties and a great many stops. 1882 *Encycl. Brit.* XIV. 181/1 The key to reach this resting place is to keep the right hand continuously in contact with the hedge from first to last, going round all the stops.

9. A piece of mechanism (e.g. a pin, bolt, shoulder, a strip or block of wood) which checks the motion or thrust of anything, keeps a part fixed in its place, determines the position to which a part shall be brought, etc.

1523–34 Fitzherb. *Husb.* § 139 Thou muste haue made redy a ponch of harde wood, with a stop and a tenaunte on the one syde. 1552 Huloet, Stoppe whych reteygneth a wheale of hys cowrse, *sufflamen*. 1770 Luckombe *Hist. Printing* 314 On the hither end of this square pin is made a sholder or stop. 1784 Bramah in *Repert. Arts & Manuf.* (1796) V. 222 The said key, by having a stop, or some mark whereby to limit or determine the length of its push against the said levers, sliders, &c. puts a period to each of their motions. 1845 G. Dodd *Brit. Manuf.* IV. 203 The plank or piece of wood, while being planed, is kept firmly down upon the bench by means of a stop or fastening at the end. 1857 W. Collins *Dead Secret* IV. i, [He] touched the stop of the musical box so that it might cease playing when it came to the end of the air. 1870 Tyndall *Heat* i. § 6. 5 The current generated would dash the needle violently against its stops and probably derange its magnetism. 1897 *Encycl. Sport* I. 342/1 (Driving), *Stops*, hooks upon the shafts which prevent the harness from slipping forward. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* II. 229 Stops should be fixed in the sash-grooves, so that neither sash can be opened more than six inches. 1901 *J. Black's Carp. & Build., Home Handicr.* 24 A bench iron or 'stop' should be screwed down on forward end of bench for holding work during planing.

b. *Joinery.* Each of the pieces of wood nailed on the frame of a door to form a rebate against which the door shuts.

1833 Loudon *Encycl. Archit.* § 239 Stops (a term variously applied, but chiefly to slips nailed on for doors or shutters to shut against). 1881 Young *Every Man his own Mechanic* § 836 The door must then be removed, and stops..nailed to the sides of the jambs and the under surface of the lintel.

† c. *Watchmaking.* ? A mark on the dial of a stop-watch indicating a fraction of a second. *Obs.*

1701 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 3692/4 Lost.., a Watch with a double Case.., with Minutes, Seconds, and Stops.

d. *Clockwork.* A contrivance to prevent over-winding.

1675 J. S[mith] *Horolog. Dial.* 38 You must first wind it [a watch] up right..not too hastily, least you force the stop, and break the string. 1873 Nelthropp *Watch-work* 145 Foreign watches are usually made without the fusee..; when such is the case, a Geneva stop is used, which consists of a small wheel placed on the barrel-arbor, having but one tooth. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* s. v. *Stop-work*, It is better to so organize the stop that the strongest and weakest powers of the spring be rejected.

e. *Bookbinding.* (See quot.)

1880 Zaehnsdorf *Art of Bookbinding* 177 *Stops*, small circular tools, adapted to 'stop' a fillet when it intersects at right angles; used to save the time 'mitreing' would occupy.

f. *Lace-making.* A junction of the different sets of warp-threads, taken as a basis for measurement in Jacquard weaving. 1891 *Century Dict.*

10. *Naut.* a. A piece of small line used to fasten or secure anything.

1846 A. Young *Naut. Dict.* 323 *Stop*, a temporary fastening for a rope; generally of rope-yarn...A Stop, also means a projection for any thing to rest or bear upon. 1875 Bedford *Sailor's Pocket Bk.* vii. 216 When the boat is beached, the stops which hang the gangboards alongside are to be let go. 1887 *Daily Tel.* 10 Sept. 2/5 The jib..had been sent up in stops.

b. A projection at the upper part of a mast.

1846 [see a]. 1867 Smyth *Sailor's Word-bk.*, *Stop*, a small projection on the outside of the cheeks of a lower mast, at the upper parts of the hounds.

c. *Shipbuilding.* (See quot.)

1891 *Century Dict.* s. v., *Single stop*, the scoring down of the carlines between the beams, by which means a carline is prevented from sinking any lower than its intended position. The double stop is generally used for deeper carlines than the single stop.

11. *Arch.* An ornamental termination to a chamfer.

1825 J. Nicholson *Operat. Mech.* 604 In grooving, the stops are paid over and above. 1845 *Builder* 15 Nov. 551/1 Figures 1, 2, 3, and 4,..shew Norman stops to chamfers, in Sherburn church, Yorkshire.

12. *Optics.* A perforated plate or diaphragm used to cut off marginal rays of light round a lens. Cf. Diaphragm *sb.* 4 a.

1831 Brewster *Optics* xliii. 361 The stop or diaphragm must be placed half way between the two lenses. 1888 Rutley *Rock-Forming Min.* 28 The eye-piece must of course be provided with a stop.

13. Something that stops an aperture; a plug.

1770 *Phil. Trans.* LX. 317 The stop of cotton must now be taken out of the throat. 1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib.* II. x. 18 Patent india-rubber stops to make air-tight joints.

III. *Music.*

14. In an organ, a graduated set of pipes producing tones of the same quality. ? Orig. applied to the slider which controls such a set.

c 1500 in Grose *Antiq. Repert.* (1809) IV. 407 The swete Organe Pipis comfortith a stedfast mynde, Wronge handlynge of the stoppis may cause yem sipher fro ye kynde. 1513 in Kerry *Hist. St. Lawrence's, Reading* (1883) 60 It. payd for ij lokks to the same organs, one for the stopps and the other for the keyes, xjd. 1541 *Ludlow Churchw. Acc.* (Camden) 8 For mendynge one of the stopes of the great organs..viij d. 1542 in *Archæol. Jrnl.* XVIII. 139 Item. eone peir of doble Regalles with two stoppes of pipes coverid with purple vellat. 1667 Milton *P. L.* VII. 596 All Organs of sweet stop. 1782 W. Hooper *Rational Recr.* (ed. 2) II. 237 The stops of an organ have various denominations, according to the sounds they are to produce; some of which are diapason, principal, fifteen, twelfth, [etc.]. 1804 Grahame *Sabbath* 71 The organ breathes its distant thunder-notes,.. And now the tubes a soften'd stop controls. 1887 Ruskin *Præterita* II. 9 Accompanying flourishes by Mr. Marshall on the trumpet stop.

b. The handle or knob by which a set of organ pipes is turned on or off; a stop-knob, draw-stop.

1585 Higins *Junius' Nomencl.* 354/2 *Epistomium*,..the stop in a paire of organs, whereby the sound is made hie or lowe. 1852 Seidel *Organ* 35 On both sides of the manual.. there is a number of handles or buttons..called stops. 1883 *Grove's Dict. Mus.* III. 718/2 *Stops.* This word is used in two senses—for the handles or draw-stops which are placed near the organ-player, and by which he can shut off or draw on the various registers; and for the registers themselves.

c. In the harpsichord, a handle controlling a lever by which the position of a jack could be varied so as to modify the tone produced.

1730 in *Abridgm. Specif. Patents, Music* (1871) 1 It will keep much longer in tune than any harpsichords that have octave stops. 1879 *Grove's Dict. Mus.* I. 689/2 He [Hans Ruckers] contrived, after the example of the organ, a second keyboard, and stops to be moved by the hand, for the control of the registers or slides of jacks acting upon the strings.

15. a. The closing of a finger-hole or ventage in the tube of a wind instrument so as to alter the pitch. Also, a metal key used for this purpose. Also, the hole or aperture thus closed.

c 1500 in Grose *Antiq. Repert.* (1809) IV. 407 The Recorder of his kynde the meane doth desyre, Manyfolde fyngerynge and stoppes bringith hy from his tunes clere, Who so lyst to handill an instrument so goode, Must se in his many fyngerynge yt he kepe tyme, stop and moode. 1579 Gosson *Apol. Sch. Abuse* (Arb.) 68 God forbidde, quoth the piper, that your maiestie should be so miserable, as to knowe these fantastical toyes any better, their effeminate stops are not worth a straw. 1597 Shaks. *2 Hen. IV* Ind. 17 Rumour is a Pipe..of so easie, and so plaine a stop, That ..The still discordant, wauering Multitude, Can play vpon it. 1630 Drayton *Muses Elis., Nimph.* iii. 413 Teaching euery stop and kaye, To those vpon the Pipe that playe. 1637 Milton *Lycidas* 188 He touch'd the tender stops of various Quills. 1705 Addison *Italy, Rome* 322 The same Variety of Strings may be observ'd on their Harps, and of Stops on their Tibiæ. 1846 Landor *Hellenics, Theron & Zoe* 61 The sobs that choakt my flute, the humidity..that gargled on the stops. 1913 Sir H. Johnston *Pioneers Australasia* vi. 205 The flutes upon which the people [of Tahiti] played had only two stops.

b. The act of pressing with the finger on a string of the violin, lute, etc., so as to raise the pitch of its tone. Also, the part of the string where pressure is made in order to produce a required note; sometimes mechanically marked, as by the frets of a lute or guitar. *Full stop*, a chord in producing which all the strings are stopped.

1530 Palsgr. 276/2 Stoppe of a lute. 1574 F. Ke tr. *A. Le Roy's Instruct. Lute* 6 There bee ordinarily eight stops in nomber: whereof euery one containeth but halfe a tune or note. 1599 Shaks. *Much Ado* III. ii. 62 His iesting spirit, which is now crept into a lute-string, and now gouern'd by stops. 1610 Dowland *Var. Lute-lessons* C 1 b *marg.*, To know how to strike single strings, being found amongst full stops. 1626 Bacon *Sylva* § 105 If a Man would endeuour to raise or fall his Voice, still by Halfe-Notes, like the Stops of a Lute. 1659 C. Simpson *Division-Violist* I. 6 Where the Stopps are Wide (as amongst the Fretts,) the Fourth or Little Finger, is of more use, then Lower down, where the Stopps are more Contract. 1678 Durfey *Trick for Trick* IV. ii. 40 Hee'l Fiddle and make a noise, but the Devil a stop he knowes, or when he fiddles in Tune. 1876 Stainer & Barrett *Dict. Mus. Terms*, *Stop* (1) the pressure by the fingers of the strings upon the fingerboard of a stringed instrument. (2) A fret upon a guitar or similar instrument.

† c. *To keep stop*, ? to keep in tune or correct pitch. *Obs.*

c 1500: see a. 1585 Higins *Junius' Nomencl.* 354/1 *Modos concidere & frangere*, ..to breake time: not to keepe stop, or to fall from the higher tunes to the lower.

16. *fig.* or *transf.* Now chiefly with reference to the organ; in the earlier quots. app. sometimes vaguely used for 'note', 'key', 'tune'.

1576 Gascoigne *Steele Gl.* (Arb.) 59 But sweeter soundes, of concorde, peace, and loue, Are out of tune, and iarre in euery stoppe. 1605 *1st Pt. Jeronimo* II. iv. 35 Haue euery sillable a musick stop, That, when I pause, the mellody may moue [etc.]. 1684 Roscommon *Ess. Transl. Verse* 349 A skilful Ear in Numbers shou'd preside, And all Disputes without Appeal decide. This ancient Rome and Elder Athens found, Before mistaken stops debauch'd the sound. 1821 Shelley *Epipsych.* 85 Sweet as stops Of planetary music heard in trance. 1850 S. Dobell *Roman* vii. Poet. Wks. (1875) 138 Fortune..Play'd a flourish ere she changed her awful stop for evermore. 1865 M. Arnold *Ess. Crit.* Pref. p. xiv, Knowing how unpopular a task one is undertaking when one tries to pull out a few more stops in that.. somewhat narrow-toned organ, the modern Englishman.

IV. *Grammar.*

17. A mark or point of punctuation.

[1590: see 21.] 1616 T. Scot *Philomythie* G 3 b, Thy folly was in fault rashly to draw, Thy articles without aduise at law. There wanted stops, pricks, letters, here and there. 1623 Middleton *More Dissemblers* III. ii. 77, I can write fast and fair, Most true orthography, and observe my stops. 1740 Chesterf. *Lett.* I. lxi. 173, I hope too that he makes you read aloud, distinctly, and observe the stops. 1802 Mar. Edgeworth *Moral T., Forester* xv, The corrector of the press scarcely had occasion to alter a word, a letter, or a stop. 1862 Calverley *Verses & Transl.* (ed. 2) 38 Who..talked in such a hurry And with such wild contempt for stops and Lindley Murray. 1906 H. W. & F. G. Fowler *King's Engl.* iv. 225 It is a sound principle that as few stops should be used as will do the work.

b. *Mind your stops*: *lit.* said to a child reading aloud; in quot. *transf.* (colloq.).

1830 Marryat *King's Own* xx, Mind your stops, my Jack of the Bone-house, or I shall shy a biscuit at your head.

c. *Versification.* In Guest's nomenclature, a break (in verse as spoken or read aloud) which is required by the sense: distinguished from *pause*, which denotes a break required by the metre.

1838 Guest *Engl. Rhythms* I. i. vii. 148, 154, 158. 1852 R. W. Evans *Versif.* 59 Whenever he [*sc.* Virgil] adds a stop to the pause, he is wont to break its force by putting a monosyllable after it.

18. Full stop. a. The end of a sentence; the single point or dot used to mark this; a period, full point.

1596 Shaks. *Merch. V.* III. i. 17 *Sal.* Come, the full stop. 1665 Hooke *Microgr.* 3 A point commonly so call'd, that is, the mark of a full stop, or period. 1729 S. Palmer *Gen. Hist. Printing* I. 93 Their periods are distinguished by no other points than the double and single one, i. e., the colon and full stop. 1748 J. Mason *Ess. Elocution* 24 You are not to fetch your Breath (if it can be avoided) till you come to the Period or Full stop. 1886 *Athenæum* 30 Oct. 559/3 In spite of much use and abuse of full stops, the writer's meaning is often far from clear.

b. *transf.* and *fig.* in various senses, e.g. a complete halt, check, stoppage, or termination; an entire nonplus.

1628 Earle *Microcosm.*, *Sergeant* (Arb.) 57 He is the Period of young Gentlemen, or their full stop, for when hee meets with them they can goo no farther. 1655 Fuller *Ornithol.* (1867) 258 She therefore that hath not the modesty to die the Relict of one man, will charge through the whole Army of Husbands, if occasion were offered, before her love will meet with a full stop thereof. 1721 Budgell *Spect.* No. 77 ¶ 1 After we had walked some time, I made a full stop with my Face towards the West. 1719 W. Wood *Surv. Trade* 233 All Persons depending on the Turkey Trade, were at a full Stop for many Months. ? 1727 Swift *Gulliver, Introd. Let. fr. Capt. Gulliver*, Seeing a full stop put to all abuses and corruptions, at least in this little island. 1798 Ferriar *Engl. Historians* 237 The story thus comes unexpectedly to a full stop. 1815 Scott *Guy M.* xlvii, He drew up his reins..; and made a full stop.

19. *Phonetics.* a. The complete closure of the orinasal passages in articulating a mute consonant. b. A consonantal sound in the formation of which the passage of the breath is completely obstructed; a stopped consonant, a mute.

1669 Holder *Elem. Speech* 11 The Letters, as they have their natural Production by the several checks or stops, or (as they are usually called) Articulations of the Breath or Voice in their passage from the Larynx through the Mouth or Nose, made by the instruments of Speech. 1873–4 H. Sweet in *Trans. Philol. Soc.* 106 A peculiar feature of Danish is its aspiration of the voiceless stops at the beginning of a syllable.

V. Miscellaneous specific and technical senses (some of mixed or uncertain affinity).

20. *Fencing.* (See quot.) Cf. *stop-thrust* in 29, and F. *coup d'arrêt*.

c 1450 *Fencing with Two-handed Sword* in *Reliq. Antiq.* I. 308 An in stop, and an owte stop, and an hawke quartere. *Ibid.*, Two quarters and a rownde a stop thou hym bede. *Ibid.* 309 Thy stoppis, thy foynys, lete hem fast rowte. 1771 Lonnergan *Fencer's Guide* 82 On Guard in Quarte-over-the-arm. Make a full thrust at me in Quarte [etc.]..; thus you stop me. Note, that you must conserve a little of your whole longe, that your stop may be planted with more force. 1891 *Century Dict.*, *Stop*..17. In *fencing*, the action whereby

a fencer, instead of parrying a blow and then thrusting, allows a careless opponent to run on his sword-point. He may hasten the stop by extending the sword-arm.

21. †**a.** In the manège: A sudden check in a horse's career. *Obs.* **b.** In driving: (see quot. 1897).

?1575 BLUNDEVIL *Art of Riding* II. i. D vj, Secondly, you must teach him to be light at stoppe. 1590 SHAKS. *Mids. N.* v. i. 120 He hath rid his Prologue, like a rough Colt: he knowes not the stop. 1597 — *Lover's Compl.* 109 What rounds, what bounds, what course, what stop he makes! 1598 FLORIO, *Parare*, ..the stop in the action of horsemanship. 1897 *Outing* XXX. 255 Whenever a sharp turn is being made always be prepared to put on the 'stop'. *Ibid.*, Lift your left hand, drop your right over all reins and give the 'stop' firmly.

†**22.** *Hunting.* ? A check given to the hounds. *To hunt upon the stop*, ? to hunt with frequent pauses, as in hunting with stop-hounds; in quot. *fig.*

1590 COCKAINE *Treat. Hunting* B iv b, At euery ouer putting off the hounds, or small stop, euery huntsman that hath a horne ought to begin his rechate. 1615 S. WARD *Coal fr. Altar* 78 If any step a little forward, do not the rest hunt vpon the stop?

23. *a. Pugilism.* A guard or attack that prevents a blow from getting home.

1812 *Sporting Mag.* XL. 66 Maltby, however, has some slight notion of the stop. 1828 EGAN *Boxiana* IV. 154 Abbot showed that he was not destitute of science, and made some good stops. 1861 LEVER *One of them* ix, The stranger not only 'stopped' every blow of the other, but followed each 'stop' by a well-sent-in one of his own.

b. *Wrestling.* A counter to any particular fall or hold.

1840 D. WALKER *Defensive Exerc.* 12 Particular falls and their stops.

24. A hole in the ground in which the doe-rabbit secures her litter. Cf. STAB *sb.*[3] and STOCK *sb.*[1] 45.

1669 WORLIDGE *Syst. Agric.* (1681) 174 On the other side ..let the places be left for the Does to make their stops in. 1823 COBBETT *Rur. Rides* (1885) I. 357 As pleased as..when I had just found a rabbit's stop, or a black-bird's nest. 1908 *Nation* 6 June 340/2 An occasional rabbit stop opened from above and emptied of its young.

25. *Fox-hunting.* A particular area in which a man is deputed to stop the earths.

1826 J. COOK *Fox-hunting* 65 If, after this notice, you run to ground in any particular man's stop, you had better discharge him [the earth-stopper] immediately.

26. *Shooting.* A person posted in a particular place in order to keep the game within range after it has been started.

1897 *Encycl. Sport* I. 442/2 (Gamekeepers), The stops must be in their places long before the actual beating begins. 1905 GLASFURD *Rifle in Ind. Jungle* 332 The tiger has not been in any way located by any 'stops' which the *shikári* may have posted.

27. *a.* The indentation in the face of a dog between the forehead and the nose.

1867 *Dogs Brit. Isl.* (ed. 'Stonehenge') 70 The 'stop' (which is an indentation between the eyes) should extend up the face [of the bulldog] a considerable length. 1884 *Live Stock Jrnl.* 5 Sept. 227/2 Bull-dogs:..a nice brindle, hardly enough chop, but good stop and wrinkle.

b. In a cavy (see quot. 1913).

1902 *Fur & Feather* 19 Sept. 233/1 Capital stops, nice cheeks, good top collar. *Ibid.*, Only 1 stop, this about its only fault. 1913 G. GARDNER *Cumberland's Cavies* (ed. 2) 75 [In Dutch-marked cavies] The 'stops', or white markings, to the hind feet, should be about an inch long.

28. *Card-playing.* In Pope Joan and similar games, a card which stops the run of a sequence. Hence *pl.*, the game of Newmarket.

1808 C. JONES *Hoyle's Games Impr.* 161 (Pope Joan) One [card is] turned up for trump, and about six or eight left in the stock to form stops:..the four kings and the seven of diamonds are always fixed stops. 1830 'E. TREBOR' (R. Hardie) *Hoyle Made Familiar* 81 (Commit.) A spare hand is dealt in the middle of the table, for the purpose of making stops in the playing, which is by sequences. 1895 G. J. MANSON *Sporting Dict., Stop*, a card in Newmarket which balks or stops the further play in a sequence. 1897 R. F. FOSTER *Compl. Hoyle* 466 Newmarket, or Stops.

VI. 29. Comb.: **stop-block**, †(*a*) a block of wood indicating the position of a fire-cock; (*b*) a buffer at the termination of a railway-line; **stop-boy**, a boy employed to keep the game within range (see 26); **stop-buffer** = *stop-block* (*b*); †**stop cater trey**, some kind of false dice (cf. *stop-dice*); **stop-cleat** *Naut.* (see CLEAT *sb.* 2); **stop-clock** (cf. STOP-WATCH); **stop-cloth**, a cloth used in cleaning a chimney to prevent the soot from spreading into the room; **stop-coin** = *stop-quoin*; **stop-day**, a day on which colliers stop work; †**stop-dice**, some kind of false or loaded dice; cf. *stopped dice*, STOPPED *ppl. a.* 4; **stop-dog** = *stop-hound*; **stop-drill**, a drill with a shoulder or collar to limit the depth of penetration; **stop-finger**, a device for arresting motion in machinery; †**stop-galliard**, ? a galliard in which the music and dancing were abruptly broken off; **stop-gate**, (*a*) a gate placed across a railway; (*b*) a gate by which the water in one section of a canal can be shut off from the next in case of damage to the bank; (*c*) a stop-valve; **stop-ground** = GROUND *sb.* 6 d; **stop-handle** = *stop-knob*; **stop-hound**, a hound trained to hunt slowly and to stop at a signal from the huntsman; **stop-knob**, the handle which is pulled out to open a particular stop in an organ; **stop-mount** = sense 12; **stop-net**, (*a*) a net thrown across a river or tidal channel to intercept fish; (*b*) a net to stop the ball, in various games; **stop-order**, (*a*) an order issued by the Court of Chancery to stay payment of funds in the custody of the Court; (*b*) an order directing a broker to buy or sell stock at a specified price, in order to limit loss; **stop-piece, -pin**, a piece or pin serving to arrest some moving part; **stop-plank** (see quot.); **stop-plate**, (*a*) in a lock (see quot. 1837); (*b*) in a journal-box (see quot. 1884); **stop-quoin, -coin**, a quoin used for keeping a gun steady; †**stop-rice** *Mining* [perh. to STOPE *sb.*[2]] ? wood for making stop-rods; **stop-ridge** *Archæol.*, a ridge on a celt, pipe, etc. which prevents one part from slipping too far over another; **stop-rod**, (*a*) *Mining* [? to STOPE *sb.*[2]], in *pl.*, the wattling of the shafts of a mine; (*b*) *Weaving*, a rod which forms part of the mechanism for stopping the motion of the loom; †**stop-screw**, a screw which clamps a movable part when it is required to be fixed; **stop-seine** *Fisheries* (see quot. 1884); **stop-stroke** *Croquet*, a stroke which drives a croqueted ball to a distance, while leaving the striker's ball more or less stationary; **stop-tap** = STOPCOCK; **stop-thrust** *Fencing*, a thrust delivered at the opponent at the moment when he advances for attack (cf. 20); **stop-valve**, a valve which closes a pipe against the passage of fluid; **stop-wither** *Whaling* (see quot.); **stop-wool** *Hatmaking* (see quot.); **stop-work**, a mechanism to prevent the overwinding of the spring of a watch, etc.

1707 *Act* 6 *Anne* c. 31 § 1 The Top of such *Stop-blocks to lie even with the Pavement of each Street or Place. 1853 *Repts. Principal Accid. Railways* 233 A short siding with strong stop blocks at the end. 1902 *Land & Water* 25 Oct. 616/3 *Stop boys should not make such a noise or be placed in such a position as to frighten the birds into breaking at the wrong place. 1881 M. REYNOLDS *Engine-driving Life* 69, I was once in a train which the driver could not stop, and we went right into the *stop-buffers. 1605 *Lond. Prodigal* I. i, Fullomes, *stop cater traies, and other bones of function. 1606 CHAPMAN *M. D'Olive* IV. i. F 3, I haue learned but three sorts [of pronouns]; the Goade, the Fulham, and the Stop-kater-tre; which are all demonstratiues. 1794 *Stop-cleats: see CLEAT *sb.* 2. 1869 SIR E. REED *Shipbuild.* xiii. 250 Upon the upper and lower stays Stop-cleats are riveted and serve to prevent the rudder from being put over past a certain angle. 1881 *Times* 25 Jan. 5/6 The time being taken by a *stop-clock. *c* 1742 in *Hone's Everyday Bk.* II. 526 [The coffin] is covered with a Chimney-sweeper's *Stop-cloth. 1879 CROSBY *Chr. Preacher* vii. 191 The Sabbath is a *stop-day. 1900 *Westm. Gaz.* 4 Dec. 5/2 It is believed that another stop day will shortly be observed by the colliers of South Wales with a view to restricting the output of coal. 1540 PALSGR. *Acolastus* IV. ii. S iv, Dyce of aduantage, or false dyce or *stoppe dyce. 1592 GREENE *Def. Conny Catching* To Rdr., Gourds, stoppe-dice, high-men, low-men. *c* 1767 G. WHITE *Selborne, To Pennant* vi, They gave him [the deer], by their watches, law, as they called it, for twenty minutes; when, sounding their horns, the *stop-dogs were permitted to pursue. 1843 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* I. 342 This is frequently regulated by boring holes..with a *stop-drill. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.*, **Stop-finger*, a device in a silk-doubling machine for stopping the motion of the bobbin if the thread break. 1884 F. J. BRITTEN *Watch & Clockm.* 248 The chain would raise the end of the stop finger. 1594 PLAT *Jewell-ho.* II. 39 Meethinks I am now in the midst of a *stop galiard, &..coulde finde in my hearte to commaunde the Violands to cease, and so to breake off. 1790 *Act* 30 *Geo. III*, c. 82 § 58 The Person or Persons making every such Cut shall..make, erect, and maintain a *Stop Gate or Stop Gates on every such Cut, in order to prevent the Water being drained..out of the said Canal. 1793 *Act* 33 *Geo. III*, c. 95 § 40 Every Horse.. which shall..travel upon any such Rail or Waggon Way,.. and shall pass through or by any Stop Gate..erected upon or across the same. 1872 D. STEVENSON *Canal & River Engin.* (ed. 2) 16 It is necessary to introduce stop-gates at short intervals of a few miles,..so that in the event of a breach occurring, the gates may be shut, [etc.]. 1898 *Daily News* 14 Dec. 6/3 An engine,..over-running the stopgate, ran down an incline at a great rate. 1902 *Science* 10 Jan. 66 (Cent.) The closing of the stop-gate [= valve] is instantaneous. *a* 1819 REES *Cycl.* s.v. *Etching*, This varnish or composition (which is called **stop-ground*) being sufficiently dry, the aquafortis may be poured on the plate. 1858 J. BARON *Scudamore Organs* 19 They had no notion how the sound was..modified, beyond knowing that..certain *stop handles [must be] pulled out or pushed in during the playing of the instrument. 1711 BUDGELL *Spect.* No. 116 ¶ 3 Sir Roger, being at present too old for Fox-hunting,..has disposed of his Beagles and got a Pack of *Stop-Hounds. 1781 P. BECKFORD *Th. Hunting* (1802) 261 Were fox-hounds to stop, like stop-hounds, at the smack of a whip, they would not do their business the worse for it. 1887 W. S. PRATT in W. Gladden *Parish Problems* 435 The notion that his organ consists merely of a set of keys and *stop-knobs. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* IV. 312/2 The paper *stop-mount should be printed in black. 1634–5 *Ir. Act* 10 *Chas. I*, c. 14 (1678) 426 Setting of *stop-Nets, Still-Nets or standing-Nets fixed upon posts..in the Rivers where the Salmon should passe up from the Sea. 1808 COL. HAWKER *Diary* (1893) I. 8 Went fishing with a casting net and a stop net. 1881 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* V. 138 The stop-net is then shot out towards the land across the direction in which the fish are moving, so as to intercept them. 1891 GRACE *Cricket* 223 A piece of ground..thirty to forty yards long,..with *stop-nets, will serve your purpose [for practice]. 1875 W. ROYLE *Laws Funds* etc. 75 A *Stop Order is a proceeding merely applicable to funds in the Court of Chancery. 1840 in *Newton's Lond. Jrnl* Conj. Ser. XVI. 326 One of the ends of the locking lever.. is brought by the force of the main spring against or into coincidence with a ruby pallat or *stop-piece. 1869 RANKINE *Machine & Hand-tools* Pl. N 1, Two adjustable *stop pins, *i*, are fixed at points corresponding to the period for reversing the motion of the machine. 1840 H. S. TANNER *Canals & Rail Roads U.S.* 260 **Stop planks*, dams on the line of a canal to prevent the loss of water in case of accident. 1837 HEBERT *Engin. & Mech. Encycl.* II. 108 A circular *stop-plate, to prevent the withdrawal of the bolt [of a lock] till the circular plate, which is put in rotation by clock-work, shall have revolved so as to bring a notch opposite the end of the bolt. 1884 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* Suppl., **Stop Plate*, a metallic plate in the inside of a journal-box which forms an end-bearing for the axle and checks its end-motion. 1859 F. A. GRIFFITHS *Artil. Man.* (1862) 112 *Stop quoins. *c* 1860 H. STUART *Seaman's Catech.* 12 When do you use stop Coins? When fighting lee guns, or with distant charges. 1653 MANLOVE *Customs Lead-Mines* 258 *Stoprice Yokings, Soletrees, Roach and Ryder. 1747 HOOSON *Miner's Dict.* K 1, Ordinary Timber or Stoprice. 1877 1894 *Stop-ridge [see PALSTAVE]. 1902 A. J. EVANS in *Ann. Brit. Sch. Athens* 1901–2, 14 The mouthpiece of each tube is provided with a stop-ridge. 1747 HOOSON *Miner's Dict.* s.v. *Brouse*, Brouse [is] a course sort of Stoping,..put into the Pannes, at the Back of the *Stoprods, or Bangrets in Sinking,..to hold the Geer from falling down. 1688 MOXON *Mech. Exerc.* xiv. 237 The *Stop-screw, to take out when the Hollow Axis moves in the Moving Coller. 1825 *Encycl. Lond.* XX. 435/1 This *stop-sean is left in the water, till, by successive tuckings, night after night, all the fish are taken therefrom. 1884 DAY *Fishes Gt. Brit.* I. p. c. Common seines or stop-seines are such as are lifted at once with the enclosed fishes into the boat. 1899 BARING-GOULD *Bk. West* II. *Cornw.* xix. 315 The boat..then shoots this tuck-sean within the stop-sean. 1868 WHITMORE *Croquet Tactics* 15 The *stop stroke is made as follows. Place the balls in line and touching;..bring the mallet head sharply down on the ball you strike. 1895 *Jrnl. R. Inst. Brit. Architects* 14 Mar. 350 Pipes should be run on inside walls and fitted with several *stop-taps. 1861 G. CHAPMAN *Foil Practice* 20 The Time Thrust is a sudden attack..; it is designated..a *Stop Thrust when it arrests the adversary on his advance. 1889 W. H. POLLOCK etc. *Fencing* (Badm. Libr.) 91 The Stop-thrust (i. e. *Coup d'Arrêt*). 1829 *Nat. Philos., Hydraulics* ii. 13 (U. K. S.) *K* is the *stop-valve, covering the top of the feed-pipe. 1820 SCORESBY *Acc. Arctic Reg.* II. 224 The little reverse barb, or '*stop wither,' as it is called,..prevents the harpoon from being shaken out by the ordinary motions of the whale. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 637 Round the edge of the tip or crown [of a silk hat], a quantity of what is called *stop wool is to be attached.. which will render the edge soft and elastic. 1869 *Horolog. Jrnl.* 1 Apr. 91/1 Dispensing with *stop works, which..are objectionable when economy is an object.

Stop (stɒp), *v.* Pa. t. and pa. pple. **stopped** (stɒpt), †**stopt**. Also 4–6 **stoppe**, 4–7 **stopp**, 4 **stope**; *Sc.* 4, 7 **stope**, (6 **stoip**), 6, 8–9 **stap**. [OE. **stoppian* (only in *forstoppian*, occurring once: see sense 8 a and cf. FORSTOP *v.*) corresponding to OLow Frankish (*be*)*stuppôn* to stop (the ears), (M)Du., (M)LG. *stoppen* (whence Icel., Sw. *stoppa*, Da. *stoppe*), WFris. *stopje*, MHG., mod.G. *stopfen*, to plug, stop up; a Com. WGer. adoption of popular L. or Rom. **stuppāre* to stop or stuff with tow or oakum (evidenced by It. *stoppare*, Pr., Sp. *estopar*, OF. *estouper*, mod.F. *étouper*), f. L. *stuppa* tow (It. *stoppa*, Sp. *estopa*, OF. *estoupe*). The sense 'bring or come to a stand' is a specially English development, but in marine and railway use the Eng. word has been widely adopted in other langs., as F. *stopper*, G., Du. *stoppen*, Sw. *stoppa*, Da. *stoppe*.

The AF. *estopper* (latinized *estoppare*), whence ESTOP *v.*, is to be regarded as adopted from the Eng. verb rather than as a variant of OF. *estouper*.]

I. To fill up, plug, close up.

1. *trans.* To close up (an aperture) by stuffing something into it, by building it up, or by placing something before it. **a.** To block up (a way of entrance or exit, an aperture for the passage of light, air, sound, and the like). Also with *up*.

c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xxiii. (*Seven Sleepers*) 164 Pai..of þe cawe þe mouth of stane stopyt wele. *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (Roxb.) xxix. 132 Þe 3ates þat Alysaundre gert stoppe with gute stanes and syment. 1480 *Coventry Leet Bk.* 460 The seid dore owe to be stopped vp. 1600 SHAKS. *A. Y. L.* IV. i. 165 Shut that, and 'twill out at the key-hole: stop that, 'twill flie with the smoake out at the chimney. 1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* x. 457 Stop the holes of the doore with double Matts. 1744 M. BISHOP *Life & Adv.* 22 My Business was to stop the Touchhole whilst the other spunged it. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk., Stop the Vent*, to close it hermetically by pressing the thumb to it. 1892 RIDER HAGGARD *Nada* xv, The gates [of the kraal] were stopped with thorns.

fig. 1596 SHAKS. *1 Hen. IV*, IV. i. 71 Wee..Must..stop all sight-holes, euery loope, from whence The eye of reason may prie in vpon vs. 1605 — *Macb.* I. v. 45 Stop vp th' accesse and passage to Remorse, That no compunctious visitings of Nature Shake my fell purpose.

†**b.** To close the mouth of (a pit or hole). *Obs.*

1382 WYCLIF *2 Kings* iii. 19 And alle the wellis of watirs 3e schuln stoppen. *c* 1425 *Cursor M.* 6726 (Trin.) If any mon makeþ a pit And siþen wol not stoppe hit If ox or asse or oþere beest Falle þerinne [etc.]. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 477/2 Stoppyn a pytte or an hole, *opilo, obstruo, obturo*.

c. To block the mouth of (an animal's hole or earth); *spec.* in *Foxhunting* (see quots. 1686, 1897). † Also with *up*. Also, to block up the earths in (a particular district).

1530 PALSGR. 736/2, I stoppe a hoole or an yerth of any

beest in the ground, *je bouche*...I have stoppyd all the foxys hooles and therefore he can nat scape us. 1576 Turbervile *Venerie* 192 The Huntsman which would haue good pastime at this vermine, shall do well to stop vp his earthes. 1686 Blome *Gentl. Recr.* II. 88 Having found a Foxes Earth, about Midnight..cause all his Holes to be stopt..except the main Hole or Eye,..which stop not until about Day-break, for fear of stopping him in. 1781 P. Beckford *Th. Hunting* xxiii. 306 [Digging of foxes.] Stop all the holes, lest the fox should bolt out unseen. *Ibid.* 308 [Oxford toast.] Hounds stout, and horses healthy, Earths well stopp'd, and foxes plenty. 1880 'Brooksby' *Hunting Countries* II. 198 For the border meets of either [Hunt] the neighbouring territory is always 'stopped' by the other. 1897 *Encycl. Sport* I. 547/2 (Hunting), It was his [*sc.* the earth-stopper's] duty to proceed to the earths situated in the country which was to be drawn the next day, and carefully to stop them with earth or faggots about the hour of midnight.

d. To close with the finger or with a mechanical substitute (a ventage or finger-hole of a wind-instrument) in order to produce a particular note.

1832 Brewster *Nat. Magic* viii. 204 Seven of these regulated the motions of the seven fingers for stopping the holes of the flute.

e. Said of the obstruction: To block, choke up. Also in *passive*, to be choked up *with* (dirt, etc.). Now chiefly with *up*.

1508 Dunbar *Tua Maritt Wemen* 99 And gory is his tua grym ene..And gorgeit lyk twa gutaris that wer with glar stoppit. 1576 Turbervile *Venerie* 193 When your Terriers are out of breath, or that the Belles [on their collars] are stopped and glutted vp with earth. 1606 Shaks. *Tr. & Cr.* II. i. 87 This Aiax..Has not so much wit..As will stop the eye of Helens Needle. 1648 J. Beaumont *Psyche* VIII. clxxvi, His mouth the coal-black foam here stoping. 1864 Pusey *Daniel* 416 Of a well the whole [entrance] was..covered..by a stone,..to keep it..from being stopped by sand. 1885 *Law Times' Rep.* LII. 323/1 One of the stack pipes was stopped up with leaves and dirt.

† **f.** *intr.* in passive sense: To become choked up. *Obs.*

1576 Turbervile *Venerie* 194 The Colerake to clense the hole and to keepe it from stopping vp. 1712 J. James tr. *Le Blond's Gardening* 197 Quills which..have but one Hole for the Water to issue at..not being so subject to stop, as the flat ones. 1792 *Trans. Soc. Arts* X. 52 Injured..by a leading land-ditch stopping, which overflowed that part of the field.

† **2.** *absol.* To make a closure or obstruction. *Obs.*

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 72 Ase ȝe muwen iseon þe water, hwon me punt hit, & stoppeð biuoren wel, so þet hit ne muwe aduneward, þeonne is hit ined aȝein uor to climben upward.

3. *trans.* To make (a way) impassable by blocking up its passage or outlet.

a. To block, choke up (a road, channel, harbour, and the like). Also with *up*.

13.. *K. Alis.* 1224 He stopped [*Laud MS.* forstopped] heore way, y-wis, That ther no myghte, to heore fode, Come to heom no gode. 1375 Barbour *Bruce* XVII. 306 The schippis com in sic plente,..That all the havyn wes stoppit then. 1544 Betham *Precepts War* I. iii. D j b, Yf thou wylt stoppe an hauen (my consayle is) to fyll a shyppe full of greate stones, and then to drowne the same shyp, ouerthwarte in the hauen. 1588 T. Hughes *Misfort. Arthur* III. iii. 10 The mustering traines Stop vp the streetes. 1667 Milton *P. L.* x. 291 Mountains of Ice, that stop th' imagin'd way Beyond Petsora Eastward. 1790 Beatson *Nav. & Mil. Mem.* I. 159 The enemy sunk the ship at the mouth of the harbour, which stopped up the channel. 1832 *Society* I. 276 The Countess of Avon's carriage stopping the way. 1848 Dickens *Dombey* lvii, Warehouses, with waggons at the doors, and busy carmen stopping up the way. 1911 Crockett *Smugglers* xix, On the other [side of the hall] was a stand for the bicycle..which partially stopped the fairway.

fig. 1596 Dalrymple tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* I. 344 The Balie had stopet the way of freindschip betueine him and ffrance. 1644 Milton *Areop.* (Arb.) 48 Evill manners are as perfectly learnt without books a thousand other ways which cannot be stopt. 1882 A. Bain *James Mill* iii. 88 He had induced Sir Francis Burdett to offer to transfer the interest of £1000,..but legal difficulties stopped the way.

b. To close (a road) to the public. Also with *up*. In this sense *to stop up* implies a physical barrier; the simple verb may refer to a mere prohibition of passage.

1423 *Coventry Leet Bk.* 56 The said hyge way þat leedyth from Allysley way to Coundull is stoppyd, wher hit owȝte to be open. 1598 Stow *Surv. Lond.* 187 The other end [of the lane] is builded on and stopped vp by the Chamberlaine of London. 1684 Bunyan *Pilgr.* ii. 65 These ways are since stopt up with Chains, Posts, and a Ditch. 1821 Clare *Vill. Minstr.* I. 50 Inclosure came, and every path was stopt. 1885 *Law Rep.* 14 Q. B. Div. 747 The railway company had ..altered and stopped up a certain road.

c. *To stop one's way*: to stand in one's way, bar one's passage; oppose one. *lit.* and *fig.*

1338 R. Brunne *Chron.* (1725) 179 Slayn alle may þou se, þat þi way stopped [AFr. *tes vayes estopaynt*]. 1596 Shaks. *Tam. Shr.* III. ii. 237 Touch her who euer dare, Ile bring mine action on the proudest he That stops my way in Padua. 1697 Dryden *Æneid* II. 918, I went; but sad Creusa stopp'd my way, And cross the Threshold in my Passage lay.

4. To fill up, repair, make good (a breach, hole, crevice, or defective place of any kind). Also with *up*. So *to stop a leak* (lit. and fig.).

To stop a gap: see Gap *sb.*[1] 1, 2.

1388 Wyclif 2 *Esdras* iv. 7 Whanne Sanaballat hadde herd..that the brekyng of the wal of Jerusalem was stoppid [Vulg. *quod obducta esset cicatrix muri*]. *c* 1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 4088 Hay or clay to him he toke, And stoppid creuys in ilk a noke. 1583-34 Fitzherb. *Husb.* § 127 And to pleche downe the bowes of the same tree, to stoppe the holowe places (in a hedge)..yf all the holowe and woyde places wyll not be fylled and stopped, than scoure the old dyche, and cast it vp newe. 1582 N. Lichefield tr. *Castanheda's Conq. E. Ind.* I. lxxv. 153 b, Willyng them not to bee a fearde, but to goe forwarde in stopping the leake. 1665 *Phil. Trans.* I. 80 The Chinks are stopt with Parchment pasted or glewed upon them. 1784 Ramsay *Health* 295 He causes stop each cranny in his room. 1771 *Encycl. Brit.* II. 515/2 (*Etching*) The operator must be attentive to the ground, that it does not fail in any part, and where it does to stop up the place with the above composition. 1901 W. R. H. Trowbridge *Lett. her Mother to Eliz.* vi. 27 It would cost such a lot to stop the leaks in a seven-acre roof.

fig. 1593 Shaks. 2 *Hen. VI*, v. ii. 83 We shall to London get,..where this breach now in our Fortunes made May readily be stopt. 1597 Hooker *Eccl. Pol.* v. ix. § 2 There ..will be alwaies..breaches and leakes moe then mans wit hath hands to stop. *c* 1626 Bacon *Advice to Villiers* in *Cabala* (1663) 43 His Majesty in his time hath religiously stopped a leak that did much harm.

b. To plug (the seams of a boat) with oakum, tow, or other caulking material; † to caulk (a ship). Also *to stop up*.

1535 Coverdale *Ezek.* xxvii. 9 The eldest and wysest at Gebal were they, that mended & stopped thy shippes. 1585 Higins *Junius' Nomencl.* 223/2 To stoppe the ioynts of ships with mosse, okam, or tow: properly called to calke. 1865 Visct. Milton & W. E. Cheadle *N.-W. Passage by Land* ii. 24 The continual leaking of our rickety canoes obliged us to..spend hours in attempting to stop the seams.

c. *Plastering, House-painting*, etc. To fill up or make good the holes in (a surface to be covered with a wash, paint, or other material); † to close (the joints of brick-work), to 'point' (Point *v.*[1] 8 a).

1557-8 in W. H. St. John Hope *Windsor Castle* (1913) I. 258 To the same for painting prymering stoping gilding and varnishing of a greate Lyon. 1680-2 *Ibid.* 321 John Grove Plaisterer for washing stopping and Whiting the Kings and Queens Backstaires, [etc.]. 1693 Moxon *Mech. Exerc.* (1703) 245 A Brick Trowel to..stop the joints. 1842 *Civil Engin. & Arch. Jrnl.* V. 337/2 The walls..of a light buff colour, rubbed down and stopped. 1903 Hasluck *House Decoration* viii. 117 Priming must be done before stopping the work. ..When dry, the work is rubbed down..and all nail-holes are stopped with putty.

d. *Dentistry.* To fill the cavity of (a decayed tooth) with a stopping.

1592 Lyly *Midas* III. ii, If your tooth be hollow it must be stopt, or pulde out. 1657 J. Cooke tr. *J. Hall's Sel. Observ. Engl. Bodies* 87 To stop the tooth with a little Camphire. 1896 Baden-Powell *Matabele Campaign* xii, One had his teeth peculiarly stopped with gold. 1907 H. Wales *Yoke* xi, He [a dentist] stopped a tooth for me two years ago.

e. *Glazing.* To fasten (a quarrel or pane of glass) in a window; to putty (glass) in a sash.

1533 in W. H. St. John Hope *Windsor Castle* (1913) I. 262 For stopeyng off vij quarelles in the same window. 1858 *Skyring's Builders' Prices* 93 Crown Glass, Stopped in Old Sashes.

† **5.** To mend (a garment); to make good or mend (cloth, metal-work) with an inferior material.

c 1482 Caxton *Dialogues* viii. 34 Enerard the vpholster Can well stoppe [Fr. *estoupper*] A mantel hooled. 1541 *Act* 33 *Hen. VIII*, c. 18 § 3 Nor shall falsefye or untrulie make or stoppe any manner Kerseyes withe flockes [etc.]. 1645 in W. M. Williams *Ann. Founders' Co.* (1867) 98 No Founder ..shall fill or stop with Lead and Brass Works made up by them.

† **6.** To stanch the bleeding of, bind up (a wound). *Obs.* (Cf. 14 d.)

13.. *Sir Beues* 1936 A keuerchef to him a drouȝ..To stope mide is wonde. *c* 1400 *Siege Jerus.* (E.E.T.S.) 48 Leches..Waschen woundes with wyn & with wolle stoppen. 1470-85 Malory *Arthur* XIV. x. 654 Thenne he stopped his bledyng wounde with a pyece of his sherte. 1599 *Warn. Faire Wom.* II. 579 O stoppe my woundes if ye can. *Old John.* Ioane, take my napkin and thy apron, and bind vp his wounds. *fig.* 1594 Shaks. *Rich. III*, v. v. 40 Now ciuill wounds are stopp'd, Peace liues agen. 1602 Chettle *Hoffman* I. (1631) B 2, My hart still bleeds Nor can my wounds be stopt, till an incision I'ue made to bury my dead father in.

7. To close (a vessel or receptacle) by blocking its mouth with a cover, plug, or other stopper; similarly, to close (the mouth of a vessel); also, to shut up (something) *in* a stoppered vessel. Also with *down*, *up*.

c 1420 *Liber Cocorum* (1862) 34 And do hit [venison] in a barel þenne;..Stop wele þo hede for wynde and sone. *a* 1425 tr. *Arderne's Treat. Fistula*, etc. 92 Putte þat liquour..into a vessel aȝeyn and stoppe þe vessel þat þer come none aier out. *c* 1460 *Play of Sacrament* 629 in *Non-Cycle Myst. Plays* 77, I stoppe thys ovyn, wythowtyn dowte, With clay ..That non heat shall cum owte. 1558 Warde tr. *Alexis' Secr.* 31 b, Hauinge putte and left all these thinges in a violle well stopped, the space of two dayes. 1588 *Marprel. Epist.* (Arb.) 11 For men wil giue no mony for your book, vnles it be to stop mustard pots. 1607 Topsell *Four-f. Beasts* 552 Afterwards they put them vp in glasses, and stop the mouth close. 1634 Peacham *Compl. Gentl.* viii. (1906) 71 Having as it were given you a taste, and stopped up the vessell againe. 1712-14 Pope *Rape Lock* II. 126 Whatever spirit..His post neglects..Shall..Be stopp'd in vials, or transfix'd with pins. 1737 Bracken *Farriery Impr.* (1757) II. 176 Keep it close stopped in a Bottle for Use. 1766 *Complete Farmer* s. v. *Vinegar*, Which being drawn off..and preserved in another cask, well stopped down, will continue perfect, and fit for use. 1826 *Art of Brewing* (ed. 2) 5 The beer in the cellar carefully stopped up. 1869 Tyndall *Notes Lect. Light* § 148. 22 A tube of any kind stopped watertight will answer for this experiment.

b. *Organ-building.* To close (an organ pipe at its upper end) with a plug or cap.

1782 W. Hooper *Rational Recr.* (ed. 2) II. 231 The wooden pipes [of the organ] are square, and their extremity is stopped with a valve or tampion of leather. 1879 *Organ Voicing* 25 This in either case will be a 4-ft. pipe, stopped.

8. To obstruct the external orifice of (a bodily organ) by putting something in or on it or by pressing the parts together.

a. *To stop* (one's own or another's) *ear* or *ears*. Also *fig.*, to render oneself deaf *to* something, refuse to listen, to close one's mind against arguments, etc.

[*c* 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* II. 42 ȝenim þonne þæt seaw..do on þa ilcan wulle wring on eare & mid þære ilcan wulle forstoppa þæt eare.] 1340 *Ayenb.* 257 Stoppe þine earen mid þornes, and ne hyer naȝt þe-queade tongen. 1382 Wyclif *Prov.* xxi. 13 Who stoppeth his ere at the cri of the pore, *c* 1440 *Jacob's Well* 217 þerfore stoppe þis gate of þin erys fro þe feend. 1565 Cooper *Thesaurus*, *Obdere ceram auribus*, to stoppe the eares with waxe. 1578 H. Wotton *Courtlie Controv.* 58 Hee perceyued hir eares stopped, and hearte hardened agaynste all perswasions of consolation. 1594 in *Cath. Rec. Soc. Publ.* (1908) V. 289 It is thought he had stopped his ears with wull at his deathe, for he never answered word to any thinge they said. 1607 Hieron *Discov. Hypocr.* 11 When Steuen preached, there was shouting and stopping the eares. 1747 Wesley *Prim. Physic* (1759) 56 Drop three or four Drops into the Ear,..and stop it with black Wool. 1815 J. Cormack *Abol. Fem. Infanticide Guzerat* viii. 127 The avarice of the Jahrejahs, which was so powerful as to stop the ear against the most tender pleadings of nature. 1830 *Forrester* II. xi. 201 'Oh! horrid, horrid!' exclaimed Peggy, stopping her ears. 1896 Housman *Shropshire Lad* xix, And silence sounds no worse than cheers After earth has stopped the ears.

b. *To stop* (one's own or another's) *mouth*: *lit.*, as with a gag or muzzle; *fig.* to compel or induce to be silent; occas. † to satisfy (a person's) appetite. Also, *to stop the mouth of* (a lion), to prevent him from devouring his prey.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 17438 Thise knyghtes anon we yeftes bede That we may stoppe her mowthe with mede. 1382 Wyclif *Heb.* xi. 33 Thei stoppiden the mouthis of lyouns. *c* 1450 *Mirk's Festial* 58 The þrid skylle was forto stoppe mowthes, lest þay had sayde þat þay dyd not þe lawe. *a* 1548 Hall *Chron., Rich. III*, 40 Some saie yᵗ he had a smal office or a ferme to stoppe his mouthe with al. 1599 Shaks. *Much Ado* II. i. 321 Speake cosin, or (if you cannot) stop his mouth with a kisse, and let not him speake neither. 1632 J. Hayward tr. *Biondi's Eromena* 28 The Baron of Ianque..(lest the Lady Admirall should cry out) held close her mouth stopt up with the sheetes. 1648 Bp. Hall *Breath. Devout Soul* 35 Under heaven there can be no bounds set to this intellectuall appetite: O do thou stop the mouth of my soul with thy self, who art infinite. 1714 Budgell tr. *Theophrastus* ii. 9 He..stops his Mouth with his Handkerchief that he may not laugh out. 1722 Wollaston *Relig. Nat.* vii. 148 The controversy may be fairly decided, and all mouths eternally stopped. 1781 Cowper *Conv.* 480 Give it the breast, or stop its mouth with pap! 1859 FitzGerald *Omar* xxv, Their Words to Scorn Are scatter'd, and their Mouths are stopt with Dust. 1888 'J. S. Winter' *Bootle's Childr.* xiv, They wanted to know..who it was, and—and I just said it was my sister by way of stopping their mouths.

c. *To stop one's nose, nostrils.* ? *Obs.*

c 1420 *Sir Amadace* (Camden) vii, Butte suche a stinke in the chapelle he hade, That..He stopput his nace with his hude. 1565 Larke *Bk. Wisdom* H iv, They passed by a place where there was a deade Horse, which dyd stynke verie sore, wherfore the Heremite did stoppe his nose. 1604 Shaks. *Oth.* IV. ii. 77 Heauen stoppes the Nose at it, and the Moone winks. 1681 Dryden *Abs. & Achit.* II. 457 Now stop your noses, Readers, all and some, For here's a tun of Midnight work to come. 1697 — *Virg. Georg.* IV. 423 They stop his Nostrils, while he strives in vain To breath free Air.

† **d.** *To stop* (a person's) *eyes* or *sight*: to cover the eyes with a bandage, the hand, or other obstruction to the sight; also = to shut one's eyes. *Obs.*

c 1380 *Sir Ferumb.* 2162 þe bond þat is fysage was bounde wyþ to stoppen is louely siȝt, þay ounbounde. 1530 Palsgr. 737/1, I stoppe ones eyes, I cover them with my hande, or with a clothe, that he shall nat se. *a* 1677 Barrow *Creed* (1697) 28 We cannot without stopping our eyes exclude that light.

9. To close up, choke, obstruct (a canal, duct, passage or pipe in the animal body); to block the passage or passages of (a bodily organ). Also with *up*.

1398 Trevisa *Barth. De P. R.* III. xviii. (1495) d vj, And yf yᵗ sinew [*sc.* the auditory nerve] be stopped or greued wᵗ some euyll, yᵗ lettyth thoffyce therof. *c* 1530 *Judic. Urines* II. iv. 22 As somtyme the bladder and sometyme the necke of the bladder is stopped..and stuffed and dystempred throgh excesse of ynkynde hete. 1573-5 Gascoigne *Flowers* Wks. 1907 I. 81 The smoulder stops our nose with stench. 1577 B. Googe *Heresbach's Husb.* III. 141 The frostye grasse at this time of yeere, doo stoppe their heades with rhume. 1837 P. Keith *Bot. Lex.* 394 If the passage through the nostrils should happen to be stopped up, as by a cold, or by any internal swelling.

In fig. context. 1597 Shaks. 2 *Hen. IV*, IV. i. 65 To..purge th' obstructions, which begin to stop Our very Veines of Life.

† **b.** *pass.* Of a person: To be afflicted with an obstruction of the bodily passages or organs. *Obs.*

c 1400 *Lanfranc's Cirurg.* 300 þe blood..wole boile vpward to þe brest,..þat þe pacient schal be ful ny3 stoppid [L. *quod patiens suffocatur*]. 1541 W. C. *Bk. Prop. Herbes* A v b, It is medicinable and curable for those men that be stopped in the breste. 1579 Tomson *Calvin's Serm. Tim.* 252/1 As these men whiche haue bene a great while in a stincking place, become, as it were stopped.

† **c.** *Stop my vitals* (see Stap).

a 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew*, *Stop my Vitals*, a silly Curse in use among the Beaux. [Cf. Stap 1696-1839.]

† **d.** To make costive, to bind. Also *absol. Obs.*

1545 Elyot *Dict.*, *Aluum sistere*, to stoppe or bynde. 1548 *Elyot's Dict.* s. v. *Sisto*, *Aluum sistere*, to stoppe or bynde the bealy. 1584 Cogan *Hæven of Health* N j, Bread that cometh hotte from the ouen is vnholsome. The reason

is, bycause it stoppethe moche. 1631 Weddows *Nat. Philos.* 45 It stoppeth the belly, and nourisheth but little. 1733 W. Ellis *Chiltern & Vale Farm.* 281 The one [fodder] to scour them, the other to stop and fat them.

†10. To shut up, block up (a person or thing *in* a place). Also with adv. *in, up. Obs.*

c 1315 Shoreham *Poems* vii. 578 Wy nedde hy [devils] be ine helle y-stopped For euere mo. 1340 Hampole *Pr. Consc.* 7368 Pai salle be pressed togyder swa harde, Als pai war stopped togyder in ane oven. *a* 1400 *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* xxix. iv. 122 Thi hosebonde hap my child ihrent, I-stopped him in a glouwyng houen. *a* 1400–50 *Wars Alex.* 5496 And raryfey, a rich ray, he in be roche stoppis. *c* 1440 *Alphabet of Tales* 227 As þis mason was brekand ane old wall, he fand a grete som of golde stoppyd in a hole. *c* 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* iv. 959 For thy yf combes ronke of hony wepe, Thre dayes stopped vp at home hem kepe. 1576 Turberv. *Venerie* 196 When you haue stopped them in thus. 1590 Shaks. *Com. Err.* i. ii. 53 Stop in your winde sir, tell me this I pray? 1594 — *Rich. III*, i. iv. 38 But still the enuious Flood Stop'd in my soule, and would not let it forth. 1634 W. Wood *New Eng. Prosp.* (1865) 38 The English..do crosse the Creekes with long seanes or Basse Netts, which stop in the fish. 1693 J. Warder *True Amazons* (1713) 96 Prevented by a timely stopping up of the Bees, I do not mean by stopping them up quite.

† b. *To stop out*: to shut out, exclude. *To stop off*: to keep back (a crowd). *Obs.*

c 1530 Tindale *Jonas* (title), With what keyes it is so opened that the reader can be stopped out with no sotilte or false doctrine of man. 1685 Stillingfl. *Orig. Brit.* iv. 174 Nothing would ever be able to stop out the Arian Heresie but the Nicene Faith. 1722 in *Rutland Mag.* (1905) July II. 68 Pd. to ye men yt stop't off the crowd.

† c. To exclude *from. Obs.*

1567 *Gude & Godlie Ball.* 81 The decreit, and scharp hand wryte, That stoppit vs fra the Father quyte, Furth of the myndis he withdrew.

11. To thrust, push (a thing, more rarely a person) *in, into* a receptacle or place; also, † to thrust (a boat under water). Chiefly *Sc.*

c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xxxiii. (*George*) 458 And tak he gert salt smal & stope in til his wondis al. *a* 1572 Knox *Hist. Ref.* Wks. 1846 I. 204 A galay..was so doung with the cannoun and other ordinance, that she was stopped under watter, and so almost drowned. 1607 Markham *Caval.* vii. 26 Take two little round balles of flaxe or soft towe, and dipping them therein, stop them into the horses eares. 1686 tr. *Chardin's Trav. Persia* 134 He caus'd this Vizier to be stopp'd into the mouth of a cannon. 1704 N. N. tr. *Boccalini's Adv. Parnass.* I. 108 She stopt these *Billet-doux* into her Master's Hand. 1871 W. Alexander *Johnny Gibb* xvii. 125, I..throws on my waistcoat an staps my feet in'o my sheen. 1915 G. Sinclair *Poems* 122 A wee black box was stappit Amang the frozen clay.

b. *Sc.* and *north.* To thrust in the point or end of (a thing), to insert; to put in (a plant), hence *to stop in*, to plant.

1732 J. Moncrieff *Poor Man's Physician* in H. G. Graham *Social Life Scot.* (1901) I. vii. 52 Stop the finger into a cat's ear and it will be whole in half an hour. 1826 Galt *Last of Lairds* xxxviii, I planted that [tree]..; I dibbled the yearth, and stappit it in there. 1828 Carr *Craven Gloss.*, '*To stop in*,' to plant. 1829 Brockett *N. C. Gloss.* (ed. 2), *Stop*, to thrust; e.g. to stop the poker into the fire. 1896 A. J. Armstrong *Cobblers o' Kirkiebrae* 167 (E.D.D.) He..staps pushioned preens through bonnie wee butterflies.

† c. To press (a thing) *to the nose. Obs.*

1607 Topsell *Four-f. Beasts* 553 Some Marchants when they are to buy muske stop it to their noses, and holding their breath run halfe a stones cast, afterwards they put it from their Nose.

12. To cram (a receptacle with something); also *to stop full. Obs.* exc. *Sc.*

c 1400 *Melayne* 1289 Pay..with grete stones Graythe gounnes stoppede those gones, With peletes vs to payne. *c* 1420 *Liber Cocorum* (1862) 34 Take tenderons of sauge with owte lesyng, And stop one fulle up to þo ryng. 1719 De Foe *Crusoe* (Globe) 579 We stopped his [the idol's] Eyes, Ears, and Mouth, full of Gun-Powder. 1768 Ross *Helenore* 137 Then I'll bang out my beggar dish, An' stap it fou o' meal. 1814 A. Wilson *Loss o' the Pack* 19 Dear I lo'ed her, and.. Stapped her pouches fu' o' preens and laces.

† b. To stuff, pad (a dummy, garment, cushion, etc. *with* straw, flock or other material). *Obs.*

c 1400 *Pilgr. Sowle* (Caxton) iv. xxix. (1859) 61 Ymages made of clothe, stopped with strawe. 1525 Berners *Froissart* II. xliv. 59 b/2 The heed [of the dart] perced all the plates of his cote of mayle and a iacke stopped with sylke. 1620 in W. O. Blunt *Ch. Chester-le-Street* (1884) 85 For flockes to stopp the quishions, 2s. 1621 Markham *Hungers Prevention* 50 Stoping it with dry Strawe [etc.]..let it [the Stalking-horse] be painted as neere the colour of a Horse as you can deuise. 1626 B. Jonson *Staple of N.* II. iv, Hee has offer'd To..preserue Each haire falls from him to stop balls with all.

† c. *Cookery.* To fill (the inside of a bird, a fruit, and the like) with herbs, spices, etc. preparatory to cooking. Also, to *stop full.* Cf. Stuff *v.*

1342–3 [see Stopped *ppl. a.* 1] *c* 1390 *Forme of Cury* xxxiv. (1780) 25 Take persel and sawge..., take garlec and grapes and stoppe the Chikennes ful. *c* 1420 *Liber Cocorum* 48 Fyrst stop þy capone with saveray, With persyl, a lytil ysope. *c* 1450 *Douce MS.* 55 (Bodl.) xxvii, Take quinces and stopp hem whith ynne with hole pepyr. 1541 W. C. *Bk. Prop. Herbes* G j b, Thys is called Persly..and it is good in potage and to stoppe chyckens. 1599 H. Buttes *Dyets drie Dinner* M ij, Lamprey..stop the mouth with a Nut-meg, and the other holes with Cloves: then fry it.

† d. *Dicing.* To load (dice). *Obs.*

1596 Lodge *Wits Mizerie* 41 As for Dice, he hath all kind of sortes,..some stopt with quick siluer, some with gold, some ground. *Ibid.*, He stabs if you touch his stake, and stop me his dice, you are a-villaine.

† e. To plug (*the feet of* a horse) with something as a dressing; also, to pad (a horse) round the body with straw. *Obs.*

1577 B. Googe *Heresbach's Husb.* III. 122 b, You must stop his hoofes with Cowe doung. *Ibid.* 123 For al halting [of horses]..Mingle Hemp with the white of an egge, and stop the foote with all. 1614 Markham *Cheap & Good Husb.* I. i. 8 Walke not nor wash not [your horse] at all,..but set him vp warme, well stopt, and soundly rubbed with cleane litter. *Ibid.*, Stop not your horses fore-feete with Cowes-dung, till hee be sufficiently cold. 1623 *Ibid.* I. v. (ed. 3) 52 Cloath him, and stop him round with wispes. *Ibid.* 52. 1852 Burn *Naval & Mil. Techn. Dict.* II. *s.v.*, To stop a horse's feet, *remplir les pieds d'un cheval.*

13. To press down (the tobacco in a pipe) with or as with a tobacco-stopper.

† 1848 Alb. Smith *Chr. Tadpole* xix. 167 He stopped the tobacco in his pipe with his little finger.

II. To bring to a stand.

14. *trans.* To prevent the passage of by blocking the channel or outlet. a. To dam, keep back, block the channel of (water, a stream, and the like). Also with advs. *back, up.*

1398 Trevisa *Barth. De P. R.* IV. iv. (1495) e vij b, Clyffes & strondes stoppen and hold in the flood of the see. 1421 *Coventry Leet Bk.* 31 With filthe, dong and stonys the watur [is] stoppyd of his cours. 1590 Spenser *F. Q.* II. iv. 11 The bankes are ouerflowen, when stopped is the flood. 1697 Dryden *Virg. Past.* VIII. 4 The Rivers stood on heaps, and stopp'd the running Flood. 1776 Gibbon *Decl. & F.* (1787) II. xviii. 108 By the labour of the Persians, the course of the river was stopped below the town, and the waters were confined. *c* 1790 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) V. 100/1 A frame-work..closely calked, will stop back the whole or the greatest part of it [water in a mine]. 1821 Clare *Vill. Minstr.* I. 136 Boys came..Stopping up the mimic rills, Till they forc'd their frothy bound.

transf. and *fig.* 1592 Shaks. *Rom. & Jul.* IV. i. 12 Her Father..hasts our marriage, To stop the inundation of her teares. 1622 Fletcher & Mass. *Prophetess* III. iii, It is not in thy power to turn this destiny, Nor stop the torrent of those miseries. 1835 T. Mitchell *Acharn. of Aristoph.* 651 *note*, A princess, high-minded, yet gentle, with the current of her feelings stopped, when their tide ran purest.

b. To intercept (light, air, heat, etc.). *To stop out*, to exclude. Also, † to exclude the light from (a thing).

1393 Langl. *P. Pl.* C. xxi. 285 Ac rys vp ragamoffyn, And reche me alle þe barres..And ich shal lette þis lorde, and hus light stoppe; Ar we þorw bryghtnesse be blent. 1508 Stanbridge *Vulgaria* (W. de W.) B iv, Thou stoppest my light, *Interpellas lumen.* 1530 Palsgr. 700/1, I shadowe a thyng, I stoppe it that it can nat apere clerely, *je faiz ombre.* 1538 Elyot *Dict.*, *Obstruere luminibus*, to lette that a manne canne not loke out of hys wyndowes, or to stoppe his lyghtes. 1594 *1st Pt. Contention* (1843) 39 *York.* ..Duke Humphrey..well made away, None then can stop the light to Englands Crowne. 1619 W. Whately *Gods Husb.* i. (1622) 39 To turne day into night, by shutting the windowes..to stop out the Sun-shine. 1856 W. B. Carpenter *Microscope* 129 The object (provided it be of a nature to stop enough light) is seen bright upon a dark field. 1892 *Photogr. Ann.* II. 194 These will form rabets and stop out the wind and weather.

c. *To stop the breath* (more rarely *the wind*) *of*: to prevent the respiration of, to suffocate, stifle, choke; hence, to cause to die. † Also with *up.*

c 1400 Maundev. (Roxb.) xxii. 99 Þe preste..castez a cloth on his mouth and stoppez his wynde. 1534 More *Comf. agst. Trib.* III. xx. S vj, If the doore shoulde be shutte vpon me, I would weene it would stoppe vp my breath. 1581 Pettie *Guazzo's Civ. Conv.* I. (1586) 42 Those which blow forth such blasts [of slander], deserue to haue their winde stopt with a halter. 1652 C. B. Stapylton *Herodian* XVIII. xxxiv, They rusht into his Tent and stopt the breath Of all save few. 1780 R. Tomlinson *Slang Pastoral* 11 Will no blood-hunting foot-pad..Stop the wind of that nabbing-cull, constable Payne? 1785 Burns *Death & Dr. Hornbook* ix, Ye're maybe come to stap my breath.

d. To stanch (bleeding, blood).

1573–5 Gascoigne *Adv. Mr. F. J.* Wks. 1907 I. 390 When they..had all in vayne sought many waies to stoppe hir bleeding. 1685 in P. Wright *New Bk. Martyrs* (1784) 795/2 Lord, if it be thy holy will, stop this issue of christian blood, and let my guiltless blood be the last spilt on this account. 1748 Richardson *Clarissa* VII. 414 The motion set both his wounds bleeding afresh; and it was with difficulty they again stopped the blood. 1825 Scott *Talism.* xiv, He..stopped with styptics and bandages the effusion of blood which followed. *Ibid.* xxviii, Its [the stone's] virtues are still applied to for stopping blood.

15. To arrest the onward movement of (a person or thing); to bring to a stand or state of rest; to cause to halt on a journey; also, to prevent the departure or starting of. † Const. *of* (one's passage) and with double obj. by omission of *of.*

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 477/2 Stoppyn, or wythe stondynge a beest of goynge or rennynge, *sisto, obsto.* 1523 Berners *Froissart* I. ccccxxxiii. 308/2 But they were nat men ynowe to stoppe theym their way. 1530 Palsgr. 736/2, I stoppe a thefe that is ronnyng a waye, *je arreste.* Stoppe the thefe for Godes sake. 1590 Nashe *1st Pt. Pasquil's Apol.* A 4, If I muster and traine my men a newe, that the enemies of God..may be stopt of theyr passage and driuen backe. 1614 Bacon *Charge touching Duels* 33 In case I be aduertised of a purpose in any to goe beyond the sea to fight, I may haue granted his Maiesties writ of *Ne exeat regnum* to stoppe him. 1665 Manley *Grotius' Low-C. Warres* 315 The Prince..sending before some Horse, which should hinder and stop the Enemy, at the Passage over the Maes. 1670 G. H. *Hist. Cardinals* I. III. 82 A Cardinal stops his Coach to another that is his Senior. *a* 1700 Evelyn *Diary* 29 Oct. 1660, Going to London, my Lord Maior's shew stopp'd me in Cheapside. 1714 Swift *Hor. Sat.* II. vi. 111 I'm stopp'd by all the Fools I meet, And catechis'd in ev'ry street. 1726 — *Gulliver* I. ii, We found our fingers stopt with that lucid substance. 1761 *Lond. Chron.* 24–26 Dec. 622/2 Thursday night three highwaymen stopped several waggons on Northall Common. 1809 *Med. Jrnl.* XXI. 218 The catheter..appeared to be stopt by the neck of the bladder. 1821 Scott *Kenilw.* xiv, Tressilian and his attendants were stopped and questioned repeatedly by sentinels. 1860 Tyndall *Glac.* I. xxiii. 164, I was at length stopped by the dislocated ice. 1867 S. W. Baker *Nile Trib.* V. 97 The common belief that the scales of a crocodile will stop a bullet is very erroneous. 1876 J. W. Barry *Rlwy. Appliances* 293 The responsibility of stopping a train in all other emergencies is given without question to the engine-driver. 1901 T. R. Glover *Life & Lett. Fourth Cent.* vii. 157 To declare war on him, means to stop the corn-ships at once.

b. *Stop thief!* a cry for help to arrest a running thief. Also *slang* (see quot. 1857).

1714 A. Smith *Lives Highwaymen* (ed. 2) I. 67 He espy'd Cox,..and crying out *Stop Thief*, he was apprehended in St. Clement's Church-Yard. 1758–65 Goldsm. *Ess.* vi. [xxi.] (Globe) 303/2, I had not gone far from the house when I heard behind me the cry of 'Stop thief!' 1857 'Ducange Anglicus' *Vulgar Tongue* 20 *Stop Thief*, meat stolen. 'I have got this piece of *stop thief*.' I stole this piece of raw meat; Th[ieves]. 1887 *Times* 26 Aug. 10/a Prosecutor having called out 'stop thief' he was apprehended.

c. To bring down (a bird) with the gun. Also, to arrest the rush of (a charging enemy or wild beast) with rifle-fire. (Said also of the bullet and of the wound produced.)

1862 Ld. W. Lennox *Recreat. Sportsm.* I. 151 At the first [pigeon-shooting] handicap Moncrieff stopped a bird at seventy-five yards. 1892 Greener *Gun* (ed. 5) 208 An 8-bore [rifle] will frequently fail to stop the charge. 1896 *Times* 16 Dec. 5/2 The task of making a Lee-Metford bullet which, without losing its ranging powers, should still inflict a wound sufficiently severe to stop even the most determined fanatics. 1898 G. W. Steevens *With Kitchener to Khartum* xxxiii. 285 The officer assailed put a man-stopping revolver bullet into him, but it did not stop him.

d. *Fencing, Pugilism*, etc. To check (an adversary, his stroke, weapon, etc.) with a counter movement or stroke; to counter (a blow, a manœuvre in wrestling, etc.) Also *to stop short.*

1714 Parkyns *Inn-Play* (ed. 2) 47 [*Wrestling.*] Then go to the Flying Mare, and if he stops that, give him your Elbow under his Chin. 1765 Angelo *Sch. Fencing* 26 You may stop his blade short, by keeping your wrist [etc.]. 1771 Lonnergan *Fencer's Guide* 82 Make a stamp with your foot, and thrust forward at me; thus you stop me. *Ibid.* 83 Then finish in a Quarte-over-the-arm in like manner with a Stop. Thus you stop in Low Quarte. 1823 'Jon Bee' *Dict. Turf* 214 *Stop a blow*, (ring), to prevent its alighting on the part intended by means of the guard, or position of defence, i. e. the fore-arm or elbow. 1840 D. Walker *Defensive Exerc.* 14 [Wrestling.] It is sometimes possible to stop the hipe by clapping the knees instantly together. *Ibid.* 67 [Single-stick.] The usual blow at the head..To stop this, raise the hand a little. 1889 A. Hutton *Cold Steel* 34 The vertical cut 7, if given at the head, should be stopped by the Head parry.

absol. 1857 G. A. Lawrence *Guy Liv.* iv. 32 His adversary ..stopped and countered as coolly as if he had only the gloves on. 1865 A. L. Gordon *Poems, Ye Wearie Wayfarer* iv. iv, Don't stop with your head too frequently (This advice ain't meant for a nigger).

16. In certain games. a. *Tennis.* (*a*) To keep off (the ball) from the dedans, winning-gallery, or grille. † (*b*) *absol.* ? To mark or record the stops or chases.

(*a*) 1822 [R. Lukin] *Treat. Tennis* in J. Marshall *Tennis* (1878) 196 To stop the ball, that is, merely to prevent it entering the dedans, &c., is not sufficient. 1895 G. J. Manson *Sporting Dict., Stop*, to prevent (by a volley) a ball from entering an opening.

(*b*) 1530 Palsgr. 737/1, I stoppe on ones syde, as one that is a stoppar in a tenes play or at the foote ball, *je garde.* I wyll stoppe on your syde. *a* 1548 Hall *Chron., Hen. VIII*, 98 b, On saterday the kyng & the Emperor playd at tennice ..agaynst the princes of Orenge and the Marques of Brandenborow, & on the Princes syde stopped the Erle of Denonshyre aud the lorde Edmond on the other syde.

† b. *Cricket.* (*a*) Of a batsman: To play (a ball) defensively, without attempting to hit it away. Also *absol.* (*b*) *absol.* Of a fieldsman: To field the ball, to act as fieldsman. *To stop behind*, to act as longstop. *Obs.*

(*a*) 1833 Nyren *Yng. Cricketer's Tutor* (1902) 34 How to stop a shooting-ball dropped short of a length..This backward movement will give you a better sight of the ball, and more time for stopping it. *Ibid.* 150 Every loose, hard hitter would learn to stop, and play as safe a game as possible. 1856 *Household Words* 2 Feb. 59/2 They cut a good deal oftener and stop much less, perhaps, than they used to do.

(*b*) 1744 Love *Cricket* (1754) I. 11 Expert to bowl, to run, to stop, to throw. 1833 Nyren *Yng. Cricketer's Tutor* (1902) 22 No substitute in the field shall be allowed to..stop behind to a fast bowler.

17. To intercept and detain in transit.

1604 E. G[rimstone] *D'Acosta's Hist. Indies* VII. xxvi. 576 Where they continued many daies, stopping their victuals, nor suffering any to enter or issue forth. 1661 Marvell *Corr.* Wks. 1875 II. 51, I have yours of 22, I wish you had had mine of 19th, but all were stopped. 1667 Sturmy *Mariner's Mag., Penalties & Forfeit.* To Merchants (1669) n 2 b, Your Goods have been seised..and Ships stopp'd and hindred in their Voyages.

18. To withhold (a sum of money) in paying wages or other debt, on the ground of some counter-claim.

1427 *Coventry Leet Bk.* 213 And þat hit be rered be þe comen seriant, or els þat hit be stopped vppon the hire of þe seid comen seriant. 1495–6 *Rec. St. Mary at Hill* (1905) 230 Item, payd to thomas Mundys,..wyche he stoppyth in his hondes in party payment that is owyng hym for nayll, the quitrent that belongyth to owte chyrch. 1538 Elyot

Dict., Resignatum as, wages stopped for negligent seruice in warres. 1597 SHAKS. 2 *Hen. IV*, v. i. 24 And Sir, doe you meane to stoppe any of Williams Wages, about the Sacke he lost..at Hinckley Fayre? 1612–13 FLETCHER *Coxcomb* IV. (1647) 111/2 [Viola has broken a glass]-*Moth.* Did you so? be sure I'le stop it, 'twill make a good gap in your quarters wages. 1668 in *10th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. v. 61 Your Grace was pleased to order the said fees to be stopt in the hands of the King of Armes. 1734 POPE *Sat. Hor.* II. ii. 63 Nor stops, for one bad cork, his butler's pay. 1741 *Col. Rec. Pennsylv.* IV. 510 Since £1,500 out of the £2,500 said to be Expended has been stopt out of my support. 1832 *Min. Evid. Comm. Factories Bill* 203 They stop 1s. a week of every hand upon the premises. 1887 *Spectator* 9 July 932/1 A new kit was now supplied to him, and sixpence a day stopped out of his money to pay for it.

indirect passive. 1802 C. JAMES *Milit. Dict.* s. v. *Stoppages*, Soldiers are directed to be stopped one shilling and sixpence per week.

† b. To deprive (a person) *of* his pay. *Obs.*

1594 *1st Pt. Contention* ix. 44 Tis thought my lord, your grace..stopt the soldiers of their paie.

c. *To stop it out*: to save the cost of a thing by economizing *in* (something else). *colloq.*

1863 Mrs. CRAIK *Mistress & Maid* xii, 'It will do no harm to enquire the price. I might stop it out in omnibuses.' For this was the way every new article of dress had to be procured—'stopping it out' of something else.

d. To withhold (goods) as security or in lieu of payment.

1761 *Ann. Reg.* IV. *Chron.* 123 An action brought against a carrier for stopping a goose..because the gentleman did not pay the porter a shilling for..carrying it to the gentleman's house. 1864–5 TROLLOPE *Can you forgive her?* iii, What do you think of Mrs. Green wanting to charge me for an extra week, because she says I did not give her notice till Tuesday morning? I won't pay her, and she may stop my things if she dares.

19. To give instructions to a banker not to cash (a bank note, bill, or the like). Similarly *to stop payment* (of a note).

1713 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4619/11 It being stop'd at the Bank. 1722 *Post Man* 16–19 June 2/1 With several Notes in it, being of no Value to any but the Owner, Payment being stopt. 1722 DE FOE *Col. Jack* (1840) 21 They [the bills] would be stopped. 1884 E. YATES *Recoll.* II. 194 The numbers of the notes were known, payment of them was stopped. 1892 CORDINGLEY *Commerc. Guide* 63 To 'stop' a cheque, in cases where it has been lost or stolen, is to give written instructions to the banker it is drawn upon not to pay the cheque when presented.

20. To cause (a person) to desist from or pause in a course of action or conduct. Const. *from, in*, † *of*; also with gerund as second obj. Also *to stop short*, to check abruptly.

Orig. a fig. use of sense 15, often with reference to a metaphorical way or course.

1393 LANGL. *P. Pl.* C. v. 150 Mede..on men of lawe gan wynke, in sygne þat þei sholde, with som sotel speche Reherce þo a-non ryght, þat myghte reson stoppe. 1561 HOBY tr. *Castiglione's Courtier* I. (1900) 76 It is a stray out of the way in which he would have profited, had he not bene stopped in it. 1592 KYD *Span. Trag.* III. xiv. 74 My L., it lyes not in Lorenzos power To stop the vulgar, liberall of their tongues. 1611 BIBLE 2 *Cor.* xi. 10 No man shall stop mee [*marg.*, Gr. this boasting shal not be stopped in me.] of this boasting in the regions of Achaia. 1816 SCOTT *Old Mort.* xliv, What can be done to stop him from running headlong on ruin? 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. v. iii, Your National Assembly, stopped short in its Constitutional labours, may, [etc.]. *Mod.* I wish you would stop him circulating those rumours.

b. To cause (a person) to break off in narrative or speech. Const. *from, in*. Also *to stop short*.

1545 ELYOT *Dict.* s.v. *Opprimo, Opprimere orationem alicuius*, to stoppe one in his tale. 1604 SHAKS. *Oth.* II. i. 199, I cannot speake enough of this content, It stoppes me heere. 1697 J. LEWIS *Mem. Dk. Glocester* (1789) 23 But when my Lady Governess..began to tell the Duke the sad news, he stopped her. 1784 P. WRIGHT *New Bk. Martyrs* 795/2 He then was stopped from saying any more. 1825 SCOTT *Betrothed* xviii, The chaplain had arrived at some convenient pause in the lecture, where the Archbishop stopped him with, '*Satis est, mi fili.*' 1889 F. E. GRETTON *Memory's Harkback* 121 'Yes, my lord; but——' Garrow stopped him short. 'Not one word more, sir, if you please.'

c. To cause (a thing) to cease action. Now *rare*.

1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. XVIII. 415 Was neuere werre in þis worlde..so kene þat ne..pees þorw pacience, alle perilles stopped. 138. WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* III. 360 And þus þe puple myȝte wiþdrawe þer almes fro wickide preestis, and þe pride of preestis shulde be stoppid, bi which þei envenemyn þe puple. 1593 SHAKS. 3 *Hen. VI*, III. iii. 14 From such a cause, as fills mine eyes with teares, And stops my tongue. 1672 VILLIERS (Dk. Buckhm.) *Rehearsal* IV. i. (Arb.) 101 Hold, stop your murd'ring hands. 1777 W. DALRYMPLE *Trav. Sp. & Port.* iv, I fortunately came in and stopped her hand.

21. To restrain or prevent (a person) from a contemplated action. Const. as in 20.

c 1470 HENRY *Wallace* IX. 30 He leit no word than walk off his passage, Or Inglismen had stoppit him his wiage. 1530 PALSGR. 737/1, I stoppe, I hynder or let one of any purpose that he is about, *je empesche.* 1611 SHAKS. *Wint. T.* II. i. 187 Now, from the Oracle They will bring all, whose spirituall counsaile had Shall stop, or spurre me. 1697 J. LEWIS *Mem. Dk. Glocester* (1789) 22, I was ordered..to go ..for Dr. Radcliffe,..but Mr. Pierce..told them he was in no danger, and we were stopt. 1801 J. THOMSON *Poems Sc. Dial.* 15 So whan ye find yoursells incline To steal a rag,.. O! stop yoursells o' that design. 1874 RUSKIN *Fors Clav.* IV. xxxix. 69 If any one likes to go, nobody will stop them. 1908 R. BAGOT *A. Cuthbert* vii. 66 He was about to place the chair near to that of the lady,..but Jim stopped him. *Mod.* Why didn't you stop him sending that letter?

† b. *Law.* To bar, hinder, preclude. Const. *from, to* with *inf.* = ESTOP 2. *Obs.*

1534 tr. *Lyndewode's Const. Provinc.* 39 b, The free testament makynge is let and the chyrche, & other aboue named, be malyciously stopped from theyr ryght. 1595 SHAKS. *John* II. i. 562 Iohn to stop Arthurs Title in the whole, Hath willingly departed with a part. 1711 in *Nairne Peerage Evid.* (1874) 141 And all others perills burdens dangers and inconveniences..which may anywayes stop trouble or prejudge them in the peaceable possession thereof.

c. To stay, suspend (proceedings); to prevent (a decree, etc.) from taking effect.

1690 *Acts of Sederunt* (1790) 185 Where any act, decreet or protestation being pronounced, without debate in the cause, is thereafter stopped upon application of one of the parties. 1774 BP. HALLIFAX *Anal. Rom. Civil Law* (1795) 126 An Inhibition is issued from the Superior Court to the Inferior, to stop Proceedings.

† **22.** To hamper, hinder, impede the course or progress of (affairs, a project, etc.); to hinder (a person) in action or in some proceeding. Sometimes with clause as object. *Obs.*

c 1380 WYCLIF *Wks.* (1880) 159 Where worldly prestis schulen for here..ydelnesse & pride stoppe cristene men to knowe god. 1436 *Libel Eng. Policy* in *Pol. Poems* (Rolls) II. 178 For this wee see welle every day at eye, Gestes and festes stopene oure pollicye. 1538 STARKEY *England* 36 Puttyng in exercyse many honest and vertuse affectys of mannys mynd, wych els schold be..stoppyd and let by penury and pouerty. 1594 SHAKS. *Rich. III*, I. ii. 35 What blacke Magitian coniures vp this Fiend, To stop deuoted charitable deeds? 1721 RAMSAY *Prospect of Plenty* 105 The Dutch, say they, will strive your plot to stap.

23. To cause to cease, put an end to (a movement, activity, course of events).

c 1400 *Destr. Troy* 10105 But Pollexena..Abated the bremmes in his bale yre, And stoppet the strif of his strong hert. 1426 W. PASTON in *P. Lett.* I. 26, I wot not whether it were best in any sermon or other audience..to declare aught of this matier in stoppyng of the noyse that renneth in this case. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 64 But stoppe it [suspicyon] betyme, and suffre it neuer to growe to iudgement. *a* 1670 SPALDING *Troub. Chas. I* (1850) II. 337 Quhilk wold give the Southland men aneuche ado, and stop thair cuming heir. 1820 SHELLEY *Oedipus Tyr.* II. ii. 40 For God's sake stop the grunting of those Pigs! 1827 SCOTT *Chron. Canongate* v, But I stopped her doubts, by assuring her it had been part and pendicle thereof in my forefathers' time. 1831 GREVILLE *Mem.* (1874) II. 158 Gurney overheard one juryman say to another, 'Don't you think we had better stop the case? It is useless to go on.' 1848 MILL *Pol. Econ.* III. ix. § 2 (1876) 306 Even if this small annual supply were stopt entirely. 1898 'MERRIMAN' *Roden's Corner* XVIII. 193 In plain English, it is murder, and it must be stopped at any cost. You understand?

b. To prevent the coming-on of.

1538 STARKEY *England* 180 Of thys we must have regard, and stoppe al occasyon therof as much as we may. 1608 SHAKS. *Per.* I. *ii.* 98 With thousand doubts How I might stop this tempest ere it came. 1840 THACKERAY *Barber Cox* Jan., I..popped my shaving brush into Mr. Bar's mouth—a capital way to stop angry answers. 1891 FARRAR *Darkn. & Dawn* VIII. It was only with difficulty that Seneca and Burrus had been able to stop more tragedies.

24. To cease from, discontinue (an action, employment, etc.).

1525 BERNERS *Froiss.* II. CCXXXVII. 306 b/2 Whan they had this warnynge they stopped their commyng to the kyng. 1592 SHAKS. *Rom. & Jul.* V. iii. 54 Stop thy vnhallowed toyle, vile Montague. 1599—*Hen. V*, II. iv. 69 Turne head, and stop pursuit. 1795 *Gentl. Mag.* LXV. II. 539/1 Barley was so dear that brewers had stopped brewing. 1818 SCOTT *Br. Lamm.* xxi, Prithee, stop thy gambling cant for one instant. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* lxvi, I say I will not have it: and Dobbin, I beg, sir, you'll stop it. 1853 M. ARNOLD *Scholar Gypsy* xii, The blackbird picking food Sees thee, nor stops his meal, nor fears at all. 1860 DENISON *Clocks & Watches* (ed. 4) 343 The clock stopped striking. 1876 JEVONS *Primer Pol. Econ.* 66 Nobody should be allowed suddenly to stop work in a way endangering other people.

b. *To stop payment*: to declare oneself unable to meet one's financial obligations. Also in shortened form *to stop.*

1766 BLACKSTONE *Comm.* II. xxxi. 479 It has been determined expressly, that a banker's stopping or refusing payment is no act of bankruptcy. 1818 SCOTT *Rob Roy* xxii, But what will that be to the news that Osbaldistone and Tresham have stopped! 1864 MRS. RIDDELL *Geo. Geith* XXXV. III. 29 The bank has stopped payment. 1879 RUSKIN *Let.* 31 Oct., Wks. 1908 XXXIV. 238 Written contracts are all very well, but if the contractor stops payment—where are you? 1898 W. J. GREENWOOD *Commerc. Corresp.* (ed. 2) 40 The house mentioned in yours of the 3rd inst. is daily expected to stop payment.

c. To put an end to the issue of (an allowance).

1839 DICKENS *Nich. Nick.* viii, She has..stopped his.. pocket-money. 1865 H. KINGSLEY *Hillyars & Burtons* XXVI, Suppose, sir, that I was..to stop your allowance?

25. To cause (a machine or piece of mechanism) to cease working or going. *To stop the press*: to suspend the operation of printing (esp. in order to give opportunity to make some insertion).

1538 ELYOT *Dict., Sufflamen*, that wherwith a whiele is retained or stopped of his course. 1703 DE FOE in *15th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. IV. 76, I shall continue to stop the press in this case till I hear your opinion. 1765 BICKERSTAFF *Maid of Mill* I. i, Stop the mill there; and.. hoist yon sacks of flour upon this cart lad. 1815 *Morn. Chron.* 22 June 3/2 We stop the press to announce the most brilliant and complete Victory ever obtained by the Duke of Wellington. 1825 J. NICHOLSON *Oper. Mech.* 237 To stop the engine, the cocks at K and Y should be shut. 1860 in *Abridgm. Specif. Patents, Watches* etc. (1871) 52 Mechanism..for stopping and starting watches. 1883 M. P. BALE *Saw-Mills* 32 A new method of stopping engines by electricity.

26. To arrest the oscillation, vibration, or unsteady motion of; to keep immovable or steady.

1669 STURMY *Mariner's Mag.* VII. xxix. 42 Let a stander by stop one end of a Thred on the Glass at D. *Ibid.* v. xii. 78 The Piece to be Mounted higher or lower, until you bring the Bead..and the Mark all in one Line, stop the Piece in that position with a Coyn.

27. *Mus.* To press down (a string of a violin, lute, and the like) with the finger (*rarely* with a key) in order to shorten its vibrating length and thereby produce certain intermediate sounds; hence, to produce (a note, sound) by this means; to use (a finger) for this purpose. Also with *down*.

c 1500 in Grose *Antiq. Repert.* (1809) IV. 406 In myddest of the body [of the Lute] the stryngis sowndith best, For stoppide in the freytes they abydeth the pyunes wrest. 1574 F. KE tr. *A. Le Roy's Instruct. Lute* 64 b, Thou muste also vnderstande, how, and with whiche fingers the stryngес of the Lute must be stopped. *Ibid.* 68 b, The first .C. of the first stoppe..must be stopped with the seconde finger. 1626 BACON *Sylva* § 156 In Lutes, and Instruments of Strings, if you stop a String high..the Sound is more Treble. 1676 MACE *Musick's Mon.* 84 Then be ready to stop down (8.) with the Fore-finger *Ibid.* 85 After your Stopt Note..you are not to take up that Finger, which you last Stopt, until necessity require. 1784 in *Abridgm. Specif. Patents, Music* (1871) 15 The manner of stopping the British lyre is..peculiar to the instrument, which instead of being stopped by the fingers..is stopped and the tone given by small keys. 1867 MACFARREN *Harmony* i. 8 An instrument such as the violin whose notes are stopped by the fingers.

absol. 1762 STERNE *Tr. Shandy* V, xv, I will this moment stop three hundred and fifty leagues out of tune upon my fiddle, without punishing one single nerve that belongs to him.

28. *Naut.* To bring (a ship) to anchor by gradually checking the cable. Phr. *To stop the cable*: to prevent it running out too fast. *Stop her!* see quot. 1867; also, on small steamers and motor-boats, the command to stop the engine.

1627 CAPT. SMITH *Sea Gram.* vii. 31. 1644 MANWAYRING *Seamans Dict.* 101 When they come to an Anchor, and have let run-out as much..of Cabell..as will make the ship ride, or that the ship be in a current, where it is best to stop her a little by degrees, then they say, Stopp the ship; and so hold-fast the Cabell, and then veere-out a little more, and so stopp her fully, to let her ride. *Ibid.* 103 The use of them [*sc.* stoppers] is chiefly..to stopp the cabels, when they come to an Anchor, that it may goe out by little and little. 1775 DALRYMPLE *Voy.* in *Phil. Trans.* LXVIII. 404 At noon, close reefed top-sails, stopt the cable, and came to sail. 1834 SIR F. HEAD *Bubbles Brunnen Nassau* 6 The word of command, 'Stop her!' was loudly vociferated by a bluff, short, Dirk Hatteraick-looking pilot. 1841 [see EASE *v.* 9]. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk., Stop Her!*, an order to check the cable in being payed out.

b. *To stop the tide*: to prevent the ship being carried with the tide.

1627 CAPT. SMITH *Sea Gram.* x. 47 To Tide ouer to a place, is to goe ouer with the Tide of ebbe or flood, and stop the contrary by anchoring till the next Tide. 1708 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4422/7 We came to an Anchor to stop the Flood. *Ibid.* No. 4431/15 They have anchor'd and stop'd the Tide. 1835 SIR J. ROSS *N.-W. Passage* ii. 25 We were obliged to stop the tide off Port Kale.

c. To tie up with thin rope. Also *to stop up*.

1770 *Phil. Trans.* LX. 191 The maintop-mast back stay, to which the chain is stopped, to prevent its swinging about. 1875 BEDFORD *Sailor's Pocket Bk.* v. (ed. 2) 155 It is advisable to bend the cable..to the crown of the anchor, stopping it with spun-yarn to the ring. 1888 NARES *Seamanship* (ed. 6) 50 How are the footropes fitted? With a cut splice, being stopped out on each side to the guys.

29. *Horticulture.* To pinch out the head of (a plant); to remove (a shoot or a portion of it) by pinching. Also *to stop back*.

1699 L. MEAGER *Art of Gardening* 66 August...Release and unbind the Buds you have Inoculated, if they have taken; prune and stop them. 1794 MCPHAIL *Treat. Cucumber* 67 When the seedling plants have one or two joints, I stop them, after which they generally put forth two shoots. 1796 C. MARSHALL *Garden.* XIV. (1813) 193 Stopping the plants is to be performed about a week before they leave the seed bed. 1822 LOUDON *Suburban Hort.* 495 To concentrate the vigour of the plant, the shoots are stopped repeatedly as they advance in growth. 1849 *Florist* 256 Stop back young plants that have been struck this season.

fig. 1875 DOWDEN *Shakespere* 282 When Shakspere finds himself shooting up too rapidly he 'stops' himself, as gardeners do a plant.

30. *Arch.* To cause (a rib, shaft, chamfer, etc.) to terminate (in a specified form or position).

1835 R. WILLIS *Archit. Mid. Ages* vii. 97 Sometimes, however, the diagonal ribs are stopped by corbels near their imposts. *Ibid.* 98 The vaulting shafts are all stopped before they reach the ground. 1848 RICKMAN *Archit.* 36 The flutes are stopt square, and not as usual rounded at the ends.

31. *Bird-catching.* To subject (a call-bird) to a process which causes it to moult prematurely. ? *Obs.*

1768 PENNANT *Brit. Zool.* II. 332 We have been lately informed by an experienced bird-catcher, that he pursues a cooler regimen in stopping his birds.

32. *Phonetics.* To check the flow of (breath or voice) in articulation. Cf. STOPPED *ppl. a.* 7.

1867 A. M. BELL *Visible Sp.* 12 In forming Consonants, the breath or voice is stopped or squeezed, with an effect of percussion, sibilation, buzzing, or vibration, in some part of the guttural or oral passage.

33. Technical uses with advs.

a. **Stop down.** *trans.* To reduce the aperture of (a lens) by means of the stops.

1892 *Photogr. Ann.* II. p. cxxiii, The Lenses..will work full aperture for portraits and groups, and when stopped down a little, will produce landscape and architectural photos. 1907 J. A. Hodges *Elem. Photogr.* (ed. 6) 21 The sharpness of the picture can..be greatly improved by the simple expedient of 'stopping down'.

b. Stop off. *trans.* (*a*) In *Moulding*, to adapt (a mould) to a new design by shortening or obliterating some part of it; also *refl.* of a mould. (*b*) In *Etching*, *Electroplating*, etc.: = *stop out*.

(*a*) 1843 Holtzapffel *Turning* I. 354 If the pattern be too long, or that it be temporarily desired to obliterate some few parts, the mould is made of the full size and stopped-off. 1885 [Horner] *Pattern Making* 53 We make a special box to fill up the print as well as to core the hole out, or, in brief, to 'stop itself off.'

(*b*) 1856 G. Gore *Pract. Chem.* 77 Many articles which are to receive deposits require to have portions of their surface 'stopped off', to prevent the deposit spreading over those parts. 1907 *Edin. Rev.* July 233 The lines of an etching may be darkened or again 'stopped off'.

c. Stop out. *trans.* (*a*) In *Etching*, to obliterate or cover with a varnish (the marks, lines, or other parts of a plate which are to be kept from the acid in the process of biting in). Also *absol.* (*b*) In *Electrotyping*, *Calico-printing*, etc.: see quots.

1811 *Self Instructor* 548 If any scratches..or mistakes be committed in the etchings, they are to be stopped out. 1815 J. Smith *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 775 If any parts require to be stopt out, use turpentine-varnish and lamp-black, and with a camel's hair brush pass over those parts you consider of sufficient depth. 1871 Hamerton *Etcher's Handbk.* 78 Bracquemond..stopped-out sixty times, in order to get sixty degrees of depth in his lines. 1892 *Temple Bar* Sept. 56 The lettering of plates may be stopped-out or burnished away or covered up for the striking off of misleading impressions.

(*b*) 1838 in *Newton's Lond. Jrnl.* Conj. Ser. XVI. 63 Certain apparatus, by which I stop out or protect any desired portions of the cloth or fabric, whilst it is under the operation of dyeing. 1885 Lock *Workshop Rec.* Ser. IV. 214/2 [Electrotyping.] The mould is next 'stopped out', by brushing liquid wax on those portions of the frame and wax upon which no deposition is intended to take place.

d. Stop over. *trans.* In *Moulding*: see quot.

1885 [Horner] *Pattern Making* 53 'Stopping-over' means filling up the upper portion of the print level with the face of the mould, after the core has been placed in position.

III. To come to a stand, cease to move or act.

34. *intr.* To cease from onward movement, to come to a stand or position of rest. More emphatically *to stop dead*, *stop short* (see Dead, Short *advs.*). Said of a person or other living creature, also of an inanimate thing driven or propelled.

1530 Palsgr. 736/2, I stoppe, as a horse or cart doth, whan they be goyng on the way, *je jocque*. 1597 Shaks. 2 *Hen. IV*, I. i. 38 (Qo.) After him came spurring hard A gentleman..That stopt by me, to breathe his bloudied horse. 1670 Dryden *Tyr. Love* IV. ii, As some faint pilgrim..Sometimes resolved to fetch his leap, and then Runs to the bank, but there stops short again. 1709 *Tatler* No. 114 P 1, I saw a Coach stop at my Door. 1770 Cumberland *West Indian* I. vi, Stop, stay a little, Charles, whither are you going in such haste? 1736 Gray *Statius* I. 40 Sure flew the disc from his unerring hand, Nor stopp'd till it had cut the further strand. 1821 Scott *Kenilw.* v, He again paced the room in silence, stopped, filled and drank a cup of wine. *Ibid.* xxiv, Pulling the reins with all his might, and ejaculating, 'Stop! stop!' 1852 F. S. Williams *Our Iron Roads* x. 227 On a train stopping, or travelling slowly through an intermediate station. 1855 Kingsley *Westw. Ho!* xii, Sebastian Cabota,..being in want of provisions, stopped short at the mouth of that mighty South American river. 1907 J. H. Patterson *Man-Eaters of Tsavo* xv. 169 All of a sudden, however, the jackal stopped dead for a second, and then made off out of sight.

fig. 1595 Shaks. *John* v. vii. 67 [The king dies.] *Hen.* Euen so must I run on, and euen so stop.

b. *spec.* of a horse: See quot. 1679.

? 1575 Blundevil *Art of Riding* II. ii. D viij b, The horse by this meanes learneth .iii. lessons at once,..firste to tread the ringe, secondly to stop, and thirdly to turne. 1601 Shaks. *Jul. C.* IV. i. 32 It is a Creature that I teach to fight, To winde, to stop, to run directly on. 1679 A. Lovell *Indic. Univ.* 215/2 To stop a Horse is, to make him stay short on his buttocks..That Horse stops well. 1697 Dryden *Virg. Georg.* III. 183 The Lapithæ..taught the Steed to bound;.. To stop, to fly, the Rules of War to know.

c. To pause, stay on the or one's way (*to* do something). Also *to stop short*.

1711 Addison *Spect.* No. 129 P 9 He stopt short at the Coach, to ask us how far the Judges were behind us. 1815 Scott *Talism.* ix, The baron, however, was a little later of entering the tent..., stopping, perchance, to issue some orders. 1837 Dickens *Pickw.* xxxviii, You've been stopping to over all the posts in Bristol, you idle young scamp! 1873 Ruskin *Fors Clav.* III. xxx. 10 It seemed to him that everybody stopped as they passed, to look at his cart.

35. To make a halt on a journey, esp. to halt and remain for rest and refreshment. Of a coach, train, boat, or other public conveyance: To halt at a specified place to pick up and set down passengers, etc.

1743 Bulkeley & Cummins *Voy. S. Seas* 107 The greatest Part of the People must be oblig'd, at every Place we stop, to go on Shore in Search of Provisions. 1794 Mrs. Radcliffe *Udolpho* xxxv, The postilions stopped at the convent ..to take up Blanche. 1832 J. H. Newman *Lett. & Corr.* (1891) I. 295 The vessel not being allowed to stop over to-morrow. 1837 Dickens *Pickw.* xxii, It was at the door of this overgrown tavern, that the London coach stopped, at the same hour every evening. 1849 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* xvi. III. 677 Thence he travelled to London, stopping by the road at the mansions of some great lords. 1856 Miss Isab. Bird *Englishw. in Amer.* 160 While stopping at a station another lady entered. 1901 Alldridge *Sherbro* xxiii. 235 We..marched on..until we reached the old shed, where we had stopped three days before.

b. *To stop over*: to make a halt (*at* a place) and proceed by a later conveyance. Similarly *to stop off*. *U.S.*

1884 Sir J. W. Dawson in *Handbk. Canada* 86 By stopping over at Dalhousie..the following localities may be visited. 1897 *Outing* (U.S.) XXIX. 563/2 Yet would I counsel the traveler whose way lies by Avignon to stop off, if only for an hour, in order to ascend the Rocher des Doms. 1913 *Blackw. Mag.* Jan. 98/2 It was arranged that the party should 'stop off' at a small place,..on the main line, and should thence by motor 'side track'..to another small town.

36. (Cf. Stay *v.*[1] 8, which is often preferred as more correct.) To remain, prolong one's stay in a place; to stay (*to* dinner, *at* home, *with* a person). Also *to* with *inf.* Also quasi-*trans.*, to remain for (a ceremony, a meal, etc.).

1802 tr. *Gabrielli's Myst. Husb.* III. 123 If your Honour and you, Madam, will stop to dinner with us. 1805 Moore *Mem.* (1853) I. 181 Now, by stopping in town to-morrow, I shall..get off the necessity of returning to town so soon as I otherwise should do. 1832 J. H. Newman *Lett. & Corr.* (1891) I. 254 Let him [come up alone and] go into your rooms, and do stop in Devonshire a good while. *Ibid.* 275 Did I consult my wishes I should stop at home. 1857 Hughes *Tom Brown* II. vii, I never stop the Sacrament... I've never been confirmed. 1858 Trollope *Dr. Thorne* xxix, But you'll stop and take a bit of dinner with us? 1864 Mrs. Riddell *Geo. Geith* xxi. II. 88 The butler..went straight off to Granny, and gave her notice; and she actually raised his wages, and prayed him to stop. 1898 Rider Haggard *Doctor Therne* 10, I could stop in Mexico for three months. 1901 W. R. H. Trowbridge *Lett. her Mother to Eliz.* xix. 94, I am sure the society at Lucerne would have bored me if I had stopped much longer.

b. With advs., as *away*, *out*. *To stop on*, to continue in one place or employment. *To stop up*, to remain 'up' at one's college or university; *colloq.* to sit up instead of going to bed.

1815 *Zeluca* II. 86 You stopped away from Spire on Tuesday. 1819 J. H. Newman *Lett. & Corr.* (1891) I. 42 [At the end of the term he writes] The Fellows have been very kind, have said we might stop up as long as we like. 1848 Thackeray *Van. Fair* lxi, Georgy stopped away from school. 1857 Mrs. Gaskell *Charlotte Brontë* II. 148 Mr. Brontë and old Tabby went to bed...But Charlotte..stopped up,—it was very tempting,—late and later. 1889 *Spectator* 14 Sept., This..is their notion of a career, and..to 'stop on' in the village is to accept a great disappointment.

c. To sojourn as a visitor, resident, or guest.

1797 Mrs. A. M. Bennett *Beggar Girl* (1813) V. 37 They wanted her to let Miss stop with them. 1839 Lever *Harry Lorrequer* ii, You will dine with us to-day at seven..: but make your arrangements to stop all night and to-morrow. 1859 G. Ticknor *Life* II. xxii. 439 Sir Henry Holland..has been stopping with the President. 1859 Dasent *Pop. Tales Norse* 344 She gave the man leave to stop the night. 1901 W. R. H. Trowbridge *Lett. her Mother to Eliz.* vi. 26 Clandevil is stopping at Astley Court.

37. To leave off doing what one is actually engaged in for the moment. Const. *from*. Also *to stop short*, to leave off abruptly.

1594 Shaks. *Rich. III*, IV. ii. 45 Hath he so long held out with me, vntyr'd, And stops he now for breath? 1727 Pope *Macer* 9 There he stopped short, nor since has writ a tittle. 1826 Scott *Jrnl.* 12 Mar., I was interrupted by a slumberous feeling which made me obliged to stop once or twice. 1861 Paley *Æschylus* (ed. 2) *Choeph.* 904 *note*, The transcriber having begun to copy the next verse, and stopping short on discovering his error. 1885 W. W. Story *Fiammetta* ii. 32 The groups of reapers that stopped from their work to gaze at the passing train. 1894 J. T. Fowler *Adamnan* Introd. 74 And here, he said, I must stop, let Baithene write the rest.

b. To pause in speech or narrative; to break off in the middle of a sentence. Also *to stop short*, to pause abruptly. † Also *refl.*

1579 W. Wilkinson *Confut. Fam. Love* Brief Descr. **27** iiij b, Yea quoth Vitels..the same mynde must be in you which was in Christ, and there he stopped him [*i.e.* did not complete the quotation]. 1592 Shaks. *Rom. & Jul.* II. iv. 98 *Ben.* Stop there, stop there. *Mer.* Thou desir'st me to stop in my tale against the haire. 17.. Pope *Imit. Hor.* I. vii. 84 'Harley, the Nation's great Support,'—But you may read it; I stop short. 1816 Scott *Old Mort.* xxxviii, He had just recollection sufficient to stop short in the midst of the dangerous sentence. 1862 Miss Braddon *Lady Audley* xxxiii, 'There's Luke, too tipsy to help himself,..there's Mr. Audley asleep—.' Phœbe Marks stopped suddenly at the mention of Robert's name. 1862 Mrs. Browning *Last Poems, King's Gift* i, Now what has the messenger brought her,..To make her stop short in her singing?

c. To pause in a course of conduct (*to* think, question oneself).

1865 Flor. Marryat *Love's Conft.* I. xix. 328 She herself never stopped—she dared not stop—to ask herself why or wherefore she felt thus.

d. *imper.*, used as an injunction to pause in or desist from any procedure, as speech, argument, criticism, and the like. Also in the phrase *stop a moment!*

1570 Foxe *A. & M.* (ed. 2) III. 2164/2 At last his chaplaynes cryed, stoppe, stoppe my Lord, for now he wyll recant. 1738 Pope *Epil. Sat.* II. 52 *P.* To tax Directors,..Still better, Ministers, or, if the thing May pinch ev'n there—why lay it on a King. *F.* Stop! stop! *P.* Must Satire, then, nor rise nor fall? 1759 Johnson *Rasselas* ix, 'Stop a moment', said the Prince; 'is there such depravity in man as that he should' [etc.]. 1839 Lever *Harry Lorrequer* xxx, 'Well, are you satisfied that this is his handwriting?'..'Why, of course—but stop—you are right; it is not his hand.' 1848 Alb. Smith *Chr. Tadpole* xlvii. 408 'We will knock the neck [of the bottle] off with a stone.' 'Stop, Sir,' said the stranger. 'Excuse me—this is the way to do it.' 1865 Flor. Marryat *Love's Conft.* I. xix. 336 He ..drew out the packet of letters. 'Confound it!' where was the one in his mother's handwriting? The rest were all there—stop! were they? 1887 O. Wilde *Canterville Ghost* v, 'Stop!' cried Virginia, stamping her foot, 'it is you who are rude, and horrid, and vulgar'.

38. To leave off, stay, desist (in a course of action or a pursuit, or from one's customary action or employment). Const. *from*, *to* with *inf.* Also *to stop short*.

1689 *Sc. Acts* (1875) XII. 61/2 Letters..ordering the Judges to stoppe and desist sine die to determine causes depending before them. 1850 McCosh *Div. Govt.* II. i. (1874) 146 Every event has a cause, and in tracing up causes we must stop at length at a great first cause. 1901 W. R. H. Trowbridge *Lett. her Mother to Eliz.* xxi. 99 Lady Beatrice, who really at her age ought to stop, got a blow on her forehead [at hockey].

b. To limit one's activity *at* a certain point; to refrain from exceeding a certain degree or extent.

1737 *Gentl. Mag.* VII. 539, I..attended the innocent but unfortunate Men to the Scaffold...I did not stop here, for I carried the Head of Captain Green to the Grave. 1744 Kames *Decis. Crt. Sess. 1730-54* (1799) 81 If the rule be ones established that a man has power over his neighbour's property..there is no possibility to stop short. 1770 Cumberland *West Indian* IV. iii, *Louisa.* Hold, are you mad? I see you are a bold, assuming man, and know not where to stop. 1771 *Junius Lett.* xlii, The woman, who admits of one familiarity, seldom knows where to stop, or what to refuse. 1819 Scott *Ivanhoe* xxviii, His charity would willingly have stopped short at Ashby. 1860 Rous in *Baily's Mag.* I. 75, I know the point to stop at, and how far the public will support me in my policy.

c. To stay in action, to hesitate, 'stick'. Const. *at*. *To stop at nothing*, to be prevented by no obstacle.

1676 Dryden *Aureng-zebe* II. 29 The World is made for the bold impious man; Who stops at nothing, seizes all he can. 1704 Cibber *Careless Husb.* v. 63 'Tis Possible you'll stop at Nothing to preserve it. *c* 1738 Pope *On Receiving Standish* 24 You'd write..on ivory, so glib, As not to stick at fool or ass, Nor stop at Flattery or Fib. 1907 J. H. Patterson *Man-Eaters of Tsavo* ii. 20 They stopped at nothing ..in order to obtain their favourite food.

39. Of a thing: To cease its motion or action. Of a process: To cease activity; to come to a pause or end.

a 1529 Skelton *E. Rummyng* 29 Her nose..Neuer stoppynge, But euer droppynge. 1594 Kyd *Cornelia* II. 186 Whereat my blood stopt in my stragling vaines; Mine haire grew bristled. 1605 Shaks. *Macb.* II. iii. 104 The Spring, the Head, the Fountaine of your Blood Is stopt, the very Source of it is stopt. *Macd.* Your Royall Father's murther'd. 1663 Bayfield *Treat. De Morb. Capitis* 181 The more he bled, the more his Fever abated, and when it was gone, the blood stopped. 1707 Mortimer *Husb.* 574 It flushes violently out of the Cock for about a Quart, and then stops on a sudden. 1765 *Museum Rust.* IV. 181 The purging stopped the fourth day. 1771 *Junius Lett.* xliv. (1788) 254 Their whole proceeding stops; and there they stand, ashamed to retreat, and unable to advance. 1816 J. Smith *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 482 Crystallization goes on but very slowly in closed vessels; and in most instances wholly stops. 1830 R. Knox *Béclard's Anat.* 247 The ulceration stops and heals. 1839 D. Milne in *Trans. R. Soc. Edin.* XIV. 458 The Kirtle, a river which runs from Dumfriesshire into the Solway Frith, stopped, on the 17th February 1748, for five hours. 1901 W. R. H. Trowbridge *Lett. her Mother to Eliz.* xxix. 141 Yesterday it rained..and when it stopped for a few minutes there was such a nasty fog.

b: Of a machine, etc.: To cease working or going. Also *to stop dead*.

1789 Cowper *Let. Mrs. Throckmorton* 18 July, Your clock in the hall has stopped. 1839 Dickens *Nich. Nick.* ii, My watch has stopped. 1903 A. Maclaren *Last Sheaves* 182 You have weaving machines..that whenever a thread breaks stop dead.

40. a. Of an immaterial thing: To have its limit of operation at a specified point. Of a series: To come to an end.

1733 Pope *Ess. Man* III. 128 There stops the Instinct, and there ends the care. 1741-2 Challoner *Missionary Priests* (1803) II. 19 But the severities exercised against catholics did not stop here. 1806 *Med. Jrnl.* XV. 533 That any particular mode of treatment should stop at such supposed line, and that then an opposite mode of cure should be thought necessary. 1874 Gross *Algebra* II. 23 If a series stops at some one term, it is called a finite series. 1911 H. Bindloss *Hawtrey's Deputy* xi, His comprehension stopped at such details as these.

b. Of a material thing: To come to an end (in space). *To stop short*, to end abruptly.

1887 S. O. Ridley in *Challenger Rep.* XX. 204 Every alternate fascicle of the main skeleton stops short a little way below the surface. 1915 *Blackw. Mag.* Mar. 338/1 Alleys, each of which stopped with a dead end.

IV. 41. [From Stop *sb.*] *trans.* To furnish with stops or punctuation-marks, to punctuate.

1776 *Critical Observ. Books* I. 25 Thus Bergler rightly stops these lines; for if a comma be made after στυφελιξη [etc.]. 1802 Dibdin *Edit. Classics* 39 *note*, These verses are stopp'd according to the Harleian Catalogue. 1846 Landor *Imag. Conv., Alfieri & Salomon* Wks. 1846 I. 191/1 Guicciardini, if his sentences were properly stopped, would be found in general both full and concise. 1885 G. Allen *Babylon* x, That letter wasn't all spelt right, or stopped right.

42. *Versification.* To conclude or divide (a line of verse) with a 'stop'. Cf. Stop *sb.*[2] 17 c, Stopped *ppl. a.* 8. Also *intr.* (cf. 37 b).

1857 C. B[ATHURST] *Rem. Differ. Shaks. Versif.* 148, I think Shakspeare had a preference, where the line is completely stopped in the middle, for a break upon the short syllable. *Ibid.* 202 Blank verse, unbroken, is still totally separate from complete rhyme, as having no tendency to stop at every other line.

V. 43. Combinations of the verb with a sb. in objective relation: † **stop-gamble**, † **stop-game**, a situation that ends or interrupts the game; † **stop-hole**, a plug; **stop-loss** *a.*, (of an order to sell stock, etc.) intended to save further loss than has been already incurred by falling prices; **stop-motion**, a device for automatically stopping a machine or engine when something has gone wrong; **stop-mouth** *a. nonce-wd.*, intended to keep people silent; **stop-press** *sb.* (see quot. 1888); also *attrib.* or *adj.* (of an issue of a newspaper or a particular column), containing late news inserted after printing has begun; † **stop-ship** [tr. Gr. ἐχενηίς], the remora; † **stop-throat** *a. nonce-wd.*, that tightly enwraps the throat; **stop-water** *Naut.*, (*a*) something fixed or towed overboard to retard the motion of a ship; (*b*) a plug or other contrivance for making a joint water-tight; (*c*) *gen.* (? *nonce-use*) an obstacle to the flow of water. Also STOP-GAP.

1579 J. STUBBES *Gaping Gulf* E v, A most strange deame it is of theirs who will haue thys match a bridle to the french king, a snaffle to Spayn, and a *stopgamble to all practises of competition or popery. 1659 GAUDEN *Tears Ch.* IV. xx. 566 No violence and injustice can be proper to usher in true Christian Religion and Reformation: these methods have made them so stunted and ricketly, that they are come to a **stop-game.* 1562 TURNER *Baths* 2 My counsell is yᵗ euery bath haue an hole in the bottome, by the whych the *stophole taken out yᵉ bath should be cleensed. *c* 1711 PETIVER *Gazophyl.* VII. lxv, The Cover or Stop-hole of the *Cochlea cælata*. 1901 *Scotsman* 8 Apr. 9/7 Many fresh *stop-loss orders were put on the market. 1851 *Mechanics' Mag.* Jan. 54/2 An Improvement in *Stop-motion of Looms. 1902 THORNLEY *Cotton Combing Machines* 210 There are two or three descriptions of stop motions which are applied to combers when required. 1823 in *Spirit Publ. Jrnls.* 261 The accumulated expences of renewals, interest, stamps, *stop-mouth and forbearance money. 1881 *Manch. Even. News* 17 Mar. 3 The *stop-press edition of the Daily Chronicle says [etc.]. 1888 *Encycl. Brit.* XXIII. 703/1 In machines which printed from the type, late telegrams could only be inserted by a 'stop-press'; that is, the printing was interrupted while the alteration was being made. 1910 *Spectator* 16 July 103/1 The 'stop press' column of an evening newspaper. 1591 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* I. v. 444 O *Stop-ship say, say how thou canst oppose Thy selfe alone against so many foes? 1672 JOSSELYN *New Eng. Rarities* 29 Remora, or Suck Stone, or Stop Ship. 1600 ROWLANDS *Lett. Humours Blood* XXVII. 33 Why in the *Stop-throate fashion doth he go, With Scarfe about his necke? 1794 *Rigging & Seamanship* II. 337 *Stopwaters ..on the lee quarter.., may cause the ship to veer. 1820 SCORESBY *Acc. Arctic Reg.* II. 450 Making a stop-water between two of the frames of timber on the fore part of the leak. 1832 GEN. P. THOMPSON *Exerc.* (1842) II. 324 If London Bridge could have kept out the first stroke of the pick-axe, the old stop-water would have been there still. 1844 *Civil Engin. & Arch. Jrnl.* VII. 95/2 It offers little or no resistance to the speed of the vessel as a stopwater. 1869 SIR E. REED *Shipbuild.* xi. 228 A stop-water formed of Canvas steeped in paint,..must be fitted between the continuous plates and angle-irons.

44. Substantival or attributive uses of verbal phrases: **stop-back**, a contrivance for temporarily arresting the flow of water in a pipe or watercourse (now *spec.* a lump of clay inserted for this purpose); **stop-off**, something which stops the working of a machine; in quot. *attrib.*; **stop-over** (*U.S.*), the act of 'stopping over' (see 35 b) or breaking one's journey to go on by a later conveyance; also *attrib.*; **stop-short** *a.* (*nonce-wd.*), that stops short of its proper object.

1790 *Act* 30 *Geo. III. c.* 21 § 1 Stand Pipes, Service Pipes,.. *Stopbacks, Valves, Fire Plugs. 1869 RANKINE *Machine & Hand-tools* Pl. K 9, The *stop-off motion..is very simple. 1884 *Advt. Illinois Central Railroad*, Tourist-tickets from Chicago to Texas,..via New Orleans, with *stop-over privileges to visit the Exposition there. 1893 SAMBORN *S. California* 97 The schedule of trains allows of convenient stop-overs. 1895 *Outing* (U.S.) XXVII. App. 27 By stop-over privileges at every point of interest, the Northern Pacific Railroad enables tourists to visit this wonderful region. 1909 *Public Ledger* (Philad.) 24 June 11/4 Philadelphia is named as a stop-over point in excursions. 1747 RICHARDSON *Clarissa* (1811) I. xxx. 213 Proud of *exterior* advantages!—must not one be led by such a *stop short pride, as I may call it, in him or her who has it, to mistrust the *interior*?

Stop: see STOOP *sb.*[2]

Stopcock (stɒ·pkɒk). [f. STOP *sb.*[2] or *v.* + COCK *sb.*[1] 12.] A tap or short pipe furnished with a valve operated from the outside by turning a key or handle, for the purpose of stopping or permitting as required the passage of liquid, air, steam, gas or the like. (Sometimes improperly applied to the key or handle by which the valve is turned.)

1584 in Hudson & Tingey *Rec. Norwich* (1910) II. 393 The sayd maynepype and pypes, systerne, cockes and stopcockes. 1653 H. MORE *Antid. Ath.* II. ii. § 8 (1712) 44 Apply a tapering Valve of Brass to the lower branch of the Stopcock of the Receiver well emptied of Air, as before, and turn the Key of the Stopcock. 1664 PEPYS *Diary* 25 Dec., Some family offences, such as my having of a stopcock to keepe the water from them. 1755 *Gentl. Mag.* XXV. 494 At one end of this cylinder there is screwed a pneumatic gun.. furnished with a stop-cock, to be used occasionally. 1790 *Act* 30 *Geo. III* c. 21 § 1 Such Pipes, Stop Cocks, Plugs [etc.]. 1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* II. 209 The common stop-cock, with a lengthened tail passing downward. 1894 *Times* 12 July 14/1 The stopcock..was placed in the service pipe leading from the water main into the adjoining house.

b. *attrib.*

1797 J. CURR *Coal Viewer* 63, 2 Feeding cocks made in the stop cock way, with a hole in the key to turn by hand occasionally. 1857 MILLER *Elem. Chem., Org.* 21 The stop-cock tube, *c*, is connected with an exhausting syringe. 1901 *Westm. Gaz.* 21 Feb. 2/3 The consumers..are to be compelled to put 'stop-cock' boxes in the pavements outside their houses.

† **Stope**, *sb.*[1] *Obs.* Also 6 stoppe. [a. OF: *estoup(p)e, estoppe* :—L. *stuppa* tow, oakum. Cf. STUPE.] a. Tow for burning. b. Oakum.

1552-3 in Feuillerat *Revels Edw. VI* (1914) 108 A dragons mowthe of plate with stoppes to burne like fier. 1569 R. ANDROSE tr. *Alexis' Secr.* IV. i. 36 Take of the stope, or caulking which they take out of olde shippes.

Stope (stōup), *sb.*[2] *Mining.* [App. cogn. w. STEP *sb.*, but the phonological relation is obscure.]

† **1.** A step or notch in the side of a pit, or in an upright beam, to receive the end of a stemple or cross-piece. Also *attrib. Obs.*

1747 HOOSON *Miner's Dict.* S 4, Instead thereof in either end is made a Step or Stope with a Gouge, and the ends of the Forks sharpned like the Edge-end of a Stemple for to stand in those Stopes. 1824 J. MANDER *Derbysh. Miners' Gloss.* 69 *Stope*, a Hole or Step cut into the side or any other firm place, where there is occasion to set Stemples. 1836 R. FURNESS *Astrologer* Gloss. *Poet. Wks.* (1858) 175 *Stope and Coil*, or *Stope and Quoin*. In ancient times, the stope was a hole bored in the rock, in order to introduce the quoin or wedge to burst it open.

2. A step-like working in the side of a pit.

1747 HOOSON *Miner's Dict.* U 2 b, Thus many men may work at once, taking each a Stope before him, one after another, and consequently raise more Ore. 1747 *Gentl. Mag.* XVII. 327 On the 6th of April..there happened a very great explosion, which beat down a good deal of the partitions, and some of the stops [*sic*] under ground, and a part of the coal took fire by the damp. 1758 BORLASE *Nat. Hist. Cornw.* 169 The men work in stopes, that is, in several degrees or steps one above another. 1860 *Ure's Dict. Arts* (ed. 5) III. 469 The overburden being removed, the clay is dug up in stopes: that is, in successive layers or courses, and each one being excavated to a greater extent than the one immediately below it, the stopes resemble a flight of irregular stairs.

b. *attrib.*, as in *stope-working*; **stope drill**, a portable rock-drill, used in stoping.

1908 *Daily Report* 27 Aug., Rand stope drills..enter the competition early next year. 1910 *Chamb. Jrnl.* 7 May 358/2 By the time 'stope' working is commenced in the Cobalt silver-mines Canada will have first place among the silver-producing countries of the world.

Stope (stōup), *v.* [f. STOPE *sb.*[2]] *trans.* To cut (mineral ground) in stopes; to excavate horizontally, layer after layer; to extract (ore) by this process. Also with *out*. Also *absol.*

1778 W. PRYCE *Min. Cornub.* 142 They found it most adviseable to sink Shafts down upon the Lode, to cut it at some depth, and then to Drive and Stope east and west upon the course of the Lode. 1886 *Encycl. Brit.* XXI. 230/2 The salt is stoped out in longitudinal and transverse galleries, and large vaulted chambers, supported by massive pillars. 1887 *Times* (weekly ed.) 9 Dec. 1/7 Many thousands of tons of stone, richly laden with gold, are ready to be stoped. 1896 MÉLIOT *Eng.-Fr. Dict. Terms Finance*, etc. 226 *Stope*, ..to break and extract the ore. *Ibid.*, *Stoping*,..breaking out the payable ore.

Stope: see STEP *v.*, STOOP *sb.*[1], *v.*[1], STOP *sb.*[2], *v.*, STOUP.

† **Sto·pel.** *Obs. rare.* [f. OTeut. **stōp-* ablaut-variant of **stap-*: see STEP *v.* and -EL [1].] a. A foot-print. b. A step of a flight of stairs.

971 *Blickl. Hom.* 127 þæt mon æfre þurh þæt mægæ a þy maran dæl on þæm stoplum gewercean. *c* 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 163 On þe steire of fiftene stoples fro nepewarde to uuewarde.

Stopell(e, obs. forms of STOPPLE *sb.*[1]

Stopen, obs. pa. pple. of STEP *v.*

Sto·per. [f. STOPE *v.* + -ER [1].] One who stopes.

1875 J. H. COLLINS *Metal Mining* 46 Stopers paid at per ton.

Sto·p-gap. [f. STOP *v.* + GAP *sb.*[1] (From the phrase *to stop a gap*: see GAP *sb.*[1] 2 b and 6 b.)]

† **1.** An argument in defence of some point attacked. *Obs.*

1533 MORE *Debell. Salem* Wks. 986/2 But yet hath this good man one stoppe gappe for me stil, to proue alwai that mi sample is not lyke.

2. Something that temporarily supplies a need; a makeshift. Also, of a person: One who temporarily occupies an office, etc. until a permanent appointment can be made.

1691 SHADWELL *Scowrers* IV. i. 35 Reads. *Yet I have sent you a bill for* 250*l. to receive*...This won't do, but thou art a good Dad, 'tis a pretty Stop Gap. 1732 *Fall of Mortimer* I. i. 9, I hate your Stop-gaps; they were never good for England. 1774 FOOTE *Cozeners* I. Wks. 1799 II. 147, I must desire you to find out some other agent: I declare off! you sha'n't make a stop-gap of me! 1804 COLLINS *Scripscraf.* p. vi, A Bit or a Scrap often serves, as a Stop-gap, to fill up the Void of an idle Hour. 1827 HARE *Guesses* Ser. I. i Moral prejudices are the stopgaps of virtue. 1883 *Athenæum* 8 Sept. 299/1 Altogether his volume is merely a stopgap pending the appearance of the book which is to supersede Mill. 1915 J. H. ROSE *Pitt & Nap. War* xx. 347 Addington soon made it apparent that he was no stop-gap.

3. An utterance intended to fill up a gap or an awkward pause in conversation or discourse.

[1684: see 5.] 1707 J. STEVENS tr. *Quevedo's Com. Wks.* (1709) 416 A Compliment..is the common Stop gap. [*a* 1764, 1885: see 5.] 1886 H. W. LUCY *Diary Gladstone Parlt.* 211 Besides, if he is ever at a loss for a word, he can always throw in 'I am not one of those who', or 'I venture to say'. These stop-gaps..have been found very convincing.

4. In physical sense; Something to stop up a hole. *rare.*

1872 GEO. ELIOT *Middlem.* xli, A bit of ink and paper, which has long been an innocent wrapping or stop-gap, may at last be laid open under the one pair of eyes which [etc.].

5. *attrib.* passing into *adj.*, with sense 'filling a gap, pause, etc.'

1684 J. LACY *Sir H. Buffoon* I. 5 There's my Ladies little Dog..; then a Horse stolen or stray'd..Then there's the old stop-gap *Ditto*; and these are for ever and ever the news of the Gazette. *a* 1764 LLOYD *Ode to Genius* 20 Vain every phrase in curious order set, On each side leaning on the (stop-gap) epithet. 1885 *Proc. Amer. Soc. Psych. Research* I. 312 (Cent.) The 'well's' and 'ah's', 'don't-you-know's', and other stop-gap interjections. 1885 J. CHAMBERLAIN *Sp.* 13 June 146 What will be known in history as the 'Stop-gap' Government.

† **Sto·pine.** *Obs. rare.* [? ad. It. *stoppino* (used in the sense of 'wick'), f. *stoppa* tow. (The It. original has *stoppata*.)] = STUPE.

1582 HESTER *Secr. Fioravanti* II. vii. 88 Laie on [the impostume] a stopine wet with..white of an Egge. *Ibid.* III. lxxxiv. 111 The sinewes of an Oxe beyng dried and made linte to make tentes or stopines, is most excellent.

Stoping (stōu·pin), *vbl. sb.* [f. STOPE *v.* + -ING [1].] The action of the verb STOPE.

1778 W. PRYCE *Min. Cornub.* 97 When met with in stopeing, or driving as aforesaid, they commonly say, 'It is a stope of dead ground.' 1903 *Westm. Gaz.* 16 Sept. 9/1 We have good reason to believe that actual stopings..will expose a much larger amount than can now be seen.

attrib. 1877 RAYMOND *Statist. Mines & Mining* 320 Besides this, stoping ground for 10 men is opened. 1884 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* Suppl. 868/1 *Stoping Drill* (Mining.) One for excavating drifts or horizontally lying beds or steps [etc.].

Stople, obs. form of STOPPLE *sb.*[1], *sb.*[2]

Stopless (stɒ·plės), *a.* [f. STOP *sb.*[2] + -LESS.] Without a stop or stops. **a.** Unceasing. **b.** Of a pipe: Having no stops. **c.** Without punctuation.

1660 DAVENANT *Poem K. Chas. II's Return* 14 Making a civill and staid Senate rude, And stoplesse as a running multitude. 1899 *Academy* 11 Nov. 543/2 A slouching figure playing imaginary tunes on a stopless pipe. 1903 W. JERROLD in *Great Thoughts* 10 Jan. 248/1 The voice gives out before the end of the first stopless stanza of over 60 lines.

Hence **Sto·plessness.**

1859 *Sat. Rev.* 19 Feb. 220/1 Sometimes she works herself up into a state of utter stoplessness—at others, she gives half a page in which the pause of a comma is all the time allowed for refreshment anywhere.

Stoppability (stɒpăbi·liti). *rare.* [f. **stoppable* adj., f. STOP *v.*: see -ABLE and -ITY.] Lack of resistance to stoppage.

1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* IV. 389 To judge of the force or 'stopability' of the pulse it is best to use two fingers and both hands in feeling it.

Stoppage (stɒ·pėdʒ). [f. STOP *v.* + -AGE.] The action of stopping, the condition of being stopped.

1. Deduction from payments; a sum 'stopped' or deducted from the pay of a soldier, workman, or servant.

1465 *Paston Lett.* II. 201, I told hym that..I wold pay hym his dewte without any stoppage. 1747 in *Col. Rec. Pennsylv.* V. 140 The Private Men at the rate of 6d. Sterling per Day, out of which a Stoppage must be made of 4d. for their Provisions. 1802 C. JAMES *Milit. Dict.*, *Stoppages*, in a military sense, deductions from a soldiers pay, the better to provide him with necessaries, &c. 1831 *Act* 1 & 2 *Will. IV* c. 37 § 23 Such Stoppage or Deduction..shall not be in any Case made from the Wages of such Artificer, unless [etc.]. 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* XX. IV. 525 His anxiety that she should receive her income regularly and without stoppages was honourable to him. 1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-mining* 243 *Stoppages*, deductions from miners' wages, such as rent, candles, blacksmith's work, field club, etc. 1912 *Daily News* 8 Mar. 2 A miner works nearly a whole day for stoppages, lamp oil (permanent), tools, doctor, etc.

† **2.** An obstacle, hindrance. *Obs.*

c 1450 *Cov. Myst.* (Shaks. Soc.) 196 To blynde the devyl of his knowlache, And my byrthe from hym to hyde, That holy wedlok was grett stoppage.

3. Obstruction of a road, passage, stream, or current; † *concr.* something that obstructs.

1540 PALSGR. *Acolastus* II. iii. L ij, I haue ouer passed all stoppages of wayes..i. all suche lettes of passage [etc.]..as myght lette me on my waye. 1621 BP. HALL *Heaven upon Earth* § 6, I haue seene a little streame of no noise, which vpon his stoppage hath swelled vp. 1643 BAKER *Chron., Edw. III*, 174 An Act was made in this Kings time, that all Weares, Mils and other stoppages of Rivers..should be removed. 1773 J. FLETCHER *Dreadful Phenom.* title-p., A particular Account of the sudden Stoppage of the River Severn. 1787 JEFFERSON *Writ.* (1859) II. 104 Those States have suffered by the stoppage of the channels of their commerce.

b. A 'block' of the traffic in a street.

1727 *Daily Post* 4 Feb. 1/3 The High Bailiff of Westminster..was ordered to take Care to prevent the Stoppages in the Streets leading to the Parliament House. 1835 DICKENS *Sk. Boz, Mr. Watkins Tottle* ii, When he got into Fleet-street, there was 'a stoppage,' in which people in vehicles have the satisfaction of remaining stationary for half an hour; [etc.]. 1870 DISRAELI *Lothair* xxi, Broughams

whirled and bright barouches glanced, [etc.]..There were stoppages in Bond Street.

c. Closing up of a vessel.

1725 *Bradley's Family Dict.* s.v. *Restoring of Cider*, The ..Flatness of this Liquor is often occasion'd by the too free Admission of the Air into the Vessel, for want of right Stoppage.

4. *Path.* Obstructed condition of a bodily organ.

1575 Turberv. *Faulconrie* 233 You shall finde it ease your hawke greatly and ridde a greate parte of the filthie matter that breadeth the stoppage in his head. 1666 W. Boghurst *Loimogr.* (1894) 32 A very great stoppage at the brest..by degrees all her stopping and lisping left her. 1686 S. Meade in *Trnl. Friends' Hist. Soc.* (1914) Oct. 168 Nathanaell had a loosenesse for aboue 2 weekes, which carried of his flegme & stoppage at his stomacke. 1704 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 3986/4 A Stoppage in his Nose. 1758 *Phil. Trans.* L. 522 But about that age [he] was afflicted with stoppages, which often threw him into convulsive fits. 1799 Underwood *Dis. Childhood* (ed. 4) III. 107 The slightest sympton of which, is that called the Snuffles, or stoppage of the nose. 1818-20 E. Thompson *Cullen's Nosol. Method.* (ed. 3) 319 Order I. Paraphymata, Local Changes..41 *Emphragma.*—Stoppage. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 889 The stoppage of the nose..constitutes a serious impediment to respiration.

5. Arrest or detention of a traveller, or of goods being conveyed from place to place. *Stoppage in transitu, in transit* (Law); see quot. 1862.

1621 in Foster *Eng. Factories Ind.* (1906) 354 In our last wee advised you the stoppage off the Dutches goods likewise by Saffy Caun. 1649 in *Verney Mem.* (1907) I. 446 There being a generall stoppage of all letters. 1777 Cook *Third Voy.* III. i. (1784) II. 13 This stoppage of a favourite article, without assigning some reason, might have occasioned a general murmur. 1817 W. Selwyn *Law Nisi Prius* (ed. 4) II. 1169 Chap. xxxvii. (heading of chapter) Stoppage in Transitu. 1862 J. W. Smith *Man. Common Law* 267 Stoppage in transitu is the resumption, by a vendor of the possession of goods which have been transmitted to, but have not yet come into the actual or constructive possession of, a purchaser who has become insolvent. 1911 J. H. Rose *Pitt & Gt. War* iv. 103 Grenville refused to discuss or explain the stoppage of certain cargoes of grain destined for French ports.

6. The action of stopping or causing to cease.

1657 J. Cooke tr. *J. Hall's Sel. Observ. Engl. Bodies* xcv. 302 The stoppage of Vrine and Strangury..may be joyned together, the one being a totall the other a partiall suppression of Urine. 1696 Floyer *Humours* (J.) The stoppage of a cough, or spitting, increases phlegm in the stomach. 1727 A. Hamilton *New Acc. E. Ind.* II. xii. 106 This Stoppage of Trade and Fishing..made a great Noise among the poorer Sort. 1813 J. Thomson *Lect. Inflam.* 253 The distance in the canal to which this stoppage of the pulsation extends, varies in different cases. 1863 H. Cox *Instit.* i. vii. 85 The House of Lords complained of this stoppage of the issue of writs by the Commons. 1908 *Animal Managem.* (War Office) 326 Stoppage of bleeding is the first point to be attended to if it is serious.

b. Discontinuance of supply.

1865 Dickens *Dr. Marigold* viii, Thereby leading to.. the total stoppage of the unfortunate young man's beer.

7. Cessation of movement or activity; a stop or halt in a journey.

1794 Mrs. Radcliffe *Myst. Udolpho* viii, She raised her eyes on the sudden stoppage of the carriage. 1840 Hood *Up Rhine* 49 Our first stoppage was at Dortrecht on Dort. 1856 Miss Isab. Bird *Englishw. in Amer.* 159 We ran three hundred miles through central Michigan in ten hours, including stoppages. 1865 Tyndall *Fragm. Sci.* (1871) 426 An abrupt stoppage of sensation. 1897 Meredith *Amazing Marr.* I. xv. 169 They had a hamper and were independent of stoppages for provision. 1913 *Times* 13 Sept. 18/5 Unless there is an improved demand we shall soon be hearing of the stoppage of looms through lack of work.

8. *Comm.* The action of stopping payment.

1817 W. Beloe *Sexagenarian* II. 189 It is no less singular, that this failure did not occasion the bankruptcy, or cause stoppage of payment, in any other house. 1828 P. Cunningham *N. S. Wales* (ed. 3) II. 95 It was indeed a stoppage of payment without a concomitant bankruptcy, two things hitherto synonymous in England. 1846 McCulloch *Brit. Empire* (1854) II. 33 There was..a pretty severe run upon the Bank of England, and it was at length apprehended that she might be obliged to make a temporary stoppage. 1864 Mrs. Riddell *Geo. Geith* xxxvi, Norton's stoppage has ruined me. 1891 *Law Times* XC. 377/1 He had been concerned in floating several companies, the stoppage of one of which, it is stated, has ruined a number of persons.

Stoppall, obs. form of Stopple *sb.*[1]

† Sto·ppance. *Obs.* [f. Stop *v.* + -ance.] Something used in stopping or forming a stoppage.

1493 *Ir. Act* 8 *Hen. VII* (1621) 51 Now of late the said Riuers and Podells be filled and stopped, as well by the inhabitants..in estopping or casting of stoppance out of their houses, as doung of beasts as by Tanners [etc.].

Stoppe: see Stop *sb.*[1], *sb.*[2], *v.*, Stope *sb.*[1]

Stopped (stɒpt), *ppl. a.* [f. Stop *v.* + -ed [1].] In senses of the verb.

† 1. (Sense uncertain: ? Stuffed.) *Obs.*

1342-3 *Durham Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 38 In ij stopped salmon emp. iiij s.

2. Obstructed, blocked. Of a hole or crevice: Filled up.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 477/2 Stoppyd, *obstructus.* 1578 H. Wotton *Courtlie Controv.* 237 My stopped eares thou haste compeld to heare. 1582 Bentley *Mon. Matrones* ii. 145 Open thou the stopped eares of mine hart. 1796 Coleridge *To a Friend* [Lamb] 35 With stopped nostril and glove-guarded hand. 1881 Tripplin & Rigg *Saunier's Watchmakers' Handbk.* 279 To clear a stopped hole in a screw-plate. 1899 *Westm. Gaz.* 15 Feb. 5/1 Stopped gas-pipes or burst water-pipes.

† b. Having the voice obstructed; hoarse. *Obs.*

1456 Sir G. Hay *Gov. Princes* Wks. (S.T.S.) II. 157 Sum man [is] stoppit as a crok, and sum elere syngand as a nychtingale.

c. *Stopped-up*: obstructed, suffering from obstruction.

c 1611 Chapman *Iliad* xv. 222 [He] found great Hector, sitting vp, not stretcht vpon his bed, Nor wheasing with a stopt-vp spirit. 1667 *Phil. Trans.* II. 547 Upon taking a slight cold, she was so stop't up, that she could only whisper. 1855 Browning *Andrea del Sarto* 80 In their vexed, beating, stuffed and stopped-up brain.

3. Of a vessel, tube, etc.: Closed with a plug or stopper. Of an organ-pipe: Closed at the top. *Stopped diapason*: see Diapason *sb.* 7.

1601 Daniel *Civ. Wars* vi. xlix, They Mineralls combustible do finde, Which in stopt concaues placed cunningly They fire. 1694 Waller in *Phil. Trans.* XVIII. 155 A stopt Organ-Pipe is an Eighth to the same open. 1720 Mrs. Bradshaw in *C'tess Suffolk's Lett.* (1824) I. 69 You are as close as a stopped bottle, and do not give one the least account how things go on your side of the water. 1827 Faraday *Chem. Manip.* xv. (1842) 390 Broken up and put into stopped bottles. 1841 J. Bishop *Hamilton's Dict. Mus. Terms* App. 117 *Stopt Diapason*, the name of an organ-stop; so called from having its pipes stopped at the top with a wooden plug, by which it is tuned. 1867 Tyndall *Sound* 187 There is no theoretic limit to the subdivision of an organ-pipe either stopped or open. In stopped pipes we begin with a semi-ventral segment, and pass on to 3, 5, 7, &c. semi-ventral segments. 1880 *Grove's Dict. Music* II. 490 A hollow, rather sweet tone, similar to that of a stopped organ pipe. 1891 Hardy *Tess* xiv, The stopt-diapason note which her voice acquired when her heart was in her speech.

† 4. Of dice: Loaded. (Cf. Stop *v.* 12 d). *Obs.*

1600 Rowlands *Lett. Humours Blood* (1874) 59 His stopt Dice with Quick-siluer neuer misse.

5. *Mus.* (See quots.)

1676 Mace *Musick's Mon.* 68 An Open String is more sweet, and Freer of Sound, than a stopt String. *Ibid.* 85 Never take up any Stopt Finger..till you have some necessary Vse of It. *Ibid.* 103 The Stopt-Shake, is (only) differing from the Open-Shake, in that you [etc.]. 1801 Busby *Dict. Mus., Stopt*, an epithet applied to the strings of a violin, violoncello, &c. when brought into contact with the finger-board by the pressure of the fingers.

6. Caused to cease; brought to a standstill; barred from further progress or action.

a 1586 Sidney *Arcadia* III. xix. (1912) 468 Gynecia..besought him to make no delay; using such gestures of compassion insteed of stopped words, that [etc.]. 1599 Porter *Angry Wom. Abington* (Percy Soc.) 14 *Mis. Bar.*..Shall I be chid For such a ——. *Mis. Gou.* What a? nay mistresse speake it out; I scorne your stopt compares. 1850 Hannay *Singleton Fontenoy* I. viii, Things are very bad..Nothing but turnings out, stopped mills, and riots. 1891 Meredith *One of our Conq.* xxviii, The face of a stopped watch. 1898 *Westm. Gaz.* 27 Apr. 8/2 A passenger on board a stopped steamer said that..the soldiers..are enthusiastic for war.

b. Of a bank-note, cheque, etc.: see Stop *v.* 19.

1865 Mrs. Riddell *Maxw. Drewitt* xxix, Robbery of two thousand pounds..assaulting a constable..passing the stopped notes. 1891 *Daily News* 18 July 4/7 A vendor could sell a legally stopped bond, which he knew to be so stopped, to a purchaser who did not know it was stopped.

7. *Phonetics.* Of a consonant-sound: Formed by complete closure of the orinasal passages; explosive.

1874 Sweet in *Trans. Philol. Soc.* 539 The conversion of an open into a stopped consonant is, of course, anomalous. 1885 *Encycl. Brit.* XVIII. 787/1 *margin*, Stopped sounds.

8. *Versification.* Of a line: Ending with the conclusion of a sentence or clause.

1874 Fleay in *Trans. New Shaks. Soc.* I. 2, I cannot speak definitely as to the stopped-line test, not having worked it out. 1875 A. W. Ward *Eng. Dram. Lit.* I. iv. 361 A 'stopped' line is one in which the sentence, or clause of the sentence, concludes with the line.

Stoppel, -ell(e, obs. forms of Stopple *sb.*[1]

Stopper (stɒ·pəɹ), *sb.* [f. Stop *v.* + -er [1].]

1. A person who stops (see the senses of the verb).

† a. One who obstructs the course of (a river); one who stops or fills up holes or chinks.

1480 *Coventry Leet Bk.* 455 They maken dayly als gret diligens as they can to knowe the stoppers of the seid Comien Ryuer,..and when eny be perceyued they ben punysshed. 1611 Bible *Ezek.* xxvii. 9 Thy calkers [*marg.* or, stoppers of chinks, Heb. strengthners].

b. *Hunting.* = *earth-stopper* (Earth *sb.*[1] II).

1848 *Rural Amusem.* 125 The stopper belonging to the pack rarely neglected stopping these earths in the night before the meet.

c. One who brings to a stand or causes to cease.

1533 Bellenden *Livy* iv. (S.T.S.) II. 124 Þe remanent tribunis, quhilkis war stopparis of þe law Agrarie. 1597 Middleton *Wisd. Solomon* iv. 17 When wail is weales, & stelth is welths chiefe stopper. 1611 Cotgr., *Estancheur*, a stopper (of an issue of blood, &c.). 1617 Moryson *Itin.* II. 22 If any be stopped from following of his track the stopper shall answere the goods so tracked. 1913 H. S. Wilkinson in *Rep. 7th Ann. Mtg. Hist. Assoc.* 3 How.. could a leader..find a multitude of his fellow creatures willing to make themselves stoppers of bullets and to part with life itself in obedience to a word..?

d. *Pugilism.* (See Stop *v.* 15 d.)

1840 Blaine *Encycl. Rural Sports* § 4038 He was..an excellent 'stopper', hitting with his right and stopping with his left.

† e. *Tennis.* (See quot. 1585.)

a 1548 Hall *Chron., Rich. III* 35 b, The best stopper that he hath at tenyce shall not wel stoppe without a faulte. *c* 1550 *Dice-Play* (Percy Soc.) 43 Another was rid of his six hundred pounds, at tennis, in a week by the fraud of his stopper. 1585 Higins *Junius' Nomencl.* 296/2 *Factor*,.. the stopper, or he that marketh the chase in playeng, at tennise specially.

f. A player whose office it is to stop balls; in *Cricket*, a wicket-keeper.

1744 in *Lillywhite's Scores* (1862) I. Pref. 10 When y[e] Ball has been in Hand by one of y[e] Keepers or Stopers.. He may go where he pleases till y[e] next Ball is bowled. 1847 Halliwell, *Stopper*, a person at tennis, football, and other games, who stops the balls. 1904 *Daily Chron.* 21 May 9/4 This Sussex stumper..is the best 'stopper' in England.

2. Something that stops up a hole or passage.

1591 Percivall *Sp. Dict., Rombon*, a stopper, *Obturatorium.* 1701 C. Wolley *Jrnl. New York* (1860) 29 The surest..stopper of the Pores of their Bodies against the Winter's cold. 1721 Mortimer *Husb.* II. 333 To tun it up into a Cask,..which stop up only with a loose stopper for two or three Days;..put a Peg into the vent hole loose. 1768 Tucker *Lt. Nat.* II. i. v. 98 Imagining..that the orifices of these nerves are provided with stoppers which the mind draws up at pleasure to give the animal spirits admittance. 1799 Sir T. Munro in Gleig *Life* vii. (1849) 117, I pulled two stoppers of lint out of my ears. 1844 Dufton *Deafness* 85 Sometimes the stopper of wax is removed by a single syringing. 1875 E. White *Life in Christ* v. xxviii. (1878) 471 Thus the opponent's mouth is shut with a stopper of his own invention. 1888 Rutley *Rock-Forming Min.* 7 The stop-cock being closed and the stopper removed from the upper orifice.

fig. 1824 Miss Mitford *Village* I. 64 Lucy never intended to marry this commodious stopper of love-gaps.

b. *spec.* A plug for closing the neck of a bottle, the end of a tube, or the hole for the egress of fluid from any vessel.

Not usually applied to a cork or bung; most commonly it denotes a solid piece of glass, the lower part of which is shaped to fit the neck of a bottle, while the upper part is fashioned to serve as a handle.

1667 *Phil. Trans.* II. 522 A Silver Tube, with a Silver Stopper. 1719 D'Urfey *Pills* (1872) VI. 296 The Hole that let the Liquor run, Was wanting of a Stopper. 1807 T. Thomson *Chem.* (ed. 3) II. 228 A phial closed with a ground stopper. 1843 *Penny Cycl.* XXVII. 464/1 The patent caoutchouc stoppers, which, besides being..cheaper than corks, can [etc.]. 1881 Tyndall *Ess. Floating Matter Air* 32 In a third series [of experiments] the cork stoppers used in the first and second series were abandoned, and glass stoppers employed. 1883 H. J. Powell *Glass-making* 74 Finally the stopper is ground into the mouth of the decanter. 1913 P. D. Scott-Moncrieff *Paganism & Chr. Egypt* ii. 25 *note*, The old 'Canopic' vases, had stoppers in the form of genii supposed to protect the dead.

fig. 1852 Thackeray *Esmond* III. ix, There is no such word as enough as a stopper for good wine.

c. A cork or plug for the mouth of a muzzle-loading musket, to keep out moisture and dust.

1802 C. James *Milit. Dict.* 1859 F. A. Griffiths *Artill. Man.* (1862) 38 The men will be directed to replace their stoppers.

d. = *pipe stopper, tobacco stopper* (see Pipe *sb.*[1] 11 b; Tobacco 3).

1622 J. Taylor (Water P.) *Water-Cormorant* C 2, A pyde coat Page, Who..his Tobacco fils, With stopper, tongs, and other vtensils. 1693 *Humours Town* 63 As the destruction of Pipes is the multiplication of Stoppers, so [etc.]. 1731-8 Swift *Pol. Conversat.* ii. Wks. VI. 328 They say, that the Corruption of Pipes, is the Generation of Stoppers. 1736 [I. H. Browne] *Pipe of Tobacco* ii. 8 Lip of Wax, and Eye of Fire:..And thy swelling ashey Crest, With my little Stopper prest. 1885 J. Payn *Talk of Town* II. 201 Flattening the tobacco in his pipe with its stopper.

e. The plug of a 'stopped' organ-pipe.

1852 Seidel *Organ* 80 The stopping is effected by a sort of capsule, similar to the lid of a round brass box, called the stopper. 1879 *Organ Voicing* 25 If..the stopper and joints of the pipe are sound.

f. = Stopping *vbl. sb.* 4 d.

1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* IV. 207/2 The nail holes, &c., are stopped with hard-stopper made of dry lead mixed with Japan gold size. 1912 H. J. Butler *Motor Bodies* 115 Some add turps and tub lead to help the stopper to harden. This hard stopper is forced in carefully with the putty knife.

† 3. Anything that produces constipation. *Obs.*

1528 Paynell *Salerne's Regim.* M ij, Breadde made with littel leuen nourishethe moche, but the norishement therof is a stopper. 1584 Cogan *Haven Health* iv. 23 Bread ouersweete is a stopper.

† 4. *Anat.* (See quot. and Obturator 1.) *Obs.*

1686 Snape *Anat. Horse* iv. cxx. 187 Two Muscles called *Obturatores*, or Stoppers, because they fill up the wide hole between the *Os pubis* and Hip-bone.

† 5. A shoemaker's tool: = *stopping-stick* (Stopping *vbl. sb.* 7). *Obs.*

1599 Dekker *Shoemaker's Holiday* II. iii. (1610) C 3 b, Hearke you skomaker, haue you al your tooles, a good rubbing pin, a good stopper, a good dresser [etc.].

6. The upper pad of the sole of a greyhound's foot.

1853 'Stonehenge' *Greyhound* vii. 158 When the cut is severe, as for instance, at the root of 'the stopper'. 1856 — *Brit. Rural Sports* I. III. vii. 201 If a Stopper is detached from the leg.., it is far better to remove the hanging portion with the knife.

7. Something that causes to cease or brings to a stand. **a.** *gen.*, esp. in the phrase *to put a stopper on* (? with mixture of sense 2), to put a stop to, *colloq.* or *slang.*

1828 Egan *Boxiana* IV. 188 The Lively Kid met with a stopper to his rush on the nob. 1830 Marryat *King's Own* xl, If you don't clap a stopper on that jaw of yours, by George, we'll cobb you. 1841 Dickens *Barn. Rudge* lviii, If it rested with him to decide, he would put a final stopper on the bird, and his master too. 1859 Gen. P. Thompson *Audi Alt.* II. xcix. 88 The stopper has been put upon the utterance of ideas on both sides the Channel. 1898 B. Burleigh *Sirdar & Khalifa* vii. 107 A bullet so treated expands mushroom fashion upon striking any object and becomes a veritable 'stopper'. 1901 *Wide World Mag.* VI. 301/1 A hit, evidently, for the animal's progress became immediately

slower.' Then Armstrong put in the stopper, his bullet piercing the neck. 1911 MAX BEERBOHM *Zuleika Dobson* v, 56 But that rejection..is no stopper to my suit.

b. *Mech.* An appliance for stopping machinery.

1871 *Abridgm. Specif. Patents, Watches* etc. 111 Whenever a stopper is pressed against the collar, the arbor, and therefore the seconds hand, ceases to rotate. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech., Stopper* (Railway Engineering), A trailing-brake formerly used on inclined planes. It..was thrown into action by the pressure of the cars, if the rope broke. 1903 *Westm. Gaz.* 15 Jan. 2/1 Ramsbottom..invented..the weft-fork-stopper for looms. This stopper, as its name implies, stops the loom when the weft breaks.

c. *Hunting.* An obstacle that is impassable or causes delay.

1832 *Q. Rev.* XLVII. 237 The fence at the top is impracticable—Meltonicé, 'a stopper;' nothing for it but a gate, leading into a broad lane. 1859 EARDLEY-WILMOT *Reminisc. T. Assheton Smith* (1860) 44 The famous story of Lord Kintore coming once to a 'stopper' in the Vale of White Horse, which defied the whole field. 1859 *Sporting Mag.* Mar. 159 They..crossed the old canal, which was another stopper, and allowed the fox to get a long way ahead.

8. *West Indian.* A tree of the genus *Eugenia*.

1884 SARGENT *Rep. Forests N. Amer.* 88 *Eugenia buxifolia*...Gurgeon Stopper. Spanish Stopper. *Ibid.* 89 *Eugenia monticola*...Stopper. White Stopper. *Ibid.*, *Eugenia procera*...Red Stopper.

9. *Naut.* (See quots. 1769.)

For *cat-*, *cathead-*, *dog-*, *ring-*, *wherrit-*, *wing-stopper*, see the prefixed words.

1626 CAPT. SMITH *Accid. Yng. Seamen* 30 Nealed too, looke to your stoppers, your Anchor comes home, the ships a drift. 1644 MANWAYRING *Seamans Dict.* 102. 1711 W. SUTHERLAND *Shipbuild. Assist.* 153 Stoppers of Anchors. ..Stoppers of the Bit. 1769 FALCONER *Dict. Marine* (1780) s. v. *Anchor*, The anchor is suspended at the cat-head by its stopper. *Ibid., Stoppers*, ..certain short pieces of rope, which are usually knotted at one, or both ends..They are either used to suspend any weighty body, or to retain a cable, shroud, &c. in a fixed position [etc.]. 1829 MARRYAT *F. Mildmay* xx, The stoppers were cut, and the anchors dropped.

b. *Fisheries.* (See quot.)

1883 R. F. WALSH *Ir. Fisheries* (Fish. Exhib. Publ.) 11 At the bottom of the nets another rope runs from end to end, and this is called the 'foot line'...Suspended from this foot line..are other ropes, each 27 feet long, and called 'stoppers'.

10. *Comb.* **stopper-berry tree**, the Barbados cherry, *Malpighia glabra*; **stopper-bolt** *Naut.* (see quots.); **stopper-hitch** *Naut.* (see quot.); **stopper-hole** (see quot.); **stopper-knot** *Naut.*, a kind of knot used for the ends of stoppers; **stopper-net** (see quot.).

1750 G. HUGHES *Barbados* 176 The *Stopper-Berry Tree: Lat. Malpighia. 1711 W. SUTHERLAND *Shipbuild. Assist.* 37 To have *Stopper-bolts for the Cables. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech., Stopper-bolt*, a large ring-bolt driven in the deck of a ship before the main-hatch, for securing the stoppers to. 1876 VOYLE & STEVENSON *Milit. Dict.* 410/2 **Stopper-hitch*, a knot for stoppering the fall of a tackle, &c. 1869 S. J. V. DAY *Puddling* in Rankine *Machine & Hand-tools*, In the lower side of the charging door an opening is formed called the **stopper-hole*, through which the puddler introduces his *rabble* for working up the mass of iron. *c* 1860 H. STUART *Seaman's Catech.* 56 A thimble is spliced in one end and a 'double wall' or deck *stopper-knot, is made on the other. 1792 G. CARTWRIGHT *Jrnl. Labrador* I. Gloss. p. xv, **Stopper-net*, a large net for catching seals, which is made to fit the place in which it is fixed.

Hence **Sto·pperless** *a.*, without stoppers.

1863 DICKENS *Uncomm. Trav.* xxii, The stopperless cruets on the spindle-shanked sideboard were in a miserably dejected state.

Stopper (stǫ·pəɹ), *v.* [f. STOPPER *sb.*]

1. *trans. Naut.* To secure with a stopper.

1769 FALCONER *Dict. Marine* II. (1780), *Bosser le Cable*, to stopper the Cable. 1834 MARRYAT *P. Simple* xv, Jump down, then, and see it [the cable]double-bitted and stoppered at thirty fathoms. 1883 *Man. Seamanship for Boys* 234 The first reef-pendant is stoppered and hitched round the boom.

2. To close or secure (a bottle, etc.) with a stopper. Also with *down*.

1868 *Rep. U.S. Commissioner Agric.* (1869) 441 The milk-can is filled full of milk, and so stoppered down that there is no room for the least motion to churn the milk. 1915 *Morning Post* 21 June 8/1 A quart bottle very carefully stoppered.

b. *Metallurgy.* (See quot.) Also with *down*.

1884 W. H. GREENWOOD *Steel & Iron* xx. § 770 The metal is run into the several moulds, which are each 'stoppered' ..either with an iron plate, or simply by throwing on a shovelful of sand, which is then covered with an iron plate, wedged down [etc.]. *Ibid.* xx. § 809 The ingots are properly stoppered down, by throwing a shovelful of sand into the mould on the top of the still fluid metal, and then covering it with an iron plate fastened down by a cross bar [etc.].

3. To fit with a stopper.

1827 FARADAY *Chem. Manip.* xv. (1842) 361 The bottles should be wide-mouthed and accurately stoppered. 1860 *Repert. Patent Invent.* Dec. 443 Improvements in Closing or Stoppering Bottles, Jars, and other Receptacles. 1883 H. J. POWELL *Glass-making* 73 The mouth of the vessel to be stoppered.

4. *slang.* To stop; to 'put the stopper on'.

1821 SCOTT *Pirate* xxxix, Stopper your jaw, Dick, will you? 1905 *Daily Chron.* 24 Apr. 3/4 This elegant Cyril Wentworth, who gaily 'stoppers' men and women by the dozen if they happen to thwart him in the slightest degree.

Stoppered (stǫ·pəɹd), *ppl. a.* [f. STOPPER *v.* + -ED 1.] Fitted with a stopper.

1803 *Phil. Trans.* XCIII. 38 A curved and stoppered tube. 1827 FARADAY *Chem. Manip.* xxiv. 622 Receive the gas when good into stoppered bottles. 1869 S. J. V. DAY *Puddling* 4 in Rankine *Machine & Hand-tools*, A row of stoppered holes.

Stoppering (stǫ·pəriŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. STOPPER *v.* + -ING 1.] The action of STOPPER *v.*

1805 in *Polwhele's Trad. & Recoll.* (1826) II. 537 In ten minutes our rigging was past all stoppering. 1859 F. A. GRIFFITHS *Artill. Man.* (1862) 107, (4) The proper stoppering of the fall, when necessary.

attrib. 1877 *Encycl. Brit.* VI. 402/2 Many substitutes have been proposed for cork as a stoppering agent.

Stopping (stǫ·piŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. STOP *v.* + -ING 1.]

I. 1. The action of the vb. STOP in various senses.

1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* VI. 169 The vpcom wes then Pittit with slayn hors and men; Swa that his fayis, for that stopping, Micht not cum to the vp-cummyng. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* V. 114 Fyrst, to the hunde it mycht gret stoppyn be. 1487–8 *Rec. St. Mary at Hill* (1905) 132 Paide to a dawber for stoppyng of an hole in Sir Iohn lovyers chamber, ..iij d. 1552 HULOET, Stoppynge of wynde, *asthma, obstructio*. 1592 BACON *Observ. Libel* Resusc. (1657) 125 For the Stopping of Traffique..I refer my Self to the Custome-Books. 1677 F. NORTH *Philos. Ess. Mus.* 28 Pipes may be helped by the strength of the blast, and fretted Instruments by a favourable stopping. 1697 DE FOE *Ess. Projects* 321 All discounting of Wages,..stopping of Pay, and the like, to be adjusted by stated and Publick Rules. 1764 *Museum Rust.* IV. 18, I pinch off with my nail such branches as accompany the fruit, to the thickness of about two crown-pieces, which I call stopping. 1842 LOUDON *Suburban Hort.* 613 Pruning may be rendered almost unnecessary by disbudding, disleafing, and stopping. 1873–4 H. SWEET in *Trans. Philol. Soc.* 107 The voice stops (g), (d) and often (b) are weakened after vowels by imperfect stopping. 1875 E. A. DAVIDSON *House-painting*, etc. 12 Stopping consists in filling in and making good all nail-holes, bad joints, cracks, &c. with putty, or with a paste made of putty and white lead, called hard stopping. 1881 GROVE *Dict. Mus.* III. 717 *Stopping*, the technical term for the operation of pressing the fingers on the strings of a violin, viola, etc., necessary to produce the notes. *Double Stopping* is the producing of two notes at once. 1902 *Land & Water* 35 Oct. 616/3 Very naturally they [the boys] prefer a day's stopping [in the coverts] to a day school.

b. Combined with advs., *stopping down, off, out, up*. (See the related verbal phrases under STOP *v.*)

1904 KILBEY *Hand-camera Photogr.* 39 This is the chief use of 'stopping down'.

1856 G. GORE *Pract. Chem.* 77 'Stopping off' to Prevent Deposition. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2407 *Stopping off* (*Founding*), a term applied to the filling up with sand of a portion of a mold, when the casting is desired to be smaller than the pattern from which the mold is formed.

1807 LANDSEER *Lect. Engraving* 232 Either by partial stoppings out, or the increased pressure of his Etching-needle. 1838 in *Newton's Lond. Jrnl.* Conj. Ser. XVI. 64 These stopping-out apparatus are not limited as to their forms or dimensions. 1880 HAMERTON *Etching & Etchers* (ed. 3) App. 338 Stopping-out varnish.

1671 PHILLIPS (ed. 3), *Suffocation*, a choaking, stifling, or stopping up of the breath. 1721 MORTIMER *Husb.* II. 330 The principal Cause that there hath been so much bad Cyder made in most parts of England, was the too early stopping of it up. 1805 *Shipwright's Vade-M.* 136 *Stoppings-up*, the poppets, timbers, &c. used to fill up the vacancy between the upper-side of the bilgeways and the ship's bottom, for supporting her when launching. 1886 *Encycl. Brit.* XXI. 821/1 s.v. *Shipbuilding*, There should be at least two chains on each side secured to the fore-poppets,..and two on each side to the stopping-up. 1912 H. J. BUTLER *Motor Bodies* 114 Opinion is divided as to when the stopping up should take place. Some painters do it now, while others leave it till the filling up..is done.

2. The placing of stops, punctuation.

1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl., Stops, Stopping*, in Grammar. 1837 J. H. NEWMAN *Proph. Office Ch.* 180 They use some anomalous criticism, or alter the stopping, or amend the text, &c. 1880 N. T. (*Rev. Vers.*), Pref. iii. 4 d, Great care has been bestowed on the punctuation. Our practice has been to maintain what is sometimes called the heavier system of stopping. 1902 T. S. OMOND in *N. & Q.* Ser. IX. IX. 276/2 His [Browning's] punctuation..seems an attempt to supply that rhetorical arrangement of clauses which modern stopping altogether ignores.

†**3.** *Path.* Obstructed conditions of an organ: = STOPPAGE 4. *Obs.*

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XIX. xlix. (1495) 891 Soure thynges openyth stoppynges of the splene and of the lyuour. 1528 PAYNELL *Salerne's Regim.* F 4 b, They open the opilations & stoppynges that are wonte to be engendred in suche persons. 1657 COLES *Adam in Eden* cxlv, The Extraction thereof is a Singular remedy against the yellow Jaundice, and Stoppings of the Liver, Spleen, and Womb. 1741 A. MONRO *Anat.* (ed. 3) 86 A *Coryza*, or stopping of the Nose from any other Cause.

fig. 1646 JENKYN *Remora* 33 What coolings were there in our love, what stoppings in our bowels.

II. Concrete uses.

4. Something inserted to stop a hole, crevice, or passage.

1585 HIGINS *Junius' Nomencl.* 264/1 *Endixum*,..the stopping of the glister pipe, which is of cloth, and hangeth by a thred. 1823 J. BADCOCK *Dom. Amusem.* 162 The access of air being prevented by a stopping of paste or mortar so made. 1842 LOUDON *Suburban Hort.* 259 The water in the inner pot..is prevented from escaping through its bottom by the clay stopping at *a*. 1876 PREECE & SIVEWRIGHT *Telegraphy* 230 A stopping of yarn should be rammed into the socket of the pipe before the joint is made.

†**b.** Decayed honey filling the cells of a comb.

1609 C. BUTLER *Fem. Mon.* i. (1623) D ij, So they might live in secula, if..the abundance of noisome stopping would suffer them to abide the Hiues. *Ibid.* vi. (1623) O ij [see COOM *sb.*1 3].

c. *Farriery.* A pad charged with grease inserted within the shoe for the purpose of keeping the horse's foot moist.

1580 BLUNDEVIL *Curing Horses Dis.* cxliv. 62 b, Stop him with Turpentine and Hogs grease molten togither, and laid on with a little towe or flaxe, and then clap on the shooe to keepe in the stopping. 1828 S. F. GRAY *Suppl. Pharmacopæias* (ed. 4) 464 Stoppings for the feet. Tallow 2 lb. [etc.].

d. A composition used to stop holes or crevices.

1823 P. NICHOLSON *Pract. Builder* 417 Filling up cracks and defects with putty, called stopping. 1883 R. HALDANE *Workshop Rec.* Ser. II. 127/1 The 'stopping', as this mixture [of size and whiting] is called, is pressed into the cracks [of the picture] by means of a palette-knife. 1901 J. BLACK *Carp. & Build., Home Handicr.* 43 [Before painting] any knots or resinous places in the woodwork should be coated with 'stopping,' or red lead in varnish.

e. *Dentistry.* The material used for stopping a hollow tooth.

1863 TREVELYAN *Compat. Wallah* (1866) 151 As a dentist once said to me, 'All is not stopping that glitters.' 1896 *Punch* 11 Jan. 24/2 You mustn't bite anything for two hours at least, or you'll spoil the stopping.

5. † **a.** A dam, embankment. *Obs.*

1575 in W. H. Turner *Select. Rec. Oxford* (1880) 375 The banks and stoppings of the waters aboute Sowthe bridge.

b. *Mining.* (See quots.)

1708 J. C. *Compleat Collier* (1845) 46 Care of the Air must be taken in general, That it be not too much Dispersed, or too much liberty given for want of Stoppings. *c* 1790 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) V. 103/2 The passage..must be closed up..by a partition of deals, or by a wall built with bricks or stones, to prevent the air passing that way. This building is called a stopping. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 986 By means of such stoppings placed in the boards next the dip-head level, the air can be transported to the right hand or to the left for many miles. 1911 *Act 1 & 2 Geo. V*, c. 50 § 42 (3) All stoppings between main intake airways and main return airways.

6. *Archery.* (See quot.)

1801 T. ROBERTS *Engl. Bowman* 204 *Stopping*, the extreme part or head of the pile, which is solid.

III. 7. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, in sense 'bringing to a stand', as in *stopping effect, power, quality*; 'coming to a stand, halting', as in *stopping-place, -point*; 'filling holes of crevices', as in *stopping-instrument, -knife, -material, -tool*; **stopping-ground** *Etching* (see quots.); **stopping mixture** *Etching*, a composition to be used as a stopping-ground; † **stopping pan**, a pan for melting materials for making 'stoppings' (sense 4 c); **stopping station**, one of the stations at which an express train stops; † **stopping stick**, a shoemaker's tool (? for filling crevices).

1907 J. H. PATTERSON *Man-Eaters of Tsavo* xxiv. 279 As a matter of fact, however, it [the bullet] went clean through him [the charging lion] without having the slightest *stopping effect. 1837 *Penny Cycl.* IX. 442/1 The parts which are bitten in enough, are now to be covered with what is called *stopping-ground, which is a mixture of lamp-black and Venice turpentine. 1862 *Chamb. Encycl.* III. 497/2 To be firmly pressed with a blunt-pointed *stopping-instrument or 'plugger' into all the interstices of the hollow of the tooth. 1823 P. NICHOLSON *Pract. Builder* 422 Glaziers are likewise furnished with *stopping knives. 1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 767 If the ground be any where broken up, a composition called the *stopping mixture, must be immediately applied to it. 1580 BLUNDEVIL *Curing Horses Dis.* CXV. 53 b, Then fill both his feete with Hogges grease, and bran fried togither in a *stopping Pan. 1848 W. TEMPLETON *Locomot. Eng.* (ed. 2) 73 In nearing any station or *stopping place, the steam must be shut off. 1854 *Poultry Chron.* I. 504 The improvement in these birds is so continuous, that it is hard to say where their *stopping-point will be found. 1896 *Times* 26 Dec. 5/2 In the Chitral campaign the *stopping powers of the Lee-Metford rifle bullet were shown to be so small that [etc.]. 1898 B. BURLEIGH *Sirdar & Khalifa* vii. 106 The soldiers have no faith in the *stopping quality of the Lee-Metford bullet. 1840 *Civil Engin. & Arch. Jrnl.* III. 32/2 One of the '*stopping stations' of all the second class trains being opposite. 1891 *Daily News* 3 Apr. 5/5 Only Bletchley,..Stirling, and Perth are stopping stations by these specially fast trains. 1597 DELONEY *Gentle Craft* I. Wks. (1912) 89 The whetstone, the *stopping-stick, and the paring knife. 1823 P. NICHOLSON *Pract. Builder* 371 The plasterer likewise employs several small tools, called *stopping and picking-out tools.

Stopping (stǫ·piŋ), *ppl. a.* [f. STOP *v.* + -ING 2.]

† **1.** *Med.* Tending to cause stoppage; astringent, constipating. *Obs.*

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XVII. cxiv. (1495) 813 The substaunce [of cole] without the Juys is stoppynge & byndynge. 1562 TURNER *Herbal* II. 66 The sede & roote of it (*nymphea*) with the yelow floure dronken with rede stopping and tart wyne ar good agaynst..isshues. 1608 ARABELLA STUART *Let.* 8 Dec. in Lefuse *Life* (1913) 206, I have sent your lordship some of the stoppingest meat that is [*sc.* cheese]. 1666 G. HARVEY *Morbus Angl.* xxxiii. (1672) 203 Then you must resolve to live without Victuals, there being no meat in the world, but what may be excepted against, in saying this is windy, and that is stopping, &c.

2. That stops, in senses of the verb. *Stopping oyster*: see OYSTER 1 c. *Stopping train*: a train which stops at some or all intermediate stations on a particular line.

a 1529, 1542 [see OYSTER 1 c]. 1676 MACE *Musicks Mon.* 104, I must, with the Stopping Finger (only) cause the *a*, to sound, by taking it off, in a kind of a Twitch. 1854 *Repts. Accid. Railways* 23 The train book kept at Weedon station ..shows the time of arrival and departure of every stopping train. 1888 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 31 Aug. 4/2 If a stopping omnibus is an obstruction, so is a stopping cab.

Stopple (stǫ·p'l), *sb.*1 Forms: 4–6 **stopell**, 5 **stopelle**, **-ylle**, 5–7 **stoppell**, **stople**, 6 **stoppall**,

-elle, -ull, 6–9 **stoppel**, 9 *dial.* **stapple**, 6– **stopple**. Cf. STOUPAILLE, ESTOPPEL. [Partly f. STOP *v.* + -EL [1], -LE: partly aphetic f. ESTOPPEL.]

I. 1. An appliance for closing the orifice of a vessel, tube, etc.; a stopper, cork, bung, or plug. Now somewhat *rare*; usually replaced by STOPPER.

1139. *Iarl Derby's Exped.* (Camden) 72 Et per manus eiusdem pro j stopell pro j botell. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 477/2 Stoppell, of a bottel or oþer like, *ducillus*. 1471 RIPLEY *Comp. Alch.* III. vii in Ashm. (1652) 140 Make thy Stopell of glas. *c* 1480 HENRYSON *Mor. Fab., Wolf & Fox* xix, The fraudfull foxe..with his feith the stoppell, or he stint, Pullit out. 1526 in Gutch *Collect. Cur.* (1781) II. 325 Item deliveryd the ..burnysshing of twoo Flagons and mending the Cheynis and Stoppells. †1600 SURFLET *Country Farm* III. lxii. 574 Euerie one of the [furnace] mouthes shall haue his stopple. *Ibid.* v. xxiii. 725 They draw forth the thinnest of the licour ..by a stopple which they haue for the purpose in the bottome of the fat. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* XXXIII. iv. II. 468 No sooner are the stopples driven and shaken out, but the water gusheth foorth amaine. 1613 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* (1614) 183 The stopple of a Vessell, if it be of Hempe or Flax, may not be thrust in. 1626 MIDDLETON *Wom. beware Wom.* III. iii. 103 Like a cloth-stopple in a cream-pot. 1718 J. CHAMBERLAYNE *Relig. Philos.* (1730) II. xviii. § 6 All the Stopples that are used to the Phials..are corroded by the Particles that ascend. 1823 J. BADCOCK *Dom. Amusem.* 75 Let a phial be provided, which has a cork-stoppel. 1849 EASTWICK *Dry Leaves* 44 Among the ornaments..suspended over the tomb were some stopples of decanters. 1865 E. C. CLAYTON *Cruel Fortune* II. 289 Mademoiselle Marie took up the phial, ..extracted the stopple, sniffed at the contents, then replaced the stopple.

† **b.** *transf.* and *fig.* *Obs.*

1508 DUNBAR *Tua Maritt Wemen* 339 Than with a stew stert out the stoppell of my hals. 1565 JEWEL *Repl. Harding* (1611) 361 The Councell of Salesgunstadium hath straitly charged, that no Priest presume, to say more than three Masses vpon one day, ..which also is a great stopple to M. Hardings *Totquot.* 1628 in Rushw. *Hist. Coll.* (1659) I. 586 Which might serve for a sufficient stopple for the Doctors mouth, to keep in his Doctrine of Necessity. 1691 RAY *Creation* II. (1704) 304 Therefore were there no Shuts or Stopples made for the Ears.

† **c.** *Mus.* The plug of a stopped organ-pipe. Also (see quot. 1801). *Obs.*

1771 ROLAND LE VIRLOYS *Dict. Archit.* III. Vocab. 184 Stopple of an organ, *biseau d'orgue*. 1801 BUSBY *Dict. Mus.* (1811), *Stopples*, certain plugs with which the ancients stopt or opened the holes of a flute..in order to accommodate its scale..to some particular mode. 1876 STAINER & BARRETT *Dict. Mus. Terms.*

† **2.** A stopping or pad (of wet cotton). *Obs.*

1560 WHITTHORNE *Ord. Souldiours* (1588) 39 b, Put in the trumbe a handfull of serpentine pouder vnmixt, next a handfull of the foresaid mixture, after a little pouder, then a stoppell of cotten wet in oyle of gineper.

† **3.** A name for some marine animals. *Obs.*

1713 PETIVER *Aquat. Anim. Amboinæ* Tab. 5/6 *Blatta oblonga maxima*..Great Oval Horn-stopple. *Ibid.* 10/3 *Umbilicus marinus niger*..Black Bone stopple.

4. *Comb.*, as *stopple-cork*, *-maker*; † **stopple-pear**, some variety of pear (? shaped like a stopper).

a 1849 J. C. MANGAN *Poems* (1859) 38 Wrench the *stopple-cork! 1481 CAXTON *Reynard* (Arb.) 16 His fader was Macob the *stoppelmaker*. 1664 EVELYN *Kal. Hort., Dec.* (1679) 30 Pears, ..Gascogne-Bergomot, Scarlet-pear, *Stopple-pear.

† **II. 5.** The action of stopping; a stoppage, prohibition. (Cf. ESTOPPEL 2, 2 b.) *Obs.*

1578 Sir F. KNOLLYS in *MS. Rawl. D. 23* lf. 19 b, To stoppe hir Maiesties owne marchantes from theyre free vente at Hanborroe, hoping that by the stoppall thereof, they shall [etc.]. 1598 MARSTON *Sco. Villanie* II. vii. 205 Their only skill rests in Collusions, Abatements, stoppels, inhibitions. 1600 W. WATSON *Decacordon* (1602) 314 Neither Matchiuel, nor any that euer yet was in Europe [come] neere vnto the Iesuits for Atheall deuises to preuent the stoppels of their stratagems. 1651 J. S. *Prince of Priggs Revels* III. 10 He'l soon recover all by his collusions, Abatements, stoppels, inhibitions.

Sto·pple, *sb.*[2] *Sc.* and *north.* Also 7 **stople**, 9 **stapple**. The stem of a tobacco-pipe. (See PIPE-STAPPLE.)

1681 COLVIL *Whigs Supplic.* (1751) 55 Some have their faces and their throples All scratched with tobacco stoples. *a* 1730 T. BOSTON in Morrison *Mem.* (1899) 6 He..broke in pieces a part of a tobacco-pipe..; bidding the devil beat him as small as that pipe-stopple, if [etc.]. 1898 *Shetland News* 5 Feb. (E.D.D.), He..ramm'd da strae twartree times introw da stapple o' his pipe.

Stopple (stŏ·p'l), *v.* [f. STOPPLE *sb.*[1]] *trans.* To put a stopple on; to close with a stopple.

?1795 COWPER *Moralizer Corrected* 7 [He] Stopped his cruse, replac'd his book Within its customary nook. 1834 H. MILLER *Scenes & Leg.* xix. (1857) 283 Macglashan..received the stoup, stoppled with a bunch of straw. 1857 THOREAU *Maine W.* ii. (1912) 183 A little vial, containing matches, stoppled water-tight.

Stopple, obs. var. STOUPLE, STUBBLE.

Stoppull, obs. form of STOPPLE *sb.*[1]

† **Sto·psel.** *Obs. rare*[−1]. [a. Du. *stopsel*, in Kilian glossed *stuppa* (tow), f. *stoppen* to stuff, stop.: see STOP *v.*] An incendiary missile, consisting of tow, brimstone, etc.

1489 CAXTON *Faytes of A.* II. xxxv. K iiij b, They muste haue appareylled redy pitche, oyle brymstone and towe to make with all grete stopselles that shal be shoten thykke to the engyns of theyre enemyes tyl that they be sette a fyre.

† **Stopull.** *Obs. rare*[−1]. [Of obscure origin and meaning; perh. an error for **scopull* ad. L. *scopulus* rock.]

1508 *Guylforde's Pilgr.* (Camden) 13 Ouer ayenst the for-

sayd yle of Cirigo to ye see wardes is ye Stopull or Cragge called in Greke Ouago. 1517 *Torkington's Pilgr.* (1884) 19 The Stopull of Craggs called in Greke Obagar.

Stop-watch. A watch which indicates fractions of a second by a hand that may be instantly stopped by pressure on a spring or catch, so as to record an exact moment or period of time; chiefly used for timing races.

1737 BRACKEN *Farriery Impr.* (1757) II. 166 Provided he is truly try'd by a stop Watch. 1857 in C. A. Wheeler *Sportascrapiana* 214 Place a practical man with one of M'Cabe's stop-watches at the finishing point. 1888 MRS. CUSTER *Tenting on Plains* xii, The General, with his stop-watch in hand.

b. *fig.* Also *attrib.*

1806 J. BERESFORD *Miseries Hum. Life* VII. lxi, Automata—people who regulate all their thoughts, words, and actions, by the stop-watch. 1817 *Examiner* No. 505. 554 The uncle ..being a stop-watch person always in a hurry. 1821 LAMB *Elia* Ser. 1, *Old Benchers*, He was at once..his guide, stop-watch, auditor, treasurer. 1896 SAINTSBURY *Hist. 19th Cent. Lit.* v. 228 The critic looks only at the weak parts, and he judges the weak parts only by the stop-watch. [Cf. Sterne *Tr. Shandy* III. xii.]

Stopylle, obs. form of STOPPLE *sb.*[1]

† **Stor.** *Obs.* [OE. *stór* masc., rendering L. *storax* and *tus*; perh. a. L. *storax* (see STORAX).] Incense.

c 1000 ÆLFRIC *Hom.* I. 116 Hi..him ȝeoffrodon..gold and recels and myrran..Se stor [ȝetacnode] ðæt he is soð God. *c* 1150 *Kent. Serm.* in *O. E. Misc.* 26 Hi wolden offri him gold, and stor, and Mirre. *c* 1265 *Voc. Plants* in Wr.-Wülcker 556/43 *Olibanus*, encens, stor. *c* 1315 SHOREHAM *Poems* v. 160 Gold, myrre, stor, were hére offrynges. 1340 *Ayenb.* 211 Þet stor huanne hit is ope þe uere smelþ zuete. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) I. 99 In Arabia is store, mir, and canel.

b. *Comb.*: **stor-fat**, a censer.

c 1000 *Sign Language* in *Techmer's Zeitschr.* (1885) II. 120 Donne þu storfæt habban wille, þonne wend þu þine hand ofdune and wege hi, swilce þu styre. *c* 1200 *Vices & Virtues* 143 Swa go upp mine þebede to-foren ðe, swa ðat stor dieth ut of storfate!

Stor, obs. form of STAR *sb.*[1], STOUR.

Storable (stō·răb'l), *a.* Also **storeable**. [f. STORE *v.* + -ABLE.] Capable of being stored.

1868 *Daily News* 26 Aug., Live meat is not a portable or storeable article. 1872 R. S. BALL *Exper. Mechanics* § 544-262 Gunpowder is..energy in a compact and storable form. 1907 *Nation* 9 Mar. 69/2 In some districts storable fruits are hard to find.

Storacke, obs. form of STORAX.

Storage (stō·rĕdʒ). Also 9 **storeage**. [f. STORE *v.* + -AGE.]

1. Capacity or space for storing.

1612–13 FLETCHER *Coxcomb* I. i. (1647) 99/1 They are made like Carrecks, only strength and storage. 1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), *Storage*, Warehouse room for Goods. 1848 S. C. HOMERSHAM *Rep. to Directors M. S. & L. Rlwy.* 55 The storage that can be made available to receive the flood water from this area of drainage ground now stands as follows.

2. The action of storing or laying up in reserve; the condition or fact of being stored.

1828 WEBSTER, *Storage*, the act of depositing in a store or warehouse for safe keeping; or the safe keeping of goods in a warehouse. 1868 *Daily News* 15 July, The Belgian government have determined..to prohibit the manufacture, storage, or transport of that dangerous compound [nitro-glycerine] in Belgium. 1869 E. A. PARKES *Pract. Hygiene* (ed. 3) 13 The chances of contamination of the water during storage are very great. 1879 M. PATTISON *Milton* xiii. 207 Milton's diction is the elaborated outcome of all the best words of all antecedent poetry, not by a process of recollected reading and storage, but [etc.]. 1907 J. A. HODGES *Elem. Photogr.* (ed. 6) 159 Precautions should be taken for dry storage.

b. *Cold storage*: the storing of provisions in refrigerating chambers as a means of preserving them from decay. Also *attrib.* Similarly *cool storage* (see quot. 1906).

1895 *Daily News* 23 Nov. 3/2 We have now a very large capital..invested in cold storage premises in various parts of London. 1906 *Westm. Gaz.* 27 July 7/3 To ensure that the cheese is delivered in uniform good condition the temperature of the four chambers..will be maintained at 45deg. to 48deg. This is known as 'cool storage,' which is distinct from cold storage.

fig. 1907 W. JAMES *Pragmatism* vi. 231 When may a truth go into cold-storage in the encyclopedia? and when shall it come out for battle?

c. *Electr.* (See quot. 1893.)

1881 S. P. THOMPSON in *Jrnl. Soc. Arts* XXX. 30/1 The Storage of Electricity. 1893 SLOANE *Electrical Dict., Storage of electricity.* Properly speaking electricity can only be stored statically or in static condensers, such as Leyden jars. The term has been popularly applied to the charging of secondary or storage batteries, in which there is really no such thing as a storage of electricity, but only a decomposition and opposite combination brought about, which leave the battery in a condition to give a current.

3. A place where something is stored.

1775 in ASH. 1865 E. BURRITT *Walk Land's End* vii. 241 The whole of Dartmoor seems to be a storage of this valuable stone [*sc.* granite].

4. Rent paid for warehousing.

1775 in ASH. 1809 R. LANGFORD *Introd. Trade* 134 Storage, warehouse rent. 1817–8 COBBETT *Resid. U.S.* (1822) 232 This very salt; when brought here from England, has all the charges of freight, insurance, wharfage, storage, to pay. 1862 WATERSTON *Man. Commerce* 303 *Storeage*, a charge for warehouse rent.

5. *attrib.*, as *storage bin*, *capacity*, *charge*, *company*, *dump*, *house*, *hut*, *pile*, *power*, *rent*, *reservoir*, *-room*, *warehouse*.

1900 *Engineering Mag.* XIX. 753/1 The *storage bins for ore, limestone, and coke. 1868 in *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 9) XVI. 458/1 Sixty-seven reservoirs..having a *storage capacity of 336,000,000 feet. 1884 *Law Times Rep.* XLIX. 742/2 The charges in question were warehouse and *storage charges. 1884 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 19 July 5/2 The prospects of electric light companies in general, and *storage companies in particular, have of late been so much overcast that [etc.]. 1882 *Rep. Prec. Met. U.S.* 98 *Storage dumps have been built. 1856 MISS WARNER *Hills Shatemuc* viii, The mill and *storage house kept and owned by Mr. Cowslip. 1894 *Westm. Gaz.* 8 May 5/1 On making inquiries as to who were in the *storage hut at the time. 1913 *Times* 9 Aug. 19/3 At the present time there are 13,114 tons of coal in the *storage pile. 1881 S. P. THOMPSON in *Jrnl. Soc. Arts* XXX. 34/2 *Storage power lessened by heat. 1868 *Routledge's Ev. Boy's Ann.* 341, I paid a month's *storage rent in advance. 1877 RAYMOND *Statist. Mines & Mining* 91 For a supply of water during the dry season we rely almost exclusively upon our *storage-reservoirs. 1848 S. C. HOMERSHAM *Rep. to Directors M. S. & L. Rlwy.* 37 This amount of *storage room is by no means large. 1891 *Daily News* 24 Oct. 7/4 On going into the storage-room he saw a number of pieces of meat. 1904 *Westm. Gaz.* 15 Dec. 11/3 The paper also recommended a system of *storage warehouses as a remedy for low prices arising from exceptionally large crops.

6. Special comb.: **storage battery**, a secondary battery in which a supply of electricity is accumulated; **storage-bellows** (see quot.); **storage cell**, an electrical accumulator; **storage heater**, a heating apparatus for railway carriages, operating by means of stored heat; **storage station**, a place at which electric current is stored for distribution for lighting purposes; **storage tank**, a tank for storage (e.g. of petrol); **storage tuber**, a tuber forming a reservoir of nourishment for the plant.

1881 S. P. THOMPSON in *Jrnl. Soc. Arts* XXX. 35/2 This is one of the rocks on which amateur constructors of *storage batteries have come to grief. 1898 A. TREADWELL *Storage Battery* 206 Probably the largest installation for the operation of storage-battery cars is in Paris. 1891 *Century Dict.* s. v. *Organ*, **Storage-bellows*, horizontal bellows into which the feeders open, and in which the air is kept at a uniform pressure by means of weights. 1881 S. P. THOMPSON in *Jrnl. Soc. Arts* XXX. 30/2 It is doubly difficult to find, in the electric accumulator or *storage cell, anything which can be called stored electricity. 1894 *Westm. Gaz.* 10 Dec. 8/1 The *storage heater is partially filled with a solution of salt water or acetate of soda. 1889 *Daily News* 28 Nov. 6/1 The electric current will in the first place be transmitted..from Draycott-place to the three *'storage' stations. 1897 P. DAWSON *Electric Rlwys.* etc. 366 The required compressed air is carried in a *storage tank provided under each car. 1914 BOWER *Address Brit. Assoc.* in *Nature* 24 Sept. 103/1 The plant is well known to botanists as regards its external features, its normal *storage tuber, [etc.].

Storap, obs. form of STIRRUP.

Storax (stō·ræks). Also (4 **torax**), 6. **stor-a(o)ke**, 7 **storaxe**. Cf. STYRAX. [a. L. *storax*, an early adoption of Gr. στύραξ: see STYRAX. Cf. F. *storax*, It. *storace*, Sp., Pg. *estoraque*.]

1. A fragrant gum-resin described by ancient writers. In early mod. use applied (perh. correctly) to the resin of the tree *Styrax officinalis*; in later commercial and pharmaceutical use to the balsam of the tree *Liquidambar orientale* (more explicitly *liquid storax*).

1382 WYCLIF *Ecclus.* xxiv. 21 As torax [*c* 1388 as storax], and galban,..and as Liban not kut, I smekede my dwelling. 1483 CAXTON *Golden Leg.* 51 b/2 Presente to that man yeftes a lytyl Reysens & hony Storax stacten therebinthe & dates. 1542 BOORDE *Dyetary* xxvii. (1870) 290 Take of storax calamyte half an vnce. 1543 TRAHERON *Vigo's Chirurg.* v. 267 b/1 Then put therunto..of liquide storax .3. vi. 1577 FRAMPTON *Joyful News* I. 7 Mingled with a little Storake, Amber & Muske. 1648 HERRICK *Hesper., Another on Julia* 210 How can I chuse but kisse her, whence do's come The Storax, Spiknard, Myrrhe, and Ladanum. 1694 PECHEY *Compl. Herbal* 333 The resin of Storax, which is sold in the Shops is two-fold, dry and liquid. The dry is called Storax-Calamite..because it is put up in Reeds. 1712 E. COOKE *Voy. S. Sea* 363, 3 Bales Storax. 1820 T. GREEN *Univ. Herbal* II. 637 But the only kinds now to be found in the shops are the Pure and the Common Storax; the former is..of a yellowish or reddish-brown appearance, and interspersed with whitish tears... This has been called Storax-in-the-lump, or Red Storax; and the separate tears, Storax-in-the-tear. The Common Storax is in large masses, [etc.]. 1838 EMERSON *Addr. Cambridge, Mass.* Wks. (Bohn) II. 192 The religious sentiment ..is the embalmer of the world. It is myrrh and storax, and chlorine. 1859 HOOKER in *Man. Sci. Enquiry* (ed. 3) 423 None of the storax found in commerce in modern times is derived from *Styrax officinale* L.

2. The tree *Styrax officinalis*.

1694 PECHEY *Compl. Herbal* 333 A Storax, with the Leaves of Maple, grows in the Lord Bishop of London's curious Garden. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXIII. 181/1 *Styrax officinalis*, officinal Storax.

3. *attrib.*, as *storax-ointment*, *-pill*, *-plant*, *-tree*; **storax-worts** *pl.*, Lindley's name for the N. O. *Styracaceæ*.

1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. App., *Storax-tree*, in botany, the English name of the styrax. 1783 S. CHAPMAN in *Med. Commun.* I. 267 The storax pill was desired to be repeated. 1846 LINDLEY *Veg. Kingd.* 593 Storax worts are sparingly distributed, for the most part through the tropical or subtropical regions of both hemispheres. 1876 HARLEY *Royle's Mat. Med.* 414 The Storax Tree. *A tree resembling the*

plane.., 20 to 60 feet high. 1891 *Century Dict.* s. v. *Ointment, Storax ointment*, liquid storax and olive-oil.

Storb, variant of STURB *v. Obs.*

† Storbilon. *Obs. rare*⁻¹. [a, OF. *estorbillon*, extended form of *torbillon* (mod.F. *tourbillon*), f. L. *turbo* spinning-top, whirlwind.] A whirlwind.

c 1315 SHOREHAM iv. 7 Senne makeþ storbylon, þar scholde be godes peys.

Stordy, obs. form of STURDY.

Store (stōə1), *sb.* Forms: 3–7 **stor**, 4 **stoer**, 4–5 **stour**, 5 **stoun**, **stoher**, 5–6 **stoore**, 6 **stoare**, **stowre**, *Sc.* **stoire**, **stoyr**, 9 *dial.* **stoar**, 6–7 **stoir**, 3– **store**. [ME. *stor*, aphetic f. ASTORE *sb.*, a. OF. *estor* (= Pr. *estor*, Anglo-L. *staurum*, *instaurum*) vbl. noun f. *estorer*: see STORE *v.* (The W. *ystôr*, Irish *stór*, Gael. *stòr*, are from English.)]

1. a. *sing.* (without indef. art.) That with which a household, camp, etc., is stored; food, clothing, and other necessaries, collected for future use. Now *rare*. † Also furniture (of a house or building).

1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 8138 So þat þe cristinemen adde þer þe maistrie & tresour founde & stor inou. 13.. *Sir Beues* 1295 Þe palmer nas nou3t wiþouten store, Inou3 a leide him before Bred and flesc out of his male. 13.. *Coer de L.* 1656 They schyppys armes, man and stede, And stoor, her folk al with to fede. *c* 1330 *Poem Evil Times Edw. II* 387 in *Pol. Songs* (Camden) 341 For beof ne for bakoun, ne for swich stor of house. *c* 1400 *Gamelyn* 354 Who made the so bolde For to stroien my store of my housholde. *c* 1440 *Jacob's Well* 128 Whan þou seruaunt stelyst in house mete & drynke, henne or chekyn, or oþer stoor. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* v. 1036 Bath breid and aylle, gud wyne and othir stor. 1542–3 *Act* 34 & 35 *Hen. VIII*, c. 10 § 4 It shalbe lawfull to everye persone..to make coverlettes..for theyre owne use or store of theyre householdes. 1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 174/16 Store of house, *supellex*, *res familiaria*. 1581–2 *Wills & Inv. Durham* (Surtees) III. 91 To my wife..my farmehold in Buckton, the tower with all things belonging, and all the stofe upon it. 1582 in Feuillerat *Revels Q. Eliz.* (1908) 356 For the hire of three cartes to remove the store of the office to Wyndesor. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* v. 322 Small store will serve, where store, All seasons, ripe for use hangs on the stalk. 1821 SHELLEY *Hellas* 556 The garrison of Patras Has store but for ten days.

fig. 1835 T. MITCHELL *Acharn. of Aristoph.* Introd. p. viii, In the Iliad and Odyssey..the Spartans found..ample store for cultivating that love of genealogies and antiquities, which characterised them.

† b. *To keep, take to* or *for one's own store*: to appropriate, take possession of. *Obs.*

c 1385 CHAUCER *L. G. W.* 2337 He..kepte her to his usage and his store. (1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) VII. 25 þe earle..took þe mayde to his owne store [L. *suis usibus puellam applicuit*]. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 239 It is other mannes riht, Which he hath taken..To kepe for his oghne Stor. 1426 LYDG. *De Guil. Pilgr.* 8563 Thys, the blyssyd saphyr trewe,..Kep hyt for thyn owne stoor, ffor yt sauyth euery soor.

c. *collective pl.* Articles (such as food, clothing, arms, etc.) serving for the equipment and maintenance of an army, a ship; occas. of a household, etc. Cf. MARINE STORES.

1636 in Rymer *Fœdera* (1735) XX. 126 The King..granteth to John Wells, the Office of Clerk and Keeper of all his Majesty's Stores and Storehouses at Deptford Strond, Chatham, [etc.]. 1664 *Act* 16 *Chas. II*, c. 5 § 4 Whereas diverse of his Majesties Stores and Ammunition pertaining to his Navy and Shipping or Service thereof are imbezilled and filched away. 1736 *Gentl. Mag.* VI. 443 Ordnance and Stores sent by his Majesty's Order in Council, dated April 3, 1735. 1802 C. JAMES *Milit. Dict., Stores, Military*, are provisions, forage, arms, clothing, ammunition, &c. 1845 DISRAELI *Sybil* v. vi, Now dark streets of frippery and old stores, now market-places of entrails and carrion. 1846 A. YOUNG *Naut. Dict.* 324 *Stores of a vessel*, the ropes, sails, provisions and other outfit with which she is supplied. 1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) III. 683 The docks were full of triremes and naval stores. 1889 MRS. HAWEIS *Art of Housekeeping* 92 Hints for the Storeroom. It is better to give out stores daily than weekly, and weekly than monthly.

† 2. Live stock. In later use chiefly in phrases *young, old store*. *Obs.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 2447 Bot fra þair store [*v.rr.* stor, stoor] bigan to sprede þe pastur þam bigan to knede. *c* 1375 *Ibid.* 1527 (Fairf.) Iobal was his eldest sone stoer of fee he dalt wiþ. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Prol.* 598 His lordes..swyn, his hors, his stoor, and his pultrye, Was hoolly in this Reues gouernyng. *a* 1440 *Sir Degrev.* 72 Grett herdus in the playnus Wyth muchelle tame store. 1530 PALSGR. 276/2 Store of horses, *monture*. 1536 BELLENDEN *Cron. Scot., Cosmogr. Albion* viii. (1821) I. p. xxxiii, Merchand with Cathnes lyis Sutherland, ane proffitable cuntre baith for store and cornis. 1538 ELYOT *Dict., Armentum*, store of horse or nete. *Ibid., Pecuaria*, store of catell. 1551 ROBINSON tr. *More's Utopia* I. (1895) 55 After farmes pluckyd downe, and husbandry decayed, ther is no man that passyth for the breadyng of yonge stoore [L. *non sunt qui fœturam curent*]. 1590 R. PAYNE *Brief Descr. Ireland* (1841) 13 Swine will not be full growen before they be two yeeres old: so the first yeere you can kill but your old store. 1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* I. 49 Marr..rache in store and pastural. *a* 1688 J. WALLACE *Descr. Orkney* ii. (1693) 16 Eagle[s] or Earns, and Gleds are here in plenty, and very harmfull to the young store. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* IV. 795 Four Heifars from his Female Store he took.

† 3. A body of persons. *Obs.*

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* A. 847 And þa3 vch day a store he feche, Among vus commez non oþer strot ne stryf. *c* 1460 *Towneley Myst.* XII. 457 Ye ar of the old store, It semys you, Iwys. 1563 A. NEVILLE in *B. Googe's Eglogs* (Arb.) 23 By this alone The olde renowmed Stoore Of Auncient Poets lyue,

4. Sufficient or abundant supply (*of* something needful). † Hence (more fully, *great, good store*), abundance, large number or quantity (of something whether desirable or not).

Proverb, *Store is no sore*, i. e. abundance does no harm.

1471 RIPLEY *Comp. Alch.* XII. viii. in Ashm. (1652) 186 For wyse men done sey *store ys no sore*. 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* xiv. 59 Sic stoir of vyce, sa mony wittis vnwyce Within this land was nevir hard nor sene. 1568 GRAFTON *Chron.* II. 202 He helped forwarde that good store of forfeites and fines were gathered into the kingis treasury. 1570–6 LAMBARDE *Peramb. Kent* (1826) 121 They [the Danes] armed more store of chosen souldiers and entred the River of Thamise with five & thirtie Saile. *c* 1572 GASCOIGNE *Flowers* Wks. 1907 I. 63 Store makes no sore. 1594 PLAT *Jewell-ho.* II. 8 Ships..are pestred..with exceeding store of mice. 1598 HAKLUYT *Voy.* I. 54 In certaine places thereof are some small store of trees growing, but otherwise it is altogether destitute of woods. 1612 *Two Noble K.* I. iii. 6 Store never hurtes good Gouernours. 1615 G. SANDYS *Trav.* 249 Hereabout are great store of Tarantulas: a serpent peculiar to this countrey. 1653 H. COGAN tr. *Pinto's Trav.* xxii. 79 Having first given orders to his Junks to shoot continually at the town..wheresoever they perceived any store of people assembled. 1659 HAMMOND *Ps.* XXXVIII. Annot. 206 Applying the words to his streights in general, store of which it is certain he had. 1677 WOOD *Life* (O.H.S.) II. 371 Great store of snow fell that day. 1705 tr. *Bosman's Guinea* 180 Plunder is their chief aim, instead of which they often get good store of blows. 1712 MOTTEUX *and Pt. Quix.* XLIII. (1749) IV. 62 You can't eat your cake and have your cake; and store's no sore. 1759 R. BROWN *Compl. Farmer* 44 This kind must have great store of food. 1844 THACKERAY *Box of Novels* Wks. 1899 XIII. 415 Think of all we owe Mr. Dickens,..the store of happy hours that he has made us pass. 1853 M. ARNOLD *Scholar Gypsy* ix, Oft thou hast given them store Of flowers.

† b. Plenty; abundance (of food or necessaries).

1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 55 b, Ye common people leaving theyr daily labor, toke such things as they neded of others yt had store. 1590 LODGE *Euphues Gold. Leg.* B 4 b, Riches (Saladyne) is a great royalty, & there is no sweeter phisick than store. *a* 1642 FULLER etc. *Abel Rediv., Gryneus* (1651) 536 Christ, as in life, so He in death is store. [= L. *Christus ut in vita, sic quoque morte lucrum est.*] 1711 POPE *Temple Fame* 450 Of loss and gain, of famine and of store. 1712 SWIFT *Fable Midas* 49 By starving in the Midst of Store, As t'other Midas did before.

† c. *In* (*great, good*) *store*: in abundance. *Obs.*

1600 FAIRFAX *Tasso* VII. XXV, It was a fountaine from the liuing stone, That powred downe cleere streames, in noble store. 1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* 137 There is no region or countrey in the world, where these are not bred in some store, as shall be declared afterwarde in the particular discourse of euery kind of Dogges. 1621 tr. *Ir. Act* 28 *Hen. VI*, c. 3 Whereas the theeues and euil doers encrease in great store. 1700 S. L. tr. *Fryke's Voy. E. Ind.* 288 Goats are in good store here.

d. Used *advb.* or as postpositive or predicative adj. = 'in store', in plenty, abundant(ly). Also *good, great store*. Now *arch.* and *dial.*

1569 PRESTON *Cambises* 858 (Manly) The poets wel, in places store, of my might doo expresse. 1577 HANMER *Anc. Eccl. Hist., Evagr.* V. xix. 500 Then there were captiues great store, and cheape inough. 1578 T. N. *In Commend. Lyte's Dodoens*, Till Rembert he, did sende additions store, *a* 1586 SIDNEY *Ps.* XXV. xi, Behold my foes, what stoare they be. 1604 E. G[RIMSTONE] tr. *Acosta's Hist. Indies* III. xxii. 187 Peru doth surpasse it in one thing, which is wine, for that there growes store, and good. *c* 1620 *Women Saints* 24 And whereas no Saints want enuious enemies, as our Sauiour had store, and [etc.]. 1619 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Kicksey Winsey* B 5 b, Your stockes are poore, your Creditors are store, Which God increase, and decrease, I implore. 1624 CAPT. SMITH *Virginia* V. 170 Numbers of Mulberies, wild Oliue-trees store. 1648 MILTON *Ps.* LXXXVIII. 9 For cloy'd with woes and trouble store Surcharg'd my Soul doth lie. 1650 B. *Discolliminium* 13 We shall have as many changes as my Mare hath paces, and she hath pretty store. 1673 RAY *Journ. Low C.* 5 In..Bruges..are no more than seven Parish Churches, but of Monasteries or Religious Houses..good store, 60 according to Golnitz. 1694 J. CLAYTON *Acc. Virginia* in *Phil. Trans.* XVIII. 125 Wolves there are great store. 1718 POPE *Iliad* IX. 62 Ships thou hast store. 1810 SCOTT *Lady of L.* III. i, The race of yore..Told our marvelling boyhood legends store, Of their strange ventures. 1830 JAMES *Darnley* IV. I, 60 There might be seen the inimitable ham of York, with manifold sides of bacon,..and cheeses store. 1855 *Whitby Gloss.* s.v., 'He likes the situation good store,' that is, very much.

5. A person's collective possessions; accumulated goods or money. † *To gather to store*: to hoard up money.

1303 R. BRUNNE *Handl. Synne* 6117 He gadred vn-to store fast, þat hys purs he fylled at þe last. 1596 SHAKS. *Merch. V.* I. iii. 54 *Shy.* I am debating of my present store, And by the neere gesse of my memorie I cannot instantly raise vp the grosse Of full three thousand ducats. 1615 CHAPMAN *Odyss.* XI. 226 Or if my store My wife had kept together. 1693 DRYDEN *Persius* VI. 183 Increase thy Wealth, and double all thy Store. 1700 — *Ovid's Met.* VIII. *Baucis & Phil.* 34 Though little was their Store, Inur'd to Want, their Poverty they bore. 1753 MISS COLLIER *Art Torment.* II. ii. 111 If you bring no fortune to your husband, you should be as insolent as if you had increased his store by thousands. 1779 J. NEWTON *Olney Hymns* II. lviii. 252, I envy not the worldling's store, If Christ and heav'n are mine.

b. *transf.* and *fig.*

1684 DRYDEN *To Mem. Mr. Oldham* 11 O early ripe! to thy abundant Store What could advancing Age have added more? 1697 — *Virg. Georg.* III. 482 The salacious Goat encreases more; And twice as largely yields her milky Store. 1770 GOLDSM. *Des. Vill.* 59 For him light labour spread her wholesome store.

† 6. Something precious; a treasure. *Obs.* (see b).

1410 in *26 Pol. Poems* ix. 181 And arraye 3ow wel perfore To vesceyue god, 3oure soules store. 1412–20 LYDG. *Chron. Troy* I. 2114 It sitteth nat a womman lyue alone; It is no stor but bei haue more þan oon. *c* 1426 *Abraham's Sacrif.* 216 in *Non-Cycle Myst. Plays* (1909) 32 She was wont to calle me hir tresoure and hir store.

b. In various phrases with the sense 'to value, esteem, prize; make account of': † *To tell, make, hold, set* (*great, little; no*) *store of* (obs.); † *to set at* (*much, little*) *store* (obs.); to *set* (*great*, etc.) *store by*; *to* † *put, set* (*great*, etc.) *store upon*.

c 1386 CHAUCER *Wife's Prol.* 203 And by my fey I tolde of it no stoor They had me yeuen hir gold and hir tresour. *c* 1400 *Beryn* 4 For hem þat hold no store Of wisdom. 1413 in *26 Pol. Poems* xii. 28, I wolde set hit at lytel store. *c* 1440 LYDG. *Horse, Goose & Sheep* 440 But here this sheepe..Set litill stoor of swerd or Arwis keene. *c* 1460 *Towneley Myst.* III. 92 Bi me he settis no store. 1525 BERNERS *Froiss.* II. c. [xcvi.] 293 They wolde make no stoore of hym. 1540 PALSGR. *Acolastus* I. i. D iv, If thou..set any store by thy helth. 1553 BRENDE *Q. Curtius* Q iii, If I shoulde make a little store of them, for whome I had done so muche [L. *si, in quos tam magna contuleram, viliores mihi facerem*]. 1561 T. HOBY tr. *Castiglione's Courtyer* IV. (1577) Y iv, Hee deserued not to haue anye more store made of him. 1565 UNDERDOWNE *Heliodorus* IV. 59 And therefore I should lose that I sette moste stoare by. 1600 W. WATSON *Decacordon* (1602) 159 They [the Jesuits] make no more store of a man or woman's life,..then they do of the death of a dogge or a mouse. 1737 BRACKEN *Farriery Impr.* (1757) II. 108 Those Medicines which will do the greatest Feats are least Store set by. 1768 STERNE *Sent. Journ., Starling* (1778) II. 36 The bird had little or no store set by him. 1797 MRS. A. M. BENNETT *Beggar Girl* (1813) III. 241 The precious metal, on which they set so high a store. 1860 RUSKIN *Unto this last* IV. § 61 Much store has been set for centuries upon the use of our English classical education. 1862 LATHAM *Channel Isl.* III. XIV. (ed. 2) 331 Upon the Icelandic sagas many have put great store. 1876 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* (ed. 2) I. App. 674 The reader will not be inclined to set much store by the authority of Osbern. 1895 *Law Times* XCIX. 546/2 Students..though they may attend classes..do not rely on or..set much store by them. 1908 J. B. MAYOR in *Expositor* July 19 She sets more store by her own vow than by the promise of the Messiah.

† c. *To stand* (a person) *in store*: to be valuable to. *Obs.*

? 1463 *Paston Lett.* (1904) IV. 65 It shuld stand me in gret stoher if it mygth be do closly and suerly.

7. A stock (of anything material or immaterial) laid up for future use. Phrase, *to lay in a store*.

1487–8 *Rec. St. Mary at Hill* (1905) 137 Beside this Ther is spente of your stoor, in lathes, xxiij c. 1573–80 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 53 Thresh barlie thou shalt, for chapman to malt. Else thresh no more but for thy store. *c* 1600 SHARS. *Sonn.* XXXVII. 8 For whether beauty, birth, or wealth or wit, ..Entitled in thy parts do crowned sit, I make my love engrafted to this store. 1725 WATTS *Logic* (1736) 72 You..will obtain a rich Store of proper Thoughts and Arguments upon all Occasions. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* VIII. 54 Their leaves must be gathered..and kept in a dry place, if it be necessary to lay in a store. 1808 SCOTT in *Lockhart* I. i. 45 My desk usually contained a store of most miscellaneous volumes. 1841 THACKERAY *Gt. Hoggarty Diam.* xii, All day she sat working at a little store of caps and dresses for the expected stranger. 1842 LOUDON *Suburban Hort.* 407 The greater part of the nourishment to the seeds being furnished by the store laid up in the plant. 1845 JAMES *Arrah Neil* ii, Whenever I have an opportunity I lay in a store in my own stomach for the journey. 1875 MANNING *Mission Holy Ghost* Pref. p. ix, These united would make a precious store for students and for preachers. 1881 S. P. THOMPSON in *Jrnl. Soc. Arts* XXX. 31/2 A piece of coal represents a store of energy. So does a bag of hydrogen gas. So does a piece of zinc.

† b. The stock of a tradesman; the tools, etc. of a workman. *Obs.*

1605 BACON *Adv. Learn.* I. vi. § 16 As if we should judge or construe of the store of some excellent Ieweller, by that which is set out toward the streete in his Shoppe. 1615 E. S. *Britain's Buss* A 3, Thirdly, the particulars of her Carpenters store; and of her Stewards store.

c. *collect. plural.* Stocks, reserves; often in immaterial sense, treasures, accumulated resources.

1520 *Coventry Leet Bk.* 674 A veu was takon by the said Maier and his brethern what stores of all Maner of Corne, and what nombre of people was then within the said Cite. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Past.* VII. 76 Lavish Nature laughs, and strows her Stores around. 1697 POTTER *Antiq. Greece* IV. i. (1715) 162 To fasten to some Part of their Body the most precious of all their Stores. 1699 T. BAKER *Refl. Learn.* Pref. A 2 b, And then it must be done by reasons borrow'd from the Stores of Learning. 1748 GRAY *Alliance* 14 Instruction on the growing Powers Of Nature idly lavishes her Stores. 1780 *Mirror* No. 80 An author, who..has added to the stores of natural history the following very curious facts. 1807 CRABBE *Par. Reg.* III. 388 Then we beheld her turn an anxious look From trunks and chests, and fix it on her book..; And then once more, on all her stores, look round. 1854 *Poultry Chron.* II. 65 If they can climb these glorious hills,..lay in stores of health and fresh air [etc.].

8. Storage, reserve, keeping. Now somewhat *rare*. Phr. *to keep* (young animals) *for store*; cf. 13 c and 9.

1487–8 *Rec. St. Mary at Hill* (1905) 135 Item, for mendyng of ij olde lockes with the keyes for stor. 1555 EDEN *Decades* (Arb.) 110 Certeine fruites..whiche they reserue for store as wee doo chestnuttes. *c* 1600 SHAKS. *Sonn.* XI. 9 Let those whom Nature hath not made for store, Harsh featureless and rude, barrenly perish. 1625 B. JONSON *Staple of N.* V. vi, The vse of things is all, and not the Store. 1638 R. BAKER tr. *Balzac's Lett.* (vol. III.) 3 Base wares get no value by Store. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* VI. 515 Sulphurous and Nitrous Foame..they reduc'd To blackest grain, and into store conveyd. 1707 MORTIMER *Husb.* 185 Some esteem them the best Pigs to keep for Store that suck the foremost Teats. 1811 *Regul. & Orders Army* 26 It is their duty

to control..the Issue, and Delivery into Store, of all Articles of Camp Equipage. 1859 Reeve *Brittany* 6 Two boxes of chemicals, one for use and the other for store.

b. *In store*: in reserve, laid up for future use. Hence (of events or conditions in the future) *in store for*: awaiting (a person).

c 1386 Chaucer *Clerk's Prol.* 17 Youre termes, youre colours, and youre figures, Keepe hem in stoor, til so be that ye endite Heigh style. *c* 1421 in *26 Pol. Poems* xix. 13 Man! is pe laft no loue in store? 1497 *Naval Acc. Hen. VII* (1896) 124 Wheles in store Shodd iiij pair Bare xiiij pair. 1535 Coverdale *Isa.* xxxvii. 30 This yeare shalt thou eate that is kepte in stoare, & the next yeare soch as groweth of himself. 1550 Crowley *Epigr.* 712 For unlesse ye repent, God hath vengeaunce in store. 1590 Spenser *F. Q.* II. x. 20 Then for her sonne...was young,..In her owne hand the crowne she kept in store, Till ryper yeares he raught. 1651 Hobbes *Leviath.* III. xl. 255 They alwaies kept in store a pretext, either of Justice, or Religion, [etc.]. 1657 in *Verney Mem.* (1907) II. 61, I shall be confident that Heaven hath a perticuler blessing in store for mee and for my family. 1732 Berkeley *Alciphr.* vi. § 5, I have so many objections in store you are not to count much upon getting over one. 1849 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* iii. I. 306 *note*, It was determined..that a hundred and seventy thousand barrels of gunpowder should constantly be kept in store. 1857 Dickens *Dorrit* I. xxxv, What such surprise can be in store for me? 1874 *Punch* 25 Apr. 180/1 Better days are in store for men and husbands. 1913 Willcock *Sir H. Vane* iv. 56 Nothing but humiliation was in store for Vane.

9. A sheep, steer, cow or pig acquired or kept for fattening. (From the attributive use 13 c., to which quot. 1620 may belong.)

1620 *Inv. Wm. Toller* in *Essex Rev.* (1907) XVI. 206, 1 stor and a cowbullocke iij[li] x[s]. 1776 A. Young *Tour Irel.* (1780) I. 45 Pigs. Bought in stores in September, at 7 *s.* to 20 *s.* each. 1812 *Examiner* 7 Sept. 564/1 Fat stock rather cheaper, but stores, with the exception of pigs, still dearer. 1815 *Hist. John Decastro* IV. 15 Take my brother his rent,.. and you may set out in the morning to fetch the stores..it is my positive order that no goads be used. 1844 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* V. I. 74 The practice with regard to feeding pigs..is to put up early in the spring some strong stores of twelve-months old. 1874 Rankin *Domin. Australia* xiii. 233 They then, if 'stores', pass to the rich salt-bush country of Riverina. 1890 'R. Boldrewood' *Col. Reformer* xx, I have to meet a man about a largish lot of stores that we're dealing over. 1898 Morris *Austral Eng.*, *Store*, a bullock, cow, or sheep bought to be fattened for the market. 1901 *Scotsman* 3 Apr. 7/3 Stores met a fair trade, and fat cattle brought satisfactory returns. 1911 *Daily News* 1 May 6 May is the month ..when the paddock is alive with frolicsome little pigs, fast growing into 'stores'.

†**10.** Means for storing, receptacles for storage.

1497 *Naval Acc. Hen. VII* (1896) 123 Store for cranes & gynnes..ij chestes.

11. A place where stores are kept, a warehouse; a storehouse. Also *fig.*

1667 Milton *P. L.* vii. 226 The golden Compasses, prepar'd In Gods Eternal store, to circumscribe This Universe. 1707 J. Logan in *Penn & Logan Corr.* (1872) II. 231 We are to have a good store there to put thy goods in. 1755 Johnson. 1828–32 Webster, *Store*, a storehouse; a magazine, a warehouse. Nothing can be more convenient than the stores on Central wharf in Boston. 1899 *Westm. Gaz.* 24 Aug. 5/1 The structure was used as a military hay and fodder store. 1911 Sir H. Craik *Earl Clarendon* xx. II. 159 Her naval stores and arsenals were equipped with careful industry.

12. A place where merchandise is kept for sale.

a. Chiefly *U.S.* and *colonial.* In early use, a shop on a large scale, and dealing in a great variety of articles (see quot. 1808). Now, the usual U. S. and colonial equivalent for Shop *sb.* 2. Phr. *to keep, tend store.*

1748 *Pennsylv. Gaz.* 24 Apr. 4/2 At his store opposite the George in Arch Street. 1752 *Ibid.* 25 June 4/3 Where Mr. Samuel Burge kept store. 1757 Washington *Lett. Writ.* 1889 I. 490, I..beg the favor of you to choose me ..as much thread as is necessary in Mr. Lewis' Store, if he has them. If not, in Mr. Jackson's. 1772 *Boston Gaz.* 23 Nov. (Thornton s. v. *Tend*) A person that can tend Store, or wait on a private Gentleman. 1808 Ashe *Trav.* I. 40 It [Pittsburg] possesses upward of forty retail stores. *Ibid. Foot-n.*, The common name for the places of sale in America and the colonies; differing from shops in being generally larger, and always dealing in a vast variety of articles. 1836 [Mrs. Traill] *Backw. Canada* 124 A store is..nothing better than what we should call..at home a 'general shop'. 1844 'Jon. Slick' *High Life N. York* I. 2 They told me that he kept store away down Pearl street. 1861 Mrs. Meredith *Over the Straits* II. 41 Some tolerably good 'stores' (as we designate those colonial Shops-of-all-work). *a* 1872 in Schele De Vere *Americanisms* 641 He wanted to write up books, to tend store, or do anything to make an honest living. 1875 W. McIlwraith *Guide to Wigtownsh.* 43 Here are two or three little grocery stores. 1880 *Austral. Town & Country Jrnl.* 14 Feb. 314/4 This great city (of the future) is yet unbuilt, except one public-house and a store, blacksmith's shop, and very small telegraph and post office. 1907 J. H. Patterson *Man-Eaters of Tsavo* I. 11 [Mombasa] has several excellent stores where almost anything, from a needle to an anchor, may readily be obtained.

b. In Great Britain from about 1850, the word has been current in the designation *co-operative store*, denoting the shop in which a co-operative trading society exposes goods for sale (originally to its own members only, but now usually also to the outside public). Now commonly in *plural* ('The Stores'), applied esp. to the establishment of any of the larger London co-operative societies, which consists of a number of departments, each dealing in a separate class of goods. In imitation of this use, the plural ('—'s Stores', '— & Co.'s Stores') is often adopted as the designation of a trading establishment resembling 'The Stores' in extent and in multifariousness of business.

1852 [see Co-operative *a.*]. 1865 *Sat. Rev.* 21 Jan. 79/2 The first development of the principle which obtained considerable results was the Co-operative Store. 1881 *St. James's Mag.* XL. 389 Ladies of highest rank and fashion struggling through crowds of ill-clad people at the Stores. 1889 Mrs. Haweis *Art of Housekeeping* 97 These materials are bought infinitely cheaper at the Stores, than at the chemists. *Mod.* I know nothing about local prices; I deal at the Stores.

pl. const. as *sing.* 1914 *Times* 28 Aug., The head of a great stores has explained to a representative of *The Times* some of the difficulties with which [etc.].

13. *attrib.* †**a.** with the sense 'of the nature of store', 'hoarded up'. *Obs. rare.*

a 1626 Bacon *Advt. Holy War* Misc. Wks. (1629) 100 Of this Treasure, it is true, the Gold was Accumulate, and Store Treasure, for the most part. 1633 T. James *Voy.* 57 Wee made bags of our store shirts.

b. Designating a receptacle, repository, depot or transport for stores or supplies, as *store-back, -bag, -box, -cage, -cask, -cellar, -chamber, -city, -closet, -cupboard, -drawer, -loft, -place, -pond, -shed, -tent, -tub, -vat; store-boat, -craft, -sloop, -vessel*, etc. Also Storehouse, Store-room.

1839 Ure *Dict. Arts* 406 Discharging the purified spirit into the *store-back. 1730 J. Southall *Treat. Buggs* 10, I open'd my *Store-Bags, took out one Piece of Beef, some Biscuits and a Bottle of Beer. 1822 J. Woods *Two Yrs.' Resid. Illinois* 87 The master of the *store-boat..had freighted his boat with store-goods and fruit. 1898 *Daily News* 26 Aug. 5/2 These store-boats will be towed by the British gunboats to every camp which we form near the Nile. 1826 Samouelle *Direct. Collect. Insects & Crust.* 68 *Store Boxes. 1677 N. Cox *Gentl. Recr.* III. 60 If you would know whether your Canary-bird be in health before you purchase him, take him out of the *Store-cage, and put him in a clean Cage alone. 1773 *Gentl. Mag.* XLIII. 515 Two men..attempting to go down a ladder into a large *store-cask, in order to clean it, were immediately suffocated. 1656 *Act Commw.* c. 19 (1658) 453 The..Store-houses, Ware-houses, *Store-cellars..of every Vintner or Retailer. 1624 in *Archæologia* XLVIII. 148 In the *Storechamber. 1611 Bible 2 *Chron.* viii. 6 All the *store-cities [1 *Kings* ix. 19 cities of store] that Solomon had, and all the charet-cities. 1825 T. Hook *Passion & Princ.* v, The..key of the *store-closet. 1796 W. Vaughan *Exam.* 7 Coal-barges..converted into floating *store-craft, in order to save the expense of wharfage. 1903 Kath. Tynan *Hon. Molly* xxix. 308 The *store-cupboard, the linen-closet, the china-closet. 1865 Ruskin *Sesame* i. § 36 One of the newspaper paragraphs which I am in the habit of cutting out and throwing into my *store-drawer. 1612 in *Antiquary* (1906) XLII. 29/1 Imprimis in the *Store lofte foure iron wedgs..and other olde iron and lumber. 1852 Hanna *Mem. Dr. Chalmers* IV. 401 An old deserted tannery whose upper storeloft, approached from without by a flight of projecting wooden stairs, was selected. 1507 *Reg. Privy Seal Scot.* I. 223/1 Al and sindri his and tharis landis,..stedymnis, *store placis, grangis, [etc.]. 1879 Ld. Coleridge in E. H. Coleridge *Life & Corr.* (1904) II. 238 To treat it [a chapel] as a store-place for tools and ladders. 1708 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4453/3 Large *Store-ponds, and Sunponds for making of Brine. 1879 Castle *Law of Rating* 76 They were rateable for a *store-shed. 1776 Mickle tr. *Camoens' Lusiad* Introd. p. xl, Here the *store-sloop, now of no farther service, was burnt by order of the admiral. 1870 *Routledge's Ev. Boy's Ann.* 592 A *store-tent where most of the Iron Barkers bought their groceries. 1845 G. Dodd *Brit. Manuf.* IV. 127 The paint..is conveyed into *store-tubs. 1826 *Vintner's, Brewer's* etc. *Guide* 122 *Store vats..for keeping beer till wanted for sale. 1791 Smeaton *Edystone L.* § 85 To moor a *store-vessel in the neighbourhood of the rocks.

c. Designating animals kept for breeding or as part of the ordinary stock of a farm, also animals bought lean to be fattened; as *store beast, bullock, cattle, cow, pig, sheep, sow, stock, swine*; **store-farm**, a farm on which cattle are reared, a stock farm; also *store-farmer, -farming, -master.*

1602 *Inv.* in *Collect. Archæol.* (1863) II. 111 One sow and ij store pigges. 1681 Flavel *Meth. Grace* xi. 245 'Tis better like store-cattle to be kept lean and hungry, than with the fatted ox to tumble in flowery meadows. 1683 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1872/4 Ten Scotch Store-Bullocks. 1733 W. Ellis *Chiltern & Vale Farm.* 353 If they are eat off with Store-sheep. 1764 in *Morison's Dict. Decis.* (1806) XXXIII. 14512 The said William Porteous, and others, store-masters and tenants in the parishes of Lesmahago, [etc.]. 1772 *Ann. Reg.* 110/1 The mortality has been as great in most of the other store-farms. 1787 Winter *Syst. Husb.* 227 Stale meat ..should be cleared out, and given to store swine. 1801 *Farmer's Mag.* Apr. 220 The sheep-graziers or store masters, who occupy much of the higher parts of the country. 1808 Forsyth *Beauties Scot.* V. 271 The store-farmer, who rears the sheep. 1815 *Hist. John Decastro* IV. 15 A journey of forty miles to bring home a lot of store beasts to take place of the fat lot which had been just sold. 1822 W. J. Napier (*title*), A Treatise on Practical Store-Farming. 1823 E. Moor *Suffolk Words, Store*, applied to a domestic animal, especially to a sow, means one kept for breeding. 'A store sow.' 1844 Stephens *Bk. Farm* II. 71 The store-sheep in Scotland—that is, the ewe-hoggs—are always fed as fully as the wether-hoggs which are intended to be fattened. 1858 Simmonds *Dict. Trade, Store-master*, the tenant of a store farm, that is, a sheep walk in Scotland. 1885 Mrs. C. Praed *Head Stat.* xvii. I. 283 Oh, we are not fit for anything but store-cattle: we are all blady grass and brigalow scrub. 1901 *Scotsman* 3 Apr. 7/3, 191 fat cattle, 486 store cattle, 76 fat sheep, 120 store sheep.

d. *U.S.* and *colonial.* In sense 'of or belonging to a store or shop', as *store-book, -boy, -girl, -rent*; 'purchased or purchasable at a store', as *store boots, clothes, goods, shirts, sugar, tea*; **store pay** (see quot. 1848). Also Storekeeper.

1741 Tailfer etc. *Narr. Georgia* 29 And we may safely affirm (and appeal to the Store-Books for the Truth of it) that [etc.]. 1800 *Publ. Acts U.S.* 6th Congr. 1. c. 57 § 1 The expense of the navy store at Philadelphia, comprising storekeeper's salary, clerk hire, store rent [etc.]. 1822 J. Woods *Two Yrs'. Resid. Illinois* 75 There were twelve tons of store-goods [on board]. 1840 Maury in Mrs. Corbin *Life* (1888) 33 A shop-boy, or as we say in the West, a store-boy. 1848 Bartlett *Dict. Amer.* App. 411 *Store pay*, payment made for produce or other articles purchased, by goods from a store, instead of cash. 1859 *Ibid.* (ed. 2) 453 *Store clothes, store goods*, clothing or other articles purchased at a store, as opposed to those which are home made. 1872 Schele de Vere *Americanisms* 206 Store-sugar, or sugar made from the cane. *Ibid.* 395 It was soon discovered that store-tea was all over the interior of the country the name for genuine tea. 1876 Besant & Rice *Golden Butterfly* xxxi, A stove-pipe hat, store boots, and go-to-meetin' coat. 1891 *Century Dict.* s. v., *Store* teeth (humorously used for *false teeth*).

e. pertaining to 'the Stores' (see 12 b), as *store price.*

1889 Mrs. Haweis *Art Housekeeping* 115 The calculation is based on the prices of the best London tradesmen [etc.]..West-end dairyman, fruiterer, greengrocer, and fishmonger; baker and grocer (Store prices).

Store (stōəɹ), *v.* Forms: 4 stoore, 6 stoare, 7 *Sc.* stoir, stor, 3– store; *pa. pple.* 3–4 istored, 4–5 ystored, -id. [Aphetic var. of Astore *v.*, a. Of. *estorer* to build, establish, furnish, stock, fortify, restore:—L. *instaurāre*, whence Instauration. Cf. Enstore, Instore *vbs.* Sense 4 is prob. a new formation on Store *sb.*]

1. *trans.* To furnish, supply, stock (a person, place, etc.) *with* something.

1264 *Pol. Songs* (Camden) 70 The Kyng of Alemaigne..Brohte from Alemayne mony sori gost to store Wyndesore. *c* 1275 Lay. 13412 Alle þine castles ich habbe wel istored. 1338 R. Brunne *Chron.* (1810) 160 Isaac did it store, to hold for tuo 3ere. *c* 1386 Chaucer *Shipm. T.* 273 Certein beestes þat I moste beye To stoore with a place þat is oures. *c* 1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 1788 He tellit before þat an egle suld him store. 1530 Palsgr. 737/2 I have storyd my parkes and my pondes. 1586 Ferne *Blaz. Gentrie* 226 That noble familie..stored the crowne of England, well nigh the space of foure hundreth yeares. *a* 1595 Southwell *St. Peter's Compl.* (1602) 15 Sweet volumes stoard with learning fit for Saints. 1595 Shaks. *John* v. iv. 1, I did not thinke the King so stor'd with friends. *a* 1661 Fuller *Worthies, Wilts* 155 After he had stored himself with home-bred Learning. 1720 De Foe *Capt. Singleton* vi. (1840) 99 We stored ourselves..with fiesh and roots. 1722 N. Blundell *Diary* (1895) 187, I sent two Doz. yong Pigeons to Mr. Plumbe to Store his Dove-Coat. 1837–40 W. Irving *Wolfert's R., Mountjoy* (1855) 69 These studies..store a man's mind with valuable facts. 1857 Livingstone *Trav.* Introd. 2 His memory was stored with a never-ending stock of stories. *a* 1883 J. Russell *Remin. Yarrow* iv. (1894) 84 Most of the lakes are stored with pike, perch, eels, and trout.

absol. (for *refl.*) 1803 *Naval Chron.* IX. 494 The *Prevoyante*..is storing at this port.

†**b.** const. *of. Obs.*

c 1400 Maundev. (1839) xix. 207 No Cytee of the World is so wel stored of Schippes, as is that. 1422 Yonge tr. *Secreta Secret.* xiii. 142 Bethynke the that thow be well y-storid of whete and of corne. 1521 *Guylforde's Pilgr.* (Camden) 59 Where some of vs went a longe..to store vs of newe vytaylles. 1633 C. Farewell *East-Ind. Colation* 41 Theyr Wives and Concubines (whereof they are stored according to theyr states). 1657 R. Ligon *Barbadoes* 19 The Leeward Ilands, ..of which the Bay of Merixo [*read* Mexico] is well stor'd.

†**c.** To dose *with* (drugs or medicines). *Obs.*

1722 De Foe *Hist. Plague* (1754) 36 Storeing themselves with such Multitudes of Pills, Potions, and Preservatives,.. that they..even poison'd themselves before-hand.

2. a. To reinforce, provide for the continuance or improvement of (a stock, race, breed). *Obs.* exc. *Sc. dial.* in *to store the kin*: see quot. 1866.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 2940 [Lot's daughter speaks], I think man-kind sal perist be, Bot it be stord wit me and pe. 1607 Topsell *Four-f. Beasts* 626 The sheepe of Spaine were of no reckoning til they were stored with the breed of England. 1866 Gregor *Banffsh. Gloss., Store the kin*, to live; very often used, with a negative, of a person to appearance dying; as, 'He's unco ill; a doot he winna store the kin lang'. 1909 C. Murray *Hamewith* 90 Content gin mony towmonds still we're left to store the kin.

†**b.** To produce as offspring; also, to breed, rear (young animals). *Obs.*

1611 Heywood *Golden Age* iv. i. H 2, Or shall a stranger beare you to your tombe, When from your owne blood you may store a Prince To do those sacred rights. 1629 *Orkney Witch Trial* in *County Folk-Lore* (1903) III. 80 He..storit never ane calff of fyftene ky be the space of thrie yeirs.

†**3.** To restore (what is ruined or weakened). *Obs.*

1387 Trevisa *Higden* (Rolls) VII. 189 Harald..stored Herford, and closid it with kesting up of a diche [*Herefordiam instaurans vallo cingit*]. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 727 [She] Storet thee to strenght & þi stythe londes. 14.. *Guy Warw.* (Cambr. MS.) 3842 And thorowowt my londe fare And store ageyne, þat lorne was are.

4. To keep in store for future use; to collect and keep in reserve; to form a store, stock or supply of; to accumulate, hoard.

1600 Shaks. *A. Y. L.* II. iii. 40, I haue fiue hundred Crownes..Which I did store to be my foster Nurse. 1620 T. Granger *Div. Logike* 120 How many seedes the sleepy poppy stores. 1671 Milton *Samson* 395 My capital secret, in what part my strength Lay stor'd. 1791 Cowper *Iliad* IV. 165 Safe stored it lies, By many a Chief desired. 1820 Keats *Eve St. Agnes* xx, All cates and dainties shall be stored there. 1842 Tennyson *Dora* 50 But Dora stored what little she could save, And sent it them by stealth. 1874

L. STEPHEN *Hours in Libr.* (1892) I. viii. 270 The vast accumulation of incoherent facts..stored in a capacious memory. 1881 S. P. THOMPSON in *Jrnl. Soc. Arts* XXX. 30/2 In the electric accumulator, by which we want to store electric currents, we use a chemical storage. *Ibid.* 32/1 In an ounce of gunpowder is stored about 10,000 foot-pounds of energy. 1893 D. J. RANKIN *Zambesi Basin* xiv. 241 The drink [thus made] is consumed immediately after its manufacture, and is never stored.

fig. 1842 TENNYSON *Ulysses* 29 And vile it were For some three suns to store and hoard myself.

absol. 1906 M. SELLERS *Eastland Co.* (Camden) Introd. 58 When there was a glut they stored; when there was a scarcity they threw goods into the market.

b. With *up*, *away*, † *in*.

1552 HULOET, Store vp, *reponoo*. 1561 T. HOBY tr. *Castiglione's Courtier* I. (1577) F iij b, The true glory, that is stored vppe in the holy treasure of letters. 1601 SHAKS. *All's Well* II. i. 111 Many receits he gaue me, chieflie one, Which..He bad me store vp, as a triple eye, Safer then mine owne two. 1718 *Free-thinker* No. 89. 237 Their Memory increases by daily storing up a Variety of Knowledge. 1770 G. WHITE *Selborne, To Pennant* 22 Feb., I never could find that they stored in any winter provision, as some quadrupeds certainly do. 1866 *Sci. Rev.* Sept. 96/2 This curious property of acetate of soda enables us, by means of it, to store up and recover solar heat at pleasure. 1879 LUBBOCK *Sci. Lect.* i. 10 She [a bee]..goes back to the hive, stores away her honey, and returns..for another supply. 1881 S. P. THOMPSON in *Nature* 2 June 106/1 The currents stored up in the secondary battery are however not stored up as accumulations of electricity. 1912 J. S. M. WARD *Brasses* xv. 103 He stored them away and forgot all about them.

c. *spec.* To deposit (goods, furniture, etc.) in a store or warehouse for temporary preservation or safe-keeping.

1899 *Grocery* 15 May 125/3 [He] exhibited some California Newtown pippins, which had been stored since last December, as an instance of what cold storage could do. *Mod.* I shall store my furniture and spend a year in travelling.

5. Of a receptacle: To hold, keep, contain, have storage-accommodation for.

1911 *Concise Oxf. Dict.* s.v., A single cell can store 2000000 foot-pounds of energy.

Hence **Sto·ring** *vbl. sb.* (also *attrib.*) and *ppl. a.*

1494–5 *Rec. St. Mary at Hill* (1905) 214 Item, for storyng of the bemelight & canstikes..ij s j d. 1573–80 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 35 No storing of pasture with baggedglie tit. *a* 1586 SIDNEY *Ps.* IV. vi, Whose store..Of grain and wine fills stoaring place. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* v. 324 Save what by frugal storing firmness gains To nourish. 1726 LEONI *Alberti's Archit.* I. 98 *a* The gathering together and storing up the fruits of the harvest. 1884 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 13 Sept. 9/1 The lofts over the stable were used as a storing place for hay and straw. 1901 *Scotsman* 3 Apr. 7/4 There was a moderate show of storing cattle. 1907 A. C. BENSON *Altar Fire* 150 What would be idleness in another is for him a storing of forces.

Store: see STIR *v.*, STORY, STOUR, STOWER *sb.*[1]

Stored (stōᵊɹd), *ppl. a.* [f. STORE *v.* + -ED [1].]

1. Laid up in store; kept in reserve as a store or stock; accumulated, hoarded.

1581 A. HALL *Iliad* v. 80 Sith fate no children did him leaue He forced was his stored wealth to strangers to bequeaue. 1605 SHAKS. *Lear* II. iv. 164 All the stor'd Vengeances of Heauen fall On her ingratefull top. 1879 W. CORY *Lett. & Jrnls.* (1897) 449 The stored water on which one's gardening depends. 1881 S. P. THOMPSON in *Nature* 2 June 106/2 A dozen times as much stored energy. 1885 *Athenæum* 28 Nov. 698/1 His three volumes are the stored harvest of a long..life. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* IV. 609 Only a small portion of the stored fat in the body comes directly from that consumed with the food.

b. with *up*, *away*.

1859 LEVER *Dav. Dunn* lxxv. 658 You..know little of the stored-up happiness your very name has afforded me for many a day. 1890 L. C. MIALL *Obj. Lessons fr. Nature* II. xv. 196 You have only to dry..the plant to get back a good deal of its stored-up energy. 1900 *Everybody's Mag.* III. 581/1 Others came to offer certain stored-away preserves.

2. Stocked, furnished or supplied with a store. Also with qualifying adv.

1612 BACON *Ess., Greatness Kingd.* (Arb.) 472 Walled Towns, stored Arcenals and Armories. 1835 J. DUNCAN *Beetles* (Nat. Libr.) 81 A well-stored cabinet of Coleoptera. 1865 LEA in Mrs. Lecky *Mem. Lecky* (1909) 45 Your richly stored pages show how much there is to be learned. 1882 BAIN *James Mill* vi. 277 Men of stored and cultivated minds.

† **Sto·reful,** *a.* *Obs. rare*[−1]. [f. STORE *sb.* + -FUL.] Copiously supplied, opulent.

1598 FLORIO, *Vberifero*, plentifull..rich, store-full, fat.

Sto·reholder.

1. = STOREKEEPER 1.

1869 *Daily News* 8 Sept., The charge of conspiracy against a storeholder and a foreman in the Woolwich Arsenal.

b. The possessor of a store of something. ? *nonce-use.*

1907 SAINTSBURY in *Q. Rev.* Jan. 144 That marvellous storeholder of Balzacian treasures, the Vicomte de Spoelberch de Lovenjoul.

2. A receptacle for a store of a commodity.

1886 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 9 Dec. 4/1 Upon compression, the gas is turned into wrought iron storeholders.

Sto·rehouse. [f. STORE *sb.* + HOUSE *sb.*]

1. A building in which goods are stored.

1348 *MS. Acc. Exch. K. R.* 470/18 m. 9 Pro vna serura noua empta pro hostio del storhus vj. d. 1463 *Bury Wills* (Camden) 22 She to haue the storehous therto to leye in hire stuffe. 1526 TINDALE *Luke* xii. 24 Which nether have stoore housse ner barne. 1605 SHAKS. *Macb.* II. iv. 34 Where is Duncans body? *Macd.* Carried to Colmekill, The Sacred Store-house of his Predecessors, And Guardian of their Bones. 1664 PEPYS *Diary* 12 July, And fine storehouses there are and good docks. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* III. ii. 307 One of these huts..the Indians made use of for a storehouse. 1857 RUSKIN *Pol. Econ. Art* i. § 9 Laying up your wheat wisely in store-houses for the time of famine. 1890 *Rlwys. Amer.* 300 The supplies are..delivered at the General Storehouse.

b. *attrib.* and *Comb.*

1497 *Naval Acc. Hen. VII* (1896) 240 The vtter Storhouse Dore in the seid Ship. 1540 PALSGR. *Acolastus* II. iv. M iv b, Now that I am become the storer or storehouse keper of this puissant lorde. 1548 in Feuillerat *Revels Edw. VI* (1914) 40, ij° croked boltes ffor the store howse dore. 1809 in *Orders in Council Nav. Service* (1866) I. 257 Clerk and Storehouse Keeper. 1816 *Ibid.* 260 One Storehouse Labourer. 1833 *Ibid.* 190 The first and second classes of storehouse labourers, who are men charged with an important trust of great responsibility. 1886 *Ibid.* (1888) V. 125 We would recommend that Your Majesty may be graciously pleased to sanction the appointment of a Storehouseman (Civil rating) to that Ship..and to be assisted by a Yeoman of Storerooms.

2. *transf.* and *fig.* Often, a store or treasury from which something may be obtained in plenty; an abundant source (*of*).

1578 BANISTER *Hist. Man* v. 72 The liuer, the shoppe or storehouse of bloud. 1589 GREENE *Menaphon* (Arb.) 68 Arcadie, storehouse of Nimphs, and nurserie of beautie. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* II. vi. 6 She..greatly ioyed merry tales to faine, Of which a store-house did with her remaine. 1671 MILTON *P. R.* II. 103 My heart hath been a store-house long of things And sayings laid up, portending strange events. 1690 LOCKE *Hum. Und.* II. x. § 2 Memory, which is as it were the Store-house of our Ideas. 1846 WRIGHT *Ess. Mid. Ages* I. v. 203 The history..published by Geoffrey of Monmouth opened a rich storehouse of fiction for the poets who followed. 1856 SIR B. BRODIE *Psychol. Inq.* I. ii. 59 The brain..is the store-house of past sensations. 1881 WESTCOTT & HORT *Grk. Test.* Introd. § 5 Books that are professedly storehouses of information.

Storekeeper (stōᵊ·ɹkīpəɹ).

1. One who has charge of a store or stores; one who superintends the receipt and issue of stores; *spec.* an officer or official in charge of naval or military stores.

1618 in J. Charnock *Hist. Mar. Archit.* (1801) II. 238 Under storekeepers, Chatham. 1663 PEPYS *Diary* 5 Mar., Troubling me and other friends for getting him a place (that is, storekeeper of the Navy at Tangier). 1704 CHAMBERLAYNE *Pres. St. Eng.* III. (ed. 21) 532 Yeoman-Sadler and Store-keeper. *Ibid.* 575 Officers of Her Majesty's Yards. At Chatham...Store-keeper. 1751 JOHNSON *Rambler* No. 113 ℙ 8 That the best storekeeper was the mistress's eye. 1798 HINDERWELL *Hist. Scarborough* 81 Besides whom, the military establishment consists of R. V. Drury, Esq. Storekeeper; a Barrack-Master, [etc.]. 1809 *Lond. Chron.* 1 July 2/3 Mr. John Trotter, jun. the Storekeeper-General, and some of the other heads of departments, have gone to Portsmouth. 1838 LYTTON *Alice* IV. v, The post of Storekeeper to the Ordnance. 1876 *N. Amer. Rev.* CXXIII. 300 A dishonest store-keeper at a distillery. 1890 *Rlwys. Amer.* 307 Everything in the nature of material..passes through the Store-keeper's books.

2. *U.S.* and *Colonial.* A shopkeeper.

1741 P. TAILFER etc. *Narr. Georgia* 107 Augusta..is principally if not altogether, inhabited by Indian Traders and Store-keepers. 1775 A. BURNABY *Trav.* 38 The chief of the inhabitants are storekeepers or public officers. 1817 M. BIRKBECK *Notes Journ. Amer.* (1818) 97 The store-keepers (country shopkeepers we should call them) of these western towns. 1857 D. P[USELEY] *Rise Australia* etc. 421 Geelong..Richardson, S., storekeeper. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade, Store-keeper*,..the name for a retail dealer or shop keeper in the Colonies, who keeps a miscellaneous assortment of all kinds of commodities. 1887 F. FRANCIS Jun. *Saddle & Mocassin* 61 To and fro flitted a few busy store-clothed store-keepers and clerks.

b. *U.S. slang.* An article that remains so long on hand as to be unsaleable. 1891 *Century Dict.*

Storeman (stōᵊ·ɹmæ̆n).

1. A man placed in charge of stores or supplies; a storekeeper, esp. in the army.

1859 F. A. GRIFFITHS *Artil. Man.* (1862) 113 No. 10..performs the general duties of storeman. 1910 *Blackw. Mag.* Feb. 256/2 The accused [soldier], a man of long service and excellent character, was 'storeman' of his company.

2. A workman employed in the storage of goods.

1885 *Weekly Echo* 5 Sept. (Cass.) The question of wages of shifters and store-men has been referred to arbitration.

3. *U.S.* and *Colonial.* One who keeps, or serves in, a 'store' or 'stores'; a shopkeeper, shopman. Also **storesman.**

1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade, Storeman*, the keeper of a general store; a shopman, one who serves in a store. 1862 F. SINNETT *Acc. S. Australia* 34 Rates of wages obtainable ..Storemen, 7s. to 8s. [per day]. 1885 *Macm. Mag.* Feb. 281/2 If the storesman is..engrossed in..excited talk it is generally about a bond which wants renewing, or an ostrich, or some oranges or mealies, or the next clip of wool.

Storer (stōᵊ·rəɹ). Also 6 **stoarer, storyar,** *Sc.* **storour(e, -are, storrour, stourour.** [f. STORE *v.* and *sb.* + -ER [1].]

1. One who, or a thing which, stores or keeps in store.

1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* VII. ix. 23 Tirrheus thair fader was fee maister, and gyde Of studis, flokis, bowis; and heyrdis wyde, As storoure to the king, did kep and ȝime. *Ibid.* XII. Prol. 263 Welcum stourour of alkynd bestiall. 1540 PALSGR. *Acolastus* II. i. I iij, The storer of some well moneyed mayster .i. the keper or ouerseer of the prouision for householde. 1571 GOLDING *Calvin on Ps.* lxix. 10 Yᵉ trew rule of Godlynesse..whereof yᵉ church is yᵉ faithful storer. 1640 T. BRUGIS *Marrow of Physicke* I. 55 Memory is the sure storer of all things, as in a magazine. 1864 E. A. PARKES *Pract. Hygiene* 89 Sulphurous Acid Gas.—The bleachers in cotton and worsted manufactories, and storers of woollen articles, are most exposed to this gas.

b. One who hoards, lays by, or makes provision, *for* (a need).

1599 HAYWARD *1st Pt. Life Hen. IV*, 59 The King in peace no stoarer for war. 1622 MABBE tr. *Aleman's Guzman d'Alf.* I. 26 My Mother was a storer, a thrifty Wench. 1907 *Athenæum* 14 Sept. 307/1 The coal-tit is undoubtedly a storer for the future.

† **c.** ? A partner or shareholder in a joint-stock undertaking. *Obs.*

1623 in *Trans. New Shaks. Soc.* (1885) 499 The said Thomas Greene..was a fellow Actor or player of and in the Companie..of the late queenes Maᵗⁱᵉ Queene Anne,..and a full adventurer, storer and sharer of in and amongst them.

d. One who stocks or peoples.

1690 C. NESSE *Hist. & Myst. O. & N. Test.* I. 125 To him who was the first storer of the world [*sc.* Adam].

2. Something kept to produce a store or stock.

a. = STANDEL 1. ? *Obs.*

1543 [see STANDEL 1]. 1572 *B. N. C. Munim.* 24.27, Storyars. 1670 J. SMITH *Eng. Improv. Reviv'd* 100 About 2 years after the planting one of the best plants is to be reserved as a Standil or Storer. 1721 MORTIMER *Husb.* II. 109, I divided my Trees into three sorts, *viz.* first Storers, which I reckoned all to be that were under 12 Inches Circumference; secondly, Saplings, which I called all under 24 Inches Circumference; and what was two Foot Circumference..I reckoned Timber-trees. 1792 *Jrnls. Ho. Comm.* 13 Feb. 234/1 Storers, or Saplings.

† **b.** A number of animals kept for breeding. *Obs.*

1569 in W. H. Turner *Select. Rec. Oxford* (1880) 330 They have put fyve swannes upon the water to be storer for the Cytye.

Sto·re-room.

1. A room set apart for the storing of goods or supplies, esp. those of a ship or household.

1746 P. YORKE in G. Harris *Ld. Chanc. Hardwicke* (1847) II. 293 He..saw powder, shot, & bonnets distributed to them out of a store-room, whereof his Lord kept the key himself. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* III. i. 301 The Gunner's fore store-room. 1780 *Mirror* No. 93 When he gives out the wine from the cellar, and the groceries from the store-room. 1846 A. YOUNG *Naut. Dict.* 77 In frigates,..the gunner's, boatswain's, and carpenter's store rooms are in the fore cockpit. 1857 RUSKIN *Pol. Econ. Art* i. § 10 You will see the good housewife taking pride..in her well-dressed dish, and her full storeroom. 1886 [see STOREHOUSE 1 b].

attrib. 1750 BLANCKLEY *Naval Expos.* 90 *Storeroom lanterns*, a triangular Light placed at the Bulk-head of the Boatswain and Carpenter's Store-Rooms. 1897 'SARAH GRAND' *Beth Bk.* xii. (1898) 95 He led the way..to the store-room door.

2. Room or space for storage.

1783 JUSTAMOND tr. *Raynal's Hist. Ind.* IV. 457 Tobacco ..pays two sols six deniers per quintal to the government for store-room. 1887 *Spons' Househ. Man.* 100 If the cupboards are taken up to the ceiling line,..increased storeroom would be provided for clothing not immediately required.

Sto·re-ship, sto·reship. A government ship employed to carry military or naval stores.

1693 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 2888/3 *Susanna* Bomb Storeship. 1705 *Ibid.* No. 4187/3 This day sailed hence Her Majesty's Ship the Lizard with three Store-ships. 1788 GIBBON *Decl. & F.* xlvi. IV. 511 A fleet of gallies, transports, and storeships, was assembled in the harbour. 1790 BEATSON *Nav. & Mil. Mem.* II. 66 This being the first expedition of importance that had neither store-ship, hospital-ship, fire-ship, or tender, to accompany it. 1834 J. D. LANG *Hist. Acc. N. S. Wales* (1837) I. 48 His Majesty's store-ship Guardian had been despatched from England..with a large supply of provisions and other stores for the settlement. 1915 *Daily Tel.* 24 Aug. 8/7 The movement of men-of-war, transports, and storeships across Baltic waters.

Storesman: see STOREMAN 3.

Storey, Storeyed: see STORY *sb.*[2], STORIED.

‖ **Storge** (stǭ·ɹgi). Also **storgé, -è, -ē, -ee, -ée, -ée.** [Gr. στοργή, related to στέργειν to have natural affection to, to love.] Natural affection; usually, that of parents for their offspring.

1637 BASTWICK *Litany* I. 11/1 We must be louing progenitors & although they doe *ex officio* abandon and renounce, both honesty and storge at once, yet we may not. 1764 T. HUTCHINSON *Hist. Mass.* vi. (1765) 463 The Storgée in the parent might be observed towards their young. 1809 R. CUMBERLAND *John de Lancaster* I. 18 The storgee, or natural affection of my daughter-in-law towards her infant. 1835 KIRBY *Habits & Inst. Anim.* II. xviii. 258 But first, I must say something of that *Storge*, or instinctive affection, which is almost universally exhibited by females for their progeny. 1850 THACKERAY *Pendennis* I. ii, I could have.. adored in her the Divine beneficence in endowing us with the maternal *storgé*, which..sanctifies the history of mankind. 1880 S. COX *Comm. Job* 524 The Ostrich resembles the stork..; but lacks its pious, maternal *storgé*.

Storgeon, obs. form of STURGEON.

† **Sto·rial,** *a.* *Obs.* Also **storyal.** [Aphetic var. of HISTORIAL. Cf. It. *storiale.*] Of, pertaining to or of the nature of history.

c 1385 CHAUCER *L. G. W.* 702 And this is storyal soth, it is no fable. *c* 1449 PECOCK *Repr.* III. vii. 320 And here y make an eende of Scripture storial ensaumpling. *c* 1450 *J. Shirley's Cron. Chaucier* heading, Þe nyene worshipfullest Ladyes þat in alle cronycles and storyal bokes haue beo founden of trouþe of constaunce and vertuous or reproched womanhode. 1575 LANEHAM *Let.* (1871) 26 Certain good harted men of Couentrée..made petition that they moought renu noow their olld storiall sheaw.

Storiation (stōᵊri,ēɪ·ʃən). [f. STORY *v.* + -ATION.] Decoration with artistic designs representing historical, legendary, or emblematic subjects.

1884 *Times* 20 Nov. 4/5 The artistic decoration of the dome of St. Paul's..should..provide places for proper

storiation. 1893 STANNUS in *Jrnl. Soc. Arts* 10 Feb. 262/1 Storiation is that section of the rules of Applied Art which governs (*a*) the Selection and (*b*) the Representation of Meaning in the decoration of objects.

Hence (by back-formation) **Sto·riate** *v.*, **Sto·riated** *ppl. a.*

1889 *Art Jrnl.* Mar. 91/2 The mania for the acquisition of storiated title-pages has led to the cruel spoliation of thousands of rare old books. 1893 STANNUS in *Jrnl. Soc. Arts* 10 Feb. 262/2 There are 3 mental Stages in the process of storiating an object.

Storie, obs. form of STIR *v.*

Storied (stō·rid), *a.*[1] and *ppl. a.* [f. STORY *sb.*[1] and *v.*[1] + -ED. Cf. med.L. *historiātus*, OF. (*h*)*istorié*.]

1. Ornamented with scenes from history or legend by means of sculpture, painting, needlework or other art; also, inscribed with a legend or memorial record.

1481 CAXTON *Myrr.* I. v. 25 Clerkis..that haue the precyous bookes richely lymned storyed and wel adoubed. 1624 WOTTON *Archit.* II. 98 As for other Storied Workes vpon Walles, I doubt our Clime bee too yeelding and moist, for such Garnishment. *Ibid.* 101 Marking in certaine Storied Sculptures, of ouide time, how precisely the parts and Lines of the Figures..doe meete. 1632 MILTON *Penseroso* 159 And storied Windows richly dight, Casting a dimm religious light. 1750 GRAY *Elegy* 41 Can storied urn or animated bust Back to its mansion call the fleeting breath? 1792 S. ROGERS *Pleas. of Mem.* I. 53 The storied arras..With old achievement charms the wildered sight. 1808 SCOTT *Marmion* v. Introd. 185 As the ancient art could stain Achievements on the storied pane. 1862 THRUPP *Anglo-Saxon Home* 227 They occasionally wrought the storied mantles worn by kings at their coronation, on which mythological and historical subjects were delineated. 1876 SWINBURNE *Erectheus* 1727 One fair chaplet..To hang for ever from thy storied shrine.

2. Celebrated or recorded in history or story.

1725 POPE *Odyss.* IV. 440 Each known disaster of the man disclose,..Recite them! nor in erring pity fear To wound with storied grief the filial ear. 1746 FRANCIS tr. *Horace, Art of Poetry* 387 They scorn'd to take from Greece the storied Theme, And dar'd to sing their own domestic Fame. 1832 TENNYSON *'Love thou thy Land'* i, Love thou thy land, with love far-brought From out the storied Past, and used Within the Present. 1877 MRS. OLIPHANT *Makers of Flor.* vii. 183 The many historical places..which attract the spectator in the storied city of Florence. 1903 *Athenæum* 1 Aug. 151/1 To set out upon as adventurous and entertaining a career as that of any of his storied forbears in Baghdad.

Storied (stō·rid), *a.*[2] Also **storeyed.** [f. STORY *sb.*[2] + -ED.] Having stories, divided into stories.

Frequently in parasynthetic formations, as *one-, two-, three-storied*, for which see the first element.

1624 WOTTON *Archit.* I. 40 We meane in a Dorique, Ionicall, Corinthian Porch, or Cloister, or the like of one Contignation, and not in Storied buildings. 1820 SHELLEY *Prometh. Unb.* IV. 344 Each crag-like tower, and storied column. 1855 HAWTHORNE *Eng. Note-Bks.* (1883) I. 582 It seemed possible to shake hands from one jutting storied old house to another. 1858 MERIVALE *Rom. Emp.* (1865) VI. liii. 356 A vast extent of gardens, with their baths, their fish-ponds, and their storied terraces. 1903 *Architect* 24 Apr. 269/1 A porch may often be carried up to form a storeyed tower with happy effect.

Storier (stō·ri,əɹ). Also 5–7 **storyer.** [In sense 1, aphetic variant of HISTORIER; in senses 2, 3 f. STORY *sb.*[1] or *v.*[1] + -ER[1].]

†1. A chronicler, historian. *Obs.*

1387–8 T. USK *Test. Love* III. iv. (Skeat) 257 In goodnes of gentil manliche speche, without any maner of nyceté of storiers imaginacion,..he passeth al other makers. *c* 1400 tr. *Secreta Secret., Gov. Lordsh.* 100 Swylk er customyd to be wel spekyng, wel taght, curteys, and good storyers. *c* 1449 PECOCK *Repr.* III. xii. 351 Forwhi noon fundamental cronicler or storier writith therof, saue Girald. *c* 1555 HARPSFIELD *Divorce Hen. VIII* (1878) 232 We now add Bede himself, whom the said storyers do follow. 1570–6 LAMBARDE *Peramb. Kent* 22 For proofe whereof, I will call to witnesse Thomas Spot..bycause he only (of all the Storiers that I haue seene) reporteth it. *a* 1640 JACKSON *Creed* XI. xii. Wks. 1673 III. 718 Had the spirit of God been storyer of their lives, we should have had notice of their often trippings.

2. The teller of a story; a story-teller. *nonce-uses.*

1826 DISRAELI *Viv. Grey* v. xiii. 237 'But it is a very curious story.'..'Oh! so is every story, according to the storier.' 1830 — *Lett.* 25 Aug., *Home Lett.* vii. (1885) 54 Some smoking in sedate silence, some telling their beads, some squatting round a storier.

3. *dial.* One who tells 'stories' or fibs.

1877 *N. W. Linc. Gloss.* 1908 [MISS E. FOWLER] *Trent & Ancholme* 52 She 's a storier. Why she was sayin' there was a ghost.

Storiette, storyette (stō·ri,e·t). [f. STORY *sb.*[1] + -ETTE. Cf. NOVELETTE.] A very short story.

1889 FARMER *Americanisms.* 1892 *Star* 30 Dec. 1/7 The new year will see the *Penny Illustrated Paper* well to the fore with an exceptionally attractive series of new storiettes. 1897 *Athenæum* 20 Nov. 689/3 A well-established Syndicate requires storiettes of 1,200 to 1,500 words each. 1899 ROBERTON *Novel-reader's Handbk.* 74 Mr. Kipling has also a number of storyettes scattered through the magazines. 1907 F. T. BULLEN *Advance Australia* xxiv. 261 There are..four serial stories..twelve short stories, and about fifty storyettes.

Storify (stō·rifəi), *v.*[1] *rare.* [f. STORY *sb.*[1] + -FY.] *trans.* To picture, delineate or record (a historical event or fact); to celebrate in history or story. Also *absol.* Hence **Sto·rifying** *vbl. sb.* (*attrib.*)

1616 J. LANE *Contn. Sqr.'s T.* III. 320 And looke what natures selfe hathe not supplyed, shall by queint painters hand bee storifyed [in Cambuscan's theatre]. 1675 J. SMITH *Chr. Relig. Appeal* I. 70 His third [year] was so barren of Action, had so little wind stirring: as Tacitus complains his storifying Vein is becalm'd, his Pen can find no Pasturage in that Years Occurrences. 1830 *Fraser's Mag.* I. 44 So 'tis plain that a sure means of gaining fame malice is; And many's the name which through it has been storified.

Storify (stō·rifəi), *v.*[2] [f. STORY *sb.*[3] + -FY.] *trans.* To arrange (beehives) in stories. Hence **Sto·rifying** *vbl. sb.* (also *attrib.*).

1827 E. BEVAN *Honey-bee* 99 This shed..is adapted either to storifying or single hiving. *Ibid.* 111 Side boxes occupy a great deal more room than storifying boxes. 1888 R. C. DAY *Mod. Bee-keeping* in *Good Words* May 355/1 He finds himself in doubt between the 'combination' system, the 'storifying' system, [etc.].

Storiologist (stō·riɒ·lŏdʒist). Also **storyologist.** [f. next + -IST.] A student of storiology.

1862 J. F. CAMPBELL *Tales W. Highl.* IV. 309 And then with a fossil incident picked out of the stratum in which it was first found, the 'storyologist' may proceed to pick out other notions in the same way. 1877 W. R. S. RALSTON in *Academy* 17 Feb. 130 These literary legends are the bugbears of scientific 'storiologists'. 1902 *Folk-Lore* June 221, I warmly commend M. Dottin's volume to all storyologists.

Storiology (stō·riɒ·lŏdʒi). Also **storyology.** [f. STORY *sb.*[1] + -(O)LOGY.] The systematic study of popular tales and legends, with regard to their origin and development.

1860 J. F. CAMPBELL *Pop. Tales W. Highl.* I. Introd. 11 The following collection is intended to be a contribution to this new science of 'Storyology'. 1862 *Ibid.* IV. 308 Now if 'storyology' be a science, it is worthy of a system and systematic study. 1877 W. R. S. RALSTON in *Academy* 17 Feb. 129 A fair sample of the Basque contribution to comparative 'storiology'. 1900 B. TAYLOR (*title*), Storyology: Essays in Folklore, Sea-lore, and Plant-lore.

Hence **Sto·riolo·gical** *a.*, of or pertaining to storiology.

1891 *Daily Graphic* 19 Oct. 9, I have a dozen storyological friends. 1904 *Folk-Lore* Mar. 60 Examples of storyological research.

†**Sto·rize,** *v. Obs. rare*[−1]. [aphetic f. HISTORIZE.] *trans.* To represent in imagery.

1594 *Zepheria* xxxiv. Fr b, The pompous gallerie, Wherein were storiz'd to mine eye sweet obiects, Embroydred all with rare immagerie.

Storjon, obs. form of STURGEON.

Stork (stɑ̄ik). Forms: 1 storc, (3 steorc), 3–7 storke, 4– stork. [OE. *storc* masc. = OS., (M)LG., (M)Du. *stork*, NFris. *stork*, *stourk*, *stŏrk*, OHG. *storah*, *stork* (MHG. *storch*, *storc*, mod.G. *storch*, dial. *stork*), ON. *storkr* (Sw., Da. *stork*) :—OTeut. **sturko-z.*

Usually referred to the Teut. root **stark-* (see STARK *a.*), the name being supposed to refer to the apparent stiffness or rigidity in the bird's manner of standing. Some regard the word as cogn. w. Gr. τέρυες vulture. The names of the stork in various eastern European langs. are commonly believed to be from Teut.: OSl. *strŭkŭ*, Russ. стерхъ, Lith. *starkus*, Lett. *starks*, Magyar *esztorag*, Albanian *sterkjok*.]

1. A large wading bird of the genus *Ciconia*, allied to the ibis and heron; characterized by having long legs and a long stout bill.

Usually, the name denotes the White Stork (*Ciconia alba*), which stands over three feet high, and has brilliant white plumage with black wing-coverts and quills, and red legs. In summer it is an inhabitant of most parts of the Continent of Europe. A less common European species is the Black Stork (*C. nigra*). The American Stork (*C. maguari*) belongs to South America.

a 800 *Erfurt Gloss.* 259 in *O. E. Texts* 52 *Ciconia*: storc. *c* 1000 ÆLFRIC *Hom.* I. 404 Storc and swalewe heoldon ðone timan heora to-cymes. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 132 Þe steorc [*v.rr.* strucion, ostrice] uor his muchele flesche maked a semblaunt uorte vleon,..auh þet fette drauhð euer to þer eorðe. *c* 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (Rolls) 14574 He liuede in kerres, as doþ þe stork. *c* 1381 CHAUCER *Parl. Foules* 361 The stork the wrekere of a-vouterye. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XII. ix. (1495) 419 A storke is messager of spryngynge tyme. *c* 1425 *Eng. Conq. Irel.* 28 Storkes & swalewes & oþer somer foules we haue aftyre I-loked. *a* 1529 SKELTON *P. Sparowe* 469 The storke also, That maketh his nest In chymneyes to rest. 1584 GREENE *Mirr. Modesty* Wks. (Grosart) III. 39 The Storke neuer medleth but with his mate. 1648 BP. HALL *Sel. Th.* li. 149 The Stork is said to have taught man the use of the glyster. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* VII. 423 There the Eagle and the Stork On Cliffs and Cedar tops their Eyries build. 1678 RAY *Willughby's Ornith.* III. ii. 287 The American Stork, called by the Brasilians Maguari of Marggrave. 1738 ALBIN *Nat. Hist. Birds* III. 77 The Black Stork. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1824) II. v. iii. 350 The Dutch are very solicitous for the preservation of the stork in every part of the republic. 1838 *Murray's Handbk. N. Germ.* 30 A number of tame storks may be seen stalking about in the fish-market of the Hague.

b. Applied to birds of allied genera: (see quots.).

1869–73 T. R. JONES *Cassell's Bk. Birds* IV. 59 The Whale-headed Stork, or Shoe-beak (*Balæniceps rex*)..is extremely numerous on the marshy grounds and rain-beds near the White Nile. *Ibid.* 71 The Giant Storks (*Mycteria*). *Ibid.* 75 The Clapper-billed Storks, or Shell-eaters (*Anastomus*), inhabit Africa and Southern Asia. *Ibid.* 91 The Field Storks (*Arvicolæ*)..are natives of South America, 1872 J. H. GURNEY *Andersson's Birds Damara Land* 281 *Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*, Bon. Saddle-billed Stork. *Ibid.* 282 *Leptoptilus crumeniferus*, Cuv. African Marabou Stork.

c. *fig.* and *allusive.*

With reference to supposed habits of the stork (see quots. 1580, 1642; cf. quots. *c* 1381 and 1584 in 1); to the fable of the frogs who chose a stork for their king; to the German and Dutch nursery fiction that babies are brought by the stork; etc.

1555 *Instit. Gentl.* G iiij b, And well worthye are all such to loose yᵉ name of gentry, because like Storcks deuourers of their owne kinde, in running out of their profession, they destroy themselues. 1580 LYLY *Euphues & his England* (Arb.) 363 Ladyes vse their Louers as the Storke doth hir young ones, who pecketh them till they bleed with hir bill, and then healeth them with hir tongue. *Ibid.* 416 Constancy is like vnto the Storke, who wheresoeuer she flye commeth into no neast but hir owne. 1597 J. PAYNE *Royal Exch.* 48 You..maliciously accuse vs.., reiectinge you and your vilde opinions sythens the fyrst hatchinge therof by your grandsire Storck. 1597 DONNE *Poems, Calm* 4 The fable is inverted, and farre more A blocke afflicts, now, then a storke before. 1631 MASSINGER *Emperor East* II. i, Like Æsops folish Frogges.. if hee proue a Storke, they croke and rayle Against him as a tyranne. 1642 FULLER *Holy & Prof. St.* I. vi. 15 He is a stork to his parent, and feeds him in his old age. 1784 COWPER *Task* v. 282 Thus kings..became..Storks among frogs, that have but croak'd and died. 1823 SCOTT *Quentin D.* xxi, I wish we have not got King Stork, instead of King Log.

2. The bird or its flesh as an article of food.

c 1460 J. RUSSELL *Bk. Nurture* 433 in *Babees Bk.* (1868) 144 Pecok, Stork, Bustarde & Shovellewre, ye must vnlace þem in þe plite of þe crane. ?*c* 1475 *Sqr. lowe Degre* 323 Both storkes and snytes ther were also, And venyson freshe. 1513 *Bk. Keruynge* in *Babees Bk.* (1868) 271 For standarde, venyson roste,..bustarde, storke, crane. 1620 VENNER *Via Recta* iii. 64 The Storke is of hard substance, of a wilde sauour, and of very naughty iuyce.

†3. Some kind of fish. ? A shark. *Obs. rare*[−1].

1600 DALLAM in *Early Voy. Levant* (Hakl. Soc.) 95 A great fishe called a storke, of a marvalus length, did follow our ship,..waytinge for a praye.

4. A variety of the domestic pigeon. More fully *stork pigeon.*

1855 *Poultry Chron.* III. 240/1 Storks. *Ibid.* 320 The Stork Pigeon. The Stork...They derive their name from their plumage bearing considerable resemblance to that of a stork. 1881 LYELL *Pigeons* 88 When well marked, the stork is considered one of the finest feather varieties in Germany. *Ibid.*, The..stork or wing pigeon of Germany.

5. (See quot.)

1750 T. WRIGHT *Orig. Theory Universe* 25 Her [*sc.* the moon's] whole Globe appeared to us very conspicuously within a manifest circle. You..told me that that kind of phænomenon the country people called a Stork, or the old moon in the new one's arms.

6. *attrib.*, as *stork-assembly, -flight, -kind, -migration, -tribe*; parasynthetic and similative, as *stork-billed* adj., *stork-fashion* adv., *stork-like* adj. and adv.

1730–46 THOMSON *Autumn* 853 The *stork-assembly meets, ..Consulting..ere they take Their arduous voyage through the liquid sky. *c* 1875 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* III. 349 The *Stork-billed Kingfishers (*Pelargopsis*). 1888 *Myra's Jrnl.* 1 Apr. 210/2 The skater must poise on one leg only, *stork-fashion. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. VII. v, In this manner.. they, a wild unwinged *stork-flight,..wend their way. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1824) II. v. iii. 360 A bird of the *stork kind. 1652 BP. HALL *Balm of Gilead* 213 Sometimes indeed ..some *Storke-like disposition repaies the loving offices done by the Parents. 1872 COUES *N. Amer. Birds* 262 The pterylosis is more or less completely stork-like. 1913 J. R. HARRIS *Boanerges* xxxii. 312 It seems to be more likely that the swan migration is independent of the *stork migration. 1895 LYDEKKER *Roy. Nat. Hist.* IV. 306 The *Stork tribe.

Storken (stɑ̄·rk'n), *v. Sc.* and *north.* Also 5–6 **storkyn,** 7– **sturken.** [a. ON. *storkna* to coagulate, corresp. to OHG. *kistorchanên* to become rigid, Goth. *gastaurknan* to dry up, f. Teut. root **sturk-* ablaut-var. of **stark-*: see STARK *a.*]

1. *intr.* To become stout, sturdy, strong; to grow, thrive, gain strength.

c 1425 WYNTOUN *Cron.* I. xvi. 1528 This Iubiter..Scho gert be fosterit tenderly, Till he wes passit all 3outhheid And storkynnit [MS. Cott. starkynnyt] in stout manheid. 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* lxxv. 48 My stang dois storkyn with 3our towdie. 1691 RAY *N. C. Words* (ed. 2) 71 To *Sturken*; to grow, thrive. 1851 *Cumbld. Gloss.*, *Storken*, to gain strength. 1894 *Northumbld. Gloss.* s. v., Newly-hatched chickens are often kept under cover for a day or two until they are 'weel storkened'.

2. To be stiffened with cold, to congeal. (Said esp. of blood or melted fat.)

1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 61/36 To storken, *congelare*. 1684 G. M[ERITON] *Praise Yorksh. Ale* (1685) 47 The Fatt's all storken'd here, a sham to see. *Ibid.* Clavis 168 To Storken, is to cool, or wax stiff or hard. 1691 RAY *N. C. Words* (ed. 2) 149 To Storken. Gelu adstringi. 1781 J. HUTTON *Tour to Caves* (ed. 2) Gloss. 97 *Storken*, to congeal, or coagulate like melted wax or tallow. 1785 — *Bran New Wark* (E.D.S.) 339 Your minister was freetned, the hairs of his head stood on end, his blead storkened.

Storkish (stɑ̄·rkiʃ), *a.* [f. STORK + -ISH.] Of, pertaining to, or resembling a stork; like that of a stork.

1598 R. D. *Hypnerotomachia* 91 b, Antigone the daughter of Laomedon solaciously delighting hir selfe in hir storkish plumes. 1600 W. WATSON *Decacordon* (1602) 336 Like storkish kings they came vpon vs poore frogs with minaces of death to him that first should leape out of the puddle from vnder their tyranny. 1842 THACKERAY *Sultan Stork* 1, They..greeted it in the true storkish language. 'Good morning,'..said the stork.

Storkling (stɑ̄·rklin). [-LING.] A young stork.

1802 W. GIFFORD tr. *Juvenal* xiv. 110 And the fledg'd storklings..Seek the same reptiles through the devious brake. 1898 E. P. EVANS *Evol. Ethics* vii. 232 A goose's egg, which..produced a gosling instead of the expected storkling.

Stork's bill. [Cf. G. *storchschnabel* (*schnabel* beak, bill), OS. *storkesnevel* (in sense 1).]

1. A book-name for a plant of the genus *Erodium* (N.O. *Geraniaceæ*), esp. *E. cicutarium* or *E. moschatum.* †Also in corrupt forms *stocks-bill* (Ray

N. C. Words, 1691), *stockbill* (Withering *Brit. Pl.*, ed. 3, 1796, III. 608).

1562 TURNER *Herbal* II. 9 This kynde [of Geranium] is called in Englishe Pinke nedle or starkis [*sic*] byll. 1597 GERARDE *Herbal* II. cccxliii. 795 Of knobbed Cranes bill ..it is also called..in English Storks bill. *Ibid.* cccxliv. 796 Musked Storkes bill. 1657 S. PURCHAS *Pol. Flying-Ins.* I. xv. 94 Bees gather of these flowers following..In May..Storks-bill, Mous-ear, [etc.]. 1825 SIR J. E. SMITH *Eng. Flora* III. 229 *Erodium*. Stork's-bill. *Ibid.*, *E. cicutarium*. Hemlock Stork's-bill. *Ibid.* 230 *E. moschatum*. Musky Storks'-bill. *Ibid.* 231 *E. maritimum*. Sea Stork's-bill. 1898 MISS YONGE *John Keble's Parishes* xiv. 162 On the road-side have sprung up..the Stork's bill, *Erodium moschatum*.

attrib. 1845-50 MRS. LINCOLN *Lect. Bot.* App. 101/2 *Erodium ciconium* (stork-bill geranium).

2. A plant of the genus *Pelargonium* (N.O. *Geraniaceæ*).

1825 *Greenhouse Comp.* I. 65 *Pelargonium Barringtonii*, a splendid flower..considered the first of storksbills. 1829 T. CASTLE *Introd. Bot.* 146 One extensive genus, called pelargonium or stork's-bill, upwards of one hundred and fifty species of which are natives of the Cape of Good Hope. 1848 SCHOMBURGK *Hist. Barbados* 602 Pelargonium humifusum. Trailing Stork's Bill. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1102/1.

†**3.** *Surg.* = CROW-BILL 2. *Obs. rare.*

1671 PHILLIPS (ed. 3), *Storks bill*, a Chirurgions Instrument, the same as Crows bill which see.

†**4.** A derisive gesture: = L. *ciconia*. *Obs.*

1616 B. JONSON *Cynthia's Rev.* v. ii, You giue him the Reuerse stroke, with this Sanna, or Storkes-bill.

Storm (stǭɹm), *sb.* Also (1 **stearm** *north.*), 3–7 **storme** (3 **steorm, storem**, 5 **stourme, starme**). [Com. Teut. (not recorded in Gothic): OE. *storm* masc. corresp. to Fris., OS. (MLG., Du.) *storm*, OHG. (MHG., mod.G.) *sturm*, ON. *storm-r* (Sw., Da. *storm*):—OTeut. **sturmo-z* (whence Rom. **stormo*: see STOUR *sb.*[1]), f. root **stur-* (?**stwer-*) of STIR *v.*]

I. 1. A violent disturbance of the atmosphere, manifested by high winds, often accompanied by heavy falls of rain, hail, or snow, by thunder and lightning, and at sea by turbulence of the waves. Hence sometimes applied to a heavy fall of rain, hail, or snow, or to a violent outbreak of thunder and lightning, unaccompanied by strong wind.

More explicitly *storm of hail*, † *lightning*, *rain*, † *thunder*; also with the sb. prefixed, as HAILSTORM, RAIN-*storm*, SNOW-STORM, THUNDER-STORM.

c 825 *Vesp. Ps.* xlix. 3 Fyr in ȝesihðe his beorneð & in ymbhwyrfte his storm strong. *Ibid.* liv. 9 Ic bad hine se mec halne dyde from lytelmodum & storme. *c* 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Matt. xvi. 3 To dæȝ [bið] stearm, faȝas forðon unrotlic heofon. *c* 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* III. 274 Seo lyft ðe we ymbe sprecað astihð up fornean oð þone monan & abyrð ealle wolcna stormas. *a* 1122 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1070 Þa com an mycel storm & to dræfede ealle þa scipe þær þa gersumes wæron inne. *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 143 Ech eorþe scal hwakien on his ecsene alse deoð þe see in storme. *c* 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 161 Storemes falleð in þe sæ, and to-worpeð hit. *a* 1225 *Juliana* 76 As ha weren in wettre com a steorm [*v.r.* strom] & draf ham to londe. *a* 1225 [see STILL B 2]. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Knt.'s T.* 1122 Ther ran a rumbel and a swough As though a storm sholde bresten euery bough. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 7631 The stourme wex still. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 477/2 Storm, wedyr, *nimbus, procella, altanus.* Storm, yn the see, *turbo.* *c* 1475 *Rauf Coilȝear* 32 His steid aganis the storme staluartlie straid. 1594 KYD *Cornelia* I. 82 The windie storme Doth topside-turuey tosse thee as thou flotest. *Ibid.* II. 93 Enemies.. Beat backe like flyes before a storme of hayle. 1597 DONNE *Poems, Storm* 32 And what at first was call'd a gust, the same Hath now a stormes, anon a tempests name. 1610 SHAKS. *Temp.* II. ii. 19 Heres..another Storme brewing, I heare it sing ith' winde. 1621 in Foster *Eng. Factories Ind.* (1906) 280 A storme of thunder and rayne came. 1627 CAPT. SMITH *Sea Gram.* x. 47 A Storm is knowne..not to bee much lesse than a tempest, that will blow downe houses, and trees vp by the roots. 1665 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* (1677) 126 That night we..were entertained by..a sudden storm of rain, thunder, and lightning. 1725 DE FOE *Voy. round World* (1840) 18 The wind setting in at South-west, blew a storm. 1735 JOHNSON *Lobo's Abyssinia, Voy.* i. 2 We had our Rigging somewhat damag'd by a Storm of Lightning. 1788 WESLEY *Jrnl.* 6 Oct., When I came into the town, it blew a storm...But it fell as suddenly as it rose. *Ibid.* 25 Nov., Though it blew a storm, and was piercing cold, we were sufficiently crowded at Dover. 1805 SCOTT *Let.* 18 Aug. in *Lockhart* (1837) II. ii. 60 The most dreadful storm of thunder and lightning I ever witnessed. 1847 TENNYSON *Princess* IV. 256 Like the mystic fire on a mast-head, Prophet of storm. 1861 DICKENS *Lett.* (1880) II. 156 The storm was most magnificent at Dover. 1895 *Law Times Rep.* LXXIII. 156/2 Two vessels..drifted through the violence of a storm on to the toe of a breakwater.

in figurative context. *c* 897 ÆLFRED *Gregory's Past. C.* ix. 58 Hwæt is ðonne ðæt rice & se ealdordom buton ðæs modes storm, se symle bið cnyssende ðæt scip ðære heortan? 1599 SHAKS. *Much Ado* v. iv. 42 Why what's the matter? That you haue such a Februarie face, So full of frost, of storme, and clowdinesse. 1740 C. WESLEY *Hymn, Jesu, lover of my soul* i, Hide me, o my Saviour, hide, Till the storm of life is past. 1850 TENNYSON *In Mem.* xxxiii. 1 O thou that after toil and storm Mayst seem to have reach'd a purer air.

b. Used *spec.* as the distinctive appellation of a particular degree of violence in wind. In mod. *Meteorology*: An atmospheric disturbance which in the Beaufort scale is classed as intermediate between a whole gale and a hurricane, having a wind-force estimated at 10–11 and a limit of velocity at from 56–75 miles per hour.

1801 CAPPER *Observ. Winds & Monsoons* Pref. p. xxiii, The tempest..is..the same as a hurricane, or whirlwind: I shall therefore use these words synonimously, and place them in the first order, or degree of violent winds. The storm, or what the English seamen call a hard gale, is likewise, I believe, nearly the same; I shall, therefore, make use of the former for the land, and the latter for the sea term, and reckon these in the second class. 1858 FITZROY *Meteorol. Papers* III. 94/1 [Beaufort Scale.] 11 Storm. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.* s.v. *Storms*, That is a storm which reduces a ship to her storm stay-sails, or to her bare poles.

c. *spec.* A snowstorm. Also, a quantity of fallen snow. *Sc.*

1681 FOUNTAINHALL *Chronol. Notes* (1822) 8 A great storm of snow had fallen. *c* 1730 BURT *Lett. N. Scot.* (1754) II. xviii. 67 There fell a very great Storm (as they call it) for by the Word Storm they only mean Snow. 1787 [J. BEATTIE] *Scoticisms* 119 They turned him out,..though there was a storm of snow lying on the ground.

d. A period of hard weather with frost and snow. *Sc.* and *Colonial.*

1880 J. COLQUHOUN *Moor & Loch* I. 239 Even the sea-worm having failed at the end of that long continued storm. 1887 I. R. *Ranche Life Montana* 24 This 'storm', as they call the spell of cold weather, lasted about 10 days.

e. *Magnetic storm*: a magnetic disturbance observed simultaneously over a considerable portion of the globe.

1860 SABINE in *Proc. Roy. Soc.* X. 634 The casual magnetic disturbances, or magnetic storms. 1871 *Nature* 5 Oct. 441/1 Observations upon magnetic storms in higher latitudes.

f. *Proverbial phrases.*

A storm in a teacup (and earlier phrases: see quots.): a great commotion in a small community or about a trifling matter. [Prob. after L. *fluctus excitare in simpulo* (Cic.).]

1590 GREENE *Neuer too late* II. (1600) L 3 b, No storme so sharpe to rent the little Reede. 1603 DRAYTON *Bar. Wars* III. lv, Let's feare no Storme, before we feele a Showre. 1642 FULLER *Holy & Prof. St.* v. xiv. 415 At last he is as welcome as a storm. 1678 DK. ORMOND *Let. Earl Arlington* 28 Dec., in *Hist. MSS. Comm., Ormonde MSS.* IV. 292 Our skirmish seems to be come to a period, and compared with the great things now on foot, is but a storm in a cream bowl. 1770 *Gentl. Mag.* XL. 560 He [has]..Been in a storm; this is a sea-phrase for being less than dead-drunk. 1830 *Ibid.* C. I. 49/2 Each campaign, compared with those of Europe, has been only, in Lord Thurlow's phrase, a storm in a wash-hand basin. 1872– [see TEA-CUP c]. 1878 [see SLOP-BASIN].

2. *transf.* A heavy discharge or downfall (of missiles, blows).

Beowulf 3117 Þonne stræla storm strengum ȝebæded scoc ofer scildweall. 1600 FAIRFAX *Tasso* XI. xxxiv, Adrastus first..through the falling storme did vpward clime Of stones, dartes, arrowes, fire, pitch and lime. 1615 KYD *Span. Trag.* I. ii. 53 Thicke stormes of bullets ran like winters haile. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* I. 172 The Sulphurous Hail Shot after us in storm. *Ibid.* VI. 546 This day will pour down..no drizling show'r, But ratling storm of Arrows barbd with fire. 1777 POTTER *Æschylus, Persians* 486 Whilst broken rocks..And storms of arrows crush'd them. 1817 SCOTT *Harold* VI. xv, Then rose His mace, and with a storm of blows The mortal and the Demon close. 1849 W. S. MAYO *Kaloolah* ii. (1850) 24 She [the frigate] sent forth a storm of shot.

fig. 1842 TENNYSON *St. Sim. Styl.* 7 Battering the gates of heaven with storms of prayer.

3. *fig.* and in figurative context. **a.** A violent disturbance of affairs whether civil, political, social or domestic; commotion, sedition, tumult. More definitely *storm of rebellion, state, strife, war*, etc.

a 1000 *Andreas* 1236 (Gr.) Storm upp aras æfter ceasterhofum, cirm unlytel hæðnes heriȝes. *c* 1315 SHOREHAM *Poems* vii. 716 For þou [*sc.* the serpent] areredst þerne storm And alle þys hete, Acorsed be þou bestes by-syde. *c* 1420 *Chron. Vilod.* 940 Ryȝt so holy chyrche after þat starme Shalle haue þe maystre atte lest. 1477 EARL RIVERS (Caxton) *Dictes* 1 Subgette and thral vnto the stormes of fortune. 1593 SHAKS. 2 *Hen. VI*, III. i. 349, I will stirre vp in England some black Storme, Shall blowe ten thousand soules to Heauen, or Hell. 1614 BACON *Charge touching Duels* 9 It may cause suddaine stormes in Court, to the disturbance of his Maiestie. 1713 POPE *Prol. to Addison's Cato* 21 A brave man struggling in the storms of fate. 1741 KAMES *Decis. Crt. Sess. 1730–52* (1799) 33 Newlands dreading the storm, had retired out of the country. 1802 CANNING *Song*, Here's to the pilot that weather'd the storm! [*i.e.* Pitt.] 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xii. III. 207 A violent storm broke forth. Daly was ordered to attend at the bar. 1868 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* II. ix. 361 A monk of the house, who..contrived to weather all storms, and died in possession of his Abbey.

b. A tumultuous rush (of sound, tears, etc.); a vehement utterance (of words); a violent outburst (of censure, ridicule, etc.); a passionate manifestation of feeling.

1602 tr. *Guarini's Pastor Fido* IV. viii. M 2 b, That..afterward dost mooue A thousand stormes of sighes, of teares, of plaintes. 1611 BIBLE *Transl. Pref.* ¶ 1, For, was there euer any thing proiected, that sauoured any way of newnesse..but the same endured many a storme of gaine-saying, or opposition? 1615 CHAPMAN *Odyss.* IX. 435 With stormes of whistlings [Gr. πολλῇ ῥοίζῳ] then, his flocks he draue Vp to the mountaines. 1693 DRYDEN *Persius* I. 36 The Prose is Fustian, and the Numbers lame. All Noise, and empty Pomp, a storm of Words. 1712 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 407 ¶ 4 How much more they would have been alarmed, had they heard him actually throwing out such a Storm of Eloquence. 1781 COWPER *Table-T.* 491 The strings are swept with such a pow'r, so loud, The storm of music shakes th' astonish'd crowd. 1832 WARREN *Diary Physic.* II. iii. 124 He concluded amid a storm of applause. 1847 TENNYSON *Princess* v. 477 At which the storm Of galloping hoofs bare on the ridge of spears And riders front to front. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* iv. I. 484 He..faced the storm of invective which burst upon him from bar, bench, and witness box, with the insolence of despair. 1891 FARRAR *Darkn. & Dawn* xxviii, Octavia disburdened the long-pent agony of repression in..a storm of weeping.

c. Commotion or unrest (of mind or soul); a tumultuous assemblage (of thoughts, feelings).

1569 UNDERDOWNE *Heliodorus* VII. 89 A whole storme of thoughtes in a manner ouerwhelmed her. 1728–46 THOMSON *Spring* 299 These, and a thousand mixed emotions more,.. vex the mind With endless storm. 1729 G. ADAMS tr. *Sophocl., Antig.* III. v. II. 51 Still the same Violence of the Storms of her Soul torments her. 1864 TENNYSON *Aylmer's F.* 322 Sir Aylmer reddening from the storm within, Then broke all bonds of courtesy, and crying 'Boy' [etc.]. 1894 HALL CAINE *Manxman* III. xii. 170 She..covered up her head in the clothes as before, but with a storm of other feelings.

d. *Storm and stress* [G. *Sturm und Drang*]: used to designate the movement in German literature about 1770–82, due to a school of young writers characterized by extravagance in the representation of violent passion, and by energetic repudiation of the 'rules' of the French critics.

Sturm und Drang, the title of a play by F. M. Klinger (1776), was seized upon by the historians of literature as aptly expressing the spirit of the school to which the author belonged.

1855 G. H. LEWES *Goethe* I. III. i. 140 [1771] The period known as the Storm and Stress period was then about to astonish Germany, and to startle all conventions, by works such as Gerstenberg's *Ugolino*, Goethe's *Götz von Berlichingen*, Klinger's *Sturm und Drang* (from whence the name), and Schiller's *Robbers*. 1900 F. H. STODDARD *Evol. Eng. Novel* iv. 144 That group of men whom collectively we take to illustrate the early Storm and Stress.

transf. 1839 LONGF. *Hyperion* II. viii, Did you never have the misfortune..to know one of the benefactors of the human race, in the very 'storm and pressure period' of his indiscreet enthusiasm? 1879 FARRAR *St. Paul* II. 411 Written during the years A.D. 57 and 58, a period pre-eminently of storm and stress in the Apostle's life. 1900 G. C. BRODRICK *Memories* 227, I never knew John Bright personally until his time of storm and stress was over.

4. *Path.* A paroxysm, violent access (of pain or disease). Now chiefly with qualifying word, as *asthmatic, rheumatic storm.*

1545 RAYNALDE *Byrth Mankynde* 58 Another dyette there is, the whiche she ought to obserue in yͤ tyme of labour: when the stormes and thronges begyn to come on. 1612 SHELTON *Quixote* I. III. iii. (1620) 134 He swet, and swet againe, with..excessiue swoonings. This storme and mishap endured about some two houres. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* III. 39 All these together as phenomena of the same rheumatic storm. 1898 *Ibid.* V. 288 The asthmatic storm flits about the lung, now here, now there. 1899 *Ibid.* VII. 819 We should expect the final storm of grave symptoms [in an attack of convulsions] to be preceded by indications of gradual failure.

b. *Brain storm, nerve storm*: see quots.

1890 BILLINGS *Med. Dict.*, *Nerve-storms*, sudden attacks or paroxysms of neuroses or functional nervous disease. 1894 G. M. GOULD *Illustr. Dict. Med.*, *Brain-storm*, a succession of sudden and severe phenomena, due to some cerebral disturbance.

II. [f. STORM *v.*]

5. *Mil.* A violent assault on a fortified place.

1645 CROMWELL in Carlyle *Lett. & Sp.* (1845) I. 225 The day and hour of our storm was appointed. *Ibid.* 226 The General's signal unto a storm, was to be, The..discharging four pieces of cannon. 1665 BOYLE *Occas. Refl.* II. iii. (1848) 107 A Fortress, whose Defendants are not Treacherous, can scarce be taken otherwise than either by Famine, or Storm. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* II. xi. 255 We should have carried the fort by storm. 1813 WELLINGTON in Gurw. *Desp.* (1838) X. 548, I believe the Storm ought to take place by daylight. 1840 W. C. BURNS in I. Burns *Life* ix. (1870) 204 He served at eight storms, and twelve general engagements. 1869 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* (1875) III. xii. 168 An attempt at a storm was beaten back by the defenders.

b. *To take by storm*: to take possession of by a sudden attack; to carry by assault.

1687 A. LOVELL tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* I. 72 At length they took the Town by storm. 1734 tr. *Rollin's Anc. Hist.* (1827) I. 149 The town was taken by storm. 1870 ROGERS *Hist. Glean.* Ser. II. 49 The rioters took Norwich by storm.

fig. 1847 C. BRONTE *Jane Eyre* xxxiii, How I looked while these ideas were taking my spirit by storm, I cannot tell. 1889 JESSOPP *Coming of Friars* i. 27 The Franciscans ..were taking the world by storm.

III. 6. *attrib.* and *Comb.*: **a.** Simple attrib., as *storm-blast, -burst, -drop, -gust, -lift, -shock, -sprite*; also *storm-like* adj. and adv.

1817 COLERIDGE *Anc. Mar.* I. 41 And now the *Storm-blast came. *a* 1849 MANGAN *Poems* (1859) 69 The *storm-burst is over. 1836 KEBLE in *Lyra Apost.* (1849) 167 Now the big *storm-drops fall. 1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* I. xxvii. 198 Wild *storm-gusts, sent down against us from Mont Blanc himself. 1870 MORRIS *Earthly Par.* III. IV. 372 The storm began To rumble, and the *storm-lift moving slow, Over a full third of the sky to grow. *a* 1586 SIDNEY *Arcadia* III. *Amphialus' Dream* (1605) 261 Whereout with sudden fall..There came a chariot faire..Whose *stormelike course staid not till hard by me it bided. 1607 CHAPMAN *Bussy d'Ambois* II. i. 101 Storme-like he fell, and hid the feare-cold Earth. 1705 MRS. CENTLIVRE *Basset-Table* IV, I am rough and storm-like in my temper. 1849 CHRISTINA ROSSETTI *Poems* (1904) 118/1 See the ancient pine that stands the firmer For the *storm-shock that it bore. 1817 SCOTT *Harold* III. ix, When the *storm-sprite shrieks in air.

b. instrumental, as *storm-armed, -beat, -beaten, -bound, -encompassed, -laden, -rent, -swept, -tossed, -washed, -worn* adjs.

1591 SYLVESTER *Ivry* 174 *Storm-arm'd Auster cruell. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* II. xii. 32 Here may thy *storme-bet vessel safely ride. 1814 SCOTT *To Dk. Buccleuch* 64 On every storm-beat cape. 1582 STANYHURST *Æneis* I. (Arb.) 37 Lyke plodding *stormebeaten haglers. 1600 SHAKS.

Sonn. xxxiv. 6 To dry the raine on my storme-beaten face. *a* 1639 T. CAREW *Poems* (1651) 28, I float Far from the shore, in a storm-beaten boat. 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xviii. IV. 191 Some stormbeaten pinnacle of rock. 1830 CARLYLE in Froude *Life* (1882) II. 66 After so many weeks of *storm-bound inactivity: . 1827 SHELLEY *Revolt Islam* VII. xxxvii, Like the fires that flare In *storm-encompassed isles. 1899 MACKAIL *Morris* II. 27 The *storm-laden air that he began to feel around him. 1794 COLERIDGE *To Yng. Lady* 21 Amid the yelling of the *storm-rent skies! 1805 SCOTT *Last Minstrel* VI. xxi, Where restless seas Howl round the *storm-swept Orcades. 1610–11 J. DAVIES (Heref.) *Paper's Compl.* (Grosart) 78/1 Looke downe..Vpon Thy Church *storme-tossed-euery houre. 1842 CARLYLE *Past & Pr.* I. vi. 48 Through all these stormtost seas,..the Supreme Powers are driving us. 1840 THACKERAY *Shabby-genteel Story* ii, The *storm-washed shores of Margate in winter. 1885 TENNYSON *Dead Prophet* v, A *storm-worn signpost, not to be read.

c. objective, as *storm-bringer*; *storm-boding, -breathing, -portending, -presaging* adjs.

1672 DAVENANT *Masque* (1673) 365 The *storm-boading Whale. 1594 CHAPMAN *Shadow of Nt.* D ij, *Storme-breathing Lelaps. 1552 HULOET, *Storme brynger, ..*nimbifer.* 1582 STANYHURST *Æneis* I. (Arb.) 35 But with a flaw suddeyn chauffing stormbringer Orion, Spurnt vs too the waters. 1845 BAILEY *Festus* (ed. 2) 198 A *storm-portending cloud. 1809 SCOTT *Poacher* 143 The waning moon, with *storm-presaging gleam.

d. Special comb.: **storm-area**, the area of the earth's surface over which a storm spreads itself; also *fig.*; **storm-beach** (see quot.); **storm-bell** (*a*) [cf. G. *sturmglocke*] an alarm bell; (*b*) (see quot. 1910); **storm-belt**, a belt or zone in which storms occur periodically; **storm-breeder** (see quot.); **storm card**, a transparent disc marked with lines representing the wind-directions of a cyclonic storm, to be placed over the ship's position on the chart in order to ascertain the course of the storm-centre; **storm centre**, the central area of a cyclonic storm, characterized by comparative calmness; *fig.* the central point around which a storm of controversy, trouble, etc. rages; the seat of disease, sedition, and the like; **storm-circle** = *storm-card*; **storm-clock** (*a*) [G. *sturmglocke*], *nonce-use* an alarm bell; (*b*) a meteorograph, spec. one devised by Sir F. Ronalds (*Cent. Dict.* Suppl. 1909); **storm-cloud**, a heavy cloud which threatens or comes with rain; also *fig.*; **storm-coat**, a waterproof coat or heavy overcoat for use in stormy weather; **storm-compass** = *storm-card* (Cent. Dict.); **storm-cone** = CONE *sb.*[1] 9; **storm-current** (see quot.); **storm door** *U.S.*, an outer or supplementary door for use in stormy weather; **storm-drum**, a canvas cylinder hoisted in conjunction with the storm cone as a weather-signal; = DRUM *sb.*[1] 8 b; **storm-fire** = CORPOSANT; **storm-flag** (*a*) *U.S.*, each of the flags used in the U.S. system of storm-signalling (*Cent. Dict.*); (*b*) the smallest national flag used at posts and flown only in stormy weather (W. 1911); **storm-glass**, a hermetically sealed tube containing a solution which becomes flocculent on the approach of a storm; **storm-god**, a deity supposed to rule the storms; so also **storm-goddess**; **storm-head window**, a kind of dormer window; † **storm-hole**, ? an opening made in a wall for letting out water resulting from a storm; **storm-house** *U.S.*, a temporary shelter against storm for workmen (*Cent. Dict.*); **storm-jacket**, a weather-proof jacket; **storm-jib** *Naut.* (see quot. 1867); **storm-kite** (see quot.); **storm-light**, the lurid light seen in a stormy sky; also = CORPOSANT; **storm mizen, -pane** (see quots.); **storm-path** = *storm-track*; **storm-pavement** (see quot.); † **storm-pole** *Mil.*, each of a series of stakes driven into a defensive work as a protection against assault; **storm-porch**, a porch for the protection of an outer door from storms; **storm power** = *storm-god*; **storm-proof** *a.*, (*a*) impervious to storm; (*b*) proof against storming or assault; also *fig.*; **storm-sail** (see quot. 1867); **storm-shutter**, an outside window-shutter for use in stormy weather; **storm-signal**, a signal exhibited at coastguard stations, etc., to give warning of the approach and direction of dangerous winds; also *fig.*; hence **storm-signalling** *vbl. sb.*, the signalling of storms; also *attrib.*; **storm-spencer** = *storm-trysail*; **storm-stayed**, (**-staid**), chiefly *Sc.*, prevented by stress of weather from making or continuing a journey; **storm-staysail**, a staysail of reduced dimensions for use in a storm; **storm-stead** *a. Sc.* = *storm-stayed*; **storm-system**, the group of low-pressure areas (revolving round a centre of lowest pressure) constituting a cyclonic storm; **storm track**, the path traversed by the centre of a cyclonic storm; **storm-trysail** (see quot.); **storm-warning**, warning of the approach of a storm obtained by meteorological observation; **storm-water**, (*a*) an abnormal amount of surface water resulting from a heavy fall of rain or snow; also *attrib.*; (*b*) *poet.*, water agitated by a storm; **storm-wave**, an abnormally heavy wave due to cyclonic disturbance which rolls across the ocean and frequently causes the inundation of low-lying coast lands; also *fig.*; **storm-wind**, the wind which accompanies a storm; also *fig.*; **storm-window**, (*a*) = *storm-head window*; (*b*) an outer window to protect the inner from the effects of storms (Cassell 1888); † **storm-winnock** (**-windoik**) *Sc.* = prec. (*a*); **storm-zone** = *storm-belt*.

1853 W. R. BIRT *Handbk. Law of Storms* 29 The above considerations lead to a most important division of the *storm area. 1898 *Daily News* 8 Nov. 4/3 As the day for the meeting of the Czar's Conference on Peace draws near, the storm-area seems to be steadily extending. 1882 GEIKIE *Text-bk. Geol.* III. i. iii. 277 Accumulations of gravel or *storm-beaches' are often thrown up by storms, even above the level of ordinary high-tide mark. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* III. I. iv, At two o'clock the *stormbell shall be sounded,..all Paris shall rush..and have itself enrolled. 1910 *Encycl. Brit.* III. 688/2 A storm-bell warns travellers in the plain of storms approaching from the mountains. 1891 *Century Dict.*, *Storm-belt. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.*, **Storm-breeders*, heavy cumulo-stratus clouds. 1844 *Storm card (see *storm circle*). 1894 *Harper's Weekly* 7 Apr. 315 It establishes a sort of Weather Bureau of disease, and..is to show..where the *storm centres of communicable disease are. 1900 A. CHURCH & PETERSON *Nervous & Mental Dis.* (ed. 2) 181 The initial or signal symptom..becomes highly significant as pointing to the storm-center, the point of greatest instability and usually the seat of organic disease. 1900 *Jrnl. Sch. Geog.* (U.S.) June 228 To fix the direction of the storm centre from the vessel, it is thus only necessary to face the wind. 1844 H. PIDDINGTON *Horn-bk. of Storms* 5 The horn plates in the pockets of this book are what is called Col. Reid's Hurricane, or *Storm, circles, or cards. 1819 SCOTT *Leg. Montrose* xiv, 'That,' said he, 'must be the alarm—the *storm-clock, as the Germans call it.' 1822 —*Maid of Isla* ii, Her white wing gleams through mist and spray, Against the *storm-cloud. 1897 *Outing* (U.S.) XXX. 162/2 *Stormcoat. 1863 in Fitzroy *Rep. Meteorologic Office* (1864) p. xi. *note*, This morning the *storm cone was hoisted. 1843 H. PIDDINGTON in *Jrnl. Asiatic Soc. Bengal* XII. I. 398 The '*storm current' may be briefly described as circular streams on the circumferences of rotatory storms. 1878 E. B. TUTTLE *Border Tales* 29 The horses..broke loose from the stable, and begun gnawing the *storm doors in front of the officers' quarters. 1866 *Daily Tel.* 18 Jan. 4/5 It is not because occasional perturbations..baffle the reckonings of science, that meteorology should be ignored—four times out of five the *storm-drum is right. 1881 *Times* 19 Jan. 10/3 This evening the south storm-drum is hoisted at the semaphore at the Dockyard. *a* 1847 ELIZA COOK *Birds* v. 21 The *storm-fire burns, but what care they? 1883 A. I. MENKEN *Infelicia* 38 Heed not the storm-fires that so terribly burn in the black sky. 1823 *Mech. Mag.* I. 174 Those glasses..which are sold in the shops of opticians, under the name of '*Storm Glasses'. 1864 SPENCER *Biol.* 78 The relation between the phenomena occurring in the storm-glass and in the atmosphere respectively, is really not a correspondence at all. 1877 C. P. TIELE *Outl. Hist. Relig.* 113 In this conflict he [*Indra vritrahan*] is surrounded by the Maruts or *storm-gods, led by Rudra. 1869 TOZER *Highl. Turkey* II. 320 The character of a *storm-goddess, in which she [the Lamia] thus appears. 1833 LOUDON *Encycl. Archit.* § 455 The next characteristic is the *storm-head window. 1419 *Mem. Ripon* (Surtees) III. 146 Et in salar. Will. de Cloke, carpentarii, emendantis diversos defectus in le Ales, et facientis *Storm-holes. 1844 H. MILLER in W. K. Leask *Life* iv. (1896) 109 Encased in his ample-skirted *storm-jacket of oiled canvas. 1833 MARRYAT *P. Simple* xlvii, Another try-sail and a *storm-jib were expanded to the wind. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.*, *Storm-jib*, in cutters, the fifth or sixth size: the inner jib of square-rigged ships. *Ibid.*, **Storm-kite*, a contrivance for sending a hawser from a stranded vessel to the shore. 1843 EMERSON *Misc. Papers, Carlyle* Wks. (Bohn) III. 375 It is not serene sunshine, but everything is seen in lurid *storm-lights. 1906 *Month* June 629 That the poets.. should many of them allude to the mysterious storm-lights in their poems, is not surprising. 1794 *Rigging & Seamanship* I. 135 **Storm Mizen*. This sail is triangular, and..bends on the fore part to a horse, abaft and parallel to the mizen-mast. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.*, **Storm-pane*, a supplementary, framed sheet of glass, to substitute, in an emergency, for a broken pane in a lighthouse. 1888 STEVENSON *Across the Plains* (1892) 176 The reflectors scratched, the spare lamp unready, the storm-panes in the storehouse. 1850 W. R. BIRT *Hurricane Guide* 55 The lower and upper branches of the *storm paths of the Northern Atlantic. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.*, **Storm-pavement*, the sloping stone paving which lines the sea-face of piers and breakwaters. 1647 J. SPRIGGE *Anglia Rediv.* (1854) 257 The line, both upon the bulwarks and the curtain was strongly set with *storm-poles. 1879 *Lumberman's Gaz.* 15 Oct., Houses..should be protected at every much-used entrance, by *storm-porches. 1869 RUSKIN *Q. of Air* I. § 20 Another beneficent *storm power, Boreas, occupies an important place in early legend. 1594 NASHE *Unfort. Trav.* C 4, Sailers doo pitch their apparell to make it *storme proofe. 1886 N. L. WALFORD *Parl. Generals of Civil War* 258 There had not been sufficient time..to make them [*sc.* the fortifications] storm-proof. 1911 J. H. ROSE *Pitt & Gt. War* vii. 192 The constitution had suffered dilapidation, but it was storm-proof. 1840 R. H. DANA *Bef. Mast* xi, We came down to double-reefed topsails and the *storm-sails. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.*, *Storm-sail*, a sail made of stout No. 1 canvas, of reduced dimensions, for use in a gale. 1908 *Westm. Gaz.* 18 Mar. 10/1 All the windows, too, have *storm-shutters. 1863 in Fitzroy *Rep. Meteorologic Office* (1864) p. xi. *note*, Drum *storm signal hoisted at noon. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.*, *Storm-signal*, the hoisting of a danger-flag. Also, Fitzroy's drum and cone, which show the direction of the expected gale. 1905 W. O'BRIEN *Recoll.* vii. 136 We who knew Egan's storm-signals, saw the tips of his ears redden and a bright scarlet point appear in the centre of his cheeks. 1875 *Chamb. Journal* 2 Jan. 8/1 *Storm-signalling apparatus is supplied by the Board of Trade. 1857 M. F. MAURY in D. F. M. Corbin *Life* (1888) 135 The *storm-spencer had been blown away. 1491 *Acta Dom. Conc.* (1839) 203/1 In the accioun..tuechipg pe takin of a schip & gudes..*stormestaid & drevin to pe Erlis fery. 1787 BURNS *Let. W. Cruikshank* June, I was storm-staid two days at the foot of the Ochill Hills. 1856 KANE *Arct. Expl.* II. xxii. 216 An abrupt change of the weather gave us a howling gale outside, and we were all of us storm-stayed. 1880 MISS BIRD *Japan* I. 344 The *yadoyas* are crowded with storm-staid travellers. 1850 L. HUNT *Autob.* II. 255 We set the fore *storm-staysail anew. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* III. iii. (*heading*), How Troiane goddis apperis to Enee, And how that he was *stormestod on the see. 1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* III. 94, I stayed sixteene dayes, storme-sted with Northernely winds. 1888 BARRIE *Auld Licht Idylls* ii. 41 Storm-stead shows used to emphasize the severity of a Thrums winter. 1897 *Daily News* 26 Jan. 7/1 Later in the day the *storm system continued to increase in depth. 1838 W. REID *Law of Storms* 430 The *storm tracks here traced. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.*, **Storm-trysail*, a fore-and-aft sail, hoisted by a gaff, but having no boom at its foot, and only used in foul weather. 1867 A. BUCHAN *Meteorol.* 9 *Storm-warnings. 1883 *Encycl. Brit.* XVI. 158/1 Weather Forecasts and Storm Warnings. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* III. 394 *Storm-waters, as they may be called,..fall in such quantities within..an hour or two as entirely to overcharge all ordinary systems of drainage. 1887 MEREDITH *Ball. Tragic Life* 92 Howled and pressed the ghastly crew, Like storm-waters over rocks. 1905 *Daily Chron.* 3 July 6/7 Heavy rain began to come down—so heavy that the storm-water sewers were not able to take it off. 1839 D. MILNE in *Trans. R. Soc. Edin.* XIV. 486 This *storm-wave (for such it may not improperly be termed) moved..through the Atlantic in a N.NE. direction. 1874 LISLE-CARR *Judith Gwynne* I. iv. 120 Her bosom would heave with a great storm-wave of passionate emotion. 1839 LONGF. *Hyperion* I. vii, The *storm-wind came from the Alsatian hills. 1873 HAMERTON *Intell. Life* II. iv. (1876) 72 Like..a steamer with a storm-wind directly against her and an iron-bound coast behind. 1892 G. P. X. GRIFFITH tr. *Fouard's St. Peter* 78 The storm-winds of trial swept over them. 1824 SCOTT *Redgauntlet* Let. iv, There were what are called *storm-windows in the roof. 15.. *Aberd. Reg.* (MS.) (Jam.) The bigging of the *storme-windoik. 1889 R. HINMAN *Eclectic Physical Geogr.* vi. 94 The regions between 40° and 70° latitude are the great *storm zones of the world.

e. In names of certain birds, the movements or cries of which are supposed to presage a storm: **storm-bird** (*a*) = *storm-petrel*; (*b*) = *thunder-bird* b (see THUNDER *sb.* 6); (*c*) a local name (Norfolk) for the fieldfare (Swainson); **storm-cock**, the missel-thrush; also locally applied to the fieldfare and the green woodpecker (Miss Jackson *Shropsh. Word-bk.*); **storm-finch** († *-finck*, † *-fink*) = *storm-petrel*; **storm-petrel**, *Procellaria pelagica* (cf. STORMY *a.* 3); **storm thrush**, the missel-thrush.

These words are sometimes used *fig.* to designate a person whose activity is a sign of impending discord.

1758 J. HILL *Hist. Anim.* 514 [The Petrel] was first mentioned in the Stockholm Transactions, under the name of Procellaria, or the *Storm-bird. 1867 GOLDW. SMITH *3 Eng. Statesmen* (1882) 34 Lady Carlyle—a storm-bird of this parliamentary storm. 1913 R. HARRIS *Boanerges* XXV. 267 The Arabian Storm-bird or thunder-bird. 1769 G. WHITE *Selborne, To Barrington* 2 Nov., Missel-bird, *Turdus viscivorus*. ..Is called in Hampshire and Sussex the *storm-cock. 1902 G. BRENAN *House of Percy* II. ii. 32 Charles Paget—storm-cock of Catholic agitation. 1661 LOVELL *Hist. Anim. & Min.* Isagoge a 6 [Aquatic birds] as the..*stormfinck. 1804 BEWICK *Brit. Birds* II. 249 Stormy Petrel. Storm Finch, or Little Petrel. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.*, *Storm-finch*, the petrel, or Mother Cary's chicken. 1833 P. J. SELBY *Illustr. Brit. Ornith.* II. 533 Common *Storm-Petrel. *Ibid.* 537 Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel. 1885 NEWTON in *Encycl. Brit.* XVIII. 712/1 The common Storm Petrel, *Procellaria pelagica*,..is the 'Mother Carey's chicken' of sailors, and is widely believed to be the harbinger of bad weather. 1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss.*, *Storm-cock* or **Storm-thrush*. The missel-thrush. 1913 *Engl. Rev.* Apr. 157 Like a storm-thrush piping its warning.

Storm (stɔm), *v.* [f. STORM *sb.* (OE. had *styrman*, early ME. STURME *v.*)]

1. *intr.* Of the elements or weather: To be tempestuous or stormy, to rage.

14.. *Chaucer's Boeth.* I. met. vii. (1868) 29 Þe trouble wynde þat hyȝt auster stormynge [*Camb. MS.* turnyng: L. *mare volvens*] and walwyng þe see medleþ þe heete. 1564 T. STAPLETON tr. *Staphylus' Apol.* Pref. 3 As the quiet passanger when the sea stormeth. 1579 SPENSER *Sheph. Cal.* Dec. 131 So now he [winter] stormes with many a sturdy stoure. 1612 DRAYTON *Poly-olb.* x. 74 From Shetland stradling wide, his foote on Thuly sets: Whence storming, all the vast Deucalidon hee [Boreas] threts.

fig. c 1611 CHAPMAN *Iliad* I. 148 That..he, whose bow thus stormd For our offences, may be calmd.

b. *impers.* To blow violently; also to rain, snow, etc. heavily. Now only *U.S.*

1530 PALSGR. 130 *Il tempeste*, it stormeth. 1598 W. PHILLIP tr. *Linschoten* 5/2 The nearer wee are vnto the land, the more it stormeth, raineth, thundreth and calmeth. 1840 R. H. DANA *Bef. Mast* v, Throughout the night it stormed violently—rain, hail, snow and sleet beating upon the vessel. 1848 BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.* 336 *To storm*, to blow with violence; impersonally, as, *it storms*. We use it improperly in the sense of to rain or to snow. 1856 MISS WARNER *Hills Shatemuc* xix, Come in..it is going to storm hard..It's going to be a bad storm;—you'll be better under here. 1858 M. F. MAURY in D. F. M. Corbin *Life* (1888) 168 It is now snowing and storming furiously. 1872 'MARK TWAIN' *Innoc. Abr.* ii. 20 It was still raining. And not only raining, but storming. 'Outside'..there was a tremendous sea on. 1894 *Chamb. Jrnl.* 16 June 376/1 Oh, but the nuts fall much more quickly when it storms.

c. *transf.* To rush with the violence of a storm.

1842 TENNYSON *Vis. Sin* 25 The music..Rose again from where it seem'd to fail, Storm'd in orbs of song, a growing gale. 1854 — *Charge of Light Brigade* iii, Storm'd at with shot and shell, Boldly they rode and well, Into the jaws of Death.

2. *trans.* To make stormy. In quots. *fig.* to trouble, vex, disturb. Also *pass.*

1597 SHAKS. *Lover's Compl.* i, I..Ere long espied a fickle maid..Storming her world with sorrowes, wind and raine. 1878 BROWNING *Poets of Croisic* lxiv, Our simulated thunderclaps Which tell us counterfeited truths—these same Arc—sonnd, when music storms the soul, perhaps?—Sight, [etc.]. 1883 H. W. BEECHER in *Chr. World Pulpit* XXIV. 122/3, I honour men who are stormed like the ocean, whose sky is dark, on whom the waves of trouble roll.

3. *intr.* To complain with rough and violent language; to rage. Const. *at, against* (a grievance or person).

1553 *Respublica* i. iii. 211 *Avar.* Feyth, manne, I spake but even to prove your pacyence, that-yf thowe haddest grunted or stormed thereat, *Adul.* Naie, fewe times doe I vse suche lowde manier as that. *Ibid.* III. vi. 935 Ye muste storme & sharpelye take hym vp for stumbling. 1570 FOXE *A. & M.* (ed. 2) 1225/1 The Priestes..began to grudge & storme against Tyndall. 1586 A. DAY *Eng. Secretorie* II. (1625) 26 Such odde kinde of reports..the least whereof would make you storme to the gall. 1596 SHAKS. *Merch. V.* I. iii, 138 Why looke you how you storme, I would be friends with you. 1603 KNOLLES *Hist. Turkes* (1621) 1254 Storming against their Generall for not being a coward, as they themselves were. *c* 1611 CHAPMAN *Iliad* v. 868 O Father stormst thou not To see vs take these wrongs from men? 1642 D. ROGERS *Naaman* 15 Oh they storme and rage as a Beare robbed of her Whelpes. 1741 RICHARDSON *Pamela* (1824) I. 90 She curses and storms at me like a trooper. 1797 MRS. BERKELEY *Poems of G. M. Berkeley* Pref. p. CCXVIII, Mrs. Berkeley used to storm nobly on these occasions. 1813 BYRON *Br. Abydos* I. xiii, And he so often storms at nought. 1867 TROLLOPE *Chron. Barset* I. xiv. 120 He'll storm and threaten and stop the supplies for a month or so. 1885 *L'pool Daily Post* 30 June 4/7 They storm like very demons when anyone ventures to hint that the Highland crofter is not the paragon of the human race. 1889 BARRIE *Window in Thrums* xii. 108, I do not want to storm at the man.

b. quasi-*trans.* with complement.

1839 BAILEY *Festus* 286 Although..they may have put God from them—Disowned His prophets..and stormed His curses back to Him; yet..He can pity still. 1891 KIPLING *Light that Failed* xv. 335 Dick roused, struck him over the head with the butt, and stormed himself wide awake.

4. *pass.* To be exposed to the severity of the weather; to suffer severely from cold. Now *dial.*

c 1440 *York Myst.* xiv. 16 And yf we here all nyght abide, We shall be stormed in bis steede. *c* 1636 STRAFFORD in Browning *Life* (1892) 187 He was found dead..and in a cold night and lodging, stormed to death. 1828 CARR *Craven Gloss., Storm'd*, starved; pinched with cold.

5. *trans.* To make (seed-hay) storm-proof by piling the sheaves in small stacks. *local.*

1862 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* XXIII. 63 Ere it [the rain] arrives..several acres of his hay-seed are already in the field stack. Thus it is saved, by being stormed, as the local [Warwickshire] phrase well expresses it.

6. *Mil.* To make a vigorous assault on (a fortified position); to take or attempt to take by storm or assault.

1645 CROMWELL in Carlyle *Lett. & Sp.* (1845) I. 227 By means of this entrance of Colonel Hammond they did storm the Fort on that part which was inward. 1646 in *10th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. I. 54 The General Major of the horses wold haue the wallis of the citie stormit vpoun all quarteris. 1651 LAMONT *Diary* (Maitl. Club) 32 They stormed Dundie, and caried the towne. 1692 PRIOR *Ode imit. Hor.* 21 All Day to Mount the Trench, to Storm the Breach. 1820 W. IRVING *Sketch Bk.* II. 260 Several of their bravest officers were shot down in the act of storming the fortress. 1874 GREEN *Short Hist.* i. § 6. 49 Æthelred stormed the Danish camp at Benfleet.

b. *transf.* and *fig.*

1652 R. LOVEDAY *Hymen's Præludia* 301 He basely resolves to storm her chastity. 1697 COLLIER *Ess. Mor. Subj.* II. (ed. 2) 99 Thus People are stormed out of their Reason and Inclinations; plagued into a Compliance; and forced to yield in their own Defence. 1703 S. SEWALL *Diary* 16 Mar. (1879) II. 75 So should we patiently ..sing the Praises of God,..though Storm'd by the last efforts of Antichrist. 1730 T. BOSTON *Mem.* xii. (1899) 395 The toothache has stormed my lower teeth so that I think they are beginning to give way too. 1812 BYRON *Ch. Har.* I. xlix, Here the bold peasant storm'd the dragon's nest. 1820 KEATS *Eve of S. Agnes* x, A hundred swords Will storm his heart, Love's feverous citadel. 1841 THACKERAY *Gt. Hoggarty Diam.* x, She would have stormed Lady Jane Preston's door, and forced her way up-stairs. 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xvi. III. 697 At last it seemed that heaven had been stormed by the violence of supplication; the truth came out, and many lies with it. 1910 LD. ROSEBERY *Chatham* x. 220 Pitt had apparently determined, in the jargon of that day, to storm the Closet.

7. *intr.* a. *Mil.* To rush to an assault or attack.

1632 *Swed. Intelligencer* II. 47 The Scots..forced the garrison into the inner port; they Storming in together with them. 1645 CROMWELL in Carlyle *Lett. & Sp.* (1845) I. 226 Colonel Montague and Colonel Pickering, who stormed at Lawford's Gate..presently entered. *Ibid.*, The Major-General's regiment being to storm towards Froom River. 1859 HAWTHORNE *Fr. & It. Note-bks.* (1872) II. 267 A great gap in the ramparts—it may have been a breach which was once stormed through. 1860 FROUDE *Hist. Eng.* V. 207 Again the next day they stormed up to the walls. 1877 TENNYSON *Harold* v. i, Our javelins Answer their arrows. All the Norman foot Are storming up the hill.

b. *transf.* To rush with violence.

1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. II. vii, How, in this wild Universe, which storms in on him..shall poor man find..footing to stand on. 1863 LONGF. *Wayside Inn*, I. *Falcon* 98 The boy, rejoicing in his strength, Stormed down the terraces from length to length. 1870 TYNDALL *Fragm. Sci.* (1879) I. v. 133 On placing the flame at some distance below the beam, the same dark masses stormed upwards.

Hence **Stormed** *ppl. a.*, taken by storm.

1842 JAMES *Brigand* ii, The cold wind rushed in fiercely like a besieging army into a stormed city. 1888 E. A. FREEMAN *Four Oxf. Lect.* 95 It is our one recorded example of the fate of a stormed town.

Stormable (stɔ̄·măb'l), *a.* [f. STORM *v.* + -ABLE.] That can be taken by storm.

1645 CROMWELL *Let.* 6 Oct. in *Carlyle* (1845) I. 233 We..made a breach in the wall near the Black Tower, which after about 200 shot, we thought stormable, and purposed on Monday morning to attempt it. 1829 SHIPP *Mem.* II. 185 The breaches began to wear a stormable appearance. 1885 *Where Chineses Drive* 162 It was surrounded by a moat, and not easily stormable.

†**Storma·tical, Sto·rmical,** *adjs. Obs. nonce-words.* [See -ATIC and -ICAL.] Stormy. (Invented to render F. *bourrasqueux.*)

1634 W. TIRWHYT tr. *Balzac's Lett.* (vol. I.) 91 Should I..sayle vpon the Ocean in the stormaticall seasons of the yeare [Fr. *és bourrasqueuses saisons de l'année*]. 1654 BAKER tr. *Balzac's Lett.* I. 31 In the stormical seasons of the year.

Stormer (stɔ̄·mər). [f. STORM *v.* + -ER 1.]

1. One who storms or rages; one who makes a wild agitation.

1617 COLLINS *Def. Bp. Ely* II. ix. 358 The Iesuites, those stormers against the authoritie of heathen Magistrates ouer beleeuers. 1886 *Pall Mall. Gaz.* 19 Feb. 8/1, I wish we could make people see that we are not merely wild stormers, but that we have definite, sober economic theories.

2. One who takes by storm; a member of a storming party.

1655 EARL ORRERY *Parthen.* II. II. III. 148 The Assailants admir'd to finde the Breach so well defended,..but the Day no sooner appear'd than the Stormers wonder ceas'd by another. 1828-40 NAPIER *Penins. War* XVI. v. (Rtldg.) II. 362 On the breach, at the head of the stormers. 1889 J. G. ALGER *Englishmen in Fr. Rev.* 52 The widows and orphans of the stormers of the Tuileries.

Stormful (stɔ̄·mfŭl), *a.* [f. STORM *sb.* + -FUL.] Abounding in or subject to storms; tempestuous, stormy. *lit.* and *fig.* (A favourite word with Carlyle.)

1558 PHAER *Æneid* VIII. (1562) B b iij, Store of strugling wynds & stormful clouds of clodded raine. 1591 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* I. v. 576 From jeopardy Of stormfull Seas. *a* 1756 COLLINS *Superstit. Highlands* 67 They know what spirit brews the stormful day. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. v. xi, This Camp of Twenty-thousand, could it be other than of stormfullest Sansculottes? 1883 J. PAYN *Kit* xxxii, To shape his thoughts in less vehement and stormful fashion.

Hence **Sto·rmfully** *adv.*, **Sto·rmfulness.**

1831 CARLYLE *Sartor Res.* II. iii, With a stormfulness..under which the boldest quailed. *Ibid.* III. viii, We..haste stormfully across the astonished Earth. 1904 M. MACLEAN *Lit. Celts* xviii. 350 A hundred and sixty years pass stormfully by.

Stormical: see S. V. STORMATICAL.

Stormily (stɔ̄·rmili), *adv.* In 5 **stormely.** [f. STORMY + -LY 2.] In a stormy manner.

c 1450 *Mirk's Festial* 205 Þe wynde [began] stormely forto blow. 1830 DE QUINCEY *Bentley* Wks. 1862 VI. 39 My own belief sets in stormily towards the same conclusion. 1847 C. BRONTE *Jane Eyre* ii, Her cap flying wide, her gown rustling stormily. 1860 FROUDE *Hist. Eng.* V. 344 The interview ended stormily. 1889 MARY E. CARTER *Mrs. Severn* III. ix, The sky was stormily beautiful.

Storminess (stɔ̄·rminés). [f. STORMY + -NESS.] Stormy quality.

1587 GOLDING *De Mornay* xi. 180 The storminesse thereof [*sc.* of the wind]. 1631 T. POWELL *Tom of All Trades* 3 The stormynesse of the sea of state. 1796 *Ann. Reg.* (Otridge), *Hist. Europe* 198/2 The storminess of the weather increased to such a degree, that..the French admiral determined to quit his position. 1894 JEAFFRESON *Bk. Recoll.* I. ii. 27 Schoolboys..never feared the capricious storminess of his freakish ..irritability. 1913 GRETTON *Mod. Hist.* I. xii. 284 The shock had added to the storminess of events.

Storming (stɔ̄·rmiŋ), *vbl. sb.* [-ING 1.] The action of the vb. STORM.

1461 *Bale's Chron.* in *Six Town Chron.* (1911) 137 The last day of novembr was a marvelous and dredful sturmyng and noys of the comones and of lordes men at Westminster. 1622 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Shilling* C 5 b, Such storming, fretting, fuming. 1661 *Reg. Privy Counc. Scot.* Ser. III. I. 26 Gunnis taken..at the stormeing of Dundy. 1667 J. CARYL *Eng. Princess* II. v. 20 Slow Treaties will to stormings him oblige, Who leisure wants to take the Fort by Siege. *a* 1774 W. WHITEHEAD *Epist. from Grove* 11 For here, for all my master's storming, I'm sure we strangely want reforming. 1913 G. EDMUNDSON *Church in Rome in 1st Cent.* vi. 169 The storming and burning of the Capitol by the foreign mercenaries of Vitellius.

Storming (stɔ̄·rmiŋ), *ppl. a.* [-ING 2.]

1. That storms or rages.

1557 *Tottel's Misc.* (Arb.) 242 And all my storming dayes be past, and weather waxeth faire. 1591 SPENSER *Ruins of Time* 404 Wise words..Recorded by the Muses, line for ay; Ne may with storming showers be washt away. 1619 A. NEWMAN *Pleasures Vision* 10 Blowne and tost, like ships in storming wind. 1622 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Farew. Tower Bottles* A 4 b, Showring hayleshot, from the storming heau'n. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* III. v. v, A dumb inarticulately storming Whirlwind of things. 1852 TENNYSON *Ode Death Wellington* 155 Thank Him who isled us here, and roughly set His Briton in blown seas and storming showers. 1905 *Daily Chron.* 14 July 3/1 The learned doctor is in a storming fury.

absol. 1712 STEELE *Spect.* No. 438 ¶ 4 The Hectoring, the Storming, the Sullen, and all the different Species and Subordinations of the Angry.

2. That attacks in order to take by storm; chiefly in *storming party.*

1802 C. JAMES *Milit. Dict.*, *Storming Party*, a select body of men, consisting generally of the grenadiers, who first enter the breach, &c. 1829 SHIPP *Mem.* II. 185 The storming parties were ordered to be in readiness about two o'clock. 1864 SKEAT *Uhland's Poems* 69 The storming hosts rush on. 1894 WOLSELEY *Life Marlborough* II. xv. 195 The ecstasy of reckless daring which takes possession of the soldier in a storming party. 1894 BLACKMORE *Perlycross* xi, Three old Officers..brave men as ever led a storming column.

Hence **Sto·rmingly** *adv.*

a 1600 HOOKER *Wks.* (1888) II. 593 But there are, whose stubborn spirits will..hereupon stormingly reply.

†**Sto·rmish,** *a. Obs. rare.* [f. STORM *sb.* + -ISH 1.] Stormy.

c 1430 LYDG. *Min. Poems* (Percy Soc.) 245 Stormysshe as Marche, with chaungis ful sodeyne. 1530 PALSGR. 326/1 Stormysshe, stormy as the wether is, *tempesteux.*

Stormless (stɔ̄·rmlĕs), *a.* [f. STORM *sb.* + -LESS.] Free from storms.

c 1500 Q. SHAW in Pinkerton *Anc. Sc. Poems* (1786) I. 133 Tho the air be fair, and stormles. 1591 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* I. v. 918 Whatsoever other Monster haunts In Storm-less Seas. 1765 J. BROWN *Chr. Jrnl.* 73 That I might enter into endless calms of peace, and stormless mansions of felicity. 1819 R. SHEIL *Evadne* III. i. 42 May your days, Like a long stormless summer, glide away. 1867 SWINBURNE in *Fortn. Rev.* Oct. 422 That unfooted grove of the God, sunless and stormless in all seasons of wind or sun.

Stormy (stɔ̄·rmi), *a.* [f. STORM *sb.* + -Y.]

1. Of the weather, season, air, sky, sea, etc.: Characterized by storm or tempest; tempestuous. Of a place or region: Subject to storms.

a 1200 in *Anglia* XI. 369 Hit byð..windiz sumer and storemiz and geswyncfull hærfest. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 22691 A stormi dai, a stret of au. ?*a* 1366 CHAUCER *Rom. Rose* 455 And if the wedir stormy were For colde she shulde haue deyd there. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 35 Now be the stormy wynter shoures. 1535 COVERDALE *Ps.* liv. 8, I wolde make haist to escape, from the stormy wynde and tempest. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* III. viii. 21 And all his windes Dan Aeolus did keepe, From stirring vp their stormy enmitie. 1637 MILTON *Lycidas* 156 Beyond the stormy Hebrides. 1764 GOLDSM. *Trav.* 167 Where the bleak Swiss their stormy mansions tread. 1799 J. ROBERTSON *Agric. Perth* 356 The wildest and most stormy mountains in Scotland. 1860 TYNDALL *Glaciers* I. xxiii. 164 A wild stormy morning. 1885 *Manch. Exam.* 15 May 5/6 An Atlantic steamer..ploughing its course across stormy oceans.

2. *fig.* Of persons, their temper or looks; of times, events, circumstances, etc.

a 1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* Prol. 3 Now with halesome lare drouyd & stormy saules it bryngis in til clere & pesful lyf. *c* 1374 CHAUCER *Troylus* II. 778 For loue is yet þe meste stormy lyf. *c* 1386 — *Clerk's T.* 939 O Stormy people vnsad, and euere vntrewe. 1412-20 LYDG. *Chron. Troy* I. 2245 His stormy cruel aventure. *Ibid.* III. 4079 Alias! Fortune,..Whan folk most triste in þi stormy face..Panne is þi loye aweye to turne & wrybe. 1592 *Arden of Feversham* III. v. 113 Nothing shall hide me from thy stormy looke. 1597 SHAKS. 2 *Hen. IV*, I. i. 164 Your health, the which if you giue-o're To stormy Passion, must perforce decay. 1641 J. JACKSON *True Evang. T.* iii. 193 That Religion which is more turbulent, seditious, and stormy, let it be throwne over-board to lighten the ship of the Church. 1700 DRYDEN *Cymon & Iph.* 257 While stormy Cymon thus in secret said [etc.]. 1831 GREVILLE *Mem.* (1874) II. 153 There was..every promise of a stormy session. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* II. I. 223 Shaftesbury and Buckingham..appeared at the head of the stormy democracy of the city. 1892 SMILES *Mem. J. Murray* I. xvii. 443 The discussion was long and stormy before the meeting broke up. 1915 J. KELMAN *Salted with Fire* iv. 40 In the stormy times in which his lot was cast emergencies were constantly arising.

b. *Path.* of inflammation.

1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VI. 903 Meningitis is usually so stormy in its manifestation that [etc.].

3. Associated or connected with storms; indicative, predictive, or symbolical of storms. *poet.*

1560 ROLLAND *Seven Sages* 24 Anone thay spy into the Firmament Ane stormie sterne that troublit thair Intent. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* I. 419 Now sing we stormy Staes. 1761 GLOVER *Medea* v. v. 94 Grim Neptune yonder shakes his stormy trident. 1842 TENNYSON *Sir Galahad* 25 When down the stormy crescent goes.

b. *Stormy petrel*: the bird *Procellaria pelagica.* Also *fig.*, a person who delights in strife, or whose appearance on the scene is a harbinger of coming trouble.

1776 PENNANT *Zool.* II. 553 Stormy Petrel. 1847 LD. CAMPBELL *Chancellors* CCVIII. VII. 479 Eldon..came to London..on account of rumours of a dissolution of the Ministry. He went, with some, by the name of the 'Stormy Petrel', being supposed to delight in such convulsions. 1892 *World* 6 Apr. 15 (Brewer), Dr. von Esmarch [a physician] is regarded at court as a stormy petrel, and every effort was made to conceal his visit to the German emperor.

4. Relating to or concerned with storms. *poet.*

1725 POPE *Odyss.* I. 232 A duteous people, and industrious Isle, To naval arts inur'd, and stormy toil.

Storne, obs. form of STERN *sb.*[1]

‖ **Stornello** (stɔrne·lo). Pl. **stornelli** (-li). [It.] A short popular Italian lyric, usually improvised.

1873 'OUIDA' *Pascarel* I. iv. 57 Many and many a time..I have..repeated the stornelli to an enthusiastic circle of blacksmiths [etc.]. 1885 *Encycl. Brit.* XIX. 272/2 Most of the Italian rispetti and stornelli seem to be improvisations.

Storoppe, obs. form of STIRRUP.

Storre, obs. form of STAR *sb.*[1], STIR *v.*, STOUR *a.*

Storrie, obs. form of STORY *sb.*2

Storrope, obs. form of STIRRUP.

Stort, error for SCART *sb.*1 (cormorant).

1635 BRERETON *Jrnl.* (Surtees 1914) 26 (Bass Rock) Abundance of fowle breed here: solem geese: storts: [etc.].

Storte, obs. form of START *sb.*1

Storthing (stō·ɹtiiŋ). Also **storting**. [Norw. *storting*, formerly *-thing*, f. *stor* great + *ting*, *thing* assembly (see THING *sb.*2); cf. ON. *stórþing* œcumenical council.] The Norwegian parliament.

1834 S. LAING *Jrnl. Resid. Norway* (1836) 115 The Parliament, or Storthing, is elected and assembled once in three years, and sits for three months, or until the business is dispatched. 1840 R. G. LATHAM *Norway & Norwegians* II. 86 The thus elected Representatives shall constitute the Storting of the Kingdom of Norway. 1893 *Nation* (N. Y.) 21 Aug. 153/3 If a bill is passed unchanged by three successive Storthings, it becomes law without the royal sanction.

† **Sto·rtkyn, sto·tterkyn.** *Obs.* [Form uncertain; perh. a corruption of some Du. word; see -KIN.] Some measure of quantity.

1501 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* II. 28 Giffin for ij stortkynnys of girthis, ilk ane contenand xxxliij skeynȝeis; ilk stotterkin xvij s.; summa xxxiij s.

† **Sto·rven,** *ppl. a. Obs.* [regular str. pa. pple. of STARVE *v.* Cf. STARVEN *ppl. a.*] Dead; also *absol.* Also of an animal: That has died of disease.

a 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 1043 He wi3 his steuene þe storuene astearde. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 194 Rift as of an hungri Pie The storve bestes ben awaited. 1482 [see GALL-BITTEN *a.*].

Story (stō·ri), *sb.*1 Pl. **stories** (stō·riz). Forms: 3–7 **storie**, 4 *Sc.* **stoury**, 4–5 **store**, 4–6 **stori**, 5–7 **storye**, 5 **stoory**, 4– **story**. *Pl.* 4 **storis**, **storijs**, **-yss(e**, 4–5 **storys**, **-yies**, **stor(r)ius**, 4–7 **storyes**, 6 **storeis**, **storyis**, 4– **stories**. [a. AF. *estorie* (OF. *estoire*, later in semi-learned form *histoire*) :—L. *historia*: see HISTORY. Cf. It. and med.L. *storia*.]

I. † **1.** A narrative, true or presumed to be true, relating to important events and celebrated persons of a more or less remote past; a historical relation or anecdote. *Obs.*

In early use the most frequent application was to passages of Bible history and legends of saints. In quot. 1303, although the possessive denotes authorship, the sb. prob. retains the general sense.

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 154 Me schal, leoue sustren, tellen ou þeos storie [*v.r.* storien] uor hit were to long to writen ham here. *a* 1300 *Havelok* 1641 Þat sholen ye forthward ful wel lere [*MS.* heren], Yif þat ye wile þe storie heren. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 3410 Now es god at vnder tak þe store tell of ysaac. 1303 R. BRUNNE *Handl. Synne* 11452 She chese þat vertu, oure lady, So seyþ magnificat, here owne storye [Fr. *En Magnificat ge ele feseit*]. 1320–30 *Horn Ch.* 4 Stories ye may lere Of our elders þat were Whilom in this land. *c* 1380 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* I. 71 A storye of Joon Baptiste. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Prol.* 709 He was in chirche a noble ecclesiaste, Wel koude he rede a lesson or a storie But alderbest he song an Offertorie. *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (Roxb.) ii. 6 As þe story of Noe beres witness. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 5 Whan they here the precher..reherse ony fygures or storyes of the lawe of Moyses. 1559 *Mirr. Mag., Richard Earl of Camb.* Introd., By that this was ended, I had found out the storie of Richard earle of Cambridge. 1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* III. iii. III. (1624) 480 Paulus Æmilius..hath a Tragicall story of Chilpericus the first his death. *a* 1628 PRESTON *Breastpl. Love* (1631) 152 David had many great infirmities, as we see in the whole story, the whole relation of his life. 1642 JER. TAYLOR *Episc.* (1647) 25 So they being sent forth by the holy Ghost, departed into Seleucia. This is the story, now let us make our best on't.

† **b.** *Clerk of the Stories*: Petrus Comestor, the author of the *Historia Scholastica*. Also *Master in* or *of the Stories*: see MASTER *sb.* 12 b.

1362 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. VII. 73 Catoun kenneth men þus and þe clerke of þe stories. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) I. 65 þe Maister of the stories sayth. [1450 *Harl. transl., ibid.*, After the Maister in storyes.]

† **c.** A historical incident. *Obs.*

c 1449 PECOCK *Repr.* II. xiii. 225 Euereither of these stories were doon eer eny lawe was 3ouun to the Iewis.

† **2.** A historical work, a book of history. *Obs.*

13.. *Coer de L.* 4852 And as I fynde in hys story, He seygh come St. George, the knyght, Upon a stede good and lyght. 1338 R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (1810) 51 A thousand was þe date & sext & britty, Whan Knoute kyng died, so sais þe story. 1340–70 *Alex. & Dind.* 467 We raiken to oure romaneus & reden þe storrius þat oure eldrene on erþe or þis time wroute. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) I. 297 Herodotus þe writer of stories. *Ibid.* II. 7 This Britayne is acounted an holy lond bothe in oure stories and also in stories of Grees. *c* 1440 *Generydes* 3481 Generides his swarde toke in his hande, Claryet it hight, the store tellith me so. *c* 1449 PECOCK *Repr.* III. xii. 351 Ech fundamental storie speking of this said voice seith and storieth, that [etc.]. 1574 WHITGIFT *Def. Aunsw.* II. 98 And yet in lawfull matters, not expressed in the Scriptures, I know not to whome we should resorte to know the vse and antiquitie of them, but to the Councels, stories, and doctors. 1634 PEACHAM *Compl. Gentl.* XV. (1906) 186 Ordericus Vitalis the Monke, in his Normane Story saith. 1684–5 SOUTH *Serm.* (1715) I. 304 Examples of this, we have both in Holy Writ, and also in other Stories. 1708 CHAMBERLAYNE *St. Gt. Brit.* I. III. X. (1743) 220 Records of this Nation, without which no Story of the Nation can be written or proved. 1756 AMORY *Buncle* (1825) I. i. 17 When I had done with antient history, I sat down to the best modern stories I could get, and read of distant nations.

† **3.** In generalized sense: Historical writing or records; history as a branch of knowledge, or as opposed to fiction. Also, the events recorded or proper to be recorded by historians: = HISTORY *sb.* 4 c. *Obs.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 7038 In grece þan regned Preamus As ald stori telles vs. 13.. *K. Alis.* 670 (Laud MS.) Þis is nouth romaunce of skof, Ac storye ymade of maistres wyse. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) II. 345 Verrey storie [L. *vera historia*] seiþ þat Saturnus þe fader and Iupiter þe sone hadde tweie kingdomes [etc.]. *c* 1430 LYDG. *Min. Poems* (Percy Soc.) 85 The chieldren of Seth in story ye may se, Flowryng in vertu by longe successiouns. 1568 ABP. PARKER *Let.* 4 July *Corr.* (1853) 328 In story it is reported that the prince of the realm by right is not *Dominus Hiberniæ*, but *Rex Hiberniæ*. 1570–6 LAMBARDE *Peramb. Kent* (1826) 89, I will shewe you out of Beda and others the content and storie of this Ile. 1611 BIBLE *Transl. Pref.* ¶ 1 As many as know story, or haue any experience. 1612 SELDEN *Illustr. Drayton's Poly-olb.* XI. 379 As Robert of Glocester, according to truth of Story hath it. *a* 1626 BACON *Sp. Speaker's Excuse* Wks. 1778 II. 242 This is no part of a panegyric, but merely story. 1644 MILTON *Areop.* (Arb.) 54 Who is so unread or so uncatechis'd in story, that hath not heard of many sects refusing books as a hindrance. 1647 WARD *Simple Cobler* (1843) 2 Those that are acquainted with Story know. 1666 DRYDEN *Ann. Mirab.* Pref. ¶ 1 The destruction being so swift..as nothing can parallel in Story. 1692 PRIOR *Ode Imit. Hor.* xii, Tis no Poet's Thought, no flight of Youth, But solid Story, and severest Truth. 1728 MORGAN *Algiers* I. iv. 93 Have we not any Instances in Story of some such-like Deportment practised by prior and more refined Nations? 1768 H. WALPOLE *Hist. Doubts* 20 With every intention of vindicating Richard, he does but authenticate his crimes, by searching in other story for parallel instances of what he calls policy.

4. A recital of events that have or are alleged to have happened; a series of events that are or might be narrated.

1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* I. 1 Storys to rede ar delitabill, Suppos that thai be nocht bot fabill: Than suld storyss that suthfast wer,..Hawe doubill plesance in heryng. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 419 Ouyd, þat feynit in his fablis & other fele stories. 1594 SHAKS. *Rich. III*, IV. iii. 8 Dighton and Forrest, whom I did suborne To do this peece of ruthfull Butchery, ..Wept like to Children, in their deaths sad Story. 1602 tr. *Guarini's Pastor Fido* v. i. N 3 b, But twilbe too Too troublesome to tell the storie of my life. 1653 LD. VAUX tr. *Godeau's St. Paul* 44 But to understand this better, tis necessary we take the course of this Story a little higher. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* VII. 51 He with his consorted Eve The storie heard attentive. 1725 POPE *Odyss.* XXIII. 324 Intent he hears Penelope disclose A mournful story of domestic woes. 1796 H. HUNTER tr. *St. Pierre's Study Nat.* (1799) II. 247, I shall give this story in the simplicity of style of the old Translator of Pliny. 1843 PRESCOTT *Mexico* VI. viii. (1864) 407 The whole story has the air of fable, rather than of history! 1862 MISS BRADDON *Lady Audley* XXXVII, He told the story of George's disappearance, and of his own doubts and fears. 1883 TYLOR in *Encycl. Brit.* XV. 199/1 Among the magi the interpretation of dreams was practised, as appears from the story of the birth of Cyrus.

b. *transf.*

1611 BEAUM. & FL. *Philaster* III. i, How that foolish man, That reads the story of a womans face, And dies believing it, is lost for ever. 1818 DUPPA *Trav. Italy*, etc. 3 His [Raffaello's] great and commanding excellence is in..the art of telling a story with such appropriate feeling and expression, as no other artist ever yet approached. 1849 RUSKIN *Seven Lamps* VI. § 7. 169 Better the rudest work that tells a story or records a fact, than the richest without meaning.

† **c.** Purport, meaning conveyed. *Obs.*

1340–70 *Alex. & Dind.* 609 3e ne vndurstonde nouht þat stounde þe storie of þis wordus, þat god here⁊ no gome but for his goode dedus, & for no bestene blod. 1399 LANGL. *Rich. Redeles* Prol. 82 þe story is of non estate þat stryuen with her lustus, But þo þat ffolwyn her ffiessh.

d. With possessive: A person's account of the events of his life or some portion of it.

1604 SHAKS. *Oth.* I. iii. 165 She..bad me, if I had a Friend that lou'd her, I should but teach him how to tell my Story, And that would wooe her. 1663 TUKE *Adv. Five Hours* I. 4 Let's tell our Stories, that we soon shall see, Which of us two excells in Misery. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* VIII. 522 Thus have I told thee all my State, and brought My Storie to the sum of earthly bliss Which I enjoy. 1797 [FRERE & CANNING] *Knife-grinder* in *Anti-Jacobin* No. 2. 15/2 As soon as you have told your Pitiful story. 1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* xlvi, 'Ye maun gang up wi' me to the Lodge, Effie,' said Jeanie, 'and tell me a' your story'. 1894 B. THOMSON *South Sea Yarns* 82 And then she told him her whole story.

e. With possessive or followed by *of*: The series of events in the life of a person or the past existence of a thing, country, institution, etc., considered as narrated or as a subject for narration.

Originally = HISTORY 4 b; but in modern use (from association with sense 5) implying that the course of events referred to has the kind of interest which it is the aim of fiction to create. (So often in titles of books.)

a 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 6 Sept. 1676, The famous beauty and errant lady the Dutchesse of Mazarine (all the world knows her storie). 1712 SWIFT *Cond. Allies* 65 The Prudence, Courage and Firmness of Her Majesty..would, if the Particulars were truly related, make a very shining Part in Her Story. 1712 ADDISON *Hymn* in *Spect.* No. 465 The Moon ..nightly..Repeats the Story of her Birth. 1734 tr. *Rollin's Anc. Hist.* (1827) II. III. 161 Several other Kings of Babylon with whose story we are entirely unacquainted. 1878 HEREFORD (*title*) The Story of Religion in England. 1885 L. OLIPHANT *Sympneumata* 135 The story of woman upon earth has been different from the beginning to that of man. 1888 E. CLODD (*title*), The Story of Creation. 1898 MERRIMAN *Roden's Corner* I. 10 Many objects in the room had a story, had been in the daily use of hands long since vanished. 1910 J. MCCABE *Prehist. Man* I. 14 If we take the entire story of the stratified rocks to extend to over 55 million years.

5. A narrative of real or, more usually, fictitious events, designed for the entertainment of the hearer or reader; a series of traditional or imaginary incidents forming the matter of such a narrative; a tale.

Often applied more or less *spec.* to a tale told to children, a nursery tale, and to a tale handed down by popular oral tradition, a folk-tale (the two classes partly coincide). When denoting a literary composition, the word is sometimes applied to a long work of fiction, a romance or novel, esp. when considered with reference to its series of incidents (cf. c), but more commonly to a short tale or novelette.

1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* lvii. 7 Sum singis, sum dancis, sum tellis storeis. 1597 J. KING *Jonas* (1618) 355 Now wee haue Arcadia, and the Faery Queene, and Orlando Furioso, with such like friuolous stories. ? 1605 DRAYTON *Poems Lyr. & Past.* Eglog vi. F 1, Summers longst day shall sheepheards not suffice to sit and tell full storyes of thy prayse. 1632 MILTON *L'Allegro* 101 With stories told of many a feat, How Faery Mab the junkets eat. 1692 S. SHAW *Diff. Humours Men* 30, I doubt you would be laught at as bad as the Crow in the Story. 1866 FREEMAN *Hist. Ess.* Ser. I. (1871) 9 A romance without a shadow of truth may be exquisitely beautiful as a story. 1867 MAX MÜLLER *Chips* (1880) II. xxii. 213 Stories become extinct like dodos and megatheria. 1886 *Morning Post* 8 Sept. Bk.-review, It is a brilliant story ..which will be avidly read.

b. In generalized sense: Traditional, poetic, or romantic legend or history.

1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* XXXV, She almost fancied herself approaching a castle, such as is often celebrated in early story, where the knights look out from the battlements on some champion below. 1796 WATSON *Apol. Bible* 40 They are sensible that the gospel miracles are so different, in all their circumstances, from those related in pagan story. 1802 WORDSW. *To the Small Celandine* 6 Long as there are violets, They will have a place in story. 1816 SCOTT *Bl. Dwarf* ii, Old Martin Elliot of the Preakintower, noted in Border story and song. *a* 1839 PRAED *Poems* (1864) II. 11 Or die in fight, to live in story. 1855 LYNCH *Rivulet*, LXXXII. i, Breathe on us for the passing day The powers of ancient story.

c. Succession of incidents, 'plot' (of a novel, poem, or drama).

1715 PARNELL *Pope's Iliad* I. *Ess. Homer* 38 While his Works were suffer'd to lie in an unconnected manner, the Chain of Story was not always perceiv'd, so that they lost much of their Force and Beauty by being read disorderly. 1772 JOHNSON in *Boswell* (1904) I. 455 Why, Sir, if you were to read Richardson for the story, your impatience would be so much fretted that you would hang yourself. 1779 *Mirror* No. 31 The great error, into which novel-writers commonly fall, is, that they attend more to the story and to the circumstances they relate, than to giving new and just views of the character of the person they present. 1868 D. COOK *Nts. at the Play* (1883) I. 88 Sundry bursts of patriotic oratory..close the second act effectively, but otherwise help the story in no way. 1877 *Ibid.* II. 159 The story set forth by the play. 1897 *Strand Mag.* Dec. 634/2 As the life of the body is the blood, so the life of the novel is the 'story'. 1902 A. DOBSON *S. Richardson* IV. 94 In *Grandison*..the movement of the story for the most part advances no more than a rocking-horse.

d. An incident, real or fictitious, related in conversation or in written discourse in order to amuse or interest, or to illustrate some remark made; an anecdote. *Good story*: often, an amusing anecdote.

a 1679 J. WARD *Diary* (1839) 129, I have heard a merrie storie of a certain scholar, that [etc.]. 1771 *Junius Lett.* lxvii. 331 The following story will serve to illustrate the character of this respectable family. 1779 *Mirror* No. 3 He is as much a pedant as his quondam tutor, who..tells stories out of Herodotus. 1781 COWPER *Conversat.* 203 A story, in which native humour reigns, Is often useful, always entertains. 1858 HAWTHORNE *Fr. & Ital. Note-bks.* (1871) I. 126, I capped his story by telling him how [etc.]. 1888 BRYCE *Amer. Commw.* CXI. III. 597 A deliberate and slow delivery..has the advantage of making a story or jest tell with more effect.

¶ **e.** Used for: A subject of story. Also, a theme for mirth, a dupe.

1603 SHAKS. *Meas. for M.* I. iv. 30 Sir, make me not your storie. 1703 ROWE *Ulysses* IV. i, 'Till I had been a Story to Posterity. 1756 C. SMART tr. *Horace, Epist.* I. xiii. (1826) II. 229 Rather than..turn your paternal name of Asina into a jest, and make yourself a common story [L. *et fabula fias*].

6. An allegation, statement; an account or representation of a matter; a particular person's representation of the facts in a case. Phrase, *the story goes that...*: it is reported. *To be all in one story, to be in the same story*: (of a number of persons) to agree in their account of a matter (usually implying collusion).

1601 SHAKS. *All's Well* V. iii. 229 The story then goes false, you threw it him Out of a Casement. 1653 RAMESEY *Astrol. Restored* 28 Inventing and affirming detracting and most abusive speeches and stories. 1661 PR. RUPERT in *11th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. V. 7 The story is this, the Elector Pallatin hath ben pleased to write to a Prive Consellor of this court [Vienna] in these terms [etc.]. *a* 1670 [S. COLLINS] *Pres. St. Russia* (1671) 41 But as the story goes, she fail'd of her promise. 1686 tr. *Chardin's Trav. Persia* 159, I kept constant to this story, not knowing any better way to conceal my self. 1700 N. ROUS in *Jrnl. Friends' Hist. Soc.* (1912) IX. 184, I find Brother Dykes continues in his old story. 1760–72 H. BROOKE *Fool of Qual.* (1809) I. 24, I find all the world in the same story. 1770 GOLDSM. *Des. Vill.* 210 And e'en the story ran that he could gauge. 1775 SHERIDAN *Duenna* II. iii, I find they are all in a story. 1823 LOCKHART *Sp. Ball., Escape of Gayferos* x, And of Gayferos' slaughter a cunning story [they] made. 1833 GREVILLE *Mem.* (1874) II. 340 He [Lyndhurst] told me his story, which differs very little from that which Arbuthnot had told me at Downham. 1838 DICKENS *O. Twist* XVII, They're all in one story, Mrs. Mann. That out-dacious Oliver has demogalized them all! 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* XVIII. IV. 234 The Queen..had been informed that stories deeply affecting the character of the navy were in circulation.

1865 Livingstone *Zambesi* v. 126 A Chief..remarked that parties had come before, with as plausible a story as ours. 1898 J. K. Fowler *Rec. Old Times* 114 The story goes that the following colloquy took place. 1905 *Times Lit. Suppl.* 14 July 223/3 Dr. Murray has a slightly different story [of the origin of pasquinade].

† b. A mere tale, a baseless report. *Obs.*

1662 J. Davies tr. *Olearius' Voy. Ambass.* 93 Were it granted that this is but a story, as it seems to be no other. 1665 Glanvill *Sceptis Sci.* x. 53 And it may be more than a Story, that Nero derived much of his cruelty from the Nurse that suckled him. 1685 Jas. II in *Lond. Gaz.* No. 2006/3 But that is not the onely Story has been made of Me. 1692 Luttrell *Brief Rel.* (1857) II. 376 Merchant letters are silent herein, so hoped to be a story. 1705 E. Ward *Hud. Rediv.* III. iv. 27 Tell 'em, the Church declines in Glory, They cry, they hope 'tis all a Story. 1796 Watson *Apol. Bible* 74 Is it a story, that our first parents fell from a paradisiacal state?

† c. *To make a story*: to cause a scandal. *Obs.*

1652 Dorothy Osborne *Lett. to Sir W. Temple* (1888) 29 He has made a story with a new mistress that is worth your knowing.

d. Phrases. *The whole story*: the full account of the matter, all that there is to be said. † *To be out of the story*: to misunderstand the state of things. (*That is*) *another story*: a matter requiring different treatment.

1668 Temple *Let. to Ld. Halifax* Wks. 1731 II. 89 There is the whole Story; that you may see how much you are either biass'd, or mistaken in all the rest you say of it. 1778 *Arminian Mag.* I. 194 Alas, Sir, you are as much out of the Story now as ever. 1865 Ruskin *Sesame* i. § 33 If the scientific man comes for a bone or a crust to *us*, that is another story.

e. *U. S.* A narrative or descriptive article in a newspaper; the subject or material for this.

1892 *Harper's Weekly* 9 Jan. 42/3 When one reporter is given the whole of a 'story' his instructions always leave him more or less discretion, but when several men are assigned to different parts of one 'story', each one has instructions which must be followed to the letter. 1898 *Scribner's Mag.* May 572 'Where's your story?' asked the city editor. 'There wasn't any story to write,' replied the new reporter,..'finally the [peace] meeting broke up in a free fight; so I came back, sir.' 1902 Eliz. Banks *Newspaper Girl* 95 A girl artist and I were told by our editor to go out and get up a true story on 'The Hottest Day among the New York Poor'.

7. *colloq.* Euphemism for: A lie. Hence (in vulgar use, esp. among children) *you story!* = 'you story-teller', 'liar'.

a 1697 Aubrey *Lives, Sir H. Blount* (1898) I. 110 Two young gentlemen that heard Sir H. tell this *sham* so gravely ..told him they wonderd he was not ashamed to tell..storys as, &c. 1740 Richardson *Pamela* II. 272, I believe, Woman, said she, thou tellest me a Story. 1763 Bickerstaff *Love in Village* III. ix, You strike me, because you have been telling his worship stories. 1770 Wesley *Jrnl.* 21 Mar., You were always good Children, and never told stories. 1834 Dickens *Sk. Boz, Steam Excurs.*, The unfortunate little victim was accordingly led below, after receiving sundry thumps on the head from both his parents, for having the wickedness to tell a story. 1854 Miss Baker *Northampt. Gloss., Story*, a softened term for a lie. 1869 *Routledge's Ev. Boy's Ann.* 561 Saying, as the little girls in the streets do, 'Oh, you story!' 1880 Mrs. Lynn Linton *Rebel of Family* II. ix. 201 Now, Eva,..I know all about you, so do not begin to deny and tell stories. 1884 *Life & Lett. Bayard Taylor* I. 11 The boy..went home, telling his mother that there was no school,—the first and only 'story,' she says, that he ever told her. 1893 W. S. Gilbert *Utopia* II, Oh, you shocking story!' 1901 W. Pett Ridge *Lond. Only* ii. 38 'Least bit bandy, surely?' remarked her sister. 'Oh, you story!' exclaimed Rhoda, with indignation. 'His legs are as straight as straight.'

† II. 8. A painting or sculpture representing a historical subject. Hence, any work of pictorial or sculptural art containing figures. *Obs.* [So med.L. *historia, storia* (Du Cange), OF. *histoire* (Godef.).]

1388 Wyclif 1 *Kings* vii. 24 Tweyne ordris of grauyngis conteynynge summe stories [1382 Two ordris of storye grauyngis: Vulg. *duo ordines sculpturarum striatarum* (?misread *storiatarum*)]. *c* 1400 Maundev. (Roxb.) xxi. 94 In þase platez er storys of kynges and knyghtes and batales. *c* 1449 Pecock *Repr.* II. ii. 139 In the sidis of the same ymage he made stories in ymagerie..as it is open iije. Reg. vije. c. *c* 1470 Harding *Chron.* XLI. iv, He died so, and in his temple fayre Entoumbed was, with stories all about. 1533 *Coron. Q. Anne* in *Bibl. Curiosa* (1884) 29 The standarde whiche was costly and sumptuously garnisshed with gold and asure with armes and stories. 1563 B. Googe *Eglogs* etc. (Arb.) 114 The walles were raysed hye And all engraued with Storyes fayre of costlye Imagrye. 1577 Harrison *England* II. v. [II. i.] 76 b in *Holinshed*, As for our Churches themselues..all Images,..and monumentes of Idolatry, are remooued,..onely the storyes in glasse windowes excepted. 1610 Holland *Camden's Brit.* (1637) 548 In the walles whereof are engraven the stories of Christs Passion and other things. *a* 1700 Evelyn *Diary* 8 May 1654, I also call'd at Mr. Ducie's, who has indeede a rare collection of the best masters, and one of the largest stories of H. Holbein. *Ibid.* 20 July, The dining-roome..richly gilded and painted with story by De Creete.

† b. Subject (of a painting or sculpture). *Obs.*

a 1700 Evelyn *Diary* 3 Jan. 1666, There are some mezzo-relievos as big as the life, the storie is of the Heathen Gods.

III. 9. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as in *story-group, -maker, -monger, -plot, -reader, -weaving, -wright, -writing.* Also **story-book**, a book containing stories, esp. children's stories; also *occas.* a novel or romance; † **story-dresser**, one who gives a novel form to history; † **story-faith**, historical faith (see Historical *a.* 2); † **story's man** (*stories man*), the authority for a story; † **story-painter**, a historical painter; **story-paper**, a journal that contains works of fiction; † **story-work**, historical painting or sculpture (see sense 8); **story-writer**, † (*a*) an official chronicler, historiographer; (*b*) a historian; (*c*) a writer of stories or tales; † **story-wrought** *a.*, adorned with 'story-work'. Also † (in) **story-wise** *adv.* (*a*) historically; (*b*) in the manner of 'story' or historical painting or sculpture. Also Story-teller, -telling.

1711 Swift *Harrison's Tatler* No. 5 P 2 My Maid left on the Table..one of her *Story-Books (as she calls them) which I..found full of strange Impertinences,..Of poor Servants that came to be Ladies [etc.]. 1790 Cowper *Let.* 23 Mar., The Odyssey, which is one of the most amusing story-books in the world. 1818 Scott *Hrt. Midl.* xxxix, The Duke in person with laced coat, gold-headed cane, star and garter, all, as the story-book says, very grand. 1848 Thackeray *Van. Fair* xlv, Her simple little fancies shrank away tremulously, as fairies in the story-books before a superior bad angel. 1883 Miss M. Betham-Edwards *Disarmed* xi, Can things come right for us, as they do in story-books? 1908 A. Kinross *Joan of Garioch* xlv. 298 The silent horsemen all about me were figures from a story-book of old romance. 1592 Nashe *Pierce Penilesse* 20 Any *Storie dresser..that sets a new English nap on an olde Latine Apothegs. 1621 Burton *Anat. Mel.* Democr. to Rdr. (1624) 7 Our Poets steale from Homer,..Divines vse Austins wordes verbatim still, and our story dressers doe as much. 1531 Tindale *Expos. 1 John* iv. (1538) 65 We beleue not only wyth *story fayth, as men beleue old cronicles, but we beleue [etc.]. 1904 Jessie Weston in *Romania* XXXIII. 342 Remnants of a once popular and widely-spread *story-group connected with the deeds of Gawain and his kin. 1422 Yonge tr. *Secreta Secret.* 162 Dares..that was att the Segee of the nobill Cite of Troy, and therof the *stori-makere. 1913 R. C. Maclagan *Our Ancestors* xxiv, 285 It is no wonder that the story-makers should ascribe its use in royal ceremonial as taking place in Ireland. *a* 1661 Fuller *Worthies, Huntingdon.* (1662) 49 Mr. Parker (I tell you my story and my *stories-man) an industrious Antiquary, collecteth out of the Records of the Church of Ely, that [etc.]. 1668 R. L'Estrange *Vis. Quev.* vii. 315 Where are the *Story-Mongers? The Masters of the Faculty of Lying? That Report more than they Hear [etc.]. 1634 Peacham *Compl. Gentl.* xii. (1906) 110, I call Reubens to witnesse, (the best *story-painter of these times). 1888 R. L. Stevenson *Beggars* ii, He had a vulgar taste in letters; scarce flying higher than the *story papers. 1890 Hartland *Science of Fairy Tales* i. (1891) 2 The outlines of a *story-plot among savage races are wider and more unconfined. 1903 A. Lang in *Folk-Lore* June 155 Now I have already insisted that captured slaves..and commerce in all ages must have diffused story-plots. 1844 Dickens *Chimes* i, It is desirable that a story-teller and a *story-reader should establish a mutual understanding as soon as possible. 1889 *Spectator* 9 Nov. 640/2 Never raising him above his true level, which was that of an artist in *story-weaving. 1565 Calfhill *Answ. Treat. Crosse* Pref. 6 b, At the firste, Images among Christen men, were only kept in priuate houses: paynted or grauen in *story wise. 1571 Golding *Calvin on Ps.* xviii. 8. 58 Yit dooth not David report theis things in story-wyse; but [etc.]. 1572 Roscarrocke in *Bossewell Armorie* Pref. Verses, All the walls with imagery, were grauen storie wise. 1608 Hieron *Defence* I. 46, I might put him in mind, that some learned men observe Mathew not to alleadge that testimony; but to report storie wise, how the Scribes did alleadge it to Herod. 1601 Holland *Pliny* xvi. xxxiii. I. 479 Thereof [of Cypress] are drawne many vinets and berders about *storie-workes in colours. 1611 Cotgr., *Historier*,.. to flourish, or beautifie Wainscot or Tapistrie with Histories, or Storie-worke. 1659 Torriano, s.v. *Storie*, To beautifie with storie-work, *historiare*. 1903 Christabel Coleridge *C. M. Yonge* vi. 163 Miss Dyson had generous insight enough to know that her friend was a far better *story-wright than herself. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 366/2 A *Story wryter (writter A.), *historiagraphus*. 1535 Coverdale 1 *Esdras* ii. 25 Then wrote the kynge to Rathimus the story wryter [LXX. τῷ γράφοντι τὰ προσπίπτοντα]. 1552 Huloet, Story writer, *historiographus*. 1621 Bp. Mountagu *Diatribæ* 407 The particular remembrances of such use..either neuer were in being, for want of Story-writers in barbarous times..or [etc.]. 1905 A. R. Wallace *My Life* II. 135 Frank Stockton, perhaps the most thoroughly original of modern story-writers. 1552 Huloet, *Story wrytyng, *historiographia*. 1606 Sylvester *Du Bartas* II. iv. II. *Magnif.* 267 Her wide-side Robes of Tissue passing price, All *story-wrought with bloudy Victories.

Story, *sb.*[2], **storey** (stōʻri). Pl. **stories, storeys.** Forms: 5 storye, 6 storie, (storrie, store), 7– storey, ? 4, 5– story. [First in AL. form *historia*; hence prob. the same word as Story *sb.*[1], though the development of sense is obscure.

Possibly *historia* as an architectural term may originally have denoted a tier of painted windows or of sculptures on the front of a building: see Story *sb.*[1] 8, and cf. the Latin quot. 1398 below and sense 2.

The current view that the word is a. OF. **estoree* (f. *estorer* to build, furnish: see Store *v.*) is untenable on account of the AL. form *historia* (from 12th c.).

The following are examples of the Anglo-Latin use of *historia* in the architectural sense:—

a 1200 Hugo Candidus *Cænob. Burgensis Hist.* 93 in Sparke *Hist. Angl. Scriptt.* (1723) In suo etiam tempore [*sc.* W. de Waterville, 1155–75] tres historiæ magistræ turris erectæ sunt. *a* 1300 *Gesta Sacristarum* in Arnold *Mem. St. Edmund's Abbey* (Rolls) II. 291 Qui [Abbot Sampson 1135–1211] tempore officii sui pro majori parte chorum consummavit unam istoriam in majori turre ad ostium occidentali. 1339–40 *Ely Sacrist Rolls* (1907) II. 96 Pro fenestris superioris istoriæ novi operis. 1398 in *Hist. Dunelm. Script. tres* (Surtees) p. clxxxi, Supra quodlibet studium erit unum modicum et securum archewote, supra quod, spacio competenti interposito, erit una historia octo fenestrarum..et desuper istam historiam fenestrarum erunt honesta alours et bretesmontz batellata et kirnellata.]

1. Each of the stages or portions one above the other of which a building consists; a room or set of rooms on one floor or level.

In this use synonymous with Floor *sb.* 5; but while in England the term First-floor is applied to the floor above the ground-floor, the numbering of 'stories' (so named) usually begins with the ground floor, so that the 'first-floor' is identical with the 'second story,' and 'a house of one story' has a ground-floor only. A different usage is shown in quot. 1850, and appears to be not wholly obsolete.

Quot. *a* 1400, though the reading is app. the scribe's conjectural emendation of an obscure passage, may perh. be taken as attesting the existence of the sb. at the date of the MS.; the passage was prob. supposed to refer to the addition of 'stories' or upper stages to towers.

a 1400 *R. Gloucester's Chron.* 3756 (Harl. MS.) Hii bygonne her heye tounes strengþy [*Cotton MS.* & strengþede] vaste aboute, Her castles & storys [*Cotton MS.* & astori], þat hii mygte be ynne in doute. *a* 1490 Botoner *Itin.* (Nasmith, 1778) 282 Turris Sci Stephani Bristoll..habet 4 storyes, et ibi in quarta storia sunt campanæ. In superiori historia tres orbæ in qualibet panella. 1569 Stocker tr. *Diod. Sic.* III. viii. 113 b, He caused an engine to be made called *Helepolis*,..in which were ix. stories or sellers deuided one from another with planchers of wood. 1585 Higins *Junius' Nomencl.* 181 *Tristega*,..an house of three sollers, floores, stories or lofts one ouer another. 1590 Lucar *Lucarsolace* I. xxi. 34 By the art..you may tell..what space is betwene storie and storie in any house or other building. 1600 J. Pory tr. *Leo's Africa* VIII. 307 It is built very stately..and is of three stories high. 1625 Bacon *Ess., Of Building* (Arb.) 552–3 This vpon the Second Story. Vpon the Ground Story, a Faire Gallery..: And vpon the Third Story likewise, an Open Gallery. 1672 Marvell *Reh. Transp.* I. 39 Annoyances incident to such as dwell in the middle story. 1693 Dryden *Juvenal* iii. 326 Thy own third Story smoaks. 1723 *Present State of Russia* I. 43 All the Inhabitants of Petersbourg who had Houses but one Story high. 1741 P. Tailfer etc. *Narr. Georgia* 107 The Orphan-house..has two Stories besides Cellars and Garrets. 1763 *Museum Rust.* (ed. 2) I. 76 The granary ..consists of seven stories of floors. 1766 Entick *Lond.* IV. 360 The basement story is very massy. 1773–G. A. Stevens *Trip to Portsmouth* ii. 20 Three story is na height at all—my town hoose at bonny Edingburgh is up the aught story. 1815 Scott *Guy M.* iii, The..narrative..was interrupted by the voice of some one ascending the stairs from the kitchen story. 1819 Shelley *Let. to T. L. Peacock* 26 Jan., Sel. Lett. (1882) 95 The houses [in Pompeii] have only one story, and the apartments..are very lofty. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* II. v. iii, A Brigand Court-Martial establishes itself in the subterranean stories of the Castle of Avignon. 1840 Dickens *Barn. Rudge* i, With its overhanging storeys, drowsy little panes of glass, and front bulging out and projecting over the pathway. 1850 Parker *Gloss. Archit.* (ed. 5) I. 447 In domestic and palatial architecture the stories are thus enumerated from the lowest upwards. Basement or underground story...Ground story or ground-floor...First-story...Then follow second, third, and so on. 1852 Mrs. Stowe *Uncle Tom's C.* xxxii, A wide verandah of two storeys running round every part of the house. 1864 C. Geikie *Life in Woods* vii. 132 A wooden schoolhouse..a single story high. 1874 Ruskin *Fors Clav.* IV. xlvi. 222 The little house..having..two windows over the shop, in the second story. 1899 *Daily Chron.* 24 Jan., The inhabitants have taken refuge in the upper storeys of the houses.

b. *transf.* and *fig.* Anything compared to a story of a building; one of a series of stages or divisions lying horizontally one over the other.

1625 Massinger *New Way* IV. i, Not the..feare of what can fall on me hereafter, Shall make me studie ought but your aduancement, One story higher. An Earle! if gold can do it. *a* 1631 Donne *80 Serm.* ii. (1640) 14 God shall raise thee peece by peece, into a spirituall building; And after one Story of Creation, and another of Vocation, [etc.]. 1648 J. Beaumont *Psyche* XXIV. clxxx, If Lucifer had never walk'd upon Complete Felicitie's transcendent Stories,..His Loss had finite been. 1687 A. Lovell tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* II. 40 Here you may see a very lovely Cascade of nine or ten Stories. 1693 Evelyn *De La Quint. Compl. Gard., Refl. Agric.* 67 The Leaves..grow upon the Boughs Chequerwise, in little Stories or Steps at a small distance from each other. 1727 A. Hamilton *New Acc. E. Indies* I. xxxi. 384 His Effigie is..carried..in Procession mounted on a Coach four Stories high. 1727 Pope, etc. *Art of Sinking* xiii. 74 A Rhetorical Chest of Drawers, consisting of three Stories. 1762–71 H. Walpole *Vertue's Anecd. Paint.* (1786) III. 199 He painted in an age when the women erected edifices of three stories on their heads. 1763 Mills *Pract. Husb.* IV. 354 Three branches should be left..in the circumference of the tree, to form what is called the first story. At three feet above them, three other branches are left...The tree is to be formed into stories, in this manner, up to the top. 1768 Tucker *Lt. Nat.* (1834) II. 545 To try how all the principles and precepts of religion, morality, and common prudence, in several stories supported by one another, may be rationally erected. 1826 J. T. Smith *Bk. for Rainy Day* (1845) 238 Among the old dandies of this description of wig we may class Mr. Saunders Welch,..he had nine stories. 1842 Tennyson *Will Waterproof* 70 High over roaring Temple-bar, And set in Heaven's third story, I look at all things..thro' a kind of glory. 1874 Aldrich *Prud. Palfrey* xi. (1885) 172 It is so easy to add another story to the high opinion which other people have of you.

c. *The* or *one's upper story*: jocularly used for the head as the seat of the mind or intellect.

1699 Bentley *Phalaris* 304 He..must have Brains..as well as Eyes in his Head. A man that has that Furniture in his upper Story, will discover [etc.]. 1771 Smollett *Humphry Cl.* 10 June iii, What you imagine to be the..light of grace, I take to be a deceitful vapour, glimmering through a crack in your upper story. 1817 Keats *Lett.* Wks. 1889 III. 57 By this means, in a week or so, I became not over capable in my upper stories. *a* 1837 John Scott in Lockhart *Scott* (1837) III. xi. 351 His neighbour..cast many a curious side-long glance at him, evidently suspecting that all was not right with the upper story. 1884 *Harper's Mag.* Dec. 88/1, I wuz born weak in th' upper story.

2. Each of a number of tiers or rows (of orders, columns, window mullions or lights, etc.) disposed horizontally one above another.

1412 [see CLERESTORY]. 1449 in *Cal. Proc. Chanc. Q. Eliz.* (1830) II. Pref. 54 Uppon þe furste flore in þe second story ..shullen be xviij wyndowes haunsed. 1518–19 *Rec. St. Mary at Hill* (1904) 302 Paid for makyng of a fote of glas in the upper store in the Middyll Ile, iiij d.. 1564 in Willis & Clark *Cambridge* (1886) II. 569 Item for scoweryng and newe trimmyng fower stories of olde yron at ij*s*. vj*d*. the storie, xj*s*. 1684 WOTTON *Archit.* I. 39 Where more of these Orders then one, shalbe set in seuerall Stories or Contignations, there must bee an exquisite care, to place the Columnes precisely, one ouer another. 1663 GERBIER *Counsel* 36 It stands so much higher, as..the third story of Columns. 1811 MILNER *Eccles. Archit. Eng.* Pref. p. xv, The mullions of these windows, being continued down to the bottom of their story. 1849 RUSKIN *Seven Lamps* v. § 13. 148 The side of that church has three stories of arcade. *a* 1878 SIR G. SCOTT *Lect. Archit.* (1879) I. 88 The capitals which prevail in the upper storeys of the choir..I cannot think so early.

3. Comb.: **story box**, one of a series of boxes (for keeping bees) arranged one over the other (cf. STORIFY *v.*); **story post, rod** (see quots. 1842); **† story wig**, one with several rows of curls.

1780 J. KEYS *Pract. Bee-Master* § 170. 70 By keeping Bees both in *story and collateral boxes at the same time, I have..found [etc.]. 1663 GERBIER *Counsel* 67 Oaken Carcasse, ground plates nine inches one way, seven inches the other; *Story Posts backwards nine inches one way and six inches the other. 1842 GWILT *Archit.* Gloss., *Story Posts*, upright timbers disposed in the story of a building for supporting the superincumbent part of the exterior wall through the medium of a beam over them; they are chiefly used in sheds and work-shops. 1823 P. NICHOLSON *Pract. Builder* 199 The *Story-rod is a rod of wood, equal in length to the height of the stairs. 1842 GWILT *Archit.* Gloss., *Story Rod*, one used in setting up a staircase, equal in length to the height of the story, and divided into as many parts as there are intended to be steps in the staircase, so that they may be measured and distributed with accuracy. 1826 J. T. SMITH *Bk. for Rainy Day* (1845) 238 The earliest engraved portraits of Dr. Johnson exhibit a wig with five rows of curls,..commonly called 'a *story wig'.

Story (stō·ri), *v.*[1] [f. STORY *sb.*[1]]

1. *trans.* In early use, to record historically; to relate the history of (*obs.*); in later use, to tell as a story, to tell the story of. Often with clause as obj. Now *rare*; very common in the 16–17th c., esp. quasi-impers. in passive, *It is storied that . . .*

The original sense appears occasionally down to the end of the 17th c., but from the middle of the century, or even earlier, it is often difficult to determine whether the older or the newer use is intended. Cf. the sb.

a 1450 *Knt. de la Tour* CXV. 156 She owithe well forto be ..storied in scripture with other good ladyes. *c* 1449 PECOCK *Repr.* III. xii. 351 Ech fundamental storie speking of this seid voice seith and storieth that it was mad in the eir. *Ibid.* 353 And this Eusebi..took up on him for to write and storie the hool lijf and the deeth of the same Constantyn. 1563 FOXE *A. & M.* 1353/1 It were a large and a long proces to story al the doinges, trauailes, and wrytynges of this Christian Bishop [Latimer]. 1610 GUILLIM *Heraldry* III. xvii. (1611) 159 It is storied, that the old Eagles make proofe of their yong by exposing them [etc.]. 1621 BP. MOUNTAGU *Diatribæ* 209 Their Tithes are not onely storied to haue been payed, but are strictly commanded to be payed. 1634 MILTON *Comus* 516 What the sage Poets..Storied of old in high immortal vers Of dire Chimera's and inchanted Iles. 1649 PRYNNE *Demurrer to Jews' Remitter* 41 Nicholas Trivet..thus stories the Jews banishment. 1652 SPARKE *Prim. Devot.* (1663) 583 On our British isles too (story some) This Canaanite bestowd first Christendom. 1657 G. THORNLEY *Daphnis & Chloe* 90 Daphnis then storied to her what he had seen. 1672 GALE *Crt. Gentiles* I. III. ii. 33 Truth wrapt under these fables..as tis evident, by what is storied of the Floud. 1701 HOWE *Some Consid. Pref. Enquiry* 7 That..which is storied of Plato, that having one in his Academy that [etc.]. 1796 COLERIDGE *Ode to Departing Yr.* 67 With many an unimaginable groan Thou storied'st thy sad hours! 1813 W. TAYLOR in Robberds *Mem.* II. 414 Are you not afraid of seeing the Peninsula evacuated before you have storied the ancient explosions of independence? 1864 *Spectator* 538 A people who would lay all laws e'er sung Or storied at thy feet.

† b. With adv. *To story forth*: to proclaim the story of. *To story out*: to invent stories of; also, ? to unravel the true story of. *Obs.*

1591 *1st Pt. Troub. Raigne K. John* E 4, My tongue is tunde to storie forth mishap. *Ibid.* G 4 b, I goe my selfe, the ioyfulst man aliue To storie out this new supposed crime. *a* 1661 HOLYDAY *Juvenal* x. (1673) 188 Men once beleiv'd, Athos was sail'd about, And all that lying Greece dares story-out [L. *et quicquid Graecia mendax Audet in historia.*]

2. To decorate with paintings or sculpture; to represent in painting or sculpture. Cf. STORY *sb.*[1] 8.

1387–8 T. USK *Test. Love* II. xiii. (Skeat) 76 Purtreytures storied with colours medled. 1812 CARY *Dante, Purg.* X. 66 There, was storied on the rock [It. *Quivi era storiata*] The exalted glory of the Roman prince..Trajan the Emperor. 1844 HOOD *Haunted Ho.* III. 285 Rich hangings, storied by the needle's art, With Scripture history, or classic fable. 1853 MRS. GASKELL *Ruth* I, A window of stained glass, storied all over with armorial bearings. 1854 TALFOURD *Castilian* III. iv, The walls Of alabaster, storied with the deeds Of saints and martyrs.

Hence **Sto·rying** *vbl. sb.*, the action of the vb.; **† a** historical narrative. **Sto·rying** *ppl. a.*

c 1449 PECOCK *Repr.* II. i. 133 Þi his writing in storiyng or cronycleing. *Ibid.* III. xii. 354 The seid Damesis storiyng writun by Damasus long sithen Constantyn died. 1793 COLERIDGE *Kisses* 1 Cupid, if storying Legends tell aright, Once fram'd a rich Elixir of Delight. 1820 J. H. WIFFEN *Aonian Hours* (ed. 2) 153 Thou hast thy records which surpass Or storying stone, or sculptured brass!

Story, *v.*[2] *Obs.* [f. STORY *sb.*[2]] *trans.* To arrange in 'stories' or strata one over the other.

1692 BENTLEY *Boyle Lect.* iv. 17 All the parts of an undisturbed Fluid are either of equal Gravity, or gradually placed and storied according to the differences of it.

Storyette: see STORIETTE.

Sto·ryful, *a. nonce-wd.* [-FUL]. Rich in story.

1846 J. C. MANGAN *Poems, The Lovely Land* 24 This is.. Some lone land of genii days, Storyful and golden!

Storyless (stō·rilės), *a.* [f. STORY *sb.*[1] + -LESS.] Having no story or stories.

c 1836 DARLEY in *Friendsh. Miss Mitford* (1882) II. 4 You have..a substantive..taste for poetry itself, when you can thus like storyless abstraction better than a tale of some.. human interest. 1849 *Fraser's Mag.* XL. 42 Even storyless and songless Java is for us embalmed in one lone verse of Heber's Missionary Hymn. 1867 *Athenæum* 9 Nov. 607/3 The author is as story-less as the knife-grinder.

Sto·ry-te·ller. [f. STORY *sb.*[1] + TELLER.] One who tells stories.

1. One who is accustomed to tell stories or anecdotes in conversation.

1709 STEELE *Tatler* No. 132 ₱ 10 There is nothing more ridiculous than an old trifling Story-Teller. 1711 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 247 ₱ 8 As for newsmongers, politicians, mimics, story-tellers,..they are as commonly found among the men as the women. *a* 1763 W. KING *Lit. & Polit. Anecd.* (1819) 72 A story teller is the most agreeable or the most disagreeable character we can meet with. 1862 *Fraser's Mag.* July 46 He was also a *bon-vivant*, a diner-out, and a story-teller.

2. Euphemistically: A liar. *colloq.*

1748 RICHARDSON *Clarissa.* (1811) III. 20 Wicked story-teller! 1770 WESLEY *Jrnl.* 21 Mar., 'But,' says he [a boy of nine], 'you quarrel with God's word;..So you make God a Story-teller.' 1796 MME. D'ARBLAY *Camilla* II. 63 He is a very learned gentleman, and no more a story-teller than I am myself. 1814 *Sporting Mag.* XLIII. 371, I always believed you to be one of the greatest story tellers in England, but I find you have spoke the truth to day. 1825 T. HOOK *Sayings* Ser. II. *Man of Many Fr.* I. 196 Oh, you story-teller, Tom! 1862 MRS. H. WOOD *Mrs. Hallib.* II. ii, What an old story-teller she must be.

3. One whose business it is to recite legendary or romantic stories.

1777 J. RICHARDSON *Dissert. Language* 57 Professed story-tellers, are of early date in the East. 1813 BYRON *Giaour* 1334 *note*, The coffee-house story-tellers who abound in the Levant, and sing or recite their narratives. 1841 SPALDING *Italy & Ital. Isl.* III. 266 A profession peculiar to Italy and the East,—that of the Story-tellers. 1846 MILL *Diss. & Disc.* (1859) II. 310 The Greek religion appears in them too much as a sort of accident, the arbitrary creation of poets and storytellers. 1908 *Hibbert Jrnl.* Oct. 27, I have paid special attention to public story-tellers.

4. Applied to a writer of stories.

1814 SCOTT *Wav.* lxv, These circumstances will serve to explain such points of our narrative as, according to the custom of story-tellers, we deemed it fit to leave unexplained, for the purpose of exciting the reader's curiosity. 1861 HUGHES *Tom Brown at Oxf.* xvii, The exigencies of a story-teller must lead him away from home now and then. 1885 MISS GATTY *Jul. H. Ewing* i. 3, I have promised the children to write something for them about their favourite story-teller, Juliana Horatia Ewing.

transf. 1879 *Social Notes* IV. 114 Hogarth was a story-teller in the strictest sense of the term; his series of chapters correspond closely to the novelist's chapters.

5. The teller of a particular story.

1851 D. JERROLD *St. Giles* xiv. 138 Again was he pressed to rehearse the tale, whilst mugs of ale rewarded the story-teller. 1883 MISS M. BETHAM-EDWARDS *Disarmed* iii, The story-teller suddenly broke down, as if thrilled and set a-tremble with the potency of his own words. 1911 SWANTON *Ind. Tribes Lower Mississ.* (Bureau Amer. Ethnol.) 323 *note*, The storyteller added that there were other parts of the myth, which he had forgotten.

Sto·ry-te·lling, *sb.* The action of telling stories.

1709 STEELE *Tatler* No. 2 ₱ 1, I am not in Humour for telling a Tale, and nothing in Nature is so ungrateful as Story-Telling against the Grain. 1713 *Guardian* No. 42 (1756) I. 182 Story-telling is therefore not an art, but what we call a 'knack'. 1837 LOCKHART *Scott* I. vii. 202 He soon became as famous for his powers of story-telling among the lawyers of the Outer-House, as he had been among the companions of his High School days. 1882 R. L. STEVENSON in *Longman's Mag.* I. 75 The early part of 'Monte Christo',..is a piece of perfect story-telling. 1894 B. THOMSON *South Sea Yarns* Introd. p. vii, In the great bure of Raiyawa there was a story-telling. 1903 *Sat. Rev.* 26 Dec. 806/1 He has not got the gift of storytelling. 1911 W. P. KER *Engl. Lit. Medieval* vi. 177 There is a large section of medieval story-telling which is in a different condition.

attrib. 1897 G. ALLEN *Type-writer Girl* iv. 44 The clear-cut outlines, the translucent hues,..the story-telling faculty, each charmed and beguiled me. 1904 *Daily Chron.* 26 Sept. 4/5 Mr. Morrison has rare constructive skill, as all his story-telling work has shown.

Sto·ry-te·lling, *a.* That tells stories, in various senses of the sb.; addicted to anecdote; exercising the art of the story-teller in literature or otherwise; *colloq.* lying, mendacious.

1766 FORDYCE *Serm. Young Women* (1767) I. iv. 145 The vulgar story-telling tribe [*i.e.* novelists]. 1839 SIR W. HAMILTON in R. P. Graves *Life* (1885) II. 301, I resemble only too much the inveterate story-telling button-holder. 1840 THACKERAY *Catherine* i, What a naughty story-telling woman! 1848 — *Van. Fair* viii, I have heard a brother of the story-telling trade, at Naples,..work himself up into such a rage [etc.]. 1863 LONGF. *Wayside Inn* Prel. 168 The story-telling bard of prose, Who wrote the joyous Tuscan tales Of the Decameron.

Stose, obs. form of STOWCE.

Stot (stɒt), *sb.*[1] Also 1, 3–9 **stott**, 5–7 **stotte**, 6–7 **stoote**, 5–7, 9 **stote**. [OE. *stut(t* masc.; perh. cogn. w. ON. *stútr* bull (MSw. *stut-r*, Sw., Norw. *stut*, Da. *stud* young ox); the root may be OTeut. **stut-* ablaut-var. of **staut-* to thrust, push: see STOT *v.* The identity of the word in sense 1 and senses 2–3 is, however, not quite certain.]

† 1. A horse. In OE. ? one of an inferior kind.

a 1100 *Bury St. Edm. Rec.* in Napier *Contrib. OE. Lexicogr.* 56 Dæt is vii oxen..& ii stottas [glossed *equi uilesi*]. [1222 in *Domesday of St. Paul's* (Camden) 93 Ad xii. boves & quatuor stottos.] *c* 1250 *Owl & Night.* 495 Þe sulue stottes yne þe stode Beþ boþe wilde and marewode. 1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. XIX. 262 And grace gaue pieres, of his goodnesse, foure stottis, Al þat his oxen eryed, þey to harwe after. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Prol.* 615 This Reue sat vp on a ful good stot, That was al pomely grey, and highte Scot. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 477/2 Stot, hors, *caballus.*

2. A young castrated ox, a steer. *north.*

1251 *Cal. Charter Rolls* (1903) I. 373 [For twenty oxen or] stottes [or as many cows without young]. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 10386 To godd þe lambes he gaf to lottes, And to þe pouer þe bul scottes [*sic; Gött.* stostis]. *a* 1400–50 *Wars Alex.* 4267 Hald we no hors for na harow ne na horned stottis. *c* 1460 *Towneley Myst.* xiii. 518 If I any shepe fott, Aythor cow or stott. 1558 in J. Croft *Excerpta Ant.* (1797) 26 Item, x Stotts of iij Yeres old. 1597 MONTGOMERIE *Cherrie & Slae* 1099 The man may ablens tyne a stot That cannot count his kinsch. 1641 BEST *Farm. Bks.* (Surtees) 144 Two fatte kyne, two fatte stottes, two leane stottes, eight calves. 1791 NEWTE *Tour Eng. & Scot.* 192 There is nothing more common than to see small horses, jack-asses, stotts, or two years old bullocks, and even bear swine, all yoked together. 1814 SCOTT *Wav.* xi, Killancureit talked..of..gimmers, and dinmonts, and stots, and runts. 1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* II. 129 Stot in some places means a bull of any age. 1883 M. PATTISON *Mem.* i. (1885) 45 Transported from a desert moor where were no inhabitants but Highland 'stots'.

3. A heifer. *north.* (Cf. 4 a.)

[1371 in *Fabric Rolls York Minster* (Surtees) 123 De 6*s.* pro stota wayf apud Herswyk.] 1677 W. NICOLSON *Gloss. Brigant.* in *Trans. R. Soc. Lit.* (1870) IX. 320 Stot, a heifer. 1904 *Eng. Dial. Dict.* (Yorks.).

4. † a. As a term of contempt for a woman. *Obs.*

c 1386 CHAUCER *Friar's T.* 332 'Nay, olde Stot, that is nat myn entente' Quod this Somonour. *c* 1450 *Cov. Myst.* (Shaks. Soc.) 217 Come forthe, thou stotte, com forthe, thou scowte. 1481 BOTONER *Tulle on Old Age* (Caxton), He [Flamininus] syttyng at borde was exhorted by a rebawde stotte of his, that [etc.]. *a* 1500 *Medulla Gram., Prostibulum*, a hous of stottys.

b. A stupid, clumsy person. *Sc.* and *dial.*

1877 *Holderness Gloss., Stot*, a foolish or awkward person. 1894 CROCKETT *Raiders* v, The great stot of a farm lad.

5. *Comb.*, as *stot-beef, -hide, -ox*, **† -*stable***; **stot-calf**, a castrated bull-calf; **† stot-plough** = *fool-plough* (FOOL *sb.*[1] 6).

1820 *Blackw. Mag.* VIII. 85 We have made shift to swallow a pound of *stot-beef, which in the West Country, beats our stot-beef here all to sticks. 1800 TUKE *Agric. N. Riding* 253 The time for rearing calves is December and January for *stot-calves. 1532–3 *Durham Housek. Bk.* (Surtees) 205, 2 kye hyds et 1 *stothyde. 1586–7 *Shuttleworths' Acc.* (Chetham Soc.) 35 A *stotte oxe. 1778 W. HUTCHINSON *View Northumbld.* II. Anc. Customs 18 Others, in the same kind of gay attire [at Christmas], draw about a Plough, called the *Stot Plough. 1377 in *Cal. Close Rolls* (1913) 509 [(Mendlesham, Suffolk.) A house called] *Stottystable.

Stot (stɒt), *sb.*[2] *Sc.* [related to STOT *v.*]

1. The act of rebounding; a rebound; a rebounding blow. *At* or *on the stot*, (to catch or take) on the rebound; in quots. *fig.* *To play stot*, to rebound, bounce (Eng. Dial. Dict.).

1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* IX. xi. 10 On bos helmys and scheildis the weyrly schot Maid rap for rap, reboundand wyth ilk stot. *c* 1590 MONTGOMERIE *Misc. P.* xxiv. 23 Lurking Love, vha lang had lyne in wait, Persaving tym, he took me at a stot. 1637 R. MONRO *Exped.* II. 118 They are possessed instantly with a Panicke feare, especially being taken at the Stot or rebound, before they have time to disgest their feare. 1821 *Blackw. Mag.* X. 4 She set it down with a stot. 1914 *The Scot at Hame & Abroad* 1 Oct. 5/1 Had I gaun back I wad a been stravaigin' the toon lookin' for you, instead o' catchin' ye, on the stot, as it were.

2. A leap or spring, esp. in dancing. Hence, the swing or rhythm of a tune. *To keep stot*, to keep step or time (*with*); also *fig.*

c 1590 J. STEWART *Poems* (S.T.S.) II. 9 To sport 3our hienes with my ruid reherse, In hoip of pardon thocht sum stots I tyn. *c* 1620 Z. BOYD *Zion's Flowers* (1855) 49 Wee have great neede the stots of time to keepe. 1637 RUTHERFORD *Lett.* (1664) 38 A wrong step or a wrong stot in going out of this life. *Ibid.* 154, I finde it a difficult matter to keep all stots with Christ. *c* 1700 *Country Wedding* xvi. in *Watson's Collect.* III. (1711) 51 Well danc'd Eppie and Jennie! He that tynes a Stot o' the Spring, Shall pay the Piper a Pennie. 1822 GALT *Provost* xxxix, Those behind the curtain, who thought to bounce out with a grand stot and strut before the world. 1859 *Sporting Mag.* Oct. 237 The little bay..cantered down the course..at every third or fourth stride giving a proud little stot.

Stot (stɒt), *v. Sc.* and *north.* [Of obscure origin; perh. in some way belonging to the Teut. root **stut-*: **staut-* to thrust, push, knock; in Goth. *stautan*, ON. *stauta* (Sw. *stöta*, Da. *støde*), OS. *stôtan* (Du. *stooten*), OHG. *stôzan* (G. *stossen*). Cf. STOIT *v.*]

1. *intr.* To rebound, bounce (*from, off*); to fall or impinge with a bounce (*on, against*); to jump, start, spring.

1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* X. vi. 96 Dartis sevin Alsammyn thai kest..Of quham sum dyd, but harm or other deyr, Stot from

hys scheild, his hewmet, or hed geyr. c 1620 Z. Boyd *Zion's Flowers* (1855) 93 It leapes, it stots, and stayes not. 1821 Galt *Ann. Parish* xxvi, He attempted to fling it at Sambo, the black lad's head, but it stottit against the wall, and the lid flying open, the whole mustard flew in his own face. 1822 — *Provost* xxxi, The bailie..stotted out of his chair with the spunk of a birslet pea. 1895 Crockett *Men of Mosshags* xxiii, The elshin that had stottit on to the floor.

b. *fig.*

c 1590 Montgomerie *Misc. P.* iii. 36 Sho [Fortune] stottis at strais, syn stumbillis not at stanis. 1616 W. Haig in J. Russell *Haigs* (1881) 158 If God had not made him stot upon some circumstances in that writ given to your Majesty.

2. To move with a jumping or springing step, to bound along; also *trans.* (causative). Also, to stagger, lurch, move unsteadily.

1801 W. Beattie *Parings* (1873) 43 (E.D.D.) Hame we stot through thick and thin. 1824 Miss Ferrier *Inher.* lxviii, They stotted along, side by side, but a full yard asunder. 1858 Surtees *Ask Mamma* xxxviii. 158 Out sprung puss and went stotting and dotting away with one ear back and the other forward. 1901 G. Douglas *House with Green Shutters* 267 See how the stot stots about the ring. 1903 *Union Mag.* July 312/2 McEwan..unable to carry the heavy coffin 'stotted' it from step to step down a steep tortuous High Street stair.

Hence **Sto·tting** *ppl. a.* Also **Sto·tter,** a ball that bounces or rebounds.

1853 Surtees *Sponge's Sp. Tour* (1893) 311 Bang! went the other barrel, which the hare acknowledged by two or three stotting bounds and an increase of pace. 1896 W. Park Jr. *Game of Golf* 52 They should be good 'stotters'—that is to say, when dropped on a flagstone or pavement they should rebound with a clear, hard click.

Stot, obs. form of Stoat.

† **Stotay(e,** *v. Obs.* Also 4 **stotey(e.** [? ad. OF. *estoutoier*, *estoteier* to fall into disorder.] *intr.* To falter, totter; to come to a stand.

? a 1400 *Morte Arth.* 1435 Bot ȝitt oure stale one a strenghe stotais a lyttille, Alle to-stonayede with þe strokes of þa steryne knyghtez. *Ibid.* 3467 Furth he stalkis a stye by tha stille euys, Stotays at a hey strette, studyande hyme one. *Ibid.* 4271 Than he stotays for made, and alle his strenghe faylez. a 1400 *Pistill of Susan* 285 Alle þei stoteyd and stoode, þis ferlys to frayne.

† **Stote,** *v. Obs.* [Cf. Stotaye *v.*, Stut *v.*]

1. *intr.* To stand still, halt, stop.

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* A. 149 Abowte me con I stote & stare To fynde a forþe. c 1400 *Anturs of Arth.* ix, It stottyde, it stounnede, it stode als a stane. a 1440 *Sir Degrev.* 226 Anone to the forest they found, There they stoted a stound. c 1470 *Gol. & Gaw.* 678 Right styth, stuffit in steill, thai stotit na stynt, Bot buskit to battaille.

2. To stammer, stutter.

c 1325 *Gloss. W. de Bibbesw.* in Wright *Voc.* 173 Jo vy cy vener mester Hughe, Ke reyn ne parle s'yl ne bue [*glossed* bote he stote]. c 1340 *Nominale* (Skeat) 171 *Femme jupe et ledement hue* Woman houtith and foule stotith. c 1400 *Destr. Troy* 3881 A litle he stotid. 14.. *R. Gloucester's Chron.* 8573 (Digby MS. 205 lf. 112) Stotynge & most when he was in wraþe or in strif. c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 477/2 Stotyn, *titubo, blatero.*

3. *trans.* To cause to halt, stop.

1375 Barbour *Bruce* iii. 66 For wondyr that he suld swa Stot [*ed.* 1616 Stoney] thaim, him allane but ma.

Hence † **Sto·ting** *vbl. sb.*; † **Sto·ting** (*stotting*) *ppl. a.*, stammering.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 478/1 Stotynge, *titubatus, titubacio.* 1567 Fenton *Trag. Disc.* v. (1898) I. 230 [He was so tongue-tied in presence of his lady] that he colde neither pleade for hymself at lardge, nor yet playe the parte of a stotting solicitor.

Stote, obs. form of Stoat, var. Stot *sb.1*

† **Sto·ter,** *sb.1 Obs. rare*$^{-1}$. [f. Stote *v.* + -er 1.] One who stutters.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 477/2 Stotare, *tituballus, blesus.*

† **Sto·ter,** *sb.2 Obs. slang.* Also 8 **stoater, stouter.** [a. Du. *stooter*, f. *stooten* to knock, push.] A violent blow.

1694 Motteux *Rabelais* iv. lxvii, Vinet lent him such a swinging stoater with the Pitch-fork.., that down fell Signore on the ground. a 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew*, *Stoter*, a great Blow. *Stoter him*, or *tip him a Stoter*, settle him, give him a swinging Blow. 1769 *Stratford Jubilee* ii. i. 28 Giving him a stouter on the noggin, I laid him as flat as a flaunder. 1785 Grose *Dict. Vulgar T.*

† **Sto·ter,** *v. Obs. slang.* [f. Stoter *sb.2*] *trans.* To hit hard; to fell with a heavy blow.

1690 D'Urfey *Collin's Walk* i. 17 He..knew, by wisdom outward, What Ox must fall, or Sheep be stoter'd. a 1700 [see Stoter *sb.2*]. 1705 Vanbrugh *Mistake* v. 48 Why, Madam, have you no Pity, no Bowels? [To Leonora.] Stand and see one of your Husbands stoter'd before your Face?

Stoter, variant of Stooter *Obs.*

† **Stoteye.** *Obs. rare.* [a. OF. *estotie*, *estoutie* hardihood, audacity, bold attack.] Impetuous valour, hardihood in attack.

c 1350 *Will. Palerne* 4085 Hade he had his ost he wold asaide þere to haue with stoteye & strengþe stoutli hire wonne. c 1400 *Pride of Life* 36 Not I neuir non suc Of stotey ne off strynt.

Stoth(e: see Stooth and Stoothe *v.*

Stothele, obs. form of Studdle.

Stotter (stǫ·təɹ), *v. Sc.* and *north.* Also **stoter, stotre, stutter.** [f. Stot *v.* + -er 1. Cf. Stoiter, Stutter, Totter *vbs.*] *intr.* To stumble, stagger.

1781 J. Hutton *Tour to Caves* (ed. 2) Gloss. 97 *Stoter*, or *stotre*, to stumble. 1785 *Bran New Wark* l. 365 She stottered, she fell. 1893 Stevenson *Catriona* xi, I never could abye the reek of them since I could stotter on two feet.

Stotterel (stǫ·tərĕl). *north.* Also 6 **stotrell, stottrele,** 9 **stotteril.** [dim. of Stot *sb.1*: see -rel.] A small stot or bullock.

1532–3 *Durham Househ. Bk.* (Surtees) 205 Et in 3 stoterels emptis de Willielmo Hall..25s. 1542 in *Richmond Wills* (Surtees) 37 One why strik, or one stotrell. 1574 *Ibid.* 248, xxij stotes and stottreles and iiij bules. 1876 *Whitby Gloss.*, *Stotteril*, or *Stot*, a young ox.

Stou, obs. form of Stow *sb.1*, *v.1*

Stouf(fe, obs. forms of Stove *sb.1*

Stoufe, obs. form of Stuff.

Stough, Stought, obs. ff. Stow *sb.3*, Stout *a.*

Stouith, variant of Stouth *Obs.*

Stouk (stauk, stuk), *sb. dial.* Also **stowk, stook.** [Of obscure origin.] The handle of a pail or other vessel.

1674 Ray *N. C. Words* 46 A Stowk..the handle of a Pail. 1688 Holme *Armoury* iii. xiv. (Roxb.) 5/1 [A pottinger] is an half round vessell in the belly without a brime, some haueing two eares, but most onely one eare or handle or stouke as the countrey terme is. 1817 Wilbraham *Cheshire Gloss.* in *Archæologia* XIX. 38 *Stowk*, a stalk or handle of a pail. 1879 Miss Jackson *Shropsh. Word-bk.*, *Stouk*, a handle, as of any wooden or earthenware vessel. 1882 *W. Worcestersh. Gloss.* Add. *s.v.*, Please, 'm, I took 'old o' the jug, an' the stook come off in my 'and.

Stouk, *v. dial.* [f. Stouk *sb.*] *trans.* To fit with a handle or handles. Also *absol.*

1686 Plot *Staffordsh.* iii. § 27. 123 When they are dry they stouk them, i. e. put Ears and Handles to such Vessels as require them. 1820 Wilbraham *Cheshire Gloss.* 63 To *Stouk* or *Stowk*, to put ears or handles to such vessels as require them. 1829 S. Shaw *Staffordsh. Potteries* 104 Vessels.. with loop handles *stouked* to the sides. *Ibid.* 166 A good workman could *throw, turn,* and *stouk.*

Hence **Stou·ker,** one who fits vessels with handles; **Stou·king** *vbl. sb.*

1809 in Jewitt *Life Wedgwood* (1865) 105 Fletcher was a 'Stouker' by trade. I gave him a pint of ale to show my handlers the old way of 'Stouking'. 1829 S. Shaw *Staffordsh. Potteries* 104 The Stouker..was the workman who affixed handles, spouts, and other appendages. *Ibid.* 123 Some of the black tea pots are glazed, but not all; and the *stouking* branch seems improved in all the specimens.

Stouk(e, obs. forms of Stock *sb.1*, Stook.

Stoul(e, stoulle, obs. forms of Stool.

Stoulpe, obs. form of Stoop *sb.1*

Stoun (stūn), *v.* Now *Sc.* and *north.* Forms: 4 **stoune, stowne** (*pa. pple.* **stouned, stund**), 5 **stounne,** 7 **stown,** 6– **stoun.** [Aphetic a. OF. *estoner*: see Astone *v.* Cf. Stun *v* and Stound *v.2*]

† **1.** *trans.* **a.** To stun, stupefy, as with a blow; to benumb. **b.** To stupefy with amazement, astound. *Obs.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 12963 Hu bot lepe dun to þe grund, Þat þi bodi be noght stund. 13.. *Gaw. & Gr. Knt.* 242 Þer-fore to answare was arȝe mony aþel freke, & al stouned at his steuen, & ston-stil seten. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* C. 73 When þat steuen was stynt, þat stowned his mynde. 1591 Harington *Orl. Fur.* xxxvi. liv. (1634) 302 But though the shield brake not, gramercy charme, Yet underneath the shield it stound his arme. 1596 Spenser *F. Q.* v. xi. 29 So was he stound with stroke of her huge taile. 1613 T. Heywood *Brazen Age* ii. ii. C 3, My beauty, that charms Gods, makes men amaz'd, And stownd with wonder. 1631 Henshaw *Horæ Succ.* 389 The wicked..thinkes not of it till it come; and when it is come can think of nothing but that and is stown'd with the thought of it.

2. *intr.* To be stupefied or benumbed.

c 1400 *Anturs of Arth.* ix. 109 It stottyde, it stounnede, it stode als a stane.

Stound (staund, stūnd), *sb.1* Forms: 1–3 **stund,** 3 **stunde,** 3–5 **stonde,** 4–6 **stond,** (4 **stunt,** 4–5 **stont**), 3–6 **stounde** (4 **stounte**), 4–6 **stownd(e,** (5 **stowndde, stouunde, stowunde**), 4– **stound;** 6 **stowne,** 8–9 *Sc.* **stoun.** [Com. Teut. (wanting in Gothic): OE. *stund* fem. = OFris. *stunde*, OS. *stunda* (Du. *stond*), OHG. *stunta* space of time (MHG., mod.G. *stunde* hour), ON. *stund* (Sw., Da. *stund*):—OTeut. **stundō.*]

1. A time, while; a short time, moment. *Obs.* exc. *dial.*

a 1000 *Andreas* 1210 Nis seo stúnd latu þæt þe wælreowe witum belecgað. a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 190 A sicnesse of ane stunde. a 1275 *Prov. Ælfred* 312 So his mani wimman.. Scene under scete, and þoh hie is scondes ful in an stondes wile. a 1300 *Cursor M.* 24496 Quen i him had in armes fald, ..þan bigan mi gle to gru,..And neud me mi stondes [*Gött.* stundis]. a 1300 *Fragm. Pop. Sci.* (Wright) 13 That is evene above thin heved, aboute the nones stounde. 14.. *Erthe upon Erthe* 34/75 God lytyd in erth, blyssed be that stounde! c 1440 *Alphabet of Tales* 412 Evur he contynewid in syngyng, prayers-saying, and wurshippyng our Lady vnto þe stounde of dead. 1579 Spenser *Sheph. Cal.* Sept. 56 Hobbin, ah hobbin, I curse the stounde, That euer I cast to haue lorne this grounde. 1602 Davison *Rhapsody* (1611) 39 Wo worth the stund wherein I tooke delight To frame the shifting of my nimble feete. 1603 B. Jonson *Entert. Althrope* 2 Now they Print it on the Ground With their feete in figures round, Markes that will be euer found, To remember this glad stound. 1616 R. C. *Times' Whistle*, etc. (1871) 129 Soe death is heer and yonder in one stound. 1819 W. Tennant *Papistry Storm'd* (1827) 25 Scrimply there pass't a stound o' time. 1838 Holloway *Prov. Dict.*, *Stound*, a short period of time.

b. As advb. accus.

a 1000 *Boeth. Metr.* xxv. 68 Ðæt is wyrse ȝet, þæt he winnan nyle Wið ðæm anwalde ænige stunde. a 1123 *O. E. Chron.* an. 1106, On þære forman længten wucan..ætywyde an ungewunelic steorra, & lange stunde þæræfter wæs ælce æfen ȝesewen. c 1200 Ormin 6576 Þatt sume off ure little flocc..Hemm wendenn oþerr stund fra Crist. c 1200 *Moral Ode* 149 (Trin. Coll. MS.) Hadde he fonded sume stunde he wolde seggen oðer. c 1205 Lay. 3117, & þus ane stonde [c 1275 stunde] hit stod æ ðon ilka. a 1300 *X Commandm.* 22 in *E. E. P.* (1862) 16 Alas wrecchis whi do we so hit mai noȝt hold vre lif a stunde. a 1300 *Cursor M.* 14557 In ephraim dueld he a stunde And þeþen-ward son can he funde. 13.. *Bonaventura's Medit.* 878 Fro wepyng she ne myȝt stynte no stounde. a 1340 Hampole *Psalter* li. 5 Þof he lat þe lif a stunt in welth. c 1400 *Assump. Virg.* 727 (Add. MS.) And euer þei cryede many a stounde, 'Alas'! [etc.]. c 1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 7012 Þidir he went, and bade a stont. 1519 Horman *Vulg.* 56 He was so abasshed, that he was almoste mad, and stoode styffe a stownde. 1557 *Tottel's Misc.* (Arb.) 257 Elde..Will turne eche blysse into a blast, Which lasteth but a stounde. 1567 Turberv. *Epit.* etc. 91 Vlysses wiues renowne Unsitting is for hir whose loue endureth but a stowne. 1591 Sylvester *Du Bartas* i. ii. 609 So that this vapour, never resting stound, Stands never still, but makes his motion round. 1594 R. C[arew] *Godfrey of Bulloigne* (1881) 85 Like him that lookes ech stond with bared necke, When cruell axe shall his liues warrant checke. 1600 Fairfax *Tasso* xix. xxviii, His legges could beare him but a little stound. 1895 *E. Angl. Gloss.* s.v., He stayed a long stound.

† **c.** In advb. phrases with preps., e.g. *for, in, on a* (*little*) *stound, in many stounds, in that stound. By stounds*: at intervals, from time to time, by turns. *Umbe stound*: see Umstound. *Obs.*

c 1205 Lay. 8815 Hærde bi-ðrungen i wel feole stunden. a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 310 A mon þet hefde al þene world awold, & hefde, uor his cweadschipe, uorloren al on one stunde. a 1225 *Juliana* 7 Ant efter lutle stounde wið ute long steuene. a 1250 *Prov. Ælfred* 395 Ac al he schal for-leten on a litel stunde. 13.. *Gaw. & Gr. Knt.* 1567 Bot ȝet þe styffest to start bi stoundez he made. c 1350 *St. Christina* 179 in Horstm. *Altengl. Leg.* (1881) 95 He was so stonayd in þat stunt He strake him self fast in þe frunt. c 1374 Chaucer *Boeth.* iv. met. vi. (1886) 111 The moyste thinges stryuynge with the drye thinges yeuen place by stowndes. a 1400 *Pistill of Susan* 167 Alle hire seruauns þei shont And stelen a-wey in a stont. 1513 Douglas *Æneis* ii. x. 80, I within ane litle stound, The clud of dirknes from thi sicht sall cleir. a 1529 Skelton *P. Sparowe* 34 Within that stounde,..in a sounde I fell downe to the grounde. 1575 *Gammer Gurton* Prol. 7 He quyetly perswaded with her in that stound Dame Chat, her deare gossyp, this needle had found. 1591 Sylvester *Du Bartas* i. vi. 364 Abiding, for a stown, Pale, cold, and sense-less, in a deadly swown.

† **d.** *Often-, oft-stounds*: often. [Cf. Often-*sithes*, *-whiles*, Oftentimes.] *That stounds* [? advb. genitive]: at that moment. *Obs.*

1303 R. Brunne *Handl. Synne* 3083 Ȝyf þou delyte þe oftyn stoundes, yn horsys, haukys, or yn houndes. a 1400 *Octouian* 893 Men blamede the bochere oft stoundys For hys sone. a 1400 *King & Hermit* 56 He blew thrys, vncoupuld hundes; They reysed þe dere vp þat stondes.

† **e.** ? An hour. *Obs.*

c 1325 *Lai le Freine* 207 To-day, right in the morning, Sone after the first stounde, A litel maiden-childe ich founde.

† **f.** The time for doing something; one's 'hour' or opportunity. *Obs.*

a 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 1263 Nu is ower stunde! 1297 R. Glouc. (Rolls) 10873 In þe kinges chaumbre..was A clerc ifounde..He made him as bi wit, so þat it was ifounde, Þat it was bi speke to sle þe king, wan he sei stounde. c 1330 R. Brunne *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 11332 Al þe nobleye couthe y nought telle, Ne y naue no stounde þer-on to dwelle.

2. † **a.** Contextually: A hard time, a time of trial or pain. *Obs.*

a 1000 *Riddles* (Tupper) xciii. 19 No ic þa stunde bemearn ne for wunde weop. c 1250 *Owl & Night.* 706 Þe Nihtegale..hedde onswere god ifunde Among alle hire harde stunde. c 1300 *Cursor M.* 17152, I..sufferd her þis herd stondes, and ded on þis rode tre. c 1374 Chaucer *Anel. & Arc.* 238 Alas! the harde stounde. 1590 Spenser *F. Q.* i. viii. 25 Such percing griefe her stubborne hart did wound, That she could not endure that doleful stound.

b. Hence, a sharp pain, a pang; a fierce attack, a shock. Chiefly *northern.* Also (*Sc.*), a thrill (of delight).

c 1300 *Cursor M.* 24541 In sterin stanging was i stadd, Sa war mi stundes store. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 1540 Þe stronge strok of þe stonde strayned his ioyntes. 1375 Barbour *Bruce* iii. 140 He rouschit doun off blud all rede, As he that stound feld off dede. c 1400 *Rom. Rose* 4472 What avayleth hir good wille, Whan she ne may staunche my stounde ille? 1500–20 Dunbar *Poems* lxxii. 98 Than straik at me with mony ane stound. c 1550 Rolland *Crt. Venus* i. 641 As he that said, to his hart straik ane stound. 1567 *Gude & Godlie Ball.* 99 Lyke deidly dartis thow geuis stang & stound. 1579 Spenser *Sheph. Cal.* May 257 Iesus..keepe your corpse from the carefull stounds, That in my carrion carcas abounds. 1596 — *F. Q.* vi. vi. 5 Their wounds..had festred privily; And ranckling inward with unruly stounds, The inner parts now gan to putrify. 1659 H. More *Immort. Soul* iii. xiv. 477 The stounds and agonies of Death. 1788 Burns *To the Weavers gin ye go* 16 But every shot and every knock, My heart it gae a stoun. 1789 — *Blue-eyed Lassie* 11 And aye the stound, the deadly wound, Cam frae her een sae bonnie blue. 1825 Brockett *N. C. Gloss.*, *Stound*, the sensation or first impression of sudden pain, arising from a knock or blow. 1827 J. Wilson *Noctes Ambr.* Wks. 1855 I. 355 My heart has gien a sudden stoun o' uncommunicable delicht. 1834 Pringle *Afr. Sk.* 17 Oft as he feels gaunt hunger's stound. 1878 Sir T. Martin tr. *Heine* 18 Then I felt a stound through all my frame.

c. Roar, violent noise.

1627 Drayton *Nymphidia* liv, By the Thunders dreadfull stound. 1658 Burton *Comment. Itin. Antoninus* 150 After this storm and stound..it flourished again. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* I. v. iv, One can fancy with what dolorous stound the noon-tide cannon..went off there.

†3. Station, position. *Obs.*

1557 GRIMALDE in *Tottel's Misc.* (Arb.) 104 What power haue you so great..To pluck, to draw, to rauish hartes, and stirre out of ther stownd? 1566 DRANT *Horace, Sat.* II. iii. F viij, Stande still in stounde, kepe whishte (I say) whilste I doe proue you mad. 1567 — *Ep.* xvi. *To Quintius* E vij, Well might thou saye that freshe Tarent were brought into this stounde. *Ibid.* Fj, He hath forsoke of manlines the stounde [L. *locum virtutis deseruit*]. 1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 220/40 A stound, *statio, terminus.* 15.. *Pater Sapientiæ* lxxx. in Ashm. (1652) 204 For when the Larke ys weary above in hys stound, Anon he falleth right downe to the ground.

†4. Used for: STADIUM. *Obs. rare*$^{-1}$.

[Perh. some error: cf. G. *stunde* (hour) as an itinerary measure.]

1656 W. DU GARD tr. *Comenius' Gate Lat. Unl.* § 524. 155 A hundred twenty-five Geometrical paces, make a stound or furlong.

Stound (staund, stūnd), *sb.*^{2} Now *dial.* Also 8 **stownd.** [App. f. STOUND *v.*^{2}; but perh. a use of STOUND *sb.*^{1} 2 b, modified by association with the vb.] A state of stupefaction or amazement.

1567 GOLDING *Ovid's Met.* XIII. (1593) 298 [He] raised soberly his eye-lids from the ground (On which he had a little while them pitched in a stound). 1596 SPENSER *F. Q.* IV. vi. 12 Lightly he started up out of that stound. 1610 FLETCHER *Faithf. Sheph.* II. ii. (1634) D 1, Whilst the sound Breakes against heaven, and drives into a stound The amazed Shepherd. 1667 PEPYS *Diary* 3 Apr., This put us all into a stound. 1674 N. FAIRFAX *Bulk & Selv.* 120 We having warily held, the stirr'd body not to be at rest, or in a stound or pause at all, but alwayes to be either stirring or bearing. 1677 GILPIN *Dæmonol.* (1867) 440 Though at first some good men were overawed to..recant,..yet..after the stound and dazzle of the temptation was over, they recoiled so resolutely upon them, that [etc.]. 1714 GAY *Sheph. Week.* Prol. 23 Thus we stood as in a stound. 1767 MICKLE *Concub.* II. Introd., In musefull Stownd Syr Martyn rews His Youthhedes thoughtlesse Stage. 1819 W. TENNANT *Papistry Storm'd* (1827) 194 Flew frae ae pillar to the tither, Syn in a stound did drap. 1859 MISS MULOCK *Life for Life* II. 184, I laugh now..to recollect what a stound it gave us both, this utterly improbable..tale.

†**Stound,** *sb.*^{3} *dial. Obs.* [Unexplained var. of STAND *sb.*^{2}] (See quots.)

1674 RAY *N. C. Words* 46 A *Stound* q. Stand; a wooden Vessel to put small Beer in. [So in many later Glossaries.] 1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), *Stound*, a Vessel of Earth or Wood that stands on end. 1721 MORTIMER *Husb.* II. 332 If the quantity of your choicest Cyder be too great for your Bottles, you may..make use of..Stounds of Flanders Earth.

Stound, *v.*^{1} Also 3 **stunde.** [f. STOUND *sb.*^{1}]

†1. [STOUND *sb.*^{1} 1.] *intr.* To remain, stay. *Obs.*

Cf. obs. dial. '*Stound*, to stop, stand still, esp. in order to listen' (Suffolk and Essex): see *Eng. Dial. Dict.*

c1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 1987 Ðor was in helle a sundri stede, wor ðe seli folc reste dede; ðor he stunden til helpe cam. *Ibid.* 3211 Ðor he stunden for to sen quilc pharaon wið hem sal ben. c1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 10902 When Arthur felde þat he was wounded, Noþyng he ne stinte ne stounded. 14.. *Sir Beues* (S.) 1283 On knee he him set, he nolde stound, And ȝaue vp his deth with his hold.

2. [STOUND *sb.*^{1} 2 b.] †**a.** *trans.* To affect with a 'stound' or pang; to cause great pain to. *Obs.* **b.** *intr.* To be acutely painful; to smart, throb. Only *Sc.* and *north.*

c1500 KENNEDY *Passion of Christ* 450 Thai hurt his [back] and all his body þai fret, Saris his senonis and stoundis all his wanis. *Ibid.* 552 On him to luk þair stomok sair it stoundis. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* X. x. 135 So tyll hys hart stoundis the prik of deith. a1585 MONTGOMERIE *Cherrie & Slae* 741 His wounds ȝit, quhilk stounds ȝit, He gat them than throw thee. 1678 J. BROWN *Life of Faith* I. vii. (1824) 137 Every ingredient that affecteth thee stounds his heart. 1724 RAMSAY *Health* 294 For the least noise stounds thro' his ears like death. a1792 BURNS *Bonie Wee Thing* 3 And my heart it stounds wi' anguish, Lest my wee thing be na mine. 1825 BROCKETT *N. C. Gloss.*, *Stound*, to ache, to smart, to be in pain. 1848, 1910 [see STOUNDING *ppl. a.*^{1}].

Stound (staund, stūnd), *v.*^{2} Now *dial.* Also 4, 7 **stund,** 5 **stond.** [Aphetic var. of ASTOUND *v.*, or extended form of STOUN *v.*]

1. *trans.* To stun as with a blow; to stupefy, benumb; to stupefy with astonishment, bewilder.

a1300 *Cursor M.* 7558 Quat! wyns þou i am a hund, Wit þi stans me for to stund? a1420 *Aunters of Arthur* xlvii. 602 (Douce MS.) The knighte of corage was cruel and kene, And withe a stele bronde þat sturne oft stonded. 1587 HARRISON *England* III. vii. 231/1 in *Holinshed*, Mastiffes.. take also their name of the word mase and theefe..bicause they often stound and put such persons to their shifts. 1600 HOLLAND *Livy* I. xli. 24 That the king was stounded with a sudden blow [L. *sopitum fuisse regem subito ictu*] but the weapon did not go very deep into his body. 1609 T. HEYWOOD *Brit. Troy* XII. xci. 262 But him the Woorthy stounded with a blow. a1617 BAYNE *Lect.* (1634) 302 The Chirurgion bindeth and stoundeth before cutting, that the patient may be lesse grieved. 1629 in *Bibl. Regia* II. 236 The fatal blow given your most loyal servant..hath so stounded our University as (like a body without a soul) she stirs not. 1672 MARVELL *Reh. Transp.* I. 218 They are slain every mother's son of them. Yet perhaps they are but stounded and may revive again. 1678 BUNYAN *Pilgr.* I. 221 At the sight..of this River, the Pilgrims were much stounded. 1689 *Dialogue Timothy & Titus* 4 I'le protest you've stunded me. a1825 FORBY *Voc. E. Anglia*, *Stound*, 1. To stun. 2. To overcome with astonishment.

†2. *intr.* To be bewildered or at a loss.

1531 in W. H. Turner *Select. Rec. Oxford* (1880) 98 The seid Mayer and Burgeys many tymes stound and be in grett ambuyguyte to execute such old graunts.

Stou·nded, *ppl. a.* [f. STOUND *v.*^{2} + -ED^1.] Stunned; astonished.

1757 E. PERRONET *Mitre* II. lxxxvii, The news makes all their Sur-loins crack: Down drops each stounded head. 1819 W. TENNANT *Papistry Storm'd* (1827) 76 Whan to his stoundit ear there comes The blair o' trumpets and o' drums.

†**Stou·nding,** *vbl. sb.*^{1} *Obs.* [f. STOUND *v.*^{1} + -ING^1.] **a.** Lingering, delay. **b.** *pl.* Remains.

?a1400 *Morte Arth.* 491 Wythowttyne more stowntynge they schippide theire horsez. 1650 *Presbyt. Rec. Inverurie* in J. Davidson *Inverurie* (1878) 306 The mistress was delyvered and thereafter the pains left her, except some stoundings of the grinding.

Stou·nding, *vbl. sb.*^{2} [f. STOUND *v.*^{2} + -ING^1.] Benumbing.

1637 RUTHERFORD *Lett.* (1836) I. 296 Christ's 'Not yet,' is a stounding of all the limbs and liths of the soul.

Stou·nding, *ppl. a.*^{1} *north.* [f. STOUND *v.*^{1} + -ING^1.] Smarting, acutely painful.

1848 J. HAMILTON *Happy Home* vi. (1871) 132 Writhing nerves and stounding bones. 1910 D. CUTHBERTSON in *Poets of Ayrshire* 280 Our hearts a stounin' pain aft feel.

Stou·nding, *ppl. a.*^{2} [f. STOUND *v.*^{2} + -ING^1.] Stunning; astounding.

1608 DEKKER *Dead Term* A 3, Many a stounding blow hath he taken on his head. 1674 N. FAIRFAX *Bulk & Selv.* 87 That stounding and surprizing Essex Writer. 1819 KEATS *Otho* IV. ii. 95 Unless Retraction follow close upon the heels Of that late stounding insult.

†**Stou·ndmeal,** *adv. Obs.* Forms: 1 **stund-, stuntmǽlum,** 2 **stundmele,** 4–5 **stound(e)mele,** 4 **stowndmeel,** 5 **stonedemel.** [OE. *stundmǽlum*: see STOUND *sb.* and -MEAL.]

1. At intervals, from time to time.

c1000 ÆLFRIC *Gram.* xxxviii. (Z.) 238 *Vicissim* stundmælum. c1000 *Ags. Gloss.* in *Haupt's Zeitschr.* (1853) IX. 438/2 *Alternatim* (gl. *singulatim*, marg. *separatim*) tvæmendlice *vel* stundmælum. c1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 113 And wunede mid his disciples noht alegate ac stundmele. c1350 *Will. Palerne* 736 A-wai wold it neuer but gan to studie stoundemele so stifly þer-onne þat lelly be a litel while his langure gan wex. 1382 WYCLIF *Num.* x. 7 Whanne forsothe the puple is to gederynge togidre, shal be symple criynge of trompes, and not stowndmeel thei shulen ȝolle. c1400 *Rom. Rose* 2304 The lyf of loue is ful contrarie, Which stounde mele can ofte varie. 1426 LYDG. *De Guil. Pilgr.* 19179 Thus stoundemel ȝe may hym se Some tyme swymme, som tyme flee. c1430 — *Min. Poems* (Percy Soc.) 159 Som folk pesible, som contrarious, Stonedemel now hevy and now lihte. 1481 CAXTON *Reynard* xvii. (Arb.) 40 The foxe loked on the kyng stoundmele, and was glad in his herte.

¶ **b.** quasi-*adj.* That exists at times.

c1400 *Rom. Rose* 3784 Who serueth loue can telle of woo; The stoundemele ioie mote overgoo.

2. Gradually.

c1000 ÆLFRIC *Gram.* xxxviii. (Z.) 228 *Sensim*, stundmælum. c1374 CHAUCER *Troylus* v. 674 Þis wynde þat moore and moore þus stoundemele encresseth in my face. c1400 *Ragman Roll* 62 in Hazl. *E. P. P.* I. 72 And now cometh age, foo to your beaute, And stelyngly it wastyth stowndemele.

Stoune, obs. Sc. pa. pple. of STEAL *v.*

Stoung(e(n, obs. pa. t. and pple. of STING *v.*^{1}

Stoup (stūp). Forms: α. (chiefly *Sc.* and *north.*) 4–6 **stowpe,** 6–9 **stowp,** 6 **stolp,** 6–7, 9 **stoupe,** 6– **stoup;** β. 6–7 **stoope,** 7–9 **stoop;** γ. (4 *Latin* **stopa**), 5–8 **stope,** 6–7 **stoap(e;** δ. *Sc.* 6 **stoip,** 7 **stoype.** [a. ON. *staup* neut. (Norw. *staup*, Sw. *stop*) = OE. *stéap* masc., MDu. *stoop* masc. (Du. *stoop* masc. and fem.), MLG. *stôp* masc., OHG., MHG. *stouf* (mod.G. dial. *stauf* masc.):—OTeut. **staupo-*. Cf. STOP *sb.*^{1}

Prob. some of the forms are due to the influence of the MDu. or MLG. equivalent: see note to sense 2.]

1. A pail or bucket; also *water-stoup.* Now only *Sc.* †Formerly also, a large jar or small cask for holding liquids. (Cf. STOP *sb.*^{1} 1.)

α. 1397 in *Finchale Priory Charters* etc. (Surtees) p. cxvii, Item iiij stowpes de coreo. 1574 in *Richmond Wills* (Surtees) 247 In the brewe house..vij. seaes, ij skiles, ij. stoupes. a1670 SPALDING *Troub. Chas. I* (Bannatyne Club) I. 44 It is said that their sister, with ane trein stoup, slew ane called Mercer..Dumbar. 1708 *Invent.* in E. D. Dunbar *Soc. Life Former Days* (1865) 212 A laddle, a watter stoup, three cies. 1822 GALT *Provost* xxxiii, Even lasses were fleeing to and fro, like water nymphs with urns, having stoups and pails in their hands. 1912 R. M. FERGUSON *Ochil Fairy Tales* 13 Two wooden stoups or pitchers full of water.

β. 1634 BRERETON *Trav.* (Chetham Soc.) 53 Here along this passage are thirty-six stoopes placed at equal distances.

γ. [1390 *Earl Derby's Exped.* (Camden) 9 Pro j stopa et di. mellis. *Ibid.* 14 Pro vij^{xx} viij stopis vini Rochell.] 1411 in *Finchale Priory Charters* etc. (Surtees) p. clvi, Item vj tankards et j stope de corio. 1427–8 *Durham Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 142 In iij. ollis nuncupatis Stopez. 14.. *Nom.* in Wr.-Wülcker 728/28 *Hec cupa*, a stope. 1554 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* X. 234 Item, for platis, dischis, bukatis, and stopis, xv s. 1595 DUNCAN *App. Etym.* (E. D. S.), *Amphora*, a stope.

2. A drinking-vessel, of varying dimensions; a cup, flagon, tankard. Also as a measure of definite quantity; often with defining word, as *gill*, *pint*, *quart stoup.* Now *Sc.* and *north.*, and as a literary archaism. (Cf. STOP *sb.*^{1} 3.)

In some of the quots. used to represent a foreign form, e.g. Du. *stoop*, Sw. *stop*.

α. 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* xl. 26 Off wyne owt of ane choppyne stowp, They drank twa quartis, sowp and sowp. 1533 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* VI. 179 For mending of ane of the Kingis silver stolpis..viij s. 1543–4 *Extracts Burgh Rec. Edin.* (1871) II. 115 Stowppis of mesour. 1573 *Sc. Acts Jas. VI*, c. 57 (1597) 27 Everie Barrell of herring and quhit-fisch, [sall] conteine nine gallones of the samin stope. 1586 *Extracts Burgh Rec. Edin.* (1882) IV. 475 All persouns quha hes any fals stowpes clowrit in the sydes. 1610 BEAUM. & FL. *Scornf. Lady* II. ii, Lets haue a bridling cast before you goe. Fils a new stoupe. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* III. 286 Each Student in the Vniversitie hath eighty measures of wine (vulgarly called *Stoup*) allowed him free from imposition. 1638 *Reg. Mag. Sig. Scot.* 315/1 To mark and stamp all firlottis..quart-stoupis, pynt, chopein and mutchekin stoupis. 1721, 1786 [see MUTCHKIN b]. 1754 E. BURT *Lett. N. Scot.* (1818) I. 157 Their capacious pint pot which they call a stoup. 1785 GROSE *Dict. Vulgar T.*, *Stoup*,..a vessel containing a size or half a pint, is so called at Cambridge. 1814 SCOTT *Wav.* xvi, The Baron ordered a stoup of usquebaugh. 1879 'OUIDA' *Cecil Castlemaine* 7 Scarce stopping for a stoup of wine. 1895 SNAITH *Mistr. Dorothy Marvin* xxvii, A big stoup o' cider.

β. 1589 HAKLUYT *Voy.* 824 Also they shal sell wines by the pype, and by the gallon, quart, or Stoope they shall not sell [in Russia]. 1601 SHAKS. *Twel. N.* II. iii. 14 Marian I say, a stoope of wine. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* I. 62 For each measure of wine..I paid ten grosh, which measure is called a stoope, and is somewhat bigger then the English quart. 1708 W. KING *Art of Cookery* 85 A cauldron of fat beef, and stoop of ale. 1753 HANWAY *Trav.* (1762) I. II. xi. 51 Liquors are sold by the stoop, of which three are equal to an English gallon. 1771 SMOLLETT *Humphry Cl.* 3 Sept., This is brought in a pewter stoop, shaped like a skittle. 1864 D. G. MITCHELL *Wet Days* 131 The monks might send him now and then a stoop of their wine. 1869 BLACKMORE *Lorna D.* xxix, Parson took a stoop of cider.

γ. 1452 *Paston Lett.* Suppl. (1901) 44 Ye shul have a stope of bere to comforte yow. c1483 CAXTON *Dialogues* 7 *Cannes de deux lots*, Cannes of two stope,..*Lotz et demy lotz*, Stopes and half stopes. 1502 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* II. 295 Ane tyn quart and ane poynt stopes. 1533 *Ibid.* VI. 165 For iij quart stopis, xviij d. 1591 [? NASHE] *Prognostication* B 3, Englishe Beere shall there [in Denmark] be woorth fiue pence a stoape. 1592 GREENE *Black Bks. Messenger* Ep. Rdr., He would steale ouer in to the Lowe Countries, there to tast three or foure Stoapes of Rhenish wine. 1602 SHAKS. *Ham.* v. ii. 278 Set me the Stopes of wine vpon that Table. 1609 DEKKER *Gull's Hornbk.* Proem. 4 The Switzers stoap of Rhenish. 1657 in *10th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. I. 38 Tow silver stoapes. 1673 DRYDEN *Amboyna* v. i, [Dutchman loq.] Boy, give me some Tobacco, and a stope of Wine. 1713 *Phil. Trans.* XXIX. 57, 30 Rotterdam Stopes (making each about 3 English Quarts).

δ. 1530 in A. Laing *Abbey of Lindores* (1876) 490 It. iiij half gallonis stoippis, xj q^{rt} stoippis iiij poynt stoppis. ?a1550 *Freiris of Berwick* 66 in *Maitland Poems* (1786) 67 Dame, fill ane stoip of aile. 1663 *Invent. Ld. J. Gordon's Furniture*, Twa quart stoypes.

3. A vessel to contain holy-water, usu. a stone basin set in or against the wall of the church-porch, or within the church close to the entrance-door.

The form *stoup* is modern. It represents the earlier *stop*, *stope*: see γ below and STOP *sb.*^{1} 2; cf. STOCK *sb.*^{1} 21.

α. 1793 DENNE in *Archæologia* XI. 131 The holy-water stoup, fixed near the doors of churches, is sometimes called *labrum*. *Ibid.* 150, 365 *note*. 1829 BLOXAM *Princ. Gothic Archit.* xi. 65. 1848 LYTTON *Harold* IV. vi, Near the doorway ..was the stoupe or aspersorium for holy-water. 1899 *Q. Rev.* Apr. 470 The famous alliance between the stoup and the sabre, which has reorganised the politics of France.

β. 1784 DENNE in J. Thorpe *Custumale Roffense* (1788) 99 These basins or stoops were sometimes made of metal, but generally of stone.

γ. 1500 *Invent. Ch. Goods Canterb.* in *Gentl. Mag.* (1837) Dec. 569/2 A stope, off lede, for the holy wat^r atte the churche dore.

†4. *attrib.*, as *stoop-can*, *-glass*. *Obs.*

1608 H. CLAPHAM *Errour Right Hand* 53 See you that cherry-cheeked Damsell that tooke vp there the Stoop-kan. 1626 BACON *Sylva* § 796 Take a Stock-Gilly-Flower, and tye it gently vpon a Sticke, and put them both into a Stoope Glasse.

Stoup, obs. form of STOOP, STUPE.

†**Stoupaille.** *Obs. rare*$^{-1}$. [ad. OF. *estoupail* or *estoupaille* plug: see ESTOPPEL and STOPPLE.] *To make a stoupaille of*, to stop up, close with a plug.

1426 LYDG. *De Guil. Pilgr.* 24110 Of grace thou shalt not faille So that thou make a stoupaille Of the hooles that open be In thyn handes.

†**Stoupe.** *Obs. rare*$^{-1}$. [Of obscure origin and meaning; but cf. OF. *estoupe* cheat, deception.]

1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 5432 So þat heo mid childe was & poȝte hire so sor Ar þat child were ybore, þat he ne willed it hammor Come nammor to þulke stoupe, vor me ne miȝte hire bringe þat ȝo wolde euere eft in monnes bedde come vor eny þinge.

Stoupful (stū·pful). [f. STOUP + -FUL.] As much as a stoup will hold.

1590 in *Law's Memor.* (1818) Pref. p. xxviii, A stoupfull of poisoned aill. 1824 CARLYLE *Let.* 18 Sept. in Froude *Life* (1882) I. 235, I have swallowed, say about two stoupfuls of castor oil since I came hither. 1892 J. S. FLETCHER *When Chas. I was King* (1896) 295, I see you have drunk all the ale—shall I fetch you another stoupful?

Stouph(e, obs. forms of STOVE.

†**Stouple.** *Obs.* Also 7 **stoupell, stopple.** [ad. F. †*estoupille*, *étoupille*, f. *étoupe*:—L. *stuppa*, *stūpa* tow.] = QUICK-MATCH.

1634 J. B[ATE] *Myst. Nature* 65 How to make stouple, or prepare cotten-week to prime your fire-works with. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. xvi. (Roxb.) 91/2 The stouple or primeing [of the rocket]. *Ibid.* 92/1 When the fire is come to the stoupell, that will fire the cloth. 1696 R. H. *Sch. Recreat.* 33 A Quill of Wild Fire..or Stopple.

Stouple, obs. form of STUBBLE.

Stouppe, obs. form of STOOP *sb.*^{1}

Stour (stūr), *sb.*^{1} Forms: 3–4 **stur(e,** 4–9 **stoure, stowre,** 5 **store,** (6 **stourre**), 5–8 **stowr,** 6–9 **stower,** 8–9 **stoor,** 4– **stour.** [a. AF. *estur*,

OF. *estour* (N.E. dial. *stour*), *estor*, *estorn*. = Pr. *estorn-s*, It. *stormo* tumult, conflict, a. Teut. **sturmo-z* STORM *sb.* The etymological identity of senses 4 and 5 with the other senses is doubtful.]

I. 1. An armed combat or conflict; esp. a contest in battle; a fight. *Obs.* exc. *arch.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 7466 A man o þair gains an of vs, If vrs mai him win in stur [*other texts* stoure, stour(e)s]. *Ibid.* 7752–3 Gain saul þai gaf batail strang... In hard stur [*read* stur] þai samen mett. Ful snaip it was þair stur and snell. *c* 1325 *Metr. Hom.* 23 Rot werdes haht and hey tures Getes thir cite men fra stures. *c* 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 730 Lordynges..þat fledde fro þe grete stour. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Monk's T.* 380 She that helmed was in starke stoures [*Ellesm.* shoures] And wan by force townes stronge and toures. *c* 1420 *Destr. Troy* Prol. 28 Now of Troy forto telle..Of the stoure & þe stryffe when it distroyet was. *c* 1430 *Pilgr. Lyf Manhode* II. civ. (1869) 123, I am ladi and..constablesse of alle stoures in cheuachyes, ther as baners ben desplayed. *c* 1489 CAXTON *Sonnes of Aymon* i. 42 Moche grete and merueyllouse was the stoure, and the bataill soo fyers. 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* lxxxvi. 26 The quhilk, with mony bludy woundis, in stour, Victoriusly discomfeit the dragoun. 1592 WYRLEY *Armorie, Ld. Chandos* i, Prooued knights In martial feats and battelous stoure. 1612 DRAYTON *Poly-olb.* XVI. 69 Those braue spirits in all those balefull stowres, That with Duke Robert went against the Pagan powers. 1667 J. M'KENZIE in *Highland Papers* (S.H.S. 1916) II. 22 Both parties met wi' a terrible stour fighting handsomlie on both sides. 1803 W. S. ROSE *Amadis* 96 Man to man, and horse to horse oppos'd, the stower began. 1808 SCOTT *Marmion* IV. xxxii, When foins yon host in deadly stowre. 1816 — *Old Mort.* xxxvii, 'Then ye saw a bonny stour,' said Cuddie, 'that sall serve me for fighting a' the days o' my life'. 1846 PROWETT *Prometheus Bound* 21 Whose pointed lances on their foes Bear down the battle's stour. 1904 J. PARKINSON *Lays of Love & War* 81 War unto him is his birthright, The stour of the battle his breath.

†b. Phrases. *Stiff, stith, strong in stour*; also rarely *gode, fast, bold in stour*. *Obs.*

a 1300, ? *a* 1355 [see STIFF *a.* 12]. *a* 1300–1400 [see STITH *a.* 6]. 1338 R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (1725) 6 A stiffe knyght in stoure. *Ibid.* 213 Edward & Edmunde, knyght gode in stoure. *a* 1400 *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* lv. 37 Per nis non so strong in stour,..From bat day forþ,..Of his strengþe he leost a quantite. *c* 1435 *Torr. Portugal* 1655 Welcom, sir knyght, That fast art in stoure. *c* 1460 *Towneley Myst.* XXV. 131 He is..of so mekill myght, And styf in euery stoure. 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* lxxvii. 33 The Bruce, that euir was bold in stoure. 1508 *Ibid.* vii. 9 Welcum in stour most strong, incomparable knight. [1857 SIR F. PALGRAVE *Norm. & Eng.* II. 352 The Danes were very stiff in the stour.]

† 2. *fig.* a. Conflict with death, death-struggle, esp. in *hard, death-stour, bale-stour* (see BALE *sb.*[1] 8). *Obs.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 15647 Quen suete o blod vt of him brast, þat sua on erth fell. Quen he was risen vt o þis sture til his felaus come he. 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 1838 Pe payn of þe dede..Þat es þe hard stour at þe last ende, When þe saule sal fra þe body wende. *Ibid.* 5812, I yhelde my sanl in þis dede stour Til þe Loverd. *c* 1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 5374 Þai prayed þe confessour To bring þat man oute of þat stour. 1552 LYNDESAY *Monarche* 5161 Deith..Quham wysedome may nocht contramand, Nor strenth that stoure may nocht ganestand!

†b. A conflict waged with immaterial weapons; a struggle with pain or adversity. *Obs.*

c 1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 111 Whan þai þole mekill in stoures, Tene and tray of tormentoures, To sere men þaire sufferynge Is ensample of gude lyuynge. *c* 1460 *Towneley Myst.* xiv. 497 In strong stowre now ar we sted; what may we say? 1535 STEWART *Cron. Scot.* II. 47 Honorious of Rome the empriour, That tyme with seiknes staid wes in ane stour. *a* 1536 *Songs, Carols* etc. (E.E.T.S.) 68 Styfly to stond in euery stowr Agaynst the fende & all his methe. 1585 FETHERSTONE tr. *Calvin on Acts* xiii. 8. 296 The same stoure haue we at this day with a number of brablers. 1686 J. RENWICK *Let.* 18 Feb. in *Life* Biog. Presbyt. (1827) II. 276 The Lord..hath helped you to stand with a poor despised Party in many Stours for his Interest. 1807–20 TANNAHILL *Poems* (1846) 48 Thus youth and vigour fends itsel'; While dowless eild, in poortith cauld Is lanely left to stand the stoure.

† 3. Used by Spenser and his imitators for: Time of turmoil and stress. *Obs.*

1579 SPENSER *Sheph. Cal.* Jan. 51 And eke tenne thousand sithes I blesse the stoure [*Glossed by E. K.* a fitt], Wherein I sawe so fayre a sight, as shee. *Ibid.* May 156 When approchen the stormie stowres. 1590 — *F. Q.* I. ii. 7 Then gan she waile and weepe, to see that woefull stowre. *Ibid.* III. ii. 6, I haue beene trained vp in warlike stowre. *Ibid.* IV. ix. 39 But thus turmoild from one to other stowre, I wast my life. 1597 BP. HALL *Sat.* II. iii. 35 So haue I seene in a tempestuous stowre, Some breer-bush shewing shelter from the showre. 1629 QUARLES *Feast for Worms* Med. ii. D 2 b, God..shield all good men from such stormy stowre. 1642 H. MORE *Song of Soul* I. i. 53 Wks. (Grosart) 18/53 And shall not he..rise, and in his wrathfull stour..quell the haughty enemy. 1742 SHENSTONE *Schoolmistr.* xix, All, all but He, the Author of it's Shame,..regret it's ruthful Stour. 1767 MICKLE *Concub.* I. xxxi, Now to the Goal they fly—in franticke Stowre. 1811 H. MACNEILL *Bygane Times* 49 When wives and dochters, without thrift..can mak nae shift To screen themsels frae tempest's stour.

†b. Used by Greene, Lodge, and others, probably by misapprehension of Spenser, for: Occasion, place. *Obs.*

1583 MELBANCKE *Philotimus* A a iij b, When yᵉ Græcians were in suspence, whether to march on to giue onset of battaile, at the same stoure, drad flakes of lightning fire were darted down from heauen. 1589 LODGE *Scillaes Metam.* A 4 b, Clore she gathered Amaranthus flower, And Nais Aiax blossom in that stowre. 1589 GREENE *Menaphon, Melicertus Ecl.* 39 He chose her chinne; and from that happie stowre He neuer stints in glorie to appeare. 1590 — *Never too Late, Palmer's Verses* 41 The birds at euerie stowre Do tempt the heauens with harmonie diuine. 1595 *Locrine* II. v. 211 For Strumbo the cobler At this same stoure, at this very houre, Lies dead on the ground. 1600 LODGE in *England's Helicon* E 1 b, Oft from her lap at sundry stoures, He leapt, and gathered Sommer flowres.

4. Tumult, uproar; commotion, fuss. Now *Sc.* and *dial.*

[Perhaps partly a variant of STIR *sb.*[2]; cf. the *y* forms of STIR *v.*]

c 1440 *Bone Flor.* 1659 Sche glyste up wyth the hedeows store, A sorowfull wakenyng had sche thore. 1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 175/9 A stoore, *commotio, turbatio.* 1724 WODROW *Corr.* (1843) III. 116, I see he is to take Bishop Burnet in task;..and I am content I have so masterly a writer..some way to stand betwixt me and the stour, so to say. *c* 1730 RAMSAY *Masque* 197 Minerva mint, for a' your mortal stoor, Ye shall with billy Bacchus sit the floor. 1833 G. N. BROWN *York Minster Screen* 150 (E.D.S. No. 76) Ant' bairns all roo'red to see their moother roore, Ah nivver i my life seed sike a stoore. 1879 HARDY *Wessex Tales* (1889) 262 Oh, there's such a stoor, Mrs. Newberry..! The king's excisemen can't get the carts ready nohow at all! 1915 SIR J. WILSON *Lowland Scotch in Lower Strathearn* 206 Sic a stoor uboot naything.

b. A storm; esp. a driving storm. *Sc.* and *north.*

1827 J. WILSON *Noct. Ambr.* I. 278 The other horse grows obstinate wi' the sharp stour in his face. *a* 1878 H. AINSLIE *Pilgr. Land Burns* etc. (1892) 218 Then look, ere midnight's past For a stour frae the nor-wast. 1891 ATKINSON *Moorland Parish* 362 It would have been alike impossible to see or read [the burial service] in such a fierce, savage stour; and the sharp, hard sleet and roughened snow were driven against..my neck and face.

II. 5. Flying dust raised by the rapid movement of a person or things, or by the wind; hence a deposit of dust; also dust from material undergoing mechanical treatment. *Sc.* and *north.*

1456 SIR G. HAYE *Law Arms* (S.T.S.) 61 Sa began the grete bataill sa vigorous, that the stour strake in the hevin of the cruektee of that mortall bataill. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* VII 579 The strang stour rais, as reik, vpon thaim fast. *Ibid.* X. 29 The tothir ost mycht nocht no dedis se, For stour at rais. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* VII. xi. 57 The dusty pouder vp dryvand wyth a stour. *Ibid.* IX. ii. 3 The Troianis..A dusty sop vprysand gan do se, Full thik of stour vp thringand in the ayr. *a* 1578 LINDESAY (Pitscottie) *Chron. Scot.* (S.T.S.) II. 39 The battellis ioynit so cruellie that they might nocht he sene for the stour and reik of poulder. 1786 BURNS *To Mountain Daisy* i, For I maun crush amang the stoure Thy slender stem. 1808 J. MAYNE *Siller Gun* II. 121 Alang the roads it left out-ower ye Sic clouds o' stour, Ye coudna see yer thumb before ye. 1836 CARLYLE in *Academy Suppl.* 17 Sept. (1898) 272/1 The huge smoke and stour of that tumultuous Manchester. 1894 CROCKETT *Lilac Sunbonnet* 46 Ye couldna see his legs or coat-tails for stour as he gaed roon'. 1905 *Blackw. Mag.* Jan. 120/2 She went down on her knees to blow aside a pile of white peat 'stour'.

†b. A cloud of spray. *Sc. Obs. rare.*

1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* III. vi. 130 The large fludis suppis thrise in ane swelch, And wther quhilis spowtis in the air agane, Drivand the stour to the sternis, as it war rane. 1822 H. AINSLIE *Pilgr. Land of Burns* 179 The siller stour That bowses frae the linn.

c. Phrases. (Sc.) *Like stour*: very swiftly or vigorously. *To blow, cast, throw stour in one's eyes*: fig. (cf. DUST *sb.*[1] 4). *To kick up, make, raise a stour*: to raise a dust; *fig.*, to make a disturbance or fuss.

a 1788 BURNS '*O Tibbie, I hae seen the day*' ii, Yestreen I met ye on the moor, Ye spak na, but gaed by like stoure. 1870 J. K. HUNTER *Life Studies Chair.* 135 Thoo sees I am preachin' awa' here like storr. 1894 CROCKETT *Raiders* (ed. 3) 322, I saw our men..drive like stour across the yard and in at the open gate.

1823 GALT *R. Gilhaize* xv, My grandfather being eager to throw stour in his eyes. 1883 R. CLELAND *Inchbracken* xviii. 136 Do you tak me for a fule, to think ye're to blaw the stour i' my e'en that gate?

1786 BURNS *Ordination* iii, This day the Kirk kicks up a stoure. 1837 R. NICOLL *Poems* (1843) 179 Wha raised at Marston such a stour And made the tyrants fear folk? 1896 A. LILBURN *Borderer* xxii. 169 Tschuh, tschuh, tscha, oh confound you and yer brush together..! Kicking up such a stour. 1897 BEATTY *Secretar* xviii. 154 What gars ye mak sic a stour at sic a time?

† 6. *To stour*: ? to the ground. *Obs.*—[1]

c 1557 ABP. PARKER *Ps.* lxxx. 13 Why hast thou beat his closure downe..?..The tushy bore..doth route it vp to stoure.

Stour, stoor (stūr), *a.* and *sb.*[2] *Obs.* exc. *Sc.* Forms: 1 stór, 3–5 stor, (3 *Lay.* steor), 3–5 store, 4–6 stoore, 5 storre; 3–6 stur, 4–6 sture, 5–9 stoor, 6 stur; 4–6, 9 stoure, 4–9 stour, 4, 6, 7 *north.* stowre, 6–7 stower; *Sc.* 6, 8 stuir. [Apparently two words have been confused: (1) Late OE. *stór*, a. ON. *stór-r* (Sw., Da. *stor*) great. Cf. OFris. *stór* great, OS. *stôri* (gl. *inclitus*); the root is prob. **stō-* ablaut-var. of **sta-* to STAND, (2) ME. *stūr*, cogn. w. MLG. *stūr*, MDu. *stuur*, *stûre* (med. Flem. *stuur*; Du. has the derivative *stuursch*) rough, wild, furious, harsh; it is uncertain whether the affinities are with STEER *a.* or with STIR *v.*

Owing to the uncertainty of the phonetic import of some of the forms, the two words cannot be distinctly separated.]

A. *adj.*

† 1. Of natural agencies: Violent, fierce. *Obs.*

a 1122 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1085, Swa stor þunring & lægt wes swa þat hit acwealde manige men. *c* 1205 LAY. 25740 Þer uuen on heo isezen a fur þat wes muchel and swiðe stor. *c* 1400 *Ywaine & Gaw.* 373 The store windes blew ful lowd. 1460 *Lybeaus Disc.* 1766 A fere stark and store Was lyght. 14.. *Pol. Rel. & L. Poems* (1903) 131/256 On a grene hill he sawe a tre, The Savoure of hit was stronge & store.

† b. Of a fight, battle: Fiercely contested. *Obs.*

c 1205 LAY. 1709 Þær wes feiht swiðe strong on alche haue hit wes stor þer wes..tnoni cniht feie. 1338 R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (1725) 72 Þer þe bataile was stoure an abbay wild he haf wrouht.

† c. Of conditions: Causing great pain or hardship, hard, severe, grievous. *Obs.*

c 1205 LAY. 7333 Þu [Cæsar] ært icumen of Rome þine word beoð swiðe store of ure londe þu axest 3eld. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 24541 Sa war mi stundes store. *c* 1350 *Med. MS.* in *Archæologia* XXX. 384 Yᵉ playster..is good..To leyn on place yer stynging is, It drawyth awey yᵉ smert so stoure.

† d. Of sound: Great in volume, loud. (Cf. 6 b.)

c 1440 *York Myst.* xxxi. 242 My lorde it astonys hym, youre steuen is so store. *a* 1489 CAXTON *Blanchardyn* 162 As of the stour dynnyng and noyse that their horses made treddyng and wallopyng..vpon the grounde. 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* xxi. 63 Quhen the angell blawis his bugill sture.

e. quasi-*adv.* Violently, fiercely.

a 1300 *Floriz & Bl.* 228 (Camb. MS.) Fram flore in to flore þe strimes vrneþ store. *c* 1470 *Rauf Coilȝear* 16 The wind blew out of the Eist stiflie and sture. 1885 'S. MUCKLEBACKIT' (J. Lumsden) *Rural Rhymes* 91 Thou wearie, eastlin' blast Frae 'Lumsden's Hole' that stormest soure!

† 2. Great in number, numerous. *Obs.*

c 1205 LAY. 3821 He gadere ferde þe wes feondliche stor. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 842 On-kumen was cadalamor, king of elam, wiþ ferding stor. *a* 1300 *Havelok* 2383 Þer he yet on hunting for, With mikel genge, and swiþe stor. 1338 R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (1725) 313 Þe poyntes were so store. *a* 1400–50 *Wars Alex.* 1534 Store starand stanes strekilland all ouire [the garment]. *Ibid.* 1741 Þou may reȝt lycken þe store strenthe of oure stoure to sternes of þe heuen.

† 3. Great in degree. *Obs.*

c 1205 LAY. 349 He was mete-custi þat is monscipe steor. *Ibid.* 9126 Muchele is & stor þe eiȝe. *c* 1250 *Owl & Night.* 1473 (MS. Cott.) Wundre me þunȝ wel starc & stor Hu eni mon [etc.].

† 4. Great in material things: Great in size, stout, massive, bulky; also *rarely* great in extent of surface. (In some of the quots. approximating to sense 8.) *Obs.*

? *a* 1300 *Shires England* 28 in *O. E. Misc.* 146 Ac þis wes hwile þreo bisscop-riche, for-þi her-to hereþ .viii. store schire, and on half schire. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xix. (*Christopher*) 339 Quhen þat christofore þis prayere had mad,..His staf, þat was sture & stark, was cled with lewis, & with bark. ? 13.. *Adultery* 158 in *Archiv Stud. neu. Spr.* LXXIX. 421 An huge tre, stark & stoure. *c* 1400 *Sc. Trojan War* (Horstm.) 198 Of Pallas a tempile full stoure. *c* 1450 *Bk. Curtasye* 822 in *Babees Book* (1868) 326 He..Awoydes þo borde in-to þo flore, Tase away þo trestis þat ben so store. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* X. 956 Thai..Brak byggyngs doun quhilk had bene stark and stur. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* XI. xi. 45 For in his hand..had he A bustuus speir, percace, baith styth and stuir. 1549 LATIMER *7th Serm. bef. Edw. VI.* A a vj, It was..a greater payne..then when the stower nayles were knocked and driuen throughe hys handes and fete. 1674 N. FAIRFAX *Bulk & Selv.* 138 For body being a stour unweildsom thing,..it cannot stir without asking another bodies leave to crowd by.

† b. Of length: Great, immoderate, inordinate.

c 1400 *Destr. Troy* 3042 Hir nose..Stondyng full streght & not of stor lenght.

5. Of persons or animals: Strong, sturdy, stalwart.

a 1310 in Wright *Lyric P.* xxx. 87 Ne is no quene so stark ne stour,..that ded ne shal by-glyde. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* X. 158 He wes a stout carle and a sture. *a* 1400–50 *Wars Alex.* 3937 Þan floȝe þar..of þa foule Backes, Als store & als stalword as þire sedill dowis. *c* 1400 *Laud Troy Bk.* 16413 The quene..rydyng..Upon a stede strong & store. *c* 1450 HOLLAND *Howlat* 500 Was nane so stur in the steid micht stand him a start. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* V. viii. 20 The tother of lymnis biggar and cors mair stur is. 1535 STEWART *Cron. Scot.* (Rolls) I. 20 His buirlie bodie, that wes bayth strang and stuir. 1633 G. HERBERT *Temple, Ch. Porch* xx, Constancie knits the bones, and makes us stowre. 1793 *Carlop Green* (1817) 116 Stiff, still, stuir, hard-grown Baillie Brock. 1814 SCOTT *Wav.* xlii, That grey auld stoor carle, the Baron o' Bradwardine.

Comb. a 1400–50 *Wars Alex.* 1702 (Ashm. MS.), Askis þam..Bathe of his statoure & his strenth if he ware store ben [*Dublin MS.* sture-baned].

† b. of bearing, countenance, speech. *Obs.*

c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xx. (*Blase*) 149 Þane sad hym blase [= Blasius] with stur chere: certis, þu art a foule. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Merch. T.* 1123 O stronge lady stoore, what dostow? *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 3763 Achilles was..a stythe man in stoure, storest of wille. *c* 1470 *Gol. & Gaw.* 87 With stout contenance and sture he stude thame beforne. *a* 1520 DOUGLAS *K. Hart* II. 395 Go to the King, with sture voce can he say, Speir gif ony office he hes for me. *a* 1529 SKELTON *Agst. Scottes* 12 They are so stowre, So frantyke mad. 1530 PALSGR. 326/1 Stowre of conversacyon, *estourdy*. 1560 ROLLAND *Seven Sages* 68 He was sa stout and sture, Of his lyfe tuk na cure. 1567 GOLDING *Ovid's Met.* Epist. 11 Such as were most wyld, stowre, feerce..and bent Against good order, were by him perswaded to relent.

† c. of a stroke, pace. *Obs.*

c 1400 *Destr. Troy* 1193 Bothe batels on bent brusshet togedur; With stithe strokes and store. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* IV. 780 Quhen that he was with out, Rycht fast he ȝeide, a stour pais and a stout. *c* 1590 J. STEWART *Poems* (S.T.S.) II. 27/452 Thow happelie did find Thy fortoune now that from his stricking stuir [*sc.* the kicking of a horse] So hes eschewit saif vntuitchit suir.

6. Of a person: Stiff, unbending, stubborn; stern, surly. Also of looks, etc.

1303 R. BRUNNE *Handl. Synne* 11471 Syf þou meke þe to þy prest, þou mekes þe to Goddes brest; Syf þou be to hym ful stour, þou doust to God grete dysonour. *c* 1400 *Laud Troy Bk.* 3845 But non of hem thei ones gret, But sette hem doun with semblaunt store. *c* 1447 in *Invent. Jarrow & Wearmouth* (Surtees) 241 Will'm of Hilton..wᵗ hy and stoor countenance entreed yʳ qweer..wᵗ outyn ony..reuerence

..to yᵉ blessid sacrament. *a* 1500 *Ratis Raving* III. 367 Na falow the nocht-with our gredy, Na with our still men, na our sture. 1555 WATREMAN *Fardle Facions* II. i. 110 The Occean, whiche where he cometh by Easte Asie, is called Eous,..and aftre the name of the stoure Scithiane, vpon the Northe Scythicus. 1642 J. ROUS *Diary* (Camden) 121 For that he shewed himselfe crosse and stower, he was committed to the Fleet. 1789–90 BURNS *Five Carlins* xvii, Says Black Joan frae Crichton Peel, A carline stoor and grim. 1815 SCOTT *Guy M.* xxxix, A muckle sture fearsome-looking wife. 1846 CHALMERS in Hanna *Mem.* (1852) IV. xxiv. 456 There's some of your stour orthodox folk just over ready to stretch the Bible to square with their catechism.

Comb. 1816 SCOTT *Old Mort.* iv, That dour stour-looking carle.

b. Of a voice: Harsh, rough. (Cf. 1 d.)

1785 BURNS *Addr. to Deil* viii, When wi' an eldritch, stoor quaick, quaick, Amang the springs, Away ye squatter'd like a drake. 1818 CARR *Craven Gloss.*, *Stoar*, *stour*, harsh, deep-toned. *Ibid.* II. 294, I tell's him i' a stoar voice, as lang as I'se maister o' this house [etc.]. 1894 'H. HALIBURTON' (J. L. Robertson) *Furth in Field* 9 The farmer..demanded in a stour voice..'whether' [etc.]. 1894 R. REID *Poems* 46 Nae merle at e'enin' his melody starts..But a corbie's maybe, or some ither as stoor.

7. Coarse in texture, harsh, rough, stiff.

c 1400 MAUNDEV. (Roxb.) xxxi. 140 In thase iles..er schepe als mykill as oxen, bot þe woll of þam es grete and sture. *c* 1440 *Alphabet of Tales* 184 And he sett befor þaim sture brede & salte. 1530 PALSGR. 326/1 Soure, rude as course clothe is, *gros*. *Ibid.* 630 This rubbynge of your gowne agaynst the wolle wyll make it sture to the syght: *ce frotter de vostre robbe contre la layne larudyra quant a la veue*. 1545 RAYNALDE *Byrth Mankynde* I. 2 The Skin..in sume one person [is] moore stowre & styffe then in sume other agayne. 1545 ASCHAM *Toxoph.* II. (Arb.) 131 A fenny goose, euen as her flesh is blacker, stoorer, vnholsomer, so is her fether for the same cause courser stoorer and rougher. 1567 GOLDING *Ovid's Met.* VIII. (1593) 195 And eke the skin with bristles stur right grisely he hir gaue. 1691 RAY *S. & E. Country Words*, *Sturry*, inflexible, sturdy, and stiffe. *Stawne* is used in the same sense, and spoken of cloth, in opposition to limber. *a* 1825 FORBY *Voc. E. Anglia*, *Stour*, stiff, stout...In our use, it seems rarely, if ever, applied to any thing but strong vegetable growth...In Suffolk...it is applied to land which works stiff.

Hence † **Sto·rlic** *a.*, strong, fierce.

c 1205 LAY. 10647 Þat feht wes swiðe storlic [*c* 1275 storlich].

† **B.** *sb.*[2] [Cf. A. 8.] A thick place (in cloth).

1472 *5th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* 436/2 [The cloth is to be clear of] rowe, stour, cokell, vagite, grete bole or any other defaute.

Stour (stūr), *v. Sc.* and *north.* Also **stoor**. [f. STOUR *sb.*[1] II.]

1. *intr.* Of a substance: To rise up in a cloud of dust or powder; to fly. Of snow: To drive.

1788 W. H. MARSHALL *Yorksh.* II. 356 To *Stoor*; to rise up in clouds, as smoke, dust, fallen lime, &c. 1860 RAMSAY *Remin.* v. (1867) 87 In speaking of the dryness of the soil on a road in Lanarkshire, a farmer said, 'It stoors in an oor'. 1891 ATKINSON *Moorland Parish* 360 It was a wild day indeed, the snow stouring in blinding clouds.

2. (See quot.)

1811 WILLAN in *Archæologia* XVII. 160 *Stour*, to raise dust, to make a bustle.

Hence **Stou·ring** *ppl. a.*

1891 ATKINSON *Moorland Par.* (ed. 2) 361 The stouring snow which blew directly into one's face and eyes.

Stour, obs. form of STORE; var. STOWER *sb.*[1]

Stourb, variant of STURB *v. Obs.*

Stourdi, obs. form of STURDY *a.*

Stoure: see STIR *v.*, STOUR, STOWER *sb.*[1]

Stourly (stū·rli), *adv.* Forms: 3 **storliche**; *Sc.* 4–5 **sturly**, 5 **stwrly**, 5–6 **sturely**, 8–9 **stourly**. [f. STOUR *a.* + -LY 2.]

† **1.** Greatly. *Obs.*

a 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 1268 Is nu se storliche unstrenget ower strengðe.

2. *Sc.* Fiercely, violently; stoutly, vigorously.

c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* I. (*Catherine*) 1028 Þane þat tyrand ..rathly ruschit to and fra,..& sturly stampit als, & steryt. *c* 1470 *Rauf Coilzear* 860 The kene Knicht in that steid stakkerit sturely. 1572 *Sat. Poems Reform.* XXXVIII. 74 Giue ..we..hald vs togidder, Baith surely, and sturely, and stoutly gainstand thame. 1793 T. SCOTT *Poems* 375 (E.D.D.), I heard a horn fu' stourly blawn. 1888 DOUGHTY *Trav. Arabia Deserta* I. 127 He looked stourly about him, who should speak next. 1898 J. PATON *Castlebraes* II. 49 Swuftly an' stourly, I laid ma Heezel Rung, a second swash, athwart the safter pairts.

Stourm, Stourne: see STORM *sb.*, STERN *a.*

Stourness (stū·rnės). *Obs.* exc. *Sc.* [f. STOUR *a.* + -NESS.] The condition of being 'stour'; † sturdiness; † roughness; largeness.

c 1400 *Destr. Troy* 9015 Kyng Seppidon..Bounet vnto batell..And to Neptilon anon,..As by stowrnes of strenght, streght on hym met. *Ibid.* 10345 And troiell..trayturly he slogh, Noght þurgh stowreness of strokes, ne with strenght one; But [etc.]. 1530 PALSGR. 277/1 Stournesse, *estourdissseure*. 1866 T. EDMONDSTON *Shetl. & Orkney Gloss.*, *Stourness*, largeness, bigness, Shetland.

Stourre, obs. form of STOUR *sb.*, STOWER *sb.*[1]

Stoury (stū·ri), *a. Sc.* and *north.* Also 9 **stoory**. [f. STOUR *sb.*[1] 5 + -Y.] Characterized by flying dust or driving snow; also, covered with dust.

a 1792 BURNS *Weary Pund o' Tow* iii, And ay she took the tither souk To drouk the stourie tow. 1803 R. ANDERSON *Ball. Cumbld.* (1808) 62 The Bible ligs stoury abuin the duir head. 1823 GALT *R. Gilhaize* xlvii, The stoury rafters of an auld bigging. 1898 *Blackw. Mag.* Jan. 21 The dry and stoury alleys of the fir-wood.

Stoury, obs. form of STOBY *sb.*[1]

Stout (stout), *sb.*[1] Now *dial.* Forms: 1–2 **stút**, 4 **stoute**, 7 **stowt(e**, 7–9 **stut**, 9 **stoat**, 6– **stout**. [OE. *stút*, of obscure etymology.] A gad-fly, horse-fly; also applied to a gnat.

Higins (quot. 1585), prob. by mistake, uses it for the candle-fly or moth; Florio follows this, using *fire-fly* for 'a fly living in the fire' (Cooper s. v. *Pyrausta*).

c 1000 ÆLFRIC *Voc.* in WR.-WULCKER 121/24 *Culex*, stut. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) V. 159 Þe snowtes of olyfauntes and his hors eren were so ful of gnattes and stoutes and of greet flyes [L. *culicibus et cinifibus*] þat þey [etc.]. 1585 HIGINS *Junius' Nomencl.* 721/2 *Pyrallis*,..a candle flie: a stout, or millers soule [*printed* foule]. 1598 FLORIO, *Pirausta*, a fire-flye or worme bred and liuing in the fire, and going from it dieth, and flieth into the leame of a candle; some call it a candle-flie, a stout, a miller-fowle, or bishop. 1616 J. LANE *Contn. Sqr.'s T.* XI. 383 And blusshinge welkin fell with stowtes to playe at novum. 1657 R. LIGON *Barbadoes* 62 Musketos, who bite and sting worse then the Gnats and Stouts, that sting Cattle in England. 1666 MERRETT *Pinax* 199 *Tabanides*, a Burrel-fly, stout, Brees, Clog or Cling. 1674–91 RAY *S. & E. C. Words*, A Stut: a Gnat: Somerset. 1852 *Berks Gloss.*, *Stout*, a sharp stinging fly. 1879 JEFFERIES *Wild Life in S. C.* 199 A boy armed with a spray of ash, with which he flicks off the stoats that would otherwise drive the animals frantic. 1898 MISS YONGE *John Keble's Parishes* xvi. 193 The large fly, popularly called a stout, as big as a hornet, lays eggs under the skin of cows.

attrib. *a* 1887 JEFFERIES *Field & Hedgerow* (1889) 229 The peculiar low whir of the stoat-fly.

b. *Newfoundland.* (See quot.)

1903 A. C. P. HAGGARD *Sporting Yarns* 205 The huge 'stouts', a gadfly of great biting power, used to attack my head and neck terribly. 1905 — *Bond of Sympathy* 60 A.. ferocious insect, thicker than, and about the size of a hornet, which it resembles in being barred with black and yellow. This formidable insect, the Newfoundlanders call the Stout.

Stout (stout), *sb.*[2] Also 7 **stoutt**. [Prob. elliptical for *stout ale* or *stout beer* (STOUT *a.* 11), though in our quots. these are not found till much later.]

† **a.** 'A cant name for strong beer' (J.) *Obs.* **b.** In present use, a strong variety of porter.

1677 R. HAWTREY *Let., Egerton MS.* 2716 We will drink your healths both in stoutt and best wine. *a* 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew*, *Stout*, very strong, Malt-Drink. 1719 D'URFEY *Pills* V. 83 We will frolick in Stout, And banish all Care in a Mug. 1720 SWIFT *Poems*, *To Stella* 32 Or kindly, when his credit's out, Surprise him with a pint of stout. 1762 W. BURTON *Let.* in *Add. MS.* 32933, lf. 273 The Porter brewers likewise make a beer of an extraordinary strength called Stout, that will bear being made weaker by mixing it with small. 1816 *Times* 25 Jan. in *Hone's Every-day Bk.* I. 462 Each house was supplied with Brown Stout. 1848 ALB. SMITH *Chr. Tadpole* XXVI. 237 A bottle of stout and a biscuit. 1882 BESANT *All Sorts* Prol. I. I. 12 Messenger, Marsden, and Company's Stout, their XXX, [etc.].

Stout (stout), *a.* and *adv.* Forms: 3–4 **stute**, 3–7 **stoute**, 4 **stut**, 4–7 **stowt(e**, 5 *Sc.* **stult**, 5–6 **stought**, 7 **stoutt**, 4– **stout**. [a. OF. *estout* (NE. dial. *stout*), earlier *estolt*, *estult*, brave, fierce, proud; of Teut. origin: cf. OFris. *stult* proud, MLG. *stolt* stately, proud, (M)Du. *stout* proud, OHG., MHG., mod.G. *stolz* proud (in MHG. also foolish):—WGer. **stultā-*. The ON. *stollr* is from HG., and the later ON. *stolt-r* (= MSw. *stolt-er*, Sw., Da. *stolt*) from LG.

According to some scholars the WGer. word is an adoption (with remarkable development of meaning) of L. *stultus* foolish. Others regard it as native Teut., from **stult* ablaut-var. of **stelt-* (? to walk stiffly): see STILT *sb.*]

A. *adj.* **I.** Proud, fierce, brave, resolute.

† **1.** Proud, haughty, arrogant. Often coupled with *proud*. *To make it stout*: to swagger. *Obs.*

c 1315 SHOREHAM *Poems* vii. 410 Alle hy weren ydyruen out, Wyþ lucyfer þat was so stout. *c* 1330 *Spec. Gy de Warw.* 623 Ac þu, fersse man, þat art so stout, And heih of mod, and herte proud. *c* 1400 *Rom. Rose* 6158, I mene of fals Religious, That stoute ben, and malicious [Fr. *des felons, des malicieus*]. *c* 1400 *Brut* 2 Albyne bycome so stoute & so sterne, þat sche told litel prys of her lord. *c* 1400 *Sowdone Bab.* 1825 Thai made it both stoute and gay. *c* 1421 *26 Pol. Poems* xxi. 73 How of hem han hertis stoute þat rewe› non pore þat han penaunce. *c* 1440 *Jacob's Well* 74 Whan þou art in þat estate,..þanne wexist þou stowt & fell, and puttyst out þi venym of pride. 1535 COVERDALE *Isa.* x. 12 The noble and stoute Kynge of Assiria. 1552 HULOET, Stowt, *superbus*, *superciliosus*. *a* 1586 SIDNEY *Arcadia* I. v. (1912) 32 A man mightie in riches & power, and proude thereof, stubbornly stout. 1593 SHAKS. *2 Hen. VI*, I. i. 187 As stout and proud as he were Lord of all. 1635 PAGITT *Christianogr.* III. (1636) 22 If he be stout and proud, he is not of God. 1656 BAXTER *Reformed Pastor* 177 Can we once conceive of him as purposely washing..his servants feet, and yet be stout and Lordly still? 1669 R. MONTAGU in *Buccleuch MSS.* (Hist. MSS. Comm.) I. 452 If we are as high and as stout as they, I am confident we shall bring them a pin lower. *a* 1803 [see PROUD-HEARTED]. 1851 STERNBERG *Northampt. Gloss.*, *Stout*, proud.

† **b.** Stately, magnificent, splendid. *Obs.*

a 1310 in Wright *Lyric P.* xvi. 52 Heo is dereworthe in day, Gracioushe, stout, ant gay. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* A. 935 If þou has oþer lygynges stoute, Now tech me to þat myry mote. 1362 LANGL. *P. Pl.* A. II. 12 *note*, Of reed gold so ryche redilyche I-dyȝte Wiþ precioushe stoones so stoute stondynge þer-ynne. *a* 1400 *Launfal* 985 Up stod the quene and ladyes stoute. *c* 1400 *26 Pol. Poems* xxv. 537, I that was full stoute and gay, ffull horyble am now opon to se. 1430–50 *Erthe upon Erthe* IV. 25 Why scholde erthe a-pon erthe goo stowte and gay?

† **2.** Fierce, furious. *Obs.*

c 1300 *Beket* 512 Sire Hughe Eorl of Chestre, and Eorl Williem of Ferers, Were at this parlement, stout ynou and fers. 1303 R. BRUNNE *Handl. Synne* 4036 He., sagh a bere wylde and stoute. 1338 — *Chron.* (1725) 48 Þe burgeis of London were wrope & stoute. *c* 1421 *26 Pol. Poems* xxi. 139 Drede no tyraunte sterne and stoute May sle þy body. *c* 1450 LOVELICH *Merlin* 2687 Vndyr wheche water ben there set Tweyne wondirful Stowte dragowns. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* III. XII. 25 Emongst them was sterne Strife, and Anger stout. 1600 HOLLAND *Livy* I. xlvi. 32 The younger Tullia, a stout dame and a proud.

† **b.** Formidable, menacing; terrible in appearance. *Obs.*

1338 R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (1725) 74 Tiþynges com him fulle stoute, þat a grete oste & stark,..Were aryued in Humbere. *Ibid.* 115 Þise men lift þer standard, that stoute was & grim. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* XIX. (*Christopher*) 469 Þat [þa] wemane speryt has with stut vysage & auchtful spek.. *c* 1420 ? LYDG. *Assembly of Gods* 313 Hys colour was..Foule,..hys eyen gret & stoute. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* X. 78 Quha couth behald thair awfull lordly wult, So weill beseyn, so forth-wart, stern, and stult. *a* 1550 *Freiris Berwik* 196 in *Dunbar's Poems* (1893) 291 The gudwyfe spak than, with a visage stowt. 1601 CHESTER *Love's Mart.* (1878) 27 A huge Tower of brasse,..Able to bide the raging Foes stout frowne.

† **c.** Of pain: Severe. *Obs.*

c 1425 AUDELAY *XI Pains of Hell* 144 in *O. E. Misc.* 227 Faste þei wente þis pepul a-boute, Wiþ moni turmentes grete and stoute.

3. Valiant, brave; undaunted and vigorous in conflict or resistance. Now somewhat *arch.* (chiefly *attrib.* of soldiers).

13.. *K. Alis.* 869 (Laud MS.), Nicholas of cartage Hardy man stout & sauage. *c* 1325 *Lai le Freine* 249 He was stout, of gret renoun And was y-cleped Sir Guroun. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 1184 Stoffed wyth-inne with stout men to stalle hem þer-oute. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* II. 390 Thocht he wes stout and hardy,..Thar mycht na worschip thar availȝe. 1572 HULOET (ed. Higins), Stoute or aduenturous, *audaculus*. 1586 A. DAY *Eng. Secretorie* I. (1595) 74 Grieue, replied the stoût couragious Citizen, yea, euen I. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* II. X. 54 Stout Bunduca. 1591 SHAKS. *1 Hen. VI*, III. iv. 19 A stouter Champion neuer handled Sword. 1595 *Phrases Lat. Aldi Manutii* 106 Fortis pro salute patriæ. Stout in the quarrell, or valiant for the safe-guard of his countrey. 1625 BACON *Ess.*, *Suspic.* (Arb.) 528 They [*sc.* these defects] take Place in the Stoutest Natures: As in the Example of Henry the Seuenth..: There was not a more Suspicious Man, nor a more Stout. 1656 T. STANLEY, *Hist. Philos.* v. xxix. (1687) 194 In this Sence we call all Souldiers stout, and sometimes call imprudent and rash persons stout, when we speak not of the perfect Vertues. *a* 1661 FULLER *Worthies*, *Westmorld.* (1662) 136 That Stout Prelate who when the Scots invaded England,..utterly routed and ruined them. 1690 LOCKE *Educ.* § 96 (1693) 114 Some Men by the unalterable Frame of their Constitutions are Stout, other Timorous. 1727 A. HAMILTON *New Acc. E. Indies* I. xviii. 216 Cowards are generally stout when Dangers are at a Distance, and so was our General, who had never seen a Sword drawn in Anger. 1842 BORROW *Bible in Spain* XXVI. (Pelh. Libr.) 186 Legends the most wild are related of the manner in which the stout soldier fell. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* V. I. 647 His arm had been..shattered in the battle; and, as no surgeon was at hand, the stout old soldier amputated it himself. 1890 CONAN DOYLE *White Company* XXVII, I have heard that he is a very stout and skilful soldier.

absol. *c* 1470 *Gol. & Gaw.* 831 So sal ye stonay yone stowt, suppose he be strang.

† **b.** Hardy, strong in endurance. *Obs.*

1576 WOOLTON *Chr. Man.* L vj b, We receaue fashions and condicions of our companions...Effeminate men and soft-lings, cause the stoute man to waxe tender. 1708 J. CHAMBERLAYNE *Pres. St. Gt. Brit.* I. III. viii. 274 Which grievous kind of Death [*Peine forte et dure*] some stout Fellows have sometimes chosen.

c. Of courage, the 'heart', etc.: Undismayed.

1508 DUNBAR *Tua Mariit Wemen* 485 Sum stalwardly steppis ben, with a stout curage. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron.*, *Edw. IV*, 238 b, Thys ende had the valiant hart and stoute courage of duke Charles of Burgoyn. 1663 BUTLER *Hud.* I. ii. 299 Yet Talgol was of Courage stout, And vanquish'd oftner than he fought. 1781 COWPER *Expost.* 358 To quell the valour of the stoutest heart. 1831 SCOTT *Jrnl.* 9 Apr., Their courage is much stouter than I apprehended. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. I. ii, A man stout of heart. 1841 HELPS *Ess.* II. *Educ. Man Business* 76 He should be courageous...Besides a stout heart, he should have a patient temperament.

d. Of a conflict, assault, or resistance: Vigorous.

1582 N. LICHEFIELD tr. *Castanheda's Conq. E. Ind.* I. lxxiv. 152 Our men..made with the enimies a valyant and stout skirmish. 1587 FLEMING *Contn. Holinshed* III. 1406/1, In a letter written..out of Spaine, in the yeare 1577, it is set downe..that the state of Christendome stood vpon the stout assailing of England. 1595 SHAKS. *John* IV. ii. 173 When aduerse Forreyners affright my Townes With dreadfull pompe of stout inuasion. 1812 CARY *Dante*, *Parad.* XII. 95 He..Smote fiercest, where resistance was most stout. 1858 CARLYLE *Fredk. Gt.* II. x. (1865) I. 109 To the last they always made stout fight for themselves. 1890 P. H. HUNTER *Story of Daniel* I. 12 The Assyrian monarch offered a stout resistance.

† **e.** Strenuous, energetic. *Obs.*

1600 HOLLAND *Livy* VI. xxxiv. 241 L. Sextius, a stout young man [L. *strenuo adolescente*]. *c* 1610 *Women Saints* 175 The lawes which Salomon prescribeth to such a stoute and paynefull woman. 1635 R. N. tr. *Camden's Hist. Eliz.* I. 59 He performed stout service. 1661 LOWTHER in *Extr. S. P. rel. Friends* II. (1911) 118 For the incourraginge all to be active and stowte in a tyme soe necessary. 1664 H. MORE *Myst. Iniq.* 302 They may be receiving (though not in such a passive way as it does not involve with it some stout effort of their own). 1711 SWIFT *Jrnl. to Stella* 10 Nov., Stella is naturally a stout walker, and carries herself firm.

† **4.** Of persons: Firm in resolve, unyielding, determined. *Obs.* exc. as in d.

1568 GRAFTON *Chron.* II. 58 He..with wordes of great consolation did courage him to be stoute in the quarrell he toke in hand. 1591 HARINGTON *Orl. Fur.* Apol. Poettie

P iiij b, Bishop Fisher, a stout Prelat..was assaid by King Henrie the eight for his good will and assent for the suppression of Abbeys. 1594 SHAKS. *Rich. III*, I. iii. 340 Heere come my Executioners, How now my hardy stout resolued Mates, Are you now going to dispatch this thing? *c* 1610 *Women Saints* 200 She being but a girle receyued the faith of Christ, wherein she grew so feruent and stoute, that [etc.]. 1631 *Proverb* in J. Done *Polydoron* 44, I stout and thou stout, who shall carry the Dirt out? 1639 FULLER *Holy War* II. xlv. (1640) 106 Askelon was stout, and would not surrender. 1711 SWIFT *Jrnl. to Stella* 6 Dec., We reckon we have a majority of ten on our side in the House of Lords; yet I observed Mrs. Masham a little uneasy: she assures me the Queen is stout. 1720–1 *Lett. fr. Mist's Jrnl.* (1722) II. 235 All the several Parties among us exact that of us, which they will by no Means practise themselves. They are all stiff and stout, and maintain their several Posts resolutely. 1729 SWIFT *Poems, Grand Question* 55 Madam, I always believ'd you so stout, That for twenty Denials you would not give out. 1815 J. W. CROKER in *C. Papers* 27 July (1884) I. 75 He was very stout about travelling all night and every night when we left Paris, and seemed only to fear my laziness or reluctance. 1815 WELLINGTON in Gurw. *Desp.* (1838) X. 169 But if we are stout we shall save the King whose government affords the only chance for peace.

†b. In bad sense: Obstinate, intractable, stubborn, rebellious. *Obs.*

c 1410 HOCCLEVE *Mother of God* 82 Thogh that oure hertis steerne been & stoute. *c* 1412 — *De Reg. Princ.* 2639 Is non so good, as lat vs mollifie Our hertes stoute to his genterie. *a* 1620 J. DYKE *Right Receiving* (1640) 55 The stoutest, sturdiest, and most rebellious spirit that ever was. 1620 QUARLES *Feast for Wormes* Med. xi. I 2 b, Lord.. Subdue our Passions, Curb our stout Affections. *a* 1639 W. WHATELEY *Prototypes* I. xix. (1640) 394 If any of you haue beene stoute ag'inst God Pharaoh-like, let him [etc.]. 1646 SLINGSBY *Diary* (1836) 181 Y^e^ one being mild and tractable, ye other stout, covetous, and impatient of a companion. 1788 WESLEY *Wks.* (1872) VI. 301 The stout, the hard-hearted, will melt before you. *a* 1834 J. H. NEWMAN *Par. Serm.* I. xvii. 260 He has to overcome that resistance from his old stout will and hardened heart.

c. Of utterances or demeanour: Resolute, defiant. *arch.*

1390 GOWER *Conf.* II. 378 Bot where he spak in Grece aboute, He herde noght bot wordes stoute. *c* 1420 ? LYDG. *Assembly of Gods* 439 On a rewde maner he salutyd all the rout, With a bold voyse, carpyng wordys stout. 1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* I. vii, There was but little meekenesse, for there was stout and hard words on both sides. 1553 BRENDE *Q. Curtius* B v, Hereupon Alexander with many stowte and dispiteful wordes, departed from his father. 1565 T. STAPLETON *Fortr. Faith* 102 This stoute assertion of that impudent frier. 1611 BIBLE *Mal.* iii. 13 Your words haue bin stout against me, saith the Lord. 1634 PEACHAM *Compl. Gentl.* i. (1906) 27 To these and such, I oppose Marius, and that stout reply of his in *Salust.* *a* 1653 BINNING *Common Princ. Chr. Relig.* Wks. (1735) 37/2 It is not big and stout Words that will prove it. *a* 1656 USSHER *Power Princes* II. (1683) 229 In the like manner Hosius, that old Confessor, beginneth his stout, but dutiful Letter which he wrote unto him. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 12 July 1692, This stout demeanor of the few Bishops who refus'd to take the oathes. 1729 TINDAL tr. *Rapin's Hist. Eng.* XVII. IX. 30 James returned a stout Answer, and vindicated himself for not having performed his Promise. 1810 WELLINGTON in Gurw. *Desp.* (1836) VI. 209, I have a letter from the Governor of the 13th in which he holds stout language. 1868 J. H. BLUNT *Ref. Ch. Eng.* I. 54 A month after this stout despatch..Wolsey was nominated principal legate.

d. Of a partisan, an advocate, an enemy: Uncompromising.

1586 A. DAY *Eng. Secretorie* I. (1595) 37 That which.. there is none (were it the stoutest enemie that euer liued) but wil most highlie commend. *a* 1662 FULLER *Worthies, Suffolk* (1662) 57 Robert Grosthead..was a stout Opposer of Popish Oppression in the Land. 1835 J. W. CROKER in *C. Papers* 10 Mar. (1884) II. 267 His enemies are not very stout, and are united only on the one point of opposing him. 1850 W. IRVING *Goldsm.* xxxi. 302 Johnson, who was a stout unbeliever in Rowley. 1861 BROUGHAM *Brit. Const.* xi. 155 A claim admitted by even the stoutest advocates of the Romish Church. 1913 *Times* 14 May 7/6 When Philip the Bold..married Margaret, the heir of France's stout enemy, Flanders.

5. a. Of a fox: Capable of long runs; enduring.

1714 TYLDESLEY *Diary* (1873) 147 Went a hunting to Sullum, and ffound ditto ffox..Had a noble chace, but he proved too stout and bette us quit outt. 1880 'BROOKSBY' *Hunting Countries* II. 195 The woodland foxes of course are stout; and they travel long distances before they die. 1894 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 20 Dec. 10/3 A stout fox found in Owston Wood broke away on the Melton side.

b. Of a horse: Characterized by endurance or staying power: contrasted with *speedy*. Hence *stout blood*.

1773 GOLDSM. *Stoops to Conq.* v. ii, *Tony.* Stout horses and willing minds make short journeys, as they say. 1796 J. LAWRENCE *Treat. Horses* I. 196 The term stout, in equestrian language, applies invariably to the courage, not the substance of the horse. 1818 'W. H. SCOTT' *Brit. Field Sports* 511 We have upon the Turf, two old and customary divisions of Race Horses, which according to their peculiar constitutional temperament, we classify as *speedy* or *stout*. 1833 *Q. Rev.* XLIX. 387 It is worthy of remark, that in his stud, a regard is paid to what is termed stout blood. *Ibid.* 388 A stout horse ends his race to advantage up hill; a speedy jade down hill. 1860 ROUS in *Baily's Mag.* I. 19, For the encouragement of the breed of strong stout horses. 1861 J. H. WALSH & LUPTON *Horse* 75 About twenty horses have been in training, and among these he has had the luck to have one extraordinarily stout mare.

II. Physical senses.

6. Strong in body; of powerful build. ? *Obs.*

c 1386 CHAUCER *Prol.* 545 The Millere was a stout carl for the nones Ful byg he was of brawn, and eek of bones. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* II. 244 Mars, which god of Armes was, Hath set two Oxen sterne and stoute. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 478/1 Stowt, or stronge, *robustus*. 1765 *Museum Rust.* IV. 208 Our reaps are put by gatherers, women or stout boys, into sheets..Two stout men carry these. 1784 COWPER *Task* I. 481 Till the stout bearers lift the corpse again. 1791 SMEATON *Edystone L.* § 297 The high wages we were obliged to give, to induce stout labourers to face the perils of the service. 1796 JANE AUSTEN *Sense & Sens.* XXXVIII, They must get a stout girl of all works. 1800 *Med. Jrnl.* IV. 222 He is tall, well proportioned, thin, but pretty stout for his years. 1804 *Ibid.* XII. 114, I forgot to mention that this woman was suckling a stout boy, twelve months old. 1822 SHELLEY *Goethe's Faust* ii. 2 Would you not like a broomstick? As for me I wish I had a good stout ram to ride. 1842 LOUDON *Suburban Hort.* 315 This bank..will by its weight furnish such resistance to the action of the top of the tree, that a stout man, on applying himself to a rope tied to the upper part of the stem, will generally be unable to displace the root.

b. In robust health, 'strong', esp. with reference to recovery from illness. *Obs.* exc. *Sc.*

1697 J. LEWIS *Mem. Dk. Glocester* (1789) 50 The Duke was not the stoutest child, and had been subject to a watry mouth, which now grew better. 1780 S. J. PRATT *Emma Corbett* (ed. 4) III. 52, I cannot be more explicit till I know what present health you are in..Tell me that you are very stout and you shall hear more. 1797 HAN. MORE in Visctess. Knutsford *Life & Lett. Z. Macaulay* (1900) 177 He as usual overworks himself, and is not, I think, very stout, though certainly very happy. 1811 SARAH LADY LYTTELTON in Mrs. H. Wyndham *Corr.* (1912) 119 All this fine weather will help poor, dear old Granny Lucan to get stout again. 1813 *Ibid.* 145 It being Sunday, and I feeling very stout, ventured out at noon. 1817 MARIA EDGEWORTH *Ormond* vii, Then if you are quite stout again, I shall want you to row me across the lake. *c* 1825 MRS. CAMERON *Houlston Tracts* II. xxxiv. 4 The week afterwards, Ellen said to her husband, on Sunday morning, 'Now, William, I am got so stout, that I think we may return to our old habits, and go to church twice a-day.' 1838 WHATELY in *Life* (1866) I. 417 We have been two months in England for J.'s health, who is better, though far from stout. 1844 H. HEUGH in Macgill *Life* xxiv. (1852) 431, I have not felt so stout for a great while, wind and weather notwithstanding. 1848 DICKENS *Dombey* viii, 'The child is hardly,' said Mr. Dombey, 'as stout as I could wish.' 1884 ANNIE SWAN *Carlowrie* x. 162 Ye're no' lookin' very stoot, Mrs. Dalrymple,..I doot ye're workin' ower sair.

7. With reference to intensity or force. †a. Of a wind: Strong. *Obs.*

c 1400 *Destr. Troy* 1981 A stithe man to the stere hade, & a stoute wynde, Were blouen to be brode se in a bir swithe. 1533 J. HEYWOOD *Play Wether* (1903) 1089 A water-myller..sayde the wynde was so stout The rayne could not fale. 1670 NARBOROUGH *Jrnl.* in *Acc. Sev. Late Voy.* I. (1694) 21 A stout gale and a great Sea.

†b. Of sound: Strong, harsh. *Obs.*

c 1440 *York Myst.* xix. 3 Stent of youre steuenes stoute. *c* 1482 J. KAY tr. *Caoursin's Siege of Rhodes* (1870) P 11 [The Turks] made thenne a stoute and horryble crye, as they haue in theyr guyse afore that they begynne to fyghte. 1545 BALE *Image Both Ch.* I. i, C iiij, A loud shyrle voyce.. whiche was so vehement, and stought to my iudgement, as it had bene ye noise of a great trompe. 1545 ASCHAM *To.oph.* I. (Arb.) 39 Musicke inuented by the Dorians (having) a manlye, rough and stoute sounde in it.

c. *Path.* Of a heart-beat: Strong.

1898 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* V. 927 The deliberate rhythm, some forty in the minute, in which each reluctant beat, stout as it was, seemed as if it might be the last effort.

8. Of buildings, rocks, trees, etc.: Capable of defying attack; strong.

c 1400 *Destr. Troy* 8388 The walles vp wroght on a wise faire With stones full stoute, stithest of vertue. *c* 1600 SHAKS. *Sonn.* lxv. 7 When rocks impregnable are not so stout,..but Time decays? 1610 — *Temp.* v. 45 To the dread rathing Thunder Haue I giuen fire, and rifted Ioues stowt Oke With his owne Bolt. 1909 *Q. Rev.* Oct. 455 The stout dam with its marble bridge stood longer.

b. Of a ship: Strongly built; capable of bearing rough weather.

1622 in Foster *Eng. Factories Ind.* (1908) II. 114 Hath made us promyse to furnishe three stoutt shippes. 1685 *Act* 1 *Jas. II*, c. 18 Preamble, Where many stout Shipps were yearely built for the Coale and other Trade. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 6 Feb. 1652, I embark'd early in the packet-boat, but put my goods in a stouter vessell. 1779 HERVEY *Nav. Hist.* II. 165 A stout ship commanded by Cornelius Van Velsen blew up. 1788 GIBBON *Decl. & F.* lxviii. VI. 488 Five stout and lofty ships were guided by skilful pilots. 1868 *Rep. Munitions War* 266 We must be content with ..a stout fighting ship, to the exclusion of a fast-sailing one.

c. Of a machine: Durably constructed, strong.

1702 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 3819/8 Stout, able, Water Corn-Mills to be Sold, well customed, also fit for London-work. 1833 J. HOLLAND *Manuf. Metal* II. 247 The following cut..represents a stout and useful crushing mill for ordinary purposes.

9. Of plants and their parts: Strong in growth; thick, not slender.

1573–80 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 120 Now downe with the grasse vpon hedlonds about, that groweth in shadow, so ranke and so stout. 1791 COWPER *Yardley Oak* 117 Yet is thy root..A quarry of stout spurs, and knotted fangs. 1841 *Florist's Jrnl.* II. 2 The pistil is yellowish, with a shade of green and brown, and it is stout and fleshy. 1845 *Ibid.* VI. 156 The plant is altogether of a much stouter habit, and is remarkable for the large size of the foliage. 1890 *Daily News* 16 Apr., The oats are harvested, and in the next year the clover and grass are 'stout'. 1888 VINES tr. *Sachs' Bot.* 16 The stouter species of the genus *Spirogyra*. 1888 *Garden* 7 Jan. 8/1 The plants..should be kept well up to the light, as this..keeps them stouter.

†10. Of soil: ? Firm, not boggy. *Obs.*

1764 *Museum Rust.* II. 80 If the land be stout and good, there is a chance for the seed to stand for a crop.

†11. Of liquor: Having 'body' or density. Chiefly of ale or beer: cf. STOUT *sb.*2 *Obs.*

1698 FRYER *Acc. E. India & P.* 242 The Wine..being of so stout a Body that it is not subject to decay presently. 1733 W. ELLIS *Chiltern & Vale Farm.* 131, I have known a considerable Quantity of Stout-bear spoiled, by brewing with Pond-water wherein its [*sc.* the Ash's] Leaves fell. 1748 *London & Country Brew.* I. (ed. 4) 22 For Stout Butt-beer. This is the strongest Butt-beer that is brewed from brown Malt. 1771 *Encycl. Brit.* I. 669/2 For stout-beer is commonly drawn one barrel off a quarter of malt. 1818 MAGINN in *Blackw. Mag.* IV. 324 While we sung and we laugh'd, and the stout ale quaff'd. 1826 *Art of Brewing* (ed. 2) 69 Stout ales..labour under one material want—that of spiritual vigour.

12. Of persons: Thick in the body, not lean or slender; usually in unfavourable sense, inclined to corpulence; often *euphemistically* = corpulent, fat.

1804 ABERNETHY *Surg. Observ.* 94 A gentleman of a stout make, and about 40 years of age. 1807 *Med. Jrnl.* XVII. 430 A short stout man. 1833 LYTTON *Godolphin* v, An old gentleman, of the age of sixty-three, in a bob-wig, and inclined to be stout. 1840 THACKERAY *Barber Cox* Dec., We tried a gallopard, which I found anything but easy; for since I am come back to a life of peace and comfort, it's astonishing how stout I'm getting. 1845 BUDD *Dis. Liver* 166 Madame Mazet, æt. 34, of very strong constitution, and very stout. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* xli, 'She is stouter too, and altogether improved,' continued Miss Rosalind, who was disposed to be very fat. 1856 COMPAING & DEVERE *Tailor's Guide Cutting* 6 We term a man slender in the waist, if this part of the body is small compared with the size of the breast measure. He is stout when, on the contrary, the waist is large in comparison with the breast. *Ibid.*, Figures 3, 4, and 5 shew stout waists. A man is not stout because he measures so many inches, but because he is larger in the waist than the usual proportion. 1864 TENNYSON *Enoch Arden* 747 Stout, rosy, with his babe across his knees. 1866 P'CESS ALICE *Mem.* (1884) 121 Uncle looks very well, but he grows very stout, I think. 1888 MISS BRADDON *Fatal Three* I. i, The gentleman was middle-aged and stout. 1892 ASHBY-STERRY *Lazy Minstr.* 231 That young maidens, slim and shy, May grow old and stout and sly. 1899 LADY M. VERNEY *Verney Mem.* IV. 167 His military bearing is giving way to a slouching gait as he grows older and stouter.

b. Of animals, their limbs or parts: Thick, massive. Of certain moths: Thick in the body. *Stout dart*: the moth *Agrotis ravida*.

1832 J. RENNIE *Consp. Butterfl. & Moths* 54. 1840 MACGILLIVRAY *Man. Ornith.* I. 114 Bill..moderately stout or rather slender. *Ibid.* 115 Feet rather stout. 1869 E. NEWMAN *Brit. Moths* 335.

13. Of a material object or substance: So thick as to be strong or rigid.

1765 *Museum Rust.* IV. 207 It was admitted by all, that no hemp..had a sufficient strength of harle for making stout cordage, but the hemp of Riga and Petersburgh. 1801 J. THOMSON *Poems Sc. Dial.* 25 I'd hang them in a gude stout tow, Wha are the wyte o't. 1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 209 On a stout board GH, are firmly jointed two uprights LM. 1825 SCOTT *Talism.* i, A stout poniard. 1833 J. HOLLAND *Manuf. Metal* II. 103 The barrel intended to be bored is fastened at the breach or stouter end by means of a strong screw. 1834 MCMURTRIE *Cuvier's Anim. Kingd.* 313 The web of some exotic species is formed of such stout materials that it will arrest small Birds. 1847 DE QUINCEY *Sp. Mil. Nun* v. 90 One stout needle. 1857 MILLER *Elem. Chem., Org.* 12 It is made of stout sheet-iron. 1859 JEPHSON *Brittany* vi. 67 Those stout woollen petticoats. 1875 HUXLEY & MARTIN *Elem. Biol.* xiii. 196 Cut away the front of the pelvis with a stout pair of scissors. 1891 *Law Times* XCII. 79/1 This almanack..is pasted on very stout cardboard. 1907 J. A. HODGES *Elem. Photogr.* (ed. 6) 121 Strips of stout paper.

b. Of bacon: see quot. 1905.

1905 W. H. SIMMONDS *Pract. Grocer* III. 108 Regarding weight and sizes, the wholesale dealers classify the best branded Irish bacon as lean sizable, prime sizable, lean stout, prime stout, and lean sixes..English smoked bacon is cut in sides,..each classified into lean sizable, sizable, medium, stout medium, and heavy. 1913 *Times* 9 Aug. 19/6, 84s. to 90s. for lean sizeable (bacon), 83s. to 87s. for lean stout, and 83s. to 88s. for stout sizeable.

III. 14. *Comb.*, as *stout-looking* adj.; also in many parasynthetic derivatives, as *stout-armed, -bodied, -limbed, -minded, -sided, -soled, -winged, -worded* adjs.; †**stout-stomached** *a.*, high-spirited, obstinate. Also STOUT-HEARTED *a.*

1878 E. C. G. MURRAY *Russians of To-day* 87 A smart flagellation or two at the hands of a *stout-armed wardress. 1859 *Stout-bodied moths [see SLENDER *a.* 11]. 1913 SIR H. JOHNSTON *Pioneers Australasia* v. 173 The people being very black, strong and *stout-limbed. 1830 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* Introd., A little, rather *stout-looking woman. 1908 W. R. NICOLL *Ian Maclaren* ix. 269 The then Bishop of Liverpool, the *stout-minded English Evangelical, better known as J. C. Ryle. *a* 1612 RALEGH *Let. to Pr. Henry* Sceptick etc. (1651) 128 In a well conditioned Ship, these things are chiefly required. 1. That she be strong built. 2. Swift in sail. 3. *Stout-sided. 1891 C. T. C. JAMES *Rom. Rigmarole* 6 The Squire's were broad-welted, *stout-soled ones. 1549 LATIMER *2nd Serm. bef. Edw. VI* (Arb.) 57 He was a *stoute stomaked chyld. 1560 BECON *Catech.* IV. Wks. I. 386 Howe earnestly that stout stomacked and couragious Matrone Iudith rebuked them for this theyr impaciency. 1626 *Maldon* (Essex) *Docum.* Bundle 208. No. 9, A good stout-stomacked gelding, full of mettle. 1648 J. BEAUMONT *Psyche* XXI. xvi, *Stout-winged Eagles ne'r were made to be Consorts to flitting Dunghil flies. 1863 *Athenæum* 22 Aug. 234/2 The Judges were strong-minded and *stout-worded men.

B. *adv.* = STOUTLY *adv.* Now *rare*. † *To bear oneself stout*: to behave haughtily or defiantly.

1338 R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (1725) 296 A man þat beris him stoute, whan þat he suld bowe, In chance if þat he loute, he

[etc.]. 1436 *Pol. Poems* (Rolls)-II. 196 [England's] sonne wente aboute in alle the worlde stoute. *c* 1470 *Gol. & Gaw.* 78 Ane bright fyre couth he se Birnand full stout. 1581 A. HALL *Iliad* IX. 152 In bloudie warre right stout thou playst. 1622 BACON *Hen. VII*, 55 [The French King's] Subiects.. beare themselues stout vpon the strength of the Duke of Britaine. 1726 DYER *Country Walk* 11 A beautiful variety Of strutting cocks, advancing stout. 1863 W. C. BALDWIN *Afr. Hunting* ii. 32 The pony..proved himself a good one, running very stout and fast.

b. *Comb.* with pa. pples.

1842 LOVER *Handy Andy* xii, A *stout-built peasant. 1890 D. DAVIDSON *Mem. Long Life* iv. 75 He was a short, stout-built man. 1595 DANIEL *Civ. Wars* I. lii. Wks. (Grosart) II. 31 Which publique death..made his *stout-defended cause appeare With such a face of Right, as that [etc.]. 1823 SCOTT *Quentin D.* ii, His comrade was a *stout-formed, middle-sized man. 1820 — *Abbot* xiv, The mock dignitary was a *stout-made, under-sized fellow.

Stout (stout), *v.* [f. STOUT *a.*]

†**1.** *intr.* To be defiant; to act in a defiant or stubborn manner. *Obs.*

1303 R. BRUNNE *Handl. Synne* 3403 And 3yf he yn folye begynne to stoute, þan bereþ he þe deuylys baner aboute. *Ibid.* 10923 Lewed man, þou shalt cursyng doute, And to þy prest þou shalt nat stoute. *c* 1330 — *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 6361 *note*, For Conan gan þat oþer rebuk, & reuiled [*v.r.* Conan stouted] hym wyþ wordes þore. 1583 GOLDING *Calvin on Deut.* lxi. 366 They fall to stouting against him. 1616 J. LANE *Contn. Sqr.'s T.* VII. 193 His silken standard ..which blazd a lion, pard, and prowlinge beare, in a feild gules. These on thigh bullwarcke stowted.

2. quasi-*trans.* **a.** † *To stout it* = sense 1. *Obs.*

1570 *Marr. Wit & Sci.* IV. i. C iij b, Nay you must stoute it, and face it out with the best. *a* 1624 BP. M. SMITH *Serm.* i. (1632) 5 For all our vilenesse..we will not be acknowne of it, but contrariwise stout it with him and beard him. *Ibid.* vii. 130 Others made it their care to strowt it, and to stout it, and to braue it in costly apparell. 1644 PRYNNE *Check to Britannicus* 5 If they by his own sentence (though penitent) endured the halter, I am certaine he still stouting it, much more deserues the Axe. 1670 T. BROOKS *Wks.* (1867) VI. 372 None stout it against Jesus Christ as hypocrites do.

b. *To stout it out*: to persist in a defiant attitude, e.g. when detected in a falsehood, or when hard pressed; to 'brave it out'. Now *rare.*

a 1639 W. WHATELEY *Prototypes* I. xi. (1640) 105 O that we could be so desirous of unity, not stouting it out as many do. 1644 PRYNNE & WALKER *Fiennes' Trial* 93 The Defendant was so far from this fault of stouting it out over-long; that he deserves to lose his head for yeelding Bristol up too soone. 1650 TRAPP *Comm. Lev.* XXVI. 23 The wicked refuse to receiv corrections:..they stout it out, and will not stoop. 1658 GURNALL *Chr. in Arm.* II. verse 15. vi. § 3. 366 He will not debase his Sovereignty to treat with a wretch that stands to his armes, and stouts it out with him. 1690 C. NESSE *Hist. & Myst. O. & N. Test.* I. 145 They had stubbornly stouted it out with God. 1848 ELIZA GURNEY in A. J. C. Hare *Gurneys of Earlham* (1895) II. 255 When..I saw William Forster standing at the hall-door, looking unutterably sad, I felt I could stout it out no longer, and completely broke down. 1897 *Advance* (Chicago) 25 Mar. 372/1 Robins have either been belated or some of them determined upon stouting it out all the season through.

†**c.** *To stout out*: to 'brazen out' (a matter); to persist obstinately in the defence of (a besieged place). *Obs.*

1568 HARDING *Detect. Errours Jewel's Def.* 67 b, First he auoucheth his shamelesse lye boldly; as though where truth faileth, for shew of proufe, the matter might be stowted out. 1644 PRYNNE & WALKER *Fiennes' Trial* 93 That a French Author..affirmed; it was a capitall offence to stout out a place overlong.

d. To get (something) *away from* a person by importunity. *rare*—[1].

1812 HT. SHELLEY *Lett.* (1889) 27 You can say you wish to look at them [Shelley's MS. Poems], and then you may be able to stout them away from him.

†**3.** *trans.* To defy. *Obs.*

1303 R. BRUNNE *Handl. Synne* 2948 But þere þe wyfe ys aboute þe gode man for to stoute.

Hence †**Stou'ting**, *vbl. sb.*, boastfulness, pride, defiance.

1530 I. C. *Handkercher for Parents Wet Eyes* 42 'Tis not stouting, and stomacke, and pettishnesse, but meekenesse, and patience, and humility, makes God propitious.

†**Stout and rout.** *Sc.* See STOOP AND ROOP.

Stouten (stau't'n), *v.* [f. STOUT *a.* + -EN 5.]

1. *trans.* To make stout.

1834 L. HUNT *Loud. Jrnl.* I. Suppl. p. iv/2 Men may surely learn how to stouten their legs, as well as to improve their stockings. 1887 D. C. MURRAY & HERMAN *Traveller Returns* xiv. 213 But however she stoutened her heart. 1910 *Q. Rev.* Jan. 217 Sympathy should be stoutened by a certain detachment.

2. *intr.* To grow stout.

1863 'HOLME LEE' *A. Warleigh* I. 113 John stoutening fast into rectorial dignity. 1865 MRS. WHITNEY *Gayworthys* xv, He did not stouten much as summer came on. 1890 *Pictorial World* 7 Aug. 186/3 He felt her perceptibly stiffening, and stoutening, and bonyfying in his clasp.

Hence **Stou'tening** *vbl. sb.*

1853 RUSKIN *Stones Venice* I. App. xv. 385 Much hardening of hands and gross stoutening of bodies in all this.

Stou'ter. (See quot.) ? *Obs.*

1792 G. CARTWRIGHT *Jrnl. Labrador* I. Gloss. p. xv, *Stouter*, very strong shores, which are placed round the head of a stage or wharf, to prevent them from being damaged by ships or boats.

Stouter, var. STOTER *sb.*[2] *Obs.*

†**Stou'tess.** *Obs.* In 5 **stowtesse.** [f. STOUT *a.* + -ESS [2].] Stoutness; courage; bravery.

1422 YONGE tr. *Secreta Secret.* 180 To Speke wyth good Spirite and breth appartenyth to the hardy, for that tokenyth hardynesse of herte, grete takynge on, and Stowtesse.

†**Stou'tfully,** *adv. Obs. rare*—[1]. [f. STOUT *a.* + -FUL + -LY [2].] = STOUTLY.

a 1578 LINDESAY (Pitscottie) *Chron. Scot.* (S.T.S.) II. 261 [They] maid stoutfullie and manfullie to the feildis to meit and resist thame as thay mycht.

†**Stouth.** *Sc.* and *north. Obs.* Forms: 4 **stulth, stulþ,** 5 **stouth, stoutht, stuth,** 6 **stouith,** 6, 9 **stowth.** [Northern ME. *stulþ*, a. ON. *stulþ-r* (Icel. *stuld-r*, *studd-r*), f. OTeut. **stul-* ablaut-var. of **stel-*; see STEAL *v.*]

1. Theft. Often coupled with *reif*: cf. STOUTHREIF.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 28461 Stulth o mete and drink did i. 1429 in *Cal. Doc. rel. Scot.* (1888) 405 Gif..he knew never of the stoutht of the hale gude no[r] of that pert that is fundin with him. 1456 SIR G. HAY *Gov. Princes* Wks. (S.T.S.) II. 88 Unlautee engenderis outhir ref, stouth, pillery or rubbery. 1497 *Reg. Privy Seal Scot.* I. 12/1 For the reif and stuth of the gudis and insicht being in the sammyn. 1530 LYNDESAY *Test. Papyngo* 529 Quhat stouith, quhat raif, quhat murther, & myschance! 1535 STEWART *Cron. Scot.* (Rolls) III. 101 With reif and stouth, spulȝe and oppressioun. 1589–90 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* IV. 453 Manifest reiffis and stouthis committit upoun his Hienes peceable and gude subjectis. 1610 *Extracts Aberd. Reg.* (1848) II. 304 The frequent pykrie and stouthis in the cuntrie. 1652 in *Cromwellian Union* (S.H.S. 1902) 61 The vnsufferable robberies and stouthis daylie committit on both sydes of the border. 1701 in W. R. Mackintosh *Cur. Incid. Rec. Kirkwall* (1892) 110 The crymes of thift, reiff, stouth, and ressate of thift are punishable by death. 1791 LEARMONT *Poems* 46 (E.D.D.) Great geer by stouth and rief, He's filcht frae mony Indian chief.

2. Stealth, clandestine transaction. (Jam.)

1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* XII. Prol. 212 Sum rownys to hys fallow, thame betwene, Hys mery stouth and pastans lait ystrene.

Stouth and routh. [Prob. some error: cf. STOUT AND ROUT.] A quasi-archaic phrase used by Scott in the sense of: Plenty, abundance.

1816 SCOTT *Antiq.* xi, It's easy for your honour and the like o' you gentlefolks, to say sae, that hae stouth and routh, and fire and fending.

†**Stout-heart.** *Obs. rare*—[1]. [f. STOUT *a.* + HEART *sb.*] A stout-hearted person.

1553 GRIMALDE *Cicero's Offices* I. (1558) 29 A true, and wise stouthearte iudgeth that honesty, which nature chiefly foloweth, to stande in deedes, and not in glory.

Stout-hearted, *a.* Having a stout heart; courageous, undaunted; † stubborn, intractable.

1552 HULOET, Stowt harted or stomaked, *grauicors.* 1568 GRAFTON *Chron.* II. 334 When the king and his Lords sawe the demeanour of the people, the stowtest hearted of them that were with the king were afrayed. 1611 BIBLE *Isa.* xlvi. 12 Hearken vnto me, ye stout hearted, that are farre from righteousnesse. 1613 HIERON *Minor Saints* Wks. 1614 I. 31 Wee are generally stout-hearted, and will not yeelde to the terrour of the Lord. 1788 WESLEY *Jrnl.* 29 Mar., It was given me to speak strong words, such as made the stout-hearted tremble. 1841 DICKENS *Barn. Rudge* lxi, A few of the stoutest-hearted were armed and gathered in a body on the green. 1847 HELPS *Friends in C.* I. i. 18, I think, however, that the view is a stouthearted one. 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xiii. III. 273 There were indeed many stouthearted nonconformists in the South; but scarcely any who in obstinacy..could bear a comparison with the men of the school of Cameron. 1905 LYALL *Life Marq. Dufferin* I. i. 12 His descendants were stout-hearted country gentlemen after his kind. 1906 W. A. CRAIGIE *Anc. Scand. Relig.* ii. 30 Snorri describes him as 'the bravest and stoutest-hearted of the gods'.

Hence **Stouthea'rtedly** *adv.*; **Stouthea'rtedness.**

a 1683 OWEN *Holy Spirit* (1693) 39 The Reliefs which..carnal Security and Stoutheartedness in Adversity do offer. 1826 E. IRVING *Babylon* I. Introd. 17 Leaving them long to welter in the wo from which their stout-heartedness would not be warned. 1873 SYMONDS *Grk. Poets* vii. 212 For his cardinal virtue Euripides chose what the Greeks called εὐψυχία, stout-heartedness. 1884 *Brit. Q. Rev.* Apr. 418 Mr. Mackintosh proceeds stout-heartedly in his great work.

Stoutherie. *Obs.* exc. *Sc.* Also 5 **stolethery, stoltherie, -ye.** [f. *stulþ*, STOUTH + -ERY.] Theft, stealing; also stolen goods.

c 1440 *Alphabet of Tales* 8 The money at þou hase taken of þi bruther, it is stoltherye. *Ibid.* 9 Euer sen I forsuke to take swilk stolethery I hafe abundid & waxin ryche of gudis[s]. *Ibid.* 222 þe fadur þeroff, garte call it Latro, because it was getten be stoltherie. 1864 LATTO *Tam. Bodkin* x. 92 To find oot the loons that had received the unleisum stoutherie.

Stouth reif. *Sc. Obs.* exc. *arch.* Also 5 **stowthrefe,** 5–7 **stouthreif,** 6 **stouthe reif, stowth reif,** *pl.* **stouthisreiffis,** 7, 9 **stouth-rife,** 9 **stouthreef, -rief.** [f. STOUTH + REIF; perh. altered from *stouth and reif.*] Theft with violence; robbery.

1493 in Pitcairn *Crim. Trials* I. *15 For Stouthreif of a bonnet & quhyngare from the s[d] Robert. 1493 *Reg. Privy Seal Scot.* I. 5/1 For the stowthrefe of thre oxin and kye fra the larde of Howmend. 1566 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* I. 489 Crymes of slauchtir, stowth reif, thift, resset of thift. *a* 1578 LINDESAY (Pitscottie) *Chron. Scot.* (S.T.S.) I. 177 Everie lord..was suorne..to cause stouthe reif and slaughter to be punished. 1578 *Extracts Burgh Rec. Edin.* (1882) IV. 91 Heivylie oppressit be the stouthisreiffis and vtheris enormiteis of the thevis. 1587 *Sc. Acts Jas. VI* (1814) III. 451/1 Ony landit men..convict of þe crymes of commoun thift resett of thift or stouth reiff..sall incur the cryme and pane of tressoun. 1678 SIR G. MACKENZIE *Crim. Laws Scot.* I. xix. § v. (1699) 99 Theft may be divided into common Theft, which is Theft so properly called, or Stouth-rife, which is violent Theft, and is a complex of Theft and Robbery. 1828 SCOTT *F. M. Perth* ii, Thou canst frame locks and bars to defend the property of the weak against the stouthrief and oppression of the strong. [Frequent in Scott.]. 1881 *Blackw. Mag.* Apr. 518 We love the old ballads of stouthrief and blood-feuds.

Stoutish (stau'tiʃ), *a.* [f. STOUT *a.* + -ISH [1].] Somewhat stout, in senses of the adj.

1835 DICKENS *Sk. Boz, Parlour Orator*, A stoutish man of about forty. 1883 STEVENSON *Treas. Isl.* xviii, The captain..turned out..a coil of stoutish rope. 1912 *Nation* 24 Aug. 758/2 Messrs. Constable publish his proposed washing-list in a stoutish volume.

†**Stou'tly,** *a. Obs.* [f. STOUT *a.* + -LY [1].] Stout, valiant.

1338 R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (1725) 221 Stoutly was þat stoure, long lastand þat fight. *c* 1614 SIR W. MURE *Dido & Æneas* I. 349 'Stay, stowtly 3owthes!' (she sayes), 'who heir resorte.'

Stoutly (stau'tli), *adv.* [f. STOUT *a.* + -LY [2].]

1. Valiantly, bravely, with courage and energy; manfully.

13.. *Sir Beues* 683 Beues stoutliche in þat stounde Haf vp is heued fro þe grounde. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* XI. 158 In ilkane war weill ten thousand, That thoucht thai stalwardly suld stand In the battale and stoutly ficht. 1422 YONGE tr. *Secreta Secret.* 134 Thay hath longe afor wel deseruyd in battaille and dyuers Stowres stowtly demenet ham-Selfe in grete yonge-man-hode. 1540 PALSGR. *Acolastus* III. i. N iv b, He..playeth his parte stoutely or lyke a man. 1549 COVERDALE etc. *Erasm. Par.* 1 *Tim.* iii. 8–13 Lyke as in a seculer commen wealthe he is called to be a Mayor, that before vsed himselfe stowtely in the wardenshyp. 1593 SHAKS. *Lucr.* 1209 Faint not faint-heart, but stoutlie say so be it. 1610 HEALEY *St. Aug. Citie of God* I. xi, 21 Whole armies..went stoutly to these slaughters. 1833 HT. MARTINEAU *Brooke Farm* vi. 78, I..walked as stoutly as any of them to where the surgeons were. 1904 *Verney Mem.* II. 342 When a traveller of unwonted courage stoutly defeated the gentlemen who meant to rob him.

†**b.** By means of valour. *Obs.*

1649 J. H. *Motion to Parl.* 13 You have done great things for us, and equall to what hath been done in any Nation, either stoutly or fortunately.

†**2.** Haughtily, proudly, arrogantly. *Obs.*

a 1547 J. CROKE *Thirteen Ps.* (Percy Soc.) 13 And when I slyde, both hele and toes, Then stowtly they of me do speake. 1572 HULOET (ed. Higins), Stoutly, proudly, or arrogantly, *superbè, elatè, arroganter* [etc.]. 1632 MILTON *L'Allegro* 52 While the Cock..Stoutly struts his Dames before.

3. Resolutely, firmly, uncompromisingly.

1303 R. BRUNNE *Handl. Synne* 3521 And 3yf he wyl nat with feyre lere, þan mayst þou speke stoutly to hym without wrabbe, wurdys ful grym. *a* 1533 FRITH *Disput. Purgat.* Wks. (1573) 19/1 Rastell..would stoutely affirme that the body suffereth neither well nor woe, ioy nor payne, good nor euill. 1568 GRAFTON *Chron.* II. 777 Sithence he had once begonne, he would stoutly go thorowe. 1579 E. K. in *Spenser's Sheph. Cal.*; Gen. Argt., It is..stoutely mainteyned with stronge reasons of the learned, that the yeare beginneth in March. 1682 NORRIS *Hierocles* Pref. 3 To rail stoutly against Popery. *a* 1703 BURKITT *On N. T.* John ix. 38 Behold this blind man..stoutly defending the gracious author of his cure. 1779 *Mirror* No. 34 Miss Betsy denied stoutly that she ever sung at all. 1840 THACKERAY *Catherine* vii, She stoutly swore that no parents could ever desert their children. 1858 TROLLOPE *Dr. Thorne* XXXIV, The doctor.. at once resolved stoutly that he would not go. 1880 'OUIDA' *Moths* I. i. 21 'What for should they not listen?' said Fräulein Schroder stoutly. 1891 *Speaker* 2 May 564/1 The admiration even of those who were most stoutly opposed to his political opinions.

†**4.** Stubbornly, contumaciously. *Obs.*

15.. *Wyf of Auchtirmwchty* 200 in *Bannatyne MS.* (Hunter. Club) 345 Scho hard him, and scho hard him not, Bot stowtly steird the stottis abowt. 1631 GOUGE *God's Arrows* I. § 22. 30 Others would be emboldened..to carrie themselves stoutly against God.

5. Vigorously, with might and main, lustily. ? *Obs.*

1399 LANGL. *R. Redeles* I. 124 3e cleued to knavis..þat.. stirid 3ou stouttely till 3e stombled all. *c* 1482 J. KAY tr. *Caoursin's Siege of Rhodes* P 10 (1870), They casted agaynes the tour thre hondred grete stones of bombardes and brake the toure stoutely and put it in a grete danger to be ouerthrawn. 1684 OTWAY *Atheist* IV. i. 42 I'll swinge her the stoutlier, for alienating his Affections from his natural Father. 1709 T. ROBINSON *Vind. Mosaick Syst.* 90 [Wood-Ants] with Burthens of green Leaves upon their Backs, so big that one can scarce see the Insect for the Burthen, and yet they march stoutly. 1773 GOLDSM. *Stoops to Conq.* I. ii, Drive to the yard, and call stoutly about you. 1810 SCOTT *Lady of L.* I. vi, The gallant stag swam stoutly o'er. 1815 — *Guy M.* xlv, Dinmont, I say, fell stoutly upon the good cheer.

†**b.** with reference to drinking. *Obs.* (Common in 17–18th c.)

1617 MORYSON *Itin.* III. 51 The Novocomians [are said] to eate without end and drinke stoutly. 1687 A. LOVELL tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* III. 24 To let the World see that he could drink stoutly, on the Top of his Pyramid there is a large Stone-cup. 1749 FIELDING *Tom Jones* XVIII. xiii, These two therefore sat stoutly to it, during the whole evening.

6. Strongly, massively, solidly; so as to be stout or thick, or with the addition of something stout.

c 1350 *Will. Palerne* 1950 Alle on stalworþ stedes stoutliche i-horsed. 1604 SHAKS. *Oth.* II. i. 48 His Barke is stoutly Timber'd. *a* 1825 FORBY *Voc. E. Anglia, Spile*, a wedge of wood stoutly pointed with iron. 1891 *Hardwicke's Sci.-Gossip* XXVII. 55 The species are rather more stoutly built than the *Tipulinæ*. 1892 LADY F. VERNEY *Verney Mem.* II. 193 They..manufactured a wooden cannon from an elm tree, stoutly hooped with iron.

7. *Comb.*

'1648 J. BEAUMONT *Psyche* VII. CCX, Dark Bats,..Surprised by a stoutly-flashing Flame. *Ibid.* XVI. i, Whose stoutly-paradoxick Essence founds Its dearest Health upon its deepest wounds. 1833 NYREN *Yng. Cricketer's Tutor* (1902) 94

He was a short and rather stoutly-made man. 1872 Coues *N. Amer. Birds* 216 A large stoutly-built hawk. 1881 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* V. 359 Bees...are generally rather stoutly-built insects.

Stoutness (stau·tnés). [f. Stout *a.* + -ness.] The quality or condition of being stout.

†1. Pride, haughtiness, arrogance. *Obs.*

1375 Barbour *Bruce* xvii. 356 For quhar a hert is rycht vorthy, Agane stoutnes [it] is ay stout. 1398 Trevisa *Barth. De P. R.* vi. xviii. (1495) 204 And god commaundeth that the lordes be not besye to wynne and gete theyr owne joye and stowtnes. *c* 1400 *Brut* 124 He...bicome a gode man and an holy, and lefte al maner pride & stoutenesse. 1535 Coverdale *Jer.* xlviii. 29, I knowe hir stoutnesse [1611 pride]. 1548 Udall *Erasm. Par. Matt.* v. 5 Stowtnes and styfnes is hated of al men. 1552 Latimer *Serm. 3rd Sund. Epiph.* (1584) 309 b, Beware of pride and stoutnes. 1570 Jewel *Def. Apol.* II. iii. (1571) 119 Doubtlesse...the Councel of Aphrica meante the stoutenesse of the Cleregie, and not of the Nobles: the pride of Rome, and not of Aphrica. 1572 Huloet (ed. Higins), Stoutnes, proudenesse, or arrogancie, *fastus, arrogantia, ferocitas*, [etc.]. 1600 Holland *Livy* xlii. xiv. 1123 Besides, the stoutnes used by Harpalus (the principall person of the embassie)...exasperated their stomackes. 1607 Shaks. *Cor.* v. vi. 27 His stoutnesse When he did stand for Consull, which he lost By lacke of stooping.

2. Bravery, valour, courageousness. Now *rare*, exc. in *stoutness of heart*.

c 1470 *Gol. & Gaw.* 799 Is nane sa stalwart in stour, with stoutnes to stand. 1553 Brende *Q. Curtius* A iij, In an excellent capitaine nature must geve the chiefest partes, that is to say: hardines, stowtenes of stomacke, wyth a natural wisdome and understanding. 1561 Hoby tr. *Castiglione's Courtier* I. (1577) C ij b, Dyuerse calamities, which hee alwayes bore out with such stoutnesse of courage, that [etc.]. *a* 1575 tr. *Pol. Verg. Eng. Hist.* I. (Camden, No. 36) 39 At the lengthe, having conflicte with wilde beastes, [he] made a beastlie ende, and thus...to miche stoutenes beecamme his owne confusion. *a* 1586 Sidney *Arcadia* III. xvii. (1912) 452 [She] was an Amazon, and therefore had gotten a habite of stoutnes above the nature of a woman. 1631 Gouge *God's Arrowes* v. § 6. 416 Stoutnesse and courage of mind. 1666 Pepys *Diary* 17 Sept., Sir Thomas Clifford, who appears...much set by at Court for his activity in going to sea, and stoutness every where. 1691 Hartcliffe *Virtues* 119 As Stoutness of mind very well agrees with Meekness, and therefore Moses, who was indeed a Person of the most undaunted Courage, is said in Scripture to be the meekest Man upon Earth. 1727 Bailey vol. II, *Stoutness*, Courageousness, Boldness. 1822 Lamb *Elia* Ser. I. *Decay of Beggars*, The common cripple would despise his own pusillanimity, viewing the hale stoutness, and hearty heart, of this half-limbed giant. 1827 Pollok *Course T.* II. 770 He...Amidst vindictive thunders lets them try The stoutness of their heart.

3. Fitmness, resoluteness.

1561 Eden *Art Navig.* Pref. ¶¶ i, Accoumpting...rashnesse for hardinesse, impudencie for stoutnesse. 1577 Vautrollier *Luther on Ep. Gal.* 48 Our stoutnes therfore in this matter is godly and holy. 1642–4 Vicars *God in Mount* 132 These with the rest discovered aboundance of stoutnes and resolution. 1799 Han. More *Fem. Educ.* (ed. 4) I. 8 Let her...not make herself amends by the stoutness of her orthodoxy for the badness of her temper.

†4. Stubbornness, intractability, rebelliousness.

c 1400 *Rom. Rose* 1936 He is a fool in sikernesse, That with daunger or stoutnesse Rebellith ther that he shulde plese. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 478/2 Stowtnesse, or vnbuxumnesse, *rebellio*. 1560 *Bps. Addr.* in Strype *Ann. Ref.* (1709) I. xviii. 214 Not in any respect of Self-Will, Stoutness, or striving against her Majesty. 1570 Jewel *Def. Apol.* II. xviii. (1571) 350 But perceiuing that the King was much moued and misliked his stoutnesse, the next night folowing, he fled ouer into France, and afterwarde sought aide of the Pope. 1599 Sandys *Europæ Spec.* (1632) 174 Hee opposeth a proud stoutnesse and intractable obstinacie. *a* 1654 Gataker *Antid. Errour* (1670) 51 Either out of a stoutnes of stomack, and a stifnes of self-wil, or out of an extream malice and inveterate hatred against the person. 1768–74 Tucker *Lt. Nat.* (1834) II. 534 There is a stoutness, and an aversion to inferiority rooted in all men, which must be managed with great delicacy.

5. *Sporting.* In animals, esp. horses and foxes: Staying power, endurance.

1818 'W. H. Scott' *Brit. Field Sports* 511 Horses...able to carry weight,...and more distinguished for stoutness, in the Turf phrase, namely stoutness of heart, or ability to last, than for speed. 1826 J. Cook *Fox-hunting* 61, I could enumerate many other capital runs to prove the stoutness of the Essex foxes. 1856 'Stonehenge' *Brit. Rural Sports* I. III. ii. 156 Stoutness [in the greyhound] depends partly upon general muscular development. 1883 *Times* 22 Oct. 10/2 He [a racehorse] appears to be bred rather for speed than for stoutness. 1901 *Daily Chron.* 26 Nov. 4/2 A capital day's sport was witnessed at this club gathering,...hares running with great stoutness.

* * *

6. In physical senses:

a. Strength of body or limbs (now *rare*).

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 478/2 Stowtnesse, or strenghe, *robur*. 1866 Seeley *Ecce Homo* iii. (ed. 8) 23 No one doubted the stoutness of Samson's sinews.

b. Corpulence.

1838 Lytton *Alice* II. ii, Mr. Merton was...fair, and inclined to stoutness. 1899 'A. Hope' *King's Mirror* xiv. 139 He grew indolent; his stoutness increased. 1902 Mrs. Barnes-Grundy *Thames Camp* 49 Long hours of idleness ...tend to encourage a dreadful infirmity called 'stoutness'.

c. Massiveness; strength due to thickness.

1845 *Florist's Jrnl.* (1846) VI. 156 Our plant however is by no means possessed of the huge size and stoutness for which *D. speciosum* is remarkable. 1870 Hooker *Stud. Flora* 409 *Carex vulpina* ... Perigynia compressed, ribs variable in stoutness. 1915 *Blackw. Mag.* Aug. 198/2 In spite of the stoutness of our tackle, they broke us.

†Stou·ty, *a. Obs. rare.* In 6 stoutty, stowty. [f. Stout *a.* + -y.] Stout, valiant; strong.

a 1529 Skelton *Duke of Albany* 78 Ye duke so doutty, So sterne, so stoutty. — *Agst. Garnesche* i. 10 Ye stronge sturdy stalyon, so sterne and stowty.

Stouve, Stouver, Stouwe: see Stove, Stover, Stow.

Stovaine (stō·vēin). *Pharmacy.* [a. F. *stovaïne*, formed after *cocaïne* (see Cocaine); the first element is obscure.] A local anæsthetic, discovered by Fourneau in 1903 (*Comptes Rendus* Feb. and May 1904).

1904 *Jrnl. Chem. Soc.* LXXXVI. II. 501 Toxicity of Amyl Chlorohydrin (Stovaine). 1910 *Chamb. Jrnl.* Feb. 142/1 This new weapon of the surgeon called Stovaine, created considerable interest in the medical world.

Stove (stōv), *sb.*[1] Forms: 6 stofe, stouf(fe, stowf(f)e, 6–7stoave, stoove, 7stouph(e, stouve, 5– stove. See also Stow *sb.*[3] [OE. had *stofa* wk. masc., hot air bath (once, as gloss on *balneum*), and the related *stuf-bæð* (*Leechdoms* III. 92, 132) in the same sense. The word, however, seems not to have survived, but to have been taken up afresh in the 15–16th c. from MLG. or MDu. *stove* fem. (Du. *stoof*) = OHG. *stuba* fem. (MHG. *stube* heated room, mod.G. *stube* sitting-room) ON. *stofa, stufa* fem. (Sw. *stufva, stuga* cottage, Da. *stue* room); the Scandinavian words are prob. adopted from LG. The relation between the WGer. **stub-* and the late L. or Rom. *stūfa, stūfāre* (see Stew *sb.*[2] and *v.*[2], Stupe) is uncertain.]

†1. A hot air bath; a sweating-room: = Stew *sb.*[2] 3, Stufe. *Obs.*

In the second quot. the pl. is used with sing. construction.

1456 Sir G. Haye *Gov. Princes* Wks. (S. T. S.) II. 142 Here declaris the noble the maneris of baithis and of stovis. *Ibid.* 143 Thare mon be grete consideracioun to make wele a bathis or a stovis. 1562 Bullein *Bulwark, Bk. Sick Men* (1579) 24 b, Idle bodies..are made warme, by..Oyle, bathing in warme water, or going into ye Stoue. 1579 J. Louthe in *Narr. Reform.* (Camden) 58 This was to hym in stede of a stowffe called Laconicum. 1579–80 North *Plutarch, Cimon* (1595) 525 As they were rubbing of him with oile in his stoouе or hotte house. 1587 Harrison *England* II. x. 287/2 in *Holinshed*, As for stooues we haue not hitherto vsed them greatlie, yet doo they now begin to be made in diuerse houses of the gentrie.., who build them not to worke and feed in as in Germanie and else where, but now and then to sweat in. 1595 Duncan *App. Etym.* (E. D. S.), *Vaporarium*, a hot stofe. 1599 B. Jonson *Ev. Man out of Hum.* IV. viii, You shall sweat there with..losing your monie at primero, as well as in all the stoves in Sweden. 1603 Holland *Plutarch's Mor.* 864 Neither used they the stouph or bath together. 1607 Topsell *Four-f. Beasts* 517 The dung..of mice..rubbed vpon the head of any one who is troubled with the scurfe or skaules thereon in a bath or stoue, will presently expell and driue them quite away. 1612 Drayton *Poly-olb.* IV. 304 The Pentecosts prepar'd at Carleon in his Court,..her Temples and her Groues, Her Palaces, her Walks, Baths, Theaters, and Stoues. 1629 H. Burton *Truths Tri.* 293 That riuer in hell..is now become a hot dry stoue, called Purgatory. 1658 W. Burton *Comment. Itin. Antoninus* 213 This I guess to be a Stouphe or hot-house to bath in. 1683 *Digby's Chym. Secr.* II. 200 When the Patient is Sweating in the dry Stove. *a* 1700 Evelyn *Diary* 8 Feb. 1645, Neere to this cave are the natural stoves of St. Germain. 1715 Leoni *Palladio's Archit.* (1742) I. 101 A lukewarm Room..from which they enter'd into the hot stove. 1756 C. Lucas *Ess. Waters* I. 230 You may have..more or less vapor..which can not be done in the common suffocating stoves at the Hummums.

†b. A closed basket for 'stoving' or sweating a gamecock. *Obs.*

1631 Markham *Country Contentm.* I. xix. (ed. 4) 111 You must haue deepe straw baskets made for the purpose,..and there let your Cocke stoue and sweate till the Euening. But before you put him into the stoue, you shall [etc.].

†2. A sitting-room or bedroom heated with a furnace. Chiefly with reference to Germany, the Low Countries, Scandinavia, or Russia. (Cf. Stew *sb.*[2] 2.) *Obs.*

? 1545 Brinklow *Complaynt* 36 b, Euen the porest man..may boldly come into their hall or stoue, thei being at dynar. 1559 Morwyng *Evonym.* 70 Certaine of the Germaines that lyve in stouffes, that is hot houses, the winter time, make in them lowe fornaices. 1600 Hakluyt *Voy.* III. 392 Here they found houses of foure stories high,..and in most of them were Stooues for the Winter season. *a* 1608 Dee *Relat. Spir.* I. (1659) 212 In the excellent little Stove, or Study of D. Hageck his house lent me, by Bethlem in old Prage. 1617 Moryson *Itin.* III. 77 (*bis*) In stead of fier they vse hot stooues.., which are certaine chambers or roomes, hauing an earthen ouen cast into them. *Ibid.* 103 All the passengers lie together in the warme stoaue, with those of the Family, both Men and Weomen. 1621 Burton *Anat. Mel.* I. ii. IV. v. (1624) 136 How tedious is it to them that liue in Stoues & Caues halfe a yeare together; as in Island, Muscovy, or vnder the Pole it selfe. 1634 W. Wood *New Eng. Prosp.* (1898) 68 Hee busles better through a world of cold in a frost-paved wildernesse, than the furred Citizen in his warmer Stoave. 1642 Fuller *Holy & Prof. St.* II. ix. 86 When a certain Frenchman came to visit Melanchthon, he found him in his stove with one hand dandling his child.., and in the other hand holding a book. *a* 1700 Evelyn *Diary* 23 Sept. 1680, All the inhabitants retiring to their stoves. 1706 Farquhar *Recruiting Officer* III. ii, I might have marry'd a German Princess, worth fifty thousand Crowns a Year, but her Stove disgusted me.

3. A hothouse for plants.

1695 *Phil. Trans.* XIX. 395 A new black Maiden Hair ..now growing in his Majesty's Stoves at Hampton Court. 1739 P. Miller *Gard. Dict.* II. 5 B 2 b, A Catalogue of such Plants as should be placed in a Stove. 1793 R. Steele *Ess. Gardening* 115 A General Stove, 160 feet in length, and of proper width and height, is capable of containing a prodigious collection of plants. 1804 Charlotte Smith *Conversations*, etc. I. 65 In the stove the natives of the torrid zone; in the conservatory the inhabitants of milder regions. 1869 A. R. Wallace *Malay Archipelago* (1890) 85 In our stoves these varied conditions can be supplied to each individual plant. 1895 Amherst *Gardening* 282 The climbing plants which adorned the stove.

4. A heated chamber or box for some special purpose.

1640 T. Brugis *Marrow of Physicke* II. 142 So set your Plate in a warme Stove, or Oven. 1706 Phillips (ed. Kersey), *Stove*...Among Confectioners, it is a little Closet well stopt up on all Sides; where there are several stories or rows of Shelves, one above another, made of Wires, to hold the Sweet-meats that are to be dried. 1769 Mrs. Raffald *Engl. Housekpr.* (1778) 245 When they are cold take them out and lay them on glasses, put them into a stove, and turn them every half hour. 1774 Goldsm. *Nat. Hist.* V. 168 The artificial method of hatching chickens in stoves, as is practised at Grand Cairo. 1811 A. T. Thomson *Lond. Disp.* (1818) 241 They are..killed by the steams of boiling vinegar, and dried either by the sun or in a stove. 1835 Ure *Phil. Manuf.* 146 When all the wool is gathered on the teeth, the comb is placed with its points in the stove. 1867 Smyth *Sailor's Word-bk.* 660 A stove, is a kind of kiln for warping timber in. 1881 Raymond *Mining Gloss., Stove*, the oven in which the blast of a furnace is heated. 1885 Hummel *Dyeing Textile Fabrics* 112 The sulphur stove—a spacious brick chamber which can be charged with sulphur dioxide. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* II. 969 The drawing or emptying of 'stoves' is regarded as the most dangerous part of white-lead making.

5. An apparatus for heating (orig., for heating a 'stove' in sense 1 or 2). Cf. Stew *sb.*[2] 1 b.

a. A closed box or vessel of earthenware, porcelain, or (now more usually) of metal, portable or fixed, to contain burning fuel.

Often with defining word, indicating the purpose for which the stove is used, as in *cooking stove*, or the kind of fuel employed, as *anthracite, coal, gas, oil stove*.

Quots. 1562 and 1591 perh. do not belong to this sense.

[1562 Bullein *Bulwark, Bk. Sick Men* (1579) 6 Make a fyer of Charcoales, or a stoue, which is a fyer secret felt, but not seene. 1591 G. Fletcher *Russe Commw.* ii. 4 In the extremitie of winter, if you holde a pewter dishe..in your hand..(except in some chamber where their warme stoaues bee) your fingers will friese faste vnto it.] *a* 1618 *Rates of Merchandizes* H 4, Iron Stoues the peece, xl.s. 1623 T. Adams *Barren Tree* 4 A Candle is made to light vs, not to heate vs: a Stoue is made to heate vs, not to light vs. 1624 in *Archæologia* XLVIII. 138 In your closet a litle chare, the marble morter, the stove, your owne cabinet and bookes, a target, [etc.]. 1642 Fuller *Holy & Prof. St.* I. xii. 39 Though there be no fire seen outwardly, as in the English chymnies, it may be hotter within, as in the Dutch stoves. 1691 J. Gibson in *Archæologia* XII. 181 In one of the lesser gardens is a large green house divided into several rooms, and all of them with stoves under them, and fire to keep a continual heat. 1693 Evelyn *De La Quint. Compl. Gard., Cult. Orangetrees* 21 The Heat of Char-coal..in some hidden Stove, or Earthen Pan. 1702 S. Sewall *Diary* 16 Jan., A good fire in the stove warm'd the room. 1715 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 5325/4 Stoves fix'd to the Chimneys. 1735 Dyche & Pardon *Dict., Stove*, a small close Fire, sometimes used for drying Sugars, Sweet-meats, &c. 1747 Mrs. Glasse *Cookery* ii. 26 Do it over a Stove or slow Fire till the Rice begins to be thick. 1816 T. L. Peacock *Headlong Hall* viii; With pickaxes and gunpowder, a hanging stove and a poker. 1833 J. Holland *Manuf. Metal* II. 173 The close fire-places, or stoves properly so called, the principle of which is the emission of hot air. 1853 Soyer *Pantroph.* 248 Place them on the stove or gridiron, and you will, by these means, obtain a delicate and tempting dish. 1853 Mrs. Moodie *Life in Clearings* 373, I have seen the grandmother in a wealthy family ironing the fine linen, or broiling over the cookstove. 1854 Ronalds & Richardson *Chem. Technol.* (ed. 2) I. 216 Chamber stoves are constructed to disseminate heat by the direct contact of air with the heated surface, which is obtained by burning fuel on a grate, closely surrounded on all sides except below the bars, by a good conducting or absorbing material. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* II. 395/1 On the Continent..the..scarcity of fuel..early led to the introduction of the hot-air stove. 1909 *Mission Field* June 60 There is at present no heating system of any kind in the school beyond the old-fashioned stoves in each room.

b. Applied to the metal structure of a more or less open fireplace; a 'grate'.

This use, common in England, appears to be unknown in the U.S.

a 1756 Eliza Haywood *New Present* (1771) 232 To rub the stove and fire-irons. 1794 Mrs. Radcliffe *Myst. Udolpho* x, On the next morning Emily ordered a fire to be lighted in the stove of the chamber where St. Aubert used to sleep. 1817 W. Beloe *Sexagenarian* II. 143 He would..offend the delicacy of his hostess by contaminating ..the brightness of her stoves..with the distillations of tobacco. 1848 Dickens *Dombey* viii, An empty room..made ghastly by a ragged fireplace without any stove in it. 1861 T. L. Peacock *Gryll Gr.* xxii, It would not suit the stoves of our modern saloons.

†c. *Naut.* (See quot.) *Obs.*

1750 Blanckley *Nav. Expositor*, *Stoves* are square Boxes made of Plank filled with Bricks, and when fitted with an Iron Ring and small Bars, are for burning Charcoal, in order for the Cook to dress the Admiral's or Captain's Victuals on.

d. A foot-warmer containing burning charcoal, such as is used in the Low Countries [Du. *stoof*].

1716 Gay *Trivia* II. 338 The Belgian stove beneath her Footstool glows. 1883 Olive Schreiner *Afr. Farm.* I. v, Under her feet was a wooden stove.

6. *attrib.* and *Comb.*: in sense 2, as †*stove-window*; in sense 3, as *stove-flower, -heat, -plant, -shrub, -thermometer*; in sense 4, as *stove-dry* vb., whence *stove-dried* adj.; in sense 5, as *stove-brush*,

-chimney, *-coal*, *-door*, *-fitter*, *-fitting*, *-grating*, *-maker*, *-manufacturer*, *-piping*, *-setter*, *-setting*; *stove-heated*, *-warmed* adjs. Also † **stove-fire** (see quot. 1769); **stove-glass** (see quot.); **stove-grate** (*a*) = sense 5 b; (*b*) see quot. 1875; **stove-house** = sense 3; **stove-polish**, black lead or other substance used for polishing stoves; † **stove-pot** (see quot. for *stove-fire*); **stove-room** † (*a*) = sense 2; (*b*) = sense 4; **stove-truck** (see quot.); **stove-tub** = sense 4.

1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade*, **Stove-brush*, a housemaid's polishing-brush, for blackening or shining a grate. 1730 *Inventory R. Woolley's Goods* (1732) 8 A *Stove Chimney. 1736 AINSWORTH *Eng.-Lat. Dict.*, A blower (in a stove chimney) *ferreum ignis suscitabulum*. 1881 RAYMOND *Mining Gloss.*, *Stove-coal. 1895 *Daily News* 15 Oct. 3/5 Stove-coal 15s. 1868 *Rep. Munitions of War* 188 Having a door resembling an ordinary *stove-door. 1766 *Complete Farmer* s.v. *Moth*, As this corn (which had not been *stove-dried) was old and dry enough, it was but seldom ventilated. 1752 *Gentl. Mag.* XXII. 348 (Porcelain) Rooms for throwing, turning, and *stove drying the ware. 1769 MRS. RAFFALD *Eng. Housekpr.* (1805) Descr. Plate, The Plate is the design of three *stove-fires for the kitchen, that will burn coals or embers instead of charcoal..; the coals are burnt in cast iron pots,..CC Stove pots in which the fire is made. 1903 *Daily Record & Mail* 22 Aug. 2 George Morrow..a *stovefitter. 1870 DISRAELI *Lothair* xxxi, She held..a vast bouquet entirely of white *stove flowers. 1891 *Century Dict.* s.v. *Glass*, **Stove-glass*, sheets of mica used in the fronts of stoves, etc. 1730 *Inventory R. Woolley's Goods* (1732) 8 In the Dining-Room... A *Stove Grate. 1753 HOGARTH *Anal. Beauty* viii. 43 Those branches fixt to the sides of common old-fashion'd stove-grates by way of ornament. 1841 in *Inquiry, Yorks. Deaf & Dumb* (1870) 26 Jos. Fellows, stove-grate fitter, Rotherham. 1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib.* II. No. 5971 Wholesale ironmonger and stove-grate manufacturer. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2412 *Stove-grate*, the grid or series of bars on which the fuel rests in a stove. 1890 W. W. MERRY in *More Echoes Oxf. Mag.* (1896) 96 By the *stove-grating I can see the stoker. 1852 GLADSTONE *Glean.* IV. 184 The growth of those democratic principles which the present system is forcing with *stove-heat to maturity. 1894 C. L. JOHNSTONE *Canada* 67 The heat of the stove-heated kitchen prevented me from sleeping. 1860 GOSSE *Rom. Nat. Hist.* (1866) 178 Choice plants that I have been used to see fostered and tended in pots in our *stove-houses at home. 1843 *Civil Engin. & Arch. Jrnl.* VI. 422/2 This is a stigma on the *stove-makers of London. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade*, *Stove-maker*, a founder and caster of stoves and ranges, for grates and fire-places. 1843 *Civil Engin. & Arch. Jrnl.* VI. 422/1 As a *stove manufacturer, I have [etc.]. 1838 *Penny Cycl.* XI. 219/2 A communication..made of one or more ranges of iron *stove-piping. 1901 *J. Black's Carp. & Build., Home Handicr.* 64 An old piece of stove-piping. 1812 *New Botanic Gard.* I. 10 A pleasing variety among other *stove plants. 1842 LOUDON *Suburban Hort.* 19 Hothouse plants, which may be either dry stove plants..or damp stove plants. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade*, **Stove-polish*, black-lead. 1905 *Daily Chron.* 13 Apr. 5/3 The blacklead and stove-polish business. 1769 *Stove-pots [see *stove-fire*]. 1706 S. SEWALL *Diary* 27 Feb. (1879) II. 155 Passing out of the *Stove-Room into the Kitchen. 1756–7 tr. *Keysler's Trav.* (1760) IV. 239 Fowls here live in the same apartment or stove-room with the owners. 1825 *Gentl. Mag.* XCV. I. 163 He went into a stove-room, in which sulphur, hay, &c. were burning at the same time. 1840 *Penny Cycl.* XVIII. 473/1 Immediately behind him is the stove-room, in which the moulds are ranged on shelves. 1846 DODD *Brit. Manuf.* VI. 181 Sail-making. Besides the bleach-field there is..a 'stove-room', in which the flax can be exposed to any required degree of temperature. 1898 *Daily News* 28 June 9/4 Bricklaying, jobbing, drains, *stove setting, &c. 1850 *Florist* 202 A handsome *stove-shrub. 1786 ABERCROMBIE *Gard. Assist.* 354 The proper degree of heat..may be determinable by a *stove thermometer. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.*, **Stove-truck*, a truck employed in cannon-foundries for moving pieces of ordnance. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XVII. 433/2 They should be stoved in a stove by the heat of a flue; and not in a baker's oven or a *stove-tub. 1911 *Chamb. Jrnl.* Sept. 566/2 Their wives have their duties in the close and *stove-warmed houses. 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 164 Lookynge downe out of the *stowffe wyndowe into the courte vnderneth. 1680 R. L'ESTRANGE *Twenty Sel. Colloq. Erasm.* 60 The Master of the Inn puts his head out of the Stove window.

Stove, *sb.*[2] *Sc.* and *north.* [Cf. STEW *sb.*[3]] A steam; a mist rising from the ground.

1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* VII. Prol. 89 The callour air..Maid seik warm stovis. *Ibid.* XII. Prol. 46 Moich hailsum stovis ourheildand the slak.

Stove (stōuv), *v.*[1] Also 7 **stoove.** [f. STOVE *sb.*[1] Cf. Du. *stoven*, which may be partly the source.]

† **1.** *trans.* To subject to a hot-air bath. *Obs.*

1456 SIR G. HAY *Gov. Princes* Wks. (S. T. S.) II. 143 Quhen the man suld stove him, he suld first entre the first chaumer, that is calde.

† **b.** To sweat (a gamecock). Also *intr.* of the cock: To undergo sweating. Cf. STOVE *sb.*[1] 1 b. *Obs.*

1632 MARKHAM *Country Contentm.* I. xix. (ed. 4) 111 Then putting in your Cocke, couer him with sweete strawe vp to the top, and then lay on the lidde close, and there let your Cocke stoue and sweate till the Euening. 1686 BLOME *Gentl. Recr.* II. 279/2 Each time Stove and Scour him [the Cock] according to the nature of his Heats, long Heats requiring longer Stoving, as also greater Scouring.

† **2.** To keep up the heat of (fire). *Obs. rare*[–1].

1590 GREENE *Never too late* I. (1600) E 2 b, As the minerals of Ætna stoue fire,...so young yeeres are incident to the heate of loue.

3. To put (plants) in a hothouse.

1625 BACON *Ess., Gardens* 571 For December, and Ianuary, and the Latter Part of Nouember, you must take..Orenge-Trees; Lemon-Trees; and Mirtles, if they be stooued [*v.r.* stirred]. 1691 J. GIBSON in *Archæologia* XII. 188 These more nice and curious plants, that need closer keeping are in warmer rooms, and some of them stoved when he thinks fit. 1851 *B'ham & Midl. Gardeners' Mag.* Aug. 140 Tulips. —These will, of course, be all dryed, cleaned, stoved, and in their places.

† **4.** To keep (persons) in heated rooms. *Obs.*

1627 FELTHAM *Resolves* I. xviii. (1628) 55 While the rich lye stoued in secure reposes. 1801 A. YOUNG *Autob.* 6 June (1898) 364 Charming weather for the country,..and I am stoved up in this horrid place. 1802 BEDDOES *Hygeia* V. 15 Mistaken medical opinions..induced physicians to stove their patients..in hot, close rooms.

5. To dry in a stove or heated chamber; *Naut.* to dry (ropes) in this manner to prepare them for tarring.

a 1625 *Nomenclator Navalis* (Harl. MS. 2301). 1664–5 [see STOVING *vbl. sb.*]. 1736 J. LEWIS *I. of Tenet* (ed. 2) 39 *Stow* or *Stove Ropes*, to dry them in an Oven. 1794 *Rigging & Seamanship* I. 57 *Stoving* is placing of white rope in an iron stove or oven,..which makes the rope more limber..to receive the tar. 1851 KIPPING *Sailmaking* (ed. 2) 45 Bolt ropes formerly were stoved in a stove, by the heat of a flue, and tarred afterwards. 1914 A. DEANE *Belfast Art Gall. & Museum* (Quarterly Notes No. 26) 8 The [clay] pipes are then laid in the sun, if the weather permits, for partial drying, or stoved previous to heating in the kiln.

6. To stew (meat or vegetables). Now *Sc.* and *north.*

1738 *Ochtertyre House Bk.* (S. H. S.) 150 Dinner lambs head stoved. 1741 *Compl. Family-Piece* I. ii. 115 Stove it well in good Gravy one Hour, and send it whole to Table. 1747 MRS. GLASSE *Cookery* ii. 44 Pigeons stoved. 1867 J. K. HUNTER *Retrosp. Artist's Life* xvii. (1912) 178 Plenty of potatoes stoved with the broo made an excellent dinner.

7. To fumigate with sulphur; to disinfect with sulphur or other fumes.

1805 LUCCOCK *Nat. Wool* 171 The well-known mode of stoving cloth by the fumes of sulphur. 1844 G. DODD *Textile Manuf.* ii. 73 The cloth was first bleached; the squares were printed by cylinder with a mordant of acetate of iron; then stoved; then passed through a caustic emulsion. 1915 *Blackw. Mag.* Nov. 589/2 All clothing, even if issued brand-new on the eve of departure from a hospital in France, has to be stoved when it reaches English soil.

8. To heat (a building) with stoves; to provide with stoves. *rare.*

1808 SARAH LADY LYTTELTON *Corr.* (1912) 53 The house is so well stoved and fired it is quite a delightful temperature.

† **Stove**, *v.*[2] *Sc. Obs.* [f. STOVE *sb.*[2]] *intr.* Of smoke: To pass in clouds.

1756 MRS. CALDERWOOD in *Coltness Collect.* (Maitl. Club) 164 A long table where the carles smoak, so that, when a scoot passes, you see the smoak stoving out at the windows.

Stove (stōuv), *v.*[3] [f. *stove*, pa. pple. of STAVE *v.*] *trans.* = STAVE *v.* 2.

1820 OXLEY *Jrnls. Exped. N. S. Wales* 17 The large boat had got stoved against a tree under water. 1883 STEVENSON *Treas. Isl.* xx, I 'll stove in your old blockhouse like a rum puncheon. *Ibid.*, Drop shooting poor seamen, and stoving of their heads in while asleep. 1894 *Westm. Gaz.* 7 Dec. 5/1 And her bulwarks were stoved and washed away.

Stove (stōuv), *ppl. a. Naut.* [irreg. pa. pple. of STAVE *v.*] That has been 'stove in'.

1899 F. T. BULLEN *Idylls of Sea* xvi. 124 One of the most frequent experiences in this perilous trade [whale-fishing] is that of a 'stove' boat.

Stove, irreg. pa. t. and pa. pple. of STAVE *v.*

Stoved (stōuvd), *ppl. a.*[1] [f. STOVE *v.*[1] + -ED [1.]]

† **1.** Of a fire: Kept burning in a stove. *Obs.*

1693 EVELYN *De La Quint. Compl. Gard., Direct. Melons* Advt. 4 It is certain, that a Naked or Stov'd Fire, pent up within the House,..must needs be extreamly Noxious and Pernicious to these Delicate and Tender Plants.

2. *Sc.* Of meat or vegetables: Stewed.

1728 RAMSAY *Fables, Monk & Miller's Wife* 133 The stov'd or roasted we afford Are aft great strangers on our board. 1756 MRS. CALDERWOOD in *Coltness Collect.* (Maitl. Club) 149 All sorts of stewes or stoved things. 1867 J. K. HUNTER *Retrosp. Artist's Life* i. (1912) 10 She gave me my dinner of stoved potatoes.

3. Heated by a stove. Also, kept in a heated room.

1802 BEDDOES *Hygeia* V. 60 The carpeted, stuccoed, and stoved sitting room. *a* 1835 MCCULLOCH *Attributes* (1837) III. xliii. 147 It is no trial to bring a caged and stoved animal from a hot climate and then to decide that it cannot live out of a stove.

4. Dried in a stove or oven. *Stoved salt*: see quot. 1892.

1800 HENRY *Epit. Chem.* (1808) 182 The various forms under which it [common salt] appears, of stoved salt, fishery salt, bay salt, &c. arise rather from differences in the size and compactness of the grain than [etc.]. 1808 H. HOLLAND *Agric. Cheshire* in W. H. Marshall *Rev. Rep. Agric.* (1810) II. 93 In making the stoved, or lump salt, as it is called, the brine is brought to a boiling heat. 1852 FINCHAM *Shipbuilding* III. (ed. 3) 32 It was found that the stoved planks were fresher and tougher. 1880 *Daily News* 28 Oct. 3/8 Sugar...Stoved goods and Paris loaves continue firm. 1892 *Labour Commission* Gloss., *Stoved Salt*, boiled salt drawn out of the pans, put into wooden moulds, and afterwards taken into the stoves or hot-houses for the purpose of being thoroughly dried. All table salt is stoved salt.

Stoved, *ppl. a.*[2] = STOVE, STOVEN *ppl. adjs.*

1798 O'KEEFFE *Wild Oats* I. i, I'm as empty as a stoved keg.

Stoveful (stōu·vful). [f. STOVE *sb.*[1] + -FUL.] A quantity that fills a stove; as much as a stove can contain.

1838 *Civil Engin. & Arch. Jrnl.* I. 380/2 Your apparatus, with rather less fuel, has thoroughly dried each stove-full in ten days.

Stovel, corrupt form of STOVEN.

15.., 1753: see STOCK *sb.* 2 f.

Stoveless (stōu·vlés), *a.* [f. STOVE *sb.*[1] + -LESS.] Having no stove.

1889 *Advance* (Chicago) Nov. 7 Their shivering women, in stoveless hovels. 1906 *Macm. Mag.* Nov. 8 Ah, those stoveless rooms in Milan and Brescia!

Sto·ven, *sb. Obs.* exc. *dial.* Also 4 **stovyn**, 7 **stovene.** [OE. *stofn* masc. and fem. = ON. *stofn* masc.] **a.** A stem or trunk of a tree. **b.** A sapling, shoot from the stump of a tree. Also *fig.*

c 1000 ÆLFRIC *Gloss.* in Wr.-Wülcker 137/29 *Stipes*, stofn. *c* 1000 in Napier *Gloss.* i. 117 *Surculos*, stofnas. *Ibid.* 1665 *Progenie. propaganda*, mid gestrenendlicere stofne. 1295 *Acc. Exch. K. R.* 5/8 m. 5 Et xix. d. in Stouenes emptis..ad Galeam. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 8243 Quen all was closed a-boute þat tre, A siluer cercle son naild he, þat was þe stouen for to strength. 1334–5 in *Blount's Law Dict.* (1691) s.v. *Znche*, Concedimus dilecto valecto nostro Ric. de Stelley omnes Zucheos aridos, qui Anglice vocantur Stovenes infra Hayam nostram de Beskewood. [1524 *Yorks. Deeds* (Yorks. Archæol. Soc.) II. 39 To sufficiently fence all trees, stoven, and undergrowth]. *a* 1640 JACKSON *Creed* XI. iv. (1657) 334 The diffusion of life..from the roots into the stemmes, stovens or branches. 1788 W. H. MARSHALL *Yorks.* II. 356 *Stoven*, a shoot of a tree. 1821 CLARE *Vill. Minstr.* II. 176 How sweet to be thus nestling deep in boughs, Upon an ashen stoven pillowing me. 1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss.*, *Stoven*, a stump, either growing or put into the ground as a post. 1896 J. K. SNOWDEN *Web of Weaver* v, It was strangely ordered that my happiness and my shame should grow on one stoven (stock, or stem).

Stoven (stōu·v'n), *ppl. a.* [irreg. pa. pple. of STAVE *v.*] = STOVE *ppl. a.*

1892–3 FROUDE *Lect. Counc. Trent* vi. (1896) 140 The sands were littered with drowned bodies, stoven casks, and shattered boxes. 1900 W. S. DAVIS *Friend of Caesar* xiii. 258 It was madness to embark on the stoven craft.

Sto·ve-pipe.

1. Each of the pipes by which hot air is conveyed in a 'stove' or hothouse.

1699 EVELYN *Kal. Hort.* (ed. 9) 165 [The plants] as they are placed nearer, or farther from the Noses of the Stove-pipes, enjoy the several Climats and Degrees of Warmth which shall be found most..agreeable to them.

2. A metal pipe attached to a stove to carry off the smoke.

1858 LARDNER *Hand-bk. Nat. Phil.* 273 If a stove pipe be observed ascending through a room, it will be easy to show that [etc.]. 1861 C. BENSON in *Macm. Mag.* Feb. 276 He..finally clutched at the stove-pipe to save himself [falling]. 1896 KIPLING *Seven Seas, Three Sealers* 18 It was the sealer *Northern Light*..With a stovepipe stuck from a starboard port. *Ibid.* 26 A stovepipe seen through the closing mist, it shows like a four-inch gun. 1898 'MERRIMAN' *Roden's Corner* I. 3 A shop..where ancient pieces of stove-pipe and a few fire-irons are exposed for sale.

attrib. 1882 *U. S. Rep. Prec. Met.* 627 The pipes are..jointed together in stove-pipe fashion.

3. *colloq.* or *slang.* **a.** (Originally *U.S.*) A tall hat of cylindrical shape, a 'top hat', 'chimney-pot'. Also *stove-pipe hat.*

1851 *Illustr. Lond. News* 27 Sept. 395/2 Every male who wears the present stove-pipe section head-gear. 1857 J. D. BORTHWICK *Three Yrs. California* xxii. 333 Here and there some forlorn individual exhibited himself in a black coat and stove-pipe hat. 1883 F. M. CRAWFORD *Dr. Claudius* x, His servant arrayed him in the purple and stove-pipe of the higher civilization. 1886 W. J. TUCKER *E. Europe* 429 The brimless black velvet 'stove-pipe' hats worn by the girls on Sundays. 1902 J. F. RUSLING *European Days & Ways* 319 Derby and slouch hats, and sack coats, instead of 'stove-pipes' and Prince Alberts.

b. *pl.* Trousers.

1863 B. BRIERLEY *Chron. Waverlow* 147 Their calves were..hidden betwixt the seams of the more modern 'stove pipes' (trousers).

Stover (stōu·vəɹ), *sb.*[1] Now *dial.* Also 6–7 **stoover, stouver, stower.** [Aphetic variant of ESTOVER.]

† **1.** The provision of food (for persons or animals) necessary for a journey or a sojourn. *Obs.*

13.. *Seuyn Sag.* (W.) 2606 Thai..fond hire that night stouer, And left here alone. 13.. *K. Alis.* 1866, Anon was ..Y-charged mony a selcouth beste, Olifaunts, and eke camailes, With armure, and eke vitailes;..Assen and muylyn, with heore stoveris. *c* 1330 *Arth. & Merl.* 7611 For wonderliche þai weren biþe Of þe eiȝte & stouers, þat þai brouȝt, þo pauteners. *a* 1330 *Sir Tristr.* 1149 A schip þou bring me tille, Mine harp to play me þare, Stouer ynouȝ to wille To kepe me, son 3ou 3are.

2. † **a.** *gen.* Winter food for cattle. *Obs.*

1557 TUSSER *100 Points Husb.* xxxvii, If barne-rome will serue, lay thy stooueſ vp drye, and eche kinde of strawe, by hitselfe let it lie. 1563–83 FOXE *A. & M.* 271/1 He plowed vp the fieldes, that there should no stouer be found to serue their horses. 1567 GOLDING *Ovid's Met.* V. (1593) 116 Dame Ceres..made corne and stouer soft to grow upon the ground. 1577 HARRISON *England* I. xiii. 38/1 in *Holinshed*, The haye of our lowe meddowes is..not so profitable, for stouer and forrage as ye higher meades be. 1578 TIMME *Calvin on Gen.* vi. 22. 189 Noah..had much more businesse and trouble in prouiding stouer and prouinder for beastes themselues. 1600 HOLLAND *Livy* XXIII. xlviii. 506 The corn was..so well grown, that the blade therof yeelded good forage & stouver for the horses. 1610 SHAKS. *Temp.* IV. i. 63 Ceres..Thy Turphie-Mountaines, where liue nibling Sheepe, And flat-Medes thetchd with Stouer, them to keepe. 1622 DRAYTON *Poly-olb.* XXV. 145 And others from their Carres, are busily about, To draw out Sedge and Reed, for Thatch and Stouer fit. 1634–5 *Ir. Act 10 & 11 Chas. I*, c. xvii. (1678) 474 The..improvident care of the owners, that neither provide fodder, nor stover for them [*sc.* cattle] in winter, nor [etc.]. 1657 S. PURCHAS *Pol. Flying-Ins.* 118 Whereas gloomy cold and close weather,

shuts them in and saves stover. 1674 RAY *S. & E. C. Words, Stover*: Fodder for cattel, as hay, straw or the like, *Ess.*

fig. 1609 HOLLAND *Amm. Marcell.* XVI. v. 56 Gathering together certaine forage and stoover (as it were) for to feed his mind [L. *quasi pabulum animo..conquirens*].

b. *spec.* In various applications according to locality: Hay made from clover; broken straw, etc. from the threshing-floor; stubble. (See quots.)

1669 WORLIDGE *Syst. Agric.* 276 *Stover*, Straw. 1733 W. ELLIS *Chiltern & Vale Farm.* 84 A good Crop of Peas, or other Stover in great Quantities has been taken off. *Ibid.* 381 These Creatures are of prodigious Service in converting Stover to one of the best of Dungs. 1763 *Museum Rust.* (ed. 2) I. 191 Neither is the haulm so good, as it will not serve for stover for our cattle in the winter. 1787 W. H. MARSHALL *E. Norfolk* II. 389 *Stover*, a general term for the different species of fodder arising from thrashed corn, whether it be straw, chaff, or 'colder'. 1788 — *Yorks.* II. 45 The stover (that is, the pulls and points of the [rape-] straw broken off in thrashing) is as acceptable to them [*sc.* cattle] as hay. 1813 E. MOOR *Suffolk Words, Stuva* or *Stower*, clover made into hay. 1840 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* I. III. 255 The land not producing then stover sufficient to keep any stock worth mentioning. 1854 MISS BARER *Northampt. Gloss., Stover*, or *Stuver*, haulm, stubble; the second mowing or growth of clover. 1883 C. WILSON in *Harper's Mag.* Jan. 271/2 The..annual yield of corn stover in its various forms is not less than 120,000,000 tons. 1889 HISSEY *Tour in Phaeton* 140 At Woodbridge we observed..the notice 'Stover sold here'.

†**3.** Used for: ? Reeds. (Cf. quot. 1622 in 2 a.)

1621 MARKHAM *Fowling* 9 They loue also..Fennes,..couergrowne with tall and long rushes, reads, seges, stouer, or any other kinde of Couert. 1638 W. LISLE *Heliodorus* I. 7 Where th' ouer-flouds of Nile Fall int' a Dale vnmeatly midward deepe, Though nigh the banks to muddy fen it creepe. This Stouer breeds, which some for pasture take. 1895 *E. Angl. Gloss., Stiver* or *Stover* marsh litter or marsh stuff.

Stover (stōu·vəɹ), *sb.*2 [f. STOVE *v.*1 + -ER 1.] One who stoves.

*c.*1600 in *Rep. MSS. Ld. Middleton* (1911) 169 [Rules to be observed by miners in the coalpits.] This is our master's comandment that all you stovers of the feild shalle make your just account unto your undermen everye nowne and every nyght what you have gett and sould. 1832 THACKRAH *Effects Arts etc. on Health* 58 The Stovers of Woollen Articles are also exposed to the evolution of sulphurous vapour. 1835 URE *Philos. Manuf.* 400 The stovers, in bleach-works and print-works, hang their cloth in temperatures much above 100° Fahr. 1861 *Internat. Exhib. 1862, Alph. Lists Trades* 39 Stovers. 1902 *Brit. Med. Jrnl.* 15 Feb. 380/1 Hatting Operatives...Proofers including 'stovers' ..and 'steamers'.

†**Stover,** *v. Obs.* [? f. STOVER *sb.*1] *intr.* ? To stand *up* like stubble, to bristle *up*.

1633 FORD *Lowe's Sacrif.* II. i, Beard be confin'd to neatnesse, that no haire-May stouer vp to pricke my mistris lip.

Stoving (stōu·vĭŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. STOVE *v.*1 + -ING 1.] The action of STOVE *v.*1 in various senses.

1456 SIR G. HAY *Gov. Princes* Wks. (S.T.S.) II. 143 Efter the stoving and bathing, men suld sytt on faire bynkis on thai herberis. 1664-5 PEPYS *Diary* 13 Feb., We had good discourse touching stoveing and making of cables. 1676 (*title*) Practical and Short Discourse of Stoving and Bathing. 1845 G. DODD *Brit. Manuf.* Ser. V. 73 Conversion of gyle into vinegar...This process of acetification is technically called 'stoving'. *Ibid.* 165 Hat-making...After another 'stoving' by which the spirit is evaporated [etc.]. 1862 C. O'NEILL *Dict. Calico Printing* 7/2 *Ageing*; known also as Stoving or Hanging. The operation of exposing printed or mordanted goods to the action of the air. Formerly the ageing or hanging rooms were kept hot by flues or steam pipes, whence called stoves, a name which they still retain in some places, though heat may not be used. 1882 CROOKES *Dyeing & Tissue-Printing* 4 Wool is bleached by the action of the fumes of burning sulphur...This process is generally known as 'stoving'.

b. *attrib.*

1456 SIR G. HAY *Gov. Princes* Wks. (S.T.S.) II. 143 Efter the sesone of ilke bathing and stoving time. 1686 BLOME *Gentl. Recr.* II. 279/1 Take them [Cocks] out of the Stoving-Baskets, and..put them into the Pens. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* IV. 338/2 The gases having done their work here, are carried off by the flues into the stoving-room, where they are made to do duty a second time in drying the salt.

Stow, *sb.*1 *Obs.* exc. *dial.* (sense 3). Forms: 1 stōw, 3 -stouwe, stowe, 4 steowe, stou, 9 *dial.* stow. [OE. *stōw* fem. = OFris. *stō*, ON. **stó* in *eldstó* fireplace:—OTeut. **stōwō* f. **stō-* (*sta-*): see STAND *v.*]

1. = PLACE *sb.* in various senses; a place on the surface of the earth or in space; occas. a place in a book or writing. Cf. ERDINGSTOW.

The word survives in the names of many towns and villages, sometimes separately, as Stow in Hunts, Stowe in Northamptonshire, Stow-on-the-Wold; more frequently as the terminal element, as in Chepstow.

Beowulf 1372 Nis þæt heorn stow. *c.*888 ÆLFRED *Boeth.* xxxiii. § 5 þu eart æzðer ze weg, ze ladþeow, ze sio stow ðe se weg to lixð. *a.*1175 *Cott. Hom.* 219 For wan hi beoð þuss icweðe me scel sigge, an oðre stowe. *c.*1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 207 He haueð..gon..seldere þenne he sholde to his chirche, and to oðre holie stowen. *c.*1205 LAY. 1209 Makian ich wile on þine nome mæren ane stowe. ?*a.*1300 *Shires England* 5 in *O. E. Misc.*, þe breade of Engle londe is þreo hundred myle brod from Dewyes steowe to Doueran. *a.*1310 in Wright *Lyric P.* xxxv. 98 On stou ase thou stode,..Thou restest the under rode.

2. (See quot.) *rare*—1.

*c.*1440 *Promp. Parv.* 478/1 Stowe, streythe passage betwyx ij. wallys or hedgys, *intercapedo*.

3. *dial.* (See quot.)

1856 MORTON *Cycl. Agric.* II. 726/1 *Stow* or *Trug.* (Lincolns.), a sheep-hurdle.

Stow (stōu), *sb.*2 *Mining.* Also 7-9 stowe, 9 stoe. [App. a sing. form evolved from STOWCE (to which the first quot. may belong).]

†**1.** = STOWCE. *Obs.*

?1550 in Pettus *Fodinæ Reg.* (1670) 93 And if any Gentleman or other man have any Ground lying in the Mine called The Kings Field of the Mine, they shall keep them lawfully with Stows and Timber. 1653 MANLOVE *Lead-Mines* 5 (E.D.S.) They may make crosses, holes, and set their Stowes, Sink Shafts, build Lodges, Cottages, or Coes. *a.*1661 FULLER *Worthies, Derby.* (1662) 229 He that stealeth Oar twice, is fined, and the third time struck through his hand with a Knife unto the haft into the Stow, and is there to stand until death, or loose himself by cutting off his hand. 1681 T. HOUGHTON *Rara Avis-in Terra* Gloss. (E.D.S.) *Stows*, seven pieces of wood..fastened with pins of wood together; two are called soul-trees; two, stow-blades; two, hang-benches; and a spindle: these stows give a miner, or any person that owns them, as good right to a meer or meers of ground (so that every meer have a pair of stows set on them) as a deed of conveyance doth to any purchaser. 1836 R. FURNESS *Astrol.* I. Poet. Wks. (1858) 133 Then would he dress a helm,..Make stows, and keep the heavy hours alive.

†**2.** A nick in the 'stow-blade'. *Obs.*

1851 TOPPING *Manlove's Customs Lead Mines* Gloss. 33/1 They have a nick in the top like an arrow's head, called a stow.

3. Comb. *stow-fork* = STOW-BLADE.

1824 MANDER *Derbysh. Miner's Gloss.* 68 In the Wapentake of Wirksworth they [the Stoces] contain seven pieces of wood, viz. two Sole-trees, two Hang Benches, two Stoe-forks, and one Spindle.

Stow (stōu), *sb.*3 *Obs.* exc. *techn.* Forms: 6-8 stowe, 7 stough, 7- stow. [Variant of STOVE *sb.*1]

†**1.** In various senses of STOVE *sb.*1: A hot-air bath; a heated room or chamber; a hothouse for plants; a closed fireplace. *Obs.*

In quot. 1599 the spelling *stouis* is prob. merely an example of the writing of *w* for *v* in Sc., and has no phonetic significance.

[1599 *Sc. Acts Jas. VI* (1816) IV. 187/2 Fewall..is alreddie brocht to ane grit decay within the boundis of þis realme by the excessiue spending..paire of laik of the formes of killis, stowis, and furnessis effermentionate.] 1614 MARKHAM *Cheap & Good Husb.* II. i. 114 To set Hens in the winter time in stowes or ouens is of no vse with vs in england. 1627 HAKEWILL *Apol.* (1630) 399 They could neither eate nor drinke vnlesse they had first bathed or had sweat in a stough. 1652-62 HEYLIN *Cosmogr.* I. (1682) 145 To keep the heat of their Stows from going out, or any cold from coming in. 1655 HARTLIB *Ref. Silk-worm* 30 Iohn Tradeskin.., by the advantage of putting his Trees, and other Plants into a warm house in winter or a stow, nurses up those things faire and fragrant, which would without that help either dye or be dwarft. 1713 PETIVER in *Phil. Trans.* XXVIII. 218 The Dutchess of Beaufort shewed me this [plant] in her Stows at Badmington. 1721 MORTIMER *Husb.* II. 267 Commit them early to their shelter, where they may intirely be preserv'd from the Frost; you may give them a gentle Stow, and attemper the Air with a Fire of Charcoal during the extream rigour of the Winter. 1730 *Inventory D. Bond's Goods* (1732) 18 A small Stow and Fender. 1731 *Inventory T. Warren's Goods* (1732) 32 One Cupboard, 2 Stowes.

2. *Tin-plate making.* (See quot. 1875.)

1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 1253 A range of rectangular cast-iron pots is set over a fire-flue in an apartment called the stow. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2413 *Stow*, a raised structure containing the furnace and set of pots used in the manufacture of tin-plate.

Stow, *sb.*4 *Sc.* and *dial.* Also stove; for other forms see *Eng. Dial. Dict.* s.v. *Stove.* [f. STOW *v.*2]

1. The stump of a tree or shrub.

1774 HUTCHINSON *Hist. Cumb.* (1794) I. 102 The bottoms, or stoves, of some of the trees,..which appeared to be then lately cut down.

2. A thick slice (of cheese).

1715 RAMSAY *Christ's Kirk Gr.* II. xx, A kebbuck syn.. pat on the sheaf, In stous that day.

Stow (stōu), *v.*1 Pa. t. and pa. pple. stowed (stōud). Forms: 4 stau, staw, stew, stouwe, stue, stywe, 4-7 stowe, 5 stou, stowyn, 6 stoe, 7 stoaw, stooe, 4- stow. *Pa. pple.* 4 i-stewid, 7 stoad. [f. STOW *sb.*1 Cf. BESTOW *v.*

OE. appears to have one example, *stouuigan* (= **stōwiam*) 'retentare' (*Corpus Gl. c.*725); but the meaning of the lemma is obscure, and the vb. recorded from the 14th c. onwards is prob. an independent formation.]

†**1.** *trans.* To place; to put in a certain place, position, or situation. *Obs.*

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 113 Wheþer þay wern worþy, oþer wers, wel wern þay stowed. *Ibid.* 352, & when 3e arn staued, styfly stekez yow þerinne. *Ibid.* 360 Al wer stawed & stoken, as þe steuen wolde. 1362 LANGL. *P. Pl. A.* v. 39 Leste þe kyng and his counseil 3or comunes apeire, And þeo stiward in oure stude til 3e be stouwet [*v.rr.* stewed, stuede, stuyd, stywed, stowed] betere. *c.*1374 CHAUCER *Troylus* III. 1271 (MS. Gg.) And for þou..Hast holpin þere I likly was to steruyn And me ben I-stewid [*other MSS.* bistowed] in so hi a place. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) III. 277 Tullius ..seiþ þat Socrates..cleped philosofie from hevene into erþe, and stowed [L. *collocavit*] philosofie in citees. *c.*1440 *Promp. Parv.* 478/1 Stowyn, or cowche to-gedyr, *loco, colloco.* 1555 PHAER *Æneid* II. (1558) F ij, And captiue children stode, and tremblyng wifes in long aray Were stowed about and wept. 1592 WARNER *Alb. Eng.* VIII. xli. (1612) 198 His eie had stoed her in his heart. 1593 SHAKS. *Lucr.* 119 Till sable Night..in her vaultie prison, stowes the daie.

refl. 1594 R. CAREW *Tasso* (1881) 10 Part campt abroad, part them in circuit stowe, Another part within Tortosa lay.

b. To lodge, quarter, find room for (persons). Now only in derogatory sense (after 3).

1604 SHAKS. *Oth.* I. ii. 62 Oh thou foule Theefe, Where hast thou stow'd my Daughter? 1607 ROWLANDS *Diogines Lanth.* C 1 b, If thou hast roome to stooe him in thy Tunne, He will be ready both to goe and runne. 1687 A. LOVELL tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* I. 277 There they lodge as well as they can, some having little Rooms made of wood, to which they go up by Ladders, and are stowed three or four together in one. 1707 PRIOR *Satire upon the Poets* 76 You've no Friend left, but trusting Landlady, Who stows you on hard Truckle, Garret high. 1739 'C. DODD' *Ch. Hist. Eng.* II. 170/2 She stowed her children in a pair of panniers, and so proceeded on her journey. 1759 ROBERTSON *Hist. Scot.* II. VIII. 47 Mrs. Beatrix Ruthven was brought..as one of their gentlewomen, into the court in the evening, and stowed in a chamber prepared for her by the queen's direction. 1760-72 H. BROOKE *Fool of Qual.* (1809) IV. 130 The coaches came, and Harry assisted..in carrying..and gently stowing the maimed and wounded into some of them. 1788 WESLEY *Jrnl.* 8 July, We were much distrest at Rotheram for want of room, the rain driving us into the house. However we stowed in it as many as we possibly could. 1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* XXXI, I will but see him stowed, and be back with you presently.

†**2.** To invest (money); to apply (money or goods) to a particular purpose; to spend. (Cf. BESTOW *v.* 5, 5 b.) *Obs.*

Sometimes written '*stow*, as if short for *bestow*.

*c.*1440 *Promp. Parv.* 478/1 Stowyn, or waryn, or besettyn, as men don moneye or chaffer, *commuto.* 1616 R. C. *Times Whistle* 2544 If thou dost flow In thy frank guiftes, and thy golde freely stow, The principall will make thy pennance ebbe. 1617 FLETCHER *Mad Lover* Prol., Remember, ye'ar all venturers; and in this Play How many twelve-pences ye have 'stow'd this day. 1742 YOUNG *Nt. Th.* VIII. 7 And yet Lorenzo still affects the world; There, stows his treasure. 1762 *Gentl. Mag.* XXXII. 287/1 When you stows eighteen pence in cakes & beer, To treat that dirty trollup, Mall Rosevear.

3. To place in a receptacle to be stored or kept in reserve. †Rarely with *up*.

1456 SIR G. HAYE *Law Arms* (S.T.S.) 111 To stou up his suerd in his furrell. *c.*1586 C'TESS PEMBROKE *Ps.* XLIX. v, Death in the pitt his carrion foode doth stow. 1596 SPENSER *F. Q.* IV. vii. 6 His neather lip was..like a wide deepe poke ..In which he wont the relickes of his feast And cruell spoyle, which he had spard, to stow. 1601 R. JOHNSON *Kingd. & Commw.* (1603) 224 It was fiercelie assaulted, and as valiantly defended, vntil the fire began to take hold vpon the bulwarke wherein their prouision of gunpowder was stowed. 1683 [R. NORTH] *Discourse Fish & Fish-ponds* xvi. (1713) 62 Some use to put up Fish in Baskets or Hampers for Carriage, stowing them with Grass between. 1706 E. WARD *Wooden World Diss.* (1708) 53 He's soon equipped for his Journey, for he stows all his Baggage in his Pockets. 1720 OZELL *Vertot's Rom. Rep.* II. IX. 51 [That they] had brought home not only their Purses fill'd with Gold and Silver, but had likewise stow'd it in to Pots and Vessells. 1862 CALVERLEY *Verses & Transl.* (ed. 2) 64, I.. Place 'neath my head the *havre-sac* Which I have stowed my little all in. 1874 SYMONDS *Sk. Italy & Greece* (1898) I. ii. 33 Raftered lofts to stow the hay. 1877 *Five Yrs. Penal Serv.* iii. 246 She'd smug a whole piece of silk and stow it under her petticoats.

absol. 1824 SCOTT *Redgauntlet* ch. xv, The Miller, or old Peel-the-Causeway, will tell you where to stow.

b. *jocularly.* To find room for (a quantity of food).

1833 L. RITCHIE *Wand. by Loire* 54 We are still filled with curiosity..to know how they contrive to stow all they eat.

4. *Naut.* To place (cargo) in proper order in the hold or other receptacles in a ship; also, to store (provisions, etc.) between decks.

Possibly influenced by the (etymologically unconnected) Du. *stouwen* in the same sense.

1555 *Instit. Genul.* E vj, Ptolomye..caused all thys golde and siluer..to bee put into certayne shippes..; and ordeyned that holes shoulde be made in the bottoms of the sayde vessels wherin he had stowed him selfe and the mony. 1598 FLORIO, *Stipare*,..Also to presse downe hard, to stowe as merchandise is in a ship. 1627 CAPT. SMITH *Sea Gram.* vii. 33 Stowage or to stow, is to put the goods in Howle in order. 1633 T. JAMES *Voy.* 74 There stowd we a But of Wine also. 1644 MANWAYRING *Seamans Dict.* 103 To *Stowe*, is to put any goods in Howld (in order, for else we say it is not stowed, but lyes in howld) also we call it stowing betweene the Decks of [*read* if] any goods or victuals be placed in order upon the Decks: but it is not used in this kind to small things, as to a Chest or the like. 1661 GODOLPHIN *View Admir. Jurisd.* Introd. [a 5 b], He may not over-charge or over-lade his Ship, nor stowe Goods above her birth-mark. 1725 POPE *Odyss.* II. 439 The Goddess shov'd the vessel from the shores, And stow'd within its womb the naval stores. 1743 BULKELEY & CUMMINS *Voy. S. Seas* 3 Here we employ'd most of our Time in getting aboard Water, and stowing our dry Provisions between Decks. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* II. x. 241 They take on board a much greater quantity of water than can be stowed between decks,..yet ..even a three months store of water could never be stowed in a ship so loaded. 1800 COLERIDGE *Wallenstein* I. vii, I am but the ship in which his hopes were stow'd. 1821 SHELLEY *Boat on Serchio* 74 Stow the eatables in the aft locker. 1845 STEPHEN *Comm. Laws Eng.* (1874) II. 134 Goods stowed upon the deck. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* I. v. 651 The human cargoes were stowed close in the holds of small vessels. 1883 BRETT in *Law Times Rep.* (1884) XLIX. 768/2 Part of the timber which was stowed on the deck was jettisoned by the captain of the vessel.

b. To fasten down (persons) under the hatches for confinement or safety.

1602 MARSTON *Antonio's Rev.* II. iv. E 1 b, Antonio's bride, pure heart, defam'd, and stoad Vnder the hatches of obscuring earth. 1610 SHAKS. *Temp.* I. ii. 230 The Mariners all vnder hatches stowed. 1622 FLETCHER *Sea-Voy.* I. i, *Mast.* Clap this woman under hatches..For heaven's sake stoaw this woman. 1644 WINTHROP *Hist. New Eng.* (1826) II. 192 They..had stowed the lady and her people under hatches.

c. To put (guns, oars, furniture, etc.) in the proper receptacles on board.

*c.*1595 CAPT. WYATT *Dudley's Voy.* (Hakl. Soc.) 58 [He] caused his leiftenant..to commaunde the gunners to make readie all such grear peeces of ordinance as weare not

allreadie dismounted and stowed. 1596 SAVILE *Libell Sp. Lies* 24 As for the Oares.. they had stoed them aboarde their Shippes. 1700 DRYDEN *Fables, Ceyx & Alcyone* 107 Some stow their Oars or stop the leaky Sides. 1726 SWIFT *Gulliver* I. viii, I took out my other cables, which were stowed in one of the ships. 1857 C. GRIBBLE in *Merc. Marine Mag.* (1858) V. 8 [They] stowed the anchors. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk., Stowing Hammocks*, placing them in a neat and symmetrical order in the hammock-netting.

d. To furl (a sail).

1644 MANWAYRING *Seamans Dict.* 103 Also the placing and laying of the top-sailes in the top, is called Stowing the top-sailes. 1769 FALCONER *Dict. Marine* II. (1780), *Dedans*, when expressed of the sails, imports furled or stowed. 1823 W. SCORESBY *Jrnl.* 302 We close-reefed the top-sails, and stowed the courses. 1836 MARRYAT *Pirate* I, The men were..stowing away the foretopmast-staysail. 1885 LADY BRASSEY *The Trades* 465, 8 A.M.—Stowed foresail...10 P.M. —Stowed topgallant sail.

e. *To stow down*: to put down into a vessel's hold; in quot., to yield (a certain quantity) to be stowed down.

1850 SCORESBY *Cheever's Whalem. Adv.* xii. (1858) 178 That whale stowed us down eighty-five barrels of oil.

f. Of a ship: To have stowage-room for; to hold. ? *Obs.*

1615 E. S. *Britaines Buss* in Arber *Eng. Garner* III. 635 The Buss can conveniently stow at once but 34 Last of Caske. 1617 FLETCHER *Mad Lover* IV. i, Shall thy black Bark those guilty spirits stow That kill themselves for love? 1645 WINTHROP *Hist. New Eng.* (1826) II. 240 He entertained as many as his ship could stow.

5. a. *Naut.* To fill (the hold of a ship, etc.) with cargo; to load (a ship). Also, to fit up (a ship), supply with necessaries.

1692 *Capt. Smith's Seaman's Gram.* I. xvi. 78 *Stowing the Hold*, is when they take goods into the Hold. 1703 *La Hontan's Voy. N. Amer.* I. 127 Upon that occasion I repeated my Presents; in compensation of which my Pirogues were stow'd with Beef as full as they could hold. 1755 MAGENS *Insurances* II. 16 If..a Master overloads his Ship or stows it unskilful. 1845 *Encycl. Metrop.* VI. 383/1 This officer is directed..to obtain the most correct information he can of the manner in which the hold was stowed when she was last in commission. 1856 KANE *Arct. Expl.* I. xix. 234, I find upon my return the brig so stowed and refitted that four days would prepare us for sea.

b. *transf.* To fill (a receptacle), to pack (*full, close*) with things or persons; to crowd with contents.

1710 C. SHADWELL *Fair Quaker Deal* I. i. 15 [A sailor speaks.] Pshaw, who would not stand all this, to have their upper and lower Teer well Stow'd with Flip? 1758 WESLEY *Jrnl.* 11 Oct., The House was stowed as full as possible, but still many were constrained to stand without. 1785 BURNS *To W. Simpson* 24 Ye Enbrugh Gentry! The tythe o' what ye waste at cartes Wad stow'd his [Fergusson's] pantry! 1815 SCOTT *Guy M.* xxxix, The lawyer afterwards compared his mind to the magazine of a pawnbroker, stowed with goods of every description, but [etc.]. 1817 COLERIDGE *Biogr. Lit.* II. 207 The passage boat..was stowed close with all people of all nations. 1849 CUPPLES *Green Hand* iii. (1856) 33 The window [of the shop] was stowed full of cakes of cavendish, twists of negrohead, and coils of pigtail. 1850 R. G. CUMMING *Hunter's Life S. Afr.* (1902) 52/1 The morning was spent in stowing the waggons, greasing the wheels, [etc.].

6. **Stow away.** a. *trans.* To remove and store until required; to put (a thing) away in a secret or not readily accessible place; or where it will be out of the way; occas. to put or lodge (a person) in out-of-the-way quarters, or in a place of concealment; *jocularly*, to 'put out of sight', 'dispose of', eat up (quantities of food).

1795 VANCOUVER *Agric. Essex* 23 Successive hoeings [of the carrots] will cost about four pounds per acre: and gathering, lopping, tailing, and stowing away, will be about four pounds per acre more. 1825 T. HOOK *Sayings* Ser. II. *Passion & Princ.* vi, He was 'stowed away' in a manner perfectly suitable; as the chambermaid thought, to the condition of an outside passenger..who..carried his own portmanteau up stairs. 1833 HT. MARTINEAU *Vanderput* I. 1 The bales of merchandize which could not be stowed away before dark. 1847 C. BRONTE *Jane Eyre* V, At last the guard returned; once more I was stowed away in the coach. 1857 DUFFERIN *Lett. High Lat.* vii. (ed. 3) 133 We had some difficulty about stowing away the legs of a tall philosopher. 1865 LIVINGSTONE *Zambesi* vii. 169 They..eat till it becomes physically impossible for them to stow away any more. *a* 1881 A. BARRATT *Phys. Metemtiric* (1883) 253 On the spiritual theory, past ideas..must be imagined to be stowed away in some fashion, to exist all the time till they happen to be wanted. 1885 CHITTY in *Law Times' Rep.* LIII. 83/2 The plate..is now stowed away in the strong room of a bank.

refl. 1849 CUPPLES *Green Hand* xiv (1856) 114 Then I shins aloft up a tree, where I stowed myself away till noon.

b. *intr.* for *refl.* To conceal oneself on board a ship, to be a STOWAWAY.

1879 STEVENSON *Ess. Trav., Amateur Emigrant* (1905) 62 He had now made up his mind to stow away. 1916 *Daily Chron.* 3 Feb., They escaped and reached Gibraltar on a steamer on which they had stowed away.

†7. *slang.* a. *intr.* To cease speaking, 'shut up'. *Obs.* b. *trans.* To desist from.

1567 HARMAN *Caveat* (1869) 84 Stow you, holde your peace. 1676 COLES, *Stow your whids*, c[anting], speak warily. *a* 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew*, *Stow*, you have said enough. 1796 *Grose's Dict. Vulgar T.* (ed. 3), *Stow you*, be silent, or hold your peace. 1806 *Naval Chron.* XV. 18 A sailor..bawled..for those aloft to stow their jabber. 1812 J. H. VAUX *Flash Dict.* s.v., To *stow* any business, employment, or mode of life, is the same as to *stash it*, &c. *Ibid.*, *Stow, stow it*, or *stow-jaking*, an intimation from a thief to his pall, to desist from what he is about. 1838 DICKENS *O. Twist* XV, 'Stow that gammon,' interposed the robber, impatiently. 1857 'DUCANGE ANGLICUS' *Vulgar Tongue* 20 *Stow your mag*, hold your tongue. *L[ow] Life.* 1865 H. KINGSLEY *Hillyars & Burtons* xxxiii, 'Stow larks, Jimmy,' said the constable. 1882 'OUIDA' *Under Two Flags* XXV. (1890) 392 'Stow that, sir,' cried Rake, vehemently. 1884 HENLEY & STEVENSON *Adm. Guinea* III. ii. (1892) 232 *Pew.* Stow your gab (seizing his wrist).

†8. Obscure or uncertain senses: a. ? To bring to a stand; b. ? To arrest, imprison. *Obs.*

a. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 478/1 Stowyn, or charyn ageyne[,] cowpyn, idem quod Stoppyn.

b. *c* 1450 *Cov. Myst., Wom. Adultery* (1841) 217 *Accusator.* Stow that harlot sum erthely wyght... *Juvenis.* 3iff any man stow me this nyth, I xal hym 3eve a dedly wownde. 1546 GARDINER *Declar. Joye* 15 Ye crye stowe the theefe, to hyde your selfe with the noyse. 1614 R. TAILOR *Hog hath lost Pearl* II. C 3 b, My lord and father hath put them all to the bastinado twice this morning already; not a wayting woman but has been stowed ifaith.

9. *Comb.* **stow-board** *Mining* (see quots.); **stow-down**, the action of stowing down (cargo); that which is stowed down (see 4 e); **stow-master**, a man in charge of the stowing of a boat; **stow-road, stow-wood** (see quots.).

1851 GREENWELL *Coal-trade Terms, Northumb. & Durh.* 53 **Stow-board*, a board driven for convenience of stowage. 1860 *Mining Gloss., Newcastle Terms* 64 *Stowbord*, a place into which rubbish is put. 1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coalmining* 243 *Stow-board*, a board or heading in which debris is stowed. 1857 P. COLQUHOUN *Oarsman's Guide* 22 One [man] should do the cooking;..another act as **stow-master*. 1886 J. BARROWMAN *Sc. Mining Terms* 65 **Stow road*, an abandoned road in which debris is stowed. 1846 A. YOUNG *Naut. Dict.* 324 **Stow-wood*, billets of wood used as chocks for steadying casks in a vessel's hold.

Stow, *v.*[2] Now only *Sc.* and *dial.* Also 7 **stowe**, 7–9 **stoo**; for other forms see *Eng. Dial. Dict.* s.v. *Stove.* [The various dialectal pronunciations—stau in Suffolk, stūv in Cumberland, stū in Sc.—seem to point to a ME. **stūven*, f. **stūf* a. ON. *stúf-r*, stump. (The mod. dial. STOW *sb.*[4], however, is f. the verb.) Cf. ON. *stýfa* to cut off.] *trans.* To crop, cut close; *esp.* to cut off (ears), crop the ears of (a sheep); to lop off the branches of (a tree), or the leaves of (a plant); to trim (a hedge); to cut (a cheese) down to the rind.

1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* VI. viii. 41 Half hedis spulzeit, of stowit his eris tuay. 15.. LYNDESAY [*Satyre* 1939] in *Bannatyne MS.* (Hunter. Club) 503 Quhae devill maid yow a gentillmann wald nocht stow [1602 cut] your luggis? 1600 PORY tr. *Leo's Africa* VI. 271 They will stow the palme-trees also to the very stocks. 1618 W. LAWSON *Orch. & Gard.* (1623) 15 If you use to stowe or top your tree too much..such a kinde of stowing is a kinde of smothering, or choaking the sap. 1641 BEST *Farm. Bks.* (Surtees) 80 Yow are neaver to carry a lambe but by the forelegges,..and in stowinge of them yow are..to double the eare eaven and to cutte of the toppes as rownde as yow can without forkinge. 1691 RAY *N. C. Words* 70 *Stood*: Cropt: Sheep are said to be stood whose Ears are cropt, and Men who wear their Hair very short. 1712 J. JAMES tr. *Le Blond's Gardening* 173 By cutting the Palisade down to four or five Foot high, or by stowing it close with the Hedging-Bill. *a* 1774 FERGUSSON *Rising of Session* Poems (1845) 28 After their yokin, I wat weel, They'll stoo the kebbuck to the heel. 1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Mid.* xlix, A drunken Jacobite laird wished for a Bothwell-Brigg whig, that 'he might stow the lugs out of his head.' 1818 — *Rob Roy* xxxiv, I wad stow the tongue out o' the head o' ony o' them that suld presume to say ower again ony speech held wi' me in their presence. 1823 E. MOOR *Suffolk Words, Stow*, rhyming to *now*. To cut the boughs of a pollard tree close to the head. *a* 1846 RODGER *Poems* (1897) 100 They pu'd their ain fruit, and they stoo'd their ain kail. 1903 *Westmorld. Gaz.* 27 June 5/2 Came astray, in March, rough ewe ..stowed near ear, no other marks.

†**Stow,** *v.*[3] *Mining. Obs.* [f. STOW *sb.*[2]] *trans.* To supply with stows. Also *absol.*

? 1550 in Pettus *Fodinæ Reg.* (1670) 92 Also by the old Custom Miners ought to have Wood of the Kings Wood to stow and timber their Groves under the Earth and above. *Ibid.* 93 A man may go home and fetch his Tools to work with, and Timber to stow with.

†**Stow,** *int.* Also **stowe.** A call addressed to a hawk by a falconer to make it come to his fist.

c 1520 SKELTON *Magnyf.* 968 Stowe, byrde, stowe, stowe! It is best I fede my hawke now. — *Ware the Hauke* 73 The fauconer..cryed, Stow, stow, stow! 1575 TURBERV. *Faulconrie* 182 Make them come from it [the perch] to your fist eyther much or little, with calling and chirping to them, saying: Towe, Towe, or Stowe, Stowe, as Falconers vse, and when they come feed them. 1621 BRATHWAIT *Nat. Embassie* etc. 250 But stow bird stow, See now the game's a foote. 1847 HALLIWELL (citing *Gent. Rec.* ii. 58).

Stowable (stōu·ăb'l), *a.* [f. STOW *v.*[1] + -ABLE.] Capable of being stowed.

1620 FOLKINGHAM *Feudigr.* I. viii. 19 A blackish moulde which is light,..mellow, of moderate warmth, not stowable in the primer continent. 1845 STOCQUELER *Handbk. Brit. India* (1854) 84 Besides being more easily stowable in a cabin.., they [*sc.* portmanteaus] can bear a good deal of tumbling about in holds and baggage-rooms.

Stowadore, obs. form of STEVEDORE.

Stowage (stōu·ĕdʒ). Also 4 **stouuage**, **stouwage**, 6–7 **stoage**, 8 **stowidge**. [f. STOW *v.*[1] + -AGE. First in Anglo-Latin form *stowagium*. Cf. Du. *stouwage*, *stuwage*.]

1. The action or operation of stowing cargo on board ship, or goods in a warehouse, etc.

[1352 *Exch. Acc.* Q. R. 20 no. 27 (Publ. Rec. Office) De xd. pro portagio xxvj. dicr' pellium boum..de navi usque in domum Southantonie, et de xij d. pro stouuag' eorundem [*sic*] ibidem in eadem domo.] 1390 *Earl Derby's Exped.* (Camden) 22 Et per manus eiusdem pro strycage et stouwage xij. doliorum vini et floure, xs. vj d. *a* 1513 FABYAN *Chron.* VII. (1811) 391 By meanes of the sayd marchauntes straungers, it was at this day brought to passe that they myght hyre to them houses for to dwell in, and for stowage of theyr wares. 1586 *Acts Privy Council* (1897) XIV. 217 Certaine cellers and stoarehouses built of late on the cliftes and sea coast for the stoage of pilchardes. 1594 J. DAVYS *Seaman's Secr.* II. (1607) 16 Being an instrument portable, of easie stowage. 1626 CAPT. SMITH *Accid. Yng. Seamen* 5 The quarter Maisters hath the charge of the hold for stowage, rommageing, and trimming the shippe. 1733 W. ELLIS *Chiltern & Vale Farm.* 252 Even here they can't enjoy a Cellar for the Stowage of their Liquors. 1784 J. KING *Cook's 3rd Voy.* VI. v. III. 294 On Wednesday we had finished the stowage of the holds. 1840 R. H. DANA *Bef. Mast* iii, The mate..has the charge of the stowage, safe-keeping, and delivery of the cargo. 1865 DICKENS *Mut. Fr.* II. i, From his early childhood up, his mind had been a place of mechanical stowage. 1883 *Manch. Exam.* 6 Nov. 5/4 Board of Trade officers..will supervise the loading, stowage and general equipment of the vessels. 1891 *Law Rep., Weekly Notes* 61/1 The goods were stolen during the stowage after they were on board by one of the stevedores' men. 1907 'Q.' (Quiller-Couch) *Poison Isl.* xi, The coachman..anon breaking off to direct the stowage of a parcel.

transf. (*jocular.*) 1833 M. SCOTT *Tom Cringle* xvi, A large dish of scalding..hasty pudding,..with which Wagtail was in the habit of commencing his stowage at breakfast.

b. Manner in which the contents of a ship are stowed.

1769 FALCONER *Dict. Marine* (1780), *Stowage*, the general disposition of the several materials contained in a ship's hold, with regard to their figure, magnitude, or solidity. 1865 ARNOULD *Marine Insur.* III. i. (ed. 3) II. 667 The casks however had not shifted their places, in other words, 'the stowage was not damaged'. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.* s.v. *Stowage*, Owners and masters are legally liable to the losses by bad stowage or deficient dunnage.

†2. A duty levied on goods stowed. *Obs.*

[1434 in H. Swinden *Gt. Yarmouth* (1772) 56 *note*, Seisiti fuerunt de..alia custuma vocata stowagio, videlicet, duobus denariis de quolibet pondere dolii cujuscunque mercandise ..in portu predicto posite seu stowate capiendis.]

3. The condition or process of being stowed or placed in a receptacle.

1611 SHAKS. *Cymb.* I. vi. 192 'Tis Plate of rare deuice, and Iewels Of rich and exquisite forme..And I am something curious, being strange To haue them in safe stowage. 1856 KANE *Arctic Expl.* I. xv. 182 By one in the morning we had our discarded excess of pemmican and the boat once more in stowage.

b. The condition of being closely filled or packed.

1825 HONE *Every-day Bk.* I. 438 Clouds of tobacco-smoke ..declare the full stowage of each apartment.

4. Room or accommodation for stowing anything; internal capacity of a warehouse or a receptacle of any kind.

1547 *Acts Privy Council* (1890) II. 466 Though he had not convenient stowage for the same [vytayls]. 1579 FENTON *Guicciard.* II. (1599) 544 They approched it vnder the benefite of a caske or vessell of wood..within which was stowage for 300 men. 1612 BODLEY *Will* in Macray *Ann. Bodl. Libr.* (1890) 406 There must..be very great want of conueyance & stowage for Bookes. 1622 FLETCHER *Beggar's Bush* IV. i, When by your leave..We could have stoage for a little cloth, Or a few wines. 1634 W. WOOD *New Eng. Prosp.* (1865) 58 Yet being a heavy commodity, and taking but a little stoage, it is cheaper to carry such commodities out of England. 1655 FULLER *Hist. Camb.* 166 His industrious minde had vast stoage for words. 1703 *La Hontan's Voy. N. Amer.* I. 26 But those [canoes] of a larger size will easily afford stowage for fourteen Persons. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* II. x. 247 The small stowage necessary for the silver. 1817–8 COBBETT *Resid. U. S.* (1822) 164 He must lay in his store [of potatoes] at the beginning of winter. ..And, where is he *to find* stowage? He has no caves. 1869 *Daily News* 13 July, The ordinary amount of 700 tons, which is the stowage of both the Northumberland and Agincourt. 1889 WELCH *Text Bk. Naval Archit.* ii. 28 This is more important in ships of moderate dimensions having relatively large stowage in the upper bunkers.

b. *jocularly.* Capacity for food.

1651 BIGGS *New Disp.* P 282 To wish that he had not.. crammed the stowage of his body so much. *a* 1716 SOUTH *Serm.* (1744) VIII. 8 What were all the fasts..of the late Reformers, but the forbearing of dinners? that is, the enlarging the stowage, and the redoubling the appetite, for a larger supper? 1819 SCOTT *Leg. Montrose* vi, 'I have still some stowage left for beef and bannocks,' said the Captain.

5. A place in which something is stowed.

a 1641 BP. MOUNTAGU *Acts & Mon.* (1642) 409 There must be a supply of soules for men to be borne, either by new creating of new soules, or by assuming them already created, as out of a Promptuary, Repository, or some Stowage of soules. 1641 MILTON *Animadv.* 53 They may as well sue for Nunneries, that they may have some convenient stowage for their wither'd daughters. 1710 C. SHADWELL *Fair Quaker Deal* V. 60 Faith I'll treat my Jenny [*pulls out a large rich Purse*] with this Purse of Gold; the weighty Stowage of a fair hundred Guineas. 1805 W. TAYLOR in *Ann. Rev.* III. 314 Malta and Gibralter would be convenient stowages for such recruits. 1848 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* IX. II. 571 A room under the stowage or cooling-room. *Ibid.* 572 The floor of the stowage.

b. A receptacle for stowing cargo.

1815 *Falconer's Dict. Marine* (ed. Burney) s.v. *Stranded*, A cargo packed in Mr. Dickenson's patent iron stowages.

6. That with which a vessel is or is to be stowed.

1622 FLETCHER *Sea-Voy.* I. i, Let the Ship sinck or swimme; we ha nere better luck, When we ha such stoage as these trinkets with us, These sweet sin-breeders. 1778 FOOTE *Trip Calais* I. Wks. 1799 II. 329, I must take t' other

trip to the port, for your stowage. 1823 LAMB *Elia, Old Margate Hoy*, Not many rich, not many wise, or learned, composed at that time the common stowage of a Margate packet.

7. *Mining.* (See quot.)

1886 J. BARROWMAN *Sc. Mining Terms* 65 *Stowage*, or *stowing*, in longwall, the space from which the mineral has been extracted and which has been filled with debris.

8. *attrib.*, as *stowage capacity, house, space*; **stowage goods** (see quot.); **stowage room,** (*a*) space for stowing goods; (*b*) a room in which hops are placed after drying.

1871 *Routledge's Ev. Boy's Ann.* Apr. 248 Her *stowage capacity was not over 100 tons. 1863 A. YOUNG *Naut. Dict.* 395 **Stowage goods*, those which usually pay freight according to their bulk. 1547 *Acts Privy Council* (1890) II. 466 The furnisshing and coveryng of the *stowage houses. 1763 W. ROBERTS *Nat. Hist. Florida* 64 To make *stowage-room for the corn of the new year. 1805 R. W. DICKSON *Pract. Agric.* II. 754 An adjoining room constructed for the purpose, which is called the stowage room. 1844 DICKENS *Mart. Chuz.* xvi, The more ample stowage-room he had for dollars. 1890 W. J. GORDON *Foundry* 74 It is almost impossible to realize the *stowage space of one of these huge liners.

Stowaway (stōu·ăwē). [f. vbl. phrase *stow away*: see STOW *v.*[1] 6.] A person who hides in a ship in order to escape payment of passage-money, to get to sea unobserved, or to escape by stealth from a country.

1854 *Ann. Reg.* 191 He had been seized as a 'stow-away'. 1885 *American* XI. 78 Forty-seven stowaways were found in the hold of one vessel.

† Stow-ball. *Obs.* Also 7 **stopball, stoball, stob-ball, stobball.** [Of obscure origin.

Commonly identified with STOOL-BALL; but the games appear to have been very dissimilar, and the corruption of *stool-ball* into *stoball, stobball* seems hardly probable. Possibly the first element may be STOB *sb.*, denoting the club or 'staff'.]

An outdoor ball-game commonly played in the 16–17 c. (see quots.). Also *attrib.*

1634 *Abp. Laud's Visit.* in *4th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. 144/1 This whole churchyard is made a receptacle for all ydle persons to spend their time in stopball, and such lyke recreacions. *c* 1640 J. SMYTH *Hund. Berkeley* (1885) 10 The large and levell playnes..in the vale of this hundred..doe witnes the inbred delight, that both gentry, yeomanry, rascallity, boyes and children, doe take in a game called Stoball. ..And not a sonne of mine, but at 7. was furnished with his double stoball staves, and a gamster therafter. 1679 LOCKE in Ld. King *Life* (1830) I. 248 The sports of England, which, perhaps, a curious stranger would be glad to see, are..shooting in the long-bow and stob-ball, in Tothill Fields. *a* 1686 AUBREY *Nat. Hist. Wilts* (1847) 117 Stobball-play is peculiar to North Wilts, North Gloucestershire, and a little part of Somerset near Bath. They smite a ball, stuffed very hard with quills and covered with soale leather, with a staffe, commonly made of withy, about 3 [feet] and a halfe long...A stobball-ball is of about four inches diameter, and as hard as a stone. 1694 E. CHAMBERLAYNE *Pres. St. Eng.* III. vii. 463 The Citizens and Peasants have..Skittles or Nine-pins, Shovel-board, Stow-ball, Goffe, [etc.]. 1801 STRUTT *Sports & Past.* II. iii. 82 A pastime called Stow-ball is frequently mentioned by the writers of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, which, I presume, was a species of goff, at least it appears to have been played with the same kind of ball. 1907 F. W. HACKWOOD *Old Eng. Sports* 144 In the English modification of Goff, the club employed was not unlike the bandy-stick...In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries this game was also known as Stow-ball.

b. A ball used in this game.

1678 LITTLETON *Lat.-Eng. Dict., Paganica*,..a goff-ball, a stow-ball, stuffed with feathers.

Stow-blade. *Mining.* Also **stoblade.** [f. STOW *sb.*[2]] Each of two upright pieces of wood, a foot in length, connected at the top with the sole-trees of a stow or stowce.

1681 [see STOW *sb.*[2] 1]. 1747 HOOSON *Miner's Dict.* K 1, Two Irons..are put into each end of the Turntree, and run in the Slots of the Stoblades. 1851 TAPPING *Manlove's Customs Lead Mines* Gloss. 33/1 Two upright pieces of wood called stow-blades, about one foot long, [etc.].

Stow-boat. *local.* [Of obscure origin; perh. an alteration of STALL-BOAT, from association with STOW *v.*[1] Cf. STOW-NET.

This view gains some support from the forms *storbanting, storbatin*, given in the *Eng. Dial. Dict.* as the Suffolk pronunciation of '*Stow-boating*, (1) dredging up stone at sea for making Roman cement (Kent); (2) fishing for sprats (Suff.).' But the final *l* in *stall* is normally dropped only in northern and north midland dialects.]

A kind of boat used in fishing for sprats. Also *attrib.* Hence **Stow-boating** *vbl. sb.*

1833 *Rep. Sel. Comm. Brit. Channel Fisheries* 11 The Stow-boat Fishery, or Catching of Sprats for Manure. *Ibid.*, There are at present from 400 to 500 Boats engaged in Stow-boating on the Kentish Coast only. *Ibid.* 58 How many men are there on board the stow-boats? 1883 *St. James's Gaz.* 21 Dec. 6/1 It is to the stow-boats..that the London poor owe their chief supply of these valuable little fish.

Stowbornes, obs. form of STUBBORNNESS.

Stowce (stōus). *Mining.* Also 7 **stose,** 8–9 **stoce,** 9 **stowse.** See also STOW *sb.*[2] [Of obscure origin; possibly a contraction of *stothes*, pl. of *stothe*, STOOTH.] *sing.* and *pl.* A kind of windlass for drawing up ore; in Derbyshire, a special form of this apparatus; also, a model of this, intended not for working, but to comply with the old law which provides that the presence of an owner's 'stowce' on a mining tract secures his right of possession. Hence **Stowce** *v., trans.*, to mark (a 'meer' of ground) with 'a pair of stowces'.

1664 in Tapping *Manlove's Customs Lead Mines* (1851) Gloss. 33 If there be any miner..that has any grove or meer of ground in the mines, he or they shall keep the same in lawful possession both stosed and yoked,..we mean one pair of stoses and one yoking of timber in all men's sight. 1747 HOOSON *Miner's Dict.* F 2, In the High Peak the Cross and Stake holds Possession, but while a Man may go home to fetch his small Stoce's to set on it. 1802 MAWE *Min. Derbysh.* Gloss. (E. D. S.), *Stowces*, [a] drawing-stowce, a small windlass. *Ibid.*, *Stowces*, pieces of wood of particular forms and constructions placed together, by which the possession of mines is marked; a pair of stowces possess a mear of ground. 1824 MANDER *Derbysh. Miner's Gloss.* 68 *Stoce.* First. Under this head is described the Miners drawing Stoce, also the Stoce of Pretence or Possession. *Ibid.* 69 The Stocing is placing the Stoce on the surface of the land under which the Mine lies, by the Miners, to denote how far their title extends. 1829 *Glover's Hist. Derby* I. 75 Small models of stowses..came in use, as the means of keeping possession. 1851 TAPPING *Manlove's Customs Lead Mines* Gloss. 33/1 *Stowe* or *Stowse*, or, as sometimes called, a *Possession* or *Stowse of Pretence*, is a machine which formerly was the only apparatus for drawing up the ore in tubs from the mine. It is constructed of seven pieces of timber, [etc.]. 1876 *Mid-Yorksh. Gloss., Stoarces*, a frame to support a wooden roller, in the process of heaving or hoisting by hand; Nidd[erdale]. 1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-mining* 243 *Stowses*, a windlass or wallow.

Stowe, pa. t. (pl.) of STY *v.*

Stowed (stōud), *ppl. a.* [f. STOW *v.*[1] + -ED [1].] In senses of the vb.; also *stowed-away* (STOW *v.*[1] 6).

P By Fairfax used for: Having a position in space.

1674 N. FAIRFAX *Bulk & Selv.* 81 That unto a stowsomness or local respect between two stowed beings, 'tis not only needful they should be both bulky;..but [etc.]. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s. v. *Roussin*, A strong well knit, well stowed horse. 1856 J. W. PALMER *Up & Down Irrawaddi* 219 (Cent.) We pointed to the white rolls of stowed hammocks in the nettings.

Stowell, obs. form of STOOL.

Stower (stōu·ər), *sb.*[1] *Obs.* exc. *dial.* Forms: 4 **sture,** 4–5 **store,** 4–5, 9 **stoure,** 5 **staure, stourre,** 5–9 **stowre,** 6 **stoowre, stowir,** 6–9 **stour,** 8 **stowr,** 7– **stower.** [a. ON. *staur-r*, stake.]

1. A stake, hedge-stake; a pale; a pole, post. *Stower-and-daub*: = *wattle and daub* (see DAUB *sb.*[1]) † *Stick and stower* (*stour*): see STICK *sb.*[1] 3 c.

1371 in *Fabric Rolls York Minster* (Surtees) 355 Uni homini amputanti stoures..pro parietibus domorum..per diem, 4d. 1374 in Willis & Clark *Cambridge* (1886) I. 238 Dormannes giystes et etiam stures cum pertinenciis pro mediis parietibus in dictis cameris sub et supra. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xix. (*Christopher*) 224 Pane in his hand he hynt his store. 1417–18 *Durham Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 302 Pro staures emptis pro shepebekkys apud le Holme, 16 d. *c* 1420 *Avow. Arth.* vii, Butte sette my head opon a store, Butte giffe he flaey 30 alle fawre. *c* 1440 *Alphabet of Tales* 158 He gatt hym a stowre, & gnew vppon pe tone end & made it sharpe with his tethe, & prustid hym selfe evyn thrugh perwith. 1481–2 in *Finchale Priory Charters* etc. (Surtees) p. cccl, Et in stowrys et virgis emptis pro eodem, xvjd. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* IX. viii. 149 Apon a speyr, Or heich sting or stour of the fyr tre. 1674 RAY *N. C. Words* 45 A *Stowre*,..a hedge-stake. 1792 *Statist. Acc. Scot.* II. 16 Pock-net fishing..is performed by fixing stakes or stours (as they are called) in the sand. 1798 *Sporting Mag.* XII. 166 Cut from thence a certain number of stakes and stowers.

2. Each of the upright staves in the side of a wagon.

1641 BEST *Farm. Bks.* (Surtees) 35 Wee sende worde to the wright to come and see that the axle-trees and felfes of the waines bee sownde..and likewise to putte in stowers wheare any are wantinge. 1691 RAY *N. C. Words* (ed. 2) 70.

3. A rung of a ladder.

1674 RAY *N. C. Words* 45 *Stowre*, a round of a ladder.

4. A punt-pole.

1777 in C. W. Hatfield *Hist. Notices Doncaster* (1866) I. 194 Five men, with long 'stowers' and boat hooks were placed at St. Mary's. 1822 BEWICK *Mem.* ii. (1862) 18 We then set to work with a 'boat-stower' to push it [a piece of ice] off shore. 1889 *Linc. Chron.* 16 Nov. (E.D.D.), Deceased had hold of the stower, and pushed the boat off.

5. *Naut.* (See quot.)

1863 A. YOUNG *Naut. Dict.* 449 *Wrain-staff*, Wrung-staff, or 'Dwang-staff', also called a Stower, or Twisting-staff, a sort of stout billet of tough wood tapered at the ends so as to go into the ring of the wrain-bolt for the purpose of setting-to the planks.

Stower (stōu·ər), *sb.*[2] Also *dial.* **stowyer.** [f. STOW *v.*[1] + -ER [1].] One who stows; one who stows a ship, a stevedore; one of a fishing crew whose work is to stow the net; a miner whose work is to pack up stone.

1769 FALCONER *Dict. Marine* II. (1780), *Arrimeur*, a stower. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.* s. v. *Stowage*, The stower seldom consults the specialities of the vessel's construction. 1886 *Newcastle Daily Chron.* 23 Nov. (E.D.D.), The packing is done by a class of men called stowers. 1892 P. H. EMERSON *Son of Fens* vii. 64 Go down into the net-room where the stowyer get it and stow it up. 1906 *Dundee Advertiser* 28 May, A Lochee woman,..wife of a stower residing in South Road.

† Stower, *v.* [f. STOWER *sb.*[1]] *trans.* To fence with stakes; ? *intr.* to fix stakes. Hence **Stowering** *vbl. sb.* (in quots. *attrib.*).

c 1555 R. TROUGHTON in *Archæologia* XXIII. 23 A Comon wateryng place ther called Hedgedyke, late stowered for Catall to drynke at. *Ibid.*, I..asked of hyme howe he liked the newe stowered wateryng place. 1557–8 in R. W. Goulding *South Old Corpor. Rec.* (1891) 109 It. for dl hundreth of tray nailles & dl c of stowring nailles, ijs. 1611–12 *Knaresb. Wills* (Surtees) II. 34 One stowering womble.

Stower: see STOUR, STOVER *sb.*

Stowf(f)e, Stowidge, obs. ff. STOVE, STOWAGE.

Stowin(e, obs. Sc. pa. pple. of STEAL *v.*

Stowing (stōu·ĭŋ), *vbl. sb.*[1] Also 5 *Sc.* **stollin.** [f. STOW *v.*[1] + -ING [1].]

1. The action of the verb in various senses.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 478/1 Stowynge, or yn dede puttynge [*w.rr.* in stede puttinge] *locacio, collocacio*. *Ibid.*, S(t)owynge, or a-geyne cowpynge or chargynge [*w.rr.* charynge, stowynge or ageyne chasinge], *obsistencia, resistencia*. 1467 *St. Acts Jas. III* (1814) II. 87 That na merchandis gudis be revin nor spilt with vnresonabel stollin. 1619 in Foster *Eng. Factories India* (1906) 137 They beg..'that good regard also be had unto the qualitié, packinge, and stowinge of all the comodities you send'. 1835 DICKENS *Sk. Boz, Astley's*, Then pa drilled the boys, and directed the stowing away of their pocket-handkerchiefs. 1900 F. T. BULLEN *With Christ at Sea* xiii. 260 My first duty was to superintend the stowing of the cargo.

2. *concr.* (See quot.)

1860 *Mining Gloss., Newcastle Terms* 64 *Stowing*, rubbish put into old workings to fill them up.

3. *Comb.*

1883 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 30 Aug. 11/1 There will be a stowing room for 20 tons of provisions. 1896 *Daily News* 19 Mar. 3/6 The coal bunkers will have a stowing capacity of nine hundred tons.

† Stow·ing, *vbl. sb.*[2] *Obs.* [f. STOW *v.*[2] + -ING [1].]

1. The action of the verb; lopping of trees.

1618 W. LAWSON *New Orch. & Gard.* (1623) 15 Such a kinde of stowing is a kinde of smothering, or choaking the sap.

2. *concr.* in *pl.* (See quot.) *Sc.*

1788 PICKEN *Poems* 63 O' meals ait-parritch was the best, Or stowins, e'en right poorly drest. *Ibid.*, Gloss., *Stowins*, small cuttings taken from young greens.

Stowk(e, Stowle, obs. ff. STOOK, STOLE *sb.*[2], STOOL.

Stowll, obs. form of STOOL.

Stowmpe, obs. Sc. form of STUMP.

Stown(e: see STEAL *v.*, STOUN *v.*, STOUND *sb.*[1]

Stownd(e, obs. forms of STOUND *sb.*[1]

Stow-net. [See STOW-BOAT, and cf. STALL NET.] A kind of net used in fishing for sprats.

1871 *Echo* 15 Dec., The vessels engaged in the fishing are called stow-boats, and the nets used stow-nets. 1883 *Fisheries Exhib. Catal.* 3 The gigantic funnel-shaped stow-net, by which thousands of tons of sprats are caught.

Stow'nlins, *adv. Sc.* Also **stowlins, stowenlins** (see *Eng. Dial. Dict.*). [f. *stown* = STOLEN *ppl. a.* + -LING [2], -LIN(G)S.] By stealth; secretly.

1786 BURNS *Hallowe'en* x, Rob, stownlins, prie'd her bonie mou.

Stowp(e, obs. forms of STOOP, STOUP.

Stowr(e: see STORE, STOUR, STOWER *sb.*[1]

Stowse, variant of STOWCE.

† Stow'some, *a. nonce-wd.* [f. STOW *v.*[1] + -SOME.] Having position in space. Hence **† Stow'someness.**

1674 N. FAIRFAX *Bulk & Selv.* 77 It loses its stowsomness or location. *Ibid.* 81 We have taken away all stowsom medlings. *Ibid.* 82 There is room between, but no roomthy or stowsom respect.

Stowt(e, Stowth: see STOUT, STOUTH.

Stowyn, obs. Sc. pa. pple. of STEAL *v.*

Stox, obs. pl. of STOCK *sb.*[1]

Stoydel, obs. form of STUDDLE.

Stoyle, stoyll, obs. forms of STOLE *sb.*[1]

† Stoyne, *v. Obs.* [var. of STONY *v.*; the form has not been satisfactorily accounted for. Cf. *astoyned* var. of ASTONIED *ppl. a.*] **a.** *trans.* To stun with a blow or with a shock of amazement, fear, and the like. Chiefly *pass.* **b.** *intr.* To be stunned.

c 1400 *Destr. Troy* 7431 Ector, for pe stithe stroke stoynyt no thyng. *c* 1450 CAPGRAVE *S. Kath.* Prol. 109 Pe preest is stoyned as thow he turned wer. New ioye, new thowte had he than here! *Ibid.* 1837 Thei sey hir resons and hir grete euydens Whiche stoyned the clerkis alle tho ben there. 1460 — *Chron.* (Rolls) 124 There cam a wind, and brast the dores ope with swech a violens that thei stoyned on the walle. 1555 PHAER *Æneid* II. (1558) F ij, I stoynyd, and my heare vpstood, my mouth for feare was fast. 1563 SACKVILLE *Induct. Mirr. Mag.* xxxiv, Next sawe we Dread al tremblyng how he shooke,..Stoynde and amazde at his owne shade for dreed.

Hence **† Stoy'ning** *vbl. sb.*

1594 CAREW *Tasso* (1881) 44 So by your fame to frights and stoyning brought Are Realmes about.

Stoype, Stoyr, obs. Sc. ff. STOUP, STORE.

Stoytene, obs. Sc. var. STUDDING (*sail*).

Stoythe, obs. variant of STOOTH.

14.. *Nom.* in Wr.-Wülcker 735/9 *Hec stipa*, a stoythe.

Stra, Sc. and north. form of STRAW.

Strabery, variant of STRAWBERRY.

Strabism (strē·biz'm). Also 7 **strabisme.** [Anglicized form of STRABISMUS. Cf. F. *strabisme.*] = STRABISMUS.

1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr., Strabism*..the squintness in the eyes. 1658 PHILLIPS, *Strabisme*, a looking a squint. 1661 LOVELL *Hist. Anim. & Min.* 417 The strabisme, or squintnesse, caused, by evil conformation, custome, or disease. 1755 JOHNSON, *Strabism*, a squinting; act of looking asquint. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1824) I. xxix. 238 Hence proceeds that awkward look which is known by the name of strabism.

1807 *Med. Jrnl.* XVII. 526 Perfectly formed eyes have little inducement to wander into habits of strabism. 1914 *Contemp. Rev.* Apr. 507 Some Spanish critics have lately attributed the defects in his [El Greco's] drawing to strabism and astigmatism.

Strabismal (străbi·zmăl), *a. Path.* [f. STRABISMUS + -AL.] = STRABISMIC *a.*

1891 *Century Dict.* 1898 *Syd. Soc. Lex.*

Hence **Strabi·smally** *adv.*, squintingly.

1893 E. SALTUS *Madam Sapphira* 120 MRS. Snaith..eyed him strabismally, then..addressed the floor.

Strabismic (străbi·zmik); *a. Path.* [f. STRABISM-US + -IC.] Of, pertaining to, or affected by strabismus.

1875 H. H. WALTON *Dis. Eye* 385 Strabismic vision.

Hence **Strabi·smical** *a.*, suffering from strabismus.

1866 *Athenæum* 20 Jan. 92/3 When strabismical statisticians number the peeresses who find daily solace in gin-palaces. 1889 *Science* 10 May 364/2 Should a child be born with..a strabismical eye, or distorted limbs, he is accepted as a healer of coming generations.

Strabismometer (străbizmǫ·mĭtəɹ). [f. STRABISM-US + -(O)METER.] An instrument for measuring the degree of strabismus.

1869 *Lancet* 27 Nov. 733/1 Mr. Zachariah Laurence's strabismometer..consists of an ivory plate moulded to the conformation of the lower lid. 1876 DUNGLISON *Med. Lex.*

Hence **Strabismo·metry**, the act or practice of measuring the degree of strabismus.

1889 *Syd. Soc. Lex.*

‖ **Strabismus** (străbi·zmŭs). *Path.* [mod.L., ad. Gr. στραβισμός, f. στραβίζειν to squint, f. στραβός squinting (whence L. *strabus* in the same sense.] An affection of the eyes in which the axes of vision cannot be coincidently directed to the same object; squinting, a squint.

Convergent or *internal strabismus* a turning inward of the eyes, CROSS-EYE; *divergent* or *external strabismus*, a turning outwards of one or both eyes.

1684 *Blancard's Phys. Dict., Strabismus*, Squinting, is occasioned by the Relaxation, Contraction, Distorsion, too great Length, or too great Shortness of the Muscles which move the Eye. 1771 *Encycl. Brit.* III. 155/1 A Strabismus, commonly called squinting. 1846 F. BRITTAN tr. *Malgaigne's Man. Oper. Surg.* 294 For external strabismus, a flap of the internal portion of the conjunctiva is removed. 1884 T. BRYANT *Pract. Surg.* (ed. 4) I. 409 Convergent strabismus is the most common of all. *Ibid.* 412 Divergent strabismus..is often the result of myopia.

b. *fig.* Perversity of intellectual perception.

1844 H. ROGERS *Ess.* (1860) III. 111 His prejudices have wholly clouded his common sense, or produced an incurable *strabismus* of intellect. 1846 *Ibid.* (1874) I. iv. 198 Any one ..not afflicted with polemical *strabismus*, would as soon affirm that [etc.]. 1881 E. CAIRD *Ess. Lit. & Philos.* (1892) I. 193 A view which supposes man to be afflicted with a kind of intellectual *strabismus*, so that he can never see with one of his mental eyes without shutting the other.

c. *attrib.*

1864 *Lancet* 17 Dec. 689/2 The Strabismus operation made easy. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech., Strabismus-forceps*, a straight or curved pinchers..for holding the muscles to be divided in correcting strabismus. 1876 T. BRYANT *Pract. Surg.* (1884) I. 411 Strabismus hook. Strabismus scissors.

Strabometer (străbǫ·mĭtəɹ). [f. *strabo-* (see next) + -METER.] = STRABISMOMETER.

1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 1876 DUNGLISON *Med. Lex.*

Hence **Strabo·metry** = STRABISMOMETRY.

1900 *Lancet* 13 Jan. 104/1 Professor Edmund Landolt of Paris..considers that there are three methods of measuring the amount of deviation or strabometry.

Strabotomy (străbǫ·tŏmi). *Path.* [ad. F. *strabotomie* (mod.L. *strabotomia*), f. *strabo-* taken as comb. form of STRABISMUS: see -TOMY.] The operation of dividing one or more of the muscles of the eye as a remedy for strabismus.

1857 DUNGLISON *Med. Lex.* 1898 *Syd. Soc. Lex.*

Hence **Strabotome** (străbŏtǫum), a knife used in the operation of strabotomy.

1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 1888 *Cassell's Encycl. Dict.*

† **Stra·brod.** *north.* [f. *stra*, north. f. STRAW + BROD *sb.*1] A wooden pin used in fastening thatch.

1335-6 *Durham Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 529 In xxv^m de Strabrod. 1372-3 *Finchale Priory Charters* etc. (Surtees) p. lxxvii, Schotnaile, stanbrodd, strabrodd, [etc.]. 1847 HALLIWELL, *Strabrods*, the wooden pins or stobs used in fastening thatch to the roof of a building.

Strac, obs. pa. t. of STRIKE *v.*

‖ **Stracchino** (strakī·no). Also **strachino**. [It. *stracchino*, adj. and sb., designating 'an excellent and very soft kind of cheese'.] *Stracchino cheese*, a variety of cheese made in the north of Italy.

1832 G. DOWNES *Lett. Cont. Countries* I. 503 The atmosphere of this place is saturated with the odour of *stracchino* cheese, the village being crowded with manufactories of it. It is softer than cream cheese, and the taste is better than the smell, which is rank and oppressive. 1857 DICKENS *Dorrit* I. i, He gets..white bread, strachino cheese, and good wine by it. 1880 *Encycl. Brit.* XIII. 452/1.

Strache, Strachle: see STRETCH, STRADCHLE.

Stracht: see STRAIGHT and STRETCH *v.*

Strack, obs. form of STRAKE *sb.*

Strack, *a. Obs.* exc. *dial.* Also 8 **strackt**, 9 **strack**. [Aphetic f. DISTRACT *a.*] = DISTRACT *ppl. a.*4, DISTRACTED *ppl. a.* 3.

1598 R. BERNARD tr. *Terence, Adelphos* IV. ii. He came afterwards as one strack and besides himselfe. *c* 1746 J. COLLIER *View Lanc. Dial.* (1770) 28 On neaw I'r so strackt woode, I'r arronly moydert. 1818 R. WILBRAHAM *Chesh. Gloss., Strack*, adj., abbreviation of distracted. 1877 E. LEIGH *Chesh. Gloss.*, s. v. *Strack*, 'Lave the poor wench alone—oo's strack, oi tell ye.'

Strad (străd), *colloq.* Short for STRADIVARIUS.

1884 HAWEIS *Musical Life* III. i. 218 The exquisite sweetness and freshness of the Dolphin 'Strad.' excited most admiration. 1908 *Daily News* 29 Feb. 7 The trade in Strads is confined to a very few dealers.

Strad, obs. pa. t. of STRIDE *v.*

Stra·dametrical, *a. rare.* [f. It. *strada* STREET *sb.*: see -METRY.] Of or pertaining to the measurement of streets or roads.

1852 N. S. SHARPNEL (*title*) The Stradametrical Survey of London,..Containing the mean distances, with their relative oab fares, from all the principal streets..in London, to the Great Exhibition. 1853 *Househ. Words* VII. 246/1 We commenced our stradametrical survey of Rotterdam..and at about five o'clock..I was left with my little portmanteau at the proper house. 1855 OGILVIE Suppl., *Stradometrical.*

† **Stradarolle.** *Obs. rare*—1. [ad. It. *stradaruolo*, f. *strada* street.] A highwayman.

1562 J. SHUTE tr. *Cambini's Two Comm.* ii. 25 This subtill olde Ruter sent to Scanderbeg a messager, requiring him to fyght with him like a prince..and not..lyke a stradarolle and thefe [*cosi da stradarolo*].

Straddle (strædˈl), *sb.* [f. next.]

I. The action of the verb.

1. The action of walking, standing, or sitting with the legs wide apart.

1611 MIDDLETON & DEKKER *Roaring Girl* III. i. F 2, I knew you by your wide straddle. ? 1771 WALPOLE *Let. Lady Coke* ? Oct.-Nov., Lett. 1904 VIII. 99 You are, I know, Madam, an excellent walker, yet methinks seven leagues at once are a prodigious straddle for a fair lady. 1784 H. MACNEILL *Whip* Poet. Wks. 1801 I. 100 No female Phaetonians then Surpass'd the boldest of our men In gesture, look, and straddle. 1815 *Hist. John Decastro & Bat* II. 272 However he made a straddle of it, and took the crown thereof very well between his knees.

transf. 1780 COWPER *Rep. Adjudged Case* 24 Your lordship observes they [the spectacles] are made with a straddle, As wide as the bridge of the Nose is; in short, Designed to sit close to it, just like a saddle.

b. The distance between the feet or legs of one who straddles. 1864 in WEBSTER; and in later Dicts.

2. *U.S. Exchange slang.* A 'privilege' or speculative contract in any one market or class of commodities, covering both a 'put' and a 'call'—that is, giving the holder the right at his option (1) of calling, within a specified number of days, for delivery of an ascertained quantity of the commodity at a stated price, or (2) of delivering to the person to whom the consideration had been paid an ascertained quantity of another (or, less usually, of the same) commodity at a stated price. Hence, applied to an analogous contract on the Stock-exchange. Also called *spread-eagle* (*Cent. Dict.* 1891).

1883 *Harper's Mag.* Mar. 598/2 They [sc. N. Y. brokers] always talked of 'margins' and 'puts' and 'calls,' and 'straddles.' 1892 STEVENSON & L. OSBOURNE *Wrecker* i. 25 My father..was trying at this time a 'straddle' in wheat between Chicago and New York. 1893 CORDINGLEY *Guide Stock Exch.* 123 *Straddle*..is also an American term for a 'Put and Call,' but used when the price is the same whether the Stock is 'put' or 'called'. 1902 *Longman's Mag.* Apr. 485 The lady's wealth is based on a successful Straddle, operated..in—Bristles—Hog's Bristles and Lard.

b. In British use: See quot.

1902 *L'pool Corn Trade Assoc. Ltd., Section 7*, Bye-laws relating to Brokerages on grain futures. *Straddles* When a broker executes an order to buy grain deliverable in a certain specified month, executing at the same time an order to sell the same quantity and description deliverable in another specified month, he shall be at liberty to carry out both transactions for one brokerage.

3. *U.S. Politics* (*colloq.*). An attempt to take an equivocal or non-committal position in a party platform (*Cent. Dict.* 1891).

1883 *American* VI. 100 That his demand for an endorsement of free trade could not be yielded to, and that expediency demanded a 'straddle' that could be explained either way. 1890 C. L. NORTON *Polit. Americanisms* 109 *Straddle*, a stock-broker's term which acquired a political meaning during the campaign of 1884.

4. *Poker.* A doubling of the 'blind' or stake by one of the players.

1882 *Poker; how to play it* 49 The straddle is nothing more than a double blind. 1897 [see STAY *v.*1 13].

II. Something which straddles or is straddled.

5. † **a.** (Meaning obscure.) *Obs.*

1684 *Phil. Trans.* XIV. 666 Land Carriage by draught, is by Wheele-barrows, Straddles, Carts of 2 wheels, Sleds, Wagons [etc.].

b. = SADDLE *sb.* 3.

1825 JAMIESON. 1837 LOVER *Rory O'More* I. xi. 253 From the rudely constructed straddle of the sorry animal,..a budget containing the implements of the tinker's trade, depended. 1882 E. O'DONOVAN *Merv Oasis* II. xlviii. 308 A beam..was in turn attached to a straddle fastened to the back of a camel.

6. *Mining.* (? *U.S.*) Each of the vertical timbers by which the different sets are supported in a shaft (*Cent. Dict.* 1891).

III. 7. Comb.: **straddleback** *adv.*, with the legs astraddle; **straddle-band**, the band which secures the 'straddle' on a horse's back; **straddle-bob** *dial.*, a black beetle (cf. STRADDLE-BUG); **straddle-breech** *a.*, a contemptuous epithet applied to one who straddles; **straddle-fashion** *adv.*, in a straddling position, astride; **straddle-leg(s** *adv.*, with the legs astride; also *attrib.*; **straddle-legged** *a.*, having the legs set wide apart; *adv.*, with the legs astride; **straddle mill, -pipe, -plough** (see quots.); **straddle-wise** *adv.* = *straddle-fashion.*

1839 THACKERAY *Leg. St. Sophia of Kioff*, She gets on the Prior's shoulder *straddleback. 1901 JANE BARLOW *From Land of Shamrock* 288, I noticed the *straddle-band lookin' uncommon quare and wake. 1847 HALLIWELL, *Straddlebob*, a blackbeetle. *I. Wight.* 1688 T. FLATMAN *Heraclitus Ridens* No. 60 (1713) II. 126 Then there was our old *Straddle-breech Friend. 1873 *Routledge's Young Gentl. Mag.* Nov. 32/2 Seating himself *straddle-fashion across a chair. 1836 HALIBURTON *Clockm.* Ser. I. xxxii, That Captain has nothin to do all day, but sit *straddle legs across his tiller. 1868 *Routledge's Young Gentl. Mag.* 597 Over the shaft were fastened three poles, straddle-legs fashion. 1892 P. H. EMERSON *Son of Fens* vii. 60, I went and sat straddle-leg across the horse of the bowsplit. 1817 HAZLITT *Pol. Ess.* (1819) 213 The monstrous *straddle-legged figure of that legitimate monarch, Henry VIII. 1858-9 RUSSELL *Diary India* (1860) I. xiv. 229 The wives of the binneahs who sit straddle-legged on the tiniest of donkeys. 1911 WEBSTER, **Straddle mill*, a milling cutter..commonly used in pairs a fixed distance apart so as to straddle the work, for sizing nuts, boltheads, etc. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.*, **Straddle-pipe*, (Gas), a bridge-pipe connecting the retort with the hydraulic main. *Ibid.*, **Straddle-plow*, a plow with two triangular, parallel shares, a little distance apart, and used for running on each side of a row of dropped corn, to cover the seed. 1865 LE FANU *Guy Deverill* II. xiv, Little Linnett, mounted *straddlewise on his chair.

Straddle (strædˈl), *v.* Also 6–8 **stradle.** [Frequentative f. *strād-* ablaut-var. of *strīd-* STRIDE *v.*: see -LE. Cf. SPREADLE, STRODDLE *vbs.*]

1. *intr.* To spread the legs wide apart in walking, standing, or sitting; to stride *about.*

1565 COOPER *Thesaurus* s. v. *Varix, Varico*,..vel *Varicor* ..., to goe wide with the knees and legges: to straddle:..to goe stradlynge. 1567 GOLDING *Ovid's Met.* XIII. (1587) 172 See how their vdders ful do make them straddle. 1605 *1st Pt. Jeronimo* II. iii. 83 Thou hast made him straddle too much like a Frenchman: for shame, put his legs closer. 1612 DRAYTON *Poly-olb.* x. 73 [Boreas] From Shetland straddling wide, his foote on Thuly sets. 1619 MIDDLETON *Tri. Love & Antig.* C 2 b, She being the first that taught women to ride sideling on horseback, but who it was that taught 'em to ride straddling, there is no Records so immodest that can shew me. 1685 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 2074/4 An able white Gelding..has all his paces, Straddles very much with his hinder Legs. 1735 DYCHE & PARDON *Dict., Straddle*, to stretch or extend the Legs wider than common. 1784 COWPER *Task* VI. 676 Some noble lord Shall..wrap himself in Hamlet's inky cloak, And strut, and storm, and straddle, stamp, and stare, To show the world how Garrick did not act. 1906 CHARLOTTE MANSFIELD *Girl & Gods* XI, 'How do you do?' she said, entering the tiny sitting-room where Colonel Vibrant straddled in front of the fire.

b. To stand or stride *across, over* (a wide space, etc.), *from* one stepping place *to* another at a distance; to sit astride *on, across.*

1678 BUNYAN *Pilgr. Progr.* I. (ed. 2) 93 Then Apollyon straddled [*ed.* 1 strodled] quite over the whole breadth of the way, and said,..prepare thy self to die. 1760 H. WALPOLE *Let. to H. S. Conway* 19 Sept., Can't he make..Johnson straddle cross a river and come back with six heads of hussars in his fob? 1818 SCOTT *Rob Roy* XXX, His foot slipping, as he straddled from one huge fragment of rock to another. 1826 HOOD *Recipe for Civilia.* 45 Tartar grooms, that merely straddle Across a steak and warm their saddle. 1853 KANE *Grinnell Exp.* ii. (1856) 18, I felt as if I could straddle from the main hatch to the bulwarks. 1859 TENNYSON *Guinev.* 266 Down in the cellars merry bloated things..straddling on the butts While the wine ran. 1885 *Manch. Exam.* 7 Aug. 5/6 Ministers who passed in and out had to straddle or leap over his long legs. 1898 J. M. COBBAN *Angel of Covenant* I. 6, I straddled across the slab-step of the door, and dazed him with the ashen cudgel I carried.

c. Of the legs: To stand wide apart.

1634 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* 38 [An idol] resembling a man ..his legs straddling, very wide. 1687 A. LOVELL tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* I. 163 Their Pack-saddles are so broad that they are very uneasie to ones Legs, which must straddle very wide. 1889 'Q.' (Quiller-Couch) *Splendid Spur* x, Under a trunk extraordinary broad and strong, straddled a pair of legs that a baby would have disown'd. 1897 J. GORDON *Village & Doctor* 3 On he went..with head well back and legs straddling wider apart at every step, floundering in the heavy snow.

d. *transf.* of a thing, esp. of a thing having legs; also, to divaricate, sprawl. Also with complement.

1596 NASHE *Saffron Walden* V 2, He would..splinter our pens til they stradled again, as wide as a paire of Compasses. 1662 SHIRLEY *Honoria & Mammon* Wks. 1833 VI. 48 Her teeth straddle. 1670 EACHARD *Cont. Clergy* 66 There is one [passage] in Genesis, as I well remember, that is like a pair of compasses stradling! 1680 MOXON *Mech. Exerc* xii. 204 The Chopping-Block..hath three Legs in it, that stand stradling out from the underside. 1875 BROWNING *Inn Album* 1 Lubber prose o'ersprawls, And straddling stops the path from left to right. 1909 *Durham Archæol. Trans.* p. xxxi, A modern screw-pile bridge now straddles its ungainly length across the Tyne. 1916 C. N. & A. M. WILLIAMSON *Car of Destiny* xiv, [We] crossed the Pisuergo by a long-legged bridge straddling across the river bed.

e. *spec.* Of the spokes of a wheel: To stand with the ends staggered (Webster 1911).

1875 [see STRADDLING *ppl. a.*].

2. To walk with the legs wide apart; *dial.* 'to swagger, strut' (*Eng. Dial. Dict.*).

1825 J. Neal *Bro. Jonathan* III. 10 Bless my heart—how you do straddle about! 1848 Dickens *Dombey* xxvi, Major Bagstock..straddled along the shady side of the way.. 1851 D. Jerrold *St. Giles* xii. 121 You straddle on to the tradesman who stands behind a little mountain of eggs. 1895 Sir H. Maxwell *Duke of Britain-i.* 9 Petitbus tossed off his bumper..and straddled off to the parade ground.

† **3.** *slang.* (See quot.) *Obs.*

1735 Dyche & Pardon *Dict., Straddle,*..also in Sports and Gaming to play who shall pay the Reckoning.

4. *trans.* To set (the legs) wide apart (in standing or walking). In quots. with *out*, † *asunder*.

1565 Cooper *Thesaurus* s. v. *Diduco, Diductum stare*, to stande stradlyng the legges a sunder. 1831 Carlyle *Sartor Res.* I. v, Man..stands..insecurely enough; has to straddle out his legs, lest the very wind supplant him. 1840 Dickens *Old C. Shop* iv, Mr. Quilp..straddling his legs out very wide apart, stooped slowly down. 1893 Selous *Trav. S.-E. Africa* 151, I watched them [giraffes] drinking, straddling out their forelegs by little jerks, until their feet were yards apart.

5. To sit, stand, or walk with one leg on either side of; to stride over; to bestride.

1823 D'Israeli *Cur. Lit.* 2nd Ser. I. 51 Arion, with a grotesque motion, is straddling a great trout. 1841 Catlin *N. Amer. Ind.* (1844) II. xlvi. 95 Charley [the horse] was caught and dressed and straddled. 1859 *Habits of Gd. Society* vii. 251 Straddling a chair, and tilting it up may be pardonable in a bachelor's rooms. 1863 Bates *Nat. Amazons* xii. (1864) 397 In climbing between the box and the wall, it [*sc.* a monkey] straddled the space. 1908 E. Œ. Somerville *Further Exper. Irish R. M.* 26, I straddled the window-sash, and arrived in the room with a three-cornered tear in the shoulder of my coat.

b. *transf.* To stand or lie across or on both sides of (something).

1890 *Century Mag.* May 135/1 'Let him take a seat with me in the buggy.' 'That is best perhaps, as he would know better how to avoid the stumps and straddle the ruts.' 1907 J. A. R. Marriott *Life Ld. Falkland* 314 A cavalry skirmish..enabled the King to win the race to Newbury and so straddle the London road. 1911 [see *straddle-mill*, Straddle *sb.* 7].

c. *Naut.* (See quot.)

1916 Sir J. Jellicoe *Disp.* 24 June, in *Battle of Jutland* 54 *Colossus*..was hit..and other ships were straddled with fair frequency. [*Ed. note* i.e. shots were falling on both sides of the ship, but not hitting her.]

6. *U.S. colloq.* 'To occupy or take up an equivocal position in regard to; to appear to favour both sides of'. Also *intr.* (*Cent. Dict.* 1891.)

1884 *Nation* (N. Y.) 3 July 4/1 The platform..contains the well-known plank 'straddling' the tariff question. 1884 *Boston* (Mass.) *Traveller* Aug., It should be remembered that he never straddled the negro question.

7. *Poker.* To double (a stake, bet). Also *absol.*

1882 *Poker; how to play it* 49 C can straddle B's ante by putting in the pool two chips. *Ibid.* 50 A good player very rarely straddles. 1885 B. L. Farjeon *Sacred Nugget* xvii, He put in [the pool] a bank-note, and said, 'Five pound blind'. Antonio..put in an I. O. U. for ten pounds, saying 'I straddle you'. *Ibid.*, Mike Patchett went ten pounds blind; he [Antonio] straddled it with twenty. 1897 R. F. Foster *Compl. Hoyle* 179 (Poker) The player to the left of the age may straddle the blind by putting up double the amount put up by the age.

Hence **Stra·ddling** *vbl. sb.*

1673 Bunyan *Diff. Judgm. Water-Baptism* 44 Your putting in that way of his receiving which is invisible to us, is but an unhandsome straddling over my Argument, which treateth only of a visible receiving. 1761 Victor *Theatres Lond. & Dublin* II. 74 By walking the Decks of the Ship from a Boy, he had contracted a Straddling in his Gait.

Straddle (stræ·d'l), *adv.* [advb. use of Straddle *sb.*] = Astraddle, astride.

1866 Brogden *Prov. Lincs., Straddle*, astride. 1898 J. C. Harris *Tales of Home Folks* 244, I boun' ef I had a hoss an' could ride straddle I'd ketch 'im.

Stra·ddle-bug. *U.S.* [cf. *straddle-bob*, Straddle *sb.* 7.] A long-legged beetle, esp. *Canthon lævis*. Also *attrib.* (similative).

1839 Longf. *Hyperion* I. vi. (1892) 37 There is one [sketch] on the wall there, which is beautiful, save and except that straddle-bug figure among the bushes. 1862 R.-H. Newell *Orpheus C. Kerr Papers* xx. (1866) 124 Now that I look at him, he reminds me of an old-fashioned straddle-bug.

Straddler (stræ·dlə1). [f. Straddle *v.* + -er1.] One who or something which straddles.

1863 Bates *Nat. Amazons* ix. (1864) 265 A suitable tree was found for the shell of the boat..The expanding of the log thus hollowed out is a critical operation...Wooden straddlers.. are inserted into the opening. 1882 *Poker; how to play it* 49 The player to the left of the last straddler..must be the first to declare whether he will make good the straddle, and so on. 1889 *Voice* (N. Y.) Jan. 10 Contemptible straddlers of great and solemn issues. 1911 Webster, *Straddler*, ..a. *Railroads.* A tool that straddles the rail to bear upon the projecting ends of a tie plate, used in driving tie plates into the track. b. A weeding hoe that straddles a row.

Straddling (stræ·dlin), *ppl. a.* [f. Straddle *v.* + -ing 2.]

1. That straddles, in the senses of the verb.

1592 Nashe *P. Penilesse* A 3, At length..I lighted vpon an old straddling Usurer. 1615 Crooke *Body of Man* 102 *Epiploïs postica*..diuided into two stradling branches. *a* 1652 Brome *Mad Couple* (1653) To Stationer, No stradling Tetrasyllables are brought To fill up room, and little spell, or nought. 1679 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1403/4 A Strawberry py'd Gelding,..all his paces, and a stradling gate behind. 1765 H. Walpole *Let. to Miss Anne Pitt* 25 Dec., May the chimney be widened, without which it can never be a French chimney, which is always very low and straddling? 1831 Youatt *Horse* x. 165 [In anchylosis] the horse..has a curious straddling action. 1848 Dickens *Haunted Man* i. 9 The shadows..making..the very tongs upon the hearth, a straddling giant with his arms a-kimbo. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech., Straddling* (Vehicle), applied to spokes when they are arranged alternately in two circles in the hub. Also said to be *staggered*.

2. *Bot.* Divaricate.

1796 Withering *Brit. Plants* (ed. 3) I. 84 *Straddling* (divaricatus) branches standing wide from each other. *Ibid.* II. 26 Bulbs straight, not much straddling. 1825 *Greenhouse Comp.* II. 95 Malva *divaricata*, straddling Mallow. *Comb.* 1822 *Hortus Angl.* II. 399 Straddling-branched Star Wort.

† **Strade.** *Obs. rare*—1. [? a. OF. *estrade* 'escarmouche' (Godefr.)] ? Skirmish, scuffle.

c 1400 *Rowland & Otuel* 476 The Nasell of his helme of-glade Dowun bi-fore hym in the strade.

Strade, obs. pa. t. of Stride *v.*

Stradiot (stræ·diɒt). *Hist.* Also 6 **stradiott, stradiote, stradyato.** [ad. It. *stradiotto*: see Estradiot. Cf. F. *stradiot.*] = Estradiot.

a 1533 Berners *Huon* clxxxix. 761 This great stradiot is come well at a poynte for or he departe he shall pay for our seot & expence. *a* 1548 Hall *Chron., Hen. VIII*, 28 Among the Frenchmen were certaine light horsmen called Stradiotes with..smal speres and swerdes like semiteries of Turkay. 1567 Fenton *Trag. Disc.* v. 95 Leauyng the miserable stradyates..to the guide and gouernemente of their fortune. 1643 Baker *Chron., Edw. IV*, 108 The Duke of Burgoigne..had promised..to bring..foure thousand Stradiots or light horse. 1825 Scott *Talism.* xxiv, A gallant band of twelve hundred Stradiots, a kind of light cavalry raised by the Venetians in their Dalmatian possessions. 1878 Villari *Machiavelli* (1892) I. i. xii. 498 This general was captured on the road by the Stradiotes of Venice.

Stradivarius (strædivē·riəs). Also **Straduarius** (strædiu,ē·riəs). [a. L. *Stradivarius, Straduarius*, latinized forms of the name of Antonio *Stradivari*, a noted Italian maker of stringed instruments in the 17th c.] A violin or other stringed instrument made by Stradivari or his pupils. Also *attrib.*

1833 Fardely tr. *Otto's Treat. Violin* 33 One of his [Amati's] Violins, in good condition, is almost preferable to a Stradiuarius. 1865 Dickens *Mut. Fr.* III. xiii, He had a Straduarius violin to dispose of. 1874 Boddam-Whetham *Western Wand.* 185 One of the orchestra lost a Straduarius violin worth 1,400 dollars. 1887 Conan Doyle *Study in Scarlet* (1892) 38 My companion prattled away about..the difference between a Stradivarius and an Amati.

Stradlings (stræ·dlinz), *adv. dial.* [f. Straddle *v.* + -lings.] Astride.

1823 E. Moor *Suffolk Words.* *a* 1825 [see Sidelings 3].

Stradometrical, variant of Stradametrical.

Strae, Straemash: see Straw, Straamash.

Strafe (sträf), *v. slang.* [From the Ger. phrase *Gott strafe England*, 'God punish England', a common salutation in Germany in 1914 and the following years.] *trans.* Used (originally by British soldiers in the war against Germany) in various senses suggested by its origin: To punish; to do damage to; to attack fiercely; to heap imprecations on; also *absol.* Also **Strafe** *sb.*, a fierce assault.

1916 *Times Lit. Suppl.* 10 Feb. 62/1 The Germans are called the Gott-strafers, and strafe is becoming a comic English word. 1916 *Blackw. Mag.* Feb. 284/1 Intermittent strafes we are used to. 1916 *MS. Let. fr. Front* (Feb. or Mar.) There is not much Hun artillery fire, but as our guns strafe them well every day, I expect they will wake up and return the compliment. 1916 *Daily Mail* 1 Nov. 4/4 The word *strafe* is now almost universally used. Not only is an effective bombardment of the enemy's lines or a successful trench raid described by Tommy as 'strafing the Fritzes,' but there are occasions when certain 'brass hats'..are strafed by imprecation. And quite recently the present writer heard a working-class woman..shout to one of her offspring 'Wait till I git 'old of yer, I'll strarfe yer, I will!'

Strafe, obs. Sc. pa. t. of Strive *v.*; var. Straif.

Straffordians, *sb. pl. Hist.* [-ian.] A name applied to the fifty-nine members of the House of Commons who voted against the bill for the attainder of Thomas Wentworth, earl of Strafford.

1641 Whitelocke *Mem.* 2 May, This multitude..posted up at Westminster the names of all those members of the house of commons who had voted for the earl, and called them Straffordians. 1647 Clarendon *Hist. Reb.* III. § 142. 1906 *Cambr. Mod. Hist.* IV. ix. 289.

† **Strag,** *v. Obs.*—0 *intr.* ? To walk with a crutch; ? to straddle. Hence **Stragging** *vbl. sb.*

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 478/2 Stragyn, *patento, strigio.* St(r)agyng, *patentacio.*

† **Strage.** *Obs.* [ad. L. *strages.*] Slaughter.

a 1632 T. Taylor *God's Judgem.* II. iii. (1642) 39 Not sating himselfe with the strage of men, his tyrranny usurped upon women. 1635 Heywood *Hierarchy Angels* 549 He did as much dammage and made as great slaughter on his Enemies, as he had receiued strage or execution from them. 1689 T. Plunket *Char. Gd. Commander* Ded. 5 Some haue the Laurel won by blood and strage.

Straggle (stræ·g'l), *sb.* In 5–6 **stragill, -yll.** [f. Straggle *v.*1]

† **1.** Phr. *At, to (the) straggle*, in straggling order. *Sc. Obs.*

c 1470 Henry *Wallace* x. 683 At stragyll raid quhat Scot mycht formest pas. *Ibid.* 699 The frayit folk, at stragill that was fleand. 1513 Douglas *Æneis* XII. xi. 4 A few menze persewand our the plane, Quhilk at the stragill fled in all thar mane. 1549 *Diurn. Occurr.* (Bannatyne Club) 49 Thaj tarijt nocht, bot past away with all spulzie thaj mycht get. The Scottis followit thame to the stragill.

2. A body or group of scattered objects; an irregular or fitful emergence (*of* something).

1865 Carlyle *Fredk. Gt.* XIX. vi. V. 539 Here are some private utterances of his, throwing a straggle of light on those points. 1869— in Mrs. Carlyle *Lett.* I. 266 With a considerable straggle of audience, I found this artist industriously fiddling. 1906 F. S. Oliver *Alex. Hamilton* III. vi. 238 Where now there is but a thin straggle of stunted trees.

Straggle (stræ·g'l), *v.*1 Forms: 5 **stragyll,** 5–6 **stragel,** 5–8 **stragle,** 6– **straggle.** [Of somewhat uncertain etymology; perh. an alteration of **strackle* frequentative f. Strake *v.*: see -le. Cf. dial. *strackle-brain, strackling*, a giddy, thoughtless person (which, however, may be connected rather with *stract* Distract *a.*) The dial. *strag* a vagabond, a stray pigeon, may perh. be a back-formation from the verb.]

1. *intr.* To wander or stray *from* the proper road, one's companions, etc.; to rove without fixed direction; to go up and down dispersedly. Often conjugated with *be*. Often with adv., as *about, abroad, away, behind.*

c 1400 *Master of Game* (MS. Digby 182) xxxv, þe forster shulde haue men redely þere too meete with hym, þat þei go no ferther nor stragle aboute. *c* 1450 *Brut* 576 Both horsemen and footemen, with huntyng of hem, were stragelt abrode ouer all þe feldys, and were al out of array. 1461 *Paston Lett.* II. 3 Thei have no capteyn ner rewler..and so thei stragyll abowte be them-self. 1583 Stubbes *Anat. Abus.* II. (1882) 89 [They] runne stragling and rouing..from towne to towne. 1589 Greene *Menaphon* (Arb.) 23 To see if any of his ewes and lambes were straggled downe to the strond. 1642 Fuller *Holy & Prof. St.* III. xi. 178 There is no danger that weak folks if they walk abroad will straggle farre. 1669 Dryden *Tempest* III. (1670) 34 He..looks about him like a Callow-bird Just straggl'd from the nest. 1707 Mortimer *Husb.* 195 Turkeys being very apt to straggle will often be laying their Eggs in secret places. 1711 Addison *Spect.* No. 130 ¶ 1 They [the gipsies] generally straggle into these Parts about this Time of the Year. 1768 G. White *Selborne, To Pennant* 28 Nov., It is very extraordinary..that a bird so common with us should never straggle to you. 1776 Pennant *Brit. Zool.* (ed. 4) I. 142 When the first crowd [of seals] is past, they kill as many as straggle behind. 1788 G. Keate *Pelew Isl.* x. 111 Captain Wilson's servant, who was straggling about with his gun to kill some fowl for dinner. 1877 H. Saunders in *Proc. Zool. Soc.* (1878) 171 An individual of this species [*Larus affinis*] which had straggled to Greenland.

b. *spec.* of a soldier: To wander from the line of march, stray from one's company. Also of a ship: To stray from the line of battle. Of a sailor: To be absent from his ship without leave or overstay his leave.

1529 Rastell *Pastyme* (1811) 227, xx. archers whiche straggled from theyr companye. 1598 Barret *Theor. Warres* IV. i. 102 To be carefull that the souldiers straggle not. 1648 Gage *West Ind.* 201 She was somewhat far stragled from the rest of the ships. 1760 *Cautions & Advices to Officers of Army* 171 Keep then at the head of your Pelotoon..and suffer not the Men of it to straggle or break their Rank. 1790 Beatson *Nav. & Mil. Mem.* I. 188 The Rear-Admiral's division had straggled, and was a great way astern of the centre. 1831 Scott *Cl. Robt.* vii, If any straggle from their standards, or insult the country by marauding. 1863 A. Young *Naut. Dict.* 395 People who have overstaid their leave of absence, or straggled. 1913 *Q. Rev.* Oct. 555 They sickened or straggled or frankly deserted.

† **c.** Of a merchant: To intrude into a market where he has no licence to trade; to 'interlope'. *Obs.* Cf. Straggler c, Straggling *ppl. a.* b.

1588 *Acts Privy Council* XVI. 83 The Merchauntes..goe straglinge about all the countrey adioyninge, forstallinge, inhansinge, and raysinge the pryce of all kynd of commodytyes there. 1601, 1622 [see Straggling *vbl. sb.*].

d. *transf.* and *fig.* (of persons and things).

1588 Greene *Metamorph.* (1617) G 4 b, Be thou stedfast and no doubt thou shalt not finde him straggling. 1632 tr. *Bruel's Praxis Med.* 329 The collicke..doth straggle ouer the whole region of the belly. 1641 Milton *Prel. Episc.* Wks. 1851 III. 77 That sovran Book which we had fondly straggl'd from. *a* 1661 Fuller *Triana* (1867) 188 Vices straggle not alone, but go in companies. *c* 1698 Locke *Cond. Underst.* § 29 Wks. 1714 III. 414 He that will observe Children, will find, that even when they endeavour their utmost, they cannot keep their Minds from straggling. 1911 Addison *Spect.* No. 129 ¶ 6 One of the last Year's little Muffs had by some means or other straggled into those Parts. 1758 L. Temple *Sketches* (ed. 2) 35 To compress within three Lines, what must otherwise straggle into four. 1848 Dickens *Haunted Man* (1887) 5 Its sun-dial in a little bricked-up corner, where no sun had straggled for a hundred years. 1885 *Athenæum* 7 Feb. 193 Goldsmith..straggled into literature as the humble hack of Griffiths the bookseller. 1891 C. E. Norton *Dante's Hell* XXV. 138 Here let the novelty be my excuse if my pen straggle a little.

e. Of a plant, branch, etc.: To grow irregularly or loosely; to spread or shoot too far. Similarly of hair. Cf. Straggling *ppl. a.* c.

1693 Evelyn *De La Quint. Compt. Gard., Culture Orange-trees* 25 To Cut away..all that part which grows out of due Rank, and straggles beyond its bound. 1762 R. Lloyd *Author's Apol.* 179 Though prudence, and our nature's pride May wish our weaknesses to hide, And set their hedges up before 'em, Some sprouts will branch, and straggle o'er 'em. 1841 Browning *Pippa Passes* I. Poems (1905) 167 How these tall Naked geraniums straggle!

f. Of inanimate objects: To be arranged dispersedly or irregularly; to be situated apart from any main body or from one another. Of a town, building, etc.: To be built irregularly and without

compactness. Of a road, river, fence, etc.: To wind in an irregular course.

1611 Speed *Theat. Gt. Brit.* xx. (1614) 39/1 The forme thereof is somewhat circular, with many indents to fetch in those Townes that are dispersedly stragled into her next Shire. 1613 Purchas *Pilgrimage* viii. i. 607 Sometimes they finde it [silver] straggling, in peeces, not holding any continuing Veine. *a* 1661 Fuller *Worthies, Norf.* (1662) 250 This said William Paston.., lies buryed in Norwich; so that his corps..do straggle from the Sepulture of their Ancestors, who..were all interred at Paston. 1662 J. Davies tr. *Olearius' Voy. Ambass.* 31 The River Oder,..straggles so, as that to come to the City from Dam side, a man must pass over six bridges. 1818 Scott *Br. Lamm.* xii, A little hamlet which straggled along the side of a creek. 1850 Hawthorne *Scarlet L.* xvi, The road,..straggled onward into the mystery of the primeval forest. 1866 G. Macdonald *Ann. Q. Neighb.* iii. (1878) 26 In another direction the houses went straggling away into a wood. 1890 'R. Boldrewood' *Col. Reformer* xvi, The..township..straggled around the edge of a sombre watercourse.

¶ 2. Misused for Straddle *v. rare*⁻¹.

Cf. dial. *straggle-bug* = straddle-bug, *strag-legs* (Ireland) = straddle-legs.

1609 Holland *Amm. Marcell.* xxii. xi. 266 The whole multitude..came upon Georgius, whome they haled and tugged with his legs and feet wide straglingly.

3. † a. *trans.* To scatter, disperse. *Obs. rare.*

1589 Biggs *Summarie Drake's W. Ind. Voy.* 19 The dead body of one of our boyes, found by them stragling all alone, from whom they had taken his head and his heart, and had stragled the other bowels about the place.

b. *passive.* To be placed stragglingly. *U.S.*

1898 Secretan *To Klondyke & Back* 110 At this time the 'City' consisted of several hundred tents, straggled along in the mud for about a mile and a half. 1902 *Munsey's Mag.* XXVI. 479/2 Few have seen the little, old town straggled along the backwater.

Hence **Stra·ggled** *ppl. a.*

1641 Shirley *Cardinal* v. iii. (1652) 62 Ha? if the Dutchess, in her stragled wits, Let fall words to betray me to the Cardinal. 1682 Dryden & Tate *Abs. & Achit.* ii. 1124 Thronging and busie as Hyblæan Swarms, Or stragled Souldiers Summon'd to their Arms. 1787 P. Oliver 18 Mar. in *T. Hutchinson's Diary* II. 424 Having nothing but a rusty stragled nail to write with. 1805 Collingwood 24 Oct. in Nicolas *Disp. Nelson* (1846) VII. 217 The remnant of the Combined Fleet..stood up to leeward of my shattered and straggled charge as if meaning to attack them. 1884 'V. Lee' *C'tess Albany* iii. 27 Its straggled, black and filthy streets. 1887 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 15 July 5/1 A rocky, splashing streamlet..fringed with patches of gorse and straggled belts of natural wood.

Straggle (stræ·g'l), *v.*² [Of obscure origin.] *trans.* To rough-dress (a grindstone). Cf. Straggling *vbl. sb.*² In recent Dicts.

Straggle-brained, *a.* [f. Straggle *v.*¹ + Brain *sb.* + -ed.] Having wandering wits.

1725 P. Walkden *Diary* (1866) 11 A wandering straggle-brained clergyman. 1887 Hall Caine *Son of Hagar* ii. xiii, The straggle-brained guest had been lit to his bed.

Straggler (stræ·glə1). Also 6–8 **stragler,** 6 **strag(g)eler, strageller,** 7 *Sc.* **straggillar.** [f. Straggle *v.*¹ + -er¹.] One who, or a thing which, straggles.

1. One who wanders or roves without fixed direction; one who strays from his companions or from the regular route; † a gadabout; † a camp-follower, a tramp, vagabond.

1530 Palsgr. 277/1 Straglers after an army, *bidaulx.truandaille.* 1585 Higins *Junius' Nomencl.* 486/2 *Desertor*,..a straggeler, or forsaker of his fellowes. 1592 Greene *Disput. Conny-catchers* D 3, A Maid shoulde not be a stragler, but like the Snayle, carry her house on her heade. 1594 Shaks. *Rich. III*, v. iii. 327 Let's whip these straglers o're the Seas againe. 1610 Beaum. & Fl. *Scornf. Lady* i. (1616) B 4 b, *Wel.*..Is your Ladie at home? *Abi.* She is no stragler Sir. 1617 Boys *Expos. Proper Ps.* ii. 33 Euen so the Church of God wandereth as a straggler and as a stranger in the wildernesse of this world. 1729 Swift *Direct. Serv., Butler* (1745) 35 Note, That Bottles missing are supposed to be half stolen by Stragglers and other Servants. 1773 J. Berridge *Whs.* (1864) 131 Satan may as well bar up his gates; he will not catch a single straggler. 1828 Lytton *Pelham* lxiv, I rode over the ground, in the hope of finding some solitary straggler of our party. 1883 Miss M. Betham-Edwards *Disarmed* xli, In an incredibly short space of time the vast pleasure-grounds were cleared of the last straggler.

transf. and *fig.* 1583 Greene *Mamillia* ii. (1593) H 3, Æneas a verie stragler, yet Dido neuer founde halting. 1612 Drayton *Poly-olb.* xvii. 56 But Homesdale raised Hills, to keep the straggler [a river] in. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* Introd. (c) 4 b, The Manila ships are the only ones which have ever traversed this vast ocean, except a French straggler or two.

2. *Mil.* A soldier who leaves the line of march or falls out of the ranks. † Also, a scout or skirmisher.

1589 Warner *Alb. Eng.* v. xxv. (1612) 118 Vntill a desperate Stragler with an arrow pierst his head. 1601 R. Johnson *Kingd. & Commw.* (1603) 160 He had lost his carriages with some fewe straglers that had marched disorderly. *c* 1617 Moryson *Itin.* ii. 81 Our straglers that went out retired to the firm ground. 1644 in *10th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. i. 53 He..tuik fourtie men and-many horses and slew many of thair straggillars. 1707 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4337/2 Col. Hill..assembled the Straglers of the English Regiments into a Body. 1813 Wellington 19 July in Gurw. *Desp.* (1838) X. 545 There are many stragglers still out. 1878 Bosw. Smith *Carthage* x. 205 He now rested for a time to recruit his troops, and to allow stragglers to rejoin him.

fig. 1589 Puttenham *Eng. Poesie* iii. xix. (Arb.) 240 This maner of speech is termed the figure of digression by the Latines,..we also call him the *straggler* by allusion to the souldier that marches out of his array. 1625 Gill *Sacr. Philos.* Pref., Although it be not lawfull for mee to handle either sword or speare; yet because I wish well to these holy wars, I have as a stragler brought my baskets of stones. 1850 Blackie *Æschylus* II. Notes 308 These Australians and Africans may be mere imbecile stragglers who have been dropt from the great army of humanity in its march. 1879 Proctor *Pleas. Ways Sci.* v. 119 The two meteors..may have been stragglers from the main body.

b. *Naut.* A sailor who is absent from his ship without leave or who overstays his leave.

1670 Covel in *Early Voy. Levant* (Hakluyt Soc.) 134 We saw some of the Straglers posting down in wonderful haste. 1699 Dampier *Voy.* II. ii. 15 The Captain was not among them; and they were afraid to tell the Spaniards so, for fear of being all hanged for Straglers. 1813 *Falconer's Dict. Marine* (ed. Burney), *Stragglers* are seamen who desert and abscond from his Majesty's ships. 1887 *Queen's Regul. Nav. Service* §728. 289 The Constable, or other person bringing Deserters or Stragglers on board. 1891 *Daily News* 22 Jan. 7/3 Sidney Stevens,..dressed in the uniform of a sailor, was charged before Mr. John Dickinson with being a 'straggler.'

† 3. A merchant who intrudes into a market without licence to trade there; an interloper. *Obs.*

1591 Q. Eliz. *Let. to Emp. Russia* 14 Jan. in Hakluyt *Voy.* (1599) I. 500 To purge your Countrey of such straglers of our subiects; as..are not of the Company of our merchants. 1601 J. Wheeler *Treat. Comm.* 55 *marg.*, The pedlarlike dealing of the English straglers at the Narue.

4. An animal that strays from its habitat or companions; esp. a migratory bird found at a place outside its usual range.

a 1552 Leland *Itin.* (1768) I. 74 There resorte many redde Dere stragelers to the Mountaines of Weredale. 1594 Barnfield *Affect. Sheph.* (Arb.) 30 If any [sheep] prove a Stragellar From his owne fellowes in a forraine field. 1647 Fuller *Good Th. in Worse T.* 118 Those Straglers [*sc.* deer]..being out of the Protection, because out of the Pale of the Parke. 1760 *Ann. Reg.* 127/1 The magistrates..have ordered all dogs to be muzzled..and all stragglers to be destroyed. 1830 Lyell *Princ. Geol.* (1835) III. 72 These animals of more southern seas can be considered only as stragglers attracted to our shores..by an abundant supply of food. 1852 Macgillivray *Brit. Birds* IV. 398 Very few [species] are permanently resident in Britain; but, with stragglers, we make up a pretty considerable list. 1890 'R. Boldrewood' *Col. Reformer* xviii, The stragglers or strayed cattle.. 1899 W. T. Greene *Cage Birds* 40 The Blue-headed Wagtail..is rather an accidental straggler to our shores than a resident species.

5. A plant, branch, etc., that grows irregularly or shoots too far; also, a plant, fruit, etc., found growing singly or apart from others of its kind. Similarly, a stray lock of hair. Also *fig.*

1553 Ascham in *Lett. Lit. Men* (Camden) 14 And I in a manner alone of that tyme left a standing straggler, peradventur, though my frute be very smaul, yet,..I may yet be thought somwhat fitt for seede. 1630 Br. Hall *Occas. Medit.* liii. (1633) 125 There you see a cluster, whose grapes touch one another, well ripened; heere you see some straglers, which grow almost solitarily, greene and hard. 1703 Pope *Vertumnus* 38 Sometimes his pruning-hook corrects the vines, And the loose stragglers to their ranks confines. 1825 Lamb *Elia* II. *Wedding*, My friend the Admiral ..did not at once shove up his borrowed locks..to betray the few grey straglers of his own beneath them. 1840 *Mental Culture* 27 Field and hedgerow stragglers, exposed to all weathers, will never reach their full stature. 1863 Lyell *Antig. Man* 16 In the antecedent bronze period there were no beech trees, or at most but a few straglers.

Straggling (stræ·glin), *vbl. sb.*¹ [-ing¹.] The action of Straggle *v.*¹

1602 J. Wheeler *Treat. Comm.* 53 Such stragling by free, and vnfree English vsed in Germanie, and the townes of the Lowe Countries out of the Marte townes, is so vnseemely, vnmerchantlike [etc.]. 1622 [E. Misselden] *Free Trade* 80 Having lost their Priuiledges, partly by their owne Stragling. 1847 *Infantry Man.* (1854) 99 The prevention of straggling is..part of the duties of a rear guard. 1862 *Queen's Regul. Nav. Service* 213 In cases of Desertion, a reward not exceeding 3*l.*, and in cases of Straggling not exceeding 1*l.*, is to be paid. 1893 *Nation* (N. Y.) 2 Feb. 86/2 Straggling cuts a considerable figure in Col. Allan's as well as in other Southern estimates of Lee's forces.

b. *attrib.* **straggling-money** *Naut.* (see quots.).

1815 *Falconer's Dict. Marine* (ed. Burney), *Straggling-Money*, a compensation allowed to persons on their apprehending and bringing on board any stragglers, or deserters, from his Majesty's ships or vessels. 1867 Smyth *Sailor's Word-bk., Straggling-money.* If a man be absent from his duty without leave, but not absent long enough to be logged as *run*, and is brought on board, a deduction is to be made from his wages at the discretion of the captain; not, however, to exceed the sum of £1.

Stra·ggling, *vbl. sb.*² [f. Straggle *v.*² + -ing¹.] A method of rough-dressing a grindstone (see quots.).

1850 Holtzapffel *Turning* III. 1109 In straggling, or ragging, the stone is kept running as usual whilst a piece of soft iron about a quarter or half an inch square..is wriggled against the edge of the stone by a motion of the wrist. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech., Straggling*, the process of working down the face of a grindstone to a regular shape, or of removing metallic particles which have become imbedded therein.

Stra·ggling, *ppl. a.* [-ing².] That straggles.

a. Of persons, animals, ships, etc.: Straying apart from companions or the main body; roving or wandering at random; † vagabond, vagrant.

† *Straggling mate*: a stray member of a company.

1589 Biggs *Summarie Drake's W. Ind. Voy.* 36 Lest by some stragling Spaniards from the land, they might be warned by signes from comming in. 1590 Greene *Orl. Fur.* i. i. 170 What is Orlando but a stragling mate, Banisht for some offence by Charlemaine. 1592 Bacon *Observ. Libel* Resusc. (1657) 121 A wrangling Neighbour, that may Trespass, now and then, upon some Stragling ships of ours, *c* 1611 Chapman *Iliad* x. 178 To approue, if any stragling mate He can surprise neare th' vtmost tents. 1632 *Swed. Intelligencer* 4. 116 In passing thorow which [forest] many of his stragling Souldiers were knockt downe by the Boores of the Countrey. 1634 Milton *Comus* 499 Hath any ram.. Slip't from the fold..Or straggling weather the pen't flock forsook? 1643 *Doeg. Lett. Pat. at Oxf.* (1837) 20 For restrayning of stragling and idle people from following the Army. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* II. iii. 151 They had now and then a straggling canoe or two of Indians. 1770 Adam Smith *W. N.* I. xi. (1869) I. 232 Some miserable pasture, just sufficient to keep alive a few straggling, half-starved cattle. 1841 Elphinstone *Hist. Ind.* II. 143 The straggling survivors of his party assembled at the same place. 1842 Lover *Handy Andy* xix, There were some straggling spectators besides, to witness the affair. 1866 Miss Braddon *Lady's Mile* i. 1 Some half-dozen nurse-maids with their straggling charges. 1883 Coues in *Encycl. Amer.* I. 528/2 Aside from the straggling *Haliaëtus albicilla* and the South American harpy.., only two eagles are known to occur in North America.

† b. Of a merchant; That trades in a market of which he is not free; interloping. Said also of trade thus practised. *Obs.*

c 1592 Horsey *Trav.* etc. (Hakl. Soc.) 290 All interloperes and straglyng Englishemene lyving in that contrey [Russia]. 1601 J. Wheeler *Treat. Comm.* 54 The gouerned and well-ordered trade of the M. M. Aduenturers Companie, is farre to be preferred before a dispersed, straglingand promiscuous trade. *Ibid.* 55 A number of stragling Marchants resorting thither out of this Realme, the trade was vtterly spoiled. 1622 [E. Misselden] *Free Trade* 81 Which is an effect of a straglng vngouerned Trade. [1851 Mayhew *Lond. Labour* II. 21/1 This traffic [in second-hand weapons], which is known as a 'straggling' trade, pursued by men who are at the same time pursuing other street-callings.]

c. Of hair, plants, a hedge, etc.: Growing irregularly or dispersedly; shooting or spreading too far.

1674 tr. *Scheffer's Lapland* 12 Their hair is thin, short and flaggy, their beard straglng andescarce covers their chins. 1697 Dryden *Virg. Georg.* i. 358 Twine The Sallow Twigs to tye the stragling Vine. 1707 *Curios. in Husb.* 254 Take off the Roots that are too long, and stragling. 1770 Goldsm. *Des. Vill.* 193 Beside yon straggling fence that skirts the way. 1784 Cowper *Task* II. 446 First we stroke An eye-brow; next, compose a straggling lock. 1851 Helps *Comp. Solit.* vi. 85 She..held up a straggling but pretty weed. 1860 Thackeray *Lovel* ii. (1861) 48 This gentleman with..the straggling beard. 1862 Miss Braddon *Lady Audley* i. 5 They must have fallen but for the straggling ivy.

d. of inanimate moving objects, of the direction or course of a moving body, of handwriting, etc.

1560 Phaer *Æneid* ix. (1562) Cc iij b, I se ye stragling starrs y^t^ from the poale their course declynes. 1581 Pettie *Guazzo's Civ. Conv.* i. (1586) A 5, I doubt not nowe but to escape a few straglng shot in a light skirmish. 1627 May *Lucan* x. T 3 b, Hence nature did His straggling waues within high mountaines hide. 1822 Byron *Juan* viii. lxxxvi, With straggling light The stars peep through the vapours. 1847 Lever *Knt. Gwynne* xxiii, The writing was straggling and irregular. 1871 L. Stephen *Playgr. Eur.* (1894) v. 134 We marched steadily forwards in a long straggling line.

e. *fig.* of immaterial things (e.g. thoughts, looks, words).

1589 Greene *Menaphon* (Arb.) 63 When your straggling eye..would bee gadding throughout euerie corner of our companie. 1608 Downame in *Eng. Hist. Rev.* (1909) Apr. 245 A few straglng sentences quoted out of the Fathers. *a.* 1614 D. Dyke *Myst. Self-Deceiv.* xxii. 276 The spirit of prayer..chaseth away all stragling thoughts. 1615 Brathwait *Strappado* 10 May I speake more, for I am in a vaine, To cull straage things out of a stragling braine. 1676 Wycherley *Pl. Dealer* ii. i, *Oliv.* He a Wit!..he's only an Adopter of stragling Jests and fatherless Lampoons. 1678 Shadwell *Timon* 50 O straglng Senses, whither are you going? 1747 *Frauds & Abuses Coal Trade* (ed. 3) 13 To be Runner to a Coal-Owner to distribute Bills, and collect straggling Debts. 1854 Carlyle in Froude *Life Lond.* (1884) II. 156 It must have been fourteen years later before I..began to have some distant straggling acquaintance of a personal kind with him.

f. Of stationary objects: Scattered or arranged irregularly. Of a road, tract of country: Winding irregularly, having an irregular outline. Of a house, town, etc.: Built irregularly and uncompactly.

1604 E. G[rimstone] *D'Acosta's Hist. Indies* iv. v. 217 There are two different kindes [of silver], the one they call straglng, the other fixed and setled. 1615 G. Sandys *Trav.* iii. 150 In the vally on the East side of the Citie, are many straglng buildings. 1700 Dryden *Fables, Char. Good Parson* 61 Wide was his Parish; not contracted close In Streets, but here and there a straggling House. 1778 *Eng. Gazetteer* (ed. 2) s.v. *Bicister*, 'Tis a long, straggling town. 1835 Dickens *Sk. Boz, Parl. Sketch*, That..ungainly-looking man,..with the straggling black trousers, which reach about half-way down the leg of his boots. 1838 Lytton *Alice* v. i, A straggling, irregular, but picturesque building. 1860 Trollope *Castle Richmond* vi, The straggling mahogany table in the centre of the room, whose ricketty legs gave way and came off whenever an attempt was made to move it. 1870 E. Peacock *Ralf Skirl.* II. 187 An inn with a straggling collection of houses near it. 1894 Weyman *Under Red Robe* ii, The cottages..ran in a straggling double line with many gaps.

g. Occurring casually or occasionally, 'stray'.

1618 in J. Charnock *Hist. Mar. Archit.* (1801) II. 231 Wherein is sett downe how of the 182 sailes wanting, 104 may be supplyed with straglng sailes of other shipps.

Hence **Stra·gglingly** *adv.*

1579–80 North *Plutarch, Dion* (1595) 1047 The other that could not get in in time, fledde straglingly vp and downe. 1650 A. B. *Mutat. Polemo* 24 So they straglingly departed like fools. 1668 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 230/2 About 160 German Souldiers being straglingly arrived at Milan, were by the Governours Order disposed of. 1693 Evelyn *De La Quint.*

Compl. Gard. II. 190 If we be not careful to thin it,..it .. grows weak, and shoots its Leaves straglingly outward. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* II. 220 [The Tartars] have but little beard, which grows straglingly on the chin. 1818 *Ann. Reg., Chron.*, etc. 479/1 The town stands straglingly on an abrupt slope. 1884 HOWELLS in *Harper's Mag.* Dec. 125/1 Roberts, Lawton, and Bemis follow straglingly.

Straggly (stræ·gli), *a.* [f. STRAGGLE *v.*[1] and *sb.* + -Y.] Characterized by straggling.

1866 CARLYLE *Remin.* (1881) I. 152 At the riding-house.. was a kind of straggly group, or small crowd, with redcoats interspersed. 1880 Miss BROUGHTON *Second Thoughts* I. iii, A shaky, straggly old man's hand. 1882 *Garden* 2 Sept. 204/3 The spike has numerous long straggly branches. 1890 J. HATTON *By Order of Czar* IV. i, His hair long and straggly.

Straght, obs. Sc. form of STRAIGHT.

Straghte, obs. pa. t. of STRETCH *v.*

† Stra·gler. *Obs. rare*[1]. [? jocularly f. L. *astragal-us*, Gr. ἀστράγαλ-ος (see ASTRAGAL) + -ER, after *straggler*.] *pl.* The game of hucklebones.

c 1650 *MS. Ashmole* 788 lf. 162 The game of Astragalls alias straglers.

Stragular (stræ·gi̯ŭlăr), *a.* [f. STRAGUL-UM + -AR.] Of or pertaining to the stragulum.

1891 *Century Dict.*

Stra·gule. *Bot. rare.* [a. F. *stragule* or ad. L. *strāgulum* covering.] The inner involucrum of the flowers of grasses.

1821 S. F. GRAY *Brit. Plants* I. 122 Glumelle. Stragule, Corolla, Interior glume [etc.]..The internal particular involucrum of the flowers of the grasses.

‖ **Stragulum** (stræ·gi̯ŭlŏm). *Ornith.* [L. *strāgulum* spread, covering, carpet.] = MANTLE *sb.* 9.

1891 *Century Dict.*

† Stra·hlite. *Min. Obs.* [f. G. *strahl-stein* (its earlier name; f. *strahl* sunbeam = ἀκτίς) + -ITE.] Actinolite.

1823 BROOKE *Introd. Crystallogr.* 453 Amphibole..Actynolite; Actinote; Strahlite.

Strai, obs. form of STRAW, STRAY.

Straibere, obs. form of STRAWBERRY.

Straio(h)t(e, obs. forms of STRAIGHT, STRAIT.

Straid, obs. Sc. pa. t. of STRIDE *v.*

Straif. *Obs.* exc. *dial.* Also 4 *pl.* **streyves, strayves, 6 straiff, strayff, 9 strafe.** [Alteration of STRAY *sb.*, to match *waif.*] A stray animal or thing. Chiefly in *waif and straif*: see WAIF *sb.*

1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. Prol. 94 Of wardes and wardmotes, weyues and streyues [1393 C. I. 92 strayues]. 1447 *Shillingford Lett.* etc. (Camden) 99 He and his predecessours..have had view of Frank Plegge weif and straif and all other profits longing to a viewe. 1509–10 *Durham Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 195 *Redd. Ass.* De ancaragia nil hoc anno, nec de wryk, nec de strayff, nec de wayff, nec de infanketheyff hoc anno. 1535–6 *Act* 27 *Hen. VIII*, c. 26 § 23 Lordes Marchers ..shall haue..Wayff, Straiff, Infanthef, Outfanthef, Treasoure Troves. 1876 *Whitby Gloss., Waif and Straif*, articles, by chance, washed up on the beach by the sea, as wreck materials; here they are the property of the manor owner. 1879 Miss JACKSON *Shropshire Word-bk., Strafe*, a stray animal.

Straif, obs. Sc. pa. t. of STRIVE *v.*

Straight (strēit), *a.*, *sb.* and *adv.* Forms: α. 4 (**straȝfte**), **strayth, streiȝet, streighte, streiht,** 4–5 **streiȝt,** 4–7 **streght,** 4–8 **streight,** 5 (**strath**), **streȝt, streith, streught, streygth, streyȝte, streyȝthte,** 5–6 **streghte,** 5–8 **streyght**(e, 6 **strayght**(e, (*Sc.* **strecht**), 8 *Sc.* **straicht,** 4– **straight.** β. *Sc.* 4 **stracht, strauȝt, strauht, strawt,** 4–5 **straȝte,** 4–7 **straght,** 4–9 **straucht, straught,** 6 **strauch.** γ. *Sc.* 5 **stright, stryȝte,** 6 **stricht.** δ. 4 **straitt,** 4–5 **streit**(e, **streyt**(e, 4–6 **strayt**(e, 5 **straict,** 5–8 **straite,** 5–9 **strait.** [ME. *streȝt, straȝt*, orig. an adjectival use of the pa. pple. of *strecchen* to STRETCH.] **A.** *adj.*

† I. As ppl. adj.: Extended at full length. *Obs.*

c 1400 *Destr. Troy* 7677 With a streught arme he keppit the caupe on his clene sheld. 14.. *Fifty-first Ps.* 45 in *Pol. Rel. & L. Poems* (1903) 281 Sithe þi flesche, lord, was furst perceyued And for oure sake laide streiȝt in stalle. *a* 1420 *Aunters of Arthur* 534 Hit was no ferly, in faye, His stedes startun on straye, With steroppus fulle stryȝte. 1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* I. II. 133 Quhairfor Ferithar receiuet the kingis Waipone, to wit, a naikit sworde, a bent and straucht out wande, in thir dayes called a sceptre.

† b. Spread out, broad. *Obs.*

† *a* 1366 CHAUCER *Rom. Rose* 119 And somdel lasse it was than Seine, But it was straighter [Fr. *plus espandue*] wel away.

2. Not crooked; free from curvature, bending, or angularity.

c 1350 *Libeaus Desc.* (Kaluza) 942 Hir nose was streiȝt [*Cotton MS.* strath] and riȝt. *c* 1369 CHAUCER *Dethe Blaunche* 942 Hyt [*sc.* her neck] was white, smothe, streght and pure flatte Wyth-outen hole. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 1574 The Stretis were streght & of a stronge brede. *c* 1420 *Liber Cocorum* (1862) 35 On alle these fowles tho legges schune bene, Summe cralled, sum streȝt, as I haue sene. 1523–34 FITZHERB. *Husb.* § 4 The plowes that goo with wheles, haue a streyghte beame. 1563 *Mirr. Mag., Jane Shore* xx, And bent the wand that might have growen ful streight. *a* 1577 SIR T. SMITH *Commw. Eng.* i. (1589) 2 A rule is alway to be vnderstoode to be straight. 1621 SHAKS. *Cymb.* III. i. 38 There is no mo such Cæsars, other of them may haue crook'd Noses, but to owe such straite Armes, none. 1667 J. CHILDREY *Brit. Baconica* 129 This River is a very streight and broad river. 1667 PRIMATT *City & C. Builder* 52 Let him in the buying his timber, buy the streightest he can light on. 1678 R. L'ESTRANGE *Seneca's Mor.* (1702) 213 A streight Stick in the Water appears to be crooked. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* III. 221 Upright he walks, on Pasterns firm and straight; His Motions easy; prancing in his Gate. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s. v. *Stairs*, Straight Stairs ..are such as always fly, that is, proceed in a Right Line, and never wind. 1737 *Gentl. Mag.* VII. 190 The Bill was hardly discernable, so I cannot say whether it was Streight or Crooked. 1767 GOOCH *Treat. Wounds* I. 234 We are to consider the..shape of the weapon; whether it has a strait, or a rising edge. 1786 BURNS *Vision* I. xi, And such a leg!..Saw straught, sae taper, tight and clean. 1796 WITHERING *Brit. Plants* (ed. 3) II. 123 Panicle stiff and straight. 1796 KIRWAN *Elem. Min.* (ed. 2) I. 162 Fracture presents..mostly streight and parallel, rarely curved fibres. 1808 PARSONS *Trav. Asia* xi. 230 The streets are all strait. 1839 LINDLEY *Introd. Bot.* 485 Straight (*rectus*); not wavy or curved, or deviating from a straight direction in any way. 1842 LOUDON *Suburban Hort.* 138 This requires a blade with a straight edge like those of the pruning-knives now in general use. 1896 *Law Times Rep.* LXXIII. 615/1 The railway line..was perfectly straight for a distance of over 700 yards.

absol. 1718 PRIOR *Solomon* I. 190 Water and Air the varied Form confound; The Strait looks crooked, and the Square grows round.

b. *Straight line*: a line uniform in direction throughout its length; *Geom.* = *right line*, which is now rare.

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* III. xvii. (1495) 61 One manere of the syghte is by strayte lynes vpon the whyche the lyknesse of the thyng that is seen cometh to the syghte. *c* 1537 DE BENESE *Measurynge Lande* A iiij, Of lynes one is a strayght lyne hangyng, ye seconde is a strayght lyne ouerthwarte [i.e. perpendicular and horizontal]. 1551 [see RIGHT *a.* 2]. 1610 BOLTON *Elem. Armories* 87 Armorial Lines are in their first diuision Straight, or Crooked. Againe the Straight are either Direct, or Oblique. 1649 JER. TAYLOR *Gt. Exemp.* I. Ad Sec. viii. 118 Of all lines the straight is the shortest. 1697 POTTER *Antiq. Greece* II. xiv. I. 287 Instead of ascending in a streight Line, it [the flame] whirled round. 1726 LEONI *Alberti's Archit.* I. 9 *a*, The strait Line is a Line drawn from one Point to another, the shortest Way. 1799 HAN. MORE *Fem. Educ.* (ed. 4) I. 240 Why in teaching to draw do you begin with strait lines and curves? 1840 LARDNER *Geom.* ii. 25 If from any proposed point P, several straight lines be drawn to a given straight line A B. 1870 B. STEWART *Elem. Physics* § 25. 28 The method of representing forces by straight lines. 1884 tr. *Lotze's Metaph.* 182 If we proceed onwards in a straight line, we shall, admittedly, never come to the end of the line. 1885 LEUDESDORF *Cremona's Proj. Geom.* 75 Through *M*..draw two straight lines to cut *u* in *A* and *B*.

c. Of a human form, a back: Erect, not crooked or stooping.

1599 SHAKS. *Hen. V*, v. ii. 168 A good Legge will fall, a strait Back will stoope, a blacke Beard will turne white. 1826 F. REYNOLDS *Life & Times* I. 232 He was young, tall, strait, and good-looking. 1855 TENNYSON *Brook* 70 A daughter of our meadows, Straight, but as lissome as a hazel wand. 1868 GEO. ELIOT *F. Holt* I. I. 31 You are as straight as an arrow still.

d. Of a limb, etc.: Held with the joint not flexed.

1765 ANGELO *Sch. Fencing* 18 Keep a strait arm, in order to throw off his point. *a* 1774 GOLDSM. *Surv. Exp. Philos.* (1776) II. 169 As painful as it would be to stretch out a finger streight that was contracted by an inflammation.

e. Of hair: Not curly or waved.

1748 SMOLLETT *Rod. Random* xiii. (1768) I. 83 My hair.. hung down upon my shoulders, as lank and streight as a pound of candles. 1774 *Pennsylv. Gaz.* 23 Feb. 5/3 A native Irish servant man,..fair complexion, straight fair hair. 1886 H. W. LUCY *Diary Gladstone Parlt.* 239 His pale face, his straight black hair.

f. Printing. *Straight accent*: a macron.

1888 JACOBI *Printers' Vocab.* 134 *Straight accents*, another term for long accents, thus—ā ē ī ō ū.

g. *Arch.* (See quots.)

[1666 *Act* 18 & 19 *Chas. II*, c. 8 § 5 Archworke or Bricke or Stone either straight or circular.] 1812 P. NICHOLSON *Mech. Exerc.* 237 All vaults which have a horizontal straight axis, are called straight vaults. 1828 — *Masonry* 110 *Straight walls*, those which have plane surfaces.

h. *Anat.* The distinctive epithet of certain structures (= mod.L. *rectus*).

1585 HIGINS *Junius' Nomencl.* 31/2 *Intestinum rectum*, ..the straight gut, or the arse gut. 1749 HARTLEY *Observ. Man* I. I. § 3. 99 The Four strait Muscles of the Eye. 1840 W. J. E. WILSON *Anat. Vade M.* (1842) 339 The Straight or fourth sinus is the sinus of the tentorium. 1879 HARLAN *Eyesight* ii. 30 The straight muscles, acting together, tend to draw it [the eyeball] backwards, while the oblique muscles are so placed as to oppose this tendency.

i. *Zool.* and *Bot.* (See quots.)

1828 J. PARKINSON *Outl. Oryctol.* 171 The additions which this author has made to the genera of straight multilocular shells. 1841 *Penny Cycl.* XXI. 183/2 Mirbel has proposed a classification of ovules. When the ovule has grown regularly with the hilum and chalaza at the base and the foramen at the apex, it is called a *straight* ovule, or *orthotropous*. 1854 A. ADAMS, etc. *Man. Nat. Hist.* 373 Straight-Foraminifers (Vaginulidæ).

j. Of the front of a coat or dress: Not fitting closely to the chest.

1893 *Daily News* 5 Apr. 7/1 This shape is fitted in towards the waist at the back, but the fronts are 'straight,' a tailor's technicality for 'not fitting'. 1906 *Daily Chron.* 19 Sept. 4/4 The dress-improver and even the 'straight-front' were in the panoply of the society dame of nineteen centuries ago.

3. Direct, undeviating. **a.** Of a way or course: Leading directly to its destination; not deviating or circuitous. Also in fig. context.

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* A. 691 By wayez ful streȝt he con hym strayn [Vulg. *Sap.* x. 10 *Deduxit per vias rectas*]. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Knt.'s T.* 832 Duc Theseus the streighte wey hath holde And to the launde he rideth hym ful right. *c* 1425 *Hampole's Psalter* Metr. Pref. 32 This is þe way to mannys syȝt; euen streygth wiþ out deseyt. 1488 *Cal. Anc. Rec. Dublin* (1889) I. 493 And so forth the streyght wey till they came to Kylmagergan. 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* lxxvi. 1 Quhat is this lyfe bot ane straucht way to deid. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 22 This waye of religyon, whiche is the streyght waye to the perfeceyon of grace. 1533 BELLENDEN *Livy* II. 6 Pan was it found expedient to send Icelius brother and numitorius soñ..þe strauchest way þai mycht to þe portis. 1535 COVERDALE *Luke* iii. 4 Prepare the waye of the Lorde, and make his pathes straight. 1568 GRAFTON *Chron.* II. 28 He without long tariyng or aduisement, tooke the streight way to the sea syde. 1627 ABP. ABBOT in Rushw. *Collect.* (1659) I. 456 To keep things in a streight course, sometimes in fits of the Gout, I was forced by my Servants to be carried into the Court. 1736 BUTLER *Anal.* I. v. 93 If we were to suppose a strait Path marked out for a Person. 1820 SCOTT *Monast.* xxiii, While, in pursuit of his interest, he made all the doubles which he thought necessary to attain his object, he often..missed that which he might have gained by observing a straighter course. 1859 GEO. ELIOT *Adam Bede* xxxvii, Hetty..asked the straightest road northward towards Stonyshire.

† b. Of a look: Bold, steady. *Obs.*

c 1400 *Destr. Troy* 3758 Stokyn ene out stepe with a streught loke.

c. Of an aim, a stroke, a throw, etc.: Directed precisely to the mark.

1833 NYREN *Yng. Cricketer's Tutor* 33 All straight balls should be played straight back. 1837 DICKENS *Pickw.* vii, The ball flew from his hand straight and swift towards the centre stump of the wicket. 1859 RUSKIN *Two Paths* i. § 32 The workman's whole aim is straight at the facts, as well as he can get them. 1884 *Sat. Rev.* 26 Jan. 108/1 The clumsy round-armed hit [in boxing]..is not esteemed so highly as a straight hit made directly from the shoulder.

d. Of gunpowder: = *straight-shooting*: see C.

1899 F. V. KIRBY *Sport E. C. Africa* xxvii. 302, I had made up my mind to use my rifle, with the straightest powder I had. 1900 POLLOK & THOM *Sports Burma* 262 One need not necessarily burn straight powder.

e. *colloq.* Of an utterance: Outspoken, unreserved. *Straight talk*: a piece of plain speaking.

1894 ASTLEY *50 Yrs. Life* I. 326, I made a vow..that I would never open that infernal Euclid book again, and, what is more, I never will! so that is straight. 1895 *Westm. Gaz.* 11 Sept. 2/2 The jury..attributed the accident solely to the neglect of the Conservators...That is pretty straight. 1900 *Ibid.* 1 Sept. 1/2 One candidate..is already consoling himself in advance with the thought of the Straight Talks he will give the..deputations that are certain to descend upon him. 1903 *Ibid.* 9 Jan. 2/2 It was a night of Straight Talks.

f. *The straight tip* (colloq.): see TIP *sb.*[4] b.

† 4. Of a mountain: Steep. *Obs.* (chiefly *Sc.*)

1475 *Bk. Noblesse* (Roxb.) 15 The streit high monteyns of Pirone. 1533 BELLENDEN *Livy* II. xxi. (S. T. S.) I. 218 Þai fled vp throw ane strate montane.. 1549 *Compl. Scot.* Ep. Ded. (1873) 2 The quhilkz volffis ar nocht the rauand sauuage volffis of strait montanis ande vyild fforrestis. *a* 1800 *Bonny Lizie Lindsay* xxiii. in Child *Ballads* IV. 262/2 The mountains were baith strait and stay.

5. *Straight angle.* **† a.** A right angle (*obs.*); **b.** in mod. use, an angle of 180°.

1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* II. xviii. I. 13 Those raies that come sidelong..give but a darke and dim light..in comparison of them that fall directly with streight angles. 1707 MORTIMER *Husb.* 431 The best Figure for a Kitchin-Garden..is a Square of straight Angles. 1889 DUPUIS *Elem. Synth. Geom.* § 36. 17 One-half of a circumangle is a straight angle, and one-fourth of a circumangle is a right angle.

6. Of conduct: Free from crookedness; frank, honest. Hence of persons and their attributes.

The present use (chiefly *colloq.*) is unconnected with that of the 16–17th c.

1530 PALSGR. 326/1 Strayght, ryght in condycions, *juste*. 1541–2 *Act* 33 *Hen. VIII*, c. 15 § 1 The..good order strayte and true dealing of the inhabitauntes of the said towne [Manchester]. *a* 1628 PRESTON *New Covt.* (1634) 233 To describe to you a right and straight man, when his end is right, and his rule is right. 1642 EARL LEVEN *Let.* 28 Nov. in *Scott. Jrnl. Topog.* (1847) I. 73/2, I am aboundantly persuaded of your integrity and straight desyres for the peace..of o' poor distressed kingdome.

1864 KIMBALL *Was he Success/ul?* 43 (Hoppe) You are honest too—straight as a shingle. 1890 *Spectator* 22 Nov., There exists..a sort of instinctive appreciation of honesty which..gives enormous influence to any big squatter who is really upright and 'straight'. 1893 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* Mar. 1 Having the reputation of being a fearless and independent divine, a straight man, true to his cloth and calling. 1901 BP. W. STUBBS in *Ch. Q. Rev.* Apr. 9, I think there never was such a life, so long, so brave, so devoted, so straight. 1904 SHUDDICK *How to arrange with Creditors* 32 If the debtor..has been what is called a straight man, the creditors..accept his proposal of a composition. 1908 W. W. FOWLER *Soc. Life Rome* vi. 200 It is on the whole a pleasing letter... The reader shall be left to decide for himself whether it is perfectly straight and genuine.

† b. Right, proper, fitting. *Obs.*

1538 STARKEY *England* 98 Vertue..schowyth vs the ryght vse and streght, both of helth, strenghth, and beuty.

c. Of a person: Well-conducted, steady. Chiefly in *to keep straight*. Also, of a woman: Virtuous, chaste.

1868 A. L. GORDON *Let.* Poems (1912) 370 She tried hard to cheer me up and keep me straight. 1876 'OUIDA' *Winter City* vi. 125 If only people 'keep straight' for the sake only of what other people say of them. 1886 — *House Party* vii. (1887) 163 Do you really think that to have any influence on English public life it is necessary..to keep so very

straight, as regards women, I mean, you know? 1890 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 21 May 5/1 Mr. Dolling amused his audience.. by his description of a 'straight girl,' *i. e.*, one a young fellow not merely walked out with, but intended to marry. 1893 Saltus *Madame Sapphira* 133 As God is my witness that girl is as straight as your sister. 1894 Wilkins & Vivian *Green Bay Tree* I. 185 She..meant to marry him in two or three years, if he proved he could keep straight in the meanwhile. 1908 R. Bagot *A. Cuthbert* viii. 83 And, now Jim came to think of it, she had shown that she was 'straight'. A woman who wasn't would have behaved—well, differently.

7. Not oblique; either vertical or horizontal. Hence, *a straight eye*: ability to see whether an object is placed straight.

c 1600 Shaks. *Sonn.* cxxi. 11, I may be straight though they them-selues be beuel. 1865 Dickens *Mut. Fr.* I. vi, In its whole constitution it had not a straight floor. 1901 *Daily News* 21 Sept. 6/4 As to the machine stitching, there is very little difficulty about that to anyone who has a straight eye. *Mod.* I don't think that picture is quite straight.

b. *Cricket.* Of the bat: Held so as not to incline to either side. Hence, *straight play*, play with the bat held straight.

1843 'A Wykhamist' *Pract. Hints on Cricket* 7 The secret of all good Batting..is the playing with a straight or upright Bat. 1851 W. Clarke *Pract. Hints on Cricket* in E. V. Lucas *Hambledon Men* (1907) 167 By the handle of the bat being nearer the bowler than the blade (always bearing in mind to keep it straight), the ball will be prevented from rising. 1851 Pycroft *Cricket Field* iii. (1854) 45 [He] always insisted on keeping the left elbow well up; in other words, on straight play. 1897 *Encycl. Sport* I. 219/2 (Cricket), 'How beautifully straight his bat is!' is a remark often made about a good batsman. As a matter of fact 'upright' would be a more correct term than 'straight', but 'straight' is the almost invariable epithet.

8. Predicatively: In proper order, not ruffled or disarranged. *To keep one's face straight* (colloq.): to refrain from laughing.

1831 *Society* I. 64 The pleasure of seeing her kept his temper straighter than usual. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* II. I. ii, It would make all so straight again. 1847 Helps *Friends in C.* I. vi. 92; I prefer real life..where there is no third volume [as in a novel] to make things straight. 1860 Thackeray *Lovel* iii, Lay them books straight. Put the volumes together, stupid! 1885 'Mrs. Alexander' *Valerie's Fate* iii, Come and put your hair straight. 1887 P. Fendall *Sexto Last* III. x. 181, 220 Five minutes' conversation..will set everything straight. 1888 Honnor Morten *Hospital Life* 73 The small patients lay quiet in their cribs; everything was straight for the night. 1897 *Spectator* 25 Sept. 408/1 The story..is one which few people, to use an expressive vulgarism, will be able to read 'with a straight face'.

b. *colloq.* Of accounts: Settled up, leaving nothing owing.

1613 *Nottingham Rec.* IV. 316 Southwell pence beinge in arrerage..Maister Hill..shall pay the same..and so to sett ytt straight for this tyme. 1798 T. Morton *Speed the Plough* IV. i. (1800) 52 Zur Philip did send vor I, about the money I do owe 'un; and said as how he'd make all strait between us. 1900 *Westm. Gaz.* 12 Apr. 7/1 He goes away with a straight book.

c. Of a person: Having settled one's differences (*with* another); also, having balanced one's account, 'even'.

1730 P. Walkden *Diary* (1866) 108 This morning Thomas Harrison had my horse a gate with a load of oats to the Lum..in return for his horse that I had once thither with a load of oats, so that we are now straight in the case. 1894 Mrs. Dyan *Man's Keeping* (1899) 262 She..urged him to strive to get straight once more with his conscience and his God.

9. *U.S.* **a.** Unmixed, undiluted; of spirits, 'neat'. Also qualifying a designation of a political party: Strict, rigid, extreme. *To vote the straight ticket*: to vote for all the official candidates of one's party.

1856 *N. Y. Courier & Enquirer* Sept. (Bartlett), The present candidate of the straight Whigs for the Vice-Presidency. 1857 *N. Y. Times* 14 Oct. (ibid.), The straight Republican Convention is to meet to-morrow. 1862 J. R. Morris in *Congr. Globe* 7 July 3158/3, I supported the straight Democratic ticket. 1865 Visct. Milton & W. B. Cheadle *N.-W. Passage by Land* ii. (1867) 33 As a Yankee would express it, they were geese and ducks 'straight'—*i.e.*, without anything else whatever. 1873 Leland *Egypt. Sketch-Bk.* 146 Pains have been taken to add ornament, though every other structure near it be of mud 'straight'—or unmingled and plain. 1874 *Slang Dict.* 312 *Straight*, an American phrase peculiar to dram-drinkers; similar to our word neat. 1879 Tourgee *Fool's Err.* vii. 28, I allers did like my liquor clar,—clar an' straight. 1892 W. Pike *Barren Ground N. Canada* 128 We had bread at every meal, which is in itself a luxury after four months of straight meat. 1901 W. Churchill *Crisis* viii. 432 Stephen had never learned to like straight whiskey.

b. *Straight Poker, Whist*, etc.: the game in its unmodified form. *Straight four, five, six, straight flush*: see quots.

1882 *Poker; how to play it* 56 A Straight Flush (that is, a sequence of five cards, all of the same suit). *Ibid.* 72 Straight Poker or Bluff, as it is sometimes called, is played with a pack of fifty-two cards. 1895 G. J. Manson *Sporting Dict., Straight Five*, a sequence or rotation of fives. *Ibid., Straight Four.* 1901 R. F. Foster *Bridge* Introd. p. xii, Bridge..has completely taken the place of straight whist.

c. Of a grade of flour (see quots.).

1859 Bartlett *Dict. Amer.* (ed. 2) 454 *Straight*, even or uniform in quality. A term used in Commerce, and particularly among flour-dealers. 1883 E. Ingersoll in *Harper's Mag.* June 78/1 Bakers..use what is known as 'wheat' or 'straight' flour, which is the product of the five reductions, all the subsequent processes through which the middlings pass in making fine flour being omitted.

10. *Comb.* **a.** Parasynthetic formations, unlimited in number, as *straight-barred, -barrelled, -billed, -bitted, -bodied, -edged, -fibred, -grained, -hammed, -horned, -jointed, -leaved, -legged, -limbed, -minded, -necked, -nosed, -ribbed, -shaped, -sided, -stocked, -tusked, -veined, -winged* adjs.

1832 J. Rennie *Consp. Butterfl. & Moths* 171 The *Straight-barred Elm (*Cnephasia rectifasciana*). 1709 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4540/8 Stray'd or Stoln,..a black Gelding,..full chested, *streight barrel'd. 1811 Shaw *Gen. Zool.* VIII. 329 One of the most beautiful of the *strait-billed Humming-Birds. *c* 1875 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* III. 309 The Parrots are divided into two large sections,..the Paxrots proper.. and..the straight-billed Parrots, (*Psittaci orthognathi*). 1665 Rea *Flora* I. 4 With a *straight-bitted Spade, or Turving-Iron..they will easily be flaied and taken up. 1603-26 Breton *Mad World* (Grosart) 8/1 A..faire-handed, small-footed, *straight-bodied..gentlewoman. 1689 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 2493/4 A Bay Mare,..streight Body'd,..strayed..on the 30th past. 1833 Loudon *Encycl. Archit.* § 690 Wooden hooping, or *straight-edged laths, may be substituted for iron. 1886 *Encycl. Brit.* XXI. 819/2 s.v. *Shipbuilding*, Plank is either worked in parallel strakes, when it is called 'straight-edged', or [etc.]. 1785 Roy in *Phil. Trans.* LXXV. 434 Very *straight-fibred deal was not..affected..by the humidity of the air. 1753 F. Price *Brit. Carpenter* (ed. 3) 6 With some good, dry, and *strait-grain'd English oak. 1843 Holtzapffel *Turning* I. 52 *Straight-grained pines and mahogany. 1903 *Westm. Gaz.* 31 Oct. 7/1 The purse is made of straight-grained, dark green morocco leather. 1714 Tickell in Steele *Poet. Misc.* 181 Truss-thigh'd, *straight-ham'd, and Fox-like form'd his Paw. 1854 A. Adams etc. *Man. Nat. Hist.* 200 *Straight-horned Snout-Beetles (Orthocerata). 1887 Morris *Odyss.* XII. 348 His straight-horned oxen. 1711 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4849/4 [Of a horse.] *Strait jointed behind. 1833 Loudon *Encycl. Archit.* § 239 To lay good..straight-jointed floors in the sitting-rooms and passage. 1553 Paynell tr. *Dares Phryg. Destr. Troy* C v b, Polixena,..her members well made and well proporcioned, long fingerde, *streight legged. 1898 Conan Doyle *Trag. Korosko* v. 137 He walked slowly away, with his straight-legged military stride. 1909 Mrs. H. Ward *Daphne* iii. 49 The chairs and sofas were a trifle stiff and straight-legged. 1622 Bacon *Hen. VII*, 246 Hee was a Comely Personage, a little aboue Iust Stature, well and *straight limmed, but slender. 1860 Forster *Gr. Remonstr.* 102 Robert Car was a poor but handsome young Scot,..straight-limbed, well-favoured,..and smooth-faced. 1841 Thackeray *Gt. Hoggarty Diam.* vii, 'Mr. Titmarsh,' says he,..'you seem to be an honest, *straight-minded young fellow'. 1839 Yarrell *Suppl. Brit. Fishes* 47 The *Straight-nosed Pipe-Fish, *syngnathus ophidion*. 1821 S. F. Gray *Brit. Plants* I. 75 Nervature..*Straight-ribbed, *rectinervia, penninervia*. Ribs running in a straight line. 1825 Scott *Talism.* i, A long, broad, *straight-shaped, double-edged falchion. 1826 J. Smith *Panorama Sci. & Art* I. 144 A *straight-sided canopy is sometimes used. 1871 W. Morris in Mackail *Life* (1899) I. 268 A terrible chasm, deep, straight-sided, and with water at the bottom. 1598 Barret *Theor. Warres* 33 A straight-stocked peece, I hold for the better. 1882 W. B. Dawkins in *Contemp. Rev.* Aug. 307 The *straight-tusked elephant. 1839 Lindley *Introd. Bot.* 132 *Straight-veined [leaves]. 1854 A. Adams etc. *Man. Nat. Hist.* 209 *Straight-winged Insects (Orthoptera).

b. In concord with sb., forming combs. used *attrib.* or as adjs., as in *straight-line, -needle, -tube.*

1843 *Penny Cycl.* XXV. 425/2 The square or *straight-line chuck..is peculiar to the rose-engine. 1884 F. J. Britten *Watch & Clockm.* 249 [A] Straight Line Lever..a form of Lever Escapement chiefly used in foreign watches, in which the escape wheel arbor, the pallet staff, and the balance staff are planted in a straight line. 1900 *Engineering Mag.* XIX. 728 A straight-line motion of a moveable piston. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2120/2 The sewing-machine for leather is similar to the ordinary *straight-needle machine, but is stronger. 1901 *Scotsman* 13 Mar. 10/7 Four types of large *straight tube boilers.

c. Special combinations and collocations: **straight arch**, an arch having radiating joints but a straight intrados and extrados line; **straight-backed** *a.* (*a*) *lit.* of a person, an animal, a chair, etc.; (*b*) not bending the back for work, idle; (*c*) not given to lounging, energetic; **straight bit** (see quot.); **straight block**, a kind of joiner's plane; **straight-claw** *Zool.*, a bird of the genus *Orthonyx*; **straight coal** *Mining* (see quot.); **straight-haired** *a.* (*a*) having straight hair, leiotrichous; (*b*) puritanical, prim; hence **straight-hairedness**; **straight-horn** *Zool.*, an animal of the family *Orthoceratidæ*; **straight hosiery** (see quot.); **straight-joint floor** *Arch.* (see quot.); **straight-necked** *a.*, having a straight neck; (of a fox) running with a straight neck or without deviation; **straight stall** *Mining* = *straight coal*; **straight-tail** *Ornith.* (see quot.); **straight-wing**, an insect of the family *Orthoptera*. Also Straight-edge.

1663 Gerbier *Counsel* 63 *Straight Arches. 1842 *Civil Engin. & Arch. Jrnl.* V. 251/2 Straight Arch, or Flat Band, with joints converging to a common centre. 14.. in *Harrow. Hall* Introd. 25 The horss hath xxv propertes...After the asse, well-mouthid, well-wyndid, *streght-bakked. 1830 Cobbett *Rur. Rides* (1885) II. 356 No straight-backed, bloated fellow,..called a publican. 1847 W. C. L. Martin *Ox* 48/1 Excellent cattle,..large, straight-backed, deep, and broad-breasted. 1859 Geo. Eliot *Adam Bede* xl, The mother's a whimpering thing..; however, she's a straight-backed, clean woman, none of your slatterns. 1915 Begbie *Cage* ii. 41 The grandmother in a straight-backed chair, the child on a stool at her feet. 1883 Gresley *Gloss. Coal-mining* 244 *Straight bit*, a flat or ordinary chisel for boring. 1812 P. Nicholson *Mech. Exerc.* 105 The *Straight Block is used for shooting short joints and mitres, instead of the jointer,

1894–5 Lydekker *Roy. Nat. Hist.* III. 438 The..yellow-headed *straight-claw (*Orthonyx ochrocephalus*), is characterised by the short and straight beak. 1883 Gresley *Gloss. Coal-mining* 244 *Straight coal*, an excavation made in the Thick coal, having the solid coal left on three sides of it. 1841 Miall in *Nonconformist* I. 242 One may hear timid, down-looking, *straighthaired dissenters who speak as small as a halfpenny whistle. 1910 J. McCabe *Prehist. Man* vii. 102 One of the great divisions of humanity, the 'straight-haired' men, or Leiotrichi. 1890 Huxley in L. Huxley *Life & Lett.* (1900) I. 52, I had expected a good deal of *straight-hairedness (if you understand the phrase) and methodistical puritanism, but I find it quite otherwise. 1861 P. P. Carpenter in *Rep. Smithsonian Instit.* 1860, 167 They belonged to the Family *Orthoceratidæ*, or *Straight-horns. 1892 *Labour Commission* Gloss., *Straight Hosiery*, articles made by cutting up into lengths a long seamless piece..and stitching upon them a stocking foot or sheet sleeve. 1842 Gwilt *Archit.* § 2168 The chief sorts of floors may be divided into those which are *folded*,..and those which are **straight joint*, in which the side joints of the boards are continuous throughout their direction. 1577 B. Googe *Heresbach's Husb.* III. 127 He is coloured lyke a fallowe Deare, *straight necked, and hye, like an Ostryge, his head something higher then a Cammels. 1887 *Field* 19 Feb. 232/3 They missed the good straight-necked fox from this covert which was brought to hand not long since at Terringham. 1900 *Westm. Gaz.* 12 Jan. 3/1 Scent was not of that reliable description which conduces to straight-necked foxes. 1860 *Mining Gloss., S. Staffs. Terms* 80 *Straight Stall*, an excavation made into the thick coal, having the solid coal left on three sides of it. 1843 *Penny Cycl.* XXV. 272/2, 21st Race [of Hummingbirds]. The *Straight-tails..Bill very short; tail composed of long, delicate, pointed, graduated feathers. 1842 Loudon *Suburban Hort.* 100 *Orthoptera* (*Straight-wings).

B. quasi-*sb.* and *sb.*

1. The adj. used *absol.* (quasi-*sb.*) in certain phrases.

† **a.** *Upon straight*: upright, erect. *Obs.*

c 1400 *Destr. Troy* 3841 Burthen hade ynoghe The fete of bat freke to ferke hym aboute, Or stond vppo streght for his strong charge.

b. *On the straight*: (*a*) along a straight line, not following irregularities of contour; (*b*) parallel with the side, as opposed to 'on the cross' = diagonally; (*c*) *slang*, behaving reputably.

1663 Gerbier *Counsel* 48 Work rated on running measure, and on the straight. 1894 *Paris Modes* I. 31/2 It is usually cut on the cross...The material is folded over to form a triangle, and in anything cut out of it in this position the threads run differently to what is cut on the straight. 1900 E. Wallace *Writ in Barracks* 103 O the garden it is lovely —That's when Jerry's on the straight!

c. *Out of straight*: deviating from the required straight form or position; not duly rectilinear, level, or perpendicular; awry.

1678 Moxon *Mech. Exerc.* iv. 66 You have the less danger that the Joynt is wrought out of straight. 1683 *Ibid., Printing* xvi. 144 He may find out whether either or both of the Carriages are out of straight. 1851–61 Mayhew *Lond. Labour* III. 24/1 The bone broke..and in growing together again it got out of straight.

† **d.** *To take the straight* (in measurement): to measure in a straight line. *Obs.*

1805 *State, Fraser of Fraserfield* 186 (Jam.) That the distance..taking the straight, and leaving the small angles and turns of the banks unnoticed, is about 2060 feet.

2. A straight form or position; a level.

1645 Quarles *Sol. Recant.* i. 2 Not all this knowledge can reduce the state Of crooked nature to a perfect Straight. 1688 Holme *Armoury* III. xviii. (Roxb.) 142/1 Mounture the Morter, elevate the mouth of it from a streight to such a degree of height as is necessary for the slinging or casting out of the granado to the distance or place required. 1812 P. Nicholson *Mech. Exerc.* 142 Winding Sticks are..for the purpose of ascertaining whether a surface be straight or not, if not, the surface must be brought to a straight by trial. 1904 Gallichan *Fishing Spain* 162 The rod flew back to the straight, and the line came mournfully limp to the bank. A grand fish lost!

3. A straight portion, e.g. of a race-course (see quot. 1897), a railway. *Straight of breadth* (Naut.): see quot. 1846.

1846 A. Young *Naut. Dict.* 325 *Straight of breadth*, in shipbuilding, the space before, at, and abaft the dead-flat, in which the ship is of the same uniform breadth. 1864 *Field* 16 July 41/2 Three-quarters of a mile from home Fisherman's Daughter began to draw up to the leaders; on entering the straight she went up to Spitfire Kitty, and heading her..went on with the lead. 1894 Crockett *Raiders* xlii, 355 The beast that hunted me gaining ever on the straight, and I at the turnings. 1897 *Daily News* 13 Sept. 7/2 Then there are frequent and long stretches of 'straight,' that delight of the railway engineer. 1897 *Encycl. Sport* I. 62/2 (Athletics) *Straight*, the section of the track between the last bend and the winning post. 1913 *Times* 2 Sept. 12/1 Seremond..retained his place, and when presently the field turned into the straight he was still in front.

4. *Geom.* A straight line. *rare.*

1892 G. B. Halsted *Elem. Synth. Geom.* 4 The intersection of two planes is called a straight line, or simply a straight. 1904 — *Rational Geom.* 3 Two distinct straights cannot have two points in common.

5. In Poker and other games: A series of five cards in sequence but not of the same suit.

1882 *Poker; how to play it* 16 A Sequence (sometimes called a 'straight'). *Ibid.* 55 If more than one player holds a straight, the straight headed by the highest card wins. 1894 Maskelyne *Sharps & Flats* 84 A 'four'; which can only be beaten when 'straights' are played by a 'straight flush'—in other words, a sequence of five cards, all of the same suit. 1897 R. F. Foster *Compl. Hoyle* 182 (Poker), In straights, the highest card of the sequence wins.

C. *adv.*

Certain similative phrases, as *straight as a dart, as a stick*, etc., which primarily belong to the adj., are sometimes

used colloq. in various senses of the adv. to which they have no pertinence.

1. In a straight course or line.

a. In a straight course; directly to or from a place; without deviation or circuit; by the shortest way. Also in modified sense (often indistinguishable from sense 2): Without any intermediate destination or interruption of journey.

13.. *Bonaventura's Medit.* 1122 Se cryst aftyr hys deþ: For þy synne streyght to helle he geþ. *c* 1350 *Will. Palerne* 3592 Þe Kinges sone..gart his [stede] goo, and streiȝet to him rides. *c* 1374 CHAUCER *Troylus* II. 1461 But to his neces hous, as streyt as lyne, He com. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* XIV. 22 Till Irland held he straucht his way. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 959 Jason..stird ouer the streame streght to þe lond. 14.. *Hymns Virg. & Christ* 13 For myȝtili þou roos, & ran Streiȝt vnto þi fadir in trone. *c* 1440 *Ps. Penit.* (1894) 58 Delyvere me lord from my foo felle, For straught to the yfled am y. *c* 1450 in Aungier *Syon* (1840) 284 He schal not come at the seyd grate, but he schal go streghte into the monastery. *c* 1500 *Melusine* xix. 69 Hold strayte this way and ye shal not mys of it. 1528 MORE *Dyalogue* IV. Wks. 271/2 They make a vysage as though they came streight from heauen to teache them a newe better waye. *a* 1533 BERNERS *Huon* lxiv. 220 There shall ye fynde your brother Huon, who is come strayte fro beyond ye see. *c* 1643 LD. HERBERT *Autobiog.* (1824) 139 This piece of eloquence moved me so much that I went straight to his Excellency. 1687 A. LOVELL tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* I. 204 When we had seen all these things, we took our way streight to Jerusalem. 1704 SWIFT *Batt. Bks.* 253 Fame..fled up strait to Jupiter. *c* 1730 RAMSAY *Vision* XXVII, He mounit upwarts..Straicht to the milkie way. 1845 DISRAELI *Sybil* IV. vi, The nearest way to it is straight along this street. 1858 MRS. CARLYLE *Lett.* II. 380 Are you going straight to London? 1876 TREVELYAN *Life Macaulay* I. i. 16 The captain..brought a party of sailors straight to the Governor's house.

b. with advs., †*forth* (obs.), *forward*, *on*.

a 1400 *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* xxiii. 200 Þat vr fot mowe þen go Streiht forþ wiþ-outen lettyng. *c* 1450 CAPGRAVE *St. Aug.* XXV. 34 With þe next wynd he and his felauchip sailed streit on-to Cartage. 1535 STEWART *Cron. Scot.* (Rolls) II. 441 Fra Striuiling straucht on to the Eist se. 1782 MISS BURNEY *Cecilia* IX. iii, When felicity is before us..we proceed strait forward. 1876 J. SAUNDERS *Lion in Path* iii, He went straight on to the noble palace that had been placed at the service of James II some few years before. 1887 J. ASHBY-STERRY *Cucumber Chron.* 7 She tells me, I am to keep round to the right and go straight on. I follow her directions and pass by the Priory.

c. In a straight line, not crookedly.

1530 PALSGR. 842/2 Strayt, nat crokedly, *droyt.* 1538 ELYOT *Dict.*, *Adamussim*, by rule, streight as a lyne. 1576 GASCOIGNE *Steele Gl.* 718 O that al kings, would..Hold euermore, one finger streight stretcht out, To thrust in eyes, of all their master theeues. 1655 MARQ. WORCESTER *Cent. Inv.* § 76 To write in the dark as streight as by day or candlelight. 1710 SWIFT *Jrnl. to Stella* 3 Nov., I cannot write straighter in bed, so you must be content. 1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) V. 346 The drunken man..cannot be expected to walk straight either in body or mind. 1912 WAKELING *Forged Egypt. Antiq.* ix. 102 It is not correctly shaped and should not be cut straight off across the bottom.

†**d.** With reference to position. Directly (opposite), due (east, etc.). *Obs.*

1512 *Act* 4 *Hen. VIII*, c. 1 § 1. The haven of Brest lyeth streight ayenst the South see costes of..Cornwall. 1530 PALSGR. 823/1 Strayght over agaynste,..*vis a vis.* 1820 BELZONI *Egypt & Nubia* II. 237 The tomb faces the north-east, and the direction of the whole runs straight south-west.

e. In a straight direction; not obliquely; directly to a mark or object, or following a moving object without deviation.

1535 COVERDALE *Prov.* iv. 25 Let thine eye lyddes loke straight before the. 1552 ABP. HAMILTON *Catech.* (1884) 28 A man..can nocht..gyd his lyif evin and strecht to the plesour of God without direction of the commandis. 1601 *Reg. Mag. Sig. Scot.* 443/1 Discending eist the said gait lineallie throche the lie, straucht throw the Brounfauld. 1638 JUNIUS *Paint. Ancients* 27 The statues..standing in a lifelesse posture with..their hands hanging straight downe. 1669 STURMY *Mariner's Mag.* I. ii. 4 When you espy any Island,..by looking straight upon the Compass, you shall know upon what Point of the Compass the Object beareth from you. 1678 MOXON *Mech. Exerc.* v. 95 And straight through the Stuff, as Work-men call it; that is, in a Geometrical term, perpendicularly through the upper and under-sides. 1812 *Sporting Mag.* XXXIX. 187 The combatants hit strait with one hand at the head. 1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* xiv, Each..looked straight upon the wall which was opposite to them, without speaking to his companion. 1833 NYREN *Yng. Cricketer's Tutor* (1902) 13 If such an accident should happen, and the ball have been delivered straight to the wicket. 1857 G. A. LAWRENCE *Guy Liv.* iii. 17 He not only went straight as a die, but rode *to* hounds instead of *over* them. 1865 A. TROLLOPE *Hunting Sk.* 8 And he will ride this year!..He will ride straight. 1886 STEVENSON *Kidnapped* iv, He..looked this time straight into my eyes. 1890 CONAN DOYLE *White Company* viii, I am a man who shoots straight at his mark. 1897 HENTY *At Agincourt* i. 13 There is not one of his age who can send an arrow so straight to the mark. 1907 J. H. PATTERSON *Man-Eaters of Tsavo* xxvii. 299 Our party of five, including one lady who rode and shot equally straight.

f. With additional notion, which sometimes becomes the substantive sense: All the way, continuously to the end; 'right' *across*, *through*, etc. † Also with reference to time.

1446 LYDG. *Nightingale Poems* i. 198 Fro morow to nyght be-tokenes All the tyme, Syth thou wast born streyght tyll þat thou dye. 1756 NUGENT *Montesquieu's Spir. Laws* VIII. xxi. (1758) I. 181 [They] march strait up to the capital. 1840 PARKER *Gloss. Archit.* (ed. 5), *Reveal*, *Revel*... The term is principally used in reference to apertures which are cut straight through a wall, like modern doors and windows.

2. Immediately, without delay: = STRAIGHTWAY. Now *poet.* or *arch.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 9484 Nu has him sathanas in wald,..To wais seruis straitt he him eild. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xli. (*Agnes*) 312 He gert thonnir & fire-slacht Stirk done þe payanis þar stracht. 1478 *Maldon* (Essex) *Court Rolls* Bundle 50, No. 10 b, They ii. spake no word, butt streyte they smette at him wyth her wepynes. *c* 1520 SKELTON *Magnyf.* 1592 Let se what ye say; shewe it strayte. 1530 PALSGR. 813/2. Strayght, *a coup.* 1580 G. HARVEY *Three Proper Lett.* 38 If so be goods decrease, then straite decreaseth a goods friend. *a* 1608 RALEGH *Poems, Lie* 48 And when they do reply, straight giue them both the lie. 1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* I. 32 [She] fell straight in a sound. 1642 H. MORE *Song of Soul* II. App. 69 His Fiat spoke and streight the thing is done. 1674 J. HOWARD *Engl. Mounsieur* III. v. 34 *Wel.* Is your Lady within? *Porter.* I am not sure sir, but i'le inform you strait, your patience a little sir. 1705 STANHOPE *Paraphr.* II. 134 Whereupon the whole herd streight ran down a precipice, and were choaked in the Water. 1722 A. PHILIPS *Briton* III. v. 32 My Chariot straight; another, for the Prince. 1755 RIDLEY in *World* No. 155 V. 130 Strait a voice more dreadful than thunder burst out. 1760–72 H. BROOKE *Fool of Qual.* (1809) II. 59 She burst into tears, and straight quitted the room. 1798 COLERIDGE *Anc. Mar.* VII. vii, The boat came close beneath the ship, And straight a sound was heard. 1843 MACAULAY *Horatius* xix, The bridge must straight go down. 1849 LONGF. *Build. Ship* I Build me straight..a goodly vessel. 1871 R. ELLIS *Catullus* li. 9 When as I look'd on thee .. Straight my tongue froze, Lesbia.

†**b.** followed by prep. Immediately *after*, *upon*, at the same time *with* something. Also with adv., *straight after*, *forth*, *forthwith*, *upon*, *with*. *Obs.*

1570–6 LAMBARDE *Peramb. Kent* 3 For straight vpon the death of Edward the Confessor, William of Normandy ..demaunded the Crowne. 1576 GASCOIGNE *Philomene* Wks. 1910 II. 184 Whom he no sooner sawe .. But streight therwith his fancies fume All reason did convince. 1578 TIMME *Calvin on Gen.* i. 25 For this is the simple purpose of Moses, to shewe that the worlde .. was not finished streight after the beginning, but [etc.]. *a* 1591 H. SMITH *Serm.* (1594) 358 Straight vpon this, he [*sc.* David] sayth: It is not so with the wicked. 1654 T. WHALLEY in *Ussher's Lett.* (1686) 604 Read, if you please, his Epistle, *ad Albertum Marchionem*, Dedicatory, straight after the midst. 1656 *Stories & Proph. Scripture* H iv b, And when the people creyed thus & the trompets sounded, then fell the walles of the toune [of Jericho] streyght forthwith all. 1543 GRAFTON *Contn. Harding* (1812) 568 The quene.. straight vpon shewed theim the same Peter. *Ibid.* 579 When he saw that thei [*sc.* the gates] could not easely be better downe with any thyng, streight with he set fyre on theim. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* (1637) 273 Dying straight after without issue.

c. *Straight away*, *straight off*, † *straight an end*: immediately, at once, without deliberation or preparation.

1662 TUKE *Adv. Five Hours* I. (1663) 7 We Prisoners made, were hurri'd streight away To their Quarters. 1778 *Learning at a Loss* II. 147 'Twas at his House they [two lovers] broke cover. And then took off strait an End to Edinburgh. 1873 *Punch* 18 Jan. 29/1 If ever I meet a woman with lots of tin, who's faultlessly beautiful, I shall marry her straight off. 1879 MISS BRADDON *Clov. Foot* XXXVI, One of those tip-top firms in the City would have gone straight off to take counsel's opinion. 1885 P. M. THORNTON *Harrow Sch.* 80 We read of a Mr. Thomas Page,..to whom was paid £306. 16s. 6. straight away. 1912 SIR W. RAMSAY in *Expositor* Apr. 360 He assumes straight away that the end of man and the aim of man's life is to be righteous.

3. In an erect posture, upright. Also *straight up*. *Straight set up*: having an erect figure.

1535 COVERDALE 1 *Esdras* ix. 46 And whan he had red out the lawe, they stode all straight vp vpon their fete. 1718 RAMSAY *Christ's Kirk Gr.* III. xviii, They..sat straught Upon 't. 1852 MRS. STOWE *Uncle Tom's C.* vii, 'Mas'r,' said Tom—and he stood very straight—'I was jist [etc.]. 1899 G. B. SHAW *You Never Can Tell* II. (1907) 261 *Waiter.* ..Very high-spirited young gentleman, sir: very manly and straight set up.

†**4.** As an intensive (= STARK *adv.*) in *straight blind*, *dead*. *Obs.*

1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) III. 97 He put out his eiȝen in Reblata, and bad hym so in Babilon streiȝt blynde. *c* 1400 *Song of Roland* 691 Bothe streght ded the horse and his selue.

5. Honestly, honourably.

1845 DISRAELI *Sybil* II. xiii, 'Don't you think, Warner,' said his wife, 'that you could sell that piece to some other person?'..'No!' said her husband, fiercely. 'I'll go straight.' 1864 *Field* 2 July 4/1 Mr. Merry who runs his horses so straight, and who is backed with the same confidence as Lord Glasgow. 1888 *Times* 26 June 4/5 As a rule I believe they [*sc.* jockeys] run very straight. It is ridiculous to suppose that they are generally dishonest. 1893 F. ADAMS *New Egypt* 27 There's always room in a place like this for anyone who'll..act straight, and be content with a reasonable profit.

6. Frankly, outspokenly. Also *straight out*.

1877 SPURGEON *Serm.* XXIII. 56 Speak right straight out and do not be afraid. 1880 G. R. SIMS *Dagonet Ballads, Told to Missionary* ii, Give it us straight now, guv'nor,—what would you have me do? 1898 J. ARCH *Story Life* xii. 285 As my custom has ever been I spoke straight. *a* 1900 S. CRANE *Gt. Battles* (1901) 201 He knew how to speak straight as a stick to the common man. 1900 G. SWIFT *Somerley* 124 You're a good 'un to tell me straight out like this. 1907 H. RASHDALL *Theory of Good & Evil* II. 89 *n.*, Nietzsche..often says straight out what some of our English self-realizers only hint.

7. *Comb.* **a.** With pples., forming adjs., as *straight-cut*, *-falling*, *-flung*, *-going*, *-growing*, *-grown*, *-made*, *-shooting*, *-sliding*, *-spoken*; † **straight-bounded**, bounded by straight lines; † **straight-pight**, having a tall and erect figure. Also with agent-noun, as *straight-goer*.

1614 T. BEDWELL tr. *Schoner's De Num. Geom.* 43 Each of them is a right-angled and *straight-bounded figure. 1840 THACKERAY *Shabby-genteel Story* viii, He wore..a black *straight-cut coat, and light drab breeches. 1887 *Daily News* 24 June 2/1 The *straight-falling folds of pale grey silk that fall round the slim shape of a fair-haired, dreamy-eyed woman. 1896 KIPLING *Song of the English*, *England's Answ.* 26 Now ye must speak to your kinsmen, ..After the use of the English, in *straight-flung words and few. 1857 G. A. LAWRENCE *Guy Liv.* xxvi. 248 Foxes were strong and plentiful..and during two months of open weather, many a *straight-goer had died gallantly in the midst of the wide pasture-grounds. 1865 A. TROLLOPE *Hunting Sk.* 2 Though the nature of their delight is a mystery to *straight-going men, it is manifest enough, that they do like it [*sc.* hunting]. 1884 TENNYSON *Cup* I. i. 86 [You] may be foil'd like Tarquin, if you follow Not the dry light of Rome's straight-going policy. 1765 *Museum Rust.* III. 242 Some small poles of ash, willow, or any *straight-growing wood,..must be procured. 1888 EMILY GERARD *Land beyond Forest* II. 305 What more glorious than those *straight-grown stems. 1582 C. T. in Farr *Sel. Poetry Eliz.* (1845) 395 My *straight-made lims I will not crooke, To think of death, of deuill, or God. 1611 SHAKS. *Cymb.* V. iv. 164 Beauty..for Feature, laming The Shrine of Venus or *straight-pight Minerva. 1901 CONAN DOYLE in *Wide World Mag.* VIII. 113/1 The hard-riding, *straight-shooting sons of Australia and New Zealand. 1902 *Westm. Gaz.* 30 Aug. 3/1 He..only hopes that, in the matter of 'straight-shooting powder,' his master's guests will prove equal to the occasion. 1869 RANKINE *Machinery & Millwork* 314 A *straight-sliding slide-valve. 1848 LOWELL *Biglow P.* Ser. I. vii. 5 I'm a *straight-spoken kind o' creetur Thet blurts right out wut's in his head. 1859 BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.* (ed. 2) 454 *Straight-spoken*, plain-spoken; downright; candid.

b. Certain phrases in which *straight* qualifies another adv. are sometimes used *attrib.* or *predicatively*, becoming adjs. (when *attrib.* they are usually hyphened), as *straight-ahead*, *-through*; **straight-up**, perpendicular; **straight-up-and-down**, simple, presenting no difficulties; also candid, straightforward. Also STRAIGHTAWAY, STRAIGHTFORTH, STRAIGHTFORWARD, STRAIGHT-OUT *adjs.*

1836 HALIBURTON *Clockm.* Ser. I. xxxvi, No strong-minded, *straight-a-head, right up and down man does that. 1895 *Outing* XXVII. 200/1 A plain, straight-ahead skater. 1911 MARETT *Anthropol.* iv. 95 On the other hand, to improve the physical environment is fairly straight-ahead work, once we can [etc.]. 1904 *Punch* 30 Mar. 234/2 After one *straight-through reading of this strange story, an entire class had to pass an examination in it. *c* 1590 MONTGOMERIE *Sonn.* xxxii. 2 The lillie..Whose staitly stalk so *streight vp is and stay. 1662 J. DAVIES tr. *Olearius' Voy. Ambass.* 205 Having on the very top of it a great Rock streight up. 1859 BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.* (ed. 2) 455 **Straight up and down*, plain; candid; honest. 1903 *Daily Chron.* 15 Apr. 3/6 A straight-up-and-down business of the kind..should be a more attractive investment for British capitalists than the average run of gold and diamond mining schemes.

Straight (strēt), *v.* Forms: *α.* 5 **streȝt**, 5–9 **streight**, 6 **strayght**, 6– **straight**; *β.* *Sc.* 4 **stracht**, 4–5 **straucht**, 9 **straught**. [f. STRAIGHT *a.*]

†**1.** *trans.* To stretch (e.g. a body on the rack); to stretch *out* (one's limbs); to extend, stretch forth (a spear); *refl.* to lie *down* flat. *Obs.*

To straight a rope, to be hanged.

1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* II. 348 Thai straucht thar speris, on athir syd. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* iii. (*Andrew*) 645 And bad his tormentoris but bad þane one þe croice þai suld hym stracht. *Ibid.* xxii. (*Laurence*) 337, & þar-eftyr gert hyme straucht In til framis with al þare macht. *c* 1400 tr. *Secreta Secret., Gov. Lordsh.* 69 Whenne þou risys fro slepe þou salt goo a lytyl, & euenly streight out þy membres. *c* 1480 HENRYSON *Fox, Wolf & Cadger* 185 Ȝe mon..straucht ȝow doun in middis of the way. 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* lxxii. 67 Unto the crose of breid and lenth, To gar his lymmis langar wax, Thai straitit him with all thair strenth. *a* 1800 *Lang Johnny More* vii. in Child *Ballads* IV. 398/1 When the king got word o that, A solemn oath sware he, This weighty Scot sall strait a rope, And hanged he shall be.

†**2.** *refl.* and *intr.* To direct one's course, go. *Obs.*

a 1400–50 *Wars Alex.* 2032 Fra þe streme of struma he streȝtis & stil mournes. *Ibid.* 3206 He streȝt him to struma & ouire þe streme ridis.

3. *trans.* To make straight, straighten. In later use chiefly *Sc.*, to straighten (a stream, a boundary), to lay out (a corpse).

1530 PALSGR. 738/1, I strayght a thyng that is crokyd or bendyd, *je redresse*. Strayght my wande, I praye you. 1583 MELBANCKE *Philotimus* A iv, The smith cooleth his yron to straight it & strenghthen it. 1612 T. TAYLOR *Titus* II. 6 (1619) 404 Experience wisheth vs to..straight a tree while it is a twigge. 1725 P. WALKER *Life Peden* Biog. Presbyt. (1827) I. 74 She..straighted his Body, and covered him with her Plaid. 1765 A. DICKSON *Treat. Agric.* (ed. 2) 295 If a view to inclosing makes it necessary to straight the ridges, the levelling them should be the work of several years. 1776 ADAM SMITH *W. N.* I. i. 6 One man draws out the wire, another straights it, a third cuts it. 1799 J. ROBERTSON *Agric. Perth* 365 Some brooks, which ran slowly with a winding course..have been streighted. 1818 SCOTT *Br. Lamm.* xxiii, If the dead corpse binna straughted, it will girn and thraw, and that will fear the best o' us. 1833 LOUDON *Encycl. Archit.* § 936 All the ceilings.. are..to be properly straighted (made even or smooth with the edge of a board or float). 1838 W. BELL *Dict. Law Scot.* s.v. *Marches*, By the act 1669, c. 17, landholders may apply for a streighting of marches, and the judge ordinary may streight them. 1861 MRS. STOWE *Pearl Orr's Isl.* 18 Zephaniah Pennel straighted his tall form,—before bowed on his hands.

†**b.** To compose, clear up (case). *Obs.*

1804 BRETON *Pass. Sheph.* (Grosart) 9/1 Thus let all your Cares be straited.

Hence **Strai·ghted** *ppl. a.*

1835 *Fraser's Mag.* XII. 13 The widow herself was a dead and straighted corpse.

Straight, obs. form of STRAIT.

Strai·ghtaway, *a.* and *sb.* [The phrase *straight away* (see STRAIGHT *adv.* 2 c) used *attrib.*]

A. *adj.* Of a shot: Aimed at a bird flying 'straight away'. Also said of the bird. Of a ride, a course in rowing or sailing: Continuous in direction and time.

1874 J. W. LONG *Amer. Wild-fowl* i. 41 Straight-away shots they usually kill better than any others, because little or no calculation is required. 1883 *Standard* 18 Jan. 3/7 Another straightaway row to Iffley was indulged in. 1889 C. LANCASTER *Art of Shooting* 72 Longer shots may be made at crossing than at straight-away birds. *Ibid.* 75 The Straightforward Shot. This class of shot may be considered under three headings—straight-away, high straight-away, and low straight-away shots. 1894 *Outing* XXIV. 175/1 It was a straight-away gallop, our horses straining every nerve and muscle to the utmost. 1898 KIPLING in *Morn. Post* 5 Nov. 5/3 Once again we headed W. N.W... at an average speed of between thirteen and fourteen knots on a straightaway run of three hundred and fifty miles.

B. *sb.* (See quots.)

1895 G. J. MANSON *Sporting Dict., Straightaway*, a straight course without a turn for racing boats. 1909 *Century Dict.* Suppl., *Straightaway*, a race-course which is without turn or curve; also a race which is run without turning or curving.

Strai·ght-edge. A narrow strip of hard wood, steel, or brass, with one edge cut perfectly straight, used to test the accuracy of a plane surface, or as a guide for a cutting instrument.

1812 P. NICHOLSON *Mech. Exerc.* 142 The Straight Edge is a piece of stuff or board made perfectly straight on the edge, in order to make other edges straight. 1816 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* I. 24 A perfectly straight steel ruler, for which we shall adopt the technical term, by calling it a *straight edge*. 1879 R. ROUSE *Sci. & Pract. Geom.* 17 A straight-edge or ruler. 1907 J. A. HODGES *Elem. Photogr.* (ed. 6) 106 An ebonite straight-edge.

b. *Printing.* (See quot. 1888.)

1888 JACOBI *Printers' Vocab.* 134 *Straight-edge*, a long wooden or metal stick used for squaring up the pages in a forme in order to obtain correct register in printing. 1890 W. J. GORDON *Foundry* 188 The machine had now the impression cylinder, the inking rollers, the straight-edge, and the travelling table of 1790.

Straighten (strē·t'n), *v.* Also 6–9 **streighten**, 8–9 **straiten**. [f. STRAIGHT *a.* + -EN 5.]

1. *trans.* To make straight (what is bent or crooked). Also with *out*.

1542 UDALL tr. *Erasm. Apoph.* 235 A thing is said in latin *corrigi*, & in englyshe to be emended or streightened, yᵗ is reproued or disallowed, and also that of crooked is made straight. 1594 HOOKER *Eccl. Pol.* IV. viii. § 3 A crooked stick is not streightned vnlesse it be [etc.]. 1641 QUARLES *Enchir.* IV. xcix, While he [a child] is a tender Twigge, streighten him. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* I. 684 The crooked Scythes are streightned into Swords. 1727 H. BLAND *Milit. Discipl.* 41 The Soldiers are immediately to straiten their Ranks and Files. 1742 YOUNG *Nt. Th.* III. 371 Virtue...straitens nature's circle to a line. 1751 BANKTON *Instit. Laws Scot.* I. 282 The incloser may apply to the judge ordinary...to visit the ground, straiten and regulate the marches with the best conveniency. 1765 ANGELO *Sch. Fencing* 7 In these motions the arm should be straitned. 1775 ADAIR *Amer. Ind.* 425 They can fresh stock their guns ...and streighten the barrels, so as to shoot with proper direction. 1841–71 T. R. JONES *Anim. Kingd.* 38 The delicate...stems of the *Vorticellæ*, which on the slightest touch shrink into spiral folds, and again straighten themselves to their full extent. 1844 KINGLAKE *Eothen* xix, I straightened myself in my stirrups. 1856 KANE *Arctic Expl.* II. vii. 76 He is sitting up congratulating himself that he can nearly straighten his worst leg. 1904 E. H. COLERIDGE *Life Ld. Coleridge* II. 287 He did not like hard work, but he straightened himself and bowed to the yoke.

b. In hand wool-combing: To comb wool for the second time.

1886 W. CUDWORTH *Rambles round Horton* vii. 75 She 'jigged' and he 'straightened'.

2. To unravel, disentangle, clear up (what is confused or intricate). Now chiefly with *out*.

1577 tr. *Bullinger's Decades* II. viii. 193 So that to iudge, is to streighten and to make plaine. 1894 D. L. MOODY in W. R. Moody *Life* (1900) Pref. 5 What I want is that you should correct inaccuracies and misstatements that it would be difficult to straighten out during my life. 1898 'MERRIMAN' *Roden's Corner* XXXII. 341 Marguerite took occasion to congratulate herself,...in the fact that...'things' were beginning to straighten themselves out. 1900 H. C. BEECHING in *Monthly Rev.* Nov. 88 There are not a few moral questions that I should like to hear straightened out.

3. To put in order, tidy up.

1867 in J. Lucas *Stud. Nidderdale* (1882) 281 Cum don on thi' bonnet an' shawl, An' streighten thi' cap an' thi' hair. 1884 *Manch. Exam.* 28 Nov. 5/2 An English mob...eager to straighten up their difficulties and begone before the Riot Act was read. 1890 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Col. Reformer* xiii, We straightened the horses after a bit—there was two dead and one with a broken leg. 1901 ANTROBUS *Wildersmoor* 297, I 'll send Granny up here to straighten things a bit.

4. *intr.* To become straight. *To straighten up* (U. S.): to rise to an erect posture; also *slang* to adopt an honest course of life.

1891 KIPLING *Light that Failed* xiii. 256 Dick's shoulders straightened again, for the words lashed like a whip. 1897 *Trans. Amer. Pediatric Soc.* IX. 168 After a series of such oscillations...he straightens up, regains his breath, and the paroxysm ends with a long, sighing inspiration. 1907 JEAN WEBSTER *Four-Pools Myst.* xix. (1916) 198 He has been dishonest, but unintentionally so. He wishes to straighten up and lead a respectable life.

Hence **Strai·ghtened** *ppl. a.*

1665 DRYDEN *Ind. Emp.* v. ii, Fasten the Engines; stretch 'em at their length, And pull the straightned Cords with all your strength. [*They fasten them to the rack, and then pull them.*] 1897 MARY KINGSLEY *W. Africa* 125 In which case offer him a straightened-out hairpin.

Straighten, var. STRAITEN *v.*

Straightener (strē·t'nəɹ). [f. STRAIGHTEN *v.* + -ER 1.] One who or something which straightens.

1611 COTGR., *Dresseur*, a straightener, directer, leueller. 1832 HT. MARTINEAU *Hill & Valley* iv. (1833) 61 They saw ...the straighteners who straighten the bars when they are hot, and mark them with the stamp of the works where they are made. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2414/2 Fig. 5940 is a railway-rail straightener.

Straightening (strē·t'niŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. STRAIGHTEN *v.* + -ING 1.] The action of the verb, in various senses.

1730 A. GORDON *Maffei's Amphith.* 274 The Space is taken up by the straightning of the Roof. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts*, etc. 881 Whereby he effects...the straightening of the wires [for needles]. 1860 J. G. HOLLAND *Miss Gilbert* i, Bearing the doctor in his gig, and stopping here and there at the houses of his patients without the straightening of a rein. 1884 *Manch. Exam.* 29 Sept. 5/3 Their project contemplates the deepening, widening, and straightening of the rivers Mersey and Irwell. 1892 *Labour Commission* Gloss., *Straightening*, putting rails under the press to straighten them when they have become bent in cooling. 1916 *Med. Press & Circular* 10 May 421/2 Nothing can be more reprehensible than the repeated straightening of the uterus by means of the uterine sound.

b. *attrib.*

1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 387/1 Instruments of the Needle-makers:..a Streightning file. *Ibid.* 388/2 Tools in much use with the Horn-maker;...the Streightning-Tongs. 1869 RANKINE *Machine & Hand-tools* Pl. P 6. 4 The action of the straightening mandrel. 1884 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* Suppl., *Straightening Block*, the anvil on which buckled saws are straightened.

Straightening (strē·t'niŋ), *ppl. a.* [-ING 2.]

1850 W. C. BENNETT *Poems, Baby May* 15 Clutching fingers; straightening jerks. 1894 *Outing* XXIV. 440/1 An ear that is jarred by the twang of a straightening blade of grass.

Straight forth, strai·ghtforth, *adv.* and *a.* Now *rare.* [STRAIGHT *adv.* 7 b.] **A.** *adv.*

1. Directly in front or onwards.

1530 PALSGR. 827/1 Strayght forthe afore, *tout droyt devant.* 1570 BILLINGSLEY *Euclid* I. Post. ii. 5 b, To produce a right line finite, straight forth continually. *c* 1590 MARLOWE *Faustus* 813 (1604) D 1 b, The streetes straight forth, and pau'd with finest bricke. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* VI. xvii. I. 124 And this part of the Orientall Indians, which lieth directly streight forth,...containeth 1875 miles. 1830 J. WRIGHT *Retrospect* i. 27 Straightforth before us rolls the pleasing past. 1850 HAWTHORNE *Scarlet L.* x, He seldom, nowadays, looked straightforth at any object.

2. Immediately, at once.

1577 GRANGE *Golden Aphrod.* C iv, Who (obeying hir heste) straightfoorth ascended to the Mount Pernassus. 1590 SPENSER *Muiop.* 325 She smote the ground, the which streight foorth did yield A fruitfull Olyue tree. 1854 H. MILLER *Sch. & Schm.* iii. (1858) 41, I quitted the dame's school...; and was transferred straightforth to the grammar school of the parish.

† **B.** *adj.* Straight-shaped. *Obs.*

1567 MAPLET *Gr. Forest* 30 The Almonde tree in Greeke is called *Amygdalè*, in Latine Nux longa, a long and straight forth kinde of Nutte.

Straight forward, straightfo·rward, *adv.* and *a.* [STRAIGHT *adv.* 7 b.] **A.** *adv.* Directly in front or onwards; in direct order.

1809 MALKIN *Gil Blas* VIII. xii. (Rtldg.) 306 Tell him all the circumstances straightforward as they happened. 1830 HERSCHEL *Study Nat. Phil.* I. ii. (1851) 22 To walk uprightly and straight-forward on firm ground. 1832 HT. MARTINEAU *Demerara* iii. 39 Old Robert could not be got to answer a question straight-forward or to tell anything without contradicting himself twenty times. *c* 1850 *Arab. Nts.* (Rtldg.) 727 He proceeded straight forward on his journey without deviating either to the right or left.

B. *adj.*

1. Of movement, vision, etc.: Proceeding or directed straight forward.

1807 ROLAND *Fencing* 24 Those kind of straight-forward thrusts. 1815 MME. D'ARBLAY *Diary* 20 Mar., The desire of obtaining intelligence made Madame d'Henin most unwilling to continue a straightforward journey. 1859 HAWTHORNE *Fr. & It. Note-bks.* (1871) II. 291 Its peculiar expression eludes a straightforward glance, and can only be caught by side glimpses. 1867 LONGF. *Dante, Inf.* i. 3 Midway upon the journey of our life I found myself within a forest dark, For the straightforward pathway had been lost.

2. Of language, narrative, or exposition: Direct, without circumlocution or digression.

1806 J. BERESFORD *Miseries Hum. Life* vii. Introd. (ed. 3) 132 You put my poor stock of straight-forward phraseology quite upon the stretch to reach after you! 1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) IV. 40 Of many...benevolent actions we can give a straightforward account by their tendency to promote happiness. 1895 J. H. ROUND in *Bookman* Oct. 25/2 The book...[is] a straightforward, readable narrative in a very reasonable compass. 1913 *Times* 13 Sept. 15/6 They had had a straightforward statement of affairs from Mr. Barry.

3. Of an action or process: Continuous in one direction, undeviating.

1817 MALTHUS *Popul.* III. 170 It has proceeded in a very straight-forward manner to spend great sums in war, and to raise them by very heavy taxes. 1824 DIBDIN *Libr. Comp.* p. iv, A sedulous and straight-forward cultivation of the pursuit in question. 1850 DENISON *Clock & Watch-m.* 161 We must have some more violent method than the straight forward expansion of one metal over that of another.

4. Presenting a clear course; free from difficulties.

1833 HT. MARTINEAU *Brooke Farm* xi. 131 It all seems straightforward enough now, if I can but get this appointment.

5. Of persons, their dispositions or conduct: Consistent, undeviating in purpose, single-minded. Also (now usually), free from duplicity or concealment; frank, honest, outspoken.

1834 MARRYAT *P. Simple* vii, 'He may be a fool, sir,' observed he to the captain, aside; 'but I can assure you he is a very straight-forward one.' 1845 DISRAELI *Sybil* IV. v, He is a man; with clear, straightforward ideas, a frank, noble presence. 1845–6 TRENCH *Huls. Lect.* Ser. II. i. 160 Serving with a straightforward and downright obedience... God. 1850 W. IRVING *Makomet* II, 18 His next movement was indicative of his straight-forward cut-and-thrust policy. 1874 SPURGEON *Treas. Dav.* ci. *title*, It is David all over, straightforward, resolute, devout; there is no trace of policy or vacillation. 1874 GREEN *Short Hist.* IX. § 10. 702 He was thoroughly straightforward and true to his own convictions. 1911 RIKER *Henry Fox 1st Ld. Holland* I. ii. 86 Lacking a straightforward and practicable policy, they were helpless to combat a party which [etc.].

Comb. 1875 G. JOHN in R. W. Thompson *Life* (1908) 352 Wei is a plain, honest, straightforward-looking man.

Straightfo·rwardly, *adv.* [-LY 2.] In a straightforward manner.

1. Honestly, frankly, without reserve.

1839 JAMES *Louis XIV*, I. 279 The question was even put to it straightforwardly, whether it pretended, or not, to circumscribe the royal authority. 1864 J. H. NEWMAN *Apol.* 429 He avoided...having any thing to do with two-faced persons, who did not go simply and straightforwardly to work in their transactions. 1903 DE BLOWITZ *Mem.* 234 The friend who unfortunately, and quite straightforwardly, led us into this frightful speculation.

2. In consecutive order, without digression or intricacy.

1874 RUSKIN *Fors Clav.* XXXVII. 12, I do not pretend to tell you straightforwardly all the laws of nature respecting the conduct of men; but some of those laws I know [etc.]. 1906 *Daily Chron.* 16 July 3/2 'Bess of the Woods' is a quite straightforwardly told tale of the life of well-to-do country folk in the eighteenth century.

Straightfo·rwardness. [-NESS.] The quality of being straightforward.

1805 W. TAYLOR in *Ann. Rev.* III. 46 He...wins his easy way to the reader's sympathy...by the straight-forwardness of his course. 1853 LANDOR *Last Fruit, Louis Philippe & Guizot* 14 The lover of straitforwardness and truth. 1871 SWINBURNE *Ess. & Stud.* (1875) 293 In both plays there is a perfect unity of action, a perfect straightforwardness of design. 1911 A. C. DIXON in *The Fundamentals* V. 86 The Gospel writers...simply tell right out what they saw in all simplicity and straightforwardness.

Straightfo·rwards, *adv.* = STRAIGHTFORWARD *adv.* 1.

1555 J. BRADFORD in Coverdale *Lett. Martyrs* (1564) 296 Looke not on this side or that side, or behynd you as Lothes wyfe dyd; but straight forwardes on the ende.

Straightish (strē·tiʃ), *a.* and *adv.* [f. STRAIGHT *a.* and *adv.* + -ISH.] Somewhat straight.

1683 MOXON *Mech. Exerc., Printing* xxii. 78 If he should stick the Point of the Bodkin straight or straightish down upon any part of the Letter. 1793 MARTYN *Lang. Bot.* Straightish, *rectiusculus.* 1802 R. HALL *Elem. Bot.* 88 Sisymbrium. Silique opening, valves straightish. 1830 LINDLEY *Nat. Syst. Bot.* 152 Embryo included, either straightish or curved. 1886 RUSKIN *Præterita* I. xii. 429, I like oval faces,...with straightish, at the utmost wavy,...hair.

Straight-lined, *a.*

Composed of or containing straight lines; having the form of a straight line; rectilinear.

1571 DIGGES *Pantom.* I. *Elem.* B j b, Of straight lined angles there are three kindes. 1656 tr. *Hobbes' Elem. Philos.* (1839) 120 A strait-lined triangle. 1673 FLAMSTEED in Rigaud *Corr. Sci. Men* (1841) II. 171 He was pleased to shew me a straight-lined projection for finding the hour by inspection. 1764 DODSLEY *Leasowes* in *Shenstone's Wks.* (1777) II. 309 Now we turn upon a sudden into a long strait-lined walk in the wood. 1801 *Farmer's Mag.* Apr. 129 Measuring off from a straight lined hedge,...he takes one length of the poles for the half or crown of the first ridge. 1808 J. WEBSTER *Nat. Philos.* 115 They conducted water across hills and vallies by straight-lined ducts. 1898 A. BROWNE in *Daily News* 10 Mar. 6/3 Across this opaque covering a straight-lined scratch is made with a needle or knife.

† **Strai·ghtly,** *a. Obs.* [f. STRAIGHT *a.* + -LY 1.] Tense, stretched.

1422 YONGE tr. *Secreta Secret.* 230 Tho that have the braons of the shuldres ryght strayghtly whan thay mewyth ham, tokenyth that thay bene stronge and hardy.

Straightly (strē·tli), *adv.* [f. STRAIGHT *a.* + -LY 2.]

1. In a straight manner; in a straight line; directly.

1395 PURVEY *Remonstr.* (1851) 46 Siche lawis ben directli, other straightli, or openli, contrarie to the truthe. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XIII. vi. (Bodl. MS.) He renneþ scharpelich & swiftelich and straiteliche as it were. 1426 LYDG. *De Guil. Pilgr.* 11640 My glovys streythly on to sette. 1586 MARLOWE *1st Pt. Tamburl.* II. i, But tell me...What stature wields he, and what personage? *Mena.* Of stature tall, and straightly fashioned. *a* 1677 BARROW *Serm.* iii. Wks. 1687 I. 27 God's word...is a lamp unto our feet,...teaching us to walk streightly and surely, without erring or stumbling. 1804–6 SYD. SMITH *Mor. Philos.* (1850) 231 Firmness and constancy of purpose, that withstands all solicitation, and, in spite of all danger, goes on straightly to its object, is very often sublime. 1867 F. FRANCIS *Angling* v. (1880) 150 Let

him deliver the fly straightly and well. 1867 C. J. Smith *Syn. & Antonyms* 24 To allude is to make such a reference to a subject as does not straightly refer to, but, as it were, plays about it.

2. Straightway, immediately. *poet. rare.*

1830 Tennyson *Sonn.* 'Could I outwear', Could I thus hope my lost delights renewing, I straightly would commend the tears to creep From my charged lids. 1868 Morris *Earthly Par.* I. (1870) 252 Make no tarrying, But straightly set thyself to do this thing.

Straightness (strēi·tnės). [-NESS.] The quality of being straight, in various senses of the adj.

1530 Palsgr. 277/1 Streightnesse rightnesse, *droicteur.* 1534 Whitinton *Tullyes Offic.* I. (1540) 36 This is the offyce of a man of armes: ..in all chaunces to kepe streyghtnesse and honesty. *a* 1577 Sir T. Smith *Commw. Eng.* I. (1589) 2 Ye right rule whereby the Artificer and the Architect doe iudge the straightnes of euery mans worke. *a* 1732 T. Boston *Crook in Lot* (1805) 7 We do not reckon it a crooked thing, which though forcibly bended..presently recovers its former straightness. 1862 Miss Braddon *Mt. Royal* ix, The straightness and purity of the girl's purpose upheld her. 1915 W. K. Holmes *Ballads of Field & Billet* 49 He likes to boast to youngsters of his age, The straightness of his back, his sight, his health.

Straight-out, *a.* and *sb.* Chiefly *U.S.* [attrib. use of the phrase *straight-out*: see Straight *adv.*]

A. *adj.* Unrestrained; going all lengths. In party politics = Straight *a.* 9.

1856 *N. Y. Commercial Adv.* May (Bartlett), We feel what a blessed thing it is just now to be a straight out Whig. 1856 Mrs. Stowe *Dred* II. xxxi. 337 Anne was indignant—with that straight out and generous indignation which belongs to women. 1859 Bartlett *Dict. Amer.* (ed. 2) 454 *Straight out*, pure; genuine; unsophisticated. 1860 Keitt in *Congr. Globe* 1 Feb. 651/2 A straight-out nominee of your party. 1888 Bryce *Amer. Commw.* II. I. 269 The electors..give little thought to the personal qualifications of the candidates, and vote the 'straight out ticket.' *Ibid.* VI. ciii. III. 481 The congregation of Plymouth Church were mostly 'straight out' Republicans. 1915 *Morn. Post* 9 Apr. 8/5 That, says the Post, was a straightout policy of lawlessness and terrorism.

B. *sb.* One who votes a 'straight' party ticket, an uncompromising partisan.

1840 *Nashville Whig* 17 Aug. (Thornton *Amer. Gloss.*), The company of Straight-Outs..are the representatives of a hardy race of honest log cabin pioneers. 1872 *Nation* (N. Y.) 22 Aug. 113 (Cent.), Other Straight-outs, as they call themselves,..cannot take Grant and the Republicans.

† Straightwards, *adv. Obs. rare.* [f. Straight *a.* + -wards.] In a straight direction.

1644 Digby *Nat. Bodies* xxxv. § 2. 296 This transparent body, hangeth as it were straightwardes, from the forehead towards the hinder part of the head.

Straightway (strēi·twēi), *adv.* [f. Straight *a.* + Way *sb.*]

† 1. By a direct course, straight from or to a place. *Obs.*

1461 *Paston Lett.* II. 38 Item, sir, thys day cam on John Waynflet from the Kyng streyt weye. *c* 1485 *Digby Myst.* III. 427 Serys, I abey your covnsell in eche degre; stryttt waye pethyr woll I passe. 1486 *Bk. St. Albans* d j b, Crepe softely towarde the fowle: from yowre hawke streght way. 1587 Harrison *England* II. vi. 167/2 in *Holinshed*, The merchant would haue thought that his soule should haue gone streightwaie to the diuell, if he should haue serued them with other than the best.

2. Immediately; without interval or delay; at once. Now only *literary.*

1526 Tindale *Matt.* iv. 20 They straught waye lefte there nettes. *Ibid.*, *John* xxi. 3 They..entred into a shippe straught waye. *Ibid.*, *Rom.* ix. 7 Nether are they all children straught way be cause they are the seede of Abraham. 1576 Fleming *Panopl. Epist.* 248 Whiche if he sought not to recompence by reuengement, then was he thought straightway a cowardly beast. 1666 G. Harvey *Morbus Angl.* ix. (1672) 25 Grief protracted to some space of time, doth inevitably absorb the fleshy parts of the body, and strait-way hasten to a perfect Consumption. 1714 Prior *Viceroy* 66 That he, O! Ciel, without trial, Straitway shou'd hanged be. 1786 *Hav'st Rig* xvi. This being done, they straughtway gang Into the barn. 1816 Coleridge *Statesm. Man.* 18 But let the winds of passion swell, and straitway men begin to generalize. 1838 Dickens *Nickleby* xxviii, She straightway sat down and indited a long letter. 1852 Thackeray *Esmond* II. vii. They dazzle him, so that the past becomes straightway dim to him. 1867 Morley *Burke* 240 It is too commonly asserted, and straightway accepted, that the Revolution destroyed, but contributed nothing to the yet greater task of reconstruction.

Straightways (strēi·twēiz), *adv.* Now *rare* or *Obs.* [See -ways.]

1. Immediately, without delay: = Straightway **2.**

c 1530 Berners *Arthur Lyt. Bryt.* (1814) 434 Than the king said,..let them come hyder: and so they were incontinent sente for, and they came thyder streyght wayes. 1567 Maplet *Gr. Forest* 80 He holdeth fast in his clawes little stones, which in their falling from him straight wayes awaketh him. 1573–80 Tusser *Author's Life* viii. *Husb.* (1878) 207 From Paules I went, to Eaton sent, To learn streight waies, the latin phraies. 1575 R. B. *Apius & Virginia* (facs.) E j b, To master reward I straight waies will go. 1603 Stow *Surv.* (1908) II. 132 Richard Talbot Bishop of London, streghtwayes after his consecration deceased, saith Euersden. 1611 Bible *2 Macc.* xiv. 16 So at the commandement of the captaine, they remooued straightwayes from thence. 1625 Bacon *Ess., Cunning* (Arb.) 443 Like to him, that hauing changed his Name, and walking in Pauls, Another suddenly came behind him, and called him by his true Name, whereat straightwaies he looked backe. 1695 Ld. Preston *Boeth.* I. 14, I the Leader do straightways retreat with my Party into a Fortress. 1812 Southey *Omniana* I. 324 And he went straightways to the house of the woman.

† 2. In a straight line. *Obs.*

1771 *Phil. Trans.* LXI. 235 They are first extended straightways, and appear like two bristles.

Straightwise, *adv. rare.* [-wise.] = Straightway **2.**

1588 A. King tr. *Canisius' Catech.* 223 Whairfor straght wyse thay heare the word of Christ. 1839–52 Bailey *Festus* (1854) 73 Surely thou camest straightwise from the stars.

Straigne, obs. form of Strain *v.*[1]

Straik (strēk), *sb.*[1] *Sc.* and *north.* Also 9 **strake, straike, straick.** [f. Straik *v.*]

1. † a. *By straik*: by 'straiked' or levelled (as distinguished from heaped) measure. Also *attrib.* in *straik measure. Sc. Obs.*

1549 *Extracts Aberd. Reg.* (1844) I. 264 That frathinfurth na maner of malt nor beir that cumis to the guid townn to sell be mett in tymes cumyng bot with ane straik mesour. 1567 *Sc. Acts Jas. VI* (1814) III. 39/2 It is desyrit ane straik mett be maid vniuersalie through all pe realme. 1587 *Ibid.* 521/2 For eschewing of fraud hes thocht expedient that all wictuall in tyme cuming salbe mesorit be straik.

2. The normal proportion of malt for a brewing. App. only in Scott; the quots. do not seem to justify the usual rendering 'bushel' (cf. Strike, Stroke *sbs.*).

1820 Scott *Abbot* xix, With a single straike of malt to counterbalance a double allowance of water. 1821 — *Pirate* iv, The 'bern'..never quitted hold of the tankard with so much reluctance as when there had been..a double straik of malt allowed to the brewing. 1823 — *Quentin D.* Introd., A double straick of John Barleycorn.

† 3. A measure of timber. *Obs. rare*[—1].

1542 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* VIII. 95 Ane straik of buirdis, as the bill of compt thairupoune beris.

4. A piece of wood coated with sand or emery, used for sharpening scythes; = Strickle, Strike *sb.*

1844 H. Stephens *Bk. Farm* III. 1063 The sharpening should always be finished with the straik or strickle. 1894 Crockett *Lilac Sunbonnet* vii. 59 The clear metallic sound of the 'strake' or sharpening strop.

Straik (strēk), *sb.*[2] *Sc. rare.* ? A narrow channel in a stream.

1847 Stoddart *Angler's Comp.* 42 The rocky straiks and clippers that afford facilities for fish to cut or wear through the line. *Ibid.* 259 In rapid water, such as the necks of streams, straiks, and eddies, the plying and working of the hook is not always requisite.

Straik (strēk), *v. Sc.* Also **strake.** [Normal Sc. form of Stroke *v.* (q.v. for other senses).] *trans.* To level (corn, etc.) in a measure. Hence **Straiked** *ppl. a.*

1579 *Extracts Rec. Convent. Burghs Scot.* (1870) I. 81 Sua that all fourletis, pekis, and vther mesouris war maid of the lairgnes of the heipit mett, to be straikit and nocht heipit. 1582 *Extracts Burgh Rec. Edin.* (1882) IV. 236 Conform to the awld just mesour of the realme in straiket mett. 1684 A. Symson in W. Macfarlane *Geogr. Collect.* (S.H.S.) II. 101 One boll of good and sufficient meal straiked measure. 1685 Peden in P. Walker *Life* Biog. Presbyt. (1827) I. 95 Christ knows well, whether Heaping or Straiking agrees best with our narrow Vessels, for both are alike to him. 1894 Crockett *Raiders* xvii. 158 The bushel-stoup of their iniquity was nearly full measure, heaped and running over, and it would soon be straked with the Lord's own level and plumb line.

Straik, obs. f. Strake; obs. Sc. f. Stroke; obs. Sc. pres. stem and pa. t. of Strike *v.*

† Strai·ken, strai·king. *Sc.* and *north. Obs.* Also 6 **straikin, straken, straykyng, streakings,** 6, 8 **strakins,** 8 **straikens.** [Of obscure origin.] A kind of coarse linen. Also *attrib.*

1531–2 *Durham Housek. Bk.* (Surtees) 67, 1 peayce curse straykyngs. 1557 *Wills & Inv. N. C.* (Surtees) I. 159, ix pare of lyne shetts & iij pare of streakings iiij[li] xvj[s] viij[d]. 1569 *Ibid.* 303 Item one fether bedtyke xij[d]—sex yerds of strakins v[s]. 1577 *Ibid.* 415 Tenn payer of harden and straken sheats. 1593–4 *Extracts Munic. Acc. Newcastle* (1848) 32 Paide for a strakin short to him and for sewing ytt, 16*d.* 1643 *Melrose Regality Rec.* (S.H.S.) I. 100 Ane straiking serk. 1703 Lady G. Baillie *Housek. Bk.* (S.H.S.) 172 For 20 ells strakins at 6s. 6d. 1793 *Statist. Acc. Scot.* VI. 169 Some coarse tweels, some harns and straikens. 1884 *Good Words* May 326/2 His shirt is made of the strong old-fashioned coarse linen called 'straiken'.

† Strail. *Obs.* Forms: 1 **strél, stréagl, strél,** 4–5 **strale, strayl,** 4–6 **straile, strayle,** 5–6 **strayll(e.** [OE. **strægl* (recorded forms *stréagl, strél, strél*) fem., repr. an early adoption of L. *strāgula*, f. *strā-* root of *sternĕre* to lay down, spread.] A woollen bed-covering, a blanket.

c 725 *Corpus Gloss.* (Hessels) A 932 *Aulea*, streagl. *Ibid.* S 314 *Stragu[l]a*, strel. *c* 1000 in Napier *OE. Glosses* i, 1035 *Stragularum*, strǽla, hwitla, wæstlinga. *a* 1300 *E. E. Psalter* vi. 7 (Harl. MS.) With my teres witerli Mi straile sal I wete for-þi. 1310–11 *Durham Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 506 In 2 paribus de strayles emp. 12*s.* 1397 in *Finchale Priory Charters* etc. (Surtees), p. cxvii, Item j par de strales antiquum. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 478/2 Strayle, bed clothe, *stamina, stragula.* *a* 1500 *Medulla Gram., Stragula*, burell, Rayclothe, motteley. *Stragulum, idem* or a strayle. 1532 *Visit. Dioc. Norwich* (Camden) 263 Fiat injunctio quod utantur strailes more antiquo et non linthiaminibus utì jam faciunt omnes. 1532 *Durham Housek. Bk.* (Surtees) 132, 1 payr straylls.

Comb. 1438 *Will of Refham* (Somerset Ho.), John Studley Strayleweber.

Strain (strēn), *sb.*[1] Forms: 1 **stréon, strion,** 2–3 **streon,** 3–4 **stren,** 3–7 **strene,** 4 **streone,** 4–6 **streen,** 5–7 **straine,** 6–7 **streine, streyne,** 7 **streene,** 9 *dial.* **strene,** 7– **strain.** [OE. *strēon, strīon* neut., a shortened form (recorded only in North.) of *gestréon, gestrīon* (see I-streon) = OS., OHG. *gistriuni*, related to (*ge*)*strónan*, (*ge*)*strīnan*, (*ge*)*strýnan* to acquire, gain (also to beget, procreate) = OHG, (*ga*)*striunen*, f. OTeut. (pre-Teut.) root **streu-* to pile up; cf. L. *struĕs* pile, *struĕre* to build.

The normal form in mod.Eng. would be *streen*; the actual form, which is found in the 15th c., but did not finally prevail until the 17th c., is due to association with Strain *sb.*[2] or *sb.*[3] The related Strene *v.* did not survive beyond the 14th c., and therefore did not undergo the perversion of form.]

† I. 1. Gain, acquisition; treasure: = I-streon 1. *Obs.*

c 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Matt. vi. 21 Þer is strion ðin [Vulg. *ubi est thesaurus tuus*]. *c* 1250 *Prov. Ælfred* 184 in *O. E. Misc.* 113 Acte nis non eldere stren [*Jesus MS.* istreon], ac it is Godis lone. *c* 1275 Lay. 18609 Þe castles gode were of his hilderne streone.

II. † 2. Begetting, generation: = I-streon 2. Not recorded in OE., the supposed instance in *Bæda's Hist.* I. xxvii. being due to an erroneous reading.

c 1200 Ormin 127 Þatt naffdenn þe33 þurrh þe33re streon Ne sune child, ne dohhterr. *Ibid.* 18889 Off moderr & off faderr stren. *c* 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 19 Ure helende crist is his onlepi sune, noht after chesunge ac after streone.

† 3. The germinal vesicle in the yolk of an egg. *c* 1305 *Pop. Treat. Sci.* (1841) 132 Urthe is a-midde the hevene as the streon a-midde theye. *c* 1420 *Liber Cocorum* (1862) 51 Breke ten egges in cup fulle fayre,..Þo strene also þou put away. 1585 Higins *Junius' Nomencl.* 54/2 *Oui umbilicus*,..the streine or kenning of the egge. 1596 Barrough *Meth. Phisick* I. xxxviii. (1639) 61 Then put into the eye the streines of egs, ordered as I declared before. 1600 Surflet *Country Farm* I. xii. 64 Take..sixe springs or straines of egges that are verie new. 1682 W. Robertson *Phraseol. Gen.* (1693) 523 The strain of an egg, *umbilicus ovi.* 1764 Eliza Moxon *Eng. Housew.* (ed. 9) 116 Take the yolks of two eggs and beat them very well, leaving out the strain.

4. Offspring, progeny: = I-streon 3. Also *fig.* *Obs.* exc. *arch.*

c 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 133 Vre drihten cleopede monnes streon sed. *c* 1200 Ormin 16396 Forr þatt hiss stren all sholde ben Todrifenn & toskeȝȝredd.. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 208 Ne not ich none sunne þet ne mei beon iled to one of ham seouene, oðer to hore streones. *a* 1225 *Juliana* (Bodl. MS.) 55, & wel bi semeð þe to beon & bikimeð to beo streon of a swuch strunde. 13.. *King Alis.* 511 A god..That hath y-laye by the quene, And bygete on hire a steorne streone. 1315 Shoreham *Poems* I. 1777 For te destruwen oure stren. 1621 Quarles *Esther* xviii, That remainder of proud Haman's straine, Their hands haue rooted out. 1839–52 Bailey *Festus* 175 Child of the royal blood of man redeemed, The starry strain of spirit, thence we are.

5. Pedigree, lineage, ancestry, descent.

c 1205 Lay. 29725 Of Bruttisce streonen. *c* 1386 Chaucer *Clerk's T.* 102 Bountee comth al of god, nat of the streen Of which they [children] been engendred and ybore. *c* 1450 Lovelich *Grail* xxxviii. 345 A veleynes sone was he tho, and I-comen of a schrewed streen. 1470–85 Malory *Arthur* II. i. 77 He must be a clene knyght without vylony and of a gentil strene of fader syde and moder syde. *c* 1530 *Crt. of Love* 370 For though thy-self be noble in thy strene, A thowsand-fold more nobill is thy quene. 1596 Spenser *F. Q.* V. ix. 32 Sacred Reuerence, yborne of heauenly strene. 1599 Shaks. *Much Ado* II. i. 394 Hee is of a noble straine, of approued valour, and confirm'd honesty. 1600 Fairfax *Tasso* v. xlii, Let them in fetters plead their cause (quoth hee) That are base peasants, borne of seruile straine. 1615 Chapman *Odyss.* xiv. 286 From ample Crete I fetch my Natiue straine; My Father wealthy: whose house [etc.]. 1624 Heywood *Gunaik.* I. 49 Young Epaphus..To Phaeton objects, that he was bred Of mortall straine. 1813 Scott *Trierm.* I. i, Where is the maiden of mortal strain, That may match with the Baron of Triermain?

6. The descendants of a common ancestor; a race, stock, line.

c 1330 *Arth. & Merl.* 1021 For be misbeȝeten stren Quic y schal now doluen ben! *c* 1400 *Rom. Rose* 4859 Bicause al is corumpable, And faile shulde successioun, Ne were ther generaciouu Our sectis strene for to save. *c* 1440 *Sir Gowther* 202 Thow comest never of Cristis strene, Thou art sum fendes sone y wene. 1470–85 Malory *Arthur* XIII. viii. 622 He is ..of the best men of the world comen and of the strene of alle partyes of kynges. 1569 *Irish Act* 11 *Eliz.* c. 1. (1621) 315 Least that any man..might be ledde..to thinke that the strene or lyne of the Oneyles should..hold or possesse anie part of the dominion..of Ulster. 1589 Warner *Albion's Eng.* VI. xxxi. (1592) 140 Of that Streene shall Fiue at length re-raigne. 1597 Beard *Theatre God's Judgem.* (1612) 465 His carkasse..was hanged vpon a gallowes, and all his kindred and children put to death, that there might not one remaine of his straine. 1624 Quarles *Job Milit.* x. Med. xxviii, And left his Empire to another Straine. 1676 Shadwell *Virtuoso* I. i, It must needs be so; for Gentlemen care not upon what Strain they get their sons, nor how they breed 'em, when they have got 'em. 1688 Dryden *Brit. Rediv.* 216 And for his Estian race and Saxon strain Might reproduce some second Richard's reign. 1700 Prior *Carmen Sec.* 73 Charlemain, And the long Heroes of the Gallic Strain. 1876 Geo. Eliot *Deronda* lxiii. IV. 247, I come of a strain that has ardently maintained the fellowship of our race.

b. Any one of the various lines of ancestry united in an individual or a family; an admixture of some racial or family element in a genealogy.

1863 Whyte Melville *Gladiators* I. ii. 26 It might have been the strain of Greek blood which filtered through his veins, that tempered his Roman courage..with the pliancy, essential to conspiracy and intrigue. 1865 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 8 June 11 These animals are usually a cross between the bulldog and the mastiff, and are all the better if dashed with a strain of the bloodhound. 1884 W. C. Smith *Kildrostan* 93 She's just a Highland lady Touched with an Eastern strain. 1897 *Times* 11 Mar. 12/2 Lord Coventry..said..He had not bought horses in Ireland as hunters which had any strain of hackney or cart-horse blood. 1902 R.

Bagot *Donna Diana* ix. 103 The features were regular, with something about the moulding of the nose and chin that suggested a strain of Jewish blood.

7. A race, breed; a variety developed by breeding.

a. of animals.

1607 Markham *Caval.* I. (1617) 26, I..know, that if a man will continue his breede altogether in one straine, without any alteration or strangenesse [he] shall in the ende finde his studd to decay. 1615 Chapman *Odyss.* XIV. 31 By them, Mastiues as austere As sauage beasts, lay euer. Their fierce straine Bred by the Herdsman. 1634 Brereton *Trav.* (Chetham Soc.) 32 Coach-mares, bred but of his own straine. *c* 1650 in Thoms *Anecd.* (Camden) 47 The cocke was match't, and hearing Sir Thomas Jermin's name... Everyone wond'red to see Sir Thomas his streine cry Craven. 1697 Dryden *Virg. Past.* ii. 55 Two Kids..Both fleck'd with white, the true Arcadian Strain. 1708 J. Chamberlayne *St. Gt. Brit.* I. I. iii. (1743) 12 The Sheep of Cotswold have so fine a Wool, that the Spanish strain ('tis said) came from a Present of Edward I. made of these Sheep to Alphonso King of Spain. 1789 R. Brown *Compl. Farmer* 46 The former hogs of the cross-strain. 1847 W. C. L. Martin *Ox* 70/1 Crosses with the Hereford were tried,..but soon, after one or two generations, the defects of the Glamorganshire strain reappeared. 1854 *Poultry Chron.* I. 246/2 To keep up a stock of first-rate fowls it is necessary every other year to cross the strain. 1859 Darwin *Orig. Spec.* i. 34 Eminent breeders try by methodical selection, with a distinct object in view, to make a new strain or sub-breed, superior to anything existing in the country. 1868 *Field* 4 July 22/2 Two Pups of his strain of the above breed [of St. Bernard's]. 1872 L. Wright *Illustr. Bk. Poultry* 207 *Strain*, a race of fowls which, having been carefully bred by one breeder or his successors for years, has acquired an individual character of its own which can be more or less relied upon. 1884 *Expositor* Jan. 35 The animals which man has bred into new and specialized strains.

b. of plants.

1845 *Florist's Jrnl.* (1846) VI. 42 It has..taken a number of years to obtain what florists term a 'strain' of flowers likely to lead to great results. 1849 J. F. Wood *Midland Florist* iii. 121 Every tulip grower is aware of the importance of getting a good strain of any given variety. 1908 *Ch. Times* 20 Mar. 392/A Begonias, gold medal strain, equal to any in the kingdom.

c. of microbes, etc.

1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* II. 636 Numerous strains of vaccine lymph have, from time to time been raised from the equine source. 1904 *Brit. Med. Jrnl.* 3 Dec. 1508 Another point leading to a similar interpretation is observed in some strains of B. anthracis.

8. Inherited character or constitution.

1603 B. Jonson *Sejanus* I. i, 'Tis wee are..degenerate from th' exalted streine Of our great Fathers. 1605 Shaks. *Lear* v. iii. 40 Sir, you have shew'd to day your valiant straine And Fortune led you well. *a* 1672 Tillotson *Serm.* iii. 135 Intemperance and Lust breed infirmities and diseases, which being propagated, spoil the Strain of a Nation. 1681 W. Robertson *Phraseol. Gen.* (1693) 1176 A strain, *indoles*. 1853 C. Brontë *Villette* ii, Neither in mien nor in features was this creature like her sire, and yet she was of his strain; her mind had been filled from his, as the cup from the flagon.

b. An inherited tendency or quality; a feature of character or constitution derived from some ancestor; hence, in wider sense, an admixture in a character of some quality somewhat contrasting with the rest.

1598 Shaks. *Merry W.* II. i. 91 For sure vnlesse he know some straine in mee, that I know not my selfe, he would neuer haue boorded me in this furie. 1605 *Lond. Prodigal* III. ii. 172 Such mad straines as hee's possesst with all. *a* 1627 Hayward *Edw. VI* (1630) 7 Because Heretickes for the most part haue a straine of madnesse, he thought it best to apply her with some corporall chastisements. 1633 Heywood *Eng. Trav.* I, The French is of one humor, Spaine another, The hot Italian hee's a straine from both. 1704 Swift *Mech. Operat. Spir.* in *Tale Tub*, etc. 289 A Fanatick Strain, or Tincture of Enthusiasm. 1885 'Mrs. Alexander' *Valerie's Fate* i, She really has a strain of nobility under all her flightiness. 1899 P. H. Brown *Hist. Scot.* II. ii. I. 95 There was in him a strain of superstition which distorted his vision in all matters concerned with the church. 1906 *Lit. World* 15 Nov. 489/2 There was..a strain of insanity in the family.

† **c.** A characteristic instance (of a person's qualities). *Obs.*

1685 Temple *Gardening* Wks. 1770 III. 204 It was no mean strain of his philosophy to refuse being secretary to Augustus. 1695 — *Hist. Eng.* (1699) 146 It looks like a Strain of his usual Boldness and fearless Temper.

9. A kind, class, or sort (of persons), as determined by community of character, conduct, or degree of ability. Now *rare*.

1598 Shaks. *Merry W.* III. iii. 97 *Mist. Page.* Hang him dishonest rascall; I would all of the same straine, were in the same distresse. 1600–9 Rowlands *Knaue of Clubbes* 32 A Cittie wanton full of pride and lust, Of Venus straine and disposition iust. 1642 D. Rogers *Naaman* 57 And that by the confession even of some of his owne straine. 1645 Featly *Dippers Dipt* (1646) 21 So we haue had but too just cause to complain of the like outrages committed by some of the Zelots of that Straine. 1647 N. Bacon *Disc. Govt. Eng.* ii. 4 Their [*sc.* the Druids'] high conceipt of their excellency above the ordinary straine of men. *a* 1660 *Contemp. Hist. Irel.* (Ir. Archæol. Soc.) I. 172 The Councell that grannted such power to a partie of that straine, were malitiously intended. 1693 Dryden *Persius* v. 164 Thou, who lately of the common strain, Wert one of us. 1746 Francis tr. *Hor., Sat.* I. i. 131 A bold Wench, of right Virago Strain. 1847 Emerson *Poems, Threnody* 141 The world..was not ripe yet, to sustain A genius of so fine a strain.

b. A kind, class, or grade (of things). ? *Obs.*

1612 T. Taylor *Titus* I. x. (1619) 24 The contemplation of things of an higher strain. 1646 J. Maxwell *Burd. Isaac* 4 All crimes and scandals of highest strain, namely, such as are civilly punishable by death. 1695 Woodward *Nat. Hist. Earth* v. (1723) 249 But these Alterations are of a quite different Strain. 1702 S. Parker tr. *Cicero's De Fin.* IV. 231 Hitherto your Objections have been Vulgar and of Course; and therefore I promise myself you have a higher Strein in Reserve.

Strain (strēn), *sb.*[2] Forms: 5 **stren**, 5–7 **straine**, 6 *Sc.* **streinze**, **strenzae**, 6–7 **strayn(e**, **streine**, **streyne**, 7 **streyn**, *Sc.* **strienzie**, 7–8 **strein**, 7– **strain**. [f. Strain *v.*[1]]

† **I.** 1. A strainer. *Obs.*

1432 in Gross *Gild Merch.* (1890) II. 233 For a straine 2d. *c* 1467 *Noble Bk. Cookry* (1882) 26 Streyn the broth through a stren. 1655 R. Younge *Charge agst. Drunkards* (1863) 3 Custom hath made it to passe through them, as through a tunnel, or streine [1658, strainer].

II. Action or result of straining.

† **2.** Constraint, bondage. *Obs.*

a 1510 Douglas *K. Hart* I. 274 Thair saw he Lust by law [ly] vnder lok, In streinze strong fast fetterit fute and hand.

† **3.** Compulsion. *Obs.*

1532 *Abstr. Protocols Town Clerks Glasgow* (1897) IV. 46 The forsaydis Thomas and Jonet..sull pas frele, withowt ony impediment and strenzae ane mark of anwell. 1602 Marston *Antonio's Rev.* IV. iii, What I here speake is forced from my lips By the pulsive straine of conscience. 1632 Lithgow *Trav.* X. 487 What by dread or straine, you can not worke nor do. 1648 J. Beaumont *Psyche* XII. ix, Moderation's Discipline may prove No Task of Duty, but a Strein of Love.

4. A result of straining.

a. An injury done to a limb or part of the body, esp. to a muscle or tendon, through being forcibly stretched beyond its proper length. Often coincident with Sprain.

1558 in Feuillerat *Revels Q. Mary* (1914) 251, I ame not able to ryde nor shalbe I fear this iij or iiij dais by reason of a strayn. 1580 Lyly *Euphues & Eng.* Wks. 1902 II. 204 Saying that in thinges aboue reach, it was easie to catch a straine; but impossible to touch a Star. 1614 Latham *Falconry* (1633) 135 This is a very speciall thing to comfort the sinewes ouer strained, and to cure and asswage the anguish of the straine. 1670 E. Borlase *Latham Spaw* 51 His Servant..got a strain in his back, lifting more than he could well master. *a* 1673 P. D. *Mare of Collingtoun* in *Watson's Collect.* I. (1706) 60 It will be good against the Pine Of any Wriest or Strienzie. 1735 Dyche & Pardon *Dict., Strain*, also an Extorsion of the Sinews beyond their natural Tone, sometimes called a Sprain. 1789 W. Buchan *Dom. Med.* (1790) 597 Strains are often attended with worse consequences than broken bones. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 383/1 Sprain, or Strain, is an injury of muscular or tendinous tissues, resulting from their being forcibly stretched beyond their natural length.

† **b.** A failure under trial. *Obs.*

1596 Barlow *Three Serm.* ii. 81 For thogh the godly haue their slips and straines, yet it greeueth them.

5. A stretch, extreme degree, height, pitch (of a quality, activity, etc.). Now *rare*.

Some of the examples below might perhaps be referred to Strain *sb.*[1] 9 or 8 c.

1576 Gascoigne *Steele Gl.* (Arb.) 59 But had he seene, the streine of straunge deuise, Which Epicures, do now adayes inuent, To yeld good smacke, vnto their daintie tongues:.. Then would he say, that [etc.]. 1609 Holland *Amm. Marcell.* XXVI. vii. 292 More odious than Cleander; who governing as Præfect..in a high straine (as it were) of outrage and madnesse, made havocke..of divers mens estates. 1627 Hakewill *Apol.* (1630) 411. Yet Heliogabalus went a straine farther, and put it to a baser use. 1631 R. Bolton *Comf. Afft. Consc.* vii. (1635) 43 Crowne Him with the concurrence of all created earthy exellencies, to the utmost and highest straine. 1648 J. Beaumont *Psyche* XII. cxlvii, No Epicurean ambition e'r Its liquorish self screw'd to so high a strein As to affect a Draught so rich as this. 1664 Wood *Life* (O.H.S.) II. 2 The undergraduates..arrived to strang degree and streyn of impudence. 1667 [Sir J. Stuart & Stirling] *Napthali* 91 This is a strain of wickedness above all that former times could imagine. 1685 Stillingfl. *Orig. Brit.* v. 275 This is a Strain beyond Geffrey, who never thought of bringing the British Language from the Plain of Sennaar. 1708 Swift *Abol. Chr.* (1717) 13 To Break an English Free-born Officer only for Blasphemy, was..a very high strain of absolute Power. *a* 1715 Burnet *Own Time* (1766) I. 228 It was thought..an odd strain of clemency if it was intended he [Milton] should be forgiven. 1717 Pope *Let. to Earl Halifax* 1 Dec., It is, indeed, a high Strain of Generosity in you, to think of making me easy all my Life. 1817 Jas. Mill *Brit. India* v. vi. II. 574 Justice was administered..without any peculiar strain of abuse. 1822 Lamb *Elia* Ser. II. *Brs. & Reading*, I knew a Unitarian minister, who was generally to be seen upon Snowhill.., between the hours of ten and eleven in the morning, studying a volume of Lardner. I own this to have been a strain of abstraction beyond my reach. 1875 Jowett *Plato* (ed. 2) IV. 161 Saying the same thing in different ways..is a strain of art beyond the reach of most of us.

† **b.** Utmost capacity, reach. *Obs.*

1593 Drayton *Sheph. Garland* Eglog iii. v, Faire Betas praise beyond our straine doth stretch, Her notes too hie for my poore pipe to reach. 1599 B. Jonson *Ev. Man out of Hum.* Induct., May our Minerua Answere your hopes, vnto their largest straine! 1599 — *Cynthia's Rev.* I. v. (1601) C 4 b, O how..base a thing is Man, If he not striue t'erect his groueling thoughts Aboue the straine of flesh?

† **c.** Standard of requirement. *Obs.*

1605 Bacon *Adv. Learn.* II. xxii. § 9 That wee beware wee take not at the first either to High a strayne or to weake: for if, too Highe in a diffident nature you discorage, in a confident nature, you breede an opinion of facility.

† **d.** ? A 'stretch' of country. *Obs., rare*—[1].

1614 Gorges *Lucan* VI. 215 That long stretching Malean straine That shelues so farre into the maine.

† **6.** A strained construction or interpretation.

1579 W. Wilkinson *Confut. Fam. Love* 26 b, The first straine wheron this further hereticall accord was to be stretched, was this. 1609 [W. Barlow] *Answ. Nameless Cath.* 38 What a trifling Sophister this is, to picke quarels at words, by wrests and streines, neither to purpose nor to sense. 1616 Jas. I *Sp. Starre-Chamber* 20 June 20 It must not bee Sophistrie or straines of wit that must interprete, but either cleare Law, or solide reason. 1629 Chas. I *Decl. 3rd Parlt.* Wks. 1662 II. 16 Finding..such sinister strains made upon Our Answer to that Petition..We resolved [etc.]. 1707 *Col. Rec. Pennsylv.* II. 334 We declare [this] to be a meer straine and a most unjust Imputation. 1720 Ld. Chanc. Parker in W. P. Williams *Chancery Cases* (1740) I. 517 It was a strange Construction to take Pains by a Strain in Law, to place a Remainder in Fee *in Nubibus*. 1726 Swift *Gulliver* I. iv, This, however, is thought to be a mere strain upon the text: For the words are these: 'That all true' [etc.]. 1731 — *Verses Death Dr. Swift* 327 Not strains of law,..nor jury picked, Prevail to bring him in Convict.

† **7.** Something strained or squeezed out. *Obs.*

c 1616 Chapman *Batrachom.* 3 Lyurings (white-skin'd as Ladies:) nor the straines Of prest milke, renneted.

8. A strong muscular effort; † *spec.* an effort to vomit, a retching; a straining at stool.

In quots. 1590, 1607 app. used for: A step, pace (? with notion of stately or ponderous movement.)

1590 Greene *Never too Late, Canzone* 37 Her pace was like to Iunoes pompous straines When as she sweeps through heuens brasse-paued way. 1592 Kyd *John Brewen* Wks. (1901) 290 He began to vomet exceedingly, with such straines as if his lungs would burst in pieces. 1601 Holland *Pliny* XXII. xxi. II. 126 As many as live thereof, are infested..neither with the dysenterie, ne yet with the troublesome offers and streins to the seege without doing any thing. 1607 Topsell *Four-f. Beasts* 101 This beast..doth not moue his right and left foote one after another, but both together,..whereby his whole body is remoued at euery step or straine. *c* 1630 Donne *Serm.* xxxiii. (1640) 322 The holy Ghost..deales not with him, as a Painter, which..passes his pencill an hundred times over every muscle,..but..as a Printer, that in one straine delivers a whole story. 1726 Leoni *Alberti's Archit.* I. 74*a*, The Rise ..was only for so little a way, that a beast heavy loaden con'd get over it at one strain. 1771 R. James *Diss. Fevers* (ed. 8) 40 He had several strains for two hours, but never vomited. 1884 W. F. Butler *Nile Boat Song* in *Pall Mall Gaz.* 16 Oct. 4/2 Row, my boys, row away,..Bend to the strain, men!

b. *At (full, utmost) strain, on the strain*: straining, using strong effort. Cf. Astrain *adv.*

1851 Mrs. Browning *Casa Guidi Wind.* II. 290 With her wide eyes at full strain. 1868–70 Morris *Earthly Par.* III. 432 A dismal wedding! every ear at strain Some sign of things that were to be to gain. 1884 *Graphic* 16 Aug. 166/1 Till..even nine at night they are perpetually on the strain. 1885–94 Bridges *Eros & Psyche* May 20 Adonis..spear in hand, with leashed dogs at strain. 1900 F. T. Bullen *With Christ at Sea* xi. 227 They were all labouring at utmost strain to try and save the ship.

c. Extreme or excessive effort; a straining *at* or *after* some object of attainment; † laboured or affected diction or thought.

1683–6 *Dryden's Plutarch, Jul. Cæsar* (1693) IV. 416 Yet with the utmost streins of their valour, they were not able to beat the enemy out of the field. 1713 Johnson *Guardian* No. 4 ¶ 2 'Tis observable of the Female Poets and Ladies Dedicatory, that..they far exceed us in any Strain or Rant. 1839 Hallam *Lit. Europe* IV. vii. § 5. IV. 501 The Dialogues of the Dead..are condemned by some critics for their false taste and perpetual strain at something unexpected and paradoxical. 1870 Morley *Crit. Misc., Vauvenargues* (1871) I. 21 Men think and work on the highest level when they move without conscious and deliberate strain after virtue. 1905 J. H. Jowett *Passion for Souls* 84 There shall be strenuousness without strain!

9. A forcible stretching of a material thing; force tending to pull asunder or to drag from a position. In later use with wider sense: Force or pressure tending to cause fracture, change of position, or alteration of shape; also, the condition of a body or a particle subjected to such force or pressure.

1602 Marston *Ant. & Mel.* I, Heele snap in two at every little straine. 1818 P. Barlow in *Encycl. Metrop.* III. 61/1 Our object is to investigate the conditions of equilibrium between the resistance of solids, and the strains to which they may be exposed. 1827 Faraday *Chem. Manip.* xx. (1842) 548 That by directing the pull on the bottle a little on one side or the other, the strain upon the stopper may be equal or nearly so on the two sides. 1827–28 Herschel in *Encycl. Metrop.* IV. 565 The general problem, then, to investigate the actual state of strain of any molecule at any moment is one of some complexity. 1842 Gwilt *Archit.* Gloss., *Strain*, the force exerted on any material tending to disarrange or destroy the cohesion of its component parts. 1867 Smyth *Sailor's Word-bk., Set up rigging*, to take in the slack of the shrouds, stays, and backstays, to bring the same strain as before, and thus secure the masts. 1884 Sargent *Rep. Forests N. Amer.* 355 Table III. Behavior of the principal woods of the United States under transverse strain. 1888 Burt *Stand. Timber Meas.* 312 Table of Breaking Strains.

b. *Physics.* In mod. use, after Rankine and Thomson: see quots.

1850 Rankine *Misc. Sci. Papers* (1881) 68 Although the word *strain* is used in ordinary language indiscriminately to denote relative molecular displacement, and the force by which it is produced,..I shall..use it, throughout this paper, in the restricted sense of relative displacement of particles, whether consisting in dilatation, condensation, or distortion; while under the term *pressure* I shall include [etc.]. 1879 Thomson & Tait *Nat. Phil.* I. I. § 154 We have now to consider the very important kinematical conditions presented by the changes of volume or figure experienced by a solid or liquid mass..Any such definite alteration of form or dimensions is called a Strain.

10. In immaterial applications of sense 9 a.

†a. *pl.* Trials, hardships. *Obs.*

a 1628 F. Grevil *Sidney* (1652) 18 Any man..forced, in the straines of this life, to pass through any straights or latitudes of good or ill fortune.

b. Pressure or exigency that severely taxes the strength, endurance, or resources of a person or thing, or that imperils the permanence of a feeling, relation, or condition.

1853 Mrs. Gaskell *Ruth* xxxi, I should not have been surprised last night if he had dropped down dead, so terrible was his strain upon himself. 1858 Lytton *What will He do?* xii. ix, The reaction that follows all strain upon purpose. 1880 Tyndall *Glac.* i. xxvii. 396 The strain upon the horses [was] very great. 1876 Geo. Eliot *Deronda* xv. I. 295 A difference of taste in jokes is a great strain on the affections. 1897 Mary Kingsley *W. Africa* 217 He was..a bright, intelligent young Frenchman; but..the strain of his responsibility had been too much for him. 1894 Lady M. Verney *Verney Mem.* III. 5 He had been often driven to borrow money of Sir Ralph..but their friendship had stood the strain. 1898 Conan Doyle *Trag. Korosko* v. 123 My Arabic won't bear much strain. I don't know what he is saying. 1908 R. Bagot *A. Cuthbert* xxiii. 309 His voice broke suddenly, and Sonia realised the strain he had been putting upon himself to meet his trouble quietly and courageously.

c. Strained relations, tension.

1884 *Chr. World* 30 Oct. 821/1 The strain between the two Houses could, he thought, only be relaxed by mutual concessions.

III. (Cf. Strain *v.*[1] V.)

11. *Mus.* A definite section of a piece of music: see quots. 1841–75.

1575 Gascoigne *Posies, Gr. Knt.'s Farew. Fansie* Wks. 1907 I. 381 In Hyerarchies and straynes, in restes, in rule and space, In monacordes and mouing moodes, in Burdens vnder base. 1589 *Pappe w. Hatchet* in *Lyly's Wks.* (1902) III. 413 Martin, this is my last straine for this fleech of mirth...I must tune my fiddle, and fetch some more rozen. 1597 Morley *Introd. Mus.* 180 Canzonets..(wherein little arte can be shewed being made in straines, the beginning of which is some point lightlie touched, and euerie straine repeated except the middle). 1598 Bastard *Chrestol.* II. xxi. 40 He hath rimes and rimes, and double straynes: And golden verses, and all kindes of veynes. 1599 B. Jonson *Cynthia's Rev.* v. v. (1601) L 2, Stage-dir., They daunce the I. Straine. 1662 Playford *Skill Mus.* I. xi. 35 The double Bars are set to divide the several Strains or Stanzaes of the Songs and Lessons. 1676 Mace *Musick's Mon.* 127 If at any time you chance to meet with a Strain, consisting of Odd Barrs, peruse That Strain well. 1841 J. A. Hamilton *Dict. Mus. Terms* (ed. 13) 66 *Strain*, a portion of a movement divided off by a double bar. 1873 H. C. Banister *Mus.* 171 A musical idea or passage, more or less complete in itself, and terminating, most frequently, with a Perfect Cadence..constitutes a Rhythmical Period, or Strain. 1875 Stainer & Barrett *Dict. Mus. Terms*, *Strain*, a musical subject forming part of, and having relation to, a general whole.

12. In wider sense, a musical sequence of sounds; a melody, tune. Often *collect. pl.*

1579 Gosson *Apol. Sch. Abuse* (Arb.) 68 Pypers are sore displeased bicause I allow not their new streines. ?1617 Sir W. Mure *To Prince Charles* 4 Montgomery..often ravischt his harmonious ear Wt straynes fitt only for a prince to heir. 1637 Milton *Lycidas* 87 That strain I heard was of a higher mood. 1687 Norris *Misc.* 89 Soft melting strains of Music. 1697 Dryden *Virg. Georg.* IV. 746 She supplies the Night with mournful Strains, And melancholy Musick fills the Plains. 1735 Fielding *Universal Gallant* Epil., By the vast sums we pay them for their strains, They'll think, perhaps, we don't abound in brains. 1775 Sheridan *Duenna* I. i, Tell me, my lute, can thy soft strain So gently speak thy master's pain? 1794 Mrs. Radcliffe, *Myst. Udolpho* xxvii, Emily recollected the mysterious strains of music that she had lately heard. 1820 W. Irving *Sketch Bk.* I. 347 When a soft strain of music stole up from the garden. 1827 Keble *Chr. Yr., Morning* 37 As for some dear familiar strain Untir'd we ask, and ask again. 1851 Longf. *Golden Leg.* IV. *Road to Hirschau*, This life of ours is a wild æolian harp of many a joyous strain. 1859 Sala *Tw. round Clock* 108 The enlivening strains of the brass band. 1875 Jowett *Plato* (ed. 2) V. 14 Notes are struck which are repeated from time to time, as in a strain of music.

b. *transf.* A passage of song or poetry. †Also, ?a passage, verse (of the Bible).

1562 Golding *Calvin on Job* 135 b, This is not the naturall meening: and such as take it so, neuer knewe the intent of the holy Ghost as touching this streyne [Fr. *quant à ce passage*]. 1583 — *Calvin on Deut.* ii. 18 b, That then is the thing that wee haue to marke vppon this streyne [Fr. *en ce passage*]. 1632 Milton *Penseroso* 174 Till old experience do attain To something like Prophetic strain. 1643 Sir T. Browne *Relig. Med.* I. § 44 There be many excellent straines in that Poet [Lucan]. 1697 Dryden *Virg. Past.* iv. 1 Sicilian Muse, begin a loftier strain! 1751 Johnson *Rambler* No. 93 P 3 Interest and passion..will for ever bid defiance to the most powerful strains of Virgil or Homer. 1766 [Anstey] *Bath Guide* i. 14 Here teach fond Swains their hapless Loves In gentle Strains to weep. 1770 Goldsm. *Des. Vill.* 423 Aid slighted truth with thy persuasive strain. 1833 Tennyson *Miller's Dau.* 66 A love-song I had somewhere read, An echo from a measured strain. 1847 Emerson *Repr. Men, Goethe* Wks. (Bohn) I. 392 There are nobler strains in poetry than any he has sounded. 1858 J. Martineau *Stud. Christ* 41 Who, having the strains of David, would pore over Leviticus? 1879 Geo. Eliot *Theo. Such* ii. 32, I might have poured forth poetic strains which would have anticipated theory.

c. A stream or flow of impassioned or ungoverned language. (Either in favourable or unfavourable sense.) ? *Obs.*; common in 17–18th c.

1649 Milton *Eikon.* vi. 50 The Simily..I was about to have found fault with, as in a garb somwhat more Poeticall then for a Statist: but meeting with many straines of like dress in other of his Essaies,..I begun to think that [etc.]

a 1677 Barrow *Serm.* (1716) I. 259 When a man is..fiercely angry..he blustereth and dischargeth his choler in most tragical strains. 1699 T. Baker *Refl. Learn.* xv. 178 Macrobius speaks of his [*sc.* Hippocrates'] knowledge in such lofty strains, as are only agreeable to God Almighty. 1713 Steele *Englishman* No. 55. 355 Addresses came..with foolish Strains of Obedience without Reserve. 1741 Hume *Ess. Mor. & Polit.* xvi. (1748) 144 Shall we assert, that the Strains of ancient Eloquence are unsuitable to our Age? 1742 C. Yorke in G. Harris *Life Ld. Hardwicke* (1847) II. 21 Dean Swift has had a statute of lunacy taken out against him. His madness appears chiefly in most incessant strains of obscenity and swearing.

13. Tone, style, or turn of expression; tone or character of feeling expressed; tenor, drift, or general tendency or character (of a composition or discourse).

1622 J. Taylor (Water P.) *Water-Cormorant* Pref., I haue thought good to sympathize a subiect fit for the time, and I haue done my best to handle it in a sutable straine. 1665 Boyle *Occas. Refl.* Introd. Pref. (1848) p. xxi, When he writes of Ants and Flies, he does it in a Strain worthy of the same Pen, that so loftily describes the Destruction of Troy. 1678 R. Barclay *Apol. Quakers* v. § xxi. 161 It is contrary to the very strain of the Context. 1681 W. Robertson *Phraseol. Gen.* (1693) 1176 A strain in speech, *stylus, sermo.* 1684 Bunyan *Pilgr.* II. Introd., To study what those Sayings should contain That speak to us in such a Cloudy strain. 1708 Swift *Baucis & Phil.* 11 Where, in the Strolers canting Strain, They begg'd from Door to Door in vain. 1761 Hume *Hist. Eng. to Hen. VII*, I. i. 23 Their writings, which as appears from the strain of his own wit,..he [Gregory] had not taste nor genius sufficient to comprehend. 1777 Priestley *Matter & Spir.* Pref. p. xix, It is, I presume, sufficiently evident from the strain of my publications, that general applause has not been my object. 1786 Cowper *Let.* 19 Feb., My friend Bagot writes to me in a most friendly strain. 1808 W. Wilson *Hist. Dissenting Ch.* II. 56 For a serious, evangelical strain of preaching,..he was equalled by few ministers in his day. 1817 Jas. Mill *Brit. India* IV. v. H. 164 Clive wrote with much sharpness to the Nabob; and Meeran apologized in the most submissive strain. 1826 W. Irving *Babylon* I. II. 69 And among the heathen also, if we may judge from the strain of many of their writings. 1849 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* vi. II. 141 But his letters to England were in a very different strain. 1870 J. Bruce *Life of Gideon* iv. 74 Observe the strain and character of that wonderful reply. 1902 R. Bagot *Donna Diana* x. 113 At times Frau von Raben would talk in a mysteriously sympathizing strain, as though inviting her confidence.

†**IV. 14.** The track of a deer. (Cf. Strain *v.*[1] 18 b.) *Obs.*

1612 Capt. Smith *Virginia* Wks. (Arb.) I. 71 So watching his best aduantage.., hauing shot him [a deer] hee chaseth him by his blood and straine till he get him. 1632 J. Wright tr. *Camus' Nat. Paradox* IV. 82 The Hunts-men, who were more in pain for the straying of their Master, than their missing of the Stag, whose Strain they could not finde, all their Hounds being at a loss. 1659 Howell *Lex. Tetragl., Partic. Voc*, iii, The strain, view, slott, or footing of a deer.

V. 15. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *strain-bearing, case, -sensation*; **strain-band** *Naut.* (see quot. 1867).

1867 Smyth *Sailor's Word-bk.*, **Strain-bands*, bands of canvas sustaining the strain on the belly of the sails, and reinforced by the linings, &c. 1899 Whiteing *5 John St.* xix. 194 She [a mare] is a tower of strength, as carefully constructed for *strain-bearing as an Arctic ship. 1898 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* V. 954 The disease in the cardio-arterial cases is 'progressive' and in the rheumatic or *strain cases not necessarily so. 1894 J. E. Creighton & Titchener tr. *Wundt's Hum. & Anim. Psychol.* 247 When we are trying to remember a name or are pondering a difficult problem we notice the presence of *strain-sensations.

†**Strain,** *sb.*[3] *Obs.* Also 6 **streyne, streen,** 6–7 **straine.** [Of obscure origin; cf. MDu., MLG. *strene* (Du. *streen*), OHG. *streno* (MHG. *strene*, mod.G. *strähne*), skein, hank.]

1. A thread, line, streak.

c 1520 Skelton *Magnyf.* 1571 The streynes of her veynes as asure inde blewe. 1545 Raynalde *Byrth Mankynde* 22 When the water hath to passe throw so narow passage, it makith the longer iourney and yeldith the smaller thred or streen. 1590 Greene *Never too late* (1600) G 4, Her face like siluer Luna in her shine, All tainted through with bright vermillion straines. 1613 Purchas *Pilgrimage* VII. xi. (1614) 706 Barrius..is of opinion, That the violent currents of the Tides..raise vp from the bottom that redde floore..and cause, by the motion of the same vnder the water, that rednesse in the vpper face thereof:..and the threeds or straines of this rednesse are lesse in the greater and more spacious Sea-roome.

2. = Strand *sb.*[4] 1.

c 1586 J. Davys in Hakluyt *Voy.* (1589) 786 The straines of one of our cables were broken.

3. A barb or filament of a (peacock's) feather. (Cf. Strand *sb.*[4] 3 b.)

1651 T. Barker *Art of Angling* (1653) 6 Another flie, the Body made of the strain of a Pea Cocks feather. 1662 R. Venables *Exper. Angler* iii. 28 Take one strain of a Peacocks feather (or if that be not sufficient, then another).

†**Strain,** *sb.*[4] *Obs. rare*[−1]. In 6 **strayne.** [Aphetic f. Distrain *sb.*, Cf. Strain *v.*[2]] A distraint.

1526 *Croscombe Churchw. Acc.* (Somerset Rec. Soc.) 38 Ther was payde owtte of the chyrch box for all the parysch whane ther was a strayne taken for the lorde [*i.e.* of the manor for chief rent], xx[s].

Strain (strēn), *v.*[1] Forms: 4 **strayn, strayny,** 4–5 **streny, streyn,** 4–6 *Sc.* **strenze,** 5–6 **stren(e,** 4–7 **strane, strayne, streine,** (7 **strein**), 4–8 **streyne,** 6 **straigne, -ygne, streigne, -ygne,** *Sc.* **strengze, strenye,** 6–7 **straine,** 6– **strain.** [ME. *streyne*, etc., a. OF. *estrein-, estreign-, estren-*, stem of *estreindre, estraindre* (mod.F. *étreindre*) to bind tightly, clasp, squeeze, corresp. to Pr. *estrenher*, Cat. *estrenyer*, Sp. *estreñir*, It. *strignere, stringere*:—L. *stringĕre* to bind tightly, to draw tight, tighten; see Stringent *a.*

The sense 'to draw tight' (whence branch II below) is app. not recorded for OF. *estraindre*, though it was prob. not wholly wanting, as it is the earliest sense to appear in Eng.; the L. *stringere* was common in this sense. Branches III, IV, and V seem to be purely Eng. developments.]

I. To bind tightly; to clasp, squeeze.

†**1.** *trans.* To bind fast; to confine in bonds. *Obs.*

1340 Hampole *Pr. Consc.* 7181 Þai salle be..In helle hard bonden,..And straytely streyned ilka lym. 1426 Lydg. *De Guil. Pilgr.* 7207 With a gyrdel off ryhtwysnesse, Thy reynys strongly for to streyne [*pour bien estraindre fort les reins*]. 1483 Caxton *Golden Leg.* 177/1 Saynt peter was emprysoned in a strayte place wherin he was strayned. 1513 Douglas *Æneis* II. vii. 78 Baith hir tendir handis War strengzeit sair, yboundin hard with bandis.

fig. 1382 Wyclif *Num.* xxx. 14 If she auowe, and bi ooth streyne hir self [1388 byndith hir silf; Vulg. *se constrinxerit*]. *c* 1435 in Kingsford *Chron. London* (1905) 21 Bondes of Liegeaunce..in which they weren or ben bounden to me, or in eny other wyse Streynyd. 1532 More *Confut. Tindale* Wks. 394/1 And with these woordes of hys own, will I strayne him fast and sure.

b. To fasten, attach firmly. Const. *to*, or with *together*. *lit.* and *fig. Obs.* exc. (*rarely*, influenced by sense 2) with the sense: To attach by compulsion.

1387 Trevisa *Higden* (Rolls) VII. 109 Kyng Kanute,..þat he myȝte streyne [L. *astringeret*] þe reme of Engelond more faste unto hym, wedded to his wyf Emme the queene. 1391 Chaucer *Astrol.* I. § 14 Thorw wich pyn ther goth a litel wegge..þat streyneth alle thise parties to hepe. *c* 1450 *Mailt. Club Misc.* III. 201 Item ane salter befor the Licentiatis stal strenyeit. 1508 Dunbar *Twa Mariit Wemen* 59 It is agane the law of luif, of kynd, and of nature, To gidder hairtis to streine, that stryveis with vther. 1530 Tindale *Exod.* xxxix. 21 And they strayned the brestlappe by his ringes vnto the ringes of the Ephod, with laces of lacincte. 1856 Merivale *Rom. Emp.* IV. xxxiv. 105 It was requisite to strengthen and draw closer the bonds which strained them to the conquerors.

†c. To stanch (blood). *Obs. rare*[−1].

c 1425 tr. *Arderne's Treat. Fistula* etc. 79 Also puluer of vitriol combuste streyneþ blode in euery place if it be putte by itself or with iuyse of any herbe streynyng blode.

†d. To constrict (the organic tissues). *Obs. rare.*

1533 Elyot *Cast. Helthe* I. 8 b, Flewme stiptik or binding, ..hath the tast lyke to grene redde wyne, or other lyke, straynyng the tunge. 1548 *Elyot's Dict., Astrictus gustus*, a rough or sharpe tast, that streigneth the tongue.

2. To clasp tightly in one's arms. *Obs.* exc. as in b.

c 1374 Chaucer *Troylus* III. 1205 This Troilus in armes gan hir streyne. 1590 Spenser *F. Q.* III. ii. 34 So hauing said, her twixt her armes twaine She straightly strayned. 1597 Drayton *Heroic Ep., Owen Tudor to Q. Kath.* 39 Euen as a mother comming to her child,..With tender armes his gentle necke doth straine. 1613 Shaks. *Hen. VIII*, IV. i. 46 Our King has all the Indies in his Armes, And more and richer, when he straines that Lady. 1697 Dryden *Virg. Georg.* IV. 726 In vain, with folding Arms, the Youth assay'd To stop her flight, and strain the flying Shade.

b. esp. *to strain* (a person) *to one's bosom, heart*, and the like.

1789 Charlotte Smith *Ethelinde* (1814) V. 297 'She is mine!' continued he; straining her to his bosom. 1809 Campbell *Gertrude* I. xxiii, He said—and strain'd unto his heart the boy. 1883 Frances M. Peard *Contrad.* xxii, He strained her to him again. 1891 Farrar *Darkn. & Dawn* xxxv, He strained her again and again to his heart.

3. To clasp tightly in the hand.

a. † To press, squeeze (another's hand or fingers, a person by the hand) in love or farewell (*obs.*). Also (*rarely*), to clasp (one's own hands) forcibly.

1518 H. Watson *Hist. Oliver of Castile* (Roxb.) C 4, He toke his leue of the quene, the whiche dyde strayne his fyngres togyder at the departynge. 1523 Berners *Froiss.* I. x. 9 [He said] I gyue you leue, and kyste hym, streynynge hym by the hande, in sygne of great loue. 1652 Gaule *Magastrom.* 330 She strained her husbands hand, and concluded both her speech and life with these complaining words. 1888 'J. S. Winter' *Bootle's Childr.* viii, 'Mrs. Ferrers,' cried Lassie, straining her thin hands together, 'don't *break* it to me, please. Tell me the whole truth at once.'

b. To grip, grasp tightly (a weapon, etc.). *Obs.* or *arch.*

1590 Spenser *F. Q.* II. vii. 21 The one in hand an yron whip did strayne, The other brandished a bloudy knife. *Ibid.* III. v. 21 The third brother..droue at him with all his might and maine A forrest bill, which both his hands did straine. 1825 Scott *Talism.* xv, 'Name her not..' said the King, again straining the curtal-axe in his gripe, until the muscles started above his brawny arm.

†c. Of a bird (esp. a hawk) or beast: To seize (its prey) in its claws. Chiefly *absol. Obs.*

1426 Lydg. *De Guil. Pilgr.* 17528, I Gryppe and streyne lyk a Gryffoun, And faste I holde ther-with-al Coper, yren, and ech metal. 1486 *Bk. St. Albans, Hawking* a vj b, The .ix. [term belonging to hawking] she streymith and not Clithith nor Cratchith. 1530 Palsgr. 738/1, I strayne, as a hauke doth, or any other syche lyke fowle or beest in theyr clawes, *je estraings*. Were a good glove I reede you, for your hauke strayneth harde. 1575 Turberv. *Faulconrie* 214 When they are unable..to performe their parts..as not to be able to flee or strayn y[e] pray w[t] their pownces. 1596 Spenser *F. Q.* VI. iv. 22 [The bear] Gnashing his cruell teeth at him in vaine, And threatning his sharpe clawes, now wanting powre to straine.

4. To constrict painfully, as with an encircling cord. Also in wider sense: † To hurt by physical pressure; to pinch.

1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xxii. 646 Sancte laurens..be þe areme can hyme strenȝe [*brachium ejus strinxit*] rycht sayre and Increly. **1426** LYDG. *De Guil. Pilgr.* 8257 Thys glouys bynde me so sore,..And al the remnaunt..off armure, Me streyneth so on euery syde, That [etc.]. *c* **1500** KENNEDY *Passion of Christ* 379 Thai strenȝeit þai fair handis with a string. **1586** *Withals' Dict.* (1599) 65, I wot wel where my shooe pincheth or straineth me. **1618** W. LAWSON *New Orch. & Gard.* (1626) 27 Take well tempered morter, soundly wrought with chaffe or horsedung (for the dung of cattell will grow hard, and straine your graffes). **1712–14** POPE *Rape Lock* IV. 101 Was it..For this with fillets [you] strain'd your tender head? **1830** TENNYSON *To —* i, The wounding cords that bind and strain The heart until it bleeds.

†5. To compress, contract, diminish (in bulk or volume); to draw *together* (the brows). *Obs.*

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XIV. xlix (Tollemache MS.), [The field is] streynid in winter with froste and with colde, and swellid in somer with brennynge and with hete [L. *hyeme gelu et frigore constringitur*]. **1432–50** tr. *Higden* (Rolls) I. 57 The see callede Pontus, diffusede from þens towarde the northe makethe the see callede Propontides. And from thens hit is streynede also into vjc passes [L. *stringitur in secentos passus*]. **1445** tr. *Claudian* in *Anglia* XXVIII. 271 Thi yiftes be not streyned In noon smal boke thei may be writen. *c* **1530** *Judic. Urines* II. iii. 17 b, This feuer..is knowen by straynyng togyder of the browis.

† b. *refl.* To squeeze oneself *through* (a narrow passage). Also with *out*. *Obs.*

1603 KNOLLES *Hist. Turkes* (1621) 1211 By straining himself out at a little window..he in safetie got down to the ground. **1606** S. GARDINER *Bk. Angling* 37 Some like slimy and slipperie eeles, no sooner find themselues entangled in the nette, but they seeke to wind and straine out themselues. *a* **1678** MARVELL *Appleton Ho.* 31 As practising, in doors so strait, To strain themselves through Heavens Gate.

† c. To derive (a word) by contraction. *Obs. rare*—1.

1614 CAMDEN *Rem., Names* 101 Pernel, from Petronilla, Pretty-stone, as Piere and Perkin strained out of Petre.

† 6. To press hard upon, afflict, distress. *Obs.*

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* C. 234 Styffe stremes & streȝt hem strayned a whyle. **1382** WYCLIF *Gen.* xxxi. 40 Day and nyȝt with hoot and coolde Y was streynyd [1388 angwischid; Vulg. *æstu urebar* (? misread *urgebar*) *et gelu*]. *c* **1385** CHAUCER *L. G. W.* 2684 And cold as ony frost now waxeth she, For Pite by the herte hire streynyth so. *c* **1477** CAXTON *Jason* 116 He might not speke..his herte was so closed and strained with anguissh. **1513** DOUGLAS *Æneis* VI. ix. 58 In quhat pvnition, panis, and distres, Bene saulis ȝondir strenȝeit [L. *quibusve urgentur poenis*]? **1580** G. HARVEY *Three Proper Lett.* 40 Such pleasaunce makes the Grashopper so poore, And ligge so layde, when winter doth her strayne. **1730** T. BOSTON *Mem.* vi. (1899) 77 Being strained with this message I laid it before the Lord.

† 7. To bridle, control, restrain. *Obs.*

Often with allusion to Ps. xxxi[i]. 9 (Vulg. *constringe*).

a **1340** HAMPOLE *Ps.* xxxi[i]. § 12 In keuel and bridel streyn þaire chekis. **1340** *Ayenb.* 263 Þet is to zigge huych mayne to moche slac and wylles uol ssel by: bote yef þe ilke uaderes stefhede hise strayny and ordayny. *c* **1346** HAMPOLE *Prose Tr.* 6, I..said þat I wald ryse and blesse vs in þe name of þe Haly Trynytee, and scho strenyde me so stallworthely þat I had no mouthe to speke, ne no hande to styrre. **13..** *Gaw. & Gr. Knt.* 176 A stede ful stif to strayne. *c* **1400** *Apol. Loll.* 74 Þe loue of Goddis lawe..schuld streyn men fro þis Office. **1414** BRAMPTON *Penit. Ps.* (Percy Soc.) 11 And streyne here chekys fro woordys y-dell, That kan noȝt holdyn here tungys stylle. **1434** MISYN *Mending Life* 112 Besy kepyng of þi vtward wittis, þat tastyn[g] sauerynge, herynge & seynge vndyr þe bridyll of gouernans wysely be strenyd. **1529** MORE *Dyaloge* I. Wks. 168/2 So hath God euer kepte man in humilite, straynyng him with yᵉ knowledge of confession of his ygnoraunce. **1533** — *Answ. Poysoned Bk.* Ibid. 1054/2 Pray him..to draw you, and as the Prophet sayth to pray him strayn your iawes with a bitte and a brydle. **1558** PHAER *Æneid* I. A ij, You gave me might these stormy winds to strain or make to blow. **1591** SPENSER *M. Hubberd* 1190 Of men of armes he had but small regard, But kept them lowe, and streigned verie hard. **1595** HUNNIS *Joseph* 42 He did refraine and straine himselfe, as it had not been he.

† b. To restrict, confine. *Obs.*

1566 PAINTER *Palace Pleas.* I. 260 When they happened to be strayned to straight lodging, the maried gentleman would not sticke to suffer his frend to lye with him and his wife.

† 8. To force, press, constrain (*to* a condition or an action). Also const. *to* with inf. *Obs.*

c **1374** CHAUCER *Compl. Mars* 220 To what fyn made the god that sit so hye, Benethen him, love other company, And streyneth folk to love, malgre hir hede? *a* **1400** *Pauline Epist., 2 Cor.* v. 14 (1916) 112 *Caritas enim christi urget nos*...Forwhy þe charite of crist streynes vs. *a* **1400–50** *Wars Alex.* 3549, I hope þou wenes at we be like to þire lethire Persyns, Þat þou þi lordschip to loute has now on late strayned. **1456** SIR G. HAYE *Law Arms* (S.T.S.) 94 Folk may nocht be strenȝeit to mak weris. **1528** MORE *Dyaloge* II. Wks. 200/1 The profe..semeth me not very stronge nor able & sufficient to strayne a man to consent therto. **1531** *Reg. Privy Seal Scot.* 98/1 He is oblist and strenȝeit to mak continuale residence and service at the said chaplanriis. **1551** T. WILSON *Logic* II. L ij, Some of these causes worke by the force and violence of nature, some by an outward powre, beyng strained thervnto. **1559** *Mirr. Mag., Dk. Glouc.* xix, How stoutly we dyd the king strayne The Rule of his realme wholy to resygne. **1595** SHAKS. *John* III. iii. 46 Making that idiot laughter keepe mens eyes, And straine their cheekes to idle merriment. **1603** KNOLLES *Hist. Turks* (1621) 590 Who doubts but the enemie,..strained by necessitie,..will prey vpon your countries, houses, and goods?

† b. To incite (a person) to exertion, to urge.

1581 A. HALL *Iliad* I. 8 Agamemnon, whome anger forward straines.

† c. To urge, insist upon (a thing). Also *absol.*

1380 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* III. 240 Þei schulde teche þat whosoevere approves þis, confermes hit, or streynes hit, he synnes ageyns God. **1576** FLEMING *Panopl. Epist.* 260 Hee sheweth howe readie hee is, not onely in taking paines himselfe, but in strayning his friendes ayde also, that such meanes may be wrought. **1604** SHAKS. *Oth.* III. iii. 250 Note if your Lady straine his Entertainment With any strong, or vehement importunitie, Much will be seene in that.

† d. To compel to go. *Obs.*

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* A. 691 By wayez ful streȝt he con hym strayn [after *deduxit per vias rectas*, Vulg. *Sap.* x. 10].

† 9. To extract (liquor or juice) by pressure; to squeeze out. Also *intr.* Of a juice: To exude.

1483 *Cath. Angl.* 368/1 To Stren iuse of herbis (or herbys), *exsuccare*. **1583** H. HOWARD *Defensative* I j b, That we may beware of those that strayne Oyle out of a Flint. **1621** H. ELSING *Lords' Debates* (Camden) 56 That a favourable construccion be made, &c., and not to the squiesing of blood out of wordes...Yt was a greate mistakeing to say 'to streyne blood out of wordes'. **1707** *Curios. Husb. & Gard.* 94 These Juices strain out of their own accord.

fig. **1709** POPE *Ess. Crit.* 608 [They] Still run on Poets, in a raging vein, Ev'n to the dregs and squeezings of the brain, Strain out the last dull droppings of their sense. **1735** — *Prol. Sat.* 182 The Bard..Just writes to make his barrenness appear, And strains, from hard-bound brains, eight lines a year. **1781** COWPER *Table-t.* 533 From him who rears a poem lank and long, To him who strains his all into a song.

† b. To extort (money, confessions, etc.). *Obs.*

1596 SHAKS. *Merch. V.* IV. i. 184 *Por.* Then must the Iew be mercifull. *Iew.* On what compulsion must I? Tell me that. *Por.* The quality of mercy is not strain'd. **1678** SIR G. MACKENZIE *Crim. Laws Scot.* II. xx. § ii. (1699) 230 His Majesties Advocat is still a party interested, and so should not be allowed to deal with the Witnesses; for thereby he may strain from them what otherwise they would not depone. *a* **1699** J. KIRKTON *Secr. Hist. Ch. Scot.* (1817) 314 Yet when he or his friends talked in the English parliament, and hade a mind to strain money from it, they spoke of a warre with France.

II. To tighten, draw tight, stretch.

10. To extend with some effort; to subject to tension, to stretch.

a. To draw tight (a band, bandage, bonds). Also *absol.*

c **1300** *Beket* (Percy Soc.) 1475 The straples were istreynd hard ynouȝ. *c* **1400** *Lanfranc's Cirurg.* 297 Binde it [the wart] wiþ a strong þreed, & streine wel þe þred & drawe him awei wiþ þe þreed. **1541** COPLAND *Guydon's Quest. Chirurg.* L ij, Hede must be taken to strayne to harde or to loose [upon the hurt place]..And some put to double clothes, and strayne them and sewe them on the place. **1697** DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* IV. 596 But thou, the more he varies Forms, beware To strain his Fetters with a stricter Care.

in fig. context. **1707** NORRIS *Treat. Humility* vi. 237 This strains the hard knot of poverty yet harder, and makes it pinch more sensibly. **1757** BURKE *Abridgm. Eng. Hist.* Wks. 1842 II. 544 There may be a danger in straining too strongly the bonds of government.

† b. To stretch and hold extended (a body or its limbs on a cross, on the rack, etc.). *Obs.*

a **13..** *Cursor M.* 16762+126 His armes wore so streyned oute [on the Cross]. *a* **1400** *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* 643 And strayte I-streynet on þe Rode, Streyned to druye on Rode-tre, As parchemyn oweþ for to be. **1483** CAXTON *Golden Leg.* 289/2 He dyde doo strayne and payne them in the torment of Eculee. *a* **1500** *St. Patrick's Purgatory* 355 in *Brome Bk.* 93 Whyll þat þey streynyd forth hys fete [etc.]. **1526** *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 254 b, Some affirmeth that he was first streyned on lyeng wyde open on the grounde.

c. To extend and make taut (a line, wire, etc.), to stretch (material *on* a frame, *over* a surface, etc.). Also with *out*.

a **1400–50** *Wars Alex.* (Dubl. MS.) 792* Than strenys he hys streropes & streȝt vp sittes. *Ibid.* 840* [He] Stranes owt hys sterops & sternly lokez. **1523** BERNERS *Froiss.* I. xviii. 25 Ther they founde CCC. caudrons made of bestis skynnes,..strayned on stakes ouer the fyre, full of water. **1539** in *Vicary's Anat.* (1888) App. III. 4. 173 [Five Banners, which] waving & Strayned with the wynde..made a goodly Showe. *a* **1548** HALL *Chron., Hen. VIII*, 66 b, This house was couered with coardes strayned by craft...Ouer their coardes was streyned wollen clothes of light blew. **1573** in Feuillerat *Revels Q. Eliz.* (1908) 201 Nayles to strayne the Canvas. **1605** B. JONSON *Volpone* IV. i, On the one [wall] I straine me a fayre tarre-paulin; and, in that, I stick my onions, cut in halfes. **1627** CAPT. SMITH *Sea Gram.* v. 21 The Ties..doe carry up the Yards when wee straine the Halyards. **1761** GRAY *Fatal Sisters* 6 Glittering lances are the loom, Where the dusky warp we strain. **1818** SCOTT *Br. Lamm.* xvi, The hook is fixed; we will not strain the line too soon. **1820** C. HAYTER *Introd. Perspective* 255 The vellum..must be strained tight, by tacking on a straining frame. **1827** FARADAY *Chem. Manip.* x. (1842) 257 The temporary cover thus formed fits the mouth of the vessel tightly, is strained level over its surface. **1893** *Law Times* XCV. 104/2 The barbed wire fence..was strained to posts ..6 ft. high.

† quasi-*intr.* for *pass.*

1683 MOXON *Mech. Exerc., Printing* xxii. ¶ 6 He pulls the Cord as hard..as he can; and keeping the Cord straining, whips it again about the Head and other sides of the Page.

transf. and *fig.* **1590** GREENE *Orl. Fur.* I. ii, Although the mystic vayle straind ouer Cynthia Hinders my sight from noting all thy crue. **1634** J. ROBINSON *Lawfulness of Hearing Ministers* Wks. 1851 III. 360 To strain the strings of this imagined proportion to make them meet, and to suppose the church to be as the altar, yet [etc.].

d. To tighten up (the strings of a musical instrument) so as to raise the pitch. Also with *up*.

1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) II. 377 Mercurius..putte seuene strenges to þe harpe..and þey putte to þe strenges and streyned [L. *strinxit*] hem in þis manere. **1587** GOLDING *De Mornay* i. 4 Not so much as two strings beeing of one selfesame nature, can agree in one tune, without the wit of a man that can skil to streine them and to slacke them as he seeth it good. **1626** BACON *Sylva* § 184 Wherby you shall discouer..the Proportion likewise of the Sound towards the String, as it is more or lesse strained. **1888** *Encycl. Brit.* XXIV. 244/1 The sympathetic strings were..strained to pitch..by means of additional pegs.

fig. **1602** MARSTON *Antonio's Rev.* IV. iii, Castilio, Forobosco, all Straine up your wits, winde up invention Unto his highest bent. *a* **1626** BRETON *Daffodils & P.* (Grosart) 20/2 A harte (not harpe) is all her instrument, Whose weakned stringes all out of tune she stranes. **1781** COWPER *Truth* 385 Man..in ev'ry sense a wretch, An instrument, whose cords, upon the stretch, And strain'd to the last screw that he can bear, Yield only discord in his Maker's ear.

† e. To stretch (cloth) fraudulently. *Obs.*

1514–15 *Act 6 Hen. VIII* c. 9 The byer..shall not..streyne nor do to be streyned in bred the same Clothes..by teyntour or wynche. *c* **1560** *Maldon* (Essex) *Docum.* Liber B. fol. 55 b, Whether they shalbe stretched or streyned or pressed with the hott presse.

† f. To extend (a thing), to stretch to the full length. Also with *forth*, *out*. Also *intr.* for *refl.*

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* v. vi. (1495) 111 The eye shall not be straynyd to ferre oute nother areryd to hyghe. *c* **1450** CAPGRAVE *St. Gilbert* xl. 120 In hir creping þe senewes whech were contract be-fore in hir lendes [loins], þei brak and streyned oute to swech largenesse þat [etc.]. **1485** CAXTON *Chas. Gt.* 47 Olyuer..aroos oute of hys bedde and began for to scratche [? *read* stratche] and strayne hys armes and to fele yf it were possyble to hym to bere armes.

† g. To elongate by hammering. *Obs.*

1674 RAY *Collect. Words, Wire Work* 132 They take little square bars, made like bars of steel and strain i.e. draw them at a Furnace with a hammer..into square rods.

11. *fig.* **a.** To force the meaning or sense of (words, an ordinance, decree, etc.); † to distort the form of (a word). Also *absol.*

1449 PECOCK *Repr.* I. xi. 58 The other vndirstonding, bi which summen streynen thilk text forto speke of the writing which we han now of the Newe Testament. **1596** SHAKS. *1 Hen. IV*, IV. i. 75 *Wor.* This absence of your Father drawes a Curtaine [etc.]...*Hotsp.* You strayne too farre. I rather of his absence make this vse: [etc.]. **1604** — *Oth.* III. iii. 218, I am to pray you, not to straine my speech To grosser issues. **1605** VERSTEGAN *Dec. Intell.* i. 14 The ancient German names beeing by latin or other authors strayned and drawn vnto their ortography, according to their fancies. **1614** RALEGH *Hist. World* III. i. § 8. 15 Neuerthelesse wee finde many and good Authors, who..are well contented to straine these prophecies with vnreasonable diligence vnto such a sense. **1665** BOYLE *Occas. Refl.* (1675) Pref. 16 If..I may have at any time a little Strain'd the Similitude, the better to accommodate it to my present Theme, and Design. **1753** CHALLONER *Cath. Chr. Instr.* 170 The Protestant Translation has strained the Text to make it say more than the Original. **1785** BURKE *Sp. Nabob of Arcot's Debts* Wks. 1842 I. 341 And, lastly, and above all, not to be fond of straining constructions, to force a jurisdiction. **1849** MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* iv. I. 488 Defective laws should be altered by the legislature, and not strained by the tribunals. **1884** *Law Rep.* 27 Chanc. Div. 638, I think that..I am not straining the effect of the order in saying so.

b. To transgress the strict requirements of (one's conscience), to violate the spirit of (one's oath).

1592 KYD *Sp. Trag.* III. iv. 8 And he that would not straine his conscience For him that thus his liberall purse hath stretcht, Vnworthy such a fauour may he faile. **1596** SPENSER *State Irel.* Wks. (Globe) 618/2 They make noe more scruple to pass [judgement] agaynst an Englishman, and the Queene, though it be to strayne theyr othes, then to drinke milke unstrayned. **1877** OWEN *Wellesley's Desp.* Introd. 16 The exigencies of the war..had induced Lord Cornwallis to strain his conscience so far as to write a letter, which was to have the binding force of a Treaty.

c. To force (prerogative, power, etc.) beyond its legitimate extent or scope.

1605 BACON *Adv. Learn.* I. vii. § 9 The temperate use of the Prerogative [of Q. Elizabeth], not slackened, nor much strayned. **1733** POPE *Ess. Man* III. 290 'Twas then, the studious head..Taught Pow'r's due use to People and to Kings, Taught not to slack, nor strain its tender strings. **1883** FROUDE *Short Stud.* IV. I. x. 108 The Crown retains prerogatives at present which would be fatal to it if strained.

† d. To apply or use (a thing) beyond its province. *Obs.*

1592 SHAKS. *Rom. & Jul.* II. iii. 19 Nor ought so good, but strain'd from that faire vse, Reuolts from true birth, stumbling on abuse. **1599** — *Much Ado* IV. i. 254 For to strange sores strangely they straine the cure. **1621** in Foster *Eng. Factories Ind.* (1906) 269 He denyeth that hee hath any way taxt the Councell or strained his pen..beyond due bounds or reason. **1638** JUNIUS *Paint. Ancients* 229 Nothing marreth the life and spirit of the invented things so much, as to force and strain them to a fore-determined purpose. **1647** *Hamilton Papers* (Camden) 146 Because you had assured me you were to goe out of town I strained not the time that prest me exceedingly.

e. *To strain a metaphor* (see quot.).

1783 BLAIR *Lect.* I. xv. 313 If the resemblance..be long dwelt upon, and carried into all its minute circumstances we make an allegory instead of a metaphor...This is called straining a Metaphor.

f. *To strain a point*: to exceed one's usual limits of procedure, to do more than one is bound to do or go further than one is entitled to go in a matter. Cf. STRETCH *v.*

1596 LAMBARDE *Peramb. Kent* (ed. 2) 401 He would not sticke to straine a point, so that he might glorifie Saint Thomas thereby. **1661** GODOLPHIN *View Adm. Jurisd.* Introd. [a 5], In time of war they strain a point to drive a Colourable Trade. **1757** SIR B. KEENE *Desp.* 26 Sept. in *10th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. I. 219, Tho' we should

have strain'd a Point to serve Him. 1857 G. A. LAWRENCE *Guy Liv.* xxxiv. 343 We've not quite so much proof as I could wish. It would be straining a point to arrest him, as it stands. 1873 BROWNING *Red Cott. Nt.-Cap C.* 393 You must be generous, strain point, and call Victory, any the least flush of pink Made prize of.

† g. To insist upon unduly, to be over-punctilious about. *Obs.*

1665 DRYDEN *Ind. Emperor* III. ii, I'le not strain Honour to a point too high; I sav'd your Life, now keep it if you can. 1711 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 99 ₱ 5 In Books of Chivalry, where the Point of Honour is strained to Madness.

h. *To strain courtesy*: see COURTESY *sb.* 1 c.

† i. To raise to an extreme degree. *Obs.*

1609 HOLLAND *Amm. Marcell.* XXVIII. ii. 327 To the end that a duple authority, and the same strained to the height {L. *erectaque sublatius*}, might patch matters together. 1612 Capt. SMITH *Virginia* 28 All their actions, voices and gestures, both in charging and retiring, were so strained to the hight of their quallitie and nature, that [etc.]. 1697 DRYDEN *Æneis* VII. 536 Nor yet content, she strains her Malice more, And adds new Ills to those contriv'd before.

j. *To strain up*: to force up to a higher scale of estimation; to 'screw up' (rents, usury) to an oppressive rate.

1599 SANDYS *Europæ Spec.* (1632) 218 In all places they are permitted to streine up their Vsury to eighteene in the hundred upon the Christian. 1769 BLACKSTONE *Comm.* IV. xl. 142 Both of these species are also either felonious, or not felonious. The felonious breaches of the peace are strained up to that degree of malignity by virtue of several modern statutes. 1905 *Westm. Gaz.* 23 Aug. 8/2 'What is to be understood by "straining rents"?'.. 'I have known houses, built to let at 11s. a week, gradually strained up to 14s.'

k. To raise to a high state of emotional tension.

1667 MILTON *P. L.* VIII. 454 My earthly by his Heav'nly overpowerd, Which it had long stood under, streind to the highth In that celestial Colloquie sublime,..sunk down, and sought repair Of sleep. 1820 LAMB *Elia* Ser. I. *South-sea House*, While he held you in converse, you felt strained to the height in the colloquy. 1867 H. MACMILLAN *Bible Teach.* ii. (1870) 31 Each sense was strained, by the sublimity around, to its utmost tension.

l. To make excessive demands upon, tax severely (resources, credit, friendship, etc.). Also, † to tax severely the resources of (a person).

1609 DEKKER *Ravens Almt.* F 1, The Farmer carefull of his day, becanse he knew the hard conscience of the Usurer, straind himselfe and his friends, and provided the money. 1642 FULLER *Holy & Prof. St.* II. xxi. 140 Great spirits, having mounted to the highest pitch of performance, afterwards strain and break their credits in striving to go beyond it. 1673 *Essex Papers* (Camden) I. 57, I am much deceiv'd if they are not willing to straine themselves very far on any such publick acc'. 1798 in Owen *Wellesley's Desp.* (1877) 754 The Company have, from such considerations, strained their own means to put their servants on the most liberal footing.. 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xxii. IV. 701 The King had strained his private credit in Holland to procure bread for his army. 1888 BURGON *12 Gd. Men* II. xi. 308 There were occasions..when Eden strained those friendships severely. 1912 *Eng. Hist. Rev.* Oct. 712 His [Burke's] succour to the distressed French exiles had strained his scanty resources to the breaking-point.

m. To raise (matters, relations between parties) to a dangerous state of tension. Cf. STRAINED *ppl. a.*

1671 MILTON *Samson* 1348 Consider, Samson; matters now are strain'd Up to the highth, whether to hold or break.

12. To stretch (sinews, nerves, muscles) beyond the normal degree (as the supposed condition of intense exertion); hence, to force to extreme effort, exert to the utmost (one's limbs, organs, powers). *To strain every nerve* (fig.): to use one's utmost endeavours.

† 1446 LYDG. *Nightingale Poems* ii. 73 This bridde, Syngeth as that she wold hir-self dismembre, Streyneth hir throte, peyneth hir brest at al. 1548 *Elyot's Dict.* s. v. *Intendo*, I must streigne a sinew or stretche a veyne, to begyle this olde man. 1576 FLEMING *Panopl. Epist.* 261 To make them al amends therfore in the behoofe of one, I must straine mine abilitie. 1584 COGAN *Haven Health* i. 3 They streine more one part of the body than an other, as shooting the armes, running the legges, &c. 1611 SHAKS. *Cymb.* III. iii. 94 He sweats, Straines his yong Nerues, and puts himselfe in posture That acts my words. 1671 MILTON *Samson* 1646 Thir utter'd, straining all his nerves he bow'd. 1777 JOHNSON *Let. Mrs. Thrale* 27 Oct., Some strain their powers for efforts of gaiety. 1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* XXX, That memorable discharge of fireworks..which Master Laneham..has strained all his eloquence to describe. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. v. i, All Constitutional Deputies did strain every nerve. 1841 ELPHINSTONE *Hist. Ind.* I. 345 This last exercise only operates on the arms and chest, but the others strain every muscle in the frame. 1855 KINGSLEY *Heroes* IV. iii. (1868) 251 His father sat..and strained his old eyes across the sea, to see the ship afar. 1856 *N. Brit. Rev.* XXVI. 158 When we view them with two eyes..the muscles of the eyeball are not strained. 1894 Miss L. ALMA-TADEMA *Wings of Icarus* 159, I strained my ears in vain for a sound.

b. *intr.* for *refl.* of the eyes.

1855 BROWNING *Ch. Roland* xviii, No sound, no sight as far as eye could strain.

c. To force (the voice) above its natural compass.

1913 *Times* 14 May 8/5 He seemed to be straining it [*sc.* his voice] upon the high notes.

d. *Photogr.* (See quot.)

1890 WOODBURY *Encycl. Dict. Photogr.* 385 But if brought nearer than a certain point, the lens will be what is termed 'strained,' and the image will become dreadfully distorted.

13. To injure or alter by excessive tension.

a. To injure (a limb, muscle, tendon, etc.) by stretching or over-exertion; to sprain. Also *refl.* of a person or animal.

1612 *Benvenuto's Passenger* I. iv. 313, I haue strayned one of my feete. 1721 SWIFT *Jrnl. to Stella* 3 Oct., I have strained the thumb of my left hand with pulling him. 1726 — *To Janus* 22 Prudes decay'd about may tack, Strain their necks with looking back. 1788 Mrs. ANNE HUGHES *Henry & Isab.* IV. xxxiii. 240 Mrs. Maitland, having..strained one of her ancles. 1890 CONAN DOYLE *White Company* xxviii, I strained a sinew on the day that I slew the three men at Castelnau. 1891 M. ROBERTS *Land-travel & Sea-faring* 131 Devilskin strained himself..by treading on a loose stone. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 18 Nerves and muscles may be acutely 'strained'. The word is placed between inverted commas to shew that it is used in its popular sense...Whether this is due to the stretching of fine nerve-twigs it is scarcely possible to decide.

b. To impair or imperil the strength of (a material thing) by excessive tension or disruptive force.

1730-46 THOMSON *Seasons, Autumn* 320 Strained to the root, the stooping forest pours A rustling shower of yet untimely leaves. 1771 SMOLLETT *Humph. Cl.* 20 July (1815) 222 Crossing a deep gutter, made by a torrent, the coach was so hard strained, that one of the irons which connect the frame snapped. 1859 TENNYSON *Enid* 1007 But Geraint's [lance], A little in the late encounter strain'd, Struck.. home, And then brake short. 1868 *Chamb. Jrnl.* 13 June 381/2 The ship had strained herself a good deal, owing to the heavy cargo of railway-iron she had stowed in her hold. 1884 *Law Times* LXXVII. 26/2 A tug towed at her for an hour and a half before she was got off, during which time her decks and waterways were much strained.

c. *Physics.* (See quot. 1856.) Also *intr.* for *refl.*

1830 RANKINE *Misc. Sci. Papers* (1881) 82 When the body is strained, therefore, the pressure is the resultant of the variations of all those forces, arising from the displacements of the atomic centres from their natural relative positions. 1856 SIR W. THOMSON in *Phil. Trans.* CXLVI. 481 If a stone, a beam, or a mass of metal, in a building, or in a piece of framework, becomes condensed or dilated, in any direction, or bent, or twisted, or distorted in any way, it is said to experience a strain, to become strained, or often in common language, simply 'to strain'. 1879 THOMSON & TAIT *Nat. Phil.* I. I. § 154 Thus a rod which becomes longer or shorter is strained.

III. To press through a filtering medium, to filter. (Cf. 9.)

14. To press (a liquid) through a porous or perforated medium which keeps back the denser portions or the solid matter held in suspension; to free (solid matter) from the contained or accompanying liquid by this process; to purify or refine by filtration. Also *absol.*

In mod. use *to strain* is to pass through a medium having visible pores, as hair-cloth or muslin, while *to filter* refers to the use of a medium such as paper, a layer of charcoal, a bed of sand, etc.

c 1386 CHAUCER *Pard. T.* 210 Thise Cookes, how they stampe, and streyne {L. *alius contundit et colat*}, and grynde And turnen substaunce in-to Accident. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XIX. lx. (1495) 897 Fyrste vyneygre is sodde wyth necessary herbes..thenne the vyneygre is streynyd and clensyd. *c* 1420 *Liber Cocorum* 9 Take ryse..And borowgh a strynour þou hom strene. *Ibid.* 40 Breke eyren and streyne hom thorowghe a clothe. 1523-34 FITZHERB. *Husb.* § 44 Styrre it aboute, and than streyne it thorowe an olde clothe. 1591 A. W. *Bk. Cookrye* 5 b, Then..strain the yolkes of Egges with Vinager, and put them into your broth. *Ibid.* 9 b, Then straine a little bread and put it in. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* II. 330 First an Osier Colender provide Of Twigs..(such toiling Peasants twine, When thro' streight Passages they strein their Wine). 1732 in *10th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. I. 269 Some people have such an aversion to them [snails] that they can't gett down any liquid into wch they are but strain'd. 1811 A. T. THOMSON *Lond. Disp.* (1818) 668 Macerate for fourteen days in a stopped glass bottle, and strain. 1826 *Art Brewing* (ed. 2) 153 The juice must then be strained through a coarse hair-sieve, to keep back its grosser particles. 1901 J. BLACK *Carp. & Build., Home Handicr.* 50 Boil a little common size..,strain through muslin into a clean pan.

b. said of natural agencies.

1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* (1637) 562 Three fountaines walme out of the ground streined, as it should seeme, through a veine of Alum. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) I. 194 [He] contends that rivers must be supplied from the sea, strained through the pores of the earth.

c. *transf.* and *fig.*

1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) I. 5 Of þe whiche þinges our litel konnynge myȝte nouȝt take knowleche,..but besines of writers to oure vnkunnynge hadde i-holde and i-streyned mynde of olde dedes {L. *transfunderet..memoriam transactorum*}. 1589 *Pappe w. Hatchet* in *Lyly's Wks.* (1902) III. 402, I will boyle thee, straine thee, and then drie thee, so that of a lubber,..I will at last make a dram of knaues powder. 1606 SHAKS. *Tr. & Cr.* IV. v. 169 Faith and troth, Strain'd purely from all hollow bias drawing: Bids thee.. welcome. 1662 E. HOPKINS *Funeral Serm.* (1685) 21 So a Christian, when he is strained through the grave, loseth all his brackishness, all his dreggs and scumme, and becomes pure and holy. 1785 COWPER *Task* II. 438 The nasal twang Heard at conventicle, where worthy men, Misled by custom, strain celestial themes Through the prest nostril, spectacle-bestrid. 1819 SHELLEY *Cenci* v. ii. 169 *Judge.* Let tortures strain the truth till it be white.

d. To remove (liquid) by filtration, drain off. Const. *from.* Also with *out, off.*

15.. in *Oxf. Archd. Will Reg.* (*N. & Q.* 11th Ser. 1914, IX. 268/1) Then streyne the licour from the barley. 1558 WARDE tr. *Alexis' Secr.* 40 Let it boyle..vntil it be diminished of the third part, than straine it out softly. 1640 T. BRUGIS *Marrow of Physiche* II. 142 Straine all the thin water from them through a faire Cloth. 1747 MRS. GLASSE *Cookery* 12 Let it [the gravy] stew till it is quite rich and good; then season it to your Taste with Salt, and then strain it off. *Ibid.* 15 Then take out your Tripe and strain the Liquor out.

fig. 1848 H. ROGERS *Ess.* (1860) I. 275 It is a translation of a translation, in which the beauties of Plato are strained off by a double process.

¶ e. To take out (something) from a liquid by straining.

This use seems hardly to occur exc. in *strain out a gnat* (after L. *excolare*), † *strain a gnat*, in Matt. xxiii. 24. (For the better known rendering of this text see 21.)

1526 TINDALE *Matt.* xxiii. 24 Ye blinde gydes which strayne out a gnat and swalowe a cammyll. (So also 1535 Coverdale, 1539 Cranmer, 1560 Geneva.) 1564 *Brief Exam.* ********b, None of them..did strayne a Gnat, and swallowe a Camell. 1582 N. T. (Rheims) *Matt.* xxiii. 24 That straine a gnat. 1589 WARNER *Alb. Eng.* VI. xxxi. (1602) 153 Precisians..In Loue doe swallow Cammels, whilest they nicely straine a Gnat. 1616 B. PARSONS *Magistr. Charter* 23 Straine not out gnats, then, neither swallow downe camels. 1881 BIBLE (R.V.) *Matt.* xxiii. 24 Which strain out the gnat.

15. *intr.* for *refl.* To filter; to trickle. Also *fig.*

1588 MARLOWE *2nd Pt. Tamburl.* III. iv, I feele..all my entrals bath'd In blood that straineth from their orifex. 1594 KYD *Cornelia* III. iii. 118 My griefe is lyke a Rock, whence (ceaseles) strayne Fresh springs of water at my weeping eyes. 1626 BACON *Sylva* § 1 The Sea water passing or Strayning through the Sandes, leaueth the Saltnesse. 1725 *Bradley's Family Dict.* s. v. *Honey* ₱ 6 To the end that the Honey may strain gently through the Bag. 1897 F. T. JANE *Lordship, Passen, & We* v. 57 The speech that he made was a tidy long one...It all strained out to telling us how that we should make up to the Radicals.

b. Of a stream: To flow. *rare.*

1612 DRAYTON *Poly-olb.* I. 226 So Touuy straineth in. *Ibid.* VI. 343 But, backe, industrious Muse; obsequiously to bring Cleere Seuerne from her sourse; and tell how she doth straine Downe her delicious Dales. 1915 J. BUCHAN *Nelson's Hist. War* III. xxi. 98 The river (Oder) in many places strains in mazy channels and backwaters among isles matted with dwarf willows and alders.

16. *trans.* To sow or let fall (seed) in a furrow (i. e. not broadcast). Also with *in*. *local.*

1733 W. ELLIS *Chiltern & Vale Farm.* 28 By this one Ploughing may be sown Beans, either strained in the Thoroughs,..or else by sowing the Beans all over the Field. *Ibid.* 80 Strain in the Acorns by a Man's Hand in two Thoroughs. *Ibid.* 333 Peas are sowed by straining them in Thorough by Thorough.

IV. To exert oneself. (Cf. sense 12.)

17. *refl.* To exert oneself physically. In later use, to exert oneself so as to be in danger of injury. Now *rare* or *Obs.*

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* A. 551, & þenne þe fyrst by-gonne to pleny & sayden þat þay had trauayled sore, þese bot an oure hem con streny. 1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. XIV. 233 Whan he streyneth hym to streche þe strawe is his schetes. *a* 1400-50 *Wars Alex.* 2809 Sljke a seknes for-sothe is on my-selfe halden, þat I ne may streyne me ne stere for stondis so hard. 1470-85 MALORY *Arthur* XVIII. xvii. 755 Syre Launcelot strayned hym self soo straytly with soo grete force to gete the hors forward that the buttom of his wound brast. 1538 *St. Papers Hen. VIII*, I. 586 They do yet best, consideryng His Grace is yet tendir, that he shuld not streyn hym self..till he come above a yere of age. 1580 HÆSTER tr. *Fioravanti's Disc. Chirurg.* 27 b, [For those ruptured.] Keepe thy house with as much ease as thou mayest, and strayne not thy selfe in any wise. 1640 BROME *Sparagus Garden* IV. vii, Hold, sir, hold, pray use this whistle for me, I dare not straine my selfe to winde it I. *fig.* 1574 tr. *Marlorat's Apocalips* 11 Sathan hath streyned himselfe too the vttermost too bring in such things.

18. *intr* To make violent and continuous physical effort; to exert oneself to the utmost. Also with *forward, together.*

1340-70 *Alisaunder* 349 Steedes stirred of þe stede strane men under. 1556 *Aurelio & Isab.* (1608) B iij, After that these two knightes had longe ynough strained together. 1592 *Arden of Feversham* IV. iv. 72 Come, Franclin, let vs strain to mend our pace. 1654 VILVAIN *Enchir. Epigr.* III. lxxix. 75 b, The six first Princes for the kingdom strained, But it by a slight horstrick Darius gained. 1704-13 POPE *Windsor Forest* 155 See the bold youth strain up the threat'ning steep. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* VII. II. 194 The patience with which he had seen a boatman on a canal strain against an adverse eddy. 1853 G. JOHNSTON *Nat. Hist. E. Bord.* I. 18 A man would strain to leap its current. 1862 [PYCROFT] *Cricket Tutor* 33, I am far from sanctioning the fashion of straining forward at balls which there is plenty of time to play back. 1893 BRIDGES *Founder's Day, Eton* v, Or whether..dashing The oars of cedar skiffs, ye strain Round the rushes and home again.

b. *spec.* of a deer. (See quot. 1575.)

1575 TURBERV. *Venerie* 242 Termes of the Hart...When he bounceth by vpon all foure, then he tryppeth, and when he runneth verie fast, then he streyneth. 1735 SOMERVILLE *Chase* III. 543 As o'er the Turf he [the stag] strains. 1810 SCOTT *Lady of Lake* I. vii, Nor nearer might the dogs attain, Nor farther might the quarry [stag] strain.

c. *transf.* of a thing viewed as endowed with power to make effort. Also with *along.*

1819 BYRON *Juan* II. xiii, The wind sung, cordage strain'd, and sailors swore. 1858 in *Merc. Marine Mag.* V. 200 The ship straining along under a heavy press of sail. 1863 MRS. GASKELL *Sylvia's L.* iii, [A] courtyard in which there grew two or three poplars, straining upwards to the light.

d. To pull forcibly (*at* a rope, leash, rein).

1791 COWPER *Odyss.* XV. 353 Then, straining at the halyards, hoised the sail. 1825 SCOTT *Talism.* xxiv, King Richard looked..at the Nubian and his dog; but the former moved not, nor did the latter strain at the leash. 1871 TYNDALL *Fragm. Sci.* (1879) I..vi. 197 The blue-jackets strained in concert. 1881 *Daily Tel.* 28 Jan., The brig..mounted the seas as though she were straining at a chain cable.

fig. 1808 SCOTT *Marmion* I. Introd. 92 When the frantic crowd amain Strain'd at subjection's bursting rein.

† e. *trans.* To direct (one's steps) hastily; to make (one's passage) with effort. *Obs.*

1579 H. C. *Forest of Fancy* F j b, Straight wayes my steppes I straind To bewties bower and there ariude. 1760 *Ann. Reg.* 24/2 In straining their passage thro' morassy ground several soldiers dropped down on their march.

19. *intr.* To use one's utmost endeavours; to strive vigorously. Const. *to* with inf., *after*, *for*, *to* (the attainment of some object).

1593 DRAYTON *Ecl.* v. 152 Stay there good Rowland, whether art thou rapt, beyond the moone that striuest thus to strayne. 1607 SHAKS. *Timon* I. i. 143 This Gentleman of mine Hath seru'd me long: To build his Fortune, I will straine a little, For 'tis a Bond in men. 1683 W. LLOYD in *Lett. Lit. Men* (Camden) 188, I will strein hard to allow him 20 li a year. 1721 SWIFT *Wonder of Wonders* 6 When in Office, no one..does his Business better. He hath sometimes strained hard for an Honest Livelyhood. 1750 JOHNSON *Rambler* No. 58 P 3 They are unable..to strain in the race of competition, or to stand the shock of contest. 1797 *Monthly Mag.* III. 226 They exhibit the author as straining after novelty by eccentric distances, and by movements out of cathedral time. 1828 D'ISRAELI *Chas. I*, I. vi. 175 Both sides were straining to reconcile the most repulsive difficulties. 1841 MYERS *Cath. Th.* III. § 41. 149 A mind open to all theories but straining after none. 1890 GOSCHEN *Sp. Ho. Comm.* 18 Apr., in *Hansard* 908 In case of war every one strains for gold.

20. †**a.** To retch, heave, make efforts to vomit.

1679 V. ALSOP *Melius Inquir.* I. i. 41 They swallowed them [the articles] with some Reluctancy, and are now reaching and straining with many a sowre face, to disgorge ..the Hook of the Article. 1727 SWIFT *Poison. E. Curll* Misc. 1732 III. 19 He..fell a vomiting and straining in an uncommon and unnatural Manner.

b. To make efforts to evacuate the bowels; more fully *to strain at stool*. Also with *down*.

1645 MILTON *Colast.* 13, I send them by his advice to sit upon the stool and strain. 1797 UNDERWOOD *Dis. Childhood* (1799) III. 192 They [*sc.* young children] should be set on the chair, and not suffered to play until they have had an opening, for which they should strain. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* III. 981 The patient should be directed to strain down, as this action will give a view of the interior of the anus. 1899 *Ibid.* VI. 839 Straining at stool may be the immediate cause of the rupture of a retinal vessel. *Ibid.* VII. 244 When the patient was made to strain, as at stool, the rate of flow of the fluid was doubled.

21. *To strain at*: to make a difficulty of 'swallowing' or accepting (something); to scruple at. Also (rarely), †*to strain to do* something.

This use is due to misunderstanding of the phrase 'strain at a gnat' in Matt. xxiii. 24. It has been asserted that 'straine *at*' in the Bible of 1611 is a misprint for 'straine *out*', the rendering of earlier versions (see 14 e). But quots. 1583 and 1594 show that the translators of 1611 simply adopted a rendering that had already obtained currency. It was not a mistranslation, the meaning intended being 'which strain the liquor if they find a gnat in it'. The phrase, however, was early misapprehended (perh. already by Shaks. in quot. 1609), the verb being supposed to mean 'to make violent effort' (see sense 18).

[1583 GREENE *Mamillia* II. B 3 b, Most vniustly straining at a gnat, and letting passe an elephant. 1594 J. KING *On Jonas* (1599) 284 They have verified the olde proverbe in strayning at gnats and swallowing downe camells. 1611 BIBLE *Matt.* xxiii. 24 Ye blind guides, which straine at a gnat, and swallow a camel.]

1609 SHAKS. *Tr. & Cr.* III. iii. 112 (Qo. 1) *Vliss.* I do not straine [*Fol. (hypermetrically)* straine it] at the position, It is familiar, but at the authors drift. 1670 SOUTH *Serm.* (1727) III. 110 He who hates his Enemy with a Cunning equal to his Malice, will not strain to do this or that good Turn for him, as long as it does not thwart..the main Design of his utter Subversion. 1677 R. WITTY *Gout Raptures* To Rdr. A 5 b, If any man strain at the Verse which is not in the usual mode, let him read the Lyrick Poets in Greek, who I think have taken more liberty then I. 1737 *Gentl. Mag.* VII. 546 The old Proverb, Strain at a Gnat, and swallow a Camel.

†**V. 22. a.** *trans.* To use (the voice) in song; to play upon (an instrument). **b.** To utter in song. **c.** *intr.* To sing. *Obs.*

Of uncertain origin; possibly developed from 10 d and 12. The related senses of STRAIN *sb.*[2] (11–12) seem to be derived from this use of the verb, but have prob. reacted upon it.

a. 1580 LYLY *Euphues* Wks. 1902 II. 58 Vnder a sweete Arbour of Eglentine, the byrdes recording theyr sweete notes, hee also strayned his old pype, and thus beganne. Gentle-menne, [etc.]. 1583 MELBANCKE *Philotimus* C ij b, Hark how the strumpet can straine her voice, to delight with her deceite. 1600 FAIRFAX *Tasso* XI. ii, First let the priests..With sacred hymnes their holy voices straine. 1601 W. PERCY *Cuckqueanes & Cuckolds Errants* III. v. (Roxb.) 40 Then let the Goldsmith now for to streyne him, while I my self beare, to him, a Burden. 1602 MARSTON *Antonio's Rev.* I. v, Intreat the musick straine their instruments With a slight touch. 1648 J. BEAUMONT *Psyche* XV. CCXC, As to the Confines of the spheres they drew, His Harp and Voice their Chanter strein'd as high.

b. 1589 GREENE *Menaphon* (Arb.) 66 With this the Shepheard was mute..: but at length..to..make his olde Mistris some new musicke, he strained foorth this dittie. 1592 SHAKS. *Rom. & Jul.* III. v. 28 It is the Larke that sings so out of tune, Straining harsh Discords, and vnpleasing Sharpes. 1648 J. BEAUMONT *Psyche* XI. CCLXIII, He..strein'd his Ejulation To Horror's tune.

c. 1602 MARSTON *Ant. & Mel.* V, First let their voyces strain for musicks price. 1612 DRAYTON *Poly-olb.* II. 7 But as my subiect serues, so hie or lowe to straine. *Ibid.* XII. Argt., The Muse..Relating many glorious deeds, Of Guy of Warwick's fight doth straine.

†Strain, *v.*[2] *Law. Obs.* [Aphetic form of DISTRAIN *v.* Cf. STRAIN *sb.*[4]] **a.** *trans.* To distrain (a person). Const. *for*. = DISTRAIN *v.* 7.

c 1450 *Godstow Reg.* 506 That they may streyne hym in all his tenementis, and hold the distreynynges, tille hit were fully satisfied of the arrerages of the forsaid rente. 1489 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* I. 102 To Sperdour to pass to strenze Alexander Cambell for siluer he wes awande. *a* 1500 *Paston Lett.* Suppl. 167 Or ellys a wolle dystrayne me, as a hath strayne [*sic*] my tenenttes byfore for thys mater and costys. 1607 *Melrose Regality Rec.* (S. H. S.) I. 36 The judge..ordanis the officer to poynd and strenze the defendar for thrette thre schilingis four pennyis.

b. *absol.* or *intr.* To levy a distress. Const. *for*, *on*, *upon* (a thing), *of*, *on* (a person or thing). = DISTRAIN *v.* 8.

1503 *Plumpton Corr.* (Camden) 178 They should either have the rent, or be suffered to streyne on such guds as they fond on the ground. *Ibid.* 180, I wold have streaned, but ther could no man shew me which was your ground. 1511 in *Exch. Rolls Scot.* XIII. 445 *note*, Unlawis, amerciamentis, and eschutis..[to] raise and uplift and for the samyn to strenye gif neid beis. 1586 *Acts Privy Counc.* (1897) XIV. 88 Then shall he[the Sheriff] straine uppon his landes and goodes for the payment thereof. 1633 ROWLEY *Match at Midn.* I. i, *Smith.* [This is] A vice sir, that I would faine bee furnisht with a little money upon't..[I bought it] of a fat Cooke, that strain'd of a Smith for's rent. 1636 in *Parish Rks. St. Julian's, Shrewsbury* (MS.) I. 16 It: paid for 5 warants to Strayne on those who refuse to pay. 1675 in J. P. Earwaker *E. Cheshire* (1877) I. 116 Spent when we went to straine of the Quakers, 1ˢ 8ᵈ. 1697 in *Col. Rec. Pennsylv.* I. 523 He wold demand, collect, or strain for yᵉ sd assessment. *a* 1718 W. PENN *Wks.* (1726) I. 673 Fining and Straining for Preaching and being at a Meeting.

fig. 1647 TRAPP *Comm. 1 Cor.* ix. 17 God will strain upon no man. All his servants are a free people.

c. *trans.* To seize (goods) by way of distress = DISTRAIN *v.* 9.

1455 in W. Fraser *The Lennox* (1874) II. 72 All our gudis mouable and vnmouable.., for to be tane, strenzet, poundyt, and..to be away bade. 1467 *Maldon* (Essex) *Court Rolls* Bundle 43. no. 3ᵃ, In his voydyng the said Gate streynyd the goodis & cattells that he fownde within the said place. 1529 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* V. 380 Item,..to the currouris that past to strenezie the bischop of Sanctandrois gudis for the temporalitie of Dunfermling iiij li. 1565 COOPER *Thesaurus* s. v. *Pignus*, A man may not..seise or strayne ones ploughe in way of distresse. 1576 GASCOIGNE *Steele Glas* 1102 When baylifes strain, none other thing but strays. 1681 W. ROBERTSON *Phraseol. Gen.* 1176/1 To strain a mans goods, *pignora cædere*.

Strain (strēn), *v.*[3] [f. STRAIN *sb.*[1]] *intr.* **a.** *To strain back*: to go back in pedigree (*to* an ancestor).

1856 H. H. DIXON *Post & Paddock* ii. (1860) 35 Tomboy strains back to Sorcerer, through Jerry and Smolensko. 1871 *Daily News* 7 Dec., One of his exhibits strains back to the Gledmere flock.

b. *To strain after*: to inherit the characteristics of.

1888 MRS. RIDDELL *Nun's Curse* I. vi. 97 You do not 'strain after' most of your family, for there has not been a Conway of Calgarry..that could bear to hear the truth.

†Strainable, *a.*[1] *Obs.* Forms: 5 strenabylle, strayne-, 6 strayn-, streyn(e-, strein-, stren-, 6–7 strain(e)able. [f. STRAIN *v.*[1] + -ABLE.]

1. Coercive, compulsive, compulsory.

1483 *Cath. Angl.* 368/1 Strenabylle, *artabilis, co-, coarcibilis*. 1577–87 HOLINSHED *Chron.* III. 828/1 Being hastned forward through the strenable force of destinie. 1592 BACON *Observ. Libel* Resuscit. (1657) 117 The Entring, and Sifting, into Mens Consciences,..which is Rigorous, and Strainable, Inquisition.

2. In physical sense: Violent, exerting great force. Chiefly of wind and weather.

1497 *Naval Acc. Hen. VII* (1896) 249 The wynde contraryed & the wether was so Strayneable that scace they gate into Lymyngton haven. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Rich. III*, 41 A prosperous and strenable wynde. 1566 PAINTER *Pal. Pleas.* I. 69 The night being darke and the billowes going high and streinable. 1581 MULCASTER *Positions* xxix. (1887) 109 Some [exercises] be verie vehement, strong, and strainable.

3. Of the voice: ? Full, powerful, sonorous.

1569 NEWTON *Cicero's Olde Age* 17 b, The office and function of an Oratoure consisteth not only in wytte and eloquence, but also in a loude durablenesse, and strainable voice. 1576 — *Lemnie's Complex.* I. vi. 37 He..vseth a liuelye & straynable voyce [L. *viua intentaque voce*].

Hence **†Strainableness; †Strainably** *adv.*

1511 *Guylforde's Pilgr.* (Camden) 60 The wynde blew not so straynably as byfore. *a* 1542 WYATT *Poems*, '*Go burning Sighs*', With pitefull plaint & scalding fyer that oute of my brest doeth straynably stert. 1581 LD. BURLEIGH in Nicolas *Mem. Sir C. Hatton* (1847) 177, I do..pray you ..not to have the Earl dealt withal strainably, but only by way of advice. 1587 FLEMING *Contn. Holinshed* III. 1549/1 By building of which bridge ouer so swift & great a streame, the passage was set open, which before (by reason of the strenablenesse of the water) was not passable.

†Strainable, *a.*[2] *Scots Law. Obs.* Forms: 6 stren(e)zeable, strengyabill, strenyeabill, 6–7 strenzeabill, -ell, streinzeable. [aphetic f. DISTRAINABLE. Cf. STRAIN *v.*[2]] Subject to distraint, liable to be distrained.

1508 *Cartular. S. Nich. Aberd.* (New Spalding Club) I. 205 Ay and quhile We prouid to thame ane plaice als strenzeabill for ye pament of ye saide sex markis in ye zeir. 1540 *Rec. Elgin* (New Spalding Club) I. 51 The prouest and bailzeis commandat the officiaris to pund termlye ony strengyabill bigging of the forsaid landis. 1609 SKENE *Reg. Maj., Stat. Alex. II* 18 b, Gif they haue na strenzeabell gudes. *Ibid., Quon. Attach.* xxxvii. 84 Ilke frie man may be borgh for himselfe..swa he be responsall, and strenzeabill to the judge.

Strained (strēnd), *ppl. a.*[1] [f. STRAIN *v.*[1] + -ED[1].]

1. Subjected to physical tension. Of a rope, etc.: Stretched tight.

1640 J. GOWER *Ovid's Festiv.* IV. 82 The strained ropes mens toilsome hands do wring. 1769 J. GRANGER *Biogr. Hist. Eng.* II. 563 One represents her dancing on a strained, the other vaulting on a slack rope. 1854 *Pereira's Polarized Light* (ed. 2) 143 The immediate effect of heat on one part of a piece of glass is to put all the surrounding parts into a strained state. 1859 JEPHSON *Brittany* iv. 39 Their well-formed ankles [shown to advantage] by their tightly strained black stockings. 1869 RANKINE *Machine & Hand-tools* Summary Princ. 1 If a previously strained body, upon the removal of the stress, recovers its free shape, it is said to be perfectly elastic. 1888 T. WATTS *Burd. Armada* in *Athenæum* 18 Aug. 224/2 And now, amid the tempest's din Each Spaniard in the strained Vasana pales.

2. Of a part of the body: Injured by over-exertion of the muscles, etc. Said also of an animal suffering from such an injury.

1611 COTGR., *Seton*,..the rowelling, or roping of a bruised, or strained horse. 1753 RICHARDSON *Grandison* (1754) II. x. 64 A wry face, and a strained neck, denoting her difficulty to get down but a lark's morsel. 1829 J. LAWRENCE *Horse* 185, I have, now and then, heard of a strained ankle as the consequence [of a lady's jumping from her saddle]. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 175 These cases..which are often called 'strained back,' etc.

3. Of the voice, gaze, attention, 'nerves', etc.: Exerted by an abnormal effort or to an abnormal degree. Of look or expression: Showing signs of nerve-tension.

a 1542 WYATT *Penit. Ps.* xxxii. Proem. 32 Wᵗ strained voyce againe thus cryth he. 1577 KENDALL *Flowers of Epigr.* 80 With strained throates God saue the kyng they crie, and crie alowde. 1606 WOTTON *Life & Lett.* (1907) I. 343 Whom welcoming with a very high and strained voice. 1697 CONGREVE *Mourn. Bride* II. i. 19 O my strain'd Heart. 1806 SURR *Winter in Lond.* I. 75 Fixing his strained eyes upon a portrait of Dr. Enfield which hung over the chimney. 1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* xv, The person who sung kept a strained and powerful voice at its highest pitch. 1841 DICKENS *Barn. Rudge* lxi, With eager eyes and strained attention. 1863 MRS. OLIPHANT *Salem Chapel* xxi, Afraid to relax her strained nerves even by leaning back or forward. 1908 R. BAGOT *A. Cuthbert* xxviii. 368 The strained, drawn expression, telling of mental suffering.

4. Of conduct, demeanour, gestures, etc.: Produced under compulsion or by deliberate effort; artificial, forced, not spontaneous or natural.

c 1400 *Rom. Rose* 7325 My lemman, Streyned-Abstinence [*m'amie Contrainte-Astenance*]. 1588 W. R. *Engl. Ape* 23 Theyr strayned modesty, and theyr counterfayte coynesse. 1597 SHAKS. 2 *Hen. IV* I. i. 161 (Qo.) This strained passion doth you wrong my lord. 1612 *Two Noble K.* III. iii. 56 Foole, Away with this straind mirth. 1628 FELTHAM *Resolves* I. vi. 13 If you search for high and strained Carriages; you shall for the most part, meete with them, in low men. 1865 DICKENS *Mut. Fr.* I. xiii, Thoroughly used to him as he was, he found something new and strained in him [*sc.* his friend] that was for the moment perplexing. 1898 KIPLING *Day's Work* 210 The strained, eye-shirking talk at dinner till the servants had withdrawn.

5. Of language, construction put upon words or actions, etc.: Employed or interpreted in a laboured, far-fetched, or non-natural sense; wrested or distorted from the natural meaning or intention; pressed, forced. Of a conception, supposition, etc.: Pushed beyond what is natural or reasonable.

c 1600 SHAKS. *Sonn.* lxxxii. 10 When they haue deuiside What strained touches Rhethorick can lend. 1651 HOBBES *Leviath.* III. xlii. 304 Which is a strange, and very much strained interpretation. 1747 LD. CHANC. HARDWICKE in G. Harris *Life* (1847) I. 374, I own I thought this a strained construction, and did not scruple to say so. 1768 H. WALPOLE *Hist. Doubts* 64 There is nothing strained in the supposition of Richard's sparing his nephew. 1857 C. B[ATHURST] *Rem. Differ. Shaks. Versif.* 42 There is nothing pompous, strained, ranting. 1885 *Law Times* LXXVIII. 386/2 Surely this is rather a strained construction to put upon the 26th section?

6. Of a regulation, enactment, prerogative, etc.: Pushed or urged beyond what is equitable. Of personal relations, a situation, etc.: Subjected to a dangerous degree of tension, forced to a point where a rupture becomes imminent.

1735 tr. *Rollin's Anc. Hist.* x. i. § 2 IV. 273 Was it not a wise amendment of what was too strained and excessive in that law of Lycurgus? 1880 *Daily News* 2 Nov., The situation was thought 'strained' even in a disturbed Oriental country. 1899 P. H. BROWN *Hist. Scot.* II. ii. I. 77 The peace between the two kings was of short duration. On the Easter following their treaty a trifling incident again placed them in strained relations. 1911 CRAIK *Edward Earl of Clarendon* I. iii. 69 Charles..resolved to summon a Parliament. The first step in the surrender of a strained prerogative was taken.

7. Passed through a strainer or colander.

1591 A. W. *Bk. Cookrye* 12 So boyle them in the broth and thicke it with strained bread. 1596 BARROUGH *Meth. Phisick* (ed. 3) 436 To the strained decoction, put the iuice of quince peares and pomegranates. 1611 COTGR., *Pressis*, cullisses, or strained meats. 1675 HANNAH WOOLLEY *Gentlew. Comp.* 131 A Gallandine-sauce made with strained Bread, Vinegar [etc.]. 1731 ARBUTHNOT *Aliments* iii. (1735) 68 If the Plant be boil'd in the same Water, the strain'd Liquor is call'd the Decoction of the Plant. 1871 GARROD *Mat. Med.* (ed. 3) 170 Reduce the strained liquor to three pints.

fig. 1606 SHAKS. *Tr. & Cr.* IV. iv. 26 (Qo.), Cressid I loue thee in so strain'd a purity.

†**8.** Having a strain or melody; formed into melody. *Obs.*

1589 PUTTENHAM *Eng. Poesie* II. i. (Arb.) 79 The harmonicall concents of the artificial Musicke, consisting in strained tunes. 1601 WEEVER *Mirr. Mart.* lxxix. B 8 Whose strayned ditties most melodicall.

Hence **Strainedly** *adv.*, **Strainedness.**

1571 GOLDING *Calvin on Ps.* lx. 7. 27 Others more streynedly

interpret it. 1639 N. N. tr. *Du Bosc's Compl. Woman* II. 59 Hence it is they live with so much strainednesse, and that there is nothing even or natively done in their behaviours. 1697 G. KEITH *2nd Narr. Proc. Turner's Hall* 26 He unfairly and strainedly defends G. Fox's words. 1891 H. C. HALLIDAY *Someone must suffer* I. viii. 184 She entered, smiling rather strainedly.

Strainer (strē·nəɹ). Forms: 4 **streignour, streyngoure, -your,** ? **streinor, stryn(n)or,** 4–5 **streynour(e, straynour(e, strenour,** 5 **straynowr(e, -woure, streynʒour, strener, strenyor, -yowre, streneyour, strynour,** 5–6 **streyner, strenʒoure,** 6 **streynyowr, straygner, strenear, -ere, -yɜr,** ? **streiner,** 5–7 **strayner,** 6– **strainer.** [f. STRAIN *v.*1 + -ER 1; but the early forms suggest that there may have been an AF. **estreignour*, f. *estreign-* STRAIN *v.*1]

1. A utensil or device for straining, filtering, or sifting; a filter, sieve, screen, or the like.

1326–7 *Durham Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 15 In ao ulnis linee tele pro naprouns et streyngoures. 1348–9 *Ibid.* 43 In Streynyours. 1391 *Earl Derby's Exped.* (Camden) 22/3 Pro xl virges de streynours ad iijd., xs. *c* 1420 *Liber Cocorum* (1862) 9 Þorowgh a strynour þou hom strene. *c* 1481 CAXTON *Dialogues* 8 For to make..sauses thorugh the strayner. 1527 *Luton Priv. Guild* (1906) 188 Payd for A gelebag and a strenere v d. 1533 in *Kal. & Inv. Exch.* (1836) II. 294 Item a str*yner of golde for orrenges. 1599 A. M. tr. *Gabelhouer's Bk. Physicke* 42/2 Then straygne them through a clothe or straygner. 1640 T. BRUGIS *Marrow of Physicke* II. 155 Let it run through a woollen strainer. 1707 MORTIMER *Husb.* 216 Pour it..into a Strainer of fine thin Linen, or of twisted Hair. 1824 SCOTT *St. Ronan's* x. The silver strainer, on which..the lady of the house placed the tea-leaves. 1846 A. YOUNG *Naut. Dict.* 254 *Rose*, or *Strainer*, a plate of copper or lead perforated with small holes, sometimes placed upon the heel of a pump to prevent any thing being sucked in which might choke the pump. 1889 WELCH *Text Bk. Naval Archit.* xi. 123 The ejector is surrounded by a strainer and placed in an ejector tank. 1894 *Outing* XXIV. 435/1 A basket of gravel and dirt is thrown into a bamboo strainer.

b. Applied to natural structures or processes which perform the function of filtering.

1626 BACON *Sylva* § 93 The Cause of Orient Colours in Birds..is by the Finenesse of the Strainer. 1666 G. HARVEY *Morbus Angl.* xxii. (1672) 51 The office of the Lungs is only to serve the heart in the capacity of Aereal strainers, to strain the Air. 1737 BRACKEN *Farriery Impr.* (1756) I. 12 All the little Glands and Strainers of the Body. 1772 PENNANT *Tours in Scot.* (1774) 169 The apertures to the gills very long, and furnished with Strainers. 1841–71 T. R. JONES *Anim. Kingd.* 826 Seeing that in some whales there are about three hundred plates composing the outer row on each side of the mouth, the reader may form some idea of the extent of this enormous strainer. 1880 HUXLEY *Crayfish* iii. 53 So is the cuticle of the stomach calcified..to give rise ..to a filter or strainer, whereby the nutritive juices are separated from the innutritious hard parts of the food.

c. *transf.* and *fig.*

1621–31 LAUD *Serm.* (1847) 44 The blessings..come not immediately from God to the people,..but they are strained ..through the man, and therefore must relish a little of the strainer, him and his mortality. 1648 WINYARD *Midsummer-Moon* 4 Hee is a strainer, retaines all the dregges, and clarifies the University as milke and whites of eggs doth Ippocras. 1666 T. WATSON *Godly Man's Pict.* 255 He put his body to no other use, but to be a strainer for meat and drink to run thorow. 1732 POPE *Ess. Man* II. 189 Lust, thro' some certain Strainers well refin'd, Is gentle love. 1813 *Examiner* 26 Apr. 266/1 To them may be traced, through different strainers, almost all the fictions of European romance.

2. A device for stretching or tightening.

1527 in *Archæologia* XXXVI. 222 Item syx banner clothys and foure streyners and eyght pools too the same. 1688 HOLME *Armory* III. 396/2 A [Sadlers'] Strainer..is made of Wood [etc.]..with this the Girth web is fastned and drawn streat upon the Sadle trees; or in such places where the Girth requires straining. 1883 J. SCOTT *Farm Roads* etc. 83 The wires are strained by a portable strainer.

3. (See quot.)

1891 *Century Dict., Strainer*...In carriage-building: (*a*) A reinforcing strip or button at the back of a panel. (*b*) Canvas glued to the back of a panel to prevent warping or cracking.

4. *Comb.*: † **strainer-cloth**, a cloth used for filtering; **strainer-vine**, *Luffa acutangula* (Grisebach *Flora W. Ind. Islands* 788).

1444 *Compota Domest.* (Abbotsf. Club) 21 Pro bultyng-clothes strenourclothes [etc.]. 1483 CAXTON *Golden Leg.* 432 b/2 He..ware for a Shyrte a Stamyn or Streyner clothe. 1537 in *Myrr. Our Ladye* Introd. 31 Strayner cloth j pece.

Strainge, -er, obs. ff. STRANGE, STRANGER.

Straining (strē·niŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. STRAIN *v.*1 + -ING 1.]

1. The action of stretching, extending, drawing tight, wrenching, etc.; the fact of being stretched, wrenched, etc.

c 1400 *Lanfranc's Cirurg.* 199 A Mannes lyme bicomeþ smal wiþ greet streynyng of ligaturis þat takiþ awei þe norisching of þe lyme. 1463–4 *Rolls of Parlt.* V. 501/1 Brode Cloth..after almanere rakkyng, streynyng or teyntyng therof. 1562 TURNER *Herbal* II. 83 The ach that commeth by the wrinchyng or strenyng [*printed* streuyng] of any ioynte. *a* 1647 in *Archæologia* XII. 263 The ship went away without any straining of screws or tackles. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* II. iv. 157 The water the *Pink* had made by her working and straining in bad weather. 1805 SCOTT *Last Minstr.* IV. xx, So near they were, that they might know The straining harsh of each cross-bow. 1860 W. COLLINS *Woman in White* vii, The drawings..require careful straining and mounting. 1865 SWINBURNE *Poems & Ball., Lamentation* 69 With straining of oars.

2. Excessive exertion of the voice, lungs, eyes, etc.

1585 HIGINS *Junius' Nomencl.* 347/2 *Bombyces*,..long pipes which are very hardly filled with breath, and not without great straining of the breath. 1591 SHAKS. 2 *Hen. VI*, I. v. 10 My brest Ile burst with straining of my courage. 1639 N. N. tr. *Du Bosq's Compl. Woman* I. 28 The strayning of their countenance discovers, they have not modestie enough for silence, no more then sufficiency for discourse. 1680 OTWAY *Caius Marius* IV. i, It is the Lark, and out of Tune she sings With grating Discords and unpleasing Strainings. 1712 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 407 P 1 Those Strainings of the Voice, Motions of the Body, and Majesty of the Hand, which are so much celebrated in the Orators of Greece and Rome. 1832 S. WARREN *Diary Physic.* II. iii. 122 There was..no knitting of the brows, or painful straining of the eyes. 1876 GEO. ELIOT *Deronda* xv. I. 292 An uncommonly fine girl. ..Really worth a little straining to look at her.

b. A violent muscular effort to evacuate the bowels, etc.

1613 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* (1614) 721 In the ascent he and all the rest were surprised with so sudden panges of straining and casting, and some also of scouring, that the Seasicknesse is not comparable hereunto. 1677 GILPIN *Dæmonol.* (1867) 307 That vomit..cannot be done without sickness, straining, and torture. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VII. 244 The percentage of total solids in the fluid passed during straining, was less than half that passed when the patient remained passive.

c. The making a violent effort or strong endeavour (*to* do something, *after* an end or object).

1580 LYLY *Euphues Eng.* (Arb.) 422 The Nightingale, which is saide with continual strayning to singe, to perishe in hir sweete layes. 1665 BOYLE *Occas. Reft.* IV. xiii. (1848) 248 The Shore being fixt, and immoveable, instead of making that come to him, his very strainings drew him and his Boat to that. 1800 COLERIDGE in J. D. Campbell *Life* (1894) 107, I find that I can without any straining gain 500 guineas a year. 1890 *Spectator* 1 Nov., Grand projects of street-improvement, many of which are mere strainings after a needless grandeur. 1898 M. HEWLETT *Earthwork out of Tuscany* (1899) Pref. p. xii, The straining of Botticelli to express the ineffable.

3. An urging or pressing too far, laying undue stress upon; wresting or distortion of meaning, forced construction or interpretation.

1528 MORE *Dyalogue* Wks. 107/2, I haue in these matters bidden him be bolde, without any strayning of curtesie. 1654 JER. TAYLOR *Real Pres.* 116 By some straining, the Lamb slain might signifie the slaying the Egyptians. 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* XV. III. 527 The words of the Act..may, without any straining, be construed as the Court construed them. 1908 *Athenæum* 31 Oct. 535/2 They were forced into resisting such strainings of the prerogative as the Declaration of Indulgence.

4. Filtering, sifting, expressing.

1548 *Elyot's Dict., Expressio*, a streynyng. 1583 MELBANCKE *Philotimus* C c/ij b, The streyning of a gnat is not swallowing of a cammell. 1640 Bp. HALL *Chr. Moder.* I. xiii. 141 The presse is prepared for the grapes and Olives, and..neither of them will yeeld their comfortable and wholsome juyce without an hard strayning. 1718 QUINCY *Compl. Disp.* (1719) 66 Gums and inspissated Juices..are seldom fit for use before straining. 1883 *Encycl. Brit.* XVI. 691/2 Probably a straining of water from solid particles is effected by the lattice-work of the ctenidia or gill-plates.

b. *concr.* Something strained or extracted by straining; usually a strained liquor.

1580 BLUNDEVIL *Curing Horses Dis.* lxix. 29 Cast not awaie the sodden Barlie with the rest of the strainings. 1669 ROWLAND *Schroder's Chym. Disp.* I. iii. 6 *Succus*, in Shops are Expressions or Strainings, such as will mix with Water. 1887 A. M. BROWN *Anim. Alkaloids* 82 The residue is filtered by pressure, and the united strainings are subjected to boiling or evaporation.

5. *Saddlery.* (See quot. 1875.)

1871 *Saddlers' Gaz.* 1 May 12/1 The webs used for the manufacture of a saddle are termed straining web, cross straining and diaper web. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech., Straining*, a piece of canvas or leather, which, being drawn tightly over the tree, forms the foundation for the seat of the saddle. ..It is called the straining, because the stretch is taken out of it by repeated wettings and stretchings.

6. *attrib.* and *Comb.* **a.** in sense 1: **straining-arch**, an arch designed to resist end-thrust; **straining-beam** (see quot. 1825); **straining-frame**, a frame on which paper, canvas, etc. is stretched; **straining-leather** (see quot. and sense 5); **straining-piece** = *straining beam*; **straining-pillar, -post**, a post from which wire fencing is stretched tight; **straining-sill** or **-cill** (see quot. 1825); **straining-web** (see 5).

1848 RICKMAN *Archit.* (ed. 5) Descr. Engrav. p. xli, The angel corbel carries another arch, known as a *straining arch. *a* 1805 ROBISON *Syst. Mech. Philos.* (1822) I. 545 The *straining beam and the trussbeam above it. 1825 J. NICHOLSON *Oper. Mech.* 572 *Straining-beam*; a piece of timber placed between two others, called *queen-posts*, at their upper ends, in order to withstand the thrust of the principal rafters. 1762–71 H. WALPOLE *Vertue's Anecd. Paint.* (1786) III. 80 On the *straining frame was written Gerard Soest pinxit. 1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 747 The paper designed for a transparency must be fixed on a straining frame, such as that of a drawing board without its pannel. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.*, **Straining-leather*, a kind of web forming the seat of a hussar-saddle. *a* 1805 ROBISON *Syst. Mech. Philos.* (1822) I. 669 The great use of the *straining piece is to give a firm abutment to the inner struts, without allowing any lateral strain on the stretcher. 1842 *Civil Engin. & Arch. Jrnl.* V. 361/2 Long straining-pieces reaching from one post to another. 1883 J. SCOTT *Farm Roads* etc. 85 *Straining-pillars and posts fitted with..winding brackets. 1882 *Worc. Exhib. Catal.* III. 20. Strained wire fencing..with two kinds of *straining posts. *a* 1805 ROBISON *Syst. Mech. Philos.* (1822) I. 547 The *straining sill Q gives a firm abutment to the principal braces. 1825 J. NICHOLSON *Oper. Mech.* 572 *Straining-cill*; a piece of timber placed upon the tie-beam at the bottom of two queen-posts, in order to withstand the force of the braces.

b. in sense 4, as *straining-bag, -cloth, -tower.*

1725 *Bradley's Family Dict.* s.v. *Sugar* P 1 Passing it thro a *Straining-Bag. 1742 *Lond. & Country Brew.* IV. (ed. 2) 311 A Bag made of *Straining-cloth, such as Dairy Women use to pass their Milk through. 1887 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 21 Oct. 5/2 There will be a *straining tower at Vyrniew [*i.e.* Vyrnwy], a profusion of filter-beds at Oswestry.

Strai·ning, *ppl. a.* [-ING 2.] That strains, in various senses of the vb.

1530 PALSGR. 326/1 Strayhyng, *constraintif.* 1534 MORE *Comf. agst. Trib.* III. xxvii. (1553) V vij b, Yᵉ crewel stretching and straining payne, farre passing any crampe. 1584 B. R. tr. *Herodotus* I. 26 b, Fetching from the bottom of his hart a deepe and streyning sigh. 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* xxxiv, The straining cordage bursts, the mast is riven. 1838 W. C. HARRIS *Narr. Exped. S. Africa* XXX. 289 But neither fount, nor pool, nor running stream, greeted my straining gaze. 1888 F. HUME *Mme. Midas* Prol., Holding the straining sail by a stout rope twisted round his arm. 1898 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* V. 281 Much harm may be done by straining efforts in defœcation.

† **b.** Astringent, styptic. *Obs.*

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XVII. liii. (1495) 634 Iuy is medicinable thouh it be bytter and is streynynge. 1552 HULOET, Streyninge or bitinge as ginger..[etc.], *stipticus.*

Hence **Strai·ningly** *adv.*

1828 *Blackw. Mag.* XXIII. 773 Stood he strainingly upright. 1831 TRELAWNY *Adv. Younger Son* CXXIII, The tense cords strainingly drawn from heart to brain. 1883 MISS BROUGHTON *Belinda* I. xiii, Belinda has opened the envelope, and is staring strainingly at the paper.

Straint (strēnt). *rare.* [Partly a. OF. *estrainte, estreinte* (mod.F. *étreinte*), n. of action f. *étreindre* to STRAIN; partly a nonce-formation, after *restraint, constraint*, to serve as a sb. to STRAIN *v.*] Application of force or pressure.

1534 *Prymer in Engl.* O v, When we are driuen to suche an harde straynte [1538 straynt] that we can not tel what to do. 1596 SPENSER *F. Q.* V. ii. 14 Sir Artegall..Vppon his iron coller griped fast, That with the straint his wesand nigh he brast. *a* 1876 G. DAWSON *Shaks. & other Lect.* (1888) 304 Friendship..is above the straints and restraints of destiny.

Strainth, obs. Sc. form of STRENGTH.

Strais, obs. Sc. pl. of STRAW.

Strait (strēt), *a., sb.*, and *adv.* Forms: 3 **strect,** 3–7 **streit(e,** 4–6 **streyt(e, strayt, strayth,** 4–6, 9 *dial.* **stret,** (5 **strete,** 6 **streayte, strayet**), 4–7 **strayte, straite,** 4 (**strecte, strezt**), **streyghte, straizt,** *Sc.* **strat,** 4–6 *Sc.* **strate,** 5 **streizt, (streibte, straeiot), strayzt(e, streith, streythe, (straytt),** 5–7 **streyght,** 5–9 **streight,** 6–7 **streighte,** 6–9 **straight,** (6–7 -e), 6 **strayght(e, straicte,** 6–7 **streict(e,** 7 **streigt,** 5–6 **stryte,** 3– **strait.** [ME. *streit*, a. OF. *estreit* tight, close, narrow, also as sb., narrow or tight place, strait of the sea, distress (mod.F. *étroit* narrow) = Pr. *estreit*, Sp. *estrecho*, Pg. *estreito*, It. *stretto* :—L. *strictus* (see STRICT *a.*) pa. pple. of *stringĕre* to tighten, bind tightly: see STRAIN *v.*, STRINGENT *a.*] **A.** *adj.*

I. In physical senses: Tight, narrow.

1. Of a garment, etc.: Tight-fitting, narrow. *Obs.* exc. *dial.*

1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) I. 353 þey..haueþ..straizt hodes [L. *capuciis strictis*]. 1398 — *Barth. De P. R.* V. xxix. (1495) 140 A ryngе that is streyghte on a fyngre and may not be take of afore mete, maye easely be take of after mete. *c* 1400 *Rom. Rose* 2271 Streite gloves. 1459 *Paston Lett.* I. 475, j nothir gowne of clothe of golde, with streyght slevys. 1551 in Feuillerat *Revels Edw. VI* (1914) 58 A Iyrkyn for the Tumbler strayte to his bodye. 1599 SHAKS. *Hen. V*, III. vii. 57 You rode like a Kerne of Ireland, your French Hose off, and in your strait Strossers. 1605 BACON *Adv. Learn.* II. xxii. § 8 For he mought see that a streight gloue wil come more easily on with vse. 1612–26 BRETON *Wits Priv. Wealth* (Grosart) 8/1 And strait Shooes fill the feet full of cornes. 1658 A. FOX tr. *Wurtz' Surg.* III. x. 246 Bind the wound slackly, and let the party not put on too straight clothes. 1693 LOCKE *Educ.* § 11 That your Sons Cloths be never made strait. 1713 *Guardian* No. 32 P 7 The Third..appeared in Cloaths that were so strait and uneasie to him, that he seemed to move with Pain. 1767 STERNE *Tr. Shandy* IX. ii, His blue and gold had become so miserably too strait for him. 1779 FORREST *Voy. N. Guinea* II. xiv. 330 The men go generally in white waistcoats,..with white breeches, sometimes strait, sometimes wide. 1888 *Sheffield Gloss., Stret*, tight, too small. 'Her dress were that stret at shoo couldn't stride o'er t' brook.'

† **b.** Of bonds, a knot: Tightly drawn. *Obs.*

1561 HOBY tr. *Castiglione's Courtier* II. (1900) 138, I allowe well, that this knott, which is so streicte, knitt or binde no mo than two. 1569 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* II. 62 [He] sall incontinent..be put in strait irnis. 1600 HOLLAND *Livy* XXIV. vii. 513 [He] lift up his foot, making as though he would loose and slacke a streight knot of his sho latchet. 1636 RIDGLEY *Pract. Physick* 163 If the parts swell hard, it [the bandage] is too straight; if it swell not, it is too loose. 1725 *Bradley's Family Dict.* s.v. *Snakes*, By a streight Ligature below the Wound.

fig. 1583 GOLDING *Calvin on Deut.* I. 3 He is..our Father and hath adopted us to be his Children, and moreouer tied us to him by a much streiter Band: in that he hath redeemed us. 1595 SPENSER *Amoretti* lxxi, Right so your selfe were caught in cunning snare of a deare foe,..in whose streight bands ye now captiued are. 1628 FELTHAM *Resolves* I. lxxv. 245 So they [hearts] close againe after discussion, many times in a straighter Tye.

† **c.** Of an embrace: close. *Obs.*

1596 SPENSER *F. Q.* IV. viii. 63 She to him ran, and him with streight embras Enfolding said, And liues yet Amyas?

† d. Tense, not lax. *Obs.*

1578 BANISTER *Hist. Man* I. 19 And yet the Articulation [of the vertebræ] not left to strayte, but slacke inough..for the turnyng of the head on eche side. 1732 ARBUTHNOT *Rules of Diet* i. § 21 in *Aliments* etc. iL (1736) 283 All these who have lax Fibres and Vessels are naturally cooler than those that have strait.

† e. Of the chest: Constricted, 'tight'. Of the breath: Difficult, 'short'. *Obs.*

1561 HOLLYBUSH *Hom. Apoth.* 6 Then becommeth a man strayght about the sheste or stomake, & his heat is dry. 1695 *Phil. Trans.* XIX. 80 Her Breath was streight, as is usual to fat People, especially when she went up a pair of Stairs.

2. Scanty or inadequate in spatial capacity; affording little room; narrow. Of bounds, limits: Narrow. Now *rare* exc. in *too strait*.

c 1290 *St. Brendan* 255 in *S. Eng. Leg.* 226 A luytel hauene and swybe streit huy founden abe laste. Þat vnnebes heore schip mi3te þerinne come, Aunker for to caste. *c* 1374 CHAUCER *Boeth.* III. met. ii. (1868) 68 Brid þat syngiþ..in þe wode and after is inclosed in a streit cage. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* vii. (*Jacobus mi.*) 762 He sa sted wes..þat he mycht nothire syt no ly; sa strate to hyme wes þat herby. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Miller's T.* 202 Myn hous is streit. 1426 LYDG. *De Guil. Pilgr.* 18076 By large mesure I can byen, and streight mesure I sell ageyn. 1509 FISHER *7 Penit. Ps.* cii. Wks. (1876) 171 Where as somtyme we were spredde almoost thrugh the worlde, now we be thraste downe into a very streyght angyll or corner. 1513 MORE in Hall *Chron., Edw. V.* (1548) 6 b, The kynge was goyng to horsebacke, because he would leaue the lodgyng for them, for it was to straight for hothe the compaignies. 1600 E. BLOUNT tr. *Conestaggio* 4 Portugall was then obscure, vntilled, poore, and reduced into streight limits. *a* 1659 Bp. BROWNRIG *Serm.* (1674) I. vii. 101 The Sun is made for the World, not for any streighter Region. 1707 *Curios. in Husb. & Gard.* 332 Within the streight Bounds of that small Vessel. 1724 BP. WILSON in Keble *Life* (1863) II. 625 Because of a very numerous family, for which the vicarage-house was too strait. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) II. 490/2 Where the space is straitest, the earth moves more slowly than where it is widest. 1839 MRS. BROWNING *Sabbath Morn.* ix, Too strait ye are capacious seas, To satisfy the loving! 1879 FROUDE *Cæsar* v. 41 The hunting and pasture grounds were too strait for the numbers crowded into them.

fig. 1340 *Ayenb.* 54 Þo þet libbeþ be fisike: hy healdeþ be mesure of ypocras þet is lite an strait. 1634 W. WOOD *New Eng. Prosp.* (1865) Addr. Rdr., Any thing stranger than ordinary, is too large for the straite hoopes of his apprehension. 1668 DRYDEN *Dram. Poesy* 19 But in how straight a compass soever they have bounded their Plots and Characters, we will pass it by, if they have regularly pursued them. 1787 *Printer's Gram.* 21 It is therefore to be wished, that the intermixing Roman and Italic may be brought to straighter limits. 1875 WHITNEY *Life Lang.* iii. 35 One may..have reached in some single department..the furthest limits of his predecessors' knowledge, and found them too strait for him.

b. Of a place of confinement. *lit.* and *fig. Obs.*

c 1460 SIR R. RÓS *La Belle Dame* 563 in *Pol. Rel. & L. Poems* (1903) 101 It is grete dures and discomfort To kepe an hert in so streyt a presoun, þat hathe but on body for his disport. 1483 CAXTON *Golden Leg.* 177/1 Saynt Peter was enprysoned in a strayte place wherin he was strayned. 1594 NASHE *Unfort. Trav.* (ed. 2) L 2 b, To the straightest prison in Rome he was dragged. 1614 RALEGH *Hist. World* II. v. iii. § 5. 436 All such Prisoners as he had of the Romans, he held in streight places, loden with yrons.

3. Of a way, passage, or channel: So narrow as to make transit difficult. Now *rare* in lit. sense.

13.. *K. Alis.* 6114 Theo wayes weore so strayte, and fyle, That mon no hors, by twenty myle, No myghte come the toun nigh. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* VI. 362 His vit hym schawit the strat entre Of the furde, and the ysche alsua. 138. WYCLIF *Serm.* Sel. Wks. I. 14 þe nett is brood in þe bigynyng, and after streit in ende. *c* 1425 tr. *Arderne's Treat. Fistula* etc. 33 þe moube of þe vicere was ouer streit. 1481 CAXTON *Godfrey* xviii. 47 Certayne..strayt entrees that ben as yates of the londe. 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 265 To open the strayte passages in the Alpes. 1611 SHAKS. *Cymb.* v. iii. 11 The strait passe was damm'd With dead men. 1619 DRAYTON *Bar. Wars* v. xli, Where, through strait Windows, the dull Light came farre. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* II. 330 When thro' streight Passages they strein their Wine. 1768 G. WHITE *Selborne, To Pennant* 12 Mar., The owners slit up the nostrils of such asses as were hard worked; for they, being naturally strait or small, did not admit air sufficient. 1819 SCOTT *Ivanhoe* xlii, If the stairs be too strait to admit his fat carcass, I will have him craned up from without. 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xiii. III. 354 That road was so steep and so strait that a handful of resolute men might have defended it against an army.

b. *fig.* and in figurative context. Now *arch.* after Bible use.

a 1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* xvi. 6 Gif grace þat þe charite of my lufers be perfit in þe strayt stretis of þi counsails. 1382 WYCLIF *Matt.* vii. 13 Entre 3e bi the streyt 3ate. 1555 J. BRADFORD in Coverdale *Lett. Martyrs* (1564) 296 The way of Christe is the strayte waye. 1600 J. BODENHAM *Belvedére* 228 No wise man likes in such a life to dwell, Whose wayes are strait to heauen, but wide to hell. 1681 DRYDEN *Sp. Fryar* Epil., There is no Dives in the Roman Hell. Gold opens the strait gate, and lets him in. 1720 SEWEL *Hist. Quakers* (1795) I. Pref. 14 Such who finding the strait way too narrow for them, left it. 1836 J. GILBERT *Chr. Atonem.* ii. (1852) 39 The way to life is strait.

† 4. Having little breadth or width; narrow. *Obs.*

c 1391 CHAUCER *Astrol.* 14 A label..schapen lik a rewle, save that it is streit & hath no plates on either ende. *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (1839) v. 45 Egypt is a long Contree; but it is streyt, that is to seye narow. 1486 *Bk. St. Albans, Her.* c ii b, Ther is an oder cros aquall straythyr in the myddis then in thenddys. 1527 R. THORNE in Hakluyt *Voy.* (1589) 253 A certain straight Sea called *Estrecho de todos Sanctos.*

† b. Of cloth, ribbon, etc.: Narrow. *Obs.*

1439 *Rolls of Parlt.* V. 30/1 Unreasonable mesure, both of brode clothe and streite. 1480 *Wardr. Acc. Edw. IV* (1830) 146 Riban off silk: streyte xj unces di'; brode ix yerdes. 1503 *Privy Purse Exp. Eliz. of York* (1830) 104 Item payed to Cristofore Ascue for v yerdes of Streyt white by him delivered.

5. Special collocations: **strait gulf**, † **horehound** (see quots.); **strait jacket** *sb.* and *v.* = STRAIT WAISTCOAT *sb.* and *v.*; **strait work** (see quot.). Also STRAIT WAISTCOAT.

1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.*, **Strait Gulf*, an arm of the sea running into the land through a narrow entrance channel, as the Gulf of Venice. 1548 TURNER *Names Herbes* 77 Stachys..maye be named in englishe litle Horehounde or *strayte Horehound. 1814 SCOTT *Let.* in *Lockhart* (1837) III. iii. 119 A madman, whom..he has..by the wholesome discipline of a bull's pizzle and *strait-jacket, brought to.. his senses. 1901 *N. Amer. Rev.* Feb. 198 They intended..to put the national government and the national life into a strait-jacket. 1863 READE *Hard Cash* II. xix. 313 The keepers, the very moment the justices left the house, would ..*strait-jacket them, and starve them. 1891 *Harper's Mag.* July 220/2 Distrusting all efforts of school-masters to strait-jacket our speech into formulas borrowed from the Latin. 1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-mining* 244 **Straight work* or *Strait work*, the system of getting coal by headings or narrow work. 1904 *Daily Chron.* 19 Mar. 9/5 Coal was got from mines either by the wide-work system or by straight-work.

II. Strict, rigorous.

† 6. Of conditions, sufferings, punishment, etc.: Pressing hardly, severe, rigorous. *Obs.*

c 1205 LAY. 22270 He wolde westen his lond and..mid fure mid stele streit gomen wurchen. 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 4736 [The day of dome] es þe mast day þat ever was yhitte, And þe straytest and þe mast harde. *c* 1400 tr. *Secreta Secret., Gov. Lordsh.* 90 But here ys no stede to shewe of so hard and streyt science. *c* 1421 LYDG. *Horse, Goose & Sheep* 392 in *Pol. Rel. & L. Poems* (1903) 31 At a streight neede thei can weel staunche blood. 1512 *Act 4 Hen. VIII*, c. 20 Preamble, The said John Tailer..and many other felons, [etc.]..dwellyd in a strayte and parlous Countrey for your sayd Besecher or any other your true subgettes without great jopertie of theire lyves to take and arrest theym. 1538 STARKEY *England* I. iv. 120 Yf we coud deuyse a punnyschment more strayttur then deth, hyt were necessary to be ordenyd. *a* 1540 BARNES *Wks.* (1573) 202 If there were a generall Councell,..there must needes folow, both ouer him & you a streight reformation. 1550 CROWLEY *Last Trumpet* 1451 For God wyll punyshe in straite wyse Such as wyth him wyl be so bolde. 1550 in Strype *Eccl. Mem.* (1721) II. 239 We delight more in Clemency than the streit administration of Justice. 1596 SPENSER *F. Q.* v. v. 33 Bound vnto me, but not with such hard bands Of strong compulsion, and streight violence, As now in miserable state he stands. 1642 D. ROGERS *Naaman* 30 When he [God] hath them upon the hip by any deepe and straight sore and extremity.

† b. Of modes of living, diet, etc.: Involving hardship or privation; severely regulated. *Obs.*

c 1300 *St. Brandan* (Percy Soc.) 35 There he was abbot of an hous..; and there he ladde a full strayte and holy lyfe. *c* 1380 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* III. 473 What ever þou haldes to þe of þo auter, over a streyte lyvelode ande symple cloþing, hit is not þine. *c* 1450 tr. *De Imitatione* III. xi. 79 Þei shull gete liberte of mynde [þat] entrip into streit lif. 1579 LYLY *Euphues* Wks. 1902 I. 252 If this seeme too straight a dyet for thy straininge disease, or to holy a profession, for so hollow a person. 1582 HESTER *Secr. Fioravanti* b. xxiii. 26 Neither let them keepe any straight Diette. 1594 NASHE *Unfort. Trav.* (ed. 2) M 4, To such straight life did it thence forward incite me, that..I married my curtizan,..and hasted ..out of the Sodom of Italy. 1613 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* (1614) 379 [He] led a streight life in continencie and austerity. *Ibid.* 426 They..in their Monasteries are very abstinent in eating and drinking, containe their bodies in strait chastitie, [etc.].

† c. Of a religious order, its rules, etc., also of a sect: Rigorous, strict. *Obs.*

c 1386 CHAUCER *Prol.* 174 The reule of seint Maure or of seint Beneit, By cause that it was old and som del streit. *c* 1440 *Jacob's Well* xxvi. 178 þe chanoun, after, schroef hym to þe bysschop of þat synne, & entryd in-to a streytere relygyoun. *c* 1490 CAXTON *Rule St. Benet* 119 þat they maye ..execute the hole rewll and the better kepe it than it is accordyng to the abyte & their streyte professyon. 1577 tr. *Luther's Comm. Galat.* v. 19 (1580) 270 b, The Carthusians or Charterhouse monkes, whose order..is of all other the straitest & sharpest. 1579 W. WILKINSON *Confut. Fam. Love* 50 There is a confession in the Family of H. N. more streight than euer was in the tyme of Popery.

† 7. Of a person, an agent: Severe, stern, strict, exacting in actions or dealings. *Obs.*

1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 5406 So streit he was þat þei me leyde amidde weyes heye, Seluer þat nomon ne dorste hit nyme vor beye hor eye. *c* 1400 *Apol. Loll.* 45 If þei haue streit conscience to faile in þis þat hemself haþ bound him to, þei schuld haue mikil more to faile in þis þat Crist haþ bound hem to. *c* 1440 *Alphabet of Tales* 11 Hur susters þe nonnys purseyvid, & was passand fayn þerof, becauce sho wa[s] so strayte vnto þaim, at þai myght have a cauce to accuse hur in. 1526 TINDALE *Luke* xix. 21, I feared the, because thou arte a strayte man: thou takest vp that thou laydest nott doune. 1549 COVERDALE etc. *Erasm. Par. Jude* 22 b, That whiche Pharao that straight and intolerable lorde was vnto them, the deuil was the same vnto vs. 1600 HOLLAND *Livy* IX. xvi. 324 He was a man besides for seueritie streight, and of right great command..ouer his allies and confederates. 1607 SHAKS. *Timon* I. i. 96 Fiue Talents is his debt, His meanes most short, his Creditors most straite. 1612 T. TAYLOR *Comm. Titus* i. 7 Such infirmities the Lord will not be so straite in.

b. Rigorous in principles; strict or scrupulous in morality or religious observance. *arch.*

1526 TINDALE *Acts* xxvi. 5 For after the most straytest [Gr. ἀκριβεστάτην] secte of oure laye lived I a pharisaye. 1577 NORTHBROOKE *Dicing* (1843) 51 *Age.* Although they do, yet, for my parte, I will not bee so straite or scrupulous. 1603 SHAKS. *Meas. for M.* II. i. 9 Let but your honour know (Whom I beleeue to be most strait in vertue) That [etc.]. 1777 PRIESTLEY *Matt. & Spir.* Ded., Educated, as you know I was, in the very straitest principles of reputed orthodoxy. 1875 LOWELL *Spenser* Writ. 1890 IV. 314 There is a verse,..'Like that ungracious crew which feigns demurest grace,' which is supposed to glance at the straiter religionists. 1890 *Spectator* 12 July, He never lost the confidence even of the most strait of his fellow-Churchmen, while the more advanced felt that they had his fullest sympathy.

8. Of a commandment, law, penalty, vow: Stringent, strict, allowing no evasion. *Obs.* exc. *arch.*

c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xix. (*Cristofore*) 621 He..commawndment gef strat þar-to. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* II. 211 For that a man scholde al unthryve Ther oghte no wisman coveite, The lawe was noght set so streite. *a* 1400 *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* liv. 193 A strayt couenaunt I-mad þer was Bi-twene me and Sathanos. 1485–6 *Coventry Leet Bk.* 527 The oth & charge of the Recorder, which in diuers thynges me thinketh full streyte. 1535 COVERDALE *Ps.* cxviii. 4 Thou hast geuen strayte charge to kepe thy commaundementes. 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 278 b, The Duke of Wirtemburg hath accorded vpon moste straite conditions. 1596 SHAKS. I *Hen. IV*, IV. iii. 79 And now (forsooth) takes on him to reforme..some strait Decrees, That lay too heauie on the Common-wealth. 1612 T. TAYLOR *Comm. Titus* i. 6 His..strait charge to all posteritie, that one man should cleaue to one wife. 1630 R. N. tr. *Camden's Eliz.* I. 16 The Queene set forth a straight Proclamation, that they should not handle any such questions. 1870 TENNYSON *Coming of Arthur* 261 Then the King:..Bound them by so strait vows to his own self, That [etc.].

† b. Of a legal instrument: Stringently worded, peremptory. *Obs.*

1503 in *Acc. Exam. of Innes* (1864) 91 Sesing and letters of assedatioun in the stratest forme can be devisit be the said Robert. 1565–6 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* I. 417 Quhairunto we obleis us as said is in the stratest forme and sickir style of obligatioun that can be divisit. 1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* x. 481 Hee..obtained a strait warrant to command the Gouernour..to deliuer mee ouer in the English hands.

9. † a. Of actions, proceedings: Conducted with strictness. *Obs.*

c 1430 LYDG. *Min. Poems* (Percy Soc.) 240 But Jhesu be my staff and my potent, Ovir streyt audit is lik t'encoumbre me. *c* 1440 *Alphabet of Tales* 355 Hafe compassion on hym, at ye make hym no lettyng when he commys afor þe strayte iugement of almyghtie God. *c* 1450 CAPGRAVE *Life St. Gilbert* xxxii, 108 There þei dede rede þe myracles and discussed hem with grete diligens and streyt examination. 1530 PALSGR. 277/1 Strayte dealyng, *rigeur.* 1541 ELYOT *Image Gov.* 17 He was exhorted to advaunce his astate..in princely porte,..leauyng his affabilitee and straight obseruacion of his lawes. 1586 *Privy Council Let.* in *Maldon* (Essex) *Borough Deeds*, Bundle 149 No. 12 Your owne example in the straite kepinge of these orders..will greatlie further the observinge of the same amonge the meaner sort. 1599 *Warn. Faire Wom.* II. 895 Strait inquisition and search is made.

b. Of guard, watch, imprisonment: Rigorous, strict. Cf. 2 b. Now *rare.*

1423 JAS. I *Kingis Q.* 25 In strayte ward and in strong prisoun. 1432–50 tr. *Higden* (Rolls) IV. 341 Seynte Iohn Baptiste was heded after that he hade bene in streyte kepynge or in prison in this yere. 1554 RIDLEY in Coverdale *Godly Lett. Martyrs* (1564) 61 Weare..separated..and much straite watching of the baylifes is about vs that there be no priuy conference amongest vs. 1639 FULLER *Holy War* v. vi. 238 He had a strait watch set upon them. 1641 MILTON *Ch. Govt.* I. i. 6 Yea though she be well instructed, yet is she still under a more strait tuition. 1716 LADY M. W. MONTAGU *Let. to C'tess Mar* 21 Nov., She endures all the terrors of a strait imprisonment. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* III. iv. iii, Back to thy Arrestment, poor Brissot; or indeed to strait confinement.

† c. Of a siege: Close. *Obs.*

1603 DRAYTON *Heroic Ep.* vi. (Bl. Prince to C'tess Salisb.) 80 Thy brest..That may be batter'd, or be vndermin'd, Or by straite siege for want of succour pin'd. 1647 MAY *Hist. Parlt.* III. vi. 101 Gloucester was thus beseiged, and the seige so straight, that no intelligence could possibly arrive at it. 1657 TRAPP *Comm. Job* v. 20 [God delivered] the Rochellers by a miraculous shoale of shel-fish, cast up into their town in a strait seige.

III. Limited in scope, degree, or amount.

† 10. Scanty, poor in degree. *Obs.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 24745 Þof mans wijt be neuer sa s'wait, Sco mai well bring it vnto nait.

† 11. Of fortune, means, circumstances: Limited so as to cause hardship or inconvenience; inadequate. *Obs.* Cf. STRAITENED *ppl. a.*

c 1386 CHAUCER *Friar's T.* 128 My wages been ful streite and ful smale. *c* 1400 *Sowdone Bab.* 2533 Therefore sende we to Charles,..And certyfye him of oure strayte beinge. *a* 1617 BAYNE *On Eph.* (1658) 25 A great Heir is often held to strait allowance. 1647 CLARENDON *Hist. Reb.* I. § 131 If he had not..been too much grieved and wrung by an uneasy and strait fortune, he would have been an excellent man of business. 1706–7 J. LOGAN in *Pennsylv. Hist. Soc. Mem.* X. 197 Money is hard to be got out of the Treasury these strait times. 1722 WOLLASTON *Relig. Nat.* ix. 181, I am not of opinion..that virtue and prudence can always..mend a strait fortune. 1741 'T. BETTERTON' *Mem. Mrs. Anne Oldfield* 2 Mrs. Oldfield being left in strait Circumstances, She and Daughter lived for some time with her Sister. 1780 A. NASH in Sparks *Corr. Amer. Rev.* (1853) III. 108 They were very soon reduced to strait allowance.

b. Of a person: In want *of*, straitened *for*. *Obs.* exc. *dial.*

1662 J. STRYPE in *Lett. Lit. Men* (Camden) 178 If you are not too straight of money, send me some. 1866 W. GREGOR *Banff Gloss., Stret...* (3) In want of; as 'He's gey stret o' siller.' 1881 *Leicestersh. Gloss.* s.v. *Stret*, 'As we're so stret for speakers to-dee,' was the commencement of an oration at an agricultural dinner.

12. Of words: Limited in application or signification. *Obs.* exc. *dial.*

c 1380 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* III. 415 And, for hit were to streyte to lordship of Crist to be a special lord of Jude or Jerusalem, þerfore he bad þat þei schulde calle him Lorde. 1480 *Coventry Leet Bk.* 456 The seid Maire & his Brethern seyn that the wordes in the seid Tripartite be not so speciall & streyt as the seid prior taketh hem. 1558 TRAHERON *Expos. John* G iij, The worlde in this place signifieth al men. For it can not be taken in a straighter sense. 1654 Z. COKE *Logick* 78 When a word is larger or straighter then the thing meant thereby, let another word, if it may be had, be put in the room. 1901 J. PRIOR *Forest Folk* iii. 36, 'I never—that is hardly ever—quarrel about anything.' 'That "hardly ever's" a bit stret for what's in't.'

† 13. Strictly specified, exact, precise, definite; esp. of an account, exactly rendered. *Obs.*

1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* v. 5644 For men sal þan strayte acount yheldе Of alle þair tyme. 1580 LYLY *Euphues* Wks. 1902 I. 308 Wee shall all bee cyted before the Tribunall seate of God to render a straight accompt of our stewardshyp. 1619 HIERON *Penaunce for Sin* xiv. Wks. 1620 II. 217 Touching the word Create: in strait speaking, it betokeneth the making of a thing of nought. 1638 T. WHITAKER *Tree Hum. Life* 4 To prescribe a pondus or streight weight and measure of nutriment to all tempers.

14. Of friendship, alliance, etc.: Close, intimate. Now *rare*.

c 1530 BERNERS *Arth. Lyt. Bryt.* (1814) 1 He was sworne of the kynges preuye and streayte counsayle. 1561 HOBY tr. *Castiglione's Courtier* II. (1900) 137 Suche as are coopled in streicte amitie and unseparable companye. 1568 J. FEN tr. *Osorius' Conjut. Haddon* 1. 1 Both for the streight friendshippe, as also for the long acqueintaunce betwene vs. 1587 GOLDING *De Mornay* ii. 18 There ye see yet a streighter vnitie. *a* 1617 BAYNE *On Eph.* (1658) 162 There is a most neer and strait union among the faithful. 1626 BACON *New Atl.* 25 By that time..I was fallen into straight Acquaintance, with a Merchant of that Citty, whose Name was Ioabin. 1647 CLARENDON *Hist. Reb.* IV. § 259 As a compliment to this kingdom, with which it [Spain] was then in strait alliance and confederacy. 1650 EARL MONM. tr. *Senault's Man become Guilty* 19 The difficulty is to know how the Soul..contracts Sin..To this I answer, that her streight union with the body is one cause of her sin. 1873 H. ROGERS *Orig. Bible* i. (1875) 24 Or any similar strait alliance..of religion and morality.

† 15. Reluctant and chary in giving; close, stingy, illiberal. *Obs.*

c 1290 *Beket* 335 in *S. Eng. Leg.* 116 Of is ordres he was ful streit..and he was in grete fere For-to ordeinen ani Man: bote he þe betere were. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* II. 390 Avarice,..Thurgh streit holdinge and thurgh skarsnesse Stant in contraire to Largesse. *c* 1412 HOCCLEVE *De Reg. Prince.* 1784 Of þin annuitee, þe paiement,..þou dredest, whan þou art from court absent, Schal be restreyned, syn þou now present Vnnepes mayst it gete, it is so streit. *Ibid.* 4522 But if so be, ..Thow [a miser] correcte thy greedy appetyt, And of streit kepynge empte þy delyt. *c* 1440 LYDG. *Secrees* 763 Twen moche and lyte. A mene to devise Of to mekyl And streight Coveitise. *a* 1475 ASHBY *Active Policy* 253 [To be] Ne to liberal for no frendlynesse. Ne ouer streit for noo necessite. 1483 *Vulgaria abs Terentio* 17 To be more sparynge and streytere [L. *vt frugalior sim*]. 1595 SHAKS. *John* v. vii. 42, I begge cold comfort, and you are so straight And so ingratefull, you deny me that. *a* 1628 PRESTON *Breastpl. Love* (1631) 62 Not to use them [our opportunities] because wee have straight hands and narrow hearts, is a signe we want love to Christ.

b. Of a person's 'heart': Contracted in sympathies, narrow. (Cf. *strait-hearted, -ness*, in 17.)

1760 STERNE *Serm. Luke* x. 36–7 How often do you behold a sordid wretch, whose strait heart is open to no man's affliction, taking shelter behind an appearance of piety.

IV. Combinations.

16. In parasynthetic adjs., as *strait-bodied, -breasted, -breeched, -chested, -clothed, -coated, -necked, -sleeved, -toothed, -waisted.*

1601 B. JONSON *Poetaster* IV. i, This *straight-bodied Citty attire..will stirre a Courtiers blood. *a* 1668 LASSELS *Italy* (1698) I. 61 Genoa look'd..like a proud young lady in a strait-bodied flower'd gown. 1585 HIGINS *Junius' Nomencl.* 453/2 That is narrow or *streite breasted. 1666 *Char. Mary-Land* (1869) 68 The *straight-breecht Commonalty of the Spaniard. 1620 VENNER *Via Recta* vi. 95 They are..hurtfull to the phlegmaticke..and them that are *straight chested. *c* 1450 *Brut* 297 Þe wemmen..were so *strete cloped þat þey lete hange fox-tailes..with-inforþ hire clopis, forto hele and heyde hire ars. 1858 MRS. GORE *Hechlington* I. xiv. 301 The *strait-coated young Reverence who replaced at the parsonage his defunct wide-skirted father-in-law. 1808 JAMIESON Addit. s. v. *Buck*, To make a guggling noise, as liquids when poured from a *strait-necked bottle. 1561 DAUS tr. *Bullinger on Apoc.* (1573) 16 b, This cleaueth iust to the body, and is so narrow and *strayte sleeued, that there is no wrincle at all in the garment. 1700 *Transactioneer* 18 One wide-toothed Comb, One *strait-toothed Comb. 1725 *Bradley's Family Dict.* s. v. *Drying Hemp*, There must be ..an open or wide-tooth'd, or nick'd Brake, and a close and strait-tooth'd Brake [for hemp or flax). *c* 1450 *Brut* 297 Long large and wyde clopis..; & anoþer tyme schorte clopis & *stret-wasted.

17. Special comb.: **† strait-handed** *a.*, close-fisted, grasping, stingy; hence **† strait-handedness**; **† strait-hearted** *a.*, ungenerous, exacting, mean; hence **† strait-heartedness**; **† strait-mouthed** *a.*, reticent, uncommunicative; **† strait-winded** *a.*, short of breath.

1600 G. ABBOT *Jonah* 38 They who are otherwise *straight-handed enough in promoting that which is good, will spare no cost at all to further that which is evil. 1679 J. GOODMAN *Penitent Pardoned* III. vi. (1713) 378 God is neither narrow hearted, nor strait-handed. 1649 BP. HALL *Cases Conse,* IV. iii. 410 The Romish doctrine makes their *strait-handednesse so much more injurious, as the cause of separation is more just. 1759 STERNE *Tr. Shandy* II. xvii, A *strait-hearted, selfish wretch. 1646 P. BULKELEY *Gospel Covt.* III. 269 There is a *straightheartedness..towards the Lord, in not ministering to the things which concern his worship; the least portion is enough. 1664 R. ATKYNS *Orig. & Growth Printing* 13 Some of them..are so *straight-mouth'd, that they do not declare the whole Truth of what they know on our Part. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* XXII. xxii. II. 131 The white [Sowthistle]..is thought to bee as good as Lectuces, for those that be *straight winded, and cannot take their breath but vpright.

B. *sb.*

1. A narrow confined place or space or way generally. Now *rare* or *Obs.*

1352 MINOT *Poems* vi. 56 A bare now has him soght Till Turnay þe right gate, þat es ful wele bithoght To stop Philip þe strate. *c* 1450 *Merlin* x. 160 Thei rode forth..to the straite betwene the wode and the river. 1544 BETHAM *Precepts War* II. xlvii. L ij, What is to be done when we do fyght in straites. Yf bothe the hostes mete and ioyne in strayte places, and neyther wyll recule,..then myne aduise is, [etc.]. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* II. vii. 40 He brought him through a darksome narrow strait To a broad gate. 1606 SHAKS. *Tr. & Cr.* III. iii. 154 Honour trauels in a straight so narrow Where one but goes abreast. 1673 J. LACY tr. *Tacquet's Milit. Archit.* 28 It cannot entertain a good quantity of Souldiers to defend it by reason of its straits. 1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* II. (Globe) 582 It was in a narrow Strait, between two..Woods, that we pitch'd our little Camp for that Night. 1850 MRS. BROWNING *Poems, Finite & Inf.* 1 The wind sounds only in opposing straits.

in fig. context. 1611 BIBLE *Lam.* i. 3 All her persecutors ouertook her betweene [1885 (*Revised*) within] the straits.

† b. *pl.* with sing. sense. *Obs.*

1545 RAYNALDE *Byrth Mankynde* 135 Cheiflye fomente them on the strayghts betwene the fundament and the coddes. 1609 BIBLE (Douay) *Num.* xxii. 24 The Angel stoode in the streictes of two walles [Vulg. *in angustiis duarum maceriarum*]. 1741 MIDDLETON *Cicero* II. x. 467 We got through the straits of the morass and the woods.

2. *fig.* A narrow or tight place, a time of sore need or of awkward or straitened circumstances, a difficulty or fix. Now *rare* in *sing.*; still common in *plural.*

sing. 1544 BETHAM *Precepts War* I. cxxxvii. G vij, Whych thing is not to be done, but in a great strayte, & vrgent necessitie. 1642 EARL OF CORK in *Lismore Papers* Ser. II. (1888) V. 117 By..deceiuing the trust imposed vpon you, you put two gentlemen to a greate streighte. 1692 R. L'ESTRANGE *Fables* ccccxxx. 407 The Lion finding what a Streight he was in, gave one Hearty Twitch, and got his Feet out of the Trap. 1748 RICHARDSON *Clarissa* (1811) III. 241 The streight, which the discovery of my brother's foolish project had brought me into. 1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* xxx, I would advise you to tell your strait to the Earl's chamberlain —you will have instant redress. 1847 TENNYSON *Princess* I. 84 Take me: I'll serve you better in a strait. 1879 CHRISTINA ROSSETTI *Seek & Find* 34 The sun..at the voice of one man..stood still; in the strait of another it retrograded.

pl. 1565 JEWEL *Repl. Harding* XII. xv. 474 But here marke thou, gentle Reader, into what straites these men be driuen. 1600 SHAKS. *A. Y. L.* v. ii. 71, I know into what straights of Fortune she is driuen. *a* 1628 F. GREVIL *Sidney* (1652) 18 That any man being forced, in the straines of this life, to pass through any straights, or latitudes of good, or ill fortune, might [etc.]. 1671 MILTON *P. R.* II. 415 Thy self Bred up in poverty and streights at home. *a* 1687 PETTY *Pol. Arith.* (1690) 48 Upon these occasions,..Merchants are put to great straights and inconveniences. 1756 MRS. CALDERWOOD in *Coltness Collect.* (Maitl. Club) 200 He keept them in great straits for money. 1849 HT. MARTINEAU *Hist. Peace* V. ix. (1877) III. 379 Never were the Whig rulers reduced to more desperate straits. 1894 *Solicitors' Jrnl.* XXXIX. 3/1 The defendant..is known to be in straits financially.

b. A dilemma; a difficulty of choice. ? *Obs.* Cf. STRAIT *v.*

In quot. 1611 only a contextual use of sense 2.

1611 BIBLE *Phil.* I. 23 For I am in a strait betwixt two [Gr. *συνέχομαι δὲ ἐκ τῶν δύο*]: *a* 1643 CARTWRIGHT *Siege* II. vi, The Straight is this, Either you must ruine th' Effect, or lose Your beauty by consenting.

† c. *Straits of time*: pressure or insufficiency of time. *Obs.*

1612 BRINSLEY *Lud. Lit.* vii. 84 In hearing parts in straights of time, thus we may examine only in those places where we most suspect the negligence. *a* 1703 BURKITT *On N. T.* Matt. xxvii. 61 It was done in haste, by reason of the straits of time.

d. In generalized sense: Privation, hardship.

1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. II. ii, They..did often deliver the Aristocrat brother officer out of peril and strait. 1872 *Daily News* 27 Sept., There will be almost an unprecedented amount of suffering and strait in our large towns.

3. A comparatively narrow water-way or passage connecting two large bodies of water.

When used as a geographical proper name, the word is usually *pl.* with sing. sense, e.g. *the Straits of Dover, of Gibraltar* (formerly *† of Morocco), of Magellan, of Malacca,* and *the Straits* as short for any of these; with regard to *Bass('s) Straits, Torres Straits*, usage is divided, while *Davis Strait* rarely appears in the plural form. The use of the pl. for the sing. began in the 15th c. A few writers, chiefly of gazetteers, use the sing. consistently throughout.

The Straits: in 17–18th c. usually = the Straits of Gibraltar; now, where there is no contextual indication, chiefly = the Straits of Malacca.

sing. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* III. 688 As is the raiss of Bretangze, Or strait off Marrok in-to Spanze. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Man of Law's T.* 366 The Strayte Of Marrok. 1527 R. THORNE in Hakluyt *Voy.* (1589) 251 They may return through the streight of Magellan. 1585 T. WASHINGTON tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* II. x. 43 b, We entred the streit of Hellespont. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* (1637) 671 The small narrow streight of Menai. 1703 *La Hontan's Voy. N. Amer.* I. 83 We entered the Streight of the Lake of Huron, where we met with a slack Current of half a League in breadth, that continued till we arriv'd in the Lake of St. Claire. 1774 J. BRYANT *Mythol.* I. 262 The narrow streight into the Euxine sea was a passage of difficult navigation. 1807 G. CHALMERS *Caledonia* I. II. vii. 319 *note*, Passengers used to speak across the streight from Mull to Hy. 1833 MRS. BROWNING *Prometh. Bound* Poet. Wks. (1904) 153 That strait, called Bosphorus. 1887 W. D. GAINSFORD *Winter's Cruise Mediterr.* 294 At 1 p.m. we rounded Tarifa, and at 4.30 were off Trafalgar, and through the Strait. 1896 KIPLING *Seven Seas, M'Andrews' Hymn*, Fra' Deli clear to Torres Strait.

pl. 1439 *Rolls of Parlt.* V. 31/2 Contres beyonde the Streytes of Marrok. 1547 BOORDE *Introd. Knowl.* XXXVI. (1870) 213 They [Moors] wyl come ouer the straytes. 1582 STANYHURST *Æneis* III. (Arb.) 83 The sea..Italye disioyncting with short streicts from Sicil Island. 1614 RALEGH *Hist. World* II. XXVIII. § 2. 632 They returned home by the pillars and streights of Hercules (as the name was then) called now the straights of Gybraltar. 1669 STURMY *Mariner's Mag., Penalties & Forf.* 1 Commodities of the Levant Seas may be brought from any Port within the Straights. 1775 *Cont. Sterne's Sent. Journ.* III. 177 You may drop the bloody dagger in the streights of Dover and Calais, to cleanse its sanguinary blade. 1812 BYRON *Ch. Har.* II. xxii, Through Calpe's straits survey the steepy shore. 1884 CAVENAGH *Remin. Ind. Official* vii. 259 A succession of men-of-war and transports belonging to both nations passed through the Straits. The hospitality of Government House [Singapore] was tendered to all. 1887 C. D. BELL *Glean. Tour Palestine* etc. 313 Passing through the straits of Abydos, the vessel made her quiet way..into the Sea of Marmora.

b. *transf.* and *fig.*

? *c* 1660 COWLEY *Ess.* ix. *Shortn. Life*, It is, alas, so narrow a Streight betwixt the Womb and the Grave, that it might be called the *Pas de Vie*. 1666 G. HARVEY *Morbus Angl.* iii. (1672) 9 The Infant..makes its sally out of the Womb, that's now grown too little to give it any longer harbour; and having thus passed the Streights, it's tossed into the wide world. 1805 WORDSW. *Waggoner* ii. 10 Where the scattered stars are seen In hazy straits the clouds between. 1850 TENNYSON *In Mem.* lxxxiv. 39 Mine own [spirit] ..hovering o'er the dolorous strait To the other shore.

c. *pl.* Short for *Straits Settlements*, the name given to the British possessions in the Malay peninsula collectively (near the Straits of Malacca).

1884 CAVENAGH *Remin. Ind. Official* vii. 372, I left the Straits a most flourishing colony. *Ibid.*, I must always look back with pleasure to my connection with the Straits.

† 4. A narrow pass or gorge between mountains; a defile, ravine. *Obs.*

1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* IV. 458 Syne till a strate thai held thair way. *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (Roxb.) xiv. 64 Fra Tortouse passez men..by land thurgh þe straytes of mountaynes and felles. *c* 1450 *Merlin* xv. 256 The kynge..sente hym worde to mete with hym at the streite of the roche magot. 1525 BERNERS *Froiss.* II. xv. 12, I wolde not counsayle you to passe the mountayns of Northumberlande, for there be mo than .xxx. streightes and passages. 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 391 Having won the straites of thalpes. 1585 T. WASHINGTON tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* IV. xv. 129 Through which narrow streights, Alexander..made his armie to pass. 1627 MAY *Lucan* IV. F 5 b, Below safe passages are found Through windings darke; which straights if once the foe Had in possession, Cæsar well did know [etc.]. 1753 HANWAY *Trav.* (1762) II. III. i. 86 Leonidas..defended the streight of Thermopilæ with four thousand men. 1778 PENNANT *Tour Wales* (1883) I. 111 They suffered the enemy to march along the streights of the country, till their forces were entangled in the depths of the woods.

5. A narrow strip of land with water on each side, an isthmus. Now *rare*. (*poet.*)

1562 J. SHUTE tr. *Cambini's Two Comm.* 20 b, The walle of Esmilia, that was buylded vpon the straite called Isthmos. 1568 HACKET tr. *Thevet's New found World* lxx. 113 Daryen, a straight of lande [Fr. *detroit de terre*], so named of the Riuer of Daryen. *a* 1586 SIDNEY *Arcadia* I. xii. (1912) 74 Afterward he passed..to the Corinthians, prowde of their two Seas, to learne whether by the streight of that Isthmus, it was possible to know of his [Diaphantus'] passage. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* IV. vii. I. 75 At the streights of Isthmus [*ab Isthmi angustiis*] beginneth Hellas. 1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* VI. 297 Diuers haue attempted to digge through this strait to make both Seas meete for a nearer passage to India. 1777 ROBERTSON *Hist. Amer.* II. (1851) I. 156 He supposed this strait or isthmus to be situated near the gulf of Darien. 1842 TENNYSON *Morte d' Arthur* 10 A chapel..That stood on a dark strait of barren land. On one side lay the Ocean, and on one Lay a great water.

6. A narrow part (of a river); *pl.* 'narrows'. Now *rare* or *Obs.*

? 1427–9 *Rolls of Parlt.* IV. 364/2 Many diverses straites and daungers been in the entryng into the river of Humbre out of the See. 1568 HACKET tr. *Thevet's New found World* XXV. 40 b, The straight of our riuer being about a gunne shotte brode. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* (1637) 199 That little river Lid, here at the bridge, gathered into a streight, and pent in between rocks, runneth down amaine. 1665 MANLEY *Grotius' Low-C. Wars* 481 Coming to the River..whose long and narrow Streights & Fords were very troublesome to passe. 1836 W. IRVING *Astoria* II. 189 The long and terrific strait of the river set all further progress at defiance.

† 7. A narrow lane, alley, or passage. *Obs.*

1614 B. JONSON *Barth. F.* II. vi, Looke into any Angle o' the towne (the Streights or the Bermuda's) where the quarrelling lesson is read. *a* 1637 — *Underwoods, Ep. to Sackville* 82 These men..turne Pyrats here at Land, Ha' their Bermudas and their streights i' th' Strand. 1622 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Water-Cormorant* D 2 b, And passing through a narrow obscure strait, The thieving knaue the purse he nimbly nims. 1712 [see PASS *sb.*1 3 f.].

8. The narrow part (of anything tubular); a narrow passage in the body.

1558 WARDE tr. *Alexis' Secr.* (1568) 105 By that meanes it maye stoppe the strayte of the funnell. 1567 MAPLET *Gr. Forest* 40 Dictamus is an Herbe..very wonderfull in loosening & vnbinding the straights of the bodie. 1831 R. KNOX *Cloquet's Anat.* 119 This strait..is circumscribed anteriorly

by the symphysis of the pubes, on the sides by the rami. 1881 *Trans. Obstetr. Soc. Lond.* XXII. 41 The vaginal stricture necessitating the performance of the operation through a narrow unyielding strait. 1890 G. M. Gould *New Med. Dict.* s. v. *Pelvis, Straits of Pelvis*, superior and inferior, the planes of the inlet and outlet.

† **9.** *pl.* Cloth of single width, as opposed to Broadcloth. (Cf. A. 4 b.) *Obs.*

1429 *Rolls of Parl.* IV. 361/1 Fyn Streites of Essex for xxiiii s. a pece, commen Strettes xvi s. 1483 *Act 1 Rich. III*, c. 8 All maner Clothes called Straytes to..conteigne..in brede a yerde w^t yn the listes. 1545 *Rates Custom Ho.* d iij, vi Strayghtes for a clothe. 1553 *Act 7 Edw. VI*, c. 9 An Acte for the true makinge of white playne streightes and pynned white streightes in Devon and Cornwall. 15.. *Christ's Kirk* 13 in *Bannatyne MS.* (Hunter. Club) 283 Thair schone wes of the straitis. 1706 Phillips (ed. Kersey), *Straights* or *Streights*, a sort of narrow Kersey, or woollen Cloth.

10. A tile about half the usual breadth used at the gable ends of a tiled roof.

1703 T. N. *City & C. Purchaser* 257 *Strait*, A Term us'd by Bricklayers, it is half, (or more, or less than half) a Tile in breadth, and the whole length. They are commonly us'd at the Gable-ends, to cause the Tiles to break Joint. 1887 *Dict. Archit.* (Archit. Publ. Soc.) s. v. *Straight.*

11. *attrib.* and *Comb.* as in sense 'of or pertaining to the Straits (of Gibraltar)', also 'suitable for ships bound thither'; **Straits-born** *a.*, born in the Straits Settlements; **Straitsman** (*a*) a ship suitable for the Straits; (*b*) *Australian* (see quot. 1846).

1686 in T. H[ale] *Acc. New Invent.* (1691) 69 Which upon due enquiry will appear to be very little more than a good Streights sheathing, and not above half so much as an East-India sheathing. 1693 Luttrell *Brief Rel.* III. 7 The Streights fleet and their convoy. *Ibid.* 10 The Dutch Streights and West India fleets are arrived. 1799 *Hull Advertiser* 13 July 2/1 The good brigantine Lady Bruce.. would make an excellent coaster or streightsman. 1846 J. L. Stokes *Discov. in Australia* II. xiii. 449 Straitsmen is the name by which those who inhabit the eastern and western entrance of Bass Strait are known. 1907 *Q. Rev.* July 180 The Straits-born Chinaman.

C. *adv.*

1. Tightly. *Obs.* exc. *dial.*

c 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 197 *Nos sumus quasi serpentes terre corpore adhereutes*...We bed alse þe neddre, hie smuzð strect bi þe eorðe. *c* 1374 Chaucer *Troylus* IV. 1689 After that þei longe compleined badde And ofte I-kiste & streite in Armes folde That þe day gan rise. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xxxiii. (*George*) 288 þai þat schupe þaim to duel stil, strat stekine set þe ȝettis til. *c* 1386 Chaucer *Prol.* 457 Hir hosen weren of fyn scarlet reed Ful streite yteyd. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 2815 By the Regions of Rene rode þai ferre, Streit by the stremys of the stithe londys. *c* 1420 ? Lydg. *Assembly of Gods* 539 Sodeynly..constreynyd ..Was the ground to close hys superficiall face So strayte that to scape Eolus had no space. *c* 1450 *Mirk's Festial* 9 þay bonden hym to þe crosse..so hard and strayte, þat þe blod wrast apon yche a knot. 1523–34 Fitzherb. *Husb.* § 56 To be loseskinned, that it stycke not harde nor streyte to his rybbes. 1534 More *Dial. Conf. agst. Trib.* III. xxvii. (1553) V ij b, The scorneful crowne of sharpe thornes beaten doune vpon hys holye head so strayte and so depe, that on euerye parte hys blessed bloude issued out. 1561 Hoby tr. *Castiglione's Courtier* II. (1900) 197 The two..layed hande upon Cesar with me and helde him streict. 1596 Dalrymple tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* II. 7 So strate vses the knot of vertue to be knutt betueine gud men. 1601 B. Jonson *Poetaster* III. iv, Sirrah, boy, brace your drumme a little straighter. 1684 R. Waller *Nat. Exper.* 38 Close then the folds of the Bladder, and bind it very strait round the Neck. 1884–6 *Chester Gloss.*, *Stret*, tightly. 'Tee it stret,' tie it tightly.

† **b.** With close bonds of fealty, friendship, servitude, etc. *Obs.*

1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xxxvii. (*Vincencius*) 401 For þo he brynt wes in þe fyre,..stratar to god wes he bundine. *c* 1400 *Beryn* 3643 Geffrey with his wisdom held hem hard & streyte. 1590 Spenser *F. Q.* I. xii. 18 For by the faith, which I to armes haue plight, I bounden am streight after this emprize. 1592 Nashe *P. Penilesse* 37 God, who raineth him [*sc.* the devil] so straight, that except he let him loose he can doo nothing. 1672 A. Marvell *Reh. Transp.* I. 28 Some that meddle in it do it chiefly in order to fetter men straiter under the formal bondage of fictitious Discipline.

† **2.** Close; with narrow opening. *Obs.*

c 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* I. 134 And kitte hem streit [L. *strictius*] aftir thi good vyndage, And, grapis fewe yhad, let kitte hem large [L. *latius*]. 1641 Milton *Ch. Govt.* I. vii. 30 And still the ofter we loose [the offers], the straiter the doore opens, and the lesse is offer'd.

† **3.** In a crowded condition; with insufficient room. *Obs.*

c 1450 Lovelich *Grail* xlviii. 21 For so streite here, sire, we Sitte,..In distresse And In Mal Ese. 1551 Robinson tr. *More's Utopia* II. v. (1895) 159 To thintent the sycke..shuld not lye to thronge or strayte.

† **4.** In strait or careful keeping, securely; in close confinement or strict custody. *Obs.*

c 1330 R. Brunne *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 16311 Haue þys y þen herte ful streit, How þey haue don vs many deseit. *c* 1385 Chaucer *L. G. W.* 723 For in that cuntre Maydenys been I-kept for gelosye Ful streyte lyst they dedyn sum folye. *c* 1386 — *Merch. T.* 885 Thogh they [Piramus and Tesbee] were kept ful longe streite oueral They been accorded rownynge thurgh a wal. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 615, I hete you..The flese for to fecche, and ferke it away; And withstond all the stoure þat it strait yemys. 1461 *Paston Lett.* II. 52 The Duc of Somerset, [and others]..are comen into Normandy out of Scotland, and as yette they stand strete under arest. 1470–85 Malory *Arthur* VIII. xxxv, 327 He took la beale Isoud home with hym and kepte her strayte that by no meane neuer she myght wete nor sende vnto Trystram nor he vnto her. 1568 Grafton *Chron.* II. 376 He did emprison them..commaundyng the Jaylours to kepe them streyt in Irons. 1611 Bible 1 *Macc.* xiii. 49 They also of the towre in Ierusalem were kept so strait, that they could neither come foorth, nor goe into the countrey.

5. Severely, oppressively; so as to cause hardship. Now *rare.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 24849 Strangli strait þan war þai stadd. 1303 R. Brunne *Handl. Synne* 3814 He durst come oute on no party Of alle þe twelue monþe..So was he beseged streyte. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 880 Þus þay þrobled & þrong & þrwe vmbe his erez, & distresed him wonder strayt. 1390 Gower *Conf.* I. 214 His fader grete werres hadde With Rome, whiche he streite ladde. *c* 1440 *Generydes* 1462 Generydes..hym [a prisoner] delyueryd onto Anasore, A gentill knyght keping the prison ther, To kepe hym hard and strayte in his office. 1460 W. Paston in *P. Lett.* I. 516 He saythe it schuld go streythe with zow wytheowt zowr witnesse were rythe sofycyent. 1568 Grafton *Chron.* II. 10 They were..compelled to eate all kinde of Vermine,..so harde and streit they were kept by the warre. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* III. iv. viii, Danger drawing ever nigher, difficulty pressing ever straiter.

† **6.** With strictness of conduct or rule. *Obs.*

1390 Gower *Conf.* I. 167 Of these lovers that loven streyte. *c* 1400 *Apol. Loll.* 36 þei kepe more specialy þe þings, & þe biddingis enioynid of men, & streytar þan biddingis & þingis enioynid of God. *c* 1400 *Rule St. Benet* (Prose) ii. 6 þa þat ere froward and recles, Lede þaim þe straiter. *c* 1450, Capgrave *Life St. Gilbert* xxii. 95 þei desired þat he schuld sumwhat tempir þe gret hardnesse of religion and suffir hem not to be kept so streith as þei wer be-for. 1535 Coverdale *Ps.* cxviii. 128 Therfore holde I straight all thy commaundementes, and all false wayes I vtterly abhorre.

† **b.** With rigorous exactness; with strict correctness; exactly, precisely. *Obs.*

1338 R. Brunne *Chron.* (1725) 84 Tuenty ȝere had he þe land & nien moneth streite. *Ibid.* 139 Henry dred disceite, He wild, that his conant were holden stable & streite. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xxxv. (*Thaddæus*) 80 Fore quhais [saulis] þu mon reknynge ȝeld, [as] strate as for þine. *a* 1450 Myrc *Par. Pr.* 1424 Whether hyt [the sin] be gret or smal, Open or hud, wyte þow al...Byd hym telle euen strast. 1590 H. Smith *Magistr. Script.* 2 And though they iudge here, yet they shall be iudged hereafter, and giue account of their stewardship how they haue gouerned, as straite as their subiectes how they haue obeyed.

7. Graspingly, stingily. *Obs.* exc. *dial.*

1390 Gower *Conf.* II. 136 The more he hath of worldis good, The more he wolde it kepe streyte. 1853 W. Watson *Poems* 16 (E.D.D.) They grip their gear sae stret They live an' die in their ain debt.

8. Comb. with pa. pples., as *strait-besieged, -braced, -embraced, -tied.* Also Strait-laced *a.*

1648 J. Beaumont *Psyche* IX. xviii, When sly Danger near Our *strait-besieged Soul or Body draws. 1847 Tennyson *Princess* Prol. 36 O miracle of women,..O noble heart who, being strait-besieged By this wild king to force her to his wish, Nor bent, nor broke. 1627 Drayton *Agincourt* cxc. 39 The dreadfull bellowing of whose *strait-brac'd Drumes, To the French sounded like the dreadfull doome. 1648 J. Beaumont *Psyche* I. clxxiv, Those arms that courteous Vine About her *strait-embraced Elm doth throw. *c* 1520 Skelton *Magnyf.* 852 Beyonde Measure My sleue is wyde, Al of Pleasure My hose *strayte tyde.

† **Strait,** *v. Obs.* Forms: see the adj. [f. Strait *a.*]

1. *trans.* ? To brace up to effort.

[Perh. a different word: cf. ON. *streita-sk* to struggle.]

1340–70 *Alex. & Dind.* 756 Summe [of your idols] 3ou strenkþen to striue & straiten 3our minde, & somme eggen in ese to eten and to drinke.

2. As rendering of Vulg. *coartare, artare*, lit. to press together, contract.

a 1340 Hampole *Psalter* xxxiv. 6 And aungel of lord straitand [Vulg. *coartans*] þaim. 1382 Wyclif *Job* xviii. 7 The goingis of his vertue shul be streitid [Vulg. *artabuntur*]. — *Joel* ii. 8 Eche shal not streyte [Vulg. *non coartabit*] his brother, eche shuln go in his path.

3. To narrow (e. g. the course of a river, a street).

1421 *Coventry Leet Bk.* 31 That þe Ryuer and the brokes ..& allso the Red-dyche be enlargid..þe wiche, be encrochment of dwellers of both sydes, be strayted and narrowid, & with filthe, dong and stonys the watur stoppyd of his cours. 1510 *Sel. Cases Star Chamber* (Selden Soc.) II. 69 [He] made..many wharffes stathes & keyes..Wherby the seide porte is greatly streyted and hurted..and shippes..applyeng the same for straytnes therof oftymes in greate Jeopardie. 1530 Palsgr. 738/1 It is to wyde, you muste strayght it. 1606 *Court Rolls* 174/16 *Wickham* [Essex] *View* 23 Sept. (P.R.O.), Henry Finch hath straited the way in Mosepett Lane to the great annoyance of the King's people. 1610 Holland *Camden's Brit.* I. 1 The-sea is so streited, that some thinke the land there was pierced thorow, and received the seas into it. 1615 *Manwood's Lawes Forest* xxiii. § 7. 228 If any man haue stopped or strayted any Church-way, Mill-way, or other wayes..you shall do us to weet thereof.

b. *intr.* To become narrowed, to narrow.

a 1552 Leland *Itin.* (1910) V. 52 Dargwent..casteth owt an arme of his abundant water that maketh a poole,..and afterward strayteth, and at the last cummeth ynto Dargwent, and so maketh an isle.

4. To shut up in or force into a narrow space.

c 1420 ? Lydg. *Assembly of Gods* 1633 Lyke as Eolus, beyng at hys large, Streytyd hym sylf thorow his owne lewdenesse. 1534 More *Treat. Passion* Wks. 1347/2 The tyme shall come whan..the churche by persecucion [shal be] so strayghted into so narow a corner, that..it shall seeme that there shall bee than no chrysten countreyes left at all. 1571 Campion *Hist. Irel.* vii. (1633) 23 All sorts brake truce and amity with the Gyants, and straited them up so, that from all corners of the land, they must needes assemble into one field. 1579 Fenton *Guicciard.* VIII. 442 At the beginning our towne was strayted. 1579–80 North *Plutarch, Crassus* (1595) 610 He ..straighted the battell of his footemen [Amyot *estroissit la bataille de ses gens de pied*]. *c* 1611 Chapman *Iliad* XIV. 28 Which..yet suffisd, to hide them, though their men Were something streighted [Gr. στεινοντο δὲ λαοί]. 1612 J. Davies (Heref.) *Muse's Sacrif.* (Grosart) 83/2 My Body's but the Prison of my Soule; which straits her more, the more that Prison's free. 1641 Best *Farm. Bks.* (Surtees) 21 Your best way will bee to howse them all night, viz.:—to lye them in some howse or barne wheare they may not bee straited for roome.

5. a. ? To do violence to, to mar.

1390 Gower *Conf.* II. 341 Bot for he wolde be nomore Among the wommen so coveited, The beaute of his face streited He hath.

b. To press hardly upon.

1460 Capgrave *Chron.* (Rolls) 309 Ther took he a preest of the secte, and othir servauntis of his, whom the lord Bergeveni streyted so, that thei told wher Oldcastelle was hid. 1594 in *Highl. Papers* (S.H.S.) I. 186 My Lord Argyll had straitit him verie sore about a band quhilk he had with Huntly. 1614 Gorges *Lucan* x. Argt., Cæsar..By ship to Pharos takes his flight. Where being straighted by his foes, From thence by swimming safely goes.

c. To bring into straits, subject to hardship.

1579–80 North *Plutarch, Sertorius* (1595) 633 Hauing straighted his enemies with scarcitie of victuals. 1633 *Orkney Witch Trial* in *Abbotsford Club Misc.* 152 Scho and hir haill fammillie was straitit with drouth for the space off xx dayis ore ane mounth. *c* 1640 Mure *Ps.* cvii. 28 While straited thus in these extreams Wnto the Lord they cry. 1654 Vilvain *Enchir. Epigr.* v. xii. 95 Exter..Hath with ten sieges grievously bin streited.

d. In *passive*, To be hard put to it, to be at a loss, to be nonplussed.

1611 Shaks. *Wint. T.* IV. iv. 365 If your Lasse Interpretation should abuse, and call this Your lacke of loue, or bounty, you were straited For a reply. 1624 T. White *Repl. Fisher* 357 We are not so straighted for words. 1646 R. Baillie *Anabaptism* (1647) 37 When in their debates against the baptism of infants they are straited with consequences from the circumcision of infants. 1647 Trapp *Comm. Rev.* xvii. 18 The Rhemists are so straited that they know not which way to turn them.

6. To tighten (a knot).

a 1542 Wyatt in *Tottel's Misc.* (Arb.) 66 And if I did, the lot, That first did me enchiayne: May neuer slake the knot, But strayght it to my payne.

7. To confine, restrict *to* a person, time, etc.; to confine *within* limits.

1581 J. Bell *Haddon's Answ. Osor.* 102 b, His doctrine being not straighted within the boundes of Nature. *Ibid.* 399 Yet ought not this power be so narrowly streighted either to one Byshop onely..as though there were none other Remission of Sinnes.

b. To restrict in choice. Const. *between, betwixt* (alternatives, options).

1633 Wariston *Diary* (S.H.S.) 110 Being straited by God (as I thought) betuixt three unsupportable burdens. 1637 Gillespie *Engl. Pop. Ceremt.* II. ix. 51 He is greatly mistaken, whiles he thinkes that a man can be so straited betwixt two scandalls, that he cannot choose but give the one of them. 1642 D. Rogers *Naaman* 30 Straighted betweene the choice of either famine, warre, or pestilence.

c. To restrict in freedom of action.

1533 More *Apol.* 249 Yet are they streyghted by the playne law that they may not so do at the seconde, whan the man is relapsed. 1613 Heywood *Silver Age* III. i, *Juno.* Nor powers of heaven shall straight me till the deaths Of yon adultress and her mechal brats. *a* 1617 Bayne *Lect.* (1634) 272 God in none of these [things] is straited. 1642 D. Rogers *Naaman* 149 Selfe hath hidebound thee and straited thee in thine owne bowells.

8. To keep ill supplied, to stint.

1513 Sir E. Howard in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* Ser. III. I. 149, I have geven such ordre in dispendyng of our vitaill that ther was never Army so straited, nat by one drynkyng in a day, wich I know well hath byn a grete sparyng. 1564 Harding *Answ. Jewel* xvii. 165 Herein I am more encombred with store, then straighted with lacke. 1601 Holland *Pliny* XVIII. xxi. I. 581 And surely, I doe find this rule of his most true,..in case a man have land ynough for to let his grounds ..rest every second yeare. But how if a man is streighted that way, and hath no such reach and circuit lying to his living? 1607 Bp. Hall *Art Div. Medit.* iv. Wks. (1625) 107 God hath not straited vs for matter, hauing giuen vs the scope of the whole world. 1669 W. Montagu in *Bucclench MSS.* (Hist. MSS. Comm.) I. 446 We are so straighted here in our charities, as we can furnish as yet but two hundred pistoles towards all the Church charities.

9. To reduce the duration or period of.

1571 T. Bannester *Let. to Cecil* 29 Mar. (P.R.O.) They went from yt, and streyghted owr yerelye Pencyon or Anowance to iij yeres. 1581 J. Bell *Haddon's Answ. Osor.* 403 b, Whereas Gregory the 11. reduced the Jubilee to the 33. yeare..Paule 2. and Sixtus the 4...streighted the Jubilee to the 25. yeare, in the yeare 1475.

10. To limit in amount or degree; also, to impute limitation to.

1533 More *Answ. Poysoned Bk.* Wks. 1121/2, I. sayed.. that Frith was but a foole so to straite and to limite the power of almightye god. 1596 Babington *Profit. Exp.* 185 Now in the time of his Gospell his goodnes is not streyted or diminished. 1647 H. More *Song of Soul* II. iii. IV. xli, So that the durance of the Deity We must contract, or strait his full Benignity.

Hence † **Strai·ted** *ppl. a.*

1581 A. Hall *Iliad* VII. 125 Lycurgus..slue him downe in strayted lane [στεινωπῷ ἐν ὁδῷ], where club he could not weeld. 1642 H. More *Song of Soul* I. ii. 42 But that full right..did so unbind His straited sprights, that [etc.]

Strait, obs. form of Straight.

Straiten (stre·t'n), *v.* Forms: 6 **streyghten, streyten,** 6–7 **streiten,** 6–8 **streighten,** 6–9 **straighten,** 7 **straicten, strayten,** 7– **straiten.** [f. Strait *a.* + -en 5.]

1. *trans.* To render strait or narrow; to narrow, contract (an opening, a passage, road, stream, etc.). Now somewhat *rare.*

1552 Huloet, Streyghten or make narrow, *angusto*. 1603 Stow *Surv.* 84 The number of..carts and coatches, more then hath beene accustomed, the streetes and lanes being streightned, must needes be daungerous. 1604 E. G[rimstone] tr. *Acosta's Hist. Indies* III. xviii. 176 The river being there straightened, and forced betwixt two high steepe rockes: the water falles directly downe. 1628 Coke *On Litt.* 3 An ancient grant..that a way leading to their common should not be streightened. 1660 Boyle *New Exper. Phys. Mech.* xxiii. (1682) 92 Into the latter [the Philosophical egg] we put a..rod of solid glass to straiten the Cavity of the neck by almost filling it up. 1683 Salmon *Doron Med.* I. 322 [This] straitens the Pores and Passages of the Body. 1695 in *Hertford Sessions Rolls* (1905) I. 420 [Enclosing part of a highway] by which means the said highway is much straightened. 1712 J. James tr. *Le Blond's Gardening* 43 Trees on the Sides, coming to..grow thicker, will in Time ..streighten a Walk very considerably. 1715 Desaguliers *Fires Impr.* 52 The Funnel..shou'd have several divisions to cut the Wind. Some have indeed streighten'd this Passage. *c* 1804 Jane Austen *Watsons* in Leigh *Mem.* (1871) 321 In passing through the latter, where the passage was straitened by tables, Mrs. Edwards and her party were for a few moments hemmed in. 1822–7 Good *Study Med.* (1829) III. 14 The throat is rough and straightened from the second day of the eruption. 1895 Petrie *Egypt. Tales* Ser. I. 62 The tow-path..was straitened..: on the one side of it was the water, and on the other side of it grew his corn.

transf. 1638 Ford *Fancies* IV. i. 49 We shall flourish. Feed high henceforth, man, and no more be streightend Within the limits of an emptie patience.

† b. To close the ranks of (an army). *Obs.*

1590 Sir J. Smythe *Disc. Weapons* 3 b, That a squadron of armed men..being readie to encounter with another squadron,..ought to streighten and close themselues by frunt and flanckes. *a* 1609 Sir F. Vere *Comm.* (1657) 95 The water now grew very high, so as both we and they were forced to streighten our front.

† c. *To straiten one's hand*: to become niggardly. *Obs.*

1622 Mabbe tr. *Aleman's Guzman d' Alf.* I. 251 My friends ..had already cast mee off, streightning more and more their hand towards mee.

† d. Phrase, *To straiten* (a person's) *quarters*. (Cf. sense 4 b.) *Obs.*

1647 Clarendon *Hist. Reb.* VI. § 237 The winning of Ciceter ..which, being upon the edge of Wiltshire, Barkshire, and Oxfordshire, shrewdly straitened the King's quarters. 1741 Middleton *Cicero* II. x. 395 Distressing him by straitening his quarters. 1781 Gibbon *Decl. & F.* xxx. (1787) III. 150 The Barbarian was gradually invested, on every side, by the troops of the West..; his quarters were straightened; his convoys were intercepted.

2. *intr.* To become narrow, to narrow.

1601 Holland *Pliny* V. xxxii. I. 114 Being past this gulfe, the sea beginneth to streighten again, and the land to meet neere together. 1615 G. Sandys *Trav.* II. 117 This arme of the Nile is as broad at Rosetta as Thames about Tilbury, streightning by little and little. 1731 T. Gordon *Tacitus, Agricola* II. 360 But a tract of territory huge and unmeasurable stretches forward to the uttermost shore, and straightning by degrees, terminates like a wedge. 1823 J. Thacher *Milit. Jrnl. Amer. Rev.* 96 We behold Lake Champlain widening and straitening as banks and clifts project into its channel. 1853 G. J. Cayley *Las Alforjas* II. 28 The valley ..shortly after this began to straiten, till it came at last to so narrow a gorge..that [etc.].

† 3. *trans.* To tighten (a knot, cord, bonds). *Obs.*

a 1645 Howell *Lett.* (1650) II. xvi. 28 You have much streightned that knot of love which hath bin long tied betweene us. 1659 Milton *Treat. Civ. Power* 58 As well may he loos'n that which God hath strait'nd, or strait'n that which God hath loos'nd, as [etc.]. 1741 'T. Betterton' *Hist. Engl. Stage* V. 66 Shewing the Teeth, and straitening the Lips on them, shews Indignation and Anger. 1742 Pope *Dunc.* IV. 29 Morality..Gasps, as they straiten at each end the cord.

† b. To render more strict or rigorous. *Obs.*

1751 H. Walpole *Let. to Mann* 1 May, On this his confinement was straitened. 1753 Richardson *Grandison* (1781) III. 46 Her Mother's wickedness giving occasion the more to streighten her education.

4. To confine in or force into a narrow space; to hem in closely. Also with *in*. Now *rare*.

1570–6 Lambarde *Peramb. Kent* 79 Vortimer..so streightned the Saxons in this Ile.., that for a colour they sent Vortiger to treate with him of peace. ? 1605 Drayton *Poems Lyr. & Past., Man in Moone* H 3, Wherin you might view A sea that somwhat straytned by the land, Two furious tydes raise their ambitious hand One gainst the other. 1622 Mabbe tr. *Aleman's Guzman d' Alf.* II. 216 They seemed.. to be like vnto straw, which..if you restraine and straiten it, ..it will shoot it selfe out. 1626 Bacon *Sylva* § 115 Waters, when they beat vpon the Shore, or are straitned (as in the falls of Bridges)..giue a Roaring Noise. 1637–38 in Willis & Clark *Cambridge* (1886) I. 119 Y^e^ wind could not there be straightned by Clare Hall, wch scarce reacheth to ye fourth part of y^t^ height. 1648 Gage *West Ind.* 123 The chiefest mountains which straighten in this City and valley are two. 1652 Nedham *Selden's Mare Cl.* 172 An In-land Sea, which in som places beeing streightned with Land on every side, exceed's not the breadth even of a River. 1667 Milton *P. L.* I. 776 So thick the aerie crowd Swarm'd and were straitn'd. 1684 *Contempl. St. Man* II. vi. (1699) 196 The Bodies of the Damned..shall be so straitned and crowded together in that Infernal Dungeon. 1698 Norris *Pract. Disc.* IV. 33 The Heavenly Plant is too much streightned and bound up to thrive, and cannot shoot forth its Branches very far. 1862 Stanley *Jew. Ch.* (1877) I. xvi. 321 The small tribe of Dan, already straitened between the mountains and the sea.

b. said of a hostile army.

1603 Knolles *Hist. Turkes* (1621) 944 Who..with all speed compassed in his enemies, and straightning them on both sides, tooke some of them alive,..and [etc.]. 1667 Milton *P. L.* IX. 323 If this be our condition, thus to dwell In narrow circuit strait'nd by a Foe. 1849–50 Alison *Hist. Europe* liv. § 47. VIII. 509 Finding himself daily more closely straitened by the insurgents [he] was obliged to retire.

5. To narrow or restrict the freedom, power, or privileges of (a person). *arch.*

a 1586 Sidney *Arcadia* 3. iv. (1912) 25 Their [*sc.* your daughters'] education by your fatherly care, hath beene hetherto such, as hath beene most fit to restraine all euill:.. not greeuing them for want of wel-ruled libertie. Now to fall to a sodain straightning them, what can it doo but argue suspition? 1611 Bible *Micah* ii. 7 Is the Spirit of the Lord straitned [*marg.* or, shortened]? 1619 Sanderson *Serm. Ad Clerum* i. (1632) 24 The liberty of a Christian..is then infringed, when the Conscience is bound and streitned, by imposing vpon it an opinion of doctrinall Necessity. *a* 1653 Binning *Sinner's Sanct.* xiv. Wks. (1735) 233 Was it the Satisfaction of his Justice that straitned him, and put a Necessity of this upon him? 1701 Sir D. Hume *Diary Parl. Scot.* (Bannatyne Club) 52 What was moved seemed to him to straiten the King..So this was let fall. 1858 J. Martineau *Stud. Christ.* 108 Our spirit..is so straitened by the bands of sin..that there is no freedom.

† b. To deprive partially, abridge *of* (a possession or privilege). *Obs.*

1523 Fitzherb. *Surv.* 8 b, And also the lordes haue enclosed a great parte of their waste groundes and streytened their tenauntes of their commyns therin. 1621 Elsing *Debates Ho. Lords* (Camden) 114 The peticioner to be called in and herde. Yf he fynde himselfe streightened of his proofes for not beinge herde, then to gyve him longer daye. 1647 Howell *Lett.* (1650) III. xv. 27 The King is streightned of that liberty he formerly had in the Isle of Wight.

† c. To restrict *from* doing something. *Obs.*

1622 *Relat. Engl. Plant. Plymouth, New Eng.* 65 Some who out of doubt in tendernesse of conscience,..are straitned and doe straiten others, from going to forraine plantations.

† d. To bind stringently. *Obs.*

1652 Howell *Giraffi's Rev. Naples* 11. 129 While thus in the Countrey there was a course taken to straiten the people to the Obedience of his Majesty, there was no time lost in Naples.

6. To narrow or restrict in range, scope, or amount.

1645 Pagitt *Heresiogr.* (ed. 2) 46 Because else the grace of God to his people is now..lessened and straitned more then before. 1650 Jer. Taylor *Holy Living* iv. § 7 (1676) 237 Let not young beginners in Religion..straiten their liberty by vows of long continuance. 1653 H. More *Antid. Ath.* II. ix. (1712) 67 The reason why Birds are Oviparous.. but do not bring forth their young alive, is..that neither the Birds of prey, the Serpent nor the Fowler, should streighten their generations too much. 1708 Addison *Pres. St. War* 8 We may only add, that the same Causes which streighten the British Commerce, will naturally enlarge the French. 1709 T. Robinson *Vindic. Mosaick Syst.* 79 The Divine Providence..so streightens their Increase, that they [Tigers] may not be too offensive and destructive, either of Man or Beast. 1778 Hartley *Swedenborg's Heaven & Hell* (1851) Pref. p. xlviii, God forbid that we should go about to straiten that mercy towards others (though even devils), to which the very best of us stand indebted. 1781 Cowper *Retirem.* 234 As woodbine weds the plant within her reach,..But does a mischief while she lends a grace, Strait'ning its growth by such a strict embrace. 1801 S. Turner *Hist. Anglo-Sax.* IV. v. (1807) I. 276 A vigilant armed peasantry..secured the property of the country, and straitened the supplies of the invader. 1855 Milman *Lat. Christ.* IX. ii. (1864) V. 212 They declared that they had no design to straiten the rights of the Holy See. 1863 Kinglake *Crimea* I. 34 The conquest of the shores of the Bosphorus..would straiten the range of England's authority in the world. 1868 Rogers *Pol. Econ.* xv. (1876) 211 It is supposed, and generally with reason,.. that profits must fall, and so business must be straitened. 1871 Morley *Carlyle* in *Crit. Misc.* Ser. I. (1878) 163 It is a question of temperament how violently either of them straitens and distorts the normal faculties of vision.

7. To reduce to straits; to subject to privation, hardship, or distress. Often said of besiegers, sometimes with mixture of sense 4 b.

1611 Bible *Jer.* xix. 9 The siege and straitnesse, wherewith their enemies..shall straiten them. 1645 in *Verney Mem.* (1904) I. 400 Chester is certainly very much straitened, and if not suddenly relieved doubtless will be lost. 1665 Manley *Grotius' Low-C. Wars* 127 After he had encamped in all the Parts adjacent to Bruxels, endeavouring to straiten the City, by wasting and consuming all the Fruits of the Ground. 1759 Hume *Hist. Eng. Ho. Tudor, Edw. VI*, ii. I. 323 De Thermes..took the fortress of Broughty, and.. straitened the English at Haddington. 1778 *Phil. Surv. S. Irel.* 324 With a threat to streighten them if they refused to comply. 1838 Prescott *Ferd. & Is.* II. xi. III. 101 The viceroy..endeavoured to straiten the garrison there by desolating the surrounding country. 1867 Trollope *Chron. Barset* I. xxxii. 267, I am sore straitened, and brought down into the very dust by misfortune.

† b. In *passive*, To be at a loss, to be 'hard put to it'. *Obs.*

1647 May *Hist. Parlt.* III. vi. 101 The Parliament..were much straightned how to proceed in the businesse, with the expedition which was required.

c. To inconvenience by insufficiency of something specified (as time, space, supplies of any kind). Const. *for*, † *in*, † *of*, † *with*. Now only in *passive* (somewhat *arch.*).

1620 Sanderson *Serm. Ad Pop.* ii. (1632) 291, I will not.. straiten my selfe of time for the delivery of what I am now purposed to speake. 1634 Sydenham *Serm.* (1637) 75 They are not..so straightned with time,..but they might sequester one solemne houre for the service of the Lord. 1655 Stanley *Hist. Philos.* I. xi. (1687) 29/1 These young Men, streightned in time, underwent the Yoke, and drew the Chariot of their Mother forty five Stadia. 1661 Marvell *Corr.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 60 We are as much straitned in paper and time at present as we shall be always large in affection and service to you. 1663 Gerbier *Counsel* 12 Staires ought to be so long, that the Attendants on each side..may not be streightned for roome. 1665 Manley *Grotius' Low-C. Wars* 219 That by shutting up their Haven, he might straighten the Townsmen of Provision. 1697 Dryden *Virg. Georg.* IV. 218 But streighten'd in my Space, I must forsake This Task; for others afterwards to take. 1706 *Col. Rec. Pennsylv.* II. 260 Finding themselves straitned in time,..requested [etc.]. 1761 Hume *Hist. Eng. to Hen. VII* (1762) I. ix. 310 The garrison [of Verneuil], being straitened for provisions, were obliged to capitulate. 1817 W. H. Havergal in Jane M. Crane *Rec. Life* (1882) 19 The arranging and planning it [his Sunday School] has straitened me much for time. 1853 J. H. Newman *Hist. Sk.* Ser. II. I. i. (1873) 6 If straitened for provisions, they [the Tartars] ate the chargers which carried them to battle.

d. To render short of money.

1699 Bentley *Phal.* 457 The Romans being straitned in the first Punic War, lower'd their Brass Money Five parts in Six. 1712 Addison *Spect.* No. 295 ¶ 1 The Education of these my Children..straightens me so much, that [etc.]. 1719 De Foe *Crusoe* II. (Globe) 508 My Nephew furnishing me with..a Letter of Credit..that I might not be straiten'd whatever might happen. 1796 Mme. D'Arblay *Camilla* IV. 320 It shall value him fifty pound a-year more to his income, if I straighten myself never so much. 1818 Hallam *Mid. Ages* viii. III. (1819) III. 91 The king, in short, was more straightened than ever. His distresses gave no small advantage to the commons. 1857 Kingsley *Two V. Ago* xxv, The old man thanked God for his good son, and only hoped that he was not straitening himself to buy luxuries for a useless old fellow. 1860 Froude *Hist. Eng.* VI. 488 The works had fallen again into ruin; and Mary, straitened by debt,..and a supposed obligation to make good the losses of the clergy, had found neither means nor leisure to attend to them.

† 8. To hamper, impede in action. *Obs.*

1607 T. Ridley (*title*), A view of the civile and ecclesiastical law, and wherein the practise of them is streitned, and may be relieued within this land. 1662 H. Newcome *Diary* (Chetham Soc.) 87, I preached but was a little streitned by a cold. 1664 Power *Exp. Philos.* I. 53 So Inartificial is Art when she is pinched and streitned in her Workmanship. *a* 1683 Owen *Holy Spirit* (1693) 264 This a Man hath when he is not from any Internal Defect, or from any outward Consideration streightened in the Declaration of those things. 1726 Wodrow *Corr.* (1843) III. 234 But pray do not straiten yourself with any thing I can do in, and please dash down any thing that is proper for me to help.

Hence **Strai·tening** *vbl. sb.* and *ppl. a.*

† *Straitening circumstances* (obs.) = straitened circumstances.

1598 Stow *Surv.* 231 After that is Grubstreete, more then halfe thereof to the straightning of the streete. 1646 H. P. *Medit. Seige* 130 When a fort or Garrison cannot be gotten neither by treatie, nor by streightning, the last attempt is commonly by storming. *a* 1652 J. Smith *Sel. Disc.* IX. 465 Separating them from those circumstantiating and straitening conditions of time and place. 1667 Milton *P. L.* VI. 70 Nor obvious Hill, Nor streit'ning Vale,..nor Stream divides Thir perfet ranks. 1692 Locke *Consid. Lower. Interest* 115 The Landed Man finds himself aggrieved, by the falling of his Rents, and the streightning of his Fortune. *a* 1732 T. Boston *Crook in Lot* (1805) 17 Providence..keeps them still in straitening circumstances. 1751 in J. J. Vernon *Parish of Hawick* (1900) 189 In case..his Widow should be reduced to straitning circumstances. *a* 1788 Gilson *Serm.* xvii. 498 They ardently long to be removed to that state themselves, where the straitening ties of sense, or corporeal relation, shall cease to hamper or keep down the soul. 1849 Ruskin *Seven Lamps* I. § 11. 21 The nice balance between the straitening of effort or enthusiasm on the one hand, and vainly casting it away upon the other.

Straitened (strē·t'nd), *ppl. a.* [f. Straiten *v.* + -ed [1].] In various senses of the verb.

1. Contracted, narrowed; insufficiently spacious.

1602 [J. Willis] *Art Stenogr.* A 5, Stenographie, signifieth a straightned or compendious Writing. 1694 Addison *Poems, Virg. Georg.* IV. 375 First then a close contracted space of ground, With streighten'd walls and low-built roof they found. 1760–72 H. Brooke *Fool of Qual.* (1809) III. 154 The king's lion..traversed the limits of his straightened dominions. 1800 Ht. Lee *Canterb. T.* (ed. 2) III. 153 He was..in lodgings rather straitened and inconvenient. 1822–7 Good *Study Med.* (1829) V. 80 About half an inch within the orifice of the urethra, at which part the passage feels peculiarly straitened. 1842 Tennyson *Locksley H.* 62 Cursed be the gold that gilds the straiten'd forehead of the fool! 1866 Rogers *Agric. & Prices* I. xxiii. 601 Anticipations of excessive demand or of exceedingly straitened supply. 1890 Bridges *Shorter Poems* III. vii, We steered Along a straitened channel flecked with foam.

† b. Limited in power or range of action.

a 1668 J. Goodwin *Being filled with the Spirit* (1867) 328 They that bring up such a report as this upon the Spirit, as that he is but a finite spirit, a created spirit, a straitened spirit, what do they do else but [etc.].

c. Contracted in intelligence or sympathy.

1722 Wateland *Serm.* Wks. 1823 VIII. 374 That we may not..grow straitened and narrow in our affections. 1860 Warter *Sea-board & Down* II. 400 He has but a limited and a straitened mind who [etc.].

d. *Straitened circumstances*: inadequate means of living, poverty. Also *straitened income, means*.

a 1766 Mrs. F. Sheridan *Sidney Bidulph* (1796) IV. 4 They believed she was in straitened circumstances. 1813 *Sketches of Character* (ed. 2) I. 21 There remained but a straightened income for the widow. 1838 Dickens *Nich. Nick.* x, To remind her of her straitened and altered circumstances. 1877 Mrs. Oliphant *Yng. Musgrave* I. 7 So far as his straitened means and limited stables permitted.

2. Confined in narrow space; having too little room; closely besieged.

1757 W. Wilkie *Epigoniad* VI. 175 Now, when hostile pow'rs With strictest siege invest our strait'ned tow'rs. 1854 S. Dobell *Balder* I. Poet. Works 1875 II. 11 You floors, in whose black oak The straitened hamadryad lives and groans.

3. Drawn tight; tightened.

1665 Dryden *Ind. Emp.* V. ii, Fasten the Engines; stretch 'em at their length, And pull the streightened Cords with all your strength. 1716 Pope *Iliad* V. 325 My Horses here detain, Fix'd to the Chariot by the straiten'd Rein. 1742

Young *Nt. Th.* IV. 307 Or holds he furious storms in streighten'd reins, And bids fierce whirlwinds wheel his rapid car?

4. Reduced to hardship or privation; having straitened means (see 1 d).

1716 Pope *Iliad* v. 255, I..thought the Steeds (your large Supplies unknown) Might fail of Forage in the straiten'd Town. 1888 Bryce *Amer. Commw.* cii. III. 438 But even in the East a good many may come from straitened homes. 1911 G. M. Trevelyan *Garibaldi & Making of Italy* ii. 36 Sums..which represented the widow's mite in many straitened Italian households.

Straith, obs. form of Strath.

† **Strai·thead.** *Obs.* [f. Strait *a.* + -head.]

a. Tightness, constriction. b. Closefistedness.

a 1400 *Stockh. Med. MS.* ii. 304 in *Anglia* XVIII. 315 3if eyther lewyd or prest Hawe gret streythed at hys brest, Modirworte late hym takyn. *c* 1440 *Jacob's Well* 119 Anoþer sqware of þis wose in coueytise, is straysthed in kepyng ryches.

† **Strai·ting,** *vbl. sb. Obs.* [f. Strait *v.* + -ing 1.] = Straitening *vbl. sb.*

1421 *Coventry Leet Bk.* 31 Dyuers perels had afortyme by floodys thurgh stoppyng and strayting of the same Ryvers. 1472-5 *Rolls of Parlt.* VI. 159/1 The outrageous enhaunsyng and streytyng of Weeres. 1591 Jas. VI *Let.* 12 June in *New Discov. Pontif. Pract. Persec. J. Udall* (1643) 43 Requesting you..that..it may please you to let them be relieved of their present straite,..respecting both their former merit,..and the great slander which could not faile to fall out upon their further straiting for any such occasion.

Strait-lace, *v.* [Back-formation from Strait-laced *a.*] *trans.* and *intr.* (for refl.) To lace tightly, confine. Hence **Strait-lacing** *vbl. sb.* and *ppl. a.* Also **Strait-lacer** (in quot. *fig.*).

1636 W. Durham in *Ann. Dubrensia* (1877) 20 Then they repine at their streight-lacing shore, Prohibiting their passage to his dore. 1668 Glanvil *Lux Orient.* vi. 69 Is not this to slurr his goodnesse! and to straight-lace the divine beneficence? 1675 Hannah Woolley *Gentlew. Comp.* 80 Endeavouring by strait-lacing to be as slender in the middle as the Strand-May-pole is tall in its height. 1693 Locke *Educ.* § 41, I have seen so many Instances of Children receiving great harm from strait-lacing. 1700 Congreve *Way of World* IV. v, I denounce against all strait-Laceing, Squeezing for a Shape, 'till you mold my boy's head like a Sugar-loaf. 1776 Sir J. Reynolds *Seven Disc. R. Acad.* (1778) 313 The strait lacing of the English ladies. 1811 Lamb *On Trag. Shaks.* Wks. (1876) 563 How cruelly this operates upon the mind, to have its free conceptions thus cramped and pressed down to the measure of a strait-lacing actuality, may be judged from [etc.]. 1820 T. Mitchell *Aristoph.* I. p. xxx, A course of straight-lacing and cool diet was bringing her a little more into compass. 1913 J. L. Paton *J. B. Paton* xvii. 309 A well-meaning straitlacer.

Strait-laced (stre·tlē·st), *a.* [f. Strait *adv.* + Laced *ppl. a.*]

† 1. Wearing stays or bodice tightly laced. *Obs.*

1626 Moryson *Shaks. Europe* (1903) 485 The[Irish] wemen generally are not straight laced..and the greatest part are not laced at all. 1650 Bulwer *Anthropomet.* Pref., No Maid here's handsome thought, unless she can With her short Palms her streight-lac't body span. 1693 Locke *Educ.* § 11 We should as certainly have no perfect children born, as we have few well-shaped that are strait-laced. 1698 Fryer *Acc. E. India & P.* 394 A Plump Lass being in more esteem than our Slender and Strait-laced Maidens.

transf. 1648 J. Beaumont *Psyche* IX. lii, The strait-lac'd Insect's slender Brood could ne'r Shrink up themselves into a scanter dress.

b. Of a bodice, etc.: Tightly laced. *rare.*

Cf. quot. *c* 1430, where *strait laced* is not a compound, but two words.

[*c* 1430 Lydg. *Min. Poems* (Percy Soc.) 201 Hire crowpe doth the semys shrede, Whan they so streyght lasyd been.] 1855 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* xviii. IV. 148 It was never, he [Child] declared with much spirit, found politic to put trade into straitlaced bodices.

2. *fig.* † a. Of things: Narrow in range or scope.

1549 Coverdale etc. *Erasm. Par. 1 Tim.* ii. 1-7 Lest Christian loue shoulde appeare to be but a straite laced loue. 1579 G. Harvey *Two Other Lett.* (1580) 64 He might haue spared..that same restrictiue, & streightlaced terme, Precisely. 1583 Golding *Calvin on Deut.* vi. 4-9. 272 But this exposition is too straite laced, and attaineth not to the verie meaning of Moses. 1686 Goad *Celest. Bodies* I. xi. 41 Natural Causes are not so straight-lac'd.

† b. Of persons: Shut up within oneself, uncommunicative, morose, unsympathetic. *Obs.*

1546 J. Heywood *Prov.* I. xi. (1867) 31 He is so hy in thinstep, and so streight laste, That pryde and couetyse withdrawth all repaste. 1549 Coverdale etc. *Erasm. Par. Ephes.* Prol. ¶ iiij, Whan were maisters more vnlouyng or strayterlaced to their seruauntes? 1571 Golding *Calvin on Ps.* xxvii. 10. 102 All mortal men who are of nature nigardly & streightlaced [L. *qui natura maligni sunt ac restricti*]. 1579 Lyly *Euphues* (Arb.) 54 Commonly if they be adorned with beautie, they be straight laced, and made so high in the instеppe, that they disdaine them most that most desire them. 1692 Norris *Pract. Disc.* 297 Is it then possible for a Man seriously..to contemplate the..Goodness of God, and..to be selfish and strait-laced, niggardly and covetous?

† c. Obstinate, indisposed to yield; grudging in gifts or concessions. *Obs.*

1560 Daus tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* XII. 162 b, He requested them, that they woulde not be ouer streight lased, but to graunt to so muche as they myght with a saufe conscience. 1579-80 North *Plutarch, Galba* (1595) 1113 Titus Iunius..onely made the Emperour straight laced to all others, whilest he himselfe tooke vnreasonably of all men. 1588 J. Udall *Diotrephes* (Arb.) 23 If it be not vnreasonable, you may assure your selfe of it, for you know, that I haue neuer bin strait laced against you, or anye of your friends. 1600 Holland *Livy* XXII. lix. 468 Our fathers also, notwithstanding they were most streightlaced, and hardly brought to capitulat and compound for peace, yet sent Embassadours..to redeeme their Captives. 1601 F. Godwin *Bps. of Eng.* 523 The Pope was somewhat strait laced in admitting him.

d. Of persons, their habits, opinions, etc.: Excessively rigid or scrupulous in matters of conduct; narrow or over-precise in one's rules of practice or moral judgement; prudish.

1554 T. Martin *Marr. Priestes* vi. K iiij, He had to doe with certaine holy and straite lased heretikes, whiche denied it to be lawful for a Christian man after his baptisme to retourne to his wife. 1598 Dallington *Meth. Trav.* V 2, They of the Reformed Religion may not Dance, being an exercise against which their strait-laced Ministers much inueigh. 1639 Saltmarshe *Pract. Policie* 175 Doe not alwaies stand upon the nice puntilioes..of state and place..; these that doe not observe this, are a little too strait laced for businesse either civill or religious. 1659 in *Trans. Roy. Hist. Soc.* (N.S.) XVII. 114 If hee or any man else in this place were soe straite laced that they could nott endure such thinges [as a market on Sunday], they might depart the towne. 1688 Shadwell *Sqr. Alsatia* III. iv, I am not streight-lac'd; but when I was young, I ne'er knew any thing gotten by wenching, but duels, claps, and bastards. 1705 Hickeringill *Priest-Cr.* II. ii. 16 This strait-lac't Doctrine seems contrary to the Justice, Mercy and Holiness of God. 1707 Filmer *Def. Plays* A 6 b, Had these strait-lac'd Gentlemen once gain'd their Point against Plays. 1857 Gladstone *Glean.* VI. iii. 81 Gibbon, no straightlaced judge, ..records his judgment [etc.]. 1870 R. Brough *Marston Lynch* xxix. 311 They have such ridiculously strait-laced notions. 1884 Sala *Journ. due South* I. i. (1887) 22 At no time during the period..have the print-sellers of the gay capital been very straight-laced. 1904 L. Stephen *Eng. Lit. & Soc. 18th C.* iv. 162 Richardson seemed to be a narrow, straitlaced preacher.

† e. Hampered by narrow rules of procedure.

1766 [? G. Grenville] *Sp. agst. Susp. Prerogative* (ed. 3) 14 But if that strange thing should fall out, our constitution is not so strait laced as to let a nation die or be stifled; rather than it should be helped by any but the proper officers. 1791 Jefferson *Writ.* (1830) IV. 527 Will Congress be too strait-laced to carry the constitution into honest effect?

Hence **Strai·tla·cedness.**

1876 M. & Fr. Collins *Vill. Comedy* II. xii. 150 This division of the people led in time to a general appearance of priggishness and straitlacedness in the village. 1903 A. McNeill *Egregious English* 38 Their assumption of morality and puritanical straitlacedness is admirable.

Straitly (stre·tli), *adv.* [f. Strait *a.* + -ly 2.]

1. Tightly. *Obs.* or *arch.*

1338 R. Brunne *Chron.* (1725) 337 He did þam fettre wele, streitly & right hard. *a* 1425 tr. *Arderne's Treat. Fistula,* etc. 29 Þof al it be bounden riȝt streitly at þe first tyme ȝitte vnnebe schal þe fretyng be complete in som men by a moneþ. 1483 Caxton *Golden Leg.* 407/3 Thenne eche kyssed other and enbraced straytely. 1579 Tomson *Calvin's Serm. Tim.* 255 Let ye Ministers of Gods word learne to be straitlier laced then other men. 1598 Grenewey *Tacitus, Ann.* XIV. ii. (1612) 200 Nero..embraced hir more streightly then hee was accustomed. 1653 H. More *Coniect. Cabbal.* 228 The soul may deem her self too straitly girt up. 1752 'Sir H. Beaumont' *Crito* 19 If it be a Child of the tenderer Sex, she must be bound yet more streightly about the Waist and Stomach. 1820 Scott *Monast.* xxxi, Even that ruffian hesitated to draw the cord straitly. 1850 Neale *Med. Hymns* 12 Let thy loins be straitly girded.

† 2. Urgently. *Obs.*

1340 Hampole *Pr. Consc.* 5597 Þe croyce on whilk he dieghed for man Sal stratly pray ogayne þe þan. *c* 1440 *Alphabet of Tales* 15 A monke þat hight Hubertus..when he sulde dy,..askid straytlie þat þe abbott myght com vnto hym & assoyle hym.

3. Narrowly; within narrow limits.

c 1400 *Ywaine & Gaw.* 674 At aither entre was, i wys, Straytly wroght, a portculis. *a* 1504 *Erthe upon Erthe* (1911) 28/39 Erth hath closed them ful streytly in his bowre. *a* 1619 Fotherby *Atheom.* II. i. § 8 (1622) 185 Yet is our capacity so much straitlier limited, that it cannot reach to any of their limits. 1851 Carlyle *Sterling* II. v, I remember finding him lodged straitly but cheerfully,..in a little cottage on Blackheath. 1877 Conder *Basis of Faith* v. 230 Nature..straitly restrains that latent capacity for variation, so freely evolved under the hand of man.

b. With reference to a siege or the like: Closely, narrowly, strictly.

1303 R. Brunne *Handl. Synne* 3811 Þo was he beseged so streytly, þat he durst come oute on no party. 1474 Caxton *Chesse* III. ii. (1883) 90 His gardes whiche wacchid and kept straytly thys forteresse. 1610 Holland *Camden's Brit.* (1637) 205 William the Conquerour, most straightly beleaguered it. 1728 Morgan *Algiers* I. 170 His..Wizir..revolted, and straitly besieged him. 1889 Rider Haggard *Cleopatra* I. iv, And for answer Achillas marched on Cæsar, and besieged him straitly in the Bruchium at Alexandria.

† c. *Straitly stead*: placed in straits, sore beset.

1375 Barbour *Bruce* VII. 216 The kyng so stratly stad wes thair, That he wes neuer ȝeit swa stad. *c* 1400 *Melayne* 42 He was full straytly stede. *c* 1440 *York Myst.* xxii. 187 Me thynke þat ȝe ware straytely stedde, Lorde, with þis fende þat nowe is fledde.

† d. *To look straitly to*: to watch narrowly. *Obs.*

c 1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 5022 He was so straytely loked to. 1568 Hacket tr. *Thevet's New found World* xlii. 66 They dare doe no faulte: for their husbandes doe looke straightly to them [Fr. *car les maris les regardent de prés*]. *a* 1569 Kingesmill *Man's Est.* viii. (1580) 42 If I have sinned, then thou wilt streightly looke unto mee. 1588 D. Rogers in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* Ser. II. III. 151 Who of late did his best to escape away, which is the occasion that he is now the streightlier looked unto.

† 4. In a niggardly manner. *Obs.*

1340 *Ayenb.* 34 Auarice..zuo disordene him sseweþ in þri maneres..ine wynnynge boldeliche ine ofbealdinge streytliche ine spendinge scarsliche. 1614 in *Liber Deposit. Archd. Colcestren.* 1612-16 lf. 70 The Testator was kept so barely and so straightly from victualls by his wife, that he was driven vpon necessitie often tymes to begg.

5. Strictly, rigorously, stringently; with strictness of observance. Now only *arch.* with respect to commands, questions, or obligation.

c 1290 *Beket* 163 in *S. E. Leg.* 111 So streitliche heo fraynede him. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 6105 Moyses..straitlike forbed þat þai Suld [etc.]. *c* 1380 Wyclif *Wks.* (1880) 322 Siþ þe contrarie is soþ, to whiche þise ordris ben streytliche sworen. 1461 in *Jarrow & Wearmouth* (Surtees) 245, I John Lawyson, be ye Auctoryte of our holy fadre ye pope,..inhibite straeictly and command..ye priour of yis cathederall church..that [etc.]. 1495 *Act* 11 *Hen. VII*, c. 3. Preamble, Dyvers enquestes..streitly sworne and charged before the seid Justices to enquyre of the premysses. 1586 T. Bowes tr. *La Primaud. Fr. Acad.* I. xxxix. 390 Amongst the famous..personages of olde time, no vertue was..straightlier kept and observed than Faith and Fidelitie. 1594 Shaks. *Rich. III*, IV. i. 17 (Qo.), I may not suffer you to visite him, The King hath straightlie [Fol. strictly] charged the contrarie. 1611 Bible 1 *Sam.* xiv. 28 Thy father straitly charged the people with an oath. 1676 Owen *Worship of God* 31 Jesus Christ streightly enjoyns His disciples. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* II. vi. vi, They question him straitly on that Mayor's Order to resist force by force. 1872 Tennyson *Gareth & Lynette* 785 Bound am I to right the wrong'd, But straitlier bound am I to bide with thee. 1878 Bosw. Smith *Carthage* xii. 244 He straitly charged Minucius to follow his policy, and on no account to risk a battle in his absence. 1879 Butcher & Lang *Odyss.* IV. 63 Son of Atreus, why dost thou straitly question me hereof?

† b. With regard to diet or mode of living. *Obs.*

c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xviii. (*Mary Egypt*) 103 [Þai] straytly þe lyfe cane leyde anerly in vatyre & brede. *c* 1470 *Paston Lett.* II. 419 He purposith to lesse his howshold, and to leve the streytlyer. 1480 Caxton *Chron. Eng.* III. (1520) 25 b, They lyved straytlyer than other men dyd.

† c. In close confinement; under strict control.

1375 Barbour *Bruce* XVIII. 512 And-bad haf him away in hy, And luk he kepit war stratly. 1535 Coverdale 1 *Macc.* xiii. 49 They in the castell at Ierusalem were kepte so strately, that they coude not come forth. 1579 Northbrooke *Dicing* (1843) 96 If thy daughter be not shamefast, holde hir straitly, least she abuse hir selfe thorow ouermuch libertie. 1633 T. Stafford *Pac. Hib.* I. vii. 51 They were presently caried to Castle Lyshin,..and there straightly kept in Irons. 1687 *Pennsylv. Arch.* I. 98 And the said Pirats,..to cause to be streightly imprisoned and kept in safe Custody.

† d. With reference to punishment, judgement, etc.: Rigorously, unsparingly, severely. *Obs.*

a 1340 Hampole *Psalter* cxlii. 2 Do noght straytly wiþ me in þi dome. *Ibid., Song of Hannah* 5 Straytly demand 3oure ald errours. 1467 *Coventry Leet Bk.* 336 Vppon peyn streitly to be punysshed be þe Meir for the tyme beyng. 1560 *MS. Cott. Cal.* B. 10. lf. 290 The bishops have of late ..dealt streightly with some persons of good religion. 1590 Spenser *F. Q.* II. viii. 29 So streightly God doth judge. 1668 R. Steele *Husbandm. Calling* v. (1672) 121 Taking occasion from his straits, to deal straitly with him.

† e. Precisely, exactly. *Obs.*

a 1395 Hylton *Scala Perf.* (W. de W. 1494) 93 Also thise wordes that I write take hem not to streytly but there that the thynkith by gode auysement that I speke to shortly.. I praye the amende it. 1398 Trevisa *Barth. De P. R.* XIV. xlviii. (1495) 484 Moost streyghtly to speke Ager is a felde that is not conteynyd in certayne mesure of lynes. *c* 1400 *Beryn* 95 For had ye countid streytly, & no thing left be-hynde, I myȝte have [etc.].

6. With reference to alliance or union: Closely, intimately. *arch.* (Very common in 16–17th c.)

c 1480 Henryson *Fables, Sheep & Dog* 33 Quhilk wer confidderit straitlie in ane Band. 1485 Caxton *St. Wenefryde* 19, I shal the straitlyer be confedered to yow. 1596 Dalrymple tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* I. 327 The hartes of the tua kingis straitlie knutt agane throuch beneuolent and true luue. 1614 Ralegh *Hist. World* v. i. § 4. 333 The Selimuntines were streightly allied to the Syracusians. 1684 *Contempl. St. Man* II. iv. (1699) 160 By how much a delectable Object is more..straightly united to the Faculty; by so much greater is the Joy and Delight which it produces. 1690 Locke *Hum. Und.* III. ix. § 17 Weight..a Quality as straitly join'd with that Colour [yellow] as its Fusibility. 1871 R. Ellis *Catullus* xci. 7 Yea tho' mutual use did bind us straitly together.

Straitness (stre·tnės). [f. Strait *a.* + -ness.]

1. The quality of being strait, in various senses.

a. Tightness; insufficiency or scantiness of breadth, area, or spatial extent, narrowness.

1382 Wyclif 2 *Macc.* xii. 21 It was vnable to be quercummen, and hard in goynge to, for streytnesse of places. *c* 1391 Chaucer *Astrol.* I. § 21. 33 For the streitness of thin astrelabie. *c* 1430 Lydg. *Min. Poems* (Percy Soc.) 50 No maryner durst take on hond To cast an anker, for straytnes of passage. *c* 1520 Barclay tr. *Sallust's Jugurth* liv. 76 b, Thus cowde nat the soudyours..contynue togyder at their worke..for strayetnes and dyfficultie of the place. *c* 1530 *Judic. Urines* II. vii. 27 Another may be by strettenes of ye waies of ye vryne fro ye raines to ye bladder. 1692 T. H[ale] *Acc. New Invent.* p. lxxxii, The great straitnes of the River. 1715 Leoni *Palladio's Archit.* (1742) I. 13 In leaving too little space between..Columns, the streightness of the vacancy will make them appear too thick. 1849-50 Alison *Hist. Europe* lxxxviii. § 51. XIII. 155 The streets in the old part of the town are narrow,..but their straitness only renders them the more imposing. 1902 Buchan *Watcher by Threshold* 269 He felt the torture of his collar and the straitness of his clothes.

fig. 1622 Bacon *Adv. Holy War* Misc. Tracts (1629) 132 It is a great Errour, and a Narrownesse, or Straightnesse of Minde, if any Man thinke, that Nations [etc.]. 1648 *Eikon Bas.* xi. 95 If the straitnesse of my Conscience will not give me leave to swallow down such Camels. 1662 Gurnall *Chr. in Arm.* III. xxv. § 2. 215 Because of the penury and streightness of these appellations. 1868 J. J. S. Perowne tr. *Ps.* cxxx. 7 Notes, Such is the straitness of our heart, ..that it [redemption] far exceeds all our capacity.

† b. Tightness of the chest; difficulty or 'shortness' (of breathing). *Obs.*

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* v. xxiv. (Bodl. MS.) In alle þese is..streitenes of breeþ. *c* 1530 *Judic. Urines* III. iv. 49 b, If that mater..come to the throte goll, it causeth straethnys and horsenes & grete dysese. *Ibid.*, It causeth cough & streythnes of breth. 1576 BAKER *Gesner's Jewell of Health* 72 The water..helpeth the straitnesse of the breast. 1578 LYTE *Dodoens* III. lxxi. 415 The disease called Asthma, whiche is a straightnesse in drawing of breath. 1580 T. NEWTON *Approved Medicines* 32 b, The fume of the leaues ..healpeth the coughe, & straightnes of winde. 1637 WOTTON *Let. to Sir E. Bacon* Reliq. (1672) 467 Since the late cold weather, there is complicated with it a more Asthmatical straitness of respiration then heretofore. 1683 SALMON *Doron Med.* II. 377 Heart-burning, Sowr Belchings, straightness of Breathing. 1710 FULLER *Pharmacop.* 272 [The Lohoch] is of excellent service against..straitness of Breath. 1725 *Bradley's Family Dict.* s.v. *Nightingale*, There is another Disease incident to these Birds, which is called the Streightness or Strangling in the Breast.

a. Strictness, rigour, severity.

c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xxvii. (*Machor*) 406 In honest conuersacione & stratnes of relygione. *c* 1460 *Play Sacram.* 737, I shew yow the streytnesse of my greuance. 1551 T. WILSON *Logic* I. G iij b, Christ..byndeth vs to a more straightnesse, that not only we should do none euill, but that also we shoulde consent to none euyll. 1603 SHAKS. *Meas. for M.* III. ii. 269 If his owne life, Answere the straitnesse of his proceeding, It shall become him well. 1772 FLETCHER *Appeal* Wks. 1795 I. 183 The straitness of the heavenly rule will soon shew thee how very far gone thy.. nature is from original righteousness. *a* 1842 ARNOLD *Hist. Rome* xliv. (1843) III. 249 The straitness of the blockade could no longer be endured.

† **d.** Parsimony, stinginess. *Obs.*

c 1460 METNAM *Wks.* (1916) 94 Yff this cornere be iuste off bothe lynys metyng to-gydyr scharp..yt sygnyfyith couetyse and streytnes in kepyng off money. 1462 *Paston Lett.* II. 38 Ther shal no thyng hurte hym but youre streytnesse of mony to hym. 1643 WHITELOCKE *Sweed. Amb.* (1772) I. 47 This straightnes of the councell raysed many serious thoughts in Whitelocke.

† **e.** Scantiness, limited amount. *Obs.*

c 1698 LOCKE *Cond. Underst.* § 3 Wks. 1714 III. 391 The Straitness of the Conveniences of Life amongst them. 1725 N. BAILEY *Fam. Colloq. Erasm.* (1733) 120 You see, not the Affluence, but the Straitness of my Fortune. 1772 [SHREWSOLE & DENNE] *Hist. Rochester* 105 By the straitness of its income..is this diocese unluckily distinguished from almost every other see in the kingdom.

† **f.** *Straitness of time*: = 'straits of time', STRAIT *sb.* 2 c. *Obs.* (Very common in the 16–17th c.)

1545 ASCHAM *Toxoph.* I. (Arb.) 48 These two thinges, straytenesse of tyme, and euery man his trade of liuing, are the causes that so fewe men shotes. 1570 DEE *Math. Pref.* A iiij b, Though I haue ben pinched with straightnes of tyme. 1621 ELSING *Debates Ho. Lords* (Camden) 5 The colleccions are made soe well as the streightnes of the tyme woulde permitte. 1657 in *Burton's Diary* (1828) II. 229 In regard of the straitness of time, you have always let loose that rule by a proviso.

g. Straitened condition (of circumstances). *rare.*

1740 LD. HARRINGTON *Let.* in *10th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. I. 275 The extreme Streightness of my Family Circumstances. 1829 EVERETT *Orat.* (1850) II. 13 He was never employed in [public affairs],..the straitness of his circumstances keeping him close to his trade.

† **2.** *concr.* A strait place. *Obs.*

1625 PURCHAS *Pilgrims* II. 1124 Where..is the narrowest and streightest passage of the Streight. This streightnesse [Bab-el-Mandeb], of the neighbouring people..is called *Albabo*.

† **3.** Want of room. *Obs.*

1586 in J. Morris *Troubles Cath. Forefathers* (1875) 76 And as many [are] pestered into every chamber as it will receive, by reason of which throng and straitness oftentimes infectious sicknesses do reign amongst vs. 1611 BIBLE *Job* xxxvi. 16 Euen so would he haue remooued thee out of the strait into a broad place, where there is no straitnesse. 1633 T. STAFFORD *Pac. Hib.* II. x. 192 The rest of the Armie.., lodged there..although with great straightnesse, the place contayning not aboue two hundred houses. 1775 *Ann. Reg.* 137* Having been before much incommoded by the streightness in which they were confined in Boston.

4. Hardship, distress; privation, straitened circumstances. (Cf. 1 g.) *arch.*

a 1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* xvii. 22 When we suffire fleysly straytnes, he ledis vs in gastly breed. 1436 *Rolls of Parlt.* IV. 498/2 They have suffred right grete streitenesse, as well in their Persones as in their Godes. 1535 COVERDALE *Job* xxxvi. 15 The poore delyuereth he out of his straytnesse, & id comforteth soch as be in necessite and trouble. 1737 WHISTON *Josephus, Wars* VI. ix. § 3 An army which..occasioned so great a straitness among them that there came..a famine. 1742 T. BARNARD *Char. Lady E. Hastings* 41 Add ..free and frequent Remission of Debts, in Cases of Straitness or Insolvency. 1845 J. H. NEWMAN *Development* 302 The need and straitness of the Church had been great. 1879 CHRISTINA ROSSETTI *Seek & Find* 211 In these two passages [of the Bible] summer wears an aspect of..hope..; winter, one which forebodes aggravated affliction, straitness, trial.

plural. *a* 1676 HALE *Hist. Common Law* xi. (1713) 212 The Laws of the Twelve Tables..had many other Streightnesses and Hardships which were successively remedied. 1868 BROWNING *Ring & Bk.* IV. 643 They needs must..publish all abroad The straitnesses of Guido's household life.

Strait waistcoat, *sb.* A garment for the upper part of the body, made of strong material and admitting of being tightly laced, used for the restraint of violent lunatics or prisoners, and sometimes as a means of punishment.

There are various forms of this appliance; in some there are long sleeves with no opening, which can be tied together at the back; in others the arms are covered by the body of the garment.

1753 RICHARDSON *Grandison* (1754) III. xxi. 271 She threatened her then with the Strait Waistcoat, a punishment at which the unhappy Lady was always greatly terrified. 1773 CRISP *Let.* in *Mme. D'Arblay's Early Diary* (1889) I. 261, I shall..have a strait waistcoat immediately put on him, debar him the use of pen, ink, and paper [etc.]. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* III. iii. viii, Within year and day we hear of her in madhouse and strait-waistcoat. 1881 BESANT & RICE *Chapl. Fleet* II. xviii, They had put the strait-waistcoat over him, which pinned his arms to his sides.

fig. 1824 LADY GRANVILLE *Lett.* 23 June (1894) I. 304, I put a strait-waistcoat upon my thoughts as the only way of keeping them within bounds. 1851 RUSKIN *Stones Venice* I. i. 22 The English Gothic was confined, in its insanity, by a strait-waistcoat of perpendicular lines.

b. *attrib,*

1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. i. ii, Neither indeed is there madness, of the strait-waistcoat sort. 1891 C. T. C. JAMES *Rom. Rigmarole* 159 Assuming as jaunty..a step as the strait-waistcoat tightness of my riding costume permitted.

Hence **Strait-waistcoat** *v. trans.*, to confine in a strait waistcoat; **Strait-waistcoating** *vbl. sb.*

1837 DICKENS *Pickw.* xxxix, Ve thought ve should ha' been obliged to strait-veskit him last night. 1859 W. ANDERSON *Disc.* Ser. II. (1860) 89 The maniac-like strait-waistcoating of worldliness. 1859 SALA *Tw. round Clock* (1861) 213 Till their own troublesome bodies..are securely shackled and strait-waistcoated up, and carted away in police-vans to deep-holded ships. 1874 HARDY *Far fr. Mad. Crowd* xli, Such strait-waistcoating as you treat me to is not becoming in you at so early a date.

Strak, obs. f. STROKE; obs. pa. t. of STRIKE *v.*

Strake (strēk), *sb.*[1] Also *a.* 6 **strack, strak, straake,** ? **straak,** 6–8 **straik**; *β.* 6 **streake,** 6–9 **streak.** [ME. *strake*, app. belonging to the OTeut. root **strak-* whence **strakjan*, OE. *streccan* STRETCH *v.* Cf. NFris. (Sylt) *straak* a stretch, *straake* v. to stretch oneself.

It is perh. impossible to distinguish accurately between this word and STREAK *sb.* (—OE. *strica*). From the 16th c., in some dialects, *streak* has been a possible phonetic spelling of *strake* sb.[1], and *strake* of STREAK *sb.* The two words, etymologically unconnected, have developed senses nearly coincident, and have to some extent coalesced.

There is also some confusion between this word and *strake* northern form of STROKE *sb.*]

1. a. A section of the iron rim of a cart-wheel. **b.** A strip of iron attached to the left side of a plough (= PLOUGHSTRAKE).

a. 1339–1 *Exchequer Acc.* K. R. Bundle 18 no. 34 (Publ. Rec. Off.), xii. strak' ferri pro rotis carectarum. 1334–5 *Durham Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 526 In reparacione 1 strakis, 35 straknaill' et 4 wyndbandes, 23*d.* 1407–8 in Hudson & Tingey *Rec. Norwich* (1910) II. 55 [To the same for] carte strakes, cloutes [and nails]. 1519 tr. *Rentale Dunkeld.* (S. H. S.) 299 Making 4 lie straikis of iron for lie extreis, 4*d.* 1538 ELYOT *Dict., Canthus*, the yron wherwith the extremytie of wheeles be bounden, the straake of a carte. 1539 *Archæologia* XI. 439, 23 stracks of iron for saker and fawcon whelys. 1587 *Wills & Inv. N. C.* (Surtees 1860) 308, xj straikes of iron, for byndyng a paire of wheles. *c* 1611 CHAPMAN *Iliad* XX. 347 His body..Which Grecian horse broke with the strakes, naild to their chariot wheeles. 1710 J. HARRIS *Lex. Techn.* II, *Straiks*, in Gunnery, are Plates of Iron of the length and breadth of one of the 6 Felloes, which serve for the Round of the Wheel of a Gun-carriage. 1794 W. FELTON *Carriages* (1801) I. 112 The strake is the short iron with which the common wheel is rung. 1832 *Scoreby Farm Rep.* 3 in *Libr. Usef. Knowl., Husb.* III. The plough..is..made of ash-wood, with a mould-board and slips, or strakes of cast iron. 1888 HARDY *Wessex Tales* II. 187 The waggon-wheels be without strakes. 1894 A. JESSOPP *Random Roaming*, etc. 138 The next best substitute for tyres, to wit, thick iron plates, called strakes, attached to the fellies by long spikes.

β. 1565 COOPER *Thesaurus, Vietus*, an hoope, or a streake of a carte. 1683 *Pat. Office* 229. 1 A new Invencion of makeing severall things of Iron..as Streaks or Tire for Wheeles, &c. 1797 J. CURR *Coal Viewer* 15 The corf.., contains neat measure clear of the boxes which cover the wheels, to the streak, 20491 solid inches. 1858 *Straith's Fortif. & Artillery* (ed. 7) II. 121 The English tire is on in six pieces, called streaks. 1876 VOYLE & STEVENSON *Milit. Dict.* 411/2 *Streak*, iron plate fastened in pieces to form the tire round the circumference of gun-carriage or other wheels [etc.].

2. A stripe of different colour from the rest of the surface of which it forms part: = STREAK *sb.*

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XVI. iii. (Tollemache MS.) Alabaster is a white stone with strakes of diuerse colours. 1496–7 *Rec. St. Mary at Hill* (1905) 33 A diaper towell.., with vj strakis at euerye ende. 1537 BIBLE ('Matthew') *Gen.* xxx. 37 Iacob toke roddes of..hasell & of chestnot-trees, & pylled whyte strakes [so 1611; COVERDALE, strekes] in them. 1555 EDEN *Decades* (Arb.) 381 Summe lowe places..looke like redde cliffes with white strakes like wayes a cable length a piece. 1577 B. GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* III. 116 b, Others commend the blacke, specially if he haue either white starre in his forhed, or strake downe his face. 1589 GREENE *Tullies Love* Wks. (Grosart) VII. 123 The purest Chrisolite hath his strakes. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* II. iv. 15 His burning eyen, whom bloody strakes did staine. 1610 GUILLIM *Heraldry* III. xiv. (1611) 131 His colour most commonlie sandie with a blacke strake along his backe. 1662 J. DAVIES tr. *Olearius' Voy. Ambass.* 70 As soon as their Maids become marriageable, they make several blew strakes in their faces. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* June 1645, They weare very long crisped haire, of severall strakes and colours. 1735 DYCHE & PARDON *Dict., Strake*,..also any Stroke or Mark of a different Colour upon Cattle, Fruit, &c. 1750 W. ELLIS *Mod. Husb.* III. i. 131 (E. D. S.) Mix beaten salt regularly with [the butter],..else the buttermilk, whey, and salt will shew themselves in strakes. 1879 G. MACDONALD *Sir Gibbie* li, There's ae unco black ane [cloud] yon'er..wi' a straik o' white, aboot the thrapple o' 't.

3. *Naut.* Each of the several continuous lines of planking or plates, of uniform breadth, in the side of a vessel, extending from stem to stern. Hence, the breadth of a plank used as a unit of vertical measurement in a ship's side.

Binding-strake, see quot. 1867. *Garboard strake*, see GARBOARD.

a. 1419 ALCETRE in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* Ser. II. I. 69 At the makinge of this Letter yt [*sc.* the ship] was in this estate, that ys to wetyng xxxvj strakys in hyth ybordyd, on the weche strakys byth ylayde xi bemys. 1537 *St. Papers Hen. VIII*, I. 569 The greate tymber of the ship is alredy framed, and thre strakes therof planked. 1627 CAPT. SMITH *Sea Gram.* xi. 53 By ripping off the plankes two or three strakes vnder water. 1727 BAILEY vol. II. s.v. *Strake, To heel a Strake* [Sea Term], a Ship is said so to do, when she inclines or hangs more to one Side than another, the Quantity of a whole Plank's Breadth. 1769 FALCONER *Dict. Marine* (1780), *Black-strakes*, a range of planks immediately above the wales in a ship's side. 1840 *Civil Engin. & Arch. Jrnl.* III. 349/2 The lower 6 strakes which form the bottom, and extend from the keel-plate to the turn of the bilge, are clinker-built. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.* 102 *Binding-strakes*, thick planks on the decks, in midships, between the hatchways. Also the principal strakes of plank in a vessel. 1892 KIPLING *Barrack-r. Ballads, The 'Bolivar'* 143 We..Heard the seas like drunken men pounding at her strake. 1894 *Act* 57 & 58 *Vict.* c. 60, Sch. 2 (1) Deducting the average thickness of the ceiling which is between the bilge planks and limber strake. 1896 KIPLING *Seven Seas, Derelict* 75 The footless, floating weed Folds me and fouls me, strake on strake upcrawling. 1914 *Blackw. Mag.* Apr. 501/2 The yawl was now being raised a strake that she might follow the long boat.

β. a 1612 RALEGH *Let. to Pr. Henry* Sceptick etc. (1651) 130 Which with a deep keel and standing streak she would perform. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* I. x. 104 The ship heeled afterwards two streaks to port. 1773 *Cook's 1st Voy.* III. iv. in Hawkesw. *Voy.* III, 567 He reported that three streaks of the sheathing, about eight feet long, were wanting. 1797 S. JAMES *Narr. Voy.* 192 Hove the ship six streaks out of water. 1840 R. H. DANA *Bef. Mast* XXXV. 134 We painted her on the outside, giving her open ports in her streak. 1856 'STONEHENGE' *Brit. Rural Sports* II. VIII. iii. 475/1 When first these boats were introduced, they were almost always built of four or five streaks, or planks, on each side. 1863 READE *Hard Cash* xiv, The Agra rose a streak; and the next wave carried her a little farther in shore.

b. ? Erroneous definition.

1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 166/2 *Strake*, is a seam between two Planks. 1704 J. HARRIS *Lex. Techn.* I.

† **4.** A reef in a sail. *Obs.*

1399 LANGL. *Rich. Redeles* IV. 80 For ne had þei striked a strake..And abated a bonet or þe blast come, þey had be þrowe ouere þe borde backewarde ichonne.

† **5.** A strip, narrow tract (of land or water). *Obs.*

1503 in *Trans. Roy. Hist. Soc.* (1902) 152 Beyng yn a strake of a medowe lyeng yn the bak syde of Crambroke. 1511 *Guylforde's Pilgr.* (Camden) 12 This Morrea is..almoste inuyrounde with the see, excepte one strake of a vj. myle brode, whiche yeueth entre into Grecia. 1577–87 HARRISON *England* II. iv. 155 in *Holinshed*, Lach lade, which is parted from the main countie of Barkeshire by a little strake of Oxfordshire. *a* 1578 LINDESAY (Pitscottie) *Chron. Scot.* (S. T. S.) I. 336 Ane great fowsie and strak of watter.

b. A stretch of ground travelled over. Also, length of stride; speed in travelling, pace.

1558 PHAER *Æneid* VIII. (1562) Cc 1, Thei through ye thornie downs..in armour iointly ryde, hie shoutes vprise, & clustring strakes thei gallup. 1804 in *Daily Chron.* (1904) 25 Aug. 4/7 [Her horse had] much the shorter strake of the two. 1823 W. TENNANT *Card. Beaton* v. vii. 171 Aweel, we've haen a fine strak, an' are now safe hame agen. 1865 MRS. WHITNEY *Gayworthys* xvi, 'Well, I'm restless,' replied Gershom,..'she's [the ship's] going a good streak, ain't she? We'll be in by to-morrow night, they say.'

† **6.** A ray, beam of light. *Obs.*

c 1400 *Three Kings Cologne* (1886) 34 Þe sterre..is nothyng liche to sterres þat be peynted here in diuers places: ffor hit had riȝt many longe strakys and beemys. 1594 NASHE *Terrors Nt.* Wks. 1904 I. 354 Bloody streamers, blasing Comets, firie strakes. *a* 1633 AUSTEN *Medit.* (1635) 28 So ..Follows him a heavenly strake, Darting Light through all his path. 1825 R. CARRUTHERS in F. Miller *Poets Dumfriesh.* (1910) 224 In quiet lang straiks the holie licht lay On the swaird.

7. A swath (of mown grass); a wisp (of straw).

1585 HIGINS *Junius' Nomencl.* 124/2 *Fœni striga*,..the swathe or strake of grasse, as it lyeth mowne downe with the sithe. 1909 JANE BARLOW *Irish-Ways* 2 To darn his thatched roof with strakes of straw.

† **8.** A wheel-rut. *Obs.*

1617 MINSHEU *Ductor* s.v., The Strake of a wheele [is so called]..because it makes a strake in the ground as it goeth. 1655 tr. *Sorel's Com. Hist. Francion* III. 53 At last, lighting into the Concave of a strake [F. *horniere*] made by the Wheel of the Sun's Chariot, there my Course was stopp'd.

9. *Comb.*: **strake-nail**, a kind of nail used for fastening the strakes to the wheel; † **strake-shide**, a piece of wood forming one of the timbers of a saw-pit; **strake-tire**, a tire composed of strakes.

1334–5 *Strake-nail [see 1]. 1570 *Wills & Inv. N. C.* (Surtees 1835) 329, I do gyue..vnto my Godsonn Mychiell tompson..a great naill tull & a straicke naill tull. 1802 C. JAMES *Milit. Dict., Streak-Nails* are those which fasten the streaks to the fellies of the wheels. 1536 *Churchw. Acc. Yatton* (Somerset Rec. Soc.) 150 Payd for drawyng of *strake schyd to ye sayd pytte, vd. 1837 W. B. ADAMS *Carriages* 95 The application of what is called a 'hoop tire' instead of a '*strake tire'.

† **Strake**, *sb.*[2] *Hunting. Obs.* [Belongs to STRAKE *v.*[2]] Some particular signal with the horn.

c 1400 *Master of Game* (MS. Digby 182) XXXV, Þan shulde he blowe a moot and strake withoute þe moote in þe mydle forto drawe men togedre. 1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* X. lii. 500 And alle the blastes that longen to all maner of gamen. Fyrste to the vncoupelynge, to the sekynge,..and to strake, and many other blastes and termes. 1576 TURBERV. *Venerie*,

Meas. Blowing (1908) 251 The Strake to the Fielde. To be blowen with twoo windes. *Ibid.* 254 A Strake of nyne, to drawe home the companie.. With twoo windes.

Strake (strēɪk), *sb.*^{3} *Mining.* Also **strek, streke.** [Of obscure origin.

Possibly the same word as STRAKE *sb.*^{1}; cf. *strake-shide* (STRAKE *sb.*^{1} 9) and *side-strakes*, used dial. for the two longitudinal timbers of a sawpit (*W. Som. Wd.-bk.*); it seems likely that the word was applied in the plural to the boards lining the washing pit, and then to the whole apparatus.]

a. A shallow pit for the purpose of washing ore. **b.** A wooden box without ends, used for the same purpose.

1758 BORLASE *Nat. Hist. Cornwall* 203 In several pits made for that purpose called the strakes, it [the poorer sort of ore] is washed clean. 1778 PRYCE *Min. Cornub.* 226 At the higher end is a circular pit called the Strêk or Strep, large enough to contain four hand barrows full of slime. *Ibid.* 227 The rough grains lie at the bottom of the strêk. *Ibid.* 233 The strêke or strakes is made of two deal boards laid flat for a bottom fourteen inches in the ground. 1860 *Mining Gloss., Cornw.* 24 *Strake*, a launder, or box of wood without ends, in which the process of washing or tying is performed.

c. *Gold-mining.* An apparatus for concentrating the stamped ore.

1887 J. A. PHILLIPS & BAUERMAN *Elem. Metall.* (ed. 2) 789 The discharge from the screens..is..conducted over inclined strakes each 20 inches in width and 22 feet in length, which have a fall of 1 in 10. These strakes are made of well-seasoned 1½ inch planks nailed to triangular frames.

d. *attrib.*

1839 DE LA BECHE *Rep. Geol. Cornwall*, etc. xv. 593 The stony part, from its great volume, accumulated at the lower end or tail of the strake-boards. 1887 J. A. PHILLIPS & BAUERMAN *Elem. Metall.* (ed. 2) 789 Each end of the strake-frame is supported [etc.].

† **Strake**, *sb.*^{4} *Obs. rare*$^{-1}$. [Either the northern form of STROKE *sb.* (misused, as the scene is Shrewsbury), or an error for STRIKE *sb.*] A bushel: = STRIKE, STROKE *sbs.*

1706 FARQUHAR *Recruiting Officer* III. i, *Bull.* Come Ruose, Ruose, I sold fifty Strake of Barley to day in half this time.

Strake (strēɪk), *v.*^{1} *Obs.* exc. *dial.* [app. f. OTeut. root **strak-* whence **strakjan* to STRETCH. Cf. NFris. *straake*, to stretch oneself.]

1. *intr.* To move, go, proceed.

13.. *Bonaventura's Medit.* 661 To hys fete anon þan þey straked. *c* 1369 CHAUCER *Dethe Blaunche* 1312 And with that worde, ryght anoon They gan to strake forth [*Skeat conjectures* They gon forth straken (*or* striken)], al was doon For that tyme the herte huntynge. 1394 *P. Pl. Crede* 82 Wiþ sterne staues and stronge þey ouer lond strakeþ. 1860 MISS YONGE *Hopes & Fears* I. 290 Some villanous slander, of course, there is; but it is no business of yours to be straking off to make it worse.

†**2.** To extend, stretch. *Obs.*

1594 R. C[AREW] *Tasso* (1881) 74 A beard bigge, bushy, knotted gristelly: From wrapped muzzle down his rough bosom strakes.

† **Strake**, *v.*^{2} *Hunting. Obs.* [Of obscure origin: cf. STRAKE *sb.*^{2}] *trans.* To sound (a particular call) on the horn. Also *absol.* or *intr.* Hence † **Stra·king** *vbl. sb.*

13.. *Gaw. & Gr. Knt.* 1364 Strakande ful stoutly mony stif motez. *Ibid.* 1923. *a* 1400–50 *Wars Alex.* 1386 Steryn steuyn vp strake strakid þar trumpis. *c* 1400 *Master of Game* (MS. Digby 182) xxxiii, And whan þer is nought ylefte, þan shulnde þe lorde gyfe hym luste, and elles þe maistre of þe game..shulde strake in þis wyse: þat is to say blowe .IIII. moot a litell lenger þan þe first IIII. *Ibid.* xxxv, þei shulde strake þe assise þat longeth to þe herte slayne with strength. *Ibid.*, And alle oþere hunters shall strake þe common strakynge as is aboue deuysed and seyde. 14.. in *Rel. Ant.* I. 152, I shall blowe a mote, and aftirward I shall strake after myn houndes. 1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* IX. xxi. 370 Thenne kyng Mark blewe and straked and there with his knyghtes came to hym. 1576 TURBERV. *Venerie, Meas. Blowing* (1908) 252 The Straking from Couert to Couert. With twoo windes.

† **Strake**, *v.*^{3} *Obs.* Also 6–7 *Sc.* **straik.** [perh. a northern form of STROKE *v.* But cf. STREAK *v.*^{2}]

1. *trans.* ? To sharpen, whet.

1483 *Cath. Angl.* 367/1 To Strake, *affilare.*

2. To rub lightly, esp. with an unguent or the like; to smear, grease. Also with *over.* Also to smear (an unguent, etc.) *upon* something.

1506 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* III. 203 Item, for mending of thre irn boltis and straking of ane axtree, xviij s. 1535 COVERDALE *Ezek.* iv. 12 Barly cakes shalt thou eate, yet shalt thou first strake them ouer with mans donge, yt they maye se it. 1561 HOLLYBUSH *Hom. Apoth.* 7 Let hys lamed lymmes be straked wyth water of Lauender. *Ibid.* 21 Strake thys [*sc.* a lotion] oft about hys heade. 1578 LYTE *Dodoens* I. ii. 6 With the same [preparation]..they vse to rubbe and strake painefull bleered eyes. 1579 LANGHAM *Gard. Health* 68 Bengewin..Being straked on the eyes with Hony, it quickeneth the sight. 1588 A. KING tr. *Canisius' Catech.* 72 It [*sc.* the chrism] is in this sacrament straiked be solemn cæremonie vpon the forhead. 1600 SURFLET *Country Farm* I. xxv. 159 Afterward you shall strake the shorne sheepe all ouer their skins with your drie hande, moistened in oile and wine mingled togither, to comfort them withall. 1676 ROW *Contn. Blair's Autobiogr.* xii. (1848) 427 Others thought he was but straking cream in their mouths first.

3. To draw (something) along a surface.

c 1530 *Interl. Beauty & Gd. Prop. Women* C ij, A foule rough bych..strakyng her body along on the gras.

Hence † **Straking** *vbl. sb. concr.*

1409 *Acc. Exch. K. R.* 44/11 (3) m. 3 In .j. lagena incasti [*sic*] empta..et expendita in reparacione del strakynge pro pictura eiusdem [bargie].

Strake (strēɪk), *v.*^{4} [f. STRAKE *sb.*^{1}]

†**1.** *trans.* To mark with lines, to streak. *Obs.*

1537 [cf. STRAKED *ppl. a.*]. 1552 in *Archæologia* XLIII. 236, j red hangynge of silke straked withe golde. 1577 B. GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* I. 31 The stalke is..straked [L. *strigato*] like to the greater Fearne. 1591 PERCIVALL *Sp. Dict.*, *Rayar*,..to strake out. 1600 HAKLUYT *Voy.* III. 392 They..brought..many mantles of cotton straked with blew and white. 1613 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* (1614) 699 Faire Iacinthes, that are good Iewels, straked like as it were with Naturall veines. 1718 J. FOX *Publ. Spirit* 13 Just when the Morning Goddess..strak'd with infant Light the Eastern Skies.

2. *intr.* To become streaky.

1911 MASEFIELD *Everlasting Mercy* (1912) 56 The peacock screamed, the clouds were straking, My cut cheek felt the weather breaking.

Strake (strēɪk), *v.*^{5} *Mining.* Also 8 **streke.** [f. STRAKE *sb.*^{3}] *trans.* To wash (ore) in a strake. Also *Gold mining*, to concentrate (ore) by means of strakes.

1778 PRYCE *Min. Cornub.* 233 Throwing aside the poorer part, which is afterwards to be streked and washed. 1839 DE LA BECHE *Rep. Geol. Cornwall*, etc. xv. 592 The poorer ores were put aside to be straked. 1882 *Rep. Ho. Repr. Prec. Met. U.S.* 608 Their plan of concentration being principally what is called 'straking', consisting of a number of fixed inclined trays 30 feet in length.

Strake: see STRAIK, STRIKE *v.*, STROKE.

Straked (strēɪkt), *a.* [f. STRAKE *sb.*^{1} + -ED^2.] Of a wheel: Furnished with strakes.

a 1571 JEWEL *Serm.* (*Josh.* vi. 1–3) (1583) A vij b, The Ægyptians had mightie chariots, straked and barred with yron. 1801 W. FELTON *Carriages* I. 111 There are three descriptions of wheels, viz:—the straked, the hooped, and the patent rim.

† **Straked**, *ppl. a. Obs.* Also 7 **stracked.** [f. STRAKE *v.*^{4} Cf. STREAKED.] Streaked, striped.

1537 BIBLE ('Matthew') *Gen.* xxx. 40 And the shepe conceaued before the staues & brought forth straked, spotted and partie. 1585 HIGINS *Junius' Nomenclator* 273/2 A straked target. 1597 GERARDE *Herbal* I. xix. 25 The White Chameleon grasse, or straked grasse. 1664 BEALE in *Evelyn's Pomona* 26 A Red-strak'd Must. *Ibid.*, These and other differences, Straked, Must [1683 Straked-Must], right Red-strake, Red-red-strake, &c. 1688 HOLME *Armory* II. 183/1 Roed and Stracked like a Leopard. 1727 BAILEY vol. II, *Straked*, having Strakes or Lines.

Straken, -ins, var. ff. STRAIKEN.

Strakur, obs. var. STREAKER, hound.

Straky (strēɪ·ki), *a.* Now *dial.* [f. STRAKE *sb.*^{1} + -Y.] Streaky.

1650 VENNER *Via Recta* (ed. 3) 197 Bloudwort..is well known by the red strakie colour of the leaves. 1887 BLACKMORE *Springhaven* ix, The weariless tide..gurgled with a quiet wash along the straky bends. 1886 *W. Som. Wordbk.* s. v., I likes bacon straky, nit all fat.

† **Strale.** *Obs.*$^{-0}$? Also **starle.** [Cf. Flem. *straal* (De Bo; Kilian 16th c. *straele*), a use of *straal* beam, ray, orig. arrow; also Flem. *ster* (lit. 'star') in the same sense.] The pupil of the eye.

1574 WITHALS *Dict.* 62/2 The strale [1562, 1566 starle] of the eye, *pupilla.*

Strale: see STRAIL, STREALE.

† **Strall.** *Obs.*$^{-1}$. [a. Du. *straal.*] A beam, ray.

a 1618 SYLVESTER *Sonnets* xii, The fiery Strall of Jove.

Stram (stræm), *sb. U.S. colloq.* [Perh. suggested by words like STROLL, TRAMP.] A long hard walk. Also **Stram** *v.*, *intr.* to take a long walk.

1869 MRS. STOWE *Oldtown Folks* xliii. (1870) 489 Well, Sam,..take an old woman's advice, and don't go stramming off another afternoon. *Ibid.* xlv. 511, I hed sech a stram this mornin', 'n hain't hed nothin' but a two-cent roll.

Hence **Stra·mming** *ppl. a.*

1869 MRS. STOWE *Oldtown Folks* xliii. (1870) 483 Do you think she ever could have made me a great stramming, threshing, scrubbing, floor-cleaning machine, like herself?

† **Stramage.** *Obs.*$^{-1}$ [a. OF. **estramage*, f. *estramer* to spread with straw or rushes:—*pop. L. *strāmināre* from L. *strāmen* straw.] Rushes with which a floor is strewed.

14.. *Promp. Parv.* 480/2 (MS. H.) Strowynge or stramage, *stramentum* [Pynson *stramagium*].

Stramash (strămæ·ʃ), *sb.* Chiefly *Sc.* Also *Sc.* **straemash.** [Belongs to STRAMASH *v.*]

1. An uproar, state of noise and confusion; a 'row'.

1821 GALT *Ann. Parish* xii. 124 This stramash was the first time that I had interposed in the family concerns of my people. 1823 — *R. Gilhaize* xiv, There's like to be a straemash amang the Reformers. *a* 1840 J. RAMSAY *Poems, Sports Fasten's-een* v, Mark ye yon fish..He's laughin' at the grand stramash, And thinks he's safe frae harm. 1840 BARHAM *Ingol. Leg., House-Warm.* xxi, Oh! what a fearful 'stramash' they are all in! 1861 H. KINGSLEY *Ravenshoe* xxxvi, Last year at Oxford, I and three other University men..had a noble stramash on Folly Bridge. That is the last fighting I have seen. 1896 *Spectator* 28 Mar. 444 The 'Muscular Christians rebelled at these ideas with a stir and stramash audible to all men.

2. A state of ruin, a smash. *To go (to) stramash*: to be ruined.

1819 W. TENNANT *Papistry Storm'd* (1827) 2 And fearfu' the stramash and stour, Whan pinnacle cam doun and tow'r. 1829 BROCKETT *N. C. Gloss.* (ed. 2), *Stramash*, a complete overthrow, with great breakage and confusion. 1896 'IAN MACLAREN' *Kate Carnegie* 364 It's been rotten,..for a while, an' noo it's fair stramash. 1910 N. MUNRO in *Blackw. Mag.* Jan. 32/1 My business would go to stramash.

Stramash (strămæ·ʃ), *v. dial.* [app. onomatopoetic: cf. SMASH.

Notwithstanding the curiously close resemblance in sense, the commonly alleged derivation from It. *stramazzare* (see STRAMAZON) is out of the question.]

(See quot. 1788.)

1788 W. H. MARSHALL *Yorksh.* II. 356 To *Stramash*; to crush, or break irreparably; to destroy. 1880 J. F. S. GORDON *Chron. Keith* 70 Choking the lums with a divot (which occasionally stramashed the Tea Pots).

† **Stramazo.** *Obs. rare*$^{-1}$. [a. It. *stramazzo.*] = next.

1605 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. iii. I. *Vocation* 769 Such thrusts, such foyns, stramazos, and stoccados.

† **Stramazon.** *Fencing. Obs.* Also 6–7 **stramazone,** 6, 9 **-zoun,** 7 **-son, -zoon, stramison,** 9 **stramaçon.** [ad. It. *stramazzone* (also *stramazzo*) a knock-down blow, f. *stramazzare* to knock (a person) down, f. *stramazzo* straw mattress, straw strewn on the floor, f. *strame*:—L. *strāmen* straw. Some of the forms are influenced by F. *estramaçon*: see ESTRAMAZONE.] 'A vertical downward cut in rapier fence, which is delivered at the head with the part of the weapon close to the point' (Hutton, *Fixed Bayonets* 1890, Gloss. s.v. *Stramazzone* It.).

1595 *Saviolo's Practise* I. F 2, He may giue him a slicing or cutting blow, which we call *Stramazone.* 1599 B. JONSON *Ev. Man out of Hum.* IV. iv, But I..made a kind of stramazoun, ran him vp to the hilts, through the doublet. 1603 DEKKER *Wonderf. Yeare* D 4, He [Sickness] has his..Stramazones and Stoccataes at his fingers ends. 1637 NABBES *Microcosm.* II. i. C 2 b, Then have wee..our stramisons, passatas, carricadas, amazzas and incartatas. 1651 J. S. *Prince of Priggs Revels* I. 2 Drink deep my brave boyes of the Bastinado Of Stramazons, Tinotures [etc.]. *a* 1668 DAVENANT *Man's the Master* v. i. (1669) 67 *D. Lewis.* I have lost blood... *D. Ferd.* I'st by Stoccado, or Stramason? 1826 SCOTT *Woodstock* xix, But where is the rascal I killed?—I never made a fairer *stramaçon* in my life.

Stramel, variant of STRUMMEL, straw.

Stramineous (strămi·nɪ,əs), *a.* [f. L. *strāmine-us* (f. *strāmen* straw) + -OUS.]

1. Consisting of or relating to straw; *fig.* valueless.

1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* I. ii. IV. vii. (1624) 148 His sole study is for words, that..not a syllable [be] misplaced, to set out a stramineous subiect. 1641 C. BURGES *Serm.* 5 Nov. 33 Much ado made about a supposed stramineous Miracle of Garnets face found in a straw. 1658 J. ROBINSON *Endoxa, Calm Ventil.* II. 123 Upon a suddain approach of the warmed Electrick, the stramineous bodies will, at first, a little recede. 1900 SAINTSBURY *Hist. Criticism* I. 66 He not only seems to be dealing with men of straw, but answers them with, as Luther would say, a most 'stramineous' argument.

2. *Bot.* Straw-coloured; dull pale yellow.

1845–50 MRS. LINCOLN *Lect. Bot.* 204/1 *Stramineous*, straw-like, straw-coloured. 1871 W. A. LEIGHTON *Lichen-flora* 99 Ochroleucous or stramineous.

Stramison: see STRAMAZON.

Stra·mmel. *Obs.* exc. *dial.* Also **stramel.** [Of obscure origin: cf. dial. *scrammel* in the same sense, also STRUMMEL.] 'A lean, gaunt, ill-favoured person or animal' (Miss Jackson *Shropsh. Word-bk.*).

1706 E. WARD *Hud. Rediv.* I. xii. 19 Strutting about on hide-bound Strammel, Mounted like Turk upon a Camel. 1711 — *Quix.* I. 28 When thus he had prepar'd his Stramel, Tall as an Elephant or Camel. 1879 in Miss Jackson *Shropsh. Word-bk.* art. *Scrammel, Shammel*, A great strammel of a pig.

Stramonium (strămōu·niəm). Also 7 **strammonium,** 8 **stramonia.** [a. mod.L. *stramonium* (Parkinson 1629), *strammonium* (F. Columna 1592), *stramonia* (Fuchs 1542, given as Italian), of uncertain origin. Cf. F. *stramoine* (more usually *stramonium*), Sp., Pg. *estramónio*, It. *stramonio*.

The Russian synonym ДУРМАНЪ *durma·n* is said by Miklosich to be adopted from the Kazan Tartar *turman*, 'a medicine for horses'. It seems possible that *stramonia* may be altered from an earlier form or a dialectal variant of the Tartar word.]

1. The solanaceous plant *Datura Stramonium*, the THORN-APPLE. *Purple stramonium*: the Purple Thorn-apple, *Datura Tatula.*

1677 GREW *Anat. Plants* IV. III. v. (1682) 188 The Seed-Case of Stramonium or Thorn Apple, is divided into Four Closets. 1694 Strammonium [see THORN-APPLE]. 1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), *Stramonia*,..the Apple of Peru, or Thorn-Apple. 1741 *Compl. Fam.-Piece* II. iii. 357 Tender annual Flowers,..such as..double-flowering Stramonium. 1881 *Harper's Mag.* Oct. 648 See this long bouquet of Bouncing-Bet, stramonium and pansy. 1906 TUCKWELL *Remin. Radical Parson* x. 140, I had seen a heavy profit reaped by a shrewd farmer who took it at a low rate on poppies, henbane, and stramonium.

2. A narcotic drug prepared from this plant.

1802 *Med. Jrnl.* VIII. 427, I have found the stramonium especially beneficial in cases of mania attended with little or no fever. 1887 MOLONEY *Forestry W. Afr.* 395 The properties of stramonium are regarded as anodyne and anti-spasmodic.

3. *attrib.*

1840 PEREIRA *Elem. Mat. Med.* II. 865 Stramonium seeds, bruised. 1856 G. B. WOOD *Therap. & Pharmacol.* I. 809 Stramonium Leaves. *Ibid.* 810 Stramonium Root. 1868 GARROD *Mat. Med.* (ed. 3) 291 In extracting the alkaloids from corresponding parts of belladonna and stramonium plants. 1888 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 22 May 6/1 Stramonium cigarettes.

Stramony (stræ·mŏni). Also **strammony.** Anglicized form of STRAMONIUM.

1842 BRANDE *Dict. Sci.* etc., *Stramony* or Thorn Apple.

Stramp, *sb. Sc.* [f. STRAMP *v.*] A stamp of the foot.

a 1578 LINDESAY (Pitscottie) *Chron. Scot.* (S.T.S.) I. 222 The strampe of Mr Patrickis was so sade upoun his brotheris footte. 1828 MOIR *Mansie Wauch* ix. 80 This was a stramp on his corny toe.

Stramp (stræmp), *v. Sc.* [Perh. suggested by *stamp, tramp, stride.* Cf. G. *strampfen* in the same sense.]

1. *intr.* To set down the foot firmly; to tread heavily *on* something.

c 1423 JAS. I *Good Counsel* 19 (Camb. MS.), Stramp [*Bannatyne MS.* Graip] or thou slyd, and crep furth one the way. *c* 1480 HENRYSON *Orpheus & Euryd.* 105 (Bannatyne MS.) Scho strampit [*Asloan* trampit] on a serpent vennemus. *a* 1508 DUNBAR *Tua Mariit Wemen* 493 And him befor, with my fut fast on his I stramp. 1529 LYNDESAY *Compl.* 288 Now in the court seindell he gois, In dreid men stramp vpon his tois. 1536 BELLENDEN *Cron. Scot.* (1821) II. 86 All wemen that strampis on this sepulture sall be ay barrant. *a* 1578 LINDESAY (Pitscottie) *Chron. Scot.* (S.T.S.) I. 222 To that effect [he] strampit sadlie on his brotheris foott. 1616 *Orkney Witch Trial* in C. Rogers *Soc. Life Scot.* (1886) III. 300 His hors strampit vpon the leg of the said lamb and brak it. 1828 MOIR *Mansie Wauch* ii. 23 A fat and dumpy man..stramped on a favourite Newfoundland dog's tail.

2. *trans.* To tread upon; to trample *down. lit.* and *fig.* † To *stramp away, forth*: to stamp out.

1535 STEWART *Cron. Scot.* (Rolls) II. 266 Forbad also..in streit, To mak ane cors quhair men ȝeid on thair feit, That it sould not dishonorit be so far, Vnder thair feit to stramp into the glar. 1552 LYNDESAY *Monarche* 5795 Papis, for thare traditionis..Quhilk Christis Lawis strampit down. 1556 *Rec. Elgin* (New Spalding Club 1903) I. 31 That nane ..tak vpone hand to eitt distroy or stramp doune ony growand cornes with thair horssis. 1563 WINȜET tr. *Vincent. Lirin.* Wks. (S.T.S.) II. 76 The noueltie being strampit doun. *a* 1578 LINDESAY (Pitscottie) *Chron. Scot.* (S.T.S.) I. 85 It had bene goode..that the Earle..had bene reotted out of memorie, cleane strampit away. *Ibid.* 94 Deservand..his memorie to be abussit and strampit fourtht for ewer. 1589 R. BRUCE *Serm.* (1843) 52 The wicked are sayd to stramp the blood of Christ under their feet. 1866 J. SMITH *Merry Bridal* 7 His minnie..Had met his faither's ardent gaze, When at the burnie strampin'-claes, Wi' coaties toshly kiltit.

Strample (stræ·mp'l), *v. Sc.* [f. STRAMP *v.* + -LE.] *trans.* = STRAMP *v.* 2.

a 1610 SIR J. SEMPLE in *Sempill Ballatis* (1872) 253 Still strampl'd doune with sturte. 1896 P. A. GRAHAM *Red Scaur* xxii. 339 He rode the horse at you, as if he'd liked to strample you to death.

Stran, variant of STRAND *sb.*4

Strand (strænd), *sb.*1 Forms: 1 **strand,** 2–6 **strande,** 3–6 **stronde,** 3–8 **strond,** (3 **straunde,** 6 **strounde**), 3– **strand.** [OE. *strand* (? neut.) = OFris. *strônd* (WFris. *strân, straun,* NFris. *strön, strunn*), MLG. *strant* (*strand-*) masc. (whence Du. *strand* neut., mod.G. *strand* masc.), ON. *strǫnd* (*strand-*) fem., border, edge, coast (Sw., Da. *strand*).]

I. The land bordering a sea, lake, or † river; in a more restricted sense, that part of a shore which lies between the tide-marks; sometimes used vaguely for coast, shore. Cf. SEA-STRAND. Now *poet., arch.* or *dial.*

c 1000 *Ags. Gosp.* Matt. xiii. 48 Þa hi þa þat nett uppatuȝon & sæton be þam strande. *Ibid.* John xxi. 4 Witodlice on ærne merȝen se hælend stod on þam strande. *a* 1066 *Charter of Eadweard* in Kemble *Cod. Dipl.* IV. 221 Ic ciðe eow ðæt Urk min huskarl habbe his strand eall, forneȝen hys aȝen land..and eall ðæt to his strande ȝedryuen hys, be minum fullan bebode. *c* 1200 ORMIN 11155 Forr Crist, son summ he fullhtnedd wass & stiȝhenn upp o strande. *c* 1205 LAY. 17586 Þer heo nomen hauene..scipen eoden a þat strond, cnihtes eoden a þat lond. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 2717 And moyses druȝ him to ðe strond, And stalle he dalf him ðe sond. *c* 1290 *Mary Magd.* 471 in *S. Eng. Leg.* 475 Þe prince stap out of þe schipe:..Opon þe stronde he ȝaf a lupe. *c* 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 14049 Seuen hundred schipe lyn by þe stronde. *c* 1384 CHAUCER *H. Fame* 148 The Armes and also the man That first came..Vnto the strondes of Lauyne. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* II. 232 Thei ben comen sauf to londe, Wher thei gon out upon the stronde Into the Burgh. *c* 1430 LYDG. *Min. Poems* (Percy Soc.) 50 A lowe ground ebbe was fast by the strond, That no maryner durst take on hond To cast an anker. 1544 BETHAM *Precepts War* I. lii. D j b, Wherby other shyppes can not well arryue at anye strounde, ne yet go out of the hauen. 1593 PEELE *Honour of Garter* 15 The channel that divides The Frenchmen's strond fro Britain's fishy towns. *c* 1595 DONNE *Sat.* II. 78 Shortly (as the sea) hee will compasse all our land; From Scots, to Wight; from Mount, to Dover strand. 1632 J. HAYWARD tr. *Biondi's Eromena* 26 They walked along the strond, till they came to his Barke. 1681 DRYDEN *Abs. & Achit.* I. 272 The Joyful People throng'd to see him Land, Cov'ring the Beach and blackning all the Strand. 1718 PRIOR *Alma* II. 535 The Strand, Which compasses fair Albion's Land. 1759 *Ann. Reg.* 36/1 Quebec..consists of an upper and lower town, the lower..is built upon a strand, at the foot of a lofty rock. 1796 H. HUNTER *St.-Pierre's Stud. Nat.* (1799) II. 155 James Cartier and Champlain represent the strands of the lakes of North-America as shaded by stately walnut-trees. 1817 SHELLEY *Rev. Islam* I. xvi, On the bare strand Upon the sea-mark a small boat did wait. 1871 COUCH *Polperro* ii. 32 The next object of notice..is the beach, or 'strand', inside the old quay. 1911 E. BEVERIDGE *North Uist* vi. 132 Six [of the island-forts] are easily accessible over the strand at ebb-tide. *fig.* 1649 JER. TAYLOR *Gt. Exemp.* Pref. ¶ 25 God brought Moses law into the world to be as a strand to the inundation of impiety.

† **b.** in certain rhyming and alliterative phrases used in charters. *Obs.*

? 11.. *Charter of Eadweard* (A. D. 1066) in Kemble *Cod. Dipl.* IV. 192 Ic nelle..ðat ðær any man any onsting habbe on any þ[i]ngen oðe on any timen be strande ne bi lande buton [etc.]. 1155 *Charter Hen. II* in *Anglia* VII. 220 Saca & Socne, on strande & on Streame, on wudan & on feldan, tolles & theames, grithbriches & hamsocne & forstalles & infangenes thiafes & fleamene frimtha ofer heore aȝene men. 1208 *Rot. Chart.* (1837) 184/1 Habeant..omnia predicta.. cum soka et saca..et cum aliis consuetudinibus..warwagio suo bilaunde & bistraunde [etc.]. [1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), *Strand and Stream*, an Expression formerly us'd for an immunity or freedom from Custom, and all Impositions upon Goods or Vessels by Land or by Water.]

† **c.** A quay, wharf, or landing-place by the side of navigable water. *Obs.*

Den and strand: see DENE *sb.*2 2.

1205 *Rot. Chart.* (1837) 153/1 Habeant [barones de Hastinges] strand [*printed* srand] & dene apud Gernemue. 1577–87 HOLINSHED *Chron.* III. 1097/1 Sir Thomas Wiat hauing with him foureteene ensignes,..marched to Detford strand, eight miles from Detford. 1600 J. PORY tr. *Leo's Africa* VIII. 301 A most impregnable castle, which standeth vpon the strand or wharfe of the port. *c* 1600 in T. Brown *Misc. Aulica* (1702) 254 If any that hath a House or Land adjoining do make a Strand, Stairs, or such like, they pay forthwith Rent to the City of London. 1637 MILTON *Comus* 876 By Leucothea's lovely hands, And her son [*sc.* Portunus] that rules the strands. 1707 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4397/3 He was..one of the Elder Brothers of Trinity-House of Deptford-Strond. 1859 BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.* (ed. 2) 455 The Dutch on the Hudson River apply the term to a landing-place; as, the strand at Kingston.

d. *The Strand*: the name of a street in London; originally so called as occupying, with the gardens belonging to the houses, the 'strand' or shore of the Thames between the cities of London and Westminster.

1246 *Misc. Rolls, Chancery* Bd. 3 No. 2 m. 1 Domos.. extra muros Ciuitatis nostre London, in vico qui vocatur le Straunde. 1601 F. GODWIN *Bps. Eng.* 262 Walter de Langton..built also..the pallace by the Strond at London. 1613 SHAKS. *Hen. VIII*, v. iv. 55 [She] cryed out Clubbes, when I might see from farre, some forty Truncheoners draw to her succour, which were the hope o' th' Strond where she was quartered. 1691 WOOD *Ath. Oxon.* II. 226 James Heath [was] Son of Rob. Heath the Kings Cutler, living in the Strand leading from London to Westminster. 1729 POPE *Dunc.* II. 28 Where the tall may-pole once o'er-look'd the Strand. 1790 PENNANT *London* 126–7, I shall resume my account at the opening of the Strand into Charing-Cross, by observing, that in the year 1353, that fine street the Strand was an open highway, with here and there a great man's house, with gardens to the water-side. 1823 BYRON *Island* II. xix, But less grand, Though not less loved, in Wapping or the Strand.

e. Used vaguely (like SHORE *sb.*1 1 c) for country, region, esp. a foreign country. Chiefly *poet.*

c 1386 CHAUCER *Prol.* 13 Thanne longen folk to goon on pilgrimages And Palmeres for to seken straunge strondes. *c* 1400 *Roland & Otuel* 1215 An hundrethe knyghtes of Turkeye Bare his Mawmettes hym by And paste ouer that strande. *c* 1590 GREENE *Fr. Bacon* (1594 facs.) F 3, Drugges ..Found in the wealthy strond of Affrica. 1704 COBB *Poems* (1709) 57 Sail, Happy Prince, to that expecting Strand Where wealthy Tagus rowls his golden Sand. 1821 SHELLEY *Hellas* 1028 Let Freedom and Peace flee far To a sunnier strand.

¶ **2.** Used for SHORE *sb.*4 *Obs.* (? *nonce-use.*)

1635 B. JONSON *Epigr. To a Friend* 13 Seek out some hungry painter, that..Will well design thee to be view'd by all, That sit upon the common draught or strand [*rhyme* brand].

3. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *strand bank, bird, bush, -plant*; † **strand boat,** a shore boat; **strand fishery,** a coast fishery pursued from the shore (Webster *Suppl.* 1902); † **strand hedge** *Isle of Man*, a fence on the sea shore; **strand ice** (see quot.); **strand knife** *Whaling*, a knife for cutting blubber; **strand-line** *Geol.* (see quot.); **strand-nut** (see quot.); † **strand plat,** the beach or sea-shore; † **strandward** in advb. phr. *to* (*the*) *strandward*, in the direction of the beach or sea-shore.

1881 tr. *Nordenskiöld's Voy. 'Vega'* II. xiv. 225 At Nunamo the *strand-bank was gay with an exceedingly rich magnificence of colour. 1755 *Gentl. Mag.* XXV. 319 Among other birds in this country [Norway] are some that haunt the coast ..called *strand birds. 1860 WRAXALL *Life in Sea* iii. 49 The Strand Birds, which live on the verge of the ocean, and on the beach deserted by the tide. 1670 CAPT. J. SMITH *Eng. Improv. Reviv'd* 268 To carry on this great Trade, they [the Hollanders] have 700 *Strand-boates. 1863 W. C. BALDWIN *Afr. Hunting* vii. 282 The inyala is only to be met with in the *strand bush along the coast. 1723 in H. STOWELL *Life Wilson* App. I. (1819) 337 [Isle of Man] By the governor's granting licence to inclose the lands of several persons under their *strand hedges. 1897 tr. *Nansen's Farthest North* II. vii. 346 Close to our den there was an opening in the *strand-ice. *Note*, Ice which is frozen fast to the bottom, and is therefore left lying like an icy base along the shore. 1820 SCORESBY *Acc. Arctic Reg.* II. 299 Process of Flensing...The blubber..is received upon deck by the boat-steerers and line-managers: the former with *strand-knives divide it into portable cubical, or oblong pieces. 1910 *Encycl. Brit.* XI. 658/2 Proof of recent emergence of land is supplied by what are called 'raised beaches' or '*strand-lines', that is, lines of former shores marked by sheets of littoral deposits, or platforms cut by shore-waves in rock. 1860 J. F. CAMPBELL *Tales W. Highl.* I. Introd. 9 On the stormy coasts of the Hebrides,..fishermen..find..objects, somewhat like flat chestnuts..which they call..*strand-nuts. 1906 *Daily Chron.* 13 Aug. 3/2 Most of the Hawaiian *strand-plants that are dispersed by the currents are found in America. 1582 STANYHURST *Æneis* II. (Arb.) 78 Father Anchises his palms from *strond plat inhauncing On gods heunlye cryeth. *c* 1400 *Beryn* 3138 So, walkyng to the *Strondward, wee bargeynyd by the wey. 1582 STANYHURST *Æneis* II. (Arb.) 56 Soom run to vessels too strondward swiftlye retyring.

b. In the names of birds, beasts, etc. that frequent the shores of seas, lakes, or estuaries, as **strand-plover, strand-runner** (see quots.; cf. STRANDLOOPER 2); ‖ **strand-wolf** [Du.], the name given in S. Africa to the striped hyena (*Hyæna striata*).

1772 RUTTY *Nat. Hist. Dublin* I. 324 The *Strand Plover, by some called, the Stone Plover. 1885 SWAINSON *Prov. Names Birds* 181 Grey plover (*Squatarola helvetica*)...Strand plover (Cork). 1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), **Strand-Runner*, a Bird of the bigness of a Lark, with a four-square Bill resembling a Rasp, which runs on the Rocks of Spitsberg and feeds on Worms. 1826 A. SMITH *Catal. S. Afr. Mus.* I. 14 Striped Hyæna of the English. *Strand Wolf of the Dutch. 1881 *Encycl. Brit.* XII. 420/2 If the strand wolf (*Hyæna villosa*) of the Cape colonists is only a variety of this species [*Hyæna striata*].

Strand (strænd), *sb.*2 Chiefly *Sc.* and *north.* Forms: 3, 6 **strond, strund,** 4 **stronde,** 3– **strand.** [App. connected with STRIND 2, though the phonological relation is obscure.

The first quot. is from a work belonging to a group of writings (the 'Katharine group'), which show a curious mixture of midland and even northern forms with their markedly southern dialect. (The regular Southern form *strund* occurs in the same text.) Otherwise the word is purely northern, exc. for its occurrence in the Wyclif Bible and in Wyclif's sermons, and once in Spenser (who may have imitated Douglas).]

† **1.** A stream, brook, rivulet; *transf.* a stream (of blood, etc.). *Obs.*

a 1240 *Ureisun* in *Lamb. Hom.* 189 Þe ilke fif wallen þet of þi blisfulle bodi sprungen and strike dun strondes [*Cotton MS.* Ibid. p. 202 strundes] of blode. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 1033 In middes þat land a welle springes, Þat rennes out wit four strandes. *a* 1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* cix. 8 *De torrente in via bibit*..Of þe strand in way he drank. 1340–70 *Alex. & Dind.* 140 He dide him forþ to flod þat phison is called,.. From perlese paradis passeþ þe stronde. 1357 *Lay Folks Catech.* (Lamb. MS.) 192 Our lady was ful of grace as a stronde ful of watyr. 1388 WYCLIF *Num.* xiii. 24 Thei ȝeden til to the stronde of clustre [1382 the rennynge watir of the clustre]. *Ibid.*, *Deut.* ix. 21 Y..castide [it] forth in to the stronde [1382 streem], that cam doun fro the hil. *a* 1400–50 *Wars Alex.* 5280 Was neuir na cristall so clere as was þa clere strandis. *Ibid.* 4202, 5507. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* IX. 975 A litill strand he fand, that ran hym by. 1552 LYNDESAY *Monarche* 4038 The strandis of blude ran throuch the stretis. 1595 *Reg. Mag. Sig. Scot.* 92/1 Ane strand and rynner of watter that flowis furthe of the said wall. 1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* VI. 253 In all the bounds of Arabia Deserta..there is no such matter, as Brooke, or strand, much lesse a Riuer. 1650 *Sc. Psalms* lxxxiii. 9 Do to them as to Midian, Jabin at Kison strand. 1722 W. HAMILTON *Wallace* 247 A Strand of Water running by. 1805 SCOTT *Last Minstr.* I. xxv, He pass'd the Peel of Goldiland, And cross'd old Borthwick's roaring strand. 1809 DONALDSON *Poems* 39 Ye wives lament ..Let tears rin like the Keppin stran'. 1901 *Galloviidian* III. 74/1 [The sweat] wus rinnin' frae their neb-en's in strauns. *fig.* *a* 1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* xvii. 5 Þe strandis of wickidnes [Vulg. *torrentes iniquitatis*] has drouyd me. *c* 1375 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* II. 255 And al þis is a stronde of love, þat stronger may no love be. For where is welle of more love, than [etc.].

attrib. 1587 *Reg. Mag. Sig. Scot.* 469/1 Rex..concessit.. 2 partes terrarum..haben. ex australi antiquos muros petarum Jo. Purdie ad *lie Strandheid.*

¶ **2.** Used by Douglas and Spenser for: The sea, a sheet of water.

1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* I. iv. 5 Eneas and his feris, on the strand Wery and forwrocht, sped tham to the nerrast land. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* II. vi. 19 By this time was the worthy Guyon brought Vnto the other side of that wide strond, Where she was rowing.

3. *Sc.* A channel, gutter.

1565 *Reg. Mag. Sig. Scot.* 387 Canalem, vulgariter ane strand vel a syk. 1721 RAMSAY *Rise & Fall of Stocks* 90 Children..In summer dam up little strands, Collect the drizzle to a pool. 1810 SIR A. BOSWELL *Edin.* Poet. Wks. (1871) 53 There in the dirty current of the strand, Boys drop the rival corks. 1903 J. LUMSDEN *Toorle* I. iii. 14 Ye scaur the vera deuks That plouter i the strand alang the street.

Comb. 1822 SCOTT *Nigel* xv, He has three bairns, they say; they will help him bravely to grope in the gutters. Your good lordship may have the ruining of him again, my Lord, if they have any luck in strand-scouring.

† **Strand,** *sb.*3 *north. Obs.* [? Altered form of STRIND 1.] Line of descent, pedigree; offspring, descendants: = STRAIN *sb.*1

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 9497 He wat born of frely strand [*rhyme* errand]. *Ibid.* 10157 Bot o þe toþer sister strand, Þat ioachim had til husband, Þan sal we first vr stori drau.

Strand (strænd), *sb.*4 Also 5–8 **strond,** 8 **strang,** 8–9 *dial.* **stran,** 9 *Sc.* **strawn.** [Of obscure origin; connexion with STRAIN *sb.*3, or with OF. *estran, estren* rope, is not proved.]

1. Each of the strings or yarns which when twisted together or 'laid' form a rope, cord, line, or cable. Also, a ply (of worsted). *dial.* Also *attrib.*, as *three strand rope.*

1497 *Naval Acc. Hen. VII* (1896) 244, ij cabulles..of iiij strondes.., iiij hawsers..wherof oon of iij Strondes. 1627 CAPT. SMITH *Sea Gram.* v. 26 The Wall knot..is a round knob, so made with the strouds [*sic*] or layes of a rope, it cannot slip. *Ibid.* ix. 43. 1644 MANWAYRING *Seamans Dict.* 18 A Cabell is a three-strand Roape. 1674 RAY *S. & E. C. Words, Strand*, one of the twists of a line; be it of horse-hair or ought else. *Suss.* 1755 MAGENS *Insurances* I. 182 They were obliged to cut a Cable of four Strangs to Pieces. 1794 MORSE *Amer. Geog.* 425 Machinery, to..spin flax and hemp into threads or yarns, fit for..sail cloth, oznabrigs, twine, and the strans or yarns for cordage. 1800 *Naval*

Chron. III. 474 Three strond shroud-laid rope. 1821 J. SMYTH *Pract. of Customs* (1821) 74 Every Cable..is composed of three strands, every strand of three ropes, and every rope of three twists. 1898 MRS. C. P. PENBERTHY *Warp & Woof of Cornish Life* ii. 13, I darned the hole with worsterd, and twas blue, dark blue worsterd, and twas five strans thick.

transf. 1863 BATES *Nat. Amazons* I. ii. 47 Some [tree-stems] were twisted in strands like cables.

fig. 1816 SCOTT *Antiq.* xix, The three strands of the conversation, to speak the language of a rope work, were again twined together into one undistinguishable string of confusion. 1855 TENNYSON *Maud* I. xviii. vii, The dusky strand of Death inwoven here With dear Love's tie, makes Love himself more dear.

b. Each of the lengths of twisted wire used to form a wire-rope, cable, or electric conductor.

1860 *Chamb. Encycl.* I. 522/1 The [Atlantic] cable..was composed of a strand of seven wires of pure copper, coated with..gutta percha,..and finally bound round with iron wires. 1875 BEDFORD *Sailor's Pocket Bk.* x. 313 Wire rope usually consists of 6 strands round a hempen core; each strand consists of 6 wires round a smaller hempen core. 1891 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 16 Mar. 2/1 A special form of cable has been laid, consisting of four conductors each composed of a strand of seven copper wires.

2. Each of the threads or strips of a woven or plaited material; hence a thread or strip drawn from such material.

1802–12 BENTHAM *Ration. Judic. Evid.* (1827) II. 691 When, instead of the G. R., comes the broad arrow on timber, or the strand in sail cloth, then comes the doubt..as between written and real evidence. 1878 HUXLEY *Physiogr.* 71 Connected by means of a strand of cotton with a small reservoir of water. 1914 *Daily News* 30 Sept. 3, [I] had to pull a strand of good Irish homespun from my coat before I could lash it to the mast-head.

fig. 1868 NETTLESHIP *Ess. Browning's Poetry* v. 130 A garment in which fear made many strands. 1904 S. H. BUTCHER *Harvard Lect.* 195 The Platonic dialogues are another case in point. Several strands of thought are here subtly interwoven.

3. Transferred senses.

a. A string of beads, pearls, and the like; also the material on which they are strung.

1825 JAMIESON *s.v.*, A strawn of beads. 1860 WHITTIER *Truce of Piscataqua* 46 In his wigwam..Sits a woman all alone, Wampum-beads and birchen strands Dropping from her careless hands. 1876 *Surrey Gloss., Strand*, a stalk of grass. The children make what they call a strand of strawberries, *i.e.* they take a long stalk and thread it full of them. 1886 SHELDON tr. *Flaubert's Salammbô* 14 Strands of pearls attached to her temples.

b. A barb or fibre of a feather. (Cf. STRAIN *sb.*[3] 3.)

1847 STODDART *Angler's Comp.* 93 Hoffland's Fancy [fly]. ..Body: reddish, dark brown silk, red hackle, two or three strands of ditto for tail.

c. A tress or a filament of hair.

1870 *Echo* 19 Oct., His long hair, not unconscious of a grey strand, hangs over a forehead lofty and massive. 1904 H. G. WELLS *Food of Gods* III. ii. 233 The breeze had stolen a strand or so of her hair too. 1915 *Q. Rev.* Oct. 359 Four hundred years after her death..they [Junot's soldiers] found among her bones the thick strands of the marvellous yellow hair which the old books tell of.

d. A thread or filament in animal or vegetable structure.

1877 FOSTER *Phys.* III. i. (1878) 394 A sensory nerve in its simplest form may be regarded as a strand of eminently irritable protoplasm. 1879 CALDERWOOD *Mind & Brain* 50 Molecular changes in the brain are consequent upon impulses propagated along the strands of nerve-fibres. 1887 GARNSEY & BALFOUR *De Bary's Fungi* 18 The hyphae form by their union elongated branching strands (fibrous or fibrillose mycelia). 1904 *Brit. Med. Jrnl.* 10 Sept. 583 The strands and nodes of the cytoplasmic reticulum which traverse this ground substance vary a great deal in thickness.

e. Each of the pieces into which a strip of metal is divided by slitting (see quot.).

1876 *Encycl. Brit.* IV. 218/1 The metal for wire-drawing is rolled into long strips..and cut into 'strands' by means of slitting rolls.

4. Comb.: **strand ground** (see quot.); **strand-hook**, a hook to which strands of cordage are fastened in the process of tempering; also *attrib.*

1882 CAULFEILD & SAWARD *Dict. Needlework* 463/1 **Strand ground.* This ground is used to connect sprays of Honiton Lace, and is formed of irregular Bars made on the Pillow and with two Bobbins. 1825 J. NICHOLSON *Oper. Mech.* 431 Thus bringing all the strands to an equal tension, without one *strand-hook making more revolutions than another. *Ibid.*, The strand hook spindles..are so contrived, for the tempering of the strands, that any one or more of them may..be made to slide.

Strand (strænd), *v.*[1] [f. STRAND *sb.*[1] Cf. Du., G. *stranden*, Da. *strande*, Sw., Icel. *stranda*, intr. to run aground.]

1. *trans.* To drive or force aground on a shore, esp. on the sea-shore; also *rarely* of a river, to leave aground (by the ebbing of the tide).

1621 in Foster *Eng. Factories Ind.* (1906) 264 The last yeare..all taken or stranded by the Portugall. 1666 DRYDEN *Ann. Mirab.* ccli, As those who live by Shores with joy behold Some wealthy Vessel split or stranded nigh. 1680 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1508/1 The *Adventure*, and *Bristol*..are come up so close with him, that we doubt not but they will either take or strand him. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* III. 809 Mighty Phocæ, never seen before In shallow Streams, are stranded on the Shore. 1723 DE FOE *Col. Jack* (1840) 297 To run the ship on shore to save our lives and so, stranding our vessel, spoil both sloop and cargo. 1777 COOK *Voy. S. Pole* III. xi. 158 They likewise asserted that neither she, nor any other ship, had been stranded on the coast. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* III. v. iii, The corpses of the first were flung into the Rhone, but the Rhone stranded some. 1843 BETHUNE *Scott. Peasant's Fire-side* 117 The vessel was stranded in a gale during the night, on the west coast of England.

2. *transf.* and *fig.* Chiefly in *passive.*

1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. vi. v, Your National Assembly, like a ship waterlogged, helmless, lies tumbling;..and waits where the waves of chance may please to strand it. 1850 BLACKIE *Æschylus* II. 64 Thy pride will strand thee on a worser woe. 1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* II. viii. 264 When a glacier diminishes in size it leaves its lateral moraines stranded on the flanks of the valleys. 1874 RUSKIN *Fors Clav.* IV. xxxvii. 3 I am left utterly stranded and alone in life and thought. 1876 MISS BRADDON *J. Haggard's Dau.* I. 5 A man of superior mind, stranded for life in such a place as Combhaven, might naturally think himself a king. 1880 GOLDW. SMITH *Cowper* ii. 22 At thirty-five he was stranded and desolate. 1885 A. SETH *Scott. Philos.* ii. 68 When he [Hume] had given free scope to his logical acuteness, he stranded himself equally with his masters on the consequences he arrived at.

3. *intr.* To run aground.

1687 A. LOVELL tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* I. 17 It blowing so fresh, and we having all our Sails abroad, the Ship in all probability should have stranded. 1705 tr. *Bosman's Guinea* 418 They belong'd to a small French Pyrate, which stranded there about ten Days before. 1796 MORSE *Amer. Geog.* II. 68 Lost 6 or 7 ships of the line, two by catching fire..and the others by stranding on the sandbanks. 1864 TENNYSON *Enoch Arden* 548 Half the night, Buoy'd upon floating tackle and broken spars, These drifted, stranding on an isle at morn. 1887 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 17 Feb. 7/2 The Guion Line steamer *Wisconsin* stranded yesterday during a fog on the outer bar,..and remained fast.

fig. 1901 *Munsey's Mag.* (U.S.) XXV. 668/1 An old fellow in Mariposa County, California, who stranded there when the current of the forty niners ebbed out of the hills. 1908 H. WALES *Old Allegiance* ix. 148 So I stranded in a remarkable quandary.

Hence **Stra·nding** *vbl. sb.* and *ppl. a.*

1817 W. SELWYN *Nisi Prius* (ed. 4) II. 882 To constitute a stranding it is essential that the vessel should be stationary; the striking on a rock where the vessel remains for a minute and a half only, is not a stranding, though she thereby receives an injury, which eventually proves fatal. 1884 SIR T. BRASSEY in *19th Cent.* Mar. 445 Careless shipmasters and mates are responsible for many collisions and strandings. 1904 H. G. WELLS *Food of Gods* II. ii. 190 Big frogs, bigger trout and stranding carp.

Strand (strænd), *v.*[2] [f. STRAND *sb.*[4]]

1. *intr.* Of a rope: To break one or more of its strands. Also *trans.*, to break one or more of the strands of (a rope).

a 1780 G. GILBERT in Besant *Capt. Cook* (1890) 169 The hawser we had reeved for that purpose being so rotten, that it stranded in five or six places as we were heaving. 1841 R. H. DANA *Seaman's Man.* 128 A rope is stranded when one of its strands is parted or broken by chafing or by a strain. 1853 KANE *Grinnell Exp.* xii. (1856) 88 In another attempt a four-inch hawser will be stranded without producing the slightest effect.

2. *trans.* To form (a rope) by the twisting of strands.

1886 *Encycl. Brit.* XX. 846/1 Wire ropes are stranded..in machines which do not differ in essential features from the ordinary rope-making machinery.

3. To insert a strand or filament in (a texture). Also *fig.*

1911 WEBSTER, *Strand*,..3. To weave a strand in, as with a needle in mending a garment; as, to strand a stocking; to strand a hole or rent. 1914 *Blackw. Mag.* Nov. 581/2 Time ..has..prettily stranded her black hair with grey.

Hence **Stra·nding** *vbl. sb.* (in quots. *attrib.*).

1825 J. NICHOLSON *Oper. Mech.* 436 The backward movement of the stranding-sledge..towards the bottom of the rope-walk by which strands are drawn out. 1884 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 17 Apr. 11/1 This work of binding the copper wires together is performed by a small 'stranding machine'.

† Stra·ndage. *Obs.* [f. STRAND *sb.*[4] + -AGE.] A charge or toll levied upon fish or other commodities landed on a 'strand'.

1419 *Liber Albus* (Rolls) I. 234 La nief..dorra ii deniers pur straundage. 1598 STOW *Surv.* 161 In the raigne of Edwarde the thirde, euery great ship landing there [*sc.* at Billingsgate], paide for strandage two pence. 1711 MADOX *Hist. Exchequer* xviii. 534 The issue of divers Tronages with several small strandages.

Stranded (stræ·ndĕd), *ppl. a.*[1] [f. STRAND *v.*[1] + -ED.] That has been driven ashore; that has run aground.

1703 PRIOR *Ode to Mem. Col. George Villiers* 43 Some from the stranded Vessel force their Way. 1729 POPE *Dunc.* II. 287 He..climb'd a stranded lighter's height, Shot to the black abyss, and plung'd downright. 1810 SCOTT *Lady of L.* III. i, [They] Wait on the verge of dark eternity, Like stranded wrecks. 1872 EARL OF PEMBROKE & G. H. KINGSLEY *S. Sea Bubbles* I. 9 The only thing then to be done is to lie quietly where you are, like a stranded whale. 1914 A. PLUMMER *Churches in Brit.* I. iv. 122 The stranded vessel was got off the beach.

b. *transf.* and *fig.* (Cf. STRAND *v.*[1] 2.)

1851 RUSKIN *Stones Ven.* (1874) I. i. 24 [The works of Claude and the Poussins] may be left without grave indignation to their poor mission of furnishing drawing-rooms and assisting stranded conversation. 1869 LECKY *Europ. Mor.* I. i. 89 Some stranded nation apart from all the flow of enterprise and knowledge. 1885 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 19 Feb. 5/1 The author..is already favourably known..for his finished pictures of this strange, stranded old-French life. 1901 *Scotsman* 5 Nov. 6/8 The fog lifted a little and the immense array of stranded omnibuses and vans would be able to find their way home.

Stranded (stræ·ndĕd), *ppl. a.*[2] [f. STRAND *v.*[2] and *sb.*[4] + -ED.]

1. Of a rope: Having one or more strands broken.

1815 *Falconer's Dict. Marine* (ed. Burney), *Stranded*,..speaking of a cable or rope, signifies that one of its strands is broken. 1823 W. SCORESBY *Jrnl.* 311 Our movements..were effected by means of a stranded (or partly broken) rope. 1888 W. E. NICHOLSON *Gloss. Coal Trade Northumb. & Durh.* (E.D.D.).

2. Composed of (a specified number of) strands.

1875 BEDFORD *Sailor's Pocket Bk.* x. 313 A four-stranded rope is about one-fifth weaker than a three-stranded one.

3. Composed of strands of wire (STRAND *sb.*[4] 1 b).

1888 *Encycl. Brit.* XXIII. 114 The stranded form [of submarine cable] was suggested by Prof. W. Thomson at a meeting of the Philosophical Society of Glasgow in 1854. 1899 J. PENNELL in *Forin. Rev.* LXV. 120 In the Bowden brake the power is applied by a coiled wire, with a stranded wire inside it. 1903 KELSEY *Coutin. Current Dynamos* 199 A stranded conductor is used on account of the immunity thereby obtained from eddy currents.

Stra·nder. [f. STRAND *v.*[2] + -ER[1].] *spec.* An operative employed in electric cable manufacture.

1881 *Instr. Census Clerks* (1885) 47 Electrical apparatus maker...Land Cable :. Wire Winder. Strander.

Strandless (stræ·ndlĕs), *a.* [f. STRAND *sb.*[1] + -LESS.] Without a strand or beach.

1894 A. AUSTIN in *Blackw. Mag.* Sept. 315/1, I could..still see the sweeping, swirling coils of strandless water running in and out of the black honeycombed abysses.

† Stra·ndling. *Obs.* Forms: 3 **stranlyne**, **-ling**, 4 **-lyng**, **strenlyng**, **strandling** (e, **-lyng** (e. [Of obscure origin.] Some kind of fur; ? the fur of the squirrel taken at Michaelmas.

c 1299 *Durham Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 495 In 5 fururis de Stranlyne, 52*s.* 6*d.*..In 6 furur. de Stranling ad capusc., 22*s.* 1303–4 *Acc. Exors. R. de Gravesend* (Camden) 55 De duabus capis de persico furratis de Strenlyng.. 1305 in *Munim. Magd. Coll. Oxf.* (1882) 145 Cum perrula de stra[n]dlings. *c* 1314 *Liber Horn* fol. 249 b (Guildhall MS.) in *N. & Q.* 11th Ser. (1912) V. 170/2 Strandling est Squirel contre le feste Seint Michel. 1327 in Riley *Memorials* (1868) 153 A fur of stra[n]dlynge of 6 tiers. 1327 in *Compotus Rolls Obedientiaries St. Swithun's, Winch.* (1892) 256 In j furura de grosso Strandling et alia de minuto Strandling. *c* 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 11194 Manteles..Of meneuer, stranlyng, veyr, & gris. 1334–5 in *Compotus Rolls Obedientiaries St. Swithun's, Winch.* (1892) 236 In xij furruris de grossa Strandlinge...In iiij furruris de Meyn Strandlynge.

‖ Stra·ndlooper. *S. Africa.* [Du., f. *strand* STRAND *sb.*[1] + *looper* runner.]

1. A Hottentot who picks up such living as he can by the sea shore (Pettman *Africanderisms* 1913).

1846 J. SUTHERLAND *Mem. Kaffirs*, etc. *S. Afr.* II. 29 For a little tobacco the strandloopers will always fetch firewood for the cooks. 1913 *Daily News* 16 Dec. 9 The Strandlopers lived on the coast before the Dutch went into South Africa.

2. (See quot.)

1875–84 R. B. SHARPE *Layard's Birds S. Afr.* 662 *Ægialitis tricollaris* (Vieill.)...This pretty little Plover, the Strand-looper of the colonists, is common throughout the colony.

Strane, obs. form of STRAIN *v.*[1]

Strang: see STRAND *sb.*[4], STRANGE *a.*, STRONG *a.*

Strange (strēⁱnj), *a.* Also 3–7 **straunge**, 4–6 **straung**, 4–7 **strang**, 5 **strawnge**, **straunce**, **straunche**, 6 **straenge**, **straynge**, **straing**, *Sc.* **strenge**, 6–7 **strainge**. [a. OF. *estrange* (mod.F. *étrange*) = Pr. *estranh*, *estrang*, Sp. *estraño*, Pg. *estranho*, Rum. *străin*, It. *strano* adj., *stranio*, *strangio* sb. :—L. *extrāneus* external, foreign (see EXTRANEOUS), f. *extrā* adv. outside, without.]

† 1. Of persons, language, customs, etc.: Of or belonging to another country; foreign, alien. *Obs.*

1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 379 Þe king made him vrob inou, ..Þat strange men in is owe lond dude a such trespas. 1338 R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (1810) 36 In Ingland neuer before was kyng lufed so wele, Ne of the folk strange non honoured so mykelle. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* II. 159 Þe Flemmynges þat woneþ in þe weste side of Wales haueþ i-left her straunge speche and speke þ Saxonliche i-now. 1471 CAXTON *Recuyell* (Sommer) 303 They wold not haue the Iuste and true blood of egypte, but the strange blood whiche they shold take & make sacrefice therof. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 367/2 Strawnge, *alienus*, *barbarus*. 1572 ABP. PARKER *Let.* 13 Dec. *Corr.* (Parker Soc.) 411 To be first sent out to the reader, both English and strange. 1588 SHAKS. *L. L. L.* IV. ii. 134 One mounsier Berowne, one of the strange Queenes Lords. 1621 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Superbiæ Flagellum* A 6, Ancient Bards, and Poets in strange toungs. 1642 *Rates of Merchandizes* 66 That if any English transport Coales in strange Bottoms to pay Strangers Custome. 1755 MAGENS *Insurances* II. 236 If a strange Master, that never was on the River Elbe before, takes a Pilot on board in foreign Parts.

† b. Of a country or other geographical feature: Situated outside one's own land. *Obs.*

1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 5838 Þat hii & al þat lond bineþe ssolde be ydo Þoru folc of strange londe. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Prol.* 13 And Palmeres for to seken straunge strondes. *Ibid.* 464 She hadde passed many a straunge strem. 1389 in *Eng. Gilds* (1870) 35 Also 3ef ony broþer or sister deye in straunge cuntre, in cristendom or in hethenesse. 15.. *Jerusalem reioss* 11 in *Dunbar's Poems* 322 Thre Kingis of strenge regionis To the ar cumin. 1614 RALEGH *Hist. World* III. vii. § 5. 84 Long abode in a strange ayre, and want of supplie, had much enfeebled the Athenians. 1722 A. PHILIPS *Briton* I. ii. 6 In a strange Land His *Manes* shall not wander, unappeas'd.

2. Belonging to some other place or neighbourhood; unknown to the particular locality specified

or implied. Of a place or locality: Other than one's own.

c 1290 *St. Brendan* 292 in *S. Eng. Leg.* 227 An straunge man eche daye it bringuth In-to ovre celere, i-wis., 1390 Gower *Conf.* III. 233 For whan a man mai redy finde His oghne wif, what scholde he seche In strange places to beseche To borwe an other mannes plouh. 1421 *Coventry Leet Bk.* 27 That no man throw ne cast at noo straunge man, ne skorn hym. 1487–8 *Rec. St. Mary at Hill* (1905) 129 Item, Resseyued of Margarete Bull for þe buriall of a straunge childe, ij s. 1555 *Ludlow Churchw. Acc.* (Camden) 65 Received of mr Whytlege for the beryalle of a straunge man in the churche, vjs. viij d. 1662 W. Kilburne in *Extr. S. P. rel. Friends* II. (1911) 148 Within these three weeks last past I have taken notice of many strange faces which frequent this meeting. 1732 Swift *Exam. Abuses Dubl.* Misc. 1735 V. 363 A strange Dog happens to pass through a Flesh-Market. 1859 Geo. Eliot *Adam Bede* xlix, There 's all the sewing to be done, an' I must have a strange gell out o' Treddles'on to do it. 1892 *Photogr. Ann.* II. 760 The address should be given in full, as tourists in strange towns have otherwise difficulty in finding the place. 1894 J. Payn *Gleams of Memory* 9 Strange clergymen were much put out by it [*sc.* the old squire's snoring], and would make significant pauses in their discourse.

†3. Belonging to others; not of one's own kin or family. *Obs.*

1338 R. Brunne *Chron.* (1810) 87 Purchaced þing men gyues,..tille a man is strange for his seruise. *c* 1386 Chaucer *Merch. T.* 196 Yet were me leuere þat houndes had me eten Than þat myn heritage sholde falle In straunge hand. *c* 1510 *Robt. Deuyll* (1827) 15 Ye to do justice upon hym [*sc.* your son] as on a straunge man. *a* 1533 Berners *Golden Bk. M. Aurel.* vi. (1535) 10 For perfyte knowlege of thynges, ..it behoueth to haue strange aduyse, clere vnderstandynge, and propre experience.

4. *Strange woman*: a harlot. (With *the*, as denoting the class.)

After many passages in the Book of Proverbs. The adj. renders two different Heb. words, *nokrîyāh* and *zārāh*, both which have the sense 'not one's own (wife)' (see 3).

1535 Coverdale *Prov.* ii. 16 That thou mayest be delyuered also from the straunge woman [so later versions], and from her that is not thine owne. 1614 B. Jonson *Barth. Fair* II. iv. (1631) 23 *Ius.* If I can..but rescue this youth, here out of the hands of the lewd man and the strange woman. 1886 Ruskin *Præterita* I. xi. 346 No fear of my being tempted by the strange woman, for was I not in love?

†5. Added or introduced from outside, not belonging to the place or person where it is found, adventitious, external. In *Surg.* = Foreign *a.* 5.

c 1386 Chaucer *Wife's T.* 305 For gentillesse nys but renomee Of thyne auncestres for hire heigh bountee, Which is a straunge thyng to thy persone. *a* 1425 tr. *Arderne's Treat. Fistula*, etc. 89 It hape in it a vertue putrefactyue by which he putrefieþ straunge humours comyng to a wounde. 1557 Edgeworth *Serm.* Repert. A j, Adulteringe womens' heare with strange colours, &c. is controlinge of Gods handy worke. 1578 Lyte *Dodoens* III. lxxxvi. 440 This is a strange plante, and not found in this Countrie, except in the gardens of some Herboristes. 1590 Spenser *F. Q.* III. xii. 11 Yet his owne face was dreadfull, ne did need Straunge horrour, to deforme his grisely shade. 1597 A. M. tr. *Guillemeau's Fr. Chirurg.* 5/3 The strange thinges are either externall,..or anye substance of our bodyes, as splinters or parcelis of bones, which we esteme straunge, because they are noe more partakers of our lyfe. 1672 Wiseman *Treat. Wounds* II. v. 30 Cleanse the Wound first from all strange Bodies.

†6. With *from*: Alien, far removed; diverse, different. *Obs.*

c 1380 Wyclif *Sel. Wks.* III. 431 Alle þes bodiliche signes ben straunge fro charite. *Ibid.* 511 þerfore no newe secte of religioun, straunge fro Cristis secte, shulde have begunne. *c* 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* III. 91 A witty man taceth preued thyng, & change He macth, that lond from lond be not to cstrange. 1456 *Coventry Leet Bk.* 294 To be estraunged from his Crafte..and to be reputed & holden as straunge from eny benyvolence of this Cite. 1577 Hanmer *Anc. Eccl. Hist., Euseb.* VI. xxxii. 112 Beryllus..went about to establyshe forrayne and straunge doctrine from the fayth.

7. Unknown, unfamiliar; not known, met with, or experienced before. Const. *to*.

13.. *K. Alis.* 4817 Hy ledden hym..In the straungest peryl of Inde. 1390 Gower *Conf.* III. 252 In strange place and doun thei lihte And take a chambre. *c* 1391 Chaucer *Astrol.* ii. § 17 Rubric, To knowe the verrey degree of any maner sterre straunge or vnstraunge after his longitude. *c* 1500–20 Dunbar *Poems* xiv. 9 So nyce array, so strange to thair abbay. 1513 Douglas *Æneis* VII. iii. 45 As 3ow art careyt tyll ane strange cost [L. *ignota ad litora vectum*], 1551 Recorde *Pathw. Knowl.* To Rdr., Straung paths ar not troden al truly at the first. 1603 Shaks. *Meas. for M.* IV. ii. 209 You know the Charracter I doubt not, and the Signet is not strange to you? 1611 Bible *Transl. Pref.* ¶ 5 Euen S. Hierome himselfe calleth the Hebrew tongue barbarous, belike because it was strange to so many. 1655 Moufet & Bennet *Health's Improv.* (1746) 261 Strange things are ever best liked. 1768–74 Tucker *Lt. Nat.* (1834) II. 567 Until they become familiar with nurse and mamma, and then they take violent distaste at strange faces. 1830 Greville *Mem.* (1874) II. 29 The next Parliament..is besides very ill composed—full of boys and all sorts of strange men. 1842 Tennyson *Morte D'Arthur* 238 Among new men, strange faces, other minds. 1867 Smyth *Sailor's Word-bk., Strange Sail*, a vessel heaving in sight, of which the particulars are unknown. 1889 *Universal Rev.* 15 Feb. 251 One good jump on a strange horse shows standard horsemanship.

†8. Of a kind that is unfamiliar or rare; unusual, uncommon, exceptional, singular, out of the way. *Obs.* (Merged in 10.)

13.. *Coer de L.* 268 Kyng Rychárd gan hym dysguyse In a ful strange queyntyse. *c* 1330 R. Brunne *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 116 And forsoth I couth nogbt So strange loglis as þai wroght. 1340 Hampole *Psalter* Pref. 4 In this werke I seke na straunge ynglis, bot lyghtest and commonest. *c* 1374 Chaucer *Anel. & Arc.* 202 The kynde of mannes herte is to delyte In thing that straunge is. 1390 Gower *Conf.* I. 89 Strange aventures forto seche, He rod the Marches al aboute 1412–20 Lydg. *Chron. Troy* II. 4187 The straunge metis, þe manere of þe seruyse, I haue noon englische al for to deuyse. 1553 T. Wilson *Rhet.* III. 86. This should first be learned, y^t we neuer affect any straunge ynkehorne termes, but so speake as is commonly receiued. 1554–5 in Feuillerat *Revels Q. Mary* (1914) 173 Verey fayer quaint and strange attier. 1585 T. Washington tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* IV. xxv. 141 Skins of al sorts, of liuely colours, straunge and diuers aboue al..in the world. 1663 Heath *Flagellum* (1672) 24 And all by such uncouth and strang passes, such unexpected..contingency of things.

9. Exceptionally great (in degree, intensity, amount, etc.), extreme. (Now, tending to merge in 10.)

c 1380 Wyclif *Wks.* (1880) 454 But þis abusioun were to straunge. 1573–80 Tusser *Husb.* (1878) 62 Sea rages in winter be sodainly strange. 1585 T. Washington tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* II. xv. 50 The last [earthquake]..was so straunge and fearful for the space of xviii. dayes continually. 1606 Shaks. *Ant. & Cl.* II. ii. 157, I did not think to draw my Sword 'gainst Pompey, For he hath laid strange courtesies, and great Of late vpon me. 1663 Patrick *Pilgrim* xxvi, The ensuing part of the road was very dangerous,..and of a strange length. 1719 De Foe *Crusoe* I. (Globe) 227 His Eyes sparkled, and his Countenance discover'd a strange Eagerness. *Ibid.* 300 Taking Devilish long Strides, and shuffling along at a strange Rate. 1752 Foote *Taste* I. i, I have a strange Mind to leave you to yourselves. 1818 Scott *Hrt. Midl.* xxxiii, Strange was the courage and address which he displayed in his pursuits. 1828 Carr *Craven Gloss., Strange*, great. 'A strange deal.' 1849 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* vii. II. 195 The fall of the Hydes had excited throughout England strange [1858 ed., extreme] alarm and indignation. 1875 Jowett *Plato* (ed. 2) IV. 33 The aspiration after good has often lent a strange power to evil.

b. quasi-*adv.*, qualifying an adj.: Very, extremely. Also *strange and* —. Now *dial.*

1667 Wood *Life* (O. H. S.) II. 102 March 6,..began the strange cold weather with great winds. 1669 Sturmy *Mariner's Mag.* I. ii. 17 The Sea breaks strange and dangerous. 1888 G. M. Fenn *Dick o' the Fens* 133, I 've got a straänge nice lot o' bait. *Ibid.* 160, I 'm straänge and glad you 've caught him.

10. Unfamiliar, abnormal, or exceptional to a degree that excites wonder or astonishment; difficult to take in or account for; queer, surprising, unaccountable.

c 1374 Chaucer *Troylus* V. 120, I wot yow þenketh straunge, No wonder is, for it is to yow newe, Thaqueyntaunce of þese Troians to chaunge For folk of Grece þat ye neuere knewe. 1390 Gower *Conf.* I. 24 Me thoghte I syh upon a Stage Wher stod a wonder strange ymage. 1461 *Paston Lett.* II. 39 The gydyng of youre adversary hath been in many causez ryght straunce. 1549 Latimer *Ploughers* (Arb.) 29 And nowe I would aske a straung question. 1568 Grafton *Chron.* II. 27 Many straunge and wonderfull sightes were seene this present yere in the skie. 1610 Shaks. *Temp.* V. i. 242 This is as strange a Maze, as ere men trod. 1620 I. C. *Two Merry Milk-maids* IV. I. L 3, But this is very strange. *Fre.* But not so strange as true, I am a witnesse of it. 1779 *Mirror* No. 57 They complained that I was a strange fellow, who hated company. 1782 Miss Burney *Cecilia* IV. ii, Will you not think me very strange if I should take the liberty to consult you upon some business? 1823 Byron *Juan* XIV. ci, 'Tis strange—but true; for truth is always strange; Stranger than fiction. 1842 Browning *Pied Piper* V, 'Come in!'—the Mayor cried, looking bigger: And in did come the strangest figure! 1880 Tyndall *Glac.* I. xv. 103 It seemed strange that a man should be there alone. 1875 Jowett *Plato* (ed. 2) I. 188 The professors of education are strange beings.

absol. 1815 Shelley *Alastor* 112 Whatsoe'er of strange Sculptured on alabaster obelisk,..Dark Ethiopia in her desert hills Conceals. 1839 T. Mitchell *Frogs of Aristoph.* Introd. p. cvi. *note*, Æschylus..loved exceedingly the strange and the exciting.

†b. *To think* (*it*) *strange of* (or *concerning*): to be surprised at. *Obs.*

1585 T. Washington tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* I. xvii. 19 b, He had vnderstanding, that the Frigate..was of Malta, whereof he thought very straunge [Fr. *ce qu'il trouuoit estrange & mauuais*]. 1611 Bible *1 Pet.* iv. 12 Beloued, thinke it not strange [Gr. μὴ ξενίζεσθε] concerning the fiery triall, which is to try you.

c. *Strange to say, tell*, etc., used parenthetically: cf. Say *v.*[1] 11. Similarly *strange enough*.

[1576 Gascoigne *Steele Gl.* (Arb.) 68 Strange tale to tel: all officers be blynde.] 1697 Dryden *Æneis* II. 930 While I held my Son,..Strange to relate, from young Iulus Head A lambent Flame arose. 1853 Kane *Grinnell Exp.* xxii. (1856) 170 Strange enough, during the night, Captain Austin ..entered the same little indentation. 1859 FitzGerald *Omar* lx, And, strange to tell, among that Earthen Lot Some could articulate, while others not. 1862 Miss Braddon *Lady Audley* viii, Strange to say, George Talboys, who very seldom observed anything, took particular notice of this place.

d. quasi-*int.* 'An expression of wonder' (J.); 'an elliptical expression for *it is strange*' (W. 1828).

c 1670 Waller *St. James's Park* Poems (1722) 163 Strange! what Extremes shou'd thus preserve the Snow, High on the Alps, or in deep Caves below. 1694 Locke *Treat. Govt.* (ed. 2) I. xi. § 147 Strange! that Fatherly Authority should be the only Original of government, and yet all Mankind not know it; and Stranger yet, that [etc.]. 1725 [see Tweedle-].

†11. Of persons: a. Unfriendly; having the feelings alienated. b. Distant or cold in demeanour; reserved; not affable, familiar, or encouraging; uncomplying, unwilling to accede to a request or desire. *Obs.*

1338 R. Brunne *Chron.* (1810) 50 Olaf in Norweie..bare him ouer strange to þe kyng Knoute. ?*a* 1366 Chaucer *Rom. Rose* 1065 These losengers thorough flaterye Haue maad folk ful straunge be There hem ought be pryue, 1423 Jas. I *Kingis Q.* cii, And though I was vnto 3our lawis strange, By ignorance, and noght by felonye. 1509 Hawes *Past. Pleas.* xxxiv. (Percy Soc.) 73 Be straunge unto hym, as ye knowe nothyng The perfite cause of his true commyng. 1538 Elyot *Dict.* Addit., *Auersus*, straunge, vnacquaynted. *a* 1568 A. Scott *Poems* (S. T. S.) xxi. 18, I fand hir of ane staffage kynd, Bath staitly, strange, and he. 1592 Shaks. *Rom. & Jul.* II. ii. 102, I should haue beene more strange, I must confesse. *a* 1593 Marlowe *Edw. II*, II. iv. 1162 If he be straunge and not regarde my wordes. 1633 Rowley *Match at Midn.* III. i. F 4 b, I was strange, in the nice timerous temper of a Maid. 1700 Congreve *Way of World* IV. v, *Mil.*..Let us never Visit together, nor go to a Play together, But let us be very strange and well bred. 1763 Churchill *Night* 87 The strange reserve, the proud affected state Of upstart knaves grown rich, and fools grown great.

†c. Sparing *of* (one's favour). *Obs.*

1548 Hall *Chron., Edw. V* 3 b, Some were reconsiled and growen into his fauoure, of the whiche he was neuer straunge, when it was with true herte demaunded.

†d. *To make oneself strange*: to be distant or unfriendly. *Obs.*

1390 Gower *Conf.* I. 144 He [*sc.* Nebuchadnezzar] kneleth in his wise and braieth, To seche merci and assaieth His god, which made him nothing strange, Whan that he sih his pride change. *Ibid.* III. 195 And for he wolde his herte glade, He lihte and made him nothing strange. 1566 Painter *Palace Pleas.* (1569) I. 232 b, Myne aduise is, that by litle and litle, you do make your selfe straunge, and vse no more your wonted grace vnto him.

†e. *To look strange*: to look at a person as if one did not know him. *Obs.*

1590 Shaks. *Com. Err.* V. i. 295 Why looke you strange on me? you know me well. *c* 1600 — *Sonn.* lxxxix. 8, I will acquaintance strangle and looke strange.

12. Of a person: Unfamiliar or unacquainted with something (specified or implied); †inexperienced or unversed *in*; fresh or unaccustomed *to*; unpractised or unskilled *at*.

1561 Hoby tr. *Castiglione's Courtier* II. (1577) H vi b, And whan he hath it [promotion], let him not shewe himselfe new or straunge in it. 1590 Shaks. *Com. Err.* II. ii. 151 In Ephesus I am but two houres old, As strange vnto your towne, as to your talke. 1607 — *Timon* IV. iii. 56, I know thee well: But in thy Fortunes am vnlearn'd, and strange. 1770 Luckombe *Hist. Printing* 323 An understanding Pressman knows..how to give a strange joyner and smith instructions to make a Press. 1868 Browning *Ring & Bk.* II. vi. 86 Though as strange at the work As fribble must be. 1911 *Concise Oxf. Dict.* s. v., [I] am strange to the work.

†13. *To make* (*it*) *strange*: to make difficulties, refuse to assent or comply, be reluctant or unwilling; to hold back, keep a stand-off attitude; to be distant or unfriendly; to affect coyness; to pretend not to understand; to affect or feel surprise, dislike, indignation, etc. Const. *of* (= about) a matter, etc.; *to* (do something); also to *make strange at. Obs.* a. *To make it strange.*

c 1386 Chaucer *Reeve's T.* 60 And straunge he made it of hir mariage. *c* 1386 — *Frankl. T.* 495 He made it straunge, and swoor, so god hym saue, Lasse than a thousand pound he wolde nat haue. *c* 1440 *Gesta Rom.* xlix. 220 What! deer love, whi makest þow hit nowe so straunge to me? *c* 1530 Berners *Arth. Lyt. Brit.* (1814) 351 Though she make it straunge & deny yon at the fyrst, yet be not ashamed therwith, & she shall loue you the better. 1566 Painter *Palace Pleas.* (1575) I. 249 b, The husbande hearinge him saye so, commaunded his wyfe to kisse him, which she did although she made it straunge, either for the Lordes desire or for husbands request to do the same. 1592 Shaks. *Two Gent.* I. ii. 102 She makes it strange, but she would be best pleas'd To be so angred with another Letter.

b. *To make strange.* Const. *at, of.*

1456–7 *Paston Lett.* I. 406 Whan he maket straunge to ley dowun the condempnacion. 1549 Somerset etc. in Strype *Eccl. Mem.* (1721) II. II. 102 If they shal make strange to have the same [treaty] so confirmed. *a* 1553 Udall *Royster D.* V. vi. (Arb.) 84 *R.* Thei wer not angry then. *M.* Yes at first, and made strange. 1565 Cooper *Thesaurus* s.v, *Delicium, Delicias facere*, to make strange and dally, because he would be intreated. 1598 Chapman *Blinde Beg. Alexandria* D 2 b, Therefore beautious Ladie make not strange, To take a freind and adde vnto thy loues. 1602 Rowlands *Greenes Ghost* 46 Maister Doctor at the first made strange of the matter, and seemed verie loth to deale in it. 1633 Ford *'Tis Pity* II. i, Sir, now you know my house, pray make not strange. 1655 tr. *Sorel's Com. Hist. Francion* IX. 18 This brown lasse did make a request to the Shepherd for her, but at the first he seemed to stand off, and to make strange thereat. 1727 De Foe *Hist. Appar.* viii. (1840) 134 However, she made still strange of it. 1773 C. Dibdin *Deserter* I. vii, How strange you make of this matter!

II. *absol.*, passing into *sb.*

†14. A strange person, stranger; in pl. sense, strangers. Also *rarely* in pl. form. *Obs.*

Trevisa has *straungene* as genit. pl.

a 1325 *MS. Rawl. B.* 520 lf. 31 b, Felonies i don to straunge. *c* 1325 *Prose Ps.* xciii. 6 Hij slowen wydowes and straunge. *c* 1374 Chaucer *Troylus* II. 411 (Campsall MS.) Allas what shulde straunge to me don When he þat for my best frend y wende [etc.]. 1387 Trevisa *Higden* V. 321 In holy place I now reste in straungene londe. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 2975 þou couet to se þat straunge, þat was stoute. *c* 1400 *Land Troy Bk.* 7182 3e may 3it kyng Thoas chaunge For on of oure or for som strange. 1477 in *Engl. Miscell.* (Surtees 1890) 27 Item William Panter..maid array of ij straunghis.

†15. *pl.* News. *Obs. rare*[—1].

a 1500 *Coventry Corpus Chr. Plays* II. 4 Where nevis and strangis be cum of lately, Affermyng the seyng of old profecie.

III. 16. Comb., forming adjs.

a. parasynthetic, as *strange-plumaged, -tongued*; **b.** prefixed as compl. to pres. ppples., as *strange-looking, -sounding*; **† c.** adverbially, as *strange-achieved, -composed, -digested*, etc. *Obs.*

1534 More *Comf. agst. Trib.* III. xx. Wks. 1246/1 He may be a minstrell & make melodye you wotte wel with some other instrument, some straunge fashioned peraduenture, that neuer was seene before. 1549 Coverdale etc. *Erasm. Par. Eph.* Prol. ¶ j, So diligent to continue & aduaunce their popyshe pryuate masses & other straunge tounged seruice. 1597 Shaks. 2 *Hen. IV*, IV. v. 72 For this, they haue ingrossed and pyl'd vp The canker'd heapes of strange-atchieved Gold. 1601 — *Jul. C.* I. iii. 33 Indeed, it is a strange disposed time. 1607 Tourneur *Rev. Trag.* I. i. A 3, Some strange digested fellow..Of ill-contented nature. *Ibid.*, He be that strange composed fellow. 1627 May *Lucan* I. B 1, Strange formed Meteors the thicke ayre had bred. 1756 Home *Douglas* II. (1757) 28 The red moon..Cross'd and divided by strange-colour'd clouds. 1814 Scott *Diary* 10 Aug. in *Lockhart* (1837) III. iv. 171 One of their boats comes off, a strange-looking thing without an entire plank in it. 1820 W. Irving *Sketch Bk.* (1859) 53 Some strange-favored being. 1842 Borrow *Bible in Spain* XXV, They were conversing with each other in a strange sounding dialect. 1859 Tennyson *Elaine* 796 Under the strange-statued gate. 1868–70 Morris *Earthly Par.* III. 75 Among strange-plumaged bird, Strange-fruited tree, and strange-clad maid.

† Strange, *v. Obs.* Also 5–6 **straunge,** 5 **straunche.** [ad. OF. *estranger*: see Estrange *v.*]

1. *trans.* To remove, banish, keep apart *from* an accustomed place, condition, relations, etc.

c 1430 *Pilgr. Lyf Manhode* III. li. (1869) 162 Ye shulden now be me ful sweete and deere, ne were j so aloyned and straunged from yow. 1450 *Rolls of Parlt.* V. 216/2 He shuld be straunged from his high Presence, and from his Court. *c* 1450 *Knt. de la Tour* 58 And for that dede we were..straunged from gret ioye and blisse. 1547 *Bk. of Marchantes* b j b, The pore people are so vndertrod, grawen, devoured, and so straunged for [= from] ye knowledge of God. 1559 *Mirr. Mag., Mowbray banished* xxi, I that was exylde for aye, My enmy straunged but for a ten yeares daye.

2. To make strange or different, alter.

1390 Gower *Conf.* II. 329 For anon after he was changed And from his oghne kinde stranged, A lappewincke mad he was. *Ibid.* III. 77 The See his propre kinde changeth, And al the world his forme strangeth. 1567 Drant *Hor. De Arte Poet.* A ij, By wittie composition its excellente to heare A knowne worde straunged hansumlye. 1638 Brathwait *Barnabees Jrnl.* IV. (1818) 167 Musing I should be so stranged, I resolv'd them, I was changed.

3. To alienate in feeling or affection, estrange *from* (rarely *of*).

1460 *Paston Lett.* I. 507 That I schulde..sodenly have departed in to these parties,..and that I straunched me from sertein persones to moche. 1483 Caxton *Golden Leg.* 266/2 She lad the lyf of an heremyte and al Straunged fro the world. *c* 1500 *Melusine* xiii. 48 Are ye as now so straunged of vs that ye marye you without that we know therof tyl the day of weddyng? 1580 Hollyband *Treas. Fr. Tong, Estrangé*, stranged, alienated. 1623 Wodroephe *Spared Hours Soldier* 364 Vice and Laizinesse, which offuscate & diffame the Children of good Houses, stranging them from their God. 1641 Tombes *Leaven Phar. Wil-worship* (1643) 9 It strangeth the mindes of people and Ministers from learning, and studying Gods word. *a* 1656 Bp. Hall *Rem. Wks.* (1660) 146 Did we love our Father in Heaven as Children could we strange ourselves from his interest? 1691 *D'Emiliane's Frauds Rom. Monks* 47, I might have had good reason to infer from their behaviour, that their Hearts were much stranged from the words of their Lips. 1715 tr. *C'tess D'Anois' Wks.* 93, I thought him quite strang'd from me.

b. To make (a person) a stranger *to* (a sentiment).

1390 Gower *Conf.* II. 190 Whan ther is lacke in hem above, The poeple is stranged to the love Of trouthe, in cause of ignorance. *Ibid.* III. 210 He which that wolde himselve strange To Pite, fond mercy so strange, That he withoute grace is lore.

4. ? To grudge (something valuable) *to* (a person); *refl.* to refuse (*to* grant something).

1439 *Rolls of Parlt.* V. 24/1 By cause of which Statuyt thus made, the Chaunceller of Englond for the tyme beyng, hath straunged hem oft tymes to graunt Licences. *c* 1489 Caxton *Blanchardyn* 71 That sore lytyll that god hath lent me of goodes sholde not be straunged vnto hym by me, for he is worthy to haue mykel more.

5. *intr.* To depart, estrange oneself *from*; to be removed or become alienated *from*.

c 1380 Wyclif *Sel. Wks.* I. 12 Crist shulde be our maister, and we shulden not strange from him. *Ibid.* 79 Men shulden speke her wordis as Goddis lawe spekip, and strange not in speche from undirstondinge of pe puple. 1390 Gower *Conf.* III. 6 Mi wittes changen And alle lustes fro me strangen.

6. To become strange or changed. *Obs.*

1390 Gower *Conf.* II. 264 And riht so as hir jargoun strangeth, In sondri wise hir forme chaungeth.

† 7. To be surprised, wonder. Const. *at*, dependent clause, or *to* and inf.

1639 Fuller *Holy War* IV. ii. 169 Whereat I should strange more, but that [etc.]. 1648 Gerbe *Red Horse* 7 Strange not then at changes. 1654 Gayton *Pleas. Notes* III. i. 69 Thou wouldst not much strange that I doe before-hand conforme my selfe to the Ceremony. 1664 Butler *Hud.* II. i. 9 Is't not enough to make one strange, That some mens fancies should ne'er change? 1671 *True Non-Conformist* 172, I strange you should accuse Henry the Eight of a civil Papacy, and so inconsequently acquit al his Successors. *a* 1691 G. Fox *Jrnl.* (1827) I. 80, I stranged at it. 1696 Eliz. West *Mem.* (1865) 53, I stranged mightily what might be the reason that the mills were going. 1757 Mrs. Griffith *Lett. Henry & Frances* (1767) II. 158 J. M. is in this house, offered me his company, and stranges much, as the waiter phrases it, why I should thus chuse to be alone. 1788 Shirrefs *Poems* (1790) 164, I strange to hear ye speak in sic a stile. 1880 *Antrim & Down Gloss.* s. v., I strange very much that you didn't come.

b. *trans.* To wonder at.

1641 R. Harris *Abners Funerall* Ep. Ded., Madam, Strange not my slownesse.

c. To surprise.

1657 Gaule *Sap. Justif.* 74 It stranges me still, that [etc.].

Hence **† Stranged** *ppl. a.*, made strange; **† Stranging** *vbl. sb.*, wondering.

1581 T. Howell *Devises* K iij b, What straunged sight hath me dismaide. 1658 Gurnall *Chr. in Arm.* II. verse 13. xvi. 456 This very thing made one of the Disciples ask Christ with no little stranging at it, Lord [etc.].

† Strangeful, *a. Obs. rare*$^{-1}$. [f. Strange *a.* + -ful.] Full of strangeness. Hence **† Strangefully** *adv.*

1591 Sylvester *Du Bartas* I. ii. 878 O Frantick France! why dost not Thou make use Of strangefull Signes, whereby the Heav'ns induce Thee to repentance? *1664 Depos. Cast. York* (Surtees) 124 His daughter Alice, of the age of 17, hath beene for six weeks lastly past most strangfully and wonderfully handled.

Strangely (strē·ndʒli), *adv.* [f. Strange *a.* + -ly 2.]

† 1. In a foreign or outlandish manner. *rare*$^{-0}$.

1483 *Cath. Angl.* 367/2 Strawngely, *extranee, barbare, peregrine.*

† 2. In an unfriendly or unfavourable manner; with cold or distant bearing. *Obs.*

c 1374 Chaucer *Troylus* V. 955 And straungely she spak and seyde pus. 1461 *Paston Lett.* II. 59, I have spoken with hem of that matre..and I have found the[m] too straunchely disposed. 1548 Hall *Chron., Edw. V* 23 b, When the protector had harde the proposicion, he loked very strangely therat. 1560 Daus tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 278 b, He answered somwhat straungly [L. *paulo respondet alienius*]. *c* 1600 Shaks. *Sonn.* xlix. 5 When thou shalt strangely passe, And scarcely greete me with that sunne thine eye. *Ibid.* cx. 6, I haue lookt on truth Asconce and strangely. *a* 1707 Patrick *Autobiogr.* (1839) 25 Look not strangely upon him because he differs from thee in some opinions.

† 3. In a way that is unusual or exceptional; in an unusual sense. *Obs.* (Merged in 5.)

1533 More *Conful. Barnes* Wks. 807/1 Heretikes, whiche bee straungers from the housholde of Christes catholike church, and whiche doe strangely rehearse and strangely declare Christes catholyke scrypture, agaynste the knowen catholike doctrine. 1581 Pettie *Guazzo's Civ. Conv.* III. (1586) 122 b, If you take it not so, me thinkes..you take it too strangelie, and too obscurelie.

† 4. In an uncommon or exceptional degree; very greatly, extremely. *Obs.* (Merged in 5.)

1387–8 T. Usk *Test. Love* I. iii. (Skeat) I. 59 The storm so straungely..gan..us assayle. 1610 Shaks. *Temp.* IV. i. 7 Thou Hast strangely stood the test. 1618 in Foster *Eng. Factories Ind.* (1906) 32 Hee was straungely importunate with me to give him leave to goe. 1665 in *Verney Mem.* (1907) II. 243 The Sickneese is strangely increased. 1671 Salmon *Syn. Med.* III. xxii. 395 Camomil,..it strangely cureth Agues. 1705 Hearne *Duct. Hist.* (ed. 2) I. 155 Civil Prudence..sparkles strangely in his Institution of Cyrus. 1707 Prior *Sat. Poets* 109 How fine your Plot, how exquisite each Scene! And play'd at Court, would strangely please the Queen. 1719 De Foe *Crusoe* I. (Globe) 122 The Heat of the Sun bak'd them strangely hard.

5. In a manner so unusual or exceptional as to excite wonder or astonishment; surprisingly, unaccountably, oddly.

a 1450 *Knt. de la Tour* 64 A gentill woman..come to a fest so straungely atyred and queintly arraied..that all that sawe her come ranne towardes her to wonder. 1590 Spenser *F. Q.* III. ii. 18 By strange occasion she did him behold, And much more strangely gan to loue his sight. 1599 Dallam in *Early Voy. Levant* (Hakluyt Soc.) 85 The which myls be verrie strainglie made. 1610 Shaks. *Temp.* III. iii. 40 They vanish'd strangely. *a* 1652 Brome *Queenes Exch.* V. i, *Osr.* Is Offa mad? *Keep.* O quite besides himself, and talks the strangeliest Of his fathers murder. 1712 Steele *Spect.* No. 306 P 8 The Vagaries of Fancy which so strangely misled you. 1775 Sheridan *Rivals* V. i, This fellow runs strangely in my head. 1849 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* VI. II. 13 Men who had never before had a scruple had on a sudden become strangely scrupulous. 1874 Green *Short Hist.* iii. § 6. 144 Strangely as the two men differed from each other, their aim was the same. 1888 Burgon *Lives 12 Gd. Men* I. ii. 116 Mankind show themselves strangely forgetful of their chiefest benefactors.

6. quasi-*Comb.* (The adv. qualifying a ppl. adj. or adj.; often hyphened when the use is attributive.)

1598 Chapman *Hero & Leander* III. 183 Most strangely-intellectuall fire. 1605 Shaks. *Mach.* IV. iii. 150 Strangely visited people All swolne and Vlcerous. 1633 Ford *Love's Sacrif.* IV. H 2 b, Some strangely-shap'd man-beast. 1648 J. Beaumont *Psyche* II. clxxv, His strangely-potent Wand's petard. 1777 Burke *Corr.* (1844) II. 172 So strangely-timed a piece of adulation. 1851 Helps *Comp. Solit.* xiii. 273 This mass of strangely-mingled materials.

Strangeness (strē·ndʒnés). [-ness.]

1. The quality of being strange, foreign, unfamiliar, uncommon, unusual, extraordinary, etc. (see the adj.).

c 1386 Chaucer *Pars. T.* P 340 That precious clothyng is cowpable..for his strangenesse and degisynesse. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 479/1 Strawngenesse, *extraneitas*. 1531 Elyot *Gov.* III. xviii, For the straungenesse of it, I will rehersse a notable historie. 1577 B. Googe *Heresbach's Husb.* I. 37 b, You must geue them but little at once, lest the strangenesse of the foode [L. *novitas pabuli*] hurt them. 1612 Bacon *Ess., Beauty* (Arb.) 210 There is no excellent beauty, that hath not some strangenesse in the proportions. 1638 Wilkins *Discov. World in Moon* I. i. 1 The strangenesse of this opinion is no sufficient reason why it should be rejected. 1768–74 Tucker *Lt. Nat.* (1834) II. 567 Novelty is different from strangeness; one is engaging, the other unpleasant. 1847 James *Convict* iii, The first strangeness of new arrival wore off with the two guests. 1860 Tyndall *Glac.* I. xvii. 316 There is a strangeness about the place which repels you. 1861 Dickens *Lett.* (1880) II. 152 This did not tend to cheer the strangeness I felt. 1885 *Manch. Exam.* 20 Mar. 4/7 Witnesses..declared that her strangeness of manner was subsequent to the marriage.

b. quasi-*concr.* With *pl.*: Something strange; a strange circumstance, object, event, or the like. **†** Without *pl.*: Strange matter, strange stuff.

a 1566 R. Edwards *Damon & Pithias* (facs.) B iv, Some strangenesse there is, that breedeth this musinge. 1568 Hacket tr. *Thevet's New found World* xxii. 36 Certaine others being ignorant dde write yet more strangenesse. 1604 E. G[rimstone] tr. *Acosta's Hist. Indies* III. xxi. 186 For that it is rare and extraordinarie to see a Countrie where it never raines nor thunders; men desire naturally to know the cause of this strangenes. 1651 Jer. Taylor *Serm.* I. vii. 83 New accidents and strangenesses of Providence. 1804 Coleridge *Lit. Rem.* (1836) II. 414 Fond of the curious, and a hunter of oddities and strangenesses. 1883 Abp. Benson in *Standard* 28 June 2/3 All their teaching would have a substantial basis and staple, instead of excitement and strangenesses, which ended where they began.

† 2. Absence of friendly feeling or relations; discouraging or uncomplying attitude towards others; coldness, aloofness. *Obs.*

c 1386 Chaucer *Shipm. T.* 386 Ye han maad a manere straungenesse, Bitwixen me and my oosyn daun Iohn. *c* 1400 *Rom. Rose* 3611 No straungenesse was in him sene, No more than he ne had wrathed bene. 1470–85 Malory *Arthur* VII. xix. 242 Allas faire lady..I haue not deserued that ye shold shewe me this straungenes. 1540–1 Elyot *Image Gov.* (1556) 25 b, Changyng affabilitee into straungenesse and stately countenance. 1575 Turberv. *Falconrie* 129 Vntill..shee be familiar with the man without any straungenesse or coynesse. 1607 Chapman *Bussy d'Ambois* II. ii. 192 Alas, I fear my strangeness will retire him. 1669 R. Montagu in *Buc. cleuch MSS.* (Hist. MSS. Comm.) I. 452 The King here lives at so much distance and strangeness with me. 1718 Hickes & Nelson *J. Kettlewell* I. viii. 30 Some strangeness had..intervened betwixt him and his Old Friends. 1752 Johnson *Rambler* No. 194 P 2 He practises the stare of strangeness, and the smile of condescension. 1766 C. Beatty *Tour* (1768) 47 All anger and strangeness of mind might be for ever done away.

† b. *To make strangeness*: to show oneself unfriendly or uncomplying. *Obs.*

c 1407 Lydg. *Reson & Sens.* 4829 Ther was no wight that sayde nay Nor made thoo no straungenesse, For the porter ydelnesse Lete hym in and that in hast. *a* 1513 Fabyan *Chron.* V. cxxxiv. (1811) 118 Where straungenesse was made by the ruler of yᵗ hous for the receyte of those relykes, tyll a myracle or dyuyne token there was shewyd.

Stranger (strē·ndʒəɹ), *sb.* (and *a.*). Forms: 4 **strangere,** 4–5 **straungere,** 4–6 **straunger,** 5 **strangier, -yer, straungeour, -ior, -yer, strawnger(e, strayngour, strongere, strounger,** (6 **strenger**), 5–6 *Sc.* **strainger, strangear,** 6 **straungier,** 4– **stranger.** See also Estranger. [Aphetic a. OF. *estrangier* (mod.F. *étranger*) = Pr. *estrangier*, Sp. *extrangero*, Pg. *estrangeiro*, It. *straniere, straniero*:— popular L. **extrāneārius*, f. L. *extrāne-us*: see Extraneous and Strange *adjs.*

The OF. word (like its equivalents in the other Rom. langs.) is primarily and chiefly an adj.; in Eng. the subst. use is primary; such adjectival uses as exist (see 13 below) being almost wholly developed from the attributive use of the *sb.*]

1. One who belongs to another country, a foreigner; chiefly (now exclusively), one who resides in or comes to a country to which he is a foreigner; an alien.

Now somewhat *rare*; the recent examples show mixture of sense 2 or 4.

1375 Barbour *Bruce* XX. 402 And to the lord Dowglass gaf he The waward, for to leid and steir All haill the strangeris with him weir. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xxvii. (*Machor*) 26 God mad hym to rest syn in france, in toron, til honouryt be, set þare a strangere was he. *c* 1460 J. Russell *Bk. Nurture* 1109 More ouer take hede he must to aliene commers straungeres, and to straungers of þis land, resient dwelleres. 1487 Wriothesley *Chron.* (1875) I. 2 One Martin Swarte, a straunger, slayne all in a feild that they made againste the Kinge. 1493 *Sc. Acts Jas. IV* (1814) II. 234/1 Quhene ony schip of alienaris or strangearis of vþer realmes cummys in þe havin of Leith. *c* 1511 *1st Eng. Bk. Amer.* (Arb.) Introd. p. xxxii, We kepe also the poure people with our almes alle that cometh be it strenger or of oure owne people. 1569 in *Southampton Court Leet Rec.* (1905) I. 58 That none wᵗhin the towne of Southampton englishe or stranger by enne butter other then for theire owne stowere. 1597 Morley *Introd. Mus.* Pref., Then was I forced to runne to the workes of manie, both strangers and Englishmen..for a solution..of my doubt. 1611 Bible *Transl. Pref.* P 11 As St. Augustine saith; A man had rather be with his dog than with a stranger (whose tongue is strange vnto him). 1650 A. Cowley in T. Brown *Misc. Aulicæ* (1702) 134 His Forces compos'd of about six hundred Strangers, and the rest drawn out of the Islands, are about two thousand. 1651 Hobbes *Leviath.* II. xix. 101 Strangers (that is, men not used to live under the same government, nor speaking the same language). 1667 Milton *P. L.* XII. 358 At last they seise The Scepter, and regard not Davids Sons, Then loose it to a stranger. *a* 1700 Evelyn *Diary* (1879) I. 3 In the judgement of Strangers as well as Englishmen it [*sc.* Wotton] may be compared to [etc.]. 1729 T. Cooke *Tales* etc. 213 If stated Rules are observed..the Facility of learning the Language will be no small Inducement to the Study of it in Strangers. 1870 Dk. of Argyll *Iona* i. 14 The story..that a British chief invited the Saxon stranger from across the German Sea. 1871 Freeman *Norm. Conq.* IV. xvii. 55 In a generation or two the stranger ceased to be a stranger. The foreign spoiler..insensibly changed into the son of the soil. 1906

W. A. Craigie *Relig. Anc. Scandinavia* iv. 57 In Sweden, indeed, strangers appear to have run some risk of being selected as victims.

† **b.** Something that comes from abroad; *esp.* an exotic plant. *Obs.*

1578 Lyte *Dodoens* I. lxxxvii. 440 The apple of Perow is a stranger also [*Ibid.*, *supra*: a strange plant]. 1597 Gerarde *Herbal* I. lxxxiii. 133 The last [flower] is a stranger in England, yet we haue it and the rest in our gardens. 1657 Coles *Adam in Eden* cxi, There are divers Sorts of Wood-binds, some..known throughout the Land;..others are strangers, or not so well known. 1669 Sturmy *Mariner's Mag.* VII. xi. 17 This Declining Dial being a Stranger with us, followeth the fashion of his own Country. 1732 Lyttelton *Progr. Love* ii. 69 A Bird..Whose yellow Plumage shines like polish'd Gold; From distant Isles the lovely Stranger came, And bears the fortunate Canaries Name.

2. One who is not a native of, or who has not long resided in, a country, town, or place. Chiefly, a new comer, one who has not yet become well acquainted with the place, or (cf. 4) one who is not yet well known.

1447 Bokenam *Saints* i. (*Marg.*) 881 Allas, quod he, euene as a straunger And as vnknowyn also in this cuntre Ineuytabylly I must deyin her. 1592 Greene *Upst. Courtier* C2, Because I am a stranger in this land, & but here lately arriued, they wil hold me as an vpstart. 1596 Shaks. *Tam. Shr.* II. i. 90 Pardon me sir, the boldnesse is mine owne, That being a stranger in this Cittie heere, Do make my selfe a sutor to your daughter. *a* 1626 Bacon *New Atlantis* 5 He came to conduct vs to the Strangers House...The Strangers House is a faire and spacious House, built of Brick, [etc.]. 1794 Mrs. Radcliffe *Myst. Udolpho* vi, I cannot show you the way, for I am almost a stranger here. 1845 Gosse *Ocean* iv. (1849) 178 But of all the constellations that stud the sky of the southern hemisphere, there is none that more strikes a stranger than the Southern Cross. 1860 *Merc. Marine Mag.* VII. 311 Some allowance is to be made for him from the fact of his being a stranger in these seas.

transf. a 1767 M. Bruce *Ode to Cuckoo* 1 Hail, beauteous Stranger of the wood! Attendant on the Spring! 1811 Hogg *Verses to Comet of 1811*, 9 Stranger of heaven! I bid thee hail! 1864 Semmes *Cruise Alabama & Sumter* I. 64 The Governor at once proceeded to take legal opinion as to the propriety of permitting the suspicious stranger [the Sumter] to coal. 1892 Emily Lawless *Grania* I. 179 Leaning against a big boulder, a 'stranger' like the one that blocked the mouth of their own gully.

† **b.** In parochial registers: A person not belonging to the parish. *Obs.*

The Latin equivalent *extraneus* (*extranea*) was also commonly used.

1507–8 *Rec. St. Mary at Hill* (1905) 262 R' of stevyn sawnderson for the beryell of a stranger, xij d. 1517–18 *Ibid.* 299 Ress' for the buryall of a straunger in þe greate chirche-yard..viij d. 1585 in *Trans. Essex Archæol. Soc.* (1863) II. 128 A poore child beinge a stranger bapt[d] the 13th of Julye.

† **c.** *Strangers' silver* (Sc.).

1591 *Exch. Rolls Scot.* XXII. 156 Borrowit fra the said clerk of register be his majestie of the straingeris siluer consignit in his handis.

3. A guest or visitor, in contradistinction to the members of the household. Now chiefly with mixture of sense 4.

To make a stranger of: to treat with ceremony, not as one of the family. Chiefly with negative.

c 1400 Maundev. (1839) iv. 29 At grete Festes and for Straungeres, thei setten Formes and Tables. 1420–2 Lydg. *Thebes* II. 1468 The freshnesse of Her heuenly cheres So agreable was to the straungers,..that..hem thoght it lik a thyng Celestial. 1430–40 *Bk. Curtasye* 801 in *Babees Bk.* 326 But he sende hit to ony strongere, A pese þat is hym leue and dere. *c* 1450–60 *Bp. Grossetesté's Househ. Stat.* Ibid. 330 Commaunde ye the officers that they admitte your knowlechyd men, familiers frendys, and strangers, with mery chere. ? *c* 1470 *Gol. & Gaw.* 1155 He gart at ane sete burd the strangearis begin, The maist seymly in sale ordanit thame sete. *c* 1470 *Rauf Coilzear* 214 Gyll, lat the cop raik for my bennysoun; And gar our Gaist begin, and syne drink thow to me; Sen he is ane stranger, me think it ressoun. 1509 Fisher *Funeral Serm. C'tess Richmond* Wks. (1876) 296 The housholde seruauntes muste be put in some good ordre. The straungers of honeste..must be consydered. 1519 in *Archæologia* XXV. 425 Straungers in ye same week Imprimis Mr Roger Woodows & his wyff, & his iiij servants from Sondaye till Wedynsdaye. 1577 H. Rhodes *Bk. Nurture* in *Babees Bk.* 102 If that a straunger syt thee neare, See thou make him good cheare. 1667 Milton *P. L.* v. 316 And what thy stores contain, bring forth and poure Abundance, fit to honour and receive Our Heav'nly stranger. 1699 Dampier *Voy.* II. i. v. 93 That part that fronts the Gate, has a pretty neat room, which seems to be designed for the reception of Strangers. 1766 Goldsm. *Vic. W.* xxxii, He now resides.. at a relation's house,..seldom sitting at the side-table, except when there is no room at the other; for they make no stranger of him.

transf. 1577 B. Googe *Heresbach's Husb.* II. 76 A ground drye, fatte, and well laboured with the Mattocke, wherein the stranger may be well cherished [L. *aduenis hospitale*].

b. Any of the things which are popularly imagined to forebode the coming of an unexpected visitor, e.g. a floating tea-leaf in the cup; an excrescence on the wick of a candle, causing guttering; a piece of soot flapping on the bar of the grate; a moth flying towards one.

1838 G. Wilson *Let.* in Jessie A. Wilson *Mem.* iii. (1860) 136 Have you seen any strangers floating in your tea? 1862 C. C. Robinson *Dial. Leeds* 423 *Stranger*, a name given to the soot-flakes which peel off, and flutter on the bars of fire-grates [etc.]. 1870 *Brand's Pop. Antiq.* (ed. Hazl.) III. 182 A kind of fungus in the candle, he [*sc.* Grose] observes, predicts the visit of a stranger from that part of the country nearest the object. [Addit. note] This is called a stranger. 1894 R. Leighton *Wreck Golden Fleece* 84 Pausing only to take up the silver snuffers and clip a 'stranger' from the wick of the guttering candle. 1896 Proudfoot *Borderland Muse* 7 Oh see, Granny, see! A stranger sae bonnilie flaps on the bars.

4. An unknown person; a person whom one has not seen before; also in wider sense, a person with whom one is not yet well acquainted. Phrases, *a perfect, a total, an utter stranger*. Const. *to*.

c 1385 Chaucer *L. G. W.* 1075 And, for he was a straunger, somwhat she Lyked him the bet, as..To som folk ofte newe thing is swote. *c* 1489 Caxton *Blanchardyn* xii. 43 Incontynente that she felte her self to be thus sodaynly kyst of a man straunger out of her knowlege, she [etc.]. 1522 More *De quat. Noviss*, Wks. 81/1 So that if thou consider this well, thou maist loke vpon deth, not as a stranger, but as a nigh neibour. 1601 Shaks. *Twel. N.* I. iv. 4 The Duke..hath known you but three dayes, and already you are no stranger. *a* 1700 Evelyn *Diary* 30 Jan. 1653, At our own parish Church a stranger preach'd. 1719 De Foe *Crusoe* I. (Globe) 283 When I came to England, I was as perfect a Stranger to all the World, as if I had never been known there. 1798 Sophia Lee *Canterb. T., Young Lady's T.* II. 488 Sir Edward, perceiving..a person quite a stranger to him. 1825 Lytton *Zicci* i, But the stranger had an air and tone with him it was impossible to resist. 1876 J. Parker *Paracl.* I. viii, 114 He [Christ] has always been a stranger, viewed with suspicion. 1893 D. Davidson *Mem. Long Life* viii. (ed. 2) 198 Mr. Bell was sitting at breakfast, when a stranger entered his bungalow. 1908 R. Bagot *A. Cuthbert* v. 41 After all, you must remember that up to a few days ago you were a comparative stranger to your aunt Jane.

transf. 1878 H. S. Leigh *Town Garland* 77 Helvellyn I have never seen, While Snowdon is a stranger quite. 1889 Gretton *Memory's Harkback* 168 Would I not drive myself? No; I could drive a horse of my own, but would have nothing to do with a stranger.

b. Said playfully of a newborn child.

'Welcome, little stranger!' was a quotation common in the early part of the 19th century, and sometimes printed or embroidered on articles for nursery use.

1829 Scott *Guy M.* Introd., 'I fear from your looks,' said the father, 'that you have bad tidings to tell me of my young stranger'. 1856 H. Mayhew *Rhine* 41 A medical bulletin, informing you of that day's state of health of some 'little stranger' and its mother within. 1896 Kipling *Seven Seas, Three-decker* 14 We never talked obstetrics when the Little Stranger came.

c. *Vocatively*. (Said to be, in rustic use in the U.S., the customary mode of address to one whose name is unknown.)

1817 M. Birkbeck *Notes Journ. Amer.* (1818) 81 On my way..a man..hailed me with the common, but to us quaint appellation of 'stranger'.. 1827 J. F. Cooper *Prairie* ix, I should be better pleased, stranger,..to be sure the creature was a beast at all. 1884 Phillipps-Wolley *Trottings of Tenderfoot* 33 Mighty big feet of yourn, ain't they, stranger?

d. Predicatively, said of one whose visits have long ceased. † Also, one who never visits (a place), an absentee *from*.

1530 Palsgr. 625/2, I make my selfe a straunger for leavyng to resorte to a place, *je me alienc.* 1540 — *Acolastus* I. i. D j, *Pel.* Hast thou not herde tell..of my sonne? *Eu.* What studyeth he..? *Pel.* To make hym selfe a straunger from his fathers howse [etc.]. 1580 G. Harvey *Three Proper Lett.* 37, I am lately become a maruellous great straunger at myne olde Mistresse Poetries. 1620 [G. Brydges] *Horæ Subs.* 174 To make themselues altogether strangers from the Court and Towne is too strict. 1706 De Foe *Appar. Mrs. Veal* (1732) 3, I am surprized to see you, you have been so long a Stranger. 1884 Annie Swan *Carlowrie* x. 161 'Eh, Miss Ritchie, what a stranger!' exclaimed Mrs. Dalrymple's pleasant voice.

5. A non-member of a society. Now *rare*.

? *c* 1376 in *Eng. Gilds* (1870) 76 Also þat no brother no sister ne shalle discuse þe counseil of þis fraternite to no straungere. 1556 *Rec. Inverness* (New Spald. Club) I. 3 For withhalding of..strangeris nocht to be excepit amangis thame as burges or gild broder. 1576 in W. M. Williams *Ann. Founders' Co.* (1867) 65 To comyte to prison those two Strangers which do refuse to be sworne to observe..Ordynances of theyre sayde Companye. 1879 H. C. Powell *Amateur Athletic Ann.* 22 Portal, of Balliol, had little difficulty in taking the first prize in the 300 yds. strangers' handicap [at Corpus sports]. 1892 *Photogr. Ann.* II. 607 Brechin Photographic Association...The use of the dark room..is granted to strangers at the nominal charge of 1s. per month.

b. *Parliament*. One who is not a member or official of the House, and is present at its debates only on sufferance. So occas. with reference to a court of justice.

I spy strangers: the formula used by a member in demanding the expulsion of strangers from the House.

1809 *Hansard's Parl. Deb.* XIV. 255 The gallery was not re-opened to strangers, and the house shortly afterwards divided on Mr. Canning's Amendment. 1835 Dickens *Sk. Boz, Parl. Sk.*, We will try our fortune at the Strangers' gallery, though the nature of the debate encourages very little hope of success. 1861 Brougham *Brit. Const.* xix. 322 Each court should have the power of excluding strangers in certain cases. 1886 H. W. Lucy *Diary Gladstone Parlt.* 120 The galleries over the clock were all full, strangers displaying an undying interest in the proceedings.

6. A person not of one's kin; more fully, *stranger in blood*. Also, a person unconnected by ties of friendship or the like. † *To put on the stranger*: to affect a distant manner.

1535 Coverdale *Ps.* lxviii. 8, I am become a straunger vnto my brethren, and an aleaunt vnto my mothers children. 1809 Malkin *Gil Blas* XII. i. (Rtldg.) 423, I came up to pay my devotions; but whim..determined her to put on the stranger, and receive my compliments with so discouraging a coldness, as to throw me into some little confusion. 1860 Hawthorne *Transform.* xxiii, That Miriam—until yesterday her oldest friend—had a right to be told..that henceforth they must be for ever strangers.

7. One who has no share in (some privilege or business). Const. *of, from*. ? *Obs.*

1483 Caxton *G. de la Tour* d vj, We and alle the world were delyuered to the perille of the deth of helle and made straungers of the greete ioye of paradys. *c* 1535 Nisbet *Prol., Rom.* Wks. (S.T.S.) III. 323 Heythen quhilkis ar strangers from the lyf of Gode. 1611 Sir J. Digbye *Let.* 2 Feb. in *10th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. I. 559 The French Ambass[r] here is much dejected that he has been made a mere stranger in this business.

b. *Law*. One not privy or party to an act. Const. *to*. Also, one not standing towards another in some relation implied in the context.

1543 tr. *Act 1 Rich. III*, c. 7 The sayde fyne to be a fynall ende, and to conclude aswell pryueys as straungers to the same. 1642 tr. *Perkins' Profit. Bk.* x. § 691. 298 The feoffees..are strangers unto the lease [AF. *ils sont estranges a le lease*]. 1765 Blackstone *Comm.* I. xiv. 418 If a servant ..by his negligence does any damage to a stranger, the master shall answer for his neglect. 1766 *Ibid.* II. xxi. 356 Strangers to a fine are all other persons in the world, except only parties and privies. 1818 Cruise *Digest* (ed. 2) V. 367 If a feoffment from the *cestui que use* to a stranger, after he had conveyed the use, would have made the fine undoubtedly good, the like feoffment would [etc.]. 1842 Greenleaf *Evid.* I. § 522, 672 (Funk) It is also a most obvious principle of justice, that no man ought to be bound by proceedings to which he was a stranger.

† **8.** Something alien; something that has no place in (a class, the nature of a thing, a person's character, thoughts, or discourse). Const. *to*. *Obs.*

1602 Marston *Ant. & Mel.* I. B 4 b, Pish, tis our nature to desire things That are thought strangers to the common cut. 1605 Shaks. *Mach.* IV. iii. 125, I..Heere abiure The taints, and blames, I laide vpon my selfe, For strangers to my Nature. *a* 1625 Fletcher *Nice Valour* V. ii, The name of envy is a stranger here. *a* 1653 Binning *Sinner's Sanct.* V. Wks. (1735) 183 It is no Wonder that we cannot speak any Thing to Purpose of this Subject,..because it is indeed a Mystery to our Judgments, and a great Stranger to our Practice. 1703 Rowe *Fair Penit.* Ded., Those violent Passions which have been always Strangers to so happy a Temper as your Grace is Mistress of. 1715 J. Hughes *Spenser's Wks.* I. Remarks p. xciv, Before his [Spenser's] time, Musick seems to have been so much a Stranger to our Poetry, that..we have very few Examples of Verses that had any tolerable Cadence. 1722 A. Philips *Briton* I. v. 10 A Friend accounted long, I felt her Charms, When Yvor was a Stranger to her Thoughts. 1838 T. Mitchell *Clouds of Aristoph.* 461–2 *note*, Language derived from the art of war appears to have been no stranger to the mouth of Socrates.

9. Predicatively, *a stranger to* —: Unacquainted with, ignorant of. (Distinct from sense 4.)

† **a.** Unacquainted with (a person, place, book, etc.). *Obs.*

1697 Dryden *Æneis* Ded. (e) 3 b, Long before I undertook this Work, I was no stranger to the Original. 1710 Felton *Diss. Classics* (1718) 123 There is so much..Beauty in the Classics, that 'tis impossible to translate them so ill, as utterly to deface them, and quite spoil the Entertainment they afford those who are Strangers to them in their Native Tongue. 1721 [T. Thomas] *Urry's Chaucer* Pref. i 2, As for my self, I was equally a stranger to Mr. Urry and his Undertaking, till some time after his Death. 1776 Cook *2nd Voy.* I. iii. I. 67 Fearing to run, in thick weather, into a place to which we were all strangers,..I tacked in twenty-five fathom water.

† **b.** Ignorant of (an art, a language, etc.). *Obs.*

1665 Boyle *Occas. Refl.* iii. 61 Though one that were a Stranger to the Art of Gardening, would think, that [etc.]. 1688 — *Final Causes* i. 28 A great Book, written in some Indian Language, which he is utterly a Stranger to. 1741–2 Challoner *Mem. Missionary Priests* Pref., We must be utterly strangers to the history of that reign..if we deny that they [tortures] were in use in those times.

† **c.** Unaware of (a fact, state of things, something that has happened). Also with clause, *to be no stranger*, not to be unaware *that*. *Obs.*

1693–4 *Phil. Trans.* XVIII. 43 Had any Person, a stranger to what had been done, seen the Stumps, he would have supposed nothing less than an actual Cautery had been applyed. 1731–8 Swift *Pol. Conversat.* iii. 190 *Lady Answ.* They say, she's quite a Stranger to all his [*sc.* her husband's] Gallantries. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* II. iv. 166 The enemy was still a stranger to our having got round Cape Horn. 1763 *Museum Rust.* I. 327 They are no strangers that new beans will..give a horse the gripes. 1831 Scott *Ct. Robt.* xiii, 'I am no stranger,' said the Varangian, 'to the pride of your heart, or the precedence which you assume over those who have been less fortunate in war than yourselves.'

d. Having no experience of; unaccustomed to. Said of persons and things.

1633 Ford *Broken H.* III. iv, I am no stranger to such easie calmes As sit in tender bosomes. 1684 Bunyan *Pilgr.* II. (1693) 138 There are many that go upon the Road, that rather declare themselves Strangers to Pilgrimage, than Strangers and Pilgrims in the Earth. 1713 Steele *Guardian* No. 17 ₱ 8 The Mother assured him that..[her daughter] was a Stranger to Man. 1728 Law *Serious C.* iii. (1732) 32 A stranger to watchings, fastings, prayers, and mortifications. 1765 J. Phillips *Treat. Inland Navig.* 28 Seamen are,..preferred, for conducting the barges and boats, to people entirely strangers to the water. 1796 Morse *Amer. Geog.* II. 262 They [*sc.* Polish cavalry] are strangers to all discipline. 1826 Lamb *Pop. Fallacies* xii, It grew up without the lullaby of nurses, it was a stranger to the patient fondle. 1831 Scott *Ct. Robt.* xxvi, This singular dialogue, in which he had assumed a tone to which his daughter was a stranger, and before which she trembled. 1833 T. Hook *Parson's Dau.* II. ii, A report..that his lordship was shortly to return to Dale Cottage, set the heart of the Parson's Daughter into a sort of palpitation, to which..it had been a perfect stranger. 1835 Dickens *Sk. Boz, Mr. Watkins Tottle* ii, The dirty floor had evidently been as long a

stranger to the scrubbing-brush as to carpet or floor-cloth. 1843 *Fraser's Mag.* XXVIII. 654 He was described as a stranger to dissipation. 1863 FAWCETT *Pol. Econ.* II. v. 185 No man .. would willingly change a business to which he has been accustomed .. for one to which he would be a stranger.

10. In popular names of animals.

a. *Labrador.* (See quot.)

1792 G. CARTWRIGHT *Jrnl. Labrador* I. Gloss. p. xv, *Stranger*, a water-fowl of the duck kind.

b. Certain species of moths.

1832 J. RENNIE *Consp. Butterfl. & Moths* 70 The Stranger (*Mamestra Alienа*, ..) appears in June. *Ibid.* 214 The Stranger Knot-horn (*Phycita advenella*). 1869 E. NEWMAN *Brit. Moths* 415 The Stranger (*Hadena peregrina*).

c. The Australasian fish, *Odax richardsonii*.

1875 *Spectator* (Melbourne) 19 June 81/1 Common fish, such as .. garfish, Strangers, Silvers, and others. 1891 *Australasian* (Melbourne) 15 Aug. 320 Melbourne markets. Salmon 5s. to 6s.; strangers 2s. to 4s. 1898 MORRIS *Austral Eng.* 442.

† **11.** A name for some form of stanza. *Obs.*

13 .. R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 86 If it were made in ryme couwee, Or in strangefe or enterlacé.

12. *slang.* A guinea. 1785 GROSE *Dict. Vulgar T.*

13. *attrib.*, passing into *adj.*

a. That is a stranger (in senses 1–5). Often hyphenated.

Stranger-guest (cf. *guest-friend*, GUEST *sb.* 6): invented by Pope as a rendering of Gr. ξένος; used occas. by other writers for a stranger (sense 1, or 4) who is received as a guest.

1421 *Coventry Leet Bk.* 29 Allso we command that no maner of Straunger vitaler þat bryngithe See fische .. to this cite for to sell, that he sell no maner of suche fische .. till hit be ix of the cloke. *c* 1485 *Digby Myst.* I. 804 My lord, .. ther were iij straunger kynges but late in your presence, that went to bedlem. 1543 *Star Chamber Cases* (Selden Soc.) II. 267 The Straunger seller and the Straunger byer do appoynt to mete at the said faire. 1596 SHAKS. *Merch. V.* I. iii. 129 You that did .. foote me as you spurne a stranger curre Ouer your threshold, moneyes is your suite. 1607 — *Per.* II. iii. 67 Alas my Father, it befits not mee, Vnto a stranger Knight to be so bold. *c* 1619 DRUMM. OF HAWTH. *Conv. w. B. Jonson* (1842) 4 His [Ben Jonson's] judgement of stranger poets was: That he thought not Bartas a Poet, but a Verser .. That Guarini [etc.]. 1622 MALYNES *Anc. Law-Merch.* 326 That no Corporation .. shall let any house or dwelling place to any stranger Vsurer. *a* 1653 BINNING *Common Princ. Chr. Relig.* Wks. (1735) 31/2 Thus poor Stranger-Gentiles .. come to share with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. 1687 A. LOVELL tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* I. 248 Besides these are the Stranger Christians, Turks and Jews; the stranger Christians are either Franks or Greeks. 1697 DRYDEN *Æneis* VIII. 165 He said; and downward hasting to the Strand, Embrac'd the Stranger Prince, and join'd his Hand. 1725 POPE *Odyss.* I. 156 The stranger Guest the royal Youth beheld. *Ibid.* I. 515, VII. 223, XV. 548. 1767 JAGO *Edge-hill* I. 237 To chear The Stranger-Guest. 1810 SCOTT *Lady of L.* II. xiv, What think'st thou of our stranger guest? 1812 BYRON *Ch. Har.* I. xc, How many a doubtful day shall sink in night, Ere .. Freedom's stranger-tree grow native of the soil! 1813 SHELLEY *Q. Mab* IV. 121 Ah! to the stranger-soul, when first it peeps From its new tenement .. how stern .. a tract is this wide world! 1825 WATERTON *Wand. S. Amer.* IV. i. 287, I saluted him as one stranger gentleman ought to salute another when he wants a little information. 1859 TENNYSON *Marr. Geraint* 286 Pardon me, O stranger knight. 1869 TOZER *Highl. Turkey* II. 287 Her enchantment is removed .. by means of a stranger prince.

b. Pertaining to a stranger or to strangers; also, situated abroad; foreign.

1593 NORDEN *Spec. Brit., Cornw.* (1728) 98 Salt-ashe .. hath anchorage and soylage of all straunger ships. 1593 SHAKS. *Lucr.* 99 But she that neuer cop't with straunger eies, Could picke no meaning from their parling lookes. 1593 — *Rich. II*, I. iii. 143 You cousin Herford .. Shall .. tread the stranger pathes of banishment. 1598 BARRET *Theor. Warres* IV. i. 119 The Spaniards will not permit any souldier of a straunger nation to beare office among them. 1598 MARSTON *Met. Pigmalion's Image* Reactio 60 Raile .. At all Translators that do striue to bring That stranger language to our vulgar tongue. 1671 R. MONTAGU in *Buccleuch MSS.* (Hist. MSS. Comm.) I. 501 Commissions will .. be given out for all the stranger troops that are to be raised. 1685 in *Verney Mem.* (1907) II. 402 [She begged him to burn her letters, that] no stranger eye may censure them hereafter. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* IV. 502 O Sister! not with causeless Fear possest, No Stranger Voice disturbs thy tender Breast. 1810 MONTGOMERY *West Indies* II. 215 Condemn'd .. in stranger-isles to bear, .. Through life's slow journey, to its dolorous close, Unseen, unwept, unutterable woes. 1812 BYRON *Ch. Har.* I. xiii. 9 Perchance my dog will whine in vain, Till fed by stranger hands. 1837 HALLAM *Lit. Europe* I. i. iv. § 25 The north of Italy still endured the warfare of stranger armies. 1880 RUSKIN *Bible of Amiens* I. i. 2 And of these, the fruits of her hands, .. she sent also portions to stranger nations.

c. Not one's own (or its own); alien. *rare.*

1577 B. GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* II. 75 b, Some delight to be set in trees, and not in the grounde: and when they haue no soyle of their owne, they liue in a stranger [L. *cum suam sedem non habeant, in aliena viuunt*]. 1642 H. MORE *Song of Soul* II. ii. 39 Long 'tis till water boild doth stranger heat controul. *a* 1763 SHENSTONE *Elegies* xiii. 13 Life is that stranger land, that alien clime. 1850 TENNYSON *In Mem.* cii, The roofs, that heard our earliest cry, Will shelter one of stranger race.

14. *Comb.*, as *stranger-like*, *-tongued* adjs.; **stranger-born** *a.*, of foreign birth (the first example is doubtful); **stranger-wise** *adv.*, as a stranger.

1473 *Rolls of Parlt.* VI. 78/2 The which Michell Potter .., *straunger born, not made nor beyng Denizein, late purchased. 1870 BRYANT *Iliad* XVI. 687 The slain, though stranger-born, Had been a pillar of the realm of Troy. 1868 BROWNING *Ring & Bk.* VII. 19 A pretty church, .. Yet *stranger-like,—while this Lorenzo seems My own particular place, I always say. 1824 SYMMONS *Æschylus' Agamem.* 112 Bred in strange land, in city *stranger-tongued. 1616 SURFLET & MARKHAM *Country Farm* I. i. 2 Either little, or very *stranger-wise, acquainted with them. *a* 1894 AUGUSTA WEBSTER *Mother & Dau.* (1895) 16 Child, I'd needs love thy beauty stranger wise.

Hence **Stra'ngerdom, Stra'ngerhood, Stra'ngership,** the condition or fact of being a stranger.

1867 MISS MULOCK *Fair France* i. (1871) 6 The glorious independence of total *strangerdom. 1857 J. HAMILTON *Less. Gt. Biog.* 218 No stiffness, no mien of *strangerhood, to the redeemed of other countries. 1890 H. M. STANLEY *Darkest Africa* I. xi. 293 This began the exchange of friendly intercourse. Strangerhood was broken. 1824 LÆTITIA M. HAWKINS *Mem.* I. 290 It was her care to put every body at ease; it was her delight to break the barrier of *stranger-ship. 1829 BENTHAM *Justice & Cod. Petit.* 188 In a case where .. the party .. is by strangership, relative indigence, or bad character, disabled from finding any security. 1834 DE QUINCEY *Autob. Sk.* Wks. 1853 I. 221 His next care was .. to withdraw me the stranger from any oppressive feeling of strangership. 1881 MACFARREN *Counterpoint* iii. 8 And the 7th note has an effect of strangership in any key.

Stranger (strē·ndʒəɹ), *v.* [f. STRANGER *sb.*]

† **1.** *trans.* To make a stranger of; to alienate.

1605 SHAKS. *Lear* I. i. 207 Will you with those infirmities she owes, .. Dow'rd with our curse, and stranger'd with our oath, Take her or leaue her.

2. To make strange.

1863 W. LANCASTER *Præterita* 70 Homeless home is strangered with a shade, That moves us weeping from familiar doors.

Strangle (stræ·ngʻl), *sb.* [f. STRANGLE *v.*]

† **1.** The action of strangling; strangulation. *Obs.*

c 1386 CHAUCER *Knt.'s T.* 1600 Myn is þe strangle [*So Lansd.*; *other MSS.* stranglyng] and hangyng by þe prote. *a* 1603 T. CARTWRIGHT *Confut. Rhem. N. T.* (1618) 373 Diuers lewd traditions .. as of Iudas breaking the rope wherewith he hung himselfe, directly contrary to Luke, who writeth that he dyed of that strangle.

fig. 1641 MILTON *Animadv.* 8 An injurious strangle of silence.

† **2.** = STRANGLES. *Obs.*

1607 MARKHAM *Caval.* VII. 70 For betwixt the Strangle and the Glanders is but this difference, that [etc.].

3. = *Strangle-hold* (in 4).

1890 E. HITCHCOCK in *Outing* Nov. 117/1 The man unfortunate enough to be under the neck-stretching hold of a 'Nelson', or in the grip of a 'strangle', both of which holds are now usually barred in competition. 1906 in F. R. Toombs *How to Wrestle* 65 Now we consider a strangle from the rear.

4. *Comb.* † **strangle-halt,** ? = STRINGHALT; **strangle-hold** *Wrestling*, a hold which stops the adversary's breath; also *fig.* (*attrib.*).

1624 L. W. C. *Perf. Disc. Horse* D 2 b, For the Strangle-halt. 1893 *Lippincott's Mag.* Feb. 210 In the 'strangle' hold, an opponent's head is caught under the arm, and the unfortunate man is compelled to acknowledge defeat or be choked into insensibility. 1901 H. MCHUGH *John Henry* 83 Day after to-morrow he'll flash the intelligence on me that he has invented a strangle-hold line of business that will put Looey Harrison on the blink.

Strangle (stræ·ngʻl), *v.* Forms: 4 **strangel(le, strangul,** 4, 6 **strangil,** 5 **strangli, strang(e)lyn,** 6 **strangyll, straungle, strongle,** 7 **strengle,** 4– **strangle.** See also ASTRANGLE, ESTRANGLE *vbs.* [a. OF. *estrangler* (mod.F. *étrangler*) = Pr. *estranglar, estrangolar*, Sp., Pg. *estrangular*, It. *strangolare, strangulare* :— L. *strangulāre*, a. Gr. στραγγαλᾶν, f. στραγγάλη halter, cogn. w. στραγγός twisted.]

1. *trans.* To kill by external compression of the throat, esp. by means of a rope or the like passed round the neck.

1303 R. BRUNNE *Handl. Synne* 972 Ne here helpe hadde be, þat was so nere, þe hand me hadde strangled here. 1338 — *Chron.* (1725) 33 þe kyng tok þis pantelere, & strangled him right þore. 13.. *K. Alis.* 5305 The other lep on an olyfaunt, .. And strangled hym in litel stounde. 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 8408 Þai [*sc.* the damned] salle be fulle Of hatred .. Swa þat ilk ane wald with other fyght, And strangelle other, if þai myght. *c* 1380 WYCLIF *Wks.* (1880) 476 Knytte þis coorde to mannus þrote & it myʒte soone strangle þis man. 1426 LYDG. *De Guil. Pilgr.* 8245 Thys gorger .. strangleth me almost vp ryht, That I may nat speke a-ryht. *c* 1430 — *Min. Poems* (Percy Soc.) 238 This name Jhesus .. Is for to seyne .. Our strong Sampson that strangłyd the lioun. *c* 1450 *Merlin* i. 4 She henge herself and was strangelid to death. *c* 1500 *Three Kings' Sons* (1895) 132 He .. drewe the rope so fast, that was aboute his nek, that he had strangild him, had not his folkes cried on him, and seide that it was the hangmans office, .. to do so foul a dede. 1530 PALSGR. 738/2 He held me so harde by the throote that he hade allmost stranglyd me. *a* 1533 BERNERS *Huon* lxxxi. 249 Your brother Gerarde [ought] to be hanged and strangled. 1555 *Instit. Gentl.* L v b, This Narcissus then accordyngly entered into the chaumbre of Comodus, and by force strangled him to deathe. 1563–83 FOXE *A. & M.* 1079/2 Tindall .. was .. then strangled first by the hangman, and afterward with fire consumed. 1577–87 HARRISON *England* II. xi. 184/2 in *Holinshed*, He is either hanged aliue in chaines .. (or else vpon compassion taken first strangled with a rope). 1588 SHAKS. *L. L. L.* V. i. 142 He shall present Hercules in minoritie: his enter and exit shall bee strangling a Snake. 1602 CHETTLE *Hoffman* IV. (1631) H 2, Weapons draw blood .. Then strangle her, here is a towell sir. 1613 BEAUM. & FL. *Philaster* V. iii. (1620) 57 Vnlesse it be some snake, or something like your selfe, That in his birth shall strengle you. 1663 *Unfort. Usurper* IV. iv. 50 He strangles Alexius with the Bowstring. *a* 1709 EVELYN *Diary* 21 Oct. 1678, The murder of Sir Edmondbury Godfrey, found strangl'd about this time. 1726 AYLIFFE *Parergon* 52 Our Saxon Ancestors compelled the Adulteress to strangle herself. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* V. 134 As for small birds, they are its usual food. It seizes them by the throat, and strangles them in an instant. 1800 *Med. Jrnl.* IV. 327 The os uteri encircled round the neck of the fœtus like a collar, insomuch that the fœtus was strangled. 1892 R. BUCHANAN *Come live with Me* iii. 30 Geoffrey's fingers itched to strangle him out of life.

b. *fig.*

a 1591 H. SMITH *Trump. Soule* A 5 b, Strangle sinne in thy cradle, for all the wisedome in the world wil not help thee else. 1678 STILLINGFL. *Serm.* XVI. (1707) 249 If this be the way to reconcile us to their Communion, have we not great reason to be fond of returning into the Bosom of such a Church which may strangle us as soon as it gets us within her Arms? 1879 J. BRUCE *Gideon* X. 179 They would be eager to strangle this insurrection in the birth.

c. To constrict painfully (the neck or throat).

c 1450 *Mirk's Festial* 79 þat þrote þat spake þe wordes of traytery .. was ystrangled with þe grynne of a rope. 1540 PALSGR. *Acolastus* II. 1 Hij, I haue a throte bolle almoste strangled .i. snarled or quarkennyd with extreme hunger. 1886 C. E. PASCOE *Lond. To-day* xli. (ed. 3) 355 The cravat has passed out of memory .. and the 'stock' is only to be seen occasionally strangling the neck of a stout City magnate.

† **d.** *intr.* To be at close grips, to struggle *with*.

1595 *Locrine* I. i. 29 In vaine, therefore, I strangle [ed. 1664 struggle] with this foe.

2. *trans.* In wider sense: To kill by stoppage of breath; to smother, suffocate, choke. Now *rare*.

To strangle down (nonce-use): of a whirlpool, to choke as it engulfs.

a 1300 *Havelok* 640 Ȝ was þe[r]-with [*i.e.* with a gag] so harde prangled, þat i was þe[r]-with ney strangled. *c* 1450 *Brut* II. 352 Þei token þe fetherbed .. and cast hit aboue hym; .. and sum lay vpon þe fethir bed apon hym, vnto þe tyme þat he were ded. .. And þus þei strangled þis worthi Duk vn[to] the deth. 1483 CAXTON *Cato* 5 An ensample how the auaricious man ete iiii^or pyeces of ȝolde and how the fourthe strangled hym. 1504 ATKYNSON tr. *De Imit.* I. xxiii. 173 Some etynge haue be strangled. 1574 T. NEWTON *Health Mag.* L ij, If a liuinge Muller be put into wine and choked or strangled therin, whatsoeuer man drinketh of the same wyne, shall [etc.]. 1592 SHAKS. *Rom. & Jul.* IV. iii. 35 Shall I not then be stifled in the Vault?.. And there die strangled ere my Romeo comes. 1599 HAYWARD *1st Pt. Hen. IV*, 40 He was strangled under a feather bedde. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* s. v. *Damps*, A Labourer, who was sent down [the well] to recover it [a hammer], ere he reach'd the Water, was strangled. 1833 MRS. BROWNING *Prometh. Bound* Wks. 1850 I. 189 With Necessity's vortices strangling me down! 1888 *Spectator* 14 Jan. 49 Over a territory of ten thousand square miles .. the soft water passed, silently strangling every living thing.

† **b.** To kill by poison or the like; *rarely*, by the sword. *Obs.*

c 1374 CHAUCER *Boeth.* i. pr. iv. (1868) 19 Al þous I hadde ben accused þat I wolde .. strangle [L. *ingulare*] prestys wiþ wicked swerde [etc.]. *c* 1443 LYDG. in *Pol. Poems* (Rolls) II. 214 Hanybal, .. At the laste, stranglyd with poisoun, Of marcial ire koude lyve nevir in pees. 1535 COVERDALE *Jer.* XV. 3 The swearde shal strangle them [Luther *Mit dem Schwerdt, dass sie erwürget werden*]. *a* 1578 LINDESAY (Pitscottie) *Chron. Scot.* (S.T.S.) I. 407 Or they come he was nearhand strangled to death be the extreme melancollie. 1602 MARSTON *Antonio's Rev.* I. i, That I should drop strong poyson in the boawle, .. That it should worke .. And strangle him on sodaine. 1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* 237 Galen saith, if it be eaten without Hony, water, and salt, it curdleth in the belly of a man like a cheese and strangleth him.

† **c.** said of a wild beast, a devil. *Obs.*

1303 R. BRUNNE *Handl. Synne* 3189 For me ys come þe fende of helle .. Ryʒt now shal he me strangle and cheke, Ne shal y neuer aftyr speke. *c* 1330 *Arth. & Merl.* 688 þat ich niʒt þe deuel com & strangled hir owhen grom. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Knt.'s T.* 1160 Yet saugh I .. The hunte strangled with the wilde beres. *c* 1386 — *Pars. T.* 768 They been the deueles wolues that stranglen the sheepe of Ihesu crist. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* III. 197 The Jew .. strangled was of a leoun. *c* 1400 *Solomon's Bk. Wisdom* 243 Þere seuen hungri lyouns weren þereinne all ydytte, ffor þai hym strangli scholden. 1447 BOKENAM *Seyntys, Agnes* 394 þe deuyl hym stranglyd in þat place. 1481 CAXTON *Myrr.* II. xvi. 102 Hym sholde seme anon in his slepe dremyng that all the deuyllis of helle shold come to hym and strangle hym. 1484 — *Fables of Avian* xiv, The lyon wold haue strangled hym. *a* 1500 EVELYN *Diary* 18 Mar. 1644, This country so abounds with wolves, that a shepherd whom we met told us one of his companions was strangled by one of them the day before. 1751 *Gentl. Mag.* XXI. 555 A sort of wolves, which attack .. children, of whom they have already strangled and devoured about thirty.

absol. 1611 BIBLE *Nahum* ii. 12 The Lion did teare in pieces enough for his whelpes, and strangled for his Lionesses.

3. *transf.* To choke, hinder the growth of (a plant) by crowding; † to stifle, quench (a fire, heat) (*obs.*); to impede the action of (an internal bodily organ) by compression; to suppress (a laugh, a yawn).

1382 WYCLIF *Matt.* xiii. 7 Forsothe other seedis felden amonge thornis; and the thornis wexen vp and strangliden hem [Vulg. *suffocaverunt ea*]. *c* 1530 *Judic. Urines* I. iii. 6 b, Therfore kynde hete is theked and straungled. *Ibid.* II. iv. 21 And moche water quencheth & cheketh & strangleth feble fyre. 1605 SHAKS. *Mach.* II. iv. 7 Byth' Clock 'tis Day, And yet darke Night strangles the trauailing Lampe. 1614 JACKSON *Creed* III. To Indifferent Rdr. a 6, Like the Iuy alwaies greene, because not set to bring forth fruit vnto saluation, but rather to choake and strangle the plants of life. 1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* I. ii. H. ii. (1624) 63 As a Lampe is choaked with a multitude of oyle, .. so is the naturall heat with immoderate eating strangled in the body. 1707 MORTIMER *Husb.* 387 Young Trees will be strangled with .. any rank growing Corn or Weeds, if [etc.]. 1829 SCOTT

Anne of G. xxxii, The poor King..saw..the fatal cabinet,.. and dolefully calculated how many yawns he must strangle ere he sustained the consideration of its contents. **1897** *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* IV. 476 The presence of large quantities of this intrusive substance strangling the secreting structures. **1898** *Ibid.* V. 788 [The symptoms] occur..also where the heart is strangled and compressed by dense fibrous thickening.

b. *fig.* with various notions. To prevent the growth or rise of; to hamper or destroy by excessive restrictions; to suppress.

1611 SHAKS. *Wint. T.* IV. iv. 47 Be merry (Gentle) Strangle such thoughts as these, with any thing That you behold the while. **1642** H. MORE *Song of Soul* III. iii. 41 Consuming anguish, styptick bitternesse, Doth now so strangle their imperious will. **1658–9** in *Burton's Diary* (1828) III. 321 It is not fit to debate whether it shall be in the power of any person or persons to strangle the debates and pains of this House. **1661** COTTERELL tr. *Calprenède's Cassandra* II. II. (1676) 145 Too inconsiderable to strangle your interests. **1710** PRIDEAUX *Orig. Tithes* App. *Reasons for Bill* 1 As often as a Bill was brought into Parliament for this purpose, it was always encountered with another..and the latter constantly strangled the former. **1898** MEREDITH *Odes, Napoleon* vi, Her surest way to strangle thought. **1911** J. H. ROSE *Pitt & Gt. War* iii. 72 The exclusive privileges retained by the Dutch had almost strangled the trade of Antwerp.

4. *intr.* To be choked or suffocated.

1338 R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (1725) 55, I praye God if it wer so I strangle of þis brede. **1662** R. MATHEW *Unl. Alch.* 8 He could not..lie down in his bed; and if he had assayed to do it, then he should strangle. **1848** THACKERAY *Bk. Snobs* xxii, He came down..with a surly scowl on his..face, strangling in a tight, cross-barred cravat. **1889** STEVENSON *Master of Ballantrae* ix. 228 Some foul and ominous nightmare, from the which I would awake strangling. **1897** *Bookman* Jan. 116/1 Strangling in our starch we can rally him [Byron] familiarly on his limp collars.

5. Comb.: †**strangle-goose** *slang*, a poulterer (Grose *Dict. Vulgar T.* 1785); †**strangle-tare** [transl. of Gr. *ὀροβάγχη*, f. *ὄροβος* tare, vetch + *ἄγχ-ειν* to choke, strangle], Turner's name for the Broomrape (*Orobanche*); by later writers sometimes applied to some other parasitic plants; **strangle-vetch, -weed** = *strangle-tare*.

In some modern books *strangle-tare, -vetch, -weed* are given as popular names, but it does not appear that they have had any real currency.

1562 TURNER *Herbal* II. 71 It hath the name of Orobanche, that is chokefetche or strangletare. **1597** GERARDE *Herbal* Table Eng. Names, Strangle weede, and Strangle tare, that is Orobanch. **1693** *Urquhart's Rabelais* III. li, Unto whom it is more contrarious and hurtful than the Strangle-weed, Choak fitch is to the Flax. **1796** WITHERING *Brit. Plants* (ed. 3) III. 638 Strangle Vetch, or Tare. **1861** ANNE PRATT *Flower. Pl.* IV. 97 The Broomrapes..have in country places the old name of Strangleweed. **1863** PRIOR *Plant-n., Strangle-tare*, a tare that strangles, *Vicia lathyroides*, and also a plant that strangles a tare, *Cuscuta Europæa*.

Strangleable (strænŋg'lˌăb'l), *a. nonce-wd.* [f. STRANGLE *v.* + -ABLE.] Capable of being strangled.

1753 CHESTERF. *Let. to Son* 19 Oct., I own, I am glad that the capital strangler should, in his turn, be *strangle-able*.

Strangled (strænŋg'ld), *ppl. a.* [f. STRANGLE *v.* + -ED [1].] In senses of the verb.

1. *lit.* †Also *absol.* (= what is strangled) literal rendering of Acts XV. 20.

1382 WYCLIF *Acts* XV. 20 That thei absteyne hem fro..stranglid thingis [Vulg. *a suffocatis*; Gr. *ἀπὸ τοῦ πνικτοῦ*; Tindale 1534 from stranglyd]. **1593** SHAKS. 2 *Hen. VI*, III. ii. 170 Staring full gastly, like a strangled man. **1618** J. SPRINT *Cassander Angl.* 17 When the Apostles decreed the abstaining from blood and strangled. **1795** SOUTHEY *Joan of Arc* III. 65 Richemont..down the Loire Sends the black carcass of his strangled foe. **1828** *Ann. Reg.* 375/1 The blood in a strangled or suffocated person rises to the head, and gives the face a livid appearance.

b. *Path.* = STRANGULATED.

1846 BRITTAN tr. *Malgaigne's Man. Oper. Surg.* 423 When the strangled portion [of a hernial tumour], which formed a sort of plug, is returned, the rest follows easily. **1899** *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 897 The skin of the strangled portion [of the little toe] is not materially altered in appearance.

2. *transf.* and *fig.* Suppressed, prevented from growing or developing.

1812 COLERIDGE *Remorse* V. i. 41 How the half sounds Blend with this strangled light! **1847** TENNYSON *Princess* V. 15 A strangled titter, out of which there brake On all sides..Unmeasured mirth. **1854** LD. LYTTON in Lady E. Balfour *Lett.* (1906) I. 58 Each step forward..would have to be trodden over some relinquished dread, or some strangled instinct. **1898** MEREDITH *Odes, Napoleon* vi, Her strangled thought got breath.

b. Of a voice [after F. *voix étranglée*]: Choked with emotion, uttered with difficulty. *rare.*

1900 LUCY B. WALFORD *One of Ourselves* xiv, 'Come home this minute,' she said, in a cold, strangled voice.

Stranglement (strænŋg'lmĕnt). [f. STRANGLE *v.* + -MENT.] Strangling, choking of voice.

1837 C. LOFFT *Self-form.* I. 250 The third [speech was] a mere struggle of elocution against stranglement.

Strangler (strænŋglə). [f. STRANGLE *v.* + -ER [1].] One who or something which strangles. *lit.* and *fig. Strangler's grip* = strangle-hold (STRANGLE *sb.* 4).

1552 HULOET, Strangler, *suffocator*. **1602** MARSTON *Antonio's Rev.* IV. iii, My selfe will be thy strangler, unmatcht slave. **1606** SHAKS. *Ant. & Cl.* II. vi. 130 The band that seemes to tye their friendship together, will bee the very strangler of their Amity. **1753** [see STRANGLEABLE]. **1844** *P. Parley's Ann.* V. 355 Though..the cords of the strangler and the sword of the headsman be ready for me. **1895** *Westm. Gaz.* 9 Oct. 2/2 The strangler's grip is another trick which some men practise, though not very often with success, as the police know it and watch for it.

b. *Comb.*: **strangler tree** *U.S.*, a tree of the genus *Clusia*, growing usually as a parasite on some other tree.

1909 *Century Dict.* Suppl.

Strangles (strænŋg'lz). Also 7 **stranga's, strangles.** [Orig. pl. of STRANGLE *sb.*]

†**1.** A disease in horses and other animals, characterized by inflamed swellings in the throat; = STRANGULLION 1. *Obs.*

1600 SURFLET *Country Farm* I. xxiii. 137 For the strangles or glandules which happen vnder the oxe his throat,..plucke away their glandules, and [etc.]. **1601** HOLLAND *Pliny* XXVI. xv. II. 268 Sideritis hath a peculiar vertue for to cure swine of their squinsies or strangles. **1624** L. W. C. *Perf. Disc. Horse* C 3, For the Strangles. Cut him betweene the Iawes, and take out the Kirnels. **1686** *Lond. Gaz.* No. 2154/4 Stolen..a dark brown Gelding 14 hands high,..hath had the Stranga's in two places under the Jaw.

2. An infectious febrile disease of equine animals, caused by the bacterium *Streptococcus equi*.

1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), *Strangles*, the thick Humour, which young Horses void at their Nostrils. **1753** J. BARTLET *Gentl. Farriery* x. (1754) 104 The methods above recommended in the strangles. **1831** YOUATT *Horse* viii. 123 Glanders have often been confounded with strangles, and by those who ought to have known better. Strangles are peculiar to young horses. **1891** H. S. CONSTABLE *Horses, Sport & War* 66 Every horse..during the time its throat is choked up, and nerves paralysed by strangles is a roarer. **1908** *Animal Managem.* (War Office) 313 Strangles is a fever of young horses, the prominent feature of which is an abscess which develops between the branches of the lower jaw.

attrib. **1897** *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* II. 515 The matter from a newly-opened farcy..is usually distinguishable from staphylococcus pus, and strangles pus.

Strangling (strænŋglĭŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. STRANGLE *v.* + -ING [1].]

1. The action of the vb, STRANGLE.

c **1386** CHAUCER *Kn.'s T.* 1600 Myn is the stranglyng and hangyng by the throte. **1398** TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* VII. XXVIII. (Bodl. MS.), Squynancy is strangeling of þe prote. **1538** ELYOT *Dict., Suffocatio*, a stranglynge. **1585** HIGINS *Junius' Nomencl.* 427/1 *Incubus*,..a kinde of disease called the night mare or witch, being a certeine pressing downe and strangling of the bodie. **1611** BIBLE *Job* vii. 15 My soule chooseth strangling: and death rather then my life. **1649** LAMONT *Diary* (Maitl. Club) 12 It was thought..that she wronged her selfe, ether by strangling, or by poyson. **1719** DE FOE *Crusoe* I. (Globe) 29 But between the Wound..and the strangling of the Water, he dyed just before he reach'd the Shore. **1820** SCOTT *Monast.* x, They say the Primate recommends a little strangling and burning in aid both of censure and of sword. **1914** *Eng. Hist. Rev.* Oct. 768 It seems to us improbable that they would have killed him by strangling.

†**2.** *Path.* Strangulation, stricture. *Obs.*

1563 T. HYLL *Art Garden.* (1593) 76 The hearb brused with oyle..dooth help the strangling of the priuitie. **1590** BARROUGH *Meth. Phisick* 191 Svffocation or strangling of the wombe is nothing else but a drawing backe of it to the vpper partes. **1725** *Bradley's Family Dict.* s. v. *Nightingale*, Another disease incident to these Birds..is called Streightness or Strangling in the breast.

†**3.** *Pl.* ? = STRANGLES *Obs.*

1624 L. W. C. *Perf. Disc. Horse* A 4 b, *Stranglings*, is a swelling in the Throat.

4. *attrib.*

1592 *Soliman & Pers.* v. ii. 7 See that your strangling cords be ready. **1911** J. G. FRAZER in *Manch. Oriental Soc. Jrnl.* 108 The strangling-net is then undone.

Strangling (strænŋglĭŋ), *ppl. a.* [f. STRANGLE *v.* + -ING [2].] That strangles, in senses of the vb.

1606 BRYSKETT *Civ. Life* 108 Their praises and soothings are but strangling morsels smeared ouer with hony. *a* **1618** SYLVESTER *Tobacco Battered* 143 In them Both, a strangling vertue note, And both of them doe worke upon the Throte. *a* **1682** SIR T. BROWNE *Misc. Tracts* (1684) 88 Cockle, wild strangling Fitches, Bindweed. **1692** SOUTH *Serm.* (1697) I. 16 Weeping..is the Discharge of a big and a swelling grief, of a full and a strangling discontent. **1822–27** GOOD *Study Med.* (1829) I. 631 The suffocative convulsion..must produce that strangling constriction or straitness which is a pathognomic sign of asthma. **1844** MRS. BROWNING *Drama of Exile* 1789 Tree by tree, with strangling roots. **1897** *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* III. 45 The tight strangling grip of the inelastic fibrous sac.

Stranglon, -guelyon, etc.: see STRANGULLION.

Stranguary, -ery, obs. ff. STRANGURY.

†**Strangulate,** *sb. Obs. rare*[−1]. [ad. L. *strangulātum*, neut. pa. pple. of *strangulāre* to STRANGLE.] A strangled animal.

1702 C. MATHER *Magn. Chr.* V. ii. (1852) 262 The principal entanglements of their idolatry lay in these four things: of idolathytes, fornication, blood, and strangulates.

Strangulate (strænŋgiŭlĕt), *a. Bot.* [ad. L. *strangulātus* pa. pple. of *strangulāre* to STRANGLE.] = STRANGULATED *ppl. a.* 3.

1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1102/1 *Strangulate*, contracted and expanded in an irregular manner.

Strangulate (strænŋgiŭlĕt), *v.* [f. L. *strangulāt-* ppl. stem of *strangulāre*: see STRANGLE *v.*]

†**1.** *trans.* To choke, stifle, suffocate. *Obs.*

1665 M. N[EDHAM] *Med. Medicinæ* 327 This..strangulates all thoughts of devising more potent Medicins, or of introducing other Methods.

2. *Path.* and *Surg.* To constrict or compress (an organ, duct, etc.) so as to prevent circulation or the passage of fluid; to remove (a growth) by constricting it with a ligature.

1771– [implied in STRANGULATED *ppl. a.*] **1875** BUCKLAND *Log-Book* 222 When the horn [of the deer] has attained its full development the 'burr' appears at the base of the horn, and strangulates the blood-vessels. **1876** GROSS *Dis. Bladder* 151 On removing the obturator the growth is fairly exposed, and can be strangulated, cut, scraped, or torn away. **1876** BRISTOWE *Th. & Pract. Med.* (1878) 33 If, after injecting them, the operation of twisting, and thus strangulating, one testicle was performed..violent inflammation with sloughing..took place. **1897** *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* III. 794 A loop of bowel is snared and acutely strangulated. *Ibid.* IV. 355 The new fibroid tissue gradually contracts,..and narrows and strangulates the tubes which it involves.

b. *transf.* To choke (a plant); to prevent the flow of sap in (a tree). Also *fig.*

1835 SOUTHEY *Doctor* interch. vii. (1848) 165 The creepers of literature, who suck their food, like the ivy, from what they strangulate and kill. **1841** *Florist's Jrnl.* (1846) II. 129 In order to arrest this same elaborated sap in the branches, every plan of reversing, or ringing, or strangulating them, is advised to prevent it sinking to the roots.

3. To prevent respiration in (a person) by constriction of the trachea = STRANGLE *v. rare.*

1829 LANDOR *Imag. Conv., Penn & Ld. Peterborough* Wks. 1853 I. 548/2 If we cry out, there is always a hand in readiness to stop our mouths, and to stifle and strangulate such as would resist.

Hence **Stra·ngulating** *ppl. a.*

1822–27 GOOD *Study Med.* (1829) V. 81 We often meet with a troublesome phimosis, either of the strangulating or incarcerating kind. **1828** *Blackw. Mag.* XXIII. 412 Struggling in the many-fingered grasp of the strangulating heather. **1871** NAPHEYS *Prev. & Cure Dis.* III. xii. 1056 The cough becomes more difficult and strangulating.

Strangulated (strænŋgiŭlĕtĕd), *ppl. a.* [f. STRANGULATE *v.* + -ED [1].]

1. *Path.* and *Surg.* Of a vessel, an intestine: Congested by constriction and the arrest of circulation. *Strangulated hernia*: a hernia so constricted that the circulation in the protruded part is arrested.

1771 J. S. tr. *Le Dran's Observ. Surg.* (ed. 4) 184 The strangulated Portion of the Intestine was no larger than a Cherry. **1788** H. HELSHAM in *Med. Commun.* XIII. 280 (*title*), Sudden fatal termination of a Case of Strangulated Hernia. **1836–9** *Todd's Cycl. Anat.* II. 745/1 The volume of a strangulated intestine is always increased. **1899** *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VI. 342 The retinal vessels seem strangulated or constricted.

fig. **1857** *Fraser's Mag.* LVI. 535 The..most pressing City improvement is the widening of this strangulated metropolitan gullet.

2. *Ent.* Of the head, abdomen, or thorax of an insect: Constricted or greatly narrowed.

1829 SAMOUELLE *Entomol. Compend.* 196 Head cordiform, abruptly strangulated at its junction with the thorax.

3. *Bot.* Of a plant-stem: Contracted by or as if by a ligature.

1849 BALFOUR *Man. Bot.* 639. **1856** HENSLOW *Bot. Terms.* In recent Dicts.

Strangulation (strænŋgiŭlē·ʃən). Also 6 **strangulacion.** [ad. L. *strangulātiōn-em*, n. of action f. *strangulāre*: see STRANGLE *v.* Cf. F. *strangulation* (Cotgr.).]

1. The action or process of stopping respiration by compression of the air-passage, esp. by a sudden and violent compression of the windpipe; the condition of being strangled by such compression.

1542 BOORDE *Dyetary* ix. (1870) 251 Surfeting causeth strangulacion and soden death. **1646** SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* II. v. 84 So a sponge is mischievous,..because being received into the stomack it swelleth, and..induceth at last a strangulation. **1661** J. CHILDREY *Brit. Baconica* 40 Its tast is manifestly acide without astriction, but..causing an extream hot strangulation in the mouth. **1793** BEDDOES *Scurvy* 81 Had he been carefully observed, his countenance would have shewn signs of strangulation. **1869** DICKENS *Mut. Fr.* I. iv, She stopped to pull him down from his chair in an attitude highly favourable to strangulation. **1874** FARRAR *Christ* I. iv. 43 He had ordered the strangulation of his favourite wife. **1883** *Encycl. Brit.* XV. 781/1 [Medical Jurisprudence.] Strangulation may be accomplished by drawing a cord tightly round the neck, or by forcibly compressing the windpipe (throttling).

fig. **1831** CARLYLE *Sartor Res.* III. iv, To make air for himself in which strangulation, choking enough to a benevolent heart, the Hofrath founds..this Institute [for the Repression of Population].

†**b.** In full, *strangulation of the matrix* or *womb*: hysteria. (Cf. SUFFOCATION c.) *Obs.*

1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* XXXII. x. II. 448 Castoreum..helpeth them when by rising of the mother they are in daunger of strangulation. **1615** CROOKE *Body of Man* 218 The strangulation or suffocation of the matrix, which we call fits of the mother. **1634** T. JOHNSON *Parey's Wks.* XXIV. xliv. 939 The strangulation of the wombe.

2. *Path.* and *Surg.* Constriction (of a bodily organ, duct, etc.) so as to stop circulation or the passage of fluids.

1749 GATAKER tr. *Le Dran's Oper. Surg.* 55 If the wound penetrates one of the *musculi recti*, the skin causes a strangulation in the first place. **1807** M. BAILLIE *Morbid Anat.* 200 A rupture without any strangulation of the intestine. **1890** F. TAYLOR *Pract. Med.* (1891) 765 There may be severe attacks of so-called strangulation of the [movable] kidney.

3. *transf.* Excessive constriction of a channel or passage.

1882 A. GEIKIE *Geol. Sketches* vi. 141 At a point about half a mile or less from the foot of the glacier the valley suddenly contracts. At a point where the strangulation takes place the glacier lies in a kind of basin.

4. *concr.* A strangulated part; a constriction. *spec.* in *Nat. Hist.*

1828 STARK *Elem. Nat. Hist.* II. 185 Head separated from the body by a strangulation.

† **Stra·ngulative,** *a.* *Obs. rare.* [f. L. type **strangulātīvus*, f. *strangulāre*: see STRANGLE *v.* and -ATIVE.] That strangles or stops respiration.

1647 A. ROSS *Myst. Poet.* xi. (1648) 266 Medea is the name of a poysonable herb..called..in English dogs-bane; but our dogs-bane hath no such strangulative quality. 1657 TOMLINSON *Renou's Disp.* I. iv. xiii. 262 One sort of Ephemerum is lethal and strangulative.

Strangullion (strængʊ·lyən). Forms: 5–6 **stranguyllyon,** (6 **-guillyon, -guil(l)ion, -guelyon, stranglon**), 6 **strangulyon,** 6–7 **strangulion,** 6– **strangullion.** [a. OF. *stranguillon*, *estranguillon* (mod.F. *étranguillon*), ad. It. *stranguglione*:—popular L. **strangulionem*, f. L. *strangulāre* to STRANGLE: see -ION.]

1. A disease of horses, characterized by inflammation and swelling of the glands of the throat. † Also *rarely*, a similar disease in human beings, a quinsy.

1481 CAXTON *Reynard* xxxii. (Arb.) 82 Yf ony man be seke ..of colyk, stranguyllyon, stone, fystel or kanker. 1523–34 FITZHERB. *Husb.* § 88 Strangueiyon is a lyght dysease to cure, and a horse wyl be very sore sycke therof. 1555 *Extracts Burgh Rec. Stirling* (1887) 64 It is fund that Thomas Bwy hes twa hors that hes stranglon that ar infeccatife. 1580 BLUNDEVILL *Curing Horses Dis.* lxv. 25 Of the glanders, and strangulion, so called according to the Italian name, Stranguijlione. Most Ferrers doe take the glanders and strangulion, to be all one disease, but it is not so, for the glanders is that which the Physicians call Tonsillæ, and the strangulion is that which they call in Latin, Angina,..and we commonlie call it in English, the Squinancie, or Quinzie. 1727 *Bradley's Family Dict.* s.v. *Glanders*, Those Humours..frequently produce the Strangullions, Diseases in the Throat [etc.]. 1847 W. C. L. MARTIN *Ox* 139/1 The submaxillary and parotid glands are, from various causes, subject to acute inflammation and swelling called strangullion.

† **b.** (See quot.) *Obs.*

1756 OSMER *Treat. Horse* III. iii. (ed. 5) 121 A case..of.. tumefied gland on the ileum, and consequent strangulation of the guts beneath it, vulgarly termed strangullion. *Ibid.* III. iv. 125 This last kind of colic..is what the writers and farriers indiscriminately call 'the strangullion', or 'twisting of the guts', for such they always suppose it to be.

¶ **2.** Used incorrectly for STRANGURY. *Obs.*

1530 PALSGR. 277/1 Stranguyllyon a sicknesse, *chauldepisse.* 1538 *St. Papers Hen. VIII*, III. III. 30, I besech you, becauss of my stranguillyon, gett me lycence to ryd apon a pyllyon. 1593 NASHE *Christ's T.* 51 b, When on your death-beddes you shall lye, and cry out of the Stone, the Strangullion and the Goute, you shall not be heard. 1614 MARKHAM *Cheap & Good Husb.* I. xxiv. 21 Of the Strangullion. This is a sorenesse in the horses yard..: the signes are; hee will pisse oft, yet but a drop or two at once. 1655 MOUFET & BENET *Health's Improv.* 105 Their flesh being salted cureth Strangullions and the stone not confirmed. 1678 PHILLIPS (ed. 4), *Strangury*..is vulgarly called the *Strangullion.*

† **Strangu·rion.** *Obs.* Also 6 **-yon,** 6–7 **-ian.** [A confusion of STRANGURY and STRANGULLION.] = STRANGURY.

1547 RECORDE *Judic. Ur.* 64 b, A disease named yᵉ strangury, (whiche sum corruptely call the Stranguryon) in whiche dysease, the uryne doth contynually drop furth as fast as it commyth into the bladder. 1562 TURNER *Herbal* II. 97 Knotgrasse..is good for the strangurian for it doth manifestly bryng furth water. 1616 BULLOKAR *Eng. Expos.*, *Strangurion*, a disease when one cannot make water, but by drops, and that with great paine. 1622 S. WARD *Life of Faith* (1627) 85 Here thou shrinkest to thinke of the gout, collicke, stone, or strangurian.

Strangurious (strængiū·riəs), *a. rare*⁻¹. [ad. late L. *strangūriōsus*, f. *strangūria* STRANGURY: see -OUS.] Of, pertaining to, or characteristic of strangury; affected with strangury.

1733 CHEYNE *Eng. Malady* III. iv. 321, I was often fretted with strangurious Symptoms. 1898 *Syd. Soc. Lex.*

Strangury (stræ·ngiŭri). *Path.* Forms: 6–7 **strangurie,** 6 **-ye,** 7 **stranguery,** 7–9 **stranguary,** 4– **strangury.** [ad. L. *strangūria*, a. Gr. στραγγουρία, f. στραγγ-, στράγξ drop squeezed out + οὖρον urine. Cf. F. *strangurie* (14th c. in Hatz.-Darm.)]

1. A disease of the urinary organs characterized by slow and painful emission of urine; also the condition of slow and painful urination.

[1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* VII. xxi. (1495) 211 He that hath that dysease..that hyghte Stranguria, pyssyth ofte and lytyll.] *a* 1400–50 *Stockh. Med. MS.* 133 For þe strangury. 1522 MORE *De quat. Noviss.* Wks. 77/2 Parcase yᵉ stone or the strangurye, haue put thee..to no lesse torment. 1651 JER. TAYLOR *Holy Dying* iv. § 5. (1727) 144 The Axe is much a less affliction than a strangury. 1687 LUTTRELL *Brief Rel.* (1857) I. 425 The lord chancellor is lately taken very ill with the stone and strangury. 1691 WOOD *Ath. Oxon.* II. 584 He..had never either Gout, Stone, Stranguery, or Head-ach. *c* 1720 GIBSON *Farrier's Dispens.* x. (1734) 238 This is adapted to Horses that are subject to the Stone and Strangury. 1765 STERNE *Tr. Shandy* VIII. iii, I hope they have got better of their colds,..fevers, stranguries, [etc.]. 1794 G. ADAMS *Nat. & Exp. Philos.* I. xi. 488 In calculous complaints of the urinary passages and in habitual stranguaries. 1847 W. C. L. MARTIN *Ox* 153/1 Sometimes there is great stranguary, but this is not an invariable symptom. 1875 H. C. WOOD *Therap.* (1879) 562 Complete strangury was not produced, but there was some difficulty in passing the urine. 1883 *American* V. 205 M. Louis Blanc had been suffering terribly for the past two years from a strangury. *fig.* 1692 CROWNE *Regulus* II, Wine they will have, and have no stoppage of Wine here, give my Trade the Strangury?

¶ **2.** By erroneous etymological association with STRANGLE, the word has sometimes been supposed to mean a disease due to strangling or choking.

a. *fig.*

1698 FARQUHAR *Love & Bottle* III. i, But why a Scribler, Madam?..Is my Countenance strain'd, as if my head were distorted by a Stranguary of thought? 1847 THACKERAY *Contrib. to Punch* Wks. 1899 VI. 98 Everybody stopped. There was a perfect strangury in the street.

b. *Bot.* (See quot.; the sense appears in dictionaries, but evidence of its actual use is wanting.)

1840 PAXTON *Bot. Dict.*, *Strangury*, a disease produced on plants by tight ligatures.

† **Stra·ngy,** *a.* *Obs. rare.* In 6 **straungy, -gie, straunge** (*disyllabic*), **strangie, -gy.** [app. f. STRANGE *a.* + -Y.] Strange.

1555 PHAER *Æneid* II. C iij b, Some gasyd at the straungy gift that there to pallas stood. *Ibid.* III. H iij, That night in wodes wᵗ straunge [disyllabic; so also in 1562: eds. 1584–1600 *read* straungy, strangie] sightes & monsters far from kind We troublyd were...Whan sodenly, from out the woodes,..A straungy man to sight apperes. *Ibid.* v. P j, All nakyd on some strangy sand onburyed lye thou must. 1594 R. C[AREW] *Godfrey of Bulloigne* II. li, To Mahound rather I impute aboue This straungy myracle. 1597 TOFTE *Laura* I. xxxix. in Arber *Garner* VIII. 294 Her heart, by th' other's made, in strangy wise, Hard as a rock.

Strany (stræ·ni). A local name of the Common Guillemot.

1804 BEWICK *Brit. Birds* II. 175 Guillemot...Strany. 1831 G. MONTAGU *Ornith. Dict.* (ed. 2), Willock (*Uria Troile*, Latham)...Provincial. Guillem. Sea Hen...Strany. 1896 NEWTON *Dict. Birds.*

† **Stranyelour.** *Sc. Obs. rare*⁻¹. ? Corrupted form of STRANGULLION.

c 1500 *Rowlis Cursing* 63 in *Bannatyne MS.* (Hunter. Club) I. 300 The stranyelour and grit glengoir,..Mott fall vpoun thair kankart corss.

Strap (stræp), *sb.* Also 6–7, (9 *Sc.*) **strapp,** 6–7 **strappe,** (7 *Sc.* **strape**). [dial. form of STROP *sb.* The early examples are either Sc. or nautical; in Sc. the form is normal: cf. *tap*, *drap* = TOP, DROP.]

1. A leather band, thong; in recent use, a flat band or strip of leather of uniform breadth. (Cf. STROP *sb.* 1.)

1685 *Rec. Scott. Cloth Manuf. New Mills* (S. H. S.) 105 Anent allowing of the stocken weavers oyle, strape and cords ordered that they be allowed oyle but noe strape nor cord. 1687 LOVELL tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* II. 87 They have a stick, with a strap of leather, like a bow, but very slack. 1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), *Strap*, a Thong of Leather. 1796 J. LAUDERDALE *Poems* 68 (E. D. D.) Providence did bless the seed, Sae brought it forth unto the strap. 1824 MACTAGGART *Gallovid. Encycl.* 439 *Strapps*, bands for binding grain with. 1827 SCOTT *Highl. Widow* v, I, who have gone for years with only a strap of deer's hide to tie back my hair.

b. as used for flogging. Hence, the application of the strap as an instrument of punishment.

c 1710 CELIA FIENNES *Diary* (1888) 217 My horse was quite down in one of these holes full of water but by yᵉ good hand of God's providence.., for giving him a good strap he flounc'd up againe. 1712 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 499 ¶ 5 A lively Cobler, that..had scarce passed a Day in his Life without giving her the Discipline of the Strap. 1874 H. CALDERWOOD *On Teaching* ii. 19 'A thrashing-mill', as an ingenious school-fellow named a teacher given to the rough and ready use of the strap. 1905 *Westm. Gaz.* 20 May 6/2 I got strap for that.

c. *transf.* Something resembling a leather strap in form.

a 1680 BUTLER *Rem.* (1759) I. 195 On both Sides of his Noddle Are Straps o' th' very same Leather; Ears are imply'd, But th' are mere Hide. 1837 P. KEITH *Bot. Lex.* 167 The stem of an ash-tree thus flattened terminated in a strap of about two inches in breadth. 1845 GOSSE *Ocean* i. (1849) 43 From a shallow cup..spring two or three long, olive-coloured straps [of the sea-thong], each of which becomes divided into two.

† **d.** A snare for birds. Also *fig.* [Cf. Du. *strop* in the same sense.] *Obs.*

1584–7 GREENE *Carde of Fancie* (1593) K 1, Is the bird inticed to the strap by the shewe of the nets? 1602 ROWLANDS *Greenes Ghost* (1626) B 1, As for Conicatching, they cleape it Batfowling, the wine the Strap, and the cards the Limetwigs.

e. A rope (of onions); a cluster, bunch (of fruit). *Sc.* and *north.*

1816 SCOTT *Old Mort.* x, They winna string the like o' him up as they do the puir Whig bodies..like straps o' onions. 1894 *Northumbld. Gloss.*, *Strap*, a cluster, a bunch; especially applied to red or white currants.

2. *Naut.* = STROP *sb.* 2.

a 1625 *Nomenclator Navalis* (Harl. MS. 2301). 1644 MANWAYRING *Seaman's Dict.* 103 A *Strap* a roape which is spliced about any block, that the block thereby may be made fast, to any place where they have occasion to use it: by the eye which is made in the Strap. 1745 P. THOMAS *Jrnl. Anson's Voy.* 27 We broke the Straps of the Main-Sheet and Clugarnet Blocks. 1794 *Rigging & Seamanship* I. 57 *Strap*, a number of yarns platted together with an eye at one end, to put a stick through [in ropemaking]. 1837 HEBERT *Engin. & Mech. Encycl.* I. 180 Blocks are suspended by straps, either of rope or iron. 1860 LD. W. LENNOX *Pict. Sporting Life* II. 137 Away went the strap of the mainsheet. 1862 F. A. GRIFFITHS *Artil. Man.* (ed. 9) 107 Wooden blocks are generally bound on the outside.. with a grummet, which is called 'the strap' of the block. *Phrase.* 1852 *Bentley's Misc.* XXXI. 59 We can't keep strap and block together, no how at all.

3. A narrow strip of leather, cloth, or other material fitted with a buckle as a fastening and for adjustment.

1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 93/1 Strapps, are Leathers fastned to the sides of the Tree [of a saddle], to draw the Girths streight under the Horse Belly. *Ibid.* 93/2 End straps for tying, or buckling the ends to the Belly Girths. 1827 J. F. COOPER *Prairie* I. i. 22 To release his own rifle from the strap. 1833 J. HOLLAND *Manuf. Metal* II. 317 The leather part of bridles and other straps usually pass through metal rings, after which they are fastened with buckles. 1885 FAIRHOLT *Costume* (ed. 3) II. 386 Straps as well as leathern points were used in great numbers for the adjustment of armour. 1898 *Encycl. Sport* II. 298/1 (Rowing) *Straps*, the leather bands looped through holes in the stretcher, between which and the stretcher itself the oarsman's feet are placed. 1901 P. N. HASLUCK *Tailoring* iii. 44 The right strap [at the back of a waistcoat] should be shaped at the narrow end.., and a buckle put on the left one. 1915 *Blackw. Mag.* Apr. 493/2 'We'll have to step out' concluded M'Cabe, shortening the strap of his game-bag and settling it on his back.

4. a. A short band formerly attached to the bottom of each leg of a pair of pantaloons or trousers passing from side to side under the shank or waist of the boot. Chiefly *pl.*

1837 DICKENS *Pickw.* xiv, 'Damn my straps and whiskers', says Tom, 'if this [the weather] ain't pleasant, blow me!' 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* lvi, Master George wore straps, and the most beautiful little boots like a man. 1878 HARE *Story of Life* (1896) I. 291 For many years afterwards, all young gentlemen wore straps to their trousers.

b. = SHOULDER-STRAP 2.

1802 C. JAMES *Milit. Dict.* s.v.

c. A band, usually elastic, inside the skirt of a lady's riding-habit, forming a loop in which the toe or the heel is inserted, so as to keep the skirt in its place.

1884 MRS. KENNARD *Right Sort* x, Stirrup proceeded to adjust her skirt satisfactorily and place her feet in the elastic straps.

5. A looped band. **a.** A looped band of leather or cloth attached to the top of a boot to draw it on.

1601 SHAKS. *Twel. N.* I. iii. 13 And so bee these boots too: and they be not, let them hang themselues in their owne straps. *a* 1625 FLETCHER *Captain* II. ii, And by all likelihoods he was begotten Between a stubborn pair of Winter-boots; His body goes with straps, he is so churlish. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 13/2 The Straps are those Leathers sowed within the Boot on each side to draw them on. 1860 LD. W. LENNOX *Pict. Sporting Life* I. 209 The boots being short, and finished with very broad straps, which hung over the tops and down to the ankles.

b. A band or loop of leather to be grasped by the hand or arm, esp. as a means of steadying oneself in a moving vehicle.

1842 LOUDON *Suburban Hort.* 375 A deal plank to tread upon, with a strap at each end to drag it along either way. 1861 MRS. RIDDELL *City & Suburb* i, 'Now then', yelled out another conductor, balancing himself with a strap, while he stooped to open the door of his omnibus. 1897 C. T. DAVIS *Manuf. Leather* xxvii. (ed. 2) 415 The straps which are used in street cars to hold to when the cars are crowded.

6. *Mech.* A band or belt by means of which motion is communicated from one wheel, shaft, or pulley to another. = BAND *sb.*² 7.

1790 W. NICHOLSON in *Repert. Arts* (1796) V. 157 These three cylinders are connected, either by cogs or straps at the edges of each. 1835 URE *Philos. Manuf.* 47 The endless strap or belt which descends from the driving shaft to the steam pulley. 1860 *All Year Round* 26 May 163 The straps glide smoothly enough about the wheels [of the machine].

7. *Surg.* **a.** (See quot. 1706. Cf. STROP *sb.* 5.) **b.** A strip of adhesive plaster used to hold together the edges of a wound, fasten on a dressing, etc.

a. 1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), *Strap*,..In Surgery, a sort of Band usually made of Silk, Wooll, or Leather, to stretch out Members, in the setting of broken or disjoynted Bones.

b. 1749 GATAKER tr. *Le Dran's Oper. Surg.* 430 In order to keep the skin even with the flesh,..we apply two straps of plaister over the lint. 1813 J. THOMSON *Lect. Infl.am.* 285 The utility of stitches, in some of the wounds..has been denied..and the uniting bandage and adhesive strap..may ..be advantageously substituted.

8. A razor-strop: = STROP *sb.* 3. *Obs.* exc. *dial.*

1758 JOHNSON *Idler* No. 40 ¶ 9 The dispute about straps for razors, now happily subsided. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) IX. 743/2 The powder of black-lead serves also to cover the straps for razors. 1809 MALKIN *Gil Blas* II. vii. ¶ 2 Two razors..with a strap to set them. 1859 BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.* (ed. 2) 455 *Strap*, a razor-strop is, with us, generally called a razor-strap.

b. *slang.* A barber.

Hugh Strap, a barber, is one of the characters in Smollett's Roderick Random, 1748.

1865 *Hotten's Slang Dict.* (ed. 3) 248 *Strap*, a barber.

9. A narrow band of iron or other metal used in the form of a plate, loop, or ring for fastening a thing in position, holding together timbers, parts of machinery, etc.

[1573–4, 1603–4: see STROP *sb.* 4.] 1620 in Swayne *Sarum Church-w. Acc.* (1896) 172 Twoe new strapps for bell wheles, waying vij li. 2s. 4d. 1753 F. PRICE *Brit. Carpenter* (ed. 3) 17 The prick'd posts..being tyed to the back of the rafter ..with iron straps. 1833 LOUDON *Encycl. Archit.* § 1584 Straps to tie together the wall-plates at the external angles of the building. 1848 RONALDS & RICHARDSON *Knapp's Chem. Technol.* I. 234 The iron straps for strengthening the furnace. 1874 *Spon's Dict. Engin.* VIII. 2938 A strap is a

band or strip of metal, usually curved to clasp or hold other parts; as a beam-strap, a spring-strap; especially the U-shaped part of a strap-head which clasps and holds the brasses.

10. A projection on a metal article, narrowed and flattened for screwing down to a wooden surface or for slipping under a metal plate; esp. each or one of the leaves of a strap-hinge.

1831 J. Holland *Manuf. Metal* I. 140 The cheeks or straps of the shovel. *Ibid.*, The middle inside, where the handle is to be inserted, being kept open by the driving of an iron chisel down between the straps. 1833 Loudon *Encycl. Archit.* § 630, *q* is the part [of a strap-hinge] screwed to the under side of the flap; and *r* the strap or part which is inserted under the top of the table, into an iron plate, *s*. 1847 Brandon *Anal. Goth. Archit.* 100 That [hinge] in Plate 1 has the strap continued quite through, and is finished with an ornamental termination.

11. † **a.** ? A piece of timber serving to fasten two objects together. *Obs.*

1588 *Shipping Lists of Dundee* in D. Wedderburne *Compt. Bk.* (S. H. S.) 217 Ye said schip now come from norrovay contenand..thrie hundreth & fyve dousone daillis viij dousone of tymmer twentie strappis ane hundreth vndergirths of aik fyve dousone of crockit tymmer ane thousand steyngis thrie small maistis. 1739 C. Labelye *Westm. Bridge* 24 These Sides [of the Caisson] were fastened to the Bottom, or Grating, by 28 Pieces of Timber..call'd Straps, about 8 Inches broad, and about 3 Inches thick, reaching and lapping over the Top of the Sides.

b. *Mining.* (See quots.)

1883 Gresley *Gloss. Coal-mining* 244 *Straps*, old iron way rails put up between the coal face and the front rank of props, in long-wall stalls, for supporting a tender roof. 1886 J. Barrowman *Sc. Mining Terms* 65 *Strap*, a plank supported at each end to uphold the roof strata. 1892 *Labour Commission Gloss., Straps*, lengths of wood, either round or flat and from four to eight feet long, placed up to the roof and across the working places of a mine. At either end they are supported by props called legs.

12. *Bot.* **a.** (See quot. 1796.) **b.** = Ligule 1.

1796 Martyn *Lang. Bot.*, s. v., Strap. *Ligula.* An appendage to the leaf in some Grasses. 1862 Darwin *Fertil. Orchids* v. 171 The labellum..is remarkable by being joined to the base of the column by a very narrow, thin, white strap. 1900 B. D. Jackson *Gloss. Bot. Terms, Strap*, the ligule of a ray floret in Compositæ.

13. *Anglo-Irish.* A term of abuse applied to a woman or girl.

1842 Lover *Handy Andy* ii, 'You infernal old strap!' shouted he, as he clutched up a handful of bottles..and flung them at the nurse. *c* 1848 J. Keegan *Leg. & Poems* (1907) 454 You lie, you Orange strap..you were insulting every one you met.

14. *slang.* Credit, trust. Phr. *on (the) strap.*

1828 Carr *Craven Gloss., Strap*, credit, trust. 1876 W. Cudworth *Round abt. Bradford* 146 Meal and milk .. were had from the neighbouring farmhouses, and in reckoning for the latter a system of 'strap' then existed which was easily checked by both buyer and seller. This was done by what was called a 'milk stick'. *a* 1890 *J.* Brown *Literæ laureatæ* (1890) 106 With willing hand I drain the brazen tap, Or draw the cork, or estimate the strap. 1894 Hall Caine *Manxman* iv. ix, It was a trick of the devil to deal with you, and forget to pay strap (the price). *Ibid.* v. xxi, Himself going round to pay the grocer what had been put on 'strap' while he was at Kinsale. 1896 *Daily News* 21 Feb. 6/7 There was plenty to be had without paying for it. No one else paid that he saw. Whether they had 'strap' he did not know.

15. An energetic spell of work. (Cf. Strap *v.* 4.)

1840 Col. Hawker *Diary* (1893) II. 173 Had a stiff pianoforte lesson from Bertini, who by mere chance dropped in, and invited me to a good 'strap'.

16. *attrib.* and *Comb.* **a.** simple attrib., as *strap-end, -tab*; with the meaning 'made or consisting of a strap', as (sense 3) *strap-muzzle*, (sense 5 b) *strap-handle.* **b.** objective, as *strap-maker, strap-wielding*; **c.** similative, as *strap-like* adj.

1909 T. Sheppard in *Trans. Hull Sci. Club* IV. II. 62 The part with a swivel is attached to the brass at the *strap-end. 1892 *Photogr. Ann.* II. 533 A polished mahogany stained case with leather *strap handle for carrying. 1835–6 *Todd's Cycl. Anat.* I. 785/2 At the same epoch there are formed anteriorly..two pairs of small *strap-like bodies. 1770 *Ann. Reg.* 73/2 He was a clog *strap-maker. 1889 *Daily News* 7 Nov. 7/2 When the ordinary *strap muzzle was used, if drawn too tightly, a dog could not drink. 1913 E. T. Leeds *Archæol. Anglo-Sax. Settlements* iii. 56 Other objects include the bronze *strap-tab. 1910 I. MacInrosh in *Poets of Ayrshire* 331 His reputation for *strap-wielding made roots respected.

17. Special comb.: **strap-bar** (*a*) (see quot.); (*b*) a bar which carries the strap-fork *q.v.* (*Cent. Dict.* Suppl. 1909); **strap-block** (see quot.); **strap-bolt** *sb.*, a bolt with a flattened end for screwing down to a surface; **strap-bolt** *v. trans.*, to fasten *down* with a strap-bolt; **strap-bound** *a.* in *strap-bound-block* (see quot.); **strap brake**, a brake consisting of a friction strap applied to a cylindrical bearing surface; esp. a dynamometer brake on this plan; **strap-butt** [Butt *sb.*[11]], leather for the making of bands, belts, straps, etc. (see quot. 1904); **strap-cap**, a cap with bands to fasten under the chin; **strap-fork**, an apparatus with prongs for guiding the driving-belt of a machine from one pulley to another; **strap-form** *a. Bot.*, ligulate (cf. Strap-shaped *a.*); **strap game**, a swindling game = Fast and loose (*Cent. Dict.* 1891); **straphanger**, *slang*, a passenger who is compelled to stand and hold on by the strap in a full omnibus, compartment of a railway carriage, etc.; **strap-head** (see quot. 1875); **strap hide**, a hide suitable for or used for the making of straps (cf. *strap-butt*); **strap hinge**, a hinge with long leaves or flaps for screwing down to a surface; also a hinge with one leaf lengthened for insertion into an iron plate; **strap iron**, (*a*) (see quot. 1833); (*b*) *U.S.* iron in the form of long narrow strips (cf. *strap-rail*); **strap-laid** *a.*, (of a rope) made in a flat form by binding together two or more hawser-laid ropes; **strap leather**, leather for making straps; **strap-oil**, *slang*, flogging with a strap; **strap-ornament**, ornamentation in *strap-work*; **strap-oyster** *U.S. (local)* (see quot.); **strap-rail** *U.S.*, a flat railroad rail laid upon a continuous longitudinal sleeper (*Cent. Dict.* 1891); hence **strap railroad, railway, road** *U.S.*, a railroad constructed with strap-rails; **strap shoe**, a shoe fastened by means of a strap across the instep; **strap skein** *U.S.*, a strengthening iron band or a series of such bands placed upon a wooden spindle of an axle bar (see Skein *sb.*[2] 2); **strap solder** (see quot. 1896); † **strap-spear-shaped** *a. Bot.*, (of a leaf) flattened or strap-shaped at the base with a spear-shaped head; **strapwork** (see quot. 1854); also *attrib.*; **strap-worm**, a cestoid worm of the family *Ligulidæ*; **strapwort**, a small annual plant belonging to the genus *Corrigiola* found in the extreme south-west of England. Also Strap-shaped *a.*

1887 J. A. Phillips & Bauerman *Elem. Metall.* (ed. 2) 647 There are also two bars, called '*strap-bars,' connecting the first transverse bar at the wider end with the ring. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.*, **Strap-block* (Nautical), a block with a strap around it, and an eye worked at the lower end for attachment to a hook upon deck for a purchase. 1795 Herschel in *Phil. Trans.* LXXXV. 359 They were all screwed down by *strap-bolts. *Ibid.* 360 The lower end is *strap-bolted down upon the beams. 1794 *Rigging & Seamanship* I. 157 **Strap-bound-blocks* are single blocks, with a shoulder left on each side, at the upper part, to admit the strap through, a little above the pin. 1902 S. Sheldon & H. Mason *Altern.-Current Machines* 240 The power output of the motor is absorbed in a *strap brake. 1885 H. R. Procter *Tanning* 200 In the case of *strap-butts, the currying is..far less elaborate. 1904 P. N. Hasluck *Harness Making* ii. 38 Black strap butts are the best part of the hide from which the belly and shoulder have been cut. 1820 in Alice M. Earle *Two Cent. Costume Amer.* (1903) II. 501 The women..had two kinds...One was called a *strap-cap; it came under the chin; the other was called round-cord cap, and did not come over the ears. 1902 Thornley *Cotton Combing Machines* 7 *Strap Fork. 1845–50 Mrs. Lincoln *Lect. Bot.* Vocab., **Strap-form*, ligulate. 1905 *Daily News* 30 Jan. 3 Mr. W. Lestocq..has espoused the cause of the long-suffering '*straphanger'. 1905 *Punch* 8 Nov. 341/2, I am a Straphanger. I am one of a million swaying souls who travel underground to the vast city. 1864–86 Webster, **Strap-head.* 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.*, *Strap-head*, a journal-box secured by a strap to a connecting-rod. 1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib., Brit.* II. No. 4671, Brown *Strap Hides. 1737 Hoppus *Salmon's Country Build. Estim.* (ed. 2) 107 *Strap Hinges, are sold by the Dozen. 1833 Loudon *Encycl. Archit.* § 630 The end flaps ..are made to put on or to take off as required, by means of what are called strap-hinges. *Ibid.* § 1584 Fix on each side of the principals two long double wrought-iron *strap irons (binding plates of iron)..secured by thirteen screw-bolts. 1883 Ingersoll in *Harper's Mag.* Jan. 199 The track is rudely built..; the rails being heavy strap-iron bolted upon string pieces. 1839 Ure *Dict. Arts* 1072 A three-inch *strap-laid rope. 1897 C. T. Davis *Manuf. Leather* xxvi. (ed. 2) 414 Large sides are used for bag leather and for *strap leather. 1847 Halliwell, **Strap-oil*, a severe beating. It is a common joke on April 1st to send a lad for a pennyworth of *strap-oil, which is generally ministered on his own person. 1895 *Daily News* 27 May 6/6 A vase-shaped sugar caster..chased with cherubs and *strap-ornament in relief. 1881 Ingersoll *Oyster-Industr.* (Hist. Fish. Industr. U. S.) 249 **Strap-oyster*, the long, slender form which grows in mud. 1911 Webster, **Strap railroad* or *railway*. 1862 N. A. Woods *Prince of Wales in Canada* xviii. 357 The first part of the journey was over what is termed a '*strap road,' one of the most unsafe varieties of railway ever used. 1903 *Daily Chron.* 10 Jan. 8/4 Patent leather *strap shoes. 1891 *Century Dict.* *Strap-skein. 1885 P. J. Davies *Pract. Plumbing* I. 44 *Strap Solder. 1896 *Ibid.* II. 801 **Strap solder*, solder run into strips. 1796 Withering *Brit. Plants* (ed. 3) I. 85 **Straps-pear-shaped* (lineari-lanceolatum). *Ibid.* II. 30 Blossom of 3 petals, the 2 upper strap-spearshaped. 1854 Fairholt *Dict. Terms Art*, **Strap-work*, a peculiar kind of ornament, adopted extensively in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries (particularly in Flanders and Germany) ..which consists of a narrow fillet or band, folded and crossed, and occasionally interlaced with another. 1901 *Illustr. Lond. News* CXVIII. 912 Above the monogram is a strapwork panel. 1854 A. Adams etc. *Man. Nat. Hist.* 361 *Strap-Worms (Ligulidæ). 1896 tr. *Boas' Text-bk. Zool.* 151 The Strap-worm, *Ligula simplicissima*, parasitic in the digestive tract of different Water-birds. 1799 J. Hull *Brit. Flora* I. 66 *Corrigiola littoralis*, Sand *Strapwort.

Strap (stræp), *v.*[1] [f. Strap *sb.* (Cf. Strop *v.*)]

1. *trans.* To furnish with a strap; to fasten, bind, or secure with a strap or with straps. Also with *on, up, together.*

1711 W. Sutherland *Shipbuild. Assist.* 141 A general Proportion for strapping every Block in a Ship. 1735 Dyche & Pardon *Dict., Strap*, to fasten down with a Strap. 1776 G. Semple *Building in Water* 35 Let your Mauls be well hooped and strapped with Iron. 1837 Dickens *Pickw.* ii, His scanty black trousers..were strapped very tightly over a pair of patched and mended shoes. 1843 Lefevre *Life Trav. Phys.* III. iii. iv. 120 A tin case strapped over his shoulders. 1860 Tyndall *Glac.* I. ii. 15, I strapped on my knapsack. 1861 Sala *Dutch Pict.* xviii. 282 The barouche ..had a hamper strapped behind it. 1873 Black *Pr. Thule* xxiv, [She] asked..if all her portmanteaus were strapped up. 1874 Thearle *Naval Arch.* § 280. 292 They are also carefully strapped with two rivets on each side of the butt. 1885 Miss Braddon *Wyllard's Weird* I. He began to collect all this literature and to strap it neatly together. 1909 *Daily News* 20 Oct. 7/1 'It is blowing a bit hard,' was the intrepid aviator's remark as he strapped himself to his seat on the machine.

b. *Surg.* To apply straps of adhesive plaster to (a wound, etc.); to fasten (dressing) *on* with plaster; *to strap up*, to dress and bandage (a wound or a person, *i.e.* his wound).

1843 R. J. Graves *Lect. Clin. Med.* xxx. 385 But [he] expected some improvement from strapping the ulcer with real adhesive plaster. 1872 O. W. Holmes *Poet Breakf.-t.* v. (1885) 110 He..strapped up my cut. 1902 *Munsey's Mag.* XXVI. 583/2, I awoke and found Low..ready to take off my bandages and dress my wound...And after he had strapped me up again the baroness came in with my breakfast. 1905 H. D. Rolleston *Dis. Liver* 118 The local pain and tenderness [should be] relieved..by strapping the hepatic region with narrow strips of plaster as if for fractured ribs.

c. To bind and hang (a person). Also with *up*. Also *intr.*, to be hanged. *Sc.*

1815 Scott *Guy M.* xxxiii, I am done up already, and if I must strap for it, all shall out. 1815 — *Let.* in *Lockhart* III. xi. 381 A full account of the affair of 1745, with the trials..of the poor plaids who were strapped up at Carlisle.

d. To fasten, bind, or secure (a strap) tightly.

1818 Scott *Rob Roy* xxxiv, When they strapped the horse-girth ower my arms, I might hae judged what was biding me.

2. To beat with a strap or leather thong.

1735 Dyche & Pardon *Dict.* 1832 *Min. Evid. Comm. Factories Bill* 193 When I got home I saw her shoulders, and I said, 'Ann, what is the matter?' she said, 'The overlooker has strapped me.' 1854 Thackeray *Newcomes* I. ii. 20 Many and many a time had his own father..strapped and beaten him. 1887 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 21 Dec. 7/1 The two little girls were strapped again. With faces marked by the strap they fled.

3. To sharpen (a razor, knife) by applying it to a strap or strop: = Strop *v.* Now *rare* or *Obs.*

1785 J. Collier *Musical Trav.* 119 Still strapped he his inexorable razor. 1823 *Blackw. Mag.* XIV. 592/1 He had not 'strapped' the razor enough—or he had strapped it too much. 1845 S. Judd *Margaret* I. xvii. (1881) 149 Strapping his knife on the edge of the kit. 1850 Thackeray *Pendennis* lxviii, Mr. James Morgan laid out the silver dressing-case, and strapped the shining razor. 1856 [see Hone *v.*[3]].

4. *intr.* To work closely and energetically (*at* a task); to buckle *to* one's work. Also with adv., as *to, away. slang.*

1823 Egan *Grose's Dict. Vulgar T., Strap*, to work. The kiddy would not strap, so he went on the scamp. 1836 Col. Hawker *Diary* (1893) II. 103 Writing, reading, and strapping hard at my long-lost music. 1849 Alb. Smith *Pottleton Leg.* xxxi. 347 Pedestrians..strapping away at the rate of four miles and a half per hour. 1851 Mayhew *Lond. Labour* II. 233/1 The strapping masters, or those who make the men (by extra supervision) 'strap' to their work, so as to do a greater quantity of labour in the usual time. 1891 *Cornhill Mag.* July 65 Maisie strapped to, and got a berth as a nursery governess.

5. *trans.* To groom (a horse).

1854 Miss Baker *Northampt. Gloss., Strap*, to groom a horse. 1875 *My First 'Wine'* 20 When the groom took off his [a horse's] clothes to strap him,..my hopes of winning ..vanished altogether. 1881 A. C. Grant *Bush Life Queensld.* xxv. (1882) 254 Tommy..leads the Bey [a racehorse] off to be thoroughly strapped and clothed [after the race].

6. To give credit for (goods). *dial.* or *slang.*

1862 C. C. Robinson *Dial. Leeds* 423 'Yuh mun strap muh this missis wal Seterder neet.', 'D' yuh strap here maaster?' 1896 *Evesham Jrnl.* 26 Sept. (E.D.D.), Witness said she had not got a sixpence, and prisoner offered to 'strap' it with her.

Strap (stræp), *v.*[2] *dial.* [Alteration of Strip *v.*] (See quots.)

1854 Miss Baker *Northampt. Gloss., Strap* or *Strip*, to draw the last milk from a cow. 1881 *Leicester Gloss., Strap*, to drain the last milk from the udder by a peculiar motion of the thumb and finger. Often metaphorically used for draining anything dry.

Strapade, strapado (e, obs. ff. Strappado.

Strapless (stræ·plés), *a.* [f. Strap *sb.* + -less.] Without a strap; not fitted with straps.

1846 Lytton *Lucretia* II. Prol., A sturdy wanderer, with thick shoes and strapless trousers.

Strappado (strəpē·do, -ā·do), *sb. Obs.* exc. *Hist.* Forms: (6 **stappado, strippado, stroppado**), 7 **strappada, strappadoe**, 6– **strappade**; *pl.* 6–7 **strappadoes**, (6 -das); 6–8 **strapado**, (7 **strapadoe**, 8 **strapade**). [ad. F. *strapade, estrapade*, ad. It. *strappata*, f. *strappare* to drag, pull, snatch; for the quasi-Sp. ending see *-ado.*]

1. A form of punishment or of torture to extort confession in which the victim's hands were tied across his back and secured to a pulley; he was then hoisted from the ground and let down half way with a jerk; also an application of this punishment or torture; also the instrument used.

1560 J. Frampton in Strype *Ann. Ref.* xx. (1709) I. 232 And forthwith I was plucked up again; and after a while let down again. And being put down well near dead..of this Torment of the Stappado [*sic*], they asked me [etc.]. 1568 V. Skinner *Consalvius' Discov. Pract. Spanish Inquis.* 24 b, They..bid the hangman to slip the ropes suddenly, that he may fall downe with a sway, and in the halfe way

to stop and geue him the Strippado: which being done with a trice, al his whole body is out of frame. 1583 GREENE *Mamillia* I. 22 b, Or the superstitious Essenians..had had Licurgus for their iudge, they had in mine opinion purchased ye strapado for their paines. 1585 T. WASHINGTON tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* II. x. 44 b, The one..hadde presently three stroppados at the yardes arme of the gally. 1596 SHAKS. *1 Hen. IV*, II. iv. 262. 1598 FLORIO *Worlde of Wordes* Ep. Ded. a 4, One saies of Petrarche for all: A thousand strappadas coulde not compell him to confesse, what some interpreters will make him saie he ment. 1670 R. LASSELS *Voy. Italy* II. 254 And a pocket-pistol found about you..is enough to make you be sent to the Gallies with *tre tratti di corda*, that is, the strappada thrice. 1725 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 6343/1 *Turin*. A few Days ago an Advocate underwent the Punishment of the Strapade. 1855 KINGSLEY *Westw. Ho!* vii, I have had too much of the rack already, and the strappado too, to care much what man can do unto me. 1888 H. C. LEA *Hist. Inquisition* I. 400 *note*, In some witch trials of 1474 in Piedmont the oath to tell the truth was enforced with excommunication and '*tratti di corde*,' or infliction of the torture known as the strappado.

† **b.** as a punishment used in military discipline. 1622 F. MARKHAM *Epist. Warre* III. vii. 106 [The Provost Marshall] is..to see all places of Execution..furnished with ..Gallowes, Gybbets, Scaffolds, Pillories, Stocks or Strappadoes. 1671 SIR J. TURNER *Pallas Armata* XXVII. 348 Military Punishments, which reach not to Death, are the Strappado, hanging up by the Thumbs, [etc.]. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 310/2 There are several other Punishments used by Military Officers for the Chastising of Offending Soldiers, as..the half Strappado, the whole Strappado..The Half Strappado, is to have the Mans hands tyed cross behind his Back, and so by them be drawn up to a considerable height, and so let down again..The Whole Strappado, is when the person is drawn up to his height, and then suddenly to let him fall half way with a jerk.

† **c.** *transf.* and *fig.* *Obs.*

1594 *Selimus* H 4, Marrie that had bene the way to preferment, downe Holburne vp Tiburne: well ile keepe my best ioynt from the strappado. 1598 E. GUILPIN *Skial.* (1878) 32 He's a Strappado, rack, and some such paine To base lewd vice. 1615 BRATHWAIT (*title*) A Strappado for the Diuell. *Ibid.* To Rdr., Be honest still and thou art out of the swing of this strappado. 1626 J. YATES *Ibis ad Cæs.* II. 14 Truth hath alwaies given her enemies such Strappadoes, that it wresteth some words of confession from them against their will. 1650 FULLER *Pisgah* II. iv. 109 O sad strapado of the soul, to be hoised up so high, and then cast down suddenly so low. 1691 ABP. SANCROFT *Fam. Lett. to North* (1757) 23 My old pain in my right shoulder, which gives me the strappada sometimes, when I put on my doublet.

¶ **2.** Erroneously taken to mean 'chastisement by blows' (J.). [Cf. STRAP *sb.* 1 b, STRAP *v.* 2.]

1668 R. L'ESTRANGE *Vis. Quev.* vii. 311 If I dye, let my Boy Robin have the Strappado, three hours a day, to be duly paid him during Life. 1704 T. BAKER *Act at Oxf.* II. ii. 24 [*The Beadles give him a Blow on the Back with a Stick.*] *Dri.* Sir! *Blo.* That Strappado, Sir, is to inform your Body, you are..putting on the more decent Habit of a Doctor. 1712 STEELE *Spect.* No. 509 ¶ 3 The Benches around are so filthy, that no one can sit down, yet the Beadles and Officers have the Impudence at Christmas to ask for their Box, though they deserve the Strapado. 1716 M. DAVIES' *Athen. Brit.* II. To Rdr. 8 Having a Pope-Sinon to undergo the voluntary Operations of his own Party's Satyrical Lashes and Mootly Strapades. 1769 BICKERSTAFFE *Padlock* I. viii, He gave me the strappado on my shoulders, and the bastinado on the soles of my feet.

† **Strappa·do,** *v.* *Obs.* [f. STRAPPADO *sb.*]

1. *trans.* To torture or punish with the strappado. Also *fig.*

1596 NASHE *Saffron Walden* O 3, A Gentleman..that was no straunger to such bandyings as had past betwixt vs, was desirous to see how he lookt since my strappadoing and torturing him. 1607 HEYWOOD *Woman Kild* (1617) G 3 b, Oh to redeeme mine honor, I would..Be rack'd, strappado'd, put to any torment. 1641 MILTON *Animadv.* 12 They had neither bin hal'd into your Gehenna at Lambeth, nor strappado'd with an Oath *Ex Officio* by your bow men of the Arches.

¶ **2.** To beat with a strap. (Cf. STRAPPADO *sb.* 2.)

1655 tr. *Sorel's Com. Hist. Francion* VI. 14, I will beat her soundly for it with the Brims of my Hat, although she better doth deserve to be strappadoed [orig. F. *qui meriteroit plustost les estrivieres*].

Strapped (stræpt), *ppl. a.* [f. STRAP *v.*[1] + -ED[1].]

1. Furnished with a strap, bound or fastened with a strap or with straps.

1784 COWPER *Task* IV. 6 He [the post] comes,..With spatter'd boots, strapp'd waist, and frozen locks. 1809 *Catal. Bks.*, Hymns,..morocco, gilt edges, *7s.*..strapped, *7s. 6d.* 1864 E. BURRITT *Walk fr. Lond. to John O'Groats* 316 Strapped pantaloons. 1909 H. BEGBIE *Cage* I. 2 He hurried to school with..a strapped bundle of books under his arm.

b. *Dressmaking* and *Tailoring.* Trimmed with straps; *spec.* of a seam, etc.: Strengthened by overlaying with piece of stronger material.

1892 *Stratford-on-Avon Herald* 18 Nov. 6/1 The strapped corsage, cuffs and turn-down collar being of velvet. 1894 *Daily News* 20 June 6/4 Another lady affects..a covert coat with manly pockets and strapped seams. 1909 *Daily Mail* 6 Aug. 1/6 Gentlemen's Riding Breeches; in tough wearing whipcord,..strapped buckskin.

2. *U.S. slang.* Short of money.

1857 *Nat. Intelligencer* Oct., (Bartlett) No go. Lowndes is strapped. 1876 *Daily News* 5 Oct. 6/1 The tramp..does not awaken sympathy like the 'strapped' journeyman in search of a job. 1913 EDITH WHARTON *Custom of Country* I. iv. 44 'Fact is,..' he said,..'I'm a little mite strapped just this month.'

Strapper[1] (stræ·pəɹ). [f. STRAP *v.*[1] + -ER.[1]]

1. A 'strapping' or tall and robust person; one above the average stature and strength of build. (Chiefly applied to women. Cf. STRAPPING *ppl. a.*)

1675 WYCHERLEY *Country Wife* III. ii, Come let us go too: Madam, your Servant. (*To* Alithea.) Good night Strapper. —(*To* Lucy [Alithea's maid].) 1690 *Pagan Prince* XXVIII. 77 This Goddess..took him up in her Arms (for your Pagan Goddesses are all Strappers). 1706 ESTCOURT *Fair Example* I. i, She's a Strapper, and I'm a Pigmy. 1751 SMOLLETT *Per. Pickle* XCV, Ah! you strapper, what a jolly bitch you are! 1802 G. COLMAN *Br. Grins, Elder Bro.* (1804) 118 Isaac ey'd Toby,..And saw he was a strapper,—stout and tall. 1842 J. WILSON *Chr. North* (1857) I. 157 She is what is delicately called a strapper, rosy-armed as the morning. 1847 C. BRONTE *Jane Eyre* XX, A strapper—a real strapper, Jane: big, brown, and buxom.

† **b.** *transf.* A monstrous lie, 'whopper'. *Obs.*

1677 W. HUGHES *Man of Sin* I. x. 46 Did not the Pope deliver Trajan's, the Heathenish Persecuting Emperor's Soul from Hell, as they assure us; and whereof, with other strappers of the same breed, you will hear more fully hereafter? *Ibid.* III. iii. 58 Such another Strapper is their talk about Christs Shrowd, or Winding-sheet.

2. One who straps or grooms horses.

1828 *Sporting Mag.* XXIII. 19, I found him in the yard, looking pretty slippery after the strappers. 1891 *Field* 7 Mar. p. xxix/1 Will any Gentleman recommend a strong, active man as Groom, under coachman;..must be thorough stableman, good strapper, and experienced with hunters.

3. *slang.* An unremitting worker.

1851 MAYHEW *Lond. Labour* II. 305/1 They are all picked men in the shop—regular 'strappers', and no mistake.

4. A labourer employed temporarily at busy seasons; an extra hand. Also see quot. 1892. *dial.* or *local.*

1888 *Berksh. Gloss.*, *Strapper*, a journeyman labourer coming for work at harvest time or hay making. 1892 *Labour Commission Gloss.*, *Strappers*, There is a system in vogue at the docks by which the conveyance of goods from the dock-quays to the piling grounds is done by contractors..Sometimes they require more men, and these are called strappers.

Strapper[2] (stræ·pəɹ). *dial.* [? f. STRAP *v.*[2] + -ER[1]. Cf. STROPPER.] (See quots.)

1777 *Terrier* in J. P. Briscoe *Old Nottinghamsh.* (1881) 37 Item: For every Miloh Cow a composition of twopence, and for every Strapper (a cow that yields but little milk [Ed.]) one penny halfpenny. 1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss.*, *Strappers*, cows that are nearly dry, that yield little milk.

† **Stra·ppet.** *Obs. rare*[−1]. [? f. STRAP *sb.* + -ET.] A small strip.

1665 in *Hist. Springfield, Mass.* (1899) II. 214 There is grannted to Lawrence Bliss Some Small nookes & Strappetts of Meddow & Swamp lying in the corners of his meddow.

Strapping (stræ·piŋ), *vbl. sb.*[1] [See -ING[1].]

1. The action of STRAP *v.*[1]; also an instance of this.

1806 SHERIDAN in *Sheridaniana* (1826) 200 Oh! I'll give them—a strapping! 1832 MARRYAT *N. Forster* xlv, He..was better pleased when superintending the mousing of a stay or the strapping of a block. 1876 DUNGLISON *Med. Lex.*, *Strapping*, the dressing of ulcers by means of straps or strips of adhesive plaster, linen, &c. 1914 *Blackw. Mag.* Feb. 161/1 Slappings, strappings, and curses were the portion of Maria Assunta.

2. *concr.* **a.** *Surg.* Adhesive plaster for binding up wounds.

1818 S. F. GRAY *Suppl. Pharmacopœias* 243 Adhesive Plaisters, Strapping,..much used by surgeons to close the lips of wounds, and retain dressings. 1898 EVA C. E. LÜCKES *Gen. Nursing* vii. 86 The strapping for fractured ribs should be cut three inches wide.

b. Iron straps or bands for strengthening woodwork, etc.

1862 F. A. GRIFFITHS *Artil. Man.* (ed. 9) 107 The iron strapping is retained in its place by means of the pin.

c. Leather straps for harness, machinery, etc.

1882 J. PHILIPSON *Harness* 17 Such parts of the hide..as are most suitable..for traces, backbands, and other heavy strapping, 1885 *Harper's Mag.* Jan. 280/1 [Leather.] Strapping, staying, and all kinds of binding are sold by the gross.

d. *Dressmaking.* Trimming composed of narrow bands.

1898 *Westm. Gaz.* 31 Mar. 3/1 Velvet strappings..are quite *de rigueur* this spring. 1901 *Daily News* 16 Feb. 6/7 The black-cloth gown..trimmed with black silk strappings. 1904 *Ibid.* 13 June 5 The waistband and strappings on the bodice were of yellow velvet.

3. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *strapping plate*; **strapping-master, -shop** (see quots.); **strapping-tin,** a tin containing hot water, on the outside of which surgical plaster is warmed.

1851 MAYHEW *Lond. Labour* II. 233/1 The *strapping masters, or those who make the men (by extra supervision) 'strap' to their work, so as to do a greater quantity of labour in the usual time. 1860 *Eng. & For. Mining Gloss.* (ed. 2) 24 (Cornw. Terms) **Strapping plates*, the iron plates by which the connection rods are fastened to each other. 1851 MAYHEW *Lond. Labour* II. 304/1 The shops where this system is enforced are termed '*strapping-shops', as indicative of establishments where an undue quantity of work is expected from a journeyman in the course of the day. 1898 EVA C. E. LÜCKES *Gen. Nursing* vii. 86 The nurse ..handing the surgeon the strips..duly warmed by placing the non-adhesive side of the plaster across the hot-water *strapping tins.

Stra·pping, *vbl. sb.*[2] *dial.* [f. STRAP *v.*[2] + -ING[1].] (See quots.)

1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss.*, *Strappings*, *Strippings*, *Stroakings*, the last milk drawn or drained from a cow in milking. 1881 *Leicestersh. Gloss.*, *Strappings*, the last milk forced from the udder, particularly rich in quality.

Strapping (stræ·piŋ), *ppl. a.* Also 8 *Sc.* **strapan,** 8–9 *Sc.* **strappan.** [f. STRAP *v.*[1] + -ING[2].

Cf. STRAPPER.] Originally of a young woman: † Full of activity, vigorous, lusty (*obs.*). Now of a person of either sex: Strongly and stoutly built, robust, sturdy.

1657 G. THORNLEY *Daphnis & Chloe* (1893) 24 And, now and then, one of the bolder strapping girles would catch him in her arms, and kisse him. 1698 FRYER *Acc. E. India & P.* 234 They are Strapping Sunburnt Lasses. 1707 J. STEVENS tr. *Quevedo's Com. Wks.* (1709) 55 One of these three young Men was taller than I by the Head, so that you may guess what a strapping Fellow he was, for I am none of the least. 1785 RAMSAY *Gentle Sheph.* III. ii. (1769) 48 Patie's grown a strapan lad. 1749 H. WALPOLE *Let. to Mann* 12 Sept., The Richcourts are arrived, and have brought with them a strapping lad of your Count. 1785 BURNS *Cotter's Sat. Nt.* viii, A strappan youth; he takes the Mother's eye. 1793 — *Meg o' the Mill* ii, The Miller was strappin, the Miller was ruddy. 1824 MISS MITFORD *Village* I. 42 The under damsel, was a stout strapping country wench. 1859 GEO. ELIOT *Adam Bede* ii, Well, it's a pretty spot,..and one meets some fine strapping fellows about too. 1869 BLACKMORE *Lorna D.* xiii, This Nicholas Snowe was to come in the evening, with his three tall comely daughters, strapping girls. 1902 *Times* 24 July 5/1 They..are the finest-looking men you want to see; all well-built, strapping fellows.

b. *transf.* Big, 'whopping', *rare.*

1819 W. TENNANT *Papistry Storm'd* (1827) 134 Sanct Salvador's lang strappan steeple Had peltit five hours to the people. 1863 TREVELYAN *Compet. Wallah* (1866) 62 It is..a new..doctrine..that protection is afforded to a traffic by loading it with a strapping duty. 1893 *Outing* Oct. 3/2 The team was a span of strapping mules.

† **Stra·pple,** *sb.* *Obs.* Forms: 1 **strapul,** 3 **strapel,** 4–5 **straple,** 5 **strapul, strapylle, strapil.** [OE. *strapul* masc., of obscure origin.] A covering for the lower part of the leg, forming the complementary part of the 'breech', consisting of a fillet or band laced or bound round the limb.

c 1000 ÆLFRIC *Gloss.* in Wr.-Wülcker 125 *Tubroces, uel brace*, strapulas. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 420 Sum wummon inouhreaðe wereð þe brech of heare ful wel i-knotted, and þe strapeles adun to hire uet, i-laced ful ueste. *c* 1290 *Beket* 1443 in *S. Eng. Leg.* 147 He hadde of harde here Schuyrte and brech streit i-nov3:..þe strapeles weren swiþe streite. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) V. 355 [He said] þat þey were liche to mares wiþ white legges up to þe knes, for þat tyme þe Longobardes usede strapeles [*v.r.* straples; 1432–50 usede ..whyte listes; L. *usque ad suras candidis fasceolis uterentur*] wiþ brode laces doun to þe sparlyver. 14.. in *Kel. Ant.* (1843) I. 82 Ther stode wonus a coke on Seynt Pale stepull toppe, and drewe up the strapuls of his brech. 14.. *Lat.-Eng. Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 582 *Femorale*, a strapul. 14.. *Nominale* Ibid. 734 *Hec tribrica*, the strapuls of a pare brek. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 478/2 Straple, of a breche (MS. *K.* strappyl), *femorale, feminale.* *c* 1475 *Pict. Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 775 *Hoc tibiale*, a strapylle. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 367/2 þe Strapils of breke, *tribraca.*

Stra·pple, *v.* *Obs.* exc. *dial.* [f. STRAPPLE *sb.*]

† **1.** *trans.* To furnish with 'strapples' or coverings for the legs. *Obs.*

1607 CHAPMAN *Bussy d'Ambois* III. ii. 14 Slaue flatterie (like a Rippiers legs rowl'd vp In bootes of haie-ropes) with Kings soothed guts Swadled and strappl'd, now liues only free.

2. To bind or make fast with bands. Also *fig.*

c 1611 CHAPMAN *Iliad* XVI. 438 His ruine startl'd th' other steeds: the geres crackt, and the raines Strappl'd his fellowes. *c* 1624 — *Hymn to Hermes* 720 Hermes..did forth-with cut and bow Strong Osiers in soft folds, and strappl'd strait One of his hugest Oxen. 1659 C. NOBLE *Mod. Answ. to Immod. Queries* 8 'Tis also a stumbling stone, and a gin, and a snare, to entangle and strapple some feeble judgements. 1888 *Sheffield Gloss.*, *Strapple*, to bind, make fast with a cord, strap, &c.

Stra·p-shaped, *a.* Long, narrow and flat in shape. **a.** *spec.* in *Bot.* = LIGULATE *a.* 1.

1796 WITHERING *Brit. Plants* (ed. 3) I. 229 Anthers strap-shaped. *Ibid.* II. 30 Lower lip [of blossom] oblong-strap-shaped. 1806 TURTON *Linné's Syst. Nat.* VII. Expl. Terms, *Strap-shaped*, nearly of the same width all along. 1890 *Hardwicke's Sci.-Gossip* XXVI. 206 Our sketch of the ox-eye daisy, showing the outer and usually strap-shaped florets converted into barren tubular florets.

b. *gen.*

1826 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* XXX. III. 231 This cocoon is ..composed of small rectangular strap-shaped pieces of the fine upper skin, or epidermis of the twig upon which it rests. 1893 TUCKEY *Amphioxus* 136 The fibrilla [*sic*] grow ..to such an extent that from being thread-like in form they become strap-shaped.

Strasburg (stræ·zbɤig, ‖ ʃträsburg). Also 7 **Stras-, Strawsborough, Strasbrow,** 7– **Strasburgh, Strasbourg.** [G. *Strassburg*, Fr. *Strasbourg.*] The name of the principal town of Alsace, used *attrib.* in the names of various articles.

Strasburg embroidery (see quot.). *S. finch* (see quot.). *S. linen*, a kind of linen imported from Strasburg. *S. match*, an aromatic match for fumigating wines. *S. onion* (see quot.). *S. pie*, a pie made of fatted goose liver: see PÂTÉ 1. *S. turpentine*, turpentine obtained from the Silver Fir *Abies Picea.*

1882 CAULFEILD & SAWARD *Dict. Needlework* 426 *Roman Work.* Also known as..*Strasbourg Embroidery,..and differing but slightly from Richelieu Guipure. 1815 STEPHENS in *Shaw's Gen. Zool.* IX. 538 *Strasburgh Finch. *Fringilla argentoratensis*...Found in the neighbourhood of Strasburgh, where it goes by the name of the Gyntel. 1642 *Rates of Merchandizes* 40 *Strasborough or Hamborow linnen. 1657 *Acts of Interregn.* (1911) II. 1215 Linnen Cloth called..Strasborough or Hamborough Linnen. 1682 *Privil. Cit. Lond., Scavage Tables* 52 Strasbrow Linnen. 1851 *Butler, Wine-dealer* etc. 27 The *Strasbourg, or aromatic matches, are to be preferred for wines. 1731 MILLER *Gard. Dict.* s.v. *Cepa Cepa oblonga.* The *Strasburgh Onion.

Ibid. The best Onions for keeping are the Strasburgh kind, which is an oval-shap'd Bulb. 1838 THACKERAY *Yellowplush* (1865) 17 He sent me out..for wot's called a *Strasbug-pie—in French, a 'patty defau grave.'* 1869 H. S. LEIGH *Carols of Cockayne* 169 Turtle and salmon and Strasbourg pie. 1687 J. SMITH *Art of Painting* xix. (ed. 2) 91 Take good *Strasburg Turpentine, and warm it. 1861 BENTLEY *Man. Bot.* 659.

Strase, obs. pl. of STRAW.

Strass[1] (stræs). [a. G. *strass*, F. *stras* (*Dict. Acad.* 1762); said to be from the name of the inventor, Josef Strasser.] A vitreous composition used as a basis in the manufacture of artificial stones: = PASTE *sb.*[1] 5.

1820 *Ann. Reg.* *453/1 What is technically called 'Strass', and which forms the basis and body of all artificial stones. 1844 *E. A. Parnell's Appl. Chem.* II. 44 The variety of glass known by the name of *Strass [foot-n.* So called from the name of its German inventor], which is used as a general colourless basis for factitious gems, on account of its remarkable lustre. 1876 'OUIDA' *In Winter City* vi, She threw them all into the shade as a rose diamond throws stars of strass.

attrib. 1908 *Ladies' Field* 4 Apr. 197/1 Strass ornaments imitating peacock's feathers.

Strass[2] (stræs). *rare*—°. [a. F. *strasse*, in Cotgr. *estrace, estrasse,* 'raw silk thats so ruffled, or tangled, as it cannot be wound' ad. It. *straccio.*] (See quot.)

[1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade, Strasse* (French), the waste or refuse of silk in working it up into skeins.] 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech., Strass..2* (Silk.) The refuse of silk in the process of working into skeins.

Strata, pl. of STRATUM.

Stratagem (strætădʒĕm). Forms: 5–7 **stratageme,** 6 **-geeme,** 7 **stratigem,** 6– **stratagem.** [a. F. *stratagème* (= Sp., Pg. *estratagema*, It. *stratagemma*), ad. (with alteration of vowel in the second syllable) L. *stratēgēma*, a. Gr. στρατήγημα a piece of generalship, stratagem, f. στρατηγεῖν to be a general, f. στρατηγός STRATEGUS.]

1. An operation or act of generalship; usually, an artifice or trick designed to outwit or surprise the enemy.

1489 CAXTON *Faytes of A.* II. i. 91 Whiche subtilites and wylis are called stratagemes of armes. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VI,* 173 b, Therle of Salisbury..knewe the slaightes, stratagemes and pollecies of warlike affaires. 1555 EDEN *Decades* (Arb.) 93 By this stratageme or policie, they came sodenly vppon Majobanexius, and tooke hym prisoner. 1639 R. WARD *Animadv. Warre* 1. 329 Breda..was once by the Hollander surprized, by a Stratagem of a Boate laden with Turffe, in whose Keele was imbarqued very closely divers valiant Gentlemen. 1653 H. COGAN tr. *Pinto's Trav.* v. 12 He was advertised by spies what stratagems the enemy would use against us. 1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* I. (Globe) 269, I presently thought of a Stratagem to fetch them back again. 1840 THIRLWALL *Greece* lvii. VII. 261 Antigonus..surprised the victors by a stratagem something like Lysander's at Ægos-potami. 1865 LIVINGSTONE *Zambesi* ix. 190 Attempting to carry out the skilful plans and stratagems of some eminent leader.

fig. 1665 BOYLE *Occas. Refl.* Introd. (1848) p. xxxi, In the spiritual Warfare, where our Adversary is the old Serpent, Stratagems are as Lawful as Expedient. 1859 GEO. ELIOT *Adam Bede* xii, It is the favourite stratagem of our passions to sham a retreat, and to turn sharp round upon us at the moment we have made up our minds that the day is our own.

b. In generalized sense: Military artifice.

1599 SHAKS. *Hen. V,* IV. viii. 113 Without stratagem, But in plaine shock, and euen play of Battaile. 1917 LADY M. W. MONTAGU *Let. to C'tess Mar* 30 Jan., The Turks once more attempted to gain it [Raab] by stratagem. 1853 SIR H. DOUGLAS *Milit. Bridges* 200 In the following campaign, by having recourse to stratagem, he succeeded better. 1874 BANCROFT *Footpr. Time* i. 77 He then turned his arms against Babylon which he took by stratagem after a long siege.

2. Any artifice or trick; a device or scheme for obtaining an advantage.

1588 *Marprel. Epist.* (Arb.) 38, I doubt not in my visitation, but to get a hundreth of these stratagemes. 1592 KYD *Sp. Trag.* II. i. 35, I haue already found a stratageme, To sound the bottome of this doubtfull theame. 1662 J. DAVIES tr. *Olearius' Voy. Ambass.* 12 It was a Strategeme of the Inhabitants, who had incens'd the Bees, purposely to prevent our lodging in the Village. 1728 YOUNG *Love Fame* VI. 187 For her own breakfast she'll project a scheme, Nor take her tea without a stratagem. 1750 JOHNSON *Rambler* No. 35 P 10, I shall not trouble you with a history of the stratagems practised on my judgement. 1830 HERSCHEL *Stud. Nat. Phil.* 2 His existence would be one continued subterfuge or stratagem. 1879 FARRAR *St. Paul* (1883) 680 The stratagem was for the time..successful.

b. In generalized sense: Skill in devising expedients; artifice, cunning.

1588 SHAKS. *Tit. A.* II. i. 104 'Tis pollicie and strategeme must doe Thaf you affect. 1737 BRACKEN *Farriery Impr.* (1757) II. 81 A Horse is a noble Creature, naturally strong and courageous, and, for this Reason, he is not endowed with so much Stratagem as others of less account. 1837 THIRLWALL *Greece* xxxv. IV. 361 Notorious for his mastery in the arts of stratagem and intrigue. 1872 GEO. ELIOT *Middlem.* vi, Obliged to get my coals by stratagem.

†**3.** Used loosely for: A deed of blood or violence. *Obs.*

1588 GREENE *Pandosto* (1607) G 4, To close up the Comedie with a Tragicall strategeme, he slew himselfe. 1589 — *Tullies Love* (1616) K 3, The Senators seeing what bloudy stratagems would insue of this strife, if it were not pacified, sent for the Consuls. 1592 in J. Morris *Troubles Cath. Forefathers* (1877) 50 Of these late executions, you shall have shortly a more particular and true advertisement, by a priest who was present at the stratagem. 1593 SHAKS. 3 *Hen. VI,* II. v. 89 What Stra[ta]gems? how fell? how Butcherly? Erreoneous, mutinous, and vnnaturall, This deadly quarrell daily doth beget? 1601 YARINGTON *Two Trag.* II. ii. in Bullen *O. Pl.* IV, Blood-sucking Avarice, and all the Sinnes, That hale men on to bloodie stratagems. 1606 G. W[OODCOCKE] *Hist. Justine* XXXVII. ii. 116 Fearing his enemies would compasse the treason by stratigem, which they could not by poyson [L. *ne inimici, quod veneno non potuerant, ferro peragerent*].

†**Stratagema·tic,** *a. Obs.* Also 7 **strategematick.** [a. obs. F. *strategematique* (16th c. in Godefroy), *stratag-* (Cotgr.), or ad. L. *stratēgēmatic-us,* f. *stratēgēmat-, stratēgēma* STRATAGEM.] Relating to, versed in, stratagem or strategy.

1589 PUTTENHAM *Eng. Poesie* I. viii. (Arb.) 35 Of this sorte of phantasie are all good Poets, notable Captaines strategematique, all cunning artificers and engiuers. 1629 MAXWELL tr. *Herodian* VI. 3 *marg.,* In which words the excellent Author hath couched both the parts of Warre: viz. Tactick and Strategematick. 1646 J. HALL *Horæ Vac.* 163 Greece and Rome did most excell in the art of War, whether the Tactick or the Strategematick part. 1650 — *Paradoxes* 93 Many great stratagematick wits, have no better ways either of startleing their enemies, or retaining their friends, then by increasing the shew of their dangers.

†**Stratagema·tical,** *a. Obs.* = prec.

1611 CORYAT *Crudities* 375 In these wals are many strong and auncient Towers..being built with a pretty kinde of stratagematical invention. 1612 [see STATIZE *v.*].

Hence †**Stratagema·tically** *adv. Obs.*

1592 G. HARVEY *Four Lett.* F 2, The fine Discouerer, and curious Intelligencer, goe inuisible, & stratagematically discery many hidden priuities of publique, and priuate misgouernment.

†**Stratage·matist.** *Obs.* [f. (with alteration of the second vowel) Gr. στρατηγηματ-, στρατήγημα STRATAGEM + -IST.] One versed in stratagem.

1609 TOURNEUR *Funeral Poem on Sir F. Vere* 556 Where he shew'd all wherein wit can assist The workings of a stratagematist. 1684 tr. *Agrippa's Van. Arts* VIII. 45 Sophisters..like Stratagematists fly for Refuge to the strength of Memory.

Stratagemical (strætădʒĕmĭkăl), *a.* ? *Obs.* [irreg. f. STRATAGEM + -IC + -AL.] Belonging to, concerned with, of the nature of, stratagem.

1585 DANIEL *P. Jovius' Disc. Imprese* etc. H iij, A Calthrope, a Stratagemical instrument vsed in warre. 1599 R. LINCHE *Anc. Fiction* V iiij, The house of Mars..is built in an obscure corner of Thracia, where the people wholly giue and addict themselues to warres and stratagemicall policies. 1600 W. WATSON *Decacordon* (1602) 331 Their [the Jesuits'] paradoxall, pragmaticall, and stratagemicall doctrine. 1688 ? SWIFT *Tripos* in J. Barrett *Ess. Life Swift* (1808) 76 His wife, who, to gain entirely his affections, sent him this stratagemical epistle. 1838 B. CORNEY *Controv.* 12 In every species of controversy, there is scope for the exercise of stratagemical ingenuity.

Hence **Stratage·mically** *adv.*

1600 W. WATSON *Decacordon* (1602) 104 Which to performe stratagemically, they commended his said Vncle exceedingly. 1838 B. CORNEY *Controv.* 12 A fact or argument of an inconveniently formidable nature, may be met stratagemically.

†**Stratagemitor.** *Obs. rare.* [irreg. f. STRATAGEM + L. agent-suffix -(I)TOR.] ? A deviser of stratagems.

1600 W. WATSON *Decacordon* (1602) 102 As politicall a stratagemitor as I thinke hath bene in any age. *Ibid.* 160 That Atheall stratagemitor. 1612 T. JAMES *Jesuites Downefall* 49 A dangerous Polypragmon,..Atheall Stratagemitor.

†**Stratage·mous,** *a. Obs. rare*—¹. [f. STRATAGEM + -OUS.] Of, or consisting of, stratagems.

1606 WARNER *Alb. Eng.* XV. XCV. 379 [Guy Faux] Hels stratagemous Quintessence, Romes selfe-created Foe.

Stratal (strē·tăl), *a.* [f. STRAT-UM + -AL.] Of or belonging to a stratum (or strata).

1875 A. SMITH *New Hist. Aberdeensh.* II. 1232 The stratal direction of the vein.

Stratarchy (strē·taiki), *rare*—¹. [ad. Gr. στραταρχία, the office of a general, f. στρατάρχης, also στράταρχος, a general, f. στρατ-ός army + ἄρχ-ειν to rule.] The system of rule in an army.

1877 GLADSTONE in *19th Cent.* Mar. 18 A hierarchy..is broadly distinguished from a *stratarchy,* from the corps of officers of an army, where an absolute obedience is due from the private soldier, and from every successive grade, to a superior.

†**Stratari·thmetry.** *Obs. rare*—¹. [irreg. f. Gr. στρατ-ός army + ἀριθμ-ός number + -μετρία -METRY.] The art of drawing up an army or body of men in a given geometrical figure, and of estimating the number of men contained in such a figure.

1570 J. DEE *Math. Pref.* a iiij, Moreouer, of the former knowledge Geometricall, are growen the Skills of Geographie, Chorographie, Hydrographie, and Stratarithmetrie. *Ibid.* a iiij b. [1802 C. JAMES *Milit. Dict.* has the correct form *Stratarithmometry.*]

Stratche, Strate, obs. ff. STRETCH *v.*, STREET.

†**Strategе.** *Obs. rare*—¹. [ad. Gr. στρατηγ-ός. Cf. F. *stratège* (also *stratègue*).] = STRATEGUS.

1808 MITFORD *Hist. Greece* v. § 4. I. 287 The Athenian Strategе..was the general officer.

Strategetic (strætĭdʒe·tik), *a.* [ad. Gr. στρατηγητικ-ός, f. στρατηγεῖν: see STRATAGEM.] = STRATEGIC.

1848 W. H. KELLY tr. *L. Blanc's Hist. Ten Y.* II. 393 Fieschi had invented the fatal machine with views entirely strategetic. 1862 TROLLOPE *N. Amer.* II. 151 He..entertained an idea that Cairo was the nucleus or pivot of all really strategetic movements in this terrible national struggle. 1870 ANDERSON *Missions Amer. Board* IV. xxxii. 210 Acquainted with the field, with its wants, and its strategetic points.

Strategetical (strætĭdʒe·tikăl), *a.* [f. prec. + -AL.] = prec.

1828 NAPIER *Penins. War* I. iv. I. 54 Hence Zaragoza..was a strategetical point of importance [*ed.* 1851 I. 33 was of strategic importance]. 1849–50 ALISON *Hist. Europe* lxxxiv. § 67. XII. 445 A city of the highest importance in a strategetical point of view, as being the place where several roads..intersect each other.

Strategian (strătē·dʒiăn), *rare.* [Formed as STRATEGY + -AN.]

†**1.** Used by Holland to render Pliny's *strategia* (στρατηγία), a government or province. Cf. STRATEGY 1. *Obs.*

1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* VI. ix. I. 119 This is well knowne, that divided it [Armenia] is into certaine regiments, which they call Strategians.

2. A strategist.

1901 HORNUNG *Black Mask* vi. 107 Raffles..was both strategian and tactician, and we all now know the difference between the two. 1912 A. F. WHYTE in *Everyman* 15 Nov. 135 The strategians of the corrupt party.

Strategic (strătē·dʒik, -ē·dʒik), *a.* and *sb.* [a. F. *stratégique* or ad. Gr. στρατηγικ-ός of or pertaining to a general, f. στρατηγ-ός STRATEGUS.]

A. *adj.* Of or belonging to strategy; useful or important in regard to strategy.

Strategic point [= F. *point stratégique*], a position determined as important in a plan of campaign.

1825 J. A. GILBERT *Expos. Princ. Milit. Comb.* 3 Strategic movements and manœuvres. *Ibid.* 67 Choosing a field of battle which has all the advantage of a good strategic position. 1855 TWEMLOW *Consid. Tactics & Strategy* (ed. 2) 172 The importance of strategic reserves. 1861 JEFF. DAVIS *Message to Confederate Congr.* 18 Nov., Our armies were marched into that State to repel the enemy and prevent their occupation of certain strategic points which would have given them great advantages in the contest. 1894 *Engineer* 9 Mar. 199/1 The strategic railway connecting Tientsin with Shan-hai-Kwan.

transf. 1886 H. W. LUCY *Diary Gladstone Parlt.* 133 The Sergeant-at-Arms..more than once has had occasion to sally forth from his chair, and by strategic movements interrupt that gentleman's unauthorised advance towards the table.

B. *sb.* The strategic art, strategy. **a.** *sing.* [= Gr. ἡ στρατηγικὴ (sc. τέχνη).] *rare.*

1860 GEN. P. THOMPSON *Audi Alt.* III. cxxii. 68 Frederic was the great improver in this which may be called the 'Strategic of Battle'.

b. *pl.* [= Gr. τὰ στρατηγικά.]

1852 *Fraser's Mag.* XLVI. 88 All the details of sub-marine tactics and strategics. 1853 STOCQUELER *Mil. Encycl.* s. v. *Tactics,* Tactics, as distinct from strategics [*printed* strategies], imply the disposition and formation of troops in presence of an enemy. 1863 DICEY *Federal St.* II. 2 At Washington, during the war, every militia officer..considered himself justified in talking about Jomini and Vauban and the science of strategics.

Strategical (strătē·dʒikăl, -ē·dʒikăl), *a.* [f. prec. + -AL.] = prec. adj.

1838 R. N. MAGRATH *Hist. Sk. Art of War* 152 His well combined strategical operations, his system of presenting concentrated masses to isolated corps [etc.]. 1852 E. YATES *Elem. Strategy* 10 Strategical Reserves are detachments from the main body left to guard the communications. 1856 MACDOUGALD *Theory of War* i. 63 Every point on the theatre of war..which conduces in any manner to strengthen your line of operations (or of communication), is a strategical point. 1883 *Manch. Exam.* 6 Nov. 4/7 The rebels..have taken up a strategical position on a height commanding a ravine below.

Strategically (strătē·dʒikăli, -ē·dʒikăli), *adv.* [f. prec.; see -ICALLY.] In a strategic manner; as regards strategy, according to the principles of strategy.

1810 C. JAMES *Milit. Dict.* (ed. 3), *Strategically,* according to the principles of strategy; done out of sight of an enemy. 1855 TWEMLOW *Consid. Tactics & Strategy* (ed. 2) 205 Frederic the Great was strategically and tactically surprised at Hochkirk by Laudon and Daun. 1861 G. M. MUSGRAVE *By-Roads in Picardy* 298 The English position ..was strategically a warranty of their preservation; for they could not be attacked in flank or in rear. 1912 W. B. WOOD in *Eng. Hist. Rev.* Oct. 797 Tactically a drawn battle, Resonville was strategically a Prussian victory.

Strategician (strætĭdʒiʃăn). *rare*—¹. [f. STRATEGIC + -IAN.] A strategist.

1862 WRAXALL tr. *Hugo's Les Misérables* I. cvi. 395 Great strategicians [F. *stratégistes*] have their eclipses.

Strategist (strætĭdʒist). [a. F. *stratégiste,* f. *stratégie* STRATEGY.] One versed in strategy.

1838 J. MITCHELL *Thoughts on Tactics* 30 Strategy..presupposes in the strategist a perfect knowledge of tactics. 1877 GREEN *Hist. Engl. People* I. 426 Edward..had shewn himself as consummate a strategist in the campaign as a tactician in the field. 1912 G. O. TREVELYAN *Geo. III & Fox* I. ii. 18 The elder Pitt..was a martime strategist of the highest order.

transf. 1872 LOWELL *Milton* Writ. 1890 IV. 99 He was a strategist rather than a drill-sergeant in verse. 1911 SIR H. CRAIK *Life Ld. Clarendon* I. iii. 74 Pym's wonderful astuteness as a parliamentary strategist.

‖ **Strategus** (strătē·gŏs). *Gr. Hist.* Pl. **-gi** (dʒəi). Also with Gr. ending **strategos** (strătē·gŏs), pl. **-oi.** [L. *stratēgus,* a. Gr. στρατηγός (Doric στρατᾱγός), f. στρατ-ός army + -ᾱγ-, ἄγειν

to lead, Cf. STRATEGE.] A commander-in-chief or chief magistrate at Athens and in the Achæan league (also in Harrington's imaginary commonwealth).

1656 HARRINGTON *Oceana* (1700) 123 The Strategus is first President of the Senat, and General of the Army. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.* 1808 MITFORD *Hist. Greece* xli. § 1. IV. 528 It was found convenient that the strategus, the first general, should have a discretionary power to call extraordinary assemblies of the people. 1847 GROTE *Greece* II. xxxi. IV. 192 The stratêgi or generals, who were always elected by show of hands of the assembled citizens. 1909 GWATKIN *Early Ch. Hist.* I. vi. 92 Even Constantine was a strategos of Athens in the direct succession of Themistocles and Phocion.

Strategy (strætɪdʒi). Also 9 **strategie.** [a. F. *stratégie* (Du. Pinet's tr. Pliny, 1562), ad. Gr. στρατηγία office or command of a general, generalship, f. στρατηγ-ός STRATEGUS.]

†**1.** A government or province under a strategus: cf. STRATEGIAN 1. *Obs. rare*—1.

1688 MORDEN *Geog. Rect., Armenia* 343 Pliny accounted 120 Strategies Governments or particular Jurisdictions of every Province.

2. The art of a commander-in-chief; the art of projecting and directing the larger military movements and operations of a campaign.

Usually distinguished from *tactics*, which is the art of handling forces in battle or in the immediate presence of the enemy.

1810 C. JAMES *Milit. Dict.* (ed. 3) s.v., Strategy differs materially from *tactic*; the latter belonging only to the mechanical movement of bodies, set in motion by the former. 1825 J. A. GILBERT *Expos. Princ. Milit. Comb.* 21 The second combination is the art of bringing the mass of one's forces as rapidly as possible on the decisive point of the primitive line of operation, or of the accidental line. It is what is vulgarly called strategy, but strategy relates only to the mode of executing this second combination. 1827 SCOTT *Napoleon, View Fr. Rev.* xi. II. 73 A brave and excellent soldier, but with no idea of strategie [*sic*] or tactics, save those current during the Seven Years War. 1889 A. T. MAHAN *Sea Power* Introd. 8 Before hostile armies or fleets are brought into contact (a word which perhaps better than any other indicates the dividing line between tactics and strategy).

b. An instance or species of this.

1833 MACAULAY *Ess., Way of Succession* P 7 Where something different from ordinary strategy was required in the general. 1868 FARRAR *Seekers* Concl. (1875) 320 By copying the strategy of the battle of Beth Horon, 1913 R. LUCAS *Ld. North* I. vii. 277 His strategy was to hold the Hudson River and isolate the New England States.

c. *transf.*

1837 W. IRVING *Capt. Bonneville* I. 103 The captain had here the first taste of the boasted strategy of the fur trade. 1849 C. KNIGHT *Ht. Martineau's Hist. Peace* I. II. 19 The battle against this tax was one of the most remarkable examples of Parliamentary strategy that was ever displayed. 1878 A. P. STANLEY *Addr. & Serm. in Amer.* Pref. to Serm. (1883) 83 It has been too often the conventional strategy of theological argument, in dealing with books or persons with whom we differ, to give no quarter.

3. *Gr. Hist.* The office of a STRATEGUS. *rare*—1.

1869 A. W. WARD tr. *Curtius' Hist. Greece* III. iii. II. 456 Among the offices requiring a certain capacity..there was none more important than the generalship or *Strategy* [G. *Strategie*]. *Ibid.* 458 Pericles, besides the authority of a Strategy prolonged to him in an extraordinary measure, also filled the office of superintendent of the finances.

Hence **Stra·tegy** *v. trans.*, to force (a person) *into* (a position) by strategy. **Stra·tegying** *vbl. sb.*, exercise of strategy. (Both nonce-wds.)

1858 CARLYLE *Fredk. Gt.* IX. x. (1872) III. 157 We hear there is marching, strategying in the Parma Country. 1894 CLARK RUSSELL *Good Ship Mohock* I. i. 21 Not the gods themselves could have strategied me into wedlock.

Strath (stræθ). *Sc.* Also 7 **strathe, straith.** [a. Gael. *srath* = Ir. *srath, sratha*, W. *ystrad.*] A wide valley; a tract of level or low-lying land traversed by a river and bounded by hills or high ground.

1540 *Reg. Mag. Sig. Scot.* (1883) 464 Terras de Auchnahay Auchalane, Dugerre, Kinloch, Auchranich, cum lie Strath, cum le Clasche et le Clachebrek. 1639 SIR R. GORDON *Geneal. Hist. Earld. Sutherld.* (1813) 4 The valies which doe ly upon the banks of these rivers and inlets of water, as they doe ascend from the sea to the mountanes, ar called Strathes. 1721 RAMSAY *Poet's Wish* i, Those fair straths that water'd are With Tay and Tweed's smooth streams. 1750 COLLINS *Ode Superstit. Highlands* iv, When, o'er the wat'ry strath, or quaggy moss, They see the gliding ghosts unbodied troop. 1753 *Stewart's Trial* 203 The deponent answered, that he had seen no person from the strath (or vale) of Appin. 1814 SCOTT *Waw.* xiii, A ridge of distant and blue hills, which formed the southern boundary of the strath, or valley. 1873 GEIKIE *Gt. Ice Age* xii. 154 The river Clyde..flows towards the north-west in a valley that gradually expands to a broad open strath.

†**b.** *loosely.* A stretch of flat land by the waterside. *Obs.*

1699 G. TURNBULL *Diary* in *Scot. Hist. Soc. Misc.* (1893) I. 383 The place is pretty pleasant, close by Forth watarside, att the foot of Craigmor, betwixt which and the watar there is a strath very proper for walking. *c* 1730 BURT *Lett. N. Scot.* (1818) I. 290 A strath is a flat space of arable land lying along the side or sides of some capital river between the water and the feet of the hills.

Strath, obs. form of STRAIGHT.

Strathspey (stræθspē·). ? Also 7 **stravetspy.** [f. the Sc. place-name *Strathspey* (= the strath of the river Spey).

'If the form *stravetspy* (quot. *a* 1653) be genuine and belong to this word, the mod. form would seem to be due to popular etymology.]

a. A lively dance or reel for two dancers. **b.** The music or tune (usually in common time) used to accompany this dance. Also † *strathspey minuet.*

a 1653 Z. BOYD *John Baptist* in G. Neil *Z. Boyd's Flowers of Zion* (1832) p. xxx, To please the King, the Morrice dance I will; Stravetspy, and after, last of all, The Drunken Dance I'le dance within that hall. 1756 MRS. CALDERWOOD in *Coltness Collect.* (Maitl. Club) 195 Lady Hellen and Lord Garless danced a strathspey minuet. 1791 BURNS *Tam o' Shanter* 117 Nae cotillion brent-new frae France, But horn-pipes, jigs, strathspeys, and reels, Put life and mettle in their heels. 1810 SCOTT *Lady of L.* II. xi, Nor would my footsteps spring more gay In courtly dance than blithe strathspey. 1818 — *Rob Roy* xxii, He..sate himself down on the oak table, and whistled a strathspey. 1882 J. F. S. GORDON *Shaw's Hist. Moray* I. 239 He was one of the best violinists in the north and excelled in Strathspeys.

Straticulate (străti·kiz̆lĕt), *a. Geol.* and *Min.* [f. mod.L. **strāticul-um* (dim. of L. *strātum* STRATUM) + -ATE 2.] Arranged in thin layers. So **Straticula·tion,** arrangement in thin layers.

1880 DANA *Man. Geol.* (ed. 3) 82 Beds consisting of thin and even subordinate layers, separable or not so, are said to be straticulate. *Ibid.* 685 Agate, and much stalagmite, are straticulate, but not properly stratified. 1895 *Ibid.* (ed. 4) 244 Planes of bedding or straticulation in the ice.

Stratification (strætifikā·ʃən). [ad. med.L. *strātificātiōnem*, n. of action f. *strātificāre*: see STRATIFY *v.* and -FICATION. Cf. F. *stratification* (1656 in Hatz.-Darm.).]

†**1.** The action of depositing something in layers; *spec.* (see quots.). *Obs.*

1617 WOODALL *Surg. Mate* (1639) 274 *Stratification*, or *stratum superstratum* well knowne to Chymists, and used in cementation, is strewing of corroding powder, or the like, upon plates of metall by course. *Ibid.* 266 Stratifications [*sic*]. 1669 tr. *Beguinus' Tyroc. Chym.* 25 Stratification is a corrosion by corrosive powders. It is thus made, [etc.]. 1669 ROWLAND *Schroder's Chym. Disp.* I. xiv. 21 Stratification in Beguin comprehends the whole Art of Calcination, by which the Plates are made brittle, this they say is Cementing. 1704 J. HARRIS *Lex. Techn.* I, *Stratification*, or *stratum super stratum*, as the Chymists call it, is putting different Matters *Bed upon Bed*, or one layer upon another, in a Crucible in order to Calcine a Metal or Mineral. 1787 R. WATSON *Chem. Ess.* V. 251 Copper combined with sulphur by stratification and cementation... *Æs ustum.* 1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 301 *Stratification*, an operation in which bodies are placed alternately in layers, in order that they may act upon each other when heat is applied to them. 1882 *Encycl. Brit.* XIV. 385/1 It was formerly the practice in England..to tan by the process of stratification, for which purpose a bed of bark is made..; upon this is laid the hide, then bark, then a hide, and so on.

2. The formation, by natural process, of strata or layers one above the other; the fact or state of existing in the form of strata, stratified condition; also, the manner in which something is stratified.

a. *Geol.* The formation of strata in portions of the crust of the earth by successive deposits of sedimentary matter; the manner in which a portion of the crust of the earth is stratified.

1795 J. HUTTON *Theory Earth* II. ix. II. 307 This summit is of solid granite, a mass in which there is no stratification. 1796 KIRWAN *Elem. Min.* (ed. 2) I. 420 A total absence of stratification near the crater. 1802 PLAYFAIR *Illustr. Huttonian Theory* 500 Thus by the waste and subsequent stratification of the land the direction of gravity is continually altered. 1830 LYELL *Princ. Geol.* I. 203 The planes of stratification are perfectly parallel. 1838 POE *A. Gordon Pym* xviii. Wks. 1865 IV. 146 The very rocks were novel in their mass, their color, and their stratification. 1851 RICHARDSON *Geol.* (1855) 135 There are three distinct forms of structure frequently present in rocks of this nature: stratification, joints, and slaty cleavage. 1878 A. C. RAMSAY *Phys. Geog.* iv. 38, I have shown how aqueous rocks may generally be known by their stratification.

b. *concr.* A stratum produced by this process.

1808 W. RICHARDSON in *Phil. Trans.* XCVIII. 220 Regular stratifications on the summits of hills and mountains, have been long a stumbling block to theorists. 1822 J. PARKINSON *Outl. Oryctol.* 267 The matrix of these fossils is evidently a portion of the same stratification which occurs at Pappenheim.

c. *Biol.* and *Path.* The thickening of a tissue by the deposition or growth of successive thin layers.

1875 tr. *De Bary* in *Jrnl. Bot.* Oct. 301 In *Chara fragilis*, ..this membrane shows a copious tender stratification after the carbonate of lime has been dissolved. 1876 tr. *Wagner's Gen. Pathol.* 200 The form, color, and stratification of the impacted piece. 1889 BESSEY *Bot.* 32 During the increase of the cell-wall in thickness, an appearance of stratification arises in it. 1887 T. W. SHORE *Elem. Biol. Vegetable* 10 Observe..Stratification of the cuticle, i. e. the appearance of lines in it, parallel to the surface of the section. 1899 CAGNEY tr. *von Jaksch's Clin. Diagn.* iv. (ed. 4) 115 In some diseases, as in abscess and gangrene of the lung there is marked stratification of its [i. e. the sputum's] parts.

d. *Electr.* The striated appearance assumed by an electric discharge passing through a highly rarefied gas.

1856 T. R. ROBINSON in *Proc. R. Irish Acad.* VI. 429 When a Leyden jar (each coating about a foot) was connected with the terminals, the stratification was well seen in each direction of the current. 1858 J. P. GASSIOT in *Phil. Trans.* 1 The phenomenon of stratifications in the discharge *in vacuo* were subsequently observed in Paris by M. Ruhmkorff. 1866 R. M. FERGUSON *Electr.* (1870) 193 The cause of this stratification is as yet a matter of speculation.

e. *transf.* and *fig.*, chiefly with reference to the geological use.

1860 MAURY *Phys. Geog.* (Low) xxii. § 885 Let us, in imagination, divide these depths..into any number of stratifications or layers of equal thickness. 1862 BURTON *Bk. Hunter* (1863) 113 The library is the great intellectual stratification in which the literary investigator works. 1879 BARING-GOULD *Germany* I. 2 The stratification of the German classes, and of the aristocracy, is most peculiar. 1889 A. SIDGWICK in *Jrnl. Educ.* Feb. 117 That there is not a chance of saving much time by improved methods and proper stratification. 1910 D. G. HOGARTH in *Encycl. Brit.* I. 248/2 (*Aegean Civiliz.*), By exact observation of stratification, eight more periods have been distinguished by the explorer of Cnossus.

3. *attrib.*

1884 A. GEIKIE in *Nature* 13 Nov. 30/1 These thrust-planes ..could not be distinguished from ordinary stratification-planes.

Stratified (strætifəid), *ppl. a.* [f. STRATIFY *v.* + -ED 1.] Disposed in strata or layers.

a. *Geol.* of rocks, a portion of the earth's crust.

1802 PLAYFAIR *Illustr. Huttonian Theory* 65 In the view now given of metallic veins they have been considered as traversing only the stratified parts of the globe. 1813 BAKEWELL *Introd. Geol.* (1815) 29 Stratified mountains or rocks are those which are composed of layers of stone, laid over each other. 1832 DE LA BECHE *Geol. Man.* (ed. 2) 35 In the accompanying Table, rocks are first divided into Stratified and Unstratified. 1854 H. MILLER *Sch. & Schm.* xxi. (1860) 228 The deposit..consists of alternate beds of limestone, sandstone and stratified clay. 1889 *Hardwicke's Sci.-Gossip* XXV. 69 The absence of large erratic blocks in the stratified beds may indicate a period of extreme glaciation. 1897 G. P. MERRILL *Rocks* etc. 34 The term massive is applied to such igneous rocks as show no sign of bedding or stratification, while limestones, sandstones, and such other rocks as are arranged in more or less parallel layers are described as stratified.

b. in various applications; said, e.g., of incrustations, animal or vegetable tissues, a solid or fluid substance.

1809 J. KIDD *Min.* I. 38 The calcareous incrustation..is of a stratified appearance. 1859 PARKINSON *Optics* (1866) 106 In this way the law of variation of density of a stratified medium may be expressed. 1887 T. W. SHORE *Elem. Biol. Vegetable* 13, 1. The thin common cell wall, or middle lamella. 2. The much thicker stratified thickening of the cell wall. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* III. 360 The internal surface [of the œsophagus] is covered with stratified squamous epithelium.

c. *Electr.* (Cf. STRATIFICATION 2.d.)

1856 *Rep. Brit. Assoc.* II. 10 On the Stratified Appearance of the Electrical Discharge. By W. R. Grove. 1865 *Ibid.* II. 15 On the Change of Form and Colour which the Stratified Discharge assumes when a Varied Resistance is introduced in the Circuit of an Extended Series of the Voltaic Battery. 1873 J. C. MAXWELL *Electr. & Magnetism* I. 369 On Stratified Conductors. Let a conductor be composed of alternate strata of thickness *c* and *c'* of two substances whose coefficients of conductivity are different.

d. Placed in alternate layers with something else.

1855 J. SCOFFERN in *Orr's Circ. Sci., Elem. Chem.* 490 The stratified copper leaves..are taken out.

Stratiform (strætifɔm), *a.*1 [ad. F. *stratiforme*, as if ad. L. type **strātiformis*, f. *strātum*: see STRATUM and -FORM.]

1. *Geol.* Disposed in the form of strata; showing apparent stratification.

1805 [S. WESTON] *Werneria* 8 Concrete carbonate of lime ..is fistular, or in pipes or cylinders, or strati-form in layers. 1811 PINKERTON *Petral.* I. 91 The other formation belongs to his [Werner's] Floetz, horizontal, or stratiform rocks. 1839 DE LA BECHE *Rep. Geol. Cornwall*, etc. vi. 363 This tendency to be divided or cleave in a stratiform manner is highly deceptive. 1856 PAGE *Adv. Text-bk. Geol.* xx. (1870) 416 But as we descend..we find stratiform layers of shells. 1883 R. D. IRVING in *3rd Ann. Rep. U.S. Geol. Surv.* 118 Seven layers of stratiform amygdaloid running from 3 to 20 feet in thickness.

2. Forming or formed into strata or layers; *spec.* in *stratiform cartilage*, 'cartilage covering the bone in an osteo-aponeurotic canal for a tendon' (*Syd. Soc. Lex.*, 1898).

1834 *Good's Study Med.* (ed. 4) II. 555 A very thin layer spread over serous membranes, the stratiform, or membraniform, melanosis. 1847 *Todd's Cycl. Anat.* IV. 104/2 Stratiform deposition is that occurring on serous surfaces in layers. 1871 T. H. GREEN *Introd. Pathol.* ii. 12 The punctiform and stratiform redness of hyperæmia.

So † **Stra·tiformed** *a. Geol.* (see quot.).

1811 PINKERTON *Petral.* I. Introd. p. xxix, A stratified rock [in Werner's nomenclature] implying that the strata are of one and the same substance; while the Floetz..often present beds of different substances. But this distinction is not of such utility or importance as to necessitate the introduction of a barbarous word; and if stratified be not precise, we may use stratiformed with Daubuisson.

Stra·tiform, *a.*2 *rare*—1. [f. STRAT-US + -FORM.] Resembling stratus clouds.

1853 KANE *Grinnell Exp.* xxxv. (1856) 321 Long, stratiform illuminated clouds.

Stratify (strætifəi), *v.*1 [ad. F. *stratifier*, ad. mod.L. *strātificāre*, f. *strātum*: see STRATUM and -FY.]

1. *trans.* 'To range in beds or layers' (J.); *spec.* in *Metallurgy*, to range in alternate layers (metals and reagent substances) in a crucible.

1661 LOVELL *Hist. Anim. & Min.* 193 Crowfish..may be put into barrels, having myrtle leaves stratified. 1669 ROWLAND *Schroder's Chym. Disp.* I. xiv. 21 To *Stratify*,..is when Minerals are laid with Powders, Layer upon Layer, first Powder, then Plates of Metals; then Powder, to the end.

1670 W. Simpson *Hydrol. Ess.* 6 Artificial vitriol..made by a cementation of plates of copper stratified with common salt and sulphur. 1706 Phillips (ed. Kersey) s. v., To Stratify Gold and Cement..is to lay a Bed of Paste call'd Cement, then a Plate of Gold, then another Layer of Cement, then another Plate of Gold; and so on, till the Crucible be full. 1799 G. Smith *Laboratory* I. 185 Stratify thin plates of brass in an earthen pipkin with powdered sulphur and antimony. 1825 J. Nicholson *Oper. Mech.* 340 The iron..must be put into..a cementing pot, and stratified with powdered charcoal. 1826 W. C. Ottley *Dict. Chem. & Min.* Introd. Vocab., *Stratify*, to cause two or more bodies to act upon each other by placing them in any vessel in alternate layers. 1845 Dodd *Brit. Manuf.* Ser. v. 184 The hide is then transferred to a pit containing stronger ooze, or else is stratified with crushed bark. 1853 Soyer *Pantroph.* 240 They..wash them [*sc.* anchovies] in soft or salt water, and stratify them in barrels with salt. 1855 J. Scoffern in *Orr's Circ. Sci., Elem. Chem.* 438 Bars of wrought iron are stratified with charcoal.

†**b.** In *passive*: To be placed in alternate layers *with* something else. *Obs.*

1789 Mills in *Phil. Trans.* LXXX. 83 The gneiss..is in ribs from two to twelve inches thick, and is stratified by intermediate ribs of red granite of about an inch thick. 1789 E. Darwin *Bot. Gard.* I. (1791) 38 *notes*, Iron is found..stratified with clay coals or argillaceous grits. 1829 *Good's Study Med.* (ed. 3) I. 616 We find the hydatids..sometimes stratified with layers of albuminous and friable matter.

2. *Geol.* Of natural agencies: To deposit (rocks) in strata or beds; to produce (a portion of the earth's crust) in the form of strata; to form strata in. Chiefly in *passive*.

1794 R. J. Sullivan *View Nat.* I. 49 They contain..other vestiges of organic substances; and are always stratified. 1805 Jameson *Min. Descr. Dumfries* 94 An extensive quarry, where a great rock mass of limestone is exposed: it is distinctly stratified. 1821 T. Dwight *Trav.* II. 480 A vast mass of blue limestone, horizontally stratified. 1862 Dana *Man. Geol.* 554 While the glaciers were disappearing, many a stream or lake would have existed to stratify the drift. 1863 Lyell *Antiq. Man* 37 If the mud pierced through had been thrown down by the river in ancient channels, it would have been stratified. 1867 — *Princ. Geol.* II. xxiv. (1875) I. 617 Composed chiefly of indurated Tufa like Monte Nuovo, stratified conformably to its conical surface. 1878 A. H. Green, etc. *Coal* i. 6 Both sandstones and shales are divided into layers or beds, and are said to be stratified.

b. *transf.* and *fig.*

1851 Mrs. Browning *Casa Guidi Wind.* I. 631 Good lovers of our age to track and plough Their way to, through time's ordures stratified. 1872 O. W. Holmes *Poet Breakf.-t.* ii. 67 Society stratifies itself everywhere. 1897 Bp. Creighton in *Daily News* 22 Jan. 6/5 Its methods had been found effective in a younger country less stratified than our own. 1900 *Pilot* 28 Apr. 256/2 The mound from its great height must represent a series of stratified ruins. 1912 J. L. Myres *Dawn of Hist.* viii. 168 This style [of pottery] was found in the important because well-stratified site at Phylakopi.

3. *intr.* To assume the form of strata.

1856 T. B. Butler *Philos. Weather* i. 13 (Funk) Currents of air do not mingle but stratify.

Hence **Stra·tifying** *vbl. sb.*

1706 Phillips (ed. Kersey), *Stratification*, (in Chymistry) a stratifying or putting different Matters Bed upon Bed [etc.].

Stra·tify, *v.*[2] ? *nonce-wd.* [f. L. *strāta* road (see Street *sb.*) + -(1)fy.] *trans.* To furnish with a system of roads.

1881 C. Wordsworth *Ch. Hist.* I. ii. 15 The Greek Empire..had facilitated national intercourse by sea. The Roman Empire, by its great military roads, accelerated that intercourse by land. Greece and Rome navigated and stratified the world.

Stratigrapher (străti·grăfəɹ). [f. Stratigraphy: see -grapher.] One versed in stratigraphy; one who describes or delineates strata.

1883 A. Geikie in *Nature* 15 Feb. 357/1 He is an excellent stratigrapher. 1897 *Natural Sci.* Dec. 418 The stratigrapher is expected to map solid rock through its drift covering.

Stratigraphic (strætigræ·fik), *a.* [f. Stratigraphy: see -graphic. Cf. F. *stratigraphique.*] = next.

1877 Le Conte *Elem. Geol.* (1879) 401 The lower portion is very barren of fossils, and this means of correcting the stratigraphic conclusion was at first nearly wanting. 1880 *Nature* 22 Jan. 290/1 Stratigraphic observations on the precarbniferous formation of Valtellina and Calabria. 1884 *American* VIII. 300 Geography and Stratigraphic Geology. 1896 J. P. Smith in *Proc. Amer. Philos. Soc.* Nov. 222 The absence of a paleontologic or stratigraphic break was a sufficient reason for calling the beds in question Upper Coal Measures rather than Permian.

transf. 1912 *Man* XII. 134 Throughout the Old World the careful study of quaternary implements, and stratigraphic analysis of the conditions accompanying the different types, almost always make it possible to date a quaternary industry by the typical forms contained in it.

Stratigraphical (strætigræ·fikăl), *a.* Sometimes *erron.* **strata-.** [Formed as prec.: see -ical.] Pertaining to stratigraphy.

1817 W. Smith (*title*) Stratigraphical System of Organized Fossils. 1849 Murchison *Siluria* iii. (1859) 43 The rock unquestionably occupies the same stratigraphical position as the Lingula Flags of Wales. 1857 Portlock in *Q. Jrnl. Geol. Soc.* XIII. p. xci, The stratigraphical distribution of the fossils enumerated. 1869 Huxley in *Sci. Opin.* 28 Apr. 486/1 What is termed stratigraphical geology is neither more nor less than the anatomy of the earth. 1883 Hulke in *Q. Jrnl. Geol. Soc.* XXXIX. Proc. 64 The advantages likely to accrue from such international uniformity of stratigraphical terms. 1892 Lapworth in *Nature* 18 Aug. 372/2 What is known as stratigraphical geology, or the study of the geological formations.

Hence **Stratigra·phically** *adv.*, in stratigraphical respects: with reference to stratigraphy.

1831 A. Sedgwick in *Proc. Geol. Soc.* I. 274 He [*sc.* W. Smith] made large collections of fossils; and the moment an opportunity presented itself he arranged them all stratigraphically. 1857 H. Miller *Test. Rocks* x. 418 Both stratigraphically and palaeontologically the place in the scale of the Niagara graveyard can be definitely determined.

Stratigraphist (străti·grăfist). [f. Stratigraphy + -ist.] = Stratigrapher.

1879 W. Keeping *Fossils Upware & Brickhill* (1883) 27 The value of the species is thereby..considerably increased both to the Naturalist and Stratigraphist. 1892 Lapworth in *Nature* 18 Aug. 373/1 The brilliant stratigraphists of the end of the last century.

Stratigraphy (străti·grăfi). [f. L. *strāti-* combining form of *strātum*: see Stratum and -graphy. Cf. F. *stratigraphie.*]

1. The branch of geology that is concerned with the order and relative position of the strata of the earth's crust.

1865 *Reader* 4 Mar. 248/2 While accepting as a basis in theoretical geology the principles of Hutton, and in stratigraphy the work of William Smith, he [etc.]. 1891 Blake in *Q. Jrnl. Geol. Soc.* XLVII. 341 Nor did he see any reason to doubt the correctness of his stratigraphy there.

2. The stratigraphical features (of a country, etc.); the order and relative position of the strata.

1882 A. Geikie in *Nature* 7 Dec. 121/2 His monograph embraces the stratigraphy, palæontology, structure, eruptive rocks, and contact-metamorphism of the district. 1892 Lapworth in *Nature* 18 Aug. 373/2 A formation, which is the unit of geological stratigraphy, is a rock sheet composed of many strata possessing common lithological characters.

transf. 1912 *Man* XII. 135 Dr. Peabody said that the perfect stratigraphy in Europe is contrasted with a vague stratigraphy in America. There the paleolithic form persists in later periods and Chellean types are found on the surface.

Stratiote (stræ·tiōt). *rare.* In 7 -ot. [ad. Gr. *στρατιώτης*, f. *στρατιά* army.] A soldier (in ancient Greece; also used by Harrington with reference to his imaginary commonwealth).

1656 Harrington *Oceana* Wks. (1700) 174 The Constable who is to officiat at the Urn, shall, after the manner of the Elders, elect every fifth Man of their whole number..to be a Stratiot or Deputy of the Youth. 1873 Burton *Hist. Scot.* I. iii. 115 The lighter equipped stratiote of Greece.

†**Stratio·tic,** *a. Obs.*[−o] [ad. Gr. *στρατιωτικός* military, *στρατιωτική* the military arts, f. *στρατιώτης* soldier, f. *στρατιά* army.] (See quot.)

1656 Blount *Glossogr., Stratiotick* (*stratioticus*) warlike, pertaining to War.

Strato- (strē·to), combining form of Stratus, used to form names for mixed types of cloud-structure in which the 'stratus' form is present as an element modifying one of the other forms. **Strato-cirrus**, a cloud resembling cirro-stratus, but more compact in structure; hence **Strato-cirrous** *a.* **Strato-cumulus** = *cumulo-stratus*; hence **Strato-cumulous** *a.*

1816 W. Taylor in *Monthly Mag.* XLII. 35 Such clouds should be called strato-cirrous. 1898 *Jrnl. Sch. Geog.* (U. S.) Oct. 310 The sky..was overcast with strato-cumulus and cumulus clouds.

Stratocracy (strătǫ·krăsi). Also 7 **stratocratie.** [f. Gr. *στρατό-ς* army + *-κρατία*: see -cracy. Cf. F. *stratocratie.*] Government by the army; military rule; a polity in which the army is the controlling power.

1652 *Observ. Forms of Govt.* 8 Their Monarchy was changed into a Stratocratie. 1656 Blount *Glossogr., Stratocracy* (Gr.) military Government; where a Commonwealth is governed by an Army or by Soldiers. 1659 Gauden *Slight Healers* (1660) 61 A game of Government wholly new to England, called Stratocracy. 1758 *Monthly Rev.* 27 They [the English *c* 1650] felt in their turns all the inconveniences of an Oligarchy, a Democracy, and a Stratocracy. 1815 Grattan *Sp.* 23 May (1822) III. 374 Sir, the French Government is war; it is a stratocracy. 1832–4 De Quincey *Cæsars* Wks. 1859 X. 102 The government of an imperator was..permanent stratocracy having a moveable head. 1899 *Spectator* 7 Oct. 485/2 The greatest danger to the permanent progress of Europe..is the possibility of a period of stratocracy.

So **Stra·tocrat,** one who embodies military rule; **Stratocra·tic** *a.*, pertaining to stratocracy.

1840 G. Raymond in *New Monthly Mag.* LVIII. 463 Having, with a stratocratic 'privilege', forcibly appropriated the person of a young Polish female. 1892 *Spectator* 11 June 809/1 The triumphant stratocrat whom their [the Roman oligarchy's] system tended to produce.

Stratography (strătǫ·grăfi). *rare*[−1]. [f. Gr. *στρατός* army + *-γραφία* -graphy.] Military science.

1841 D'Israeli *Amen. Lit.* (1867) 607 A great commander by land and by sea, he was critical in all the arts of stratography.

Strato·pedarch. *Hist. rare.* [ad. Gr. *στρατοπεδάρχης*, f. *στρατόπεδο-ν* camp + *-άρχης* ruler.]

1855 Milman *Lat. Chr.* VI. 266 *note*, Demetrius the great Stratopedarch. 1895 W. M. Ramsay *St. Paul the Traveller* xv. 347 When the party reached Rome, the centurion delivered his charge to his superior officer, who bears the title Chief of the Camp (Stratopedarch) in the Greek text.

Stratose (strē·tōus), *a. Bot.* [f. Strat-um + -ose.] Stratified; arranged in layers.

1881 Farlow *Mar. Algæ* 51 Subgenus Eucladophora. Plants tufted, or, at times, stratose, not united into spongy masses by rhizoidal branches. 1900 B. D. Jackson *Gloss. Bot. Terms*, *Stratose*, in distinct layers.

Stratous (strē·tǫs), *a.* [f. Strat-us + -ous.] Of clouds: = Stratus *attrib.*

1816 W. Taylor in *Monthly Mag.* XLII. 35 These are called stratous clouds, from their sinking quashed appearance.

Strattli, obs. form of Straitly.

Stratula (strā·tiŭlă), *sb. pl.* [a. mod.L. type **strātula*, pl. of **strātulum*, dim. of Stratum.] (See quots.)

1853 De La Condamine in *Q. Jrnl. Geol. Soc.* IX. 273 *note*, May not the word *stratula* be coined to describe those smaller subdivisions of strata which are frequently oblique? I should then say that the stratula here dip to the east. 1876 A. H. Green *Phys. Geol.* ii. § 7. 83 The thicker layers of bedded rocks are usually spoken of as Beds or Strata, and the thinner as Laminæ or Stratula.

Stratum (strā·tŭm). Pl. **strata** (strā·tă); 9 *rarely* **stratums.** [a. mod.L. use of L. *strātum*, lit. something spread or laid down (in classical use with the senses 'bed-cover', 'horse-cloth', 'pavement'), neut. pa. pple. of *sternĕre* to throw down, lay prostrate, spread out. Cf. F. *strate* fem. (1865 in Littré).]

1. *gen.* A quantity of a substance or material spread over a nearly horizontal surface to a more or less uniform thickness; a layer or coat; esp. one of two or more parallel layers or coats successively superposed one upon another.

The mod.L. phrase *stratum super stratum* (cf. quot. 1699) was often used in Eng. context by writers of the 17th c.: see e.g. quot. 1617 s. v. Stratification 1.

a. *sing.*

1599 A. M. tr. *Gabelhouer's Bk. Physicke* 54/1 Take a Copper basen,..insparge on the bottome therof a stratum of sault, and on that sault a row of mature Strawberryes. 1677 Plot *Oxfordsh.* 249 [He] first laid at the bottom green Black-thorn bushes, and on them a stratum of large round stones. 1699 Evelyn *Acetaria* App. P 4, Cover the Bottom of the Jar with some Dill, an Handful of Bay-Salt, &c. and then a Bed of Nuts; and so stratum upon stratum as above. 1799 *Phil. Trans.* LXXXIX. 154 The stratum of soil, sixteen feet thick, placed above the decayed trees, seems to remove the epoch of their sinking and destruction, far beyond the reach of any historical knowledge. 1800 tr. *Lagrange's Chem.* II. 338 Scrape off..the stratum of verdigrise which covers each side of the plate. 1816 T. L. Peacock *Headlong Hall* viii, Covering the whole with a stratum of turf. 1834 J. Dalton *Meteorol. Observ.* (ed. 2) App. 197 The thickness of a stratum of clouds..is also variable from a few yards to three or four hundred or more. 1846 *J. Baxter's Libr. Pract. Agric.* (ed. 4) I. 313 To prevent the attacks of slugs and worms, some cultivators recommend a stratum of lime..to be placed at the bottom of the bed. 1851 Nichol *Archit. Heav.* 22 In the midst of a *stratum* or bed of stars. 1860 Tyndall *Glac.* I. xviii. 132 The blue gleams which issued from the broken or perforated stratum of new snow. 1867 Baker *Nile Trib.* vi. (1872) 79 It had been entirely denuded of the loam that had formed the upper stratum.

b. pl. *strata.*

a 1700 Ken *Hymnotheo* Poet. Wks. 1721 III. 46 Thus of each Age..The Strata there of Graves distinct remain. 1777 Robertson *Hist. Amer.* X. Notes, Wks. 1851 VI. 301 According to M. de Condamine, there were regular strata of building in some parts of Atun-Cannar, which he remarks as singular. 1807 T. Thomson *Chem.* (ed. 3) II. 418 Thus there were three strata of liquids in the vessel: the acid lowermost, and the alcohol uppermost, separated from each other by the water. 1837 Barham *Ingol. Leg., Spectre of Tappington*, Rescued from the grave in which they [his breeches] had been buried, like the strata of a Christmas pie.

¶ **c.** The form *strata* used as sing., with pl. *stratas. Obs.*

1735 Dyche & Pardon *Dict., Strata*, a Layer or Bed of different Soil or Matter. 1766 J. Bartram *Jrnl.* 9 Jan. 29 A high bluff of sand..under which was a strata four foot thick, of a brownish soft sand stone. 1768 Hamilton *Vesuvius* in *Phil. Trans.* LIX. 20 The soil consists of stratas of lavas, ashes, pumice, and now-and-then a thin stratum of good earth.

2. A bed of sedimentary rock, usually consisting of a series of 'layers' or 'laminæ' of the same kind, representing continuous periods of deposition.

The precise application of the term has varied, some geologists having used it as equivalent to 'layer' or 'lamina'. In the collective plural *strata*, which is much the most frequent use, the distinction between the different uses commonly disappears.

a. *sing.*

1699 J. Brewer in *Phil. Trans.* XXII. 485 This Stratum of green Sand and Oyster-shells is..nigh 2 foot deep. 1709 T. Robinson *Nat. Hist. Westmorld. & Cumb.* v. 27 Flints..make up no particular Stratum of this Earth, but are a sort of Mundick. 1772 Pennant *Tours Scot.* (1774) 267 This whole stratum lies in an inclined position. 1804 J. Barrow *Trav. S. Africa* II. 82 In the same stratum..I discovered several large masses of pyramidal crystals of quartz. 1830 Lyell *Princ. Geol.* I. 203 One stratum, composed of many layers, is of a compact nature and fifteen feet thick; it serves as an excellent building stone. 1863 Dana *Man. Geol.* 91 A *stratum*, the collection of layers of one kind which form a rock as it lies between beds of other kinds..A stratum may consist of many layers. 1872 Jenkinson *Engl. Lake Distr.* (1879) 36 When ascending from Long Sleddale the stratum of limestone is observed in the gill on the left.

b. pl. *strata.*

1671 H. O. tr. *Steno's Prodr. Diss. Solids* 37 To the Sediments of Fluids do belong the Strata or Beds of the Earth. 1695 Woodward *Nat. Hist. Earth* (1702) 29 Shells..fell to the bottom at the same time that the Chalky Particles did, and so were entombed in the Strata of Chalk. 1706 Phillips (ed. Kersey), *Strata*..the Layers or Beds of different kind of Earthy Matter, that lie one over another without any regular Order, in the most part of the whole Globe of Earth. 1730–46 Thomson *Autumn* 1359 The mineral strata there, Thrust blooming thence the vegetable world. 1738 T. Story in *Mem. J. Logan* (1851) 155 Scarborough..at whose high

PARTICULARS FOR BINDING VOL. IX—SI-TH

To be bound in two:

SI—ST CRAIGIE and BRADLEY. Collation: Title and preliminaries pp. i–viii; Si—Styx pp. 1–1212.

SU—TH ONIONS and MURRAY. Collation: Title and preliminaries pp. i–viii; Su—Sz pp. 1–396; Half-title and Preface to T four pages; T—TH pp. 1–404.

The above-mentioned titles and preliminaries have been issued in the sections *Stratus—Styx*, and *Sweep—Szmikite*. Subscribers to Parts will find them in *Stillation—Styx* and *Su—Szmikite*.

The Half-title and Preface to T has been issued with the section (in Vol. X) *Turndun—Tzirid*, and for subscribers to Parts with *Su—Szmikite*.

Oxford English Dictionary. *July*, 1919.

A NEW
ENGLISH DICTIONARY
ON HISTORICAL PRINCIPLES.

(VOLUME IX. FIRST HALF. SI—ST.)

STRATUS—STYX.

BY

HENRY BRADLEY, M.A., HON. D.LITT.

NOTE.

THIS double section includes 1023 Main words, 343 Special Combinations explained under these, and 522 Subordinate entries; in all 1888. The obvious combinations recorded and illustrated number 407, making a total of 2295. Of the Main words 212 (20%) are marked † as obsolete, and 27 (2½%) are marked ‖ as alien or not fully naturalized.

Comparison with Dr. Johnson's and some recent Dictionaries gives the following figures:—

	Johnson.	Cassell's 'Encyclopædic' and Suppl.	'Century' Dict. and Suppl.	Here.
Words recorded, *Stratus–Styx*	175	849	880	2295
Words illustrated by quotations	49	260	195	1780
Number of illustrative quotations	717	530	946	14634

The number of quotations in the corresponding portion of Richardson is 553.

An unusually large proportion of the space in this section is occupied by words that have come down from Old English. Not only is the list of primary words of native etymology exceptionally long, but very many of these (e.g. *straw, streak, stream, strength, strike, string, strong, stub*) have either developed a great variety of senses or have given rise to a multitude of derivatives and compounds. The Old French element in the vocabulary is not very strongly represented numerically, but it includes such important words as *stray, stress, strife* and *strive, stubble, stuff, stun, sturdy*. Of words taken from Latin, either directly or through the medium of learned adoptions in French, the number is extraordinarily large; and, though some of these are of rare occurrence or merely technical, many (as *strenuous, strict, structure, student, study, stupefy, stupendous, stupid, style*) are in everyday use. The few Greek derivatives, with one or two exceptions such as *strophe, strophic*, are terms belonging to modern science. There are no words from Celtic or Old Norse. There are a few adoptions from modern European languages; from Italian *stucco, studio*; from Continental Teut. *stripe, stull, stulm, stum*; from Russian two or three words occurring in the writings of travellers or historians. The words from Asiatic, African, and American languages, so abundant in some other portions of this Dictionary, are here wholly wanting.

The longest article in this section is that on the verb *strike* (29 columns). The word presents an extraordinary diversity of meanings, the mutual relation of which cannot always be determined with certainty. One interesting point is that the use of *strike* in the sense 'to refuse to work' is an 18th c. development from the nautical use in 'to strike a mast'. Among other words of remarkable sense-history may be mentioned *stress, stretch, strict, string, stuff* sb. and vb., *style*.

Etymological facts or suggestions not given in other Dictionaries will be found under the words *stray, streak, stride* vb., *strike* vb., *strive, sty*.

KEY TO THE PRONUNCIATION.

I. CONSONANTS.

b, d, f, k, l, m, n, p, t, v, z *have their usual values.*

g as in *g*o (*g*o͡u).
h ... *h*o! (*h*o͡u).
r ... *r*un (r*v*n), ter*r*ier (te·riəɹ).
ɹ ... her (həɹ), far*th*er (fā·ɹðəɹ).
s ... *s*ee (*s*ī), *c*ess (*s*es).
w ... *w*en (*w*en).
hw ... *wh*en (*hw*en).
y ... *y*es (*y*es).

þ as in *th*in (*þ*in), ba*th* (baþ).
ð ... *th*en (*ð*en), ba*th*e (bē·ɪð).
ʃ ... *sh*op (*ʃ*ɒp), di*sh* (di*ʃ*).
tʃ ... *ch*op (t*ʃ*ɒp), di*tch* (di*tʃ*).
ʒ ... vi*s*ion (vi·*ʒ*ən), dé*j*euner (de*ʒ*öne).
dʒ ... *j*u*dg*e (d*ʒ*v*dʒ*).
ŋ ... si*ng*ing (si·*ŋ*iŋ), thi*nk* (þi*ŋk*).
ŋg ... fi*ng*er (fi*ŋg*əɹ).

(FOREIGN.)
ń as in *French nasal*, environ (aṅvɪ́roṅ).
lʸ ... It. sera*gl*io (serā·lʸo).
nʸ ... It. si*gn*ore (sɪ́nʸō·re).
χ ... Ger. a*ch* (aχ), Sc. lo*ch* (loχ, loχʷ).
χʸ ... Ger. i*ch* (iχʸ), Sc. ni*cht* (nėχʸt).
ɣ ... Ger. sagen (zā·ɣĕn).
ɣʸ ... Ger. legen, regnen (lē·ɣʸĕn, rē·ɣʸnĕn).

II. VOWELS.

ORDINARY.

a as in Fr. *à la* mode (a la mod').
ai ... aye=*yes* (ai), Isa*i*ah (əizai·ă).
æ ... m*a*n (mæn).
ɑ ... p*a*ss (pɑs), ch*a*nt (tʃɑnt).
ɑu ... l*ou*d (lɑud), n*ow* (nɑu).
ʊ ... c*u*t (kʊt), s*o*n (sʊn).
e ... y*e*t (yet), t*e*n (ten).
e ... surv*ey* *sb.* (sə·ɪve), Fr. attach*é* (ataʃe).
‖ę ... Fr. ch*ef* (ʃęf).
ə ... ev*e*r (evəɹ), nat*i*on (nē·ɪ·ʃən).
əi ... *I*, *eye*, (əi), b*i*nd (bəind).
‖ɔ ... Fr. eau de vie (ō dɔ vī·).
i ... s*i*t (sit), m*y*st*i*c (mistik).
i ... Psych*e* (səi·ki), r*e*act (ri·æ·kt).
o ... ach*o*r (ē·koɹ), m*o*rality (moræ·lĭti).
oi ... *oi*l (oil), b*oy* (boi).
o ... her*o* (hī·ə·ro), z*o*ology (zo·ɒlŏdʒi).
ǫ ... wh*a*t (hwǫt), w*a*tch (wǫtʃ).
ǫ́ ǫ̀* .. g*o*t (gǫt), s*o*ft (sɒ́ft).
‖ö ... Ger. K*ö*ln (köln).
‖ǒ ... Fr. p*eu* (pǒ).
u ... f*u*ll (ful), b*oo*k (buk).
iu ... d*u*ration (diurē·ɪ·ʃən).
u ... unto (*u*·ntu), fr*u*gality (fru·).
iu ... Ma*tth*ew (mæ·þiu), virt*ue* (və·ɹ·tiu).
‖ü ... Ger. M*ü*ller (mü·lĕr).
‖u̇ ... Fr. d*u*ne (du̇n).
ə (see Iə, ēə, ōə, ūə) } see Vol. I, p. xxiv, note 3.
ᵘ (see ēᵘ, ōᵘ) }
' as in able (ē·ɪb'l), eaten (ēt'n) = voice-glide.

LONG.

ā as in *a*lms (ām*z*), b*a*r (bāɹ).

ə̄ ... c*u*rl (kə̄ɹl); f*u*r (fə̄ɹ).
ē (ē·) ... th*e*re (ðē·ɹ), p*ea*r, p*a*re (pē·ɹ
ē (ē·ɪ) ... r*ei*n, r*a*in (rē·ɪn), th*ey* (ðē·ɪ).
ę̄ ... Fr. f*ai*re (fę̄r').
ō ... f*ir* (fōɹ), f*er*n (fōɹn), *ea*rth (ōɹþ).

ī (ī·) ... b*ie*r (bī·ɹ), *y*lear (klī·ɹ).
ī ... th*ie*f (þīf), s*ee* (sī).
ō (ō·) ... b*oa*r, b*o*re (bō·ɹ), gl*o*ry (glō·ə·ri).

ō (ō·u) ... s*o*, s*ow* (sō·u), s*ou*l (sōul).
ǭ ... w*a*lk (wǭk), w*a*rt (wǭɹt).
ȳ ... sh*o*rt (ʃȳɹt), th*o*rn (þȳɹn).
‖ō̆ ... Fr. c*oeu*r (kō̆r).
‖ǒ̄ ... Ger. G*ö*the (gǒ̄tĕ), Fr. j*eû*ne (ʒǒ̄n).
ū (ū·) ... p*oo*r (pūɹ), m*oo*rish (mū·ə·riʃ).
iū, ⁱū ... p*u*re (piūɹ), l*u*re (lⁱū·ɹ).
ū̄ ... t*wo* m*oo*ns (tū̄ mū̄nz).
iū̄, ⁱū̄ ... f*ew* (fiū̄), l*u*te (lⁱū̄t).

‖ǖ ... Ger. gr*ü*n (grǖn), Fr. j*us* (zǖ).

OBSCURE.

ă as in *a*mœb*a* (ămī·bă).

ă̆ ... *a*ccept (ă̆kse·pt), mani*a* (mī·ni·ă̆k).

ə̆ ... dat*u*m (də̆·tə̆m).
ĕ ... mom*e*nt (mə̆u·mĕnt), sev*e*ral (se·vĕrăl).
ĭ ... sep*a*rate (*adj.*) (se·părĭt).

ė ... add*e*d (æ·dėd), *e*state (ėstē·ɪ·t).

ĭ ... van*i*ty (væ·nĭti).
ɪ̆ ... r*e*main (rɪ̆mē·ɪ·n), b*e*lieve (bɪ̆lī·v).
ŏ ... th*eo*ry (þī·ŏri).

ŏ̆ ... v*io*let (vəi·ŏ̆lėt), par*o*dy (pæ·rŏ̆dĭ).
ǫ̆ ... *au*thority (ǫ̆þo·rĭti).
ė̆ ... *co*nnect (kė̆ne·kt), am*a*zon (æ·mă̆zė̆n).

ĭŭ, ⁱŭ ... verd*u*re (və·ɹ·dĭŭɹ), measu*re* (me·ʒⁱŭɹ).
ĭŭ̄ ... al*to*gether (ǫltŭ̄ge·ðəɹ).
iŭ ... circ*u*lar (sə·ɹ·kiŭlăɹ).

* *ǫ́* the *o* in *soft*, of medial or doubtful length.

‖ Only in foreign (or earlier English) words.

In the ETYMOLOGY,

OE. *e*, *o*, representing an earlier *a*, are distinguished as *ę*, *ǫ* (having the phonetic value of *ę* and *ǫ*, or ǫ, above); as in *ęnde* from *andi* (OHG. *anti*, Goth. *andeis*), *męnn* from *mann*, *ǫn* from *an*.

cliffs and the great varieties of strata therein and their present positions, I further learned and was confirmed in some things. 1784 COWPER *Task* III. 151 Some drill and bore The solid earth, and from the strata there Extract a register by which [etc.]: 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXIII. 105/2 In Geology, both the separately deposited layers of rock, and the rocks formed of these similar layers, accumulated together, have received the name of strata. 1847 TENNYSON *Princess* iii. 154 That afternoon the Princess rode to take The dip of certain strata to the North. 1875 DAWSON *Dawn of Life* ii. 9 The..Laurentian strata..are seen to underlie.. the Silurian beds. 1877 HUXLEY *Physiogr.* ii. 24 The successive layers of rock, or as they are technically called *strata*.

c. pl. *stratums*. (Not in scientific use.)

1843 MR. & MRS. S. C. HALL *Ireland* III. 170 The black irregular rocks, the stratums of many colours and the *débris* of a sloping bank.

3. A region of the atmosphere, of the sea, or of a quantity of fluid, assumed for purposes of calculation as bounded by horizontal planes.

a. *sing.*

1796 H. HUNTER tr. *St. Pierre's Study Nat.* (1799) I. 38 That vast stratum of frozen air which surrounds our Globe, about a league above the surface. 1834 MRS. SOMERVILLE *Connex. Phys. Sci.* § xiii. (1849) 113 Sir James Ross, who found a stratum of constant temperature in the ocean at a depth depending on the latitude. 1842 GROVE *Lect. Progr. Phys. Sci.* 18 No action is perceptible in the intervening stratum of liquid. 1850 RANKINE *Misc. Sci. Papers* (1881) 22 A portion of a spherical stratum of atmosphere surrounding an atomic centre. 1877 HUXLEY *Physiogr.* vi. 84 The carbonic acid..would tend to settle down in a stratum near the ground.

b. pl. *strata*.

1787 *Crit. Rev.* LXIV. 302 It was found that the change really arose from the drier air above, mixing with the inferior strata. 1812-16 PLAYFAIR *Nat. Phil.* (1819) I. 245 If, therefore, the heights from the surface be taken increasing in arithmetical progression, the densities of the strata of air will decrease in geometrical progression. 1854 TOMLINSON tr. *Arago's Astron.* 163 But gases being extremely compressible, the lower strata..are necessarily more compressed. 1858 JENYNS *Observ. Meteorol.* 204 The temperature of the lower strata of the air.

4. *Biol.* etc. One of a number of layers composing an animal or vegetable tissue.

a. *sing.*

1846 G. E. DAY tr. *Simon's Anim. Chem.* II. 99 If a normal stratum of epithelium is no longer formed,..the changes impressed on the fluid must be different from those which it would undergo during the ordinary secretion of healthy mucus. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1102/2 *Stratum*, a layer of tissue. 1884 BOWER & SCOTT *De Bary's Phaner.* 554 The cells of the endodermis..often form the outermost stratum of the cork-layer. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 600 The collagenous tissue of the uppermost stratum of the cutis may now undergo a distinct sclerotic change.

b. pl. *strata*.

1741 A. MONRO *Anat.* (ed. 3) 3 The..*Strata* or Layers, of which the *Periosteum* is composed. 1860 LAYCOCK *Mind & Brain* II. 359 Under certain circumstances the [ganglionic] cells are arranged in layers or strata. 1884 BOWER & SCOTT *De Bary's Phaner.* 83 The strata or crusts are superposed on the cuticle in the form of a continuous membrane.

5. *Electr.* (Cf. STRATIFICATION 2 d.)

1856 T. R. ROBINSON in *Proc. R. Irish Acad.* VI. 428 The meniscoid strata were at first very distinct, but faded away in a few seconds.

6. *fig.* in various applications (chiefly after sense 2): A portion of a body of institutions, beliefs, etc., proceeding from one historical period or representing one stage of development; a level or grade in social position or culture; the part of a population belonging to a particular level in station or education; and the like. a. *sing.*

1807 G. CHALMERS *Caledonia* I. 229 *note*, The first stratum of names on the map of North-Britain is Cambro-British;.. the second stratum..superinduced on the former, was the Gaelic. 1850 CARLYLE *Latter-day Pamph.* iii. 39 From the lowest and broadest stratum of Society..there was born,.. a Robert Burns. 1862 STANLEY *Jew. Ch.* (1877) I. xix. 369 In modern times they have practically been drawn from one stratum of society. 1870 MAX MÜLLER *Sci. Relig.* (1873) 318 Odin belongs to the same stratum of mythological thought as Dyaus in India. 1877 MISS YONGE *Cameos* I. ii. 17 The Caroline race were Franks,..a mixture of Roman and Gallic, with only an upper stratum of the true Frank. 1902 L. STEPHEN *Stud. Biogr.* IV. vii. 261 The habit of reading spread to a lower social stratum. 1914 *Blackw. Mag.* Oct. 505/2 He sprang from that stratum of the middle class..which owes its immediate fortunes to commercial enterprise.

b. pl. *strata*.

1850 CARLYLE *Latter-day Pamph.* iii. 38 In the lowest broad strata of the population..are produced men of every kind of genius. 1867 A. BARRY *Sir C. Barry* ii. 43 The superimposed strata of Greek, Roman, Saracenic and Gothic architecture. 1876 BIRCH *Monum. Hist. Egypt* 15 Leaving as open questions the contemporaneity or sequence of the dynasties, but recognising them as representing strata of time. 1890 BLACKIE *Ess. Mor. & Soc. Int.* 298 In fact a large proportion of the upper strata of English is merely Latin and Greek in a very thin disguise. 1913 SIR T. BARLOW in *Times* 7 Aug. 8/2 The..study of small variations in the ordinary diets of adults and children..in different social strata and in different countries.

7. *attrib.* (in pl. form.) ? *Obs.*

1814 JAMESON in *Mem. Wernerian Soc.* II. 223 Two contiguous portions of rock, whether separated by strata-streams or not. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 748 The flat veins, or strata veins, seem to be nothing else than expansions of the matter of the vein between the planes of the strata. 1842 SEEBY *Brit. Forest Trees* 351 The strata-like form the branches naturally assume.

Stratus (strē·tŭs). *Meteorol.* [a. L. *strātus* (*u* stem), f. *strā-*, *sternĕre* to spread, lay down. (See quot. 1803, and cf. STRATUM.)] One of the simple forms of cloud, having the appearance of a broad sheet of nearly uniform thickness, usually existing at low elevations.

1803 L. HOWARD *Modif. Clouds* (1865) 4 *Stratus*, a widely extended, continuous, horizontal sheet, increasing from below upward. *footn.* This application of the Latin word *stratus* is a little forced. But the substantive *stratum*, did not agree in its termination with the other two [*cirrus, cumulus*], and is besides already used in a different sense even on this subject, e.g. a stratum of clouds; yet it was desirable to keep the derivation from the verb *sterno*, as its significations agree so well with the circumstances of this Cloud. 1832 BREWSTER *Nat. Magic* vi. (1833) 141 A thin stratus or 'fog bank' appeared in the same quarter. 1858 JENYNS *Observ. Meteorol.* 199 Hence a mist will often appear in damp places, while in others, where dews are of constant occurrence, a mist, *i.e. stratus*, may be a rare thing. 1888 PIDGEON *Engineer's Holiday* II. 216 Extending..a considerable distance towards the zenith, lay a thick horizontal layer of stratus, above which was blue.

attrib. 1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* I. xviii. 122 A gray stratus cloud had drawn itself across the neck of the Matterhorn. 1883 *Harper's Mag.* May 888/2 In that low mass of stratus clouds which overhung the sunset there was now a wild convulsion.

Strauch(t: see STRAIGHT, STRETCH *v.*

† Straught, *a. Obs.* [Aphetic f. DISTRAUGHT *a.*] Distraught, out of one's mind. Also, bereft *of* (one's wits, mind).

a 1529 SKELTON *Agst. Ven. Tongues* Wks. 1843 I. 133 My scoles are not for vnthriftes vntaught, For frantick faitours half mad and half straught. 1530 PALSGR. 429/2, I am straught, *je suis enragé*. He is straught, *il est enragé*. 1566 PAINTER *Pal. Pleas.* (1569) I. 147 He seemed rather to bee a man straught..than lyke one that had hys wittes. 1566 DRANT *Horace, Sat.* I. vi. D v b, The moste of men, wil thincke me straughte of witte. 1567 GOLDING *Ovid's Met.* VI. (1593) 150 Betweene his duskie wings he caught Orithya straught for feare. 1579-80 NORTH *Plutarch, Agesilaus* (1595) 668 Seely women also..ranne vp and downe, as straught of their wits. 1584 R. SCOT *Discov. Witchcr.* VII. xi. 144 Being now straught of mind, desperate, and a verie foole. *c* 1600 DAY *Begg. Bednall Gr.* IV. i. (1881) 72 Stumbling? what! stumbling? I think the fellow be straught.

Hence **† Strau·ghtness, Strau·ghtedness.**

1530 PALSGR. 277/1 Straugh[t]nesse madnesse, *amence*. 1552 HULOET, Strawghtnes of the mynd by reason of fear, *panicus*. 1583 GOLDING *Calvin on Deut.* XXVIII. 979/2 For vntill God haue brought vs to this straughtednesse, we be altogether blockish. [Fr. *Car iusques à tant que Dieu nous ait amenez à ceste furie, nous sommes stupides du tout.*]

Straught: see STRAIGHT *a.* and *v.*, STRETCH *v.*

Straughe, Strauht, obs. ff. STRAW, STRAIGHT.

Strauht(e, obs. pa.t. and pa. pple. of STRETCH *v.*

Straunc(h)e, straung(e, obs. ff. STRANGE.

Straunde, obs. form of STRAND *sb.*[1]

Straungeour, -er(e, etc., obs. ff. STRANGER.

Straungle, obs. form of STRANGLE *v.*

Strauth, obs. pa. pple. of STRETCH *v.*

† Stra·vagant, *a.* and *sb. Obs.* [ad. It. *stravagante*, or aphetic ad. med.L. *extrāvagantem*: see EXTRAVAGANT.] A. *adj.* Irrelevant, unsuitable, extraordinary: = EXTRAVAGANT *a.* 4, 5, 6.

1565 HARDING *Let.* in Strype *Ann. Ref.* (1709) I. App. XXX. 57, I made no foretalk to your straugant Chalenge, till [etc.]. 1579 FENTON *Guicciard.* 823 Of which stravagant manner of dealing not being liable to excuse themselves by any reason, they attributed all to the working of the holy Ghost. 1613 CHAPMAN *Mask Inns of Court* (1614) A 3, The Torch-bearers habits were likewise of the Indian garb, but more strauagant then those of the Maskers.

B. *sb.* a. Something irrelevant. b. A vagrant.

1565 T. STAPLETON *Fortr. Faith* 8 To go to the matter alleaged directly without idle twanges, and rouing straugants from the purpose. 1592 *Nobody & Somebody* C i, I was carried afore the Constable but yesterday, and they tooke mee vp for a straugant. 1608 DAY *Hum. out of Breath* III. i. (1860) 31 *Flo.* Away you sharking companion. *Asp.* How? *Flo.* Wandring stravagant, that like a droane flies humming from one land to another.

Stravaig (străvē·g), *v. Sc.* and *north.* Also **stravague, stravag(e.** [? Aphetic form of EXTRAVAGE *v.* (? for **extravague*).] *intr.* To wander about aimlessly. Hence **Stravai·ging** (-gĭŋ) *vbl. sb.* and *ppl. a.* Also **Stravai·ger** (-gəɹ).

1802 [see VAGUE *v.*[1] 1 β]. 1821 GALT *Ann. Parish* xiii, Lady Macadam's hens and fowls..being great stravaggers for their meat. 1825 J. WILSON *Noctes Ambr.* Wks. 1855 I. 25 The belts o' plantations are no very wide nor the sherubberies stravagin awa' into wild mountainous regions o'.. breckans. 1825 BROCKETT *N. C. Gloss., Stravaiging*, strolling about. 1842 J. WILSON *Chr. North* III. 293 Those heartless clouds that keep stravaigging over mountain-tops. 1871 BLACK *Dau. Heth* xxiv, 'Nonsense!' said Lady Drum. 'Would you have an old woman like me stravaiging about the shore by myself?' 1884 ANNIE SWAN *Carlowrie* xx, 152 Miss Ritchie's peacock had taken what she called a stravagin' turn. 1887 HENLEY *Villon's Straight Tip* 23 At any graft, no matter what, Your merry goblins soon stravag. 1901 G. DOUGLAS *Ho. with Green Shutters* 26 Where have you been stravaiging to? 1905 A. I. SHAND *Days of Past* xiv. 275 Those stravaiging cottage cats.

Strave, obs. pa. t. of STRIVE *v.*

Straw (strǭ), *sb.*[1] Forms: α. 1 *stréaw*, **strau**, 3 **strauȝ, strauue**, 3-7 **strawe**, 5 **strauhe, strawh**, 4- **straw**; β. 1 *stréow*, **streu(w, strew** (*pl.* **strewu**); γ. 1 **stré**, 1-5, 9 *dial.* **stree**, 4-6 **stre** (*pl.* **stren**), 5-6, 8-9 *dial.* **strey**, 7-9 *dial.* **strea, streea, streay** (7 *pl.* **strease**); δ. 3-9 *north.* **stra** (5 *pl.* **strase**), 6-7 *Sc.* **strai, straye** (*pl.* **strais**), 6-9 *Sc.* **strae**; ε. 5 **strowh**, 5-6 *Sc.* and *north.* **stro, stroye**, 7 **stroe**, 5-7 **strowe.** [Com. Teut. (not found in Gothic): OE. *stréaw* neut. = OFris. *strē* (NFris. *strâi, stre*, WFris. *strie*), OS., MLG., MDu. *strô* (Du. *stroo*) neut., OHG., MHG. *strô* neut., gen. *strawes, strôwes* (mod.G. *stroh* masc.), ON. *strá* neut. (Sw. *strå*, Da. *straa*):—OTeut. **strawo-*, f. root **strau-*: *streu-*: see STREW *v.*

The ON. form *strá* is prob. in part the source of the Sc. and Northern *stra, strae*, etc. and of the North Midland and Northern *stro*, though in some dialectal areas the normal phonetic development from OE. would issue in forms coincident with these. The Scottish *stro* of the 15-16th c. is a literary alteration of *stra*.]

1. *Collective sing.*

1. The stems or stalks (*esp.* dry and separated by threshing) of certain cereals, chiefly wheat, barley, oats, and rye. Used for many purposes, e.g. as litter and as fodder for cattle, as filling for bedding, as thatch, also plaited or woven as material for hats, bonnets, etc.

c 1000 ÆLFRIC *Gram.* iv. (Z.) 8 *Foenum*, gærs oððe streow [*v.rr.* streaw, strau]. *Ibid.* xiii. (Z.) 83 *Foenum* strew [*v.rr.* streow, streaw, strau]. *c* 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* III. 114 Bærne þanne streuw. *c* 1000 ÆLFRIC *Hom.* I. 404 Sume hi cuwon heora ȝescy,..sume streaw. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 7204 His bandes al he brac in tua, Als þai had ben made bot on stra. *c* 1374 CHAUCER *Troylus* III. 859 How is this candele in the strawe y-falle? 1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. XIV. 233 Whan he streyneth hym to streche þe strawe is his scheres. *c* 1380 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* I. 119 Swepte as þe pament from hilyyng of stree. 1388 — *Isa.* lxv. 25 A lioun and an oxe schulen ete stree. 1422 YONGE tr. *Secreta Secret.* 239 Suche a stomake is likenyd to the litill fire, that may brande but flex or stree. *c* 1440 LYDG. *Horse, Goose & Sheep* 196 As pawes been to chaumbris agreable, So is hard strauhe litteer for the stable. *c* 1450 CAPGRAVE *St. Gilbert* vi. 71 On his bed had our maystir Gilbert..no bolstering but strawe. *c* 1460 *Oseney Reg.* (1913) 144 þe chaffe schall Abide togedur with þe strow to me and to my heyres. *c* 1480 HENRYSON *Test. Cresseid* 439 And for thy Bed tak now ane bunche of stro [*rime-words* tho, ago]. 1491 in *Acta Dom. Concil.* (1839) 222/1 For hay & stra price xxiiij*s*. 1501 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* II. 124 Item,..to James Dog to by stray to the Kingis chamir in Invernes, xvj d. 1523-34 FITZHERB. *Husb.* § 6 Horses..must haue..strawe for lytter. 1549 in Feuillerat *Revels Edw. VI* (1914) 43 For Strawe to Stuff the baggs, iiij*d*. *a* 1568 A. SCOTT *Poems* (S.T.S.) XXXV. 19 Lyk dust and stro [*rime-word* no] Bene vaneist wt the wind. 1579 in *3rd Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* 402/2 Yeirlie ane wedder, ane creill full of peittis and ane sled full of stray. 1593 *Extracts Munic. Acc. Newcastle* (1848) 31 Paide for stro, candle, drinke, and stringe, which bounde the semynaries armes before he was executed, 9*d*. 1637 MILTON *Lycidas* 124 Their lean and flashy songs Grate on their scrannel Pipes of wretched straw. 1657 LAMONT *Diary* (Maitl. Club) 100 None should be obleidged to bring any oatts to the English troupe horses any longer, but only stra hireafter. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* II. 173/2 Blend Fodder, is Hay and Straw mixed. *c* 1730 BURT *Lett. N. Scot.* (1754) II. xxiii. 233 He dy'd at Hame, lik an auld Dug, on a Puckle o' Strae. 1765 *Museum Rust.* IV. 221 The straw of rye is much more valuable, both for thatching, bedding and fodder than the straw of wheat. 1797 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Italian* x, Paolo soon after turned into his bed of straw. 1832 *Veg. Subst. Food Man* 45 The straw of summer wheat is more agreeable to cattle than that produced from winter sowing. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* xix, She had the street laid knee-deep with straw; and the knocker put by. 1868 *Rep. U. S. Commissioner Agric.* (1869) 417 It [*sc.* wheat] stooled out much more than either, and was uniform in ripeness and length of straw. 1875 W. PATERSON *Notes Milit. Surv.* (ed. 3) 80 Load of straw = 36 trusses each of 36 lbs.

b. *fig.* with reference to the small value of straw in comparison with the grain, or to its ready inflammability.

c 1386 CHAUCER *Man of Law's T.* 603 Me list nat of the chaf or of the stree Maken so long a tale as of the corn. *c* 1400 *Rom. Rose* 6354, I..go thurgh alle regiouns, Seking alle religiouns. But to what ordre that I am sworn, I take the strawe, and lete the corn. 1610 SHAKS. *Temp.* IV. 52 Strongest oathes, are straw To th' fire ith' blood.

† c. Thatch, thatched houses. *Obs.*

1665 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* (1677) 27 A small Village of Straw unworthy the notice.

2. Phrases. a. *To make bricks without straw*: said with allusion to *Exodus* v.

The current form and application of the saying are hardly justified by the narrative. The Israelites were not required to make bricks without straw (which was an indispensable binding material for sun-dried bricks), but to gather the straw for themselves instead of having it furnished to them. The phrase, however, now commonly means '(to be required) to produce results without the means usually considered necessary'. Cf. the accurate use in quot. 1661.

1658 in *Verney Mem.* (1907) II. 79 It is an hard task to make bricks without straw. 1661 DK. ORMONDE in *11th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. v. 10 If they will not let that [act] passe..and yet will have us keepe armys, is it not requireing a tale of bricks, without allowing the straw. 1874 L. STEPHEN *Hours in Library* I. vi. 271 It is often good for us to have to make bricks without straw. 1883 MISS M. BETHAM-EDWARDS *Disarmed* i. I. 5 The fact is, you are fast being spoiled. But your task from to-day will be to make bricks without straw. No appeal shall induce me to have pity on you.

b. *In the straw*: in childbed, lying-in. So *out of the straw*, recovered after childbearing.

In quot. 1786 the phrase is taken to refer to the practice of laying down straw (to deaden noise) before a house where there is a confinement. It is doubtful whether this was the original meaning, though the practice was common.

a 1661 Fuller *Worthies, Lincs.* (1662) 149 Our English plain Proverb, *De Puerperis*, they are in the Straw; shows Feather-Beds to be of no ancient use amongst the Common sort of our Nation. 1705 [E. Ward] *Hudibras Rediv.* iv. 18 We sipp'd our Fuddle, As Women in the Straw do Caudle. 1772 *Grimston Papers* (MS.), I hope your neighbour, Mrs. G., is safe out of the straw, and the child well. 1786 Burgoyne *Heiress* I. i, You take care to send [*sc.* cards] to all the lying-in ladies? *Prompt.* At their doors, Madam, before the first load of straw... *Prompt.* (Reading his memorandum as he goes out). Ladies in the straw—Ministers, &c...never a better list [etc.]. 1822 De Quincey *Confess.* (1823) 120 In the phrase of ladies in the straw, 'as well as can be expected'. 1832 Marryat *N. Forster* xv, They found the lady *in the straw.*

c. *In the straw*: (of corn) not yet threshed.

1701 C. Wolley *Jrnl. New York* (1860) 59, I paid for two load of Oats in the straw 18 shillings. 1702 *Act* 1 *Anne* Stat. II. c. 10 § 14 All Carts with...Corn in the Straw.

d. *To run to straw*: see Run *v.* 69 e.

1659 Gauden *Slight Healers* (1660) 89 Physitians that are not by much study...run out to Atheism (as some corn in lusty ground doth to straw and halm). *a* 1722 Lisle *Husb.* (1757) 13 You will find, that in such a case the corn will run out to a straw. 1765 [see Run *v.* 69 e]. 1857 Livingstone *Trav.* xii. 215 It...would make corn run entirely to straw.

e. *Man of straw*: a person or thing compared to a straw image; a counterfeit, sham, 'dummy'; similarly, *a face of straw*, etc.; (*b*) an imaginary adversary, or an invented adverse argument, adduced in order to be triumphantly confuted; (*c*) a person of no substance, esp. one who undertakes a pecuniary responsibility without having the means of discharging it; (*d*) a fictitious or irresponsible person fraudulently put forward as a surety or as a party in an action.

1599 *Return fr. Parnass.* I. i. 231 [He] braggs...of his liberalitie to schollers...: but indeed he is a meere man of strawe, a great lumpe of drousie earth. 1615 Daniel *Hymen's Tri.* II. j. Wks. (1623) 283 Idolatrize not so that Sexe, but hold A man of strawe more then a wife of gold [= Fr. proverb: 'Un homme de paille vaut une femme d'or']. 1624 Gataker *Transubst.* 92 To skirmish with a man of straw of his owne making. 1652 R. Saunders *Balm to heal Relig. Wounds* 82 He...strikes at randome at a man of straw. 1675 Wycherley *Country Wife* iv. iii. 67, I will not be your drudge by day, to squire your wife about, and be your man of straw, or scare crow only to Pyes and Jays; that would be nibling at your forbidden fruit. 1677 *2nd Packet Adv. to Men of Shaftesbury* 52, I rather suppose the Some that say so never were men of God's making, but mere men of straw set up by Master Bencher, for a Tryal of his own Skill in Confutation. *a* 1734 North *Exam.* III. vii. (1740) 508 The Verity of all such Suppositions denied, off drops the Vizor, and a Face of Straw appears. 1768–74 Tucker *Lt. Nat.* (1834) I. 253 What is this but placing the essence of virtue in her outside, making her a man of straw, an empty covering containing nothing within? 1823 'Jon Bee' *Dict. Turf* 167 'Man of straw', a bill-acceptor, without property —'no assets'. 1837 Dickens *Pickw.* xxi, If the defendant be a man of straw, who is to pay the costs, Sir? 1840 De Quincey *Style* Wks. 1859 XI. 218 It is always Socrates and Crito, or Socrates and Phædrus,...in fact, Socrates and some man of straw or good-humoured nine-pin set up to be bowled down as a matter of course. 1876 L. Stephen *Hours in Library* II. ii. 67 But no man can dispense with the aid of a living antagonist, free from all suspicion of being a man of straw. 1885 *Law Times' Rep.* LIII. 484/1 The real plaintiff may assign his interest to a man of straw, and in such a case the court will require security to be given.

†f. *A pad in the straw*: see Pad *sb.*[1] 3. *Obs.*

†g. Mil. *For straw*: (see quots.) *Obs.*—°

[A rendering of Fr. *à la paille*, from the phrase *aller à la paille*, 'to go in search of straw for the horses', hence 'to be allowed a short interval of rest from carrying arms'.]

1702 *Milit. Dict.* (1704) s.v., For Straw, is a word of command to dismiss the Soldiers when they have grounded their Arms, so that they be ready to return to them upon the first firing of a Musket, or beat of Drum. [Hence 1706 Phillips (ed. Kersey); and many later Dicts.]

†h. *To condemn to straw*: to declare worthy of a madhouse. *Obs.*

1779 Johnson *L. P., Dryden* (1868) 163 Virgil would have been too hasty if he had condemned him [Statius] to straw for one sounding line.

3. Extended to denote the stalks of certain other plants, chiefly pease and buckwheat.

c 1325 *Gloss. W. de Bibbesw.* in Wright *Voc.* 156 Pernet dount de pessas [*gloss*] pese stree. 1579 E. K. *Gloss. to Spenser's Sheph. Cal.* 256 Vetchie, of Pease strawe. 1687 A. Lovell tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* II. 126 These Bottles are covered with the Straw of Canes. 1760 R. Brown *Compl. Farmer* II. 83 The straw [of buckwheat] is good fodder for cattle. 1795 Vancouver *Agric. Essex* 178 To discontinue the practice of burning the straw of coleseed, mustard, coriander, carraway. 1805 R. W. Dickson *Pract. Agric.* II. 628 The haulm or straw of the potatoe. 1892 *Gardeners' Chron.* 27 Aug. 237/2 Messrs. Carter should have preferred it if the straw [of a pea] had not been so long.

b. *U.S.* Pine needles.

1856 Olmsted *Slave States* 321 The leaves, or straw, as its foliage [*i.e.* that of the yellow pine] is called here. 1860 Whitman *Amer. Feuillage* 36 The ground in all directions is cover'd with pine straw.

c. In plant-names, as *camel's straw, sea straw.*

1526 *Gt. Herbal* cccl.xxxvi. (1529) X iij b, Squinante is an herbe that is called camelles strawe, bycause camelles do eate it. *c* 1711 Petiver *Gazophyl.* x. 91 Sussex Sea-straw.

4. The straw of wheat or other cereal plants plaited or woven to form a material for hats and bonnets; a kind or variety of this material, or an imitation of it (made, e. g., from paper).

1730 Mrs. Eliz. Thomas *Metam. Town* (1731) 20 Straw, lin'd with Green, their May-day Hats. 1783 O'Keeffe *Birth-day* 17 With her stockings green, and her hat of straw. 1859 *Ladies' Cabinet* Nov. 278/1 Plain Dunstable straws continue to be worn. 1895 *Daily News* 20 Mar. 7/1 Paper straws are among the new things...Hats and bonnets made of these straws are inexpensive. 1902 *Daily Chron.* 1 Feb. 8/3 The newest straw resembles the petals of a flower, and is called chrysanthemum straw; also there is more lace straw going to be worn than last year.

II. A single stem of a cereal, etc.

5. A stem of any cereal plant, esp. when dry and separated from the grain; also, a piece of such a stem.

c 1200 *Vices & Virtues* 135 Ne iat hie [*Honestas*] nawht ðe hande pleiȝende mid stikke, ne mid strawe. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 296 Þe cwene seide ful soð þet mid one strea brouhte o brune alle hire huses, þet muchel kumeð of lutel. *c* 1374 Chaucer *Troylus* II. 1745 In tittering, and pursuite, and delayes, The folk devyne at wagginge of a stree. 1426 Lydg. *De Guil. Pilgr.* 1837 Lych hornys of a lytell snayl, Wych... for a lytel strawh wyl shrynke. *c* 1450 *Bk. Curtasye* 94 in *Babees Bk.*, Clense not thi tethe...With knyfe ne stre, styk ne wande. 1601 Shaks. *Jul. C.* I. iii. 108 Those that with haste will make a mightie fire, Begin it with weake Strawes. 1675 Owen *Indwelling Sin* xvii. (1732) 233 No more Impression...than Blows with a Straw would give to an Adamant. 1732 Pope *Ess. Man* ii. 276 Behold the child, by Nature's kindly law, Pleas'd with a rattle, tickled with a straw. 1815 J. Smith *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 817 The communication may be maintained by any slight tube, as a straw, or a reed. 1897 E. Howlett in *W. Andrews' Legal Lore* 92 In some manors the surrender [of lands] is effected by the delivery of a rod, in others of a straw.

transf. 1587 T. Newton *Herbal for Bible* xxvii. 150 Another kinde of Reede...hath a long, round and hollowe stalke or strawe, full of knottie ioints.

†b. *Collective plural* = sense 1. *Obs.*

1390 Gower *Conf.* I. 143 In stede of mete gras and stres,.. He syh. *c* 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* III. 362 With rysshes or with stren me most hem bynde [L. *tunc iunco aut ulmo aut uimine stringimus*]. 1583 *Leg. Bp. St. Androis* 299 Reasing the devill...With...Palme croces, and knottis of strease.

c. *Poet.* = Oat *sb.* 5, *rare.* (Cf. quot. 1637 in 1.)

1588 Shaks. *L. L. L.* v. ii. 913 When Shepheards pipe on Oaten strawes. 1697 Dryden *Virg. Past.* III. 37 Dunce at the best; in Streets but scarce allow'd To tickle, on thy Straw, the stupid Crowd.

d. A straw in the shoe is said to have been the sign by which loafers about the courts of law advertised their readiness to perjure themselves for money. Cf. *straw-shoe* in 14.

1743 Fielding *Jon. Wild* I. ii, An eminent gentleman,.. who was famous for so friendly a disposition, that he was bail for above a hundred persons in one year. He had likewise the remarkable humour of walking in Westminster-hall with a straw in his shoe.

e. *Bot.*

1776 J. Lee *Introd. Bot.* Explan. Terms 378 Culmus, a Straw, properly the Trunk of Grasses. 1796 Withering *Brit. Plants* II. 80 Straws round, and somewhat flattened. 1821 Sir J. E. Smith *Gram. Bot.* 6 *Culmus*, a Culm or Straw, the peculiar stem of Grasses, is leafy, cylindrical [etc.]. 1839 Lindley *Introd. Bot.* I. ii. 84 From the caulis, Linnæus, following the older botanists, distinguished the culmus or straw, which is the stem of Grasses.

f. *Mining.* (See quot.)

1860 *Engl. & For. Mining Gloss., Staffs. Terms* 80 *Straw*, a fine straw filled with powder and used as a fuse. 1886 J. Barrowman *Sc. Mining Terms* 65 *Straw*, or *strae*, a fuse composed of a straw filled with gunpowder.

g. (See quot. 1883.)

1872 'A. Merion' *Odd Echoes Oxf.* 21 Come let the mackerel soused be brought,...The cider-cup and straws. 1883 Schele de Vere in *Encycl. Amer.* I. 201/1 With the various drinks invented by Americans came into use the straws—slender tubes of wheat, or even of glass—through which beverages are sucked up, or, as it is called, imbibed.

6. A small particle of straw or chaff, a 'mote'.

c 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Matt., Introd. 17 Lytles strees *vel* micles beames. *Ibid.* Matt. vii. 3 Huæt ðonne ȝesiistu stre *vel* mot in eȝo broðres ðines. *c* 1050 *Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 405/33 *Ristucam*, strewu, eȝlan. *c* 1400 *Rule St. Benet* iii. 5 In þi broþir ehe þu ses a stra, And noht a balke in þin aȝen. *c* 1407 Lydg. *Reas. & Sens.* 6084 Awmber...ryght myghty in werkyng...For to drawe to him strawys. 1523–34 Fitzherb. *Husb.* § 27 Take good hede, that the sherers of all maner of whyte corne cast not vppe theyr handes hastely, for thanne all the...strawes...flieth ouer his heed. 1639 Du Verger tr. *Camus' Admir. Events* 99 Amber will draw unto it any manner of strawes except of the hearb Basill. 1750 tr. *Leonardus' Mirr. Stones* 108 Being heated with rubbing, gagates attracts straws and chaff.

7. Often used as a type of what is of trifling value or importance, as in *not to care a straw* (*two, three straws*), and similar phrases.

c 1290 *St. Michael* 151 in *S. Eng. Leg.* 304 Nis noube no man aliue þat hire coube habbe i-wust so wel, Ne so bire i-fed and hire child þat ne costnede nouȝt a stravȝ. *a* 1300 *Havelok* 315 He let his oth al ouer-ga, þerof ne yaf he nouth a stra. *c* 1369 Chaucer *Dethe Blaunche* 718 Socrates...ne counted nat thre strees Of noght that fortune koude doo. *c* 1400 *Vwaine & Gaw.* 2655 By his sar set he noght a stra. *c* 1412 Hoccleve *De Reg. Princ.* 1670 Swiche vsage is Not worþ a strawe. *c* 1430 *Pilgr. Lyf Manhode* IV. liii. (1869) 201 Deth, j drede þee nouht a straw. 1513 Douglas *Æneis* XII. xiv. 22 Thou fers fo, Thy fervent words compt I nocht a stro. 1593 Shaks. *Lucr.* 1021, I force not argument a straw, Since that my case is past the helpe of law. 1692 R. L'Estrange *Fables* xxix. 29 'Tis not a Straw matter whether the Main Cause be Right or Wrong. 1780 *Mirror* No. 103 An explanation, besides exposing me to their resentment (but that I did not value a straw), would have [etc.]. 1861 Hughes *Tom Brown at Oxf.* iii, Drysdale, who didn't care three straws about knowing St. Cloud. 1887 *Spectator* 1 Oct. 1304 The British Government...does not care one straw what religion its subjects profess.

†b. *A straw for* —: an expression of contempt.

c 1374 Chaucer *Troylus* v. 362 A strawe for alle swevenes signifiaunce! *c* 1412 Hoccleve *De Reg. Princ.* 622 But straw vnto hir reed! wolde I [etc.]. *c* 1460 *Play Sacram.* 205 Yea yea master a strawe for talis that manot sale. 1513 Douglas *Æneis* I. Prol. 33 Stra for thys ignorant blabring imperfyte Beside thi polyte termis redemyte. *a* 1529 Skelton *Bouge of Court* 341 Naye, strawe for tales, thou shalte not rule vs. 1549 Chaloner *Erasm. Praise Folly* A j b, In whiche poinct, a strawe for all these cankerd philosophers, and sages, who saie [etc.]. 1562 J. Heywood *Prov. & Epigr.* (1867) 119 Back (quoth the woodcocke): Straw for the (quoth the dawe). 1598 R. Bernard tr. *Terence* (1607) *Andria* IV. ii, A straw for such as would haue vs two at debate.

†c. Used as an exclamation, = rubbish! nonsense! *Obs.*

c 1412 Hoccleve *De Reg. Princ.* 1874 Ye straw! let be! *Ibid.* 5191 Straw! be he neuer so harrageous, If he & she shul dwellen in on house, Goode is he suffre. *c* 1520 Skelton *Magnyf.* 564 Tushe, a strawe! *a* 1529 — *E. Rummyng* 535 A strawe, sayde Bele, stande vtter, For we haue egges and butter. — *Manerly Margery* 5 Tully valy, strawe, let be, I say!

d. A trifle; a frivolous ground of quarrel, a trifling difficulty.

1692 [J. Wilson] *Vindic. Carol.* i. 17 Here also he quarrels at Straws. 1782 Miss Burney *Cecilia* VI. vii, My passions will not, just now, be irritated by straws. 1828 Carlyle *Misc., Burns* (1840) I. 367 Mighty events turn on a straw. 1858 Trollope *Dr. Thorne* xxxiii, When he spoke of the difficulties in his way, she twitted him by being overcome by straws.

8. In certain proverbs, and allusive senses derived from them. (See quots.)

a. 1748 Richardson *Clarissa* VII. 12 A drowning man will catch at a straw, the Proverb well says. 1823 Scott *Quentin D.* xxxv, Love, like despair, catches at straws. 1853 Mrs. Gaskell *Ruth* xxx, That hope was the one straw that Mr. Bradshaw clung to. 1908 R. Bagot *A. Cuthbert* xxv. 331 He had been compelled, however, to suppress both his shame and his pride, and grasp at the straw held out to him.

b. 1848 Dickens *Dombey* ii, As the last straw breaks the laden camel's back, this piece of underground information crushed the sinking spirits of Mr. Dombey. 1874 S. Walpole *Life Perceval* II. vii. 260 The difference about the grant to the Prince was of course only the last straw. The load on Lord Welfesley had been long intolerable. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* II. 865 In ordinary cases of the disease there is often some minor exciting cause which acts as a 'last straw'. *Ibid.* VII. 693 Sunstroke may act as the 'last straw'.

c. 1835 Lytton *Rienzi* II. iii, The Provençal, who well knew how to construe the wind by the direction of straws. 1846 *Fraser's Mag.* XXXIII. 131 This straw shews the peculiar superstitiousness of Johnson's mind. 1852 Bristed *Five Yrs. Eng. Univ.* (ed. 2) 365 One of the smallest possible straws may be taken as an indication of the direction in which the *aura popularis* now set. 1861 Reade *Cloister & H.* lvi, And such straws of speech show how blows the wind. 1915 *Daily News* 28 Dec. 4 Occasional tavern brawls between German and Bulgarian officers are no doubt only straws, but the lesson they point is reinforced by [etc.].

9. In various phrases.

†a. *To turn every straw, leave no straw unturned*: to search everywhere for something lost.

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 324 He secheð hine anonriht, & to-went euerich strea uort he beo ifunden. 1575 *Gammer Gurton's Needle* I. iv. 12 So see in all the heaps of dust thou leave no straw vnturned.

†b. *To lay a straw*: to stop, desist. *There a straw!* = here I will stop. *Obs.*

c 1480 Henryson *Orph. & Euryd.* 241 Off sik musik to wryte I do bot dote, Tharfor at this mater a stra I lay. *c* 1550 [G. Walker] *Manif. Detect. Diceplay* B ij, Well, as to that, there lay a strawe tyll anone, that the matter lede vs to speake more of it. 1568 V. Skinner tr. *Gonsalvius' Sp. Inquis.* 63 There they were enforced to lay a straw. 1580 G. Harvey *Three Proper Lett.* iii. 49 You may communicate as much...as you list,...with the two Gentlemen: but there a straw, and you loue me: not with any one else, friend or foe. *a* 1600 Deloney *Gentle Craft* II. iii. Wks. (1912) 157 Nay soft, there lay a straw for feare of stumbling (quoth Robin). 1601 Holland *Pliny* IX. xxxvi. I. 258 If I should lay a straw here, and proceed no further in this discourse of Purples.

†c. *To break a straw* [= Fr. *rompre la paille*]: to quarrel. *Obs.*

1542 Udall tr. *Erasm. Apoph.* 61 b, I prophecie...that Plato and Dionysius wil ere many dayes to an ende breake a strawe betwene theim.

d. *To draw, gather, pick straws*: (of the eyes) to be sleepy.

1691 Mrs. D'Anvers *Academia* 36 Their Eyes, by this time all drew Straws. 1694 Motteux etc. *Gentl. Jrnl.* Apr. 84 It growing then towards eleven a clock, the City Ladies Eyes began to draw Straws. 1731–8 Swift *Pol. Conversat.* iii. Wks. 1738 VI. 344 *Miss.* Indeed, my Eyes draw Straws (she's almost asleep). 1796 J. Wolcot (P. Pindar) *Orson & Ellen* v. 125 Their eyelids did not once pick straws. 1825 J. Wilson *Noctes Ambr.* Wks. 1855 I. 29 But would you believe it, my beloved Shepherd, my eyes are gathering straws. 1892 *Illustr. Sporting & Dram. News* 5 Nov. 270/2 That period—probably two o'clock a.m.—when the eyes of chaperons begin to draw straws'.

10. Applied to various things shaped like a straw.

†a. *pl.* = *jack-straws*, Jack-straw 2. *Obs.*

1765 H. Walpole *Let. to Countess Suffolk* 9 July, They (I mean my bones) lie in a heap over one another like the bits of ivory at the game of straws.

b. *Austral.* A walking-stick insect, a phasmid.

1827 Hellyer in *Bischoff's Van Diemen's Land* (1832) 177, I caught one of those curious insects the native straw; it is, I apprehend, a nondescript.

c. A long slender needle.

1862 Morrall *Hist. Needle-making* 39 The Straws are suited for millinery and light work, and they are often made

double length, for sewing fents in Manchester. 1882 CAULFEILD & SAWARD *Dict. Needlework* 464 Straws..are needles of a particular description, used in hat and bonnet making.

d. A slender kind of clay pipe.

1882 *Worc. Exhib. Catal.* III. 28 Tobacco pipes. 10-inch Straws.

e. *Cheese straw*: a thin stick of pastry, containing cheese.

1877 *Cassell's Dict. Cookery* 119. 1892 T. F. GARRETT *Encycl. Cookery* I. 350.

III. 11. A straw hat.

1863 *Baily's Mag.* Jan. 357, I hung my saturated 'straw' upon a bush. 1902 HICHENS *Londoners* 159 I've only brought a straw.

IV. In Combination.

12. *attrib.* (passing into *adj.*), with sense 'made of straw'. See also STRAW HAT.

1442 *Will of R., Cottingham* in Fairholt *Costume* II. 387 A blak stra cappe. 1599 HAKLUYT *Voy.* II. n. 83 Their houses are..layde all ouer with strawe-pallets, whereupon they doe both sit in stead of stooles, and lie in their clothes with billets vnder their heads. 1624 in *Archæologia* XLVIII. 148 A strowbasket. 1679 M. RUSDEN *Further Discov. Bees* 2 The keeping of Bees in Box-hives, I call by the name of Colonies, to distinguish them from those kept only in Straw-hives. 1699 EVELYN *Kal. Hort., Nov.* (ed. 9) 134 Cover also your most delicate Stone-fruit and Murals, skreening them with Straw-hurdles. 1707 *Curios. Husb. & Gard.* 257 Cover the Earth with good Straw-Mats. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* xxii, A straw bonnet with pink ribbons. 1871 MACDUFF *Mem. Patmos* vii. 87 Hovering around the straw-pallet of some Lazarus-beggar.

13. Obvious combinations: **a.** Simple attrib., with the sense 'of or pertaining to straw or straws', as in *straw-end, -fire, -market, -mow, -pad, -rick, -stack*; designating a receptacle for straw, as *straw-barn, -barton, -house, -loft, rack.*

1557 TUSSER *100 Points Husb.* xl, But serue them with haye, while thy straw stooner last, they loue no more strawe, they had rather to fast. 1591 SYLVESTER *Ivry* 289 When his fury glowes, 'Tis but as Straw-fire. 1697 BILLINGSLY *Brachy-Martyrol.* II. vii. 196 How like you (John) your lodging and your fare? Willis said, Well, had I a straw-pad here. 1662 A. COOPER *Stratologia* VI. 52 A timerous Footman..In a Straw-nough had hid himself for fear. 1677 MIEGE *Dict. Eng.-Fr.*, A Straw-house, *paillier, le lieu où l'on tient la paille.* 1721 MORTIMER *Husb.* (ed. 5) I. 143 What Corn you stack must be bound up in Sheaves, that so the Ears of the Corn may be turned inward, and the Straw-ends out. *a* 1722 LISLE *Husb.* (1757) 213 Nor did he think it more dangerous than other grass, unless cattle came hungry to it out of the straw-barton. *Ibid.* 215 They..were foddered in the straw-house. *a* 1747 HOLDSWORTH *Remarks on Virgil* (1768) 323 A street..formerly called La Rue de Fourrage: where the straw-market was kept. 1812 SIR J. SINCLAIR *Syst. Husb. Scot.* I. 15 The straw-barn..should be so large as to pile up the straw of two stacks when threshed. 1833 LOUDON *Encycl. Archit.* § 1142 Straw-racks are placed in the sheds. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* III. IV. iii, They lie in straw-lofts, in woody brakes. 1886 W. J. TUCKER *E. Europe* 187 Straw-stacks, and haystacks, and maizestacks. 1891 HARDY *Tess* xxxii, To inquire how the advanced cows were getting on in the straw-barton. *Ibid.* xlvii, The old men on the rising straw-rick.

b. objective, as *straw-carrier, -cutter, -cutting*, etc.

1656 COLLOP *Poesis Rediv.* 64 Th' straw-gatherers of Egypt. 1790 W. H. MARSHALL *Midland Counties* II. 443 *Straw-cutter*, a cutter of straw, &c. into chaf. 1805 *Trans. Soc. Arts* XXIII. 51 He purchased a straw-chopper, that the horses corn might be mixed with straw. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. v. ix, After all that straw-burning, fire-pumping, and deluge of musketry. 1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* II. 196 Straw-cutters are of very various construction. *Ibid.*, Straw-cutting machines. 1869 *Spons' Dict. Engin.* I. 229 The straw-shaker [in a threshing-machine] should pass the straw at the rate of 75 to 80 ft. a-minute. 1884 J. SCOTT *Barn Implem.* (1885) 145 The 'Straw-Elevator,' driven in connection with the threshing-machine. 1891 C. ROBERTS *Adrift Amer.* 23 The straw carrier of the thrashing machine.

c. instrumental and parasynthetic, as *straw-built, -crowned, -roofed, -stuffed, -thatched* ppl. adjs.

1577 HARRISON *England* III. i. 96/1 in *Holinshed*, In some places it [malt] is dryed with woode alone, or strawe alone ..but of all the strawe dryed is the most excellent. 1598 BP. HALL *Sat.* IV. ii. 14 So rides he mounted on the market-day Vpon a straw-stu'ft pannell, all the way. 1613 [STANDISH] *New Direct. Planting* 21 Cottages and such like Straw-thatched houses. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* I. 773 Thir [*sc.* the bees'] Straw-built Cittadel. 1738 P. WHITEHEAD *Manners* 4 'Midst the mad Mansions of Moor-fields, I'd be A straw-crown'd Monarch, in mock majesty. 1746 J. WARTON *Ode to Fancy* 30 Where never human art appear'd, Nor ev'n one straw-roofe cott was rear'd. 1750 GRAY *Elegy* 18 The swallow twitt'ring from the straw-built shed. 1820 KEATS *Cap & Bells* xxix, Many as bees about a straw-capp'd hive. 1824 CAMPBELL *Theodric* 501 Till reaching home, terrific omen! there The straw-laid street preluded his dispair. 1837 DICKENS *Pickw.* xlii, Had he been inspecting a wooden statue or a straw-embowelled Guy Fawkes. 1899 HOWELLS *Ragged Lady* 286 The tubes of straw-barreled Virginia cigars.

14. Special comb.: **straw bail** (see quots.); †**straw-bait** = *straw-worm*; **straw-bed**, (*a*) a bed or mattress filled with straw, a paillasse; (*b*) = *straw-ride* a; **straw bid, bidder** *U.S.* (see quot.); **straw-board**, coarse yellow millboard made from straw pulp, used for making boxes, book-covers, etc.; **straw bond** *U.S.* (see quot. and cf. *straw bail*); **straw boots** *dial.*, wisps of straw tied round the feet and legs; hence as a nickname for the 7th Dragoon Guards; **straw braid** = *straw-plait*; †**straw-burn** *v. trans.*, to fertilize (land) by burning straw upon it; hence †**straw-burning** *vbl. sb.*; **straw cat**, the pampas cat (*Cent. Dict.* 1891); †**straw coat**, a coat trimmed with straw; **straw cotton** (see quot.); **strae-dead** *a.* Sc. [cf. ON. *strádauðr*], quite dead; **straw-death**, *Sc.* **strae-** [cf. Norw. *straadaude*, Da. *straadød*], a natural death in one's bed; †**straw deer**, an alleged name for the hare; †**straw-device**, a worthless or harmless device; **straw-drain**, a drain filled with straw (Webster 1828–32); **straw-driver**, ? one who practises horses on a straw-ride; **straw-dynamite** (see quot.); **straw embroidery** (see quot. 1882); **straw-fiddle**, a xylophone in which the wooden bars are supported on rolls of twisted straw; **straw-fork**, a pitchfork; **straw-knife**, a knife used for cutting and splitting straw; **straw-laths**, *pl.* the laths on which straw is fastened in thatching; **straw-like** *a.*, resembling straw; *fig.* light or worthless as straw; **straw-man**, (*a*) a figure of a man made of straw; (*b*) *U.S.* a 'man of straw' (Webster 1911); **straw-moto** *dial.*, a single stalk of straw; **straw-necked** *a.*, having straw-like feathers on the neck; designating an Australian ibis (see quot.); **straw-needle**, a long thin needle used for sewing together straw braids (*Cent. Dict.*); cf. 10c; **straw paper**, paper made from straw bleached and pulped; **straw plait, plat**, a plait or braid made of straw, used for making straw hats, etc.; hence **straw-plaiter**; **straw-plaiting** *vbl. sb.* and *gerund*; also *concr.*, an article made of straw plait; **straw ride**, (*a*) a track laid with straw on which horses are exercised in winter; (*b*) *U.S.* 'a pleasure-ride in the country, taken in a long wagon or sleigh filled with straw, upon which the party sit' (*Cent. Dict.*); **straw ring**, a ring of plaited straw used to support a round-bottomed vessel in an upright position; **straw rope**, a rope made of twisted straw, used e. g. to secure thatching; also *attrib.*; †**straw-shoe**, a name given to a hanger-on of the law-courts (to be known from his having a straw sticking out of his shoe) who was prepared to swear to anything wanted; **straw-splitter**, one who makes over-nice distinctions, a quibbler; similarly **straw-splitting** *vbl. sb.* and *ppl. a.* (see SPLIT *v.* 5 b and cf. HAIR-SPLITTER, -SPLITTING); **straw-stem**, a wine-glass stem pulled out of the substance of the bowl; hence, a wine-glass having such a stem (*Cent. Dict.*); **straw vote** *U.S.*, an unofficial vote taken in order to indicate the relative strength of opposing candidates or issues; **straw wine**, a luscious wine made from grapes dried or partly dried in the sun on straw; **straw wisp**, a small bundle or twist of straw; also *fig.*; hence **straw-wisped** *a.*, enwreathed with a straw wisp; †**straw woad**, some variety of woad; **straw-work**, work done in plaited straw; **straw-worm**, the caddis-worm; **straw-yellow** *sb.* and *a.* = STRAW-COLOUR, -COLOURED. Also STRAW YARD.

1853 *N. & Q.* Ser. I. VII. 86/1 *Straw bail* is, I believe, a term still used by attorneys to distinguish insufficient bail from 'justifiable' or sufficient bail. 1859 BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.* (ed. 2) 455 *Straw bail*, worthless bail; bail given by 'men of straw', i. e. persons who pretend to the possession of property, but have none. 1632 G. SANDYS *Ovid's Met.* XV. Notes 520 Sô Cod-bates, and *Straw-bates which ly vnder water [turn] into May-flies. 1585 HIGINS *Junius' Nomencl.* 247/1 *Culcita stramentitia*,..a *straw bed, or pad of straw. 1671 WOODHEAD *St. Teresa* II. 263 The Straw-bed, the ordinary Bed of the Discalced. 1856 'STONEHENGE' *Brit. Sports* II. I. ix. 352/1 Some [colts] being at once physicked, and exercised afterwards upon straw-beds, &c. 1889 FARMER *Americanisms*, **Straw bid*, a worthless bid; one not intended to be taken up. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.*, *Straw-board. 1881 GREENER *Gun* 409 In the said slots were placed sheets of straw-board of uniform texture and thickness. 1889 *Century Dict.* s.v. *Bond*, **Straw bond*, a bond upon which either fictitious names or the names of persons unable to pay the sum guaranteed are written as names of sureties. 1715 tr. *C'tess D'Anois' Wks.* 493 Admiral Sharp-Cap dispatcht away John Prattle-Box, Courier in Ordinary of the Closet, with his *Straw-Boots [*botté de paille*] to inform the King. 1832 D. VEDDER *Orcadian Sk.* Poems, etc. (1878) 298 His legs were completely enveloped in twisted straw, generally known by the name of 'strae boots'. 1879 *All the Year Round* 5 Apr. 370/1 The Seventh [Dragoon Guards] has been known indifferently as the Black Horse,..and as the Virgin Mary's Guard; but its more popular pseudonym is the Straw Boots. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2417/1 The Leghorn, or Italian *straw-braid. 1882 CAULFEILD & SAWARD *Dict. Needlework* 463/2 Straw Braids are made in very long lengths, and are sewn together by means of long thin Needles, called Straws. 1799 A. YOUNG *Agric. Lincoln.* 267 He *straw-burnt a piece in the middle of a field preparing for turnips. *Ibid.* 268 This *straw-burning husbandry I found again at Belesby. 1783 *European Mag.* Mar. 190/1 Paillasses, or *straw-coats, are very much in use. 1882 CAULFEILD & SAWARD *Dict. Needlework* 464 **Straw Cotton*..is a wiry kind of thread, starched and stiff,..exclusively made for use in the manufacture of straw goods. 1820 *Glenfergus* xviii. II. 218 Gin ye dinna haste ye, doakter,..it may be *strae dead afore ye come on till 't. 1785 BURNS *Dr. Hornbook* xxv, Whare I kill'd ane, a fair *strae-death, By loss o' blood, or want o' breath. 1865 KINGSLEY *Herew.* iv, Dead is he, a bed-death, ..A straw-death, a cow's-death. 1868 G. MACDONALD *R. Falconer* I. xxiii. 305 She's gane, an' no by a fair strae-deith (death on one's own straw) either. *a* 1325 *Names of Hare* in *Rel. Ant.* I. 133 The *strauder, the lekere. 1599 B. JONSON *Cynthia's Rev.* III. ii. (1601) F 1 b, As if I knew not how to entertaine These *Straw-deuises. 1828 *Sporting Mag.* XXII. 183 Mr. Darvill..commenced life as a *straw-driver in a country racing stable. 1889 CUNDILL *Dict. Explosives* 61 **Straw Dynamite* is a mixture of nitro-glycerine with nitro-cellulose made from straw. 1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib., Brit.* II. No. 4432 *Straw embroidery. 1882 CAULFEILD & SAWARD *Dict. Needlework* 464 *Straw Embroidery* ..consists in tacking upon black Brussels silk net or yellow coloured net, leaves, flowers, corn, butterflies, &c. that are stamped out of straw, and connecting these with thick lines made of yellow filoselle. 1867 TYNDALL *Sound* iv. 137 Instead of using the cord, the bars may rest at their nodes on cylinders of twisted straw; hence the name *straw-fiddle sometimes applied to this instrument. 1573–80 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 35 Flaile, *strawforke and rake. 1858 SLIGHT & BURN *Farm Implem.* 479 The straw-fork..has rather longer prongs. 1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib., Brit.* II. No. 6527 Chaff machine knives, and *straw knives. 1391 *Mem. Ripon* (Surtees) III. 107 Et in cc *stralates [*printed* stralanes] emp. pro domo in tenura Joh. Knygth, 16*d.* 1433–4 in *Fabric Rolls York Minster* (Surtees) 54 In m.ccc strelattes emptis pro grangia decimali ibidem reparanda, 6s. 6d. 1485 *Nottingham Rec.* III. 231, vij. bonches of stree lattes. 1742 YOUNG *Nt. Th.* II. 78 He loudly pleads The *straw-like trifles, on life's common stream. 1848 GOULD *Birds Australia* VI. Pl. 45 The shafts of the feathers are produced into long lanceolate straw-like and straw-coloured processes. 1594 T. B. *La Primaud. Fr. Acad.* II. 567 A scarre-crowe to make them afraide, as wee vse to deale with little children and with birdes by puppets and *strawe-men. 1890 FRAZER *Golden Bough* II. 247 Sometimes a straw man was burned in the 'hut'. 1747 *Straw-Motes [see MOTE *sb.*[1] 4]. 1874 HARDY *Far fr. Mad. Crowd* lii, Then Gabe brought her some of the new cider, and she must needs go drinking it through a straw-mote. 1848 GOULD *Birds Australia* VI. Pl. 45 *Geronticus* [or *Carphibis*] *spinicollis*. *Straw-necked Ibis. 1854 *Househ. Words* IX. 86/2 A secret mode of making *straw-paper. 1862 MISS YONGE *C'tess Kate* i, Forgetting everything in the interest of her drawing on a large sheet of straw paper. 1800 *Repert. Arts* etc. (1801) XV. 19 A new and improved Manufacture of *Straw-Plat, made of split Straw. 1842 S. C. HALL *Ireland* II. 164 The manufacture of straw-plait is to be found in every house. 1846 MRS. GORE *Eng. Chas.* (1852) 68 The hereditary race of *straw-plaiters. 1834 MCCULLOCH *Dict. Comm.* (1844) s.v. *Hats*, The wives and daughters of the farmers used to plait straw for making their own bonnets, before *straw-plaiting became established as a manufacture. 1849 LYTTON *Caxtons* II. ii, He would stand an hour at a cottage door, admiring the little girls who were straw-platting. 1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib., Brit.* II. No. 4849 Straw plaitings, straw hats and bonnets. 1856 'STONEHENGE' *Brit. Sports* II. I. x, 357/1 The *straw-ride is generally made by using the long litter of the stable laid down round a large paddock. 1882 DU CHAILLU *Land Midn. Sun* II. 434 A custom which reminded me of the *straw ride' parties common in the rural districts of the United States. 1895 *Outing* XXVI. 408/1 Invitations to sailing parties, straw rides or picnics. 1641 FRENCH *Distill.* i. (1651) 41 The lower gourd or recipient set upon *straw-rings. 1763 'THEOPH. INSULANUS' *Second Sight* 9 As he was going out of his house on a morning, he put on *straw-rope garters instead of those he formerly used. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* III. VII. iii, See Pichegru's soldiers, this hard winter,..in their *straw-rope shoes and cloaks of bast-mat'. 1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* II. 11 Assorted straw.. is put..thick above the turnips for thatch, and kept down by means of straw-ropes. 1826 *Q. Rev.* XXXIII. 344 We have all heard of a race of men, who used in former days to ply about our own courts of law, and who, from their manner of making known their occupation, were recognized by the name of *Straw-shoes. An advocate or lawyer, who wanted a convenient witness, knew by these signs where to meet with one,..'Then come into court and swear it?' And Straw-shoe went into the court and swore it. 1844 SMYTH *Cycle Celestial Obj.* I. 384 *note*, A certain straight-laced *straw-splitter objects to the terms *rising* and *setting*, as being highly improper when applied to fixed points. 1828 PUSEY *Hist. Enq.* I. 16 The endless *straw-splittings of the schoolmen. *Ibid.* 35 Abounding..in straw-splitting distinctions. 1881 MORLEY *Cobden* xxxi. II. 323 They were wasting time in mere strawsplitting. 1854 G. W. CURTIS *Potiphar Papers* ii. (1866) 55 A dozen of the delicately-engraved *straw-stems that stood upon the waiter. 1891 *Century Dict.*, *Straw vote. 1906 *Daily Chron.* 24 Oct. 4/5 'Straw' votes, which have recently been taken in the New York State campaign, indicate that Mr. Hearst will be badly beaten. 1824 A. HENDERSON *Hist. Anc. & Mod. Wines* 172 The liquor..receives the name of *straw wine (*vin de paille*). 1833 REDDING *Mod. Wines* vii. 208 Straw wines are made in Franconia. 1508 DUNBAR *Flyting* 213 *Stra wispis hingis owt. *a* 1678 in *Evelyn's Pomona* 407 Instead of the straw-wisp, a Basket may be fitted, which with a little straw within will keep the Fruit in better order. *a* 1761 [S. HALIBURTON & HEPBURN] *Mem. Magopico* v. (ed. 2) 18 The man is..a plain undesigning nose o' wax, a cat's paw, a straw-wisp. 1861 MRS. H. WOOD *East Lynne* I. iv, In spite of his smock frock, his *straw-wisped hat, and his false whiskers,..she knew him for her brother. 1612 *Sc. Bk. Customs* in *Halyburton's Ledger* (1867) 332 Woad called Iland grene woad or stra woad the tun 12*li.* *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 1646 (Milan), They have curious *straw worke among the nunns, even to admiration. 1798 *Monthly Mag.* June 429 The principal manufacture is straw-work..which is confined to about six or eight miles round Dunstable. 1882 CAULFEILD & SAWARD *Dict. Needlework* 463 Cabinets, boxes, and cardcases..decorated with a covering of coloured Straw-work, much resembling Mosaic work. 1653 WALTON *Angler* xii. 232 There is also another Cadis called by some a *Straw-worm. 1796 KIRWAN *Elem. Mineral.* (ed. 2) I. 29 *Straw yellow. 1831 BREWSTER *Nat. Magic* xxxiv. (1833) 285 The finest varieties..transmit a straw-yellow tint. 1843 PORTLOCK *Geol.* 214 From yellowish-brown to pale straw yellow.

b. In book-names of certain moths, with reference to their colour (see quots.).

1775 M. Harris *Engl. Lepidoptera* 45 Phalæna..310 Straw, clouded. 1819 Samouelle *Entomol. Compend.* 427 Botys cespitalis. The Straw-barred. 1832 Rennie *Butterfl. & Moths* 49 The Straw Underwing..appears about June. *Ibid.* 116 The Straw Belle. *Ibid.* 188 The Dingy Straw (*Depressaria costosa*). *Ibid.* 193 The Dingy Straw (*Recurvaria Silacella*). 1869 E. Newman *Brit. Moths* 98 The Straw Belle (*Aspilates gilvaria*). *Ibid.* 295 The Straw Under-wing (*Cerigo Cytherea*).

† **Straw**, *sb.*[2] *Obs.* Apparently some foreign denomination of weight.

1540 *Act* 32 *Hen. VIII*, c. 14 § 2 [Freight from Denmark] Item for everie strawe of wax of xvj C. waight xiiij s.

Straw (strǭ), *a.* Short for Straw-coloured.

1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXIII. 3/2 The annexed are the tempering heats, colours, and uses of steel of different degrees of hardness:—430° Fah., very faint yellow; for lancets. 450° pale straw; razors and surgeons' instruments. 1862 M. Brown *Catal. Postage Stamps* (ed. 2) 21 Letters in each corner of stamp. 3 d. pink, 4 d. vermilion, 9 d. straw.

Straw (strǭ), *v.*[1] Pa. t. and pa. pple. **strawed** (*rarely* pa. pple. **strawn**). *Obs.* exc. *arch.* Also 4 **strauwe**. [App. repr. a dial. pronunciation (with rising diphthong) of OE. *streawian* var. of *streowian* Strew *v.*] = Strew *v.*

1. *trans.* To scatter, spread loosely; to scatter (rushes, straw, flowers, etc.) on the ground or floor, or over the surface of something; to scatter or sprinkle (something in powder) over a surface.

c 1200 Ormin 8193 To strawwenn gode gresess pær, þatt stunnkenn swiþe swete. *a* 1300 *Floriz & Bl.* (Camb. MS.) 436 Cupen he let fulle of flures, To strawen in þe maidenes bures. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xlii. (*Agatha*) 254 Þane bad he Schellis & brynnand cole straw in þe floure. *c* 1385 Chaucer *L. G. W.* 207 (Fairf.), I bad hem strawen [*v.rr.* strawe, strowe(n] floures on my bed. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 12145 Hire blod all aboute aboue hit was sched, And strawet in þe strete, strenklit full þik. *c* 1430 *Two Cookery-bks.* 1. 23 Take pouder Pepir, & Canelle, & straw þer-on. *c* 1440 *Sir Eglam.* 376 Bryght helmes he fonde strawed wyde, As men of armys had loste ther pryde. *c* 1449 Pecock *Repr.* II. xiv. 230 Now sche berith aischis out, now sche strawith rischis in the halle. 1483 Caxton *Golden Leg.* 417/3 Thenne Julyan..dyd doo Strawe Salte on the body. 1526 Tindale *Matt.* xxi. 8 Other cut doune braunches from the trees, and strawed [so 1611; 1881 *Revised* spread; Gr. ἐστρώννυον] them in the waye. 1578 Lyte *Dodoens* III. xxvii. 354 Aloë made into powder & strawen vpon newe blooddy woundes, stoppeth the blood, and healeth the wounde. 1594 *Gd. Huswifes Handmaid Kitchin* 22 b, Take great Raisons and minse them small, and plucke out the kernels, and strawe them in the bottome of your pie. 1657 W. Coles *Adam in Eden* cxlix, The affected place being bathed with the decoction thereof, and the powder strawed on afterwards. 1725 Bourne *Antiq. Vulg.* iv. 26 That other Custom of strawing Flowers upon the Graves of their departed Friends, is also derived from a Custom of the ancient Church. 1765 A. Dickson *Treat. Agric.* III. (ed. 2) 379 The strawing small chaff..on the bottom of the pigeon-house, is very proper. 1828 Carr *Craven Gloss., Straw*, to spread grass, when mown to strew. 1896 Kipling *Seven Seas* 8 We have strawed our best..To the shark and the sheering gull.

† **b.** With *abroad*. *Obs.*

1549 Coverdale etc. *Erasm. Par. 1 Tim.* i. 1–7 In stedde of the sure doctrine of Christ, they strawe abrode vayne smokes & mystes of Jewishe questions. 1576 Foxe *A. & M.* (ed. 3) 990/2 After that..the Cardinall, vnderstode these bookes of the Beggars supplication..to be strawne abroade in the streetes of London,..the sayd Cardinall [etc.]. 1579–80 North *Plutarch, Solon* (1595) 106 Some say, the ashes of his body were after his death strawed abroade through the Ile of Salamina.

c. *absol.* (The chief modern use, in allusion to Matt. xxv. 24.)

1526 Tindale *Matt.* xxv. 24 Which..gadderest where thou strawedst not [1611 where thou hast not strawed (1880 *Revised* where thou didst not scatter); Gr. διεσκόρπισας]. *c* 1586 C'tess Pembroke *Ps.* cxii. viii, He gives where needs, nay rather straweth, His justice never ending. 1861 Lowell *Washers of Shroud* 26 Still men and nations reap as they have strawn. 1914 J. K. Graham *Anno Dom.* 76 The soul ..anticipates an epoch of halcyon splendour when it shall gather where it has strawed.

2. To cover (the ground, a floor, etc.) with something loosely scattered, e.g. rushes, straw, flowers. Now *rare* or *Obs.*

13.. *K. Alis.* 1026 With rose, and swete flores, Was strawed [*Land MS.* ystrewed] halles, and bouris. *c* 1350 *Will. Palerne* 1617 Eche a strete was striked & strawed wiþ floures. *c* 1380 *Sir Ferumb.* 2690 Al þe feldes þo3te y-strawed of dede men al aboute. *c* 1386 Chaucer *Squire's T.* 606 Though thou.. strawe hir cage faire and softe as silk. *c* 1450 *Mirk's Festial* 39 Hys hall was yche day of þe 3ere new strawed, yn somer wyth grene rosches, and yn wyntyr wyth clen hay. 1544 Phaer *Pestilence* (1553) Lvi, It is good in hote time, to straw ye chamber ful of willow leues and other fresh boughes. 1572 Mascall *Plant. & Graff.* (1592) 64 The blacke Figges ..being dried in the Sunne, and then laied in a vessell in beddes one by an other, & then sprinkled or strawed all ouer, euerie laie with fine Meale. 1587 T. Newton *Herbal for Bible* xvi. 94 With the which [sedge] many in this Countrie do vse in Sommer time to strawe their Parlours, and Churches. 1591 Savile *Tacitus, Hist.* IV. i. 169 The streetes were strawed with dead carcases. 1596 Danett tr. *Comines* (1614) 304 And gather vp the launces wherewith the place lay strawed. 1631 Weever *Anc. Funeral Mon.* 41 Which ..hath beene sprinkled with the bloud..and strawne with the ashes, of those blessed Saints. 1650 T. B[ayly] *Worcester's Apoph.* 23 We had..laid some loose boards, and strawed the new made floar with rushes.

fig. 1606 Dekker *Seven Sins Lond.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 30 Their seruants, wiues and children strawing the way before him with curses. 1676 Baker in Rigaud *Corr. Sci. Men* (1841) II. 2 You have most ingeniously strawed the way for its invention.

† **3.** To make or lay (a bed). Also *absol.* *Obs.*

13.. *St. Gregory* (Vernon MS.) 574 Þe wyf straweden [*Cotton MS.* (older text) strowiþ] him ful soft þer he in Chaumbre schulde leyn. 1540 Palsgr. *Acolastus* III. v. R j b, Commaunde the seruantes to make or straw a bedde. *Ibid.*, Cause..a bryde bed to be strawen for vs.

4. To be strewn or spread upon.

1593 *Extracts Munic. Acc. Newcastle* (1848) 29 Paide for earbes and rushes which strawde the chapple, 2*s.* 1896 Housman *Shropshire Lad* iv, And the tent of night in tatters Straws the sky-pavilioned land. 1898 Wollocombe *From Morn till Eve* i. 8 The green rushes that strawed the hall.

Straw (strǭ), *v.*[2] Also 5 **strowe**. [f. Straw *sb.*[1]]

1. *trans.* To supply with straw.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 480/2 Strowyn, or lyteryn, *stramino*. *c* 1481 Caxton *Dialogues* ix. 49 Gyue heye to the hors, And strawe them well. [Fr. *et les estraines bien.*] 1483 — *Gold. Leg.* 44/1 And brought hym in and strowed his cameles and gaf them chaff and heye.

2. *intr.* (*slang.*) See quot.

1851 Mayhew *Lond. Labour* I. 215 The practice of what is called 'strawing', or selling straws in the street, and giving away with them something..forbidden to be sold,—as indecent papers [etc.].

Hence **Strawed** *ppl. a.*; **Straw**ing *vbl. sb.*

1851 Mayhew *Lond. Labour* I. 239, I have already alluded to 'strawing'. 1887 Hissey *Holiday on Road* 103 Farmsteads..with..their deeply strawed yards.

Strawberry (strǭ-bĕri). Forms: see Straw *sb.* and Berry *sb.*[1]: also 4–6 **straubery**, 5–6 **strebere**, 6 **strai-**, **strawbere**, 7 **-berre**, **strewbery**, **stra-**, **strawbury**. [OE. *stréaw-*, *stréow*, *stréa-*, *stréuberige*, f. *stréaw* Straw *sb.*[1] + *berige* Berry *sb.*

No corresponding word is found in any other Teut. lang. The reason for the name has been variously conjectured. One explanation refers the first element to Straw *sb.*[1] 2, a particle of straw or chaff, a mote, describing the appearance of the achenes scattered over the surface of the strawberry; another view is that it designates the runners (cf. Straw *sb.*[1] 3).

The view of Kluge, that OE. *stréaw-* in *streawberige* is cogn. w. L. *frāgum* strawberry, is not phonologically satisfactory, and is also open to objection on other grounds.]

I. 1. The 'fruit' (popularly so called) of any species of the genus *Fragaria*, a soft bag-shaped receptacle, of a characteristic colour (scarlet to yellowish), full of juicy acid pulp, and dotted over with small yellow seed-like achenes. It is eaten alone or crushed with sugar and cream (or wine). The wild or wood strawberry is smaller than the cultivated kinds.

c 1000 Ælfric *Gloss.* in Wr.-Wülcker 136/14 *Fraga*, streaberige. 1328–9 *Exch. K. R. Mem. Rolls*, 2 Edw. III, m. 166, 1 furcam de argento pro strauberiis. *c* 1340 *Nominale* (Skeat) 693 *Frese rouge*, streberie. *c* 1450 *Two Cookery-bks.* II. 75 And streberies, if hit be in time of yere. ? *a* 1500 *London Lickpenny* ix. (MS. Harl. 542) Hot pescods, one gan cry, strabery rype, and chery in the ryse. 1541 in *MSS. Dk. Rutland* (Hist. MSS. Comm.) IV. 314 To a servaunte..that brought streberes to my Lorde Roose, iiij*d.* 1542 Boorde *Dyetary* xiii. (1870) 267 Rawe crayme vndecocted, eaten with strawberyes or hurtis, is a rurall mannes banket. 1620 Venner *Via Recta* vii. 126 The wilde or voluntary Strawberies..are not so good as those that are manured in gardens. 1655 Walton *Angler* 1. v. (1661) 118 We may say of Angling as Dr. Boteler said of Strawberries; Doubtless God could have made a better berry, but doubtless God never did. 1788 J. Hurdis *Village Curate* (1797) 75 To Godstow bound ..For strawberries and cream. 1862 Calverley *Verses & Transl.* (ed. 2) 17 At my side she mashed the fragrant Strawberry.

2. The plant which bears this fruit: a stemless herb with trifoliate leaves, white flowers, and slender runners which trail on the ground.

c 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* I. 138 Deos wyrt ðe man fraga & oðrum naman streawberȝean nemneð. *a* 1387 *Sinon. Barthol.* (Anecd. Oxon.) 22 *Fragaria, Fraser*, straubery. 1530 Palsgr. 277/1 Straubery an herbe, *fraysier*. 1563 Hyll *Art Garden.* (1593) 107 The Strawberrie is accounted among those hearbs that grow in the fieldes of their owne accorde. 1578 Lyte *Dodoens* I. lviii. 84 The Strawberrie with his small and slender hearie branches, creepeth alongst the ground. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 504 The Pine Strawberries have generally large flowers and fruit, with foliage of a darker green..than that of the scarlets. 1870 H. Macmillan *True Vine* v, (1872) 224 The fragrance that is absent from the leaf and the blossom of the strawberry is apparent in the delicious fruit.

3. A representation of the fruit as an ornament.

1523 in *Archæologia* XXXVIII. 360 A leyer of sylver, doble gylte, with a straibere on þe topp. 1533 in *Kal. & Inv. Exch.* (1836) II. 291 Item a salte of golde wrought w^t braunches of strawburyes w^t a tufte of strawburyes or hawes opon the cover. 1604 Shaks. *Oth.* III. iii. 435 A Handkerchiefe Spotted with Strawberries.

4. Short for *strawberry colour*, *red*, etc.

1688 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 2364/4 A light Sorrel Nag, inclining to a Strawberry.

5. Short for *strawberry jam*.

1890 R. C. Lehmann *Harry Fludyer* 6 Cook says she is pleased you liked the jam, but there are only three of the strawberry left, and would you like some of the gooseberry?

II. *attrib.* and *Comb.*

6. *attrib.*, passing into *adj.* Resembling a strawberry in colour. Also *strawberry roan*, *crushed strawberry*, etc.

1675 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1038/4 Stolen..A strawberry Mare. 1690 *Pagan Prince* xxx. 83 A grave Gentleman with a Strawberry Countenance. 1854 *Poultry Chron.* I. 263/1 In colour they are mealy or strawberry, the wings barred with a redder tint. 1864 Boutell *Her. Hist. & Pop.* xxviii. 435 A strawberry-roan horse salient. 1897 G. Allen *Type-writer Girl* i, Our modern novelists dress her up afresh in the princess robe of the day (sage green or crushed strawberry). 1899 *Westm. Gaz.* 13 Apr. 3/1 A strawberry and white cow.

7. Simple attrib., as *strawberry bed*, *blossom*, *border*, *garden*, † *-prick* (= *seed*), *root*, *runner*, *seed*, *time*.

1535 in E. Law *Hampton Crt. Pal.* (1885) 372 For gathering of 34 bushells of strawberry rot. 1573–80 Tusser *Husb.* (1878) 41 Wife, into thy garden, and set me a plot, with strawbery rootes. 1619 *Depositions Bk., Archd. Essex & Colchester* 117 b, Deponit that, in Strabury tyme was twelve moneth, [etc.]. 1681 Grew *Musæum* I. § 7. i. 160 In colour, shape, and bigness like a Strawberry-seed. 1682 Wheler *Journ. Greece* I. 45 The curious Plants I here took particular notice of, are these:..9. Lychnis, with Flowers, speckled, like the Strawberry-pricks. 1699 Evelyn *Kal. Hort., Mar.* (ed. 9) 34 You can hardly over-water your Strawberry-Beds in a dry Season. *Ibid.* Aug. 99 Pluck up Strawberry Runners. *a* 1700 Evelyn *Diary* 8 May 1654, A vineyard, planted in strawberry borders. 1802 Wordsw. *Foresight* 3 Strawberry blossoms, one and all, We must spare them.

b. Designating a confection or drink in which strawberries are an ingredient or flavouring, as † *strawberry ale*, *water*, *wine*; *strawberry cream*, *ice* (*-cream*), *jam*, *jelly*.

1523 in W. H. Turner *Select. Rec. Oxford* (1880) 49 For strawbery ale and a posset iiij^d. 1621 Burton *Anat. Mel.* II. v. 1. vi. (1624) 327 Strawbury water. 1669 *Sir K. Digby's Closet opened* 127 Strawberry Wine. 1818 S. F. Gray *Suppl. Pharmacopœias* 291 Strawberry jelly. 1846 Soyer *Cookery* 552 Fill it with strawberry ice. 1861 [Trevelyan] *Horace at Univ. Athens* (1862) 12 Pitching into strawberry-jam Like wranglers at their tea. 1862 Mrs. I. Williamson *Pract. Cookery* (ed. 5) 151 Strawberry Cream. 1890 R. C. Lehmann *Harry Fludyer* 8 Afterwards a strawberry ice cream landed on his shirt-front.

c. Parasynthetic and similative, as *strawberry-coloured*, *-like*.

1688 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 2310/4 A Strawberry colour'd Gelding above 13 hands. 1756 W. Toldervy *Hist. 2 Orphans* IV. 196 An open chaise, drawn by a pair of strawberry coloured horses. 1862 Ansted *Channel Isl.* IV. xxi. (ed. 2) 496 Its bright red strawberry-like berries. 1875 B. Meadows *Clin. Observ.* 15 The child is peevish,..with relaxed bowels, and a strawberry-like tongue.

8. Special comb.: **strawberry bass** *U.S.*, the fish *Pomoxys sparoides*; **strawberry blite**, *Blitum capitatum* and *B. virgatum*, the fruit of which resembles the strawberry; **strawberry bush**, (*a*) = *strawberry shrub*; (*b*) the shrub *Euonymus americanus*, with crimson and scarlet pods; † **strawberry cinquefoil**, the genus *Potentilla*; **strawberry clover** = *strawberry trefoil* (Prior *Plant.-n.* 1863); † **strawberry cockle**, some kind of shell-fish; **strawberry comb**, a cock's-comb resembling a strawberry; **strawberry crab** (see quot.); **strawberry finch**, the amadavat; **strawberry geranium** (see quot.); **strawberry-headed trefoil** = *strawberry trefoil*; **strawberry-mark**, a birth-mark or nævus resembling a strawberry; **strawberry pear**, the fruit of the W. Indian cactus *Cereus triangularis*, or the plant itself (*Treas. Bot.* 1866); **strawberry perch** *U.S.* = *strawberry bass*; **strawberry shrub** *U.S.* = Calycanthus; **strawberry spinach** = *strawberry blite*; **strawberry tomato** (see quot.); **strawberry tongue** (see quot.); **strawberry-tree**, † (*a*) = sense 2; (*b*) = Arbutus; (*c*) *U.S.* = *strawberry bush* b; **strawberry trefoil**, *Trifolium fragiferum*; **strawberry vine** = sense 2; **strawberry wire**, the runner of the strawberry plant; † **strawberry wise**, † **with** = sense 2.

Also, in recent U.S. dictionaries, in names of insects injurious to the fruit or plant, as *strawberry borer*, *moth*, *sawfly*, *weevil*, *worm*, etc.

1882 Jordan & Gilbert *Syn. Fishes N. Amer.* 465 *Pomoxys sparoides*,..*Strawberry Bass. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. App., **Strawberry-blite*. 1847 Darlington *Amer. Weeds* (1860) 135 *Calycanthus*..*Strawberry-bush. 1856 A. Gray *Man. Bot.* (1860) 81 *Euonymus Americanus*, Strawberry Bush. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s.v. *Pentaphylloides*, The erect *pentaphylloides*, called by authors the *strawberry-cinque-foil. 1713 Petiver *Aquat. Anim. Amboinæ* 4/2 Red *Strawbery Cockle. 1815 Burrow *Elem. Conchol.* 195 Cardium Fragum. White Strawberry Cockle. C. Unedo. Strawberry Cockle. 1746 in *Poultry Chron.* (1855) III. 439 Yellow Dun, low *strawberry comb. 1850 [A. White] *Spec. Anim. Brit. Mus.* IV. *Crustacea* 8 *Eurynome aspera*, *Strawberry Crab. 1880 Bessey *Bot.* 526 *Saxifraga sarmentosa*, the so-called *Strawberry Geranium, a fine basket plant from China. 1822 *Hortus Anglicus* II. 271 *Strawberry headed Trefoil. 1847 J. M. Morton *Box & Cox* (at end), Have you such a thing as a *strawberry mark on your left arm? 1888 Goode *Amer. Fishes* 69 In Lake Erie, and in Ohio generally, it is the 'Strawberry Bass', '*Strawberry Perch' or 'Grass Bass'. 1731 Miller *Gard. Dict., Chenopodio-morus*; *major*..commonly call'd *Strawberry Spinage. 1867 A. Gray *Man. Bot.* (1874) 382 *Physalis Alkekengi*. *Strawberry Tomato. 1876 Dunglison *Med. Lex.*, **Strawberry Tongue*, a characteristic appearance of the tongue in scarlatina, in which, after the clearing away of a thick white fur, the organ becomes preternaturally red and clean. 14.. *Lat.-Eng. Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 584/29 *Fragus*, a *streberytre. 1548 Turner *Names Herbes* 16 Arbutus..may be called in english strawbery tree, or an arbute tree. *a* 1687 Petty *Polit. Surv. Ird.* (1719) 109 That part of Kerry called Desmond, where the Arbutus or Strawberry Tree groweth in great Quantity. 1845 A. Gray *Bot. Text-bk.* (ed. 2) 376 Euonymus Americanus (sometimes called Strawberry-tree). 1731 Miller *Gard. Dict., Trifolium*; *fragiferum*...*Strawberry-Tre-

foil. 1867 AUGUSTA WILSON *Vashti* iii, I..pull out grass and weeds from the *strawberry vines. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* xxv. ix. II. 228 *marg.*, The leaves of Cinquefoile are much like to the Strawberrie leafe: But as the one hath no fruit or berrie at all, so the other (to wit, the *Straw-berrie-wire) puts forth but three leaves. 1879 Miss JACKSON *Shropsh. Word-bk., Straberry-wires*, strawberry-runners. *c* 1000 ÆLFRIC *Gloss.* in Wr.-Wülcker 136/15 *Framen*, *streaberiewisan. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 478/2 Strawbery wyse [*Winch. MS.* strawbyry vyse], *fragus*. *c* 1450 *M. E. Med. Bk.* (Heinrich) 177 Tak bugle, streberywyse, mene consond [etc.]. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 367/1 A *Straberi wythe, *fragus*.

† b. In allusion to Latimer's condemnation of preachers who preach only once a year (see quots. below), as *strawberry preacher, preaching, sermon*; *strawberry-wise* adv.

1549 LATIMER *Ploughers* (Arb.) 20 The preachynge of the worde of God vnto the people is called meate...Not strauberies, that come but once a yeare and tary not longe...The people muste haue meate that muste be familier and continuall, and dayly geuen vnto them to fede vpon. Many make a strauberie of it, ministringe it but once a yeare, but such do not thoffice of good prelates.

1566 in *Latimer's Serm.* (Parker Soc. 1844) 62 *note*, A pitious case it is, that now in all Oxford there is not past five or six preachers, I except strawberry preachers. 1605 F. MASON *Author. Ch.* (1607) 24 Wherefore that in stead of strawberie Sermons there might bee a more plentifull prouision in the house of God, our Church hath decreed, that [etc.]. 1606 S. GARDINER *Bk. Angling* 107 Then would not Sermons bee so daintie as they are, which come from some strawberre-wise, that is, once a yeere. 1615 HIERON *Dignitie of Preaching* 14 That, which old Latimer...once blamed vnder the witty terme of strawbery-preaching. 1648 E. SPARKE *Shute's Sarah & Hagar* Pref. b j b, These are no Strawberry-Sermons, pick'd and cull'd out with long vagaries.

Hence † **Straw·berried.** *ppl. a.*, marked with a strawberry-mark. **Straw·berrying** *vbl. sb.*, gathering strawberries (in phr. *to go strawberrying*).

1634 SHIRLEY *Example* iv. i, I can gather Warme Snowe from her faire brow, her chin, her neck,..Sated with these, I'le finde new appetite, And come a wanton strawberying to her cheekes. 1675 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1035/4 Strayed away..; a gray Gelding,..Strawberred in the near Cheak. 1856 SUSAN WARNER *Hills of Shatemuc* viii, I wonder who'll go strawberrying with them?

Strawberry leaf. The leaf of the strawberry plant. Also, † the plant itself (*obs.*). Also *attrib.*

[*c* 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* II. 350 Streawberȝean leaf.] *c* 1265 *Voc. Plants* in Wr.-Wülcker 558/28 *Fraga*, fraser, streberilef. 1548 TURNER *Names Herbes* 38 Fragraria is called in englishe a strawbery leafe, whose fruite is called in englishe a strawbery. 1893 *Morning Post* 8 Mar. 8/2 Another rosaceous pest is the little strawberry-leaf beetle.

b. In allusion to the row of conventional figures of the leaf on the coronet of a duke, marquis, or earl.

1827 MOORE *New Creation of Peers* 32 If coronets glistened with pills 'stead of pearls, And the strawberry-leaves were by rhubarb supplanted! 1844 DISRAELI *Coningsby* v. iii, Who, if he carried the county and the manufacturing borough also, merited the strawberry-leaf. 1875 J. GRANT *One of Six Hundred* iv. 32 It was among the strawberry leaves she chiefly expected to find a husband for her daughter—a marquis at least.

Hence **Strawberry-leaved** *a.*

1894 K. GRAHAME *Pagan Papers* 107 Duchesses..rapt..from their strawberry-leaved surroundings. 1883 LD. R. GOWER *Remin.* I. v. 71 The ducal strawberry-leaved land.

Straw-breadth, straw's breadth. Now *rare.* The breadth of a straw. Formerly often referred to as a typically small distance.

α. 1577 GRANGE *Golden Aphrod.* etc. S iv, Yet I truste yee will accepte of me for my well meanyng, who am not therein a strawe bredth incomparable to Cleanthes. 1596 HARINGTON *Anal. Metam. Aiax* L iiij, This skrew must..appeare through the planke not aboue a straw-breadth on the right hand. 1676 MAGE *Musick's Mon.* 60 Leaving about a Strawbredth or two betwixt Paper and Paper. 1722 TICKELL *Kensington Gard.* 310 More tall he seems to rise, And struts a straw-breadth nearer to the skies. 1730 T. BOSTON *Mem*, vii. (1899) 153 There was a spit..sticking in the wall of the house, with the small end of it outmost. I rushed inadvertently my face on it, and the wound I got was about a straw-breadth beneath the eye. 1816 SCOTT *Old Mort.* xxxiii, Awaiting till the sword destined to slay him crept out of the scabbard gradually, and as it were by straw-breadths

β. 1577 tr. *Bullinger's Decades* iv. vii. (1592) 713 Christians ..do not..go a strawes bredth from the diuine scriptures.

† **Straw brede.** *Obs.* Also 6 *Sc.* **straybrede.** [f. STRAW *sb.*[1] + BREDE *sb.*[2]] = prec.

14.. *Guy Warw.* 8149 Nother flewe a strawe brede. 1508 DUNBAR *Tua Mariit Wemen* 234 Scho suld not stert for his straik a stray breid of erd.

Strawcht, obs. pa. t. and pple. of STRETCH *v.*

Straw colour. The colour of straw, a pale yellow. Also *attrib.* or *adj.* = STRAW-COLOURED.

1589 *Acc. Bk. W. Wray* in *Antiquary* XXXII. 78, vij q[ti] stroye coler canvesse, vj s. viij d. 1590 SHAKS. *Mids. N.* I. ii. 95, I will discharge it, in either your straw-colour beard, your orange tawnie beard [etc.]. 1737 W. SALMON *Country Builder's Estimator* (ed. 2) 101 Orange-Colour, Lemon-Colour, Straw-Colour, Pink-Colour, and Blossom-Colour, ground in Oil, from 10*d.* to 15. per lb. 1815 STEPHENS in *Shaw's Gen. Zool.* IX. I. 184 This bird is sometimes found entirely of a pale straw-colour. 1882 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* VI. 289 It is of a bright straw colour when living.

Straw-coloured, *a.* Of the colour of straw; pale light yellow.

1585 in *Cath. Rec. Soc. Publ.* V. 111 A strawe couloured fustion dublet laide on with red Lace. 1625 HART *Anat. Ur.* I. v. 47 The next vrine was of a pale straw coloured yellow. 1756 C. LUCAS *Ess. Waters* I. 145 St. Paul's Church-yard-pump, upon evaporation, gives a straw-colored matter. 1826 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* IV. xlvi. 279 Straw-coloured (*Stramineus*). Pale yellow with a very faint tint of blue. 1871 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* I. 311 The Straw-coloured Bat,..*Natalus stramineus*. 1898 CONAN DOYLE *Tragedy of Korosko* ix. 296 A straw-coloured moustache.

Strawen (strō·ən), *a. Obs.* exc. *arch.* Also 5 **strowen,** 6–7 **strawne.** [f. STRAW *sb.*[1] + -EN [4].] Made of straw.

1459 in *Paston Lett.* I. 477 Item, ij. strawen hattis. *c* 1550 *Vertuous Scholehous* K iij b, The Celibate lyfe is a strawen Loue, whiche euery houre is broken and rent asunder of one worde onely. 1577 GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* III. 122 b, The legges must be often rubbed with a strawen wispe. 1580 FULKE *Dang. Rock* xviii. 307 Luther calleth it [the Epistle of James] a strawen Epistle. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* v. v. 50 Let him lodge hard, and lie in strawen bed. 1597 BP. HALL *Sat.* III. vii. 66 Lik'st a strawne scar-crow in the new-sowne field, Reard on some sticke, the tender corne to shield. 1609 C. BUTLER *Fem. Mon.* (1634) 34 In some countries they use strawn Hives. 1636 *Coach & Sedan* B j, Cudgell'd thick on the backe..with broad shining lace (not much unlike that which Mummeres make of strawen hatts). 1861 READE *Cloister & H.* xxxi, Like wee icicles a-melting down from strawen eaves. 1864 ALLINGHAM *Lawrence Bloomfield* vii. 95 Oona..in her accustom'd strawen chair.

† **Straw·er** [1]. *Obs.* [f. STRAW *v.*[1] + -ER [1].] One who 'straws' or squanders.

1460 *Extracts Aberd. Reg.* (1844) I. 405 Wat Cutlaris wife ..is knawin a strawer of her husbands gudis.

Straw·er [2]. [f. STRAW *v.*[2] + -ER [1].] (See quot.)

1851 MAYHEW *Lond. Labour* I. 239 The strawer offers to sell any passer by in the streets a straw and to give the purchaser a paper which he dares not sell..political, libellous, irreligious, or indecent.

Strawght(e, strawhte, obs. pa. t. of STRETCH *v.*

Strawh, obs. form of STRAW.

Straw hat. (Formerly often hyphened.) A hat made of plaited or woven straw.

1453 in Sharp *Cov. Myst.* (1825) 190, iiij surplis & iiij stre hatts. *a* 1500 *Bale's Chron.* in *Six Town Chron.* (1911) 133 In a blewe gown of velvet..and a strawe hat upon his heed. 1603 FOWLDES *Homer's Battle Frogs & Mice* (1634) C 3, Next with a corslet they defend the heart, Not made of steele, but of an old straw-hat. 1697 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 3325/4 A Straw Hat lined with Painted Callicoe. 1712 STEELE *Spect.* No. 304 P 9 An Handmaid in a Straw-Hat. 1837 DICKENS *Pickw.* vii, Several other gentlemen dressed..in straw hats, flannel jackets, and white trowsers. 1890 ELIZ. CARMICHAEL tr. *Björnson's In God's Way* II. i. 57 Their light summer clothes,..felt hats, straw hats, tulle hats.

b. *attrib.* (Now usually hyphened.)

1795 VANCOUVER *Agric. Essex* 27 A straw-hat manufactory has lately been established. 1835 URE *Philos. Manuf.* 255 An obscure straw-hat manufacturer.

Hence **Straw-hatted** *a.*, wearing a straw hat.

c 1730 RAMSAY *Betty & Kate* ii, The strae-hatted maid. 1884 HOWELLS *Silas Lapham* (1891) I. 141 A straw-hatted population, such as ours is in summer.

† **Straw·ish,** *a. Obs.* [f. STRAW *sb.*[1] + -ISH.] Resembling straw.

1562 TURNER *Herbal* II. (1568) 110 Herbe fyvelefe..hath small strawish braunches a span longe.

Strawless (strō·lès), *a.* [f. STRAW *sb.*[1] + -LESS.] Made without straw, containing no straw (in allusion to *Exodus* v; see STRAW *sb.*[1] 2 a). Also in fig. context.

1691 SIR T. P. BLOUNT *Ess.* v. 96 After this, among the Ægyptians was that of the Strawless Tax. 1859 W. H. RUSSELL in *Times* 24 Mar. 9/3 Perhaps something like it.. might have been seen..when the children of Israel were making strawless bricks. 1870 *Daily News* 17 May, To create a character out of the strawless clay which is so frequently provided by the dramatic author, requires a most trying effort of the imagination. 1896 J. F. MCCURDY in Hilprecht *Recent Res. in Bible Lands* 11 The great discovery of the 'treasure city' of Pithom with its straw-less bricks.

Strawnge, -er(e, obs. ff. STRANGE, STRANGER.

Strawt(e, obs. Sc. form of STRAIGHT; obs. pa. t. and pa. pple. of STRETCH *v.*

Strawy (strō·i), *a.* Also 8–9 **strawey.** [f. STRAW *sb.*[1] + -Y.]

1. Consisting of, of the nature of, full of straw.

1552 HULOET, Strawye, or of strawe, *stramineus*. 1557 *Tottel's Misc.* (Arb.) 268 Some birdes can eate the strawie corne, And flee the lime the fowlers set. 1597 GERARDE *Herbal* I. vii. 8 A strawie stalke. 1664 BOYLE *Exper. Colours* iii. 34 The Lateral and Strawy parts [of ripe corn]. 1786 ABERCROMBIE *Gard. Assist.* 19 Having some strawey mulchy dung lay it on the ground over the roots. 1805 R. W. DICKSON *Pract. Agric.* II. 604 The strawy litter from the fold-yard. 1854 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* XV. I. 15 The hay is coarse and strawy. 1881 ELEANOR A. ORMEROD *Man. Injur. Insects* 148 Any long strawy lumps left on the surface will shelter the fly.

2. Made with straw; filled, thatched, or strewed with straw.

1568 T. HOWELL *Arb. Amitie* (1879) 65 The yoked Oxe doth smell his strawie stall. *a* 1593 MARLOWE *Ovid's Elegies* II. ix. 18 Rome if her strength the huge world had not fild, With strawie cabins now her courts should build. 1610 G. FLETCHER *Christ's Vict.* I. lxxxii, The strawy tent, Whear gold, to make their Prince a crowne, they all present. 1736 W. THOMPSON *Nativity* 28 The strawy Shed, Where Mary, Queen of Heaven, in humbless Lay. 1859 CAPERN *Ballads & Songs* 110 Swaddled in a strawy bed, Lies the babe of Bethlehem. 1860 DICKENS *Uncomm. Trav.* xii, I departed from Dullborough in the strawy arms of Timpson's Blue-Eyed Maid [a coach].

3. Resembling straw in texture, colour, etc.

1668 WILKINS *Real Char.* 84 A yellowish flower, of a dry strawy consistence. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 93 The water..acquires a yellowish tinge, and a strawy smell. 1879 'ALIPH CHEEM' (Yeldham) *Lays of Ind* (ed. 6) 105 You'll see him turn a strawy hue.

4. *fig.* Light, empty, or worthless as straw.

1583 FULKE *Def.* Answ. Pref. 13 Luther..sayth, the epistle of Iames in comparison of these, is strawye, or like straw. 1606 SHAKS. *Tr. & Cr.* v. v. 24 (Qo.) And there the strawy Greekes ripe for his edge Fall downe before him, like a mowers swath. 1641 MILTON *Animadv.* 32 The iron, the brasse, and the clay of those muddy and strawy ages that follow. 1662 J. CHANDLER *Van Helmont's Oriat.* 76 Therefore by a strawie argument, the Maxim of the Schooles falls to the ground.

Straw yard. 1. A yard littered with straw, in which horses and cattle are wintered. Also *attrib.*

1787 W. H. MARSHALL *E. Norfolk* (1795) II. 378 *Cow-par*, straw-yard; fold-yard. 1789 — *Glouc.* II. 76 His practice is to buy in large Welch bullocks at Gloucester...He gives them the run of the straw yard the first winter. 1801 *Farmer's Mag.* Aug. 251 Winterers, or straw-yard cattle, intended for next summer's grass. 1844 *Queen's Regul. Army* 371 Horses bought in the Winter, are, generally, subject to diseases in coming from straw-yards, or from the open fields, into Stables. 1904 *Blackw. Mag.* Aug. 185/2 Spacious straw-yards for artillery bullocks.

2. *slang.* (See quot.)

1851 MAYHEW *Lond. Labour* II. 138/2 The night asylums or refuges for the destitute (usually called 'straw-yards' by the poor).

3. *colloq.* A (man's) straw hat.

1900 *Westm. Gaz.* 23 Apr. 9/2 The same hatter had sold two score 'strawyards' by noon to-day.

Hence **Straw-yarder** *slang.* (See quot.)

1853 *N. & Q.* Ser. I. VII. 342/2 A seaman..said that the captain..had manned his ship with a 'lot of straw-yarders.' ..I was told that a 'straw-yarder' was a man about the docks who had never been to sea.

Stray (strē), *sb.* Also 6 **strey,** 6 *pl.* **stras.** See also STRAIF. [Two formations: (1) a. AF. *stray, estrai*, verbal noun f. AF., OF. *estraier* STRAY *v.*[2]; (2) f. STRAY *v.*[2]]

I. 1. *Law.* A domestic animal found wandering away from the custody of its owner, and liable to be impounded and (if not redeemed) forfeited: = ESTRAY *sb.* (For *waifs and strays* see WAIF.)

[1228 in *Mem. Ripon* (Surtees) I. 57 Et habent catalla felonum,..et wrek et weyf, stray, curiam suam et cognicionem de falso judicio.] 1498-9 *Durham Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 194 Rec. 12*d.* pro una ove vocata a hog capta pro 1 le stray in de (*sic*) Hemyngburgh. 1523 FITZHERB. *Surv.* 29 And if no man come within the yere and the day and to make suffycient proue that the catell is his than it is forfayte to the lorde as a strey. 15.. *Order for Swans* § 20 in *Archæologia* XXXII. 427 If the Maister of the Swannes, or his Deputy, do seaze or take vp any Swannes, as strayes for the Kings Maiestie. 1598 MANWOOD *Lawes Forest* xv. 86 [The unclaimed beasts] were taken and seised by the Officers of the Forrest, to the vse of the king, as Strayes of the Forrest. 1599 B. JONSON *Ev. Man out of Hum.* I. ii. (1600) C iij b, The Lord of the soile ha's all wefts and straies here, ha's he not? *a* 1634 COKE *Inst.* IV. (1648) 280 No Fowle can be a stray but a Swan. 1711 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4893/4 A..Horse, and a very little Bay-Nag, were taken up as Strays. 1805 WORDSW. *Prelude* v. 335 Some intermeddler still is on the watch To drive him back, and pound him, like a stray Within the pinfold of his own conceit. 1808 *Sporting Mag.* XXXI. 25 Cattle or horses, which, under the denomination..of strays or damage-feasant, are impounded by the Lord of the Manor.

b. *transf.*

1593 SHAKS. *2 Hen. VI*, IV. x. 27 Heere's the Lord of the soile come to seize me for a stray, for entering his Fee-simple without leaue. 1597 DELONEY *Gentle Craft* I. xv. Wks. (1912) 134 If that your heart be fled away, And it be taken for a Stray. 1639 FULLER *Holy War* III. xiii. 130 Leopoldus Duke of Austria..as being Lord of the soil, seised on this Royall stray ['this loose lion' i.e. Richard I]. 1713 C'TESS WINCHELSEA *Misc. Poems* 259 Shou'd I as a Stray be found, And seiz'd upon forbidden Ground.

2. An animal that has strayed or wandered away from its flock, home, or owner.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 478/2 Stray beest þat goethe a-stray, *vaguka*. 1543 in *Lett. & Papers Hen. VIII*, XVIII. II. 118 For drywyn the mor for stras iiij men iij days..to met and wagys iijs. ijd. *c* 1550 SIR J. CHEKE *Matt.* xviii. 13 Wold not he leave nijnti and nijn [sheep] on ye hilles, and go to seek ye strai. 1616 W. BROWNE *Brit. Past.* II. iv. 98 A youthfull Shepheard..Missing that morne a sheepe out of his Fold, Carefully seeking round to finde his stray. 1792 HORSLEY *Serm.* (1816) III. xl. 224 Just as the owner of a large flock is solicitous for the recovery of a single stray. 1797 HT. LEE *Canterb. T., Trav. T.* (1799) I. 203 Anxiously had she sought the brood, and most carefully had she replaced the little stray. 1887 F. FRANCIS Jun. *Saddle & Mocassin* 161 One of our steers..that got driven off with a bunch of strays which the San Simon boys was taking back. 1899 *Speaker* 23 Dec. 309/2 The sheep are folded—all but three ewes a-missing—Davie..speaks in a disconsolate voice of the three strays in the mountain.

† b. A person who wanders abroad; one who runs from home or employment. *Obs.*

1557 *Tottel's Misc.* (Arb.) 163 At Bacchus' feast none shall her mete..nor gasyng in an open strete, nor gaddyng as a stray. 1735 DYCHE & PARDON *Dict., Stray*, a..Person that is run away from his Discipline, &c.

c. *fig.* One who has gone astray in conduct, opinion, etc.

1605 SYLVESTER *Urania* xliii, Anon from error's mazes Keeping th' unsteady, calling back the straies. 1614 — *Little Bartas* 987 The Spirit..Which brings the straies home to Thy holy Fold. 1691 SHADWELL *Scowrers* v. 53 No pow'r but Love could thus call back a stray, From all the crooked Paths, to the right way. 1711 in *10th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. v. 187 Nor is Heaven such a toy, as to be gained for a song, whatever the strayes of religion think. 1788 D. GILSON *Serm.* ix. 254 Is it [the Church] only to be an open Common—for the reception of every Stray?

d. A homeless, friendless person; an ownerless dog or cat. Also in the phrase *waifs and strays*: see WAIF.

1649 *Valentine & Orson* ix. 43 They uttered forth many reproachful words against him, saying, that..he was but a found stray, poore, base, without any knowne Parents or Friends. 1864 [F. W. ROBINSON] *Mattie* II. 78 A stray whom no one would claim as child, sister, friend. 1889 *Harper's Mag.* Mar. 545/2 There is also a school for strays and truants ..which re-enforces the public schools. 1892 *Daily News* 2 Apr. 6/6 Greater facilities are now offered than formerly in conveying the strays to the Home [for Lost Dogs].

e. Something that has wandered from its usual or proper place; something separated from the main body; a detached fragment, an isolated specimen.

1798 SOPHIA LEE *Canterb. T., Young Lady's T.* II. 208 It is a stray of my own; composed when I was a little rustic, wandering in the woods. 1824 MISS MITFORD *Village* I. 252 The keys, will sometimes be found, with other strays, in that goodly receptacle. 1866 SWINBURNE *Poems & Ball.* 220 Such dead things..As the sea feeds on, wreck and stray And castaway. 1888 GOODE *Amer. Fishes* 111 It is certainly not found in the Gulf of Mexico, unless as a stray. 1891 STEVENSON *Let. W. C. Angus* Apr., Wks. 1912 XXV. 70 If you will collect the strays of Robin Fergusson, fish for material, collect any last re-echoing gossip, command me to do what you prefer.

†**f.** *collect.* A number of stray beasts; a body of stragglers from an army; *fig.* those who are astray from the faith. *Obs.*

1597 SHAKS. *2 Hen. IV*, IV. ii. 120 Strike vp our Drummes, pursue the scatter'd stray. 1611 SPEED *Hist. Gt. Brit.* IX. vi. 53 Restore with me Religion and Discipline to the ancient splendor therof..; reduce the stray, enlighten our ignorance, polish our rudenesse. 1717 ADDISON *Ovid's Metam., Transf. Battus*, [He] cried out, 'Neighbour, hast thou seen a stray Of bullocks and of heifers pass this way?'

3. *Electr.* (See quot. ?1912.)

1901 *Westm. Gaz.* 16 Dec. 6/3 The general impression in America is..that Marconi has been premature in announcing his success...Thomas Edison..says, 'Marvellous! marvellous! but let us not forget that there are such things as electric strays.' 1912 *Nature* 21 Nov. 345/2 Due to atmospheric causes, there is [*sic*] generally audible in the telephone receiver clicks and noises commonly spoken of as atmospherics or strays.

II. †**4.** The action of straying or wandering.

For *o strai, on (the) stray out of stray* see ASTRAY *adv.*

a 1300– [see ASTRAY *adv.*]. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 6258 Lokis well to þe listis, þat no lede passe! If any stert vpon stray, strike hym to dethe. *c* 1400 *26 Pol. Poems* iv. 14 Stoken in presoun as best fro stray. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 478/2 Stray, or a-stray, *vagacio, palacio.* 1530 PALSGR. 277/1 [In 'Table of Substantives'] Stray wandring, *au large.* 1535 *Act 27 Hen. VIII*, c. 7 § 2 If..any maner of beaste or quycke cattell..come into any of the said forestes by strayes theffe stolen or otherwise. 1605 SHAKS. *Lear* I. i. 212, I would not from your loue make such a stray, To match you where I hate. 1614 W. B. *Philos. Banq.* (ed. 2) 121 Yet in' his youth was he accessary to the errour of his yeeres, following the whole sway and stray of youth. 1615 BRATHWAIT *Strappado* 10 Lasse it is nothing for maides now adaies For which of them (though modest) hath not straies. 1623 LISLE *Ælfric on O. & N. Test.* To the Prince XXXV, As long as these, and Riuers all else-where, Their moulten Crystall poure by crooked strayes Into the Maine. 1793 *Gentl. Mag.* Oct. 913/2 [Art.] A Naturalist's Stray.

5. The right of allowing cattle to stray and feed on common land. *north.* Also *stray of rabbits* (see quot. 1877).

1736 F. DRAKE *Eboracum* I. vii. 240 Land..over which the poor freemen of each ward have a particular stray for their cattle from Michaelmas to Lady-day. 1776 *Foston Incl. Act* 4 Right of stray, or other right. 1828 CARR *Craven Gloss., Stray*, a right of depasturing on commons. 1880 *Spectator* 21 Aug. 1065 The mountain land over which the tenants have had for generations a right of stray for their cattle.

b. A piece of unenclosed land on which there is a common right of pasture: = COMMON *sb.* 5.

At Harrogate, 'The Stray' is the name of a large piece of grass land round which the principal houses are built.

1889 *Harper's Mag.* Nov. 843/2 The eight hundred acres, more or less, in six different 'strays' without the walls [of York], belonging to the four ancient wards, and on which freemen have exclusive right to depasture their cattle.

6. *Naut.* Deviation (of a sounding-line) from the perpendicular: = STRAY-LINE 2. Also = STRAY-LINE 1; in Comb. **stray-mark**, 'the mark at the junction of the stray and log lines' (Adm. Smyth).

1628 DIGBY *Voy. Mediterr.* (Camden) 91 Sounding from a shippe in a forcible gale is very vncertaine, because of the much stray of the line.

Stray (strēi), *a.* [Partly an aphetic variant of ASTRAY (cf. LONE *a.* from ALONE); partly attrib. use of STRAY *sb.*]

1. Of an animal: That has wandered from confinement or control and goes free; that has straggled from a flock; of a domestic animal, etc., that has become homeless or ownerless. † Also rarely of a person.

1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* 663 His seruants seeing a stray Sow come among them, the owner whereof they did not know, presently they slew her. 1634 MILTON *Comus* 315 If your stray attendance [= attendants] be yet lodg'd, Or shroud within these limits. 1671 — *P. R.* I. 315 An aged man..Following..the quest of some stray Ewe. 1832 HT. MARTINEAU *Life in Wilds* V. 58 He saw a herd of buffaloes. ..Arnall determined that if a stray one came within shot, he would take aim at it. 1875 MAINE *Hist. Inst.* ix. 261 The right of the lawful possessor of land to..impound stray beasts which are damaging his crops. 1908 [MISS E. FOWLER] *Betw. Trent & Ancholme* 143 A little stray lamb who left the fold.

b. *fig.*

1749 FIELDING *Tom Jones* XVIII. viii, Whether the good-natured world will suffer such a stray sheep to return to the road of virtue. 1862 GOULBURN *Personal Relig.* IV. v. (1873) 287 To seek the stray sheep in the wilderness of the world.

2. Of a cable: Loose, slack. Cf. STRAY *sb.* 7 and STRAY-LINE.

1791 SMEATON *Edystone L.* § 128 Hill's company were employed on board the buss, heaving in the stray cable [etc.].

3. Of a person or thing: Separated from the main body; occurring away from the regular course or habitat; isolated.

1796–1842 WORDSW. *Borderers* II. 766, I was going To waken our stray Baron. *a* 1834 NEWMAN *Par. Serm.* (1836) III. xxii. 360 In the cavern, or the desert, or the mountain, where God's stray servants lived. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. v. vi, Their infinite hum waxing ever louder, into imprecations, perhaps into crackle of stray musketry. 1849 W. S. MAYO *Kaloolah* vii. (1850) 65 The little medical knowledge that I had picked up by stray reading. 1867 H. LATHAM *Black & White* 22 In one of the corridors we fell in with a stray Professor, who ..showed us over the whole building. 1872 JENKINSON *Guide Eng. Lakes* (1879) 318 The desolate grandeur of the scenery which there meets the eye of the stray visitor. 1873 TRISTRAM *Moab* iii. 39 Not even a stray salsola or salicornia to relieve the flat sand-beds. 1907 J. A. HODGES *Elem. Photogr.* (ed. 6) 33 The detection of stray beams of light coming from chinks and cracks in the door.

†**4.** Strolling, vagrant. *Obs. rare.*

1620 in *Southampton Court Leet Rec.* (1907) I. 578 The spoyle therof is Cheifelie occasioned by the sufferinge of Straye players to acte their enterludes ther.

5. *Electr.* (See quots.)

1893 SLOANE *Electr. Dict., Stray Field.* In a dynamo or motor the portion of the field whose lines of force are not cut by the armature windings. *Ibid., Stray Power.* The proportion of the energy wasted in driving a dynamo, lost through friction and other hurtful resistances.

Stray (strēi), *v.*1 *Obs.* exc. *dial.* Also 5 **strie.** [OE. *strégan* (**strīegan*, **strīgan*) = Goth. *straujan*, f. Teut. root **strau-* : **streu-* : see STREW *v.*] *trans.* To strew.

c 1000 *Seafarer* 97 (Gr.) Þeah þe græf wille golde strexan. *c* 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* IV. 670 For rayn, in somne yf thou ne mayst hem drie, Hote askis may this fleykis vnder strie In house in stede of sonne. *Ibid.* XII. 381, 507 1560 *Ludlow Churchw. Acc.* (Camden) 95 For russes to straye the seate before the pilpett. 1658 A. FOX tr. *Würtz Surg.* I. iv. 13 They cause thereby infinite wrongs,..as if they had strayed the wounds full of venom. *Ibid.* I. iv. 13 When you stray that pouder into [it]. *Ibid.*, Must not the woond being straid full, be bound up. *Ibid.* I. iv. 14 The in-strayed pouder. 1886 *Cheshire Gloss., Stray*, to strew, to scatter.

Stray (strēi), *v.*2 Also 4–6 **straye**, 6 **straie**, (**straigh**). [Aphetic var. of ASTRAY, ESTRAY *vbs.*, a. OF. *estraier* :—Rom. **estragare* (Pr. *estragar*), contraction of **estravagare*, repr. L. *extrā vagārī* to wander outside: see EXTRAVAGANT *a.*

The view that the OF. verb is a derivative of L. *strāta* STREET *sb.* is on phonological grounds untenable.]

1. *intr.* To escape from confinement or control, to wander away from a place, one's companions, etc. Const. *from, into*, also with *abroad, away, off.*

13..*E. E. Allit. P.* B. 1199 And þay stoken so strayt, þat þay ne stray myȝt A fote fro þat forselet to forray no goudes. *c* 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 12878 God tent til al his men he tok, When þey astraied, whideward [*v.r.* where þei straied whidire] þey schok. 1338 — *Chron.* (1725) 219 [*Edwardus evasit de carcere Herfordiæ.*] In to þe watere he straied, & passed wele þat flode. *c* 1450 *Cov. Myst.* (1841) 74 Go do what ȝe lyst; se ȝour bestys not stray. *a* 1513 FABYAN *Chron.* (1811) 484 Sir Iohn de Vyenne, encountred I. sperys and xx. archers that were strayed frome theyr hoste. 1573–80 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 40 Go stie vp thy Bore, least straying abrode, ye doo see him no more. 1590 SIR J. SMYTH *Disc. Weapons* 11 b, That no man vpon paine of death being landed, shall straggle or stray abroad. 1633 W. RAMESEY *Astrol. Restored* 173 If thou wouldst buy ..Swans..to remain or keep from straying, let *Scorpio* be preferred. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* III. 476 Here Pilgrims roam, that stray'd so farr to seek In Golgotha him dead, who lives in Heav'n. 1704–13 POPE *Windsor Forest* 165 Here too, 'tis sung, of old Diana stray'd, And Cynthus' top forsook for Windsor shade. 1722 DIAPER tr. *Oppian's Halieut.* I. 658 Sea-Calves by Night far from the Waters stray. 1831 JAMES *Philip Augustus* I. ii, Has thy falcon strayed? Say, 'twas a vile bird..and call it a good loss. 1879 FROUDE *Cæsar* xvii. 287 To keep the legion within the lines, and not to allow any of the men to stray. 1888 'J. S. WINTER' *Bootle's Childr.* ix, The four elder children had strayed off to the hall to see what was going on there.

b. of an inanimate thing.

13..*E. E. Allit. P.* A. 1173 My hede vpon þat hylle was layde, þer as my perle to grounde strayd. 1557 PHAER *Æneid* VII. (1558) T iij b, Poison..Whiche from that serpent shed, & al her lymmes infecting straied. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* II. 507 Be bold To lop the disobedient Boughs, that stray'd Beyond their Ranks. 1738 GRAY *Propertius* II. i. 8 If the loose Curls around her Forehead play, Or lawless, o'er their Ivory Margin stray. 1855 *Orr's Circ. Sci., Inorg. Nat.* 43 It has been assumed..that the earth was originally in a state of igneous fusion, from which it has cooled down by radiation...No one, however, has explained where this lost heat has strayed. 1873 BURTON *Hist. Scot.* V. lvi. 121 The town had strayed beyond the wall built round it after the defeat at Flodden. 1908 [MISS E. FOWLER] *Betw. Trent & Ancholme* 13 The Vines strayed down the west side of the old paddock wall.

2. To wander up and down free from control, to roam about. Const. *about, along, in, through* (a place); also with *about* adv.

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XV. lxix. (1495) 514 Galon people in Affrica stretche fro the south to the Hesperi Occean, whiche men go aboute and stray in desert [L. *pervagans in desertis & discurrens*]. *c* 1425 *Castle Persev.* 2052 in *Macro Plays* 138 Hys enmys strayen in þe strete, to spylle man with spetows spot. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 478/2 Strayyn, or gon a-stray, *palo, vagor.* 1530 PALSGR. 738/1, I straye, I wander about and wot nat whyther I go, *je erre.* ..Yet the boye strayeth alone some where, God gyve grace that a beggar mete nat with him. *Ibid.*, I stray about, as a masterlesse parson doth, *je vagabonde*...He doth nought but stray abowt and wyll do no labour in the worlde. 1556 HOBY tr. *Castiglione's Courtier* Ep. Transl. (1577) A ij, This Courtyer hath long strayed about this realme. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* I. iii. 3 Yet she..Farre from all peoples preasе, as in exile, In wildernesse and wastfull deserts strayd, To seeke her knight. 1610 SHAKS. *Temp.* I. ii. 417 He hath lost his fellowes, And strayes about to finde 'em. 1632 MILTON *L'Allegro* 72 Russet Lawns, and Fallows Gray, Where the nibling flocks do stray. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* IV. 158 When the Swarms are eager of their Play, And loath their empty Hives, and idly Stray. 1742 GRAY *Eton* 13 Ah fields belov'd in vain, Where once my careless childhood stray'd. 1789 W. L. BOWLES *Sonn. Cherwell*, Cherwell, how pleas'd along thy willow'd edge Erewhile I stray'd. 1850 TENNYSON *In Mem.* cii. 14 Yea, but here Thy feet have stray'd in after hours With thy lost friend among the bowers. 1866 AUGUSTA WILSON *St. Elmo* iii, But you are too young to be straying about in a strange place.

b. of an inanimate thing, the fingers, etc. Also *fig.* of a person, his thoughts, wishes, etc.

1647 COWLEY *Mistr., Change* i, Love walks the pleasant Mazes of her Hair; Love does on both her Lips for ever stray. 1750 GRAY *Elegy* 74 Their sober wishes never learn'd to stray. 1789 COWPER *Ann. Memorab.* 22 As the bee..So I from theme to theme display'd In many a page historic stray'd. 18.. SHELLEY *Queen of my Heart* iii, How I love to gaze As the cold ray strays O'er thy face. 1831 JAMES *Philip Augustus* I. iv, Through the mazes of hair his other hand was straying. 1842 BROWNING *Pied Piper* vi, And his fingers, they noticed, were ever straying As if impatient to be playing Upon this pipe. 1873 HELPS *Anim. & Mast.* i. (1875) 27 It strays from one topic to another, in the most eccentric fashion. 1885 'MRS. ALEXANDER' *At Bay* i, Again her deft fingers strayed over the notes. 1909 STACPOOLE *Pools of Silence* XXX, These thoughts..just came and strayed across his mind.

c. Of a stream: To meander.

1591 SHAKS. *Two Gent.* II. vii. 31 And so by many winding nookes he [*sc.* the current] straies..to the wilde Ocean. 1643 DENHAM *Cooper's H.* 160 Where Thames amongst the wanton Vallies strays. 1700 DRYDEN *Acis, Polyph., & Galatea* 78 More clear than Ice, or running Streams, that stray Through Garden Plots. 1754 GRAY *Progr. Poesy* 85 What time, where lucid Avon stray'd, To Him the mighty Mother did unveil Her aweful face.

†**d.** *trans.* To wander in, over, or through (a place). Also, to cause (the eye) to wander (over something). *Obs.* or *nonce-uses.*

1613 HEYWOOD *Silver Age* III. i. G 1, His maw vnstaunch't He still the thicke Nemean groues doth stray. 1729 SAVAGE *Wanderer* II. 106 To his my Sighs, to his my Tears reply! I stray o'er all the Tomb a watry Eye! 1844 A. MACLAGAN *Scotch Blue-bell* 29 How oft wi' rapture ha'e I strayed The mountain's heather crest.

3. *intr.* To wander from the direct way, deviate.

1561 HOBY tr. *Castiglione's Courtier* I. (1577) E iij, As he that walketh in the darke..and therefore many tymes strayeth from the right way. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* I. i. 10 When weening to returne, whence they did stray, They cannot finde that path. 1593 SHAKS. *Rich. II*, I. iii. 206 Farewell (my Liege) now no way can I stray, Saue back to England, all the worlds my way. 1604 E. G[RIMSTONE] *D'Acosta's Hist. Indies* IV. xxx. 291 Being straied in the mountaines, not knowing which way he shoulde passe. 1912 J. L. MYRES *Dawn of Hist.* ix. 191 A strong inducement to the nomad to stray into the richer pasture.

4. *fig.* **a.** To wander from the path of rectitude, to err.

c 1385 *Metr. Hom.* (1862) 52 Bot in our gat lis Satenas.. And spies ful gern ef we straye, And haldes noht the riht way. 1457 HARDING *Chron.* in *Eng. Hist. Rev.* (1912) Oct. 740 Scotland hool, which shulde your Reule obaye As Soureyn lorde, for whiche thay prowdly stray. 1548 UDALL, etc. *Erasm. Par. Luke* xxii. 54–62 Neither was he lyke to haue made any ende of straying out of the righte waye. 1552 [see ERR *v.*1 2]. 1690 PRIOR *Cousid. 88th Ps.* iii, Nor refuge could I find, nor friend abroad, Straying in vice, and destitute of God. 1712–14 POPE *Rape Lock* I. 91 Oft, when the world imagine women stray, The Sylphs thro' mystic mazes guide their way. 1780 COWPER *Doves* i, Reas'ning.. Man yet mistakes his way, While meaner things, whom instinct leads, Are rarely known to stray. 1831 N. P. WILLIS *Brown University* 32 A heavenward spirit, straying oftentimes, But never widely. 1902 VIOLET JACOB *Sheep-Stealers* xii, It was the direst necessity which had induced George Williams to stray so far across the line of honesty.

b. To wander or deviate in mind, purpose, etc. Said also of the mind or thoughts.

1390 GOWER *Conf.* III. 371, I was out of mi sounee affraied, Wherof I sih my wittes straied, And gan to wclepe hem hom ayein. 1577 GRANGE *Golden Aphrod.* L j, But why seeme I thus to stray from my texte? 1581 PETTIE *Guazzo's Civ. Conv.* II. (1586) 56 b, It is a thing vnseemely ..in talke to straye to farre from fit and vsuall matters. 1709 POPE *Ess. Crit.* 104 Then Criticism the Muses handmaid prov'd, To dress her charms, and make her more belov'd: But following wits from that intention stray'd. 1766 GOLDSM. *Vic. W.* xiv, But, sir, I ask pardon, I am straying from the question. 1813 SCOTT *Rokeby* I. xii, Still from the purpose wilt thou stray! Good gentle friend, how went the day?

†**c.** *trans.* (causative.) To cause to err or deviate; to distract. *Obs.*

1561 T. HOBY tr. *Castiglione's Courtyer* III. (1577) Q v, We shal know..as touching the vnderstanding of great matters, that they doe not straye oure wittes, but rather

quicken them. *Ibid.* Q vj, The loue of the Damsell Laura sometime strayed him from it. 1590 SHAKS. *Com. Err.* v. i. 51 Hath not else his eye Stray'd his affection in vnlawfull loue?

Stray, obs. Sc. form of STRAW.

Stray-away. [f. STRAY *v.*2 + AWAY *adv.*] An animal that strays away; a straggler.

1820 KEATS *Isabella* xvii, Quick cat's-paws on the generous stray-away. 1868 BROWNING *Ring & Bk.* v. 1198 What did he else but..Leave, like a provident shepherd, his safe flock To follow the single lamb and strayaway?

Strayed (strēd), *ppl. a.* [f. STRAY *v.*2 + -ED 1.] That has gone astray. *lit.* and *fig.*

1529 *Supplic. to King* (E.E.T.S.) 28 To call agayne the strayed shepe in-to the ryght waye. 1590 H. R. *Defiance to Fortune* B 3 b, Searching for the straied beastes of his saide maister Miller. 1615 BRATHWAIT *Strappado* 10 Yea I know som which may lament with thee For their straide daughters. 1634 MILTON *Comus* 503, I came not here on such a trivial toy As a stray'd Ewe. 1653 H. COGAN tr. *Pinto's Trav.* xv. 51 He had slain at times in strayed Vessels above an hundred Portugals. 1707 KEN in W. L. Bowles *Life* (1831) II. 296, I rejoice that my strayed sheep are reduced under his government. 1895 ZANGWILL *Master* II. ix. 233 A strayed sparrow hopped dolefully..on the floating platform. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* II. 633 Kidney, spleen, pleura, and the urinary passages have sheltered strayed specimens of these parasites at times.

Strayer (strē·ɹəɹ). [f. STRAY *v.*2 + -ER 1.] One who strays, in the senses of the verb.

1519 HORMAN *Vulg.* 263 b, He called ageyne the strayers out of ordre. 1570 FOXE *A. & M.* (ed. 2) 1912/1 A great straier abroad in all quarters of the realme to deface and impeach the springing of Gods holy Gospel. 1575-85 ABP. SANDYS *Serm.* vii. § 15. 113 All sinners are straiers: for sinne maketh a diuision betweene God and man. 1638 RUTHERFORD *Lett.* (1881) 50 Ye faithful pastors yet amongst the flocks..; Or any weak, tired strayers who cast but half an eye after the Bridegroom. 1868 BROWNING *Ring & Bk.* IV. 1245 For the priest, spritely strayer out of bounds,..Let him be relegate to Civita. 1908 *Academy* 4 Jan. 308/2 We suspect that, like 'the old prophet,' he is a confirmed strayer from his beat.

Straygne, -er: see STRAIN *v.*1, STRAINER.

Straying (strē·iŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. STRAY *v.*2 + -ING 1.] The action of the verb, in various senses; also, an instance of this.

1548 *Elyot's Dict.*, *Erratio*, a goyng out of the waie, a wandryng, a straiyng abrode, a rouyng. 1583 GOLDING *Calvin on Deut.* viii. 47 What els are the wais of the world but straiings, so as euery man gaddes in and out when they once turne their backes vpon God. 1632 SANDERSON *Serm. Ad Aulam* ii. (1681) 22 Those strayings also and outstoppings, whereof Gods faithfullest servants are now and then guilty. 1643 ROUS *Ps.* xlv. 18 (1646) 96 Our heart's not turn'd back, from thy way, our steps no straying made. 1786 G. FRAZER *Dove's Flight* 39 Observe the pidgeon in her straying from the flock. 1820 KEATS *Isabella* xviii, How could they find out in Lorenzo's eye A straying from his toil? *a* 1857 H. BONAR *Hymns of Faith & Hope* 33 Cease, my soul, thy strayings! 1876 M. ARNOLD *Lit. & Dogma* 244 Those learned inquirers..who were so busy about the strayings of Ulysses, so inattentive to their own. 1889 H. E. HANDERSON tr. *Baas' Hist. Med.* 495 *note*, Patin was the first who observed a case of tubal pregnancy, ascribing it to a straying of the ovum.

† **b.** Gerundially in *to go a-straying*. *Obs. rare*−1.

a 1586 SIDNEY *Ps.* xiv. 3 And loe, he findes that all a straying went.

Straying (strē·iŋ), *ppl. a.* [f. STRAY *v.*2 + -ING 2.] That strays, in the senses of the verb. **a.** Of a person, animal, etc.

1585 T. WASHINGTON tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* III. xv. 99 Duryng these blind and straying peregrinations, they carry none other apparrell then a little cassock. 1593 A. CHUTE *Beautie Dishonoured* (Budig 1908) 95 Neuer did flocke to old Vlisses Queene, In wearie absence of her straying knight, Neuer more woers [etc.]. 1681 FLAVEL *Meth. Grace* xxviii. 475 The straying bullock needs a heavy clog. 1831 MARY W. SHELLEY *Swiss Peasant* Tales x. (1891) 189 Or a straying cow would lead him far into the depths of the stormy hills.

b. Of a thing. † *Straying star*: a planet; cf. ERRANT *a.* 9 b.

1585 T. WASHINGTON tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* II. ix. 42 b, The seuen straying starres. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* II. xlv. I. 22 The straying starres or planets. 1612 *Two Noble K.* I. v. 15 This world's a Citty full of straying Streetes, And Death's the market place, where each one meetes.

c. *fig.*

1553 *Short Catechism* 7 b, Hearin is debarred al kind of filthy & strayeng lust. *a* 1586 SIDNEY *Ps.* i. 1 He blessed is who neither loosely treads The straying steps as wicked councel leads,..Nor yet [etc.]. *c* 1600 SHAKS. *Sonn.* xli. 10 And chide thy beauty, and thy straying youth. 1690 NORRIS *Beatitudes* (1692) 9 To reduce straying man to his true Good and Happiness. 1867 M. E. GRANT DUFF *Notes fr. Diary 1851-1872* (1897) II. 78 He writes of these straying sheep without bigotry.

Straykyngs: see STRAIKEN.

Stray-line. *Naut.* [f. STRAY *a.* (or STRAY *sb.* 7) + LINE *sb.*]

1. (See quot. 1867.)

1703 DAMPIER *Voy.* III. i. 99 An extraordinary Care ought to be used in heaving the Log, for fear of giving too much Stray-Line in a moderate Gale. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk., Stray line of the log*, about 10 or 12 fathoms of line left unmarked next the log-ship, in order that it may get out of the eddy of the ship's wake before the measuring begins, or the glass is turned.

2. = STRAY *sb.* 6.

1769 FALCONER *Dict. Marine* II. (1780), *Derive*, the stray-line, or allowance made for stray-line, occasioned by a ship's falling to leeward, when sounding, in deep water.

3. *Whaling.* That part of the tow-line which is in the water when fast to a whale.

1820 SCORESBY *Acc. Arctic Reg.* II. 232 A portion of five or six fathoms of the line first put into the boat called the 'stray-line', is left uncovered, by that which follows.

4. A submerged or floating line fastened at one end only.

1888 HARDY *Wessex Tales* II. v. 143 They'll string the tubs to a stray-line, and sink 'em a little-ways from shore.

Straying (strē·iŋ). [f. STRAY *a.* or *v.* + -LING 1. Cf. *changeling*, *wildling*. The word coincides formally with a possible dim. of STRAY *sb.*, but in the quots. it has not the dim. sense.]

A stray thing or person.

1838 LYTTON *Leila* III. i. 31 It may win a new straying to the Immortal Fold. 1881 G. ALLEN in *Cornhill Mag.* June 705 Sometimes garden kinds, escaped from cultivation.. sometimes American straylings. 1904 *Blackw. Mag.* Jan. 156/1 We owe a greater debt to our own countrymen than to the straylings from Russia.

Straymer, obs. form of STREAMER.

Straynge, -our: see STRANGE, STRANGER.

Straynth, obs. form of STRENGTH.

Stre, strea, Streach(e: see STRAW, STRETCH.

† **Stread,** *sb. Obs. rare*−1. App. a constable's 'beat' or district.

1518 *Star Chamber Cases* (Selden Soc.) II. 136 Euery Constable warnyd wythin hys stread euery man to be in the Fen in the mornyng.

Streak (strīk), *sb.* Forms: *α.* 1 **strica**, 4 **strik**, **stryk**, 5 **strick**(**e**, 5–6 **stryke**, 5–7 **strike**; *β.* 5 **strek**, 5–6 **streke**, 6 **streeke**, 6–7 **streek**, **streake**, 6– **streak**. [OE. *strica* wk. masc., f. weak-grade of the Teut.-root **strīk-*: see STRIKE *v.* The *α* and *β* forms represent a difference of dialectal phonetic development: in the *α* forms the *ī* remained (cf. *prick* sb. :—OE. *prica*); in the *β* forms the OE. *ī* in open syllable became ME. *ē* (with *strēke* cf. *week*, ME. *wēke* :—OE. *wicu*). It is probable that the spelling *strike*, *stryke* in the late 16th and early 17th c. sometimes represents a pronunciation (strīk), so that these forms would really belong to the *α* class. Cf. Goth. *strik-s*, OHG., mod.G. *strich* masc., MDu. *strēke* (Du. *streek* fem.), which agree in sense and root-grade with the Eng. sb.]

† **1.** A line, mark, stroke; esp. one used as a sign or character in writing or as a unit or degree in measurement. *Obs.*

α. c 1000 ÆLFRIC *Hom.* II. 200 An strica oððe an stæf [L. *iota unum aut unus apex*] ðære ealdan æ ne bið forzæzed oðþæt hi ealle zefyllede beon. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) III. 249 Esdras..fonde up newe manere titles and strikes [L. *apices litterarum*] to write among þe lettres. *c* 1391 CHAUCER *Astrol.* II. § 12. 24 & endith in the nexte strik of the plate. *Ibid.*, Techyng by swych strikes the howres of planetes by ordre as thei sitten in the heuene. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 3024 The shede þurghe þe shyte here shone as þe lilly, Streght as a strike, straght þurgh the myddes. *c* 1460 [see *β.*]. 1530 PALSGR. 58 There is a stryke above the hed of *au*, by cause the accent of the worde is there. 1598 W. PHILLIP tr. *Langenes' Voy. Ships Holland E. Ind.* 11 We found that our Compasses helde two Strikes to farre Northwarde. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* I. 178 Upon this Exchequer board is laid a cloth..rewed with strikes distant one from another a foote. 1611 tr. *Serlio's Archit.* IV. vii. 34 b, The strickes of the Columnes, which wee call Chanels or hollowings, shall be 24. in number.

β. c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 479/1 Strek, or poynt be-twyx ij. clausys yn a boke (S. *W.* poyntinge of ij. clauses), *diminiscus*. *c* 1460 J. METHAM *Wks.* 89 Yef in the same lyne be suche strykys descende and in the myddys be cutte or deuyded with other lynes or strekes: 1545 in *Archæologia* XLIII. 237, iiij copys of ymageryе worke with strekes of golds. 1594 BLUNDEVIL *Exerc.* I. xxvii. (ed. 7) 65 Minutes are marked with one streek over the head, seconds with two streekes, thirds with three streekes. 1633 B. JONSON *Tale Tub* IV. i. Scene interloping 41 *Cle.* Zure, you can gage 'hun. *Med.* To a streake, or lesse: I know his d'ameters, and circumference. 1650 BULWER *Anthropomet.* xxii. 238 Men and women use to cut three streaks on their body. 1664 POWER *Exp. Philos.* I. 7 View them [the wings of the butterfly] in the Microscope, and you may see the very streaks of the Coelestial pencil that drew them. 1735 DYCHE & PARDON *Dict., Streak*, a Line or Mark make to put Things in order by, &c.

† **b.** A cutting stroke. *Obs. rare*−1.

1725 *Bradley's Family Dict.* s. v. *Pears*, Give them [*sc.* the pears] a streak upon the Head with the point of a Knife.

2. A thin irregular line of a different colour or substance from that of the material or surface of which it forms a part.

α. 1585 HIGINS *Junius' Nomencl.* 414/2 Marble hauing white specks or stricks in it.

β. 1577 GRANGE *Golden Aphrod.* H iv b, And teares with streakes doth paynte Their lether cheekes. 1646 SUCKLING *Poems* (1648) 39 For streaks of red were mingled there, Such as are on a Katherne Pear. 1666 G. HARVEY *Morbus Angl.* xxi. (1672) 50 A high coloured Urin with a number of small streeks of fat, swimming a top in the form of a Cobweb. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* XI. 879 But say, what mean those coloured streaks in Heavn [*sc.* a rainbow]. 1718 PRIOR *Solomon* I. 77 While the fantastic Tulip strives to break In two-fold Beauty, and a parted Streak. 1784 COWPER *Task* VI. 241 Not a flow'r But shows some touch, in freckle, streak, or stain, Of his unrivall'd pencil. 1796 WITHERING *Brit. Plants* (ed. 3) III. 613 Petals..purple, with 3 or 4 darker streaks. 1845 BUDD *Dis. Liver* 220 Streaks of a black substance were observed in the matter which was vomited. 1845–7 LONGF. *Evang.* II. iv. 172 Then there appeared and spread faint streaks of gray o'er her forehead. 1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* II. xxvii. 381 We observe blue streaks, from a few inches to several feet in length, upon the walls of the same crevasse. 1876 O. C. STONE in *Jrnl. R. Geogr. Soc.* XLVI. 57 They paint the face with streaks by means of a rose-coloured lime. 1890 *Hardwicke's Sci.-Gossip* XXVI. 265/2 The appearance of Jupiter is very different from that of Mars. On his surface we see grey..streaks or belts. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 595 Papules rarely arise, but there are often red scaly streaks on the face. 1911 WEBSTER s. v., Bacon with a streak of lean and a streak of fat.

b. A line of colour, less firm and regular than a stripe, occurring as a distinctive mark on the coat of an animal, the plumage of a bird, the body or wings of an insect. Also *fig.*

α. 1567 MAPLET *Gr. Forest* 70 [This aspis] is of white colour,..beset with black spots or strikes. 1626 *Maldon* (Essex) *Docum.* Bundle 208 No. 9 A tall darkeish graye gelding,..haveing a white stricke on one side.

β. 1641 J. JACKSON *True Evang. T.* I. 74 Too much of the Leopard..in our spots, and streaks, with sinfull customes, and habits. 1687 A. LOVELL tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* I. 237 This Ass had a black List down the back, and the rest of its Body was all begirt with white and Tawny streaks. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* IV. 150 The better Brood [of bees].. Are mark'd with Royal streaks of shining hue. 1815 STEPHENS in *Shaw's Gen. Zool.* IX. I. 29 There is a short streak at the angles of the mouth, beneath the eye, sometimes whitish, sometimes yellow. 1882–4 *Yarrell's Brit. Birds* (ed. 4) III. 561 The black loral streak..is assumed the second year.

c. In the names of moths, etc.

1704 PETIVER *Gazophyl.* II. Tab. xi, *Papilio minor fuscus, duplici linea inferne præditus*, The brown double Streak. 1775 M. HARRIS *Engl. Lepidoptera* 45 Phalæna...Streak. 1815 BURROW *Elem. Conchol.* 206 Patella Mammillaris. Black Hair Streak Limpet. 1832 J. RENNIE *Butterfl. & Moths.* 1872 J. G. WOOD *Insects at Home* 461 The Moth which is appropriately termed the Streak (*Chesias spartiata*).

d. *Min.* The line of coloured powder produced by scratching a mineral or fossil, or the mark made by rubbing it on a harder surface.

1794 KIRWAN *Elem. Min.* I. 26 External characters. These are colour, shape, lustre,..colour of streak &c. 1796 *Ibid.* (ed. 2) I. 183 Its streak somewhat glossy. 1805 WEAVER tr. *Werner's Ext. Char. Fossils* 190 Solid fossils..when scraped ..yield a powder, presenting the same, or a different, colour from that of the fossil; and also the same or a more or less different lustre. This is called the streak. 1849 J. NICOL *Man. Min.* 487 Kobellite...Colour blackish lead-grey to steel-grey; streak black. 1888 CROOKES *Mitchell's Pract. Assaying* (ed. 6) 239 Cinnabar has both a red colour and a red streak.

e. *Biol.* etc. A linear mark, stria. Also, a narrow tract in a tissue.

Primitive streak: see PRIMITIVE *a.* 8.

1837 P. KEITH *Bot. Lex.* 34 If the streak of the parenchyma is to be regarded as a good evidence. But this streak is not discernible in all stems. 1856 HENSLOW *Bot. Terms, Streak*, a straight line formed by a vein, by colour, by indentation, &c. *Ibid.*, *Stria* (a groove or furrow), a streak. 1859 SEMPLE *Diphtheria* 20 We often see a long, narrow streak, of a dark red colour, which extends into the pharynx. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VII. 716 The degeneration may be more intense in certain streaks; as in the posterior root-zones, or in Goll's tracts.

f. *Glass-making.* (See quot. 1807.)

1807 T. THOMSON *Chem.* (ed. 3) II. 512 *Streaks.* These are waved lines, often visible in glass, which interrupt distinct vision. 1832 G. R. PORTER *Porcelain & Gl.* 197 Large plates, ..to be perfect, require to be without streak or bubble.

g. *Bacteriology.* A light scratch made with the bacteria-covered point of a needle on the surface of the mass to be infected. Cf. *streak-culture* in 7.

1893 W. R. DAWSON tr. *Schenk's Man. Bacteriol.* 57.

3. A faint line of light (esp. of the dawn) diversifying the darkness. Also *fig.*

1592 SHAKS. *Rom. & Jul.* II. iii. 2 The gray ey'd morne smiles on the frowning night, Checkring the Easterne Cloudes with streaks of light. 1605 — *Macb.* III. iii. 5 The West yet glimmers with some streakes of Day. 1697 DRYDEN *Æneis* IX. 477 And see the scatter'd Streaks of dawning day. 1812–16 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* I. 450 When we look at a candle..with our eyes almost closed, streaks of light appear to dart upwards and downwards. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. III. vi, Darkness..with here and there some streak of faint lurid light. 1881 S. R. MACPHAIL *Relig. House Pluscardyn* xii. 114 The grey streaks of Reformation dawn speedily forced themselves upon public attention. 1885 'MRS. ALEXANDER' *At Bay* v, The first faint streaks of daylight were stealing across the eastern sky.

b. A flash of lightning, etc.

1781 COWPER *Heroism* 18 While through the stygian veil that blots the day, In dazzling streaks, the vivid lightnings play. 1828 CARLYLE *Misc., Burns* (1840) I. 352 Streaks of hell-fire quivering madly. 1847 *Illustr. Lond. News* 10 July 19/3 She saw a streak of lightning shoot in an oblique direction. 1863 AYTOUN *Lays Scott. Cavaliers, Exec. Montrose* xiii, And the jagged streak of the levin-bolt Lit up the gloomy town.

c. slang. *Streak of lightning*, ? a glass of gin (cf. LIGHTNING 2). *Like a streak, like streaks*: with the swiftness of lightning.

1859 C. MACKAY *Life & Liberty Amer.* I. 169 'Ginsling,' 'brandy-smash', 'a streak of lightning', [etc.]. 1901 *Daily Chron.* 26 Sept. 6/2 Workman was running like a 'streak,' to use the local phrase. 1901 *Scribner's Mag.* XXIX. 501/1 We worked like streaks.

4. A long irregular narrow strip of land, water, etc.; a line of colour representing a distant object in a landscape.

The silver streak: the English Channel; see SILVER *sb.* 21 and cf. quot. 1870 below.

1727 DYER *Grongar Hill* 118 See on the mountain's southern side..How close and small the hedges lie! What streaks of meadows cross the eye! 1818 KEATS *Lett.* 20 July (1895) 173 The first glance was a streak of waters deep in the Bases of large black Mountains. 1841 BROWNING *Pippa Passes* I. Poems (1905) 167/2 Ah, the clear morning! I can see St. Mark's: That black streak is the belfry. 1842 TENNYSON

Œnone 55 Far-up the solitary morning smote The streaks of virgin snow. 1865 W. G. Palgrave *Journ. Central & E. Arabia* II. 128 Though separated from it by a streak of desert. 1870 Gladstone in *Edin. Rev.* Oct. 588 Happy England!..happy..in this, that the wise dispensation of Providence has cut her off, by that streak of silver sea,.. partly from the dangers, absolutely from the temptations which attend upon the local neighbourhood of the Continental nations. 1872 Jenkinson *Guide Eng. Lakes* (1879) 274 The white streak of water running down the face of the mountain is Sour Milk Gill. 1883 Morfill *Slavonic Lit.* i. 6 There is also a thin streak of Little Russian population in the kingdom of Hungary, north of the Carpathians. 1907 J. London *Before Adam* viii, When we reached the edge of the forest he was no more than a streak in the distance.

5. a. The horizontal course of a stratum of coal (cf. Stretch, Strike *sbs.*). **b.** A stratum or vein (of metal ore).

1672 G. Sinclair *Hydrostaticks* (1683) 273 The Coal..hath its three principal dimensions,..Longitude, Latitude, and Profundity...The Longitude is nothing else but what is termed by the Coal-hewers, the Streek. 1686 Plot *Staffordsh.* iii. 129 According to the course of the row or streek of the coal. 1789 J. Williams *Min. Kingd.* I. 334 The streeks or flat veins. *Ibid.* 339 By the word streek they mean stretch, or a vein between the strata which stretches or spreads in a horizontal position. 1872 Schele de Vere *Americanisms* 171 He hopes..to strike it very rich, as soon as he comes to the pay-streak, that is, the lode or vein which is to repay him for all his labors. 1904 S. E. White *Blazed Trail Stories* xii, Here a pocket, there a streak, yon a clear ten feet of low-grade ore.

6. An intermixture (of some contrasting or unexpected quality, esp. in a person or his character); an inherited strain. *A streak of red*: a strain of Red Indian blood.

1647 Cowley *Mistr., Wisdom* Poems (1905) 86 With your grave Rules from musty Morals brought: Through which some streaks too of Divinity ran. 1762 *Ann. Reg., Charac.* 32/2 Broad streaks of folly now and then appear through all the grave wisdom..of those mighty statesmen. 1856 Mrs. Stowe *Dred* I. ix. 121 Just act, now, as if you'd got a streak of something in you. 1865 Grote *Plato* II. xxiii. 158 There is..a streak of eccentricity in his character. 1885 W. D. Howells *Silas Lapham* (1891) II. 175 He always did have that close streak in him. 1889 *Spectator* 28 Dec., The deep and unscrupulous craft which lay in streaks through all Cavour's great character. 1890 J. Aitchison *Signa Christi* i. 23 The streak of immorality would have run through the whole history. 1908 W. Churchill *Mr. Crewe's Career* viii. 84, I can't understand Victoria. She really has influence with these country people...Sometimes I think Victoria has a common streak in her. 1913 *Play Pictorial* No. 134. 82 A woman even suspected of a 'streak of red' is scarcely within the pale.

b. A temporary run (of luck).

1882 *Poker; how to play it* 94 The player in this seat should not come in..under a pair of court cards, unless he happens to be in a streak of good luck. 1900 Upward *Ebenezer Lobb* 114 He said he found luck did come in these queer streaks.

7. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *streak-like* adj.; **streak culture**, a bacterial culture having the inoculating matter in streaks (cf. 2 g); **streak fallowing** (see quot.); **streak-flowered** *a. Bot.*, striate; **streak lightning**, forked lightning; **streak powder** (see quot., cf. 2 d); **streak stitch** (see quot.); **streak vein**, ? = sense 5 b.

1893 W. R. Dawson tr. *Schenk's Man. Bacteriol.* 60 Blood serum..is principally adapted for surface or **streak* cultures (*Strichculturen*). 1677 Plot *Oxfordsh.* 243 There is a sort of tillage..which they call *streak-fallowing; the manner is, to plough one furrow and leave one. 1822 *Hortus Anglicus* II. 186 Sisyrinchium Striatum. **Streak flowered Sisyrinchium.* 1916 *Chamb. Jrnl.* Aug 560/1 It was *streak lightning that was observed. 1876 *Clin. Soc. Trans.* IX. 87 Small white *streak-like spots. 1857 Dana *Man. Min.* (1862) 56 The color of a surface that has been rubbed or scratched ..is called the streak, and the powder abraded, the *streak-powder. 1882 Caulfeild & Saward *Dict. Needlework* 464 In hand-made laces the veins of leaves or flowers are made with an open line, that is sometimes designated *Streak Stitch. 1789 J. Williams *Min. Kingd.* I. 404 In Derbyshire..great attention is paid to all the *streek veins.

Streak (strīk), *v.*[1] *Obs.* exc. *dial.* Forms: 5-6, 9 **streke**, 6 **streyk**(e, 6-7 **streak**(e, 7, 9 **streek**. [? a. ON. *strúka* to stroke, rub, wipe; but cf. Straik *v.* (*Sc.*), Strake *v.*[3], Strike *v.*, Stroke *v.*]

1. *trans.* To stroke.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 479/2 Strekyn, as menn do cattys, or hors or howndys, *galmito.* 1851 W. Anderson *Rhymes* (1867) 60 (E.D.D.) Streek my hair.

2. To make level, flat, or even; *spec.* to level (corn, etc.) to the rim of a measure by passing a piece of straight wood over it. Cf. Straik *v.*, Strike *v.*

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 479/2 Strekyn or make pleyne, *complano. Ibid.*, S(t(r)ekyn, or streke mesure, as buschellys and oþer lyke, *hostio.* 1829 Brockett *N. C. Words, Streek*, to measure corn exactly. *Ibid.*, *Streeked-measure*, exact measure—in opposition to heaped measure. 1841 Hartshorne *Salopia Ant.* Gloss., *Streke*, to strike with a streckle.

†**3.** To polish or make smooth by rubbing; to iron (clothes). *Obs.*

1567 Drant *Horace, Ep.* Ded. *iij, The verie Crounes and Scepters of best Monarks and princes had bene rustie, wembde, and warpde with obliuion, hadd not they with the goodly eloquence of greate clarkes, and Poettes, ben streked and filed. 1823 E. Moor *Suffolk Words, Streek*, to iron clothes.

†**4.** ? To sweep; to clean by sweeping, rubbing, or the like. *Obs.*

1492 *Churchw. Acc. St. Mary, Oxon* (Wood MS. D. 3 lf. 261) Item for streking of the church 4 times, xvi d...Item for streyking the roffe of the church, xii d. 1498 *Churchw. Acc. Croscombe* etc. (Somerset Rec. Soc.) 66 Item for strekyng the wyndows and wallys, iiii[d]. 1516 *Ibid.* 73 Item ffor strekyng off y[e] chercheerd, iiii[d].

†**5.** To rub or smear (a surface) *with* (some soft or liquid substance). *Obs.*

1545 Raynalde *Byrth Mankynde* II. vi. (1552) 87 In the water of this decoction beyng warme, dyp a spunge,.. fomenting, soking, & streking the back with the same. 1561 Hollybush *Hom. Apoth.* 6 Wyth thys wyne streke the lymmes greued. 1590 Shaks. *Mids. N.* II. i. 257 And with the iuyce of this Ile streake her eyes.

†**6.** ? To spread, lay evenly. *Obs.*

?*c* 1440 *Anc. Cookery* in *Househ. Ord.* (1790) 471 Then take the same stuff, and streke above the trenchours al hote. 1517 in *Archæologia* XLVI. 205 Paid to Alson hog for strekyng of the straw mete & wages, iij d.

†**7.** To pass (one's hand) over a surface. *Obs.*

1607 Dekker & Wilkins *Jests* 38 Two of them meete him at a corner, and only with streaking of their hands on his hose, gesse whether this bayte be worth the nibling at.

†**8.** *intr.* To rub softly or make strokes *with* an implement *upon* (a surface). *Obs.*

1607 Topsell *Four-f. Beasts* 410 Lay vnto the place a peece of shoomakers waxe made like a flat cake,..and with your iron not made ouer hot, streek softly vpon it top and fro, vntill the said wax be throughly melted into the sore.

Hence **Strea·king** *vbl. sb.*; *pl.* the last milk that comes before the cow's udder is empty.

1658 Gurnall *Chr. in Armour* II. verse 15 xiii. § 1. 424 This was Christs fare-well Sermon, the very streakings of that milk, which he had fed them withall. 1866 Brogden *Prov. Linis, Strappings, Streakings, Strokings*, the last milk given by a cow.

Streak (strīk), *v.*[2] Forms: 5-6 **streke**, 6 **streeke**, 6-7 **streake**, 6- **streak**. [f. Streak *sb.* Cf. Strake *v.*[4]]

†**1.** *trans.* ? To cancel by drawing a line or lines across. *Obs.* (Cf. Strike *v.*)

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 479/2 Strekyn, or cancellyn a thynge wrytyn, *cancello, obelo.* 1594 Blundevil *Exerc.* I. v. (1597) 7 b, Streeke out the 48. and also the first figure of your Diuisor which is 5. 1595 T. Edwards *Cephalus & Procris* (Roxb.) 28 Affection is the whole Parenthesis, That here I streake, which from our taske doth misse.

2. To mark with lines or stripes of a different colour, substance, or texture; to form streaks on or in.

1595 T. Edwards *Narcissus* (Roxb.) 55 Now Phœbus gins ..To streake the welkin with his darting beames. 1612 Drayton *Poly-olb.* xiv. 254 No browne, nor sullyed black the face or legs [of the Cotswold sheep] doth streak. 1660 F. Brooke tr. *Le Blanc's Trav.* 354 Some pieces of Rock streaked with gold and silver. 1667 Milton *P. L.* IV. 623 To morrow ere fresh Morning streak the East With first approach of light. 1784 tr. *Beckford's Vathek* (1868) 22 The clear blue sky appeared streaked over with streams of blood. 1847 Tennyson *Princess* V. 188 Pure as lines of green that streak the white Of the first snowdrop's inner leaves. 1888 F. Hume *Mme. Midas* I. Prol., The sudden line of white foam every now and then streaking the dark green waves. 1913 *Illustr. Lond. News* 22 Feb. 238/3 Large mines of rock-salt streaked here and there by riband-like veins of sylvine.

fig. 1711 Steele *Spect.* No. 128 ¶ 3 This Affliction in my Life has streaked all my Conduct with a Softness, of which I should otherwise have been incapable.

3. To form or prolong in streaks.

1895 P. Hemingway *Out of Egypt* II. 181 He looked at the great oaks standing motionless, at the answering shadows streaked along the meadows.

4. *intr.* †**a.** Of a comet: To emit rays or streamers of light. *Obs.*

1606 Heywood *2nd Pt. Q. Eliz. Troub.* (1609) E 2, Looke how it streakes, what doe you thinke of it? *Shir.* Tis a strang Comet M. Hobson.

b. Of lightning: To break forth in a streak.

1849 Cupples *Green Hand* xiv. (1856) 139, I saw a blue flare of lightning streak out betwixt the bank of grey haze and the cloud that hung over it. 1902 *Westm. Gaz.* 2 July 2/3 Perhaps, however, lightning can streak into many places at once.

5. To become streaked or streaky.

1870 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 25 Nov. 12/2 His locks are thinning and his whiskers streaking with silver. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* III. 231 Paper at all liable to streak should be toned slowly.

Hence **Strea·king** *vbl. sb.*, the action of the verb; *concr.* a series or arrangement of streaks.

1677 Coles *Eng.-Lat. Dict.*, A Streaking, *distinctio.* *a* 1820 J. R. Drake *Amer. Flag* 8 She..striped its pure celestial white With streakings of the morning light. 1845 Lindley *School Bot.* (1866) 133 The sepals have a deep brown streaking at the back. 1898 G. W. Cable *Grandissimes* viii. 43 Hair *en queue*, the handsomer for its premature streakings of grey.

Streak: see Strake *sb.*[1] and Streek *v.*

Streaked (strīkt), *ppl. a.* [f. Streak *v.*[2] + -ed[1]. Cf. Straked *ppl. a.*]

1. Marked with streaks; striped, striate. Often in specific names of animals and plants.

1596 Shaks. *Merch. V.* I. iii. 80 That all the eanelings which were streakt and pied Should fall as Iacobs hier. 1611 — *Wint. T.* IV. iv. 82 Streak'd Gilly-vors (Which some call Natures bastards). 1656 Beale *Heref. Orchards* (1657) 46 For cider, the streak't must is most commended. 1665 Lovell *Herbal* (ed. 2) 419 Streaked grasse, see Lady lace grasse 1681 Grew *Museum* I. § v. iii. 114 The Streaked File-Fish. *Capriscus striatus.* 1758 Borlase *Nat. Hist. Cornw.* 203 The poorer sort, which is the streaked or dredged ore. 1774 Goldsm. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) III. 242 The true streaked tiger. 1796 Withering *Brit. Plants* (ed. 3) I. 85 *Streaked*, marked with depressed, but not always parallel lines. 1801 [C. Stewart] *Elem. Nat. Hist.* I. 352 *Trigla lineata.* Streaked Gurnard. 1855 *Orr's Circ. Sci., Inorg. Nat.* 207 Bath stone..is..usually of a warm cream tint, often streaked. 1868 Sir J. Richardson etc. *Mus. Nat. Hist.* I. 260 The Streaked Sparrow-hawk (*Accipiter virgatus*).

b. Of flesh-meat, esp. bacon: = Streaky 2 b.

1687 Miege *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II. s.v., A fine streaked Bacon, *du petit Lard.* 1725 *Bradley's Family Dict.* s.v. *Potage*, A Border of young streak'd Bacon. 1845 D. Jerrold *Time Works Wonders* I. 2 I've some beautiful bacon, sir, Such pink and white! Streaked, sir, like a carnation. 1846 J. Baxter *Libr. Pract. Agric.* (ed. 4) II. 92 The fat is intermixed among the fibres of the muscles, giving the meat a streaked or marbled appearance.

2. *U.S. dial.* Confused, ashamed, agitated; uneasy, scared, alarmed. Usually *to feel* or *look streaked.*

1833 [Seba Smith] *Lett. J. Downing* ii. (1835) 29, I begun to feel pretty streaked for our folks when I see what was done on Boston Common. 1837 Haliburton *Clockm.* Ser. I. iv. 26 If he was in your House of Commons, I reckon he'd make some of your great folks look pretty streaked. 1848 Lowell *Biglow P.* Ser. I. ii. 19, I tell ye I felt streaked The fust time 't ever I found out wy baggonets wuz peaked.

Hence **Strea·kedness.** *rare*[−0].

1727 Bailey vol. II, *Variegatedness*, Speckledness, Streakedness.

Streaker (strī·kəɹ). Forms: 4 **strecour**, 6 **strekour**, 9 **streaker**. [ME. (Sc.) *strecour*, prob. a. AF. **stracour* (*stracur, strakur*, quot. 1287): cf. OF. *estrac* track.]

1. A kind of swift hound for the chase. *north.*

[1287 in G. J. Turner *Sel. Pleas Forest* (1901) 149 Cum uno stracur nigro. *Ibid.*, Cum duobus leporariis..et cum uno strakur griseo.] 1375 Barbour *Bruce* VI. 487 A sleuthhund had he thar alsua..; And sum men sais 3eit that the kyng As a strecour hym nwrist had. 1840 Colquhoun *Moor & Loch* 44 If the foxes escape the guns, as they commonly do, 'the streakers' are slipped upon them. *Footnote.* A breed between the largest size of greyhound and foxhound.

†**2.** *Sc.* A term of abuse for a person. *Obs.*

1500-20 Dunbar *Poems* lx. 17 Stuffettis, strekouris, and stafische strummellis.

†**3.** ? A beaker, goblet. *Obs, rare*[−1].

Prob. a different word, or misprint for *Beaker.*

1694 Motteux *Rabelais* IV. xv. 63 A swinging Streaker of Briton Wine.

Streakings: see Straiken.

Streaky (strī·ki), *a.* Also 7 **streeky**. [f. Streak *sb.* + -y. Cf. Straky.]

1. Of the nature of a streak or streaks; occurring in, consisting of, streaks.

1670 G. Harvey *Little Venus Unmask'd* 46 Virulent Whites, being thick streeky, and sometimes thin, sharp, and gnawing. 1687 Dryden *Hind & P.* III. 1293 For now the streaky light began to peep. 1700 — *Fables, Flower & Leaf* 586 The Life is in the Leaf, and still between The Fits of falling Snows appears the streaky Green. 1748 Richardson *Clarissa* (1811) VIII. 156 The paint lying in streaky seams. 1821 Joanna Baillie *Metr. Leg., Wallace* x, As lightning..At first but like a streaky line In the hush'd sky. 1849 Cupples *Green Hand* xiii. (1856) 123 The line of the horizon..with a streaky white haze overlying it. 1916 *Connoisseur* Aug. 239/1 The latter [picture] was somewhat reminiscent of Gainsborough in the streaky handling of the sky and foliage.

2. Marked with streaks; streaked.

1745 T. Warton *Pleas. Melancholy* 72 The blushes of the streaky west. 1821 *Self Instructor* 319 Ivory..coarse grained or fine, streaky or the contrary. 1862 Calverley *Verses & Transl.* (ed. 2) 2 When I..sent those streaky lollipops home for your fairy suction. 1872 J. H. Gurney *Anderssons Birds Damara Land* 183 *Poliospiza gularis* (Smith). Streaky-headed Grosbeak. 1883 *Hardwich's Photogr. Chem.* (ed. 9) 331 The Print Marbled and Streaky.—These defects are often seen before the print is toned.

b. Of flesh-meat, esp. bacon: Having lean and fat in alternate streaks.

1838 Dickens *O. Twist* xvii, The layers of red and white in a side of streaky bacon. 1848 Thackeray *Van. Fair* xxviii, Good streaky beef, really mingled with fat and lean.

3. *fig.* Variable, uneven (in character or quality); changeable, uncertain (in operation or activity). *colloq.*

1898 Bartram *Whiteheaded Boy* x. 216, I believe Finoucane to have been, as regards courage, what I should call 'streaky'. 1899 A. C. Benson *Life E. W. Benson* I. iv. 117 The incongruous and streaky additions [to the school-buildings]. 1899 *Daily News* 4 Oct. 3/2 The wind, however, was streaky, and did not hit the boats at the same time. 1903 *Westm. Gaz.* 7 July 3/1 Raphael did not begin well, his first thirty or forty runs being very streaky.

4. *slang.* **a.** Irritable, ill-tempered. **b.** *U.S.* = Streaked 2.

1848 in Bartlett *Dict. Amer.* s.v. *Streaked*, I never did feel so streaky and mean before. 1860 *Hotten's Slang Dict.* 229 *Streaky*, irritated, ill-tempered. *a* 1872 in Schele de Vere *Americanisms* 637 A man needn't be afraid to feel streaky, when his mule's about giving out and the Ingins begin to yell like a pack of coyotes.

Hence **Strea·kily** *adv.*; **Strea·kiness.**

a 1750 A. Hill *Wks.* (1753) II. 185, I..walked homeward, in the brownness of the night, which had shadowed over the fields, with a melancholy streakiness, from the paleness of the moonshine. 1873 Besant & Rice *My Little Girl* II. ix. 109 He has no perception of the beauties of nature, save in the streakiness of beef. 1874 J. Fergusson *St. Paul's in Contemp. Rev.* Oct. 759 It shows that what was meant to suggest strength is a mere sham, only a little bit of inlay, which, besides its streakiness, violates every principle of..

construction. 1885 Lock *Workshop Rec.* Ser. IV. 390/2 It would be next to impossible to obtain a coating perfectly free from streakiness. 1896 *Brit. Birds, Their Nests & Eggs* I. 111 They [the eggs] are dull greenish-white, mottled, or streakily spotted with olive.

Streal, variant of STRÉEL.

Streale. *Obs.* exc. *dial.* Also 3 stral. [OE. *strǽl* (Anglian *strél*) masc. and fem., corresp. to OS. *strâla* fem. (MLG. *strâl, strâle* masc. and fem.), MDu. *strael* masc., *strâle* fem. (Du. *straal* masc.), OHG. *strâla* fem. (MHG. *strâl, strâle* masc. and fem., mod.G. *strahl* masc.):—OTeut. **strēlo-z, -ō*, cogn. w. OSl., Russian стрѣла arrow.] An arrow.

1680 *Ruthwell Cross Inscr.* in *O. E. Texts* 126 Miþ strelum ziwundad. 971 *Blickl. Hom.* 199 He..mid ȝeættredum strǽle ongan sceotan. *c* 1205 Lay. 5695 Ofte heo letten grund-hat læd gliden heom an heore hæfd, stockes & stanes & strales hate. 1853 W. D. Cooper *Provinc. Sussex* 79 *Streale*, an arrow. E[astern Sussex].

Stream (strīm), *sb.* Forms: 1 stréam, stréaum, stréom, 2–6 strem(e, 3 strime, striem, stræm, (stram), 3 streume, (4 stremme), 4–7 streem(e, 5–6 streym(e, 5–7 streame, 3– stream. [Com. Teut. (not recorded in Gothic): OE. *strēam* masc. = OFris. *strâm* (WFris. *straat*, NFris. *strôm, strâm*), OS. *strôm* (Du. *stroom*), OHG., MHG. *stroum* (mod.G. *strom*), ON. *straum-r* (Sw. *ström*, Da. *strøm*):—OTeut. **straumo-z*:—pre-Teut. **srowmo-s*, f. Indogermanic root **srou-* (:**sreu-*: **srŭ-*) to flow.

Among the many cognates outside Teut. are Skr. *sru* (3rd sing. prés. *sravati*) to flow, *sruta* fluid; Gr. ῥέ(ϝ)ειν to flow, ῥεῦμα a flow, ῥόος current; OSl., Russ. струя *struya* stream; OIrish *struaim* stream, *sruth* (= MWelsh *frut*, mod. Welsh *ffrwd* stream).]

1. A course of water flowing continuously along a bed on the earth, forming a river, rivulet, or brook.

c 875 *Erfurt Gloss.* 2036 in *O. E. Texts* 102 *Torrentibus*, streaumum. *a* 1000 *Boeth. Metr.* XX. 172 Swa stent eall weoruld.., streamas ymbutan. *c* 1205 Lay. 21323 Nu he stant on hulle & Auene bi-halden hu ligeð i þan stræme stelene fisces. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 2096 Đo drempte pharaon king a drem, ðat he stod bi ðe flodes strem. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 1316 He saw a spring Of a well..þat oute of ran four gret stremmes; Gyson, fison, tigre, eufrate. *c* 1386 Chaucer *Prol.* 464 She hadde passed many a straunge strem. 1470–85 Malory *Arthur* IV. xix. 144 Aboue ther by was the hede of the streme a fayr fontayne. *a* 1552 Leland *Itin.* (1910) V. 72 For there the streme of Isis breaketh into many armelets. The fery [Hinkesey] selfe is over the principal arme or streame of Isis. 1668 Dryden *Ess. Dram. Poesie* 62 'Tis like the murmuring of a stream, which not varying in the fall, causes at first attention, at last drowsiness. 1709 T. Robinson *Nat. Hist. Westmorld. & Cumb.* viii. 48 The River Eden..takes into its Stream the Rivers Eamont and Lowther, which make a considerable Increase to it. 1745 *Sc. Transl. & Paraphr.* xxiv. 1 Say, grows the Rush without the Mire? the Flag without the Stream? 1782 Cowper *Comparison* 9 Streams never flow in vain; where streams abound, How laughs the land with various plenty crown'd! 1833 Tennyson *Lady of Shalott* IV. ii, The broad stream bore her far away, The Lady of Shalott. 1837 W. Irving *Capt. Bonneville* III. 9 The Lower Nez Percés range upon the Way-lee-way, Immahah, Yenghies, and other of the streams west of the mountains. 1871 Ruskin *Arrows of Chace* (1880) II. 160 The first thing the King of any country has to do is to manage the streams of it.

b. Appended to a river-name. Now only *poet.*

c 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* John i. 28 Ofer iordanen ðone stream [L. *trans Jordanem*]. *c* 1205 Lay. 21275 Þa al wes Auene stram mid stele ibrugged. *c* 1275 *Moral Ode* 244 in *O. E. Misc.*, Ne may hit quenche no salt water ne auene strem ne sture. 1627 May *Lucan* III. E 6, Now downe the streame of Rodanus the fleet From Stœchas comes to sea. 1808 Byron *'Well! thou art happy'* 35 Oh! where is Léthe's fabled stream? 1896 Housman *Shropshire Lad* XXVIII, High the vanes of Shrewsbury gleam Islanded in Severn stream.

c. *poet.* as a type of pure water for drinking.

c 1205 Lay. 19757 For þe King ne mai on duȝeðe bruken nanes drenches buten cald welles stræm. 1671 Milton *Samson* 546 Nor did the dancing Rubie Sparkling, outpowr'd,..Allure thee from the cool Crystalline stream. 1738 Gray *Propertius* III. v. 47 Famine at feasts, and thirst amid the stream.

d. In *plural*, the waters (of a river). *poet.*

1500–20 Dunbar *Poems* lxxxviii. 26 Thy Ryuer..Whose beryall stremys, pleasaunt and preclare, Vnder thy lusty wallys renneth down. 1594 Kyd *Cornelia* IV. ii. 13 O beautious Tyber, with thine easie streames That glide as smothly as a Parthian shaft. 1627 May *Lucan* III. E 1, And where vnder sea Alphæus sends his streames to Sicily. 1824 Scott *St. Ronan's* i, A river of considerable magnitude pours its streams through a narrow vale.

e. A rivulet or brook, as contrasted with a river.

1806 *Gazetteer Scot.* (ed. 2) 610 Whithern..a royal borough ..seated on the bay of Wigton, where a small stream of water falling into it forms a harbour. 1834 Lytton *Pompeii* III. iii, The Sarnus;—that river, which now has shrunk into a petty stream. 1876 Voyle & Stevenson *Milit. Dict.* 412/2 *Stream*, a small land current of water.

2. Flow or current of a river; force, volume, or direction of flow.

14.. in Parker *Dom. Archit.* (1859) III. 42 Then the strenghe of the streme astoned hem stronge. 1508 Dunbar *Golden Targe* 28 Doun throu the ryce a ryuir ran wyth stremys, So lustily agayn thai lykand lemys, That [etc.]. 1530 Palsgr. 693/2, I ronne, as the streame of any ryver or water dothe, *je cours.* 1590 Shaks. *Com. Err.* I. i. 87 My wife and I..Fastned our selues at eyther end the mast, And floating straight, obedient to the streame, Was carried towards Corinth. 1609 Holland *Amm. Marcell.* XXIII. ii. 221 He departed from thence by the very edge of the river bankes, where the streame was big by occasion of other brookes conflowing thither on every side. 1653 Holcroft *Procopius, Gothic Wars* II. xxiii. 66 Soon after, the River had the wonted stream and was Navigable again. 1662 R. Venables *Exper. Angler* iii. 37, I could never..discern perfectly where my flie was, the wind and stream carrying it so to and again, that [etc.]. 1768–74 Tucker *Lt. Nat.* (1834) II. 460 As in rivers,..whose very essence is incompatible with a real identity: for the essence of a river consists in having a stream, that is, a perpetual change of waters. 1889 Mrs. Pennell in *Century Mag.* Aug. 484 For two persons who knew nothing about boats and could not swim, the Thames journey with such a stream running was not promising.

† **b.** A flood, unrestrained outbreak of waters.

c 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Matt. vii. 27 Cuomon streamas [L. *venerunt flumina*] & ȝebleuun windas. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 1852 Til seuensith tuenti dais war gan þe streme it stud ai still in-an.

c. A current in the sea. Cf. Gulf stream.

1375 Barbour *Bruce* III. 684 Quhar als gret stremys ar rynnand,..As is the raiss of bretangie. *c* 1386 Chaucer *Prol.* 402 To rekene wel his tydes, His stremes, and his daungers hym bisides. 1546 in *Sel. Pleas Crt. Admiralty* (1894) I. 148 Fyndynge the sayde shyppe..dryvynge with the streamys as a wayff and forsaken of all creatures. 1596 Dalrymple tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* I. 59 It swallyis vp hail schipis, and throuch the violence, and vehement force of convrare workeng of the wais of the sey, quhen ilk streme stryues with vthir, drounes thame in the deip. 1687 *Relat. De Chaumont's Embassy Siam* 17 The Streams were so great, and running sometimes against us, that we were forced oft to cast Anchor; for when the Calm took us, the Streams forcibly carried us a great distance. *a* 1830 J. Rennell *Currents Atlantic Ocean* (1832) 22 The Equatorial Current..is, doubtless, the most powerful and the longest extended stream of all those in the Atlantics. 1849 Cupples *Green Hand* ii. (1856) 17, I have seldom seen the Stream [i.e. the Gulf Stream] so distinct hereabouts.

d. The middle part of a current or tide, as having the greatest force of flow.

1398 Trevisa *Barth. De P. R.* XIII. xviii. (1495) 448 Comonly the streme hath most fresshe water and most clene grounde, and rennyth moost swyftly than any other parte of the ryuer. 1867 Smyth *Sailor's Word-bk., Stream*, Anglo-Saxon for flowing water, meaning especially the middle or most rapid part of a tide or current.

† **e.** *To break the stream*: to pass through water belonging to the jurisdiction of one port in order to load or unload at another port. *Obs.*

1496 *Maldon* (Essex) *Court-rolls* Bundle 56 No. 4 b, Misericordia xiid. de Willelmo Heyward quod fregit le streyme usque heybregge cum naviculâ suâ.

f. Phrases. (*a*) *Against, with the stream.* Often in fig. context (cf. 6), e.g. *to strive against the stream*, to resist the influences of one's environment, to oppose prevailing tendencies; *to go, sail, swim with the stream*, to yield to pressure of circumstances or example. (*b*) *Down, up* (*the*) *stream*, † *downward the stream.*

(*a*) *c* 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* III. 70 Sing þis, horse on þæt wynstre eare on ymendum wætre & wend þæt heafod ongean stream. *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 51 [Heo] bi-gon to swimmen forðward mid þe streme. *c* 1205 Lay. 4531 Scipen þer heo funden makede muchul sæ-flot and ferden mid streme. 1390 Gower *Conf.* II. 93 Riht as a Schip ayein the strem, He routeth with a slepi noise. *c* 1489 Caxton *Sonnes of Aymon* xxviii. 582 By the grete strenghte of the fysshes it [*sc.* the corpse] was taried, and went noo ferder with the streme by the wille of our lorde. 1546 J. Heywood *Prov.* II. v. (1867) 55 Foly it is to spourne against a pricke, To stryue against the streme, to winche or kicke Against the hard wall. 1555 Eden *Decades* (Arb.) 195 Turnynge the stemmes or forpartes of their shyppes ageynst the streame. 1579 Tomson *Calvin's Serm. Tim.* 54/2 Yet suffer we all these things to passe, and goe with the streame. 1592 Nashe *Strange Newes* Wks. 1904 I. 321 This..is nothing else but to swim with the streame. 1593 — *Christ's T.* 59 b, Because the multitude fauours Religion, he runnes with the streame, and fauours Religion. 1638 R. Baker tr. *Balzac's Lett.* (vol. II.) 43, I have done it against the streame of my resolution quite. 1668 Dryden *Ess. Dram. Poesie* 57 To tell you, how much in vain it is for you to strive against the stream of the peoples inclination. 1708 *Constit. Watermen's Co.* xxix, If any Waterman Rowing with the Tide or Stream, shall neglect to give Notice or Warning..to all Persons Rowing cross or against the Stream or Tide. 1711 *Let. to Sacheverel* 30 There is hardly a Man, who does not swim with the Stream, that has not been..insulted. 1714 Pope *Let.* 25 July, Wks. 1737 II. 115 No man ever rose to any degree of perfection in writing, but thro' obstinacy and an inveterate resolution against the stream of mankind. 1736 Gray *Tasso* 15 Against the stream the waves secure he trod.

(*b*) *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 4780 He sagh a-pon þe water reme Caf flettand dunward þe strem. 1560 Daus tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 360 b, They brought in vitayle both vp the streame and down [L. *aduerso & secundo flumine*]. *c* 1643 Ld. Herbert *Autobiog.* (1824) 133 But the river being deep and strong in that place where he entered it, he was carried down the stream.

g. Naut. *In*, † *upon the stream*: see quot. 1863.

1473–4 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* I. 67 His schip and gudis that wes fundin vpon the streme and na man with hir, and was eschetit as the Kingis eschete. 1564 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* I. 280 Thair schippis hes lang tyme lyne on the Streme, and the maist part of thame becum lek. 1577 *Ibid.* II. 626 For bying and resset of unlauchful gudis upoun the streame. 1860 *All Year Round* 28 July 379/2 She's in the stream, sir. Yonder she [a yacht] lays. 1863 A. Young *Naut. Dict.* 396 A vessel in a river is said to be in the stream, when she is lying off from the shore so that they have to communicate with her by means of boats.

† **3.** Used vaguely (*sing.* and *pl.*) for: Water, sea. *Obs.*

c 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Matt. viii. 18 Fara *vel* gaa ofer luh *vel* stream [L. *trans fretum*]. ? 11.. *Charter of Eadweard* (A.D. 1066) in Kemble *Cod. Dipl.* IV. 193 Tolles and teames, on strande and on streame. *c* 1205 Lay. 3227 Þa olde King.. lette heo fo[r]ðe liðen ofer þa stremes. *Ibid.* 6116 Ofer þane saltne strem. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 1843 On þe streme þe arche can ride. 13.. *K. Horn* 105 (Harl. MS.) Þare fore þou shalt to streme go. *c* 1385 Chaucer *L. G. W.* 2508 (Skeat) Yit hath the streem of Sithο [Ovid *Sithonis unda*] nat y-broght From Athenes the ship. *c* 1470 *Gol. & Gaw.* 460 Schipmen our the streme thai stithil full straught. 1513 Douglas *Æneis* XII. Prol. 187 On salt stremis wolx Dorynda and Thetis, By rynnand strandis Nymphis and Naedes. 1551 Edw. VI *Lit. Rem.* (Roxb.) II. 327 Also the French embassadour was advertised, [of the Flemish ships]; who answered that he thought him sure inough when he came into our streames,—terming it so. 1577–87 Holinshed *Chron.* III. 811/1 Whereas peace was yet betweene England and Scotland, that they contrarie to that, as theeues & pirats, had robbed the kings subiects within his streames. *a* 1593 Marlowe *Ovid's Elegies* III. vii. 81 Tis said the slippery streame held vp her brest. 1614 Gorges *Lucan* X. 419 With fleetes he cuts the Ocean streames.

4. A flow or current of water or other liquid issuing from a source, orifice, or vessel. Often *hyperbolically* in sing. or pl. for a great effusion of blood or tears.

971 *Blickl. Hom.* 59 Ealle þa ȝewitaþ swa swa wolcn, & swa swa wæteres stream, & ofer þæt nahwær eft ne æteowaþ. *c* 1205 Lay. 30991 Blod orn in þe weiȝe stranes swiðe brade. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 112 So largeliche..vleau þet ilke blodi swot..þet te streames vrnen adun to þer ecrðe. *a* 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 2479 Þet ter rinneð aa mare eoile iliche riue, & strikeð a stream ut of þat stanene þruh. *a* 1225 *St. Marher.* 5 Þæt tet blod barst ut ant strac adun of hire bodi as stream deð of welle. *a* 1300 *Floriz & Bl.* (Camb. MS.) 228 In þe tur þer is a welle...He vrneþ in o pipe of bras..Fram flore in to flore þe strimes vrneþ store. *a* 1300 *Havelok* 2687 On þe feld was neuere a polk þat it ne stod of blod so ful þat þe strem ran intil þe heel. 1398 Trevisa *Barth. De P. R.* v. lxi. (1495) 177 The veynes haue that name, for they ben the wayes..of the stremes of the fletynge of the blood. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 10621 Myche watur he weppit.. Ouer-flowet his face, fell on his brest With streamys out straght þurgh his stithe helme. 1591 Spenser *Teares of Muses* 230 She lowdly did lament and shrike, Pouring forth streames of teares abundantly. 1594 Shaks. *Rich. III*, V. v. 37 Traitors..That would reduce these bloudy dayes againe, And make poore England weepe in Streames of Blood. 1625 N. Carpenter *Geog. Delin.* II. ix. (1635) 144 Certaine pits being digged into the grounde 2 hundred or three hundred feet deep, will discouer many great Streams of Water. 1697 Dryden *Æneis* IX. 470 The Wound pours out a Stream of Wine and Blood. *a* 1700 Evelyn *Diary* 23 May 1645, Last of all we came to the labyrinth in which a huge colosse of Jupiter throws out a streame over the garden. 1798 Roscoe tr. *Tansillo's Nurse* I. (1800) 33 Say can ye choose a nurse from broad St. Giles? Heedless what venom taints the stream she gives. 1812 Byron *Ch. Har.* I. lxxx, To meditate 'gainst friends the secret blow,..whence life's warm stream must flow. 1815 J. Smith *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 121 The water thus collected, runs in a continued stream out of the box. 1831 James *Phil. Augustus* I. iii, From the strong muscular arm of the knight, a stream of blood was just beginning to flow into a small wooden bowl held by a page. 1855 *Poultry Chron.* III. 299 Glasses may be prepared..by pouring a thin stream of melted wax down the side of the glass. 1881 Mrs. R. T. Cooke *Somebody's Neighbors* 84 The sharp streams of milk spun and foamed into the pail below. 1899 Lady M. Verney *Verney Mem.* IV. 79 Wine and ale..flowed in streams. 1913 *Times* 13 Aug. 3/4 Drugs ..which will kill the parasite in the blood and lymph streams of the body, have no effect upon the parasites in the brain.

† **b.** Strength or volume of flow. *Obs.*

c 1200 *S. Eng. Leg.* 17 Þat blod sprong out with gret strem. 1707 Floyer *Physic. Pulse-Watch* 282 We must observe the Colour, Stream and Pulse in Bleeding, and stop as the Colour changes, or the Stream falls.

c. A current or flow of air, gas, electricity.

a 1722 Lisle *Husb.* (1757) 211 They find great relief by the stream of air which runs along the rutts. 1753 Henry in *Phil. Trans.* XLVIII. 1 A stream of wind instantly ensued, the violence of which nothing could resist. 1777 Cavallo *Electricity* 208 And if the excitation of the cylinder is very powerful, dense streams of fire will proceed from the rubber. 1795 *Ibid.* (ed. 4) II. 117 With such machines, the power of Electricity should be so regulated, as to apply every degree of it with facility and readiness; beginning with a stream issuing out of a metal point. 1836–42 Brande *Chem.* (ed. 5) 491 When a stream of sulphuretted hydrogen gas is passed through it. *a* 1866 B. Taylor *Poems, Voy. Dream* 66 Sweep downward streams of air.

† **d.** An effluvium. *Obs.*

1677 Gilpin *Dæmonol.* (1867) 83 Those conceits that men have of God, whereby they mould and frame Him in their fancies,..are streams and vapours from this pit. *Ibid.* 454 These temptations..are like the opening of a sepulchre, which sends forth a poisonous stream which may infect those that loathe and resist it. *a* 1680 Glanvill *Sadducismus* I. v. (1681) 23 Nature for the most part acts by subtile streams and aporrhœa's of minute particles.

† **e.** An emanation. *Obs.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 18986 Yur eldrin men sal dremes dreme, And o mi gast þai sal ha stréme. *c* 1374 Chaucer *Troylus* I. 305 He..was ful unwar that love had his dwellinge Withinne the subtile stremes of hir yen. *c* 1420 ? Lydg. *Assembly of Gods* 1855 With fantasyes, tryfyls, illusions & dremes, Wyche poetys call Morpheus stremes.

5. *transf.* An uninterrupted succession of persons, animals, or things, moving constantly in the same direction.

1600 E. Blount tr. *Conestaggio* 289 The which inuested her rounde with a great streame of fire and shotte. *c* 1612 Chapman *Iliad* XVI. 359 And then lay ouerthrowne Numbers beneath their axle-trees; who, (lying in flight's streame) Made th' after chariots iot and iumpe in driuing ouer them. 1639 Fuller *Holy War* II. XXVII. (1647) 79 Emmanuel the Emperour..fortified his cities in the way, as knowing there needed strong banks where such a stream of people was to

passe. 1759 JOHNSON *Rasselas* xviii, He followed the stream of people. 1827 FARADAY *Chem. Manip.* xvii. (1842) 453 A stream of bubbles should be disengaged. 1838 DICKENS *Nich. Nick.* xxxii, Streams of people apparently without end poured on and on. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* vii. II. 238 At present a constant stream of emigration runs from Ireland to our great towns. 1857 LIVINGSTONE *Trav.* vi. 124 Very large flocks of swifts were observed flying over the plains... I counted a stream of them.

† b. A line, streak. *Obs.*

1597 SKENE *De Verb. Sign.* s. v. *Actilia*, Partial gilt, with spranges or streames of Gold fuilzie. *a* 1722 LISLE *Husb.* (1757) 133, I perceived..a stream or streak of a brown stain, the breadth of a pin, in the first joint above the root.

c. *Tin-mining.* (See quot. 1855.)

1778 W. PRYCE *Min. Cornub.* 133 The principal part of the Stream..is intermixed with stones, gravel, and clay. 1855 J. R. L[EIFCHILD] *Cornwall Mines* 200 This stream-tin is either met with in a pulverized sandy state, in separate stones called shodes, or in a continued course of stones...This course is called a stream.

d. In a polar ice-field: see quot.

1817 SCORESBY in *Ann. Reg., Chron.* 531 It [*sc.* a collection of pieces of drift-ice] is called a stream when its shape is more of an oblong. 1835 SIR J. ROSS *Narr. 2nd Voy.* Explan. Terms p. xv, *A stream*, a number of pieces of ice joining each other in a ridge or in any particular direction. 1853 KANE *Grinnell Exp.* xiv. (1856) 101 Broken floes running out into 'streams' were on all sides of us.

6. *fig.* in various applications, e.g.: A continuous flow of discourse, words; a continuous series of testimonies, events, or influences tending in one direction; an outflow (of beneficence, etc.), an influx (of wealth, revenue).

Wordsworth's expression *stream of tendency* (quot. 1814) is often mentioned with ridicule by writers of the first half of the 19th c. It is now in common use.

c 900 WÆRFERTH tr. *Gregory's Dial.* 94 Her yrneð up se æftra stream þære godcundan spræce, se cymð of þære rynelan bæs gastlican æspryngces. 1523 CROMWELL in Merriman *Life & Lett.* (1902) I. 36 Whereoff there were no dowte but that ryght haboundant stremys shuld from his most liberall magnyfysence be dereuyed into euery parte of this his Realme to the grete Inryching..of..all suche as hereafter showld lyue under hys obeysaunce. 1585 T. WASHINGTON tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* Ep. Ded., This flowing streame of wordes. 1639 PRYNNE *Anti-Armin.* 177 The constant streame of ancient, of moderne Interpreters haue giuen this orthodox receiued Exposition. 1681 in *Nairne Peerage Evid.* (1874) 14 Charles R. Our soveraigne lord knowing that it belongs to his majesty's crowne and prerogative royall to confer dignities and titles of honour on his well deserving subjects from whence as from the fountaine all the streames of honour doe flow. 1692 RAY *Disc.* iii. xi. (1693) 355, I have already given many Testimonies of the ancient Fathers and Doctors of the Church, and could, if need were, produce many more, the whole stream of them running this way. 1710 FELTON *Diss. Classics* (1718) 71 For this is to speak or write English in Purity and Perfection, to let the Streams run clear and unmix'd, without taking in other Languages in the Course. 1719 WATERLAND *Vind. Christ's Div.* Contents, Query xxviii, Whether it be at all probable..that the whole Stream of Christian Writers should mistake in telling us what the Sense of the Church was. 1769 BURKE *Corr.* (1844) I. 189 It must be of infinite importance, that the whole stream of the petitions should, as much as possible, run one way. 1775 JOHNSON *Tax. no Tyr.* 65 The quit-rents..will pour large streams of wealth into the royal coffers. 1814 WORDSW. *Excurs.* ix. 87 To commune with the invisible world, And hear the mighty stream of tendency Uttering, for elevation of our thought, A clear sonorous voice. 1858 CARLYLE *Fredk. Gt.* x. viii. II. 678 Friends are encouraged..to keep up a stream of talk. 1874 STUBBS *Const. Hist.* I. i. 3 The original stream of influence has been turned aside in its course. 1875 E. WHITE *Life in Christ* iii. xxiii. (1876) 355 For there is a broad and deep stream of evidence to show [etc.]. 1900 J. E. ELLIS in *Corr. relat. Polit. Situation S. Africa* 12 We want a stream of facts concerning suppression of telegrams, opening of letters, arbitrary arrests, [etc.].

b. The prevailing direction of opinion or fashion. † Also, the majority, main body (of a class of persons).

1614 BACON *Charge touching Duels* 12 Yet the streame of vulgar opinion is such, as it imposeth a necessity vpon men of value to conforme them-selues; or else there is no liuing or looking vpon mens faces. 1651 N. BACON *Disc. Govt. Eng.* ii. i. 6 He reflected upon God in common events, more ordinarily then the general streame of the Clergy did in those dayes. 1669 R. MONTAGU in *Buccleuch MSS.* (Hist. MSS. Comm.) I. 427, I find the stream of this Court to run mightily against him.

† c. *To give stream to*: to set in motion (one's power). *Obs.*

c 1611 CHAPMAN *Iliad* i. 272 Atrides! giue not streame To all thy powre, nor force his prise; but yeeld her still his owne, As all men else do.

† 7. A ray or beam of light; the tail of a comet.

c 1368 CHAUCER *Compl. Pity* 94 Let som streem of your light on me be sene. *c* 1391 — *Astrol.* i. § 13. 7 A Square plate perced with a certein holes..to resseyuen the stremes of the sonne by day. *c* 1402 LYDG. *Compl. Bl. Knt.* 592 His brighte bemes and his stremes al Were in the wawes of the water fal. 1473 WARKW. *Chron.* 16 The Erle of Oxenfordes men hade uppon them ther lordes lyuery,..whiche was a sterre withe stremys. *c* 1530 *Crt. of Love* 849 Now am I caught..With persant stremes of your yen clere. *a* 1536 *Songs, Carols* etc. (E.E.T.S.) 7 The streme shon over Bedlem brycht. 1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* II. 90 A maruellous gret Comet, quhilk toward the south schot fyrie stremes terrabillie. 1680 LUTTRELL *Brief Rel.* (1857) I. 60 The late comett was seen in other parts,..the starr was but small, yet the stream near 40 degrees in length. 1681 R. KNOX *Hist. Rel. Ceylon* 60 In the year 1666 in the month of February, there appeared in this Countrey another Comet or stream in the West. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 20 Aug. 1682, This night I saw another comet, neere Cancer, very bright, but the stream not so long as the former.

† 8. A streamer, pennant. *Obs.*

c 1440 *Ipomydon* 1938 With shippis and sayles manyfolde, There stremes were of fyne golde. 1585 T. WASHINGTON tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* ii. xi. 46 b, [We] put out all the flags, banners, streames, & gailliadets of our gallies. 1608 WILLET *Hexapla Exod.* 643 The violet and purple colour of the amethyst betokened their shipping, sailes and streames. 1626 CAPT. SMITH *Accid. Yng. Seamen* 18 Out goeth his flag and pendance or streames, also his Colours.

9. *attrib.* and *Comb.* a. simple attrib., as *stream-bank, -bed, -gravel, -ground, -head, -side, water.*

1619 ATKINSON *Gold Mynes Scot.* (Bannatyne Club) 15 To frame or make a long sowgh, or scowring place, into which they bringe the streame water. *c* 1630 MILTON *Let.* in *Birch Wks.* 1738 I. Life p. v, And here I am come to a streame-head, copious enough to disburden itselfe like Nilus at seven Mouthes into an Ocean. 1778 W. PRYCE *Min. Cornub.* 134 The additional trouble of removing back the soil in heaps, and levelling the Stream ground to receive it, is so little. 1807 J. BARLOW *Columb.* v. 39 The sandy streambank and the woodgreen plain. 1844 MRS. BROWNING *Rom. Swan's Nest* i, Little Ellie sits alone,.. By a stream-side, on the grass. 1857 M. ARNOLD *Rugby Chapel* 95 The stream-bed descends In the place where the wayfarer once Planted his footstep. 1870 MORRIS *Earthly Par.* III. iv. 410 That day he needs must leave the stream-side road. 1871 KINGSLEY *At Last* xi, A coarse low fern on stream-gravel. 1901 *Q. Rev.* July 22 The country [Uganda] is almost like a succession of gigantic furrows, and in nearly every furrow there is a 'sponge', swamp, or stream-head.

b. objective, parasynthetic, etc., as *stream-bordering, -embroidered, -illumed, -like* adjs.

1626 SANDYS *Ovid's Metam.* x. 108 Streame-bordering Willow. *c* 1630 QUARLES *Solomons Recant.* Soli. ii. Wks. (Grosart) II. 175/1 The green-breasted, stream-embroydred Plaines. 1820 SHELLEY *Prometh. Unb.* ii. iii. 26 Dim twilight-lawns, and stream-illumèd caves. 1820 WORDSW. *Misc. Sonn.* III. ii. 13 The stream-like windings of that glorious street.

c. Special comb.: **stream-anchor**, an anchor intermediate in size between the bower and the kedge, used to moor a ship in a sheltered position, and for warping; **stream-cable**, the cable or hawser of the stream-anchor; **stream-current** (see quots.); **stream-gold**, gold in alluvial deposits; **stream-ice**, pieces of drift ice joining each other in a continuous ridge and following the line of current; **stream-lake** (see quot. 1867); † **stream-net**, a net for fishing in running water; **stream-ore**, ore in alluvial deposits; **stream-tide**, a spring tide; **stream-tin**, tin ore found in pebble-like lumps in alluvial beds; hence **stream-tinner**, one who works this ore; † **stream-toll**, a toll paid for the use of a stream; **stream-tube** (see quot. and STREAM-LINE); **stream-way**, (*a*) the main current of a river; (*b*) the shallow bed of a stream, a watercourse; **stream-wheel** (see quot.); **stream-work**, the operation of washing detrital deposits for metal, esp. tin; a place where this is done.

1627 CAPT. SMITH *Sea Gram.* vii. 29 There is also a *streame Anchor not much bigger [than a kedger], to stemme an easie stream or tide. 1784 J. KING *Cook's 3rd Voy.* v. iv. III. 67 We carried out a stream anchor, to enable us to haul the ship abreast of the town, in case of an attack. 1883 *Man. Seamanship for Boys* 192 A stream anchor..is used for warping on, in a tideway or calm. 1618 in J. Charnock *Hist. Mar. Archit.* (1801) II. 227 Till of late none but the great shipps weare allowed *stream cables. 1644 MANWARING *Seamans Dict.* 103 *Streame-Cable* is a small cabell, which we ride withall in streames, as rivers, or in faire-weather, when we stop-a-tide. 1805 in Nicolas *Disp. Nelson* VII. 195 *note*, At daylight got the end of the stream-cable on board the prize, and made sail with her in tow. *a* 1830 J. RENNELL *Currents Atlantic Ocean* (1832) 21 *note*, I distinguish two kinds of currents. The one *drift* or *drift current*, is the mere effect of a constant or very prevalent wind on the surface-water...The other..is the **stream* current, formed of the accumulated waters of the drift current. 1875 *Encycl. Brit.* III. 19/1 A current thus directly impelled by wind is termed a 'drift-current', whilst a current whose onward movement is sustained by the *vis a tergo* of a drift-current is called a 'stream-current'. 1875 *Ure's Dict. Arts* III. 298 The gold of alluvial districts, called *stream-gold or placer-gold. 1856 KANE *Arct. Expl.* I. vi. 54 We stood on, boring the loose *stream-ice. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.*, **Stream-lake*, one which communicates with the sea by means of a river. 1662 *Act 14 Chas. II*, c. 28 § 1 With any Drift Net Trammel or *Stream Net. 1850 ANSTED *Elem. Geol., Min.* etc. 365 Among the minerals of importance obtained from Tertiary deposits, we may mention the *stream-ores of gold, platinum, and other rare metals found with these. 1789 J. WILLIAMS *Min. Kingd.* II. 198 A *stream-tide and a strong fresh meeting one another, would throw some of this sediment pretty high. 1854 H. MILLER *Sch. & Schm.* xiii. (1860) 136 The common oyster..is sometimes found in the Gairloch..in beds laid bare by the ebb of stream-tides. 1778 W. PRYCE *Min. Cornub.* 65 It is more profitably used for melting of *Stream Tin. 1853 URE *Dict. Arts* II. 859 This variety, called 'stream tin', produces the highest price in the market. 1839 DE LA BECHE *Rep. Geol. Cornwall* etc. xiii. 403 Confused mass of mud, sand, clay, and stones, which has been much disturbed by the *stream-tinners. 1189–99 in *Cal. Charter Rolls* IV. 63 Cum *stramtol et watertol et hamsochne. 1892 MINCHIN *Hydrostatics* etc. 371 If at any point, *A*,..we describe a very small closed curve and at each point on the contour of this curve we draw the stream line, such as *AP*, and produce it indefinitely, we obtain a *stream tube. 1911 *Encycl. Brit.* XXIV. 940/1 The surface formed by all the stream lines passing through a small closed contour is termed a 'stream tube'. 1822 SCOTT *Nigel* xxvi, They got into the *stream-way accordingly, and, although heavily laden, began to move down the river with reasonable speed. 1904 *Surrey Comet* 17 Sept. 6/7 There would be barges moored alongside the wharf, and there would be a demand for a mooring in the streamway. 1905 HOLMAN-HUNT *Pre-Raph.* II. 324 Near at hand I came upon the little stream-way. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.*, **Stream-wheel*, an undershot or current wheel. 1586 CAMDEN *Brit.* 69 Horum autem stannariorum, siue metallicorum operum duo sunt genera. Alterum Lodeworks, alterum *Streame-works, vocant. 1602 CAREW *Cornwall* I. 8 Which [scattered ore] being sought and digged, is called Streamworke. 1823 BUCKLAND *Relig. Diluv.* 219 The gold mine that was worked a few years since in the county of Wicklow was simply a stream-work, in which the gold was dispersed in the form of small pebbles and sand, through a bed of gravel. 1882 RHYS *Celtic Brit.* ii. 48 Some stream-works of the Bronze Age are known to have been carried out in localities.

Stream (strīm), *v.* Forms: 3, 6–7 **streame**, 4–6 **streme**, 7– **stream**. [f. STREAM *sb.*]

I. Intransitive senses.

1. Of a body of liquid: To flow or issue in a stream; to flow or run in a full and continuous current. Also with advs., as *away, down, out, forth.* Formerly sometimes of a river (merely = *flow*).

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 188 (MS. T.) Blodi strundes streamden & leafden his swete bodi. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* XII. 560 Quhill throu the byrneiss brist the blud, That till the erd doune stremand 3eed. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 302 b, So sore they dyd thryst them on thy heed yᵗ the blode stremed downe by thy blessed chekes. 1591 G. FLETCHER *Russe Commw.* ii. 6 The eight [river is] Ocka, that..streameth into Volgha. *c* 1630 RISDON *Surv. Devon* § 247 (1810) 259 The river Ock streameth by Stow. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* VIII. 467 A Rib, with cordial spirits warme, And Life-blood streaming fresh. 1759 JOHNSON *Rasselas* vii, The clouds broke on the surrounding mountains, and the torrents streamed into the plain on every side. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* vi. II. 72 She suffered the tears to stream down her cheeks unconcealed.

fig. 1579 TOMSON *Calvin's Serm. Tim.* 341/1 Let enery one of vs know..that vnlesse hee were stayed vp from an high by the vertue of the holie Ghost, he should finde him selfe to streame away as the water doth.

b. of a glacier.

1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* I. xiv. 98 Not a trace of vegetation could be seen along the whole range of the bounding mountains: glaciers streamed from their shoulders into the valley beneath.

c. of a road, or of land which seems to move in the opposite direction to one who passes along it.

1833 TENNYSON *Dream Fair W.* Introd., As when a man, that sails in a balloon, Downlooking sees the solid shining ground Stream from beneath him. 1864 — *Voyage* 50 O hundred shores of happy climes, How swiftly stream'd ye by the bark! 1882 BRET HARTE *Flip* i, Just where the red track of the Los Gatos road streams on and upward.

2. *transf.* and *fig.* of light, air, vapour, immaterial effluences, etc.: To be carried or emitted in a full and continuous current.

a 1300 *E. E. Psalter* lxi. 11 Welthes if þai stremen smert [Vulg. *si affluant*], Nil þou set on þam þi hert. 14.. *Beryn* 2468 Part of sapience Stremyd in-to his hert, for his eloquence. 1578 H. WOTTON *Courtlie Controv.* 59 Vntill the fountaine of loue, streaming from their eyes, gaue libertye vnto restrained speeche. 1601 SHAKS. *All's Well* II. iii. 82 And to imperiall loue, that God most high, Do my sighes streame. 1662 POWER *Exp. Philos.* (1664) Pref. b 4 b, They are all porous, and the ætherial Matter is continually streaming through them. 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* xxvi, She observed the rays of the lamp stream through a small opening. 1852 H. ROGERS *Ecl. Faith* (1853) 244 The morning sun was streaming in at the window. 1871 L. STEPHEN *Playgr. Eur.* (1894) iv. 98 The clouds..streamed out from their shelter into the current of the gale. 1875 CLARK RUSSELL *John Holdsworth* xx, Amid the clanking of spoons in glasses,..the conversation streamed into milder channels. 1897 S. CRANE *Third Violet* i. 4 Dust streamed out behind the vehicle. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* III. 81 In a short time neuralgic pangs stream along the limbs.

b. Of a star or meteor: To form a continuous trail of light as it moves in its course. (Cf. 6.)

1838 EMERSON *Lit. Ethics* Wks. (Bohn) II. 206 Over him [the scholar] stream the flying constellations. 1884 R. S. BALL in *Nature* 4 Sept. 455/1, I looked up just in time to see a superb shooting star stream across the heavens.

3. a. Of a flag, or the like: To wave or float outwards in the wind.

1560 PHAER *Æneid* IX. (1562) Dd iij, Thou sawest..how his helmet crest did streaming stare? 1667 MILTON *P. L.* I. 537 Th' Imperial Ensign..Shon like a Meteor streaming to the Wind. *Ibid.* v. 590 Ten thousand thousand Ensignes high advanc'd..Streame in the Aire. 1846 MRS. A. MARSH *Father Darcy* II. xx. 346 His own man, pale with terror, his hair streaming in the wind, came rushing..through the wood. 1853 LYTTON *My Novel* XII. xxxii, Flags stream, and drums beat.

indirect passive. 1907 E. GOSSE *Father & Son* 157 Dark rocks..streamed over by silken flags of royal crimson and purple.

b. Of hair, a garment, etc.: To hang loose and waving; to lie in undulating curves; to trail *out, behind.*

1784 COWPER *Task* IV. 541 Her head, adorn'd with lappets pinn'd aloft, And ribbands streaming gay. 1820 KEATS *Hyperion* I. 214 His flaming robes stream'd out beyond his heels. 1822 W. TENNANT *Thane of Fife* v. xlv, Stream'd from her cinctur'd waist her long cymar behind. 1883 S. C. HALL *Retrospect* II. 155 His loose grey hair streamed over his shoulders.

c. *indirect passive*, with *upon*: To be ornamented *with* (a profusion of jewels).

1837 LADY GRANVILLE *Lett.* (1894) II. 225 A white tissue floating about her like clouds, looped up and streamed upon with jewels.

4. Of persons (or animals): To move together continuously in considerable numbers; to flock. Often with adv., as *out*, *in*, *down*, *up*, *away*.

1735 DYCHE & PARDON *Dict.*, *Stream* v., to walk, move, or go along soberly or gently with the Current, &c., also to loiter about idly. 1815 SCOTT *Guy M.* xiii, People..streamed to it from all quarters. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* III. I.-vii, Recruits stream up on him. 1853 KANE *Grinnell Exp.* xlix. (1856) 464 We began to observe too flocks of little Auk streaming south. 1863 KINGSLEY *Water-Bab.* viii. 343 The sea-birds sang as they streamed out into the ocean. 1879 FROUDE *Cæsar* xix. 323 Horse and foot were streaming along the roads.

b. *spec.* of the hounds going after the fox in open country.

1853 R. S. SURTEES *Sponge's Sp. Tour* ix. 45 From the summit..they see the hounds streaming away to a fine grass country below. 1883 E. PENNELL-ELMHIRST *Cream Leicestersh.* 146 A fine big fox away, with the pack streaming after him. 1897 *Encycl. Sport* I. 583/1 (Hunting, fox) *Streaming*, going across open country, spread out.

c. Without the notion of large numbers: To go with a rush. *rare.*

1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* xv, It was scarcely out of his mouth when Mrs. Firkin and Miss Briggs had streamed up the stairs, had rushed into the drawing-room [etc.].

5. To pour off or exude liquid in a continuous stream; to run, drip, overflow with moisture. Of the eyes: To overflow *with* (tears); also with *over*. Of the body: To run *with*, †*on* (blood or sweat).

[*c* 1374 CHAUCER *Troylus* IV. 247 Hys eyen two, for pite of his herte, Out stremeden as swyfte welles tweye.] *a* 1375 *Joseph Arim.* 560 He seiȝ a child straust þer-on, stremynge on blode. 1693 EVELYN *De La Quint. Compl. Gard., Cult. Orange-trees* 15 Whilst the Clod is thus streaming, should one put it into a new Earth'd Case, it would make it all into a Mortar. 1735 SOMERVILLE *Chase* IV. 90 The smoking Litter..seek the pouting Teat, That plenteous streams. 1736 tr. *Rollin's Anc. Hist.* XVIII. II. iii. VIII. 426 Every part of the city streamed with blood. 1791 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Rom. Forest* I, With supplicating eyes that streamed with tears. 1812 BYRON *Ch. Har.* I. xiii. Song viii, Fresh feeres will dry the bright blue eyes We late saw streaming o'er. 1841 DICKENS *Barn. Rudge* xlviii, Still Lord George, streaming from every pore, went on with Gashford. 1850 [see STREAMING *ppl. a.* 1]. 1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) III. 18 The day was hot and he was streaming with perspiration. 1878 MEREDITH *Love in Valley* xii, Streaming like a willow grey in arrowy rain.

6. Of a luminous body: To emit a continuous stream of beams or rays of light. Also *spec.* of a comet, with reference to its 'tail': To issue in a widening stream of light.

a 1400–50 *Wars Alex.* 5286 With stoute starand stanes þat stremed as þe son. *c* 1420 LYDG. *Ballad, Commend. Our Lady* 68 Lanriat coroun, stremand as a sterre. 1592 SHAKS. *Rom. & Jul.* II. ii. 21 Her eye[s] in heauen, Would through the ayrie Region streame so bright, That Birds would sing, and thinke it were not night. 1608 TOPSELL *Serpents* 277 About their backes there are many little shining spots like eyes..streaming like starres. 1617 L. DIGGES tr. *Claudian's Rape Proserpine* I. D 3 b, A Comet..streaming o're the world with bloudy light. 1842 TENNYSON *Farew.* 13 A thousand suns will stream on thee. 1908 [MISS E. FOWLER] *Betw. Trent & Ancholme* 68 The Comet's tail streams and widens upward.

b. With a blending of sense 5: To be suffused *with* (radiant light).

1830 T. S. HUGHES *Trav. Sicily* (ed. 2) I. iv. 119 As he ascended in the sky the mountain tops began to stream with golden light. 1856 KANE *Arct. Expl.* I. xviii. 223 A gorge that was streaming at noonday with the southern sun.

II. Transitive senses.

7. To cause to flow; to pour forth, discharge, or emit in a stream (a liquid, rays of light, etc.). Also with adv., as *out*, *forth*, *down*.

1388 WYCLIF *Prov.* v. 16 Thi wellis be stremed forth [Vulg. *deriuentur fontes tui foras*]. 1493 *Dives & Paup.* (W. de W. 1496) I. ii. 33/2 His hondes were nayled to the crosse and stremed out blood. 1570 DEE *Math. Pref.* b ij, The true Sonne of rightwisenesse..hath so abundantly streamed into our hartes, the direct beames of his goodnes, mercy, and grace. 1596 SPENSER *Hymne Hon. Beautie* 26 It may so please, that she at length will streame Some deaw of grace into my withered hart. 1600 FAIRFAX *Tasso* II. xx, That lightning ray Which her sweete beautie streamed on his face. 1601 SHAKS. *Jul. C.* III. i. 201 Had I as many eyes, as thou hast wounds, Weeping as fast as they streame forth thy blood. 1641 J. JACKSON *True Evang. T.* II. 115 S. Peter..streamed downe upon the Church such abundance of sincere milk, as himselfe styleth it. 1789 POLWHELE *Engl. Orator* IV. 380 She [Religion] sits..Streaming cherubic Effluence o'er her Heaven Of spotless Azure. 1823 SCOTT *Quentin D.* iv, He took a large purse from his bosom,..and streamed a shower of small silver pieces into the goblet. 1868 *Model Steam Eng.* 19 If now cold water from a sponge be streamed over the bottom of the flask, boiling will recommence. 1880 C. R. MARKHAM *Peruv. Bark* 143 The moon streamed its floods of light over the forest. 1891 'MAX O'RELL' *Frenchm. in Amer.* 268 The firemen streaming floods of water over the roof and through the windows.

†*fig.* 1607 HIERON *Wks.* I. 420 The best which he [*sc.* man] hath in him is corrupt: he is streamed out of an infected fountain. 1608 WILLET *Hexapla in Exod.* 641 Royall power, streaming glorie and princely dignitie.

b. Of a river, a fountain: To have its stream composed of (an alien liquid); to run with (blood, etc.).

1613 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* v. i. (1614) 454 A golden world, where meale was as plentifull as dust, and fountaines streamed milke, hony, wine, and oyle. 1615 G. SANDYS *Trav.* 209 The riuer of Adonis, which is said by Lucan [*ed.* 3 *correctly* Lucian] to haue streamed bloud.

c. *To stream out*: to exhaust by unrestricted flow. Also *fig.*

1628 FELTHAM *Resolves* I. xv. 43 Themistocles, that streamed out his youth, in Wine, and Venery. 1894 E. A. MINCHIN tr. *Bütschli's Investig. Microsc. Foams* 79 To find out whether..one can produce new streamings in drops which have streamed themselves out.

8. To suffuse or overspread (a surface) *with* flowing moisture. Also *fig.*

1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 302 b, With..pale visage, all stremed with blode. 1806 G. PINCKARD *Notes W. Indies* III. 207 From using only moderate exercise, I am so streamed with perspiration as to make it necessary to change my clothes four or five times in the course of the day. 1897 F. THOMPSON *New Poems* 17 While his being is Streamed with the set of the world's harmonies.

†9. To ornament with flowing lines or rays. *Obs.*

c 1430 LYDG. *Min. Poems* (Percy Soc.) 8 Stremyd with sonnes were alle her garmentis. 1611 FLORIO, *Irrigare*, to streame any thing by lines. *a* 1626 BACON *New Atlantis* 23 The Heralds Mantle is streamed with Gold.

10. To cause (a flag) to float outwards in the wind; to wave (a handkerchief).

1593 SHAKS. *Rich. II*, IV. i. 94 Streaming the Ensigne of the Christian Crosse, Against black Pagans, Turkes, and Saracens. 1787 POLWHELE *Engl. Orator* II. 654 Some Bark Streaming the well-known Pendant. 1823 SCOTT *Quentin D.* xiv, As they streamed towards him their kerchiefs, in token of encouragement.

11. Naut. *To stream the buoy*: to throw the anchor-buoy overboard before casting anchor.

1769 FALCONER *Dict. Marine* (1780) s.v. *Buoy.* 1840 R. H. DANA *Bef. Mast* x. 23 After the topsails had been sheeted home,..and the buoys streamed, and all ready forward for shipping. 1882 NARES *Seamanship* (ed. 6) 162 Stream the buoy, and heave the anchor over.

12. *Mining.* To flush (a detrital deposit) with a stream of water, in order to carry off the earthy matter, and leave the ore exposed. Usually absol. *to stream for* (tin, copper, etc.).

1778 W. PRYCE *Min. Cornub.* 132 Nothing else remains than to describe the manner of Streaming. 1787 GROSCHKE tr. *Klaproth's Observ. Fossils Cornw.* 11 The manner of streaming or collecting the tin rubbles..is briefly the following. 1796 *Trans. Soc. Arts* XIV. 166 On streaming or searching for tin,..another stratum was discovered. 1866 KINGSLEY *Herew.* iii, Past the ugly dykes and muddy leats, where Alef's slaves were streaming the gravel for tin ore. 1877 *Encycl. Brit.* VI. 425/2 Copper, which lies deeper in the earth, and consequently cannot be 'streamed' for. 1899 BARING-GOULD *Bk. West* II. *Cornw.* 61 Hardly a gully has not been streamed, every river-bed has been turned over. 1907 *Proc. Soc. Antiquaries* 456 For the purpose of streaming for wolfram, or tungsten.

13. *Dyeing.* To wash (silk fabric) in running water, before putting in the dye.

1883 R. HALDANE *Workshop Rec.* Ser. II. 40/2 After which it [the woven silk] is removed to be streamed in running water, and beaten, till thoroughly clean and ready for dyeing.

†**Streamed**, *a. Obs.* [f. STREAM *sb.* (sense 7) + -ED 2.] Emitting streams of light; (of a comet) furnished with a 'stream' or tail. Also, ornamented with flowing lines (cf. STREAM *v.* 9).

c 1440 LYDG. *Secrees* 1003 This stoon of Colour is Sumtyme Cytrynade lyk the sonne stremyd in his kynde. 1593 NASHE *Christ's T.* 27 Ouer the Temple..was seene a Commet most coruscant, streamed & tayled forth, with glistering naked swords. 1641 *Invent. Goods C'tess. Arundel* in *Burlington Mag.* (1912) Jan. 235/1 Nyne streamed Tafeta Curtaines. *Ibid.* 235/2 A streamed silke Curtaine.

Streamer (strī·mə1), *sb.* Forms: 3–7 **stremer**(e, 4–5 **stremour** (6 *Sc.* **stremowr**), 6 **streemer, stremar** (*Sc.* **streamar**), **streymer** (**straymer**), 6– **streamer.** [f. STREAM *v.* + -ER 1.]

1. A flag streaming or waving in the air; *specif.* a long and narrow pointed flag or pennon.

1292 in Champollion-Figeac *Lettres des Rois* (1839) I. 397 Lesqueles banères sount appelés baucans, et la gent d'Engleterre les appelent stremeres. 1295 *Acc. Exch. K. R.* 5/8 m. 13 Et v.s. vj.d. in .j. Stremer empto de Hugone Kelinge Et xij.d. in .j. Phane empto ad Mast. 13.. *Sir Beues* 3042 Vpon þe hiȝeste mast is top þere He let sette vp a stremere Of his fader armure. *a* 1400 *Isumbras* 224 Those schippes sawe thay ryde With toppe castelles sett one lofte,..Stremours fro thame ferre gane glyde. 1500 *Inv. Ch. Goods Canterb.* in *Gentl. Mag.* (1837) Dec. 571/2, j stremer, of rede bokeram, wt a dragon of Saynt George therin, and a rode baner staff longyng thereto. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VII*, 53 b, Barges garnished with standardes, stremers and penons. 1602 MARSTON *Antonio's Rev.* III. i, *Ant.* Where stands my fathers hearse? *2nd Pa.* Those streamers beare his armes. 1631 WEEVER *Anc. Funeral Mon.* 596 A little Streamer worne on the top of a lawnce by a Horseman. 1671 MILTON *Samson* 718 Like a stately Ship ..With all her bravery on, and tackle trim, Sails fill'd, and streamers waving. 1704 PRIOR *Let. to M. Boileau Despreaux* 74 What Poet would essay To count the Streamers of my Lord Mayor's Day? 1721 STRYPE *Eccl. Mem.* II. I. xxxii. (271) Whose Streamers and Cognizances hang still up in the said Church. 1784 COWPER *Task* II. 255 Now hoist the sail, and let the streamers float Upon the wanton breezes. 1841 DICKENS *Barn. Rudge* xlviii, He shall carry..the gayest silken streamer in this valiant army.

fig. 1648 HERRICK *Hesper., Mrs. Eliz. Wheeler, Lost Shepardesse* 12 In yond' Carnation goe and seek, There thou shalt find her lip and cheek:..In bloome of Peach, and Roses bud, There waves the Streamer of her blood. 1784 COWPER *Task* v. 330 Your self-denying zeal, that holds it good..to hang His thorns with streamers of continual praise. 1860 HAWTHORNE *Transform.* xlviii, [To him] the Corso was but a narrow and shabby street of decaying palaces; and even the long, blue streamer of Italian sky, above it, not half so brightly blue as formerly.

2. *transf.* a. *gen.* Something long and narrow, that hangs loose in the manner of a streamer.

1810 SCOTT *Lady of L.* I. xi, The brier-rose fell in streamers green. 1853 MRS. GORE *Dean's Dau.* xxxvii. III. 183 'My maid pointed out to me..this morning half-a-dozen grey hairs in these miserable streamers,' replied Lady Emily, passing her hand lightly through the long, fair ringlets. 1889 *Repent. Paul Wentworth* III. 228 Tying up a bouquet..with long streamers of pale yellow ribbon. 1908 [MISS E. FOWLER] *Betw. Trent & Ancholme* 286, I have seen long streamers of dark pink roses swinging over the Red Sandstone walls of Melrose.

†b. Some kind of decoration for pastry. *Obs.*

1710–11 SWIFT *Jrnl. to Stella* 6 Jan., Great cakes frothed with sugar, and stuck with streamers of tinsel. 1717 PRIOR *Alma* I. 388 He must be an idle dreamer, Who leaves the pie, and gnaws the streamer.

c. A long flowing ribbon, feather, etc. attached to some article of dress.

1838 W. C. HARRIS *Narr. Exped. S. Africa* xii. 106 A collection of skin streamers like the tails of a lady's boa attached to a thin waistcord, being the nearest approach to an habiliment amongst them. 1841 DICKENS *Barn. Rudge* xxxi, The obliging care of his martial friend had decorated his hat with sundry parti-coloured streamers. 1853 C. BRONTË *Villette* xx, A lady's head-dress—a most airy sort of blue and silver turban, with a streamer of plumage on one side. 1862 THACKERAY *Philip* xxviii, Her own battered, blowsy old *chapeau*, with its limp streamers.

d. A long exserted feather streaming away from the rest of the plumage of certain birds.

[Cf. 1869–73 in sense 7.]

1879 A. NEWTON in *Encycl. Brit.* X. 712/1 In this [species] the remigial streamers do not lose their barbs. 1899 A. H. EVANS *Birds* 548 The extraordinary *Pteridophora alberti* possesses a wonderful streamer behind each eye, twice as long as the body.

e. A long narrow strip of vapour, snow, etc.

1871 L. STEPHEN *Playgr. Eur.* (1894) viii. 176 Fragments of vapour..clustered in long streamers upon the mountain sides. 1874 SYMONDS *Sk. Italy & Greece* (1898) I. i. 27 Streamers of snow may be seen flying from the higher ridges. 1895 R. W. CHAMBERS *King in Yellow* (1909) 253 Long streamers of clouds touched with rose swept low on the western sky.

3. †a. A luminous heavenly body emitting a continuous stream of light. *Obs.*

1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* XII. Prol. 21 The twinkling stremowris of the orient Sched purpour sprangis with gold and asure ment, Persand the sabill barmkyn nocturnall. 1594 NASHE *Terrors Nt.* Wks. 1904 I. 354 Sundry times wee behold whole Armies of men skirmishing in the Ayre, Dragons, wilde beasts, bloody streamers, blasing Comets, firie strakes, with other apparitions innumerable. 1647 J. HALL *Poems* 71 O who so stupid that would not Resolve to Atoms, for to play 'Mong th' golden streamers he shall shut, While he prolongs one endlesse day?

†b. The tail of a comet. *Obs.*

1621 QUARLES *Esther* Introd. B 4 b, With mighty streamers came these blazing starres, Portending Warres. 1665 *Phil. Trans.* I. 39 It was not by far so bright, nor its streamer shining as this hath appeared. 1710 N. BLUNDELL *Diary* (1895) 85 My Wife and I saw ye Strange Starr..the Streamer of it seemed to be fully four yards long.

c. A ray proceeding from the sun; esp. *pl.*, the radiation of the sun's corona seen in eclipses.

1697 DRYDEN *Æneis* VII. 35 When the rosie Morn began to rise, And wav'd her Saffron Streamer thro' the Skies. 1708 *Brit. Apollo* No. 108. 2/2 Your Rayes so extensive, And Lust'ring Streamers. 1878 PROCTOR *Myst. Time & Space* (1883) 110 The Sun's long streamers. *Ibid.* 119 The theory that such meteor systems may explain coronal streamers seen during total eclipses of the sun.

d. *pl.* The Aurora Borealis; rarely *sing.* (*poet.*), one of the darting rays or flashes forming this phenomenon. Cf. STREAMING *vbl. sb.* b.

1735 BYROM *Rem.* (1855) I. II. 519 Mr. C. had a coach, in which I rode to Gray's Inn; there were streamers in the air very remarkable. *a* 1774 GOLDSM. *Surv. Exp. Philos.* (1776) I. 64 The Aurora Borealis..which the vulgar call streamers. 1775 L. SHAW *Hist. Moray* III. 148 In the Winter Nights, the Aurora Borealis (from its desultory motion, called Merry-dancers and Streamers) affords no small light. 1801 J. LEYDEN *Elfin-King* XXX, When high over head fall the streamers red. 1842 TENNYSON *Morte d'Arth.* 139 The great brand..flashing round and round, and whirl'd in an arch, Shot like a streamer of the northern morn. *a* 1861 A. CLOUGH *Mari Magno* v. 329 While the arctic streamers bright Rolled from the clouds in waves of airy light. 1873 SYMONDS *Grk. Poets* viii. 250 His splendour is like that of northern streamers in its lambency.

e. A streaming jet or tongue of flame.

1758 REID tr. *Macquer's Chem.* I. 265 From time to time this streamer darts out to the length of seven or eight inches, snapping and emitting sparks of fire.

†4. A rider or supplementary addition to a document. *Obs.*

1696 S. SEWALL *Diary* 2 Dec. (1878) I. 439 Capt. Byfield brings in a long Bill from the deputys for a Fast and Reformation, written by Mr. Cotton Mather, to which a Streamer was added expressing that Partiality in Courts of Justice was obvious.

5. The geometrid moth *Anticlea derivata.*

1775 M. HARRIS *Eng. Lepidoptera* 45 Streamer...White moth, having a bar of brown near the thorax and another waving like a narrow flag near the tip. 1832 J. RENNIE *Butterfl. & Moths* 123 The Streamer (*Anticlea derivata*). 1869 E. NEWMAN *Brit. Moths* 166.

6. *Mining.* One who washes detrital deposits to procure the ore they contain.

1619 in W. Macfarlane *Geogr. Collect.* (S.H.S.) III. 34 John Gibson..who..now is a Washer or streamer for Gold.

1758 Borlase *Nat. Hist. Cornw.* 214 A streamer there, found native gold immersed in the body of a blue sandy slat. 1769 *Phil. Trans.* LIX. 49 Some streamers..brought in a parcel of tin ore. 1865 Esquiros *Cornw.* 41 Streamers, that is to say, men who obtain tin by washing the deposits found by the disaggregation of the primitive rocks.

7. *attrib.* and *Comb.*

1534 in Sharp *Cov. Myst.* (1825) 196 Paid to he stremerberers xvj d. 1869–73 T. R. Jones *Cassell's Bk. Birds* II. 131 The Streamer-bearing Night Jar..(*Cosmetornis vexillarius*). 1871 Nesbitt *Catal. Slade Coll. Glass* 75 Green and red streamer points. 1883 *Encycl. Brit.* XVI. 688/1 Drawn out to streamer-like dimensions. 1899 Meredith *Poems, Night-walk* 3 Awakes for me and leaps from shroud All radiantly the moon's own night Of folded showers in streamer cloud.

Streamer (strī·məɹ), *v.* [f. Streamer *sb.*] *trans.* To furnish or fill with streamers. Hence **Strea·mered** *ppl. a.*, **Strea·mering** *vbl. sb.*

1814 Scott *Ld. of Isles* I. xv, Lord Ronald's fleet swept by, Streamer'd with silk, and trick'd with gold. 1818 Hogg *Brownie of Bodsbeck* I. ii. 21 After the last rays of day had disappeared, and again in the morning before they had begun to streamer the east, the song of praise was sung. 1824 Moir in *Blackw. Mag.* XVI. 283 The streamer'd flags of far-spread realms shall meet. 1834 J. Wilson *Ibid.* XXXVI. 5 The air is streamered with flags. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* II. vi. iii, We have a bright Sun; and all is marching, streamering, and blaring. 1902 Eliz. Banks *Newspaper Girl* 143 She had secretly donned the despised streamered cap.

† **Strea·mful,** *a. Obs. rare*⁻¹. [f. Stream *sb.* + -ful.] Full of streams or currents.

1596 Drayton *Legends, Piers Gaveston* cv, Like a Ship ..Shoou'd by the Wind against the streamfull tyde.

Streamie (strī·mi), *sb. Sc.* [See -ie.] A poetical diminutive of Stream *sb.*

1789 Burns *To Dr. Blacklock* v, Ye..dainty damies, Wha by Castalia's wimplin' streamies, Lowp, sing, and lave your pretty limbies.

Streaming (strī·miŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. Stream *v.* + -ing ¹.] The action of the verb in various senses; an instance of this.

1398 Trevisa *Barth. De P. R.* viii. xxviii. (1495) x vj, Arystotle sayth that lyghte is noo body, nother stremynge oute of a body. 1607 Hieron *Wks.* (1614) I. 206 In a conuenient season, the veines of the earth are opened, and the dryed spring returneth to his former streaming. 1624 Gee *Foot out of Snare* xv. 97 This streaming of my pen from the fountaine of my heart. 1655 Gurnall *Chr. in Armour* I. 45 The streamings forth of divine grace. *a* 1716 South *Serm.* (1842) III. 601 We should deal with these first streamings out of sin, as the Psalmist would have the people of God deal with the brats of Babylon. 1887 Besant *The World went* xv. II. 24 The women..who can afford it have ribbons round their hats, the streaming of which in the breeze greatly gratifies them.

† b. The Aurora Borealis. *Obs.* Cf. Streamer *sb.* 3 d.

1694 *Acc. Sev. Late Voy.* II. (1711) 214 Nor should I much doubt to affirm, that it [this light] is that which is sometimes seen in England, and especially in the Northern parts, call'd Streaming. 1727 Derham *Lumen Boreale* in *Phil. Trans.* XXXIV. 245 There are two sorts of Streamings,..one, by way of Explosion from the Horizon; the other, by opening and shutting, [etc.].

c. *Her.* (See quot.)

1725 J. Coats *Dict. Her.* (1739) 319 *Streaming* is the Term us'd to express the Stream of Light darting from a Comet, or Blazing Star, vulgarly call'd the Beard.

d. *Mining.* The washing of ore (usually tin-ore) from the detritus with which it is associated.

1778 W. Pryce *Min. Cornub.* 134 It did not require any great degree of penetration, to have comprehended Streaming and Draining under one idea. 1802 Playfair *Illustr. Huttonian Theory* 110 Hence the streaming, as it is called, or washing of the earth to obtain the tin-stone from it. 1853 Ure *Dict. Arts* (ed. 4) II. 859 The greatest quantity of tin has been produced by 'streaming' (as washing the debris in the valleys is termed).

e. *Biol.* A peculiar flowing motion or 'rotation' of protoplasm in a cell.

1875 Bennett & Dyer tr. *Sachs' Bot.* 38 In the sacs of the Characeæ the nucleus disappears altogether when the streaming (Strömung) of the protoplasm begins. 1880 Bessey *Bot.* 6 In their plasmodia..many kinds of movements may be observed, the commonest of which is streaming. 1894 E. A. Minchin tr. *Bütschli's Investig. Microsc. Foams* 122 The so-called rotational streaming of the protoplasm.

Streaming (strī·miŋ), *ppl. a.* [-ing ².] That streams, in senses of the verb.

1. Of a liquid, a river, etc.: Flowing copiously. Of a source, surface, etc.: Overflowing, running, or dripping with moisture.

1579 Spenser *Sheph. Cal.* Nov. 61 Let streaming teares be poured out in store. 1590 — *F. Q.* III. iv. 17 And with his streaming gore Distaines the pillours and the boly grownd. 1600 Fairfax *Tasso* xiii. lxxvii, The streaming showres.. which heau'n shed on the thirstie lands. 1655 J. S. *Bonarelli's Filli di Sciro* III. ii. 52 That little streaming Brook. 1697 Dryden *Virg. Georg.* iv. 784 From the slain Victims pour the streaming Blood. 1797 Ht. Lee *Canterb. T., Frenchm. T.* (1799) I. 263 Constance..fixed her streaming eyes upon him. 1828 *Lights & Shades* II. 256 With clasped hands and streaming cheeks she implores us to give up our design. 1850 Tennyson *In Mem.* lxxii. 4 Blasts that..lash with storm the streaming pane.

transf. and *fig.* 1784 Cowper *Task* VI. 150 Laburnum, rich In streaming gold. 1856 Emerson *Eng. Traits* i. Wks. (Bohn) II. 6 With a streaming humour, which floated everything he looked upon.

2. Of light or other effluence: Issuing in a full stream. Of a luminous body: Emitting a stream of rays or beams.

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* A. 115 Stremande sternez. *a* 1400–50 *Wars Alex.* 3796 As ai stremand sternes stared all baire wedis. 1513 Bradshaw *St. Werburge* II. 1656 Anone a stremyng sterre appered sodaynlye. 1600 Tourneur *Transf. Metam.* lxxxv. D vj, Her streaming rayes haue pierc'd the cloudie skies. 1634 Milton *Comus* 340 Some gentle taper.. visit us With thy long levell'd rule of streaming light. 1735 Somerville *Chase* IV. 73 If haply then he cross the streaming Scent, Away he flies vain glorious. 1757 W. Wilkie *Epigoniad* I. 4 As, from the setting skies, At ev'n's approach, a streaming meteor flies. 1887 Bowen *Virg. Æneid* III. 151 Clear in the streaming light they showed.

3. Of a flag, hair, etc.: see Stream *v.* 3, 3 b.

1567 Turberv. *Epit.*, etc. 40 b, In steade of streaming sayles hee Wishes hanges aloft. 1575 Fenton *Gueuara's Golden Epist.* (1582) 14 Thou mayest see in mine [house] many streaming ensignes. 1781 Gibbon *Decl. & F.* xix. II. 143 Their streaming banners of silk..waved round the person of the emperor. 1792 S. Rogers *Pleas. Mem.* I. 214 The mild Tupia..Long watch'd the streaming signal from the mast. 1836 C. Wordsworth *Athens* ii. (1855) 11 Their braided hair falls over the back in two long streaming folds. 1855 *Poultry Chron.* II. 519 The male bird..with his white streaming feathers.

4. Of persons or animals: Moving in a continuous stream.

1852 Tennyson *Ode Death Wellington* 9 Here, in streaming London's central roar. 1895 M. Hewlett *Earthwork out of Tuscany* 38 Streaming processions of virgins and young boys. 1900 *Westm. Gaz.* 12 Jan. 3/1 A fox..went away..with the streaming pack on fairly good terms.

5. That 'streams' for tin: see Stream *v.* 12.

1778 W. Pryce *Min. Cornub.* 132 When a Streaming Tinner observes a place favourable in situation, he takes a lease.. of the land owner or lord of the fee.

6. *Biol.* Of protoplasm: cf. Streaming *vbl. sb.* e.

1894 E. A. Minchin tr. *Bütschli's Investig. Microsc. Foams* 124 The structural relations of the streaming protoplasm of the vegetable cell.

Hence **Strea·mingly** *adv.*

a 1500 *Medulla Gram., Coactim*, stremyngly. 1585 Higins *Junius' Nomencl.* 404/2 At the burning of Corinth the veins of copper, brasse, golde, and siluer did runne streamingly together, and become mixed. *a* 1608 Dee *Relat. Spir.* I. (1659) 362 Now goeth fire out of his mouth streamingly. 1677 Coles *Eng.-Lat. Dict.*, Streamingly, *profluenter*. 1710 Fuller *Pharmacop.* 152 This of Turbith..brings off.. thin Lympha..plentifully and streamingly.

Streamless (strī·mlés), *a.* [f. Stream *sb.* + -less.] a. Of water: Having no current. b. Of a ditch or river-bed: Having no water. c. Of a district: Having no streams.

1863 Bates *Nat. Amazons* x. (1864) 288 The picturesque hilly country of the Tapajos, and its dark streamless waters. 1868 Dilke *Greater Brit.* II. 33 The Murray in February is a streamless ditch. 1888 A. H. Keane in *Encycl. Brit.* XXIV. 758/2 Such a bleak, arid, and almost streamless land.

Streamlet (strī·mlĕt). [f. Stream *sb.* + -let.] A small stream; a brook, rill, or rivulet.

a 1552 Leland *Itin.* (1907) II. 145 The streates have streamlettes of springes almost yn every one renning. 1610 Holland *Camden's Brit.* I. 330 The river Medway branching itself into five streamlets. 1729 Savage *Wanderer* I. 313 And hence the Streamlets seek the terrass Shade. 1799 Wordsw. *Fountain* 21 No check, no stay, this Streamlet fears; How merrily it goes! *c* 1820 S. Rogers *Italy, Feluca* 15 A streamlet, clear and full, ran to the sea. 1865 Livingstone *Zambesi* x. 210 Our path..crossed several streamlets. *transf.* and *fig.* 1855 Bailey *Mystic* 5 Time's sand-dry streamlet through its glassy straits Flowed ceaseless. 1862 Smiles *Engineers* III. 263 Horizontal tubes, through which the heated air passed in streamlets. 1867 Proctor in *Intell. Observer* Aug. 2 The Milky Way again subdivides, a branch running off at an angle of 20°, and losing itself in a narrow streamlet. 1871 Sir W. W. Hunter in Skrine *Life* (1901) 196, I found great difficulty in getting at the streamlet of fact in a desert of verbiage. 1874 C. A. Davis in Spurgeon *Treas. David* IV. 350 The streamlet of practical daily effort.

Stream-line.

1. *Hydrodynamics.* (See quot. 1906.)

1873 J. C. Maxwell *Electr. & Magn.* § 648 II. 260 If ϕ is constant for any curve, there is no current across it. Such a curve is called a Current-line or a Stream-line. 1882 Minchin *Unipl. Kinematics* 151 When the motion becomes steady, each line of flow becomes the actual path of a fluid particle, which is called a stream-line. 1906 Hor. Lamb *Hydrodynamics* (ed. 3) 17 A 'line of motion' or 'stream-line' is defined to be a line drawn from point to point, so that its direction is everywhere that of the motion of the fluid. *Footnote*, Some writers prefer to restrict the use of the term 'stream-line' to the case of steady motion.

b. *attrib.*, as *stream-line motion*; **stream-line form**, that shape (otherwise called 'fish body' form) of a solid body which is calculated to meet with the smallest amount of resistance in passing through the atmosphere.

1898 Hele-Shaw in *Rep. Brit. Assoc.* 136 Stream-line Motion of a Viscous Film. 1909 C. C. Turner *Aerial Navig. To-day* viii. (1910) 131 Bodies having 'streamline' form present the least resistance to the air. Pure streamline form is, roughly speaking, pear-shaped, the blunt end foremost.

2. (See quot.)

1885 Tait *Prop. Matter* iv. § 83. 70 The line of steepest slope at any point of a surface is represented on the map by the shortest line which can be drawn to the nearest contour line. Thus it cuts the contour lines at right angles, and is the path along which a drop of water would trickle down. It is therefore called a Stream-line.

† **Strea·mling** ¹. *Obs. rare.* Also 7 **streamlin.** [f. Stream *sb.* + -ling ¹.] = Streamlet.

1598 Sylvester *Du Bartas* II. i. iv. *Handicrafts* 515 In two square creases of unequall sises To turn to yron streamlings he devises. 1615 Brathwait *Strappado* 213 Wipe, wipe, those eyes with briny streamelings drownd. 1621 — *Nat. Embassie*, etc. (1877) 210 Hadst thou seene..What crimson streamlins flow'd from either of vs.

† **Strea·mling** ². *Obs. rare.* [Formed as prec., after Sw. *strömling, strömming* (MSw. *strömlinger, ströminger*); cf. MLG. *stromelink*, G. *strömling.*] A kind of small herring found in the Baltic and the Swedish lakes.

1694 [Bp. J. Robinson] *Acc. Sueden* I. 9 These..Lakes.. are not ill stored with varieties of Fish,..of which the most plentiful is the Streamling. 1799 W. Tooke *View Russian Emp.* III. 169 The streamlings, a degenerate species of herring, are everywhere found in the..Baltic.

Streamy (strī·mi), *a.* [f. Stream *sb.* + -y ¹.]

1. Abounding in or full of running streams.

† a. of the bottom of the sea. *Obs.*

14.. *Sailing Directions* (Hakl. Soc. 1889) 21 Betwene Cille and Huschant there is grete stremy grounde with white shellis. 1574 W. Bourne *Regim. Sea* 60 You shall finde streamie ground, and dentes in the talow. 1625 Purchas *Pilgrims* I. v. vii. 647 From Linga vnto this place we had ..twentie fathom, as wee supposed, streamy ground.

b. of a district, country.

a 1718 Prior *1st Hymn of Callimachus* 23 Arcadia, (However streamy now) adust and dry, Deny'd the Goddess Water. 1799 Campbell *Pleas. Hope* II. 103 His path shall be where streamy mountains swell Their shadowy grandeur o'er the narrow dell. 1806 J. Grahame *Birds Scot.* I Fair Scotia's streamy vales. 1833 *Blackw. Mag.* XXXIII. 689 Beauty..holds her court in the streamy wilderness.

2. Of water, etc.: Flowing in a stream, running.

c 1586 C'tess Pembroke *Ps.* xcviii. iii, You streamy rivers clapp your swymming hands. 1825 Brockett *N. C. Gloss., Slack*, a long pool in a streamy river.

fig. 1731 A. Hill *Advice to Poets* iii, No—like thy own Ulysses, make no Stay: Shun Monsters—and pursue thy streamy Way. 1804 Coleridge *Anima Poetae* (1895) 65 The streamy nature of the associative faculty.

b. Of hair, etc.: Flowing.

1813 W. Taylor in *Monthly Mag.* XXXVI. 332 With streamy golden hair. 1817 Keats *Sleep & Poetry* 127 A car And steeds with streamy manes.

3. Of the nature of, having the appearance of, or issuing in, a stream. Also, emitting streams (of light).

1718 Pope *Iliad* XIII. 1014 His nodding Helm emits a streamy Ray. *a* 1720 J. Hughes *Poems, Ecstasy* ix, The nightly-wakeful swain..marks no stars, but o'er his head Beholds the streamy twilight spread, Like distant morning in the skies. *a* 1814 *Gonzanga* IV. vi. in *New Brit. Theatre* III. 139 Blaze on, ye streamy flames of vivid glare! 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXIII. 106/1 The result is a streamy or imperfectly concentric stratification. 1869 Proctor *Ess. Astron.* xxv. (1872) 320 On a closer inspection, however, we recognise in the northern cluster [of nebulæ] a decidedly streamy character.

Hence **Strea·miness.**

1869 Proctor *Ess. Astron.* xxv. (1872) 319 The northern map accords better with this view than the southern; but even in the former there is an irregularity in the clustering, an occasional evidence of streaminess, [etc.].

Streap(e, var. ff. Stripe *sb.*² *Sc.*, rivulet.

Strease, obs. Sc. pl. Straw *sb.*¹

† **Streat,** *sb. Obs.* Forms: 5 **streete, strete,** 6 **streate, streitte, streiote, streyte, strette.** [Aphetic variant of Estreat *sb.*] = Estreat *sb.* 1 and 2. Also *attrib.* as *streat-office.*

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 480/1 Streete catchepol bok to gader by mercymentys. 1451 *Paston Lett.* Suppl. 34 Blake was atte London on Thursday and herd no word of the stretes. 1467 in *Eng. Gilds* (1870) 400 Alle suche issues so farfet by defaute to be written out in stretys. 1479 *Ibid.* 421 Therupon the seide Toune clerk to make vp his Streiys vnto the Baillifs. 1507 in *Sel. Cases Star Chamber* (Selden Soc.) 257 He..retaynyth the Court Rolls..and also the Streittes of the same Courtes. 1538 in *Reg. Priory St. Bees* (Surtees) 486 All mercyamentes and fynys in ye strettes of ye graves marcyell in ye courtes of sanct Bees. *a* 1547 in J. R. Boyle *Hedon* (1875) App. 73 The maiore or chamberlains or any other officer that hathe anye streictes, rentalles, or bookes. *c* 1550 *Ibid.* App. 85 All accyons that comes to your handes ye shall enttare and make owt your streytes of the same. *a* 1601 Sir T. Fanshawe *Pract. Exch.* (1658) 93 He certifieth into the Clerke of the Streate office Yearly in the Exchequer, all the Kings moities recovered.

† **Streat,** *v. Obs.* Also 7 **streit.** Aphetic form of Estreat *v.*

a 1601 Sir T. Fanshawe *Pract. Exch.* (1658) 53 The Lord Treasurors Remembrancer..hath his Office cheifly established upon the execution of the originall, save for the great accounts, the Customers, controllers and searchers, that is yearly streated to him out of the Chancerie. 1605 *Southampton Crt. Leet Rec.* (1907) I. 327 Manie thinhabitants.. were absent at the lawdaye...[Margin adds] To be streited. 1808 W. Herbert *Ella Rosenberg* I. 136 'No!' exclaimed the count...'I will remain in my castle. If I perish here, at least they will not streate my castle from my posterity!'

Streat(e, Streatch: see Street, Stretch *v.*

† **Streave,** *a. Obs. rare*⁻¹. [? Altered form of Stray *a.* Cf. Straif.] ? Stray, casual.

1598 Bp. Hall *Sat.* v. i. 55 What, did he counterfait his Princes hand, For some braue [*Corrections (and of book)* straue; *ed.* 1599 streaue) Lordship of concealed land?

Streaw, obs. form of Strew *v.*

Streay, Streayte: see Straw *sb.*¹, Strait *a.*

Strecch(e, Strech(e, obs. forms of Stretch.

Streche, obs. form of Stritch, a strickle.

Strecht, obs. Sc. form of Straight.

Streck, *a. Obs.* exc. *dial.* In 4 **streke.** [Belongs to root **strak-* of Stretch *v.* Cf. OE. *stræc, strec* (? *strēc, strēc*) rigorous, severe.] Straight.

c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xviii. (*Mary Egypt*) 225 Hayre scho had, quhyt and streke, Rekand na forthire na hir neke. *a* 1864 R. B. Peacock *Lonsdale Gloss.*, *Streck*, adj., straight. 1898 B. Kirkby *Lakeland Words* 142 Streck as a seeve.

Hence **Stre·ckly** *adv.* (in 4 **strykly**) = next.

1340 Hampole *Pr. Consc.* 3288 Sum..Sal wend strykly til heven blis. 1876 *Mid-Yorks. Gloss.* s.v., Go thy ways streckly, now.

Streck, *adv. Obs.* exc. *dial.* Forms: 4 **strik,** 4–5 **streke,** 4–6 **strek,** 8–9 **strick,** 9 **streok.** [f. Streck *a.*] In a straight course, directly; immediately, straightway. Also with *away*. Also *streck up*, in an upright posture.

13.. *Gosp. Nicod.* 867 (Sion MS.) Tille þe temple held þai streke þe way. 1340 Hampole *Pr. Consc.* 2623 Þe synful saul þan gas strik to helle. *Ibid.* 3378 He sal noght..Wend strek to purgatory. *a* 1400–50 *Wars Alex.* 3854 Þan come he streke on a staunke. 1513 Douglas *Æneis* III. ii. 128 The followand wynd blew strek in our taile. 1790 Mrs. Wheeler *Westmld. Dial.* (1802) 103 We went tae see th giants,..I think they wod net stand strick up ith heeghst hause ith parish. 1885 *Spec. Westmld. Dial.* III. 6 (E.D.D.) Sooa a teeak em streck awae to Willie Hartley's.

Strecour, obs. form of Streaker.

Streete, obs. form of Strait *a.*

Stred, Strede: see Street, Stride.

Stree(a, obs. and dial. forms of Straw *sb.*[1]

Streek, streak (strīk), *v.* Now *Sc.* and *dial.* Pa. t. and pa. pple. **streeked.** Forms: 3–6 **streke,** 4 **streck,** 4–5 **strek,** 5 **striek, streyk** (e, 5–9 **streik,** 6–9 **streek**; 4–5, 9 **strike,** 5–7, 9 **stryke**; 6–7 **streake,** 7, 9 **streak,** 9 **straik.** *Pa. t.* and *pa. pple.* 4 **streked, strekyd,** 4–6 **strekit,** -yt, etc. [Northern ME. *strēk-*, corresp. to southern ME. *strēch-* (mod. dial. *streach*), a present-stem generalized from the non-geminate forms in the conjugation of OE. *strȩccan* Stretch *v.* (imper. *strȩce*, 3 sing. *strȩceð*). The northern form of this present-stem early gave rise to a pa. t. and pa. pple. *strēked*, but down to the 16th c. the forms descending from OE. *streaht, streahte* (and their variants) also continued in use in dialects which in the present tense used *strēke* (either exclusively or beside *stretch*); in this Dict. the forms *straucht, streght*, etc. are treated only under Stretch *v.*

Although the word is in early and in present use almost exclusively northern, it is used in the 16–17th c. by several writers—Gascoigne, Chapman, Marston, Bp. Hall—whose language is in general free from northern characteristics.]

1. *trans.* To stretch (oneself), thrust out or extend (one's limbs), in a recumbent posture. Also in *pass.*, to lie thus stretched. Also with adv., as *down, out*. Cf. Stretch *v.* 1.

c 1330 R. Brunne *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 12703 Gapyng he lay at erþe al streked. 1414 Brampton *Penit. Ps.* (Percy Soc.) 30 For stark, my lemys I may not streke. *c* 1480 Henryson *Fox, Wolf & Cadger* 185 Baith heid, and feit; and taill ȝe man streik out. 1576 Gascoigne *Steele Gl.* Ep. Ded., I have lien streaking me (like a lubber) when the sunne did shine. 1598 Marston *Sco. Villanie* I. iii. C 8 b, Shall Curio streake his limis on his dayes couch, In Sommer bower? 1615 Chapman *Odyss.* IX. 416 Along his den, amongst his cattell downe He rusht, and streakt him. *a* 1774 Fergusson *Farmer's Ingle* Poems (1845) 38 Where the guidman aft-streeks him at his ease. 1815 Scott *Antiq.* xxi, I wad e'en streek mysell out here.

b. *intr.* To fall prostrate; to lie *down* at full length. Cf. Stretch *v.* 1 e.

c 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 481 Caim..Grusnede, and strekede, and starf wiþ-ðan. 1598 Bp. Hall *Sat.* VI. i. 206 When Lucan streaked on his Marble-bed To thinke of Cæsar, and great Pompeys deed. 1728 Ramsay *Monk & Miller's Wife* 71 There's braw ait strae; Streek down upon 't, my lad. 1814 Scott *Wav.* xxx, Many an honester woman's been set upon it than streeks doon beside ony whig in the country. 1889 Clare *Rural Life* (ed. 3) 60 I'd just streak'd down.

c. Of the limbs: To be stretched (*out*); to be extended or expanded. Of a person: To stretch oneself, stretch one's limbs. Cf. Stretch *v.* 3 b.

a 1400 *Signs of Death* 13 in *Pol. Rel. & L. Poems* (1903) 253 His feet shullen streken. 1586, 1608 [see Streeking *vbl. sb.* 1]. 1648 J. Beaumont *Psyche* VI. ccv, He began to streak, and nod, and yawn. 1728 Ramsay *Monk & Miller's Wife* 140 Mill-knaves..Whase kytes can streek out like raw plaiding.

2. *trans.* To lay prostrate; to lay out (a corpse). Also with *out*. Cf. Stretch *v.* 1 b.

1303 R. Brunne *Handl. Synne* 944 Furþ, for ded, men gan hym streke. *c* 1585 Montgomerie *Misc. P.* xxxvi. 4 Suppl. Vol. 247 So daithe at last sell straik þe stark. 1787 Burns *To W. Creech* xi, May I be..streekit out to bleach In winter snaw. 1815 Scott *Guy M.* liii, I may be streekit here or night. There will be few, few at Meg's lykewake. 1858 R. Craig in J. Brown *Horæ Subs., Locke & Sydenham* etc. 426 A female relative..saying that she would come and streek him after he died. 1859 H. Kingsley *Geoff. Hamlyn* xliv, Mrs. Buckley and the women were down at Mrs. Mayford's, streaking the bodies out. 1896 Crockett *Grey Man* v. 35 The maid washed and streeked him.

3. To stretch (one's limbs) in order to exercise the muscles. *To streek one's shanks, wame*, to take a walk, step out. Cf. Stretch *v.* 3 c.

1456 Sir G. Haye *Gov. Princis* Wks. (S.T.S.) II. 120 Quhen thou rysis in the mornyng, thou suld..strek and rak thy membris suetely and softly and evinly. 1788 Picken *Poems* 65 Sae, now, I e'en maun streek my wame, An' see gin things be right at hame. *Ibid.* 111, I never whisky us't, nor snuff, To streek the legs o' fancy. *a* 1810 Tannahill *Poems* (1846) 60 Wha mony a mile wud streek his shanks, To ha'e a crack wi' Josie Banks. 1827 J. Wilson *Noct. Ambr.* Wks. 1855 I. 327 Sair gien to gauntin, and the streekin out o' ane's airms.

4. To extend from the body, hold *out* or *up*, stretch *forth* (one's arm, hand, etc.) in order to touch, grasp, etc. Cf. Stretch *v.* 4.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 5817, I bidd þe strek þi hand þe fra. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xi. (*Simon & Judas*) 258 We sal gyf þam leyf to speke, bot nane a fowt furth to streke [*sed ambulare non posse*]. *c* 1400 *Apol. Loll.* 69, I schal streke out my hand on him. *c* 1425 Wyntoun *Cron.* I. 717 Þan þat fute vp þai streik, þat it fra þaim þe weddyr brek. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 479/1 Streykyn owte, *protendo, extendo.* 1513 Douglas *Æneis* XIII. Prol. 150 Be my richt hand strekit vp in hy. *a* 1578 Lindesay (Pitscottie) *Chron. Scot.* (S. T. S.) I. 60 He fell doune wpoun his knies and streikit forth his craig to the sword. 1615 Chapman *Odyss.* XII. 148 She lurkes in midst of all her denne: and streakes From out a ghastly whirle-poole, all her necks. 1901 G. Douglas *Ho. Green Shutters* 311 Think of your mother..streeking out her auld hand for charity.

transf. a 1340 Hampole *Psalter* lxxix. 12 *Extendit palmites suos vsque ad mare*...Sho strekis hir brawnchis til the see.

† b. To put forth, hold out, launch (a weapon, etc.). Also *fig. Obs.*

1513 Douglas *Æneis* II. ix. 41 With grundin lance at hand so neir furth strykit [*rime-word* arrekit]. *c* 1585 Montgomerie *Misc. P.* xlix. 29 Go to than, shirs, and let vs streik a sting.

† c. Of a heavenly body: To emit, project (beams of light). *Obs.* Cf. Stretch *v.* 7.

1375 Barbour *Bruce* IV. 704 Sum ar less, sum othir mair, Effir as thair bemys strekit air, Owthir all evin, or on wry. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xviii. (*Egipciane*) 1319 Þe sone cane fare bemys strek.

5. *intr.* To go or advance quickly; to go at full speed; to decamp. Also with *away, off*, etc. Now *dial.* and *U.S. colloq.* (usually spelt *streak*). Cf. Stretch *v.* 10.

c 1380 *Sir Ferumb.* 1265 Doun in the pyt sche strekes. ? *a* 1400 *Morte Arth.* 2085 Thane strekez the steryne, and streynys his brydylle. *c* 1510 Douglas *K. Hart* II. 335 Than Jelosie come strekand vp the stair. *c* 1730 Ramsay *Horace to Virgil* 39 Dedalus must..upward streek. 1834 *New Monthly Mag.* XLI. 465 Away we 'streaked' at the rate of twelve miles an hour against the current. 1844 'Jon. Slick' *High Life N. York* I. 159 The door-bell rung, and in streaked five or six fellers. 1897 *Outing* XXIX. 439/1 A strong, young, spiked buck came streaking through the Chêniere. 1893 *Field* 22 Apr. 581/3 A flock of teal come 'streaking' down towards me. 1914 *Times* 26 Nov. 6 Discretion seems the better part of valour when one streaks through in one's car.

b. with *it.*

1833 [Seba Smith] *Lett. J. Downing* ii. (1835) 32, I streaked it round the corner of the stone-fence to head him off. 1844 'Jon. Slick' *High Life N. York* I. 132, I put on my hat, and streaked it down tu Peck slip. 1894 Crockett *Raiders* (ed. 3) 156 Streekin' it for the Ferrytoon o' Cree as fast as the horses can birl.

c. *transf.*, e.g. of the sun in its course. Of a river: To flow, stream.

1598 Florio, *Irrigare*..to streame or streake along. 1622 Drayton *Poly-olb.* xxii. 27 Ouze..varying her cleere forme a thousand sundry wayes, Streakes through the verdant Meads. 1642 H. More *Song of Soul* II. i. ii. 30 So doth the gentle warmth of solar heat Eas'ly awake the centre seminall, That makes it softly streak on its own seat, And fairly forward force its life internall. 1821 Clare *Vill. Minstr.* I. 175 How swift the sun streaks down the western sky.

d. To walk along, stroll, saunter (E.D.D.).

1819 W. Tennant *Papistry Storm'd* (1827) 10 While younksters, by the sea-side streikin', Gaed paidlin' in without a breik on.

† e. *trans.* ? To urge on (an animal), cause to go quickly. *Obs. rare.*

c 1500 *Lancelot* 3082 His hors he strekith our the larg gren.

† 6. *intr.* To extend or reach (in a specified direction or for a specified distance). *Obs.* Cf. Stretch *v.* 13.

1375 Barbour *Bruce* XVIII. 130 Apon the cawse That wes betuix thame and the toune, That strekit lang in a randoune. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* ix. (*Berthol.*) 220, & of his hewyd þe lochtris of hare til his fete strekand ware. 1388 in Sir J. H. Ramsay *Banff Charters* (1915) 22 Begynnand on the west part of the Lowssy law, strekand west by the land of Tyny. *a* 1400–50 *Wars Alex.* 5063 Betwene þa styes..þat strekis þurȝe þe mountis. *c* 1425 Wyntoun *Cron.* I. 553 Fra north on south þe streme it strekis In till þe Red Seye quhill it reikis. 1513 Douglas *Æneis* VI. v. 1 Fra thine strekis the way profound anon Deip onto hellis flude of Acheron. 1535 Stewart *Cron. Scot.* II. 74 All the landis that la in the south Fra Forth streikand recht on to Eskis mouth. 1594 Blundevil *Exerc., Cosmogr.* II. xix. (1597) 199 A perpendicular shadow, which streeketh right downe from head to foote. 1602 *Reg. Mag. Sig. Scot.* 476/1 Begynnand at the Hammer-pule-fute, and strykand langis the watersyde of Air to [etc.]. *c* 1680 J. Morisone in W. Macfarlane *Geogr. Collect.* (S. H. S.) II. 211 Upon the west syde of the Countrie there are no harbouring for shipps except the Loch of Carluvay, streeking in almost in the middest of the countrie.

† b. *fig. Obs.*

1375 Barbour *Bruce* XVII. 929 Micht he haf lift quhill he had beyne Of perfit elde, withouten weyne, His renoune suld haf strekit fer. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xxvii. (*Machor*) 1120 Ne manis wit ma strek þartill, to consawe it thru kindly skill. *c* 1400 *Apol. Loll.* 61 Bop of lawe of kind, and of law writun, and law of grace, he is þe first begining.. and to wam al laws strekyn.

7. *trans.* To stretch out, extend (a rope, etc.); **†** to pitch (a tent). Cf. Stretch *v.* 12 b, c.

a 1340 Hampole *Psalter* ciii. 3 *Extendens celum sicut pellem*..Strekand heuen as a skyn. *Ibid.* cxxxix. 6 *Funes extenderunt in laqueum*, strengis þai strekid in snare. ? *a* 1400 *Morte Arth.* 1229 Furthe stepes that steryne, and strekez his tentis One a strenghe by a streme.

† b. To stretch on a rack or on a cross. *Obs.* Cf. Stretch *v.* 17.

c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* iii. (*Andrew*) 688 Þane one þe croice but howne þai strekyt and band hym sone with cordis. *Ibid.* xlii. (*Agatha*) 168 He gert strek hire in a frame, & torment hir in syndry vyse.

c. To pull (a boot) *on* one's leg.

1815 Scott *Guy M.* xi, He had as gude a pair o' boots as a man need streik on his legs.

d. *To streek a tow*, also *intr. To streek in a halter:* to be hanged, 'swing'. Cf. Stretch *v.* 18 a, c.

1796 J. Lauderdale *Poems* 80 (E. D. D.) May I in a halter streek If I hae Latin, French, or Greek. 1895 Crockett *Men of Moss Hags* ii. 22 But ye shall all streek a tow for this.

8. To cause to reach across a space. In quot. with *over*. Cf. Stretch *v.* 12 a.

1787 Burns *Brigs of Ayr* 92 Ance ye were streekit owre frae bank to bank!

9. To put (an implement) in action. *To streek the plew*: to draw the first furrow after harvest.

c 1480, 1555 [see Streeking *vbl sb.* 2]. 1577 Grange *Golden Aphrod.* I iij b, I..thinke dame Pallas streaked mine oare as well in this cace, as did Vlisses preuaile thorow hyr counsell against the Syrenes. 1790 D. Morison *Poems* 109 (Jam.) Ae day last week..She happ'd by chance to streek the wheel. *Ibid.* 131 Gae streek the rake.

Streek(e, obs. ff. Streak, Strick, Strike.

Streeker (strī·kəɹ). *dial.* [f. Streek *v.* + -er[1].] A layer-out of the dead.

1876 *Whitby Gloss.*, *Streeaker*, a stretching board for a corpse. Also a layer out of the dead. 1898 Watts-Dunton *Aylwin* xi. ii, She's bin a streaker in her day.

Stree·king, *vbl. sb.* [f. Streek *v.* + -ing[1].]

1. The action of stretching or extending.

a 1340 Hampole *Psalter* xxi. 17 The strekynge of his body in the tre myght noght haf ben bet̄ere dyscryed. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 479/1 Streykynge [*MS. K.* strekyng], or spredynge owute,..*extencio, protencio.* 1586 Bright *Melanch.* xxvi. 150 In streaking the muscles are contracted. 1608 Bp. Hall *Charac. Vertues & Vices* II. 120 After some streaking and yawning [he] calles for dinner. 1828 Carr *Craven Gloss.*, *Streaking*, stretching.

b. *spec.* The laying out a corpse. Also *attrib.*

1777 Brand *Pop. Antiq.* 23 The Ceremonies used..in what we call laying out or streeking in the North. *Ibid.* note, A Streeking-Board is that on which they stretch out and compose the Limbs of the dead Body. 1825 Scott *Guy M.* xxvii, He 's a bonny corpse,..and weel worth the streaking. 1896 Barrie *Sentim. Tommy* xxvii. 317 'Do you know what straiking is?' 'Arraying the corpse for the coffin, laying it out, in short, is it not?' 'Ay, ay.'

2. The action of setting (a plough or other implement) to work. *Streeking-time*, ploughing-time.

c 1480 Henryson *Fables, Fox, Wolf & Husbandman* 4 Swa happynnit him in streiking tyme of ȝeir Airlie in the morning to follow furth his ȝeir, Vnto the pleuch. 1555 *Charters* etc. *Peebles* (1872) 218 At the streking of the plewis yerelie, betwix Sanct Lucas day and Mertymes, and at harrowis streking. 1678 Sir G. Mackenzie *Crim. Laws Scot.* I. xxxi. § iv. (1699) 157 The season of labouring,..from the time of streiking, to upseed time.

Stree·king, *ppl. a.* [f. Streek *v.* + -ing[2].] That extends; that is stretched out.

c 1425 Wyntoun *Cron.* II. 432 Ryngis fyrst he gert men were, þa he gert on mydfynger ber, For fra þat to þe hart, he saide, Ane ewyn strekande wayne was laide. 1572 Gascoigne *Hund. Flowres, Gascoignes good nyghte* 23 The streking [1575 stretching] arms, the yauning breath, which I to bedward vse. 1577 Grange *Golden Aphrod.* I ij b, Then is it no masterie for me (Lady) with streaking armes to swimme in a sea of honny. 1600 Holland *Livy* IV. xix. 152 He ouerthrew him backward with the bosse of his target, and laid him streaking along.

Streel (strīl), *v.* Chiefly *Anglo-Irish.* Also **streal.** [Cf. Irish *straoillim*, to trail, drag along the ground.] *intr.* To trail on the ground; to stream, float at length. Also of persons, to stroll, wander aimlessly. Hence **Stree·ling** *ppl. a.*

1839 Carleton *Fardorougha* I. 13 It 's on your knees you ought to be this same night,..an' not grumblin'an' streelin' about the place. 1841 *Fraser's Mag.* XXIV. 216 No gseat, long, strealing tails of periods,—no staring peonies and hollyhocks of illustrations. 1848 Thackeray *Van. Fair* xx, She had earrings like chandeliers; you might have lighted 'em up, by Jove—and a yellow satin train that streeled after her like the tail of a comet. 1884 *Harper's Mag.* Oct. 713/2 The streeling lines of flapping wings and their rasping bronchial note accorded well. 1885 'Lucas Malet' *Col. Enderby's Wife* IV. IV, Across the lawn there drifted one of those streeling milk-white gossamers. 1892 Jane Barlow *Irish Idylls* iii. 66 Everybody else thought that..they would have him streeling home again in a couple of days.

Streen(e, obs. forms of Strain.

Street (strēt), *sb.* Forms: 1–2 **strét, strét,** (2–5 **strate**), 3 **strœt**(e, (**stred**), 3–4 **stret,** 3–6 **strete,** 4–6 **strett**(e, **streit**(e, 6 **streitt, streyt**(e, **streat**(e, 4–7 **streete,** 4– **street.** [OE. *strǽt* str. fem. = OFris. *strēte* (WFris. *strielte*), OS. *strâta*, MLG., MDu. *strâte* (mod.Du. *straat*), OHG. *strâza* (mod.G. *strasse*), ON. (from OE.) *strœti* str. neut. (Da. *stræde*), MSw. *strâta* fem. (mod.Sw. *strât* masc.) from MLG.; MSw. had also *strâte* fem. from OE. The word is a Com. WGer. adoption of late L. *strāta* (fem. pa. pple. of *sternĕre* to lay down, to pave: cf. Stratum) used ellipt. for *via strata* paved road; represented in Rom. by Pr., Sp., Pg. *estrada*, OF. *estrée*, It. *strada*. The

OIrish *srāth* (mod.Irish *srāid*, Gael. *sràid*) was adopted from late Latin.]

†1. A paved road, a highway. *Obs.*, but preserved in the proper names of certain ancient roads (chiefly Roman), as Watling Street, Ermine Street, Icknield Street:

Beowulf 320 Stræt wæs stanfah, stiz wisode gumum ætgædere 847 *Charter* xx. in *O. E. Texts* 434 Đonon on ða lytlan burz westewearde ðonon to stræte. *c* 1205 LAY. 4839 Þat wha swa i þen stræten [*c* 1275 stredes] braken grið þe king him wolde bi-nimen his lif. *c* 1250 *Owl & Night.* 962 Wenestu þat wise men forlete Vor fule venne þe rihte strete. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 172 Fram þe souþ tilþ to þe norþ erninge stret, & fram est to þe west ykenilde stret. *c* 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 13311 He passed hilles, wode, & playn, Til þey com þer þe stret lay hey. 1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. XII. 105 And rist as syzte serueth a man to se þe heighe strete. *c* 1405 *Bidding Prayer* in *Lay Folks Mass Bk.* (1879) 65 For thaim that brigges and stretes makes and amendes. 1564 *Yorks. Chantry Surv.* (Surtees) 264 Being one thoroughffare towne of the Kinges strete ledyng from London to Karliel. 1578 LYTE *Dodoens* I. lxvii. 98 The Male knot grasse groweth in fieldes about wayes and pathes, and in streates. 1606 in *N. Riding Rec.* (1884) I. 50 The Kinges Mattes street called Nunhouse Lane. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* (1637) 397 The publike Street commonly called Watlingstreet. 1903 CONRAD & HUEFFER *Romance* I. i. 5 Just beside the Roman road to Canterbury; Stone Street—the Street—we called it.

†b. Used vaguely for: A road, way, path. *lit.* and *fig.* *To wend one's street*: to go one's way.

c 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Matt. xiii. 4 Mið ðy saues ðorlease zefeollon neh *vel* æt stræt *vel* woez [L. *secus viam*]. *a* 1200 *Moral Ode* in *Lamb. Hom.* 179 Laete we þe brode stret, and þe wei bene. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 6182 Ar philistiens suld wit þam mete And lett þam for to wend þair strete. *a* 1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* xxii. 3 He led me on þe stretis of rightwisnes [Vulg. *super semitas iusticiæ*]. *a* 1352 MINOT *Poems* (1897) vi. 56 A bare now has him soght.. þat es ful wele bithoght To stop Philip þe strate. *c* 1366 CHAUCER *A. B. C.* 70 Than makest thou his pees with his sovereyn, And bringest him out of the crooked strete. 1481 CAXTON *Reynard* (Arb.) 55 Tho wente he his strete, tho flewe I doun. 1535 COVERDALE *Prov.* xv. 10 He that forsaketh yᵉ right strete, shalbe sore punyshed. *c* 1510 *Lyt. Geste Robin Hood* 81 But as they loked in Barnysdale By a derne strete Then came there a knyght rydynge. *a* 1547 SURREY *Æneis* II. (1557) D j b, For while I ran by the most secret stretes.. From me catif, alas, bereued was Creusa then my spouse.

†c. In alliterative association with *sly*, *stile*.

c 1205 LAY. 16366 Bi stizen & by straten. *a* 1300 in Wright *Anecd. Lit.* (1844) 96 Love hath his stivart by sti and by strete. *c* 1425 *Cast. Perseverance* 353 Werldis wele, be strete & stye, Faylyth & fadyth, as fysch in flode. *Ibid.* 404 Cum a-gayn be strete & style! *c* 1460 *Towneley Myst.* ii. 365 And where so any man may me meyte, Ayther bi sty, or yit bi strete.

2. A road in a town or village (comparatively wide, as opposed to a 'lane' or 'alley'), running between two lines of houses; usually including the side-walks as well as the carriage way. Also, the road together with the adjacent houses.

c 1000 *Ags. Gosp.* Matt. vi. 5 Standende on ȝe-somnungum & stræta hyrnum [L. *in angulis platearum*]. *c* 1200 ORMIN 7358 Þurrh þatt te Kalldewisshe folc oppnedenn þezzre maddimess, Nohht i þe stræte, acc i þatt hus þatt Crist wass borenn inne. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* A. 1043 Such lyst þer lemed in alle þe stratez Hem nedde nawþer sunne ne mone. *c* 1382 WYCLIF *Luke* xiv. 21 Go out soone in to grete stretis and smale streetis of the citee [Vulg. *in plateas et vicos civitatis*]. *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (Roxb.) xxxiv. 132 þe stretez er paued with swilk maner of stanes. *c* 1412 HOCCLEVE *De Reg. Princ.* 534 Now hath þis lord but litil neede of broomes To swepe a-way þe filthe out of þe street. *c* 1450 CAPGRAVE *St. Gilbert* xxvii. 101 þe smale townes had no dwelleres, þe wallis were falle down and stretes distroyed. 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* lxxxii. 37 Tailyouris, soutteris, and craftis vyll, The fairest of 3our streitis dois fyll. *a* 1533 BERNERS *Huon* lxviii. 235 They lodged in the strete next to the palays. 1575 CHURCHYARD *Chippes* (1817) 136 And no sooner entring the towne, but our whole powre kept themselues in order to cleere the streates and commaund the inhabitants the better. 1598 SHAKS. *Merry W.* IV. v. 32 My Master..sent to her seeing her go thorough the streets, to know (Sir) whether [etc.]. 1598 B. JONSON *Ev. Man in Hum.* IV. i. (1601) I 1, I slidde downe by a bottome of packthread into the streete, and so scapt. 1611 *Proclam. Building Lond.* 3 Aug., At the least the forefront..thereof..looking towards the street or streetes [to] bee wholly built of Bricke. 1660 F. BROOKE tr. *Le Blanc's Trav.* 308 When they come to the crossing of a street, the Corps stayes. 1758 JOHNSON *Idler* No. 53 ¶ 3 A convenient house in a street. 1798 *Monthly Mag.* Mar. 181/2 Broadway is undoubtedly the handsomest street in America. 1834 LYTTON *Pompeii* I. ii. The two young men sauntered through the streets. 1877 *Law Rep.*, 3 *Exch. Div.* 9 They clearly supposed they were entitled.. to take the popular sense of the word 'street,' as meaning not only a roadway over which passengers and vehicles might pass, but also that which in popular language is part of the street, namely the houses on both sides. 1880 DISRAELI *Endym.* XV, It is the very best time for hiring a house. What I have set my heart upon is the Green Park...I am sure I could not live again in a street. 1885 *Act* 48 *Vict.* c. 17 § 13 The lists of voters may be made out either alphabetically or by streets. 1889 *Act* 52 & 53 *Vict.* c. 44 § 17 The expression 'street' includes any highway or other public place, whether a thoroughfare or not.

b. With prefixed word, forming the proper name of a street. Abbreviated *St.*, *st.*

In early examples these appellations were originally descriptive, as in *the Broad street*, *the* HIGH STREET. (In some towns, a name of this type still retains the definite article.) In modern nomenclature, the choice of the prefixed word is often arbitrary.

Modern usage is divided as to the writing of these names with hyphen or as two words. (In the 16–17th c. they were not unfrequently written as one word, e.g. 'Limestreete', Stow *Surv.* ed. 1603, p. 152.) It is to be observed that names ending in *street* are always stressed on the prefixed element, while those ending in *road* or *lane* have level stress: cf., e.g., *Pa'rk-street* with *Pa'rk-la'ne*, *Pa'rk-roa'd*.

?*c* 1275 in *Trans. Shropsh. Archæol. Soc.* Ser. I. (1878) I. 351, ij denar' annui reddit' de domo in le Brode stret q'm emi de Susanna moil. 1457 *Cal. Anc. Rec. Dublin* (1889) 296 For Seynt Thomas ys stret. 1513 MORE *Rich. III* Wks. 53/1 Crosbies place in Bishops-gates strete. 1531 TINDALE *Expos. 1 John* (1537) 60 Though thou were anoynted with al the oyle in teames strete. 1842 *Civil Engin. & Arch. Jrnl.* V. 200 St. James's Street, at 660 feet from Piccadilly, is 1-in 27.

¶ *Mars' street*: mistranslation of ὁ Ἄρειος πάγος AREOPAGUS (*Bible* 1611 'Mars' Hill').

1526 TINDALE *Acts* xvii. 19 They..brought hym into Marce strete. 1579 W. WILKINSON *Confut. Fam. Love* 29 Standing in the middest of the Mars streate he [St. Paul] openly inueighed agaynst the superstition of that worthy Citye.

c. *Street of houses* or *shops*: a number of houses or shops built in a double line with a road in the middle, forming a street. Also *transf.* as *street of booths*, *ships*.

1613 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* IV. xviii. (1614) 435 It seemed to bee, as it were, a continued street of Shippes. 1662 TRENCHFIELD *Chr. Chym.* 109 A certain person that had sold a street of houses, and laid out the money in costly apparrel, came to Court, [etc.]. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 1 Jan. 1684, The weather continuing intolerably severe, streetes of booths were set upon the Thames. 1725 DE FOE *Tour Gt.-Brit.* III. I. 191 Stopping a terrible Fire which otherwise had endangered burning the whole Street of Houses on the City Side of the Bridge. 1855 DICKENS *Out of Town* Repr. Pieces (1868) 217 We..built a street of shops, the business of which may be expected to arrive in about ten years.

d. Used for: The inhabitants of the street; also, the people in the street.

14.. *Chance of Dice* in Skeat *Chaucer Canon* 126 Lord! so merily crowdeth then your crokke That all the streete may heare your body clokke. 1568 GRAFTON *Chron.* II. 382 Then roase the streete, namely the youth, and they woulde haue had him out of the Bishoppes house. 1620 MIDDLETON *Chaste Maid* v. 66 All the whole Street will hate vs, and the World Point me out cruell. 1712 ARBUTHNOT *John Bull* II. iv. 17 If the Coach swung but the least to one side, she used to shriek so loud, that all the Street concluded she was overturn'd. 1856 *Chamb. Jrnl.* 12 Jan. 26/1 There was a mystery about him which the whole street had tried its skill in fathoming. 1894 A. MORRISON *Tales of Mean Streets* 121 The street had the news the same hour.

e. *transf.* A passage between continuous lines of persons or things.

c 1430 LYDG. *Min. Poems* (Percy Soc.) 4 The meyer..Made hem hove in rengis twayne, A strete betwene eche party lyke a walle, Alle clad in white, [etc.]. 1598 BARRET *Theor. Warres* IV. iv. 113 The shot..arriuing, do open, making a lane or streete, betwixt the which the Pikes do enter. 1802 C. JAMES *Milit. Dict.* s. v. *Camp*, The tents are placed in rows..with spaces between them, called streets. 1826 DISRAELI *Viv. Grey* III. viii, I was ushered through an actual street of servitors..into a large and crowded saloon. 1829 SHIPP *Mem.* II. 133 To do honour to the reception of such a personage, the two flank companies of the 87th Regiment..formed a street to the general's tent. 1883 *Daily News* 5 Sept. 5/6 If..a hundred thousand of them could be marshalled in Hyde Park, the artillery of the Government would make streets through them.

f. *The street*: some particular street to which the merchants or financiers of a city resort for business intercourse. In mod. use primarily *U.S.* (with cap.), applied to Wall Street, New York. Hence, the money market; the body of persons who conduct transactions in stocks and shares. Also, in London, *in the street* is said with reference to business done or prices quoted after the hour of closing of the Stock Exchange.

1555 EDEN tr. *P. Martyr's Decades* III. 149 That they had cities fortified with waules,..and common places whyther marchauntes resort as to the burse or streate. [L. *plateas etiam, stratasque vias ordine composito, ubi negocientur, haberent.*] 1563 GRESHAM in Burgon *Life* (1839) II. 26 By the reason, this plague tyme, there is noe money nor creadit to be had in the streat of London [*editor explains as* Lombard-street]. 1746 P. FRANCIS tr. *Horace, Ep.* I. i. 77 This maxim echoes through the bankers' street.

1863 KIMBALL *Undercurrents* 131 (Flügel) Sufficient of the two millions [could be] launched on the street. 1883 *Nation* (N. Y.) 16 Aug. 132/1 'The Street' begins to play a larger and larger part in the financial world, owing to the enormous amounts of American capital it holds and of foreign capital it distributes. 1888 C. MILLS in *N. Amer. Rev.* Jan. 50 Then it was that the Street began to suspect that money would not always remain at four per cent. 1895 *Daily News* 11 Jan. 7/1 After a weak opening South African shares improved,..and..the tone in the 'Street' this evening appeared firm. 1902 *Daily Tel.* 19 Dec. 2/3 Americans were idle throughout, with a slightly firmer appearance in the street.

3. Phrases. a. *In the street(s)*: outside the house, out of doors; also, out of doors in a town or city. So (chiefly *Sc.* and *U.S.*) *on* or *upon the street(s.*

c 1200 [see 2]. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 2772 He praid þam..þai wald to gestening com hame,..and þai said nai, bot in the stret þar duell wald þai. 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 4546 Þan sal þair bodys..In þe stretes ligg stille thre days And an half,..For na man sal þam dur biry. *a* 1430 *Sev. Sages* (Cott. Galba) 1556 þe dore ful stalworthly be sperd..And lete his whif stand in þe strete. *c* 1450 *Mirk's Festial* 193 Anoþer tyme, as he walkyd yn þe strete, he herd a womon cry trauelyng on chyld. 1581 PETTIE *Guazzo's Civ. Conv.* I. (1586) 26 Diogenes..being asked why he eate openlie in the streete, answered because he was an hungered in the streete. 1582 ALLEN *Martyrdom Campion* (1908) 118 He was apprehended in the streats of London ready to goe over to the seminarie at Remes. 1752 A. STEWART in *Scots Mag.* (1753) Sept. 447/1 The deponent..met William Stewart upon the street. 1827 CARLYLE *Germ. Rom.* II. 160, I have seen him on the street. 1837 — *Fr. Rev.* III. I. v, He recognized me on the streets and spoke to me, seven months after. 1861 *Two Cosmos* III. ii. I. 280 This town-officer has stopped me on the street, pretending that I owe an account to Mr. Donald Caird. 1866 SALA *Trip to Barbary* 89 The concourse thinned not on the streets or in the Port. 1883 C. D. WARNER *Roundabout Journ.* 37 The young women are on the street with babies; the old ones sit by the doors of their little shops or their houses and knit. 1883 JEAFFRESON *Real Ld. Byron* I. 260 On leaving parties, to which she had not been invited, he found her waiting for him in the street. 1883 *Harper's Mag.* Aug. 338/2 Cymric was heard commonly on the street.

b. *On the streets* (Sc.): turned out of doors, homeless.

1852 J. ANDERSON in *Literary Gaz.* 3 Jan. 12/2 The door of the church..opened, and there issued forth Chalmers and Welsh,..and the Church of Scotland was on the streets, and free.

c. *To be on the streets*: to be a prostitute. Hence, *the street(s* as designating a life of prostitution.

[1728: see f.] 1750 JOHNSON *Rambler* No. 12 ¶ 10 She told me, that having a respect for my relations, she was willing to keep me out of the street, and would let me have another week. 1754 SHEBBEARE *Matrimony* (1766) II. 227 By Heavens! I would rather hear of her being on the Streets of London, than married to so vile a Fellow. 1802 H. MARTIN *Helen of Glenross* III. 82 To be..accompanied by any woman, not absolutely on the streets, is a point to her, whom scarce one does not feel unwilling to appear publicly with. 1851 MAYHEW *Lond. Labour* I. 60 Two girls, who..had been forced to go upon the streets to gain a living. 1885 *Daily News* 3 Nov. 6/3 This little girl had a sister who was on the streets and who was in the house of this bad woman. 1886 BARING-GOULD *Court Royal* xiii, They went into service, and when they found that they were expected to dust chairs and wash up breakfast things they went on the streets. 1905 Miss BROUGHTON *Waif's Progr.* i. 6 'If we refuse the girl, what is the alternative?' 'None, apparently, but the streets.'

d. *Up street*, *down street* (vulgar): in or towards the upper or lower part of the street.

1876 Miss BRADDON *J. Haggard's Dau.* xxiii, A retired miller who had died of dropsy 'up street'. 1890 W. A. WALLACE *Only a Sister?* 115 We've some chaps bad down street after that little kick up at the Irish affairs meeting.

†e. *To weep full a street*: 'to fill a street with one's tears', to weep immoderately. *Obs.*

c 1374 CHAUCER *Troylus* IV. 929 What helpeth it to wepen ful a strete, Or though ye bothe in salte teres dreynte?

f. *To walk the street(s*: to go about on foot in a town. Also with reference as in c.

1606 N. B[AXTER] *Sydney's Ourania* K 3 b, Each swaggering Ruffin now that walk's the streetes, Proud as Lucifer, stabbeth whom he meetes. 1709 HEARNE in *Lett. Eminent Persons* (1813) I. 193 There has been a person in Oxford, who saw her walk the street since this amazing accident. 1714 BUDGELL tr. *Theophrastus* xxiv. 69 When he walks the Streets, he never Condescends to look about him, or to know any one he meets. 1728 POPE *Dunc.* I. 230 While all your smutty sisters walk the streets. 1735 — *Sat. Donne* II. 73 For you he walks the streets thro' rain or dust. 1753 JANE COLLIER *Art of Tormenting* I. ii. 54 How likely is it, that ..you would be deserted by those base wretches your seducers! You know I have often wept,..lest you should come to walk London Streets. 1858 O. W. HOLMES *Aut. Breakf.-t.* viii. (1883) 195 When a lady walks the streets.. she knows well enough that the street is a picture-gallery, where pretty faces..are meant to be seen, and everybody has a right to see them. 1908 S. E. WHITE *Riverman* xvii, The remainder of the time he spent walking the streets and reading in the club rooms.

g. *The man in the street*: the ordinary man, as distinguished from the expert or the man who has special opportunities of knowledge.

1831 GREVILLE *Mem.* 22 Mar. (1874) II. 131 The other [side affirms] that the King will not consent to it, knowing, as 'the man in the street' (as we call him at Newmarket) always does, the greatest secrets of kings. 1854 EMERSON *Lett. & Soc. Aims, Eloquence* Wks. (Bohn) III. 192 The speech of the man in the street is invariably strong, nor can you mend it by making it what you call parliamentary. 1860 — *Conduct Life, Worship* ibid. II. 398 Certain patriots in England devoted themselves for years to creating a public opinion that should break down the corn-laws and establish free trade. 'Well,' says the man in the street, 'Cobden got a stipend out of it.' [Frequent in Emerson.] 1868 WHYTE MELVILLE *White Rose* xlvii, 'Jerry', said he, 'I didn't come here at early dawn only to tell you what "the Man in the Street" says.' 1898 BODLEY *France* II. III. v. 259 It is the man in the street and the democracy generally that the fall of a Ministry fails to move. 1900 FAIRBAIRN in *Examiner* 21 June 327/2 The man in the street..may be a very excellent person, but his very ordinariness puts a long way between him and an ample and distinguished manhood.

h. colloq. or slang. *Not to be in the same street with*: to be far behind in a race, to be far inferior to. *To be streets ahead, better*: to be far ahead in a race, to be far superior. *Not the length of a street*: no great interval.

1883 MRS. E. KENNARD *Right Sort* xx, Nevertheless, though not in the same street with King Olaf, it won't do to estimate Singing Bird's chance too lightly. 1884 G. MOORE *Mummer's Wife* (1887) 162, I don't pretend to be able to teach singing, but were you under my grandfather a year or so, I am..certain that Beaumont wouldn't be in the same street with you. 1893 *Kennel Gaz.* Aug. 213/2 Kitty of Coleshill was just the best of the bunch [of setters], but there was not the length of a street between her and Sister Gabrielle. 1898 *Westm. Gaz.* 1 Feb. 6/3 The English are better photographers than the Americans, but as regards mechanical ingenuity..the latter are streets ahead. 1902

Throne 7 Aug. 227/1 The race will be over by the time these notes appear in print, but..I do not think Pinks will finish in the same street as the holder. 1917 *Times* 27 Jan. 9/5 The man who takes a glass of tawny port and a biscuit at 11 a.m. is streets better off than the man who takes a whisky and soda and a cigarette.

4. *attrib.* and *Comb.* **a.** Simple attrib., with the senses 'of or pertaining to the streets', 'exercising one's calling in the streets', 'transacted or taking place in the streets', as in *street-beggar*, † *-beggary*, *-crier*, *-cry*, *-fight*, *-life*, *music*, *-musician*, *-noise*, *-orator*, *-robber*, *robbery*, † *-scuffler*, *-seller*, *-shrine*, *-singer*, *-singing*, *-talk*, *-trade*.

1713 STEELE *Guardian* No. 144 ¶ 1 Our very *Street Beggars are not without their peculiar Oddities. 1625 DONNE *Serm.* lxv. (1640) 659 That *street-beggery, which is become a Calling. 1847 LEVER *Knt. Gwynne* xxxv, With the sing-song intonation of a *street-crier. 1874 *All Year Round* 14 Feb. 372 The London *street cries which we find recorded in old books. 1851–61 MAYHEW *Lond. Labour* III. 29 The result of some *street-fight. 1851 *Ibid.* I. 327 This is a trade associated with *street-life rather than forming an integrant part of it. 1884 PHILLIPPS-WOLLEY *Trottings of Tenderfoot* 210 Which to me were the great feature of the town's street-life. 1841 C. KNIGHT *Lond.* I. 141 De la Serre..is enthusiastic in his praises of the *street music of London. 1839 *Act* 2 & 3 *Vict.* c. 47 § 57 To require any *Street Musician to depart from the Neighbourhood of the House. 1841 C. KNIGHT *Lond.* I. 129 *Street noises. 1780 *Ann. Reg.* II. 23 At Rome, those *street-orators sometimes entertain their audience with interesting passages of real history. 1728 [DE FOE] *Street-Robberies* 25 Shoplifters, House-breakers and *Street-Robbers. *Ibid.* 59 Another Reason of the Frequency of *Street Robberies, is the Remissness or Corruption of the Watch. 1772 NUGENT tr. *Grosley's Tour Lond.* I. 87 The state of nature, a state with which the *street-scufflers of London are closely connected. 1827 HONE *Table Bk.* I. 685 The man..was a *street seller of hobbyhorses. 1912 J. WARD *Roman Era Brit.* vii. 119 The Pompeian *street shrines were as varied as the domestic. 1841 C. KNIGHT *Lond.* I. 144 The *street-singers of Paris. 1624 HEYWOOD *Captives* II. ii. in Bullen *O. Pl.* IV, Hee had too handsome *streete-singing-fact lasses in his companye. 1826 LAMB *Pop. Fallacies* xii, The casual *street-talk between a poor woman and her little girl. 1841 C. KNIGHT *Lond.* I. 139 Of the *street trades that are past and forgotten, the smallcoal-man was one of the most remarkable.

b. attrib. with the sense 'of or pertaining to a street or streets', as *street-corner*, *-directory*, *-end*, *-lamp*, *-length*, *-name*, *-side*. Also *street-like* adj., *street-wise* adv.

1841 DICKENS *Barn. Rudge* xxvi, They alighted at the *street-corner. 1909 C. ELSEE *Neoplatonism* Pref. p. v, The crowd that listens to the street-corner preacher of materialism. 1817 A. JOHNSTONE (*title*), The London commercial guide and *street directory. 1864 BURTON *Scot Abr.* I. iii. 109 Names familiar to us now..in street-directories had been found among the dead at Poitiers. 1904 A. C. BENSON *House of Quiet* xiii. (1907) 77 The constant presence, in these London pictures, of straight framing lines, contributed by house-front and *street-end. 1870–74 J. THOMSON *City Dreadf. Nt.* 1. vi, The *street-lamps always burn. 1874 LONGF. *Sonn., Summer day by Sea* 6 From the dim headlands many a lighthouse gleams, The street-lamps of the ocean. 1910 *Spectator* 9 July 51/2 They may be *street-lengths from it, but it is sure to find them. 1595 E. C. *Emaricdulfe* Sonn. xxi. in *Lamport Garl.* (Roxb.), Through *street-like straight hie-waies I did attempt. 1861 *Chamb. Jrnl.* 30 Nov. 337 (*art.*) *Street Names. 1463 *Bury Wills* (Camden) 22 The gate be the *strete syde. 1538–9 *Act Comm. Counc.* in Calthrop *Rep. Cases*, etc. (1670) 177 That strong Grates of Iron along the said Water-side, and also by the Street-side,..be made by the Inhabitants of every Ward. 1911 J. WARD *Roman Era Brit.* vii. 116 Along the street-side were the remains of a narrow building. 1911 WEBSTER, **Streetwise*, *adv.*, after the manner of a street.

c. objective, as *street-cleaner*, *-cleaning*, *-layer*, *-lighting*, *-pacing* adj., *-sweeper*, *-sweeping*.

1898 'MERRIMAN' *Roden's Corner* xi. 111 A few *street-cleaners were leisurely working, a few milkmen were hurrying from door to door. 1896 *Harper's Mag.* June 149/1 What do you think of the new *Street-Cleaning Department? *a* 1893 W. BURNS THOMSON *Remin.* (1895) 78 He had been much exposed from his calling as a *street-layer. 1784 COWPER *Tiroc.* 217 There waiter Dick..His counsellor and bosom-friend shall prove, And some *street-pacing harlot his first love. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* lxv, If she ..made a curtsey to a *street-sweeper. 1871 RUSKIN *Arrows of Chace* (1880) II. 174, I mean, on 1st January next, to take three street-sweepers into constant service. 1843 *Builder* 18 Feb. 21/3 [Description of the] Patent Self-Loading Cart, or *Street-Sweeping Machine. 1849 A. R. WALLACE *My Life* (1905) I. xviii. 273 Piassaba (the coarse stiff fibre of a palm, used for making brooms for street-sweeping).

d. locative, with the sense 'in the streets', as *street wanderer*; *street-bred*, *-sold* adjs.

1722 DE FOE *Col. Jack* i, Sharp as a *street-bred boy must be, but ignorant and unteachable from a child. 1892 KIPLING *Barrack-room Ballads* 174 The poor little street-bred people that vapour and fume and brag. 1851 MAYHEW *Lond. Labour* I. 326 At the National Gallery, the *street-sold catalogues are 1d., 3d., and 6d.; in the hall, the authorised copy is sold at 4d. and 1s. 1828 MISS MITFORD *Village* III. 254 A 'palpable obscure,' which..threatens to extinguish the lamps and lanthorns, with which the poor *street-wanderers strive to illumine their darkness.

e. Special comb.: **street-Arab** (also written with small *a*), a homeless vagrant (usually a child) living in the streets (see ARAB *sb.* 3); **street-ballad**, a ballad composed to be sung by street-singers; **street-boy**, a homeless or neglected boy who lives chiefly in the streets; **street-breakfast** (see quot.); † **street-chair**, ? a sedan chair; † **street-coach**, a hackney-coach; **street-dirt** = *street-manure*; **street-dog**, an ownerless dog living in the streets; **street-farer** *nonce-wd.*, one who passes through the streets; **street-firing**, discharge of musketry in order to defend or scour a street; † **street-gadder**, one who 'gads' about the streets; **street-light**, † (*a*) a window opening on the street; (*b*) a street lamp; **street-manure**, horse-dung and road-scrapings used for manure; † **street-parlour**, a sitting-room on the ground-floor, fronting the street; **street-porter**, a porter employed to lift or carry heavy packages in the street (in early use = *ticket-porter*); **street price** *Stock Exchange*, see quot. 1893; **street-railway**, a tramway; † **street-raking** *a. Sc.*, that wanders about the streets; **street-refuge** = REFUGE *sb.* 3; **street-room**, sufficient space in the streets; **street-soil** (*? obs.*) = *street-manure*; † **street-thread** = *street-web*; **street-urchin**, a mischievous little street-boy; **street-web** (now *dial.*), see quot. 1854; **street-yarn** *U.S.* = prec.

1865 LITTLEDALE *Cath. Ritual Ch. Eng.* 8 How can we most easily get a half-savage *street-Arab..to understand that there is [etc.]. 1875 *Punch* 6 Mar. 108/2 Irregular crossing-sweepers, unlicensed boot-cleaners, and street-Arabs generally. 1892 MRS. H. WARD *David Grieve* II. vii, He strode on just in time to avoid a flight of street-arabs. 1759 DILWORTH *Pope* 80 Such as the lowest political pamphlets, the meanest *street-ballads glancing at state-affairs or the church established. 1851 D. JERROLD *St. Giles* ii. 9 A voice was heard..droning a street-ballad of the day. 1862 BURTON *Bk. Hunter* 31 He opens the door, and fetches in the little stranger. What can it be? a *street-boy of some sort? 1834 DICKENS *Sk. Boz, Steam Excurs.*, At the corner of a by-street, near Temple-bar, was stationed a '*street-breakfast'. The coffee was boiling over a charcoal fire [etc.]. *a* 1712 FOUNTAINHALL *Decis.* (1759) II. 347 Dame Anna Macmorran..pursues her daughter..for paying her 4000 merks for her mournings..having put a room or two in black, covered her *street-chair, and cloathed two servants, a page, &c. 1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* xxxv, 'No, sir,' said Jeanie; 'a friend brought me in ane o' their *street-coaches —a very decent woman'. 1765 *Museum Rust.* IV. 373 He has seen it [coleseed] yield good crops on a dry chalky soil, on which *street-dirt had been laid. 1873 LELAND *Egypt. Sketch-Bk.* 228 Nobody looked at it but I and a *street-dog. 1911 *Contemp. Rev.* July 27 We have got rid of the street dogs in Constantinople. 1880 W. WATSON *Prince's Quest* (1892) 51 As one who cared no-wise to make fast his ears Against the babble of the *street farers. 1763 *Brit. Mag.* IV. 543 About a mile and a half from the fort we had orders to form into platoons, and, if attacked in the front, to fire by *street-firings. 1799 BEATSON *Nav. & Milit. Mem.* I. 97 The grenadiers..having, with very little loss, received two fires from the enemy, they began a street firing. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. v. iii, Neither have the Gardes Françaises, the best regiment of the line, shown any promptitude for street-firing lately. 1577 HELLOWES *Gueuara's Fam. Ep.* 309 His wife is a seeker of kinred, a gossip, a *streete gadder. *a* 1625 FLETCHER *Wom. Pleased* II. iii, For you Lady, Ile have your Lodgings farther off, and closer, Ile have no *street-lights to you. 1906 B'NESS VON HUTTEN *What became of Pam* 212 The street-lights burst like great flowers into the dusk. 1844 STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* II. 676 That stable-dung is the most heating,..that byre-dung is cooler,..and that *street-manure is very inferior to the other two in every respect. 1760–72 H. BROOKE *Fool of Qual.* (1809) IV. 39 The earl sat in the *street-parlour. 1606 *Street-porter [see TACKLE-HOUSE 1 b]. 1801 *Farmer's Mag.* Jan. 32 If such meat can be digested by the ..infirm in an alms-house, it could surely do no damage to the stronger organs of a street-porter. 1840 CARLYLE *Heroes* iii. (1841) 128 If, as Addison complains, you sometimes see a street-porter staggering under his load on spindleshanks. 1889 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 12 Nov. 3/1 'Do you give '*street' prices?'—'No, we never do that. After the official prices close at half past three we continue to give the unofficial prices up to four o'clock, but never after the doors of the Exchange are closed.' 1893 CORDINGLEY *Guide Stock Exch.* 23 Some business, too, is usually effected outside the Exchange, after the doors are closed; this is quoted in the newspapers as 'In the Street', or 'Street Prices'. 1862 *Chamb. Jrnl.* 29 June 416/1 The *street railways of the American cities. 1862 D. W. MITCHELL *Ten Yrs. U.S.* 265 A crowded street-railway car. 1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* xviii, What signifies what we were, ye *street-raking limmer! 1884 *St. James's Gaz.* 11 Jan. 5/2 A new *street-refuge should be constructed. 1711 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 127 ¶ 7 Our publick Ways would be so crowded that we should want *Street-room. 1766 ENTICK *Lond.* IV. 17 A wharf used for a laystall, to which the rakers carry *street-soil. *a* 1661 FULLER *Worthies, Kent* (1662) 38 Many idle Women who now onely spin *Street-thread (going tatling about with tales). 1849 LEVER *Con Cregan* I. viii. 96 What a fellow am I..to discourse in this strain to a *street-urchin. 1614 SYLVESTER *Bethulia's Rescue* IV. 135 Nor trip from feast to feast, nor *Street-webs span, To see, and to be seen of every, man. 1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss.*, *Spinning street-webs*, walking about idly, gossiping from house to house. 'She has nothing better to do than spinning street-webs.' 1855 MRS. WHITCHER *Widow Bedott Papers* xiv. (1883) 54 They say when she ain't a spinnin' *street yarn, she don't dew nothin' but write poitry.

Street (strīt), *v.* [f. STREET *sb.*] *trans.* To furnish or provide with streets, to lay out in streets. Also *to street out*, to lay out as a street or road.

1555 WATREMAN *Fardle Facions* I. iv. 46 The chiefe citie..strieted with tentes and pauilions placed in good ordre. *c* 1645 HOWELL *Lett.* (1655) I. I. xii. 18 There are few places this side the Alps better built, and so well Streeted as this. 1760 in *Weekly Reporter* (1877) XXV. 470 The said [allottees] shall street out the same way leading through their said respective allotments so that the same shall be made and ever after remain eleven yards broad at the least.

Hence **Stree·ted** *ppl. a.*; **Stree·ting** *vbl. sb.*

1876 MORRIS *Sigurd* III. 201 Though a house of the windy battle their streeted burg be grown. 1889 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 13 Apr. 1/3 The absence of any direct line..between Holborn and the Strand is the greatest blot in the present streeting of Central London.

Streetage (strī·tĕdʒ). *U.S.* [f. STREET *sb.* + -AGE.] A charge or toll for the use of a street or street facilities.

1866 *Maryland Law Rep.* XXV. 72 The defendants..charged in addition to the usual freight for transportation between those points a further compensation for streetage to the foot of 6th Street in the latter City. 1884 *Reading* (Pa.) *Morning Herald* 17 Apr., The Washington avenue tracks are..owned by the Pennsylvania company, and for years there has been charged but a nominal sum on the Reading's business for streetage.

Street-car. *U.S.* A passenger car, running through the streets, usually on rails; a tram-car.

1862 A. TROLLOPE *N. Amer.* I. 185 Omnibuses, or street cars working on rails run hither and thither. 1872 HOWELLS *Wedd. Journ.* (1892) 29 The street-cars that slowly tinkled up and down.

attrib. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 1858/1 Dean and Coleman's street-car rail. 1888 PENNELL *Sent. Journey* 20 Here we turned from river and street-car track to walk to the other end of the town.

Street-door. The chief external door of a house or other building, giving immediate access to the street.

1563–70 FOXE *A. & M.* (ed. 2) 2124/2 One knockt at the street doore. 1671 WOODHEAD *St. Teresa* II. xxxv. 252 We found the good Lady at the street-door, where she received us with many tears. 1778 MISS BURNEY *Evelina* xlviii, I went to the street-door, where I stood some time. 1837 DICKENS *Pickw.* xxxvi, Mr. Weller left the room, and immediately afterwards was heard to shut the street door. 1870 MISS BRIDGMAN *R. Lynne* II. xi. 226 There came a..rat-tat at the street-door.

b. *attrib.* and *Comb.*

1716 N. BLUNDELL *Diary* (1895) 141 Our Street Doar Lock was picked and ye Doar opened. 1729 SWIFT *Direct. Serv.* Wks. 1751 XIV. 48 The Street-Door Key. 1802 G. COLMAN *Br. Grins, Elder Bro.* (1819) 115 A street-door bell. 1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib., Brit.* II. No. 6105, Street-door latches.

Streetful (strī·tful). Pl. **streetfuls** (less correctly **streets-full**). [f. STREET *sb.* + -FUL.] As much or as many as a street will hold.

1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* III. i. ii, The dull street-lamps disclose only streetfuls of haggard countenances. 1846 DICKENS *Pict. Italy, Rome* 177 The carriages..showing, the whole street-full, through the storm of flowers. 1902 A. BIRRELL in *N. Amer. Rev.* Feb. 252 Majuba Hill made Tories in streetfuls. 1914 J. C. COX in *Antiquary* (1915) XL. 17/2 The University and Library [of Louvain were] obliterated, and streets-full of houses destroyed by wanton and deliberate incendiaries.

Street-keeper. A parish or district official appointed to keep order in the streets. Also see quot. 1858.

1728 J. CHAMBERLAYNE *St. Gt. Brit.* II. (ed. 29) 159 Thomas Cowdell, Robert Davis, Street-Keepers. 1837 DICKENS *Pickw.* xli, I think I can see him now, a coming up the Strand between the two street-keepers, a little sobered by the bruising, [etc.]. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade, Street-keeper*, a street-ward; a beadle having the charge of a private street or thoroughfare. 1887 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 10 Oct. 7/2 The Wandsworth District Board of Works has confirmed the appointment of the street-keeper for a further period of three months.

Streetless (strī·tlĕs), *a.* [-LESS.] Destitute of streets, having no street or streets.

1883 *Sat. Rev.* 28 Apr. 529 The main body of the old town [Yarmouth] is absolutely streetless.

Streetlet (strī·tlĕt). [f. STREET *sb.* + -LET.] A diminutive street.

a 1552 LELAND *Itin.* (1769) VII. 106 Selwood..had thought to have reedified the Townelet with mene Houses..whereof yn deade he made but one Streatelet. 1855 *Fraser's Mag.* LI. 575 There were enough of them in that streetlet alone to rig out all Paris. 1890 *Temple Bar* Oct. 159 The narrow streetlets are full of..Easterns.

Streetman (strī·tmăn). [f. STREET *sb.* + MAN *sb.*]

† **1.** An official appointed for the good government of the streets of London. *Obs.*

1720 STRYPE *Stow's Surv.* v. xviii. II. 286/1 [The Court of Common Council in 1665 ordered] the said President and Governors [of Christ's Hospital] to have Power..to nominate and appoint Streetmen,..to be Overseers of the said Carmen; to see and take care, that Merchants and other Citizens Goods be well and faithfully delivered at the Rates and Prices, without any Exactions, Hindrance or Disturbance. 1766 ENTICK *Lond.* IV. 179 They have also three servants, which they call street-men, that see to the well government of the carts of London.

2. A man working in the street.

1894 *Critic* (U.S.) 15 Sept. p. iv/3 Full history of Tree and sample Jumping Bean to Agents or Streetmen 25 Cents.

Streetology. *Obs. rare.* [f. STREET *sb.* + -OLOGY.] Science or knowledge of the streets of a town. Hence **Streetolo·gical** *a.*, of or pertaining to streetology.

1837 (*title*) Streetology of London. *Ibid.* 9 The collector of these streetological sketches. 1845 FORD *Handbk. Spain* I. 246 The streetology is difficult, the town is a labyrinth of lanes each of which resembles the other.

Street-orderly. A street-sweeper or scavenger. Also *Comb.*, as *street-orderly boy*, *system*;

street-orderly bin, an iron box erected by the side of the street, for the reception of refuse.

1851 MAYHEW *Lond. Labour* II. 257 The street-orderly system of scavaging. *Ibid.* 259 The first appearance of the street-orderlies in the metropolis was in 1843. 1894 Street-orderly bin [see ORDERLY *a.* 5].

1907 *Westm. Gaz.* 22 Oct. 10/2 The street-orderly boys are to undergo a medical examination before being placed on the establishment.

Hence **Street-orderlyism**, the system of employing street-orderlies for scavenging.

1851 MAYHEW *Lond. Labour* II. 257 The system called Street-Orderlyism.

Street-walker.

1. One who walks in the street.

1618 MYNSHUL *Ess. Prison* 29 The Maister of a Prison is the *primum mobile*, in that euerlasting motion (a Iayle) and those key-turners, and street-walkers, are the petty and necessary slauish wheeles. 1673 [R. LEIGH] *Transp. Reh.* 33 To follow our Street-walker with a full Cry of Boys and Women at his heels. 1737 SWIFT *Proposal Badges Beggars* Wks. 1738 VI. 161 But all Street-walkers, and Shop-keepers, bear an equal Share in this hourly Vexation. 1872 W. READE *Martyrdom Man* 497 Athens, where the milestones are master-pieces, and the street-walkers poets and philosophers.

2. *spec.* A common prostitute whose field of operations is the street.

1592 GREENE *Discov. Coosenage* C 3 b, They shold see how these street walkers wil iet in rich garded gowns. 1721 AMHERST *Terræ Fil.* No. 28. 150 Common strumpets, and mercenary street-walkers. 1762 JOHNSON *Let.* 21 Dec. in *Boswell*, Mr. Levet has married a street-walker. 1828 LANDOR *Imag. Conv., Richelieu, Cotes*, etc., Wks. 1846 I. 301 Lady Fosset..had been a street-walker, a kept mistress, and an actress. *a* 1870 BUCHANAN *Poems, Pan* Epil. 31 On rainy nights thy breath blows chill In the street-walker's dripping hair. 1894 STEAD *If Christ came to Chicago* 368 Where arbitrary power of arrest is given..the street-walker proves a great revenue to the policeman.

Similarly **Street-walking** *vbl. sb.* and *ppl. a.*

1752 FIELDING *Amelia* II. ii, The Justice..declaring she was guilty within the statute of Street-walking, ordered her to Bridewell for a month. 1767 WILKES *Corr.* (1805) III. 144, I spoke of street-walking publishers, whom it would be ridiculous in government to take up. *c* 1770 in *Satir. Songs Costume* (Percy Soc.) 248 For so much as the street-walking hussies They will have their hair drest you see. 1824 SCOTT *Redgauntlet* ch. xiv, Jess Cantrips..had the honour to be transported to the plantations, for street-walking and pocket-picking.

† **Street-ward,** *sb. Obs.* [f. STREET *sb.* + WARD *sb.*] The office of guarding the streets; the market-dues payable to the holder of this office.

1202 in *Cal. Charter Rolls* (1903) I. 257 Quieti de geldis.., et de shirys et hundredis, et de sectis eorum infra burgum et extra, et de stretwardis, et de omnibus placitis. 15.. in Dugdale *Monast. Angl.* (1661) II. 187/2 Præterea idem Comes dedit præfato Nigello Constabulario suo, le Streteward in nundinis Cestriæ & Marketzell in omni terra pertinente ad honorem de Haulton. *Ibid.*, Et valent per annum le Streteward & le Marketzeld xviii. s. & ob.

Streetward (strī·twŭɪd), *a.* and *adv.* [f. STREET *sb.* + -WARD.] a. *adv.* Towards the street. Also in phr. † *To the streetward.* b. *adj.* Facing or opening on the street.

1596 *Manch. Court Leet Rec.* (1885) II. 116 No Inhabitante..shall make or suffer any myddinge within this towne to the streetewarde. 1642 HOWELL *For. Trav.* (Arb.) 25 Let his Chamber be street ward. 1656 HEYLIN *Surv. France* 70 The buildings..are..very handsomely and uniformely set out to the street-ward. 1864 TENNYSON *En. Arden* 170 Their little streetward sitting-room. 1866 MISS G. JEWSBURY in *Carlyle's Remin.* (1881) II. 301 He..made for the streetward entrance into the Park. 1873 MORRIS *Love is enough* 22 He gained the gate that gave streetward.

Streetway (strī·twe·ɪ). A paved road or highway, the roadway of a street. Now only *poet.*

1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* I. 64 These causeys or Street-waies, the Romanes called Vias Consulares &c. 1686 PLOT *Staffordsh.* 401 There remains in the Lane upon the north side of the street-way some small fragments of a wall. 1735 J. PRICE *Stone-Br. Thames* 4 The Foot-way to be..paved with Perbeck Squares, and the Coach, or Street-way, with the best Pebbles. 1871 TENNYSON *Last Tourn.* 140 Down a streetway hung with folds of pure White samite.

Streety (strī·ti), *a.* [f. STREET *sb.* + -Y.] Of, pertaining to, or characteristic of the streets. Cf. EARTHY *a.* 6.

1857 DICKENS *Dorrit* I. vi, His son began..to be of the prison prisonous and of the street streety. 1887 F. W. ROBINSON *In Bad Hands* I. 25 A street figure that was very streety.

Streght(e, strehte: see STRAIGHT, STRAIT, STRETCH *v.*

† **Streiche,** *a. Sc. Obs. rare*⁻¹. [? repr. OE. *strǽc* rigid.] Stiff, affected.

1500-20 DUNBAR *Poems* xviii. 32 And be I ornat in my speiche Than Towsy sayis, I am so streiche, I speik not lyk thair houss menzie.

Streict(e, obs. ff. STRAIT.

Streight(e: see STRAIGHT, STRAIT, STRETCH.

Streigne, Streignour : see STRAIN, STRAINER.

Streiht(e: see STRAIGHT, STRAIT, STRETCH.

Strein(e, obs. forms of STRAIN.

† **Streinant.** *Obs. rare.* [app. a. OF. *estraignant* (one example), denoting some kind of musical note.] App. a musical note written with two stems; a breve. Cf. STRENE *sb.*²

c 1325 in *Rel. Ant.* I. 292 Set thes is a streinant [*printed* streiuant] witz to longe tailes.

Streinght, streinp(e, obs. ff. STRENGTH.

† **Streit,** *a. Obs. rare*⁻¹. [ad. L. *strictus*, pa. pple. of *stringĕre* to draw (a sword).

The form is due to the confusion of this L. *strictus* with the etymologically distinct *strictus* bound, drawn tight, which was known to be represented by *streit*, STRAIT *a.*]

Of a sword: Drawn.

c 1386 CHAUCER *Nun's Pr. T.* 537 Whan Ylion Was wonne, and Pirrus with his streite (*v. rr.* streyte, streighte, streizt, streiht] sword Whan he hadde hent kyng Priam by the berd And slayn hym.

Streit(e, streith, obs. ff. STRAIGHT, STRAIT.

Streitch, obs. form of STRETCH.

Strek(e: see STREAK, STRECK, STREEK, STRIKE.

Strelitz (stre·lits). *Hist.* Forms: *sing.* 7 **strelits**, 7, 9 **strelitz**, often incorrectly as pl.; *pl.* 7 **strelsey, strelsies, strelitzi**, 7, 9 **strelitzes.** [a. Russian стрѣлецъ *strı́elets*, archer (pl. стрѣльцы *strı́eltsy*), agent-n. f. стрѣлять *strı́elyat'* to shoot with the bow, f. стрѣла *strı́ela* arrow.] A soldier belonging to a body of Russian troops composed of infantry raised by the Tsar Ivan the Terrible (1533–84) and abolished by Peter the Great in 1682. Also *attrib.*

1603 R. JOHNSON *Kingd. & Commw.* 155, 5000 attend aboute the citty of Mosco, or where the emperour shall abide, and two thousande, Stremaney Strelsey, or gunners at the stirroppe, aboute his owne person. 1662 J. DAVIES tr. *Olearius' Voy. Ambass.* 7 Our Musketiers, or Strelits. *Ibid.* 78 The Strelitz, who are spying up and down. *a* 1670 [S. COLLINS] *Pres. St. Russia* (1671) 111 With these he [the Czar] pays his Strelsies or Janzaries. 1799 W. TOOKE *View Russian Emp.* II. 471 Without mentioning the strelitzes. 1833 R. PINKERTON *Russia* 300 The officers and common soldiers of the Strelitzi. 1841 *Penny Cycl.* XX. 259/1 The first acts of his [*sc.* Ivan IV, 1533–84] reign were the institution of the corps of Strelitzes (archers), the first regular army of Russia. 1841 MOTLEY *Corr.* (1889) I. iv. 112 Peter the Great disbanded and annihilated the Strelitz or Russian janissaries. 1904 WHISHAW *Tiger of Muscovy* xxxi, A Strelitz soldier lay sleeping at the door leading to the corridor...To the Strelitz the Tsar said: 'Go quickly,..and follow the Boyar Nagoy.'

Strelitzia (strēli·tsiă). Also **strelitza.** [f. *Strelitz* (after Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, queen to Geo. III) + -IA.] A genus of herbaceous plants (N.O. *Musaceæ*), natives of S. Africa; also a plant of this genus.

1789 AITON *Hortus Kewensis* I. 285 Strelitzia...Cannæ leav'd Strelitzia. Nat. of the Cape of Good Hope. Introd. 1773, by Sir Joseph Banks, Bart. 1836 A. F. GARDINER *Journ. Zoolu Country* i. 17 We slept well under the shade of some strelitza trees (very similar to wild banana). 1902 *Pall Mall Mag.* June 252/1 Occasional tree ferns and strelitzias..are a reminder that..the country is in the tropics.

Stremе, Stremer, obs. ff. STREAM, STREAMER.

Strenable, -bylle, obs. ff. STRAINABLE.

Strend(e, var. ff. STRIND, generation.

† **Strene,** *sb.*¹ *Obs. rare.* [Origin and meaning obscure.]

1531 *Privy Purse Exp. Hen. VIII* (1827) 151 Paied to one that brought a strene to the vyne fro pexhalles house, xl s.

† **Strene,** *sb.*² or *a. Mus. Obs.* [? Corruption of STREINANT.] *Strene note*: a term applied to the breve.

In the figure subjoined to the passage quoted, the breve has the form of a black slanting oblong with a stem pendent from each end. Cf. the quot. s. v. STREINANT.

1550 MARBECK *Bk. Com. Prayer noted* A ij, The first note is a strene note and is a breue. The second a square note, and is a semy breue. The iii. a pycke and is a mynymme. The iiii. is a close.

Strene, *v. Obs.* exc. *north.* Forms: 1 (3e-)stréonan, strínan, strénan, strínan, (3e)strýnan, 2 (i)streonen, (3e)strenen, (3e)strienen, 2–4 strenen, 3–4 streonen, (3 streonien), 4 strene, 9 *dial.* strain, strene. [OE. -(*ge*)*strienan*: see STRAIN *sb.*¹]

† 1. *trans.* To beget, procreate (offspring). Also with *forth*: To propagate (one's kind). *Obs.*

In OE. also to gain, acquire, which seems to be the primary sense.

c 893 ÆLFRED *Oros.* IV. i. § 3 Þa..sceoldon he heora wífum bearna strienan. *c* 1000 *Ags. Gosp.* Matt. i. 6 Iudas gestrynde phares. *a* 1175 *Cott. Hom.* 225 Heo and his wif þa bearn gestriende. *c* 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 19 Ure helende crist is his onlepi sune noht after chesunge ac after strene for þan he him strende, alse þe sunne streneð liht. *c* 1200 *Ormin* 28 Forr all follc wass þatt illke streon þatt Adam hafde strenedd. *c* 1205 LAY. 2502 [Locrine] þe streonede Abren vppen Astrild. *c* 1220 *Bestiary* 609 in *O. E. Misc.* 19 And behinden he hem sampnen ðanne he sulen oðre strenen. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 210 Þeo þet..ei þing iude hwarðuruh no childe ne schulde beon of hire istreoned. *a* 1300 *Havelok* 2983 Him stondes wel þat god child strenes. *c* 1320 *Cast. Love* 1380 Hou he is Fader ȝe schullen i-heren, And hou we alle of him i-streoned weren. 1393 LANGL. *P. Pl. C.* XIV. 172 And whan þe pocok caukede þer-of ich took kepe, How vn-corteisliche þe cok hus kynde forth strenede.

fig. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 234 Sikernesse streoneð ȝemeleaste.

† b. *absol. Obs.*

c 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 133 Nis na stude to istreone bicumelic butan ða þe istreonieð beon bispused rihtliche to gedere. *c* 1300 *E. E. Psalter* lxxii. 27 Þou forlest alle sauſe to be þat strenen with-outen þe [L. *perdidisti omnes, qui fornicantur abs te*]. 13.. *K. Alis.* 7057 Withoute lost of synne they streoneth. *c* 1315 SHOREHAM *Poems* I. 2006 Ac ȝyf þat on þobren warneþ hys flesch, Ne myȝt[e] hy naut strene.

2. *intr.* Of dogs, etc.: To copulate. Also *trans.* (see quot. 1728). (See *Eng. Dial. Dict.*)

a 1728 WHITE KENNETT (E.D.D.) A dog streneth a bitch. [Durham.] 1820 WILBRAHAM *Chesh. Gloss.* 63 *Strain v.* expressive of the union of the sexes in the canine race. 1847 HALLIWELL, *Strain*, to copulate, said of the cat. *Ibid.*, *Strene*, to copulate, said of a dog. *Durh.*

Hence **Stre·ning** *vbl. sb.*

c 1230 *Hali Meid.* 47, I þe streonunge þrof, is on earst hire flesch wiþ þat fulðe ituked. *c* 1315 SHOREHAM *Poems* I. 2003 Þat oþer godnesse hys strenyng, Þer me may children wene. *c* 1320 *Cast. Love* 1389 Adam..Fleschliche streoned vs euerichon, Ac þulke fleschliche streonynge Beere vs bale.

Streng, obs. or dial. f. STRING; dial. f. STRONG *a.*

† **Stre·nger,** *a.* and *adv. Obs.* Forms: 1 **strengra,** (**strencra, strængra**), 3 **strengre,** 3–5 **strenger,** 4–5 **-ere,** 4 **strengor.** [OE. *strengra* (neut. *-re*) :—OTeut. **straŋgizon-* compar. of **straŋgo-* STRONG *a.*] **A.** *adj.* Stronger (in various senses: see STRONG *a.*).

c 888 ÆLFRED *Boeth.* xxiv. § 3 We wenað ðæt-mon bio þy strencra [*Bodl. MS.* strængra] þe he bið micel on his líchoman. *Ibid.* xxxii. § 1 Þeah ðu nu wære, strengra þonne leo. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 326 Þe wunde þet euer wurseð an hond, & strengre is forte helen. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 4298 Hert o stele, and bodi o brass, Strenger þen euer sampson was. *a* 1400 *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* I. 523 Ofte we seon the strengor falle Thorw him that feblore was. 1426 LYDG. *De Guil. Pilgr.* 8260, I am nat strengere than dauyd was.

B. *adv.* More strongly.

1340 *Ayenb.* 170 Þe ilke þet..is..ine þise vigtinge; heþ móre strenger to done..him-zelue to-werie. 1382 WYCLIF *Exod.* xxxix. 19 That the coope and the breest broche streyt myȝten be knyt togidere to the girdil, and with rynges strengere cowplid.

Hence † **Stre·ngerly** *adv.*, more strongly.

a 1390 *Prol. Job* in *Wyclif Bible* II. 671 As if thou woldest an eel..holde with streite hondis, how myche strengerli thou thristis, so myche the sunnere it shal sliden awey.

† **Stre·ngest,** *a. Obs.* [OE. *strengest* :—OTeut. **straŋgisto-*, superl. of **straŋgo-* STRONG *a.*] Strongest (see the senses of STRONG *a.*).

c 893 ÆLFRED *Oros.* III. x. (Sweet) 138 Feower þa strengstan beoda. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 280 Heo [*sc.* humility] is..þinge strengest. *a* 1450 *Knt. de la Tour* xxiv. 34 And thanne he required hem that the strengest hore of hem shulde smite furst the stroke. 1471 FORTESCUE *Wks.* (1869) 534 This is the strengyst argument that is made in the said boke. *c* 1489 CAXTON *Sonnes of Aymon* ix. 208 Ye made hym the castel of Mountalban vpon the strengest grounde that is wythin your royame. *c* 1500 *Melusine* vi. 33, I neuer sawe hym syn that the chasse was at the strengest.

† **Strengh,** *sb. Obs.* Forms: 1 **strengo, strengu,** 3 **stronge,** 3–5 **strengh(e,** 5 **stryngh(e.** [OE. *strengu* wk. fem. = OS. (*megin*)*strengi*, OHG. *strengī, strangī* (MHG., mod.G. *strenge*) :—OTeut. type **straŋgiō-*, f. **straŋgo-* STRONG *a.*] = STRENGTH *sb.*, in various senses.

1. The quality of being strong, whether in physical or immaterial senses.

Beowulf 1533 Wearp ða wundenmæl..strenge getruwode mundgripe mægenes. *Ibid.* 2540 Strengo getruwode anes mannes. *c* 825 *Vesp. Psalter* xxxvii. 11 Heorte min gedroefed is in me & forleort mec strengu min. *c* 1205 LAY. 26690 Þa atstoden Rom-leoden mid ræȝe strenȝe [*sic*; *c* 1275 strengþe]. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 714 Quor deades strenge warp him dun. *Ibid.* 3728 [God's] milce is mikel, is strenge is strong. *a* 1275 *Prov. Ælfred* 561 in *O. E. Misc.*, Gif..þu ne moȝe mid strenghe þe selwen steren. *c* 1400 tr. *Secreta Secret., Gov. Lordsh.* 117 Brodnesse of thees and heles, bytoknys strynth of body. *a* 1420 *Aunters of Arthur* 266 (Thornton MS.) Ȝoure kynge es to couetous..; Maye no mane stere hym of strenghe, whilles þe whele standis. 14.. in Parker *Dom. Archit.* (1859) III. 42 Then the strenghe of the streme astoned hem stronge.

b. Force, violence.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 19323 Bot strengh nan did þai þam till, For þai come wit þaim al wit will. *c* 1300 *Leg. Gregory* (Schulz) 238 Sche swore, sche schuld hir neuer ȝeld, Bot he wiþ strenge hir wonne.

2. *concr.* a. An armed force. b. A fortified place.

? *a* 1400 *Morte Arth.* 2242 Thane the conqueroure tuke kepe, and come with his strenghes To reschewe the ryche mene of the Rounde Table. *Ibid.* 1475. 1489 HEN. VII in *Paston Lett.* III. 358 The garnson of the towne of Concarnewe, which is oon of the grettest strenghes of all Bretayn, was besieged.

† **Strengh,** *v. Obs.* Forms: 3–5 **streng(e, strengh(e,** (4 **strenghi**), 5 **stryngh(e.** [OE. **strengan** (cf. *ætstrengan* to deforce, withhold wrongfully) :—prehistoric **straŋgjan*, f. *strang* STRONG *a.*

If the word had survived it would normally have become *stringe* in the south and *streng* or *string* in the north.]

trans. To make strong or stronger (in material or immaterial sense); to strengthen, confirm; to fortify, to reinforce.

a 1175 *Cott. Hom.* 237 And elc of ham [*sc.* laws] ȝestrenð & fulfellþ oðre. *c* 1200 *Ormin* 2614 For þild birrþ ben wiþþ iwhillc mahht To beoldenn itt & strengenn. *a* 1225 *St. Marher.* 14 Þis beoð þe wepnen..þat strengeð ham stalewardlukest azein me. *a* 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 717 Þeos meiden..stod, þurh þeos steuene starcliche istrenget. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 18930 Þe fire es god to strengh þe tile. *c* 1315 SHOREHAM *Poems* I. 701 For bred strengeþ þe herte of man. *a* 1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* xvii. 20 He reft me out fra my faes stalworthest,..for þai ere strenghid [*confortati sunt*] abouen me. *Ibid.* lxvii. 31 Strenghi in the and conferme in vs ..that thou wroght in vs. *c* 1400 *Melayne* 1365 He comes at hande With men of armes a sexty thowsande, To strenghe with ȝone Cite. *c* 1400 tr. *Secreta Secret., Gov. Lordsh.* 82 Some þing strynghys and fattys þe body, some makys it megre and feble. *c* 1425 *Torr. Portugal* 113 Now god, þat Dyed appon a Rode, Strengithe hym bothe bone

and blod, The fyld for to haue! *c* 1440 *Pr. Penit.* (1894) 18 Thei strenghed hem that my sowle sought.

Hence † **Stre·nghing** *vbl. sb.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 18678 Bot þair mistrouth..Es strenghing of vr trouth to dai. 1535 in *Lett. Suppress. Monasteries* (Camden) 31 That ye had brought that tale vnto him more for the strenghing and confirmation of your opinion then for any other thing els. *a* 1578 LINDESAY (Pitscottie) *Chron. Scot.* (S.T.S.) I. 62 So inordinatlie to promove his freindis to landis and lordschipis ffor the strenghen of his awin house.

† **Stre·nghfully**, *adv. Obs.* [f. STRENGH *sb.* + -FUL [2] + -LY [2].] With might or power.

13.. *Gosp. Nicod.* 155 Sykyr men haf þai soght at stere þam strenghefully [*Addit. MS.* myghtily].

Strengite (stre·ŋəit). *Min.* [a. G. *strengit* (named after A. Streng): see -ITE.] Hydrous phosphate of iron, found as a drusy incrustation of a red colour.

1881 WATTS *Dict. Chem.* VIII. II. 1827. 1883 *Encycl. Brit.* XVI. 405/1.

Strengle, obs. or *dial.* form of STRANGLE.

† **Stre·ngly**, *adv. Obs.* Also 5 **strengely.** [Alteration of STRONGLY *adv.*, due to the influence of STRENGERLY.] = STRONGLY *adv.*

a 1425 tr. *Arderne's Treat. Fistula*, etc. 22 It byhoueþ noȝt to cure þe pacient with no cure bot cuttyng with yren, or fretyng with a threde strengely yfestned. 1435 MISYN *Fire of Love* 117 Oft-tyme we fall þat, be many casys taghtt, strenglyar we suld stand.

Strength (strenþ), *sb.* Forms: 1 **strengðu, -o, strengð, strængð, strenð, strencð,** *oblique cases* **strengðe** *etc.*, 2–3 **strengðe,** 2 **streongðe, streangðe,** 2–5 **strengþe,** 2–6 **strengthe,** 2 **streinðe,** 2 (5 *Sc.*) **streinþe,** 3 **strencðe, strennoþe** (*Orm.*), **strenðe,** 3–4 **strencþe, strencth,** 3–5 **strenkþe,** 3–7 **strenth,** 4 **strenþe, strinth**(e, **(strennthe, streinþ, streinthe**), 4–6 **strenthe,** 4 **strenȝt,** 4–5 **strenkith, -keþ,** (4 **strenket,** 5 **strenkit, -kyght,** 4, 6 *Sc.* **strynth,** (4-the), 4–6 **strenght,** (4 **strengheth**), 5 **strengþ, streynth**(e, **streynght, stryngth**(e, (**strengyth, strentht, streyngthe, strayngth, streyint, strynt**), 5–6 **strenghth,** (6 **stranghth, streinght, strynght,** *Sc.* **strainth, strynth**t), 3– **strength.** [OE. *strengðu* str. fem. = OHG. *strengida* :– OTeut. type **straŋgiþō*, f. **straŋgo-* STRONG *a.*: see -TH [1] b.]

I. The quality or condition of being strong.

a. Power of action in body or limbs; ability to exert muscular force.

In 15–18th c. the plural was often used after a plural possessive.

a 1000 *Ags. Ps.* (Spelm.) cxlvi. 11 Na on strengðe horses willan habbað. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 6136 Edmond vor is strengþe [*v. r.* strenge] was ycluped yrensyde. 1303 R. BRUNNE *Handl. Synne* 3047 ȝyf þou for strenkþe be mysproute, And hast bostful wrdys and loude. 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 5898 þe gudes of kynd er bodily strenthe,..And delyvernes and bewte of body. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Prol.* 84 Of his stature he was of euene lengthe And wonderly delyuere and of greet strengthe. *c* 1400 *Parce michi* 101 in *26 Pol. Poems* 146 Sampson loste hys streyngthe therfore. 14.. *Lat. & Eng. Prov.* (MS. Douce 52) 27 Strenghth mowes down þe medow. *c* 1470 *Gol. & Gaw.* 346 War al your strenthis in ane, In his grippis and ye gane, He wald ourcum yow ilkane. 1471 CAXTON *Recuyell* (Sommer) 242 He put hem a backe by naturell strength and force many tymes. 1577 GOOGE tr. *Heresbach's Husb.* I. 14 Some woorkes require strength more then skill. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* II. ii. 17 More huge in strength, then wise in workes he was. 1592 *Soliman & Pers.* I. iii. 5 Put Lambe-like mildenes to your Lyons strength. 1633 T. JAMES *Voy.* 49 We heaued to the vttermost of our strengths. 1661 BOYLE *Style of Script.* 248 The self same Nail must enter Lesse or Deeper according to the Strength of the Hand that Drives it in. 1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* I. (Globe) 123 Getting one [*sc.* a block of wood] as big as I had Strength to stir, I rounded it. 1732 B. ROBINSON *Anim. Oecon.* 101 A frequent Increase of this Force in Muscles much moved must of Necessity increase both their Magnitudes and Strengths. 1736 BUTLER *Anal.* I. iii. Wks. 1874 I. 62 Possibly the sum of the whole strength of brutes may be greater than that of mankind. 1817 SHELLEY *Rev. Islam* 2785 She grasped me with the strength Of madness. 1832 BREWSTER *Nat. Magic* x. 246 Dr. Desaguliers was convinced that his feats were exhibitions of skill and not of strength. 1868 *Field* 4 July 14/3 London rowed in very good form, but lacked strength and dash. 1888 F. HUME *Mme. Midas* I. Prol., You have strength, I have brains.

b. Bodily vigour in general; efficiency of the bodily powers; esp. in contrast with the weakness due to illness, fatigue, age, immaturity, etc.

† Also *collect. pl.* for *sing.*: cf. L. *vires.*

c 1000 ÆLFRIC *Hom.* II. 76 Swa swa se fulfremeda wæstm bið on fulre strencðe þeonde. 1362 LANGL. *P. Pl. A.* VIII. 83 Olde Men and hore þat helples beoþ of strengþe. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xxi. (*Clement*) 438 þe fadyr þane strynth cane tyne. In swonyng þane he fel flat brad. *Ibid.* xxxi. (*Eugenia*) 274 Fevrys..þat trawalit hir hard & hat, & of strinthis mad hyr mat. 1490 CAXTON *Eneydos* XXVIII. 108 Dydo..thre tymes made her effort to reyse her self vpon her elbowe. But her strengthes..myght not therto suffyse. 1544 BETHAM *Precepts War* I. clxiv. H vj b, Sparyng nothynge, yᵗ they maye be healed and may haue theyr strength restored. 1597 SHAKS. 2 *Hen. IV*, III. i. 42 It is but as a Body, yet distemper'd, Which to his former strength may be restor'd, With good aduice, and little Medicine. 1618 W. LAWSON *New Orch. & Gard.* (1626) 16, I haue knowne a tree tainted in setting, yet grow, and beare blossomes..and yet for want of strength could neuer shape his fruit. 1662 J. DEGRAVERE *Thesaurus Remed.* (ed. 2) 35 The full Dose is the whole Medicine, for Men and Women of strength. 1725 N. ROBINSON *Th. Physick* 173 At last, after many Fits and much enduring, the Hands tremble, the Strength fails, the Spirits sink. 1748 in *Nairne Peerage Evid.* (1874) 125 You may..assure Mrs. Brown that her son is recovering strength daily. 1776 *Trial of Nundocomar* 32/2 He has not strength to undergo any examination, after the fatigue of bringing him to court. 1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* I. xi. 79 My strength was gone, and..I required to rest once more.

c. Power in general, whether physical, mental, or due to the possession of resources; ability for effective action; efficiency, vigour (of mental faculties, etc.).

a 1000 *Cædmon's Gen.* 950 (Gr.) Ac se weard {of Eden} hafað miht & strengðo. *a* 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 1014 þat tu mahe stihen to understonden in him godes muchele strencðe. *c* 1320 *Cast. Love* 534 We [the Trinity] beoþ on in one fulnesse, In miht, in strengþe and in heiȝnesse. 138. WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* III. 478 þer wittes ben þinne, þer strynthe littel, þer tyme schort, to study and teche holy writte. 1551 T. WILSON *Logic* D j, The natural strength, is an aptnes of nature, geuen either to the body, or to the mynd. 1561 HOBY *Castiglione's Bk. Courtier* I. (1900) 28 To laye vppon me a burden that passeth my strengthe. 1562 *Aberd. Kirk. Sess. Rec.* (Spalding Club) 5 Quhow God suld be lowit,.. wirshipped allanerlie, with the haill man, saull, hart, mynd, mycht, and strynght. 1616 B. JONSON *Devil an Ass* I. i. 24 Foolish feind, Stay i' your place, know your owne strengths, and put not Beyond the spheare of your actiuity. 1662 GUNNING *Lent Fast* 51 As Nazianzen above attemperating his example to our strength. 1759 JOHNSON *Rasselas* viii, Discovering in me great strength of memory and quickness of apprehension. 1779 *Mirror* No. 19 The natural strength of his understanding. 1838 DICKENS *Nich. Nick.* xxii, You could write us a piece to bring out the whole strength of the company. 1859 J. MARTINEAU *Ess.* (1866) I. 73 So far we think Mr. Mill's strength as great here as elsewhere. 1894 LIDDON *Life Pusey* I. i. 32 His strength lay in accurate verbal scholarship rather than in philosophy.

d. Capacity for moral effort or endurance; firmness (of mind, character, will, purpose); power to resist temptation or fulfil a difficult duty; † fortitude as one of the cardinal virtues.

In one's own strength: in reliance on oneself and not on divine grace.

c 900 *Bæda's Hist.* I, ix. [xii.] (1890) 46 Ac hī..lærdon þæt hi him..modes strengðo naman. *c* 1000 ÆLFRIC *Hom.* I. 44 Þa wearð se eadiga Stephanus mid Godes ȝife, and mid micelre strencðe afylled. *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 155 Ah ure drihten..ȝeue us mihte and strenðe. *c* 1200 ORMIN 5519 þe feorþe ȝife off Haliȝ Gast Iss strennchþe ȝænn þe deofell. *c* 1320 *Cast. Love* 801 Foure vertues cardinals [þat beoþ; þat is, strengþe and sleihschupe, Rihtfulnesse and worschupe. *a* 1350 *S. Lucy* 155 in Horstm. *Altengl. Leg.* (1881) 18 Swilk strenkith god sent to hir. *c* 1374 CHAUCER *Boeth.* I. pr. iv. (1868) 13 Þo I þat hadde gadered strenkeþ in my corage answerede and seide [etc.]. *c* 1386 — *Pars. T.* 728 Agayns this horrible synne of Accidie..ther is a vertu, that is called fortitudo or strengthe. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 138 The more perfytly the lyght of goostly strength shall shyne in vs. 1552 ABP. HAMILTON *Catech.* (1884) 8 Of hoip in our awin strenth. 1567 *Gude & Godlie Ballatis* (S.T.S.) 34 Faithfull is God, and on ȝow hes pietie, And will not thole ȝow temp[t]it for to be, Aboue ȝour strenth. 1592 SHAKS. *Rom. & Jul.* IV. i, 72 If..Thou hast the strength of will to slay thy selfe. 1636 B. JONSON *Discov.* init., He knows not his own strength, that hath not met adversity. 1675 J. OWEN *Indwelling Sin* x. (1732) 116 This therefore ought a Believer diligently to attend unto, namely, That every thing he doth to God, be done in the Strength of Christ. 1779 COWPER *Human Frailty* 19 A stranger to superior strength, Man vainly trusts his own. 1855 TENNYSON *Will* 11 But ill for him who, bettering not with time, Corrupts the strength of heaven-descended Will. 1902 VIOLET JACOB *Sheep-Stealers* xiii, Her overwrought mind was beginning to feel the influence of his quiet strength of purpose.

pl. 1653 JER. TAYLOR *Serm. Golden Grove, Winter* v. 65 [Want of attendance to the sense and intention of our prayers] is only so remedyed as our prayers are made zealous, and our infirmities passe into the strengths of the Spirit.

e. Power of contending in warfare; now chiefly, military power derived from numbers, equipment, or resources.

a 1122 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud. MS.) an. 1106, Ac seo streongðe & se siȝe wearð þæs cynges. *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 13 Ah ic eou ȝife siȝe and streinþe. *a* 1200 *Vices & Virtues* 27 Ac ne mai non senne ne non dieuel habben strengþe aȝean ðessere gode ileaue. *c* 1250 *Owl & Night.* 1713 For mony mon myd speres orde haueþ lutle strengþe, & mid his schelde, Ah naþeles in one felde [etc.]. *a* 1400–50 *Wars Alex.* 1013 [The old knights say] We may noȝt stand now in stede oure strenth is [to] febill. *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (Roxb.) xv. 69 By cause of ȝour ill liffing..and noȝt of oure strenth Godd has giffen it intill oure handes. *c* 1425 *Eng. Cong. Ireland* (1896) 96 Men that..yn so fele Anguysshes with vs hath your streynth assayed, cometh forth, men! 1474 CAXTON *Chesse* IV. ii. (1883) 168 For yf he [*sc.* the king] be taken or ded or ellis Inclusid and shette vp alle the strengthes of alle other faylle and alle Is fynyshid and loste. *c* 1511 *1st Eng. Bk. Amer.* (Arb.) Introd. p. xxxiii/2 For if they sholde come out by there strength and hardynesse the[y] wolde conquere all the worlde. 1525 BERNERS *Froiss.* II. ccxi. 270 b, They were desyrous to proue their strengthes agaynst the Christen men. 1592 KYD *Span. Trag.* I. iv. 15 Their fight was long,..Their strength alike, their strokes both dangerous. 1598 GRENEWEY *Tacitus, Ann.* XI. v. (1622) 146 Declaring that the ancient liberty of Germany was taken from them, and that the Roman strength mastered all. 1792 *Anecd. W. Pitt* III. xxxix. 51 If our people are united..we have an internal strength sufficient to repel any foreign invasion. 1828 J. T. JONES *Acc. War Sp. & Portugal* 423 Buonaparte was yet in strength to make face against the united armies of the remainder of Europe.

f. In a fortification, fortified place, etc.: Power of withstanding assault or capture.

c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xxxiii. (*George*) 67 He entre mycht nocht, for gret strinth & hicht of wal & gret ȝemesel of ȝettis al. 1523 BERNERS *Froiss.* I. ccccxiii. 274 Within the towne there was a mynster..the whiche they of the countrey had fortefyed, and there in they were, in trust of the strenght of yᵉ place. 1562 WINȜET *Cert. Tractatis* Wks. (S.T.S.) I. 37 Quhat strenth had his armour of defence thair. 1585 T. WASHINGTON tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* I. viii. 9 Enquiring of him what strength the tower might be of. 1591 SHAKS. 1 *Hen. VI*, III. iv. 7 This Arme, that hath reclaym'd To your obedience..seuen walled Townes of strength. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* II. 20 To the natural strength of the place is added the art of interlacing the low bowes, and casting the bodies of trees acrosse the way. 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* xxxi, 'But they know not,' thought she, 'its strength, or the armed numbers within it' [the castle]. 1820 SCOTT *Monast.* xxxv, He questioned him..concerning the Baron of Avenel's probable forces—the strength of his castle [etc.]. 1842 BORROW *Bible in Spain* xxxiv, Llanes is an old town, formerly of considerable strength.

g. In things, material or immaterial: Operative power; capacity for producing effects.

c 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* I. 114 Wið attres strenðe ȝenim þas wyrte. *a* 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 649 Lauerd..ȝef swuch mahte & strengðe i mine wordes þat þeo..moten missen þrof. *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (Roxb.) xxvi. 125 My worde sall be of als grete strenth, and als scharpe and scherand, as my swerde. *c* 1440 *Generydes* 6821 In strenthe or [?*read* of] erbys that ben profeitable, In them I knowe the vertu that is sure. 1569 UNDERDOWN *Ovid's Invect. Ibis* Pref. A v b, There is no poyson, to the poyson of a Serpente, no strength, to the strength of Gunpouder. 1590 SHAKS. *Mids. N.* III. ii. 250 Thy threats haue no more strength then her weak praise [*Theobald* prayers]. 1611 — *Wint. T.* IV. iv. 124 Pale Prime-roses, That dye vnmarried, ere they can behold Bright Phœbus in his strength. 1680 MOXON *Mech. Exerc.* xii. 205 And by the force and strength of the Wedge, the whole Drill-bench is drawn down, and fastned athwart the Cleeks of the Lathe. 1695 WOODWARD *Nat. Hist. Earth* VI. (1723) 294 The Sun..(to speak in the Phrase of the Vulgar,..) hath gain'd a greater Strength. 1732 POPE *Ess. Man* II. 67 Most strength the moving principle requires; Active its task, it prompts, impels, inspires. 1781 COWPER *Flatting Mill* 4 When a bar of pure silver..is..roll'd In an engine of utmost mechanical strength. 1817 SHELLEY *Rev. Islam* 1569 Great is the strength Of words. 1882 G. M. MINCHIN *Unipl. Kinematics* vi. 167 The time rate of supply of liquid through the source is called the strength of the source.

† **h.** Validity, legal force. *To bear strength*: to be in force. *To stand in its strength*: to remain valid. *Obs.*

c 1418 LYDG. *Troy-bk.* IV. 342 But wher so be þat he be lef or loth, þer is no more; but in conclusioun, In his [= its] strengþe stood þe electioun. 1423 *Rolls of Parlt.* IV. 256/1 That this ordynaunce stretche and bere strenketh also wel wyth in Chesshire. 1439 *E. E. Wills* (1882) 122 Annuites.., wiche he will that thei stande yn their strenketh. 1448 in Willis & Clark *Cambridge* (1886) II. 9 Then the forseid obligacion..stand in non strenketh nor effect, and elles yef hit be not fulfilled that then hit stand in strenketh and vertu. 1450 *Rolls of Parlt.* V. 186/2 That oure Graunt..be not prejudiced nor hurt, but stande in his strenght. 1538 *Extracts Aberd. Reg.* (1844) I. 159 And this my petitioune, be way of reconuentioune to haf the strynth of ane borght, gyf neid beis. 1579 TOMSON *Calvin's Serm. Tim.* 2/2 This rule..whiche shal remaine of strength vnto the worldes end. 1690 in *Nairne Peerage Evid.* (1874) 27 The haill..provisions.. are declared to stand..in their full force strenth and effect.

i. Power to sustain the application of force without breaking or yielding.

c 1384 CHAUCER *H. Fame* 1080 And loo thys hous of which I write..Alle was the tymber of no strengthe Yet hit is founded to endure. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* I. 427 Spirits..Not ti'd or manacl'd with joynt or limb, Nor founded on the brittle strength of bones. 1727 CHAMBERS tr. *Le Clerc's Treat. Archit.* 23 Were we only to have regard to the Laws of Strength and Weakness, we shou'd diminish the Entablements of Columns that have Pedestals, rather than those which have none. 1763 MILLS *Pract. Husb.* IV. 217 The bass used for this, or for any other binding, should be taken from a sound mat, and be soaked in water for some hours, to increase it's strength. 1839 *Penny Cycl.* XV. 48/2 The strength of materials in resisting the strains to which they are subject. 1841 *Civil Engin. & Arch. Jrnl.* IV. 79 Tables ..to facilitate the computation of the strength and dimensions of Girders, Bressummers, [etc.]. 1842 GWILT *Archit.* § 1624 The primitive horizontal or transverse Strength of Oak is taken at 1000; its supporting or primitive vertical Strength at 807; and its cohesive or absolute Strength at 1821. 1876 VOYLE & STEVENSON *Milit. Dict.* 427/2 Tensile strength as applied to iron, is its power to resist being torn asunder by a force exerted..in the direction of its length. 1883 M. P. BALE *Saw-Mills* 191 The strength of best oxhide belts, used for belting, has been calculated at about 3,086 lbs. per square inch of section. 1884 SARGENT *Rep. Forests N. Amer.* 252 The specimens tested for the purpose of determining the strength of the wood produced by the different trees.

fig. 1662 STILLINGFL. *Orig. Sacræ* I. i. § 20 If Procopius his pillar hath strength enough to bear such a conjecture.

j. Intensity and active force (of movement, wind, fire, a stream, current of electricity, or the like); intensity (of a physical condition, colour, sound, etc.). † *With strength*: violently.

c 1275 *Passion of our Lord* 499 in *O. E. Misc.* 51 He schef hit [*sc.* the spear] myd strenkþe þat to his heorte hit com. 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 3106 For þe fire here, of strenth es les þan þe fire of purgatory es. *c* 1430 *Hymns Virgin* (1867) 120 Thorowe the strength off þe wynd Into the Welken hitt [the sea] schall slynge. *c* 1440 *Alphabet of Tales* (1904) 96 With strenthe of hur lowpyng þe bote drownyd. 1480 *Rob. Devyll* 334 in Hazl. *E. P. P.* I. 232 So swyfte with strenght Robert dyd come, That hys speare ran thorowe the knyghtes bodye. *a* 1593 MARLOWE *Ovid's Eleg.* I. ii. 11, I saw a brandisht fire encrease in strength. 1705 H. BLACKWELL *Engl. Fencing-Master* 8 For if a Thrust come to be forced, or with any Strength, the Parry is so narrow, that no Parade can be made. *a* 1719 ADDISON *Disc. Learning* Misc. Wks.

1914 II. 463 Thus has Time mellowed the Works of Antiquity, by qualifying, if I may so say, the Strength and Rawness of their Colours. 1727 P. WALKER *Semple* Biog. Presbyt. (1827) I. 159 He entred in, and the Strength of Water carried him and his Horse beneath the Foord. 1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 267 If the strength of the shock is found to give uneasiness, it may be moderated by [etc.]. *Ibid.* 757 The colour thus prepared produces a fine crimson,..its strength may be increased by adding more of the oxide of gold. 1832 BREWSTER *Nat. Magic* vi. 138 The strength of the image of the Castle so far obscured the background, that it made no sensible impression on the observers. 1866 *Chamb. Encycl.* VIII. 7/2 The strength of the pulse depends chiefly on the force with which the blood is driven from the heart. 1873 J. C. MAXWELL *Electr. & Magn.* II. vii. 206 It is a homogeneous function of the second degree with respect to the strengths of the [electric] currents.

k. Vigour, intensity (of feeling, conviction, etc.). Also, emphasis, positiveness (of refusal).

1550 COVERDALE *Spir. Perle* xxviii. (1560) 271 Faith..receiueth increasement and more strength, through patience. 1596 SHAKS. *Merch. V.* v. i. 198 If you did know..You would abate the strength of your displeasure. 1596 — 1 *Hen. IV.* I. iii. 25 Those Prisoners in your Highnesse [name] demanded Were..not with such strength denied As was deliuered to your Maiesty. 1781 COWPER *Conversat.* 88 Opposition gives opinion strength.

l. Intensity of the specific property, or proportionate quantity of the active ingredient in a substance; potency (of drugs, liquors). Also, in particularized sense, a definite degree of strength.

1588 KYD *Househ. Philos.* Wks. (1901) 272, I speake of choyse wynes which get strength with age. 1653 T. BRUGIS *Vade Mecum* (ed. 2) 134 If you will put in gummes,..you must boyle them very gently least they burn, and the strength vanish away. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* IV. 155 T'allay the Strength and Hardness of the Wine. 1790 *Act* 30 *Geo. III*, c. 37 § 2 Spirits of any greater or higher Degree of Strength than that of One in Six under Hydrometer Proof. 1843 *Penny Cycl.* XXVII. 459/1 A wine is prepared which is green, and which becomes deeper by time, while the strength increases so much, that [etc.]. 1851–3 TOMLINSON *Cycl. Useful Arts* (1867) II. 29/2 A mixture of lime and water of 3 or 4 different strengths. 1904 *Knowledge* Mar. 43/2 This difference of price is due to the greater 'strength' of the flour..meaning by 'strength' the capacity to make more and larger loaves for equal weights of flour used. 1907 J. A. HODGES *Elem. Photogr.* (ed. 6) 151 A developer of normal strength.

m. Of soil: Firmness.

1573–80 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 49 The straw and the eare to haue bignes and length, betokeneth land to be good and in strength. 1707 MORTIMER *Husb.* 42 Ploughs..must be great or small according to the depth and strength of the Soil you Plow. 1794 VANCOUVER *Agric. Cambridge* 73 Westwardly of this, the soil again improves in strength, and staple. 1892 *Speaker* 3 Sept. 289/1 Half a hundred acres of thistly land, from which savour and strength had long departed.

n. Demonstrative force or weight (of arguments, evidence); amount of evidence for (a case).

1593 SHAKS. 3 *Hen. VI*, III. i. 49 Whiles Warwick tels his Title, smooths the Wrong, Inferreth arguments of mighty strength. 1725 WATTS *Logic* IV. ii. (1726) 351 Afterwards mention the Objections distinctly in their full Strength, and give a distinct Answer to them. 1814 CHALMERS *Evid.* ii. 65 Consider the strength even of heathen testimony to the facts of the gospel history. 1818 HALLAM *Mid. Ages* viii. iii. (1819) III. 48 In this consists, I think, the sole strength of the opposite argument. 1895 *Law Times* XCIX. 544/1 The litigant should as speedily as can be learn something of the strength of his opponent's case.

o. Energy or vigour of literary or artistic conception or execution; forcefulness (of delineation, versification, expression).

1687 MIEGE *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II. s.v., The strength (or energy) of a Discourse, *la force d'un Discours*. 1695 [R. GRAHAM] *Short Acc. Painters* in *Dryden's Du Fresnoy's Art Paint.* 314 He had indeed an admirable Colouring, and great strength in all his Works. 1709 POPE *Ess. Crit.* 361 And praise the easy vigour of a line, Where Denham's strength, and Waller's sweetness join. 1710 FELTON *Diss. Classics* (1718) Pref. 17 We should see more and more into the Property, Strength, and Compass, and all the hidden Beauties of the Greek and Latin Tongues. 1715 POPE *Iliad* I. Pref. C 4, He consider'd these [dialects] as they had a greater Mixture of Vowels or Consonants, and accordingly employ'd them as the Verse requir'd either a greater Smoothness or Strength. 1752 GRAY *Stanzas to Mr. R. Bentley* 13 Ah! could they catch his strength, his easy grace, His quick creation, his unerring line. 1777 POTTER *Æschylus, Prometh. Chain'd* Foreword, There is in this remaining drama a sublimity of conception, a strength, a fire, a certain savage dignity peculiar to this bold writer. 1802 *Edin. Rev.* Oct. 86 Dr. Rennel's first sermon, upon the consequences of gaming, is admirable for its strength of language, its sound good sense, [etc.]. 1906 *Lit. World* 15 Nov. 519/2 The pictures are notable for a proper mingling of strength and delicacy.

p. *Cards.* Of a hand (or the player holding it): Effectiveness due to the value of the cards held; also, the condition of being strong or abundant *in* (a specified suit). Of a suit: Number and value of the cards held by a player.

1862 'CAVENDISH' *Whist* (1864) 22 Both these ends are advanced by choosing for your original lead the suit in which you have the greatest numerical strength. 1900 J. DOE *Bridge Man.* 32 The test of very many doubtful No Trumpers lies in the strength or weakness of the Spades.

q. *Billiards.* (See quot. 1896.)

1788 J. BEAUFORT *Hoyle's Games Impr.* 194 [Billiards.] This game [*i.e.* the losing game] depends greatly upon particular strengths. 1896 W. BROADFOOT *Billiards* iii. (Badm. Libr.) 106 Strength is the measure of force used to make a stroke, which is said to be soft or hard according to the strength.

r. *Comm.* Firmness, absence of lowering tendency, in prices.

1891 *Daily News* 15 Apr. 2/7 No strength is yet felt in the market for home trade yarns. 1912 *Standard* 20 Sept. 8/7 Prices showed some degree of strength at the opening. 1913 *Times* 9 Aug. 17/2 The South African market showed strength.

2. Phrases. **†a.** *By* or *with strength of*: by force of. Cf. FORCE *sb.*[1] 16. *Obs.*

13.. *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* xlix. 424 He þat may fulli conquerre Al a cuntre bi strengþe of were. 1555 *Instit. Gentl.* E ij, When as they winning by strength of armes ye cuntrie of Asia..did frely geue [etc.]. 1585 T. WASHINGTON tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* I. v. 4 We rowing with strength of oares towardes the saide citie. *Ibid.* II. xi. 46 With strength of rowing we coasted along. 1598 W. PHILLIP tr. *Langenes' Voy. Ships Holland E. Ind.* 27 They entered into their boate, and by strength of oares rowed from vs.

†b. *No strength*: no matter (= *no force*, FORCE *sb.*[1] 20). *Obs.*—[1]

1340 *Ayenb.* 51 And yef he him damnede be him zelue: ber-of no strengþe.

†c. (*To hunt*) *with strength*: by way of regular chase. Cf. FORCE *sb.*[1] 22 a. *Obs.*

c 1369 CHAUCER *Dethe Blaunche* 351 And al men speke of huntynge How they wolde slee the hert with strengthe. *c* 1400 *Master of Game* (MS. Digby 182) xxv, Whan þe kynge..will hunte for þe herte with strength, þe maister of þe game moste haue [etc.].

d. *On the strength of*: **†**(*a*) with the strength derived from, fortified by (food or drink) (*obs.*); (*b*) encouraged by, relying on, or arguing from.

Cf. 1 Kings xix. 8 'in the strength of that meat', which is literal from the Hebrew.

1625 MASSINGER *New Way* II. ii, Here; drinke it off, the ingredients are cordiall...You may ride on the strength of this till to morrow morning. 1708 ADDISON *Pres. St. War* 24 The Allies after a successful Summer are too apt upon the Strength of it to neglect their Preparations for the ensuing Campaign. 1717 PRIOR *Alma* III. 243 Was ever Tartar fierce or cruel, Upon the Strength of Water-Gruel? *a* 1734 NORTH *Life Ld. Kpr. Guilford* (1742) 53 Sir William Jones, who, upon the Strength of the Duke of Bucks, set his Lordship so hard for the Solicitor General's Place. 1780 *Mirror* No. 92, I have known a lady here contrive to make a figure for half the winter, on the strength of a plume of feathers, or the trimming of a petticoat. 1806–7 J. BERESFORD *Miseries Hum. Life* (1826) iii. § 39 Going to see a party of strolling players on the strength of an encouraging report. 1845 DICKENS *Chimes* iii. 110 [He] had considerably improved his acquaintance with Sir Joseph Bowley on the strength of his attentive letter. 1865 EMERSON in *Harper's Mag.* (1884) Feb. 461/2 On the strength of your note, I am working away at my last pages. 1885 *Manch. Exam.* 13 July 5/2 He makes a careful selection of instances, on the strength of which he asks us to accept the conclusion at which he has arrived. 1890 D. C. MURRAY *John Vale* XXV, You have [made a discovery], have you?..And you want half-a-crown for a drink on the strength of it?

3. Used for: A source of strength; that which makes strong. (Not now in *pl.*)

Often in Biblical language (literally from Heb.), esp. as predicated of God.

c 1000 *Ags. Ps.* (Th.) lx. 6 And Effrem ys æðele strengþu heafdes mines. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 7208 His wijf wald noght fin..Til sco þe soth had gert him sai, In quat stede al his strencth lai. *a* 1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* xxx. 4 For my strenght and my fleynge ert thou. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Monk's T.* 68 For alle hise strengthes in hise heeres weere. *a* 1400 *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* xxiii. 234 Heil vr Ioye of worþinesse, And vr strengþe þerto. 1615 E. S. *Britain's Buss* in Arber *Eng. Garner* III. 648 Our shipping and mariners, sea towns, and coasts, which..should be the walls and strength of this Islandish Monarchy. 1630 R. JOHNSON *Kingd. & Commw.* 220 Both of them are wonderfull strengths, eases, and riches to his Countrey. 1630 M. GODWYN tr. *Bp. Godwyn's Ann. Eng.* 21 Our chiefe strength were our Archers. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* x. 921 [Eve to Adam] Bereave me not, Whereon I live,..My only strength and stay. 1678 BP. SPRAT *Serm.* 7 Nov. (1710) 130 What they boaded would be a Mischief to us, you are providing shall be one of our principal Strengths. 1738 WESLEY *Psalms* LI. vii, And all my Powers shall join to bless The Lord, my Strength and Righteousness. 1855 PRESCOTT *Philip II* I. v. I. 69 The strength of his army lay in his Spanish veterans. 1883 *Manch. Exam.* 24 Oct. 4/6 The strength of Conservatism was that it appealed to men of all classes and positions..who desire to maintain the Constitution as it is.

†4. Superior power exerted for conquest, outrage, or compulsion; force; wrongful force, violence; *pl.* acts of violence. *To make strength*: to resort to force. *Obs.*

c 1000 *Apollonius of Tyre* (1834) 2 He..ða onzean-winnendan fæmnan mid micelre strengðe earfoðlice ofercom. *a* 1122 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1119, Sume þa castelas he mid strengðe zenam. 1154 *Ibid.* an. 1137, § 6 Landes þat rice men hefden mid strengthe. *a* 1200 *Moral Ode* 168 in *O. E. Hom.* I. 169 Ne scal him na mon mene þer of strengþe ne of wronge. *c* 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 179 And 3if þe louerd net his underlinge to 3iuene, þat beoð strengðe, and refloc. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 673 Nembrot nam wið strengðhe ðat lond, And helde ðe tur o babel in his hond. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 4166 Some he mid strencþe nom & al quic hom vret. *c* 1300 *K. Horn* 1084 (Laud) Mody Myd strencþe hyre hadde And in to toure ladde. *c* 1300 *Leg. Gregory* (Schulz) 621 Þo was þe douke wiþ strengþe ytake, And brouȝt to þe conteise sone. 13.. *Cursor M.* 19323 (Edin.) To þe tempil þan þai giede, þa postlis to þair curte to lede, bot strenþes nane did þai þaim til. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 240 And that thing mai I noght fulfille, But if I scholde strengthe make. *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (1839) v. 37 On that was clept Gaytoga..made him Soudan be strengthe. *c* 1400 *Brut* lix. 54 Þai hade descomfitede him biforn-hand, and dryuen him out by strengþ. *c* 1400 *Pride of Life* 332 in *Non-Cycle Myst. Plays* 99 Med is mad a demisman, Streyint betit þe lau. 1463 *Stat. Roll Irel.* 3 *Edw. IV* (1914) 187 To resist the malicieux pourposes might and straygth of your forsaid Irishe Enemyez.

†5. A power, faculty; an active property. *Obs.*

c 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* I. 116 Ȝenim þas ylcan wyrte & ele & swinen smeró do tosomne þonne hæfð hit ða strængðe hyne to gewyrmenne. 1387–8 T. USK *Test. Love* III. vi. (Skeat) I. 67 Instrument of willing is thilke strength of the soule, whiche that constrayneth to wilne. *c* 1400 tr. *Secreta Secret., Gov. Lordsh.* 96 Vche sawle is a spirituell stryngthe, ..and it hauys two strynghes rennynge to-gedre yn þe body, ..oon of þe strynghes is a tokenynge, þe oþer ys wirkand, þat glorious god hauys inlightyd of vij strenghes; of strynghe attractyue, and retractyf, of strynghe digestyf, and purgatyf, of strengthe nutrityf, and infirmatyf, and sustantyf. *c* 1440 *Gesta Rom.* xcvi. 427 (Add. MS.) Therfore I am holdyn to serue hym with all my strengthes And membres. 1508 DUNBAR *Tua Mariit Wemen* 264 Be dragonis baitht and dowis, ay in double forme, And quhen it nedis 3ow, onone, note baith ther stranthis. 1525 tr. *Brunswyke's Handywork Surg.* xv. Dj b, That the powder [shall] haue in hym selfe suche strength that whan it towcheth the vayne, that it therwith may close, which strength is namyd stiptica. *Ibid.* lxviii. O iv b, Lay thervpon this plaster, whyche hathe the strengthe to cause all bowed bones to come out agayn.

†6. A feat of strength; an act requiring strength. *To make no strength of*: to find no difficulty in.

c 1290 *Alban* 62 in *S. Eng. Leg.* 69 Huy comen to an vrninde brok: þere huy mosten ouer wade: þe tormentores woden ouer al a-brod: and no strenche þar-of ne maden. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* XVI. 646 Thar did ane Ynglis man, perfay, A weill gret stryntht, as I herd say. 1579–80 NORTH *Plutarch, Crassus* (1612) 573 These bowmen [Parthians] drew a great strength, and had big strong bowes.

†7. The force, tenor, or import (of a document); the power, phonetic value (of a letter of the alphabet). *Obs.*

c 1425 *Eng. Conq. Ireland* (1896) 90 The forme of thay preuyleges, as thay wer endyted..a latyne, ne myght I nat comly setten yn Englyshe, & þerfor I hyt leue; bot the meste streynth ys thys. 1447 *Rolls of Parlt.* V. 132/1 That it be doone after the strengthe, fourme and effecte of this Petition. *c* 1450 *Godstow Reg.* 348 Aftir the strengthe, forme, and effecte, of theire charter therof made. 1602 [J. WILLIS] *Art Stenogr.* B 5, In these wordes, H, hath the strength of a thicke Aspiration, as if they [*sc.* Ah, Oh] were thus written, Agh, Ogh.

†8. Strengthening, reinforcement, confirmation.

c 1420 *Brut* CXXXVIII. 144 He passede þe see, and come into Engeland, þrouȝ conseil & strengþ & helpe of meny grete Lordes of Engeland. *c* 1450 *Mirk's Festial* 52 Soo, for þis man was so yturnet from all wyckednesse ynto all goodnesse, yn gret strengþe and helpe to holy chyrch. *Ibid.* 228 For ryght as a castell hath a depe dych yn strengyth of hyt, soo hath our lady a dyche of mekenes. *c* 1450 *Godstow Reg.* 95 Into witnesse and strengthe of all thingis he made his seale. *Ibid.* 206 Yf nede were the sewters of the forsaid court shold come fully to the strengthe of the courte for the kyngis breef or writte ther to be demed at that tyme.

†9. Legal power; authority. (Cf. 1 h.) *Obs.*

1414 *Rolls of Parlt.* IV. 58/1 By strengthe and colour of the forseide Statut so generally mad..the forseide Priour and Chanons hav us..by enquestes enbraced as for her bonde boremen. 1480 CAXTON *Cron. Eng.* ccviii. 190 He..axed the keyes of the yates of the Cyte thurgh vertue and strengthe [*Brut* strengh] of his commyssyon. 1501 *Will of John Bawde* in *Bury Wills* (Camden) 84, I charge my feffoours that they delyuer strengthe ja as moche londe as jt most redyest mony to be had for to my executoours. 1530 *Will of John Bewchyr*, ibid., *note*, I gyve all my strength that my mother gaue me..I gyve nowe all my strength to John Wallgore for to gyve or sell all the goods, houses [etc.]. *c* 1600 SHAKS. *Sonn.* xlix. 13 To leaue poore me, thou hast the strength of lawes, Since why to loue, I can alledge no cause. 1689 in *Acts Parlt. Scot.* (1875) XII. 63/2 By causeing persewand forfault seuerall persones upon strenthes of old and absolute lawes.

10. A stronghold, fastness, fortress. Now *arch.* or *Hist.*, chiefly with reference to Scotland.

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 270 Auh þis heie sacrament..unwriho his wrenches, & breked his strencões. *c* 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 7142 Alle þe strengþes he gan to sese ..he had alle þys forceresses. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* v. 469 Thai held the stryntnis of the land. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) II. 449 Codrus..entrede in to þe strengþe of his enemyes [L. *castra hostium ingreditur*]. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* III. 55 Ther let he make of lym and sond A strengthe where he wolde duelle. 1393 LANGL. *P. Pl.* C. IV. 238 Meny hardy men that hadden wil to fyghte, To brennen and to bruten, to bete a-doun strengthes. *c* 1420 *Contin. Brut* ccxlv. 386 And so þe King gat and conquered alle the tounez and Castelles, Pilez, Streynthis, and Abbeyez, vnto Pountlarge. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* VI. xiii. 42 Sum in the hillis hie sall set wp syne The strenthis and the castellis Collatyne. 1542 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* VIII. 109 Utheris to kepe thair housis and strengthis un the bordouris. 1568 GRAFTON *Chron.* II. 118 In conclusion, he toke money sayth Reynulph and yeelded vp his Castelles and strengthes which he helde. 1598 BARRET *Theor. Warres* V. i. 121 The Generall of the Artillerie is to prouide for all the forts and strengths of the realme. 1643 CHAS. I. *Conc. Treaty Oxf.* Wks. 1662 II. 320 If any Prince seize upon any Strength that belongs to His stronger Neighbour. 1661 J. D[AVIES] *Civil Warres* cviii. 370 To lay down their Arms, and surrender Chester and other strengths. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* VII. 141 This inaccessible high strength, the seat Of Deitie supream. 1748 SMOLLETT *Rod. Random* xxxiii, Our sailors at the same time become masters of all the other strengths near Boca Chica. 1807 G. CHALMERS *Caledonia* I. i. ii. 91 There was once a subterraneous communication, between these two British strengths, on Barryhill. 1815 SCOTT *Antiq.* xxviii, Auld Elspeth's like some of the ancient ruined strengths and castles that ane sees amang the hills. 1870 BURTON *Hist. Scot.* lix. (1873) V. 351 If we suppose it clear..that King James was to be taken to that lonely strength, it is..an absolute mystery how he was to be treated when he was there.

†b. A defensive work, munition, fortification. Also *fig.* *Obs.*

1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. XIX. 362 Conscienee comaunded þo al crysteñe to delue, And make a muche mote þat myȝte ben a strengthe, To helpe holycherche. - 1382 WYCLIF *Isa.* xxxiii. 16 The strengthys of huge stones his heȝte [Vulg. *munimenta saxorum sublimitas ejus*]. *c* 1400 *Beryn* 239 The knyȝt..went to se the wall, And þe wardes of the town..; Devising ententifiich þe strengthis al a-bout. 1500 *Reg. Privy Seal Scot.* I. 791 To big a tour..and mak thairapon irn ȝettis, machcolyn,..and al uther strenthis. 1609–10 *Act 7 Jas. I*, c. 20 § 2 For the making..keeping and mainteyninge of Pereś, Wals, Jettes, Pyles, Strengthes, Fortificacions, Defences, and other thinges whatsoever to withstand and breake the rage and violent beating of the Sea. 1636 B. JONSON *Discov.* (1640) 92 That there was a Wall or Parapet of teeth set in our mouth..that the rashnesse of talking should..be fenced in, and defended by certaine strengths, placed in the mouth it selfe, and within the lips. 1661 *Reg. Privy Counc. Scot.* Ser. III. I. 6 To cause demolish and slight the wallis, strenths and fortificationes of the Citiedale of Inuernesse.

†c. One's strong position; the place within which one is most secure; *spec.* in *Wrestling* (see quot. 1714). *Obs.*

1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* III. 44 Tharfor me thynk maist awenand To withdraw ws,..Till we cum owt off thar daunger. For owr strenth at our hand is ner. 1436 *Rolls of Parlt.* IV. 498/1 Ye Parysh Kirk of Bidstone in ye same Countee of Chestre, within his awne strenght. *c* 1440 *Bone Flor.* 497 All that were lefte onslayne, Fledd unto ther strenkyth agayne. 1464 in *Archæologia* XLVII. 191 Be it kend..me Alexander Hom..be these present letters assouver..Thomas Burghe..safly to pass agan in England to thar own st[r]enth. 1513 MORE *Rich. III*, Wks. 57/2 Then thought the protectour,..while yᵉ lordes of the realme wer about him out of their owne strenghtis,..it wer best hastly to pursue his purpose. 1612 HAYWARD *Ann. Eliz.* (Camden) 52 They kept themselves so within their strength, that only two of their horsemen and one of their footemen [were] slayne. *a* 1674 CLARENDON *Hist. Reb.* IX. § 100 The counter-scuffle at Petherton-bridge, when two of his own parties..fought with each other, whilst the enemy retired to their own strengths. 1714 PARKYNS *Inn-Play* (ed. 2) 57 Stand straight and wide, but not out of your strength with your Toe out.

11. †a. *collect. sing.* Troops, forces. *Obs.*

1154 *O. E. Chron.* an. 1140, Þa hi þær inne wæren þa com þe Kinges cuen mid al hire strengthe. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 8793 So þat a Misselmasse eue, mid hor ost hii come To gadere mid gret strengþe, & þe bataile nome. *c* 1420 *Contin. Brut* CCXCI. 351 The King..made hym redy with his streynthe, and rode yn-to Essex. 1461 *Paston Lett.* II. 59 And yet..he wolde send me with strengthe of men as a presoner. *c* 1482 J. KAY tr. *Caoursin's Siege of Rhodes* (1870) P II Therfor the lord mayster putted also strenght of men into the walles of Rhodes whiche were beten downe with bombardes. 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 51 That we should sende our strength and souldiours unto straungers [L. *subministrare videlicet copias, et militem nostrum aliis*]. *Ibid.* 137 b, He fortifieth it with workes and strength of men [L. *opere præsidioque munit*]. 1642–4 VICARS *God in Mount* 163 In expectation of some more strength either from Glocester-shire, or else from the Lord Generall. 1649 DAVENANT *Love & Hon.* V. i. 16 Vasco, it is the Dukes command that you Assemble straight some strength from the cast regiments To guard the pallace yard. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* Apr. 1646, Within is another fort and spacious lodgings for the souldiers...No accommodation for strength is wanting. 1703 BURCHETT *Mem. Transactions at Sea* 288 All that the Admiral could do was to protect the Trade, till such time as the additional Strength expected from England joined him.

†b. A body of soldiers; a force. *Obs.*

a 1500 in Kingsford *Chron. Lond.* (1905) 177 Quenè Margaret came owte of ffraunce in to Scotland wᵗ a strength of people; and so entred into England and made opyn warr. 1544 BETHAM *Precepts War* II. lxiv. Lvj b, Wherfore we must all wayes fyght wyth fresshe men, newe strengthes, and plentye of vytayles. 1565 COOPER *Thesaurus, Decurias hominum inducere*, to bryng in a strength of men. 1597 SHAKS. 2 *Hen. IV*, I. iii. 76 That he should draw his seuerall strengths togither And come against vs in full puissance. 1599 HAYWARD *1st Pt. Hen. IV*, 18 The king..sent a strength of men with charge, either to set vpon the earle of Arundell where he did lie, or [etc.]. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* II. 210 The Forces in Garrison at Carrickfergus, out of which Sir Arthur Chichester was to draw a competent strength to come by water and meete the Lord Deputie. 1627 DRAYTON *Mis. Q. Marg.* xcix, Yorke..With his deare Nevils, Counsels what to doe, For it behou'd him, to make good his Guard With both their strengthes and all to little too.

12. *Mil.* and *Naval.* The number of men on the muster-roll of an army, a regiment, etc.; the body of men enrolled; the number of ships in a navy or fleet. *Under strength*: having less than the standard or normal number.

1601 SHAKS. *All's Well* IV. iii. 281 Demaund of him of what strength they are a foot. *c* 1610 *Let.* in *Daily News* (1896) 24 Nov. 8/1 His strength is as followeth: When he goeth in person to the wars, he hath not less than 300,000 men armed with lances and swords. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 7 Nov. 1691, The relation he gave of the strength of the French King..was very wide from what we fancied. 1711 SWIFT *Cond. Allies* 40 And as they [the Dutch] increase their Trade, it is obvious they will enlarge their Strength at Sea. 1718 LADY M. W. MONTAGU *Let. to Abbé Conti* 31 July, His strength at sea now [is] very small. 1802 C. JAMES *Milit. Dict.* s. v., In all returns which are made of corps, strength implies the number of men that are borne upon the establishment, in contradistinction to effective force, which means the number fit for service. 1809 *Lond. Chron.* 8 Aug. 130 Strength of the Garrison. Two captains, [etc.]..Total 127. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* V. I. 580 Orders were given that the strength of every company of infantry and of every troop of cavalry should be increased. 1859 *Musketry Instr.* 82 [Rules for 'Monthly Progress Return'] 1st. *Strength*, *&c.*—Under this head are to be shown the effectives of each company,—that is, every man of the company, whether present or absent, on the last day of the month, minus regimental staff-serjeants, drummers, and recruits in a musketry sense. 1894 'J. S. WINTER' *Red Coats* 26 But outside the fighting strength of the regiment Colonel de Crespigny was *not* liked. 1896 *Daily News* 9 Feb. 3/3 At present the Brigade of Guards was under strength.

b. *On the strength*: entered on the rolls of a regiment. Also said of those soldiers' wives whose marriage has been approved by the authorities, and who have therefore a recognized position; opposed to *off the strength*.

1864 WHYTE MELVILLE *Brookes of Bridlemere* II. The coloured clothes denoting that the wearer was a bâtman, or officer's servant, though on the strength of the regiment as a trooper in its ranks. 1889 *Eng. Illustr. Mag.* Apr. 533/2 The colonel had put the widow woman 'on the strength'—she was no longer an unrecognized waif, but had her regimental position. 1890 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 6 Sept. 7/2 Only the wives of the men on the married strength proceed, at the expense of the Government,..but those married without leave go at their own expense. 1897 COL. FORREST in *United Serv. Mag.* Nov. 147 Married soldiers are of two categories, those married 'on the strength' and those married 'off the strength'.

13. A sufficient number (of persons or things) for some purpose. Now *dial.*

1607 MARKHAM *Caval.* I. 75 When the colt is haltered, you shall prouide, that good strength of men take hold vpon the end of the chase halter. 1640 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Differing Worships* 2 His Worships Altar's Crown'd with Glorious strength Of Massie Plate. 1717 BOLINGBROKE *Let. to Sir W. Windham* (1753) 69 When..she took the resolution of laying him aside, there was a strength still remaining sufficient to have supported her government. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* II. ii. 128 Without the help of their crews he had no longer strength enough to navigate the ship. 1765 A. DICKSON *Treat. Agric.* (ed. 2) 316 These two plowings may be performed with the same strength, and in the same time with one clean plowing. 1769 G. WHITE *Selborne, To Pennant* 2 Jan., Half-a-dozen gentlemen, furnished with a good strength of water-spaniels. 1875 W. ALEXANDER *Sk. Life* 140 Maister Mutch has stren'th o' men an' beasts to be mair nor maister o' a' the wark upo' the fairm. 1878 *Cumbld. Gloss.*, *Streenth o' men and pitchforks*, power, influence.

†14. The aggregate resources (of a nation). *Obs.*

1695 C. DAVENANT *Ess. Ways & Means* Wks. 1771 I. 62 In taxing the people we have hitherto gone chiefly upon land, and foreign trade, which are about ⅓d part of the strength of England. 1708 ADDISON *Pres. St. War* 6 The Woollen Manufacture is the British Strength, the staple Commodity and proper Growth of our Country. 1721 SWIFT *Cond. Allies* 8 No Monarch..did ever engage beyond a certain Degree; never proceeding so far as to exhaust the Strength and Substance of their Country by Anticipations and Loans.

15. Strongest part. †a. *gen. Obs.*

c 1530 *Julic. Urines* II. xiii. 42 b, Ilica passio...Ile is the pyth and the strenth of a thyng. 1585 HIGINS *Junius' Nomencl.* 143/1 *Pulpa*,..the hart, or strength of timber. 1725 POPE *Odyss.* II. 427 Then studious she prepares the choicest flour, The strength of wheat, and wines, an ample store.

b. *Fencing.* = FORTE *sb.* 2. *Obs.*

1705 H. BLACKWELL *Engl. Fencing-Master* 10 You must engage your Adversary with the Strength of your Foile on the Feeble of his. 1711 Z. WYLDE *Engl. Master of Defence* 5 From the Shell to the middle, I call the Fort or Strength of the Weapon.

c. The strongest part (of a stream or current).

1807 O. W. ROBERTS *Voy. Centr. Amer.* 258 Keeping generally in the strength of the current, which..carried us down with great velocity. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.*, *Strength of the tide*, where it runs strongest, which in serpentine courses will be found in the hollow curves.

16. A mighty company, a power. *nonce-use.*

1842 TENNYSON *Ulysses* 66 We are not now that strength which in old days Moved earth and heaven.

17. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *strength-constant, -return, test*; objective, as *strength-giver*; *strength-conferring, -decaying, -giving, -increasing, -inspiring, -restoring, -sustaining, -testing* adjs.

1720 POPE *Iliad* XIX. 168 Built anew with *Strength-conferring Fare. 1881 *Q. Jrnl. Geol. Soc.* XXXIX. 139 On the Elasticity and *Strength-constants of Japanese Rocks. By Thomas Gray..and Prof. John Milne. 1600 *Weakest goeth to Wall* F 3, *Strength-decaying age. 1890 *Spectator* 3 May, They could settle..what the value of the potato really is as a *strength-giver. 1880 C. R. MARKHAM *Peruv. Bark* 144 The *strength-giving, invigorating coca. 1655 MARQ. WORCESTER *Cent. Invent.* Index p. iij, A *Strength-increasing Spring. 1799 CAMPBELL *Pleas. Hope* I. 101 Thy *strength-inspiring aid. 1852 BAILEY *Festus* 524 Another holy day..hath now slid Into the passive *strength-restoring night. 1893 BOWDLER tr. *von Pfeil's Exper. Prussian Officer* iii. 31 Prince Charles..compared the figures shown on the *strength-returns of some Russian troops with the actual numbers. *c* 1624 CHAPMAN *Hymn to Hermes* 665 Because he beares Of *strength-sustayning youth, the flaming yeares. 1898 *Engin. Mag.* XVI. 154/2 *Strength Tests of Swedish Iron and Steel. 1898 *Daily News* 12 Apr. 3/7 *Strength-testing machines.

†Strength, *v. Obs.* Forms: see STRENGTH *sb.*; also 4 **strengpi**. [f. STRENGTH *sb.*]

1. *trans.* To give strength to, to make strong or stronger, to strengthen, fortify, confirm.

c 1160 *Hatton Gosp.* Luke I. 80 Soðlice se cnape weox & wæs on gaste ge-strængcþed. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 140 Heo temeð wel hire fulitowene fleschs, & strenðeð & deð menske hire wurðfule soule. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 4720 Hii..strengþede castles. 13.. *Cursor M.* 22366 (Gött.) Þai sal..strinth þaim al gain þat fight. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* v. (*John*) 384 Þan mad he byschoppis ay-quhare, to strinth and vpehald goddis lare. 1382 WYCLIF *Prov.* XX. 18 Thoȝtis þi counseilis ben strengthid. 1414 *26 Pol. Poems* XIII. 108 Strengþe ȝoure marche, and kepe þe see. *c* 1425 *Eng. Conq. Ireland* (1896) 68 The lond of Irland..whyche he had y-cast for to streynth with castell. 1450–80 tr. *Secreta Secret.* 82 Thynges þat strynghtes and makys fat þe body. *c* 1450 *Godstow Reg.* 104 And leste that the same Rauf or his heires shold rynne into harme thereof afterwarde by hym or by his heires, he strengthed þis writyng with his seale. 1483 CAXTON *Golden Leg.* 308/1 They be sent for to strengthe in us all our perfection unto the ende. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 12 God is as redy to here hym, & with his grace to helpe & strength hym. 1534 MORE *Comf. agst. Trib.* I. Wks. 1140/1 To stable and strength the walles of our heartes agaynste the gret sourges of this tempesteous sea. 1562 WINȜET *Cert. Tractatis* Wks. (S. T. S.) I. 25, I strenthit not my purpose with ma sufficient ressonis and auctoriteis. 1573–80 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 46 Marsh wall too slight, strength now, or god night. 1610 MASON *Turke* G 2, Twas loue and state Gaue thee this time of life to strength my fate. 1614 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Water-worke* B 4 b, Those Marchants..more to strength their power, ioynd with the Pope.

2. To force, compel.

1340 *Ayenb.* 86 Ne alle þe dyeulen of helle ne moȝen mannes wyl strengþi to do one zenne wyþ oute his wylle.

3. *refl.* To summon up one's strength.

c 1489 CAXTON *Sonnes of Aymon* iii. 109 Whan Bayarde wyst hymselfe lade wyth two knyghtes, he strengthed hym selfe so strongly that it semed to Reynawde that he was more ioyouse.

Hence †**Strengthed** *ppl. a.*; †**Strengthing** *vbl. sb.* the action of the verb, also *concr.*

c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xiii. (*Mark*) 197 To þe strinthinge of haly kirk. 1382 WYCLIF 4 *Kings* xxiv. 10 The cyte is enuyround with streynthyngis. *Ibid.*, *Isa.* xxxvi. 1 Alle the strengthid cites of Iuda. 1472 in *Charters*, etc. *Edinb.* (1871) 135 To help..to the said fortressing and strenthing of our said Burgh. 1528 PAYNELL *Salerne's Regim.* D j b, The streingthynge therof is nat sufficient to digest great repletions of meates. 1574 in P. Cunningham *Extr. Acc. Revels* (Shaks. Soc.) 84 Tape for tyenge and strengthing, vij s.

Strengthen (stre·ŋþ'n), *v.* Also 3–4 **strenpin**; 4–5 **strenkþen**; *pa. t.* 5 *Sc.* **strynghtnit**. [f. STRENGTH *sb.*; cf. STRENGTH *v.* and -EN 5.]

1. *trans.* To give moral support, courage, or confidence to (a person); to encourage, hearten, inspirit, fix in resolution.

The first example may belong to STRENGTH *v.*, as the inflected inf. does occur, though rarely, in the text quoted.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 22366 (Edin.) He sale..strenþin [*Cott.* strength] þaim ogain þat siȝte [*Fread* fiȝte]. *c* 1450 *Mirk's Festial* 285 þe wheche bred ȝe schull pray our gostly Fadyr forto ȝeue you..þat ȝe mowe ete þat in your hert yche day afturyr yn your labour, and soo strenkþen your soule þerwyth þat [etc.]. 1557 N. T. (Geneva) *Luke* xxii. 32 Therfore when thou art conuerted, strengthen thy brethren. 1582 N. T. (Rheims) *Luke* xxii. 43 There appeared to him an Angel from heauen, strengthening him [so 1611]. 1593 SHAKS. 3 *Hen. VI*, II. vi. 7 Impairing Henry, strength'ning misproud Yorke. 1611 BIBLE *Deut.* iii. 28 But charge Ioshua, and encourage him, and strengthen him. 1628 FELTHAM *Resolves* I. xxiv. (1636) 84 The good mans goodnesse, lies not bid in himselfe alone: hee is still strengthening of his weaker Brother. 1651 HOBBES *Leviath.* II. xxviii. 162 The Subjects did not give the Soveraign that right; but onely in laying down theirs, strengthened him to use his own as he should think fit. 1760–72 H. BROOKE *Fool of Quality* (1792) II. 170 A little resentful haughtiness arose in his mind, and strengthened it against the violence of the reproofs that he expected. 1830 TENNYSON *Ode to Mem.* 5 Strengthen me, enlighten me! 1856 FROUDE *Hist. Eng.* II. viii. 247 A country strengthened in hostility by the means which had been used to subdue it. 1861 J. A. ALEXANDER *Gosp. Christ* xxxi. 412 Brethren, Christ strengthens us by his example.

b. To confirm (a person *in* an opinion).

1833 JOHN DAVIDSON *Embalming* 17 There is one leading peculiarity which strengthens me in the opinion I have offered, viz. [etc.]. 1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* I. x. 67, I was strengthened in this opinion by the fact [etc.].

2. a. To give physical strength to, make stronger or more robust (a person, his body or members); to increase the functional vigour of (a bodily organ or its powers).

1585 T. WASHINGTON tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* II. xxi. 58 b, [It doth] comfort your sinewes and strengtheneth your members. 1604 MARSTON *Malcontent* II. iv. D 1 b, It purifieth the blood,..strengtheneth the vaines, mundifieth the teeth. 1665–6 BOYLE *Let.* 9 Mar., Wks. 1772 I. *Life* p. lxxxii, Lemons..have..the power to..strengthen the stomach. 1725 N. ROBINSON *Th. Physick* 309 Lastly, in strengthning and restoring the digestive Faculty of the Stomach. 1750 tr. *Leonardus' Mirr. Stones* 134 The opal sharpens and strengthens the sight. 1789 W. BUCHAN *Dom. Med.* (1799) 423 Wine..taken in moderation..strengthens the stomach, and promotes digestion. 1856 KANE *Arctic Expl.* II. iii. 45 See..how the back has been strengthened to its increasing burden. 1908 [MISS E. FOWLER] *Betw. Trent & Ancholme* 173 The doctor had recommended him beer, to strengthen him.

b. *To strengthen the hand(s of*: fig. to enable (a person or body of persons) to act with greater effect. (Orig. a Hebraism.)

1535 COVERDALE 1 *Sam.* xxiii. 16 Jonathas wente vnto Dauid..and strengthned his hande in God. 1734 R. TREVOR *Let. in 10th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. I. 251 The late Proceedings of Parliament for strengthening the King's hands. 1779 C'TESS CARLISLE in Jesse *Selwyn & Contemp.* (1844) IV. 200 The Opposition say they will do anything to strengthen the hands of Government at this juncture. 1827 HALLAM *Const. Hist.* (1876) I. ii. 101 A new scheme of ecclesiastical laws was drawn up,..rather calculated to strengthen the hands of the spiritual courts than to withdraw any matter from their cognisance. 1884 W. E. NORRIS *Thirlby Hall* xi, What strengthened my hands and completely took the wind out of his sails was a most opportune letter from my uncle.

c. To increase the strength of (the mind or its faculties).

1828 Lytton *Pelham* xv, If we strengthen their [*sc.* children's] minds, instead of weakening them. 1862 Sir B. Brodie *Psychol. Inq.* II. ii. 41 The faculties of the mind generally..are strengthened by exercise.

3. To give defensive strength to (a town, etc.), to make strong against attack, to fortify; in mod. use, to increase the strength of (a fortified place, a frontier).

1452 *Extracts Aberd. Reg.* (1844) I. 20 The toune salbe stryngthnit and fortifiit with walles and strynthes in all gudeli haste. *c* 1595 Capt. Wyatt *Dudley's Voy.* (Hakl. Soc.) 29 Another sconce..havinge the other side soe strengthned with wood that it was impossible to be assaultid. 1610 Holland *Camden's Brit.* (1637) 675 A proper Castle, strengthned with high Towres. 1611 Bible 1 *Macc.* ix. 50 These [cities] did he strengthen with high wals, with gates, & with barres. 1841 W. Spalding *Italy & It. Isl.* III. 193 Frederic II., wishing to strengthen his frontier towards Rome, planned the city. 1884 *Manch. Exam.* 4 June 5/1 He is already taking steps, by strengthening Herat, to guard against any inroad upon his territories.

4. To make stronger in influence, authority, or security of position.

1579 Fenton *Guicciard.* I. 25 They sought..to strengthen first with colers lawful & after to set out their fortune with most ample titles. 1588 Shaks. *Tit. A.* I. i. 214 (Qo. 1600) My faction if thou strengthen with thy friend[s], I will most thankfull be. 1593 — 3 *Hen. VI*, IV. i. 37 To haue ioyn'd with France, in such alliance Would more haue strength'ned this our Commonwealth 'Gainst forraine stormes. *c* 1645 Howell *Lett.* I. xvii. (1650) I. 28 The Favourit Luines strengthneth himself more and more in his minionship. 1823 Scott *Quentin D.* xii, The Boar of Ardennes,..strengthened by the possession of that fair lady's lands, castles, and seigniory. 1830 Greville *Mem.* (1874) II. 45 In the meantime the Duke does nothing here towards strengthening his Government, and he will probably meet Parliament as he is. 1863 Geo. Eliot *Romola* Introd., He loved to strengthen his family by a good alliance. 1885 *Sat. Rev.* 3 Jan. 4/1 Proposing measures for the purpose of strengthening the House of Lords.

5. To reinforce (some material thing) by an additional support, added thickness, or covering.

1611 Bible *Isa.* liv. 2 Lengthen thy cords and strengthen thy stakes [of a tent]. 1687 Miege *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II. s.v., To strengthen the Foundation of a House. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* III. x. 415 The sails are made of matt, strengthened every three feet by an horizontal rib of bamboo. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* III. 151 Sometimes the bows of iron ships are strengthened by breast-hooks formed of plates and angle-irons. 1882 Caulfeild & Saward *Dict. Needlework* 305 To strengthen Heels, they are often knitted with double thread. 1888 Mrs. Custer *Tenting on Plains* xvii. (1893) 358 In order to strengthen the tents against these hurricanes, he had ordered poles at each corner sunk deep into the ground.

6. To add strength or intensity to, to augment, intensify.

a 1586 Sidney *Arcadia* II. xv. (1912) 246 Ever remembring to strengthen the suspition of his estate with private jelousie of her love. 1597 Hooker *Eccl. Pol.* v. lxvi. § 9 A distinction of grace..planted in them at the first by Baptisme, after cherished, watred, and..strengthned as by other vertuous offices which pietie and true Religion teacheth. 1601 Shaks. *Jul. C.* II. i. 248 So I did, Fearing to strengthen that impatience Which seem'd too much inkindled. 1736 Butler *Anal.* I. v. Wks. 1874 I. 89 Practical habits are formed and strengthened by repeated acts. 1789 Polwhele *Eng. Orator* IV. 74 The listless Lectures thou hast idly heard Strengthen the false Idea. 1799 *Trans. Soc. Arts* XVII. 299 Strengthen the shadows, making them..as dark as they are intended to be. 1857 Trollope *Barchester T.* x, Looking as she did, so beautiful..,with the pure brilliancy of her white dress brought out and strengthened by the colour beneath it, [etc.]. 1900 *Jrnl. Sch. Geog.* (U.S.) Apr. 133 The demand for a water route was strengthened by danger that the growing commerce of the Genesee country would be diverted [etc.]. 1907 J. A. Hodges *Elem. Photogr.* (ed. 6) 114 To strengthen the weak image.

7. To increase the strength or force of (reasons, obligations); to support (a case, an opinion) by additional evidence; to give increased strength or vigour of style to (a composition).

1600 E. Blount tr. *Conestaggio* 15 Strengthning their reasons with many examples. 1651 Hobbes *Leviath.* III. xl. 249 Nor was there any Contract, that could adde to, or strengthen the Obligation, by which they..were bound naturally to obey God Almighty. 1712 *Spectator* No. 548 ¶ 1, I have however drawn up some additional Arguments to strengthen the Opinion which you have there delivered. 1882 Pebody *Engl. Journalism* xvi. (1882) 124 His revisions, alterations, and suppressions generally strengthened and improved an article.

8. To make more effective or powerful by reinforcement of numbers or resources.

1677 Miege *Dict. Eng.-Fr.* s.v., He strengthned his Army with a Recruit of six thousand men. 1820 Belzoni *Egypt & Nubia* II. 260 My purse was but light..and though it had been a little strengthened by the two statues I lately disposed of.., my whole stock did not amount to two hundred pounds. 1838 Thirlwall *Greece* xliii. V. 313 The number now added to it was 4000, and 150 cavalry with eighteen galleys to strengthen the fleet. 1862 'Cavendish' *Whist* (1864) 29 You must do your best to assist or strengthen your partner by leading high or strengthening cards. 1913 *Times* 14 May 6/2 The directors have deemed it advisable to strengthen the insurance fund by the transfer of £100,000 to that fund.

9. To make (a substance, a solution) stronger in the proportion of its active ingredient. Also with *up*.

1882 Paton in *Encycl. Brit.* XIV. 382/2 By some the weak and exhausted oozes..from the pits are strengthened up by renewed leaching.

10. *intr.* To become strong or stronger; to grow in strength or intensity.

1610 Shaks. *Temp.* v. i. 227 These are not naturall euents, they strengthen From strange, to stranger. 1662 Gurnall *Chr. in Arm.* III. verse 17. lviii. 532 Thus as the days lengthen, so the cold strengthens. 1680 Otway *Orphan* I. i. (1691) 7 Oh men for flattery and deceit renown'd!..As your years increase, that strengthens too, T' undo poor Maids. 1732 Pope *Ess. Man* II. 136 The young disease, that must subdue at length, Grows with his growth, and strengthens with his strength. 1792 Jefferson *Writ.* (1830) IV. 472 A year, even, was a great gain to a nation strengthening as we were. 1825 Scott *Talism.* xxviii, The sun's rays, now strengthening fast, seemed [etc.]. 1825 — *Betrothed* xiv, As this conviction strengthened on Rose's mind. 1883 Jeaffreson *Real Ld. Byron* I. 255 Byron's journals show how steadily his tender concern for Miss Milbanke deepened and strengthened. 1906 Belloc *Hills & Sea* (1913) 169 The wind had strengthened by about half-past eight, so that it was very strong indeed.

Hence **Stre·ngthened** *ppl. a.*

a 1586 Sidney *Ps.* XVIII. x, Unto my strengthned stepps, thou didst enlardge the way. 1604 Marston *Malcontent* II. v. D 4, Lets be once drunke together, and so vnite a most vertuously strengthened friendship. 1763 Churchill *Conference* 86 Hence to Yon Mountain which outbraves the sky, And dart from pole to pole thy strengthen'd eye. 1859 Geo. Eliot *Adam Bede* xxx, Adam's words..also carried a meaning which sickened her with a strengthened foreboding.

Strengthener (stre·ŋþ'nəɹ). Also 6–8 **strengthner.** [f. Strengthen *v.* + -er[1].] One who or something which strengthens.

1579 J. Jones *Preserv. Body & Soul* I. xi. 24 Exercise..is the preseruer of mans life,..strengthner of the partes, death of disseases. 1635 Jackson *Creed* VIII. xxix. 340 But vinegar, ..mingled with hyssop, is a strengthener. 1645 G. Smith *Englands Pressures* 14 These have beene the strengthners of the hands of the Enemies. 1733 Cheyne *Eng. Malady* II. iv. § 3 (1734) 144 There is not a more wonderful Strengthner of the Solids..than the Jesuits Bark. 1768–74 Tucker *Lt. Nat.* (1834) II. 235 The grand strengthener of faith and every other virtue is a behaviour conformable thereto. 1805 Wordsw. *Prelude* v. 422 Simplicity in habit, truth in speech, Be these the daily strengtheners of their minds. 1825 L. Hunt *Redi's Bacchus in Tuscany* 120 Tea is highly commended..as a strengthener to the head and stomach. 1845 G. Dodd *Brit. Manuf.* IV. 152 If we open a piano-forte.. we shall see bars and rods and strengtheners of various kinds. 1872 O. W. Holmes *Poet Breakf.-t.* v, They go for weakness whenever they see it, with stimulants and strengtheners.

Strengthening (stre·ŋþ'niŋ), *vbl. sb.* [-ing[1].]

1. The action of the vb. Strengthen, in various senses; an instance of this.

1535 Coverdale 1 *Macc.* vi. 18 They..sought euer styll to do them harme, for the strengthenynge of the Heithen. *c* 1595 Capt. Wyatt *Dudley's Voy.* (Hakl. Soc.) 32 This letter ..gave..better respect unto themselves for the strengthninge of our fortification. 1660 Fuller *Mixt Contempl. Better T.* II. l. 74 Charles the Second..when a Childe was much troubled with a weaknesse in his Legs, and was appointed to weare Steel-bootes, for the strengthning of them. 1723 Chambers tr. *Le Clerc's Archit.* I. 23 The greater Solidity, and the further strengthning of the Building. 1870 J. F. Smith *Ewald's Introd. Hebr. Gram.* 162 A peculiar strengthening of the two preceding moods is attained by suffixing [etc.]. 1882 Caulfeild & Saward *Dict. Needlework* 307 *Strengthening*..is done by working doubled threads into the heels or toes of stockings.

2. *concr.* Something that strengthens, a source or means of strength.

1583 Golding *Calvin on Deut.* ii. 10 Is not yͤ knowledg of such doctrine an excellent strengthening to vs, when we see that [etc.]? *c* 1613 Middleton *No Wit like Woman's* II. iii. 141 Out flies your moneys for restoratives and strengthenings. 1663 Gerbier *Counsel* 44 The peeres of Brick or Stone ..will..be of a fit width to be a strengthening to the building. 1773 Hawkesworth *Cook's 1st Voy.* II. x. III. 462 Thwarts..were securely lashed on each side, as a strengthening to the boat. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* III. 151/1 Such supplementary strengthenings..are, however, not nearly so much required in iron as in wood ships.

Strengthening (stre·ŋþ'niŋ), *ppl. a.* [-ing[2].]

1. That strengthens or makes stronger.

1646 P. Bulkeley *Gospel Covt.* IV. 317 Faith is a strengthening grace. 1660 F. Brooke tr. *Le Blanc's Trav.* 74 They use themselves to very violent exercises,..feeding on strengthning foods onely. 1786 J. Hunter *Treat. Venereal Dis.* VI. iv. (1810) 563 In such cases I would recommend strengthening diet, and strengthening medicines. 1842 Loudon *Suburban Hort.* 633 Such a wall..may be made..with stakes to serve as strengthening piers. 1848 J. T. White *Xenophon's Anab.* II. iii. § 18 *notes* (1872) 111 Observe here the strengthening force of *καί*. It is often employed in this way, when something stronger is subjoined to what has just preceded, and answers to the English *and..too*.

b. *Card-games.* Of a card or course of play: That strengthens one's hand.

1862 'Cavendish' *Whist* (1864) 34 When you have led a strengthening card, and it wins the trick. 1864 W. Pole *Th. Whist* (1870) 18 *Strengthening play* is getting rid of high cards in any suit, the effect of which is to give an improved value to the lower cards of that suit still remaining in, and so to strengthen the hand that holds them. 1900 J. Doe *Bridge Man.* 73 In leading what you may be pleased to consider a strengthening card, you are opening the very suit which your adversaries are secretly praying that they may be able to establish.

2. That grows or becomes stronger.

1855 Lynch *Rivulet* XLV. i, All the marvels have begun That wait upon the strengthening sun. 1906 M. Sellers *Eastland Co.* (Camden) Introd. 76 The manifestation of a slowly strengthening feeling in favour of a policy of less general restriction.

Strengthful (stre·ŋþfŭl), *a.* [f. Strength *sb.* + -ful.] Full of or characterized by strength.

1382 Wyclif 2 *Sam.* i. 19 What maner wise fellen the strengthful [*Vulg. fortes*]? *c* 1450 *Mirour Saluacioun* 2547 Bot crist prayed with swete teres and strengthfulle voice crying. 1584 Cogan *Haven Health* ccxl. 236 To make butterd Beere..Some put in the yolk of an egge or two.., and so they make it more strengthfull. 1604 Marston *Malcontent* II. iii. 146 We are of Medicis; Florence our friend; in court my faction Not meanly strengthful [etc.]. 1830 Lamb *Let. to Ayrton* 14 Mar., All which fancies, redolent of middle age and strengthful spirits, come across us ever and anon in this vale of deliberate senectitude. 1866 [Miss Thackeray] *Village on Cliff* xii, Therein did her healthy and strengthful nature reassert itself, battling with these invisible foes.

Hence **Stre·ngthfulness.**

1846 in Worcester (citing *Westm. Rev.*). 1855 in Ogilvie Suppl.

Strengthily (stre·ŋþili), *adv. rare.* Also 5 *Sc.* **strenthily**, 6 *Sc.* **strenthelie.** [f. Strengthy + -ly[2].] Strongly.

1456 Sir G. Haye *Law Arms* (S.T.S.) 130 The band spirituall..byndis mare strenthily na temporale or carnale bandis. 1561 Winȝet *Four Scoir Thre Quest.* Wks. (S.T.S.) I. 55 Thai desyrit thir questionis mair trimlie and strenthelie to be set furth with ma large auctoriteis. 1883 *Daily News* 17 Sept. 2/3 The mare..is so strengthily made that her apparent lack of size will not cause the hammer to flag much when she has been walked once or twice round the ring.

Strengthless (stre·ŋþlés), *a.* [f. Strength *sb.* + -less.] Destitute of strength.

c 1200 Ormin 12530 Þe deofell wennde aweȝȝ anan Forrshamedd off himm sellfenn, Off þatt he wass all strennceþlæs Onnȝæn þatt newe kemmpe. 1311 *Pol. Songs* (1839) 255 That lond is streintheles. 1548 Udall etc. *Erasm. Par. John* xvi. 29–33 The tyme is full nyghe that ye shall declare howe strengthelesse ye are of your selfes. 1594 Willobie *Avisa* (1880) 99 You are the chieftaine, that haue layd This heauie siege to strengthlesse fort. *a* 1603 T. Cartwright *Confut. Rhem. N. T.* (1618) 155 A vaine and superstitious feare of the Popes strengthlesse curse. 1836 Hare *Guesses* (1859) 229 The laws we have imposed on ourselves, knowing how baseless and strengthless they are, we are impatient to throw off. 1857 Borrow *Romany Rye* (1858) I. 166 A time would come when my eyes would be bleared,..my arms.. strengthless and sapless. 1883 Miss M. Betham-Edwards *Disarmed* xvi, The listener sank back in his chair, white and strengthless, as if stricken with a blow.

Hence **Stre·ngthlessly** *adv.* **Stre·ngthlessness.**

1666 Bunyan *Grace Ab.* ¶ 292 (1900) 384 At which times I should have such a strange faintness and strengthlessness seize upon my body that my legs have scarce been able to carry me. 1833 J. Robertson *Let.* in *Life* iv. (1887) 52 With the exception of some considerable strengthlessness, which makes the chariot wheels drag on accordingly, I may call myself quite well. 1877 J. Hawthorne *Garth* II. vii. liv. 291 The fingers of one hand were fumbling strengthlessly at a grey twist of silky material. 1879 Farrar *St. Paul* II. 83 The corruption, the indignity, the strengthlessness of the mortal body, into which at birth the soul is sown.

† **Stre·ngthly**, *adv. Sc. Obs.* In 4 **strenthly.** [f. Strength *sb.* + -ly[2].] Strongly. **a.** With force. **b.** So as to be strong.

1375 Barbour *Bruce* III. 769 (Edin.) Thai our possessioune Haldis strenthly [*Camb. MS.* IV. 541 with strinth], agayn resoun. 1573 *Diurn. Occur.* (Bannatyne Club) 331 On the north syid..lay the cannoune ryell, and tua cannounis, forthit strenthlie with gabiouns.

† **Strength silver.** *Sc. Obs.* App. a sum of money which the tenant of a 'steelbow' farm received from his landlord on entering, on the same conditions as the farming stock.

1640 [see Steelbow[2]].

Strengthy (stre·ŋþi), *a.* Chiefly *Sc.* and *north.* Forms: 4 **strenkithi, -y, strenghti, -þi,** 4–6 **strenthy,** 6 **strenthie, strynthy,** 8– **strengthy.** [f. Strength *sb.* + -y.]

† **1.** Of a person: Strong to act or to withstand attack, mighty, powerful. *Obs.*

13.. *Gosp. Nicod.* 1317 (MS. Galba) [The devils say of Jesus] He es a strenkithi swayn. *a* 1340 Hampole *Psalter* xxx. 4 Nourewhare i fele me strenghti and sykere bot of þe. 1340 — *Pr. Consc.* 5075 And strenthy men, and bond and fre, In caves þai wald þan hyde ilkan. *c* 1470 Henry *Wallace* x. 570 Allace! My best brothir in warld that euir I had!..My faith, my help, strenthiast in stour! 1520 M. Nisbet *N. T. in Scots* Apocal. xviii. 8 For God is strenthie [*Wycl.* strong], that sal deme hir. 1549 *Compl. Scot.* xvii. 151 He vas strynthy ande auful in ane battel contrar the enemeis of alexander. *a* 1578 Lindesay (Pitscottie) *Chron. Scot.* (S.T.S.) I. 243 Thair was nane that mycht war him at na tyme bot he wan the lady frome thame all for he was verie puissant and strenthie on horsback.

† **b.** Of a position or structure: Strong against assault. *Obs.*

1513 Douglas *Æneis* VIII. x. 19 Duke Tharcon, and the Tuscanis..intill a strenthy place Thayr palȝeonis all had plantit. 1535 W. Stewart *Cron. Scot.* II. 47 The strenthis all, baith castell, tour and toun,..He hes gart big far strenthear agane. 1596 Dalrymple tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* (S.T.S.) II. 16 The Balie fortifiet all castellis in the Realme estemet strenthiest.

† **c.** Of action, etc.: Formidable to contend with, difficult to overthrow. *Obs.*

1533 Bellenden *Livy* (S.T.S.) II. 127 This aduersite cumin to þe ciete maid þe actioun of tribunis mare strenthy þan afore. *a* 1560 Rolland *Crt. Venus* I. 514 Lufe is sa perrellous, To all gude deid it is ane strenthie bar. 1561 Winȝet *Four Scoir Thre Quest.* Wks. (S.T.S.) I. 60 This tractate.. micht be maid..in sentence fer mair strenthy and difficill to our aduersaris to mak anssuer thairto. 1563 J. Davidson

Answ. Tract. Kennedy (1844) 208 Na examinatione can subvert the veritie, bot make it the mair strenthy and the mair manifest to the warlde. 1573 J. Tyrie *Refut. Answ. Knox* To Rdr. †ij b, So destitute of iugement..that we can nocht perceaue, quhat difference thair be betuix the simple and strenthie defence of ane iust caus, and the craftie coloring of ane lesing.

2. Physically or muscularly strong. Now *rare* exc. *dial.*

1456 Sir G. Haye *Law Arms* (S.T.S.) 118 Gif hardynes, or cowardis cum of a stark or strenthy corps. 1568 G. Skeyne *Descr. Pest* viii. (Bannatyne Club) 32 For as natural faculties, & it quhilk is callit animalis facultas, ar maist strenthy & best at eis, the vitale faculte becummis the mair feble. 17.. *Hardyknute* in Maidment *Scottish Ballads* (1868) I. 24 Right strengthy arms forfeebled grew. 1828 J. Wilson in *Blackw. Mag.* XXIV. 275 Look at him now, a straight and strengthy stripling..springing over rock-ledge after rock-ledge. 1896 *Daily Chron.* 1 Sept. 10/6, 6 active, useful, strengthy cart and van horses.

† Strenk, *v. Obs. rare.* [Early ME. *strenken,* of obscure origin. Cf. *strenkle* Strinkle *v.*] *trans.* To sprinkle.

c 1200 Ormin 1099, & toc himm þa þatt illke blod..& warrp itt tær wiþþ strenncless,..& sibben 3ede he þebenn ut To strennkenn i þe kirrke. *Ibid.* 1771 þatt blod tatt þurrh þe bisscopp wass Pær o þa þingess strennkedd. *Ibid.* 1789.

Strenket(h, -kit(h, -kyght, obs. ff. Strength.

Strenkle, var. Strinkle *sb.* and *v.*

Strenlyng, var. Strandling *Obs.*

Strenth(e, obs. ff. Strength.

Strenuity (strɪniū·ĭti). Now *rare.* Also 5–6 strenuite, 6 -uyte, strenewite, 7 strenuitie. [ad. L. *strēnuitās,* f. *strēnu-us* : see Strenuous *a.* and -ity.] The quality of being strenuous, strenuousness.

1436 *Libel Eng. Policy* in *Pol. Poems* (Rolls) II. 200 Thus nere I leve the kynge wyth his nobelesse, Henry the fifte.. for aboute in the see No better was prince of strenuité. 1500–20 Dunbar *Poems* lxxxviii. 19 London, thou art of townes A per se..Strong Troy in vigour and in strenuytie. 1525 *St. Papers Hen. VIII,* VI. 413 The valiant acquitaile, vertue, and strenuite of the faithfull and good capitans, in the honorable defence of Italye, *c* 1611 Chapman *Iliad* xv. 649 And thus, vnlike affects Bred like strenuitie in both. 1681 H. More *Exp. Dan.* vi. 163 His dominion..not having that strenuity and greatness of parts, nor that strength; his entire Empire being thus divided into four Kingdoms. 1905 J. Oxenham *White Fire* iv. 46 His white, set face and blazing eyes looked out at her in that agonised strenuity of appeal which had..stirred her to the depths.

Strenuosity (strenĭuɒ·sĭti). [f. Strenuous *a.*: see -ous and -ity.] Strenuousness (somewhat disparaging in use).

1886 *Academy* 30 Jan. 73/1 The author..may be reminded that strenuosity in style is not quite the same thing as strength, and recommended to be sparing of quotations [etc.]. 1904 *Morning Post* 18 Apr. 9/1 In every place he [Roosevelt] has filled,..he has displayed that strenuosity which must always be associated with his name. 1915 E. V. Lucas *In Gentlest Germany* ix. 70 The watchword of the nation [Germany] is strenuosity.

Strenuous (strenĭuəs), *a.* [f. L. *strēnu-us* brisk, active, vigorous (related to Gr. *στρηνής* strong, hard, rough, *στρηνος* haughtiness, arrogance) + -ous. Cf. It. *strenuo,* Sp. *estrénuo.*

App. first used by Marston; one of the words ridiculed, as pedantic neologisms, by Ben Jonson in his attack on Marston in *Poetaster* (1601), where (v. iii. 302) Marston's line is almost literally quoted.]

1. Of persons or their dispositions: Vigorous in action, energetic; 'brave, bold, active, valiant' (J.). Now usually with stronger notion: Unremittingly and ardently laborious.

1599 Marston *Ant. Rev.* v. i. (1602) I 2, The fist of strenuous vengeance is clutcht. *c* 1611 Chapman *Iliad* xvii. 495 He..tooke one Podes, that was heire, to old Eetion, A rich man, and a strenuous [Gr. ἀγαθός]. 1631 Weever *Anc. Funeral Mon.* 254 A strenuous and an expert Souldier. 1632 Lithgow *Trav.* vii. 326 Our Ship..did carry..foure score strong and strenuous Saylers. 1656 Blount *Glossogr.,* *Strenuous,* valiant, stout, hardy, active. 1670 Milton *Hist. Brit.* iv. 181 Offa the Mercian, a strenuous and suttle King. 1718 Pope *Iliad* iii. 91 Like Steel, uplifted by some strenuous Swain. 1849 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* vii. II. 162 His attention had been confined to those studies which form strenuous and sagacious men of business. 1877 Mrs. Oliphant *Makers Flor.* xii. 301 Faith was more strenuous and robust in those days. 1899 J. L. Williams *Stolen Story,* etc. 128 The city editor, who had his fingers on the pulse of the strenuous metropolis.

b. Zealous, earnest, 'strong' as a partisan or opponent. *Obs.* exc. as contextual use of sense 1.

1713 Swift in *Buccleuch MSS.* (Hist. MSS. Comm.) I. 359 Lord Hintchingbrook..is grown a strenuous Tory. 1735–6 — *Let. to Pope* 7 Feb, I hear he resolves to be strenuous for taking off the Test. 1759 Dilworth *Pope* 67 So strenuous a member of the Romish Church was Mr. Pope. 1774 Pennant *Tour Scot. in 1772,* 92 A strenuous supporter of Mary Stuart. 1775 Burke *Corr.* (1844) II. 26, I have been a strenuous advocate for the superiority of this country. 1792 A. Young *Trav. France* 127 Mons. l'Abbé de —— was particularly strenuous for what is called the regeneration of the kingdom. 1822 Hazlitt *Men & Manners* Ser. II. iii. (1869) 75 He was as open to impressions as he was strenuous in maintaining them. 1860 Tyndall *Glac.* II. xvi. 312 The idea attached to Professor Forbes's words by some of his most strenuous supporters. 1892 Lady F. Verney *Verney Mem.* I. 41 Sir Ralph was as strenuous as ever for Edward IV in the city.

† 2. Of inanimate things: Strong, powerful in operation; also, physically robust. *Obs.*

1632 Quarles *Div. Fancies* ii. xxv. 66 The Sun shines alwaies strenuous and faire, But, ah, our *sins,* our Clouds benight the ayre. 1633 T. Adams *Exp. 2 Pet.* iii. 3. II. 1140 Heaven and earth are of a strenuous composition, compact together with more powerfull sinewes and ligaments.

b. Of voice, etc.: Powerful, loud. *arch.*

1680 H. More *Apocal. Apoc.* 181 He..pronounceth the sentence against the great Whore with a strong and strenuous voice. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* iii. viii. 372 They expressed their approbation, according to naval custom, by three strenuous cheers. 1817 Kirby & Sp. *Entomol.* xxiv. (1818) II. 379 The wasp and hornet also are strenuous hummers. 1850 Grote *Greece* II. lx. (1862) V. 292 He was seen..marshalling the troops,..and addressing them with a voice louder, more strenuous, and more commanding than was his wont. 1876 Morris *Sigurd* iii. 180 Forth go their hearts before them to the blast of the strenuous horn.

3. Of action or effort: Vigorous, energetic; now with stronger sense, persistently and ardently laborious. Of conditions, periods, etc.: Characterized by strenuous exertion.

Strenuous idleness (= L. *strenua inertia,* Hor. *Ep.* I. xi. 28): busy activity to no useful purpose.

1671 Milton *Samson* 268 But what more oft in Nations grown corrupt,..Then to love Bondage more then Liberty; Bondage with ease then strenuous liberty. 1681 Flavel *Meth. Grace* xxviii. 481 Languishing consumptive persons are very unfit to be employed in difficult and strenuous labours. *a* 1700 Evelyn *Diary* 14 Aug. 1654, Belvoir Castle ..is famous for its strenuous resistance in the late civil warr. 1728 Morgan *Algiers* II. iv. 265 One [galley] by mere Dint of strenuous Rowing..escaped. 1742 Young *Nt. Th.* I. 149 A soul immortal, spending all her fires, Wasting her strength in strenuous idleness. 1760–72 H. Brooke *Fool of Qual.* (1809) IV. 156 He..seized upon him with a strenuous embrace. 1785 Cowper *Task* I. 388 Himself derives..From strenuous toil his hours of sweetest ease. 1794 Mrs. Radcliffe *Myst. Udolpho* xxxiii, He..was conveyed to a place of confinement, whither the most strenuous inquiries of his friends had been unable to trace him. 1810 Southey *Kehama* vi. iii, Soaring with strenuous flight above, He bears her to the blessed Grove. 1829 Wordsw. *'This Lawn, a carpet all alive'* 6 Worldlings revelling in the fields Of strenuous idleness. 1846 Grote *Greece* I. I. vi. 153 He is one of the few Grecian princes who..is found in a strenuous and honoured old age in the midst of his children and subjects. 1849 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* vi. II. 10 But for their strenuous opposition to the Exclusion Bill he would have been a banished man. 1851 Carlyle *Sterling* III. iii. (1872) 186 On this *Tragedy of Strafford*..he expended many strenuous months. 1871 L. Stephen *Playgr. Eur.* (1894) xiii. 321 The hours of labour, divided into minutes,..of strenuous muscular exertion. 1899 Roosevelt *Sp.* 10 Apr. in *Strenuous Life* (1902) I, I wish to preach, not the doctrine of ignoble ease, but the doctrine of the strenuous life, the life of toil and effort, of labor and strife.

Strenuously (strenĭuəsli), *adv.* [f. Strenuous *a.* + -ly 2.] In a strenuous manner.

The first example is merely in ridicule of Marston's use of the adj.: see note s.v. Strenuous.

1601 B. Jonson *Poetaster* II. i. 14, I am most strenuously well, I thanke you, sir. 1631 Weever *Anc. Funeral Mon.* 257 He had strenuously gouerned his Church the space of 26. yeares. 1662 A. Cooper *Stratologia* vii. 150 Their Mines and Batteries strenuously they ply'd. *a* 1708 Beveridge *Thes. Theol.* (1710) II. 276 These works we ought to do,.. strenuously, or with our might. 1766 Goldsm. *Vic. W.* xiii, My wife very strenuously insisted upon the advantages that would result from it. 1856 Macaulay *Biog., Johnson* (1860) 85 His marriage made it necessary for him to exert himself more strenuously than he had hitherto done. 1857 Dickens *Lett.* (1880) II. 7, I still strenuously believe that I did so. 1875 Jowett *Plato* (ed. 2) III. 253 That God being good is the author of evil to any one, is to be strenuously denied.

Strenuousness (strenĭuəsnės). [f. Strenuous *a.* + -ness.] The quality of being strenuous.

a 1649 in *N. & Q.* Ser. I. X. 357 Strenuousnes must be added, if he find resistance, amongst other virtues which compleate a judge. 1727 Bailey vol. II, *Strenuousness,* Vigorousness, Earnestness, Laboriousness. 1819 Chalmers *Serm. Tron Ch.* iv. 121 The man has put forth all his strenuousness to the task of accomplishing all that he is able for. 1909 R. Law *Tests of Life* v. 69 This the writer maintains with unexampled strenuousness and rigour.

Streny(e, obs. ff. Strain *v.*[1]

Streon(e, -(i)en: see Strain *sb.*[1], Strene *v.*

† Strep, *Mining. Obs.*[-1]. Corruption of or mistake for Strake *sb.*[3] 1778 [see Strake *sb.*[3] a].

Strepe, obs. form of Strip *sb.* and *v.*

Strepent (strepĕnt), *a. rare.* [ad. L. *strepentem* pr. pple. of *strepĕre* to make a noise.] Noisy.

1750 Shenstone *Rural Elegance* 287 Peace to the strepent horn! Let no harsh dissonance disturb the Morn. 1801–2 Campbell *Mobiade* 9 No strepent goose at Christmas-tide Hissed in the strangler's hand. 1817 Kirby & Sp. *Entomol.* xxiv. (1818) II. 384 He..had called many to witness the vibrating and strepent wings of this trumpeter humble-bee. 1830 W. L. Bowles *Life Ken* I. iv. 59 Ten thousand strepent horns of pamphleteering fury.

† Strepero·sity. *Obs. rare*[-1]. [f. next: see -ous and -ity.] High-sounding language.

1772 [T. Nugent] tr. *Isla's Hist. Friar Gerund* I. I. vii. 175 The blessed Domine..ravished with the streperosity [orig. Sp. *con el estrepitoso sonido*] of pentacontarch, captain, soldiers, and stipendiary, told his scholars [etc.].

† Strepe·rous, *a. Obs.* [f. med.L. *streper-us* (f. *strepĕre* to make a noise) + -ous. Cf. Obstreperous.] Noisy, harsh-sounding.

1637 Heywood *Lond. Spec.* B 3 b, Triton with his pearly trumpets blew A streperous blast. 1637 — *Dial.* i. 7 He.. with a voice strep'rous and loud (That all they in the ship might heare him) vow'd To set before that Saint a waxen Light. – 1646 Sir T. Browne *Pseud. Ep.* II. vi. 100 In a streperous eruption it [the bay-tree] riseth against Fire. 1688 Cudworth *Immut. Mor.* (1731) 182 The streperous Noise of a Single Fiddle. 1822 T. Taylor *Apuleius* II. 39 Scarcely had the streperous song of the crested cohort proclaimed a truce to night.

Hence **† Stre·perously** *adv.*, **† Stre·perousness.**

1727 Bailey vol. II, *Streperousness,* Noisiness. 1822 T. Taylor *Apuleius* IV. 72 They play clamorously, they sing streperously.

Strepitant (stre·pitănt), *a.* [ad. L. *strepitant-em,* pr. pple. of *strepitāre*: see next.] Making a great noise, noisy.

1855 Browning *Master Hugues* xvi, Three makes rejoinder, expansive, explosive; Four overbears them all, strident and strepitant. 1861 F. Hall in *Jrnl. Asiatic Soc. Bengal* 209 A hue as of the smoke associated with the fire of the poison of strepitant snakes.

Hence **Stre·pitantly** *adv.*, boisterously.

1913 *Engl. Rev.* Oct. 465 The autumn season has begun strepitantly.

† Stre·pitate, *v. Obs.*[—°] [f. L. *strepitāt-,* ppl. stem of *strepitāre* to make a repeated noise, frequentative of *strepĕre* to make a noise: see -ate.] *trans.* (See quot.)

1656 Blount *Glossogr.,* *Strepitate,*..to make a noise often, to make a great noise, to rusle.

Strepitation (strepitā·ʃən). *rare.* [f. prec.: see -ation.] A repeated noise, clattering.

1913 *Nation* 12 July 560/2 To listen in the gathering darkness to the strepitation of Apollyon's wings.

Strepitous (stre·pitəs), *a.* [ad. mod.L. type **strepitōsus,* f. L. *strepitus* noise, clatter, f. *strepĕre* to make a noise. Cf. It. *strepitoso* (used chiefly as musical term).] Noisy, accompanied with much noise. (Now used chiefly in musical criticism.)

1681 Nevile *Plato Rediv.* 119 A poor Gentleman, who by means of the Harangue of a Strepitous Lawyer, was found guilty of Murder. 1854 S. Dobell *Balder* vii. 40 In louder progress strepitous so came The great approach. 1893 *Guardian* 8 Mar. 382/3 The overture is very long, very ambitious, very strident, and—as the analyst would say—very 'strepitous'. 1903 A. B. Walkley *Dram. Crit.* 100 These are the people who are for ever talking as though action must be something external and strepitous.

Strepsipterous (strepsi·ptĕrəs), *a. Ent.* [f. mod.L. *Strepsiptera* neut. pl. (f. Gr. *στρεψι-,* comb. form of *στρέφειν* to twist + *πτερόν* wing) + -ous.] Belonging to the order *Strepsiptera* of insects (named by Kirby from the twisted front wings).

1817 Kirby & Sp. *Entomol.* xxiii. II. 327 The Strepsipterous genera, *Stylops,* K., and *Xenos,* R. 1835 Westwood in *Trans. Entom. Soc.* (1836) I. 173 Description of a new Strepsipterous Insect recently discovered in the Island of Mauritius. 1870 Rolleston *Anim. Life* p. cxi.

Also **Strepsi·pteral** *a.*; **Strepsi·pteran** *a.*, also *sb.* an insect of the order *Strepsiptera.*

1842 Brande *Dict. Sci.,* etc., *Strepsipterans.* 1877 Huxley *Anat. Inv. Anim.* 451 The Strepsipteral larva.

Strepto- (stre·ptō), before a vowel **strept-,** combining form of Gr. *στρεπτός* twisted (f. *στρέφ-ειν* to turn, twist); used in many scientific terms, as **Strepta·ster** [Gr. *ἀστήρ* star], a form of sponge-spicule (see quot. 1888). **Stre·ptobaci·lli** [Bacillus] *sb. pl.,* bacilli arranged in chains. **Streptobacte·ria** [Bacterium] *sb. pl.,* bacteria linked together like a chain. **Streptococco·lysin,** also (in shortened form) **Streptoco·lysin,** 'a hemolysin destructive to streptococci, formed when virulent streptococci are grown in blood serum' (Dorland *Med. Dict.* 1913). **Stre·ptocyte** [-cyte], an amœbiform body occurring in bead-like strings from the vesicles of foot-and-mouth disease. **Strepto·lysin** [Lysin] = *Streptococcolysin.* **Stre·ptoneu·ral, -neu·rous** *adjs.,* belonging to or characteristic of the *Streptoneura,* a branch of Gastropoda in which the loop of visceral nerves embracing the intestine is twisted into a figure-of-eight. **Stre·ptophiu·rid** *a.,* pertaining to or connected with the *Streptophiuræ,* a subdivision of Ophiuroidea; *sb.* an individual of this subdivision. **Stre·ptospondy·lian, -spo·ndyline, -spo·ndylous** *adjs.,* pertaining to the genus *Streptospondylus* of fossil crocodiles, in which the vertebral articulations are apparently reversed. **Streptosty·lic, -sty·licate** *adjs.* [Gr. *στῦλος* pillar], pertaining to or connected with the *Streptostylica,* that one of the two main divisions of Reptiles (in Stannius' classification) in which the quadrate bone is freely articulated with the skull.

1888 W. J. Sollas in *Challenger Rep.* XXV. p. lxiii, The asters are divided into two subsections, the true asters or euasters, and the *streptasters or those in which the actines do not proceed from a centre, but from a longer or shorter axis, which is usually spiral. 1900 E. A. Minchin in *Ray Lankester's Treat. Zool.* II. *Sponges* 134. 1903 Thayer *Schmaus' Path. & Pathol. Anat.* 202 Bacilli. Long or short rods, propagate by fission or spores; the former by fission or crosswise, the younger forms separating or connected (*streptobacilli). 1888 *Streptobacteria [see *Diplococci* s.v. Diplo-]. 1891 G. S. Woodhead *Bacteria* 31 In the rod-shaped bacteria this division takes place..and when it is imperfect or incomplete it gives rise to chain-bacteria or Strepto-bacteria. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* II. 688 Schottelius found in the contents of foot-and-mouth vesicles peculiar bodies which he termed *streptocytes. 1904 *Brit. Med. Jrnl.* 10 Sept. 571 The neutralization curves of..bodies and their antibodies: the rennet.., the vibriolysin, the

staphylolysin, and the *streptolysin. 1883 *Encycl. Brit.* XVI. 646/2 The *Streptoneurous condition of the visceral loop in Zygobranchia. 1888 ROLLESTON & JACKSON *Anim. Life* 111 Certain streptoneurous *Gastropoda Anisopleura*. 1892 *Proc. Zool. Soc.* 183 *Ophiobyrsa hystricis*. The largest *Streptophiurid found within the British area is the species so named by Mr. Lyman. 1849 A. G. MELVILLE in *Phil. Trans.* CXXXIX. 286 The *Streptospondylian form of the body of a vertebra. *Ibid.*, The Streptospondylian type is not..persistent. 1892 *Proc. Zool. Soc.* 179 *Ophioteresis* is a *streptospondyline Ophiurid. 1901 *Nature* 14 Mar. 462/2 The *streptostylic types appear first in the Jurassic as Lacertilia. 1887 E. D. COPE *Orig. Fittest* xi. 337 The existing *streptostylicate orders have advanced beyond their Permian ancestors.

‖ **Streptocarpus** (streptokā·rpŭs). Also Anglicized **strep·tocarp**. [mod.L., f. Gr. στρεπτός (see STREPTO-) + καρπός fruit.] A genus of African Gesneraceous plants bearing pistils or fruits spirally-twisted towards the point; a plant of this genus, esp. the Cape Primrose (see PRIMROSE 2 b).

1846 LINDLEY *Veg. Kingd.* 670 Gesneraceæ...Genera... *Streptocarpus, Lindl. 1882 *Garden* 25 Nov. 462/3 The whole surface is completely covered with large mauve-tinted blossoms, not much smaller than those of ordinary Gloxinias, to which the Streptocarpus is related. 1895 *Daily News* 22 May 7/3 Choice varieties of streptocarpus, gloxinias, [etc.]. 1904 *Daily Chron.* 10 Aug. 4/7 An exhibit of pentstemons and streptocarps.

‖ **Streptococcus** (streptokǫ·kŭs). *Bacteriology.* Pl. **-cocci** (-kǫ·ksəi). [mod.L. (Billroth), f. Gr. στρεπτό-ς twisted (see STREPTO-; taken by Billroth to mean 'chain') + κόκκος berry.] A form of bacterial organism in which the cocci are arranged in chains or chaplets.

1877 tr. *Billroth's Lect. Surg. Pathol.*, etc. I. 137 These streptococci are sometimes moving ones. *Ibid.* 138 In a state of absolute rest the streptococcus may form long threads running parallel with the surface. 1891 G. S. WOODHEAD *Bacteria* 31 Chain-cocci or strepto-cocci.

attrib. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* III. 636 Streptococcus infection. 1900 *Brit. Med. Jrnl.* 20 Jan. 142 Nostreptococcus colonies were found.

Hence **Streptococcal** (-kǫ·kăl), **-coccic** (-kǫ·ksik), **-coccous** (-kǫ·kŭs), *adjs.* pertaining to or produced by streptococcus.

1897 *Brit. Med. Jrnl.* 13 Mar. 655 It was important for surgeons to distinguish between streptococcal peritonitis.. and peritonitis due to the colon bacillus. 1897 *Trans. Amer. Pediatric Soc.* IX. 90 The streptococcic cases are very dangerous. 1902 *Encycl. Brit.* XXXI. 558/1 The statement..is in direct contradiction to all our knowledge of the behaviour of the blood in streptococcous infections.

Streptothrix (strepto·þrix). *Bacteriology.* Pl. **-thrices** (-þrəisēz). [mod.L., f. Gr. στρεπτό-ς twisted (see STREPTO-) + θρίξ hair.] A genus of bacteria, comprising organisms having branching filaments growing in interlacing masses; a micro-organism of this genus or type.

1891 G. S. WOODHEAD *Bacteria* 41 Cylindrical colourless filaments—streptothrix. 1899 T. BOWHILL *Man. Bacteriol. Technique* 4 By Streptothrix [we understand] organisms that..resemble at one time the thread fungi, and at other times the bacteria. *Ibid.* 102 The Streptothrices.

attrib. 1898 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* V. 262 The streptothrix form of the bacillus tuberculosis. 1899 *Ibid.* VIII. 904 Streptothrix infections of the skin.

Hence **Streptothri·cial** *a.*, of or relating to streptothrix.

1903 *Lancet* 18 Apr. 1102/1 Examination of the pus revealed the presence of abundant streptothricial growth.

Stress (stres), *sb.* Forms: 4-6 **stres**, 4-7 **stresse**, 5 **stresce**, **strest**, 6 *Sc.* **straisse**, 6- **stress**. [Prob. an aphetic form of DISTRESS *sb.*, which occurs earlier in all the older senses; in ME. *destresse* and *stresse* often appear as variant readings. It is, however, not unlikely that this formation has coalesced, esp. in sense 1, with an adoption of OF. *estrece* narrowness, straitness, oppression:—popular L. **strictia*, f. L. *strictus*, whence OF. *estreit* STRAIT *a.* It is further possible that some of the senses or shades of meaning may be derived from STRESS *v.*]

I. †**1.** Hardship; straits, adversity, affliction. *Obs.* Cf. DISTRESS *sb.* 2.

1303 R. BRUNNE *Handl. Synne* 5004 þat floure ys kalled 'aungelys mete' þat God 3afe þe folke to ete Whan þey were yn wyldernes Forty wyntyr, yn hard stres. *a* 1400 *Salut. to our Lady* 51 in *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* 135 Heil distruyere of eueri stresse. 1556 LAUDER *Tractate* 469 O Lord..help the pure that ar in stres Oppresit and hereit mercyles. 1568 T. HOWELL *Arb. Amitie* (1879) 39 O get my graue in readinesse, Faine would I die to ende this stresse. 1588 A. KING tr. *Canisius' Catech., Of Conf.* 5 Sinnes done aganes the fift commandement...9. To be sorie for oure nychtbours prosperitie, and glaid of thair straisse. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* III. xi. 18 With this sad hersall of his heauy stresse The warlike Damzell was empassiond sore. 1704 *Collect. Voy. & Trav.* III. 597/2 [He] began to be reduced to the utmost stress.

†**b.** *To do to stress, do* (a country) *stress*: to reduce to straits, overcome. *To make stress*: to effect ravages. *Obs.*

1338 R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (1810) 29 Constantyn he [*sc.* Athelstan] reymed, & did vnto stresse. *Ibid.* 321 Saue kyng Athelstan, þat wastid alle Catenesse, Siþen was no man, þat so fer mad stresse. *c* 1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 7839 þai did þe contre ouer grete stresse.

†**c.** *In stress*: (of an animal) hard pressed. *Obs.*

14.. in *Rel. Ant.* I. 152 If it be a best in strest or in chace.

†**d.** *To call to stress*: to summon to undergo trial. *Obs.*

1338 R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (1810) 138 Bot if he [*sc.* an escaped felon] to þer bayliſes mak his sikernesse, þat þei will him maynp[r]is, if be wer cald to stresse [Fr. *kaunt serra chalengé*].

†**e.** Bodily suffering or injury. *Obs.*

1533 BELLENDEN *Livy* I. x. (S. T. S.) I. 57 This horiciane happynnyt (as þan) to be haill, but ony stress or hurte of body.

†**2.** Force or pressure exercised on a person for the purpose of compulsion or extortion. Cf. DISTRESS *sb.* 1. *Obs.*

1303 R. BRUNNE *Handl. Synne* 2798 3yf þou madest awhere any vowe..3yf þou dedyst hyt with þy gode wylle, without stresse [*v.r.* out distresse] or ouper ylle. *Ibid.* 8344 Another vyleynye thyr ys To do a womman synne thurgh stres. 1338 — *Chron.* (1725) 281 His dedes ere to alowe, for his hardynesse. He did many on bowe in þat lond þorgh stresse. *c* 1420 *Prose Life Alex.* 32 We went into þe weste Marches, whare all þe folkes þat duellez thare..ȝalde þam vn-till vs wit-owtten stresse. *c* 1440 *York Myst.* xx. 188 3oure neghbours house, whilkis ȝe haue hele, The ix^te [*sc.* commandment] biddis take noȝt be stresse. 1655 *Nicholas Papers* (Camden) II. 334, I cannot beleeve that Maynard for a fee would hazard losse of money or liberty, and his conscience never yet putt him to that stresse.

†**b.** *To do* or *make* (a person) *stress*: to put force or compulsion upon; to press hardly upon; to oppress. *Obs.*

1303 R. BRUNNE *Handl. Synne* 3939 3yf þou make one so hard stresse þat hys godnesse wexe þe lesse. *Ibid.* 8232 For 3yf she lyued yn wykkednes, þan myȝte we do to here sum stres. *c* 1330 — *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 16276 Perauenture he hab som syknesse Or oþer greuaunce þat makeþ hym stresse.

†**c.** Strain upon endurance. *Obs.*

1534 MORE *Comf. agst. Trib.* III. Wks. 1262/1 Not desyring to be brought vnto yᵉ peril of persecucion (for it semeth a proude high mind to desyre martyrdom) but desyring helpe and strength of god, if he suffer vs to come to the stresse. 1692 R. L'ESTRANGE *Josephus, Wars* VII. xxix. (1733) 801 The Children stood the same Stress with the rest, and when they had suffer'd all that Malice or Invention could inflict upon them, not so much as one Soul of them would own Caesar to save his Life.

3. The overpowering pressure *of* some adverse force or influence. Chiefly in *stress of weather*. Cf. DISTRESS *sb.* 1 b.

1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* X. xii. 140 Tho Orodes the hard rest doith oppres, The cauld and irny slepe of deidis stres. 1665 in *Extr. S. P. rel. Friends* III. (1912) 236 Which shipp had beene at Sea three Monthes and bett back by stress of weather. 1691 RAY *Creation* II. (1692) 130 It hath quite out-done the Chymists, effecting that by a gentle Heat, which they cannot perform without great stress of Fire. 1699 DAMPIER *Voy.* III. I. 155 When the stress of the Weather was over, we set our Sails again. 1715 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 5379/1 A.. Frigate..was driven ashore.. by Stress of Weather. 1785 COWPER *Task* II. 551 Perverting often, by the stress of lewd And loose example, whom he should instruct. 1821 JOANNA BAILLIE *Metr. Leg., Lady G. Baillie* iv, She saw..hope's fresh touch undoing lines of care Which stress of evil times had deeply graven there. 1850 LONGF. *Building of Ship* 42 Broad in the beam, that the stress of the blast..Might not the sharp bows overwhelm. 1874 GREEN *Short Hist.* vii. § 7. 422 The stress of poverty may have been the cause which drove William Shakspere..to London and the stage. 1895 *Law Times Rep.* LXXIII. 157/1 Owing to stress of weather, the master decided to run back for Holyhead harbour. 1895 M. HEWLETT *Earthwork out of Tuscany* 39 Pious virgins, under stress of these things, swoon. 1918 *Times* 1 Feb. 9/3 Man's pusuioners and even Nature's are feeling the stress of the war.

†**b.** *Upon a stress*: at a pinch. *Obs. rare.*

1672 R. MONTAGU in *Buccleuch MSS.* (Hist. MSS. Comm.) I. 513, I..let them know that upon a stress we did reckon that his Christian Majesty must..supply us beyond what is stipulated.

†**c.** The brunt, severest pressure. *Obs.*

1618 BOLTON *Florus* III. x. (1636) 205 The whole stresse of the Warre [L. *tota belli moles*] was about Gregovia.

d. A condition of things compelling or characterized by strained effort. Sometimes coupled with *storm*. (For *storm and stress* see STORM *sb.* 3 d.)

1637 RUTHERFORD *Lett.* lxxxv. (1862) I. 217 But God be thanked that Christ in His children can endure a stress and a storm, howbeit soft nature wᵈ fall down in pieces. 1845-6 TRENCH *Huls. Lect.* Ser. II. i. 160 When the stress comes we can withdraw. 1883 *Fortn. Rev.* May 734 This age of stress and transition. 1909 C. G. LANG *Parab. Jesus* 118 Resolute and brave-hearted service brings into the very midst of toil and stress a deep sense of joy. 1911 MARETT *Anthropol.* viii. 216 The Todas..have retired out of the stress of the world into the fastnesses of the Nilgiri Hills.

†**e.** A strong blast of wind. *Obs.*

1666 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 91/4 But the Wind blew such a stress, that they were in no possibility of Engaging.

f. *Sc.* A pressing demand.

1822 GALT *Provost* vii, A flock of fleets and ships frae the East and West Indies came in a' thegither; and there was sic a stress for tide-waiters, that [etc.].

4. Strained exertion, strong effort. Now *rare.*

1690 NORRIS *Beatitudes* (1692) 107 Such a desire as carries with it the full bent and Stress of the Soul. 1697 DRYDEN *Æneis* XI. 845 Then, press'd by Foes, he stemm'd the stormy Tyde; And gain'd, by stress of Arms, the farther Side. *c* 1698 LOCKE *Cond. Und.* § 28 Though the faculties of the mind are improved by exercise, yet they must not be put to a stress beyond their strength. 1789 POLWHELE *Engl. Orator* IV. 131 They know not to pursue, With Stress of mental Faculties, a Train Of Argument. 1857 LONGF. *Sandalphon* iii, The Angels of Wind and of Fire Chaunt only one hymn, and expire With the song's irresistible stress.

5. Physical strain or pressure exerted upon a material object; the strain *of* a load or weight. Now *rare* exc. in scientific use: see c. †Phr. *to lay stress upon, put stress to, put to stress.*

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 480/1 Stresse, or streytynge, *constriccio, constrictura.* *a* 1547 SURREY *Eccles.* IV. 66 The single twyned cordes May no such stresse indure, As cables brayded threfould may, Together wrethed suer. *a* 1578 in T. Procter *Gorg. Gallery* F iv b, As tender Flaxe can beare no stresse, before that it bee sponne. 1578 H. WOTTON *Courtlie Controv.* 317 The which [door] fleeing open with small stresse, caused them to enter in thereat. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* XVII. xiv. I. 518 In this businesse there is an opinion, that two hands togither are put to smaller stresse [L. *minus nituntur*]..than one alone. 1630 BP. HALL *Occas. Medit.* § 136 (1633) 335 If it [*sc.* the cart] be soundly laden..all the frame of it is put unto the utmost stresse. 1662 R. VENABLES *Exper. Angler* I. 6 The whole stress or strength of the fish is born or sustained, by the thicker part of the Rod, which [etc.]. 1681 FLAVEL *Meth. Grace* xx. 350 The world is full of hope without a promise, which is but as a spider's web, when a stress comes to be laid upon it. 1682 WHELER *Journ. Greece* VI. 466 Against which the whole stress and fall of the Waters seems to lean. 1688 KEEPE *Narr. Finding Crucifix* 10 There was also in the Coffin white-Linnen,..that look't indifferent fresh, but the least stress put thereto shew'd it was well nigh perish't. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) VI. 670/1 Gravers..should be.. small towards the point, but stronger upwards, that they may have strength enough to bear any stress there may be occasion to lay upon them. 1805 R. W. DICKSON *Pract. Agric.* I. Plate xi, A Wheel-Harrow..by which the stress on the horses is rendered less. 1829 *Chapters Phys. Sci.* 143 Let the strength allowed be more than fully competent to the stress to which the parts can ever be liable. 1831 J. HOLLAND *Manuf. Metal* I. 185 The amazing stress, which a large ship riding at anchor in foul weather exerts upon the cable. 1847 YEOWELL *Anc. Brit. Ch.* ii. 21 Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner-stone—who holds the several parts together, and supports the whole stress of the edifice.

†**b.** *Naut.* Strain on a cable, due to violence of wind; a time when the cable is strained. Phrase, *to ride a stress. Obs.*

1633 T. JAMES *Voy.* 23 We came to an Anker, and rid a good stresse all night. *Ibid.* 47 The Cable and Anker indured an incredible stresse. 1644 MANWAYRING *Seamans Dict.*, 103 This is not safe rideing in a stresse.

c. In mod. *Physics*, used variously by different writers: see quots.

1855 W. J. M. RANKINE *Misc. Sci. Papers* (1881) 120 In this paper, the word 'Strain' will be used to denote the change of volume and figure constituting the deviation of a molecule of a solid from that condition which it preserves when free from the action of external forces; and the word 'Stress' will be used to denote the force, or combination of forces, which such a molecule exerts in tending to recover its free condition, and which, for a state of equilibrium, is equal and opposite to the combination of external forces applied to it. 1856 THOMSON in *Phil. Trans.* CXLVI. 481 A stress is an equilibrating application of force to a body. *Ibid. note*, It will be seen that I have deviated slightly from Mr. Rankine's definition of the word 'stress,' as I have applied it to the direct action experienced by a body from the matter around it, and not, as proposed by him, to the elastic reaction of the body equal and opposite to that action. 1873 R. H. BOW *Economics of Construction* 45 *note*, The term *stress* expresses the condition of a part of the structure to the extremities of which are applied compressing or extending forces; the amount of the stress is measured by the magnitude of the force acting on either extremity; the *strain* is the change of length from elasticity which the part undergoes when subjected to the stress. 1873 MAXWELL *Electr. & Magn.* I. 59 The nature of this stress [in dielectrics] is..a tension along the lines of force combined with an equal pressure in all directions at right angles to these lines. 1896 GREENER *Gun* (ed. 6) 545 The stresses upon a gun are a radial stress or 'pressure'; a tangential stress, or hoop tension..; a longitudinal stress. 1911 J. A. EWING in *Encycl. Brit.* XXV. 1007/2 Stress is the mutual action between two bodies, or between two parts of a body, whereby each of the two exerts a force upon the other...A body is said to be in a state of stress when there is a stress between the two parts which lie on opposite sides of an imaginary surface of section.

d. Strain upon a bodily organ or a mental power.

1843 R. J. GRAVES *Syst. Clin. Med.* xx. 229 The stress thrown upon the air cells and passages gives rise to emphysema. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 135 Neurasthenia is indeed often the product of stresses upon the functions of the mind.

e. ? *Anglo-Irish.* (See quot.) ? *Obs.*

1814 W. S. MASON *Statist. Acc. Irel.* I. 584 Many of them [the poor], particularly females, die in their youth, of what they call stresses, that is violent heats from hard work.

†**6.** Testing strain or pressure on a support or basis; weight (of inference, confidence, etc.) resting upon an argument or piece of evidence; amount of risk ventured on some assurance; degree of reliance. Chiefly in phrase *to lay* (occas. *put, place*) *stress on* or *upon*, to rely on, rest a burden of proof upon. *Obs.*

The phrase is now used with changed meaning: see 7.

1651 BAXTER *Inf. Bapt.* 250 You lay the main stress of your cause on it. *a* 1676 HALE *Prim. Orig. Man.* I. ii. (1677) 69 When all is done, I lay the great stress of my Conclusion upon the first sort of Evidences. *c* 1680 BEVERIDGE *Serm.* (1729) II. 107 The main stress of our salvation lying upon our performing this duty. 1690 NORRIS *Beatitudes* (1694) 25 He does not lean upon any created Good with any Stress. 1712 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 399 ₱ 7 We should not lay too great a Stress on any supposed Virtues we possess that are of a doubtful Nature. 1720 DE FOE *Capt. Singleton* xiii. (1840) 220, I always put a great deal of stress upon his judgment. 1722 — *Relig. Courtsh.* I. i. (1840) 25,

I can lay no stress on anything she said. 1735 DYCHE & PARDON *Dict.* s.v., *To lay a Stress*, to depend or rely upon a Person or Thing. 1736 BUTLER *Anal.* II. i. (1798) 187 Mankind are for placing the stress of their religion any where, rather than upon virtue. 1765 GOLDSM. *New Simile* 13 The stress of all my proofs on him I lay..

†**b.** Weightiest or most important part, essential point (of a business, argument, question). *Obs.* 1668 HALE *Rolle's Abridgm.* Pref. 2 He was a strict Searcher and Examiner of businesses, and a wise discerner of the weight and stress of them wherein it lay, and what was material to it. 1676 H. PHILLIPPES *Purch. Patt.* (ed. 5) B 1 b, Now the stress of the question is, what number of years may be allowed and taken in this case? 1679 COLES *Eng.-Lat. Dict.* (ed. 2), The Stress of the business, *rei momentum, cardo controversiæ.* 1687 R. L'ESTRANGE *Answ. Diss.* 7 But I am for speaking Plain, Home, and in Few Words, to the Stress of the Subject in hand. 1736 BUTLER *Anal.* II. vii. (1798) 309 In these things the stress of what I am now observing lies. 1791 WESLEY *Serm. God's Love* 6 The stress of the argument lies on this very point.

†**c.** Argumentative force; also, impressiveness, telling effect (of a composition). *Obs.*

1653 tr. *J. Stegmann's Diss. de Pace* ix. 45 They [sc. the Socinians] conceive that the Holy Fathers, and the consent of so many ages, do adde more dignity and veneration, then stress to the doctrine of the Trinity. 1737 *Gentl. Mag.* VII. 363/1 All the Stress of the Poem, all the Magnanimity and Heroism of Leonidas entirely depend on this Oracle. 1754 W. GOODALL *Exam. Lett. Mary Q. of Scots* I. 49 As the whole stress, in a manner, of the cause depends fundamentally upon this declaration. 1784 COWPER *Tiroc.* 803 And some perhaps,..Will need no stress of argument t'enforce Th' expedience of a less advent'rous course.

7. Exceptional insistence on something; attribution of special importance; emphasis. Chiefly in phrase *to lay* (occas. *place, put*) *stress upon* (formerly used with different meaning: see 6).

1756 C. LUCAS *Ess. Waters* II. 61 On the nitrous..qualities..he seems to lay no small stress. *a* 1763 SHENSTONE *Ess.* 33 It is requisite to lay some stress yourself, on what you intend should be remarked by others. 1789 BELSHAM *Ess.* I. xiv. 270, I place but little stress upon..external accomplishments and graces. 1796 JANE AUSTEN *Pride & Prej.* ii, Do you consider the forms of introduction, and the stress that is laid on them, as nonsense? 1846 W. R. BIRT in *Rep. Brit. Assoc.* I. 132, I do not place any stress upon these deductions. 1857 BUCKLE *Civiliz.* I. vii. 313 Hooker, though he shows much respect to the Councils, lays little stress upon the Fathers. 1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* II. xiv. 300, I do not want to lay more stress than it deserves upon a conjecture of this kind. 1883 *Manch. Exam.* 22 Nov. 5/2 A..questioning habit inevitably inclines us to lay more stress upon the miseries than on the blessings of our lot.

8. Relative loudness or force of vocal utterance; a greater degree of vocal force characterizing one syllable as compared with other syllables of the word, or one part of a syllable as compared with the rest; stress-accent. Also, superior loudness of voice as a means of emphasizing one or more of the words of a sentence more than the rest.

1749 *Power & Harmony Pros. Numbers* 25 The Accents were designed very probably at first to regulate the Tone or Key of the Voice, not the Stress or Force of it. 1785 J. WALKER *Rhet. Gram.* (1801) 8 The Secondary Accent is that stress we may occasionally place upon another syllable, besides that which has the principal accent. *Ibid.* 162 An injudicious reader of verse would be very apt to lay a stress upon the article *the* in the third line. 1785 *Ess. Punctuation* 153 The syllables, which require a particular stress of the voice in pronunciation. 1824 L. MURRAY *Eng. Gram.* (ed. 5) I. 345 In the word *presúme*, the stress of the voice must be on the letter *u*, and second syllable, *sume*, which take the accent. 1847 MALDEN in *Proc. Philol. Soc.* III. 95 That which is commonly called accent, but which it will be more convenient in the present inquiry..to call stress. 1862 MRS. H. WOOD *Channings* iv. 27 There was a stress on the word 'to-night,' and Hamish marked it. 1879 H. NICOL in *Encycl. Brit.* IX. 633/2 Stress in the French of to-day is independent of length (quantity) and pitch (tone). 1893 BRIDGES *Milton's Prosody* 33 Two kinds of line, one the eight-syllable line with rising stress (so-called iambic), the other the seven-syllable line with falling stress (so-called trochaic).

II. 9. *Law.* A distraint; also, the chattel or chattels seized in a distraint: = DISTRESS *sb.* 3, 4. Phrase, to *take* (*a*) *stress, to take stresses* = to distrain. *Obs.* exc. *dial.*

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 480/1 Stresse, or wed take be strengthe and vyolence, *vadimonium.* 1464 *Mann. & Househ. Exp.* (Roxb.) 276, I payd..to the ij. men of Wenseche that helpe to brenge home the stresse howete of Warweke scheyer, of Dalbyes, fore theyer reward, iiij.s. iiij.d. 1479 *Engl. Gilds* (1870) 321 John Brendon the yonger werned stresse to the Master and Wardons,..for he come nott to derge that same euen. 1487 *Paston Lett.* III. 340 Sir John Howard, Knyght,..gederith grete feloship of men, purposyng on Monday next comyng to take stresses of the Lady Roos. *c* 1500 *Colin Blowbol's Test.* 193–5 (Lehmeyer) And of this rent, yf that he doith faile, I gyve hym powre to..take an stresse,..Vpon the grounde, one, two, or thre. And with hym home his stressis for to cary. 1510 *Sel. Cases Crt. Star Chamber* (Selden Soc.) 206 The baylis ..and..sergiaunttes of the said towne..toke awaye Fro the abbottes tenaunttes then..Certen stresses be Cause the said tenaunttes willnot appere at the towne Courte. 1544 in *Sel. Cases Crt. Requests* (Selden Soc.) 97 The said Olyuer..to deliuer vnto theym all stresses lately taken from theym. 1546 J. HEYWOOD *Prov.* (1867) 39 Their landlorde came to their house to take a stresse For rent. 1601 BP. ANDREWES *Serm.* (Matt. xxii. 21) (1629) II. 93 We must offer it as it were a Gift, voluntarily, willingly, cheerfully,.. though Hophni had no flesh-hook, though Cæsar had no Publican to take a stresse. 1606 HOLLAND *Suetonius* 7 After his goods were arrested and stresses taken,..him he clapt up in prison. 1613 *MS. Acc. St. John's Hosp., Canterb.*, Ther wass a stress taken owt of Slewes shopp being a barē of yourne for a yearly newellty of iiijd a yeare. 1886 *W. Somerset Word-bk.* s.v., Mr. Jones 've a-tookt a stress vor dree quarters' rent.

III. 10. *attrib.*, as (senses 3 c, d) *stress-memorial*; (senses 5, 5 c) *stress-axis, -component, -difference*; (sense 8) *stress-accent, -prosody, -rhythm, -syllable*; †**stress house**, ? a house of detention; lock-up.

1880 RUSKIN *Elem. Eng. Prosody* Pref. p. vi, I believe the *stress-accent on English words will be found always to involve delay as well as energy or loudness of pronunciation. 1882 G. H. DARWIN in *Phil. Trans.* CLXXIII. 191 To find the magnitude and direction of the principal *stress-axes at any point. 1856 THOMSON *Ibid.* CXLVI. 496 The concurrences of the *stress-components used in interpreting the differential equation of energy with the types of the strain-coordinates. 1882 G. H. DARWIN *Ibid.* CLXXIII. 199, I shall refer to the difference between the greatest and least principal stresses as 'the *stress-difference'. 1505 *Nottingham Rec.* III. 100, j. aliam clavem pro le *stres hous dore. 1830 CARLYLE *Richter Again* Ess. 1840 II. 326 The *stress-memorials and siege-medals of Poverty. 1893 BRIDGES *Milton's Prosody* 69 Here was..a definite statement of the laws of a *stress prosody. 1901 *Ibid.* (ed. 2) 88 On the rules of the common lighter *stress-rhythms. 1847 *Proc. Philol. Soc.* III. 101 The *stress-syllable may be made the more acute, or the more grave, at the discretion of the speaker. 1910 G. HENDERSON *Norse Infl. Celtic Scot.* v. 110 The tone falls on the stress syllable with grave accent.

Stress (stres), *v.*[1] Forms: 4 **stres, stresce, 6-*Sc.* straisse, 4-6 stresse, 6- stress.** [In early use prob. a. OF. *estrecier* = It. †*strizzare*:—popular L. **strictiāre*, f. *strictus*: see STRAIT *a.* In later use f. STRESS *sb.*]

†**1.** *trans.* To subject (a person) to force or compulsion; to constrain or restrain; to compel *to* (do something). *Obs.*

1303 R. BRUNNE *Handl. Synne* 3726 3yf þou for yre bygynne wykkednes þat no man may lette þe, ne stres. *c* 1450 *Gesta Rom.* xxvii. 103 It is displesing to me þat I have grevid god so muche, for the whiche I am stressid to come hepere. 1581 A. HALL *Iliad* v. 90 They leaue not thee, but vs also, who here are come not strest In thy quarrell to spend our bloud.

†**b.** To abridge the liberty of; to confine, incarcerate. *Obs.*

1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 8001 þe dampned bodyse salle fredom mys; For þai salle be stressed in helle als thralle. 1530 PALSGR. 738/2, I stresse, I strayght one of his liberty or thrust his body to guyther, *je estroysse. Ibid.*, The man is stressyd to soore, he can nat styrre him. 1586 J. HEYWOOD *Spider & F.* lxxxii. 23 At time of this graunt, I was (as who say,) Stressed by you: your prisoner (as it were).

†**2.** To subject to hardship; to afflict, distress, harass, oppress; in passive, to be 'hard up'. *Obs.*

1535 STEWART *Cron. Scot.* I. 124 In that storme so stranglie tha war straist, Mony war lost and mycht no langer lest. 1559 AYLMER *Harborowe* P 1, These Romaines..being stressed and almoste brought to the last cast. 1563 *Mirr. Mag., Henry Duke Buchhin.* xxxix, The dread wherewyth him selfe was strest. 1653 E. WATERHOUSE *Apol. Learning* 155 If the Magistrate be so stressed that he cannot protect those that are pious and peaceable, the Lord help. 1824 SCOTT *St. Ronan's* x, I wad say naething mair than that I was stressed for the penny money.

†**b.** To tax or burden (one's pecuniary resources). *Obs.*

1584 LODGE *Hist. Forbonius & Prisceria* G ij, Lead by couetousnesse, for that he woulde not stresse his coffers.

3. To subject (a material thing, a bodily organ, a mental faculty) to stress or strain; to overwork, fatigue. Now chiefly *Sc.*

1545 ASCHAM *Toxoph.* II. (Arb.) 126 Bycause they shoote wyth a softe lowse, and stresses not a shaft muche in the breste where the weyghte of the bowe lyethe. 1548 PATTEN *Exped. Scot.* Peroration P ij b, I..thearfore [was] dryuen to stresse my memorie y° more for callinge the same too mind again. 1551 RECORDE *Cast. Knowl.* (1556) 53 So that the Meridiane maye entre iustlye into those socketts, and turne in them without stressynge. 1704 F. FULLER *Med. Gymn.* (1718) 135 The Nerves are quite stress'd with a Load of Wine. 1715 RAMSAY *Christ's Kirk Gr.* II. xviii, Some were like to tine their sight, Wi' sleep and drinking strest. 1722 WODROW *Corr.* (1843) II. 638 Let me know how your eyes are. Dont stress them. 1756 MRS. CALDERWOOD in *Coltness Collect.* (Maitland Club) 260 The Capucines are commonly imployed to preach, but the method here is not to stress themselves by saying too much at once. 1815 SCOTT *Guy M.* xxiii, 'I could gar him show mair action,' said his master, 'but..it would be a pity to stress Dumple.' 1894 P. H. HUNTER *James Inwick* vi. 74 Them wha had kent him a' his days said that he had ne'er stressed himsel' wi' wark.

b. *intr.* for *refl.* ? *Sc.*

1901 G. DOUGLAS *Ho. Green Shutters* 5 A horse the feet of which struck sparks from the paved ground as they stressed painfully on edge to get weigh on the great waggon.

c. *Mech.* (cf. STRESS *sb.* 5 c).

1883 THOMSON & TAIT *Nat. Phil.* § 832 (ed. 2) I. II. 423 When a solid is stressed, the state of stress is completely determined when the amount and direction of the three principal stresses are known. 1892 *C. T. C. Monthly Gaz.* June 179/1 It is a well known fact among engineers that a metal structure..must not be stressed to more than one-third of its ultimate breaking stress.

4. To lay the stress or emphasis on, emphasize (a word or phrase in speaking); to place a stress-accent upon (a syllable).

1859 MEREDITH *R. Feverel* ii, Stressing the epithet to increase the defiance. 1892 S. A. BROOKE *E. Eng. Lit.* I. Pref. p. xi, I used alliteration whenever I could, and stressed as much as possible the alliterated words. 1893 BRIDGES *Milton's Prosody* 74 If a boy were told..that it saved the monotony of a pentameter to stress the penultimate.

b. *fig.* To lay stress on, emphasize, bring into prominence (a fact, idea, etc.). Chiefly *U.S.*

1896 *Mod. Lang. Notes* XI. 78/2 A sketch of the history of the Troy legend was outlined, and its popularity in mediæval literature stressed, as the theme for numerous romances. 1902 G. B. HALSTED in *Science* 8 Nov. 705 In the Columbus report I particularly stressed the work of two authors. 1906 W. H. FLEMING *Slavery* 34 Physical facts, stressed by an ineradicable race pride, bar the way against assimilation.

†**5.** *intr.* Of tears: To burst forth, gush. *Obs.*

c 1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 2128 Ay when he sang his messe, þe teres oute of his eyen stresse.

Hence **Stre·ssing** *vbl. sb.*

1540 PALSGR. *Acolastus* IV. vi. V iv b, Is the strength and lustinesse..of my body..nothyng worne (by excedyng or ouer moch stressyng of nature?). 1915 *Nation* (N. Y.) 6 May 487/1 If..the offending film..stirred his heart to mutiny and rage, the potentialities for evil in less-balanced minds need no stressing.

Stress, *v.*[2] *Obs*, exc. *dial.* [Aphetic f. DISTRESS *v.*] *trans.* To levy a distress upon, distrain. Also *absol.*

c 1380 WYCLIF *Wks.* (1880) 234 3if here rente be not redily paied here bestis ben stressid & þei pursued wiþouten mercy. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 368/2 To Stresse, *distringere.* 1876 *Whitby Gloss.* s.v., 'They 're boun te stress for 't', to force the payment by law. 1886 *W. Somerset Word-bk.* s.v., Well, I be zorry vor to zee a widow umman a-stress'd; but her can't never 'spect to bide there, not if her don't pay no rent.

Stressed (strest), *ppl. a.* [f. STRESS *v.*[1] + -ED[1].]

†**1.** Distressed, afflicted. Also *absol. Obs.*

1559 AYLMER *Harborowe* B 3 b, With a certain choise and judgement to giue passage and safetie to the stressed. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* II. x. 37 Stird with pitty of the stressed plight Of this sad realme. *c* 1590 J. STEWART *Poems* (S. T. S.) II. 88 The stressit knycht all stupefact did stand. 1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* VII. 328 Stress'd Saylers.

2. Marked with a stress, emphasized.

1885 MEREDITH *Diana* i, The stressed repetition of calculated brevity while a fiery scandal was abroad concerning the lady. 1913 A. C. CLARK *Prose Rhythm in English* 28 Rhythm in poetry depends upon the recurrence of longs and shorts, or stressed and unstressed syllables, in a regular order.

Stressful (stre·sfŭl), *a.* [f. STRESS *sb.* + -FUL 2.] Full of, or subject to, stress or strain.

1853 MISS E. S. SHEPPARD *Ch. Auchester* II. 206, I could not bear the stressful brightness. 1886 LINSKILL *Haven under Hill* I. ii. 28 The stressful days of labour and care.

Hence **Stre·ssfully** *adv.*

1890 *Harper's Mag.* Apr. 809/1 [Her poetry] is often too stressfully subjective. 1902 *Q. Rev.* Apr. 367 Flaubert.. preached, and laboured stressfully to put into practice, his conviction that great art is 'scientific and impersonal'.

Stressless (stre·slĕs), *a.* [f. STRESS *sb.* + -LESS.] Having no stress, unstressed. Hence **Stre·sslessness.**

1885 *Encycl. Brit.* XVIII. 788/2 In originally stressless syllables long vowels were shortened and short vowels dropped. 1892 FENNELL *Stanford Dict.* Introd. p. ix. Nor is it implied that all syllables marked as unaccented have precisely the same stresslessness.

†**Strestell, -tulle,** corrupt forms of TRESTLE.

1531 *Rec. St. Mary at Hill* (1905) 40 Item, a tabull and a payre of strestells, ij s. 1563 *Stanford Churchw. Acc.* in *Antiquary* (1888) Apr. 168 For mending the Screene & strestulles in the churche howse, xij d.

Stret, obs. and dial. variant of STRAIT *a.*

Stretch (stretʃ), *sb.* Also 6 **stretche,** 7 **strech,** *Sc.* **streitch, streach.** [f. STRETCH *v.*]

1. The action or an act of stretching physically; the fact of being stretched.

a. Forcible extension or dilatation; *occas.* degree or amount of this.

1600 ROWLANDS *Lett. Humours Blood* D 6, Or else heele haue it with fiue and a reach, Although it cost his necke the Halter stretch. 1692 RAY *Creation* II. (1704) 332 To secure them from disruption, which..they [the bones] would be in some danger of, upon a great and sudden stretch or contortion, if they were dry. 1705 ELSTOB in *Hearne's Collect.* 30 Nov. (O.H.S.) I. 109 He gagg'd him to ye fullest stretch. 1883 S. CHAPPEL *Sewing Machine* 24 You will find when you want to work the machine that the belt, owing to the continued stretch, is too slack. 1898 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* V. 472 The amount of distension of the ventricle, in other words, the degree of stretch in the muscle fibres. 1907 O'GORMAN *Motor Pocket Bk.* (ed. 2) 598 In adjusting the stretch of side chains by the turn-buckle.., care must be taken to [etc.].

b. Stretching out or extension of the limbs; extent or measure of stretching out.

1696 R. H. *Sch. Recreat.* 80 (Fencing) And when you are at your full stretch, keep your Left-hand stretched, and ever observe to keep a close Left-foot, which [etc.]. 1697 DRYDEN *Æneis* x. 967 Sometimes he thought to swim the stormy Main, By stretch of Arms the distant Shore to gain. 1700 — *Fables, Ceyx & Alcyoné* 482 At all her stretch her little wings she spread. 1710 FELTON *Diss. Classics* (1718) 12 What is Excellent is placed out of ordinary Reach, and Your Lordship will easily be persuaded to put forth Your Hand to the utmost Stretch, and reach whatever You aspire at. 1830 A. FONBLANQUE *Eng. under Seven Administr.* (1837) II. 35 The knight.., lifting his battle-axe to the utmost stretch of his arm, dashed the edge with all his might upon the forehead of the giant. 1854 SPENCER in *Brit. Q. Rev.* July 139 Amongst other ancient measures were the orgyia or stretch of the arms, the pace, and the palm.

c. A resting with outstretched limbs. †*At full stretch*: reclining at full length.

1700 T. BROWN *Amusem. Ser. & Com.* Wks. 1719 III. 14 He lolls at full Stretch within, and half a dozen brawny Bulk-begotten Footmen behind [his coach]. 1856 *Chamb. Jrnl.* 12 Jan. 27/2 Punter never gets above four hours' sleep in his bed; but he makes up for that deficiency..by a two hours' stretch on the bench in the afternoon.

†d. *Upon one's last stretch*: in one's death-agony. *Obs.*

1680 R. L'ESTRANGE *20 Select Colloq. Erasm.* 258 Observing the Woman to Yawn and just upon her last Stretch, he put [etc.].

e. An act of drawing up the body and extending the arms, indicating weariness or languor.

1712 STEELE *Spect.* No. 320 ¶ 5 Our Salutation at Entrance is a Yawn and a Stretch, and then without more Ceremony we take our Place at the Lolling Table. 1856 MISS YONGE *Daisy Chain* I. viii, He gave a yawn and a stretch.

f. An act of 'stretching one's legs'; a walk taken for exercise. (Cf. 6 c.)

a 1761 [S. HALIBURTON & HEPBURN] *Mem. Magopico* viii. (ed. 2) 24 A good stretch, in a morning, over heath, and hills, and ditches,..will make a man eat a good breakfast. 1871 GLADSTONE in Morley *Life* VI. viii. (1903) II. 378, I have had a twelve-miles stretch to-day, almost all on wild ground. 1887 *Old Man's Favour* II. II. vii. 37 'Were you detained at the office?' 'No; I went for a stretch after.'

g. The condition of being stretched; state of tension. Phrases, *on*, *upon the stretch*; *to bring to the stretch*.

1673 BOYLE *New Exper. Efficacy Air's Moisture* 11, I suppos'd, that after a time this unusual stretch of the Rope would cease. 1679 DRYDEN *Troil. & Cress.* Pref. b 1 b, What melody can be made on that Instrument, all whose strings are screw'd up at first to their utmost stretch, and to the same sound? 1737 BRACKEN *Farriery Impr.* (1757) II. 153 The Blood-vessels in the Legs are more upon the Stretch. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* II. vi. 66 They..strain the two thongs in contrary directions.., keeping the thongs still upon the stretch. 1753 J. BARTLET *Gentl. Farriery* (1754) 356 E, a strap fixed to the pad,..to keep the tail on the stretch at pleasure. 1781 COWPER *Truth* 384 An instrument, whose cords, upon the stretch,..Yield only discord in his Maker's ear. 1786 J. PEARSON in *Med. Commun.* II. 97 The ligament was on the stretch. 1793 SMEATON *Edystone L.* § 274 The chains being introduced and brought to a stretch. 1816 CRABB *Engl. Syn.* 177 s.v. *Breeze*, The mariner has favourable gales which keep the sails on the stretch. 1827 D. JOHNSON *Ind. Field Sports* 73 The string..is kept at its stretch by means of a stiff piece of stick. *c* 1860 H. STUART *Seaman's Catech.* 27 The rigging must be got on a stretch.

fig. 1702 VANBRUGH *False Friend* IV. i, Sure Villainy and Impudence were never on the Stretch before: This Traytor has wreckt 'em till they Crack.

h. Capacity for being stretched.

1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2415/2 It is called the straining, because the stretch is taken out of it by repeated wettings and stretchings. 1887 *Wheeling* 6 July 208/1 The leather used for the seats has been subjected to sufficient pressure to take all the stretch out of it. 1894 *Times* 15 Aug. 11/1 The Vigilant could not sail owing to the stretch not having been taken out of her new main rigging.

2. In immaterial sense: A stretching or straining something beyond its proper limits.

†a. An act exceeding the scope of one's authority or commission, or the bounds of strict law or justice; a strained or unfair argument or representation; also, an act of 'stretching a point', a deviation from one's accustomed rule or principle. Chiefly *Sc. Obs.*

1541 WYATT *Let. to Privy Counc.* Poems (1858) p. xxiv, If these be the matters that may bring me into suspect, me semeth..that the credit that an Ambassador hath, or ought to have, might well discharge as great stretches as these. 1689 EARL OF CRAWFORD in *Leven & Melv. Papers* (Bannatyne Club) 319 Mr. Aird, who is represented as a man of great piety, and turned out by a streach. *a* 1714 G. LOCKHART in *L. Papers* (1817) I. 212 Such a proposal had actually been made; and even supposing it were otherwise, it was not the first time they had made greater stretches with a design that good might come of it. 1715 BURNET *Own Time* (1766) II. 29 It was an unheard of stretch, to oblige men to be bound for others in matters of Religion. 1717 WODROW *Corr.* (1843) II. 264 Though it was urged in his defence, that by 'natural powers' was meant only such as hearing, reading, going to ordinances,..yet these stretches did not satisfy. 172[?] — *Hist. Suff. Ch. Scot.* II. 398 Then the Probation is summed up with much Cunning, and many Stretches. *c* 1730 BOSTON in Morrison *Mem.* xii. (1899) 381 Mr. Gordon returning to Edinburgh,..desired an interview. Whereupon I made a stretch, and went thither. 1742 KAMES *Decis. Crt. Sess. 1730–52* (1799) 61 It is therefore a stretch beyond the common law, to support a man's nomination of tutors to his children. 1776 PAINE *Com. Sense* (1791) 63 The unwarrantable stretch, likewise, which that house made in their last sitting, to gain an undue authority over the Delegates of that Province, ought to warn the people at large. how they trust power out of their own hands.

b. More explicitly: An unwarranted exercise *of* power, prerogative; a straining *of* the law.

1689 in *Acts Parlt. Scot.* (1875) XII. 64/2 The causeing perseu and forfault severall persones upon streitches of old and absolute Lawes. 1693 *Apol. Clergy Scot.* 25 A stretch of Arbitrary Power, never heard of in Scotland. 1718 HICKES & NELSON *Kettlewell* II. xlii. 145 None could be more zealous in putting the King upon the Stretch of his Prerogative. 1757 HUME *Hist. Gt. Brit., Chas. II*, ii. II. 187 His ministers ..could not forbear making very extraordinary stretches of authority. 1759 BP. HURD *Moral Dialogues* iv. 133 Her [Q. Eliz.] parliaments were disposed to wave all disputes about the stretch of her prerogative, from a sense of their own and the common danger. 1766 BLACKSTONE *Comm.* II. v. 69 Neither himself [Chas. I] nor his people seemed able to distinguish between the arbitrary stretch, and the legal exertion, of prerogative. 1771 GOLDSM. *Hist. Eng.* IV. 14 These stretches of power naturally led the lords and commons into some degree of opposition. 1818 CRUISE *Digest* (ed. 2) V. 449 The determination of the Judges..,so far from being considered as an unwarrantable stretch of their authority, must on the contrary be acknowledged to have been a measure of great public utility. 1849 HT. MARTINEAU *Hist. Peace* IV. xii. (1877) III. 95 Public sympathy was with them, as with men punished by a stretch of law for a nominal offence. 1874 GREEN *Short Hist.* viii. § 5. 510 As daring a stretch of the prerogative superseded what was known as Knox's Liturgy.

c. An exaggerated statement. *On the stretch* (nonce-phrase): using exaggeration, 'drawing the long bow'.

1710–11 SWIFT *Jrnl. to Stella* 1 Jan., That's a d—ned lie of your chimney being carried to the next house with the wind...My Lord Hertford would have been ashamed of such a stretch. 1782 MRS. COWLEY *Which is the Man?* IV. ii, Hyperbole! What's that? Why, that's as much as to say, a stretch. 1834 MARRYAT *P. Simple* xxxi, It a'n't that I might not stretch now and then,..but..he's always on the stretch...He never tells the truth except by mistake.

d. An exercise of imagination, understanding, etc. beyond ordinary limits.

1781 MME. D'ARBLAY *Diary* June, [His] supposed enmity to Merlin is, indeed, a stretch of that absurd creature's imagination. 1803 *Med. Jrnl.* IX. 26 It requires no great stretch of understanding to know that the same practice will not answer in all climates. 1828 LYTTON *Pelham* lxx, Every day the ministers are filling up the minor places, and it requires a great stretch of recollection in a politician to remember the absent. 1839 J. MARTINEAU *Stud. Christianity* iii. (1858) 111 But this was a stretch of charity too great for any Hebrew. 1841 DICKENS *Barn. Rudge* i, Indeed it needed no very great stretch of fancy to detect in it other resemblances to humanity. 1862 *Sporting Mag.* Nov. 329 It required no great stretch of intellect to acquit the officers honourably on the evidence.

e. An undue extension of scope or application. *Stretch of language*: the use of words or expressions with undue latitude of meaning.

1849 GROTE *Greece* II. xxxix. (1862) III. 412 This bold stretch of exegetical conjecture. 1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* II. App. 431 With reference to this hypothesis, I will only say that it is a bold stretch of analogies. 1875 W. K. CLIFFORD *Lect. & Ess.* (1879) I. 229 It is only by a stretch of language that we can be said to desire that which is inconceivable. 1905 MISS BROUGHTON *Waif's Progr.* xiv. 164 It could not, by any stretch of language, be considered a good thing for any young woman to be taken under the..wing of Lady Tennington.

3. *Furthest, utmost stretch*: the utmost degree to which a thing can be extended. Now *rare* or *Obs.*

1558 in Feuillerat *Revels Q. Eliz.* (1908) Table I, For castinge and ymployeinge of the stuffe to the furdeste stretche of sarvice. 1687 ATTERBURY *Answ. Consid. Spirit Luther* 45 Quotations..which, in their utmost stretch, can signify no more then that Luther lay under severe agonies of mind. 1712 GRANVILLE *Unnatural Flights Poetry* 65 This is the utmost Stretch that Nature can, And all beyond is fulsome, false, and vain. 1713 *Guardian* No. 147 ¶ 2 He did not exceed, but went to the utmost stretch of his Income. 1715 POPE *Iliad* I. Pref. B 1, The utmost Stretch of human Study, Learning, and Industry,..can never attain to this. 1741 RICHARDSON *Pamela* (1824) I. 199 She shall know it all, said he; and I defy the utmost stretch of your malice.

†b. Utmost degree, acme. *Obs.*

1742 RICHARDSON *Pamela* III. 182 [It] was the very Stretch of shameless Wickedness.

4. Strain or tension of mental or bodily powers; strained exertion. (Figurative use of 1 g.) Chiefly in phrases.

†a. *On the stretch, on her stretches* (said of a hawk): making a long swooping flight. *Obs.*

1622 FLETCHER *Prophetess* IV. iv, And scatter 'em, as an high towring Falcon on her Stretches, severs the fearfull fowl. 1636 MASSINGER *Bashful Lover* III. ii, See with what winged speed they climb the hill Like Falcons on the stretch to seise the prey.

b. † *At the full stretch* (obs.), *upon full stretch*, *on the stretch*: with strain of the physical powers; chiefly, making full speed.

1697 DRYDEN *Æneis* V. 259 They row At the full stretch, and shake the Brazen Prow. 1711 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 56 ¶ 3 He saw the Apparition of a milk-white Steed, with a young Man on the Back of it, advancing upon full Stretch after the Souls of about an hundred Beagles. 1768 J. BYRON *Narr. Patagonia* (ed. 2) 221 While their horse is upon full stretch. 1797 S. JAMES *Narr. Voy.* 175 To return to our own ship. We were now on the stretch for Europe. 1839 *Laws of Coursing* in *Youatt's Dog* (1845) App. 262 She [a hare] turns of her own accord to gain ground homeward, when both dogs are on the stretch after her. 1893 STEVENSON *Catriona* xvi, About fifty seconds after two I was in the saddle and on the full stretch for Stirling.

c. *On the* (†*full*) *stretch*: in a state of mental strain, making intense effort. So *to put*, *set upon the* (*full*) *stretch*.

1683 DRYDEN *Life Plutarch* 24 His memory was always on the stretch to receive..their discourses. 1691 NORRIS *Pract. Disc.* (1716) II. 98 We cannot live always upon the Stretch; our Faculties will not bear constant Pleasure any more than constant Pain. 1692 ATTERBURY *Serm.* (Ps. l. 14) (1726) I. 23 The Praise and Admiration of God..sets our Faculties upon their full Stretch. 1711 STEELE *Spect.* No. 38 ¶ 1 You might see his Imagination on the Stretch to find out something uncommon. 1722 DE FOE *Col. Jack* (1840) 318 This set all..heads upon the stretch, to inquire. 1768–74 TUCKER *Lt. Nat.* (1834) II. 361 Craft and cozenage..put our faculties to the stretch, and lay the foundation of prudence. 1771 WESLEY *Wks.* (1872) V. 272 He is on the full Stretch to save their Souls. 1778 SIR J. REYNOLDS *Disc.* viii. (1876) 443 The writers of every age and country, where taste has begun to decline,..are always on the stretch; never deviate..a moment from the pompous and the brilliant. 1796 *Ann. Reg., Hist.* 108 His thoughts were uninterruptedly on the stretch. 1862 STANLEY *Jew. Ch.* (1877) I. xiv. 277 The inmates of Sisera's harem..are on the stretch of expectation for the sight of..their champion. 1866 A. HALLIDAY in Dickens etc., *Mugby Junction, Engine-driver* 26/2 Me and my stoker were on the stretch all the time, doing two things at once—attending to the engine and looking out. 1884 H. A. TAINE in *Contemp. Rev.* Oct. 521 His business keeps his mind on the stretch.

d. Exhausting effort or strain of mind. Now *rare*.

1791 BOSWELL *Johnson* I. Advt. ¶ 2 The stretch of mind and prompt assiduity by which so many conversations were preserved. 1814 JANE AUSTEN *Mansf. Park* ix, The greater length of the service, however, I admit to be sometimes too hard a stretch upon the mind. *c* 1815 — *Persuas.* (1818) II. viii. 148 The horror and distress you were involved in—the stretch of mind, the wear of spirits. 1859 BOYD *Recreat. Country Parson* iii. 117 Mental work is much the greater stretch; and it is strain, not time, that kills.

†5. *To give stretch to*: to allow to act unchecked. *Obs.*

1777 BURGOYNE *Proclam.* in *Gentl. Mag.* XLVII. 360/2, I have but to give stretch to the Indian forces under my direction,..to overtake the hardened enemies of Great-Britain.

6. Extent in time or space.

a. An unbroken continuance of some one employment, occupation, or condition, during a period of time; an uninterrupted 'spell' of work, rest, prosperity, etc. Chiefly in phrase *at one* or *a stretch*, *upon* or *on a stretch*, rarely *at the stretch*: without intermission, continuously (during the time specified or implied). [Cf. G. *in einer strecke.*]

1689 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 2451/3 So [we] continued Battering upon a Strech till five in the Afternoon. 1693 NORRIS *Pract. Disc.* (1711) III. 134 God will then proceed to the highest actuation of the Soul..so that her whole Life shall be but one constant Stretch of Thought. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* III. 163 They will trot..between fifty and sixty English miles, at one stretch. 1799 J. KING in *Corr. W. Fowler* (1907) 32 We are much in at Sunderland. We are eight nights in upon a stretch, out of twenty one. 1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* ix, The halt's gane now, unless he has to walk ower mony miles at a stretch. 1825 WATERTON *Wand. S. Amer.* I. (1903) 2 Sometimes you see level ground on each side of you, for two or three hours at a stretch. 1834 MARRYAT *P. Simple* vii, He can snore for fourteen hours on a stretch. 1841 THACKERAY *Gt. Hoggarty Diamond* i, We always played seven hours on a stretch. 1851 MACAULAY in Trevelyan *Life & Lett.* (1880) II. 215, I read the last five books at a stretch. 1857 TROLLOPE *Barchester T.* xiii, I saw her talking to him for half an hour at the stretch. 1879 'OUIDA' *Cecil Castlemaine* 7 His rider had been in boot and saddle twenty-four hours at the stretch. 1885 *Law Times* LXXIX. 206/1 He was unable..to walk more than five miles at a stretch. 1887 JESSOPP *Arcady* vii. 214 He..gave us..accounts of the number of hours he had kept on working at a stretch. 1900 *Law Rep., App. Cases* 405 The net remains fixed for periods as long as six hours at a stretch.

b. An extent in duration; a (more or less long) period of time.

1698 NORRIS *Pract. Disc.* (1707) IV. 216 Could I lengthen out my span to an Antediluvian stretch, what should I be the better? 1865 DICKENS *Mut. Fr.* IV. xiv, If you..had been fretted out of..your mind, for a stretch of months together. 1892 E. REEVES *Homeward Bound* 102 We now have a stretch of eleven days before us, in which..we shall cross the Equator..and reach a new world at Colombo. 1905 TREVES *Other Side of Lant.* II. xvii. (1906) 118 To be still unforgotten after a stretch of years.

c. A continuous journey or march. Now *colloq.*

1699 BENTLEY *Phal.* 441 To go from Syracuse to Alexandria and back again in a Morning, and on foot too over the Sea, is a stretch something extraordinary. 1715 ADDISON *Freeholder* No. 3 ¶ 2 Upon this alarm we made incredible stretches towards the South, to gain the Fastnesses of Preston. 1819 SCOTT *Leg. Montrose* xviii, I made a stretch of four miles with six of my people in the direction of Inverlochy. 1840 DICKENS *Old C. Shop* i, 'A long way, wasn't it, Kit?' said the little old man. 'Why then, it was a goodish stretch, master,' returned Kit.

d. *Naut.* A continuous sail on one tack.

1675 H. TEONGE *Diary* (1825) 42 All the last night wee were becalmed, but this morning a fayre gale, which carrys us smoothly over this longe stretch. 1688 in *Third Collect. Papers Pres. Junct. Affairs* 2 Next day, upon Tide of Ebb, they made a Stretch, and made a Watch above a League, and then stood Westward. 1823 W. SCORESBY *Jrnl.* 131 In the evening, we made a stretch toward the land. 1840 R. H. DANA *Bef. Mast* xxxvi, Two long stretches..brought us into the roads. 1845 J. COULTER *Adv. Pacific* iv. 31 Having made a stretch off the coast about forty miles, we had a fine view of the tops of the Andes, covered with snow. 1883 CLARK RUSSELL *Sailors' Lang.* s.v., A long stretch is to sail a long distance on one tack.

e. Extent in length; a continuous length or distance; a continuous portion of a journey, of the length of a road, river, or the like.

1661 HICKERINGILL *Jamaica* 36 Some of them (I have seen) six or seven yards long, but their usual stretch, may bate the half. 1791 NEWTE *Tour Eng. & Scot.* 294 The canal is carried on in almost a straight line for 2000 toises, all cut through a rock, which occasioned so great an expence, that in this stretch of the canal, they found themselves obliged to restrict the breadth of the upper surface of the water to five toises. *Ibid.* 297 This arch was thrown over in three stretches, having only a centre of thirty feet, which was shifted on small rollers from one stretch to another. 1872 'MARK TWAIN' *Roughing It* xviii. (1882) 99 It was nothing but a watering depot in the midst of the stretch of sixty-eight miles. 1876 HARDY *Hand of Ethelberta* xxxi, There was, as the crow flies, a stretch of thirty-five miles between the two places. 1885 BRET HARTE *Maraja* iii, Dead leaves of roses ..lay thick on the empty stretch of brown verandah. 1908 G. CORMACK *Egypt in Asia* ii. 18 This range [Lebanon] has an unbroken stretch of a hundred miles.

f. An expanse of land or water (usually, of uniform character).

1829 Scott *Anne of G.* xv, You will see a species of thicket, or stretch of low bushes. 1850 D. G. Mitchell *Reveries Bachelor* 151, I see a broad stretch of meadow. 1851 Whittier *In Peace* 9 A slumberous stretch of mountain-land. 1873 Black *P'cess Thule* i. 3 He may have recalled mechanically the names of these stretches of water. 1885 *Manch. Exam.* 16 June 4/6 To dwell at Windsor, with its wide stretches of park and woodland and river. 1898 'H. S. Merriman' *Roden's Corner* xxxii. 337 The wide stretch of sand was entirely deserted when they emerged from the narrow streets. 1912 J. L. Myres *Dawn of Hist.* ix. 203 Macedon and Thrace, which also offer some stretches of pasture.

7. *slang.* a. A yard (measure).

1811 *Lex. Balatron.* 1812 J. H. Vaux *Flash Dict.* s.v., Five or ten stretch signifies five or ten yards.

b. A term of hard labour; twelve months as a term of imprisonment.

1821 *Life D. Haggart* (ed. 2) 138, I was then sentenced to lag for seven stretch. 1857 'Ducange Anglicus' *Vulgar Tongue* 21 *Stretch*, hard labour in prison. *Th[ieves].* *Stretch*, twelve months hard labour. *Th.* 1888 'R. Boldrewood' *Robbery under Arms* iv, There's a lot of law! How did I learn it? I had plenty of time in Berrima Gaol—worse luck—my first stretch.

8. *Racing.* (See quot. 1895.)

1895 G. J. Manson *Sporting Dict.*, *Stretch*, the straight or nearly straight sides of a course as distinguished from the curves or bends. 1903 *Publ. Ledger* (Philad.) 24 June 13/3 Mexoana..took command in the stretch and won by two lengths from the favorite.

9. *Mining* and *Geol.* Course or direction of a seam or a stratum with regard to the points of the compass: = Streak *sb.* 5, Strike *sb.* 8.

1799 Kirwan *Geol. Ess.* 294 The stretch or course of seams of coal, and of their attendant strata, is commonly between E. and W. or N.E. and S.W. 1805 Jameson *Min. Descr. Dumfries* 37 If we wish to discover the general stretch and dip of the strata of an extensive district.

10. *Spinning.* The length of spun yarn which is wound on the spindles at each journey of the mule-carriage towards the roller-beam: = Draw *sb.* 6.

1835 Ure *Philos. Manuf.* 312 The mule..makes in general three stretches in a minute. 1891 R. Marsden *Cotton Spinning* (ed. 4) 197 This wheel is an intermittent spinning wheel, spinning a 'draw' or 'stretch', so called, probably, from its being the length obtainable by the outstretching of the spinster's arm.

Stretch (stretʃ), *v.* Forms: 1 **streccan**, 3 **strecchen**, 3–6 **strec(c)he**, 4 **strecce**, **strechche**, 4–5 **strech**, 4–7 **stretche**, 5 **strac(c)he**, 5–6 **stratche**, 6 **stratch**, **streych**, 6–7 **streache**, **streatch**, 7 **streach**, 4– **stretch**. *Pa. t. a.* 1 **strehte**, 3 **strǽhte**, **streahte**, **strehte**, **streiȝhte**, **strepte**, 3–4 **streihte**, 4 **streiȝt(e**, **streyght(e**, **streyt**, 4–5 **streight(e**, **streyȝt(e**, **streght(e**; *β.* 3–4 **strahte**, 4 **straughte**, **strawght**, **strawhte**, **strawte**, 4–5 **straght(e**, **strauȝt(e**, **strauhte**, **strawȝte**, 4, 6–7 **straucht**, 5 **strawcht**, 5, 7 **straught**; *γ.* 4 **stretchide**, 4–5 **stretchid**, 5 **stratched**, **strechid**, 6 **streched**, 6–7 **strecht**, 6–8 **stretcht**, 5– **stretched**. *Pa. pple. a.* 2–3 **istreiht**, 3 **ystreith**, 4 **streyhte**, 4–5 (i)**streiȝt**, 4–5 **streight(e**, **streiht**, 5 **streght**, **ystreight**, (*Sc.* **strecht**); *β.* 2–4 **istraht(e**, 3–5 **straught**, 4 **straȝt**, (i)**straut**, **strawght**, 4–5 (i)**strauȝt**, 5 *Sc.* **straucht**, 6 **strauth**; *γ.* 4 **strecchid**, **stretchid**, 5 **straccched**, 6–7 **stretcht**, 5– **stretched**. See also I-stretch, Streek *vbs.* [Com. WGer.: OE. *streccan* = OFris. *strekka*, MLG., MDu. *strecken* (mod.Du. *strekken*), OHG. *strecchen* (MHG., mod.G. *strecken*); the MSw. *sträkkia* (mod.Sw. *sträcka*), Norw. *strekkja*, *strekka*, Da. *strække* are from LG. The WGer. type is **strakkjan*, f. **strakko-* straight, rigid, stiff (MLG., MDu., mod.Du. *strak*, OHG. *stracch*, mod.G. *strack*), whence **strakkǣjan* (OHG. *stracchēn*) to have extension, be spread out. The root may be a metathetic var. of that found in Stark *a.*; the OE. *stræc*, *strec*, *strǽc*, severe, harsh, is perh. unconnected.]

I. To place at full length.

1. *trans.* To prostrate (oneself, one's body); to extend (one's limbs) in a reclining posture; *refl.* to recline at full length. Also with † *along*, † *down* (obs.), *out*. Phrase, *to stretch one's length.*

c 900 *Bæda's Hist.* iv. xxi, He..hine wæs in ȝebed strecende [L. *prosternens se*] æt liehoman þæs Godes weres. *c* 1200 *Vices & Virtues* 63 Þat he lið istreiht upe ðare bare hærðe. *c* 1205 Lay. 25994 He..adun lai bi þan fure & his leomen strahte. *c* 1325 *Chron. Eng.* (Ritson) 756 So schert he [the stone coffin] was ywroht, Istraht ne myhte he ligge noht. 1387–8 T. Usk *Test. Love* ii. xiv. (Skeat) 99 And these wordes sayd, she streyght her on length, and rested a whyle. *c* 1480 Henryson *Fox, Wolf & Cadger* 100 He..strawcht him doun in middis of the way, As he wer deid He feinȝeit him. 1481 Caxton *Godfrey* cciv. 300 They fylle doun flat and stratched in the chirches they kyssed..therthe. 1597 Shaks. *2 Hen. IV*, iii. i. 10 Why rather (Sleepe) lyest thou in smoakie Cribs, Vpon vneasie Pallads stretching thee. 1600 — *A. Y. L.* iii. ii. 253 There lay hee stretch'd along like a Wounded knight. 1697 Dryden *Virg. Past., Ecl.* i. 5 Stretch'd at Ease you sing your happy Loves. *a* 1700 Evelyn *Diary* 10 Nov. 1644, There is a chayre to sleepe in with the leggs stretcht out. 1750 Gray *Elegy* 103 There at the foot of yonder nodding beech..His listless length at noontide would he stretch. 1766 Goldsm. *Vicar* xxviii, While I was stretched on my straw. 1794 Mrs. Radcliffe *Myst. Udolpho* I, On the hearth were several dogs stretched in sleep. 1799 Wordsw. *Poet's Epit.* 59 Here stretch thy body at full length. 1809 Malkin *Gil Blas* vi. i. (Rtldg.) 213 We stretched out length upon the grass, and soon fell fast asleep. 1840 Dickens *Old C. Shop* v, Daniel Quilp..climbed on to the desk..and stretching his short length upon it went to sleep. *a* 1852 M. Arnold *Lines Kensington Gard.* 22 Scarce fresher is the mountain sod Where the tired angler lies, stretch'd out. 1874 L. Stephen *Hours in Library* (1892) I. vii. 237 He was generally to be found stretched..upon a rug before the fire. 1908 R. Bagot *A. Cuthbert* vii. 77 He stretched himself on his desk-chair.

b. To lay (a person) flat. Also (now *dial.*), to straighten the limbs (of a dead person); to 'lay out' for burial (= Streek *v.* 2).

a 1225 *Juliana* 26 (Royal MS.) Þe reue..grede: strupeð hire steort naket & strecheð hire on þe eorðe. *c* 1275 *Signs of Death* 8 in *O. E. Misc.*, On flore me þe strecchep And leyþ þe on bere. *c* 1275 *Serving Christ* 6 Ibid., And þolede doun vor his duþe, þat he wes ded strauht. *a* 1375 *Joseph Arim.* 519 Þe stiward of Eualak..lai streiht on þe feld, striken to þe eorþe. 1612 Shelton *Quix.* iii. i. (1620) 117 Striking me downe on the place where I yet lie straught. 1697 Dryden *Æneis* v. 495 And by the Stroak of his resistless Hand, [he] Stretch'd the vast Bulk upon the yellow Sand. 1757 W. Wilkie *Epigoniad* iii. 67 Andremon first, ..Of life bereft, lay stretch'd upon the sand. 1839 Carleton *Fardorougha* vi, Confusion to the ring he'll ever put an her! I'd see her stretched [*foot-n.* dead] first. 1847 Prescott *Peru* iv. v. (1850) II. 341 The struggle lasted for some minutes, till both of Pizarro's pages were stretched by his side. 1902 S. E. White *Blazed Trail* xxx, He rushed on Dyer, and with one full, clean in-blow stretched him stunned on the dock. 1907 J. H. Patterson *Man-Eaters of Tsavo* v. 51, I..found seven badly injured men lying stretched out on the ground.

† c. To spread out on the ground; to make (a bed). *Obs.*

a 1000 *Ags. Gosp.* Mark xi. 8 Manega hyra reaf on þone weȝ strehton [L. *straverunt*]. *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 3 Heo nomen heore clapes..and strehiten [? *read* streihten] under þa assa fet. *c* 1475 *Partenay* 1005 Forth anon the bede [was] streight And made redy.

† d. *Long streight, straught*: extended at length.

? *a* 1366 Chaucer *Rom. Rose* 1021 Hir tresses yelowe, and longe straughten, Unto hir heles doun they raughten. *c* 1374 — *Troylus* iv. 1163 He rist him up, and long streight he hir leyde. *a* 1400 *Octouian* 959 Thus they shall lye long straught Or that they go. 1609 J. Davies (Heref.) *Holy Rood* A 4 b, Thinke that thou seest him on his face longe straught In Praier, and in Passion sweating Bloud. 1611 — *Sco. Folly* clxvi. 79 O Sweete, deere sweete,..Quoth Citheris (long straught) vnto her deere.

† e. *intr.* for *refl.* To fall to the ground; also, to lie *down* at full length. *Obs.*

c 1400 *Song Roland* 769 Stedes in that stound strechid to ground. 1828 Scott *F. M. Perth* xxiv, Stretch down in the stern of that boat, and let me wrap this cloak about thee.

2. To extend (the arms) laterally; to expand (the wings), esp. for flight.

c 1205 Lay. 28007 Arður þa up aras and strehte his armes. *a* 1240 *Ureisun* in *O. E. Hom.* I. 185 Hwi nam ich in þin earmes. In þin earmes swa istrahte and isprad on rode. 1382 Wyclif 3 *Kings* vi. 27 Forsothe the cherubyn straȝten out her weengis. *c* 1430 *Pilgr. Lyf Manhode* iv. xxxv. (1869) 194 And hadde wynges redy streiht for to flee..to þe skyes. 1692 Prior *Ode Imit. Hor.* iii. ii. 107 Let Fear look back, and stretch her hasty Wing, Impatient to secure a base Retreat. 1742 R. Seagrave *Hymn*, Rise, my Soul, and stretch thy Wings. 1814 Cary *Dante, Purg.* xi. 39 That ye have power To stretch your wing, which e'en to your desire Shall lift you.

b. Of a tree: To extend (its branches).

1382 Wyclif *Ecclus.* xxiv. 22, I as a terebynt streiȝte out [1388 stretchide forth] my braunchis. *c* 1386 Chaucer *Knt.'s T.* 2058 The fyr..That..twenty fadme of brede the armes straughte. 1815 Shelley *Alastor* 562 A pine, Rock-rooted, stretched athwart the vacancy Its swinging boughs.

3. *refl.* To straighten oneself; to rise to full height († also with *up*); also, to draw up the body, as from a stooping, cramped, or relaxed posture; to straighten the body and extend the arms, as a manifestation of weariness or langour (chiefly coupled with *yawn*).

c 1325 *Chron. Eng.* (Ritson) 772 And a cripel eke anon Ther him strahte ant myhte gon. *c* 1384 Chaucer *H. Fame* 1373 She Hir tho so wonderliche streighte, That with hir feet she therthe reighte, And with hir heed she toucbed hevene. 1470–85 Malory *Arthur* xx. xxi. 836 Than he stratched hym vp & stode nere syr Gauwayn. 1509 Hawes *Past. Pleas.* xxxv. (Percy Soc.) 182 He stretched hym up and lyft his axe a lofte. 1550 Lyndesay *Sqr. Meldrum* 374 He lap vpon his Cursour wicht, And straucht him in his stirroppis richt. 1563 Sackville *Induct. Mirr. Mag.* xix, I strecht my selfe, and sfrayt my hart reuiues. 1590 *Cobler Canterb.* 69 At length the Farmar awoke, and stretching himself, finding he was naked, [etc.]. 1602 W. Vaughan *Direct. Health* (1626) 165 First of all in the morning when you are about to rise, stretch your selfe strongly. 1639 S. Du Verger tr. *Camus' Admir. Events* 3 Wrastlers, who stretch themselves up on their feet, so much the stronglier, by how much their adversary is tall. 1714 Mandeville *Fable. Bees* (1733) II. 340 Stretching ourselves before others, whilst we are yawning, is an absolute breach of good manners. 1829 Scott *Anne of G.* x, Yawning and stretching himself like one whose slumbers had been broken by no welcome summons. 1858 Lytton *What will he do?* iii. iv, Mop [the dog]..rose and stretched himself. 1888 'R. Boldrewood' *Robbery under Arms* xxii, Jim soon woke up and stretched himself.

b. *intr.* for *refl.*

a 1586 [see Stretching *vbl. sb.*]. 1614 J. Taylor (Water P.) *Nipping Abuses* D 1, The seuenth was Sloth,..Who being cald, did gape, and yawne, and stretch. 1704 Cibber *Careless Husb.* v. 62 And by that time you stretcht, and Gap'd him Heartily out of Patience.

c. *To stretch one's legs*: to straighten the lower limbs from a sitting position; usually, to relieve by walking the stiffness or fatigue caused by sitting; to take a walk for exercise.

1607 A. Gorges in Purchas *Pilgrims* x. xiv. (1625) IV. 1951 [We] went ashoare, to stretch our legs in the Isle of Flores. 1632 Lithgow *Trav.* v. 205, I would often fetch a walke, to stretch my legs, that were stifled with a stumbling beast. 1653 Walton *Angler* i. 1, I have stretch'd my legs up Totnam Hil to overtake you. 1779 G. Keate *Sketches fr. Nat.* (ed. 2) II. 208, I was glad after so long a confinement, to stretch my legs, and determined to walk home. 1838 Dickens *Nich. Nick.* v, Mr. Squeers got down at almost every stage—to stretch his legs, as he said. 1872 Earl of Pembroke & G. H. Kingsley *S. Sea Bubbles* i. 36 About every hour we stopped to change horses, when we took the opportunity to stretch our legs. 1899 Rodway *In Guiana Wilds* 30 Allan..began to feel cramped from remaining so long in one position; he wanted to stretch his legs.

† d. *intr.* To strut. In quot. with *it*. *Obs.*

1619 H. Hutton *Follies Anat.* D 4, Cornuted Phœbe, in her coach, doth prance: Bacchus..doth stretch it on the stage.

II. To put forward, protrude.

4. *trans.* To put forth, extend (the hand, an arm or leg, the neck, head); † to extend, hold out (a weapon, a staff). Also (now almost always) with adv., *forth*, *out*, *forward*.

a 1000 *Ags. Gosp.*, *John* xxi. 18 Þonne þu ealdest þu strecst [L. *extendes*] þine handa. *c* 1205 Lay. 21227 He strǽhte scaft stærcne. *a* 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 2233 Streche forð þine swire scharp sweord to underfonne. 1375 Barbour *Bruce* ii. 348 Thai straucht thar speris. *c* 1380 Wyclif *Sel. Wks.* II. 198 Stretche out þin hond. 1382 — *Exod.* x. 13 And Moyses strauȝte out the ȝerde vpon the loond of Egipte. 1390 Gower *Conf.* I. 195 And thanne hire handes to the hevene Sche strawhte. *c* 1430 *Pilgr. Lyf Manhode* iii. xxxvii. (1869) 155 She..a yens me strauhte hire handes. 1577 Kendall *Flowers of Epigr.* 107 His snout was stretched forth. 1579 Gosson *Sch. Abuse* (Arb.) 50 God..that stretcheth out his armes from morning to euening to couer his children. *c* 1611 Chapman *Iliad* vii. 164 He stretcht his hand, and into it, the Herald put the lot. 1696 R. H. *Sch. Recreat.* 68 [Fencing] To Elonge. This is to Streach forward your Right Arm and Leg, and [etc.]. 1777 Potter *Æschylus, Prometh. Chain'd* 62 To stretch my supplicating hands. 1784 Cowper *Task* ii. 825 So when the Jewish leader stretch'd his arm,..a race obscene..came forth Polluting Egypt. 1804 Abernethy *Surg. Observ.* 189 He stretched out his right arm when required. 1812 H. & J. Smith *Rej. Addr., Playho. Musings* 27 These stretch'd forth a pole From the wall's pinnacle. 1812 Byron *Ch. Har.* ii. lxviii, The Suliotes stretch'd the welcome hand, Led them o'er rocks and past the dangerous swamp. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* I. ii. vi, Swindlery and Blackguardism have stretched hands across the Channel. 1838 Dickens *Nich. Nick.* xiv, The guests..stretched their necks forward and listened attentively. 1847 W. C. L. Martin *Ox* 132/2 The animal staggers.., its flanks heave, the head is stretched out. 1851 Thackeray *Eng. Hum.* i. (1876) 153 His hand was constantly stretched out to relieve an honest man. 1860 Tyndall *Glac.* i. xi. 79, I stretched my hand towards him. 1904 Kath. C. Thurston *J. Chilcote* iii, (1912) 29 Moving straight forward, he paused by the grate and stretched his hands to the blaze.

b. *absol.* To extend one's hand, reach *for* something.

a 1375 *Joseph Arim.* 544 Sone þenne he starte vp and streiȝte to his bache. 1775 Goldsm. tr. *Scarron's Com. Romance* II. 149 Whenever they stretched for the holy water, a thousand hands made tenders of their service.

† c. *intr.* Of an arm: To be extended. *Obs.*

c 1350 *Will. Palerne* 2957 Of 3our riȝt arm þat ouer rome streyt, I se wel þe signifiaunce. 1765 Angelo *Sch. Fencing* 7 When the arm stretches forth in order to thrust, the foot must follow at the same time.

5. To hold out, hand, reach (something). Now only *Naut.* in phrase (see quot. 1644).

c 1450 *Merlin* xxxii. 639 Than he drough oute a letter.. and straught it to the Kynge. 1644 Manwayring *Seamans Dict.* 103 When they goe to hoyse a yard, or hale the sheate, they say, stretch fore-ward the Hilliards, or the sheates: that is deliver along that part (which they must hale by) into the mens hands. 1849 Lytton *K. Arthur* vi. xlix, 'Sir Host,' said Gawaine, as he stretched his platter, 'I'll first the pie discuss, and then the matter.'

† b. *fig.* (*a*) To direct (one's hope, trust) to an object. (*b*) To hold out, extend (relief) to a person. *Obs.*

c 1000 Ælfric *Hom.* I. 252 Strece ðærto þinne hiht. *c* 1400 *Apol. Loll.* 91 Þei þat were helid were not helid sympli bi þe touching, but for þe trust þat þei strechid finaly in to God. 1711 in *10th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. v. 184 The potentats of that religion have stood idle..without stretching the least relief.

† 6. To set *up* (a standard). *Obs.*

c 1400 *Sege Jerus.* 21/385 (E. E. T. S.) He streyȝt up a standard. *c* 1400 *Melayne* 1185 All [nyghte onþe þe bent þay bade With standardes euen vp streghte.

† 7. To emit (rays, streams); also *intr.* of a light, to be emitted in a certain direction. *Obs.*

c 1205 Lay. 17886 Þe leome þa strehte west riht a seouen bæmen wes idiht. *Ibid.* 17978 Þe oðer leome þe strahte [*c* 1275 streahte] west wunder ane lihte þat bið a dobter. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 915 And as he [*sc.* the dragon] tilt out his tung with his tethe grym, He straght fro hym stremes all of styth venym. *c* 1400 *Brut* i. 64 By þe beem þat stracchet towarde Irland, is bitokenede þat ȝe shul bigete a douȝter þat shal be quene of Irland.

III. To direct a course.

† 8. To direct (one's course). Also *refl.* of a person. *Obs.*

a 1225 *St. Marher.* 9 He [the dragon] strahte him ant sturede toward tis meoke meiden. *c* 1350 *Will. Palerne* 3279 He..streiȝt him in-to the stabul þere þe stede stod. 1390 Gower *Conf.* II. 296 He seith noght ones 'grant merci', Bot strauhte him forth to the cite. *Ibid.* III. 313 Towardes Tharse his cours he straghte.

† b. To direct the course of (a ship, etc.); *absol.* to steer. *Obs.*

c 1205 Lay. 2887 Brecon þa strenges þe he mid strahte & he feol to folde. *Ibid.* 9750 To Tottenas heo come, strahten scipen to þan londe & eoden uppen stranden.

9. *intr.* To make one's way (rapidly or with effort). In later use coloured by sense 20 b.

c 1205 Lay. 27589 His cnihtes..mid muchelere strengðe þurh þat feht stræhten. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* A. 971 To strech in þe strete þou has no vygour. *Ibid.* B. 905 Loke ȝe stemme no stepe, bot strechez on faste. *c* 1350 *Will. Palerne* 1113 Strecches forþ wiþ ȝour ost, stinteþ no lenger. 1390 Gower *Conf.* II. 258 The Sail goth up, and forth thei strauhte. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 1354 Thai.. Streght into stretis and into stronge houses. *c* 1430 *Chev. Assigne* 220 The grypte eyþur a staffe in here honde & on here wey strawȝte. 1697 Dryden *Virg. Georg.* I. 496 Crying Cormorants forsake the Sea, And stretching to the Covert wing their way. 1735 Somerville *Chase* II. 13 Then o'er the Lawn he [the Roe-buck] bounds, o'er the high Hills Stretches secure. 1810 Scott *Lady of L.* III. xiii, Stretch onward in thy fleet career! 1860 Thackeray *Lovel* iv. (1861) 156, I stretch over Putney Heath, and my spirit resumes its tranquillity. 1861 Whyte Melville *Good for N.* xxvi. II. 2 Stretching away at the best pace a wiry little Australian horse..can command, rides an Englishman in the normal state of hurry peculiar to his countrymen.

†10. Of a stream: To run, flow swiftly. *Obs.*

c 1205 Lay. 27476 Strahten after stretes blodie stremes.

11. *Naut.* To sail (esp. under crowd of canvas) continuously in one direction. Also with advs.

1687 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 2251/4 The headmost..stretched to Windward, and there lay pecking at us, whilest his Companion was doing the same a Stern. 1726 Shelvocke *Voy. round World* 388, I stretched over for California. 1719 De Foe *Crusoe* I. (Globe) 142 Just as I had set my Mast and Sail, and the Boat began to stretch away, I saw [etc.]. 1776 Cook *2nd Voy.* III. iii. II. 27 Then we tacked and stretched in for the island till near sun-set. 1809 Collingwood in *Naval Chron.* XXII. 502 Our boats stretched out. 1832 Marryat *N. Forster* v, They were stretching off the land. 1845 J. Coulter *Adv. in Pacific* xv. 244 In a few days we put to sea, and stretched away to the northward of this group [of islands]. 1884 'H. Collingwood' *Under Meteor Flag* 4 We stretched off the land, close-hauled upon the starboard tack.

IV. To (make to) reach; to give or have a certain extent.

12. *trans.* To place (something) so as to reach from one point to another, or across an interval in space.

a. with obj. something rigid. *Obs.* exc. *techn.*

a 1225 *Juliana* 56 (Royal MS.) Þat axtreo stod istraht on twa half in te twa stanene postles. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 3779 In slepe he say a ladder strauȝt Fro his heed to þe sky hit rauȝt. 1776 G. Semple *Building in Water* 50 On those set-off's stretch your Plates.

b. To extend (something flexible, e.g. a cord or curtain) from one point to another or across a space, by drawing it out more or less straight.

This may be regarded as a weakening of sense 16, from which it is often indistinguishable.

c 1430 *Pilgr. Lyf Manhode* IV. xxviii. (1869) 191 And aboue was þe mast of þe ship dressed wher vpon heeng þe seyl ystreight. 1481 Caxton *Godfrey* clxxvii. 261 They toke the hydes of the beestes that deyde and stratched them vpon thengynes for to kepe & defende them fro fyre. 1535 Coverdale *Isa.* xl. 22 That he spredeth out the heauens as a coueringe, that he stretcheth them out, as a tent to dwell in. 1697 Dryden *Virg. Georg.* I. 381 Then Weavers stretch your Stays upon the Weft. 1818 Scott *Br. Lamm.* xiv, I ought to have torn away the veil which interested persons had stretched betwixt us. 1832 Brewster *Nat. Magic* iv. 87 A black cloth should be stretched at some distance behind them. 1854 tr. *Hettner's Athens & Peloponnese* 56 The dancers take hands and form a circle; to widen which they sometimes stretch handkerchiefs from hand to hand. 1867 Smyth *Sailor's Word-bk., Stretch along a brace,* to lay it along the decks in readiness for the men to lay hold of. 1884 J. Marshall *Tennis Cuts* 85 We invented gloves; then we lined those gloves. After that, we stretched gut-strings across the gloves. 1907 J. A. Hodges *Elem. Photogr.* (ed. 6) 87 A piece of clothes line, stretched across the room.

† c. To pitch (a tent). Also with *out. Obs.*

1382 Wyclif *Gen.* xxxi. 25 And now Jacob hadde strauȝte [Vulg. *extenderat*; 1388 stretchid forth] a tabernacle in the hil. *c* 1475 *Partenay* 869 Tentes And paulons streght and pight freshly Besyde a ualey, enmyddes a plain. 1536 *Stories & Proph. Scripture* F iv b Moche wyder hath youre bryde the holy cherche stretched out and piched hyr tente. 1587 D. Fenner *Song of Songs* i. 6 For why should I become like vnto one of those Which doeth stretch out his Tent fast by the flockes of thy fellowes?

† d. To draw out in a straight line. *Obs.*

1542 Udall tr. *Erasm. Apoph.* 7 b, Yf thou stretch ye walkynges that thou vsest at home, & laye theim on length by the space of fiue or sixe dayes together y^u^ shalt easyly reache to Olympia.

13. † *refl.* (obs.) and *intr.* (rarely *passive*). To have a specified extent in space; to be continuous to a certain point, or over a certain distance or area. Also with *away, out, off.*

In mod. use ordinarily implying a large extent; where this notion is not present the synonym *extend* is now preferred.

refl. 1423 *Coventry Leet Bk.* (1907) 50 A feld of Wylliam Wymeswold stretchyng hym-selff vnto a comyn hyȝe-way, þat is callyd the Deed-lane... The said way, þat is callyd Deed-lane, þat strechithe hym-selff fro the Span-brooke toward the Hill-Crosse. *c* 1460 *Oseney Reg.* 181 And j. Rodde of londe the wich strecchith hit-Selfe In lambecotestrete By the londe of William Sweyne. 1607 T. Ridley *View Civ. & Eccles. Law* Contents A 1, That the second part hath eight bookes..That the third part stretcheth it selfe into eight bookes.

intr. 1387 Trevisa *Higden* (Rolls) II. 107 Þe kyngdom of Deyra tillede and streiȝte [L. *extendebatur*] from þe ryuer of Humber anon to þe ryuere of Tyne. 1390 Gower *Conf.* I. 137 A tree..Whos heihte straghte up to the hevene. *c* 1400 Maundev. (Roxb.) vi. 22 Araby strechez fra þe end of Caldee to þe last end of Affric. 1434 *Coventry Leet Bk.* (1907) 157 Þe weye that stretcheth fro Cheylesmore Grene vnto Somerlesowe. 1542–3 *Act* 34 & 35 *Hen. VIII* c. 12 § 1 Allso oone litle Lane streatching from the saide waie to the Signe of the Bell at Drewrye Lane ende. 1585 T. Washington tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* I. iii, Minorque hath in length 60. miles, & in circuit 150. & to the East stretcheth from Maiorque 30. miles. 1603 J. Davies (Heref.) *Microcosmos, Extasie* 238 Her nether Vesture strecht but to her calfe, Yet lower rought then that aboue, by halfe. 1608 Topsell *Serpents* 41 The place must be seared with a hot yron, so farre as the venom stretcheth. *a* 1700 Evelyn *Diary* 28 Jan. 1645, Pursuing the same noble [Appian] way..we found it to stretch from Capua to Rome itselfe. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* I. vi. (ed. 4) 97 The Andes which skirt it, and stretch quite down to the water. 1788 Mme. D'Arblay *Diary* 13 Feb., Their green benches..stretched..along the whole left side of the Hall. 1848 Dickens *Dombey* v, The dreary perspective of empty pews stretching away under the galleries. 1852 Thackeray *Esmond* I. iii, The London road stretched away towards the rising sun. 1858 Etheridge *Life A. Clarke* I. viii. (ed. 2) 128 The minister's family were to reside in the apartments on the ground-floor, the school-room stretching over all above. 1860 Tyndall *Glac.* I. vii. 47 A steep slope stretches down to the Mer de Glace. 1894 Blackmore *Perlycross* xviii. 149 Southward stretched the rich Perle valley.

passive. 1652 Nedham tr. *Selden's Mare Cl.* 39 Whatsoever is stretcht forth on this side and within Mount Amanus, is the Territorie of Israel. 1867 Lady Herbert *Cradle L.* viii. 223 On one side is stretched the great plain of Esdraelon.

b. To have its length in a specified direction. ? *Obs.*

c 1400 Maundev. (Roxb.) xxxiii. 150 Þe walle..strechez fra þe south toward þe north. 1449 in *Cal. Proc. Chanc. Eliz.* (1830) II. Pref. 54 The same hous by ground shall have a parclose walle, strecchyng along north and south durynge the seid length of lxvj fete. 1598 W. Phillip tr. *Langenes' Voy. Ships Holland E. Ind.* 11 We put out with a North wind, the Bay stretching Northeast and Southwest. 1697 Dryden *Æneis* XI. 486 A Tract of Land..Along the Tyber, stretching to the West.

c. *transf.* with reference to time. *nonce-uses.*

1606 Shaks. *Ant. & Cl.* I. i. 46 There 's not a minute of our liues should stretch Without some pleasure now. 1868 Stanley *Westm. Abb.* iv. 263 Three statesmen stretch across the first half of the eighteenth century. 1898 Jean A. Owen *Hawaii* iii. 53 The influence of these enterprising navigators is seen stretching on for some hundreds of years.

14. *fig.* †a. To have a specified measure in amount, degree, power, etc.; to be adequate for some purpose. *Obs.*

refl. *c* 1386 Chaucer *Melib.* P 3015 Youre liberal grace and mercy streccheth hem ferther in-to goodnesse, than doon oure outrageouse giltes and trespas in-to wikkednesse.

intr. *c* 1374 Chaucer *Troylus* II. 341 If ye be swich, your beautee may not strecche To make amendes of so cruel a dede. *c* 1386 — *Can. Yeom. Prol. & T.* 534 As ferforth as my konnyng may strecche.. 1418 *E. E. Wills* (1882) 43 He will that..his brother..fynde his fadir..with the profitz of the place, as ferre as they wille strecche. 1466 in *Somerset Medieval Wills* (1901) 210 And if my goodes will streche thereto I will than an honest preest have 9 marcs for a boole yere to syng. *c* 1572 J. B. *Let. to R. C.* A ij, Some..whose vnderstanding can not strecthe to a matter of so greate aduice. 1581 Mulcaster *Positions* xxxvii. (1887) 143 You would haue your childe learned, but your purse will not streatch. 1596 Shaks. *1 Hen. IV*, I. ii. 62 *Fal.* Thou hast paid al there. *Prin.* Yea and elsewhere, so farre as my Coine would stretch. *a* 1648 Ld. Herbert *Hen. VIII* (1683) 372 We will take such Commons as they have at Oxford; Which, yet, if our Purse will not stretch to maintain, for our last refuge we will go a Begging.

† b. To go a certain length in action. *Obs.*

refl. *c* 1374 Chaucer *Troylus* I. 903 For vertue streccheþ not hym self to shame.

intr. 1550 Harington tr. *Cicero's Bk. Friendship* (1562) 26 Let vs firste see this poinct, howe farre oughte loue to stretche in freendshyp [L. *quatenus amor in amicitia progredi debeat*].

† c. To have a specified extent or range of action or application. *Obs.*

refl. *c* 1449 Pecock *Repr.* v. ii. 490 Tho textis strecchen hem to viciose persoones being out of religioun, as weel as to viciose persoones in religioun. 1559 *Homilies, Charity* II. L ij b, Howe charitie streicheth [*earlier edd.* extendeth] it selfe, both to God and man, frend and foe.

intr. *c* 1380 Wyclif *Sel. Wks.* III. 420 þis charite of freris schulde streeche to alle gode men. 1423 *Rolls of Parlt.* IV. 256/1 That this ordynaunce stretche and bere strenketh also wel wyth in Chesshire. *c* 1449 Pecock *Repr.* III. i. 278 Into ferther purpos than in to this purpos now here seid strecchith not eny of the textis now bifore alleggid. 1461 *Little Red Bk. Bristol* (1900) II. 128 That thes acte strecche not to any mannes wyfe of the Crafte of Wevers nowe levyng. 1531 tr. *St. German's Dial. Doctor & Stud.* xlii. 84 If a man.. banyshed be restored by the prynce, whether shall that restitucion stretche to the goodes. 1568 Grafton *Chron.* II. 13 He would there should no such power stretch to his successours, therefore he made no mention of them. 1621 Elsing *Debates Ho. Lords* (Camden) 125 L. Chamberlaine thinkes the priuiledge dothe not stretche to goodes, and they are not to be delivered. 1685 Sir H. Finch *Law* (1636) 25 A Statute that maketh it felony to receiue..one that committeth such and such an offence..stretcheth not to a woman that receiueth..her husband in such a case. 1659 Milton *Civil Power Eccl. Causes* 27 The other..makes himself supream lord or pope of the church as far as his civil jurisdiction stretches.

passive. *c* 1380 Wyclif *Sel. Wks.* III. 343 For sib vertue of a kyng mut be streechid by al his rewme, myche more þe vertue of Crist is comuned wiþ al his children. *a* 1586 Sidney *Apol. Poetrie* (Arb.) 58 But I honor philosophicall instructions,..so as they be not abused, which is likewise stretched to Poetrie.

† 15. To tend, be serviceable (to some object).

c 1400 *Destr. Troy* 9207 Hit semith me vnsertain, all serchyng of wayes Ys stokyn vp full stithly, shuld streche to my hele! *c* 1412 Hoccleve *De Reg. Princ.* 4836 For Cristes sake, so yow gyeth ay, As þat may streeche to your peples ese. 1491 *Act 7 Hen. VII*, c. 1 § 1 His offence stretchith to the hurt and jopardie of the King. 1587 A. Day *Daphnis & Chloe* (1890) 11 And for that her care stretched that the girle..might the sooner be taken and reputed for hers, she.. called her Chloe. 1621 *True Relat. Exec. Prague* A 3, The Iudgement..should not be executed, but in such a sort as might..stretch to the reputation and authority of the Emperours Maiesty.

V. To tighten by force; to strain.

16. *trans.* To pull taut; to bring (e.g. a rope, piece of cloth) to a rigid state of straightness or evenness by the application of tractive force at the extremities; to strain.

1387 Trevisa *Higden* (Rolls) III. 211 ȝif þe streng is i-strauȝt endelonges [L. *chorda extensa*] uppon þe holownesse of a tree. *c* 1530 *Judic. Urines* II. vii. 30 b, Diafragma... And therfore it is strauth and taught and raeyched oute as it were a testure of clothe. *a* 1535 Fisher *Serm.* Wks. (1876) 394 Neuer anye Parchement skynne was more strayghtlye stratched by strength vpon the tentors. 1579 Gosson *Sch. Abuse* (Arb.) 57 It behooueth your Honour..too play the Musition, stretch euery string till hee breake. 1590 Lodge *Rosalynde* (1592) B, The meane is sweetest melodie, where strings high stretch[t], eyther soone cracke, or quickly grow out of time [? *read* tune]. 1705 Tate *Warriour's Welcome* xxxiv, Then try your Skill: a well-prim'd Canvass stretch. 1735 Somerville *Chase* II. 268 Each eager Hound exerts His utmost Speed, and stretches ev'ry Nerve. 1763 J. Brown *Poetry & Music* v. 67 Mercury was the Inventor of the Lyre; which had but four Strings, and these were stretched on a Turtle's Shell. 1815 J. Smith *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 698 For the convenience of keeping the paper stretched and smooth,..a drawing-board is used. 1883 M. P. Bale *Saw-Mills* 185 Considerable trouble is often found in stretching or tightening large belts on to their pulleys.

† b. To take *out* (wrinkles) by stretching. *Obs.*

a 1541 Barnes *Wks.* (1573) 254 Her wryncles bee streatched out.

c. intr. *To stretch out*: to be made even by straining.

1838 in *Newton's Lond. Jrnl.* Conj. Ser. XVI. 68 The cloth is then folded back tightly over the tension rod *e*, and stretches out smooth in the opposite direction.

17. To pull (a person's) limbs lengthwise; esp. to torture by so doing, to rack. In early use, to place with extended limbs on a cross. Also with *out.*

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 362 Nes Seinte Peter & Seinte Andrew, þeruore, istreiht o rode, and Seint Lorenz oðe gredil. *a* 1375 *Joseph Arim.* 560 Penne he..on þe cros biholdes; He seiȝ a child strauȝt þer-on stremynge on blode. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 257 Beholde..those blessed armes..whiche were so stretched on the crosse, now all starke and styffe. 1585 T. Washington tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* II. xxi, After they [the bath-men] haue well pulled and stretched your armes.. in such sort that he wyll make your bones too cracke. 1603 Shaks. *Meas. for M.* v. 316 The Duke dare No more stretch this finger of mine, then he Dare racke his owne. 1605 — *Lear* v. iii. 315 He hates him, That would vpon the wracke of this tough world Stretch him out longer. 1621 G. H. tr. *Anti-Coton* 41 If hee [this Jesuit] were but a little stretcht by the fingers, a man might learne strange misteries of him. 1665 Dryden *Ind. Emp.* v. ii. (1668) 57 Fasten the Engines; stretch 'em at their length. 1669 — *Tempest* IV. (1670) 51, I feel my self as on a Rack, stretch'd out, and nigh the ground, on which I might have ease, yet cannot reach it. 1888 'R. Boldrewood' *Robbery under Arms* xxiii, If a man ..was being stretched on the rack.

18. † a. *To stretch a halter, rope*: to be hanged.

1592 Greene *Black Bk's. Messenger* Wks. (Grosart) XI. 22, I at last resolutely vowed in my selfe to haue it though I stretcht a halter for it. 1657 Billingsly *Brachy-Martyrol.* xxxii. 123 One man for saying he'd believe the Pope No sooner then the devil, stretch'd a rope. *a* 1708 T. Ward *England's Reform.* iv. (1710) 72 We our selves..Were in fair way to stretch a Halter.

† b. *To stretch* (a person, his neck): to hang.

1595 *Locrine* II. ii. 81 Here, good fellow; take it at my command, Vnlesse you meane to be stretcht. *a* 1652 Brome *Queen & Concubine* iv. iii. (1659) 82 For fear the Rusticks may presume again To stretch their penitent necks with halter strain. 1700 Cibber *Love makes a Man* iv. iv, *D. Du.* But pray, Sir, were you as intimate at both Play-houses? *Clo.* No, stretch 'em! 1775 *N. Y. Jrnl.* 9 Feb. in F. Moore *Diary Amer. Rev.* I. 19 'Pray, Mr. —, what is a Tory?' He replied, 'A Tory is a thing whose head is in England, and its body in America, and its neck ought to be stretched.' *c* 1800 *Irish Song*, The night before Larry was stretch'd The boys they all paid him a visit.

† c. *intr.* To be hanged.

1576 *Common Conditions* 202 (Brooke) If hee could haue taken me I know that I should stretch. 1596 H. Mountagu in *Buccleuch MSS.* (Hist. MSS.-Comm.) I. 231 Two of his charge gave the slip; it was well for them; they might else have stretched with the rest of their companions. 1676 D'Urfey *Mme. Fickle* v. ii, Ay, ay, you need not fear, you are a Lord, you'll come off well enough, 'tis we shall stretch for't.

19. *To stretch a point* = to strain a point: see Strain *v.* 11 f. Also, in the same sense, † *to stretch string* (cf. quot. 1579 in 16).

In the first quot. app. used with somewhat different sense.

1565 Cooper *Thesaurus* s. v. *Nervus, Intendere nervos in re aliqua*, to strayne a sinew: to stretche a poy[n]cte: to indeuour to the vttermost of his power. *a* 1566 R. Edwards *Damon & Pithias* (facs.) G ij b, Wyll you not stretche one poynt: to bringe me in fauour agayne? 1575 Gascoigne

Glasse of Govt. II. iii. (1910) 37 Might not a man entreat master Eccho to carry her a present if needs were? *Eccho.* Sir there is never a gentleman in this citie, shall make Eccho stretch a string sooner then your selfe, but [etc.]. 1576 A. HALL *Acc. Quarrel w. Mallerie* etc., Misc. Antiq. Angl. (1816) I. 96 If for affection you stretch a string, you cannot be excused. 1687 ATTERBURY *Answ. Consid. Spirit Luther* 22 Yet these same Schoolmen do not stretch the point so far, as to say the Pope has an absolute limited power over these Vows. 1814 SCOTT *Wav.* liii, I am not likely, I think, to ask any thing very unreasonable, and if I did, they might have stretched a point. 1861 H. KINGSLEY *Ravenshoe* xlii, It would be stretching a point to say that Cuthbert was a handsome man.

†**20.** *fig.* To exert to the utmost, strain (one's powers). *Obs.*

1612 in *Capt. J. Smith's Wks.* (Arb.) II. 422 Their men women, and children..kindly welcommed vs,..stretching their best abilities to expresse their loues. *a* 1660 *Faithful Friends* III. iii, Till my veins And sinews crack, I'll stretch my utmost strength.

b. *refl.* and *intr.* To strain, press forward, use effort. Also with *on*.

c 1350 *Will. Palerne* 219 þemperour..folwed as stiffuly as is stede miȝt strecche on to renne. 1526 TINDALE *Phil.* iii. 13, I forget that which is behynde me, and stretche my silfe (Gr. ἐπεκτεινόμενος) vnto that which is before me. 1551 T. WILSON *Logic* C viij, If by labour and earnest trauaile, they will stretche to attein that whereunto thei are apt. 1738 WESLEY *Hymn*, 'When shall thy lovely Face be seen?' iv, And every Limb and every Joint Stretches for Immortality.

c. *To stretch to the oar, to the stroke* (rarely trans. *to stretch one's oars*): to put forth one's strength in rowing; also *fig.* Also, *to stretch out.*

1697 DRYDEN *Æneis* V. 172 To bear with this, the Seamen stretch their Oars. *Ibid.* 247 Tug the lab'ring Oar; Stretch to your Stroaks, my still unconquer'd Crew. 1725 POPE *Odyss.* XII. 265 Their oars they seize, Stretch to the stroke, and brush the working seas. 1820 SCOTT *Let.* 30 Mar. in *Lockhart* (1837) IV. xi. 373 He must stretch to the oar for his own credit as well as that of his friends. 1835 DICKENS *Sk. Boz, River*, Why don't your partner stretch out? 1840 R. H. DANA *Bef. Mast* xviii. 51 [We] were returning, stretching out well at our oars. 1846 A. YOUNG *Naut. Dict.* 328 *Stretch out!* an order to a boat's crew to pull strong.

d. Of a horse, etc. *to stretch out into a gallop, to be stretched out at a gallop.*

1890 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Col. Reformer* xix, The roused animal commenced to stretch out into a gallop. 1896 'H. S. MERRIMAN' *Sowers* i, His little Cossack horse..was stretched out at a gallop.

VI. To lengthen or widen by force.

21. *trans.* To lengthen or widen (a material thing) by force; to pull out to greater length or width; to enlarge in girth or capacity by internal pressure. Also in figurative context.

Now the most prominent sense; in early use rare and perh. contextual (cf. 16), chiefly with advs. *abroad, out.*

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XI. ii. (1495) 385 A stronge blaste of wynde..blowyth and stretchyth bledders by entrynge. 1530 PALSGR. 738/2, I stretche out a length, *jalonge*. Stretche out this corde a lengeth. 1552 HULOET, Stretche abrode, *dilato*. 1613 SHAKS. *Hen. VIII*, I. iii. 33 And which guifts..the capacity Of your soft Chiuerell Conscience, would receiue, If you might please to stretch it. 1632 MARMION *Hollands Leaguer* II. v. F 2, Gentlemen, You'l breake your wits with stretching them. 1680 DRYDEN *Ovid's Epist.* Pref. (1716) a 4, I suppose he [a translator] may stretch his Chain to such a Latitude, but by innovation of Thoughts, methinks he breaks it. 1687 ATTERBURY *Answ. Consid. Spirit Luther* 32 He is a very Procrustes in his way: whatever he meets of other men's, he unmercifully either stretches, or curtails, till he has made it exactly of a size with his own notions. 1692 HARTCLIFFE *Virtues* 69 If the Stomach be stretched beyond its..true extent, it will [etc.]. 1762 *Mead's Med. Wks.* (1775) 395 Her belly was so vastly stretched with water, that I pronounced the case incurable. 1843 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* I. 421 Little risk of stretching the plates, if the work be delicately performed. 1843 in *Newton's Lond. Jrnl.* Conj. Ser. XXV. 373 Machinery or apparatus..for stretching certain fibrous materials. 1860 RUSKIN *Unto this Last* i. (1862) 4 It might be shown, on that supposition, that it would be advantageous to roll the students up into pellets, flatten them into cakes, or stretch them into cables. 1889 *Harper's Mag.* Mar. 623/2 My business..is to stretch new boots for millionaires.

b. To open wide (the eyes, mouth, nostrils).

1599 SHAKS. *Hen. V*, II. ii. 55 If little faults..Shall not be wink'd at, how shall we stretch our eye When capitall crimes ..Appeare before vs? *Ibid.* III. i. 15 Now set the Teeth, and stretch the Nosthrill wide. 1605 *1st Pt. Jeronimo* I. i. 56 Then let him..Stretch his mouth wider with big swolne phrases. 1823 SCOTT *Quentin D.* viii, Looking as if he were stretching his eyes to see into futurity.

22. *fig.* To enlarge or amplify beyond proper or natural limits; to extend unduly the scope or application of (a law, rule, etc.) or the meaning of (a word).

1553 *Primer or Bk. Priv. Prayer* P v b, That they [*sc.* landlords] remembryng them selues to be thy tenaunte, may not racke and stretche oute yᵉ rentes of their houses and landes. 1580 SPENSER *Let. to Harvey* Poet. Wks. (1912) 611/2 Heauen, beeing vsed shorte as one sillable, when it is in Verse, stretched out with a Diastole, is like a lame Dogge that holdes vp one legge. 1581 J. BELL *Haddon's Answ. Osorius* 415 b, The speech of Peter in this whole Epistle, ought not in any wise be stretched to the paynes of Purgatory. 1631 *Star Chamber Cases* (Camden) 8 Then he delivereth over the goods..they were stretched in value already. 1670 SOUTH *Serm.* (1698) III. 154 To Love an Enemy is to stretch Humanity as far as it will go. 1746 H. WALPOLE *Let. to Mann* 15 Apr., The judge..told her he wished he could stretch the law to hang her. 1764 GOLDSM. *Trav.* 382 When contending chiefs blockade the throne, Contracting regal power to stretch their own. 1848 J. S. MILL *Pol. Econ.* III, xxiii. § 3 II. 183 In speculative times, money-dealers..are inclined to extend their business by stretching their credit. 1878 O. W. HOLMES *Motley* ii. 15 The rules of the Phi Beta Kappa Society..were stretched so as to include him. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 471 This reflex hypothesis has been stretched to explain cases following tonsillitis or disturbances of other organs. 1915 HARTLAND in *Man* XV. 126 Thus, to refer to *mana* as 'divine energy' is stretching the word unwarrantably.

b. *absol.* To stretch one's ordinary rule, 'launch out'.

1766 GOLDSM. *Vicar* XXX, He bespoke also a dozen of their best wine, ..adding with a smile, that he would stretch a little for once.

† **c.** To extend the duration of. *Obs.* (? *nonce-use.*)

1568 T. HOWELL *Arb. Amitie* 10 b, I cursse eche lingring howre of day, my bloudie woundes to stratch.

d. To exaggerate in narration; chiefly *absol.* (colloq.)

1674 *Govt. Tongue* xi. 200 What an allay do we find to the credit of the most probable event, that it is reported by one who uses to stretch? 1678 D'URFEY *Trick for Trick* I. i. 10 But I must confess t'ee, under the Rose here, I did stretch a little, as a good teller of a Story shou'd. 1711 SWIFT *Jrnl. to Stella* 1 Dec., The fifteen images that I saw were not worth forty pounds, so I stretched a little when I said a thousand. 1883 *Harper's Mag.* Apr. 658/2 They call anything that is 'stretched' a Yankee story. 1884 'MARK TWAIN' *Huck. Finn* i, There was things which he stretched, but mainly he told the truth.

23. *intr.* To be or admit of being forcibly lengthened or dilated without breaking.

1485 CAXTON *Chas. Gt.* 236 The vaynes of hys necke braken a sondre, and the synewes of his body stratcheden. *c* 1537 DE BENESE *Measurynge Lande* A iij, A corde or a lyne..wyl..somtyme streche longer by long dryeth. 1558 WARDE tr. *Alexis' Secr.* 30 Ye shall cause the skinne to stretche, and come to his place, as it was before. 1597 E. S. *Discov. Knts. Poste* B 4 b, Conscience,..I tell you their consciences are like chiuerell skins, that will stretch euery way. 1660 BOYLE *New Exper. Spring of Air* xxiv. 191 The inner Membrane that involv'd the several Liquors of the Egge, because it would stretch and yield, remain'd unbroken. 1871 B. TAYLOR *Faust* (1875) II. I. iii. 31 Think, the thread won't stretch forever! Have a care! it might be broken. 1872 W. POLE *Iron* 60 If we attach one end of a bar of iron to the ceiling, and hang a weight to the other end, the bar will stretch.

VII. 24. *Comb.* **stretch-bench** *Leathermanuf.*, a bench on which the stretching of hides is performed; **stretch-gut** (see quot.); †**stretch-halter**, one who deserves to be hanged, a gallows-bird; †**stretch-hemp** = prec.; †**stretch-leg**, that which lays prostrate, Death; †**stretch-mouthed** *a.*, wide-mouthed, *fig.*; †**stretch-neck** [tr. AL. *collistrigium*], a pillory; †**stretch-rope**, one who stretches a rope (applied to a bellringer); **stretch-wood**, an apparatus for stretching gloves; a wooden hand upon which a glove is stretched to dry in dyeing.

1897 C. T. DAVIS *Manuf. Leather* xli. (ed. 2) 543 The stretching is also performed by hand on the *stretch-bench. 1673–8 LITTLETON *Lat.-Eng. Dict.*, *Saturio*, a *stretch-gut, an over-eater. 1583 GOLDING *Calvin on Deut.* cxxiii. 759 Thou villaine, thou *stretchehalter. 1606 HEYWOOD *2nd Pt. If you know not Me* (1609) D 2 b, I know this is the shop by that same stretch-halter. 1532 *Stretch hempe (see HEMP *sb.* 3). 1566 DRANT *Horace, Sat.* II. vii. I ij, Thou stretche hempe [*Jurcifer*]. *c* 1560 *Most Frnitf. Treat. Chr. Man* I. xxxix. 150 Learne to beware by yᵉ example of other men, vpon whom *stretche legge came sodenly and slewe them. 1611 SHAKS. *Wint. T.* IV. iv. 196 Some *stretch-mouth'd Rascall. 1543 tr. *Ordin. Bakers* etc. [*c* 1300] *c.* 3 Euery pyllory or *stretche-necke [L. *collistrigium*] must be made of conuenyent strength. 1890 CONAN DOYLE *White Company* xxi, Some of you may find yourselves in the stretchneck, if you take not heed. 1634 HEYWOOD & BROME *Lanc. Witches* III. i. E 3, 'Tis some merry conceit of the *stretch-ropes the Ringers. 1883 R. HALDANE *Workshop Rec.* Ser. II. 235/2 The glove [is] then allowed to dry on the *stretch-wood.

Stretchable (stre·tʃăb'l), *a.* [f. STRETCH *v.* + -ABLE.] Capable of being stretched.

1398 TREVISA *Barth De P. R.* V. xxv. (1495) 135 Yf they [*sc.* fowl] haue longe neckes and strechable [*Bodl. MS.* strecchеable: L. *abile ad declinandum*] they bynde theym as it were foldynge in pleyghtes whan they flee. 1862 CARLYLE *Fredk. Gt.* XII. xii. III. 388 Strenuous Siege; which, had..the Laws of Nature and the rigours of Arithmetic..been stretchable entities, might have succeeded better!

Stretchant, *a. Her. rare.* [f. STRETCH *v.* + -*ant*, after *couchant* and the like.] (See quot.)

1828–40 BERRY *Encycl. Her.* I, *Stretchant*, beasts upon their legs, but stretching themselves out, which they often do after lying down.

Stretched (stretʃt), *ppl. a.* [f. STRETCH *v.* + -ED 1.]

1. Extended to the full length, not bent or flexed. Of a limb: Thrust out from the body. Also with *out, forth.*

1518 H. WATSON *Hist. Oliver of Castile* (Roxb.) Q 1, He ..ranne to hym with stratched armes and embraced hym. 1535 COVERDALE *Ps.* CXXXV. 12 With a mightie hande and a stretched out arme. *a* 1566 R. EDWARDS *Damon & Pithias* (1571) D iv b, A pledge you did require..; For which, with heart and stretched handes, most humble thankes I geue. 1656 FLECKNOE *Diarium* 28 Now Chantecleer with stretcht-out wings, The glad approach of Phœbus sings. 1692 SIR W. HOPE *Fencing-Master* 148 Keep a streight point towards his face with a stretched arme. 1697 DRYDEN *Æneis* III. 320 At length rebuff'd, they leave their mangled Prey, And their stretch'd Pinions to the Skies display. 1760 R. LLOYD *Actor* 97 The sudden whirl, stretch'd leg, and lifted staff, Which please the vulgar. 1846 TRENCH *Miracles* 459 The stretched forth hands are the hands extended upon either side on the transverse bar of the cross. 1847 TENNYSON *Princess* II. 356 Jewels five-words long That on the stretch'd forefinger of all Time Sparkle for ever. 1856 MISS WARNER *Hills Shatemuc* vi, He yielded his brother's [letter] again to her stretched-out hand.

2. Of the neck, throat: Extended or expanded unduly or abnormally. Also with *out.*

1557 PHAER *Æneid* VII. (1558) V viij, As swannes..With stretchid neckes, their melody they yelde. 1659 W. CHAMBERLAYNE *Pharonnida* III. i. 306 An ill-boding Note Sent from a fatal Ravens stretcht-out Throat. 1666 W. SURSTOW *Spiritual Chym.* 89 Gospel Mysteries, which Angells with stretched out necks have more desire to pry into, then ability perfectly to understand. 1780 COWPER *Progr. Error* 380 The gosling pair, With awkward gait, stretch'd neck, and silly stare. 1845 BROWNING *How they brought the good News* vi, For one heard the quick wheeze Of her chest, saw the stretched neck and staggering knees.

3. Of material, a line, etc.: Extended, spread out, drawn out so as to be tight. Hence *fig.* of a receptacle: Strained in capacity, filled to the utmost.

?1605 DRAYTON *Poems, To Virginian Voy.* 10 Britans..quickly aboard bestowe you, And with a merry gale swell your stretch'd sayle. *c* 1681 DUKE *Review* 96 [He] Swell'd his stretch'd coffers with o'er-flowing gold. 1832 BREWSTER *Nat. Magic* viii. 193 If..we strew the sand over a stretched membrane, the sand will form itself into figures. 1840 in *Newton's Lond. Jrnl.* Conj. Ser. XVI. 361 When India rubber is introduced, it is in the stretched or non-elastic state. 1889 BRINSMEAD *Hist. Pianoforte* 40 The vibrations of stretched strings. 1906 *Westm. Gaz.* 28 July 6/3 You walk the stretched rope.

b. Of the senses: Tense.

1800 HT. LEE *Canterb. T.* (ed. 2) III. 34 That profound stillness under which the stretched senses seem to ache.

4. Of language, ideas, prerogative, etc.: Strained beyond natural or proper limits.

c 1600 SHAKS. *Sonn.* xvii. 12 So should..your true rights be termd a Poets rage, And stretched miter of an Antique song. 1674 N. FAIRFAX *Bulk & Selv.* 71 If this answer seems harsh or stretched, we shall easily slacken and soften it by a clearer Instance. *a* 1711 KEN *Psyche* Poet. Wks. 1721 IV. 225 Say, if your stretch'd Imaginations find More horrid Monsters than foul human kind. 1790 BURKE *Fr. Rev.* 95 They therefore take up, one day, the most violent and stretched prerogative, and another time the wildest democratic ideas of freedom. 1833 LAMB *Elia, Product. Mod. Art*, They satisfy our most stretched and craving conceptions of the glories of the antique world.

b. Of life: Drawn *out* beyond the normal period.

1606 SHAKS. *Tr. & Cr.* I. iii. 62 And thou [Nestor] most reuerend for thy stretcht-out life,

† **Stre·tchen**, *a. Obs. rare.* [As if strong pa. pple. of STRETCH *v.*] Extended.

1642 H. MORE *Song of Soul* II. II. ii. 15 If stretchen corporeity Longs to the soul, then Augmentation Must likewise thereto appertain. *Ibid.* III. iii. 11 For in his instantaneous removes He in them all at once doth fairly shine, Nor that large stretchen space his presence can confine.

Stretcher (stre·tʃəɹ). Also 5 **strecher**, 8 **streacher**. [f. STRETCH *v.* + -ER 1.]

I. One who or something which stretches.

1. One who stretches; *spec.* a worker employed in various industries to stretch fabrics.

c 1420 ? LYDG. *Assembly of Gods* 674 There were bosters, braggars, & brybores, Praters, fasers, strechers, & wrythers. 1615 CHAPMAN *Odyss.* XXI. 135 Yet his hopes enstild His strength, the stretcher of Ulysses string. 1721 WODROW *Hist. Ch. Scot.* (1829) II. II. iv. 126 When things are stretched too far, they break to the hurt of the stretcher. 1820 J. BROWN *Hist. Brit. Churches* I. vii. 213 Arminian stretchers of the royal prerogative were caressed and preferred. 1823 SCOTT *Quentin D.* vii, The scraper of chins hath no great love for the stretcher of throats. 1861 *Internat. Exhib. 1862, Alph. Lists Trades* 39 Stretchers. 1881 *Instr. Census Clerks* (1885) 54 Carver, Gilder:.. Stretcher (Canvas). *Ibid.* 60 Woollen Cloth Manufacture:.. Stretcher. *Ibid.* 67.

2. An exaggerated story or yarn; chiefly *euphemistically* or *jocularly*, a lie.

1674 [J. PATRICK] *Refl. Devot. Rom. Ch.* 416 Any story of a Cock and a Bull, will serve their turns to found a Festival upon,..though the circumstances are never so improbable. This of removing the Rock is a pretty stretcher. 1677 S. HERNE *Acc. Charterhouse* v. 29 Now listen to a visible Stretcher. 1825 BROCKETT *N. C. Gloss., Stretcher*, an untruth; a softer term for a falsehood. 1840 E. E. NAPIER *Scenes & Sports For. Lands* II. vi. 215 This may, perhaps, be a stretcher; but, however, it is certain that [etc.]. 1855 OGILVIE Suppl., *Stretcher*, a notorious lie. (Local.) 1889 J. K. JEROME *Three Men* xii. 196 When the pipes are lit, and the boys are telling stretchers about the dangers they have passed through.

II. Technical senses.

† **3.** *Falconry.* A toe of a hawk or falcon. *Obs.*

1486 *Bk. St. Albans, Hawking* a viii, The Clees that are uppon the medyll strecheris ye shall call the loong Sengles. 1575 TURBERV. *Falconrie* 55 She hath no great scales upon hir legges, unlesse it be a fewe that beginne behinde the three stretchers. 1677 N. COX *Gentl. Recr.* II. 207 The Haggard. ..A large wide Foot, with slender Stretchers. *Ibid.* 208 Of the Barbary-Faulcon..with long Talons and Stretchers.

4. An instrument or appliance for expanding material, making it taut, removing its wrinkles, and the like.

1532 MORE *Confut. Barnes* VIII. Wks. 1557. 800/1 Stretchyng oute hys wryncles with the stretching them vppon the stretcher or tenter hookes of the crosse. 1774 in *Abridgm. Specif. Patents, Music* (1871) 9 [The silk strings] are then to be put on a stretcher that they may dry in a proper

tension. 1825 J. NICHOLSON *Oper. Mech.* 382 The cotton, or ..roving, is taken out and wound upon a bobbin, and.. carried to a machine called a stretcher. 1838 in *Newton's Lond. Jrnl.* Conj. Ser. (1840) XVI. 65 Having determined the figure or design to be produced, the cloth..is spread,.. in lengths..over a stretcher of canvas, which stretcher is placed in a frame. 1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib., Brit.* II. No. 5130, Marking-ink, linen stretcher, &c., with specimens.

b. A frame upon which an artist's canvas is spread and drawn tight by means of corner-pieces or wedges. See also quot. 1875.

1847 *Man. Oil-Painting* 48 There are, however, certain sizes [of canvas] which are always kept on hand at the shops, ready mounted on stretchers. 1867 TROLLOPE *Chron. Barset* II. lx. 177 The rent canvas fell and fluttered upon the stretcher. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech., Stretcher*, a corner-piece for distending a canvas frame.

c. *Leather-manuf.* (*a*) = STAKE *sb.*[1] 5 b; (*b*) a hand-tool used in finishing leather.

1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 767 [The skins] are dried with the fleece outermost,..and are finished upon the stretcher. 1872 *Saddlers' Gaz.* 1 Dec. 212/1 The hide..is then turned over and the hair side moistened with water and rubbed with a copper stretcher until it is nearly dry.

d. An instrument for easing the fit of boots, gloves, hats, etc.

1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade, Stretcher*,..an instrument for easing boots or gloves. 1885 *Harper's Mag.* Feb. 449/2 She was manipulating the..pair of stretchers.

5. A bar serving as a stay or brace.

a. A buttress in masonry; a tie-beam in joinery; in trench timbering, a temporary strut.

1774 GOSTLING *Walk Canterb.* xxxi. 136 There seems to have been some failing in the south-west pillar, and..care has been..taken to prevent any ill consequences of it by adding stretchers of stone-work on all sides to stiffen it... The stretchers are very substantial and deep walls of stone pierced in such patterns as make them..an ornament: They are carried on arches from this pillar to two other principal ones. *a* 1805 ROBISON *Syst. Mech. Philos.* (1822) I. 669 The struts which carry the king-post spring from those points of the stretcher where it rests on the strut below. 1869 C. KNIGHT *Mechanician* 67 The class of columns represented by Fig. 130 are used also as stays, and in the horizontal position; they are in such cases named stretchers, and should be forged as nearly as possible to the intended form.

b. A bar or rod used as a tie or brace in the framework of an article; esp. a cross-piece between the handles of a plough or the legs of a chair.

1844 H. STEPHENS *Book of Farm* I. 413 The stretchers which support and retain the handles [of the plough] at their due distance apart. 1846 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* II. 725 There is a central rod or stretcher [to the frame saw], to which are mortised two end pieces that have a slight power of rotation on the stretcher. 1882 CAULFEILD & SAWARD *Dict. Needlework* 196 The ordinary [Embroidery] Frames are made of four pieces of wood, the two upright pieces of which are called Bars,..and two horizontal pieces, called Stretchers. 1902 [see *stretcher bar* c in 12]. 1905 C. G. HARPER *Oxf. Road* I. 125 Four men thus working will 'get' out' the timber [beech] and turn it into legs or rails—'stretchers' as they call them in the trade—at the rate of four gross a day.

c. A bar which keeps apart the traces between every two horses in a team.

1828 CARR *Craven Gloss.* 1852 C. W. HOSKYNS *Talpa* xvi. (1854) 136 The fore-horse..turned suddenly..into the high-road, grazing Mr. Greening's unspurred foot with the point of the leader's stretcher.

d. *Naut.* (See quot.)

1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk., Stretchers*...Also cross-pieces placed between a boat's sides to keep them apart when hoisted up and griped.

e. *Mining.* A prop or sprag.

1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-Mining* 244.

6. A bar or rod used to expand and to keep expanded something collapsible.

a. A jointed or sliding rod used to spread the head or legs of a thing, esp. each of the rods pivoted at the ends to the ribs and the sleeve which slides upon the stick of an umbrella.

1843 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* I. 136 Whalebone is now principally used for the stretchers for umbrellas. 1857 *Repert. Patent Invent.* June 511 Samuel Fox,..for heating ..ribs and stretchers of umbrellas and parasols. 1866 ROCK in *Abridgm. Specif. Patents, Opt.* etc. *Instrum.* (1875) 515 For tripod stands I employ three elongating stretchers converging to a point in the middle (when the legs are spread); they are formed of brass tubes sliding one within the other. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech., Stretcher*, 5. (*Vehicle.*) A jointed rod by whose extension the carriage bows are separated and expanded, so as to spread the canopy or hood.

b. A stick or each of the sticks used to keep a fishing net expanded.

1823 J. F. COOPER *Pioneers* xxiii, Benjamin prided himself greatly on his skill in throwing the net...At length a loud splash in the water, as he threw away the 'staff', or 'stretcher' ..announced that the boat was returning. 1884 G. F. BRAITHWAITE *Salmonidæ of Westmorld.* vi. 23 Lighter sticks or stretchers are attached to the top and bottom cord which keep the net extended.

c. A piece of wood or metal used to spread the clews of a hammock. In recent Dicts.

7. A foot-rest in a rowing-boat. (See quots. 1769, 1898.)

1609 DEKKER *Ravens Alm.* B 2, Any Sculer, whose legs get his liuing by a Stretcher, will not deny it. 1697 DRYDEN *Æneis* x. 417 They tug at ev'ry Oar; and ev'ry Stretcher bends. 1769 FALCONER *Dict. Marine* (1780), *Stretcher*, a sort of staff fixed athwart the bottom of a boat, for the rower to place his feet against, in order to communicate a greater effort to his oar. 1834 MARRYAT *P. Simple* xxxi, Swinburne appeared..followed by the rest of the boat's crew, armed with the boat's stretchers. 1898 *Encycl. Sport* II. 298/1 (Rowing) *Stretcher*, a board placed slopingly at a right angle across the boat in front of the oarsman, upon which he braces his feet.

8. A kind of litter composed of two poles separated by cross-bars upon which canvas is stretched, used to transport sick or wounded persons.

1845 *Ann. Reg.* 380/1 After the body was discovered Fletcher went for the stretcher. 1875 *Encycl. Brit.* I. 668/2 The ambulance conveyances authorised for use in the British army are..1. Conveyances carried by the hands of bearers, called stretchers; 2. Conveyances wheeled by men, wheeled stretchers, [etc.]. 1892 BIERCE *In Midst of Life* 129 Two were hospital attendants and carried a stretcher.

9. A folding bed or bedstead chiefly for camp or hospital use. Also *pl.* the trestles for a bed.

1841 MARRYAT *Poacher* xlv, They sat down on the stretchers upon which the bed had been laid [in the prison cell] during the night. 1893 SELOUS *Trav. S. E. Africa* 56 He gave me..a stretcher to sleep on in one of the empty chambers.

b. A flat board on which a corpse is laid out preparatory to coffining. ? *Sc.*

1850 OGILVIE; and in some later Dicts.

10. Something laid lengthways.

a. *Building.* A brick or stone laid with its length in the direction of the wall. Also *Fortif.*, a sod laid in a similar position.

1693 MOXON *Mech. Exerc.* (1703) 260 If the Header on one side of the Wall, toothed as much as the Stretcher on the other side, it would be a stronger Toothing. 1693 J. HOUGHTON *Collect. Improv. Husb.* No. 74 P 3 A Brick-wall of a Foot and half thick is commonly made by Stretchers and Headers. 1725 [see HEADER 5]. 1791 SMEATON *Edystone L.* (1793) § 82 The long pieces or Stretchers were retained between two Headers or bond pieces. 1839 *Civil Engin. & Arch. Jrnl.* II. 430/2 The front is to be of.. stone, laid header and stretcher alternately. 1851, 1884 [see HEADER 5].

b. ? A horizontal branch (see quots.).

1733 W. ELLIS *Chiltern & Vale Farm.* 162 Great Plantations of Hazel, that..are also of vast Service to the Thatcher, by its Stretchers, Sprays, and Withs. 1886 *W. Somerset Word-bk.* s. v., In 'making' a hedge certain growing stakes are chopped half through, laid down lengthwise on the hedge, and fastened down with a crook. Earth is then thrown upon them, and they root afresh. These are the stretchers.

11. *Angling.* The artificial fly at the extremity of a casting line to which two or more flies are attached.

1837 J. KIRKBRIDE *Northern Angler* 3 The first dropper ought to be about a yard from the stretcher, or tail-fly.

III. attrib. and Comb.

12. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as (sense 5 b) *stretcher-bolt, -tube*; **stretcher-bar** (*a*) the bar which is set across a level as a support for a rock-drill; (*b*) *Leather-manuf.* an appliance for stretching hides transversely; (*c*) (see quot. 1902); **stretcher-bearer** (see quot.); **stretcher-bed, -bedstead**, a folding bed, chiefly for camp or barrack use (cf. 9); **stretcher-brick** (see 10 a); **stretcher-fly** (see 11); **stretcher-iron** *Leather-manuf.* = STAKE *sb.*[1] 5 b; **stretcher-man** = *stretcher-bearer*; **stretcher-mule** (see quot.); **stretcher-party** *Mil.*, a party of men equipped with stretchers and appliances for assisting and removing the wounded; **stretcher-pole**, a pole of an ambulance stretcher.

1883 *Encycl. Brit.* XVI. 448/1 In driving a level with the Darlington drill it is usual to fix the *stretcher bar horizontally across the level so as to command the upper part of the face. 1897 C. T. DAVIS *Manuf. Leather* xli. (ed. 2) 544 A stretcher-bar of suitable form for stretching the hides transversely. 1902 *Lockwood's Dict. Mech. Engin.* (ed. 3), *Stretcher Bar*, or *Stretcher*, a long bar or bolt shouldered near each end, and used for the purpose of maintaining A frames and side frames at a fixed distance apart and perfectly rigid. 1876 VOYLE & STEVENSON *Milit. Dict.* 412/1 **Stretcher Bearers*, men..whose special duty..is to carry the wounded from the battle-field, to the ambulance wagons. 1842 MRS. GORE *Fascin.* 21 In a gloomy inner room stood a common *stretcher-bed. 1888 *Daily News* 5 June 6/2 The life of the emergency men in camp..is luxurious... They have stretcher beds and blankets to cover them. 1895 *Army & Navy Co-op. Price-list* 442 Barrack Furniture and Camp Equipment. Folding *Stretcher Bedstead, Iron frame and legs. 1844 H. STEPHENS *Book of Farm* I. 420 The right handle [of the plough] is formed in one bar,..and it is connected to the left handle by the *stretcher-bolts. 1867 MUSGRAVE *Nooks & Corners Old France* I. 80 A perilous mode of scamping off their work, which among fifty *stretcher bricks, exhibited not two headers. 1883 *Century Mag.* July 379/1 A bass rose and snapped the *stretcher fly before it fully settled on the water. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 768 The clean skins after being dried, are finished first on the *stretcher-iron, and then on the horse or stretching frame. 1875 BEDFORD *Sailor's Pocket Bk.* vii. (ed. 2) 247 If a couple of spare limbers are available the S. A. A. might be placed upon them and drawn by the spare-ammunition and *stretcher-men. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.*, **Stretcher-mule*, a mule adapted to stretch and twist fine rovings of cotton. 1884 *Mil. Engineering* I. II. 112 The strength of the *stretcher party will be determined by the principal medical officer. 1892 KIPLING *Barrack-room Ballads, Oonts*, We socks 'im with a *stretcher-pole. 1844 H. STEPHENS *Book of Farm* I. 668 The beam and handles are further connected by *stretcher-tubes and bolts.

Stretching (stre·tʃiŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. STRETCH *v.* + -ING [1].] The action or an act of the verb. Also with advs., *forth, out.*

c 1375 WYCLIF *Serm.* Sel. Wks. I. 127 A þousand 3eer ben to him as 3isterday; and, shortly, al þing þat was or ever shal be hereafter is present unto him, for streeching of his longe beying. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* v. xxiii. (1495) 131 By stretchynge of the lowes the frogge makyth his noyse. *c* 1449 PECOCK *Repr.* iv. iii. 431 Not so that the thing or gouernaunce wirchith or makith bi his kinde eny strecching into the yuel, but that [etc.]. 1560 BIBLE (Genev.) *Isa.* viii. 8 And the stretching out of his wings shall fil the breadth of thy lande. *a* 1586 SIDNEY *Arcadia* iv. (1598) 399 With a painfull stretching, and forced yawning. 1609 HOLLAND *Amm. Marcell.* xxix. iv. 357 After they had been maimed and lamed before with stretching upon the racke. 1835 HEBERT *Engin. & Mech. Encycl.* I. 407 Previously to the rovings receiving their last reduction on the spinning frame, they undergo a process called stretching. 1838 DICKENS *Nich. Nick.* xxii, The Masters Crummles..evinced, by various half-suppressed yawns and stretchings of their limbs, an obvious inclination to retire for the night. 1855 DUNGLISON *Med. Lex.* s. v. *Pandiculation*, In the state of health, stretching occurs before and after sleep; especially when we are fatigued. 1897 C. T. DAVIS *Manuf. Leather* xxvi. (ed. 2) 409 The above process..acts as a preservative and stops all further stretching, one of the disadvantages of new belts.

† **b.** *Stretching out*: extent. *Obs.*

1536 PALSGR. 277/1 Stretchyng out of a thyng, *estendue.*

c. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *stretching-force, -frame, -machine, -pulley, -roller, -string*; **stretching-board**, (*a*) a board used to lie upon in callisthenic exercises; (*b*) a flat board upon which a corpse is laid out before being placed in a coffin; **stretching-bond**, a bond (see BOND *sb.*[1] 13 *a*) in which stretchers only (and not headers) are used; **stretching-carriage**, a tenter in the form of a carriage; **stretching-course**, a course of bricks or stones laid with their length in the direction of the wall; **stretching-iron** = STRETCHER 4 c; **stretching-mule** = STRETCHER-*mule*; **stretching-room**, space in which to stretch (the limbs); † **stretching-sticks**, a glove-stretcher; **stretching-stone** *Building*, a stone set in the position of a stretcher; † **stretching-torture**, torture upon the rack.

1825 JAMIESON, *Streiking-Burd*, **Stretching-Burd*. 1843 THACKERAY *Ravenswing* iv, Who knows but at that moment Lady Bell was at work with a pair of her dumb namesakes, and Lady Sophy lying flat on a stretching-board? 1847 H. MILLER *First Impr.* xiii. (1857) 221 He had become as true a corpse as the one whose stretching-board he had usurped. 1805 in *Civil Engin. & Arch. Jrnl.* (1838) I. 330/1 *Stretching bond is where the longitudinal direction of the bricks is parallel with the face of the wall. 1876 in *Textile Colourist* III. 207 The series of tenters or *stretching carriages may..be so arranged that the fabric is stretched..by any given number of the tenters. 1693 MOXON *Mech. Exerc.* (1703) 261, I would advise in the *Stretching courses, wherein you lay stretching on both sides the Wall next the Line, so also to lay stretching in the middle of the Wall. 1783 *Phil. Trans.* LXXIV. 14 The steening [of the well]..consisted of two stretching courses of bricks. 1900 *Jrnl. Soc. Dyers* XVI. 11 Such a *stretching force as has been hitherto customary. 1825 J. NICHOLSON *Oper. Mech.* 383 Although this is called the *stretching-frame, the yarn is not stretched, but merely undergoes a further process of drawing and spinning. 1896 *Peterson Mag.* (Philad.) N. S. VI. 242/2 The stretching frame [for the canvas of a picture], 9 ft. by 14 ft. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 377 The *stretching iron, is a flat plate of iron or copper, fully a fourth of an inch thick at top, and thinning off at bottom in a blunt edge. 1851-54 *Tomlinson's Cycl. Useful Arts* (1867) II. 37/2 The stretching or softening iron..*is an upright plate..mounted upon an upright beam. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 1190 **Stretching machine.* Cotton goods and other textile fabrics,..are prepared for the market by being stretched in a proper machine, which lays all their warp and woof yarns in parallel positions. 1835 — *Philos. Manuf.* 40 The fine bobbin and fly-roving frame..can do a certain part of the work formerly done by the *stretching mule. 1805 R. W. DICKSON *Pract. Agric.* I. Plate xiv, This..machine..is set a-going, or stopped, at pleasure, by a *stretching pulley. 1835 URE *Philos. Manuf.* 196 The tension or *stretching-roller has its axle mounted in the segment-racks. 1895 M. HEWLETT *Earthwork out of Tuscany* 10 Twenty-four legs, and urgent need of *stretching-room [in the railway-carriage] as the night wore on. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 360/2 In the Sinister side, are the Glovers *stretching Sticks in Salter. 1833 LOUDON *Encycl. Archit.* § 981, *a* is the..heading stone; and *b*, the..*stretching stone. 1585 HIGINS *Junius' Nomencl.* 195/2 *Fidiculæ*,..the *stretching stringes or cords of the racke. 1599 NASHE *Lenten Stuff* 67 The strapado and the *stretching torture.

Stretching (stre·tʃiŋ), *ppl. a.* [f. STRETCH *v.* + -ING [2].] That stretches, in the senses of the verb. *Stretching gallop*, a gallop in which the legs of the horse are fully extended.

a 1547 SURREY *Æneid* IV. 258 (1557) E ij, An hundred hugie great temples he built, In his farre stretching realmes, to Jupiter. 1594 CHAPMAN *Shadow of Nt.* E j b, And in the stretching circle of her eye All things are compast. 1697 DRYDEN *Æneis* X. 297 A hundred sweep, With stretching Oars at once the glassy deep. 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* xliii, Stretching plains, And peopled towns. 1815 *Sporting Mag.* XLVI. 116 Bring [the horse] by degrees to take regular stretching gallops. 1872 *Routledge's Every Boy's Ann.* 2/2 To have a stretching canter on a good horse. 1887 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 17 Jan. 2/2 It depends upon the nature of the country, whether it is dense forest or stretching park land. 1897 MARY KINGSLEY *W. Africa* 653 You..want..a conscience made of stretching leather to deal with the Kruboy in the African climate, and live.

b. Stretching beam, a tie-beam or brace used in building.

1776 G. SEMPLE *Building in Water* 70 Be careful, that your stretching Beams lie firm and solid upon all your Caps. 1838 *Civil Engin. & Arch. Jrnl.* I. 178/2 Stretching beams or braces are framed across to each of the ribs.

Stretchless (stre·tʃlés), *a.* [f. STRETCH *sb.* or *v.* + -LESS.] Incapable of being stretched.

Used in the leather belting trade to designate belting from which the 'stretch' has been taken out (see STRETCH *sb.* 1 h).

† **Stre·tchling** *nonce-wd.* [f. STRETCH *sb.* or *v.* + -LING 1.] A minute quantity of space.

1674 N. FAIRFAX *Bulk & Selv.* 110 [An atome] not being a stretchling or *quid quantum*, any more than a now is an onwardling or *quid successivum*.

Stre·tchy, *a. colloq.* [f. STRETCH *v.* + -Y.]

1. Having the quality of stretching; elastic.

1854 *Poultry Chron.* I. 503 The marvellous stretchy tightness of their feathers. 1902 ELIZ. L. BANKS *Newspaper Girl* 164 Would that we had some of the same stretchy kind [of rules] in America!

b. Liable to stretch unduly.

1885 *Harper's Mag.* Jan. 282/2 A workman with a true eye can often counteract 'stretchy stock,' and cover up the deficiencies of the stitcher so that the upper [of the boot] will be a 'snug fit'.

2. Inclined to stretch oneself or one's limbs.

1872 'MARK TWAIN' *Roughing It* xxvii. (1882) 151 In the night the pup would get stretchy and brace his feet against the old man's back.

Strete, aphetic f. ESTREAT; obs. f. STREET.

‖ **Stretta** (stre·ta). *Mus.* [It., fem. of *stretto* adj.: see next.] = STRETTO b.

1876 STAINER & BARRETT *Dict. Mus.* s. v., The conclusion of the chorus in Haydn's *Creation*, 'The heavens are telling,' is a *stretta*.

‖ **Stretto** (stre·to), *adv.* and *sb. Mus.* Pl. **stretti** (stre·ti), also **strettos**. [It. = narrow: see STRAIT *a.*] **A.** *adv.* A direction to perform a passage, esp. a final passage, in quicker time.

1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl., *Stretto*, in the Italian music, is sometimes used to signify that the measure is to be short and concise; and consequently quick. In this sense it stands opposed to *largo*. 1801 BUSBY *Dict. Mus.* 1883 GROVE *Dict. Mus.* III. 739/2.

B. *sb.* (See quot. 1869.)

1854 *Cherubini's Counterpoint* 65 The stretto is..one of the essential requisites of a fugue. 1869 OUSELEY *Counterpoint* xxi. 166 In a fugue the stretto is an artifice by which the subject and answer are, as it were, bound closer together, by being made to overlap. 1898 G. B. SHAW *Perf. Wagnerite* 3 In classical music..there are fugues, with counter-subjects, strettos, and pedal points.

attrib. 1887 BANISTER *Mus. Anal.* 133 Alternating such fragments, or bringing them together, *stretto* fashion.

Streu, obs. form of STRAW.

Streught, Streum: see STRAIGHT, STREAM.

Streven, -in, -yn: see STRIVE *v.*

Strew (strū), *sb. rare.* [f. STREW *v.*] A number of things strewed over a surface or scattered about.

1578 BANISTER *Hist. Man* I. 28 b, Brachiale..is to be vnderstanded the whole strewe, and packe of bones [*L. totam eam ossium struem intelligi*], intersited betwene the cubit, and Postbrachiale. 1657 BP. H. KING *Exequy* Poems (1843) 34 And for sweet flowres to crown thy hearse, Receive a strew of weeping verse. 1891 W. WHITMAN *Autobiog.* (1892) 204 There being quite a strew of printer's proofs and slips, and the daily papers. 1907 'BARBARA BURKE' *Barbara goes to Oxford* 255, I have been sitting in a perfect strew of books and pamphlets and pictures.

Strew (strū), *v.* Also (now *arch.* and *dial.*) **strow** (strō). Pa. t. and pa. pple. **strewed, strowed**; pa. pple. also **strewn, strown.** Forms: *α.* 1 **strewian, streowian, streawian,** 3–7 **strewe,** 6–7 **strue,** 7 **streaw,** 6– **strew.** *β.* 4 **strouwe,** 4–7 **strowe,** 5 **strowhe,** 6 **stroe,** *pa. t.* **strouit,** 6– **strow.** *γ.* 6 **stroye,** 7 **stroy.** See also STRAW *v.*1 [Com. Teut. weak verb: OE. *strewian, streowian, streawian*, corresponds (exc. for differences of conjugation) to OFris. *strewa*, OS. pa. t. pl. *strôidun, streidun* (MLG. *strôien, streien*), MDu. *strôien* (mod.Du. *strooien*), OHG. *strouwen, strewen* (MHG. *strœuwen*, mod.G. *streuen*), ON. *strá* (but MSw. *ströa*, Sw. *strö*, Da. *strø*, are from MLG.), Goth. (**straujan*) pa. t. *strawida*, f. OTeut. root **strāu-*; the ulterior relations are uncertain, but most scholars assume some kind of connexion with the Indogermanic root **ster-* (extended **strā-*) in L. *sternĕre*, pa. pple. *strātus*: see STRATUM.

The OE. forms representing the orig. Teut. conjugation are: inf. *strēowjan*, etc. (see STRAY *v.*1) = Goth. *straujan*, and pa. t. *strēwede* = Goth. *strawida*. The original pres.-stem in OE. (as in some other Teut. langs.) was superseded by a new formation after the pa. t. Owing to the influence of the following *w*, the umlaut *-ē* became diphthongized, producing the forms *streow-, streaw-*. The OE. forms with *ē* or falling diphthong are represented by the *α* forms above, while *streow-* pronounced with a rising diphthong gave rise to the *β* forms. According to modern usage, the two spellings correspond to the two pronunciations; formerly, the spelling *strew* was often used where the rime was a word like *so*, and conversely *strow* riming with *new* etc.

The rare *γ* forms *stroyle* are app. borrowed from or influenced by Du. *strooien*.

The pa. pple. is now most commonly *strewn* or *strown* in passive tenses, esp. where there is no distinct reference to an agent; and *strewed, strowed* in active tenses.]

1. *trans.* To scatter, spread loosely; to scatter (rushes, straw, flowers, etc.) on the ground or floor, or over the surface of something; to sprinkle (something granulated or in powder) over a surface.

a. 971 *Blickling Hom.* 71 Sume naman þa twigu of þæm treowum, & streowodan on þone weg. *a* 1300 *E. E. Psalter* Ps. cxlvii. 16 Cloude als aske spredes [*MS. E.* strewes] he. *c* 1320 *Sir Tristr.* 2195 Meriadok dede floure bring And strewed it bi tvene. 1382 WYCLIF *Matt.* xxi. 8 Ful muche cumpanye strewiden her clothis in the wey. *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (Roxb.) xviii. 84 Þai take alde peper and stepez it and strewez apon it spume of siluer. 1598 KYD *Y. Brewen* 105 Shee powred out a measse for him, and strewed secretly therein part of the poyson. 1601 SHAKS. *Twel. N.* II. iv. 61 Not a flower, not a flower sweete, On my blacke coffin let there be strewne [*rime* throwne]. 1608 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. iv. IV. *Decay* 1153 One gobbet here, another there they streaw. 1636 J. SMITH *Pract. Physick* 128 The powder is strued into the Eye. 1675 HANNAH WOOLLEY *Gentlew. Comp.* 140 Strew some Nutmeg thereon. 1773 BOSWELL *Johnson* 19 Oct. (Tour Hebrides), Some good hay was strewed at one end of it [*sc.* the barn]; to form a bed for us. 1826 *Art of Brewing* (ed. 2) 162 If a few cloves..be strewed over the liquid sulphur. 1841 DICKENS *Barn. Rudge* xxxix, The newspapers which were strewn upon the table. 1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* I. v. 38 The roof strewed itself in ruins upon the floor.

β. c 1385 CHAUCER *L. G. W.* 101 [= 207], I bad hem strowe [*v.r.* strawe] flouris on myn bed. 1402 *Pol. Poems* (Rolls) II. 110 The presciouse perlis ȝe strowun to hogges. 1530 PALSGR. 741/1, I strowe spyces apon meates, or floures apon a place. *Je suys semé.* 1551 TURNER *Herbal* I. 5 This herbe..strowene in the bedde,..driueth serpentes awaye. 1584 COGAN *Haven Health* xc. 81 *marg.*, Damask powder..to stroe among clothes. 1634 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* 197 A small Altar..on which they strow flesh and flowres. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* IV. 428 Sweet Flow'rs are strow'd Beneath his Body. 1727 SWIFT *Desire & Possess.* 36 Possession kept the beaten Road; And gather'd all his Brother strow'd. 1815 BYRON *Destr. Sennacherib* ii, Like the leaves of the forest when Autumn hath blown, That host on the morrow lay wither'd and strown. 1864 TENNYSON *En. Arden* 501 These be palms Whereof the happy people strowing cried 'Hosanna in the highest!' 1870 BRYANT *Iliad* II. 517 When they had prayed And strown the salted meal.

absol. 1535 COVERDALE *Matt.* XXV. 24 Thou..gatherest where thou hast not strowed. [*Ibid.* 26 Where I strawed not.]

b. with *adv.*, as *on, in, about,* † *abroad, around.*

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 480/2 Strowyn a-brode, or scateryn, *spergo*. *c* 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* XII. 589 Strowe on origan. 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 461 b, *marg.*, Libelles strowed about in London. 1591 A. W. *Bk. Cookrye* 33 Then strew on sugar vpon it. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Past.* vii. 76 And lavish Nature laughs, and strows her Stores around. *a* 1756 ELIZA HAYWOOD *New Present* (1771) 47 Strew in a little salt and pepper. 1820 SCOTT *Monast.* viii, Looking at the leaves which lay strewed around. 1870 DICKENS *E. Drood* ii, Their fallen leaves lie strewn thickly about.

c. *transf.* and *fig.*

1382 WYCLIF *Isa.* XIV. 11 Vnder thee strouwed shal be a moȝte [Vulg. *subter te sternetur tinea*]. 1535 COVERDALE *Ezek.* XX. 23 That I wolde scatre them amonge the Heithen, and strowe them amonge the nacions. 1602 CHETTLE *Hoffman* III. (1631) E 1, The cleare moone strowes siluer in our path. 1603 SHAKS. *Meas. for M.* I. iii. 15 For so I haue strewd it in the common eare, And so it is receiu'd. 1731–8 SWIFT *Pol. Conversat.* Introd. 23 Excepting a small Number [of cant words] strewed here and there in the Comedies of that Age. 1750 GRAY *Elegy* 83 And many a holy text around she strews. 1823 B'NESS BUNSEN in Hare *Life* I. vi. 210 The torches were so thinly strewed, that..the procession seemed to be groping its way in the dark. 1837–42 TENNYSON *St. Agnes' Eve* 28 All heaven bursts her starry floors, And strows her lights below. 1848 T. RICKMAN *Styles Archit. Eng.* 212 The Tudor flower..profusely strewed over the roofs, &c. of rich late buildings.

† **d.** To spread out to view, display. *poet. Obs.*

1579 SPENSER *Sheph. Cal.* July 75 Of Synah can I tell thee more,..But little needes to strow my store, Suffice this hill of our.

2. To cover (the ground, a floor, any surface) with something loosely scattered or sprinkled.

13.. *K. Alis.* 1026 (Laud MS.) Of Olyue, & of muge floures Weren ystrewed halle & boures. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* XIV. 304 Of wapnys, armyng, and ded men The feld wes haly strewit then. 1382 WYCLIF *Mark* xiv. 15 He schal shewe to ȝou a greet souping place strewid [Vulg. *cenaculum grande stratum*]. 1480 in *Berks, Bucks & Oxon Archæol. Jrnl.* (1913) Oct. 84 For strewyng the church for li yeres.., iijs iiij d. 1594 CHAPMAN *Shadow of Nt.* B iij, My funerall bed, Strewd with the bones and relickes of the dead. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* XI. 439 The Inwards and thir Fat, with Incense strew'd. *c* 1770 MRS. GLASSE *Compl. Confectioner* 21 Strew it with fine powder sugar. 1788 COWPER *Negro's Compl.* 34 Wild tornadoes, Strewing yonder sea with wrecks. 1852 MRS. STOWE *Uncle Tom's C.* xxxii, The floor was already strewn with weary sleepers. 1885 MISS BRADDON *Wyllard's Weird* I. i. 13 He had strewed the carriage with newspapers and magazines.

β. 13.. *Coer de L.* 3735 Ladyes strowe here boures With rede roses, and lylye flowres. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* XVI. 633 All the feldis strowit war Of Ingliss men that slayn wes thar. 1426 LYDG. *De Guil. Pilgr.* 14673 Placys ful off old ordure I kan strowhe with Rosshys grene, That ther ys no felthe sene. *c* 1450 *Merlin* xviii. 294 All the feilde was strowed full of deed men and horse. 1530 PALSGR. 741/1 Strowe al your chamber with carpettes agaynst the kyng come. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* VI. 389 All the ground With shiverd armour strow'n. 1697 DRYDEN *Æneis* VI. 1225 Let me with Fun'ral Flowers his Body strow. 1711 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 44 P 5 It is indeed very odd, to see our Stage strowed with Carcases in the last Scene of a Tragedy. 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xi. III. 62 The mightiest enemy that had threatened our island since the Hebrides were strown with the wrecks of the Armada. 1859 TENNYSON *Enid* 874 The marble threshold..strown With gold and scatter'd coinage.

γ. 1647 HEXHAM I. s. v. *Rush*, To stroy with rushes, *met bieseu bestroyen*.

b. with *over.*

1540 PALSGR. *Acolastus* II. iii. L j, The soppe made of breade..strowyd ouer wyth harde chese and pepper. 1604 MARSTON *Malcont.* II. iv. D 1 b, Indian Eringos, strow'd ouer with the powder of Pearle of America. 1611 SHAKS. *Wint. T.* IV. iv. 129 O, these I lacke, To make you Garlands of, and my sweet friend, To strew him o're and ore. 1627 HAKEWILL *Apol.* (1630) 390 The very floore was strowed over with saffron. 1640 T. BRUGIS *Marrow of Physicke* II. 153 Strewe it over with powdered Sugar. 1844 H. H. WILSON *Brit. India* II. 28 In the course of three days the place was strewn over with the killed.

c, *transf.* and *fig.*

1390 GOWER *Conf.* II. 103 The chambre is strowed up and doun With swevenes many thousendfold. 1671 MILTON *P. R.* IV. 334 All our Law and Story strew'd With Hymns. 1714 MACKY *Journ. Eng.* (1724) I. 52 Between those Towns and Newberry the Country is finely strow'd with Gentlemen's Seats. 18.. R. JEBB *Law* in *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) II. 703/1 His path, at every turn, has been strewed with multiform difficulties. 1879 A. R. WALLACE *Australasia* xi. 219 The coast is thickly strewn with islands.

† **d.** *To strew out*: ? to intersperse *with. Obs.*

1626 B. JONSON *Staple of N.* III. ii, I was bespeaking but a parcell of newes, To strewe out the long meale withall. *a* 1637 — *Underwoods* lxv, I have no portion in them, nor their deale Of newes they get, to strew out the long meale.

3. To be spread or scattered upon (a surface).

a. 1596 SPENSER *Prothal.* 40 The snow which doth the top of Pindus strew, Did neuer whiter shew. *a* 1618 SYLVESTER *Hymn of Alms* 518 The fresh and fruitfull Deaw, Which every morning Flora's Buds doth streaw. 1697 DRYDEN *Æneis* IX, 906 Heaps of spent Arrows fall; and strew the Ground. 1792 S. ROGERS *Pleas. Mem.* I. 17 The mouldering gateway strews the grass-grown court. 1816 BYRON *Siege Corinth* xiii, Where thousand sleepers strew'd the strand. 1850 HANNAY *Singleton Fontenoy* III. vii, The latest magazines and novels..strewed the table. 1893 D. J. RANKIN *Zambesi Basin* viii. 135 The boulders that strewed the mountain-side.

β. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* VIII. xii. 110 Befor the altaris.. The brytnit beistis strowit all the ground. 1587 MARLOWE 1 *Tamb.* III. iii. 1313 Their bodies strowe the field. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* I. 302 Thick as Autumnal Leaves that strow the Brooks In Vallombrosa. 1733 POPE *Ess. Man* III. 37 Is thine alone the seed that strows the plain? 1786 BURNS *Raving Winds* 2 Yellow leaves the woodlands strowing. 1880 W. WATSON *Prince's Quest* (1892) 104 The light o' the stars that strow the Milky-way.

† **b.** Of an individual? To lie dead upon (the ground). *poet. Obs.*

c 1621 CHAPMAN *Iliad* XIII. 742 Thou, (If thou dar'st stand this lance) the earth before the ships shalt strow.

4. a. To spread (a cloth or the like) as a covering. **b.** To cover (a bed) *with* a coverlet. **c.** To make or lay (a bed). *rare.*

1615 CHAPMAN *Odyss.* XIV. 69 Of Osiers [he] spred A thicknèd hurdle; on whose top, he strow'd A wilde Goats shaggy skin. 1698 FRYER *Acc. E. India & P.* 18 A Cott or Bed strewed with a Quilt. 1810 SCOTT *Lady of L.* I. xxxi, Hands unseen thy Couch are strewing.

5. To level with the ground, lay low, throw down, prostrate. Also with *down.* Chiefly *poet.*

c 1460 *Towneley Myst.* vii. 194 Shall nothyng here in erth be kend, Bot it shall be strewyd and brend, All waters and the see. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* XII. vi. 47 Down strowand eik vnder fut in the plane Diuers otheris ȝit thrawand and half slane. 1621 BRATHWAIT *Time's Curtain drawn* B 1, Yet would that God of hosts, thy power confound, And strow thy slaughterd corps vpon the ground. *a* 1639 SIR H. WOTTON *Parall. Essex & Buckhm.* (1641) 12 About sixescore of their two hundred horse [were] strewed upon the Sand. 1663 BUTLER *Hud.* I. ii. 917 He spying Hudibras lye strow'd Upon the ground, like log of Wood. 1785 BURNS *To Mouse* iv, Thy wee-bit housie, too, in ruin! It's silly wa's the win's are strewin! 1847 TENNYSON *Princess* VI. 26 They mark'd it with the red cross to the fall, And would have strown it, and are fall'n themselves.

† **b.** *refl.* To spread out one's limbs. *poet. Obs.*

1610 G. FLETCHER *Christ's Vict.* II. ii, Soone did the Ladie to her Graces crie, And on their wings her selfe did nimbly strowe.

6. To level, calm (stormy waves); to allay (a storm). *poet.* Cf. L. *sternere aequor.*

1594 LODGE & GREENE *Looking-Gl. Lond.* (1598) A 4, Neptune on the Seas, Whose frowne stroyes [*Dyce* strows] all the Ocean with a calme. 1875 TENNYSON *Q. Mary* I. v, God lay the waves and strow the storms at sea..! 1884 — *Freedom* ix, How long thine ever-growing mind Hath still'd the blast and strown the wave.

Hence Strewed, Strewn *ppl. adjs.*

Chiefly in comb. as *heath-strewed, leaf-strewn.*

1603 E. FAIRFAX *Eclogue* IV. 1 in Mrs. Cooper *Muses Libr.* (1737) I. 364 The rough and Heath-strewed Wilderness. 1697 DRYDEN *Æneis* XI. 98 The Body on this rural Hearse is born, Strewd Leaves and Funeral Greens the Bier adorn. 1730–46 THOMSON *Autumn* 955 These now the lonesome Muse, Low-whispering, lead into their leaf-strown walks. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. III. v, Monsieur..is met with vivats and strewed flowers. 1847 DISRAELI *Tancred* IV. iv, The twilight descended over the rocky city,..and its strewn remains of palaces and theatres. 1890 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Miner's Right* xliv, Endless flower-strewn plains.

Strewbery, obs. form of STRAWBERRY.

Strewer (strū·əɹ). Also **strower** (strōu·əɹ). [f. STREW *v.* + -ER 1.] One who strews.

a 1593 *Exam. H. Barrowe* B iiij, He said, I was a strower of errors. 1710 J. CHAMBERLAYNE *St. Gt. Brit.* (ed. 33) 545/2 Strewer of Herbs. 1716 LADY G. BAILLIE *Housek. Bk.* (S. T. S.) 48 For Apoticars man, strewer 5 waterman 1s. shoemakers 2s., o 8 o. 1820 W. TAYLOR in *Monthly Rev.* XCIII. 332 When the strowers of grain had repeated their office, the birds again burst screaming on the flood!

Strewine, obs. Sc. pa. pple. of STRIVE *v.*

Strewing (strū·iŋ), *vbl. sb.* Also (now *arch.*) **strowing** (strōu·iŋ). [f. STREW *v.* + -ING 1.] The action of the verb STREW.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 480/2 Strowynge, or dede of strowynge, *sternicio*. 1692 BENTLEY *Boyle Lect.* v. 28 Whatsoever should result from the strowing of those loose Letters. 1865 G. MACDONALD *A. Forbes* 15 The strewing of the caltrops on the field of Bannockburn.

b. *concr.* Something strewed; a layer or bed of strewed material; esp. *pl.* flowers, leaves, etc., scattered on a grave. Now *rare* or *Obs.*

c 1000 *Lamb. Psalter* cxxxi. 3 Ðif ic astige on bedde abeninge minre *vel* strewunge [*in lectum strati mei*]. 1388 Wyclif *Gen.* xxxi. 34 Sche..hidde the idols vndur the strewyngis of the camel [Vulg. *subter stramenta cameli*]. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 480/2 Strowynge, or mater to strowe wythe, *stramentum*. 1578 H. Wotton *Courtlie Controv.* 7 Throwing one at an another handfuls of roses,..wherof they made such lauishe expence, as the ground was almost couered with the strowing therof. 1611 Shaks. *Cymb.* IV. ii. 285 The hearbes that haue on them cold dew o' th' night Are strewings fit'st for graues. 1648 Herrick *Hesper., To Perilla* 15 Let some weekly-strewings be Devoted to the memory of me. 1660 *Tales & Jests Mr. H. Peters* 12 The Parson seeing the Turf, was well pleased, supposing it was laid there onely as strowings to adorn his seat. 1726 Leoni *Alberti's Archit.* II. 114 b, Strew the bottom of your Cistern with good round Pebbles..: and the higher you make this strewing, your water will be the more limpid. 1728 E. Smith *Compl. Housew.* (ed. 2, 173 Put a row of Flowers, and a strowing of Sugar, till the Pot is full. 1823 W. Taylor in *Monthly Mag.* LVI. 125 Be content to let another inherit thy strewings of palm-leaves.

c. *attrib.*, as *strewing-herb*.

1571 in Feuillerat *Revels Q. Eliz.* (1908) 140 Bayes & strewing erbes. 1573-80 Tusser *Husb.* (1878) 95 Strowing herbes of all sortes. 1598 Nashe *Christ's T.* 26 Happy is that Sister, that (for strewing-hearbes) may scatter her discheueld Mayden-hayre, on her dead Brothers trunck. 1877 *Encycl. Brit.* VI. 82 The coarsest variety [of ground smalts], known as strewing blue.

† Strew·ingly, *adv. Obs. rare*⁻¹. [f. *strewing* pr. pple. of Strew *v.* + -ly ².] Dispersedly.

1578 Banister *Hist. Man* VII. 92 b, The flesh of Muscles.. is for the most part one kynde [of fibre], and those more strewyngly set.

Strewment (strū·mĕnt). *rare.* [f. Strew *v.* + -ment.] Something strewed or for strewing; *pl.* flowers, etc. strewed on a grave.

1602 Shaks. *Ham.* v. i. 256 Yet heere she is allowed her Virgin Rites, Her Maiden strewments, and the bringing home Of Bell and Buriall. 1834 J. Wilson in *Blackw. Mag.* XXXVI. 409 You all know..Raleigh..who spread his fine purple cloak on the mire...But here is a sweeter strewment. 1857 *Chamb. Jrnl.* VII. 368 Oh, minster gray!..I come to thee with strewments.

Strewn, *ppl. a.*: see after Strew *v.*

'Strewth. *vulgar.* Short for *God's truth*, used as an oath. See 'S.

1892 Kipling *Barrack-room Ballads* 20 Mad drunk and resisting the Guard—'Strewth, but I socked it them hard!

Strey: see Straw *sb.*¹, Stray *sb.*

Streyght(e: see Straight, Strait, Stretch *v.*

Streyint, streynth(e: see Strength.

Streyk(e, obs. ff. Streak *v.*¹, Streek *v.*

Streym(e, obs. forms of Stream.

Streyt(e: see Straight, Strait, Stretch *v.*, Street. **Streyves** (*pl.*): see Straif.

‖ Stria (strəi·ă). Pl. **striæ** (strəi·ī). [L. *stria* a furrow, flute of a column. Cf. F. *strie*.]

1. *Arch.* A fillet between the flutes of columns, pilasters, and the like.

The accepted sense among architects, both French and English; but app. due to misunderstanding of Vitruvius, who uses the word for a flute of a column, or a facet of a column of polygonal section.

1563 Shute *Architect.* D j b, The fifth parte is for Striæ, which are also called Femora. 1664 Evelyn tr. *Freart's Parallel Archit.* etc. 130 The Striæ..are those plain spaces between the Flutings in the Ionic, Doric, Corinthian and Composed Orders. *Ibid.*, The Stria being commonly a third or fourth part of the widness of the Flutings, and diminishing with the Contraction of the Scapus, unless the Shaft be very high. 1771 W. Newton tr. *Vitruvius' Archit.* IV. iii. (1791) 78 The columns are to be wrought in twenty striæ, which, if made flat, form twenty angles, but, if they are hollowed, they are to be thus performed. 1836 Parker *Gloss. Archit.* (1850) I. 449.

2. Chiefly in scientific use. A small groove, channel, or ridge; a narrow streak, stripe, or band of distinctive colour, structure, or texture; *esp.* one of two or of a series.

1673 Ray *Journ. Low C.* 341 Rayes or ribs of stone (answering to the ridges or *striæ* of a cochle-shell). 1681 Grew *Museum* I. § 5. iii. 113 The Scales..of the same Fish..have a great many exceeding small *Striæ*. 1698 T. Molyneux in *Phil. Trans.* XX. 220 Nor can there be observed Rays, Furroughs, *Striæ* or any manner of Lines running along its [Giant's Causeway stone] Superficies. 1728 Woodward *Nat. Hist. Fossils* I. I. 229 Three Crusts of an Hæmatites, adhering to each other, and cross'd with fine small *Striæ*. 1731 Miller *Gard. Dict.* s.v. *Malva*, Each little Lodge appears most artificially jointed within the corresponding *Striæ* or Channels. 1783 M. Cutler in *Life, Jrnls. & Corr.* (1888) II. 208 This vapor was of a bright color, without any tincture of red, and striated with very fine striæ. 1815 Stephens in *Shaw's Gen. Zool.* IX. I. 31 Neck on both sides with two striæ. 1823 W. Phillips *Introd. Min.* (ed. 3) p. xcv, The slight channels occasionally observable on the planes of crystallized minerals are termed striæ. 1860 Tyndall *Glac.* I. vii. 56 The dirt upon the surface of the ice was arranged in striæ. 1873 T. H. Green *Introd. Pathol.* (ed. 2) 55 In hearts less affected, striæ of fat will be seen lying amongst the muscle. 1875 Bennett & Dyer *Sachs' Bot.* 29 The one system, consisting of parallel striæ, is always cut by the other system, which also consists of parallel striæ.

b. *Path.* A linear hæmorrhagic macula.

1855 Dunglison *Med. Lex., Vibices,..Striæ*,..large purple spots, like the marks produced by the strokes of a whip, which appear under the skin in certain malignant fevers.

c. *Glass-manuf.* An imperfection in the form of a streak or band.

1832 G. R. Porter *Porcelain & Glass* 248 Striæ are undulating appearances, perfectly vitrified, and equally transparent with any other part of the glass; they..result from a want of congruity in the composition of the particles which make up the substance. 1867-77 G. F. Chambers *Astron.* VII. viii. 723 Air-bubbles, sand-holes, striæ, scratches [in the lens] are no doubt undesirable.

d. *pl. Electr.* The alternate bright and dark bands observed in vacuum-tubes (Geissler tubes) upon the passage of an electrical discharge.

1881 Spottiswoode in *Nature* 6 Oct. 549/2 When the pressure is considerably reduced, these blocks are replaced by the beautiful system of flakes or 'striæ' delineated. *Ibid.* 550/2 As the exhaustion proceeds the striæ become more and more separated...At first mere flakes of light, they gradually increase in thickness. 1893 Sloane *Electr. Dict.* 496 In Geissler tubes the light produced by the electric discharge is filled with striæ, bright bands alternating with dark spaces; these may be termed electric striæ.

Striack, obs. form of Stirk.

Striæform (strəi·ĭfɒm), *a.* [f. *striæ* genit. sing. of Stria + -form.] Having the form or structure of striæ.

1822 J. Parkinson *Outl. Oryctol.* 223 Rays small, close, striæform, equal. 1840 *Penny Cycl.* XVII. 359/2 Shell.. marked with numerous very narrow, striæform..rays.

Striate (strəi·ĕit), *a.* [ad. mod.L. *striāt-us*, f. L. *stria*: see Stria and -ate ². Cf. F. *strié*.] Marked or scored with striæ, showing narrow structural bands, striped, streaked, furrowed.

The earliest examples relate to the hypothesis of Descartes, as to the 'striate' or channelled condition of the constituent particles of matter.

1678 Cudworth *Intell. Syst.* 684 Though Cartesius would needs imagine this Earth of ours once to have been a Sun, and so it self the Centre of a lesser Vortex; whose Axis was then Directed after this manner, and which therefore still kept the same Site or Posture, by reason of the Striate Particles, finding no fit Pores or Traces for their passage thorough it, but only in this Direction. *a* 1706 Evelyn *Hist. Relig.* (1850) I. 15 Des Cartes..will have God contribute nothing more to the creation of the world, than the whirligig of innumerable vortices, globes, and striate particles. 1760 J. Lee *Introd. Bot.* I. xiv. (1763) 37 Striate, streaked. 1777 Robson *Brit. Flora* 263 *Equisetum fluviatile*...Stem striate. 1805 [S. Weston] *Werneria* 26 This stone..is in texture foliate, And partly striate. 1822-29 Good *Study Med.* (ed. 3) I. 346 The long thread worm is..beneath, smooth; finely striate on the fore-part. 1870 Hooker *Stud. Flora* 94 Trifolium hybridum...Standard twice as long as the calyx, striate. 1876 J. G. Jeffreys in *Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist.* Ser. IV. XVIII. 252 The rest of the lower valve is free and concentrically striate.

Striate (strəi·eit), *v.* [ad. mod.L. *striāt-*, ppl. stem of *striāre*, f. *stria*: see Stria and -ate ².] *trans.* To mark or score with striæ, to furrow, streak.

1709 *Phil. Trans.* XXVI. 378 This melted Matter.. fix'd in a Regulus-like, friable Mass, and appear'd sometimes lightly striated, or shot into sharp Points like Needles. *a* 1776 J. Ellis *Zoophytes* (1786) 3 Its body is striated lengthways with thousands of little glands. 1814 Southey *Roderick* XVI. 96 The rocky vale..Bare here, and striated with many a hue, Scored by the wintry rain. 1862 G. P. Scrope *Volcanos* 409 Such sudden floods..striate and polish its hardest rocks.

Striated (strəi·eitĕd), *ppl. a.* [f. prec. + -ed ¹.] **1.** In scientific use: Marked or characterized by striæ, furrowed, streaked, = Striate *a.*

1646 Sir T. Browne *Pseud. Ep.* II. ii. 58 Whether these effluviums do flye by streated [*sic*; 1658 striated] Atomes and winding particles as Renatus des Cartes conceaveth; or [etc.]. 1705 Petiver in *Phil. Trans.* XXV. 1954 This is a deep, thin,..finely striated Shell. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s.v. *Leaf, Striated Leaf*, one with a number of longitudinal furrows on its surface. 1851 Carpenter *Man. Phys.* (ed. 2) 204 When the striated Muscular Fibre is examined still more closely. 1866 Huxley *Physiol.* xii. (1872) 291 Muscle is of two kinds striated, or striped, and smooth, plain, or unstriated. 1871 Darwin *Descr. Man* II. xvi. 184 Young cross-bills..in their immature striated plumage..resemble the mature redpole.

b. In specific names of animals, birds, etc. Also *Striated Ipecacuanha*: see Ipecacuanha 3.

1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s.v. *Trumpet-shell*, The striated buccinum, with oblong tubercles. 1771 Pennant *Syn. Quadrupeds* 231 Striated Weesel. 1781 — *Hist. Quadrupeds* I. 209 Striated Monkey. 1783 Latham *Gen. Synopsis Birds* II. I. 142 Striated Grosbeak. 1827 Griffith tr. *Cuvier* V. 228 *Mus Striatus* (the Striated Mouse). 1831 J. Davies *Man. Mat. Med.* 439 Striated ipecacuanha. *Psychotria emetica*. 1840 Macgillivray *Brit. Birds* III. 86 *Picus striolatus*. The Striated Woodpecker. 1845 J. E. Gray *Catal. Lizards Brit. Mus.* 23 The Striated Spinetail. *Acanthopyga striata*.

c. *Min. Striated fracture* (see quot.).

1796 Kirwan *Elem. Min.* (ed. 2) I. 35 The Striated Fracture..consists of long narrow separable parts laid on or beside each other.

2. *Arch.* Chamfered, channelled, grooved.

1727 Bailey, vol. II. 1771 W. Newton tr. *Vitruvius' Archit.* IV. iv. (1791) 80 Two columns..one being striated, the other not. 1842 Gwilt *Archit.* Gloss.

3. Constituting striæ.

1854 Fairholt *Dict. Terms Art, Striated*, disposed in ornamental lines, either parallel or wavy. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 608 Little hard papules..secondarily complicated with striated excoriations.

Striation (strəi·ēi·ʃən). [n. of action f. Striate *v.*: see -ation.]

1. Striated condition or appearance.

1851 Ruskin *Stones Venice* (1874) I. viii. 94 Longitudinal furrowing or striation on the original single shaft. 1866 Huxley *Physiol.* xii. (1872) 291 This contractile substance..presents a..transverse striation. 1877 M. Foster *Physiol.* I. ii. (1878) 81 Striation is characteristic of muscles whose contraction is rapid. 1883 Chamberlin in *3rd Ann. Rep. U.S. Geol. Surv.* 318 Glacial movements...Striation. 1914 Conan Doyle *Capt. Pole Star* 40 This weapon is said to exhibit a longitudinal striation on the steel.

2. One of a set or system of striæ, a streak, a marking; esp. *Geol.* one of the grooves or glacial marks found on rock-surfaces; *Min. pl.* the fine parallel lines on a crystalline face.

1849 Dana *Geol.* App. I. (1850) 710 A fragment from Harper's Hill contains 25 to 27 striations in half an inch. 1888 P. L. Sclater *Argentine Ornith.* I. 97 *Agelæus thilius*... Beneath paler, cinereaceous white with black striations.

Striato- (strəi,ēi·tō), used in *Zool.* and *Bot.* as combining form of mod.L. *striātus*, prefixed to adjs. in the sense 'striate and —', as *striato-crenulate, -echinulate, -nervose, -punctate, -reticulate, -rugose, -tubular*.

1850 W. King *Permian Fossils* 9 Arborescent plants, having stems with a large pith encircled by a narrow striato-tubular (ligneous?) cylinder. 1871 W. A. Leighton *Lichenflora* 91 Striato-nervose. *Ibid.* 92 Striato-rugose. *Ibid.* 111 Striato-crenulate. 1881 H. B. Brady in *Jrnl. Microsc. Sci.* Jan. 46 Surface, striatopunctate, i. e. with minute pits or depressions in close, regular, parallel lines from one end of the test to the other. 1893 G. Brook *Catal. Madrep. Corals* I. 40 Wall striato-reticulate when thin. *Ibid.* 76 Wall striato-echinulate.

Striature (strəi·ătiŭĭ). [ad. L. *striātūra* (Vitruv.) f. L. *stria* (see Stria).] Disposition of striæ, striation; also, one of a set of striæ.

1728 Woodward *Nat. Hist. Fossils* I. I. 230 Hæmatitæ shewing several Varieties in the Crusts, Striature, Texture, and Constitution of this Body. 1771 W. Newton tr. *Vitruvius' Archit.* IV. iii. (1791) 78 Thus the Doric column will have its proper kind of striature. 1846 Dana *Zooph.* (1848) 374 The exterior striatures of the calicles.

Stric, obs. form of Streak sb.

† Strich. *Obs. rare.* Also 6 **strych(e, stritche.** [Prob. a formation suggested by *scrich-* (*owl*) and L. *strix*. See Strix.] The screech-owl.

1552 Huloet, s.v. *Owle*, A stryche owle. *Ibid.*, Stritche owle, *Strix*. 1590 Spenser *F. Q.* II. xii. 36 The ruefull Strich, still waiting on the bere.

Strichel(l, obs. forms of Strickle *sb.*

Stricht, obs. Sc. form of Straight.

Strick (strik), *sb.* Forms: 5 **stric, strek, strycke,** 5–7 **strik,** 5, (9 *Sc.*) **streek,** 6 **streeke, stryeke,** 6–7 **stricke,** 6– **strick.** [f. **strik-* wk.-grade of the root of Strike *v.* Cf. OF. *estrique* (= sense 3), Pg. *estriga* (= sense 1).]

1. A bundle of broken hemp, flax, jute, etc. for heckling. Cf. Strike *sb.* 2.

14.. *Nom.* in Wr.-Wülcker 696/12 *Hic linipolus*, a stric of lyne. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 479/2 Streek, of flax (*Kylw. A. P. linipulus*). 1616 Surfl. & Markham *Country Farm* V. xviii. 568 So you shall beate this flaxe till it bandle as soft as any silke, then vnplat the strickes againe, and heckle it through the second heckle. 1673 A. Walker *Lees Lachrymans* 8 The Blaze, a lock or strik of Flax, which gives but one flash, and dyes. 1688 Holme *Armoury* III. 106/2 A Head of Flax, is twelve Stricks tied up to make a Bunch. A Strick, is about ten handfulls [of hemp or flax] made up together in a head. 1847 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* VIII. II. 385 It is considered best to divide the labour of cleaning each strick of flax among three different stands. 1852 A. Robb *Poems & Songs* 115 A streek o' lint I canna pu'. 1881 *Spons' Encycl. Industr. Arts* etc. IV. 1243 Each stone [of 14 lb.] contains 5–8 'stricks' or handfuls of finished flax, and each strick is composed of two 'fingers', two of the small lots that have been treated at one operation in the scutching-process.

b. In *Silk-manuf.* A bunch of silk fibre.

1887 *Encycl. Brit.* XXII. 63/1 When the spikes are sufficiently filled [with silk fibre], the lap is cut.., and so stripped from the drum it forms a definite number of 'stricks'.

2. A measure of capacity for corn, coal, etc.; also the measuring vessel. Cf. Straik *sb.*¹ 2, Strike *sb.* 4. Now *dial.*

1421 *Coventry Leet Book* 27 He schall haue a strik of corne for his labour. 1530 in Phillipps *Wills* (*c* 1830) 177, I bequethe to..our Lady at Bretforton a strycke of barley. 1569 *Nottingham Rec.* (1889) IV. 135 Payd..for makyng of a sealle to sealle stryckes wyth alle xij d. 1576–77 *Ludlow Churchw. Acc.* (Camden) 165 Item, for half a strick of coales, ij d. 1600 in T. North *Bells Lincs.* (1882) 512 Item pd to Anthony harte for a strick of mawlt..iiijs. iiijd. 1893–4 *Northumbld. Gloss., Streek*,..applied occasionally to the measure of corn itself, a streek being understood for a bushel.

3. A piece of wood with which surplus grain is struck off level with the rim of the measure. Cf. Strickle *sb.* 1, Strike *sb.* 3 a. Now *dial.*

14.. *Lat. Eng. Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 588/13 *Hostorium*, a stryche. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 479/1 Strek, of a mesure as of a buschel or other lyke, *hostorium*. 1585 Higins *Junius' Nomencl.* 256/1 *Radius*,..that which Bakers vse to make their meale measures euen: a streeke or strichell. *Ibid.* 341/1 *Hostorium*,..a stritchill: a stricke: a..peece of wood ..wherewith measures are made euen.

Comb. 1886 *W. Somerset Word-bk.* s.v. *Strick* 2, So 'strick-measure' means level, in distinction from 'heap-measure', as peas, potatoes, fruit, &c. are sold.

Strick (strik), *v.* Also 5 **stryche.** [f. Strick *sb.*]

1. *trans.* To strike off (corn, etc.) level with the brim of the measure.

14.. *Lat.-Eng. Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 588/12 *Hostio*, to stryche. 1651 N. Bacon *Disc. Govt. Eng.* II. vii. 65 The price must be the same with the true Market price; the

measure according to the common measure stricked. 1692 *Capt. Smith's Seaman's Gram.* II. xxi. 134 Thrust your Ladle into the same [*sc.* the budge-barrel], filling it full of Powder, and then strick it with a Ruler.

2. To prepare (lint) for heckling; also, to heckle (flax, etc.).

1808 JAMIESON *s.v., To strick lint*, to tie up flax in small handfuls, in preparing it for being milled. 1894 *Times* 12 Mar. 13/5 [Flax Machinery.] By means of this breaker the middle operation of 'stricking' is dispensed with.

Strick, *a. Sc.* Chiefly in form **strict.** [perh. related to STRIKE *v.* 1 c, to flow.] Of running water: Swift, rapid.

1629 Z. BOYD *Last Battell* 1075 Furnish him with strength, whereby he may row against the strictest streams of all temptations. *a* 1808 *State, Leslie of Powis v. Fraser of Fraserfield* 60 (Jam.) That the said dike..stems and calms the water where the shot is felled, while otherwise it would be a strict current. 1808 JAMIESON *Strict* [ed. 1879 *Strick, strict*], rapid. *The stream's very strict*, it runs rapidly. 1812 J. J. HENRY *Campaign against Quebec* 34 Some strict water interfered, but in a few days we came to the first pond. *absol.* 1825 JAMIESON, *Strick o' the watter*, the most rapid part of any stream.

Strick(e, obs. forms of STREAK *sb.*, STRIKE *v.*

Stricken (stri·k'n), *pa. pple.* and *ppl. a.* [pa. pple. of STRIKE *v.*]

A. *pa. pple.* in special sense. (For other uses see STRIKE *v.*) *Stricken in years* (earlier † *stricken on, in age, in elde*): advanced in years. *arch.* (See also STRUCK, STRUCKEN.)

The pple. in these phrases belongs to STRIKE *v.* in the intransitive sense 'to go'. Cf. the equivalent *stepped (stape, stopen) in years* (STEP *v.* 4).

c 1380 *Sir Ferumb.* 3481 Sirs, ȝe knowe þ wel þat y am sumdel stryken on age. *c* 1400 *Sc. Trojan War* (Horstm.) 2621, I ame now so strikine in elde, That I þe kynryk may nocht welde. 1535 COVERDALE *Gen.* xviii. 11 And Abraham and Sara were both olde, & well stryken in age. 1542 UDALL tr. *Erasm. Apoph.* 37 b, He learned to plaie on the harpe after yᵗ he was well striken in age. *a* 1586 SIDNEY *Arcadia* I. iii. (1912) 19 He being already well striken in yeares, maried a young princes, named Gynecia. 1662 J. DAVIES tr. *Olearius' Voy. Ambass.* 133 A man well stricken in years. 1709 STEELE *Tatler* No. 98 ₱ 2 Though you are stricken in years, and have had great experience in the world. 1819 SCOTT *Leg. Montrose* xxiii, A matron somewhat stricken in years. 1839 LANE *Arab. Nts.* I. 84 At length there arrived..a great sage, stricken in years, who was called the sage Doobán.

B. *ppl. a.*

1. Of a deer (occas. of other animals): Wounded in the chase. †Also of a person: Hurt by a pointed instrument.

1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* IV. ii. 40 Our all the cetie enragit scho..Wandris, as ane strikin hynd. 1540 PALSGR. *Acolastus* IV. iii. T j b, I beinge a stryken fysher, waxe wyse .i. whan a fisher man hath hurte his hande with a hoke, [etc.]. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* I. ii. 24 A virgin widow, whose deepe wounded mind With loue, long time did languish as the striken hind. *Ibid.* II. i. 12 That shall I shew (said he) as sure, as hound The stricken Deare doth chalenge by the bleeding wound. 1603 SHAKS. *Ham.* III. ii. 282 (Qo. 1) What, frighted with false fires? Then let the stricken [1604 Qo. 2 strooken; 1623 *Fol.* strucken] deere goe weepe, The Hart vngalled play. 1784 COWPER *Task* III. 108, I was a stricken deer, that left the herd Long since. 1885 *Riverside Nat. Hist.* (1888) V. 202 A stricken whale has been known to stay an hour below the surface.

2. Struck with a blow.

1538 ELYOT *Dict., Pulsatus*, striken as a harpe or other instrument is, whyche hath stryuges. 1803 VISCT. STRANGFORD *Poems of Camoens* (1810) 107 The stricken flint its fires betray'd! 1815 SCOTT *Waterloo* xx. 24 O! when thou., mark'st the matron's bursting tears Stream when the stricken drum she hears. 1847 TENNYSON *Princess* v. 484 Into fiery splinters leapt the lance, And out of stricken helmets sprang the fire. 1893 S. GEE *Auscult. & Percussion* iii. (ed. 4) 60 A secondary object [in percussion] is to discover the degree of resistance or the density of the stricken spot.

b. Of a sound, musical note: Produced by striking a blow. *Stricken hour* (arch.): a full hour as indicated by the striking of the clock.

1820 SCOTT *Monast.* x, And without interruption or impatience, to listen for a stricken hour to his narration. 1855 HAWTHORNE *Eng. Note-Bks.* (1870) I. 365 General — made us a call..and sat talking a stricken hour or thereabouts. 1873 MRS. WHITNEY *Other Girls* xxxiv, A sudden stop, in speech as in music, is sometimes more significant than any stricken note.

3. Of a person, community: Afflicted with disease or sickness; overwhelmed with trouble or sorrow, and the like. Of the face: Marked with or exhibiting great trouble.

Frequent in comb., as *fever-* (1818), *panic-* (1814), *pestilence-* (1819), *poverty-* (1844), *sorrow-* (1819) *stricken*: see those words.

[1611 BIBLE *Isa.* liii. 4 Yet we did esteeme him striken, smitten of God, and afflicted.] 1846 LYTTON *Lucretia* I. vii, He rather heightened than removed the picture which haunted Mainwaring—Susan, stricken, dying, broken-hearted! 1873 BURTON *Hist. Scot.* VI. lxx. 209 The generous assistant of the stricken or oppressed. 1875 H. JAMES *Roderick Hudson* xxvi, Roderick's stricken state had driven him..higher and further than he knew. 1896 MRS. CAFFYN *Quaker Grandm.* 222 The woman shuddered, and shrank away. Presently she lifted up a drawn, stricken face. 1904 *Verney Mem.* II. xlvii. 269 It should have reached him the summer of the great plague, when there was but little intercourse between the ships and the stricken city [Aleppo].

b. Of the mind, heart, soul: Afflicted with frenzy, madness, grief, or the like.

1795 SOUTHEY *Joan of Arc* I. 58 To place her with some pious sisterhood, Who..may likeliest remedy The stricken mind, or frenzied or possess'd. 1845–6 TRENCH *Huls. Lect.* Ser. I. iii. 42 The good Samaritan that bound up the wounds of every stricken heart. 1897 WATTS-DUNTON *Aylwin* XIII. iii, Those..know little or nothing..of the stricken soul that looks out on man..through the light of an intolerable pain.

c. *jocularly.* 'Smitten' with love. Cf. *love-stricken.*

1840 DICKENS *Old C. Shop* viii, A stricken market-gardener.

4. Of a measure: Having its contents levelled with the brim of the measuring vessel, as distinguished from *heaped.* Cf. STRIKED *ppl. a.*

1495 *Act* 11 *Hen. VII*, c. 4 § 2 Be it also enacted that ther be but only viij bussheles rased and streken to the quarter of Corne. 1641 BEST *Farm. Bks.* (Surtees) 103 Wee have allwayes of a stricken bushell of corne, an upheaped bushell of meale. 1778 [W. MARSHALL] *Minutes Agric.* 27 Nov. 1775, I have employed an itinerant Chaff-cutter, at 1s. the quarter of sixteen striken-bushels. *Ibid.* 21 May 1776, Nine cart-horses eat thirty quarters of chaff..about three double quarters (of sixteen bushels equal to stricken measure) a-team a-week.

5. Of a sail: Lowered.

1593 *Sidney's Arcadia* II. (1598) 125 The cunningest mariners were so conquered by the storme, as they thought it best with striken [ed. 1 (1590) *reads* striking] sailes to yeeld to be gouerned by it.

6. *Stricken field* (rarely *battle*): a joined engagement between armed forces or combatants; a pitched battle.

A Sc. use, restored to literary currency by Scott. Cf. the phrases *to strike a battle, field* s. v. STRIKE *v.* 34 b.

?a 1700 *Old Ballad* in Scott *Waverley* Note 2 E, The Highlandmen are pretty men For handling sword and shield, But yet they are but simple men To stand a stricken field. 1820 SCOTT *Abbot* xviii, I never had the good fortune to see a stricken field. 1848 MACAULAY *Misc. Writ.* (1860) I. 252 He was vanquished on fields of stricken battle. 1864 BURTON *Scot Abr.* I. iii. 134 As if there had been an actual stricken field, with all the able-bodied men on both sides engaged in it.

Hence **Stri·ckenly** *adv.*, † **Stri·ckenness.**

1599 A. M. tr. *Gabelhouer's Bk. Physicke* 26/1 A precious water for the strickennes, & fallinge Sicknes... For strickennes. Take Assesbloode [etc.]..and this with God his ayde will recovere agayne his speeche. 1880 MRS. C. READE *Brown Hand & White* I. viii. 192 She marvels, and each succeeding year more strickenly, at the exceeding beauty of the young world. 1881 D. C. MURRAY *Joseph's Coat* II. xxv. 268 'This is a queer start', said the bewildered reader, staring strickenly at Joe.

Strickle (strik'l), *sb.* Forms: *α.* 1 **stricel,** -il, 5 **strik-, strykylle, -elle, strykkell,** 6–7 **strikle,** 7 **stricle,** 7– **strickle.** *β.* 6 **strichell, stritchill,** 7–8 **stritchel**(l, 7–9 **strichel.** *γ.* 7–8 **stricklace,** 8–9 **strickless,** 9 **stric(k)les, -liss, strecless, strikeless.** [OE. *stricel* (? also **stricels*) = Flem. *strekel* masc. (Kilian, De Bo), mod.Fris. *strikkil* strickle for a scythe (= sense 2 below), f. Teut. **strik-*: see STRIKE *v.*

The OE. word is recorded (see Bosworth-Toller) only in the senses 'Pulley, small wheel', and 'teat', which did not survive into ME.; they seem, like the senses explained below, to be referable to known senses of the verbal root. The *β* forms are due to a different ablaut-grade of the suffix; the *γ* forms seem to represent an OE. **stricels*.]

1. A straight piece of wood with which surplus grain is struck off level with the rim of the measure. Sometimes applied to the amount so measured.

14.. *Nom.* in WR.-WÜLCKER 726/4 *Hoc os*[*t*]*orium*, a strikylle. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 369/2 A Strykylle, *hostorium*. A Strylkell [*sic*: ? *read* strykkell] for A buschelle, *hostimentum*. 1585 HIGINS *Junius' Nomencl.* 256/1 *Radius*,..that which Bakers vse to make their meale measures euen: a streeke or strichell. *Ibid.* 341/1 *Hostorium*,..a stritchill: a stricke: a long & round peece of wood like a rolling pinne (with vs it is flat) wherewith measures are made euen. 1641 BEST *Farm. Bks.* (Surtees) 103 When wee goe to take up corne for the mill, the first thing wee doe is to looke out poakes, then the bushell and strickle. 1790 W. H. MARSHALL *Rur. Econ. Midl.* II. 443 *Strickless*; striker of a bushel, &c. 1800 W. PITT in S. Shaw *Hist. Staff.* (1801) II. i. 207/1 The grosser articles are heaped, but grain is stricken off, with the strait edge of a strip of board, called a strickless: this level measure of grain is here provincially termed strike, and strickless. 1887 *Kent Gloss., Strickle*, a striker, with which the heaped-up measure is struck off and made even. The measure thus evened by the strickle is called race measure, *i. e.* razed measure.

b. Applied to various instruments used for similar purposes in casting or moulding: see quots.

1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 326/1 The third [plumbers' instrument] is the Strickle; it is a slender Sparr, rabated in the ends answerable to the breadth of the Casting Frame,..by this he beats down the Sand in the Frame,..and when the Lead is cast over..the Plummer followeth the Lead with this Instrument, to drive it forwards, and keep it..all of a thickness. 1831 J. HOLLAND *Manuf. Metal* I. 69 The box is now filled up [with sand], and having been levelled with a strickle, is turned over. 1843 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* I. 363 A semicircular piece of wood, called a strickle, is used for working and smoothing the half core. 1885 [HORNER] *Pattern Making* 154 The sand within the frame is scraped out with a strickle, shouldered to the same depth as the thickness of the plate. 1888 *Lockwood's Dict. Mech. Engin., Strickle*, ..Any piece of wood cut to a special shape and used to impart a special contour to a bed of foundry sand, and thus save expense in pattern making.

2. A tool with which a reaper whets or sharpens his scythe = STRAIK *sb.*[1] 4. Also a mechanical grinder (see quot. 1846).

1641 BEST *Farm. Bks.* (Surtees) 32 The tooles that mowers are to have with them, are sythe, shafte, and strickle,..the best stricles are those that are made of..oake. 1764 *Museum Rust.* II. viii. 32 The fixing of the strickle or whetstone at the extremity of our [scythe-] shafts gives a very advantageous balance to the whole machine. 1828 CARR *Craven Gloss., Strickle*, a piece of wood besmeared with grease and strewed with sand to sharpen scythes. 1846 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* II. 913 The edges of the eight blades [of revolving shears for shearing cloth] are ground..by a grinder or strickle fed with emery, passed to and fro on a slide. 1859 F. S. COOPER *Ironmongers' Catal.* 70 Emery Strickles. 1908 [MISS E. FOWLER] *Betw. Trent & Ancholme* 372 The sharpening strickle on the scythe or the reaping-hook.

Strickle (stri·k'l), *v. Founding.* [f. STRICKLE *sb.*] *trans.* To strike *off* with a strickle (the superfluous sand) in moulding; to shape (a core) or form (a mould) by means of a strickle. Also *absol.*

1885 [HORNER] *Pattern Making* 153 A level bed would be made on the sand, the frame laid upon it, and the sand rammed round flush with its top edge, and strickled-off level. *Ibid.*, The curb ring facing, boss, and bed are strickled in the bottom by a board working round a core-bar. *Ibid.* 154 The sand within the frame is strickled over level with its upper face. *Ibid.*, In making tank-plates in quantity,..it is usually considered cheaper to make the pattern solid, and so save the cost of strickling each time of moulding.

Hence **Stri·ckling** *vbl. sb.*

1888 *Lockwood's Dict. Mech. Engin.*, The strickling is effected by means of a strickle or striking board and a guide of some form or another.

† **Stri·ckling,** *adv. Obs. rare*[−1]. [f. *strick*, STRECK *a.* + -LING[2].] Stiffly.

1641 BEST *Farm. Bks.* (Surtees) 9 The best way to make sheepe goe of in a markett is to..cutt of all the shaggie hairy woll which standeth stricklinge up; by which meanes they make them seeme more snodde, and of a better stapple.

† **Strickman.** *Sc. Obs. rare*[−1]. Meaning uncertain: ? a dummy, puppet.

a 1578 LINDESAY (Pitscottie) *Chron. Scot.* (S.T.S.) II. 274 And so he was bot ane strickman in that caus.

Strict (strikt), *a.* Forms: 6 **stryckt,** 6–7 **strickt, stricte,** 7 (8–9 *dial.*) **strick,** 6– **strict.** [ad. L. *strict-us* drawn together, tight, severe, rigid, pa. pple. of *stringĕre* to draw or bind tight. Cf. F. *strict* (18th c.), and see STRAIT *a.*]

I. Physical senses. Cf. STRAIT *a.* I.

† **1.** Drawn or pressed tightly together; tight, close. *Obs.*

1592 SHAKS. *Ven. & Ad.* 874 She wildly breaketh from their strict imbrace. 1615 CROOKE *Body of Man* 925 Their [the Bones] Articulations and Compositions many dissolute and laxe, many strict and close. 1694 in *Phil. Trans.* XVIII. 17 Her Thighs, Leggs, and Feet were..so extreamly elevated with a watry Humour, that upon a strict impress I could have buried three or four Fingers. *Ibid.* 43 A fresh Flux of Blood happened, and strict Bandage was applied. 1712 ARBUTHNOT *John Bull* III. App. iii, The fatal Noose perform'd its Office, and with most strict Ligature, squeez'd the Blood into his Face. 1781 COWPER *Retirement* 234 As woodbine weds the plant within her reach,..Strait'ning its growth by such a strict embrace.

quasi-*adv.* 1650 BULWER *Anthropomet.* iv. (1653) 86 The Russian Ladies tie up their Foreheads so strict with fillets.

b. Stretched taut. *rare*[−1].

1858 W. H. RUSSELL *Diary India* (1860) II. 207 We sat and listened to the rain falling on the strict canvas of the tents till dinner-time.

† **2.** 'Strung up', tense; not slack or relaxed. *Obs.*

1578 BANISTER *Hist. Man* VI. 86 This coate of the Testicle ..sheweth the nature of a certaine strict, and long Muscle. 1731 ARBUTHNOT *Aliments* vi. (1735) 157 We feel our Fibres grow strict or lax, according to the State of the Air.

b. Of frost: Keen, hard. *rare*[−1].

1893 STEVENSON *Catriona* XXVIII, Late in the night, in a strict frost, and my teeth chattering, I..considered [etc.].

3. Restricted as to space or extent; narrow, drawn in. Cf. STRAIT *a.* 2–4. Now *rare* or *Obs.*

1597 A. M. tr. *Guillemeau's Fr. Chirurg.* 50 b, The Breaste being anguste and stricte. 1603 B. JONSON *Entert. Queen & Prince at Althrope* 13 And when slow Time hath made you fit for war, Looke ouer the strict Ocean, and thinke where You may but leade us forth. 1612 WOODALL *Surg. Mate* Wks. (1653) 214 In ulcers and fistula's scarce a better medicine is found, to enlarge a strict orifice. 1675 R. BURTHOGGE *Causa Dei* 36, I am apt to think that Hell is of a Vast Extent, and that the bounds and limits of it, are not so strict and narrow, as the most imagine. 1828 WORDSW. *Power of Sound* i, Strict passage, through which sighs are brought.

† **b.** Of handwriting: Compressed. *Obs.*

1648 E. SPARKE *Shute's Sarah & Hagar* Ep. Ded., Penned in so diminutive a Letter, writ in so strict an Hand, (the wonder of Youth to read, much more of Age to write it).

4. Straight and stiff. *Obs.* exc. *Bot.* and *Zool.* (see quots.).

1592 R. D. *Hypnerotomachia* 27 The Chapters which stood vpon their strict and vpright Antes. [1793 MARTYN *Lang. Bot., Strictus*, stiff and straight. Strict will not do in English, and I do not recollect that we have any one word to express this idea.] 1857 A. GRAY *First Less. Bot.* 232 *Strict*, close and narrow; straight and narrow. 1870 HOOKER *Stud. Flora* 328 Euphorbia exigua..branches 6–15 in., erect and strict, or prostrate curved and ascending. 1891 *Century Dict.* s.v., The strict stem of some corals.

II. Figurative senses.

5. Of personal relations, alliance, etc.: Close, intimate. Now *rare* or *Obs.*

1600 MARSTON etc. *Jack Drums Entert.* III. (1601) F 2 b, By that strickt bond of loue that lincks our hearts. 1611 SIR D. CARLETON *Let.* 7 Sept. in *10th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. I. 533 There is now notoriously discovered a stricte intelligence betweene yᵉ Spaniards and the Albanesi. 1677 SIR R. SOUTHWELL in *Essex Papers* (Camden) II. 110 A new address to his Majesty for entring into a stricter Confederation with the Allies. 1719–20 STEELE *Theatre* No. 12 ₱ 6 There never was a more strict friendship than between those

Gentlemen. 1834 De Quincey *Autob. Sk.* Wks. 1854 II. 345 My intercourse with him was at no time very strict. 1845 Sarah Austin *Ranke's Hist. Ref.* I. 541 The ill concealed hostile disposition in which Don Juan Manuel had found the court of Rome..had, been converted into the strictest union by his efforts.

† b. Of a council: Secret, privy. After F. *conseil estroit* (Cotgr.). *Obs.*

1606 B. Barnes *Offices* I. 2 As at this day in Fraunce; where *Les generalx des finances, & les presedents des accomptes*, haue a prioritie..before both the Counsels strict and at large.

6. Of correspondence, agreement, or connexion between facts, ideas, etc.: Close, exactly fitting.

1715 Atterbury *Serm.* (Matt. xxvii. 25) (1734) I. 124 Some Circumstances which shew how strict a Correspondence there was between their Crime and their Punishment. 1762 Kames *Elem. Crit.* i. (1833) 20 Where ideas are left to their natural course, they are continued through the strictest connections. 1860 Pusey *Minor Proph.* 38/2 The strictest explanation is the truest.

Comb. (quasi-*adv.*) 1787 Polwhele *Engl. Orator* iii. 675 Like the abstruser Rules Of Logic link'd by strict-connecting Chain.

† 7. Restricted or limited in amount, meaning, application, etc. *Obs.*

1597 Hooker *Eccl. Pol.* v. lviii. § 2 Definitions, whether they be framed larger to augment, or stricter to abridge the number of sacraments. 1611 Shaks. *Cymb.* v. iv. 17 To satisfie If of *my* Freedome 'tis the maine part, take No stricter render of me, then my All. 1620 T. Granger *Div. Logike* 336 Here the predicate is more strict in signification then the subiect. 1737 Waterland *Eucharist* 42 The Word *Sacrament* is of great Latitude, and capable of various Significations, (some stricter and some larger).

8. Accurately determined or defined; exact, precise, not vague or loose. † Of particulars: Enumerated or described in exact detail.

1631 Milton *Sonn.* ii. 10 It shall be still in strictest measure eev'n To that same lot. 1658 Sir T. Browne *Hydriot.* ii. 6 Though we meet not with such strict particulars of these parts, before the new Institution of Constantine. 1692 Atterbury *Serm.* (Ps. cxl. 14) (1726) I. 13 According to the strict Import of the Word. 1760 *Cautions & Adv. to Officers of Army* 130 He may in a stricter Sense be called, *The Officer of the Day* than *of the Guard*. 1818 Hallam *Mid. Ages* viii. iii. (1819) III. 273 These [lieutenancies] do not however bear a very close analogy to regencies in the stricter sense, or substitutions during the natural incapacity of the sovereign. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* I. i. ii, If the very Rocks and Rivers (as Metaphysic teaches) are, in strict language, *made* by those Outward Senses of ours. 1875 E. White *Life in Christ* iv. xxiv. (1876) 394 Public legislative documents, in which important words are to be always taken in their strictest and most direct definition.

b. With defining word: Restricted to the exact use or definition indicated by the word.

1842 Loudon *Suburban Hort.* 23 The fruit, in a strict botanical sense, is the mature pistillum. 1891 *Century Dict., Strict* 8. Restricted; taken strictly, narrowly, or exclusively: as, a strict generic or specific diagnosis.

c. Of a calculated or measured result: Precise, exact; opposed to *approximate*.

1791 Smeaton *Edystone L.* (1793) § 261 *note*, The masons were employed in reducing the whole area of the work to a strict level.

d. Law. *Strict settlement*: see quot. 1841.

1710 T. Vernon *Chanc. Cases* (1728) II. 659 By Proof it appears a strict Settlement was intended. 1791 C. Fearne *Contingent Remainders* (ed. 4) I. 129 The limitation to her [the wife] for life, and a subsequent one to the heirs of her body by the husband have been decreed to operate by way of strict settlement. 1835 *Tomlins' Law Dict.* II. 3 Q. s. v. *Remainder*, In these strict settlements, the estate is unalienable till the first son attains the age of twenty-one. 1841 H. J. Stephen *Comm. Laws Eng.* i. vii. I. 307 When land is settled..by a limitation to the parent for life, and after his death to his first and other sons in tail, and trustees are interposed to preserve the contingent remainders, this is called a *strict settlement*.

9. Of confinement or imprisonment: Rigorous; severely restricted in regard to space or liberty of movement.

1667 Milton *P. L.* II. 321 To remaine In strictest bond. age. 1685 in *Verney Mem.* (1907) II. 400 'Tis true our confinement is not strict. 1756-7 tr. *Keysler's Trav.* (1760) I. 397 Your brother shall be kept in strict custody. 1869 A. Harwood tr. *Pressensé's Early Yrs. Christ.* II. ii. 166 The captivity of the apostle became increasingly strict.

10. Of watch and ward, authority, discipline, obedience, etc.: Rigorously maintained, admitting no relaxation or indulgence.

1602 Shaks. *Ham.* I. i. 71 This same strict and most obseruant Watch. 1613 Beaum. & Fl. *Philaster* II. i, What maister holds so strickt a hand ouer his boy, That he will part with him without one warning. 1667 Milton *P. L.* IV. 783 Uzziel, half these draw off, and coast the South With strictest watch. 1692 R. L'Estrange *Fables* liii. 54 A Prince's Leaving his Bus'ness Wholly to his Ministers without a Strict Eye over them in their Respective Offices. 1706 E. Ward *Wooden World Diss.* (1708) 72 He keeps so strict a Hand over his Crew, that he won't suffer them to Keep one Holy-Day. 1748 Smollett *Rod. Random* xxix, [He] gave the second mate a caution to keep a strict guard over his tongue. 1838 Thirlwall *Greece* xlii. V. 205 He..every where maintained strict discipline among his troops. 1855 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* xiii. III. 341 His temper was under strict government.

11. Of a law, ordinance, etc., or its execution: Stringent and rigorous in its demands or provisions, allowing no evasion.

1578 Whetstone *2nd Pt. Promos & Cass.* II. v, Their crafte, they collour so, As styll they haue, stryckt lawe vpon their side. 1580 E. Knight *Trial Truth* 5 There shall neede no such strickt order to mooue them therunto. 1667 Milton *P. L.* IX. 903 Rather how hast thou yeelded to transgress The strict forbiddance..? 1699 Evelyn *Diary* 24 Nov., To punish offenders and put the laws in more strict execution. 1789 W. Buchan *Dom. Med.* (1790) 499 During..the second stage of the disorder, though so strict a regimen is not necessary as in the first or inflammatory state, yet intemperance of every kind must be avoided. 1834 James *J. Marston Hall* xi, The Duke had given him strict orders to follow my commands implicitly. 1835 Thirlwall *Greece* vii. I. 290 From the beginning of their eighteenth year they were subjected to a stricter rule. 1913 J. H. Morrison *Trail Pioneers* xiv. 65 This purdah system is strictest in the north,..but its baneful influence is felt all over India.

b. Of a legal instrument or provision: Stringent.

1739 J. Richards *Annuities on Lives* 96 This is often the Case, let the Covenants of the Lease be ever so strict and binding.

c. quasi-*adv.*

1721 Ramsay *Scribblers Lashed* 191 We order strict, that all refrain.

12. Of an art or science, its procedure, etc.: Characterized by rigid conformity to rules or postulates.

1638 Junius *Paint. Ancients* 31 Wee should not too much accustome our selves to a strict course of Imitation. *a* 1677 Barrow *Expos. Creed* (1697) 43 Which is a most reasonable proceeding and conformable to the method used in the strictest sciences. 1777 Priestley *Matt. & Spir.* (1782) I. xx. 259, I do not..find the strict immaterial system in any writer earlier than our Sir Kenelm Digby. 1796 Kollmann *Ess. Mus. Harmony* xv. 114 Of strict or free Imitation. 1834 Mrs. Somerville *Connex. Phys. Sci.* xiv. 109 It is proved..by strict mathematical reasoning, that [etc.]. 1861 Paley *Æschylus* (ed. 2) *Persians* 43 The penult should perhaps be long in strict prosody. 1869 Ouseley *Counterpoint* ii. 6 The only concords recognized in strict counterpoint are the perfect octave (etc.]. 1873 H. C. Banister *Music* (1889) 177 Imitation may be only of the general form of a passage..Or the intervals may be exactly imitated, which is termed Strict Imitation. 1880 E. Gurney *Power of Sound* xix. 430 Greek iambic verse was less strict in this respect.

13. Of a quality or condition, an attitude or line of action: Maintained to the full, admitting no deviation or abatement; absolute, entire, complete, perfect. (Cf. 15 b.)

1588 Shaks. *L. L. L.* IV. iii. 165 O me, with what strict patience haue I sat, To see a King transformed to a Gnat? 1593 — *Rich. II*, II. i. 80 The pleasure that some Fathers feede vpon, Is my strict fast, I meane my Childrens tookes. 1607 — *Timon* III. v. 24 You vndergo too strict a Paradox, Striuing to make an vgly deed looke faire. 1663 Patrick *Parab. Pilgr.* xxxix. (1687) 521 But that is no more than strict Justice exacts. 1753 Richardson *Grandison* (1754) II. iii. 21 All this shall be mentioned to Lady D. in strict confidence. 1822 Shelley *Faust* ii. 262 In truth, I generally go about In strict incognito. 1855 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* xix. IV. 265 In his public acts he observed a strict neutrality. 1858 Carlyle *Fredk. Gt.* I. iii. I. 39 A pleasant attractive physiognomy; which may be considered better than strict beauty. 1860 Tyndall *Glac.* I. x. 67 A man of the strictest prudence. 1898 'H. S. Merriman' *Roden's Corner* xiv. 152, I should recommend a strict reticence on this matter. 1907 J. A. Hodges *Elem. Photogr.* (ed. 6) 27 The observance of strict cleanliness.

b. Of truth, accuracy, etc.: Exactly and rigidly observed; exactly answerable to fact or reality.

1748 Melmoth *Fitzosborne Lett.* lxi. (1749) II. 109, I may venture, however, to assert..that the Muses are, in strict truth, of heavenly extraction. 1821 Scott *Kenilw.* i, I would not have you think all I said of him, even now, was strict gospel. 1849 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* vi. II. 80 Two prerogatives, of which the limits had never been defined with strict accuracy.

14. Rigorous and severe in rule and discipline, in administering justice, etc.; not lax or indulgent.

1596 Shaks. *Merch. V.* IV. i. 204 (Qo.) This strict Court of Venice must needes giue sentence gainst the Merchant there. 1603 — *Meas. for M.* I. ii. 186 Implore her in my voice, that she make friends To the strict deputie. 1621 Fletcher *Thierry & Theod.* I. i, A Monasterie, A most strickt house; a house where none may whisper. 1697 Dryden *Æneis* VI. 582 Minos, the strict Inquisitor, appears. 1828 Scott *F. M. Perth* ix, The King..ought to have been.. liberal in rewarding services, strict in punishing crimes. 1832 Ht. Martineau *Hill & Valley* iii. 31 Who was now remembered to have been particularly strict..about having the whole establishment in good order. 1850 H. Melville *White Jacket* I. xxix. 101 Three of these officers..were strict disciplinarians. 1904 F. D. How *Six Great Schoolm.* 253 He was extremely strict with the Masters in spite of the sympathy and kindness he showed them.

b. of fate, necessity.

1608 Shaks. *Per.* III. iii. 7 O your sweet Queene! that the strict fates had pleas'd, you had brought her hither to haue blest mine eies with her! 1667 Milton *P. L.* VI. 869 But strict Fate had cast too deep Her dark foundations, and too fast had bound. *Ibid.* x. 131 But strict necessitie Subdues me, and calamitous constraint. 1700 Dryden *Cock & Fox* 528 Not forc'd to Sin by strict necessity.

15. Of persons: Holding a rigorous and austere standard of living; stern to oneself in matters of conscience and morality.

[1578: cf. Strictness 3.] 1614 W. B. tr. *Philos. Banq.* (ed. 2) 105 They abstained from all flesh and wines..; nay, so strict they were, they seldom eate Bread. 1634 Milton *Comus* 109 Strict Age, and sowre Severity. 1648 Fairfax, etc. *Remonstr.* 21 Consciencious, strickt in manners, sober, serious. 1662 in *Verney Mem.* (1907) II. 173 My sister says the queen is very hansom, and I hear very stricte in her carage. 1770 Langhorne *Plutarch, Cato Yuger.* V. 49 The whole course of his life was strict and austere. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* I. iv. iv, With a strict painful mind. 1860 Thackeray *Lovel* vi. (1861) 237 My mother and sisters are dissenters, and very strict. I couldn't ask a party into my family who has been [on the stage]. 1894 'Mark Rutherford' *Cath. Furze* I. vi. 98 On many points their 'views' were 'strict'—whatever that singular phrase may have meant.

Comb. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* I. iv. iv, A strict-minded, strait-laced man!

b. of virtue, chastity, etc. (Cf. 13.)

1589 Warner *Albion's Eng., Æneidos* 153 Greater is the wonder of your strickt chastity. 1591 Shaks. 2 *Hen. VI*, v. iv. 67 Is all your strict preciseneſse come to this? 1671 Milton *Samson* 319 Against his vow of strictest purity. 1705 Mrs. Centlivre *Gamester* III. (1708) 30 A Gentleman that plays is admitted every where—Women of the strictest Vertue will converse with him. 1905 F. Harrison *Chatham* iv. 56 Pitt..was the statesman who finally established strict honour in the public service.

16. Undeviating in adherence to the principles or practice implied by the designation.

c 1660 in J. Morris *Troub. Catholic Forefathers* Ser. I. (1872) vi. 257 A good devout Sister, and very strict in regular observance. 1661 in *Extr. St. Papers rel. Friends* Ser. II. (1911) 125 Persons of most exemplar regular Course of life.. yet extreame strict to the rules of there profession. 1666 E. Mountagu in *12th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. v. 8 If the young Lord was a strict and a grounded Papist. 1718 Prior *Poems* Ded. (1905) p. xx, He was so strict an Observer of his Word, that no Consideration whatever, could make him break it. *a* 1721 — *Vicar of Bray & Sir T. More* (1907) 259 This Strict adherence to Truth. 1801 J. Thomson *Poems Sc. Dial.* 81 To leave the Kirk ye surely mean, An' turn a strict Seceder clean. 1853 Lytton *My Novel* I. ix, The Hazeldeans..were great sportsmen and strict preservers. 1861 *Contrib. Eccl. Hist. Connecticut* 280 The new churches, called Separates, or, as they preferred, Strict Congregationalists. 1868 Freeman *Norm. Conq.* (1877) II. App. 653 The feeling on the subject among strict churchmen comes out very forcibly. 1884 Earl Malmesbury *Mem. Ex-Minister* I. 14 Mr. Bowle was..a strict observer of saints' days and dates. 1888 Bryce *Amer. Commw.* I. I. v. 62 Every vote given by the members of the Commission was a strict party vote.

17. Of inquiry, investigation, inspection, observation, calculation, and the like: Characterized by close and unrelaxing effort, so as to let nothing escape notice.

1596 Shaks. 1 *Hen. IV*, III. ii. 149 And I will call him to so strict account, That he shall render euery Glory vp. 1617 L. Digges tr. *Claudian's Rape Proserpine* I. C 4, The god, vnto this vnexpected newes Gaue strict attention. 1696 Tate & Brady *Ps.* cxxxix. 1 Thou, Lord, by strictest search hast known My rising up and lying down. 1699 *Flying Post* 6-9 May 2/1 The Coroners Jury have..upon strict Inquiry found it was accidental. 1710 Swift *Examiner* No. 17 ¶ 2 Is he not severely us'd by the Ministry or Parliament, who yearly call him to a strict Account? 1725 De Foe *Voy. round World* (1840) 317 To take the strictest observation they could of the plain. 1726 Swift *Gulliver* II. i, Upon a strict review, I blotted out several passages. 1755 J. Ellis *Corallines* 52 The Vesicles, on the strictest Examination, appear to have no Opening into them. 1839 Dickens *Nich. Nick.* viii, Mrs. Squeers..instituted a stricter search after the spoon. 1855 *Orr's Circ. Sci., Inorg. Nat.* 45 The knowledge of this fact soon leads to the more strict investigation of the nature of the deposits thus noticed.

b. with an agent-noun.

1668 Hale *Rolle's Abridgmt.* Pref. 2 He was a strict Searcher and Examiner of businesses.

Strict: see Strick *a.*

Striction (strik·ʃən). [ad. L. *strictiōn-em*, n. of action f. *stringĕre* to draw tight, strain.]

1. The action of straining. *rare*—1.

1889 *Engl. Mechanic* 27 Dec. 355/2 There is..a kind of elongation by striction, which in the case of a direct pull, is produced with a constant load applied at a rate accelerated up to the point of rupture.

2. *Geom.* In a skew surface, *curve* or *line of striction*: see quots.

1875 P. Frost *Solid Geom.* (ed. 2) I. 297 The curve which is the limit of the polygon formed by joining *a, b, c, d*,..at which the imagined membranes would have the greatest density, is called *the curve of greatest density*; it is also called the *line of striction*. 1889 Cayley *Math. Papers* I. 234 The curve *pqr*..is said to be the minimum distance curve (or curve of striction). 1892 *Ibid.* XIII. 233 Supposing the distances PQ_1, P_1Q_2, P_2Q_3, &c. to be all of them infinitesimal, we have a skew surface containing upon it a curve $P_1P_2P_3$, &c., which is the line of striction, viz, this is the locus of the point on a generating line which is the nearest point to the consecutive generating line.

† **Stric·tive**, *a. Obs.* [ad. L. *strictīvus*, f. *strict-*, *stringĕre* to bind, also (a different word) to gather (flowers, etc.). In classical Latin the adj. has only sense 2.]

1. Astringent, styptic.

a 1400-50 *Stockh. Med. MS.* 10 For to makyn surripe þat is stryctyf. 1569 R. Androse tr. *Alexis' Secr.* IV. II. 16 Cause hem to drinke of the reunet of an Hare or of an Hart in strictiue water. 1580 T. Newton *Approved Med.* 54 All parts of the Oake tree be stryctiue and byndinge.

2. (See quot.) *rare*—0.

1656 Blount *Glossogr.*, *Strictive*, gathered or cropped with the hand.

Hence † **Stric·tiveness**, astringency.

1580 T. Newton *Approved Med.* 26 Incense is dry in the first degree, and hath a certayne bynding or strictiuenesse.

† **Strictland.** *Obs. rare*—1. [f. Strict *a.* (in the sense 'narrow') + Land *sb.*] An isthmus.

1577 Harrison *England* I. ix. [xii.] 22/2 in *Holinshed*, Beyonde the which I find a narrow going or stricktland leading from the poynte to Hirst Castle.

Strictly (stri·ktli), *adv.* [f. Strict *a.* + -ly 2.]

† 1. In physical sense: Tightly, closely. *Obs.*

1641 G. Sandys *Paraphr. Song Sol.* VIII. i. 29 Thy left Arme for my Pillow plac'd, And stricktly with thy right

embrac'd. 1714 YOUNG *Force of Relig.* II, Her lord and father, for a moment's space, She strictly folded in her soft embrace. [1871 TENNYSON *Last Tourn.* 653 The vow that binds too strictly snaps itself.]

Comb. (fig.) 1648 J. BEAUMONT *Psyche* XXI. lii, Nothing is lac'd so strictly-strait into It self, as this immeasurable Nature.

2. With reference to confinement or custody, watch or guard, a siege, etc.: Closely, narrowly, rigorously, vigilantly.

1608 SHAKS. *Per.* II. v. 8 She hath so strictly Tyed her to her Chamber. 1638 MAYNE *Lucian* (1664) 170 The gates were strictlier kept, and no man was any more permitted to enter into the house. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 16 Feb. 1649, Paris being now strictly besieged by the Prince de Condé. 1764 H. WALPOLE *Otranto* iii, He ordered some of his attendants to carry Theodore to the top of the Black Tower and guard him strictly. 1892 LADY F. VERNEY *Verney Mem.* I. i. 4 A door less likely to be strictly guarded than the other issues.

3. With reference to commands, obligation, etc.: Rigorously, stringently; with insistence on exact performance, execution, or obedience. Cf. STRAITLY *a.* 5.

1487 *Plumpton Corr.* (Camden) 54, I therfore on the kinges behalfe strictly charg you,..that ye [etc.]. 1594 SHAKS. *Rich. III*, IV. i. 17, I may not suffer you to visit them, The King hath strictly charg'd the contrary. 1710 FELTON *Diss. Classics* (1718) 41 For which Reason the Celebrated Dr. Busby strictly forbad the Use of Notes. 1828 FOSTER in *Life & Corr.* (1846) II. 149, I am strictly ordered to keep out of the evening damp and cold. 1833 H. COLERIDGE *Biog. Borealis, Marvell* 12 The publication of debates was at that time..really and strictly forbidden.

b. With strict provisions; by strict enactment.

1651 G. W. *Cowel's Inst.* 189 He who hath a Fee-tail in his owne, or Fee-simple in anothers Right,..is tied a little more strictly. 1706 T. VERNON *Chanc. Cases* (1728) II. 552 In a Court of Equity the Trust ought to have been strictly pursued. 1827 W. F. CORNISH *Ess. Doctr. Remainders* 19 The court will generally order the lands to be settled strictly. 1907 J. H. PATTERSON *Man-Eaters of Tsavo* xviii. 191 The whole of this country..is now a strictly protected Game Reserve.

4. With reference to punishment, judgement, rule, etc.: Rigorously, unsparingly, severely.

1602 W. S. *Thomas Ld. Cromwell* I. iii. 41 And to deale strictly with such a one as he, Better seuere then too much lenitie. 1607 BEAUM. & FL. *Woman-Hater* IV. i, I wish those of my bloud that doe offend, Should be more strictly punisht, then my foes. 1625 MILTON *Death fair Infant* 33 Could Heav'n for pittie thee so strictly doom? 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* vi. II. 98 These laws, though they had not, except when there was supposed to be some peculiar danger, been strictly executed. 1876–89 BRIDGES *Growth of Love* XX, God's love to win is easy, for He loveth Desire's fair attitude, nor strictly weighs The broken thing.

5. With rigid and exact adherence to a plan, regulation, etc.; with complete and literal observance of a rule or enactment. Also, according to a strict standard of life, obligation, etc.

1597 HOOKER *Eccl. Pol.* v. lxii. § 19 It is..meete that the strength of mens deedes and the instruments which declare the same should strictlie depend vpon diuers solemnities. 1651 JER. TAYLOR *Serm. Golden Grove, Summer* XXVI. 338 But while they talk as if they did not need to live strictly, many of them live so strictly as if they did not beleeve so foolishly. 1712 STEELE *Spect.* No. 298 ¶ 2 Many of the most strictly virtuous. 1805 WORDSW. *Ode to Duty* 32 But thee I now would serve more strictly, if I may. 1826 *Art Brewing* (ed. 2) 87 Cases may occur, when..the admixture of chalybeate tonics..ought to be strictly avoided. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* ii. I. 174 Not only were the intentions of the court strictly concealed, but [etc.]. 1854 *Poultry Chron.* I. 213/2 Unless these regulations be strictly complied with.

6. With unrelaxed care or attention to detail; without letting particulars escape notice; narrowly, closely, exactly.

1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* IX. 390 [He] sent a Guide with me.. to view the Mountayne more strictly. 1655–60 STANLEY *Hist. Philos., Periander* (1687) 49/1 Periander said, it was not possible but that he should say something more, and pressed him more strictly. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 12 Sept. 1641, Where our names were taken and our persons examin'd very strictly. 1720 DE FOE *Capt. Singleton* XV. (1840) 258 One of our men looking a little more strictly than the rest, thought he saw the head of one of the Indians. 1751 EARL ORRERY *Remarks Swift* (1752) 122 It is preceded by an explanatory advertisement, that was either dictated, or strictly revised by the Dean himself. 1796 MME. D'ARBLAY *Camilla* II. 360 Tell me, and ask yourself strictly, would you change with Indiana? 1837 P. KEITH *Bot. Lex.* 54 It is evident that Ferns must be excluded from the cellular department, if structure is to be strictly attended to.

b. Qualifying an adjective, adverb, or equivalent phrase: In the strict sense of the word (or words).

1764 DODSLEY *Leasowes* in *Shenstone's Wks.* (1777) II. 294 A..wild and romantic appearance of water, and at the same time strictly natural. 1799 HT. LEE *Canterb. T., Poet's T.* (ed. 2) I. 48 [He was] not strictly handsome, yet winning. 1839 DICKENS *Nich. Nick.* iv, This was strictly true. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* iii. I. 365 They governed strictly according to law.

c. Qualifying a predication or assertion as a whole = *strictly speaking* (see 8).

1680 MOXON *Mech. Exerc.* xiv. 238 This whole Member is called the Moving Collar, though the Collar strictly is only the round Hole at *a*. 1736 BUTLER *Anal.* I. v. Wks. 1874 I. 88 It is only these inward principles exerted, which are strictly acts of obedience, of veracity, [etc.]. 1828 CRUISE *Digest* (ed. 2) IV. 344 This sort of acquisition of..an estate tail..is not strictly a descent. 1834 K. H. DIGBY *Mores Cath.* v. v. 132 For which purpose there was a multitude of minor clerks employed who had not strictly orders. 1885 *Stand. Nat. Hist.* V. 371 The genus *Helarctos*..strictly embraces but one species, *Helarctos malayanus*.

7. With respect to resemblance, correspondence, adaptation, and the like: Precisely, exactly; without discrepancy or exception.

1763 J. BROWN *Poetry & Mus.* xii. 213 Our sacred Poetry, sung in the Cathedrals, is transcribed strictly from the holy Scriptures. 1777 PRIESTLEY *Philos. Necess.* iv. 31 As far as we can judge, motives and actions do strictly correspond to each other. 1832 SCOTT *Ct. Robt.* iii, The first, which strictly resembled her own chair in size and convenience. 1892 *Photogr. Ann.* II. 570 The parts are made strictly interchangeable. 1909 E. R. TENNANT in *Expositor* Aug. 117 The sinful is strictly correlative with the guilty.

8. With exact use of words; exactly, precisely. Often in the parenthetic phr. *strictly speaking* or *to speak strictly*.

1602 B. JONSON *Poetaster* v. ii. 39 Horace hath (but more strictly) spoke our thoughts. 1639 W. SCLATER *Worthy Commun.* 66 That speech..is to be understood in Trope, or sacred Figure, not strictly, and abstractively. 1673 *S'too him Bayes* 92 If this (strictly speaking) be no Quibble. *a* 1722 FOUNTAINHALL *Decis.* (1759) I. 11 A fictitious and umbratile kind of treason, and to speak strictly, no treason at all. 1837 P. KEITH *Bot. Lex.* 397 Plants have no digestive apparatus strictly so called. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* i. I. 13 During the century and a half which followed the Conquest, there is, to speak strictly, no English history. 1912 *Eng. Hist. Rev.* Oct. 762 What he describes as the Amorian period, though this name strictly applies only to the last forty-seven years.

Strictness (strĭ·ktnés). [-NESS.] The quality or condition of being strict.

†**1.** In physical senses: Narrowness, straitness; tightness, close compression. *Obs.*

1604 R. CAWDREY *Table Alph.*, *Strictnes*, narrownes or smalnes. 1605 in *10th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. v. 372 That strictnes of the gate that leadeth into blisse. 1620 VENNER *Via Recta* viii. 193 They are repleated with grosse humors with a naturall strictnes of the veines. 1709 *Phil. Trans.* XXVII. 73 When their Force is inhibited by the strictness of the Pores, they are unable to remove.

†**2.** Closeness (of friendship or intimacy). *Obs.*

c 1614 CORNWALLIS in Gutch *Collect. Cur.* I. 138 He desired as great a strictness, and nearness of amity and alliance, as might be, between the Crowns of England, and Spain.

3. Severity of life or behaviour; inflexibility of principle or virtue.

1578 LYLY *Euphues* Wks. 1902 I. 315 Thou hast therefore ..great cause to reioyce, that God by punishment hath compelled thee to stricktnesse of lyfe. 1611 BEAUM. & FL. *Maid's Trag.* II. i. (1619) D 3 b, *Evad.* Alas Amintor thinkst thou I forbeare To sleepe with thee, because I haue put on A maidens strictnesse. 1650 HUBBERT *Pill Formality* 52 They can change their habits of strickness into a habit of looseness and profaneness. 1756 MRS. CALDERWOOD in *Coltness Collect.* (Maitland Club) 175 All the nuns are English, of the order of the Recolly, who are but a degree above the Capucines for strickness. 1800 MRS. HERVEY *Mourtray Family* 37 The governess was a French woman, strongly recommended for the strictness of her principles. *a* 1901 W. BRIGHT *Age of Fathers* (1903) I. ii. 18 A genuine enthusiasm for Christian strictness.

4. Severity, rigour, stringency (of laws, enactments, obligation, judgement, discipline, etc.).

1602 ROWLANDS *Greene's Ghost* (1872) 9 They will vrge the strictnesse of their oath, and the danger of the law in such cases of concealement. 1660 WOOD *Life* (O.H.S.) I. 359 The strictness of the Lord's day was mitigated. 1699 T. BAKER *Refl. Learn.* iii. 22 Prisian himself..notwithstanding his strictness in giving Rules..has much ado to preserve himself from Barbarism. *a* 1716 SOUTH *Serm.* (1727) VI. 430 They never understood the fiery Strictness of the Law, nor the Spirituality of the Gospel. 1861 PATTISON *Ess.* (1889) I. 47 Peace and order were maintained by police regulations of German minuteness and strictness. 1909 *Blackw. Mag.* Mar. 311/2 The strictness of the Jain observances varies a great deal, according to the sect.

5. Closeness of watch or scrutiny.

1806 *Med. Jrnl.* XV. 510 In consequence of this intimation, Pierre Landart was watched with the greatest strictness.

6. Rigorous accuracy or precision in statement, interpretation, investigation, and the like.

1638 SANDERSON *Serm., Ad Aulam* vii. (1681) II. 97 Divine (especially Prophetical) expressions, are not ever tied to such strictnesses. 1726 SWIFT *Gulliver* II. vii, I..gave to every point a more favourable turn, by many degrees, than the strictness of truth would allow. 1787 J. MITFORD *Plead. Suits Chanc.* (ed. 2) 232 In pleading there must in general be the same strictness in equity as at law. 1885 *Law Rep.*, 28 Chanc. Div. 97 A clause which this Court has always been in the habit of construing with the greatest strictness.

b. Phr. *In strictness*: taken or understood strictly; according to a strict conception, definition, or interpretation. More explicitly *in strictness of speech, of law*, etc.

1641 WILKINS *Math. Magick* II. i. (1648) 145 But in its strictnesse and propriety, it is onely appliable unto fresh inventions. 1660 R. COKE *Power & Subj.* 135 In cases wherein things in conscience ought to be done, yet for want of some formalities or niceties they cannot in strictness of law be exacted. *a* 1691 BOYLE *Chr. Virtuoso* II. Wks. 1772 VI. 748, I chose to take in..several that perhaps did not in strictness belong to the *Christian Virtuoso*. 1692 ATTERBURY *Serm.* (Ps. l. 14) (1726) I. 7 Praise and Thanksgiving do, in Strictness of Speech, signify things somewhat different. 1794 G. ADAMS *Nat. & Exper. Philos.* IV. xliv. 188 Dr. Herschel even goes so far as to suppose that there is not, in strictness of speaking, one fixed star in the heavens. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* v. I. 639 She was undoubtedly guilty of what in strictness is a capital crime. 1863 LYELL *Antiq. Man* 6 The term Post-pliocene ought in strictness to include all geological monuments posterior in date to the Pliocene. 1870 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* (ed. 2) I. App. R. 595 Neither of these Kings were, in strictness of speech, deposed.

†**Stri·ctory.** *Obs.* [ad. med.L. *strictōrium*, f. L. *strict-*, *stringĕre* to bind: see -ORY.] A medicated compress.

a 1425 tr. *Arderne's Treat. Fistula* etc. 96 Aboue þis emplastre..putte a strictorie of white of eiren and mele of whete and lynnen cloutez y-dipped þerin. 1430–40 LYDG. *Bochas* I. xx. (1554) 36 b, They haue strictories to make their skin to shine, wrought subtilly of gommes and of glaire.

Strictural (strĭ·ktiūrăl), *a.* [f. STRICTURE *sb.*[1] + -AL.] Pertaining to or of the nature of a stricture.

1886 J. M. DUNCAN *Dis. Women* xii. (ed. 3) 95 There is no strictural obstruction to the progress of the fæces.

Stricture (strĭ·ktiŭr), *sb.*[1] Also 5 **strictture.** [a. L. *strictūra*, f. *strict-*, *stringĕre*, really two etymologically distinct verbs of coincident form in Latin: the one (whence branch I below) with the sense to bind tightly, draw tight, strain; the other (whence branch III) with the senses to touch lightly, to gather (flowers), to draw (a sword). Cf. F. *stricture* (16th c. in Littré) = sense I below.]

I. A binding, tightening.

1. *Path.* A morbid narrowing of a canal, duct, or passage, esp. of the urethra, œsophagus, or intestine.

c 1400 *Lanfranc's Cirurg.* 199 If þere be ony þing to take awei þerof as akynge ouþer ony strictture, ouþer ony byndyng, þan remeue awey þat first [etc.]. 1797 M. BAILLIE *Morb. Anat.* (1807) 340 The most ordinary diseased appearance of the urethra is stricture. 1804 ABERNETHY *Surg. Observ.* 209 A similar plan of conduct is very suitable to strictures of the œsophagus. 1846 J. MILLER *Pract. Surg.* 269 Stricture of the Windpipe. *Ibid.* 407 Stricture of the Rectum. 1887 *Encycl. Brit.* XXII. 575/2 Stricture of the Pylorus.

2. *gen.* in various occasional uses: The action of binding or encompassing tightly; tight closure; restriction. *rare.*

1649 JER. TAYLOR *Gt. Exemp.* II. Disc. ix. 116 Christ came to knit the bonds of government faster by the stricture of more religious tyes. 1726 POPE *Odyss.* XXII. 186 Within the stricture of this palace wall To keep inclos'd his masters till they fall. 1731 ARBUTHNOT *Aliments* vi. (1735) 158 For the lateral Vessels, which lie out of the Road of Circulation, let gross Humours pass, which could not if the Vessels had their due degree of Stricture. 1812 J. J. HENRY *Camp. agst. Quebec* 103 Bred at home under the strictures of religion and morality. 1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* xviii, I defy chemistry..and every other occult art, were it as secret as hell itself, to unloose the stricture of my purse-strings. 1822 WORDSW. *Eccl. Sonn.* I. *Seclusion* 12 Like ivy, round some ancient elm, they twine In grisly folds and strictures serpentine. 1849 D. G. MITCHELL *Battle Summer* (1852) 103 Old strictures are removed, and what managers will, is put upon the scene. 1889 STEVENSON *Master of Ballantrae* v, A windless stricture of frost had bound the air. [Cf. quot. 1686 in 4.]

†**II. 3.** A spark, flash of light. *lit.* and *fig. Obs.*

[The L. *strictura* in Virg. *Æn.* viii. 421 was formerly interpreted 'a spark from the anvil'; hence this use, which when figurative blended with sense 4.]

1627 J. DOUGHTY *Serm. Divine Myst.* (1628) 4 Flashes and strictures of lightning doe indeed enlighten the eye, but..they doe also hurt it. 1651 MANTON *Comm. James* iii. 9. 379 Yea in the Body there were some rays and strictures of the divine Glory and Majesty. 1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.*, *Stricture*, a spark that flies from a piece of iron red hot, when it is beaten. 1666 SPURSTOWE *Spir. Chym.* (1668) 17 These two tapers which enlighten the same room, do not shine with a Divided.. light,..and yet the Eye..cannot difference the raies and strictures that flow from them. 1674 tr. *Scheffer's Lapland* Pref., Amidst the barbarity and darkness which reign in Lapland, there appear strictures of light which will entertain the eie of the most knowing observer.

III. A touching slightly or in passing.

†**4.** A touch, slight trace. *Obs.*

a 1672 WILKINS *Nat. Relig.* II. i. (1675) 289 In the actions of many brute creatures, there are discernable some footsteps, some imperfect strictures and degrees of Ratiocination. 1674 W. BATES *Harmony Div. Attrib.* iv. 55 There are some weak strictures of Truth in lapsed Man, but they dye in the Brain, and are..ineffectual as to the Will. *a* 1676 HALE *Prim. Orig. Man.* (1677) 63 Whatever may be said of other matters, certainly the first draughts and strictures of Natural Religion and Morality are naturally in the Mind. 1686 GOAD *Celest. Bodies* II. iv. 198 We need not wonder at some stricture of Frost occurring. 1695 J. EDWARDS *Perfect. Script.* 573 They surpass all humane wisdom, yet..they have strictures of all arts and sciences.

5. An incidental remark or comment; now always, an adverse criticism.

1655 HAMMOND *Acc. Cawdrey's Triplex Diatribe* 289 What now follows § 35, is so far from having any weight in it, that I must not allot any solemn answers to it, the lightest strictures will be more proportionable. 1664 H. MORE *Myst. Iniq.* II. xi. 401 These are the chiefest strictures that do occurre to my minde in the Prophetick Visions that are applicable to this second member of Antichristianism. 1722 WOLLASTON *Relig. Nat.* ix. 218 At the foot of the page I have in some places subjoind a few little strictures principally of antiquity, after the manner of annotations. 1779 JOHNSON *L. P., King* (1781) II. 276 He bestowed some strictures upon Dr. Kennet's adulatory sermon at the funeral of the duke of Devonshire. 1781 — *Let. to Mrs. Thrale* 20 Oct., We may now and then add a few strictures of reproof. 1790 *Cook's 3rd Voy.* V. 1658 Here ends Mr. Anderson's strictures on Otaheite, and its neighbouring islands. 1804 L. MURRAY *Gram.* Advt. to 9th Ed. *note*, The author conceives that the occasional strictures, dispersed through the book, and intended to illustrate and support a number of important grammatical points, will not ..appear to be dry and useless discussions. 1831 D. E. WILLIAMS *Life & Corr. Sir T. Lawrence* II. 383 His profession had a right to expect from him a series of strictures upon the works of the great masters. 1878 STUBBS *Const. Hist.* III. xviii. 101 Beaufort..was unsparing in his strictures.

1910 *Q. Rev.* Apr. 321 Her strictures on some sightseers in Berlin reveal some knowledge of art.

† **Stri·cture,** *sb.*[2] *Obs. rare*[−1]. [f. STRICT *a.* + -URE.] Strictness.

1603 SHAKS. *Meas. for M.* I. iii. 12 A man of stricture and firme abstinence.

Stricture (stri·ktiŭ), *v. rare.* [f. STRICTURE *sb.*[1]] *trans.* To criticize, censure.

1851 HELPS *Comp. Solit.* v. (1874) 59, I had been..stricturing, perhaps too severely, some recent acts of government.

Strictured (stri·ktiŭd), *ppl. a.* [f. STRICTURE *sb.*[1] + -ED[2].] Affected with stricture.

1801 *Med. Jrnl.* V. 224 Fæces..bearing marks of having passed some strictured part of the intestine. 1879 *St. George's Hosp. Rep.* IX. 420 The walls of the strictured portion were much softened. 1886 J. M. DUNCAN *Dis. Wom.* xxviii. (ed. 3) 251 The ileum being strictured.

transf. 1838 LYTTON *Alice* v. ii, Sir John Merton—very civil, very pompous, and talking, at strictured intervals, about county matters, in a measured intonation, savouring of the House-of-Commons jerk at the end of the sentence.

Stricturotomy (striktiŭrɒ·tŏmi). *Surg. rare*[−0]. [f. STRICTURE *sb.*[1] + -(O)TOMY.] (See quot. 1898.)

1876 DUNGLISON *Med. Lex.*, *Stricturotomy*, Urethrotomy. 1898 *Syd. Soc. Lex.*, *Stricturotomy*, a cutting operation for the relief of stricture.

Strid (strid). [app. repr. OE. *stride*: see STRIDE *sb.*] The proper name of the narrowest part of the channel of the Wharfe between level rocks at Bolton Priory; hence, any similar gorge or chasm.

[1807 WORDSW. *Force of Prayer* 21 The striding place is called The Strid.] 1863 KINGSLEY *Water-Bab.* iii. 116 On through narrow strids and roaring cataracts, where Tom was deafened and blinded for a moment by the rushing waters. 1895 MEREDITH *Amazing Marr.* xli, Any pauses occurring, he was the one guilty of them; she did not allow them to be barrier chasms, or 'strids' for the leap with effort.

Striddle (stri·d'l), *sb.* [f. the verb.] A stride.

1721 RAMSAY *Elegy Patie Birnie* xi, How pleasant was 't to see thee diddle And dance sae finely..With nose forgainst a lass's middle,..With cutty steps to ding their striddle, And gar them fag. 1835 D. WEBSTER *Sc. Rhymes* 42 (E.D.D.) Losh! he lamps at the rate o' four yards at a striddle.

Striddle (stri·d'l), *v. Obs.* exc. *dial.* [Back-formation from STRIDDLING *adv.*]

1. *intr.* To stand with the legs wide apart; to straddle.

1530 PALSGR. 732/2, I stande a strydling with my legges abrode, *je me esquarquille.* 1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 128/12 To striddil, *varicari.* *a* 1585 MONTGOMERIE *Flyting* 19 Strydand and stridland like Robin red-brest. *c* 1640 *Gramercie Good Scot* in Maidment *Scot. Ballads* (1868) I. 340 Where are our proud Prelates that stridled so wide. 1825 BROCKETT *N. C. Gloss.*, *Striddle*, to straddle.

2. To stride.

1785 BURNS *2nd Epist. J. Lapraik* ix, Sin' I could striddle owre a rig. 1821 SCOTT *Pirate* iv, It's nae pleugh of the flesh that the bonny lad-bairn..sall e'er striddle between the stilts o'—it's the pleugh of the spirit.

3. *Comb.* **striddle-legs** *adv.*, astride.

1825 BROCKETT *N. C. Gloss.*, *Striddle-legs*, astride. 1900 'R. GUTHRIE' *Kitty Fagan* 84 One man..sat 'striddle-legs' on the chimney, to the huge delight of the juveniles.

Hence **Stri·ddling** *ppl. a.*

1638–9 *Caveat for Scot.* in Maidment *Scot. Pasquils* (1868) 65 With Gallaway Tam: that squint-eyed stridling asse.

Striddling(s (stri·dliŋz, -liŋ), *adv. dial.* Forms: 5–6 **strydlingis,** 7, 9 **stridling,** 9 **stridelins, stridlin(g)s** (see *Eng. Dial. Dict.*). [f. *strid-* wk. stem of STRIDE *sb.* or *v.* + -LING, -LINGS.] Astride.

c 1440 *Alphabet of Tales* 392 And onone þe devull come & Cett hym stridlyngis on hys bakk. 1528 LYNDESAY *Dreme* 89, I bure thy grace vpon my bak, And, sumtymes, strydlingis on my nek. 1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* IX. 395 The women ride hefe stridling in the sadle. 1822 GALT *Sir A. Wylie* xl, I didna mean that she was to gallop, stridling on a horse, wi' you in a pock before her.

Stride (straid), *sb.* Also 4–5 **stryde,** 5 **strede.** [Two formations: (1) OE. *stride* str. masc. (corresp. to MLG. *strede*), f. *strid-* wk.-grade of the root of STRIDE *v.* The ME. spelling *stride, stryde* may sometimes represent this formation (with short *i*), which, with regular dialectal development of the vowel appears also in the 15th c. form *strēde*; the latter, however, might also possibly represent OE. (north.) *strǽde*, f. the same root. (2) The surviving word, f. the pres.-stem of the vb., is attested already *a* 1300 in the *Cursor Mundi* (line 10592) by the rhyme with *biside.*]

1. An act of striding; a long step in walking. Phrase, *at* or *in a stride.*

c 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 111 He steh to heuen-liche heh settle, and wiche strides he makede dunward, and eft uppard, þat seiđ sanctus salomon þe wise. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 480/1 Stryde, *clunicatus.* 1518 WHITINTON *De Heteroclitis Nom.* Biij, *Passus*, a stryde. 1545 ASCHAM *Toxoph.* II. (Arb.) 146 Some wyll gyue two or iii. strydes forwarde, daunsing and hoppynge after his shafte, as long as it flyeth. 1548 *Elyot's Dict.*, *Grallatorius gradus*, a great or longe stride, suche as one taketh that goeth on styltes. 1596 SHAKS. *Merch. V.* III. iv. 68 Ile..turne two minsing steps Into a manly stride. 1609 HEYWOOD *Brit. Troy* XII. xcii. 324 Accootred thus, strong Aiax with huge strides Stalkes in the field before the best of men. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* II. 676 The Monster moving onward came as fast, With horrid strides. 1741 RICHARDSON *Pamela* (ed. 3) I. 240 There was first the horrible Colbrand, running with his long Legs, well nigh two Yards at a Stride. 1837 DICKENS *Pickw.* xxiv, Mr. Pickwick had taken a few strides to and fro. 1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* I. xiv. 99 We went downwards with long swinging strides. 1906 CHARL. MANSFIELD *Girl & Gods* xxiv, The sexless females..whose strides disgrace their petticoats.

b. *transf.* and *fig.*

1600 J. CHAMBERLAIN *Lett.* (Camden) 97 Mrs. Pranell is like to make a wide stride from that she was, to be Countesse of Hartford. 1658 SIR T. BROWNE *Hydriot.* Ep. Ded., Simplicity flies away, and iniquity comes at long strides upon us. 1756 MRS. CALDERWOOD in *Coltness Collect.* (Maitland Club) 189, I said I had never heard of one taking such a stride at once, as from the top of the kirk of Scotland to the top of the church of Rome. 1792 W. HUTTON *Hist. Derby* 285 Having now got into the political world,..he made rapid strides towards preferment. 1815 SCOTT *Guy M.* xi, Our narration is now about to make a large stride, and omit a space of nearly seventeen years. 1880 KINGLAKE *Crimea* VI. x. 384 The newly split stones..had scarce been yet worn down to smoothness when already the stride of a railway began to cover the ground. 1914 *Blackw. Mag.* Nov. 580/2 Stride by stride the village has closed in on the modest manor.

c. The distance covered by a stride; the normal length of a stride used as a measure of distance.

c 725 *Corpus Gloss.* (Hessels) P 134 *Passus*, faeðm *uel* tuegen stridi. 13.. *K. Alis.* 4433 (Laud MS.), Ne miȝtten men a stride go Bot men stepped on ded men. *a* 1320 *Sir Tristr.* 1488 No ȝede he bot ten stride, His speche les he þar. *c* 1380 *Sir Ferumb.* 4644 And nowar myȝte he passe be-syde, For þe roche was heȝ an hundred stryde. 1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* IV. x. 131 Syre Arthur..gaf hym..suche a buffet that he went thre strydes abak. 1471 CAXTON *Recuyell* (Sommer) 256 And as for shotyng a ferre, he passid the ferthest on the felde .xxiiii. stredes. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* II. vii. 24 Betwixt them both was but a little stride. 1663 WOOD *Life* (O.H.S.) I. 482 A part of the quadrangle, containing 30 of my strides in square. 1670 COVEL in *Early Voy. Levant* (Hakl. Soc.) 163 The first tent..was 15 strides long and 12 broad. 1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), *Stride*, two Steps, or a Measure of five Foot. 1824 SCOTT *Redgauntlet* ch. xvi, I am to carry you to old Father Crackenthorp's, and then you are within a spit and a stride of Scotland, as the saying is.

d. Extent of reach. *nonce-use.*

1793 SWIFT *Sid Hamet's Rod* 53 Sid's Rod was of a larger stride, And made a circle thrice as wide.

† e. One of a flight of steps. *Obs. rare*[−1].

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 10592 Þis maiden..was..on þis grece.. On þe nepermast stepp don, Bot sco þan clamb an opeir son; þat quils þai locked [= looked] þam biside Sco was won to þe heist stride.

2. A striding gait; a manner of progression by long steps.

1671 MILTON *Samson* 1067, I know him by his stride. *c* 1705 POPE *Imit. Dorset, Artemisia* 18 Her voice theatrically loud, And masculine her stride. 1813 SCOTT *Trierm.* I. xvii, While she aped a martial stride. 1853 C. BRONTË *Villette* x, I recognized his very tread: it was the same firm and equal stride I had followed under the dripping trees. 1893 *Outing* XXII. 154/2 Green was slightly crotch-bound, and had in consequence a 'digging stride'.

† b. An energetic walking tour. ? *nonce-use.*

1767 S. PATERSON *Another Trav.* I. 112 He chose to take great strides upon the continents of Europe and Asia.

c. A distance traversed by a striding walk.

1834 PRINGLE *Afr. Sk.* xiii. 376 *note*, The usual mode of measuring..was for the *Veld-wagt-meester*..to stride or pace the ground; and half an hour's stride in each direction from the centre..was the regulated extent of the farms.

3. An act of progressive movement of a horse, or occasionally of other quadrupeds, completed when all the feet are returned to the same relative position which they occupied at the beginning; also, the distance covered by such a movement.

1614 MARKHAM *Cheap Husb.* I. i. 5 Be sure that he take a long stride with his feete, for..he which takes the largest strides goes at the most ease. 1846 *J. Baxter's Libr. Pract. Agric.* I. 415 Then, too, comes the art of the rider, to keep the horse within his pace, and..add to the length of every stride. 1860 *Baily's Mag.* I. 302 The former [horse]..winning in the last stride by a head. 1861 *Sporting Rev.* June 414 Stride for stride he [the favourite] caught his horses; but still he did not go like a winner. 1875 W. PATERSON *Notes Milit. Surv.* (ed. 3) 80 Horse's stride in walking = about 1 yard. Ditto..galloping..about 2½ yards.

b. *transf.* with reference to foot-racing.

1879 H. C. POWELL *Amateur Athletic Ann.* 19 [In the 100 yds. scratch race] It was only in the last few strides that he [the winner] could show at all in front. 1901 *Oxford Mag.* 24 Apr. 291/1 Brown overhauled Richards in the last stride.

c. The regular or uniform movement (of a horse) in a race. Hence *transf.* of rowers, their 'swing'.

1883 PENNELL-ELMHIRST *Cream Leicestersh.* 356 Horses have been pulled out of their stride. 1901 *Daily News* 1 Apr. 5/6 The Dark Blues, however, almost immediately pulled themselves together, and got into their stride.

fig. 1909 *Athenæum* 2 Jan. 9/3 The metre refuses to flow;..the reader loses his stride and has to return to the beginning of the line to get a fresh start.

d. *To take in his stride*: of a horse or his rider, to clear (an obstacle) without checking his gallop; *fig.* to deal with (a matter) incidentally, without interrupting one's course of action, argument, etc.

1832 *Q. Rev.* XLVII. 239 Seven men, out of thirteen [fox-hunters], take it [the brook] in their stride. 1854 SURTEES *Handley Cr.* xxxv. (1901) I. 281 Cantering up, cracking his whip, as if he wanted to take it [*sc.* the fence] in stride. *Ibid.*, He rose in his stirrups and pounded while Charley took the fence in his stride.

fig. 1902 *Nature* 25 Dec. 171/1 Acting on this opinion, Ostwald has introduced physical theories, applicable to chemical facts, 'in his stride,' as it were. 1905 E. WHARTON *House of Mirth* xv, I'd want something that would look more easy and natural, more as if I took it in my stride. 1908 MISS BROUGHTON *Mamma* v, Her niece's talent for 'getting things' out of people..lay..in a brutal directness of inquiry, that took rebuffs in its stride.

4. Divergence of the legs when stretched apart laterally; straddle; also, the distance between the feet when the legs are stretched apart laterally to the utmost.

1599 T. STORER *Life & D. Wolsey* F 2 b, If once we fall, we fall Colossus-like,..They that betweene our stride their sailes did strike [etc.]. 1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* x. 455 My legs being put to the full stride, by a maine gad of iron aboue a yard long. 1681 COTTON *Wonders of Peak* 12 And yet above the Current's not so wide To put a Maid to an indecent stride. 1727 BAILEY vol. II, *Stride*, the greatest Distance between the Feet set wide. 1798 R. DODD *Port Lond.* 6 Through its arch will be seen sailing, gallant ships, like the ancient gallies through the stride of the great Colossus in the isle of Rhodes.

b. *transf.*

1791 W. GILPIN *Rem. Forest Scenery* I. 106 When two shoots [of an oak] spring from the same knot, they are commonly of unequal length; and one with large strides generally takes the lead. 1850 BECKETT-DENISON *Clock & Watch-m.* 47, 20° between them [*sc.* the rollers of the pendulum] would give them a sufficiently wide stride for a firm bearing and add hardly anything to the pressure.

c. *Tailoring.* (See quot.) ? *Obs.*

1806–7 J. BERESFORD *Miseries Hum. Life* xx. No. 33 (1826) 257 A pair of pantaloons so constructed with regard to what taylors call the stride as to limit you to 3 or 4 inches per step.

5. The action of bestriding. *rare*[−1].

a 1616 BEAUM. & FL. *Wit at sev. Weapons* II. i, *Lady.* So, what Saddle have I? *Pris.* Mounsieur Laroon's... *Lady.* That agen, You know so well it is not for my stride, How oft have I complain'd on't?

† 6. ? A foot-bridge. *Obs.*

1792 *Rep. Commiss. Thames-Isis Navig.* 15 At the lower End of this Channel there is a Pen formed by a Swing Stride and Flood Gates.

7. *Comb.*: **stride-high** *a.*, placed at such a height as to be reached by a stride; **stride-leg(s** *adv.* (*Sc.* and *north.*), astride, 'straddle-legs'; **stride-legged** *a.*, riding astride; *adv.* astride; **strideways** *adv.*, astride.

1906 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 16 Apr. 2/1 Smooth steps projecting, *stride-high, from the breasts of the rough masonry. 1809 T. DONALDSON *Poems* 150 He sat down *stridelegs on a stane. 1828 *Ann. Reg.* 378/1 Burke stood stride legs over her. 1894 CROCKETT *Raiders* xx. 180 Yet it was an amazing sight—Dee Bridge that night, with..men stride-leg over the parapet of it. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 310/2 A like Torture..is for an Offender to sit *stride-legged over a great Gun, and so to have it Fired. 1879 STEVENSON *Trav. Cevennes* (1895) 30 A pair of mounted stride-legged women ..dashed past me at a hammering trot. 1859 MEREDITH *R. Feverel* xxiii, I wish they'd let us ride our ponies *strideways.

Stride (strəid), *v.* Pa. t. **strode** (strōud), pa. pple. **stridden** (strid'n). Forms: 1 **strīdan,** 3 **striden,** 4 **strid,** (3*rd pers. sing.* **strit**), 4–6 **stryd(e,** 5 **strydyn,** 4– **stride.** *Pa. t.* 4–9 *north.* **strade,** 5 *Sc.* **straid,** 5, 7 **strad,** 6 *Sc.* **straide,** 6 **stryd,** 7 **strid,** 7–9 **strided,** 5– **strode.** *Pa. pple.* 6 **stridde,** 7 **strid,** 9– **stridden.** [OE. *strīdan* str. vb. (once only, but cf. *bestrīdan*, found once in pa. t. *bestrād*: see BESTRIDE *v.*) = (M)LG. *strīden* str. vb., to set the legs wide apart, straddle, to take long steps; cf. LG. *bestriden* to bestride (a horse). The vb. is not found elsewhere in Teut. with similar sense, but is formally coincident and prob. identical with the str. vb. meaning to strive, quarrel; OFris. *strīda*, (M)Du. *strijden*, MLG. *strīden*, OHG. *strītan* (MHG. *strīten*, mod.G. *streiten*); of the same or similar meaning are the weak verbs, OS. *strīdian* (MLG. *strīden*), ON. *strīða* (Norw., Sw. *strida*; Da. *stride* is now conjugated strong); cf. OFris., OS. *strīd*, Du. *strijd*, OHG. *strīt* (mod.G. *streit*) masc. strife, quarrel, ON. *strīð* neut. strife, grief, affliction (Norw., Sw., Da. *strid*), *strīða* fem. adversity, severity, *strīð-r* stubborn, severe (Norw., Sw., Da. *strid.*]

The primary meaning of the Teut. root **strīd-* is commonly assumed to be 'contention' or 'strong effort'. On this view the Eng. sense of the vb., 'to take long steps' (sense 2 below), would be a development from the continental sense 'to strive'. This would in itself be possible, but sense 1 would remain unexplained. The assumption of a primary sense 'to diverge' (cf. Skr. *sridh* to go astray) would account plausibly on the one hand for the sense 'to quarrel', and on the other hand for the sense 'to straddle', from which the sense 'to take long steps' would be a natural development.

The recent examples show much uncertainty with regard to the conjugation. Perhaps (though this is far from certain) most people would give *strode, stridden* in answer to a grammatical question; but in actual speech and writing there is often hesitation as to the correct form. The pa. pple. rarely occurs; our material includes hardly any 19th or 20th c. examples of *stridden*, and not many of *strided.* In the pa. t. *strode* is certainly the usual form; but where the reference is to a single act and not to a manner of progression there seems to be a tendency to say *strided* ('I strided over the ditch').

† 1. *intr.* To stand or walk with the legs widely diverging; to straddle. *Obs.* in literal sense: cf. b.

c 700 *Epinal Gloss.* 1086 *Varicat*, stridit [So *Erfurt* and *Corpus*; Leiden *stridæd*]. *a* 1310 in Wright *Lyric P.* xxxix. 110 Mon in the mone stond ant strit. 14.. *Lat.-Eng. Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 579/8 *Distrigio*, to stryde. 1530 PALSGR. 738/2, I stryde, I stond a stridlyng with my legges, *je me escarquylle.* Stryde and I will dryve thes schepe

betwene thy legges. 1577 B. Googe *Heresbach's Husb.* III. 115 b, If wee assaye to take vp a thing from the ground, stryding, and not with our legges together, wee take it vp with more ease and strength. *a* 1585 Montgomerie *Flyting* 394 Some, on steid of a staig, ouer a starke monke straide. 1590 Spenser *F. Q.* II. vii. 40 The gate was open, but therein did wait A sturdy villein, striding stiffe and bold. 1598 Srow *Surv.* 69 When the great fenne or Moore..is frozen, many young men play vpon the yce, some stryding as wide as they may, doe slide swiftly. 1623 Cockeram II, To Stride wide in going, *diuaricate*. 1638 W. Lisle *Heliodorus* x. 180 Then [he] strid, and strongly pight His feet on chosen ground, with armes out-right, Backe, necke, and shoulders bent.

b. *transf.* (Often said of an arch.)

1598 Sylvester *Du Bartas* II. ii. IV. *Columnes* 201 Because th' acute, and the rect-Angles too, Stride not so wide as obtuse Angles doe. 1650 Fuller *Pisgah* v. xix. 176 How many, but especially how high must the arches therein be, to stride over so vast a concavity? 1787 Burns *Written Kenmure Inn* 15 The arches, striding o'er the new-born stream. 1791 Cumberland *Observer* No. 143 V. 197 The bridge of Toledo, which proudly strides with half a dozen lofty arches over a stream scarce three feet wide. 1858 Hawthorne *Fr. & It. Jrnls.* (1871) II. 238 An arched gateway..that..looked like a great short-legged giant striding over the street. 1863 — *Our Old Home, Pilgr. Boston* I. 243 A Roman arch which..has been striding across the English street ever since the latter was a faint village path.

2. To walk with long or extended steps; to stalk.

Often with implication of haste or impetuosity, of exuberant vigour, or of haughtiness or arrogance.

c 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 111 Here he cumeð stridende fro dune to dune, and ouer strit þe cnolles. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 10235 Ioachim..tilward þe auter can stride. *a* 1400–50 *Wars Alex.* 2194 (Dubl. MS.), Þen tenyd þe tebe folke..And withstode his strenth & strode to þe walles. *c* 1475 *Rauf Coilzear* 32 His steid aganis the storme staluartlie straid. 1650 Fuller *Pisgah* v. xix. 178 The going up to the Altar was not divided into steps..but that it heightened it self by insensible degrees,..so that the Priests, not striding, but pacing up thereon, were not necessitated to any divarication of their feet. 1667 Milton *P. L.* II. 676 The Monster moving onward came as fast, With horrid strides, Hell trembled as he strode. 1697 Dryden *Æneis* III. 880 But when our Vessels out of reach he found, He strided onward. 1735 Somerville *Chase* III. 276 The stately Elephant from the close Shade With Step majestick strides. *a* 1790 Burns '*My Harry was a gallant gay*' i, My Harry was a gallant gay Fu' stately strade he on the plain. 1791 Boswell *Johnson* an. 1768, He then rose up, strided to the fire, and stood for some time laughing and exulting. 1825 Croker *Fairy Leg. Irel.* I. 153 With an air of becoming consequence he strided out of the stable-yard. 1829 J. Sterling *Ess.* etc. (1848) I. 78 He would have stridden among them without belonging to either faction. 1842 Tennyson *Morte d'Arthur* 181 But the other swiftly strode from ridge to ridge,..looking, as he walk'd, Larger than human on the frozen hills. 1848 Thackeray *Van. Fair* xxx, The hypocrite was..striding about the room, upsetting the chairs,..and showing other signs of great inward emotion. 1862 Miss Braddon *Lady Audley* ix, Mr. Talboys strode out of the room, banging the door after him.

b. with various advs. *To stride out*: to go with vigorous strides.

1581 Pettie *Guazzo's Civ. Conv.* III. (1586) 159 His sonne in law..used a slow and mincing pace, like a woman: his daughter..stryd out lustelie like a man. 1697 Dryden *Æneis* XII. 126 Striding on, with speedy Pace. 1798 Joanna Baillie *Tryal* IV. iii. *Plays on Passions* (1821) I. 274 Come away, uncle, and see him go down the back walk,..I'll warrant you he'll stride it away most nobly. 1837 Dickens *Pickw.* II, The officer whistled a lively air as he strode away. 1843 Carlyle *Past & Pr.* II. x, Striding prosperously along. 1853 Lytton *My Novel* XII. vi, Randal stood still for a few moments as Harley strided on. 1915 *Daily Tel.* 3 May 7/4 The going has seldom been better, and judging by the way the horses strode out they appreciated it in every way.

c. *transf.* and *fig.*

c 1205 Lay. 17982 Þe leome gon striden a ueire seoue strengen. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 4105 Fifté shippes full shene strode fro þe depe. 1839 Lytton *Richelieu* I. i. 37 Midst Richelieu's foes I'll find some desperate hand To strike for vengeance, while we stride to power. 1884 *Harper's Mag.* Feb. 393/2 The long low barns with great windmills striding through the air. 1886 Corbett *Fall of Asgard* I. 368 Five ships, each with forty oars swinging like music, were striding over the fjord.

¶ d. To step, tread. *nonce-use.*

1596 Spenser *F. Q.* IV. viii. 37 They..kept on their readie way, With easie steps so soft as foot could stryde.

3. To take a long step; to advance the foot beyond the usual length of a step; to pass *over* or *across* an obstacle by a long step or by lifting the feet. Also in figurative context.

a 1310 in Wright *Lyric P.* xxxix. 111 Sete forth thyn other fot, stryd over sty. *a* 1320 *Sir Tristr.* 151 Ouer bord þai strade Al cladde. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 480/1 Strydyn (or steppyn ovyr a thynge) *clunico, patento, strigio.* 1530 Palsgr. 738/2, I stryde over a brooke or the canell or any fowle place as I am goyng, *je jamboye.* 1610 Holland *Camden's Brit.* (1637) 199 To stride over the rivelet there. 1611 Beaum. & Fl. *Philaster* IV. iv. (1620) 51 When my fortunes eb'd, that men strid o're them carelesse, She did showre her welcome graces on me, And did swell my fortunes. 1634–5 Brereton *Trav.* (Chetham Soc.) 45 The lowest of these hedges higher than any man can stride over. 1642 Fuller *Holy & Prof. St.* V. xi. 400 They that stride so wide at once will go farre with few paces. *c* 1643 Ld. Herbert *Autobiog.* (1824) 64 To teach men how far they may stretch out their Feet when they would make a Thrust..lest they either overstride themselves, or not striding far enough fail to bring the point of their weapon home. 1818 Maginn in *Blackw. Mag.* IV. 321 A Gulliver chap such as I, That could stride over troops of their tribes. 1899 J. Milne *Romance of Pro-consul* ix. 89 The larger quarter-deck on to which Sir George Grey had stridden, much needed cleaning up.

b. With cognate obj.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 5194 Israel wit þis vplepp þat noght forwit strid a step. 1661 Childrey *Brit. Baconica* 28 Ordulphus..was a Giant-like man, that (if William of Malmesbury say true) would break open the bars of Gates, and stride 10 foot. 1859 Tennyson *Marr. Geraint* 376 The Prince,..fain To follow, strode a stride, but Yniol caught His purple scarf..and said, 'Forbear!'

† c. To mount (*on* a horse, *into* a stirrup). *Obs.*

a 1300 in Wright *Anecd. Lit.* (1844) 96 Love is stalewarde and strong for to striden on stede. *a* 1400–50 *Wars Alex.* 778 Ilk a hathill to hors hiȝis him be-lyue, Stridis into stele-bowe stertis apon loft. *Ibid.* 2880 He..Strad vp him-selfe on a stede in starand wedis, And on a cursoure þe knist with a collt foloȝes. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 10205 Achilles ..wan to his armys, Strode on a stith horse, stroke into batell. *c* 1470 *Gol. & Gaw.* 616 On twa stedis thai straid.

† d. To put the foot down *upon*; to tread *upon*. *Obs. rare.*

1581 A. Hall *Iliad* VI. 104 But for to plucke his Iaueline out, he forced was to stride Vpon the carcasse [Gr. λαξ ἐν στηθεσι βάς].

4. *trans.* To step over with a stride.

c 1572 Gascoigne *Fruites Warre* CX, Where blockes are stridde by stumblers at a strawe. 1611 Shaks. *Cymb.* III. iii. 35 A Debtor, that not dares To stride a limit. 1682 Creech *Lucretius* (1683) 167 That Man of such vast force and limbs did rise, That he could stride the Ocean. 1709 Congreve tr. *Ovid's Art of Love* III. Wks. 1730 III. 310 Another, like an Umbrian's sturdy Spouse, Strides all the Space her Petticoat allows. 1821 Clare *Vill. Minstr.* II. 110 A hedge to clamber or a brook to stride.

transf. 1906 *Westm. Gaz.* 25 Sept. 7/1, I would place two wheels at the front and two at the rear, with a considerable gap under the middle of the engine. This gap would permit it to stride a curve if I may put it that way.

5. To walk about (a street, etc.) with long steps; to pace; hence, to measure by striding.

1577 Grange *Golden Aphrod.* etc. R j, I stryde the streetes both long and wyde, A stealed sight of hir to haue. 1834 [see Stride *sb.* 2 c]. 1850 H. Melville *White Jacket* II. xviii. 111 'Call all hands!' roared the Captain. ''This keel sha'n't be beat while I stride it.' 1853 Lytton *My Novel* VIII. xii, Riccabocca..with a firm step strode the terrace, and approached his wife. 1915 *Blackw. Mag.* Feb. 229/1 The brave ghosts who stride these fields and live in the people's mind are Englishmen.

6. To bestride.

13.. *K. Horn* 753 (Harl. MS.) His stede he bigan stryde. 1599 *George a Greene* B 1, They haue othe, Not to leaue one aliue that strides a launce. 1602 Chettle *Hoffman* IV. (1631) H 3 b, Some got on Rafts..; many strid the mast, But the seas working was soe violent, That [etc.]. 1605 Shaks. *Macb.* I. vii. 22 Pitty, like a naked New-borne Babe, Striding the blast, or Heauens Cherubin, hors'd Vpon the sightlesse Curriors of the Ayre, Shall [etc.]. 1607 — *Cor.* I. ix. 71, I meane to stride your Steed. 1657 Billingsly *Brachy-Martyrol.* II. vii. 171 The old man strides his horse, and rides to look him. 1735 Dyche & Pardon *Dict., Stride*, ..to throw the Legs over the two Sides of a Thing, as a Horse, a Camel. 1820 Shelley *Prometh. Unb.* IV. 421 The tempest is his steed, he strides the air. 1868 J. G. Holland *Kathrina* II. (1869) 103 E'en the prophet's ass Had better eyes than he who strode his back.

† **Stri·delong**, *adv. Obs. rare*[−1]. [f. Stride *sb.* + -long. Cf. Striddling *adv.*] With the legs wide apart.

1609 Holland *Amm. Marcell.* XIV. 16 The militarie men ..with hairie cords bound fast to his legges, drew him stridelong [L. *diuaricatum*] without any intermission as farre as to the Præfects Prætorium.

Stridence (strəi·dĕns). [f. Strident: see -ence.] The fact of being strident.

1890 S. P. Thompson in *Nature* (1891) 15 Jan. 252/1 For compound tones corresponding to the whole series, odd and even, there is, in every case, minimum intensity, brilliancy, and stridence with $\delta = \frac{1}{2}$, and maximum with $\delta = \frac{1}{4}$.

Stridency (strəi·dĕnsi). [f. Strident: see -ency.] The quality of being strident.

1865 *Even. Standard* 6 June, A peculiar stridency characterised the voice of the assailant. 1883 Besant *All in Garden Fair* II. i, The piano..required now the most delicate fingering to keep down the stridency of age.

Strident (strəi·dĕnt), *a.* [ad. L. *strīdentem*, pr. pple. of *strīdĕre*, to creak. Cf. F. *strident.*]

1. Making a harsh, grating or creaking noise; loud and harsh, shrill.

1656 Blount *Glossogr.*, *Strident*, crashing or making a noise, creaking. 1721 Bailey. 1848 Thackeray *Van. Fair* li, 'Brava! brava!' old Steyne's strident voice was heard roaring over all the rest. 1860 Farrar *Orig. Lang.* iv. 76 Strident consonants evidently formed from the hiss of certain serpents. 1875 H. James *R. Hudson* xxv. (1879) III. 231 His strident accent. 1905 J. B. Firth *Highw. Derbysh.* xxvi. 394 The rush and rattle of strident wheels.

2. *transf.* and *fig.*

1876 F. Harrison *Choice Bks.* (1886) 413 All this is not to be disposed of by a somewhat strident scorn in the name of a somewhat mysterious gospel. 1907 *Athenæum* 25 May 641/1 The..picture..is free from the strident colour which he has sometimes fallen into of late.

Hence **Stri·dently** *adv.*

1859 Boyd *Recreat. Country Parson* (1862) 36 There lies the large blue quarto,..there the massive foolscap,..then the ivory stridently cuts it through. *a* 1894 Stevenson *St. Ives* XXVI. (1908) 194 The whole enclosure continuously and stridently resounded with the rain.

Strider (strəi·dəɹ). [f. Stride *v.* + -er[1].] One who strides.

1856 [H. H. Dixon] *Post & Paddock* I. 11 They [Shropshire horses] are..quick striders through dirt. 1876 Blackmore *Cripps* XXXII, Hardenow came almost daily, having put his class of striders under a deputy six-leaguer. 1895 *Outing* Sept. 457/1 He is a wonderful strider, having occasionally taken two instead of three steps between the hurdles. 1895 Marg. Stokes *Three Months in Forests of France* 174 The stalwart strider by the side of the green-hooded waggons.

Striding (strəi·dĭŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. Stride *v.* + -ing[1].] The action of the vb. Stride.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 480/1 Strydynge, *patentacio, stragiatus, pantagium.* 1677 Coles *Dict. Eng.-Lat.*, A striding over, *interceptio passis cruribus facta.* 1856 Emerson *Eng. Traits, Lit.* Wks. (Bohn) II. 113 No hope; no sublime augury, cheers the student, no secure striding from experiment onward to a foreseen law. 1905 Vachell *The Hill* ix. 187 A nod of the head, a keen look, and a striding off elsewhere.

Comb. 1807 Wordsw. *Force of Prayer* 21 The Striding-place is called The Strid.

Striding (strəi·dĭŋ), *ppl. a.* [f. Stride *v.* + -ing[2].] That strides. Also *fig.*

1538 Elyot *Dict., Varicus*, an aduerbe, whyche sygnyfyethe strydynge. 1665 D. Lloyd *State-Worthies* (1670) 27 Men of quick and large striding minds loving to walk together. 1818 Keats *Endym.* II. 24 What care, though striding Alexander past The Indus with his Macedonian numbers? 1891 N. Gould *Double Event* xix, He meant to give the horse a good striding gallop as soon as it was light. 1909 Eliz. Banks *Myst. Frances Farrington* 101 The somewhat striding walk of a tall woman.

b. *Striding level*: a spirit-level supported at both ends so as to straddle over intervening projections. So *striding stand.*

1878 Lockyer *Stargazing* 332 Place a striding level on the pivots. 1890 W. F. Stanley *Surv. Instrum.* 222 In the construction of the striding level,..the two striding stands *SS* are carried down from the ends of the casing tube *B* of the spirit level.

Stridingly (strəi·dĭŋli), *adv.* [f. Striding *ppl. a.* + -ly[2].] In a striding manner.

1548 Thomas *Ital. Gram.*, *Dict.* (1550) F iv, *Canascione*, stridynglie. 1677 Miege *Dict. Eng.-Fr.*, Stridingly, *en élargissant ses jambes.* 1842 *Tait's Mag.* IX. 289 He stepped timidly, and yet almost stridingly, towards me.

Stridor (strəi·dɔ̆ɹ). Also 7 **stridour.** [a. L. *stridor*, f. *strīdĕre*: see Strident *a.* Cf. F. *strideur.*]

1. A harsh, high-pitched sound, a shrill grating or creaking noise.

1632 W. Lithgow *Trav.* x. 439 Least..for the stridor of his teeth his charges be redoubled. 1649 Bulwer *Pathomyot.* II. i. 90 That hated stridor that is so offensive to the Eares of those. 1697 Dryden *Æneis* XII. 1258 Juturna..knew'th 'ill Omen, by her screaming Cry, And stridour of her Wings. 1778 W. Pryce *Min. Cornub.* 69 Bend a piece of pure Tin, or bite it hard, and it will give a crashing noise or stridor. 1846 Landor *Imag. Conv., Southey & Landor* Wks. 1853 II. 65/2 Now there never was an arrow in the world that made a horrible stridor in its course. 1880 A. H. Swinton *Insect Variety* 152 Thus, if two males be confined, they maintain incessant stridor. *a* 1894 Stevenson *Lay Morals* etc. (1911) 290 The listener heard in his memory..the stridor of an animated life.

2. *Path.* A harsh, vibrating noise produced by some bronchial, tracheal, or laryngeal obstruction. (*Syd. Soc. Lex.*)

1876 Bristowe *Theory & Pract. Med.* (1878) 559 The patient suffers from more or less stridor of the breath sounds. 1898 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* V. 280 The tracheal stridor and brassy cough. *Ibid.* VI. 376 The peculiar importance of laryngeal stridor with dyspnœa is not merely diagnostic.

Stridulant (stri·dĭŭlănt), *a.* [ad. mod.L. *strīdulantem* (neut. pl. *Stridulantia*, the name of a group of insects), pr. pple. of *strīdulāre*: see next.] That stridulates.

1843 *Zoologist* I. 31 A stridulant little creature to which I frequently listened during the silent watches of the night.

Stridulate (stri·dĭŭlĕt), *v.* [f. mod.L. *strīdulāt-, strīdulāre*, f. L. *strīdul-us*: see Stridulous.] *intr.* To make a harsh, grating, shrill noise: said *spec.* of certain insects.

1838 tr. *Goureau* in *Entom. Mag.* V. 98, I am inclined to believe these insects mute,..because I have never heard them stridulate. 1854 Badham *Halieut.* 101 Women are obliged to stridulate louder at each other as the wind rises and threatens to drown their voices. 1871 Darwin *Desc. Man* x. (1874) 303 Some species stridulate very loudly. 1895 *Natural Sci.* Jan. 49 The spider stridulates to warn animals that would prey upon it of its deadly nature.

b. *Path.* (See quot.)

1898 *Syd. Soc. Lex.*, *Stridulate*, to suffer from stridor.

Hence **Stri·dulating** *vbl. sb.* and *ppl. a.*

1861–2 Le Conte *Classif. Coleoptera N. Amer.* I. Introd. p. xx, Stridulating organs..exist in various families. 1871 Darwin *Desc. Man* IX. (1874) 273 The males of several species of Theridion have the power of making a stridulating sound. 1880 A. H. Swinton *Insect Variety* 167 The Stridulating Locust (*Pachytylus stridulus*).

Stridulation (stridĭŭlē·ʃən). [a. F. *stridulation* (Goureau 1837), agent-n. f. mod.L. *strīdulāre*: see Stridulate *v.*] The action of the vb. Stridulate; the stridulous noise produced by certain insects.

1838 tr. *Goureau* in *Entom. Mag.* V. 92 The male alone possesses the power of stridulation; he makes use of it to attract and please the female. *Ibid.* 94 The combination of all these little sounds produces the general sound or stridulation. 1871 Darwin *Desc. Man* IX. (1874) 274 The stridulation serves..to call..the female. 1872 — *Emotions* XIV. 350 Even insects express anger, terror, jealousy, and love by their stridulation.

Stridulator (stri·dĭŭlēɹtəɹ). [f. Stridulate *v.* + -or.] **a.** An insect that stridulates. **b.** A stridulating apparatus.

1880 A. H. Swinton *Insect Variety* 152 Others, as the

Mole-crickets are evening stridulators. 1895 *Natural Sci.* Jan. 49 A small and feeble spider, which..could in no sense profit, as the large spiders do, from the possession of a stridulator unless there were something terrifying or repellent in the sound pure and simple.

Stridulatory (strĭ·dĭŭlătəɹi), *a.* [f. STRIDULATE *v.* + -ORY 2.] Pertaining to, causing, or caused by stridulation; also, capable of stridulating.

1838 tr. *Goureau* in *Entom. Mag.* V. 93 It is sufficient to cut off one of the elytra; we shall then see the cricket execute the stridulatory movement without producing any sound. *Ibid.* 97 The stridulatory sound. *Ibid.* 363 All the stridulatory insects hitherto mentioned. 1874 DARWIN *Desc. Man* x. (ed. 2) 288 The females have rudiments of the stridulatory organs proper to the male.

† **Stri·dulency.** *Obs. rare.* [f. L. *strīdul-us* (see STRIDULOUS) + -ENCY.] Stridulousness.

1657 REEVE *God's Plea* 21 High phrased bablings, Pharisaicall boastings and stridulencies.

Stridulent (strĭ·dĭŭlĕnt), *a.* [f. L. *strīdul-us* (see next) + -ENT. Cf. STRIDULANT *a.*] = next.

1874 COUES *Birds N. W.* 118 They..have a not displeasing stridulent sound, from mingling of the weak chirrups from so many throats. 1880 RUSKIN in *19th Cent.* June 957 Coarse, stridulent, and, in the ordinary sense of the phrase, 'broad' forms of utterance, are not dialects at all.

Stridulous (strĭ·dĭŭlŏs), *a.* [f. L. *strīdul-us* (f. *strīd-ĕre*: see STRIDENT *a.*) + -OUS.]

1. Emitting or producing a shrill grating sound.

1611 CHAPMAN *Iliad* III. Comm. 48 But where they were graue and wise Counsellors, to make them garrulous, as Grashoppers are stridulous; that application holdeth not in these old men. *a* 1634 BP. HALL *Serm. Beauty & Unity Ch.* Wks. II. 369 The Church then is a Dove.., not a stridulous Jay. 1663 BOYLE *Usef. Exp. Nat. Philos.* II. v. xiv. 250 A servant sometimes complained to me,..that when he was put to whet a knife, that stridulous motion of the air was wont to make his gummes bleed. 1819 H. BUSK *Vestriad* IV. 767 Stridulous guitar with wiry twang. 1864 G. A. LAWRENCE *Maurice Dering* II. 32 That..stridulous young person, who..screaks when she talks, and squalls when she sings. 1878 LONGF. *Ovid in Exile* II. 30 Nor as before o'er the Ister Comes the Sarmatian boor driving his stridulous cart.

2. Of voice, sound: Harsh, shrill, grating.

1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* II. vi. 95 A small and stridulous noyse. 1778 BP. LOWTH *Transl. Isaiah* Notes 153 A feeble stridulous sound. 1779 G. WHITE *Selborne* II. xlvi. *To Barrington* (1789) 252 The shrilling of the field-cricket, though sharp and stridulous,..marvellously delights some hearers. 1790 COWPER *Iliad* II. 268 In piercing accents stridulous. 1873 MORLEY *Rousseau* I. 229 Rousseau..sought new life away from the stridulous hum of men.

3. *Path.* Pertaining to or affected with stridor.

1822–29 GOOD *Study Med.* (ed. 3) I. 609 *Laryngismus stridulus.* Stridulous constriction of the larynx. 1877 F. T. ROBERTS *Handbk. Med.* (ed. 3) I. 360 More or less dyspnœa is usually felt, while the breathing may be stridulous.

Hence **Stri·dulously** *adv.*; **Stri·dulousness.**

1727 BAILEY vol. II, Stridulousness. 1831 *Blackw. Mag.* XXX. 317 The old dotard..is heard feebly and stridulously proclaiming, 'Take notice! I will' [etc.].

Strie: see STRAY *v.*[1], STRY.

Strie, Strier, obs. forms of STROY *v.*, STROYER.

Strief, Striek: see STRIFE, STREEK *v.*

† **Strif.** *Obs.* Also 5 **stryf, strift.** [Error of some kind for MDu. *schreve*, a use of *schreve* line, mark (mod.Du. *schreef*).] A measure for Rhenish wine, one-24th of the ohm or aam.

1495 HALYBURTON *Ledger* (1867) 22 A stek off Ryne vyne hald 3 ham and 1 strif, the rowd cost 15 li. 15 s. 1496 *Ibid.* 25 A stek of Ryns wyne haldand 4 ham 12 strift. *Ibid.* 90 A stek of Rynis wyne..haldand 4 ham 18 stryf.

Strif, obs. form of STRIVE *v.*

Strife (strəif). Forms: 3–5 **strif, stryf,** 3–7 **strive,** 4 **strijfe,** 4–5 **strijf, striif,** 4–6 **striff(e, stryff(e, stryve,** 4–7 **stryfe,** 5–6 **stryif(f,** 6 **strief,** *Sc.* **strywe,** 4– **strife.** Pl. 4–6 **stryves** (4–5 **-is, -ys**), 4–7 **strives**; 4 **strifs,** 5 **stryfs,** 4–5 **stryfes, -ys, strifis,** 6– **strifes.** [a. OF. *estrif*, related to *estriver*: see STRIVE *v.*]

1. The action of striving together or contending in opposition; a condition of antagonism, enmity, or discord; contention, dispute.

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 200 Þe uormest is Cheaste, oðer Strif. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 373 Nið, and strif, and ate, and san, Sal ben bitwen neddre and wimman. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 28196 Wit flitt, wit brixil, striue and strut. *c* 1350 *Leg. Rood* iii. 838 A fell woman and full of strife. 1472 CAXTON *Recuyell* (Scmmer) 74 They desired nothing but stryf & debate. 1535 COVERDALE *Ps.* liv. 9 For I se vnrighteousnes & strife in yᵉ cite. 1546 J. HEYWOOD *Prov.* II. ii. (1867) 47 The diuell hath cast a bone..to set stryfe Betweene you. 1601 SHAKS. *Jul. C.* III. i. 263 Domesticke Fury, and fierce Ciuill strife. 1692 PRIOR *Ode Imit. Hor.* viii, When bound in double Chains poor Belgia lay, To foreign Arms, and inward Strife a Prey. 1750 GRAY *Elegy* 73 Far from the madding crowd's ignoble strife. 1867 SMILES *Huguenots Eng.* vi. (1880) 90 The unemployed sought to remove to some foreign country less disturbed by party strife.

b. An act or instance of contention or antagonism; a contest or conflict, a quarrel or dispute.

a 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 735 Comen alle strikinde..for to heren þis strif. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 18568 Þan bigan a neu strif Son bituix þam and min kynghtes. *c* 1380 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* I. 218 Suche divisioun is cause of bateilis and strives among men. 1474 CAXTON *Chesse* IV. iv. (1883) 173 To appese alle stryues and contencions. 1484 — *Fables of Alfonce* IV, They fylle in a grete dyfferent or stryf. 1568 GRAFTON *Chron.* II. 111 Strifes increased in the land euery where. 1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 152/31 A striue, *certamen.* 1600 FAIRFAX *Tasso* I. XXX, These striues..And discords. 1671 TRENCHFIELD *Cap Gray Hairs* (1688) 43 He that blows the Coals in others strifes, shall be sure to have the sparks fly in his mouth. 1844 H. H. WILSON *Brit. India* I 217 The counsels of the elders of the tribe..arrested the strife upon the eve of its occurrence. 1846 SUMNER *Scholar, Jurist*, etc. 69 Withdrawing from the strifes of the world. 1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) IV. 259 His simple and noble thoughts..soon degenerated into a mere strife of words.

c. *transf.* and *fig.* Now *rare.*

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* v. xxxi. (1495) 142 Also it happeth that..wynde is gadred and closed wythin the smalle skynnes of the rybbes and by the stryf therof is brede sore pryckynge and ache. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 10105 Pollexene the pert with hir pure loue..stoppet the strif of his strong hert. *c* 1491 *Chast. Goddes Chyld.* 12 That is somtime for a stryfe betwene the spirite and the flesshe. 1773 JOHNSON (ed. 4), *Strife*..4. Natural contrariety; as, the strife of acid and alkaly. 1797–1809 COLERIDGE *Three Graves* III. 378 He reach'd his home, and by his looks They saw his inward strife. 1822 BYRON *Heaven & Earth* iii, While safe amidst the elemental strife, Thou sitt'st within thy guarded ark! 1826 HOOD *Mermaid of Margate* 69 And whilst he stood, the watery strife Encroach'd on every hand. 1901 *Macm. Mag.* Apr. 450/2 The north wind blew up the crests of the waves in the race as when we were in the strife of it.

d. A subject of contention. *rare.*

1535 COVERDALE *Ps.* lxxix. [lxxx.] 6 Thou hast made vs a very strife vnto our neghbours. 1662 H. NEWCOME *Diary* (Chetham Soc.) 118 But I have ever yet beene made the strife of tongues. [Cf. Ps. xxxi. 20 (1535 Coverdale and 1611).] 1738 WESLEY *Psalms* lxxx. vii, A Strife we are to All around.

† **e.** *occas.* (for rime). Trouble, toil, pain, distress. *Obs.*

c 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 268 Fro swinc, and sorwe, and deades strif. *Ibid.* 778 Þe king ðholede sorȝes strif. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* III. 10 Mi joie is torned into strif. 1567 *Gude & Godlie Ball.* (S.T.S.) 28 The fiesche man die, with paine and striue.

2. *Phr.* † **a.** *In strife*: in a state of discord or contention. *Obs.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 14544 Þir Iues þat him hild in strijf, þai hatted þa man mare on liif. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* VI. xviii. (1495) 204 A good lorde..acordyth theym that ben in stryffe. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* I. 194 For he with thaim hapnyt richt oft in stryff. 1544 BETHAM *Precepts War* I. CXXXII. G v b, And chefely when thy kingdom is in stryfe. 1590 SHAKS. *Mids. N.* v. i. 228 If I should as Lion come in strife Into this place.

b. *At strife*: at variance. † Also, *at a strife.*

c 1470 HENRY *Wallace* I. 237 The ȝong captane has fallyn with me at stryff. 1508 DUNBAR *Poems* v. 25 Scho..held Sanct Petir at stryfe. 1579–80 NORTH *Plutarch, Romulus* (1595) 25 Romulus and Remus..fell sodainely at a strife together about the place where the citie should be builded. 1593 SHAKS. 3 *Hen. VI*, I. ii. 4 Why how now Sonnes, and Brother, at a strife? 1670 DRYDEN *Tyr. Love* v. i. 52 My lab'ring thoughts are with themselves at strife. 1746 P. FRANCIS tr. *Horace, Ep.* I. i. 141 If my judgment, with itself at strife, Should contradict my general course of life. 1861 PATTISON *Ess.* (1889) I. 34 The crown of England, always at strife, and often at open war, with its own barons. 1878 BROWNING *La Saisiaz* 35 Why are right and wrong at strife?

† **c.** *Without strife*: without demur; without doubt, indisputably, unquestionably. Sometimes app. a mere tag, for rime. Also, *thereof no strife*: that is not disputed. *Obs.*

1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 6417, & wan Edmond made is eir of is lond wiþoute striue. *a* 1300 *K. Horn* 407 'Horn', heo sede, 'wiþute strif þu schalt haue me to þi wif'. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 4622 'Do wai,' he said, 'þer-of na strif.' *c* 1380 *Sir Ferumb.* 1892 Noþeles woldy of þe fayn wyte wyþ-oute strif, Wat maner man ys Charlemayn. 1375 in Horstm. *Altengl. Leg.* (1878) 124/2 And bad hem boþe wiþoute stryf Nast eten of þe tre of lyf. *c* 1407 LYDG. *Reson & Sens.* 6831 Alceste..ches to goon vn-to hir grave Wilfully, without[e] stryve.

† **d.** *By* or *with strife*: by force or violence. *Obs.*

c 1330 *Arth. & Merl.* 6493 What bi loue & what bi striif, He forlay þe stewardes wiif. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 174 And wo this wethur shuld wyn bude wirke as I say, Ayre euyn to þe Oxen, entre hom in yoke, With striffe or with stroke till þai stonde wolde.

† **e.** *To have, hold, make, take strife*: to contend, quarrel (*with*). *Obs.*

c 1374 CHAUCER *Boeth.* I. pr. iv. (1886) 9, I took stryf [L. *certamen suscepi*] ayeins the prouost of the pretorie for comune profit. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* XXXVI. (*Baptist*) 721 Cese, þare-for, & hald na strife. *c* 1385 CHAUCER *L. G. W.* 595 For which he tok with rome & Cesar stryf. *c* 1400 *Rule St. Benet* (Verse) 650 And mak no strif with old no ȝing. 1430–40 LYDG. *Bochas* VIII. i. (1558) 2 b, The tyraunt Decius agayn them toke a stryfe. *a* 1450 *Knt. de la Tour* xiv. 20 Faire doughters, kepe you that ye take no striff with no comberous folke. *c* 1600 SHAKS. *Sonn.* lxxv. 3 And for the peace of you I hold such strife, As twixt a miser and his wealth is found.

f. *To make strife*: to cause dissension.

1303 R. BRUNNE *Handl. Synne* 1192 Take no wyfe For to make betwyxe ȝou stryfe. *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (1839) ii. 11 Thei seyd, that he made Discord and Strif amonges hem. 1822 BYRON *Heaven & Earth* iii, Get thee hence, son of Noah; thou makest strife.

3. Competition, emulation; an effort or exertion of rivalry, a contest of emulation. † *To make strife*: to contend or compete (*for*). † *By strifes*: in emulation or rivalry.

1530 PALSGR. 277/1 Stryfe bytwene two, *brigue. Ibid.* 277/2 Stryfe who shall do best, *estriue a lestriuee. Ibid.* 630/1, I make stryfe to gette an offyce that gothe by election, *je brigue.* 1556 T. HOBY *Castiglione's Courtyer* (1561) Ep. Transl. A iiij, With an honest strife of matching others. 1592 SHAKS. *Ven. & Ad.* 291 His Art with Natures workmanship at strife, As if the dead the liuing should exceed. 1593 — *Lucr.* 1791 Then sonne and father weep with equall strife, Who should weep most for daughter or for wife. 1623 B. JONSON in *Shaks. Wks.* To Rdr., Wherein the Grauer had a strife with Nature, to out-doo the life. 1630 R. N. *Camden's Hist. Eliz.* I. 56 The wealthier Inhabitants also of the Sea-coasts ..built them ships of warre by striues who should exceede. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Past.* vii. 23 Great was the strife betwixt the Singing Swains. 1709 J. JOHNSON *Clergym. Vade-M.* II. p. cx, In those Ages, when..the Laity did as it were by strifes run into Monasteries. *a* 1710 CONGREVE *To Earl Godolphin* 105 Thus Gods contended, (noble Strife! Worthy the heavnly Mind) Who most should do to soften anxious Life. 1836 THIRLWALL *Greece* xv. II. 305 Let us still be rivals: but let our strife be, which can best serve our country.

4. The act of striving; strong effort. *rare.*

1602 SHAKS. *All's Well* v. iii. 338 Which we will pay, With strife to please you, day exceeding day. 1603 — *Meas. for M.* III. ii. 246 One, that aboue all other strifes, Contended especially to know himselfe. 1642 D. ROGERS *Naaman* 136 We know what strife a man useth in his trade, who hath no inward principle of skill to enable him. 1687 tr. *Sallust* (1692) To Rdr., As if these Mystic Authors made it their strife to imitate Nature. 1827 KEBLE *Chr. Yr., 2nd Sund. Advent* vi, Be your strife To lead on earth an Angel's life.

5. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *strife-fellow*, † *-race*; objective, as *strife-maker, -monger*; *strife-hatching, -stirring* ppl. adjs.

1552 HULOET, Stryfe maker, *litistonsor, rixosus, contumeliosus.* 1591 SYLVESTER *Ivry* 315 Our strife-stirring Quils. 1598 — *Du Bartas* II. ii, IV. *Columnes* 32 Men's strife-hatching, haut ambition. 1647 TRAPP *Comm., Heb.* xii. 1 'Αγῶνα.... The strife-race, for we must run, and fight as we run, strive also to outstrip our fellow-racers. 1875 MORRIS *Æn.* v. 108 But some were dight amid the games their strife-fellows to be. 1909 *Edin. Rev.* Oct. 466 The solemn warning to strife-mongers with which he concludes.

Strife, obs. form of STRIVE *v.*

Strifeful (strəi·fful), *a.* Forms: 4 **strifful,** 5 **stryffule, -fulle,** 6 **strifull, strivefull, stryf(f)ul(l,** 6–8 **strifefull,** 8– **strifeful.** [f. STRIFE *sb.* + -FUL.] Full of strife; contentious.

1382 WYCLIF *Ecclus.* viii. 14 Stonde thou not azen the face of the strifful. 14.. in *Walter of Henley's Husb.* etc. (1890) 148 That in no wyse be in the howseholde, men debatefulle or stryffulle. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* III. ii. 12 Her list in strifull termes with him to balke. 1591 — *M. Hubberd* 1021 Th' Ape was stryfull, and ambicious. 1621 G. SANDYS *Ovid's Met.* I. 102 Nor Swords, nor Arms were yet:..nor strifefull Trumpets sound. 1726 POPE *Odyss.* XXI. 410 Eumæus, thus incourag'd, hastes to bring The strife-full bow. *a* 1835 WORDSW. *Misc. Sonn.* II. 'Four fiery Steeds', Soldiers..sick at heart of strifeful Christendom. 1850 *Tait's Mag.* XVII. 762/2 We are no apologists for the violence committed..in those strifeful days. 1890 W. MORRIS in *Eng. Illustr. Mag.* July 762 They are a strifeful race.

Strifeless (strəi·fles), *a.* [f. STRIFE *sb.* + -LESS.] Free from strife.

1621 G. SANDYS *Ovid's Met.* I. 24 With strifeless peace. 1858 J. M. NEALE *Rhythm of Bern. de Morlaix* (1864) 17 Peace, endless, strifeless, ageless, The halls of Syon know. 1906 S. W. MITCHELL *Pearl* 30 The strifeless bourne of Paradise.

Strifer, Strifing, obs. ff. STRIVER, STRIVING.

Striff(e, obs. forms of STRIFE.

Striffen (strĭ·fən). *Sc., Ulster,* and *U.S. local.* Also 9 **striffion, striffan, -in,** etc. (see *Eng. Dial. Dict.*). [Of obscure origin.] A thin membranous film; a thin skin or membrane.

a 1612 LOWE *Chirurg.* (1634) 142 The fourth [membrane] is called Arnoides, it is very white and delicate, like unto the thinne striffen of an ynzoin or Spiders webbe. 1802 M. CUTLER *Life, Jrnls. & Corr.* (1888) II. 71 A pie called macaroni, which appeared to be a rich crust filled with the striffions [*printed* strillions] of onions. 1824 MACTAGGART *Gallovid. Encycl.* 397 Low poor fallow now ye be, Wi' striffan white drawn owre thy e'e. 1836 *Shetld. Jrnl.* in *Chamb. Edin. Jrnl.* 31 Dec. 388/2 The interior membrane, or, to speak in our own dialect, the black striffin, left in the lugs of the fish.

† **Strift.** *Obs.* Also 4 **strijft,** 7 **striffte.** [f. STRIVE *v.* + -T[3] a, after *drift, thrift*, etc.

In the first quot. the true reading is prob. *þrift*, but the erroneous reading þerh. indicates that the word was in existence at the date of the Göttingen MS.]

The action of striving; an instance of this; also, contention, strife.

The word seems to have survived to some extent in the traditional religious phraseology of the Society of Friends; the use of it in the *Epistle* of 1893 (see quot. below) gave rise to much discussion in the Society.

[*a* 1300–1400 *Cursor M.* 4439 (Gött.) He ferd ay wid sua mekil strijft [*Cott.* thrift] þat all was done as he wald scift.] 1612 BRINSLEY *Lud. Lit.* v. 50 This same strift for these Masteries, and for rewards of learning, is the most commendable play. *Ibid.* xiv. 195 This exercise is..a stirrer vp of inuention and of good wits to strift and emulation. 1615 CROOKE *Body of Man* 195 Hippocrates saith, that the onely cause of the striffte of the Infant in the byrth is the want of Nourishment. 1619 W. WHATELY *God's Husb.* I. (1622) 112 Hee is busie in labouring to obey, and a man that liues with him, may euen perceiue in him..a strift this way. *a* 1656 USSHER *Ann.* (1658) 868 Exhibiting shews in the theatre, all kinds of musicall ostentations or strifts, and other variety of pleasures. 1674 N. FAIRFAX *Bulk & Selv.* 119 So neither has the first spring of motion any thing of onwardness or stirring, but only a pend or earnest strift fromwards, which we call springsomness or bearing. *Ibid.* 124 The spring or strift to stir. 1710 PRIDEAUX *Orig. Tithes* v. 276 Those [laws]..which they would never have made that strift for.. had they been put in Execution upon them. *Ibid.* 281 In the Reigns of King Stephen..and King John when the greatest strift was about these Laws. 1815 J. J. GURNEY in Brathwaite *Mem.* (1854) I. 107 Overcome by a violent apoplectic attack, and in the strift of death. 1828 *Ibid.* 374, I think there is good reason to suppose a period of some strift and considerable loss to be at hand. 1845 MRS. ELIZ. FRY in Fry & Cresswell *Mem.* (1847) II. 518 [Her dying

words] Pray for me—It is a strift, but I am safe. 1893 *Epistle Yearly Meeting Soc. Friends* 2 Take comfort from the thought that others have passed through as great a strift, and have come forth into peace and happy trustfulness.

Strift: see STRIF *Obs.*, a measure for wine.

Strig (strig), *sb.* Also 6 **strigge**. [Of obscure origin.]

1. The stalk of a leaf, fruit, or flower; a petiole, peduncle, or pedicel. Also, the stem of the hop cone.

1565 J. HALLE *Hist. Expost. Table* 114 Certayne tender strigges of *Iuncio palustris*..the marshe rushe. 1572 in Feuillerat *Revels Q. Eliz.* (1908) 156 Strigges of bay Leaves for twigg heades at vi[d] the peece. 1577 B. GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* IV. 187 Perfume them with *Galbanum*, Reazins, or olde strigges of Grapes. 1578 LYTE *Dodoens* VI. xvi. 678 The roote [of Heath] is tender..and putteth foorth in diuers places many newe twigges or strigges. 1674 RAY *S. & E. C. Words* 76 (*bis*) The *Strig*: the footstalk of any fruit. Petiolus. Suss[ex]. 1682 WHELER *Journ. Greece* IV. 309 A quadrangular Stalk, set at several distances with Leaves, upon a long strig or stem. 1881 WHITEHEAD *Hops* 13 One fault in the flower cones of the old fashioned Grape hops is that they have a thick strig or stem. 1891 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* 852 The central stem, or 'strig' of the hop cones. 1901 *Times* 2 Sept. 6 [Birds] will strip a currant-bush of its fruit so effectively as to leave nothing but the bare strigs.

2. A long thin appendage in various tools; the tang of a sword-blade (*Cent. Dict.*); the stem of a marking-gauge; or the like. Also, the projection under the bowl of a tobacco-pipe.

1703 [R. NEVE] *City & C. Purchaser* 195 The Scraper..is ..of Steel, in the form of an Equilateral Triangle, in the middle of which is fixed an Iron Strig, on the end of which is fixed a Wooden-knob, or Handle. 1805 R. W. DICKSON *Pract. Agric.* II. 596 The earthing up may be accomplished with facility by the above implement, merely by fixing a small piece of wood on the strig of it. 1844 *Florist's Jrnl.* (1846) V. 159 From the base of the two lower ones the strig or tail is fastened, which is thrust into the earth to support and retain the label in its place. 1875 SEATON *Fret-Cutting* 83 The marking gauge is composed of two pieces, the gauge block, through which passes the bar or strig on which is fixed the iron point that marks the work.

Hence **Strig** *v. trans.*, to remove the strig or stalk from (currants, etc.); **Stri·gging** *vbl. sb.* (*attrib.* in *strigging machine*).

1887 *Kentish Gloss.* 165 Will you help me strig these currants? 1899 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* Ser. III. X. 46 Some Dutch black currants..were being put through a patent strigging machine.

‖ **Striga** (strəi·gă). Pl. **strigæ** (strəi·dʒī). [L. *striga* furrow, swath of hay or corn, flute of a column (= *stria*).]

†**1.** *Arch.* = STRIA 1. *Obs.*

1771 W. NEWTON tr. *Vitruvius' Archit.* III. iii. (1791) 64 The strigæ of the columns are in number twenty-four.

2. *Bot.* A row of stiff bristles; now, a stiff bristle (chiefly *pl.*).

1760 J. LEE *Introd. Bot.* III. xviii. (1765) 213 *Strigæ*, with their stiff Bristles, are of use to prevent Plants from being bruised and destroyed by Vermin. 1796 WITHERING *Brit. Plants* (ed. 3) I. 85 *Strigæ*, strong spear-shaped bristles, or thorns. 1829 T. CASTLE *Introd. Bot.* 109 The bristles of plants have also received other denominations..a. Striga, or stiff-bristles—that variety of the awl-shaped, which are seen in the common borage. 1840 PAXTON *Bot. Dict.*, *Strigæ*, little upright, unequal, stiff hairs, swelled at their bases.

3. *Ent.* (See quots.)

1826 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* xlvi. IV. 290 Striga (*Striga*). A narrow transverse streak. 1836 SHUCKARD tr. *Burmeister's Man. Entom.* 25 Striga (*striga*) a transverse band.

Strigate (strəi·gēt), *a. Ent.* [ad. L. *strigāt-us*, f. L. *striga*: see STRIGA and -ATE [2].] = STRIGOSE *a.*[2] 2. 1891 *Century Dict.*

Strigated (strəigā·tĕd), *a.* [f. L. *strigāt-us* (see prec.) + -ED [1].] Having a channelled surface. **a.** *Min.* **b.** *Zool.* (in specific name of a snake).

1728 WOODWARD *Nat. Hist. Fossils* I. I. 147 Spar of a strigated or ridg'd Form. 1849 J. E. GRAY *Catal. Snakes Brit. Mus.* 10 The Strigated Trimesurus. *Trimesurus strigatus.*

‖ **Striges** (strəi·dʒiz), *pl.* [L. *strigēs* (Vitruv.), synon. with *striæ*, *strigæ*: if the word be not a misreading, the sing. would normally be *strix*.] The channels of a fluted column.

1563 SHUTE *Archit.* D iij b, If this piller be garnished and filled with Canaliculi, and Striges. 1664 EVELYN tr. *Freart's Parallel Archit.* etc. 130 To the..Shafts of some Columns appertain Striges, which..are those excavated Channells, by our Workmen call'd Flutings. 1789 P. SMYTH tr. *Aldrich's Archit.* I. iii. 13 Those channellings in the shaft of the column, which are called by the several names of *Striæ*, *Striges*, or..*Strigiles*. 1842 GWILT *Archit. Gloss.* 1038.

Stright, obs. Sc. form of STRAIGHT.

Strigil (stri·dʒil). [ad. L. *strigilis*, f. *strig-*, *stringĕre* to touch lightly (see STRICTURE *sb.*).

The cognate pop.L. **strigula*, curry-comb, is represented by It. *streghia*, OF. *estrille* (mod.F. *étrille*); it was adopted in OHG. as *strigil* (mod.G. *striegel*).]

1. *Ant.* An instrument with a curved blade, for scraping the sweat and dirt from the skin in the hot-air bath or after gymnastic exercise. Also applied *transf.* to a flesh-brush or other instrument used for the same purpose.

1581 MULCASTER *Positions* xxxiv. (1887) 123 Certaine scrapers called Strigiles. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* June 1645, Being rubbed with a kind of strigil of seal's-skin, put on the operator's hand like a glove. 1775 R. CHANDLER *Trav. Asia M.* (1825) I. 63 We were rubbed with a mohair-bag fitted to the hand, which, like the ancient strigil, brings away the gross matter perspired. 1843 *Civil Engin. & Arch. Jrnl.* VI. 96/1 One day Hadrian recognized an old companion in arms in poverty, scraping himself with a tile instead of the strigil. 1854 FAIRHOLT *Dict. Terms Art*, *Strigil*, an instrument of bronze, curved, and hollowed like a spoon, used by the Romans to scrape off perspiration from the body after bathing. 1887 D. MAGUIRE *Art of Massage* ii. 19 Our masseurs of to-day use an instrument similar to the strigil made of box or any other hard wood, and call it sometimes strigil or *raclette*. 1894 J. STURGIS *Bk. Song* 8 Or naked Lysis, fresh from eager game, Draws down the strigil light o'er breast and limbs aflame.

2. *Ent.* (See quot.)

1873 F. B. WHITE in *Entomol. Monthly Mag.* X. 60, I found that the males of certain species [of *Corixa*] were provided with a curious structure..As this structure bears some resemblance to a 'curry-comb' it may be styled..the 'strigil' or 'strigiliform organ'. 1910 G. H. CARPENTER *Hemiptera* in *Encycl. Brit.* XIII. 261/1 The sixth segment [of the male *Corixa*] bearing on its upper side a small stalked plate (*strigil*)..furnished with rows of teeth.

3. *Comb.*

1870 ROLLESTON *Anim. Life* 23 The strigil-shaped first phalanx of the index digit.

Strigilate (stri·dʒilēt), *a.* [ad. mod. L. *strigilātus*, f. L. *strigil-is*: see STRIGIL.] (See quot.)

1826 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* xlvi. IV. 330 Strigilate (*Strigilata*). When on the inner side of the first joint of the hand or palm the segment of a circle is taken out at the base opposite to the spur, the sinus being often pectinated with spines.

†**Stri·gilate**, *v. Obs.*—[f. mod. L. *strigilāt-*, f. *strigil-is* STRIGIL.] *trans.* (See quot.) Hence **Strigila·tion.**

1623 COCKERAM I, *Strigillate*, to currie a horse. 1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.* 1658 PHILLIPS, *Strigilation*,..a currying of a horse.

Strigiliform (stri·dʒilifōrm), *a.* [ad. mod.L. type *strigiliformis*, f. *strigili-s*: see STRIGIL and -FORM.] Having the form of a strigil.

1873 F. B. WHITE in *Entomol. Monthly Mag.* X. 60.

Strigillose (stri·dʒilōus). *Bot. rare.* [f. mod. L. *strigilla*, dim. of STRIGA.] Finely strigose.

1857 A. GRAY *First Less. Bot.* 232 *Strigillose*, *Strigose*: beset with stout and appressed, scale-like or rigid bristles.

†**Stri·gment.** *Obs.* [ad. L. *strigmentum*, f. *strig-* root of *stringĕre*: see STRIGIL.] The dirt and perspiration scraped off the skin with a strigil or otherwise. Hence **Strigmenti·tious** *a.*, of the nature of 'strigment'.

1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* II. v. 85 [Certain physicians] who beside the strigments and sudorous adhesions from mens hands, acknowledge that nothing proceedeth from gold in the usuall decoction thereof. 1745 R. JAMES *Med. Dict.* III. *s. v. Strigmentum*, Strigments absterged in the Baths are of a healing, mollifying, and discutient Quality. *Ibid.*, The strigmentitious Sordes of the *Palæstra*, which have a Mixture of Dust, discuss Collections of Matter about the Joints.

†**Stri·gose,** *a.*[1] *Obs.* [ad. L. *strigōsus*, lean, lank, meagre, f. *striga*: see STRIGA and -OSE.] Meagre, sapless. Also *fig.*

1708 BERKELEY *Convionpl. Bk.* Wks. 1871 IV. 478 In short, the dry, strigose, rigid way will not suffice. 1710 T. FULLER *Pharm. Extemp.* 231 The Juices of Herbs..correct a dry strigose Habit with mollifying Moisture.

Strigose (strəi·gōus), *a.*[2] [ad. mod.L. *strigōsus*, f. L. *striga* (in mod.Latin uses): see STRIGA and -OSE.]

1. *Bot.* Covered with strigæ or stiff hairs. Also of hairs: Having the character of strigæ.

1793 MARTYN *Lang. Bot.*, *Strigosum folium*, a Strigose leaf..set with stiff lanceolate bristles. 1832 LINDLEY *Introd. Bot.* I. ii. 42 The adjective term *strigose* is..occasionally still employed to express a surface covered with stiff hairs. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1104/1 *Strigose*, covered with strigæ. Linnaeus considered this word synonymous with Hispid. 1887 W. PHILLIPS *Brit. Discomycetes* 215 Covered with a very dense coat of rigid, fasciculate,..strigose hairs.

2. *Ent.* Having strigæ, streaked.

1826 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* xlvi. IV. 290 Strigose (*Strigosa*). Painted with several such streaks [*sc.* strigæ]. 1847 *Proc. Berw. Nat. Club* II. v. 256 Elytra..very minutely and strigose punctulate.

Hence **Stri·gosely** *adv.*

1866 *Treas. Bot.* 689/1 (*Lithospermum*) They are rough strigosely hairy herbs or undershrubs.

Strigous (strəi·gəs), *a. Bot. rare.* [ad. mod. L. *strigōsus*: see STRIGOSE and -OUS.] = STRIGOSE *a.*[2] 1 (in quot. 1877 *transf.*).

1776 J. LEE *Introd. Bot.* Explan. Terms 385 *Strigosum*, *strigous*, armed with lance-shaped Prickles. 1877 COUES & ALLEN *N. Amer. Rod.* 115 The ears..are hirsute—almost strigous—with rather long and stiffish straight hairs, that form a slight fringe.

Strigulated (stri·giŭlētĕd), *a.* [f. mod.L. *strigula*, dim. of *striga* (see STRIGA) + -ATE [2] + -ED [1].] = STRIGILLOSE *a.*

1899 *Novitates Zool.* Dec. 367 *Gonodela obliquilineata. Forewings*: white, speckled with olive-fuscous; the costa strigulated with fuscous.

Striif, strijf(e, obs. forms of STRIFE, STRIVE *v.*

Strik, obs. form of STIRK, STRICK *sb.*

Strike (strəik), *sb.* Forms: 4–6 **strik, stryk**, 4–7 **stryke**, 4– **strike**. [f. STRIKE *v.* (In senses 2–4 perh. a. MLG. derivatives of the same root: cf. STRICK *sb.*)

In early instances it is sometimes doubtful whether the word is this or STRICK *sb.* or STREAK *sb.*, as the spelling *strik*, *stryk*, *strick* does not always indicate a short vowel, and conversely the spelling *strike*, *stryke* does not always imply that the vowel is long.]

†**1.** A distance. *Obs.*

From the rimes the word seems to be *strike*, not *strick*.

c 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 1052 He dyde make for fens a dyk Aboute þe castel a gret stryk. *Ibid.* 1420 In-to þe se of Aufryke þey comen, & passed a gret stryke.

2. A bundle or hank of flax, hemp, etc.: = STRICK *sb.* 1. [Cf. Pg. *estriga*.]

c 1386 CHAUCER *Prol.* 676 This Pardoner hadde heer as yelow as wex, But smooth it heeng as dooth a strike of flex. 1530 PALSGR. 277/2 Stryke of flaxe, *poupee de filace*. 1615 MARKHAM *Eng. Housew.* II. iii. 96 Then you shall say it [the hemp or flax] is brak't enough, and then tearming that which you called a baite or bundle before, now a strike, you shall lay them together. 1669 WORLIDGE *Syst. Agric.* 276 A Strike of Flax, so much as is Heckled at one handful. 1743 R. MAXWELL *Sel. Trans. Soc. Improv. Agric.* 336 When the Flax is well scutched, take a moderate Handful of it, fold it in the Middle, plet it like a Rope, but loosely. ..After you have beat it for some time, open the Strike. 1794 A. YOUNG *Agric. Suffolk* 49 The buyer heckles it [*sc.* hemp]..; he makes it into two or three sorts: long strike, short strike, and pull tow.

b. ? A handful of corn-stalks.

1817 COLERIDGE *Three Graves* III. ii, On the hedge-elms in the narrow lane Still swung the strikes [so *Sibyll. Leaves*; *earlier version* spikes] of corn.

3. a. = STRICKLE *sb.* 1, STRICK *sb.* 3.

c 1425 *Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 664/14 *Hoc ostorium*, stryke. 1474 *Stat. Winch.* in *Coventry Leet Bk.* 396, viij Buysshelles makith a Quarter, striken with a Rasid stryke, and neyther hepe nor Cantell. 1538 ELYOT *Dict.*, *Hostorium*, the staffe wherwith all measures be made euen, a stryke. 1557 *Cal. Anc. Rec. Dublin* (1889) 467 In every myll ther shalbe a toll dysshe..cheyned with a cheyne of iron, and a stryke of iron fast to the cheyne. 1639 HORN & ROB. *Gate Lang. Unlocked* xxxii. § 400 Bread-corne..being measured is strick'd even with a strike (strickle). 1758 in *Rep. Comm. Ho. Commons* II. 431 (Weights & Meas.) The Bushel is striked, and to strike it they use a round circular Strike, which is of the same Diameter from one End to the other. 1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* II. 280 In connection with the bushel is the *strike* for sweeping off the superfluous corn above the edge of the bushel. 1859 BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.* (ed. 2) 457.

b. An instrument, usually a rod or narrow board, used in various trades (e.g. brickmaking, casting, plumbing, gardening) for levelling a surface by striking off the superfluous material.

1683 J. HOUGHTON *Collect. Lett. Improv. Husb.* II. vi. 188 We also have upon the Table..a little Trough,..and in it a Strike to run over the Mould, to make the Bricks smooth: this Strike is usually made of Firr, nine inches long, an inch and a half broad, and half inch thick. 1825 J. NICHOLSON *Oper. Mech.* 631 A kind of rake, called a *strike*, which consists of a board about 5 inches broad. 1839 *Penny Cycl.* XIII. 372/1 An instrument called a strike is..provided to regulate the thickness of the sheet [of lead], and to spread the melted metal evenly over the table. 1840 *Florist's Jrnl.* (1846) I. 198 A strike, which is made of wood, about two feet longer than the width of the bed. 1850 E. DOBSON *Bricks & Tiles* I. 27 After which the superfluous clay is striken with a strike. *Ibid.* 71 The strike is not used at Nottingham. 1885 P. J. DAVIES *Pract. Plumbing* I. 28 The Strike..is rather an important tool, made as follows.

c. Measurement by the use of the 'strike' (sense 3 a): Struck or levelled, as opposed to heaped measure. Now *rare* or *Obs.*

1674 JEAKE *Arith.* (1696) 70 Usage in some places hath continued Measure by heap, although some Statutes order it by Strike. 1821 *Acc. Peculations Coal Trade* 5 The Newcastle chaldron..by measure is 24 bolls strike..The London chaldron is 36 bushels heaped.

4. A denomination of dry measure, used in various parts of England (but not officially recognized since the 16th c.); usually identical with the bushel, but in some districts equal to a half-bushel, and in others to two or four bushels. Also, the cylindrical wooden measuring vessel containing this quantity. Cf. STROKE *sb.* 22.

First recorded in AF. form *estrike*. The word is believed to have been originally used for a measure 'struck' or levelled with a strickle, not heaped.

[1284 *MS. Acc. Exch. K. R.* Bd. 97 No. 3 m. 11 In ⁊vij. estrikes et .j. pecke auene. 1350–1 *Rolls of Parit.* II. 230/2 Et q̄ les Estrikes soient auxi bien enseales, come Bussels & autres Mesures.] 13.. *Propr. Sanct.* (Vernon MS.) in *Archiv Stud. neu. Spr.* LXXXI. 318/16 Men takeþ not of a lanterne þe liht And put vndur a strik vnriht Bote on a Candelstikke on hiȝ. *c* 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* XI. 104 Salt let screue On hem, iij stryk on x strike [L. *per decem modios*] of oliue. 1467 *Coventry Leet Bk.* 334 Also they have ordenyd that the wardens Make ij strikis, ij halfe strykis, ij hopes, & let the salters have hem with-owt eny money. 1523–34 FITZHERB. *Husb.* § 12 Two London busshelles of pease, the whyche is but two strykes in other places. 1540 *Nottingham Rec.* III. 378 A cordyng to the Kynges Standard, after viij[s] gallans to the stryke. 1598 BP. HALL *Sat.* IV. vi. 27 Altho he buy whole Haruests in the spring And foist in false strikes to the measuring. 1609 HOLLAND *Amm. Marcell.* Annot. d ij, A measure with us called a strike, or London bushell would have cost 4.s. 1636 SIR R. BAKER *Cato Variegatus* 28 Hees no good Husbandman, that will mislike: To sowe a Pynte where he may reape a strike. 1680 W. WALKER *Idiomat. Anglo-Lat.* 452 He measures his money by strikes, *Nummos modio metitur*. 1681 in *Reliquary* (1862) III. 100 Paid for gathering 208 Strikes of acornes, 03 09 06. 1707 [E. WARD] *Hudibras Rediv.* VI. 11 In Shape most like That Measure which we call a Strike. 1759 R. BROWN *Compl. Farmer* 57 A strike, which is a bushel measure fill'd only to the edges. 1811 P. KELLY *Univ. Cambist* I. 259 A Last contains..40 Strikes or 80 Bushels. 1868 PEACOCK *Myrc Notes* 81 In the Isle of Axholme,..a bushel is not, as elsewhere, one-eighth of

a quarter, but double that measure. The *strike* or half-bushel represents there the legal bushel of eight pecks.

†5. The unit proportion of malt in ale or beer. Also (? erroneously) *of the first strike* = of the highest strength: said of ale. *Obs.* Cf. STRAIK *sb.*[1] 2.

1620 BEAUM. & FL. *Scornf. Lady* v. iii, Thou miserable man, repent, and brew three strikes more in a hogshed. 1702 FLOYER *Cold Bathing* iv. 129 We must use..more moderate vinose Liquors, Beer of three or four Strike at Meals. 1819 SCOTT *Ivanhoe* xl, Our cellarer shall have orders to deliver to thee a butt of sack,..and three hogsheads of ale of the first strike, yearly. 1820 — *Monast.* xviii, An hogshead of ale at Martlemas, of the double strike.

6. An act of striking.

a. An act of striking a blow; of a snake, the act of darting at its prey.

1587 W. FOWLER *Wks.* (S. T. S.) I. 69 Sche suddenlye hir visage did from his [*sc.* Cupid's] strykes so hyde, that [etc.]. 1638 SIR A. JOHNSTON (Ld. Wariston) *Diary* (S. H. S.) 325 The Almighty..hes many arrowes in his quyver to peirce the at the heart if the first stryk in thy flesch move the not: 1859 H. KINGSLEY *Geoff. Hamlyn* xxviii, She [the dog] had drawn herself ahead, and made a bold strike at the kangaroo, but missed him. 1879 ATCHERLEY *Trip to Boërland* 50 This brute [a snake]..made a strike at my boot as I was in the very act of taking it off. 1902 'M. FAIRLESS' *Roadmender* 7 With the snake there is the swift, silent strike, the tiny, tiny wound, then sleep and a forgetting.

fig. 1888 STEVENSON *Black Arrow* III. iv, It had been determined..to make one bold strike that evening, and, by brute force, to set Joanna free.

b. The striking of a clock, or of the clapper of a bell.

1871 ELLACOMBE *Belfries & Ringers* (ed. 3) 38 The way to cure a clapper of rearing, or doubling its strike, is to lengthen the flight. 1903 B. HARRADEN *Kath. Frensham* 47 We go on adjusting our lives and emotions to the strike of the parish clock.

†c. *Strike of day*: daybreak. *Obs.* or *spurious.* [If genuine, perh. referring to the striking of the hour. But possibly a mistake of Grose (followed by Dickens) for *shrike of day* (SCRIKE *sb.* 2). Cf. STREAK *sb.* 3.]

1790 GROSE *Prov. Gloss.* (ed. 2) Suppl., *Strike of Day*, break of day. 1854 DICKENS *Hard T.* II. iv, I could sen nommore if I was to speak till Strike o' day.

7. *Fishing.* †a. ? A place where salmon are speared. *Obs. rare*[−1].

a 1828 BEWICK *Mem.* (1862) 222, I was frequently sent by my parents to purchase a salmon from the fishers of the 'strike' at Eltringham ford.

b. The jerk by which the angler secures a fish that is already hooked.

1840 J. YOUNGER *River Angling* (1860) 88 [This motion is wrongly named: it is] rather a retentive hold than a start, or a strike. 1892 *Field* 19 Mar. 402/1 Once the salmon has gone down head foremost with the fly, there is no reason to delay the strike.

c. A large capture (of fish).

1887 HALL CAINE *Deemster* x, No 'strike' was made. 1894 R. LEIGHTON *Wreck Golden Fleece* 36 The best strike of herrins be always at the moon-risin'. 1905 *Daily Chron.* 3 Oct. 4/5 When there is a 'strike,' and the movement of the buoys that support the nets show that a shoal has become enmeshed [etc.].

8. *Mining* and *Geol.* The horizontal course of a stratum; direction with regard to the points of the compass. Cf. STREAK *sb.* 5, STRETCH *sb.* 9.

Prob., as stated in a footnote to the first passage quoted below, a recent adoption from German. The Ger. word is *streichen*, the inf. of the vb. corresponding to STRIKE *v.*

1829 A. SEDGWICK & MURCHISON in *Trans. Geol. Soc.* Ser. II. III. 337 The range or strike of this series is from E.N.E. to W.S.W. 1833 LYELL *Princ. Geol.* III. 346 In Europe the strike of the beds is not always parallel to the direction of the chain. 1850 ANSTED *Elem. Geol., Min.* etc. 291 The direction of the bed is called, in Geological language, the *strike*, and the inclination, the *dip*. 1888 TEALL *Brit. Petrogr.* 448 *Strike*—The strike of a bed is the direction (expressed by reference to the points of the compass) of the line formed by the intersection of the plane of the bed with the plane of the horizon.

transf. 1883 *Nature* 22 Feb. 395/2 The main strike of the auroræ is magnetic east-west.

9. A concerted cessation of work on the part of a body of workers, for the purpose of obtaining some concession from the employer or employers. Formerly sometimes more explicitly *strike of work*. Cf. STRIKE *v.* 24, 24 b. Phrase, *on strike*, also (*U.S.*) *on a strike*.

The sb., together with the related sense of the vb., has been adopted into several European langs.: G. *streik*, Du. *strijk*, Sw. *strejk*.

1810 *Docum. Hist. Amer. Industrial Soc.* (1910) III. 370 The Society, in November 1809, ordered a general strike. 1815 *Ibid.* IV. 42 It appeared there was a strike for higher wages. 1825 *Edin. Rev.* XLIII. 14 Combinations and strikes of work may be necessary..to bring things sooner to their proper level. 1830 *Poor Man's Guardian* 31 Dec. 8/1 It has been determined at a meeting of delegates, appointed by the spinners in the different parts of the country, that a general strike shall take place on Monday, the 27th instant, of all spinners who are receiving less than 4s. 2d. per 1000 hanks. 1850 *Athenæum* 7 Dec. 1282/3 Three hundred men on strike have taken a mill! 1881 *Chicago Times* 14 May, The employés of the Grand Trunk car shops are on a strike for an advance in wages. 1899 C. PLUMMER *Saxon Chron.* II. 289 Simeon of Durham..represents the enactment as causing a sort of clerical strike.

10. A last ploughing before the sowing. *local.*

1823 E. MOOR *Suffolk Words, Strike* is also a mode of plowing. We call it *back-striking*. 1844 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* V. I. 6 First year making the fallow, three whole tilths, and one strike, at 8*s.*, 1*l.* 8*s.* *od.*

11. An act of 'striking oil' (see STRIKE *v.* 67 d); a discovery of a rich vein of ore in mining. Also *fig.* a stroke of success.

1883 *Century Mag.* July 330/1 A restless, speculative person,..now making a lucky strike, and now sinking all his available means in a dry hole. 1895 *Daily News* 13 Sept. 2/5 Langlaagte Estate Gold...The supervising director writes that the strike at the sixth level is really grand. 1901 *Munsey's Mag.* XXIV. 841 Mr. Grau made a strike with his first novelty, 'La Bohème'.

12. *U.S.* In certain games. a. *Ten-pins.* The knocking down of all the pins with the first bowl.

1866 LOWELL *Biglow P.* Ser. II. Introd., To make a strike is to knock down all the pins with one ball, hence it has come to mean fortunate, successful. 1884 [see SPARE *sb.*[1] 4].

b. *Base-ball.* (*a*) An act of striking at the ball, characterized as a *fair* or *foul strike* (see quot. 1874); three 'foul strikes' cause the batsman to be put out. (*b*) A 'foul strike', or any act or shortcoming on the batsman's part which incurs the same penalty.

1874 CHADWICK *Base Ball Man.* 103 A fair strike. The batsman, when in the act of striking at the ball, must stand within the lines of his position...A foul strike. Should the batsman, when in the act of striking at the ball, step outside the lines of his position, the umpire must call 'foul strike'. 1891 N. CRANE *Baseball* 76 Every ball that is not hit by the batsman must be a 'strike' or a 'ball'. *c* 1896 KNOWLES & MORTON *Baseball* 103 Strike.—When the batsman tries and fails to hit a ball delivered to him by the pitcher, or refuses to strike at a fair ball.

13. *U.S. Political slang.* (See quots.)

1885 *Century Mag.* Apr. 824/2 When a member introduces a bill hostile to some moneyed interest, with the expectation of being paid to let the matter drop...[This proceeding is] technically called a 'strike'. 1888 BRYCE *Amer. Commw.* II. xliv. [I. 163 *note*. 1894 H. C. MERWIN in *Atlantic Monthly* Feb. 247/1 A 'strike' is a measure brought forward simply for purposes of blackmail.

†14. *slang.* 'Twenty shillings' (Grose *Dict. Vulgar T.*, ed. 2, 1788).

15. *Printing.* (See quots.)

1871 *Amer. Encycl. Printing* (ed. Ringvalt) 149 Drives are also sometimes called strikes, or the originals of matrices. 1888 [see DRIVE *sb.* 15]. 1888 JACOBI *Printers' Vocab.* 134 *Strikes*, a term for type matrices struck from the original punches. 1900 H. HART *Cent. Typogr.* p. viii, Nowadays a type-founder..would be able..to buy 'strikes', which when justified would become matrices—the punches being left in the hands of the proprietor for the production of more 'strikes'.

16. *Sugar-making.* See quot. 1864. (Cf. STRIKE *v.* 21 b.)

1847 W. J. EVANS *Sugar-Planter's Man.* 152 The time required for taking off a strike containing fourteen moulds of fifty pounds each was two hours. 1864 WEBSTER, *Strike of sugar*, (*a*) the act of emptying the teache, or last boiler, in which the cane-juice is exposed to heat, into the coolers; (*b*) the quantity of the sirup thus emptied at once. 1887 *Century Mag.* Nov. 114/1 When sufficiently boiled, the thick syrup is called the 'masse cuite'. The 'strike' is now done, air is admitted to the pan, and the contents are run off into the 'mixer'.

17. *Coining.* 'The whole amount struck at one time.' 1891 *Century Dict.*

18. *Soap-making.* The proper crystalline or mottled appearance of a soap, indicating complete saponification.

1884 A. WATT *Soap-making* 50 The leys are made from..black ash, the impurities in which give the mottled or marbled 'strike' for which this variety of soap is famed. 1885 W. L. CARPENTER *Manuf. Soap & Candles* 12 The appearances known as 'grain' or 'strike' in a hard soap..are due to the crystalline character of soap.

†19. ? A strip or band (of metal). *Obs. rare*[−1].

Possibly the word may belong to STREAK *sb.*, or may be misprinted. The passage (copied by Weever and some other authors) is the origin of the sense 'stanchion or pale in a fence or gate' given by some Dicts.

1603 STOW *Surv.* (1908) I. 322 There were 9. Tombes of Alabaster and Marble, inuironed with strikes of Iron in the Quire, and one Tombe in the body of the Church, also coped with iron.

20. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as (sense 3 c) *strike bushel, measure*; (sense 8) *strike-fault, -joint, vein*; (sense 9) *strike fund, leader*; (sense 16) *strike-heater, -pan*. Also †**strike-block** [= Du. *strijkblok*] *Carpentry* (see quot. 1678); **strike-breaker**, a workman who consents to work for an employer whose workmen are on strike, thus contributing to the defeat of the strike; **strike-furrow plough** = *strike plough* below; †**strike iron**, ? malleable iron; **strike pay**, the periodical payment made by a trade-union for the support of men on strike; **strike plough** (see quot. 1856).

1678 MOXON *Mech. Exerc.* iv. 66 The *Strike-Block..is a Plain shorter than the Joynter,..and is used for the shooting of a short Joynt. 1823 P. NICHOLSON *Pract. Build.* 245 The Strike-Block Plane. 1905 *Daily Chron.* 4 May, The strikers made repeated attacks on the '*strike-breakers'. 1862 ANSTED *Channel Isl.* iv. App. A. 567 It may be worth stating that the Guernsey heaped bushel is nearly equivalent to the imperial *strike bushel. 1879 *Encycl. Brit.* X. 303/1 Faults..are classified as dip-faults and *strike-faults. 1894 TARR *Econ. Geol. U.S.* 50 When the horizontal direction of a fault plane is in the direction of the dip of the strata, the fault is a dip fault; when at right angles to this, a strike fault. 1906 *Daily Chron.* 17 May 4/7 The earliest mention of a *strike fund occurred in the strike of the Parisian stocking-weavers in 1724. 1846 KEIGHTLEY *Notes Virg.*, Terms Husb. 353 When the plough was prepared for seed-sowing, the *aures* were put to it, so that it then resembled our *strike-furrow plough. 1903 *Longman's Mag.* Nov. 76 After repeated skimming and filtration, the juice is ready for the strike-pans, whence it is discharged by valves into the *strike-heaters—double-lined cauldrons supplied with steam enough to keep the sugar hot until crystallisation is reached. 1814 *Sporting Mag.* XLIII. 269 A large quantity of these shears made out of *strike iron. 1879 *Encycl. Brit.* X. 297/1 The former set is known as dip-joints,..the latter is termed *strike-joints. 1766 *Museum Rust.* VI. 264 More frequently a fraud, in the construction of measures of that kind, where heap, and not *strike measure, is the custom. 1903 *Strike-pan: see *strike-heater*. *a* 1878 in G. Howell *Conf. Capital & Labour* vii. 344 The men who receive what is called '*strike pay'. 1891 *Spectator* 13 June, Whether these conditions are satisfied, it is not for us to say, though..the scale of strike-pay does not suggest an overflowing exchequer. 1789 *Trans. Soc. Arts* I. 123, I took a common *strike plough. 1856 MORTON *Cycl. Agric.* II. 726/1 *Strike-plough* (Sussex), double-mould board plough. 1877 RAYMOND *Statist. Mines & Mining* 241 The *strike-vein is north and south.

Strike (strəik), *v.* Pa. t. **struck**; pa. pple. **struck**; also *arch.* **stricken**. Forms: *Inf.* and *Pres. stem.* 1 **strícan**, 3–7 **strik**, 4–6 **stryke**, 4–7 **stryk**, 4 *Sc.* **stirk**(e, 5–7 **strike**, 6 **stryck**(e, 6–8 **strick**, 7 *Sc.* **streck**, 3– **strike**. *Pa. t. sing.* *α.* 1 **strác**, 2–3 **strac**, 3–5, 6–8 *Sc.* **strak**, 7 *Sc.* **strack**, 4–8 **strake**, 5 **straak**, 5–6 *Sc.* **straik**, 6 *Sc.* **strayk**; *β.* 4–7 **strok**, **stroke**, 5 **strocke**, 5–7 **stroak**(e, 5–9 **strook**, 6–7 **strooke**, 6 **stroock**, **stroucke**, *Sc.* **struke**, **struik**(e, 7 **strucke**, 7– **struck**; *γ.* 4 **strek**, 5 **streke**; *δ.* 7 **strikke**; *ε. weak forms* 4 **striked**, 4–6 **stryked**, 6 **stryckt**. *Pa. t. pl.* 1 **stricon**, 2–3 **striken**. *Pa. pple.* *α.* 1 **stricen**, 4 **strikyn**, 4–6 **stryken**, -yn, (4 -yne), 4–7 **striken**, 5 **strikon**, **strynken** (*sic*), **strikyne**, *Sc.* **strikine**, 5–6 **strikin**, **strykin**, 6 **strykowen**, **stirkin**, *north.* **streikenne**, *Sc.* **strakin**, 7 **strake**; *β.* 4 **y-strike**, 3–4 **strike**, 5 **stryke**; *γ.* 4–*Sc.* **strekine**, 4–6 **streken**, 5–6 **strekyn**(e, (5 **stregun**), 6 **strek**(k)**in**; *δ.* 5 **strikkyn**, **stryckyn**, 5–6 **strikken**, -in, 6 **ystricken** (*arch.*), **strycken**, **strickin**, -yn, 6– **stricken**; *ε.* 6 **strycke**, **stricke**; *ζ.* 5 *Sc.* **strukkin**, 6 *Sc.* **struiken**, **stru**(o)**kne**, **strukin**, **strukned**, **strokin**, 6–7 **stroken**, **strooken**, **struken**, **strocken**, (6 **strockin**), 7 **stroaken**, **stroocken**, 6–9 **strucken**, (6 -in); 6–7 **stroke**, **strook**(e, 6 **strock**, 7 **stroake**, **strucke**, 7– **struck**; *η.* 4–6 **striked**, 5 **stryked**. [A Com. WGer. strong verb: OE. *strícan*, pa. t. *strác*, pl. *stricon*, pa. pple. *stricen*, corresponds to OFris. *strîka*, MLG. *striken*, (M)Du. *strijken*, OHG. *strîhhan* (MHG. *strîchen*, mod.G. *streichen* str. vb.; the weak vb. *streichen* corresponds to STROKE *v.*) to pass lightly over a surface, to go, rove, wander, to stroke, rub, beat, f. OTeut. **strîk-* (: **straik-* : **strik-*; for examples of these grades of the root see STROKE *sb.*, STREAK *sb.*, STRICKLE):—Indogermanic **streig-* (: **stroig-* : **strig-*) found in L. *stringĕre* to touch lightly, graze (radically distinct from *stringĕre* to bind, tighten), *strigilis* STRIGIL, OSl. *strigą* I shear (Russ. стричь *strigu*, inf. стричь *strič*).

A distinct, but prob. ultimately connected root of similar meaning, OTeut. **streuk-* (: **strauk-* : **struk-*):—Indogermanic **streug-* : **stroug-* : **strug-*, is found in ON. *strúka* str. vb. (Sw. *stryka*, Da. *stryge*) to stroke, rub, OHG. *strûhhôn*, *strûhhên* (MHG. *strûchen*) to strike against something, stumble. It has been suggested by Hirt that the parallel roots may have arisen from ablaut modification of an original **streyeweg-*.]

I. 1. *intr.* To make one's way, go. In early use chiefly *poet.* In later use, chiefly with adv. (*forth, forward, over*) or phrase indicating the direction. *Obs.* exc. *arch.*

c 1200 ORMIN 14804, & Godess folle strac inn anan Uppo þe drizze sandess, To flen fra Faraon þe king. *c* 1205 LAY. 9318 Hamun him to strac. *a* 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 732 Comen alle strikinde, þe strengest te swiðest of eauer euch strete. 1362 LANGL. *P. Pl. A.* VI. 67 Twei stokkes þer stondeþ but stunt þou not þere,..stryk forþ bi hem boþe. 1377 *Ibid.* B. Prol. 183 A mous..Stroke forth sternly and stode biforn hem alle. *a* 1400 *King & Hermit* 83 3yff i stryke into a pytte, Hors and man myght spylle. *a* 1400–50 *Wars Alex.* (Dubl.) 826* To poliponenses hase he passed..And so was strykyn or he styntyd in-to þe strange realm. *c* 1440 *Sir Degrev.* 1640 The stede stert over a fosse And strykys astray. *c* 1460 *Vrbanitatis* 49 in *Babees Bk.*, To þe beste morselle þou may not stryke Thowȝ þou neuur so welle hit lyke. 1481 CAXTON *Reynard* (Arb.) 66 Neuertheles he..stryked forth thurgh alle the folke til he cam in to the place where the Kynge him self was. 1582 N. T. (Rhem.) *Luke* viii. 22 And he went vp into a boate, and his disciples, and he said to them, Let vs strike ouer the lake. 1599 *George a Greene* IV. iv. 951 *George.* But what are these come trasing here along? *Bettris.* Three men come striking through the corne; My loue. 1608 WILLET *Hexapla Exod.* x. 13. 118 [It was extraordinary] for them [*sc.* locusts]..to come in the spring,...whereas they vsually do strike ouer into other countries in haruest. 1641 TATHAM *Distracted State* IV. i. (1651) 20 When you have done the Deed Strike towards the Back stairs. 1699 MAUNDRELL *Journ. Jerus.* (1714) *Journ. to Euphrates* 4 Their way to cross is,

by drawing up the Boat..and then with wretched Oars stricking over. 1883 STEVENSON *Silverado Sq.* (1886) 43 The Jews were not long of striking forward.

† b. of inanimate things. Also with *up*. *Obs.*

a 1000 *Boeth. Metr.* xx. 140 [Se rodor] striceð ymbutan [i.e. revolves round the earth] ufane & neoðane, efenneah zehwæþer. *a* 1225 *Juliana* 59 Ha bigon to broken al as þat istelede irn strac hire in ouer al. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* A. 125 Al songe to loue þat gay Iuelle, þe steuen mo3t stryke þurȝ þe vrþe to helle. *a* 1400-50 *Wars Alex.* 1415 Strykis vp of þe stoure stanes of engynes. 1456 Sir G. HAYE *Law Arms* (S. T. S.) 26 The reik that strake vp in the aire.

† c. Of a stream (of water, blood, tears): To run, flow. Also with *down*, *adown*. *Obs.*

a 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 2479, & striked a stream ut of þat stanene þruh þat ha in resteð. *a* 1225 *St. Marher.* 5 The let blod barst ut ant strac adun of hire bodi. *a* 1240 *Ureisun in O. E. Hom.* I. 189 Þe ilke fif wallen þet of þi blisfulle bodi sprungen and strike dun strondes of blod. *c* 1320 *Castel of Love* 729 A welle..Wiþ foure stremes þat strikeþ wel, And erneþ vppon þe grauel. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Prioress' T.* 222 (Corpus MS.) His salte teeres stryked doun as reyn. *a* 1450 *Octavian* (Camb. MS.) 426 A welle feyre welle there they sye Come strykyng ouyr a stone.

† d. In immaterial sense: To go, pass (into a condition). *Obs.*

To be stricken in years: see STRICKEN *pa. pple.* and *ppl. a.* *c* 1350 *Will. Palerne* 2981 Þere þat semli ladi..strek in-to a styf studie of hire sterne sweuen. *Ibid.* 4038.

2. To proceed in a new direction; to make an excursion; to turn in one's journey *across*, *down*, *over*, *into*, *to*, etc. Also with *aside*, *in*, *off*, *out*.

1615 G. SANDYS *Trav.* 202 To avoid them, we strucke out of the way. 1669 N. MORTON *New Eng. Mem.* (1910) 32 They recovered themselves, and having the flood with them, struck into the harbour. 1681 R. KNOX *Hist. Ceylon* 162 We left the Road, and struck into the Woods. 1698 FRYER *Acc. E. India & P.* 3 Here we began to drop the rest of our Company, some striking East for the Streights. 1700 S. L. tr *Fryke's Voy. E. Ind.* 230 A French Privateer came up the English Road, and passed by our Fleet, narrowly viewing it, and struck in to Sea again. 1709 MRS. MANLEY *Secret Mem.* I. 20 Let us strike down that Walk, and it brings us to the Palace. 1711 SWIFT *Jrnl. Stella* 7 July, It began raining, and I struck into Mrs. Vanhomrigh's, and dined. 1785 MISS FIELDING *Ophelia* II. xvii, I should ..go..into Oxfordshire, and then strike into the western road. 1845 DARWIN *Voy. Nat.* xiv. (1879) 294 At Chonchi we struck across the island, following intricate winding paths. 1872 JENKINSON *Guide Eng. Lakes* (1879) 106 When the wall begins to descend, strike to the right along a green path. 1872 BLACK *Adv. Phaeton* x. 144 Instead of going by Pershore, we had struck away northward. 1877 MISS A. B. EDWARDS *Up Nile* x. 279 Leaving the tombs, we now strike off towards the quarries.

fig. 1575 GASCOIGNE *Philomene* Ep. Ded., I changed my copy, and stroke ouer into the *Deprofundis* which is placed amongst my other Poesies. 1618 in Foster *Eng. Factories India* (1906) 9 He stricks into another course and embargues all the hearbe into his hands. 1748 MELMOTH *Fitzosborne Lett.* lvi. (1749) II. 78 A strange disposition..to tread the same paths that have been traversed by others, or to strike out into the most devious extravagancies. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* III. I. viii. The hapless course they struck into. 1863 COWDEN CLARKE *Shaks. Char.* iii. 66 He even strikes off into a wild levity and startling humour at times.

b. of inanimate things, esp. of a road, or stream.

1584 B. R. tr. *Herodotus* II. 94 b, Albeit there be another way also tendinge to the same place, strykinge ouer by the Neb of Delta. 1815 KIDD *Geol. Ess.* xxii. 218 The Gulph Stream..strikes off to the E. and S.E. towards Africa. 1883 'HOLME LEE' *Loving & Serving* II. vii. 118 A bridle road ..struck into the fields. 1894 *Speaker* 2 June 610/1 Other roads striking off on every side into the forest.

fig. 1850 *Tait's Mag.* XVII. 78/1 Their hostility strikes out into many ramifications, but it is not difficult to trace all these to the parent root.

c. Of a boundary, path, mountain-range, etc.: To take a (specified) direction, esp. with reference to the points of the compass.

1456 *Regist. de Aberbrothoc* (Bannatyne Club) II. 89 The boundis..syne strikand north our betwen the proper landis of Arbroth and the commoun. 1585 *Reg. Mag. Sig. Scot.* 415/1 Passand..linallie thairfra as the commoun gait strikis ewin eist to the calsay and brig of the Bow. 1833 JAS. DAVIDSON *Brit. & Rom. Rem. Axminster* 73 That branch of the Fosse-way which, striking off at Watergrove, advances in a south-westerly direction. 1839 MURCHISON *Silur. Syst.* I. xxxvi. 493 A narrow quartzose ride..extends ..in a line striking from 15° W. of N., to 15° E. of S. 1881 *Proc. R Geog. Soc.* (N. S.) III. 31 To the west of the Town, a range of hills strikes southerly.

d. trans. *To strike a line* or *path*, to take a direction or course of movement.

1867 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* Ser. II. III. 666 They struck a line across the estuary of the Wash. 1890 A. GISSING *Village Hampden* II. x. 213 They struck their path across the fields. 1892 *Field* 26 Nov. 803/3 We decide to strike a bee line across country.

II. To stroke, rub lightly, smooth, level.

3. *trans.* To go over lightly with an instrument, the hand, etc.; to stroke, smooth; to make level. Also with *down*, *out*, *over*. Also *absol.* Now *dial.* (see *Eng. Dial. Dict.*).

c 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* III. 30 Mid wætere ne þwea ac strice hy mid cláðe clæne. *c* 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 11192 Penne come chaumberleyns & squiers, Wiþ riche robes ..To folde, to presse, & to pyke, & somme to hange, & som to strike. *c* 1380 *Sir Ferumb.* 244 Þat gode hors blessede he þo & louely strek ys mane. *c* 1460 J. RUSSELL *Bk. Nurture* 280 Youre hed ne bak ye claw.., ne youre heere ye stryke. 1481 CAXTON *Reynard* (Arb.) 38 Where his footspore stood, there stryked he with his tayl and make it smothe with his mouth that noman shold espye it. 14.. in *Archæologia* IV. 312 The warderoper to delyver the second sheete unto two yomen, they to crosse it over theyr arme, and to stryke the bedde as the ussher shall more playnly shewe unto theym. 1494 in *Househ. Ord.* (1790) 122 And the esquires to gather the sheete round together in their hand on eyther side the bedd, and goe to the bedd's head and strike downe the same twice or thrice as they come downe. 15.. in *Dunbar's Poems* (1893) 308 Sum strykis down a threid bair cheik For luve. 1525 tr. *Brunswyke's Handywork Surg.* lxv. O iij, Take hede that yᵉ..foote stande vp ryght, and you with your flat hande ouer the fracture stryke so that ye about nor vnder fele none vneuen place. 1530 PALSGR. 739/2, I stryke, I make smothe, *japlanis*. Stryke ouer this paper. *Ibid.*, I stryke ones heed, as we do a chyldes whan he dothe well. 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VIII*, 226 b, He hauyng a great gray beard, striked out his beard and sayd to the hangman [etc.]. 1558 PHAER *Æneid* VIII. (1562) Cc j b, A. she wolfe..them swetely lyckt reforming soft their limmes, & soft wᵗ tong them smothly stryckt. 1573-80 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 81 More stroken and made of when ought it doo aile, More gentle ye make it, for yoke or the paile. 1579 RICE *Invect. agst. Vices* I ij b, He shall strike your heades, and make very muche of you.

† b. To shave. *Obs.*

c 1205 LAY. 20303 Baldulf lette striken [*c* 1275 strike] to þan bare lichen his bærd and his chinne.

c. To rub gently, stroke (a diseased part), by way of charm, or with the application of a salve. *Obs.* exc. *dial.* (see *Eng. Dial. Dict.*). Also, † *to strike one's hand over* (a part).

1400 *Brut* 229 And a drope of dry bloode and smal sande cleued on his honde, and þerwiþ he striked his eyne. 1611 BIBLE 2 *Kings* v. 11 He will..strike [1885 (*Revised*) wave] his hand ouer the place, and recouer the leper. 1886 *W. Somerset Word-bk.* s.v., The ordinary specific for a stye in the eye is 'to strike it three times with a wedding-ring'. 1892 *Cornhill Mag.* Sept. 236 People came to her to have their swellings struck.

† d. To scrape or skim off. Also, ? to skim (a liquid). *Obs.*

c 1430 *Two Cookery-bks.* I. 27 Take þan a clene canvas, & caste þe mylke vppe-on, & with a platere stryke it of þe clobe. 1587 HARRISON *England* II. vi. 169/2 in *Holinshed*, She returneth the middle woort vnto the furnace, where it is striken ouer. *Ibid.* 170/1 She..seetheth againe with a pound and an halfe of new hops,..& when it hath sodden.. she striketh it also.

† **4.** To smear (soap, blood, etc.) on a surface; also to spread (a surface) with (something); to coat (a surface) *over* with oil, a wash, etc. *Obs.*

14.. in *Rel. Ant.* I. 108 To make murrour bryȝt. Stryke wel theron blak sope. 1525 tr. *Brunswyke's Handywork Surg.* lxi. O j, Take powder as hereafter foloweth medled with yᵉ whyte of an egge, and stryke it vpon a clothe lyke a plaster. *Ibid.* lxv. O ij b, The clothe must be wel stryken on the one syde with the salue. 1530 PALSGR. 739/1, I hade as lefe stryke my breed with butter as with hony. 1535 COVERDALE *Exod.* xii. 7 And they shal take of his bloade, and stryke it on both the syde postes of the dore. [So 1611; Heb., LXX, and Vulgate have simply 'put'; Luther *bestreichen*, which Coverdale prob. followed.] 1577 HARRISON *England* II. x. 84 b/2 in *Holinshed*, Whyte lime..wher with we stricke ouer our clay workes & stone walles, in Citties. 1596 THOMASIUS *Dict.* (1606), *Moretum*, A kinde of pudding; also any thing that may be striked, as butter. 1640 T. BRUGIS *Marrow of Physicke* II. 141 Take it [your Marmalade] from the fire, and fill your Boxes, and with a feather strike it over with Rosewater. 1687 J. SMITH *Art Painting* xix. (ed. 2) 89 With a Pencil dipt in clear Wallnut-Oyl..let the printed Paper be struck clean over on both sides. 1793 SMEATON *Edystone L.* § 328 A couple of men with brushes, struck over the surface..with raw Linseed oil. 1799 G. SMITH *Laboratory* I. 265 Take smooth-planed pear-tree wood, strike it over with aqua fortis.

5. To make (grain, etc.) level with the rim of the measure by passing a strickle over it. Also with object the measure. Also *to strike off*.

14.. *Tretyce* in *Walter of Henley's Husb.* (1890) 50 So þt yᵒ corne be mesured withe..a trewe bushell & þat euery bushell be strekyn. 1474 [see STRIKE *sb.* 3]. 1543 tr. *Act* 25 *Edw. III* Stat. 4 c. 10, 32 And euery measure of corne shalbe stryked without hepe. 1641 BEST *Farm. Bks.* (Surtees) 104 When wee sende our corne to mill, wee allwayes strike all cleane of; yett the use is in most places to hand-wave it..; but the millers will say that they had as leave have corn stricken, as soe handwaved. 1669 STURMY *Mariner's Mag.* v. xii. 68 Strike off the heaped Powder. 1697 *View Penal Laws* 338 If Head Officers of Cities..wilfully suffer any to sell Corn..by other Measure, or Strucken in other manner. 1878 *Act* 41 & 42 *Vict.* c. 49 § 17 In using an imperial measure of capacity, the same shall not be heaped but either shall be stricken, with a round stick,..or [etc.]. 1892 *Field* 2 Apr. 469/3 The somewhat delicate operation of gently filling the bushel measure, striking it, and then weighing the oats.

b. To level (sand) in moulding. Also with *up*.

1779 *Ann. Reg., Projects* 103/1 The sand should be struck smooth with an hollow rule. 1885 [HORNER] *Pattern Making* 40 The moulder..strikes over a bed of hard rammed sand representing the top of the boss. *Ibid.* 67 Being plastic when in the wet state it [foundry loam] can be 'struck up', or made to assume any shape that may be required.

† **6.** To mould (wax, a taper, candle, etc.). *Obs.*

1485 *Churchw. Acc. St. Dunstan's, Canterb.*, For strykyng of the pascall and the font taper ijs. iij d. For strykyng of x li of olde torche waxe xd. 1492-3 *Rec. St. Mary at Hill* 188 Payd to Roger Mydylton for strekyng of xiij^{xx} ll and xvj of waxe. 1526 *Churchw. Acc. Dunmow* (MS.) fol. 4 b, Item, for strykynge of the lyght..att the hy alter. 1527 *Ibid.* 6 b, Item, for strekynge of the Rode lyght, xiiij*d*. 1546 in *Archæol. Cant.* (1874) IX. 225 Payd to Holnesse for strekyng of the crosse lygth & the paschall & for strekyng of ij li. of small candles, iij s. iiij·d. 1547 *Ibid.* 226 Item payd for strycking of the olde & new waxe at Ester, xv d. *Ibid.*, Item payd for strykynge of ij li. of small candyll that wase of the passkoll, ij d. 1555 *Ibid.* 231 Item ffor strikinge of the same waxe, iiij d.

7. To mould (a brick or tile).

1683 J. HOUGHTON *Collect. Lett. Improv. Husb.* II. vi. 188 With the Earth he forms a Brick, strikes it, and lays it upon the Pallat. 1736 NEVE *Build. Dict.* (ed. 3) s. v. *Brick* G 2 b/2 The mould (of a stock-brick) is put on a Stock, after the Manner of moulding, or strikeing of Tiles. *Ibid.*, And so they continue to strike and place them on the Stage.

8. *Bricklaying.* To level up (a joint) with mortar; to spread (mortar) along a joint. (Cf. 4.)

1668 LEYBOURN *Build. Guide* II. 109 And here note, That the Barge Courses in any Building must be struck with Lime and hair Mortar. 1703 T. N. *City & C. Purchaser* 169 Pointing, (which is striking Mortar under the lower ends). 1833 LOUDON *Encycl. Archit.* § 1596 Strike the joints inside of the schoolrooms flush and fair for lime-whiting.

b. To cut off the superfluous mortar from the edges of (tiling).

1693 MOXON *Mech. Exerc.* (1703) 248 A piece of Lath.. with which they strike, or cut off the Morter at the britches of the Tiles. *Ibid.*, A Broome, to sweep the Tyling after 'tis strooke. 1842 GWILT *Encycl. Archit.* § 1908.

9. *Tanning.* To smooth and expand (skins). Also *to strike out*.

1764 *Museum Rust.* III. 54 Mr. Brookfield, tanner, reported, the specimens exhibited were well tanned, and thoroughly struck. 1845 DODD *Brit. Manuf.* Ser. v. 193 The goat-skins, after being thoroughly washed, are..'struck', that is scraped and rubbed out as smooth as possible. *Ibid.*, The drying in the loft has had the effect of shrivelling the skins..to obviate which, the skins are wetted, and 'struck out', or smoothed again. 1897 C. T. DAVIS *Manuf. Leather* xxiii. (ed. 2) 364 The skins..are next 'struck out' on mahogany tables...A steel 'slicker' is used for this operation.

10. *Carpentry.* To fashion (moulding) with a plane: = STICK *v.*[1] 18 c. [So Du. *strijken.*]

1842 GWILT *Archit.* Gloss., *Striking*...Another application of the word occurs in the practice of joinery, to denote the act of running a moulding with a plane. 1854 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* XV. II. 456 A beaded moulding to be struck on each of the angles of the under sides of rafters.

III. To mark with lines; draw a line.

Cf. OE. *bestrícan* 'to make a stroke round' (B.-T. Suppl.).

† **11.** To mark (a surface) with a line or lines. Also *to strike out, through*. *Obs.*

1539 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* VII. 218 Item, for calk to strik the treis witht. *c* 1710 CELIA FIENNES *Diary* (1888) 122 They new washe and plaister their houses wᵗʰ in and without wᶜʰ they strike out in squares like free stone. 1656 EARL MONM. tr. *Boccalini's Advts. fr. Parnass.* II. xxiii. (1674) 171 An exquisite Card whereby to sail..struck through with lines on all parts.

† b. *fig.* To mark, stigmatize. *Obs.*

1594 J. KING *On Jonas* xiii. (1599) 177 Sylla: whose name shall bee striked with the blackest cole of infamie in all the ages of the worlde.

12. To draw (a straight line) esp. by mechanical means; to draw (a circle, an arc) with compasses. In wider sense, † to make (a stroke, written mark).

1611 HOPTON *Speculum Topogr.* xxvii. 71 Placing the one foote of your compasse in g,..with the other strike the portion of the circle h i k l. 1614 T. BEDWELL tr. *Schoner's De Num. Geom.* 33 First with the iage, I strike two parallel lines. 1662 FAITHORNE *Graving & Etching* xiv. 15 Accustome your self to strike your strokes firm and bold. 1687 P. AYRES *Lyric Poems* (1906) 272 Since my dull pen trembles to strike a line. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 413/2 Dashes.. which serve for the cutting off or shortning of words,..which all of them are strucken downwards to the foot of the Letter. 1737 BRACKEN *Farriery Impr.* (1756) I. 268 The nearer the Line struck from the Perpendicular approaches to a right Angle. 1770 LUCKOMBE *Hist. Printing* 229 None can strike two letters of the same signification, so as..to have the same likeness. 1856 R. FERGUSON *Northmen Cumbld. & Westmld.* 199 *Strike*, to make a straight line by means of a string. 1875 SEATON *Fret Cutting* 65 Take your compasses, put on a pencil point, and with it strike the semicircle as above directed. 1881 CHILTON-YOUNG *Ev. Man his own Mech.* § 375 By aid of the chalk line and reel, a perfectly straight line could be struck from E to F. 1885 [HORNER] *Pattern-making* 7 In striking special pairs of wheels, of course it is not necessary to use the same describing circle throughout.

† b. ? To interline in a list. *Obs.*

1639 FULLER *Holy War* v. xxi. (1647) 265 The Reader, as he lighteth on more, at his leisure may strike them into this catalogue [of Princes].

13. To cancel or expunge with or as with the stroke of a pen. *Obs.* exc. in *strike off* (82 a), *strike out* (83 a), *strike through* (84), and in the phrase *to strike* (a name, a person) *off* or (now rarely) *out of* a list. † Also *rarely* with *away*.

To be struck off the rolls: see ROLL *sb.*[1] 3 c.

c 1386 CHAUCER *Friar's T.* 66 Thanne wolde he seye, freend, I shal for thy sake Do striken hire out of oure lettres blake. 1549 OLDE *Erasm. Par. Eph.* 6 Christ..stroke away al the difference of circumcised, and not circumcised. 1602 SHAKS. *All's Well* v. iii. 56 That thou didst loue her, strikes some scores away From the great compt. 1746 H. WALPOLE *Let. to Mann* 15 Apr., Vernon is struck off the list of admirals. 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* xlvii, O! could I strike from my memory all former scenes. 1839 THACKERAY *Fatal Boots* Jan., He has struck Thomas out of his will. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* vi. II. 36 His name was struck out of the list of privy councillors. 1873 P. V. SMITH *Hist. Eng. Inst.* III. viii. 214 A person tried for his life might..challenge and strike off the panel as many as thirty-five. 1883 MISS M. BETHAM-EDWARDS *Disarmed* ii, The first person who flouts her shall be struck off my visiting list. 1891 *Field* 7 Nov. 701/3 [List of] Horses struck out of their engagements.

14. To form (a jury) by cancelling a certain number of names from the list of persons nominated to serve; similarly, to form (a committee), to make (a new register of voters).

1715 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 5389/2 The Clerk of the Crown was required to strike a Jury for his Tryal. 1768 BLACKSTONE *Comm.* III. vi. 83 That twelve freeholders of that hundred, qualified to serve on juries, and struck by the sheriff, shall be summoned to appear at such court by rotation. 1821 *Examiner* 321/2 Let us suppose the Jury to be struck with perfect fairness and impartiality. [1823 *Ibid.* 323/1 Out of the 48 persons first nominated, each party, after due inquiry, strike twelve—leaving 24, of whom the first 12 called (who attend) form the actual jury.] 1877 Cox *Cases Crim. Law* (1878) XIII. 646 The case was tried by a special jury of the city of Dublin, struck under the old system. 1892 *Graphic* 9 Apr. 455/2 If the General Election fell at any date after the 31st of July, when the new Register is struck. 1896 *Daily News* 17 Dec. 4/7 The Committee was struck late in the summer, and did not meet till the 15th of August.

15. To make or cut (a tally). See TALLY *sb.*[1] 1 b.

1626 [see TALLY *sb.*[1] 1 b]. 1634 B. JONSON *Loves Welcome Bolsover* Wks. 1640 II. 284 We ha' cleft the bough, And struck a tallie of our loves, too, now. 1644 *Docq. Lett. Patent at Oxf.* (1837) 392 To deliuer back the Tallies strucken for the same as aforesaid vncancelled. *c* 1645 HOWELL *Lett.* VI. XXXII. (1650) I. 220, I reconcile my self to my Creator, and strike a tally in the Exchequer of Heaven for my *quietus est*, ere I close my eyes. 1695–6 *Act* 7 & 8 *Will. III*, *c.* 30 § 38 Several Tallies..have been also levied or stricken att the Receipt of the Exchequer upon His Majesties said Revenue arising in the General Letter-Office.

16. *Agric.* To mark off (land, a ridge) by ploughing once up and down the field (also with *down*, *up*); to make (furrows) in this manner (also with *out*); also *absol.*

c 1573–80 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 128 Thry fallow once ended, go strike by and by. 1707 MORTIMER *Husb.* 45 You must not let it lie long before you strick, size, or plow it up into small Ridges. 1789 *Trans. Soc. Arts* I. 123 To striking said fields, seventeen acres. 1834 D. LOW *Elem. Pract. Agric.* 146 The first operation in the forming of ridges is striking the furrows. 1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* I. 465 The first process in ridging up land from the flat surface is called *feering* or *striking* the ridges. 1844 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* V. 1. 5 These [ridges]..are..struck down with two furrows. 1845 *Ibid.* VI. II. 287 Cost of cultivation [of hops]..Striking up and furrowing, *o* 5 *o*. 1846 *Ibid.* VII. I. 41 This land..is again ploughed across..in the manner we term striking, or back-bouting. This is done by turning one furrow to the land, and in returning to turn over this furrow, and the furrow or earth on which it was laid.

b. To make (a row of holes) with a dibble.

1797 A. YOUNG *Agric. Suffolk* (ed. 2) 48 A man, walking backwards on the flag,..with a dibber of iron..in each hand, strikes two rows of holes..on each flag. 1805 R. W. DICKSON *Pract. Agric.* I. 475 A one-horse roll then follows to level the flag, or furrow, for the dibblers, who strike only one row upon each.

IV. To lower (sails, masts), and derived senses.

Sense 17 is in (M)LG. and (M)Du. and in mod.G.; it therefore cannot be a derivative from branch V, which is specially English. The actual development is uncertain; possibly the sense may be pre-Teut.: cf. L. *stringĕre* to strip off (leaves, etc.).]

17. *Naut.* To lower or take down (a sail, mast, yard, etc.); esp. to lower (the topsail) as a salute and (more rarely) as a sign of surrender in an engagement. Phrase, *to strike sail. To strike a hull* (see A-HULL 1867). Also *to strike down.*

a 1300 *K. Horn* 1013 (Camb.) Hi strike seil & maste & Ankere gunne caste. 1399 LANGL. *Rich. Redeles* IV. 80 For ne had þei striked a strake and sterid hem þe better, And abated a bonet or þe blast come. *c* 1440 *Bone Flor.* 1864 Then beganne the storme to ryse,..They stroke the sayle. 1524 *Inform. Pilgr. Holy Land* (Roxb.) C iv b, So they sayilled forth..& neuer stryked saylle tyll they came to port Iaffe. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* I. xii. 42 Now strike your sailes ye iolly Mariners, For we be come vnto a quiet rode. *c* 1594 WYATT *R. Dudley's Voy. W. Ind.* (Hakl. Soc.) 13 By that they had some 3 peeces bestowed on them they stroke saile, yealdinge themselves unto the mercie of our Generall. 1601 WEEVER *Mirr. Mart.* B vj b, They vaile their bonnet low, And strike their top-saile in submissiue dutie. 1611 BIBLE *Acts* xxvii. 17 They vsed helps,..and fearing lest they should fall into the quicke-sands, strake saile, and so were driuen. 1626 CAPT. SMITH *Accid. Yng. Seamen* 28 Strike your top masts to the cap. 1627 — *Sea Gram.* xii. 56 He must..strike a Hull that you may not descry him by his sailes. 1630 WADSWORTH *Pilgr.* ii. 8 The Marriners stroke Saile and submitted. 1644 MANWAYRING *Seamans Dict.* 104 So when we take downe the top-masts, they say, Strike them downe. 1745 P. THOMAS *Jrnl. Anson's Voy.* 296 Both Ships struck their Yards & Top masts. 1762–9 FALCONER *Shipwr.* II. 257 Now some, to strike top-gallant-yards attend. 1768 *Ann. Reg.* 92 A body of sailors..proceeded..to Sunderland.., and at the cross there read a paper, setting forth their grievances...After this they went on board the several ships in that harbour, and struck (lowered down) their yards, in order to prevent them from proceeding to sea. 1814 SCOTT *Ld. of Isles* III. xii, Fain to strike the galley's yard, And take them to the oar. 1840 R. H. DANA *Bef. Mast* xxii, The royal-yards were then struck. 1890 CLARK RUSSELL *Ocean Trag.* II. xxi. 181 His maintopmast was struck, that is, sent down on deck. 1894 C. N. ROBINSON *Brit. Fleet* 179 The custom of 'striking' or lowering a sail [as a salute] has almost died out.

in figurative phrases. 1509 BARCLAY *Shyp of Folys* (1570) 117 Nowe would I of my boke haue made an ende, And with my ship drawen to some hauen or port, Striken my sayle. 1593 SHAKS. 3 *Hen. VI*, III. iii. 5 Now Margaret Must strike her sayle, and learne a while to serue, Where Kings command. 1680–90 TEMPLE *Ess. Pop. Discont.* Wks. 1731 I. 270 To this, all differing Opinions, Passions and Interests should strike Sail. 1733 POPE *Sat. Donne* IV. 231 He boarding her, she striking sail to him.

b. To haul down (a flag), esp. as a salute or as a sign of surrender. Chiefly in the phrases *to strike (the) flag, to strike one's colours.* Also *to strike one's flag* (said of an admiral): see FLAG *sb.*[4] 2.

1628 DIGBY *Voy. Mediterr.* (Camden) 42 Because I did not strike flag nor do other ceremonies of dutie. 1666–7 PEPYS *Diary* 4 Mar., He hears that the Dutch..will have a promise of not being obliged to strike the flag to us before they will treat with us. 1676 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1077/4 Three Ostend Privateers..fired several Guns at him,..to make him strike his Colours. 1692 *Capt. Smith's Seaman's Gram.* I. xvi. 77 *To lower or strike the Flag*, is to pull it down upon the Cap, and in Fight is a token of yielding; but otherwise of great respect. 1747 J. LIND *Lett. Navy* (1757) I. 31 If an admiral be killed, the instructions forbid his flag to be struck, for fear of discouraging the fleet. 1799 *Hull Advertiser* 6 July 1/4 Admiral Lord Bridport struck his flag last evening. 1802 C. JAMES *Milit. Dict.* s.v., *To strike the colours.* This is properly a naval term, but it may be applied to military matters on some occasions. 1867 J. T. HEADLEY *Farragut & Nav. Commanders* 492 He..on the 12th of next month struck his flag as admiral of the South Atlantic Blockading Squadron.

fig. 1861 WHYTE MELVILLE *Good for N.* xiii. I. 162, I thought he seemed very much smitten with the young lady. You know he is not very susceptible, so when he *does* strike his flag, it is all the greater compliment. 1875 F. T. BUCKLAND *Log-Book* 141 The mouse..would have to fight and not strike his colours to a scorpion as he would to a cat.

c. *absol.* To lower sail, haul down one's flag; esp. to lower the topsails or haul down the flag or colours as a sign of surrender or as a salute.

1390 GOWER *Conf.* III. 338 Thei hadden wynd at wille tho, With topseilcole and forth they go, And striken nevere, til thei come To Tyr. 1449 *Paston Lett.* I. 85, I cam abord the Admirall, and bade them stryke in the Kyngys name of Englond. *a* 1578 LINDESAY (Pitscottie) *Chron. Scot.* (S.T.S.) I. 185 The day befoir the schip strak in the raid of Leyth. 1617 in J. S. Corbett *Fighting Instr.* (1905) 39 If you give chase and being near a ship you shall shoot to make her strike. 1769 FALCONER *Dict. Marine* s.v. *Sail* (1780) Kk 2 b, All foreign vessels strike to an English man of war in the British seas. 1814 *Niles' Weekly Reg.* 19 Nov. 174/2 The Avon had not struck, but was reported to have had her colors nailed to the mast. 1836 MARRYAT *Midsh. Easy* XXX, The second lieutenant was deputed to pull alongside of the frigate to ascertain if she had struck. 1886 HENTY *Yarns on Beach* 84 Captain Ball..reported that the fort with which he was engaged had struck.

fig. 1593 SHAKS. *Rich. II*, II. i. 266 We see the winde sit sore vpon our sailes, And yet we strike not, but securely perish. 1601 B. JONSON *Poetaster* III. iv, What, will he saile by, and not once strike, or vaile to a Man of warre? ha? 1749 SMOLLETT *Gil Blas* v. i. (1782) II. 161, I thought myself the first man in the world, but truely I strike to you. 1886 STEVENSON *Dr. Jekyll* i, He would have clearly liked to stick out; but there was something about the lot of us that meant mischief, and at last he struck.

18. *trans.* **a.** *Naut.* To lower (a thing) into the hold by means of a rope and tackle. Chiefly *to strike down* (also *absol.*). Also, *to strike out*, to hoist out from the hold and lower to the dock.

1644 MANWAYRING *Seamans Dict.* 104 When we lower any thing into the howld with the tackles or any other roape, we call it Striking-down into Howld. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* I. v. 56 Each Captain had orders..to strike down some of their great guns into the hold. 1850 H. MELVILLE *White Jacket* I. xxxvii. 242 To the..consternation of the sailors, an order now came from the quarter-deck to 'strike the strangers down into the main-hold!' *c* 1860 H. STUART *Seaman's Catech.* 72 The fore hatchway, for striking down or hoisting up stores in the fore part of the ship. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.*, *Strike down!* the order to lower casks, &c., into the hold. 1890 CLARK RUSSELL *Ocean Trag.* II. xxi. 181 He had struck the long gun forward down below.

† **b.** *gen.* To lower, let down with a rope.

1547 in J. R. Boyle *Hedon* (1875) App. 135 Item, for stryk-yng the greatte stee, ij.d. 1595 *Strange Things R. Hasleton* in Arber *Garner* VIII. 380 And by it [*sc.* the rope] did I strike myself over the wall into the town ditch.

† **c.** To let down the rope or chain of (a crane). Also *to strike down* (see quot. 1778). *Obs.*

1530 PALSGR. 739/2, I stryke, I let downe the crane, *je lache*...Stryke lowe. 1778 PRYCE *Min. Cornub.* Expl. Terms 329/1 *Strik*, to strik or streeck down, or strike down; is to let a man down in a Shaft by the windlass.

19. *Building.* **a.** To remove (scaffolding); in trench-work, to remove (the timbers with which the sides have been secured). **b.** To remove (the centre or centering of an arch).

a. 1694 EVELYN *Diary* 5 Oct., The choir, now finish'd as to the stone work, and the scaffolds struck both without and within, in that part. 1768–74 TUCKER *Lt. Nat.* (1834) II. 107 If we consider religion only as the scaffolding of reason;..any one..may see that it is much too early to strike the scaffolding yet. 1821 *Corr. W. Fowler* (1907) 406 The angels..will want painting..that may be done at any time with a ladder if you must strike the scaffold before they are ready. 1868 MILMAN *St. Paul's* xiv. 347 On striking the scaffolding, part of the south transept..came down.

b. 1739 LABELYE *Short Acc. Piers Westm. Bridge* 43 The ..Arches..would have been in..Danger of falling the Moment the Centers that supported them..should be struck. *Ibid.* 45 They attempted to strike down the Centers, on which they had turned the Arches. 1838 *Civil Engin. & Arch. Jrnl.* I. 127/1 Upon striking the centering the arches followed from 1 inch and ½ to 2 inches and ¾. 1883 *Specif. Alnwick & Cornhill Rlwy.* 4 The string courses..are not to be put on until the centres are struck.

20. *Shipbuilding.* To cause (a vessel) to slide *down*, *off* (the slipway); to release (a boat from the cradle).

a 1647 in *Archæologia* XII. 259 Being ready to have the ship strucken down upon her ways, I caused twelve of the choice master carpenters..to be sent for from Chatham. 1892 *Field* 26 Nov. 825/2 She is hauled up on their large patent slipway and struck off the cradle.

21. To discharge (a load); to empty (a vessel) of its load.

1627 CAPT. SMITH *Sea Gram.* vii. 33 When you let any thing downe into the Howle, lowering it by degrees, they say, Amaine; and being downe, Strike. 1797 CURR *Coal Viewer* 12 The modes I have invented of striking, or landing and emptying them [*sc.* corves]. 1901 *Law Jrnl. Rep.* LXX. Chanc. Div. 680/2 The operation known as striking the casks—that is, discharging the vans with the load.

absol. 1702 *Post Man* 12–14 Mar. 2/2 Advt., Lost on the Key, or by error delivered a Pipe of..Wine..which is wanted out of a parcel of Wines taken up by Josiah Bishop, ..who ordered the Carmen to strike in Cullumstreet near Ipswich Arms.

b. *Sugar-boiling.* To empty (the liquor, the tache).

1793 B. EDWARDS *Hist. Brit. Col. W. Indies* v. ii. II. 235 This operation is usually called *striking*; i. e. lading the liquor, now exceedingly thick, into the cooler. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 1203 The thermometer..can by no means be regarded as a sure guide, in determining the proper instant for striking the teache. 1882 *Spons' Encycl. Industr. Arts* etc. v. 1891 If, after a moment's cooling, the sling can be formed into a ball which does not stick to the fingers,..the correct period has arrived for striking.

22. To let down (a tent) for removal; to remove the tents of (a camp or encampment).

1707 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4337/2 The Enemy..struck their Tents, and form'd in Line of Battle. 1825 SCOTT *Talism.* xxii, The pavilion which they had left, was..struck with singular dispatch. 1849 C. ROSE *Four Yrs. S. Africa* 167 At the first dawn of day, all was in motion;..some striking the tent, yoking the oxen, and saddling the horses. 1854 F. A. GRIFFITHS *Artil. Man.* (ed. 6) 148 To strike the Encampment...at the word *Strike Tents, and Pickets*, the pickets are struck at once; the tents and marquees prepared for striking...At the word *Down*, the whole are lowered together. 1891 *Field* 26 Dec. 973/2 Next morning we struck camp and turned homewards.

23. To unfix, put out of use.

1793 *Ann. Reg., Chron.* 53 Bath. This day the whole body of chairmen..struck their poles, and proceeded in a mutinous manner to Guildhall, respecting the granting of their licences. [1821–6: see 24 b.] 1840 DICKENS *Old C. Shop* XXVI, The steps [of the caravan] being struck by George and stowed under the carriage, away they went. 1851 W. BOLLAND *Cricket Notes* iv. 67 Arrange, before your game commences, the hour for dinner, and striking wickets.

b. *Theatr.* To remove (a scene); to remove the scenery, etc. of (a play); to turn down (a light).

1889 *Daily Tribune* (N. Y.) 14 July, (*Cent. Dict.* s.v. SET[1] 9) An elaborate scene is 'set' when it is arranged upon the stage, and 'struck' when it is removed. 1891 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 5 Dec. 1/3 It took twelve hours of work by a very large staff to 'strike' 'Ivanhoe' and mount 'La Basoche'. 1893 *Black & White* Christm. No. 7/1 Stage suddenly dark. Gas ballens and limes slowly up. Strike all gas lengths.

c. *Hawking.* (See quot.) Cf. UNSTRIKE *v.*

1891 HARTING *Bibl. Accipitr.* 230 *Strike the hood*, to half open it, so as to be in readiness to hood off the moment the hawk is to be flown.

24. *intr.* Of an employee: To refuse to continue work; esp. of a body of employees, to cease working by agreement among themselves or by order of their society or union.

For the origin of this sense cf. quot. 1768 in sense 17 and quot. 1793 in sense 23.

1768 *Ann. Reg.* 107 [May 9th] This day the hatters *struck*, and refused to work till their wages are raised. 1793 G. DYER *Compl. Poor People Eng.* 74 The poor..seldom strike, as it is called, without good reason...The colliers had struck for more wages. 1801 *Times* 3 Aug., A number of Journeymen Biscuit-bakers..struck from their work for an increase of wages. 1840 *Civil Engin. & Arch. Jrnl.* III. 32/2 They 'struck', as it is termed, because their employer infringed, as they considered, upon their privileges. 1857 HUGHES *Tom Brown* I. viii, The fifth form would fag us, and I and some more struck. 1892 *Sat. Rev.* 2 Jan. 10/1 The London omnibus men struck in a body.

b. More explicitly *to strike work*, † *tools* (cf. sense 23).

1803 SCOTT *Let.* in *Lockhart* (1837) I. xi. 376, I never heard of authors striking work, as the mechanics call it, until their masters the booksellers should increase their pay. 1820 CROKER in *C. Papers* (1884) I. vi. 176 The regiment intended to strike work, as the tradesmen would say. 1821–6 CHALMERS *Wks.* (*c* 1840) XVI. 69 If..the artisans of any establishment should strike their tools. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. vi. i, Thus do Cabinet-ministers themselves, in extreme cases, strike work. 1891 *Law Times' Rep.* LXV. 580/1 The secretaries called off their respective union men, who in obedience to the call struck work.

transf. 1806–7 J. BERESFORD *Miseries Hum. Life* (1826) x. lxi, The machinery of the window sash abruptly striking work. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* IV. 56 The liver can 'strike work' and refuse to secrete bile.

c. *trans.* Of a workmen's society or union: To order a strike of workmen against (a firm); to order (a body of workmen) to strike.

1891 *Daily News* 31 Dec. 6/3 Pending the outcome, no fresh firms will be struck. 1892 *Bury Guardian* 23 Apr. 5/5 The secretary of the Weavers' Association struck the mill on an entirely new question.

d. To leave off (work), e.g. at the close of the day, at meal-times. Also *absol.*

1890 CONAN DOYLE *Firm of Girdlestone* XXX, The work went on until six, when all hands struck and went off to their homes. 1891 MARY E. MANN *Winter's Tale* II. 259 Another good hour's digging was due..before his day-labourer was justified in striking work and betaking himself homeward.

V. To deal a blow, to smite with the hand (*occas.* another limb), a weapon or tool.

The construction with cognate obj. (*to strike a stroke, a blow*) is common to most of the senses in this branch that admit of absolute or intransitive use. See BLOW *sb.*[1], STROKE *sb.*

25. *trans.* To deal (a person, an animal) a blow; to hit with some force either with the hand or with a weapon. Also with double obj. *to strike* (a person) *a blow.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 12429 þe maister..Gaf iesu wit hand a strak; For he him strak wit ha resun, Ded in þe place þar fell he dun. 1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. XII. 14 Al-þough þow stryke me with þi staffe with stikke or with 3erde. 1432–50 tr. *Higden* (Rolls) III. 283 Socrates walkenge in a cite, and strynken{*sic*; *Trevisa* evel i-smete on the heed; L. *colapho percussus*}of a symple felowe. 1556 in W. H. Turner *Select. Rec. Oxford* (1880) 255 Thomas Cartwright..offered to stricke with the mase certen of the defendants. 1582 N. T. (Rhem.) *Matt.* xxvi. 68 And other smote his face with the palmes of their hands, saying, Prophecie vnto vs O Christ: who is he that strooke thee? *c* 1590 MARLOWE *Faustus* 896 (Brooke) Cursed be hee that strooke his holinesse a blowe on the face. 1700 S. L. tr. *Fryke's Voy. E. Ind.* 140 Laying 'em flat on their Belly, and stricking them with a Ropeacross the Breech. 1725 RAMSAY *Gentle Sheph.* I. i, 'Till he yowl'd sair she strak the poor dumb tyke. 1824 *Examiner* 539/2 [He] struck the boy a violent blow. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* xlix, You may strike me if you like, sir, or hit any cruel blow. 1891 FARRAR *Darkn. & Dawn* xxxviii, Glanydon..forgetting that he was a captive, had once struck in the face a Prætorian officer who insulted him.

b. *absol.* and *intr.* To deal or aim a blow with the fist, a stick, etc. Const. *at.* Also *to strike back, out.*

1509 HAWES *Past. Pleas.* xxxv. (Percy Soc.) 182 He stroke at me with many strokes rude. 1530 PALSGR. 739/1, I stryke at the gaynest, or at all adventures, as one dothe that is in afraye and taketh no hede where or howe he stryketh. 1579–80 NORTH *Plutarch, Themistocles* (1595) 129 Strike and thou wilt, said he, so thou wilt heare me. 1644–66 J. CARYL *Expos. Job* xii. 5, 6 (1676) I. 1118 Many are striking at thy heels, but they cannot strike them up, while God holds thee up. 1678 SIR G. MACKENZIE *Crim. Laws Scot.* I. xi. § xv. (1699) 66 If by our Law, he who stricks with his Fist, or a Batton..be punishable by death. 1798 WORDSW. *Peter Bell* I. 195 And the blows fell with heavier weight As Peter struck—and struck again. 1859 TENNYSON *Marr. Geraint* 413 His dwarf..Struck at her with his whip. 1894 E. A. HAGGARD *Drummer Boy* vii, [He] was hot-blooded enough, and quite ready to strike back if struck.

26. *trans.* To hit, smite (a material, an object) with an implement, esp. with one designed for the purpose. Also with cogn. obj.

† In early use also with phrase expressing the result, *as to strike to powder.*

1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 7018 þe devels..with hamers gyf swa gret dyntes, þat alle to powdre moght stryke hard flyntes. 1572 *Sat. Poems Reform.* xxx. 163 As Quheit is strukin for {*read* fro} the stra besyde. 1585 HIGINS *Junius' Nomencl.* 297 *Flagellum*,..a battledarre wherwith the ball is striken. 1602 DOLMAN *La Primaud. Fr. Acad.* III. (1618) 732 Fire..is forced out of the flint being stroken with a gad of steele. 1680 COTTON *Compl. Gamester* (ed. 2) 19 [Billiards.] Wooden Boxes for the hazards..are nothing near so commendable as the former [*i. e.* nets], because a Ball struck hard is more apt to flie out of them when struck in. *Ibid.*, If the head [of the cue] happen to be loose, you will never strike a smart stroke. 1744 in 'Bat' *Cricketer's Man.* (1851) 31 If a Ball is nipped up and he Strike her again Wilfully.. its out. 1827 FARADAY *Chem. Manip.* v. (1842) 153 Substances should be made red hot, and struck in that state, until they are sufficiently cracked. 1866 'CAPT. CRAWLEY' *Billiard Bk.* iv. 43 A ball struck moderately hard will traverse the table three or four times from end to end.

fig. 1781 COWPER *Table-T.* 663 Wit now and then, struck smartly, shows a spark, Sufficient to redeem the modern race From total night and absolute disgrace.

b. *absol.* and *intr.* To make a stroke with a hammer or other implement; spec. in *Smithing.*

Phr. *To strike while the iron is hot*: to make one's effort while opportunity serves. Also *allusively.*

1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 7013 And als smyths strykes on þe yren fast. 1530 PALSGR. 740/2 The poore smyth ryseth at foure of the clocke to stryke with his hammer upon his anvelde. *a* 1566 R. EDWARDS *Damon & Pithias* (1571) C iij b, I haue plied the Haruest, and stroke when the Yron was hotte. [1575 GASCOIGNE *Glasse Govt.* Wks. 1910 II. 40 Play you now the wise man, and strike the Iron whiles it is hot.] 1577 B. GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* III. 122 b, Strike upon the head of euery nayle with the hammer. 1593 SHAKS. 3 *Hen. VI*, v. i. 49 Strike now, or else the Iron cooles. 1615 CHAPMAN *Odyss.* XII. 487 He..of my present absence tooke His fit aduantage, and their iron strooke At highest heate. 1744 LOVE *Cricket* (1754) 26 The Champion strikes. When scarce arriving fair, The glancing ball mounts upwards in the air. *a* 1841 T. HOOK *Ned Musgrave* i, Taking the poker in his right hand, and striking at a large coal placed on the summit of the grate, [etc.]. 1866 'CAPT. CRAWLEY' *Billiard Bk.* iii. 27 Between the thumb and forefinger you place the Cue, in taking aim before you strike. 1890 W. E. NORRIS *Misadventure* II. x. 138 She struck while the iron was hot.

c. trans. *To strike* (a prisoner) *in the boots*: to crush the limbs by driving wedges between them and the iron boots as a form of torture (cf. BOOT *sb.*[3] 3). *Obs.* exc. *Hist.*

a 1715 BURNET *Own Time* III. (1724) I. 583 When any are to be struck in the boots, it is done in the presence of the Council. 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xiii. III. 291 They..directed the magistrates of Edinburgh to strike the prisoner in the boots.

27. With complementary adv. or phrase: To remove or drive (a thing) with a blow of an implement or the hand. Cf. *strike down* 79 a.

Now somewhat *rare*; formerly common in contexts where some other vb., as *knock*, would now be used.

1450 *Extracts Burgh Rec. Edin.* (1869) I. 12 The lede tane vp, and the bodome strukkin owt. 1499 *Ibid.* 75 It is statute that na persoun sell nor tap derrer beir than for xvj d. the galloun, vnder the payne of strikkin furth of the heid of the barrell. *a* 1533 BERNERS *Huon* lv. 188 He..strake out braynes with the pomell of his sword. 1567 HARMAN *Caveat* 64 After halfe a dosen blowes, he strycks his staffe out of his hande. 1601 BP. W. BARLOW *Defence* 217 After his sole and onely eie was stroken out. 1612 PEACHAM *Minerva Brit.* 113 The Tennis-ball, when strucken to the ground, With Racket,..doth back againe rebound. 1622 MABBE tr. *Aleman's Guzman d'Alf.* II. 357 Hee commanded my irons to bee strooke off. 1657 BILLINGSLY *Brachy-Martyrol.* xiv. 45 Then were his teeth struck out. 1677 MOXON *Mech. Exerc.* iii. 51 You may strike a nail in at the hole. 1678 *Ibid.* v. 90 You may stiffen it by striking a wooden wedge between the Mortess and the Staff. 1680 *Reg. Privy Counc. Scot.* Ser. III. VI. 389 Udney..caused strick two old pewes out of their hinges. 1744 in 'Bat' *Cricketer's Man.* (1851) 31 If in running a Notch y[e] Wicket is struck down by a Throw..its out. *Ibid.*, He that catches y[e] Ball must strike a Stump out of y[e] Ground Ball in Hand. 1797 HT. LEE *Canterb. T., Old Woman's T.* (1799) I. 392 [They] now prepared to strike the weapon from his hand. 1855 KINGSLEY *Westw. Ho!* ix, Strike their swords down, Raleigh, Mackworth! 1910 J. MCCABE *Prehist. Man* iii. 40 The..knife (a long flake of flint, struck off the core at one blow).

In figurative context. *c* 1520 SKELTON *Magnyf.* 1933 *Adversyte*..Of some of theyr chyldren I stryke out the eye. 1706 T. BOSTON *Mem.* viii. (1899) 177 The Lord struck the bottom out of my discouragement. 1814 SCOTT *Let.* in *Lockhart* (1837) III. iii. 118 The huge bulk of his power..was obviously to sink when its main props were struck away. 1853 LYNCH *Self-Improv.* vi. 154 The tasted cup is stricken from us ere we have done more than taste.

b. *fig.* To remove suddenly as with a blow, to dash.

1599 T. STORER *Life & D. Wolsey* F 3 b, No strokes of Musickes sound could strike away, High thoughts by night, nor deepe conceits by day. 1823 SCOTT *Quentin D.* xxviii, I shall love to see the sense of approaching death strike the colour from that ruddy cheek. 1891 *Strand Mag.* II. 483/1, I began to laugh at this, but the laugh was struck from my lips at the sight of his face.

28. To stamp with a stroke.

a. To impress (a piece of metal, coin), stamp (a medal) *with* a device by means of a die; to coin (money); † also *absol.* Also *to strike off.*

1449 *Sc. Acts Jas. II* (1814) II. 37/1 Ande at nane tak one hande to strik in tym to cum bot þai þat has or sal haf commandment of the king vnder his grete sele. 1482 *Ibid.* 39/1 þai think it expedient..at þar be strikyn in þis realme new mone conformyt ewin in wecht to the mone of Inglande. 1463 *Stat. Irel.* 3 *Edw. IV*, c. 32 To make and strike..iiij. peces of brasse or coper rennyng at j.d. of oure said siluer. *c* 1520 in Gutch *Collect. Cur.* (1781) II. 295 Item iij gilte Boolls withe a Cover strekin withe Martletts. 1526 *Ibid.* 325. 1551 SIR J. WILLIAMS *Accompte* (Abbotsf. Club) 86 Grotes stricken withe harpes. 1609 SKENE *Reg. Maj., Stat. David II*, 44 Ane notable signe salbe vpon it, quhereby it may be evidently knawen fra all other money alreadie striken. 1687 H. SLINGSBY *Let.* 11 Oct. in Pepys *Diary* (1879) VI. 157 The medalls made by Roettiers, of which I had an opportunity to chuse the best struck off. 1736 LEDIARD *Life Marlborough* II. 42 A fine Medal was struck..on Occasion of the Victory. 1775 *Lond. Chron.* 18–20 May 474/3 Giles Forrester, Dereham, and Williams were charged with striking half-pence. *Ibid.*, They seized eight shillings and four-pence halfpenny, with the dies for striking. 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xxi. IV. 620 Till the reign of Charles the Second our coin had been struck by a process as old as the thirteenth century. 1879 H. PHILLIPS *Notes Coins* 3 This medal appears to have been chased by hand and not to have been struck from a die.

fig. 1841 D'ISRAELI *Amen. Lit.* II. 172 These scriptural plays..seem struck in the same mint.

b. To impress (a device) *upon*; also to impress (a die, etc.) with a device.

1552 SIR J. WILLIAMS *Accompte* (Abbotsf. Club) 77 For..strickinge the kinges armes vpon the plates in the busholles of a paier of pottes parcell gilte. 1639 in *Fabric Rolls York Minster* (Surtees) 120 To Mr. Horsley for strikeing my Lord Deputyes coate on the organs, 4s. 1820 T. HODGSON *Ess. Stereotype Printing* 102 The page..composed with these types..would become..one complete matrice, with which the plates, in relief and in reverse, could be struck. *Ibid.* 107 The operation of striking the matrices.

c. To impress or print by means of type, an engraving or the like; to print. *Obs.* exc. in *to strike off.*

1759 FRANKLIN *Ess.* Wks. 1840 III. 217 The assembly..finding both to be such as required an extension of their paper currency..unanimously resolved to strike an additional sum of twenty thousand pounds. 1776 *Pennsylvania Even. Post* 13 Mar. 142 Since a few of this day's papers were struck off, we hear the above ship is a man of war. 1790 GOUV. MORRIS in Sparks *Life & Writ.* (1832) II. 108 They can make use of that gentle means of striking paper to satisfy their demands. 1838 MRS. CARLYLE *Lett.* I. 105 New title-pages can be struck off at a trifling expense. 1866 J. P. COLLIER in *Athenæum* 3 Nov. 571/3 These few extra copies I have always had struck off by the printer. 1892 *Temple Bar* Sept. 53 Send it to the printer to strike off a certain number of proofs.

d. To stamp (velvet, etc.).

1701 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 3754/8 A Stuff Gown of Red and Blue Chequer-work, lined with a Norwich Stuff struck with Blue and dark-colour. 1789 MRS. PIOZZI *Journ. France* I. 30 Nothing..can compare with the beauty of these velvets, or with the art necessary to produce such an effect, while the wrong side is smooth, not struck through.

e. *fig.* To imprint on the mind. ? *Obs.*

1615 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Fair & Foul Weather* A 4, I wish my Verse should such Impression strike, That what men Read off, they should thinke the like. 1651 in M. Sellers *Acts Eastland Co.* (Camden) Introd. 47 If there were but a motion of this remotion, I doubt not but it would strike a sad impression into their minds. 1690 LOCKE *Hum. Und.* II. x. § 5 There seems to be a constant decay of all our Ideas, even of those which are struck deepest. 1709 SHAFTESB. *Charac.* (1733) II. 395 Those Beautys which strike a sort of Melancholy.

29. Without the notion of great force: To tap, rap, knock. Also with cognate or double object, and *intr.* with *on, upon.*

c 1470 HENRY *Wallace* VI. 237 Wallace..Straik at the dure with his fute hardely. *a* 1577 SIR T. SMITH *Commw. Eng.* (1633) 49 When any man is made a Knight, hee kneeling downe is strooken of the Prince with his sword naked. 1596 SPENSER *F. Q.* V. v. 18 Tho with her sword on him she flatling strooke, In signe of true subiection to her powre. 1605 SHAKS. *Macb.* II. i. 32 Goe bid thy Mistresse, when my drinke is ready She strike vpon the Bell. 1613 — *Hen. VIII*, III. ii. 117 He..Strikes his brest hard, and anon, he casts His eye against the Moone. 1699 DAMPIER *Voy.* II. i. 75 There is one that strikes on a small Gong, or a wooden Instrument, before every stroke of the Oar. 1732 POPE *Epit. Gay* 12 The Worthy and the Good shall say, Striking their pensive bosoms—*Here* lies Gay. 1754 ERSKINE *Princ. Sc. Law* (1809) 169 If he get not access to the house, he must strike six knocks at the gate. 1843 *Penny Cycl.* XXV. 446/1 Tutenag..is very sonorous when struck. 1844 ELIZ. SEWELL *Amy Herbert* I. xii. 214, I do think if I had but a fairy's wand, I should strike them all as they came into the house, and change them into boys. 1889 AMELIA E. BARR *Feet of Clay* ix. 159 He struck the table a blow. 1897 *Pall Mall Mag.* XIII. 40, I struck sharply upon the glass of the window.

indirect passive. 1653 H. COGAN tr. *Hist. Diod. Sic.* v. ii. 177 A huge brazen table, which being strucken upon, yeelded ..a dreadfull sound.

† **b.** To beat (time). *Obs. rare.*

1663 J. SPENCER *Prodigies* (1665) 136 This harmony would not last long, did not the Chief Musician strike time and measure.

c. To beat or sound (a drum, etc.), esp. in order to 'beat up' for recruits or as a signal to march; to sound (an alarm) on a drum (said also of the drum). Also, *to strike up.* Also *absol. Obs.* exc. *Hist.*

1572 *Charters* etc. *Peebles* (1872) 342 The counsaile.. Ordanis the haill inhabitantis..to be in ane reddynes, quhen the swische strykis..to pas with thair baillies quhair thai pleis. 1577 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* II. 641 Licence to stryke drummis, display handsenzies, and lift and collect the saidis cumpaneis of futemen.. 1579 GOSSON *Sch. Abuse* (Arb.) 16, I may seeme well ynough too strike vp the drumme, and bring all my power to a vaine skirmishe. 1593 SHAKS. *3 Hen. VI*, IV. vii. 50 Drummer strike vp, and let vs march away. 1598 R. BERNARD tr. *Terence, Eunuch* IV. vii. 167 From whence I will strike vp alarme to shew when you shall beginne. 1612 COVERTE *True Rep.* 24 They strooke vp their drums and were in Armes, taking vs to be Portugales. 1819 SCOTT *Leg. Montrose* xiv, Neither did they strike kettle-drums again at the head of that famous regiment until they behaved themselves so notably at the field of Leipsic. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* x. II. 661 The kettledrums struck up: the trumpets pealed.

d. To touch (a string, a key of an instrument) so as to produce a musical note; *poet.* to play upon (a harp, lyre, etc.). Also † *intr.* const. *upon.*

1565 COOPER *Thesaurus*, s. v. *Pulsus, Nervi in fidibus pulsi*, stringes stroken. 1587 GOLDING *De Mornay* XXV. 446 A passion that fadeth away like the sound of a Lute, when the player ceaseth to strike. 1594 HOOKER *Eccl. Pol.* I. iii. § 3 He that striketh an instrument with skill, may cause notwithstanding a verie vnpleasant sound, if the string whereon he striketh chaunce to be vncapable of harmonie. 1611 SHAKS. *Wint. T.* v. iii. 98 Musick; awake her: Strike. *a* 1650 *King Estmere* lviii. in Child *Ballads* II. 54/2 He stroake vpon his harpe againe. 1677 F. NORTH *Philos. Ess. Mus.* 18 A great string struck near the Bridge with a Bow ..will whistle and break into chords above; which if it were struck by the thumb..would give the true Tone. 1708 POPE *Ode St. Cecilia's Day* 63 But hark! he strikes the golden lyre! 1795 SOUTHEY *Joan of Arc* IV. (1853) 41 Meantime the Trouveur struck the harp.

fig. 1579 J. MELVILL *Diary* (Bannatyne Club) 60 They dwelt verie commodiuslie togidder,..all strak on a string and soundet a harmonie. 1599 MARSTON *Ant. & Mel.* III. (1602) E 3 b, I will warble to the delicious concaue of my Mistresse eare: and strike her thoughts with The pleasing touch of my voice. 1630 DONNE *Serm.* ix. (1640) 90 That soule, who, whatsoever string be strucken in her base or treble, her high or her low estate, is ever tun'd toward God. 1828 *Mirror* V. 102/2 My muse shall strike a loftier string. 1831–3 E. BURTON *Eccl. Hist.* iii. (1845) 51 They struck upon a chord which vibrated to the heart of every Israelite.

30. To produce by percussion.

a. (*a*) To produce (fire, a spark) by percussion, esp. by the percussion of flint and steel. Chiefly in the phrase *to strike fire.* Also, *to strike out.*

c 1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 823 Pan of flynt fyre þai strake, And made a fyre. 1578–9 in *Fabric Rolls York Minster* (Surtees) 117 For an yron to stryke fyer with in the revestrie, 3 d. 1599 MARSTON *Antonio's Rev.* II. ii, Showers of dartes may darke Heavens ample browe, but not strike out a sparke. 1604 E. G. tr. *Acosta's Hist. Ind.* III. ii. 119 The manner to strike fire in rubbing two stones one against another, as some Indians vse. 1755 YOUNG *Centaur* (1757) I. i. 129, I must observe, that no man can strike fire with a feather. 1810 SCOTT *Lady of Lake* v. xviii, Blair-Drummond sees the hoofs strike fire. 1862 *Temple Bar* VI. 169 The fire which is struck out of a flint. 1865 MEREDITH *R. Fleming* xvii, Two flints strike fire.

absol. 1604 SHAKS. *Oth.* I. i. 141 Strike on the Tinder, hoa: Giue me a Taper.

transf. and *fig.* 1601 SHAKS. *Jul. C.* I. ii. 177, I am glad that my weake words Haue strucke but thus much shew of fire from Brutus. 1637 R. ASHLEY tr. *Malvezzi's David Persecuted* 103 That light, which untill it be stricken out doth never appeare. 1687 DRYDEN *Hind & P.* I. 75 My pride struck out new sparkles of her own. 1742 YOUNG *Nt. Th.* I. 39, 40 O Thou! whose word from solid Darkness struck That spark, the sun; strike wisdom from my soul. 1891 A. GISSING *Moorland Idyll* III. vi. 107 His words struck kindred sparks within herself. 1893 *Eng. Illustr. Mag.* X. 277/1 Gleams of moonlight..struck a glitter from standing rain-pools.

(*b*) *transf.* (in recent use). To cause (a match) to ignite by friction. Also *intr.* of a match: To admit of being struck.

The corresponding use of G. *streichen* is an application of the sense 'to rub' (cf. 3 above), and only accidentally coincides with this use.

1880 SPURGEON *Serm.* XXVI. 653 They may strike their matches and light their candles if they will. 1892 *Black & White* 30 July 116/1 Matches that strike only on the box.

(*c*) Phr. *To strike a light*: to produce a flame with flint and steel or by the friction of a match.

1684 BUNYAN *Pilgr.* II. 184 Wherefore he strook a Light (for he never goes also without his Tinder-box). 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* I, A light being struck, a fire was kindled. 1820 SCOTT *Monast.* xxviii, The means of striking light were at hand in the small apartment. 1892 *Temple Bar* Apr. 471 He felt for his matches and struck a light.

fig. 1704 NORRIS *Ideal World* II. viii. 381 If we were not to see but by striking a light to ourselves, we must for ever be in the dark.

b. To produce (music, a sound, note) by touching a string or playing upon an instrument; hence *gen.* to sound (a particular note). Also said of the instrument. Cf. *strike up*, 87 c.

1597 MORLEY *Introd. Mus.* 95, I greatlie mislike...your causing the treble strike a sharpe eight to the base. ?1599 A. HUME *Poems* vii. 217 Nor famous lute of cunning Amphion, Struike neuer note so pleasant to the eir. 1610 DOWLAND *Var. Lute-lessons* C 1 b, The Note following though it be measured with a new measure, must be strooke with the fore-finger. 1629 MILTON *Hymn Nativ.* 95 Such musick sweet...As never was by mortall finger strook. 1787 WOLCOT (P. Pindar) *Ode upon Ode* Wks. 1816 I. 310 Didst ever see this lady striking *A* Upon her harpsichord, with bending ears? 1885 'MRS. ALEXANDER' *At Bay* i, Her reply was to strike a few chords, and begin a sweet, wild, plaintive air. 1892 *Graphic* 9 Apr. 468/2 With one hand we strike three or four notes simultaneously.

fig. 1827 SCOTT *Chron. Canongate* Introd. App., Whatever note he [Shakespeare] takes, he strikes it just and true, and awakens a corresponding chord in our own bosoms. 1908 R. BAGOT *A. Cuthbert* iv. 30 What did, perhaps, strike an incongruous note was the presence of various implements of sport.

c. To make (a door *through*), to open *out* (a window) by knocking a hole through a wall. *Sc.*

1652 LAMONT *Diary* (Maitl. Club) 40 She caused also a doore to be struken throughe the wall of her chamber, for to goe to the wine cellar. 1827 [see STONE *sb.* 16 g].

31. To pierce, stab, or cut (a person, etc.) with a sharp weapon. Also with double object. Also with compl. *to strike dead, to* (*the*) *death. To strike through*, to transfix. Also, † to cut (a gash).

Now *rare* exc. as a contextual variety of sense 25; the verb would now hardly be used with reference to a thrust or stab, unless inflicted by a downward movement.

a 1300–1400 *Cursor M.* 18018 (Gött.) Mine eldrin folk of iuen lede Haue I done rise againes him, To strike him wid a spere ful grim. *a* 1375 *Joseph Arim.* 567 A whit knift.. Baar him doun of his hors..strok him stark ded. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 6258 If any stert vpon stray, strike hym to dethe! 1461 *Paston Lett.* II. 42 It is talkyd here how that ..on of Howard's men schuld a' strekyn yow twyess with a dagere. 1515 *Extracts Burgh Rec. Edin.* (1869) I. 156 He was adiugeit to be had to the trone and thair strikkin throw the hand. 1568 GRAFTON *Chron.* II. 655 The Lorde Clyfforde,..putting of his Gorget, sodaynely wyth an arrowe ..was striken into the throte. *a* 1586 SIDNEY *Arcadia* II. xxi. (1912) 288 She ranne to her sonnes dagger, and..strake her selfe a mortall wound. 1622 CALLIS *Stat. Sewers* (1647) 19 That is Lacyes Case, where one was stricken on the Seas, and dyed on the Land, that the Common Law could not try this murther. 1642 FULLER *Holy St.* V. xvi. 423 He strook a deep gash into his own thigh. 1745 R. JAMES *Med. Dict.* III. s.v. *Styptica*, Trials were made..by sticking a Cock through the Head [etc.]. 1825 SCOTT *Talism.* xxviii, The Templar struck him to the heart with a Turkish dagger. 1837 LOCKHART *Scott* I. iii. 105 The maid-servant, in a sudden access of insanity, struck her mistress to death with a coal-axe. 1893 *Longm. Mag.* June 114 What is to prevent me striking you through where you stand?

b. *fig.* Of a feeling, etc.: To pierce (a person *to* the heart, *to* the quick).

c 1400 *Apol. Loll.* 2 Wan þe heldar gifiþ ensaumple to þe 3ong to deþ, þer is he to be stregun [St. Gregory *feriendus est*] wiþ scharp blamyng. 1534 MORE *Conf. agst. Trib.* III. iii. (1553) Oij, The sodayn dreade of euery bodely payne woundeth vs to the hearte and striketh our deuocion starke dead. *a* 1540 BARNES *Wks.* (1572) 328/2 The which thyng, when S. Gregory saw, stroke hym sore to the hart. 1599 MARSTON *Antonio's Rev.* I. iv, Strike me quite through with the relentlesse edge Of raging furie. 1674 Fox in *Jrnl. Friends' Hist. Soc.* (1914) July 100 When shee hard of my being stoped by ther impresen mee it strok her to the hart that shee died. 1697 COLLIER *Ess. Mor. Subj.* II. (1703) 117 Humility disarms envy and strikes it dead. 1722 R. F. tr. *Du Bos' Hist. League Cambray* II. 111 The News of the loss of Bologna, struck Pope Julius the 2d to the Heart. 1833 TENNYSON *Pal. Art* 220 She fell, Like Herod, when the shout was in his ears, Struck thro' with pangs of hell.

c. With complementary adv. or phrase: To remove or separate with a cut. Now *rare* exc. in *strike off* (82 b).

c 1320 *Sir Beues* 637 And sum he strok of þe swire. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* i. (*Petrus*) 362 þan Nero bad a man suld ga, and strik symonis nek intwa. *c* 1420 *Liber Cocorum* (1862) 44 And heke hedes þou take with stalk in fere, þat is in peses þou stryke. *c* 1440 *Generydes* 6375 Downe by the cheke his ere away he strake. *c* 1480 HENRYSON *Mor. Fab.* II. (*Town & C. Mouse*) xvi, Muttoun and beif strukkin [*v.r.* strikin] in tailyeis greit. *c* 1489 CAXTON *Sonnes of Aymon* xix. 415 His brother richarde wolde have stryked the hede fro the body of hym. *c* 1614 SIR W. MURE *Dido & Æneas* III. 222 The anchore roape, With shyning sword vnsheath't, in twaine he stroake. 1646 DRUMM. OF HAWTH. *Answ. Objections agst. Scots* Wks. (1711) 213 That Nation, who stroke the Head from the Grandmother, may make small Reckoning to do the same to the Grandchild. 1831 *Examiner* 711/2 The soldier..struck the head from the body. 1831 SCOTT *Cast. Dang.* xvii, Turnbull..struck from a neighbouring oak-tree a branch.

32. *absol.* and *intr.* (also with cognate object). To deliver a cut or thrust with a sharp weapon. Also said of the weapon. Const. *at*, † *to*, † *unto*.

Phrase † *without* (*a*) *stroke* (or *a blow*) *stricken* (and variants), without any fighting. Cf. F. *sans coup férir*.

1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 7346 Þe devils ay omang on þam salle stryke. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* VI. 234 He smertly raiss, And, strikand, rowm about him mais. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 8760 A meruelous ymage...with a noble sword..Vp holdand on high as he þat wold stryke. *c* 1430 *Chev. Assigne* 333 Thenne he stryketh a stroke...Euen his sholder in twoo. *c* 1430 *Syr Tryam.* 774 And sykurly can they stryke and threste. 1518 *Sel. Cases Star Chamber* (Selden Soc.) II. 137 They met hym agen..and stroke at hym one of them wyth a knyffe. 1598 GRENEWEY *Tacitus, Ann.* XII. x. (1622) 171 By the comming of the Parthians, the Hiberi were driuen out without stroke striking (*L. sine acie*). 1607 SHAKS. *Cor.* IV. ii. 19 To banish him that strooke more blowes for Rome Then thou hast spoken words. 1611 CHAPMAN *Iliad* III. 369 This said, he shooke, and threw his lance; which strooke through Paris shield. 1622 R. HAWKINS *Voy. S. Sea* xlv. 113 Pillage..all winked at and vnpunished, although such prizes haue beene rendred without stroake stricken. 1632 SIR T. HAWKINS tr. *Mathieu's Unhappy Prosperitie* 222 The offer..had assured him of the whole Iland without a blow strucken. 1677 EARL CASTELHAVEN in *Essex Papers* (Camden) II. 92 Without a stroke striking all the greate townes will submit unto him. 1700 DRYDEN *Pal. & Arc.* II. 245 Like Lightning flam'd their Fauchions..; so strong they strook, There seem'd less Force requir'd to fell an Oak. 1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* II. (Globe) 372 The Fellow..struck at the Spaniard with his Hatchet. 1769 BLACKSTONE *Comm.* IV. ix. 125 Assaulting a judge, sitting in the court, by drawing a weapon, without any blow struck, is punishable with the loss of the right hand. 1843 MACAULAY *Horatius* xxxviii, Herminius struck at Seius, And clove him to the teeth. 1861 *Temple Bar* II. 120 Shot down before I could strike a blow. 1891 FARRAR *Darkn. & Dawn* xlii, Even the soldier who had raised his hand to strike stood amazed, and delayed his blow.

in fig. context. 1735 POPE *Prol. Sat.* 203 Willing to wound, and yet afraid to strike.

b. *fig.*, esp. in *to strike at*, to aim at the overthrow, destruction, or defeat of.

c 1400 *Apol. Loll.* 3 He ouercam hunger in desert,..he strak ageyn veyn glorie vp on þe temple. 1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* II. viii. 84 Thou shalt stryke a stroke most dolorous that euer man stroke. *a* 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* lxxii. 98 Methocht Compassioun, vode of feiris, Than strak at me with mony ane stound. 1513 MORE *Rich. III* in Hall *Chron.* (1548) 28 b, It strake to her harte, like the sharpe darte of death. *a* 1586 SIDNEY *Arcadia* III. xxii. (1912) 484 And hate, & spare not, for your worst blow is striken. 1593 SHAKS. 3 *Hen. VI*, II. iii. 6 Smile gentle heauen, or strike vngentle death. 1605 — *Lear* II. ii. 124 It pleas'd the King his Master very late To strike at me vpon his misconstruction. 1642 CHAS. I *Answ. to Printed Bk.* 29 The Regall Power was never before this time strucken at. 1645 W. JENKYN *Stil-destroyer* Ep. Ded. A 3, The sin I here strike at, is very improperly called self-seeking. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 22 Dec. 1680, Parliament which was now assembl'd, and which struck at the succession of the Duke of York. *a* 1720 SEWEL *Trans. Hist. Quakers* (1795) I. IV. 283 This book struck chiefly against the Quakers. 1764 GOLDSM. *Trav.* 394 When first ambition struck at regal power. 1777 POTTER *Æschylus, Persians* 474 Thy words strike deep, and wound the parent's breast. 1829 SIR J. MACKINTOSH *Sp. Ho. Comm.* 1 June in *Hansard* 1601 A measure which would..strike the deathblow to whatever attempts might be made on the part of other states. 1845 MCCULLOCH *Taxation* III. ii. (1852) 445 It obviously strikes at the very foundation of the principle of accumulation. 1892 *Sat. Rev.* 14 May 581/2 The Revolution..began to strike at Church and King. 1908 R. BAGOT *A. Cuthbert* xxiii. 298 Even fresh proof of Anthony's love for her struck like a knife into her heart.

c. Phr. *To strike at the root* or *foundation*: to attempt or tend to the utter destruction or overthrow (*of* something).

1550 LATIMER *Serm.* B viij, So we Preachers..haue drawen our swerdes of Gods word, and stryken at the rootes of all euyll, to haue them cut downe. 1661 W. LOWTHER in *Extr. St. Papers rel. Friends* Ser. II. (1911) 118 To disowne all Magistracy, and soe by dangerous consequence strike att the foundation of his Majestyes power. 1793 J. BOWLES *Ground War w. France* (ed. 5) 71 Principles which strike at the root of all established Government.

d. *To strike short, wide.* (lit. and fig.)

1602 SHAKS. *Ham.* II. ii. 491 Anon he findes him, Striking too short at Greekes. *Ibid.* 494 Pyrrhus at Priam driues, in Rage strikes wide. 1745 WESLEY *Anstu. Church* 39 You strike quite wide of me still. I never said so of what I do. 1820 *Examiner* 414/1 It appears to us then that this excellent and able actor struck short of the higher and imaginative part of the character.

33. In various specific uses of sense 31.

a. *trans.* To prick (a horse) *with* the spur. *Obs.*

1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* VI. 226 Than vith the spuris he strak his steide. 1813 SCOTT *Rokeby* VI. xxxii, His charger with the spurs he strook.

b. To kill or wound (deer) with an arrow or spear, or with a gunshot. Said also of the weapon.

a 1400–50 *Wars Alex.* 1069 Þe stede þar þis stith man strikis þis hert, Sagittarius forsoth men gafe it to name. 1530 PALSGR. 739/1, I stryke a dere or any other wylde beest, as a huntar dothe..*je enferre*. 1568 in *Archæologia* XXXV. 206 A forreste..where my Lord strake iij. stagges with his gonne. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* II. iii. 32 Didst not thou see a bleeding Hind, Whose right haunch earst my stedfast arrow strake? 1611 SHAKS. *Cymb.* III. iii. 74 He that strikes The Venison first, shall be the Lord o' th' Feast. 1820 SCOTT *Monast.* xix, The huntsman-like fashion in which you strike your game.

c. To spear (a turtle), harpoon (a whale, etc.).

1697 DAMPIER *Voy.* I. 33 Our Moskito men went in their Canoa, and struck us some Manatee, or Sea-cow. 1827 O. W. ROBERTS *Voy. Centr. Amer.* 94 The spear with which the Indians strike the turtle, is made of very hard wood.

† **d.** To lance or cut (a vein). Also *absol. Obs.*

1580 LYLY *Euphues* (Arb.) 329 A white vaine beeing striken, if at the fyrst there springe out bloud, it argueth a good constitution of bodye. 1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* 409 Hauing striken [1658 stricken] it with a fleame, thrust out the jelly with your finger. 1639 T. DE-GREY *Compl. Horsem.* 350 The cure is eyther to stricke with your fleame [etc.].

† **e.** To broach (a cask). *Obs.*

1606 SHAKS. *Ant. & Cl.* II. vii. 103 Strike the Vessels hoa. Heere's to Cæsar. 1717 PRIOR *Alma* iii. 426 L'Avare.. Strikes not the présent Tun, for fear The Vintage should be bad next Year.

f. *Angling.* To cause the hook to pierce the mouth of (a fish) by a jerk or sudden movement of the tackle; to hook. Also said of the hook or the rod. Also, to cause (a hook) to pierce the mouth. Also *absol.* In 16–17th c. often *fig.*

1580 LYLY *Euphues* (Arb.) 333 Philautus, who euer as yet but played with the bait, was now stroke with the hooke. 1611 SHAKS. *Cymb.* V. v. 168 That hooke of Wiuing, Fairenesse, which strikes the eye. 1647 DIGGES *Unlawf. Taking Arms* § 4. 157 They are contented to give Him line enough, being confident they can strike Him when they please. 1651 JER. TAYLOR *Serm. for Year* Summer x. 129 The hook hath strook their nostrils and they shall never escape the ruine. 1660 DRYDEN *Astræa Redux* 171 He like a patient Angler e'e he strooke, Would let them play a while upon the hook. 1662 R. VENABLES *Exper. Angler* iv. 44 If you strike a large Trout, and she..break hook or line. 1688 [see *spring-hook* s. v. SPRING *sb.*[1] 25]. 1760 SIR J. HAWKINS *Walton's Angler* 171 *note*, You are to strike as soon as he has taken it [*sc.* the bait]. 1881 *Sportsman's Year-bk.* 69 To try a roach rod's integrity to strike truly, place the rod on a table, and [etc.]. 1892 *Field* 19 Mar. 402/1 The troutlings have to be struck sharply...High authorities say that salmon should not be struck at all.

34. To hit with a missile, a shot, etc. Also said of the missile. Also with adv. or phrase (expressing the result). Now somewhat *rare*.

1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. XII. 77 With stones men shulde hir stryke and stone hir to deth. *a* 1400–50 *Wars Alex.* 804 Many starand stanes strikis of þaire helmes. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 12151 Scho..with stonys in þe strete strok hom to ground. 1557 W. TOWRSON in Hakluyt *Voy.* (1589) 114 We found 2 Elephants which we strooke diuers time with harquebusses. 1587 T. SAUNDERS *Discr. Voy. Tripolie* B ij b, And the second shot he strake vs vnder water. 1589 HAKLUYT *Voy.* 773 With one of our great shot their Master gonners shoolder was stroken away. 1662 A. COOPER *Stratologia* VI. 118 A Cannon bullet stroke off Sandies head. 1822 *Examiner* 215/1 Ali himself was struck down by a bullet. 1863 W. C. BALDWIN *Afr. Hunting* vi. 210 P. fired, striking him in the centre of the chest and killing him. 1865 RUSKIN *Sesame* I. § 41 A group of schoolboys have piled their little books upon a grave, to strike them off with stones.

fig. 1592 SHAKS. *Ven. & Ad.* 462 Or like the deadly bullet of a gun: His meaning strucke her ere his words begun.

b. *Curling.* To hit (an opponent's stone) *away, off* with one's own. Also *absol.*

1811 *Acc. Game Curling* 8 He attempts to strike away the stone of his antagonist. *Ibid.*, To guard the stone of his partner..or to strike off that of his antagonist. *a* 1870 D. THOMSON *Musings among Heather* (1881) 20 Keen curlers ..draw, an' guard, an' wick, an' strike.

c. *intr.* Of a missile: To make a hit. ? *Obs.*

1589 BIGGES *Summarie Drake's W. Ind. Voy.* 43 The first shot..strake through the Ensigne. 1627 MAY *Lucan* VI. K 5 b, In the left eye Of Scæua strucke the shaft. 1669 STURMY *Mariner's Mag.* V. xii. 70 If the first Shot had struck under the Mark.

35. *intr.* To use one's weapons: to fight. Also with cognate obj. Const. *for* (a cause, one's king or country, etc.). Also, † *to strike it out.*

1579 GOSSON *Sch. Abuse* (Arb.) 58 The stoutest Souldier, when the Trumpet sounds, strikes fiercest. 1581 A. HALL *Iliad* VIII. 137 Both sides so soundly stroke it out, right doubtful was the fray. 1603 SHAKS. *All's Well* II. iii. 308 His present gift Shall furnish me to those Italian fields Where noble fellowes strike. 1601 R. JOHNSON *Kingd. & Commw.* (1603) 39 They were never known..to mutine or to strike stroke amongst themselves. 1825 SCOTT *Talism.* ix, He despairs of the security of Palestine..since the arm of Richard of England hath ceased to strike for it. 1842 W. C. TAYLOR *Anc. Hist.* xii. § 1. (ed. 3) 312 [Cleomenes] followed by a few friends rushed through the streets of Alexandria, exhorting the multitude to strike for freedom. 1847 MARRYAT *Childr. N. Forest* xxi, I should indeed like to strike one blow for the King, come what will. 1889 S. WALPOLE *Life Ld. J. Russell* II. xxviii. 314 Austria, though too angry to be silent, was too timid to strike.

b. *trans.* To fight (a battle). Also, *to strike up.* Chiefly *Sc.* Cf. STRICKEN *ppl. a.* 6.

1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* XIII. 152 Thar wes the battell strikyn weill. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* X. 245 Quhen Bruce his battaill apon the Scottis straik. 1524 WOLSEY in *St. Papers Hen. VIII*, VI. 281 If bataile be not striken before the receipte of thies letters..ye shal [etc.]. 1535 COVERDALE 2 *Macc.* XV. 1 When Nicanor knewe that Iudas was in..Samaria, he thought with all his power to strike a felde with him upon a Sabbath daye. 1544 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* VIII. 292 Item, to ane barbour in Glasqw, eftir the feild strikkin on the mure of the samyn. 1570 FOXE *A. & M.* (ed. 2) 372 b/1 And so the battaile beyng strocken vp, the armyes began to ioyne. 1599 SHAKS. *Hen. V*, II. iv. 54 When Cressy Battell fatally was strucke. 1606 HOLLAND *Sueton.* 88 Claudius Pulcher..thereupon strucke a battaile at Sea. 1710 SIBBALD *Fife & Kinross* I. vii. 28 This Battel was

struck with great Art and Skill upon either side. 1821 Scott *Kenilw.* xii, 'The battle of Bosworth,' said Master Mumblazen, 'stricken between Richard Crookback and Henry Tudor.' 1834 H. Miller *Scenes & Leg.* xi. (1857) 160 The day the battle of Killiecrankie was stricken.

c. *intr.* To engage *together* in combat.

a 1400–50 *Wars Alex.* 785 Now athire stoure on þar stedis strikis to gedire. *c* 1440 *Generydes* 2793 Generides ther mette..The Kyng Ruben, Redy with spere and sheld, And ther they strake to geder in the feld. 1470–85 Malory *Arthur* III. vii. 107 [They] stroke to gyders myghtely.

d. *Mil.* To make an offensive blow, to attack. Const. with *at*. Also *trans.* to attack (in flank, etc.); cf. sense 68.

1606 Shaks. *Ant. & Cl.* III. viii. 3 Strike not by Land, Keepe whole, prouoke not Battaile Till we haue done at Sea. 1802 C. James *Milit. Dict.* s.v. *To strike at*, to attack; to endeavour to destroy, directly or indirectly. 1839 Marryat *Diary Amer.* Ser. I. II. 232 To strike means to attack. 'The Indians have struck on the frontier.' 1866 Sir T. Seaton *Cadet to Colonel* II. iii. 85 Lord Canning thought it advisable to strike a blow at Barrackpoor before the mutiny at Lucknow should become known. 1892 *Sat. Rev.* 2 Jan. 10/2 [He] divided his forces, struck where there was no use in striking, failed to strike at the essential point. 1893 *Pall Mall Mag.* II. 302 The French centre.. was marching to strike it in flank.

36. *trans.* With transferred object.

a. To deliver a blow with (the hand or something held in the hand), to bang, slap (the fist, hand), to stamp (the foot) *on, upon, against*. Also, to strike a horse with (the spur). Const. *to, against* (cf. 50).

a 1548 Hall *Chron., Hen. VI*, 160 [He] entered into London,..strykyng his swerde on London stone, saiyng: now is Mortymer lorde of this citie. 1595 Shaks. *John* IV. i. 2 When I strike my foot Vpon the bosome of the ground, rush forth. 1597—2 *Hen. IV*, I. i. 44 (Qo. 1600) He..strooke his armed heeles Against the panting sides of his poore iade Vp to the rowell head. 1678 Moxon *Mech. Exerc.* v. 76 If with often striking the Pricker against the Tongue [of the Square] it becomes ragged. 1820 Scott *Monast.* xxv, The Baron, striking his hand against the table, as if impatient of the long unbroken silence. 1862 *Temple Bar* V. 70 He struck the stock of his gun violently upon the ground. 1884 *Graphic* 25 Oct. 438/3 'That's a thing I'll think about', rejoined the Baronet, as he struck spurs to his hack.

†b. To drive or thrust (a weapon, a tool); to make a cut or thrust with. Const. *into, through*.

c 1470 Henry *Wallace* II. 99 A felloun knyff fast till his hart straik he. 1556 *Rec. Inverness* (New Spald. Club) I. 1 James Patyrson messenger strykis ane broch on Hendre Kar elder. 1590 Webbe *Trav.* (Arb.) 33 And stricke their sworde into their flesh like vnto a Scabbard. *c* 1614 Sir W. Mure *Dido & Æneas* III. 387 The cursed blaide..Which in her breast vnto the hilts she strak. 1737 Bracken *Farriery Impr.* (1756) I. 296 Unskilfully striking the Fleam into a Horse's Neck. 1748 [see Fleam *sb.*1 2].

trans. and *fig.* 1598 Brandon *Octavia* III. D 3, In these respects, perhaps I could be brought, To strike reuenge as deepe as any could. 1641 J. Jackson *True Evang. T.* III. 209 The Bitturn lying under, strikes his bill upward through the Hawkes gorge.

c. To cause (a tool, etc.) to make the required stroke. In *Bookbinding*, To cause (a hot tool) to make an impression in tooling (Webster 1911).

1600 Sir W. Cornwallis *Ess.* I. xi. G 4 b, A Clocke, whose hammer was stricken by an Image like a man. 1845 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* VI. II. 255 The workman strikes the instrument towards the standing corn. 1877 De Vinne *Invent. Printing* (ed. 2) 517 It required great force..to strike the punch truly.

†d. To thrust (something pointed) *in, into* (a surface). *Obs.*

1570–6 Lambarde *Peramb. Kent* 282 Yet God (I say) styre vp some Edgar, to strike nayles in our cuppes. 1605 Shaks. *Lear* II. iii. 15 Bedlam beggers, who with roaring voices, Strike in their num'd and mortified Armes, Pins, Wodden-prickes, Nayles, Sprigs of Rosemarie. 1631 Weever *Anc. Funeral Mon.* 345 Hee strake his staffe into the dry ground. 1660 F. Brooke tr. *Le Blanc's Trav.* 10 Pegs struck into the ground.

†e. *pass.* To be stuck *full of* (nails). *Obs.*

1610 Healey *St. Aug. Citie of God* I. xiv. 24 Shutting him in a narrow barrell, strucken all full of sharpe nayles.

** Said of an animal.

37. Of a serpent or other venomous animal: To wound (a person) with its fangs or sting. Also *absol.* †Of a basilisk: To kill or injure (a person), dart out (venom) by its glance.

c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* x. (*Mathou*) 67 Þai cuth, be þare enchawnment, ger serpentis strik men ful sare. 1539 Taverner *Erasm. Prov.* (1552) 3 A certayne fysherman.. chaunced to take up a Scorpyon, which forthwith strake hym. 1592 Greene *Philomela* Wks. (Grosart) XI. 152 He stood as mortified as if hee had beene strocken with the eye of a Baselisk. 1594 Shaks. *Rich. III*, I. ii. 151 Would they were Basiliskes, to strike thee dead. 1608 Topsell *Serpents* 44 If that anie person hath either been wounded or strooken of any venomous liuing thing. 1617 Bp. Hall *Quo Vadis?* § 15 How many haue wee knowne stroken with these aspes, which haue died sleeping! 1624 Quarles *Esther* xii, Whose..visage sternly strikes Worse venime to mine eyes, than Basilisks. 1635–56 Cowley *Davideis* IV. 601 If..either King Fall wounded down, strook with some fatal sting. 1837 [Miss Maitland] *Lett. fr. Madras* (1843) 163 Their music seems to irritate the snakes and incite them to strike. 1893 *Eng. Illustr. Mag.* X. 285/1 A hideous snake..had uplifted its triangular head to strike.

38. To wound or attack with the heels, horns, tusks, claws, or any natural weapon. Also *absol.* Now *rare*.

1538 Elyot *Dict., Recalcitro*, to stryke with the heele, to kicke. 1600 E. Blount tr. *Conestaggio* 307 Sanches d'Auila died, being stroke with a horse. 1621 Burton *Anat. Mel.* I. iii. I. iii. (1624) 170 A wild boare, that by chance stroke him on the legge. 1705 Dalton *Country Justice* cxlv. 344 If a man hath an Horse of that property, that he will strike such as come near him. 1716 W. Hawkins *Pleas of Crown* I. xxix. § 12. 74 He..who kills another..by going deliberately with a Horse used to strike..among a Multitude of People. 1722 Hearne *Collect.* (O. H. S.) VII. 386 Having lost his Life by being struck by a Cow. 1883 Fenn *Middy & Ensign* lvi, The tiger had struck the Malay down. 1892 M. C. F. Morris *Yorksh. Folk-Talk* 382 Cu' by, or else t' hoss 'll mebbe strike tha.

b. *intr.* To aim a blow with a natural weapon; to lash *out* (with the feet, etc.).

1565 Cooper *Thesaurus, Calcitro*, a horse that flingeth or striketh. 1667 Dk. Newcastle *New Method to dress Horses* 184 Or when..he offers to Bite or Strike, then the Spurrs will Divert him. 1774 Goldsm. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) VI. 378 They strike with their claws, they bite each other. 1803 Shaw *Zool.* IV. I. 128 If accidentally trodden on, it strikes backwards.. and endeavours to wound the aggressor with the spines of its first dorsal fin. 1822 D. Johnson *Ind. Field Sports* 107 Not long before this, he [the tiger] must have struck at a porcupine, as several of the quills were still remaining between the joints of one of his fore feet. 1893 *Pall Mall Mag.* II. 88 The giraffe has, too, a nasty habit..of striking out with its fore feet.

39. *trans.* †a. Of a bird of prey, esp. a falcon: To dart at and seize (its quarry or prey). Also *intr.* to dart *at*.

a 1500–20 Dunbar *Poems* xxxiii. 99 The egill strong at him did stryke. 1632 Holland *Cyrupædia* 53 An Ægle..having espied the Hare running, made wing, strake her, caught her up, and away. 1687 Norris *Misc.* 101 So th' eager Hawk makes sure of's prize, Strikes with full might, but overshoots himself and dyes. 1736 Hale *Pleas of Crown* I. 432 As laying an infant in an orchard,..whereby a kite strikes it. 1738 Albin *Nat. Hist. Birds* III. 1 The Vulture,..is a fierce bold Bird, and will strike at any thing that comes near him. 1879 Miss Yonge *Cameos* IV. vii. 83 His hawk was striking the quarry.

b. Of a greyhound: To seize (the hare) in coursing. Cf. Striker 2 f.

1861 H. Kingsley *Ravenshoe* xiii, But Ruin! you should see him lie behind the other dog all the run, and strike the hare at last.

c. *intr.* Of a fish: To seize the bait.

1891 *Field* 21 Nov. 774/2 Then another fish struck, but only to graze and kill the bait. 1902 S. E. White *Blazed Trail* xviii, He whipped the fly lightly within six inches of a little suction hole; a fish at once rose and struck.

*** Said of mechanism or the like.

40. *intr.* Of a piece of mechanism: To make a stroke, hit or beat something.

1610 Shaks. *Temp.* I. ii. 281 Where thou didst vent thy groanes As fast as Mill-wheeles strike. 1725 T. Thomas in *Portland Papers* (Hist. MSS. Comm.) VI. 103 A very large fire engine for draining the coal pits..strikes (as they term it) or makes a discharge fourteen times in one minute. 1839 Ure *Dict. Arts* 883 These..finish the grooving..at a single blow, by striking against each other, with the head of the needle between them. 1892 J. Wilkins *Autobiog. Gamekeeper* 330 Particular attention should be paid to the striking of the trap, which ought to strike high, and strike quickly. 1907 J. H. Patterson *Man-Eaters of Tsavo* viii. 87 On extracting the unexploded cartridge, I found that the needle had not struck home.

b. *trans.*

1787 Burns *Death & Dr. Hornbook* xxxi, The auld kirk-hammer strak the bell Some wee, short hour ayont the twal.

41. *intr.* and *trans.* with cognate obj. Of a clock: To make one or more strokes on its sounding part, Hence *trans.* to indicate (the hour of day) by a stroke or strokes; also with object a numeral designating the hour. Rarely with *out*.

1417 *York Memor. Bk.* (Surtees) I. 184 Efter xij of the clok be strekyn at the cathiderall church. 1509 Hawes *Past. Pleas.* xxix. (Percy Soc.) 140 Passyng the tyme..Tyll that the clocke did strike aleven. 1529 *Extracts Burgh Rec. Edin.* (1871) 7 Quhill xij houris be struikin. 1562 J. Heywood *Prov. & Epigr.* (1867) 111 Thy tong should be a clocke.., For than would it strike but once in one hower, 1590 Shaks. *Com. Err.* I. ii. 45 The clocke hath strucken twelue vpon the bell. 1617 Bacon *Sp.* Resusc. (1657) 86 Every Tuesday..after nine a Clock strucken. 1629 Wadsworth *Pilgr.* iii. 18 Till the clocke and our stomackes strike supper time. 1675 J. S[mith] *Horol. Dial.* I. ii. 10 A moving wheel..indented..according to the number of strokes at each time to be strucken. 1742 Young *Nt.-Th.* I. 54 The bell strikes One. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* III. VII. VII, Four of the afternoon is struck. 1860 Sala *Baddington Peerage* I. v. 100 The neighbouring church clock struck out twelve slowly. 1864 Mrs. Carlyle *Lett.* III. 234 A clock made to strike fourteen every hour. 1878 *Bye-gones* Dec. 147/1 Striking the day of the month. This practice, according to the *Gents. Mag.* for Sep. 1816, was in vogue in Pembroke at that period. 1892 *Argosy* Mar. 180 It struck four. 1902 R. Bagot *Donna Diana* xxvi. 331 Counting the hours as the clocks struck in the different quarters of the city.

b. *intr.* in passive sense. Of the hour: To be indicated by the striking of the clock.

a 1417 *York Memor. Bk.* (Surtees) I. 224 Fra evynsang ryng..on to the morne that prime stryke at the mynster. 1613 Shaks. *Hen. VIII*, v. i. 1 *Gard.* It's one a clocke Boy, is't not. *Boy.* It hath strooke. 1787 Mrs. Inchbald *Midnt. Hour* III. i. (1788) 28, I will sit up till twelve strikes. 1850 H. Melville *White Jacket* I. xxiii. 146 Two bells struck; and soon after, all who could be spared from their stations hurried to the half-deck.

c. *fig.*

Phrase. *To strike twelve the first time* or *all at once* (see Twelve 2 b).

1589 *Pasquil's Ret.* B iiij, The Preachers of England begin to strike and agree like the Clockes of England. 1605 *1st Pt. Jeronimo* I. i, This day my years strike fiftie. 1606 Heywood *2nd Pt. Know not me* I. i, A merchants tongue Should not strike false. 1610 Shaks. *Temp.* II. i. 13 Looke, hee's winding vp the watch of his wit, By and by it will strike. 1628 Earle *Microcosm.*, *Stayed Man* K 3 b, One whose Tongue is strung vp like a Clocke till the time, and then strikes, and sayes much when hee talkes little. 1684 Norris *Poems* 5 That Hour is come, The unerring Clock of Fate has struck. 1893 *Pall Mall Mag.* II. 201 He would have his time of danger after striking sixty. 1912 G. W. E. Russell *Politics & Pers.* III. i. (1917) 201 Princess Victoria had now struck sixteen.

d. *intr.* Of a bell: To sound its note.

1677 Stedman *Campanalogia* 32 By delaying its [*sc.* the treble's] striking unfill the Second Bell has struck, it may by that means strike next after it. 1901 H. E. Bulwer *Gloss. Techn. Terms Ch. Bells* 36 When two or more bells are 'striking' in succession.

e. *causatively.* To cause (a clock, a repeating watch) to sound the time; to cause (bells) to sound *together*.

1675 J. S[mith] *Horol. Dial.* II. v. 55 To do this strike your Clock gradually from eight to nine, and then from nine to ten, [etc.]. 1748 Chesterf. *Let. to Son* 22 Feb., Wear your learning, like your watch, in a private pocket; and do not pull it out, and strike it, merely to show that you have one. 1854 Surtees *Handley Cr.* xxxix. (1901) II. 19 'Wants twenty minutes to six,' observed Mr. Marmaduke, striking the repeater. 1893 *National Observer* 18 Nov. 17/1, I struck my repeater again, and found that midnight was past by two hours. 1901 H. E. Bulwer *Gloss. Techn. Terms Ch. Bells* etc. 37 *Firing*, striking all the bells together at successive pulls. *Ibid.*, The bells were 'clammed' or struck together by successive pairs.

42. *intr.* Of the pulse, heart: To beat, pulsate, throb. *rare.*

1590 Barrough *Meth. Physick* I. xv. (1639) 24 Their pulse is great and striketh seldome. 1666 G. Harvey *Morbus Angl.* ix. (1672) 20 And the mind all that while so disturbed ..that the heart strikes five hundred sorts of Pulses in an hour. 1891 Meredith *One of our Conq.* III. xiv. 295 His heart struck heavily when the house was visible.

**** Of natural or supernatural agencies.

43. *trans.* Of lightning, thunder, a thunderbolt: To descend violently upon and blast (a person or thing). Freq. in pass., constr. *by, with*, rarely *of*. Also *to strike down*.

c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xli. (*Agnes*) 312 He gert thonnir & fire-slacht stirk done þe payanis þar stracht. *c* 1400 Maundev. (Roxb.) xxxi. 140 We ware oft tymes striken doune to þe erthe with grete hidous blastez. 1563 Fulke *Goodly Gallery Meteors* (1571) 28 The thonder bolt..stryketh downe steples, and hyghe buildynges. 1586 Lupton *Thous. Notable Th.* (1675) 122 Bodies that are strucken with Lightening do remain uncorrupt. 1605 B. Jonson *Volpone* III. vii. (1607) H 2, Some *serene* blast me, or dire lightning strike This my offending face. 1663 Bayfield *Treat. De Morb. Capitis* 67 Cardanus reports of eight Mowers, which supping under an Oak were struck with thunder. *a* 1718 Prior *Engraven on a Column* Poems (1905) 206 Tho' Lightning strike the Dome again. 1808 *Med. Jrnl.* XIX. 121 The house had been struck with lightning. 1865 Swinburne *Poems & Ball., Satia te Sanguine* 37, I wish you were stricken of thunder. *fig.* 1588 Greene *Metam.* Wks. (Grosart) IX. 102 Till I be strooken to death with loues thundering bolt.

b. with compl. *to strike dead, blind.*

1598 Yong *Diana* 261 Stroken dead with a fearefull thunderclap. 1750 Franklin *Wks.* (1840) V. 237 Lightning has often been known to strike people blind. 1890 Clark Russell *Ocean Trag.* III. xxxiii. 205 That flash..had struck me blind.

c. *absol.* and *intr.*

1750 Franklin *Wks.* (1840) V. 236 Electrified clouds passing over hills or high buildings at too great a height to strike, may be attracted lower. 1815 J. Smith *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 231 Which may result from the lightning striking upon a house not properly secured. 1884 *Science* 4 Jan. 3/1 There are no data for determining the..violence of lightning..or for discovering its possible preference for one or another..geological district when it 'strikes'.

44. *trans.* Of God: To visit with lightning, esp. as a punishment. Also, *to strike dead.*

1577 Hanmer *Anc. Eccl. Hist., Euseb.* VII. xvii. 133 Therefore God strooke Iulianus image from heauen with lightening and rent it in peeces. 1594 Shaks. *Rich. III*, I. ii. 64 Either Heau'n with Lightning strike the murth'rer dead: Or Earth gape open wide, and eate him quicke. 1647 R. Stapylton *Juvenal* 188 Then for his crown th' old trembling souldier took An helmet, and at great Jove's altar strook, Fell like an ox. 1697 Dryden *Æneis* VI. 804 But he, the King of Heav'n,..launching from the Sky His writhen Bolt,..Down to the deep Abyss the flaming Felon strook.

b. Of a storm, earthquake, etc.: To 'visit' (a district, crop).

1570 *Satir. Poems Reform.* xvii. 172 Swa mony stormes at onis Struke neuer land sa sair. 1613 Spelman *De non Temer. Eccl.* (1646) 30 When thy fruit and thy vineyard are strucken with haile. 1830 Lyell *Princ. Geol.* I. 438 The island of St. George was struck by an earthquake.

45. To bring suffering or death upon (a person, etc.) as with a blow; to afflict suddenly (*with, by* sickness, infirmity, death), esp. as a punishment. Also, *to strike down*. (Said chiefly of God or a deity.)

c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xxxii. (*Justin*) 287 [The master devil said] sic lustful het sal be hir in, & eftyr hyr strike sal I nere wodnes & frenesy. 1530 Palsgr. 739/1 You shall se God stryke them when he seys hys tyme. 1549–62 Sternhold & H. *Ps.* lxxviii. 66 With Emrods in the hinder parts he strake his enimies all. 1563 Winjet *Four Scoir Thre Quest.* Wks. (S.T.S.) I. 127 Ananias and Saphira wes strukin be ane word of Petir to the deth. 1580 Tusser *Husb.* (1878) 83 For lamb, pig and calfe..tithe so as thy cattle the Lord

doo not strike. *a* 1591 H. SMITH *Serm.* (1594) 333 When God stroke Zacharias, he made him dumbe, but not deafe. *c* 1610 *Women Saints* 82 God in defence of his spouse [St. Frideswide] stroke them with blyndnes. 1611 SHAKS. *Cymb.* v. i. 10 Gods,..so had you saued The noble Imogen, to repent, and strooke Me (wretch) more worth your Vengeance. 1711 in *10th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. v. 123 He strikes ..where the sinner least dreames to be strucken. 1870 J. BRUCE *Gideon* iii. 59 Heavily the hand of the Lord had stricken him.

absol. *a* 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* lxx. 33 Lord! hald thy hand, that strikken hes so soir. 1604 SHAKS. *Oth.* v. ii. 22 This sorrow's heauenly, It strikes, where it doth loue. *a* 1605 MONTGOMERIE *Sonn.* vii. 7 Quhen ȝe sulde stryk, I wald ȝe vnderstude; Quhen ȝe suld spair, I wish ȝe were bening.

b. Of a disease, etc.: To attack or afflict (a person) suddenly; to make infirm, lay low. Chiefly *pass.* To be attacked *by, with* (a disease). Also, *to strike down.*

1530 PALSGR. 739/2 He was stryken with the plage as he stode in his dore. 1601 W. LEIGH *Soules Solace* (1617) 21 It may be some goe to bed who neuer rise, strooken with a deadly sleepe or lethargie. 1607 SHAKS. *Cor.* IV. i, 13 Now the Red Pestilence strike al Trades in Rome. 1653 H. MORE *Antid. Ath.* III. vii. § 9 (1712) 107 She was so struck in her fits that six men or more could not hold her. 1789 *New Lond. Mag.* Oct. 510/2 The Earl was struck with death while drinking his coffee. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. v, v, Hot old Marquis Mirabeau lies stricken down, at Argenteuil. 1860 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* XXI. II. 554 About 60 out of 280, chiefly shearlings, were struck with a chill. 1878 R. H. HUTTON *Scott* xvii. 174 The climate struck him down, and he died at Teheran. 1891 E. PEACOCK *N. Brendon* II. 199 The Duke had been stricken by paralysis.

c. *transf.*

1509 BARCLAY *Shyp of Folys* (1570) 236 And though thou now be stricke with couetise That vice shall slake in thee if thou arise, [etc.]. 1639 S. DU VERGER tr. *Camus' Admir. Events* 66 They are strucken with that pleasant folly of the Athenian who imagined all the riches..to be his. 1875 MANNING *Mission H. Ghost* viii. 212 Such, in the sight of God, is a soul which is struck by sin. 1891 *Speaker* 11 July 36/2 The fear is..that public life may be stricken with sterility in consequence of this veto.

d. In *passive.* Of a crop, of cattle: To be tainted or infected with a disease.

1750 W. ELLIS *Mod. Husbandm.* IV. i. 45 Wheat mildewed, blighted, or what we, in Hertfordshire, call struck. *Ibid.* IV. ii. 124 (E.D.S.) What we call striking, or, in plainer terms, the glutinizing of the green ears [of wheat], by the fall of..honey-dew. 1784 *Young's Annals Agric.* II. 65 (E.D.D.) [On the Weald of Kent] They have a distemper [in sheep] which they call struck with the blood. 1840 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* I. III. 327 They [lambs] have been struck with the fly late in the season. 1842 *Ibid.* III. II. 199 In a bad case of mildew I have seen a large field of these early swedes struck in July. 1877 E. LEIGH *Gloss. Chesh., Struck with iron,* an apoplectic seizure to which sheep and cows (gen. previous to their calving) are liable. They turn black.

46. To deprive (a person) suddenly of life, or of one of the faculties, as if by a physical blow. Often with compl., as *to strike dead, blind, deaf, dumb.* Said of God, †of a planet (*obs.*: cf. PLANET-STRICKEN, -STRUCK), of witchcraft, etc., and of physical agencies, e.g. the sun, blinding light, or deafening noise. Also in *passive,* without implication of any definite agency: To become suddenly *blind, dumb,* etc.

1534 MORE *Conf. agst. Trib.* I. iv. (1553) A viij, Sainct Paule was himselfe sore agaynst Chryst, tyll Christ..strake him starke blynde. 1595 *Problems of Aristotle* etc. M 2, Why are children strooken with a planet in the summer? 1595 T. EDWARDS *Narcissus* (Roxb.) 51 So was I gazing on this Orient Sunne Stroke blinde. 1598 B. JONSON *Ev. Man in Hum.* IV. vii, Sure I was strooke with a Plannet then, for I had no power to touch my weapon. 1600 W. WATSON *Decacordon* (1602) 356 He [Peter] stricke them both [Ananias and Sapphira] dead at his feet. 1626 BACON *Sylva* § 276 It is an old Tradition, that those that dwell near the Cataract of Nilus are strucken deaf. *a* 1628 DABORNE *Poor-man's Comf.* I. (1655) B 3, *Osw.* Some dismall planet strike you ever mute. *Ibid.* III. E 1 b, *Luc.* Some Planet strike him dead. 1636 H. BURTON *Div. Tragedie* 18 And before he had done ringing, he was strucke sicke, and a weeke after dyed. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* IX. 1064 Confounded long they sate, as struck'n mute. 1712 ARBUTHNOT *John Bull* III. x, He'd got a great cold that had struck him deaf of one ear. 1737 BRACKEN *Farriery Impr.* (1756) I. 144 A young Fellow..was struck blind all of a sudden.

absol. 1602 SHAKS. *Ham.* I. i. 162 The nights are wholsome, then no Planets strike,..nor Witch hath power to Charme. *fig.* 1592 NASHE *P. Penilesse* Wks. 1904 I. 190 They, being but lightly sprinckled with the iuyce of the Hop, become sencelesse, and haue their reason strooken blind. 1600 MARSTON etc. *Jack Drum's Entert.* II. C 4, Yet calme husht sleepe Strikes dumbe the snoring world. 1638 JUNIUS *Paint. Ancients* 209 The rule of eloquence being once corrupted was strooke dumbe. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. i. viii, Let the concentrated flash of your Patriotism strike stealthy Scoundrelism blind, paralytic, as with a *coup de soleil.*

b. *hyperbolically,* expressing the temporary effect of fear, amazement, etc., *to strike* † *dead, dumb,* etc.

1533 BELLENDEN *Livy* I. v. (S. T. S.) I. 36 Þis wncouth sicht movit..baith þe armes with sa petuus commiseratioun, þat baith þe hostis wer strikin dvm. 1591 SHAKS. *Two Gent.* II. ii. 21 Alas, this parting strikes poore Louers dumbe. 1598 GREENWEY *Tacitus' Ann.* XIV. ii. (1622) 201 Nero stroken dead with feare [L. *pavore exanimis*]. 1607 CHAPMAN *Bussy D'Ambois* IV. i, *Mont.* Sweet heart: come hither, what if one should make Horns at Mountsurry? would it strike him iealous Through all the proofes of his chaste Ladies vertues? 1775 SHERIDAN *Duenna* II. ii, Her beauty will certainly strike me dumb. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. II. iv, Next day marching it back again, through streets all struck silent. 1865 DICKENS *Mut. Fr.* II. iv, Fascination Fledgeby and Georgiana..struck each other speechless.

c. Vulgarly used in jocular forms of imprecation, as *strike me blind, dumb, lucky* (*if, but*—), and various nonce-phrases.

1696 VANBRUGH *Relapse* I. iii, Well, 'tis an unspeakable Pleasure to be a man of Quality—Strike me dumb. 1704 CIBBER *Careless Husb.* II. i. 19 Right, Charles: And strike me Blind, but the Women of Virtue are now grown such Ideots in Love..that [etc.]. 1835 DICKENS *Sk. Boz., Charac.* ix, Whereupon the two gentlemen swore, 'strike 'em wulgar if they'd stand that'. *Ibid., Tales* x, Strike me bountiful if you ain't one of the modest sort! 1849 CUPPLES *Green Hand* i. (1856) 9 Well, strike me lucky, mates all, if the whole affair warn't a complete trap! 1861 WHYTE MELVILLE *Market Harb.* i, The very place!..Strike me ugly, if I won't go to Market Harborough! 1896 *Punch* 25 Apr. 197/1 The caddie nearest me said 'Strike me', under his breath, and another caddie said 'S'elp me'.

d. To turn as by enchantment *into.*

1609 B. JONSON *Sil. Wom.* I. ii, Strooke into stone, almost, I am here, with tales o' thine vncle! 1642 BROME *Joviall Crew* III. Wks. 1873 III. 396 O let us not Acteon-like be strook..into the shape of Stags. 1853 MRS. GORE *Dean's Dau.* xlii. III. 300 She looked stricken into stone.

e. In *pa. pple.* Bewitched; affected by the evil eye. Also *struck so,* suddenly rendered motionless (as if by enchantment) in a particular attitude or grimace. *dial.* and *vulgar.*

1839 J. KEEGAN *Leg. & Poems* (1907) 165 Whenever a child is suspected to be 'struck', it is thought useless to apply a medical person. 1851–61 MAYHEW *Lond. Labour* III. 65/2 Keeping their toes turned out, as if they had been 'struck so', while taking their first dancing-lesson. 1862 T. C. CROKER *Fairy Leg. S. Irel.* (ed. 2) 39 Just then she got a pain in the small of her back, and out through her heart, as if she was struck. 1881 W. S. GILBERT *Patience* II, *Maj.* I can't help thinking we're a little stiff at it. It would be extremely awkward if we were to be 'struck' so. 1891 FARMER *Slang* II. 163 *To be Struck Comical* (popular), to be astonished. 1912 CHESTERTON *Manalive* 234 Dr. Cyrus Pym had remained for an unprecedented time with his eyes closed and his thumb and finger in the air. It almost seemed as if he had been 'struck so', as the nurses say.

47. To prostrate mentally; in weaker sense, to shock, depress. *Obs.* exc. in *To strike all of* (†*on*) *a heap* (colloq.): see HEAP *sb.* 5 e.

1598 BASTARD *Chrestol.* III. vi. 56 The newes of Spanish wars, how wondrously, It strooke our heartes. 1628 EARLE *Microcosm.* (Arb.) 26 Anotomies and other spectacles of Mortalitie haue hardened him, and hee's no more struck with a Funerall then a Grauemaker. 1631 WEEVER *Anc. Funeral Mon.* 144 Being strucken and fearfully affrighted at this strange..spectacle. *a* 1725 BURNET *Own Time* I. ii. (1897) I. 45 This struck many of the enthusiasts of the king's side as much as it exalted the Scots. 1786 MRS. DELANY *Autob. & Corr.* (1862) III. 392 He informed her of the whole affair. The Queen stood struck and motionless for some time. 1792 W. GILPIN *Forest Scenery* II. 282 On running to him, he was struck with finding he had killed one of the best horses of his own team.

† **b.** To cause (a person) to fall suddenly *in, into, on, to* (grief, perplexity, anger, amazement, etc.). Also with compl. as *to strike sad* (freq. in Shaks.), *to strike astound. Obs.*

c 1440 *Alphabet of Tales* 166 A man of Egipte was stryken in-to a luste with his neghbur wyfe. 1542 UDALL *Erasm. Apoph.* 282 b, He was stricken in fear of ye courageous stomake of the freashe young manne. 1553 T. WILSON *Rhet.* 37 But altogether stricken in a dumpe, you seke to be solitarye. 1563 FOXE *A. & M.* 14/1 Which when Hildebrandus harde, he was stroken in suche a fury, that scharsly he could kepe his hands of him. 1582 N. T. (Rhem.) *Matt.* xvii. 23 And they were stroken sadde exceedingly. 1593 SHAKS. *Lucr.* 262 Which strooke her sad, .. Vntill her husbands welfare shee did heare. 1606 N. B[AXTER] *Sydney's Ourania* M 3, Whose suddaine view, strook him so such amaze, As marueling a while did naught but gaze. 1640 J. GOWER *Ovid's Festiv.* IV. 82 The wonder strikes them all astound. 1682 BUNYAN *Holy War* (1905) 285 At this they were all of them struck into their dumps, and could not tell what to say. 1711 in *10th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. v. 143 This loss of the artillery struck the Prince..into a great fury. 1853 LYTTON *My Novel* XII. xxvii, The brave man saw before him..that crime of a coward; and into cowardice he was stricken.

c. To cause (a person) to be overwhelmed or seized *with* (terror, amazement, grief; *rarely* delight, love). Also of the feeling: To seize.

In 16th c. sometimes of a deity (cf. 46); usually of incidents, things seen or heard.

1533 BELLENDEN *Livy* I. xxi. (S. T. S.) I. 120 Throw quhilk þe king was strikin [*v.r.* stirkin] haistelie with na les fere þan hevy thocht. 1542 UDALL *Erasm. Apoph.* 189 b, Alexander beeyng rauyshed with the sight of her, was soodainly striken with hotte burnyng loue. 1611 SHAKS. *Cymb.* I. vi. 118 O deerest Soule: Your Cause doth strike my hart With pitty, that doth make me sicke. 1616 W. BROWNE *Brit. Past.* II. v. 130 Amazement strucke the multitude. 1671 MILTON *Samson* 1644 Such other tryal I mean to shew you of my strength..As with amaze shall strike all who behold. 1726 SWIFT *Gulliver* III. x. 129, I freely own my self to have been struck with inexpressible Delight upon hearing this Account. 1774 BURKE *Sp. Amer. Tax.* Wks. 1842 I. 164 Any of these innumerable regulations, perhaps, would not have alarmed alone;..the multitude struck them with terrour. 1777 POTTER *Æschylus, Prometh. Chain'd* 18 It is a sight that strikes my friends with pity. 1816 SCOTT *Old Mort.* xxxix, He was struck with shame at having given way to such a paroxysm. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* xxxi, Rebecca's appearance struck Amelia with terror.

d. To cause (a feeling, etc.) to fall or come suddenly. Const. *into,* †*in,* †*to.*

1583 STUBBES *Anat. Abus.* C ij, The maiestrats also..may were..costlie ornaments..to dignifie their callings..therby to strike a terroure & feare into the harts of the people. 1591 SHAKS. 1 *Hen. VI,* II. iii. 24 It cannot be, this weake and writhled schrimpe Should strike such terror to his Enemies. 1594 O. B. *Quest. Profit. Concern.* 18 b, This would haue stroken such a present ioy into his heart, to heare me give sentence on such impenitent castawaies. 1611 *Sec. Maiden's Trag.* 2444 Her Constancy strikes so much firmnes in vs. 1651 tr. *Wotton's Panegyr. K. Chas.* Reliq. W. 142 Afterwards at a solemn Tilting, I became uncertain whether you strook into the beholders more Ioy or Apprehension. 1659 W. CHAMBERLAYNE *Pharonnida* v. v. (1820) 92 Which..through the sad spectator's eye Struck such a terror. 1736 LEDIARD *Life Marlborough* I. 199 [He] struck Terror and Amazement, throughout the whole Empire. 1859 GEO. ELIOT *Adam Bede* ii, He..might at any moment show himself to them in some way that would strike anguish and penitence into their hearts. 1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) I. 83 His appearance will strike terror into his enemies.

VI. To make a vigorous movement (as if striking a blow).

48. *intr.* To make a stroke with the limbs in swimming. Also *to strike forward, out.* Also *trans.* in *to strike a stroke.*

1660 R. WILD *Iter Bor.* 9 [He] Flings out his arms and strikes some strokes to swim. 1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* I. (Globe) 45 Finding the Water had spent it self,..I strook forward against the Return of the Waves. 1745 POCOCKE *Descr. East* II. I. ix. 36 It bore me up in such a manner, that when I struck in swimming, my legs were above the water. 1851 MRS. BROWNING *Casa Guidi Wind.* I. x. 80 Through the blue Immense, Strike out all swimmers! 1861 HUGHES *Tom Brown at Oxf.* ii, His first impulse on rising to the surface..was to strike out for the shore. 1888 'SARAH TYTLER' *Blackhall Ghosts* II. xxi. 183 He..struck out, and swam for a few yards.

fig. 1880 GOLDW. SMITH *Pessimism* in *Atlantic Monthly* Feb. 210 Good men striking out against the everflowing current of evil and indifference.

b. To make a stroke with one's oar. †Also *trans.*

1725 POPE *Odyss.* XIII. 95 At once they bend, and strike their equal oars. 1789 *New Lond. Mag.* Sept. 462/2 The boatmen..struck their oars and pushed on. 1892 *Sporting Life* 26 Mar. 7/3 At this point a spurt of 8 strokes was indulged in, the rate of striking being 37 to the minute.

49. Of a horse: To put down his fore feet *short, close,* etc.

1683 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1844/8 [He] strikes but little on a pace, but trots and gallops well. 1692 *Ibid.* No. 2727/4 Lost.., a dark-brown Gelding,..strikes close before apt to cut. 1850 'H. HIEOVER' *Pract. Horsemanship* 51 He will find his horse occasionally 'strike short', i.e. put down his fore-feet perhaps a yard short of his usual stroke or stride.

b. *trans.* Of a horse: To alter his pace into (a faster movement). Also *intr.* To quicken his pace *into.* Also *causatively* to put (a horse) *into* a quicker pace.

1816 SCOTT *Old Mort.* iii, No sooner had the horses struck a canter than [etc.]. 1823 *Examiner* 416/1 He struck his horses into a gallop. 1861 *Temple Bar* II. 71 The horses had struck into a quick sharp trot.

50. *trans.* To thrust (the hand, etc.) with a sudden movement; to impel as with a blow. Cf. 36 a. Also *to strike out, together.* Also *intr.*

1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* 478 [The lion] laying downe his eares, and striking his taile betwixt his legges, like a curre-dogge. 1827 SCOTT *Surg. Dan.* i, So saying, he struck the forefinger of his right hand against a paper which he held. 1865 MEREDITH *Rhoda Fleming* xxxii, He struck out his right arm deprecatingly. 1885 E. F. BYRNE *Entangled* I. I. viii. 128 The colonel struck his fingers together. 1892 *Temple Bar* Mar. 314 He struck a quick hand through a thick bundle of papers.

51. *intr.* To move quickly, dart, shoot. Also *fig.*

1639 S. DU VERGER tr. *Camus' Admir. Events* 175 Hee doubted no more of that truth which strooke into his eyes. 1719 YOUNG *Busiris* IV. i, A sudden pain..struck across my heart. 1789 MRS. PIOZZI *Journ. France* I. 307 Some unaccountable sparks of fire seemed to strike up and down the hedges. 1855 LYNCH *Rivulet* XV. iii, Upward the growing twilight strikes, The morning has begun.

† **b.** To pass suddenly, 'burst', *into* (a condition). *Obs.*

1674 *Govt. Tongue* iii. 14 Atheism..has struck on a sudden into such reputation, that it scorns any longer to sculk.

c. To start suddenly *into* (a song, tune).

1819 SCOTT *Ivanhoe* xl, The Jester next struck into another carol. 1892 STEVENSON & L. OSBOURNE *Wrecker* vii. 109 The musicians..struck into a skittish polka.

d. To thrust oneself suddenly or vigorously *into* (a quarrel, debate, a joint action).

1828 SCOTT *F. M. Perth* ii, He sees no brawl but he must strike into the midst of it. 1850 CARLYLE *Latter-d. Pamph.* i. (1872) 39 Here is work for you; strike into it with manlike, soldierlike obedience. 1879 MCCARTHY *Own Time* III. xxxix. 190 He could not strike into a debate actually going on. 1883 FRANCES M. PEARD *Contrad.* xvii, Atherton.. struck into the conversation again.

e. *trans.* (= *strike into*) in certain phrases. *To strike an attitude*: see ATTITUDE 2. † *To strike a bustle*: to make a commotion.

1825 COBBETT *Rur. Rides* 187, I got up, struck a bustle, got up the ostler, set off, [etc.]. 1840 DICKENS *Old C. Shop* lvi, At the end of this quotation in dialogue, each gentleman struck an attitude.

52. *intr.* **a.** Of light: To pierce *through* (a medium), break *through* (clouds, darkness). Also *fig.*

1563 FULKE *Goodly Gallery Meteors* (1571) 36 Ye sunn striking through a sixe pointed stoone, called Iris. 1641 MILTON *Reform.* I. 6 The bright and blissfull Reformation ..strook through the black and settled Night of Ignorance and Anti-christian Tyranny. 1797 HT. LEE *Canterb. T., Frenchm. T.* (1799) I. 295 As moonlight struck through the

breaks, she put her head out of the window. 1908 [Miss E. Fowler] *Betw. Trent & Ancholme* 43 When a lowering sun strikes through the blooms, and enhances their glories.

b. Of cold: To go *through*, penetrate *to*, *lit.* and *fig.* Also of the wind, something damp or cold, *to strike chill*, *damp*, etc.; also *trans.*

1569 W. Hubbard *Ceyx & Alcione* A iij, There strake: A chilnes straight vnto hir hart. 1656 Cowley *Misc.* Pref., The cold of the Countrey had strucken through all his faculties. 1841 Browning *Pippa Passes* I. Poems (1905) 168/2, I rather should account the plastered wall A piece of him, so chilly does it strike. 1844 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* V. I. 101 In frosty weather the cold strikes through the slates. 1863 W. C. Baldwin *Afr. Hunting* vii. 279, I swam five rivers in pursuit, having on a pair of goatskin trousers, which struck me icy cold. 1887 G. M. Robins *False Position* III. i. 9 May felt as if the cold were striking to her heart. *Ibid.* III. ix. 191 His cold voice struck miserably into her heart. 1889 Rider Haggard *Col. Quaritch* xli, The..damp of the place struck to his marrow. 1894 A. St. Aubyn *Orchard Damerel* III. ii. 44 [The rooms] struck damp and chilly like a vault.

c. Of a disease: To pass *inwards* (leaving the surface or extremities). Cf. *strike in*, 81 d.

1843 R. J. Graves *Syst. Clin. Med.* xxviii. 363 When ostitis occupies the external table of the cranium, it seldom strikes inwards. 1865 Dickens *Mut. Fr.* II. ix, But as long as they [the measles] strikes out'ards, sir..they ain't so much. It's their striking in'ards that 's to be kep off.

53. *trans.* **a.** To cause to penetrate, impart (life, warmth, dampness), *to*, *into*, *through*.

1611 Shaks. *Cymb.* III. iii. 97 The yonger Brother..Strikes life into my speech, and shewes much more His owne conceyuing. 1712 J. James tr. *Le Blond's Gardening* 203 Vapours..strike a very great Dampness to the Walls of the Building. 1721 Bradley *Philos. Acc. Wks. Nat.* 194 A Coat of Horse-Dung..for about six Weeks strikes a Warmth through the Boards. 1749 Fielding *Tom Jones* xv. ii, You have struck a damp to my heart which has almost deprived me of being. 1890 Mrs. H. Wood *House of Halliwell* II. ii. 24 The east wind had struck inflammation to the chest of a lovely child. 1890 Conan Doyle *Firm of Girdlestone* xli, His voice..struck a chill into the girl's heart.

†**b.** To send out or forth (a beam of light); to cause to impinge *on* (cf. 62 b). *lit.* and *fig.* *Obs.*

1697 Dryden *Virg. Georg.* IV. 419 In this, four Windows are contriv'd, that strike To the four Winds oppos'd, their Beams oblique. 1697 — *Æneis* VIII. 35 So when the Sun by Day, or Moon by Night, Strike, on the polish'd Brass, their trembling Light. 1704 Norris *Ideal World* II. iii. 246 To strike a through light into this whole matter at once.

c. To force (heat) *into*.

1677 Moxon *Mech. Exerc.* I. 8 Wet the outside of the Fire to damp the outside, as well to save Coals, as to strike the force of the Fire into the inside.

54. Of a plant, cutting, etc.: To send down or out (its roots); to put forth (its root or roots).

1707 Mortimer *Husb.* 133 The best experienced Planters prefer October..that then the Hops will settle and strike Root against Spring. 1733 W. Ellis *Chiltern & Vale Farm.* 87 The hollow Earth,..will..receive, nourish, and cause the same [seed] to strike its Radicle into it. 1851 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* XII. II. 296 Grasses which strike their roots deep in the ground. 1859 Jephson *Brittany* v. 57 The tree which strikes its roots and fibres most widely into the soil produces the most abundant fruit and foliage. 1886 *Encycl. Brit.* XX. 174/1 The danthonia and sparobolus strike deep roots.

fig. 1711 Addison *Spect.* No. 261 P 5 The Passion should strike Root, and gather Strength before Marriage be grafted on it. 1893 Traill *Social Eng.* Introd. 45 The art of painting..had all the tenderness of an exotic. It struck no roots into our chilly soil.

b. *intr.* Of a plant, seed, cutting, piping, layer, etc.: To put forth roots. Of a root: To penetrate the soil. Also with advs. *in*, *down*.

1682 Grew *Anat. Plants* 59 Some [roots] run Level,.. Some strike down, but a little way,..others grow deep. 1766 *Complete Farmer* s.v. *Saintfoin*, There is some seed of which not one in ten will strike. 1800 *Trans. Soc. Arts* XVIII. 372 The cuttings of jasmine..strike with wonderful facility. 1841 *Florist's Jrnl.* (1846) II. 51 The pipings or layers..otherwise..will have become hard, and not strike quite so easily. 1841 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* II. I. 55 The roots..will strike down several feet. 1847 *Ibid.* VIII. I. 210 The roots will strike in deeper in search of nutriment. 1892 *Cassell's Mag.* Nov. 718/1 The chrysanthemum strikes so easily that, in order to get a dwarf plant, we merely take off the tops and strike them. *Ibid.* 718/2 In a very few days your young cuttings will have struck and commenced their growth.

fig. 1769 *Junius Lett.* xxxi, Believe me, sir, the precedent strikes deep. 1823 *New Monthly Mag.* XIII. 94 The impression, if it takes root, strikes deep. 1892 *Sat. Rev.* 30 Jan. 132/1 The taint strikes deeper.

c. *transf.* Of a young oyster: (see quot.).

1881 Ingersoll *Oyster-Industr.* (Hist. Fish. Industr. U.S.) 249 *Strike*, to become tenanted by living oysters; or when infant oysters attach themselves to any object they are said to 'strike'. (Staten Island.)

d. *trans.* To cause (a cutting, etc.) to root; to propagate (a plant) by means of a cutting, etc.

1842 Loudon *Suburban Hort.* 251 In the case of plants which are not difficult to strike, a portion of the young shoot is cut off. 1892 *New Rev.* Oct. 384 She says she can strike one of the flowers and make it grow into a plant.

55. To change the colour of (a substance) by chemical action *into* (a specified colour); to produce or assume (a specified colour) by this means.

1664 Power *Exp. Philos.* I. 74 If into the Infusion of Violets you put..the oyl of Tartar..it will presently strike it into a green Tincture. 1670 W. Simpson *Hydrol. Ess.* 69 Artificial alom will not with galls strike a purple colour. 1682 Grew *Anat. Plants* v. 277 There are very few Flowers that will strike into a Blew by any Liquor. 1686 Plot *Staffordsh.* 106 The water of the Well..though it will not turn milk, or strike with Galls, yet it takes not Soap. 1765 Morris *Somersham Water* in *Phil. Trans.* LVI. 23 The water..still preserved its property of striking a blue and purple with galls. 1826 *Art of Brewing* (ed. 2) 87 Salt of steel..causes a fine mantling head to the porter, and strikes a fine nut-brown colour over the froth. 1857 Miller *Elem. Chem., Org.* 280 A neutral solution of perchloride of iron strikes with morphia a very characteristic blue colour. 1862 C. O'Neill *Dict. Calico Printing & Dyeing* 24/2 A..method of dyeing by means of bichromates..by which the logwood is 'struck' of an intense black and fixed. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* IV. 359 We have met with some [well-water] which struck a decided brown tinge after..contact with the nitrate.

b. *transf.* Of a young turkey: *To strike the red* (see quot.).

1867 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* Ser. II. III. II. 526 It is a critical time for young turkeys when the fleshy tubercles begin to appear on the head, generally termed striking the red.

56. a. *trans.* To cause (a colour, dye) to take or sink in. **b.** *intr.* Of a dye: To sink in; also, to spread, run.

a. 1769 Mrs. Raffald *Eng. Housekpr.* (1805) 40 Put a lump of butter in a cloth, and rub it [*sc.* a boiled lobster] over; it will strike the colour and make it look bright. 1839 Ure *Dict. Arts* 642 [It] will enable the oxygen of the atmosphere to strike the dye more perfectly..into the materials.

b. *c* 1790 Imison *Sch. Arts* II. 88 To stain Wood Red. Take archal one pound, add 1–4th oil of vitriol,..to make it strike deeper, add a little more oil of vitriol. 1835 Hannett *Bibliopegia* 91 Each colour should be allowed to properly strike into the leather before another is used. 1873 Spon *Workshop Rec.* Ser. I. (1885) 321/2 Wash the shawl..in this [scouring] mixture...Next rinse it in salt and water, in order to prevent the colours striking.

57. *trans.* To cause (herrings) to become impregnated with salt or (pork) with saltpetre in curing.

1780 Young *Tour Irel.* I. 230 Vessels for striking the herrings, that is, putting them in salt for 10 or 12 days. 1850 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* XI. II. 589 The latter..is sometimes found a formidable difficulty in the way of good curing, or, as it is technically termed, striking the meat and taking the salt, the former term applying to saltpetre, and the latter to the common salt used.

VII. To impinge upon.

58. *intr.* Of a moving body: To impinge upon or come into collision or contact with something else. Const. *on*, *upon*, *against*.

[*c* 1340, *c* 1375: see *strike together*, 85.] 1626 Bacon *Sylva* § 957 There would be Triall also made, of holding a Ring by a Threed in a Glasse, and telling him that holdeth it, before, that it shall strike so many times against the side of the Glasse, and no more. 1690 Locke *Hum. Und.* III. iv. § 10 The Cartesians tell us, that Light is a great number of little Globules, striking briskly on the bottom of the Eye. 1737 Bracken *Farriery Impr.* (1756) I. 88 Objects compress or strike upon the Extremities of the Nerves by their Motion. 1827 Faraday *Chem. Manip.* vi. (1842) 183 If, in passing through the funnel, some of the powder has struck against and adhered to the inside of the neck of the flask. 1858 Lardner *Hand-bk. Nat. Philos.* 102 When a liquid strikes upon a solid surface in an oblique direction. 1891 Emily & Dor. Gerard *Sensitive Plant* III. IX. XX. 204 The arm which had struck against the bridge was swollen. 1901 *Scotsman* 10 Sept. 7/1 There is a close connection between lunar darkness and the number of birds killed striking [against the glass of a lighthouse].

fig. 1846 T. T. Lynch *Lett. to Scattered* (1872) 546 Cold words of argument strike upon the face, like a sleet shower.

†**b.** said of a moving shadow. *Obs.*

1669 Sturmy *Mariner's Mag.* II. xvi. 93 Hold up the Center until the Shade of the Brass-Pin strikes on the Sight and Line of E.

†**c.** *To strike upward*: to rebound. *Obs.*—0

1530 Palsgr. 740/2, I stryke upwarde, I rebounde...Whan a thyng falleth strayght out of the ayre, it wyll stryke upwarde whan it falleth to the yerthe.

59. *trans.* To come into forcible contact or collision with.

1626 Bacon *Sylva* § 9 All Liquors strucken make round Circles. 1636 Cowley *Sylva* 411 As when soft westwinds strooke the garden Rose. 1697 Dryden *Æneis* V. 683 She [the dove] leaves her Life aloft, she strikes the Ground. 1774 Goldsm. *Nat. Hist.* (1824) I. XXX. 244 This air strikes and affects the auditory nerves, which carry the sound to the brain. 1866 'Capt. Crawley' *Billiard Bk.* IV. 46 Here you will see how a ball may be made to strike all six cushions. 1867 Smyth *Sailor's Word-bk., Struck by a Sea*, said of a ship when a high rolling wave breaks on board of her. 1882 *Encycl. Brit.* XIV. 385/2 The drum is made to revolve.., the blunt edges and external angles of the knives thereby striking the surface of the leather. 1892 *Longm. Mag.* July 272 The wind striking the face of the mountain. 1899 W. C. Morrow *Bohem. Paris* 49 His stool-legs were so loosened that when he sat down he struck the floor with a crash.

b. *fig.* (chiefly after Latin *ferire cælum*, *sidera*).

1605 Shaks. *Mach.* IV. iii. 6 Each new Morne, New Widdowes howle, new Orphans cry, new sorowes Strike heauen on the face, that it resounds [etc.]. 1625 T. H[awkins] *Horace, Odes* I. j. (1638) 2 But let me stand a Lyrick mongst the rest, I'le strike the starry vault with raised crest. 1712–14 Pope *Rape L.* V. 42 Heroes' and Heroines' shouts confus'dly rise, And bass, and treble voices strike the skies. 1819 Wiffen *Aonian Hours* 73 A loud shout thrice strikes the golden stars.

†**c.** With adv. or phrase expressing the result. Also, to make (a hole) by impact. *Obs.*

1530 Palsgr. 739/2, I stryke ones foote out of joynt, *je mets son pied hors du moulle*. 1594 Shaks. *Rich. III*, I. iv. 19 Me thought that Glouster stumbled, and in falling Strooke me (that thought to stay him) ouer-boord. 1602 *Strange Rep. Sixe Notorious Witches* A iij, He had such a fal, that the huckle bone of his thigh was stroken out of ioynt. 1632 Lithgow *Trav.* II. 62 A great lake [= leak] was stricken into our Ship. 1751 *Affecting Narr. H.M.S. Wager* 20 One of our Men..had the Misfortune to be struck over-Board in handing the Fore-Sail,

60. *spec.* Of a ship: **a.** *intr.* To hit (*on* or *upon* a rock, etc.), to collide with a rock, run aground.

1518 H. Watson *Hist. Oliver of Castile* (Roxb.) E 3 b, Vpon the thyrde daye theyr shyp stroke on grounde, by so grete force that it claue in two pyeces. 1612 Coverte *Voy.* 23 And presently the ship strooke, which I presently went vp and told him of. 1669 Dryden *Tempest* I. (1670) 4 *Trinc.* ..There's a Rock upon the Star-board Bow. *Steph.* She strikes, she strikes! 1743 Bulkeley & Cummins *Voy. S. Seas* 17 The Ship struck abaft on a sunken Rock. 1769 Falconer *Dict. Marine* (1780) s.v., To *Strike*, to run ashore, or to beat upon the ground in passing over a bank or shallow. 1890 Clark Russell *Ocean Trag.* III. xxviii. 89 The yacht had struck bow on.

b. *trans.* To hit or run upon (a rock, the ground, a mine).

1587 Janes in Hakluyt *Voy.* (1589) 792 This day we stroke a rocke. 1870 Morris *Earthly Par.* III. 512 My sight clears, and I see his black bows strike The hidden skerry. 1913 *Times* 14 May 5/5 The Portuguese cruiser..struck a rock near Dumbell Island.

61. Naut. *To strike ground*, *soundings*: to reach the bottom with a sounding line. Also *transf.* of a swimmer: To touch (bottom).

1726 Shelvocke *Voy. round World* 66, I stood right in, the greatest part of the day, with intent to strike ground upon them (i.e. the shoals). 1748 *Anson's Voy.* II. vii. 214 We struck ground with sixty-five fathom of line. 1846 A. Young *Naut. Dict.* 289 To strike soundings, is to find bottom with the deep-sea-lead on coming in from sea. 1890 Clark Russell *Ocean Trag.* III. xxxiv. 238 Scarce had we struck soundings,..when a whole gale of wind blew down upon us. *transf.* 1875 *Scribner's Monthly* XXX. 735/1 Their steeds ..now swimming, again striking bottom, and so until the hoofs of their leader struck the shore.

b. *intr.* Of water: To have (a specified depth) when sounded.

1858 *Merc. Marine Mag.* V. 322 A..clear..channel appeared open, and..did not strike less than 6½ fathoms.

62. *trans.* Of a beam or ray of light or heat: To fall on, catch, touch.

a 1586 Sidney *Arcadia* III. xxvi. (1912) 504 The beames thereof so strake his eyes..that [etc.]. 1598 R. Haydocke tr. *Lomazzo* II. 154 By reason of the reflexion of the parte strooken with the light. 1789 D. Davidson *Thoughts on Seasons* 69 In yon distant glade The Sun, refulgent, strikes the pearly stream. 1812 Cary *Dante, Parad.* IX. 66 In splendour glowing, Like choicest ruby stricken by the sun. 1903 G. H. Lorimer *Lett. Self-made Merch.* xiii. 184 So he leads the nag out into the middle of a ten-acre lot, where the light will strike him good and strong.

b. *intr.* Of light: To fall, impinge *on*.

1662 Gerbier *Princ.* 34 The Lights of the Stable strikes on the Horse their backs. 1690 Locke *Hum. Und.* II. viii. § 19. 58 Hinder light, but from striking on it, and its Colours vanish. 1808 Scott *Marmion* IV. xxi, Full on his face the moonbeam strook. 1831 Brewster *Optics* iii. 20 Having marked the point at which the ray from S strikes. 1892 H. R. Mill *Realm of Nature* vii. 110 Light from the Sun ..strikes on the upper atmosphere.

63. *trans.* Of a sound, report, etc.: To fall on, reach, or catch (the ear). †Also (? *nonce-use*) of an odour: To affect (the nostrils).

1596 Drayton *Legends, Matilda* 122 Hauing his Eare oft strooke with this Report. 1603 Florio *Montaigne* I. xii. 22 If the cracke of a musket do sodainly streeke mine eares, in a place where I least looke for it. 1611 Shaks. *Wint. T.* I. ii. 421 Turne then my freshest Reputation to A sauour, that may strike the dullest Nosthrill Where I arriue. 1650 Sir H. Newton in *Verney Mem.* (1904) I. 464 The sound of your sadnesse first struck my eares at Flushing, but heere it strikes my heart to know the truth of it. 1741 Watts *Improv. Mind* I. i. 25 So that the glance of an eye, or a word striking the ear..shall conduct you to a train of happy sentiments. 1805 Wordsw. *Fidelity* 15 Nor shout, nor whistle strikes his ear. 1891 *Strand Mag.* II. 512/1 [A] scraping sound struck his quick ear.

absol. 1816 Byron *Ch. Har.* III. xxi, But hush! hark! a deep sound strikes like a rising knell!

b. *intr.* with *on*, *upon*.

1848 Dickens *Dombey* lvi, The words..will strike upon my ears like a knell. 1850 *Tait's Mag.* XVII. 270/2 A sound struck on his ear.

64. *trans.* Of a thought, an idea: To come into the mind of, occur to (a person). Freq. in the phr. *it strikes* (or *it struck*) *me that* —.

1606 Shaks. *Ant. & Cl.* I. ii. 87 He was dispos'd to mirth, but on the sodaine A Romane thought hath strooke him. 1712–13 Swift *Jrnl. to Stella* 14 Jan., I said something in his praise, when it struck me immediately that I had made a blunder in doing so. 1775 Sheridan *Duenna* I. iv, Hold ..a thought has struck me! 1827 Scott *Highl. Widow* v, The first idea that struck him was, that the passenger belonged to his own corps. 1867 Freeman *Norm. Conq.* (1876) I. App. 754 It strikes me that the scribe confounded these laws. 1891 *Murray's Mag.* X. 732 A happy thought struck Lady Betty.

65. To impress or arrest (the eye, view, sight).

1700 Dryden *Fables* Pref. *A 2 b, Words, indeed, like glaring Colours, are the first Beauties that arise, and strike the Sight. 1737 *Gentl. Mag.* VII. 30/1 The first Thing intended to have struck the Eye, was to have been a grand and stately Statue. 1759 Johnson *Rasselas* XXX, When the eye or the imagination is struck with any uncommon work. 1779 J. Moore *View Soc. Fr.* (1789) I. ii. 12 Whose appearance always strikes the eye with delight. 1837 P. Keith *Bot. Lex.* 196 Habit..is that sort of resemblance which strikes the eye of the beholder at first sight, without putting him to the trouble of enquiring in what it specifically consists. 1892 *Cornh. Mag.* July 36 That is the only object that strikes our eyes.

66. Of something seen or heard: To impress strongly (a person); to appear remarkable to.

1672 Villiers (Dk. Buckhm.) *Rehearsal* iv. ii. (Arb.) 109 [*Volscius* recites.] *Bayes.* Ah! I gad, that strikes me. 1711 Addison *Spect.*, No. 50 ¶ 1 Being wonderfully struck with the Sight of everything that is new or uncommon. 1764 Dodsley *Leasowes* in *Shenstone's Wks.* (1777) II. 318 On the entrance into this shrubbery, the first object that strikes us is a Venus de Medicis. 1802 Mar. Edgeworth *Moral T., Forester* xvi, Those arguments..struck him..with all the force of conviction. 1823 Scott *Quentin D.* xxvi, His attendant was struck by the unusual change in his deportment. 1839 Card. Wiseman *Anglican Claim Apostolic Succession* (1905) 89 We have been struck how the Donatists, while they did not relish this name, had no objection to the national appellation of Africans. 1888 Burgon *Lives 12 Gd. Men* II. x. 263 The absence in him of prejudice and partisanship..was what used to strike us most.

absol. 1717 Pope *Ep. Jervas* 44 Thence endless streams of fair Ideas flow, Strike in the sketch, or in the picture glow. 1732 Berkeley *Alciphr.* iv. § 15 Things which rarely happen strike; whereas frequency lessens the admiration of things. 1779 Johnson *L. P., Milton* (1781) I. 204 The style [of his *History of England*] is harsh; but it has something of rough vigour, which perhaps may often strike, though it cannot please. 1830 J. G. Strutt *Sylva Brit.* 6 A forest is more calculated to strike by the greatness of its aggregate. 1869 J. Phillips *Vesuvius* i. 4 The first passage which strikes in Latin authors is that written by Pliny.

b. *intr.* To make an impression (*on* the mind, senses, observation).

1732 Pope *Ess. Man* II. 128 All spread their charms, but charm not all alike; On diff'rent senses, diff'rent objects strike. 1848 Keble *Serm.* Pref. 23 A plain and palpable case, and would strike on pure minds with a force like mathematical demonstration. 1887 E. F. Byrne *Heir without Heritage* I. ix. 161 The obvious truth in her mother's sayings struck on her sense of the fitting.

c. *trans.* To impress in a specified way; *to strike one as*—, to appear to one as—, to give one the impression of being—. † Also *absol.* (obs.).

a 1701 Maundrell *Journ. Jerus.* (1732) 137 That it strikes the Mind with an Air of Greatness. 1749 Fielding *Tom Jones* viii. xiv, It has often struck me, as the most wonderful thing I ever read of. 1777 Storer in Jesse *Selwyn & Contemp.* (1844) III. 198, I know the same thing strikes different people in many ways, but thus he seemed to me. 1779 Sheridan *Critic* i. i, Now, Mrs. Dangle, didn't you say it struck you in the same light? 1802 W. Taylor in Robberds *Mem.* (1843) I. 410 The style of building [at Calais] strikes as being more roomy and gentlemanlike. 1858 Hawthorne *Fr. & It. Note-bks.* (1872) I. 6 The French cathedral strikes one as lofty. 1888 Lady Duffus Hardy *Daug. Experiment* II. v. 82 Her beauty struck him in a new light. 1902 Bridges *To Burns* xv. Poems (1912) 388 The good man's pleasure 'tis to do't; That's how it strikes him.

d. To impress or catch (the senses, fancy, imagination, notice, curiosity, etc.).

1697 Dryden *Æneis* xi. 520 Such Truths, O king, said he, your Words contain, As strike the Sence, and all Replies are vain. 1698 Collier *Short View Eng. Stage* 160 We ought not to..Fly out at every Thing that strikes the Fancy. 1728 Pope *Dunc.* i. 65 There motly images her fancy strike, Figures ill pair'd, and Similes unlike. 1781 C. Johnston *Hist. J. Juniper* II. 228, I could not help staring at her, in such a way, as struck her notice. 1781 J. Moore *Italy* II. xlviii. (1790) 63 No ceremony can be better calculated for striking the senses. 1784 Tyers in *Gentl. Mag.* LIV. ii. 908/1 He talked much of travelling into Poland, to observe the life of the Palatines, the account of which struck his curiosity very much. 1890 *Hardwicke's Sci. Gossip* XXVI. 71 Any moss, which..may strike the finder's fancy should be lifted..and planted in a..pot.

e. To catch the admiration, fancy, or affection of (one of the opposite sex). In pass. constr. *by, with*, also (vulgarly) *to be struck on.*

1599 Marston *Ant. & Mel.* iii. (1602) E 4, I haue put on good cloathes, and smugd my face, Strook a faire wench, with a smart speaking eye. 1638 Cowley *Love's Riddle* iii. i. 37 You'd aske how many shepheards she hath strooken? 1796–7 Jane Austen *Pride & Prej.* iii. (1813) 10 He seemed quite struck with Jane as she was going down the dance. 1838 Dickens *Nich. Nick.* xxiii, Miss Ledrook..joked Miss Snevellicci about being struck with Nicholas. 1893 *Fam. Herald* 131/1 'I'm glad you're struck on her', said Bob.

67. *intr.* To hit or light *on, upon.*

1616 J. Healey tr. *Cebes* 166 You strike on truth in all things, sir. 1839 Longf. *Hyperion* i. vii. (1852) 44 [These literary men] often strike upon trains of thought, which stand written in good authors some century or so back...But they know it not; and imagine [etc.].

68. *trans.* To come upon, reach (a hill, river, path, etc.) in travelling; to come to (a place) in the course of one's wanderings. Chiefly *U.S.* and *Colonial.* Also of a line: To hit, come upon (a specified point).

1798 *Mass. Mercury* 30 Oct. (Thornton *Amer. Gloss.*) Thence south, such a course as will strike William Negro's house. 1808 Pike *Sources Mississ.* (1810) II. 134 In about five miles we struck a beautiful hill, which bears south on the prairie. 1824 *Excurs. U.S. & Canada* 182 My host..put me into the proper direction for 'striking' the path leading to Cat's Ferry. 1830 Lyell *Princ. Geol.* I. 324 A line drawn through the Grecian archipelago,...Southern Italy, Sicily, Southern Spain, and Portugal, will, if prolonged westward through the ocean, strike the volcanic group of the Azores. 1879 S. C. Bartlett *Egypt to Pal.* x. 221 We continued the sharp ascent, and struck a path winding..round the hill. 1890 'R. Boldrewood' *Col. Reformer* xxiii, They struck the river within a day's ride of Rainbar. 1896 Baden-Powell *Matabele Campaign* vi, At length we successfully struck the spoor. 1902 Alldridge *Sherbro* xxvi. 293 At 10.50 we struck the boundary line of the Limba Sehla country. 1915 *Nation* 30 Oct. 175 Born of pioneer parents, who struck Iowa just before the Civil War.

b. *To strike town*: to go into town from camp. *U.S.* and *Colonial.*

1902 S. E. White *Blazed Trail* xxvi, When the boys struck town, the proprietors and waitresses [of the saloons] stood in their doorways to welcome them. 1910 G. H. Lorimer *Old Gorgon Graham* ii, Binder got a pretty warm welcome when he struck town.

c. To come across, meet with, encounter (a person or thing) unexpectedly; also, to hit upon (the object of one's search). Chiefly *U.S.*

1851 Mayne Reid *Scalp Hunt.* xxx, The third day I struck a town o' sand-rats. 1877 J. F. Rusling *Great West* 39 On Wild-Cat Creek..we struck a Mr. Silvers. 1892 *Harper's Mag.* Aug. 404/1 That's an introduction to the editor,..and you'll strike him at the office just now, if you'd like to see him. 1893 *Black & White* 25 Feb. 234/1 He calculated upon getting across the Bay of Biscay and striking warm, safe weather in June. 1890 F. R. Stockton *The 'Merry Chanter'* xii. 114, 'I did'nt strike the stairs at first,' whispered the butcher, 'and I went too far along that upper hall'.

d. To come upon, find (a pocket, vein, or seam of mineral), a stratum of water, oil, etc.) in prospecting, boring, etc. *To strike a bonanza* (cf. Bonanza 1). *To strike it rich*: to find a rich mineral deposit. *To strike oil*: see Oil *sb.*1 3 f.

a 1864 Gesner *Coal, Petrol.*, etc. (1865) 33 He [the oil-well borer] cannot tell to a certainty that he will 'strike oil'. 1872 'Mark Twain' *Innoc. at Home* xvi. (1882) 361 At the end of two months we had never 'struck' a pocket. 1875 *Eagle Mag.* (St. John's Coll. Camb.) IX. 340 He started 'prospecting', struck gold, entered his claim. 1885 *Manch. Exam.* 22 Sept. 4/7 A seam of coal 6 ft. thick has been struck at depths of 441 and 444 yards. 1885 *Harper's Mag.* Apr. 698/1 Courage and hope are kept up by the expectation of 'striking it rich'. 1887 F. Francis Jun. *Saddle & Mocassin* 56 He said..that as soon as he 'struck a Bonanza', he meant to sit around..on week-days too. 1892 *Harper's Mag.* May 906/2 Water is struck at from 600 to 1200 feet.

transf. and *fig.* 1884 *Milnor* (Dakota) *Teller* 18 July, Mr. B. is very enthusiastic over his location, and thinks he has struck it rich. 1895 *Pall Mall Mag.* Nov. 329 Ef I'd a smart pard..we might strike a lead of luck.

VIII. Senses of uncertain position.

69. *To strike hands* (said of two parties to a bargain): To take one another by the hand in confirmation of a bargain; hence, to ratify a bargain *with* (another). Hence † to *strike one's truth*, to pledge one's truth by 'striking hands'; † *to strike hearts* (nonce-use).

c 1440 *Sir Eglam.* 246 '3ys,' seyde the erle, 'here myn honde!' Hys trowthe to hym he strake. 1530 Palsgr. 739/2, I stryke handes, as men do that agre apon a bargen or covenant, *je touche la.* 1560 Bible (Geneva) *Esther* Apocr. xiv. 8 They haue stroken hands with their idoles, That thei wil abolish the thing that thou..hast ordained. 1606 Bp. W. Barlow *1st Serm. Hampton Crt.* (1607) D 2, The Apostle Paul receiued not his function by hands either imposed or strooken, but by especiall reuelation,..The hands imposed Acts 13. were commendatiue, the right handes strooken, Gal. 1 were stipulative. 1652 Shirley *Brothers* i. i, I'l find a portion for her, if you strike Affectionate heartes. 1682 Bunyan *Holy War* (1905) 210 This Son of Shaddai, I say, having stricken hands with his Father, and promised that he would be his servant to recover his Mansoul again, stood by his resolution. 1745 *De Foe's Eng. Tradesm.* xi. (1841) I. 85 Three things every tradesman ought to consider before he 'strikes hands with a stranger', that is, before he is bound for another. 1823 'Jon Bee' *Dict. Turf* 167 Bargains in Smithfield are confirmed by the striking of hands—the palms together. 1885 *Times* 10 Mar. 4/1 The parties had 'struck their hands together' in the usual Yorkshire fashion, but before the delivery of the calves. 1915 *Nation* (N. Y.) 10 June 642/1 Stories about McKinley or Roosevelt having struck hands in the dark with France and England.

† **b.** *To strike* (a person) *luck*: to give him a 'luck-penny' on making a bargain. *Obs.*

1599 Nashe *Lenten Stuffe* F 1 b, The consistorians or setled standers of Yarmouth..gather about him as flocking to hansell him and strike him good luck. *a* 1616 Beaum. & Fl. *Scornf. Lady* ii. iii, *Capt.* Take it, h'as overbidden by the Sun: bind him on his bargain quickly. *Young Lo.* Come strike me luck with earnest, and draw the writings. 1664 Butler *Hud.* ii. i. 540 But if that's all you stand upon; Here, strike me luck, it shall be done. 1677 W. Hughes *Man of Sin* ii. viii. 128, I..dare not venture to make a Bargain, and strike them luck.

70. [Partly from sense 69; partly after L. *ferire fœdus.*] To settle, arrange the terms of, make and ratify (an agreement, a treaty, covenant, truce; † marriage, † peace); esp. in phrase *to strike a bargain.* See also *strike up*, 87 d.

1544 Betham *Precepts War* i. lxxii. D vij b, Yet he denyed not to stryke truce wyth hym. 1581 A. Hall *Iliad* viii. 143 A noble Nimphe, with hir good king in Thrace did mariage strike. 1600 S. Nicholson *Acolastus' After-witte* H 3 b, While Leacherie and Lucar strike a match, Making a compound of two deadly sinnes. 1624 Quarles *Job Militant* vii, The Beasts shall strike with thee eternall Peace. 1646 Hammond in *Copy of some Papers* (1647) 96 The Gospel.. or second Covenant, stricken with us in Christ. 1711 in *10th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. v. 172 The Confederat Princes will be compelled..to strike a peace with France. 1749 Fielding *Tom Jones* ix. iv, Between these two..a league was struck. 1766 Blackstone *Comm.* II. xxx. 448 As soon as the bargain is struck, the property of the goods is transferred to the vendee. 1865 Parkman *France & Eng. in N. Amer.* i. vii. (1876) 89 The compact struck, Menendez hastened to his native Asturias. 1883 F. M. Crawford *Mr. Isaacs* i, I struck a bargain with an old *marwarri* over a small stone. 1892 *Good Words* Oct. 658/2 We struck a truce.

b. To form (acquaintance) *with.* ? *Obs.* exc. in *strike up*: see 87 e.

1595 W. W[arner] *Plautus' Menæcmi* ii. i. (1779) 124 If they can by any meanes strike acquaintance with him.

c. To fix (a price) by agreement.

To strike the (*sheriff-*) *fiars, to strike the* (*fiar-*) *prices* (Sc. 1723–1887): see Fiars.

1526 in *Househ. Ord.* (1790) 215 That to be done within six dayes after the striking of the said prices.

† **d.** *intr.* To agree (*to* articles or terms). *Obs.*

1706 E. Ward *Wooden World Diss.* (1708) 14 Batter him with Gold once, and he shall strike instantly to the most scandalous Articles that Hell can offer.

71. *trans.* To balance (a book or sheet of accounts). *To strike a balance*: see Balance *sb.* 17 b.

1539–40 in *Househ. Ord.* (1790) 229 And the said..Bookes, to lye vpon the Green cloth dayly, to the intent the Accomptants..may take out the solutions.., whereby they may strike their Lydgers. 1855 *Poultry Chron.* III. 284 In striking the balance sheet, [he] found himself in consequence of the experiment, *minus* over 1000 dollars.

72. To determine, estimate (an average, a mean).

1729 A. Dobbs *Trade Irel.* 37 The Number of Years upon which each Medium is struck. 1853 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* XIV. i. 68 A difference in value of full 20 per cent. is often struck in the London market between the produce of contiguous dairies. 1862 *Temple Bar* V. 269 When a sufficient number of records have been kept, the average is struck. 1884 *Manch. Exam.* 30 Sept. 5/6 One has to strike a mean between the glowing accounts of fortunate settlers and the pessimistic views of its detractors. 1888 Bryce *Amer. Commw.* ciii. III. 480, I think, that so far as it is possible to strike an average, both the pecuniary and the social position of the American clergy must be pronounced slightly better.

73. *To strike a docket*: see Docket *sb.*1 6.

† **74.** To throw (a die) in some particular fraudulent manner. *Obs.*

1586 T. Newton tr. *Daneau's Dice-play* F 4 b, If there bee any cogging Panion..that by sleight..goeth about to help the chaunce, or strike the Dyce [L. *casum aleæ moderari, aut regere conetur.*] 1680 Cotton *Compl. Gamester* (ed. 2) 11 Fourthly by Knapping, that is, when you strike a Dye dead that it shall not stir.

75. *slang.* † **a.** *trans.* To steal (goods), rob (a person); also *absol.* and with cognate object.

1567 Harman *Caveat* (1869) 86 Now we haue well bousd, let vs strike some chete. Nowe we haue well dronke, let us steale some thinge. 1591 Greene *Notable Discov. Coosnage* Wks. (Grosart) X. 38 In Figging Law..The Act doing, striking. 1591 — *2nd Pt. Conny-catching* 1bid. X. 110 The young toward scholler although perhaps he had striken some few stroks before, yet seeing [etc.]. *Ibid.* X. 112 While hee was busie about that, the Nippe had stroken the purse. 1611 Middleton & Dekker *Roaring Girl* v. i. L 1 b, 1 *Cut-purse*, Shall we venture to shuffle in amongst yon heap of Gallants and strike? 1622 Fletcher *Beggars' Bush* iii. iii, To mand on the pad, and strike all the cheats. *a* 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew.*

† **b.** *intr.* To borrow money. *Obs.* **c.** To beg; also in phr. *to strike it.*

1618 Mynshul *Ess. Prison* 47 To borrow money is called striking, but the blow can hardly or neuer be recouered. 1655 Shirley *Gent. Venice* i. i, I must borrow money, And that some call a striking. *a* 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew, Strike*, to Beg, to Rob; also to borrow Money. 1898 M. Davitt *Life & Progr. Australia* xxxv. 192 To 'strike it' is to beg.

d. *trans.* To make a sudden and pressing demand upon (a person *for* a loan, etc.). Also *absol.* or *intr.*

1751 Fielding *Amelia* viii. vi, The gentleman, who in the vulgar language, had struck, or taken him in for a guinea. 1766 Goldsm. *Vicar* xx, The moment a nobleman returns from his travels..I strike for a subscription. 1893 *Scribner's Mag.* Aug. 263/2 It would be vastly better for him to shelve his books and go down and strike his Uncle Munday for a job. 1899 Jesse L. Williams *Stolen Story* etc. 291 There's Billy Woods..look out, let's hurry by or he'll strike us for the price of a drink.

e. *U.S. polit. slang.* (See quot.)

1894 H. C. Merwin in *Atlantic Monthly* Feb. LXXIII. 248/2 A legislator 'strikes' a corporation, as I have indicated, when he introduces some bill calculated to injure it directly or indirectly; his purpose being, not to have the bill pass, but to compel the corporation to buy him off.

76. **a.** *Electr.* (See quots.)

1891 '*Electrician*' *Primers* (ed. W. R. Cooper), *Gloss.* (1906) 31 When the carbons of an arc lamp separate and form an arc the lamp is said to 'strike', or the arc to be 'struck'. *Ibid.* No. 44. 1 In spite of this, arc lamps sometimes start or 'strike' violently and repeatedly..on first being switched on.

b. *Electroplating.* To produce the beginning of (a deposit of metal).

1894 J. W. Urquhart *Electro-plating* vi. (ed. 3) 160 For 'striking' the first deposit [of nickel] two or more [batteries] are usually employed.

77. *intr.* In the United States army: To perform menial services for an officer; to act as an officer's servant. (*Cent. Dict.* 1891.) Cf. Striker 6 b.

IX. With adverbs.

† **78. Strike by.** *trans.* To consign to oblivion. *Sc. Obs.*

1457 *Dunfermline Reg.* (Bannatyne Club) 344 All thingis concernynge be said mater o tyme bygane strekyn by and fullely remyttyt foreuermare.

79. Strike down. **a.** *trans.* To fell (a person or animal) to the ground with a blow.

1470–85 Malory *Arthur* vii. xxiii. 249 With his grete force he stroke doune that knyghte. *a* 1500 *Chevy Chase* 62 (Ashm. MS.), Many sterne the strocke done streght. 1593 Shaks. *Lucr.* 217 Or what fond begger, but to touch the crowne, Would with the scepter straight be stroken down? 1771 Smollett *Humph. Cl.* 4 July (1815) 221, I was so exasperated by the pain of my ear..that, in the first transport,

I struck him down. 1890 CONAN DOYLE *Firm of Girdlestone* xxi, Burt..struck him down with a life-preserver. 1892 *Temple Bar* Nov. 355 The Constitutionalists..saw the sword of a conqueror ready to strike them down.

fig. 1593 SHAKS. 2 *Hen. VI*, IV. ii. 28 Then is sin strucke downe like an Oxe. 1881 GARDINER & MULLINGER *Study Eng. Hist.* I. iv. 74 The hope of England seemed to be struck down with Earl Simon.

†**b.** To precipitate (dregs). *Obs. rare.*

1594 PLAT *Jewell-ho.* I. 79 Dissolue some Sal Armoniacke, in some good Aquafortis, whose fæces..haue beene first striken down with some fine siluer.

†**c.** *intr.* To fall (on the knees). *Obs. rare.*

1616 J. LANE *Contn. Sqr.'s T.* v. 332 Th' whole armie veild their pikes, soldiers and officers on knees down strikes, while hee rode vp and downe.

d. Of the sun: To send down its heat oppressively.

1907 J. H. PATTERSON *Man-Eaters of Tsavo* App. I. 321 The sun strikes down very fiercely towards midday.

80. Strike home. (See HOME *adv.* 4, 5.) *intr.* To make an effective stroke or thrust with a weapon or tool. Said also of a weapon or stroke.

1590 *Cobler Canterb.* 10 Because my wife is so idle and will not strike home [with a flail], I stand with my whip to whet hir on. 1598 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. iii. IV. *Captaines* 913 Courage (saith she) brave Souldiers,..Strike, & strike home, lay on with all your mights. *a* 1628 DABORNE *Poor-man's Comf.* III. (1655) E 2, Who strikes a Lion must be sure strike home. 1695 *Fletcher's Bonduca* III. i, Britains, Strike Home: Revenge your Country's Wrongs. 1822 CAMPBELL *Song of Greeks* 39 Strike home! and the world shall revere us As heroes descended from heroes. 1891 *Black & White Christm. No.* 20/2 The arrow struck home.

fig. 1604 MARSTON *Malcontent* IV. iii. F 3 b, For he that strikes a great man, let him strike home.

b. Of words, etc.: To tell powerfully; to produce a strong impression.

1694 F. BRAGGE *Disc. Parables* vii. 234 Go and do thou likewise. Which words struck home upon his conscience. 1879 DOWDEN *Southey* vi. 174 The title 'Satanic School' struck home. 1885 *Manch. Exam.* 5 June 5/4 Mr. Bartley's letter asking the Conservative leaders to define a policy appears to have struck home.

81. Strike in.

†**a.** *intr.* To join *with* (a person or party) as a co-worker, confederate, partisan, etc.; to fall in agreement *with* (an opinion, project, etc.). *Obs.*

a 1637 B. JONSON *Underwoods, Execr. Vulcan* 200 Would you had..Strooke in at Millan with the Cutlers there. 1668 DRYDEN *Dram. Poesie* 18 A Servant or Slave, who has so much wit to strike in with him, and help him to dupe his Father. 1699 BENTLEY *Phalaris* Introd. 22 A shifting Adversary, that to avoid a thing which presses him, will strike in with any opinion. 1710 HEARNE *Collect.* (O.H.S.) III. 36 Men that will strike in with all Governments purely for the sake of Preferment. *a* 1732 T. BOSTON *Crook in Lot* (1805) 117 Strike in with humbling providences, and fight not against them while ye have them. 1793 R. HALL *Apol. Freedom of Press* 78 Ministers of that description..will be disposed on all occasions to strike in with the current of the court.

†**b.** Of a thing: To fit in (*with*), agree (*with*).

1704 NORRIS *Ideal World* II. xii. 490 These expressions..strike in no less surprisingly..with this Ideal Hipothisis. 1712 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 415 P 6 Every thing that is Majestick imprints an Awfulness and Reverence on the Mind of the Beholder, and strikes in with the Natural Greatness of the Soul. 1714 R. FIDDES *Pract. Disc.* II. 9 Sin strikes early in with our tempers and inclinations.

†**c.** To enter a competition *for*. (Cf. *go in*, Go v. 81.) *Obs.*

1632 BROME *North. Lass* III. ii, If he be mad, I will not be foolish, but strike in for a share. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 18 June 1660, I propos'd the Ambassy of Constantinople for Mr. Henshaw, but my Lord Winchelsea struck in. 1711 SWIFT *Jrnl. to Stella* 12 Sept., He advises me to strike in for some preferment now I have friends.

d. Of an eruption, disease: To disappear from the surface or the extremities with internal effects. † Also *trans.* To drive (a disease, sweat) inwards.

1584 COGAN *Haven Health, Sickn. Oxf.* 280 If men did take cold outwardly, it stroke the sweate in, and immediately killed them. 1716 HEARNE *Collect.* (O.H.S.) V. 280 The small Pox..being struck in upon him by wet & Carelessness, after they were come out. 1767 BICKERSTAFFE *Love in the City* III. vii. (ed. 2) 60 *Miss M.* These are vapours, I was once troubled with them myself on the striking-in of a rash. 1858 O. W. HOLMES *Aut. Breakf.-t.* vi. (1891) 134 It is very bad to have thoughts and feelings, which were meant to come out in talk, *strike in*, as they say of some complaints which ought to show outwardly. 1887 A. BIRRELL *Obiter Dicta* Ser. II. 43 He lived on till Sunday..when the gout..struck in and he died.

e. To interpose actively in an affair, a contention, quarrel, etc.

a 1715 BURNET *Own Time* III. viii. (1900) II. 154 Upon this the English struck in again: and the King talked so high as if he would engage anew into the war. 1823 SCOTT *Quentin D.* vi, Lindesay—Guthrie—Tyrie, draw, and strike in! 1891 *Cornh. Mag.* Dec. 644, I can see the pennons of..many others who struck in against us for Charles of Blois. 1892 *Leisure Hour* June 525/1 Its editor has therefore been able to strike in in great problems..with an effect almost unexampled in journalism.

f. To interpose in a discussion or conversation with a remark, an expression of opinion, etc.

1791 BOSWELL *Johnson* (1904) I. 41 He..sat silent, till upon something which occurred in the course of conversation, he suddenly struck in and quoted Macrobius. 1823 SCOTT *Quentin D.* xxxiii, But ere he could proceed farther, Louis arose, and struck in with a tone of..dignity and authority. 1865 MEREDITH *R. Fleming* xlvi, 'Mark that', Sedgett struck in. 1892 *Temple Bar* Sept. 130 A hesitating voice ..strikes in with a timid remark.

g. To thrust in the scythe in mowing. Also *trans.*

1845 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* VI. II. 256 The mower has a cradle fixed to a scythe, and strikes in towards the standing corn. 1893 *Scribner's Mag.* Sept. 371 When will the reapers Strike in their sickles?

h. (See quot.)

1888 *Sci. American* 9 June 352/2 A dispatch from Newfoundland says that the caplin have 'struck in'. This means that the cod..has arrived on the banks.

82. Strike off.

a. *trans.* To cancel by or as by a stroke of a pen; to remove from a list or record. Also *fig.* † to cancel, remit (an obligation). *To strike off with a shilling* (Sc.) = cut off (see CUT *v.* 55 i).

Cf. *to strike* (a name etc.) *off* a register: see 13.

1597 HOOKER *Eccl. Pol.* v. lxxvi. § 10 To the end it might thereby appeare that we owe to the guides of our soules euen as much as our soules are worth, although the debt of our temporall blessings should bee stricken off. 1606 SHAKS. *Tr. & Cr.* III. iii. 29 Her presence Shall quite strike off all service I have done. 1662 *Ir. Act* 14 & 15 *Chas. II*, c. 2 § 59 You are to strike off and deduct all fractions of odd acres, roods and pearches. 1690 E. GEE *Jesuit's Mem.* 7 Striking off such Scandalous Writers out of the rank of Historian. 1732 POPE *Ep. Cobham* 160 Strike off his Pension. 1822 *Examiner* 628/1 Strike off nearly a third from the nine millions. 1848 ARNOULD *Mar. Insurance* I. 127 The loss is then said to be settled or 'struck off'. 1894 A. ROBERTSON *Nuggets* 98 If I thocht ye had ever been in a playhouse,.. I'd strike ye off wi' a shillin'.

b. To cut off with a stroke of a sword, axe, etc.

1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* XVII. 870 [He] on the hill besyde the toune Strake of his hede but ransoune. 1456 SIR G. HAYE *Law Arms* (S.T.S.) 110 Sanct Petir..strake of Malcus ere. 1583 MELBANCKE *Philotimus* Bb j b, The adders tayle, whiche being stricke of will skippe vp and downe. 1626 BACON *Sylva* § 400 An Emperor of Rome, did shoot a great Forked Arrow at an Estrich,..and strook off her head. 1839 LANE *Arab. Nts.* I. 96 The King gave orders to strike off his head. 1842 LOUDON *Suburban Hort.* 139 The branch should not be larger than 1½ in. in diameter.., otherwise it cannot be so readily struck off at one blow.

c. To produce (a picture, literary composition, etc.) quickly or impromptu; also to delineate exactly, 'hit off'.

1821 *Examiner* 235/2 A scene of unsophisticated..nature ..is struck off with an unusually bold and broad pencil. 1876 TREVELYAN *Macaulay* I. iii. 134 Striking off puns.. which followed each other in showers like sparks from flint. 1879 J. C. SHAIRP *Burns* v. 120 A burst of inspiration which came on him in the fall of 1790, and struck off at one heat the matchless *Tale of Tam o' Shanter*.

d. To mark off as enumerated.

1881 J. PAYN *From Exile* II. xxxiii. 251 She held up her plump little hand, and struck off the two items on her fingers.

e. *intr.* Of a peal of bells: To begin ringing.

a 1843 SOUTHEY *Comm.-pl. Bk.* (1851) IV. 391, 10*s.* 6*d.* to the ringers to ring one peal of grand bobs, which was to strike off while they were putting him into his grave.

f. To set off, contrast.

1884 G. GISSING *Unclassed* II. IV. i. 109 She exaggerated the refinement of her utterance that it might all the more strike off against the local twang.

83. Strike out.

a. *trans.* To cancel or erase by or as by a stroke of a pen; to remove from a record, text, list, etc.; also, † to erase, to rub or wipe out.

Cf. *to strike out of*: see 13.

1530 PALSGR. 740/1, I stryke out, or blotte out with a penne ..*joblittere*. 1535 J. MASON in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* Ser. II. II. 59 The ignorant preist..wolde not suffer the name of Satanas in the Masbook, butt strake itt owte and putt God in the place of itt. 1693 DRYDEN *Persius* I. Note 18(1697) 421 Floors ..were strew'd with Dust or Sand; in which the Numbers and Diagrams were made and drawn, which they might strike out again at Pleasure. 1830 A. DE MORGAN *Elem. Arith.* 48 Strike out as many figures from the right of the dividend as there are ciphers at the right of the divisor. 1853 *Congr. Globe* 15 Feb. 627/2 Its only effect will be to strike out the salary of the Superintendent. 1861 *Ibid.* 18 Feb. 947/2, I will read the words to be stricken out. 1892 *Law Times* XCIII. 414/2 The memorandum of association..should be altered by striking out certain paragraphs and substituting others therefor.

fig. 1863 *Baily's Mag.* Apr. 159 Sir Tatton had so repeatedly baulked the memoir men of the newspapers by his recoveries when he had been reported to be 'struck out'. 1883 *Ch. Times* 9 Nov. 813/2 Calvin did not strike out asceticism entirely from his system as Luther..did.

b. *Mining.* (See quot.)

1778 PRYCE *Min. Cornub.* Expl. Terms 329/1 When a Lode by any Flookan..[etc.] is interrupted or cut out, they say also, 'She is struck out,' or, She is lost.'

c. To produce or elicit as by a blow or stroke. Also *intr.* for *refl.*

1780 STEELE *Consc. Lovers* III. i, We must strike out some pretty Livelyhood for our selves, by closing their Affairs. 1741 RICHARDSON *Pamela* I. 143 He can't have thought of *every* thing! And something may strike out for me there. 1748 J. MASON *Elocution* 26 Every Word is emphatical, and on which ever Word you lay the Emphasis,..it strikes out a different Sense. 1779 J. MOORE *View Soc. Fr.* (1789) I. viii. 53 Difficulties and dangers often strike out particles of genius. 1874 BLACKIE *Self-Cult.* 11 The true magician's wand for striking out the most important results is induction.

d. To produce by a stroke of invention (a plan, scheme, fashion, etc.).

1735 LD. HARRINGTON *Let.* 9 Oct. in *10th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. I. 261 But might not a third way be struck out founded upon your Idea of Security for the Succession of Tuscany? 1821 *Examiner* 9/2 He..struck out a speculation in oil that in one year brought him an enormous sum. 1842 MIALL in *Nonconf.* II. 329 Plans hastily struck out by a little knot of individuals. 1859 LEVER *Dav. Dunn* lxxvi. 669 He'd strike out a new scheme, and say carelessly, 'Call the capital one million.' 1879 PATTISON *Milton* xiii. 170 Of this difference Wordsworth was conscious when he struck out the phrase, 'In his hand the thing became a trumpet.'

e. To represent in a working drawing or plan. Also, to sketch rapidly.

1678 MOXON *Mech. Exerc.* v. 82 So shall the bounds of your Mortess be struck out on the Quarter. 1753 F. PRICE *Brit. Carpenter* (ed. 3) 45 Which not only shews the use of the pitch-board, in striking out the string-board, the newels, and rails, but (etc.). 1860 RUSKIN *Mod. Paint.* V. IX. xi. 325 *note*, A hasty drawing throughout,..he has struck out the broken fence..with a few impetuous dashes of the hand. 1885 [HORNER] *Pattern Making* 28 For the working drawing we strike out a sectional view.

f. To open up, make for oneself (a path, course, line). Chiefly *fig.*

1712 HUGHES *Spect.* No. 554 P 3 He began to strike out new Tracks of Science. 1823 THOMASINA ROSS *Bouterwek's Hist. Sp. Lit.* I. 229 Herrera..evinced undaunted resolution in pursuing the new path which he had struck out for himself. 1881 GARDINER & MULLINGER *Study Eng. Hist.* I. iii. 49 Thought..had no tendency to strike out new and untrodden paths. 1884 *Graphic* 22 Nov. 554/1, I have struck out my own line, and made a reputation under another name. 1892 *Chamb. Jrnl.* 2 July 426/2, I tried to strike out a course in the world for myself.

g. *intr.* To go energetically.

1847 MARRYAT *Childr. New Forest* xi, He..struck out in the direction in which it [the pitfall] lay. 1890 CLARK RUSSELL *Ocean Trag.* II. xvii. 78 He struck out as though walking for a wager.

h. To hit violently, to lay about one (with the fists, a weapon, etc.).

1859 *Habits of Gd. Society* v. 191 Strike out, strike straight, strike suddenly; keep one arm to guard, and punish with the other. 1885 E. F. BYRNE *Entangled* III. II. xxi. 197 It was this..that prompted him to strike out murderously at her. 1891 D. RUSSELL *Secret of River* I. xi. 239 Striking out at the tall reeds by the river with his stick.

i. In various games. (See quots.)

1874 CHADWICK *Base Ball Man.* 56 When the batsman strikes at a fair ball three times, and fails to hit it, and the ball be caught, or it be sent to first base in time to put the player out, he 'strikes' out. 1897 *Encycl. Sport* I. 254/1 (Croquet) *Strike out*, to hit the winning post after passing through the hoops in order.

j. To draw out the scythe in mowing.

1840 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* I. IV. 444 In using the scythe.. the great art is to leave a short..ridge of stubble,..which is done by setting in and striking out, about five inches from the soil.

84. Strike through. *trans.* To cancel (writing) by drawing a line through it.

1898 *Encycl. Laws Eng.* VIII. 207 The initialling of the memorandum is struck through, and the loss is then 'struck off' or settled in account.

85. Strike together. **a.** *intr.* To come into collision. **b.** *trans.* To bring into collision.

a. 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 7355 Þe noyse salle be swa hydus bare, Omang devels and þase þat salle com þider, Ryght als heven and erth strake togyder. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xlii. (*Agatha*) 261 Þe erde steryt sa felloun[l]y, þat al þe cyte in til hy schuke & to-giddire strake.

b. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* v. lvii. (1495) 173 Yf the bones of lyons ben strongly stryken togyders, fyre shall.. come oute of theym. 1578 H. WOTTON *Courtlie Controv.* 155 As two flints striken togither disburse the fier hidden in their intrayles.

86. Strike under. *intr.* To give in. *Sc.*

c 1730 RAMSAY *Daft Bargain* 14 [He] lootna on till Rab strak under. 1812 P. FORBES *Poems* 79 (E. D. D.) To match wi' you I maunna fa', Sae I maun just strike under.

87. Strike up.

†**a.** *trans.* To break or burst open. *Sc. Obs.*

1467 in *Anc. Laws Burghs Scot.* (1910) II. 31 Nor that na gudis be schorne nor strikin vp in na wise into the maisteris defalt. 1529 *Extracts Burgh Rec. Edin.* (1871) II. 8 That na..man nor woman that bringis ony meill to this merket..stryk vp the samyne quhill ix houris befor none. 1541 *Ibid.* 109 With certificatioun to thame and thai failyie thairin thai will strik vp thair girnellis. 1579 *Ibid.* (1882) IV. 134 Thatt the merchandis gudes to be laid to thair schippis be weill and discreitlie handlit and nocht strykin vp without speciall consent of the merchand.

†**b.** To draw or pull up, raise (a curtain, the hose, sleeves, etc.). *Obs.*

a 1400–50 *Bk. Curtasye* 451 in *Babees Bk.* 313 He strykes hom [the curtains] vp with forket wande. 1530 PALSGR. 377 b, I stryke vp, as a man dothe his hosen, *Ie amonte*. *c* 1563 *Jack Juggler* (Roxb.) 13 Woll the horesoon fyght..See how he beginnith to strike vp his sleues.

c. (*a*) To begin to play or sing (a piece of music, a song); (*b*) *intr.* (or *absol.*) To begin playing or singing; (*c*) *intr.* Of music: To begin to be played. Cf. 29 c.

(*a*) 1562–75 *Gammer Gurton* Prol. 20 With a pot of good nale they stroake vp theyr plauditie. 1567 DRANT *Horace, Art of Poetry* A v, That when the Epilogue is done we may with franke intent, After the plaudite stryke vp our plausible assente. 1599 MARSTON *Antonio's Rev.* I. ii, I spent three spur roials on the fidlers for striking up a fresh hornepipe. 1789 *New Lond. Mag.* Nov. 560/2 The band struck up *God save the King*. 1856 MRS. STOWE *Dred* I. xxiii. 303 Come, father Bonnie, come forward, here, and strike up the hymn. 1890 F. BARRETT *Betw. Life & Death* II. xxvi. 157 The enthusiastic Greeks strike up a chant.

(*b*) 1549–62 STERNHOLD & H. *Ps.* lxxxi. 2 (1566) 202 Strike vp with harpe and lute so sweete. 1599 SHAKS. *Much Ado* v. iv. 130 Strike vp Pipers. 1769 G. WHITE *Selborne, To Pennant* 2 Jan., This bird..[begins] its song..so exactly, that I have known it strike up..just at the report of the

Portsmouth evening gun. 1824 *Examiner* 242/2 The band strikes up, the regiment presents arms. 1872 Earl of Pembroke & G. H. Kingsley *S. Sea Bubbles* i. 16 Roaming from choir to choir as each struck up in turn.

(c) 1829 *Examiner* 454/1 'The Rogue's march' presently struck up. 1885 'Mrs. Alexander' *At Bay* v, The waltz for which Glynn had been longing struck up.

d. To conclude, to make and ratify (an agreement, a treaty, bargain, etc.): = sense 70. In recent use slightly contemptuous.

1646 Earl Monm. tr. *Biondi's Civ. Warres* vi. 12 This match was agreed upon..and Monsieur de Dammartin was sent into England to strike it up with Edward. 1658 *Whole Duty Man* viii. § 10 Bargains being most conveniently to be struck up at such meetings. 1661 *P'cess Cloria* i. 75 And so the present bargain was struck up between them, which she thought commodious, in respect it procured her a reprieve. 1737 Waterland *Eucharist* 438 God struck up a Covenant with the People of the Hebrews. 1760–72 H. Brooke *Fool of Qual.* (1809) III. 120, I have just struck up a most advantageous bargain with our neighbour. 1885 *Manch. Exam.* 5 June 5/4 The Fourth Party is endeavouring to strike up an alliance with the Irish members. 1889 *Spectator* 14 Dec. 831 The reason being an alliance he had struck up with the Somalis.

e. To start, set afoot (a friendship, an acquaintance, a conversation, trade, etc. *with* another).

1711 Swift *Jrnl. to Stella* 4 May, We have struck up a mighty friendship. 1833 *Q. Rev.* L. 156 M. d'Haussez was ..unreasonable in expecting that Miss Scott should have struck up conversation with him. 1858 Trollope *Three Clerks* viii, Undy Scott had struck-up an acquaintance with Alaric Tudor. 1882 Stevenson *Fam. Studies* 48 We hear of his facility in striking up an acquaintance with women. 1891 B. Harte *First Fam. Tasajara* I. i. 22 In the mornin' you may be able to strike up a trade with somebody else.

†**f.** *intr.* To associate or ally oneself (*with* others). *Obs.*

1714 G. Lockhart *Mem. Scot.* (ed. 3) 383 Taking the Advantage of the Discords betwixt the Treasurer and the Whigs, [he] struck up with the latter. 1716 [Darrell] *Gentl. Instr.* (ed. 6) 491 He spurr'd to London...Here he struck up with Sharpers, Scourers, and Alsatians.

g. *To strike up the heels of*: to overthrow.

1599 Marston *Ant. & Mel.* I. Wks. 1856 I. 16 Now gustie flawes strook up the very heeles Of our maine mast. 1604 [? Chettle] *Wit of Woman* E 2 b, Stage-dir., He leades him a Lauolta, and strikes vp his heeles, and there leaues him. 1696 Vanbrugh *Relapse* iv. vi, I..strikes up his Heels, binds him Hand and Foot,..and commits him Prisoner to the Dog-kennel.

†**h.** To cause to spring up (heat, light). *Obs.*

1596 Shaks. 1 *Hen. IV*, i. iii. 239 Who strooke this heate vp after I was gone? 1620 I. C. *Two Merry Milk-maids* iv. iii. N 2, Your bloud moues slow and cold, and all the fire That strikes vp any heat, is in desire. 1625 Bacon *Ess., Of Building* (Arb.) 550 Let the Court not be paued, for that striketh vp a great Heat in Summer, and much Cold in Winter. 1627 H. Lesly *Serm.* 25 The Lord strickes vp new lights in the minde.

i. *intr.* To rise up quickly, dart or spring up.

† *To strike up into the head*: 'to fly to the head', intoxicate.

1711 Swift *Jrnl. to Stella* 30 Sept., Don't mind politics, young women..; they are not good after the waters;..they strike up into the head. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* II. iv. vii, The respected Travelling Party..will perhaps please to rest itself..till the dawn strike up [.] 1857 J. Hamilton *Less. fr. Gt. Biog.* (1859) 157 Just then a squall struck up. 1861 *Temple Bar* II. 261 An aromatic fragrance strikes up on my face from some passing boat. 1889 G. M. Fenn *Crown & Sceptre* v, The faint grey light..seemed to strike up from below.

j. *trans.* To pitch (a tent).

1755 Amory *Mem.* (1769) I. 155 We immediately landed, and the tents were struck up.

k. *U.S.* in *pass.* (*a*) To be bewildered. (*b*) To be fascinated *with* or 'gone' *on* (a person of the opposite sex).

1844 'Jonathan Slick' *High Life N. York* I. 116, I couldn't have helped it, I was so struck up in a heap at seeing her in sich a fix. *Ibid.* 152, I was so struck up with the room and the table that it was more than a minit afore I found out [etc.]. 1885 Howells *Silas Lapham* (1891) I. 49 Did..that young man..seem struck up on Irene? asked the Colonel.

l. (See quot.)

1875 Knight *Dict. Mech., Striking-up Press*..A press for striking-up or raising sheet-metal in making dishes, pots, pans, cups, etc.

m. To cause (the lettering of a coin) to stand out.

1883 P. Gardner *Types Gr. Coins* I. iii. 21 Sometimes the type is quite at the edge of the coin, sometimes it is confused and not fairly struck up.

X. 88. *Comb.* in phrases used as substantives or adjectives, as **strike-a-light**, a flint used for striking fire; **strike-anywhere** *a.*, that may be struck on any surface; **strike-fire** *slang*, gin; **strike-me-dead** (*Naut. slang*), small beer; **strike-or-silent** (see quot.).

1870 E. T. Stevens *Flint Chips* 588 Of the articles called '*strike-a-light' there is a small quantity annually exported to the East. 1870 *Spectator* 13 Aug. 976 Flakes..unfit for the manufacture of gun-flints are made into 'strike-a-lights,' for the use of the tinder-box. 1878 Southall *Epoch of Mammoth* xv. 272 M. de Mortillet..took the ground that ordinarily the flints found in Merovingian graves were either 'strike-a-lights' (pierres à feu) or amulettes. 1898 *Daily News* 4 June 7/2 Yellow phosphorus is absolutely necessary in the manufacture of '*strike anywhere' matches. 1725 G. Smith *Compl. Body Distill.* I. 49 Geneva hath..different names and titles..: as..Tittery, Collonia, *Strike-fire, &c. 1824 in *Spirit Publ. Jrnls.* (1825) 285 He had a taste for every species of fluid, from inferior '*strike me dead,' to the superlative grog. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.*, *Strike-or-silent* (*Horology*), a piece in a clock which sets the striking parts in or out of action [etc.].

Strike: see Stirk, Streak *sb.*, Streek *v.*

[**Strike**, error for *stike*, Stick *sb.*[2]

1674 Jeake *Arith.* (1696) 66. 1694 E. Chamberlayne *St. Eng.* III. ii. (ed. 18) 385. 1891 *Century Dict., Strike, n.* 18, same as Stick[3] 20.]

†**Strike-balk**, *v. Agric. Obs.* [Formation not clear: perh. orig. a phrase, Strike *v.* 16 + Balk *sb.* 3; but cf. Balk *v.*[1] 1.] See quot. 1736: = Rest-balk *v.* (Young's explanation is app. due to misapprehension).

1736 J. Lewis *I. of Tenet* (ed. 2) 39 *Strike-baulk*, to plough one Furrow, and leave another. 1784–1815 *Young's Annals Agric.* I. 308 (E. D. S.) Strike-balking. 1807 Rudge *Agric. Glouc.* (1813) 110 In the neighbourhood of Stow..it is the practice, in dry seasons, to plough one furrow and leave one; which is called 'risbalking', or 'strike balking'.

Strikeless, dial. f. Strickle *sb.*

Striked (strəikt), *ppl. a.* [f. Strike *v.* + -ed[1].] Of a bushel or other measure: Levelled with a strike or strickle: opposed to *heaped*.

1581 Lambarde *Eiren.* iv. iv. (1588) 435 If any such Purueior..haue taken corne by any other measure then by the striked bushel. 1674 Jeake *Arith.* (1696) 70 Meal in some places sold by Measure. In 1 Bushel 12 Gallons striked. 1725 *Bradley's Family Dict.* s. v. *Bushel*, Meal, Corn, and other Grain are now measured with strik'd Bushels, and without any Grain above the edges. 1844 H. Stephens *Bk. Farm* III. 980 The heaped measure of the summer will tell out in an equal number of bushels of striked measure in spring. 1894 R. S. Ferguson *Hist. Westmorld.* 137 Two old peck measures, one containing eight and the other ten striked quarts.

Striker (strəi·kəɹ). [f. Strike *v.* + -er[1].]

I. Designating a person.

†**1.** One who 'strikes' or roams as a vagrant. Cf. G. *landstreicher* vagrant. *Obs.*

1393 Langl. *P. Pl. C.* x. 159 Lolleres lyuyng in sleuthe and ouer-londe strykers. *c* 1410 *Lanterne of Lizt* 54 Strong staff-beggers & strikars ouere þe lond.

†**b.** A footpad. *Obs.*

1596 Shaks. 1 *Hen. IV*, II. i. 82, I am ioyned with no Foot-land-Rakers, no Long-staffe six-penny strikers. 1611 *Second Maiden's Tragedy* 960 (Malone Soc.) One that robbes the mynde twenty tymes worse then any hywaie striker.

2. A person (or animal) that strikes (in various senses of the vb.). **a.** *gen.*

1581 Sidney *Apol. Poetrie* (Arb.) 50 Musick,..the most diuine striker of the sences. 1596 Dalrymple tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* I. 123 Quhen Nout [cattle] fechtis togither ane be strukne to deid, na man knaweng the stryker, the beist that is hommil amang thame Judge giltie of the slachtir. *c* 1516 in Sprott *Scott. Liturgies Jas. VI* (1901) 18 That so blessing the hand of Thee the Striker, Thou that humblest, may in Thy own appointed time raise again. 1686 Blome *Gentl. Recr.* II. 278/2 It is a Maxim [in Cock-fighting], That he that is a close sitter, is ever a narrow striker. 1742 Jarvis *and Pt. Quix.* II. x. II. 146 Don Quixote, seeing Sancho so evil intreated, made at the striker with his launce. 1810 Bentham *Packing* (1821) 198 'Two Juries' were struck: and 'in striking them, the official striker' was, 'to a certain extent'..influenced by this principle. 1876 Emerson *Lett. & Soc. Aims* vii. 178 Against which no blow can be struck but it recoils on the striker. 1890 Henty *Lee in Virginia* 30 Before the whip could again fall..Vincent.. wrested it from the hands of the striker.

b. One addicted to striking; one who is ready to resort to blows. *nonce-use.*

1582 N. T. (Rhem.) *Tit.* i. 7 A Bishop must be..not giuen to wine, no striker [so 1611 and 1881; Wycl. *smiter*, other versions *fighter*; Vulg. *percussorem*, Gr. πλήκτην].

†**c.** *Sc.* One who coins (money). *Obs.*

1449 *Sc. Acts Jas. II* (1814) II. 37/1 All falss strikaris of gold & siluer & of falss grotis & pennys. 1451 *Ibid.* 40/2 Al þe yrnis of þe kingis strikaris bathe of gold & siluer. 1678 Sir G. Mackenzie *Crim. Laws Scot.* II. xii. § ii. (1699) 207 They should apprehend..the strikers of false Coyn.

†**d.** In indecent sense. Hence, a fornicator.

1593 *Passionate Morrice* in *Tell-trothes N. Y. Gift*, etc. (1876) 80 He cannot see a wench out-start the bounds of modestie, but straight he hollowes the sight of a striker, thinking it vnpossible that if shee want maidenly behauiour, shee can haue womanly honestie. 1596 Nashe *Saffron-Walden* T 1, In some Countreys no woman is so honorable as she that hath to doo with most men, and can giue the lustiest striker oddes by 25. times in one night. 1638 Glapthorne *Lady Mother* iv. i. in Bullen *Old Pl.* II. 169 These are immodest devills that make modest ladyes become strickers. 1665 Nedham *Med. Medicinæ* 64 Which should be sad News to all the Strikers of both Sexes.

†**e.** A horse given to kicking. *Obs.*—○

1693 *Ling. Rom. Dict., Eng.-Lat.*, A striker or striking horse, *calcitro*.

f. *Coursing.* A dog trained to 'strike' the hare.

1861 H. Kingsley *Ravenshoe* xiii, Ruin is the quickest striker we have ever bred.

3. In certain industries.

a. A maker or moulder of bricks or tiles.

1585 Tyle-stricker [see Tile *sb.*[1] 6]. 1610 in *Engl. Hist. Rev.* (1898) XIII. 524 A Brick Striker. 1703 *Art's Improv.* I. 4 A Molder or Striker of Bricks with his Attendants, can strike about 9000 of Bricks in a Day.

b. One who 'strikes' fish with a spear or harpoon (also †*striker-out*). Also *U.S.* (see quot. 1891).

1697 Dampier *Voy.* I. 39 We..kept our Moskito-men, or strikers out, who brought aboard some half-grown Tortoise. 1764 C. Biddle *Autob.* (1883) 16 We touched at the Mosquito Shore, and hired one of the Indians they call a striker, that is, a man to supply the crew with fish, turtle [etc.]. 1827 O. W. Roberts *Voy. Centr. Amer.* 47 The natives are excellent hunters and strikers of fish. 1891 *Century Dict., Striker*, In the menhaden-fishery (*a*) The man who manages the striker-boat. (*b*) A green hand who works at low wages while learning the business, but is one of the crew of a vessel.

c. *Mining.* (See quot.)

1824 Mander *Derbysh. Miner's Gloss.* 70 *Striker*, the man who lands the Kibble or Corf of Ore, &c. at the Shaft-top.

d. In metal-working, the assistant operator who wields the heavy sledge-hammer.

1831 J. Holland *Manuf. Metal* I. 140 By two hammermen, a maker and a striker, they [the bars for rolled spades] are drawn out on the anvil. 1886 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 15 July 6/2 A blacksmith uses what influence he possesses over his striker, a bricklayer uses his over his labourer. 1887 Hall Caine *Deemster* xxx. 195 The smith was hooping a cart-wheel, and his striker set down his sledge and tied up his leather apron to look on and listen.

e. One who 'strikes' corn, etc. off a measure.

1867 Simmonds *Dict. Trade* Suppl., *Striker*,..the man whose business it is to strike off the superfluous quantity from the top of a measure.

4. In various games: The player who is to 'strike'; *occas.* the player who has made a stroke. Also *striker-out* in *Tennis*, etc. the one who plays the ball when first served.

1699 E. Sh—cy *Country Gentl. Vade M.* 55 (Tennis) Squire A. is a good Striker-out, but Squire B. is a better Back-hand. 1744 J. Love *Cricket* (1770) 5 Stiff Spectators quite inactive stand, Speechless, attending to the Striker's Hand. 1773 in *Waghorn's Cricket Scores* (1899) 95 Simmons standing so near the strikers, greatly intimidated the Hampshire gentlemen. 1866 'Capt. Crawley' *Billiard Bk.* iii. 18 In making your stroke, an instantaneous glance will be sufficient—a glance that rises from the Striker's ball to the Object-ball. 1874 Chadwick *Base Ball Man.* 52 The striker at the bat is called the batsman or 'striker' until he has hit a fair ball. 1884 *Y. Marshall's Tennis Cuts* 14 The Server may not take a bisque after a fault; but the Striker-out may do so.

5. A workman who is 'on strike'.

1850 *Athenæum* 7 Dec. 1282/3 A vast change must have come over the factory population ere a man possessing mill-property could dream of letting it out to strikers. 1865 in *Docum. Hist. Amer. Industr. Soc.* (1910) IX. 101 These two congresses might adopt the same rule respecting strikers, runaway apprentices, and trades' unions.

6. *U.S.* **a.** *Polit. slang.* One who seeks to effect a strike. Cf. Strike *sb.* 13 and *v.* 75 e.

1883 *Nation* (N. Y.) 6 Sept. 200/1 If he can elect such a ticket,..he will take the field after election as a 'striker', and will offer his electoral votes to whichever candidate will give the highest 'terms'. 1884 *American* VIII. 99 Bracketing together the political 'strikers and heelers' with the commercial respectables.

b. *Mil.* An officer's batman or servant.

1867 Custer in Mrs. Custer *Tenting on Plains* (1888) 529 (Thornton) The Dutchman and Englishmen and the rest of the strikers. *Note*, Striker was the name of a soldier servant.

c. A hired ruffian.

1859 Bartlett *Dict. Amer.* (ed. 2) 457 *Striker*, a bruiser; a ruffian. *a* 1872 *Country Merchant* 317 (Schele de Vere) He was one of the most accomplished strikers, or barkers, as they are called, in the employ of the hells.

II. A thing that strikes or is used for striking.

7. *gen.*

1644 Digby *Nat. Bodies* xii. (1645) 124 The missives..must be so heavy that the aire may not break their course; and yet so light, that they may be within the command of the stroke which giveth them motion; the striker must be dense, and in its best velocity. 1901 Alldridge *Sherbro* xxvi. 289 To these again are attached little rings, and as the hands work the strikers, these jingling irons make a pleasant tinkling sound. 1911 E. Beveridge *N. Uist* x. 325 Although the writer was able to obtain an ornamented steel 'striker'—for use with a flint..—the tinder-box seems quite unknown.

†**8.** A farrier's instrument (see quot.). *Obs.* (Cf. Strike *v.* 33 d.)

1688 Holme *Armoury* III. 324/2 A Blooding stick or Striker..is a heavy piece of Wood, wherewith the Fleme is smitten or driven into the Horse Neck Vein, when he is Blooded.

9. a. = Strickle *sb.* 1 *a.* **b.** Strickle *sb.* 1 b.

a. 1714 Budgell tr. *Theophrastus* xi. 38 He has a Measure of a particular make for the use of his Domesticks, which he piles up very high, and is so dextrous at the management of it that with one sweep of the Striker he brushes off half their Dinner. 1828 Carr *Craven Gloss.*

b. 1693 Moxon *Mech. Exerc.* 248 A Striker..is only a piece of Lath..with which they strike, or cut off the Morter at the britches of the Tiles. 1764 Croker, etc. *Dict. Arts* s.v. *Bricks*, The striker, or tool with which the moulder strikes off the superfluous earth in making bricks. 1842 Gwilt *Encycl. Archit.* § 1908 The *striker*, a piece of lath about 10 inches long, for separating and taking away the superfluous mortar at the feet of the tiles.

10. A clock or watch that strikes. (Chiefly with qualifying adj.)

1778 Barrington in *Archæologia* V. 426 Some of the watches used at this time seem to have been strikers. 1864 G. Musgrave *Ten Days Fr. Parsonage* I. viii. 229 A large cased eight-day clock, the loudest striker I ever heard. 1869 Mrs. H. Wood *Roland Yorke* Prol. i, The clock of the old grey church struck twelve. A loud striker at all times, it sounded strangely so in the stillness of the night.

†**11.** A harpoon. (Simmonds *Dict. Trade* 1858.)

12. A steam-hammer designed as a substitute for the blacksmith's 'striker' (see 3 d).

1869 C. Knight *Mechanician* 91 Striker is a name given ..to substitutes and supersedes of hammermen, such as air-hammers and steam-hammers, whether vertical or horizontal. 1895 Knight *Dict. Mech.*

13. The piece of mechanism in a gun, fuze, etc. which explodes the charge.

1824 Col. Hawker *Instr. Young Sportsm.* (ed. 3) 74 The cock, or striker, should cover the nipple with a deep concave head. 1856 'Stonehenge' *Brit. Sports* I. I. viii. 70/2 The striker explodes this tube, just as the flint set fire to the powder in the pan of the old flint-gun. 1882 J. H. Walsh *Sportsman's Gun & Rifle* I. 263 Strikers. This necessary part of the hammerless gun is either of one piece with the tumbler,..or jointed to it,..or entirely detached.

14. That part of a bell, clock, etc. which strikes.

1872 Ellacombe *Ch. Bells Devon* Suppl. i. 196 The clapper or striker [of a bell]. 1897 *Westm. Gaz.* 29 Apr. 10/2 The striker [of the clock] was prevented from working.

15. The automatic regulator of the striking of the pens of a ruling machine.

1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2001/2 s.v. *Ruling-machine.* 1888 Jacobi *Printers' Voc., Striker,* the apparatus attached to a machine for 'striking on', or putting it in motion. 1909 *Daily Chron.* 26 June 8/5 Machine Ruler wanted for double striker.

16. A hardened mould upon which a softened steel block is struck to receive a concave impression.

1843 Holtzapffel *Turning* I. 232 A solid mould, core or striker, exactly a copy of the work to be produced, is made. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.*

17. A preparation for 'striking' or fixing a dye; a mordant.

1884 *Health Exhib. Catal.* 38 The colour is then made fast with what is known as a 'striker', a chemical preparation suited to the colour.

III. 18. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *striker hand, -machine* (sense 15); **striker-boat** *U.S.*, in menhaden fishing = Drive-*boat*; **striker-plate** = *striking plate* (see Striking *vbl. sb.* 3).

1884 Knight *Dict. Mech.* Suppl., Striker Plate. 1898 *Daily Chron.* 24 Sept. 10/6 Machine Ruler..wanted..; must be used to striker machines. 1902 *Ibid.* 28 Oct. 10/7 Machine Ruler.—Good striker hand.

Striking (strəi·kiŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. Strike *v.* + -ing 1.]

1. The action of Strike *v.*, in various senses.

c 1400 *Laud Troy Bk.* 7389 Of his scheld a ful quartere He carff a-wey at that strikyng. 1485 *Naval Acc. Hen. VII* (1896) 22 His wages vj^{s} viij^{d} workyng about the said Ship..preparyng the strikyng of her mast. 1578 *Charters etc. Peebles* (1872) 341 The counsale ordanis Robert Thomsone..to vse the stryking of the swische nychtlie to the wauche. 1592 Shaks. *Ven. & Ad.* 250 Strucke dead at first, what needs a second striking? 1631 B. Jonson *New Inn* I. iii, It should not come, me thinkes, Vnder your cap, this veine of salt, and sharpnesse! These strikings vpon learning, now and then! 1668 Dryden *Dram. Poesie* 43 [Jonson] has allow'd a very inconsiderable time, after Catiline's Speech, for the striking of the battle, and the return of Petreius, who is to relate the event of it to the Senate. 1820 T. Hodgson *Ess. Stereotype Printing* 104 Herhan applied this machine to the striking of his types. 1874 A. J. Ellis *Early Eng. Pronunc.* IV. xi. 1329 An *r* made by a striking of the tongue against the teeth, gums, or roof of the mouth. 1897 *Encycl. Sport* I. 264/2 (Curling) *Striking,* hitting with a stone another placed on the tee with sufficient force to drive it out of the circle.

b. with *adverbs.*

1530 Palsgr. 277/2 Strykyng agayne, *repercussion.* Strykyng togyder, *collision.* 1582 T. Watson *Centurie of Love* To Rdr., *Virgill* in expressing the striking downe of an oxe, letteth the end of his hexameter fall withall. 1619 Abp. Abbot in Rushw. *Hist. Collect.* (1659) I. 12 Our striking-in will comfort the Bohemians. 1721 Mortimer *Husb.* (ed. 5) I. 388 The Price for plowing of Land with us is four Shillings an Acre, for each striking of it over, two Shillings an Acre. 1865 Dickens *Mut. Fr.* II. i, 'I don't like that', said Bradley Headstone. His pupil was a little surprised by this striking-in with so sudden..an objection.

† **c.** An assault. *Obs.*

1541 *Act* 33 *Hen. VIII*, c. 12 § 1 Murders, manslaughters and other malicious strikinges..commytted within the lymittes of the Kinges palace.

d. *Building, Carpentry,* etc. (See quot. 1842.)

1735 J. Price *Stone Br. Thames* 8 To facilitate the striking of the Centers to each Arch. 1842 Gwilt *Archit.* Gloss., *Striking,* a term used to denote the draught of lines on the surface of a body;..also..the drawing of lines on the face of a piece of stuff for mortises, and cutting the shoulders of tenons..[Also]..the act of running a moulding with a plane. The striking of a centre is the removal of the timber framing upon which an arch is built, after its completion. 1898 *Daily News* 17 May 2/6 The striking of the centering round the north light was the cause of the accident.

2. † **a.** ? A paralytic stroke, paralysis. *Obs.*

1599 A. M. tr. *Gabelhouer's Bk. Physic* 26/2 Water of Mayflowers for the strickinge. *Ibid.,* An excellente..Confectione, for the strikinge of the hande of God.

b. A disease in calves; also *blood-striking* [= G. *blutschlag*].

1776 *Compl. Grazier* (ed. 4) 21 To prevent Stricking of Calves. 1861 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* XXII. I. 145 Blood-striking, or quarter-ill, is hardly known. 1887 *Field* 19 Feb. 260/1 Quarter-ill or Striking.

3. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *striking force*; in designations of mechanism concerned in producing the striking of a clock, as *striking barrel, part, -pin, train, -weight, -wheel, -work*; in names of tools or appliances used for striking (in various senses), as *striking-bar, -board, -hammer, staff, wedge.* Also **striking-box**, the metal box on a door-jamb which receives the end of the bolt of the lock when the door is locked; **striking distance**, the distance within which it is possible to strike a blow; *Electr.* (see quot. 1893); **striking-earth** *Agric.*, soil for roots to strike in; **striking gear**, in a saw-mill (see quot.); **striking-house** (*a*) *Mining* (see quot.); (*b*) *Agric.* a house in which seeds, etc. are placed to 'strike', before they are planted out; **striking-iron**, a kind of harpoon; **striking knife**, † (*a*) a heavy knife for kitchen use; (*b*) *Leather-manuf.*, a triangular steel knife for scraping hides (Knight *Dict. Mech.* 1875); (*c*) *Carpentry*, a knife for marking or scribing (cf. sense 1 d); **striking-line**, a harpoon line; **striking magnet** *Electr.* (see quot.); **striking-plate**, the metal plate against which the end of a spring-lock bolt strikes, when the door or lid is being closed; **striking-plough** (see quot. 1805); **striking-reed** *Mus.*, a percussion reed (Stainer & Barrett); **striking-ring** *Billiards*, the D or half-circle in which a player whose ball is in hand must place it to make a stroke; **striking-tache** *Sugar manuf.* (see Tache *sb.*^{3} 1).

1850 Denison *Clock & Watch-m.* 131 A pin in the *striking barrel. 1885 [Horner] *Pattern Making* 68 The first *striking board, C, notched to correspond to the semi-diameter of the flange, minus half the diameter of the *striking bar, D,..will be swept over this surface. 1896 A. Morrison *Child Jago* xxxiii. 308 Josh..forced the *striking-box of the lock off its screws. 1767 B. Franklin *Of Lightning* etc. Wks. 1840 V. 415 The distance at which a body charged with this fluid will discharge itself suddenly, striking through the air into another body that is not..so highly charged, is different according to the quantity [etc.]. ..This distance, whatever it happens to be between any two bodies, is called their *striking distance, as, till they come within that distance of each other, no stroke will be made. 1804 T. Jefferson *Writ.* (1830) IV. 20 While fortune then places us within striking distance, let us avail ourselves of it. 1870 *Daily News* 20 Dec., The north-westward movement of Chanzy brought him within striking distance of the German Corps at Chartres. 1893 Sloane *Electr. Dict.* 496 *Striking distance,* the distance that separates two conductors charged with electricity of different potential, when a spark starts between them. 1863 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* XXIV. I. 224 It may then be laid about 2 feet deep, and 6 inches of loose *striking-earth spread upon it. 1881 Greener *Gun* 180 The various calculations respecting the *striking force of rifles. 1883 M. P. Bale *Saw-mills* 336 **Striking gear,* known also as belt gear, is an arrangement of levers for stopping or starting machinery by throwing the driving belt off or on the driving pulley. 1865 H. Kingsley *Hillyars & Burtons* v, My father stepped across to the [blacksmith's] shop for a trifle of a *striking hammer, weight eighteen pounds. 1824 Mander *Derbysh. Miner's Gloss.* 70 **Striking-house,* a sheltered place where the Striker stands, either at the top or middle length of an engine. 1863 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* XXIV. I. 221 In order to test the goodness of some yellow globe-seed,..I had ordered some to be..raised in a striking-house. 1817 *Q. Rev.* Oct. 217 Harpoons and *striking-irons. 1578 *Knaresb. Wills* (Surtees) I. 133 In the kitching..one *striking knyfe, one flesh axe. 1901 J. Black *Carp. & Build., Home Handicr.* 15 In place of a pencil many prefer to mark the stuff across with a 'striking knife' (fig. 4) and try square. 1827 O. W. Roberts *Voy. Centr. Amer.* 57 The fishing Indians of the coast..use them as *striking lines for securing turtle, &c. 1897 *Outing* XXIX. 470/1 The striking-line ordinarily used on the coast is three-sixteenths, medium-laid, white cotton line. 1898 Sloane *Electr. Dict.* (ed. 2) 622 **Striking magnet* (*a*) An electro-magnet used in an arc lamp to separate the carbons..so as to form or 'strike' the arc. (*b*) An electro-magnet used to ring a bell, by having a hammer attached to its armature. 1675 J. S[mith] *Horol. Dial.* I. ii. 10 *Striking part. 1825 J. Nicholson *Oper. Mech.* 497 The striking part of this clock. 1696 W. Derham *Artific. Clock-m.* ii. 34 The Pin-wheel is 78, the *Striking-pins are 13. 1837 Hebert *Engin. & Mech. Encycl.* II. 108 The patentees cause this part [*sc.* the bolt] to drop into a notch in the *striking plate after it has been elevated by passing over an inclined plane upon it. 1856 G. Price *Fire & Thief-proof Depositories* etc. 811 Spring locks are those in which the bolt locks itself out by coming in contact with the striking-plate. 1805 R. W. Dickson *Pract. Agric.* I. 470 In some parts of Kent..an implement is often employed which they term a **striking plough*, by which little drills or channels are formed in the ground for the reception of the seed, about ten inches distant from each other. 1875 A. J. Ellis *Helmholtz' Sensat. Tone* App. 712 The harshness of the *striking reed is obviated in the English method of voicing. 1814 C. Jones *Hoyle's Games Impr.* 378 [Billiards.] In stringing, the striker must place his ball within the *striking ring. 1697 Dampier *Voy.* I. 35 His *striking staff..is about 8 foot long, almost as big as a mans Arm, at the great end, in which there is a hole to place his Harpoon in. 1830 G. R. Porter *Sugar Cane* vii. 83 The cane liquor..is transferred to the third boiler, and so on to the last,..which is called the *striking teache. 1884 F. J. Britten *Watch & Clockm.* 249 Connection is made between the *striking train and the *striking work by the gathering pallet. 1834–6 Barlow in *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) VIII. 95/1 This acting upon the surface of the *striking wedges equal to 540 square feet gives a pressure of 140 pounds per square inch. 1844 *Civil Engin. & Arch. Jrnl.* VII. 246/2 The striking-wedges were of seasoned oak, well greased. 1845 G. Dodd *Brit. Manuf.* IV. 189 In the Limehouse clock the going-weight is about sixty pounds, whereas the *striking-weight is a mass of iron weighing five hundred pounds. 1704 J. Harris *Lex. Techn.* I, **Striking-Wheel*, in a Clock, is that which by some is called the *Pin-wheel.*

Striking (strəi·kiŋ), *ppl. a.* [f. Strike *v.*^{1} + -ing 2.] That strikes.

1. *gen.*

c 1611 Chapman *Iliad* xv. 654 Not a shaft, nor farre-off striking dart, Was vsde through all. 1676 Mace *Musicks Mon.* 109 When you would perform This Grace, it is but to strike your Letter,..with one of your Fingers, and immediately clap on your next striking Finger, upon the String which you struck. 1875 A. J. Ellis tr. *Helmholtz' Sensat. Tone* I. v. 144 Formerly, striking vibrators or reeds were employed, which on each oscillation struck against their frame.

† **b.** Of a horse: Addicted to kicking. *Obs.*

1661 Lovell *Hist. Anim. & Min.* 257 The decoction helps striking Horses.

2. Of a clock or watch: **a.** Constructed so as to be capable of striking.

[1611 Florio, *Horologio,* any kind of clock, horologe, or striking-houre instrument.] 1625 in Rymer *Fœdera* XVIII. 238/1 A high Salte of Goulde..with a striking Clocke in the Cover. 1659 Torriano, *Horologiografia,* a description of striking-clocks or horologes. 1665 Hooke *Microgr.* 134, I have heard of a striking Watch so small, that it serv'd for a Pendant in a Ladies ear. 1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib., Brit.* II. No. 3316, Eight-day turret striking clock, with four faces. 1873 Nelthropp *Watch-work* 87 A striking watch, by Marwick, of London. A.D. 1680.

b. That is in the act of striking.

1732 Fielding *Covent-Gard. Trag.* II. vii, Twice and once I've told the striking Clock's increasing Sound, And yet unkind Stormandra stays away. 1905 R. Bagot *Passport* xi. 100 At length, however, a striking clock had roused Monsieur d'Antin.

3. That strikes the attention of an observer; producing a vivid impression on the mind; telling, impressive, unusually remarkable.

Prob. imitated from the similar use of F. *frappant.*

1752 Sir H. Beaumont *Crito* 7 Tho' Colour be the lowest of all the constituent Parts of Beauty, yet is it vulgarly the most striking, and the most observed. 1755 Johnson, *Striking,* affecting, surprising. 1759 — *Rasselas* x, Or whether,..the first writers took possession of the most striking objects for description. 1765 *Museum Rust.* IV. 99 This gentleman..has written the following very striking passage. 1788 *New Lond. Mag.* Mar. 142 Account of Mr. Alderman Bell. Embellished with a striking Likeness. 1818 Scott *Rob Roy* xix, The principal street was..of an architecture rather striking than correct in point of taste. 1820 *Q. Mus. Mag.* II. 19 The Fugata itself forms a striking contrast with the succeeding movement by Leal and Rego. 1858 J. Blackwood in Mrs. G. Porter *Ann. Publishing Ho.* (1898) III. 47 The story is a very striking one, and I cannot recollect anything at all of the same kind. 1859 Jephson *Brittany* viii. 114 The dress of the peasants is striking. *Comb.* 1855 D. Costello *Stories fr. Screen* 116 Alfred Washball was one of the most striking-looking..members of the profession. 1894 Conan Doyle *Mem. Sherlock Holmes* 218 She was a striking-looking woman.

4. *Naut.* Of a mast: Capable of being struck or lowered.

1677 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1192/4 The *Dolphin* of *Ostend*,..a striking Top-mast, a square Stern, and an open Vessel. 1861 Smiles *Engineers* II. 270 Coasters and even colliers, with striking masts, might then be able to navigate the whole extent of the City westward.

5. Of a workman, etc.: That is on strike.

1894 *Westm. Gaz.* 11 June 3/2 Presently some men come in, with..the badge of the striking cabby..pinned on their coats. 1898 Hamblen *Gen. Manager's Story* xiv. 229 No striking employee would be allowed to trespass on the company's property during the continuance of the strike.

Hence **Stri·kingness.**

1818 Todd. 1839 *Fraser's Mag.* XX. 701 If strikingness of character be at all an object worth attending to. 1889 *Spectator* 28 Dec., Oratorical power, be it eloquence, as with Mr. Gladstone, or strikingness of phrase, as with Lord Beaconsfield.

Strikingly (strəi·kiŋli), *adv.*^{1} [f. Striking *ppl. a.* + -ly 2.] In a striking manner or degree.

1752 W. Dodd *Beauties Shaks.* (1757) I. 114 Caliban's Exultation..has something in it very strikingly in Character. 1817 Malthus *Popul.* III. 166 The reasonings of the foregoing chapter have been strikingly confirmed by the events of the last two or three years. 1854 Grace Greenwood *Haps & Mishaps* 129 The scenery of Ayr is not grand, surely, nor strikingly picturesque; but [etc.]. 1888 W. J. Sollas in *Challenger Rep.* XXV. 212 The canal system presents a strikingly open appearance.

Strikle, obs. variant of Strickle.

† **Strim-stram.** *Obs.* [Echoic; cf. Strum-strum, and *strim-strum* (in *Eng. Dial. Dict.*).] A rude stringed instrument of the guitar kind.

c 1730 Ramsay *Gentleman in Country* 82 Your strim-strams and your jingling bells. 1771–2 *Ess. fr. Batchel.* (1773) I. 55 The nerves of the one, like the strings of a fiddle, vibrate on the slightest touch; whilst the other's, like the cords of a Strim-stram, scarce bend under the rough hand of a porter.

Strincate, ? earlier form of Trinket *sb.*^{1}

1489 *Extracts Aberd. Reg.* (1844) I. 45 His tresour, strincates, and artalzery.

Strinc(k)le: see Strinkle *sb.* and *v.*

† **Strind** 1. *Obs.* In later use only *Sc.* Forms: 1 (3i)strýnd, 3 strund, strend, 5–6 strynd(e, 3–6 strind, 7, 9 strine, 9 stryne, streind. See also Strand *sb.*^{3} [OE. (Anglian) *strýnd* fem., also *gestréond, gistrýnd,* f. (*ge*)*strienan* to produce, beget: see Strene *v.* Cf. Strain *sb.*^{1}]

1. Generation, descent, lineage; a race, breed, stock; offspring, progeny; = Strain *sb.*^{1} 4–7.

c 900 *Bæda's Hist.* v. vii. (1890) 406 Se wæs eac of ðære cynelican strynde [L. *de stirpe regia*]. *c* 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Matt. xix. 28 Sittes gie ofer seatla tuelf doemende twoelf strynda israeles. *c* 1000 *Rit. Dunelm.* (Surtees) 29 *Progeniem,* soð gistrynd. *c* 1205 Lay. 2736 Swiðe riche cnihten of Troinisce cunne þa weoren in Lumbardie of heore strund. *a* 1225 *Juliana* 55 Wel bi semeð þe..to beo streon of a swuch strunde. *a* 1300 *E. E. Psalter* ix. 27 [x. 6] Fra strend in strende [L. *a generatione in generationem*]. *c* 1425 Wyntoun *Orig. Cron.* I. vii. 332 In Egipt..Giandis grew, and of þat strynd Come Anachym. 1513 Douglas *Æneis*

vi. x. 47 Heir was the noble kyn and ancyant strynd, The maist dochty lynage sprang be kynd Fra king Teucer. 1570 *Sat. Poems Reform.* xxiv. 13 Degenerat Stewartis of ane Hieland strynde. 1603 *Proph. of Merlin* (Bannatyne Club) 12 That commed are of strodlings strynd.

2. An inherited quality or disposition; individual nature or character; = STRAIN *sb.*[1] 8.

1508 DUNBAR *Flyting* 55 Thy trechour tung hes tane ane heland strynd. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* VIII. viii. 129 Ne war that of the blude of this ilk land Admixit standis he, taikand sum strynd, Apone his moderis syd, of Sabyn kynd. *a* 1568 A. SCOTT *Poems* (S. T. S.) iii. 5 For, knew 3e wemenis natur, course, and strynd, 3e wald nocht be so trew to thair vntrewth. 1710 RUDDIMAN *Gloss. Douglas' Æneis* s.v., The word *strynd* or *strain* is Metaphorically used for the resemblance of the features of the body, or of the dispositions of the mind. As we say, He has a strynd or strain of his Grand-Father, i. e. resembles him. [Jam. 1808 adds: It is also said, He takes a streind of such an one.] *a* 1807 J. SKINNER *Amusem. Leis. Hours* (1809) 95 And do 't he will, I ken his stryne, As far 's he can.

3. (In form *strine.*) = STRAIN *sb.*[1] 3.

a 1667 SKINNER *Etymol.*, A cocks *Stride*, vel, ut melius in agro Linc. efferunt, a cocks *Strine*, Aristot. χάλασις seu Grandines. 1886 *S. W. Linc. Gloss.*, *Strine.*

† Strind [2]. *Obs.* Forms: 3 **strunde**, 4–5 **strynde**, 5 **strind**, (9 *dial.* **strine**). See also STRAND *sb.*[2] [Early ME. *stründe.*

The word has the appearance of a ppl. derivative from the root of STREAM *sb.*; but it is found in no other Teut. lang.]

A stream, rivulet.

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 188 Þe blodi streames [*v.rr.* strundes, strunden] urnen adun. *a* 1240 *Ureisun* in *O. E. Hom.* I. 187 Þe strunden þe striken adun of þine deorwurþe fet. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* C. 311 Þy stryuande stremez of stryndes so mony. *c* 1400 *Sc. Trojan War* I. 263 The stryndes in dyuerse places were Rynnand throw gravaile quhyt & clene. *c* 1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 6675 It takes name of a watir strynde, Þe whilk þat tyme was calde lynde. 1456 SIR G. HAY *Bk. Knighthood* Wks. (S.T.S.) II. 6 A faire well of water..quhilk in divers stryndis past throu the herber till othir gardynis. 1456 [see SINK-HOLE [1]]. [1841 HARTSHORNE *Salop. Ant. Gloss.*, *Strine*, a ditch. 1879 MISS JACKSON *Shropsh. Word-bk.*, *Strine*, a water-channel.]

† Strind [3]. *Obs.*—[1] (Sense obscure; ? corrupt.)

c 1250 *Owl & Night.* 242 (Cott. MS.) By daie þu art stare-blind þat þu ne siehst ne boȝ ne strind [*secunda manu* ne bov ne rind; *Jesus MS.* bouh of lynd].

† Strind [4]. *Obs.*—[1] In 6 strynde. [? related to STRAIN *sb.*[3] or STRAND *sb.*[4]] A streak, vein.

1523–34 FITZHERB. *Husb.* § 55 If he [a sheep] be ruddy, and haue reed stryndes [*c* 1545 stringes] in the white of the eye, than he is sounde; and if the eye be white, lyke talowe, and the stryndes darke-coloured, thanne he is rotten.

† Strindle. *Obs.* In 6 stryndle. Corrupt form of TRINDLE.

c 1500 *Durham Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 251 Repar. le stryndle et muri lapidei molendini.

String (strin), *sb.* Forms: 1–6 **streng**, (*pl.* 3 **strengen**, **-us**, 3–6 **strenges**), 4 **streing**, **strenge**, 4–6 **strynge**, 4–7 **stringe**, 5–6 **stryng**, 5– **string**. [OE. *streng* masc. = MLG. *strenk*, *strenge*, MDu. *strenghe*, *stringhe* (mod.Du. *streng* fem.), ON. *streng-r* masc. (Da. *streng*, Sw. *sträng*):—OTeut. type **strangi-z*; another declensional form is found in MLG. *strank*, *strange* masc., OHG. *stranc* masc. (MHG. *stranc*, *strange* masc., fem., mod.G. *strang* masc.):—OTeut. type **strangō-z*, f. **strang-*:—pre-Teut. **stroŋk-*: **strenk-*.

The pre-Teut. root **strenk-* appears not to be known in this form, but a parallel form **streng-* is represented by Irish (and Sc. Gaelic) *sreang* cord, string, M. Irish *srincne* navel-string, Gr. στραγγάλη halter, L. *stringĕre* to bind, draw tight. Connexion with STRONG *a.* is doubtful.]

I. A line, cord, thread.

1. A line for binding or attaching anything; normally one composed of twisted threads of spun vegetable fibre.

† a. In early use sometimes a rope or cord of any thickness (applied, e.g. to a cable, a rope forming part of the rigging of a ship, a bell-rope, etc.). In 16–18th c. applied jocularly to the hangman's rope. *Obs.*

The expression 'to go to heaven in a string' (to be hanged) referred originally to the Jesuits who were hanged in the reign of Elizabeth.

a 900 ÆLFRED *Blooms* in Cockayne *Shrine* (1864) 175 Þeah þæt scyp si ute on ðære sæ..hyt byþ ȝesund..ȝyf se streng [*cf.* ancerstreng *above*] abolaþ.. *a* 1000 *Andreas* 374 Streamas styredon, strengas gurron. *c* 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 8649 Octa had don, in stede of streng, Aboute his nekke a chayne heng,..& seide, Sire kyng! Mercy! 1506 in T. North *Bells Lincs.* (1882) 506 Item payd for a stryng to the Sants bell, *ob.* 1542 UDALL *Erasm. Apoph.* 71 b, βρόχος is in latin *laqueus*, in englyshe an halter or a streng. *c* 1560 *Interl. John Evang.* (facs.) C 2 b, If he do here thy exclamacyon He wyll make the to stye. *Actio.* Not in a strynge I trowe. 1588 *Wills & Invent. Durham* (Surtees) II. 330, vj yockes, girded, 4 s. ij cowpe waines, with stringes, 8s. 8d. 1592 GREENE *2nd Pt. Conny-catching* B 2 b, The quest went vpon him and condemned him, and so the priggar went to heauen in a string. *a* 1625 FLETCHER *Bloody Brother* III. ii, Three merry boyes are we, As ever did sing in a hempen string, under the gallow-tree. *a* 1708 T. WARD *England's Reform.* II. (1710) 47 Then may he boldly take his Swing, And go to Heaven in a String. *c* 1793 BURNS *Epist. Esopus* 10 Where tiny thieves not destin'd yet to swing, Beat hemp for others, riper for the string. 1840 BARHAM *Ingol. Leg.* Ser. I. *Execution*, To see a man swing At the end of a string, With his head in a noose.

¶ Literal rendering of Vulg. *funiculus* (a mistranslation; see the mod. Eng. Bibles).

a 1300 *E. E. Psalter* civ. (cv.) 11, I sal give þe þe land of Chanaan, Stringe of þine heritage on-an. *Ibid.* cxxxviii. (cxxxix.) 3 Mi stie and mi stringe in-stepped þou nou. *a* 1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* xv[i]. 6 Strengis fel til me in fulbryght.

b. Chiefly applied, and gradually restricted, to a line of smaller thickness than that connoted by *rope.* In modern use: A thin cord or stout thread.

1154 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1137, Me dide cnotted strenges abuton here hæued. *c* 1200 *Vices & Virtues* 45 Þat ure ropes ne to-breken, þe bieð ibroiden mid þrie strænges. *c* 1290 *St. Edmund* 167 in *S. Eng. Leg.* 436 Heo [*sc.* a hair shirt] nas i-sponne ne i-weoue ake i-broide strengus longue. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 9353 Þe streng brac & he [*sc.* the pyx] vel adoun suche signe nas noȝt god. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 480/1 Stryngе, *cordula*, *instita*, *funiculus*. 1631 H. C[ROOKE] *Expl. Instrum. Chirurg.* 15 But the Seton or string which is in the wound must be gently drawne to and againe. 1726 SWIFT *Gulliver* III. ii, Like the scraps of paper fastened by school-boys at the end of the string that holds their kite. 1908 [MISS E. FOWLER] *Betw. Trent & Ancholme* 82 A string, pretty strong, with loop for the hand.

c. In generalized sense, as a material: Thin cord or stout thread used for tying parcels and the like: = TWINE *sb.*[1] 1.

1827 FARADAY *Chem. Manip.* 1. (1842) 21 Matches, string, and bladder are necessary. 1859 DICKENS *T. Two Cities* II. xxi, Lo, Miss Pross, in harness of string, awakening the echoes, as an unruly charger, whip-corrected. 1892 GREENER *Breech-loader* 77 It is best to balance the gun on thin string.

d. † A cord used as a whip-lash (*obs.*). Also *U.S.* 'A common name among teamsters for a whip' (Bartlett).

c 1000 *Ags. Gosp.* John ii. 15 And he worhte swipan of strengon. 1576 GASCOIGNE *Philomene* Wks. 1910 II. 181 She bare a skourge, with many a knottie string. 1579 GOSSON *Sch. Abuse* (Arb.) 28 Musick replyes, that Melanippides, ..and such fantasticall heades, haue..with manye stringes, geuen her so many woundes that [etc.]. 1839 MRS. KIRKLAND *New Home* I, 12 Until by unwearied chirruping and some judicious touches of 'the string' the horses are induced to struggle as for their lives.

e. A cord used as a snare, *rare.*

c 1325 *Gloss. W. de Bibbesw.* in Wright *Voc.* 166 Un oysel ke est dist becaz Près du rivere est pris en laz [*glossed* streing]. *a* 1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* cxxxix. [cxl.] 6 And strengis [Vulg. *funes*] þai strekid in snare. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* III. vi. i, We walk in a world of Plots; strings universally spread, of deadly gins and fall-traps.

f. A cord for leading or dragging along a person or an animal; a leading-string, a leash. Also in figurative phrases (especially common in 17–18th c.), esp. *to lead in a string*, *to have in* (or *on*) *a string* = to have under control, to be able to do what one likes with.

a 1300 *Deb. Body & Soul* in *Map's Poems* (Camden) 339 An hundred develes..with stringes him drowen, unthanc his, Til he kome to that lodli lowe, ther helle was. 1583 MELBANCKE *Philotimus* I j, Those that walke as they will, ..perswading themselues that they haue the worlde in a string, are like the ruffian Capaney, who [etc.]. 1590 NASHE *1st Pt. Pasquils Apol.* C 4 b, He perceiueth not in all this, that I haue his leg in a string still. 1616 R. C. *Times' Whistle* vi. 2383 The country parson may, as in a string, Lead the whole parish vnto anything. 1681 H. MORE *Exp. Dan.* 162 He [Alex. the Great] had the world in a string, as our English Proverbial Phrase is. 1682 *Wit & Drollery* 77 My Dog in a String doth lead me,..For to the Blind, All Men are kind. 1697 VANBRUGH *Relapse* II. i, By this means a Lady may..lead Twenty Fools about in a String, for two or three Years together. 1706 E. WARD *Wooden World Diss.* (1708) 36 He's the Captain's humble Pig in a String. 1748 RICHARDSON *Clarissa* VII. 324 They govern me as a child in strings. 1791 COWPER *Let. to W. Bagot* 26 Feb., He either suffered prejudice to lead him in a string whithersoever it would, or [etc.]. 1823 'JON. BEE' *Dict. Turf* 167 'Got him in a string,' is when a man is made to believe one thing, several others follow as matter of course. 1894 F. BARRETT *Justif. Lebrun* viii. 66 When they believed they had the world on a string. 1897 MARY KINGSLEY *W. Africa* 352 He..took me down the Woermann Road..as it were on a string. 1901 *Westm. Gaz.* 18 Sept. 8/2 Mr. H. said he was not a candidate on a string; he had his own convictions.

g. A thread on which beads, pearls, etc. are strung. (See 12.)

1612 DONNE *Progr. Soul, 2nd Anniv.* 208 And as these starres were but so many beads Strung on one string. 1676 STILLINGFL. *Def. Disc. Idol. Ch. Rome* I. i. § 13. 119 They..say their prayers exactly with their Beads, of which they have 180 on a string. 1830 SCOTT *Monast.* Introd., As the string of a necklace links the beads, which are otherwise detached. 1867 MORRIS *Jason* XVII. 1170 Nor on one string are all life's jewels strung.

† h. A fishing-line. *Obs.*

1585 T. WASHINGTON tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* I. xvi. 17 b, Eeles..haue so sharpe teeth, that there cannot be a string so good, but they will bite it asunder. 1615 E. S. *Brit. Buss* in Arber *Eng. Garner* III. 642 Strings, for each man, six..Every string must be fifty fathom long.

i. A cord for actuating a puppet. Also *fig.*, esp. in *to pull the strings*, to control the course of affairs, to be the concealed operator in what is ostensibly done by another.

1860–70 STUBBS *Lect. Europ. Hist.* I. i. (1904) 11 A king who pulled the strings of government so exclusively himself. 1868 BRIGHT *Sp. Irel.* 1 Apr. I. 426 Persons..who pull the strings of the Catholic world in the city of Rome. *c* 1880 *Our Own Country* II. 257 Some men..who pulled the strings that influenced the mob. 1888 BRYCE *Amer. Commw.* lx. II. 421 The same men continuing to serve year after year, because they hold the strings in their hands.

j. A bell-pull (? *obs.*); a check-string.

1748 RICHARDSON *Clarissa* VI. 66 He pulled the string... The coachman stopp'd. 1825 T. HOOK *Sayings* Ser. II. *Passion & Princ.* vi, The door [of his bedroom was] without a lock, and the bell without a string.

k. Each of the rudder-lines of a boat.

1852 R. B. MANSFIELD *Log Water Lily* 43 Coxswain could only lay down in the boat, and pull whichever string he was directed.

l. *Weaving.* (See quot.)

1891 *Labour Commission* Gloss., *String in length*, Is three yards three inches of warp. It is a method of measurement of work in the weaving trade to be paid by the piece at so much per string.

m. Figurative phrases. † *To draw by one string*: to be in accord, 'pull together'. † *To hang* (*together*) *on* or *in a string*: (of persons) to be united in purpose; (of things) to be closely connected. *At one's string's end* (dial.): see quot. 1854.

1558 W. FORREST *Grysilde Seconde* (Roxb.) 159 Of thy noble Counselours the truthe to saye, Neauer hathe beene seene to drawe by one strynge More stedfastely sure then nowe at this daye. 1679 *Hist. Jetzer* 23 The Bishop being able to get nothing out of them who all hung together on a string, commanded them however to proceed no further in so slippery a business. 1697 in Perry *Hist. Coll. Amer. Col. Ch.* I. 47 *By.* That is another subject. *C.* But it hangs all in a string. 1802–12 BENTHAM *Ration. Judic. Evid.* (1827) II. 153 A judge, not nominated, and employed by either party, would certainly not..hold himself warranted in going out of his string to act the part of Daniel. 1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss.* s. v., 'He's got to his string's end,' meaning he's either got to the end of his purse or the end of his story.

2. *transf.* A natural string or cord.

a. In an animal body: A ligament, tendon, nerve, etc.; an elongated muscle or muscular fibre; the frænum of the tongue. Cf. EYESTRING, HEART-STRINGS.

Exc. in *string of the tongue*, the sense is now *rare.* The word is occas. applied to a tough piece of fibre in meat or the like. (Cf. STRINGY *a.* 1.)

c 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* III. 102 Ceorf þane streng under þara tunga. *c* 1340 *Nominale* (Skeat) 32 *Dentz foreynz lange et filet* Forteth tunge and strynge. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* v. xxiii. (Bodl. MS.), Þe instrumentes of þe voice..beþ longen, strenges [L. *arteriæ*; cf. ARTERY 1], þe þrote [etc.]. 1525 tr. *Brunswyke's Handywork Surg.* lxxiv. P iv, Seldom is broken the bone of the calfe, for it is an harde bone, and is defendyd with the strynges & synewes. 1526 TINDALE *Mark* vii. 35 The stringe off hys tounge was loosed [so later versions]. 1541 R. COPLAND *Guydon's Quest. Chirurg.* D j, Of what nature are the cordes? Answere. The strynges ben almoste as all of one nature..but yet the cordes more than the strynges. For lyke as the strynges be meane amonge the cordes and the bones, so be the cordes meane amonge ye strynges & the synewes. 1577 B. GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* IV. 159 b, You must in no wise shake them [*sc.* eggs]..leste you breake the stringes of lyfe [L. *vitales fibras*] that are but newely begun. 1585 HIGINS *Junius' Nomencl.* 21/2 *Ligamentum*,..the ligatures or strings of ye bones. 1614 W. B. *Philos. Banquet* (ed. 2) 3 The braine, and Strings thervnto offitiall. 1621 LODGE *Summary Du Bartas* I. 280 The Tendons, proceeding from the Muskles,..which the Physicions..haue called Synderique Nerues or Strings. 1686 BLOME *Gentl. Recreat.* II. 61 Instead of cutting off the Stern [of a young Spaniel], it is better to twist it off...And if thus pulled off, there is a sting that comes out with it which doth hinder their madness. *a* 1722 LISLE *Husb.* (1757) 315 Whilst he draws the stones with his teeth, he has his two hands at liberty to hold back the strings of the stones that they are not drawn away; for the strings run up into the loins and backbone. 1757 W. THOMPSON *R. N. Adv.* 20 The Flesh..will be nothing better than the Strings or Husk of Flesh. 1842 T. WEBSTER *Encycl. Dom. Econ.* § 4839. 860 In young mutton, the fat readily separates; in old, it is held together by strings of skin. 1890 COUES *Ornith.* 329 These threads..are called *chalazæ*; they are the 'strings', rather unpleasantly evident in a soft-boiled egg.

† *fig.* *c* 1440 *Gesta Rom.* (1878) 235 She was hiliche greuid in alle the strenges of hir herte. 1592 LYLY *Gallathea* III. i. 57 My wanton eyes which conceiued the picture of his face, and hangd it on the verie strings of my hart. 1606 SHAKS. *Ant. & Cl.* III. xi. 57 Egypt, thou knew'st too well, My heart was to thy Rudder tyed by' th' strings.

b. in certain fishes. ? *Obs.*

1611 COTGR., *Cordé*, Corded,..also, out of season; (a Metaphor from Lampreyes, which being out of season, haue a hard string in their backes). 1668 WILKINS *Real Char.* 140 Lamprey..considerable for having..Two pair of finns; either that which is the biggest of this tribe, having two very long strings from the upper jaw, and four shorter from the lower jaw [etc.]. 1675 V. ALSOP *Anti-Sozzo* iii. § 2. 155 A vein of his old threadbare Fallacy discovers it self, which I now perceive (like the poysonous string in the Lamprey,) he resolves shall run through his whole Discourse. 1725 SLOANE *Jamaica* II. 289 The Old-Wife..There is no Prickles in this Fish's Fins only long Strings.

c. In plants: A cord, thread, or fibre; a 'vein' of a leaf; the tough piece connecting the two halves of a pod (in beans, etc.); a root-filament.

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XVII. i. (Bodl. MS.) In euerich rote manye maner knottes and stringes. 1573 BARET *Alv.* S. 866 To pull of the small stringes of rootes, *fibras radicum euellere*, Cic. 1585 HIGINS *Junius' Nomencl.* 113/1 *Nervus*,..the nerue, sinew or string of a leafe, as in plantaine. 1657 COLES *Adam in Eden* CXXXIII, The Roots [of Avens] consist of many brownish strings, or Fibres, smelling somewhat like unto Cloves. 1707 MORTIMER *Husb.* 239 If you will pull it [*sc.* Broom] up you are apt to leave strings behind, the least of which will grow. 1733 TULL *Horse-Hoeing Husb.* XXIII. 379 It may be objected, that the fore-part of these hinder Sheats might not be oblique enough to raise up the Strings of Roots or Stubble, which might come across them in their Way. 1842 LOUDON *Suburban Hort.* 672 They [*sc.* cardoons] are then to be carefully deprived of the slime and strings which will be found to cover them. 1880 BESSEY *Bot.* 16 There may almost always be seen in plant-cells bands

or strings of protóplasm which lie in or between the vacuoles. 1884 *Implement & Mach. Rev.* 1 Dec. 671o/2 A rate of production equal to 47,000 strings of rhea per day. 1904 *Nature* 18 Aug. 392/2 The vascular strings of the sugar-cane.

fig. 1605 BACON *Adv. Learn.* II. xx. § 6 The Enquirye concerning the Rootes of Good and euill, and the strings of those Rootes. 1685 BUNYAN *Seventh-day Sabbath* v. 118 Luther..had yet work hard enough to get his Conscience clear from all those roots and strings of inbred errour.

d. A tendril (of hops, vine, pea); a runner (of the strawberry, the potato). ? Now *dial.*

1585 HIGINS *Junius' Nomencl.* 146/1 *Capreolus*,..the strings that wind about and fasten the vine to the perches or polles: they be called tendrilles. 1675 EVELYN *Fr. Gard.* 255 When your Strawberries shoot their strings, you must castrate them. 1707 MORTIMER *Husb.* 131 If the Haum and Strings of the Hops be burnt every year. *a* 1722 LISLE *Husb.* (1757) 105 Peas..never thrive well till they can take hands with one another, that is, by their strings. 1805 R. W. DICKSON *Pract. Agric.* II. 622 After the potatoe plants have begun to throw out their wires or strings.

3. A cord or line (composed of vegetable fibre, gut, or fine wire) adapted to produce a musical sound when stretched and caused to vibrate.

a 1000 *Ags. Ps.* (Th.) cxliii. 10 Mid tyn strengum getogen hearpe. *c* 1000 *Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 311/16 *Fidis*, streng. *a* 1300 *E. E. Psalter* xxxii. 2 In harpe and sautre Of ten stringes to him sing yhe. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XII. ii. (1495) A-iiij b, Strenges made of wulfes guttes..corumpyth strenges made of shepes guttes yf..they be serue amonge theym as in lute or in harpe. 1471 CAXTON *Recuyell* (Sommer) 256 The strenges of the harpe. 1585 HIGINS *Junius' Nomencl.* 351/2 *Hypate*,..a basse or base string: that string that maketh the base sound. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* VII. 598 All sounds on Fret by String or Golden Wire Temper'd soft Tunings. 1748 HUME *Eng. Hum. Und.* VII. ii, We say ..that the vibration of this string is the cause of this particular sound. 1811 BUSBY *Dict. Mus., String*, any wire, or preparation of sheep or catgut, used in musical instruments. 1825 T. HOOK *Sayings* Ser. II. *Passion & Princ.* viii. III. 110 The sweet tones of a harp, whose strings were swept with a master's hand, sounded through the adjoining saloon. 1879 STAINER *Music of Bible* 74 The most primitive material used for strings was, probably, twisted grass; next in time, the guts of animals; lastly, wire or silk. 1898 'H. S. MERRIMAN' *Roden's Corner* vii. 73 Cornish remembered that he had been specially told to get a new bass string for the banjo.

b. *fig.* and in fig. context. Cf. CHORD *sb.*[1] 2 b.

To harp on one (the same, etc.) *string*: see HARP *v.* † *To stretch a string*: see STRETCH *v.* 19.

1583 H. HOWARD *Defensative* Ej, We read..of a certaine ..custome among the false prophets..to meete together:.. at which times, I doubt not, but they tuned euery string with such a cunning wrest, as none could trippe them in theyr tale. 1636 MASSINGER *Gt. Duke Flor.* II. iii, Ever touching Upon that string? 1638 R. BAKER tr. *Balzac's Lett.* (vol. II.) 14 You touch the right string of my inclination, when you pray me to praise..that Prince. 1655 LD. NORWICH in *Nicholas Papers* (Camden) III. 217 But why touch I this string agayne? 1705 COLLIER *Ess. Mor. Subj.* III. *Pain* 19 This is scruing up the Strings too high in all Conscience. 1718 POPE *Let. to Jervas* 12 Dec., But I must own, when you talk of Building and Planting, you touch my String. 1741 RICHARDSON *Pamela* (1824) I. 278 The dear man makes me spring to his arms, whenever he touches this string. 1748 THOMSON *Cast. Indol.* I. xxxi, But how shall I attempt such arduous string? 1789 MME. D'ARBLAY *Diary* 6 Jan., No sooner did the King touch upon that dangerous string, the History of Music, than all else was forgotten! 1852 DICKENS *Bleak Ho.* XXXVII, I asked Mr. Vholes if he would like to live altogether in the country? 'There, miss,' said he, 'you touch me on a tender string.' 1854 *Poultry Chron.* II. 320 What, another song to the old tune,—another play on the old string.

c. *Pl.* Stringed instruments; now only, such as are played with a bow. Also, in mod. use, the players on stringed instruments (in an orchestra or band). Cf. the attrib. use in 31 a.

a 1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* cl. 4 Louys him in strenges & orgyns [1535 *Coverdale* vpon the strynges; Vulg. *in chordis*]. 1820 *Q. Mus. Mag.* II. 414 The peculiar appropriateness of wind instruments to that element [water], and their decided preference over strings. 1880 *Academy* 24 Dec. 467/1 Herr Joachim introduced last season his sextet for strings. 1884 *Girl's Own Paper* Nov. 20/1 By the 'strings' of an orchestra, we are always to understand merely such instruments as are played with a bow. 1887 *Daily Tel.* 14 Mar. (Cassell), With the orchestra little fault could be found beyond the weakness of the strings.

4. A bowstring; †a cord similarly used in a catapult, etc.

Beowulf 3117 Þonne stræla storm strengum gebæded scoc ofer scild-weall. *c* 1205 LAY. 1454 He leadde an his honde enne bowe stronge & he þene streng up braid. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Sompn. T.* 359 He took his bowe in honde And vp the streng he pulled to his ere. 1420 in *York Memor. Bk.* II. (Surtees) 123 Et quod lez strynges pro arcubus, qui inventi erunt defectivi, sint forisfacti. 1523-34 FITZHERB. *Husb.* § 142 Bowe, arrowes, swords, bukler, horne, leisshe, gloues, stringe, and thy bracer. 1535 COVERDALE *Ps.* XX[I]. 12 With thy stringes thou shalt make ready thine arowes agaynst the faces off them. 1609 HOLLAND *Amm. Marcell.* XV. x. 50 As if they were bolts and darts discharged violently from the writhed and wrested strings of a brake or such like engine. 1611 BIBLE *Ps.* xi. 2 They make ready their arrow vpon the string. 1795 COLERIDGE *Lines in Manner of Spenser* 30 When twang'd an arrow from Love's mystic string. 1849 LYTTON *K. Arthur* II. xcix, He did but pause, with more effect to wing The stone that chance thus fitted to his string. 1870 BRYANT *Iliad* IV. 149 On the string He laid that fatal arrow.

b. In fig. phrase, *To have two* (*many*, etc.) *strings to one's bow*: to have two (etc.) alternative resources.

1524 WOLSEY in *St. Papers Hen. VIII*, IV. 103 Ne totally to grounde you upon the said Quenes doinges, but to have 2 stringes to your bowe, specially whan the oone is wrought with a womans fingers. 1546 J. HEYWOOD *Prov.* I. xi. (1867) 30 Ye haue many stryngis to the bowe. 1579, 1678, 1812 (see Bow *sb.*[1] 4 c). [1644 R. BAILLIE *Lett. & Jrnls.* (Bannatyne Club) II. 262 Allaster M'Donnell wes the smallest string in his bow.] 1877 SPURGEON *Serm.* XXIII. 113 She had three strings to her bow.

c. Hence *second string*, a second resource available if the first should fail.

1643 *Plain English* 28 It would be a good second string in case the Parliament should..miscarry. 1911 MARETT *Anthropol.* iv. 113 They found them a people of hunters and fishers, it is true, but with agriculture as a second string.

d. *Sporting.* Said of a racehorse. Also of an athlete (see quot. 1897). Hence occas. without prefixed ordinal.

1863 *Baily's Mag.* Mar. 102 Still Jennings has a very dangerous 'second string' in Valentine. 1884 *Sat. Rev.* 12 Apr. 469/1 La Touche..had won the [mile] race at Cambridge in about 4 min. 27 sec...while the Oxford first string, Pratt, had occupied nearly 13 sec. more in covering the ground. 1893 *Daily News* 22 Apr. 5/3 He ran a dead heat with the other Oxford string for first place in the One Hundred Yards Race. 1897 *Encycl. Sport* I. 62/2 (Athletics) *Strings*..(2) 'First,' 'second,' and 'third' strings are the first, second, and third men chosen to represent a club in any event.

† **5.** *transf.* in *Geom.* = CHORD *sb.*[1] 4. *Obs. rare.*

1594 BLUNDEVIL *Exerc., Arith.* (1597) 48 b, *Sinus Rectus* is the one halfe of a Chord or string of any Arke which is double to the Arke that is giuen or supposed. 1695 ALINGHAM *Geom. Epit.* 51 Many other useful Practises mecanicks perform by this Theo. as the finding the length of strings.

6. A piece of cord, tape, ribbon, etc. (often used in pairs) for tying up or fastening some portion of dress, for securing a hat or bonnet by being tied under the chin, for binding the hair, for closing a bag or purse.

13.. *K. Alis.* 208 (Laud MS.) Her ȝelewe her was faire atired Mid riche strenges of golde wyred. 1564 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* I. 308, lxxxxvi stringis to hattis of diverse cullouris. 1588-9 *Shuttleworths' Acc.* (Chetham Soc.) 50 For mottlaye to bea cloke bagge and for stringes to the same, vij*d*. 1604 SHAKS. *Oth.* I. i. 3 Thou..who hast had my purse, As if y[e] strings were thine. 1674 in *Jrnl. Friends Hist. Soc.* (1914) 30 Beare slypt out the runing string of his drawers and tyed it about his necke. 1737 in *Sixth Rep. Dep. Kpr. Rec.* App. II. 120 A new invented Hoop Petticoat, with..strings for contracting the compass of a Petticoat from four yards in circumference to two yards. 1829 SCOTT *Anne of G.* XXVII, Our purses, my Lord Duke, are our own—we will not put the strings of them into your Highness's hands, unless [etc.]. 1838 DICKENS *Nich. Nick.* XVII, Kate's..duties being limited to holding articles of costume until Miss Knag was ready to try them on, and now and then tying a string, or fastening a hook-and-eye. 1848 — *Dombey* XI, The Doctor was a portly gentleman in a suit of black, with strings at his knees, and stockings below them. 1878 HARDY *Ret. Native* V. iii, Her little hands quivered so violently as she held them to her chin to fasten her bonnet that she could not tie the strings. 1885 'MRS. ALEXANDER' *At Bay* V, She wore just such a velvet string as this through the lace of her dress.

† **b.** In *plural*, the short cords, ribbons, or leather straps, formerly often attached (in pairs) to the edges of book-covers, to be tied in order to keep the book closed. *Obs.* (now usually called *ties*).

1583 in *Dee's Diary* (Camden) 71 [A book] In paste-bords, with strings. 1585 DANIEL tr. *P. Jovius' Disc. Imprese* C v b, A Booke of accomptes, with leather stringes and buckles. 1641 MILTON *Reform.* I. 39 Many of those that pretend to be great Rabbies in these studies have scarce saluted them from the strings, and the titlepage. 1646 CRASHAW *Steps to Temple, On Mr. G. Herbert's Bk.* 5 When your hands untie these strings, Think yo' have an Angell by the wings. 1663 WOOD *Life* (O.H.S.) I. 470 Both which [books] for strings and covers cost me 1*s.* 7*d*.

7. A cord or ribbon worn as a decoration; the ribbon of a knightly order. ? *Obs.*

1660 F. BROOKE tr. *Le Blanc's Trav.* 60 These Bramins..wear next to their flesh certain strings, the badge of their order. 1700 PRIOR *Carmen Sec.* 386 Round Ormond's Knee Thou ty'st the Mystic String, That makes the Knight Companion to the King. 1733 SWIFT *On Poetry* 468 When on thy Breast and Sides Herculean, He fixt the Star and String Cerulean. 1753 FOOTE *Englishm. Paris* I. Wks. 1799 I. 34 Belike they had been sent to Bridewell, hadn't a great gentleman in a blue string come by and releas'd them. 1814 BYRON *Ode to Napoleon* xviii, The gewgaws thou wert fond to wear, The star, the string, the crest.

† **8.** *Anglo-Irish.* ? A stretched cord for laying out the boundaries of land: in phrase *by lot and string*. Hence, a document recording allotments of land. *Obs.*

1658 in T. A. Larcom *Down Surv.* (1851) 246, 9thly. Your petitioners desire that the County of Kildare may be set out unto them by lott and string. 1666 in Prendergast *Cromw. Settlem.* (1870) 199 *note*, The claymants produce a string whereby the lands were sett out..Mr. Petty swears that the paper signed was the original..that these strings had as much force as injunctions—that they took possession under them.

† **9.** **a.** The cord or chain wound on the barrel of a watch. **b.** A chain or a cord for carrying a watch.

1646 SUCKLING *Aglaura* II. i, Like the string of a Watch Wound up too high. 1675 J. S[MITH] *Horolog. Dial.* II. i. 38 You must first wind it [a watch] up rightly;..not too hastily, least you force the stop, and break the string. *a* 1676 HALE *Prim. Orig. Man.* IV. iv. (1677) 324 If I should see a curious Watch,..and should observe the exact disposition of the Spring, the String, the Wheels, the Ballance, the Index, [etc.]. 1680 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1499/4 A silver Watch with a String. 1701 *Ibid.* No. 3692/4 Lost..a Watch with a double Case..., a Green and Silver String with 2 Seals.

† **10.** = SLING *sb.*[2] 3 c. *Obs.*

1718 F. HUTCHINSON *Ess. Witchcraft* VII. 104 After him Blew brought his Arm in a String.

† **11.** = SCROLL *sb.* 3 b. *Obs.*

1797 MRS. BERKELEY *Poems of G. M. Berkeley* Pref. p. ccclxviii, Mr. Berkeley's [motto]..'*Vivat post funera virtus*'; which he engraved in the strings of his crest.

II. A number of objects strung on a thread; hence, a series, succession.

12. A thread or file with a number of objects strung upon it; a number (of beads, pearls, etc.) strung on a thread; a 'rope' of onions (ROPE *sb.*[1] 6); a number of herrings or other fish strung on a thread passed through the gills. Also, a number of things (e.g. sausages) linked together in a line.

1488-92 *Acc. Ld. High Treas, Scot.* I. 84 Ane string of grete perle contenand fyfti and a perle, and stringis of small perle. 1578 *Invent. R. Sc. Wardr.* (1815) 263 A string of cornellingis sett in gold. 1620 SHELTON *and Pt. Quix.* I. 335, I haue sent you..a string of Corall Beads. 1687 A. LOVELL tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* I. 124 These Pouseragues are Wheels, with a Rope hanging round them like a string of Beads without an end. 1732 EARL OF OXFORD in *Portland Papers* (Hist. MSS. Comm.) VI. 153 We had herrings for dinner caught that very morning, and was the first string they had this year. 1737 *Ochtertyre House Bk.* (S.H.S.) 27 For two strings of flounders and a letter, 0 0 7. 1819 KEATS *Otho* IV. i, Fetch me a missal, and a string of beads. 1830 JAMES *Darnley* iv. I. 60 Endless strings of sausages. 1834 MARRYAT *P. Simple* XXVIII, The steward came down..loaded with cabbages, baskets of eggs, strings of onions, [etc.]. 1874 H. H. COLE *Catal. Ind., Art S. Kens. Mus.* 173 Bracelet. Six strings of pink glass beads. 1891 *Field* 7 Mar. 344/1 A movement is making amongst the fish, several nice strings of codling having fallen to different boats. 1903 MRS. H. TAYLOR *Pastor Hsi* vi. 43 He had no money to draw upon, and no means left of raising even a few strings of cash.

b. *Lumber-trade.* A number of logs fastened together to be carried down by a river.

1878 *Lumberman's Gaz.* 5 Jan., One string of lumber went over the falls on Friday afternoon of last week. 1880 *Ibid.* 14 Jan., With this decrease in the size of the logs, comes the constant increase in the number of strings into which the company are required to tie the logs.

c. *Billiards.* (See quots.) *U.S.*

1879 WEBSTER Suppl., *String*, the number of points made, in a game of billiards. 1891 *Century Dict.*, *String* 9 (*a*) A number of wooden buttons strung on a wire to keep the score or tally of the game. There is a string for each player or side. (*b*) The score, tally, or number of points scored by either player or side at any stage of a game: as, he made a poor string at first, but won.

13. A number of animals driven in single file tied one to the other; a train of animals, vehicles, or persons one behind the other.

1686 PLOT *Staffordsh.* 352 They generally plough with their Oxen in pairs, but with their Horses in a string, to prevent poching the land. 1717 LADY M. W. MONTAGU *Let. to Miss Thistlethwayte* 1 Apr., The drivers take care to tie them [*sc.* camels] one to another with strong ropes, fifty in a string, led by an ass, on which the driver rides. 1820 *Sporting Mag.* VI. 79 The long string of carriages..increased the animation..of the scene. 1823 'JON BEE' *Dict. Turf* 167 Dealers fasten the halter of one horse to the halter and tail of another, and so on to the amount of sixteen, twenty, or more, and either is a string. 'Several strings of good horses entered Smithfield to-day.' 1830 COLERIDGE *Table-T.* 5 Oct., I call these strings of school boys or girls which we meet near London—walking advertisements. 1842 DARWIN in *Life & Lett.* (1887) I. 320 Smugglers and their strings of pack-horses. 1849 F. B. HEAD *Stokers & Pokers* iii. (1851) 41 A string of empty carriages..[to be] formed into the next departure train. 1885 RUDLER & CHISHOLM *Europe* 175 A steam-tug with a long string of rafts or a heavily-laden barge in tow. 1902 S. E. WHITE *Blazed Trail* iii, The train consisted of a string of freight cars. 1910 G. F. WRIGHT in *The Fundamentals* II. I. 10 Strings of captives with evidently Jewish features.

b. A flock (of birds) flying in single file.

In quot. 1889 perh. confused with SPRING *sb.*[2] 15.

1801 J. THOMSON *Poems Sc. Dial.* 12 Just like to wild geese in a string, When aff they flee. 1813 HAWKER *Diary* (1893) I. 89 Not one string of birds came low enough to be fired at. 1889 F. A. KNIGHT *By Leafy Ways* 70 We talk of a covey of partridges, a pack of grouse, a string of teal.

14. A set or stud of horses, beasts of draught or burden, † slaves.

a 1734 R. NORTH *Life Sir D. North* (1744) 59 He procured him a String of Slaves out of his *Chiurm*, with a *Capo*, to work in his Building. 1764 *Museum Rust.* II. 163 This circumstance of seeing his highness's string of mules, it was first induced me to think of breeding them. *a* 1809 HOLCROFT *Mem.* I. xi. (1852) 36 Johnstone..had a string of no less than thirteen famous [race-]horses..under his care. 1814 HEYNE *Tracts on India* 274, I learnt that a gentleman of my acquaintance was encamped near the town with a string of elephants. 1883 J. GILMOUR *Among Mongols* xviii. 230 He had flocks of sheep, herds of cattle, droves of horses, and strings of camels. 1889 BADEN-POWELL *Pigsticking* 120 A man to whom money is no object will naturally complete his 'string' with Arabs or small thoroughbred Walers.

† **b.** A set (of persons); a band, a faction. *Obs.*

1579-80 NORTH *Plutarch, Publicola* (1595) 108 Brutus.. had maried their own sister, and had many children by her. Of the which the Vitellians had drawen to their string, two of the eldest of them. 16.. *Rob. Hood & Maid Marian* xii. in Child *Ballads* III. 219/1 'O hold thy hand,'..said Robin Hood, 'And thou shalt be one of my string.' 1699 BENTLEY *Phalaris* 484 All of that String, Bacchylides, Simonides, Pindar, got their livelyhood by the Muses.

† **c.** *Sc.* = FILE *sb.*[2] 7. *Obs.*

1627 SIR T. KELLIE *Pallas Armata* 125 Stand right in your Ranks and your Stringes.

15. A number of things in a line; a row, chain, range.

1683 [R. NORTH] *Discourse Fish & Fish-ponds* vi. (1713) 17

The third Pond may be a Work of another Year; and if the Ground lies fair for it,..I would not be without it; for it will..fill up a Range or String of Waters, which two doth not. 1788 GIBBON *Decl. & F.* lv. V. 544 A long sea-coast, [Croatia] indented with capacious harbours, covered with a string of islands. 1796 MORSE *Amer. Geog.* I. 166 Eastward of this lake, lie several small ones, which extend in a string to the great carrying place. 1843 LEFEVRE *Life Trav. Phys.* III. iii. viii. 184 A string of houses built after the model of the peasants' habitations. 1862 G. P. SCROPE *Volcanos* 365 Thence radiate several elevated embranchments or strings of conoidal hills.

16. A continuous series or succession (e.g. of stories, questions, incidents, historical personages).

1710 FELTON *Diss. Classics* (1718) 19 If this [*sc.* the ballad theory of the Homeric poems] be true, they are the completest String of Ballads I ever met with. 1713 *Guardian* No. 42 P 6 Sir Harry hath what they call a String of Stories, which he tells over every Christmas. 1772 *Ann. Reg.* 52/2 He then read to the House a string of resolutions under thirteen heads. 1797 BURNEY *Let. to Mme. D'Arblay* 28 Sept., I had a string of questions ready to ask. 1839 HAWKER *Diary* (1893) II. 165 Made a string of indispensable visits, that I could not catch a moment to do before. 1843 S. R. MAITLAND *Dark Ages* xv. (1890) 286 The brief records of whole strings of abbots, priors, &c. 1859 HELPS *Friends in C.* Ser. II. i. 10 The man..who masters long strings of facts. 1867 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* (1876) I. App. 712 We now come to the long string of English writers who accuse Eadric. 1884 *Law Times Rep.* L. 278/1 Lyell administered to Kennedy a long string of interrogatories. 1902 S. E. WHITE *Blazed Trail* vi, The reptilian gentleman let out a string of oaths.

† **b.** *Oxford slang.* (See quots.) *Obs.*

1721 AMHERST *Terræ Fil.* No. 20. 104 These commodious sets of syllogisms are call'd strings, and descend from undergraduate to undergraduate,..so that, when any candidate for a degree is to exercise his talent in argumentation, he has nothing else to do but to enquire amongst his friends for a string upon such or such a question, and to get it by heart, or read it over in his cap...I have in my custody a book of strings upon most or all of the questions discussed in a certain college. 1780 *Gentl. Mag.* L. 277 Every undergraduate [at Oxford]..has in his possession certain papers, which have been handed down from generation to generation, and are denominated *strings*. [*Footnote*, In our Sister University called *arguments*.]..These strings consist of two or three arguments, each on those subjects which are discussed in the schools.

c. A continuous utterance, a 'screed'. *contemptuous.*

1766 GOLDSM. *Vicar W.* xiv, Did he not talk a long string of learning about Greek? 1858 HAWTHORNE *Fr. & Ital. Note-bks.* (1871) I. 5 It sounds like a string of mere gabble. 1870 E. PEACOCK *Ralf Skirl.* III. 236 The fox sang a string of doggerel.

d. The 'thread', sequence (of a narrative). *rare.*

1833 J. S. SANDS *Poems* 105 (E.D.D.) Whiles the soul Is apt to tak a rigmarole; And o' her tale to lose the string. 1860–70 STUBBS *Lect. Europ. Hist.* I. ix. (1904) 116 Events..not of great interest as touching the string of Charles's history. 1876 — *Early Plantag.* v. 86 We must now return to the direct string of the story.

17. *Printing.* (*U.S.*) See quot. 1891.

1891 *Century Dict.*, *String*...A piece-compositor's aggregate of the proofs of types set by him, pasted on a long strip of paper. The amount of work done is determined by the measurement of this string. 1898 *Milwaukee Sentinel* 11 Jan. 3/1 Printers..who found it no unusual thing to 'paste up' 'strings' that averaged more than 1,500 an hour.

III. In various transferred uses.

† **18.** A ray, line of light. *Obs.*

*c*1205 LAY. 17983 Þe leome gon striden a ueire seoue strengen.

† **19.** A length of wire. *Obs.*

1435 *Coventry Leet Bk.* I. 181 And then that wire that the mayster supposithe wille be cherisshed atte gurdell, he shall com to his girdulmon and sey to hym 'Lo, here is a stryng or ij, that hathe ben mysgouerned atte herthe.'

† **20.** (See quot.) *Obs.*

1545 ELYOT *Dict.*, *Canterii* be the pieces, whiche do lye vnder a piece of tymber whan it is sawen, which som do call strynges.

21. *Mining.* A thin vein of ore or coal; a ramification of a lode.

1603 G. OWEN *Pembrokesh.* (1892) 91 The stringe is a smale narowe vayne sometymes ij iij or iiij foote in bigenes. 1619 S. ATKINSON *Discov. Gold Mynes Scot.* (Bannatyne Club) 37 From Short-clough water he removed unto Long-clough-brayes,..to seeke gold in solidd places: where he discovered a small stringe thereof. 1653 MANLOVE *Lead Mines Derbysh.* 270 (E.D.S.) Stickings and stringes of oar. 1747 HOOSON *Miner's Dict.* s. v. *Break-Off*, But if it happen that it break into several Leadings or Strings. 1855 LEIFCHILD *Cornwall* 98 Some of the copper veins in Herland mine..eventually passed away east and west in mere strings, scarcely thicker than paper. 1867 MURCHISON *Siluria* ii. (ed. 4) 27 The frequent recurrence of thin strings of copper-ore.

† **22.** A rail, bar of iron or wood on which something slides or runs. *Obs.*

1778 W. HUTCHINSON *Northumb.* II. 417 Wheels of iron, the fellies or rims of which are hollow, so as to run upon strings of wood adapted thereto, with which the roads are laid. 1790 W. MARSHALL *Midl. Co.* I. 143 On this bar or string of iron, a ring, with a chain passing to the wheels, plays freely from end to end.

23. † **a.** = STRINGHALT. *Obs.*

1650 BULWER *Anthropomet.* 205 A Gelding (that was proud of a string). 1823 PURSGLOVE *Pract. Farriery* 204 The string, or spring halt..is termed by some authors the blind spavin.

† **b.** A form of constipation in cattle. *Obs.*

1776 *Compl. Grazier* (ed. 4) 40 The Hind Spring or String is when they [*sc.* kine] become bound in their body, and cannot dung.

c. *Sc.* In *plural*: see quot. 1798.

1798 R. DOUGLAS *Agric. Roxb. & Selkirk* 149 Calves..are sometimes seized with an inflammation in the intestines, provincially called *liver-crook*, or *strings*. 1802 G. V. SAMPSON *Statist. Surv. Londonderry* 214 Calves are liable to a disorder, called the strings.

† **24.** A narrow ridge on the surface of a flint.

a 1728 WOODWARD *Nat. Hist. Fossils* I. (1729) I. 53 The Flint constituting the Body of the Stone, of the Cylinder, and the String about it, is all of the same Colour and Substance.

25. *U.S.* A line of fencing.

1794 WASHINGTON *Lett. Writ.* 1892 XIII. 20, I was led to form the plan of having but one public road through my Mount Vernon tract,..along the string of fence that divides the upper from the lower fields.

26. *Carpentry.* **a.** = *string-board* (see 32); often with qualifying word or words; **b.** = *rough string* (ROUGH *a.* 21).

1711 W. SUTHERLAND *Shipbuild. Assist.* 65 A Pair of winding Stairs, having a Nuel in the Center, and a Side or String for the Circumference. 1737 W. SALMON *Country Builder's Estimator* (ed. 2) 25 Of Stair-Cases...1. Steps of common Stairs, Strings and String-boards, and Bearers included, of Oak, 8*d.* per Foot. 1812 P. NICHOLSON *Mech. Exerc.* 184 Sometimes the risers [are] mitred to brackets, and sometimes mitred with quaker strings. 1849 [P. NICHOLSON] *Carpentry* II. 3 Those pieces which support the ends of the steps are called strings.—That against the wall is called the wall string; the other, the outer string. 1886 MORSE *Jap. Homes* iv. 197 [The staircase] has two side-pieces, or strings, in which the steps, consisting of thick plank, are mortised.

27. *Shipbuilding.* (See quots.)

1711 W. SUTHERLAND *Shipbuild. Assist.* 164 Strings; parts used to strengthen; and what are called Clamps in the lower parts, are termed Strings upward. 1750 BLANCKLEY *Naval Expos.* 165 *String* is that strake of Plank within Side of the Ship that is wrought over the upper Deck Ports in the Wast. *c* 1850 *Rudim. Navig.* (Weale) 154 *String*, one or two planks withinside, next under the gunwale, answering to the sheer-strakes withoutside.

28. *Arch.* = *string-course* or *-moulding* (see 32).

1817 RICKMAN *Archit.* 50 A plain string is also sometimes used as a cornice. 1842 *Ecclesiologist* I. 199 Ancient lancets have not, indeed, invariably strings underneath them. 1850 INKERSLEY *Ing. Styles Romanesque & Pointed Archit. France* 323 A moulded inclined plane above a flowered string.

29. *The String of Lorn*: see quot. 1678.

a 1678 in *Highland Papers* (S.H.S.) II. 85 The mountain betwixt Lochow and Lorn called the String. 1889 in Ld. A. Campbell *Waifs & Strays Celtic Tradit.* I. 28 She fled with the precious deeds across the String of Lorn.

30. *Shetland.* A strong tidal current in a narrow channel. [ON. *strengr.*]

1884 C. RAMPINI *Shetld. & Shetlanders* ii. 80 Even in crossing a string of tide the fishermen always betook themselves to their oars. 1888 JESSIE SAXBY *Lads of Lunda* 131, I am sure we could not cross that string of tide in safety.

IV. *attrib.* and *Comb.* **31.** Obvious comb. **a.** In sense 'made or consisting of string', as *string bag, ball, netting, rug*; 'containing string', as *string box, case*; *Mus.* (see 2 c), as *string band, instrument,* † *man,* † *minstrel, music, musical instrument, quartet, trio*; **b.** similative, as *string colour*; *string-coloured, -like, -tailed* adjs.

1901 B. PAIN *Another Englishwoman's Love-Lett.* xxvi. 116 A *string-bag full of parcels. 1891 KIPLING *Light that Failed* (1900) 232 Dick..played aimlessly with the tins and *string-ball on the counter. 1860 SALA *Baddington Peerage* I. xvi. 290 There was a *string-band and a wind-band at the Apollo Belvidere. 1852 DICKENS *Bleak Ho.* x, Mr. Snagsby has dealt..in *string boxes, rulers, inkstands,..ever since he was out of his time. 1899 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 26 Dec. 3/2 *String-cases in red morocco. 1899 *Daily News* 20 Mar. 8/7 The creamy lace..will be deep enough in tint to be beige, or even *string-colour. 1898 *Ibid.* 19 Feb. 3/3 With collars and sleeves of *string-coloured guipure. 1705 ADDISON *Italy, Rome* 321 There is not One *String-Instrument that seems comparable to our Violins. 1859 *Habits of Gd. Society* vi. 232 The zither, one of the sweetest and most touching of string instruments. 1882 VINES tr. *Sachs' Bot.* 120 Mosses, which have *string-like cell-groups in the stem. *c* 1470 in J. P. Collier *Engl. Dram. Poetry* (1879) I. 39 Mynstrells..wherof some use trumpetts, some shalmes, some small pipes: some are *stringemen. 1498 in R. Henry *Hist. Gt. Brit.* (1793) VI. 724 Item, for three *stryngmynstrels wages, 5 li. 1712 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 361 P 3 He added, that the Cat had contributed more to Harmony than any other Animal; as we are not only beholden to her for this Wind-Instrument, but for our *String Musick in general. 1686 PLOT *Staffordsh.* 300 He..makes..all sorts of *string-musical instruments. 1882 CAULFEILD & SAWARD *Dict. Needlework* 464 **String Netting*..is made to cover glass bottles.., the network formed by the string protecting the more fragile object that it covers. 1875 J. BISHOP tr. *Otto's Violin* iv. (ed. 4) 52 A *string quartett, made by A. Engleder, of Munich,..possessed the following peculiarity of form. The upper half of each instrument was [etc.]. 1876 STAINER & BARRETT *Dict. Mus. Terms, String quartet*, (1) A composition in four parts, for two violins, viola and violoncello. (2) The group of stringed instruments in a band. 1882 CAULFEILD & SAWARD *Dict. Needlework* 464/2 **String rugs*..are made from odds and ends of coarse Berlin or fleecy wool, which are either knitted up with string or worked into coarse canvas in loops. 1893 E. H. BARKER *Wand. Southern Waters* 64 *String-tailed, goggle-eyed, meagre cats that seize your dinner. 1874 OUSELEY *Musical Form* 52 Thus are constructed symphonies and sonatas; *string-trios, quartetts.

32. Special comb.: **string bark (tree)** *Austral.*, = STRINGY-BARK; **string-bean** *U.S.*, the French or kidney bean; **string bed**, the Indian charpoy; **string-binder**, a reaping-machine which ties the corn in sheaves; similarly **string-binding** *ppl. a.*; **string-block**, in a wooden-frame pianoforte, a block of wood holding the studs to which the fixed ends of the strings are looped; **string-board**, a board which supports the ends of the steps in a wooden staircase; also *collect. sing.*; **string-course** (see quot. 1910); **string-galvanometer**, a galvanometer consisting of a fine conducting fibre, for measuring rapidly-fluctuating currents; **string-gauge** (see quot.); † **string-hough** *v. trans.*, to hamstring; † **string hound**, ? a leash-hound; **string-jack**, a jumping-jack; **string-line**, † (*a*) = CHORD *sb.*1 4; (*b*) *Billiards* (*U.S.*), the baulk-line; **string-maker**, one who makes string or strings; † also with reference to sense 16 b; † **string-metal**, ? metal for making wire strings for musical instruments; **string-moulding**, a moulding carried horizontally along a wall; **string organ** (see quot.); **string-pea** *U.S.*, a pea with edible pods; **string-piece**, (*a*) a long piece of timber serving to connect and support a framework (e.g. a floor, bridge); a longitudinal railway-sleeper (*U.S.*); a heavy squared timber carried along the edge of a wharf-front; † (*b*) (see quot. 1842); **string-pin** = HITCH-PIN; **string-plate**, the metal plate into which the hitch-pins are inserted; † **string-torments**, a rendering of L. *fidiculæ* (pl.), an instrument of torture consisting of a number of thin cords; † **string-watch**, ? a watch having a string fitted to the fusee and barrel instead of a chain (cf. 9 a above); **stringwood**, a small tree of St. Helena, *Acalypha rubra*, now extinct, named from its pendent spikes of reddish sterile flowers (*Treas. Bot.* 1866).

1845 J. O. BALFOUR *Sk. N. S. Wales* 37 The *string bark tree is also useful. 1862 W. ARCHER *Products of Tasmania* 39 (Morris) Gum-topped String-bark, sometimes called white gum (*Eucalyptus gigantea*, var.). 1842 HAWTHORNE *Amer. Note-bks.* (1868) II. 99 It was a very pleasant moment when I gathered the first *string-beans. 1895 MRS. CROKER *Village Tales* 16 We were presently conducted to an empty hut, provided with broad *string beds. 1911 H. BEGBIE *Other Sheep* i. 9 The priest..insisted upon my having a charpoy, or string-bed, for the night. 1891 *Daily News* 10 Oct. 3/1 It is not so long since the master was entirely at the mercy of his labourers in harvest time...The *string-binder has altered all that. 1910 P. M'CONNELL *Farm Equipm.* 75 The modern string-binder was simply this machine plus a mechanical tier. 1882 *Essex Herald* No. 4269/3 This is the second harvest in Australia in which *string-binding reapers of American manufacture have been used. 1851 W. POLE in Rimbault *Pianoforte* (1860) 163 The strings were looped at one end upon studs driven into a solid block of wood, which we may call the *string-block. 1703 R. NEVE *City & C. Purchaser* 252 Stairs, with Rails, Ballasters, *String-boards, Posts. 1825 J. NICHOLSON *Oper. Mech.* 604 The price of string-board is regulated by the foot superficial. 1825 FOSBROKE *Encycl. Antiq.* vi. 123* **String-courses* are those from which buildings begin to narrow upwards. 1833 LOUDON *Encycl. Archit.* § 451 A string course, or horizontal band. *a* 1878 SIR G. SCOTT *Lect. Archit.* I. 228 The sill always well sloped, to throw off the water, and having usually a string-course below, to prevent it from running down and discolouring the walls. 1910 C. H. GREGORY *Gloss. Build. Constr.* 42 String course. A distinctive horizontal course, projecting or flush, carried round a building, usually at floor level, to roughly mark the division of a building into floors. 1909 *Westm. Gaz.* 13 May 5/2 The Einthoven *string galvanometer,..by means of which the beating of the heart can be measured with the greatest accuracy. 1876 STAINER & BARRETT *Dict. Mus. Terms*, **String-gauge*, a small instrument for measuring the thickness of strings for violins, guitars, etc. 1605 WILLET *Hexapla Gen.* 447 Some read they *string-haughed a bull. 1631 in *Househ. Ord.* (1790) 350 The Master of the Bows and *String Hounds. 1863 'HOLME LEE' *A. Warleigh* II. 205 Sinclair ..stood like a *string-jack, his arms outstretched. 1551 *Stryngline [see CHORD *sb.*1 4]. 1897 in R. F. Foster *Compl. Hoyle* 585 A ball whose centre is on the string line must be regarded as within the line. 14.. *Nom.* in Wr.-Wülcker 686/32 *Hic cordex*, a *stryngmaker. 1721 AMHERST *Terræ Fil.* No. 20. 104 From whence it appears, that this Richard P—e was a great string-maker. 1833 FARDELV tr. *Otto's Treat. Violin* 69 The Neukirch string-makers. *a* 1626 BACON *Physiol. Rem.* Baconiana (1679) 96 Statua Metal, and Bell-Metal, and Trumpet Metal, and *String Metal. 1833 LOUDON *Encycl. Archit.* Gloss., *String mouldings. 1837 *Civil Engin. & Arch. Jrnl.* I. 57/2 An elegant three-light Gothic window, having a neat label and string mouldings. 1876 STAINER & BARRETT *Dict. Mus. Terms*, **String organ*, a new musical instrument, the sounds of which are produced by the association of a free reed and wire string. 1891 *Century Dict.* s. v. *Pea*, The pods of the sugar-pea, skinless pea, or *string-pea are eaten, as in the case of 'string-beans'. 1789 W. JESSOP *Rep. Thames & Isis* 22 Flat Stones set edgeways [inside a Lock], with a *String piece of Elm at the Foot. 1802 G. V. SAMPSON *Stat. Surv. Londonderry* 323 The piers [of the bridge]..are bound together by 13 string-pieces, equally divided, and transversely bolted; on the string-pieces is laid the flooring. 1840 H. S. TANNER *Canals & Rail Roads U. S.* 261 *String pieces*, wooden rails upon which the iron bars of rail-roads are placed. 1842 GWILT *Archit.* Gloss., *String* or *String Piece*, that part of a flight of stairs which forms its ceiling or sofite. 1898 *Scribner's Mag.* May 573 He just fell in off the stringpiece of the dock. 1889 BRINSMEAD *Hist. Pianoforte* 181 The Brinsmead system of tuning requires no wood either to fasten the *string-pins or support the iron frame. 1827 BROADWOOD *Patent* in *Newton's Lond. Jrnl.* Ser. II. (1830) IV. 132 A metallic plate ..to be called the *string plate, into which the hitch pins are set, for the ends of the strings to be fastened to. 1609 HOLLAND *Amm. Marcell.* XXIX. ii. 353 Then were the rackes stretched.., the *string-torments also and the whips put in readinesse. 1686 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 2120/8 An old *String-Watch (in two Silver Cases).

String (strĭŋ), *v.* **Pa. t.** and pa. pple. **strung.** Forms: 6 **stringe, strynge,** 6– **string.** *Pa. t.* 7

stringed, 9 *dial.* **strang**, 7– **strung**. *Pa. pple.* 6 **strong**, 7 **strunge**, 6– **strung**; 5 **y-strenged**, 6 **strynged**, 7–9 **stringed**. [f. STRING *sb.* Except for an instance of *ystrenged* (*c* 1400 in 1), the vb. first appears in the 16th c. The 'strong' conjugation in imitation of *sing* (cf. *ring*) has prevailed from 1590 onwards, though a few examples of the weak form *stringed* occur in the 16–19th c.]

1. *trans.* **a.** To fit (a bow) with its string; to 'bend' or prepare for use by slipping the loop of the bowstring into its notch, so that the string is drawn tight.

c 1400 *Laud Troy Bk.* 6537 With bowys gode wel y-strenged. 1545 ASCHAM *Toxoph.* II. (Arb.) 112 In stringynge youre bowe, you must loke for muche bende or lytle bende. 1697 DRYDEN *Æneis* x. 674 Then, as the winged Weapon whiz'd along; See now, said he, whose Arm is better strung. 1788 J. HURDIS *Village Curate* (1797) 96 He tipt his arrow, strung his bow, and shot. 1897 *Encycl. Sport* I. 43/1 (Archery) The next thing is to 'string' or 'bend' the bow.

b. To fit or furnish (a musical instrument) with a string or strings; to fix strings in. Also *poet.* to tighten the strings of (an instrument) to the required pitch; to tune.

1530 RASTELL *Bk. Purgat.* II. xv. d 3 b, As the harper can not make nor shewe no melodye wyth his harp, excepte yt be strynged and in tewne. 1591 SPENSER *Virg. Gnat* 16 Playing on yuorie harp with silver strong. 1591 SHAKS. *Two Gent.* III. ii. 78 Orpheus Lute was strung with Poets sinewes. 1676 MACE *Musick's Mon.* 42, I would ..that the Scholar be taught to String his Instrument, with Good and True Strings. 1761 STERNE *Tr. Shandy* V. xv, Do you know whether my fiddle's in tune or no?..'Tis wickedly strung. 1812 BYRON *Ch. Har.* I. xiii, He seized his harp, which he at times could string. 1827 J. STEWART in *Abridgm. Specif. Patents, Mus.* (1871) 101 Improvements in pianofortes and in the mode of stringing the same.

c. To fit (the bow of a violin, etc.) with horse-hairs stretched from end to end.

1663 BUTLER *Hud.* I. ii. 126 His grizly Beard was long and thick, With which he strung his Fiddle-stick.

d. To fit (a racket) with strings and cross-strings of cord or catgut. 1884 [see STRINGING *vbl. sb.* 1].

2. To furnish (the body) with nerves or sinews; *spec.* to furnish (the tongue) with its frænum. Chiefly used as in 3.

1632 *Lyly's Endimion* III. iii. 125 (Song), When his tongue Once goes, a Cat is not worse strung. 1632 BROME *North. Lasse* Ep. Ded., Though Art neuer strung her tongue; yet once it yeelded a delightfull sound. 1700 DRYDEN *Ovid's Met.* XV. 343 In time he vaunts among his Youthful Peers, Strong-bon'd, and strung with Nerves, in pride of Years. 1716 GAY *Trivia* III. 241 Has not wise nature strung the legs and feet With firmest nerves, design'd to walk the street?

fig. 1697 DRYDEN *Æneis* Ded. (e) 2 Their Language is not strung with Sinews like our English. 1862 MERIVALE *Rom. Emp.* lxii. (1865) VII. 354 He lacked the tenacity of fibre which strung the old Roman and Sabine fabric.

3. *fig.* (often with direct allusion to 1). To make tense, brace, give vigour or tone to (the nerves, sinews, the mind, its ideas or impressions, etc.).

1599 STORER *Life & D. Wolsey* I 1 b, The peoples hearts of late are strung so hard, That they will breake before one note shall sound, Or so vntunable, that still they iar'de. 1699 DRYDEN *To John Driden* 89 Toil strung the Nerves and purifi'd the Blood. 1725 POPE *Odyss.* VIII. 568 He fights, subdues: for Pallas strings his arms. 1823 SCOTT *Quentin D.* XXXVII, The thought..strung his nerves with vigour, which defied fatigue. 1848–9 LYTTON *K. Arth.* III. xiv, Strung by that sleep, the savage scowl'd around. 1872 FREEMAN *Hist. Ess.* Ser. I. viii. 229 The besiegers' hearts were strung by every motive which could lead men to defend themselves to the last. 1880 MEREDITH *Tragic Com.* I. v. 92 A turn of her fingers would string or slacken him.

b. with *up*.

1845 J. COULTER *Adv. Pacific* XVI. 247 The muscles of every one were strung up for the moment. 1888 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Robbery under Arms* XXII, When a man 's cold and tired, and hungry,..a good caulker of grog..strings him up and puts him straight. 1898 *Dubl. Rev.* Jan. 163 Perhaps this is an attempt to string up the human ideal too highly for everyday practice.

c. To brace *to*, rarely *for* (action) or *to* (do something). Also, to attune *to* (a frame of mind). Also (*vulgar*), to egg *on*.

1748 GRAY *Alliance* 69 Need we the influence of the northern star To string our nerves and steel our hearts to war? 1888 MEREDITH *Reading of Earth* 10 Where Life is at her grindstone set, That she may give us edgeing keen, String us for battle, till [etc.]. 1888 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Robbery under Arms* III. vi. 81 Mr. Hamilton waited for about an hour so as to be sure they weren't stringing him on to go into the open to be potted at.

d. With qualifying adv. (chiefly *pass.*): To bring to a (specified) condition of tension or sensitiveness. Cf. OVERSTRUNG 1, *high-strung* s. v. HIGH *adv.* 10 a.

1860 MRS. CLIVE *Why Paul Ferroll* VI. 135 Elinor, finely strung to sounds. 1863 MRS. GASKELL *Sylvia's Lovers* I. vii. 132 But Sylvia was too highly strung for banter. 1866 BALLANTYNE *Shifting Winds* II. (1881) 11 A..British tar.. whose nerves were tightly strung and used to danger.

†**4.** ? To furnish or adorn (a garment) with strings or ties. *Obs.*

a 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VIII*, 8 b, Garmentes of Crymosyn Satyn embroudered..with cloth of gold, cut in Pomegranettes and yokes, strynged after the facion of Spaygne. 1598 FLORIO, *Stringolare*, to point, to lace, or to string.

5. To bind, tie, fasten, or secure with a string or strings; † *spec.* to fasten (a book) with ribbons or cords (*obs.*); to tether (an animal).

1613 CHAPMAN *Rev. Bussy d'Amb.* II. i. D 3, As the foolish Poet that still writ All his most selfe-lou'd verse in paper royall, Or Parchment..Bound richly vp, and strung with Crimson strings. 1641 MILTON *Animadv.* 19 Set the grave councels up upon their shelvs again, and string them hard. 1805 WORDSW. *Prelude* v. 240 If..We had been followed, hourly watched, and noosed, Each in his several melancholy walk Stringed like a poor man's heifer at its feed. 1860 GEO. ELIOT *Mill on Fl.* IV. iii, Bob took up the small stringed packet of books.

b. To bind (the handle of a cricket-bat) with twine wound tightly round.

1887 *St. James's Gaz.* 16 Feb. 5/1 Makers only string the bat for the purpose of concealing defects and selling the article at a higher price.

6. To thread or file (beads and the like) on or as on a string. Also *fig.* Also with *together*, etc.

1612 DONNE *Progr. Soule, 2nd Anniv.* 208 As these starres were but so many beads Strung on one string. 1712 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 476 ₱ 2 Men of great Learning..often..chuse to throw down their Pearls in Heaps before the Reader, rather than be at the Pains of stringing them. 1783 JUSTAMOND tr. *Raynal's Hist. Indies* III. 177 The roots are afterwards strung upon little strings to dry them. 1832 MRS. CHILD *Girl's Own Bk.* (ed. 4) 68 The hard red seed-vessels of the rose, strung upon strong thread, make quite a pretty necklace. 1836 MARRYAT *Midsh. Easy* vi, James was very busy stringing the fish through the gills upon a piece of osier. 1844 JON. SLICK *High Life N. York* I. 46 There wasn't a gal..could pull an even yoke with her a stringing onions. 1874 H. H. COLE *Catal. Ind. Art S. Kens. Mus.* App. 297 Necklace.., formed of gold pear-shaped drops strung together. 1901 *Jrnl. Exper. Med.* 1 Oct. 604 They contain much of the basophile substance in the form of fine granules, often strung along in rows.

b. To hang or suspend by a connecting string.

1890 GUNTER *Miss Nobody* XXIII. (1891) 268 These [lights] are strung down the avenue and placed here and there through the gardens. 1907 J. H. PATTERSON *Man-Eaters of Tsavo* II. 27 A rope by which two empty oil tins were strung across the donkey's neck.

c. *fig.* To compose, put together in connected speech. Sometimes with direct allusion to the literal sense (6). Also with *together*, *up*.

1605 *1st Pt. Jeronimo* I. i. 60 And well pickt out, knight Marshall; speech well strung. 1620 SHELTON *2nd Pt. Quix.* XLIII. 281 Threescore thousand Satans take thee and thy Prouerbs, this howre thou hast beene stringing them one vpon another. 1786 BURNS *Vision* IV, Stringing blethers up in rhyme For fools to sing. 1830 H. LEE *Mem. Manager* I. III. 81 Anecdotes and reminiscences which I am about to string together. 1856 *N. Brit. Rev.* XXVI. 223 On this thread of incident are strung the author's views of social life. 1884 *Manch. Exam.* 2 Nov. 5/1 It is easy to indulge in general assertions and to string platitudes together.

d. *To string up*: to post up the name of (a person) in a list.

1854 SURTEES *Handley Cr.* XIV. (1901) I. 98 You can't do better nor follow the example o' the Leamington lads, who string up all the tradespeople with the amount of their [hunt-] subscriptions in the shops and public places.

7. To hang, kill by hanging. Usually with *up*.

1727 GAY *Begg. Op.* III. xiii, And if rich Men like us were to swing, 'Twou'd thin the Land, such Numbers to string Upon Tyburn Tree! 1786 BURNS *Author's Cry* XXII, Tho' by the neck she should be strung, She 'll no desert. 1810 LAMB *Inconv. Being Hanged* Wks. 1903 I. 62 We string up dogs, foxes, bats, moles, weasels. Man surely deserves a steadier death. 1893 MCCARTHY *Red Diamonds* I. 71 They strung him up after a fair trial before Judge Lynch.

fig. 1747 W. HORSLEY *Fool* No. 76 (1748) II. 295 From this..you may readily conclude the Reason why you are stringed up here, as a signal Instance of Folly.

b. *intr.* To be hanged. Also with *up*. *Sc.*

a 1714 LOCKHART *Mem. Scot.* (ed. 3) Pref. p. ix, My Accusations..are so well founded, that was there, (as we say in Scotland) a right sitting Sheriff, I would not doubt to see some Gentlemen string. 1715 PENNECUIK *Descr. Tweeddale*, etc. 139 You must, or you must string. 1817 SCOTT *Rob Roy* XXX, You have confessed yourself a spy, and should string up to the next tree. 1896 'G. SETOUN' *R. Urquhart* XXVI. 280, I would ha'e strung for it willin'.

8. *trans.* To deprive (a thing) of its string or strings; to strip the 'string' from (a bean-pod); to remove the runners from (a strawberry-bed); to strip (currants) from the stalk.

1664 EVELYN *Kal. Hort., Mar.* (1679) 12 Mid-March dress up..and string your Strawberry beds. 1747 MRS. GLASSE *Cookery* (1767) 17 To dress French beans. First string them, then cut them in two. 1888 *Sheffield Gloss.* s.v., To string currants is to unstring them, i. e. to strip the berries off their stalks.

†**b.** *spec.* To remove the string from (a lamprey): see STRING *sb.* 2 b. In quots. as a 'proper' term for carving the fish. *Obs.*

1508–13 *Bk. Keruynge* in *Babees Bk.* (1868) 265 Strynge that lampraye. 1694 N. H. *Ladies Dict.* 415/1 A Salmon, chine it; a Lamprey, string it; a Pike, splat it.

c. To pull off (bark) from a tree by champing it into strings or fibres.

1733 W. ELLIS *Chiltern & Vale Farm.* 124 The Deer greedily eat [the bark of the witch elm], and have so great a love for it, that they will string it with their Mouths to the last bit.

9. To furnish, equip, or adorn *with* something suspended or slung.

1845 J. COULTER *Adv. Pacific* III. 24 We..shot a number of rabbits, and strung our rigging with geese. 1874 H. H. COLE *Catal. Ind. Art S. Kens. Mus.* 187 Brass and silver wires strung with green..beads. 1906 *Macm. Mag.* Sept. 344 A surly loon strung with a telescope.

10. To draw up in a line or row; to extend in a string or series; to post so as to form a series of detached or separated units. Also with *out*, *up*.

a 1670 SPALDING *Troub. Chas. I* (Bannatyne Club) I. 154 They stringed up their horse company on the other syde of the watter of Dee. 1875 W. T. SHERMAN *Mem.* I. vi. 163 Ships were strung for miles along the lower levee [of New Orleans]. 1901 CONAN DOYLE in *Wide World Mag.* VIII. 111/1 Ten thousand men, strung over a large extent of country. 1908 S. E. WHITE *Riverman* XXVI, The rowboats were dragged backward,..and strung out along the bank below.

11. To extend or stretch (something flexible or rigid) from one point to another. Also with *out*.

1838 THACKERAY *Yellowpl. Corr.* (1865) 4 While you were looking up to prevent hanging yourself with the ropes which were strung across and about. 1885 MCCOOK *Tenants Old Farm* 203 Young spiders often manage to string out structures that oddly resemble a bridge in miniature. 1908 S. E. WHITE *Riverman* XXVI, Old Heinzman..is stringing booms across the river—obstructing navigation. 1911 WEBSTER, *String v. t.* 6. To extend or stretch like a string; as, to string the cables of a suspension bridge.

12. *intr.* **a.** To move or progress in a string or disconnected line; spec. in *Hunting*, of the hounds. Also with *adv.*, as *out*, *away*, *off*, *in*.

a 1824 *Old Song* in Mactaggart *Gallov. Encycl.* 257 String awa my crommies, to the milking loan. 1834 M. SCOTT *Cruise Midge* XX, As we strung along the narrow path in single file. 1875 WHYTE MELVILLE *Katerfelto* XXIV. (1876) 264 Twenty couple of powerful stag-hounds—stringing somewhat, it may be, as they passed in and out the gnarled substantial stems. 1888 W. B. LIGHTHALL *Young Seigneur* 4 The pedestrians are already stringing off along the road. 1905 *Blackw. Mag.* Jan. 86/2 Watch staghounds when they are laid on. However good the scent, they string out.

b. Of gun-shot: To travel with varying velocity, so that the pellets of one charge arrive at different times at a given point.

1892 GREENER *Breech Loader* 267 Having ascertained by actual experiment that at forty yards his shot was stringing from twenty to thirty feet.

c. To hang like a string, be stretched in a string or loose line, *from*.

1885 HOWELLS *Silas Lapham* (1891) I. 259 Her eldest daughter..lounged into the parlour..with her wrap stringing from her arm. 1898 SIR G. ROBERTSON *Chitral* XVI. 181 The British officers..blundered slowly through the torrent with a straggling line of Sepoys stringing from the ponies' tails.

13. Of a viscous or glutinous substance: To form into strings, become stringy.

1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 1267 Let it [material for varnish] boil until it will string very strong. 1850 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* III. 1385 Let it boil until it strings freely between the fingers.

14. *Billiards.* †**a.** *trans.* See quot. and KING *sb.* 9 d. *Obs.*

1680 COTTON *Compl. Gamester* (ed. 2) 23 If the Follower intend to hit his Adversaries Ball, or pass at one stroke he must string his Ball, that is, lay it even with the King. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 262/2.

b. *intr.* See quot, 1896.

[1788: cf. *stringing-nail*, STRINGING *vbl. sb.* 3.] 1814 C. JONES *Hoyle's Games Impr.* 373 Rules..1. String for the lead and choice of balls. 1839 KENTFIELD *Billiards* 29 In commencing the game, string for the lead. 1896 W. BROADFOOT *Billiards* iii. (Badm. Libr.) 106 To string is to play from baulk to the top cushion so as to leave player's ball near the baulk-line or bottom cushion as may be selected. Before a match the players string simultaneously for choice of balls, and for the option of commencing the game.

15. *trans.* To fool, deceive, humbug. *U.S. slang.*

1901 *Munsey's Mag.* XXIV. 858/2 'Some one has been stringin' those reporters!' thought Dan. 1910 W. CHURCHILL *Mod. Chron.* I. ix. 114, I watched you last night when you were stringing the Vicomte.

Stringed (strind), *a.* [f. STRING *sb.* + -ED 2.]

1. Having a string or strings; *spec.* of musical instruments such as the violin and guitar. Also in parasynthetic comb., as *ten-stringed*.

c 1000 *Lamb. Ps.* xci. 4 *In decachordo psalterio*, on tyn-strængedum saltere. *a* 1300, 1535 [see *ten-stringed* s.v. TEN D. 1]. 1552 HULOET, Stryngyd, *chordatus*. Stringed as a bowe is, *amentatus*. 1585 HIGINS *Junius' Nomencl.* 276/1 *Hasta amentata*,..a stringed or looped dart to fling with all. 1599–1843 [see THREE-STRINGED]. 1609 HOLLAND *Amm. Marcell.* XXX. ii. 380 The house rung againe with the sound of stringed and wynd instruments. 1742 BERKELEY *Lett.* Wks. 1871 IV. 284 A large four-stringed bass violin. 1871 D. COOK *Nts. at the Play* (1883) I. 177 The orchestra..is scarcely strong enough in stringed instruments to do full justice to Mr. Sullivan's music. 1873 LELAND *Egypt. Sketch-Bk.* 55 A one-stringed banjo.

b. *Her.* (See quots.)

1572 BOSSEWELL *Armorie* II. 123 Two bowes bente addorsed de Or, stringed Vert. 1864 BOUTELL *Her. Hist. & Pop.* xix. (ed. 3) 298 A Harp or, stringed argent. 1868 CUSSANS *Heraldry* (1893) 117 *Hunting-horn* or *Bugle*...It is usually blazoned as *Stringed*, which signifies that it depends from two strings, or ribbons, tied in a knot above.

c. Of a running-track: Divided by stretched strings into separate runs.

1897 *Encycl. Sport* I. 64/2 (Athletics) Sprint handicaps run over a stringed track.

2. *transf.* Produced by strings or stringed instruments; † made with a rosary or string of beads.

1629 MILTON *Hymn Nativ.* ix, Divinely-warbled voice Answering the stringed noise. 1655 [G. HALL] *Tri. Roma.* v. 57 Such thraves and lasts of private Oraisons, which without the well-devised helps of stringed calculation, could never keep even reckoning. 1822 SHELLEY *Zucca* 72 Sounds

of softest song Mixed with..stringed melodies. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. I. xi, Three-deep these march; to the sound of stringed music. 1854 *Athenæum* 6 May 565/1 Two movements of a stringed Quartett, by Herr von Wilm.

Stringency (strĭ·nd͡ʒĕnsi). [f. next: see -ENCY.] The quality of being stringent; strictness, rigour.

1844 KINGLAKE *Eothen* xxiii, He insisted on the stringency of the orders which he had received. 1856 FROUDE *Hist. Eng.* I. 55 Twice subsequently in the course of his reign he returned back upon the subject, insisting upon it with increasing stringency. 1885 *Law Jrnl.* 17 Jan. 36/2 Criticisms are sometimes passed on the stringency of the English laws of evidence.

b. Of reasoning: Compulsive force, convincingness.

1864 MAX MÜLLER *Chips* (1880) I. iv. 116 We see no stringency whatever in this argument. 1872 W. K. CLIFFORD *Lect. & Ess.* (1879) I. 156 As the known exactness of the uniformity became greater, the stringency of the inference increased.

c. *Comm.* 'Tightness' in the money-market.

1877 RAYMOND *Statist. Mines & Mining* 185 The stringency in the money-market aggravating the gloomy aspect of affairs. 1893 *Westm. Gaz.* 17 Oct. 6/1 In view of the money stringency at Chicago, they consider it unwise to recommend a larger distribution.

Stringent (strĭ·nd͡ʒĕnt), *a.* [ad. L. *stringentem*, pres. pple. of *stringĕre*, to draw together, bind tight, also to touch lightly, graze.]

1. Astringent, constrictive, styptic, esp. with reference to taste. Also *fig.*

1605 TIMME *Quersit.* III. 149 Vitriol [giveth] a stiptic or a stringent taste. 1614 W. B. *Philosopher's Banquet* (ed. 2) 72 Bitter Grapes are colde and stringent. 1642 H. MORE *Song of Soul, Antipsych.* III. iii. 20 What down doth dive Into the straitned Cuspis needs must strive With stringent bitternesse, vexation, Anxious unrest. 1858 TRENCH *Synon.* xiv. (1877) 46 Harsh and stringent to the palate, as..unripe fruit, and the like.

2. That draws or binds tight; tightly enfolding or compressing. *rare.*

1736 THOMSON *Liberty* IV. 188 The serpents, twisting round, their stringent folds Inextricable tie. 1849 KITTO *Daily Bible Illustr.* I. xii. ii. 395 The twisted bags were perhaps used to subject the grapes to a further and more stringent pressure, after being taken from the foot-press. 1886 STEVENSON *Dr. Jekyll* 135, I slept..with a stringent and profound slumber which not even the nightmares that wrung me could avail to break. 1898 MEREDITH *Odes Fr. Hist.* 39 Adding to slavery's chain the stringent twist.

3. Of reasoning: That compels assent, convincing.

1653 H. MORE *Antid. Ath.* II. vi. (1712) 58 But I have dwelt too long upon this Theory; we'll betake our selves to ..what is more unexceptionably stringent and forcing. 1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), *Stringent*, forcing, forceable, as *To maintain a Truth in a stringent Way.* 1866 GEO. ELIOT *F. Holt* xvii, Mr. Johnson's argument was not the less stringent because his idioms were vulgar.

4. Of regulations, procedure, requirements, obligations, etc.: Rigorous, strict, thoroughgoing; rigorously binding or coercive.

1846 F. W. NEWMAN *Let.* in Sieveking *Mem.* (1909) 142 Nothing less severe..would brace England up to the stringent remedies which alone can save that country [Ireland]. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* ii. I. 235 A more stringent test was now added, 1855 *Ibid.* xx. IV. 480 They imagined that they had devised a most stringent limitation of the royal power. 1868 M. PATTISON *Academ. Org.* iv. 106 The other professors are under more stringent requirements to teach. 1884 *Manch. Exam.* 2 May 4/7 It will need a stringent clause to guard against this abuse.

b. ? Rigorously urgent *upon*. *nonce-use.*

1862 CARLYLE *Fredk. Gt.* XIII. II. 420 Readers may consider how stringent upon Friedrich that question now was, and how ticklish to solve.

5. Of the money-market: Tight. Cf. STRINGENCY. 1891 in *Century Dict.* And in later U. S. Dicts.

6. *Fort.* = RASANT. *Obs. rare.*

1673 SIR J. MOORE *Mod. Fortif.* 18 The Line coming from the Point of the Bastion..and drawn upon the face..to the Curtain..is called the *Line stringent*, and shews how much of the Curtain..will clear or scour the Face. 1711 *Milit. & Sea Dict.* (ed. 4) s. v. *Line*, Line Razant, Stringent or Flanking, or Second Flank.

Hence **Strĭ·ngently** *adv.*; **Strĭ·ngentness**.

1659 H. MORE *Immort. Soul* II. ii. 129 That the former part is false I shall now demonstrate, by proving more stringently, That [etc.]. 1727 BAILEY vol. II, *Stringentness*, binding Quality. 1866 GEO. ELIOT *F. Holt* viii, A clever, frank, good-natured egoist; not stringently consistent, but without any disposition to falsity. 1884 *Manch. Exam.* 2 Dec. 5/1 The principle of population has been applied more stringently than was at first proposed.

Stringer (strĭ·ŋəɹ). Also 5 **strenger, strynger, 6 -ar.** [f. STRING *v.* and *sb.* + -ER 1.]

1. One who makes strings for bows. ? *Obs.*

1420 in *York Memor. Bk.* II. (Surtees) 122 Stryngers. In primis, pro bona regula..habenda in arte quadam, que vocatur stryngercrafte. 1541 *Act*, 33 *Hen. VIII*, c. 9 § 1 The Bowers, Fletchers, Stringers and Arrowehedmakers of this your Realme. 1545 ASCHAM *Toxoph.* II. (Arb.) 110 Now what a stringe ought to be made on, whether of good hempe .., or of flaxe or of silke, I leaue that to the iugemente of stringers, of whome we muste bye them on. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 106/1 The Crest of the Bow-String Maker, commonly called the Stringers of the City of Chester.

b. The workman who fits a musical instrument (now esp. a piano) with strings.

1842 *Penny Mag.* Apr. 173/1 The workmen called 'stringers' fix the proper strings to the proper pins. 1898 *Daily Chron.* 24 Oct. 10/6 Pianoforte.—Stringer and chipper-up wanted.

2. † a. One who winds thread on a bobbin. *Obs.* b. One who threads (beads and the like) on a string. *rare*—⁰.

1598 FLORIO, *Accauigliatore*, a stringer of silke. 1850 OGILVIE, *Stringer*, one who arranges on a string, or thread; a bead or pearl stringer.

3. *fig.* One who strings words together. Also with *together, up.*

1774 *Univ. Mag.* Apr. 189/1 When the stringer up of a love-song condescends to take the pen. 1829 *Blackw. Mag.* XXVI. 915 Their great speakers were at best but stringers-together of good-for-nothing words. 1901 R. GARNETT *Ess.* xi. 313 A polisher and stringer of epigrammatic sayings.

† 4. A fornicator, wencher. *Obs.*

App. the speaker's perversion of *striker*: see STRIKER 2 d. 1611 BEAUM. & FL. *Knt. Burning Pestle* I. (1613) B 4, *Wife.* A whoreson tyrant has ben an old stringer in's daies I warrant him.

5. *Build.*, etc. a. A horizontal timber connecting uprights in a framework, supporting a floor, or the like; a tie or tie-beam.

1838 *Civil Engin. & Arch. Jrnl.* I. 150/1 These piles were connected on the inside by a pine stringer one foot square. 1893 *Scribner's Mag.* June 697/1 A plank sidewalk resting on the ordinary stringers.

b. *Shipbuilding.* An inside strake of planking or plating, secured to the ribs and supporting the ends of the beams.

1830 HEDDERWICK *Mar. Archit.* 130 *Stringers*, strakes of planks wrought round the inside at the height of the under side of the beams. 1842 *Civil Engin. & Arch. Jrnl.* V. 394/2 The iron gunwale stringer is formed of plate ¾ in. thick. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.*, *Stringers*, a name sometimes applied to shelf-pieces... Also, heavy timber similarly carried round a ship to fortify her for special heavy service, as whaling, &c. 1874 THEARLE *Naval Archit.* 331 Stringers are of two kinds, viz., hold and deck stringers.

attrib. 1869 SIR E. REED *Shipbuild.* ix. 161 All vessels to have stringer-plates upon the ends of each tier of beams. 1883 NARES *Constr. Ironclad* 6 Stringer plates are used to strengthen the ship longitudinally. These are iron plates laid along the end of the deck beams, and fastened to them and the frames.

c. A string-piece supporting a staircase.

1883 *Law Rep.* 8 Appeal Cases 450 Cutting a groove in the ..wall, and inserting in it one of the wooden stringers supporting the stair.

d. *U.S.* A longitudinal railway sleeper.

1881 LE CONTE *Sight* 142 Parallel lines of all kinds, such as railway stringers, bridge timbers, &c. 1902 *Munsey's Mag.* XXVI. 601/2 The fuel consisted of parts of the Tarlac station house and some hard-wood stringers.

e. The heavy squared timber carried along the edge of a wharf-front; cf. *string-piece* (STRING *sb.* 32).

1899 L. BECKE in *Pall Mall Gaz.* 26 Dec. 2/1 Tom sat down on a wharf stringer, dangling his feet.

6. *Mining* and *Geol.* A narrow vein of mineral traversing a mass of different material.

1874 RAYMOND *6th Rep. Mines* 32 This indicates that the present deposits are stringers or exflorescences [*sic*] of larger deposits. 1882 *Rep. Prec. Met. U. S.* 275 In the main vein is found a stringer of silver nearly pure.

7. *U.S.* A stick or switch used to string fish on.

1893 *Outing* XXII. 88/2 But, though he had several strikes, his stringer remained dry in his pocket.

8. *pl.* Handcuffs. *slang.*

1893 KIPLING *Many Inventt.*, *My Lord the Elephant*, The corp'ril of the gyard..unlocked my stringers, an' he sez: 'If it comes to runnin', run for your life.'

† **Stringere**, *v. Fencing. Obs.* Also 8 **stringer.** [? a. It. *stringere*, lit. to bind, clasp.] *trans.* ? To engage (the adversary, his weapon); to meet point to point. Hence quasi-*sb.*, the action of engaging. Also **Strĭ·ngering** *vbl. sb.*

1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. xix. (Roxb.) 159/2 A Stringere, or stringering, is the touching of the adversaries point with thy point; which thou art to doe for to secure thy selfe on either side from a thrust. *Ibid.* 161/1 When a thrust is made without, do it by a Quarte, euer obserueing that after the thrust, stringere him on the same side thou did thrust in the recalling of thy body, not moueing the point from his. 1711 Z. WYLDE *Engl. Master of Defence* 15 Take notice, That if I join Touch, Engage, Embogne, Stringer, Bind, Caveat, or Rely upon your Weapon, 'tis all one and the same thing.

Stringful (strĭ·ŋful). [See -FUL 2.] As many as may be strung on a string; also *fig.*

1611 COTGR., *Cordée*, a string-full of. 1890 *Temple Bar* Nov. 420 So they may have a stringful of conquests to boast of. 1893 *Tablet* 18 Feb. 273 He..quoted a stringful of Biblical quotations.

Stringhalt (strĭ·ŋhɔlt). Also 6 **-halte, -hawlde**, 7 **-holt, -hault.** [app. f. STRING *sb.* + HALT *a.* and *sb.*² See also SPRINGHALT.] An affection of the hind legs of a horse which causes certain muscles to contract spasmodically.

1523–34 FITZHERB. *Husb.* § 108 The stryng-halte is an yl disease, and maketh hym to twyche vp his legge sodeynly. 1592 R. D. *Hypnerotomachia* 45, I might well perceiue that they [*sc.* the nymphs] had neither crampes nor stringhawldes or leaden heeles. 1639 T. DE GREY *Compl. Horsem.* 66 All manner of convulsions, cramps, numnesse, and stringholts. 1688 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 2353/4 He takes up his Legs behind when he walks, as if he had the String-halt. 1817 SCOTT *Rob Roy* xxvii, The stringhalt will gae aff when it's gaen a mile. 1888 W. WILLIAMS *Princ. Vet. Med.* (ed. 5) 11 Hereditary tendency.—Many diseases, such as curbs, spavin, ..chorea or stringhalt, run in certain breeds of horses.

† b. as *adj.* Affected with stringhalt. *Obs.*

1675 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 983/4 A Grey Mare,..Stringhalt on the near Leg behind. 1703 *Ibid.* No. 3881/4 A brown-bay Nag,..much string-halt.

Hence **Strĭ·nghalted** (whence **Stringhaltedness**), **-halty** *adjs.*, affected with stringhalt. **Strĭ·nghalter**, a horse affected with stringhalt.

1687 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 2224/4 The one [gelding] a grey,.. string-halted. 1853 SURTEES *Sponge's Sp. Tour* (1893) 61 A weedy string-halty chestnut..., high in bone and low in flesh. 1872 *Daily News* 18 Apr. 5/7 The roarers, wheezers, scramblers, star-gazers, stringhalters. 1889 F. C. PHILIPS *Ainslie's Courtship* I. vi. 62 There was also a distinct tendency towards string-haltedness.

† **String-hearth.** *Obs.* In 5 **stryngherth.** [? f. STRING *sb.*] The hearth or furnace at which iron was heated for its second working.

1409 *Durham Acc. Roll* in *Eng. Hist. Rev.* XIV. 520 Soluta pro i trowe empto pro le stryngherth. *Ibid.* 527 Et uxori ejusdem laboranti ad le stryngherth in fabricatione dictorum xii blomes, xiid.

Stringiness (strĭ·ŋinĕs). [-NESS.] The quality of being stringy (see the adj.).

1699 EVELYN *Acetaria* 57 The bigger Roots..should..eat short and quick, without stringiness. 1842 LOUDON *Suburban Hort.* 665 The toughness and stringyness of the London asparagus. 1856 W. B. CARPENTER *Microsc.* 423 The bundles ..which give 'stringiness' to various esculent vegetable substances. 1884 MCLAREN *Spinning* (ed. 2) 31 Then add 7½ gallons more lye of double the strength, and about 6 lbs. of pearl-ash, to prevent stringiness.

Stringing (strĭ·ŋiŋ), *vbl. sb.* [-ING 1.]

1. The action of the vb. STRING: a. in trans. senses.

1620 BACON *Let.* 30 Aug. *Lett. & Rem.* (1734) 112 The stringing of the harp, nor the tuning of it will not serve, except it be well plaied on from time to time. 1655 in *12th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. v. 5 The polyphon is an instrument of so different a stringing and tuning that its impossible to play what is sett to it on any other hand instrument. 1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib., Brit.* II. No. 3391, A new mode of stringing, adapted to instruments of all kinds. 1884 *Tennis Cuts* 69 All these results have been caused by the change in the stringing of rackets [etc.]. 1886 SYMONDS *Renaiss. It., Cath. React.* (1898) VII. ix. 82 The stringing together of words and ideas in triplets. 1914 S. GIBSON *Some Oxf. Libr.* vi. 78 The stringing and restringing of books ..provided the Bodleian binders with much work.

b. in intr. senses.

1873 BENNETT & 'CAVENDISH' *Billiards* 477 The choice of balls and order of play shall..be determined by stringing. 1883 E. PENNELL-ELMHIRST *Cream Leicestersh.* 194 [The] party sail on..no tailing or stringing to-day, but the whole one compact and hurrying mass. 1892 GREENER *Breech-Loader* 267 The great stringing of the charge is due to the heavy charge of explosive used. The average stringing in a properly loaded gun is about ten feet at forty yards.

2. *concr.* a. Strings collectively; † ornamentation of lace or fringe. *Obs.*

1724 RAMSAY *Three Bonnets* II. 15 And where gat ye that braw blue stringing, That's at your houghs and shuthers hinging? 1851–4 *Tomlinson's Cycl. Arts* II. 308/2 The stringing [in a pianoforte] was formerly much thinner than at present.

b. Material for the string-board of a staircase, or for string-courses on a building.

1833 LOUDON *Encycl. Archit.* § 239. 125 Moulded nosings to the steps to be housed (let in) into the close stringing, which is to be one and a quarter inch thick, sunk. 1858 SKYRING *Builders' Prices* 91 In all copings, stringings, pilasters, cornices, and other solid works, find the cube quantity of stone as it comes from the banker to the building.

c. Straight or curved inlaid lines in cabinet-work.

1812 *MS. Letter*, I have purchased some veneer, but cannot get any stringing. 1842 G. FRANCIS *Dict. Arts*. 1843 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* I. 86 Holly..is used..for the stringings or lines of cabinet-work. 1846 *Ibid.* II. 737 The stringings, or the straight and circular lines combined with pearl buhl work, are mostly of white metal.

3. *Silk-dyeing.* The operation of twisting the hanks of silk after dyeing, in order to separate the fibres and impart lustre.

1885 HUMMEL *Dyeing Textile Fabrics* 55 Stringing or Glossing (Fr. *chevillage*).

4. *Comb.*: **stringing course**, a string-course; **stringing-deal** (see quot.); **stringing-machine** (see sense 3). † In *Billiards*: **stringing-line**, the baulk-line; **stringing nail**, each of two nails formerly used as 'spots' on the baulk-line; **stringing spot**, each of two 'spots' on the baulk-line.

1861 G. MUSGRAVE *By-roads* 179 Handsome farmhouses, built up in red brick with stone facings, labellings, and *stringing courses. 1881 RAYMOND *Mining Gloss.*, **Stringing-deals*, Eng. Thin planks, nailed to the inside of the curbs in a shaft, so as to suspend each curb from those above it. 1873 BENNETT & 'CAVENDISH' *Billiards* 6 The players led from the centre of the *stringing-line or baulk, which occupied a quarter of the table, instead of about a fifth as at present. 1885 HUMMEL *Dyeing Textile Fabrics* 55 The *stringing machine. 1788 J. BEAUFORT *Hoyle's Games Impr.* 195 *Stringing-nail is that part of the table from whence the player strikes his ball at first setting off, and is generally marked with two brass nails. 1808 C. JONES *Hoyle's Games Impr.* 338 A red ball is to be placed..between the stringing nails or spots. 1839 KENTFIELD *Billiards* 29 The player, in stringing for the lead, ..must not place his ball beyond the *stringing spots.

Stringless (strĭ·ŋlĕs), *a.* [-LESS.] Having no string; lacking strings.

1591 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* I. vi. 322 [The porcupine] Who string-less shoots so many arrowes out. 1593 SHAKS. *Rich. II*, II. i. 149 His tongue is now a stringlesse instrument. 1826 A. A. WATTS *Poet's Den* 89 A broken, stringless lute. 1882 J. PAYN *Thicker than Water* iii, He had a frameless, stringless glass, which stuck in his eye with the tenacity of a limpet. 1894 BLACKMORE *Perlycross* xviii. 151 Her hat being stringless had flown far away.

Stringy (stri·ŋi), *a.* [f. STRING *sb.* + -Y [1].]

1. Resembling string or fibre; consisting of string-like pieces. Chiefly applied to vegetable or animal tissues, esp. meat when its fibres have become tough.

1669 W. JACKSON in *Phil. Trans.* IV. 1061 Mosses..are a kind of Moorish boggy ground, very stringy, and fatt. 1693 EVELYN *De La Quint. Compl. Gard.* II. 155 The Radishes that are sown on hot Beds..are more apt to grow hollow and stringy. *Ibid.* Dict., *Sticky* or *Stringy*, is said of Roots, when not kindly or running to Seed. 1748 *Anson's Voy.* II. i. 165 We usually preferred the tops of the turnips to the roots, which were often stringy. 1829 G. HEAD *Forest Scenes N. Amer.* 224 As to the woodpecker..His flesh was..lean and stringy. 1863 HAWTHORNE *Our Old Home, Glimpses Eng. Poverty* II. 189 Bits and gobbets of lean meat,..tough and stringy morsels. 1884 *Manch. Exam.* 12 Nov. 8/2 Dates which are rather stringy than sweet.

b. spec. of timber (see quot.).

1843 *Civil Engin. & Arch. Jrnl.* VI. 406/1 Deals that, when acted upon by the saw, do not form sawdust, but are torn into long strings or fibres, and, on that account, termed 'stringy'.

2. Of a person, the body, etc.: Thin; exhibiting sinew rather than flesh.

1833 SIR F. B. HEAD *Bubbles Brunnen Nassau* (1834) 316 The stringy, weather-beaten features of the mountain peasant, were changed for countenances pulpy, fleshy, and evidently better fed. 1838 D. JERROLD *Men of Char.* I. II. iii. 48 A stringy little man of about fifty. 1870 MEREDITH *Egoist* xxi, Rather pale and stringy from his cold swim.

3. Of liquid or viscous matter: Containing or forming glutinous thread-like parts; ropy.

1694 ADDISON *Virg. Georg.* IV. 49 For this they hoard up glew, whose clinging drops, Like pitch, or bird-lime, hang in stringy ropes. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 1266 (*Varnish*) Keep it boiling until it feels strong and stringy between the fingers. 1846 *Mechanics' Mag.* 31 Oct. 427/2 When the glass was disposed to be wavy (*ondé*) or stringy (*cordé*) an iron tool was introduced into it. 1875 J. PRIESTLEY in *Phil. Trans.* CLXVI. 509 A stringy mucus.

4. Of the voice: ? Resembling the tone of a stretched string.

1820 *Q. Mus. Mag.* II. 257 *note*, The effect of Mr. Bartleman's voice is often stringy, and of Mr. Braham's almost always either reedy or overbroke.

Stringy-bark. *Austral.* A name for many species of *Eucalyptus* (e.g. *E. giganteæ*), which have a tough fibrous bark. Also *attrib.*

1802 BARRINGTON *Hist. N. S. Wales* ix. 358 This [canoe] was formed of the Stringy bark. 1832 BISCHOFF *Van Diemen's Land* ii. 22 The stringy bark is perhaps one of the most useful trees in the island. 1859 CORNWALLIS *New World* I. 168 A short ascent through stringy-bark forest. 1885 HAYTER *Carboona* 4 She..made twine nets of the stringy-bark fibre.

b. The bark of any of these trees.

1859 CORNWALLIS *New World* I. 191 Other sheets of stringy-bark were then bent over the platform. 1880 FISON & HOWITT *Kamilaroi* 196 Down to the waist they are all wound round with frayed stringybark in thick folds.

c. quasi-*adj.* Belonging to the 'bush' or uncultivated country.

1833 *N. S. Wales Mag.* I. 173 (Morris) The workmanship of which I beg you will not scrutinize, as I am but, to use a colonial expression, 'a stringy-bark carpenter'. 1890 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Col. Reformer* xxiii, I'd give a tenner out of my own pocket they was all..back at Bowning or some other stringy-bark hole as is fit for 'em.

† Stri·nkle, stre·nkle, *sb. Obs.* Forms: *α.* 3 **strennele, strenkil,** 5 **strenkyl(le,** 5–6 **strencle,** 6 **strenkyll**; *β.* 5 **strynkylle,** 6 **strynkyll, strincle, strinkle**; *γ.* 6 **stryngel.** [Related to STRINKLE *v.*] A holy-water sprinkler, an aspergillum.

α. *c* 1200 ORMIN 1095 Patt blod tatt he þær haffde brohht, & warrp itt tær wiþþ strennceless. *Ibid.* 1707. *a* 1300 *E. E. Psalter* l. 8 Þou sal strenkil me ouer-alle With strenkil, and klensed be I salle. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 223/1 Haly water spryngelle, or strencle..*aspersorium*. *Ibid.* 479/2 Strenkyl, halywater styk, *aspersorium, isopus*. 1530 PALSGR. 277/1 Strenkyll to cast holy water, *uimpilon*. 1584 in J. Morris *Troubles Cath. Forefathers* (1877) 270 Certain Mass books, pictures, holy water with strencles.

β. *c* 1445 *Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 648/25 *Hoc aspersorium*, strynkylle. 1520 in J. Croft *Excerpta Ant.* (1797) 13 Item, paid for ij Strynkylls. 1533 in *Kal. & Inv. Exch.* (1836) II. 270 Item a holly waterstocke..crownyd wt a strincle and a small cheyne of golde. 1559 MORWYNG *Evonym.* 108 If part of this water..be..thrown into thair with a strinkle, it will make a great cloude.

γ. 1514 in E. Law *Hampton Crt. Pal.* (1885) 343 An holy waterstok of laton with a stryngel of laton.

Strinkle (stri·ŋk'l), **strenkle** (stre·ŋk'l), *v. Obs.* exc. *Sc.* and *dial.* Forms: *α.* 3, 5 **strencle,** 4, 6 *Sc.* **strenkil,** 4–5 **-kyll(e,** 5 **strenkel, -kill(e, strengkyll,** 4, 9 **strenkle,** *Sc.* **strenkell**; *β.* 4, 6–9 *Sc.* **strinkle,** (6 *Sc.* **strynkle, strinkill,** 7 **strincle,** 9 *Sc.* **strinkel**). [Possibly an altered form of SPRINKLE *v.* (which, however, is later in our quots.), due to association with *strew.*]

1. *trans.* To sprinkle (a person or thing *with* holy water) (*obs.* exc. *arch.*); to sprinkle or strew (a surface with something); also with *over*. Also *fig.*

α. *a* 1300 [see STRINKLE *sb.*, STRINKLING *vbl. sb.* 1]. *a* 1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* l. 8 Ysope is a medicynall erbe,..whorwiþ who so is strenkild in penaunce, it purges him. *a* 1400–50 *Wars Alex.* 3224 (Dubl. MS.) Þat [wall of gold] was strengkyllyd [*MS. Ashm.* streken] full of sternez & strykyn with gemmys. *a* 1420 *Aunters of Arthur* 590 (Douce MS.) Stones of Iral þey strenkel and strewe. *c* 1460 *Towneley Myst.* xxviii. 108 Luf makys me, as ye may se strenkyllid with blood so red. 14.. *Promp. Parv.* 479/2 Strenkelyn, or sprenkelyn, MSS. *K., H., S. aspergo, conspergo*. *c* 1520 M. NISBET *Heb.* x. 22 And be our hartis strenkilit [*Wyclif* spreynt, spreined] fra ane euile conscience. 1819 W. TENNANT *Papistry Storm'd* (1827) 199 Strenkellin'..the fechtars' faces Wi' its out-waffin' water.

β. ?*c* 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 11194 (Petyt MS.) Menyuere strinkled with gris. 1536 BELLENDEN *Cron. Scot.* (1821) II. 219 Bot Ilay..come with his ii sonnis, strinklit with dust and sweit o attal. 1567 *Gude & Godlie Ball.* 123 With Isope Lord thow strinkill me, And than I sall be clene. 1733 P. LINDSAY *Interest Scot.* 153 The Ground is fallowed ..; and at sowing it is all strinkled over with human Ordure. 1764 ELIZ. MOXON *Eng. Housew.* (ed. 9) 98 When they [*sc.* eels] are almost enough strinkle them over with a little shred parsley. 1819 W. TENNANT *Papistry Storm'd* (1827) 156 A streap o' blude..Strinkel't his ilka haffet.

2. To sprinkle, scatter, strew (something *on, upon, among*).

α. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 307 [God speaks:] I schal strenkle my distresse & strye al togeder, Bope ledez & londe & alle þat lyf habbez. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 12145 Hir blod all aboute aboue hit was sched, And strawet in þe strete, strenklit full þik. 1850 T. BEWICK *Howdy & Upgetting* 10 Bring him..a shive oh Butter an Breed..an strenkle a leapyt ov sugar on't.

β. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* IV. ix. 27 And to the walkryf dragon meit gaif sche,...Strynkland [L. *spargens*] to hym the wak hony sweit. *Ibid.* 80 And euir the wattir strinkles sche agane. 1581 N. BURNE *Disput.* 11 b, This christian man..did hallou valter,..and strinkle it vpon the lyme. 1607 MARKHAM *Caval.* III. 44 Giue him..a handfull or two of well sifted Oates, and a prety quantity of this scouring strinckled amongst them. 1721 WODROW *Hist. Ch. Scot.* (1830) II. II. xii. 354 They..had nothing but snow-water, strinkled upon some oatmeal, to drink. 1764 ELIZ. MOXON *Eng. Housew.* (ed. 9) 102 Strinkle in a little salt and mace. *Ibid.* 108 Strinkle at the top a little flour. 1829 BROCKETT *N. C. Gloss.* (ed. 2), *Strinkle*, to spread by scattering. 1877 *N. W. Linc. Gloss.* s. v., 'They've gotten a strange good cart at Brigg to strinkle watter aboot to lay th' dust.' 'Strinkle a bit o' Indian corn for them pigeons.'

Hence **† Stri·nkled** *ppl. a.*

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 479/2 Strenkelyd, or sprenkelyd (*Pynson* strenkled), *aspersus*.

Strinkling, strenkling. *vbl. sb. Obs.* exc. *Sc.* and *dial.* [f. STRINKLE *v.* + -ING [1].]

1. The action of the verb.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 28580 Of hali water þe strenkling. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 479/2 Strenkelynge, or sprenkelynge, *aspersio*.

2. A small quantity or amount sprinkled; also *fig.* a small proportion intermixed.

1660 H. MORE *Myst. Godl.* VII. ix. 316 He may also help himself something from those strinklings that are found in prophane Writers. *Ibid.* VIII. xiv. § II. 427 Men whose brains were seasoned with some strinklings at least of Madness and Phrensy. 1743 R. MAXWELL *Sel. Trans. Soc. Impr. Agric. Scot.* 83 If in the ensuing Spring, you harrow the Field, adding a strinkling of Clover..before harrowing. 1823 E. MOOR *Suffolk Words* s. v., 'A pretty strinkling of turnips,' means a goodish plant all over the field. 1883 *Almondbury & Huddersf. Gloss.* s. v., Thus a congregation might consist chiefly of women, with a strinkling of men.

Strinth(e, obs. forms of STRENGTH.

Strio- (strəi·o), used as combining form of STRIA, in adjs. (*Anat.* and *Phys.*) with the sense 'pertaining to the striæ and something else'; as *strio-cerebral.*

1878 tr. *Ziemssen's Cycl. Med.* XIV. 700 We must speak only of spinal, bulbar, cerebellar, strio-cerebral, cerebro-cortical movements, &c.

Striola (strəi·ólă). *Biol.* Pl. **striolæ.** [mod.L., dim. of STRIA.] A small stria.

1903 *Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist.* May 454 The disk bears numerous transverse striolæ.

Striolate (strəi·ólĕt), *a. Biol.* [ad. mod.L. *striolātus*, f. STRIOLA: see -ATE [2].] Marked with striolæ.

1841 *Proc. Berw. Nat. Club* I. ix. 266 The whorls appear to be very finely striolate. 1899 *Proc. Zool. Soc.* 860 Abdominal integument punctured as well as striolate.

Hence **Stri·olated** *a.*, in the same sense.

1865 TRISTRAM *Land of Israel* (1876) 288 S. brought in several specimens of the striolated bunting. 1902 *Proc. Zool. Soc.* II. 38 The 2nd and 3rd segments punctured and longitudinally striolated in the middle.

Stri·olet. *Ent. rare*—°. = STRIOLA.

1826 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* IV. xlvi. 302 Striolet, a short stria.

Strip (strip), *sb.*[1] *Law.* Now only *U.S.* Forms: 6 **stripe, stryppe, strepe,** 7– **strip.** [a. AF. *estrepe*, vbl. noun f. *estreper* ESTREPE *v.*] = ESTREPEMENT.

1516 in *5th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* (1876) 596/2 Jone my wyffe schalle make no stryppe ner waste in fellyng of tymbyr. 15.. *Modus tenend. Cur. Baron* (W. de W.) A 4, Yf ye knowe that ony tenaunt haue made ony strepe or waast vpon his bonde tenement. Strepe is to saye pullynge vp of trees or hedges, waste is to saye late houses fall downe for defaute of reperacyon. 1559 *Boke Presidentes* 30 N...shall haue..necessarie firebote, hedge bote [etc.]..duryng the sayd term, without stripe or wast. 1633 BP. HALL *Hard Texts, Isa.* vii. 20 In that day, the Lord shall by the hand of the Assyrians..make utter strip, & waste of Judah. 1662 GURNALL *Chr. in Arm.* III. verse 17. lx. [lxi.] 539 'Tis too bad if the tenant pays not his easie rent, but to make strip and waste of the trees on his Land-lords ground, this is more intolerable. 1682 tr. *Charter of Cinque Ports* 138 Strip or Estrepement is a Writ for taking Lands from him that strips and spoils them. 1701 in *Charters & Gen. Laws Massachusetts* (1814) 361 No woman that shall be endowed of any lands..as aforesaid, shall commit or suffer any strip or waste thereupon, but [etc.]. 1891 *Century Dict.*, *Strip*, destruction of fences, timber, etc.; waste. (U.S.)

Strip (strip), *sb.*[2] Also 6 **strippe, stryppe,** 7 **stripp.** [a. or cogn. w. MLG. *strippe* strap, thong of a whip-lash, purse-string, etc., perh. f. Teut. root **strīp-*: see STRIPE *sb.*[2]

The MLG. *strippe*, however, may be for **strüppe* cogn. with STROP *sb.*[1]; if so, sense 3 may perh. be an adoption of an unrecorded continental use: cf. Du. *strop* collar, stock.]

1. A narrow piece (primarily of textile material, paper, or the like; hence *gen.*) of approximately uniform breadth.

Pilaster strip (Arch.): see PILASTER.

1459 *Invent.* in *Paston Lett.* I. 478 Item, j pece of blak kersey with rosys...Item, ij stripis of the same sute. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VIII*, 10 Strippes of black Veluet, euery strip set with a scalop shell. 1697 H. WANLEY in *Bodl. Q. Rec.* (1915) Jan. 107 That a little strip of Parchment be pasted to each Tract, with its number written upon it. 1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), *Strip*, a small piece of Cloth. 1756 C. LUCAS *Ess. Waters* III. 74 The glare of an egg.. spread upon strips of paper. 1811 in *Rep. Comm. Publ. Rec. Irel.* (1815) 71 The Fees demandable by the Clerk of the Enrolments...For ingrossing every double strip of Enrolment, 0 1 7½. 1847 G. HARRIS *Life Ld. Hardwicke* III. xiv. 284 The following is in Lord Hardwicke's handwriting, on a small strip of paper. 1856 MISS YONGE *Daisy Chain* I. xviii, No carpet, except little strips by the bed. 1882 GASKELL in *Jrnl. Physiol.* IV. 51 A strip of muscular tissue is cut from the apex of the ventricle. 1907 J. A. HODGES *Elem. Photogr.* (ed. 6) 118 A strip of very fine muslin.

† b. *collect.* as a material.

1801 JANE AUSTEN *Lett.* (1884) I. 283 My mother has ordered a new bonnet, and so have I; both white strip, trimmed with white ribbon.

c. A long narrow tract of territory, of land, wood, etc.

1816 TUCKEY *Narr. Exped. R. Zaire* vi. (1818) 206 The banks [of the river here] have in some places low strips of soil and sand. 1841 W. SPALDING *Italy & It. Isl.* I. 27 The county of Nice and duchy of Genoa, which form a long narrow strip between the southern side of the mountains and the sea. 1842 W. AITON *Dom. Econ.* (1857) 284 The preceding minister..had planted a strip of firs..around the portion of the glebe on which the manse and offices were built. 1872 BLACK *Adv. Phaeton* vi. 74 This road is bordered by a strip of common. 1880 RUSKIN *On Old Road* (1885) II. 3 A narrow strip of untilled field.

d. A narrow piece of board, metal plate, etc.

1831 BREWSTER *Optics* XXVIII. 240 The influence of compression and dilatation may be well exhibited by taking a strip of glass..and bending it by the force of the hands. 1860 J. HEWITT *Arms & Arm.* II. 120 Defences in which longitudinal strips appear, are of this (the 14th) century. These strips are placed contiguously, on the arms and legs: they sometimes form a mere ridge on the surface of a smooth armour. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2430 *Strip*, a narrow piece of board nailed over a crack or joint between planks. 1907 J. A. HODGES *Elem. Photogr.* (ed. 6) 42 Strips of wood about 2½ in. wide by 1 in. thick.

e. A narrow portion of a surface, bounded by parallel lines.

1882 G. M. MINCHIN *Unipl. Kinemat.* 185 To find the resistance of this area, we may consider it as broken up into ..an indefinitely great number of equipotential strips. 1892 CAYLEY *Math. Papers* (1897) XIII. 233 The skew surface is thus composed of rigid strips or elements, each included between two consecutive lines.

† 2. ? Some piece of armour. *Obs. rare*—[1].

Cf. the mod. application in quot. 1860 in 1 d, and in *strip-armour.*

c 1508 DUNBAR *Poems* XXVI. 37 Bostaris, braggaris, and bargeneris..Al bodin in feir of weir, In iakkis, and stryppis and bonettis of steill.

† 3. An ornamental article of attire worn, chiefly by women, about the neck and the upper part of the chest. *Obs.*

1598 BP. HALL *Sat.* IV. iv. 31 When a plum'd Fanne may shade thy chalked face, And fawny strips thy naked bosome grace. *Ibid.* IV. vi. 44 Tyr'd with pin'd Ruffes, and Fans, and partlet-strips And Buskes, and Verdingales about their hips. 1642 in Alice M. Earle *Two Cent. Costume Amer.* (1903) I. 205 [A Maryland gentleman left by will, with other attire, in 1642,] Nine laced strippes, two plain strippes, nine quoiffes, one call, eight crosse-cloths [etc.]. 1658 J. SMITH *Innov. Penelope & Ulysses* in *Wit Restored* 155 A stomacher upon her breast so bare, For Strips and Gorgets was not then the weare.

4. *Metallurgy.* **a.** An ingot prepared for rolling into plates.

1876 *Encycl. Brit.* IV. 217/2 The ingots [of brass] for rolling, termed 'strips', are in the cold state passed successively between rolls..of large size which squeeze them out and extend them lengthwise. 1879 C. HIBBS in *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* IV. 413/1 The ingots or 'strips' [of German silver] are then rolled into plates.

b. A narrow flat bar of iron or steel; hence, iron or steel in 'strips' (more fully *strip iron, steel*).

Often with prefixed word denoting the purpose, as *gas, nail, rail, tube strip.*

1887 *Daily News* 16 May 2/3 Bedstead strip varies from £5 to £7 per ton..and gas strip £4 17s 6d to £5. 1893 *Ibid.* 5 June 2/4 Tube strip is £5 10s to £5 15s; the competition in thin strip and hoop iron..continues keen,...Hoops and thin strips are being offered..at £6. Local makers ask £6 5s for steel strip. 1901 WATERHOUSE *Conduit Wiring* 8 The Conduits are made from selected steel strip.

5. *Mining.* (See quot.)

1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2430 *Strip* (*Mining*), an inclined trough in which ores are separated by being disturbed while covered by a stream of water descending the strip.

6. *attrib.*, as (sense 1 c) *strip-holder, -holding, -owner*; (sense 4 a) *strip-caster*; **strip-armour** *Hist.*, armour for the arms and legs, showing

broad raised strips (see sense 1 d) alternating with sunken bands; **strip-loin** *U.S.*, a particular cut of the loin of beef; **strip map**, a long narrow map, showing the course of a line of road, and the places adjacent; **strip ticket**, a ticket for a journey by a public conveyance, printed with a number of similar tickets on a strip of paper; **strip-work** (*a*) *Arch.* = *strap-work* (STRAP *sb.* 17); (*b*) = *strip-armour*.

1860 J. HEWITT *Arms & Arm.* II. 121 The manner of forming this *strip-armour is very exactly described. 1879 C. HIBBS in *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* IV. 413/1 The '*strip-caster' as he is termed. 1884 *B'ham Daily Post* 23 Feb. 3/5 Stripcaster.—Wanted, Steady Man, used to casting Brass for rolling. 1898 F. W. MAITLAND *Township & Borough* 64 Very often the office-holders were *strip-holders or at any rate belonged to families which had held strips. 1901 *Month* Dec. 603 The *strip-holding of arable land which was so universal in England. 1884 *Harper's Mag.* July 299/1 Tenderloins, *striploins, sirloins. 1903 *List New Publications* in *Daily Chron.* 30 July 3/2 'The Exeter Road.' *Strip map. 'The Liverpool and Manchester Road.' Strip map. 'The Carlisle Road'. Strip map. 1906 *Westm. Gaz.* 23 July 10/2 The Strip or Motor-Route Maps. 1898 F. W. MAITLAND *Township & Borough* 6 The *strip-owners are for the more part colleges. 1908 *Daily Chron.* 7 Sept. 1/5 The experiment of substituting *strip tickets for season tickets on the Baker-street and Waterloo, Great Northern and Piccadilly, and Charing-cross, Euston, and Hampstead Railways comes into force on October 1. 1909 *Ibid.* 10 July 4/6 Our London tube strip-tickets. 1860 J. HEWITT *Arms & Arm.* II. 121 In both these sculptures the *strip-work is found on the arms and legs. 1893 *Reliquary* Jan. 16 The third stage has a large window in the south wall; this has decorated strip-work around it.

Strip (strip), *sb.*[3] [f. STRIP *v.*[1]] *pl.* Tobacco-leaf with the stalk and midrib removed. Also *strip-leaf*.

1844 *Rep. Sel. Comm. Tobacco Trade, Min. Evid.* 232 The consequence of the permission which is given to import strips at the same duty as leaf is, that the stalks are exported from America to the Continent. 1845 DODD *Brit. Manuf.* V. 133 'Strip-leaf'..is the technical name for tobacco from which the stem of the leaf has been taken away before the latter is packed in the hogshead. 1904 *Daily Chron.* 6 May 6/3 His whole imports in March were 333 hogsheads of 'strips' and nineteen hogsheads of leaf tobacco.

Strip (strip), *sb.*[4] *Sc.* [Prob. a back-formation from *stript* var. of STRIPED *a.*] = STRIPE *sb.*[2]

In some dialects of Scotland the form *stripe* in this sense is unknown in genuine vernacular speech; 'strips' is the only word, e. g. for the stripes of a tiger or a zebra.

1789 J. WILLIAMS *Min. Kingd.* I. 80 The strips or streaks lie all of them exactly parallel to one another, and exactly parallel to the bed of the stone. 1843 J. BALLANTINE *Gaberlunzie's Wallet* 304 They wont be long in having sergeant's strips on their arms. 1914 *Brit. Mus. Return* 94 Green ewer with waved strip below the handle, found in Dora.

† b. *attrib.* or *adj.* Striped. *Obs.*

1666 in *Maitland Club Miscell.* (1840) II. 539 For six yeardis of strip silk stuff..015 08 00.

Strip (strip), *v.*[1] Pa.t. and pa. pple. **stripped** (stript), **stript**. Forms: 1 **-strýpan**, 3 **strupen**, 3–6 **stripe**, 4–6 **strype**, 4 **strepe**, **streepe**, **struype**, 4–6 **stryppe**, 4–7 **strippe**, 5 **streppe**, 7 **stripp**, 6– **strip**. *Pa. t.* 1 **-strýpte**, **-stripte**, 3 **strepte**, **streopte**, **strupte**, 5 **strypid**, **striput**, **strepid**, **strope**, 6 **stryp(p)ed**, 6– **stripped**, **stript**. *Pa. pple.* 1 **-strýped**, 3 **istruped**, 4 **i-stript**, **i-stripte**, 5 **strypte**, **striped**, 6 **stryp(p)ed**, **striped**, 7 **strip'd**, 5– **stripped**, 6– **stript**. [ME. *stripe*, *strepe*, *strupe* (ü) :—OE. **strlepan*, **strépan*, **strýpan* (whence *be-strýpan* to plunder, despoil: see BESTRIP *v.*), corresp. to MLG., MDu. *strôpen* (mod.Du. *stroopen*), to plunder, strip, MHG. *ströufen* to skin, chastise (mod. G. *streifen* to strip off) :—WGer. **straupjan*; the Teut. root **straup-*: **strup-* prob. occurs also in MHG. *strupfen* to strip off, and possibly in STROPS*b.* The normal mod. form of the present-stem would be **stripe*; the shortening of the vowel prob. took place first before the two consonants in the pa. t. and pa. pple. *stript*, and hence extended to the pres.-stem.

The mod.Du. *strippen* to strip (tobacco), sometimes cited as cognate, is prob. from Eng.]

I. To unclothe, denude.

1. *trans.* To divest (a person, body) of clothing; to undress, make bare or naked. Often more definitely with compl. or phrase, *to strip naked, to strip to the skin*, (*to the buff*). Const. *of*, †*out of* (one's clothing).

a 1225 *Juliana* 16 He het hatterliche strupen hire steort naket. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Clerk's T.* 807 Ye dide me streepe out of my poure weede And richely me cladden. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) VIII. 221 [Heo] was *i-stripte and i-scourged [L. *exspoliata flagellaretur*]. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 480/1 Strypyn, or streppyn, or make nakyd, *nudo, denudo*. *c* 1450 *Mirk's Festial* 121 Pay buffed hym and bobbyd hym, and aftyr striput hym naked. 1530–1 *Act 22 Hen. VIII*, c. 12 § 2 They shall strype hym naked from the myddel upwarde & cause hym to be whypped. *a* 1586 SIDNEY *Arcadia* II. xix. (1912) 272 For there they began to strip her of her clothes, when I came in among them. 1592 TIMME *Ten Eng. Lepers* vii. 1 j, Her husband..might strip her out of her clothes,..and beat her openly. 1657 BILLINGSLY *Brachy-Martyrol.* xxxii. 119 Strip, strip, man, woman, child,..Leave not a rag on, turn them out of doors. 1697 DRYDEN *Æneis* II. 534 Thus Ripheus, Dymas, all the Trojan Train, Lay down their own Attire and strip the slain. 1815 SCOTT *Talism.* v, He beheld the anchorite stripping his shoulders with frantic haste of their shaggy mantle. 1891 FARRAR *Darkn. & Dawn* lxv, It meant stripping him naked, ..and then beating him to death with rods.

refl. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Merch. T.* 714 Anon he preyde hire strepen hire al naked. *c* 1450 *Gesta Rom.* xiii. 43 He strepid him, and shewid his woundis. 1600 SHAKS. *A. Y. L.* IV. iii. 147 Who led me instantly vnto his Caue, There stript himselfe. 1662 J. DAVIES tr. *Mandelslo's Trav.* 27, I made some difficulty to accept of the profers they made me to strip themselves naked. 1720 PRIOR *Truth & Falshood* 23 The Nymph.. Stript her self naked to the skin. 1839 LANE *Arab. Nts.* I. 78 He then stripped himself, and dived round the net. 1872 [see BUFF *sb.*[8] 3].

intr. for *refl.* 1687 A. LOVELL tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* I. 31 Benches, where you sit down, and lay your cloaths after you have stript. 1725 DE FOE *Voy. round World* (1840) 308 The other, being a good swimmer, stripped and put off to it. 1896 HOUSMAN *Shropshire Lad* lv, Now that other lads than I Strip to bathe on Severn shore.

† b. *fig. phrase.* [Cf. Fr. 'se despouiller avant que se coucher' (Cotgr.).]

1675 SOUTH *Serm.* (1692) 571 Some fond, easy Fathers think fit to strip themselves before they lie down to their long sleep, and to settle their whole Estates upon their Sons.

c. *transf.* (jocular nonce-use).

1601 SHAKS. *Twel. N.* III. iv. 274 Therefore on, or strippe your sword starke naked.

d. To divest (a person, oneself) of outer garments, or of some specified outer garment. Const. *of*, † *out of*. Sometimes in phr. *to strip to*, † *into*, † *unto* (the shirt or other inner garment).

c 1422 HOCCLEVE *Jereslaus' Wife* 233 He strypid hir anoon left al delay, Vn-to hir smok. 1530 TINDALE *Gen.* xxxvii. 23 They strypte him [Ioseph] out of his gay coote that was vpon him. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VIII*, 63 Diverse offenders..came wel appareled to Westmynster & sodeynly stryped them into their shertes. *a* 1627 H. SHIRLEY *Mart. Soldier* v. (1638) I 1 b, How comes she to this habite? Went she thus in? *Epid.* No Sir, mine owne hands stript her into rags. 1671 MILTON *Samson* 1188 Then like a Robber [thou] stripdst them of thir robes. 1789 W. BUCHAN *Dom. Med.* (1790) 133, I have known mechanics frequently contract fatal diseases, by working stript at an open window. 1822 BYRON *Juan* VII. lxxiii, An old man..besmear'd with dust, Stript to his waistcoat. 1831 SCOTT *Cast. Dang.* viii, Two or three archers showed themselves, stripped of their tunics, and only attired in their shirts and hose. 1865 TROLLOPE *Belton Est.* xvi, He had already stripped himself of his wrappings,..and..at once followed Clara to the squire's room.

fig. 1675 H. TEONGE *Diary* (1825) 68 Ther fore our Admirall strips himself to his shirt; viz. he stays before the towne only with 3 shipps more.

e. *intr.* for *refl.* Also of an athlete, a pugilist, etc.: To take off one's ordinary wearing apparel in preparation for a contest.

1688 BUNYAN *Heavenly Footm.* (1724) 27 If thou intendest to win, thou must Strip, thou must lay aside every Weight. 1711 STEELE *Spect.* No. 51 P 5 [The author] in the *Rover*, makes a Country Squire strip to his Holland Drawers. The Pleasantry of Stripping almost Naked has been since practised..very successfully at Bartholomew Fair. 1833 *Q. Rev.* XLIX. 391 Whether it be the prize-fighter who strips in the ring, or the race-horse at the starting-post. 1887 SHEARMAN *Athletics* 73 A sprinter, too, to use a cant phrase of pedestrianism, 'strips big'—*i. e.* looks bigger stripped than he does in his clothes.

f. *trans.* To deprive *of* armour, insignia, ornaments; also *fig.* Also const. † *out of*.

c 1386 CHAUCER *Knt.'s T.* 148 To ransake in the taas of bodyes dede, Hem for to strepe of harneys and of wede. 1592 STOW *Ann.* 665 His souldiors were stripped out of their harnes, and let go. 1622 FITZ-GEFFRY *Elisha* 24 Doe they ake to bee..stripped [*printed* shipped] of their Jewels as the Israelites were? 1784 COWPER *Task* VI. 640 What heathen would have dar'd To strip Jove's statue of his oaken wreath, And hang it up in honour of a man? 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. II. iv, Caron..regains his Lawsuit..; strips Reporter Goezman of the judicial ermine. 1866 SIR T. SEATON *Cadet to Colonel* II. iii. 86 The mutineers were stripped of their uniforms.

† g. To discharge (a liveried servant). *Obs.*

1756 FOOTE *Engl. ret. fr. Paris* I. Wks. 1799 I. 97 If you suffer that fellow to enter my doors again, I'll strip and discard you the very minute.

h. To remove the clothing of (a racehorse); also *intr.* of a horse, to undergo this process.

1730 CHENY *List Horse-Matches* 35 The three..run all on the wrong side a Post, at doing which *Sweetest when naked* broke away to the Place where they strip'd her. 1857 G. A. LAWRENCE *Guy Liv.* ix. 83 The bell for saddling rang, and the horses came out. The mare stripped beautifully, as fine as a star. 1860 *Baily's Mag.* I. 110 We have never seen a better-looking lot of two-year olds stripped at so early a period of the year.

2. *fig.* a. To divest or dispossess (a person, oneself) of attributes, titles, rights, honours, offices, etc. Const. † *out of*, † *from, of*.

c 1320 *Castle of Love* 431 in *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* 366 Ne helpeb him no þing..þat his fo..I-strupt him al start-naked, Of miȝt and strengþe al bare I-maked. 1561 HOBY tr. *Castiglione's Courtier* II. (1900) 117 The prince stripping himself of the person of a prince, and mingling himself equallye with his underlinges. 1608 SHAKS. *Lear* IV. iii. 45 (Qos.) His own vnkindnes That stript her from his benediction. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* (1637) 621 Stephen afterwards stript him out of these Honours. 1663 PATRICK *Parab. Pilgrim* x. (1687) 56 He ought to strip himself of all undue affections to the world. 1675 BUNYAN *Saved by Grace* Wks. (1692) 561/1 Of his Godhead he could not strip himself. 1776 GIBBON *Decl. & F.* v. (1782) I. 148 Many cities of the east were stript of their ancient honours. 1851 ROBERTSON *Serm.* Ser. II. i. (1864) 2 He stripped the so-called religious party..of their respectability. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* vi. II. 126 Queensberry was stripped of all his employments. 1880 DIXON *Windsor* III. xxiv. 245 The cardinal stripped him of his deanery. 1906 C. BIGG *Wayside Sk. Eccl. Hist.* iii. 81 Strip him of his mantle of Euphuism and you will find him always sensible and candid.

b. To denude or divest (a thing) of attributes.

1597 HOOKER *Eccl. Pol.* v. lxv. § 3 There is no necessitie of stripping sacraments out of all such attire of Ceremonies as mans wisedome hath at any time clothed them withall. 1690 LOCKE *Hum. Und.* III. xi. § 7 When I shall see any of those Combatants, strip all his Terms of Ambiguity and Obscurity,..I shall think him a Champion for Knowledge, Truth, and Peace. 1746 HERVEY *Medit.* (1818) 272 Sometimes I have seen that resplendent globe, stript of her radiance. 1824 SCOTT *St. Ronan's* XXIX, Your friend, sir, must at least strip his proposals of their fine gilding. 1856 *N. Brit. Rev.* XXVI. 39 The canonical writings have, in the process, been stripped of every claim to our regard. 1859 JEPHSON *Brittany* x. 161, I doubt the wisdom of stripping all social events of everything that appeals to the imagination. 1908 *Programme of Modernism* 223 The ecclesiastical authority..should strip itself of that external pomp which adorns it in the eyes of the public.

c. To expose the character or nature of (a person or thing).

1619 H. HUTTON *Follies Anat.* B 7, Shutting my Muse in silence, least she strip This Saint-like creature with a Satyres whip. 1781 COWPER *Charity* 494 He hides behind a magisterial air His own offences, and strips others bare. 1781 — *Expost.* 141 He stripp'd th' impostors in the noon-day sun; Show'd that they follow'd all they seem'd to shun.

† 3. To plunder, spoil; to deprive totally (whether justly or otherwise) of possessions, or of something specified; to render destitute.

† a. without const. *Obs.*

For slang uses see quot. *a* 1700.

a 1225 *Juliana* 62 þu..deidest..ant stepe adun & stript-est [*MS. Bodl.* herhedest] helle. *c* 1425 *Eng. Cong. Ireland* 144 Thay [the governors of Ireland]..pulled & strope ham that non harme dydde. 1612 S. RID *Art of Jugling* C 4 b, He that hath the first dice, is like alwaies to stripp and rob all the table about. 1692 LUTTRELL *Brief Rel.* (1857) II. 530 They also brought off 50 wounded men, and divers of the dead with them, the enemy haveing not then stript the feild. *a* 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew, Strip*, c. to Rob or Gut a House, to unrig any Body, or to Bite them of their Money. *Strip the ken*, c. to Gut the House. *Strip the Table*, c. to Winn all the Money on the Place.

b. const. *of*. Common in 17–18th c. Now *rare*.

1594 *Selimus* Greene's Wks. (Grosart) XIV. 216 We that haue fought with mighty Prester John, And stript th' Ægyptian soldan of his camp. 1598 R. BERNARD tr. *Terence, Andria* IV. v. 86 *Despoliavit nos omnibus*. He hath not left vs a dish to eate our meat in. He hath stript vs of al. *a* 1656 BP. HALL *Rem. Wks.* (1660) 143 Many a one here is borne to a fair estate, and is strip't of it. *a* 1716 SOUTH *Serm.* (1727) VI. 114 An endeavour to strip him of his Friends. 1726 *Whole Art Mod. Gaming* 27 It is about a thousand to one but he is so unlucky, as to come away clean stript of all his Money. 1727 [E. DORRINGTON] *Philip Quarll* (1816) 78 Yearly stripping the eagles of their eggs had prevented their increase. 1737 in *10th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. I. 266 His fate was to be strip'd of all he had in Sweden. 1769 ROBERTSON *Chas. V*, VII. Wks. 1851 IV. 200 [They] in the space of a few weeks, stripping him entirely of his dominions, drove him..to take refuge in the court of Bavaria.

c. To deprive or rid (a substance or thing) *of*.

1675 G. HARVEY *Dis. Lond.* xxiv. 265 The Basis whereof is Antimony stripped of its venenous Sulphur. 1796 KIRWAN *Elem. Min.* (ed. 2) I. 491 Macquer first discovered, that Prussiated Iron, or Berlin blue, might be stripped of the tinging matter by digestion with alkalis. 1837 P. KEITH *Bot. Lex.* 71 Plants are often stripped of their colours by the operation of the same agents through which they originally acquired them.

4. To denude (a thing) of its covering, esp. (a tree) of its bark, (a seed) of its skin, (a fruit) of its rind.

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 148 Heo haueð bipiled mine figer—irend of al þe rinde, despoiled [*MS. C.* istruped] hire sterc naked. 1660 in *Verney Mem.* (1904) II. 99 A greate parcell of silke wch was that day to bee delivered, and at the day of delivery we have a little trouble in weighing of itt, stripping of itt, and severall other things. 1727–46 THOMSON *Summer* 688 Thou best anana,..Quick let me strip thee of thy tufty coat, Spread thy ambrosial stores, and feast with Jove! 1823 W. COBBETT *Rur. Rides* (1853) 163 They have been stripping trees (taking the bark off) about five or six days. 1841 *Penny Cycl.* XXI. 184/1 When the seed is stripped of its testa. 1883 *Hampsh. Gloss., Strip*, to bark the oak tree.

† 5. To skin (an animal; in Hunting *spec.* a hare). *Obs.*

c 1400 *Master of Game* (MS. Digby 182) xxxiv, þenne shulde she [*sc.* the hare] be stripped all, saue the heede. 1486 *Bk. St. Albans, Hunting* e iii b, Now to speke of the bestes when thay be slayne How many be strypte and how many be flayne. All that bere skyne and talow and Rounge leue me Shall be flayne safe the hare for he shall stripte be. 1530 TINDALE *Lev.* i. 6 And let the burntofferynges be strypped and hewed in peces. 1575 TURBERV. *Venerie* 100 An hart or a bucke is flayed, a hare strypped. 1677 N. COX *Gentl. Recreat.* (ed. 2) 15 The Hare is Stripped or Cased. 1770 G. WHITE *Selborne, Let. to Pennant* Mar., Understanding that it was not stripped, I proceeded to examine this rare quadruped [*sc.* a moose].

6. To deprive (a plant *of* its foliage or fruit); to remove (seed or grain *from* the straw).

1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* II. 504 Crop luxuriant Straglers, nor be loath To strip the Branches of their leafy Growth. 1733 W. ELLIS *Chiltern & Vale Farm.* 87 The Rook is a subtil Fowl, and will strip a Walnut Tree in a little time. 1759 MILLS tr. *Duhamel's Husb.* I. ii. (1762) 3 We sometimes see trees strip'd by insects. 1837 P. KEITH *Bot. Lex.* 74 If the upper part of a branch is stripped of its leaves. 1861 SMILES *Engineers* II. 110 The plan of stripping the corn from the straw by means of a scutcher.

7. To empty, make bare, clear out (a place, thing) *of* its contents, ornaments, etc.

1616 W. Browne *Brit. Past.* II. iii. 59 The bowels of our mother were not ript For Mader-pits, nor the sweet meadowes stript Of their choise beauties. 1753 Challoner *Cath. Chr. Instr.* 220 Our Altars are also uncovered and stript of all their Ornaments. 1765 *Lond. Chron.* 14–17 Sept. 272/1 And while she went in a fright, to see if it was true, he [a thief] in the mean time stripped the room of things to the value of 30 shillings. 1826 Lamb *Pop. Fallacies* xi, His goodly shelves are one by one stript of his favourite old authors. 1828–32 Webster, *Strip*, ..7. To deprive; to make bare by cutting, grazing or other means; as, cattle strip the ground of its herbage. 1894 Bridges *Feast of Bacchus* i. 112, I stripped the house for a sale. 1913 J. H. Morrison *On Trail of Pioneers* xxvi. 125 It was no loss when the islands were stripped of the fragrant wood.

b. *To strip up*: (see quot. 1893). Now *dial.*

1664 Evelyn *Sylva* xxvii. 72 Cutting all the rest away.. stripping up such as you spare from their extravagant Branches. 1893 *Wiltsh. Gloss., Strip up*, to shroud [*i.e.* trim] the lower part of a tree, as is usually done with hedge-row timber at intervals.

†c. Used with allusion to Strip *sb.*1 *Obs.*

1682 tr. *Charter of Cinque Ports* 138 Strip or Estrepement is a Writ for taking Lands from him that strips and spoils them. 1818 Cruise *Digest* (ed. 2) II. 409 This may excuse the trustees, if they..attempt to strip the estate of the timber.

d. ? To clear (land) of a crop.

1844 H. Stephens *Bk. Farm* II. 2 The reason for stripping turnips is to supply food to the sheep in the most convenient form. The portion of the turnip ground allotted to sheep is.. drawn or stript, that is, a certain proportion of the turnips is left on the ground, for the use of the sheep, and the other is carried away to the steading, to be consumed by the cattle. 1886 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 6 Apr. 14/1 Of this quantity 320,000 acres were not reaped..or what crop there was was mown for hay. This reduces the area actually stripped for wheat to 1, 630,000 acres.

8. To take away the accessories, equipment, or furniture of; to dismantle.

1683 Moxon *Mech. Exerc., Printing* xiv. xxii. § 2. 207 Thus the first Quarter is Stript..in order to be distributed. *Ibid.* xxiv. Dict. 391 Strip a Form. [Reference to prec. quot.] 1688 Holme *Armoury* III. 125/2 [Printing] *Strip a Form*, is to take away all the Furniture from about it, and lett it so remain on the Letter board to be distributed. 1769 Falconer *Dict. Marine* (1780) s.v., To *Strip* the masts, is to unrig a ship, or deprive the masts of their machinery and furniture. 1798 in Nicolas *Disp. Nelson* (1846) VII. p. clvi, The Guerrier and Conquerant made a very inefficient resistance, the latter being soon stripped of her main and mizen-masts. 1807 Sir R. Wilson *Jrnl.* 24 Sept. in *Life* (1862) II. viii. 370 When the squall passed we attempted to hoist the sails again but again we were stripped. 1867 Smyth *Sailor's Word-bk., Stripped to the Girt-line*, all the standing-rigging and furniture having been cleared off the masts in the course of dismantling. 1881 Greener *Gun* 262 Stripping and repairing guns. To take to pieces a breech-loader for cleaning or repairs, first remove the fore-end and barrels. *Ibid.*, To strip breech-actions,..the first thing will be to remove the spring. *Ibid.* 263 To strip a muzzle-loader, first remove the lock. 1888 Jacobi *Printers' Vocab.* 134 *Strip a forme*, to take away the furniture from the pages of a forme, and thus leave it naked.

II. To doff, take off, peel away.

9. To remove (the clothes, a garment, trappings, hair) from a person, body.

a. With adv. *off, away*, or with prep. *off, from.*

c 1290 *St. Francis* 11 in *S. Eng. Leg.* 54 He strepte of is clobes of is rug and 3af þis pouere kny3t. *c* 1290 *Beket* 2201 *ibid.* 169 Ase heo strepten of is clobes, al a-boue heo founde Clerkene clobes. 13.. *Coer de L.* 3399 And loke that hee her here off strype, Off hed, off berd, and eke off lyppe. *c* 1386 Chaucer *Reeve's T.* 143 And to the hors he goth hym faire and wel, He strepeth of the brydel right anon. 1387 Trevisa *Higden* (Rolls) III. 173 þis Cambises..made men stripe of þe skyn of a iuge, for he hadde i-3eue a false dome. 1660 F. Brooke tr. *Le Blanc's Trav.* 220 This Prince..stript off his gorgious habilliments. 1797 Ht. Lee *Canterb. T., Old Woman's T.* (1799) I. 389 Stripping away his upper garment, and displaying the badge of knighthood upon his shoulder. 1895 R. W. Chambers *King in Yellow*, etc. (1909) 255 As she spoke she stripped off her gloves.

fig. 1340 *Ayenb.* 98 Þet hi ous delyuri of þe zeue dyadliche zennes and hise strepe of al oure herten and ine hare stede zette..þe zeue uirtues. 1549 J. Olde *Erasm. Par. Ephes.* Prol. ¶ iiij b, Christe woulde not stycke cleane on our backes, onlesse olde Adam be stryped cleane of, wyth all his ragged rotten patches of infidelitie and sinfulnes. 1766 J. Towers *Brit. Biog.* I. 127 [Chaucer] discovered nature in all her appearances, and stripped off every disguise. 1780 Cowper *Progr. Err.* 583 Habits are soon assum'd: but, when we strive To strip them off, 'tis being flay'd alive. 1874 Green *Short Hist.* iii. § 1. 115 Picture after picture strips the veil from the corruption of the mediæval Church. 1884 L. J. Jennings *Croker Papers* I. i. 3 The immense correspondence of all kinds which he left strips away disguises.

b. without adv.: To divest oneself of. Chiefly *Sc.*

1760–2 Goldsm. *Cit. W.* cii, [She] never once attempted to strip a single petticoat, or cover the board, as her last stake, with her head-clothes. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* III. vi. vi, The guests all stript their coats. 1855 *Poultry Chron.* III. 212 Aleck stripped his buckskins for the attempt. 1870 J. K. Hunter *Life Studies* xliv. 271 They..had a consultation as to whether..one of them should strip his stockings and shoon and carry the other on his back.

fig. 1853 Lytton *My Novel* xii. xxx, Strip the mask, Audley Egerton; let the world know you for what you are!

†10. To take as plunder or spoil. *Obs.*

c 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 195 Erest he strepte of him his shep. 1599 Shaks. *Hen. V*, I. i. 11 For all the Temporall Lands.. Would they strip from vs. 1791 Cowper *Iliad* xvii. 102 He knew at once who stripp'd Euphorbus' arms.

11. To remove (an adhering covering of skin, bark, lead, paper, etc.); to pull off (leaves, fruit) from a tree, etc. Also *to strip off.*

c 1430 *Two Cookery-bks.* 27 Take Almaundys..& strype of þe skyn. 1486 *Bk. St. Albans* b iij b, Take a knyfe..and stripe the skynne a way from the necke. 1688 Holme *Armoury* III. 86/2 [Wett-Glover.] Pulling is stripping the Wooll of the skin. *Ibid.* III. 97/1 [Cushion and Bed Terms.] Stripping the Feathers from the Quills. 1697 Dryden *Æneis* I. 295 Some strip the Skin, some portion out the Spoil. 1769 Mrs. Raffald *Eng. Housekeeper* (1778) 363 Gather your currants when the sun is hot upon them, strip them from the stalks. *c* 1770 Mrs. Glasse *Compl. Confectioner* 26 Take young and thick stalks of angelica.., strip off the skins, and cut them into narrow slips. 1780 *Mirror* No. 93 P 8 The best china was set out...The covers were stripped from the worked chair-bottoms. 1836 *Philos. Mag.* Dec. 484 So perfect is the sheet of copper thus formed, that, on being stripped off, it has the polish and even a counterpart of every scratch of the plate on which it is deposited. 1849 *M. Taylor's Builder's Price-bk.* 63 Stripping and relaying ladies, countess, and duchess slating, per square, 0 10 0. 1854 *Poultry Chron.* II. 22 Directly the feathers are stripped from the poultry, throw them loosely in the corner. 1888 W. J. Harrison *Hist. Photogr.* xiii. 112 In the same year (1855) the Frenchman, Gaillard, coated collodion negatives with gelatine, and then stripped them from the glass. 1891 *Law Rep., Weekly Notes* 78/2 The act of the defendants in stripping off the roof amounted to a forcible entry. 1913 J. G. Frazer *Psyche's Task* (ed. 2) iii. 30 When he has stripped the fruit [from the tree], the rascal restores the charm to its proper place.

b. *intr.* Of bark, membrane: To lend or adapt itself to the process of peeling or decortication. Of a layer of metal: To become detached.

1877 Jefferies *Gamekeeper at H.* i. (1890) 15 In the spring, when the oak timber is throwed (because, you see, the sap be rising, and the bark strips then). 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VII. 712 The leptomeninges stripping, on the contrary, with undue ease. 1905 *Electro-plating* (ed. P. N. Hasluck) 152 Silver will strip under the burnisher when it is deposited too fast or too slow.

12. To remove, roll up (a sleeve). Now only with *up*. Also *absol.*

1599 Shaks. *Hen. V*, IV. iii. 47 Then will he strip his sleeue, and shew his skarres. 1607 B. Barnes *Divils Charter* Prol. A 2 b, Presently the Pronotary strippeth vp Alexanders sleeue and letteth his arme bloud in a saucer. 1711 'J. Distaff' *Char. Dor. Sacheverellio* 5 He stript up, and shew'd..a most thundring Arm. *c* 1815 *Houlston's Juvenile Tracts* vii. 9 If his shirt sleeves were stripped up to his elbows.

13. To slip off (a jewel) from the arm, a ring from the finger.

1611 Shaks. *Cymb.* II. iv. 101, I begge but leaue to ayre this Iewell...She stript it from her Arme. 1652 J. Burroughes *Exp. Hosea* ii. 186 Strip from your fingers your gold rings. 1865 A. Cary *Ball., Lyrics & Hymns* 117 She stript from her finger the shining ring.

14. To remove entirely, clear off (vegetation).

1839 Fr. A. Kemble *Resid. Georgia* (1863) 261 They have almost stripped the trees and thickets along the swamp road since I first came here.

III. Technical uses.

15. *Tin-washing?* (See quot. 1674.) Also to wash out (gold).

1674 Ray *Prep. Tin* (E.D.S.) 12 Washing and sifting of it, which they call stripping of it. 1875 J. H. Collins *Metal Mining* 54 The tin gravel is 'stripped' at a cost of 3s. to 6s. per ton. 1871 Simpson *Recit.* 19 The wash dirt will be full of gold, ready to strip.

16. *Tobacco-manuf.* To remove the leaves from the stems of (tobacco). Also *absol.*

1688 Holme *Armoury* III. xxii. (Roxb.) 274/1 Termes used by Tobacconists. Strip it, is take all the stalks away from the leaues. 1786 *Act* 26 *Geo. III*, c. 52 § 1 No..Tobacco stalks stripped, nor Snuff manufactured from Tobacco so imported, shall be removed [etc.]. 1883 Killebrew *Rep. Culture & Curing Tobacco U.S.* 154 If there should happen to be no damp days when it is desired to strip, a few days in the cellar will impart the necessary moisture. *Ibid.* 186 In stripping tobacco, the leaves are pulled from the stalks and tied in bundles.

b. To remove the stalk and midrib from (tobacco-leaf). Cf. Stem *v.*4 3 a.

1844 *Rep. Sel. Comm. Tobacco Trade, Min. Evid.* 233 Tobacco could be stripped here at from 1*d.* to 2*s.* a cwt. 1881 *Spons' Encycl. Industr. Arts* IV. 1341 Cutting is the process by which the damped [tobacco-]leaves, whether stripped or not, are most extensively prepared for smoking in pipes and cigarettes.

17. *Mech.* To tear off (the thread from a screw or bolt, the teeth from a wheel).

1873 Nelthrópp *Watch-work* 21 The teeth of the scape-wheel will, by revolving against the jagged edge, be cut off; the wheel is then stript. 1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.* 2430 *Strip* (Machinery), to tear the thread off a screw.

b. To rip off the screw thread of (a cannon-ball or bullet); to render incapable of receiving the rotatory direction from the rifling of the barrel.

1839 Ure *Dict. Arts* 477 Instead of one quarter of a turn, which was the utmost that could be safely given in the old way, without danger of stripping the ball, a whole turn round the barrel, in its length, can be given to the two grooved rifles.

c. *intr.* for *refl.*

1854 *Chamb. Jrnl.* II. 202 If the charge of gunpowder be inordinately great, the ball may strip, to use the technical phrase; in other words, it may have its screw-thread rendered ineffective by the mere force of discharge. 1855 A. Piper *Milit. & Nav. Dict.* s.v., A rifle bullet is said to strip when it passes out of the barrel of a rifle..without receiving the spiral motion on its axis. 1881 Greener *Gun* 169 Immediately the barrel gets hot and expands, the bullets strip.

18. *Mining.* To lay bare (a mineral deposit, etc.): see quot. 1839.

1839 Ure *Dict. Arts* 842 If..the vein be quite distinct from the rock, the labour may be facilitated, as well as the separation of the ore, by disengaging the vein on one of its faces through a certain extent, the rock being attacked separately. This operation is called stripping the vein. 1839 Murchison *Silur. Syst.* I. xxxvi. 490 On 'stripping' the fault towards the trough, the limestone was found to be in contact with a seam of coal. 1887 *Times* (weekly ed.) 9 Dec. 1/4 Mr. Morgan has..now as the phrase goes, 'stripped the lode', so that many thousands of tons of stone, richly laden with gold, are ready to be stoped.

19. To smooth (a metal surface) by filing or the like; to smooth the surface of (a file-blank) preparatory to cutting the teeth; also see quot. 1880.

1831 J. Holland *Manuf. Metal* I. 301 The file is now in a state either to be stripped or ground. 1855 Franke *Beil's Technol. Wörterb.* II. 521 To Strip a piece of work (to finish-off with a smooth file, or to smooth the surface with a hard file), *Abfeilen. Finir de limer.* 1880 *Encycl. Brit.* XI. 279/2 The [gun-]barrels are then 'stripped'—that is, turned down the whole length to correspond with the bore. 1898 J. Southward *Mod. Printing* I. 96 [The leads are finished] by 'stripping', or 'shaving', in a stripping machine.

20. *Carding.* **a.** (See quot. 1835.) **b.** To remove fluff, etc. from the teeth of (a card).

1835 Ure *Philos. Manuf.* 182 Which cylinder is employed as a stripper in place of a doffing-comb, to take off or strip the slivers of wool from the doffing cylinder. 1891 *Labour Commission* Gloss., *Stripper*, the man who strips the cards or leather combs of fluff.

21. *Cloth-making.* (See quot. 1904.)

1896 W. M. Gardner *Wool Dyeing* 32 This process is frequently resorted to for 'stripping' off the colour of dyed material previous to re-dyeing. 1904 *Eng. Dial. Dict., Strip* *v.*,..A cloth-making term: to partially remove the colour from dyed material when the colour is found to be too 'full.'

22. *Metallurgy.* (See quot.)

1884 W. H. Greenwood *Steel & Iron* (ed. 2) § 642 Steel ingots, when newly stripped—that is, withdrawn from the moulds in which they have been cast—are far too hot in the interior for immediate rolling.

23. *Electrometallurgy.* To remove (the plating from a plated article, the metal from a positive pole, etc.) by electrolysis. Also *intr.* of a plating: To come off.

1877 A. Watt *Electro-Metallurgy* (ed. 6) 155 In coating steel or iron articles with nickel, deposition should not be allowed to take place too rapidly at first, otherwise the metal will be liable to strip. 1880 *Ibid.* (ed. 7) 114 Nickel-plated articles may be stripped in this solution by immersing them in it for a few moments. 1880 J. W. Urquhart *Electro-plating* vi. 162 Deposits of nickel having a brilliant appearance on leaving the solution..are very apt to strip. 1898 Threlfall *Laboratory Arts* iv. 306 The platinum foil testing cathode may also be 'stripped' by making it an anode.

IV. 24. Comb.: **strip bush** *slang* (see quot.); **strip-jack-naked** *dial.* = *beggar-my-neighbour* (see Beggar *v.* 3); **strip-me-naked** *slang*, gin.

1865 *Hotten's Slang Dict.* (ed. 2), **Strip-bush*, a fellow who steals clothes put out to dry after washing. 1881 *Oxfordsh. (Suppl.) Gloss.*, **Strip Jack naked*, a game at cards sometimes called 'Byet (beat) my neighbour out of doors.' 1751 *Gen. Advertiser* 7 Mar. 1/2 (*N. & Q.* 5th Ser. VII. 69/2) *Strip-me-naked, or Royal Gin for Ever.' 1756 [see Gunpowder 3].

†Strip, *v.*2 *Obs.* Also 5 **strype**, 6 **strippe**. [Proximate origin obscure; f. Teut. root **strīp-*: see Stripe *sb.*3]

1. *intr.* To move or pass swiftly.

c 1400 *Rowland & O.* 560 And other stroke he to hym bere, And Doun by-fore hym it strypes there, his schelde a waye it reuede. 1579 Gosson *Sch. Abuse* F 1 b, The swiftest Hound, when he is hallowed, strippes forth. 1616 Browne *Brit. Past.* II. iii. 119 Th' Eagle..To countries farre remote would bend her flight, And with vnwearied wing strip through the skie.—*Ibid.* II. v. 905 As the Westerne side shee stript along.

2. *trans.* To pass or surpass in running, flying, etc.; to pass by in travelling: = Outstrip *v.* (recorded from 1580).

c 1590 Greene *Fr. Bacon* I. i. 4 Alate we ran the deere, and through the Lawndes Stript with our nagges the lothe frolicke bucks. ? 1605 Drayton *Poems Lyr. & Past., Man in Moone* H 7 b, She..calls downe the Dragons that her chariot drawe, and..mounteth thereon, in twinkling of an ey stripping the winds. 1613 Beaum. & Fl. *Honest Man's Fort.* I. i, Before he reacht it; he was out of breath, And then the other stript him. *c* 1624 Chapman *Hymn to Apollo* 641 When first, they stript the Maleane Promont'rie: Toucht at Laconias soile, [etc.]. 1774 *Ann. Reg., Poetry* 211 But mark the beauteous Antelope!..he strips the wind, And leaves them lagging, panting, far behind.

Strip (strip), *v.*3 [Cogn. w. Stripe *sb.*2; cf. WFlem. *strippen* to draw (something) between the fingers or the teeth, in order to extract the contents or remove the leaves, etc.; also *strip* stream of milk from a teat.]

1. *trans.* To extract (the milk from a cow's udder). Now *spec.* to extract the milk remaining in the udder after the normal milking, esp. by a particular movement of the hand (see quot. 1844).

1610 Fletcher *Faithf. Sheph.* I. ii. B 3 b, More white Then the new milke we strip before day light From the full fraighted bags of our faire flockes. 1788 W. H. Marshall *Yorksh.* II. 357 To *Strip*; to draw the aftermilkings of cows. 1791 W. Bartram *Trav.* 310 When the milkmaid has taken her share of milk, she looses the calf, who strips the cow. 1844 H. Stephens *Bk. Farm* II. 454 Stripping consists of seizing the teat firmly near the root between the face of the

thumb and the side of the fore-finger. 1863 Mrs. Gaskell *Sylvia's Lovers* xv, Never were cows that required such 'stripping,' or were expected to yield such 'afterings' as Black Nell and Daisy that night.

2. To draw between the finger and thumb, through the closed hand, etc. In various technical uses: **a.** *Catgut-making.* (See quot.)

1883 R. Haldane *Workshop Rec.* Ser. II. 320/1 [In preparing fiddle-strings] the gut..is stripped through a ring.. or through a perforated brass thimble, the thumb being pressed upon the gut as it is passed through.

b. *Fish-culture.* To press out with the hand the ripe roe or milt from (a fish).

1884 Day *Fishes Gt. Brit.* I. p. cix, The mode of spawning or stripping fish..requires practice.

c. *Farriery.* (See quot.)

1908 *Animal Management* (War Office) 62 'Stripping' the ears, *i. e.* pulling them gently through the hand from base to apex..should not be neglected.

Strip (strip), *v.*[4] [f. Strip *sb.*[2]] *trans.* To cut into strips. Hence **Stripping** *vbl. sb.*; also *attrib.*

1885 W. L. Carpenter *Manuf. Soap & Candles* 200 The first operation is to 'strip' the stock-soap, i.e. to cut it up into strips or shavings...After stripping, the soap is frequently dried somewhat, and it is then passed through the mill. 1885 *Harper's Mag.* Jan. 270/2 They buy the sides of leather, and cut them into 'strips' by means of a long straight knife, moved by a treadle or by steam, known as a 'stripping machine.'

Stripe (strəip), *sb.*[1] *Sc.* Also: **α. 6 strip, 5–8 stryp(e, 7 stryip; β. 7 streape, 9 streap.** [Prob. cogn. w. Strip *sb.*[2], Stripe *sb.*[3]; cf. WFlem. *strip* running stream of liquid, e. g. of milk from a teat. Cf. OIrish *sriḃ* stream.] A small stream, a rivulet, rill.

c 1440 *Reg. Aberd.* (Maitland Club) I. 248 Ascendand þat lech til it cum to þe Karlynden and swa throw þe said den descendand a stripe til it cum to þe burn of Cortycrum. 1456–70 in *Acts Parlt. Scot.* (1875) XII. 27/1 Begynnand at the burne that gays fra Auchquhorty quhar that the strype fallys in the said burne. 1536 Bellenden *Cron. Scot., Descr. Albion* xiii. (1821) I. p. xlvi, Fra this fontane discendis ane litil burne, or strip. 1596 Dalrymple tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* (S.T.S.) II. 118 As..the water strype rinis to the fontane [L. *tanquam ad fontem rivulus*]. *a* 1598 Rollock *Passion* i. (1616) 3 This Brooke Cedron..was a little streape that ran when it was raine. 1598 [see South A. 5a]. 1615 *Extracts Aberd. Reg.* (1848) II. 326 Ane great stryip callit the Banstickill burne. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) VII. 290/2 A very small stripe of water..should always be running in and off from your pit. 1819 W. Tennant *Papistry Storm'd* (1827) 33 Ilk laird's domain was clearly seen Defin'd wi' streaps o' silver sheen, That intervein'd the manors green. 1892 J. A. Henderson *Ann. Lower Deeside* 110 A hollow close by is still called the 'Bloody Stripe'.

Stripe (strəip), *sb.*[2] Also 5–6 **stryppe, strype,** 6 **strip,** 7 **stripp.** [Prob. from LG. or Du.: cf. mod.Du. *strippen* to whip, *strips* flogging (in *strips krijgen* to get a flogging), also mod. WFris. *strips*; but these words have not been found so early as the Eng. word. Cf. also MLG. *strippe* strap, whip-lash (see Strip *sb.*[2]).

The common view that this word is a use of Stripe *sb.*[3] would be plausible (on the assumption that sense 3 below is the original), but for the fact that Stripe *sb.*[3] is not recorded till the 17th c., while this sb. occurs in the 15th c.]

†1. A blow or stroke with a staff, sword, or other weapon, with a missile, with the claws or hoofs of an animal, etc. Cf. Hand-*stripe. Obs.*

c 1475 *Songs & Carols* (Percy Soc.) 92 A strype ore ij. God myght send me, If my husbond myght her se me. 1530 Palsgr. 277/2 Stryppe, stroke or swappe, *coup.* 1530 Tindale *Gen.* iv. 23, I haue slayne a man and wounded my selfe, and have slayn a yongman, and gotte my selfe strypes. 1542 Udall *Erasm. Apoph.* 11 b, If an Asse had geven me a strype with his heele. *Ibid.* 289 Receiuyng a stripe with a sweorde the gaue but one sole grone, & [etc.]. 1544 Betham *Precepts War* I. lvi. D ij, And so either wil they suffre to take their cytye, or els they wyl fyght with the, and deale strypes. 1545 Ascham *Toxoph.* II. (Arb.) 123 The shaftes in Inde were verye longe,..and therfore they gaue ye greater strype. *a* 1548 Hall *Chron., Hen. VI*, 128 b, Thei lefte woordes, and went to stripes. *a* 1552 Leland *Itin.* (1769) V. 54 The Egle doth sorely assaut hym that distroith the nest, goyng soon in one Basket, and having a nother over his Hedde to defend the sore Stripe of the Egle. 1579–80 North *Plutarch, P. Æmilius* (1595) 271 Perseus went from the battell.. because he had a stripe of a horse on the thigh the day before. 1580 Tusser *Husb.* (1878) 129 Maides, mustard seede gather, for being too ripe, and weather it well, er ye giue it a stripe. 1596 Spenser *F. Q.* v. xi. 27 With one stripe Her Lions clawes he from her feete away did wipe.

†b. A tonch on the keys of an instrument; hence, measure, strain. *Obs.*

1592 Greene *Never too Late* I. (1600) B 1 b, As in field this sheepheard lay, Tuning of his oaten pipe, Which he hit with many a stripe. 1592 — *Vision* Wks. (Grosart) XII. 198 Tytirus..Straigned ditties from his pipe, With pleasant voyce and cunning stripe. 1613–16 W. Browne *Brit. Past.* I. ii. 3 Now till the Sunne shall leaue vs to our rest,..I shall goe on: and first in diffring stripe, The floud-Gods speech thus tune on Oaten pipe [Here the metre changes]. *Ibid.* II. iii. 731 And scarce one ended had his skilfull stripe, But streight another tooke him to his Pipe.

2. A stroke or lash with a whip or scourge. Now *arch.*, chiefly in *plural.*

c 1485 *Digby Myst., Mary Magd.* 1176 Stryppys on þi ars þou xall have. 1526 Tindale *Luke* xii. 47 The servaunt that knowe his masters wyll, and prepared nott him silfe,.. shalbe beten with many strypes. 1580 E. Knight *Trial Truth* 82 b, Euen as a good father or master that threateneth and shaketh the rod before hee layeth on the strypes. *c* 1623 Lodge *Poor Mans Talent* C 1, Somtimes the said paine commeth by a blow or stripp. 1692 J. Washington tr. *Milton's Def. People Eng.* ii. 33 The Hebrew Kings were liable..to be punished with stripes, if they were found faulty. 1780 J. Howard *Prisons Eng.* 141 Keepers are punished for this..by a fine for the first offence; and for the second by stripes. 1788 *Massachusetts Spy* 25 Sept. 3/3 On Thursday last, fifteen persons were publickly punished, ..William Nelson, 64 stripes. 1836 Cobden in Morley *Life* (1881) I. iii. 53 The *backshish* kept the boat going, when stripes would have only made it stand. 1836 Capt. Boldero *Sp. Ho. Comm.* 13 Apr. in *Hansard* 942 Colonel Evans also had commanded in many regiments, in which not a stripe had been inflicted for two or three years. 1839 Fr. A. Kemble *Resid. in Georgia* (1863) 39 Labor exacted with stripes—how do you fancy that? 1887 Hall Caine *Coleridge* i. 25 There is a tradition that Bowyer sometimes gave him an extra stripe of the birch 'because he was so ugly.'

fig. 1830 Carlyle *Richter Again* Ess. 1840 II. 319 In regard to moral matters Leipzig was his true seminary, where, with many stripes, Experience taught him the wisest lessons. 1851 T. T. Lynch *Lett. to Scattered* (1872) 202 Each passing day both gives to us and takes from us. It may give a stripe, a smile, a counsel, a reproach.

†b. A stroke of divine judgement. *Obs.*

1564–78 Bullein *Dialogue* 37 By what signe or token is this perilous plague or stripe of the pestilence best knowen emong the Phisitions? 1609 Bible (Douay) *Exod.* vii. Annot. 173 It ought to haue auailed Pharao to saluation, that Gods patience deferring his iust and deserued punishment, multiplied vpon him frequent stripes of miracles. 1623 Lisle *Ælfric on O. & N. Test.* Pref. 13 The least stripe that God giveth man after this life, is everlasting damnation.

†c. Said of a person: A 'scourge'. *Obs.*

1570 *Satir. Poems Reform.* xiii. 99 Ze wer ay callit for 3our tyrannie Strypis of the Schyre.

†3. The mark left by a lash; a weal. *Obs. rare.*

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 480/1 Stripe, or schorynge wythe a baleys, *vibex.* *c* 1475 *Pict. Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 701/23 *Hec vibex*, a strype. 1726–46 Thomson *Winter* 373 Little tyrants ..At pleasure mark'd him with inglorious stripes.

†b. *fig.* A mark of disgrace. *Obs.*

1607 Heywood *Wom. Killed w. Kindn.* IV, v. Wks. 1874 II. 140 Her spotted body Hath stain'd their names with stripe of bastardy.

Stripe (strəip), *sb.*[3] [Not found till the 17th c., but prob. much older. If not a back-formation from Striped *a.*, prob. a. MLG. or MDu. *stripe* (early mod.Du. †*stripe*), corresp. to OHG. **strîfo* (implied in the derivative *strîphaht* Striped *a.*), MHG. *strîfe* (mod.G. *streifen*) masc., Sw. *stripa*, Da. *stribe*, also ON., MSw. *strîp* a striped fabric (cf. Icel. *strîprendr* striped). Parallel synonymous forms, differing in ablaut-grade, are WFlem. *striepe*, MDu. *strêpe* (mod.Du. *streep* fem.); outside Teut. the OIrish *sriab*, stripe (:—**sreibā*), *srebnaid* striped, are believed to be cognate. The Teut. root **strîp-* (:**straip-*) :—pre-Teut. **streib-* seems to have been nearly synonymous with **strîk-* :—pre-Teut. **streig-* (see Strike *v.*), to which it may be ultimately related; the sense of the root is shown in the wk. verb OHG. **straifjôn* (MHG. *streifen*, **streipfen*, mod.G. *streifen*) to graze, pass over lightly, wander (the mod.G. *streifen* also represents MHG. *ströufen*: see Strip *v.*[1]). For other cognates see Stripe *sb.*[2], Stripe *sb.*[1], *sb.*[2], and *v.*[1]

There would seem to be some obscure relation between the Teut. roots **strîp-* and **streup-* (see Strip *v.*[1]) similar to that existing between **strîk-* and **streuk-*: see Strike *v.*]

1. In textile fabrics, hence *gen.* (e.g. in the coat of an animal, a flower, a decorative pattern), a portion of the surface long in proportion to its breadth, of uniform width, and differing in colour or texture from the adjacent parts.

1626 Bacon *Sylva* § 510 Carnation of seuerall Stripes. 1687 Miege *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II, The stripes of a striped Stuff, *les Raies* (*ou Barres*) *d'une Etoffe rayée*:..To make white, or yellow stripes, *rayer de blanc, ou de jaune.* 1697 Dampier *Voy.* I. xix. 533 There is a very beautiful sort of wild Ass in this Country, whose body is curiously striped with equal lists of white and black: the stripes coming from the ridge of his Back. 1706 Phillips (ed. Kersey), *Stripe*,..a streak in Silk Cloth, or Stuff. 1746 Hervey *Medit.* (1748) I. 170 Some [flowers] are intersected with elegant Stripes, or studded with radiant Spots. 1774 Goldsm. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) IV. 27 The little ground squirrel of Carolina, of a reddish colour, and blackish stripes on each side. 1782 E. Watson *Men & Times Revol.* (1861) 202 The background, which Copley and I designed to represent a ship, bearing to America the intelligence of the acknowledgment of Independence, with a sun just rising upon the stripes of the union, streaming from her gaff. 1802 C. James *Milit. Dict.* s. v., Regimental sword knots are directed to be made of crimson and gold in stripes. 1833 T. Hook *Parson's Dau.* III. xii, The Sir Timothy Wadd..with..the Honourable John Company's stripes flying, had once the honour of being taken for an American seventy-four. 1859 Darwin *Orig. Spec.* v. 164 In the north-west part of India..a horse without stripes is not considered as purely-bred. 1860 Ld. W. Lennox *Pict. Sporting Life* I. 209 Waistcoat, blue and yellow stripe, each stripe an inch in depth. 1868 W. B. Marriott *Vestiarium Chr.* Introd. v. 37 Various grades of rank were distinguished at Rome..by the colour and by the relative width of the ornamental stripes worn upon the tunic by senators, and by knights. 1897 *Proc. Zool. Soc.* 545 A similar coloured short longitudinal stripe is also placed at the middle of each elytron. 1912 H. J. Butler *Motor Bodies* 108 The body panels are often striped. This may be either as a broad stripe, say an inch wide, or a series of, say, three fine lines occupying together one inch of panel.

b. (*Old*) *Stripes*, a jocular name for a tiger.

1885 W. T. Hornaday *2 Yrs. in Jungle* xiv. 157 There was Old Stripes in all his glory. 1909 *Ladies' Field* 28 Aug. 511/2 How I shot my first 'stripes'

c. In the names of certain moths.

1775 M. Harris *Engl. Lepidoptera* 45 Phalæna...315 Stripe, white. 316 Stripe, shoulder. 317 Stripe, yellow shoulder. 318 Stripe, cream dot. 1832 J. Rennie *Consp. Butterfl. & Moths* 127 The Oblique Stripe. *Ibid.* 164 The Dark Silver Stripe. *Ibid*, 201 The Treble Gold Stripe.

2. A narrow strip of cloth, braid, or gold lace, sewn on a garment of different colour. Popularly applied to the chevron worn on the upper part of the coat-sleeve by a non-commissioned officer to indicate his rank. Also applied to the similarly shaped badge worn on the sleeve by soldiers in recognition of good conduct; and (in very recent use) to the vertical badge on the left sleeve of a soldier who has been wounded.

In the British army the lance-corporal wears one 'stripe', the corporal two, and the sergeant three.

An earlier name was 'slash' (C. James *Milit. Dict.* 1802).

1827 [Maginn] *Milit. Sketch-bk.* I. 297 Ye speak your sentiments like a good sodger, and I hope afore long that ye'll have the stripes. 1848 J. Grant *Adv. Aide-de-C.* xxxiv, Rings worn on the arms of the privates, called 'good-conduct stripes.' 1861 Mayhew *Lond. Labour* III. 165/1 Although I used to wear the colonel's livery, yet I had the full corporal's stripes on my coat. 1876 Voyle & Stevenson *Milit. Dict.* 25/1 The good-conduct stripes worn on the arm by men of good behaviour are also called badges. 1892 Kipling *Barrack-room Ballads, Danny Deever* 7 They've taken of his buttons off an' cut his stripes away. 1916 *Blackw. Mag.* Jan. 124/1 Private Tosh was 'offered a stripe,' too, but declined.

3. In glass, a streak differing in refractive power from the general mass.

1823 J. Badcock *Dom. Amusem.* 174 In making these pastes many precautions are necessary,..lest bubbles and stripes do supervene.

4. A striped textile fabric.

1752 *Rep. Comm. Linen Manuf.* (1773) II. 291 He imports Irish Yarn, which he manufactures into Cheques and Stripes. 1889 *Textile News* 5 Apr. 24/2 The chief goods in request are still the finer qualities of worsteds in stripes and checks.

5. *Geol.* A narrow band of rock interposed between strata of differing character.

1799 Kirwan *Geol. Ess.* 302 Grey stone, with coal stripes. 1805 Jameson *Min. Descr. Dumfries* 153 In sandstone, limestone, and salt, regular and very extensive stripes are sometimes observed, which have been confounded with true strata seams. 1849 Murchison *Siluria* ii. (1854) 24 These contorted, crystalline rocks..are associated with stripes or patches..of different palæozoic rocks of Silurian, Devonian, and Carboniferous age.

6. A long narrow tract of land (*occas.* of ice). Cf. Strip *sb.*[2] 1 c.

1801 H. Skrine *Rivers Gt. Brit.* iii. 46 The extraordinary stripe of romantic beauty which environs them [*i. e.* the baths] must create a peculiar interest in Matlock. 1802 Home *Hist. Reb.* I. 4 A narrow stripe of land, between the hills and the German Ocean. 1807 J. Headrick *View Mineral.* etc. *Arran* 309 The cultivated land is occupied in run-rig, or in narrow stripes, called butts, with intervals betwixt them, whose possessors are changed every second or third year. 1817 M. Birkbeck *Notes Journ. Amer.* (1818) 26 The country, from Richmond to Fredericksburg, is a barren sandy level, relieved occasionally by a stripe of better soil, on the banks of a rivulet. 1823 A. Small *Roman Antiq.* iii. 61 The very spot cannot be seen for a stripe of planting. 1823 Scoresby *Jrnl.* 253, I reached a stripe of ice firmly frozen to the ground. 1860 Tyndall *Glac.* I. xxi. 149 Narrow stripes of ice separated from each other by parallel moraines.

b. *Anglo-Irish.* (See quot.)

1888 *Times* 8 Dec. 5/3, I believe the holdings of tenants in the neighbourhood are called 'stripes'?—Yes.

7. A strip, shred; a narrow piece cut out.

1785 Cowper *Task* I. 40 Now came the cane from India..; sever'd into stripes That interlac'd each other, these supplied Of texture firm a lattice-work. 1799 *Hull Advertiser* 28 Dec. 3/2 Bankers have been in the habit of paying their notes..sometimes with a stripe in the middle taken out. 1814 Scott *Wav.* vi, He produced a letter, carefully folded, surrounded by a little stripe of flox-silk, according to ancient form. 1835 Browning *Paracelsus* IV. 200 Heap cassia, sandal-buds and stripes Of labdanum. 1843 Carlyle *Misc., Dr. Francia* (1857) IV. 269 General Artegas was seen.. sitting among field-officers, all on cow-skulls, toasting stripes of beef. 1875 Dasent *Vikings* I. 122, I will cut a red stripe out of each of your backs.

8. *U.S.* **a.** A particular shade or variety of political or religious doctrine; in wider sense, a sort, class, type.

1853 *Congressional Globe* 11 Feb. 576/3 He has not been long in his present 'stripe' of politics. 1854 *Ibid.* 18 May 1206/2 Every member of the Democratic party, of whatever shade or stripe, is perfectly honest. 1863 *Battlefields of the South* I. vii. 93 Frank Blair pointed him out as 'of the right stripe'—the 'coming man'. 1875 Stedman *Vict. Poets* vii. (1887) 256 Various poems are of a democratic, liberal stripe, inspired by the struggle then commencing over Europe. 1890 Hosmer *Anglo-Sax. Freedom* 292 The religious faiths of the immigrants were various, not all of one stripe.

b. = Streak *sb.* 6.

1860 O. W. Holmes *Elsie Venner* iii, [The dog had] a projection of the lower jaw, which looked as if there might be a bull-dog stripe among the numerous bar-sinisters of his lineage.

9. Black stripe = *black strap*: see Black *a.* 19.

1880 *Barman's & Barmaid's Man.* 55.

10. *Comb.* in parasynthetic adjs., chiefly *Zool.* and *Bot.*, as *stripe-breasted, -cheeked, -necked, -tailed, -throated*; *stripe-flowered, -leaved*; also

stripe-shadowed *nonce-wd.*, crossed by stripes of shadow.

1837 W. SWAINSON *Birds W. Africa* I. 267 *Stripe-breasted Bristle-neck. *Tricophorus strigilatus*, Swains. 1802 SHAW *Naturalist's Misc.* XIII. Pl. 517 Trochilus superbus... The *Stripe-cheeked Humming-bird. 1822 *Hortus Anglicus* II. 171 B[rassica] Eruca. *Stripe flowered Cabbage, or Garden Rocket. 1796 W. MARSHALL *Planting* II. 303 The English Oak admits of some Varieties:..There is one Variegation under the name of the *Stripe-leaved Oak. 1893 LYDEKKER *Roy. Nat. Hist.* I. 472 The *stripe-necked mungoose (*Herpestes viticollis*). 1878 MEREDITH *Love in the Valley* xvii. Poet. Wks. (1912) 234 In a breezy link Freshly sparkles garden to *stripe-shadowed orchard. 1812 SHAW *Gen. Zool.* VIII. 34 *Stripe-tailed Hornbill. 1837 SWAINSON *Birds W. Africa* (1861) II. 241 *Stripe-throated Lapwing. *Vanellus strigilatus*, Swains.

Stripe (strəip), *v.*[1] [Belongs to STRIPE *sb.*[2] Sense 2 is prob. a new formation on the sb.]

†**1.** *trans.* To beat, whip. *Obs.*

c 1460 [see *vbl. sb.* below]. 1530 PALSGR. 740/2, I strype, I beate, *je bats*. 1533 MORE *Apol.* xxxvi. 197, I caused a seruaunt of myne to strype [1557 stryppe] hym lyke a chyld. *Ibid.* 198 They stryped [1557 stripped] hym with roddys.

2. To punish with stripes. *rare.*

1843 CARLYLE *Past & Pr.* I. v. 37 We shall all be striped and scourged till we do learn it. 1870 MEREDITH *Odes Fr. Hist.* (1898) 64 Still the Gods love her..this good France, the bleeding thing they stripe.

Hence **Stri·ping** *vbl. sb.*

c 1460 *Promp. Parv.* 442 (Winch.) Strypynge, or scorgynge with abaleys: *vibex*. 1823 BENTHAM *Not Paul* 383 [Paul's] eight stripings and beatings.

Stripe (strəip), *v.*[2] Also 6 **stryppe**; *pa. t.* 6 **stripped**; *pa. pple.* 6 **stripped**, 7 **stript**. [f. STRIPE *sb.*[3] (in early examples perh. f. STRIP *sb.*[1])

It is possible that STRIPED *a.* may have been early adopted from LG. or Du., and that the verb is a back-formation.]

1. *trans.* To ornament (cloth, a garment) with narrow pieces of material or with stripes of colour.

In quot. 1471 perh. 'to border': cf. STRIP *sb.*[1] 1.

1471 *Paston Lett.* Suppl. (1901) 140, I pray zow that the welvet that levyt of my typet may be send hom a geyn, for I woold stryp[e] a dobelet ther with. 1547 in Feuillerat *Revels Edw. VI* (1914) 23, viij pere sloppes of changeable Taffita stripyd vpon with blewe golde dornix. 1558 in Feuillerat *Revels Q. Eliz.* (1908) 20 Redd cloth of gold with Roses and Scallope shells stripped down. 1583 *Rates Custom Ho.* A viij b, Canuas striped with silk. 1611 COTGR., *Brocar*, satin stript, or purfled, with gold. 1621 in Foster *Eng. Factories Ind.* (1906) 235 Some stript with blew for napkininge. 1905 *Westm. Gaz.* 25 May 4/2 A galloon effect, contrived either by tucking a strip of muslin or by striping a strip of muslin over with bars of narrow satin ribbon.

2. To mark with a narrow band or with bands of colour; to mark with alternate stripes of colour.

a. *Nat. Hist.* In *pa. pple.* Const. † *in*, *with*.

1597 A. M. tr. *Guillemeau's Fr. Chirurg.* 31/4 Those [leeches] which have the backe stripped, stroked with goulde-yellow strokes. 1645 G. DANIEL *Poems* Wks. (Grosart) II. 51 A goodly Tulip, Stript In Gold and Purple. 1660 F. BROOKE tr. *Le Blanc's Trav.* 184 The Girafe striped with white and red. 1859 DARWIN *Orig. Spec.* v. 165, I once saw a mule with its legs so much striped that [etc.].

b. *gen.*

1842 TENNYSON *Morte d'Arth.* 212 She..call'd him by his name, complaining loud, And dropping bitter tears against his brow Striped with dark blood. 1875 O. C. STONE in *Jrnl. R. Geog. Soc.* XLVI. 58 An heroic deed entitles a man to the distinguished privilege of striping his forehead. 1895 KIPLING *2nd Jungle Bk.* 209 As the sun rose they [*sc.* the morning mists]..churned off and let the low rays stripe the dried grass. 1908 *Nation* 13 June 374/1 Her husband stripes a toy canoe with red and black to please the fishing-spirit.

c. *intr.* Of a plant: To become variegated. Also *trans.* To produce variegation in (a plant).

1725 *Bradley's Family Dict.* s.v. *Stripe*, Cions of the Spanish Jessamine, whose Leaves had not been known to Stripe. 1731 MILLER *Gard. Dict.* s.v. *Variegated*, But whatever some Persons have affirm'd of striping Plants by Art, I could never observe it done by any.

3. To finish (a surface) with grooves or ridges (see quots.). Also *absol.*

1842 GWILT *Archit.* Gloss., *Droved and striped.* Work [in masonry] that is first droved and then striped. The stripes are shallow grooves done with a..chisel. 1882 W. J. CHRISTY *Joints* 206 Very coarse solder..would set quickly and be porous were it not glazed over by striping or overcasting.

†**4.** *intr.* ? To form a stripe. *Obs.*

1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* I. 40 The breadth in the plamure is narrow, but stripeth larger among the hills and lakes.

5. *trans.* To divide (land) into strips or plots. *Anglo-Irish.* Cf. STRIPE *sb.*[3] 6 b.

1882 BAGENAL in *19th Cent.* Dec. 927 [The Irish tenant] stripes the worst and wildest portion and lets it out to the labourers. 1886 *Daily News* 13 Dec. 5/8 About 52 years ago the land reclaimed by their industry was striped, or apportioned, out among the tenants separately.

Stripe (strəip), *v.*[3] [var. of STRIP *v.*[3]]

1. *trans.* To thrust or draw (a thing, esp. a sword in order to cleanse or sharpen it) *through*, *over*. *Sc.* and *north.* Cf. STROKE *v.*[1] 2.

17.. *Clark Sanders* xv. in Child *Ballads* II. 159/1 Out he has taen a bright long brand, And he has striped it throw the straw. 17.. *Johnny Scott* xxviii. *Ibid.* 396/2 He's taen his broadsword in his hand, And stripd it oer a stane. 1895 CROCKETT *Men of Mosshags* v. 44 Wat, bending a little forward in his saddle and striping one long gauntlet glove lightly through the palm of the other hand.

†**2.** To draw the edge of an instrument sideways over (a surface). *Obs.*

1616 SURFL. & MARKH. *Country Farm* I. xxviii. 132 Another Groome shall take a piece of a Sword blade,..and..he shall with the edge strype and wype downe the Horse.

Stripe, obs. form of STRIP *sb.*[1]

Striped (strəipt), *ppl. a.* Also 8 *Sc.* **stripped**. [f. STRIPE *v.*[2] + -ED[1].

For earlier instances of *striped* (used predicatively, and therefore here treated as pa. pple.) see STRIPE *v.*[2] It is possible that the Eng. vb. may have been evolved from *striped* ad. Du. *strijpt* or MLG. *striped*; cf. OHG. *strîphaht* (MHG. *strîfeht*; mod.G. *gestreift*), MSw. *striputter*.]

1. Marked with a stripe or stripes, having a band or bands of colour, streaked.

1617 MORYSON *Itin.* III. 174 The Greekes..weare Shasses, that is striped linnen (commonly white and blew) wound about the skirts of a little cap. *a* 1618 *Rates of Merchandizes* I 1 b, Stript or tufted Canuas. 1698 FRYER *Acc. E. India & P.* 24 Their Junks had three Masts, wearing an East-India strip'd Ancient. 1751 *Rep. Comm. Linen Manuf.* (1773) II. 293 Chequed and Striped Linen. 1752 D. STEWART in *Scots Mag.* (1753) July 343/2 Blue stripped trowsers. 1821 BYRON *Heav. & Earth* iii. 179 And the striped tiger shall lie down to die. 1832 LINDLEY *Introd. Bot.* 407 Striped (*vittatus*): when there are longitudinal stripes of one colour crossing another. 1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* I. ix. 62 The shining snow with its striped faults and precipices. 1874 H. H. COLE *Catal. Ind. Art S. Kens. Mus.* 261 Woven striped pattern of green, yellow, and red..stripes alternating with bands of red.

b. In numerous specific names of animals, plants, and minerals.

1629 PARKINSON *Parad.* (1904) 593 The peare of Ierusalem, or the stript peare, whose barke while it is young, is as plainly seene to be stript with greene, red, and yellow, as the fruit it selfe is also. 1769 PENNANT *Brit. Zool.* III. 207 Striped wrasse. 1981 — *Quad.* I. 250 The Striped Hyæna. 1783 LATHAM *Gen. Synop. Birds* II. 1. 349 Striped Flycatcher. 1815 AIKIN *Min.* (ed. 2) 244 Striped jasper. Occurs massive. 1832 J. RENNIE *Consp. Butterfl. & M.* 25 The Striped Hawk (*Deilephila Livornica*). 1842 Z. THOMPSON *Hist. Vermont* I. 174 Striped Maple. *Acer Pennsylvanicum.* 1859 BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.* (ed. 2) 458 Striped bass. 1901 H. SEEBOHM *Birds of Siberia* xxx. 308 The peasant had shot me a couple of striped squirrels.

c. Of muscular fibre: Divided by transverse bands into striations.

1854 *Orr's Circ. Sci., Organic Nat.* I. 48 One of these [kinds] occurs in the voluntary muscles, and is named, from conspicuous cross markings, the striped muscular fibre. 1880 GIBBES *Histol.* 73 Striped muscle is best shown in one of the large water beetles, Hydrophilus piceus.

d. *Masonry. Striped work*, chisel marks made across a stone at an angle of 45°.

1842 GWILT *Encycl. Arch.* § 1914 Striped work must also be first droved and then striped.

e. Of a person: Entitled to wear a (good-conduct, etc.) stripe.

1890 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 12 June 5/2 In the E.C. district all the striped men were ordered to have their stripes forfeited.

2. *U.S.* ? = STREAKED *ppl. a.* 2.

1840 HALIBURTON *Clockm.* Ser. III. ix, That's the reason married folks are so everlastin' striped; they never romp.

3. In parasynthetic adjs. Cf. STRIPE *sb.*[3] 10.

1731 MILLER *Gard. Dict.* s.v. *Tilia*, The strip'd-leav'd Lime-tree. 1782 LATHAM *Gen. Synop. Birds* I. II. 563 Striped-bellied Woodpecker. 1783 *Ibid.* II. I. 275 Striped Headed Finch. 1829 GRIFFITH tr. *Cuvier* VII. 418 Striped-tailed or Angola Hornbill. 1859 WOOD *Illustr. Nat. Hist.* I. 482 The Banded Bandicoot, or Striped-backed Bandicoot.

Stripeless (strəi·plĕs), *a. rare.* [f. STRIPE *sb.*[3] + -LESS.] Without a stripe or stripes.

1900 *Brit. Med. Jrnl.* 17 Mar. 656/1 So it comes about that cleaning windows..may be part of the duty of a stripeless man who enlists in the service of the Empire. 1906 *Daily Chron.* 30 June 6/5 Stripeless Mackerel...A fine mackerel..which had not a single stripe on it.

Striping (strəi·pĭŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. STRIPE *v.*[2] + -ING[1].]

1. The action or process of making a stripe or of forming stripes.

1731 MILLER *Gard. Dict.* s.v. *Tulipa* B D/2 Though indeed, the Striping of Tulips doth never occasion so great Weakness in them. 1798 *Hull Advertiser* 8 Sept. 2/4 Fancy work..varnishing, gilding and striping. 1911 *Daily News* 2 Oct. 3/1 The holdings are ruthlessly rearranged among the tenants who remain—a process called 'striping'.

2. *concr.* **a.** A stripe or series of stripes of colour.

1677 PLOT *Oxfordsh.* 172 Where it [a striped Maple] flourishes still and retains its stripings. 1731 MILLER *Gard. Dict.* s.v. *Variegated*, It is a Distemper in the Plants, since whenever they become vigorous, this Striping is..rendered less visible. 1882 *Garden* 28 Jan. 67/1 The flowers present..various kinds of striping and feathering. 1897 V. CORNISH in *Geogr. Jrnl.* IX. 293 The longitudinal striping (of sand) is reduced to a subordinate feature of the windward slope of transverse dunes. 1900 *Pop. Sci. Monthly* Jan. 347 The detailed representations..showing in some respects a resemblance to the stripings of Mars.

Striplet (stri·plĕt). [f. STRIP *sb.*[2] + -LET.] A small strip. Also *attrib.*

1839 CAROLINE B. SOUTHEY in *Blackw. Mag.* XLV. 756 The rising flood came rushing on, Till not a sea-mark old was seen, Nor of the striplet islets green A speck of hard, dry sand. 1884 ANNIE S. SWAN *Mark Desb.* xiv. 122 The striplet of firm wet sand left by the ebbing tide.

Stripling (stri·plĭŋ). Also 4–6 **strepe-**, **stryplynge**, 5–6 **striplyng**, 6 **stripelyng**, **stryplyng(e**, 6–7 **strippling** (6 **-yng**), 7, 9 **striplin**. [Prob. f. STRIP *sb.*[1], though that word is not recorded before the 15th c.) + -LING[1].

The etymological notion seems to be 'one who is slender as a strip', one whose figure is not yet filled out.]

1. A youth, one just passing from boyhood to manhood.

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* VI. i. (1495) 186 Adolescencia the aege of a yonge stryplynge duryth the thyrd yii yere. *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (1839) xxvii. 278 The faireste 3onge striplynges. *a* 1513 FABYAN *Chron.* V. civ. (1811) 70 Arthurus, the sone of Vter Pendragon, a strepelynge of .xv. yeres of Age. 1568 GRAFTON *Chron.* II. 139 Euery stripplyng of the age of .xii. yeres and aboue, before his Alderman in his warde was newly charged with the same othe. 1611 BIBLE 1 *Sam.* xvii. 56 And the king said, Enquire thou whose sonne the stripling is. 1650 FULLER *Pisgah* IV. vi. 103 From a child he starts up a youth, and becomes a stripling. 1745 in *10th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. I. 128 The only son I have left me, being but a stripling of fourtein years age. 1839 THIRLWALL *Greece* lii. VI. 262 He affected to speak slightingly of Alexander, as a stripling. 1878 BROWNING *Poets Croisic* ix, This proves mere Stripling's amusement.

* *transf.* and *fig.* 1683 DRYDEN *Dk. Guise* II. ii, I'm but a Stripling in the Trade of War. 1693 *Humours Town* 32 A conceited School-master is but a stripling in Pedantry to him. 1879 STEVENSON *Trav. Cevennes* (1886) 19 An amiable stripling of a river. 1887 MOLONEY *Forestry W. Afr.* 230 My trees ran up so rapidly and such striplings that tornadoes blew down two or three.

2. *attrib.* (chiefly appositive) passing into adj.

1553 T. WILSON *Rhet.* 7 The stripelyng age, or spryng tide. 1598 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. ii. II. *Babylon* 51 He tyranniz'd among his strippling-peers. 1645 MILTON *Colast.* 4 Having convers'd much with a stripling Divine or two of those newly fledge Probationers, that usually come scouting from the University. 1667 — *P. L.* III, 636 A stripling Cherube. 1725 POPE *Odyss.* I. 194 Gay, stripling youths. 1795 SOUTHEY *Joan of Arc* VII. 107 Before his stripling arm Fled Warwick. 1853 M. ARNOLD *Scholar Gypsy* viii, Crossing the stripling Thames at Bab-lock-hithe.

Strippado, obs. form of STRAPPADO.

Strippage (stri·pédʒ). *rare.* [f. STRIP *v.*[1] + -AGE.] Branches stripped from trees.

1873 BROWNING *Red Cott. Nt.-cap* I. 508 The leafy street-length through, decked end to end With August-strippage, and adorned with flags.

Stripped (stript), *ppl. a.* [f. STRIP *v.*[1] + -ED[1].] That has been stripped, in senses of the vb. *Stripped gallop*, a gallop given a racehorse when 'stripped'.

1594 *Gd. Huswifes Handmaid Kitchin* 1 b, Then put in halfe a handfull of stripped Tyme. 1641 in *Archæologia* I. 99 Poor stript men, that had made their escapes from the rebels. 1683 MOXON *Mech. Exerc.* XIV. xxii. 3. 207 The Compositer..coming to his Stript Form, or Quarter of the Form he is to Destribute, he places [etc.]. 1714 E. WARD *Field-Spy* 26 Like a strip'd Gamester or a ruin'd Beau. 1844 *Rep. Sel. Comm. Tobacco Trade, Min. Evid.* 232 The stripped tobacco is an article which is manufactured by the extraction of the stalk. 1869 G. J. CHESTER *Transatl. Sk.* 264 Making indelicate remarks on the personal appearance of the stripped soldiers. 1896 *Daily News* 12 June 6/2 It was the first stripped gallop he ever had. 1898 J. SOUTHWARD *Mod. Printing* I. 97 The following table shews the usual number of improved—that is, shaved or stripped—leads to the pound.

Hence **Stri·ppedness**, the quality or state of being stripped.

1856 MRS. CARLYLE *New Lett. & Mem.* (1903) II. 96 What is that quality in the skins of some women..which always suggests nakedness, striptness?

Stripper[1] (stri·pəɹ). [f. STRIP *v.*[1] + -ER[1].]

1. One who strips another; also one who strips or strips off some article or product, e.g. bark of a tree, tobacco, the accumulation of shoddy in a carding-machine.

1581 MULCASTER *Positions* xxxvii. (1887) 162 Preferment to degrees in schole..ought to be a mightier stripper of insufficiencie. 1611 COTGR., *Spoliateur*, a spoyler; stripper, despoyler. *a* 1722 LISLE *Husb.* (1757) 367 The greater the flush of sap..it makes the better bark, and is better both for the tanner and the stripper. 1859 FAIRHOLT *Tobacco* vi. 305 The 'stripper' performs her duties by folding the tobacco-leaf, and..cutting under both sides of the thick end of the stalk. 1876 SMILES *Sc. Naturalist* iii, 48 Each spinner had three boys under him—the wheeler, the pointer, and the stripper. 1886 LD. WALSINGHAM & PAYNE-GALLWEY *Shooting* I. 71 The stripper takes the gun to pieces down to the minutest detail, and carefully examines and regulates it in every way. 1890 *Melbourne Argus* 10 June 5/2 Had strippers been allowed to take out licenses to strip the wattles of their bark.

2. A machine or appliance for stripping.

1835 [see STRIP *v.* 20]. 1856 P. KENNEDY *Banks of Boro* xli. (1867) 339 A..pair of strippers (curved chisels for stripping off bark). 1874 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 842/2 A frame.. which may be elevated to raise the stripper off the file through the instrumentality of a rock-shaft and a system of levers. 1875 *Ibid.* 2430/2 *Stripper* 2. (Carding) a device for lifting the top flats from the carding-cylinder. 1882 *Essex Herald* No. 4269/3 A stripper is a labour saving machine used in..Victoria...Its object is to strip the heads from the standing corn and thrash them at one operation. 1886 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 6 Apr. 14/2 One by one the [willow-] switches are placed in the mechanical stripper.

attrib. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 349 [Carding] This shaft drives the crank and lever mechanism of the stripper knife. 1908 *Westm. Gaz.* 12 Mar. 2/1 Sir William Lyne proposed to raise the duty from £12 to £16 for 'stripper harvesters'.

3. *pl. Gaming.* 'High cards cut wedge-shape, a little wider than the rest, so as to be easily drawn in a crooked game' (Farmer & Henley).

1887 F. FRANCIS jun. *Saddle & Mocassin* 228 A tender-foot got in amongst the gamblers on board..., and what with 'strippers', and 'stocking', and 'cold decks',..and so forth, he hadn't the ghost of a show. 1894 MASKELYNE *Sharps & Flats* 222 The most commonly used form of cards, however, is that of the 'double-wedges' or 'strippers'.

Stri·pper[2]. [f. STRIP *v.*[3] + -ER[1].] 'A cow not in calf, but giving very little milk' (*Eng. Dial. Dict.*).

1856 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* XVII. I. 266 The cows which I buy as strippers, for fattening, giving little milk.

† Stri·ppet. *Obs. rare*—[1]. [f. STRIPE *sb.*[1] + -ET.] A small rill.

1577 HARRISON *Descr. Scot.* x. 12/2 in *Hollinshed*, A fayre spring..from whence runneth a little brooke or strippet.

Stripping (stri·piŋ), *vbl. sb.*[1] [-ING [1].]

1. The action of STRIP *v.*[1]

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* v. lxiv. (1495) 182 And that matere chaungyth and enfectith the skynne somtyme wyth scales..and somtyme wyth strippynge and pillynge. *a* 1400–50 *Wars Alex.* (Dubl. MS.) 781 What of stampyng of stedes & strippyng of baners, All demmyd þe dale & þe duste risez. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 480/1 Stryppynge, or makynge [*read* nakynge], *..denudacio.* 1653 W. JENKYN *Shock of Corn* (1654) 14 He who looks upon himself as possessing nothing in the world, fears not a stripping by death. 1713 ADDISON *Guardian* No. 109 P 2 Having put a seasonable stop to this unaccountable humour of stripping, that was got among our British Ladies. 1845 J. COULTER *Adv. Pacific* vii. 76 As this spiral stripping of the blubber goes on, the body [of the whale] is kept turning. 1847 ELIZA GURNEY *Let.* 18 Sept., in A. J. C. Hare *Gurneys* (1895) II. xv. 252 This further stripping has afresh caused me to feel that 'I am bereaved', that life will soon contain but very few to bind me to it. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VII. 712 The pia [mater] on stripping is found to adhere to the cerebral cortex.

b. In technical senses.

1748 *Anson's Voy.* II. ii. 135 In the stripping of our foremast, we were alarmed by discovering it was sprung. 1837 WHITTOCK *Bk. Trades* (1842) 226 (File Maker) To prepare the files for cutting, is by making the surface to contain the teeth as level as possible; this process is called 'stripping'. 1853 URE *Dict. Arts* (ed. 4) II. 697 Interruptions occurred several times a day by the stripping of the main cylinder. 1875 J. H. COLLINS *Metal Mining* 54 The ore is got out by a kind of long-wall method called 'stripping'. 1886 A. WATT *Electro-Deposition* 252 It is usually the practice to remove what silver there may be upon old plated articles by the process termed stripping'. This consists in immersing the article in a hot acid liquid.

2. *concr.* Something stripped off or taken off in a thin layer.

1601 in *Househ. Ord.* (1790) 288 He [the yeoman of the Boyling House] hath for his fee the strippinges of beefe. 1835 BROWNING *Paracelsus* v. 486 And now the air is full of uptorn canes, Light strippings from the fan-trees. 1874 RAYMOND *6th Rep. Mines* 315 The layers of gravel passed through by the shafts in reaching the *mantas* or rich streaks are cast aside as of no value, and the surface of a Mexican placer is covered with heaps of these 'strippings'. 1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-mining* 245 *Stripping*, a web of coal worked off all along the face of a stall.

3. *attrib.* (chiefly technical), as *stripping-acid, -bath, -liquid, -machine, -solution.* Also **stripping-coat**, a coating of solvent used on the edges of double waterproof fabric in order to separate them for making a seam; **stripping-film**, a photographic 'plate' having a film which may be separated from its support after exposure; **stripping-knife** (see quot.); **† stripping law**, the 'art' of fleecing prisoners as practised by jailers (see quots.).

1905 *Electro-plating* (ed. P. N. Hasluck) 141 The *stripping acid is composed of sulphuric acid, nitric acid, and water. 1886 A. WATT *Electro-Deposition* 252 A *stripping-bath [for silver] is first made by pouring a sufficient quantity of strong oil of vitriol into a suitable stoneware vessel... To this must be added a small quantity of either nitrate of potash, or nitrate of soda. 1885 C. G. W. LOCK *Workshop Rec.* Ser. IV. 7/2 Such coatings are specially designated '*stripping-coats'. *Ibid.* 395 *Stripping films. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.*, **Stripping-knife*, a tool for removing the blades of sorghum from the stalks, previous to grinding. 1592 GREENE *Disput. Conny Catchers* D 1, The *stripping Lawe, wherein I will lay open the lewde abuses of sundry laylors in England. 1592 — *Def. Conny Catching* Wks. (Grosart) XI. 104 The stripping Law..is the abuse offered by the keepers of Newgate to poore prisoners. 1846 *Mech. Mag.* XLV. 260/2 Silversmiths remove silver from copper by immersing the plated article in *stripping liquid, made of eight parts sulphuric acid and one part nitrate of potash. 1898 *Stripping machine [see STRIP *v.*[1] 19]. 1886 A. WATT *Electro-Deposition* 253 A Cold *Stripping Solution,..is made by [etc.].

Stripping (stri·piŋ), *vbl. sb.*[2] [f. STRIP *v.*[3] + -ING [1].] The action of STRIP *v.*[3]

1895 F. M. HALFORD *Making a Fishery* 194 Finding that she [the female fish] was not quite ripe for stripping he turned her on to a shallow. 1899 *19th Cent.* Sept. 399 The 'stripping' of the shad by the hatchery officials had only terminated the previous week.

b. *concr.* (*pl.*) = STROKING *vbl. sb.* 2.

1781 J. HUTTON *Tour to Caves* (ed. 2) Gloss. 97 *Stripings*, the last part of a cow's milk. 1808 J. C. CURWEN *Hints Feeding Stock* 145, I was doubtful of the accuracy of my own dairy, which stated a pound of butter to eight quarts of strippings. 1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* II. 459 That which comes last, the afterings or strippings, as it is commonly called, is much the richer part of new milk.

c. *Comb.*: **stripping cow**, a cow which is going dry and requires to be 'stripped' in milking.

1894 *Times* 16 Apr. 4/4 Irish store cattle, consisting chiefly of heifers and stripping-cows, continue to be imported.

Stripping (stri·piŋ), *ppl. a.* [f. STRIP *v.*[1] + -ING [2].] That strips, in senses of the verb.

1681 OTWAY *Soldier's Fort.* I. i. (1683) 6 Be sure that they be lew'd, drunken, stripping Whores. 1713 ADDISON *Guardian* No. 118 P 3 At a late meeting of the stripping Ladies, ..it was resolved for the future to lay the modesty-piece wholly aside. 1809 MARY TITHERINGTON *Diary* in *Mem.* 91 In the course of Christian experience we pass through such stripping times. 1913 MASEFIELD in *Engl. Rev.* Dec. 1 Till with a stripping crash the tree goes down.

Strippy (stri·pi), *a. rare.* [f. STRIP *sb.*[2] + -Y.] Of the nature of a strip, made up of strips.

1822 *Examiner* 827/1 Intersected in every part with clashing colours, obtrusive lights, and strippy shapes and lines.

Stript. [Variant of STRIPPED *ppl. a.* used as *sb.*] A trade-name of tobacco-leaf when 'stripped'.

1881 *Spons' Encycl. Industr. Arts* IV. 1341 Quantities of leaf-tobacco are shipped in a condition deprived of their stem and midrib, and are then known as 'stripts'.

[Stripulose: error in Dicts. for STIPULOSE.]

Stripy (strəi·pi), *a.* [f. STRIPE *sb.*[3] + -Y.] Having, marked with, or suggestive of stripes or bands of colour.

1513 *MS. P. R. O. Papers* 5 *Hen. VIII*, No. 4101 Itm' a standing bedde of dornix strypy. 1847 LEITCH tr. *C. O. Müller's Anc. Art* § 324. 328 The undulated and stripy nature of light. 1891 M. MURIEL DOWIE *Girl in Karpathians* II. 12 There was a flutter of shutters and stripey awnings upon them. 1898 KIPLING *Day's Work* 107 His tiger..is supposed to be a clouded animal—not stripy, but blotchy.

Strit (strit), *v. Obs.* exc. *dial.* [? Altered form of STRUT *v.*] *intr.* To walk proudly, strut.

1597 BP. HALL *Sat.* III. vii. 25 Yet for all that, how stifly strits he by, All trapped in the new-found brauerie. 1657 G. THORNLEY *Daphnis & Chloe* 100 The Goats stritting along with the Sheep. *Ibid.* 152. 1881 *Leicestersh. Gloss.* **Strit**, obs. 3rd pers. sing. of STRIDE *v.*

Stritch (strit∫). *Obs.* exc. *dial.* Also 5 **strytche**. [? Shortened from *stritchel*: see STRICKLE *sb.*]

1. = STRICKLE *sb.* 1.

14.. *Lat.-Eng. Voc.* in WR.-Wülcker 588/13 *Hostorium*, a stryche. 1825 JENNINGS *Observ. Dial. W. Eng.* 73 *Stritch*, a strickle: a piece of wood used for striking off the overplus from a corn measure.

2. = STRICK *sb.* 1, STRIKE *sb.* 4.

14.. *Lat.-Eng. Voc.* in WR.-Wülcker 593/9 *Linipulus*, a streche of flaxe.

† Strite. *Anglo-Irish. Obs.* Also 7 **streite, streyte.** [Perh. a form of STRAIT *sb.*] Some contrivance for intercepting fish in a river.

1537 *Ir. Act* 28 *Hen. VIII*, c. 22 (1621) 168 Divers wilful persons..have in divers places of the said rivers [Barrow, etc.] and waters made weres, purprestures, ingines, strites [1678 streites] and other obstacles...It shall be lawfull..to ..breake..all and everie such weres, ..streytes and [etc.].

† Strithe. *Obs.* In 4 **stryþ(þ)e**. [? A dial. form of STRIDE *sb.*, influenced by Scandinavian habits of articulation.] = STRIDE *sb.*

13.. *Gaw. & Gr. Knt.* 846 Sturne stif on þe stryþþe on stalworth schonkez. *Ibid.* 2305 Þenne tas he hym stryþe to stryke, & frounses boþe lyppe & browe.

† Strivable, *a. Obs. rare.* [a. OF. *estrivable*, f. *estriver*: see STRIVE *v.* and -ABLE.] Open to dispute, disputable.

c 1456 PECOCK *Bk. Faith* (1909) 187 The lay peple of the newe lawe is bound..for to receyve her feith..in eeh doutable and strivable poynt therof.

Strive (straiv), *v.* Pa. t. **strove** (strōuv), pa. pple. **striven** (stri·v'n). Forms: 3–8 **stryve**, 4 **strijf, strivi, striwe**, 4–5 **stryf**, 4, 6 **strif**, 4–6 **stryfe**, 4–7 **strife**, 5 **stryff**, 5–6 **stryffe**, 5–7 **strywe**, 7 **strivve**, 3– **strive**. *Pa. t. a. weak forms* 3 **strivede**, 3–9 **strived**, 4 **stryvede**, 6 **strivde, stryved**, *Sc.* **stryvit**, 7 **strivd**. *β. strong forms* 3–5 **strof**, 4 **stroove**, 4–5 **stroof**, 8 **struive**, 9 *dial.* **struv**, 4– **strove**; 4 **straff**, 4–6 *Sc.* **strafe, straif**, 5 *Sc.* **straiff**, 5–9 **strave**, 6 *Sc.* **straiv, straw(e**; also *pl.* 4–5 **stryue** (i), **streven**. *Pa. pple. a. weak forms* 4 **ystrived**, 4–9 **strived**. *β. strong forms* 4 **streven, -yn, strivin, stryve, stryven**, *Sc.* **strewine, striwine, -yn, strifine**, 6 **strevin**, 6–7 **stroven**, 7–9 **strove**, 7 **strivve**, 4– **striven**. [ME. *strive-n* (13th c.), a. OF. *estriver* (early mod.F. *driver*: still preserved in some dialects), to quarrel, contend: of disputed origin.

The verb is not found outside Fr., the alleged Pr. *estribar* cited by etymologists having no existence. It is commonly believed to be of Teut. etymology. According to some scholars, OF. *estriver* is f. *estrif* (whence STRIFE *sb.*), which is regarded as a modification of the older OF. (and Pr.) *estrit*, (= OIt. *strido, strio*), a. OTeut. **strīdo-* strife, combat, related to **strīdan* to fight: see STRIDE *v.* According to others, the OF. verb (of which, on this view, the sb. *estrif* is a derivative) is a. OTeut. **strīban* str. vb. (Mid. G. *striben*, early mod.Du. *strijven*, though these are prob. of secondary origin), f. root **strīb-*, of which the ablaut-variant **strīþ-* is represented by the weak verb MLG. *streven* (mod. LG. *strewen*), (M)Du. *straven*, MHG., mod.G. *streben*, to endeavour, struggle (= sense 9 below), also (from LG.) Sw. *strāfva*, Da. *strøbe*. Both explanations present some unsolved difficulties; the former is more satisfactory with regard to sense, but the notions of 'conflict' and 'endeavour' easily pass the one into the other.

The strong conjugation (on the analogy of *drive* etc.) is found somewhat earlier than the weak conjugation which would be normal for a verb adopted from Fr., and has always been the more frequent of the two, though many examples of *strived* pa. t. and pa. pple. occur in writers of every period from the 14th to the 19th c. The Bible of 1611 has always *strove* in the pa. t.; the pa. pple. is *strived, striven* (one example each). The irregular pa. pple. *strove* (after the pa. t.; cf. the form *stroven* of the 16–17th c.) appears first in the 17th c., and remained somewhat common down to the middle of the 19th c., but is now confined to illiterate use.]

1. *intr.* To be in a state of variance or mutual hostility. ? *Obs.*

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 84 Þus ha beoð bisie i þisse fule mester, & eiðer mid oðer striueð her abuten. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 623 Þe king mi3te segge þat in a luþer time he striuede wiþ his wiue. 1338 R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (1810) 293 With his barons he striued, with him wild non go. A kyng þat striues with hise, þe may not wele spede. 1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 1470 Now loue we, now hate, now saghtel, now strife. 1340 *Ayenb.* 154 Vor þe scele ssel by ase a trewe arbytres be-tuene þe goste and þe ulesse þet byeþ alneway striuinde. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Sompn. T.* 278 And therfore Thomas, trowe me if thee leste, Ne stryue nat with thy wyf, as for thy beste. 1508 DUNBAR *Tua Mariit Wemen* 59 It is agane the law of luif, of kynd, and of nature, Togiddir hairtis to streine, that stryveis with vther. 1540 PALSGR. *Acolastus* IV. iv. T iv, We shal not fyghte herefore..i. we will not fall at bate or stryue for this matter, or here aboute. *a* 1628 LD. BROOKE *Of Humane Learning* CXXXIII. Poems (1633) 48 For earth, and earthynesse it is alone, Which envies, strifes, hates, or is malecontent. 1829 SCOTT *Anne of G.* XXXII, They say you cannot live in Rome and strive with the Pope.

2. To quarrel, wrangle. Now *rare* (*poet.*).

c 1290 *Infancy Jesus* 883–5 in Horstm. *Altengl. Leg.* (1875) 31 Þis children bi gonne for to striue, And ech obur þrettnede swiþe; So longue huy striueden with wicke mod, þat euerech obur vuele smot. 13.. *Solomon's Coronation* etc. 38 in *A. Davy's Dream* (E. E. T. S.) 97 3erne þai striueden & chid. 1382 WYCLIF *Lev.* XXIV. 10 A sone..of a womman of Yrael ..hath streuen [Vulg. *jurgatus est*] in tentis with a man of Yrael. *a* 1450 *Knt. de la Tour* 126 The doughter of a senatour of Rome, that had so cruell hert that she straue & chidde in the plaine strete wit her neyghboures. 1461 *Paston Lett.* II. 42 It is talkyd here how that ye and Howard schuld a' strevyn togueder on the scher daye, and on of Howards men schuld a' strekyn yow twyess with a dagere. *a* 1533 BERNERS *Huon* lxxxiii. 262, I began to stryue with my brother so hyely that Gybouars myght here me. 1860 TENNYSON *Sea Dreams* 222 And still they strove and wrangled.

† b. To bandy words with a superior; to behave mutinously. Const. *with, against. Obs.*

1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) II. 323 Þis is þe womman of Ethiopia for þe whiche Mary and Aaron stryue [L. *jurgati sunt*] with Moyses in desert. *c* 1400 *Rule St. Benet* iii. 7 þat nan folu þair ahen wille, ne nan bare þaim sua heze, þat tay striue ogain þair abes. *c* 1430 *Diatorie* 52 in *Babees Bk.* (1868) 58 First with þi bettir be waar for to stryue. *c* 1440 *Alphabet of Tales* 153 Þou sall se me correcte þis ill servand, & teche hym rather to be meke & speke fayr, þan for to flite or strife with his maister. *c* 1450 *Bk. Curtasye* 226 in *Babees Bk.* 305 Also, my chylde, a-gaynes þy lorde Loke þou stryfe with no kyn worde.

3. To contend, carry on a conflict of any kind; *esp.* to contend with another or each other *for* (the possession of) something or *for* (a cause or principle).

c 1290 *Beket* 1544 in *S. Eng. Leg.* 150 In þe churche of Caunterburi me þouste i stod..And striuede for holi churche azen þe kinge and his. *c* 1374 CHAUCER *Boeth.* II. pr. ii. (1868) 33 Stryf or plete wiþ me [L. *mecum contende*] by fore what iuge þat þou wilt of þe possessioun of ryccheesse or of dignites. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* XXXVI. (*Baptista*) 720 We wil nocht for dignite striwe, ne quha sal gretare be. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 334 For this thei tellen that ben wise, Wicke is to stryve and have the werse. *c* 1450 tr. *De Imitatione* III. iii. 66 Oþerwiles men striuen for o. peny riȝt shamfully. *c* 1485 *Digby Myst.* III. 1097 Than why shold I with my consyens st(r)yffe? 1530 PALSGR. 740/2, I stryve to gette an offyce that gothe by electyon, *je estrine.* 1567 R. BIRREL *Diary* (1798) 13 At this Parliament, the tounes of Dundie and Perth strave for the 2d place amongst the burrowes. 1609 SIR J. HARINGTON *Nugæ Ant.* (1804) II. 258 There it seemes also the colledges strave for him, he removed so oft. 1626 [FEATLEY] *Pelagius Rediv.* To Rdr. A 2 b, The Doctrine so much strouen for, and so highly extolled by some, is it nothing but olde heresie new furbished ouer? 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* IV. 93 If intestine Broils allarm the Hive, (For two Pretenders oft for Empire strive) The Vulgar in divided Factions jar. 1847 SARAH AUSTIN *Ranke's Hist. Ref.* III. 281 The old and bitter enemies with whom they had so long striven. 1905 J. B. BURY *St. Patrick* vi. 108 The story has a sequel which tells how Patrick strove with the other enchanter.

b. To fight against temptation or the like; to wage spiritual warfare.

c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* XXXVI. (*Baptista*) 470 Þe thrid is crone þat sal be giffine to marteris at here has wele striwine. 1399 LANGL. *R. Redeles* Prol. 82 Þe story is of non estate þat stryuen with her lustus. 1598 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* I. i. 769 While Jesus strove with Sathan's strong Temptations. *a* 1716 SOUTH *Serm.* (1727) VI. 314 It is the tempted Person's Duty..to fence, and strive, and oppose the Temptation with all his Art, as well as Resolution, that he can. 1816 J. WILSON *City of Plague* I. iii. 211 In vain I strove Against the Tempter. 1816 SCOTT *Old Mort.* xlii, Did ye never sleep in the same room wi' him, and hear him strive in his dreams with the delusions of Satan?

c. With cognate object. *rare.*

c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* XXVII. (*Machor*) 1514 My strife I haf weile strifine. 1833 TENNYSON *Two Voices* 130 Waiting to strive a happy strife, To war with falsehood to the knife.

d. To struggle *with* disease or suffering.

1666 G. HARVEY *Morbus Angl.* XXXII. (1672) 101 Forestus knew another woman that strove eight years with a Consumption. 1686 tr. *Chardin's Trav. Persia* 18 M. de la Haye..strove with his distemper, and took a journey to Adrianople. 1786 BURNS *To Mountain Daisy* viii, Such fate to suffering worth is giv'n, Who long with wants and woes has striv'n.

† e. To struggle *with* hindrances. Const. *to* with *inf.* (Cf. sense 9.)

1594 SHAKS. *Rich. III*, V. iii. 104 He strive with troubled noise [*So* Ff.; Qo. 1597 *and mod. edd.* thoughts], to take a Nap.

f. Of things: To be mutually opposed in action; to come into conflict *with*.

1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) I. 315 The fuyre..stryueþ wiþ þe ayer. *c* 1425 *Cast. Perseverance* 64 Envye, a-geyn

Charyte strywyth ful ryth. 1560 Daus tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 63 This request is full of violence and robbery and striveth [L. *pugnat*] with the Gospell. 1592 Kyd *Sp. Trag.* III. i. 8 So striueth not the waues with sundry winds. 1596 Dalrymple tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* I. i. 59 It swallyis vp hail schipis, and throuch the violence..of contrare workeng of the wais of the sey, quhen ilke streme stryues with vthir, drounes thame in the deip. *a* 1668 Denham *On Earl of Strafford's Trial & Death* 17 Now private pity strove with publick hate, Reason with Rage, and Eloquence with Fate.

† 4. To contend in arms, fight *with*. *Obs.*

13.. *K. Alis.* 2870 How they stryveden for the kynriche. 1338 R. Brunne *Chron.* (1810) 40 For so hette S. Dunstan, he suld alle his lyue With werre his lond welde, & with his suerd stryve. 1340–70 *Alisaunder* 289 Philip enforceth hym now his folk for to gie;..Many mightfull menne made hee stryue. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 3323 Your wille I moste wirke,.. Syn weikenes of wemen may not wele stryve, Ne haue no might tawardes men maistries to fend. *c* 1470 *Gol. & Gaw.* 353 Wondir staluart and strang to striue in ane stour. 1470–85 Malory *Arthur* Contents 10 How a knyght & a dwarf stroof for a lady. 1598 Bastard *Chrestol.* VII. xlv. 183 Sakellus died striuing for the wall. *a* 1609 Sir F. Vere *Comm.* (1657) 38 Whilest it was hard stroven and fought on that side, I sent a Captain..to see what guard was held along the wall toward the Bay-ward. 1609 Holland *Amm. Marcell.* 418 The Germans strove againe for their parts with the like obstinate resolution. 1697 Dryden *Æneis* XII. 57 Twice vanquish'd, while in bloody Fields we strive, Scarce in our Walls, we keep our Hopes alive.. 1706 Prior *Ode to Queen* xxix, There Fleets shall strive by Winds and Waters tost.

† 5. To contend in words, dispute. Chiefly followed by dependent question. *Obs.*

1320–30 *Horn Childe* in Ritson *Metr. Rom.* III. 306 Anon thai gun to strive rathe, Whether of hem him schuld haye To duelle in her meinè. *c* 1325 *Metr. Hom.* 48 Wit sain Jon gan thai to strife, And said [etc.]. 138. Wyclif *Sel. Wks.* II. 147 Iewis and disciplis of Joon strooven. 1382 — *Jude* i. 9 When Mychael,..disputinge with the deuel, stroof [Vulg. *altercaretur*] of Moyses body. *c* 1425 *Eng. Conquest Irel.* (1896) 32 Heruy..& Reymond vp dyuers domes strouen what men shold do wyth har pryson[er]s. 1471 Caxton *Recuyell* (Sommer) 34 They argued and stroof to gyder that oon ayenst that other often tymes of this mater. 1535 Coverdale *Job* xxxii. 1 So these thre men wolde stryue nomore with Iob, because he helde himself a rightuous man. 1567 *Gude & Godlie Ball.* 43 For cause thay knew him to depart, Thay straif quha suld be ouerest. 1600 Hakluyt *Voy.* III. 438 Saying that they had strouen together who should haue him to his house.

† b. To debate, discuss. *Obs.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 13589 Paa phariseus..Quen pai had striued pam emel..cuth na resun find, pai did pan bring again pat blind. 1340 *Ayenb.* 164 Panne salomon huanne he hedde..of alle pinges and of foles and of wyse y-striued he zayde [etc.]. *c* 1390 *Will. Palerne* 4099 My wyf..striued stifli with hire-self as stepmoderes wol alle, bi what wise sche miȝt best þat bold barn spille.

† c. To cavil, dispute. Const. *of*. *Obs.*

13.. *Seuyn Sag.* 1850 Go forth and strif nowt therof. 1541 R. Copland *Galyen's Terap.* 2 C j b, It behoueth nat than thus miserably *to* stryue *of* the names. 1549 Coverdale etc. *Erasm. Par. 1 Cor.* Argt. 1 b, Finallye they stryued among them selues of matrimonye, by reason that euen at that tyme some christian men styflye defended, that men should wholy abstayne from mariage.

† 6. To contend in rivalry; to seek to surpass another or each other; to compete in a trial of strength or skill. Also *to strive a vie* (see A-VIE *adv.*). *Obs.*

c 1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 732 þai straue wha first to lande myght wynne. 1509 [see A-VIE *adv.*]. 1538 Starkey *England* I. iii. 92 Euery towne semyd to me to stryue wyth other, as hyt had byn for a vyctory, wych schold be more beutyful & strong. 1586 Lupton *1000 Notable Things* (1660) 75 A man..with swift running contended and strived with Dogs, and was hunted of them unhurt in the Woods. 1609 Holland *Amm. Marcell.* XXVIII. viii. 339 They run all at once striving a vie who shall be formost. [Holland often uses the phrase.] *a* 1610 Heywood & Rowley *Fortune by Land & Sea* III. iv, *Fost.* I have no money. *Phil.* But now you strived which man would lend me most. 1615 Chapman *Odyss.* VIII. 179 When all had striu'd in these assaies their fill. 1619 Sir A. Gorges tr. *Bacon's Wisdom Anc.* xxvi. 124 Certaine games of Lampbearers, in which they that striued for the prize were *wont* to carie torches lighted. 1638 Mayne *Lucian* (1664) 208 [They] smiled when they were rackt, and strived with their Tormentors who should be first tired. 1644 [see A-VIE *adv.*]. 1648 Gage *West Ind.* 14 The Galley slaves strived who should sound their Waits and Trumpets most joyfully. 1697 Dryden *Virg. Georg.* III. 28 The Rival Chariots in the Race shall strive. 1725 Pope *Odyss.* IV. 241 There with commutual zeal we both had strove, In acts of dear benevolence, and love.

fig. 1605 Shaks. *Lear* IV. iii. 18 Patience and sorrow strove [*So Pope and later edd.*; Qq. streme] Who should express her goodliest. 1636 Brathwait *Rom. Emp.* 372 All vertues in him contentiously strived to imbellish him. *a* 1700 Ken *Hymnotheo* Poet. Wks. 1721 III. 318 The bowing Fruits strove which should first be crop'd.

† b. Const. *to* with inf. *Obs.* (cf. sense 9).

1520 Barclay *Sallust, Batt. Jugurth* liv. (Pynson) 78 b, They stryued [L. *certantes*] to ascende vnto the walles euery man couetyng to be before other. 1634 Sir T. Herbert *Trav.* 52 The Kettle-drums and other their Iingling Instruments stroue to deafe vs. 1638 Mayne *Lucian* (1664) 140 But when the fame of the Oracle once pierced Italy, and arrived at Rome, every one strived to be first.

† c. To vie, to be equal or comparable *with*.

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 398 Asaeles swiftschipe, þet strof wiþ heortes ouervrn. *c* 1386 Chaucer *Knt.'s T.* 180 That Emelye, þat fairer was to sene Than is the lylie..For with the Rose colour stroof hire hewe. 1509 [see A-VIE *adv.*]. 1540 Palsgr. *Acolastus* II. iii. M ij b, Holde or take this money, and prepare vs a supper, that may stryue with a pontifycal or bishops feaste. 1597 Gerarde *Herbal* I. xxxv. 50 The roote..striueth with the Florentine Iris in sweetnes. 1667 Milton *P. L.* IV. 273 Nor that sweet Grove Of Daphne by Orontes..might with this Paradise Of Eden strive. 1697 Dryden *Æneis* V. 326 The Victor honour'd with a nobler Vest: Where Gold and Purple strive in equal Rows. 1700 — *Meleager & Atalanta* 28 For Tusks with Indian Elephants he [the boar] strove.

7. To offer obstinate resistance, struggle *against*.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 9306 For efter þat i es o-liue, Gains soth sal your eires striue. *c* 1300 *Havelok* 2271 Þer-yen ne wolde neuer on striue, þat he ne maden sone þat oth. 1362 Langl. *P. Pl.* A. VII. 305 While Hunger was mayster heer wolde ther *non* chyde, Ne striue aȝeyn the statutes. *c* 1400 tr. *Secreta Secret., Gov. Lordsh.* 41 No-þer ys non of hool mynde þat may stryf aȝeyn þis sentence. 1500–20 Dunbar *Poems* xxxv. 14 Thow suffer me to wirk gif thow do weill, And preiss the nocht to stryfe aganis my quheill, Quhilk every warldly thing dois turne and steir. 1530 Palsgr. 740/2 Thou stryvest agaynst a thyng that is evydent. 1560 Daus tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 136 b, They did not chaunge him wholy, which strove and defended his opinions stiffly [L. *reluctantem suaque defendentem*]. 1597 Beard *Theatre God's Judgem.* (1612) 66 The wonderfull judgements which the king of kings hath sent vpon those that..resisted and stroue against the truth. 1606 G. W[oodcocke] *Hist. Iustine* IV. 22 Amongst the rest of these Tyrants, there was.. one that strued against the cruelty of all the rest in the execution of Iustice. *c* 1709 Prior *and Hymn Callim.* 33 Against the Deity 'tis hard to strive. 1760–72 H. Brooke *Fool of Qual.* (1809) II. 95 Vainly have I strove and struggled against you. 1858 H. Spencer *Ess.* I. 308 The thing I desperately strove against as a misfortune did me immense good.

† b. with negative inf.

1623 Bingham *Xenophon* 101 Boiscus the Bœotian wrestler striued then, all he could, vnder pretence of sicknesse, not to carie his Target.

8. To struggle physically. *Obs.* exc. *dial.* of a horse: To be restive.

1398 Trevisa *Barth. De P. R.* XVIII. xv. (1495) 775 Whan the wylde oxe hath longe stryue and maye not delyuer hymself out of the bondes..thenne for indignacion he loowyth full lowde. 1561 T. Hoby tr. *Castiglione's Courtyer* III. (1577) Q ij b, And when she strived still more obstinatlye, at length with manye blowes and by force ouercame hir. 1562 T. Cooper *Answ. Def. Truth* xi. 83 The Deacon woulde not suffer so muche as the litle Infant to go without some parte [of the sacrament]: althoughe she strued against him, and scantely coulde force hir to take it. 1567 Turberv. *Epit.* etc. 34 The Nymph..in hir armes the naked Noorie strainde: Whereat the Boy began *to* striue a good, But strugling nought auailed in *that* plight. 1645 Gataker *God's Eye on Israel* 21 New named, and in stead of Jacob styled Israel, by the Angel, whom he had so strived and struggled with, at their parting. 1671 Milton *P. R.* IV. 564 As when Earths Son Antæus..in Irassa strove With Joves Alcides. *a* 1824 *Ld. T. Stuart* xi. in Maidment *N. C. Garland* 3 The steeds they strave into [= in] their stables, The boys couldn't get them bound.

b. To struggle, endeavour to make one's way, against a natural force, e.g. winds, waves. Const. *with, against*.

The fig. phrase to *strive against the stream* (see Stream *sb.* 2 f) is perh. imitated from German: see quot. 1535 below.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 24855 Quen þai had striuen ai quils þai moght, again þat storm, al was for noght. 1535 Coverdale *Ecclus.* IV. 26 Withstande not ye face of the mightie, and stryue not agaynst the streame [Luther *strebe nicht wider den Strom*]. 1537 Cromwell in Merriman *Life & Lett.* (1902) II. 75 He that maketh you thus to stryve agenst the streame woll [etc.]. 1559 *Mirr. Mag., Dk. Glocester* xiv, To bridell the Prince of a Reame, Is euen..to striue with the streame. 1630 R. N. *Camden's Hist. Eliz.* I. 38 The Marquesse of Albeuf..hauing striued with the violence of a tempest vpon the coast of Holland, was with the losse of some shippes..driuen back to Diepe. 1697 Dryden *Æneis* V. 37 We strive in vain against the Seas, and Wind.

9. To endeavour vigorously, use strenuous effort. Const. *to* with *inf.* (Cf. sense 6 b.)

Now the prevailing sense; the other senses, so far as they survive, are usually coloured by this.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 11569 All for noght can he [*sc.* Herod] to striue, Moght he noght iesu bring o liue. 1382 Wyclif *2 Cor.* v. 9 And therfore we stryuen [Vulg. *contendimus*] whether absent, whether present, for to plese him. *a* 1547 Surrey *Eccles.* ii. 12 By princely actes thus straue I still, to make my fame indure. 1576 Gascoigne *Steele Gl.* Wks. 1910 II. 145, I..Gan cleere my throte, and strave to sing my best. 1582 Breton *Flourish upon Fancy* (Grosart) 52/2 Although he striu'de, and tooke great pains, asmuch as in him lay. 1613 Shaks. *Hen. VIII*, II. iv. 30 Which of your Friends Haue I not stroue to loue, although I knew He were mine Enemy? 1638 W. Lisle *Heliodorus* X. 181 Sith I cannot free you, though I strivve, Aske what I may doe for you, whilst you liue, And I shall grant it. 1643 Sir T. Browne *Relig. Med.* I. § 19. 45 He striv'd to undermine the edifice of my faith. 1697 Dryden *Virg. Georg.* III. 574 Stags..strive in vain to make their way Through Hills of Snow, and pitifully bray. 1780 Cowper *Progr. Error* 582 Habits are soon assum'd; but when we strive To strip them off, 'tis being flay'd alive. 1821 Scott *Kenilw.* xxxix, Having strove in vain to restore it [the casket] either to Tressilian or the Countess. 1831 T. Hope *Ess. Orig. Man* I. 34 This is what I have at least strived to do. I have tried to discard all preconceived opinions. 1843 Lytton *Last Bar.* I. iv. 27 He strove to lift himself from the ground, and at length succeeded. 1848 Dickens *Dombey* liii, It is our pride, not our trouble, to strive, John, and to strive together. 1865 Ruskin *Sesame* II. § 72 She is to be taught to strive that her thoughts of piety may not be feeble in proportion to the number they embrace. 1880 Mahaffy *Descartes* ii. 12 He ever strove to keep on good terms with the Order [of Jesuits]. 1885 'Mrs. Alexander' *At Bay* viii, Her voice trembled; she strove to keep her self-control.

b. *transf.* of things.

a 1586 Sidney *Arcadia* II. x. (1912) 207 With that he groned, as if sorrow strave to breake his harte. 1597 Donne *Lett. Sev. Pers., Storme* 60 Even our Ordinance plac'd for our defence, Strive to breake loose. 1598 Brandon *Octavia* III. C 8 b, Looke how some proude hard harted mighty rocke ..Repell's the waters..Which mildely striue his body to imbrace. 1607 Topsell *Four-f. Beasts* 184 As if nature had only strouen to prouide sundry ready cures for this euill aboue all other. 1851 Ruskin *Stones Ven.* (1874) I. Pref. p. vi, Modern Art is now striving to realize the promise of its poet. 1874 Green *Short Hist.* vi. § 3. 294 A series of mercantile enactments strove to protect the growing interests of English commerce.

c. Const. *after, for,* † *to, unto* (the object to be attained).

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 23571 Quar-to þan suld we for-þer striue, þan for to liue in santes liue? *a* 1591 H. Smith *Serm.* (1594) 411 This is the state that a Christian should striue too, and neuer thinke that hee is sound at the heart til his thoughts be a kind of prayer. 1594 Hooker *Eccl. Pol.* I. v. § 2 The immutabilitie of God they [*sc.* all things] striue vnto, by working..after one and the same maner. 1605 A. Warren *Poor Man's Pass.* C 2 b, Then Diuision striued for a store, To marre what golden Age had made before. 1849 Lytton *K. Arthur* X. lxi, Thrice strove the King for speech, and thrice in vain. 1850 Tennyson *In Mem.* li, He for whose applause I strove. 1856 Miss Yonge *Daisy Chain* I. xxvi, If I had striven for the temper, it would be worth having, but it is my nature. 1877 C. Geikie *Christ* lvi. (1879) 678 The priesthood had striven after kingly power and rank.

10. To make one's way with effort.

a 1586 Sidney *Arcadia* I. xv. § 2 Now she brought them to see a seeled Dove, who, the blinder she was, the higher she strave. 1590 Spenser *F. Q.* III. i. 18 But after the foule foster Timias did strive. 1813 Byron *Corsair* III. xix, He ..Strives through the surge, bestrides the beach, and high Ascends the path familiar to his eye. 1874 Carpenter *Ment. Phys.* I. ix. 412 Ever striving upwards, so as..to reach..a still loftier elevation.

† b. Of a thing: To force its way. *Obs.*

1697 Dryden *Æneis* X. 1160 The purple Streams thro' the thin Armour strove, And drench'd th' imbroider'd Coat his Mother wove.

Strive, obs. form of Strife.

† Strived, *ppl. a. Obs.* [f. Strive *v.* + -ed 1.] In *strived-for* (nonce-use): see Strive *v.* 3.

1615 Chapman *Odyss.* VIII. 633 The striu'd-for, for his worth, of worthy men.

Striveling, obs. form of Sterling.

Striver (strai·vəɹ). Also 4 **stryfer,** 5 **stryvar,** 5–6 **-er.** [f. Strive *v.* + -er 1.]

1. One who strives with others; a contender, competitor. † In early use also, one given to strife, a contentious person.

a 1400 *New Test.* (Paues) 1 Cor. xi. 16 ȝif þer be any of ȝow a stryfer. *c* 1400 tr. *Secreta Secret., Gov. Lordsh.* 115 A full fface..bytokyns a stryuer, a dyscordour. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 480/1 Stryvar, *litigator, rixator.* 1480 Caxton *Chron. Eng.* VII. (1520) 81 b/2 Alexandre hadde stryfe 17 yere, and the foure stryvers that the Emperour set agaynst hym he overcame them and cursyd them. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 98 It is not conuenyent the seruaunt of god to be a stryuer or a brauler. 1658 J. Durham *Expos. Rev.* vii. 9 (1660) 392 The sealed ones were strivers; these are victors, Therefore must succeed them as victory doth to fighting. 1853 Lynch *Self-Improv.* vi. 152 The case of the striver against Circumstance.

2. One who makes strenuous effort or endeavour.

1562 J. Heywood *Prov. & Epigr.* (1867) 160 He strioueth agaynst the streme, by customs scoole That striuer is either a fishe or a foole. 1828 Carlyle *Goethe's Helena* Misc. 1840 I. 198 In all his lofty aspirings, his strivings *after truth* .., it has never struck him to inquire how he, the striver, was warranted for such enterprises. 1865 M. Arnold *Ess. Crit., Marc. Aurel.* 275 This truly modern striver and thinker. 1887 *Pall Mall Budget* 27 Jan. 29/1 He was a diligent striver after perfection.

† 3. ? Used jocularly for: A partner in the dance.

1609 Beaum. & Fl. *Scornf. Lady* II. (1616) D 2, Take thy striuer, and pace her till shee stew. *Sa.* Sure Sir, I cannot daunce with your Gentlewoman.

Striviling, obs. form of Sterling.

Striving (strai·viŋ), *vbl. sb.* [-ing 1.] The action of the verb Strive; an instance of this.

c 1205 Lay. 15561 Vmben ane stunde heo bigunnen striuinge. *c* 1290 *St. James* 284 in *S. Eng. Leg.* 42 Bi-twene þe fader and þe sone þe striuinge laste longue. *c* 1380 Wyclif *Sel. Wks.* II. 250 Batailis and stryvyngis in plee shulden be forsaken of Cristene men. *a* 1425 tr. *Arderne's Treat. Fistula*, etc. 83 And forþi realgre is called of som men rede auripigmen of þe namez is no stryuyng so þat we vnderstond þe þingz. 1535 Coverdale *Ps.* xvii[i]. 43 Thou shalt delyuer me from the stryuinges of the people. 1615 Chapman *Odyss.* IV. 558 Hold him there, In spite of all his striuings to be gone. 1677 Yarranton *Eng. Improv.* 13 When ever they give Notice they will take up a Sum of Moneys, there is great striving who can get in his first. 1718 Rowe *Lucan* VII. 513 The great deciding Hour at length is come, To end the Strivings of distracted Rome. 1851 Mrs. Browning *Casa Guidi Wind.* II. 211 The fervid striving of the games. 1871 R. H. Hutton *Ess.* II. 4 My ideas and higher strivings.

Stri·ving, *ppl. a.* [-ing 2.] That strives (in senses of the verb).

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* C. 311 þy stryuande stremez of stryndez so mony. *c* 1374 Chaucer *Boeth.* II. pr. vii. (1868) 59 Somtyme þere was a man þat hadde assaied wiþ striuyng wordes an oþer man. 1530 Palsgr. 326/1 Stryvyng, full of stryfe or debate, *contentieux.* *a* 1566 R. Edwards *Damon & Pithias* (facs.) G iij b, Against the wind and striuinge streame I sayle. 1646 Mayne *Serm. Unity* 20 Who..might have askt the same question which the striving Israelite askt Moses, Who made thee a Judge over us? 1697 Dryden *Æneis* I. 637 The striving Artists, and their Arts renown. 1868 Nettleship *Ess. Browning* Introd. 7 The striving philosophy of 'Cleon'.

Hence **Stri·vingly** *adv.*

1382 Wyclif *Deut.* xxxi. 27 Euermore stryuynglyȝe diden [Vulg. *contentiose egistis*] aȝens the Lord. — *Jude.* ix. 49 Stryuynglyy [*certatim*]. 1552 Huloet, Stryuynglye, *rixose*,

velitatim. 1563–87 FOXE *A. & M.* (1596) 72/2 The tyrant.. commanded euerie tenth man to be put to the swoord, whereto strivinglie and with great rejoising they committed their necks. 1598 FLORIO, *Agara*, striuingly, contending for the mastrie. 1677 MIÉGE *Dict. Eng.-Fr.*, Strivingly, *a l'envi.*

Strivling, obs. form of STERLING.

† **Stri·vous,** *a. Obs. rare*⁻¹. [f. STRIFE *sb.* + -OUS.] Full of strife.

1382 WYCLIF *Jer.* viii. 5 With striuous turnyng awei [Vulg. *aversione contentiosa*]?

Stro, obs. form of STRAW *sb.*¹

Stroak(e, obs. forms of STROKE *sb.* and *v.*

Stroake, obs. pa. t. and pa. pple. of STRIKE *v.*

Stroaken, obs.-pa. pple. of STRIKE *v.*

Stroam, strome (strōum), *v. Obs.* exc. *dial.* [? Formed after *stroll* and *roam.*] *intr.* To walk with long strides. Also to wander about idly.

1796 MME. D'ARBLAY *Camilla* I. 174 A young Ensign.. stroamed into the ball-room, with the most visible marks of his unfitness for appearing in it. *Ibid.* II. 195 He..stroamed up and down the room, biting his knuckles. 1817 MAR. EDGEWORTH *Ormond* xiii. T. & N. 1848 IX. 330 One morning our young hero rose early,..and he walked out, or, more properly, he rambled, or he strolled, or *stroamed* out. *a* 1825 FORBY *Voc. E. Anglia, Strome*, to walk with long strides. 1840 SPURDENS *Suppl. to Forby* s.v., To 'stroam about': to wander idly without an object. 1878 S. H. MILLER & SKERTCHLY *Fenland* iii. 89 In Cambridgeshire we find the words—*cloof*, the hoof, ..*stroming*, taking long strides.

transf. 1909 A. H. PATTERSON *Man & Nat. Tidal Waters* i. 21 What can lick a Norfolk wherry either for lines or the way she lays afore the wind stroming along.

Stroam, variant of STROM.

Stroan, strone (stroun), *v. Sc. intr.* To make water, urinate.

a 1730 PENNECUIK etc. *Collect. Sc. Poems* (1756) 58 Te he, ..that's best, And we'll strone fine, among the rest. 1786 BURNS *Twa Dogs* 22 He wad stan't as glad to see him, And stroan't on stanes an' hillocks wi' him. 1890 SERVICE *Thir Notandums* vii. 43 Man, do ye no ken..that on Halloween the deil stroans on the haws?

Stroap, Sc. variant of STROUP *sb.* gullet.

Strobic (strō·bik), *a.* [a. Gr. type *στροβικ-ός*, f. *στρόβ-os* a twisting or whirling round: see -IC.] That has a spinning motion. *Strobic circles*: sets of concentric circles, toothed wheels, and the like, which appear to revolve when the surface on which they are inscribed is moved about.

1880 S. P. THOMPSON in *Brain* III. 293 If two such 'strobic circles' (as I have called them) are printed side by side.

Strobil, variant of STROUBLE *v. Obs.*

Strobila (strōbəi·lă). Pl. **strobilæ** (-lī). *Zool.* [mod.L. *strobīla*, a. Gr. *στροβίλη* plug of lint twisted into the shape of a fir-cone.]

1. A stage in the development of certain Hydrozoa. Also *attrib.*

1842 *Encycl. Brit.* XXI. 1014/2 In a small volume published some years ago, this Swedish naturalist [Sars] described a new genus of Medusides under the name of *Strobila*, from its great similitude to a fir cone; but he now assures us that the Strobila is the young of Medusa aurita. 1857 CARPENTER *Microscope* (ed. 2) 504 Fig. 245 Successive Stages of Development of Medusa-buds from Strobila-larva. *Ibid.* 505 The progenitor of a new colony of Strobilæ. 1861 J. R. GREENE *Man.. Anim. Kingd., Cœlent.* 66 Sars.. observing the Scyphistoma at a still later stage,..gave it, from its resemblance to an artichoke, the name of Strobila. 1888 ROLLESTON & JACKSON *Anim. Life* 782 The *Scyphostoma* passes in late autumn into the *Strobila* stage.

2. A segmented tapeworm, consisting of a scolex and a chain of proglottides.

1864 T. S. COBBOLD *Entozoa* 105 Every cestode passes through several distinct phases during its life-history. In the ordinary colonial or tapeworm condition it has been termed the *strobila* (Van Beneden). 1888 ROLLESTON & JACKSON *Anim. Life* 225 The head and neck are often termed 'scolex', the joints, 'proglottides', and the whole Tapeworm, 'strobila'.

Strobilaceous (strŏbilē·ʃəs), *a. Bot.* [f. mod.L. *strobīlāce-us*, f. STROBIL-US: see -ACEOUS.] Relating to, or resembling, a strobilus.

1832 R. HALL *Elem. Bot.* 183 Strobilaceous, *strobilaceus*, *s. strobiliformis*, having the form of a strobile. 1830 LINDLEY *Nat. Syst. Bot.* 248 The cones of..strobilaceous Cycadeæ.

Strobilation (strŏbilē·ʃən). *Zool.* [f. STROBIL-A + -ATION. Cf. STROBILIZATION.] The formation of strobilæ in Hydrozoa, tapeworms, etc.

1878 F. J. BELL *Gegenbaur's Comp. Anat.* 99 The strobilation of Scyphostoma and the consequent development of a number of Medusæ. 1881 LANKESTER in *Encycl. Brit.* XII. 553/2 The *Hydromedusæ* never produce medusæ by strobilation or transverse division of a hydriform person. 1896 F. W. GAMBLE *Flatworms* (Camb. Nat. Hist. II.) 76 The strobilation of a scyphistoma.

Strobile (strŏ·bəil, strō·bəil, -bil). Also 8–9 strobil. [a. F. *strobile* or ad. L. *strobīl-us*, Gr. *στρόβῑλ-os* STROBILUS, also *στροβίλ-η* STROBILA.]

1. *Bot.* = STROBILUS 1.

1777 ROBSON *Brit. Flora* 33 A *strobil* is a pericarpy formed of scales lying over one another, as in Pine or Birch. 1785 MARTYN *Rousseau's Bot.* xxi. (1794) 300 The fruit [of the magnolia] is a strobile or scaly cone of bivalvular capsules. 1836 J. M. GULLY *Magendie's Formul.* (ed. 2) 149 The strobiles of the hop. 1857 HENFREY *Bot.* § 126 When the rachis bears large, persistent, imbricated scales, it forms a cone or strobile, as in the Firs and Pines.

2. *Zool.* = STROBILA 2.

1855 T. R. JONES *Anim. Kingd.* (ed. 2) 136 While the segments of the Strobile remain conjoined, they seem to enjoy a completé community of life and of movement. 1864 T. S. COBBOLD *Entozoa* 105 The separate joints of which the strobile is composed are denominated *proglottides* or zooids. 1870 ROLLESTON *Anim. Life* 137 (*Tænia*), The entire colony is called a 'strobile'.

Strobiliform (strŏbi·lifōm), *a. Bot.* [ad. mod.L. *strobiliform-is*, f. STROBIL-US: see -FORM. Cf. F. *strobiliforme.*] Shaped like a strobilus.

1830 LINDLEY *Nat. Syst. Bot.* 310 Cuneate scales..collected into strobiliform heads. 1853 ROYLE *Mat. Med.* (ed. 2) 672 Spikes..strobiliform, formed of single-flowered, imbricated, acute bracts.

Strobiline (strŏ·bilən), *a. Zool.* and *Bot.* [ad. Gr. *στροβῑλιν-os* of a fir-cone, f. *στρόβῑλ-os* STROBILUS.] Relating to or of the nature of a strobila or strobilus; strobilaceous.

1842 *Encycl. Brit.* XXI. 1014/2 In its strobiline state, it [*Medusa aurita*] is composed of a series of circular pieces, with numerous tentacula, and the cone is surmounted by a cylindrical shaft. 1852–6 WRIGHT *Royal Dict.-Cycl.* (1867), *Strobiline*, cone-shaped, growing on the cone of the fir.

Strobilization (strŏbiləizē·ʃən). *Zool.* [f. STROBIL-A + -IZE + -ATION.] = STROBILATION.

1884 A. SEDGWICK & HEATHCOTE tr. *Claus' Zool.* I. 256 At first the *Scyphistoma* appears to multiply only by budding; the second mode of reproduction, the process of strobilization, begins later. 1914 MACBRIDE *Text-Bk. Embryol.* I. 72 By a repetition of the process the Scyphistoma comes to look like a pile of plates, and is called a Strobila. This process is known as strobilization.

Strobill, variant of STROUBLE *v. Obs.*

Strobiloid (strŏ·biloid), *a. Zool.* and *Bot.* [f. STROBIL-A or STROBIL-US + -OID.] Resembling, or of the nature of, a strobila or strobilus.

1865 *Nat. Hist. Rev.* July 345 The *Cestoidea*, in their strobiloid stage, occur only within the alimentary canal. 1887 SOLLAS in *Encycl. Brit.* XXII. 415/1 (*Sponges*), Ascon type: simple, ex. *Ascetta*, Hk.; strobiloid, ex. *Homoderma*, Ltd. 1893 BOWER in *Phil. Trans.* B. CLXXXV. 493 The Lycopodineæ and Equisetineæ are strobiloid types. *Ibid.*, These strobiloid Pteridophyta.

Strobilus (strŏbəi·lŭs). Pl. **strobili** (-ləi). [a. L. *strobilus* fir-cone, a. Gr. *στρόβῑλος* anything twisted up, fir-cone, etc.]

1. *Bot.* A fir-cone, or any fruit resembling a fir-cone; an inflorescence made up of imbricated scales, as that of the hop.

[1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), *Strobilus*, the Artichoke-Plant; also a wild Pine-tree; or a Pine-apple.] 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl., *Strobilus*, among botanists, a kind of pericarpium, formed of a number of vaginæ with contorted points applied close to one another. 1771 *Encycl. Brit.* III. 479/2 (*Pinus*), The calix of the female is a strobilus, containing two flowers. 1861 BENTLEY *Bot.* 325 The fruit of the Hop ..is by some botanists considered as a kind of Cone with membranous scales, to which the name of Strobilus or Strobile has been given.

b. In cryptogams: An aggregation of sporophylls resembling a fir-cone.

1891 BOWER in *Proc. Roy. Soc.* L. 267 The sporophyte [of *Phylloglossum*] consists of two parts:—(i) the *protocorm*, with its protophylls and roots, and (ii) the *strobilus*, with sporophylls and sporangia. 1893 — in *Phil. Trans.* B. CLXXXV. 511 The strobili have been cut radially, tangentially, and transversely.

2. *Zool.* = STROBILA 2.

1876 BRISTOWE *Th. & Pract. Med.* (1878) 707 The animal or rather colony of animals, in the form of a tape-worm or strobilus, occupies the alimentary canal.

Stroble, variant of STROUBLE *v. Obs.*

Stroboscope (strŏ·bŏskōup). [f. Gr. *στρόβο-s* a twisting or whirling round + -SCOPE.]

a. A scientific toy which produces the illusion of motion by a series of pictures viewed through the openings of a revolving disc. b. An instrument for observing the successive phases of a periodic motion by means of light periodically interrupted.

a. 1836 [see STROBOSCOPICAL]. 1882 L. CAMPBELL *Life J. C. Maxwell* ii. 36 A scientific toy had recently come into vogue, an improvement on the thaumatrope, called variously by the names 'phenakistoscope', 'stroboscope', or 'magic disc'.

b. 1896 FR. A. WELBY tr. *Biedermann's Electro-Physiol.* I. 409 If two interrupters are used, one of which is connected with the capillary electrometer, the other with the stroboscope. 1903 *Engineering* 18 Dec. 837/1 A special differential stroboscope, in which the motor was illuminated only once in every two revolutions.

Stroboscopic (strŏbŏskŏ·pik), *a.* [f. prec. + -IC.] Relating to, of the nature of, the stroboscope.

1846 HOBLYN *Dict. Sci. Terms, Stroboscopic Plates*, an apparatus invented by Stampfer of Vienna, by which an impression is produced on the retina of an uninterrupted line of light by the rapid motion of a luminous object. 1873 DOLBEAR in Prescott *Telephone* (1879) 263 This was done by filling an organ bellows with smoke, and examining it through a stroboscopic disk while escaping from the pipe. 1874 *Pop. Sci. Rev.* XIII. 105 The Stroboscopic Determination of the Pitch of Tones. 1883 *Science* I. 72/1 A new stroboscopic method in which a fork is..kept in vibration by electro-magnets.

Also **Strobosco·pical** *a.* = prec.

1836 *R. D. & T. Thomson's Rec. Gen. Sci.* III. 114 Stroboscope.—Stampfer has invented some interesting stroboscopical tables, or glasses, founded upon a similar principle with the thaumatoscopical figures. 1877 *Catal. Spec. Collect. Sci. Apparatus S. Kens. Mus.* (ed. 3) 1046 Stroboscopical discs on the systems of Dove, Poggendorff, &c.

Stroc, obs. form of STROKE *sb.*¹

† **Strocals.** *Glass-making. Obs.* Also (in Dicts.) 7–9 **strocal,** 8–9 **strokal,** 9 **strocle,** **strokle, strockle.** [Of obscure origin.] (See quot. 1662.)

1662 MERRETT *Neri's Art of Glass* App. 363 *Strocals* a long Iron instrument like a Fire-shovel to carry the Metall out of a broken into a whole Pot. 1670 BLOUNT *Glossogr.* (ed. 3), *Strocal.* 1708 KERSEY, 1721 BAILEY, 1755 JOHNSON, *Strokal.* 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade, Strockle*, in the glass trade, a shovel with a turned up edge, suited to filling the pots or moulds, from the chests or harbours of materials.

Strochetts: see SCROCHAT.

1517 *Caldwell Papers* (Maitl. Club) I. 56, xxii. punds of strochetts, price of the pund xxviii d.

Strock(e: see STROKE *sb.*¹, *v.*¹ and STRIKE *v.*

† **Strocke.** *Obs. rare*⁻¹. See quot.

Cf. *mulctrum* = new milk in Diefenbach.

1552 HULOET, Strocke or mylke, *mulctrum.*

Strocken, -in, obs. ff. of pa. pple. of STRIKE *v.*

Strockle, strocle: see STROCALS.

Stroddle (strŏ·d'l), *v.* Now *dial.* (see *Eng. Dial. Dict.*). Also 7 **strodle.** A variant of STRADDLE.

1607 Stroddle [see STATUARY *sb.*¹]. 1630 RANDOLPH *Aristippus, Pedler* 31, I haue strodled ouer three of the terrestrial globes with my Geometricall rambling. 1678 BUNYAN *Pilgr.* I. 71 Then Apollyon strodled quite over the whole breadth of the way. 1702 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 3867/4 Stolen.., a black Mare..strodles in her walk as if her Back was broke.

Hence **Stro·ddling** *ppl. a.* (in quot. *fig.*).

1647 *Maids' Petition* 1 To avoid all strodling or straging intentions or actions on dayes consecrate.

Strodir, variant of STROTHIR.

† **Stro·dling.** *Sc. Obs.* Also 5 **stroddlyng.** [Of obscure origin.] A foundling.

c 1490 *Rathen Manual* (1905) 27 All thai that castis the barnis at kyrk duris or ony place, for the quhylk thai are callit stroddlyngis. 1603 *Proph. of Merlin* (Bannatyne Club) 12 They..that fel on face is faine to flee, That commed are of strodlings strynd.

Stroe: see STRAW *sb.*¹, STREW *v.*

Strof, obs. pa. t. of STRIVE *v.*

Strog(g)el(l, strog(g)le, obs. ff. STRUGGLE.

Stroil (stroil). *s.w. dial.* Also **stroyl.** Couch-grass and other weeds with long creeping root-stocks.

1758 BORLASE *Nat. Hist. Cornw.* 87 Manures arising from putrefaction, burning the stroil, and the fæces of animals. 1796 W. H. MARSHALL *W. Eng.* I. 331 *Stroyl*: couch, or other weeds; or roots of weeds: especially what harrow up, or rake out of the soil; whether in the field, or the garden. 1845 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* VI. II. 425 The stroil, roots, and weeds are collected and burned.

Strok, obs. pa. t. of STRIKE *v.*

Strokal: see STROCALS.

Stroke (strōuk), *sb.*¹ Forms: *a.* 3–4 **stroc,** 4–7 **strok,** 4–5 **strook,** 5–8 **strooke,** 6 **strocke,** 6–7 **stroake,** 6–8 **strock,** 7–8 **stroak,** 9 *dial.* **strauk,** 4– **stroke.** *β. Sc.* and *north.* 4–6 **strak,** 4–8 **strake,** *Sc.* 5–9 **straik,** 6 **straok, strek, strayk,** *pl.* **strax.** [ME. (late 13th c.) *strōk*, north. *strāk*, prob. repr. an unrecorded OE. **strâc* = (M)LG. *strēk*, Du. *streek* masc., MHG., mod.G. *streich* masc.:—OTeut. **straiko-z*, f. **straik-* ablaut-var. of **strīk-*: see STRIKE *v.*]

1. An act of striking; a blow given or received.

a. A blow with the hand or a weapon (*occas.* with the paw of an animal, the claws or beak of a bird, etc.) inflicted on or aimed at a living being. Sometimes (now rarely) applied to the thrust of a pointed weapon.

To † *smite, strike a stroke*: see those verbs. † *To come to strokes* = to come to blows. † *Within one's stroke*: within reach of one's weapon.

a. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 4281 Sire wawein him biturnde & an stroc him ȝef, & al þat heued & þe breste al clanliche him to-clef. *a* 1320 *Sir Tristr.* 2335 Tvelue fete was þe wand þat vrgan wald wiþ play, His strok may no man stand. *c* 1380 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* II. 409 And so þer wordli liif, þat lettiþ sich service, is moche worse þanne a strooke upon þecheke wiþ an hand. 1471 CAXTON *Recuyell* (Sommer) 259 They foyned with her speres eygrely, theyr strokes and foynes were grete. 1484 — *Fables of Poge* viii, Fro wordes they came to strokes and cratchyng with naylys. *c* 1530 BERNERS *Arth. Lyt. Bryt.* (1814) 213 But Arthur put his shelde before hym, and the lyons stroke dashte theron so sore, that Arthur was all astonyed with the stroke. *a* 1533 — *Huon* lv. 188 He slewe and bette downe..all that came within his stroke. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* II. vi. 29 Their mightie strokes their haberieons dismayld. 1625 SIR H. FINCH *Law* (1636) 411 An enditement that one strucke I. S. in one countie, of which stroke hee died in another Countie, is no good enditement. 1696 R. H. *Sch. Recreat.* 86 If your Adversary offers to answer your stroak, and go to the Parade, then your best way is [etc.]. 1741 in *Scott. Hist. Rev.* (1905) Apr. 303 The prisoner struck him and blooded him with the strock. 1760–72 BROOKE *Fool of Qual.* (1792) II. 137 Flying instantly at Harry, he gave him a smart stroke on the left cheek. 1806 WORDSW. *Horn of Egremont Castle* 43 And where'er their strokes alighted, There the Saracens were tamed. 1829 SCOTT *Anne of G.* Note A, In such parts of that country [Germany] as retain the old custom of execution by stroke of sword. 1849 JAMES *Woodman* I. iii. 53 He suddenly drew his sword from the sheath, and aimed a rapid and furious stroke at the woodman's head. 1863 GEO. ELIOT *Romola* xxii, [He] remained obstinately silent under all the strokes from the knotted cord. 1889 BADEN-POWELL *Pig-sticking* 186 With the jobbing spear the arm should not be raised from the shoulder to deliver the stroke.

β. a 1300 *Cursor M.* 12428 þe maister..Gaf iesu wit hand a strak. 13.. *Gosp. Nicod.* 419 Ane wane of fourty strakes with ȝerde he sal be smeten. *c* 1440 *Alphabet of Tales* 79 Saynt Benett strake þis yong monk with a wand..& so for

ferd of þis strake of Saynt Benett þis fende..durst nevur after com & feche hym furthe. 1572–3 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* II. 205 The said Stevin denyit the stryking of the said Jonet as is libellit, or that he offerit ony straikis to hir. 1607 *Sel. Rec. Regality Melrose* (S. H. S.) I. 33 Secundlie, gif thair be straikis without blude, ten pundis. 1635 *Reg. Privy Counc. Scot.* Ser. II. VI. 5 Johne..came..with ane pycked suord staiffe in his hand and..gave her manie bauch and blae straiks upon the head [etc.]. 1818 Hogg *Brownie of Bodsbeck* I. iii. 42, I wheeled just round in a moment, sir, and drew a desperate straik at the foremost [pursuer]. 1820 Scott *Monast.* xxvi, It was a blithe time in Wight Wallace's day..when the pock-puddings gat naething here but hard straiks and bloody crowns.

¶ *Stroke of grace*: Eng. rendering of *coup de grâce* (Coup *sb.*³ 5). *rare.*

1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* II. I. i, The victim having once got his stroke-of-grace.

† **b.** *pl.* = 'Stripes', blows as a punishment. *Obs.*

a. 1388 Wyclif *Luke* xii. 48 He that knew not, and dide worthi thingis of strokis, schal be betun with fewe. 1593 *Tell-troth's N. Y. Gift* (1876) 5 A lesson learned with stroakes, staies with the scholler. 1699 Temple *Introd. Hist. Eng.* Wks. 1720 II. 531 No Person was punished by Bonds, Strokes, or Death, without the Judgment..of the Druids.

β. 1552 Abp. Hamilton *Catech.* I. x. (1884) 59, I sall..punis thair wyckidnes with a wand, and thair synnis with strakis.

c. A blow struck at an inanimate object; e.g. with a hammer, ax, etc.

c 1400 *Rom. Rose* 3687 For no man at the firste stroke Ne may not felle doun an oke. *c* 1400 *Pilgr. Sowle* (Caxton 1483) IV. xxx. 78 Withouten strook of hamour ne may none impression be brought in to gold. 1539 Taverner *Erasm. Prov.* (1552) 26 With many strokes is an oke ouerthrowen. 1681 Flavel *Meth. Grace* Ep. Ded. 9 A true diamond will endure the smartest stroke of the hammer, but a false one will fly. 1697 Dryden *Æneis* VIII. 561 The Cyclops here their heavy Hammers deal; Loud Strokes, and hissings of tormented Steel Are heard around. 1799 G. Smith *Laboratory* I. 25 Carry with your mallet an even and perpendicular stroke. 1799 Wordsw. *Lucy Gray* 26 With many a wanton stroke Her feet disperse the powdery snow. 1833 Jas. Davidson *Brit. & Rom. Rem. Axminster* 82 A stroke of his pickaxe broke an urn which contained a number of Roman coins. 1842 Macaulay *Horatius* vii, But now no stroke of woodman Is heard by Auser's rill. 1902 'Violet Jacob' *Sheep-Stealers* xii, Rhys..listened to the strokes of the pickaxe among the gooseberry bushes.

β. 1513 Douglas *Æneis* XI. iii. 82 The heich eschis.. Down weltit ar with mony granand strakis.

d. In various games: An act of striking the ball; a hit or an attempted hit; in some games (e.g. tennis), a hit that satisfies certain conditions. Also, manner of striking.

a. 1744 J. Love *Cricket* III. 70 The strokes re-echo o'er the spacious ground. 1778 Hoyle *Games* 205 (Tennis) The lowest Odds given is a Bisque.., and is the Liberty of scoring a Stroke whenever the Player, who receives Advantage, chooses. 1806 J. Beresford *Miseries Hum. Life* iii. § 22 Missing your cue at every stroke. 1879 *Encycl. Brit.* X. 767/2 (Golf) In Medal playing a ball may, under a penalty of two strokes, be lifted out of a difficulty of any description. 1884 *Lillywhite's Cricket Ann.* 104 Cantley has a good stroke off his legs. 1896 W. Park Jr. *Game of Golf* 270 *Stroke*, any movement of the club which is intended to strike the ball. 1897 Ranjitsinhji *Cricket* 159 It is almost impossible to score off a genuine half-cock stroke. It is a mistake to play the stroke unless forced to do so. 1905 H. Vardon *Compl. Golfer* 251 A player whose handicap was several strokes removed from scratch.

β. 1811 H. Macneill *Bygane Times* 15 Is this the gate to gowf the ba', Whan by the straik ye're sure to fa'?

† **e.** The mark left by a blow; a bruise, wound, cut. *Obs.*

14.. *A. B. C. Poem* 28 in *Pol. Rel. & L. Poems* 272 With rede wondis & strokis blo He was dryue fro top to þe too. 1661 J. Childrey *Brit. Baconica* 143 One might see the stroaks of the Axe upon them. 1677 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1204/4 Stolen.., a black Gelding six years old, with a large white snip on the top of the Nose,..and had formerly a stroke upon the near Leg behind. 1686 Blome *Gentl. Recr.* II. 25/1 For a Bite, or Stroak in the [Horse's] Eye. 1701 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 3723/4 His Mane half shorn, has had a Stroke in his right Eye.

† **f.** Discharge of an engine of war; a shot of a bow or gun; the impact of a missile. *Obs.*

a. c 1400 *Rom. Rose* 6278 Withouten stroke it mot be take Of trepeget or mangonel. *c* 1440 *Gesta Rom.* I. 3 Now hath he schote an arowe at the ymage; And for þat he failith of his strook, he makith moch sorowe. *c* 1482 J. Kay tr. *Caoursin's Siege of Rhodes* (1870) P 10 [They] sayd, that they herde neuer strokes of bombardes so grete and so horryble as thylk were. 1544 Betham *Precepts War* II. xlii. K viij b, There is no breste plate, whyche is able to wythstand, and holde owte the stroke of the arrowes. 1665 Manley *Grotius' Low C. Wars* 313 The Third [governor],..being kill'd with the stroke of a Stone, clearly made an end of his Government. 1678 R. L'Estrange *Seneca's Mor.* (1702) 442 The Stroak of an Arrow convinc'd Alexander, that he was not the Son of Jupiter. 1695 Sibbald *Autobiog.* (1834) 128 When the town was taken by storme my Father was hurt with a strock given him by a footman with a carabin. 1771 *Ann. Reg., Nat. Hist.* 91/2, The shot entered an inch above his eye, the animal fell under the stroke, and died almost instantly.

β. 1579–80 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* III. 264 He wes sumquhat recoverit of his formar hurt ressavit be the strek of the first pistolett.

† **g.** Point of impact; place hit by a missile.

c 1450 *Mirk's Festial* 42 Þen anothyr smot aftyr, and hut yn þe same stroke. 1669 Sturmy *Mariner's Mag.* v. xii. 70 Observe how much the last stroke of the Shot is above the Mark.

h. † Shock or forcible impact of a moving body (*obs.*); impact or incidence of moving particles, light, etc. (now *rare*).

1534 Berners *Gold. Bk. M. Aurel.* (1546) F viij, With the stroke of metyng, the trumpettour was ouerthrawen with his hors. 1557 Phaer *Æneid* VII. (1558) V ij b, Full like a rocke in seas,..Whom strokes of water strikes,..and beates about. 1651 Hobbes *Leviath.* I. ii. 5 Many stroaks, which our eyes, eares, and other organs receive from externall bodies. 1660 Stanley *Hist. Philos.* XI. *Democr.* ix. § 8 (1687) 765/1 All Sensation is caused by a touch or stroak upon the Organ. 1661 Boyle *Cert. Physiol. Ess.* (1669) 184 When the igneous Corpuscles have by their numerous and brisk strokes upon the vessel communicated by its means their agitation to the enclosed powder. 1681–6 J. Scott *Chr. Life* (1747) III. 116 Impressions..such, as did as fully satisfy them that they were from God, as the Strokes of the Sun-beams on our Eyes do us that it is Day at Noon. 1860 Tyndall *Glac.* I. vi. 42 The backs of the ridges..meet the direct stroke of the solar rays.

2. Phrases.

† **a.** *Without (any) stroke (of sword)*: without fighting. Also *without fighting a stroke.* (*To die*) *without stroke*: otherwise than by violence. *Obs.*

For *without striking a stroke, without stroke stricken*, see Strike *v.* 32.

a. c 1400 Maundev. (1839) xxv. 260 Thanne the Cristene men wenten..and hire enemyes enclosed and confounded in Derknesse, with outen ony strok. *c* 1460 *Contn. Brut* 491 Many other townes in Normandie gafe þeme ouer with-out stroke or siege. *Ibid.* 507 At Bedford, on Ashtwesday, wer iij men murthred without strok, by falling doun of a steir. 1584 R. Birrel *Diary* (1798) 23 Bot quhen he came, they yat ver within fled, sua yat hes Maiestie entred and tooke ye toune and castell without stroke of suord. 1645 R. Baillie *Lett. & Jrnls.* (Bannatyne Club) II. 262 A great many honest burgesses were killed,..many were bursten in the flight, and dyed without stroak. 1670 Milton *Hist. Brit.* II. 54 Suetonius writes that Claudius found heer no resistance, and that all was done without stroke: but this seems not probable. 1687 A. Lovell tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* II. 159 This Murteza Basha, without stroke of Sword made himself master of Bassora. 1721 De Foe *Mem. Cavalier* (1840) 266 We marched away without fighting a stroke.

β. 1533 Bellenden *Livy* (S. T. S.) II. 136 Fra þe weake was slane þe remanent war sone opprest and randerit but ony straik. 1535 Stewart *Cron. Scot.* (Rolls) II. 213 Tha tynt the feild but straik of sword or knyfe. *a* 1572 Knox *Hist. Ref.* Wks. 1846 I. 88 Stout Oliver was without strack tackin, fleing full manfully. *a* 1670 Spalding *Troub. Chas. I* (Bannatyne Club) I. 154 The lord Aboyne..seeing their collours upon the Brig, takes the flight shamefully but straik of sword or any other kind of vassalage.

† **b.** *Stroke of battle*: active warfare. *Obs.*

1525 Wolsey in *St. Papers Hen. VIII*, VI. 403 Putting theym unto the wors, not by stroke of batail..but with consumyng of theym by long tract of tyme.

c. *Stroke and strife* (altered from earlier *strot* or *sturt and strife*): lawless violence.

c 1510 *Lyt. Geste Robin Hood* 181 Or elles thou hast ben a sory housband And leued in stroke and stryfe.

† **d.** *The first stroke*: the beginning of a war.

c 1470 Henry *Wallace* VI. 687 At the first straik with thaim he had nocht beyne. 1677 Sir R. Southwell in *Esse.x Papers* (Camden) II. 111, I cannot expect anything but ruin the very first stroke of the warr.

e. *At one stroke, at a stroke*: with a single blow; *fig.* all at once.

c 1374 Chaucer *Boeth.* V. pr. vi. (1868) 178 But he ay dwellynge comiþ byforn and enbraceþ at o strook [L. *uno ictu*] alle þi mutaciouns. *c* 1470 Henry *Wallace* II. 60 And at a straik the formast has he slayne. 1596 J. Heywood *Spider & Fly* xci. 102 The maide of the house with her brome: at a strake, Swepth downe those copwebs. 1709 T. Robinson *Vind. Mosaick Syst.* 16 Omnipotent Power might have created the whole World at one stroke, by an Imperious Fiat. 1879 Farrar *St. Paul* (1883) 173 At one stroke he had lost all his old friends. 1884 Bosanquet *Lotze's Logic* 236 It is not always possible to prove at one stroke that a proposition *T* holds good for all quantities, integral and fractional, positive and negative, [etc.].

3. *fig.* **a.** With conscious metaphor: An act which causes pain, injury, or death; often, an act of divine chastisement or vengeance.

a. 1340 *Ayenb.* 34 Efter alle þise zorȝuolle poyns of sleuþe him yefþ þe dyeuel þane strok dyadlych. *c* 1412 Hoccleve *De Reg. Princ.* 2029 Whan þat the colde stroke of deth My lyfe hath quenched, & me byraft my breth. 1484 Caxton *Fables of Avian* xiii, Werse is the stroke of a tonge than the stroke of a spere. *c* 1520 Skelton *Magnif.* 1682 The Stroke of God, Aduersyte, I hyght. 1611 Beaum. & Fl. *King & No K.* I. i, Sheele make you shrinke as I did, with a stroke But of her eye Tigranes. 1665 J. North in *Extr. St. Papers rel. Friends* Ser. III. (1912) 234 By which false verdict the Murderer hath Escaped the stroke of Justice hitherto. 1667 Milton *P. L.* x. 210 So judg'd he Man,.. And th' instant stroke of Death denounc't that day Remov'd farr off. 1689 *Extracts Rec. Convention Royal Burghs Scot.* (1880) IV. 100 By one strock of ane act of parliament ..we are outterly ruined in our trade. 1753 Miss Collier *Art Torment.* I. i. 37 All the pleasure of Tormenting is lost, as soon as your subject is become insensible of your strokes. 1788. Burns *Highland Lassie* vi, Till the mortal stroke shall lay me low. 1858 Rawlinson tr. *Herodotus* II. cxxix. II. 208 Mycerinus..was acting as I have described, when the stroke of calamity fell on him. 1860 Sala *Baddington Peerage* I. xviii. 306 Not to be passed over in its portents any more than the first stroke of disease which attacks thrice before it kills.

β. 1560 Rolland *Seven Sages* 76 And thairefter to bide the straik of Law. 1590 R. Bruce *Serm. Sacram.* iv. N 8, Therefore knawledge must go before the straik of the conscience. Thy hart can neuer feele that to be euil, quhilk thy mynde knawis not to be euill.

b. A calamitous event; † a 'blow' *to, upon* (a person, institution, etc.).

a 1700 Evelyn *Diary* 15 Apr. 1686, I looke on this as a greate stroke to the poore Church of England. *a* 1709 J. Lister *Autobiog.* (1842) 50 On the Tuesday I laid him [*sc.* his son] in his grave at Kendall...I feared this sad stroke would break my wife's heart, but..she bore it with uncommon fortitude. 1762–71 H. Walpole *Vertue's Anecd. Paint.* (1786) II. 238 The tragic death of his royal protector was a dreadful stroke..to Petitot. 1785 Mary Michel in *A. C. Bower's Diaries & Corr.* (1903) 25 The loss of an only son ..must be a very severe stroke upon her. 1852 Mrs. Stowe *Uncle Tom's C.* xxix, Tom's whole soul was filled with thoughts of eternity; and while he ministered around the lifeless clay, he did not once think that the sudden stroke had left him in hopeless slavery.

† **c.** A hostile attack; an offensive movement in warfare. *Obs.*

1698 Fryer *Acc. E. India & P.* 337 He safely resides within, invulnerable from Foreign Strokes, and reigns in this his Capital City. 1700 S. L. tr. *Fryke's Voy. E. Ind.* 77 Yet were we wholly set upon pursuing the Stroke, and hoped that the night should prove rather more commodious and successful. 1777 Washington in W. Irving *Life* xcix. (1856) III. 806 A successful stroke on the Highlands.

† **d.** *To have, bear, carry, strike a* (*great*, etc.) *stroke*: to have an influential or controlling share in an enterprise or action, to have great influence. *To have, bear, carry, strike the stroke*: to prevail, rule, have authority; to be highest in excellence. *To give, strike a good stroke*: to contribute largely, go far *to* effect some result. *Obs.*

1531 Tindale *Expos. 1–3 S. John* (1538) 83 And yf..we can fynde no shyfte, but that ye byshop of Rome..must thus mocke vs, what a stroke thynke ye hath Satan amonge vs? [Cf. *ante*, Then the deuell hath a greate swynge amonge vs.] 1538 Bale *Thre Lawes* 1514 Such a fellawe was he as of that age had the stroke. 1542 Udall *Erasm. Apoph.* 168 All suche persones..as beare any rewle, stroke, or auctoritee in the commonweale. 1549 Latimer *2nd Serm. bef. Edw. VI* (Arb.) 63 Thys byshoppe was a great man borne, and did beare such a stroke, that he was able to shoulder the Lord Protectour. 1564 *Brief Exam.* D iiij b, Which ..loue, if it beare stroke among vs, we shall be able..to discomfyte the body..of Antichrist. *a* 1569 Kingesmyll *Comf. Afflict.* (1585) B iij, Hee knewe that whatsoever befell him, God had a stroke in it. 1600 Holland *Livy* XXIX. xxix. 731 This Mezetulus having gathered a powre of..paisants of the countrey (with whom he carried a great stroke). 1609 F. Sherwood in *Lismore Papers* Ser. II. (1887) I. 134 The advise you wisht me to geiue him..gave a good stroke to perswade him. 1611 Beaum. & Fl. *Knt. Burn. Pestle* IV. (1613) I 2, *Wife.* Let him goe George, a shall not haue any countenance from vs, nor a good word from any i' th' Company, if I may strike stroke in't. 1611 Bible *Transl. Pref.* P 11 The vintage of Abiezer, that strake the stroake: yet the gleaning of grapes of Ephraim was not to be despised. 1612 T. Taylor *Titus* ii. 14 (1619) 532 It is verie hard to say, whether nature or religion giveth the stroke to their actions. 1622 in Foster *Eng. Factories Ind.* (1908) II. 17 Captaine Fitzharbert opposed the resolutione, but the Admiralls double voice carried the stroke. 1634 Sir T. Herbert *Trav.* Ep. Ded. A 3, Opinion strikes a great stroake in the iudgements and affaires of men. 1646 Sir T. Browne *Pseud. Ep.* VI. xii. 338 That the salts of naturall bodies doe carry a powerfull stroake in the tincture and vernish of all things, we shall not deny. 1659 in *Burton's Diary* (1828) IV. 444 The Jesuits have too great a stroke amongst them. 1687 Burnet *Contn. Reply to Varillas* 41 They had the main stroak in our Parliaments. 1697 Collier *Ess. Mor. Subj.* I. (1709) 246 We may plainly perceive, That the Prejudices of Education have a great Stroak in many of our Reasonings. 1702 *Engl. Theophrastus* 248 To stir up seditions and troubles the worst man commonly bears the stroke. 1731 T. Boston in Morrison *Mem. iv.* (1899) 34, I..could never fall into the good graces of those who had the stroke in settling parishes.

† **e.** *To come in the stroke*: to be part of one's task. *Obs.*

1617 Hieron *Penance for Sin* xx. Wks. 1619 II. 287, I speake not this..by way of censuring..any mans course; but I note this, (it comming in the stroke) according to my Text, to worke care in mine owne heart [etc.].

† **4.** Coinage, imprint of coin. *Sc. Obs.*

1449 *Sc. Acts Jas. II* (1814) II. 37/1 Of þe new strak to be maide & the cours þerof and of þe money þat now rynnis. 1493 *Sc. Acts Jas. IV* ibid. 233/1 Notwithstanding þe diuersitie of prentis of þe straikis of sundry cunȝeors. *a* 1578 Lindesay (Pitscottie) *Chron. Scot.* (S. T. S.) II. 198 Vpone the thrid day of Julij the lordis..tuik all the quenis siluir weschell and struik siluir quhilk straik was the xxx schilling peice. 1600 *Earl Gowrie's Conspir.* A 3, His answere was, that so farre as hee could take leisure to see of them, that they seemed to bee forraine..strokes of coyne.

5. A damaging or destructive discharge (of lightning).

a 1542 Wyatt *Poems*, '*The lively sparks*' 10 Muche lyke vnto the gyse Of one Istricken with dynt of lightening blynded with the stroke, erryng here & there. 1730 A. Gordon tr. *Maffei's Amphith.* (1735) 366 The Thunder, which..has broken..two large Pieces of the lowermost Stones;..by the Nature of the Stroke..it appears that the Direction of the Blow came from below upwards, [etc.]. 1810 Scott *Lady of L.* III. iv, Mingled with shivers from the oak, Rent by the lightning's recent stroke. 1889 *Science* 11 Oct. 257 The attempt to obtain information regarding lightning-strokes..will result in a clearer understanding of the danger from these strokes to unprotected houses.

† **b.** An electric shock. *Obs.*

1766 *Ann. Reg., Chron.* 71 After applying the electrical strokes to several parts of her body, and at length to her mouth, she soon recovered her speech. 1799 Ht. Lee *Canterb. Tr.* III. 95 An electric stroke could hardly have produced a more sudden effect on both his hearers than [etc.].

† **c.** A shock of earthquake. *Obs.*

1813 Bakewell *Introd. Geol.* (1815) 308 Earthquakes are most frequent in volcanic districts, but the strokes are not the most violent in the immediate vicinity of volcanoes.

6. An attack of disease.

a. An apoplectic or (now more usually) paralytic seizure. Formerly † *the stroke of God's hand.*

1599 A. M. tr. *Gabelhouer's Bk. Physic* 25/2 An excellent Cinnamome water for the stroke of Gods hande. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 22 Nov. 1694, The Abp. of Canterbury, who a few days before had a paralytic stroke. 1762–71 H. WALPOLE *Vertue's Anecd. Paint.* (1786) IV. 11 He was seized with a stroke of apoplexy. 1780 JOHNSON *Let. to Mrs. Lucy Porter* 8 Apr., He has had a stroke, like that of an apoplexy. 1832 S. WARREN *Diary Physic.* II. ii. 85 Our inestimable friend, Mr. E——, had a sudden stroke of the palsy this afternoon. 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xvii. IV. 97 Soon after he had risen from table, an apoplectic stroke deprived him of speech and sensation. 1861 MRS. H. WOOD *East Lynne* III. xviii, Mr. Justice Hare's illness had turned out to be a stroke of paralysis. 1889 GRETTON *Memory's Harkback* 316 In his later years he had a partial stroke, which drew the muscles of his cheek a little on one side. 1898 J. HUTCHINSON in *Archives Surg.* IX. 382 The popular distinction between a stroke and a fit was well illustrated by a hemiplegic patient who asserted, 'I never had a fit; I never lost my senses; I only had a stroke'. 1905 *People's Doctor* 48 Apoplexy. This disease goes under quite a variety of names. The popular term is 'stroke'; doctors speak of cerebral hemorrhage; [etc.].

† **b.** *Falconry.* A disease in the eyes of hawks: = *pin and web* (PIN *sb.* 11). *Obs.*

1575 *Perf. Bk. Kepinge Sparhawkes* (1886) 31 Pyn and Web, or Stroke. Pyn or Web or other dymnes by strokes &c. must be spedely loked unto.

† **c.** A blight on wheat, honey-dew. *Obs.*

1750 W. ELLIS *Mod. Husb.* II. i. 2 (E. D. S.) In the latter part of June,..green wheat is most liable to receive the stroke, as the farmer calls it; that *is*, the honey-dews.

7. The striking of a clock; the sound produced by each striking of the clapper or hammer upon a bell, or on the striking part of a clock. *On* or *upon the stroke* (*of* a specified hour): on the point of striking.

1436 *Sc. Acts Jas. I* (1814) II. 24/1 Þat na man in burghe be fauerynys..efter the straik of ix houris. *a* 1558 in *Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* Var. Coll. IV. 129 Before the howre of ix of the cloke, at which time ther shalbe a bell to be towlde by the officers ther by xx^ti strokes. 1604 MARSTON *Malcontent* II. iii. C 4 b, *Piet.* What houre ist? *Celso.* Vpon the stroake of twelue. 1613 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* (1614) 700 The King hath a Bell, the strokes whereof sound such terror into the heart of the fearefull theefe, that [etc.]. *c* 1616 FLETCHER *Thierry & Theod.* III. i, His houres vpon the stroake. 1816 *Gentl. Mag.* Sept. 270/1 At Hatherleigh ..a bell..announces, by distinct strokes, the number of the day of the month. 1832 HT. MARTINEAU *Hill & Valley* ix. 137, I used to like its stroke when it brought the work-people flocking from their cottages. 1847 C. BRONTE *Jane Eyre* xi, It is on the stroke of twelve now. 1858 TROLLOPE *Dr. Thorne* xxx, He dressed himself hurriedly, for the dinner-bell was almost on the stroke as he entered the house. 1874 BURNAND *My Time* xxiii. 211 Straining my ears to catch the very first stroke of the hour. 1897 R. N. BAIN tr. *Jókai's Pretty Michal* xxxii. 251 At the stroke of two she was already in the shop below. 1908 J. R. HARRIS *Side-Lights N. T. Research* ii. 55 The person who first succeeds in drawing the water after the stroke of midnight will find it turn to gold and silver.

† **8.** A touch on a stringed instrument; manner of playing a musical instrument; hence, a tune, strain. *Obs.*

1540 PALSGR. *Acolastus* III. i. O j, He can no more skille of the stroke of the harpe or lute, than a iay can. 1561 HOBY tr. *Castiglione's Courtier* I. I ij b, Afterward the musitien chaunging the stroke and his maner of tune [Alexander] pacified himselfe againe. 1586 W. WEBBE *Eng. Poetrie* (Arb.) 61 Neither is there anie tune or stroke which may be sung or plaide on instruments, which hath not some poetical ditties framed according to the numbers thereof. 1600 MARSTON etc. *Jack Drum's Entert.* (1601) A 3, I had the best stroke, the sweetest touch, but now..I am falne from the Fidle. 1689 AYRES *Lyric Poems* (1906) 308 (To his Viol) Then to my soft and sweetest strokes I keep. 1721 A. MALCOLM *Treat. Mus.* i. 18 The Notes of a Violin and all string'd Instruments that are struck with a Bow, whose Notes are made longer or shorter by Strokes of different lengths or Quickness of Motion. 1773 BARRINGTON in *Phil. Trans.* LXIII. 261 Several nightingale strokes, or particular passages in the song of that bird.

† **b.** *Hunting.* A call played on the horn. Cf. STRAKE *sb.*4 *Obs.*

1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 76/2 [Hunting-lesson blown on the Horn] The Stroaks to the Field, *Ton-ton-tavern tone ton-tavern* [etc.].

9. A pulsation, beat (of the heart, pulse). Cf. 12 c.

1538 ELYOT *Dict., Pulsus*..is more proprely the poulse or stroke that the arteries or beatyng vaines do make. 1737 BRACKEN *Farriery Impr.* (1756) I. 183 The Blood's Momentum or Stroke. 1800 *Med. Jrnl.* IV. 525 Her pulse usually beating from 120 to 130 strokes in the minute. 1843 R. J. GRAVES *Syst. Clin. Med.* xiv. 173 The pulse..changed its character from a short and small to a full soft stroke. 1859 TENNYSON *Elaine* 716 Wroth, but all in awe, For twenty strokes of the blood,..Linger'd that other, staring after him. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VI. 390 The impulse communicated to an aneurysmal sac is of course repeated at each stroke of the heart.

10. A movement of beating time; a beat, measure; metrical ictus, rhythm. Now *rare* or *Obs.*

1576 G. BAKER tr. *Gesner's Jewel of Health* 198 Distyll first with so softe a fyre, that foure musicall strokes may be made betweene droppe and droppe falling. 1586 W. WEBBE *Eng. Poetrie* (Arb.) 62 The naturall course of most English verses seemeth to run vppon the olde Iambicke stroake. 1597 MORLEY *Introd. Mus.* 9 *Phi.* What is a stroke? *Ma.* It is a successiue motion of the hand, directing the quantitie of euery note & rest in the song, with equall measure..: this they make three folde, *more*, *lesse*, and *proportionate*. The *More* stroke they call, when the stroke comprehendeth the time of a Briefe. The lesse, when a time of a Semibriefe, and proportionate where it comprehendeth three Semibriefes. 1677 F. NORTH *Philos. Ess. Mus.* 33 The due observance of time is gratefull for the same reason that I gave for the formality of a single Tune, because the subsequent strokes are measured by the memory of the former. 1891 J. C. PARSONS *Engl. Versif.* 20 In iambic movement..the stroke or accent, which usually comes only on the last syllable, may, at times, come equally on the first syllable.

† **b.** *To keep stroke*: to keep time. Cf. 13 b. *Obs.*

16.. G. PERCY in Purchas *Pilgrims* (1625) IV. 1687 When they were in their dance, they kept stroke with their feet iust one with another.

11. a. In negative context: A minimum amount of work. **b.** In later use: A large or considerable amount *of* work, business, trade.

a. 1568 *Hist. Jacob & Esau* v. vi, I wrought not a stroke this day but led Isaac. 1791 BENTHAM *Panopt.* 69 Without either punishment, or interest given him in the profits of his labour,..how could you have insured a man's doing a single stroke of work? *a* 1843 SOUTHEY *Comm.-pl. Bk.* (1851) IV. 359 This fellow..never would strike a stroke of work afterwards. 1867 W. H. DIXON *New Amer.* II. 322 'Work!' said a stout young fellow in Tennessee..'thank God, I have never done a stroke of work since I was born.'

b. 1712 STEELE *Spect.* No. 484 ¶ 4 The best Consolation that I can administer to those who cannot get into that Stroke of Business (as the Phrase is) which they deserve, is [etc.]. 1825 BROCKETT *N. C. Gloss.* s. v., A good stroke of business. 1838 HALIBURTON *Clockm.* Ser. II. xvii. 248 They carry on a considerable of a fishery here, and do a great stroke in the timber business. 1841 HARTSHORNE *Salop. Ant.* Gloss., *Stroke*, an unusual quantity of labor performed in a certain time. 1842 THACKERAY *Fitz-Boodle's Prof.* i, A trade doing a stroke of so many hogsheads a week. 1853 C. R. READ *Austral. Gold Fields* 14 A little further on I met the carpenter of the ship I came out from England in, two years before; he told me he was doing a rattling stroke. 1861 HUGHES *Tom Brown Oxf.* iv, One of those who do a good stroke of the work of the country without getting much credit for it. 1884 *Contemp. Rev.* Apr. 579 The mileage run and the stroke of work performed.

12. A movement like that of striking a blow.

a. A single movement of the legs in walking or running, of the wings in flying, etc.

1618 BARET *Vineyard Horsem.* I. 20 Further he must handle his legges neatly,..with an equall largenesse of his stroke carrying an apt proportion according to the slownes or swiftnes of his pace. *a* 1642 SUCKLING *Goblins* IV. (1646) 39 How she..danc'd a stroak in, and a stroak out, Like a young Fillet [*? read* Filly] training to a pace. 1704 F. FULLER *Med. Gymn.* (1711) 29 Take the Bearings of a Running Horse, that is, measure the Extent of his Stroaks. 1865 A. L. GORDON *Poems, Ye Wearie Wayfarer* II. iv, I saw him shorten his horse's stroke As we splash'd through the marshy ground. 1869 SPENCER *Princ. Psychol.* § 91 (1870) I. 216 A gnat's wings make ten or fifteen thousand strokes per second. 1880 A. H. SWINTON *Insect Variety* 175 In the pairing season..this music..is prolonged to ten or eleven strokes of the femora, lasting a quarter of a minute.

b. In swimming, the combined movement of the limbs forming a single impulse of progression; also, any particular manner of effecting this, as the breast-stroke, side-stroke.

c 1800 W. HICKEY *Mem.* (1913) I. 158, I observed we were already too deep, asking the gunner whether he could swim, to which he answered: 'No, Sir, not a stroke'. 1863 KINGLAKE *Crimea* II. 220 There are however some deeps which would force a man to swim a few strokes. 1902 BUCHAN *Watcher by Threshold* 314 He found deep water, and in two strokes was in the grip of the tide.

c. A single complete movement in either direction of any piece of machinery having a reciprocating motion (e.g., of a piston, piston-rod, etc.); also, the amplitude or length of such a movement.

1731 BEIGHTON in *Phil. Trans.* XXXVII. 11 If instead of sixteen Forcers they worked only eight, the Stroke might be five Feet in each Forcer. 1741 in *Sixth Rep. Dep. Kpr. Publ. Rec.* App. II. 120 A new pump, Engine or forcer for raising water with a perpendicular stroke. 1840 *Mechanics' Mag.* XXXIII. 157/1 A popular notion has for a considerable time past prevailed, that a long stroke engine is much superior to a short stroke engine. 1841 WHEWELL *Mech. Engin.* 185 The engine consumed 80 lbs. of coal per hour, working 18 strokes per minute. 1847 J. BOURNE *Catech. Steam Eng.* 162 The engine should always be made to work full stroke. 1869 C. KNIGHT *Mechanician* 109 The stroke of a slide-valve is the length of the path along which the valve moves. The stroke of a piston is the length of its travel or path. 1902 S. E. WHITE *Blazed Trail* I. ii, The saw leaped back and forth a few strokes more.

13. *Rowing.* **a.** A single pull of the oar.

1583 H. HOWARD *Defensative* L iij b, Barges which are forced by the strength of oares, haue a kinde of gate or swinge when the stroke dooth cease. 1632 J. HAYWARD tr. *Biondi's Eromena* 40 The Galley-slaves..made her scoure little lesse than her full length betweene one stroake and the other. 1753 MISS COLLIER *Art Torment.* III. 221 You may scream at every stroke of the oar. 1836 MARRYAT *Midsh. Easy* xiii, So that they might dash on board of her with a few strokes of the oars.

† **b.** *To keep stroke*: to keep time in rowing. Cf. 10 b.

1606 SHAKS. *Ant. & Cl.* II. ii. 200 The Owers..to the tune of Flutes kept stroke. *a* 1619 FOTHERBY *Atheom.* II. xii. § 2 (1622) 338 And he, that bending slowly brings his tarrying Oare to breast, His winding Armes keepe stroke with songs, while he the water beates. 1629 WADSWORTH *Pilgr.* v. 38, I being unable to keepe stroake with the rest, was well beaten. 1652 *Hermeticall Bang.* 5 At Table, be sure that your Teeth labour like so many Gally slaves, keeping true stroke with the Hand.

c. Style of rowing, manner of handling the oars, esp. with regard to the length, speed, or frequency of the 'strokes' (see quot. 1898).

1870 *Field Q. Mag.* I. 202/2 Close came away at once, and, rowing a long easy stroke, won very easily by four lengths. 1877 *Oxf. & Camb. Undergrad. Jrnl.* 173/2 A journey to Ditton and back was essayed at a slow stroke. 1890 R. C. LEHMANN *Harry Fludyer* 118 To-day we are going to work up our stroke, so as to be able to row forty [strokes to the minute]. 1898 *Encycl. Sport* II. 298/1 *Stroke*, (1) the number of dips of the oar in the water within a given time.

d. The oarsman who sits nearest to the stern of the boat, and whose 'stroke' sets the time for the other rowers (= *stroke-oar*, *-oarsman*, STROKESMAN). Also quasi-*adv.* in *to pull, row stroke.*

1825 WESTMACOTT *Eng. Spy* (1907) I. 28 In a water party he was a stroke of the ten oar. [*Note.* A first rate waterman.] 1841 J. T. J. HEWLETT *Peter Priggins* II. xiv. 306 Their talk was principally of boating,..with discussions on the merits of the 'strokes' of the different boats. 1845 in *Brasenose Ale* 77 Thus spake the prince, who set us all afloat, And pull'd first stroke in the old Brasenose boat. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* XXXIV, He pulls stroke in the Boniface boat. 1868 *Field* 4 July 14/2 Hall's rowing as stroke was very different to his execution of the past two years. 1898 *Encycl. Sport* II. 298/1 (Rowing) *Stroke*, (2) the oarsman who sits nearest the stern of the boat and sets the work to the men behind him. The side upon which his oar projects is called 'stroke side' all the way up the boat.

e. The station occupied in a boat by the stroke-oarsman.

1901 *Oxford Mag.* 24 Apr. 291/2 University..with Huntley at stroke.

14. A vigorous attempt to attain some object; a measure, expedient, or device adopted for some purpose. Also *stroke of policy* (or † *politics*), *of business* (cf. 11 b).

1699 T. BAKER *Refl. Learning* xiv. 166 Isidor's Collection was the great and bold Stroke, which [etc.]. 1732 ARBUTHNOT *Rules of Diet in Aliments* etc. 413 The greatest and most important Strokes for the Recovery of the Patient, must be made at the time of the Invasion, or first State of the Disease. 1769 BURKE *Observ. Late St. Nat.* Wks. 1842 I. 102 He pays..some compliments to Lord Bute and Lord Despenser. But to the latter, this is, I suppose, but a civility to old acquaintance; to the former, a little stroke of politicks. 1822 GALT *Provost* xi, Before the Michaelmas I was..fully prepared to achieve a great stroke of policy for the future government of the town. 1850 MERIVALE *Rom. Emp.* iv. (1865) I. 185 This stroke of policy was not unsuccessful. 1865 DICKENS *Mut. Fr.* II. iii, It is conceded by all, that that stroke of business on Brewer's part, in going down to the House that night to see how things looked, was the master-stroke. 1876 M. ARNOLD *Lit. & Dogma* 112 For us, ..Christianity [is] the greatest and happiest stroke ever yet made for human perfection.

b. *Stroke of state*: tr. Fr. *coup d'état* (see COUP *sb.*3 5 a).

1783 JUSTAMOND tr. *Raynal's Hist. Indies* VIII. 115 If we destroy..the nature of any great body, those convulsive motions which are called strokes of state, will disturb the whole nation. 1865 CARLYLE *Fredk. Gt.* XXI. v. (1872) X. 59 Her Son, the spirited King Gustav III., at Stockholm had made what in our day is called a 'stroke of state'. 1871 BROWNING *Pr. Hohenst.* 1367 He cannot but intend some stroke of state Shall signalize his passage into peace Out of the creaking. 1910 ROSEBERY *Chatham* xi. 238 Fortified by this treaty,..the Pelhams executed their stroke of state.

c. In a game: An effective move or combination.

1735 BERTIN *Chess* Pref. p. iii, This noble Game abounds with a greater variety of fine strokes, than any other Games which depend upon design only. 1862 'CAVENDISH' *Whist* (1864) 51 You almost preclude him from executing any of the finer strokes of play. 1913 *Illustr. Lond. News* 22 Feb. 264/3 P to Kt 5th The winning stroke, as White gains a passed Pawn.

15. A feat, achievement; a signal display *of* art, genius, wit, etc. Cf. 18 c.

1672 VILLIERS (Dk. Buckhm.) *Rehearsal* III. ii. (Arb.) 75 There's a smart expression of a passion; O ye Gods! That's one of my bold strokes, a gad. 1677 DRYDEN *State Innoc.* Apol. Heroic Poetry b 3, The boldest strokes of Poetry, when they are manag'd. Artfully, are those which most delight the Reader. 1692 R. L'ESTRANGE *Fables* clii. 138 'Tis a Stroake of Art to Divert the Reproach, by Emproving a Spitefull Word, or Thing, to a bodies Own Advantage. 1731 *Gentl. Mag.* I. 84 The statues about St. Paul's,..are strokes of his masterly hand. 1757 MRS. GRIFFITH *Lett. Henry & Frances* (1767) III. 31 Perhaps 'tis this, by a Stroke of Sympathy, that hurries on the Reader at such a Rate. 1760–2 GOLDSM. *Cit. W.* ii, It is filled with strokes of wit and satire in every line. 1865 M. ARNOLD *Ess. Crit.* Pref. p. x, I had no notion, I protest, that this exquisite stroke of pleasantry was aimed at me. 1881 LD. ACTON *Lett. to Mary Gladstone* (1904) 74 One of the best strokes of wit I can remember in my time.

b. *Stroke of luck*: an unexpected piece of good fortune.

1853 C. B. MANSFIELD *Paraguay* etc. (1856) 420 The prisoner captain looked almost as much pleased as his capturer, who jumped for joy at this stroke of good luck. 1882 PEBODY *Engl. Journalism* xxiii. 179 The *Times*, by a stroke of luck..was represented in that war by a man who [etc.]. 1885 'MRS. ALEXANDER' *At Bay* x, That lynching business was a stroke of luck for Deering.

16. A movement of the pen, pencil, graver, etc., in writing, painting, drawing, etc.; a single movement of a brush, chisel, knife, file, etc. over the surface operated on. Phrase, *With a stroke of the pen*: often said *hyperbolically.*

1668 TEMPLE *Let.* Wks. 1720 II. 91 Your Excellency with a Stroak of your Pen, has brought to Light the most covered Designs of your Enemies. 1699 E. WARD *Loud. Spy* V. 4 Their Senses were Ravish'd with each Masterly stroak of the skillful Stone-Cutter. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XVIII. 626/2 The varnish should be put on very quickly, making great strokes with the pencil or brush. 1804 *Revol. Plutarch* II. 305 In acting so, he changed with a stroke of the pen the general aspect of affairs, in such a manner that [etc.]. 1815

J. Smith *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 745 Draperies are to be done with broad strokes of the pencil. 1875 Fortnum *Maiolica* 89 It would seem laid on purposely with a coarse brush the strokes of which are very apparent. 1885 'Mrs. Alexander' *At Bay* viii, The money is in Spanish bonds..; it can be handed over to you with the stroke of a pen. 1889 Hasluck *Model Engin. Handybk.* 133 The file strokes should not all be made parallel one to another. 1907 J. A. Hodges *Elem. Photogr.* (ed. 6) 106 The print should be cut with one stroke of the knife.

† b. Manner of handling the pencil, graver, etc. 1662 Evelyn *Chalcogr.* 69 The imitations of the graver.. are altogether admirable and inimitable, the stroke and conduct consider'd, 1699 Wanley in *Lett. Lit. Men* (Camden) 282 The Print..is so well engraven, and the workman had so good a stroke, that I believe half the workmen in London cannot now do better. 1717 Pope *Ep. to Mr. Jervas* 38 Caracci's strength, Correggio's softer line, Paulo's free stroke, and Titian's warmth divine. *Ibid.* 64 Oh, lasting as those Colours may they shine, Free as thy stroke, yet faultless as thy line.

c. *Finishing stroke* (lit. and fig.): see Finishing *ppl. a.*

1695 Plot in Aubrey *Lett. Eminent Persons* (1813) I. 74, I am heartily glad to hear Mr. Cook has given the finishing stroke to your fine chapel. 1800 *Asiatic Ann. Reg., Misc. Tracts* 16/2 Major Caillaud and the young Nabob crossed their troops over the Ganges, to put the finishing stroke to the affair. 1854 Surtees *Handley Cr.* xxix. (1901) I. 218 On the Monday, he bespoke an audience with Mr. Jorrocks to put the finishing stroke to his arrangements. 1867 Freeman *Norm. Conq.* (1876) I. ii. 60 Æthelstan added the finishing stroke to the work of his father.

17. A linear mark; a mark traced by the moving point of a pen, pencil, etc.; a component line of a written character (cf. *up-stroke*, *down-stroke*); also, a dash (in writing or print).

1567 Maplet *Gr. Forest* 2 [An agate] hauing strokes on eche side like to blew vaines. 1604 E.G[rimstone] *D'Acosta's Hist. Indies* v. vii. 347 With the bloud they made a stroake on the dead mans face, from one eare to the other.. 1673 Dryden *Marr. à la Mode* II. i, With strokes in ashes Maids their Lovers drew. 1688 Holme *Armoury* II. 39/2 The Achate is variously coloured..: some have stroakes of blew, some with blood. 1693 J. Edwards *Author. O. & N. Test.* 201 The shadow..on the dial..went backward so many lines or stroaks. 1737 Bracken *Farriery Impr.* (1757) II. 32 The white Hoof is of a brittle Disposition; and those that have Strokes, or are ribbed as it were, with white, must be worse than the black Sort. 1745 P. Thomas *Jrnl. Anson's Voy.* 243 A fourth Kind of Writing, the Strokes whereof being more joined, and less distinguished one from another, are made with more Ease and Expedition. 1815 J. Smith *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 19 The drawing of strokes by the eye with the black-lead pencil, charcoal, or chalk, will afford the most proper exercise. 1865 Trollope *Belton Est.* xxvii. 326 Very careful in the perfection of every letter, and very neat in every stroke. 1885 Sweet *O. E. Texts* 132 The various readings are separated by a stroke, and come in the following order.

b. *A stroke above*: = 'a cut above' (Cut *sb.* 17). *? nonce-use.*

1856 W. Collins *Wreck Golden Mary* ii. *Househ. Words* Christm. No. 14/2 She had had her schooling up in London ..so it was but nature she should be a stroke above the girls of the place.

c. *Bacteriology.* A line formed by drawing the point of an infected wire over the surface to be inoculated. Cf. *stroke-culture*, etc. in 25.

1893 M. Campbell tr. *Migula's Introd. Pract. Bacteriol.* iv. 63 The colonies may confine themselves to the actual inoculating stroke, or they may spread themselves out.., uptil the whole surface of the nutrient medium is covered right up to the sides of the test-tube.

† **18.** Lineament, line of a face or form. *Obs.*

1635–56 Cowley *Davideis* iv. 526 Not bright Ahin'oam Had sweeter strokes, Colours more fresh and fair. 1638 Junius *Paint. Ancients* 21 They..content themselves with the Imitation of visible things, following stroke after stroke.

† b. *fig.* A constituent feature; a characteristic; a trait of character. *Obs.*

1666 S. Parker *Platonic Philos.* 41 In its main strokes it [*sc.* Plato's 'physiology'] accords with the Aristotelean Philosophie. 1710 Felton *Diss. Classics* (1718) 49 Give me Leave, my Lord, to..draw out..some of the chief Strokes, some of the principal Lineaments, and fairest Features of a just and beautiful Style. 1729 Law *Serious C.* xvi. (1732) 303 He is so very quick sighted that he discovers in almost every body, some Strokes of vanity. 1734 tr. *Rollin's Rom. Hist.* VI. (1827) III. 241 Two or three principal strokes of his character. 1780 A. Young *Tour Irel.* II. 75 Many strokes in their character are evidently to be ascribed to the extreme oppression under which they live.

c. *fig.* A felicitous or characteristic expression or thought in literary composition; a 'touch' of description, satire, pathos, or the like. Cf. 15.

1666 Dryden *Ann. Mirab.* Pref., But when Action or Persons are to be described..how bold, how masterly, are the strokes of Virgil! 1697 *C'tess D'Aunoy's Trav.* (1706) 88 He wrote a Comedy which everybody likes, and the Queen.. found therein such moving and delicate Stroaks in it, that she would act a part in it herself. 1706 Prior *Ode to Queen* Pref., I have endeavor'd to imitate all the great Strokes of that Ode. 1725 Cotes tr. *Dupin's Eccl. Hist. 17th C.* I. II. iii. 35 Not to mention many satyrical Strokes which are scatter'd throughout his History. 1770 Jortin *Erasmus* II. 170 One can hardly excuse Erasmus intirely, for having put into the mouth of Folly some strokes, which seem to confound religious Truth with Folly. 1831 Mackintosh *Hist. Eng.* II. 16 A few strokes of Comines throw a more clear and agreeable light over our story than the scanty information of our own meagre and unskilful writers. 1876 Trevelyan *Life & Lett. Macaulay* II. xi. 226 Macaulay..thought..nothing whatever of reconstructing a paragraph for the sake of one happy stroke or apt illustration.

† **19.** *To have a good stroke* (*at eating*): to have a hearty appetite. (Cf. Twist *sb.*[1] 17.) *Obs.*

1699 Dampier *Voy.* II. iv. 71 Neither can any man be entertain'd as a Soldier, that has not a greater stroke than ordinary at eating. 1731–8 Swift *Polite Conv.* ii. 150 *Lady Answ.* God bless you, Colonel; you have a good Stroke with you. *Col.* O Madam; formerly I could eat all, but now I leave nothing.

† **20.** A cut, slice (of meat). *Obs.*

1581 A. Hall *Iliad* ix. 157 Down he layes the spit, Wherin the strokes of flesh were brotcht.

21. *Agric.* (See quot. 1891.)

1765 *Museum Rust.* IV. 6 Give the land a stroke with the great harrow, and roll it as before. 1847 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* VIII. II. 449 When the seed is sown, it should be covered by two strokes of the light seed-harrow. 1891 Malden *Tillage* Gloss. s.v., Each time land is crossed with harrows it is said to have received a stroke or tine.

† **22.** = Transom 2. *Obs. rare*[−1].

1684 Sturmy *Mariner's Mag.* VII. xix. (ed. 2) 140 Chuse a convenient place in the Transum or Stroke of the Window.

23. A denomination of dry measure, varying in capacity according to locality: = Strike *sb.* 4.

1532 *Test. Ebor.* (Surtees) VI. 34 To have one stroke of peese. 1569 *Richmond Wills* (Surtees) 218, xx[ti] stroke wheate, iiij li. 1682 O. Heywood *Diaries* (1881) II. 286 A stroke of shilling [= shelled oats] standing on the table. 1744 *MS. Parish Bk. Pannal, Yorks.*, A strooke of Pottatoes 5 d. 1790 Grose *Prov. Gloss.* (ed. 2) Suppl., *Stroke*, half a bushel. 1814 W. S. Mason *Statist. Acc. Irel.* I. 339 The measure, or stroke of potatoes 2 Bushels. 1862 C. C. Robinson *Dial. Leeds* 424 *Stroke*, a half-bushel, or two pecks; so called from the measure (when upheaped) being stroked off with a thin piece of wood.

24. *Geol.* = Strike *sb.* 8. *rare.*

1877 Raymond *Statist. Mines & Mining* 113 The stroke of the slates varies from north 25° west, south 25° east, to north 45° west, south 45° east.

25. *attrib.* a. *Golf*, in terms relating to the method of scoring by strokes (sense 1 d) instead of by holes, as *stroke-competition*, *-game*, *-play*; b. *Bacteriology* (sense 17 c), as *stroke-cultivation*, *-culture*, *-inoculation*; c. special combinations, † **stroke-bias**, an obsolete game resembling 'prisoners' base'; † **stroke engraving**, a line engraving; **stroke-haul**, an apparatus used for illegal capture of fish, formed of three hooks joined back to back, and weighted with lead; hence **stroke-haul** *v.*, **stroke-hauling** *vbl. sb.*; **stroke-oar**, (*a*) the oar nearest the stern of a rowing-boat; (*b*) the rower who handles this oar (= sense 13 d); **stroke-oarsman** = sense 13 d; **stroke-side**, the side of a rowing-boat on which the stroke-oarsman sits; **stroke-stitch** *Needlework* (see quot.).

1700 J. Brome *Trav. Eng.* 264 The Kentish Men have a peculiar Exercise..'tis called *Stroke-Biass. [Description follows.] 1904 in H. Vardon *Compl. Golfer* (1905) 274 Special Rules for *Stroke Competitions. 1890 W. W. Cheyne tr. *Flügge's Micro-organisms* 177 *Stroke cultivations. 1893 M. Campbell tr. *Migula's Introd. Pract. Bacteriol.* iv. 62 For the *stroke cultures we use the test-tubes. 1793 Thomson in *Burns' Wks.* (1800) IV. 33 We intend presenting the subscribers with two beautiful *stroke engravings. 1896 *Westm. Gaz.* 8 Apr. 5/3 The match..consists of the *stroke game to-day and play by holes to-morrow. 1850 *Act* 13 & 14 *Vict.* c. 88 § 40 That it shall not be lawful..to use for the Purpose of taking Fish any Otter, Lyster, Spear, *Strokehaul, Dree Draw, or Gaff. 1912 *London Mag.* Sept. 97/2 They *stroke-hauled them in couples in the moonlight. 1860 C. Simeon *Stray Notes Fishing* 37 This plan, with a large weighted treble hook, is sometimes adopted with destructive effect by poachers for salmon..it is then called '*stroke-hauling'. 1893 M. Campbell tr. *Migula's Introd. Pract. Bacteriol.* iv. 62 The *stroke inoculation being completed. 1835 Dickens *Sk. Boz, River*, After a great deal of changing and fidgeting, consequent upon the election of a *stroke-oar. 1848 Thackeray *Van. Fair* xi, At College he pulled stroke-oar in the Christchurch boat. 1865 Kingsley *Herew.* xx, Winter steered the boat and Gwenoch took the stroke-oar. 1838 J. F. Cooper *Excurs. Italy* I. xvi. 302 The *stroke-oarsman of the boat advised me to pull in under the promontory. 1894 *Daily News* 3 July 8/3 One of the finest stroke oarsmen in England. 1905 *Daily Chron.* 20 July 3/1 The old golf was Scotch, and was a match game. The new, English game, is *stroke play, with oneself as one's hardiest opponent. 1862 Ld. W. Lennox *Recreat. Sportsm.* I. 197 The terms in boating are as follows:—..*stroke side, the port, or right side. 1909 *Blackw. Mag.* May 613/2 Tell Jerry to get down a new strokeside oar, with a good six-inch blade. 1900 L. F. Day & Mary Buckle *Art in Needlework* ii. (1901) 16 The mere work line—or '*stroke-stitch', not crossed, is a perfectly fair way of getting a delicate effect.

† **Stroke,** *sb.*[2] *Obs.* Also 7–8 **stroak.** [f. Stroke *v.*[1]] A stroking movement of the hand, esp. for purposes of healing.

1631 B. Jonson *New Inn* IV. ii, *Tip.* Hee'll borrow money on the stroke of his beard! Or turne off his Mustaccio. 1665 *Wonders if not Miracles V. Gertrux* title-p., Who Cureth all manner of Diseases with a stroak of his hand and Prayer. 1666 H. Stubbe *Mirac. Conformist* 6 Having.. stopped the paine and effusion of blood by some strokes of his hand, he bad her put nothing to it but a linnen Cloth. 1697 Dryden *Æneis* x. 1229 Soothing his Courage with a gentle Stroke, The Steed seem'd sensible, while thus he spoke. 1728 Chambers *Cycl.* s.v. *Stroaking*, But as to the particular Efficacy of the Stroak of particular Persons; we see little Foundation for it in Nature.

† **Stroke,** *sb.*[3] *? Anglo-Irish. Obs. rare*[−1]. (Sense obscure.)

Perh. a misprint for *noke*, Nook *sb.* (where see senses 3 d, e).

1571 E. Campion *Hist. Irel.* 14/2 in *Holinshed* (1577), Stylt erecting Castelles..so to mayster the Irishe, that with such maner of strengthes of Walles..had not as yet beene acquaynted, for tyll those dayes they knewe no defence but Woods, Bogs, or strokes.

Stroke (strōuk), *sb.*[4] *Obs.* exc. *dial.* Also 8 **stroak.** [Altered form of Strake *sb.*[1]] = Strake *sb.*[1] 1 a.

1688 Holme *Armory* III. 332/1 The parts of a Wheel. The Nave,..The Stroke, is the Iron Rim about the Felloes. 1773 W. Emerson *Princ. Mech.* (ed. 3) 283 *Stroaks* or *straiks*, the iron going round the circumference of carriage wheels. 1904 *Eng. Dial. Dict.*

Stroke (strōuk), *v.*[1] Pa. t. and pa. pple. **stroked** (strōukt). Forms: *a.* 1 **strácian**, 6–7 **stroake**, 6–8 **stroak**, 7 **strooke**, **strooke**, 8–9 *dial.* **strock**, 3– **stroke**. *β. Sc.* and *north.* 5–6, 9 **strake**, 6 **straik**(e, **strayk**(e, 8–9 **straik**. [OE. *strácian*, corresp. to MLG., MDu. *strēken* (mod. Du. *streeken*), OHG. *streihhôn* (MHG., mod.G. *streichen*, which coalesced with *streichen*:—OHG. *strîhhan* Strike *v.*), f. Teut. **straik-*, ablaut-var. of **strîk-*: see Strike *v.*]

1. *trans.* To rub (a surface) softly with the hand or some implement; esp. to pass the hand softly in one direction over (the head, body, hair, of a person or animal) by way of caress or as a method of healing (cf. Stroke *sb.*[2], Stroker, also Strike *v.* 4 b).

*a. c*897 Ælfred *Gregory's Past. C.* xli. 303 Swa [swa] wildu hors, ðonne we h[ie] æresð ȝefangnu habbað, we hie ðacciað & straciað mid bradre handa. *c* 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* III. 134 Myd swyþe drizeon handum straca ȝeornlice þane innoþ. *c* 1290 *St. Francis* 367 in *S. Eng. Leg.* 64 He.. strokede heom [birds] with is longue sleue. 13.. *Gaw. & Gr. Kn.t.* 334 He stroked his berde. 1398 Trevisa *Barth. De P. R.* XVIII. xcvi. (1495) 842 Tame apes haue lykyng to be strokyd. 1530 Palsgr. 741/1, I stroke ones heed, as we do a chyldes by flatterynge, or whan he dothe well. 1575 Turbery. *Falconrie* 100 Then muste you haue a little rownde stycke..with the whiche you shall oftentymes stroke and handle your Falcon. 1603 Knolles *Hist. Turks* (1638) 302 Oftentimes stroking his white beard, as his manner was when he was thorowly angry. 1619 *Wonderf. Discov. Witchcrafts Marg. Flower* etc. (1837) 22 Wherevpon she brought downe a gloue and deliuered the same to her mother, who stroked Rutterkin her Cat with it. 1655 J. S. *Bonarelli's Filli di Sciro* II. i. 28 As they had Learnt to strooke each others cheekes. 1662 Faithorne *Graving & Etching* xxv. 41 Then take a piece of the whitest Virgin-wax and spread it thin over the plate, and with a smooth feather gently stroak it all over, to the end it may lie the more even and smooth. 1665 *Wonders if not Miracles V. Gertrux* 7 He likewise cures the Convulsion fits only by stroaking the persons afflicted with his hand. *a* 1700 Evelyn *Diary* 6 July 1660, The Chirurgeons cause the sick to be brought or led up to the throne, where they kneeling, the King strokes their faces or cheekes with both his hands at once. 1788 Gibbon *Decl. & F.* I. V. 183 His only gesture is that of stroking his beard. 1911 Max Beerbohm *Zuleika Dobson* xvi. 241 Softly she stroked the carpet with the palms of her hands.

β. 1786 Burns *Epist. J. Rankine* viii, The poor wee thing was little hurt; I straiket it a wee for sport.

b. said of an animal.

1621 Quarles *Hadassa* Introd. B 4 b, This [steed] stroaks the ground, that skorn's it with his heele. 1774 Goldsm. *Nat. Hist.* IV. 56 It [the guinea-pig] strokes its head with the fore feet like the rabbit. 1913 *Oxf. Univ. Gaz.* 4 June 948/2 The male *Amauris egialea* stroking the brands of the hind wings with its anal tufts.

c. *absol.* (Proverbially contrasted with *strike.*)

c 897 Ælfred *Gregory's Past. C.* xxvi. 187 Sua se læce grapað, & stracað,..ærðonðe he stingan wille. 1612 J. Davies (Heref.) *Muse's Sacrif.* (Grosart) 51/1 So, with remorse, reuenge to execute; So, stroke and strike at once. 1675 Hannah Woolley *Gentlew. Comp.* 128 When you have laid three or four layers one on the other, wet a feather in Rosewater and Musk, and stroke over it. 1699 Thoresby in *Phil. Trans.* XXI. 334 Where he stroked for Rains, he used nothing but his dry Hand. 1750 Berkeley *Patriotism* § 19 Wks. 1871 III. 456 A good groom will rather stroke than strike. 1757 W. Wilkie *Epigoniad* IV. 95 His weighty hands he laid On their soft backs, and, stroaking gently, said [etc.].

d. *To stroke against the hair, the wrong way* (*of the hair*): to rub (an animal) in the direction opposite to the natural lie of its hair; *fig.* to irritate, ruffle, cross (a person). Similarly *to stroke with the hair*, to soothe (*Sc.*).

c 1590 Montgomerie *Sonn.* xxxiii. 6 In hir vnhappy hands sho held my heed, And straikit bakuard wodershins my hair. 1786 Burns *Earnest Cry & Prayer* xviii, For God-sake, Sirs! then speak her fair, An' straik her cannie wi' the hair. 1816 Scott *Bl. Dwarf* viii, I'll speak him fair..and stroke him wi' the hair. 1844 W. Cross *Disruption* xi. (1846) 113, I hae a good deal o' the cuddy in me, when I'm straikit against the hair. 1860 Trollope *Castle Richm.* I. xiii. 260 Somebody's been stroking him the wrong way of the 'air.

e. *transf.* and *fig.* † Formerly often, = to soothe, flatter, 'tickle'; also, to treat indulgently, cocker, make much of (cf. L. *mulcere*). Sometimes contrasted with *strike.*

1513 Douglas *Æneis* IV. Prol. 189 Venus henvifis..That strakis thir wenchis hedis thaim to pleis. 1561 T. Norton *Calvin's Inst.* II. i. § 2 (1562) 70 There is nothing that mannes nature more coueteth, than to be stroked with flattery. 1600 Edmonds *Observ. Cæsar's Comm.* VII. (1604) 126 If it be demaunded, what became of these great Princes and personages after the triumph, it will appeare that they did not stroke their heads, or make more of them then of miserable captiues. 1610 Shaks. *Temp.* I. ii. 333 When thou cam'st first Thou strokdst me, & made much of me. 1616 B. Jonson *Epigr.* lxi, Thy praise or dispraise is to me alike, One doth not stroke me, nor the other strike. *a* 1637 — *Underwoods, Eupheme* iv, The voice so sweet, the words so fair,

As some soft chime had stroked the air. 1629 MAXWELL tr. *Herodian* (1635) 145 With these faire Promises he stroked the Senators. 1675 TRAHERNE *Chr. Ethics* To Rdr., The design of this treatise is, not to stroak and tickle the fancy, but to elevate the soul. 1742 YOUNG *Nt. Th.* IX. 2175 Sleep's dewy wand Has strok'd my drooping lids. 1898 HARDY *Wessex Poems* 94 They parted there as morning stroked the panes.

f. *To stroke over*: = PERSTRINGE *v.*[2]

1822 BYRON *To Murray* 25 Dec., Since I have read the Quarterly, I shall erase two or three passages in the latter six or seven cantos, in which I had lightly stroked over two or three of your authors.

g. With adv. or similar extension: To bring into a specified position, condition, etc. by stroking. Also *fig.*

1594 NASHE *Unfort. Trav.* Wks. (Grosart) V. 73 Hee would take occasion to stroke vp his haire, and turne vp his mustachios twice or thrice ouer. 1615 CROOKE *Body of Man* 81 The Midwife after she haue stroaked down the bloud to nourish the Babe. 1639 FULLER *Holy War* II. viii. (1640) 54 The Pope..stroked the angry Patriarch of Antioch into gentlenesse with good language. 1666 H. STUBBE *Mirac. Conformist* 29 Such consequents are usuall, when the Disease is not stroked out. 1675 SOUTH *Serm.* Judges viii. 34, 35 (1692) 581 He..sees the folly of Endeavouring to stroke a Tyger into a Lamb. 1697 DAMPIER *Voy.* I. xv. 407 Letting it [their hair] grow very long, and stroking it back with their Hands curiously. 1764 GRAY *Jemmy Twitcher* 22 She strok'd up her belly, and strok'd down her band. 1770 LUCKOMBE *Hist. Printing* 360 With the back sides of the nails of his fingers to draw or stroke it [i. e. the paper to be printed] over the Point. 1859 *Habits of Gd. Society* xiv. 359 With his hands so full that he cannot even stroke out his splendid whiskers.

h. To express or testify by stroking. *rare.*

1648 J. BEAUMONT *Psyche* XIX. cclxxiii, And then she prais'd the steeds unwearied Pains, Stroking her thanks upon their ruffled Mains.

i. To pass (one's hand) gently *over* a surface.

1697 C. LESLIE *Snake in Grass* (ed. 2) 114 Stroaking his Hand over their Faces (as his Custom was) who kneel'd or fell prostrate before him.

2. To draw (a cutting instrument) along a surface in order to sharpen or whet it. Cf. STRAKE *v.*[3] I. and G. *streichen. Obs.* or *arch.*

13.. *Gaw. & Gr. Knt.* 416 '..Ta now by grymme tole to be, & let se how þou cnokez.' 'Gladly sir, for sope', Quod Gawan; his ax he strokes. *a* 1800 *Bonny Birdy* xv. in Child *Ballads* II. 261 Then out the knight has drawn his sword, An straiked it oer a strae. 1885–94 BRIDGES *Eros & Psyche* July xv, She..laid the knife, to mortal keenness stroked, Within her reach, where she was wont to lie.

†**3.** *fig.* To plight (one's troth). *Obs.* Cf. STRIKE *v.* 69.

a 1400–50 *Wars Alex.* 3102 Þire traitours on þis trechoure trowthis has straikid [*Dublin MS.* han stroken]. *a* 1776 *Sweet William's Ghost* ix. in Child *Ballads* II. 230 Up she has tain a bright long wand, And she has straked her trouth thereon.

4. To milk (a cow); esp. to draw the last milk from (a cow) by pressing the teat. Also *fig.* Cf. STROKING *vbl. sb.*; also STRAP *v.*[2], STRIP *v.*[3] 1.

1538 ELYOT *Dict., Mulgeo*, to mylke or stroke. 1639 FULLER *Holy War* IV. xvii. (1640) 198 Some say..that this onely was a trick to stroke the skittish cow to get down her milk. *a* 1658 LOVELACE *Lucasta, Posth. Poems* (1659) 83 No wonder if a Drawer Verses Rack,..Whilst the Fair Barmaid stroaks the Muses teat, For milk to make the Posset up compleat. 1675 HAN. WOOLLEY *Gentlew. Comp.* 215 When you milk your Cattel, stroke them well, and in the Summer-time save those strokings by themselves, to put into your morning-Milk-cheese. 1746 *Exmoor Scolding* 47 Nif tha dest bet go down into the Paddick, to stroak the Kee. *Ibid.* 110 Thee hast a let the Kee go zoo vor Want o' strocking. 1886 *W. Somerset Word-bk., Stroke*, to take part of the milk; to milk gently.

5. ? To whip (cream, a sillabub).

a 1639 WOTTON *Descr. Spring* 18, Reliq. W. (1651) 524 And now She trips to milk the Sand-red Cow; Where, for some sturdy foot-ball Swaine, Jone strokes a sillibub, or twaine. 1908 *Daily Chron.* 12 June 9/6 Chocolate Hands. —Wanted cream coverers, used to curl and stroke.

6. To smear (something) over a surface. *Obs.* exc. *Sc.* (Cf. STRAKE *v.*[3] 2.)

1586 LUPTON *1000 Notable Things* (1675) 88 Let..the water thereof be dropped and stroaked about the Eyes. 1883 J. KENNEDY in D. H. Edwards *Mod. Sc. Poets* VI. 218 Now she's prappit near the ceiling, Straikin' whitening on the wa'. 1888 A. G. MURDOCH *Sc. Readings* Ser. II. (ed. 2) 33 Johnny himself was busy 'straiking' the melted solution roun' the inner edge of the rim of his hat with the point of his right fore finger.

7. *Masonry.* To work the face of (a stone) in such a manner as to produce a sort of fluted surface (Ogilvie 1850).

1842 GWILT *Archit.* § 1911 In London, the squared stone used for facing buildings is usually stroked, tooled, or rubbed. 1910 [see STROKED *ppl. a.*].

8. *Needlework.* To dispose (small gathers) in regular order and close succession by drawing the point of a blunt needle from the top of each gather downwards.

1875 [MRS. FLOVER] *Plain Needlework* 21 The top of the gathers above the thread should be stroked, to give them an even appearance. 1880 — *Plain Hints Needlework* 48 Gather, stroke, and set in. 1909 *Even. Standard* 2 Aug. 11/4 In stroking gathers, the needle should be held in a sloping direction.

9. *Printing.* To move (a sheet) into place by a stroking-movement of the hand. Also *to stroke in.*

1888 [see STROKER 1 b].

10. To level (grain) in a measure; = STRAIK *v.*

1887 HALL CAINE *Deemster* V. 30 The bushel of the poor man was not to be stroked, but left in heaped-up measure.

Hence **Stroked, Stro·king** *ppl. adjs.*

1619 B. JONSON *Masques, Pleas. reconciled to Virtue* (1640) 28 But with a minde as gentle as the stroaking winde runs ore the gentler flowers. 1620 QUARLES *Feast for Worms* G 3, A Yongling..(Scarce weaned from his dandling mothers tet, Where he was cockerd with a stroking hand). 1693 DRYDEN *Ovid's Met.* I. 891 They stroke her Neck; the gentle Heyfar stands, And her Neck offers to their stroking Hands. 1890 *Nature* 9 Oct. 578/2 The method adopted..consisted in determining the velocity of sound in the vapour by Kundt's dust-figures, from observation of the wave-length and the pitch of the note emitted by the stroked tube containing the vapour. 1898 A. LANG *Making of Relig.* i. 4 Such phenomena science has ignored, as it so long ignored the sparks from the stroked deer-skin. 1910 C. H. GREGORY *Gloss. Build. Constr.* 38 Striped or Stroked Work. Chisel marks made across a stone at an angle of 45°.

Stroke (strōuk), *v.*[2] [f. STROKE *sb.*[1]]

I. 1. *trans.* To mark with streaks or stripes. So **Stroked** *ppl. a.*, striped. *rare.* Cf. STRAKE *v.*[4], STRAKED *ppl. a.*

1597 A. M. tr. *Guillemeau's Fr. Chirurg.* 31/4 Those [leeches] which have the backes stripped, stroked with gouldeyellow strokes. 1896 W. HARVEY *Kennethcrook* 35 (E. D. D.) If there's siccan things as spottit horses, what ails ye at strokit anes?

† **2.** To depict with strokes of the brush. *Obs.*

1624 WOTTON *Elem. Archit.* II. 84 Such a seeming softnesse in the Limbes, as if not a Chissell had hewed them out of Stone,..but a Pensill had drawne and stroaked them in Oyle.

3. To draw the horizontal line across the upright of (the letter *t*); to cross. Also *fig.*: cf. T 1 b.

1894 MAX PEMBERTON *Sea Wolves* xi. (1901) 51 What I can spell right here is thirst, and stroke the t's, too! 1897 *Bookman* Jan. 120/1 So Landor dotted the i's, stroked the t's, put in qualifying words, and flat contradictions.

4. With *out* or *through*: To cancel by drawing a line or lines across; to cross out.

1885 EMILY D. GERARD *Waters of Hercules* XXV, Half of what I had written was stroked through. 1910 G. STEVENSON *Suppl. Montgomerie's Poems* (S. T. S.) 247 *note*, The name 'hay' has been stroked out.

† **II. 5.** *nonce-use.* To throw *into* (a palsy). Cf. STROKE *sb.*[1] 5.

1647 J. HALL *Poems* II. 78 In thine Eye Carrying an all-enraged Majesty; That shall the Earth into a Palsie stroke, And make the Clouds sigh out themselves in smoake.

III. 6. To row. stroke in (a boat); to act as stroke to (a crew).

1866 *Morn. Star* 14 Feb., They are alternately stroked by Messrs. Brown and Senhouse. 1874 *Shotover Papers* I. No. xi. 172 They wanted Jones to stroke the Varsity boat. 1899 *Daily News* 16 Feb. 7/2 In the last two races he had the satisfaction of stroking his side to victory.

Stroke, *v.*[3] *rare.* Also 9 *Sc.* **straik.** [? related to STRAKE *v.*[1]] *intr.* To go quickly; to travel.

1735 SOMERVILLE *Chase* III. 445 The gen'rous Steed, that strokes along O'er rough, o'er smooth. 1823 TENNANT *Card. Beaton* I. iii. 28 We'el better slip awa' soon to our beds the night, that we may rise wi' the day-daw, if we 're to straik down to the coast.

Stroke, *v.*[4] *rare*[−1]. [? An artificial anglicizing of *straik*, Sc. form of STREEK *v.*] *trans.* To lay out (a corpse). Also with *out.*

1808 N. MUNRO *John Splendid* i. 4 My dear cousin, stroked out and cold under foreign clods at Velshiem. *Ibid.* xi. 116 We gathered and stroked our dead.

Stroke, stroken: see STRIKE *v.*

Strokel, obs. form of STRUGGLE *v.*

Stroker (strōu·kəɹ). [f. STROKE *v.*[1] and *sb.*[1] + -ER[1].]

1. One who strokes; *spec.* one who cures diseases by stroking.

1632 B. JONSON *Magn. Lady* IV. i, *Kee.* What you please, Dame Polish, My Ladies Stroaker. 1665 T. A. *Excell. Roy. Hand* 1 Divers persons..boasting themselves the seventh Sons, Stroakers, and what not,..promising by their manual Touch, the perfect Cure of those Swellings, commonly called by the name of the Kings Evil. 1666 (*title*) Rub for Rub; or, an Answer to a Physicians pamphlet, styled the Stroker Stroked. 1668 [GLANVILL] *Blow at modern Sadducism* 85 The great discourse now at the Coffee-Houses, and every where, is about Mr. G[reatrak], the famous Irish Stroker. 1851 MRS. BROWNING *Casa Guidi Wind.* I. 666 No man would be The stroker of his mane. 1886 *Folk-Lore Jrnl.* IV. 361 Erysipelas. This in Donegal is known as The Rose; it..can be cured by a Stroker. *Ibid.*, The women's friends brought in a 'stroker', who rubbed the nurse with bog-moss [etc.].

b. *Stroker-in* in *Printing*: see quot. 1888.

1888 JACOBI *Printers' Vocab.* 134 *Stroker-in*, the layer-on who strokes in the sheets one by one to be printed. 1902 *Daily Chron.* 18 Aug. 9/7 Strokers-in (Smart) wanted for printing machine.

2. An implement used for some operation likened to stroking (see quots.).

1884 MCLAREN *Spinning* (ed. 2) 161 As it revolves it is met by the stroker.., a wheel with sharp teeth projecting from it...This wheel revolves from left to right, and is used to stroke the wool which projects from the little circle, so as to turn the ends forwards. 1888 JACOBI *Printers' Vocab.* 134 *Stroker*, a small implement, generally made of wood and tipped with metal, for 'stroking in', or laying on sheets in a printing machine.

3. [f. STROKE *sb.*[1]] One who makes strokes in Polo.

1895 *Outing* XXVI. 389/1 The Iowa Clubs are now playing the regulation American game and they bring to it a formidable set of fearless riders and brilliant strokers.

Strokesman (strōu·ksmæn). [f. genit. of STROKE *sb.* + MAN *sb.*[1]]

† **1.** A rubber or masseur. *Obs. rare*[−1].

1712 STEELE *Spect.* No. 332 ₱ 3 Though he would not willingly detract from the Merit of that extraordinary Strokes-Man Mr. Sprightly.

2. One who pulls the stroke-oar in a boat.

1769 FALCONER *Dict. Marine* (1780), *Strokesman*, the person who rows the hindmost oar in a boat, and gives the stroke, which the rest are to follow. 1805 *Naval Chron.* XIV. 280 A shot carried away the hand of the Strokesman. 1850 H. MELVILLE *White Jacket* I. xvii. 115 'Let him drown!' cried the strokesman; 'he 's spoiled my watch below for me.' 1868 *Field* 4 July 14/3 The steady stroke rowed by Guiston, their strokesman, was deserving of all praise.

Strokin, obs. Sc. pa. pple. of STRIKE *v.*

Stroking (strōu·kiŋ), *vbl. sb.* [-ING[1].]

1. The action of STROKE *v.*[1], in various senses.

In the 17th c. often spoken of as a process of healing.

1587 MASCALL *Govt. Cattle, Sheepe* (1627) 206 Yee shall draw the Ewe a little, which the Heard men doe call stroking. 1626 SANDYS *Ovid's Met.* X. 198 A Stag..who..well pleas'd, would stand The gentle strokings of a stranger's hand. 1632 J. HAYWARD tr. *Biondi's Eromena* To Rdr. (b) 1, I expect not the least stroaking of applause. 1633 WOTTON *Lett.* (1907) II. 343 The manner of his cure..is somewhat strange; he useth no bindings, but oils and strokings. 1666 H. STUBBE *Mirac. Conformist* Ep. Ded. 2 Upon his first stroaking the Patient should be worse, and cured by a second. 1713 GAY *Rural Sports* 94 When the big udder'd Cows with Patience stand, Waiting the Stroakings of the Damsel's Hand. 1842 GWILT *Archit.* § 1910 This operation produces a sort of fluted surface, and is called stroking. 1880 [MRS. FLOVER] *Plain Hints Needlework* 19 The stroking should be done above the gathering thread, as well as below. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 489 A more or less forcible stroking of the skin with a pointed instrument.

2. *pl.* The last milk drawn from a cow; 'afterings'. Cf. STRAPPING *vbl. sb.*[2], STREAKING *vbl. sb.* (after STREAK *v.*[1]), STRIPPING *vbl. sb.*[2] b.

1602 *Entert. Harefield* in *Lyly's Wks.* (1902) I. 492 You shall haue..stroakings, in good faith, redd cowes milk. 1658 *Compl. Cook* 76 Take a Gallon of Stroakings and a Pint of Creame as it comes from the Cow. 1748 SMOLLETT *R. Random* xl, The cook entertained me with choice bits, the dairy-maid with stroakings. 1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* III. 913 The afterings or strokings are well known to be the richest part of the milk.

3. *Comb.*: † **stroking needle** [G. *streichnadel*], a touch-needle (see TOUCH-); **stroking pin,** a pin used to stroke gathers.

1683 PETTUS *Fleta Minor* I. 1. i. 3 How..to make stroking or touching Needles, or Ingots of Silver for distinguishing the fine from the less fine Silver. 1880 [MRS. FLOVER] *Plain Hints Needlework* 46, 1 stroking pin.

Strokle: see STROCALS.

Stroky (strōu·ki), *a. rare.* [f. STROKE *sb.* + -Y.] Consisting of, of the nature of, strokes (of a pen).

1847 *Tait's Mag.* XIV. 384 Contrast the Bs of the two writings...Take the As. In the one, they are full and bold; in the other, narrow and stroky. 1891 M. MURIEL DOWIE *Girl in Karp.* 215 Resembling in style Chinese and Japanese stroky pen-work.

Stroll (strōul), *sb.* Also 7 **stroule, strowle,** 9 *rare* **strole.** [Belongs to STROLL *v.*; in sense 2 a new formation on the verb.]

1. = STROLLER. *Obs.* exc. *U.S.* (*rare*).

1623 MIDDLETON & ROWLEY *Sp. Gipsy* II. (1653) C 2 b, Wee'l entertaine no Mounty-bancking Stroule, No Piper, Fidler, Tumbler through small hoopes. *Ibid.* C 4 b, Y'are but a Country company of Strowles. 1641 BROME *Jovial Crew* V. (1652) N 1, I'll undertake that these Players..shall give your Guests much content, and move compassion in you towards the poor Strowles. 1900 J. L. ALLEN *Increasing Purpose* i. 21 They hired strolls to beat drums that we might not be heard for the din.

2. A walk or ramble taken leisurely, a saunter.

1814 JANE AUSTEN *Mansf. Park* vii, When the evening stroll was over. 1817 M. BIRKBECK *Notes Journ. Amer.* (1818) 55 In my stroll among the lovely inclosures of this neighbourhood, I called to enquire my way at a small farm-house. 1860 SALA *Baddington Peerage* I. xvii. 294 Come, take my arm, and we will have a stroll; it's just the evening for a stroll.

Stroll (strōul), *v.* Also 7 **stroyle,** 7–8 **stroul, strowl(e,** 8 **strole.** [Of uncertain origin.

Perh. this verb and the related STROLL *sb.* (which in our quots. appear early in the 17th c.) may be among the High German words introduced about that time by soldiers: cf. G. *strolch* vagabond, † *strolchen,* † *strollen* (18th c.) to wander as a vagrant.]

† **1.** *intr.* To roam or wander from place to place without any settled habitation. *Obs.* (but cf. STROLLING *ppl. a.*).

1603 DEKKER *Wonderf. Yr.* Wks. (Grosart) I. 100 He would..strowle (thats to say trauell) with some notorious wicked floundring company abroad. 1629 MASSINGER *Picture* II. i. (1630) D 4 b, You had a foolish itch to be an actor, And may strowle where you please. 1684–5 WOOD *Life* (O.H.S.) III. 123 He had been strouling beyond sea for some time to trail a pyke in the Low Countries. 1705 J. PHILIPS *Blenheim* 369 Dismay'd, unfed, unhous'd, The Widow, and the Orphan Strole around The Desart wide. 1729 SWIFT *Modest Proposal* 3 These Mothers instead of being able to work for their honest livelyhood, are forced to employ all their time in Stroling, to beg Sustenance for their helpless Infants. 1756 J. MAIR tr. *Sallust* (1793) 20 The Trojans,.. who flying their country, under the conduct of Æneas, strolled about, without any settled habitation. 1765 *Pet. in*

Mc Farlane v. Mc Nab 4 Absent sometimes for weeks together.., strolling about the country selling brandy.

2. To walk or ramble in a careless, haphazard, or leisurely fashion as inclination directs, often simply to take a walk.

1680 OTWAY *C. Marius* III. iii, Whilst Coxcombs strowl abroad on Holydays, To take the Air. 1703 *La Hontan's Voy. N. Amer.* I. 35 Unhappily one of the Iroquese,..having stroul'd in the Night-time towards our Tents, over-heard what we said, and so reveal'd the Secret. 1709 STEELE *Tatler* No. 3 P 2 After the Play, we naturally stroll to this Coffee-house. 1734 POPE *Hor. Sat.* II. ii. 13 Your wine lock'd up, your Butler stroll'd abroad. 1782 MISS BURNEY *Cecilia* v. v, Cecilia..strolled to a window. 1827 LYTTON *Falkland* II. 99 They..then strolled along the sands towards the cliff. 1860 SALA *Baddington Peerage* I. xvii. 299 A policeman had strolled up during this parley, too late, however, to see the knife. 1865 TROLLOPE *Belton Est.* xi. 121 He again strolled down to the bridge. 1876 GEO. ELIOT *Deronda* I. xiv. 268 Some of the gentlemen strolled a little and indulged in a cigar.

transf. 1760 *Inform. Dk. Gordon v. Earls Murray & Fife* 10 A vagrant stream strolling [t]hrough chingle, unconfined by any thing that can be called a bank.

† **b.** Conjugated with *be*. *Obs.*

1722 DE FOE *Col. Jack* (1840) 199, I was strolled away that day to see the country about.

† **3.** *trans.* To walk or pace along (a path) or about (a place). *Obs.*

1693 R. GOULD *Corrupt. Times by Money* 28 For thee the dirty Drab does strowl the Streets. 1720 SWIFT *Progr. Beauty* 87 So rotting Celia stroles the Street, When sober Folks are all a-bed. 1771–2 *Ess. fr. Batchelor* (1773) I. 249 After strolling the Green, arm in arm with L—d M—lt—on. 1810 *Splendid Follies* III. 119 [He] had been strolling the solitary path of the elm-walk.

quasi-*trans.* 1847 MRS. GORE *Castles in Air* xviii. II. 121 He left me to stroll my way back to my solitary dinner.

Stroller (strō·ləɹ). [f. STROLL *v.* + -ER [1].] One who strolls.

1. A vagabond, vagrant; an itinerant beggar or pedlar. Now chiefly *Sc.*

1679 OLDHAM *Sat. Jesuits* II. (1681) 26 These are..Romes Strowlers, who survey each Continent, Its trinkets, and commodities to vent. 1694 N. H. *Ladies Dict.* 303/1 For she that is a Diver or Pick-pocket is an infallible Stroler or Night-walker. 1697 VANBRUGH *Relapse* IV. vi, I'm a Justice of the Peace, and know how to deal with Strolers. 1706 SWIFT *Baucis & Phil.* 11 Where, in the Strolers canting Strain, They begg'd from Door to Door in vain. 1796 H. HUNTER tr. *St. Pierre's Stud. Nat.* (1799) I. 61 The Patagonian is perpetually a stroller, for he lives entirely by hunting and fishing. 1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* xxxii, Who are you, young woman?..and what do you do in this country, and in such company?—We allow no strollers or vagrants here. 1855 [J. D. BURN] *Autobiog. Beggar Boy* (1859) 16, I can well remember the marked difference in the etiquette of the English and Scottish beggars; at that time, the manners and habits of these strollers were as different as it is well possible to conceive. 1856 P. KENNEDY *Banks Boro* xii. (1867) 48 We found the large fireplace provided with its retinue of labourers and servants, and a few of the half-witted strollers through the country.

transf. 1709 SWIFT *Advanc. Relig.* 32 The Men of Pleasure ..form their Idea's of the Clergy from a few poor Strolers they often observe in the Streets.

2. An itinerant actor; a strolling player.

1608 DEKKER *Lanth. & Candle-light* G1, When they trauell thus on foote, they are no more call'd Rancke-riders, but Strowlers, a proper name giuen to Country-players, that.. trotte from towne to towne vpon the hard hoofe. 1681 DRYDEN *2nd Prol. Univ. Oxf.* 33 When Strollers durst presume to pick your purse, We humbly thought our broken Troop not worse. 1711 STEELE *Spect.* No. 48 P 5 A Company of Strolers, who are very far from offending in the impertinent Splendor of the Drama. *a* 1774 GOLDSM. *Scarron's Com. Rom.* (1775) I. 9 The strolers, after drinking a few glasses a-piece,..retired to dress. 1806–7 J. BERESFORD *Miseries Hum. Life* xv. Introd. 41 What are you at now?..spouting to yourself, like a mad stroller. 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xx. IV. 423 Two strollers personated Killegrew and Delaval. 1886 WILLOCK *Rosetty Ends* xi. (1887) 82 A puckle strollers reached oor place on their way to the toon frae some country fair they had been at.

attrib. 1840 DICKENS *Old C. Shop* xix, Vagabond groups assembled round the doors to see the stroller woman dance.

3. One who walks at leisure, a saunterer.

1834 L. RITCHIE *Wand. by Seine* 167 Nor are the Sunday strollers absent even here. 1868 B. J. LOSSING *The Hudson* 222 A lovely shaded walk invites the strollers on warm afternoons.

b. *transf.* A parasitic insect.

1705 [E. WARD] *Hudibras Rediv.* IV. 5 Besides the Legeons that they wear, In matted Locks of uncomb'd Hair, And listed Troops of eight-leg'd Strolers, That march from Wrist-bands to their Collars.

4. A casual traveller or visitor.

1738 WARBURTON *Div. Legat.* II. 222 Some Stroler out of Egypt into Greece. 1778 *Engl. Gazetteer* (ed. 2) s. v. *Glastonbury*, It was a receptacle for the strollers that came in pilgrimage to the abbey. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. I. iii, Nay how many come as vacant Strollers, ainless, of whom Europe is full, merely towards *something!*

† **5.** Of a plant: A 'sport' or new variety departing from the usual type. *Obs. rare.*

1723 P. BLAIR *Pharmaco-Bot.* I. 16 These [varieties] may justly be called Sporters or Strollers, so many *Lusus Naturæ* sporting themselves from more simple Colours [etc.].

Strolling (strō·liŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. STROLL *v.* + -ING [1].] The action of the verb STROLL.

1717 PRIOR *Alma* II. 163 The am'rous Eyes thus always go A-stroling for their Friends below. 1725 POPE *Odyss.* XVIII. 409 Idly thus thy soul prefers to live, And starve by strolling, not by work to thrive. *c* 1755 in B. Ward *Hist. St. Edmund's Coll.* (1893) 303 All climbing of Trees,..all stroling out of Sight of ye Master are strictly forbid.

b. *attrib.*

1709 STEELE *Tatler* No. 8 P 5 A Day, spent in the strolling Manner, which is usual with Men of Pleasure in this Town. 1712 T. BROWN etc. *Scarron's Wks.* 7 He would not suffer the miserable Remains of a scatter'd Company of Strollers to lodge in an Inn; but brought them to his own House, where the Carter having laid down the Strolling Furniture, return'd Home. 1817 COBBETT *Weekly Reg.* 25 Jan. 126 How they came to prevail upon him to take a part on their strolling boards is really a great mystery to me. 1821 SCOTT *Pirate* xxxiv, What! you call yourself a gentleman..why—your eyes! a tailor would make a better out of the worst suit of rags in your strolling wardrobe.

Strolling (strō·liŋ), *ppl. a.* [f. STROLL *v.* + -ING [2].] That strolls; wandering, roving, itinerant. Chiefly in *strolling actor, player*, an actor of a low class, who wanders about the country, giving performances in temporary buildings or hired rooms.

1621 B. JONSON *Masque Gypsies* Wks. (1640) 77 From a strolling Tinkers sheete, Or a payre of Carriers feet... Blesse the Sov'raigne, and his smelling. 1641 BROME *Jovial Crew* v. (1652) N 3 b, But is there a Play to be expected, and acted by Beggars? *Cla.* That is to say, by Vagabonds; that is to say, by strowling Players. 1673 R. HEAD *Canting Acad.* 86 *Strowling-Morts* are such as pretend to be Widdows, travelling about from County to County, making laces upon [st]aves, as Beggars tape, or the like. 1676 (*title*) Scarron's Comical Romance: or, a facetious history of a company of strowling stage-players..turn'd into English. 1701 DE FOE *Trueborn Englishm.* 15 The Strolling Bands of banish'd Fugitives from Neighb'ring Lands. 1709 J. JOHNSON *Clergym. Vade M.* II. p. cvi, This Canon was designed against those strowling Scotch Bishops who Ordained any for Money. 1789 MRS. PIOZZI *Journ. France* etc. I. 432 It put me in mind of Hogarth's strolling actresses. 1823 SCOTT *Quentin D.* ii, The strolling spearman, half soldier, half brigand. 1837 DICKENS *Pickw.* iii, 'He is a strolling actor,' said the Lieutenant contemptuously. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. vii. xi, To lodge there, somewhat in strolling-player fashion. 1863 KINGLAKE *Crimea* (1876) I. xiv. 233 As though he were dealing with a mere troop of strolling players.

Strom (strɒm), **strum** (strʊm). *Obs.* exc. *dial.* Forms: *α.* 4, 7, 9 **strom**, 7 **stroam**(**e**, 8 **strawm**, 8–9 **stroom**. *β.* 5 **strumme**, 8–9 **strum**. *γ.* 9 **strung**, **strun**. [Of obscure origin.]

1. *Brewing.* An oblong basket of wicker work placed over the bung-hole within the mash-tub to prevent the grains and hops passing through when the liquor is drawn off.

1394–5 in *Cartul. Abb. Whitehy* (Surtees) 606 It. pro strom pro le brewhous, iiii d. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 369/2 A Strumme, *qualus, statrum*. 1615 MARKHAM *Eng. Housew.* v. 121 Pluck vp your mashing stroame, and let the first liquour runne gently from the mault. 1674 RAY *N. C. Words* 47 A *Strom*: the instrument to keep the malt in the Fat. 1796 W. H. MARSHALL *Yorksh.* (ed. 2) II. 348 *Strum*; the hose used in brewing &c. to keep the tap free. 1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss., Stroom*, a wicker malt-strainer, used in brewing. 1865 W. S. BANKS *Wakefield Words, Strum* or *Strin.* 1866 BROGDEN *Prov. Lincs., Strung.*

2. *Mining.* A kind of iron sieve placed round the suction-pipe of a pump to prevent obstruction.

1849 GREENWELL *Coal-trade Terms Northumb. & Durh.* (1851) 53 Strum. 1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-mining* 245 Strum. 1887 *Times* 9 Apr. 4/1 Some refuse..choking up the strum of the pipes leading to the pumps.

Strom, obs. form of STORM *sb.*

13.. *Reinbrun* 107 in *Guy Warw.* (1891) 634 Swiche a strom hem cam upon, þat sore hem gonne drede. *Ibid.* 111.

‖ **Stroma** (strō·mă). Pl. **stromata** (strō·mătă). [mod.L. use of L. *strōma* bed-covering, a. Gr. στρῶμα 'anything spread or laid out for lying or sitting upon' (L. & Sc.), f. στρω- root of στρωννύναι to strew, spread, cogn. w. L. *strā-* (*sternĕre*): see STRATUM.]

1. *Anat.* The fibrous connective sustentacular tissue or substance of a part or organ. Also the framework containing the alveoli of cancer-cells.

1835–6 R. OWEN in *Todd's Cycl. Anat.* I. 356/2 The ova are imbedded in a stroma of delicate and yielding cellular substance. 1846 W. H. WALSHE *Cancer* 19 The stroma is closely set; the loculi are consequently small. 1873 T. H. GREEN *Introd. Pathol.* 159 The stroma varies considerably in amount, being much more abundant in some varieties of cancer than in others. It consists of a more or less distinctly fibrillated tissue, arranged so as to form alveoli of various forms and sizes, within which the cells are grouped. 1878 T. BRYANT *Pract. Surg.* I. 99 A tumour developed in the stroma of a fibrous structure will probably be fibrous.

b. The spongy colourless framework of a red blood corpuscle or other cell.

1872 THUDICHUM *Chem. Physiol.* 29 We further have in blood corpuscles a certain quantity of what is called stroma. 1873 RALFE *Phys. Chem.* 156 The stroma is the colourless portion of the living blood corpuscle.

2. *Bot.* A structure containing the substance in which perithecia or other organs of fructification are immersed.

1832 LINDLEY *Introd. Bot.* 209 *Stroma* is a fleshy body to which flocci are attached. 1836 M. J. BERKELEY *Sir J. E. Smith's Engl. Flora* V. II. 236 *Sphæria concentrica*..easily known by its beautifully zoned stroma. 1857 HENFREY *Bot.* 171 A more or less distinct stroma or common receptacle. 1882 VINES tr. *Sachs' Bot.* 317 The stromata arise beneath the skin.

b. In vegetable physiology, the solid matter remaining after all the fluid has been expressed from protoplasm.

1885 GOODALE *Physiol. Bot.* vi. 198 To the solid matter [of the protoplasm], the name stroma is applicable. *Ibid.* x. 290 This spongy stroma, or 'trabecular mass'.

3. *attrib.* and *Comb.*

1887 W. PHILLIPS *Brit. Discomycetes* 349 A stroma-like tubercle. 1898 *Syd. Soc. Lex.*, *Stroma fibrin*, Landois' term for fibrin formed directly from stroma instead of plasma. *Ibid.*, *Stroma plexus*, a plexus of axis-cylinders formed by the corneal nerves. 1905 *Brit. Med. Jrnl.* 1 July 19 The interstitial cells [of the ovary] are to be distinguished from the stroma cells.

Stromal (strō·măl), *a.* [f. STROMA + -AL.] Of, pertaining to, or of the character of the stroma or supporting tissue of an organ.

1846 W. H. WALSHE *Cancer* 13 The stromal substance.. divides the mass into minute loculi, lobules, and lobes. 1863 W. T. FOX *Skin Dis.* 42 The parasite..is often present in its stromal form.

† **Stro·mat.** *Obs. rare.* Anglicized form of STROMATEUS.

1803 SHAW *Gen. Zool.* IV. 108 Striped Stromat. *Ibid.* 111 The Stromats are destitute of ventral fins.

Stromateoid (strōmæ·tĭoid), *a.* and *sb.* [f. STROMATEUS: see -OID.] **a.** *adj.* Of or having the characters of the *Stromateidæ*, a family of fishes of which the genus *Stromateus* is the type. **b.** *sb.* A fish of this family.

1884 G. B. GOODE *Nat. Hist. Aquatic Anim.* 332 The Stromateoid Fishes.

‖ **Stromateus** (strōmă·tĭŭs). *Ichth.* [mod.L. (Willughby *a* 1672), a. Gr. στρωματεύς, a patch-work bed-cover (f. στρῶμα: see STROMA), used as a name for a flat-fish of divers colours.] A genus of flat fishes, typical of the family *Stromateidæ*.

1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s.v., The stromateus is a broad, flat, and short sea-fish. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1824) III. 64 The Stromateus. The body oblong; [etc.].

† **Stroma·tic,** *a.*[1] and *sb. Obs.* [f. Gr. Στρώματ-α (see below) + -IC.

Browne is really the sole authority for the word; the adj. was inferred by Blount from Browne's subst. use: Blount's reference to 'Ben Johnson' is presumably an error; it is omitted in the later edd.]

a. *adj.* (See quots. 1656, 1847–54.) *rare*—[0]. **b.** *sb.* In pl. *Stromatics*, used by Browne to represent Gr. Στρώματα (more correctly Στρωματεῖς, lit. 'patch-work quilts'), the title of a work by Clement of Alexandria.

1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* VI. i. 277 Clemens Alexandrinus..in the first of his Stromaticks,..collecteth [etc.]. 1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr., Stromatick*..belonging to strowings, or any thing spread on the ground, or under a thing. *Ben Johnson.* 1847–54 WEBSTER, *Stromatic*, miscellaneous; composed of different kinds.

Stromatic (strōmæ·tik), *a.*[2] [f. mod.L. *strōmat-* STROMA + -IC.] Of the nature of or resembling a stroma; stromatous.

1891 *Century Dict.* 1898 *Syd. Soc. Lex.*

Stromatiform (strō·mătĭfɔɹm), *a.* [f. mod.L. *strōmat-* STROMA + -(I)FORM.] Having the form of a stroma, like a stroma.

1891 *Century Dict.* (*Bot.*). 1894 GOULD *Illustr. Dict. Med.* 1898 *Syd. Soc. Lex.*

Stromatoporid (strō·mătopō·rid). [ad. mod. L. *Stromatoporidæ* pl., f. *Stromatopora*: *see* STROMATOPOROUS and -ID.] = next *sb.*

1878 H. J. CARTER in *Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist.* Ser. v. I. 306 The Stromatoporids. 1895 DANA *Man. Geol.* (ed. 4) 504 Hydrozoans are represented by Graptolites and Stromatoporids.

Stromatoporoid (strō·mătopō·roid), *a.* and *sb.* [f. mod.L. *Stromatopora* (see next) + -OID.] **a.** *adj.* Pertaining to or characteristic of the *Stromatoporidæ*. **b.** *sb.* A member of the *Stromatoporidæ*, a family of hydrocoralline corals of Paleozoic age, typified by the genus *Stromatopora*.

1877 H. A. NICHOLSON & MURIE in *Trnl. Linn. Soc., Zool.* XIV. 189 A Stromatoporoid fossil. *Ibid.* 202 In studying the minute structure of any Stromatoporoid, it is necessary to make sections in two directions. 1896 S. F. HARMER *Polyzoa* (Camb. Nat. Hist. II.) 520 The Stromatoporoids have been variously referred to the Sponges, Hydrozoa, and Foraminifera, as well as to the Polyzoa.

Stromatoporous (strō·mătopō·rəs), *a.* [f. mod.L. *Stromatopora* (f. *strōmat-* STROMA + *-pora* after *madrepora* MADREPORE) + -OUS.] Of or pertaining to the genus *Stromatopora* of hydrocoralline corals, typical of the family *Stromatoporidæ*.

1877 H. A. NICHOLSON & MURIE in *Trnl. Linn. Soc., Zool.* XIV. 239 [These] forbid the idea of identity with *Clathrodictyon* or its Stromatoporous allies.

Stromatous (strō·mătəs), *a.* [f. mod.L. *strōmat-*, STROMA + -OUS.]

1. *Med.* Of or pertaining to stroma.

1889 J. M. DUNCAN *Dis. Women* xxiv. (ed. 4) 219 Interstitial or stromatous inflammation.

2. *Bot.* Bearing or producing a stroma.

1891 *Century Dict.* 1900 B. D. JACKSON *Gloss. Bot. Terms.*

Stromb (strɒm). [Anglicized form of STROMBUS.] A gasteropod of the family *Strombidæ*, esp. a wing-shell of the genus *Strombus*.

1835 KIRBY *Hab. Inst. Anim.* I. ix. 282 The large strombs of the Caribbean sea have eyes furnished with iris and pupil. 1863 WOOD *Illustr. Nat. Hist.* III. 367 The Strombs form a large genus, containing about sixty species.

Strombiform (strɒ·mbifɔm), *a. Zool.* [ad. mod.L. *strombiformis*, f. L. *strombus*: see STROMBUS and -FORM. Cf. F. *strombiforme.*] Shaped like a stromb or strombus; belonging or related to the *Strombidæ*.

1843 *Penny Cycl.* XXVI. 446/1 Strombiform type.

Strombite (strɒ·mbəit). [f. STROMB + -ITE.] A fossil stromb or some similar shell.

1811 PINKERTON *Petral.* II. 199 Tubercular strombites. 1828-32 WEBSTER, *Strombite*, a petrified shell of the genus Strombus. 1843 HUMBLE *Dict. Geol.* etc. (ed. 2) 246 Strombites are very rare.

Stromboid (strɒ·mboid), *a.* and *sb.* [f. STROMB + -OID. Cf. F. *stromboïde.*] **a.** *adj.* Resembling or related to a stromb or strombus. **b.** *sb.* A stromb.

a. 1859 MAYNE *Expos. Lex.*, *Stromboides*..resembling a *Strombus*,..stromboid.

b. 1891 *Century Dict.* 1910 D. W. THOMPSON tr. *Aristotle's Hist. Anim.* 530 b, This same property is common to all stromboids and to limpets.

Strombolian (strɒmbōu·liăn), *a.* [f. the name *Stromboli*, one of the Lipari Islands + -AN.] Of, pertaining to or characteristic of Stromboli, its volcano or volcanic eruptions.

1903 A. GEIKIE *Text-bk. Geol.* (ed. 4) I. 278 The second [phase of volcanic energy], known as the Strombolian, is shown by a continual eructation of dust and stones. 1906 A. LACROIX in *Smithsonian Rep.* 224 This type of explosion I designate with Mercalli the Strombolian type.

Strombuliferous (strɒ·mbiĭlī·fĕrəs), *a. Bot.* [ad. mod.L. *strombulifer* f. **strombul-us*, dim. of L. *stromb-us* spiral shell: see STROMBUS and -FEROUS. Cf. F. *strombulifère.*] Bearing fruit spirally twisted.

1859 MAYNE *Expos. Lex.*, *Strombuliferus*. Bot., bearing fruit spirally contorted,..strombuliferous. 1900 B. D. JACKSON *Gloss. Bot. Terms.*

Strombuliform (strɒ·mbiĭlifɔm), *a. Geol.* and *Bot.* [ad. mod.L. **strombuliformis* f. **strombulus*: see prec. and -(I)FORM. Cf. F. *strombuliforme.*] **a.** *Geol.* Shaped like a top. **b.** *Bot.* Twisted in a long spire, so as to resemble the convolutions of the shell *Strombus*.

1845 B. H. SMART Suppl., *Strombuliform*, shaped like a top. Geol. 1859 MAYNE *Expos. Lex.*, *Strombuliformis*. Bot., contorted like a screw, or spirally,..strombuliform. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1104/2.

‖ **Strombus** (strɒ·mbŏs). *Zool.* [mod.L. use of L. *strombus* spiral shell, a. Gr. στρόμβος anything spirally twisted, a spiral snail-shell.] The typical genus of the family *Strombidæ* of gastropods, formerly conterminous with the family; a species or individual of this genus, a wing-shell or fountain-shell. Cf. STROMB.

1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* XXXII. x. II. 446 The wilks also or wrinkles called Strombi. 1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey). 1777 PENNANT *Brit. Zool.* (ed. 4) IV. 122 Strombus. Its animal a Slug. 1802 G. SHAW *Naturalist's Misc.* XIII. Pl. 499 The Spindle Strombus is principally found about the American shores. *Ibid.* Pl. 519 The Wing Strombus. 1883 A. J. ADDERLEY *Fisheries Bahamas* 24 Mortimer..had discovered the secret of the origin of the pearl, and by a clever contrivance aiding the Strombus in developing its treasure.

b. *Comb.* as *strombus-like*, *-shaped* adjs.

1821 S. F. GRAY *Brit. Plants* I. 181 Cod..Strombus-like. 1832 LINDLEY *Introd. Bot.* 373 Strombus-shaped.

Strome, obs. Sc. form of STORM *sb.*

1528 LYNDESAY *Dreme* 80 With stalwart stormes [*v.r.* stromes] hir sweitnes wes suprisit..

Stromell, variant of STRUMMEL *sb.*[1], straw.

Stromeyerine (strōu·məi,ĕrin). *Min.* [a. F. *stromeyerine* (Beudant, 1832), named after Fr. *Stromeyer*, the German chemist who first analysed it: see -INE.] = next.

1843 E. J. CHAPMAN *Pract. Min.* 127 Stromeyerine *Beud.* 1856 DANA *Min.* (ed. 3) 95.

Stromeyerite (strōu·məi,ĕrəit). *Min.* [Named by Haidinger after Fr. *Stromeyer*: see prec. and -ITE.] Sulphide of silver and copper, of steel-gray colour and metallic lustre.

1835 SHEPARD *Min.* II. II. 221. 1849 J. NICOL *Man. Min.* 473. 1854 DANA *Syst. Min.* (ed. 4) II. 48.

Strommel(l, var. forms of STRUMMEL *sb.*[1], straw.

Stromming (strɒ·miŋ). [ad. Sw. *strömming*, var. of *strömling* STREAMLING [2].] = STREAMLING [2].

1839 S. LAING *Tour Sweden* 162 Huddiksval, a very neat little town of 2000 inhabitants, principally engaged in the stromming fishery. *Ibid.* 163 The stromming is about the size of a sprat...They are cured like herrings, [etc.]. 1867 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade* Suppl.

Stromnite (strɒ·mnəit). *Min.* [Named by T. S. Traill 1819, from *Stromness*, Orkney Isl., its locality: see -ITE.] A variety of strontianite, containing mechanically mixed barite.

1819 T. S. TRAILL in *Edin. Philos. Jrnl.* I. 381 This mineral,..for which the name Barystrontianite, or Stromnite, is proposed. 1854 DANA *Syst. Min.* (ed. 4) II. 531 Index, Stromnite v. Barystrontianite.

Strompat, -ette, -it(t, -yd, obs. ff. STRUMPET.

Stromperie, variant of STRUMPERY.

Strond(e, obs. forms of STRAND *sb.*[1], *sb.*[2]

† Strone[1]. *Anglo-Irish. Obs.* (Sense obscure.)

1453-4 *Cal. Anc. Rec. Dublin* (1889) I. 279 The suyneid of the towne shulde not suffre the swyne to cum into the strone of the said cite on the one party of the watir ne of the other.

† Strone[2]. *Obs. rare.* [Of obscure origin.] In Martindale Forest, Westmorland, one of the tenants bound to assist the lord in hunting and turning back deer to the forest.

c 1670 MACHEL in H. Brierley *Hist. Martindale* (1907) 108 In the Forests there [Martindale] are tenants they call 'strones' bound to assist the Lord in hunting. 1777 J. NICOLSON & R. BURN *Hist. Westmorld. & Cumb.* I. 410 [citing Machel] Tenants..whom they call strones. 1864 MRS. LYNN LINTON *Lake Country* 312.

Strone[3] (strōn). *Sc.* Also **stron.** [? a. Gael. *sròn*, nose, promontory.] 'A hill that terminates a range, the end of a ridge' (Jam.).

1807 HOGG *Mtn. Bard*, *Mary of Morit Glen* 193 Swift came the maid ower strath and stron. 1813 —*Queen's Wake* 213 Bold Tushilaw, o'er strone and steep, Pursues the roe and dusky deer.

Strone, variant of STROAN *v.*

Strong (strɒŋ), *a.* Forms: 1-2 **strang**, **strong**, 3-6, 4-9 *Sc.* and *north.* **strang**, 4-5 *Sc.* and *north.* **strange**, 4-6 **stronge**, (4 **stroong**, 5 **stronkg, stronke, strongge, strangg**), 3- **strong.** See also STRENGER, STRENGEST. [OE. *strang*, *strong*, corresponding to OS. *strang*, MDu. *stranc*, *strangh-* (cf. OHG. *strangô*, MHG. *strange*, strongly, severely), ON. *strang-r* strong, severe :—OTeut. type **strango-*; a parallel type **strangjo-* is represented by OE. *strenge* severe (found only once), MLG., MDu. *strenge* (mod.Du. *streng*), OHG. *strengi* (MHG. *strenge*, mod.G. *streng*), severe, strict; also (adopted from German) Sw. *sträng*, Da. *streng*. The two types prob. originated as declensional variants from an OTeut. **straŋgu-*. For the Teut. root **straŋg-* see STRING *sb.*

The umlaut form of the comparative and superlative (see STRENGER, STRENGEST) was common down to the 15th c., but the form without umlaut appears already in OE.]

1. Of living beings, their body or limbs: Physically powerful; able to exert great muscular force. *The stronger sex*: the male sex.

In the 17-19th c. 'the strong man' was a frequent designation for one who publicly exhibited feats of strength.

c 888 [see STRENGER]. *c* 1205 LAY. 3547 Ich bi-tæche þe anne hængest godna & strongna. *a* 1300 [see STRENGER]. 1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. XII. 161 Take two stronge men and in themese caste hem. 1471 CAXTON *Recuyell* (Sommer) 277 The strengeste man of troye had ynowh to doo to leye hit on his sholder. 1500-20 DUNBAR *Poems* XXXVIII. 13 Thinking to grip ws in his clowss strang. 1535 COVERDALE *Ps.* CXLIII. 14 That oure oxen maye be stronge to laboure. 1577 GOOGE tr. *Heresbach's Husb.* III. 119 b, It must be sene to, that they [*i.e.* the horses in a team] be euen matched, least the stronger spoyle the weaker. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* IX. 1059 So rose the Danite strong..and wak'd Shorn of his strength. 1699 *Flying Post* 14-16 Nov. 2/1 The strong Kentish Man, gave three Proofs of his extraordinary Strength before his Majesty. 1734 DESAGULIERS *Course Exper. Phil.* I. 259, I have observ'd the pretended Strong Man sometimes to have a short strong Stick [etc.]. 1734 in Fairholt *Eccentric Char.* (1849) I. 50 The strong man of Islington. 1745 *Ibid.* 54 Thomas Topham, Commonly called the Strong Man. 1782 COWPER *Gilpin* 154 So like an arrow swift he flew, Shot by an archer strong. 1819 BYRON *Juan* II. liii, The bubbling cry Of some strong swimmer in his agony. 1819 J. FOSTER *Contrib. Eclectic Rev.* (1844) I. 508 It was not..thought too much for persons of the stronger sex, to go and return many miles on foot. 1861 HUGHES *Tom Brown at Oxf.* xiv, He is as strong as a horse.

absol. c 1290 *St. Michael* 316 in *S. Eng. Leg.* 308 For mannes þoumbe strenguest is þare-fore he hatte 'þe strongue'. 13.. *K. Alis.* 7710 (Laud MS.), And Sampson also þe stronge [*Linc. MS.* theo fort]. 1697 DRYDEN *Æneis* X. 1054 Orses the strong to greater Strength must yield. 1817 SCOTT *Harold* I. ix. 13 With the deed of the brave, and the blow of the strong.

b. *fig.*

1606 B. BARNES *Offices* I. 2 It [*sc.* riches] is the bone of that strong arme, by which the kingdome is in time of peace strengthened against all hostile attempts. 1822 GALT *Provost* XXIV, The five poor barks, that were warsling against the strong arm of the elements. 1873 B. HARTE *Fiddletown* 27 His abuse was confined to the police and limited by the strong arm of the law. 1911 MARETT *Anthropol.* VII. 181 To one who lives under civilized conditions the phrase 'the strong arm of the law' inevitably suggests the policeman.

† **c.** *Astrol.* (See quot.) *Obs.* (Cf. 5 f.)

1819 J. WILSON *Dict. Astrol.*, *Strong signs*, ♌, ♏, and ♑, because they are said to give strong athletic bodies.

d. Of an action: Performed with muscular strength.

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* V. liv. (1495) 171 The fote [of a lion, etc.] is longe plane and holowe..and dystynguyth with toes for his stronge holdynge. 1471 CAXTON *Recuyell* (Sommer) 76 His strokes myght not be susteyned of men, they were so strong and puyssant. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* I. xi. 18 [He] with strong flight did forcibly diuide The yielding aire. 1590 SHAKS. *Com. Err.* V. i. 148 Anon I wot not, by what strong escape He broke from those that had the guard of him. 1697 DRYDEN *Æneis* IX. 1040 He joints the Neck: and with a stroke so strong The Helm flies off. 1816 BYRON *Pris. Chillon* viii. 47, I burst my chain with one strong bound.

e. Of a runner, swimmer, oarsman, etc.: Having great staying power. Hence, of his 'going' or pace: Maintained with vigour; that does not flag.

1854 *Poultry Chron.* II. 183 They are light on the wing, but not strong flyers. 1868 *Field* 4 July 13/1 After made the running at a strong pace. 1879 H. C. POWELL *Amateur Athletic Ann.* 13 A very strong runner. 1883 *Sat. Rev.* 24 Nov. 665/2 Too Good [a racehorse] took up the running and made it very strong to the Canal. 1886 RUSKIN *Præterita* I. xi. 379 He ran no risk but of a sound ducking, being, of course, a strong swimmer.

fig. 1863 KINGLAKE *Crimea* (ed. 3) I. iii. 38 Imagination, transcendent and strong of flight.

2. Physically vigorous or robust; capable of physical endurance or effort; not readily affected by disease; hale, healthy. Now often (predicatively) of one who has regained his normal health and vigour after illness.

† In legal enactments, said of a beggar: Able-bodied, fit for work, 'stout', 'sturdy'.

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 6 Vor þi mot þeos riwle chaungen hire misliche efter euch ones manere, & efter hire eȝne. Vor sum is strong, sum is unstrong. 1340 *Ayenb.* 32 Þou art yong and strang þou sselt libbe long. *c* 1400 *Rule St. Benet* XXVII. 22 Þa þat ere strang and hale. 1422 YONGE tr. *Secreta Secret.* 239 Men wyche haue the complexcion hote and stronge. 1530-1 *Act* 22 *Hen. VIII*, c. 12 § 9 Whypped for a vagarant stronge begger. 1571 in Hudson & Tingey *Rec. Norwich* (1910) II. 344 Thexpulcinge of stronge beggers. 1588 KYD *Househ. Philos.* Wks. (1901) 239 A youth of eighteene or twenty yeeres of age,..tough sinewed, and of a strong constitution. 1656 EARL MONM. tr. *Boccalini's Advts. fr. Parnass.* I. LXXVII. (1674) 104 He was a man full of years, but of so fresh and strong a complexion, as he seemed likely to live yet many Ages. 1785 COWPER *Task* II. 705 His head ..Bespoke him past the bounds of freakish youth, But strong for service still, and unimpair'd. 1785 in *Jrnl. Friends Hist. Soc.* (1918) 75, I find myself growing stronger. My cough is better. 1806 *Med. Jrnl.* XV. 26 A gentleman..who had always enjoyed good health, being of a strong and robust constitution. 1840 MARRYAT *Poor Jack* XXI, Old Nanny..was now quite strong again. 1888 'R. BOLDREWOOD', *Robbery under Arms* XXIII, Starlight was none too strong...He wanted good keep and rest for a month.

transf. 1580 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 49 It signifieth land to be hartie and strong.

b. of the vital organs and their functions, the nerves, brain, † 'spirits', etc.

1398 [see DIGESTION 2]. 1672 TEMPLE *Ess., Govt.* Wks. 1731 I. 97 In more temperate Regions the Spirits are stronger, and more active, whereby Men become bolder in the Defence or Recovery of their Liberties. 1833 *Cycl. Pract. Med.* I. 578/2 Persons, even with strong stomachs, are frequently under the necessity of taking some stimulant to assist its digestion. 1863 MISS BRADDON *John Marchmont* VI, That perpetual restlessness and disquietude which is cruelly wearying even to the strongest nerves. *Ibid.* VIII, Mary Marchmont's story of a marriage arose out of the weakness of a brain, never too strong, and at that time very much enfeebled by the effect of a fever. 1905 E. CLODD *Animism* § 9. 47 Even the strongest of nerve among us are not [etc.].

c. of a plant or its parts.

c 1420 *Pallad. on Husb.* I. 88 The treen..Not crokid, lene, or seek, but hool & stronge. 1719 LONDON & WISE *Compl. Gard.* VIII. 118 In speaking of a strong Tree, is meant a vigorous Tree. 1765 *Museum Rust.* IV. 354 He has the same hundred and twenty acres in wheat as heretofore, and strong and hopeful. 1780 COWPER *Progr. Err.* 359 Plants rais'd with tenderness are seldom strong. 1822 SHELLEY *Zucca* IX, And light revived the plant, and from it grew Strong leaves and tendrils.

d. *A strong head*; capacity for taking much drink without becoming intoxicated.

[1814 SCOTT *Wav.* xii, The Baron proceeded: 'No, sir, though I am myself of a strong temperament, I abhor ebriety'.] 1822 LAMB *Elia* Ser. II. *Confess. Drunkard*, O pause, thou sturdy moralist, thou person of stout nerves and a strong head, whose liver is happily untouched.

3. Having great moral power for endurance or effort; firm in will or purpose; able to resist temptation; possessed of courage or fortitude; brave, resolute, steadfast.

c 897 ÆLFRED *Gregory's Past. C.* LXV. 465 Ic wende ðæt ic wære swiðe strong on manezum cræftum. *c* 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 185 *Estote fortes in bello*, et cetera. Beoð stronge on fihte and fihteð wið þe ealde neddre and ȝef ȝie ben strengere, ȝie shulle fon to mede þat endeles kinericheȝ. *c* 1200 *Ormin* 13326 Symon..All harrd, & strang, & stedefasst,..To stanndenn ȝænn þe laþe gast. *c* 1315 SHOREHAM *Poems* I. 358 He þat ine saule is strang þat he wiþ-stent hi alle. *c* 1400 *Rule St. Benet* LXIV. 43 Sisters þat er strang and of gude lyuyng. 1422 YONGE tr. *Secreta Secret.* 226 Tho men wyche haue ouer lytill kneis they bene stronge of corage. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 15 Lyke as god conforted the chyldren of Israel, and bad them to be stronge and not to drede. 1592 SHAKS. *Rom. & Jul.* IV. i. 122 Be strong and prosperous In this resolue. 1783 COWPER *Valed.* 61 [He] Should be..Prepar'd for martyrdom, and strong to prove A thousand ways the force of genuine love. 1815 SHELLEY *Alastor* 181 His strong heart sunk and sickened with excess Of love. 1833 WORDSW. *Warning* 160 Be strong in faith, bid anxious thoughts lie still. 1861 HUGHES *Tom Brown at Oxf.* XIII, His face was quiet, but full of confidence...Tom felt calmer and stronger as he met his eye. 1861 F. W. ROBINSON *No Church* III. IX. II. 282 A heart strong to love. 1864 TENNYSON *En. Arden* 921 So past the strong heroic soul away.

b. Of actions or attributes.

c 1200 *Ormin* 7896 Forr cnapechild bitacneþþ uss Strang mahht i gode dedess. *c* 1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 3678 Fewe wordes he spak, bot strange þai ware. 1490 CAXTON *Eneydos* I. 12 A grete multytude of noble companye, full of yougthe & of stronge corage. 1599 SHAKS. *Hen. V*, V. ii. 25, I haue labour'd With all my wits, my paines, and strong endeuors, To bring [etc.]. 1613 — *Hen. VIII*, II. i. 145 This Secret is so weighty, 'twill require A strong faith to conceale it. 1671 MILTON *P. R.* I. 159 E're I send him forth To conquer Sin and Death..By Humiliation and strong Sufferance. 1819 SHELLEY *Mask* XLVI, 'Tis to be a slave in soul And to hold no strong control Over your own wills. 1905 'G. THORNE' *Lost Cause* IX, The magistrates of London are quite ready to take a strong stand.

c. Of looks, voice, etc.: Indicative of strength of character.

1815 SOUTHEY *Roderick* XXI. 123 For he was troubled while

he gazed On the strong countenance and thoughtful eye Before him. 1885 'MRS. ALEXANDER' *Valerie's Fate* ii, Attracted by something kindly and strong in the tone of his voice. 1891 C. T. C. JAMES *Rom. Rigmarole* vii, The lady with the strong face, and the piercing grey eyes.

d. Of a statesman, judge, commander: That makes his authority felt; powerful by force of will and capacity.

1879 *Nation* XXX. 1 (Cent.) He wants to show the party that he too can be a 'Strong Man' on a pinch. 1889 F. COWPER *Capt. of Wight* vi, As his appointment vested in his person the supreme civil as well as military command, his influence and authority were wide reaching—in other words, he was a 'strong' Captain. 1892 *Daily News* 10 May 3/3 He was emphatically what is called a strong Judge, and the mental force which he wielded impressed those who saw and heard him at his work.

4. Of the mind or mental faculties: Powerful. Of the memory: Tenacious, retentive.

1390 GOWER *Conf.* II. 23 Althogh mi wit ne be noght strong, It is noght on mi will along, For that is besi nyht and day To lerne al that he lerne may. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* v. iii. (1495) 107 Yf a man be a grete waker and stronge of minde [L. *memoria tenax*], it sygnefyeth dryenesse of the brayne. *c* 1440 *Alphabet of Tales* 293 And þan þis hermett with a strong wytt removid his cell v myle ferrer fro þe watir. 1664 POWER *Exp. Philos.* I. 80 A Person he was of those strong Parts and Hopes. 1731–8 SWIFT *Pol. Conversat.* Introd. 16 A strong Memory and constant Application..will be highly necessary. 1749 CHESTERF. *Let. to Son* 10 Jan., A strong mind sees things in their true proportions: a weak one views them through a magnifying medium. 1781 COWPER *Retirem.* 698 Strong judgment lab'ring in the scripture mine, 1784 — *Tiroc.* 137 Whose hum'rous vein, strong sense, and simple style, May teach the gayest, make the gravest smile. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* iv. I. 507 His writings and his life furnish abundant proofs that he was not a man of strong sense. *Ibid.* vii. II. 170 Where he loved, he loved with the whole energy of his strong mind.

b. Of occupations: Requiring exertion of mental power. ? *Obs.*

1759 JOHNSON *Rasselas* xxxix, 'The diversions of the women', answered Pekuah, 'were only childish play, by which the mind accustomed to stronger operations could not be kept busy.' 1817 G. TICKNOR *Life, Lett. & Jrnls.* I. vii. 152 With all these strong occupations [business cares and scientific studies, etc.], and tastes, and high qualities, he is the chief magistrate of the canton.

5. Having great controlling power over persons and things, by reason of the possession of authority, resources, or inherent qualities; able to enforce one's will.

Beowulf 1844 (Gr.) Þu eart mægenes strang and on mode frod, wis wordcwida. *a* 1275 *Cott. Hom.* 231 Hit ȝelamp þat an rice king wes strang and mihti. *a* 1225 *St. Marher.* 12 Þa þu strong were he wes muchele strengre me to witene wiþ þis. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 1846 Đe strong god of ysrael. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 14404 God..liuerd þaim fra pharaon, Fra pharaon þat was sa strang þat þam in seruage held lang. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* II. x. 65 In the Realme ere long they [Hengist and Horsus] stronger arre, Then they which sought at first their helping hand. ?1599 A. HUME *Poems, Ep. Mont-creif* 204 The pure quhome strang oppressors dois oppres. 1603 SHAKS. *Meas. for M.* III. ii. 198 What King so strong Can tie the gall vp in the slanderous tong? 1714 G. LOCKHART *Mem. Scot.* (ed. 3) 179 The Revolution Party only employ'd him..out of Fear; and as soon as they found themselves strong enough without him, they kicked him out of Doors. 1841 F. E. PAGET *Tales of Village* (1852) 172 The Church of England, strong in the aid of antiquity, tradition, and apostolicity. 1850 TENNYSON *In Mem.* Prol. 1 Strong Son of God. 1858 *Sat. Rev.* 2 Jan. 6/2 Lord Palmerston boasts of having a strong Government, and he is determined to test and to parade its strength. 1860 [see SAVE *v.* 1 e].

b. *absol.* (and as postfixed epithet, *the strong*).

c 825 *Vesp. Psalter* liii. 5 [liv. 3] & ða strongan [L. *fortes*] sohtun sawle mine. *c* 1205 LAY. 20872 Swa wes Childriche þan strongen & þan riche. *a* 1400–50 *Wars Alex.* 2381 And for Strasagirs þe strang he of his strenth priued. 1594 SHAKS. *Rich. III*, v. iii. 311 For Conscience is a word that Cowards vse, Deuis'd at first to keepe the strong in awe. 1598 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. ii. II. *Babylon.* 581 Th' ever-blessed soules Of Christ his champions..Shall dance to th' honour of the Strong of strongs. 1697 DRYDEN *Æneis* III. 77 Who, when he saw the Pow'r of Troy decline, Forsook the weaker, with the strong to join. 1817 SHELLEY *Rev. Islam* Ded. iv, I grow weary to behold The selfish and the strong still tyrannise. 1820 SCOTT *Monast.* iv, It was a reign of minority, when the strongest had the best right. 1847 EMERSON *Poems, Initial*, etc. *Love* III. 51 By right or wrong, Lands and goods go to the strong.

†**c.** *Strong of friends* or *friendship*: possessed of powerful friends. *Obs.*

c 1386 CHAUCER *Doctor's T.* 135 Hym thoughte he was nat able for to speede ffor she was strong of freendes. 1444 *Rolls of Parlt.* V. 112 Suytz, triables in forein Shires, where thei be stronge of frendship.

d. Of things, sometimes personified.

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 280 Þauh heo [humility] makie hire so lutel, & so meoke, & so smel, heo is þauh þinge strengest. 138. WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* III. 341 As o virtu is strengere if it be gedrid, þan if it be scatrid, so o malis is strenger whanne it is gederid in o persone. 1382 — *Song Sol.* viii. 6 For strong is as deth looue. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* III. 146 The Kinges question was this; Of thinges thre which strengest is, The wyn, the womman or the king. 1423 JAS. I *Kingis Q.* 149 Fortune is most and strangest euermore Quhare lest foreknawing or intelligence Is in the man. 1606 SHAKS. *Ant. & Cl.* I. iii. 42 The strong necessity of Time, commands Our Seruices a-while. *a* 1656 HALES *Gold. Rem.* III. (1673) 48 Now humane Authority at the strongest is but weak, but the multitude is the weakest part of humane Authority. 1706 PRIOR *Ode to Queen* ix, Misguided Prince!.. Confess the Force of Marlbro's stronger Star. 1789 BURNS *To Dr. Blacklock* 29 Ye ken, ye ken, That strang necessity supreme is. 1793 COWPER *Beau's Reply* 7 'Twas nature, Sir, whose strong behest Impell'd me to the deed. 1865 H. KINGSLEY *Hillyars & Burtons* xlix, The old Adam was too strong for her.

e. Having great financial resources, rich. In Anglo-Irish, *spec.* of a farmer.

1622 BACON *Hen. VII*, 161 The Merchant-Aduenturers likewise, (beeing a strong Companie at that time, and well vnderset with rich Men, and good order,) did hold out brauely. *a* 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew, Squirish*, foolish; also one that pretends to Pay all Reckonings, and is not strong enough in the Pocket. 1726 SWIFT *Gulliver* II. vi. 113 He then desired to know..Whether, a Stranger with a strong Purse might not influence the vulgar Voters. 1820 BELZONI *Egypt & Nubia* II. 260, I should have..prepared the way for others stronger than myself in purse. 1845 MRS. S. C. HALL *Whiteboy* viii. 64 He and his wife..have borne it [straw]—perhaps as a free gift from 'a strong farmer'—on their shoulders. 1873 O'CURRY *Manners & Cust. Anc. Irish* II. 35 The Bruighfer..being what would now be called in Munster a 'strong farmer', he was to set an example to his neighbours. 1885 *Times* 3 Sept. 7/4 There must be a good deal of the article in the hands of 'strong people'—that is, people who can wait..for a rise. 1888 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 24 Oct. 6/1 The merchants make their purchases in London, with the exception of some very strong firms, which import stones direct from the Cape.

†**f.** *Astrol.* (See quot.) Cf. I c. *Obs.*

1819 J. WILSON *Dict. Astrol.* 380 Planets are generally supposed to be strong when dignified either by house, exaltation, term, triplicity, or face, or by any accidental dignity.

6. Eminently able or qualified to succeed in something; well skilled or versed *in* some particular branch of knowledge or practice.

c 1000 ÆLFRIC *Saints' Lives* v. 6 He wæs..strang forebingere. *c* 1330 *King of Tars* 657 Thou hast assayed goddes thyn, Wolte that ich asaye myn, Whether be better leche? And leove sire, trouwe on this, And leef on hym that strengor is. *c* 1450 *Merlin* iv. 60 And Merlyn, that full of strenge arte was,..shewed hym the voyde place. 1610 SHAKS. *Temp.* v. i. 269 His Mother was a Witch, and one so strong That could controle the Moone; make flowes, and ebs [etc.]. *a* 1628 PRESTON *Breastpl. Love* (1631) 188 Let that appeare by shewing thy selfe strong in thy actions. 1693 DRYDEN *Orig. & Progr. Satire* in *Juvenal* (1697) Ded. p. iii, Yet I was stronger in Prophecy than I was in Criticism. 1694 PENN *Rise & Progr. Quakers* i. 24 They were very Diligent, Plain and Serious; strong in Scripture, and bold in Profession. 1817 SHELLEY *Rev. Islam* xi. xxiv, Genius is made strong to rear The monuments of man beneath the dome Of a new Heaven. 1833 *Q. Rev.* XLIX. 399 Conolly [a jockey]..has a bad Irish seat, but he is very strong upon his horse, and his hand and head are good. 1852 THACKERAY *Esmond* III. xi, I am not very strong in spelling. 1857 BUCKLE *Let.* in Huth *Life* I. 138 The minor works of Fichte, which I could lend you if you find yourself strong enough in German to master them. 1885 *Manch. Exam.* 26 Aug. 3/2 We think Mr. Gough is much stronger as a *raconteur* than as a logician. 1889 W. H. POLLOCK etc. *Fencing* (Badm. Libr.) 105 A short man..should be strong in the parry and riposte. 1905 *Athenæum* 30 Sept. 417/3 Advt., Wanted, Assistant Master [in a School of Art], strong in Design.

b. *One's strong point*: that in which one excels, one's forte.

1875 MAX MÜLLER in *Contemp. Rev.* XXVII. 72, I sent my two eldest girls to be examined last year, chiefly in order to find out their weak and their strong points. 1889 T. A. GUTHRIE *Pariah* I. ix, Description was not Lettice's strong point.

c. In athletic contests, of a side, crew, etc.: Possessed of 'talent'; formidable as an opponent or competitor.

1860 *Baily's Mag.* Sept. 428 Mr. Dark had taken down a strong team [of cricketers]. 1861 HUGHES *Tom Brown at Oxf.* xiii, [Bumping races.] Brazen-nose isn't so strong as usual. We sha'n't have much trouble there. 1862 *Baily's Mag.* Oct. 199 We—England—are very strong, and, if we have the luck to go in first, shall, on that wicket, take a deal of getting out.

†**d.** *To make oneself strong* [= Fr. *se faire fort*]: to undertake; to affirm. *Obs.*

1477 CAXTON *Jason* 42 Put yow in my handes and cure, and I make me strong for to hele and make yow hole. *Ibid.* 120 b, I wil make me strong so to do if it be youre plaisir. *c* 1500 *Melusine* xxxvii. 296 And also other sayen, & make them strong that she is a spyryte of the fayry.

7. Powerful in arms; formidable as a fighting force (or as a commander) by reason of numbers, armament, position, etc.

a 1122 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 975 Næs se flota swa rang ne se here swa strang. *c* 1205 LAY. 14463 Heo uareð in þine londe mid hære swiðe stronge. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 354 Þo was þe compaynie strong & strengore þan it was er. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 15438 Þai armed þam þan al priueli, for to ma þam strang. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* v. 23 A hundreth men chargit, in armes strang. 1535 STEWART *Cron. Scot.* I. 627 So strang power, sen weiris first began, Wes neuir sene 3it with na levand man. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* II. x. 31 An army strong she leau'd, To war on those, which him had of his realme bereau'd. 1602 in Moryson *Itin.* II. (1617) 126 Wee resolved to leave the Northerne Garrisons very strong in foote and horse. 1606 SHAKS. *Ant. & Cl.* I. iv. 36 Pompey is strong at Sea. 1638 *Hamilton Papers* (Camden) 45 Your Matie should prouyd for itt by furnising of Beruick and Cayrlyll with good and strong garnisones. 1761 HUME *Hist. Eng. to Hen. VII* (1762) I. ii. 49 Receiving in the spring a strong reinforcement of their countrymen. *a* 1774 GOLDSM. *Pref. & Introd. 7 Yrs. War* Misc. Wks. (1837) I. 520 They will find England strong at sea.

b. Of an individual: Powerful or formidable as a combatant. Also *fig.*

a 1450 *Le Morte Arth.* 1860 Was non so stronge that hym with-stode. 1553 PAYNELL tr. *Dares Phryg. Destr. Troy* E j, Agamemnon consideryng that his moste strongest and moste valiaunt men were slayne, retired. 1563 WINȜET *& Quest.* To Rdr. *Wks.* (S.T.S.) I. 62 [God] sall steir wp in his contrare strangar kempis..than I am. 1864 TENNYSON *Aylmer's F.* 365 Where two fight The strongest wins.

c. Of a warlike operation: Performed or prosecuted with a powerful fighting force.

1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 37 Who lamentably complaining of the Turkes great crueltie, desyred stronge and continual aide. 1568 GRAFTON *Chron.* II. 88 The French king made strong warre in Normandy. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* III. iii. 52 King Vther now doth make Strong warre vpon the Paynim brethren. 1593 SHAKS. 2 *Hen. VI*, III. iii. 22 Oh beate away the busie medling Fiend, That layes strong siege vnto this wretches soule. 1817 JAS. MILL *Brit. India* II. v. iv. 440 The enemy made a strong sally. 1870 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 23 Sept. 8/1 The enemy opened strong fire on us.

d. With prefixed numerical determination: Powerful to the extent of (a specified number of men, ships, etc.). Hence *gen.* of a body or assembly of persons: Having the specified number.

1589 GREENE *Menaphon* (Arb.) 83 He despatched letters to the Nobilitie..with strait charge that they should bee in that place within three dayes with tenne thousand strong. 1592 *Soliman & Pers.* III. i. 48 Their fleete is weake; Their horse, I deeme them fiftie thousand strong. 1629 *Descr. S'hertogenbosh* 34 The Enemies came..150 ships strong. 1702 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 3831/2 The Body of French Forces.., being about 8000 strong. 1836 W. IRVING *Astoria* I. 253 A war party, three hundred strong, were prowling in the neighbourhood. 1847 GROTE *Greece* II. XXXV. IV. 402 The entire Phenician fleet, no less than 600 ships strong, co-operated on the coast. 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xvi. III. 638 The garrison, thirteen hundred strong, marched out unarmed. 1860 DICKENS *Uncomm. Trav.* ix, As a congregation, we are fourteen strong. 1879 B. TAYLOR *Germ. Lit.* 104 The Burgundians..settled, eighty thousand men strong, between Geneva and Lyons.

¶ *transf.* in jocular nonce-uses.

1601 SHAKS. *Twel. N.* III. ii. 59, I haue beene deere to him lad, some two thousand strong, or so. 1719 D'URFEY *Pills* I. 356 A Wife that 's fair and Young,..and Forty Thousand strong.

e. Of a body of persons or things, a sect or party: Numerous. Also more explicitly *strong in numbers.*

1617–18 J. CHAMBERLAIN in *Cr. & Times Jas. I* (1848) II. 62 Our East Indian fleet is setting out,..They go stronger and more than ever heretofore. 1656 S. HOLLAND *Zara* (1719) 71 But behold Shakespear and Fletcher (bringing with them a strong party) appeared. 1816 SCOTT *Old Mort.* xxxvii, The Cameronians continued a sect strong in numbers and vehement in their political opinions. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* lxvii, A very strong party of excellent people consider her to be a most injured woman. 1854 SURTEES *Handley Cr.* iv. (1901) I. 28 The kennel was pretty strong in numbers. 1855 *Poultry Chron.* III. 302 Keep the stocks strong in numbers.

f. Abundantly supplied with persons or things of a specified kind. Const. *in.*

1621 in Foster *Eng. Factories Ind.* (1906) 337 Beinge thus strong in cash..wee have concluded the present dispeede. 1711–12 SWIFT *Jrnl. to Stella* 16 Feb., The House of Lords is too strong in Whigs, notwithstanding the new creations. 1721 DE FOE *Mem. Cavalier* (1840) 108 The king was strong in horse. 1874 H. H. COLE *Catal. Ind. Art S. Kens. Mus.* App. 320 The India [Office] Museum..is specially strong in arms and textile fabrics. 1885 *Truth* 28 May 848/2 Landscapes..in which this year's Academy is unusually strong. 1886 *Manch. Exam.* 3 Nov. 3/1 The *Quarterly* for October is exceptionally strong in literary interest.

8. Of a fortress, town, country, or military position: Powerful for resistance; difficult to capture or invade; having powerful artificial or natural defences. Cf. STRONGHOLD.

c 1000 *Ags. Ps.* (Th.) lx. 2 [lxi. 3] Þu..wære me stranga tor, stið wið feondum. *c* 1205 LAY. 6392 Þer he gon bulde caste] swiðe strongne. *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (1839) xxv. 259 The King of Abcaz hathe the more strong Contree: and he alle weyes vigerously defendethe his Contree. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 188/1 Garsone, stronge place, *municipium*. *c* 1450 *Merlin* xxii. 380 But litill thei founde in the contrey to take to, ffor all was turned from theire power into stronke fortresses. 1523 WOLSEY in *St. Papers Hen. VIII* VI. 202 Bray was not, ne coude be, made in shorte space strong or tenyble. 1592 STOW *Ann.* (an. 1399) 508 Beawmareis was a strong Fortresse if it had byn manned and victualled. *Ibid.*, There is a Castell..builded on a rocke, very strong by situation. *Ibid.* 509 The king was in Wales, which was a Countrey strong by reason of the Mountaines. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* XI. 655 Others to a Citie strong Lay Siege. 1673 TEMPLE *Observ. United Prov.* i. 44 This Countrey we strong by its nature and seat among the Waters that encompass and divide it. 1675–7 WARWICK *Mem. Chas. I* (1701) 233 Prince Rupert..found a strong house on the road ..well mann'd, which gave him some short stop, before he clear'd it. 1711 SWIFT *Cond. Allies* 72 France was to deliver up several of their strongest Towns in a Month. 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* xli, The situation of Udolpho rendered it too strong to be taken by open force. 1831 SCOTT *Ct. Robt.* xxiv, [They] were gradually assembled, and placed in occupation of the strongest parts of the city. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* III. i. i, Longwi, our first strong-place on the borders, is fallen. *a* 1868 LD. BROUGHAM (Ogilvie), The hilly or strong country extended in those parts to no great distance from the towns. 1892 LADY F. VERNEY *Verney Mem.* I. 113 The king's position on the high ground was extremely strong.

in fig. context. 1638 CHILLINGWORTH *Relig. Prot.* I. Concl. 411 Which by so weak a Champion can overcome such an Achilles for error even in his strongest holds. 1823 SCOTT *Quentin D.* Introd., A subject which was strong ground to the Marquis.

b. Of a place of confinement, receptacle for valuables and the like: Difficult to escape from or break into. See also STRONG-BOX, STRONG ROOM.

c 1250 *Owl & Night.* 1082 He hire bilek in one bure þat hire was stronge & sure. *c* 1290 *Beket* 431 in *S. Eng. Leg.* 119 And he him sente word a-ȝen þat he scholde..sethþe don him in strongue warde. 1436 *Rolls of Parlt.* IV. 498/1 Putte hir in a stronge chaumbre. 1508 DUNBAR *Flyting* 151

Ane thowsand kiddis, wer thay in faldis full strang. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* II. 434 Our prison strong. 1819 SHELLEY *Cenci* I. i. 115, I rarely kill the body, which preserves, Like a strong prison, the soul within my power. 1837 DICKENS *Pickw.* xxxiii, They could hear the shouts of the populace, who were witnessing the removal of the reverend Mr. Stiggins to strong lodgings for the night.

9. Of material things: Capable of supporting strain or withstanding force, whether by cohesion of substance or by thickness; not easily broken, torn, injured, or forced out of shape; solidly made, massive, stout.

c 1000 *Ags. Ps.* (Th.) cxl. 8 [cxli. 6] Æt strangum stane [Vulg. *juxta petram*]. *c* 1205 LAY. 1567 [He]igrap of onnes monnes honde ana wiæx swiðe stronge. *Ibid.* 12424 Heo bi-gunnen feorlic ane swiðe deope dich &..ænne strongne stanene wal. *c* 1250 *Owl & Night.* 269 Ich habbe bile stif & strong & gode cleures scharp & longe. *a* 1300 [see STRENGER]. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xii. (*Matthias*) 278 [He] went furtht & hyme-self can hynge with a cord bath styth & strange. *c* 1400 *Rom. Rose* 1726 He streight up to his ere drough The strenge bowe. 1562 WINJET *Last Blast* Wks. (S. T. S.) I. 37 Strang chenis of irne. 1590 *Cobler Canterb.* 3 His limbs well set withall, Of a strong bone. 1588 KYD *Househ. Philos.* Wks. (1901) 240 Swifter then which [river] neuer ranne arrowe fro forth the strongest bow of Parthia. 1590 SIR J. SMYTHE *Disc. Conc. Weapons* 3 b, Strong short arming Swords. 1600 SHAKS. *Sonn.* lxv, When rocks impregnable are not so stoute, Nor gates of steele so strong but time decayes? 1613 — *Hen. VIII*, v. iv. 8 Fetch me a dozen Crab-tree staues, and strong ones. 1697 DRYDEN *Æneis* II. 659 Himself..with his Axe repeated Stroaks bestows On the strong Doors. 1707 MORTIMER *Husb.* 46 They use large round rowls which are stuck with strong Oaken pins. 1728 POPE *Dunc.* I. 150 There Caxton slept, with Wynkyn at his side, One clasp'd in wood, and one in strong cow-hide. 1765 *Museum Rust.* IV. 330 It hath been said that an elliptic is not equally strong as a semicircular arch. 1829 T. CASTLE *Introd. Bot.* 184 Plants ..whose fruit is covered with a strong rind or hard woody shell. 1834 MCMURTRIE *Cuvier's Anim. Kingd.* 57 Their hands are widened, armed with strong nails fitted to excavate the earth. 1861 PATTISON *Ess.* (1889) I. 44 Strong outer walls for defence were discarded. 1892 *Photogr. Ann.* II. 497 Sheets of strong blotting paper.

absol. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 24 The hebie meynd was with the stronge, So myhte it wel noght stonde longe.

b. *fig.* and in fig. context.

c 1400 *Rule St. Benet* Prol. 1 þe ryght strang & doghty armur of obedience. 1605 SHAKS. *Lear* IV. vi. 170 Plate sinne [*conj. Theobald*; *Fo.* Place sinnes; *Qo.* omits] with Gold, and the strong Lance of Iustice, hurtlesse breakes. 1712 POPE *Ep. Miss Blount* 67 This binds in ties more easy, yet more strong, The willing heart. 1818 SHELLEY *Julian* 181 How strong the chains are which our spirit bind. 1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* xxvii, Doubting..whether Amy's hopes..rested on any thing stronger than a blinded attachment to Varney.

c. Of soil: Firm, tenacious, compact. Also, see quot. 1856.

c 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* I. 134 Ðeos wyrt..bið cenned on fæstum landum & on strangum. 1591 G. CLAYTON *Mart. Discipl.* 45 Aduertising..that the Pikemen..doe holde the great ende of their pikes fastned harde in stronge earth, to the ende the Pike may haue the greater force. 1721 MORTIMER *Husb.* (ed. 5) I. 87 Peat-Marle or Delving-Marle, which is close, strong, and very fat. 1764 *Museum Rust.* IV. 31 Seemingly-opposite soils, viz. one set, shallow, light, gravelly; and the other, deep, strong, and rich. 1837 YOUATT *Sheep* xv. 498 Many a grazier has sustained considerable loss from having lambed his ewes thinly on strong land. 1842 LOUDON *Suburban Hort.* 54 Where a strong clayey soil is covered with a healthy vegetation. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* iii. I. 314 The wheat, which was then cultivated only on the strongest clay. 1856 MORTON *Cycl. Agric.* II. 726/1 *Strong* land, in Devons., is not clayey, but *rich*.

d. Of food: Solid, hard of digestion.

1526 TINDALE *Heb.* v. 12 Ye..are become soche as have nede off mylke, and not of stronge meate [Gr. στερεᾶς τροφῆς]. 1711 SWIFT *Jrnl. to Stella* 21 Apr., I ate but little to-day, and of the gentlest meat. I refused ham and pigeons, because they were too strong. 1836 A. COMBE *Physiol. Digestion* (ed. 2) 276 Instead..of oppressing a weakened stomach by administering stronger food than it has the power of digesting.

e. Of moulding-sand: See quot. 1888.

1843 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* I. 332 A small portion of the strong facing-sand is rubbed through a fine sieve. 1888 *Lockwood's Dict. Mech. Engin., Strong Sand*, tenacious sandry sand, containing a large proportion of loam and horse dung.

f. *Mining.* (*a*) Of a vein: Thick, massive. (*b*) See quots. 1883, 1886.

1839 MURCHISON *Silur. Syst.* I. xiv. 177 In the same tract are strong courses of very pure concretionary limestone. 1877 RAYMOND *Statist. Mines & Mining* 159 The vein is very strong, and carries a very large proportion of quartz. 1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-mining* 245 *Strong*, a word having reference to the character of a bind or metal, meaning that the argillaceous is largely mixed with the arenaceous or siliceous material. 1886 J. BARROWMAN *Sc. Mining Terms* 65 *Strong*, hard; not easily broken, *e.g.*, *strong coal*.

g. *Iron-founding.* (See quot. 1888.)

1868 JOYNSON *Metals* 42 Mr. Glynn names [as the best mixture] one-third strong iron from South Wales, and two-thirds of the more fluid metal. 1888 *Lockwood's Dict. Mech. Engin., Strong Iron*, applied usually to mixtures of iron of various brands, together with scrap iron,..by which a definite grade of strength or toughness is obtained.

h. Of hair: Thick in fibre, coarse; stiff.

1726 SWIFT *Gulliver* II. vi. 103 Through these Holes I wove the strongest Hairs I could pick out. 1813 PRICHARD *Phys. Hist. Man* vi. § 6. 310 Their hair is strong, of a shining black.

i. Of wool: Broad-haired or coarse-fibred; the opposite of *fine*. Also *Austral.*, of sheep, having such wool (W. 1911).

1885 F. H. BOWMAN *Struct. Wool Fibre* 219 If..the fleece was of a superior quality, such as a fine Kent selected for quality, it would make 'fine' matching..If, however, the fleece was a strong Lincoln or Gloucester, it would probably only be classed as 'neat' matching. 1886 *Colonial & Ind. Exhib., Catal. Exhibits N. S. Wales* (ed. 2) 20 Wool..Strong combing.

j. *Carpentry.* Of deals: see quot.

1843 *Civil Engin. & Arch. Jrnl.* VI. 406/1 When the saw has..reduced them to small dimensions, they warp and twist like a piece of whalebone. Deals of this character are termed by carpenters 'strong'.

† k. *absol.* as *sb.* = FORTE *sb.* 2.

1692 SIR W. HOPE *Fencing Master* 3 The Strong, Fort, or Prime of the Blade is Measured from the Shell..to the middle of the Blade.

10. Powerful in operative effect. **a.** of a medicine, food or drink, poison, chemical reagent, etc.

c 897 ÆLFRED *Gregory's Past. C.* lxi. 455 Ongean swelce mettrymnesse mon beðorfte stronges læcedomes. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Pard. T.* 539 This poyson is so strong and violent. *c* 1400 *Rule St. Benet* 1607 Wyne þat es myghty and strang. 1580 T. NEWTON *Approved Medicines* 67 That kynde [of water-lily] which hath the white roote is more stronger. 1593 SHAKS. 2 *Hen. VI*, III. iii. 18 Giue me some drinke, and bid the Apothecarie Bring the strong poyson that I bought of him. 1626 BACON *Sylva* § 45 Scotch Skinck, (which is a Pottage of strong Nourishment). 1697 DRYDEN *Æneis* Ded. (a) 2 b, Acute Distempers require Medicines of a strong and speedy operation. 1825 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 667 The seeds..are sown upon a strong hotbed. 1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* v, I hate him like strong poison. 1843 R. J. GRAVES *Syst. Clin. Med.* xx. 233, I often diminish supersecretion from the lung by strong hydragogue cathartics. 1876 ABNEY *Instr. Photogr.* (ed. 3) 38 Always have a weak and a strong developer in the field. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 515 The above list gives them [i. e. astringent external applications] in order of their efficacy—from the weakest to the strongest.

b. of a mechanical agent.

1655 STANLEY *Hist. Philos.* II. (1687) 65/1 The Stars are impelled by the condensation of the Air about the Poles, which the Sun makes more strong by compressing. 1675 J. S[MITH] *Horolog. Dial.* 78 The spring is always strongest when first wound up. 1680 MOXON *Mech. Exerc.* x. 185 If the Pole prove too strong for their..Work, they will weaken it by cutting away part of the substance. 1824 COL. HAWKER *Instr. Yng. Sportsm.* (ed. 3) 42 The solid cock..will admit of mainsprings as strong as you please.

c. Of a lens: Having great magnifying power.

1887 *Proc. Zool. Soc.* 80 The punctuation much more distinctly visible anteriorly than posteriorly, where only traces of it can be seen under a strong lens.

11. Severe, burdensome, oppressive. **† a.** Of laws, punishments, suffering, condition of life, etc.: Hard to bear, rigorous, grievous. *Strong death*: a violent or cruel death. *Obs.*

c 893 ÆLFRED *Oros.* v. xii. § 9 Ealle þa gesetnessa þe þær to stronge wæron & to hearde he hie ealle gedyde leohtran & liþran. 971 *Blickling Hom.* 79 Wæs þæt wite swa strang, swa Godes gepeld ær mycel wæs. *a* 1154 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1124, Se man þe æni god heafde him me hit beræfode mid strange geoldes & mid strange motes. *c* 1205 LAY. 5271 For heom comen stronge tidinge from Belin þon Kinge. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 362 Uolk to-limed & to-toren mid stronge liflode & mid herde. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 1811 Cristen men þat he vond to stronge deþ he brogte. *Ibid.* 2933 Hii smite harde & made moni an strange wounde. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 3416 Wit-outen child his wijf was lang, And þat thoght ysaac ful strang. *c* 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 3321 Strong hit were for oure cite To be destruyed, & al þe contre. *c* 1400 *Brut* iii. (1906) 45 No man was so hardy for-to nempne God; & ho þat dede, anon he was put to strong deth. *a* 1450 *Le Morte Arth.* 1875 To bedde durste I ne nost dight, For drede ye hade som Aunter stronge. *c* 1450 *Mirk's Festial* 33 He..told of..the paynes of hell, how strong and how horrybly þay wern. *c* 1485 *Digby Myst., Mary Magd.* 1002 Yt ys In-tollerabyll to se or to tell, for ony creature, þat stronkg tourmentry. 1535 COVERDALE 2 *Kings* xxv. 3 On yᵉ nyenth daye of the fourth moneth was the honger so stronge in the cite, that the people of the londe had nothinge to eate. 1567 *Gude & Godlie Ball.* 44 He said, I thrist, with all my micht, To saif mankynde fra panis strang. 1592 SHAKS. *Rom. & Jul.* III. i. 195 But Ile Amerce you with so strong a fine, That you shall all repent the losse of mine.

† b. Of a storm, the weather, cold, etc.: Severe.

c 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* I. 326 Ðonne ne sceþþeð þe ne tunxol ne haxol ne strang storm. *a* 1122 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an. 1115, Þises geares wæs swa strang winter mid snawe & mid forste, swa nan man þe þa lifode ær þan nan strengre ne gemunde. *c* 1250 *Owl & Night.* 524 Hwenne nyhtes cumeþ longe & bryngeþ forstes starke & stronge. *c* 1400 MAUNDEV. (1839) xxvi. 266 So is it fulle of Dragounes,..that no man dar not passe, but 3if it be strong Wyntre. *c* 1400 *Emare* 665 Myȝth y onus gete lond, Of þe watur bat ys so stronge. *c* 1425 *Eng. Conq. Irel.* 66 In thys tyme was the weder so stronge, & the wynd so aweyward, that [etc.]. *c* 1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 1741 Þar felle a storme strange. 1671 T. HUNT *Abeced. Scholast.* 9 Let thy garments be long, When the cold is strong.

† c. Of a battle, fight, debate: Fierce, hotly contested. *Obs.*

c 900 *Bæda's Hist.* I. ix. (1890) 46 Wæs þis gefeoht wæl-grimre & strengre eallum þam ærȝedonum. *c* 1205 LAY. 173 Wið Eneam he nom an feiht þæt wes feondliche strong. *c* 1250 *Owl & Night.* 5 þat playd wes stif & starc & strong. *c* 1400 *Brut* cvj. 107 And þat batayle was wonder strong, for meny a man was þere slayn. *a* 1450 *Le Morte Arth.* 1583 Saugh nevir no man A stronger fyght. 1553 PAYNELL tr. *Dares Phryg. Destr. Troy* F v b, The whiche caused the war to be a great deale yᵉ stronger & greater. 1613 [HAYWARD] *Lives 3 Norman Kings* 8 Hee was ouerthrowne in a strong battaile.

d. of disease: Severe. *Strong apoplexy* = mod.L. *apoplexia fortis* (Path.): the sanguineous as distinguished from the serous or 'weak' variety. Of convulsions, shuddering, palpitation: Violent.

c 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* II. 226 Oft strang fefer becymð on þa men þe þa adle habbað. 1389 in *Eng. Gilds* (1870) 30 No man schal ben excusyd of absence.., but it be for ye kynges seruice er for stronge sekenesse. 1595 SHAKS. *John* III. iv. 110 Before the curing of a strong disease Euen in the instant of repaire and health, The fit is strongest. 1754 RICHARDSON *Grandison* IV. 150 In that space, Lady Clementina's absences [= attacks of delirium] were stronger, but less frequent than before. 1815 SCOTT *Guy M.* lv, A strong shuddering convulsed his iron frame for an instant. 1820 J. COOKE *Treat. Nervous Dis.* I. i. 168 *note*, In the strong paroxysm, persons are said to lie entirely deprived of sensation and motion. *Ibid.* 169 In the perfect, or strong apoplexy, the respiration of the patient is generally much impeded. 1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* xl, Tressilian found himself, not without a strong palpitation of heart, in the presence of Elizabeth. 1825 — *Betrothed* xiv, [She] fell into a strong shuddering fit. 1901 ALLDRIDGE *Sherbro* xxvi. 296 After a couple of hours I was attacked by a strong fever.

† e. Of a crime, evil quality, etc.: Gross, flagrant. Of a malefactor: Flagrantly guilty. *Obs.*

c 1290 *Beket* 1229 in *S. Eng. Leg.* 141 So strong þeof nis non in engelonde. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 4426 Suilk es tresun of ille womman In werld es stranger funden nan. 13.. *K. Horn* 1280 (Harl.), þou..seydest ich wes traytour strong. *a* 1400 *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* xxxviii. 309 A þral..þat for his gult strong and gret Wip his lord was so I-vet. *c* 1400 *Laud Troy Bk.* 18638 And thus was Troye dryuen doun And y-lore thorow strong tresoun. *c* 1450 *Gesta Rom.* 390 She sayde, 'oute on the, stronge strompette!' *a* 1466 GREGORY *Chron.* in *Hist. Coll. Cit. Lond.* (Camden) 163 And that same yere there was a stronge thefe that was namyu Bolton was drawe, hanggyd, and i-quarteryde. 1518 *Sel. Cases Star Chamber* (Selden Soc.) II. 137 John Powre..pykyd a quarell to hym..and Callyd hym strong thefe and extorcyoner. 1575 *Gammer Gurton* III. iii. 35 Where is the strong stued hore? 1593 SHAKS. 2 *Hen. VI*, IV. i. 108 Bargulus the strong Illyrian Pyrate. 1593 — *Rich. II*, v. iii. 59 Oh heinous, strong, and bold Conspiracie. 1818 CRUISE *Digest* (ed. 2) VI. 554 When the abuse is so strong, gross, and complete, that every man of common sense, to whom it was stated, must exclaim against it.

f. Of a course of action, a 'measure': Extreme, high-handed.

1838 ARNOLD *Hist. Rome* I. xvi. 320 The Roman constitution of 306 was as short-lived..as some of the strongest measures of the long parliament. 1885 *Law Times' Rep.* LIII. 524/2, I think it would be rather a strong measure for me to decide now contrary to the authorities as there stated.

g. *colloq.* Of a payment, a charge: Heavy, 'stiff.'

1669 R. MONTAGU in *Buccleuch MSS.* (Hist. MSS. Comm.) I. 459 Five hundred is a very strong pension as things stand in our Court. 1838 THACKERAY *Yellowplush* i. (1865) 8 Fourteen shillings a wick was a *little* too strong for two such ratholes as he lived in.

† 12. Requiring great effort, arduous, difficult: chiefly const. *inf.* *Obs.*

c 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 81 Þes ilke Mon is strong to sermonen. *c* 1200 *Ormin* 6326 & tatt iss swiþe strang & harrd To forþenn her onn eorþe. 12.. *Moral Ode* 312 (Egerton MS.) in *O. E. Hom.* I. 179 It is strong to stonde longe, and liht it is to falle. *a* 1250 *Prov. Alfred* 145 Strong hit is to reowe a-yeyn þe séé þat floweþ. 1338 R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (1725) 240 In Wales it is fulle strong to werre in Wynter tide. 1422 YONGE tr. *Secreta Secret.* 216 Stronge is to fynde and know condycones and good vertues and maneris of Pepil wythout longe Prewe. 1430-40 LYDG. *Daunce of Machalree* in *Bochas* etc. (1554) 222 b, By many an hyll and many a strong vale I haue trauailed with many marchandise. 1474 CAXTON *Chesse* II. iv. (1883) 49 Ther is no thynge so stronge as for to mayntene lowe vnto the deth.

† b. Of country: Thickly covered with undergrowth. *Obs.*

c 1400 *Master of Game* (MS. Digby 182) xxx, Eke in þe tyme þat þe heedes of þe hertes beth tendre..ei abyde amonge clere speyes and in hye wodes, for stronge cuntre shulde per auenture do hem harme to hir hedes.

13. Of movements or conditions: Intense.

a. Of a current of air or water, a wind, tide, stream: Having force of movement.

Strong breeze, gale (naut.): see quot. 1867.

c 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Matt. xiv. 30 Fesæh ec wind strong [L. *ventum validum*], ondreard. 1388 WYCLIF *Exod.* x. 19 The Lord..made a moost strong wynd to blowe fro the west. *a* 1420 *Anturs of Arth.* v, By þe stremys so strange, þat swyftly swoghes. *c* 1620 A. HUME *Brit. Tongue* I. v, Nether daer I, with al the oares of reason, row against so strang a tyde. 1697 DRYDEN *Æneis* v. 251 As when you stem'd the strong Malæan Flood. 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* xliv, The wind was strong, and the baron watched his lamp with anxiety. 1807 WORDSW. *Force of Prayer* 30 The river was strong, and the rocks were steep. 1841 DICKENS *Barn. Rudge* lviii, A stone-floored room, where there was..a strong thorough draft of air. 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xviii. IV. 239 At eight the next morning the tide came back strong. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk., Strong Breeze*, that which reduces a ship to double-reefed topsails, jib, and spanker. *Ibid., Strong Gale*, that strength of wind under which close-reefed topsails and storm-staysails are usually carried when close-hauled. 1913 M. ROBERTS *Salt of the Sea* x. 234 We ran on and on, faster and faster yet—for the tide was under her stronger and stronger, every minute.

transf. 1754 GRAY *Progr. Poesy* 8 Now the rich stream of music winds along Deep, majestic, smooth, and strong.

b. of the pulse, respiration.

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* xxiv. (1495) 72 Strenger hete [in man] makyth stronger pulse. 1624 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* I. iii. II. ii. (ed. 2).176 Short breath, hard winde, strange [1632 strong] pulse. 1785 COWPER *Task* IV. 348 While ev'ry breath, by respiration strong Forc'd downward, is consolidated soon Upon their jutting chests. 1876 BRISTOWE *Th. & Pract. Med.* (1878) 493 The pulse may be strong or weak, or in other words hard or soft. The former resists compression by the finger, the latter is easily obliterated by it.

c. Of fire, heat, an internal process, etc.: Intense, energetic, vigorously active.

c 1290 *St. Christopher* 191 in *S. Eng. Leg.* 277 He let don þat oþur in strong fuyr. 1398 [see b]. 1608 Shaks. *Per.* I. ii. 41 A sparke, To which that sparke giues heate, and stronger Glowing. *a* 1626 Bacon *New Atl.* 37 A Weake Heate of the Stomach will turne them into good Chylus; As well as a Strong Heate would Meate otherwise prepared. 1666 Boyle *Orig. Forms & Qual.* 172 If, for instance, you expose a Sphære or Bullet of Lead to a strong fire, it will [etc.]. 1765 *Museum Rust.* IV. 405 Red Colour for the use of Enamel Painters, which will bear repeated and sufficiently strong fires without change. 1826 *Art of Brewing* (ed. 2) 60 By attenuating lower in summer, the beer does become..disposed to fretting and staleness—the result of too strong a fermentation. 1857 Miller *Elem. Chem., Org.* 144 By a stronger heat they are decomposed. 1874 W. Gregor *Echo Olden Time N. Scot.* 111 If it [*sc.* the wort] fermented strongly, or, as it was expressed, if it was strong on the barm.

d. Of the voice, a sound: Powerful, loud and firm.

a 1000 *Cædmon's Gen.* 525 (Gr.) Þonne ic sizedrihten, mihtigne god mæðlan gehyrde strangre stemne. 14.. *Tundale's Vis.* 1145 He herde a strong dynne of ponder. 1422 Yonge tr. *Secreta Secr.* 231 And a grete hey and stronge voice tokenyth a stronge and an hardy man. 1594 Hooker *Eccl. Pol.* IV. iv. § 1 The eares of the people they haue therfore filled with strong clamour. 1764 in *Reliquary* (1860) I. 63 A Clergyman..whose voice is strong, and pronunciation distinct. 1788 Cowper *Dog & Water-lily* 25 But with a chirrup [to the dog] clear and strong,..I thence withdrew. 1830 Dubourg *Violin* ix. (1878) 273 His violoncellos..are of the finest quality of tone—not so strong and fiery as old Forster's, but, sweetness and purity excelling them. 1908 R. Bagot *A. Cuthbert* xxviii. 373 Her voice rang out clear and strong.

† e. Of sleep: Deep, sound. *Obs. rare.*

c 1489 Caxton *Sonnes of Aymon* xvi. 370 They beganne all to fall in a stronge slepe.

† f. Of a magnitude: Great, unusual. *Obs.*

c 1400 *Destr. Troy* 1574 The Stretis were streght & of a stronge brede.

g. Of illumination, light, shadow, colour: Vivid, intense.

1658 W. Sanderson *Graphice* 66 In what places, you will have those strong and high lights, and reflections to fall. 1665 *Phil. Trans.* I. 122 The Shaddows..seem to be stronger. 1704 Newton *Optics* I. II. v. (1721) 130 We are not to expect a strong and full white, such as is that of Paper, but some dusky obscure one. 1781 Cowper *Convers.* 331 The southern sash admits too strong a light. 1794 Mrs. Radcliffe *Myst. Udolpho* xxxiii, The strong rays [of moonlight] enabled her also to perceive the ravages which the siege had made. 1815 J. Smith *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 724 All strong lights must be relieved by deep shades. 1820 Belzoni *Egypt & Nubia* III. 328 They [the fish] were of a strong blue silvered colour. 1831 Brewster *Nat. Magic* viii. (1832) 195 Two strong lights may be made to produce darkness! 1885 *Athenæum* 23 May 669/1 A foreground of whitish sun-blanched clay reflects the strong sunglæam falling there.

fig. 1711 Swift *Examiner* No. 39 P9 The Shame of having their Crimes expos'd to open View in the strongest Colours. 1769 Robertson *Chas. V*, IV. Wks. 1851 III. 573 He painted, in the strongest colours, the emperor's want of discernment. 1833 J. Rush *Philos. Hum. Voice* xxxi. (ed. 2) 240 And this may serve to set the power of intonation in the strongest light.

h. Of effort, movement, pressure, etc.: Forcible.

1827 Faraday *Chem. Manip.* xix. (1842) 533 It is better to make it [*sc.* the pressure] rather stronger when the glass is returned, than when drawn towards the body. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* I. v. i, You cannot without strong elbowing get to the counter. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 19 An architect ..putting in the details of a design by means of strong pressure with a hard pencil.

i. Of feeling, conviction, belief: Intense, fervid. Of party views or principles: Uncompromising, thoroughgoing.

c 1200 *Ormin* 14461 Forr defless þewwess hafenn a33 Strang nip 3æn Cristess þewwess. 1590 Spenser *F. Q.* II. ii. 28 But her two other sisters..both their champions bad Pursew the end of their strong enmity. 1600 Shaks. *A. Y. L.* I. iii. 28 Is it possible on such a sodaine, you should fall into so strong a liking with old Sir Roulands yongest sonne? 1610 — *Temp.* II. i. 208 My strong imagination see's a Crowne Dropping vpon thy head. 1667 Milton *P. L.* IX. 492 Hate stronger, under shew of Love well feign'd. 1794 Mrs. Radcliffe *Myst. Udolpho* xxxiii, That there should be light in this chamber, and at this hour, excited her strong surprise. 1839 Thackeray *Fatal Boots* Mar., The desire for the boots was so strong, that have them I must at any rate. 1849 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* vii. II. 200 A strong sense of duty. 1850 *Athenæum* 7 Dec. 1282/1 We confess to a strong interest..in the proposed change. 1881 Morley *Cobden* xxix. II. 243 M. Rouher, who was then Minister of Commerce, professed strong Free-trade views. 1902 'Violet Jacob' *Sheep-Stealers* xii, The sheep-stealer too was at all times a taciturn man with deep prejudices and strong loves and hates.

j. Of a person: Firmly convinced, decided in opinion; *colloq.* laying great stress *on* something. Often qualifying a party designation: Zealous, uncompromising, thoroughgoing.

1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 276 In all maters stronge in theyr owne opinion. 1598 Shaks. *Merry W.* IV. vi. 27 Her Mother, (euen strong against that match And firme for Doctor Caius). 1599 Marston *Ant. & Mel.* v, I was mightie strong in thought we should have shut up night with an olde comedie. 1625 Bacon *Ess., Of Counsel* (Arb.) 329 In choice of Committees for ripening Businesse, for the Counsell, it is better to choose Indifferent persons, then to make an Indifferency, by putting in those, that are strong, on both sides. 1679 *Tryal R. Langhorn* 26, *L. C. J.* Is Anthony a Papist? *Mr. Bus.* Yes, a very strong Papist. 1711 Addison *Spect.* No. 126 P 8, I find however that the Knight is a much stronger Tory in the Country than in Town. 1855 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* xix. IV. 350 For Bohun was as strong a Tory as a conscientious man who had taken the oaths could possibly be. 1858 Sears *Athan.* III. iii. 274 The Essenes..were strong anti-materialists. 1882 Morley *Cobden* xxix. II. 255 The Emperor was strong for a commercial treaty with England. 1859 Mrs. Stowe *Minister's Wooing* xxx, 'Some folks say,' said Candace, 'that dreaming about white horses is a certain sign. Jinny Styles is very strong about that.' 1883 Mrs. E. Kennard *Right Sort* xxiv, I doubt very much if Mary, who is so strong on the proprieties, will consider you and Mr. McGrath sufficient chaperones.

k. Of a hold: Not easily dislodged, firm, tenacious. So *to take strong root.* Chiefly *fig.* (Cf. 9.)

1699 South *Serm.* (1727) IV. 517 Nothing has so strong and fast an Hold upon the Nature and Mind of Man, as that which delights it. 1821 Scott *Kenilw.* xxx, His friend's unusual finery had taken a strong hold of his imagination.

14. Having its specific property in a high degree.

† a. Of coin: Containing much precious metal.

1469 in *Archæologia* XV. 168 Whanne the seid money be founde atte the assaye..to stronge or to feble all only in weght or all only in allaye.

b. Of a liquor: Containing a large proportion of spirit or alcohol. See also Strong drink, Strong water 2.

To think strong beer of oneself: to have an unduly high opinion of oneself (*nonce-use*. Cf. Small beer 1 c).

c 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* I. 172 Syf þu þas wyrte sylst piceæn on strangon wine. 1530 Tindale *Answ. More* Pref., Wks. (1572) 248/2 Ale & bere of the strongest. 1598 Shaks. *Merry W.* III. v. 114 And then to be stopt in like a strong distillation with stinking Cloathes. 1618 *Owles Almanacke* 46 Small beere shall be for dyet-keepers, but strong twang shall proue as good as bagg-pudden. 1669 *Sir K. Digby's Closet opened* 126 To twenty Gallons of the Strong-wort he puts eight or ten pound..of honey. 1671 Milton *Samson* 553-4 O madness, to think use of strongest wines And strongest drinks our chief support of health. 1707 Mortimer *Husb.* 567 Which quantity will make a Barrel of Strong-Beer, and a Barrel and a half of Ale, and one Hogshead and half of Small-Beer. 1762 Bickerstaff *Love in Village* III. ix, I tipsey brother?—I—that never touch a drop of any thing strong from year's end to year's end. 1837 Southey *Doctor* IV. Interch. xvi. 382, I am more inclined, as my Master insinuates, to think Strong Beer of myself. 1843 Pereira *Food & Diet* 422 Wines which contain a comparatively small quantity of it [*sc.* alcohol] are denominated light wines;..while those which are rich in it are termed strong or generous wines.

c. Of an infusion, solution, etc.: Having a large preponderance of the solid ingredient or of the flavouring element; having little dilution.

1716 Pope *Basset-table* 108 The Tea's too strong. 1721 Ramsay *Prospect of Plenty* 161 They'll..stow them [herrings] wi' strang brine. *a* 1777 in *Jrnl. Friends' Hist. Soc.* (1904) Oct., 187 To these 2 Quarts of strong Jelly you may put a Pinte of Rhenish. 1827 Faraday *Chem. Manip.* xxiv. (1842) 611 Put two ounces of acetate of potassa into a retort, with its weight of strong sulphuric acid. 1866 Reade *Griffith Gaunt* II. xii. 195 Make him soup as strong as strong. 1873 T. H. Green *Introd. Pathol.* (ed. 2) 351 A drop of strong glycerine. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VII. 583 Antral and attic cavities washed out with strong antiseptic solution.

d. *Strong of*: largely or greatly impregnated or flavoured with.

1617 Moryson *Itin.* I. 26 These waters are so strong of brimstone, as the very smoake warmeth them that come neere. 1709 T. Robinson *Nat. Hist. Westmld. & Cumbld.* vii. 44 Upon the inside of this Fell, breaks out a Chalybiate Water, very strong of the Mineral. 1769 Mrs. Raffald *Eng. Housekpr.* (1778) 225 When the water is strong of the apple, add to it the juice of a lemon. 1846 Dickens *Pict. fr. Italy* 49 German sausages, strong of garlick. 1861 Ramsay *Remin.* Ser. II. 124 'Oh, vera good, mem; it's just some strong o' the apple' (a common country expression for beer which is rather tart or sharp).

fig. 1901 A. Hope *Tristram of Blent* xxvi. 356 This situation was deliciously strong of the Tristrams.

e. Of a semi-liquid substance: Stiff, viscid.

1683 Moxon *Mech. Exerc., Printing* xxiv. P 11 If it be small Letter.., the Inck must be Strong..: But if it be great Letter.., he makes Soft Inck serve. 1761 *Phil. Trans.* LII. 150, I had it varnished over several times with strong varnish, or japan. 1839 Ure *Dict. Arts* 1266 (*Varnish*) Keep it boiling until it feels strong and stringy between the fingers.

f. Of flour (see quots.).

1844 H. Stephens *Bk. Farm* II. 349 When wheat is translucent..it is best suited to the common baker, as affording what is called *strong* flour; that is, flour that rises boldly with yeast into a spongy dough. 1905 *Westm. Gaz.* 16 Sept. 7/1 But the bakers want a 'strong' flour—one that holds more water and makes more bread.

15. Affecting the sense of taste or smell in a high degree.

a. Powerful in odour, strong-smelling; *spec.* having a powerful unpleasant smell. Also of an odour.

1340 Hampole *Pr. Conse.* 6692 And yhit þe fire þat bryn þam sal, Sal gyfe a st[r]ang stynk with-alle. *c* 1475 Henryson *Poems* III. (S.T.S.) 151 With reid nettill seid in strang wesche to steip. 1500-20 Dunbar *Poems* lix. 9 That fulle dismemberit hes my meter, And poysound it with strang salpeter. 1567 in H. Campbell *Love-lett. Q. Scots* App. (1824) 61 The longer the dirt is hidden, it is the stronger. 1607 Shaks. *Cor.* I. i. 61 They say poore Suters haue strong breaths. 1626 Bacon *Sylva* § 835 For those kinde of Smells, that we haue mentioned, are all Strong, and doe Pull and Vellicate the Sense. 1664 Butler *Hud.* II. i. 755 Which makes him have so strong a breath, Each night he stinks a Queen to death. 1728 Pope *Dunc.* II. 105 [He] from th' effluvia [of ordure] strong Imbibes new life. 1882 Flower *Unexpl. Baluchistan* 151 Bushire..contains more filth and strong smells in proportion to its size than any other town.

b. Powerful in flavour or taste; strong-tasting; rank. Also of a flavour or taste.

c 1000 *Sax. Leechd.* I. 310 Þa [leaf] syndon stranges swæces. 1599 Massinger, etc. *Old Law* II. i, Tis like a cheese too strong of the Runnet. 1644 Digby *Nat. Bodies* xvii. § 5. 149 They thought that paines well recompenced, by finding it in the tast to grow stronger and stronger. 1659 Howell *Lex. Tetragl., Eng. Prov.*, As strong as Mustard. 1719 London & Wise *Compl. Gard.* IV. 66 Its Pulp is very buttery,..and Taste agreeable; the only fault is, that 'tis a little strong towards the Core. 1830 Lyell *Princ. Geol.* I. 202 The water is hot, has a strong taste. 1837 Dickens *Pickw.* xxxii, The cheese went a great way, for it was very strong. 1893 R. Lydekker *Horns & Hoofs* 116 The flesh of other buck ibex is so strong as to be quite uneatable. 1908 R. Bagot *A. Cuthbert* vii. 65 Commercial travellers..smoking the strongest of black cigars.

16. Having a powerful effect on the mind or will.

a. Of motives, impulses, temptations, etc.: Powerful; adapted to prevail; hard to resist. Of passions: Capable of great intensity; hard to control.

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 32 Habbeð reoule of þeo þet beoth ine stronge temptaciuns. 1567 *Gude & Godlie Ball.* 66, I am compassit round about, With sore and strang temptatioun. 1600 Shaks. *A. Y. L.* II. vii. 118 Let gentlenesse my strong enforcement be. 1598 B. Jonson *Ev. Man in Hum.* II. iii, When such strong motives muster, and make head Against her single peace. 1667 Milton *P. L.* IX. 934 Inducement strong To us, as likely tasting to attaine Proportional ascent. *Ibid.* X. 265 Goe whither Fate and inclination strong Leads thee. 1692 Atterbury *Serm.* (1726) I. 13 By the Means of our Will, and that strong Bent towards Gratitude which the Author of our Nature hath implanted in it. 1779 *Mirror* No. 65 A man of warm affections and strong passions. 1815 Shelley *Alastor* 274 A strong impulse urged His steps to the sea-shore. 1823 F. Cl.issold *Ascent Mt. Blanc* 20, I felt a strong inclination to sleep. 1849 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* V. I. 662 Both were impelled by the strongest pressure of hope and fear to criminate him. 1891 M. Roberts *Land-travel & Sea-faring* 57 In truth the nomadic instinct was always strong in me.

b. Of argument, evidence, proof, etc.: Powerful to demonstrate or convince; hard to confute or overthrow.

c 1449 Pecock *Repr.* v. viii. 527 Confirmacioun in strengist maner to this argument may be this: That Holi Writt [etc.]. 1471 [see Strengest]. 1565 Shacklock tr. *Hosius* 8 b, Stronger obiections..then he was able to solute. 1601 Shaks. *All's Well* IV. ii. 59 My reasons are most strong. 1608 — *Per.* IV. ii. 38 Besides the sore tearmes we stand vpon with the gods, wilbe strong with vs for giuing ore. 1696 Vanbrugh *Relapse* II. i, You have many stronger Claims than that, Berinthia, whenever you think fit to plead your Title. 1742-3 *Johnson's Deb.* Wks. 1811 XIV. 390 Nor can any argument be offered for the present bill more strong than that. 1770 Luckombe *Hist. Printing* 13 The fact is strong, and..passes for certain evidence of the age of books. 1784 Sir J. Hawkins *Walton's Angler* (ed. 4) 107 *note*, The presumption therefore is very strong, that both were written by.. Christopher Harvey. 1831 Brewster *Nat. Magic* v. (1832) 104 The shadow of the pin falling in the direction A B is a stronger proof to the eye that the light is coming from the right hand. 1857 Miller *Elem. Chem., Org.* (1862) 236 A strong argument against the admission of the view that [etc.]. 1861 Paley *Æschylus* (ed. 2) *Supplices* 764 *note*, There is a strong probability that they are right. 1892 *Law Times' Rep.* LXVII. 251/2 The evidence as to this is too strong to be discarded.

c. Of a case: Well-supported by evidence or precedent.

1698 in Sir H. Dalrymple *Decis.* (1792) 8 Which quadrates with the present case, which is yet stronger than it. 1737 *Gentl. Mag.* VII. 297 The Case..mentioned in *Coke 4. Inst.* 228. is by no Means so strong. 1863 Cowden Clarke *Shaks. Char.* xvi. 391 Shakespeare has made out a strong case for Shylock. 1885 *Law Rep.* 15 Q. B. D. 320 This seems to me a much stronger case than *Heaven* v. *Pender*, where it was held that the defendant was liable.

17. Having legal force. † a. Of a document: Valid (*obs.*). b. Of dispositions, sanctions, etc.: Effectual.

c 1450 *Godstow Reg.* 145 Both partyes maade hit stronge by puttyng to þere seelys. 1544 tr. *Littleton's Tenures* III. v. 81 Yf he receyue the payment in any other place, thys is good ynoughe and as stronge for the feoffour, as yf [etc.]. 1593 Shaks. *Rich. II*, IV. i. 235 There should'st thou finde one heynous Article,..cracking the strong Warrant of an Oath. 1600 — *Sonn.* lviii, Be where you list, your charter is so strong, That you your selfe may priuiledge your time To what you will. 1741 *Cases Equity Time of Talbot* 181 The Nature of the Provision is strong enough for this Purpose, without any express Words. 1765 *Pet.* in *Walker* v. *Spence* 4 It would be quite inconsistent, that a right of hypothec should have stronger effects than a right of property. 1765 Blackstone *Comm.* Introd. § 2. I. 54 Neither do divine or natural duties..receive any stronger sanction from being also declared to be duties by the law of the land. 1838 Arnold *Hist. Rome* I. xvi. 316 The old laws for the security of personal liberty were confirmed afresh, and received a stronger sanction.

18. Vividly perceptible, marked, definite.

a. of mental impressions.

1697 Addison *Dryden's Virg. Georg.* Ess. PP 1, We receive more strong and lively Ideas of things from his words, than we cou'd have done from the Objects themselves. 1748 Melmoth *Fitzosborne Lett.* lvii. (1749) II. 84 While the impression of that national belief remained strong upon their minds. 1854 Surtees *Handley Cr.* xxxix. (1901) II. 21 'We can't do with less,' replied the lady, the eares of dinner strong upon her. 1894 J. T. Fowler *Adamnan* Introd. 56 The local traditions..are still very strong. 1897 P. Warung *Tales Old Regime* 139 The circumstances..are still strong in my recollection. 1902 'Violet Jacob' *Sheep-Stealers* xiv, 'Ah, I was younger then,' replied Harry, with all the wisdom of his twenty-five years strong upon him.

b. Of resemblance, contrast: Marked.

1796 Mrs. Inchbald *Nature & Art* xi. (1820) 26 A strong family resemblance appeared between the two youths. 1842 Borrow *Bible in Spain* xxxiv, Nothing could exhibit a stronger contrast to the desolate tracts..through which we

had lately passed, than [etc.]. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* IV. 1/2 It will not be necessary to describe any other lathes ..as there is a very strong family likeness amongst them. 1898 'MERRIMAN' *Roden's Corner* ix. 98 Von Holzen was in strong contrast to the two Englishmen.

c. Of national or dialectal pronunciation: Strongly-marked, broad.

1818 SCOTT *Hrt. Midl.* xxi, A tattered cadie..exclaimed in a strong north-country tone, 'Ta deil ding out her Cameronian een.' 1842 Sir T. MARTIN in *Fraser's Mag.* Dec. 654/1 A strong Banffshire accent. 1859 *Habits of Gd. Society* 64 The ballads of Moore may gain much from a strong Irish brogue, but [etc.]. 1890 CONAN DOYLE *White Company* xxiv, 'I come,' he shouted..., with a strong Breton accent.

†**d.** Of the features: Coarse, ugly. *Obs.*

1794 Mrs. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* I, Each was rendered more impressive by the grotesque habits and strong features of the guides and other attendants. 1817 J. EVANS *Excurs. Windsor*, etc. 48 Heidegger once laid a wager.. that..his lordship would not be able to produce so hideous a face in all London! A woman was found whose features, at first sight, were thought stronger than his.

e. Of a line: Broad, thick. Also, vivid in colour (cf. 13 g).

1731 *Art of Drawing & Paint.* 4 Then if the Print or Picture is done by a good Master, see which Lines are strong, and which are tender and soft: Imitate them. 1796 *Cavalry Instr.* Table, The strong Line denotes the Front. 1831 BREWSTER *Optics* x. 85 [Of Fraunhofer's lines] D is in the orange, and is a strong double line, easily seen..; E is in the green, and consists of several, the middle one being the strongest.

f. Of the outlines of an object in a landscape or picture: Bold, not faint. Also *fig.*

1818 SHELLEY *Julian & Maddalo* 106 The broad sun sunk behind it [a bell in a tower], and it tolled In strong and black relief. 1862 WHITTIER *Astræa at the Capitol* 63 On our ground of grief Rise day-by day in strong relief The prophecies of better things.

g. *Photogr.* Of a negative: Having marked contrast of light and shade; dense.

1892 A. BROTHERS *Photogr.* 80 Strong, intense negatives are best printed by daylight.

h. That is in a high degree what is indicated.

1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VII. 415 According as the individuals in whom the lesions specified occur are 'visuals', or strong 'auditives'.

19. Of language, an expression, a word: Emphatic; signifying or implying much; not moderate. *Strong language*: see LANGUAGE *sb.*[1] 3.

1697 DRYDEN *Æneis* Ded. (a) 4, The work of Tragedy is on the Passions, and in Dialogue, both of them abhor strong Metaphors, in which the Epopee delights. 1796 JANE AUSTEN *Pride & Prej.* xxiv, I must think your language too strong in speaking of both. 1836 W. IRVING *Astoria* III. 245 He expressed his indignation in the strongest terms. 1845 THACKERAY *Cornhill to Cairo* v. Wks. 1878 VII. 597 The shabbiness of this place [Greece] actually beats Ireland and that is a strong word. 1884 E. YATES *Recoll.* II. 330 Exercising my power, I struck out some strong expressions. 1900 CHAMBERLAIN in *Daily News* 24 Sept. 2/4 Scandalous is a strong word, but weak people always use the strongest words.

b. Of a protest, recommendation, etc.: Emphatic, strongly-worded, urgent.

1733 BUDGELL *Bee* No. 2. I. 71 The Prussian Minister made the strongest Instances in favour of these Officers, but to no Purpose. 1768 BOSWELL *Corsica* ii. (ed. 2) 94 The prince of Wirtemburg..sent an express to the emperour, with a very strong letter. 1830 ELLENBOROUGH *Diary* (1881) II. 372 Told Lord Cleveland I had transmitted his letter with a strong recommendation. 1844 H. H. WILSON *Brit. India* II. 15 Strong remonstrances were addressed to the Court of Khatmandu. 1912 *Times* 19 Oct. 8/2 Strong protests were made by several members against Mr. Harper's proposal.

20. Of literary or artistic work: Vigorous or forceful in style or execution.

1746 FRANCIS tr. *Horace, Art of Poetry* 422 Good Sense, that Fountain of the Muse's Art, Let the strong Page of Socrates impart. 1749 CHESTERF. *Let. to Son* 24 Nov., I should prefer moderate matter, adorned with all the beauties and elegancies of style, to the strongest matter in the world, ill-worded, and ill-delivered. 1822 *Q. Mus. Mag.* IV. 118 Mr. Horsley's [glee] is in his pure, strong, legitimate manner. 1905 *Daily Chron.* 16 Aug. 3/2 What the publishers call a 'strong' book. 1913 J. COLLIER in *19th Cent.* Mar. 603 He might have made a stronger picture, he could hardly have made a more beautiful one.

21. *Comm.* Of prices: Tending to steadiness or to a rise; not fluctuating or depressed.

1870 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 23 Sept. 9/2 The Home Funds are, if anything, rather stronger in tone. 1890 *Daily News* 6 Jan. 2/3 Coal is very strong in price. *Ibid.* 1 Sept. 2/5 Pig iron is strong at 43s. 6d. for cinder. 1895 *Ibid.* 14 Oct. 2/6 Producers have been stronger in their prices.

22. *Gram.* In various applications (opposed to *weak*). **a.** Of Teutonic sbs. and adjs., their inflexions, etc.: Belonging to any of those declensions in which the OTeut. stem ended otherwise than in *n*. **b.** Of Teut. verbs and their inflexions: Forming the pa. t. and pa. pple. by means of vowel-gradation in the root-syllable, as the Eng. *give, break*. Hence occas. used with reference to other Indo-Germanic langs., e.g. in *strong aorist*, applied in Gr. grammar to the 'second aorist' (ἔλιπον) in contradistinction to the 'weak' or sigmatic aorist (ἔλειψα). **c.** In Sanskrit grammar, applied to the unreduced form of noun-stems, and to those cases which are formed on the 'strong' stem.

In these uses *strong* and *weak* are translations of the G. *stark* and *schwach*, the grammatical senses of which are due to Jakob Grimm. The reason for the choice of these terms to denote the two classes of declension was prob. that in German the formal distinction of case is weakened in the *n* declensions by the disappearance of the original case-endings. (Some scholars, following the letter of Grimm's own definition, inconveniently restrict the term 'strong' to the vocalic stems, so that the stems ending in other consonants than *n* form a third class, neither 'strong' nor 'weak'.) The ablaut-verbs were designated as 'strong' because in them the form of the root sufficed to express past time without the adventitious aid of a tense-suffix.

a. 1841 LATHAM *Eng. Lang.* 58 In A. S...there is the Weak, or Simple Declension for words ending in a Vowel (as *Eage, Steorra, Tunga*), and the Strong, or Complex Declension for words ending in a Consonant (*Smið, Sprǽc, Leáf*).

b. 1841 LATHAM *Eng. Lang.* 277 The German Grammarians call the Tenses formed by a change of vowel, the Strong Tenses, the Strong Verbs, the Strong Conjugation, or the Strong Order. *Ibid.* 278 The Strong Præterites are formed from the Present by changing the vowel, as *sing, sang, speak, spoke*. 1872 EARLE *Philol. Eng. Tongue* § 274 There is a slow continual tendency in these strong verbs to merge themselves gradually into the more numerous class of the weak verbs.

c. 1863 BENFEY *Sansk. Gram.* § 220 There are some nouns which have a strong and a weak form...Some have even three, a strong, a weak, and a weakest form.

¶ Incorrect use.

1858–9 G. P. MARSH *Lect. Engl. Lang.* (1860) 335 The strong inflections, or those consisting in a letter-change, as present *run*, past *ran*, singular *man*, plural *men*.

23. *Phonetics* and *Prosody.* Of a syllable: Bearing stress or metrical ictus. Of a consonant-sound: Characterized by force of utterance. Also in *Music*, accented.

1795 J. BURNET (Ld. Monboddo) *Orig. & Progr. Lang.* III. iii. VI. 237 Emphasis, by which one word in a sentence is sounded much louder and stronger than the other words. 1852 *Proc. Philol. Soc.* V. 153 A compound verse, composed of two parts, in each of which two dactyls..were followed by a long syllable, that is, a foot catalectic on the strong syllable, was alternated with the ancient epic verse. 1856 FARIS EL-SHIDIAC *Pract. Gram Arabic* 3 ضد, The *true* sound of this letter must be learnt by the ear. It is like a strong *d*. 1869 OUSELEY *Counterp. Canon & Fugue* iii. 12 Every bar contains two beats, one down-beat, and one up-beat; or, as Cherubini and others name them, a strong or accented time, and a weak or unaccented time.

24. *Card-playing.* Of a player: Holding commanding cards (*in* a specified suit). Of a hand or suit: Composed of commanding cards. Of a card: Of high and commanding value.

1862 'CAVENDISH' *Whist* (1864) 59 It is conversely a disadvantage to trump a doubtful card when you are strong in trumps. 1864 W. POLE *Theory Whist* (1870) 18 A strong hand is difficult to define, further than as one likely to make many tricks; a weak one the contrary. *Ibid.* 34 It can only be warranted by very strong cards in all other suits. 1879 'CAVENDISH' *Card Ess.* 184 If I only live long enough, ..perhaps some day my strong suit will be trumps! 1900 J. DOE *Bridge Man.* 31 The Dealer should go No Trumps with two very strong suits, one other suit weakly guarded, and the fourth not guarded at all. *Ibid.* 32 If his Spades are fairly strong he should leave the declaration to his partner.

attrib. 1886 'CAVENDISH' *Whist* (ed. 16) App. 288 The original leader (a strong suit player), leads queen of a plain suit.

25. *Comb.* In parasynthetic adjs., as *strong-armed, -backed, -brained*, etc. See also STRONG-BREATHED, -HEADED, -MINDED,

?*a* 1366 CHAUCER *Rom. Rose* 944 [Arrows] stronge poynted euerychoon. *c* 1374 [see FAITHED *ppl. a.* 1]. 1412–20 LYDG. *Chron. Troy* I. 1252 A rial chef cite..Strong wallid & towred rounde aboute. *a* 1425 tr. *Arderne's Treat. Fistula* etc. 6 For that the pacient was strong herted, and suffrid wele sharp þingis. 1588 SHAKS. *L. L. L.* I. ii. 77 O well-knit Sampson, strong ioynted Sampson. 1592 — *Ven. & Ad.* 111 Strong-temperd steele his stronger strength obayed. 1656 COWLEY *Pindar. Odes, Plagues Egypt* xi, The houses and strong-body'ed Trees it broke. 1657 *Whole Duty Man* (1755) 194 These stronger-brained Drinkers. 1677 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1233/4 A bright bay Nag, very strong quartered. 1780 BURKE *Œcon. Reform.* Wks. III. 233 A man of a long-sighted and a strong-nerved humanity. 1785 BURNS *Addr. to Deil* iv, On the strong-wing'd Tempest flyin. 1822 LAMB *Elia* Ser. II. *Bks. & Reading*, To be strong-backed and neat-bound is the desideratum of a volume. 1858 HOMANS *Cycl. Comm.* 434/2 Fine, long, and strong-stapled cotton. 1863 TENNYSON *On Transl. Homer* I These lame hexameters the strong-wing'd music of Homer! 1868 RUSKIN *Pol. Econ. Art.* Addenda 200 A great deal may, indeed, be done..by a nation strong-elbowed and strong-hearted as we are. 1868 J. H. BLUNT *Ref. Ch. Eng.* I. 331 Then the stronger souled men betook themselves to preparation for violent deaths. 1899 LADY M. VERNEY *Verney Mem.* IV. 80 She came of a strong-willed family.

26. Special comb.: **strong-back** (*a*) (see quot. 1738); (*b*) *Naut.* (see quot. 1867); also, a spar across boat-davits, to which the boat is secured at sea (*Cent. Dict.* 1891); **strong bark**, a tree or shrub of the genus *Bourreria*, found in the West Indies and tropical America; **strong house** (*a*) a fortified house, a castle; (*b*) (see quot. 1797); **strong-like** *a. Sc.*, having an appearance of strength; **strong-man's-weed**, the plant *Petiveria alliacea*, found in the West Indies and used there for its stimulating and sudorific properties.

1738 *Phil. Trans.* XL. 350 *Pittoniæ similis* [*frutex*]. In the Bahama Islands it is called 'Strong-back; a Decoction of the Bark is used there to strengthen the Stomach, and restore the Appetite. 1863 A. YOUNG *Naut. Dict.* 397 *Strong-back*, for the Chain Cable. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk., Strong-back*, the same with Samson's post (which see). Also, an adaptation of a strong piece of wood over the windlass, to lift the turns of a chain-cable clear of it. 1864 GRISEBACH *Flora Brit. W. Ind.* 788/1 *Strong-bark. 1884 SARGENT *Rep. Forests N. Amer.* 114 *Bourreria Havanensis*...Strong Bark. 1649–50 CROMWELL *Let.* 15 Feb. in *Carlyle*, From thence I marched to a *Strong-house belonging to Sir Richard Everard. 1797 B. S. BARTON *New Views Orig. Tribes Amer.* p. xxxviii, The Senecas, Mohawks, Onondagos, Cayugas, and Oneidas, constitute the confederacy which has long been known by the name of the Five Nations. This confederacy, or compact, is called by the Indians themselves the Strong-House. 1875 W. MCILWRAITH *Guide Wigtownshire* 104 A strong-house was built here at an early date. 1782 J. BROWN *Nat. & Revealed Relig.* II. i. 139 He..doth accomplish those promises..which he had the *strongest-like reasons to shift. 1789 J. WILLIAMS *Min. Kingd.* I. 420 Some of these are dull and strong like. 1864 GRISEBACH *Flora Brit. W. Ind.* 788/1 *Strong-man's-weed.

Strong (strɒŋ), *adv.* Forms: 1, 4 **strange**, 1–5 **stronge**, 4– *north.* and *Sc.* **strang**, 4– **strong**. [OE. *strange, stronge* = OHG. *strango*: see STRONG *a.*]

1. Qualifying a verb or predication: = STRONGLY *adv. Obs.* exc. as in b, c. †*More stronger*: = A FORTIORI.

c 900 *Bæda's Hist.* I. xxvii. (1890) 68 Þeah ðe hæt wiite hwene heardor & strongor don sy. *a* 1000 *Boeth. Metr.* vi. 15 Heo strange geordstyred on staðu beateð. *a* 1250 *Owl & Night.* 254 Þeos vle..wes of teoned swiþe stronge. *a* 1300 *K. Horn* 304 (Camb.) Wel longe Ihc habbe þe liued stronge. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 24100 On mi sorou mai be nan end, It stikes me sua strang. 13..*K. Alis.* 1609 (Laud MS.) Þe fote men & þai on hors Trauaileden stronge her cors. *c* 1400 *Gamelyn* 397 Gamelyn þat stood y-bounde stronge. *c* 1425 *Seven Sag.* (P.) 197 This house that is so strange dyȝt. *c* 1489 CAXTON *Sonnes of Aymon* iii. 86 Soo stronge he spored his horse, that he wente ayenste Reynawde. 1532 *St. German's Dial. Laws Eng.* II. xxviii. 61 b, I suppose.. that more stronger he maye appoyntte at what age suche wylles as be made shalbe perfourmed. 1570 *Sat. Poems Reform.* xviii. 63 His Father [ye] wyrreit strang. 1641 J. JACKSON *True Evang. T.* II. 98 The more weary [the Oxe] is, the more strong doth he fixe his footings. 1679 MOXON *Mech. Exerc.* ix. 160 The stronger it is forced in, the faster the Hook sticks. 1697 DRYDEN *Æneis* XI. 1249 The Bow-string touch'd her Breast, so strong she drew. 1705 H. BLACKWELL *Engl. Fencing-Master* 34 If that Thrust be made at you, parry strong, and thrust at the same time. 1767 WARBURTON in W. & Hurd *Lett.* (1809) 407 G. S. was stronger engraved on your fancy than B. S. 1768–74 TUCKER *Lt. Nat.* (1834) II. 81 Whatever affects a man's private interests, touches him stronger than those of the community, or mankind in general. 1841 CATLIN *N. Amer. Ind.* I. (1844) I. 10 The reader will be disposed to forgive me for dwelling so long and so strong on the justness of the claims.

b. Used regularly with certain verbs, as *blow, flow, grow, run, smell*, etc. (Often indistinguishable from the complementary use of the adj.)

1422 YONGE tr. *Secreta Secret.* 174 The course of the ryuer So stronge and So styfe rane. *c* 1560 *Jack Juggler* (facs.) E j, Many here smell strong but none so ranke as he. 1596 RALEGH *Discov. Guiana* 53 A slent of northerly wind that blew very strong. 1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* II. (Globe) 475 The Current setting strong to the E.N.E. *a* 1778 W. ANDERSON in *Cook's 3rd Voy.* III. ix. (1784) II. 143 This wind..sometimes blows strong, though generally moderate. 1813 *Sporting Mag.* XLI. 85 His antagonist..run strong in, leaving the other three hundred yards in the rear. 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xi. III. 110 The Whig peers..mustered strong, and spoke warmly. *a* 1861 T. WOOLNER *My Beautiful Lady, Her Shadow* vi, Thro' pastures and thro' fields where corn grew strong.

c. In colloq. phrases. *To come it strong*: to go to great lengths; to display great activity, energy, boldness, etc.; to make statements which are hard to credit. *To come out strong*: to make a big display or impression; to 'launch out'; to declare or express oneself vigorously. *To go it strong*: to act vigorously or recklessly. *To go strong on*: to support or advocate energetically (*? obs.*). *To be going strong*: to be vigorous, thriving, or prosperous. *To pitch it strong*: to indulge in 'tall' talk; to make exaggerated or incredible statements.

1812, 1825– [see COME *v.* 27, 28]. 1837 T. HOOK *Jack Brag* xi, I can come it strong in that line. 1840 (see GO *v.* 46 c). 1841 HOOD *Tale of Trumpet* 281 Unless the Managers pitch it strong. 1844 DISRAELI *Coningsby* II. vi, 'We go strong on the Church?' said Mr. Taper. 1844 DICKENS *Martin Chuz.* xlviii, He was a man as might have come out strong. 1850 THACKERAY *Pendennis* xxxvi, They've took a house in Grosvenor Place, and are coming out strong. 1853 MISS YONGE *Heir of Redclyffe* xliii, 'Over-worked, I suppose,' said Charles, 'I thought he was coming it pretty strong these last few weeks.' 1861 MEREDITH *Evan Harrington* xiv, By Jove! this comes it strong. Fancy the snipocracy here—eh? 1863 READE *Hard Cash* xxxix, Well, I am thinking the Tiser is pitching it rather strong. 1866 A. HALLIDAY in Dickens, etc. *Mugby Junction, Engine-driver* 26/2, I used to make that journey to Brighton in fifty-two minutes. The papers said forty-nine minutes, but that was coming it a little too strong. 1879 *Oxf. & Camb. Undergrad. Jrnl.* 6 Nov. 65/1 A grand meeting in the Sheldonian..at which Canon Farrar came out rather strong. 1898 *Punch* 22 Oct. 186/3 And though, just now, we're going strong, The brandy cannot last for long. 1913 *Daily Graphic* 26 Mar. 17/2 'Everybody's Doing It' and 'The Reaper's Dream' are still going very strong.

†**2.** Qualifying an adj.: Extremely, very. *Obs.*

c 1400 *Brut* cxxxiii. 138 When he saw þat he was so stronge sike. *c* 1450 *Merlin* iii. 52, I will tomorowe go to an Abbey, and feyne me stronge sike.

3. *Comb.* **a.** with pa. ppples., as *strong-built, -knit, -made, -set*, etc.

c 1412 Hoccleve *De Reg. Princ.* 4305 Now, godē fadir, how mochil monye In your strong bounden chist is, we yow preye? 1577–87 Holinshed *Chron.* III. 1226/1 A big, broad, strong set fellow. *a* 1586 Sidney *Arcadia* III. xii. § 10. (1912) 424 The unfaythfull armour yeelding to the swoordes strong-guided sharpenesse. 1591 Shaks. 1 *Hen. VI*, II. iii. 21 His strong knit Limbs. *a* 1592 Marlowe *Jew of Malta* Prol. 22 A strong built Citadell. 1622 Mabbe tr. *Aleman's Guzman d'Alf.* II. 308 Their strong-sowne peckets. *c* 1656 Sir H. Cholmley *Mem.* (1787) 11 He was..withal big and strong-made. 1690 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 2579/4 A very strong turn'd Gelding. 1757 Dyer *Fleece* III. 382 To cast the strong-flung shuttle. 1776 Burney *Hist. Mus.* I. 59 There must have been other characteristic and strong-marked distinctions. 1820 Hazlitt *Lect. Dram. Lit.* 66 The same strong-braced tone of passionate declamation is kept up. 1823 Scott *Quentin D.* v, His firm and strong-set teeth. 1864 Tennyson *En. Arden* 30 If they quarrell'd, Enoch stronger-made Was master. 1899 *Westm. Gaz.* 12 Sept. 5/3 It became apparent that the jockeys of the American horses did not want a strong-run race.

b. with pres. pples., as *strong-beating, -growing, -smelling*, etc.

1598 Sylvester *Du Bartas* II. i. III. *Furies* 616 The Ram for Physick takes strong-senting Rue. 1619 A. Newman *Pleasures Vision* D 7, In her [*sc.* woman's] strong-drawing fraile society. 1642 H. More *Song of Soul* I. i. 59 That large strong-beating flood That gars the Poet write. 1731 Miller *Gard. Dict.* s. v. *Hyacinthus*, At which Time you must separate all the strong flowering Roots. 1761 Glover *Medea* III. vi. 52 The strong-constraining spell hath tam'd The restif blast. *c* 1770 Mrs. Glasse *Compl. Confectioner* 286 The aromatic, balsamic, oily, and strong-smelling plants. 1842 Loudon *Suburban Hort.* 423 The stronger-growing plums, such as the Washington. 1848 Thackeray *Van. Fair* xxx, He..held her..tight pressed against his strong-beating heart. 1880 'Brooksby' *Hunting Countries* II. 212 Mounted on a bold, strong-jumping horse. 1898 J. A. Gibbs *Cotswold Vill.* 227 The hares in this district are remarkably big and strong-running.

†**Strong**, *v. Obs.* Forms: 1–2 **strangian**, **strongian**, 3 **strange-n**, 3–5 **stronge-n**. [OE. *strangiañ*, f. *strang* Strong *a.* (OE. had also *gestrangian* intr. and trans.: see B.-T. Suppl.). Cf. OHG. *strangên* intr.] **a.** *intr.* To become strong. **b.** *trans.* To make strong, strengthen.

a. *c* 825 *Vesp. Psalter* lxiv. [lxv.] 4 Word unrehtwisra strongadun [Vulg. *prævaluerunt*] ofer us. *c* 1000 Ælfric *Gram.* xxvi. (Z.) 154 *Uigeo*, ic strangiże. *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 13 Þet eower heorte erȝian swiðe and eower feond strongian.

b. 971 *Blickling Hom.* 249 He bær wunode mid him seofon dagas, lærende and strangenda hire heortan on ȝeleafan ures Drihtnes Hælendes Cristes. *c* 1000 Ælfric *Saints' Lives* xxxiii. 255 Pafnuntius þa wearð micelan ȝestrangod þurh hire trymenesse. *c* 1205 Lay. 4461 Þe castles heo nomen alle & strangede þa walles. *Ibid.* 8239 Androgeus forð rihtes nom alle his cnihtes..& lwenden in to Kent to his ane castle & hine strongede wel. *c* 1315 Shoreham *Poems* I. 340 And wanne a man hit onderuangeþ, Ine saule hit hine strangeþ. *c* 1450 *Mirk's Festial* 229 For maydenhode ys lytyll helpe wyth, but yf hyt be strongyt wyth pacience.

Strong, obs. pa. pple. of String *v.*

Strong-box. A strongly-made chest or safe for money, documents, or other valuables.

1684 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1969/4 Lost out of the Dutchess of Portsmouth's Lodgings..a little strong Box with several things in it. 1712 Arbuthnot *John Bull* II. iv. 16 She would rob her Father's strong Box, for Money to give the young Fellows that she was fond of. 1741 Richardson *Pamela* (ed. 3) I. 196, I ask'd her for my Money; and she said it was above in her strong Box. 1851 D. Jerrold *St. Giles* xi. 105 Safe as his parchments in his strong-box. 1872 Longf. *Wayside Inn* II. *Student's T., Cobbler of Hagenau* 108 A heavy strong-box..Received, with a melodious sound, The coin that purchased Paradise.

fig. 1856 Emerson *Eng. Traits* xi. *Aristocr.* Wks. (Bohn) II. 83 These are they who make England that strongbox and museum it is.

Strong-breathed (strǫ·ŋbre·þt), *a.* ? *Obs.* [See Breathed *ppl. a.* II; cf. Long-breathed, Short-breathed.] Having a strong breath; vigorous of breath; also, having an offensive breath.

1620 J. Taylor (Water P.) *Pr. Hempseed* (1623) B 1 b, A learned Knight,..A pamphlet of a Priuy did set forth, Which strong breath'd Aiax was well lik'd, because [etc.]. 1633 Massinger *Guardian* IV. ii, Wire-string and Cats-gut men, and strong-breath'd Hoboys. 1674 N. Fairfax *Bulk & Selv.* 133 A strong breath'd and well set man for wayfaring.

Strong drink. Intoxicating liquor, alcoholic liquors generally. Also, drink of more than ordinary alcoholic strength.

In all Bible translations from Tindale onwards used to render Heb. שֵׁכָר *shēkār* and Gr. *σίκερα*.

c 1386 Chaucer *Pars. T.* 749 Whan that a man is nat wont to strong drynke. 1526 Tindale *Luke* i. 15 He..shall nether drynke wyne ner stronge drynke. 1530 — *Lev.* x. 9. *c* 1645 Tully *Siege of Carlisle* (1840) 48 Ye Garrison was every where full of strong drink. 1798 R. Jackson *Hist. & Cure Fever* 283 Men, who oppress the functions of the alimentary canal with strong drink and gross aliment. 1890 Besant *Demoniac* ii. 25 The craving..for strong drink had seized him again.

b. With *a* and *pl.*

1555 Eden *Decades* (Arb.) 292 Such stronge drinkes as are of force to inebriate. 1680 H. More *Let.* in R. Ward *Life* (1710) 355 It is..your constantly abstaining from all Strong Drinks, and using Moderate Drink, not too strong nor too small, that must contribute to the regaining of a due Temper of Body.

Strongere, obs. f. Stranger.

†**Strongful**, *a. Obs. rare*⁻¹. [f. Strong *a.* + -ful.] Full of strength, very strong.

c 1400 *Laud Troy Bk.* 7995 So were the Troiens sore adred, For thei of Grece were so strongful, That [etc.].

Hence **Strongfully** *adv. arch.*

a 1400 *Laud Troy Bk.* 7584 Thei keped the Gregeys not-for-thi And stode a-ȝeyn strongfully. 1857 A. Ainger in Edith Sichel *Life & Lett.* (1906) 43 We look back on the Puritans, fighting strongfully and prayerfully in her defence.

Strong hand. The exercise of superior power or strength; the use of force. Now *rare*; formerly common in phr. †*by, with strong hand*, by force, by (illegal) violence.

1382 Wyclif *Exod.* iii. 19 The kyng of Egipte shal not ȝyue ȝow leue that ȝe goon, but bi strong hoond [Vulg. *per manum validam*]. *Ibid.* xxxii. 11 Thi puple, whom thow hast ladde out of the loond of Egipte..in a stroong hoond [Vulg. *in manu robusta*]. 1386 *Rolls of Parit.* III. 225/1 Nichol Brembre..with stronge honde..was chosen Mair. 1390 Gower *Conf.* Prol. 716 Cesar Julius..With great bataile and with strong honde All Grece, Perse and eke Caldee Wan and put under. 1476 J. Paston in *P. Lett.* III. 155 Robard Brandon and Colevyle have..enformyd my lady that ye wold have gotyn Caster fro hyr by stronge hand. 1561 T. Norton *Calvin's Inst.* IV. xi. 73 b, And yet in a good cause he procedeth but thus farr, that if it come to violence and strong hande, he sayeth that he wyll geue place. 1590 Shaks. *Com. Err.* III. i. 98 If by strong hand you offer to breake in.., A vulgar comment will be made of it. 1656–9 B. Harris *Parival's Iron Age* 205 They shut the Parliament house door, and kept the Speaker by strong hand in his Chair. 1713 Swift *Jrnl. to Stella* 23 Apr., I carried it with the strongest hand possible. 1799 Durnford & East *Cases K. B.* (1800) VIII. 357 The defendants..with force and arms, unlawfully, and injuriously, and with a strong hand, entered into a certain mill. 1888 *Times* 21 Aug. 7/3 When war is declared the law that obtains between belligerents is the law of the strong hand tempered.. with humanity.

Stro·nghea·ded, *a.*

1. Headstrong.

1603 Florio *Montaigne* II. vi. 216 One of my men..mounted vpon a yong strong-headed horse. 1831 Carlyle *Sartor Res.* II. iii, This young warmhearted, stronghearted and wrongheaded Herr Towgood. 1915 W. P. Livingstone *Mary Slessor* III. x. 83 They commiserated a Mother who was so stronghearted and wilful.

2. Endowed with strong intellectual faculties.

1849 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* vii. II. 222 Penn had never been a stronghearted man.

Hence **Stro·nghea·dedness**, obstinacy.

1793 Sir M. Eden in *L.d. Auckland's Corr.* (1862) III. 145 Their repeated losses were owing to their own strongheadedness in remaining scattered, against all advice, in small corps. 1862 Bagehot *Lit. Stud.* (1895) II. 250 Nature requites itself for the strongheadedness of several generations by the weakness of one. 1880 Baring-Gould *Mehalah* xxi. (1884) 296 You will give way in the end—your weakness will yield to his strongheadedness.

Stronghold (strǫ·ŋhōuld). [f. Strong *a.* + Hold *sb.* (Originally *strong hold.*)]

A strongly fortified place of defence, a secure place of refuge or retreat, a fastness.

c 1425 *Cursor M.* 17342 (Trin.) Þei ladde Ioseph..To prisoun in to a strong holde [*Cott.* in a stalworth hald]. *a* 1466 Gregory *Chron.* in *Hist. Coll. Cit. Lond.* (Camden) 149 The nombyr of an C townys and castellys, abbeys, and stronge-holdys. *a* 1513 Fabyan *Chron.* v. lxxvii. (1811) 56 They wan frome yᵉ Almaynes dyuers Townes & stronge holds wᵗin Germania. 1524 Wolsey in *St. Papers Hen. VIII*, VI. 249 To procede towardes Paris, in whiche waye is neither strong holde or river to empeche or let them. 1609 Holland *Amm. Marcell.* XIV. ii. 5 This strong hold therefore they besieged round about for three dayes and three nights together. 1698 Fryer *Acc. E. India & P.* 42 They followed the rest to Policat, a Strong-Hold of theirs. 1799 Sheridan *Pizarro* I. i. 18 We know there is a secret path that leads to your strong-hold among the rocks. 1807–8 Wordsw. *White Doe* III. 205 Back therefore will they hie to seize A strong Hold on the banks of Tees. 1833 L. Ritchie *Wand. by Loire* 158 It was here that, in..the thirteenth century, a famous robber had his stronghold. 1869 Tozer *Highl. Turkey* I. 147 Salonica..retained its importance as a stronghold of resistance to the barbarians.

b. *transf.* and *fig.*

1535 Coverdale *Ps.* lxxi. 3 Be thou my stronge holde. 1633 G. Herbert *Temple, Nat.* i, O tame my heart; It is thy highest art To captivate strong holds to thee. 1690 Locke *Hum. Und.* IV. iv. § 1 Such Castles in the Air will be as Strong Holds of Truth, as the Demonstrations of Euclid. 1825 Jennings *Observ. Dial. W. Eng.* 187 The South of Somersetshire, one of the strong holds..of the Anglo-Saxon dialect. 1830 *Westm. Rev.* XIII. 86 Except in a few strong holds where prejudice still fights against reason. 1856 Froude *Hist. Eng.* (1858) I. v. 389 The Northern counties..were the stronghold of the papal party. 1880 'Brooksby' *Hunting Countries* II. 199 Near Trafford Bridge are some good coverts, Warden Hill is a stronghold.

Strongish (strǫ·ŋiʃ), *a.* [f. Strong *a.* + -ish.] Somewhat strong (in various senses).

1799 A. Young *View Agric. Lincoln.* 120 A practice lately introduced..is to baulk their turnip land on strongish soils. 1821 Byron 8 Jan. in Moore *Lett. & Jrnls.* (1830) II. 402 It is a strongish post—narrow street, commanded from within—and tenable walls. 1854 Surtees *Handley Cr.* xxx. (1901) I. 227 There was a strongish muster. 1890 'R. Boldrewood' *Col. Reformer* xviii, Mr. Neuchamp is restored by the exhibition of a strongish dram.

Strongle (strǫ·ŋg'l). [Illiterate pronunciation of Strongyle ¹.] A thread-worm of the genus *Strongylus* (see Strongyle ¹) as a parasite causing disease in grouse: in quot. *collect.*

1884 T. Speedy *Sport Highl.* xi. 185 By the aid of the microscope, immense quantities of strongle were discernible in the inflamed parts.

Strongle, obs. var. Strangle *v.*

Strongly (strǫ·ŋli), *adv.* Forms: see Strong *a.* and -ly ². [OE. *stranglīce*, f. *stranglīc* adj., strong, robust, severe, f. *strang* Strong *a.*: see -ly ¹, -ly ².

Formerly compared *stronglier, -est* (OE. *strangliċor, -ost*, early ME. *strangluker, -laker, -est*); now with *more, most.*]

1. In a strong manner.

a. Powerfully; with strong effect; forcibly.

c 1000 Ælfric *On O. T.* (Gr.) 7/7 Dauid..stranglice rixode and bewerode þæt folc wið ða hæðenan leoda. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 218 Sum ancre is þet weneð þet heo schule beon strong-lukest iuonded iðe uormeste tweolf moneð þet heo bigon ancre lif, & iðen oðer tweolf berefter. 1583 Babington *Commandm.* ii. (1590) 74 Our natures are verie prone to the breach hereof, which by a negatiue is stronglier beate downe than by an affirmatiue. 1610 Shaks. *Temp.* v. i. 17 His teares runs downe his beard..: your charm so strongly works 'em That if you now beheld them, your affections Would become tender. 1642 D. Rogers *Naaman* 408 Whether thy lusts can draw thee stronglier then he. 1869 Freeman *Norm. Conq.* (1876) III. xii. 239 The districts most strongly marked with Breton characteristics.

b. So as to resist attack or displacement, firmly, solidly, securely.

c 897 Ælfred *Gregory's Past. C.* lviii. 443 To ðon ðæt he swa micle stranglicor [L. *solidius*] arise swa he hefiglicor afeoll. *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 9 Heo weren strongliche ibunden. 1597 Morley *Introd. Mus.* 71 To the end that what I haue shewed you..may the more stronglie sticke to your memorie, here is [etc.]. 1605 Shaks. *Macb.* v. ii. 12 Great Dunsinane he strongly Fortifies. 1668 Culpepper & Cole *Barthol. Anat.* II. iv. 93 It hath its..outer [surface] more rough that it might be stronglyer fastned. 1678 Hobbes *Decam.* viii. 97 Those, whose smallest parts, naturally, without the force of Fire do strongliest cohere, are generally the heaviest. 1855 Prescott *Philip II*, I. i. iii. 42 By this triumph over her enemies, Mary was seated more strongly than ever on the throne. 1856 W. Irving *Life Washington* xcvi. III. 771 The American and British armies, strongly posted,..remained four days grimly regarding each other.

c. Violently, vehemently.

a 900 *O. E. Martyrol.* 5 May 76 He sæde þæt æghwelce geare..þær to come þæs strongestan windes yste, ond þæt se swa stronglice hrure on þa cirican, þæt [etc.]. *a* 1122 *O. E. Chron.* (Laud MS.) an 1016, Ða gewende se here sona to Lundene & þa burh uton besæton, & hire stranglice wið feaht. *a* 1300 *Havelok* 1135 Quanne he hauede þis pleinte maked, þer after stronglike [he] quaked. 1340 *Ayenb.* 157 Þe dyeuel yziȝþ..þe stat of þe manne..and to huet vice he ys mest bouȝinde..and of þo half him asayleþ stranglakest. 1473 Warkw. *Chron.* (Camden) 6 Ther thei faughthe strongly togedere. 1610 Fletcher *Faithf. Sheph.* II. ii. D 2, But hether am I come..To seeke you out, of whose great good the Aire Is full, and strongly labors. 1642–7 H. More *Song of Soul* II. iii. III. liii, Mid part is strongliest rouz'd, the Poles do sleep in rest. 1849 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* ii. I. 161 Bear-baiting..was the abomination which most strongly stirred the wrath of the austere sectaries.

d. Boldly, bravely, with fortitude.

c 1230 *Hali Meid.* 15, & eauer se þu strongluker stondest aȝain him, se he o tene & o grome wodeluker weorreð. 1382 Wyclif *Judg.* xx. 41 The whiche beforehond feyneden flizt, turnede the face strongly withstoden. 1535 Coverdale 2 *Esdras* x. 15 Loke what happeneth vnto yᵒ, beare it strongly [Vulg. *fortiter fer*].

†e. With a strong military force. *Obs.*

1563–87 Foxe *A. & M.* (1596) 347 The archb. of Cant.., gaue him aduertisement thereof, willing him more stronglier to go or else not to venter. 1587 Golding *De Mornay* xxxi. (1592) 496 The stronglier he had come, the lesse had beene his victorie. 1596 Spenser *State Irel.* Wks. (Globe) 664/2 The which I knowe doe so stronglie commaund all the passages that waie as that none can passe from Ulster into Connaught, without their leave.

†f. With strength of reason. *Obs.*

1395 Purvey *Remonstr.* (1851) 14 It sueth moche strongliere, that siche dymes and offringis shuten be withdrawe for these grevousere synnis. 1596 Bacon *Maxims Com. Law* i. (1630) 2 The cause of deprivation, and more strongly of a resignation, moved from the partie himselfe.

g. Energetically, resolutely; emphatically.

1533 Frith *Mirr. Baptism* B viij, Now wil I endeuour my self to..vtterly putte out the seconde erroure,..and that is of them whiche so stronglye steke vnto the weke ceremonyes. 1588 Shaks. *L. L. L.* I. i. 309 Goe we Lords to put in practice that, Which each to other hath so strongly sworne. 1649 Jer. Taylor *Gt. Exemp.* III. xv. 87 Whoever is accused strongly is never thought intirely innocent. 1680 Baxter *Cath. Commun.* (1684) 35 And what man living hath writ'en stronglier against it, than Dr. Isaac Barrow. 1849 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* ii. I. 157 His father had given a reluctant assent to a bill, strongly supported by Falkland. 1861 Hughes *Tom Brown Oxf.* xxxiii, Most of whom would not scruple—as Mr. Brown strongly put it—to steal a copper out of a blind beggar's hat. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* I. 183/2 We therefore strongly urge the student to work from the examples.

†h. In various obsolete uses: (To sleep) soundly; (to eat) heartily; (to gaze, etc.) intently; (to sound) loudly. *Obs.*

c 1450 *Merlin* xx. 323 And thei slepte strongeliche in the hoste ffor the tyme that relented. 1470–85 Malory *Arthur* VI. xi. 201 Soo whan sir kay was vnarmed he asked after mete; soo there was mete sette hym, and he ete strongly. 1485 Caxton *Paris & V.* 87 Vyenne byhelde the rynge so strongely. 1600 Surflet *Country Farm* II. lxv. 409 By howe much you sound the stronglier, by so much they [*sc.* bees] mount the higher into the aire. 1675–7 Warwick *Mem. Chas. I* (1701) 98 The eyes of the Nobility and Gentry being stronglyer fixt upon the Church-lands.

2. In a strong degree; with strength or intensity of the condition or quality predicated.

a. Qualifying a verb expressing a state or condition, emotion, belief, resemblance, or difference.

c 1400 *Brut* 294 Wherfore þe King, whan he herde of þis tydinge, he was stronglyche meued and þerwiþ an angred.

c 1450 *Merlin* i. 13 When the gode man herde this he merveyled strongeleche. 1561 T. Norton *Calvin's Inst.* II. vii. (1562) 108 b, The more that they hold back themselues, so much ye stronglier within they are kindled. 1596 Shaks. 1 *Hen. IV*, II. ii. 113 The Theeues are scattred, and possest with fear so strongly, that they dare not meet each other. 1650 Baxter *Saints' R.* II. iii. § 1 (1653) 207 The stronger any mans Reason is, the stronglier is he perswaded that God is true. 1802 Mar. Edgeworth *Moral T., Forester* xii, He was so strongly charmed by the sight of a watch-chain and seals, that [etc.]. 1818 Accum *Chem. Tests* 286 Heat the mixture strongly over a lamp, till a dry red mass is obtained. 1849 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* v. I. 659 It was strongly suspected that he had been in constant communication with the government. 1858 Carlyle *Fredk. Gt.* I. iii. (1872) I. 28 In his Portraits as Prince-Royal, he strongly resembles her.

b. Qualifying an adj.

1491 Caxton *Vitas Patr.* II. 278 b/2 A broder febled by sekenes sayd..that he was strongly seke [Fr. *q'il estoit fort malade*]. 1798 Ferriar *Engl. Historians* 244 Superstition is strongly imitative. 1861 J. Tulloch *Engl. Purit.* ii. 288 As we read it,..the ardour of local Puritanism becomes strongly intelligible. 1880 Geikie *Phys. Geog.* iii. 116 Sea-water is always strongly salt to the taste.

3. *Comb.* With ppl. adjs., as *strongly-bound*, *-drawing*, *-made*, *-marked*, *-scented*, *-shod*, *-worded*; also occas. with adjs. in -ED 2, forming combs. used as equivalent to parasynthetic formations on Strong *a.*, as † *strongly-limbed*, † *necked*, † *opinioned*.

1890 *Hardwicke's Sci.-Gossip* XXVI. 155/2 The *strongly-bound and neatly got-up volumes of the Geological Survey of the United States. 1611 Cotgr., *Rubrificatif*,..a plaister of..*strongly-drawing simples. 1598 Sylvester *Du Bartas* II. i. IV. *Handicr.* 315 Wise, active, valiant, *strongly-limb'd, and healthy. 1838 Dickens *O. Twist* xlvi, He is tall,..and a *strongly made man. 1820 Scott *Monast.* xix, Traits which were rather *strongly marked than beautiful. 1892 *Rev. of Reviews* Apr. 332/2 Both were men of strongly-marked individuality. 1697 Dryden *Virg. Georg.* III. 88 The Mother Cow must wear a low'ring Look, Sour-headed, *strongly-neck'd, to bear the Yoke. 1615 T. Adams *Black Devil* 38 This is Satans first presumption; a *strongly-opinion'd trust in his owne strength. 1879 Lubbock *Sci. Lect.* ii. 64 The larva of Papilio machaon is..provided with *strongly-scented tentacles. 1831 Scott *Ct. Robt.* ii, A..*strongly-shod arrow. 1883 *Manch. Exam.* 30 Nov. 5/1 At a meeting held in the evening a *strongly-worded letter on the subject was read from Mr. P. A. Taylor, M.P.

Strong-minded (strǫ·ŋmaiˈndėd), *a.* Having a strong, vigorous, or determined mind.

1791 Boswell *Johnson* an. 1778 (1904) II. 252 A certain nobleman..was one of the strongest-minded men that ever lived. 1825 Coleridge *Aids Refl.* (1848) I. 166 That pious, learned, strong-minded, and single-hearted Jew. 1864 G. A. Lawrence *M. Dering* II. 245 Stronger-minded women than my little Georgie have gone down before the fascination that that unhappy man seemed able to exercise.

b. Applied (chiefly with disparaging implication) to women who have or affect the qualities of mind and character regarded as distinctively masculine, or who take up an attitude of revolt against the restrictions and disabilities imposed on their sex by law and custom.

1854 Mrs. Gaskell *North & S.* xlv, And then, what with Sholto playing with the fire, and the baby crying, you'll begin to wish for a strong-minded woman, equal to any emergency. 1862 Miss Braddon *Lady Audley* xvi, I don't want a strong-minded woman, who writes books and wears green spectacles. 1878 Besant & Rice *Celia's Arb.* vi, They had not become strong-minded; they did not sit on School Boards and sigh for Female Suffrage. 1887 R. N. Carey *Uncle Max* xvi. 129 She had evidently got it into her head that I was a strong-minded young woman.

Hence **Strong-mi·ndedness.**

1859 Mrs. Carlyle *Lett.* III. 1 There is a growing taste for fastness, or, still worse, for strong-mindedness.

Strongness. *Obs.* exc. as *nonce-use.* [f. Strong *a.* + -ness.] The quality of being strong.

c 1450 *Mirour Saluacioun* (1888) 72 Nowe Sampson it is to witt, for his grettest stroungnesse Prefigured oure lord crist. a 1578 Lindesay (Pitscottie) *Chron. Scot.* (S.T.S.) I. 133 In bewtie more excellent and abone all men in strangnes and habilietie. a 1604 Hanmer *Chron. Irel.* (1809) 245 When the fight is ended,..and all strongnesse of hostility set apart, then in a Noble man must humanity take place. 1650 Gentilis *Consid.* 212 There is no such thing as insensibility of pain; if there be, it is not a strongness of heart but a weaknesse of the minde. 1916 *Blackw. Mag.* Feb. 197/1 Smoking is forbidden with a Teutonic strongness in the workshop.

Strong room. A room made specially secure for the custody of persons or things; esp. a fire- and burglar-proof room in which valuables are deposited for safety, e.g. at the Mint, a bank, etc.

1761 Foote *Liar* II, Her father an Indian governor, shut up in the strong room [*i.e.* the 'Black Hole'] at Calcutta, left her all his wealth. 1818 Scott *Hrt. Midl.* vii, The persons we have mentioned remained in the strong-room of the prison. 1856 G. Price *Treat. Fire & Thief-proof Deposit.* viii. 94 The doors of fire-proof closets and strong-rooms are constructed in the same manner as the doors of safes. *Ibid.* 99 Portable strong rooms are made altogether of wrought-iron plates. 1863 Reade *Hard Cash* xxxi, They took him to the strong-room, and manacled his ankles together.., and fastened his body down by broad bands of ticking. 1885 *Law Times' Rep.* LIII. 83/2 The plate..is now stowed away in the strong room of a bank.

attrib. 1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib. Brit.* II. No. 6105, A model showing the arrangement of the bolts and locks as fixed on a strong-room door.

Strong water. [Rendering of med.L. *aqua fortis.*]

† **1.** = Aquafortis 1, 2. *Obs.*

1580 Blundevil *Curing Horses Dis.* cviii. 50 It shall be good..to wash all his taile with *Aqua fortis*, or strong water, made in this sort. 1604 E. G[rimstone] *D'Acosta's Hist. Indies* IV. iv. 215 They refine it [gold] likewise with quickesilver and strong water. 1626 Bacon *Sylva* § 800 Metalls themselues doe receiue in readily Strong-Waters; And Strong-Waters likewise doe readily pierce into Metalls, and Stones. 1694 Salmon *Bate's Dispens.* I. ix. 400/1 But if you dissolve apart in Strong-waters, you do two things at once.

2. Any form of alcoholic spirits used as a beverage. Now only in *pl.* (somewhat *arch.*).

a 1613 Overbury *Wife*, etc. (1638) 178 His new Trade of brewing Strong-Waters makes a number of mad-men. 1624 Capt. Smith *Virginia* IV. 160 After, with warme clothes and a little strong water, they had a little recouered him. 1687 *Relat. De Chaumont's Embassy Siam* 23 Eleven Barks full of Oxen, Sheep,..and Strong-water made with Rice. 1727 Gay *Begg. Op.* II. iv, Strong waters will in time ruin your constitution. 1790 *Act* 30 *Geo. III*, c. 38 § 9 Any distilled Spirituous Liquors or Strong Waters. 1820 Scott *Monast.* xxxv, Usquebagh—a liquor strange to Halbert, for the strong waters known in the south of Scotland came from France. 1855 *Englishw. in Russia* 9 He gave so much strong waters.., that everybody became so drunk that they could not move.

† **3.** *attrib.* and *Comb. Obs.*

1654 *Burton's Diary* (1828) I. 181 Tobacco-shops, and strong-water houses. 1657 in Thurloe *St. Papers* (1742) VI. 315 This informant..searched in the house of Samuel Rogers, a strong-water-man,..and there found seven parcels of books. *Ibid.* vi. 318 Her master's shop, being a strong-water-shop. 1707 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4391/4 Thomas Mathews, late of Newbery.., Strongwaterman.

Strongyle[1] (strǫ·ndʒil). See also Strongle. [ad. mod.L. *Strongylus*, ad. Gr. στρογγύλος round.] A thread-worm of the genus *Strongylus* (or the family *Strongylidæ*, of which this is the type), common as a disease-producing parasite in various animals.

1847 Redwood *S. F. Gray's Suppl. Pharmacop.* 187 *Strongylus gigas*, (Rudol.) The Large Strongyle. 1879 Cobbold *Parasites* 377 In the Deangunid and Talybont districts these strongyles proved terribly fatal to mountain ponies. 1886 *Athenæum* 30 Jan. 171/3 *Strongylus axei*..also shows affinity with the grouse strongyle and with the stomach worm of lambs.

attrib. 1879 Cobbold *Parasites* 338 Strongyle embryos.

Strongyle[2] (strǫ·ndʒil). *Zool.* Also in mod.L. form *strongyla.* [ad. Gr. στρογγύλη fem. (agreeing with ῥάβδος Rhabdus) of στρογγύλος round.] A sponge-spicule of the rhabdus type, rounded at both ends. Hence **Stro·ngylate, Stro·ngylote** *adjs.*, having the shape of a strongyle.

1887 S. O. Ridley in *Challenger Rep.* XX. p. xvi, Strongyla; here the spicule is not pointed at all, but the ends are evenly rounded off. *Ibid.* 36 Spicules.—Oxeote to strongylote, size variable. 1887 Sollas in *Encycl. Brit.* XXII. 416/2 (Sponges) Usually pointed (*oxeate*) at the ends, they [the spicular rays] are also frequently rounded off (*strongylate*), or thickened into knobs (*tylotate*), or branched (*cladose*). *Ibid.*, The rhabdus if pointed at both ends is known as an *oxea*; if rounded at both ends as a *strongyle.* 1900 E. A. Minchin in *Ray Lankester's Treat. Zool.* II. *Sponges* 137 Whether the extremities are sharp ('oxeote'),..rounded ('strongylote'), knobbed ('tylote') [etc.].

Strongylo- (strǫ·ndʒilo), before a vowel **strongyl-**, used *Zool.* as combining form of Strongyle[2] in names for forms of sponge-spicule. **Strongyla·ster** [Gr. ἀστήρ star], a rhabdus strongylate at one extremity and star-shaped at the other. **Stro·ngyloclad, Strongylo·xea**: see quots.

1888 W. J. Sollas in *Challenger Rep.* XXV. p. lv, Strongyloclad, the esactine is strongylate, the ecactine cladose. *Ibid.*, Strongyloxea, a rhabdus with a strongylate esactine and oxeate ecactine. *Ibid.* 417 The microsclere when present is a spheraster or oxyaster or strongylaster.

Strongyloid (strǫ·ndʒiloid), *a.* and *sb. Zool.* [f. mod.L. *Strongylus*: see Strongyle[1] and -oid.] **a.** *adj.* Resembling a strongyle. **b.** *sb.* A strongyloid worm.

1879 Cobbold *Parasites* 335 The growth and metamorphoses which I witnessed in strongyloid larvæ taken from earth-worms..were remarkably rapid. *Ibid.* 336 Leuckart supposes that all these strongyloids require a change of hosts before [etc.]. 1883 *Athenæum* 24 Mar. 381/3 Prof. Simonds regarded the worm as a species of *Strongylus*...It is found that what was at first regarded as the head turns out to be the tail, so that the supposed strongyloid character is incorrect.

Stronke, stronkg, rare obs. ff. Strong *a.*

† **Stro·ntane.** *Chem. Obs.* [f. Stront-ium + -ane.] Davy's name for strontium chloride, SrCl.

1812 Sir H. Davy *Chem. Philos.* 345 From direct experiments I ascertained that 50 parts of strontane consisted of about 29 parts of metal and 21 of chlorine.

Strontia (strǫ·nʃiă). *Chem.* [f. Strontian: see -ia.] One of the alkaline earths, the monoxide of strontium. Also *attrib.* in *strontia water*, the aqueous solution of hydrate of strontium.

1802 Chenevix in *Phil. Trans.* XCII. 341 No precipitate took place from a mixture of barytes-water and strontia-water. 1802 *Sketch of Paris* II. lxix. 387 Crystallized sulphate of strontia, in the mines of Villefort. 1812 Sir H. Davy *Chem. Philos.* 343 One combination of strontium with oxygene only is at present known; it is strontia, or strontites, the substance procured by burning strontium. 1884 *Health Exhib. Catal.* 19/2 Sugar, extracted from molasses by strontia. Samples of Strontia, in different stages.

Strontian (strǫ·nʃiăn). Also 8 **strontion, strontean,** 8–9 **stronthian,** 9 **strontiane.** [The name of a parish in Argyllshire, where are the lead mines in which the mineral was discovered.] (Orig. † *strontian earth, lime, mineral, spar.*) Properly, native strontium carbonate, but more commonly applied loosely to strontia, sometimes to strontium. Not now in scientific use. † *Strontian water* = strontia water: see Strontia. *Strontian yellow*: a yellow colour produced by adding potassium chromate to a solution of a strontium salt.

1789 A. Crawford in *Med. Commun.* II. 354 The Strontean mineral. 1793 T. C. Hope in *Trans. R. Soc. Edin* (1798) IV. II. 6 When heat is applied to the Strontian spar, it crackles a little. *Ibid.* 23 The specific gravity of the Strontian far exceeds that of calcareous spar. 1794 Kirwan in *Trans. R. Irish Acad.* V. 246 Equal parts quartz and Stronthian lime, melted [etc.]. 1794 Schmeisser in *Phil. Trans.* LXXXIV. 424 Another earth, which may be called *Strontion earth.* 1802 T. Thomson *Syst. Chem.* I. 425 The solution, known by the name of strontian water. 1804 R. Jameson *Min.* I. 598 Strontiane...Its most common colour is intermediate between asparagus and apple green. 1815 J. Smith *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 458 This mineral is the carbonate of strontian. 1832 Brewster *Nat. Magic* v. (1833) 113 The red might perhaps be procured in sufficient quantity from the nitrate and other salts of strontian. 1836 B. H. Smart, *Strontian*, a white earth, also called *Strontia.* 1854 Fairholt *Dict. Terms Art*, *Strontian Yellow*, a solution of strontian, added to chromate of potash. It is a pale canary-yellow, and is a permanent colour. 1860 Piesse *Lab. Chem. Wonders* 156 When it [the flame] is crimson, there is strontian. 1870 Baring-Gould *In Exitu Israel* I. ix. 132 A vase, in which burned strontian and spirits of wine, casting a red glare into the water.

† **Strontia·nic,** *a. Obs.* [f. prec. + -ic.] *Strontianic earth* = Strontia.

1811 Pinkerton *Petral.* I. Introd. p. xli, The alkaline earths, that is the calcareous, magnesian, barytic, strontianic.

Strontianiferous (strǫ·nʃiăni·fĕrəs), *a. Geol.* [f. Strontian + -(i)ferous.] Containing strontian.

1888 *Lond.* etc. *Philos. Mag.* Ser. v. XXV. 238 The Strontianiferous marls of Meudon.

Strontianite (strǫ·nʃiănəit). *Min.* [f. Strontian + -ite.] Native strontium carbonate.

1794 Kirwan in *Trans. R. Irish Acad.* V. 244 The first account I received of this substance, which I shall call Stronthianite, was from Dr. Crawford in the year 1790. 1794 Schmeisser in *Phil. Trans.* LXXXIV. 418 Account of a mineral Substance, called Strontionite. 1812 Sir H. Davy *Chem. Philos.* 343 Strontianite, a mineral found at Strontian in Scotland. 1912 *Return Brit. Museum* 195.

Strontic (strǫ·ntik), *a. Chem.* [f. Stront-ium + -ic. Cf. F. *strontique.*] Of or pertaining to strontium. (Said of salts: now superseded by the attrib. use of the sb.)

1883 *Science* I. 490/1 Strontic vanadate was prepared by fusion of the acid with sodic bromide and strontic bromide.

† **Strontites** (strǫntəi·tīz). *Chem. Obs.* [f. Stront-ian + *-ites* (the ending was suggested by that of *barytes*, but assimilated in form to Gr. -ίτης: see -ite).] = Strontia.

1793 T. C. Hope in *Trans. R. Soc. Edin.* (1798) IV. II. 8, I shall..take the liberty of calling it by the name of Strontites; by which I wish to be understood to mean the earthy matter in a state of purity, in the same way as lime and barytes denote the pure earthy bases of calcareous spar and of aërated barytes. 1805 Saunders *Min. Waters* 343 Nitrat of strontites. 1812 [see Strontia]. 1839 Ure *Dict. Arts* 1192 Syrup possesses the property of dissolving alkaline earths, lime, magnesia, strontites, barytes.

† **Stronti·tic,** *a. Chem. Obs.* [f. Strontit-es + -ic.] Pertaining to strontia.

1793 T. C. Hope in *Trans. R. Soc. Edin.* (1798) IV. II. 10 These solutions are possessed of all the properties of Strontitic water above recounted. *Ibid.* 22 Strontitic spar. 1807 J. Murray *Syst. Chem.* III. 695 The natural species of the Strontitic Genus are those in which the earth is mineralized by sulphuric and by carbonic acids.

Strontium (strǫ·nʃiǒm). *Chem.* [f. Strontia: see -ium.] The metallic base of strontia; a dark-yellow metal, fusible at red heat. Symbol Sr. Also *attrib.*, as *strontium chloride*, etc.

The salts of strontium are chiefly used for imparting a deep-red colour to flame.

1808 Sir H. Davy in *Phil. Trans.* XCVIII. 346, I shall venture to denominate the metals from the alkaline earths barium, strontium, calcium, and magnium. 1868 Roscoe *Elem. Chem.* 178 Copper is the only red-coloured metal known, whilst gold, strontium, and calcium, are yellow. 1892 *Photogr. Ann.* II. 447 [Price list enumerates:] Strontium acetate, bromide, carbonate, chloride, iodide, nitrate (pure, recrystallised), nitrate (commercial). 1916 *Med. Press & Circular* 10 May 419/2 Lactate of strontium 2 grammes a day, to control the albuminuria.

Stroock, -en, obs. ff. of pa. t. of Strike *v.*

Stroof, obs. pa. t. and pa. pple. of Strive *v.*

Strook(e, -en: see Strike *v.*, Stroke.

Stroop, var. form of Stroup *dial.*

Stroot(e, obs. forms of Strut *v.*[1]

Stroove, obs. pa. t. of Strive *v.*

Strop (strǫp), *sb.* Forms: 4–5 **stroppe,** 5–6 **strope,** 1, 8– **strop.** [OE. *strop* (once only) = (M)Du., (M)LG. *strop*, OHG. *strupf* masc. (a derivative of the same meaning is MHG., mod.G. *strüpfe* fem., LG. *strippe*: see Strip *sb.*[2]), prob. a WGer. adoption of L. *struppus, stroppus*, strap, band (? a. Gr. στρόφος), whence OF. *estrope* (mod.F. *estrope, étrope*), Pr. *estrop-s*, Catal. *estrop*, Pg. *estropo* rowlock-strap, It. *stroppa* strap, band.

In the 17th c. the dial. form Strap *sb.* appears beside the original form; subsequently it appears in all senses, and in some of them is now the usual form.]

† **1.** A band, thong; a loop or noose of leather, etc. *Obs.* (Cf. Strap *sb.* 1.)

In quot. *c* 1050, a thong or line for lashing an oar to a thole-pin.

c 1050 *Suppl. Ælfric's Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 181/42 *Struppus*, strop, *uel* arwiððe. 1481 Caxton *Reynard* (Arb.) 33 Bynde the corde faste to the lynde, and make a rydyng knotte or a strope. 15.. *Ld. Fergus' Gaist* 83 in *Bannatyne MS.* (Hunter. Club) I. 326 And it wald play and hop, Abowt the heid ane stre strop. 1552 *Elyot's Dict.*, *Amentum*, a thonge, or that whiche is bounden to the middes of a darte or iavelyn wherwith it is throwen, a strope or a loupe. 1723 *Pres. St. Russia* II. 378 A Strop of Leather tied about the Beast's Head like a Halter.

† **b.** *Surg.* A band used in setting a fractured limb. (Cf. Strap *sb.* 7 a.) *Obs.*

1741 Ettrick *Mach. for reducing Fractures of Thigh* in *Phil. Trans.* XLI. 565 The Leg is suspended by Bands, one of which is placed at the Ancle, from the Sides of which pass Two Strops, to join the inferior Knee-band.

2. A ring or band of hide or of rope with its ends spliced together, used upon a mast, yard, rope, etc., as a fastening or as a purchase for tackle; esp. a band of rope, iron, or chain fastened round a pulley or block. Chiefly *Naut.* (Cf. Strap *sb.* 2.)

1357 in *Pipe Roll* 32 *Edw. III* m. 34/2, j. poleancre rope cum le stroppe. 1409 *Acc. Exch. K. R.* 44/11 (3) m. 3 In .xxij. lb. et di. de cordis..expenditis in factura del stroppes infra bargiam. 1417 in *For. Acc.* 8 *Hen. V*, G/1, ij Bowlynes j Stroppe..j Tooppe. 1485 *Naval Acc. Hen. VII* (1896) 36 Poleis with Stroppes..iiij. *Ibid.* 38 Stroppes of Russewale, ij. 1744 J. Philips *Jrnl. Exped. Anson* 139 We also had one of the Strops of our Bobstay broke. 1769 Falconer *Dict. Marine* (1780) *Strop*, a piece of rope spliced into a circular wreath, and used to surround the body of a block; so that the latter may be hung to any particular station about the masts, yards, or rigging...Strops are also used occasionally to fasten upon any large rope, for the purpose of hooking a tackle to the eye, or double part of the strop. 1789 *Trans. Soc. Arts* VII. 177 The line was fixed [to the harpoon] by a strop, made of fore-ganger, our wire-shackles being all broke. 1846 A. Young *Naut. Dict.* 329 Any short piece of rope, with its ends spliced together, gets the name of a strop. Such strops are used for various purposes, as, for hooking a tackle to. 1860 G. S. Nares *Naval Cadet's Guide* 27 A single strop with a thimble seized in. 1875 Clark Russell *Wreck of Grosvenor* xvii, Clapping on strops to the collar of the mainstay. 1883 *Man. Seamanship for Boys* 32, *Q.* What are masthead pendants? *A.* Strops or short pieces of rope, fitted..upon the heads of the lower masts, for applying tackles for staying the masts or setting up lower rigging. 1912 J. Masefield in *Engl. Rev.* Oct. 340 The noisy half-deck rang with mirth, For two ship's boys were putting on the strop.

b. (See quot.)

1875 Knight *Dict. Mech.*, *Strop* (Rope-making), a rope with an eye at each end, used in twisting strands.

3. A strip of leather (or of a special textile), or a strip of wood covered with leather or other suitable material, used for sharpening a razor; a razor-strop. (Cf. Strap *sb.* 8 *dial.*)

1702 *Post Man* 3-5 Feb. 2/1 Strops for setting Razors, Pen-knives, &c. upon. 1822 Scott *Nigel* viii, You are wanted more than a strop for a blunt razor. 1844 Dickens *Mart. Chuz.* xxix, He happened to have been sharpening his razors,..a huge strop dangled from the wall. 1887 F. Francis Jun. *Saddle & Mocassin* 64 Three various strops were necessary to put an edge on the razor that was to execute me.

† **4.** A narrow band of metal; = Strap *sb.* 9.

1573-4 in Swayne *Sarum Church-w. Acc.* (1896) 122 Mendinge of the stropes of iij belles, xij d. 1603-4 *Ibid.* 152 Iron stroppes and bolts and kayes for the belles.

5. *Comb.*, as *strop-maker*, *strop-bound* adj.

1736 *Gentl. Mag.* VI. 607/2 Soap-boilers, Razor-makers, Hone-makers, Strop-makers, &c. 1867 Smyth *Sailor's Word-bk.*, *Strop-bound block*, a single block used in the clue of square-sails for the clue-lines to lead through.

Strop, *a. dial.* ? *Obs.* [Cf. Strop *v.*²] *Strop milch cow* = Strapper ², Stropper.

1781 in *Hist. Chesterfield* (1839) 339 For every strop milch cow, one penny.

Strop (strǫp), *v.*¹ [f. Strop *sb.*]

1. *trans.* To sharpen or smooth the edge of (a razor) with a strop.

1841 Dickens *Barn. Rudge* xxv, The raven..after a long inspection of an epitaph, would strop his beak upon the grave to which it referred. 1850 Holtzapffel *Turning* III. 1155 The razor is always stropped backwards, and usually from heel to point. 1853 Lytton *My Novel* ii. ix, 'Well?' cried the Squire, suspending the operation of stropping his razor.

2. *Naut.* To furnish (a block) with a strop. Cf. Strap *v.*¹ 1.

c 1860 H. Stuart *Seaman's Catech.* 29 How do you strop a block with a short splice?

Hence **Stropped** *ppl. a.* **Stro·pping** *vbl. sb.*: (*a*) the action of the verb; (*b*) *concr.* (*Naut.*) rope for making strops.

1850 Holtzapffel *Turning* III. 1156 A razor from continued use and stropping, has become dull. 1875 Bedford *Sailor's Pocket Bk.* x. (ed. 2) 362 Table of Size of Rope Stropping. 1882 Nares *Seamanship* (ed. 6) 75 An iron-stropped block. *Ibid.* 81 The..blocks..are iron stropped. 1883 *Fisheries Exhib. Catal.* 8 Internal Iron Stropped: External Iron Stropped: Wire Stropped: Rope Stropped. 1893 Forbes-Mitchell *Gt. Mutiny* 287 As keen an edge as a well-stropped razor.

Strop (strǫp), *v.*² *dial.* [Cf. Strap *v.*², Strip *v.*³] *trans.* = Strap *v.*²

1884 Streatfeild *Linc. & Danes* 367 *Strop*, to draw the last milk from the teats of a cow; *Stroppings*, the last milk that comes before the udder is empty.

† **Strope,** *v. Obs. rare.* [? a. Du. *stroopen*: see Strip *v.*¹] *trans.* = Strip *v.*¹

1527 Andrew tr. *Brunswyke's Distyll. Waters* i. xix. b v, Ye shal strope the herbes and leues from theyr steles and stalkes. *Ibid.* i. xx. b vj.

Strope, obs. pa. t. of Strip *v.*¹

‖ **Strophanthus** (strǒfæ·nþǒs). [mod.L. (De Candolle 1802), f. Gr. στρόφ-ος twisted cord + ἄνθος flower]. **a.** *Bot.* A genus of plants of the N.O. *Apocynaceæ*, native of tropical Africa and Asia, having strongly poisonous qualities; a plant of this genus. **b.** A poisonous drug extracted from the seeds of various species of this genus, used by certain African tribes as a poison for arrows; in recent pharmacy used as a cardiac tonic.

1888 *Lancet* 11 Feb. 291/2 Fraenkel, Guttmann, and Langgaard have recently given the result of their experience with strophanthus. 1898 *Rev. Brit. Pharm.* 8 Two ounces of the extract of strophanthus is made from 1 oz. of seed: 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VII. 751 The insomnia of heart disease is benefitted by digitalis, strophanthus, strychnine, [etc.]. 1906 Alice Werner *Natives Brit. Central Africa* viii. 189 The poison for spears and arrows is in most cases strophanthus. 1911 *Spectator* 11 Jan. 56/2 An arrow poisoned with the usual strophanthus &c. will kill the person wounded.

Strophe (strōu·fi). Pl. **strophes** (-fiz), **strophæ** (strōu·fī.) Also 7 in L. form **stropha.** [a. Gr. στροφή, lit. 'turning', f. στροφ-, στρέφειν to turn. Cf. late L. *stropha*, Fr. *strophe*, Sp. *estrofa*, Pg. *estrophe*, It. *strofa*, *strofe*, stanza.]

1. In Greek choral and lyric poetry, and imitations of this: A series of lines forming a system the metrical structure of which is repeated in a following system called the Antistrophe. Also, in wider sense, one of two or more metrically corresponding series of lines forming divisions of a lyric poem. Hence occas. (after Fr.) used with reference to modern poetry as equivalent to Stanza.

Originally the word στροφή, 'turning', was applied to the movement of the chorus from right to left, and ἀντιστροφή, 'counter-turn', to its returning movement from left to right; hence these terms became the designations of the portions of the choric ode sung during these movements respectively.

1603 Holland *Plutarch's Mor.* 1257 By making turnes and winding cranks so strange In all his strophes, and those without the range Of harmony. 1622 [see Antistrophe]. 1671 Milton *Samson* Of Tragedy, The Measure of Verse us'd in the Chorus is of all sorts,..without regard had to Strophe, Antistrophe or Epod. 1755 Gray *Let.* Poems (1775) 233 Neither am I quite of your opinion with regard to strophe and antistrophe;..methinks it has little or no effect on the ear, which scarce perceives the regular return of metres at so great a distance from one another. 1774 Warton *Hist. Eng. Poetry* I. Diss. i. f 3 b, The bard extorted a speedy pardon..by producing the next day before the king at dinner an ode of more than thirty strophes. 1796 Kollmann *Ess. Mus. Harmony* xii. 85 It is not sufficient to observe the metre of the verse only according to the nature of its strophes, verses, and feet, with their subdivisions. 1823 Thomasina Ross *Bouterwek's Hist. Sp. Lit.* I. 243 Luis de Leon..discarded the prolix style of the canzone, and imitated the brevity of the strophes of Horace, in romantic syllabic measures and rhymes. 1837 Carlyle *Fr. Rev.* III. v. iv, The Address we do not give; for indeed it was in strophes, sung *vivâ voce*, with all the parts. 1841 *Penny Cycl.* XX. 420/1 The Sapphic strophe consists of three Sapphic verses followed by a versus Adonicus. 1861 Paley *Æschylus* (ed. 2) *7 agst. Thebes* 111 *note*, Hermann distributes the remainder of the chorus into strophae and antistrophae. 1886 Ruskin *Præterita* I. 272 The balanced strophes of classic and Hebrew verse. 1895 M. Hewlett *Earthwork out of Tuscany* 103 What a romance we should have had from Gautier,..what a strophe from Baudelaire half-obscene, half-mournful, wholly melodious. 1896 R. G. Moulton *Lit. Study Bible* i. 58 The simplest case is where each antistrophe immediately follows its strophe.

fig. 1849 J. Martineau *Ess., Rev.* etc. (1891) IV. 449 Law and love are but the strophe and antistrophe of the great chorus of redemption.

2. *Bot.* (See quot. 1866.) ? *Obs.*

1846 J. Hudson tr. *Link* in *Rep. & Papers Bot.* (Ray Soc.) 348 The oblique lines which Schimper called spirals (wendel), and which our author terms 'Strophes'. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1105/1 *Strophe*, a term applied to the spirals formed in the development of leaves. 1900 B. D. Jackson *Gloss. Bot. Terms*, *Strophes* pl. any spirals shown in phyllotaxy.

Strophic (strǫ·fik), *a. Prosody.* [f. Stroph-e + -ic. Cf. Antistrophic.] **a.** Pertaining to strophes; consisting of strophes. **b.** Belonging to the strophe as distinguished from the antistrophe.

1848 *Class. Museum* V. 386 As regards Pindar, the fragments of the first dithyramb,..give evidence of strophic composition. 1861 Paley *Æschylus* (ed. 2) *Supplices* 62 *note*, Either the strophic or the antistrophic verse must be altered. 1866 Lytton *Lost Tales Miletus* Pref. x, The strophic metres of the ancients. 1896 R. G. Moulton *Lit. Study Bible* i. 62 The reader must be on the watch to distinguish the 'strophic structure', where the stanzas may be unequal, from the 'antistrophic structure', in which the two stanzas of a pair are exact counterparts. 1906 *Expositor* June 565 [He] illustrates the ordinary parallelisms and strophic phenomena.

Strophical (strǫ·fikăl), *a. Prosody.* [f. Strophe + -ical.] = Strophic b.

1886 C. A. Briggs *Messianic Proph.* Pref. p. xii, There is a large amount of scepticism among Hebrew scholars as to..the strophical organization of Hebrew poetry. 1907 *Times Lit. Suppl.* 15 Mar. 82/1 Correction of errors, partly ..by attention to the metre and strophical arrangement.

Hence **Stro·phically** *adv.*

1848 *Class. Museum* V. 381 Songs strophically connected with each other.

Strophiolate (strǫ·fiǒlět), *a. Bot.* [ad. mod.L. *strophiolātus*, f. *strophiolum*: see Strophiole and -ate.] Furnished with a strophiole.

1821 S. F. Gray *Brit. Plants* II. 667 Polygaleæ...Seed pendulous; hilum strophiolate or comose. 1830 Lindley *Nat. Syst. Bot.* 37 Seeds with a strophiolate apex, often winged.

Strophiole (strǫ·fiōul). *Bot.* [a. mod.L. *strophiolum* (Gærtner 1788; often incorrectly *strophĭola*), a use of L. *strophiolum*, dim. of *strophium* chaplet, ad. Gr. στρόφιον, f. στροφ-, στρέφειν to turn, twist. Cf. F. *strophiole.*] An excrescence or tubercle surrounding the hilum of certain seeds.

1839 Lindley *Introd. Bot.* (ed. 3) 247 Mirbel has ascertained that in Euphorbia Lathyris the strophiole is the fungous foramen of the primine. 1861 Bentley *Man. Bot.* 342 Other botanists..instead of using the two terms strophioles and caruncles as synonymous with each other, apply the former term only when they proceed from the hilum, and the latter to those from the micropyle. 1870 *Henfrey's Bot.* § 428 Turneraceæ...Seeds albuminous, with a strophiole or false aril. 1874 R. Brown *Man. Bot.* 502 Strophiole.—Under the name of Strophiolæ, Gärtner has described certain cellular excrescences on the integument of various seeds.

Strophoid (strǫ·foid). *Geom.* [ad. F. *strophoïde*, f. Gr. στρόφος twisted cord: see -oid.] (See quot. 1880.) Hence **Strophoi·dal** *a.* and *sb.*

1880 W. W. Johnson in *Amer. Jrnl. Math.* III. 320 The term Strophoid has been applied by French writers to a cubic curve, of which the symmetrical form has been discussed by Dr. James Booth under the name of the Logocyclic Curve. ..I have ventured to use the word in a more extended signification, and define the strophoid as the locus of the intersection of two straight lines which rotate uniformly about two fixed points in a plane. 1883 E. Barnes in *Johns Hopkins Univ. Circular* II. 145 A Note on the Strophoids. 1908 *Roy. Soc. Catal. Sci. Papers, Subj. Index* I. 535/1 Strophoid [several refs. to foreign periodicals]. *Ibid.* 535/2 Strophoidal curves of 3rd degree. *Ibid.* 631/2 Logocyclic curve..or strophoid. *Ibid.* 632/2 Strophoidals.

‖ **Strophulus** (strǫ·fiŭlǒs). *Path.* [mod.L. ('Reddegownde, *strophulus*' Huloet 1552, and later Lat.-Eng. Dicts.), app. a corruption of med.L. *scrophulus* 'redgownd' (*Promp. Parv.*), corruption of L. *scrōfulæ* (Scrofula), misapplied to an eruptive disease.] A papular eruption on the skin of infants; it has several varieties, known popularly as *red-gum*, *white-gum*, *tooth-rash*, etc.

1808 Willan *Cutaneous Dis.* I. 16 The Strophulus is a papulous eruption, peculiar to infants, and exhibiting a variety of forms. 1822-7 Good *Study Med.* (1829) V. 565 The tooth-rash is the severest form in which strophulus shows itself. 1876 Bristowe *Th. & Pract. Med.* (1878) 348 Many attacks of so-called 'strophulus'..are really due to the operations of the above animals [*sc.* gnats, fleas, and bugs].

Stroppado, obs. form of Strappado.

Stropper (strǫ·pəɹ), *dial.* [f. Strop *v.*² + -er ¹.] = Strapper ².

1707 *Terrier of South Hykeham, Lincs.* (E.D.D.) For a new bare cow three pence, for a stropper three half-pence.

† **Stro·sser.** *Obs.* Also 6 **straser.** [Of obscure origin: the relation to Trouser is uncertain. Cf. Strouse.] = Trouser.

1598 in *Malone's Shaks.* (1790) I. ii. 301 Item, iij payer of red strasers and iij fares gowne of buckrome. 1599 Shaks. *Hen. V*, iii. vii. 57 Belike she was old and gentle, and you rode like a Kerne of Ireland, your French Hose off, and in your strait Strossers. 1609 Dekker *Gull's Horn-bk.* i. 7 The Italians close strosser, nor the French standing coller. *c* 1608 Middleton *No Wit like Woman's* ii. i. 39 His son a-horseback in cloth-of-gold breeches, while he himself goes to the devil a-foot in a pair of old strossers! 1637 I. Jones & Davenant *Brit. Triumphans* 15 His Squire apparell'd in a yellow Coat, with wide sleeves, and strossers cut in paines of yellow and watchet.

Strost: see Strust *v.* (= Trust.)

Strot, var. Strut *sb. Obs.*

† **Strothe,** ? *sb. Obs. rare*⁻¹. [Perh. for **strode*, repr. OE. *strōd* marsh (cf. Strother); perh. metathetically a. ON. *storð* small wood (cf. *Storth*, *-storth* in Yorks. and Derbyshire place-names).] ? A marsh; ? a small wood.

13.. *Gaw. & Gr. Knt.* 1710 At þe last bi a littel dich he lepez ouer a spenné, Stelez out ful stilly bi a strothe rande.

† **Strothe,** *a. Obs. rare*⁻¹. (Meaning obscure.)

13.. *E. E. Allit. Poems* A. 115 A[s] stremande sternez quen stroþe men slepe.

† **Stro·ther.** *north. Obs.* Also 5 **strothre, stroudyr, strowder, strwder, struther, struder, -ire,** 5-6 **struthir.** [App. related to OE. *strōd* marsh: cf. the place-name *Strood.*] A marsh.

The *Peebles Charters* (ed. 1872) 1457-1569 frequently mention a piece of land called 'The common strother'.

? *a* 1300 *Feodarium Priorat. Dunelm.* (Surtees) 203 *note*, Ab ea cruce usque in mediam strother quæ proxima est versus Hoccale. 1479 *Hexham Priory, Black Bk.* (Surtees) II. 16 Inter moram de Stancrofte et le Syde usque le Langstrothre. *Ibid.* 17 Et sic a la Hac directe usque le strothre. 1486 *Reg. Mag. Sig. Scot.* 348 Cum una marresia vulgariter nuncupata a strudire juxta le Berresdikis. 1576 *Reg. Mag. Sig. Scot. 1586*, 297/1 Peciam terre vocatam the Cobstruthir extendentem ad 2 acras. 1832 Morton *Mon. Annals Teviotdale* 116 Crailing..was granted by David I., with the crag in the same vill, and easements in the adjoining strother, in exchange for lands at Hardingesthorn.

†Stro·thir. *Obs. rare.* Also strodir. [Contraction of OE. *stéor-róðor* steer-oar: see STEER *sb.*² and RUDDER.] A steering oar, helm, rudder.

[*c*897 ÆLFRED *Gregory's Past. C.* lvi. 431 Dæt hit wære swelce se stiora slepe on mídre sæ, & forlure ðæt stiorroður.] *14.. Beryn* 1580 And put in goddis gowernaunce, lyff, Shippe & strothir. *Ibid.* 1884 To sese both Shipp & strodir.

†Stru·blance. *Obs.* (In quots. *Sc.*) Forms: 5 **strublance, -ulance,** 5–6 **-lans,** 6 **-lens.** [Aphetic f. DISTROUBLANCE.] Disturbance, molestation.

1439 *Inchaffray Charters* (S. H. S.) 138 Meg..neuer sal agayn call it..na mak strublance to thaim in the said landis. 1496 *Extracts Aberd. Reg.* (1844) I. 59 Gyf euer the said Willame committis ony offense or strubulance to the said Thomas. 1543 *Ibid.* 190 Wm. Mathesone, fyscher, wes convict..for the strublens of John Valcar,..and strublens of all his bottis schipping. 1598 *Ibid.* II. 172 The strublans of this burgh, this day committit be Patrik Chein.

†Strouble, *a. Obs. rare*⁻¹. In 5 **strowbill.** [Cf. STROUBLE *v.* and TROUBLE *a.*] Troublous.

*c*1470 HENRY *Wallace* VII. 138 In strowbill wer thou sall conteyne full lang.

†Strouble, *v. Obs.* Also 4–5 **stroble, -il**(1, 4–6 **struble,** 5 **stroubel, -ulle, strowble,** (? **strabil**). [Aphetic f. DISTROUBLE *v*, Cf. STURBLE *v.*]

1. *trans.* To disturb, trouble.

*c*1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xviii. (*Mary Egypt*) 948 Þa thochtis for to put me fra, my soroful corce þat stroblyt sa. 1382 WYCLIF *Micah* vii. 3 Thei strubliden [1388 sturbliden] to gydre it [Vulg. *conturbaverunt eam*]. *a*1400–50 *Wars Alex.* 856 And Philip saine [was] sare seke & all þe lest strubled [*Dubl.* stroblet]. *c*1425 *St. Mary of Oignies* I. viii. in *Anglia* VIII. 140/32 She knewe þe sleightes and wiles of þe enmy, þat gladly wolde strabil hir. *c*1470 HENRY *Wallace* XI. 1072 The sayr bandys so strowblyt all his thocht. 1538 *Extracts Aberd. Reg.* (1844) I. 156 Als the saydis Robert and Johnn hed strublit..this guid towne, in stoping of dansing [etc.].

2. To make turbid or cloudy.

*c*1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xi. (*Ninian*) 571 A cloud vondir blak..stroublit þe ayre. *a*1500 *Ratis Raving* II. 207 Thocht a day strublyt be the are, Ane vthir efter cumys faire.

Hence **†Stroubling** *vbl. sb.* Also **†Stroubler.**

*a*1400 *Hampole's Prose Tr.* 22 With oute lettynge or strobillynge of worldely besynes. *c*1460 *Promp. Parv.* (Winch.) 439/1 Stroblare, or troblare, *perturbator*. [The entry is in the alphabetical place of *Storb-*; cf. Way 477/2.] *a*1500 *Wisd. Sol.* 652 in *Ratis Raving* (1870) 20 The strublyne of fulys crabis the visman.

Strouce: see STROUSE *Obs.*

Strucke, obs. pa. t. of STRIKE *v.*

Stroud (stroud). ? *Obs.* Also 8 **strowd.** [? f. *Stroud* in Gloucestershire.]

1. A blanket manufactured for barter or sale in trading with the North American Indians. Also *stroud blanket.*

1683 in C. H. Hunt *Life E. Livingston* (1864) 6 Four garments of Strouds. 1751 C. GIST *Jrnls.* (1893) 53 Six Strouds, two Match-Coats, and a String of Wampum. 1752 *Jrnl. Capt. Treat* 52 (Cent.) Be pleased to give to the son of the Piankasha king these two strowds to clothe him. 1809 A. HENRY *Trav.* 119 Before him, on a new stroud blanket, was placed a bason of water. 1812 J. J. HENRY *Camp. agst. Quebec* 133 A large, but coarse blue blanket, called a stroud. 1898 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade.*

2. The material of which these blankets were made.

1759 *Ann. Reg.* 201, 12 pieces red stroud; 15 ditto, blue. 1805 PIKE *Sources Mississ.* (1810) 27 Five yards of blue stroud. 1844 G. DODD *Textile Manuf.* iv. 139 A kind of cheap cloth, called 'stroud' made from woollen rags, was exported to North American Indians.

3. *attrib.*

1683 in C. H. Hunt *Life E. Livingston* (1864) 7 Four Stroud-Coats and Two duffel-Coats.

Hence **Stroud·ing** *vbl. sb.* = prec. 2.

1814 BRACKENRIDGE *Jrnl.* in *Views of Louisiana* 201 The merchandise, which consisted of strouding, blankets,..guns, beads, &c. 1886 *Century Mag.* Nov. 33/2 A few yards of blue strouding such as the Indians used for breech-clouts.

†Strough, *v. Obs. rare*⁻¹. [? Corrupt var. of TROUGH *v.* (which, however, is not recorded in this sense).] *trans.* ? To subject (a mineral deposit) to a process by which the ore or metal is separated from other matter.

1618 S. ATKINSON *Gold Mynes Scot.* (Bannatyne Club) 2 Sufficient water..with which all sorts of earth are to be washed or scowred, else buddled, and so stroughed.

Strougle, obs. form of STRUGGLE *v.*

Strouit, obs. pa. t. of STREW *v.*

Stroul(e, obs. forms of STROLL.

Stroumpet, obs. form of STRUMPET.

Strounde, obs. form of STRAND *sb.*¹

Strounger, obs. form of STRANGER.

Stroup (strūp). *Obs.* exc. *dial.* Forms: 4, 6 **stroupe,** 5, 7 **strowpe,** 6 **strowp,** 7 **stroap,** 7–9 **stroop, stroup.** [a. ON. *strúpe* (also *strjúpe*) = MSw., mod.Sw. *strupe*, Da. *strube*, throat.]

1. The throat; the gullet or the wind-pipe.

1338 R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (1810) 196 He smot him in þe helm, bakward he bare his stroupe. *a*1400 *Celestin* 638 in *Anglia* I. 83 My weysaunt and my stroupe. *c*1440 *Promp. Parv.* 480/2 Strowpe, of the throte, *epiglotus*. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 369/2 A Strowpe, *lien*. 1661 *Reg. Privy Counc. Scot.* Ser. III. I. 21 They..went into the byre and cutted the stroaps of eight heid of bestiall. 1787 GROSE *Prov. Gloss., Stroop*, the gullet. *a*1825 FORBY *Voc. E. Anglia, Stroop*, the gullet, or the wind-pipe. It seems indifferently applied to both. 1878 S. H. MILLER & SKERTCHLY *Fenland* IV. 131 Stroop.

2. The spout of a pump, kettle, teapot, etc. Chiefly *Sc.*

1505 in J. Bain & C. Rogers *Liber Protocol. C. Simon* (1877) I. 335 [Two silver phials, one of which wanted] the stroup. 1672 G. SINCLAIR *Hydrostaticks* (1683) 292 This defect might be supplied by the blowing of Bellows from above ground, through a Stroop of Leather, or some other thing. 1828 J. WILSON *Noct. Ambr.* Wks. 1855 II. 74 That stroop's a gran' pourer. 1842 J. AITON *Domest. Econ.* (1857) 224 The stroup of an old tea-pot.

†3. ? A hood. *Obs.*

1579 in *Bk. Univ. Kirk Scot.* (1839) 187 The bruit was of same [*read* some] superstitious rites quhilks ware prepared for the buriall, as ane qwhyte cross in the mortcloath, lang gownes with stroupes and torches. *Ibid.*, Who returnit with answer, that the Lords should cause cover the mort-cloath with black velvet, and the stroupes should be removit.

Hence **strouped** *a.*, having a spout. **Stroup·less** *a.*, having no spout.

1744 *Rec. Elgin* (1908) II. 339 A peuter strouped flaggon. 1802 *Medical Jrnl.* VIII. 176 It was received into a *strouped* decanter. 1823 GALT *Entail* lxxvii, I would na hae tied my talent in a napkin, nor hid it in a stroopless tea-pot.

Stroupe, obs. form of STIRRUP.

†Strouse. *Obs. rare.* Also **strouce.** = TROUSE *sb.*² Cf. STROSSER. *Obs.*

1600 *Sir J. Oldcastle* v. x. 124 *Irish.* Prethee, Lord shudge, let me haue mine own clothes, my strouces there. 1620 tr. *Boccacio's Decameron* VII. iii. 29 b, [Friar] Reynard being stript into his Trusse and straite Strouses.

†Strouse-man. *Obs. rare.*—¹ ?

1688 W. SCOT *Hist. Name Scot.* (1894) 45 The Keepers and the Strouse-men came, With Shouts from Hill to Hill, With Hound and Horn they rais'd the Deer.

Strout(e, obs. forms of STRUT *v.*¹

[Strow, error for *frow*, FROUGH *a.*

1659 *Lady Alimony* II. v. D 4 b, The grass Too strow for fodder, and too rank for pasture. 1822 NARES; hence in recent Dicts.]

Strow: see STREW *v.*

Strowe, strowh, obs. forms of STRAW *sb.*¹

Strowl(e, Strowt(e: see STROLL, STRUT *v.*¹

†Stroy, *sb. Obs.* [In sense 1, ? short for *stroy-all* or *-good*: see STROY *v.* b. In sense 2, aphetic f. DESTROY *sb.*]

1. One who destroys; a wasteful person. *dial.*

*c*1440 *Promp. Parv.* 480/2 Stroy [*w.r.* stroyel], or dystroyare, *destructor, dissipator*. *a*1825 FORBY *Voc. E. Anglia, Stry, Stry-good, s.*, a wasteful person; a bad manager or economist.

2. Destruction. *To make stroy of*, to make spoil of, pillage.

1682 BUNYAN *Holy War* (1905) 386 Nor did they partake or make stroy of any of the Necessaries of Mansoul, but that which they seised on against the Townsmens will. 1688 LD. DELAMERE *Adv. to Child*r. Wks. (1694) 25 To have your meat well drest does well, for there is not much difference betwixt a wilful stroy, and to have a great deal of meat spoiled in the dressing.

Stroy (stroi), *v. Obs.* or *arch.* Forms: *α.* 2–3 **stru3e,** 2–4 **struie,** 4 **stru(e, strui, strwe,** 4–5 **struye.** *β.* 4–5 **stry3e,** 4–6 **strie,** 5, 7, 9 *dial.* **stry.** *γ.* 4 **stro3e,** 4–5 **stroie,** 4–6 **stroye,** 4–9 **stroy.** [Aphetic f. DESTROY *v.*; cf. ASTROY *v.*] *trans.* To destroy.

*c*1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 51 þat he sholde fare to þe burh of ierusalem and struȝen it. *Ibid.* 161 [The Devil] struieð rihte bileue. *a*1300 *Cursor M.* 9203 In his time..Iurselem was struid [*Gött.* stroyd]. 13.. *Gaw. & Gr. Knt.* 2194 Hit is þe fende,..þat has stoken me þis steuen, to stryȝe me here. 1377 LANGL. *P. Pl. B.* xv. 587 Þei..studyeden to stroyen [*w.r.* struyen] hym and stroyden hemself. 1382 WYCLIF *Ecclus.* xxviii. 17 Wallid cites of riche men it stroȝede. *c*1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 4953 As clay of ways I sall þaim struye [Vulg. Ps. xvii. 43 *delebo*]. *c*1450 *Mirk's Festial* 72, I woll stryȝe hit [the world] wyth a flod. 1567 TURBERV. *Epit.* etc. 89 b, Though Tayler cut thy garment out of frame, And strie thy stuffe by sowing it amis. 1579 W. A. *Remedy agst. Love* (Roxb.) B iiij b, For take away the cause of every vice..You stroy theffect. 1603 J. DAVIES (Heref.) *Microcosmos* 49 Damn'd Nothing that hast such a some-thing stride, How wast begot? 1606 SHAKS. *Ant. & Cl.* III. xi. 54 What I haue left behinde Stroy'd in dishonor. *c*1611 CHAPMAN *Iliad* XXII. 37 O Hector! flie, this man, this homicide, That strait will stroy thee. 1642 H. MORE *Song of Soul* II. I. iv. 6 They stroy one th' other in fell cankred mood. 1819 W. TENNANT *Papistry Storm'd* (1827) 189 As they look't up ilk lofty wa', Takin' their meiths for its downfa', That they may strike and stroy. *a*1825 FORBY *Voc. E. Anglia, Stry*, to destroy; to waste.

†b. *Comb.*: **stroy-all, stroy-good,** a destructive or wasteful person.

1573–80 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 21 A giddie braine maister, and *stroyal his knaue, brings ruling to ruine and thrift to hir graue. 1540 PALSGR. *Acolastus* I. iii. F iij b, I reioyce ..to be called Acolastus .i. a *stroygood, or a prodigal felow. 1567 GOLDING *Ovid's Met.* XI. (1593) 269 The cruell stroygood [*L. vastatorem*] with his bloodie mouth and heere. 1611 COTGR., *Bobancier*, an vnthrift, riotous waster, superfluous spender, immoderate stroy-good. *a*1825 *stry-good* [see STROY *sb.* 1].

Hence **†Stroy·ing** *vbl. sb.*

1396–7 in *Eng. Hist. Rev.* (1907) XXII. 303 Aborcife and stroying of kynde. ?*c*1400 *Wyclif's Wycket* (1546) B j, Great stroyeng of the people of God. 1549 CHEKE *Hurt Sedit.* (1569) G iv, How many came to the campes from long labour to sodeine ease, and from meane fare to stroying of vittaile. 1573–80 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 106 If shepherd would keepe them from stroieng of corne.

†Stroy·er. *Obs.* Also 4 **struier, struyer, strier,** 5 **streier.** [Aphetic f. DESTROYER.] A destroyer.

*a*1300 *Cursor M.* 16703 Aha! þou struier [*Gött.* struyer] o þe temple. *c*1380 WYCLIF *Wks.* (1880) 128 3yt þes possessioners ben þeues and so striers of clergye and of good lif in the people. *c*1381 CHAUCER *Parl. Foules* 360 The drake, stroyer of his owne kinde. 1589 R. ROBINSON *Golden Mirr.* (Chetham Soc.) 18 He layes not gether poore men's grounds He is no countrey stroyer.

Stroyl, Stru: see STROIL, STROY *v.*

Strub (strʊb), *v. s.w. dial.* [Of obscure origin: cf. STRIP *v.*] *trans.* To rob, strip.. Also *absol.*

*c*1680 in A. H. A. Hamilton *Quarter Sessions* (1878) 220 [Robert Coad was convicted of] being a night-walker, and pilfering and strubbing in the night-time. 1867 ROCK *Jim & Nell* lxiv, But they've a-strubb'd vlower-knats an' heaths, And fudgeed up zum purty wreaths. 1870 PENGELLY in *N. & Q.* Ser. IV. VI. 72/1 [In East Cornwall thirty years ago] *to strub* was to strip or rob. Thus, we were said to *strub* a bird's nest (not the bird) when we took the eggs or young birds from it.

Struble: see STROUBLE *v.*

†Strucion. *Obs.* Forms: 3 **strucion,** 4 **strucioun, struccon,** 5 **strucyon.** Also in med.L. form 4 **strucyo,** 4–5 **strucio,** 6 **struchio.** [ad. med.L. *strūciōnem*, a miswriting of L. *strūthiōnem*, nom. *strūthio*, a. Gr. στρουθίων, f. στρουθός sparrow (ὁ μέγας σ. the ostrich).] The ostrich. (By some writers confused with the stork.)

*a*1225 *Ancr. R.* 132 þe steorc [MS. C. strucion, MS. T. ostrice]. *c*1340 HAMPOLE *Prose Tr.* 9 Þay are lyke till a fowle þat es callede strucyo or storke. 1382 WYCLIF *Job* XXXIX. 13 The fether of a strucioun [1388 ostriche] is lic to the fetheris of a ierfalcun. — *Micah* i. 8. 1388 — *Lev.* xi. 16. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) III. 11 Salomon.. closede Astructio his bryd in a glas, and þe struccon brouȝte a worme þat hatte Thamir out of wildernesse [1432–50 *MS. Harl.* Strucio *in both places*; 1485 *Caxton* struccyon]. *c*1400 *Three Kings Cologne* 46 þe which is clepyd strucio. *c*1500 KENNEDY *Passion of Christ* 26 As struttioun [*MS. A* ſtructioun] stif, as tigar tiranus. 1592 LODGE *Euphues Shadow* B 1, The birde Struchio [hath] a big body, but weake wings.

Struck (strʊk), *pa. pple.* and *ppl. a.* [pa. pple. of STRIKE *v.*] **†A.** *pa. pple.* in special use = STRICKEN A, STRUCKEN A.

1594 SHAKS. *Rich. III*, I. i. 92 His Noble Queene [is] Well strooke [1597 Qo. stroke] in yeares. 1629 QUARLES *Argalus & P.* III. 124 An old gray pilgrime, deeply strucke in yeares. 1787 *Minor* IV. ii. 206 A person struck in years, and of a noble deportment, approached.

B. *ppl. a.*

1. Subjected to a blow or stroke.

1627 MAY *Lucan* IV. F 5, Make the strooke earth to deluge peruious. 1693 J. O. tr. *Cowley's Hist. Plants* I. C.'s Wks. 1721 III. 272 As soon as Musick from struck Strings rebounds. 1821 JOANNA BAILLIE *Metr. Leg., Lady G. Baillie* xvii, Then from the struck flint flew the spark. 1851 W. POLE in Rimbault *Pianoforte* (1860) 185 The elasticity of the struck wire would send it [*sc.* the hammer] down with such force that it rebounded. 1875 A. J. ELLIS tr. *Helmholtz's Sensat. Tone* I. v. 108 The differences in the quality of tone of struck strings.

b. Wounded: = STRICKEN *ppl. a.* B. 1. *rare.*

1809 BYRON *Engl. Bards* 841 So the struck eagle..View'd his own feather on the fatal dart. 1819 SHELLEY *Cenci* I. ii. 12 Your image, as the hunter some struck deer, Follows me.

†2. Of a battle: = STRICKEN B. 6. *Obs.*

1618–19 BEAUM. & FL. *Bonduca* I. i, Ten struck Battels I suckt these honour'd scars from.

3. Marked, grooved.

1677 MOXON *Mech. Exerc.* iii. 47 Those wheels that have more than one Groove in them are called Two, Three, &c. Struck-wheels. 1678 *Ibid.* v. 83 You must not Saw just upon the struck line.

4. Of a jury: (See quot. 1856. Cf. STRIKE *v.* 14.)

1856 BOUVIER *Amer. Law Dict., Struck Jury*, a special jury selected by striking from the pannel of jurors, a certain number by each party, so as to leave a number required by law to try the cause. 1902 LINN *Story of Mormons* 308 A struck jury was obtained.

5. Of a measure: Levelled with a strickle. = STRICKEN B. 4, STRIKED.

1866 ROGERS *Agric. & Prices* I. x. 168 Nine struck bushels are reckoned as equal to eight heaped. 1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-mining* 245 *Struck*, level full; strickle measure.

6. Of a plant: That has put forth roots, rooted.

1856 DELAMER *Fl. Garden* (1861) 172 Pot off your struck chrysanthemums.

7. In various industrial arts.

a. Impressed with a device by means of a die.

1881 A. WATT *Mech. Industr.* 190 Another..branch of cheap jewellery manufacture consists in what is called 'struck' work. Thin sheet gold alloy of various qualities is struck by means of a die into any desired form, by which a hollow shell is obtained; this is then filled by fusing into it a quantity of silver solder. 1886 B. V. HEAD in *L. Jewitt's Eng. Coins & Tokens* 128 Modern casts made from ancient struck originals..The lettering and the types on cast coins are also less sharply defined than on struck coins.

b. *Electrometallurgy.* (See quot. 1881.)

1881 A. WATT *Scientific Industr.* II. 150 It is necessary that the article should be struck,..that is, receive an immediate coating directly after immersion, when deposition may be allowed to progress more slowly. 1909 *Century Dict.* Suppl. (citing Houston *Dict. Elect.*).

c. (See quot.)

1895 *Funk's Stand. Dict., Struck fish*, fish saturated with salt and then smoked.

d. *Struck up*: (of tinware) raised or fashioned by means of a press.

1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2466/1 Other swages operate in drop or lever presses upon sheet-metal; forming the struck-up tinware, such as pie-pans, [etc.].

8. *Comb.*: †*struck-blind* adj.

c 1611 CHAPMAN *Iliad* v. 300 It..made th' Heroe stay His strooke-blind temples on his hand.

Strucken (strʊ·k'n), *pa. pple.* and *ppl. a. Obs.* exc. *Sc.* and *north.* [pa. pple. of STRIKE *v.*]

A. *pa. pple.* in special sense = STRICKEN A. STRUCK A.

1583-92 GREENE *Mamillia* II. O 1 b, Calling him which was well strooken in yeeres, & yet enamoured,..not an old louer, but a filthie foole. 1586 T. BRIGHT *Treat. Mel.* XIX. 118 The aged, farre stroken in yeares, faile in the execution of externall actions. 1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* I. II. 154 Now Metellan weil strukne in ȝeiris, [etc.]. 1650 LAMONT *Diary* (Maitl. Club) 23 Old Inchdearnie..depairted out of this life, being a man weill struken in yeares. 1768 FOOTE *Devil upon two Sticks* II. Wks. 1778 IV. 40 *Devil.* That was composing, indeed. *Last.* Ay, warn't it, master, for a man that is strucken in years.

B. *ppl. a.* = STRICKEN *ppl. a.* in various uses.

Strucken blindness (nonce-use), the condition of being struck blind.

1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* I. I. 123 Lat him that strykes be called giltie, & the strukne absoluet. *Ibid.* I. II. 140 Afor him, in Albion was na vsse of strukne or cuinȝet money. 1612 J. DAVIES (Heref.) *Muse's Sacrif.* (Grosart) 81/2 Yet (like the strucken Fish) we are in hold. 1642 H. MORE *Song of Soul, Paraphr. Interpr.* P 7 b, I tune my strings..: some golden vein The strucken chords right sweetly shall resound. 1649 MILTON *Eikon.* Pref. B 2 b, That they..may have none to blame but thir owne folly, if they live and dye in such a strook'n blindness. 1662 FELTHAM *Resolves, Upon Eccles. it.* 11 (ed. 8) 382 A strucken Deer. 1901 G. DOUGLAS *House with Gr. Shutters* 297 John's asleep this strucken hour and mair.

†**Strucˈtor.** *Obs. rare*—1. [a. L. *structor*, agent-n. from *struĕre* to build.] A builder.

1634 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* 59 These Persians say one Iamshet was the structor [of the Palace of Persepolis].

Structural (strʊ·ktiŭrăl), *a.* [f. STRUCTURE *sb.* + -AL.] Of or pertaining to structure.

1. Of or pertaining to the art or practice of building. Chiefly in *structural iron, steel*, iron or steel intended for building construction.

1867 BURTON *Hist. Scot* ii. (1873) I. 53 The rise of structural skill in Scotland. 1895 *Current Hist.* V. 608 The great demand was for structural iron and steel. 1902 *Westm. Gaz.* 21 May 8/2 Structural steel.

b. *fig.* Pertaining to the art of literary construction. *rare.*

1870 LOWELL *Study Wind.* (1871) 188 Chaucer..had a structural faculty which distinguishes him from all other English poets, his contemporaries.

2. Of or pertaining to the structure of a building as distinguished from its decoration or fittings. *Structural load* (see quot. 1888).

1877 J. D. CHAMBERS *Div. Worship* 1 Structural and other requisites for Divine Worship. *a* 1878 SCOTT *Lect. Archit.* (1879) I. 69 It was my endeavour to illustrate the mechanical and structural portion of the process. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* I. 183 The general rule, however, is that carpenters' work is structural, and connected with the carcase, whilst that of a joiner comprehends the finishings of the outside and inside of a building. 1885 CONDER *Syrian Stone-Lore* ii. (1896) 103 By careful examination I found that the arches near the great reservoir were not structural but false. 1888 *Lockwood's Dict. Mech. Engin., Structural Load*, the load due to a structure itself, as distinguished from the imposed load. 1912 T. D. ATKINSON *Cathedrals* 180 The great structural supports..Wykeham retained.

fig. 1904 S. H. BUTCHER *Harvard Lect.* 200 The subject-matter of poetry is the universal—that which is abiding and structural in humanity.

3. Of or pertaining to the arrangement and mutual relation of the parts of any complex unity.

1870 YEATS *Nat. Hist..Comm.* 7 All raw substances contain within them structural evidences of the conditions under which they were developed. 1873 HAMERTON *Intell. Life* III. x. 129 We learn several languages by perceiving their structural relations, and remembering these. 1874 W. SPOTTISWOODE *Polarisation of Light* vi. 76 The mechanical strain has imparted to portions of the glass a structural character analogous..to that of a crystal. 1874 *Hartwig's Aerial World* ii. 24 Having obtained a knowledge of the various gaseous substances which compose the atmosphere, we will now cast a glimpse on their structural arrangement. 1884 tr. *Lotze's Logic* Introd. 7 If, again, a tool is to fit the hand, it must have such other structural properties as make it easy to grasp. 1887 *Athenæum* 8 Oct. 463/1 Singleton here..passes at once from the attitude of the eye-witness to the attitude of the chronicler, and tells the story..by the historical method. Nor was there any structural need for him to do this; he could have [etc.].

4. In various scientific uses.

a. *Phys.* and *Path.* Of or pertaining to the organic structure of an animal or plant, or a portion of an animal or vegetable body.

1845 BUDD *Dis. Liver* 202 No structural lesion of the brain. 1862 SPENCER *First Princ.* II. xiii. § 104. (1875) 302 The structural modifiability of an adult man is greater than that of an old man. 1863 HUXLEY *Man's Place in Nat.* ii. 103 The structural differences which separate Man from the Gorilla and the Chimpanzee. 1877 J. A. ALLEN *Amer. Bison* 488 In the structural character of the teeth themselves there is nothing that positively settles the question of their identity. 1880 BASTIAN *Brain* I. 21 The localization of the path of the stimulus leads to structural results of another kind. 1898 *Syd. Soc. Lex., Structural disease*, one involving tissue and causing change visible to the naked eye or the microscope; also organic disease in contradistinction to functional disease. *Comb.* 1901 *Amer. Jrnl. Psychol.* XII. 598 The structural-functional psychology question.

b. *Geol.* Pertaining to the structure of the earth's crust, of a rock, formation, mountain, or the like.

1855 *Orr's Circ. Sci., Inorg. Nat.* 57 The phenomena just described are called structural, as affecting the intimate structure of the mass, and not merely its external form. 1862 DANA *Man. Geol.* IV. vi. 735 There are three elements at the base of the earth's features. First a geographical one; ..; the second, structural,—the system of cleavage-structure; the third dynamical. 1893 B. WILLIS in *13th Ann. Rep. U. S. Geol. Surv.* II. 224 In the Appalachian province there are four districts, each of which is distinguished from the others by a prevailing structural type.

c. Of a branch of a science: Concerned with the study of the structures of natural products.

Structural botany: botany dealing with the structure and organization of plants. *Structural chemistry*: chemistry treating of the arrangement or order of attachment of atoms in the molecules of compounds. *Structural geology*: geology dealing with the method of the formation of the rocks that constitute the earth's crust; also called *geotectonic geology*.

1835 LINDLEY (*title*), A Key to structural, physiological, and systematic Botany. 1849 BALFOUR *Man. Bot.* 1 Structural Botany, or Organography, which has reference to the textures of which plants are composed, and to the forms of the various organs. 1882 GEIKIE *Text-bk. Geol.* IV. 474 Geotectonic (Structural) Geology, or the architecture of the earth's crust. 1907 *Nature* 24 Oct. 654/1 Structural chemistry, moreover, is slowly acquiring the mastery over cholesterin by making use of the experience afforded by the synthetic study of the hydroaromatic substances.

Hence **Structuralˈity** *rare*—0, structural quality or character.

1895 in *Funk's Stand. Dict.* 1909 *Century Dict.* Suppl.

Structurally (strʊ·ktiŭrăli), *adv.* [f. STRUCTURAL + -LY 2.] In structural respects; with regard to structure.

1839 HALLAM *Hist. Lit.* III. iii. § 72 We do not know..the entire conditions of organic bodies (even structurally, not as living). 1849 *Sk. Nat. Hist., Mammalia* IV. 165 The Sloths ..are exclusively arboreal;..and for the trees alone are they structurally adapted. 1865 *Daily Tel.* 28 Dec. 5/3 St. Petersburg also is as marvellous a city, structurally speaking, as Amsterdam; its palaces, quays, and arsenals are all built on piles. 1869 *Daily News* 14 Oct., The question as to whether a counting-house which is not structurally severed constitutes a good qualification [to vote as a householder]. 1882 *Macm. Mag.* XLVI. 500 The houses are..structurally defective. 1915 *Edin. Rev.* Jan. 74 Dutch differs little structurally from Low German.

Structure (strʊ·ktiŭr) *sb.* [ad. L. *structūra*, f. *struct-*, *struĕre* to build: see -URE. Cf. F. *structure*, Sp., Pg. *estructura*, It. *struttura*.]

1. The action, practice, or process of building or construction. Now *rare* or *Obs.*

c 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* IX. 134 This doon, the sidis [of the tank] make vp with structure [L. *quo facto latera puteorum structura suscipiat*]. 1613 R. C. *Table Alph.* (ed. 3), *Structure*, building, setting in good order. 1624 WOTTON *Elem. Arch.* I. 48 This is yet a weake piece of Structure, because the Supporters are subiect to much impulsion. 1693 J. DRYDEN Jr. tr. *Juvenal* XIV. 116 His Son builds on, and never is content, Till the last Farthing is in Structure spent. *a* 1704 T. BROWN *Praise of Drunkenness* Wks. 1730 I. 32 If we look back into the primitive history of the first ages,.. from the very first structure of the world, we shall find [etc.]. 1726 LEONI *Alberti's Archit., Life* 5 A Florentine, who had worked for him..in the structure of the Choir. 1770 LUCKOMBE *Hist. Printing* 292 Presses of his structure became ..general throughout the Low Countries. 1793 SMEATON *Edystone L.* Pref. p. v, A distinct account of the progress and structure of the Edystone Lighthouse. 1844 DISRAELI *Coningsby* VII. iii, The scarcity of brick and stone at the period of its structure.

2. Manner of building or construction; the way in which an edifice, machine, implement, etc. is made or put together.

1650 FULLER *Pisgah* III. ii. 317 The structure of this City was beautifull and high. 1695 tr. *Misson's Voy. Italy* II. 138 The structure of the Cathedral is not much unlike to that of the Church of Siena. 1706 E. WARD *Wooden World Diss.* (1708) 72 He can spy out the Faults in the Structure of a Boat, sooner than those of himself. 1772 PENNANT *Tours Scot.* (1774) 1 Chester; a city without parallel for the singular structure of the four principal streets, which are as if excavated out of the earth. 1826 *Art Brewing* (ed. 2) 149 There are variations in the structure of these mills—some are worked by hand, others by horse and water. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. III. iv, They..show purchased dirks, of an improved structure, made to order. 1908 *Animal Managem.* (War Office) 176 In speaking of the structure of the saddle.

3. The mutual relation of the constituent parts or elements of a whole as determining its peculiar nature or character; make, frame.

a. *gen.*

1615 CHAPMAN *Odyss.* IV. 1075 An Idoll, that Iphthima did present In structure of her euery lineament [*marg.* δεμας membrorum structura]. 1657 J. COOKE *Hall's Cures Englisht* 203 My Lady Rainsford beautifull and of a gallant structure of body. 1725 DE FOE *Voy. round World* (1840) 262 The admirable structure of this part of the Country. 1757 R. PRICE *Review Morals* i. (1769) 13 Then..it [morality] has no other measure or standard, besides every one's private structure of mind and sensations. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* I. 51 Of the internal Structure of the Earth. 1803 BROUGHAM *Colon. Policy* I. 50 The structure of society ..is the same in all those settlements. 1814 BREWSTER in *Phil. Trans.* CIV. 438 The interior part of the drop had a structure similar to that of fluid glass. 1839 CARLYLE *Chartism* iii. (1858) 12 With a feeling of thankfulness rather that there do exist men of that structure too. 1872 MORLEY *Voltaire* (1886) 2 Men..became conscious of new fibre in their moral structure. 1880 HAUGHTON *Phys. Geog.* ii. 20 The structure of the Southern Hemisphere.

b. *Anat., Biol.*, etc.

1615 H. CROOKE *Body of Man* VIII. iv. (1631) 730 Of the Vse, Figure and Structure of the Hand. 1725 N. ROBINSON *Th. Physick* 49 This imperfect Sketch,..concerning the Structure, Mechanism, Laws, Properties, and Motions of that System of Matter, that compose a human Body. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* VIII. 11 Many philosophers..have..minutely examined their [*sc.* caterpillars'] structure and internal conformation. 1814 SIR H. DAVY *Agric. Chem.* 56 Every plant examined as to external structure, displays at least four systems of organs. 1835 J. DUNCAN *Beetles* (Nat. Libr.) 142 An exotic group, very closely related to the Gyrini, but offering so many minute modifications of structure as to warrant their separation into a distinct genus. 1859 DARWIN *Orig. Spec.* V. (1873) 114 Variations of structure arising in the young or larvæ naturally tend to affect the structure of the mature animal. 1884 BOWER & SCOTT *De Bary's Phaner.* 88 The secretion of dermal glands..always appears first in the walls of the cells, and gives them a peculiar structure.

c. *Geol.*, *Min.*, etc.

1813 BAKEWELL *Introd. Geol.* (1815) 27 Fragments of stone broken from simple rocks display the structure of the internal parts. 1822 CLEAVELAND *Min. & Geol.* (ed. 2) I. 58 The structure of a mineral undoubtedly depends on the shape, size, and arrangement of the minute parts, of which it is composed. 1879 A. GEIKIE in *Encycl. Brit.* X. 229/1 There are two leading types of structure among rocks—crystalline or massive, and fragmental.

d. With reference to a literary composition, a verse or sentence, a language, etc.

1746 FRANCIS tr. *Hor., Epist.* I. XIX. 37, I fear'd to change the Structure of his Line. 1749 *Power & Harmony Prosaic Numbers* Pref. 3 A critical Regard to the Structure of the Periods. 1789 *New Lond. Mag.* July 367/1 A new farce.. was presented last Saturday at this theatre. The structure is light and pleasant. 1814 KEBLE *Occas. Papers* (1877) 154 There remain two sorts of imitation instrumental to Poetry: indirect, by which the style and structure takes the colour of the subject; and direct. 1823 THOMASINA ROSS *Bouterwek's Hist. Sp. Lit.* I. 260 Combining the unity of ideas, which ought to distinguish that species of composition [*sc.* the sonnet], with the most elegant rounding and regularity of structure. 1833 J. RUSH *Philos. Human Voice* XLV. (ed. 2) 313 When the structure of a sentence is so much involved as to produce a momentary hesitation in an audience, about its concord or government. 1857 J. D. MORELL *Gram. Engl. Lang.* 49 The Structure of Words. 1. Roots and Derivatives. 1862 STANLEY *Jew. Ch.* (1877) I. XIX. 371 The Apocalypse is ..thoroughly poetical in structure. 1887 *Spectator* 23 July 996/1 The story itself is in structure extremely simple.

4. The coexistence in a whole of distinct parts having a definite manner of arrangement.

1873 SPENCER *Study Sociol.* iii. (1880) 63 Though structure up to a certain point [in the animal organism] is requisite for growth, structure beyond that point impedes growth. 1876 [see STRUCTURE *v.*].

5. *concr.* That which is built or constructed.

a. A building or edifice of any kind, esp. a pile of building of some considerable size and imposing appearance.

1615 BRATHWAIT *Strappado* 104 Her structures ruin'd are, and there doth grow, A grove of fatall Elmes. 1631 WEEVER *Anc. Funeral Mon.* 707 The bodies..were buried in the Abbey Church,..in Saint Peters, and in other religious Structures. 1664 H. MORE *Myst. Iniq.* 297 Dilichius not onely mentions the seven Hills, but tells also what magnificent structures stand upon them. 1739 GRAY *Let.* Poems (1775) 69 A church..which is, indeed, a most stately structure. 1818 BYRON *Ch. Har.* IV. i, I saw from out the wave her structures rise As from the stroke of the enchanter's wand. 1853 PHILLIPS *Rivers Yorks.* viii. 202 Of these humble structures we have only the foundations. 1879 TOURGÉE *Fool's Errand* viii. 34 This log house had in time given way to a more pretentious structure of brick.

transf. 1671 MILTON *Samson* 1239 [Spoken to the giant Harapha.] Go baffl'd coward, lest I run upon thee,..And with one buffet lay thy structure low.

b. *fig.*

1637 SALTONSTALL *Eusebius' Constantine* 49 Your contentions doe arise from points not concerning the maine structure of Religion. 1669 R. COKE *Power & Subj.* 269 The whole structure of his *civitas* might bee dissolved. 1694 PRIOR *Hymn to Sun* viii, Eternal Structures let Them raise, On William's and Maria's Praise: Nor want new Subject for the Song. 1892 WESTCOTT *Gospel of Life* 256 Christianity is not a structure of institutions.

c. Buildings collectively.

1671 MILTON *P. R.* III. 286 Ecbatana her structure vast there shews.

6. In a wider sense: A fabric or framework of material parts put together.

1677 T. JORDAN *Lond. Triumphs* title-p., Illustrated with many Magnificent Structures & Pageants. 1728 POPE *Dunc.* I. 247 Then [he] lights the structure with averted eyes, The rolling smoke involves the sacrifice. 1788 COWPER *Gratitude* 25 This moveable structure of shelves,..charg'd with octavos and twelves. 1841 WHEWELL *Mech. Engin.* 1 Combinations of material parts,..when constructed with a view to support weights, or to resist forces, without being moved,..are termed Structures. *Ibid.* 51 Structures are of various kinds, as Frames, which have their parts connected by pins or mortises; and Arches, in which the parts are connected only by contact. 1883 W. J. M. RANKINE in *Encycl. Brit.* XV. 750/1 The principles of the support of a floating structure form an important part of Hydromechanics.

7. An organized body or combination of mutually connected and dependent parts or elements. Chiefly in *Biol.*, applied to component parts of an animal or vegetable organism.

1830 J. G. STRUTT *Sylva Brit.* 6 Each stage of the existence of these wonderful vegetable structures. 1859 DARWIN *Orig. Spec.* VI. (1873) 140 When we see any structure highly perfected for any particular habit, as the wings of a bird for

flight. 1876 SPENCER *Princ. Sociol.* § 254 (1885) I. 526 The general law of organization..is that distinct duties entail distinct structures. 1882 VINES tr. *Sachs' Bot.* 1 The substance of plants is not homogeneous, but is composed of small structures, generally indistinguishable by the naked eye... These structures are termed Cells.

8. *attrib.* and *Comb.*

1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* II. xxvii. 386 All the ice that forms the lower portion of this glacier has to pass through the structure-mill at the bottom of the fall, and the consequence is that it is all laminated. 1879 *Amer. Jrnl. Sci.* May 405 On the Structure-formulas of Aromatic Compounds. 1897 MARY KINGSLEY *W. Africa* 670 They..turn it bodily over and over, with structure-straining bumps to the boat, and any amount of advice..to each other.

Structure (strʌ·ktiŭ), *v. rare.* [f. prec. sb.] *trans.* To build or form into a structure; to organize the parts or elements of (something) in structural form.

a 1693 *Urquhart's Rabelais* III. xliv. 361 In which dangerous Opposition, Equity and Justice being structured and founded on either of the opposite Terms, and a Gap being thereby opened for the ushering in of Injustice and Iniquity. 1876 SPENCER *Princ. Sociol.* § 186. (1885) I. 365 What degree of likeness can we find between a man and a mountain?.. the one has little internal structure, and that irregular, the other is elaborately structured internally in a definite way.

Hence **Stru·ctured** *ppl. a.*

1873 SPENCER in *Contemp. Rev.* XXII. 328 The changes by which this structureless mass becomes a structured mass.

Structureless (strʌ·ktiŭles), *a.* [f. STRUCTURE *sb.* + -LESS.] Lacking organic structure.

1847-9 W. H. WALSHE in *Todd's Cycl. Anat.* IV. 104/1 Granular matter lying in a structureless substance. 1856 RUSKIN *Mod. Paint.* IV. v. xiii. § 4 That structureless and massive rock which we have characterized by the term 'compact crystalline'. 1879 *Haeckel's Evol. Man* II. xv. 33 It is only in the case of Monera,—of structureless organizations without organs—that we can assume the hypothesis of spontaneous generation. 1896 *Tablet* 1 Feb. 161 The structureless creed of the Board schools.

Hence **Stru·cturelessness.**

1859 HUXLEY in *Todd's Cycl. Anat.* V. 476/1 The structurelessness of a homogeneous membrane. 1892 *Nation* (N.Y.) 7 Apr. 263/1 It is a fact which absolutely overthrows the whole theory of poetic structure or structurelessness implied in Whitman's volumes.

Structurely (strʌ·ktiŭrli), *adv. rare*⁻¹. [badly f. STRUCTURE *sb.* + -LY ².] = STRUCTURALLY.

1867 SPENCER *Princ. Biol.* § 181. II. 14 These aggregates of the lowest order, each formed of physiological units united into a group that is structurely single, and cannot be divided without destruction of its individuality.

Structurer (strʌ·ktiŭrəɹ). *rare.* [f. STRUCTURE *v.* + -ER¹.] An architect, a builder or constructor.

1755 T. H. CROKER *Orl. Fur.* XXXIV. liii, Stupendous work! Dedalian structurer, With us, what fabrick can to this aspire?

Structurist (strʌ·ktiŭrist). *rare.* [f. STRUCTURE *sb.* + -IST.] A builder.

1860 WORCESTER (citing *N. Brit. Rev.*).

[Strude, erroneous f. STUD *sb.* (stock of mares), 1702 J. K. *New Eng. Dict.*; and in later Dicts.]

Strue, obs. variant of STROY *v.*

Struggle (strʌ·g'l), *sb.* Also 8 strugle. [f. STRUGGLE *v.*]

1. An act of struggling; a resolute contest, whether physical or otherwise; a continued effort to resist force or free oneself from constraint; a strong effort under difficulties.

1692 LOCKE *Consid. Lower. Interest* 115 The usual struggle and contest, as I said before,..is between the Landed Man and the Merchant. [Cf. *supra* 114 This pulling and contest is usually between the Landed Man and the Merchant.] *a* 1716 SOUTH *Serm.* (1727) VI. 180 Every Verse..speaking nothing but the Horrors of an hopeless Soul, and the Struggles and Agonies of one sinking under the dismal Apprehensions of the divine Wrath. 1772 *Junius Lett.* lxviii. 341 There was a constant struggle between the legislature and the officers of justice. 1798 T. MORTON *Speed the Plough* v. i. (1800) 64 'Tis hard for the heart to forego, without one struggle, its only hope of happiness. 1827 SCOTT *Highl. Widow* v, Her demand was never refused, though granted in many cases with a kind of struggle between compassion and aversion. 1833 *Q. Rev.* XLIX. 407 These feather-weights..sometimes ride a winning race; though if it comes to a struggle, as the term is, they are almost certain to be defeated by the experienced jockey. 1840 HOOD *Up Rhine* 217 The man..seized hold of the child's clothes in a very rough manner. A struggle immediately took place between the officer and the woman. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* vi. II. 159 The struggle which patriotism had for a time maintained against bigotry in the royal mind was at an end. 1867 RUSKIN *Time & Tide* i. § 1 The immediate struggle between the system of co-operation and the system of mastership. 1918 *Times Lit. Suppl.* 28 Mar. 149/2 Zarathustra..anticipated that the final eschatologic struggle was at hand, when the sovereignty..of Ahura would be established.

b. A strong effort to continue to breathe, as in the death-agony or under conditions tending to produce suffocation.

1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* vii, St. Aubert expired without a struggle or a sigh. 1809 *Med. Jrnl.* XXI. 138 This event [death] sometimes takes place..in a placid manner, without any struggle, and not unfrequently with a smile on the countenance. 1842 LOVER *Handy Andy* xi, Suddenly whipping the fish over the side into the boat, he began flapping it about as if it were plunging in the death struggle. 1845 J. COULTER *Adv. Pacific* vii. 87 [The whale] turned over in a few minutes without a struggle. 1854 SUTEES *Handley Cr.* i. (1901) I. 11 He died at the good old age of eighty without a groan or struggle. 1915 J. S. HALDANE in *Times* 29 Apr. 9/6 These men were lying struggling for breath...There was nothing to account for the..struggle for air, but the one fact that they were suffering from acute bronchitis.

†**c.** A conflict between material agents; *spec.* effervescence. (Cf. STRUGGLING *vbl. sb.* 2.) *Obs.*

1741 P. SHAW tr. *Boerhaave's Chem.* (ed. 2) I. 539 These salts rest after complete saturation, and then produce no struggle, upon the addition either of an alkali or an acid salt to the saturated mixture. 1796 KIRWAN *Elem. Min.* (ed. 2) I. 12 With magnesia it [*sc.* argill] can have no struggle. 1815 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 253 The earth, when dry, is a bad conductor, and will not receive the electricity from the clouds without a struggle.

d. *Struggle for existence, for life*: in *Biology* used metaphorically to describe the relation between co-existing organic species when the causes tending to the survival of one tend to the extinction of another. Also *gen.*, an effort under difficulties to obtain the means of livelihood; a continued resistance to influences threatening destruction or extinction.

a 1827 in J. B. NORTON *Topics* (1858) 214 Madras..rose amidst poverty and many struggles for existence. 1832 LYELL *Princ. Geol.* II. 56 In the universal struggle for existence, the right of the strongest eventually prevails; and the strength and durability of a race depends mainly on its prolificness, in which hybrids are acknowledged to be deficient. 1859 DARWIN *Orig. Spec.* v. (1873) 118 In the struggle for life to which every animal is exposed, each would have a better chance of supporting itself, by less nutriment being wasted. 1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) IV. 406 The struggle for existence is not confined to the animals, but appears in the kingdom of thought.

2. In generalized sense: Contention, determined effort or resistance.

1706 SIR D. HUME *Diary Part. Scot.* (Bannatyne Club) 189 The Parliament..proceeded, and with very little struggle, approved Articles 9-13. 1714 FORTESCUE-ALAND *Fortescue's Abs. & Lim. Mon.* Pref. 28 King John, after much struggle with his Barons, swears to restore the good Laws of his Ancestors. 1748 RICHARDSON *Clarissa* (1768) VIII. 138 A conscience, that is upon the struggle with thee, and like a cunning wrestler watches its opportunity to give thee another fall. 1833 HT. MARTINEAU *Briery Creek* iv. 89 Not only of week-day labour, but of struggle for subsistence. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* III. vi. i, Jacobinism is in uttermost crisis and struggle. 1879 JENNIE YOUNG *Ceramic Art* 276 After fifteen or sixteen years of unheard-of struggle and misery, this indomitable genius [Palissy] produced the long-sought enamel. 1881 P. BROOKS *Candle of the Lord* 353 Not till you make men..intelligent, and fond of struggle,.. not till then have you relieved poverty. 1901 WATTS-DUNTON *Aylwin* Introd., Speculations..upon the gravest of all subjects—the subject of love at struggle with death.

Struggle (strʌ·g'l), *v.* Forms: 4-5 **strogel**, 5 **strogelyn, strogil** (**strokel**), 6 **strog(g)ell, stroggle**, 4-6 **strogle, strougle**, 4-7 **strugle, struggel**, 6- **struggle.** [ME. *strugle, strogel*, etc., a frequentative formation of obscure origin.

According to Skeat the root is that of ON. *strúg-r*, MSw. *strügh-er*, ill will, Sw. dial. *strug*, contention, strife, reluctance, *strugg*, revengeful, Norw. *stru*, refractory, Da. dial. *struende*, reluctantly. On this assumption, however, the formation of the ME. verb still requires explanation; there is no evidence of a Scandinavian type **struggla*. Others regard the word as cogn. w. Du. *struikelen*, G. *strauchein* (MHG. *strûcheln*, freq. of OHG. *strûhhên, -ôn*), to stumble. The change from (k) to (g) would not be a strong objection to this etymology, but the meanings of the Eng. and the continental verbs are widely apart. Possibly the word may be due to phonetic symbolism, the beginning being suggested by words like *strive, strong*; cf. TUGGLE *v.*, TOGGLE *v.*²]

1. *intr.* To contend (*with* an adversary) in a close grapple as in wrestling; also, in wider use, to make violent bodily movements in order to resist force or free oneself from constraint; to exert one's physical strength in persistent striving against an opposing force.

c 1386 CHAUCER *Merch. T.* 1130 As me was taught..Was no thyng bet to make yow to see Than strugle [*v.rr.* strogele, strogle, strougle] with a man vp on a tree. — *Pard. T.* 501 And I shal ryue hym thurgh the sydes tweye Whil that thou strogelest [*v.rr.* struggelist, stroglest] with hym as in game. 1440 J. SHIRLEY *Dethe K. James* (1818) 19 And gretely the Kyng strogild with hem, for to have berevyd thame thare knyvys; by the which labur his handis wer all forkute. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 480/2 Strogolyn (*v.r.* strobelyn), *colluctor*. 1483 CAXTON *Golden Leg.* 211 b/1 A rechelles felaw strogiyd and wrestlyd wyth her and brake alle her egges. 1530 PALSGR. 741/1, I stroggell with my bodye, as one dothe that wolde nat be holden, *je me desrigle*. 1569 ROEST tr. *J. van der Noot's Theat. Worldlings* 5 b, Much like vnto the Hare, who being caught in the nette, the more he struggleth, the faster he maketh hym self. 1595 SHAKS. *John* IV. i. 77, I will not struggle, I will stand stone still. 1600 *Earl Gowrie's Conspir.* C1, In this meane tyme, his maiesty, wyth struggeling and wrastling wyth the said maister Alexander had broght him perforce out of that study. 1603 KNOLLES *Hist. Turks* (1638) 120 In strugling with him for the knife, in wresting it out of his hand, hee hurt himselfe therwith in the forhead. 1611 BIBLE *Gen.* XXV. 22 And the children struggled together within her. 1687 A. LOVELL tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* I. 144 It is pleasant to see these Chickens, in one side some thrusting out their heads, others striving and struggling to get out their bodies. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* I. 291 The Boat's brawny Crew the Current stem, And, slow advancing, struggle with the Stream. 1787 BEST *Angling* (1822) 56 Then if he [*sc.* the pike] struggles again very much, give him line again. 1815 SCOTT *Guy M.* xl, The wind was adverse, attended by some rain, and they struggled against it without much assistance from the tide. 1825 BRYANT *Afr. Chief* 59 He struggled fiercely with his chain. 1842 TENNYSON *Dora* 100 So saying, he took the boy, that cried aloud And struggled hard. 1848 J. GRANT *Adv. Aide-de-C.* xl, I was struggling breathlessly in the water. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* lxiv, They..drank a great quantity of champagne at the buffet, where the people..struggled furiously for refreshments. 1856 KANE *Arctic Expl.* II. xv. 165 We struggled manfully to force our way through. 1905 ELIN. GLYN *Viciss. Evangeline* 222 'No, no', I said, struggling feebly to free myself.

b. To make violent efforts to breathe (usually, *to struggle for breath*); to be in the agony of death. Also (*nouce-use*) to pass *out of* (the world) with a struggle.

a 1674 CLARENDON *Surv. Leviath.* (1676) 281 There will at some time or other, before he struggles out of this world, be sadness to him in the consideration. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 4 Feb. 1685, Being now in much paine, and struggling for breath.

2. *fig.* To contend resolutely, esp. with an adversary of superior power; to offer obstinate resistance; to make violent efforts to escape from constraint. Const. *with, against, for.*

c 1412 HOCCLEVE *De Reg. Princ.* 964 But in myn age wrastle with hardenesse, That with hym stroglid neuere in grennesse Of youthe, þat mutacion and chaunge..me seeme shulde a[l] straunge. *c* 1445 *St. Christina* xii. in *Anglia* VIII. 124/30 Fro þen forþ þey sturglid [*read* struglid] nor enforced no-thinge ageyne goddes wille. 1530 PALSGR. 741/1, I strogell, I murmure with wordes secretly, *je grommelle*. He stroggleth at every thyng I do. 1532 TINDALE *Expos. v-vii. Matt.* Prol. to Rdr. 6b, Euen so is the spirite oppressed & ouer laden of the fleshe thorow custume, that she struggeleth and stryueth to get vp and to breake lowse in vayne. 1602 SHAKS. *Ham.* III. iii. 68 Oh limed soule, that strugling to be free, Art more ingag'd. 1642 FULLER *Holy & Prof. St.* v. vi. 381 With these and other arguments he struggles with his own conscience. 1771 *Lett. Junius* xlix. 254 A virtuous man, struggling with adversity, [is] a scene worthy of the gods. 1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* viii, My father..sits at home struggling with his grief. 1830 D'ISRAELI *Chas. I*, III. xii. 268 Whenever a party struggles for predominance in the State, it necessarily becomes a political body. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* I. i. 123 No sooner was the first pressure of military tyranny felt, than the nation..began to struggle fiercely. 1855 KINGSLEY *Misc.* (1859) I. 14 Close to our own shores, the Netherlands are struggling vainly for their liberties. 1856 *Ann. Reg., Chron.* 65/1 The counsel for the prisoner attempted to struggle against both the evidence and the prisoner's statement. 1857 BORROW *Rom. Rye* xxxi, There came over me the same feeling of horror that I had experienced of old..I struggled manfully against it. 1874 GREEN *Short Hist.* iii. § 6. 146 It was with less success that the order struggled against the passion for knowledge. 1908 RIDER HAGGARD *Ghost Kings* I. 4 She and her people ..had struggled against this South African scheme [of her husband's] even to the verge of open quarrel. 1918 *Times Lit. Suppl.* 14 Mar. 121/4 There are States to-day prepared to help Germany to a dictatorship, against which, if she were successful, they would have to struggle in the end.

b. Said of passions, qualities, forces, etc.

1619 FLETCHER *Knt. Malta* II. v, How nature and his honour struggle in him! 1663 PATRICK *Parab. Pilgr.* xxvii. (1687) 300 Two passions he felt strugling in him at the same point of time. 1681 DRYDEN *Abs. & Achit.* 314 Half loth and half consenting to the ill, For loyal blood within him struggled still. 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* xliv, Pride, and something very like fear, seemed struggling in his breast. 1810 SCOTT *Lady of Lake* VI. ii, The sunbeams..struggling with the smoky air, Deaden'd the torches' yellow glare. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* III. iii. viii, Hope and ruth, flickering against despair and rage, still struggle in the minds of men. 1858 A. LINCOLN in *Polit. Deb. with S. A. Douglas* 15 Oct. (1912) II. 268 Right and wrong..are the two principles that have stood face to face from the beginning of time, and will ever continue to struggle. 1906 PETRIE *Relig. Anc. Egypt* I. 5 This idea [of 'a jealous god'] struggled hard against polytheistic toleration.

3. quasi-*trans.* with adv. or phrase expressing the result of struggling. *lit.* and *fig.*

1633 BP. HALL *Hard Texts, Eccles.* VI. 10 Neither can hee thinke to struggle himselfe out from the mighty, and over ruling power of his Creator. 1639 FULLER *Holy War* II. ii. (1640) 45 Till after many changes he struggled himself again into the place. 1646 *Unhappy Game Scotch & English* 20 How they shufle and cut to strugle themselves out of the Bryers. 1660 INGELO *Bentiv. & Ur.* II. (1682) 170 When the light began to appear, the Ass had strugled her self out. 1889 STEVENSON *Master of Ballantrae* IV, He there struggled down the last of his emotion.

4. To make great efforts in spite of difficulties; to contend resolutely *with* (a task, burden); to strive *to do* something difficult. † Also const. *at. To struggle for existence*: cf. STRUGGLE *sb*, 1 d.

1597 HOOKER *Eccl. Pol.* v. lxvii. § 12 They struggle with that which they cannot fully master. 1644 CHAS. I in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* Ser. I. III. 299 Besydes our taske is not litle that we struggle with. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* II. 606 They..wish and struggle, as they pass, to reach The tempting stream. 1687 ATTERBURY *Answ. Consid. Spirit Luther* 64 The Church of England..had struggl'd and heav'd at a Reformation, ever since Wicliff's dayes. 1759 JOHNSON *Rasselas* XXXV, Who that is struggling under his own evils will add to them the miseries of another? 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* xxxix, She struggled to overcome the pleadings of her heart. 1808 SCOTT *Marm.* I. xxviii, And when he struggled at a smile, His eye look'd haggard wild. 1820 W. IRVING *Sketch Bk.* I. 34 Such an opportunity as seldom occurs, of cheering a noble mind struggling under misfortunes. 1827 LAMB *Elia* Ser. II. *A Death-bed*, Where for years they have been struggling to raise a Girls' School with no effect. 1849 *Q. Rev.* Mar. 391 Long-horns [*sc.* cattle] which still struggle for a separate existence in a small district. 1855 *Poultry Chron.* II. 498, I saw a hungry little bantam cock struggling with a huge corn much too large for his gullet. 1856 MRS. MARSH *Ev. Marston* XXXV, Beds..where the same description of flowers were struggling for existence. 1862 CALVERLEY *Verses & Transl.* (ed. 2) 31, I hear that youth..struggling with the first few bars. And I do think the amateur cornopean Should be put down by law. 1885 'MRS. ALEXANDER'

At Bay i, While Glynn was struggling to answer the question ..'Where have I seen that face?' 1897 HALL CAINE *Christian* x, When spoken to they would struggle to smile, but the smiles would break down after a moment. 1907 J. H. PATTERSON *Man-Eaters of Tsavo* xviii. 190 Along the baked banks of which [dry ravines] a few stunted trees—the only ones to be seen—struggle to keep themselves alive.

5. To make progress with difficulty *to*, *into*, *out of* (a place, a condition), *through* (something interposed). Also with adv., *along*, *forward*, *on*. *To struggle on*: occas. to maintain existence, or continue one's course of action, with difficulty.

a 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 18 Apr. 1686, The book will, I doubt not, struggle through this unjust impediment. 1820 W. IRVING *Sketch Bk.* II. 18 The light struggles dimly through windows darkened by dust. 1830 JAMES, *Darnley* xvi, A bass-relief whose figures seemed struggling from the stone. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* III. VII. ii, Either way, the world must contrive to struggle on. 1841 DICKENS *Barn. Rudge* xxviii, Hugh, struggling into a sitting posture and gazing at him intently. 1844 E. WARBURTON *Crescent & Cross* (1846) I. i. 1 The town itself lay buried beneath an avalanch of snowy mist, through which a few spires scarcely struggled into sight. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* iv. I. 452 His looks and tones had inspired terror when he was merely a young advocate struggling into practice. 1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* I. § 27. 212 My telescope..directed upon the men as they struggled through the snow. 1865 SEELEY *Ecce Homo* v. (ed. 8) 40 Christ did not struggle forward to a position in which he could found a new state, but simply founded it. 1880 A. H. SWINTON *Insect Variety* to Here..still struggles on a remnant of a once rich coleopterous fauna of lacustrine aspect. 1885 'MRS. ALEXANDER' *At Bay* vii, When he was slowly struggling back to life and strength. 1888 F. HUME *Mme. Midas* I. Prol., He struggled to his feet quickly. 1902 BUCHAN *Watcher by Threshold* 313 A moon was beginning to struggle through the windy clouds. 1908 E. M. GORDON *Indian Folk Tales* x. (1909) 98 For a while the medical work struggled along under great difficulties. 1910 MEREDITH *Celt & Saxon* xv. in *Fortn. Rev.* June 1061 His brown coat struggles out of the obscurity of the background [of the picture].

with cognate object. 1842 LOVER *Handy Andy* xx, All gentle feeling vanished, as he saw Scatterbrain struggling his way towards him. 1871 *Daily News* 6 Jan., The officers ..were unable to struggle their way up to the inclosure in front of the altar.

†6. *trans.* To contest (a point) persistently. *Obs.*

1769 BLACKSTONE *Comm.* IV. xx. 280 The justices long struggled the point.

Struggle-for-lifer. *slang.* [f. the phrase *struggle for life* (see STRUGGLE *sb.* 1 d) + -ER 1.

The word seems to have been first formed in Fr. as *struggle-for-lifeur*; in this form it was used in Alphonse Daudet's play *La Lutte pour la Vie* (1889). It had some currency in France (corrupted into *strugforlifeur*), and has often been used jocularly (occas. in the Fr. form) by English journalists.]

One who has a struggle to live; usually, one who is unscrupulous in his efforts to advance himself in the world.

1895 *Funk's Stand. Dict.*, *Struggle-for-lifer* (Slang, Eng.), a struggler for life, as against hopeless poverty. 1899 *Daily News* 12 Jan. 5/4 Some struggle-for-lifers have since carried seats there by sap, mine, and storm. 1905 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 22 Dec. 1 South Africa..will be edified by the manner in which its interests are employed to serve the tactical exigencies of a political 'struggle-for-lifer'.

Struggler (strʌ·glə1). [f. STRUGGLE *v.* + -ER 1.] One who struggles.

1554 T. MARTIN *Marr. Priests* B b j, The Iewes were so hard hearted and malicious struglers against the Trueth, that [etc.]. 1598 BASTARD *Chrestol.* VI. XXIX. 148 And was not death a sturdie strugler, In ouerthrowing Iames the iuster? 1677 MIEGE *Dict. Eng.-Fr.*, A Struggler, *qui se debat ou qui se demene.* *a* 1721 SHEFFIELD (Dk. Buckhm.) *Wks.* 1753 I. 107 Often she cast a kind admiring glance On the bold struggler for delight. 1825 SCOTT *Fam. Lett.* (1894) II. 298 An older woman..added, that we might give her an alms too, for she was an old struggler. 1871 MISS YONGE *Cameos* II. 295 Huss and many another struggler for truth, perished in the flames. 1884 YATES *Recoll.* I. 278 The unswerving kindness with which he supported me, an unknown struggler,..against a powerful clique. 1900 J. L. ALLEN *Increasing Purpose* xv. 211 Here is the hero in life! Among these easy-going people this solitary struggler.

Struggling (strʌ·glin), *vbl. sb.* [f. STRUGGLE *v.* + -ING 1.]

1. The action of STRUGGLE *v.*

c 1386 CHAUCER *Man of Lawe's T.* 823 For with hir struglyng wel and myghtily The theef fil ouer bord al sodeynly. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* VII. lv. (1495) 270 This skynne callyd Hernia is..slakyd somtyme by to grete trauey1le of body as by grete strogelynge and wrastelynge. *c* 1440 *Bone Flor.* 1853 In hys armes he can hur folde, Hur rybbes crakyd as they breke wolde, In struglynge can they stryve. 1542 UDALL *Erasm. Apoph.* Pref. *viij b, And in places not a fewe I haue had muche strougleyng & wrastleyng with the faultes of enprientyng in ye bookes. 1592 GREENE *3rd Pt. Conny catching* E 3, Both his handkercher with the chaine, and also his purse..were taken out of his pocket in this strugling. 1649 MILTON *Eikon.* xxvii. 211 It would..put us to another fatal struggling for libertie and life, more dubious then the former. 1702 ROWE *Tamerl.* I. i. 296 With strong Reluctance and Convulsive Struggling. 1830 CARLYLE *Richter Again* Ess. 1840 II. 300 No character of this kind..is to be formed without manifold..struggling with the world.

pl. 1615 CHAPMAN *Odyss.* XII. 242 They should with much more band Containe my struglings. 1690 T. BURNET *Theory Earth* III. xi. 96 Some Causes impelling the Waters one way, and some another, make intestine struglings and contrary motions. *a* 1715 G. BURNET *Own Time* IV. (1724) I. 797 All the strugglings which that party have made ever since that time..did rise out of this. 1783 *Med. Commun.* I. 303 His strugglings were more violent. 1890 D. DAVIDSON *Mem. Long Life* ii, 29, I confess to some strugglings of the heart as we hurried past the scenes of my boyhood.

†2. Effervescence. (Cf. STRUGGLE *sb.* 1 c.) *Obs.*

1764 *Museum Rust.* II. 378 You may..try it with vinegar, where the effervescence, or struggling, will be much stronger than in water.

Struggling (strʌ·glin), *ppl. a.* [f. STRUGGLE *v.* + -ING 2.] That struggles. In recent use often: That has difficulty in making a livelihood.

1577 KENDALL *Flowers of Epigr.* 99 When stiffe, strong, struglyng, sturdie storms, began for to arise. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* III. xi. 12 There an huge heape of singultes did oppresse His strugling soule. 1599 MARSTON *Antonio's Rev.* IV. i, Now patience hoope my sides With steeled ribs, least I doe burst my breast With struggling passions. 1693 DRYDEN *Persius* v. 232 The strugling Greyhound gnaws his Leash in vain. 1697 — *Æneis* v. 35 Sicilia..whose hospitable Shores In safety we may reach with strugling Oars. 1757 GRAY *Elegy* xviii, The struggling pangs of conscious truth to hide. 1817 C. WOLFE *Burial of Sir J. Moore* 7 By the struggling moon-beam's misty light. 1838 DICKENS *Nich. Nick.* XXIV, 'What do you mean to do for me, old fellow?' asked Mr. Lenville, poking the struggling fire with his walking-stick. 1851 MAYHEW *Lond. Labour* I. 324 The rest of the class may be described as merely street-sellers; toiling, struggling, plodding, itinerant tradesmen. 1892 *Photogr. Ann.* II. 219 To the impecunious and struggling photographer..'copies', of course, mean considerable inconvenience.

absol. 1834 (*title*) Leigh Hunt's London Journal, to Assist the Inquiring, Animate the Struggling, [etc.]. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. v. vi, But, to the living and the struggling, a new, Fourteenth morning dawns. 1884 J. PAYN *Lit. Recoll.* 75 Their behaviour to the Young and Struggling.

Strugglingly (strʌ·glinli), *adv.* [f. STRUGGLING *ppl. a.* + -LY 2.] In a struggling manner.

1574 A. L. *Calvin's Foure Serm.* Epist., You see him sometyme yeldingly stretch out, sometyme struglingly throw his weakened legges. 1596 NASHE *Saffron Walden* N 4 b, A dampe..in thick rouling clowds would strugglingly funnell vp. 1838 POE *A. Gordon Pym* Wks. 1864 IV. 165 A large black bird of the bittern species strugglingly and slowly arose above the shrubs. 1875 BROWNING *Aristoph. Apol.* 360 Sea claws at sand relinquished strugglingly.

Strui(e, obs. forms of STROY *v.*

Struik(e(n, Struive: see STRIKE *v.*, STRIVE *v.*

Struke(n, strukkin, etc.: see STRIKE *v.*

Struldbrug (strʌ·ldbrʊg). Also 8 (Swift) **-brugg**; *corruptly* 8–9 **Strulbrug**. [Arbitrarily formed.] In Swift's *Gulliver's Travels*, given as the native appellation of 'the immortals' in the kingdom of Luggnagg, who were incapable of dying, but after the age of eighty continued to exist in a state of miserable decrepitude, regarded as legally dead, and receiving a small pittance from the state. Hence in allusive uses.

1726 SWIFT *Gulliver* III. x. 127–8 Struldbrugs. 129 ff. Struldbrugg, -bruggs. 1773 MRS. ANNE GRANT *Lett. fr. Mountains* (1807) I. vii. 57 The sages here get a great deal of reverence and attention, not usually paid to the struldbruggs of other countries. 1784 H. WALPOLE *Let. to H. S. Conway* 25 June, I am very well content to be a Strulbrug, and to *exist* after I have done *being*. 1847 H. MILLER *First Impr. Eng.* xvi. 293 These [trees] are mere hollow trunks, of vast bulk, but stinted foliage,—mere *struldbrugs* of the forest. 1908 *Contemp. Rev.* Dec. 744 There is a danger lest the aged pensioner at home should sink into the condition of a Struldbrug.

attrib. 1844 DE QUINCEY *Greece under Romans* Wks. 1890 VII. 275 All the great Moslem nations being already in a *Strulbrug* state, and held erect only by the colossal support of Christian powers.

Hence **Struldbruggian** *a.*, of or pertaining to a Struldbrug. **Struldbrugism**, the condition or practice of a Struldbrug.

1778 H. WALPOLE *Let. to W. Mason* 15 May, I have long taken my doctor's degree in Strulbruggism, and wonder I concern myself about the affairs of the living. 1788 — *Let. Lady Craven* 11 Dec., When any personage has shone as much as is possible in his or her best walk,..he should take up his strulbrugism, and be heard of no more. 1909 *Times Lit. Suppl.* 2 Sept. 314/1 Rescuing old authors from the dangers of the Struldbruggian state.

[Strull, error for *strutt*; STRUT *sb.*

1831 LOUDON *Encycl. Agric.* (ed. 2) 1247 (Glossarial Index), *Strull*, a bar so placed as to resist weight, p. 498. (*In text*, a strutt). Hence 1860 WORCESTER; and in later Dicts.]

Strum (strʊm), *sb.*1 [Abbreviated form of STRUMPET.] A strumpet, prostitute.

a 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew* s. v. *Strum*, *Rum-strum*,.. a handsom Wench, or Strumpet. 1710 C. SHADWELL *Fair Quaker Deal* I. i. 2 The Whores you left here about ten Months since are Dead with Rottenness, and young Strums supply their Rooms. 1765 *Meretriciad* (ed. 6) 17 The awful Theatre of late's become A mere receptacle for ev'ry Strum. *a* 1825 FORBY *Voc. E. Anglia*, *Strum*, a battered prostitute.

†Strum, *sb.*2 *slang. Obs.* A periwig.

a 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew*, *Strum*, a Periwig. *Rum-strum*, a long Wig. 1785 GROSE *Dict. Vulgar Tongue*.

†Strum, *sb.*3 *Obs. rare*—1. [? Confusion of THRUM *sb.*2 and STRING *sb.*] (Sense not clear: see quot.)

1725 *Bradley's Family Dict.* s. v. *Catkin*, Catkins, the Male Blossoms of Nut-bearing..Trees, &c..; in the Hazel they are long Strums, composed of very small Flowers.

Strum (strʊm), *sb.*4 *Sc.* [Cf. STRUNT *sb.*2] A fit of ill-humour; esp. in phr. *to take the strum* or *strums*.

1788 J. MACAULAY *Poems* 185 (E.D.D.) The petty lads hae ta'en the strum, Because we winna let them come. 1818 MISS FERRIER *Marriage* XXXV, Ye're..ay ready to tak the strums, an' ye dinna get a' thing yere ain wye.

Hence **Strum** *v. intr.*, 'to be in a pettish humour' (Jam.).

1804 TARRAS *Poems* 132 (Jam.) Sinkin wi' care we aften fag; Strummin' about a gill we're lag, Syne drowsy hum. *Ibid.* Gloss., *Strumming*, glooming, looking sour.

Strum (strʊm), *sb.*5 [f. STRUM *v.*] The action of strumming or playing noisily and monotonously on a musical instrument.

c 1793 BURNS *Epist. Esopus* 51 Who christened thus Maria's lyre divine The idiot strum of vanity bemused..? 1840 MARRYAT *Olla Podr.* III. 143 There were four young ladies who were learning music. We now had our annoyance: it was strum, strum, all day long. 1845 ELIZA COOK *Poems* Ser. II. *Poem of Househ.* iii, There's more mirth in the jig and the amateur's strum, When the parchment-spread battledore serves as a drum.

Strum (strʊm), *sb.*6 *Mining. Sc.* [Of obscure origin.] (See quots.)

1880 J. NICOL *Poems & Songs* 75 They [*sc.* the miners] come To their daily task With powder flask And tinder, straw, and strum. 1886 J. BARROWMAN *Sc. Mining Terms* 65 *Strum*, safety fuse. 1895 *N. B. Daily Mail* 13 Nov. 5 The explosion..is supposed to have been caused by some careless miner leaving a ball of 'strum,' an explosive material used by them in the pits, in the vicinity of the fire. 1911 *Daily News* 3 Apr. 5 A piece of miners' 'strum' for blasting operations was also found.

Strum (strʊm), *v.* [Echoic: cf. THRUM *v.*3]

1. *trans.* To play on (a stringed instrument) carelessly or unskilfully; to produce (notes, a tune) etc.) by such playing. Also with *out*, *over*.

Ash's explanation (quot. 1775) is badly expressed, and perh. implies a misunderstanding.

1775 ASH Suppl., *Strum* (*v. t. a droll word*), tuned as a stringed instrument in a clumsy manner. 1784 *New Spectator* No. xviii. 1 She has received what is called a genteel education, that is, she can strum a tune on a guitar, [etc.]. 1802 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Gaston de Blondeville* Posth. Wks. (1826) I. 86 Her mynstrells of musick..began to blow upon their pipes, and to strum their stringed instruments with most sweet noise. 1845 FORD *Handbk. Spain* I. 30 In due time songs are sung, a guitar is strummed. 1850 THACKERAY *Pendennis* iv, Laura..had been strumming her music lessons for hours before. 1894 HALL CAINE *Manxman* ii. 53 He was sitting at the piano strumming a music-hall ditty. 1896 A. MORRISON *Adv. Martin Hewitt* Ser. III. 10, I turned to my little pianette and strummed over the notes, making my own time. *Ibid.* 28 He had got musicians to strum out the notes on all sorts of instruments. 1906 *Temple Bar* Jan. 76 The mate..sits on the booby hatch, and strums his banjo to the stars.

2. *intr.* To play carelessly or unskilfully on a stringed instrument. Also with *away*, *on*. Said also of an instrument: To sound when strummed upon.

1785 GROSE *Dict. Vulgar T.*, *Strum*, to play badly on the harpsichord, or any other stringed instrument. *c* 1793 BURNS *Monody on Lady* 18 Here Vanity strums on her idiot lyre. 1840 LADY C. BURY *Hist. of Flirt* xii, Thelwal would strum away on the guitar. 1849 LYTTON *K. Arthur* VIII. lxxv, Fifes, viols, trumpets braying, screaming, strumming, Flatter his ears, and compliment his coming. 1875 BROWNING *Aristoph. Apol.* 186 You have been fouling that redoubtable Harp-player, twenty years, with what effect? Still he strums on, strums ever cheerily. 1914 J. L. PATON *J. B. Paton* xii. 202 Physical exercises..went with more go when the teacher ..strummed on the piano by way of accompaniment.

3. quasi-*trans.* with adverbial extension.

1777 SHERIDAN *Sch. Scandal* II. i. Plays (1902) 160 To..be stuck down to an old Spinet to strum your father to sleep after a Fox Chase. 1787 WOLCOT (P. Pindar) *Ode upon Ode* (ed. 7) 41 [He] to his tent majestic strode to strum, And scrape his anger out on tweedle-dum. 1847 ANNE BRONTE *Agnes Grey* vii, The short half-hour of practising was horribly strummed through.

Hence **Strummed** *ppl. a.*

1881 H. JAMES *Portr. Lady* xxi, Your conscience..will get out of tune, like a strummed piano.

Strum: see STROM.

‖ **Struma** (strū·mă). Pl. **strumæ**; also 6 **strumas**, 7 **-aes**, 7–8 **-a's**. See also STRUME. [mod.L. use of L. *strūma* scrofulous tumour.]

1. *Path.* **a.** = SCROFULA. Also applied to goitre or bronchocele, and to tubercular disease, esp. in mod.L. specific designations as *Struma aberrata*, *adiposa*, etc.

1565 J. HALL *Lanfranc's Chirurg., Expos. Table* 46 For if by melancholy they become scirrhous, he calleth them Scrophulas, but Galen nameth them Strumas. 1575 BANISTER *Chyrurg.* I. (1585) 92 Struma is called of the barbarous sort, Scrofula, and englished the Kinge's or Queenes euill. 1655 CULPEPER, etc. *Riverius* X. iv. 290 Al the Mesaraick Veins ..be stopped, as in Children who have the Struma, or Kings Evil. 1676 WISEMAN *Surg. Treat.* IV. ii. 248 If this acid Humour be simple, the Disease is a simple *Struma*; if joined with a malignity, or any other Humour, it makes a mixt Tumour, as *Struma maligna*, *Phlegmonodes*, *Schirrhodes*, *Oedematodes*, &c. 1784 T. WHITE (*title*) A Treatise on Struma or Scrophula, commonly called the King's Evil. 1843 R. J. GRAVES *Syst. Clin. Med.* xxix. 393 The constitution of the patient rapidly gives way under the continuation of struma. 1878 W. J. WALSHAM *Handbk. Surg. Pathol.* 41 Struma or scrofula manifests itself in bone either as a low form of chronic ostitis..or as a deposit of miliary tubercles.

b. A scrofulous swelling or tumour. Also, a goitre, bronchocele (*rare*).

1654 J. WEBSTER *Acad. Exam.* 74 Great and dangerous sores, as the Lupus,..Elephantiasis, Strumaes. 1670 T. BROOKS *Wks.* (1867) VI. 426 That one man dies..of an apoplexy in the head, another of a *struma* in the neck. 1676 WISEMAN *Surg. Treat.* IV. ii. 249 When he wakened his Neck was full of *Strumæ* on both sides, some as big as Walnuts. *Ibid.*, IV. iv. 299 He had also a *Struma* ulcerated in each Arm. *Ibid.*, He had also in the Groin of the same side a Cluster of *Strumæ*. 1684 J. BROWNE (*title*) Adeno-

choiradelogia: or An Anatomick-Chirurgical Treatise of Glandules & Strumaes, or Kings-Evil-Swellings. 1693 DRYDEN *Juvenal* Ded. (1697) 28 A Bunch or Struma under the Chin. 1753 R. RUSSELL *Diss. Sea Water* 142 Struma's are apt to rise again near their old Cicatrices.

2. *Bot.* A cellular dilatation on a leaf-stalk at the point where the petiole joins the lamina or where the midrib joins the leaflets of a compound leaf. See also quot. 1866.

1832 LINDLEY *Introd. Bot.* I. ii. 95 At the opposite extremity of the petiole, where it is connected with the lamina, a similar swelling is often remarkable..: this is called the *struma*, or, by the French *bourrelet*. 1861 BENTLEY *Man. Bot.* 174 A somewhat similar swelling may be also seen in many compound leaves at the base of each partial petiole, which is termed the *struma*. 1866 *Treas. Bot.*, *Struma*, .. A protuberance at the base of the spore-cases of some urn-mosses.

Strumatic (strʉmæ·tik), *a. rare*—°. [ad. late L, *strūmātic-us*, f. *strūma*: see prec. and -ATIC.] Suffering from struma. Hence **Struma·ticness.**

1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.*, *Strumatick*, that has the Impostume *Struma*. 1727 BAILEY vol. II, *Strumaticknes*s, a being troubled with strumous Humours, or Swellings, that generally appear in the glandulous or kernelly Parts. 1883 OGILVIE, *Strumatic*. 1894 G. M. GOULD *Illustr. Dict. Med.* etc., *Strumatic*, *Strumatous*, strumous, scrofulous.

Stru·matous, *a. rare*—°. [irreg. f. STRUMA: see -OUS.] = prec. 1894 [see STRUMATIC *a.*].

Strumbell, var. STRUMMEL *a.* and *sb.*[2]

†**Strumble**, *v.*[1] *Obs. rare*—[1]. [Cf. RUMBLE *v.*] *intr.* ? To rumble.

1645 *Sacred Decretal* 9 Though..he be condemned as a Traitour and disturber of the publike Peace (for our gutts strumble at him every morning).

†**Strumble**, *v.*[2] *Obs.*. *rare*. [? Altered form of STUMBLE *v.* Perh. a misprint; but cf. Du. †*strompelen* to stumble (Kilian).] *intr.* To stumble.

1685 RYCAUT tr. *Gracian's Critick* viii. 127 He being lame with Age,..in a few paces strumbled on his Crutches [orig. Sp. *tropeço en su misma muleta*] and fell.

†**Strumblowes.** *Obs. rare*—[1]. Some kind of submarine vegetation (called in Pg. *tromba*).

1624 in Foster *Eng. Factories Ind.* (1909) III. 23 [In sailing to Surat] Mett with weeds called strumblowes, a good sine of neerness [to land].

†**Strume.** *Obs.* [? a. F. *strume*, or ad. L. *strūma*.] = STRUMA I.

1559 MORWYNG *Evonym.* 287 A marvelous water or oyll for strumes and swellinges of the throote. 1578 LYTE *Dodoens* II. lxxxi. 258 The same..resolueth and scattereth the swelling about the necke called Strumes. 1630 POETON *Chirurg. Closet* 20 It cures Strumes: It takes away proud and corrupt flesh in vicers. 1635 BRATHWAIT *Arcad. Pr.* 87 When Nonius that same scabbe Did of a Strume complaine. 1677 COLES, *Strume*, *-ma*. 1704 COCKER, *Strume* or *Struma*.

Strumectomy (strʉme·ktŏmi). [f. STRUMA + ECTOMY.] Excision of a struma.

1894 GOULD *Illustr. Dict. Med.* 1898 *Syd. Soc. Lex.*

Strumi·ferous, *a. Path.* and *Bot.* [f. STRUMA + -(I)FEROUS. Cf. F. *strumifère*.] Bearing a struma.

1860 MAYNE *Expos. Lex.* 1894 GOULD *Illustr. Dict. Med.* 1900 B. D. JACKSON *Gloss. Bot. Terms.*

Strumiform (strʉ·mifɔm), *a.* [ad. mod.L. *strūmiform-is*, f. *strūma*: see STRUMA and -FORM.] **a.** *Bot.* Having the appearance of a struma (*Treas. Bot.* 1866). **b.** *Path.* Resembling struma (Gould *Illustr. Dict. Med.* 1894).

Strumme, obs. form of STROM.

†**Stru·mmel**, *sb.*[1] *slang. Obs.* Forms: 6–7 **strommell**, 7 **stromell**, 7–8 **strommel**, 8 **stramel**, **strumil**, 8–9 **strammel**, 6–9 **strummel**. [perh. a. AF. **estramaille*, straw bedding, f. OF. *estramer*: see STRAMAGE.]

1. Straw.

1567 HARMAN *Caveat* (1869) 83 Strommell, strawe. *Ibid.* 85, I towre the strummel trine vpon thy nabchet and Togman. I see the straw hang vpon thy cap and coate. 1622 FLETCHER *Beggars' Bush* III. iii, To..Twang dell's, i' the stiromell-[*sic*]. 1641 BROME *Joviall Crew* II. F 2 b, The Bratling's born, the *Doxey's* in the *Strummel*, Laid by an *Autum Mort* of their own Crew. 1719 D'URFEY *Pills* VI. 265 At Night he will tumble on Strumil or Hay. 1815 SCOTT *Guy M.* xxviii, You'll eat the goodman's meat, drink his drink, sleep on the strammel in his barn.

2. Hair.

1725 *New Cant. Dict.*, *Strommel*, *s.* Hair, as, She hath good Store of Strommel on her Nob. 1812 J. H. VAUX *Flash Dict.*, *Strummel*, the hair of the head. To get *your strummel faked in twig*, is to have your hair dressed in style. 1834 AINSWORTH *Rookwood* III. v, With my strummel faked in the newest twig.

3. *Comb.*: **strummell-patch** *a.*, a contemptuous epithet for a person.

1599 B. JONSON *Ev. Man out of Hum.* v. v, The horson strummell patch, Goggle-ey'd Grumbledories.

†**Stru·mmel**, *a.* and *sb.*[2] *Obs. Sc.* Also 6 **strummall**, **strwmmill**, **strumbell**. [Of obscure origin and meaning; Jamieson identifies it with a mod.Sc. dial. *stumral* 'habituated to stumbling' (said of a horse), but the passages do not support this.] **a.** *adj.* A depreciatory epithet applied to a horse or a stirk. **b.** *sb.* A term of contempt for a person.

a. 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* liii. 11 He stackerit lyk ane strummall awer, That hap schackellit war abone the kne. *Ibid.* lxxv. 54 Quod scho,.. My strwmmill stirk, 3it new to spane.'

b. 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* lx. 17 Stuffettis, strekouris, and stafische strummellis. *Ibid.* lx. 62 Ane pyk-thank.. Fenzeing the feiris of ane lord, And he ane strumbell.

Strummer (strʉ·mər). [f. STRUM *v.* + -ER[1].] One who strums.

1785 GROSE *Dict. Vulgar T.*, *Strummer of wire*, a player on any instrument strung with wire. 1808 J. MAYNE *Siller Gun* IV. xxi, A cat-gut strummer. 1831 MACAULAY in Trevelyan *Life* I. iv. 206 Pianoforte-strumming by the first pianoforte-strummer in England. 1872 GEO. ELIOT *Middlem.* IV. xl, Thirty-five pounds a-year, and extra pay for teaching the smallest strummers at the piano. 1895 K. GRAHAME *Golden Age* 89 The pure, absolute quality and nature of each note in itself are only appreciated by the strummer.

Strumming (strʉ·miŋ), *vbl. sb.* [-ING[1].]

1. The action of the verb STRUM.

1775 ASH Suppl., *Strumming*, the act of stringing or tuning in a clumsy manner. 1817 BYRON *Beppo* ii, And there are songs and quavers, roaring, humming, Guitars, and every other sort of strumming. 1825 WESTMACOTT *Eng. Spy* I. 362 The strumming of an ill-toned piano. 1887 BESANT *The World went* xiii, As for tea, with the strumming of a harpsichord,..I cannot endure it. 1894 JESSOPP *Random Roam.* ii. 75 We provide pianos for elementary schools, and encourage strumming.

2. *Sc.* 'A thrilling sensation, sometimes implying giddiness.' (Jam.)

1822 HOGG *Perils of Man* II. vii. 234 I'll never forget sic queer strummings as I had within me. Oh, I wad fain hae been at them! There was a kind o' yeuk, a kind o' kittling, a sort o' prinkling in my blood like.

Strumose (strʉ·mōus), *a.* [ad. L. *strūmōs-us*, f. *strūma* STRUMA: see -OSE.]

1. *Bot.* Having a struma; strumiferous.

1841 LINDLEY *Elem. Bot.* 46 Filaments are sometimes.. strumose, when a tubercle forms upon their face. 1849 BALFOUR *Man. Bot.* § 398 In fig. 313, *a* represents such a staminiferous appendage found on the inner side of the base of the filament, *f*, which is hence called appendiculate, or sometimes strumose. 1864 M. G. CAMPBELL in *Intell. Observ.* IV. 249 The capsule [of *Dicranium heteromallum*] is..coloured of a reddish brown, with a somewhat, but never distinctly, strumose neck.

2. = STRUMOUS *a.* **1**, **2**.

1850 in OGILVIE. 1898 *Syd. Soc. Lex.*, *Strumose*, scrofulous; of, pertaining to, or affected by struma.

†**Strumo·sity.** *Obs.* [ad. mod.L. *strūmōsitās*, f. *strūmōs-us*: see prec. and -ITY. Cf. F. †*strumosité* (16–17th c.).] Strumous condition.

1674 *Phil. Trans.* IX. 114 Refuting withal the opinion of Riolan, who makes the glanduls of the Mesentery the root of all strumosity.

Strumous (strʉ·məs), *a.* [ad. L. *strūmōsus*: see STRUMA and -OUS.]

1. Affected with struma; characteristic of or indicative of a scrofulous disposition.

1590 P. BARROUGH *Meth. Phys.* v. xxiv. (1634) 335 King Edward also..was wont marvellously to cure Strumous persons onely by touching them. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* Apr. 1646, The men using more wine are not so strumous as the women. 1802 *Med. Jrnl.* VIII. 108 The brain I have given a description of was strumous. 1822 MISS L. M. HAWKINS *Anecd.* I. 303 He had a pale strumous countenance. 1822–9 *Good's Study Med.* (ed. 3) I. 471 The first variety occurs.. in strumous or other weakly constitutions. 1867 J. HOGG *Microsc.* II. i. (ed. 6) 298 With yeast already in a state of exhaustion, we have seen a crop of fungus produced in the head of a strumous boy. 1872 J. C. JEAFFRESON *Woman in spite of Herself* I. vi, The son came in the form of a feeble, nervous, ricketty, strumous child. 1875 B. MEADOWS *Clin. Observ.* 67 A young lady, of strumous habit.

absol. 1891 *Sat. Rev.* 498 When Shakespeare spoke of holding the mirror up to Nature, he surely did not mean so holding it that it reflected only the base and strumous.

2. Of the nature of or caused by struma.

1590 P. BARROUGH *Meth. Phys.* v. xxiv. (1634) 333 Now these strumous tumours are greatly helped by using purging medicines. 1676 WISEMAN *Surg. Treat.* IV. ii. 249 The similitude will hold good of our Strumous Acidity. *Ibid.* IV. iv. 298 He had a strumous Ulcer on the outside of his Ancle. 1748 tr. *Vegetius' Distempers of Horses* 160 Strumous Botches..or scrophulous Disorders infest the Throats of Horses. 1802 W. HEBERDEN *Comm. Hist. & Cure Disease* (1806) 139 This disorder arises from a strumous swelling of the glands. 1859 J. TOMES *Dental Surg.* 71 The subject.. died exhausted by strumous abscesses. 1878 W. J. WALSHAM *Handbk. Surg. Pathol.* 41 Strumous ostitis is merely inflammation of bone occurring in an unhealthy or so-called 'strumous' subject. 1895 W. W. CHEYNE *Tubercl. Dis. Bones & Joints* 18 In describing the morbid anatomy of tubercular diseases of bones and joints, I therefore describe the morbid anatomy of those affections known up till recently as 'strumous diseases'.

3. *Nat. Hist.* Having a natural protuberance on some part of the body. *Strumous Lizard* (see quot.).

1802 SHAW *Gen. Zool.* III. 224 Strumous Lizard, Lacerta Strumosa... Lizard with long round tail, and gibbose projecting breast... It is a native..of South America. 1846 DANA *Zooph.* (1848) 602 Anthelia strumosa. (Ehrenberg.).. Glaucous; polyps inflated below the mouth, strumous.

Hence **Stru·mousness**, the state or quality of being strumous. 1883 OGILVIE.

†**Strump**, *v. Obs. rare*—[1]. [Back-formation from STRUMPET.] *intr.* Phr. *To strump it*: to play the strumpet.

a 1553–C. BANSLEY *Treatise* (Percy Soc. 1841) 7 That is all theyr delyghte? To pleese theyr lewde lemmans all the daye, and to strumpe it well at nyght.

Strumpat, obs. form of STRUMPET.

Strumpell: see STRUMPLE.

†**Stru·mpery.** *Obs.* Also 6 **stromperie**. [f. *strump* shortened form of STRUMPET + -ERY.] The practice of harlotry or prostitution.

c 1470 ASHBY *Active Policy* 533 And robbery lafte by that exercise, And strumpery als by this entreprise. *a* 1553 C. BANSLEY *Treatise* (Percy Soc. 1841) 9 Nowe fye upon proude strumpery. 1565 T. STAPLETON *Fortr. Faith* II. v. 116 b, The roote whereof [*sc.* of that gospel] was the breache of virginitie, and an imfamous stromperie. 1573 G. HARVEY *Letter-bk.* (Camden) 113 A sinke of strumperye.

Strumpet (strʉ·mpĕt), *sb.* Forms: 4 **strumpat**, **strompat**, 4–6 **strompet**, 5–6 **-ett(e**, (5 **strompyd**, 6 **stroumpet**), 5–6 **strumpett(e**, (5 **-ytt**), 7 **strompit(t**, **strumpitt**, 4– **strumpet**. [Of obscure origin; for conjectures see Skeat.] A debauched or unchaste woman, a harlot, prostitute.

a 1327 *Pol. Poems* (Camden) 153 Uch a strumpet that ther is such drahtes wl drawe. *Ibid.* 155 That heo be kud ant knewe For strompet in rybaudes rewe. *c* 1374 CHAUCER *Boeth.* I. pr. i. (1868) 6 Þise comune strumpetis of siche a place þat men clepen þe theatre [L. *has scenicas meretriculas*]. 1382 WYCLIF *Deut.* xxiii. 17 There shal be no strumpet [1388 hoore] of the doustres of Yrael. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) V. 299 He fonde seven children i-leyde bysides a pond, þat a strompat hadde i-bore at oon burþen. *c* 1440 *Alphabet of Tales* 3 Sho become þe moste common strompyd in all þe land. 1471 RIPLEY *Comp. Alch.* IV. x. in Ashm. (1652) 146 For seldome have Strumpetts Chyldren of them I bore. 1542 UDALL *Erasm. Apoph.* 140 b, *marg.* Stroumpettes and paramoures. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron.*, *Edw. V*, 21 b, Shores wife a vile and abhominable strompet. 1556 *Chron. Gr. Friars* (Camden) 17 This yere the comyn strompettes that ware takene in London ware raye hoddes. 1601 SHAKS. *All's Well* II. i. 174 A strumpets boldnesse. 1604 in *Eng. Gilds* (1870) 434 If any man or woman call a wedded woman common strumpitt. 1631 DEKKER *Match Mee* IV. K, As I am thy wife Make not thy selfe a strompit of me. 1683 HEDGES *Diary* 11 Dec. I. 143 He regards nothing but to enjoy his little Seraglio of 6 Strumpets. 1712 STEELE *Spect.* No. 286 ¶ 1 An innocent Creature who would start at the Name of a Strumpet, may think it pretty to be called a Mistress. 1864 E. A. PARKES *Pract. Hygiene* 451 The most degraded and dangerous strumpets are allowed to congregate round our barracks without hindrance. 1889 J. M. DUNCAN *Clin. Lect. Dis. Women* xxii. (ed. 4) 186 This is a disease of childhood, and the only exception to this I have seen was in a very young strumpet.

b. *fig.* and of things personified.

1545 BALE *Image Both Ch.* I. ix. (1550) K v, They knowe the open whoredome of the babylonicall strompet. 1547 BOORDE *Brev. Health* lxxiii. 21 b, I do say that an uryne is a strumpet, or an harlot, for it wyl lye, and the best Doctour of Phisicke of them all maye be deceyved in an uryne. 1563–83 FOXE *A. & M.* 799/2 John Houshold was charged to haue called..the Pope him selfe a strong strumpet, and a common baude vnto the world. 1595 SHAKS. *John* III. i. 61 France is a Bawd to Fortune, and king Iohn, That strumpet Fortune, that vsurping Iohn. 1602 — *Ham.* II. ii. 515 Out, out, thou Strumpet-Fortune. 1663 PATRICK *Parab. Pilgrim* xxviii. (1687) 320 Those Divine Souls, who had converted the Muses, and of Courtesans and lewd Strumpets made them turn Religious and Saintly Creatures. 1727 P. WALKER *Vind. Cameron's Name* Biog. Presbyt. (1827) I. 315 That old Gray-headed Strumpet Prelacy. 1915 *Contemp. Rev.* Mar. 335 The Kaiser and his parasites have gone a-whoring after Bellona, the deadliest strumpet that ever wrecked the souls and bodies of men.

c. quasi-*adj.* That is a strumpet.

1596 SHAKS. *Merch. V.* II. vi. 16 The skarfed barke puts from her natiue bay, Hudg'd and embraced by the strumpet winde. *a* 1634 ? CHAPMAN *Alphonsus* V. i. 175 Will not your Grace dispatch the Strumpet Queen? 1812 COMBE *Syntax, Picturesque* XXIII, Oft have I said in words unkind, That strumpet Fortune's very blind.

d. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *strumpet blood*, *flattery*; *strumpet-like* adj. and adv.; **strumpet-wise** *adv.*, after the manner of a strumpet.

1599 MARSTON *Antonio's Rev.* III. v, Disloyal to our Hymniall [*sic*] rites, What raging heat rains in thy *strumpet blood? 1641 MILTON *Ch. Govt.* II, Conclus. 64 But laying down his head among the *strumpet flatteries of Prelats, while he sleeps..they wickedly shaving off all those..tresses of his laws, and just prerogatives..., deliver him over [etc.]. 1574 J. BRADFORD *Two Notable Serm.* ii. K vj b, If thou doo not altogether consider Christes myndе, thou dealest vnhonestly & *strumpetlike with him. For it is the propertye of strumpets to consider the thynges geuen..them, rather then the loue..of the geuer. 1579 NORTHBROOKE *Dicing* 28 b, *Ludi Florales*, which were abhominable plaies in Rome, to the honour of their strumpetlike Goddesse *Flora*. 1647 STAPYLTON *Juvenal* 28 The more then strumpet-like impudence of these sarsenet judges. 1653 GATAKER *Vind. Annot. Jer.* 63 *Strumpet-wise fingring a lute, as the manner is,..where such are allowed, to invite customers to them.

Hence † **Stru·mpethood**, the condition of being a strumpet. † **Strumpetie·r**, a whore-monger. **Strumpeto·cracy** *jocular*, government by strumpets. † **Stru·mpetry**, harlotry (in quot. *fig.*).

1435 MISYN *Fire of Love* 54 Þe couetus hart, for lufe of penys, to fendis strumpetry hys bosum opyns. *a* 1440 *Found. St. Bartholomew's* (E.E.T.S.) 55 And no more the giftis of suche men plesith hym than the wagis of strompethede. 1633 T. ADAMS *Exp. 2 Peter* ii. 20. 1035 O that our luxurious Strumpetiers could reade in their diseased bodies the estate of their leprous soules. 1818 *Edin. Rev.* XXX. 425 In the *Strumpetocracy* of France, he had risen to this post by the most servile attention to Madame de Pompadour. 1833 CARLYLE *Misc. Ess.*, *Diderot* (1888) 28 Where Denis (for heretical Metaphysics and irreverence to the Strumpetocracy) languishes in durance. 1899 H. S. WILSON in *New Cent. Rev.* V. 168 Zola wants to show in action the morals and manners..which developed the aristocracy of the Bourse and the strumpetocracy of Paris.

† **Stru·mpet**, *v. Obs.* [f. STRUMPET *sb.*]

1. *trans.* To bring to the condition of a strumpet.

1590 SHAKS. *Com. Err.* II. ii. 146 For if we two be one, and

thou play false, I doe digest the poison of thy flesh, Being strumpeted by thy contagion. 1608 HEYWOOD *Lucrece* v. i. (1630) H 4, And by a stranger I am strumpeted, Rauisht, inforc'd. 1640 S. HARDING *Sicily & Naples* II. v. 30 Charintha's strumpetted; her name is rank't I' th vulgar breath, 'mongst common prostitutes. 1687 SETTLE *Refl. Dryden* 41 The King is aflicted for hearing his beloved Queen is strumpeted. *fig.* a 1631 DONNE *Sat.* v. 69 Oh, ne'r may Faire lawes white reverend name be strumpeted, To warrant thefts. 1661 FELTHAM *Resolves* II. xxiii. (ed. 8) 229 Hee strumpets all his Businesse, that does disclose his secrets.

2. To repute as a strumpet; to debase (a woman's fame, name, virtue) to that of a strumpet.

c 1600 SHAKS. *Sonn.* lxvi. 6 And maiden vertue rudely strumpeted. 1632 MASSINGER *Maid of Hon.* III. iii, That proud man, that was Deny'd the honour of your bed, yet durst With his untrue reports, strumpet your fame. 1633 FORD *Broken Heart* IV. ii. H 2 b, To all memory, Penthea's, poore Penthea's name is strumpeted.

† 3. intr. *To strumpet it*, to play the strumpet.

1625 SANDERSON *Serm.* (1674) I. 119 When that God..shall see that people..to break the Covenant of Wedlock with him, and to strumpet it with the daughters and Idols of Moab.

Hence **Stru·mpeting** *vbl. sb.*

1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.*, *Mechation*..fornication, Whoredom, strumpeting. a 1832 BENTHAM *Mem. & Corr.* Wks. 1843 X. 41 His life was one of gaming, drinking, and strumpeting.

† Stru·mpetly, *a.* and *adv.* *Obs. rare.* [-LY [1] and [2].] Like a strumpet.

a. 1614 tr. *Bp. Hall's No Peace with Rome* v. Wks. (1625) 640 Woe to thee thou Strumpetly Citie.

b. 1482 *Revel. Monk of Evesham* (Arb.) 43 The daye before she lefte her mortalle body in the whyche sche leuyd strompetly and vycyusly.

† Strumphusher. *Obs.*[-1] [Of obscure origin.] (See quot.)

1631 LENTON *Charact.* C 5, A Pander..liues at all distances, and postures, one while Tapster, or Tobacco-seller, otherwise Strumphusher.

† Stru·mple. *Obs.* In 6 **strumpell.** [Alteration of STUMPLE (? influenced by STRUNT).] The fleshy stem of a horse's tail.

1598 R. HAYDOCKE tr. *Lomazzo* I. xx. 70 The truncke or strumpell is the beginning of the [horse's] taile. *Ibid.*, The taile which is fastned to the strumpell. 1879 MISS JACKSON *Shropsh. Word-bk.*, *Strumple sb.*, *obs.* ? the fleshy stump of a horse's tail left after 'docking'.

† Stru·mstrum. *Obs. rare.* [Echoic reduplication: see STRUM *v.*] A rude stringed instrument (see quots.).

1697 DAMPIER *Voy.* I. 127 The Strumstrum is made somewhat like a Cittern; most of those that the Indians use are made of a large Goad cut in the midst, and a thin board laid over the hollow,..over which the strings are placed. 1728 *Capt. G. Carleton's Mem.* 279 Their Guitars..are their darling Instruments..: Tho' in my Opinion our English Sailors are not much amiss in giving them the Title of Strum Strums.

Strumulose (strū·miŭlōus), *a.* [ad. mod.L. *strūmulōs-us*, f. *strūmula* dim. of *strūma*: see STRUMA and -OSE.] Having a small struma.

1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1900 B. D. JACKSON *Gloss. Bot. Terms.*

Strund(e; see STRAND *sb.*[2], STRIND [1] and [2].

Strung (strʊŋ), *ppl. a.* [pa. pple. of STRING *v.*]

1. Furnished or fitted with strings or a string. Cf. STRINGED *a.* 1, 1 b. Now *rare* or *Obs.*

1695 BLACKMORE *Pr. Arth.* IV. 65 Choice Instruments, some Strung, and some of Wind. 1714 GAY *Fan* II. 40 Ceres is with the bending Sickle seen, And the strung Bow points out the Cynthian Queen. 1754 BOYER *Gt. Theat. Honour* (ed. 2) 116 Strung, Adj. (is used to express the Strings of any thing), *Lié, Cordé, Cordonné.*

2. Threaded on a string.

1687 A. LOVELL tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* III. 29 He found twenty two Pound weight of strung Pearls. 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XV. 702/2 [*Pyrotechny*] Strung stars. 1901 ALLDRIDGE *Sherbro* xv. 145 None of the women wear any clothes, there is simply a sufficiency of strung beads around their waists. 1907 *Arbroath Guide* 15 June 2 The long line of 'strung' whitings overhead swing with the breeze.

3. *Strung-out*: spread out in a straggling line.

1902 *Daily Chron.* 5 Mar. 7/4 The strung-out line of pursuers. 1914 *Blackw. Mag.* Nov. 588 Mahsud raiders had attacked the strung-out 'Kafila' on its way down the Gomul.

4. In the sense of STRING *v.* 4. **a.** Of nerves, feelings, etc.: In a state of tension. Also *strung-up*. **b.** With prefixed adv., *finely-*, *highly-strung*: said of persons with reference to their nervous organization or condition.

1840 DICKENS *Old C. Shop* xiv, For, when your finely strung people are out of sorts, they must have everybody else unhappy likewise. 1853 MRS. GASKELL *Ruth* xvi, When there was nothing to decide upon,..Ruth's mind relaxed from its strung-up state. 1875 WHYTE MELVILLE *Katerfelto* xviii, On Waif's strung nerves and weary frame it jarred acutely. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VII. 855 We have already seen how highly strung and excitable the subjects of chorea usually are. 1900 *Daily News* 17 May 3/2 The strung thought, intense vision of statesmen. 1910 B. CAPES *Jemmy Abercraw* II. xvii, She stopped, and faced about, her eyes burning, strung passion in her attitude.

Strunt (strʊnt), *sb.*[1] Now *dial.* (*Sc.* and *north.*) [Cf. STRUNT *a.*; also Sw. dial. *strunt* stiff grass.] The fleshy part of the tail of an animal, esp. of a horse; also, rarely, that of a bird.

[1577: cf. STRUNT *a.*] 1610 MARKHAM *Masterp.* I. ciii. 205 Feele all downe the strunte of his taile with your hand. 1674 RAY *N. C. Words*, *Strunt*: the tail or rump. 1679 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1413/4 A gray Nag..with a sprig tail, and his Strunt groweth crooked towards the right buttock. 1788 W. H. MARSHALL *Yorksh.* II. 357 *Strunt*; the dock of a horse, independant of the hair, also the tail of slaughtered cattle or sheep, when the skin is taken off. 1866 BROGDEN *Prov. Lincs.*, *Strunt*, the rump of a bird. 1884 G. S. STREATFEILD *Lincolnsh. & Danes* Gloss. 368 *Strunt*, the denuded tail of a quadruped or bird. 1886 *S. W. Linc. Gloss.*, *Strunt*, the bony, fleshy part of a horse's tail. 'It's strunt's so long; it's a pity but what it were docked.' 'The hair's cutten off close agen the strunt's end.'

Strunt (strʊnt), *sb.*[2] *Sc.* and *north.* [Cf. STRUM *sb.*[4], STUNT *sb.*[1] 3.] A fit of ill-humour or sulks; esp. in phr. *to take the strunt.*

1721 RAMSAY *Richy & Sandy* 8 Wow man, that's unco' sad,—Is't that ye'r jo Has ta'en the strunt? 1776 C. KEITH *Farmer's Ha'* lv, Take tent, and nae wi' strunts offend. 1776 *Herd's Scott. Songs* (ed. 2) II. 222 Fare ye weel, my auld wife, The steerer up o' strunt and strife. c 1817 HOGG *Tales & Sk.* V. 287 The Marquess took the strunt, and would neither ratify some further engagement which he had come under, nor stand to those he had subscribed on oath. 1894 *Northumbld. Gloss.*, *Strunt*, a pique, pet. 'He's teyun the strunts.' 1895 P. H. HUNTER *James Inwick* iii. 31 The laird took the strunt on the heid o't, an' gied ower comin to the kirk.

Strunt (strʊnt), *sb.*[3] *Sc.* [Of obscure origin.] Spirituous liquor.

1786 BURNS *Halloween* xxviii, Syne, wi' a social glass o' strunt, They parted aff careerin Fu' blythe that night. ? 1788 — *Meg o' the Mill* 7 A dram o' gude strunt in a morning early.

† Strunt, *a.* *north.* *Obs.* [Cf. STUNT *a.*] Stumpy.

1577 *Richmond Wills* (Surtees) 273, I geve and bequethe unto Christofer Wyvell..my dunne horse which was under strunte tayle maire. 1658 FRANCK *North. Mem.* (1694) 155 Let..your Hooks [be] well tempered..; their Points well drawn out, and as sharp as Needles, but their Birbs as stiff and as strunt as Bristles.

Strunt (strʊnt), *v.*[1] [f. STRUNT *sb.*[1]] *trans.* To cut short, esp. to dock the tail of (a horse or sheep). Hence **Stru·nted** *ppl. a.*

1688 HOLME *Armoury* II. 176/2 Terms used by Shepheards. ..Strunted sheep, is when their Tails are cut off to keep them from Dunging them, and breeding of Maggots therein. 1703 THORESBY *Let. to Ray*, *Strunted* pp., cut off short. 1828 CARR *Craven Gloss.*, *Strunt*, to dock a horse's tail. 1889 *N. W. Linc. Gloss.* (ed. 2), *Strunt*, to dock the tail of a horse; sometimes, though very rarely, used with regard to sheep also.

Strunt (strʊnt), *v.*[2] *Sc.* [Cf. STRUT *v.*; also Norw. *strunta* to walk stiffly as under a burden; to be haughty and stiff in manner (Ross).] *intr.* To move with a self-important air.

The ordinary version of *Muirland Willie* (see 1st quot.) runs: The wooer he stept up the house.

17.. *Old Song* (Jam. 1808) The wooer strunted up the house. 1786 BURNS *To a Louse* i, I canna say but ye strunt rarely, Owre gawze and lace. 1789 D. DAVIDSON *Seasons* 50 An to Strathfallan green burn-brae Fu' nimbly she [*sc.* a cow] did strunt.

Struntain (strʊ·ntėn). *Sc.* [Of obscure origin.] (See quot. 1858.)

1793 *Statist. Acc. Scot.* VII. 138 Before this period, the only manufacture was what is called Stow Struntain, made of the coarsest wool, and wrought by the women on a loom like a bed-heck. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade*, *Struntain*, the name in Scotland for a kind of coarse worsted braid, less than an inch broad.

Strunty (strʊ·nti), *a.* *Sc.* and *north.* [f. STRUNT *a.* or *sb.*[1] + -Y.] Stunted, short.

1756 MRS. CALDERWOOD in *Coltness Coll.* II. (Maitland Club) 169 All the road we had to travell was a dead sandy desart, covered with a poor strunty heather. 1808 JAMIESON, *Strunty*, short, contracted; as a strunty gown. 1897 'L. KEITH' *My Bonny Lady* xviii. 198 For a' he's sic a wee, strunty, little-boukit fella', he's got mair spunk in his pinkie than mony a man in his hail body.

Strupt(e, obs. pa. t. and pa. pple. of STRIP *v.*[1]

† Struse. *Obs.* Also 7 **strusse.** [? repr. Russian стружокъ *struzhok*, dim. of стругъ *strug* a kind of large boat (see quot. c 1581).] (See quots.)

[c 1581 C. BURROUGH in Hakluyt *Voy.* (1589) 441 Then the three stroogs or barks prouided to transport the said goods to Astracan..came ouer from Yeraslaue.] 1701 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 3727/3 Several large Boats of the Muscovite Built, called Strusses. 1782 P. H. BRUCE *Mem.* VII. 237 We met several strusses, or flat-bottomed vessels, carrying from eight to nine hundred tons, which go loaded from Astrachan to Moscow. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade*, *Struse*, a long burdensome craft, used for transport on the inland waters of Russia.

† Strussioner. *Obs. rare*[-1]. Meant to represent an illiterate corruption: ? for *destructioner.*

1553 *Respublica* 1779 Suche Strussioners as these have ofte made youe beeleve the Moone was a grene chese.

† Strust, *v.* *Obs.* Also 5 **strost.** [An unexplained alteration of TRUST *v.*] *trans.* and *intr.* To trust. So **† Stru·sty** *a.* = TRUSTY.

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 66 To sum gostliche menne þæt ȝe beoð strusti uppen..god is þæt ȝe asken red. *Ibid.* 380 Þeo hulles þet beoð lowure, þeo, ase þe lefdi seið, hire sulf ouerleapeð, ne strusteð heo so wel on ham, uor hore feblesce. 1450 *Paston Lett.* I. 102 The seid Duke of Suffolk being..strostid be you and alle your councellors to knowe the privite of your councell ther.

Strut (strʊt), *sb.*[1] Forms: 3–4 **strutt**, 4 **strot**, 4, 9 *dial.* **strout**, 3–4, 7– **strut.** See also STURT *sb.* and A-STRUT. [The form *strout* prob. represents an OE. **strút* = OHG., MHG. *strûz* masc., combat, strife (MHG. also *strûze* fem.; mod.G. dial. *strauss*):—OTeut. type **strūto-z*, f. root **strūt-*, perh. orig. meaning to stand out, project, protrude; cf. ON. *strút-r* conical headdress, Norw. *strut* spout, snout, Da. *strud* end of a sausage, etc., Sw. *strut* cornet of paper. The forms *strut(t* and perh. *strot* appear to represent a different formation (from the weak grade of the root); see STRUT *v.*[1], and cf. Norw. *strutt* obstinate resistance.]

1. Strife, contention; a quarrel, wrangle, contest. *Obs.* exc. *dial.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 3461 Þair strut it was vn-stern stith. *Ibid.* 27617 O pride bicums vnbuxumnes, strif, and strutt, and frawardnes. c 1300 *Havelok* 1039 And he maden mikel strout Abouten þe alþerbeste but. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* A. 848 Among vus commes non oþer strot ne stryf. 1677 W. HUGHES *Man of Sin* II. i. 6 Could there be a strut, or fewd betwixt the two Apostles? a 1825 FORBY *Voc. E. Anglia*, *Strout*, a struggle; bustle; quarrel.

† 2. Display, flaunting in fine attire. *Obs.*

1303 R. BRUNNE *Handl. Synne* 3347 But wlde þey þenke þat make swyche strut, yn what robe, yn erþe, þey shul be put.

Strut (strʊt), *sb.*[2] Also 7–9 **strutt.** [Proximate origin obscure; from the root of STRUT *sb.*[1], *v.*[1] Cf. LG. *strutt*, rigid.]

1. A bar, rod, or built-up member, of wood, iron, etc., designed to resist pressure or thrust in a framework; e.g. a diagonal timber which acts as a brace to support a principal rafter.

1587 MASCALL *Bk. Cattle* II. (1596) 120 Preparing the cart. ..See the rath staues and struts be whole and sound. 1668 LEYBOURN *Platf. Purchasers* 132, K King-piece or Joggle-piece. L Strutts. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 450/1 Struts, or Bunspars, pieces that go from either side the Kings piece to the Rafter of the Gable end to support them. 1755 HALES *Distillation* in *Phil. Trans.* XLIX. 314 Three or four small struts may be fixed to the sides of the air-box. 1845 *Civil Engin. & Arch. Jrnl.* VIII. 213/1 Mr. Adie introduced a series of arches or struts, traversing the railway at intervals of 15 feet from centre to centre. These struts consisted of two arches of rubble and rough ashlar masonry, placed back to back. 1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss.*, *Strut*, a pole or stick, with a spike at the end, to be let down from the shaft of a cart, to keep the weight off the horse's back when standing still with a heavy load. 1859 *Newton's Lond. Jrnl. Arts* 1 Feb. 114 A short iron strut or link is jointed to the thin end of each tongue-rail and to the end chair. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* I. 107/2 Beyond that opening, however, bridges are usually sustained by struts or tension-rods. 1886 *Encycl. Brit.* XXI. 819/2 The beam is required to act as a shore or strut, to prevent the sides of the ship from collapsing, and also as a tie to prevent their falling apart.

b. *attrib.*, as *strut-brace*, † *-stower*; **strut-beam** = *strutting-beam* (see STRUTTING *vbl. sb.*[2] c).

1668 LEYBOURN *Platf. Purchasers* 132 Of the Roof.. Coller-beam, Strutt-beam, Window-beam, or Top-beam. 17.. in F. Peck *Mem. O. Cromwell* etc. II. (1740) 58 [Alleged covenant of A.D. 1159] He shall deliver to you..ten stakes, eleven strut stowers & eleven yeathers, to be cut by you. 1869 RANKINE *Machine & Hand-tools* App. 26 The most efficient position for those ribs would be diagonal, like that of the strut-braces in a skeleton beam.

¶ 2. The alleged sense in quot. 1865 and subsequent Dicts. 'An implement of bone or wood formerly used to shape the folds of ruffs' is founded on quot. 1575, where *stroout* appears to be for *strouted* pa. pple. of *strout*, STRUT *v.*[1] (sense 2 c).

1575 LANEHAM *Let.* 47 Hiz shyrt..with rufs fayr starched, ..marshalld in good order: with a setting stik, & stroout y[t] euery ruf stood vp like a wafer. 1865 MRS. BURY PALLISER *Hist. Lace* xxiii. 286 The tools used in starching and fluting ruffs were called setting-sticks, struts, and poking-sticks; the two first were made of wood or bone.

Strut (strʊt), *sb.*[3] Also 7 **strout.** [f. STRUT *v.*[1]] A manner of walking with stiff steps and head erect, affecting dignity or superiority; a stiff, self-important gait.

1607 G. WILKINS *Mis. Enf. Marr.* IV. G 2, Curle vp your haire, walke with the best strouts you can. 1712 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 335 ¶ 2 Upon the entring of Pyrrhus, the Knight told me, that he did not believe the King of France himself had a better Strut. 1768 H. WALPOLE *Let. to Earl Strafford* 16 Aug., He has the sublime strut of his grandfather, or of a cock-sparrow. 1784 COWPER *Task* v. 74 The cock foregoes His wonted strut. 1847 DE QUINCEY *Sp. Mil. Nun* xii. Wks. 1853 III. 32 Mr. Urquiza entered first, with a strut more than usually grandiose.

b. *fig.*

c 1800 A. HAMILTON in F. S. Oliver *Life* (1906) 198 Real firmness is good for anything; strut is good for nothing. 1861 PEARSON *Early & Mid. Ages Eng.* xxvii. 330 A little more strut and bluster are required for the heroes who tread the stage of the world. 1877 MRS. OLIPHANT *Makers Flor.* vi. 167 That strut and crow of conscious superiority which is.. so common among his class.

Strut (strʊt), *sb.*[4] [f. STRUT *v.*[2]] The act of strutting; deflexion (of the spoke of a wheel) from the perpendicular.

1880 *Encycl. Brit.* XI. 311/1 There is little strut, so that the lowest spoke is nearly vertical, and the tire forms a frustum of a cone, instead of being a cylinder.

† Strut, *a.* *Obs.* In 8 *Sc.* **strute.** [Connected with STRUT *v.*[1]; perh. orig. the pa. pple.] So full as to be swollen or distended. Also *Sc.*, intoxicated, 'fou'. Also in comb. *strut-bellied* adj.

1577 tr. *Bullinger's Decades* III. iii. (1592) 313 The state of famished Lazarus..was farre better than the surfetting of the strut-bellied glutton. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* XI. xli. I. 348 Many [women] are so frim and free of milke, that all their breasts are strut and full thereof, even as farre as to their arme-holes. 1609 — *Amm. Marcell.* 213 When hee beginneth now to returne with his bellie strut and full. 1715 RAMSAY *Christ's Kirk Gr.* II. xvii, When he was strute, twa sturdy chiels..Held up..The liquid logic scholar. 1724 —

Wyfe of Auchtermuchty xiv, The deil cut aff their hands .., That cramd your kytes sae strute yestrein.

Strut (strʊt), *v.*[1] Inflected **strutted, strutting.** Forms: *α.* 1 strútian, 3–7 stroute, 4–7 strowte, 6–7 strowt, stroot(e, 6–9 strout. *β.* 3–5 strut(e, 6 strutte, 7 strutt, 6– strut. [The *α* forms represent OE. *strútian*; prob. f. **strút* STRUT *sb.*[1]; corresponding formations are mod.G. dial. *straussen* to wrangle, Da. *strude* to strut; also (with difference of conjugation), MHG. *striuzen* wk. *v.* to contend, struggle (mod.G. dial. *straussen*). The *β* forms, though they may partly have arisen from contracted pa. pple. forms with shortened vowel, appear also to represent a distinct formation (not recorded in OE.) from the weak grade of the root, corresponding to MHG., mod.G. *strotzen* to swell out, bulge, Sw. *strutta* to hop, strut, Da. *strutte* to strut, Norw. *strulta* to offer obstinate resistance, *strotta* to sulk. Although the *α* and *β* types partly represent different formations, both are found in each of the senses; they are therefore here treated as variants of the same word.]

†**1.** *intr.* (Meaning somewhat uncertain.) ? To make a show of working; ? to struggle, make efforts. *OE. rare*[–1].

c 1000 ÆLFRIC *Saints' Lives* XXXII. 208 Swa þæt se halga wer [*sc.* the enshrined St. Eadmund] hi [*sc.* à band of robbers] wundorlice þeband, ælcne swa he stod strutigende mid tole [orig. *sanctus martyr eos ligat in ipso conamine*], þæt heora nan ne mihte þæt morð gefremman, ne hi þanon astyrian.

†**2.** To bulge, swell; to protrude on account of being full or swollen. Often with *out*. *Obs.*

α. *a* 1300 *Rel. Ant.* II. 15 Ne be þi winpil neuere..so stroutende. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XIII. XXIX. (Tolfem. MS.) And ofte he bloweþ outt his wombe and makeþ it stroute. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 480/2 Strowtyn, or bocyn owte, *turgeo*, *c* 1611 CHAPMAN *Iliad* I. 464 The Misens strooted with the gale. 1622 DRAYTON *Poly-olb.* XIII. 402 The daintie Cloter..That makes each Vdder strout abundantly with milke. 1668 CULPEPER & COLE *Barthol. Anat.* I. XX. 51 Sometimes being full, it [the Bladder] does so strout in the belly, that it may be felt by the hand. 1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss.*, *Strout*, to protrude, to swell.

β. 1606 DEKKER *News fr. Hell* Wks. (Grosart) II. 124 Hauing..cheeks strutting out (like two footeballs). 1609 HOLLAND *Amm. Marcell.* 373 Being for the nonce full of wine, till his skin strutted againe. 1678 MRS. BEHN *Sir P. Fancy* II. ii. 28 Lord how he's swoln? see how his Stomach struts? 1771 J. ADAMS *Diary* 5 June, Wks. 1850 II. 268 The cow, whose teats strut with milk, is unmilked till nine o'clock.

†**b.** *transf.* To be stuffed or filled *with*. *Obs.*

c 1611 CHAPMAN *Iliad* XXI. 540 When Troy, and all her towres, Strooted with fillers. *a* 1624 BP. M. SMITH *Serm.* (1632) 221 If the Exchequer doe stroute, and be stuft with siluer and gold.

†**c.** *trans.* To distend, cause to swell or bulge, make protuberant; to puff *out*. Also, to stuff or cram (*with*). *Obs.*

1540 PALSGR. *Acolastus* II. iv. M iv, That scrippe or bagge..whiche is now strooted out with moche money. 1575 BANISTER *Chyrurg.* I. (1585) 17 When the veines are strowted out by the effusion of humor. 1613 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* IX. iii. 700 Knitting their furrowed browes, and strouting out their goggle eyes to watch their treasure. 1648 HERRICK *Hesp., Paranet. to M. J. Wicks* 21 And let Thy servant, not thy own self, sweat, To strut thy barnes with sheafs of Wheat. 1675 J. SMITH *Chr. Relig. Appeal* IV. 84, I have seen children, when they are strutted with the Milk, Play with the Breast. *c* 1730 RAMSAY *Boy & Pig* 9 The strait neck o't [*sc.* the pot] wadna suffer The hand..Sae strouted, to return again. 1740 in Mrs. Delany *Autobiog. & Corr.* (1861) II. 72 His lady looked like a frightened owl, her looks strutted out and most furiously greased.

fig. *c* 1624 BACON *Consid. War with Spain* (1629) 33, I will make a briefe List of the Particulars themselues, in an Historical Truth, no wayes strowted, nor made greater by Language.

†**3.** *intr.* To contend, strive, quarrel, bluster. *Obs.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 8209 Al bigan to strut and strijf [*G.* All bigan stour and strijf] Agains adam and his wijf. *c* 1300 *Havelok* 1779 Hwat are ye, þat are þer-oute, þat þus biginnen to stroute? *c* 1330 *Arth. & Merl.* 233 Who so struted oþainward, Anon þai þauen hem dintes hard. 1399 LANGL. *Rich. Redeles* III. 289 This makyth men mysdo more þan ouȝte ellis, And to stroute and to stare and stryue aȝeyn vertu. *c* 1400 *Beryn* 1840 What evir þow speke, or stroute, certis it wol nat be.

†**4.** To protrude stiffly from a surface or body; to stand *out*, jut *forth*. Also, to stick *up*. *Obs.*

a. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Miller's T.* 129 Crul was his heer, and as the gold it shoon, And strouted as a Fanne, large and brode. 1566 ADLINGTON *Apuleius* XI. XLVIII. 124, I carried..a garlande of flowres upon my head, with palme leaves stroutinge out on every side. 1600 FAIRFAX *Tasso* IX. VIII, Mustachoes strouting long.

β. 1676 T. GLOVER *Acc. Virginia* in *Phil. Trans.* XI. 635 Till such time as the leaves, that stood strutting out, fall down to the stalk. 1703 DAMPIER *Voy.* I.II. i. 24 They (guinea fowl) have a small red Gill on each side of their Heads, like Ears, strutting out downwards. 1705 tr. *Bosman's Guinea* 264, They are called Crown-Birds, from the great yellowish Tuft or Crown intermixed with speckled Feathers, strutting like Hogs Bristles. 1772 FOOTE *Nabob* II. Wks. 1799 II. 302 A tulip strutting up like a magistrate's mace. 1809 W. IRVING *Knickerb.* II. iv. (1849) 108 By the foot of a promontory, which strutted forth boldly into the waves.

†**b.** *trans.* To protrude, thrust forth, stick *out*, stretch *out* (an organ, part, growth). *Obs.*

1583 GOLDING *Calvin on Deut.* lxxii. 444 If wee will not bowe downe our neckes but strout them out as harde as if they were steele or brasse. 1599 BRETON *Will of Wit* etc. (Grosart) 57/2 If she stretch out a fine hande, hee strouteth out a straight legge. 1682 COLVIL *Whigs Supplic.* (1751) 41 Wild-Boars stronting out their bristles.

†**5.** *intr.* To behave prondly or vaingloriously; to flaunt, triumph, swagger. Often *to strut it*, also *to strut it out*. Also, to glory, exult *upon*, *over* (a possession). *Obs.* (exc. as in 7 c).

a. *c* 1570 *Buggbears* I. iii. 47 Thou woldst have me..hack & hew my clothes, & go stroot it like a tossepotte. 1579 GOSSON *Sch. Abuse* (Arb.) 36 Desirous to strowt it with the beste, yet disdayning too liue by the sweate of their browes. 1611 COTGR. s. v. *Paladin*, He swaggers, brags, or strouts it mightily. *a* 1643 J. SHUTE *Judgem. & Mercy* (1645) 30 Nebuchadnezar..when he was strouting upon his Babell, and bragged of his power.

β. 1611 COTGR., *Piaffer*, ..to boast, or strut it vainely. 1675 T. BROOKS *Golden Key* 226 Those proud enemies of Christ, who now..strut it out against him. 1684 T. BURNET *Theory Earth* I. 297 He will many times strut and triumph, as if he had wrested the thunder out of Jove's right hand. 1754 RICHARDSON *Grandison* IV. 61 The one strutting over the beauties, in order to enhance the value of the present; the other, courtesying ten times in a minute, to shew her gratitude.

†**b.** *refl.* in the same sense as prec. (Cf. *boast, vaunt oneself.*) *Obs.*

1655 GURNALL *Chr. in Arm.* I. verse 13. vii. (1656) 364 Nebuchadnezzar strutting himself in his Palace with this bravado in his mouth, Is not this great Babylon that I have built? *a* 1716 SOUTH *Serm.* (1727) IV. 84 See Nebuchadnezzar also strutting himself upon the Survey of that Mass of Riches.

†**6.** *intr.* To raise oneself to one's full height; to thrust up one's head and stand erect; to perk *up*. Also *fig.* *Obs.*

1607 CHAPMAN *Bussy d'Ambois* I. i. 7 Vnskilfull statuaries, who suppose (In forging a Colossus) If they make him Stroddle enough, stroote, and looke big, and gape, Their worke is goodly. 1612 DRAYTON *Poly-olb.* v. 288 And there withall he [a mountain] struts, as though he scorn'd to show His head belowe the Heauen. 1614 GORGES *Lucan* III. 117 Then Lygdanus by chance did eye, Tyrrhenus mounted loftily, Strowting vpon a Gallion's puppe [L. *Stantem sublimi Tyrrhenum culmine prora*]. 1662 GREENHALGH in *Ellis Orig. Lett.* Ser. II. IV. 19 At which they shewed great rejoicing, by strutting up, so that some of their veils flew about like morris dancers. 1791 BOSWELL *Johnson* (1904) I. 32 Johnson did not strut or stand on tiptoe: He only did not stoop. 1809 J. BARLOW *Columb.* I. 352 Taurus would shrink, Hemodia strut no more.

†**b.** *refl.* ? To stand erect, with feet firmly fixed on the ground. *Obs.*

1581 MULCASTER *Positions* viii. (1887) 51 Would any man beleue it,..that one Milo so strutted himselfe, so pitcht his feet, so peysed his bodie, as he remained vnremoueable from his place, being haled at..by a number of people.

†**c.** *intr.* Of the legs: To be firmly fixed or planted on the ground. *Obs.*

1681 DRYDEN *Span. Friar* III. 32 What are become of those two Timber-loggs that he us'd to wear for Legs, that stood strutting like the two black Posts before a door?

7. To walk with an affected air of dignity or importance, stepping stiffly with head erect. Also with *it*, and with adv., as *about*, *off*. (The current sense.)

a. 1594 NASHE *Unfort. Trav.* K 1, He ietteth strouting, dancing on hys toes with his hands vnder his sides. *a* 1624 BP. M. SMITH *Serm.* (1632) 170 They that carry their noses high into the wind,..and stroute in their gate, as though they went vpon stilts. 1640 C. HARVEY *Synagogue, Engines* vii. (1647) 31 Nor that, which giant-like before did strout, Be able with a pigmeys pace t'hold out.

β. 1818 *Galway Corporation Bk.* in O'Flaherty *West Connaught* (Irish Archæol. Soc. 1846) 35 *note*, That neither One Mac shall strutte ne swaggere thro' the streets of Gallway. 1598 SHAKS. *Merry W.* I. iv. 31 Do's he not hold vp his head (as it were?) and strut in his gate? 1638 W. LISLE *Heliodorus* X. 180 Full soone came in the gyant Æthiops, On tip-toe strutting. 1693 T. POWER in *Dryden's Juvenal* xii. 159 Pacuvius struts it, and triumphant goes In the dejected Crowd of Rival Foes. 1733 POPE *Ep. Cobham* 153 Tom struts a Soldier, open, bold, and brave. 1849 D. G. MITCHELL *Battle Summer* (1852) 242 Stiff little Republicans strut about as if in togas. 1887 BESANT *The World went* ii, He strutted proudly across the grass, regardless of his rags.

b. of a peacock or other fowl.

1592 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* I. iv. 199 A Peacock, prickt with love's desire, To woo his Mistress, strouting stately by her. 1632 MILTON *L'Allegro* 52 While the Cock..Stoutly struts his Dames before. 1795 COWPER *Pairing Time* 39 Dick Redcap..strutting and sideling. 1840 DICKENS *Old C. Shop* XV, Plump pigeons skimming round the roof or strutting on the eaves. 1847 LONGF. *Ev.* I. i, And there, in his feathered seraglio, Strutted the lordly turkey.

c. *fig.*

1774 BURKE *Amer. Tax.* Sel. Wks. I. 103 In order meanly to sneak out of difficulties, into which they had proudly strutted. 1814 WORDSW. *Excurs.* III. 900 Big passions strutting on a petty stage. 1850 HAWTHORNE *Scarlet L.* Introd. (1879) 24 His voice and laugh..came strutting out of his lungs, like the crow of a cock.

d. quasi-*trans.* with cognate or adverbial object.

1605 SHAKS. *Macb.* V. v. 25 A poore Player, That struts and frets his houre vpon the Stage. 1749 FIELDING *Tom Jones* XV. xi, He..then strutted some turns about his room. 1824 MEDWIN *Convers. Byron*[2] I. 122 Think how he would mouth such and such a sentence,..strut such and such a scene.

e. *trans.* To walk upon or over (a floor, space) with a strut.

1749 FIELDING *Tom Jones* XIV. i, Hence those strange monsters in lace and embroidery, ..which, under the name of lords and ladies, strut the stage. 1810 *Splendid Follies* I. 170 No eastern princess, strutting the boards of a puppet-show, ever exhibited [etc.].

Hence †**Strutted** *ppl. a.*, distended, full-stored. (Cf. STRUT *a.*)

1648 EARL WESTMORLAND *Oila Sacra* (1879) 33 Are not my strutted Vessels full of Wine?

Strut (strʊt), *v.*[2] Also 9 **strutt.** [f. STRUT *sb.*[2]] **1.** *trans.* To brace or support by a strut or struts; to hold in place or strengthen by an upright, diagonal, or transverse support. Also with advs.

1828 CARR *Craven Gloss.*, *Strut*, to brace, a term used in carpentry. 1838 *Civil Engin. & Arch. Jrnl.* I. 374/2 If the resistance piles are sufficiently braced and strutted not to yield by the driving of the wedges. 1845 *Civil Engin. & Arckit. Jrnl.* VIII. 212/1 The toes of the walls will require to be strutted apart. 1869 SIR E. REED *Shipbuild.* I. 12 A ship rolling about with a heavy cargo will alter her form, as regards its transverse section, very much, if she is built of iron, and is not sufficiently strutted and tied with beams. *a* 1878 SIR G. SCOTT *Lect. Archit.* (1879) II. 225 In Henry VII's Chapel these great arches are visible only in the side vaults, which are strutted up from them with strong tracery. 1897 *Pall Mall Mag.* June 254 The old boat was no more than waterproof, and..Severn had to run a new stringer round her, to strut out the ribs. 1912 C. H. POWER *Eng. Mediæv. Arch.* II. 340 Flying Buttress to strut the Vault.

fig. 1832 *Examiner* 161/2 Employing, to boot, all tricky expedients to strutt up the tottering system.

2. *intr.* To be fixed diagonally or slantwise; to be bent so as to form a sharp turn or angle.

1841 W. TEMPLETON *Locomot. Eng.* 30 The best form of wrought iron wheels, is round arms strutting from the rim to the nave in a zig-zag form. 1853 SIR H. DOUGLAS *Milit. Bridges* 291 Braces, strutting considerably, were driven down as far as possible into the bottom of the river, at each end of the trestles.

Struther, variant of STROTHER *Obs.*

Struthiin (strū·pi,in). *Chem.* Also 9 **strutheine.** [f. mod.L. (*Gypsophila*) *Struthi-um* the oriental soapwort, one of the sources of the substance (ad. Gr. *στρουθίον* soapwort); see -IN.] = SAPONIN.

1835 *R. D. & T. Thomson's Rec. Gen. Sci.* I. 203 Bley has obtained from the root of the *gypsophila struthium*..a substance which he terms Struthiin. 1852 BRANDE *Dict. Sci.* etc. Suppl., *Strutheine.* 1868 WATTS *Dict. Chem.* V. 438.

†**Struthiocamel(e, -ell.** *Obs.* [ad. L. *strūthiocamēlus*, incorrectly a. Gr. *στρουθοκάμηλος*, f. *στρουθός* sparrow + *κάμηλος* camel.] An ostrich.

In quot. 1631 *struthiocameli* is the Latin genitive.

1607 WALKINGTON *Optic Glass* 79 The Struthio-camell or Ostridge..will concoct iron. 1624 F. WHITE *Repl. Fisher* 454 Concerning Stones, Iron, &c. I doe not thinke that these feed:..Struthiocameles, &c. but onely coole or cleanse them. [1631 MASSINGER *Emperor of East* IV. iv, This applied warme vpon the pained place, with a fether of Struthiocameli, or a bird of Paradise, shall expulse this tartarous.. dolor.] 1684 J. P. tr. *J. Ludolphus' Hist. Ethiopia* (ed. 2) 63 The Struthiocamel or Ostrich.

Struthioid (strū·piɪoid), *a.* and *sb.* [ad. mod. L. type *strūthioidēs*, f. L. *strūthio* ostrich: see STRUTHIOUS and -OID.] **a.** *adj.* Ostrich-like, struthious. **b.** *sb.* A struthious bird.

1879 LYDEKKER in *Rec. Geol. Surv. India* XII. 53 Fossil Struthioids. *Ibid.*, The only struthioid bones figured..are [etc.]. 1880 W. DAVIES in *Geol. Mag.* Jan. 18 Two distinct forms of Struthioid birds.

‖ **Struthion.** *Obs.* [Gr. *στρούθιον*.] Soapwort.

1587 T. NEWTON *Herbal for Bible* X. 60 This herbe Borith or Struthion, which we heere cal Sopewort or fullers weed, doth [etc.]. 1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), *Struthion*, ..a Plant call'd Fullers-herb.

Struthious (strū·piəs), *a. Zool.* [f. L. *strūthio* ostrich (in mod.L. as generic name), a. Gr. *στρουθίων*.] Related to or resembling the ostrich.

1773 PENNANT *Genera of Birds* 38 Order VI. Struthious. *Ibid.*, Struthious is a new coined word to express this order; for these birds could not be used to any of the Linnaean divisions. 1835–6 *Todd's Cycl. Anat.* I. 271/1 The Struthious birds and Penguins, which cannot fly. 1841 R. E. GRANT *Outl. Comp. Anat.* 497 The two anterior branches..are.. very small in struthious [*sic*] birds. 1875 A. NEWTON in *Encycl. Brit.* III. 729/2 A large Bird, combining Dinornithic and Struthious characters. 1883 *Century Mag.* Jan. 415/2 If the pursued were acquainted with struthious tactics, he would lie down flat on the ground, where the bird finds it impossible to strike him.

Struthir, variant of STROTHER *Obs.*

†**Strutly,** *adv. Obs. rare*[–1]. [Cf. STRUT *a.*] ? Proudly.

c 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* XXV. (*Julian*) 676, & for his bred he send hym hay, & til hyme strutly can say [etc.].

Strutter (strʊ·təɹ). In 4 **stroutér,** 6 **strowter.** [f. STRUT *v.*[2] + -ER[1].] One who struts.

1399 LANGL. *R. Redeles* III. 269 To strie strouters þat sterede aȝeine rithis. *a* 1592 H. SMITH *Serm.* (1594) 227 They which will be strowters, shall not want flatterers. 1682 H. MORE *Annot. Glanvill's Lux Orient.* 12 What a mere nothing it is that this Strutter has pronounced with such sonorous Rhetorick. 1727 GAY *Fables* I. xl. 5 The Don, a formal, solemn strutter, Despises Monsieur's airs and flutter. 1804 EUGENIA DE ACTON *Tale without Title* II. 268 Those servile strutters in a great man's livery. 1824 MISS MITFORD *Village* I. 54 A brood or two of bantams ..with a little ridiculous strutter of a cock at their head.

Strutting (strʊ·tiŋ), *vbl. sb.*[1] [f. STRUT *v.*[1] + -ING[1].]

†**1.** The action of swelling with fullness, of projecting or sticking out, and the like. *Obs.*

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XVIII. CIII. (1495) 847 (Brockes) fynde sleyghte and manere by suche strouteynge oute of the skynne to eschewe and put of the bytynge of

houndes. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 480/2 St[r]owtynge, *nominaliter, turgor.* 1573 BARET *Alv.* S 897 A stretching or strowtting out, *estendement.* 1622 T. STOUGHTON *Chr. Sacrif.* vii. 91 The Turkie cocke..maketh a great brustling and strouting with his wings. 1677 MIEGE *Dict. Eng.-Fr.*, A Strutting out, *bouffissure, enflement.* 1683 G. MARTINE *Reliq. Divi Andreae* (1797) 183 The chaple is built on the east of the steeple, and strutts and projects out upon it about two foot, which strutting..makes the chaple to be in length without the wall 31½ foot.

†**2.** The action of 'swelling' or looking big; contending, blustering; flaunting, swaggering. *Obs.*

1399 LANGL. *R. Redeles* III. 121 For þen þey rayed arith, þey recchith no fforther, But studieth all in stroutynge and stireth amys euere. 1629 H. BURTON *Truth's Triumph* 255 Without any strouting of arrogancy.

3. The action of walking with stiff bearing and self-important air.

1656 EARL MONM. tr. *Boccalini's Pol. Touchstone* 442 Spanish Dons..with their usual Castilian strutting, and with unsufferable Spanish ostentation. 1711 STEELE *Spect.* No. 156 ¶ 5 The Woman's Man expresses himself wholly in that Motion which we call Strutting: An elevated Chest, a pinched Hat, a measurable Step,..are the Marks of him. 1880 A. H. SWINTON *Insect Variety* v. 209 A love-call that reproduces..the strutting, wing-drumming, and rustling of the males of the turkey and grouse at the pairing time.

Strutting (strɒ·tiŋ), *vbl. sb.*[2] [f. STRUT *v.*[2] + -ING[1].] **a.** The action of strengthening or supporting with a strut or struts. **b.** *concr.* Struts collectively.

1833 LOUDON *Encycl. Archit.* § 1066 The joists to be..stiffened with herring-bone strutting. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2431 *Strutting*, diagonal braces between joists to prevent side deflection. 1896 *Daily News* 15 Dec. 2/3 The Committee ordered certain works to be done, including..the shoring and strutting of the gables and great northern arch.

c. *attrib.*, **strutting-beam, piece,** a beam or piece that acts as a strut.

1753 F. PRICE *Brit. Carpenter* (ed. 3) 17 If the strutting-beam..be drove in very tight, it takes all the weight off from the rafters. 1833 LOUDON *Encycl. Archit.* § 238 Pieces of timber driven fast between each pair of joists, with their ends butting against the groin of the joists; they are commonly called strutting pieces, and their use is to stiffen the floor.

Strutting (strɒ·tiŋ), *ppl. a.* [f. STRUT *v.*[1] + -ING[2].]

†**1.** That swells or bulges with fullness. Also with *out. Obs.*

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* XVIII. xcvi. (1495) 842 Some ape is callyd Spinga and ben rough and hery wyth stroutynge pappes and teetys. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 480/2 Strowtynge, *adjective, turgidus.* *c* 1590 GREENE *Fr. Bacon* III. iii. 1421 Fortie kine..With strouting duggs that paggle to the ground. 1620 VENNER *Via Recta* iv. 85 Turgid and strouting-out bellies.

β. 1565 COOPER *Thesaurus*, s.v. *Caper*, *Distentæ lacte capellæ*, hauyng struttyng teates. 1654 R. CODRINGTON tr. *Iustine* xliv. 519 A Hinde, who did offer her strutting dugs unto the little one. 1693 J. DRYDEN Jun. in *Dryden's Juvenal* xiv. 169 As thy strutting Bags with Money rise. 1711 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 127 ¶ 6 The strutting Petticoat smooths all Distinctions, levels the Mother with the Daughter. 1815 W. HERBERT *Helga* VI. 2084 Prosperous gales Already fill the strutting sails.

Comb. 1579 TWYNE *Phis. agst. Fortune* II. xiii. 187 Doe I not see thy bagges stroutyng full? 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* I. 3 An infinite multitude there is of tame cattell with udders strutting-full of milke. 1652 BENLOWES *Theophila* XIII. x. 237 Next, Close feeds many a strutting udder'd Cow. *a* 1661 HOLYDAY *Juvenal* ii. (1673) 21 The strutting-belly'd spindle, that does swell With slender yarn.

†**b.** That distends or causes to swell. *Obs.*

1567 TURBERV. *Epit.* etc. 14 For hee the emptie bagge with winde and strouting blast doth fill.

†**2.** That protrudes stiffly, sticks out, or juts forth. *Obs.*

1387 TREVISA *Higden* VII. 385 Þat tyme men usede stroutynge lokkes [L. *tunc fluxus crinium*]. 1398 — *Barth. De P. R.* XIV. xxxii. (1495) E vij, The moost hyghe strowtyng partyes of cragges ben callyd Scopuli. 1598 CHAPMAN *Achilles Shield* To Vnderstander, Talke our quidditicall Italianistes of what proportion soeuer their strooting lips affect. 1650 BULWER *Anthropomet.* 77 The protuberating or strutting part of the Face. 1663 BUTLER *Hud.* I. i. 439 His strutting Ribs on both sides show'd Like furrows he himself had plow'd.

†**3.** *fig.* Swelling with pride or importance; wrangling, contending; flaunting, swaggering. *Obs.* exc. as in 5 b.

1577 KENDALL *Flowers of Epigr.* 41 Learne here ye mortalles all, what tis with stroutyng pride to swell. 1623 B. JONSON *Time Vind.* (1640) 97 These are fit freedomes. For lawlesse Prentices, on a Shrovetuesday..; For drunken Wakes, and strutting Beare-baytings. 1677 MIEGE *Dict. Eng.-Fr.*, A Strutting fob,..*qui piafe, qui fait le brave.* 1725 RAMSAY *To Duncan Forbes* x, When strutting naethings are despis'd, With a' their stinking pride.

†**4.** That stands erect with the feet firmly planted and head high. Also *transf. Obs.*

a 1643 W. CARTWRIGHT *Ordinary* III. v. (1651) 52 Thy belly looks like to some strutting hill, O'r shadow'd with thy rough beard like a wood. 1693 DRYDEN *Juvenal* vi. 365 Behold the strutting Amazonian Whore, She stands in Guard with her right Foot before. 1710 SWIFT *Little Ho. Castleknock* 13 This is the little strutting pile, You see just by the church-yard stile.

5. That walks with a stiff erect gait and self-important air.

1606 SHAKS. *Tr. & Cr.* I. iii. 153 Like a strutting Player, whose conceit Lies in his Ham-string. 1610 — *Temp.* I. ii. 365, I heare, the straine of strutting Chanticlere. 1635 QUARLES *Embl.* IV. iii. 16 My loftie strutting steps disdaine to tire. 1719 in W. W. Wilkins *Polit. Ballads* (1860) II. 193 In his embroider'd coat they found him, With all his strutting dwarfs around him. 1829 CUNNINGHAM *Brit. Painters* I. 162 Hogarth was a strutting consequential little man. 1912 C. N. & A. M. WILLIAMSON *Guests of Hercules* v. 54 Tables where people drank tea and fed the strutting pigeons.

b. *fig.*

1601 *2nd Pt. Return fr. Parnass.* III. iv. 1386 My high tiptoe strouting poesye. 1779 JOHNSON *L. P., Gray* Wks. 1825 VIII. 487 He [Gray in his Odes] has a kind of strutting dignity, and is tall by walking on tiptoe. 1785 COWPER *Let. to Newton* 10 Dec., All his persons..speak in an inflated and strutting phraseology. 1813 *Examiner* 15 Feb. 106/2 He was..fond of strutting sentiments, and well-rounded declamation. 1852 M. ARNOLD *Urania* iv, Our petty souls, our strutting wits.

Hence **Stru·ttingly** *adv.*

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 16/2 A-strut, or strutyngly, *turgide. Ibid.* 480/2 Strowtyngly, or asturt. 1576 NEWTON *Lemnie's Complex.* I. x. 80 b, It is to bee noted that these complexioned personnes be..graunde paunched & stroutingly bellyed. 1681 W. ROBERTSON *Phraseol. Gen.* 1031 He walks proudly; struttingly. 1780 DAVIES *Garrick* (1781) I. iii. 25 In Tamerlane he [Bridgewater] was solemnly drowsy in speaking, and struttingly insignificant in action. 1827 LYTTON *Pelham* lxxix, Slowly and struttingly did the man of two virtues perform the whole pilgrimage of Oxford Street. 1902 SWINBURNE *Dickens* (1913) 31 The struttingly offensive father [Dombey].

Struttle[1] (strɒ·t'l): *dial.* Corruption of *stuttle-(back)*, dial. var. of STICKLEBACK.

1821 CLARE *Vill. Minstr.* II. 74 Oft catching prickly struttles on their rout. 1851 STERNBERG *Northampt. Gloss.*

Stru·ttle[2]. *nonce-wd.* [f. STRUT *sb.*[1] + -LE.] A petty strut or manner of strutting.

1829 E. ELLIOTT *Village Patriarch* III. ix, See, how magnificently he [the poacher] breaks down His neighbour's fence, if so his will requires! And how his struttle emulates the Squire's!

Struv, dial. pa. t. of STRIVE *v.*

Strüverite (strü·vərəit). *Min.* [ad. G. *strüverit* (A. Brezina 1876) f. name of Prof. G. *Strüver*, of Rome: see -ITE.]

1896 CHESTER *Dict. Names Min.* 261. 1912 *Return Brit. Museum* 194.

Struvite (strū·vəit). *Min.* [ad. G. *struvit* (G. L. Ulex 1846) f. name of *Struve*, Russian minister at Hamburg.] Hydrous phosphate of ammonium and magnesium, found in small yellowish-brown or greyish crystals.

1850 ANSTED *Elem. Geol., Min. etc.* 179. 1854 DANA *Syst. Min.* (ed. 4) II. 413 Struvite...Found in guano from Saldanha Bay, coast of Africa. 1870 *Amer. Jrnl. Sci.* Ser. II. L. 272 Struvite in crystals occurs in guano, in the Skipton Caves near Ballarat.

Struye(n, strwe, obs. forms of STROY *v.*

† **Stry, strie.** *Obs.* Also 5 **stroye.** [a. OF. *estrie*:—L. *striga.*] A hag, beldam.

a 1300 *Havelok* 998 Of bodi was he mayden clene, Neuere..Wit hire [*read* hore] ne wolde leyke ne lye, No more þan it were a strie. *c* 1440 *York Myst.* xxiv. 13 A! ffalse stodmere and stynkand stroye! [*rime* abye.] *c* 1460 *Towneley Myst.* xvi. 348 Com hedyr, thou old stry!

Stry, obs. form of STROY *v.*

Stryche, variant of STRITCH.

Strychnia (stri·kniă). *Chem.* [f. STRYCHN-OS: see -IA.] = STRYCHNINE.

1826 HENRY *Chem.* II. 302 Strychnia was detected by Pelletier and Caventou, in 1818, in the fruit of the *Strychnos Nux Vomica*, and *Strychnos Ignatia.* 1876 HARLEY *Mat. Med.* 515 Strychnia is a direct and powerful tonic to [etc.].

attrib. 1874 GARROD & BAXTER *Mat. Med.* (ed. 4) 239 The treatment of strychnia-poisoning.

Strychnic (stri·knik), *a. Chem.* [f. STRYCHN-OS + -IC.] Pertaining to strychnine. *Strychnic acid*: = IGASURIC *acid.*

1840 PEREIRA *Elem. Mat. Med.* II. 909 Strychnic or Igasuric acid.—Exists in the seeds of nux-vomica [etc.]. 1875 H. C. WOOD *Therap.* (1879) 297 Strychnic convulsions must be spinal, because they do not arise in any of the other possible methods. 1889 *Hardwicke's Sci.-Gossip* XXV. 176 A peculiar acid known as strychnic acid.

† **Strychni·na.** *Chem. Obs.* = STRYCHNINE.

1838 T. THOMSON *Chem. Org. Bodies* 252 Strychnina was discovered, in 1818, by MM. Pelletier and Caventou.

Strychnine (stri·knīn, -in). *Chem.* [a. F. *strychnine* f. L. *strychn-os*: see STRYCHNOS and -INE[5].] A highly poisonous vegetable alkaloid, $C_{21}H_{22}N_2O_2$, obtained chiefly from *Strychnos Nux-vomica* and other plants of the same genus. It is used in medicine as a stimulant and tonic.

1819 *Edin. Philos. Jrnl.* I. 210 New vegetable Alkali called Strychnine.—This new alkali was discovered by MM. Pelletier and Caventou in the *Strychnos ignatia* and the *Strychnos nux vomica.* 1861 *Brit. & For. Med.-Chirurg. Rev.* XXVII. 533 A case of poisoning by strychnine.

b. *attrib.* as in *strychnine poisoning, tetanus*; **strychnine-plant,** *Strychnos Nux-vomica*; **strychnine-tree,** *S. psilasperma.*

1879 *St. George's Hosp. Rep.* IX. 688 Frogs, in whom strychnine tetanus had been produced. 1884 W. MILLER *Plant-n.* 131 Strychnine-plant. 1885 LADY BRASSEY *The Trades* 129 The cottage was overshadowed by a strychnine-tree and a tamarind. 1898 FR. A. WELBY tr. *Biedermann's Electro-Physiol.* II. 423 The effect of strychnine poisoning..is highly characteristic.

Hence **Stry·chnine** *v. trans.*, to poison by strychnine; **Stry·chnined** *ppl. a.*

1862 *Sporting Mag.* Apr. 288 We are informed that strychnined rabbits form the patent 'composing draught'. 1871 CARLYLE in *Mrs. Carlyle's Lett.* III. 11 Poor Nero, who had to be strychnined by the doctor. 1903 BOSW. SMITH in *19th Cent.* Mar. 441 Others..are willing to put down a strychnined egg for him [a raven].

Strychnism (stri·kniz'm). *Path.* [f. STRYCHNIA + -ISM.] The condition induced by strychnine poisoning.

1857 DUNGLISON *Med. Lex.* s.v. *Strychnos*, When taken to such an extent as to induce toxical phenomena—Strychnism—it causes, at first..greatly augmented excitability of the spinal nervous system, [etc.].

Strychnized (stri·knəizd). [f. STRYCHNIA + -IZE + -ED[1].] Subjected to the action of strychnine.

1875 H. C. WOOD *Therap.* (1879) 249 Exposing the sciatic nerves of a strychnized frog.

Strychnos (stri·knǫs). *Bot.* Also **strychnus**; pl. **strychni.** [mod.L. (Linnæus 1737) use of L. *strychnos* (Pliny), a. Gr. *στρύχνος*, a kind of nightshade.] A genus of plants (N.O. *Loganaceæ*), including the nux vomica (*S. Nux-vomica*), the St. Ignatius' bean (*S. Ignatia*), and other species. Also, a plant or a species of this genus.

[1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* XXVII. viii. II. 280 Some..call this hearbe by another name, Strumus, and others give it the Greeke name Strychnos. 1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), *Strychnus* or *Strychnis*, an Herb which makes those mad that eat of it.] 1836 J. M. GULLY *Magendie's Formul.* (ed. 2) 1 In the year 1809 I presented to the senior class of the French Institute an account of a series of experiments which had led to the discovery that a whole vegetable family, the bitter strychni, possessed the property of stimulating the spinal marrow to an extraordinary developement of its functions. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXIII. 152/1 The genus Strychnos, consisting of about twelve species.

Stryckt, obs. pa. t. of STRIKE *v.*

Stryd, obs. pa. t. of STRIDE *v.*

Stryf(f)e, stryif(f: see STRIFE, STRIVE.

Stryk(e: see STIRK, STREAK *sb.*, STREEK *v.*

Stryking, variant of STRAIKEN *Obs.*

1536 *Test. Ebor.* (Surtees) VI. 53, ij payre of sheites of strykynges.

Strykly, obs. form of STRECKLY *adv.*

Stryncht, obs. form of STRENGTH.

Stryne, obs. form of STRAIN *v.*

c 1374 CHAUCER *Boeth.* I. met. vi. 16 (Cambr. MS.).

Stryne, variant of STRIND[1] *Obs.*

Stryngest, variant of STRENGEST *a. Obs.*

1486 *Bk. St. Albans, Her.* a v b, Olibion was the stryngest and the manfullest man in his tyme.

Strynghe(e, Stryngth(e: see STRENGH, STRENGTH. **Stryn(n)or, -our, Strynt, -th(e, -tht,** obs. ff. STRAINER, STRENGTH.

Stryte, obs. form of STRAIT.

Stryve, Strywe, obs. forms of STRIFE, STRIVE.

Stu, obs. form of STEW *sb.*[1]

Stuard(e, Stuart, obs. forms of STEWARD.

Stub (stɒb), *sb.* Forms: 1 **stubb, styb(b,** (**steb**), 3–7 **stubbe,** 4–9 **stubb,** 6 **stoubbe,** 4– **stub.** [OE. *stub(b* masc. = (M)LG., MDu. *stubbe* (early mod.Du., WFris. *stobbe*), ON. *stubb-r*, *stubbe*, rarely *stobbe* (MSw. *stubbe, stobbe*, Sw., Norw. *stubbe, stubb*, Da. *stub*):—OTeut. types **stubbo-z, stubbon-*; OE. had also *stybb* masc.:—**stubjo-z* or **stubbjo-z*, which has coalesced with the other form. OE. had prob. a form **stob(b* with *o-* umlaut (cf. the duplicate ON. forms above), whence STOB *sb.*[1]; in the 14–16th c., however, *stob(b* may merely be a variant spelling for *stub.*

To the same root (**stūb-* :—pre-Teut. **stūp-*) belong ON. *stúf-r* stump (Norw. *stuv*), (see STOW *v.*[2]), MLG. *stūve* stump, fag-end, *stūf* blunt; outside Teut. cf. Gr. *στύπος* stump, stock, Lettish *stups* fag-end.]

1. A stump of a tree or, more rarely, of a shrub or smaller plant; the portion left fixed in the ground when a tree has been felled; also, †a trunk deprived of branches.

967 *Charter of Eadgar* in Kemble *Cod. Dipl.* No. 813. III. 16 Andlang dices on ðone stubb. *c* 1000 ÆLFRIC *Gloss.* in Wr.-Wülcker 108/5 *Stipes, stipitis*, treowwes styb. *c* 1000 — *Gram.* ix. (Z.) 68 *Hic stirps* ðes stybb. 1301 *Acc. Excll. Q. R.* Bundle 147. No. 10 in G. J. Turner *Sel. Pleas Forest* (1901) 147/2 [Six] stubbs [sold for] 3s. 4*d.* 13.. *Gaw. & Gr. Knt.* 2293 Gawayn..stode stylle as þe ston, oþer a stubbe auþer. 1348–9 in *Blount's Law Dict.* (1691) s. v. *Zuche*, Rex concessit Thomæ de Colvile omnes Zoucheos aridos, vocat. Stubbes arborum succisorum, in Foresta de Galtres. 146. *Plumpton Corr.* (Camden) 25 And it please to deliver unto Robert of Tymble a Stub, the which Mr. Controller granted unto his ward for him and his wife. 1519 HORMAN *Vulg.* 247 b, We went by strayte pathes full of stoubbys, busshys, and bryers. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* I. ix. 34 Old stockes and stubs of trees, Whereon nor fruit nor leafe was euer seene. 1615 CHAPMAN *Odyss.* XII. 611 Yet, might my feete, on no stub fasten hold To ease my hands: the roots were crept so low Beneath the earth. 1621 LADY M. WROTH *Urania* 264 Then went shee a little further, and on a stub, which was betweene two trees, she sate downe. 1671 MILTON *P. R.* I. 339 We here Live on tough roots and stubs. 1760 R. BROWN *Compl. Farmer* II. 101 When it [rape] hath been cut, the stubs of it will sprout again. 1771 *Phil. Trans.* LXI. 138 In the forest of Kent,..there still remains several large old chesnut stubbs. 1795 VANCOUVER *Agric. Essex* 152 The remaining stub of the thistle. 1799 COLERIDGE *Introd. Tale Dark Ladie* 64 How boughs rebounding scourg'd his limbs, And low stubs gor'd his feet. 1823 J. F. COOPER *Pioneers* iii, Unsightly remnants of trees that had been partly destroyed by fire were seen rearing their..columns

..above the pure white of the snow. These,..in the language of the country are termed stubs. 1864 G. P. MARSH *Man & Nat.* 109 In the United States..dead trees..are often allowed to stand until they fall of themselves. Such stubs, as they are popularly called, are..often deeply cut by the woodpeckers. 1895 ZANGWILL *Master* II. xi. 268 The woodpeckers tapped on the hollow stubs. 1907 'J. HALSHAM' *Lonewood Corner* 114 Before the stubs of the underwood have sprouted again.

† **b.** *To buy* (brushwood, etc.) *on* or *at the stub*: to buy on the ground, growing. Hence (?), *To pay at the stub*: to pay ready money. *Obs.*

1532 *Lett. & Papers Hen. VIII*, V. 446 For thorns bought on the stubb..For edders and stakes bought likewise on the stub. 1573–80 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 78 In time go and bargaine..for fewell...To buie at the stub is the best for the buier. 1615 ROWLANDS *Melancholie Knt.* C 3, A very Cobler shall as welcome be That payes his readie money at the stub, As I that come a-trust to worships dub. 1795 VANCOUVER *Agric. Essex* 62 The under woods are cut down at eleven years growth, and..they sell at the stub for 3*l.* 10*s.* per acre.

† **c.** The part of a tree-trunk close to the ground.

1558–9 *Act* 1 *Eliz.* c. 15 § 1 No person..shall convert..to Coale or other Fuell for the making of Yron, any Tymber Tree..of the Breadthe of One Foot Square at the Stubbe. 1587 HARRISON *England* II. xvii. 200/1 in *Holinshed*, For what a thing it is to haue a ship growing upon the stub, and sailing on the sea within the space of fiue and fiftie daies? 1637 HEYWOOD in *Naval Chron.* III. 370 Timber,..ten feet at the stub or bottom.

† **d.** A stock for grafting upon. In quot. *fig.*

1587 HARRISON *England* II. i. 139/1 in *Holinshed*, You shall see no fewer deeds of charitie doone, nor better grounded vpon the right stub of pietie than before.

† **2.** *fig.* A blockhead; = STOCK *sb.*[1] 1 c. *Obs.*

1644 MILTON *Educ.* 3 Ye shall haue more adoe to driue our dullest and laziest youth, our stocks and stubbs from the infinite desire of such a happy nurture.

3. A short piece of a broken branch remaining on the stem.

c 1386 CHAUCER *Knt.'s T.* 1120 First on the wal was peynted a forest..With knotty knarry bareyne trees olde Of stubbes sharpe, and hidouse to biholde. *c* 1440 *Ipomydon* 1270 My palfrey..stumblyd..I toke this harme, A stubbe smote me throw þe arme. 1712 J. JAMES tr. *Le Blond's Gardening* 159 A Parcel of Stubs [F. *chicots*], springing out of one Side and the other. 1796 C. MARSHALL *Garden.* xii. (1813) 163 Whether it is best to cut all spare shoots clean out, or to cut down to little stubs or false spurs is hardly yet determined. 1846 *J. Baxter's Libr. Pract. Agric.* (ed. 4) I. 164 Some cut superfluous fruit-shoots clean away; others leave a sprinkling of short stubs, cut very short if foreright. 1884 *Century Mag.* Dec. 222/1 His drum was the stub of a dry limb about the size of one's wrist.

4. = STUBBLE *sb.* Also *pl.* Now *dial.* [So Sw. *stubbe*, Da. *stub.*]

1250 *Owl & Night.* 506 ȝet þu singst worse þon þe heisugge, Þat fliȝþ bi grunde among þe stubbe. 1552 HULOET, Stubbe of corne, *stipula, stupa.* 1677 PLOT *Oxfordsh.* 246 If they are to sow wheat upon tillage, they choose wheat sown before upon bean stubs. 1811 T. DAVIS *Agric. Wilts* 266 *Stubs.* The stubble of all corn is usually called stubs, as wheat-stubs, barley-stubs, &c. 1820 CLARE *Poems Rural Life* (ed. 3) 95 But ill it suits thee in the stubs to glean.

† **b.** *pl.* The lower ends of cut stems of plants.

1764 *Museum Rust.* II. 81 It [*sc.* reaped coleseed] must not be turned, but raised up gently and laid lightly on the stubs.

† **c.** *In the stub*: said of growing flax. *Obs.*

1730 SWIFT *Answ. Craftsman* Wks. 1905 VII. 222 All the said commodities shall be sent in their natural state; the hides raw, the wool uncombed, the flax in the stub.

d. *pl.* Hair cut close to the skin. Now *dial.*

1607 R. TURNER *Nosce Te* D 1, A chinne as free from beard as any dogge, Saue stubbes more hard then brisles of a hogge.

5. A splinter or thorn in the flesh. Now *dial.*

1531 ELYOT *Gov.* II. xiii. (1557) 137 Out of whose foote a yong man had ones taken a stubbe. 1639 T. DE GREY *Compl. Horsem.* 160 To draw a thorne, stub, iron, splinter, naile.. out of the flesh of the horse. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl., *Stub*, in the manege, is used for a splinter of fresh-cut underwood, that goes into a horse's foot as he runs. 1894 BLACKMORE *Perlycross* xxi. 197 Upon a truss of furze, with a flour-sack to shield him from the stubs and prickles.

† **b.** A stab or twinge of pain. Now *dial.*

1587 M. GROVE *Pelops & Hippod.* (1878) 86 Ixion nayled on the whirling wheele, Which hellish stubs & irksom pains doth feele.

6. A short thick nail (= STOB *sb.*[1] 4); a worn horseshoe nail, esp. in *pl.* old horseshoe nails and other similar scraps as the material for making stub-iron. Cf. *stub-nail.*

1394–5 in *Cartul. Abb. Whiteby* (Surtees) 615 It. pro viii[xx] cartnayle, xs. It. pro i[m] stubs, iis. 1595 *Strange Things R. Hasleton* in Arb. *Garner* VIII. 387 And immediately searching about, I found an old iron stub; with the which I brake a hole through the chamber wall. 1669 STURMY *Mariner's Mag.* v. xiii. 86 Fill it with Pibble-stones, Nails, Stubs of old Iron. 1720 DE FOE *Capt. Singleton* (1906) 256 He ordered that all the guns..should be loaded with musket balls, old nails, stubs [etc.]. 1820 W. SCORESBY *Acc. Arctic Reg.* II. 225 That kind which is of the most approved tenacity, is made of old horse-shoe-nails or stubs. 1845 *Penny Cycl.* Suppl. I. 673 Horse-nails..which when worn out are collected with avidity as furnishing one of the best descriptions of scrap-iron, under the name of horse-nail stubs. 1846 GREENER *Sci. Gunnery* 107 An equal substance of the best steel ever invented or made, is less in tenacity than a mixture similar to stubs and steel. 1863 MRS. GASKELL *Sylvia's L.* xvi, Hammers beating out old iron such as horseshoes, nails or stubs into the great harpoons.

b. Short for *stub-barrel*: see 11.

1853 URE *Dict. Arts* I. 724 The barrels of musquets, birding-guns, etc. or what are called plain, to distinguish them from those denominated stubs or twisted barrels.

7. Something that looks stunted or cut short, e.g. a rudimentary tail or horn.

1670–1 NARBOROUGH *Jrnl.* in *Acc. Sev. Late Voy.* I. (1694) 33 They are shaped like English Hares..and instead of a Tail have a little stub about an inch long, without Hair on it. 1693 EVELYN *De La Quint. Compl. Gard.* II. 111 The Scutcheon cannot thrive, unless it be absolutely glued to the part to which it is apply'd; and consequently that part must be as smooth as the Scutcheon, which cannot be when a Scutcheon is apply'd upon an Eye, or Bud, which is an Elevated part, that forms a kind of Stub. *a* 1722 LISLE *Husb.* (1757) 377 There will remain a little stub at the end of the twig, which dries up. 1887 W. T. HORNADAY in *Smithsonian Rep.* II. 397 The horn [of the buffalo] at three months is about 1 inch in length, and is a mere little black stub.

b. A short thick piece of wood.

1833 W. H. MAXWELL *Field Bk.* 522 *Stub*,..a log. 1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* I. 605 At the distance of a foot behind the coulter-box a strong stub of wood is mortised into the beam at *C.* *Ibid.*, The two stilts or handles are simply bolted to the stub. 1898 SLOANE *Electr. Dict.* (ed. 2) 622 *Stub, Anchor guy*, a short pole set securely in the ground to fasten a guy to.

c. (See quot.)

1884 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* Suppl. 869 *Stub*..2. Short files for finishing in and around depressions.

d. *U.S. colloq.* A man of insignificant stature. Cf. STUB *a.*

1890 J. CURTIN tr. *Sienkiewicz' With Fire & Sword* xliv. (1892) 514, I have something to say to this little stub of an officer.

8. *Mech.* A stud or projection; *spec.* in a lock, a stationary stud which acts as a detent for the tumblers when their slots are in engagement with it.

1561 EDEN tr. *Cortes' Art Navig.* III. xi. 78 b, But for the Sea, you shall sother the Horizon two Axes, little stubbes, or endes commyng foorth. 1778 in *Abridgm. Specif. Patents Locks* etc. (1873) 2 An improvement on the tumbler and spring by means of a stub or projection so exactly fitted to a passage or opening in the bolt as not to permit the bolt to pass unless [etc.]. 1825 J. NICHOLSON *Oper. Mech.* 324 [Maudslay's lathes.] In the part C is an oblique slit *l l*, to receive a stub which projects from the bottom of the nut *n*, ..by this arrangement it is obvious that if the screw *m* is worked, the stub of the nut *n*, acting against the slide of the slit *l l*, as an inclined plane, will move it either backwards or forwards through the opening M.

9. The remaining portion of something (more or less cylindrical) that has been broken or worn down; a stump, fag-end.

c 1530 BERNERS *Arthur Lit. Brit.* (1814) 214 He gaue Arthur a grete stroke with the stubbe of his hurte arme. 1869 'MARK TWAIN' *Innoc. Abr.* xvii. 116 You cannot throw an old cigar 'stub' down any where. 1898 HAMBLEN *Gen. Manager's Story* xii. 191 There lay a fellow at full length,.. smoking an old stub of a clay pipe. 1912 H. BELLOC *Four Men* 27 'It is to sharpen this pencil with', said the stranger, putting forth a stub of an H.B. much shorter than his thumb.

b. = *stub pen* (see 11). ? *Obs.*

1820 LAMB *Let. to B. W. Procter* in Ainger *Lett.* (1888) II. 219 The comings in of an incipient conveyancer are not adequate to the receipt of three twopenny post nonpaids in a week. Therefore after this, I condemn my stub to long and deep silence.

10. *U.S.* A counterfoil. (Cf. F. *souche* and STOCK *sb.* 42; also STUMP *sb.* 3 h.)

1876 *N. Amer. Rev.* CXXIII. 301 For which check stubs representing only small amounts were retained. 1884 *Harper's Mag.* June 61/2 Pay-rolls, check-book stubs, registers,..are here stowed away. 1916 A. B. REEVE *Poisoned Pen* 181 'Number 156' Herndon noted, as the collector detached the stub and handed it to her.

11. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as (sense 1) *stub-oak*, *-wood*; (sense 4) *stub-thatched* adj.; (sense 4 d) *stub-bearded* adj.; (sense 9 b) *stub-pointed* adj.; **stub-axle** (see quots.); **stub-barrel**, a gun-barrel made of strips of stub-iron; **stub-book** *U.S.*, a book containing only the counterfoils of cheques or other documents; **stub-bred** *a. Hunting* (see quot.); **stub Damascus**, a kind of stub-iron resembling Damascus iron; **stub-dig** *dial.* = *stub-hoe*; †**stub eel**, some variety of eel; **stub-end**, the butt end of a connecting-rod, of a weapon, etc.; †**stub-faced** *a. slang* (see quot.); **stub-feather** (see quot. 1847); **stub-hoe**, an implement for grubbing up stubs; **stub-iron**, a tenacious kind of iron, originally made out of old horse-shoe nails; †**stub-money** (see quot.); **stub-mortise** (see quot.); **stub-mortised** *a.*, secured by a stub-mortise; **stub-nail** = sense 6; **stub-nail iron** = *stub-iron*; **stub-pen**, orig. a worn quill pen; hence a broad-pointed pen; **stub-rabbit** *dial.*, a rabbit that seeks shelter among stubs instead of going to ground; **stub-short**, **-shot** (see quot.); **stub-side**, the side of a swath which has the cut ends of the stems; **stub-switch** *U.S.* (see quot.); **stub-tail**, (*a*) a partridge at a certain stage of growth; (*b*) see quot. 1867; **stub-tenon** (see quot.); **stub-tooth** *Mech.* (see quot.); **stub-twist**, a material for fine gun-barrels, composed of a ribbon of stub-iron twisted into a spiral shape.

1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2431 **Stub-axle*, a short axle attached on the end of a principal axle-tree. 1907 O'GORMAN *Motor Pocket Bk.* (ed. 2) 505 The stub axle is the short axle which is so pivoted that the front (or steering) wheels can be deflected. 1833 J. HOLLAND *Manuf. Metal* II. 101 The Birmingham workmen, in preparing the material for *stub barrels, usually cut up strips of iron and steel,..into bits like two inch nails. 1891 KIPLING *Light that Failed* xiv. 280 A *stub-bearded, bowed creature wearing a dirty magenta coloured neckcloth outside an unbrushed coat. 1886 *Rep. of U. S. Sec. of Treasury* 700 (Cent.) The filed *stub-books of stamps, now occupying a very large and rapidly increasing space in the files rooms. 1826 J. COOK *Fox-hunting* 57 *Stub bred foxes are thought to be the stoutest. 1897 *Encycl. Sport* I. 583/1 (Hunting, fox) *Stub-bred, Stump-bred.* Foxes which, in certain districts, make their lairs in bushes or stumps instead of underground; stubbed was the old term. 1845 *Penny Cycl.* Suppl. I. 673 **Stub Damascus* is a very beautiful kind of iron formed like the Damascus iron above described. 1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib.* II. xi. 7 Double gun, stub Damascus barrels. 1837 *Boston Advertiser* 17 Jan. 2/2 Thomas Chapman..charged with stealing a *stub dig. 15.. in Dugdale *Monasticon* (1655) I. 81/2 Also to be sure of xij. *stubbe elles and lx. schafte eles to bake for the covent on shere thursday. 1545 *Rates Custom Ho.* b j, Elis called stubbe elis. 1582 *Ibid.* B vij b, Eeles called stub Eeles. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.*, **Stub-end*, the large end of a connecting-rod, in which the boxes are confined by the strap. 1914 *Daily News* 7 Nov. 1 Even if he has nothing more formidable than an empty bully-beef can to rattle with the stub-end of his bayonet. 1788 GROSE *Dict. Vulgar T.* (ed. 2), **Stub-faced*, pitted with small-pox: the devil run over his face with horse stubbs (horse nails) in his shoes. 1847 HALLIWELL, **Stub-feathers*, the short unfledged feathers on a fowl after it has been plucked. 1889 *Cornh. Mag.* Apr. 376 It is a rare thing not to find stub feathers somewhere about a hawk or an owl. 1870 EMERSON *Soc. & Solit., Eloq.* Wks. (Bohn) III. 39 He is a graduate of the plough, and the *stub-hoe, and the bush-whacker. 1820 W. SCORESBY *Acc. Arctic Reg.* II. 225 Some manufacturers enclose a quantity of *stub-iron in a cylinder of best foreign iron. 1776 *Compl. Grazier* (ed. 4) 78 The woodward is allowed a shilling a range, as above, (called *stub-money) for his care in looking after the wood. 1846 WORCESTER (citing *Loudon*), **Stub-mortise*, a mortise that does not pass through the timber mortised. 1833 LOUDON *Encycl. Archit.* § 1251 With an oak cap properly *stub-mortised. 1639 G. PLATTES *Discov. Subterr. Treas.* 41, I took 4. ounces of Iron in *stub nailes. 1683 MOXON *Mech. Exerc.*, *Printing* xviii. ᴘ 2 They chuse stub-Nails for the best Iron to Melt. 1802 C. JAMES *Milit. Dict.*, *Stub-Nails* are driven on the outside of the nave-hoops, to keep them in their places. 1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 471 The best modern barrels for fowling pieces are constructed of *stub-nail iron in this manner. 1880 BLACKMORE *Mary Anerley* xl, A thicket of *stub oak. 1891 *Century Dict.*, *Stub pen. 1897 *Westm. Gaz.* 13 Jan. 5/1 The first signature is 'Julian Pauncefote,' written with an extra broad-pointed steel stub pen. 1909 *Daily Chron.* 18 Sept. 10/6 advt., In this trial box of specially assorted pens you are offered a wonderful variety of fine, medium, and *stub-pointed pens to suit all hands. 1845 *Zoologist* III. 903 There is a variety.. called..in the northern parts of the same county [Herts.] the **stub-rabbit*. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.*, **Stub-short*; *Stub-shot.* 1. The unsawed portion of a plank where it is split from the bolt or log. 2. (*Turning.*) The portion by which an object to be turned is grasped or chucked. 1733 TULL *Horse-Hoeing Husb.* xiv. 188 'Tis best to raise up the Ear-sides first, and let the *Stub-side rest on the Ground in turning. 1911 WEBSTER, **Stub switch*, Railroading, a switch in which the track rails are cut off squarely at the toe and the switch rails are thrown to butt end to end with the lead rails. 1686 BLOME *Gentl. Recr.* II. 37/1 Larg Partridges called *Stubtayls...There are several names or distinctions of Partridges; the first, when newly hatched, are called White-heads, the second Names are Chick-tayls, the third Stub-tayls. 1867 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade* Suppl., *Stubtail, Stump-tail*, names in North America for flour made out of damaged wheat and good wheat ground together. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.*, **Stub-tenon*, a short tenon at the foot of an upright, such as the scantling or studding of a partition or a floor-bearer. 1910 J. BARTLETT in *Encycl. Brit.* V. 387/2 A stub tenon or joggle (fig. 14) is used for fixing a post to a sill. 1872 J. G. MICHIE *Deeside Tales* (1908) 255 A little *stub-thatched cottage. 1911 WEBSTER, **Stub Tooth*, a short gear tooth of great strength, with a large angle of obliquity. 1843 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* I. 221 The complex and ornamental figures for the barrels of fowling-pieces, described as '*stub-twist, wire-twist, Damascus-twist.' 1770 *Phil. Trans.* LXI. 155 The woods..have great plenty of chesnut, both timber and *stub wood. 1787 W. H. MARSHALL *E. Norfolk* (1795) II. 389 *Stubwood*, all wood which grows in hedgerows and does not come under the denomination of 'timbers', 'pollards', or 'thorns', is called 'stubwood'.

Stub (stʊb), *a. rare.* [f. STUB *sb.*] Of a person: Squat, stunted-looking.

1711 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4928/4 The person suspected..is a short stub Fellow.

Stub (stʊb), *v.*[1] Inflected **stubbed** (stʊbd), **stubbing.** Also 5 **stobe**, 5–6 **stubbe**, 7 **stube**, **stubb.** [f. STUB *sb.* Cf. Sw. *stubba*, Da. *stubbe.*]

1. *trans.* To dig up by the roots; to grub up (roots). Chiefly with *up.*

c 1440 *Jacob's Well* 26 Alle paryschenys, þat hewyn doun violently, or stubbyn, pullyn, or schredyn, or croppyn, ony treen in cherche-ȝerdes. 1555 WATREMAN *Fardle Facions* II. vii. 160 In the forenoone thei plante and graffe, digge vp settes, stubbe vp rootes. 1573–80 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 75 Go breake vp land, get mattock in hand, Stub roote so tough, for breaking of plough. 1574 in J. J. Cartwright *Chapters Hist. Yorks.* (1872) 75 Wyth lyberty to take and stubbe the trees and bushes. *a* 1631 DONNE *Eighty Serm.* 390 If one give me a timber tree for my house, I know not whether the root be mine or no, whether I may stub it by that gift. 1639 HORN & ROB. *Gate Lang. Unl.* xlviii. § 529 A woodmonger felleth down trees, and stubes them up by the roots. *c* 1695 J. MILLER *Descr. New York* (1843) 9 He..may..by stubbing up the trees and brushwood, have good arable land or pastures. 1706 SWIFT *Baucis & Phil.* 178 'Tis hard to be believ'd, How much the other Tree was Griev'd; Grew scrubb'd, dy'd at top, was stunted, So th' next Parson stubb'd and burnt it. 1791 R. MYLNE *2nd Rep. Thames Navig.* 10 Some Thorn-Bushes should be stubbed out of the Bank. 1865 TROLLOPE *Belton Est.* iii. 32 The roots want stubbing up horribly. 1889 JESSOPP *Coming*

of Friars v. 238 He was found to have stubbed up a hedge which had been the boundary of the land.

b. *fig.* Now *rare.*

c 1440 *Jacob's Well* 77 He schal stubbyn þe vp, londe & roote, & cachyn þe out of þi dwellyng-place. 1571 CAMPION *Hist. Irel.* ix. (1633) 28 That these strangers would endeavor either to stub out that unruly generation, or to nurture them. 1651 FIRMIN *Serious Quest.* B 1, This Opinion will stub up all the Ordinances. 1662 *Jesuits' Reasons Unreas.* (1675) 128 Unless such Tenets be stubbed out of the heads..of your Preachers. 1876 FARRAR *Marlb. Serm.* xviii. 172 Beware that there be not—hidden deep under the soil of your heart—any sins and tendencies, any vanities or lusts, which you have not as it were stubbed up.

† **2.** To dig *out* (gravel). *Obs.*

c 1440 *Jacob's Well* 265 But now schal I telle 3ow of þe howe or a pek-ex wherwyth 3e muste stubbe out þe grauel.

3. To cut down (a tree, etc.) close to the root.

1594 NASHE *Unfort. Trav.* G 3 b, His horse was trapt in the earthie stringes of tree rootes, which though they increase was stubbed downe to the grounde, yet were they not vtterly deaded. 1750 W. ELLIS *Mod. Husb.* V. i. 86 (E.D.S.) Turneps may be houghed ill if the houghes stubs them, as we call it, *i.e.* if he boughs them so shallow as to only cut off the heads, and leave the roots in the ground. 1811 T. DAVIS *Agric. Wilts* i. x. 88 Young trees must be planted, part of which may be preserved for timber, and the remainder left to be stubbed off for underwood.

4. To remove the stubs from (land). Also, to clear (land) of trees, furze, etc. by uprooting. Chiefly with *up.*

1464 *Mann. & Househ. Exp.* (Roxb.) 455 [He] schal stobe me klen serten kloses wethe in Powenses. 1593 NASHE *Christ's T.* 29 b, Hee..pluckt downe Barnes and Storehouses, stubd vp Orchards and Vineyardes. *a* 1650 BOATE *Ireland's Nat. Hist.* (1860) 85 That land..produced nothing but moss, heath, and short low furze: which herbs are fired upon the ground and the ground stubbed, before it be plowed the first time. 1768 STERNE *Tr. Shandy* V. vii, We shall have a terrible piece of work of it in stubbing the Ox-moor. 1772 *Ann. Reg., Chron.* 75/2 Paterson stubbed up ten acres of furze or whin ground. 1847 C. G. ADDISON *Law of Contracts* II. i. (1883) 244 He must not convert arable land into pasture..or stub up a wood to make it pasture. 1864 TENNYSON *North. Farmer, Old Style* vii, An' I 'a stubb'd Thornaby waäste. 1889 *Harper's Mag.* Feb. 424/1 A large fenced-in field, well stubbed.

5. To remove the stub-feathers from (a fowl).

1875 PARISH *Sussex Gloss., Stub,* to pluck chicken clean after their feathers have been pulled off. 1901 *Dundee Advertiser* 3 May 7 The fowl is at once plucked and 'stubbed,'..The plucking is done by men..and the stubbing, or the removal of the undeveloped feathers, by women.

6. To reduce to a stub or stump.

† **a.** To wear down (a quill pen). *Obs.*

1577 GRANGE *Golden Aphrod.* D ij, Yet wold their inke be dried vp, their paper spent, their pennes stubbed. 1589 NASHE *Anat. Absurd.* A iiij, What should I spend my yncke, waste my paper, stub my penne, in painting forth theyr vgly imperfections.

† **b.** To deprive *of* (a horn). In quot. *fig. Obs.*

1658 HARRINGTON *Prerog. Pop. Gov.* I. xii. 128 A Dilemma, ..being a kind of argument that should not be stubb'd of one horne, but have each of equall length and danger.

c. To shorten and thicken by hammering.

1869 SANDBERG tr. *Styffe's Iron & Steel* 11 The author 'upset' or stubbed the bars at the ends.

7. To cause (a horse) to be wounded with a stub. Also *refl.* of the horse.

1686 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 2126/4 Lost.., a brown bay Gelding, ..the near Leg behind stubb'd with Leaping. 1702 *Ibid.* No. 3850/4 Stolen or strayed.., a dun Nag.., was stub'd on the Fetlock Joint of one of the fore Legs. 1865 M. LEMON *Loved at Last* I. vi. 140 Pray keep on, sir, my horse has stubbed himself, I fancy. 1875 PARISH *Sussex Gloss.* s. v., To stub a horse is to lame him by letting him tread on stubs of underwood in a cover.

8. ? To crush, pulverize (marl, etc. for spreading over land, road-material); to fill up the ruts in (a road) with crushed stones, etc. Also *to stub in*: to crush (road-metal) into the ruts.

1765 *Museum Rust.* III. 287 If with stone of the farmers, a load of thirty bushels will do three rods, which costs one shilling and a halfpenny stubbing and picking. 1795 VANCOUVER *Agric. Essex* 141 The blue and white chalky clay ..should be stubbed and left exposed to the action of the air, sometime before it is carried out, and spread upon the land. 1800 *Little Cornard* (Suff.) *Highway Acc.* (MS.), Pd Robt. Sparrow for Stubbing the road from Parmers to Rowls pond, o. 14. 5. 1805 R. W. DICKSON *Pract. Agric.* I. 165 The stones..are..dropped into the ruts, far better than a man can stub them in.

9. (See quot. 1848.) Chiefly *U.S.*

1848 BARTLETT *Dict. Amer.* 339 'To stub one's toe', is to strike it against anything in walking or running; an expression often used by boys and others who go barefoot. *c* 1850 'Dow jr.' in Jerdan *Yankee Hum.* (1853) 58 When I stubbed my toes. 1897 MARY KINGSLEY *W. Africa* 114 You are rather liable to what Captain Eversfield graphically describes as 'stub your toe' against lava-like rock. 1906 ALICE WERNER *Natives Brit. Centr. Afr.* vi. 140 The formation of a virulent ulcer every time a person stubbed a toe or barked a shin.

b. *U.S. colloq. intr.* 'To walk along striking the toes against obstructions; go heedlessly; as, the boy *stubs* along to school' (*Funk's Stand. Dict.*).

10. *trans.* To cover with stubs.

1878 W. C. SMITH *Hilda* 61 Last of a great pine forest that stubs the heath with its roots For miles.

11. *intr.* Of a tree: To send out branches from the 'stub' when cut down.

1791 *Trans. Soc. Arts* IX. 20 The Spanish Chestnut.. possesses a peculiar faculty of branching, provincially called stubbing, from the roots after being cut down.

† **Stub,** *v.*[2] *Obs. rare.* [Cf. STOB *v.*[1], STAB *v.*] *trans.* To thrust (a weapon) *into.*

1576 BEDINGFIELD tr. *Cardanus' Comf.* 37 b, When Iulius Cæsar..felte the daggers of diuers men stubbed into his body he [etc.].

Stubbard (stʌ·bəɹd). *s.w. dial.* Also **stub-berd, stibbert.** [Perh. a surname: cf. quot. 1741.] An early codling apple. Also *attrib.*

1741 *Compl. Family-Piece* II. iii. 383 Apples. [July.].. Margaret Apple, Stubbard's Apple, and Codling. 1786 ABERCROMBIE *Gard. Assist.* Arrangem. p. xi, Principal varieties [of apples] are..Summer stubbard. 1826 *Hort. cult. Soc. Catal. Fruits* 148 Summer Stibbert. 1844 W. BARNES *Poems Rur. Life* 143 She gie'd me var a treat A lot o' stubberds var to eat. 1875 R. HOGG *Fruit Man.* (ed. 4) 144 Summer Stibbert (*syn.*] Stubbard). 1880 HARDY *Trumpet-Major* I. ii. 26 In the large stubbard-tree at the corner of the garden was erected a pole of larch fir. 1893 'Q.' (Quiller-Couch) *Delect. Duchy* 218 Thic' there 's a stubbard apple you've got in your hand.

Stubbed (stʌbd), *ppl. a.* [f. STUB *v.*[1] + -ED [1].]

1. Of trees: Cut down to a stub; cut off near the ground; also, deprived of branches or pollarded.

1575 GASCOIGNE *Posies, Hearbes* (1907) 343 Like a stubbed thorne. 1594 NASHE *Unfort. Trav.* G 3, After him followed the knight of the Owle, whose armor was a stubd tree ouergrowne with luie. 1627 DRAYTON *Ninphidia* lvi, A paine he in his Head-peece feeles, Against a stubbed Tree he reeles. 1793 W. BLAKE *Amer.* 83 They cannot bring the stubbed oak to overgrow the hills. 1819 KEATS *Otho* III. i. 35 What, man, do you mistake the hollow sky For a throng'd tavern, and these stubbed trees For old serge hangings? 1856 KINGSLEY *Misc.* (1859) II. 16 The trunk looking like an old stubbed oak.

b. Of ground: Having the stubs removed; grubbed up.

1573–80 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 73 In stubbed plot, fill hole with clot.

2. Short and thick, stumpy. ? *Obs.* exc. *dial.*

a 1529 SKELTON *E. Runnyng* 422 Her legges.. were sturdy and stubbed. 1611 CORYAT *Crudities* 42 Their [*sc.* ostriches] heads are covered all with small stubbed feathers. 1630 R. JOHNSON *Kingd. & Commw.* 12 The Tartar is a stubbed squat fellow, hard bred, and such are their horses. 1658 EVELYN *Fr. Gard.* (1675) 164 Three years you must forbear to cut, that the plant may be strong, and not stubbed. 1687 MIEGE *Gt. Fr. Dict.* II, Stubbed, short and well set, *trapu, membru.* A stubbed Fellow, *un Trapu.* 1696 E. LHWYD in *Phil. Trans.* XXVII. 464 With Bills more stubbed and bigger than that of a Bull-finch. 1769 GRAY *Jrnl.* 13 Oct. *Poems* (1775) 375 The rock..rises perpendicular, with stubbed yew-trees and shrubs staring from its side. 1868 *Rep. U.S. Commissioner Agric.* (1869) 254 Trimming does thicken the surface of the hedge by causing a stubbed, stooling form of growth. 1883 S. C. HALL *Retrospect* II. 206 A short, thick, stubbed, ungainly and ungraceful form.

† **b.** *Stubbed boy*: a 'hobbledehoy'. *Obs.*

16.. CHALKHILL *Thealma & Clearchus* (1683) 71 Memnon himself keeps home, attended on But by a stubbed Boy. 1722 *Hist. & Antiq. Glastonbury* Author's Pref. n 4 *note,* Saunders must be a stubbed Boy, if not a Man, at the Dissolution of Abbeys.

3. Reduced to a stub; worn down to a stub; (of hair) cut close to the skin, stubbly.

1621 SANDERSON *Serm., Ad Pop.* iv. (1674) I. 213 Thy new broom, that now sweepeth clean all discontents from thee, will soon grow stubbed. 1631 [MABBE] *Celestina* VII. 84 She did pull out seven teeth out of a fellowes head that was hang'd with a paire of pincers, such as you pull out stubbed haires withall. 1762 CHURCHILL *Ghost* II. 306 Hark! something scratches round the room! A Cat, a Rat, a stubb'd Birch-broom. 1802 *Trans. Soc. Arts* XX. 172 Effectually done..by a stubbed birch broom.

4. Blunted at the point.

1610 B. JONSON *Masque of Oberon* Wks. (1616) 977 To spight the coy Nymphes scornes, Hang vpon our stubbed hornes, Garlands, ribbands and fine poesies. 1675 A. BROWNE *Appendix Art. Paint.* 26 Instead of the Rolls of Paper they make use of Stubbed Pencils; and some of them are stuffed with Cotton, and some others with Bombast. 1728 SWIFT *Pastoral Dial.* 3 While each with stubbed Knife remov'd the Roots That rais'd between the Stones their daily Shoots. 1854 MISS BAKER *Northampt. Gloss., Stubbed* or *Stubby,* blunt-pointed, as the broad nib of a pen, thick, short. 1860 O. W. HOLMES *Elsie Venner* iii, The short, stubbed blade of his jack-knife.

† **b.** *fig.* Dull, not delicate or sensitive. *Obs.*

1744 BERKELEY *Siris* § 105 The hardness of stubbed vulgar constitutions.

5. Abounding in stubs.

1855 BROWNING *Ch. Roland* xxv, Then came a bit of stubbed ground, once a wood. 1898 M. HEWLETT *Forest Lovers* vi, He urged his horse over the stubbed heath.

Hence **Stu·bbedness,** 'a being short and thick'.

1727 BAILEY vol. II.

Stubber (stʌ·bəɹ). Also 6 **stoobber.** [f. STUB *v.*[1] + -ER [1].]

One who stubs, in senses of the verb.

1481–90 *Howard Househ. Bks.* (Roxb.) 307 Item, payd to the stubber of Northffolk for xj. gret rotys stubbyng [etc.], v.s. 1562 J. HEYWOOD *Prov. & Epigr.* (1867) 161 But if stake stoobbers will not let stakis stand Blame not the stake. 1679 EVELYN *Sylva* xxxiv. (ed. 3) 245 Two of the Stubbers or Labourers..that were employ'd to clear the Ground. 1866 *All Year Round* 28 Apr. 66/2 The drainer, the leveller, the stubber-up of rotten stumps. 1908 *N. & Q.* Ser. x. X. 38/1 Scores of the roots taken out were 'crooked billets'—so called by the stubbers.

Stubbing (stʌ·biŋ), *vbl. sb.* Also 5 **stobenge,** 8 *pl.* **stubbens.** [f. STUB *v.*[1] + -ING [1].] The action of the vb. STUB in various senses.

1445 tr. *Claudianus* in *Anglia* XXVIII. 277 Loondys which were vntilied..daies right many beforne [he] after his stubbyng staryth [? *read* storyth: L. *restituit*]. 1464 *Mann. & Househ. Exp.* (Roxb.) 455 He schal haue fore the stobenge of them..xxvi. viii d. 1574 in J. J. Cartwright *Chapters Hist. Yorks.* (1872) 73 The fencyng, stubbyng and dressyng of the ground, 1577 GRANGE *Golden Aphrod.* Ep. Ded. A iij b, It seemeth the nebbe of my penne is long, and that I lesse do feare the stubbing therof. 1607 MARKHAM *Cavel.* III. 6 In woody..grounds where a horse can neither conveniently make foorth his way, nor can tread without danger of stubbing. 1732 BERKELEY *Minute Philos.* I. 6 The mind of Man may be fitly compared to a piece of Land. What stubbing, plowing, digging and harrowing is to the one, that thinking..is to the other. 1770–4 A. HUNTER *Georg. Ess.* (1804) VI. 457 The tree itself possesses a peculiar faculty of branching provincially called stubbing. 1861 L. L. NOBLE *Icebergs* 312 An unlucky stubbing of my naked toes. 1887 J. A. PHILLIPS & BAUERMAN *Elem. Metall.* (ed. 2) 604 A few buckets of water are thrown into the hearth, in order..to cool it previous to the clearing or stubbing-out necessary before commencing another shift.

b. *attrib.*

1567 *Richmond Wills* (Surtees) 211 In the stubbing close one stake of hay. 1832 *Min. Evid. Comm. Factories Bill* 24 The cording and stubbing machinery.

Stubble (stʌ·b'l), *sb.* Forms: *a.* 3–7 **stuble,** 4 **stubil(l,** 4, 6 **stubbil(l,** 4–5 **stobil(l,** –**yl(l, stobul(l,** 4–6 **stob(b)le,** 4–7 **stubbel(l,** 5 **-ull, -yll(e,** 5–6 **stubel(l,** 4, 6– **stubble;** *Sc.* 6 **stibill, stible,** 8, 9 **stibble.** *β.* 3 **stouple,** 5 **stopple.** [a. OF. *stuble, estuble, esteuble* (also *esteule* etc., see Godefr.; mod.F. dial. *éteuble, étouble, éteule*), = Pr. *estobla,* It. *stoppia*:—popular L. **stupla* = late L. *stupula,* class. L. *stipula*: see STIPULA.

The popular-L. **stupla* was adopted in continental WGer.: hence OHG. *stupfala* (MHG., mod.G. dial. *stupfel*), (M)LG. *stoppel* (whence mod.G. *stoppel* fem.), MDu. *stoppele* fem, (mod.Du. *stoppel* masc.). It is possible that the word may have coalesced with a native word of similar meaning from the root of STEB *sb.*]

1. Each of the stumps or lower ends of grain-stalks left in the ground after reaping. Now only in pl.

1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 4578 He smot of is heued as lizt-liche as it were a scouple [*v.r.* a stouple, a lute stouple]. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* xi. vi. (1495) 393 Pestylence wastyth and dystroyeth stobles. 1569 G. B. in Farr *S. P. Eliz.* (1845) II. 388 In euerie plate are stubbles and prickes, That stayes the feeble feete. 1577 *Extracts Burgh Rec. Glasgow* (1876) 63 That nane pull stibillis furtht of ony landis about the toun. 1733 W. ELLIS *Chiltern & Vale Farm.* 319 Its Work is to plough up Stubbles, particularly in wet Weather. 1735 SOMERVILE *Chase* II. 58 The gay Pack In the rough bristly Stubbles range unblam'd. 1836 EMERSON *Nat.* iii, Wks. (Bohn) II. 146 Every withered stem and stubble rimed with frost. 1884 H. SEEBOHM *Hist. Brit. Birds* II. 455 At this season the Partridge delights to 'jug' in the grass-fields, repairing to the turnips and the stubbles to feed. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 817 The crops of warts which attack the gums and palates of sheep feeding upon stubbles.

2. *collect. sing.* The stumps or lower parts of the stalks of wheat or other grain left in the ground by the sickle or reaping-machine.

a 1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* xlix. 4 Þan may he cafe drede, and stubil. 1388 WYCLIF *Gen.* xli. 23 And othere seuene.. camen forth of the stobil. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* xvii. clvii, (1495) 707 Stipula stobble is properly that strawe wyth leues and hosen that is lefte in the felde after that repers haue repen the corn with hokys and gadred it home. 1425 in *Rep. MSS. Ld. Middleton* (1911) 108 If any man tye his horse in any stubbull. 1523–34 FITZHERB. *Husb.* (1882) 35 In somme places they wyll shere theyr cornes hyghe, to the entente to mowe theyr stubble, eyther to thacke or to bren. 1615 CHAPMAN *Odyss.* XIV. 304 But I suppose, that you..Know by the stubble, what the Corne hath bene. 1720 SWIFT *Progr. Poetry* 1 The Farmer's Goose, who in the Stubble, Has fed without Restraint, or Trouble. 1765 A. DICKSON *Treat. Agric.* (ed. 2) 166 The stubble, or the roots, which the plough pushes before it, are sometimes intangled betwixt the coulter and sheath. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* xli, The sight of those fields of stubble and turnips, now his own, gave him many secret joys. 1887 *Spectator* 13 Aug. 1075 Carefully destroying the stubble of infested wheat and barley.

b. In various fig. or allusive contexts.

Often with allusion to 1 Cor. iii. 12.

a 1591 H. SMITH *2nd Serm. Song Simeon* (1602) D 3, But sinners are stubble, and their sentence is, Burne them. 1607 SHAKS. *Cor.* II. i. 274 This..suggested..Will be his fire To kindle their dry Stubble. 1624 BEDELL *Lett.* vii, 110 The stubble and errors of the Doctors. 1625 N. CARPENTER *Geog. Del.* II. vii, 128 This argument..is wittily spunne out by..Sr Humfry Gilbert, whose ability seemes to haue made a barnest out of the stubble. 1728 POPE *Dunc.* i. 254 No merit now the dear Nonjuror claims, Moliere's old stubble in a moment flames. 1748 RICHARDSON *Clarissa* VII. 5 Depend upon it, Mr. Belford..that one day you will be convinced, that what you call friendship, is chaff and stubble. 1773 BURKE *Sp. on Bill for Relief of Dissenters* Wks. X. 23 Fortunately her [the Church of England's] walls, bulwarks, and bastions, are constructed of other materials than of stubble and straw. 1846 J. C. HARE *Mission Comf.* (1850) 156 The very stubble of our old sins may run into our eyes and blind us. 1859 TENNYSON *Elaine* 731 So ran the tale like fire about the court, Fire in dry stubble a nine-days' wonder flared.

c. *transf.* A rough surface or short growth likened to the 'stubble' of grain, *esp.* the short bristly growth on a man's unshaven face.

a 1596 *Sir T. More* IV. iii. 56 Thou was wunt to blame My kissing when my beard was in the stubble. *a* 1660 *Prince d'Amour* etc. 128 The grim stubble eke On the Judges cheek. 1840 DICKENS *Old C. Shop* iii, His mouth and chin [were] bristly with the stubble of a coarse hard beard. 1873 HAMERTON *Intell. Life* VIII ii. (1876) 291 On his chin, a black stubble of two days growth.

d. In sugar-planting, the sugar-cane in the field after the first year.

1846 *De Bow's Commerc. Rev.* II. 324 Fortunately the

(sugar) cane is not an annual plant. Each year fresh shoots spring from the stubble which remains after cutting the crop.

3. The straw of grain-stalks, etc. gathered after the crop has been harvested.

1382 WYCLIF *Josh.* ii. 6 She made the men to stye vp into the soler of hir hows, and couerde hem with stuble of flaxe, that was there. 1483 CAXTON *Golden Leg.* 56/2 In no wyse gyue *no* more chaf to the peple for to make lome and claye but late them goo and gadre stopple. 1540–1 ELYOT *Image Gov.* 41 Beeyng bounden to a stake, with smoke made of greene stickes and wette stubbell, to be smouldred to death. *c* 1586 C'TESS PEMBROKE *Ps.* LXXXIII. vii, Torment them, Lord, as tossed balls; As stubble scatt'red in the aire. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* III. 133 Where they have lesse store of wood within land there they burne straw, furres, and other kinds of stubble. 1760–72 H. BROOKE *Fool of Qual.* (1809) III. 91 One night as I lay on my bed of stubble. 1785 BURNS *To a Mouse* vi, That wee-bit heap o' leaves an' stibble, Has cost thee monie a weary nibble. 1846 MCCULLOCH *Acc. Brit. Empire* (1854) I. 179 The walls ..are formed of a mixture of stubble and clay.

4. A field that has been reaped, and not yet ploughed again; a stubble-field. Chiefly in *plural*.

1792 A. YOUNG *Trav. France* 433 Sheep..are in most of the provinces fed upon straw, and what they can pick up on wastes and stubbles. 1859 JEPHSON *Brittany* iv. 41 The valleys..were of the deepest and richest green, which contrasted deliciously with the yellow stubbles and cornfields. 1908 *Outlook* 29 Aug. 279/1 The costly moors in the Highlands..must always be the privileged possession of the few, but the stubbles in September are available to the multitude.

5. *attrib.* and *Comb.* esp. attributive with the senses 'consisting of or covered with stubble' as *stubble-beard* (so *-bearded* adj.), *-field*, *-land*, etc., 'grown on the stubble' as *stubble-clover*, *-crop*, *-turnip*, etc., 'used on the stubble' as *stubble-plough*, *-rake*, etc.; objective, as *stubble-loving* adj.; **stubble-butter** *Sc.*, butter made of the milk of cows fed on the stubble; **stubble-fire**, fire made of stubble and so lasting but a moment; **stubble-rig** *Sc.*, (*a*) a stubble-field; (*b*) the reaper who takes the lead; **stubble-time**, the time just after harvest; **stubble-turner** (see quot. 1875). Also STUBBLE-GOOSE.

1714 E. WARD *Field-Sty* 26 With *Stubble-Beard, about a Fortnight's growth. 1620 MELTON *Astrolog.* 36 A *stubble-bearded-Barister. 1856 J. BALLANTINE *Poems* 167 The best *stibble butter taks langest o' churnin'. 1888 *Glasgow Even. Times* 15 Oct. 2/5 advt., Stubble butter. *a* 1722 LISLE *Husb.* (1757) 329 Fatting-sheep may be suffered to feed freely on the *stubble-clover. 1881 *Chicago Times* 13 June, The sugar districts in this state [i.e. Louisiana] report to the Planters' association..: *Stubble crop good. 1614 MARKHAM *Cheap & Good Husb.* II. xvi. 124 After they [the geese] haue in the *stubble fields, and during the time of haruest got into good flesh. 1786 BURNS *To Mountain Daisy* iv, But thou.. Adorns the histie stibble-field, Unseen, alane. 1835 BROWNING *Paracelsus* I. 42 Which, look through near, this way, and it appears A stubble-field or a cane-brake. *a* 1618 SYLVESTER *Cup Consol.* 34 Whose brittle glosse and glory lasts and shines As *Stubble-Fire, and Dust before the Windes. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* III. 159 In vain he burns, like fainty Stubble Fires. 1801 *Farmer's Mag.* Apr. 176 No plough will choke in *stubble ground, if the crop is cut in a proper manner. 1596 SHAKS. *1 Hen. IV*, I. iii. 35 Like a *stubble Land at Haruest home. 1598 CHAPMAN *Hero & Leander* IV. 98 Who did of hollow bulrushes combine Snares for the *stubble-louing Grashopper. 1815 SCOTT *Field of Waterloo* iv, The bare extent of *stubble-plain Seems lately lighten'd of its grain. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.*, *Stubble-plow. 1805 R. W. DICKSON *Pract. Agric.* II. 801 The stubble..being.. raked together by means of a large horse *stubble-rake. 1785 BURNS *Halloween* xvi, Our *Stibble-rig was Rab M'Graen. ?1780 in *Burns's Wks.* (Globe) 164/2 The stibble rig is easy plough'd, The fallow land is free. 1713 C'TESS WINCHILSEA *Misc. Poems* 77 A lowly Cottage..Fenc'd by a *Stubble-roof, from Rain and Heat. 1577 B. GOOGE tr. *Heresbach's Husb.* I. 12 b, Husbandry necessaries..whereof the smaller sort be these..*Stubble Sithes. 1486 *Bk. St. Albans* d ij, Ther be in a *stobull tyme Sordes of mallardes in the felde. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.*, **Stubble-turner*, an attachment to a plow to turn over stubble and trash before the principal plow reaches it. 1819 *Rees' Cycl.* XXXII. 3 K 1/1 By..the use of *stubble turnips when necessary, the ewe and lamb-stock may be well supported through the severity of the season. 1844 J. T. HEWLETT *Parsons & W.* xxviii, The system of *stubble-turniping after wheat has proved very successful. 1549 LATIMER *1st Serm. bef. Edw. VI* (Arb.) 29 They walk not directely and playnly, but delite in baikes, and *stubble way.

†Stu·bble, *a. Obs.* Also 4 stubul, -el, 5 stubill, stubbill. [Prob. connected with STUB *sb.* ? Cf. STUBBORN *a.*]

a. ? Clumsy, awkward. **b.** ? Stoutly-built. *Stubble boy*; cf. *stubbed boy*, STUBBED *ppl. a.* 2 b.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 23910 For-sak þou noght his stubul werc, For þof it rude and stubel be, It es in worscip wroght o þe. *c* 1480 HENRYSON *Two Mice* 92 In stubbill array throw gres and corne And vnder buskis preuilie culd thay creip. *c* 1475 *Rauf Coilyear* 522 It is lyke..That sic ane stubill husband man wald stryke stoutly. 1562 LEIGH *Armorie* Pref. P iv, The third sort..are..very stubble curres, & be neither doers, sufferers, or wel speakers of honours tokens. 1598 R. BERNARD tr. *Terence, Andria* IV. v. 86 *Grandiusculus hinc profectus est.* He was a good stubble boy: a pretie bauckt ladde and of a good stature when he went from hence. 1641 BEST *Farming Bks.* (Surtees) 133 Wee give usually 20 s. to a good stubble boy for drivinge of the oxe plough.

Hence **†Stu·bbleness.**

1530 PALSGR. 277/2 Stubblenesse or sturdynesse, *lourdesse.*

Stubble (stʊ·b'l), *v.* [f. STUBBLE *sb.*]

1. *trans.* To clear (land) of stubble. Also to remove stubble from (one's face).

1491 CAXTON *Vitas Patr.* (W. de W.) H. (1495) 256 b/1 How shall it be to me possyble to stubble & make clene this pyece of londe here. 1836 T. HOOK *G. Gurney* III. 128 He began stubbling his chin, as before.

b. To trample *down* into stubble.

1897 MARY KINGSLEY *W. Africa* 243 The grass is stubbled down into paths by hippos.

2. Cant. *Stubble it! stubble your whids!* hold your tongue!

a 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew*, Stubble-it. 1827 LYTTON *Pelham* lxxxii, Stubble it, you ben. 1830 — *P. Clifford* xvi, Stubble your whids, You wants to trick I!

Hence **Stu·bbling** *vbl. sb.*

1872 *Daily News* 25 Sept., There is gleaning and stubbling, and then the two harvests of hay and corn.

†Stu·bbled, *a.*[1] *Obs. rare.* [Cf. STUBBLE *a.*; but perh. a misprint.] = STUBBED.

a 1529 SKELTON *E. Rummyng* 422 Her legges..were sturdy and stubbed (*v.r.* stubbled), Myghty pestels and clubbed.

Stubbled (stʊ·b'ld), *a.*[2] [f. STUBBLE *sb.* + -ED [2].] Covered with stubble, stubbly.

a 1720 GAY *Epist.* iv. *To P. Methuen* 85 A crow was strutting o'er the stubbled plain. 1844 DICKENS *Mart. Chuz.* ii, The noiseless passage of the plough as it..wrought a graceful pattern in the stubbled fields. 1913 N. MUNRO in *Blackw. Mag.* Dec. 784/2 [He]-felt at his stubbled chin, and took from his sack the razors.

Stubble-goose. A goose fed on the stubble.

c 1386 CHAUCER *Cook's Prol.* 27 For of thy pereely yet they fare the wors That they han eten with thy stubbel goos. 1584 COGAN *Haven Health* clxvi. 236 The greene goose is better [for digestion] than the stubble goose. 1612 *Benvenito's Passanger* I. ii. 87 You are euen as wise as a stubble Goose. 1655 MOUFET *Health's Improv.* x. 87 A young stuble goose feeding it self fat in wheaten fields, is the best of all. 1708 W. KING *Art of Cookery* 77 So stubble Geese at Michaelmas are seen Upon the spit, next May produces green. 1816 W. TAYLOR in *Monthly Mag.* XLII. 37 Geese ..are eaten young, under the name of *green* geese,..They are eaten adult, under the name of *stubble* geese. 1842 BARHAM *Ingol. Leg., Lay St. Cuthbert* 5 And the fat stubble-goose Swims in gravy and juice. 1844 STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* II. 720 Young geese are never seen at a Scottish farmer's table, though a stubble-goose at Michaelmas seems to be prized in England.

b. The grey-lag goose (*Anser cinereus*).

1885 SWAINSON *Prov. Names Birds* 147.

Stubbly (stʊ·bli), *a.* [f. STUBBLE *sb.* + -Y.]

1. Covered with stubble, stubbled.

1600 SURFLET *Country Farm* V. xviii. 692 Fasels grow in stubbly grounds. 1611 COTGR., *Chaumin.*, Stubblie; made of, or, couered with, stubble. 1789 D. DAVIDSON *Thoughts Seasons* 130 An', o'er the stibbly plain, the nibbling rooks, In numbers spread. 1854 SURTEES *Handley Cr.* XXXIX. (1901) II. 29 'Chi-e-f-dren,' continued our master, dry-shaving his stubbly chin, 'are certain cares' [etc.]. 1899 STEVENSON *Trav. Cevennes* 146 It led into a valley between fading hills, stubbly with rocks like a reaped field of corn.

2. Resembling stubble; *esp.* of hair, bristly.

1849 ALB.-SMITH *Pottleton Legacy* XXX. 332 Two little stubbly tufts rising from his crown. 1864 *Realm* 25 May 3 The stubbly staple of Lord Russell's arguments is the material we have managed to convince Europe that the British Lion is stuffed with. 1885 RIDER HAGGARD *K. Solomon's Mines* xix, My stubbly hair came out of the treasure cave about three shades greyer than it went in.

Comb. 1891 *Daily News* 1 Sept. 3/1 Stubbly-chinned.

Stubborn (stʊ·bəɪn), *a.* Forms: *α.* 4 stiborn(e, -(o)urne, **styborn**(e, 5 **stiburn**, **styburne**. *β.* 5–6 **stoburne**, 6 **stobburne**, **stoberne**, **-orne**. *γ.* 5 **stuborn**, 6 **stubberne**, -(o)urne, **stuburne**, 6–7 **stubborne**, (6 **stouborne**, -urne, 8 stouborn), 6– stubborn. [Of uncertain etymology.

The commonly assumed derivation from STUB *sb.* presents no great difficulty with regard to the sense ('as if immovable as a stub or stock'), but is not easy to justify morphologically. It has been suggested that the word represents an OE. **stybbor* f. *stybb* STUB *sb.*, the final *n* being supposed to be due to a false analysis of *styburnesse*, *stobournesse* etc. (see STUBBORNNESS). But *-or* was not a living suffix in OE.; the words containing it are inherited from OTeut., and are not formed on noun-stems but on verbal roots. The early spelling of *stubbornness* with only one *n* is of no significance; more noteworthy, however, is the spelling *stoberlie* in our first example of the adv. The fluctuation in the vowel (see the Forms above) might be supposed to be an argument in favour of derivation from STUB *sb.* (OE. *stybb*, *stubb*, **stobb*); but it should be noted that a similar fluctuation appears in the forms of STUBBLE *sb.*, which is of Romanic origin.]

1. Of persons or animals: Pertinacious or dogged in refusing obedience or compliance; unyielding, inflexible, obstinate: chiefly in bad sense, unreasonably obstinate. In early use app. sometimes with stronger notion: †Untameable, implacable, ruthless, fierce.

c 1386 CHAUCER *Wife's Prol.* 436 And I was yong and ful of ragerye, Stibourne and strong and ioly as a pye. *Ibid.* 637 Stibourne I was as is a Leonesse. *c* 1430 LYDG. *Jack Hare* ii. Mir. Poems (Percy Soc.) 52 This boy N. ful stuborn [*MS. Laud* styborne] of his bonys, Sluggy on morwe his leemys up to dresse, A gentil harlot chose out for the nonys, Sone and cheeff heir to dame Idilnesse. 1430 — *Order of Fools* xiv. *Ibid.* 168 And he that holdithe a quarel agayn right, Holdyng hys purpos stiburn ageyn reson. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 475/1 Styburne, or stoburne (or sterne), *austerus*, *ferox*. 1508 FISHER *Ps.* cii. Wks. (1876) 194 Who is now soo stoburne and euyll wylled that his herte coude not melte and be kyndeled with the fyre of charyte. 1526 TINDALE *Rom.* i. 31 Beynge full of all vnrighteous doynge, ..vnlouynge, stouborne [Gr. *ἀσπόνδους*, 1611 implacable] and merciles. 1530 — *Exod.* xxxiv. 9 It is a stuburne [*Coverdale* (*lit. from Heb.*) hard-neckt, 1611 stiff-necked] people. 1538 ELYOT *Dict.*, *Perulcax*,..yll to intreate, stubbourne, obstinate. 1550 CROWLEY *Epigr.* 783 For syth thou arte a stout priest an example thou shalt be That all stouburne priestes may take warnyng by thee. 1594 in *Maitl. Club Misc.* I. 68 Johnne Kincaid..remaning stubburne to the citationis and admonitionis of the Kirk. 1634 MILTON *Comus* 434 Som say no evil thing that walks by night..Blew meager Hag, or stubborn unlaid ghost,..Hath hurtfull power o're true virginity. 1687 P. AYRES in *Minor Caroline Poets* (1906) II. 309 With Patience also will the country swain.. make the stubborn heifer bow Its neck to th' yoke. 1702 VALDEN *Æsop at Court* vi. 28 But peevish Age,.. Like Woman's Stouborn, Impotent and Loud. 1767 FORDYCE *Serm. Yng. Women* II. xiii. 255 A disputatious..and stubborn female will always offend. 1781 CRABBE *Library* 43 Books..soothe the grieved, the stubborn they chastise. 1843 LYTTON *Last Bar.* II. ii, The barons of England are a stubborn and haughty race. 1874 GREEN *Short Hist.* viii. § 5. 503 The people were as stubborn as their King. 1901 T. R. GLOVER *Life & Lett. 4th Cent.* x. 240 'An exquisite poet but a most stubborn heathen' says Orosius of Claudian.

b. Of dispositions, resolves, speech or action: Characterized by obstinacy.

1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 83 b, Yf thou speke ony false stubborne or foule worde. 1581 LAMBARDE *Eiren.* IV. xiv. (1588) 561 A punishment inflicted by the law, upon his contumacie and stubburne silence. 1611 BIBLE *Judges* ii. 19 They ceased not from their owne doings, nor from their stubborne way. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* XII. 193 The Riverdragon..at length submits To let his sojourners depart, and oft Humbles his stubborn heart. *a* 1704 LOCKE *Ess. St. Paul's Epist.* (1707) Pref. p. xvii, All this..is to be had only from the Epistles themselves, and to be gather'd from thence with stubborn Attention, and more than common Application. 1750 JOHNSON *Rambler* No. 87 ¶ 2 This stubborn resistance of the most pathetic persuasion. 1809 SCOTT *Poacher* 151 Stout were their hearts, and stubborn was their strife. 1864 *Soc. Sci. Rev.* 399 We honour our brave soldiers, we glory in their stubborn deeds of daring. 1868 MISS YONGE *Cameos* I. xii. 80 His stubborn disposition was unchanged.

c. *transf.*

1612 *Two Noble K.* V. i. 13 Before the holy Altars..bow downe your stubborne bodies. 1663 BUTLER *Hud.* I. i. 17 A Wight was he,..That never bent his stubborn knee To any thing but Chivalry. 1688 PRIOR *On Exod. xii.* 14 viii, Low, reverently low, Make thy stubborn Knowledge bow.

d. quasi-*sb.*

1891 *Chamb. Jrnl.* 23 Dec. 801/2 The 45th, or 'Sherwood Foresters',..is also known as the 'Old Stubborns'.

2. Of things: Refractory to treatment, intractable; difficult to subdue, work, cure, etc.

1514 BARCLAY *Cit. & Uplondyshman* (Percy Soc.) 17 Lyke as the grounde, is dull stony, and toughe, Stubberne and hevy, rebellynge to the ploughe. 1541 COPLAND *Galyen's Terap.* 2 A iiij, Some vlceres are stubburne and defycyle to be healed. 1588 SHAKS. *L. L. L.* IV. iii. 55, I feare these stubborn lines lack power to moue. 1615 CHAPMAN *Odyss.* xiii. 56 To whom, the black Oxe all day long hath turn'd The stubborne fallowes vp. 1718 POPE *Iliad* XVIII. 546 In hissing Flames huge silver Bars are toll'd, And stubborn Brass, and Tin, and solid Gold. 1747 WESLEY *Prim. Physick* (1762) 87 An old Stubborn Pain in the Back. 1757 GRAY *Elegy* vii, Their furrow oft the stubborn glebe has broke. 1820 HAZLITT *Lect. Dram. Lit.* 35 We are of a stiff clay, not moulded into every fashion, with stubborn joints not easily bent. 1865 RUSKIN *Sesame* I. § 26 Most men's minds are indeed little better than rough heath wilderness, neglected and stubborn. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 603 The larger doses being reserved for local caustic effects in stubborn patches [of lichen].

Proverb. 1732 BUDGELL *Liberty & Property* II. 96 But as plain Matters of Fact are terrible stubborn Things, Mr. Walsingham does not at all meddle with any of these. 1733 *Copy Will of Matt. Tindal* 23 Matters of Fact, which as Mr. Budgell somewhere observes, are very Stubborn Things. 1799 *Med. Jrnl.* II. 270 Facts being stubborn things, it seemed necessary to examine these worms. *c* 1853 KINGSLEY *Misc.* (1859) I. 8 There is no more to be said about the matter, save that facts are stubborn things.

†b. Of wines: ? Not easily cleared. *Obs.*

1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) XVIII. 872/2 It sometimes happens that wines scuddy and stubborn will not fall with one or even two forcings.

3. Of material things: Hard, stiff, rigid. *Obs.* exc. of wood or stone (with some notion of sense 2).

1577 B. GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* III. 128 His hide not hard, or stubborne in feeling [L. *corium attactu non asperum ac durum*]. 1600 FAIRFAX *Tasso* XV. ii, They started vp, and euerie tender lim In sturdie steele and stubburne plate they dight. 1604 N. F. *Fruiterers Secr.* 14 Bee carefull to put the stubborne ends of the fearne cleane through the basket. 1609 HOLLAND *Amm. Marcell.* XXIV. ii. 242 All glittering with their bright helmets and terribly clad in stiffe and stubborne jacks. 1610 BEAUM. & FL. *Scornf. Lady* IV. i, For like strict men of order, they doe correct their bodies with a bench, or a poore stubborne table. 1630 DAVENANT *Just Ital.* V. i. I 3, Ere long we must be cold,..and wrapp'd in stubborne sheets Of lead. 1681 R. KNOX *Hist. Relat. Ceylon* 16 This Skin is hard and stubborn like a piece of Board. 1697 DAMPIER *Voy.* I. 315, I observed their Cloath to be all of..equal fineness; but 'tis stubborn when new. 1770 LUCKOMBE *Hist. Printing* 256 Brown and stubborn paper that has not been well prepared for the Press. *a* 1789 G. WHITE *Selborne, To Pennant* iv, This rag is rugged and stubborn, and will not hew to a smooth face. 1796 MORSE *Amer. Geog.* I. 767 The trees were..of a wood so hard and stubborn, that [etc.]. 18.. *Marble Worker* § 35 (Cent.) Stubborn marble is that which, on account of its excessive hardness, is very difficult to work, and is apt to fly off in splinters. 1890 STANLEY *In Darkest Africa* (ed. 4) I. viii. 174 The bow is of stubborn hard brown wood, about three feet long.

4. *Comb.*: adverbial with another adj., as in *stubborn-chaste*, *-hard*, *-stout* (nonce-wds.); parasynthetic, as *stubborn-hearted*, *-shafted.*

1606 SHAKS. *Tr. & Cr.* I. i. 100 He's as teachy to be woo'd to woe, As she is stubborne, chast [*read* *stubborne-chast] against all suite. 1595 — *John* IV. i. 67 Are you more *stubborne-hard, then hammer'd Iron. 1530 PALSGR. 326/1 *Stoburne herted, *fel.* 1635 JACKSON *Creed* VIII. ii. 12 These

..did not so much affect the stubborne hearted Jews. *a* 1680 BUTLER *Sat. Rem.* (1759) I. 69 Enough to fright the stubborn'st-hearted Age. 1859 TENNYSON *Enid* 969 A gloom of *stubborn-shafted oaks. 1608 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* II. iv. iv. *Decay* 1114 Can you lesse piteous be To these Self-yeelders..Than sternly-valiant to the *stubborn-stout.

Stubborn (stʌ·bəm), *v.* Only *poet.* [f. prec.] *trans.* To make stubborn; to harden, make firm, render capable of resistance.

1820 KEATS *Hyperion* II. 17 Couches of rugged stone, and slaty ridge Stubborn'd with iron. 1874 D. GRAY *Poet. Wks.* 27 These twenty had themselves inured And stubborned to perfection. 1902 F. THOMPSON in *Academy* 12 Apr. 378/1 Who must call on the cannon to compact The hard Dutch-stubborned land.

Stubbornly (stʌ·bəmli), *adv.* Also 5 **stoberlie.** [f. STUBBORN *a.* + -LY 2.] In a stubborn manner.

c 1430 *Syr Gener.* (Roxb.) 2751 Malachias..threw Generides to the ground Ful herd and right stoberlie. 1528 MORE *Dyalogue* I. Wks. 149/2 Boldly and stubburnly defendyng, that sythe they had connyng to preache they were by God bounden to preach. 1591 SHAKS. 1 *Hen. VI*, IV. i. 94 When stubbornly he did repugne the truth. 1651 HOBBES *Leviath.* III. xlii. 318 Hæretiques are none but private men, that stubbornly defend some Doctrine, prohibited by their lawfull Soveraigns. 1782 MISS BURNEY *Cecilia* IX. x, He retains stubbornly the prejudices which once have taken possession of him. 1873 M. ARNOLD *Lit. & Dogma* (1876) 324 The masses can no longer be relied on..stubbornly to make clever men's extravagances and aberrations of no avail. 1893 SIR R. BALL *Story of Sun* 290 It [carbon] will stubbornly remain solid even though exalted to an enormously high temperature. 1896 BADEN-POWELL *Matabele Campaign* xv, A small but determined party of the enemy..stubbornly opposed their advance.

Stubbornness (stʌ·bəmnés). [f. STUBBORN *a.* + -NESS.] The quality of being stubborn.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 475/1 Styburnesse, *austeritas, ferocitas.* 1467-8 *Rolls of Parlt.* V. 621/2 Because of the gretnesse and stobournesse of the same Wolle. 1530 PALSGR. 277/2 Stubbernesse, *contumace.* 1535 COVERDALE *Jer.* xiii. 17 Yf ye wil not heare me..I will mourne fro my whole herte for youre stubburnesse. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. V*, 56 b, Some for their stony stubbernes and mad obstinacy were adjudged to dye. 1600 SHAKS. *A. Y. L.* II. i. 19 Happy is your Grace That can translate the stubbornnesse of fortune Into so quiet and so sweet a stile. 1680 MOXON *Mech. Exerc.* x. 190 A thick String..having a strength and stubbornness proportionable to its size, it will not comply closely to a piece of Work of small Diameter. 1700 DRYDEN *To J. Dryden* 185 Patriots, in Peace, assert the Peoples Right, With noble Stubbornness resisting Might. 1757 HOME *Douglas* III. 31 Hard he seems And old in villainy. Permit us try His stubbornness against the torture's force. 1874 GREEN *Short Hist.* iv. § 1. 162 The Prince [Llewelyn] held out in Snowdon with the stubbornness of despair. 1878 LECKY *Eng. in 18th C.* II. vii. 402 They were endowed with a full share of Scotch stubbornness, jealousy and self-assertion.

Stubby (stʌ·bi), *a.* [f. STUB *sb.* + -Y.]

1. Of the nature of a stub; short and thick or broad. **a.** of a root, plant, etc.

1572 MASGALL *Plant. & Graff.* (1592) 16 If ye breake of the olde stubbie roote and set them lower, they will last a long time the more. 1664 EVELYN *Sylva* iii. 11 Abating only the tap-roots, which is that down-right, and stubby part of the Roots (which all Trees rais'd of Seeds do universally produce). 1681 GREW *Museum* I. ii. 30 [A rhinoceros horn.] At the base,..surrounded with a Garland of black and stubby Bristles. 1755 JOHNSON, *Stubby*, short and thick, short and strong. 1851 J. J. MECHI *and Paper on Brit. Agric.* 32 There are millions of stubby pollards. 1863 W. C. BALDWIN *Afr. Hunting* vi. 180 The hackthorns..have low square tops, strong and very dense, with short stubby sharp thorns. 1881 *Chicago Times* 16 Apr., Short, stubby buffalo grass, which shed off what little rain that did fall. 1904 *Daily News* 8 July 5 A well-grown, 'stubby' plant..sometimes has..27 trusses of bloom all expanded at once.

b. Of a person, beast, a limb, etc.: Short and thick-set in figure.

1831 TRELAWNY *Adv. Younger Son* II. 216 Her fat stubby finger. 1841 J. T. J. HEWLETT *P. Priggins* II. xiv. 328 A short stubby man. 1870 THORNBURY *Tour'rd. Eng.* I. iv. 76 The poet..knocked his stubby little adversary down. 1891 *Daily News* 2 July 7/3 The lad is described as of medium height for his age, being a bit stubby. 1910 *Spectator* 10 Dec. 1026/1 The she-bear's short and stubby tail.

c. Of a thing: Short and thick or broad in make; also short and blunt as the result of wear.

1843 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* I. 447 A piece of cane the end of which is split into filaments to make a stubby brush. 1891 E. DAWSON *Fountain of Youth* iv. 39, I have still..his calculation of the amount..written with a stubby pencil. 1898 KIPLING *Fleet-in-Being* v. 48 From all three funnels of a high, stubby cruiser the smoke of a London factory insulted the clean air. 1899 DE VINNE *Pract. Typogr.* (1902) 30 The serif..in old-style lower-case letters..is a blunt spur or a stubby triangle. 1899 CONAN DOYLE *Duet* xx. 307 It was a worn, stubby old quill. 1905 J. B. FIRTH *Highns. Derbysh* xxviii. 422 The mill is an old one..with a stubby chimney.

2. Abounding in or full of stubs. Chiefly of the hair or beard: Composed of short, stiff bristles.

1604 R. CAWDREY *Table Alph.* (1613), *Knarry*, knotty, stubbie. 1847 ALB. SMITH *Chr. Tadpole* i, He was short and awkward, with stubby light hair and a low forehead. 1887 W. P. FRITH *Autob.* II. viii. 147 An air of breeding and refinement: that the prison-dress and the stubby beard could not efface. 1887 RIDER HAGGARD *Allan Quartermain* xxii, My grizzled stubby hair was turned snow-white.

3. Comb.: in parasynthetic adjs., as *stubby-bearded, -thinned, -legged, -toed.*

1898 *Daily News* 1 Aug. 5/6 The *stubby-bearded weaver. 1870 *Ibid.* 5 Sept. 6/1 A slouching, undersized, *stubby-chinned ruffian. 1871 FURNIVALL *Capt. Cox's Ball.* etc. Introd. 76 *Stubby-legd Margery Mylkeducke. 1873 B. HARTE *Fiddletown* 9 The gallant Colonel was impelled to..trip away as smartly as his *stubby-toed high-heeled boots would permit.

Hence **Stu·bbiness.**

1855 in HYDE CLARKE *Dict.* In recent Dicts.

Stube, obs. form of STUB *v.*[1]

Stuborn, -urne, obs. forms of STUBBORN.

Stubwort (stʌ·bwɜt). [f. STUB *sb.*[1] + WORT. Cf. *stab-wort* STAB *sb.*[1] 4, STOB-WORT.] The Wood-sorrel, *Oxalis acetosella.*

1541 *Bk. Properties Herbs* A vj, This herbe Alleluya men call it wodsore or stubworte. 1583 L. M[ASCALL] *Prof. Bk. Remedies* 3 Take an hearbe called wood sorrel, or stubwort which..groweth in woods, in bushes & stubs of old trees. 1614 MARKHAM *Cheap & Gd. Husb.* Table for hard Words, Stubwort is an hearbe which growes in wooddy places, and is called wood-Sorrell. 1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1106/2 Stubwort, *Oxalis acetosella.*

†Stuc, stuck, *Obs.* Also 8 **stuke.** [a. F. *stuc*, ad. It. *stucco*: see STUCCO *sb.*] = STUCCO 1 a.

1632 J. HAYWARD tr. *Biondi's Eromena* 40 Two of his pictures, the one limned and painted, the other made of stuck. 1702 J. K. *New Eng. Dict.*, *Stuke*, a kind of morter fit for imagery, made of chalk and marble well pounded together and sifted. 1703 tr. *Perrault's Abridgm. Vitruvius* I. ii. 76 The Cornishes..ought to be made of pure Stuck of Marble, without any Plaister. *Ibid.*, The Plaistering must be laid, Bed after Bed..The Ancients put six Lays, 3 of Mortar made of Lime, and 3 of Stuck. 1715 LEONI *Palladio's Archit.* (1721) I. i. xxii. 39 Others will have Compartments [of a ceiling] of Stuc [It. *di stucchi*] (which is a sort of hard Plaster). 1771 ROLAND LE VIRLOYS *Dict. Archit.* III. Vocab. 184 Stuke, *stuc.*

attrib. 1726 LEONI *Alberti's Archit.* I. 33 b, The..whitest [sort of Plaister of Paris] is used in Stuc Work [It. *opere di stucchi*] for Figures and Cornishes. *Ibid.* III. 28 Some finish their work..by adding to..the material;..those that work in wax, stuc or clay, whom we therefore call stuc-masters [It. *Maestri di stucco*]: others do it only by taking away,..these we call Sculptors.

†Stu·ccature. *Obs. rare*[−1]. [ad. It. *stuccatura*; f. *stuccare* to work in stucco, f. *stucco*: see next. Cf. G. *stuccatur.*] Stucco-work; also an ornament worked in stucco.

1715 LEONI *Palladio's Archit.* (1721) I. ii. iii. 63 The Chambers..have been adorn'd with very fine Stuccatures [It. *di bellissimi stucchi*]. *Ibid.* 64 They have left nothing wanting..in the enriching of such a Building either for Stuccature or Painting [It. *come stucchi e pitture*].

Stucche, Stuechen: see STITCH *sb.*[2], STITCHEN.

Stucco (stʌ·kou), *sb.* Also 8 **stooco, stocko.** [It.; believed to be ad. the Teut. word represented by OHG. *stukki* fragment, piece, also crust (mod.G. *stück* piece = (M)LG., (M)Du. *stuk*: see STICK *sb.*). The It. word has been adopted into several European langs.: F. *stuc* (see STUC), Sp. *estuque, estuco*, Pg. *estuque*, G. *stuck*, Du. *stuc* (from Fr.), Sw. *stuck*, Da. *stuk.*]

1. a. A fine plaster, esp. one composed of gypsum and pulverized marble, used for covering walls, ceilings, and floors, and for making cornices, mouldings, and other decorations.

1598 HAYDOCKE tr. *Lomazzo's Art Paint.* III. 94 There are yet remayning in Transtevero in Rome, certayne Children..which so perfectly seeme to be made in Stucco, that they haue deceaued even divers good Painters. 1616-17 in *Crt. & Times James I* (1848) I. 465 Some heads, whereof, to my remembrance, there was but one of marble, the other of stucco or plaster. 1730 A. GORDON *Maffei's Amphith.* (1735) 305 In Rome..not only have the Remains of ancient Painting been seen, but other genteel Ornaments of Stucco also. 1787 BECKFORD *Lett. Italy* (1805) I. xv. 148 A parcel of naked boys over the doors, in white stucco. 1820 T. S. HUGHES *Trav. Sicily* I. iii. 75 The walls of the recesses are covered with a fine stucco, painted upon a vermilion ground with various colours and devices. 1856 STANLEY *Sinai & Pal.* Introd. 39 Halls and chambers..covered with white stucco, and this white stucco brilliant with colours, fresh as they were thousands of years ago. 1873 SPON *Workshop Rec.* Ser. I, 390/1 Stucco is a composition of slacked lime, chalk, and pulverized white marble tempered in water, designed to imitate different marbles used in the interior of buildings or [for] monuments. 1884 *Encycl. Brit.* XVII. 37 *Sgraffito*...The wall is covered with a coat of stucco made black..; over this a second very thin coat of white stucco is laid...The design is produced by cutting and scratching away the white skin.

b. A coarse plaster or calcareous cement used chiefly for covering the rough exterior surfaces of walls in imitation of stone; also called *common stucco*; *spec.* the third or last coat of plastering.

Bastard stucco (see quot. 1812). *Rough stucco*, stucco in which a large proportion of sand is used. *Trowelled stucco*, stucco set with a trowel to form a surface for painting.

1779 in *Repert. Arts & Manuf.* (1795) II. 289 My said invention of a water cement, or stucco, for building, repairing, and plastering walls. 1779 SHERIDAN *Critic* I. ii, Here is..[an article] 'a Detester of visible Brick-work, in favor of the new invented Stucco';..in the style of Junius. 1812 P. NICHOLSON *Mech. Exerc.* 306 Bastard Stucco, is three coat plaster,..but the finishing coat contains a little hair besides the sand, it is not hand floated, and the troweling is done with less labour than what is denominated troweled stucco. *Ibid.* 312 Stucco or Finishing is the third coat of three coat plaster..Rough stucco is only floated and brushed in a small degree with water: trowelled stucco is accounted the best. 1825 J. NICHOLSON *Oper. Mech.* 617 Common stucco, used for external work, consists of clean washed Thames sand and ground Dorking lime. 1862 MISS BRADDON *Lady Audley* XXXVIII, A great mansion of white stucco. 1870 THORNBURY *Tour rd. Eng.* I. i. 26 We despise stucco now as false and flimsy. 1876 *Encycl. Brit.* IV. 507 It may not be amiss here to refer to some of the causes of the premature decay which takes place in stuccoes and cements.

1897 W. MILLAR *Plastering* IV. 101 The adoption in England of stucco externally to give brick houses the appearance of stone is due to Robert Adam.

fig. 1878 *Masque Poets* 261 Behind the stucco of this world's politeness I find some moral framework not amiss.

c. Plaster of Paris.

1839- [cf. 3 c]. 1868 ROSCOE *Elem. Chem.* (1869) 32 Fixing a thin piece of stucco on to one end of a glass tube. 1897 W. MILLAR *Plastering* II. 35 Gypsum, from which plaster of Paris is made...In Italy it is known by the name of *gesso*; in Scotland it is called *stucco*;..and in the English trade..*plaster.*

2. The process of ornamenting walls, ceilings, cornices, etc. with stucco; also, work or ornamentation produced by this process.

1897 EVELYN *Numism.* viii. 283 John de Udine Inventor or Restorer of the Art of Stucco. 1756 MRS. CALDERWOOD in *Coltness Collect.* (Maitl. Club) 141 The roofs in all the best rooms..are stucko, which was wrought by an Italian. 1782 PENNANT *Journ. fr. Chester* 345 The chancel has been very elegantly fitted up with stucco by the late duke.

3. *attrib.* passing into adj. **a.** Made of stucco, ornamented with stucco-work.

a 1744 POPE *Hor. Sat.* II. vi. 192 Palladian walls, Venetian doors, Grotesco roofs, and stucco floors. 1756-7 tr. *Keysler's Trav.* (1760) I. 83 A stucco cabinet, so curiously wrought as to appear like the finest marble. 1799 *Hull Advertiser* 16 Feb. 2/1 With marble chimney-pieces and stucco cornice. 1884 *Encycl. Brit.* XVII. 37 The Moslem architects..made great use of stucco ornament. *Ibid.*, These stucco reliefs were, as a rule, further decorated with delicate painting.

b. Of a building, etc.: Plastered with stucco in imitation of stone. Of a locality: Abounding in such buildings.

1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* lx, 'Gardens' was a felicitous word not applied to stucco houses with asphalte-terraces in front, so early as 1827. 1897 W. MILLAR *Plastering* I. 33 The brothers Adam introduced into England stucco façades and composition enrichments. 1897 WATTS-DUNTON *Aylwin* V. ii, After we had left behind us what he called the 'stucco world' of the West End. 1898 G. W. E. RUSSELL *Collect. & Recoll.* xxiv. 307 Our Ambassador in that city of stucco palaces [Berlin].

c. Of a matrix, ornament: Made of plaster of Paris; plaster.

1839 URE *Dict. Arts* 631 Gypsum is mixed with water to the consistence of cream, and poured into moulds by the manufacturers of stucco ornaments and statues. 1846 *Jrnl. Franklin Inst.* Jan. 67 The period varies from ten to twelve hours, liable to the breaking, splitting or warping of the stucco matrices. 1868 GEO. ELIOT *F. Holt* i, Her knowledge and accomplishments had become as valueless as old-fashioned stucco ornaments.

4. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *stucco paint, plaster* (hence *plasterer*), *work* (hence *worker*); instrumental, as *stucco-adorned, -fronted, -moulded* adjs.; **†** stucco-paper, ? a wall paper made to resemble stucco.

1864 *Reader* 3 Sept. 291/1 No flaunting *stucco-adorned town of yesterday. 1865 MISS A. B. EDWARDS *Half a Million* LXXVI, A big *stucco-fronted many-windowed house. 1873 SPON *Workshop Rec.* Ser. I. 8/2 A frame of plain mouldings is more appropriate..than is a carved or *stucco-moulded frame. 1843 *Builder* 12 Aug. 323/1 Patent *Stucco Paint and Patent Stucco Paint Cement. 1750-1 LADY LUXBOROUGH *Let. Shenstone* 13 Feb., A common *stucco-paper. 1752 MRS. DELANY *Autob. & Corr.* (1861) III. 76, I think I should rather hang it with stucco paper. 1744 in *Sixth Rep. Dep. Kpr. Publ. Rec.* App. II. 121 [Specification for a Lime, *Stucco Plaster, Morter]. 1787 *Ibid.* 177 [Thomas Henderson, of the City of York, *Stucco Plaisterer]. 1686 AGLIONBY *Painting Illustr.* 326 He built himself a House, which he adorned with *Stucco Work. *Ibid.* 342 A New Pallace, which should be adorned with Stucco-Work paintings in Fresco. 1753 HANWAY *Trav.* I. II.-XXXIV. 232 The rooms are lined with stocco work, painted in the Indian taste. 1908 R. BAGOT *A. Cuthbert* IV. 29 The rich carvings of the frieze and..the ornate stucco-work of the ceiling..had been executed in the sixteenth century, from Italian designs. 1897 W. MILLAR *Plastering* I. 26 During the reign of Henry VIII,..many Italian *stucco workers found their way into this country.

Stucco (stʌ·kou), *v.* Inflected **stuccoed, stuccoing.** Also 8 **stucko.** [f. STUCCO *sb.*] *trans.* To coat or plaster (a cornice, wall, etc.) with stucco; to ornament with stucco-work. Also with *over.*

1726 LEONI *Alberti's Archit.* I. 48 b, A Cornice..ought to be firmly wrought and well stucco'd over to repel all the injuries of the weather. 1754 in Willis & Clark *Cambridge* (1886) I. 38 Agreed that instead of stuccoing the old court ..it be cas'd with Ketton Stone. 1774 G. GRENVILLE in *G. Papers* (1853) IV. 551 They have built it [a temple] entirely of marble, and stuccoed it over afterwards. 1782 PENNANT *Journ. fr. Chester* 307 The roof beautifully stuccoed.

b. In mod. building: To coat or plaster (a wall, building) esp. in imitation of stone-work.

1790 W. WRIGHTE *Grotesque Archit.* II It may be built of wood, and stuccoed. 1799 A. YOUNG *View Agric. Lincoln.* 26 If an old wall is to be stuccoed, all..vegetation must previously be removed. 1833 LOUDON *Encycl. Archit.* § 1587 Render float and set the walls in all the rooms..and stucco the committee-room. 1896 F. M. CRAWFORD *Corleone* V, Many of the houses [in Randazzo] on the main street have now been stuccoed and painted.

c. *transf.* and *fig.*

1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1824) II. 78 The apartment at the end [of a marmot's hole] is very warmly stuccoed round with moss and hay. 1776 ANSTEY *Election Ball* (1808) 218 Ye must stucco and whitewash your faces. 1839 LADY LYTTON *Cheveley* (ed. 2) III. iii. 74 She was a great admirer of what the world stuccoes with the name of 'talent'.

Hence **Stu·ccoed** *ppl. a.*, **Stu·ccoing** *vbl. sb.*

a 1761 CAWTHORN *Taste* 75 Hence all our stucco'd walls,

Mosaic floors. 1820 COMBE *Syntax, Wife* III. 206 In stucco'd eating room he dines. 1833 LOUDON *Encycl. Archit.* § 517 *Exterior Finishing* is the term applied to stuccoing, rough-casting, and plastering. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXIII. 166/2 As an imitation of stone, much wil depend upon the skill and care with which stuccoing is executed. 1856 LEVER *Martins of Cro' M.* ii, Fragments of carving, or pieces of stuccoed tracery, together with broken vases and uprooted shrubs, littered the garden. 1884 G. ALLEN *Philistia* II. 18 The noisy stuccoed modern watering-place.

Stuccoer (stʊ'kəuəɹ). Also 9 stuccoyer. [f. STUCCO *v.* + -ER 1, -YER.] A modeller in stucco.

1818 SCOTT in *Lockhart* (1837) IV. 147 If there had been either limners or stuccoyers worth their salt in those days. 1848 R. N. WORNUM *Lect. Painting* Introd. 11 The Royal Academy of Munich...was established by three artists,—the painter Christian Wink, the sculptor Roman Boos, and the stuccoer F. X. Feichtmayr. 1887 *Dict. Archit.* (Arch. Publ. Soc.), *Stuccoer*, the artisan who worked in stucco.

Stuche, variant of STITCH *sb.*2 *Obs.*

† Stuck, *sb.*1 *Obs. rare*−1. In 5 stuk. [? f. STUCK *a.*] (See quot.)

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 481/1 Stuk, or schort garment (*v.r.* stukkyd clothe), *nepticula*.

† Stuck, *sb.*2 *Fencing. Obs.* [? var. of STOCK *sb.*3] A thrust or lunge; = STOCK *sb.*3 2.

1601 SHAKS. *Twel. N.* III. iv. 303, I had a passe with him, rapier, scabberd, and all; and he giues me the stucke in with such a mortall motion that it is ineuitable. 1602 — *Ham.* IV. vii. 162 If he by chance escape your venom'd stuck. 1614 G. H[ALE] *Priv. Sch. Defence* C i, In single Rapier, and Rapier and Dagger, they teach all their Schollers as they call them, Stucks, otherwise Longe, to throw them into hit without disordering their aduerse Rapier.

† Stuck, stug, *a. Obs.*−1 In 5 stuk, stuke, 5, 7 stug. [? Connected with MDu. *stucke* piece, STITCH *sb.*2; cf. SCOT *a.* and *sb.*3] Short. Hence **Stucked** *ppl. a.*, cut short; **Stuckness,** shortness.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 448/1 Schort or stukkyd garment, *nepticula*. *Ibid.* 481/1 Stuk, short (*v.r.* stuke, stug, stukkid, schort) *curtus, brevis*. *Ibid.*, Stuknesse, *brevitas, curtitas*. *Comb.* 1699 *Banffsh. Document* (MS.), A stug-tailed horse.

Stuck (stʊk), *ppl. a.* [Str. pa. pple. of STICK *v.*]

1. Of an animal: That has been stabbed or had its throat cut: = STICKED 1 b. Chiefly in proverbial phrase, *to stare like a stuck pig*.

1708 YALDEN *Æsop at Crt.* iii. 29 Like a stuck pig the woman star'd. 1731-8 SWIFT *Pol. Conversat.* II. 162. 1786 Miss BURNEY *Cecilia* II. i, Ask for the rent-roll,—see how they'll look! stare like stuck pigs! 1812 *Sporting Mag.* XL. 66 Bleeding like a stuck pig. 1874 BURNAND *My Time* xxiii. 210 Staring at you...as if he was a stuck pig.

2. Unable to go further. Cf. STICKIT *a.* 2.

1885 *Revol. in Shorthand* 7, I studied Pitman's system...for three or four months, but became a 'stuck' student. 1910 D. W. BONE *Brassbounder* 3 We come from our first voyage sick of it all...Would give up but for pride...Afraid to be called 'stuck sailors'.

3. *slang.* (See quot.)

1865 *Slang Dict.* 249 *Stuck*, moneyless.

4. *Joinery.* (Cf. STICK *v.* 18 c.)

1850 OGILVIE, *Stuck mouldings*. In *arch.*, mouldings formed by the planes instead of being wrought by the hand. 1910 C. H. GREGORY *Gloss. Build. Constr.* 64 Stuck Moulding. A moulding worked on the stuff itself.

Stuck, dial. form of STOOK *sb.* and *v.*

1813 RUDGE *Agric. Glouc.* 117 These [sheaves] are 'stucked', or placed upright, in parcels of ten.

Stuck: see STUC *Obs.*, stucco.

Stucken (stʊ'kən). *Sc.* Also **stucking.** [? Cogn. w. STAKE *sb.*] A stake.

1844 N. PATERSON *Manse Gard.* 39 Let stuckings of peeled larch...be driven at the bottom of the wall. *a* 1870 RIDDELL *Poet. Wks.* (1871) I. 4 (E.D.D.) Syne for a stucken stout he felt.

† Stuckle. *Obs.* [dim. of STOOK.] A shock containing five sheaves of corn.

1682 R. DAVIES in *Hereford Dioc. Reg.* 1680-1-2, 18 Sept., Thomas Jones did demand one Stuckle of muncorne...due to him for tieth...and finding but 4 sheaves there, required one sheafe more to make up the said stuckle. 1736 AINSWORTH, A stuckle of corn, *niergitum strues*.

Stuckling (stʊ'klin). *dial.* [Of obscure origin: the sense 'small piece' (Sussex) might suggest formation on OE. *stycce* STITCH *sb.*2] (See quots.)

1674 RAY *S. & E. C. Words* 76 A Stuckling: an apple pasty. *Suss.* 1878 H. C. ADAMS *Wykehamica* 435 (Glossary) *Stuckling*, a sort of pudding composed of chopped meat and apple, flavoured with carraway. 1908 *Times* 29 July 13/4 [Winchester Domum Day] the usual ceremonies of eating stuckling and drinking hough were duly observed.

Stuck-up, *a. colloq.* [pa. pple. of *stick up*, STICK *v.*1 34.] Assuming an unjustified air of superiority, or pluming oneself unduly on real superiority; offensively pretentious.

1849 *Edin. Rev.* L. 245 At the first sight of the Elgin Marbles, we feel that...the ancient objects of our idolatry fall into an inferior class or style of art. They are comparatively...*stuck-up* gods and goddesses. 1859 DICKENS *Nickleby* ix, 'He's a nasty stuck-up monkey, that's what I consider him,' said Mrs. Squeers. 1844 'JON. SLICK' *High Life N. York* II. 87 Does the stuck up varmint feel above riding with an honest Yankee, because he haint got no title? 1860 *Hotten's Slang Dict.* 230 *Stuck-up*, 'purse-proud'—a form of snobbishness very common in those who have risen in the world. 1861 SALA *Dutch Pict.* xvi. 252 Versailles is one of the dreariest,...most stuck-up places I know. 1863 KINGSLEY *Water-Bab.* i. 6 Tom...considered him a stuck-up fellow, who gave himself airs. 1869 TROLLOPE *He Knew* etc. xxxv. (1878) 196 She has no stuck-up ideas about herself. 1903 BRIDGES *Socialist in Lond.* 182 Poet. Wks. (1913) 430 The degrading pestiferous fuss Of stuck-up importance.

Hence **Stuck-uppishness.**

1853 *Chamb. Jrnl.* XX. 307 We leave Ramsgate, then, with its 'stuckuppishness' and stiff and formal society. 1875 Miss BRADDON *Hostages* I. ii. 56 Thank heaven it is not a perky modern place, all stucco and stuckupishness.

Stud (stʊd), *sb.*1 Forms: 1 studu, stuðu (acc. stoðe, stuðe, -u, -o, dat. styde, styðe), 4 stod, stoode, 4-6 stode, 5-6 stodde, 5-7 studde, 6 stood, stude, 6-8 studd, 6- stud. See also STOOTH. [OE. *studu, stuðu* fem. (cons.-stem), also *stod* (? fem.) = MHG. *stud* fem., ON. *stöð* fem. (MSw. *stuþ* fem., neut., mod.Sw. *stöd* neut.):—OTeut. **stuð-*, **stuþ-*:—pre-Teut. **stut-*, prop, support. From the sb. are OHG. *studen* (MHG. *stüden*) to fix, settle, ON. *styðja* to prop, support, *stoða* to support, help, avail.

An extended form of the root (OTeut. **stutt-*:—pre-Teut. **stutu-*) appears in MLG., (M)Du. *stutten*, OHG. *stutzen* (MHG., mod.G. *stützen*) to prop, support, MLG., MDu. *stutte* (mod.Du. *stut*), MHG., mod.G. *stütze* fem., prop.

The meaning in branch II is not easy to account for, but there does not appear to be reason to doubt the etymological identity of the word.]

I. A post, prop.

1. † In early use *gen.*, a wooden post of any kind, an upright prop or support (*obs.*). Subsequently, one of the upright timbers in the wall of a building; now chiefly, one of the smaller uprights, of the height of a single story, interposed between the principal posts in the framing of a partition wall (= QUARTER *sb.* 19).

c 850 *Kent. Gloss.* in Wr.-Wülcker 63/30 *Et observat postes ostii mei*, & bezemð stuðe [? *or* stoðe] minre dure. *c* 900 *Bæda's Hist.* III. x. (1890) 180 Aheng he þone sceat...on ane studu þæs wages [L. *in una posta parietis*]. *Ibid.* 182 Ac hit clæne forbarn, nemne seo studu aarr [*MS.* β, butan þære anre styðe]. 1336-7 *Ely Sacrist Rolls* (1907) II. 78 In vijxx et iiij stodes quercinis empt. apud Reche, 1 *s* 1. 1420 in Willis & Clark *Cambridge* (1886) II. 443 Item pro ij stodys angularibus oratorii iij*s*. 1481-90 *Howard Househ. Bks.* (Roxb.) 200 My Lord made comenaunt with Rychard Tornor to make his new wall...the space to be a fote and halffe betwene the stodes. 1486 *Nottingham Rec.* III. 253 For ij. studdes to be same bothe. *c* 1568 in Swayne *Churchw. Acc. Sarum* (1896) 115, 3 dosen of stoddes 12*d*. 1577 HARRISON *England* II. x. 84 b, in *Holinshed*, In the open...soyles they are inforced for want of stuffe to vse no studdes at all, but onlie raysines, groundselles,...and vpright principalles. 1578 BANISTER *Hist. Man* I. 17 b, The...ridgbeame of a shyp:...whereunto the chief studdes, or postes of the frame worke are mortised. 1617 in Willis & Clark *Cambridge* (1886) I. 205 The particians shall bee maide with...punchions and studds of oake. 1624 T. TAYLOR *Two Serm.* Ded. A 2 b, What were the two studs of the house in which Sampson played, that is, Religion and Iustice in the Common-wealth, if they be pulled downe, the Church and Common-wealth fall together. 1656 *Artif. Handsom.* 11 It is a grosse mistake in Architecture, to think that every small stud bears the main stresse and burthen of the building, which lies (indeed) upon the principall timbers. 1737 *Salmon's Country Builder's Estimator* (ed. 2) 7 The Studds, or Quarters, to stand twelve Inches asunder. 1792 A. YOUNG *Trav. France* (1889) 19 The houses and cottages of wood filled between the studs with clay or bricks. 1825 J. NICHOLSON *Oper. Mech.* 569 If to support girders, they [principal uprights in a partition wall] should be trussed, and afterwards filled in with parallel pieces, called studs. 1836 PARKER *Gloss. Archit.* (1850) I. 449 *Studs*, the intermediate posts in partitions or woodwork; they also are termed uprights and quarters. 1865 THOREAU *Cape Cod* ii. 22 The rows fully as straight as the studs of a building. 1915 *Antiquary* Nov. 426/2 A very rough floral design painted in black and white between the studs of a fifteenth-century cottage.

b. *collect. sing.* Laths to be used as the uprights in partition walls or the walls of lath-and-plaster buildings. Chiefly in combinations, as *stud and mud, stud and plaster*, used attrib. to denote a mode of building in which the walls are of 'studs', interlaced with twigs or having laths nailed upon them, and covered with mud or plaster.

c 1535 in Dugdale *Monast. Angl.* (1825) V. 206 A litle chapell of our Ladie, which is coverd with tile and buylded with studde. 1580 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 73 Sane crotchis of wud, Saue spars and stud. 1613 MARKHAM *Eng. Husbandman* I. i. (1635) 24 [A] house...intended...to be built of studde and plaster. 1788 *Archæologia* (1789) IX. 111 The buildings erected then were either of whole logs, or of timber uprights wattled, such as at this very day in the North is called *stud and mud*. 1854 Miss BAKER *Northampt. Gloss.*, *Stud and teer*, a rustic mode of building a wall with interwoven sticks instead of lath, plastered or teer'd with dirt instead of mortar.

† 2. *fig.* A prop, or support. *Obs.*

a 1450 *Le Morte Arth.* 3621 There he hopyd it were beste For to gete hym som lyves stode. 1583 GOLDING *Calvin on Deut.* cli. 932 If we tread vpon such as haue no credite nor meane to defende themselues, nor any stud to leane vnto. *a* 1603 T. CARTWRIGHT *Confut. Rhem. N. T.* (1618) 576 The chiefe pillers and studds of Popery before 600 yeares after Christ. 1651 N. BACON *Disc. Govt. Eng.* II. iii. 27 The Lords were become Supporters to the Crown, Studds to the Throne, and a Reserve to the People, against the violent motions of an unbridled minde in their King. 1652 BENLOWES *Theoph.* VII. xxxi, Parent of Beings, Entities sole Stud.

3. *U.S.* The height of a room from floor to ceiling.

1850 MRS. HAWTHORNE in J. Hawthorne *N. Hawthorne & Wife* (1885) I. 369 You cannot think how pretty the room looks, though with such a low stud that I have to get acclimated to it, and still fear to be crushed. 1886 E. S. MORSE *Jap. Homes* ii. 63 These rooms were unusually high in stud.

4. † a. A stem, trunk (of a tree). *Obs.*

1579 SPENSER *Sheph. Cal.* Mar. 13 Seest not thilke same Hawthorne studde? 1591 — *Virg. Gnat* 84 This with full bit doth catch the vtmost top Of some soft Willow, or new growen stud: 1621 G. SANDYS *Ovid's Met.* V. (1632) 187 Vpon a Sallow stud My robe I hung, and leapt into the flood.

b. A short branch, spur. *rare.*

1657 LIGON *Barbadoes* 76 Now there is an addition to her [*sc.* the palmetto tree's] beauty by two green studds, or supporters, that rise out of her sides,...they are about three foot long, small at the place from whence they grow, but bigger upwards. 1797 COLERIDGE *Christening Friend's Child* 39 Ah, fond deceit! the rude green bud Alike in shape, place, name, Had bloom'd where bloom'd its parent stud, Another and the same! 1842 LOUDON *Suburban Hort.* 555 The fruit is generally produced on small spurs or studs, from half an inch to two inches in length, which proceed from the sides and ends of the two-year, three-year, and occasionally from the older branches.

II. Something fixed in and projecting from a surface.

5. In early use, an ornamental round knob of metal or amber on a girdle, bridle, or the like. In later use with wider sense, a boss or large nail-head standing out on a surface, for the purpose of decoration or protection.

[1397: see STOOTH 2.] 14.. *Metr. Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 623/3 *Bulla*, a stode, *i. nodus in cinguło*. 1420 *E. E. Wills* 46 A gurdyll...with a bocull and a pendaunt and xxxiij. stodys of syluer and ouergulde. 1555 in Foxe *A. & M.* (1583) 1546/1 He vseth bridle wyth white studs & snaffle. 1577 B. GOOGE tr. *Heresbach's Husb.* III. 155 The shepheardes Mastie...To arme them agaynst the Woolfe...you may put brode collers about theyr neckes full of nayles, and iron studdes, lyning it with soft leather within. 1585 HIGINS *Iunius' Nomencl.* 274/1 *Miliares clauiculi*,...the studs of a buckler. *a* 1593 MARLOWE *Passionate Sheph.* 18 A belt of straw and Iuie buds, With Corall clasps and Amber studs. 1596 SHAKS. *Tam. Shr.* III. ii. 63 And a womans Crupper of velure, which hath two letters for her name, fairely set down in studs. *c* 1598 DELONEY *Thomas of Reading* (1912) 220 The instruments whereon his seruants plaid, were richly garnished with studdes of siluer. 1603 STOW *Surv. Lond.* (1908) I. 57 They vsed Leather money, with a little stud or naile of siluer in the middest thereof. 1641 MILTON *Reform.* I. 27 Some of the nailes whereof hee put into his Helmet,...others he fasten'd among the studs of his bridle. 1671 — *P. R.* IV. 120 Crystal and Myrrhine cups imboss'd with Gems And studs of Pearl. 1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), *Stud*, a Nail imbossed in any thing. 1725 POPE *Odyss.* X. 375 Radiant with starry studs, a silver seat Receiv'd my limbs; a footstool eas'd my feet. 1753 HANWAY *Trav.* (1762) II. XIV. i. 342 *note*, These are the feathers of black herons stuck into a tube, supported by a stud of precious stones. 1756-7 tr. *Keysler's Trav.* (1760) II. 274 The studs used in the old mosaic-works are very large, and often covered either with silver or gold. 1784 COWPER *Task* V. 426 To wear out time in numb'ring to and fro The studs that thick emboss his iron door. 1818 KEATS *Endym.* I. 924 That time thou didst adorn, with amber studs, My hunting-cap. 1860 J. HEWITT *Arms & Arm.* II. 122 The brass of William de Aldeburgh, 1360,..offers a variety, in the studs being quatrefoil instead of round. 1867 FREEMAN *Norm. Conq.* (1876) I. vi. 517 Each bore on his left arm a shield with gilded boss and studs. *a* 1890 D. DAVIDSON *Mem. Long Life* iii. 60 The gate...is of wrought brass, the studs being elaborately chased.

transf. and *fig.* 1591 SYLVESTER *Du Bartas* I. iv. 106 So those gilt studs in th' upper story driv'n, Are nothing but the thickest part of Heav'n. 1604 BRETON *Passionate Sheph.* (Grosart) 10/2 And for her teeth, no Granam studdes, Nor like the Knagges of Blacke-therne buddes. 1694 N. H. *Ladies Dict.* 416/1 When Night has cast her Sable Mantle o're the World, the Face of Heaven...will be gay, by putting on her gaudy spots of Light, and Studs of Stars. 1821 CLARE *Vill. Minstr.* I. 48 There once were springs, when daisies' silver studs Like sheets of snow on every pasture spread.

† b. A coloured spot. *Obs.*

a 1728 WOODWARD *Nat. Hist. Fossils* I. (1729) I. 49 A Peble of a light brown Colour. In one part of it the Surface is somewhat depress'd; and there, upon a Plane, are several small oblong Studds, each near as big as a Rape-Seed, placed regularly in a Quincunx Order. 1751 G. EDWARDS *Nat. Hist. Birds* IV. 243 The great brown Caterpillar, with golden Studs.

c. *Arch.* A sculptured disk such as was used in the ornamentation of mouldings in the Late Norman period of English architecture.

1686 PLOT *Staffordsh.* 360 [The Cathedral of Lichfield] being finely adorned with Studds and carved work. 1835 WHEWELL *Archit. Notes* (1842) 282 Here we have a great abundance of those things which are excluded from the supposed first Norman style. Zigzags large and small, frets lozenged and embattled, cable-mouldings, studs, &c. 1843 BLOXAM *Princ. Gothic Archit.* iv. (ed. 5) 87 [Norman mouldings] The pellet or stud.

6. A kind of button (made of bone, ivory, mother-of-pearl or some imitation, or of metal, sometimes jewelled), which is passed through one or more eyelet-holes, either in order to fasten some article of dress, or merely for ornament.

Quot. 1555 may belong to sense 5.

1555 *Instit. Gentl.* † vij b, The Frencheman...vseth agglettes, studdes, perles embroderye, colors vpon colors. 1772 *Phil. Trans.* LXII. 235 The stud in his shirt sleeve. 1840 HOOD *Up Rhine* 110 His shirt was fastened with mosaic studs, besides a complicated sort of brooch. 1854 SURTEES *Handley Cr.* V. (1901) I. 40 He had...an infinity of studs down an ill-fitting, badly-washed shirt.

7. *Machinery.* **a.** A lug or projecting socket to receive the end of an axle, pin, etc.

1683 MOXON *Mech. Exerc., Printing* x. 89 In the middle of these two Studs is made a...Hole...to receive the two

round ends of an Iron Pin. 1688 HOLME *Armoury* III. 323/1 The end of the Spindle, which turns upon a Stud or Stand. 1825 J. NICHOLSON *Oper. Mech.* 314 This screw works in a stud M, which is screwed firmly upon the top of the stud F.

b. A short rod or pin fixed in or projecting from something, and serving as a support, axis, or stop.

1694 J. SMITH *Horolog. Disquisit.* 50 Let him fix or drive into the back of the Case a strong Stud of Brass or Iron. 1815 in *Abridgm. Specif. Patents Locks*, etc. (1873) 20 In making the wards of the lock..move or turn upon studs, pillars, or axes. 1843 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* I. 360 The ring for the outer case or cope is now laid down, and its position is denoted either by fixed studs or by marks. 1860 RIMBAULT *Pianoforte* 395 *Stud*, a metallic application to grand and other superior pianofortes, screwed into the wrest-plank to obtain an upward bearing of the string, instead of a downward one over the pin-bridge, by which clearness of tone is obtained. 1866 R. M. FERGUSON *Electr.* 236 Morse's Recording Instrument..By the attraction of A, the end *l* is lowered and brought against the stud *n*. 1871 CULLEY *Pract. Telegr.* (ed. 5) 215 The single current key may be made to send double currents by attaching a switch to the back-stop (the stud on which the key lies when at rest). 1873 NELTHROPP *Watch-work* 21 Stud, a small piece of metal designed to hold some portion of the movement, as pendulum-stud, cap-studs, &c. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* IV. 205/2 (*Carriage-building*) The plates are fitted to each other, and being forged to the required span are held in position by studs.

c. *Electric traction.*

1888 *Encycl. Brit.* XXIII. 496/1 The [electric railway] line is divided into short sections; each of these has an exposed conductor, which may be one of the rails, and this is placed in temporary contact with the insulated conductor as the train passes, by the pressure of the wheels on a flexible rail or stud. 1908 *Daily News* 14 Apr. 9 One of the principal defects has reference to the stud that supplies the current retaining its power some time after the car has passed. A 'live' stud will always be a source of danger.

d. *Gunnery.* One of a number of protuberances on the surface of a projectile to be fired from a rifled gun, placed spirally for the purpose of making the shot receive rotatory movement from the grooving of the gun.

1866 in *Parl. Papers* (1867) XLI. 809 In the last lot of 9-inch shot..there are a considerable number that appear..quite unfit for issue..as some of the studs are shapeless blotches of gun metal, scarcely projecting at all from the surface of the shot. 1876 WILL & DALTON *Artill. Hand-bk. Ref.* 228 For all projectiles for 7" M.L.R. guns and upwards the studs are made of an alloy of 10 parts of copper to 1 part of tin.

e. = *stud-bolt* (see 9).

1887 [see *stud-bolt* in 9]. 1908 MCLAREN *Mech. Engin.* 19 Studs are used where there is not room for a bolt-head.. or where it is undesirable to make a hole through both pieces of metal to be fastened together.

f. *Naut.* A transverse bar of cast-iron inserted in the middle of each link of a chain-cable.

1863 [see *stud-chain* in 9]. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk.* 1876 *Encycl. Brit.* IV. 621/2 The stud [in chain cable] keeps the link from collapsing, and increases its strength considerably.

† **III. 8.** = *stud-rope*; see 9.

1336-7 *Acc. Exch. K. R.* 19/31 m. 4 In xv. petris cord' de canabo..pro duobus stodes inde faciendis.

IV. 9. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as (sense 7 c) **stud-shot**, (sense 7 d, with reference to electric traction) **stud-line, -tramway**, (sense 7 e) **stud-hole**, (sense 7 f) **stud-chain, -link**, (sense 6) **stud-maker**; also **stud-bolt**, a cylindrical bolt, threaded at both ends, one end to be screwed into a hole tapped in a casting or the like, while the other end passes through a hole in the cover-plate, which is secured by a nut; **stud-box**, a cylindrical tool for inserting stud-bolts, having at the lower end a tapped hole and at the upper end a square shank to be operated by a spanner; **stud centre**, a stud (sense 7 b) serving as an axis; † **stud-clay** *a.* = *stud and mud* (see 1 b); **stud-fish** *U.S.*, a kind of killifish (see quot.); **stud-partition**, a partition constructed of studs (sense 1); **stud-piece**, = sense 1; **stud-wall**, a wall built of lath and plaster; † **stud-rope** *Naut.*, a rope of some kind used on a ship; † **stud-wise** *adv.* (*nonce-wd.*) with a pattern of studs (mistransl. of L. *lato clavo*); **stud-work**, building in lath and plaster.

1887 D. A. LOW *Machine Draw.* (1892) 18 Studs, or *stud bolts, are shown in figs. 15 and 16. 1894 LINEHAM *Mech. Engin.* 214 The stud hole being drilled and tapped..the stud..is entered, and a *stud box placed upon the opposite end. 1860 *Ure's Dict. Arts* III. 649 The pendent lower end of a bent lever, working on a *stud centre. 1863 A. YOUNG *Naut. Dict.* 398 *Stud-chain. 1719 in Willis & Clark *Cambridge* (1886) II. 213 A *Stud-Clay-Wall which supported ye South end of that Stable. 1882 JORDAN & GILBERT *Syn. Fishes N. Amer.* 337 *Fundulus stellifer*, Spotted *Stud-fish. 1894 *Stud-hole [see *stud-box*]. 1906 *Westm. Gaz.* 31 Jan. 3/2 This particular form of the *stud-line is..being tried for the first time. 1876 *Encycl. Brit.* IV. 621/1 Cables are sometimes made of common chain, but the best..are made of *stud-link chain. 1861 *Internat. Exhib. 1862, Alph. Lists Trades* 39 *Stud Makers. 1805 R. W. DICKSON *Pract. Agric.* I. 90 Five square of *stud-partitions. 1886 WILLIS & CLARK *Cambridge* II. 166 A passage.. separated from the dining-room by a stud-partition. 1799 A. YOUNG *Agric. Lincoln.* 35 They are commonly built of ..stud and mud; the *stud-pieces as large as a man's arm. 1336 *Acc. Exch. K. R.* 20/20 De xij. petris cordarum de Canabo..pro vno *Stodrop inde faciendo. 1867 *Jrnls. Ho. Comm.* 22 Feb. 69/2 The Report of the Commanding Officer of Artillery at Halifax, in respect to the Ordnance Select Committee's *Stud Shot sent to that Colony. 1598-9 in Willis & Clark *Cambridge* (1886) II. 477 The *studd wall that stood at the further ende. 1719 *Ibid.* II. 213 The lower part of that Stud-wall was..pulled down. 1600 HOLLAND *Livy* XXVII. xix. 643 A coat embrodered with purple *stud-wise. 1789 T. RAWLINS *Fam. Archit.* Introd. p. v, As all Persons that build are not willing to go to an equal Expence, some liking thick, others thin Walls, and some only *Stud-work. 1805 R. W. DICKSON *Pract. Agric.* I. 91 Eight square and fifty feet of stud-work. 1859 PARKER *Dom. Archit.* III. II. vii. 211 The two stories over are of timber stud-work. 1897 *Archæologia* Ser. II. V. 412 Subdivisions of lath and plaster or stud-work.

Stud (stʌd), *sb.*[2] Forms: 1 **stód, stood**, 3 **stude**, 3–7 **stode**, 4–7 **stod**, 5 **stoode**, 5–6 **studde**, 5–7 *Sc.* **stuid**, 6 **sstoode, stoude, stude**, 7 **stood**, 7–8 **studd**, 7– **stud**. [OE. *stód* neut., corresponds (exc. in declension and gender) to MLG. *stôt, stôd-*, OHG. *stuot* fem. stud of horses (MHG. *stuot* stud, mare, mod.G. *stute* mare), ON. *stóð* neut. stud of mares (Da. *stod* stud of 12 horses; MSw. *stôþ* neut. stud of mares; mod.Sw. *sto* mare):—OTeut. **stôdo-m*, **stôdô*, f. root **stō-*: **sta-*: see STAND *v.* Cf. OSl. *stado*, Lith. *stódas* stud of horses. The change of OE. *ó* before *d* into (*v*) is paralleled in *blood, flood.*]

1. An establishment in which stallions and mares are kept for breeding. Also, the stallions and mares kept in such an establishment.

c 1000 ÆLFRIC *Gloss.* in Wr.-Wülcker 119/39 *Equartium*, stood. *c* 1000 *Will of Ælfhelm* in Kemble *Cod. Dipl.* IV. 300 Ic ȝean minum wife healfes ðæs stodes æt Trostingtune and minum ȝeferan healfes ðe me mid ridað. *c* 1250 *Owl & Night.* 495 Þe sulue stottes yne þe stode Beþ bope wilde and marewode. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* III. 204 Unto his hors fulofte he yaf The men in stede of corn and chaf, So that the hors of thilke stod Devoureden the mennes blod. 1614 SIR R. BOYLE in *Lismore Papers* (1886) I. 51 Given Dick Dalton a young gelding of my stood. 1710 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4709/4 Richard Marshall, Esq; Master of her Majesty's Studd. 1725 *Bradley's Family Dict., Studd*, a place where Stallions and Mares are kept to propagate their Kind; or else the Word signifies the Stallions and breeding Mares themselves. 1831 SIR J. SINCLAIR *Corr.* II. 212 A respectable Danish gentleman, Sir Frederick Nielson, who was the master of his Danish Majesty's Stud, came to Scotland, in 1824. 1851 'CECIL' *Stud Farm* 43 It may sometimes occur with blood stock that cannot race,.. that no occupation can be found for them, and thus they find their way into the stud. 1876 VOYLE & STEVENSON *Milit. Dict.* 412/2 *Stud*, a place where horses are bred or kept. In England, the government does not, under this name, possess any such establishment. 1898 SETON-KARR *Ld. Cornwallis* V. 115 A third [order] establishes a Government Stud in the district of Tirhût.

† **b.** A collection of mares (also, rarely, of stallions) kept for breeding. *Obs.*

c 1340 *Nominale* (Skeat) 770 *Vn harasse de poleyns*, A stode of coltes. *a* 1400 *Sir Perc.* 326 He sawe a fulle faire stode Offe coltes and of meres gude. *c* 1452 *MS. Egerton* 1995 in *Trans. Philol. Soc.* 1909-10, III. 52 A Stoode of marys. *c* 1532 DU WES *Introd. Fr.* in *Palsgr.* 916 Stoude of stalons, *haras destalons.* 1537 DARCY in *Lett. Suppress. Monast.* (Camden) 158 The kynges hyenes is att greatt charge with his sstoodes off mares att Thornbery and other placys. 1547 *Acts Privy Council* (1890) II. 86 The wages of divers persons having custodie of a studde or race of mares. 1607 MARKHAM *Cavel.* I. 29, I..would wish no..man..to preserue his Mares longer in his studd, then from three yeares old till ten.

† **c.** A breed, race (of horses); also *transf. Obs.*

c 1308 *Song on the Times* in *Pol. Songs* (1839) 201 Sei thou me, asse, wat hast i-do? Me thenchith thou cannist no gode...Thou come of lither stode. 1536 BELLENDEN *Cron. Scot.* (1821) I. p. cvi, (Proheme viii.) The awfull churle is of ane othir strind. Thoucht he be borne to vilest servitude, Thair may na gentrice sink into his mind,..The bludy wolf is of the samin stude: He feris gret beistis, and ragis on the small. 1557 PHAER *Æneid* VII. (1558) T ij b, Coursers ..Engendryd of that race, whom Cyrces liuely did inuent To mixe with mortall studdes.

† **2.** Used for: Horses. *Obs.*

c 1305 *Land Cokaygne* 35 Þer nis schepe no swine no gote...Nother harate [*read* haracе], nother stode. Þe lond is ful of oþer gode. *c* 1325 *Chron. Eng.* 840 in Ritson *Metr. Rom.* II. 305 For that tresoun that hy dude Hy were to-drawen wythe stude. 1422 YONGE tr. *Secreta Secret.* 204 Alle the most Inly..tounes of leys, wyth moche of hare stode and har cornes,..he braunt and destruyet.

3. In early use: The horses bred by and belonging to one person. In later use: A number of horses (esp. race-horses or hunters) belonging to one owner.

a 1662 FULLER *Worthies, Yorks.* (1662) 187 Whereas a Stud of Horses bred in foggy fenny ground..have often a Fen in their feet, being soft and soon subject to be foundred. 1690 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 2588/4 The Stud or Breed of Horses, late belonging to Sutton Oglethorpe Esq;..are now to be disposed of there. 1740 RICHARDSON *Pamela* (1824) I. 104 After my master had dined, he took a turn into his stables to look at his stud of horses. 1814 SCOTT *Wav.* XXV, Sir Everard's letters..seldom concluded without some allusion to our hero's stud. 1846 LD. G. BENTINCK *Let.* 18 Aug. in *Daily Tel.* (1883) 10 July, Mr. Mostyn has purchased my stud. 1858 LD. J. RUSSELL in Fitzmaurice *Life Granville* (1905) I. 321 There are various speculations as to Derby's selling his stud;..the probable one is that his horses are not very good. 1863 W. C. BALDWIN *Afr. Hunting* viii. 308 My stud is now reduced to three...All my Natal nags are dead. 1910 GOLDW. SMITH *Reminisc.* ii. 22 He kept a hunting stud to the last.

punningly. 1821 LAMB *Elia* Ser. I. *Witches & Night-fears*, I confess an occasional night-mare; but I do not, as in early youth, keep a stud of them.

b. *transf.* A collection of animals of a particular kind (esp. of dogs) belonging to one person; also sometimes jocularly applied to a staff or body of persons of some particular class or function. Also, in recent use, a number of motor-cars belonging to one person.

1798 J. LAWRENCE *Treat. Horse* II. 19, I am as fond of playing with my cat, as ever was..Crebillion, who kept 30 large a stud of them. 1804 *Europ. Mag.* XLV. 365/2 This Gentleman..has a stud of beauties the representatives of those of former times, Mary Queen of Scots, Ann Bulleyn, Fair Rosamond, [etc.]. 1813 *Sporting Mag.* XLI. 172 A gentleman in Hampshire,..having a large stud of sows. 1828 *Ibid.* N.S. XXI. 187 The symmetry..exhibited by some of the studs of greyhounds. 1833 NYREN *Yng. Cricketer's Tutor* (1902) 75 These four were our tip-top men, and I think such another stud was not to be matched in the whole kingdom, either before or since. 1854 *Poultry Chron.* I. 527, I had last year, a good stud of Partridge Cochins, which produced good chickens. 1899 *19th Cent.* May 816 Knowing the difficulties one meets with before one possesses a stud of reliable homers. 1907 *Motoring Illustr.* 16 Mar. 79/1 King Edward never goes on his travels unless accompanied by one or more of his numerous stud of motor-cars. 1908 *Advt.*, Fine stud of motor-cars for hire.

4. † **a.** [Short for STUD-MARE: cf. G. *stute*, Sw. *sto.*] A mare kept for breeding. *Sc. Obs. rare.*

c 1480 HENRYSON *Trial of Fox* xxix, Ga, mak ane message sone vnto that stuid. [Cf. *ante* xxviii, Thay said, 'Nane, except ane stuid gray meir.'] 1570 BUCHANAN *Admonit.* Wks. (1892) 31 Thay blamit opinlie the regent that reservit the quene..as yai said..to be ane stude to cast ma folis.

b. *U.S.* [Short for STUD-HORSE.] A stallion.

1803 M. CUTLER in *Life, Jrnl. & Corr.* (1888) II. 142 The famous white stud, an Arabian horse, called the Dey of Algiers, on the ground. 1807 P. GASS *Jrnl.* 201 Remained here all day and had a great deal of trouble with our horses, as they are all studs, and break almost every rope we can raise. 1891 C. ROBERTS *Adrift Amer.* 183 He was a stud, and as fine a horse of his class as I ever saw.

5. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as (sense 1) **stud department, -farm, -keeper, -park**; denoting animals kept for breeding, as **stud-greyhound, -hound, -sheep**, (sense 3) **stud sale**. Also **stud-book**, a book giving the pedigree of thoroughbred horses; also, in recent use, a similar book relating to dogs or occasionally to other animals valued for pedigree; **stud-bred** *Anglo-Indian*, a horse bred in the government stud; † **stud-fold**, an enclosure in which broodmares are pastured; **stud-groom**, the head groom attached to a stud; † **stud-herd**, the servant in charge of a stud; **stud-house**, a building for the accommodation of a stud; also, in England, the name of the official residence of the Master of the Horse at Hampton Court; **studman**, a servant attached to the stud; **stud-poker** = *stud-horse poker* (see STUD-HORSE 2); **studsman**, a horse-breeder. Also STUD-HORSE, STUD-MARE.

1803 (*title*) The General *Stud Book, containing pedigrees of race horses, &c. &c. from the restoration to the present time. 1897 *Encycl. Sport* I. 210 *Stud Book*, the official registry of running and breeding greyhounds. 1906 (*title*) The United States Register and Studbook for Cats. 1879 MRS. A. E. JAMES *Ind. Househ. Managem.* 69 These *stud-breds were then in good demand. 1886 KIPLING *Departm. Ditties*, etc. (1899) 99 Ah I stud-bred of ill-omen. 1876 VOYLE & STEVENSON *Milit. Dict.* 413/1 Officers of the army specially appointed, belonging to the *stud department. 1833 *Q. Rev.* XLIX. 423 His lordship has also at his *stud-farm, in Derbyshire, the renowned horses Priam and Zinganee. *c* 950 *Boundaries of Baddanburh* in Kemble *Cod. Dipl.* VI. 213 Of ðam wylle on ðone *stodfald. 1558 *Exch. Rolls Scot.* XIX. 62 [48*s.*] de firmis domus tecte tegulis et stodfaldis. 1868 *Field* 4 July 21/2 Advt., *Stud Greyhounds. 1737 J. CHAMBERLAYNE *St. Gt. Brit.* II. (ed. 33) 241 At Hampton Court, 2 *Studd Grooms. 1833 *Q. Rev.* XLIX. 385 Mr. Place, stud-groom to Cromwell, was a conspicuous character of those days. 1884 *Law Rep.*, 13 Q. B. Div. 621 No one would think of requiring a stud-groom to groom cart horses. 1853 R. S. SURTEES *Sponge's Sp. Tour* VI. (1893) 31 Leather.. turned out in a very stud-groomish-looking, basket-buttoned, brown cut-away. 1458 *Mem. Fountains* (Surtees) 252 (Nomina famulorum) Rob. West, *studherd. 1826 J. COOK *Foxhunting* 227 *Stud hounds. 1829 *Sporting Mag.* XXIV. 229 The great Ducal *stud-house at Florence is a fine and spacious building. 1911 *19th Cent.* Sept. 541 The King was dining with Lord and Lady Albemarle at the Stud House, Hampton Court. 1569 *Ir. Act* 11 *Eliz.* c. 7 (1621) 331 Nor shall as a Captaine..take or exacte for the finding of him or them their Horsemen, Footemen..*Stodekeepers, Officers, or adherentes..any kinde of Exaction. 1545 in *Lett. & Papers Hen. VIII* (1907) XX. II. 515 Matt. de Mantua, *studman, 4*l.* 11*s.* 3*d.* 1875 R. H. R. *Rambles in Istria* 58 A *stud-park which the Emperor of Austria keeps in this part of his dominions. 1882 *Poker; how to play it* 75 *Stud Poker..is played in this manner. 1854 SURTEES *Handley Cr.* lx. (1901) II. 145 Advertisements were inserted in all the papers,..headed 'Great *Stud Sale'. 1908 *Chamb. Jrnl.* Nov. 704/1 Australian flock-owners are willing to pay enormous prices for Tasmanian *stud-sheep. 1902 E. A. WOODRUFFE-PEACOCK *Thoroughbreds* 16 Few graziers and no *studsmen can recognise this dangerous fungus in their paddocks.

Stud (stʌd), *v.* Forms: 6 **studd**, 7 **stood, styd**, 7– **stud**. [f. STUD *sb.*[1]]

1. *trans.* To supply with studs or upright timbers; to build with studs.

1505-6 in Swayne *Churchw. Acc. Sarum* (1896) 260 Pro bredyng & dabyng & studdyng murorum in diuersis stadiis. 1511 *Nottingham Rec.* III. 330 Settyng vp and studdyng of an other hous. 1849 NOAD *Electricity* (ed. 3) 336 Within the walls are to be studded, to protect from cold and damp.

2. To ornament or cover with or as with studs, bosses, or nail heads.

1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 183/2 To studde, *baccis ornare, geminare* [read *gemmare*]. 1596 SHAKS. *Tam. Shr.* Induct. ii. 44 Their harnesse studded all with Gold and Pearle. 1624 GEE *Foot out of Snare* v. 51 A gold Hat-band studded with letters or Characters. 1643 BAKER *Chron., Hen. V*, 48 The King..appointed divers stakes studded with iron at both ends..to be pitched behinde the Archers. 1649 JER. TAYLOR *Gt. Exemp.* II. Disc. vii. 36 God hath studded all the Firmament, and paved it with starres. 1664 POWER *Exp. Philos.* I. 4 The Common Fly..her body is as it were from head to tayl studded with silver and black Armour. 1675 COVEL in *Early Voy. Levant* (Hakl. Soc.) 229 Severall round looking-glasses with gold frames..and stydded with pretious stones. 1715 tr. *Pancirollus' Rerum Mem.* I. II. vi. 74 Their Gates were studded with Nails of the brightest Iron. 1735 DYCHE & PARDON *Dict., Stud* v., to fill or ornament any thing with Studs, or small Wire, &c. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* VIII. 140 Most travellers who have gone through sandy countries, must well remember the little shining sparks with which the ditches are studded on each side of the road. 1790 COWPER *Iliad* XIX. 452 First to his legs his polish'd greaves he clasp'd Studded with silver. 1820 SCOTT *Monast.* I. A strong door of oak, studded with nails. 1823 RUTTER *Fonthill* 41 The furniture of this room is entirely of ebony, studded with ivory. 1832–4 DE QUINCEY *Cæsars* Wks. 1859 X. 231 His sandals were studded with pearls. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. VI. iii. Leather girdles studded with copper nails. 1845 G. DODD *Brit. Manuf.* Ser. IV. 105 From the designs the barrels are studded and thus made ready for the loom. 1891 *Leeds Mercury* 27 Apr. 4/7 The..sleeves studded thickly over with tiny glittering silver sequins.

3. To set (a surface) with a number of protuberant or conspicuous objects. Also with *over*.

1790 W. WRIGHTE *Grotesque Archit.* 6 The outside to be composed of..irregular stones, and studded with small pebbles. 1796 WITHERING *Brit. Plants* (ed. 3) IV. 300 [*Agaricus glandulosus*] Gills white, their sides studded with globular glands. 1804 C. B. BROWN tr. *Volney's View U.S.* 71 The summit is..thickly studded with trees. 1835 DICKENS *Sk. Boz, River*, The river is studded with boats of all sorts, kinds, and descriptions. 1843 R. J. GRAVES *Syst. Clin. Med.* xiv. 161 The chest, arms and hands studded with florid maculæ. 1847 C. BRONTË *Jane Eyre* i, The coast of Norway, studded with isles from its southern extremity..to the North Cape. 1861 READE *Cloister & H.* vii. (1896) 23 The windows and balconies were studded with wondering faces. 1877 HUXLEY *Physiogr.* 194 Mount Etna is remarkable for having its flanks studded with parasitic cones. 1885 *Law Times' Rep.* LIII. 385/1 The line of country through which they were going was studded with buildings and manufactories. 1898 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* V. 1012 Both lungs were studded with tubercle.

b. *rarely* in immaterial sense.

1849 Miss MULOCK *Ogilvies* xvii, Pennythorne's conversation was studded with execrable jokes. 1874 J. S. BLACKIE *Self-Cult.* 83 The method of teaching by concrete examples, with which the Scriptures are so richly studded.

4. Of things: **a.** To be fixed in (a surface) in the manner of studs. **b.** To be placed at intervals over (a surface).

1652 BENLOWES *Theoph.* VII. xix, The stars..That stud the luminated sphere. 1682 N. O. *Boileau's Lutrin* I. 5 Her rich Face sparkling Rubies studded over. 1697 DRYDEN *Æneis* III. 175 We pass the scatter'd Isles of Cyclades; That, scarce distinguish'd, seem to stud the Seas. *a* 1763 SHENSTONE *Odes* etc. (1765) 282 As when a shepherd..surveys his less'ning flock In snowy groups diffusive, stud the vale. 1836 W. IRVING *Astoria* I. 15 This..system of internal seas ..was studded by the remote posts of the company. 1845 GOSSE *Ocean* iv. (1849) 178 Of all the constellations that stud the sky of the southern hemisphere, there is none that more strikes a stranger than the Southern Cross. 1854 SURTEES *Handley Cr.* x. (1901) I. 84 After passing the long line of villas that stud the road in the Mount Sion direction. 1906 CORNFORD *Defenceless Isl.* 71 Coaling-stations stud the ocean highways of the world. 1911 G. ELLIOT SMITH *Anc. Egyptians* vi. 91 The Arab, having little or no moustache, removed the few hairs that studded his upper lip.

5. To insert or place (a number of things) at intervals over a surface.

1856 STANLEY *Sinai & Pal.* i. (1858) 99 The little shrubs, which had more or less sprinkled the whole Arabah, were more thickly studded. 1881 'RITA' *My Lady Coquette* iv, The stars are thickly studded in the dim deep blue of the sky. 1895 *Scott. Antiquary* X. 79 Around the firesides of the cottages, which were studded over the moor.

6. *Mech.* To secure with studs. 1911 WEBSTER.

Stud, obs. pa. t. of STAND *v.*

Studded (stʌ·dĕd), *ppl. a.* [f. STUD *v.* and *sb.*1 + -ED.]

1. Set with or as with studs or large-headed nails.

1591 PERCIVALL *Sp. Dict., Tachonado*, studded, nailed, *Bullatus, clauatus.* 1592 SHAKS. *Ven. & Ad.* 37 The studded bridle on a ragged bough, Nimbly she fastens. 1663 COWLEY *Hymn to Light* xix. Verses & Ess. (1669) 37 A Crown of studded Gold thou bear'st. 1696 MANDEY & MOXON *Mech. Powers* IX. i. (1699) 176 A Studded Wheel is, that in whose Periphery little Sphæres, or Convex Hemisphæres are disposed, or the Concaves are made hollow answering to the Convexes in the other Wheel. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* III. 555 Swift Rivers are with sudden Ice constrain'd; And studded Wheels are on its back sustain'd. *a* 1776 J. ELLIS *Zoophytes* (1786) 16 *Flustra bullata.* Studded Sea Matt. 1804 J. GRAHAME *Sabbath* 281 That house, with studded doors, And iron-visor'd windows. 1805 SCOTT *Last Minstr.* I. xvii, Orion's studded belt is dim. 1845 G. DODD *Brit. Manuf.* Ser. IV. 106 The horizontal warp-threads, with the studded barrel..over them, form what we may term the permanent furniture of the carpet weaver's loom. 1860 J. HEWITT *Arms & Arm.* II. 122 Studded armour is found during this [the 14th] century.

b. Of a surface: Diversified by a number of prominent or conspicuous objects.

1823 BYRON *Island* II. xi, The lightly-launch'd canoe Which stemm'd the studded archipelago.

2. Built with studs or upright laths.

1805 R. W. DICKSON *Pract. Agric.* I. 94 Five square of studded partitions.

3. *Arch.* Of a moulding: Ornamented with studs.

1843 BLOXAM *Princ. Gothic Archit.* iv. (ed. 5) 87 [Norman mouldings] The studded trellis. 1855 *Man. Gothic Mouldings* 21 The studded patterns are of endless variety, the round studs receiving crosses, circles, or stars, according to the sculptor's pleasure. 1866 PARKER *Concise Gloss. Terms Archit.* 151 The Star, the Billeted Cable, the Nebule, the Studded, the Indented, the Scolloped, and other mouldings.

4. Of a projectile: Furnished with studs. (See STUD *sb.*1 7 c.)

1870 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 24 Oct. 12 It is an easy and popular error to suppose that a lead-coated tightly fitting shot must shoot better than a studded shot.

5. *Naut.* Of the links of a chain: Strengthened with studs.

1901 J. BLACK *Scaffolding* 88 Crane chain, with short links, may be proved to fourteen tons, and cable chain, with studded links, to eighteen tons.

6. *U.S.* In parasynthetic adjs.: *high-studded, low-studded,* having a great or small 'stud' or vertical dimension. (See STUD *sb.*1 3.)

1787 M. CUTLER in *Life, Jrnls. & Corr.* (1888) I. 269 It is a very large chamber, and high studded. 1884 HOWELLS *Silas Lapham* iii. 54 Certainly, have the parlours high-studded. .. Have the entrance-story low studded. 1891 *Harper's Mag.* Dec. 119/1 The roof of the house slanted from back to front, so that the two rooms were lower studded than the studio.

†**Stu·ddery.** *Obs.* [f. STUD *sb.*2 + -ERY.] A place for keeping mares and stallions for breeding.

1587 HARRISON *England* III. i. 220/2 in *Holinshed,* King Henrie the eight erected a noble studderie and for a time had verie good successe with them.

Studdie: see STITHY, STUDY.

Studding (stʌ·din), *vbl. sb.* [f. STUD *v.* + -ING.1]

1. The woodwork of a lath and plaster wall or partition; also *pl.* wood cut into battens for use as studs.

1588 in *Archæologia* LXIV. 366 Lett to Fogg all the studding and particions over the hall as for XXS. 1823 P. NICHOLSON *Pract. Builder* App. 70 Deal Battenings or Studdings, as they are called in many parts of the kingdom, are of various descriptions. 1868 *Rep. U.S. Commissioner Agric.* (1869) 277 Walls..clapboarded on the outside of the studding. 1899 KIPLING *Stalky* iii. 72 The rough studding of the lath and plaster wall under the dormer.

2. That with which a surface is studded.

1844 N. PATERSON *Manse Gard.* iii. 336 The crocus..is.. perfectly beautiful as studding to a piece of smooth green sward. 1895 *Outing* XXVII. 217/2 All were lovely, with their studdings of islands and brightly-tinted shores.

3. *U.S.* The height (of a room) from floor to ceiling; = STUD *sb.*1 3.

1884 HOWELLS *Silas Lapham* iii. 54 Lapham promptly developed his ideas of black walnut finish, high studding, and cornices.

Studding sail. Also 6 *Sc.* stoytene-, 7 studin-, 8 stutting-sail; and see STUNSAIL. [Of obscure etymology.

The earliest recorded form seems to point to adoption from MDu. or MLG. *stōtinge,* but this word is known only as n. of action from *stōten* to push, thrust, collide. Cf. however Du. *stootlap* sail-lining, *stootkant* border, which have some affinity of sense with the Eng. word. It has been suggested that the synonymous OF. *estuinc, estoinc, estouin* (mod.F. *†estouine,* 18th c.) may be an adoption of the Teut. word, the medial dental disappearing according to phonetic law. This, however, is not certain; the ordinary F. word for studding-sail is *bonnette à étui,* which suggests a derivation of *estuinc* from *estui* (mod.F. *étui*). The Breton *misan a studincq,* studding-sail, is adopted from English.

The ordinary nautical pronunciation is STUNSAIL.]

A sail set beyond the leeches of any of the principal sails during a fair wind.

1549 *Compl. Scot.* vi. (1873) 42 The galliasse pat furtht hir stoytene sales. *a* 1618 RALEGH *Invent. Shipping* 16 To the courses we have devised studding Sayles, Top gallant Sayles [etc.]. 1627 CAPT. SMITH *Sea Gram.* vii. 31 There is also.. in a faire gaile your studding sailes, which are bolts of Canuasse..wee extend alongst the side of the maine saile, and boomes it out with a boome or long pole. 1661 *St. Papers Dom. Chas. II* (P.R.O.) 6 May, No. 10, 2 studin sayles ould. 1687 A. LOVELL tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* II. 2 Being fair before the Wind, so that no Sails but the Main and Main-Top-Sails could bear, we put out our Stutting Sails. 1779 W. KING *Cook's 3rd Voy.* VI. viii. III. 392 At two, we set studding-sails, and steered West; but the wind increasing to a gale, soon obliged us to double reef the topsails. 1836 MARRYAT *Midsh. Easy* xxxiii, The Aurora was under way, with studding sails below and aloft, standing out of the roads. *c* 1860 H. STUART *Seaman's Catech.* 20 When are studdingsails used? In fair and free winds.

attrib. 1743 BULKELEY & CUMMINS *Voy. S. Seas* 10 Got up a lower Studding-Sail-Boom of 40 Feet, & hoisted a Sail to keep the Ship to. 1834 MARRYAT *P. Simple* xxviii, He sent the topman down into the top for a tail-block and the studding-sail haulyards, made a whip, and lowered me on deck. 1840 R. H. DANA *Bef. Mast* i, The next day we were employed in preparations for sea, reeving studding-sail gear, crossing royal yards. 1867 SMYTH *Sailor's Word-bk., Studding-sail Yard,* the spar to which the head of the studding-sail is extended. 1874 BEDFORD *Sailor's Pocket Bk.* x. (ed. 2) 307 Studding-sail boom, *Bout de bonnette.*

Studdle (stʌ·d'l), *sb.* Forms: 1 stodl, stodle (*or* -la), 4 stoydel, 5 stedulle, stodul, studdul, -yll, 6 stoayll, studill, studle, 7– studdle. [OE. *stodl* masc., *stodle* or *-la* wk. fem. or masc.; = ON. *stuðill* masc., prop, related to STUD *sb.*1]

†**1.** A post. *Obs.*

a 1050 *Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 280/14 *Postes,* durstocl. 1368 *Ely Sacrist Roll* in *Parker's Gloss. Archit.* (1850) I. 449 In 60 arboribus quercinis empt' pro stoydels et tignis, 25*s.*

†**2.** *Weaving.* One of the upright posts of a loom. *Obs.*

a 1100 *Gerefa* in *Anglia* IX. 263 He sceal fela tola..habban ..stodlan. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 476/2 Stodul, or stedulle, of wevynge, *telarium.* 1562 *Richmond Wills* (Surtees) 156 A pece of clothe in studles, xiiij *s.* *Ibid.,* A pare of studles. 1615 BRATHWAIT *Strappado* 193 One to the studdles goes, the next begins To rauell for new wefte.

3. *Mining.* (See quot. 1881.)

1757 BORLASE *Earthquake* in *Phil. Trans.* L. 503 In Herland mine,..the noise was heard 55 and 60 fathom deep, as if a studdle had broke, and the deads were set a running. 1875 J. H. COLLINS *Metal Mining* 38 Sometimes short corner pieces called 'studdles' are placed upright to keep the sets their proper distance apart. 1881 RAYMOND *Mining Gloss., Studdles,* Corn. 1. Props supporting the middle of stulls. 2. Distance-pieces between successive frames of timbering.

†**4.** = STADDLE *sb.* 6. (? A misreading of that word.) *Obs.*

1635 L. FOX *N.-W. Fox* 216 We found the broad footing of Deere, and hard by them, the frame of a Tent standing, which had lately been made, with the studdle of a fire, the haire of Deere, and bones of fowle, left heere.

Studdle (stʌ·d'l), *v. dial. trans.* To stir up (water) so as to make thick and muddy (Wilts Gloss. 1893).

1852 KINGSLEY *Lett. & Life* (1877) I. 345 Some rascal's been 'studdling' the water.

Studdy, studde: see STITHY, STUDY.

Stude, obs. f. STEAD *sb.*; obs. pa. t. of STAND *v.*

Studelfast, var. STATHELFAST.

a 1225 *Juliana* 74 þat stont studelfast.

Studency (stiū·dĕnsi). [f. STUDENT + -CY.] = STUDENTSHIP 1.

a 1801 G. WAKEFIELD *Mem.* (1804) I. 59 Dr. Jeffries,..then a canon of Christ-church, kindly offered his assistance in procuring for me a studency in that house.

Student (stiū·dĕnt). Forms: *α.* 4–5 **studiaunt,** 4–6 **studiant**(e, 5 **studyaunt**(e, *Sc* -and, 6 **steudiant**; 4–6 **studiente,** 4–8 **studient,** 5–6 **studyent**(e, 6 **stewdyent.** *β.* 5–6 **studente,** 5– **student.** [In the *α* forms, var. of ESTUDIANT, a. OF. *estudiant, estudient,* mod.F. *étudiant* (= Pr. *estudian,* Sp. *estudiante,* Pg. *estudante,* It. *studiante, studiente*), subst. use of pr. pple. of *estudier, étudier* to STUDY; in the mod. (*β*) form, ad. L. *student-em,* pr. pple. of *studēre,* to be eager, zealous, or diligent, to study; cf. It. *studente,* Du., G., Sw., Da. *student.*]

1. A person who is engaged in or addicted to study. Const. *of, in,* or with defining word prefixed, indicating the subject studied. Also with adj. of degree, as *close, deep,* †*good, great, hard student.*

α. 1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* VIII. xxvii. (Tollemache MS.) He [Mercurius] makeþ men studientes in science of numbris, and ioueris þerof. 1450–80 tr. *Secreta Secret.* xxviii. 21 He that is a parfit studiaunt in that science. 1557 NORTH *Guevara's Dialt Pr.* 98 We se it by experyence, that the greate studiantes are persecuted more wyth sycknes, then any others. 1601 SHAKS. *Twel. N.* IV. ii. 91 I am not.. leane enough to bee thought a good Studient.

β. 1432–50 tr. *Higden* (Rolls) I. 13 Not vnprofitable to goode studentes [*non inutilem studiosis*]. 1529 MORE *Dyaloge* II. i. Wks. 178/1 No student in scripture should presume to trye examine, and iudge the catholike faith of Christes churche by the scripture. 1559 *Mirr. Mag., Dk. Clarence* xxxviii, I know thou musest at this lore of mine, How I no student, should haue learned it. *a* 1568 ASCHAM *Scholem.* II. (Arb.) 129, I haue heard worthie M. Cheke many tymes say; I would haue a good student passe and iorney through all Authors both Greke and Latin. 1660 I. H *B. Valentine's Triumphant Chariot* 21 Moreover the courteous & favourable student of Art, ought to know the several sorts and kinds of Antimony. 1712 STEELE *Spect.* No. 526 ₱ 3 Lest this hard Student should one time or other crack his Brain with studying. 1822 SHELLEY tr. *Calderon's Mag. Prodig.* I. 86, I see Both by your dress and by the books in which You find delight and company, that you Are a great student. 1857 J. HULLAH *Rudim. Mus. Gram.* 2 The student should sing, or play..this scale of *Do,* until he is thoroughly familiar with the sound of it. 1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* I. v. 42 My position was in every way worthy of a student of nature. 1885 *Contemp. Rev.* Jan. 136 Guyard was well known in England by all Assyriological students.

2. A person who is undergoing a course of study and instruction at a university or other place of higher education or technical training. Also const. *of, in* (a subject); often with defining word prefixed, as *art, law, medical student.*

α. *c* 1430 *Pilgr. Lyf Manhode* I. lxxxiv. (1869) 48 Now sey me..if ther be many studyauntes, and how gret the citees ben. 1456 SIR G. HAYE *Law Arms* (S.T.S.) 95 Quhethir a studyand may lefully be haldin in prisoun. 1509 FISHER *Funeral Serm. C tess Richmond* Wks. (1876) 301 The studyentes of bothe the vnyuersytees to whome she was as a moder. 1547 *Househ. Bk. Edw. VI* in *Trevelyan Papers* (Camden) 195 Nicholas Bacon, studiant at the Lawe. 1564 J. MARTIALL *Treat. Crosse* title, By Iohn Martiall Bachiler of Lawe and Studient in Diuinitie. 1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* X. 443 Flockes of Studientes, that ouer-swarme the whole land. *a* 1661 FULLER *Worthies, Norf.* (1662) 250 He was..entered a Studient of the Municipal-law in the Inner-Temple. 1770 LUCKOMBE *Hist. Printing* 61 William Rastall..became a studient in Lincoln's Inn.

β. **1474** CAXTON *Chesse* III. v. g vij, The Joly felawes that were students promysed to the woman a besaunte yf she myght or coude torne the corage of ypocras for to haue to doon wyth her. **1477** *Rolls of Parlt.* VI. 192/1 The studentes in the Universitees of Oxon and Cambrigge. **1553** T. WILSON *Rhet.* III. (1562) 83 b, When I was in Cambridge, and student in the kinges College. **1629** WADSWORTH *Pilgr.* iii. 16 Now let vs come to the Collegiates or Students, and their diet. *a* **1700** EVELYN *Diary* an. 1637, Authors (it seems) desired by the students of divinity there [Balliol Coll.]. **1781** GIBBON *Decl. & F.* xvii. II. 40 After a regular course of education, which lasted five years, the students dispersed themselves through the provinces. **1845** W. B. S. TAYLOR *Hist. Univ. Dublin* 149 Provided the student be of two years' standing in the university. **1860** *N. Brit. Rev.* XXXIII. 78 The students at the Scottish universities..usually reside either in furnished lodgings or are boarded in private families. **1886** C. BIGG *Chr. Platonists Alexandria* ii. 42 This was the famous Catechetical School...The students were of both sexes, of very different ages. **1895** RASHDALL *Univ. Europe* II. ii. 605 The medieval student in Arts was usually much younger than the modern undergraduate.

3. a. At Christ Church, Oxford: A member of the foundation, corresponding to the 'fellow' or 'scholar' of other colleges.

Since 1882 the title is restricted to the senior members. Before that date the two groups were distinguished as *Senior* and *Junior Students* respectively.

1651 LANGBAINE *Found. Univ. Oxf.* 12 He [Henry VIII] established therein a Dean, 8 Canons, 3 publick Professors of Divinity, Hebrew, and Greek, 60 Students, eight Chaplains. *a* **1672** A. WOOD *Life* (O.H.S.) I. 47 In the beginning of this yeare [1638] his eldest brother Thomas Wood..became one of the students of Christ Church,..he being then 14 yeares of age. *a* **1700** EVELYN *Diary* 24 Oct. 1672, Mr. Lock, an excellent learned gentleman and student of Christ Church. **1858** *Ordinances Oxf. Univ. Comm., Ch. Ch.* § 6 The Senior Students shall be persons of unblemished character, *Ibid.* § 17 If in the judgment of the electors to open Studentships he shall not be in all respects fit to be a Student of the House.

b. A person who receives emoluments, during a fixed period, from a college or other institution, or from a special fund, to enable him to pursue his studies and as a reward of merit.

1800 *Camb. Univ. Cal.* 37 Gonvil or Caius College..[4 names] Students in Physic., **1814** *Hist. Univ. Camb.* (ed. 2) 55 Gonville and Caius College...There are also four Studentships..for students in physic: these students are required to take their degree of Bachelor in Physic as soon as they are of sufficient standing. **1888** *Camb. Univ. Cal.* 512 Gonville and Caius College..Frank Smart Student [1 name].

†4. Const. *for.* One who strives after or studies to attain (an object or end). *Obs. rare.*

1545 ASCHAM *Toxoph.* I. (Arb.) 39 Wherein they both agre, that Musicke vsed amonges the Lydians is verie ill for yong men, which be studentes for vertue and learning. **1615** CHAPMAN *Odyss.* XII. 467 So long, not a head Of all those Oxen, fell in any strife Amongst those students for the gut, and life [τόφρα βοῶν ἀπέχοντο ἁλαιόμενοι βιότοιο].

5. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *student-life, -song*; appositive, as *student-monk, -preacher*; *student-like* adj.

a **1593** MARLOWE *Massacre at Paris* 140 Paris hath full fiue hundred Colledges..Besides a thousand sturdy student Catholicks. **1841** W. HOWITT (*title*) The Student-life of Germany:..containing nearly forty of the most famous Student Songs. **1870** RUSKIN *Lect. Art* v. 135 Not one [drawing] is weak or studentlike—all are evidently master's work. **1886** WILLIS & CLARK *Cambridge* I. Introd. p. lxxxiii, Foundation of Gloucester House for student-monks. **1889** *Hardwicke's Sci.-Gossip* XXV. 127 Mr. Ralfs has an abundant store of anecdotes relating to his student-days. **1905** HOLMAN-HUNT *Pre-Raph.* I. 49 Mulready was most painstaking and student-like. **1912** G. W. E. RUSSELL *Edward King* ii. 29 The student-preacher of a written sermon..before the College [at Cuddesdon] had the right to dine at the Vicarage, and receive a detailed criticism after dinner.

b. Special comb.: **student interpreter**, a civil servant who is appointed to undergo a course of instruction in foreign languages in order to qualify for a post in the diplomatic or consular service; hence *student interpretership*; **student('s) lamp**, an argand lamp with an elevated reservoir which automatically controls the flow of oil.

1872 *Parl. Paper* (title) Return of *Student Interpreters in China, Japan, and Siam: 1847–72. **1884** (*title*) Civil Service Commission. Open Competition for *Student Interpreterships in China and Japan. **1875** KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.*, *Student's Lamp. **1881** C. A. YOUNG *Sun* 249 Like the shade of a student-lamp.

Hence **Stu·dentdom**, the community of students. **Stu·dentess**, a female student. **Stu·denthood**, **Stu·dentism**, the condition of being a student. **Stu·dentless** *a.*, having no students.

18.. *Colburn's Mag.* (Flügel), The vices of *studentdom. **1899** *Scotsman* 2 June 4/5 Restrictions imposed by the authorities are such as to drive the whole of Russian studentdom into a common camp of protest. *c* **1870** STEVENSON *Let.* in *Westm. Gaz.* (1895) 13 July 10/1 Miss —— and the rest of our fellow-*studentesses. **1904** *Contemp. Rev.* Mar. 367 His own [lectures] on Job, the Psalms,..and other Old Testament subjects drew only students and German and Russian studentesses. **1910** SIR H. JOHNSTON *Brit. across Seas, Africa* Pref. p. v, A concise history..which would not be too abstruse for young students,..nor yet too lacking in technical information to be of service to those who had left *student-hood behind. **1848** *Blackw. Mag.* LXIV. 530 Burghers and merchants..who, since the days of their *studentism, had fattened on tobacco and beer. **1899** J. C. SMITH *Wallace's Buchanan* vi. 129 St. Leonard's College..in the first year was *studentless.

Studental (stiūde·ntăl), *a. rare.* [f. STUDENT + -AL.] Belonging to, resembling, characteristic of, a student:

1660 S. FISHER *Rusticks Alarm* Wks. (1679) 469 O ye Studental, more then truly Prudential searchers of the Scriptures. **1890** D. EMBLETON *Addr. Durham Coll. Med.* 5 The studental mind has been gradually expanding in power.

Studential (stiūde·nshăl), *a. rare*⁻¹. [f. STUDENT + -IAL.] Of or belonging to a student.

1822 R. POLLOK in D. Pollok *Life* 132, I was free..from all studential fetters.

Studentry (stiū·dĕntri). *rare.* [f. STUDENT + -RY.] Students collectively; a body of students.

1830 W. TAYLOR *Hist. Surv. Germ. Poetry* III. 170 Here was..a considerable population to observe, and a manlier studentry to mingle with: and Schiller began to question many of his former points of view. **1853** KINGSLEY *Hypatia* xvi, The huge broad blade, at the ominous brown stains of which the studentry recoiled.

Studentship (stiū·dĕntˌșip). [See -SHIP.]

1. A position, usually stipendiary, the holding of which constitutes a person a 'student': see STUDENT 3 a, b.

a **1782** T. NEWTON *Life & Anecd.* 18 Knowing the fellowships of Trinity College to be much more valuable than the studentships of Christ Church. **1814** *Hist. Univ. Camb.* (ed. 2) 55 Gonville and Caius College...There are also four Studentships..for students in physic. **1838** *Penny Cycl.* XII. 482/1 A studentship, worth about 100*l* a year, to be held for eight years, was founded by Christopher Tancred, Esq., for four students, to be educated in the study of the law at Lincoln's Inn. **1858** *Ordinances Oxf. Univ. Comm., Ch. Ch.* § 2 In place of the hundred and one Studentships now existing..there shall be established and maintained within the House twenty-eight Senior Studentships and fifty-two Junior Studentships. **1882** *Nature* 26 Oct. 631/2 That the proceeds of the fund be applied to establish a studentship, the holder of which shall devote himself to original research in biology. **1883** *Pall Mall Gaz.* 14 Dec. 4/1 The medal carries with it a travelling studentship for travel and study abroad, of the value of £200 per annum, tenable for one year.

2. *gen.* The condition or fact of being a student.

1881 *Scribner's Monthly* XXII. 235 It was..during Lepage's studentship in the Latin Quarter that he was first attracted to Jean-François Millet. **1914** *Q. Rev.* Jan. 89 Hartleben..refused to outgrow the noisy youth of studentship.

†Studgi, *v. Obs.* (only in the 'Katharine group'). [App. a variant of ME. *stude* (ü), STEAD *v.* The etymological import of the *-gi* is uncertain; it may be due to the analogy of verbs like OE. *blódgian, syngian* (q.v. under BLOODY *v.*, SIN *v.*).] *intr.* To stop, hesitate, delay. = STEAD *v.* 7.

a **1225** *Juliana* 72 Schendeð hire nuðen ant ȝeldeð hire ȝarewborh ne studgi ȝe neauer. *a* **1225** *Leg. Kath.* 1264 Hwi studgi ȝe nu, & steuentið se stille? *a* **1225** *St. Marher.* 9 Þe mone ant te steorren he walcnið biðe weolene, ne stutteð ne studgeð.

Stu·d-horse. [f. STUD *sb.*² + HORSE. Cf. ON. *stóðhross.*]

1. A stallion kept for breeding.

c **1000** *Sax. Leechd.* III. 276 Ȝyf mon mæte þæt he feola stod horsa habbe. **1598** *Extracts Munic. Acc. Newcastle* (1848) 46 Paid for their stoude horses meate, 5*s.* **1833** *Q. Rev.* XLIX. 414 His lordship..at present has the stud-horse Lamplighter. **1891** C. ROBERTS *Adrift Amer.* 185 He..challenged four stud-horses that belonged to us.

2. U.S. *Stud-horse poker*: a variety of the game of poker.

1891 C. ROBERTS *Adrift Amer.* 152 Every saloon had a gambling room, where poker, stud-horse poker, faro,..were usually hard at it.

Studiable (stū·diăb'l), *a. nonce-wd.* [f. STUDY *v.* + -ABLE.] Fit to be studied.

1858 CARLYLE *Fredk. Gt.* X. v. (1872) III. 254 This Voltaire-Friedrich Correspondence..now fallen drearily extinct—studiable by Editors only.

†Stu·dial. *Obs. rare*⁻¹. [? f. STUDY *v.* + -AL.] ? A state of perplexity or uncertainty.

a **1513** FABYAN *Chron.* VII. ccxli. (1811) 283 Wherwithall the duke was put to such a studyall & fere, that he was forsed to seke meanys of treaty & of peace.

Studiant, -aunt, obs. forms of STUDENT.

Studie, obs. form of STITHY, STUDY.

Studied (stū·did), *ppl. a.* Also 7 **studdied.** [f. STUDY *v.* + -ED ¹.]

1. Resulting from, or characterized by, deliberate effort or intention; produced or acquired by study, carefully contrived or excogitated; designed, premeditated; deliberate, intentional.

1606 SHAKS. *Ant. & Cl.* II. ii. 140 Pardon what I haue spoke, For 'tis a studied not a present thought, By duty ruminated. **1611** — *Wint. T.* III. ii. 176 What studied torments (Tyrant) hast for me? **1639** S. DU VERGER tr. *Camus' Admir. Events* 289 Her studdied countenance, her pleasing speeches. **1671** MILTON *Samson* 658 Consolatories writ With studied argument. **1676** MARVELL *Mr. Smirke* 10 Then which the Animadverter could never have invented a more notorious, studied, and deliberate Falshood. **1709** STEELE *Tatler* No. 128 P 4 The studied Airs of a Lady's Fan. **1769** ROBERTSON *Chas. V*, IX. III. 173 Expressed..in terms of studied ambiguity. **1848** ALB. SMITH *Chr. Tadpole* xlvii. 408 As he came near Christopher he..made a studied bow, and bade him good morning. *a* **1859** MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xxiii. V. 50 During several days the ill humour of the Lower House showed itself by a studied discourtesy. **1908** U. SINCLAIR *Money-Changers* ii. 28 The magnate's inner sanctum..was plain with an elaborate and studied plainness.

b. with *for.* *rare*⁻¹.

1748 RICHARDSON *Clarissa* (1811) IV. 352 Notwithstanding my studied-for politeness and complaisance for some days past.

2. Of a person: Learned, deeply read, skilled, practised, versed. Const. *in* (a subject). ? *Obs.*

1530 TINDALE *Answ. More* Wks. (1573) 247/1 The naturall man..be he..neuer so well sene in the law, neuer so sore studied in the Scripture,..yet hee cannot vnderstand the thynges of the spirite of God. **1596** SHAKS. *Merch. V.* II. ii. 205 Vse all the obseruance of ciuilitie Like one well studied in a sad ostent To please his Grandam. **1602** F. HERING *Anat.* A 3, A Skilfull, well studyed, and approoued Lawyer. *a* **1662** HEYLIN *Laud* (1668) 529 So well was he studied in the Art of Dying. **1683** J. ILLINGWORTH in *Thoresby Corr.* (1832) I. 43, I wish sometimes the son had collected Lives instead of the father, finding him a studied and accurate man. *a* **1687** PETTY *Polit. Anat. Irel.* (1691) 71 All English Money..is quite carried away out of Ireland, and such Money brought instead of it, as these studied Merchants do from time to time bring in for their Advantage upon the Common People, their Credulity and Ignorance. **1760–72** H. BROOKE *Fool of Qual.* (1809) I. 89 You are equally studied and practised in turning any thing into nothing. **1806** J. BERESFORD *Miseries Hum. Life* vii. § 71 As far as he is yet studied in the bills of fare. **1810** W. WILSON *Hist. Dissent. Ch.* III. 59 Mr. Smith was a learned, pious and well studied Divine. **1901** *Munsey's Mag.* XXV. 732/2 He could talk freely and well, with the knowledge of a traveled and a studied man.

†b. Prepared by study or cogitation (*for* doing or *to* do something). *Obs. rare.*

1606 SHAKS. *Ant. & Cl.* II. vi. 48, I..am well studied for a liberall thanks, Which I do owe you. **1657–8** *Burton's Diary* (1828) II. 382, I am not studied to answer all that that gentleman has said, but I shall give it this answer.

Hence **Stu·diedly** *adv.*, **Stu·diedness.**

1656 W. MONTAGU *Accomplish'd Woman* 113 If gracefulnesse then be described by doing all things by Nature, and not by studiedness. **1672** *Mede's Wks.* (ed. 3) Life p. xxxix, They should not forget to preach and press Charity; and this not in a slight perfunctory manner, but Studiedly and Digestedly to give the People the true Nature of it. **1828** D'ISRAELI *Chas. I*, II. ix. 226 The reception of Bassompiere ..was studiedly uncivil. **1876** CLARK RUSSELL *Is he the Man?* III. 75 He made way for me studiedly. **1881** MAHAFFY *Old Grk. Educ.* ix. 109 We need only here call attention to the intense studiedness of Greek eloquence.

†Student, *a. Obs. rare*⁻¹. [ad. OF. *estudiant*, pr. pple. of *estudier*: see STUDENT.] Meditative, thoughtful.

1387–8 T. USK *Test. Love* III. vi. (Skeat) 137 Me thinketh.. by thy studient lokes, thou wenest in these wordes me to contrarien from other sayinges here-toforn in other place.

Student(e, obs. forms of STUDENT.

Studier (stū·diəɹ). Also 4–5 **studyer,** 5 **-yare, stodiar, -yar, -ier(e, -yer.** [f. STUDY *v.*¹ + -ER ¹. Cf. OF. *estudieor, -eur.*]

†1. A person who is addicted to or engaged in study; a student. *Obs.*

c **1380** WYCLIF *Wks.* (1880) 380 A lytille soler, a bedde, a boȝe, a chaire, and a kandilstek, þe whiche ben acordynge to a studier or a contemplatyfe man. **1387** TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) I. 13 Profitable to good studiers and meke [*non inutilem studiosis*]. *c* **1440** CAPGRAVE *Life St. Kath.* I. 350 Solitary lyff to stodyers is comfort. *a* **1466** GREGORY *Chron.* in *Hist. Coll. Cit. Lond.* (Camden) 133 Collegys of studyers, and othyr collegys of Holy Chyrche.

2. One who studies a specified subject. Const. *of*, **†***in.* Now *rare* or *Obs.*

1593 Q. ELIZ. *Boeth.* I. pr. iv. 8 Wisdom studiers [L. *studiosi sapientiae*]. **1607** T. SPARKE *Brotherly Persw. Vnitie* 25 The most diligent studier and searcher of ancient writers. **1671** J. WEBSTER *Metallogr.* xii. 161, I..am a continual reader of and studier in the best Authors. **1698** *Phil. Trans.* XII. 965 The first Studiers of Natural Philosophy commonly so called, were the Greeks. **1793** *Monthly Rev.* XII. 197 To the studier of Tacitus, it is amusing to observe the contrivances of different translators to vary from each other. **1797** JANE AUSTEN *Pride & Prej.* ix, I did not know before..that you were a studier of character. It must be an amusing study. **1820** W. IRVING *Sketch Bk.* x. (1859) 66 James flourished nearly about the time of Chaucer and Gower, and was evidently an admirer and studier of their writings.

3. Const. **†***for*, *of.* One who strives after or pursues (an object or end). Now *rare.*

1597 J. PAYNE *Royal Exch.* 19 Happie be..the studiers for Godlines, and the lovers of God. *c* **1611** CHAPMAN *Iliad* XIII. 292 And these..will serue to fill the hand Of Hectors selfe, that Priamist, that studier for blowes. **1651** FULLER *Abel Rediv., Pareus* 580 He was a great studyer and promoter of the Churches peace. **1710** SHAFTESB. *Charac.* II. ii. (1737) II. 248 The merest Studier of Pleasure,..even Epicurus himself. **1833** T. HOOK *Love & Pride, Snowdon* x. III. 111 Although not a devoted studier of effect,..he could not help feeling that he should look very ridiculous, if [etc.].

†Stu·dify, *v. Obs. rare*⁻¹. [f. STUDY *sb.* or *v.* + -FY; cf. *argufy.*] *intr.* To study, *illiterate.*

1775 T. BRIDGES *Dutchman* II. ii. 28 She's very busy reading...Yes, Mynheer, she often studifies very hard.

Studio (stiū·dio). [a. It. *studio*: see STUDY *sb.*]

†1. *Fine Art.* = STUDY *sb.* 10. *Obs. rare*⁻¹.

1819 SHELLEY *Let. to Peacock* 25 Feb., The most remarkable is the original studio by Michael Angelo of the 'Day of Judgment'.

2. The work-room of a sculptor or painter; also that of a photographer.

1819 *Edin. Rev.* XXXII. 322 The greatest work which proceeded from his [Cimabue's] *studio*, was his scholar Giotto. **1820** T. S. HUGHES *Trav. Sicily* I. x. 282 We had seen some beautiful casts from different figures of this sculpture in the studio of Monsieur Fauvel. **1837** LOCKHART *Scott* IV. xi. 363 Chantrey requested that Scott would come and breakfast with him next morning before they recommenced operations in the studio. **1881** *Spons' Encycl. Industr. Arts* IV. 1536 The 'studio' pertains to professional photography...It is..a well-lighted apartment in close proximity to the dark room. **1897** WATTS-DUNTON *Aylwin*

III. ix, In the studios of artists she was in request as a face model of extraordinary value.

b. *transf.* ? *Obs.*

1854 THACKERAY *Newcomes* v, I would as soon have thought..of volunteering to take an arm-chair in a dentist's studio, and have a tooth out, as of entering into that awful precinct.

3. *attrib.*

1891 KIPLING *Light that Failed* xiii. (1900) 226 Somebody hammered at the studio door. 1894 DU MAURIER *Trilby* II. I. 120 He..found studio French a different language altogether from the formal and polite language he had been at such pains to acquire. 1894 *Outing* XXIV. 31/1 When it blows great guns and the rain comes down..there is plenty of studio work to do, and plenty of fine old lofts with improvised studio windows to do it in. 1908 A. M. HIND *Engraving & Etching* 175 Two other large etchings have generally been regarded by recent criticism as studio productions.

† Studio·sity. *Obs. rare*—1. [ad. F. *studiosité*, ad. med.L. *studiōsitās*, f. L. *studiōsus*: see next and -ITY.] The quality of being studious.

1578 FLORIO *1st Fruites* 72 b, The daughters of Temperance..are..Shame, Honestie,..Modestie, Studiositie, [etc.].

Studious (stiū·diəs), *a.* Also 4, 6 **study-ouse, studiouse,** 5–7 **studyous,** (6 **stodious, studeous, studuous**). [ad. L. *studiōs-us*, f. *studium*: see STUDY *sb.* and -OUS. Cf. OF. *estudieus*, mod.F. *studieux*, It. *studioso*, Sp., Pg. *estudioso*.]

1. Assiduous in study; devoted to the acquisition of learning. † Const. *in, of.*

1382 WYCLIF 2 *Macc.* ii. 26 Sothely we curiden..that it were delectacioun, or lykyng, of ynwitt to men willynge for to rede; forsothe the studyouse [1388 to studiouse men], that thei miȝten liȝtlyer betake to mynde; forsothe to alle men reedyng profit be ȝouen. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* III. 110 Under him [Mercury] who that bore is, In boke he schal be studious. *c* 1400 *Cato's Morals* 236 in *Cursor M.* App. IV. 1672 Heuy herted men, and stille studious men, vmbe-þing þe to fle. 1460 CAPGRAVE *Chron.* (Rolls) 6 The cause of this dyversite is assigned be studious men, that Moises counted nowt that hundred ȝere in whech Adam ded his penaunș. 1528 MORE *Dyalogue* I. i. (1529) 3 b/2 Master Tindall..was..a man of ryght good lyuynge, studyouse & well lerned in scrypture. 1553 T. WILSON (*title*) The Art of Rhetorique, for the vse of all such as are studious of Eloquence. 1588 KYD *Househ. Philos.* Wks. (1901) 243 It is well seene you are studious of Varro, not of Virgil onely. 1638 JUNIUS *Paint. Ancients* 29 Imitation was able to bring a studious Novice to such grounds of Art as had been put in practice by them that were before him. 1662 STILLINGFL. *Orig. Sacr.* II. ii. § 6 For these..of a long time had been very studious of Geometry, as the Phœnicians of Arithmetick, and the Chaldæans of Astronomy. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* IX. 42 Mee of these Nor skilld nor studious, higher Argument Remaines. 1727 DE FOE *Syst. Magic* I. i. (1840) 36 The magicians being a race of honest studious Men, searching after wisdom. 1747 WESLEY *Prim. Physick* (1762) p. xix, For Studious Persons, about eight ounces of Animal Food ..is sufficient. 1807 WORDSW. *White Doe* I. 295 And choice of studious friends had he Of Bolton's dear fraternity. 1827 CARLYLE *Misc. Ess., State Ger. Lit.* (1840) I. 81 These questions we must leave candid and studious inquirers to answer for themselves. 1847 EMERSON *Repr. Men, Montaigne* Wks. (Bohn) I. 338 The studious class are their own victims: they are thin and pale [etc.].

Comb. 1837 DICKENS *Pickw.* XXXVIII, A studious-looking young gentleman in green spectacles.

absol. 1382 [see above]. 1565 ALLEN *Def. Purgatory* II. xii. 231 b, But I would in this one example of praying for the deade, geue the studious a taste of all suche waies, as [etc.]. 1613 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* III. xv. (1614) 319 Let the studious of these things search them in their proper Authors. 1693 DRYDEN *Persius* VI. Notes init., All the Studious, and particularly the Poets,..began to set themselves on Work. 1747 WESLEY *Prim. Physick* (1762) p. xxi, The Studious ought to have stated times for Exercise. 1783 J. C. LETTSOM *Fotheringill's Wks.* I. 103 To the studious therefore, I would recommend [etc.].

b. Of the nature of, pertaining to, or concerned with learning or study. † *Studious consumption*: consumption induced by undue application to study.

1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 233 Meditacyon is a profounde or studyous cogitacyon about ony certeyn thynge. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* II. iii. 40 Abroad in armes, at home in studious kind Who seekes with painfull toile, shall honor honest find. 1644 MILTON *Areop.* 31 Pens and heads..sitting by their studious lamps, musing, searching, revolving new notions and idea's. 1666 G. HARVEY *Morbus Angl.* X. (1672) 28 Of a Studious Consumption. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* VIII. 40 So spake our Sire, and by his count'nance seemd Entring on studious thoughts abstruse. 1695 LUTTRELL *Brief Rel.* (1857) III. 428 His physitians advise him to forbear all studious businesse because of a theum fallen in his eye. 1816 SHELLEY *Hymn Intell. Beauty* 66 They have in visioned bowers Of studious zeal or love's delight Outwatched with me the envious night. 1832 BREWSTER *Nat. Magic* iii. 50 With persons of studious habits, who are much occupied with the operations of their own minds, the mental pictures are much more distinct. 1844 MRS. BROWNING *Lost Bower* lx, Studious health and merry leisure.

c. Of a place: Devoted to or suited to study.

1591 SHAKS. *Two Gent.* I. iii. 10 Some to the warres, to try their fortune there:..Some, to the studious Vniuersities. 1625–47 T. HABINGTON *Surv. Worcestershire* (1894) I. II. 238 The society of the learned Seriants and studyous Innes of Court and Chancery. 1632 MILTON *Penseroso* 156 But let my due feet never fail, To walk the studious Cloysters pale. 1671 — *P. R.* IV. 243 Studious walks and shades. *a* 1806 H. K. WHITE *Time* 86 When the pale ray Of star-light penetrates the studious gloom. 1853 M. ARNOLD *Scholar Gipsy* xiv, And the grave Glanvil did the tale inscribe That thou wert wander'd from the studious walls To learn strange arts.

2. Giving careful attention; intent on a purpose or object, heedful, solicitous. **a.** with agent-n.

c 1450 tr. *De Imitatione* II. ix. 50 The very trewe lover of crist and studyous folwer of vertu. 1599 B. JONSON *Cynthia's Rev.* III. iv, It is the pride of Arete to grace Her studious louers. 1655 STANLEY *Hist. Philos.* III. *Xen.* viii. (1687) 116/1 Xenophon was a studious Æmulatour of Herodotus, both in words and language. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* init., My Father..was a studious decliner of honours and titles.

b. const. *to* with inf., *of*, † *for* (rare), † *in*.

1526 TINDALE *Titus* iii. 8, I wolde thou shuldest certifie that they which beleve God, myght be stodious to go forwarde in goode workes. 1530 PALSGR. 64 In the often redyng of whiche boke if the lernar be studious. 1553 EDEN *Treat. New Ind.* Ded. (Arb.) 6 You haue bene euer studious for the commoditie of your countrey. 1555 — *Decades* (Arb.) 80 The Spanyardes..were more studious of sedition and newes, then desyrous of peace and quietnesse. 1576 FLEMING *Panopl. Epist.* 44 He was very circumspect and studious in his masters businesse. 1601 R. JOHNSON *Kingd. & Commw.* (1603) 90 The cittizens are more studious to build for vse, then for pompe. 1625 MASSINGER *New Way* I. i, You haue well aduis'd me. But..you that are so studious Of my affaires, wholly neglect your owne. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* XI. 609 Studious they appere Of arts that polish Life. 1667 PEPYS *Diary* 20 Aug., I find I must provide some things to offer that I may be found studious to lessen the King's charge. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* IV. 258 Studious of Honey, each in his Degree, The youthful Swain, the grave experienc'd Bee. 1701 W. WOTTON *Hist. Rome* 23 He was studious of avoiding Bustle and Stir. 1725 POPE *Odyss.* II. 117 The work she plied; but studious of delay, By night revers'd the labours of the day. 1755 YOUNG *Centaur* vi. Wks. 1757 IV. 265 Though studious to do it justice, I have wronged my theme. 1779 *Mirror* No. 58 Nor was he less studious in forming her taste for company than for books. 1810 CRABBE *Borough* VIII. 154 All he had suffer'd, every former grief, Made those around more studious in relief. 1850 MERIVALE *Rom. Emp.* (1865) I. ix. 370 Crassus was eminently studious of outward decorum. 1852 BLACKIE *Study Lang.* 35 Be studious to compare the idiom of one language with that of another. 1866 CARLYLE *Inaug. Addr.* 173 Kings..who were anxious about the culture of their populations, and nobly studious of their best benefit.

c. Characterized by or exhibiting careful attention.

1532 TINDALE *Expos. Matt. v-vii.* (? 1550) C j b, The pureness of the hertes is the consentinge and studyous purpose to kepe the law of God. 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 171 b, He admonyshed them that they shuld acknowledge his studious desyre. *c* 1590 *Sir T. More* (Malone Soc.) 553 My studious thoughts shall tend the cities good. 1591 SHAKS. *1 Hen. VI*, II. v. 97 Thou art my Heire; the rest, I wish thee gather: But yet be wary in thy studious care. 1667 *Decay Chr. Piety* I. § 11. 208 Those bodies, who by studious effeminacies and softness have superadded an artificial tenderness to the natural. *a* 1718 PRIOR *Henry & Emma* 129 With dutiful Respect, and studious Fear, Lest any careless Sound offend her Ear. 1798 SOPHIA LEE *Canterb. T., Young Lady's T.* II. 207 Both with tender, studious care promoted her every wish. 1879 FARRAR *St. Paul* I. 310 In carrying out his policy Agrippa paid studious court to the Jews. 1884 *Law Times* 24 May LXXVII. 62/1 Mr. Haynes has avoided monotony and intricacy of style with the most studious care.

d. Planned with care; studied, deliberate.

1750 JOHNSON *Rambler* No. 77 ¶ 14 For the frigid villany of studious lewdness, for the calm malignity of labored impiety, what apology can be invented? 1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* vi, Observe..the studious mystery with which the brightest jewel that England possesses is secluded from the admiring gaze. 1913 SIR F. POLLOCK *Revised Rep.* CXL. Introd. 6 The dissent [of two judges] is indicated with seemingly studious obscurity.

Studiously (stiū·diəsli), *adv.* [f. prec. + -LY.2]

1. With studied attention or care; carefully, solicitously, diligently.

a 1349 *Hampole's Wks.* (1895) I. 103 Graunte me, swete ladi, to haue & to holde þis passioun in mynde as hertili & as studiousli in al my lijf, as þou. 1408 tr. *Vegetius' Art War* (MS. Digby 233) 203 b/1 Thei that moost studiousliche haue ylerned of dedees of armes þei sei þat many mo perils fallen. *c* 1425 *St. Mary of Oignies* I. xi. in *Anglia* VIII. 147 Hir clopes were in a mene, for desyred filthes & studiously soghte clennesse plesyd hir neuere. *c* 1450 *Myrr. Our Ladye* 21 All..ar bydden..to say or singe the seruyce of these vii houres studyously and deuoutly. 1561 T. NORTON tr. *Calvin's Inst.* I. ix. 20 b, We ought right studiously to apply the redyng & hearyng of the scripture. 1591 SHAKS. *1 Hen. VI*, III. i. 2 Com'st thou with deepe premeditated Lines? With written Pamphlets, studiously deuis'd? 1639 N. N. tr. *Du Bosq's Compl. Woman* II. 59 These Harlots sometimes seek more studiously the outward shewes of vertue. 1697 DRYDEN *Æneis* VII. 249 Sabinus,..On a short Pruning-hook his Head reclines: And studiously surveys his generous Wines. 1826 *Art of Brewing* (ed. 2) 99 Be at all times studiously attentive to flavour and complexion. 1839 DE QUINCEY *Recoll. Lakes* Wks. 1862 II. 175 From growing interest in the author, every copy of the small impression had been studiously bought up.

b. With careful design or intent; deliberately.

1658 SIR T. BROWNE *Hydriot.* v. 29 While some have studied Monuments, others have studiously declined them. 1694 S. JOHNSON *Notes on Pastoral Let.* I. 90 Men have studiously forgot it, and discharged their Memory of it. 1741 MIDDLETON *Cicero* II. x. 410 How studiously he had avoided every step. 1781 GIBBON *Decl. & F.* XIX. (1787) II. 134 The troops, whose station lay along the public road, were studiously removed on his approach. 1838 W. C. HARRIS *Narr. Exped. S. Afr.* 19 He..studiously absented himself from the house. 1856 FROUDE *Hist. Eng.* VI. (1858) II. 5 The language of this act was studiously guarded. 1884 *Manch. Exam.* 16 May 4/7 If he had studiously endeavoured to be unjust he could not have succeeded more completely. 1886 G. ALLEN *Darwin* I. 8 Buffon was careful to put his conjectural conclusions in a studiously guarded..form.

c. qualifying an adj.

1856 FROUDE *Hist. Eng.* V. (1858) I. 400 To the English agents he had been studiously cold. 1862 WHYTE MELVILLE *Queen's Maries* II. 202 Maxwell by a studiously quiet.. demeanour, contrived to throw his gaoler completely off his guard. 1898 EARL SELBORNE *Mem.* I. II. xi. 229 Its tone was studiously respectful towards the United States; no pains were spared to avoid the use of any language which could wound [etc.].

2. With careful attention to learning or books; as a student.

a 1626 BACON *Elem. Com. Laws* (1630) (title-p.), Explicated for the more facile Introduction of such as are studiously addicted to that noble Profession. 1650 in *4th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* 455/2 Wee..doe certify that John Petty.. hath piously, soberly, and studiously demeaned himselfe in the same Colledge.

Studiousness (stiū·diəsnés). [f. STUDIOUS *a.* + -NESS.] The state or quality of being studious.

1. Diligence in the pursuit of knowledge or learning; close application to study.

1530 BALSGR. 277/2 Studyousnesse, *studiosité.* 1551 T. WILSON *Logic* Ep. Ded. A v b, That all men..maie be the more prouoked to folowe the examples of your Maiestie aswell in studiousnesse & desier of knowlege, as also in the exercise of all vertue. 1627 HAKEWELL *Apol.* I. iii. § 4. 33 Men are..addicted..sometimes to studiousnesse & learning, sometimes to ease and ignorance. 1718 HICKES & NELSON *J. Kettlewell* III. liii. 319 Those that knew him there have testified for Studiousness. 1755 JOHNSON, *Studiousness*, addiction to study. 1796 MME. D'ARBLAY *Camilla* I. 232 Though abstracted from outward objects, his studiousness was not of a solemn cast. 1838 DICKENS *Nich. Nick.* xix, The book fell from her hand. Lounging upon an ottoman close beside her was Sir Mulberry Hawk... 'What a delightful studiousness!' said this accomplished gentleman. *a* 1901 W. BRIGHT *Age of Fathers* XXIX. (1903) II. 56 Ammonius..was famed for his humility and self-discipline and also for his studiousness.

2. Careful attention or observance.

1628 WITHER *Brit. Rememb.* vi. 1173 Their Exercises were ..in studiousnesse Of piety, and of the Sciences, Which we terme liberall. *c* 1645 HOWELL *Lett.* (1650) II. lix. 87 In the interim I crave a candid interpretation of what is passed, and of my studiousnes in executing your Lordships Injunctions. 1670 EACHARD *Cont. Clergy* 39 They do it..out of simple phantastick glory, and a great studiousness of being wonder'd at. 1713 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 5119/9 Your Studiousness of Your Peoples Goodness.

Studite (stiū·dəit). [ad. med.L. *Studita* (Eccl. Gr. Στουδίτης), f. *Studi-um* (Eccl. Gr. Στουδίον), said to be named from its founder *Studius* (Στουδιός): see -ITE.] A monk of the order of Acœmeti ('the sleepless') established in the 5th c. at the monastery of the Studium at Constantinople. Also *attrib.* and as adj.

1693 *D'Emilianne's Hist. Monast. Orders* 21 Of the Order of the Acœmetes or Studites. *Ibid.*, They were likewise called Studites, from one Studius, who founded for them, at Constantinople, the Monastery of St. John the Baptist. 1906 W. H. HUTTON *Ch. & Barbarians* XIV. 162 The age of the Iconoclast was the golden age of the Studite monks. *Ibid.* 163 For a while after his death there is silence over the history of the Studites. 1913 W. K. L. CLARKE *St. Basil* VIII. 135 The monasteries were not all Studite, even after Theodote's influence had spread far and wide.

Stud-mare. Also 1 **stódmyre,** 3–4 **stod mere,** 4 **stode-mere,** 5 **studmer, stude mere,** 6–7 *Sc.* **stuid-meir, -mear.** [f. STUD *sb.*2 + MARE. Cf. ON. *stóðmerr.*] A mare kept for breeding purposes, a brood-mare. Cf. STUD *sb.*2 4 a.

a 1000 *Laws Ælfred* xvi, Gif mon cu oððe stodmyran forstele, and folan oððe cealf ofadrife. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 316 Ich am a ful stod mere. 1404 *Durham Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 399, 1 studmer cum pullo. 1547 BOORDE *Introd. Knowl.* 147 Great studmares we bryng vp in Flaunders. 1594 *Reg. Mag. Sig. Scot.* 34 *note*, Pasturage of stuid-meiris, profits of each in foill 20 merks. 1634 *Ibid.* 43/1 Cum pastura 18 animalium et unius lie stuid-meir. 1709 *Ir. Act* 8 *Anne* c. 3 § 34 Every papist or reputed papist may keep such stud-mares and stallions.

b. as an insulting epithet for a woman.

c 1440 *York Myst.* xxiv. 13 A I ffalse stodmere and stynkand stroye.

Stu·d-sail. [Of obscure etymology: see STUDDING-SAIL.] = STUDDING-SAIL.

18.. *Falconer's Shipwr.* I. 732 (1836) Now swelling stud-sails [1762, 1789, 1792 stu'n-sails] on each side extend. 1851 *B'ham. & Midl. Gardeners' Mag.* Oct. 192 With only a flying stud sail of green boughs at the end of it. 1857 *Merc. Marine Mag.* (1858) V. 9 In stud-sails and all small sails.

Studuous, obs. form of STUDIOUS *a.*

Study (stʌ·di), *sb.* Forms: 3–7 **studie,** 4–7 **studye,** 4 **studi,** 4–6 **stude,** 4–5 **stodie, stody,** 4–6 **stodye,** 5 **stode,** 6 **studdi(e, (stiddie),** 6–7 **studdy,** (6 **studee**), 4– **study.** [a. OF. *estu·die* masc. (later *estuide, estude* masc. and fem., mod.F. *étude* fem.) = Pr. *estudi-s, estuzi-s,* Sp. *estudio,* Pg. *estudo,* It. *studio,* ad. L. *studium,* zeal, affection, painstaking, study, related to *studēre* to be zealous, seek to be helpful, apply oneself, study.

The etymology of the L. word is obscure: for conjectures see Walde.]

† **1.** In certain senses of L. *studium* (chiefly in translations from Latin): Affection, friendliness, devotion to another's welfare; partisan sympathy; desire, inclination; pleasure or interest felt in something. *Obs.*

c 1374 CHAUCER *Boeth.* IV. pr. ii. (1868) 113 Al þe entencioun of þe wil of mankynde whiche þat is lad by diuerse studies hastiþ to comen to blisfulnesse. 1483 CAXTON *Golden Leg.* 275/1 He had neuer studye in newe fabrykes ne buyldynges. 1537 tr. *Latimer's Serm. Convoc.* B vj b, Therfore brethern, gather you, the disposition and study of the children, by the

disposition and studye of the fathers. 1548–9 *Bk. Com. Prayer, Ordering of Priests,* Laying aside the study of the world and the fleshe. 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* Pref. A iiij, What time the Princes electours chose this manne Emperour,..the self same time Luther beinge prouoked came forthe to reason the matter, and disputed openly with Eckius at Lipsia, and than fell men to theyr study on ether side. 1561 tr. *Calvin's 4 Serm. Idol.* i. B ij b, To do all thing other wise then he [God] will, and cleane to be void of the studye and dutye which we owne vnto him. *a* 1619 FOTHERBY *Atheom.* I. x. § 4. (1622) 106 Diuers of them, vpon vaine glory, or vpon studie of singularity,..haue outwardly professed.. that There is no God. 1663 PATRICK *Parab. Pilgrim* xxx. (1687) 369 Pride and study to be admired in the World proclaim thee to us more than all that we see beside. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* III. 285 If to the Warlike Steed thy Studies bend, Or for the Prize in Chariots to contend.

† **2.** An employment, occupation, pursuit. *Obs.*

c 1374 CHAUCER *Boeth.* III. pr. ii. (1868) 64 Alle þe cures quod she of mortal folk whiche þat trauaylen hem in many manere studies gon certys by diuerse weies. 1484 CAXTON *Fables of Poge* iv, The studye of the huntynge and hawkynge is a slouful cure. *c* 1610 *Women Saints* 81 The diuell enuying hire these her vertuous studies, thought to supplant her.

† **b.** ? Ostensible function or character. *Obs.*

c 1380 WYCLIF *Wks.* (1880) 98 Prelatis also entren vnder colour & studie of cristis apostlis & lyuen & teche contrariously to hem.

† **3.** A state of mental perplexity or anxious thought. Sometimes with indirect question: Doubt *whether*, etc. *Obs.*

c 1290 *Beket* 1187 in *S. E. Leg.* 140 In gret studie he was i-brou3t; He rounede in is wiues ere and tolde hire al is þou3t. 1338 R. BRUNNE *Chron.* (1725) 58 Whan Edward perceyued, his herte was in studie, How þat werre bigan on him so sodanly. *c* 1450 *Mirk's Festial* 37 Þen stode þe Emperour yn full gret stude. *c* 1450 CAPGRAVE *St. Aug.* xi. 16 Fluctuacion calle we her whan a man is broute fro an euel entent, and 3et þe same man stand in studye whether he schal to þe good wey or nowt. *c* 1485 *Digby Myst.* (1882) III. 488 From stodyys and hevynes it woll yow relyff. *a* 1547 SURREY *Poems,* '*Laid in my quiet bed*', Laid in my quyett bedd, in study as I weare, I saw within my troubled hed, a heape of thoughtes appeare. 1582 N. LICHEFIELD tr. *Castanheda's Conq. E. Ind.* I. xxii. 57 Being therefore now in a studie what was best to be done. 1590 H. R. *Defiance to Fortune* H 3, Whome he found in a great studie, as one (as it might seeme) careful of that she had vndertaken. 1625 K. LONG tr. *Barclay's Argenis* IV. viii. 262 While the Mariners stand in a study, and sticke betweene two dangers, the Gallies which were sent out had enclosed them. 1689 R. MEEKE *Diary* 30 Nov. (1874) 18, I was at first in a study what to do, at last I promsied.

b. A state of reverie or abstraction. *Obs.* exc. in BROWN STUDY.

13.. *Gaw. & Gr. Kn.* 2369 Þat oþer stif mon in study stod a gret whyle. 1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* VIII. xxxi. 320 He was in suche a study he herd not what Gouernayle said. 1535 STEWART *Cron. Scot.* (Rolls) I. 554 Carthlyntus than into ane studie stude; Quhen that wes said spak nother ill no gude. 1582 STANYHURST *Æneis* IV. (Arb.) 119 In tears salt blubbring, in musing stiddye remayning, Shee fel on her mattresse. 16.. *Heir of Lin* 61 in *Percy Fol. MS.* I. 177 Still in a study there as he stood, he vnbethought him of [a] bill..which his father had left with him. 1829 BROCKETT *N. C. Gloss.* (ed. 2), *Study,* astonishment, amazement.

4. Thought or meditation directed to the accomplishment of a purpose; studied or deliberate effort or contrivance; also, the object or aim of (a person's) solicitous endeavour, one's 'concern'.

1390 GOWER *Conf.* II. 230 And he, which hadde noght forȝete Of that belongeth to a clerk, His studie sette upon this werk. *c* 1430 LYDG. *Min. Poems* (Percy Soc.) 218 Lusty hertys in gladnesse them delite, Set al ther study on occupacioun, In ioye and myrthe. 1445 *Claudian* in *Anglia* XXVIII. 269 Bothe pore and riche labouryd righte sore encrese to gete with studye. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 145 b, Whan we be gyuen with all our study and diligence to clennesse of vertue & purite of lyfe. 1529 *Supplic. to King* (E.E.T.S.) 24 There is no study, striffe, nor laboure agaynst synne, but through faithe. 1545 BALE *Myst. Iniq.* 17 His great hot stodye is also to sett vp purgatorye againe. 1585 T. WASHINGTON tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* II. vii. 37 b, All their pleasure and studie is to attire and set out themselues. 1589 *Pasquil's Ret.* Civ, Spyders..spynne with great studie an vnprofitable webbe, good for nothing but to catch Flyes. 1594 CHAPMAN *Shadow of Nt.* E j, Thy glorious temple.. That was the studie of all Asia, Two hunderd twentie sonniers to erect. *a* 1637 B. JONSON *Sad Sheph.* I. iv, No sought reliefe By all our studies can procure his peace. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 25 Jan. 1645, That never to be sufficiently admired gallery painted in deepe relievo, the worke of 10 years study for a trifling reward. 1764 DODSLEY *Leasowes* in *Shenstone's Wks.* (1777) II. 288 Far from violating its natural beauties, Mr. Shenstone's only study was to give them their full effect. 1803 BROUGHAM *Colon. Policy* I. 51 The indolence natural to their character is here thrown off; the acquisition of a fortune is the study of all. 1827 SCOTT *Surg. Dau.* xii, It was his study to sooth this ambitious and crafty female by blandishments.

† **b.** *Of one's own study*: of one's own composition. *Obs. rare.*

1603 STOW *Surv. Lond.* (1908) I. 167 And that done, he was to make a sermon of his owne studie.

5. Application of mind to the acquisition of learning; mental labour, reading and reflection directed to learning, literary composition, invention, or the like.

c 1300 *St. Edmund* 217 in *E.E.P.* (1862) 76 He ne for-ȝat.. nomore þis oreisoun, For no studie ne for no neode, ne for þo3t of lessoun. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Prol.* 303 Of studie took he mooste cure and moost heede. 1393 LANGL. *P. Pl. C.* XVI. 181 Lettrure and longe studie letteþ ful menye. *c* 1430 in Auggier *Hist. Isleworth* (1840) 278 If there be an inuentory..of the bokes of the library and how they and other bokes of study be kepte and repayred. 1540–1 ELYOT *Image Gov.* Pref., Beeyng almost fatigate with the longe studie about the correctyng and ampliatyng of my Dictionarie. 1564 HARDING *Answ. Jewel's Challenge* 10 b, Let them take paines to trauaile in studie, and they shall fynde by good auncient witnes..that [etc.]. 1567 TURBERV. *Epit.* etc. 46 But I was chiefly bent to Poets famous Art, To them with all my deuor I my studie did conuert. 1582 ALLEN *Apol.* 21 b, The persons which first put them selues together in the Vniuersitie of Duay the yere 1568, yelding to Collegial forme of studie and discipline vnder one President. 1598 GRENEWEY *Tacitus, Ann.* v. ii. (1612) 119 Vitellius..vnder colour of vsing it in his studie, asking for a penknife, lightly prickt a veine; and ended his life. 1611 BIBLE *Eccles.* xii. 12 Of making many bookes there is no end, and much studie [*marg.* Or, reading] is a wearinesse of the flesh. 1663 BAYFIELD *Treat. De Morb. Capitis* 67 Sitting and holding his pen, with his eyes open, and looking upon his Book, you would have thought he had been hard at study, till he was by calling..found to want all sense and motion. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 27 Jan. 1689, He was as earnest at his play as at his study. *a* 1732 GAY *Fables, Pack-horse & Carrier* 41 Learning by study must be won, 'Twas ne'er entail'd from son to son. 1737 POPE *Hor. Epist.* II. ii. 117 The Man, who, stretch'd in Isis' calm retreat, To books and study gives sev'n years complete. 1784 COWPER *Tiroc.* 822 See great commanders making war a trade, Great lawyers, lawyers without study made. 1810 CRABBE *Borough* XX. 267 Study to him was pleasure and delight. 1839 BAILEY *Festus, Village Feast* (1889) 158 When night hath set her silver lamp on high, Then is the time for study.

personified. 1362 LANGL. *P. Pl.* A. XI. 1 Þenne hedde wit A wyf was hoten dam Studie. *a* 1586 SIDNEY *Astroph. & Stella* i. To Inuention, Nature's childe, fledde step-dame Studie's blowes.

† **b.** *At (his) study*: as a student at a university or college. *Obs.*

1508 *Reg. Privy Seal Scot.* I. 235/1 To pas to Sanct Andres grafe besyde Napillis, and thairefter to remane in Italie at his study for..vj ȝeris. 1554 *Cal. Anc. Rec. Dublin* (1889) 439 Thomas Fitz Symon..being at the universite at Oxford at stude to acquir lernyng. 1577–87 HOLINSHED *Chron.* III. 1165/1 The kings maiestie..gaue him monie yeerelie out of his coffers, to find him honorablie at studie. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* July 1645, Being resolved to spend some moneths here at study, especialy physic and anatomie, of both of which there was now the most famous professors in Europe.

† **c.** Acquirements, learning. *Obs.*

c 1374 CHAUCER *Boeth.* I. pr. iv. (1868) 16 Hab my studie and my konnyng deserued þus [L. *nostrane artes ita meruerunt*]?

d. A department of study; the cultivation of a particular branch of learning or science. Often in *collect. plural,* a person's work as a student.

1477 EARL RIVERS (Caxton) *Dictes* 16 Ypocras..was the first fynder of the art of phisike whiche he shewed and taught to his children... And commaunded that they shulde dwelle in the middel habitacion of grece in iii. Isles. And ypocras rested in the Ile of Thau. And in the ij. other Isles the studye was lost in his dayes. 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* lxv. 4 To speik of science, craft, or sapience,..Off euerie studye, lair, or discipline. 1538 STARKEY *England* II. iii. 203 The ordur of studys in vnyuersytes must..be amendyd. 1591 SHAKS. *Two Gent.* I. i. 67 Thou Iulia thou hast metamorphis'd me: Made me neglect my Studies, loose my time. 1594 R. ASHLEY tr. *Loys le Roy* 24 The learning of the Athenians was lost in Athens; only remaining in that towne the school or house of studies. 1597 BACON *Ess., Studies* (Arb.) 6 Studies serue for pastimes, for ornaments and for abilities. 1677 JOHNSON in *Ray's Corr.* (1848) 128 In the meantime wishing you success in your studies, I rest, &c. 1748 H. WALPOLE *Let. to G. Montagu* 11 Aug., These Veres have thrown me into a deal of this old study. 1756–9 A. BUTLER *Lives of Saints, S. Peter Damian,* He gave a considerable time to sacred studies. 1788 MRS. HUGHES *Henry & Isabella* III. 5 Is she persuaded to apply to any particular study, such as music, painting, &c. because her father is fond of it? 1841 *Penny Cycl.* XXI. 175/1 He began his studies at the gymnasium of Coburg in 1638. 1864 TENNYSON *Aylmer's F.* 304 Back would he to his studies, make a name. 1874 BLACKIE *Self-Cult.* 30 So far from rushing hastily into merely professional studies, a young man should rather [etc.]. 1892 LADY F. VERNEY *Verney Mem.* I. 122 Ralph still going on with his studies at Oxford.

6. The action of studying (something specified or implied); mental effort in the acquisition *of* (some kind of learning); attentive reading *of* (a book, etc.), or careful examination or observation *of* (an object, a question, etc.). Phrase, *to make a study of,* to study, observe carefully.

c 1300 *St. Edmund* 276 in *E.E.P.* (1862) 78 O tyme he was in grete studie of his lessoun a nyȝt. 1340–70 *Alisaunder* 637 Many thinges of man myght hee showe, By studie of þe stones in what state hee were. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 232 b, The seconde parte of contemplacyon is study or redynge of holy scripture. 1584 POWEL *Lloyd's Cambria* 33 Who..trauelled to Athens, and bestowed there manie yeeres in the studie of the Greeke, Hebrue and Chaldie toongs. 1668 E. HOPKINS *Serm., Vanity* (1685) 10 God hath composed two books, by the diligent study of which we may attain to the knowledge of Himself: the Book of the creatures, and the book of the Scriptures. 1704 NORRIS *Ideal World* II. xii. 486 The study of the sciences is a natural abstraction of the mind from the creature. 1845 PATTISON *Ess.* (1889) I. 27 The volume of the canons which had formed the object of his study the preceding night. 1859 RUSKIN *Two Paths* i. § 18 The study, however, of the effect of art on the mind of nations is one rather for the historian than for us. 1884 HUNTER & WHYTE *My Ducats* XXV. (1885) 374 Even in the midst of his own troubles, Lynn found himself engaged in making a study of Gertrude. 1895 M. HEWLETT *Earthwork out of Tuscany* 24 Never a chapel of them but is worth study and a stiff neck.

b. *Theat.* The action of committing to memory one's part in a play. Hence, *to have* or *be a quick, slow,* etc. *study,* to be quick, slow, etc. in learning by heart.

1590 SHAKS. *Mids. N.* I. ii. 69 *Snug.* Haue you the Lions part written? pray you if be, giue it me, for I am slow of studie. 1761 FOOTE *Liar* III. Wks. 1799 I. 316, I have a short scene to give you in study. 1822 H. MACKENZIE *Life Home* 95 Mrs. Siddons told me she never found any *study* (which, in the technical language of the stage, means the getting verses by heart) so easy as that of *Douglas.* 1838 DICKENS *Nich. Nick.* xxiii, I've got a part of twelve lengths here, which I must be up in to-morrow night..; I'm a confounded quick study, that's one comfort. 1857 READE *Course of True Love, Art* 128 Having what is called a very quick study, she was soon mistress of the..twenty or thirty lines. 1882 ASHTON *Soc. Life Q. Anne* XXV. II. 21 Powell..was ..a careless study, with a bad memory.

7. That which is studied; the object of one's study. Chiefly with *possessive.*

1535 COVERDALE *Ps.* CXIX. 99, I haue more vnderstondinge than all my teachers for thy testimonies are my studye. 1595 *Phrases Lat. Addi Manutii* 12 *Ad Ciceronem me contuli,* I haue giuen my selfe to Cicero: Tully is my whole studie. 1709 POPE *Ess. Crit.* 124 Be Homer's works your study and delight, Read them by day, and meditate by night. 1734 — *Ess. Man* II. 2 The proper study [1733 The only Science] of mankind is Man. 1780 *Mirror* No. 97 ₱ 9 This gentleman..discovered himself to be eminently skilled in the science of law, the study, as he boasted, of his earlier years. 1859 *Habits of Gd. Society* xi. 306 The man who makes dining a study..must go farther in the improvements of the room than we yet have. 1878 STEDMAN *Oxford: Soc. & Intell. Life* 238 There are several other commentaries, but they will not be found profitable study.

b. Something worth studying, or that requires to be studied; an object presenting effects of colour (and the like) attractive to an artist.

1766 FORDYCE *Serm. Yng. Women* (1767) I. ii. 53 The male heart is a study. 1779 *Mirror* No. 45 ₱ 9 A painter, who wished to express indignation, contempt, and pity, blended together, could not have found a finer *study.* 1817 HAZLITT *Pol. Ess.* (1819) 214 It is 'a psychological curiosity'; a study of human infirmity. 1853 MRS. STOWE *Uncle Tom's C.* xi, The various hats, in fact, were quite a Shakspearian study. 1856 KANE *Arct. Expl.* I. v. 45 Both it and Northumberland..afforded studies of color that would have rewarded an artist. 1859 *Habits of Gd. Society* iv. 160 As a work of art, a well-dressed woman is a study. 1891 E. PEACOCK *N. Brendon* I. 275 Basil was a curious study for her. 1894 *Yellow Bk.* I. 192 The harpist, whose nose is a study in purples.

8. A room in a house or other building, furnished with books, and used for private study, reading, writing, or the like. Often applied to 'the private room or office of the master of a house, however it may be used' (*Cent. Dict.*).

In Public Schools (and other large schools), the private room for study and other occupations of one or more boys.

1303 R. BRUNNE *Handl. Synne* 4745 Next hys chaumbre, besyde hys stody, Hys harpers chaumbre was fast þerby. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Frankl. T.* 479 But in his studie ther as hise bookes be They seten stille. *c* 1430 *Life St. Kath.* (Roxb.) 14 He..passed from chambre to chambre tyle he come yn to hir secreet study where no creature vsed to come bot hir self allone. 1463 *Bury Wills* (Camden) 33, I yeve and be qwethe to the seid Jone my nece a lityl grene coffre for kerchys, stondyng in my stodye. 1490 CAXTON *Eneydos* Prol. 1, I sittyng in my studye where as laye many dyuerse paunflettis and bookys. 1507–8 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* IV. 100 Item to Johne Forman for ane lok to the Kingis latron that standis in the Kingis studee, iiij s. 1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 316 A noble man of Spaire..kepeth the whole house to himself, and going into his studie [L. *bibliothecam*], searcheth all thinges. 1601 SHAKS. *Jul. C.* II. i. 7 *Luc.* Call'd you my Lord? *Brut.* Get me a Tapor in my Study, Lucius. 1609 B. JONSON *Sil. Wom.* IV. v, Dee you observe this gallerie?.. Here are a couple of studies, at each end one. *a* 1632 L. HUTTEN *Diss. Antiq. Oxf.* (Hearne 1720) 347 That Tower which standeth upon the Bridge..is commonly called by the name of Frier Bacon's Study. 1641 *Commons Remonstr.* in *Wks. Chas. I* (1662) II. 62 Some Members of both Houses had their studies and cabinets, yea their pockets, searched. 1654 WHITLOCK *Zootomia* 180 Those that have counting Houses forget those that have Studies. 1798 SOPHIA LEE *Canterb. T., Yng. Lady's T.* II. 448 Crosby fitted up a large and retired parlour as a study. 1857 HUGHES *Tom Brown* I. v, 'And shall I have a study like this, too?' said Tom. 1868 WALCOTT *Sacred Archæol.* 117 *Carol..*(2) an enclosed study or reading-place in a cloister, used by the scribes or ordinary monks and regular canons. 1880 PAYN *Confid. Agent* I. 39 Your uncle and I are going to have a pipe in the study. 1904 DOR. P. HUGHES *Life H. P. Hughes* x. 240 When they came to consult him in his study.

transf. 1800 BLOOMFIELD *Farmer's Boy, Spring* 32 The fields his study, Nature was his book.

† **b.** A room or cupboard containing books, etc.

1538 ELYOT *Dict., Armarium,* a study where bokes are laide, or a drye larder. *a* 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew, Study,* a Closet of Books. 1711 HENLEY tr. *Montfaucon's Trav. Italy* v. 86 Having begun here to give an Account of Private Studies, or Closets, we have thought fit in this Place to speak of that of Tarvisiano.

† **c.** The books contained in a 'study' (sense 8, 8 b); a student's collection of books, etc.; a private library. Often a *study of books. Obs.*

1667 ASHMOLE *Diary* (1774) 333, I bought Mr. John Bookers study of books, and gave 140*l.* for them. *a* 1672 WOOD *Life* (O. H. S.) II. 178 Foulis..left behind him a larg studie of books; which being afterwards to be sold, A. W. did..make a catalogue of them. 1682 WHELER *Journ. Greece* I. 41 He is of Candia, hath a good Study of Manuscripts which he brought from thence, and is called Pappa Agapito. 1722 HEARNE *Collect.* (O. H. S.) VII. 373 The Revd. Mr. Thomas Foulkes of Xt. Ch. hath bought the Study of my Friend. 1736 *Lett. Lit. Men* (Camden) 367 It is said also he was forced to sell his Study of Books.

† **d.** The office or place of business of a professional man. (= F. *étude.*) *Obs.*

1574 *Coventry Leet Bk.* 817, I gave a deed to be ingrossed with speed, and yt must be done very secretly in a Close studdie or parlour & not in the open shopp. 1581 PETTIE *Guazzo's Civ. Conv.* II. (1586) 106 He went hastelie to the studie of a brother of his who was a Doctor. *Ibid.* III. 145 Being not long since in an Aduocates studie, I heard [etc.].

† **9.** A seat of learning. *General study, study general* (=med.L. *studium generale*), a university.

1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) I. 177 In þis lond was somtyme þe studie and þe scole of Pallas and Minerua. *c* 1420 HOCCLEVE *Min. Poems* 221 He wente vn-to the studie general. 1456 SIR G. HAYE *Law Armis* (S. T. S.) 222 Charlis Maygne..transportit the study out of Rome and brocht it to Paris,..[and] has gevin to the study of Paris sa mony not-able privilegis that clerkis suld joys thare. *a* 1466 GREGORY *Chron.* in *Hist. Coll. Cit. Lond.* (Camden) 133 Alle maner chyrchys, unyversyteys, and studyys generalle. *a* 1470 HARDING *Chron.* CX. i, Martin bishop of Rome, graunted to king Alurede To found & mak a study..And an vniuersitee for clerkes in to rede The whiche he made, at Oxenford. 1499 *Reg. Privy Seal Scot.* I. 51/1 To pas to the partis be-3ond sey to Paris or uther studeis. 1535 STEWART *Cron. Scot.* (Rolls) III. 498 This famous studie [*sc.* St. Andrews] in that 3eir began. 1538 STARKEY *England* II. iii. 203 Thys thyng in studys and vnyuersytes ys neclectyd and despysyd. 1599 W. BARKER (*title*) The Fearfull Fansies of the Florentime Couper. Written in Toscane, by Iohn Baptist Gelli, one of the free Studie of Florence. [1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* I. 379 Those schooles of learning which wee call ..Universities, that age termed *Studia* that is, Studies. 1673 O. WALKER *Educ.* I. x. 120 Oxford and Paris (the two onely general Studies for a long time on this side the Alps).]

10. An artistic production executed for the sake of acquiring skill or knowledge, or to serve as a preparation for future work; a careful preliminary sketch for a work of art, or (more usually) for some detail or portion of it; an artist's pictorial record of his observation of some object, incident, or effect, or of something that occurs to his mind, intended for his own guidance in his subsequent work. Also, occas., a drawing, painting, or piece of sculpture aiming to bring out the characteristics of the object represented, as they are revealed by especially careful observation.

1769 REYNOLDS *Disc. R. Acad.* ii. Wks. 1797 I. 29 What, therefore, I wish to impress upon you is, that whenever an opportunity offers, you paint your studies instead of drawing them. 1822 H. MACKENZIE *Life Home* 92 Of this piece [*sc.* Douglas] there are extant..more fragments and original sketches, or, as a painter would call them, *studies*, than of any other of Mr. Home's productions. 1857 RUSKIN *Pol. Econ. Art* ii. § 90 He will make a study of a picture he likes, for his own use, in his own way; but he won't and can't copy. 1871 HAMERTON *Etcher's Handbk.* 59 These two things, the pen study for line, and the sepia study for values of light and dark, are sufficient if properly done, and enough done, to educate an etcher. 1874 R. TYRWHITT *Sketching Club* 48 By a study I mean, generally speaking, a finished drawing of some part of a picture. 1883 RUSKIN *Art of Eng.* 10 The study of cattle on a Highland moor in the evening, by Mr. Davis. 1884 *Sat. Rev.* 7 June 745/2 M. Guignard exhibits a clever study of a calf being fed. 1911 *Act* 1 & 2 *Geo. V*, c. 46 § 2 (1) Any..sketch, plan, model, or study made by him for the purpose of the work.

b. A discourse or literary composition devoted to the detailed consideration of some question, or the minute description of some object; a literary work executed as an exercise or as an experiment in some particular style or mode of treatment.

1866 CARLYLE *Remin.* (1881) II. 240 It was by her address and invention that I got my sooterkin of a 'study' improved out of its worst blotches. 1877 SWINBURNE *Note C. Brontë* 29 A study in that kind as soft and true as Rousseau's, as keen and true as Browning's. 1911 A. G. HOGG *Christ's Message* 133 Recall the thought to which the two first Studies of this week led up.

11. *Mus.* (See quot. 1883.)

1875 STAINER & BARRETT *Dict. Mus. Terms, Study*, a term applied to an exercise for the pianoforte or other instrument. 1883 F. TAYLOR in *Grove's Dict. Mus.* III. 746/2 *Studies*, the name given to a large class of musical compositions,..having..the cultivation of the powers of execution for their chief object. Studies have been written for nearly every instrument, but..it will be sufficient here to speak of Pianoforte Studies, which form the great majority of all those in existence.

12. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as (sense 5) *study-book, -club, -day,* † *desk,* † *house*; *study-bearing, -racked, -worn*, adjs.; (sense 8) *study-cap, -chair, -door, -fagging, -fire, -lamp,* † *man, -table, -window*; *study-bred* adj. Also **study boy**, in some schools, a boy who, as being in an upper form, has a share of a 'study' (sense 8); **study-hall** [=F. *salle d'étude*], in Roman Catholic colleges, a large room in which the pupils prepare their lessons; **study-place** (*a*) = sense 8; (*b*) = *study-hall*.

1670 EACHARD *Cont. Clergy* 25 If..instead of such either of inferiour parts, or a feeble constitution,..there were pick'd out those that were of a tolerable ingenuity, of a *study-bearing body, and..as hence there is nothing to hinder our universities from being full, so [etc.]. 1610 BOLTON *Elem. Armories* 49 Fitt Armes, and *study-books for whom. 1858 W. G. TREBY (*title*) A Study Book of Civil and Mechanical Engineering. 1893 STEVENSON *Catriona* xxiv, I..purchased a study-book in law. 1899 KIPLING *Stalky* vi. 181 The four long form-rooms in which all below the rank of *study-boys worked. 1899 J. A. HOBSON *Ruskin* 220 An abortive brood of *study-bred theories and researches. 1832 S. WARREN *Diary Physic.* II. ii. 59 He was in a brown dressing gown, and *study cap. 1848 B. F. WESTCOTT in A. Westcott *Life* (1903) I. ii. 102 In my inventory they call it a *study-chair! 1886 G. ALLEN *Maimie's Sake* xvii, He sat..in a red velvet-cush oned study-chair. 1910 *Universe* 26 Aug. 8 Its columns have in the past led to the formation of various groups and *study-clubs. 1730 T. BOSTON *Acc. My Life* xii. (1908) 286 For about 3 weeks, as my *study-day came about, I found my self unfitted for it. * 1549 CHALONER *Erasm. Praise Folly* Q ij b, As though I had priuely piked our Maister doctors cunning out of their *studi deskes. 1585 DANIEL tr. *P. Jovius' Disc. Imprese* G vij, Of whom he [*sc.* Erasmus] demaunded what posie were fit to be set on his *Studie doore. 1853 MRS. GASKELL *Ruth* xxx, His study-door was but a step from that which led into the street. 1857 HUGHES *Tom Brown* I. viii, He..chose them for his fags, and excused them from *study-fagging. 1817 SCOTT *Harold* Introd., I love my *study-fire to trim, And con right vacantly some idle tale. 1891 *Tablet* 12 Sept. 415 You will not get it all in the *study-halls and in the class-halls. 1499 *Promp. Parv.* 65/2 (Pynson) Cell or *study hows, *cella*. 1883 F. M. CRAWFORD *Dr. Claudius* i, He struck a match and lit his *study-lamp. 1657 J. WATTS *Scribe, Pharisee* etc. 266 Passing our times in speculative notions and contemplations, as some onely *Study-men, and not Pulpit-men do. 1563 SHUTE *Grounds Archit.* 3 b, Your *study places, where you wold write, draw or deuise..ought to receiue their light from the northe. 1667 in *Cath. Rec. Soc. Publ.* III. 71 They satt to gether in the studdy place. *c* 1755 in B. Ward *Hist. St. Edmund's Coll.* (1893) 301 At two o'clock on School Days all go to ye Study Place. 1812 W. TENNANT *Auster F.* VI. xlvi, Thy *study-rack'd, perplexed brains. 1857 HUGHES *Tom Brown* I. viii, Selling even his school-books, candlestick, and *study table. 1912 *Hibbert Jrnl.* Oct. 122 The dullard will be more happy and useful at the plough-tail than at the study-table. 1871 LOWELL (*title*) My *Study Windows. 1897 'TIVOLI' (H. W. Bleackley) *Short Innings* xv. 221 Dick hoisted himself through the study-window. 1843 D. POLLOK in *Life R. Pollok* 333 He..was pale, thin and *study-worn.

Study (stʌ·di), *v.* Pa. t. and pa. pple. **studied.** Forms: 3–7 **studie**, 4 **stidie, stude**, 4–6 **stodie, -y, studye**, 5 **studdie**, (**stedye**), 5–6 **stodye**, (6 pres. pple. **stoding**), 7–8 **studdy**, 4– **study**. See also ESTUDY. [ME. *studie*, a. OF. *estudier* (mod.F. *étudier*) = Pr. *estudiar* (semi-popular *estuziar*), Sp. *estudiar*, Pg. *estudar*, It. *studiare*, ad. med.L. *studiāre*, f. *studium* STUDY *sb.*

The verb has always been the usual rendering of L. *studēre* (see STUDY *sb.*), which has influenced the sense-development.]

I. Intransitive uses.

1. To apply the mind to the acquisition of learning, whether by means of books, observation, or experiment. † Const. *in, on, upon* (a book, a branch of learning).

c 1300 *St. Edmund* 279 in *E. E. P.* (1862) 78 He lynede adoun vpon his boc, þo he ne mi3te studie nomore. *c* 1320 *Sir Tristr.* 281 In bok, while he was þore, He stodieþ euer, þat stiþe. 1362 LANGL. *P. Pl.* A. XII. 6 The were lef to lerne but loth for to stodie. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* XXXI. (*Eugenia*) 34 Þir twa 3ung men Ithandly studyt in philosophy. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Prol.* 184 What sholde he studie, and make hymseluen wood Vpon a boke in Cloystre alwey to poure. *c* 1400 *Rule St. Benet* (Prose) xlviii. 33 When prime is sungen til vndern salle ye studie in lescuns. *c* 1430 LYDG. *Min. Poems* (Percy Soc.) 217 Eche thyng of kynde drawith to his nature, Som to profite in wysdam and science, Som also to studyen in Scripture. 1450–80 tr. *Secreta Secret.* xxviii. 21 The nobille Plato he studied in the science of Astronomye. 1530 PALSGR. 741/2, I wolde fayne be a great clerke, but I love not to studye. 1661 H. NEWCOME *Diary* (Chetham Soc.) 9, I kept in all ye afternoone and studdyed on another doct. on my text Act. xxiv. 25. 1709 HEARNE *Collect.* (O.H.S.) II. 245 [Harduin] maliciously asserts that the Cardinal's way of studying was to read Indexes. *a* 1721 PRIOR *Advice of Venus* 12 On female idleness his [Cupid's] pow'r relies, But when he finds us studying-hard he flies. 1746 FRANCIS tr. *Hor., Sat.* II. vii. 20 [He] Now rakes at Rome, and now to Athens flies; Intensely studies with the Learn'd and Wise.

b. quasi-*refl.* with complement.

1711 STEELE *Spect.* No. 132 ¶ 1 A Gentleman that had studied himself dumb. 1725 N. BAILEY *Fam. Colloq. Erasm.* (1733) 16, I approve well enough of studying hard, but not to study myself to Death. 1769 E. BANCROFT *Guiana* 227, I have not yet studied myself into a habit of investigating the Minutiae of Nature.

c. To follow one's educational or professional studies at a university, college, or the like; to be a student or learner of some science or art *under* a professor or master. † Const. *in.*

c 1450 CAPGRAVE *St. Aug.* xi. 17 Alipius, he seith, was at Cartage, stodying in rethorik. 1531 *N. Country Wills* (Surtees 1908) 127 Powr scolers..in eyther of thunyversites..there studying in holy Dyvinitie. 1592 KYD *Span. Trag.* IV. i. 76 When in Tolledo there I studied It was my chance to write a Tragedie. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* I. 6 Each man paid a Lubeck shilling for tribute, my selfe onely excepted, who had that priviledge because I went to study in the Universities. 1758 L. TEMPLE *Sketches* (ed. 2) 55 Vandyke studied under Rubens. 1780 *Mirror* No. 70 They had grown up at the same schools, and studied under the same masters. 1884 A. BAIN *Pract. Ess.* 204 In the current phrase, 'studying under some one,' there is a more express reference to being taught by a master, as in listening to lectures. 1898 A. SUTHERLAND in H. G. Turner & S. *Developm. Austral. Lit.* 132 Now he had a chance of studying at the hands of Tom Sayers, afterwards the pugilist hero of England.

2. To think intently; to meditate († *of, on, upon, in*); to reflect, try to recollect something or to come to a decision. *Obs.* exc. *dial.* and *U.S. colloq.*

1340 *Ayenb.* 24 Þet ech may betere y-zy yne him-zelue yef he wyle wel studie. *c* 1400 *Sc. Trojan War* (Horstm.) I. 64 All wrath ande angry ine hys hert Stude studeande a litill stert. *c* 1400 *Beryn* 1793 Beryn studied in the ches, al-bouze it naust a-vaillid. 1450–1530 *Myrr. our Ladye* I. xxiv. 63 But yf youre harte be set..to study aboute the stablynge of the mynde in god, ye can not..saye hys seruyce deuoutly. *c* 1489 CAXTON *Sonnes of Aymon* xii. 287 He loked doun-warde, & studyed a goode while that he sayd noo worde. 1514 BARCLAY *Cit. & Uplondyshm.* (Percy Soc.) 18 Yet let me stody, avoydynge perturbaunce So maye I call them unto my remembraunce. *a* 1533 BERNERS *Huon* liii. 179 They both began to study for yᵉ tyrst draught [*i. e.* move at chess]. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. IV*, 20 When the kyng had long digested and studied on this matter he made aunswere and sayd. *c* 1563 *Jack Juggler* 310 And if I wold sit stoding this .vii. yere I shall not ells find how to saue me all clere. 1580 HESTER tr. *Fioravanti's Disc. Chirurg.* 31, I..beganne to consider of the matter,..& so studying, it came in my memory, that the aire was cause of their death. 1610 SHAKS. *Temp.* II. i. 82 You make me study of that: She was of Carthage, not of Tunis. 1647 LIGHTFOOT *Harmony O. T.* 49 Moses feeding his sheep and studying upon God, hath a vision of Christ in a bush. 1672 DRYDEN *1st Pt. Conq. Granada* III. Stage-dir., He walks swiftly, and discomposedly studying. 1811 *Henry & Isabella* II. 5 He was not so spiritually engrossed, but that he had time to study a little upon temporal affairs. 1876 'MARK TWAIN' *Tom Sawyer* xviii, 'Go on, Tom!' 'Just let me study a moment—just a moment. Oh, yes—you said you believed the door was open.'

† **b.** Phrase, *To study by* or *in oneself. Obs.*

c 1450 *St. Cuthbert* (Surtees) 1440 Cuthbert was gretly stonyed And be him selfe bisily stedyed. *c* 1450 *Merlin* ii. 98 Gretly stodied euery clerke be hym-self, but for all their labour thei cowde not fynde but oon thynge. *a* 1533 BERNERS *Huon* li. 171 He began to study in hymself whether he shulde shewe the trouthe or eles to lye.

† **c.** To be in doubt or perplexity; to 'take thought' anxiously. *Obs.*

1362 LANGL. *P. Pl.* A. VIII. 132 Mony tyme þis Metels han made me to studie For pers loue. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Merch. T.* 711 Who studieth now but faire fresshe May? 1460 CAPGRAVE *Chron.* (Rolls) 25 This mad simple men to worshepe, supposing that he was a god. 1493 *Festivall* (W. de W. 1515) 139 b, Than came an aungel to Joseph & badde he sholde take Mary to his kepynge & study no more thereupon. 1546 J. HEYWOOD *Prov.* II. iv. (1867) 49 Husband (quoth she) ye studie, be merie now, And euen as ye thynke now so come to yow. *a* 1586 MONTGOMERIE *Misc. Poems* xxiv. 31, I, that som tyme solide wes and sage, Begouth to studie, stupefact and strange.

† **d.** With indirect question: To debate with oneself, deliberate, consider. *Obs.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 22166 Þai sal be studiand in þair thoght, Quelper þat he be crist or nai. *Ibid.* 28013 And yee leuedis ..studis hu your hare to heu. *a* 1340 HAMPOLE *Ps.* xiii. 2 Þai kast and studis how þai moght doe in dede þat þai haf wickidly thoght. 1390 GOWER *Conf.* I. 146 This king began to studie and muse, What strange matiere he myhte use The knyhtes wittes to confounde. *c* 1450 *Merlin* xii. 178 He..be-gan to stodye howe he myght spede to go to the kynge Arthur. *a* 1533 BERNERS *Huon* cl. 570 She stode styl and studyed what voyce it myght be. 1593 SHAKS. *Rich. II*, v. v. 1, I haue beene studying how I may compare This prison where I liue, vnto the world. 1600 FAIRFAX *Tasso* v. xcii, He studied how to feed that mightie host. 1694 ATTERBURY *Serm.* (1726) I. 184 Every Man is continually studying how to put a Trick upon his Neighbour. 1788 MRS. HUGHES *Henry & Isab.* III. 79 She determined..not to study what would best deceive her friends and the world; but [etc.].

† **e.** To ask oneself without answer, 'wonder' *why, what*, etc. *Obs.*

c 1480 HENRYSON *Mor. Fab.* x. (*Fox & Wolf*) v, I studdie, quhy ye suld stop me, Sen that I faith neuer to you. *a* 1533 BERNERS *Gold. Bk. M. Aurel.* (1546) Dd.vj b, I studye soore what hath meued the to leaue chyualrye.

† **f.** To search, 'cast about' *for. Obs.*

1551 ROBINSON tr. *More's Utopia* II. iii. (1895) 137 That no man..shall then afterwarde rather studye for [*L. excogitet*] reasons wherewyth to defende [etc.]. 1592 *Arden of Feversham* v. iii. 13 Study not for an answer; looke not down. 1609 ROWLANDS *Knave Clubs* (1872) 38 A greedy minded gripple Clearke, Had gathered store of gould, And studied for a place secure His hoorded heape to hould. 1613 T. ADAMS *White Devil* Ep. Ded., This Sermon beares so strange a Title in the forhead, that I durst not (a while) study for a Patronage to it. 1717–8 LADY M. W. MONTAGU *Let. to Lady* — 16 Mar., I am in great danger of losing my English...I am forced to study for Expressions. 1732 SWIFT *Let. to Gay* 10 July, I found a Moral first and studied for a Fable. 1748 RICHARDSON *Clarissa* (1811) VII. 369 She must have studied for an expedient.

† **3.** To exercise oneself, employ one's thought or effort *in. Obs.*

1450–80 tr. *Secreta Secret.* Prol. 3 For euyr he was stodi-yng in good and gracious thewes. 1456 SIR G. HAYE *Law Armis* (S. T. S.) 25 Otheris that studyit nocht in the kepi-ng of leautee, bot mare in the contrufing [*printed* contrusing] of falshede. 1474 CAXTON *Chesse* IV. i. (1883) 161 Whan the gouernours studye in wisedom.

4. With inf.: To endeavour, make it one's aim, set oneself deliberately *to do* something. *arch.*

1340 *Ayenb.* 232 Stude þou to bleue. *c* 1350 *Will. Palerne* 130 Þan studied sche stifly as stepmoderes wol alle, to do dernly a despit to here stepchilderen. 1377 LANGL. *P. Pl.* B. XV. 587 Þei..studyeden to stroyen hym and stroyden hemself. *c* 1450 CAPGRAVE *St. Gilbert* xiv. 80 Þis very prest Gilbert stodied euery day to bere schidis to þe holy fyr whech brent in þe tabernacle. 1474 CAXTON *Chesse* III. vi. (1883) 132 We studye for to be lyke vnto belues of the see. *c* 1482 J. KAY tr. *Caoursin's Siege of Rhodes* (1870) ¶ 11 They tourned theire fantasye and studyed wyth alle theire vertue and myghte to assaute the cyte. 1519 *Interl. Four Elem.* (Percy Soc.) 4 Yet amonge moste folke that man is holdyn Moste-wyse, whiche to be ryche studyeth only. 1526 TINDALE 1 *Thess.* iv. 11 We beseche you..that ye studdy to be quyet (so 1611), and to medle with youre owne busynes. 1549 *Bk. Com. Prayer, Commun., Prayer for King*, That ..he [the King] maye..study to preserue thy people,..in wealth, peace, and Godlynes. 1585 T. WASHINGTON tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* I. xvi. 17 b, They study to seek places coole & shadowous. 1639 N. N. tr. *Du Bosq's Compl. Woman* II. 59 The more lascivious study commonly to appeare most chast. *c* 1665 MRS. HUTCHINSON *Mem. Col. Hutchinson* (1846) 359 But Cromwell, who of late studied to give him neglects, passed him by. 1701 W. WOTTON *Hist. Rome* 312

He study'd to do as much Mischief as he could. *a* 1715 BURNET *Own Time* (1766) I. 115 No body did ever study to hurt him. 1798 WEBBE in Owen *Wellesley's Desp.* (1877) 10, I have not studied to exaggerate any part of this memorandum. 1823 SCOTT *Quentin D.* xxi, 'For whom are you?' .. 'For France—for France,' answered Quentin, studying to get away.

† b. With clause: To employ one's effort *that*.

1656 EARL MONM. tr. *Boccalini's Advts. fr. Parnass.* II. vi. (1674) 145 They should chiefly study, that..clemency might clearly be seen in the punishment.

† 5. [After L. *studere* with dat.] To be addicted *to*; to direct one's efforts *to*; to be solicitous *for*, *after*: to set one's mind *upon*. *Obs.*

1382 WYCLIF *Jer.* vi. 13 Alle to auarice studien. —2 *Macc.* ii. 29 Forsothe grauntynge the trewthe of alle autours, bot we oure self studyinge to shortnesse. *c* 1430 *Pol. Rel. & L. Poems* 205 Þou studiest after nyce aray. 1561 DAUS tr. *Bullinger on Apoc.* (1573) Pref. 19 Certeine thinges..I have not set forth in these my sermons, studieng much, for breuity. 1603 STOW *Surv. Lond.* (1908) I. 189 Their Prelates,..studying for mony, omitted the punishment limitted by law.

II. Transitive uses.

† 6. To ponder over, meditate upon. *Obs.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 7128 þis [*so.* Samson's riddle] it was quen þai had soght, And stodid thre dais al for noght. *c* 1380 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* II. 116 Studie þou þe dede of Crist, and knitt oo witt wiþ anoþer. 1474 CAXTON *Chesse* IV. viii. (1883) 186 To gyue hem cause to leue her pensifnes and sorowes In anysynge & studyynge this game.

b. *causatively*. To cause to muse; to perplex. *Obs.* exc. *dial.*

1654 T. WHALLEY in *Ussher's Lett.* (1686) 602 Your noting their defects..more studied me.

7. To apply one's mind to the acquiring of (a science, art, language, etc.).

1445 in *Anglia* XXVIII. 273 Aonias also, which crafte of musys studyed. 1516 *Kal. New Leg. Eng.* (Pynson) 28 b, As he was studyinge arythmetryke, his moder then latlye deed apperyd to hym. 1596 SHAKS. *Tam. Shr.* I. i. 40 In briefe sir, studie what you most affect. 1634 SIR T. HAWKINS *Pol. Observ.* 36 Happy he, who studieth prudence on anothers bookes. 1698 FRYER *Acc. E. India & P.* 263 Studying all the Arts of Thrift, will Travel for Fifty Shillings. *a* 1704 LOCKE *Educ.* § 167 Wks. 1714 III. 74 If a Gentleman be to study any Language, it ought to be that of his own Country. 1715 ADDISON *Drummer* III. i, I warrant you he has study'd the black art. 1750 WARBURTON *Julian* Introd. p. xxxviii, That very Philosophy, which was then adopted to explain articles of Faith, was now studied only to instruct us in the history of the human mind [etc.]. 1788 MRS. HUGHES *Henry & Isab.* III. 28 Our heroine had not at all studied the rules of whist, and practised them very little. 1833 G. COMBE *Lect. Pop. Educ.* i. (1848) 14 They have wasted in studying—or in attempting to study—Greek and Latin, the only time which their pressing occupations left at their command. 1878 STEDMAN *Oxford: Soc. & Intell. Life* 280 Political Economy may be studied in Fawcett or Mill.

b. colloq. *To study up*: to study (a subject) in view of some special emergency, e. g. an examination; to 'get up'. In recent Dicts.

8. To be occupied with (a specific branch of learning) as the subject of one's educational course or professional training.

1569 UNDERDOWN *Ovid's Invect. Ibis* Pref. A vij, Ouid.. was a gentleman of a good house,..who rather to please hys father, then for any loue he bare thervnto, studyed the lawe. But after his decease, he returned to his olde study of Poetry againe. 1611 G. H. tr. *Anti-Coton* 35 Being asked whether hee had studyed Diuinitie in the Colledge of Iesuites, he answered: Yea, [etc.]. 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 8 Dec., The Chancery requiring so little skill in deep law learning, if the practiser can talk eloquently in that Court, so that probably few care to study the law to any purpose. 1841 *Penny Cycl.* XXI. 184/1 The university of Göttingen, where Seetzen from 1785-88 studied medicine, the natural sciences, [etc.].

† b. In passive, To be educated. *Obs.*

a 1662 HEYLIN *Hist. Presbyt.* II. (1670) 54 The State of Avignion,..being visited with such of the French Preachers as had been studied at Geneva. 1662 STILLINGFL. *Orig. Sacræ* II. ii. § 5 And after, speaking of their Kings being studied in their arts as well as others of the Priests, he adds, [etc.].

9. To read (a book, a passage, an author) with close attention.

1422 YONGE tr. *Secreta Secret.* 247 Good bokys to rede and study. 1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 2 But rather I beseche all the reders so to study this present treatyse, that [etc.]. 1611 BIBLE *Transl. Pref.* ¶ 4 If we doe not studie them [the Scriptures]. 1701 DE FOE *Trueborn Eng.* 29 The Learned Men who study Aristotle. 1844 E. FITZGERALD *Lett.* (1889) I. 125 Think of the rocococity of a gentleman studying Seneca in the middle of February 1844 in a remarkably damp cottage. 1848 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* ix, At college..he prepared himself for public life..by studying the ancient and modern orators with great assiduity. 1865 M. ARNOLD *Ess. Crit.* Pref. p. viii, One cannot be always studying one's own works. 1881 P. BROOKS *Candle of Lord* 60 A text which we have once studied is like a star upon which we have once looked through the telescope. 1910 *Month* Jan. 2, I have read promiscuously in the *Miscellaneous Writings*, sampling nearly everything and studying some sections carefully. 1910 F. C. BURKITT *Earliest Sources Life Jesus* ii. 32 Their common matter may be studied and compared at a glance.

b. Of an actor: To commit to memory and exercise oneself in the rendering of (a part).

1601 SHAKS. *Twel. N.* I. v. 190, I can say little more then I haue studied, & that question's out of my part. 1602 — *Ham.* II. ii. 566 You could for a need study a speech of some dosen or sixteene lines? 1778 MISS BURNEY *Evelina* (1791) I. x. 79, I could hardly believe he [*sc.* Garrick] had studied a written part, for every word seemed to be uttered from the impulse of the moment. 1779 *Mirror* No. 9 ¶ 2 The part of Lear was to be performed by an actor who had studied the character under the English Roscius.

10. To examine in detail, seek to become minutely acquainted with or to understand (a phenomenon, a state of circumstances, a series of events, a person's character, etc.); to investigate (a problem).

1600 E. BLOUNT tr. *Conestaggio* 131 Who had sent John de Noghera to the Vniuersitie of Coimbra, to studie the point of their pretended election. 1658 FLECKNOE *Enigm. Charac.* 76 In Grammer Schools, where they study Boyes so long, they are marr'd for ever studying men. *a* 1687 PETTY *Polit. Anat.* x. (1691) 70 So as it becomes a Trade to study and make Advantages of these Irregularities [in the value of coin]. 1807 OPIE *Lect.* iv. (1848) 321 In studying and copying the works of old and celebrated masters, it is proper, however, that [etc.]. 1830 R. KNOX *Beclard's Anat.* 42 The anatomist may study the human body in two different states. 1843 RUSKIN *Mod. Paint.* I. I. i. § 2 The mindless copyist studies Raffaelle, but not what Raffaelle studied 1845 PATTISON *Ess.* (1889) I. 14 The Church studying the barbarian temper for the purpose of winning it to Christ. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* vi. II. 105 Over the room which he occupied in the King's Bench prison lodged another offender whose character well deserves to be studied. 1885 'H. CONWAY' *Family Affair* xxvii, The more he studied the situation, the more apparent it became that, to use his own words, he was in a cleft stick. 1907 A. W. STEWART *Stereochem.* 546 Brion studied the action of the animal organism upon the four tartaric acids. 1918 *Times Lit. Suppl.* 14 Mar. 126/2 It is through the writings of Tolstoy and others that the intelligent public has studied Russia.

b. To scrutinize (a visible object) in order to ascertain its nature or to be familiar with or interpret its appearance; *loosely*, to look at as if examining minutely.

1662 GURNALL *Chr. in Arm.* III. verse 18. lviii. 528 The curious Limner studies the face of the man before he makes his draught. 1700 DRYDEN *Fables* Ep. Ded. C 1, You have studied every Spot of Ground in Flanders, which..has been the Scene of Battles and of Sieges. 1802 MAR. EDGEWORTH *Moral T., Prussian Vase* (1816) I. 222 Many studied the countenance of the king, to discover what his wishes might be. 1844 KINGLAKE *Eothen* xiv, By seizing and studying the contents of my dearest portmanteaus. 1878 STEDMAN *Oxford: Soc. & Intell. Life* 286 Finally he will study the specimens in the Court with the aid of the Catalogues of the Oxford Museum. 1889 *Century Mag.* May 85/2 He was studying the toe of his foot visible through a rift in his well-worn brogan. 1908 R. BAGOT *A. Cuthbert* xxi, 257 She was engaged in studying her sister-in-law's figure and personality attentively.

11. To aim at, seek to achieve. Now only, to be solicitous of, aim at (some quality in one's own action).

1606 CHAPMAN *Gentl. Usher* V. ii. 22 Nor studiest eminence, and the higher place Amongst thy consorts, like all other Dames. 1611 BIBLE *Prov.* xxiv. 2 For their heart studieth destruction. *c* 1611 CHAPMAN *Iliad* VII. 55 Saturnius.. (studying both our ils) Will neuer ceasse till Mars..his rauenous stomacke fils, With ruin'd Troy. 1658 SIR T. BROWNE *Hydriot.* v. 29 While some have studied Monuments, others have studiously declined them. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* IX. 233 For nothing lovelier can be found In woman, then to studie houshold good. 1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* II. (Globe) 355 The three Villains studied nothing but Revenge. 1738 SWIFT *Pol. Conversat.* Introd. 43, I most earnestly recommend to my male Readers, that they would please a little to study Variety. *Mod.* He seems to have studied brevity rather than lucidity.

† 12. To meditate, purpose. *Obs.*

1669 DRYDEN *Tyr. Love* III. i. (1670) 27 He from your bed does study a Divorce.

13. To devise, excogitate. Now only with *out*.

1559 *Homilies* I. *Good Wks.* III. I iv, Suche as he hath commaunded in his holy Scripture, and not suche woorkes as menne haue studyed out of their owne brayne. [1549 I iv b *reads* haue immagined of their awne brayne.] 1611 BEAUM. & FL. *Maid's Trag.* V. (1619) L 1 b, Thou art some prating Fellow, One that hath studied out a tricke to talke And moue soft harted people. *a* 1637 B. JONSON *Sad Sheph.* I. iii, I will still study some revenge past this! 1782 WARTON *Ess. Pope* II. viii. 78 The temple itself is nobly and magnificently studied. 1845-6 TRENCH *Huls. Lect.* Ser. I. vi. 95 We might study out a system; but can we ever study out a person?

14. To exercise thought and deliberation in (an action, composition, etc.).

1668 EVELYN tr. *Freart's Idea Perf. Paint.* 120 Intelligent men, who finding nothing of rare and well studied in their Works..will be soon wearied with a transitory view of their Labors. 1710 FELTON *Diss. Classics* (1718) 171 His Words flowed rather from Nature than Art; and where they appear most to be studied, they appear at the same time to be most affected. 1852 MRS. STOWE *Uncle Tom's C.* xxvi, It was tied up with an evident eye to the contrast of colour, and the arrangement of every leaf had carefully been studied. 1857 TROLLOPE *Barchester T.* xxxii, The epistle to Mr. Towers was studied, and recopied, and elaborated at the cost of so many minutes, that [etc.].

15. To pay practical regard to, 'consider' (a person's wishes, feelings or interests); hence *colloq.* to be careful of the convenience or feelings of, to humour (a person).

1758 S. HAYWARD *Serm.* xvii. 534 Where a person..is continually studying our advantage. 1798 SOPHIA LEE *Canterb. T., Young Lady's T.* II. 31 [He] soon studied her convenience. 1852 DICKENS *Bleak Ho.* ii, I [a tradesman] have been accustomed to study the leaders of my high connexion. 1858 MRS. CARLYLE *Lett.* II. 352 With no husband to study, housekeeping is mere play. 1861 F. W. ROBINSON *No Church* V. v. III. 258 Say that, to set her free, I have to ask the law to take you prisoner again, do you think for a moment I should study you in saving her? 1891 *Times* (weekly ed.) 1 Nov. 875/3 She was willing to study their wishes to a certain extent. 1895 *Law Times* XCIX. 545/2 We best serve our own interests in studying the interests of those for whom we act. 1909 *Spectator* 25 Sept. 451/1 They speak of a sensitive child who must be studied.

Study, obs. var. STEADY, STITHY.

Studyaunt(e, -ent(e, obs. forms of STUDENT.

Studying (stʌ·diiŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. STUDY *v.* + -ING 1.] The action of the verb STUDY.

1303 R. BRUNNE *Handl. Synne* 443 3yf þey [*sc.* dreams] com noght þurgh stodyyng [Fr. *de cogitacion*]. 1362 LANGL. *P. Pl.* A. IV. 143 Bote stareden for studiing and stooden as Bestes. 1423 JAS. I *King's Q.* viii, Myn eyen gan to smert for studying. *c* 1430 *Syr Gener.* (Roxb.) 1590 Stil he stoode in studiyng. 1534 MORE *Let. to Wilson* Wks. 1444/2, I determined with my self vtterly to discharge my mynde of any ferther studyinge or musinge on the matter. 1656 tr. *Hobbes' Elem. Philos.* (1839) 395 An earnest studying of one object, takes away the sense of all other objects for the present. 1697 FLOYER *Eng. Baths* iii. 64 Studying and Sleeping much is very injurious in the use of Baths. 1890 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Col. Reformer* xxiv, There's a deal of studying required..before a man comes to see the right thing at the right time.

b. *attrib.*

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 452/1 Selle, stodyynge howse, *cella*. 1628 T. BALL *Life Preston* (1885) 166 His preaching & studying labours were exceeding great. 1661 P. HENRY *Diaries & Lett.* (1882) 77 [Feb.] 9. Studying day...10 Sabbath-subject, concerning Anger. *Ibid.* 80 [March] 9 Studying-day. 1661 J. WARD *Diary* (1839) 109 Wee saw him sitt..with his hat with silver lace about itt, and his studying gowne on. 1685 WILDING in *Colleet.* (O.H.S.) I. 262 For making my studding gown..00 02 00. 1708 CHAMBERLAYNE *Pres. St. Gt. Brit.* (1710) 303 All the Libraries in Oxford are Studying Libraries; and those of Cambridge..are Lending-Libraries. 1788 COWPER *Gratitude* 9 This wheel-footed studying chair.

Stu·dyless, *a. rare*⁻¹. [f. STUDY *sb.* + -LESS.] Not addicted to study.

1614 SYLVESTER *Little Bartas* 1009 School-lesse, Schollers; Learned, studi-lesse.

Stue, obs. var. STEW *sb.*¹, *sb.*², *v.*², STOW *v.*²

1578 H. WOTTON *Courtlie-Controv.* 32 Wee see for one braunche of a tree stued off, that nature planteth seauen scients vppon the same stocke.

Stuer, var. STURE, a sturgeon.

Stuerd(e, Stuerne, obs. ff. STEWARD, STERN *a.*

‖ **Stufa** (stū·fa). *rare.* [It. = next.]

1. = STUFE.

1832 GELL *Pompeiana* I. vi. 85 A heated *stufa*.

2. (See quot.)

1830 LYELL *Princ Geol.* (1835) I. II. iii. 304 In many volcanic regions, jets of steam, called by the Italians 'stufas,' issue from fissures, at a temperature high above the boiling point.

† **Stufa·ta.** *Obs. rare*⁻¹. [Altered f. It. *stufato*, f. *stufare* to stew. Cf. STOFFADO.] Some kind of stew.

1771 SMOLLETT *Humph. Cl.* 11 Oct., He taught me..to cook several outlandish delicacies, such as *ollas*, *pepper-pots*, *pillaws*, *corys*, *chabobs*, and *stufatas* [many later edd. give *stuffatas*].

† **Stufe**, *sb. Obs.* Also 6 stuphe, stewfe, 7 stuph, stuffe. [ad. It. *stufa*.] A hot-air bath: = STOVE *sb.*¹

1533 ELYOT *Cast. Helthe* (1541) 72 b, Moderate sweatynge in hot bathes or stufes be to this complexion necessary. 1547 BOORDE *Brev. Health* § 292 Vse than [for itching] purgacions and stuphes and sweates. 1549 THOMAS *Hist. Italie* 28 The Romaines vsed oftentime, to bathe theim selfes, wherfore..priuate men made them stewfes or hotehouses of theyr owne. 1631 JORDEN *Nat. Bathes* I. (1669) 2 Vapours [Baths] are Stuphs and Hot Houses. *a* 1697 AUBREY *Lives, Bacon* (1898) I. 78 There were two bathing-roomes or stuffes, whither his Lordship retired afternoons as he sawe cause.

attrib. 1598 FLORIO, *Stufaiuolo*, a bathe or stufe-keeper.

Hence † **Stufe** *v.*

1598 FLORIO, *Stufare*, to stue meate, to stufe, or bathe in a whot house.

Stufer, obs. f. STIVER.

Stuff (stʌf), *sb.*¹ Forms: 4–5 stof, 5–6 stoffe, 4–7 stuffe, 5–6 stuf, 5–8 stufe, (6 stoufe), 4– stuff. [ME. *stoffe*, *stof*, a. OF. *estoffe* fem., material, furniture, provision (mod. F. *étoffe* material, stuff, esp. textile material) = Pr., Sp., Pg. *estofa*, cloth, quality, It. *stoffa* piece of rich textile fabric. From the OF. word are med.L. *estoffa*, *stoffa*, Du. *stoffe*, *stof* fem., G. *stoff* masc., matter, stuff, whence Sw. *stoff*, Da. *stof* neut.

The ultimate etymology is obscure. Diez conjectured that the Rom. *stoffa* and the related vb. *stoffare* (STUFF *v.*) are derived from the OHG. **stopfôn* (MHG., mod.G. *stopfen*) to plug with oakum, which (as explained s.v. STOP *v.*) represents a WGer. adoption of med.L. *stuppāre* to plug, stop up, f. *stuppa* tow, oakum. This is open to strong objections: the likelihood of a specifically HG. etymon for a Com. Rom. word is questionable, and the original sense of the Rom. verb appears to be, not 'to plug or stop up', but 'to garnish or store with something'. Whether the sb. is the source of the verb, or derived from it, is uncertain; the masc. form in It. *stoffo*, Pg. *estofo* quilted material, is undoubtedly a verbal noun.]

I. 1. Equipment, stores, stock.

† a. A body of soldiers; a garrison; an auxiliary force, reinforcement. Also *stuff of people*. *Obs.*

1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* v. 258 Now takis Iames his viage.. Vith twa þomen,..That ves a sympill stuff to ta, A land or castell for to vyn! 1412-20 LYDG. *Troy-bk.* IV. 2119 Whanne he sawe his Grekis gonne faille And wexe feble to stonden in bataille For lak of stuf þat shulde hem recounforte. *c* 1425 WYNTOUN *Cron.* I. 124 Befor it set wes Cherubin, þat mai be vnderstandin richt A stuf of angellis blith and bricht. 1430-40 LYDG. *Bochas* II. xiv. (1554) 53 b, Up he rose and gan hymselfe tauance No stuffe about him but sergeauntes riotous. 1442 ROOS & BEKYNTON in *B's. Corr.* (Rolls) II.

213 Yf any stuf or pouaire of Englissh pouple had be there. *c1470* HENRY *Wallace* VI. 693 The ij captans sone mett thaim at Beggair, With the haill stuff of Roxburch and Berweike.

†b. In ME. poetry, the quilted material worn under the mail, or itself serving in place of armour. In later use: Defensive armour. *Obs.*

c 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* 10031 Vaumbras & rerbras, wyþ coters of stel, þer-opon an aketon wyþ stof & al sylk [Fr. *Hauberc et bon et bel vestu*], His cote of armes þer-on. 13.. *Gaw. & Gr. Knt.* 581, & syþen þe brawden bryne of bryȝt stel ryngez, Vmbe-weued þat wyȝ, vpon wlonk stuffe. *a* 1400–50 *Wars Alex.* 2980* Some arays þaim in ryngges some in rawe brenys, Some in stalwart stuffe & some in stele plates. *c* 1420 *Anturs of Arth.* xlv, He..Thro the wast of the body wowundet him ille; The squrd styntet for no stuffe, he was so wele stelet. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* IV. 563 With ire him straik on his gorgeat off steill, The trensand blaid to persyt euirydeill. Throu plaitt and stuff, mycht nocht agayn it stand. *c* 1470 *Gol. & Gaw.* 981 He..Hakkit throw the hard weid, to the hede hynt; Throw the stuf with the straik..He hewit attanis. 1535 STEWART *Cron. Scot.* (Rolls) II. 130 Thir wicht men weildit thair waponis so weill, That euerie straik out-throw thair stuf of steill Thay gart the blude brist out.

†c. The materials, stores, or supplies belonging to an army; munitions of war; more definitely *stuffs of war*. *Obs.*

1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* XVII. 176 Wittaill thai fand in gret fusioune, And all that fell till stuff of toune. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 481/1 Stuffe, or stuffure, *staurum*. *c* 1450 *Brut* II. 428 He ordeynyd hym a newe retenewe of men of armys and archeris, with alle maner of othir stuffis that bylongid therto. *a* 1466 GREGORY *Chron.* in *Hist. Coll. Cit. Lond.* (Camden) 161 And he toke alle hyr ordynaunsis of gonnys and alle hyr vytayle, with alle the othyr stoffe that was at the sege, that is to saye, xiiij gonnys,..and ij C pypys of brede and floure,..and othyr stuffe of pavys and tentys. *a* 1500 *Bale's Chron.* in *Six Town Chron.* (1911) 116 Item this yere the duke of Somerset with a grete power ordenance and stuff moustred at portesmouth diverse tymes. *Ibid.* 152 Wt greet ordenannce of Gonnes and other stuffs of werre.

†d. The baggage of a soldier or an army; later *gen.* baggage, luggage. *Obs.*

? *a* 1400 *Morte Arth.* 735 Thus they stowe ine the stuffe of fulle steryne knyghtez. 1530 PALSGR. 277/2 Stuffe caryage, *aport, seruage*...Stuffe that is in a fardell, *fardage*. 1535 COVERDALE *Sam.* XXX. 24 Like as the porcion is of them that wente downe to the battayll, so shal yᵉ porcion be of them also that abode with the stuffe. 1590 SHAKS. *Com. Err.* IV. iv. 153 Come to the Centaur, fetch our stuffe from thence. *a* 1625 FLETCHER *Noble Gent.* II. i, I see my folly, Pack up my stuffe, I will away this morne. 1653 H. COGAN tr. *Pinto's Trav.* i. 2 There I found a Carvel of Alfama, that was laden with the horses and stuff [Pg. *cavallos e fato*] of a Lord.

e. Stock or provision of food. *Obs.* exc. *Sc.* Cf. 6 c.

More definitely †*stuff of victual*. † *Lenten stuff*: fish procured as a provision for Lent.

1436 HEN. VI in *Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* Var. Coll. (1907) IV. 199 We..have notable purveyd for the defense and kepynge of hem, as well in sufficiaunce of nombre of men and in stuff of vitaille, artillerie and alle manere abillemens of werre as otherwyse. *c* 1506 *Plumpton Corr.* (Camden) 198 And your Lenten stoufe is to bey, & I wote not what to do. 1535 *Sc. Acts Jas. V* (1814) II. 347/1 þat Nane forstallaris be fundin byand vittalis fische flesche or vþer stuff or þe samin be presentit to þe mercat..vnder þe pane of presonyng of þare personis. 1580 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 126 Take shipping or ride, Lent stuffe to prouide. 1596 HARINGTON *Metam. Ajax* Prol. B 5 b, Lo stuffe for you good store, To gnaw, chew, bite and eate. *a* 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 23 Apr. 1667, Then was the banquetting stuff flung about the roome profusely. 1870 J. NICHOLSON *Idylls o' Hame* 113 O' Ne'rday stuffs we're weel laid in, A sonsy cheese, jist like the mune, Wi' crumpy cakes.

f. Provision of corn; in full †*stuff of corn*; hence corn or grain in any state (see quot. 1825–82). *Obs.* exc. *Sc.*

1461–2 *Cal. Anc. Rec. Dublin* (1889) 311 Wher they fyndyth any maner of stof of corn grosyt, they to arest and take up all such stof. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* III. 220 Quhen this was doyne, to thar dyner thai went, Off stuff and wyne. 1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* I. 6 In all kynde of stuffe, and cattell it abundes. 1635 D. DICKSON *Sel. Writ.* (1845) I. 94 He were an evil-skilled husbandman who should take a whole bing of stuff to be chaff, because there is much chaff in it. 1786 BURNS *Halloween* xv, The Simmer had been cauld an' wat, An' Stuff was unco green. 1825–82 JAMIESON, *Stuff*. It denotes grain in whatever state; whether as growing, cut down, in the barn, or in the mill.

g. Property, esp. movable property, household goods or utensils; furniture; more definitely *stuff of money, stuff of household*. *Obs.* exc. in HOUSE-HOLD-STUFF *arch.*

1438 *E. E. Wills* (1882) 111 Item to my wyf, all my stuff beyng at the Fasterne. 1439 *Ibid.* 126 All his other godes and stuffes meveable that he leveth vnto hem. *c* 1442–55 DR. BUCKINGHAM in *Paston Lett.* I. 61 In gode faith, brother,..I have but easy stuffe of money withinne me,..so that I may not plese youre seid gode brotherhode. 1464 *Inv.* in *Turner's Dom. Archit.* (1859) III. iv. 113 A grete red standerd full of stuff, locked with 2 lockes. *c* 1490 CAXTON *Rule St. Benet* 136 Suche stuff that he hath not yeuen before to folke þat ben poore or other wyse, openly shall he thenne yeue to the monestary. 1501 *Bury Wills* (Camden) 84, I bequethe to Margarett my wyff all my stuff of household. 1538 in *Archæologia* XLIII. 210 Certeyne guddes or stuffe appertaynyng to the seid Monastery remayneth unsolde. 1596 H. CLAPHAM *Briefe Bible* I. 65 Joshuah giving in charge that no man take any execrable stuffe of Iericho. 1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* II. iii. III. 399 A poore man..eates his meat in wooden spoones, wooden platters, earthen Vessels, and such homely stuffe. 1635–56 COWLEY *Davideis* III. 220 Some lead the groaning waggons, loaded high, With stuff, on top of which the Maidens ly. 1646 *Bury Wills* (Camden) 193 She shall not..haue the vse of any of the goods, stuffe of houshold, chattells, personall estate, or thinges by me herein given to her.

†h. The furnishing proper to a place or thing; appurtenances, apparatus. *Obs.*

1406 HOCCLEVE *La Male Regle* 349 My thank is qweynt, my purs his stuf hath lore. 1427–9 *Wills & Inv. N. C.* (Surtees) II. 75 And I wyl yat yᵉ stuffe of alle myn howses of offices as kychyn panetre and buttre..remayne to my son. 1523–34 FITZHERB. *Husb.* (1882) 14 A carte made of asshe,..and lyke stuffe to it as is to a wayne. 1530 PALSGR. 277/2 Stuffe for a bedde, *acoustrement de lit*. 1538 ELYOT *Dict.*, *Choragium*, stuffe, proprely wherwith that place is adorned, where as shall be enterludes or disguysynges. 1596 SHAKS. *Tam. Shr.* IV. iii. 87 Oh mercie God, what masking stuffe is heere? What's this? a sleeue? 1679–88 *Secr. Serv. Money Chas. & Jas.* (Camden) 160 To Francis Duddell..for sevll provisions for church stuff for the chappel at Dublin, 267*li.* 4*s.* 10*d.* 1688 WOOD *Life* 26 Nov. (O. H. S.) III. 285 Common report that lord Delamere, who was about Northampton burning all popish chapel stuffs,..would be at Oxon next day.

†i. *Cookery.* Materials for filling a pie or for stuffing. *Obs.*

c 1420 *Liber Cocorum* (1862) 51 For a pye...þy stuffe of fressh befe mynse þou schalle..þen lay þy capon in coffyn fyne. *c* 1450 *Two Cookery Bks.* II. 76 Make faire rownde cofyns,..fil hem full of the stuffe, and sette hem ayen in the oven. 1533 J. HEYWOOD *Johan A* iij, We made a pye ..The preest payde for the stuffe and the makyng. 1591 A. W. *Bk. Cookrye* 7 Then mingle all your stuf togither, and put it in your Rabets belly. 1598 *Epulario* I j, Take Marchpane stuffe..prepare the paste..then fill it with the stuffe.

j. Stock-in-trade. *Obs.* exc. *north.*

1560 DAUS tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 118 b, There is not so lytle a corner any where, that they [sc. merchants] have not fylled full of theyr stuffe. 1630 BP. HALL *Occas. Medit.* XXX. (1633) 75 Each [street seller] tels what he hath,..and yet (God wot) it is but poore stuffe that they set out, with so much ostentation. 1868 ATKINSON *Cleveland Gloss.* s. v., 'He's a deal o' stuff on hand, noo', a very large stock in trade.

II. That of which something is or may be made; material.

2. Material to work with or upon; substance to be wrought, matter of composition.

c 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* I. 392 Of suche a stufe as esy is to fynde Is best..to bilde. 1474 CAXTON *Chesse* III. v. (1883) 126 They that ben acustomed to make oynements they ought to make hyt proprely of true stuf and of good odoure. 1522 *Extracts Burgh Rec. Stirling* (1887) 17 And that tha [sc. the candles] be gud and sufficient stoufe. 1524 *Ibid.* 19 Johen Allan, talyour, was in amerciament for the occupyin of the furruris in furring of ane goune with new stoufe. 1585 HIGINS *Junius' Nomencl.* 347/2 *Fistula*,..a pipe: a flute, whether it be of reede or other stuffe. 1594 HOOKER *Eccl. Pol.* I. iii. § 3 Let Phidias haue rude & obstinate stuffe to carue,..his worke will lacke that bewtie which otherwise in fitter matter it might haue had. 1621 DONNE *Serm.* XV. (1640) 147 In all the Potters house, is there one vessell made of better stuffe then clay? 1693 EVELYN *De la Quint. Gard., Cult. Orange Trees* 9 A Shovel-full of Stuff [F. *matière*] is thrown from each of the two or three separated Heaps [of ingredients for a compost]. 1764 BURN *Poor Laws* 217 Hemp, wool, flax, or other stuff wrought, shall be sold.. either at some market or other place.

b. *collect.* Materials or requisites for a piece of work; esp. building materials.

c 1400 *Destr. Troy* 283 Now ordant was alshing [sc. for the building of a ship] onestly þere, And abundantly broght þat hom bild might, With all stuff for þe stremes. 1442 *Rolls of Parlt.* V. 44/1 The makers of the seid new Brigge, to have free entry and issue, with their Tymbre, cariage, and othir stuffe. 1473–4 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* I. 68 For a leueray colare..gevin to him..price of the colare, stuf and werkmanschip, xj li. viij s. iiij d. 1482 in *Eng. Hist. Rev.* (1910) XXV. 122 We fyndyng allemaner of stoffe as Bordes, Couerynges, Curreys, hookes, or Claspes, glewe, and flowre for paaste [for binding the books]. *c* 1489 CAXTON *Sonnes of Aymon* vi. 149 Whan all his stuff was redy, he made theym to buylde there a strong castell. *c* 1550 in *Turner's Dom. Archit.* (1859) III. iii. 79 Vᶜ. marc or more to pay wekely pouer workemen, laborers stuff and cariage. *a* 1568 ASCHAM *Scholem.* Pref. (Arb.) 21 A small cotage, poore for the stuffe, and rude for the workemanship. 1630 R. N. *Camden's Eliz.* II. 106 The Queene by Proclamation prohibited any new dwelling houses to be built,..vpon paine of imprisonment, and losse of the stuffe brought for the building. 1896 P. J. DAVIES *Pract. Plumbing* II. 801 *Stuff*, in plumbing, the lead and materials, such as is the stuff on the job.

†c. A manufactured material. Cf. sense 5. *Obs.*

1555 WATREMAN *Fardle Facions* I. v. 52 Thei did weare..shoes of a certeine kinde of russhes, named *Papyrus*, whiche after became stuffe, to geue name to our paper. *a* 1626 BACON *New Atlantis* 38 Wee haue also diuerse Mechanicall Arts, which you haue not; And Stuffes made by them; As Papers, Linnen, Silks, Tissues; dainty Works of Feathers of wonderfull Lustre; excellent Dies, and many others.

3. *transf.* and *fig.* a. The substance or 'material' (whether corporeal or incorporeal) of which a thing is formed or consists, or out of which a thing may be fashioned.

1587 GOLDING *De Mornay* (1592) 127 God for the creating of the world needed neither stuffe nor newe advisement. 1604 SHAKS. *Oth.* I. ii. 2 Yet do I hold it very stuffe o' th' conscience To do no contriu'd Murder. 1610 — *Temp.* IV. i. 156 We are such stuffe As dreames are made on. 1611 — *Cymb.* V. iv. 49. 1612 *Two Noble K.* III. i. 49 Not finding in The circuit of my breast any grosse stuffe To forme me like your blazon. 1621 DONNE *Serm.* XV. (1640) 144 As soone as my soule enters into Heaven, I shall be able to say to the Angels, I am of the same stuffe as you, spirit, and spirit. 1648 BP. HALL *Breath. Devout Soul* xlviii. 81 When I look back upon the stuffe whereof it [my body] is made, no better then that I tread upon..I have much adoe to hold good terms with so unequall a partner. 1709 T. ROBINSON *Vind. Mosaick Syst.* 14 The Platonick Hypothesis..is to make God an Impotent Cause, not able to make this World without Matter and Stuff to work on. 1785 BURKE *Sp. Nabob Arcot's Debts* Wks. 1792 II. 502 The debt of the company from the rajah of Tanjore, is just of the same stuff with that of the nabob of Arcot. 1896 HOUSMAN *Shropshire Lad* xxxii, From far..The stuff of life to knit me Blew hither: here am I. 1900 H. MACPHERSON *Herbert Spencer* v. 68 Now, in tracing the Universe, science can get no further back than the nebula, or world-stuff. 1914 A. F. GILES *Ram. Civilis.* i. 7 We have to realize that human nature, which is the stuff of history, is much the same in all ages.

b. What a person is 'made of'; one's capabilities or inward character. Also, solid qualities of intellect or character; capacity for achievement or endurance; the 'makings' of future excellence.

1557 EDGEWORTH *Serm.* 305 b, He is a proud man he swelleth in the flesh and is not ful, but as a thing blowen vp and readie to burst, and yet is there no sure and permanent stuffe within him. 1597 MORLEY *Introd. Mus.* 120 He is a proper man, but he is no descanter, there is no stuffe in him. 1601 SHAKS. *Jul. C.* III. ii. 97 When that the poore haue cry'de, Cæsar hath wept: Ambition should be made of sterner stuffe. 1613 — *Hen. VIII*, I. i. 58 Surely Sir, There's in him stuffe, that put's him to these ends. 1785 COWPER *Task* IV. 636 Unapt to learn, and form'd of stubborn stuff, He yet by slow degrees puts off himself. 1792 R. CUMBERLAND *Calvary* V. 304 Is thy frail memory of that slippery stuff That a friend's sorrow washes out all trace Of a friend's features? 1820 BYRON *Morg. Maggiore* XXIV, For late there have appear'd three giants rough; What nation or what kingdom bore the batch I know not, but they are all of savage stuff. 1822 HAZLITT *Table-T.* Ser. II. ix. 212 There is stuff in him, and it is of the right practicable sort. 1853 LYTTON *My Novel* X. xxiv, Yet Frank Hazeldean has stuff in him —a good heart, and strict honour. 1858 HAWTHORNE *Fr. & It. Note-Bks.* I. 224 He was not naturally of the stuff that martyrs are made of. 1862 *Baily's Mag.* May 311 He [an oarsman] looks remarkably well, and is made of stuff to stand training. *Ibid.* Dec. 313 There is some good bowling stuff in him [sc. a cricketer]. 1879 *Times* 14 June 12/1 The Marquis..has some of the stuff of a man in him, in spite of his self-indulgence and his follies.

c. Predicatively, with epithet, of a person or a horse.

1553 *Respublica* I. iv. 376 Els will some of youe make good hanging stuff one daie. 1808 JAMIESON *s.v.*, It is said of one, who will not yield in reasoning, or in fighting, 'He is good stuff, or, a piece of good stuff'. 1830 MARRYAT *King's Own* iv, He is real stuff—never winced. 1858 CARLYLE *Fredk. Gt.* II. vii. (1872) I. 95 Rudolf..proved an excellent bit of stuff for a Kaiser. 1861 WHYTE-MELVILLE *Market Harb.* i, 'Capital bit of stuff,' he repeats, dangling his feet out of the stirrups; 'as game as a pebble, and as neat as a pink.' 1863 W. C. BALDWIN *Afr. Hunting* vi. 175 He was as good a bit of stuff as ever was put together.

d. Material for literary elaboration; the matter or substance of a work, as distinguished from the form. Now *rare*. † *In stuff*: as regards the matter or substance.

c 1450 CAPGRAVE *St. Aug.* xlv. 60 þis glorious doctour whom all cristen men ar bounde to do worchip, most specialy clerkys..þat haue grete stuf oute of his bokes to her lernyng. *a* 1568 ASCHAM *Scholem.* II. (Arb.) 129 They busie not them selues with forme of buildyng: They do not declare, this stuffe is thus framed by Demosthenes, and thus and thus by Tullie. 1607 SHAKS. *Timon* V. i. 87 And for thy fiction, Why thy Verse swels with stuffe so fine and smooth, That thou art euen Naturall in thine Art. 1619 in *Eng. & Germ.* (Camden) 192 The inclosed writing..being, as by perusall you will find, in stuffe the very same with that I had at Saltzburg. 1675 MARVELL *Corr.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 473 Having scarce stuffe enough for a letter to the Bench, I content myself with acquainting you [etc.]. 1684 ROSCOMMON *Ess. Transl. Verse* 44 Degrading Prose explains his meaning ill, And shews the Stuff, but not the Workman's skill. 1855 MOTLEY *Dutch Rep.* III, ix. II. 458 This great event [the siege of Harlem] constituted..the principal stuff in Netherland history, up to the middle of the year 1573.

4. In various operative trades, applied *spec.* to the kind of material used in the trade.

a. *Carpentry* and *Joinery*: Timber.

Clear, free stuff: timber free from imperfections. *Quarter stuff*: see QUARTER *sb.* 30. *Thick stuff*: see quot. 1711.

1544 BETHAM *Precepts War* II. lv. Liv, Bycause stuffe doth somtyme want to make suche [wooden] brydges. 1678 MOXON *Mech. Exerc.* vi. 113 The Wood that Joyners work upon they call in general Stuff. 1711 W. SUTHERLAND *Ship-build. Assist.* 48 Plank and thick Stuff for Ship-work. *Ibid.* 165 Thick-stuff; all Plank (as it may be termed) which is thicker than 4 Inches. 1799 *Hull Advertiser* 15 June 2/2 Timber. For sale..A variety of stuff suitable for camp buildings. 1812–16 J. SMITH *Panorama Sci. & Art* I. 118 The shoulder [of the square] is pressed against the edge of a rectangular piece of stuff, and a line drawn close to the blade. 1833 LOUDON *Encycl. Archit.* § 83 The whole to be framed in a workmanlike manner, with the stuff (pieces of timber) sawed square of the several scantlings. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* IV. 130/1 Panel stuff should be treated in a similar manner. 1883 *Encycl. Brit.* XVI. 453/2 The timbers are usually of 12-inch stuff square-hewn or sawn.

b. The material of which a beaver-hat is made. Cf. *stuff hat* (11 c).

1799 *Repert. Arts & Manuf.* X. 275 [Hat making.] The purpose of fulling being to form a dense compact stuff with hair.

c. *Paper-making.* (See quots.)

1745 DE COETLOGON *Hist. Arts & Sci.* II. 796/2 In these Mortars, the Rags being beaten.., they take them out with little Iron hooped Pails...This makes what they call the *first Stuff*...After this, the Stuff is again put into clean Mortars. 1766 Half-stuff [see HALF- II n]. 1840 *Penny*

Cycl. XVII. 208/2 The pulp, or *stuff*, as it is technically called, is now ready to be made into paper. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech., Stuff*, paper-stock, ground ready for use. When half ground it is known as half-stuff.

d. *Mining.* Material of rock, earth, or clay containing ore, metal, or precious stones.

1853 C. R. READ *Austral. Gold Fields* 15 Anxious, at all events, to have a look at the real stuff, I accompanied one down to see him wash out his tin dish. 1877 RAYMOND *Statist. Mines & Mining* 19 Fragments of a crimson-colored rock were found by the miners, intermixed with the gold-dust... This 'red stuff,' so called, bothered the honest diggers not a little, interfering with their operations much after the manner of the celebrated 'blue stuff'—the rich sulphurets of silver. 1885 RIDER HAGGARD *K. Solomon's Mines* xvi, I pointed to a series of worn flat slabs of stone..' if those are not tables once used to wash the "stuff", I'm a Dutchman.' 1887 J. A. PHILLIPS & BAUERMAN *Elem. Metall.* (ed. 2) 185 The [iron] ore remains about ten minutes in the drum, or about 10 tons of stuff are washed per hour.

5. Material for making garments; woven material of any kind.

1462 *Mann. & Househ. Exp.* (Roxb.) 150 Item, delyvaryd to Willyam off Wardrope ffor stoffe ffor my lordys doblett, xx.d. 1473 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* I. 73 Veluous to purfel a govne to my Lady of blac satyne figory, of the Kingis awin stufe. 1551 ROBINSON tr. *More's Utopia* II. ix. (1895) 294 The priest is clothed in chaungeable coloures, whiche in workemanshyp be excellent, but in stuffe [L. *materia*] not verye precious. 1596 SHAKS. *Tam. Shr.* IV. iii. 119 *Gris.* I gaue him the stuffe. *Tail.* But how did you desire it should be made? 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* I. 208 My selfe and my brother bought each of us a long coat of as course stuffe as we could find. 1713 BERKELEY *Ess. in Guardian* v. Wks. 1871 III. 161 My couches, beds, and window-curtains are of Irish stuff. 1801 STRUTT *Sports & Past.* I. ii. 34 Certain quantities of stuff for the purpose of making 'stalking coats, and stalking hose'. 1838 JAMES *Robber* i, A coarse sort of stuff used by the common people.

b. In particularized sense: A kind of stuff; a textile fabric.

1604 E. G[RIMSTONE] *D'Acosta's Hist. Ind.* IV. xli. 320 The Indians make stuffs of this wooll wherewith they clothe themselves. 1625 in Foster *Eng. Factories India* (1909) III. 62 'Neccanies, semeanes, dimittes, stuffs, gumlack, bloodstones, and the rest' will be sent as ordered. *a* 1627 MIDDLETON *Anything for Quiet Life* II. ii. (1662) D 1, But if you'd have a Petticoat for your Lady, here's a stuff. 1660 F. BROOKE tr. *Le Blanc's Trav.* 92 They make stuffes of the bark of a tree, to cover their nakednesse. 1756 NUGENT *Gr. Tour, Germany* II. 229 Leipsic has considerable manufactures of its own, as in stuffs. 1791 W. HAMILTON *Berthollet's Dyeing* I. Introd. 2 The stuffs..were immersed in vats, where they received various colours. 1838 LYTTON *Leila* I. iv, The walls were covered with the stuffs of the East. 1857 RUSKIN *Pol. Econ. Art* i. 10 Applying your labour rationally;..not..putting fine embroidery on a stuff that will not wear.

fig. 1602 SHAKS. *Twel. N.* II. iii. 53 Youths a stuffe will not endure.

c. *spec.* A woollen fabric (see quot. 1882).

c 1643 [cf. *stuff suit* 11 a]. 1712 STEELE *Spect.* No. 264 ¶ 1 He dresses himself according to the Season in Cloth or in Stuff. 1735 DYCHE & PARDON *Dict., Stuff*, in Weaving, is any Sort of Commodity made of Woollen Thread, &c. but in a particular Manner those thin light ones that Women make or line their Gowns of or with. 1882 CAULFEILD & SAWARD *Dict. Needlework* 465 *Stuffs.* This term..may be applied to any woven textile;..but it more especially denotes those of worsted, made of long or 'combing wool'...Stuffs are distinguished from other woollen cloths by the absence of any nap or pile. 1896 C. K. PAUL tr. *Huysman's En Route* II. vii. 276 The Trappist is buried without a coffin, in his robe of stuff.

d. As the material for the gown worn by a junior counsel. Hence *rarely*, A 'stuff-gownsman', i. e. a junior counsel, as distinguished from a 'silk' (see SILK *sb.* 3 d).

For some years *c* 1900 'Silk and Stuff' was the heading of the column devoted to bar news in the *Pall Mall Gazette*.

1889 A. BIRRELL *Sir F. Lockwood* v. 82 In 1882 Lockwood whilst still in stuff defended..with great success, a woman who [etc.]. 1892 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 12 Oct. 6/1 He was appointed to the bench when he was a 'stuff' merely on the ground of professional merit.

III. Matter of an unspecified kind.

6. The general designation for solid, liquid, or (rarely) gaseous matter of any kind: used indefinitely instead of the specific designation, or where no specific designation exists. Often applied to a preparation or composition used for some special purpose.

1580–1 *Act* 23 *Eliz.* c. 9 *Preamb.*, A certeyne kinde of Ware or Stuffe called Logwood. 1617 MORYSON *Itin.* III. 165 They..delight to have their boots and shoos shine with blacking stuffe. 1617 *Shuttleworths' Acc.* (Chetham Soc.) 223 or stuffe to kille myce at Gawthropp, ij^{s}. 1682 LANGFORD *Fruit-trees* 108 Some thin stuff out of a House of Office..hath been often used with good success. 1714 TYLDESLEY *Diary* (1873) 150 Gave Mrs. 6d. to by stufe ffor her tyeth. 1769 FALCONER *Dict. Marine* (1780), *Stuff*, any composition, or melted mass, used to smear or daub the masts, sides, or bottom of a ship. 1820 SHELLEY *Oedipus Tyr.* II. i. 123, I, vote..that Purganax rub a little of that stuff Upon his face. 1882 W. HUGGINS in *19th Cent.* Aug. 275 We have found that one part of the cometary stuff is in the condition of gas. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VII. 819 The kidneys gradually finding greater and greater difficulty in getting out the toxic stuff.

¶ Although the Eng. word is not, like Ger. *stoff*, used for 'matter' in the scientific sense (as opposed to 'spirit' or to 'force' or 'energy'), it sometimes occurs in nonce-uses intended to illustrate the notion expressed by *matter* in this application.

1875 STEWART & TAIT *Unseen Univ.* iii. § 93. 70 The conviction that there is something besides matter or stuff in the physical universe.

b. Applied to medicine, esp. liquid mixtures. More definitely *doctor's stuff* (see DOCTOR *sb.* 13). Now only *colloq.* or with disparaging implication.

1611 SHAKS. *Cymb.* v. v. 255, I..did compound for her A certaine stuffe, which being tane, would cease The present powre of life. 1636 in *Trans. Essex Archæol. Soc.* (1863) II. 213 Paid Mr. Stammer for a glasse of stuff sent to the sick folkes, 1s. 0d. 1779 WARNER in Jesse *Selwyn & Contemp.* (1844) IV. 298 Your very kind letter...did me more good, I think, than any of my doctor's stuff. 1819 MOORE *Tom Crib's Mem.* 17 Sandy tipp'd him a dose of that kind, that, when taken, it is n't the stuff, but the patient that's shaken. 1847 LEVER *Knt. Gwynne* xvii, The old doctor..tore a leaf out of his pocket-book to order me some stuff for the cough.

c. Applied to articles of food or drink. *Good stuff, the stuff*: colloq. whisky.

See also KITCHEN-STUFF, *sweet-stuff* (SWEET *a.* C 1).

1597 SHAKS. 2 *Hen. IV*, II. iv. 69 There's a whole Marchants Venture of Burdeux-Stuffe in him. 1678 in *Jrnl. Friends' Hist. Soc.* (1912) IX. 103 Who being gone from the fathers house where ther is Liueing bread enough, his owne Company are glad of his dry huskey stufe. 1706 E. WARD *London World Diss.* (1708) 57 Wretched gripe-gut Stuff. 1712 ARBUTHNOT *John Bull* III. vi. 23 My Friend Nic and I, not being used to such heady Stuff [champagne], got bloody Drunk. 1825 T. C. CROKER *Fairy Leg. Irel.* XXXII. (1859) 269 Dropping the glass, and it full of the stuff too, I bolted out of the door. 1854 SURTEES *Handley Cr.* IV. (1901) I. 30 A farmer and brewer; and making pretty good stuff, 'Dobbs's Ale'. 1861 MEREDITH *Evan Harrington* xi, The guests had arrived at that stage when to reach the arm, or arrange the person, for a sip of good stuff, causes moral debates. 1886 D. C. MURRAY *Aunt Rachel* II. i. 12 Tek a shillin' and get a drop o' good stuff wi' it, an' warm up that old gizzard o' thine. 1895 BRAM STOKER *Watter's Mou'* i. 5 Despite of all vigilance, a considerable amount of 'stuff' finds its way to the consumers without the formality of the Custom House. 1896 HOUSMAN *Shropshire Lad* lxii, Ale, man, ale's the stuff to drink For fellows whom it hurts to think.

d. In certain operative trades, applied *spec.* to some particular composition or preparation used in the work. (*a*) *Plastering.* (See quot. 1812.) (*b*) *Baking.* (See quot. 1820.) (*c*) *Leather-manuf.* (See quot. 1875) = STUFFING.

Red stuff (see RED *a.* 19). *Touching stuff* (see TOUCHING, *vbl. sb.* 4). *White stuff*, a gilders' composition of size and whiting, used to form a surface over wood to be gilded. (*Cent. Dict.* 1891.)

(*a*) 1812 P. NICHOLSON *Mech. Exerc.* 307 *Fine Stuff* is made of lime slacked and sifted through a fine sieve, and mixed with a due quantity of hair, and sometimes a small quantity of fine sand. Fine stuff is used in common ceilings and walls, set for paper or colour. *Ibid.* 309 *Lime and Hair*, is a mixture of lime and hair used in first coating and floating. It is otherwise denominated coarse stuff.

(*b*) 1820 *Blackw. Mag.* III. 546 Other individuals furnish the baker with alum mixed up with salt, under the obscure denomination of *stuff*. 1843 PEREIRA *Food & Diet* 311 Notwithstanding that the law prohibits, under a penalty, the use of alum by bakers, it is very frequently employed under the name of 'stuff'.

(*c*) 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech., Stuff* (Leather) a composition of fish-oil and tallow for filling the pores of leather. Dubbing. 1897 C. T. DAVIS *Manuf. Leather* XV. (ed. 2) 216 It must always be remembered that stale goods will not carry the stuff as well as fresh ones.

e. Cultivated produce of a garden or farm; natural produce of land.

a 1687– [see GARDEN-STUFF]. 1813 RUDGE *Agric. Glouc.* 246 In some coppices, the small stuff, called drift-wood, is sold..as high as 5*s.* the square perch. 1868 ATKINSON *Cleveland Gloss.*, 'There's a vast o' stuff on t' land, surely'; growth or produce. 1896 P. A. GRAHAM *Red Scaur* iii. 34 His judgment of live-stock was infallible, and he seldom let any real good stuff go past. 1901 J. H. HARRIS *Luck of Wheal Veor* xi. 162 The ducks, chickens, and goslings, and all the young stuff shaping 'keenly' for future sale.

f. In commercial and industrial use, often applied *spec.* to the particular commodity dealt in or produced.

1708 J. C. *Compl. Collier* (1845) 12 By sight of the Stuff taken out of the Wimble, or Scoop, you plainly discover of what Kind it is. 1881 *Good Words* 843/2 The iron rope..which..brought up the tub..with the 'stuff' as it was dug out. 1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-mining* 245 *Stuff*, coals and slack, the produce of the mine. 1912 *World* 7 May 700/1 Most of the nitrate companies..are making a better showing in their reports. At anything over 7*s.* 3*d.* per quintal the stuff pays handsomely. 1913 *Standard* 14 July 3/1 British steel is affected by the cheap offers of foreign stuff.

7. *transf.* and *fig.* in non-physical senses.

a. Literary or artistic matter; compositions, productions. Now *rare* exc. with disparaging implication (cf. 8), and *colloq.* among journalists and professional authors = 'copy'.

1542 UDALL *Erasm. Apoph.* 12 Whiche booke perused, Euripides asked, what he thought of it. By Iuppiter (saied Socrates) that, that I haue been hable to vnderstand me thynketh to be ioyly good stuffe. 1562 TURNER *Herbal* II. 70 He pretendeth as thoughe he neuer saw Dioscorides of whom he hath conueyed so much learned stuf in his omnigatherum. *a* 1586 SIDNEY *Astroph. & Stella* lvi, But now that I, alas, doe want her sight, What, dost thou thinke that I can euer take In thy cold stuffe a flegmatike delight? *a* 1668 LASSELS *Voy. Italy* II. (1698) 76, I saw upon the wall some old painting,..pitiful stuff. 1693 DRYDEN *Persius* i. Argt. (1697) 400 To decry the Poetry then in Fashion; and the Impudence of those, who were endeavouring to pass their Stuff upon the World. 1711 SWIFT *Jrnl. to Stella* 3 Oct., I..then went in to the music-meeting..: but was weary in half an hour of their fine stuff, and stole out so privately that everybody saw me. 1883 F. M. CRAWFORD *Dr. Claudius* i, He had been reading serious stuff. 1898 *Scribner's Mag.* May 580 Some of the younger crowd could tell which was Linton's stuff, and what kind of a story he was best at. 1915 *Daily News* 24 Apr. 4 This does not mean that they had finished writing their 'stuff' (to use an expressive technical phrase) for the daily papers.

† b. Matter of thought. *Obs.*

1602 SHAKS. *Ham.* II. ii. 324 *Ham.*..Man delights not me; no, nor Woman neither; though by your smiling you seeme to say so. *Rosin.* My Lord, there was no such stuffe in my thoughts.

c. Applied to a person: chiefly with qualifying word. *Hot stuff* (slang): Applied to (*a*) a lustful person; (*b*) a person of fiery courage.

1588 SHAKS. *L. L. L.* IV. iii. 276 *Kin.* No Diuell will fright thee then so much as shee. *Duma.* I neuer knew man hold vile stuffe so deere. 1604 MIDDLETON *Witch* IV. ii. (1778) 82 She goes here by the name on's wife: good stuff! 1607 — *Michaelmas Term* III. i. E 4, *Sho.* How now? what peece of stuffe comes heere? *a* 1641 BP. MOUNTAGU *Acts & Mon.* (1642) 250 He was so besotted..upon that now broken stuffe, and Crone in yeares, the cast beauty of that woman [Cleopatra].

d. Fighting material. *colloq.*

1883 *Manch. Exam.* 24 Nov. 5/1 The army of Ibrahim included a good deal of tougher stuff than the ordinary fellah of Egypt. 1894 *Outing* Sept. 445/1 Good! that big stuff can't box a little bit.

8. What is worthless; rubbish. (Orig. a contextual use of sense 7, with disparaging epithet or other indication of aversion). a. *gen.*

a 1668 LASSELS *Voy. Italy* II. (1670) 4c4 Here also they have every night in summer, a world of Montibanks, *Ciarlatani*, and such stuff. 1706 M. HENRY *Expos. Gen.* xlv. 20 What they had in Canaan he reckoned but stuff..the best of its (the world's) Enjoyments are but stuff, but lumber. 1720 HEARNE *Collect.* (O.H.S.) VII. 120 Dr. Charlett..went over ..to get some MSS. (I am told, very sorry ones) for the Publ. Library...The Persons that told me observ'd that a Library may soon be filled with such stuff. 1810 *Sporting Mag.* XXXVI. 187 A red curtain, a Grecian couch, or some such fashionable stuff. 1883 *Daily News* 14 Feb. 5/7 The brass dishes are poor stuff.

b. Worthless ideas, discourse, or writing; nonsense, rubbish. Often coupled with *nonsense* (chiefly *stuff and nonsense*, † *nonsense and stuff*). Frequently in interjectional use.

1579 GOSSON *Sch. Abuse* (Arb.) 66 Iuno crieth out in Seneca, ..Lets dwel in earth, for heauen is full of whores. What stuffe is this? wantons in heauen? 1606 SHAKS. *Tr. & Cr.* I. iii. 161 At this fusty stuffe, The large Achilles..laughes out a lowd applause. 1691–8 NORRIS *Pract. Disc.* IV. 415 Would not this be mere Stuff, wretched Trifling,..and as much to the Purpose as if he had said just Nothing? 1701 FARQUHAR *Sir H. Wildair* IV. ii, Golden Pleasures! Golden Fiddlesticks.—What d'ye tell me of your canting Stuff? *Ibid.*, Stuff! stuff! stuff!—I won't believe a Word on't. 1749 FIELDING *Tom Jones* VII. vi, Pooh, all stuff and nonsense. I tell thee, she shall ha' thee to-morrow. 1770 FOOTE *Lame Lover* I. 10 Pshaw! nonsense and stuff.—The eye! 1778 JOHNSON in *Boswell* (1904) II. 185 It is sad stuff, Sir, miserably written, as books in general then were. 1833 COLERIDGE *Table-t.* 28 Aug., Your art diplomatic is stuff:—no truly great man would negociate now upon any such shallow principles. 1851–61 MAYHEW *Lond. Labour* II. 175/2 It's all stuff and nonsense, all this talk about dust-yards being unhealthy. 1852 THACKERAY *Esmond* I. vi, 'Stuff! we must see Lady Castlewood,' says the lawyer, pushing by. 1860 MISS YONGE *Hopes & Fears* I. 181 'Only because I am not come out.' 'Stuff about coming out! I don't like my girls to be shy and backward.' 1887 T. E. BROWN *Lett.* (1900) I. 125 Poor G. Sand! I am reading her *Amours de l'Âge d'Or*. Woe is me! what awful stuff! 1890 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Col. Reformer* xxiv, 'Stuff!' said Miss Augusta.

† c. Indecent matter. *Obs.*

1749 FIELDING *Tom Jones* XII. v, A grave matron told the master [of a puppet-show] she would bring her two daughters the next night, as he did not show any stuff.

d. *Phrase.* —— *and stuff*, and such-like useless or uninteresting matters. *colloq.*

? 1697 J. LEWIS *Mem. Dk. Glocester* (1789) 66 She turned to me and said, 'Lewis, I find you pretend to give the Duke notions of the mathematics, and stuff.' 1729 SWIFT *Grand Question debated* 159 Your Noveds, and Blutraks, and Omurs and Stuff, By G—, they don't signify this Pinch of Snuff. 1774 GOLDSM. *Retal.* 145 When they talk'd of their Raphaels, Corregios, and stuff. 1852 THACKERAY *Esmond* III. iv, And as for you, you want a woman..to sit at your feet, and cry, 'O caro! O bravo!' whilst you read your Shakespeares and Miltons and stuff.

9. *U.S.* (See quot.) Cf. STUFFY *a.* 4.

1787 J. Q. ADAMS *Diary* (1903) 66 She..has rather too much temper, or as it is called in New-England, too much stuff.

10. *slang.* a. Money, cash. Chiefly with article *the stuff.*

1775 SHERIDAN *Rivals* I. i, But has she got the stuff, Mr. Fag; is she rich, hey? 1787 *Minor* 198 He made me an offer of some stuff—for such, you may recollect, is the epithet bestowed by all great philosophers on gold. 1823 'JON BEE' *Dict. Turf* s.v., 'Hand over the stuff,' give the money. 1896 J. F. B. LILLARD *Poker Stories* 50 Those were the days, my boy—..every sport with stuff in his pockets and lots of good clothes.

b. Stolen goods.

1865 *Daily Tel.* 3 Nov. 5/1 This particular parcel of 'stuff' was arrested, however, in mid course. 1894 *Daily News* 16 Oct. 2/3 Fitzpatrick at once confessed to complicity in the robbery, and said he would tell where 'the stuff' was.

c. Forbidden goods smuggled into a jail

1904 A. GRIFFITHS *50 Yrs. Publ. Service* xi. 154 We had news constantly of 'stuff' planted for cash in exchange.

11. *attrib.* and *Comb.*

a. attrib. passing into adj.: Made of stuff or woollen cloth (see sense 5c).

c 1643 Ld. Herbert *Autobiog.* (1824) 162 A..person came to me apparelled in a black stuff suit. 1702 *Post Man* 17–19 Sept. 2/2 Sad coloured stuff Coat, and black Hat. 1718 *Freethinker* No. 13 P.8 Were she to be reduced to a Stuff-Gown to-morrow, [she] could part with all her Jewels and Brocades, without a Sigh. 1730 *Inventory R. Woolley's Goods* (1732) 11, 3 Chairs with Stuff Seats. 1839 Macaulay *Gladstone* Ess. 1865 II. 65 To tell a barrister..that he shall grow old in his stuff gown, while his pupils are seated above him in ermine. 1840 Barham *Ingol. Leg.* Ser. II. *Bl. Mousquetaire* II. 80 The fusty stuff gown of a *Sœur de la Charité*. 1856 *N. Brit. Rev.* XXVI. 248 He led the Northern Circuit in a stuff gown, many silks being obliged to keep their talents in abeyance. 1857 Hughes *Tom Brown* I. ii, The field thronged with country-folk, the men in clean white smocks.., and the women..in new-fashioned stuff shawls. 1897 Voynich *Gadfly* I. iii, An old stuff frock that was too short for her.

b. Simple attrib., as *stuff goods, -manufacture, mercer, trade*; objective, as *stuff-finisher, -maker, -manufacturer, -seller, -weaver*; *stuff-weaving* vbl. sb.; parasynthetic, as *stuff-bottomed* adj.

1816 Scott *Antiq.* x, The..heavy *stuff-bottomed chairs. 1861 *Internat. Exhib. 1862, Alph. Lists Trades* 39 *Stuff Finishers. 1816 *Acts 14th Congr. U.S.* Sess. I. c. 107 § 1 Blankets, woollen rugs and worsted or *stuff goods. 1780 *Indenture Clifton, Notts*, Bennet Thorpe, *stuffmaker. 1730 *Lett. to Sir W. Strickland* 11 The Callicoe-Act, (made on purpose to encourage our *Stuff-Manufacture. 1858 Simmonds *Dict. Trade*, **Stuff-manufacturer*, a maker of thin woollen cloth. 1723 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 6139/3 John Harrison and Richard Harrison,..*Stuff-Mercers. 1711 *Ibid.* No. 4801/4 William Paine,..*Stuff-seller. 1884 *Manch. Exam.* 12 Nov. 5/3 It was proclaimed..that the *stuff trade had gone to the dogs altogether. 1706 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4246/3 William Madlow,..a *Stuff-Weaver. 1832 Thackrah *Effects Arts* etc. *on Health* (ed. 2) Index 237 Stuff-weavers. 1702 E. Calamy *Abridgm. Baxter's Life & Times* iii. 34 Their Common Trade of *Stuff Weaving would find Work for all.

c. Special comb.: **stuff ball** (see quot.); **stuff-chest** *Paper-manuf.*, the vat or reservoir into which the pulps from the beating engine are run and mixed; **stuff engine** *Paper-manuf.*, the 'beating engine', a machine in which half-stuff is reduced to a fine pulp; **stuff gown**, a junior counsel (see 5 d above); so also **stuff gownsman**; **stuff hat** (see quot. 1839); **stuff heap**, a heap of coals and slack raised from a mine; **stuff mark**, a weaver's mark woven into goods for the purpose of identification or as attestation of their quality; **stuff-melter** *Soap-manuf.*, an operative who extracts the oils, fats, etc. from the raw materials; **stuff-presser** *Woollen-manuf.*, a workman employed in pressing or finishing the cloth; **stuff shoes** (see quot. 1892); **stuff-shovel** (see quot.).

1880 Sir C. H. J. Anderson *Lincoln Pocket Guide* 176 Patronesses of the *Stuff Ball. Established in 1787 for the encouragement of native woollen manufacture...The ladies used to wear stuff gowns, and the gentlemen stuff coats [etc.]. [List of Patronesses, 1787–1879, follows.] 1799 *Hull Advertiser* 1 June 1/1 Paper-mill..comprises..four vatts, *stuff-chests and beaters. 1881 *Spons' Encycl. Industr. Arts* IV. 1497 Whence the mixed stuff flows on the sand-tables, to be again used to dilute fresh pulp from the stuff-chests. 1839 Ure *Dict. Arts* 924 The construction of the *stuff-engine is represented in figs. 785, 786. 1867 Woolrych *Bar & Serjeant-at-Law* 7 The promotions will be of a *Stuff Gown, as it is called, or of a learned Counsel of the Crown. 1852 *Fraser's Mag.* Feb. 129/1 A sagacious chancellor lifts a *stuff-gowns-man from the back row to the judgment-seat. 1839 Ure *Dict. Arts* 634 The materials used in making *stuff hats are the furs of hairs and rabbits freed from the long hair, together with wool and beaver. 1662 *Act* 14 *Chas. II*, c. 5 § 15 Every Person..shall weave his proper *Stuff Mark into every peice of Stuff which he shall weave. 1884 A. Watt *Soap-making* 28 Kitchen-stuff, as prepared by the '*stuff-melters,' is a very useful article for mottled soaps. 1831 Thackrah *Effects Arts* etc. *on Health* 72 *Stuff-pressers carry heavy plates of iron heated to redness. 1794 Waldron *Heigho for Husb.* I. ii. 3 We'll..put on coarse linen gowns, and *stuff shoes; enrol ourselves at a register-office; get good places. 1892 *Labour Commission* Gloss., *Stuff Shoes*, shoes of which the tops or upper parts are made from 'lasting' [a woven worsted material], cashmere, or fancy cloth. 1858 Simmonds *Dict. Trade*, **Stuff-shovel*, an implement used by the paper-makers.

Stuff (stʌf), *sb.*[2] Now *S. African.* Also 5 stuf. [a. Du. *stof* dust (cogn. w. G. *staub*): two independent adoptions.] Dust.

1481 Caxton *Reynard* xxxix. (Arb.) 107 Thenne wold he geo aboue the wynde and reyse the duste, that it made his eyen ful of stufs. 1863 W. C. Baldwin *Afr. Hunting* vi. 145 Herds..scouring away before me..amid such a cloud of stuff raised by their own tearing away that I never knew what I was fiting at.

Stuff (stʌf), *v.*[1] Forms: 4–5 stoff, 6 stof, 4–7 stuffe, 5–7 stuf, 4– stuff. [a. OF. *estoffer* (NE. dial. *stoffeir*: Anglo-Latin *stuffare*) to furnish, equip, garrison (mod.F. *étoffer*, to furnish with what is necessary, to supply material for) = Sp. *estofar*, to embroider in relief, Pg. *estofar*, to embroider, to quilt, to stuff (cushions, meat):—Rom. **stoffare*: for the ulterior etymology see Stuff *sb.*[1]]

†**1.** *trans.* To furnish (a fortified town, stronghold, an army, a commander, etc.) with men, munitions, and stores; to garrison (a town). *Obs.*

13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 1184 For þe borȝ was so bygge baytayled alofte, & stoffed wyth-inne with stout men to stalle hem þer-oute. 1375 Barbour *Bruce* XVII. 213 The king..vald nocht brek doune the vall, Bot castell, and the toune with-all, Stuff weill with men and vith vittaill And alkynd othir apparaill. *Ibid.* 350 Wardis..That war stuffit richt stalwardly With stanys, schot, and other thing. 1444 *Rolls of Parlt.* V. 74/1 Also to stuffe the Castelles, Tounes, and alle maner Forteresses. 1470–85 Malory *Arthur* I. i. 35 The kyng..badde hym be redy and stuffe hym and garnysshe hym, for within xl dayes he wold fetche hym oute of the byggest castell that he hath. 1513 Douglas *Æneis* IX. iv. 4 The Troianis..All thar deray beheld..And baith wyth armour and with wappynnis brycht The tour hedis thai stuffit all that nyght. *Ibid.* XI. ix. 51 A party of the cietezanis, he said, Do stuf the entreis, and the portis defend. 1535 Stewart *Cron. Scot.* (Rolls) III. 314 He passit to Athell, And stuffit hes ilk castell that wes strang With men and meit. 1611 Speed *Hist. Gt. Brit.* IX. xvi. § 10. 653 S. Iean, a Towne of Normandy..which Edmund Duke of Somerset ..had lately fortified and stuft with souldiers. 1640 Yorke *Union Hon., Battles* 11 Hertford Castle..like wise the Castle of Berkhampsteade, both which he stuffed with French Garrisons.

†**b.** To furnish (troops) with support; to reinforce; to support, aid (a war). *To stuff a chase* (Sc.), to provide men for, organize a pursuit. *Obs.*

c 1400 *Destr. Troy* 8284 Menelay with his men metyt in swithe,..Restorit hom stithly, stuffit hom anon. *c* 1470 Henry *Wallace* v. 277 To stuff the chas feyll frekis folowit fast. *Ibid.* v. 935, x. 268. 1513 Douglas *Æneis* x. ii. 89 Gif I evir into that weyr Minysterit dartis, wapynnys, or sic geyr? Or ȝit that bargane stuffyt or bet,..With Cupidis blynd lust and subtilite? Than had bene [etc.]. 1533 Bellenden *Livy* (S.T.S.) II. 77 To stuffe þis army..war ekit þe auld centurions. 1535 Stewart *Cron. Scot.* (Rolls) III. 170 Tha tuke haill purpois in that samin place, Efter king Edward for to stuffe ane chace. *c* 1560 Rolland *Seven Sages* (Bann. Club) 203 Ane Empreour..Quha had greit Kings into his companie,..Doing seruice..Sum for pastime and sum to stuf his weir.

†**c.** To marshal (troops). *Obs.*

a 1375 *Joseph Arim.* 601 þe stiward of Tholomer stoffes hem to-gedere, and seis, [etc.].

†**2.** To supply or furnish (a person) with arms, provisions, money, etc. Const. *of, with*. *Obs.*

c 1375 Barbour *Bruce* XI. 47 Off tresour so stuffit is he, That he may vageowris haf plente. 1387–8 T. Usk *Test. Love* I. x. (Skeat) 44 If thou laudest and joyest any wight, for he is stuffed with soche maner richesse, thou art in that beleeve begyled. 14.. *Sc. Acts Robt. I* (1844) I. 468/2 Ilk lord sal cum stuffyt & purvayt [L. *stuffatus*] to þe ost of caryage and vyttalis as he wil be servyt. 1430–40 Lydg. *Bochas* IX. xxxviii. (1554) 217, I, not expert, nor stuffed with language. 1432 *Rolls of Parlt.* IV. 410/1 The merchantes strangiers been stuffed so gretely therwith. *c* 1475 *Partenay* 6378 Thys lady..To all other ladies exemplair, Well stuffed with all maner of goodnesse. 1551 Edw. VI *Jrnl.* (Roxb. Club) II. 327 Then, that she shuld be brought at her father's charge three monthes before she was twelf, sufficiently juelled and stuffed. 1592 Shaks. *Rom. & Jul.* III. v. 183 A Gentleman..Stuft as they say with Honourable parts. 1656 *Burton's Diary* (1828) I. 198 This day hath brought you work enough for half a year, and another day will stuff you sufficiently.

†**b.** To arm and equip (a soldier). Alliterative phrase, *stuffed in steel. Obs.*

? *a* 1400 *Morte Arth.* 1932 Whene any stirttez to stale, stuffe þame þe bettere, Ore thei wille be stonayede, and stroyede in sone strayte londez. *a* 1420 *Aunters of Arth.* 391 In stele was he stuffede, þat stourne vppone stede. *c* 1470 Henry *Wallace* v. 266 Befor him come feyll stuffyt in fyne steill. *Ibid.* x. 22 The Sotheroun was rycht douchty in thair deid, To gydder straik, weyll stuffyt in steyll weid. *a* 1483 *Liber Niger* in *Househ. Ord.* (1790) 17 Every man stuffed and renned [*sic*] at the Kinges costes of suche defence as he coude best deale withall.

†**3.** To furnish (a place) with accessories, stock, inhabitants; to store with provisions, etc. *Obs.*

c 1386 Chaucer *Clerk's T.* 208 Houses of office stuffed with plentee. *c* 1400 *Rom. Rose* 7065 So that the tour were stuffed wel With alle richesse temporel. 1430–40 Lydg. *Bochas* IV. ix. (1554) 107 In a caue..he made him to be throu, The place stuffed with good barking houndes. 1449 *Sc. Acts Jas. II* (1814) II. 36/2 Gif ony man..resettis ony þat ar conuict of tresone..or þat stuffis the housis of þaim þat ar conuict of tresone..[they] sal be punyst as tratouris. 1523 Berners *Froiss.* I. cxxiii. 148 They fledde away..and left their houses well stuffed, and graunges full of corne. 1530 Palsgr. 742/1, I stuffe, or store a grounde with thynges that growe and encrease, *je peuple*. 1546 *Supplic. Poore Commons* (E.E.T.S.) 79 Bringyng them [*sc.* children] vp other to bear wallettes, other eles, if thei be sturdy, to stuffe prisons, and garnysh galow trees. 1570–6 Lambarde *Peramb. Kent* 168 This Weald..was..not planted with Townes,..but stoared and stuffed with heardes of Deare. 1598 Barckley *Felic. Man* II. 101 Hee buildeth his house with his sonnes money,..and stuffeth it handsomely. 1603–26 Breton *Poste Mad Lett.* (Grosart) 42/1 Whose seruants better gouerned? whose house better stuffed and maintained?

†**b.** To store (goods) in a receptacle or place; to keep (flocks) in a place. *Obs.*

1567 *Bauldwin's Mor. Philos.* (Palfr.) III. (1600) 58 Princes liue more surely with the gathering to them men of good liuing & conuersation, then with treasures of mony stuffed in their chestes. 1596 Shaks. *Tam. Shr.* II. i. 352 In Iuory coffers I haue stuft my crownes. 1605 *First Pt. Jeronimo* I. iii. 22 Farmers that crack barns With stuffing corne, yet starue the needy swarmes. 1696 *Nottingham Rec.* IV. 280 No person shall att any tyme hencefurthe stuffe, hould, or keepe any sheepe in or vpon any the sayd highwayes.

†**4.** To line (a helmet, a garment) with cloth, etc. *Obs.*

13.. *Gaw. & Gr. Knt.* 606 þe helme..þat was stapled stiffy, & stoffed wyth-inne. *c* 1400 *Sege Jerus.* (E.E.T.S.) 422 Was noȝt, while þe nyȝt laste, bot nehyng of stedis, Strogelyng in stele wede & stuffyng of helmes. *c* 1470 *Gol. & Gaw.* 735 Thai stuffit helmys in hy, Breist-plait and birny.

1473–4 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* I. 16 Gret braid cloth to stuf ij doublatis to the King. 1552 *Ibid.* X. 70 Item, ane elne of quhite bukrame to stuff the hude and slevis. 1590 Sir J. Smyth *Disc. Weapons* 46 Deepe steele skulles in very narrowe brimbd hats, well stuffed for the easines of their heades.

5. To line or fill with some material as a padding; to distend or expand with padding; esp. to fill (a bedtick, cushion, etc.) with packing in order to furnish a yielding support. Also with *out, up*.

c 1450 *Cov. Myst.* (Shaks. Soc.) 241 Cadace wolle or flokkys, ..To stuffe withal thi dobbelet, and make the of proporoyon. 1480 *Wardr. Acc. Edw. IV* (1830) 125 For making and stuffing of a sadelle. *Ibid.* 130 Federbeddes stuffed with downe. 1494 *Act* 11 *Hen. VII*, c. 19 Quyltes mattres and cussions stuffed with horse here. 1530 Palsgr. 741/2, I stuffe a tycke of a bedde with fethers, *je emplume*. 1597 Shaks. 2 *Hen. IV*, v. v. 87 Gine me your Doublet, and stuffe me out with Straw. 1644 Bp. Hall *Serm.* 21 July, Rem. Wks. (1660) 135 Many a one..hath found nothing but an image of clouts laid upon a bolster stuffed with Goats hair. *a* 1700 Evelyn *Diary* 4 Dec. 1679, The bound is made so exactly even, and the edges [of a billiard-table] not stuff'd. 1700 Dryden *Baucis & Ph.* 47 Two Cushions stuff'd with Straw, the Seat to raise. *a* 1716 South *Serm.* (1823) V. 140 Many of these [Plato's scholars] found it easier to imitate Plato's shoulders than his philosophy, and to stuff out their gowns than to furnish their understandings. 1784 Cowper *Task* VI. 674 For there [*sc.* in the theatre] some noble lord Shall stuff his shoulders with king Richard's bunch. 1827 Scott *Surg. Dau.* xiv, Horsemen..in a sort of defensive armour, consisting of rich silk dresses, rendered sabre proof by being stuffed with cotton. 1839 J. W. Burgon *Gresham* I. iii. 210 His breeches, which were stuffed out with cotton, were more useful than ornamental. 1891 Farrar *Darkn. & Dawn* I, He had lingered on, chewing in his agony the tow with which his mattress was stuffed. 1908 *Animal Management* (Vet. Departm., War Office) 210 To stuff a collar under these circumstances means that it is too tight when the horse puts up muscle.

transf. and *fig.* 1633 G. Herbert *Temple, Love Unknown* 48, I found that some had stuff'd the bed with thoughts, I would say, thorns. 1646 Sir T. Browne *Pseud. Ep.* I. vi. 22 & considerable part of Ancient times, was by the Greeks themselves termed μύθικον, that is made up or stuffed out with fables. 1648 Gage *West Ind.* 122 Lying words of miracles, wherewith they stuffe up a whole houres preaching. 1699 Bentley *Phalaris* 296 His other Citations, with which his Margin is plentifully stuft out. 1781 Cowper *Hope* 105 No need, he cries, of gravity stuff'd out With academic dignity devout, To read wise lectures, vanity the text.

b. Of material: To serve as padding or stuffing.

c 1530 in *Archæologia* XXV, 503 For vj lb. of flock for to stuff cusshonys iiij d. 1599 Shaks. *Much Ado* III. ii. 47 The Barbers man hath beene seen with him, and the olde ornament of his cheeke hath alreadie stuft tennis balls. 1607 — *Cor.* II. i. 98 Your Beards deserue not so honourable a graue, as to stuffe a Botchers Cushion.

†**c.** To distend, expand (as if by padding). *Obs.*

1595 Shaks. *John* III. iv. 97 Greefe fils the roome vp of my absent childe:..Stuffes out his vacant garments with his forme. 1605 *Hist. Capt. Stukeley* I 3, The ioyfull breath that issues from thy lips, Comes like a lusty gale to stuffe our sailes. 1631 Fuller *David's Sin* III. xxx. (1867) 238 Their very sighs might serve to stuff the sail. 1678 T. P[orter] *Fr. Conjurer* 1, 4 Let his Breeches be made straight and stufft with Whalebone, to reduce his Limbs into a Spanish Posture.

†**d.** To convert (*into* something) by stuffing. *Obs.* (? *nonce-use*).

1724 Swift *Drapier's Lett.* v. (1730) 176, I have read..of an Eastern King who put a Judge to Death for an iniquitous Sentence, and order'd his Hide to be stuffed into a Cushion.

6. *Cookery.* To fill (the inside of a bird or animal, a piece of meat, etc.) with forcemeat, herbs, etc. as a stuffing.

c 1430 *Two Cookery-bks.* I. 32 Fyrste Stuffe þin chekons in þis wyse. *Ibid.* 40 þan stuffe hem as þou stuffyst a Pigge. 1530 Palsgr. 741/2, I stuffe a podyng or suche lyke, *je farce*. 1570 in Gutch *Collect. Cur.* (1781) II. 6 For a lege of mutton to be boyled and stofed with parshleye..viij d. 1591 A. W. *Bk. Cookrye* 12 To make puddings of a Swine..take the guts clean washed, and stuffe them with the aforesaid stuffe. 1596 Shaks. *Tam. Shr.* IV. iv. 101 As shee went to the Garden for Parseley to stuffe a Rabit. 1623 Middleton *More Dissemblers* IV. i. 154, I would they [the ducks] were all rotten rosted, and stuft with Onions. 1747 Mrs. Glasse *Cookery* ii. 26 To Stuff a Leg or Shoulder of Mutton. *Ibid.* 36 Take a Turky or Fowl, stuff the Breast with what Force-Meat you like. 1846 Soyer *Cookery* 255 Stuff the rabbits and roast them. 1855 [Philp] *Pract. Housewife* 108 Tomatas, to stuff.—Take some fine tomatas and scoop the inside out, [etc.].

7. To fill out (the skin of a beast, bird, etc.) with material so as to resemble the living creature; *spec.* in *Taxidermy*, to fill the skin of (a bird or beast) with materials to preserve it and present it in its natural form.

1555 Eden *Decades* (Arb.) 261 He causes them [*sc.* rebels] to be slene..: Then to bee stuffed with chaffe, and sette vppe. 1592 Shaks. *Rom. & Jul.* V. i. 43 And in his needie shop a Tortoyrs hung, An Allegater stuft. 1617 Morvson *Itin.* III. 163 The Cowes..will give no Milke till the skinne of the Calfe bee stuffed and set before them. 1727 [E. Dorrington] *Philip Quarll* (1816) 66 They carried away..the fine bird he had taken such pains to stuff. 1821 Scott *Kenilw.* XXX, Many birds have flown as high, that I have seen stuffed with straw, and hung up to scare kites. 1865 Dickens *Mut. Fr.* III. vii, I was down at the water-side, looking for parrots brought home by sailors, to buy for stuffing. 1915 F. Legge *Forerunners of Christianity* II. xiii. 281 He was decapitated, and his skin stuffed with straw was suspended at the gate of the town.

8. To fill (a receptacle); esp. to fill by packing the materials closely together, to cram full. *To*

stuff out: to fill a receptacle so full that it bulges; to distend with filling.

c 1440 LYDG. *Hors, Shepe & G.* 616 When deth approchyth ..The riche is shet with coloures & picture To hide his careyn stuffid with fowle ordure. 1515 BARCLAY *Eg.* iv. (1570) C vj, Some mery fit..Of perte of Norwiche,..Or buckishe loly well stuffed as a ton. 1596 SHAKS. *1 Hen. IV*, I. ii. 146 If you will go, I will stuffe your Purses full of Crownes. 1613 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Laugh & be Fat* Wks. (1630) II. 73/1 For as a candle's stuft with cotton weeke, So thou art cramm'd vp to the brim with Greeke. 1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* II. v. 87 So a glasse stuffed with peeces of spunge. 1675 HOBBES *Odyss.* VIII. (1686) 98 The Horse of Wood..Stuft by Ulysses full of Warriours good. 1705 [E. WARD] *Hudibras Rediv.* IV. 11 In's Hand a Wallet stuff'd with Papers. 1766 GOLDSM. *Vic. W.* x. I. 84 At another time she imagined her daughter's pockets filled with farthings, a certain sign of their being one day stuffed with gold. 1781 COWPER *Conversat.* 310 But when unpack'd your disappointment groans To find it [a parcel] stuff'd with brickbats, earth, and stones. 1827 SCOTT *Surg. Dau.* ii, His pockets stuffed out with bank-notes. 1830-60 W. HOLMES *Dorchester Giant* iv, Then he brought them a pudding stuffed with plums. 1855 KINGSLEY *Westw. Ho!* xi, As soon as Fortune stuffs your mouth full of sweetmeats, do you turn informer on her? 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 855 The thickening of the hair is due to its being stuffed with fungus. 1904 B'NESS VON HUTTEN *Pam* I. iii, 'Well, Jane, and so here we are,' he began, stuffing his little meerschaum pipe from a leather bag.

b. Said of the filling material. ? *Obs.*

1664 POWER *Exp. Philos.* I. 25 The crustaceous Cornea of the Creckets Eye, which I have carefully separated from all the matter which stuff'd it within. 1697 DRYDEN *Æneid* II. 26 With inward Arms the dire Machine they load, And Iron Bowels stuff the dark Abode.

c. To crowd, cram (a vehicle, room *with* persons). Also *intr.* for *pass.* To be crammed. Now *rare*.

1571 in Hudson & Tingey *Rec. Norwich* (1910) II. 345 The victualling houses were stuffed with players and dronkerdes. 1799 SIR M. HUNTER *Jrnl.* 27 Feb. (1894) 138 On the wedding-day we assembled at ten o'clock, Jews and Christians; the room as full as it could stuff. 1829 C. ROSE *Four Yrs. S. Africa* 10 The long heavy waggon..hired for the day, and stuffed with black damsels.

d. U.S. 'To put fraudulent votes into (a ballot-box)' (W. 1911).

1872 SCHELE DE VERE *Americanisms* 272. 1906 *Q. Rev.* July 283 The interval had been devoted to stuffing the ballot-boxes.

9. *fig.* a. To fill, crowd (speech, etc.) *with* something (usually something objectionable).

a 1568 ASCHAM *Scholem.* II. (Arb.) 112 Som man..is ouer full of words, sentences, and matter, and yet all his words be proper...His whole matter grownded vpon good reason, and stuffed with full arguments. 1576 FLEMING *Panopl. Epist.* 126 It shall not neede to stuffe my letter with particularities. 1591 SHAKS. *Two Gent.* IV. iv. 134, I will not looke vpon your Masters lines. I know they are stuft with protestations, And full of new-found oathes. 1610 HOLLAND *Camden's Brit.* (1637) 270 Stuffed hee [Nennius] hath that little booke with many a pretty lie. 1647 CLARENDON *Hist. Reb.* I. § 11 Those accusations..are commonly stuffed with many odious generals, that the proofs seldom make good. 1682 DRYDEN *Medal* Ep. Whigs, Your Seditious Pamphlets are stuff'd with particular Reflexions on him. 1707 HEARNE *Collect.* 22 Apr. (O. H. S.) II. 8 His Discourse was stuff'd with Anglicisms. 1768 WALPOLE *Hist. Doubts* 123 John Rous..is an author to whom no credit is due, from the lies and fables with which his work is stuffed. 1817 JAS. MILL *Brit. India* III. i. 35 The absurdities, with which..a bill of indictment is frequently stuffed. 1876 F. HARRISON *Choice of Bks.* iv. (1886) 84 A book stuffed with curious facts.

b. To fill (a person, his mind, heart, etc.) with ideas, feelings, etc. Also with *up*.

1531 TINDALE *Expos. 1 John* (1537) 77 They be so full stuffed wyth lyes, that they can receaue nothyng els. *c* 1550 *Tottel's Misc.* (Arb.) 234, I see well..by the sighes that thou outthrowest, That thou art stuffed full of wo. 1585 T. WASHINGTON tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* II. xii. 47 b, Fortune..stuffed the hearte of the Athenians with..insatiable ambition. 1587 TURBERV. *Trag. T.* 74 The Queene perceiuing this In mockage to be ment Of Alboyne..Was stuft with raging rancour streight. 1595 SHAKS. *John* IV. ii. 133 Do not seeke to stuffe My head with more ill newes: for it is full. 1611 W. TRUMBALL *Let.* 17 Feb. in *10th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. I. 563 These Provinces are no lesse stuffed with the unlikely newes of the King of Spaine's inclination to matche with ye Lady Elizabeth then the Courte of Madrid. 1622 FLETCHER *Span. Curate* IV. v, Pray ye buy Books,..You have a learned head, stuff it with Libraries. 1640 FULLER etc. *Abel Rediv., Cowper* (1651) 562 These men were stuffed with such pride, self-conceit, disdain, and intolerable contempt, that [etc.]. 1642 D. ROGERS *Naaman* 110 They were stuft so full of their own skill and knowledge, that they scorned his simplicity. 1742 POPE *Dunciad* IV. 249 For thee we dim the eyes, and stuff the head With all such reading as was never read. 1876 TENNYSON *Harold* II. ii, I have often talk'd with Wulfnoth, And stuff'd the boy with fears that these may act On Harold when they meet. 1876 F. HARRISON *Choice of Bks.* I. (1886) 2 Now, to stuff our minds with what is simply trivial, simply curious..this is to close our minds to what is solid and enlarging. 1889 JEROME *Three Men in Boat* 7 Don't stuff up your head with things you don't understand.

c. *slang.* To 'cram', hoax, humbug (a person). Also with *up*.

1844 'JON. SLICK' *High Life N. York* I. 113, I wonder if these leetle coots think I'm soft enough to believe that [etc.]. ..They don't stuff me up that way, any how, if I did come from the country. 1859 *Hotten's Slang Dict.* 104 *Stuff*, to make false but plausible statements, to praise ironically, to make game of a person,—literally to stuff him with gammon or falsehood. 1885 *Harper's Mag.* Apr. 730/1 'That chatter-box Lenoir was joking,' he said; 'he was stuffing you to see how much you would both swallow.'

10. To fill (oneself, one's stomach, etc.) to repletion with food. Also said of the food.

a 1400-50 *Wars Alex.* 4436 3oure mawis 3e fill, With bakin mete..Stuffis so 3our stomake with stullis & of wynes. *c* 1430 LYDG. *Min. Poems* (Percy Soc.) 155 The ryche man sit stuffyd at his stable [*read* table], The poore man stant hungry at the gate. 1585 T. WASHINGTON tr. *Nicholay's Voy.* III. xi. 9r Wines..wherof they do stuffe them selues so ful. 1600 *Weakest goeth to Wall* B 2 b, O for one pot of mother Bunches Ale,..it would cleare my sight, comfort my heart, and stuffe my veines. 1607 SHAKS. *Cor.* v. i. 53 When we haue stuft These Pipes, and these Conueyances of our blood With Wine and Feeding, we haue suppler Soules Then in our Priest-like Fasts. 1657 SPARROW *Bk. Com. Prayer* 156 Aerius and his followers..rising early to fill themselves with flesh and wine with which being full stuft they..scoff at the Catholick Christians folly. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* x. 601 Ravin..which here, though plenteous, all too little seems To stuff this Maw. 1749 FIELDING *Tom Jones* XII. xii. (1806) III. 197 He was prevailed upon, not only to stuff himself with their food, but to taste some of their liquors. 1800 SHELLEY *On a Cat* i, It waits for some dinner To stuff out its own little belly. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* II. 1043 The latter [i. e. an Indian]..has so to stuff his stomach three or four times a day, that dilatation of that organ..must necessarily ensue. 1903 G. H. LORIMER *Lett. Self-made Merch.* xvii. 249 [He] Stuffed himself till his hide was stretched as tight as a sausage skin.

b. To cause (a patient) to eat to repletion. Also, to treat (a disease) by feeding up the patient.

1789 W. BUCHAN *Dom. Med.* (1790) 145 Stuffing the patient with sweetmeats and other delicacies is likewise very pernicious. 1849 THOREAU *Week on Concord* Wed. *Writ.* (1893) I. 338 Stuff a cold and starve a cold are but two ways. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 163 A cure was effected simply by stuffing them with food.

†c. To satiate, glut. *Obs.*

1530 PALSGR. 741/2, I am as moche stuffed at the stomacke with the savour of this meate as if I had eaten a great meale: *je suis autant assouuy en lestomac* [etc.]. 1603 DANIEL *Def. Ryme* H 6 b, Those continuall cadences of couplets..runne on, with..a kinde of certaintie which stuffe the delight rather then intertaines it.

d. *intr.* for *refl.* To gorge oneself with food.

1726 SWIFT *To a Lady in Heroic Style* 132 Let them neither starve nor stuff. 1728 [DE FOE] *Street-Robberies* 14, I..call'd for my Dinner, and stuft heartily. 1760-72 H. BROOKE *Fool of Qual.* (1809) III. 142 Gluttony stuffs till it pants, and unbuttons and stuffs again. 1794 J. WEBSTER *Agric. Galloway* 16 They go to the plough at 6 in the morning, and return at 2 in the afternoon; when they begin to feed, (or *stuff* which is their phrase). 1797 JANE AUSTEN *Sense & Sensib.* XXX, And such a mulberry tree in one corner! Lord! how Charlotte and I did stuff the only time we were there! 1840 BARHAM *Ingol. Leg.*, Ser. I. *Bagman's Dog* 351 The Bagman bluff Continued to 'stuff', Of the fat, and the lean, and the tender and tough.

e. *trans.* To gorge (food). Also with *down*.

1743 MRS. E. MONTAGU *Corr.* (1906) I. 142 Wishing many good things to a boy who was stuffing a luncheon of bread and butter. 1775 J. JEKYLL *Corr.* (1894) 24 At six they stuff bread and cakes and wine. 1819 *Ibid.* 80 Lord Yarmouth again takes..a large party of us in the Admiralty barge next week to stuff whitebait at the 'Artichoke' beyond Greenwich. 1908 G. K. CHESTERTON *Man who was Thursday* 169 They paused for a few minutes only to stuff down coffee and coarse thick sandwiches at a coffee stall.

11. To fill (an aperture, cavity, etc.) by thrusting something tightly in; hence, to stop up, to plug; † to stop (a tooth). Also of a material: To fill *up* so as to block (an aperture).

1593 SHAKS. *Rich. II*, I. i. 44 Once more, the more to aggrauate the note, With a foule Traitors name stuffe I thy throte. 1683 *Sir K. Digby's Chym. Secrets* 139 The Ashes must be taken out..that they may not stuff up the place. 1724 SWIFT *Answ. to Dr. Delany* 39 Misc. 1735 V. 21 Which made my Grand-Dame always stuff-her-Ears. 1824 SCOTT *St. Ronan's* xxiv, I would rather..that my ears were stuffed with the earth of the grave than that they should again hear your voice! 1824 C. K. SHARPE *Corr.* (1888) II. 323 Had I not been under the hands of..the dentist, touching a diabolical tooth, which cannot be stuffed, and I am *sweer* to pull. 1833 J. RENNIE *Alph. Angling* 36, I found an old willow stump full of holes stuffed with clay. 1884 J. GILMOUR *Mongols* vi. 91 The hero..stuffing the mouth of the hole with his white bonnet.

b. To fill up (a joint or other space) by cramming something in; *spec.* in *Building*, to fill in the inside (of a wall) with concrete or rubble. ? *Obs.*

1601 R. JOHNSON *Kingd. & Commw.* (1603) 151 Commonly the wals of strong places are built of great beames stuffed with turffe or mosse, leauing loop-holes for their shot. 1726 LEONI *Alberti's Archit.* I. 46/1 Let them be..as broad as the Wall, that there may be no need to stuff the middle with rubbish. *Ibid.* 47/1 The Ancients made it a rule in stuffing their Walls, not to continue the stuffing uninterrupted to the heighth of above five foot. 1776 G. SEMPLE *Building in Water* 78 He treats largely of..filling (or stuffing as he calls it) the inside with small Stones, and Lime-liquid.

†12. Of bodily humours: To clog, choke up (the body, its organs, vessels, etc.). Also with *up*. *Obs.*

c 1530 *Judic. Urines* III. ii. 48 Yf that parte of the hede be agreued & stuffed or stonyed, through euyll humours and fumosites. *Ibid.* III. vii. 51 b, Whan ye liuer is stopped & stuffed through mater of euyl humours. 1585 LUPTON *Thous. Notable Things* (1675) 180 Whosoever is stuffed in the Stomach with tough or hard flegm. 1618 LATHAM *2nd Bk. Falconry* XXVIII. 131 Whensoeuer you shall..haue such a Hawke that is any whit stuft in the head. 1657 J. COOKE tr. *J. Hall's Sel. Observ. Engl. Bodies* 98 The stomach being stuffed and burdened with ill humors. 1710 FULLER *Pharmacopœia* (1719) 98 It..stuffs up the loaded Bronchia with a fresh Income of Filth. 1750 J. THEOBALD *Medulla Med. Univ.* 65 This Gargle..is to cleanse and scour the Glands of the Mouth from the Phlegmatic Matter, that stuffs and swells them.

† b. To cause stuffiness in (the head or nose).

1555 WATREMAN *Fardle Facions* II. i. 116 The plenty of swiete odours, and sauours in those quarters, doeth verely stuff ye smelling. 1599 SHAKS. *Much Ado* III. iv. 64 *Beat.* I am stuft cosin, I cannot smell. 1620 VENNER *Via Recta* ii. 39 The more bitter it be drunken, the more it filleth and stuffeth the head.

13. To thrust (something, esp. loose materials) tightly into a receptacle or cavity. Also *fig.* Also with *away*, *in*.

1579 W. WILKINSON *Confut. Fam. Love* 44 b, The Romanistes so cloyed the church with their fond festiuals, leud Legendes, and stuffed into the seruice of God such store of idle reuelations,..that [etc.]. 1626 BACON *Sylva* § 365 Put them [the rose-leaves] into a Sweet Dry Earthen Bottle,.. stuffing them close together. 1649 MILTON *Tenure Kings* (ed. 2) 57 They, in a cautious line or two here and there stuft in, are onely verbal against the pulling down or punishing of Tyrants. 1809 MALKIN *Gil Blas* VI. i, (Rtldg.) 213, I bought these dresses, into which we may stuff an inquisitor, a notary, and an alguazil, and play the parts. 1854 SURTEES *Handley Cr.* v. (1901) I. 42 With hands stuffed into his front pockets. 1878 *Chamb. Jrnl.* 19 Jan. 42/2 A woman was busy making a clearance of such articles as she could stuff away in corners and behind chairs. 1901 W. R. H. TROWBRIDGE *Lett. her Mother to Eliz.* XXI. 100 She stuffed her handkerchief into her mouth to keep from shrieking. 1904 BRIDGES *Demeter* 280 He, like a hurried thief, Stuffs his rich silks into too small a bag. 1907 J. H. PATTERSON *Man-Eaters of Tsavo* XXIV. 276 Courageously stuffing his left arm right into the great jaws.

b. To pack tightly (a person) in a confined space; to crowd (a number of persons *together*). Also with *down*, *up*.

1728 VANBR. & CIB. *Provok'd Husb.* II. i. 26 One has really been stuft up in a Coach so long, that—Pray Madam —could not I get a little Powder for my Hair? 1770 LANGHORNE *Plutarch, Pericles* (1879) I. 236/1 A number of people stuffed together..in small huts. 1785 MRS. INCHBALD *I'll tell you what* I. i. (1787) 10 If we are stuffed into a coach. 1900 ELIN. GLYN *Visits Eliz.* 195 There I was, taken off to a sofa..and stuffed down between Godmamma and the Marquis's mother.

intr. for *refl.* 1749-50 MRS. DELANY *Life & Corr.* (1861) II. 535, I cannot forgive Mrs. J. stuffing into your chariot.

14. *Leather-manuf.* To dress (a skin) with a coating of dubbing or stuffing.

1844 *Newton's Lond. Jrnl.* Conj. Ser. XXV. 247 When the skin or hide is taken out of tan..the patentees oil the grain with good clean oil, then stuff the fleshy side with a mixture of oil, tallow, and turpentine, and hang it up to dry. 1885 H. R. PROCTER *Tanning* 193 The process of currying consists in softening..the hides and skins,..and in saturating or 'stuffing' them with fatty matters.

15. *Comb.*: **stuff-guts**, one who is addicted to gorging the stomach; in quot. *attrib.*

1875 BROWNING *Aristoph. Apol.* 112 In me, 't was equal-balanced flesh rebuked Excess alike in stuff-guts Glauketes Or starveling Chairephon.

† Stuff, *v.*[2] *Obs.* [a. OF. *estofer* (mod.F. *étouffer*). = Pr. *estofar*: of obscure origin.]

1. *trans.* To stifle, suffocate.

1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) VI. 289 For a3enst an hondred of Egbert his knyȝtes, þat were pale men and lene, come a þowsand þat were rody and fat, and were raþer i-stuffed [L. *suffocandi*] wiþ swoot þan with blood. *Ibid.* 449 A monke ..fil doun of a brigge into a water, and was i-stufled [*v.r.* y-stoffed; L. *suffocatus est*]. 1398 — *Barth. De P. R.* v. xxiv. (Bodl. MS.), And ȝif þe matere is colerike and woode it stuffeþ þe beest & sleeþ anon. *c* 1460 *Brut* CXXXIII. 138 (MS. Douce 323) Þere was grete hete..þat al stuffed [*c* 1400 stuffled: see STIFLE *v.* 1 b] was. 1530 PALSGR. 741/3, I stuffe a man with stynkynge savour, *je empunaysis*. *Ibid.*, I stuffe one up, I stoppe his breathe, *je suffoque*. I wyll take the ayre, I was almoste stuffed up in the prease. 1612 T. TAYLOR *Comm. Titus* I. 6 (1619) 107 He that hath beene in a noysome place is stuffed. 1636 FEATLY *Clavis Myst.* XI. 618 We all that have lived in the pleasures of sinne, have our senses stuffed and debilitated.

2. *intr.* To become out of breath. *Sc.*

c 1470 HENRY *Wallace* V. 285 His hors stuffyt, for the way was depe and lang. *c* 1470 *Gol. & Gaw.* 830 Quhen he is stuffit, than strike.

3. To render stiffling.

1662 BOYLE *Def. Doctr. Spring Air* III. xviii. 81 [The Air] may thereby become sometimes more stufft, and sometimes more destitute of adventitious Exhalations.

† Stuff, *v.*[3] *Obs. rare.* Var. of STOW *v.*[2]

1587 HOLINSHED *Chron.* I. 173/2 He commanded that such pledges as had beene deliuered to his father by certeine noble men..should haue their noses slit, and their eares stuffed [1577 stoued].

† Stuffage. *Obs.* [f. STUFF *sb.*[1] and *v.*[1] + -AGE.]

1. The act of stuffing or filling full; *concr.* the material with which a receptacle is stuffed.

1659 H. MORE *Immort. Soul* II. ii. (1713) 64 Upon any jog this Box receives, supposing all the stuffage thereof has Sense, it is evident, that the several things therein must be differently affected. 1685 — *Cursory Refl. on Baxter* 5 Which is such an impertinent Stuffage of the Mind, that the Understanding is not thereby perfected, but burdened. 1690 NORRIS *Refl. Cond. Hum. Life* (1691) 51 It must needs be a very unedifying Stuffage of Mind.

2. *Path.* Obstructed condition, stoppage.

1761 *Phil. Trans.* LII. 264 Inflammatory fever, attended with..swelling and soreness, and stuffage of the nose.

† Stuffat, -et. *Sc. Obs.* [? ad. F. *estafette*: see ESTAFETTE.] ? A groom, lackey; perh. only a vague term of abuse.

1500-20 DUNBAR *Poems* lx. 17 Stuffettis, strekouris, and stafische strummellis. 1550 LYNDESAY *Tragedy* 373 Bot not to rebaldis new cum frome the roste: Nor of ane stuffat stollin out of ane stabyll.

Stuffata, incorrect form of STUFATA.

Stuffe, obs. form of STIFF *a.*

Stuffed (stʊft), *ppl. a.* [f. STUFF *v.*[1] + -ED [1].]

1. † a. Well stored or provided (*obs.*). b. In later use, of a receptacle: Filled full, crammed; also with *out*.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 481/1 Stuffyd wythe stoore, *instauratus*. 1483 CAXTON *Cato* 2 b, A noble and well stuffed lybrary. 1596 SHAKS. 1 *Hen. IV*, II. iv. 497 That huge Bombard of Sacke, that stuft Cloake-bagge of Guts. 1642 MILTON *Apol. Smect.* 11 His own stufft magazin, and hoard of slanderous inventions. 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* II. VII. v, Men of Agio,..with stuffed purses. 1898 B. GREGORY *Side Lights* 495 Rescued..from the stuffed-out wallet of oblivion.

† c. *Stuffed man*: A wealthy man, a man of substance. *Obs.*

c 1400 *Beryn* 1730 The Burgeys was a stuffid man, þere lakkid noon deynte.

† d. *fig.* Full, complete. *Obs.*

1611 SHAKS. *Wint. T.* II. i. 185, I haue dispatch'd in post,..Cleomines and Dion, whom you know Of stuff'd-sufficiency.

2. Of a garment, cushion, or the like: Filled out with some distending or stiffening material. Also with *out*.

1467 *Songs Costume* (Percy Soc.) 57 Leve your short stuffede dowblettes and your pleytid gownys. 1650 WELDON *Crt. Jas. I* (1651) 164 His Breeches in great pleits and full stuffed. 1828 LYTTON *Pelham* liii, One of N——'s best stuffed coats. 1856 OLMSTED *Slave States* 327 A stuffed easy-chair. 1858 J. BARON *Scudamore Organs* 53 The floor-sweeping and stuffed-out dresses of ladies, in juxtaposition with the short and scant garments of the poorer women. 1892 E. REEVES *Homeward Bound* 225 Our donkeys had no saddles: a stuffed sack was fastened on mine.

3. Of a dead animal, its skin: Filled with cotton, tow, etc., so as to preserve it and present the natural form of the living animal.

1595 SHAKS. *John* I. i. 141 And if..My armes [were] such eele-skins stuft. 1789 MRS. PIOZZI *Journ. France* I. 11 The great stuffed dog is a curiosity. 1818 SCOTT *Rob Roy* v, Huge antlers of deer,..interspersed with the stuffed skins of badgers,..and other animals of the chase. 1852 DICKENS *Bleak Ho.* xxxvii, Two stuffed and dried fish in glass cases.

4. Of a fowl, joint, fish, etc.: Filled with forcemeat or minced seasoning before cooking. *Stuffed eggs*: see quot. 1883.

1749 H. CAREY *Poems* (ed. 3) 128 He gave her a Collation of Buns, Cheesecakes, Gammon of Bacon, Stuff'd-beef, and Bottled-Ale. 1852 R. B. MANSFIELD *Log Water Lily* 25 A stuffed goose and other delicacies. 1883 *Amer. Dishes* 193 Stuffed Eggs.—Cut six hard-boiled eggs in two. Take out the yolks and mash them fine. Add two teaspoonfuls of butter, one of cream...Mix all thoroughly. Fill the eggs from the mixture, and put them together.

5. Stopped up, obstructed; said esp. of a bodily organ when diseased. Of the head or brain: Oppressed by a feeling of obstruction. Also with *up*.

1584 COGAN *Hav. Health* cxl. 99 Almonde butter..good for a stuffed brest. 1711 SWIFT *Jrnl. to Stella* 1 Sept., My head is pretty well, only..sometimes it feels very stuffi. 1772 LADY M. COKE *Jrnl.* 15 Jan. (1896) IV. 10 Her head was so stuff'd that She was obliged to hold her head over hot water. 1858 BROWNING *Andrea del Sarto* 80 In their vexed, beating, stuffed and stopped-up brain. 1904 STADEN *Playing the Game* II. ix, Rich never could sing in tune, and he whistled like a stuffed-up dog-whistle.

fig. 1605 SHAKS. *Macb.* v. iii. 44 And with some sweet Obliuious Antidote Cleanse the stufft bosome, of that perilous stuffe Which weighes vpon the heart.

Stuffer (stʊ·fəɹ). [f. STUFF *v.*[1] + -ER [1].]

1. A person who stuffs or fills; one whose trade it is to stuff (e. g.) dead animals or cushions.

1611 COTGR., *Embourreur*, a stuffer, bumbaster, or puffer vp of things with flockes, haire, &c. 1694 MOTTEUX *Rabelais* v. Prognost. v. 236 Stuffers and Bumbasters of Pack-saddles. 1862 JUKES *Stud. Man. Geol.* (ed. 2) 411 *note*, To speak of scientific men as 'mere beetle-hunters and bird-stuffers'. 1893 W. H. HUDSON *Idle Days Patagonia* xii. 185 In museums..the stuffer's work is endurable because useful. 1905 *Daily Chron.* 16 Mar. 8/7 Upholsterer.—Good stuffer wants Job.

2. A machine or implement used for stuffing.

1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech., Stuffer*, a machine for packing or filling; as, 1. A machine for stuffing horse-collars. 1883 R. HALDANE *Workshop Rec.* Ser. II. 445/2 [The tomatoes] are fed by the 'stuffer', a cylinder worked by a treadle, into the cans. 1909 *Teachers' Assembly Herald* 13 Apr. 19/1 Other tools [for bird-stuffing]..long stuffers, bone-cutters.

Stuffet: see STUFFAT.

Stuffily (stʊ·fili), *adv.* [f. STUFFY *a.* + -LY [2].] In a stuffy manner; *fig.* in a manner that lacks freshness or interest.

1894 K. GRAHAME *Pagan Papers* 115 They spent the greater part of their time stuffily in-doors. 1902 S. E. WHITE *Blazed Trail* xv, The parlour..was a small square apartment carpeted in dark Brussels, and stuffily glorified in the bourgeois manner by [tasteless furniture]. 1912 *Nation* 20 Apr. 84/1 So he [a dull writer] goes stuffily on his way.

Stuffiness (stʊ·finés). [-NESS.] The quality of being stuffy.

† 1. Thickness or closeness of texture. *Obs.*

1611 COTGR., *Corps*..(in cloth, or stuffe) substance, tacke, stuffinesse.

2. The condition of being close or ill-ventilated.

1859 W. H. GREGORY *Egypt* II. 164 The smallness of the bedrooms, which we should consider conducive to much stuffiness. 1908 R. BAGOT *A. Cuthbert* vii. 65 Passengers who, like himself, preferred the fresh air on deck to the stuffiness of the saloon.

3. The state or sensation of stoppage and obstruction in the throat or nose.

1862 GEO. ELIOT in Cross *Life* II. xiii 279 As soon as one [cold] has departed with the usual final stage of stuffiness. 1884 M. MACKENZIE *Dis. Throat & Nose* II. 313 The patient almost always experiences a feeling of 'stuffiness' in the nose. 1898 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* V. 289 A more or less general disagreeable stuffiness of the respiratory tract.

Stuffing (stʊ·fiŋ), *vbl. sb.* [-ING [1].]

1. The action of STUFF *v.*[1], or the result of this action; † the strengthening of an army or military position (*obs.*); filling or cramming with material; gorging, eating to repletion.

1533 BELLENDEN *Livy* IV. i. (S. T. S.) II. 51 þe Wolchis & equis brandisand in sa grete Ire for stuffing of verrigo aganis þame [L. *ob communitam Verruginem*]. *Ibid.* v. xvii. II. 206 Be stuffing of þe first batallis the myd batall was drawne furth thyn and waik. 1551–2 *Act* 5 & 6 *Edw. VI*, c. 23 An Acte for the true stuffynge of Featherbeddes, Mattresses, and Quyssheons. 1582 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* III. 377 For the tressonable stuffing and withhalding of certane houssis and strenthis aganis his Hienes. 1594 KYD *Cornelia* v. 122 To purchase fame to our posterities, By stuffing of our tropheies in their houses. 1712–13 SWIFT *Jrnl. to Stella* 12 Mar., I cannot endure above one dish; nor ever could since I was a boy, and loved stuffing. 1820 SCOTT *Monast.* ix, These cowled gentry, that think of nothing but quaffing and stuffing! 1896 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* I. 465 The supplementary stuffings at tuck shops are a fertile source of feeble health.

b. Obstruction of the throat, nose, or chest by catarrh; the sensation produced by this.

1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* xxvi. viii. II. 250 The same may bee taken..for the stuffing and other imperfections of the breast. 1618 LATHAM *2nd Bk. Falconry* xxix. 132 Of the Rye or stuffing in the Head. 1708 *Post Man* 13–15 Jan. 2/2 Advt., In a Cough or Cold, where there is Pain, and stuffing in the Head. 1843 R. J. GRAVES *Syst. Clin. Med.* xviii. 208 Blooded last night for cough and stuffing of chest.

2. The material with which a receptacle is stuffed or tightly filled.

1530 PALSGR. 277/2 Stuffyng of a saddell, *bourree*. 1575–6 *Act* 18 *Eliz.* c. 15 No Goldsmythe..shall..use..Sother Amell or other Stuffinges whatsoever..more then ys necessarie. 1628 tr. *Mathieu's Powerfull Favorite* 103 Meate being denied to Drusus, hee had eaten the stuffings of his bed. 1726 LEONI *Alberti's Archit.* I. 47 *a*, There are two sorts of Stuffing; the one..with which we fill the hollow..between the two Shells, consisting of Mortar and broken..Stone. 1748 RICHARDSON *Clarissa* VI. 157 Four old turkey-worked chairs,..the stuffing staring out. 1823 SCOTT *Quentin D.* xxxiv, In the stuffing of my saddle you will find a rich purse of gold pieces. 1842 J. AITON *Dom. Econ.* (1857) 166 A person with the scoop goes immediately before the one who puts in the stuffing [in a drain]. 1879 G. B. GOODE *Catal. Anim. Resources U.S.* 170 Preparation of curled hair for stuffings. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* II. 532 Russian horse-hair which..had served as stuffing for an easy chair.

b. *Cookery.* Forcemeat or other seasoned mixture used to fill the body of a fowl, a hollow in a joint of meat, etc., before cooking.

1538 ELYOT *Dict., Fartile*, stuffynge, or that wherewith any foule is crammed or franked. 1598 *Epulario* H j b, If you can deuise a better stuffing, you may: then fry them in oyle. 1675 HANNAH WOOLLEY *Gentlew. Comp.* 134 Make a farsing or stuffing of all manner of sweet Herbs minced very small. 1719 LONDON & WISE *Compl. Gard.* 192 The Leaves of this Plant are very good both in Pottage and in Stuffings. 1846 SOYER *Cookery* 129 Fill the belly of the fish with stuffing. 1887 *Spons' Househ. Man.* 460 Sauces, Butters, Gravies, Stuffings, &c.

† c. *fig.* (e.g. literary 'padding'). *Obs.*

1550 BALE *Engl. Votaries* II. (1551) 36 Muche good stuffynge is in thys bulle, whan it iudgeth marryage a fornycacyon. 1601 B. JONSON *Poetaster* v. i. 16 Hollow statues, which the best men are, Without Promethean stuffings reacht from heauen! 1641 MILTON *Ch. Govt.* ii. 41 Men whose learning and beleif lies in marginal stuffings. 1804 *Ann. Rev.* II. 68/1 The doctor relates such daily occurrences, as would be esteemed too dull and unimportant for what is technically called, *stuffing*, in a garrison gazette.

d. *To knock, beat, take the stuffing out of* (an animal, person, etc.): to reduce to a state of weakness or flabbiness, take the strength or conceit out of. *colloq.*

1887 F. FRANCIS Jun. *Saddle & Mocassin* 123 Get up!—get up, or I'll beat the stuffing out of you! 1895 *Westm. Gaz.* 19 July 7/1 We will knock the stuffing out of the parties during the next ten years. 1906 'L. MALET' *Far Horizon* v. 49 There is nothing to compare with a *mésalliance* for taking the stuffing out of anyone.

3. *Leather-manuf.* The process of rubbing with a mixture of fish-oil and tallow; the mixture used for this.

1851–4 TOMLINSON *Cycl. Usef. Arts* II. 35/2 When the skin is thoroughly cleansed,..the process of stuffing or dubbing..is performed. 1882 *Encycl. Brit.* XIV. 386/2 A stuffing, or dubbing, of cod oil and tallow is rubbed into both sides of the skin.

4. *attrib.* and *Comb.* as *stuffing-cloth, work*; **stuffing-box** *Machinery*, a chamber packed with fluid-tight elastic material, through which a piston-rod or shaft is made to pass in order to prevent leakage at the orifice through which it leaves or enters a vessel; similarly *stuffing-gland, ring*; **stuffing drum** = *stuffing wheel*; † **stuffing stick** (see quot.); **stuffing wheel**, a revolving hollow drum in which leather is subjected to 'stuffing'.

1798 *Repert. Arts & Manuf.* (1799) X. 290 C, shews the *stuffing-box, through which the spindle must come, to work the chains. 1881 CAMPIN *Mech. Engin.* 115 The joint is made steam-tight by enclosing the extremity of the steam-pipe in a stuffing-box. 1522 in *Archæologia* XXV. 462 Item p^d for *stuffyng clothe for the plyts [of a gown], xjd. 1897 C. T. DAVIS *Manuf. Leather* (ed. 2) 221 Freeman's *Stuffing Drum. 1885 LOCK *Workshop Rec.* Ser. IV. 102/1 The plunger is of stone-ware, accurately ground to fit the *stuffing-gland. 1797 CURR *Coal Viewer* 59 Pistons..should be ½ or ¾ less than the cylinder, the *stuffing ring stands 4 inches from the side. 1688 HOLME *Armory* III. v, 273/1 The *Stuffing Stick..is..made of tough Wood or Iron, being a little bent at the end, with a nick in it; by the help whereof, all parts of the seat of a Cushion, Chair, or Stool, are equally filled. 1882 *Encycl. Brit.* XIV. 389/1 The currier's *stuffing wheel. 1726 LEONI *Alberti's Archit.* I. 55 *a*, Pumice Stone..is..the properest..for the *stuffing work of Vaults.

Stuffing, *ppl. a.* [f. STUFF *v.*[1] + -ING [2].] In obs. sense: That stuffs or clogs the organs of breathing; that produces a sense of obstruction; oppressive to the head or lungs.

1579–80 NORTH *Plutarch, Sertorius* (1595) 631 When they should draw their breathes, this stuffing ayre and dust came in at their mouthes so fast, that they had much a do to hold out two dayes. 1653 CULPEPPER *Engl. Physic. enlarged* (1656) 98 The scent of the whole Plant [*sc.* Featherfew] is very strong, and stuffing. 1727 [DORRINGTON] *Philip Quarll* 19 Stale roasted Roots, which eat much pleasanter than the fresh, and are less stuffing.

Stuffless, *a. nonce-wd.* [f. STUFF *sb.* + -LESS.] Wanting in 'stuff' or substance.

1913 J. E. FLECKER *Samarkand* 57 (*Don Juan*), That disastrous lie Which makes a god of stuffless Unity.

† **Stuffly**, *adv. Obs. rare*[—1]. [f. STUFF *sb.* + -LY [2].] With abundance of stuff or material.

1581 A. HALL *Iliad* IX. 162 The Egiptian Thebes..With people ful so stufly filde.

† **Stuffure**. *Obs.* Also 5 **-ur, -er.** [a. AF. (*e*)*stuffure* = Anglo-L. (*e*)*stuffura*, OF. *estoffure*, material for ornament or outfit, f. *estoffer* STUFF *v.*]

1. Material used for furnishing, supply, or outfit.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 481/1 Stuffe, or stuffure, *staurum, instauracio*. 1463–4 *Rolls of Parlt.* V. 505/1 That noo Yoman..use nor were in the aray for his body, eny bolsters nor stuffe of Wolle..., nor other stuffer in his Doublet, save lynyng. 1467–8 *Ibid.* 596/2 Keper of oure Stuffur' within oure Castell of Wyndesore. 1488 in *Lib. Cust. Villæ Northamptoniæ* (1895) 10 Arowe hedes silk wex fletchurs and other stuffures and necessaries.

2. *Cookery.* Stuffing, forcemeat.

c 1440 *Anc. Cookery* in *Househ. Ord.* (1790) 453 Qwhen hit is braiet smal take up the stuffure, and do hit in a chargeour. *c* 1450 *Two Cookery-bks.* II. 76 Take faire yonge beef, And suet of a fatte beste, or of Motton, and hak all this on a borde small;..then make a faire large Cofyn, and couche som of this stuffur in.

Stuffy (stʊ·fi), *a.* [f. STUFF *sb.*[1] + -Y.]

† 1. Full of stuff or substance. *lit.* and *fig. Obs.*

1551–2 *Act* 5 & 6 *Edw. VI*, c. 6 § 3 The good perfecte and stuffy makinge of the same Clothe. 1611 COTGR., *Substantieux*, substantiall, stuffie. 1620 T. GRANGER *Div. Logike* 69 By amplifications, and illustrations an oration is made stuffie, and fatted. 1642 FULLER *Holy & Prof. St.* v. xviii. (1652) 479 A mighty fire was made, and..(as if that pure Element of it self had been too fine and slender effectually to torment him) they made the flame more stiffe and stuffie, by the mixture of pitch and brimstone. *a* 1656 VINES *Lord's Supp.* v, (1657) 64 This Sacrament of the Gospel is an after Supper *modicum*, full of spiritual signification, but not so stuffie for outward matter, that [etc.]. 1667 W. CAVENDISH *New Meth. Dressing Horses* 62 They..are to be Short from the Head to the Croup, and Stuffy.

2. Of a room, building, etc.: Ill-ventilated, close. Of the air: Wanting in freshness, oppressive to the lungs and head. Of persons: Addicted to living in stuffy conditions.

1831 LADY GRANVILLE *Lett.* 21 Feb. (1894) II. 89 In the evening I shall have a stuffy drum. 1853 LYTTON *My Novel* v. xi, I do believe the English are the stuffiest people! Look at their four-post bedsteads!..not a house with a ventilator! 1855 E. FORBES *Lit. Papers* vii. 190 He remains too long in the thick and stuffy atmosphere of town clubs and libraries. 1888 MRS. H. WARD *R. Elsmere* I. i. 10, I don't like stuffy cottages. 1904 F. LYNDE *Grafters* ii. 14 The stuffy little law office which had been his father's.

b. *transf.* Lacking in freshness, interest, or smartness.

1843 FROUDE *Nemesis of Faith* ii, Do not write me cold stuffy letters about my state of mind. 1900 C. HYNE *Filibusters* xxii. 318 In the waist below us, that stuffy little person the owner of the *Clarindella* was shedding tears of joy as his eyes gloated over his re-found treasure. 1904 [C'TESS. ARNIM] *Adv. Elis. in Rügen* 132 In that sun-flecked place..how could I be seriously interested in stuffy indoor questions such as the equality of the sexes? 1909 MRS. H. WARD *Daphne* iii. 56 Listening to a stuffy debate in the Senate.

3. Of persons: Affected with a sensation of stoppage or obstruction in the organs of breathing. Said also of the sensation.

1847 FR. A. KEMBLE *Later Life* III. 290 If you are old and stiff, I am fat, stuffy, puffy, and old. 1871 C. GIBBON *Lack of Gold* xviii, Her head was stuffed, and she felt altogether 'stuffy' and uncomfortable. 1898 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* V. 287 At two or three in the morning he suddenly awakes with a stuffy feeling in his chest.

b. Of the voice: Muffled.

1889 *Harper's Mag.* Sept. 548/2 Her own stuffy voice, interspersed with the familiar coughs and gasps.

4. *U.S. colloq.* Angry, sulky.

1825 J. NEAL *Bro. Jonathan* I. 106 Don't care for you,..with all your stuffy looks. 1898 KIPLING *Fleet in Being* vi. 77 They never growl at us or get stuffy.

Stufre, obs. variant of STIVER.

1548 *Acts Privy Council* (1890) II. 159 Every floryne valued at xx Flemmisshe stufres.

† Stug, *sb.*[1] *Obs. rare.* In 5 stugg(er)e. [Cf. STOCK *sb.*[1] 21.] A pig-trough.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 481/1 Stugge [*Winch.* stuggere], hoggys trowghe, *siliquarium*,..vel *alveus porcorum*.

Stug (stʊg), *sb.*[2] *Sc.* [Cf. STOG *sb.*[1]]

1. A stab, thrust.

1808 A. SCOTT *Poems* 98 (E. D. D. s. v. *Stog v.*[2]) Quo' he, let's sleely gie't a stug.

2. *Curling.* (See quot.)

1897 *Encycl. Sport* I. 264/2 (Curling) *Stug*, a shot gained by accident.

Stug (stʊg), *v. Sc.* [Cf. STOG *v.*[1]] *trans.* To stab, pierce with a weapon.

1722 WODROW *Hist. Suff. Ch. Scot.* II. 173 They stugged all the Beds with their Swords. 1724 — *Life J. Wodrow* (1828) 64 They stugged with their Swords the very bed my mother was lying on, jealousing he might be concealed there.

Stug: see STUCK *a. Obs.*, short.

Stuggy (stʊ·gi), *a. dial.* [? Related to *stug*, STUCK *a.*

Cf. '*Stugged*, healthy, strong' (*Mrs. M. Palmer's Devon Dial.*, 1839, Gloss.).]

Of a person: Stocky, thick-set, sturdy.

1847 HALLIWELL, *Stuggy*, thick and stout. *Devon.* 1864 BLACKMORE *Clara Vaughan* lxxxiii. (1872) 368 To use a Devonshire word, the farmer was too 'stuggy'. 1892 P. H. EMERSON *Son of Fens* viii. 74 She was stuggy and fat.

Stuid, Stuile, stuill: see STUD *sb.*[2], STOOL.

Stuipe, Stuir, obs. ff. STOOP *sb.*[1], STOUR *a.*

Stuiver: see STIVER.

Stuk: see STOOK and STUCK *sb.*[1]

Stuke, Stul: see STUC, STOOL.

† Stu·lage, stu·ling. *Sc. Obs. rare.* (Sense obscure: explained by editor as 'ballast'.)

1512 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* IV. 289 To Thomas Bannatyne, skippar..for his haill victualing and haill necessaris xxv li. viij s., and for stuling xx li. *Ibid.* 307 Item,..ressavit fourty twa celdris of met salt boght be Iohne Mowtray for stulage to the said schip.

Stule, obs. Sc. form of STOOL.

Stulko, var. of or error for STALKO *Anglo-Irish.*

1831 SCOTT *Jrnl.* 25 Mar. (1890) II. 389 Frank saw the necessity of doing something to keep himself independent, having, I think, too much spirit to become a Stulko.

Stull (stʊl), *sb.*[1] *Obs.* exc. *dial.* [Cf. G. dial. *stollen* slice of bread.] A great piece or hunch (of anything edible).

a 1400-50 *Wars. Alex.* 4436 Þan as a Mare at a moghe ȝoure mawis ye fill,..Stuffis so your stomake with stullis & of wynes, þat vnethis haldis, be ȝe hoo þe hide of ȝow hale! 1674 RAY *S. & E. Country Wds.* 76 A *Stull*: a luncheon a great piece of bread, cheese or other Victuals, *Ess*[*ex*]. 1885 SPILLING *Daisy Dimple* 38 (E.D.D.) He kept taking great bites out of a thick stull of dirty-looking bread.

Stull (stʊl), *sb.*[2] *Mining.* [Perh. a. G. *stollen* (OHG. *stollo*, MHG. *stolle*) a support, prop. The word has been adopted in a different sense as STULM.] A platform or framework of timber covered with boards to support workmen or to carry ore or rubbish; also, a framework of boards to protect miners from falling stones.

1778 PRYCE *Min. Cornub.* 150 Several of these pumps may be placed parallel upon different Stulls, Sallers, or Stages of the Mine. 1847 HALLIWELL. 1860 G. HARRIS in *Athenæum* (1861) 19 Jan. 83/1 And tin lay heap'd on stulls and level plots. 1875 J. H. COLLINS *Metal Mining* 43 More timber is required for the construction of platforms, upon which the men stand while at work, 'stulls' as they are called.

b. *attrib.* and *Comb.*

1874 RAYMOND *Statist. Mines & Mining* 51, 3,829 feet of stull-timber. 1881 — *Mining Gloss., Stull*, Corn[wall]. A platform (stull-covering), laid on timbers (stull-pieces), braced across a working from side to side, to support workmen or to carry ore or waste. 1883 *Encycl. Brit.* XVI. 453/1 Stull-pieces...Stull-covering.

Stull, obs. Sc. form of STOOL.

Stulm (stʊlm). *Mining.* [? a. G. *stolln, stollen* of the same meaning.] An adit or level in a mine.

1684 *Copper Mines* ii. in *Phil. Trans.* XVII. 741 It hath a Stulm or Shaft to draw Water from the Mine. 1724 BAILEY (ed. 2), *Stulm*, a Shaft to draw Water out of a Mine. 1881 RAYMOND *Mining Gloss.*

Stulp(e, var. ff. STOOP *sb.*[1]

† Stult. *Obs. rare*[−1]. ? A derisive name for a tailor.

1675 M. LOCKE *Engl. Opera* Pref. A 3 b, He who Composes for Voices, not considering their extent, is like a Botching Stult, who, being obliged to make Habits for men, cuts them out for Children.

Stult, Stulth: see STOUT *a.*, STOUTH.

† Stultificate, *v. Obs. rare*[−0]. [f. late L. *stultificāt-*, ppl. stem of *stultificāre*.] *trans.* = STULTIFY *v.* Only in **Stultificating** *ppl. a.*

a 1693 *Urqnhart's Rabelais* III. xxxiv. 288 So great was the stultificating Vertue of that..pulverized Dose.

Stultification (stʊ·ltifikā·ʃən). [n. of action f. STULTIFY *v.*: see -FICATION.] The action of the vb. STULTIFY; the state of being stultified; an instance of this.

1832 *Whistle-binkie* Ser. I. (1839) 95 Whilst others contrive with their speeches and songs, To complete her stultification, O. 1856 MISS YONGE *Daisy Chain* II. x, 'But as to the Market Cross, that came down a year before he was born.' 'It was the Town Council!' said Ethel. 'One of the ordinary stultifications of Town Councils?' 1901 'LINESMAN' *Words by Eyewitness* xi. 225 Result as before, the daily arrival of refugees and a great stultification of the dominant Power.

Stultify (stʊ·ltifəi), *v.* [ad. late L. *stultificāre*, f. *stult-us* foolish, fool: see -FY.]

1. trans. *Law.* To allege or prove to be of unsound mind: esp. *refl.*, to allege one's own insanity in order to evade some responsibility.

1766 BLACKSTONE *Comm.* II. xix. 291 It hath been said, that a *non compos* himself, though he be afterwards brought to a right mind, shall not be permitted to allege his own insanity in order to avoid such grant: for that no man shall be allowed to stultify himself, or plead his own disability. 1861 KENT *Comm. Amer. Law* (1873) II. xxxix. 451 The principle..that a man shall not be heard to stultify himself has been properly exploded.

2. To cause to be or appear foolish, ridiculous, or absurdly inconsistent; to reduce to foolishness or absurdity.

1809 *Europ. Mag.* LV. 19 This able senator..did not..hesitate to tell his majesty's ministers, that..they had become completely stultified. 1810 WELLINGTON in *Croker Papers* 20 Dec., The licentiousness of the press..[has] gone near to stultify the people of England. 1850 KINGSLEY *A. Locke* xviii, I, to squash my convictions, to stultify my book for the sake of popularity, money, patronage! 1871 *Daily News* 24 Aug., This witness, however, stultified himself by admitting that he was too far off to hear what Clement said.

b. To render nugatory, worthless, or useless.

1865 *Daily Tel.* 27 Oct. 4/6 The Bermondsey guardians took upon themselves utterly to ignore and stultify this law. 1888 Miss BRADDON *Fatal Three* I. vi, The blind folly of his servants had stultified his efforts.

3. To regard as a fool or as foolish. *rare.*

1820 HAZLITT *Lect. Lit. Age Eliz.* i. (1884) 4 The modern sciolist stultifies all understanding but his own, and that which he conceives like his own.

Hence **Stu·ltifying** *ppl. a.* Also **Stu·ltifier** *rare*[−0], one who stultifies.

1826 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* III. xxx. 173 Affirming most absurdly, and under the most stultifying blindness of mind, that [etc.]. 1855 H. CLARKE *Dict.*, Stultifier. 1879 GEO. ELIOT *Theo. Such* xviii. 324 A stultifying inconsistency in historical interpretation.

Stultiloquence (stʊlti·lŏkwĕns). [ad. L. *stultiloquentia* (Plautus) f. *stultiloquus* speaking foolishly, f. *stult-us* foolish + *-loquus* that speaks.] Foolish or senseless talk, babble, bosh, twaddle.

1721 BAILEY, *Stultiloquense*, foolish talk. 1809 *Europ. Mag.* LV. 19 This sort of epithet..cannot fail to add..to the stultiloquence of every society. 1893 SWINBURNE *Study & Prose & Poetry* (1894) 90 The blank and blatant jargon of epic or idyllic stultiloquence.

Stulti·loquent, *a. rare.* [f. L. *stultiloqu-us*: see prec. and -ENT.] Talking foolishly.

1845 S. JUDD *Margaret* I. v, 'Stultiloquent yarb-monger!' he [the schoolmaster] broke out. 1864 WEBSTER; and in later Dicts.

Hence **Stulti·loquently** *adv.* [-LY[2].]

1864 WEBSTER; and in later Dicts.

† Stultilo·quious, *a. Obs. rare.* [f. L. *stultiloqui-um* (see next) + -OUS.] Talking foolishly.

1683 E. HOOKER in *Pordage's Myst. Div.* Pref. Ep. 15 What of..Punns and Flams, stultiloquious Dialogs?

Stultiloquy (stʊlti·lŏkwi). [ad. L. *stultiloquium*, f. *stultiloqu-us*: see STULTILOQUENCE.] A speaking foolishly, a foolish babbling.

1653 JER. TAYLOR *Serm. Golden-Grove, Winter* xxiii. 301 What they call facetiousnesse and pleasant wit, is indeed to all wise persons a meer Stultiloquy, or talking like a foole. 1826 *Examiner* 190/1 A sort of unique stultiloquy governs some of the public deliberations of the owners and occupiers of land. 1867 DE MORGAN in *Athenæum* 21 Dec. 852/3 Such a self-destructive congeries of stultiloquies.

† Stulti·tious, *a. Obs.* [f. L. *stultitia* folly, f. *stultus* foolish; see -ITY and -OUS.] Foolish, ridiculous.

1547 BOORDE *Introd. Knowl.* ii. (1870) 127 In Wales..is vsed these two stulticious matters. 1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* I. 40 The Duke..espouseth the sea,..by casting a golden ring into it. Which Stultitious ceremony by Pope Alexander the third was graunted.

Hence **† Stulti·tiously** *adv. Obs.*

1536 BOORDE in Ellis *Orig. Lett.* Ser. III. II. 305 Then stultycyusly..I dyd as many of that Order doth.

† Stu·lty, *a. Obs. rare*[−1]. [app. f. L. *stult-us* foolish + -Y.] Foolish, stupid.

1387-8 T. USK *Test. Love* II. iii. (Skeat) 106 Shal fyr ben blamed for it brende a foole naturelly, by his own stulty witte in steringe?

Stum (stʊm), *sb.* Also 8 **stumm, stume.** [a. Du. *stom*, subst. use of *stom* dumb. Cf. F. *vin muet* in the same sense; also G. *stuminer wein*, wine that tastes flat.]

1. Unfermented or partly fermented grape-juice, must; esp. must in which the fermentation has been prevented or arrested by fumigation with sulphur.

1662 CHARLETON *Myst. Vintners* (1675) 149 This Flower thus separated, is what they name Stum. 1665 *Oxf. Gaz.* No. 16/1 Another Vessel was..laden with Wine and Stum. 1705 ADDISON *Italy, Antiq. near Naples* 234 An unctuous clammy Vapour that arises from the Stum of Grapes. 1769 MRS. RAFFALD *Engl. Housekpr.* (1778) 329 To make Stum. 1802 PALEY *Nat. Theol.* xv. (ed. 2) 285 As necessary..as the fermentation of the stum in the vat is to the perfection of the liquor. 1845 T. SMEED *Wine Merchant's Man.* 59 Dissolve half a pound of white candy in a pint of Rhenish stum. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade.*

pl. 1710 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4681/4 There are about 50 Hdds ..of..French Wines, some Stumes &c. 1731-3 P. SHAW *Chem. Lect.* x. (1755) 191 This is the common Method of matching Casks for Wines, but particularly for Stums.

transf. 1766 *Complete Farmer* s. v. *Mead* 5 M 2/1 The usual practice of making it so strong as to bear an egg, is very wrong. The liquor is thereby rendered a mere stum.

b. Must as used for renewing vapid wines. Also occas. applied to apple-juice similarly used.

1692 *B. Jonson's Leges Conviv.* v, Let our Wines without mixture, or Stum be all fine. 1693 RYMER *Short View Trag.* 78 Chaucer threw in Latin, French, Provencial, and other Languages, like new Stum to raise a Fermentation. 1731-3 P. SHAW *Chem. Lect.* x. (1755) 192 After the same manner a Stum is prepared in England from the Juice of Apples.

fig. 1679 SHADWELL *True Widow* III. 32 'Tis the stum of Love that makes it fret and fume, and fly, and never good. 1682 DRYDEN *Medal* 270 Thy bellowing Renegado Priests, That..with thy Stumm ferment their fainting Cause. 1707 *Refl. upon Ridicule* 168 Get rid of this stum in your Blood.

2. Vapid wine renewed by the mixture of stum.

1664 BUTLER *Hud.* II. i. 569 I'll carve your name on Barks of Trees,..Drink every Letter on't, in Stum; And make it brisk Champaign become. 1746 FIELDING *True Patriot* No. 24 P 7 We drank nine bottles a-piece of stum.

3. *attrib.* and *Comb.*

1675 MERRETT in *Charleton's Myst. Vintners* (ed. 2) 219 Herring Roes preserve any Stum Wines. 1719 D'URFEY *Pills* V. 84 Who hate the stum Poison of Spain and France. 1753 *Chambers' Cycl.* Suppl. s. v. *Must*, The Rhenish Must ..made without boiling is only put up so close in the vessel, that it cannot work; this is called stumm-wine. 1769 MRS. RAFFALD *Engl. Housekpr.* (1778) 329 Then put a quart of stum-forcing to it, which will..make it fine and bright.

Stum (stʊm), *v.* Inflected **stummed, stumming.** Also 7 **stumb,** 8 **stoom.** [ad. Du. *stommen*, f. *stom* STUM *sb.*]

1. *trans.* To renew (wine) by mixing with stum or must and raising a new fermentation.

1656 FLECKNOE *Diarium* 26 Such trash in belly e're to put, As mungrel balderdash *Mina Heer*, Dutchman has stummed for us there. 1689 *Muses Farew. Popery* 88 Had a drunken Tom Tinker the Penance receiv'd, Or a Vintner for stumming his Wine, who'd have griev'd? 1775 ASH, *Stoom*, (v. t. with wine coopers) A. to impregnate wines by putting bags of herbs or other ingredients into them. *Ibid.*, *Stum* (v. t.), to renew wines by raising a fresh fermentation.

b. *fig.*

1661 C. W. in *A. Brome's Poems* To Author A 8, There strength of fancy, to it sweetness joynes, Vnmixt with water, nor stum'd with strong lines. 1676 ETHEREGE *Man of Mode* III. ii. 44 Nature has her cheats, stum's A brain, and puts sophisticate dulness often on the tastless Multitude for true wit and good humour. 1678 OLDHAM *Let. fr. Country* 204 As the poor Drunkard, when Wine stums his brains, Anointed with that Liquor, thinks he reigns. 1795 BURKE *Let. to W. Elliot* 26 May, When that sad draught..was dashed and brewed, and ineffectually stummed again into a senatorial exordium in the house of lords.

¶ *To stum up*: ? to set going, work up. *rare*[−1].

The use may be due to some misapprehension.

1817 KEATS *Let. to Haydon* 28 Sept., At Bailey's suggestion..we have stummed up a kind of contrivance whereby he will be enabled to do himself the benefits you will lay in his Path.

2. To fumigate (a cask) with burning sulphur, in order to prevent the contained liquor from fermenting; to stop the fermentation of (new wine) by fumigation.

1787 J. CROFT *Wines Portugal* etc. 25 Most of the Spanish Wines are stoomed or matcht, as they term it, with brimstone, which also stops the fermentation. 1789 W. H. MARSHALL *Glouc.* II. 358 This expedient is termed 'stumming the [cider] casks'. 1860 WORCESTER; and in later Dicts.

Hence **Stummed** *ppl. a.*, **Stu·mming** *vbl. sb.*

c 1645 HOWELL *Lett.* (1655) II. lv. 70 This is called stooming of wines. 1664 SIR P. NEILE in *Evelyn's Pomona* 40 [Cider] cannot be unwholsome, upon the same measure that stummed Wine is so. 1666 G. HARVEY *Morbus Angl.* xxviii. (1672) 77 A kind of crude dull stumb'd Burdeaux. *a* 1694 in C. Mackay *Songs Lond. Prentices* (Percy Soc.) 22 All loyal lads of true English race; That scorn the stum'd notion of Spain and France. *a* 1721 PRIOR *On Passage in Scaligeriana* 2 When you with High-Dutch Heeren dine, Expect false Latin, and stumm'd Wine. 1837 RICHARDSON, Stummed casks are casks fumigated (with brimstone, to prevent the liquor from fermenting).

Stumble (stʊ·mb'l), *sb.* Also 6 **stomble.** [f. STUMBLE *v.*]

1. An act of stumbling.

a. A missing one's footing, a partial fall.

c 1645 HOWELL *Lett.* (1650) I. III. xxxi. 92, I was told of a Spaniard, who having got a fall by a stumble, and broke his nose, rose up, and in a disdainfull manner said,..This is to walk upon earth. 1743 WESLEY *Jrnl.* 20 Oct., Many endeavour'd to throw me down, while we were going down hill on a slippery path to the town...But I made no stumble at all, nor the least slip 'till I was intirely out of their hands. 1825 SCOTT *Talism.* xxii, The horse of the knight made such a perilous stumble as threatened to add a practical moral to the tale. 1890 D. DAVIDSON *Mem. Long Life* ix. 224 Douglas Graham's horse had stumbled in the soft bed of the nullah, and that stumble saved his rider's life.

fig. 1547 J. HARRISON *Exhort.* in *Compl. Scot.* (1872) 222 This is a greete stomble at the thressholde of the dore: for it is plain by histories, that Lusitania, was not called Portyngale, almost by a M. yeres, after this supposed tyme. 1639 FULLER *Holy War* IV. xx. 203 A Prince, who in the race of his life met with many rubs, some stumbles, no dangerous falls.

† **b.** An ineffectual attempt. *Obs.*

a 1635 CORBET *Nonsence* Poems (1807) 221 Or lyke to rhyming verse that runs in prose, Or lyke the stumbles of a tynder box.

c. A blunder, slip.

1607 HARINGTON *Nugæ Ant.* (1804) II. 49 Maister Vaghan examined him..and found him but shallow, and not very

ready in the Roman tongue, his frend having been fayn to help him up, in two or three fowle stumbles, both of language and matter. *a* 1641 Bp. Mountagu *Acts & Mon.* (1642) 379 A prosecution of the former Paragraph, with a stumble of Baronius. 1687 Settle *Refl. Dryden* 68 By the damnable stumbles Mr. Notes makes in them, he is quite different from Aretine in his Preface. 1736 Hervey *Mem. Geo. II* (1848) I. 408 Sir Robert, finding the stumble his brother had made [in making this suggestion]..joined in the laugh against him. 1901 *Scotsman* 1 Mar. 7/4 The significant stumble made by the right hon. gentleman in his reply.

†**d.** A taking offence. *Obs.*

1674 Bunyan *Light for them in Darkness* (1675) 35 This their stumble might arise either; 1. From the cruelty of Herod: Or, 2 From their own not observing and keeping in mind the Alarum that God gave them at his Birth.

e. A moral lapse.

1702 *Engl. Theophrastus* 186 One stumble is oftentimes enough to deface the character of an honourable life. 1876 H. K. Wood *Highw. Salvation* v. 57 His stumbles and his transgressions are his sorrow.

f. A stumbling or coming by accident upon something.

1865 Holland *Plain Talk* iv. 122 There are exceptions to this rule in the lucky Stumbles that are made upon extraordinary deposits of the precious stones and metals.

2. In generalized sense: The action of stumbling.

1641 Milton *Ch. Govt.* i. 4 How much lesse can we believe that God would leave his..Church..to the perpetuall stumble of conjecture and disturbance. 1692 L'Estrange *Æsop's Fables* Life ix. 10 The Clown, after a little Stumble within himself,..says..If it be the Custome of the Family, 'tis not for me to be against it. 1880 Blackmore *Mary Anerley* I. x. 135 Buoys, nets, kegs,..lay about..here and there and everywhere, upon this half-acre of slip and stumble, at the top of the boat-channel down to the sea.

†**3.** A stumbling-block. *Obs.*

1651 H. More *Second Lash* To Rdr., in *Enthus. Tri.*, etc. (1656) M 2 b, And truly..that Book which hath proved so mischievous a scandal, I intended onely for a stumble to wake you.

Stumble (stʊ·mb'l), *v.* Forms: 4 stomble, stumbill, -bul, 5 stombel, -byl, stomel(e, stomle, stoomel, stumbylle, stumle, stummel, 9 *dial.* stummle, 4- stumble. [Early 14th c. *stomble, stumble* (the *b* is euphonic; the original *stomle, stumle*, is not recorded till the 15th c.) corresponds to Norw. *stumla* to grope and stumble in the dark (Ross), Da. dial. *stumle*, Sw. dial. *stomla*; perh. repr. an unrecorded ON. **stumla*, synonymous with the cognate *stumra* to stumble (Norw. *stum a*): see Stummer *v.* The root is an ablaut-variant of **stam-*: see Stammer *v.*]

1. *intr.* To miss one's footing, or trip over an obstacle, in walking or running, so as to fall or be in danger of falling.

c 1325 *Gloss. W. de Bibbesw.* in Wright *Voc.* 143 Ke il ne ceste ne ne checе [*glossed* stumble ne falle] En la bowe ne messece. *c* 1330 R. Brunne *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 12435 He [the giant] stombled, & gaf a cry. 1338 — *Chron.* (1810) 55 A seruitour þer was, þat serued at þe mete, He stombled at a chance, & felle on his kne. *a* 1340 Hampole *Psalter* xix. 8 Proude horsis that will stumbill and gere vs breke oure neke. 1388 Wyclif *John* xi. 10 If he wandre in the nyst, he stombliþ [Vulg. *offendit*]. *c* 1450 *Brut* II. 378 And þanne þeye Frenschmen come prikkyng doun as þei wolde haue ouyr-rydyn alle oure meyne; but God and our archers made hem sone to stomble. 1523-34 Fitzherb. *Husb.* § 92 The cordes is a thynge that wyll make a horse to stumble, and ofte to fall. 1659 in *Verney Mem.* (1907) II. 147 The horse stumblinge threw them both. 1746 Francis tr. *Hor., Epist.* I. x. 63 Our Fortunes and our Shoes are near allied; We're pinch'd in strait, and stumble in the wide. 1810 Scott *Lady of L.* I. ix, But, stumbling in the rugged dell, The gallant horse exhausted fell. 1846 Mrs. A. Marsh *Father Darcy* II. xix. 321 A sort of broken gallop, as of horses forced forward, yet faltering and stumbling at every step, was now heard. 1900 Bp. W. How *Lighter Moments* 37 His horse stumbled in a lane and fell with him.

b. with const. *at, over.*

a 1450 *Le Morte Arth.* 115 His hors stomelyd at a stone. *c* 1450 Capgrave *Life St. Gilbert* xliii. 123 Sche stombeled at a blok whech was hid with straw and þus fel sodeynly. 1538 Elyot *Dict., Offensaculum*, that which is layd in a mans waye, whereat he stumbleth. 1592 Shaks. *Rom. & Jul.* v. iii. 122 How oft to night Haue my old feet stumbled at graues. *a* 1707 Prior *Duke of Ormond's Pict.* 13 His steed ..stumbles o'er the Heap. 1794 Mrs. Radcliffe *Myst. Udolpho* xxxiii, Give me the torch,..and take care you don't stumble over anything that lies in your way. 1824 Scott *Redgauntlet* ch. xv, Stumbling at every obstacle which the devotion of his guide, Richard, had left in the path, he [etc.]. 1833 Ht. Martineau *Briery Creek* iii. 58 As sure as one walks in the dark, one stumbles over a pig. 1845 Ford *Handbk. Spain* I. 52 Having stumbled over a stone. 1894 Alma-Tadema *Wings of Icarus* 158, I turned from the window and stumbled over something; I lighted a candle.

c. To fall in consequence of a stumble.

14.. *Sir Beues* (Pynson) 2454 There was a wel,..And Beuys stumbled ryght therin. 1907 *Connoisseur* Apr. 275/2 Here are men fighting.., there a horse is stumbling to his knees.

d. To knock or jostle *against* (a person or thing) involuntarily.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 481/1 Stummelyn, or hurtelyn a-3en a stole, or clogge, or oþer lyke, *impingo*. 1822 Shelley *Faust* ii. 21 Every step One stumbles 'gainst some crag. 1835 *Politeness & Gd.-breeding* 28 This boy or girl..who never..tries to vex your feelings, but if they happen so much as to stumble against you, or hurt you in any way, say immediately, 'I am sorry for it.' 1865 Kingsley *Herew.* xli, 'I am out,' quoth Hereward, as the man almost stumbled against him; 'and this is in.'

e. Of an inanimate thing: To strike unexpectedly *on.* ? *nonce-use.*

1702 *Secret Mercury* 23-30 Sept. 2/1, I press'd her to discover her Lodgings, but in vain; for the Boat just stumbled on the Stones and parted us. 1822 Shelley tr. *Calderon's Mag. Prodig.* ii. 60 It [that sad ship] strikes—..It stumbles on a jagged rock.

f. Phrase, *To stumble at (on) the threshold.* Chiefly *fig.*, to fail, take offence, meet with an ominous check at the beginning of an enterprise.

1377 Langl. *P. Pl.* B. v. 357 He stumbled [*So several MSS.*; *but see* Thrumble *v.*] on the thresshewolde. 1579 Spenser *Sheph. Cal.* May 230 Tho went the pensife Damme out of dore And chaunst to stomble at the threshold flore. 1593 Shaks. 3 *Hen. VI*, iv. vii. 11. 1699 T. Baker *Refl. Learn.* xvi. 200 This is no very great mistake, but it is always ominous to stumble at the threshold. 1725 N. Bailey *Erasm. Colloq.* (1733) 209, I lately began to read Seneca's Epistles, and stumbled, as they say, at the very Threshold. 1877 Froude *Short Stud.* (1883) IV. i. iv. 49 He stumbled on the threshold, and had almost fallen, but recovered himself.

2. *fig.* in various uses.

a. To trip morally.

1303 R. Brunne *Handl. Synne* 6521 Ful many on stumble vp and down Of þe greces of syre glotown. *a* 1340 Hampole *Psalter* xxv. 1, I shal not be seke [Vulg. *non infirmabor*] þat is, I shal noght stumbul. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 2928 Soche stirrynges ger stumble, þat stidfast wold be. 1591 Shaks. *Two Gent.* I. ii. 3 *Jul.* Would'st thou then counsaile me to fall in loue? *Luc.* I Madam, so you stumble not vnheedfully. *a* 1692 Shadwell *Volunteers* I. i. (1693) 7 That Mother in Law of thine is..I believe given to stumble much; there is an odd fellow keeps her Company. 1851 Thackeray *Eng. Hum., Swift* (1858) 31 They sinned and stumbled..with debt, with drink.

b. To make a slip in speech or action; to blunder through inadvertence or unpreparedness.

1450-1530 *Myrr. Our Ladye* 51 Yf yt happe..that any ..fayle or stomble, or be dystracte from saynge or hering of any worde, or verse, or psalme, etc. 1607 Rowlands *Diogines Lanth.* 44 T'is better stumble with thy feet Then stumble with thy tongue. 1611 Bible *Transl. Pref.* ¶ 6 But yet as men they [the LXX] stumbled and fell, one while through ouersight, another while through ignorance.

c. To come *on* or *upon* by chance and unexpectedly; to come *in* or *into* (a place) by chance.

1555 Eden *Decades* (Arb.) 337 He that speaketh much shal sumtimes stumble on the truth. *c* 1575 G. Harvey *Letter-bk.* (Camden) 158 It was mie illuck to stumble on sutch cumpany to Walden-warde, that I could not possibely cumpas mie purpose, unles [etc.]. 1579 Gosson *Sch. Abuse* (Arb.) 30 Some Archplayer or other that hath read a litle, or stumbled by chance vpon Plautus comedies. 1592 Shaks. *Rom. & Jul.* II. ii. 53. 1632 Lithgow *Trav.* I. 33 It was my lucke to stumble in here againe. 1682 N. O. *Boileau's Le Lutrin* II. 164 Thus trudg'd he nimble: Whom should he stumble next on, But that tough stick of Wood, Boirude the Sexton? 1706 E. Ward *Wooden World Diss.* (1708) 36 You shall sometimes stumble upon a Lieutenant..of a very different Make. 1781 Cowper *Conversat.* 280 He..had a world of talk With one he stumbled on, and lost his walk. 1815 Kirby & Sp. *Entomol.* xiii. (1818) I. 417 *note*, Some time after making this experiment I stumbled upon a passage in Redi. 1838 W. C. Harris *Narr. Exped. S. Africa* 17 In the course of our perambulations..we stumbled upon a waggon discharging a cargo of oranges. 1840 Dickens *Old C. Shop* xix, They were not the fittest companions she could have stumbled on. 1874 L. Stephen *Hours in Libr.* (1892) I. i. 10 The founders..appear to have stumbled upon their discovery by a kind of accident. 1877 Mrs. Oliphant *Makers Florence* viii. 211 The curiously accidental and fortuitous way in which real excellence sometimes stumbles into recognition. 1902 S. Squire Sprigge *Industr. Chevalier* vii. 165 Now and again they stumble upon prizes which they cannot appreciate.

d. To take offence; to find a stumbling-block or obstacle to belief. Chiefly with const. *at.*

1526 *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 11 b, Here perauenture the scrupulous persone wyll stomble, & say [etc.]. 1593 Bilson *Govt. Christ's Ch.* 410, I see no cause for others to stumble at it. 1647 N. Bacon *Disc. Govt. Eng.* I. xv. 46 In case the Prelacy for England should stumble at the Supremacy of Rome. 1687 J. Renwick in A. Shields *Life* Biogr. Presbyt. (1827) II. 287 Stumble not, because Religion is mocked at. 1782 Priestley *Corrupt. Chr.* I. i. 21 The circumstance at which mankind..stumbled the most. 1860 Pusey *Min. Proph.* 92 Those who rebel against the law of God, stumble, in divers manners, at the ways of God. They stumble at God Himself,..they stumble at His attributes; they stumble at His Providence, at His acts [etc.]. 1882 Pitman *Mission Life Greece & Palestine* 326 These two peoples stumble at one 'stumbling stone', even Christ.

†**e.** *Proverb.*

1530 Palsgr. 736/2 Thou lepest over a bloke and stomblest at a strawe. 1547 *Homilies, Works* D iv, They were of so blynd iudgemente, that they stombled at a strawe, & leped ouer a blocke. 1653 W. Ramesey *Astrol. Restored* To Rdr. 17 To skip over blocks, and stumble at straws.

3. To walk unsteadily and with frequent stumbles.

c 1435 *Torr. Portugal* 660 Stomlyng thurrow frythe and fen, Tyll he com to a depe glen. 1577 Grange *Golden Aphrod.* N ij b, But who so bolde as blinde Bayarde? for he mistrusting nought, comes stumbling forth at will. 1627 May *Lucan* III. F 1, He seeing his Sonne fall with trembling step Stumbling along came to that side the ship. 1667 Milton *P. L.* III. 201 But..blind be blinded more, That they may stumble on, and deeper fall. 1697 Dampier *Voy.* I. xv. 408 By this unreasonable custom they [the Chinese women] do in a manner lose the use of their Feet, and instead of going they only stumble about their Houses. 1831 Scott *Cast. Dang.* ix, She kept talking all the while as she stumbled onward. 1869 Tozer *Highl. Turkey* I. 292 We stumbled along behind him by the light of the stars, over very rough places. 1878 Browning *La Saisiaz* 59 What a load he stumbles under through his glad sad seventy years. 1883 Stevenson *Treas. Isl.* xx, And with a dreadful oath he stumbled off, ploughed down the sand,..and disappeared. 1902 S. E. White *Blazed Trail* iv, He dressed, shivering, and stumbled down stairs to a round stove.

b. *transf.* Of an inanimate thing: To move by jolts or falls. *rare.*

1873 Miss Thackeray *Old Kensington* ii. (ed. 2) 9 Staring ..at the luggage as it comes bumping and stumbling off the big ship.

c. *fig.* To proceed, speak, or act in a blundering or hesitating manner.

c 1394 *P. Pl. Crede* 591 Now mot a frere studyen & stumblen in tales. 1589 R. Harvey *Plain Percival* Ded., As farre as Will Solnes stuttring pronunciation may stumble ouer at a breath. 1593 Shaks. 2 *Hen. VI*, III. ii. 316 My tongue should stumble in mine earnest words. 1598 Marston *Sco. Villanie* To judiciall Perusers B 4 b, Yet both of them [Juvenal and Persius] goe a good seemely pace, not stumbling, shuffling. 1862 Stanley *Jew. Ch.* (1877) I. xiii. 246 Through a succession of failures, they stumbled into perfection. 1868 Tennyson *Lucretius* 123, I have forgotten what I meant: my mind Stumbles, and all my faculties are lamed. 1884 *Harper's Mag.* Nov. 912/2 I'll stumble through the driest scientific treatise you have. 1891 Farrar *Darkn. & Dawn* xv, Seneca blushed, and his smooth tongue stumbled, as he attempted to express his gratification.

4. *trans.* (causatively).

a. To trip up, bring to the ground, overthrow. *lit.* and *fig.* ? *Obs.*

c 1330 R. Brunne *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 13050 Stedes slayn, stumbled & failled. 1382 Wyclif *Eccles.* x. 12 The lippis of the vnwise shuln stumblen hym doun [Vulg. *præcipitabunt eum*]. 1592 *Soliman & Pers.* IV. i. 222, I, now occasion serues to stumble him That thrust his sickle in my haruest corne. 1652 Brough *Sacred Princ.* (ed. 2) 449 Stumble not an Vpright foot, with a visible Block of offence.

b. To puzzle; to give pause or offence to; to embarrass, nonplus.

1605 L. Hutten *Answere* 5 But the Treatiser thought it more for his aduantage,..to set down his argument confusedly, the more to stumble the vnskilfull Reader. 1621 Burton *Anat. Mel.* II. iv. I. i. (1624) 297 A common ague sometimes stumbles them all [*sc.* the apothecaries], they cannot so much as ease. 1653 W. Ramesey *Astrol. Restored* 22, I think good for the clearing of all what hath been already said (least some may be stumbled thereat) to deliver my minde as touching their influence thus. 1669 S. Simmons *Milton's P. L.* To Rdr., A reason of that which stumbled many others, why the Poem Rimes not. 1682 Bunyan *Holy War* 381 To question Election is..to stumble the faith of the Town of Mansoul. 1724 A. Shields *Life J. Renwick* Biogr. Presbyt. (1827) II. 144 By these and the like Reproaches, many were stumbled at his Testimony. 1784 Cowper *Task* IV. 533 In days like these..when Virtue is so scarce, That to suppose a scene where she presides.. stumbles all belief. 1893 W. G. Collingwood *Life Ruskin* I. 172 The proud possessor of a cut-and-dry creed will be stumbled by this new milestone in Mr. Ruskin's intellectual pilgrimage. 1901 *Church Quarterly* July 425 He [a Chinaman] is much stumbled that..the claims of a man's wife take precedence of those of his elder brother.

†**c.** To shake (a resolve, an opinion). *Obs.*

1607 Markham *Cavel.* III. vii. 34 There is nothing dooth so much stumble mens mindes, and make them affraide of keeping hunting horses, as the verie remembrance and charge of keeping them. 1646 *Hamilton Papers* (Camden) 134 The small appearance he findes that his message will be satisfactory to you there hath much stumbled his resolution of sending it to London. 1651 N. Bacon *Disc. Govt. Eng.* II. xxv. 192 Nor was it wisdome for Kings that sate loose in their Thrones, to stumble the good Opinions of so considerable [a] party towards them.

†**d.** To act as an obstacle to, to hinder, prevent.

1606 Warner *Alb. Eng.* XVI. ciii. 406 What stumbleth our Banes-bidding, pra? cause Peg forsooth will be A Gentlewoman.

Hence **Stu·mbled** *ppl. a.*

1548 Cooper *Elyot's Dict., Titubatus*, tripped, stumbled. 1848 S. Wilberforce in Ashwell *Life* (1880) I. xi. 499 Though to anonymous public slanderers I would give no answer, yet to a stumbled Christian friend I ought even to humble myself to reply to a surmise so degrading to my character even as this.

Stumble-block, *v. nonce-wd.* [As if f. **stumble-block* = Stumbling-block.] *trans.* To put stumbling-blocks in the way of.

1819 Keats *Lett. to Haydon* 3 Oct., If I ever do anything worth remembering the Reviewers will no more be able to stumble-block me than the Royal Academy could you.

Stumbler (stʊ·mblər). [f. Stumble *v.* + -er 1.]

1. One who, or something which stumbles; esp. a horse that is given to stumbling.

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 481/1 Stumlere (or stomelare) *cespitator*. 1562 J. Heywood *Prov. & Epigr.* (1867) 150 Stumble at a strawe, and leape ouer a blocke, Such stumblers are blockeheads. 1613 *Uncasing of Machiav.* 26 Riding a stumbler hold fast the bridle. 1633 G. Herbert *Temple, Ch. Porch* xxxvi, A stumbler stumbles least in rugged way. 1796 Coleridge *To an Infant* 5 Poor stumbler on the rocky coast of Woe. 1835 Willis *Pencillings* II. liv. 124 The horses were all sad stumblers. 1894 Meredith *Foresight & Patience* Poet. Wks. (1912) 418 Yet, happy for us when, their cause defined, They walk no longer with a stumbler blind.

2. A cause of stumbling; a 'poser'.

1863 P. Davidson *Pentateuch Vind.* ii. 33 Here was a stumbler for the priests and a marrowbone for the infidels.

Stumbling (stʊ·mblin), *vbl. sb.* [-ing 1.] The action of the verb Stumble, in various senses.

a 1400-50 *Wars Alex.* 2623 Pare was stomling of stedis sticking of erles. 15.. *King & Barker* 106 in Ritson *Anc. Pop. Poetry* (1791) 64 With a stombellyng as he rode the thanner downe he [the horse] cast. 1568 Grafton *Chron.* II. 598 He tolde him also without anye stayeng or stomblyng,..the names of all the colours that could be shewed

him. 1611 BIBLE 1 *John* ii. 10 Hee that loueth his brother, abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him. 1657 HOBBES *Marks Absurd Geom.* 4, I noted it only that you may be more merciful hereafter to the stumblings of a hasty Pen. 1818 KEATS *Endymion* I. 703 To entice My stumblings down some monstrous precipice. 1873 G. S. BADEN-POWELL *New Homes* 184 Stumblings and injuries to legs are of remarkably rare occurrence. 1892-3 FROUDE *Lect. Counc. Trent* vi. (1896) 134 There was stumbling again at the power of the keys, and at the splendour and assumptions of the hierarchy.

b. *Comb.*: **stumbling-shoe**, a horse-shoe devised to prevent stumbling; **stumbling-† stock, -stone** = STUMBLING-BLOCK.

1908 *Animal Managem.* (War Office) 367 *Stumbling shoes, 244 [In text: Shoes to obviate stumbling]. 1550 *Stumbling stock [see SISTER *sb.* 3 c]. 1569 ROEST tr. *J. van der Noot's Theat. Worldlings* 31 Christ is that stumbling stocke, and the stone of offense, whereat the world stumbled. *c* 1630 RISDON *Surv. Devon* (1714) II. 150 Richard Hooker..wrote a Book intitled *The Lawes of Ecclesiastical Polity*, a great Stumbling-Stock to many, and not answered by any. 1841 BORROW *Zincali* II. ii. 156 Many of which have long been stumbling-stocks to the philologist. 1526 TINDALE *Rom.* ix. 33 Beholde I put in syon a *stomblynge stone and a rocke which shall make men faule [Gr. λίθον προσκόμματος καὶ πέτραν σκανδάλου]. 1567 *Sat. Poems Reform.* iii. 109 God he[t]is all that layis ane stumling stane, Quhilk may the cause be of our bretheringis fall. 1684 T. BURNET *Theory Earth* I. 294 The regularity of the universe was always a great stumbling-stone to the Epicureans. ? 1780 COWPER tr. *Bourne, Glow-worm* 19 Nor crush a worm, whose useful light Might serve; To shew a stumbling stone by night. 1865 SWINBURNE *Chastelard* II. i. (1894) 47 Some scurril children that lurked near Set there by Satan for my stumbling-stone.

Stumbling (stʌ·mblin), *ppl. a.* [-ING 2.] That stumbles, in various senses of the verb.

c 1425 *Cast. Persev.* 1042 [*Avaricia loquitur*:] Perfore, Pryde, good brobyr,..late Iche of vs take at othyr, & set Mankynde on a stomlynge stol. 1538 ELYOT *Dict., Suffossus equus*, a stumblynge horse. 1579 SPENSER *Sheph. Cal.* May 231 Her stombling steppe somewhat her amazed. 1585 HIGINS *Junius' Nomencl.* 383/1 *Confragosus locus*,..a rough, rugged, rockie or stumbling ground: vphill and downehill. 1727 *Country-Post* xi. in *Swift's Miscell.* II. 290 There have died of the falling Sickness two stumbling Horses, as also one of their Riders. 1859 DICKENS etc. *Haunted Ho.* vii. 42/2 Then she heard him..go down stairs, with hurried, stumbling steps. 1859 *Habits of Gd. Society* xv. 372 The tearful, stumbling speeches of 'dear papa' after champagne [at the wedding-breakfast]. *a* 1893 CHRISTINA G. ROSSETTI *Poems* (1904) 209/1 Is there a path to Heaven My stumbling foot may tread? 1905 TREVES *Other Side of Lant.* II. xxvii. (1906) 164 Everywhere is the figure of the devout offering his stumbling prayer.

Stumbling-block. [f. STUMBLING *vbl. sb.*

Introduced by Tindale as a rendering of Gr. πρόσκομμα; later translators have preferred to use it to render σκάνδαλον. The phrase 'to stumble at a block' (*i. e. a tree stump*) is of earlier date: see quot. *c* 1450 under STUMBLE *v.* 1 b. Cf. *stumbling-stock, stone* (STUMBLING *vbl. sb.* b.)]

Something to stumble at or over; a cause of stumbling. Chiefly *fig.*

a. An occasion of moral stumbling; a 'scandal', 'offence'.

1526 TINDALE *Rom.* xiv. 13 That no man putt a stomblinge blocke or an occasion to faule [Gr. πρόσκομμα ἢ σκάνδαλον] in his brothers waye. 1532 MORE *Confut. Tindale* Pref. Ee iij b, It wyll none otherwyse be, but that some stumblyng blokkys wyll allway be by malycyouse folke layed in good peoples way. 1651 HOBBES *Leviath.* I. xii. 58 All which doings, or sayings..be stumbling blocks, that make men to fall in the way of Religion. 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xiv. III. 489 To unite a scattered flock in one fold under one shepherd, to remove stumbling blocks from the path of the weak,..these were objects which might well justify some modification..of national or provincial usages. 1884 J. HALL *Chr. Home* xi. 166 If meat be a stumbling-block to a brother, then will he forego it (1 Cor. viii. 13).

b. An occasion of falling into calamity or ruin.

1535 COVERDALE *Ezek.* iii. 20 Yf a rightuous man go from his rightuousnesse,..I will laye a stomblinge blocke before him, and he shall dye. 1732 LEDIARD *Sethos* II. VIII. 247 Be upon your guard against this stumbling-block of heroes. 1829 SCOTT *Anne of G.* xvi, We are not men to be trodden on..; those who have attempted it have found us stumbling-blocks.

c. An obstacle to belief or understanding; something repugnant to one's prejudices.

a 1593 MARLOWE & NASHE *Dido* IV. i. (Brooke) 1093, I see Æneas sticketh in your minde, But I will soone put by that stumbling-blocke. 1653 W. RAMESEY *Astrol. Restored* 271 Unless I here remove a seeming obstruction or stumbling block, perhaps some mistakes or errours might arise. 1714 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 592 P 7 A Stumbling-Block to the whole Tribe of these rigid Criticks. 1721 WATERLAND *Case Arian. Subscr.* 32 The old Arians would have detested such Practises: The 'Ομούσιον alone was such a Stumbling-Block to Them, that They could never get over it. 1857 KEBLE *Euchar. Ador.* 20 A most effectual stumbling block to those who were unwilling to believe. 1864 BOWEN *Logic* vii. 204 Baroko and Bokardo have been stumbling-blocks to the logicians. 1884 F. TEMPLE *Relat. Relig. & Sci.* viii. (1885) 244 Believers have thus prepared a stumblingblock for themselves.

d. An obstacle in the way of progress, or of the execution of a plan.

1593 SHAKS. 2 *Hen. VI*, I. ii. 64 Were I a Man, a Duke, and next of blood, I would remoue these tedious stumbling blockes. 1658-9 *Burton's Diary* (1828) III. 398, I have heard that there are the greatest endeavours to put some obstruction in this business. Dutch and Dane are not wanting to lay stumbling-blocks. 1736 BUTLER *Anal.* II. vii. 354 Such a discovery might have been a stumblingblock in the way of Christianity. 1838 JAMES *Louis XIV*, I. 194 Nor did he ever quit his religion, though as a Hugonot it might have proved a great stumbling-block in his way. 1865 TROLLOPE *Belton Est.* xiii. 143 She..had come to fear that she might be an embargo on his prosperity, and a stumbling-block in the way of his success. 1912 *Nature* 21 Nov. 346/1 The cost of electrical power is the chief stumbling-block to the introduction of the manufacture on a large scale in this country.

e. In literal sense, *rare*. Also *attrib.*

1663 GERBIER *Counsel* 21 A good Surveyour shuns also the ordering of Doores with Stumbling-Block-Thresholds. 1893 *Law Times* XCV. 204/2 The cover projected about 1¼ in. above the level of the road, and so formed a stumbling-block.

transf. 1859 HERSCHEL *Fam. Lect. Sci. Subj.* iii. § 31 (1866) 119 Jupiter, in fact, is a regular stumbling-block in the way of comets.

Stumblingly (stʌ·mblinli), *adv.* [f. STUMBLING *ppl. a.* + -LY 2.] In a stumbling manner.

a 1586 SIDNEY *Apol. Poet.* (Arb.) 62, I know not, whether to meruaile more, either that he [Chaucer] in that mistie time, could see so clearely, or that wee in this cleare age, walke so stumblingly after him. 1879 BROWNING *Martin Relph* 95 A Man,..Who staggeringly, stumblingly, rises, falls, rises. 1915 *Chamb. Jrnl.* Aug. 491/2, I stumblingly descended the rugged bank.

Stu·mbly, *a.* [f. STUMBLE *v.* + -Y.] **a.** Addicted to stumbling. **b.** Apt to cause stumbling.

1890 *Century Mag.* Aug. 570/2 The miserable horses of the peasants are awfully slow and very stumbly. 1898 G. W. STEEVENS *With Kitchener to Khartum* 114 It is an impenetrable, flesh-tearing jungle of mimosa-spears and dom-palm and stumbly halfa-grass.

Stume, obs. form of STUM.

Stumer (stiū·mər). *slang.* Also **stumor.** [Of unknown origin.] A forged or dishonoured cheque; a counterfeit bank-note or coin; a sham.

1890 *Blackw. Mag.* June 793 'Stumer' is slang for a worthless cheque. *a* 1897 *Sporting Times* in Barrère & Leland *Slang Dict.* s.v., My collection of writs, pawn tickets, unreceipted bills, stumers [etc.]. 1897 HALL CAINE *Christian* IV. iv. 376 A 'thick'un'? Oh, that was a sovereign,..twenty-five pounds a 'pony', five hundred a 'monkey', flash notes were 'stumers'. 1911 A. G. C. *Through a College Keyhole* 13 For Maeterlinck's bird was a stumor, I've heard. 1912 L. WILLIAMS in *Daily News* 19 Dec. 7/4, I did pass a bad florin, guv'nor, but I did it innocent. I didn't know it was a stumer.

Stumle, stummel, obs. forms of STUMBLE *v.*

Stumm, stummed: see STUM *sb.* and *v.*

Stummer (stʌ·mər), *v. Obs.* (? exc. *dial.*) [f. ON. *stumra*: see STUMBLE *v.*] *intr.* To stumble (*lit.* and *fig.*).

13.. *Old Age* in *Rel. Ant.* II. 211, I stunt, I stomere, I stomble as sledde. *c* 1470 *Gol. & Gaw.* 624 Thair stedis stakkerit in the stour, and stude stummerand. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* v. vi. 80 He shald and stummerit on the slydry ground. 1562 WINJET *Cert. Tractates* Wks. (S. T. S.) I. 5 Hes not mony..mysknawin thair deuty..and sua in thair perfite beleif hes sairlye stummerit. *c* 1590 J. STEWART *Poems* (S. T. S.) II. 48 So I agains my will Dois stot and stummer in my mateir low. 1825 BROCKETT *N. C. Gloss., Stummer*, to stumble.

Stumming, *vbl. sb.*: see under STUM *v.*

Stummock, obs. form of STOMACH.

† Stu·mmy, *a.* [f. STUM *sb.* + -Y.] = STUMMED *ppl. a.*

1770 CUMBERLAND *Brothers* Epil., The plodding Drudge shou'd here at Times resort, And leave his stupid Club and stummy Port. 1776 GRAVES *Euphrosyne* (1780) II. 159 Stummy wines.

Stump (stʊmp), *sb.*[1] Forms: 4-6 **stompe,** 5 *Sc.* **stowmpe,** 5-7 **stumpe,** 6 **stoomp,** 6-7 **stumppe,** 6- **stump.** [First in 14th c.; a. or cogn. w. MLG. *stump* masc., *stumpe* fem., (M)Du. *stomp* masc., subst. use of MLG. *stumpf*, (M)Du. *stomp* adj., mutilated, blunt, dull; corresp. to OHG. (MHG., mod.G.) *stumpf* adj. and sb. masc.; the late ON. *stumpr* masc., MSw. *stumper* (mod.Sw. *stump*), Da. *stump* adj. and sb., are prob. from LG.

The senses of the word, in Eng. and other Teut. langs., show close parallelism with those of STUB *sb.* and its cognates, but etymological connexion is difficult to establish. On the other hand, there is no morphological objection to the view that the Teut. root **stump-* is an ablaut-variant of **stamp-* (see STAMP *v.*), but this is not supported by any striking similarity of sense.]

1. The part remaining of an amputated or broken-off limb or portion of the body.

To fight to the stumps: app. an allusion to quot. *c* 1600 below; cf. 3 b.

a 1375 *Joseph Arimi.* 681 Þan Ioseph..bad þat mon knele, þe arm helede a-3eyn hol to be stompe. *c* 1430 *Syr Tryam.* 1561 He [Tryamour] smote Burlond of be kneys...Burlonde on hys stompus stode. *c* 1440 *Sir Eglam.* 739 Syr Egyllamowre,..Halfe the tonge [of the dragon] he stroke away, That fende began to zelle! And with the stompe that hym was levyd, He stroke the knyght in the hedd A depe wounde and a felle. *c* 1450 *Mirk's Festial* 223 Bope hys hondys wern puld of by be elboues,..and he wyth hys stompes stode soo. 1541 *Act* 33 *Hen. VIII*, c. 12 § 3 The ..chief Surgeon..shalbe redye..to seare the stumpe when the hande is striken of. 1590 *Tarlton's News Purgatory* 24 He threatned to cut out her tongue, it is no matter for that knaue quoth she, yet shall the stump call thee pricklowse. 1597 A. M. tr. *Guillemeau's Fr. Chirurg.* 37 b, [In an amputation] it is allwayes better to make the stumpe short, then longe. *c* 1600 *Chevy Chase* (later version) l. in Child *Ballads* III. 313 For when his leggs were smitten of he fought vpon his stumpes. 1615 CROOKE *Body of Man* 80 The nauell therefore is the stumpe of the vmbilicall vesselles, by which the Infant was nourished in the wombe. 1653 T. BRUGIS *Vade Mecum* (ed. 2) 143 They are very necessary..to cauterize the end or stump of a bone after dismembring. 1672 WISEMAN *Treat. Wounds* II. v. 30 Here your work is with a good Razor or Knife presently to plain the Stump, and pull up the Flesh, that you may saw off the end of the Bone as even as may be. 1766 H. WALPOLE *Let. to G. Montagu* 3 Mar., The stumps that beggars thrust into coaches to excite charity and miscarriages. 1822 SHELLEY *Chas. 1st* iii. 40 And hands, which now write only their own shame, With bleeding stumps might sign our blood away. 1853 LD. J. RUSSELL in *Life & Lett. 4th Earl Clarendon* (1913) II. xiii. 23, I feel sure that they (*sc.* the English people] would fight to the stumps for the honour of England. 1898 *Syd. Soc. Lex.*, *Stump of Eyeball*, the remainder of the globe after the excision of whole or part of the eyeball. 1905 *Brit. Med. Jrnl.* 1 July 15 The root of the appendix was..then amputated, the stump being buried by a purse-string suture of catgut.

b. A rudimentary limb or member, or one that has the appearance of being mutilated.

1555 EDEN *Decades* (Arb.) 232 This beast..hath in the place of armes, two great stumpes wherwith he swymmeth. 1611 CORYAT *Crudities* 54 A woman that had no hands but stumpes in stead thereof. 1635 SWAN *Spec. Mundi* viii. § 2. (1643) 413 Out of their [*sc.* bees'] short feet or stumps, there grow forth as it were two fingers. 1664 POWER *Exp. Philos.* I. 32 The Sycomore-Locust..I could, near her shoulders, see the stumps of her growing wings. 1719 N. BLUNDELL *Diary* (1895) 158, I saw Matthew Buckinger who was born without Hands or Feet, I saw him writ very well with his Stumps. 1861 P. P. CARPENTER in *Rep. Smithsonian Instit.* 1860, 205 The eyes are on stumps at the base of the tentacles.

c. Jocularly used for: A leg. Chiefly in *to stir one's stumps*, to walk or dance briskly, † to do one's duty zealously.

c 1460 *Towneley Plays* XXX. 109 There I stode on my stumpe I stakerd that stownde. 1535 LAYTON in *Lett. Suppress. Monast.* (Camden) 76 His hore..bestyrrede hir stumpis towardes hir startyng hoilles. 1559 *Mirr. Mag., Jack Cade* xx, But hope of money made him stur his stumpes, And to assault me valiauntly and bolde. 1583 STUBBES *Anat. Abuses* I. (1877) 147 Their pipers pipeing, drommers thundring, their stumps dauncing, their bels iyngling. 1596 COLSE *Penelope* (1630) 164, I doubt not but poore shepheards will stirre their stumps after my minstrelsie. 1603 B. JONSON *Ent. Althrope* (1604) 11 Come on Clownes, forsake your dumps, And bestir your Hobnaild stumps. 1619 H. HUTTON *Follies Anat.* B 4 b, Making his stumppes supporters to vpholde This masse of guttes. 1682 N. O. *Boileau's Le Lutrin* ii. 16 Up starts amazed John, bestirs his Stump. *a* 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew, Bustle about*, to be very Stirring, or bestir one's Stumps. *a* 1728 W. STARRAT *Epist. to A. Ramsay* 7, [I] Right tozylie was set to ease my Stumps. 1785 BURNS *Jolly Beggars* v, I'd clatter on my stumps at the sound of a drum. 1832 MARRYAT *N. Forster* x, Come this way, my hearty—stir your stumps. 1837 LYTTON *E. Maltrav.* IV. vi, Come, why don't you stir your stumps? I suppose I must wait on myself.

d. A wooden leg.

1679 J. YONGE *Currus Triumph.* 18 It being difficult..to use an artificial stump or supplemental Leg, till the Ulcer be cicatrized. 1740 SOMERVILLE *Hobbinol* I. 145 His [a one-legged fiddler's] single Eye Twinkles with Joy, his active Stump beats Time. 1771 SMOLLETT *Humph. Cl.* 5 May, At the same time [he] set his wooden stump upon my gouty toe.

2. The portion of the trunk of a felled tree that remains fixed in the ground; also, a standing tree-trunk from which the upper part and the branches have been cut or broken off. Cf. STUB *sb.*[1]

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 481/1 Stumpe, of a tree hewyn don, *surcus.* 1546 *Supplic. Poore Commons* (E. E. T. S.) 92 The old stompes of these fruitles trees. 1558 WARDE tr. *Alexis' Secr.* 29 b, Take *Polipodium* (whiche is an herbe, like vnto Ferne) growyng vpon the stumpe or stocke of a Chestnut tree. 1638 JUNIUS *Paint. Ancients* 68 Thick woods, graced between the stumpes with a pure and grasse-greene soile. 1697 DAMPIER *Voy.* I. 156 There are so many Stumps in the River, that it is very dangerous passing in the night. 1698 FRYER *Acc. E. India & P.* 41 On the top of a withered Stump perching a Chamelion. 1717 BERKELEY *Tour Italy* Wks. 1871 IV. 567 Hills on left almost naked, having only the stumps of trees. 1764 DODSLEY *Leasowes in Shenstone's Wks.* (1777) II. 291 A number of these extempore benches (two stumps with a transverse board). 1781 COWPER *Conversat.* 51 So wither'd stumps disgrace the sylvan scene, No longer fruitful, and no longer green. 1800 WORDSW. *Hartleap Well* 125 You see these lifeless stumps of aspen wood— Some say that they are beeches, others elms. 1836 [MRS. TRAILL] *Backw. Canada* 41 It would have broken my heart to have to work among the stumps, and never see..a well-ploughed field. 1860 TYNDALL *Glac.* I. xxvii. 213 Adjacent to my theodolite was a stump of pine. 1902 S. E. WHITE *Blazed Trail* xix, After you will come the backwoods farmer to pull up the stumps; and after him the big farmer and the cities.

transf. 1655 FULLER *Ch. Hist.* I. 23 The stumps of ruined Churches lately destroyed by Diocletian grew up into beautiful Buildings. 1899 BARING-GOULD *Bk. West* I. vii. 101 The main castle tower was..pulled down and left as a stump.

fig. 1580 LYLY *Euphues* (Arb.) 226 Philautus although the stumpes of loue so sticked in his mind..: yet [etc.]. 1583 MELBANCKE *Philotimus* R ij b, You say you cannot boote me, yet do stumps of old loue stick in your stomacke.

¶ The lofty and massive church tower of Boston, Lincs. (a conspicuous sea-mark), has long been known as 'Boston Stump', perh. as having no spire. This designation is mentioned in E. J. Wilson *Gloss. Gothic Archit.* (1823) 21.

b. The base of a growing tree. *To buy* (timber) *on the stump*; before felling. Cf. STUB *sb.* 1 b, c.

1902 S. E. WHITE *Blazed Trail* xiv, You originally paid in cash for all that timber on the stump just ten thousand dollars. *Ibid.* xxxiv, There ought to be about eight or ten million [feet of timber]..worth in the stump anywhere from sixteen to twenty thousand dollars. 1902 *Daily Chron.* 31 Dec. 6/3 Twenty-four hours from stump to saw-mill is a regular thing now in some of the eastern mills.

3. Something (e. g. a pencil, quill pen, cigar) that has been reduced by wear or consumption to a small part of its original length; a fag-end. = STUB *sb.* 9.

1516 *Will of R. Peke*, And then the stumpe to be put in on tapere with more stuffe in ytt. 1660 R. WILD *Iter Bor.* 4, I..had gnaw'd my Goose-quill to the very stump. 1709 STEELE *Tatler* No. 9 ¶ 1 The Youth with broomy Stumps began to trace The Kennel Edge, where Wheels had worn the Place. 1809 SIR G. JACKSON *Diaries & Lett.* (1873) I. 16 A knife to improve the sorry stump that does duty for one [a pen]. 1829 G. HEAD *Forest Scenes N. Amer.* 49 A black stump of a tobacco-pipe was in his mouth. 1840 DICKENS *Old C. Shop* v, An inkstand with no ink and the stump of one pen. 1855 LE FANU *Guy Deverell* iv. I. 53 When he threw his last stump [*sc.* of a cigar] out of the window they were driving through Penlake Forest. 1911 MAX BEERBOHM *Zuleika Dobson* xiv. 218 'Yes, my Lord', said the boy, producing a stump of pencil. 1913 J. G. FRAZER *Golden Bough* (ed. 3) *Scapegoat* iii. 163 The fires are fed with stumps of old brooms.

fig. 1647 N. BACON *Disc. Govt. Eng.* I. lix. 176 He is contented with the stump of the Crown.

b. Phrase, (*To wear*) *to the stumps*. Chiefly *fig.* Very common in 16–18th c.; now *rare* or *Obs.*

a 1555 in FOXE *A. & M.* (1563) 1313/2 Though our soule priestes sing til they be bleare eyed, say tyl they haue worne theyr tongues to ye stumpes, neither their singings nor their sayings shall bryng vs out of hel. 1602 T. FITZHERBERT *Apol.* 37 God wil..throw into the fyre, those rods of his wrath, when he hath worne them to the stumps. 1614 DAY *Festivals* x. (1615) 287, I haue endeauoured to carke and care for them all, haue spent my whole life, and worne my selfe to the very stumps. 1669 GAUDEN *Slight Healings* 63 The first reduceth a Nation to its stumps, and makes it a cripple a long time. 1679 *Hist. Jetzer* 10 When they had almost quite worn out their patience to the stumps. *c* 1680 BEVERIDGE *Serm.* (1720) II. 525 Thou may'st pray 'till thy tongue be worn to the stumps. 1716 M. DAVIES *Athen. Brit.* I. 148 Erasmus plainly shews, that Archbishop Lee had driven him to his Stumps. 1732 BERKELEY *Alciphr.* ii. § 17 This man of pleasure, when, after a wretched scene of vanity and woe, his animal nature is worn to the stumps.

c. The part of a broken tooth left in the gum.

c 1430 LYDG. *Min. Poems* (Percy Soc.) 30 Thy mone pynnes bene lyche old yvory, Here are stumpes feble and her are none. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* XI. xxxvii. I. 338 He had a brother also who never cast his foreteeth, and therefore he wore them before, to the very stumps. 1613 SHAKS. *Hen. VIII*, I. iii. 49 Your Colts tooth is not cast yet? *L. San.* No my Lord, Nor shall not while I haue a stumpe. 1653 T. BRUGIS *Vade Mecum* (ed. 2) 144 A punch to force out a stump of a hollow tooth. 1777 *St. James's Chron.* 26–28 June 2/1 [Dentist's Advt.] Advice 1*l.* 1*s.* Taking out a Tooth or Stump, 1*l.* 1*s.* 1801 G. COLMAN *Poor Gentl.* IV. i. 57 My cousin Crushjaw, of Case-horton; who lugs out a stump with perfect pleasure to the patient. 1877 *Encycl. Brit.* VII. 99/1 The removal of roots and stumps as a preparatory step in the fitting of artificial teeth.

d. The part of a broken off branch that remains attached to the trunk.

1707 MORTIMER *Husb.* (1721) II. 83 If the Bough is large.. cut it off at some distance from the Tree..; but by no means leave any Stumps to stand out at any distance, because they cannot be covered by the Bark, 'till the Diameter of the Tree grows beyond it, and in the mean time the Stump will be continually rotting.

e. A docked tail.

1544 BETHAM *Precepts War* I. lxxxiii. E iv b, The weake man that laboured to plucke awaye [the horse's tail] heere by heere, made all bare to ye stompe. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* I. xi. 39 The knotty string Of his huge taile he quite a sunder cleft; Five ioynts thereof he hewd, and but the stump him left. 1770 CUMBERLAND *West Indian* II. ix, To hang the false tails on the miserable stumps of the old crawling cattle. 1885 RIDER HAGGARD *K. Solomon's Mines* iii, Still it does look odd to trek along behind twenty stumps [of oxen], where there ought to be tails.

f. *Naut.* The lower portion of a mast when the upper part has been broken off or shot away. Also = *stump mast* (see 18).

1725 N. BAILEY *Fam. Colloq. Erasm.* (1733) 187, I bethought my self of the Stump of the Mast. 1743 BULKELEY & CUMMINS *Voy. S. Seas* 10 Fitted a Capp on the Stump of the Mizen-Mast. 1745 P. THOMAS *Jrnl. Anson's Voy.* 44 We got down our Stumps, which are generally set up in bad Weather instead of Top gallant Masts. 1773 *Gentl. Mag.* XLIII. 321 A terrible storm arose, which obliged the Dolphin ..to strike her top gallant-masts, and lie to in her stumps. 1800 in Nicolas *Disp. Nelson* (1845) IV. 219 *note*, Half past 6, shot away the main and mizen-masts: saw a man nail the French ensign to the stump of the mizen-mast.

g. *dial.* The remains of a hay-stack, most of which has been cut away. (*Eng. Dial. Dict.*)

1785 *Jackson's Oxf. Jrnl.* 15 Jan. 1/4 Two Hundred Tons of fine Old and New Hay, in several Ricks, Cocks, and Stumps. 1785 [see STADDLE *sb.* 8]. 1868 *Gloss. Sussex Wds.* in *Hurst's Horsham* (1899).

h. The remaining portion of a leaf cut out of a volume; the counterfoil of a cheque. Cf. STUB *sb.* 10, STOCK *sb.*[1] 42.

1887 ELLIS & SCRUTTON *Catal.* Feb. 5 It is conclusively shewn that the text is quite perfect, and that the eighth leaf of Sig. G. was a blank, of which there is still the stump remaining in this copy.

i. *Stump and rump* adv. phrase: (Of destruction, removal, etc.) totally, completely. (See also RUMP *sb.*[1] 4.) Cf. STOUT AND ROUT. *dial.*

1825 BROCKETT *N. C. Gloss., Stump and rump*, entirely. 1828 CARR *Craven Gloss.* s. v., I's ruined stump and rump. 1901 R. BUCHANAN *Poems* 140 (E.D.D.) Geordie swallowed them 'stump an' rump.'

4. Applied to a person: A blockhead (cf. STOCK *sb.*[1] 1 c, STUB *sb.* 2); a man of short stumpy figure (cf. STUB *sb.* 7 d). † Sometimes as a term of contemptuous address: also *stumps*.

1601 B. JONSON *Poetaster* I. ii, Come, bee not ashamed of thy vertues, old stumpe. 1605 *Tryall Chevalry* II. i. in Bullen *Old Pl.* (1884) III. 289 Stumps, I challenge thee for this indignity. 1825 BROCKETT *N. C. Gloss., Stump*, a heavy, thick-headed fellow. 1829 LYTTON *Disowned* ii, Come, Stump, my cull, make yourself wings. *a* 1835 HOGG *Tales & Sk.* (1837) VI. 352 He then sought out the common executioner, but he was a greatly, drumbly, drunken stump, and could tell him nothing. 1875 J. GRANT *One of Six Hundred* XXV. 201 Binnacle, the skipper, was a short, thick-set little stump of a fellow.

† **5.** A broken-off end of something. Also a splinter (cf. STUB *sb.* 5). *Obs.*

c 1400 *Laud Troy Bk.* 12539 He bare him thorow the scheld ymyddes, Thorow his plates In-to his brest; Opon the grounde ful stille he rest, For In his body lefft the stompe. 1625 T. GODWIN *Rom. Antiq.* 202 There came a fierce Lyon vnto him, moaning and grieuing, because of a stumpe of a tree which stucke fast in his foot.

6. The stalk of a plant (esp. cabbage) when the leaves are removed.

1819 SCOTT *Leg. Montrose* viii, Where no forage could be procured for his horse, unless he could eat the stumps of old heather. 1879 SALA in *Daily Tel.* 28 June, A very unlovely spot..presenting little beyond a prospect of empty baskets and cabbage stumps. 1882 *Garden* 18 Mar. 188/1 When the Cauliflowers or Cabbages were all cut, the stumps were cleared off. 1897 J. HOCKING *Birthright* iii. 52 Others pelting me [in the pillory] with cabbage-stumps and turnips. 1943 D. BRAY *Life-Hist. Brahui* v. 99 Three nights running must he take a draught of water in which the plant *charmāing* has been well boiled, leaves and stumps and all.

† **b.** *pl.* Stubble. *Obs.*

1585 HIGINS *Junius' Nomencl.* 107/2 *Stramentum*,..the strawe, stubble, or stumppes remaining in the grounde after the corne is rept.

c. *pl.* Hair cut close to the skin: cf. STUB *sb.* 4 c. Also, remains of feathers on a plucked fowl.

1584 B. R. tr. *Herodotus* II. 78 b, The Ægyptians at the decease of their friends suffer their hayre to growe, beeing at other times accustomed to powle & cut it to ye stumps. 1726 SWIFT *Gulliver* II. i, He said..that the Stumps of my Beard were ten times stronger than the Bristles of a Boar. 1845 ELIZA ACTON *Mod. Cookery* 261 To roast a Fowl. Strip off the feathers, and carefully pick every stump or plug from the skin. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 855 It [i. e. the ringworm patch] is studded with stumps of broken hairs. 1905 *Brit. Med. Jrnl.* 1 July 15 The scalp is carefully examined to see that no stumps are left.

7. A post, a short pillar not supporting anything.

a 1700 EVELYN *Diary* 12 Nov. 1644, In a little obscure place..is the Pillar or Stump at which they relate our Bl. Saviour was scourged. 1796 W. H. MARSHALL *Rur. Econ. Midl.* (ed. 2) II. 389 *Stump*; post; as 'gate stump'—stumps and rails. 1842 LOUDON *Suburban Hort.* 319 These short posts, or stumps, as they may be called, are formed of pieces of young larch-trees or oak branches, from which the bark has been taken. 1907 *Westm. Gaz.* 27 Aug. 10/2 The pillar yesterday was fulfilling the prosaic, but useful, functions of a clothes stump.

b. *Coal-mining.* (See quots.)

1881 RAYMOND *Mining Gloss., Stump*, Penn[sylvania]. A small pillar of coal, left at the foot of a breast to protect the gangway. 1883 GRESLEY *Gloss. Coal-mining* 245 *Stump*, the block of solid coal at the entrance to a breast, having a narrow roadway on either side.

† **c.** A peak, summit. (*Burlesque.*) *Obs.*

1664 [J. SCUDAMORE] *Homer à la Mode* 57 She [Thetis] spies Saturnius with sawcer eyes, On one oth' highest stumps alone, (For on that hill [Olympus] is many a one). [Cf. *Iliad* I. 499.]

† **8.** A stake. *To pull up one's stumps*: to break up camp, start again on the march (cf. STAKE *sb.* 1 e). *Obs.*

1530 PALSGR. 277/2 Stumpe a shorte stake, *estoc.* 1647 SPRIGG *Anglia Rediv.* II. i. 61 They marched that day but to Crookhorn,..but here Intelligence came that made them pull up their stumps, (as weary as they were).

9. *Cricket.* Each of the three (formerly two) upright sticks which, with the bails laid on the top of them, form a wicket. *To draw* (*the*) *stumps*: to pull up the stumps, as a sign of the discontinuance of play or of the termination of a match or game.

1735 in Waghorn *Cricket-Scores* (1899) 11 The stumps were immediately pitched. 17.. *Laws of Cricket* (1744), The Stumps must be 22 Inches long. 1744 J. LOVE *Cricket* III. (1754) 20 The Bail, and mangled Stumps bestrew the field. 1777 in Waghorn *Cricket-Scores* (1899) p. x, [June 4, the first match] to be played with three stumps, to shorten the game. 1833 NYREN *Yng. Cricketer's Tutor* (1902) 16 The stumps must stand twenty-seven inches above the ground. 1837 DICKENS *Pickw.* vii, The ball flew..straight and swift towards the centre stump of the wicket. 1862 *Baily's Mag.* Oct. 200 At half-past six the stumps were drawn. 1868 *Field* 4 July 11/1 When the stumps and the match also were drawn, four wickets were down for 96 runs.

b. *pl.* = *stump-cricket* (see 18).

1903 A. WESTCOTT *Life B. F. Westcott* I. vi, 322 My father ..himself occasionally joined us in a game of 'stumps'.

† **10.** The main portion of anything; the stock.

1634 T. JOHNSON *Parey's Wks.* XXIII. xii. 883 A. Sheweth the stump or stock of the woodden leg.

† **b.** ? The 'body' of a coat. *Sc. Obs.*

1506 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* III. 313 For vj elne smal cammes to lyne the doublatis bodyis and stumpes of the cotis..ixs.

11. *Lock-making.* (See quot. 1856.) Cf. STUB *sb.* 8.

1808 in *Abridgm. Specif. Patents Locks* etc. (1873) 17 Which moves the stump on the same tumbler from a stump fixed under, or a groove cut in the bolt. 1852 *Tomlinson's Cycl. Usef. Arts* (1867) II. 95/1, *b* is the bolt into which is riveted the stump *s*. 1856 G. PRICE *Treat. Fire & Thief-proof Deposit., Locks & Keys* 259 The 'stump' of the bolt is that stud which projects at right angles from the face of the bolt, and which passes in and out of the 'slots' through the gating in the levers, or combinations, or other moveable obstructions contained in the lock.

12. Applied to animals of stumpy form or with a stumpy tail. **a.** *dial.* The stoat.

1854 *N. & Q.* 2nd Ser. I. IX. 385/1 A gamekeeper..told me that there are three kinds of the weasel tribe in the woods: the weasel, the stoat or stump, and the mousehunt. *Ibid.* X. 120/2 Hampshire Provincial Words..*Stump*, a stoat.

b. The name of a shell-fish: see quot.

1875 MELLISS *St. Helena* 203 *Scyllarus latus*, Latr.—A large shell-fish, called 'The Stump'.

13. A stump bedstead: see 18.

1875 *Carpentry & Join.* 84 The details are almost identical, whether the form is the old-fashioned and well-nigh obsolete four-poster or the half-tester or stump.

14. Originally *U.S.* **a.** In early use, the stump (sense 2) of a large felled tree used as a stand or platform for a speaker. **b.** Hence, 'a place or an occasion of political oratory' (*Cent. Dict.*). *To go on the stump, to take the stump*: to go about the country making political speeches, whether as a candidate or as the advocate of a cause.

In the U.S. the word 'does not necessarily convey a derogatory implication' (*Cent. Dict.*). In Britain, though now common, it is still felt to be somewhat undignified.

a. 1775 *Broadside* (by a Boston Tory), Upon a stump he placed himself Great Washington did he. 1808 J. QUINCY *Sp.* 7 Dec. in *Deb. Congress* (1853) 766 This species of party insinuation was a mighty engine..on an election day, played off from the top of a stump, or the top of a hogshead, while the gin circulated. 1839 MRS. KIRKLAND *New Home* xliii. 287 He..mounted a stump, which had fortunately been left standing..and then and there gave 'reasons for my ratting.' 1842 *Congr. Globe* 29 Jan. 183/1 A stump orator in the West ..; who, when he got down from the stump, said [etc.].

b. 1816 *Debates in Congress* (1854) 1169, I [a Virginian member] think his [a South Carolinian's] arguments are better calculated for what is called on this side of the river *stump*, than for this Committee. 1831 M. CAREY *New Olive Branch* 17 Declaimers in the forum, or on stumps, or in newspapers. 1838 L. BACON in *Ess. Chr. Minist.* (1841) 84/2 All artifice and trick—all the devices of the stage and of the stump. 1866 LOWELL *President on the Stump* Pr. Wks. 1890 V. 264 Mr. Johnson is the first of our Presidents who has descended to the stump. 1868 J. BRIGHT *Addresses* (1879) 76 We have seen the archbishops and bishops..doing what is described in America when they say a man has taken to the 'stump'. 1888 BRYCE *Amer. Commw.* I. vi. II. 382 It is more by the stump than in any other way that an American statesman speaks to the people. 1892 *Daily News* 19 Dec. 2/3 If politicians took it up—'put the gold dollar on the stump,' as it is expressed—the trouble would be grievous. 1903 *Sat. Rev.* 7 Feb. 172 A Front Bencher goes on the stump in the provinces.

15. *Coffee-planting* (India). See quot.

1877 E. C. P. HULL *Coffee Planting* 274 This disease is there known as stump, from its being due to decay of the stump of a particular forest-tree peculiar to the district.

16. *slang.* See quot. Cf. STUMPY *sb.* 2.

1823 EGAN *Grose's Dict. Vulgar T., Stump*, money.

17. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as (sense 2) *stump-country, extracting, -extractor, fence, -hole, land*; *stump-dotted* adj.; *stump-like* adj. and adv.; *stump-wise* adv.; (sense 3 c) *stump-extractor, -puller*; (sense 14) *stump campaign, orator, oratory, oratress, speaker, speaking, speech.*

1888 BRYCE *Amer. Commw.* x. I. 132 The famous struggle of Mr. Douglas and Mr. Lincoln for the Illinois senatorship in 1858 was conducted in a *stump campaign. 1896 *Home Missionary* (N.Y.) July 129 Vast tracts of '*stump country' [in Michigan] are as truly virgin soil as if the region had just been discovered. 1902 S. E. WHITE *Blazed Trail* v, Sometimes he would look across the broad *stump-dotted plain to the distant forest. 1883 M. P. BALE *Saw-Mills* 295 Capstans are also used for *stump extracting. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2432/2 **Stump-extractor* I. (Agriculture). A tool or machine for pulling the stumps of trees...2. A dentist's instrument. 1883 M. P. BALE *Saw-Mills* 294 There are many other varieties of stump extractors amongst those used in America. 1845 S. JUDD *Margaret* I. xvi, The stile by which they crossed the *stump-fence into the herb-garden. 1897 *Daily News* 10 Sept. 8/3 The stump fence..consists of the gnarled roots of trees originally grubbed up from the land. 1828 P. CUNNINGHAM *N. S. Wales* (ed. 3) II. 166 It is long before grasses grow upon the places out of which stumps have been burnt..But it is astonishing to observe what a height of richness wheat will attain on these spots, every *stump-hole being easily reckoned in a field of wheat from this great luxuriance alone. 1889 *Hardwicke's Sci.-Gossip* XXV. 132 This tree attains a height of about six feet, and its branches spring from the gnarled top of the thick, *stump-like stem. 1813 T. JEFFERSON *Writ.* (1830) IV. 203 In the debates of Congress, of State legislatures, of *stump-orators. 1887 *Spectator* 19 Mar. 391/1 The shallowness and flippancy of stump-orators. 1847 WEBSTER, *Stump oratory. 1854 H. MILLER *Sch. & Schm.* (1858) 496 Without any unnecessary display of stump-oratory. 1880 MCCARTHY *Own Times* IV. 380 Mr. Disraeli himself had taken to going round the country, doing what would be called in America stump oratory. 1852 HAWTHORNE *Blithedale Rom.* vi, She was made..for a *stump-oratress. 1884 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* Suppl. 870/1 *Stump pullers are of the lever and claw style, or [etc.]. 1848 *Let. fr. Washington* in *N.Y. Herald* 21 June (Bartlett), The Hon. W. R. Thompson,..one of the most popular *stump speakers of the day, addressed a large meeting of Whigs from the stoop of Barnum's Hotel, Baltimore. 1864 LOWELL *Lincoln* Pr. Wks. 1890 V. 187 All that was known of him was that he was a good stump-speaker. 1842 H. MANN *Boston Orat.* 4 July 46 The custom so prevalent at the West and South, of *stump speaking. 1888 BRYCE

Amer. Commw. cxi. III. 604 They shine in stump speaking, properly so called—that is, in speaking which rouses an audience but ought not to be reported. 1839 PROFFIT in *Congr. Globe* 31 Dec. 72/2 He could make..a better *stump speech himself. 1885 *Manch. Exam.* 16 May 6/1 Mr. Redmond rose and insisted on delivering a stump speech on the sentiments of the Irish and English people regarding royalty. 1884 PHILLIPPS-WOLLEY *Trottings of Tenderfoot* 208 If a constitution was to grow up strong, it didn't want forcing with a lot of *stump-spouter's rubbish. 1719 LONDON & WISE *Compl. Gard.* xix. 129 In those vigorous Trees, we must leave upon them..some Branches cut *Stump-wise.

18. Special comb.: **stump bed,** bedstead, a bedstead without posts; **stump-bred** *a. Hunting* = *stub-bred*; **stump cricket** = SNOB *sb.*[2]; **stump embroidery** = *stump work*; **stump-end,** (*a*) the end of the stump of a tail; (*b*) the remnant of a cheque-book containing the 'stumps' or counterfoils; **stump foremast** (see *stump mast*); **stump joint** (see quot.); **stump-jump, -jumping** *adjs. Austral.*, designating a kind of plough by which land can be ploughed without clearing it of the stumps; **stump-machine** *U.S.*, a machine for extracting tree-stumps; **stump mast** (see quot.); **stump mortise** = *stub mortise* (W. 1911); † **stump nail** = *stub-nail*; † **stump pie,** a kind of meat-pie; **stump-shot** = *stub-shot, -shot* (see STUB *sb.* 11); **stump-spire** *Arch.* (see quot.); **stump-tenon** = *stub-tenon* (W. 1911); **stump topgallant mast** (see *stump mast*); **stump tracery** *Arch.* (see quot.); **stump tree** *U.S.* (see quot. 1892); **stump-work,** a peculiar kind of raised embroidery practised in the 15–17th c. (see quot.).

1841 *Penny Cycl.* XXI. 45/2 Under a *stump bed, immediately beneath, was a dog-kennel. 1823 J. SIMPSON *Ricardo* I. 235 Having never yet known a luxury beyond a *stump bedstead, and a flock bed. 1841 J. T. J. HEWLETT *Peter Priggins* I. i. 29 In one corner was a stump-bedstead, with a kind of dimity canopy. 1897 *Stump-bred [see *stub-bred* STUB *sb.* 12]. 1888 A. LANG in Steel & Lyttelton *Cricket* (Badm.) i. 1 There is a sport known at some schools as 'stump-cricket',..which is a degenerate shape of the game. 1907 C. B. FRY in *Daily Chron.* 10 Oct. 4/4 The old and the renovated game of 'Le Bon Diable'..bears the same relation to Diabolo-Tennis as stump-cricket does to proper cricket. 1904 MRS. HEAD in *Burlington Mag.* IV. 173/1 Side by side with *stump-embroidery flourished two varieties of flat and semi-flat work. 1768 *Phil. Trans.* LX. 122 Tails..sewed together at the *stump-ends. 1894 'J. S. WINTER' *Red Coats* 42 There were several stump-ends of old cheque-books there. 1897 KIPLING *Capt. Courageous* i. 20 Harvey heard a chuckle from Dan, who was pretending to be busy by the *stump-foremast. 1884 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* Suppl. 870/1 **Stump joint,* the form of joint used in the folding carpenter's rule. The ends or stumps of the parts when in line, abut against each other. 1896 *Waybrook Implement Co.* Advt. (Morris), This wonderful result [of the harvest] must in the main, be put down to the *Stump-jump Plough. 1898 MORRIS *Austral Eng.* 443 Stump-jump Plough. 1898 M. DAVITT *Life & Progr. Australia* xiii. 64 The most useful implement to the hardy settlers up here is the *stump-jumping plough. 1900 *Borough News* 11 Aug. 3/1 I'm breaking up that ten-acre field of *stump land. 1907 *Black Cat* June 21 Once outside the limits of the stump-land, Mehetabel made the best of her speed to the Knoll. 1868 LOSSING *The Hudson* 54 One of the *stump-machines stood in a field near the road. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.*, **Stump-mast,* a lower mast without tops. Common in those steam-vessels which never depend wholly upon sails. 1704 in *Bagford Ballads* (1876) 64 The Lad..quickly fell to vomiting strange things, As bits of Glass, *stump Nails and crooked Pins. 1695 J. H. *Family Dict.* s.v., *Stump-Pye to Season: Take Veal or Mutton, mince it raw, [etc.]. 1812 J. SMYTH *Pract. Customs* (1821) 293 No other allowance is to be made, in taking the length of plank, for the *stump-shot, or split end. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXII. 356/2 If no better [name] can be found, we would suggest that of *Stump-spire for one whose height does not exceed two diameters at its base. *Ibid.* 357/2. 1840 R. H. DANA *Bef. Mast* xx. 59 The ship, with her *stump top-gallant masts and rusty sides. 1835 R. WILLIS *Archit. Ilid. Ages* vi. 61 The After Gothic of Germany..has tracery in which the ribs are made to pass through each other, and are then abruptly cut off. This may be called *Stump Tracery. 1891 in *Century Dict.* (citing FALLOWS), *Stump tree. 1892 NEWHALL *Trees N. E. Amer.* 190 Kentucky Coffee Tree, Stump Tree (*Gymnocladus disicus,..G. Canadensis*). *Ibid.* 192 The fewness and abruptness of its large branches give to it in the winter a dead and stumpy look. 1904 MRS. HEAD in *Burlington Mag.* IV. 173/1 English *stump-work has..a definite individuality...Lace, brocade, satin,..peacock's feathers and human hair were all blended together by the finest and most elaborate of embroidery stitches, and raised on 'stumps' of wood, or wool pads, in the most fantastic of designs.

Stump (stʊmp), *sb.*[2] [Of obscure history.

The late appearance of the word suggests that it is an adaptation (influenced by STUMP *sb.*[1]) of the far older Fr. synonym *estompe*, which, along with the related vb. *estomper*, †*estomber*, appears *a* 1700 in De la Hire *Traité de la Pratique de la Peinture*, published in *Mém. de l'Acad. Roy. des Sciences 1666–1699* (1730) IX. 658. De la Hire evidently regarded the words as established in use; he suggests that *estompe* may be a corruption of *étoupe* (earlier *estoupe*) tow, link. This is impossible; most etymologists regard the sb. as derived from the vb., which some believe to be ad. Du. *stompen* or *afstompen* to dull, blunt, though there seems to be no evidence that either of these vbs. was ever used in the sense of F. *estomper*.

The stump for crayon drawing is elaborately described, as an instrument used by Fr. pastellists, in A. Browne's *Appendix Art Painting* (1675), but without mention of either the English or the Fr. name. Browne says (in this copying W. Sanderson *Graphice* ii. 78, published 1658) that a 'stubbed pencil' (app. = 'brush', not 'crayon' or 'lead pencil'), sometimes 'stuffed with cotton or bombast', was employed by some artists for the same purpose. Obviously a 'stubbed pencil' could be called in English a 'stump' (STUMP *sb.*[1] 3); and the equivalent Du. *stompe* could be employed in the same way. On the whole, considering that in the 17th c. the art of crayon drawing received much improvement in Holland, the likeliest view seems to be that the word *stompe* was applied (with no intention of using a technical term) to the 'stubbed pencil' by Dutch artists working in French studios; and that in the adapted form *estompe* it became the Fr. name for the improved instrument invented in France. On this view the Eng. word would be an adaptation of the Fr., as the relative chronology suggests.]

A kind of pencil consisting of a roll of paper or soft leather, or of a cylindrical piece of indiarubber or other soft material, usually cut to a blunt point at each end, used for rubbing down hard lines in pencil or crayon drawing, for blending the lines of shading so as to produce a uniform tint, and for other similar purposes.

1778 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 2) III. 2293/2 When the head is brought to some degree of forwardness, let the back-ground be laid in, which must be treated in a different manner, covering it as thin as possible, and rubbing it into [the] paper with a leather-stump. 1811 *Self Instructor* 544 Blend your shadows..with a stump made of paper. 1859 GULLICK & TIMBS *Painting* 316 The tints are rubbed in, and blended for the most part with the finger, although 'stumps' (Fr. *estompes*), and the point of the crayon..are also used. 1860 W. COLLINS *Woman in White* vii, Near it were some tiny jewellers' brushes, a washleather 'stump', and a little bottle of liquid, all waiting to be used in various ways for the removal of any accidental impurities which might be discovered on the coins. 1862 *Catal. Internat. Exhib., Brit.* II. No. 5483, Drawing stumps in paper, leather, and cork. 1869 EASTLAKE *Materials Hist. Oil Painting* II. 252 His love of gradation and of the imperceptible union of half-tints led him [*sc.* Correggio] to use the 'stump' or some similar mechanical means.

Stump (stʊmp), *sb.*[3] [f. STUMP *v.*[1]]

1. A heavy step or gait, as of a lame or wooden-legged person.

1770 FOOTE *Lame Lover* I. Wks. 1799 II. 603 I hear his stump on the stairs. 1830 MISS-MITFORD *Village* Ser. IV. 129 The old Brigade-Major,..lame of a leg,..was kept on the constant stump with explanatory messages.

b. Reiterated, with echoic intention. Also quasi-*adv.*, (to go, come) *stump, stump.*

1690 *Pagan Prince* xii. 35 For a Prince to go Stump, Stump with a wooden Leg, is no way Majestical. 1854 SURTEES *Handley Cr.* xxvii. (1901) I. 204 Stump, stump, stump, creak, creak, creak, came old heavy-heels along the passage. 1862 BORROW *Wild Wales* xi. (1901) 63 She heard of a sudden a horse coming stump, stump, up to the door. 1890 D. DAVIDSON *Mem. Long Life* x. 261, I heard the stump, stump of a wooden leg behind me.

2. *U.S. colloq.* 'A dare, or challenge to do something difficult or dangerous' (W. 1911).

1871 MRS. WHITNEY *Real Folks* ii. 23 She understood life. It was 'stumps' all through...It was a stump when her father died, and her mother had to manage the farm...The mortgage they had to work off was a stump...It was a stump when her mother died and the farm was sold. 18.. *Electr. Rev.* (Amer.) XIV. 4 (Cent.) The reason for this little freak was a stump on the part of some musicians, because..it was not supposed he could handle a baton. He did it. 1894 *Advance* (Chicago) 18 Oct. 112/3 But me lad, the bravest thing ye did was to refuse to run the risk for a mere stump!

Stump (stʊmp), *a.* [Partly from the attrib. use of STUMP *sb.*[1], but perh. partly an original adj. corresponding to or adopted from Du., LG. *stomp.*]

1. Worn down to a stump.

1624 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* I. ii. III. xv. (ed. 2) 115 Like an Asse, he [a schoolmaster] weares out his time for prouender, and can shew a stumpe rod,..an old torne gowne, an ensigne of his infelicity. 1855 LEIFCHILD *Cornwall* 7 He cracked his stump whip.

2. Obtuse in outline, not pointed.

1676 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1135/4 At Yarmouth, the Fortune of Dunkirk,..carrying four Guns, and 38 Men, with a Stump [*printed* Stamp] Head, Decks flush, Broad Stern, [etc.].

3. Said of mutilated or malformed limbs. *Stump foot*: a club foot. *Stump leg*: a leg without a foot or with a club foot.

1563–83 FOXE *A. & M.* 828/1 The goodman of ye house hauing a stumpe foote. *a* 1568 ASCHAM *Scholem.* II. (Arb.) 127 Euen the best translation, is..but an euill imped wing to flie withall, or a heute stompe leg of wood to go withall. *a* 1593 MARLOWE *Ovid's Elegies* II. xvii. 20 With his stumpe-foote he halts ill-fauouredly. 1678 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 1338/4 An iron grey Gelding Colt, a lame stump foot before, and two white feet behind. 1731 *Gentl. Mag.* I. 401 To apprehend several Vagrants with stump Hands, sore Arms, Legs and Faces. 1768–74 TUCKER *Lt. Nat.* (1834) I. 453 He did not skate with a stump leg;..but put out a broad foot with which he could have a good flat tread. 1898 *Syd. Soc. Lex.*, *Stump-foot.* Same as *Club-foot.*

4. Comb., as *stump-fingered, -footed, -legged, -nosed, -rooted, -tailed* adjs. Also **stump-foot** [= Du. *stompvoet*], a stump-footed person; also *adj.* = *stump-footed*; **stump-nose** *S. Africa* [after Du. *stompneus*], a fish common near Cape Town; **stump-tail,** a stump-tailed dog; also *Austr.* a stump-tailed lizard (*Trachysaurus*).

1905 D. SMITH *Days of His Flesh* xlvi. 462 In the early Church Mark..was styled Mark the *Stump-fingered. 1593 *Tell-trothe's N. Y. Gift* (1876) 13 Ioane *Stoomp-foot and Tom Totty. 1602 *Invent.* in C. Wise *Rockingham Castle & Watsons* (1891) 206 Item one baie stumpefoote mare iij*li*. 1612 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Sculler* E 1, The net the stump-foot Blackesmith made, Wherein fell Mars and Venus was betraid. 1628 BRETON *Wonders worth Hearing* (Grosart) 8/1 So was he faced like an olde Ape, *stumpe footed, and wry legged. 1691 WOOD *Life* (O.H.S.) III. 366 Solomon Nash...Stumpfooted. 1629 GAULE *Holy Madn.* 324 Buckle-hamm'd, *Stump-legg'd. 1652 — *Magastrom.* 186 The spindle-legd are fearful;..stump-legg'd, servile. 1878 T. J. LUCAS *Camp Life & Sport in S. Afr.* ii. 30 The harbour [near Cape Town] abounds in fish, amongst which '*Stump-nose,' 'Seventy-four,'..and other strangely named but well flavoured fish are pre-eminent. 1895 *Jrnl. Cutan. & Genito-Urin. Dis.* Nov. 466 Perhaps the old Peruvians were *stump-nosed. 1905 T. W. SANDERS *Vegetables* 170 The Shorthorn or *stump-rooted kinds [of carrot] will succeed on any light shallow soil. 1868 SIR J. RICHARDSON etc. *Mus. Nat. Hist.* II. 20 The curious-looking creatures called *Stump-tails (*Trachydosaurus*) natives of Australia. 1902 *Longman's Mag.* Oct. 514 Old Badger..the best stump-tail he ever had to help him. 1860 P. P. CARPENTER in *Rep. Smithsonian Instit.* 1859, 202 The *stump-tailed cats of the Isle of Man. *c* 1875 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* IV. 296 The Stump-tailed Lizard. 1893 LYDEKKER *Roy. Nat. Hist.* I. 117 The brown stump-tailed monkey (*Macacus arctoides*).

Stump (stʊmp), *v.*[1] Also 7 **stompe,** 5–6, 9 *dial.* stomp. [f. STUMP *sb.*[1]]

† **1.** *intr.* To stumble over a tree-stump or other obstacle. Also, to walk stumblingly (in quot. *fig.*). *Obs.*

c 1250 *Owl & Night.* 1392 Ne beoþ heo nouht alle forlore þat stumpeþ at þe fleysses more. *Ibid.* 1424 If mayde luueþ derneliche, heo stumpeþ & falþ icundeliche. 1430–40 LYDG. *Bochas* IX. xxxviii. (1554) 217 b, Though I goe not vpright, but stomp and halt for lack of eloquence. 1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* 78 If an oxe be wrinched and strayned in his sinnewes, in trauell or labour, by stumping on any roote or hard sharpe thing.

2. To walk clumsily, heavily, or noisily, as if on had a wooden leg.

1600 LANE *Tom Tel-troth's Message* 327 Some [dames] in their pantophels too stately stompe *fr. w.* pompe]. 1673 R. HEAD *Canting Acad.* 65 He..nimbly hops or stumps to a Coach side. *a* 1726 VANBRUGH *Journ. Lond.* I. i. (1728) 6 Here's John Moody arriv'd already; he's stumping about the Streets in his dirty Boots, and [etc.]. 1756 *Connoisseur* No. 103 P 4 The maid-servants are continually stumping below in clogs or pattens. 1840 HOOD *Miss Kilmansegg* 218 As the Giant of Castle Otranto might stump To a lower room from an upper. 1844 W. BARNES *Poems Rur. Life* 355 *Stumpy* or *Stump*, to walk with short firm steps as a short stout person. 1856 KANE *Arctic Expl.* I. xxxi. 431 Poor Wilson, just able to stump about after his late attack of scurvy. 1857 READE *Course of True Love, Clouds & Sunshine* iii. 204 The farmer stumped in, and sat down with some appearance of fatigue. 1874 *Punch* 11 Apr. 155/1 'He [a horse] seems,' I say, 'to rather stump on his near fore-leg.'

b. *slang.* 'To go on foot' (*Slang Dict.* 1859); also *stump it* (in quot. 1841 r to be off, decamp).

1841 LYTTON *Night & Morning* II. ii, Stump it, my cove; that's a Bow Street runner. 1909 A. N. LYONS *Sixpenny Pieces* xxii. 161 To the divil with cabs. Oi must stump ut. Stump ut on me ten old toes.

c. To knock on the floor in walking. *nonce-use.*

1872 BROWNING *Ring & Bk.* IX. 12 Stumping with his staff, Up comes an usher,

d. *trans.*

1890 W. CLARK RUSSELL *Ocean Trag.* I. vi. 117 Pendulously stumping the quarter-deck.

3. *trans.* To reduce to a stump; to truncate, mutilate; also, † to stunt, dwarf.

1596 NASHE *Saffron-Walden* Wks. 1910 III. 99 Whose pen..still splits and stumpes it selfe against olde yron. 1658 BROMHALL *Treat. Spectres* I. 148 He appeared a man that was stumped, or had his members cut off. 1658 EVELYN *Fr. Gard.* (1675) 166 It will stump your [Asparagus] plant. 1752 *Scotland's Glory* 24 That idol dagon prelacy We might have stumped tightly. 1829 *Examiner* 595/1 The only prudent course of the people of the United States is forthwith to cut off their legs, and stump themselves into concentration. 1872 MRS. A. GATTY *Bk. Sun-dials* Introd. p. xx, In the reign of Elizabeth the mortuary crosses were cut down, or stumped, in our churchyards. 1877 E. C. P. HULL *Coffee Planting* 93 These [coffee] plants..require, before being planted out on the estate, to be 'stumped', *i. e.* cut down to within some six inches above the roots.

4. To stub; to dig up by the roots. *colonial.*

1790 *Phil. Trans.* LXXX. 356 After which the [sugar] canes should be stumped out with care, and the stools burnt as soon as possible. 1828 P. CUNNINGHAM *N. S. Wales* (ed. 2) II. 62 You may hear people even now..relate their tales of..felling and stumping trees on spots where our best houses stand. 1897 *Outing* May 137/2 I've stumped every tree and root out'r that clearing.

5. To remove the stumps from (land). Also *absol.*

1796 C. MARSHALL *Garden.* iii. (1813) 34 The walks should be stumpt, keeping the tops of the stumps very level. 1828 P. CUNNINGHAM *N. S. Wales* (ed. 2) II. 164 In stumping land,..dry wood is piled over the stump, which..is set fire to. 1834 *Tait's Mag.* I. 418/1 Very good land, sir; and I was to pay a hundred pounds for it, for you know it was cleared but not stumped. 1915 W. P. LIVINGSTONE *Mary Slessor* v. ii. 269 She had as many as two hundred and fifty people engaged in cutting bush, levelling, and stumping.

6. ? To remove the stub feathers from (fowls); = STUB *v.* 5.

1822 LAMB *Let. to Miss Wordsworth* Xmas, She is to be seen in the market every morning,..cheapening fowls, which I observe the Cambridge poulterers are not sufficiently careful to stump.

7. *local.* To remove the ails from barley with a gridiron-shaped iron tool.

1787 WINTER *Syst. Husb.* 310 Barley should likewise be steeped the same as wheat, after being well shook in a sack by two men (stumping will bruise it) to be cleared from ailes. 1890 *Glouc. Gloss.*, *Stump*, to dress the beards from barley.

8. *Cricket.* Of the wicket-keeper: To put (a

batsman) out by dislodging a bail (or knocking down a stump) with the ball held in the hand, at a moment when he is off his ground. Also with *out*.

1744 *Report of Kent & All Eng. Match* in Nyren *Yng. Cricketer's Tutor* (1833) 111 Bryan 12 s Kips. 1787 *Score of Match at Lord's* in H. Bentley *Cricket Matches* (1823) 20th June, Aylward 94 Run out 15 stumpt out. 1833 Nyren *Yng. Cricketer's Tutor* 29 Should you miss the ball, a clever wicket-keeper will surely stump you out. *Ibid.* 39 The wicket-keeper..should remove a little backward from the wicket..because by his doing so the catches will be much more easy, and he may stump as well. 1837 Dickens *Pickw.* vii, In short, when Dumkins was caught out, and Podder stumped out, All-Muggleton had notched some fifty-four. 1859 *All Year Round* 23 July 305/2 He caught two of the town off my first 'over', stumped two in my second, and [etc.]. 1884 *Lillywhite's Cricket Ann.* 78 He caught three batsmen at the wicket and stumped one. 1897 *Encycl. Sport* I. 247/1 (Cricket) *Stump out*, to get the batsman out under Law 23.

†**9.** *intr.* (See quots.) *Obs. rare*—°.

1721 Bailey, *To stump*,..to brag or boast. 1735 Dyche & Pardon *Dict.*, *Stump v.*,..also to boast, brag, vaunt, or proudly value ones self upon some small Qualification, &c.

10. *trans.* = *stump up*, 17 b (*a*).

1841 Hood *Tale of Trumpet* 260 Common prudence would bid you stump it;..It's the regular charge At a Fancy Fair for a penny trumpet.

b. *intr.* To pay up: = *stump up*, 17 b (*b*). Also with *out*.

1828 Carr *Craven Gloss.*, *Stump*, to pay ready money,.. to pay down on the nail. 1844 J. T. Hewlett *Parsons & W.* xlvii, I'll stump handsome when we're spliced. 1854 Lever *Dodd Family Abr.* xliv, 401 There is no salary at first, so that the Governor must 'stump out handsome'.

11. trans. *slang.* To render penniless. Chiefly in *passive*, to be 'stony broke'.

1828 Carr *Craven Gloss.*, *Stump*,..2. to beggar. 1830 Lower *Tom Cladpole* cxlviii, I..Paid the last tuppence I had got, An den I was just stump'd. 1836 T. Hook *G. Gurney* III. 43 Haven't you heard, my dear fellow, we are stumped? 1900 'H. Lawson' *Over Sliprails* 113 Going away from home with a few pounds in one's pocket and coming back stumped.

12. = *stump up*, 17 c.

1883 Mrs. E. Kennard *Right Sort* xvii, I stumped a couple of horses last week, and an extra rest will do them all the good in the world.

13. (*U.S. colloq.*) To strike (the toe) unintentionally against a stone or something fixed: = Stub *v.* 9.

1828–32 Webster (and in later edd.). 1891 *Century Dict.*

14. (Orig. *U.S.*) To cause to be at a loss; to confront with an insuperable difficulty; to nonplus.

The primary reference was prob. to the obstruction caused by stumps in ploughing imperfectly cleared land.

[1807: implied in Stumper 5.] 1833 [Seba Smith] *Lett. J. Downing* xii. (1835) 80 My Good Old Friend,—I'm stumped. I jest got a letter from the Gineral [etc.]. 1834 *Ibid.* xxxii. 218 This stumps me considerable. 1840 Haliburton *Clockm.* Ser. III. xvi. (1848) 132 Bein' stumpt is a sure mark of a fool. The only folks among us that's ever nonplushed, is them just caught in the woods. 1842 *Congr. Globe* 29 Jan. 183/1 He had been amazed—or, to use a Western phrase, he had been 'stumped' at the position occupied within these last few days by [etc.]. 1843 Lowell *Lett.* I. 81, I met an Ohio abolitionist, who told me of his stumping a clergyman in a very neat manner. 1852 C. B. Mansfield *Paraguay*, etc. (1856) 72, I am..continually stumped in my speculations by the reflection, that [etc.]. 1854 'C. Bede' *Verdant Green* II. xi, That beastly Euclid altogether stumps me. 1859 J. R. Green *Lett.* I. (1901) 30, I stumped him on a question which I had got up [etc.]. 1871 M. Legrand *Cambr. Freshman* 339 The papers I may do all right, ..but the *viva voce* is safe to stump me. 1912 C. Johnston *Why World laughs* 10 'But may I ask why this gay apparel?' The lady was stumped for an instant. Then she made reply.

b. ? To obstruct (progress).

1858 Gen. P. Thompson *Audi Alt.* II. lxvii. 5 The progress of sound knowledge..shall not be stumped to please lorn curates.

15. *U.S.* To challenge, 'dare' (a person) to do something.

1766 J. Adams *Diary* 8 Dec., Wks. 1850 II. 204 Keen, of Pembroke was warm, and stumped Soule, the moderator, to lay down the money and prevent a tax upon the poor. 1836 Haliburton *Clockm.* Ser. I. xxvi, I guess our great nation may be stumped to produce more eleganter liquor than this here. 1853 Lowell *Moosehead Jrnl.* Pr. Wks. 1890 I. 17 Our Uncle would..say, 'Wahl, I stump the Devil himself to make that ere boot hurt *my* foot'. 1890 *Amer. Jrnl. Psychol.* Jan. 66 In some games..younger children are commanded, or older ones stumped or dared, to do dangerous things.

16. (Chiefly *U.S.*)

a. *intr.* To make stump speeches; to conduct electioneering by public speaking. Also *to stump it*.

*a*1838 R. M. Bird *Peter Pilgrim* (1839) I. 86, I stumped through my district, and my fellow-citizens sent me to Congress! 1847 Webster s.v., *To stump it*. 1859 C. Mackay *Life & Liberty Amer.* I. 159 *To stump*, to address public meetings in the open air. 1860 Emerson *Cond. Life* ii. *Power* Wks. (Bohn) II. 340 Stumping it through England for seven years made Cobden a consummate debater. 1874 *Slang Dict.* 313 *Stump*, to go about speechmaking on politics or other subjects. 1878 *N. Amer. Rev.* CXXVI. 275 Down in Carolina, stumping for Grant.

b. *trans.* To travel over (a district) making stump speeches; to canvass or address with stump oratory.

1856 *N. Y. Hards* 5/1 Mr. Dickinson stumped the State. 1859 C. Mackay *Life & Liberty Amer.* I. 159 *To stump a State*, to go on a tour of political agitation through a State. 1866 Lowell *Seward-Johnson Reaction* Pr. Wks. 1890 V. 291 Furnishing the President with a pretext for stumping the West in the interest of Congress. 1885 *Manch. Exam.* 6 July 4/7 Those Tory orators who were stumping the country. 1892 Kipling & Balestier *Naulahka* 17 Sheriff was stumping the district and was seldom at home.

17. Stump up.

a. *trans.* To dig up by the roots.

1599 Nashe *Lenten Stuff* 60 Their imaginary dreame of Guilding crosse in theyr parish of S. Sauiours (now stumpt vp by the rootes). 1873 Tristram *Moab* xviii. 362 The trees have been all stumped up or pollarded. 1899 *Jrnl. R. Agric. Soc.* Mar. 94 When the old hedgerow is stubbed or stumped up.

b. *slang.* (*a*) *trans.* To pay down, 'fork out' (money). *rare.* (*b*) *absol.* or *intr.*

(*a*) 1833 T. Hook *Parson's Daut.* II. ii, All I know is, Paxton, Trail, Cockerell, and Co. stumped me up the money. 1842 Barham *Ingol. Leg., Merch. Venice* 72 My trusty old crony, Do stump up three thousand once more as a loan. 1881 Blackmore *Christowell* xxi, Father has stumped up a five pound note. 1884 *Bath Jrnl.* 26 July 7/3 On returning to the yard at night he has to stump up ten shillings more.

(*b*) 1835 Dickens *Sk. Boz, Mr. Watkins Tottle* ii, Why don't you ask your old governor to stump up? 1857 'Ducange Anglicus' *Vulgar Tongue* 21 *Stump-up*, pay your money or your share. 1862 Mrs. H. Wood *Channings* viii, 'And it will be a very easy way of earning money.' 'Not so easy as making your mother stump up.' 1893 G. Allen *Scallywag* I. 30 The governor..fishes out his purse—stumps up liberally.

c. *trans.* To wear out, exhaust (a horse) by excessive strain.

1875 Reynardson *Down the Road* 118 After a bit the new ploughs and harrows got old and required repairs, his horses got stumped up and old and required to be made into new ones. 1900 *Westm. Gaz.* 12 June 8/1 Year by year we see one or more of our best horses stumped up by the adamantine course.

d. In *passive* = sense 11 *pass.*

1854 *Household Words* VIII. 73/2 To say that a man is without money, or in poverty, some persons remark that he is down on his luck, hard up, stumped up, [etc.].

Stump (stʊmp), *v.*[2] *Drawing.* [App. ad. F. *estomper*, related to *estompe* Stump *sb.*[2] Cf. the following:

1802 C. James *Milit. Dict.*, *Stomper*, Fr. To sketch out a design, or to draw with colours that have been pounded into dust. Instead of the pencil or crayon, a roll of paper which is dipped into the coloured dust, serves to put on the different colours.]

trans. To tone or treat with a 'stump'.

1807 J. Landseer *Lect. Engraving* 125 Ryland..employed it [the chalk manner] so as rather to imitate such drawings as are done with crayons, or stumped, than such as are hatched with chalk. 1860 O. W. Holmes *Elsie Venner* vii. (1887) 77 This must refer to her favorite monochrome, executed by laying on heavy shadows, and stumping them down into mellow harmony. 1868 Browning *Ring & Bk.* IX. 56 His notion of the Mother-Maid: Methinks I see it, chalk, a little stumped!

absol. 1820 C. Hayter *Introd. Perspective* 169, I pay great attention to the model while stumping, so as to preserve all the lights.

Stumpage (stʊ·mpédʒ). *Local U.S.* [f. Stump *sb.*[1] + -age.]

1. The price paid for standing timber; also, a tax charged in some States for the privilege of cutting timber on State lands.

1848 Bartlett *Dict. Amer.* 341 *Stumpage*, the sum paid to owners of land for the privilege of cutting the timber growing thereon. State of Maine. 1860 *Harper's Mag.* XX. 440 The timber tract is..purchased or a rate of stumpage agreed upon which is generally from $2.50 to $3.00 per thousand for all timber cut. 1891 E. Roper *By Track & Trail* xxvii. 407 The settlers..have to pay to the Government one cent 'stumpage' for every tree cut down. 1902 S. E. White *Blazed Trail* xxv, We must have that pine, even though we pay stumpage on it. Now what would you consider a fair price for it?

2 Standing timber considered with reference to its quantity or marketable value.

1854 Seba Smith *Way down East* 39 To sell stumpage to the loggers for the ensuing winter. 1857 Thoreau *Maine Woods* (1894) 164 He it is who..has not bought the stumpage of the township on which it stands. 1894 *Q. Rev.* July 185 We assume a pine stumpage of 5000 feet to the acre. 1902 S. E. White *Blazed Trail* xiv, You owned five million feet of timber, which at the price of stumpage (standing trees) was worth ten thousand dollars.

Stumped (stʊmpt), *ppl. a.*[1] [f. Stump *v.*[1] + -ed [1].] Truncated; abruptly terminated, as if cut short.

1597 A. M. tr. *Guillemeau's Fr. Chirurg.* 31 b, They then imposed theron a smalle stumped Cauterye, well glowinge & redd hott. 1608 Topsell *Serpents* 247 This kinde of Spyder is..round as a ball, with very short stumped feete. 1642–7 H. More *Song of Soul* I. ii. 59 So standing wet and dry Around the stumped top soft mosse did grow. 1670 Narborough *Jrnl.* in *Acc. Sev. Late Voy.* I. (1694) 59 Their Coat is a downy stumped Feather. 1752 *Scotland's Glory* 55 This stumped idol still here stands Like Dagon in his temple.

Stumped (stʊmpt), *ppl. a.*[2] [f. Stump *v.*[2] + -ed [1].] Of a drawing: Produced by means of the stump.

1807 J. Landseer *Lect. Engraving* 126 People never stopt to consider whether even red-chalk or stumped drawings themselves were [etc.].

Stumper (stʊ·mpəɹ). [f. Stump *v.*[1] + -er [1].]

†**1.** 'A boaster or bragger' (Bailey ed. 5, 1731).

2. One employed or skilled in stumping trees.

1828 P. Cunningham *N. S. Wales* (ed. 3) II. 279 Two ..Dublin thieves, who went out with me, are now..first-rate 'fellers and stumpers' in a good clearing gang.

3. *Cricket.* One who stumps; a wicket-keeper.

1776 in Nyren *Yng. Cricketer's Tutor* (1833) 67, I had almost forgot.. Little George, the long stop, and Tom Sueter, the stumper. 1901 *Daily Mail* 19 Sept. 3/4 There are few better amateur stumpers than the Hampshire captain.

4. A horse which walks with a stiff leg.

1874 *Punch* 11 Apr. 155/1 If ever I saw a stumper with my own very dear eyes, that stumper is before me.

5. Something (e. g. a question, a task imposed, a reply) that 'stumps' one; a poser.

1807 *Salmagundi* (N.Y.) 20 Mar. 121 They happened to run their heads full butt against a new reading. Now this was a stumper. 1833 [Seba Smith] *Lett. J. Downing* xxii. (1835) 126, I'm afraid we'll git a stumper..one of these days, that will nock us all into kindlin-wood. 1855 J. Lawrence in Bosw. Smith *Life Ld. Lawrence* (1883) I. 470 One query in writing is often a stumper for a month or two. 1872 Schele de Vere *Americanisms* 187 The American..speaks of a conclusive argument, or a difficult problem: 'That is a stumper.' 1899 E. Phillpotts *Human Boy* vi. 137 We always noticed, at arithmetic times, that Browne, if he got a stumper, would put up the lid of his private desk and hide behind it.

6. *U.S.* A stump speaker.

1863 *Boston Sunday Herald* 30 Aug. 2/7 An Ohio stumper, while making a speech, exclaimed [etc.]. 1884 *Chr. Commw.* 6 Nov. 49/2 Oratorical stumpers are deceiving and bewitching the nation into the destruction of true polity. 1901 *Scotsman* 11 Nov. 9/2 The great majority of the Protestant ..preachers are stumpers..for the Republican party.

Stu·mpie. *Sc.* [f. Stump *sb.*[1] + -ie.]

1. Playfully used for: The stump of a pen.

1785 Burns *2nd Epist. J. Lapraik* vi, Sae I gat paper in a blink, An' down gaed stumpie in the ink. 1821 W. Liddle *Poems* 181, If I can do't afore I leave ye, Wi' ink and stumpie.

2. A person with a stumpy figure. Also, a small child.

1820 *Glenfergus* III. 142 These upstart stumpies, the Lumgaires, and their manœuvring mother, are determined to secure the coronet. 1866 J. Smith *Merry Bridal* 7 Weel tether'd, weel gether'd, They 'gree'd like yowe an' lamb, Wi' meal-cogs an' kail-cogs For stumpies when they cam'.

Stumping (stʊ·mpiŋ), *vbl. sb.*[1] [f. Stump *v.*[1] + -ing [1].]

1. The action of the verb. **a.** The action of treading heavily, as with a wooden leg.

1805 Wordsw. *Waggoner* II. 60 What thumping—stumping—overhead! 1862 Borrow *Wild Wales* xi. (1901) 63 Both heard the stumping. 1905 A. T. Sheppard *Red Cravat* III. vi. 293 The tap of his cane, the stumping of his thick-soled boots.

b. *Cricket.*

1849 *Laws of Cricket* in 'Bat' *Cricket Man.* (1850) 57 The wicket-keeper shall not take the ball for the purpose of stumping until it has passed the wicket. 1895 *Westm. Gaz.* 4 May 5/2 This total of 1,397 wickets is made up of 611 clean bowlings, 698 catches, 37 stumpings, 48 leg-befores, and 3 hit wickets.

c. The action of delivering stump speeches.

1865 *Sat. Rev.* 18 Feb. 184/2 The babes and sucklings out of whose mouths political wisdom is to come seem to be commencing their 'stumping' in good time.

attrib. and *Comb.* 1884 *Boston* (Mass.) *Jrnl.* 6 Sept., In Windham county, the special stumping-ground of the Springfield Republican, the total Independent vote will not reach one hundred. 1884 *Manch. Exam.* 27 Aug. 5/2 The Leader of the Opposition would hardly go to Oban on a stumping expedition.

2. *concr.* (See quot.)

1883 Gresley *Gloss. Coal-mining* 245 *Stumping*, a kind of pillar and stall plan of getting coal.

Stu·mping, *vbl. sb.*[2] [-ing [1].] The action of Stump *v.*[2] Also *attrib.*

1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* II. 260 The crayon to be used for stumping is No. 2 or, for very dark shadows, No. 3. 1891 *Daily News* 14 May 6/1 M. Carrière overdoes the stumping-brush effect.

Stumping (stʊ·mpiŋ), *ppl. a.* [f. Stump *v.*[1] + -ing [2].]

1. Treading heavily or clumsily.

1842 Borrow *Bible in Spain* xxvii. (Pelh. Libr.) 189 My reflections..were suddenly interrupted by a heavy stumping sound. 1862 — *Wild Wales* xxxiv. (1901) 238, I heard the sound of stumping steps coming upstairs. 1865 Dickens *Mut. Fr.* IV. iii, The stumping approach of Wegg was soon heard.

2. Clumsily formed, stumpy. *colloq.* (Cf. *lumping.*)

1852 Mrs. Stowe *Uncle Tom's C.* iv, And look at my great black stumpin' hands.

Stumpish (stʊ·mpiʃ), *a.* [f. Stump *sb.*[1] + -ish.] Somewhat of the character of a stump.

1618 W. Lawson *New Orchard* viii. (1623) 22 Many trees haue more stumps than boughs, and most trees no well thriuing, but short, stumpish, & euill thriuing boughs. 1845 J. Keegan *Leg. & Poems* (1907) 218 He..delivered the stumpish whip and ragged ribbons into the hands of the driver.

†**Stumple.** *rare*—[1]. = Stump *sb.*[1] 3 e. Cf. Strumple.

1686 Plot *Staffordsh.* 439 As soon as his [the bull's] horns are cut off, his Ears cropt, his taile cut by the stumple.

Stu·mpless, *a. rare*—[1]. [f. Stump *sb.*[1] + -less.] Cleared of stumps.

1839 Mrs. Kirkland *New Home* xxiii. 148 Fields of grain, well fenced and stumpless, surrounded this happy dwelling.

Stu·mpling. *nonce-wd.* [-ling [1].] A little stump.

1786 WOLCOT (P. Pindar) *Farew. Odes* i. 54 No poet's rage shall root our stumps and stumplings.

Stumpy (stʊ·mpi), *sb.* [f. STUMP *sb.*[1] + -Y.]

1. A spritsail barge.

1881 *Standard* 22 June 3/7 The Committee boat, having steamed up to the stumpies.., gave an opportunity of witnessing a very interesting contest. 1889 PASK *Eyes Thanics* 32 A craft that is known on the river as a 'stumpy', *i.e.* a barge without a top-sail.

2. *slang.* Money. Cf. STUMP *sb.*[1] 16.

1828 *Lights & Shades* II. 7 He inquired whether I had any other dibbs, any more blunt or stumpy, any more money. 1835 DICKENS *Sk. Boz., Last Cab-driver*, Till they was rig'larly done over, and forked out the stumpy. 1837 T. HOOK *Jack Brag* ii, Send up the stumpy by to-night's post. 1844 J. T. HEWLETT *Parsons & W.* xlii, I am short of ready stumpy. 1850 KINGSLEY *Alton Locke* ii, Down with the stumpy—a tizzy for a pot of half-and-half. 1859 *Hotten's Slang Dict.* 104 *Stumpy*, money.

Stumpy (stʊ·mpi), *a.* [f. STUMP *sb.* + -Y.]

1. Like a stump; short and thick. Of grass, etc. Full of stumps or short hard stalks.

1600 SURFLET *Country Farm* IV. ii. 633 The haie..is full of stumpie stalkes,..and nothing pleasing [etc.]. 1669 WORLIDGE *Syst. Agric.* vii. (1681) 123 Once for all, the stumpy Graff will be found much Superior to the slender one, and make a much nobler and larger shoot. 1721 MORTIMER *Husb.* (ed. 5) I. 157 They often burn the Stubble, it being so stumpy that they seldom plow it in. 1834 BECKFORD *Italy* II. 54 Festoons of luxuriant leaves and tendrils, not fastened to stiff poles and stumpy stakes as in France. 1836 T. HOOK *G. Gurney* I. 198 A stout short-legged pony, with a thick neck and a stumpy tail. 1858 CARLYLE *Fredk. Gt.* IV. iv. (1872) I. 295 Nose smallish, inclining to be stumpy. 1862 H. H. DIXON *Scott & Sebright* iii. 138 He was a thick short horse, got us little stumpy mares, we've very few of them. 1890 D. C. MURRAY *John Vale* iv, The stumpy bamboo cane which Mr. Macfarlane carried. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VI. 572 The hairs turn white, hypertrophy, become stumpy and brittle, or fall out. 1916 *Blackw. Mag.* Apr. 469/2 You may see a boat, her high receding bows surmounted by a stumpy beak.

Comb. 1865 TYLOR *Early Hist. Man.* xii. 355 Both stories accounting..for the fact that bears and hyenas are stumpy-tailed. 1871 B. TAYLOR *Faust* (1875) II. iii. 174 This pert throng Are only stumpy-winged and cackling..geese.

b. of a human figure.

1822 GALT *Provost* xliii. (1868) 125 This Mr. Peevie was, in his person, a stumpy man. 1856 F. E. PAGET *Owlet of Owlst.* 78 That short stumpy woman in the cloak is Miss Creepmouse. 1862 THORNBURY *Turner* II. 324 Turner was a stumpy, ill-dressed man, with a red face. 1866 MRS. GASKELL *Wives & Dau.* xl, I was always afraid she'd be short and stumpy.

c. of a building.

1870 E. PEACOCK *Ralf Skirl.* II. 128 The stumpy towers of Ripon Minster. 1883 A. DOBSON in *Eng. Illustr. Mag.* Nov. 76/2 The fine old Banqueting House..seems to overlook the stumpy Horse Guards much as a person with a pedigree might be supposed to survey a *nouveau riche*. 1896 HARE *Story My Life* I. ii. 57 Our high field, over which the stumpy spire of the church could be seen.

d. *Nat. Hist.*

1858 BAIRD *Cycl. Nat. Sci., Scarabæidæ*, Their forms are very varied, but generally short and stumpy. 1863 P. P. CARPENTER in *Rep. Brit. Assoc.* 1. 643 *Mytilus*? var. *glomeratus*...Short, stumpy, solid, crowded. 1886 J. J. QUELCH *Coral-Reefs in Challenger Rep.* XVI. III. 66 Its thickened, short, stumpy and close branches and branchlets. 1896 LYDEKKER *Roy. Nat. Hist.* V. 20 Stumpy crocodile, a small and short-nosed crocodile (*Osteolæmus tetraspis*) from West Africa, in the neighbourhood of Sierra Leone.

2. Worn down to a stump.

1794 J. WILLIAMS *Crying Epist.* 15 Let them not force me to repair these slips: To fasten stumpy brooms upon my ships. 1840 THACKERAY *Shabby-genteel Story* i, A stumpy pen, richly crusted with ink at the nib. 1883 R. HALDANE *Workshop Rec.* Ser. II. 254/1 Rub the old colour up with a stumpy brush.

3. Of ground: Full of stumps. *U.S.*

1838 N. HAWTHORNE *Amer. Note-Bks.* (1883) 150 Climbing a rude, rough, rocky, stumpy, ferny height yesterday. 1879 J. BURROUGHS *Locusts & Wild Honey* 122 A little stumpy clearing. 1885 *Harper's Mag.* Mar. 536/2 Soil, whether.. gravel, sand, stumpy, stony. 1897 *Outing* July 328/2 A few acres of stumpy pasture.

Hence **Stu·mpily**, *adv.*, **Stu·mpiness.**

1878 SIR G. SCOTT *Lect. Archit.* (1879) II. 107 Such stumpiness of proportion was not viewed as essential to the style. 1887 RUSKIN *Præterita* II. 331 A stumpily made..good-natured simpleton.

Stun (stʌn), *sb.* [f. STUN *v.*]

1. The act of stunning or dazing; a stunning effect; the condition of being stunned.

1727 THOMSON *Summer* 488 [586] Till the stun [*later* sound] Of a near fall of water every sense Wakes. *a* 1734 NORTH *Life Ld. Kpr. Guilford* (1742) 159 The People return'd their joyful Sense of the King's Safety..by numerous Addresses from all Parts of the Kingdom; which gave such a Stun to the rebellious Party..that little Sign of any Resurrection to Action appear'd in them. 1804 *Naval Chron.* XII. 397 He fainted from the stun. 1836 RUSKIN *Ess. Lit.* Wks. 1903 I. 361 In the first stun of our astonishment. 1887 *Poor Nellie* (1888) 189 Before poor Adela could recover from the stun of a great astonishment.

2. A flaw on the surface of a piece of stone. Cf. STUN *v.* 5.

1850 HOLTZAPFFEL *Turning* III. 1198 The last marks to be eradicated in the smoothing are generally those called stuns, made in sawing the marble by coarse particles of sand getting between the side of the saw blade and the saw kerf.

Stun (stʌn), *v.* Inflected **stunned, stunning.** Forms: 6 **stonne,** 7 **ston,** 4– **stun**; *pa. t.* and *pa. pple.* 4–7 **stund,** (4 **stunt**), 4–5 **stoned**(e, 5 **stonet, stonde,** 6–7 **stonnd, stonn'd.** [Aphetic a. OF. *estone-r* (mod. F. *étonner*): see ASTONE *v.*, of which this is a doublet. Cf. also STONY, STOYNE *vbs.*

It has been usual to regard this vb. as representing OE. *stunian*, to resound; but the sense differs essentially, and the OE. vb. app. did not survive into ME.]

1. *trans.* To deprive of consciousness or of power of motion by a blow, a fall, or the like.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 12280 A child þar kest a-noiþer don Vte of þe loft vnto þe grund, þe child to ded þar was he stund. *c* 1400 *Laud Troy Bk.* 10377 Bothe her swordis out thei drow And ffauȝt to-geder long y-now, Til thei were stoned hede and brayn. *c* 1420 *Avow. Arth.* xiii, His stode was stonet, starke ded. *c* 1475 *Partenay* 4700 With that stroke he was stoned manyfold. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* III. vii. 42 Wherewith he was so stund that he n'ote ryde, But reeled to and fro from East to West. 1662 J. DAVIES tr. *Olearius' Voy. Ambass.* 165 They kill it [a fish] by first stunning it with a knock with a mallet. 1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* xxxiv, At length Du Pont forced Verezzi to the floor, where he lay stunned by the violence of his fall. 1837 W. IRVING *Capt. Bonneville* I. 271 The ball, which had been nearly spent before it struck him, had stunned instead of killing him. 1853 MRS. GASKELL *Ruth* x, She was as one stunned into unconsciousness;..she hardly breathed.

fig. 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xvi. III. 721 The faction which had been prostrated and stunned began to give signs of returning animation.

b. Applied to an inanimate or immaterial object.

1700 DRYDEN *Cymon & Iphig.* 341 The giddy Ship betwixt the Winds and Tides, Forc'd back and forwards, in a Circle rides, Stun'd with the diff'rent Blows. 1911 SIR H. CRAIK *Edw. Ld. Clarendon* II. 243 Public credit was shaken; commercial operations were stunned.

2. To daze or astound with some strong emotion or impression.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 17288+443 þen were þai stoned ilkone. No drede, he saide, has ȝe, Lokes side, hand, & fote. 1426 AUDELAY *Poems* (Percy Soc.) 73, I was adeuyd (*printed* adenyd] of that dynt, Hit stonede me. 1598 B. JONSON *Ev. Man in Hum.* IV. iv. (1601) H 3 b, Nay you haue stonnd me I fayth?/ 1654 WHITLOCK *Zootomia* 400 Salomons Wealth, it was of that vastnesse, it would..stun the Beliefe of one of our..Rich Misers. 1678 BUNYAN *Pilgr.* I. (ed. 2) 264 At the sight therefore of this River, the Pilgrims were much stun'd [ed. 1 stounded]. 1802 MAR. EDGEWORTH *Forester, Catastrophe*, Lady Catherine was stunned by this distinct refusal. 1843 MACAULAY *Ess., Mme. D'Arblay* (1897) 673 The multitude, unacquainted with the best models, are captivated by whatever stuns and dazzles them. 1886 STEVENSON *Kidnapped* vi, I sat stunned with my good fortune.

† b. *intr.* To be amazed or astounded. *Obs.*

1533 TINDALE *Supper of the Lord* 13 b, Thei beyng yet but feble of fayth..muste here nedis haue wondred, stonned and staggerd.

3. *trans.* To daze or bewilder with noise or din.

1621 BP. H. KING *Serm.* 25 Nov. 4 A man may heare so much that hee may ston the sense. 1660 CHAS. II. in Julia Cartwright *Madame* (Henrietta of Orleans) (1894) 57 My head is so dreadfully stunned with the acclamations of the people. 1732 POPE *Ess. Man* I. 202 If nature thunder'd in his op'ning ears, And stunn'd him with the musick of the spheres. 1828 SCOTT *F. M. Perth* xii, Four half-stripped knaves stunned the neighbourhood with the clang of hammer and stithy. 1910 *Q. Rev.* July 100 The ear is stunned by the not unmusical roar of the Falls [of Niagara].

absol. 1723 SWIFT *Pithox* 76 The Britons, once a savage Kind,..With Limbs robust, and Voice that stuns. 1764 GOLDSM. *Trav.* 412 Where..Niagara stuns with thund'ring sound.

b. hyperbolically.

1693 DRYDEN *Juvenal* i. 2 Still shall I hear, and never quit the Score, Stun'd with hoarse Codrus' Theseid, o're and o're? 1714 BUDGELL tr. *Theophrastus* vi. 22 You shall sometimes see him gather a Crowd round him,..and stun the People with a senseless Story of an Injury that is done him. 1816 SCOTT *Old Mort.* ii, An old drunken cavaliering butler, who ..stunned the family nightly with his exploits at Kilsythe and Tippermoor. *a* 1818 M. G. LEWIS *Jrnl. W. Ind.* (1834) 365 Complaints of all kinds stunned me from all quarters.

† 4. To break or crush with heavy blows. *Obs.* Cf. STONY *v.* 5.

1470–85 MALORY *Arthur* III. vii. 107 [They] clafe their sheldes and stoned their helmes and brak their hawberkes.

5. a. To bruise or loosen the surface of (stone, a mineral), so that it splinters or exfoliates. Also, to scratch or tear (a surface) in sawing. b. *intr.* Of stone, etc.: To exfoliate, peel off in splinters or laminæ.

1676 in *Phil. Trans.* XI. 755 The Mine-men do often strike such forcible strokes with a great Iron-crow, that that stuns the Diamond and so flaws it. 1811 PINKERTON *Petral.* II. 465 It..has numerous crystals and quadrilateral plates of felspar in perfect preservation, except that it has a dry aspect, and is *stunned* in some parts. 1843 [see STUNNING *vbl. sb.*]. 1890 *Funk's Stand. Dict.* 1911 WEBSTER.

Hence **Stunned** *ppl. a.*

1762 FALCONER *Shipwr.* III. 733 My stunned ear tingles to the whizzing tide. 1805 SOUTHEY *Madoc* II. xviii. 113 From his shield, The deadening force communicated ran Up his stunn'd arm. 1845 DICKENS *Chimes* iii. 96 Trotty..turned his white face here and there, in mute and stunned astonishment. 1868–70 MORRIS *Earthly Par.* III. 456 And to her stunned heart came A flash of hope and pain.

Stunay, var. STONY *v. Obs.*

Stunch(e, obs. forms of STENCH.

Stund, variant of STAND *sb.*[2]

1664 TAYLOR in *Evelyn's Pomona* 49 Let your Vessels be very tight and clean wherein you put your Cider to settle: The best form is the Stund or Stand, which is set upon the lesser end, from the top tapering downwards.

Stund(e: see STOUN *v.*, STOUND *sb.*[1], *v.*[1], *v.*[2]

Stundism (stʊ·ndiz'm, stʊ·ndiz'm). [f. STUNDIST: see -ISM.] The teaching and practice of the Stundists.

1888 STEAD *Truth about Russia* 362 The still more remarkable religious phenomenon which goes by the name of Stundism in the Southern provinces of Russia.

Stundist (stʊ·ndist, stʊ·ndist). [a. Russ. штундистъ *shtundist*, f. G. *stunde* hour, said to be used by the German settlers as the name for their religious meetings: see -IST.] A member of a large Evangelical sect (called штýнда *shtunda*) which arose among the peasantry of South Russia about 1860, as a result of contact with German Protestant settlers, and in opposition to the doctrine and authority of the Orthodox Church.

1878 D. M. WALLACE *Russia* xix. 301 Some of them are simply evangelical Protestants, like the 'Stundisti,' who have adopted the religious conceptions of their neighbours, the German colonists. 1888 STEAD *Truth about Russia* 363 Deputations came to St. Petersburg from the Stundists, the Molokani, and the Baptists.

attrib. 1893 *The Stundists* 35 Ivan Golovtchenko, a Stundist preacher..was taken before the Court on a charge of propagating Stundist doctrines.

† **Stu·ndum,** *adv. Obs.* [OE., dat. pl. of *stund* STOUND *sb.*] At times.

Beowulf 1423 Horn stundum song fuslic fyrd-leoð. *a* 1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* xliii. 11 Þou sall not out ga, as þou did stundum til þe iwes.

Stung (stʌŋ), *ppl. a.* Also 3 **stungen,** 4 **stongyn,** 7 **stung'd.** [See STING *v.*] Wounded or hurt by a sting. *lit.* and *fig.*

c 1250 *Gen. & Ex.* 3901 Quat stungen man so saȝ ðor on, ðat werk him sone al was vh-don. *a* 1400 *Stockholm Med. MS.* ii. 687 in *Anglia* XVIII. 324 Dragaunce is good To drynkyn for a stongyn man. 1600 SURFLET *Country Farm* I. xii. 85 If any rat, spider,..or other venemous beast, by his sting or biting haue caused your flesh to rise..put vpon the stung place the dung of a cow or oxe very hot. 1605 SHAKS. *Lear* v. i. 56 Each iealous of the other, as the stung Are of the Adder. 1609 MARKHAM *Famous Whore* (1868) 31 My well stung'd conscience vrg'd me to repent. 1786 tr. *Beckford's Vathek* (1883) 84 The stung eunuch could scarcely preserve the semblance of respect. 1820 BYRON *Mar. Fal.* III. i. 102 When he, their last descendant chief, Stands plotting ..With stung plebeians. 1866 G. MACDONALD *Ann. Q. Neighb.* v. (1878) 63, I prayed God to keep me from feeling stung and proud.

Stu·nkard, *a. Sc.* Also **ston-, stunkerd, stonkard, -art.** [Of obscure origin.] Sulky, sullen.

1737 A. RAMSAY in *Gentl. Mag.* VII. 507/1 These stonkerd fellows Wha merit naithing but the gallows. 1814 *Saxon & Gael* I. 77 (Jam.), I was speerin' for you at my Lord, but he is sae stunkard and paughty. 1824 SCOTT *Redgauntlet* ch. ii, It's a sore thing to see a stunkard cow kick down the pail when it's reaming fou.

Stunner (stʌ·nəɹ). [f. STUN *v.* + -ER.]

1. Something that stuns or dazes; something that amazes or astounds.

1847 C. BRONTE *Jane Eyre* xxxiii, Here was a new stunner—I had been calculating on four or five thousand. 1847 LD. G. BENTINCK *Let.* 30 June in *Croker Papers* (1884) III. 128, I have read your article in the *Quarterly* and think it quite admirable..a complete stunner for the Peel party. 1853 SURTEES *Sponge's Sp. Tour* (1893) 55 One tacked on two miles, another ten, and so it went on and on, till it reached the ears of the great Mr. Seedeyman..as he sat in his den penning his 'stunners' for his market-day *Mercury*. 1872 'ALIPH CHEEM' (Yeldham) *Lays of Ind* (1876) 56 He ..ordered the gunners To fire off some stunners, That the glory of France might be properly told.

2. *colloq.* A person or thing of extraordinary excellence or attractiveness.

1848 ALB. SMITH *Chr. Tadpole* xxix. 263 Watch the girl, Sir Frederick. Isn't she a stunner? 1855 THACKERAY *Newcomes* xlii, The cook..was really a stunner for tarts. 1893 LELAND *Mem.* II. 278 He knew where to get one for a pound but £2. 10s. would buy a 'stunner'.

Stunning (stʊ·niŋ), *vbl. sb.* [-ING [1].] The action of the verb STUN; the state of being stunned.

c 1475 *Partenay* 1230 To hym A gret stonyng was it verily. 1804 ABERNETHY *Surg. Observ.* 175 The lad had recovered from the immediate stunning occasioned by the injury. 1847 J. RUSSELL *Remin. Yarrow* (1894) 296 Having recovered from the stunning, he was able to sit out the service.

b. *spec.* Exfoliation or scaling away of the surface of stone (see quot. 1843).

1843 BILLINGS *Durham Cath.* 15 There is a peculiarity about the stone, called by the workmen 'stunning', which is the peeling off (within a few years), from the effect of hammer and chisel, of a layer varying from one quarter to three eighths of an inch thick. 1884 BLUNT *Annot. Bk. Comm. Prayer* 429 *note*, The deficiencies now existing in the left-hand panel through the stunning of the stone on which they are sculptured.

Stunning (stʊ·niŋ), *ppl. a.* [-ING [2].]

1. That stuns or stupefies; dazing, astounding; deafening.

1667 MILTON *P. L.* II. 952 A universal hubbub wilde Of stunning sounds and voices all confus'd. 1702 C. MATHER *Magn. Chr.* VII. vi. (1852) 578 But the Stunningest wound of all given to them was when..near four hundred of them were..surprised at the house of Major Waldern. 1760 MRS. DELANY *Autob.* (1861) III. 614 The Rooms hot and stunning —I wish for balls as the quieter entertainment! 1818 SCOTT *Rob Roy* xxxvi, My father's arrival..was a stunning blow to MacVittie and Company. 1863 READE *Hard Cash* I. ix. 249 The victorious crew raised a stunning cheer. 1911 *Expositor* July 61 His besetting sins received a stunning stroke.

2. *colloq.* Excellent, first-rate, 'splendid', delightful; extremely attractive or good-looking.

1849–50 DICKENS *Dav. Copp.* xi, 'Twopence-half-penny,' says the landlord, 'is the price of the Genuine Stunning ale.' 1850 THACKERAY *Pendennis* xxxix, Those regular stunning slap-up out-and-outers. 1856 F. E. PAGET *Owlet of Owlst.*

293 Laura Wydawake is the most stunning girl I ever set my eyes on. 1867 TROLLOPE *Last Chron. Barset* I. xl. 346 Fancy Polly with a house of her own! Won't it be stunning? 1883 FRANCES M. PEARD *Contrad.* xxiii, The new footman is a stunning hand.

b. quasi-*adv.* (intensifying the following adj.).

1851 MAYHEW *Lond. Labour* I. 36/2 A lad about fourteen informed me that 'brass buttons, like a huntman's..looked stunning flash.' 1888 'R. BOLDREWOOD' *Robbery under Arms* xxiv, The old woman cooked us a stunning good dinner.

Hence **Stu'nningly** *adv.*

1823 SCOTT *Quentin D.* xx, The noise..became ten times more stunningly audible. 1854 DICKENS *Hard T.* II. i, Is the lady so very alarming?..Repellently and stunningly clever? 1863 GEO. ELIOT *Romola* lxvii, Shouting, yelling, half-motiveless execration rang stunningly in his ears. 1889 *Temple Bar* Nov. 351 A pain that would have been fierce had it not been so stunningly dull.

Stunny, Stunnys: see STONY *v.*, STONISH *v.*

Stunpoll (stʌ'npōul). *dial.* Also **-pole.** [? f. STONE *sb.* + POLL *sb.*1] A dolt, blockhead.

a 1794 Mrs. M. PALMER *Devon. Dial.* (1839) 28 You dunder-headed stunpole. 1863 BARNES *Dorset Gloss.*, *Stunpoll*, stunhead, blockhead. 1879 HARDY *Ret. Native* I. iii, I saw myself as the next poor stunpoll to get into the same mess.

Stunsail (stʌ'nsl). *Naut.* Also **stu'n-sail, stun'-sail, stunsel.** Contraction, representing the ordinary pronunciation, of STUDDING-SAIL.

1762 FALCONER *Shipwr.* I. 225 Now swelling stu'n-sails on each side extend. 1863 READE *Hard Cash* I. xi. 267 All hands set stunsels 'low and aloft! 1913 M. ROBERTS *Salt of the Sea* ix. 216 His ears [were] large and outstanding, like a couple of stunsails.

attrib. 1825 H. B. GASCOIGNE *Nav. Fame* 49 The Stunsail booms they raise. 1850 H. MELVILLE *White Jacket* xlv, I ..was ordered to reeve anew the stun'-sail-halyards.

Stunt (stʌnt), *sb.*1 [f. STUNT *v.*1]

1. A check in growth; also, a state of arrested growth or development.

1795 *Trans. Soc. Arts* XIII. 166 If it [a tree] takes a stunt. *a* 1825 FORBY *Voc. E. Anglia, Stunt*, a check in growth. Ex. 'That tree has got a stunt.' 1864 LOWELL *Fireside Trav.* 143 The compressed nature struggles through at every crevice, but can never get the cramp and stunt out of it. 1894 G. M. GOULD *Illustr. Dict. Med.* etc., *Stunt*, a stunted or undeveloped state. *Ibid.*, s. v. *Cram, Cram-stunt*, arrest in mental development due to over-study. 1899 RIDER HAGGARD in *Longman's Mag.* Oct. 547 They suffer from mildew or stunt of one kind or another.

2. A creature which has been hindered from attaining full growth or development; *spec.* (see quot. 1858).

1725 DUDLEY *Whales* in *Phil. Trans.* XXXIII. 257 At two Years old, they [*sc.* whales] are called Stunts, being stunted after weaning. 1858 SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade, Stunts*, a name for young whales of two years old, which, having been weaned, are lean. 1894 *N. & Q.* 8th Ser. VI. 337/2 The streets are filled with stunts and runts.

3. *dial.* A fit of sulkiness or obstinacy; in phr. *to take (the) stunt.*

This use of the phrase is perh. a fig. application of that in quot. 1795, sense 1. But cf. STUNT *sb.*2

1837 HOOD *Blue Boar* 34 Now at a line he gave a grunt, Now at a phrase took sudden stunt. 1862 C. C. ROBINSON *Dial. Leeds* 424 Tuke t' stunt an' went off wi'art speiking. 1890 *Sat. Rev.* 12 Apr. 446/2 The most probable explanation of his [Ld. Geo. Sackville's] inaction on that occasion [battle of Minden] is that he simply 'took stunts', as the Yorkshire phrase has it—a case of sheer sulkiness, not of cowardice.

Stunt (stʌnt), *sb.*2 *colloq.* [Of obscure origin. Orig. belonging to the slang of American college athletics; not in the *Century Dict.* 1891 or in Webster 1897; in 1895 the word (as our first quot. shows) seems to have been still current only among college students. Its general colloquial currency, and its extension of application, seems to have begun early in the 20th c. In British use it was at first regarded as mainly a soldiers' word. It has been conjectured that the word may be a. G. *stunde*, lit. hour, or a variant of STINT *sb.*; neither of these suggestions seems impossible. A notion which is app. prevalent in the U.S. is that the word is a variant of STUMP *sb.*3, but in spite of the remarkable affinity of meaning, etymological connexion between the words is very unlikely.]

a. A prescribed item in an athletic competition or display, an 'event'; a feat undertaken as a defiance in response to a challenge; 'an act which is striking for the skill, strength, or the like, required to do it; a feat' (W. *Suppl.* 1900); something performed as an item in an entertainment, a (theatrical, etc.) 'turn'. **b.** In recent use, An enterprise set on foot with the object of gaining reputation or signal advantage. In soldiers' language often vaguely: An attack or advance, a 'push', 'move'.

1895 *Dial. Notes* (Amer. Dial. Soc.) I. VIII. 400 *Stunt* (stʌnt): one of those convenient words which may be used in almost any connection and the exact meaning of which must be determined largely by the context;..'It would be a great stunt to go to a dance without a girl' (*i.e.* an unpleasant thing to do). 'He performed various stunts for the prof.' (*i.e.* did things that would win him the professor's favor, give him a 'pull')...[*Editor's note*: Doing stunts is used in N.Y. City by boys in the sense of performing some feat in rivalry,—a long jump for instance,—one boy 'stumping' or challenging another.] 1897 *Outing* Aug. 440/2 A lamprey fastened upon a bare leg. That boy did more 'stunts' in five minutes than he would attempt now for five thousand dollars! 1899 JESSE L. WILLIAMS *Stolen Story* etc. 198 If I were you I'd have a mass meeting first, with horse speeches, and all the old Fresh-fire stunts, then a parade. 1901 *Westm. Gaz.* 31 Jan. 10/2 There will be many new 'stunts' of a vaudeville nature. 1904 J. A. RIIS *Theodore Roosevelt* ii. 29 [At College] he played polo, did athletic stunts with the fellows,..having no end of good times in it. 1905 D. WALLACE *Lure of Labrador Wild* viii. 114 That snowshoeing trip would be a great stunt. 1909 *Daily Chron.* 25 Aug. 1/7 I've been in Texas about two years, doing broncho stunts. 1916 *Blackw. Mag.* Apr. 482/1 You remember it is time to get up, for there is a 'stunt on'.

Stunt, *a. Obs.* exc. *dial.* Also **3 stunnt** (*Ormin*), **5 stont.** [OE. *stunt* foolish, corresp. to MHG. *stunz* stubbed, short, ON. *stutt-r* (earlier **stunt-r* = MSw. *stunt-er*) short :—OTeut. **stunto-* short, truncated, perh. repr. pre-Teut. **stm̥do-*, f. root **stem-*: cf. STUMP *sb.*

In OE. only in fig. sense (cf. 'short-witted'); the lit. sense may have existed unrecorded, but more prob. senses 2–4 are from Scandinavian. With sense 3 cf. SHORT *a.* 10.]

†**1.** Foolish, stupid. *Obs.*

c 960 *Rule St. Benet* (Schröer) vii. 30 Se stunta on lehtre his stefne geuferað. *c* 1200 ORMIN 3714 Wiþþ mannkinn þatt wass stunnt, & dill, & skilllæs swa summ asse.

†**2.** Short in duration. *Obs.*

a 1450 *Knt. de la Tour.* i. (1906) 4 [He] yeuithe longe lyff and stont [Fr. *longue vie et courte*] in this terreyn.

3. Obstinate, stubborn; rudely or angrily curt or blunt. (Chiefly applied to persons.) Now only *dial.*

1581 A. HALL *Iliad* VII. 123 This speech so stunt and sodaine sayed yeelds all the troupe abasht. 1674 RAY *N. C. Words, Stunt*, Lincoln. stubborn, fierce, angry. 1788 W. H. MARSHALL *Yorksh.* II. 357 *Stunt*; stubborn; not easy to be bent; as, a 'stunt child', a stubborn child. *a* 1825 FORBY *Voc. E. Anglia, Stunt, Stunty*, short, blunt, crusty; unmannerly. 1869 TENNYSON *North. Farmer, New Style* v, Do'ant be stunt: taäke time; I knaws what maäkes tha sa mad.

4. Stunted. **a.** Short and thick. **b.** Dwarfed in growth.

a. 1788 W. H. MARSHALL *Yorksh.* II. 357 A 'stunt stick', a thick short stick. 1845 S. JUDD *Margaret* I. xvii. 147 The smoke of the stunt gray chimney.

b. 1819 KEATS *Fall of Hyperion* I. 293 Side by side we stood (Like a stunt bramble by a solemn pine). 1845 THACKERAY *Cornhill to Cairo* v. 48 A stunt district of olive trees is almost the only vegetation.

5. Of a turn, bend, end: Abrupt.

1851 MAYHEW *Lond. Labour* (1861) II. 431/2 In case we comes to a stunt end where there's a wall and no place for 'em to get away,..they [*sc.* rats in a sewer] fly at us. 1886 *S.W. Linc. Gloss.*, *Stunt*,..blunt, abrupt: as a 'stunt turn', that is, an abrupt bend, one at right angles.

6. *Comb.*: **stunt-head** *Engineering*, the vertical timbered end of a trench which has been excavated for the purpose of laying a sewer or a water-main.

Stunt (stʌnt), *v.*1 [f. STUNT *a.*]

†**1.** *trans.* **a.** To irritate, provoke to anger. (Cf. STUNT *a.* 3.) **b.** To bring to an abrupt stand; to nonplus. *Obs.*

a. 1583 MELBANCKE *Philotimus* N j, The burning of his right eare stunted him likewise, for yᵗ it is one of yᵉ parts which Saturne an euil planet gouerneth. *Ibid.* U iij, Yᵉ tender bloud, from whence thin rare spirites do breath.., enfeebles the body, and kepes it downe, whettes the wit and stunts the stomacke.

b. 1603 HARSNET *Popish Impost.* 55 It was sufficient..that his girdle..should at the first touch of the party possessed, stunt the deuils wits. 1614 LATHAM *Falconry* (1633) 40 For want of digesture..she will be presently stunted by those obstructions. 1642 W. MONTAGU in *Bucclench MSS.* (Hist. MSS. Comm.) I. 301 His going..is the wonder of London, and stunts us all to apprehend either what was the cause or what will be the sequel of it.

2. To check the growth or development of (a person, plant, etc.); to decrease (growth or production); hence, to dwarf.

1678 EVELYN *Terra* (ed. 2) 333 It is ever advisable to Water whilst the Ground is a little moist, and not totally dry, especially during the growing seasons, for it stunts the Plant and interrupts its progress. 1712 ARBUTHNOT *John Bull* III. ii. 10 This Usage tho' it stunted the Girl in her Growth, gave her a hardy Constitution. 1740 CHEYNE *Regimen* 68 To stunt the growth of young Animals,..they need only be frequently rubbed over, with Brandy. 1842 J. WILSON *Chr. North* (1857) II. 19 Not only was his stature stunted, but his whole frame was delicate in the extreme. 1845 *Florist's Jrnl.* (1846) VI. 97 They require to be kept rather dry, and to be stunted in the pots. 1881 WHITEHEAD *Hops* 27 Stimulating the plants is apt to weaken them, and stunt their growth afterwards. 1896 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* I. 466 Exercise increases growth, while over-exercise stunts it.

b. *transf.* and *fig.*

1659 F. OSBORN *Miscell. Ess.* etc. 75 Such as succeed in their dear-bought Experiences..become stunted in their Knowledge. 1796 BURKE *Let. Noble Lord* 30 When by a cold penury, I blast the abilities of a nation, and stunt the growth of it's active energies, the ill I may do is beyond all calculation. 1819 J. FOSTER *Contrib. Eclectic Rev.* (1844) I. 509 Their minds were cramped, stunted, and irritated by a hyper-calvinistic cast of doctrine. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* i. I. 48 During the last three centuries, to stunt the growth of the human mind has been her [*sc.* the Church of Rome's] chief object. 1867 PUSEY *Eleven Addr.* ix. (1908) 108 It is a graver thing, if a duty, impressed on us in our very earliest childhood,..remained stunted to its then measure. 1876 MOZLEY *Univ. Serm.* xiii. 238 There is a barrenness in their minds which stunts all the truths which they take up. 1893 J. EDGAR *Hist. Early Scot. Educ.* xiv. 175 However hostile critics may talk, their system does not necessarily cramp or stunt native genius.

3. *intr.* To become arrested in growth. ? *Obs.*

1706 LONDON & WISE *Retir'd Gard.* 20 Nor do our fruits stunt, chap, and drop off as they do with them [in France]. 1707 MORTIMER *Husb.* 379 [Of coppice wood] What is bit by the Cattle, will else stunt for several Years before it will take to its growth. 1750 W. ELLIS *Mod. Husbandm.* III. ii. 50 in Britten *Old Country Words* s. v., [Lambs] stunting or dying by the operation [of castrating]. *Ibid.* V. i. 78 ibid., [Turnips will] burn, stunt, and spoil [if they grow too thick]. 1796 C. MARSHALL *Gardening* viii. (1813) 101 Old fruit trees may sometimes succeed with good management, but they are liable to stunt, and dwindle off.

4. To become sullen or sulky. *dial.*

1877–89 *N. W. Linc. Gloss.* s. v., Doänt saay noht; I'd let her stunt it oot if I was thoo. Master Robad, O, how he stunt. 1885 *S.W. Linc. Gloss.* s.v., I spoke to him but he stunted directly.

Stunt (stʌnt), *v.*2 *Sc.* **a.** *trans.* To stamp (the feet). **b.** *intr.* To walk with a heavy tread. Cf. STUMP *v.* 2, STAMP *v.* 2 e.

1804 J. AIKMAN *Poems* (1816) 233 His feet he [*sc.* a horse] on the road fair stunted. 1901 G. DOUGLAS *House with Gr. Shutters* 45, I come stunting out in a bleeze of wrath and slam the yett abint me!

Stunt, error for or variant of STINT *sb.*1 4.

1691 Mrs. D'ANVERS *Academia* 34 Because they have their stunt of Victuals, And that I'me sure, but very little's.

Stunt(e: see STOUND *sb.*1, STINT *v.*

Stunted (stʌ'ntĕd), *ppl. a.* [f. STUNT *v.*1 + -ED1.]

1. Checked in growth or development; of growth, checked, arrested. Hence, diminutive, dwarf.

1719 LONDON & WISE *Compl. Gard.* p. xi, It can never be pleasing to see a stunted Tree. 1727 POPE *Macer* 11 Like stunted hide-bound Trees. 1776 ADAM SMITH *W. N.* I. i. xi. 234 That stunted breed [of cattle] which was common all over Scotland. 1821 SCOTT *Kenilw.* ix, A queer, shambling, ill-made urchin, who, by his stunted growth, seemed about twelve or thirteen years old. 1826 JEFFERSON *Writ.* (1830) IV. 427 The long succession of years of stunted crops. 1833 *Q. Rev.* XLIX. 407 Precocity of intellect in a stunted frame, is the grand desideratum in a Newmarket nursery. 1868 DARWIN *Anim. & Pl.* I. iii. 78 These pigs on the Paramos are small and stunted. 1875 C. C. BLAKE *Zool.* 21 The innermost digit is often stunted or absent. 1890 *Hardwicke's Science-Gossip* XXVI. 141/1 The florets at apex opened first and the lower ones last..which gave the flower a stunted appearance.

b. of immaterial things.

1658 F. OSBORN *Mem. Eliz. & James* Epist. A 3, Scholars, who think it a sufficient excuse in the justification of a stunted Knowledge, to maintain an impossibility of transcending the Abilities of former Ages. 1864 TENNYSON *Aylmer's F.* 357, I lived for years a stunted sunless life. 1911 W. W. FOWLER *Relig. Exper. Rom. People* xii. 287 The old State religion remained, but in stunted form, and with paralysed vitality.

2. Of a thing: Shortened; † worn down (*obs.*); also, disproportionately or abnormally short.

1716 GAY *Trivia* II. 91 When waggish boys the stunted beesom ply To rid the slabby pavement. *c* 1844 ROSSETTI *Bürger's Lenore* Note (MS.), I have retained the German version..thinking it more suited to the metre than the lengthy English word 'Leonora,' and by far less unpleasing to the ear than the stunted and ugly abbreviation 'Leonor'. 1845 *Ecclesiologist* IV. 89 A stunted chancel is affixed. 1898 C. HYNE *Through Arctic Lapland* ii. 24 He mounted on the stem-head of his steamer a stunted heavy-breeched gun.

b. In the names of animals or plants, the individuals of which are diminutive in form.

1827 GRIFFITH tr. *Cuvier* V. 38 *Simia Jacchus Vulgaris* (the Stunted Monkey or Jacchus). 1848 JOHNS *Week at Lizard* 271 Stunted Ox-eye Daisy. 1889 MAIDEN *Usef. Pl. Australia* 397 *Casuarina distyla*..'Stunted She-oak'.

Hence **Stu'ntedly** *adv.*; **Stu'ntedness.**

1740 CHEYNE *Regimen* 66 The Stuntedness, Punyness and Feebleness, so conspicuous among the better Sort. 1864 SALA in *Daily Tel.* 15 Aug., The pure Indians..in the southern portion of Mexico are as a rule of very low stature, even to stuntedness. 1907 *Edin. Rev.* Oct. 439 The living organism within at last ceased struggling to extend itself, and stuntedly and pathetically took the shape prescribed.

Stunting (stʌ'ntiŋ), *vbl. sb.* [f. STUNT *v.*1 + -ING1.] The action of the verb.

1835 URE *Philos. Manuf.* 23 That cramping of the faculties,..that stunting of the frame,..cannot..occur under the equable distribution of industry. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* III. 134 The chief question is the degree of bony deformity or stunting of structure which will remain. 1911 *Daily News* 3 May 3 The man whose education has been years of 'herding' in gigantic classes..often has suffered from intellectual stunting.

Stunting (stʌ'ntiŋ), *ppl. a.* [f. STUNT *v.*1 + -ING2.] That stunts.

1902 R. BAGOT *Donna Diana* xx. 246 The atmosphere of ecclesiastical Rome is heavy—stagnant—stunting to all intellectual growth. 1907 A. C. BENSON *Altar Fire* 176 It is this ethical prudence which is always..pulling up the plant to see how it grows, which is the weakening and the stunting thing.

†**Stuntise.** *Obs. rare*—1. [? error for **stutise*, a. OF. *estoutise*, f. *estout* STOUT *a.*] ? Arrogance, violence.

a 1327 *Pol. Songs* (1839) 334 Hii brewen strut and stuntise there as sholde be pes.

†**Stu'ntly,** *a. Obs. rare.* In 1–2 **stuntlic.** [f. STUNT *a.* + -LY1.]

1. Stupid, foolish.

c 1000 ÆLFRIC *Hom.* I. 472 Iob..ne syngode mid his muðe, ne nan ðing stuntlices ongean God ne spræc. *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 109 Hwet is eure..swa stuntlic swa is þet þe alde mon nule his mod to gode awendan.

2. ? = STUNT *a.* 3.

1583 MELBANCKE *Philotimus* U iij, Lycurgus, not one clad with the stuntliest courage of all other, and far beyond Aereithous in strength.., slue him tho by sleight.

†**Stu'ntly,** *adv. Obs. rare.* In 1 **stuntlice.** [f. STUNT *a.* + -LY2.]

1. Foolishly. *O.E.* only.

c 1000 ÆLFRIC *Saints' Lives* xvii. 132 Sume men..bringað

heora lac to eorðfæstum stane.. And nellað under-standan hu stuntlice hi doð.

2. ? Arrogantly.

1582 A. HALL *Iliad* x. 174 Their state recite and eke their race, and doe not stuntly talke, Still with a lowe and courteous grace let there the speeches walke.

Stu·ntness. [f. STUNT *a.* + -NESS.]

† **1.** Foolishness, stupidity. *Obs.*

c 1000 ÆLFRIC *Saints' Lives* i. 228 Þysses middan-eardes wysdom is stuntnis [L. *stultitia*] ætforan gode. *Ibid.* xvii. 23 Se rihtwisa soðlice ne þearf him ondrædan..ȝif he him sylfum styrð fram eallum stunt-nyssum. *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 117 Fela stuntnesse beoð, þer nan steore ne bið.

2. Abrupt brevity.

1871 J. EARLE *Philol. Eng. Tongue* x. 497 Short sentences are prevalent in our language, as long ones are in German. In all things we incline to curtness and stuntness.

Stunty (stʌ·nti), *a.* [f. STUNT *a.* + -Y.]

1. Stunted in growth, short in stature.

1828 H. ANGELO *Remin.* I. 287 Two stock-broker's clerks, the one six feet two in height; the other, a stunty Jew, performed the parts of Pierre and Jaffier. 1868 *Cleveland Gloss., Stunty*, s. Short in growth or stature; of Ling, or any other shrubby plant: of a person also, who is short in stature.

2. Sulky, obstinate; curt, blunt. *dial.*

a 1825 [see STUNT *a.* 3]. 1861 AGNES STRICKLAND *Old Friends* Ser. II. 69 Their hoss..had kicked her own fetlock, and then she turned both lame and stunty (sulky stubborn).

Hence **Stu·ntiness,** the condition of being stunted.

Latham quotes from 'Cheyne *Philosophical Conjectures*' a passage identical with quot. 1740 s.v. STUNTEDNESS.

a 1878 SIR G. SCOTT *Lect. Archit.* (1879) II. 179 While walls and pillars might avail themselves to the full of this upward striving, it was hard that the arch should be condemned to unalterable stuntiness.

Stuny, Stunys: see STONY *v.*, STONISH *v.*

† **Stuorie.** *Obs. rare*—1. [ad. It. *stuora* (in the orig.), repr. L. *storea.*] A mat.

1555 EDEN *Decades* (Arb.) 257 They founde the kyng in his pallaice sittynge vppon a floure or stuorie made of the leaues of date trees.

‖ **Stupa** [1] (stiū·pă). Also **stuppa.** [L. *stūpa*, more correctly *stuppa*, tow = late Gr. στύππη.]

1. = STUPE *sb.*[1] Only in Dicts.

1693 tr. *Blancard's Phys. Dict.* (ed. 2), *Stupea, seu stupa*, a piece of linnen dipt in a liquor, and applied to the part affected. *Ibid., Stuppa* or *Stupa*, the same with *Stupea.* 1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), *Stupa* or *Stupea*, the course part of Flax, Tow, Hards, Ockam to calk Ships with; also a Stupe us'd by Surgeons. 1875 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech., Stupa*, tow used as a pledget, compress, or as a wad in fomentations.

2. *Bot.* (See quots.) Only in Dicts.

1856 HENSLOW *Dict. Bot. Terms, Stupa*, a tuft or mass of hair or fine filament matted together. 1866 *Treas. Bot., Stupa*, tow; a tuft of long hairs. 1900 B. D. JACKSON *Gloss. Bot. Terms, Stupa* or *Stuppa.*

‖ **Stupa** [2] (stū·pă). [Skr. *stūpa.*] A Buddhist monument; = TOPE *sb.*[5]

1876 FERGUSSON *Ind. & East. Archit.* I. iii. 57 The difficulty was met by assigning a portion [of the remains of Buddha] to each of the contending parties, who are said to have erected stupas to contain them. 1882 *Edin. Rev.* Oct. 356 Monasteries in ruins, and stupas in a dilapidated condition.

Stupe (stiūp), *sb.*[1] Also 5 **stuppe,** 6 **stoupe,** 7 **stoup, stuphe,** 7–8 **stuph.** [ad. L. *stūpa, stuppa*: see STUPA [1]. Cf. F. *étoupe* tow.] A piece of tow, flannel, or other soft substance, wrung out of hot liquor and medicated, for fomenting a wound or ailing part.

c 1400 *Lanfranc's Cirurg.* 53 Wibinne þe wounde leie þe ȝelke of an ey, wiþ oile of rosis, with stupis, or ellis wiþ lint. *a* 1425 tr. *Arderne's Treat. Fistula*, etc. 87 Stuppez of lyne or coton. 1543 TRAHERON *Vigo's Chirurg.* 94 b, Applye it with stoupes moysted in water. 1612 WOODALL *Surg. Mate* Wks. (1653) 96 A large hot stupe wet in a good lixivium, and wrung out. 1634 T. JOHNSON *Parey's Chirurg.* XI. xii. (1678) 286 These stoups I stayed and held to the part with double cloaths. 1684 tr. *Bonet's Merc. Compit.* III. 76, I rolled up his head upon a Stuphe, dry wrung from the fomentation. 1743 tr. *Heister's Surg.* I. xv. (1768) 110 Foment the Eye with Stuphs wrung out of the Decoctions which we prescribed above. 1896 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* I. 435 Fomentations and stupes are conveniently made of a length of flannel doubled.

Stupe (stiūp), *sb.*[2] *colloq.* Now chiefly *dial.* [Shortened f. STUPID.] A stupid person, a fool.

1762 BICKERSTAFFE *Love in Village* II. ii, Was there ever such a poor stupe! 1813 *Sketches of Character* (ed. 2) I. 11 How could they think of bringing that stupe of a Miss Newton? 1840 LADY C. BURY *Hist. Flirt* v, Of all the silent stupes, commend me to Captain Thelwal. 1876 BLACKMORE *Cripps* XXXV, 'What a stupe I must be,' she continued to herself, 'to imagine that the boy could be in love!'

Stupe (stiūp), *v.* Also 8 **stoop.** [f. STUPE *sb.*[1]]

† **1.** *trans.* To moisten (lint, tow, etc.) in some hot liquid so as to form a stupe. *Obs. rare*—1.

c 1540 *Pract. Cyrurgyons* A i, Roulettes, stupes, or plagettes made of lynte,..stuped or dypped in hote Oyles.

2. To foment with a stupe or stupes.

1670 NARBOROUGH *Jrnl.* in *Acc. Sev. Late Voy.* I. (1694) 52 They use bathing and stuping those places. 1735 *Phil. Trans.* XL. 426 The Abdomen was stuped twice a Day with an emollient Fomentation. 1747 WESLEY *Prim. Physick* (1762) 100 Stoop it [a sprain] with one spoonful of Brandy, two of Vinegar and four of Water. 1843 in R. J. Graves *Syst. Clin. Med.* xxix. 390, I..stuped the part with warm water and laudanum. 1892 *Cassell's Fam. Mag.* Mar. 211/1 [She] developed a tiresome face-ache, which no amount of stuping with poppy-heads could bring into visiting shape.

Stupe, obs. form of STOOP *v.*[1]

Stupefacient (stiūpfēi·ʃĕnt), *a.* and *sb. Med.* Also 7 **stupi-.** [ad. L. *stupefacient-em*, pres. pple. of *stupefacĕre*: see STUPEFY *v.*] **A.** *adj.* Stupefying, producing stupor. ? *Obs.*

1669 ROWLAND *Schroder's Chym. Disp.* I. xxx. 40 Stupefacient, Narcotick. 1675 GREW *Anat. Plants, Lect.* VI. i. 280 Stupifacient [is a kind of Taste] as in the Root of Black Hellebore. 1748 HARTLEY *Observ. Man* I. ii. § 2. 155 Very nauseous and stupefacient Tastes may perhaps arise from violent and irregular Vibrations. 1849 in CRAIG; 1850 in OGILVIE; and in later Dicts.

B. *sb.* A medicine producing stupor. *rare*—0.

1855 in OGILVIE Suppl. (and in later Dicts.). 1898 in *Syd. Soc. Lex.*

† **Stupefact,** *v. Obs. rare*—1. [f. L. *stupefact-*, ppl. stem of *stupefacĕre.*] *trans.* = STUPEFY.

1598 FLORIO, *Alloppiare*, ..to stupefact ones sences.

† **Stupefact,** *pa. pple. Obs.* Chiefly *Sc.* Also 6 **stupifact, stupe-, stupifak.** [ad. L. *stupefact-us*, pa. pple. of *stupefacĕre*: see STUPEFY *v.*] Stupefied.

1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* v. xi. 87 Of Troiane wemen the myndis worth agast, And all thair hartis sum deill stupifak. 1549 *Compl. Scot.* 6 Bot ȝit i vas lang stupefact ande timide, for falt of ane peremptoir conclusione. *a* 1578 LINDESAY (Pitscottie) *Chron. Scot.* (S. T. S.) I. 116 The king hearand this was stupefact in his mynd. 1590 BARROUGH *Meth. Physick* III. xi. (1596) 118 The senses be astonied and stupefact by cooling things.

Stupefaction (stiūpfæ·kʃən). Also 7 **stupi-.** [a. F. *stupéfaction* (15–16th c.), or ad. mod.L. *stupefactiōn-em*: see STUPEFY *v.* and -FACTION.]

1. The action of stupefying or state of being stupefied; numbness, torpor, or insensibility, of body or mind.

1543 TRAHERON *Vigo's Chirurg.* II. xvi. 26 b, The extremitees of theyr bodyes, were reduced to suche colde, and congelation or stupefaction. 1677 tr. *Groeneveldt's Treat. Stone* 32 A stupefaction in the Thigh and Leg. 1756 BURKE *Subl. & B.* Introd., Wks. I. 103 Tobacco is the delight of Dutchmen, as it diffuses a torpor and pleasing stupefaction. 1865 DICKENS *Mut. Fr.* II. i, Half the pupils dropped asleep, or fell into a state of waking stupefaction. 1911 RIKER *Henry Fox Ld. Holland* viii. II. 98 The activity of Fox..seemed the result of long pent-up energy that had suffered stupefaction under an arbitrary over-lord.

¶ **b.** Used for STUPEFACIENT *sb.*

1651 WITTIE tr. *Primrose's Pop. Err.* 327 Stupefactions [L. *stupefactientia*] being applyed outwardly, doe [etc.].

2. Overwhelming consternation or astonishment.

1597 A. M. tr. *Guillemeau's Fr. Chirurg.* 52 b/2 This foresayed stupefactione and feare. 1634 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* 189 Which ceremony is so hideously acted that it raises no small stupefaction in the beholders. 1831 CARLYLE *Sartor Res.* III. viii, The deceptions, and wonder-hiding stupefactions, which Space practises on us. 1865 DICKENS *Mut. Fr.* III. vi, What was the stupefaction of the friendly movers when this object at last emerging proved to be a much-dilapidated dark lantern!

Stupefactive (stiūpfæktiv), *a.* and *sb.* ? *Obs.* Also 7 **stupi-.** [a. F. *stupéfactif, -ive* adj. (16th c.), ad. med.L. *stupefactīv-us*, f. L. *stupefact-*, ppl. stem of *stupefacĕre*: see STUPEFY *v.* and -IVE.]

A. *adj.* **1.** *Med.* Having the property of producing stupor or insensibility.

1527 ANDREW *Brunswyke's Distyll. Waters* c j b, The water of Nenufara floure..is half poyson or venym thrughe his great coldenes or stupefactyfe. 1543 TRAHERON *Vigo's Chirurg.* Interpret. Words, Stupefactiue: That, that hathe strength to astoynie, and take awaye felynge. 1626 BACON *Sylva* § 98 Opium hath a Stupefactiue Part, and a Heating Part. 1649 E. REYNOLDS *Hosea* iii. 14 Some affections and motions of the heart..are of a cold stupefactive, and constringent nature. 1669 FLAVEL *Husb. Spiritual.* I. vi. 57 Opium and such-like stupifactive ingredients. 1789 W. BUCHAN *Dom. Med.* xlvi. (1790) 473 Those [*sc.* poisons] of the vegetable kind are generally of a narcotic or stupefactive quality. 1797 *London Compl. Art Cookery, Brewing* 219 Cocculus Indicus..is poisonous, stupefactive, and unlawful.

2. *gen.* Stupefying, astounding. *rare.*

1689 T. PLUNKET *Char. Good Commander* 45 What dire Catastrophe's impending are? What stupefactive things we daily hear?

B. *sb.* A stupefactive medicine.

1562 BULLEYN *Dial. Sorenes & Chir.* 33 b, Stuperfactiues or dedde things, as Opium. 1626 BACON *Sylva* § 74 This we see in the Operation of Opium, and Stupefactiues, vpon the Spirits of liuing Creatures. 1668 E. REYNOLDS *Serm.* 24 Thereby teaching us..to refuse any Anodynes or Stupefactives which might take away the sense of sinne from us.

Hence **Stupefa·ctiveness.** *rare*—0.

1727 BAILEY, vol. II.

Stupefica·tion. *rare*—1. In 7 **stupi-.** [f. STUPEFY *v.*: see -FICATION.] = STUPEFACTION.

1650 JOHN HALL *Paradoxes* 35 What other is this..but selfe stupification.

Stupefied (stiū·pfīəd), *ppl. a.* [f. STUPEFY *v.* + -ED [1].] In senses of the verb.

1639 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Crabtree Lect.* 12 Goe, thou art a stupified Asse. 1664 POWER *Exp. Philos.* I. 70 Thirdly, in the return of the Spirits into the stupefied Leg, we plainly perceive by the prickling, what a slow motion the Spirits have. 1673 BUNYAN *Diff. Judgm. Water-Baptism* 44, I will not suppose you so much stupified. 1790 BURKE *Refl. Rev. France* Wks. 1792 III. 100 Several English were the stupified and indignant spectators of that triumph. 1825 MACAULAY *Milton* Ess. (1897) 27 To break the ties which bound a stupefied people to the seat of enchantment. 1908 C. BIGG *Orig. Christianity* xxi. (1909) 285 Herodian..speaks of Severus with an almost stupefied admiration.

Hence **Stu·pefiedness.**

c 1647 BOYLE *Disc. Swearing* Wks. 1772 VI. 6 We know that insensibility of pain may..proceed from the deadness and stupifiedness of the part.

Stupefier (stiū·pfīəiəɹ). [f. STUPEFY *v.* + -ER [1].] Something that stupefies; a medicine that produces stupor.

1684 tr. *Bonet's Merc. Compit.* VIII. 280 The violence of the Pain sometimes forces us of necessity to apply Stupefiers. 1735 BERKELEY *Querist* § 343 Wks. 1871 III. 384 Whether the natural phlegm of this island needs any additional stupifier? 1831 J. DAVIES *Manual Mat. Med.* 43 Narcotics, soporifics or stupefiers.

Stupefy (stiū·pfīəi), *v.* Also 7 **stupefie,** 7–8 **stupifie,** 6–9 **stupify.** [a. F. *stupéfi-er* (16th c.), ad. L. *stupefacĕre* to make stupid or senseless, f. *stupēre* to be stru k senseless, be amazed: see -FY.

The spelling with *i* (cf. *liquify*) was common until the latter half of the 19th c. 'This word should..be spelled *stupefy*; but the authorities are against it' (Johnson).]

1. *trans.* To make stupid or torpid; to deprive of apprehension, feeling, or sensibility; to benumb, deaden.

? *a* 1600 in *Lyly's Wks.* (1902) III. 497 Twas not Tobacco stupifyed yᵉ braine. 1611 SHAKS. *Cymb.* I. v. 37 Those [drugs] she ha's, Will stupifie and dull the Sence a-while. 1652 *Hermeticall Banquet* 69 This by the narcoticall Sulphur of the Opium, stupefied the Nerve. 1709 T. ROBINSON *Vindic. Mosaick Syst.* 56 That any one..should be so stupified by the Prevalency of his Lusts, as to deny the Being of that God, whose [etc.]. 1732 ARBUTHNOT *Rules of Diet* (1736) 365 Opiate and anodyne Substances which stupify and relax the Fibres. 1806–7 J. BERESFORD *Miseries Hum. Life* (1826) VI. xxx, Your fingers being..stupefied by the cold. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* v. I. 666 The prisoner, stupified by illness, was unable..to understand what passed. 1889 MRS. OLIPHANT *Poor Gentl.* xv, His anxiety stupefied instead of quickening his senses.

fig. 1874 SPURGEON *Treas. David* lxxxi. IV. 26 No dulness should ever stupify our psalmody.

b. *absol.*

1691 HARTCLIFFE *Virtues* 81 As nothing doth restore us more to our selves, when we faint and are weary, than Sleep soberly taken, so nothing doth more stupifie, than its Excess. 1707 FLOYER *Physic. Pulse-Watch* 81 If the Bath be so long continu'd as to stupifie. *a* 1848 W. A. BUTLER *Serm.* ix. (1849) 149 Satan,..who deceives that he may destroy, stupifies that he may deceive.

2. To stun with amazement, fear, or the like; to astound. [So L.]

1596 SPENSER *F. Q.* V. iii. 17 With great amazement they were stupefide. 1622 MALYNES *Anc. Law-Merch.* 337 The apprehension of the continuance of intollerable Vsurie in England, is able to stupifie a *mans* senses. 1779 *Mirror* No. 11, ¶ 13 He sat, stupified with shame and remorse. 1796 MME. D'ARBLAY *Camilla* VI. iii. III. 175 'If she is not in the rooms to-night,' said Sir Sedley, 'I shall be stupified to petrifaction.' 1845 DARWIN *Voy. Nat.* viii. (1879) 171 The mind is stupified in thinking over the long, absolutely necessary, lapse of years. 1909 *Engl. Rev.* Feb. 602 All these people seem stupefied by the immensity of the calamity which has befallen them.

† **3.** To deprive (a material substance) of mobility. *Obs. rare*—1.

a 1626 BACON *Physiol. Rem.* Baconiana (1679) 100 This stupifieth the Quick-silver that it runneth no more. *Ibid.* 122 When it..is not fluent, but stupified.

4. *intr.* To become stupid or torpid; to grow dull or insensible. Now *rare.*

a 1631 DONNE *Let. to Sir H. G.* V, Poems (1633) 365, I which live in the Country without stupifying, am not in darknesse, but in shadow. 1803 MARY CHARLTON *Wife & Mistress* III. 47 Do not go and stupify with such an old *illuminée* as the Dowager Lady Melville. 1844 SYD. SMITH in Lady Holland *Mem.* (1855) II. 523, I always fatten and stupefy on such diet; I want to lose flesh and gain understanding.

Hence **Stu·pefying** *vbl. sb.* and *ppl. a.*

1611 COTGR., *Noix vomique*..is of a poisonous, deadly, and stupifying qualitie. 1637 B. JONSON *Sad Sheph.* II. viii. The dead-numming Night-shade! The stupifying Hemlock! 1673 PENN *Chr. Quaker* xx. 585 The Stupifyings of Sin. 1731 MILLER *Gard. Dict.* s.v. *Wine*, The Effects they have upon the human Body are rather stupifying than inebriating. *a* 1768 SECKER *Serm.* (1770) IV. 27 The benumbing and stupefying of so important a Principle of their Nature. 1863 MARY HOWITT tr. *F. Bremer's Greece* II. xvi. 155 A cave, out of which..a stupefying exhalation ascended. 1916 *Blackw. Mag.* May 607/1 The views obtained are almost stupefying in their majesty and grandeur.

Stupen, stuppin, dial. (Kent) ff. STEWPAN.

1617 in W. F. Shaw *Mem. Eastry* (1870) 227 Fowr brass potts three brass stupens. 1736 J. LEWIS *Hist. Isle Tenet* (ed. 2) 39 *Stuppin*, a Stew-pan or Skillet.

Stupend (stiūpe·nd), *a. Obs.* in serious use. [ad. L. *stupend-us*: see STUPENDOUS. Cf. *horrend, tremend.*] Stupendous.

1622 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* 1. i. II. vii. 35 In time of sleepe this faculty is free, & many times conceaues strange, stupend, absurd shapes. *Ibid.* II. ii. II. 314 The Romanes had their publike Bathes, very sumptuous and stupend. 1676 *Doctrine of Devils* 25 That stupend miracle of Christ's Incarnation. 1702 C. MATHER *Magn. Chr.* III. II. xix. 122 The stupend Variety of Human Faces. 1864 LOWELL *Fireside Trav.* 127 A lobster..of experience so stupend, His claws were blunted at the end, Turning life's iron pages o'er.

Hence † **Stupe·ndly** *adv.*

1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* III. iv. I. i. 717 The Brittaines are so stupendly superstitious in their ceremonies, that [etc.].

Stupendio·sity. *rare*—1. [f. next, in imitation of *religiosity*, etc.: see -ITY.] Stupendousness.

1830 H. ANGELO *Remin.* I. 174 Gresse..could not patiently endure the least observations upon the stupendiosity of his figure

†**Stupe·ndious**, *a. Obs.* [irreg. f. L. *stupend-us* (see STUPENDOUS), after adjs. in *-ious*; cf. *tremendious*, vulgar form of *tremendous*.] Stupendous.

Our numerous instances show that this was the accepted form until the latter part of the 17th c., when the correct *stupendous* began to be used.

1547 BOORDE *Introd. Knowl.* 133 Yet in Ierland is stupendyous thynges; for there is neyther Pyes nor venymus wormes. 1591 HARINGTON *Orl. Fur.* Apol. Poetrie P ij b, As witnes the huge Theaters, and Amphitheaters, monuments of stupendious charge. 1611 CORYAT *Crudities* 284 A most stupendious summe of money. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* x. 351 At sight Of that stupendious Bridge his joy encreas'd. 1712 STEELE *Spect.* No. 472 P 7 That stupendious Machine [the Eye]. 1758 BOSWELL *Corsica* i. (ed. 2) 29 Craggy cliffs of so stupendious a height, that [etc.]. *a* 1800 PEGGE *Anecd. Eng. Lang.* (1814) 55 On the other hand, they [*sc.* Londoners] say *stupendious*, for *stupendous*.

Hence †**Stupe·ndiously** *adv.*, **Stupe·ndiousness.**

1630 PRYNNE *Anti-Arminn.* 338 Can any elected persons heart be found so stupendiously obdurate, as to withstand this omnipotent working. 1656 EARL MONM. tr. *Boccalini's Advts. fr. Parnass.* I. v. 9 The stupendiousness of the Venetian liberty. 1662 H. MORE *Enthus. Tri.* 14 There may be such a due dash of Sanguine in the Melancholy, that the Complexion may prove stupendiously [*ed.* 1712 stupendously] enravishing. 1676 *Doctrine of Devils* 54 This is..an Axiomatical Truth among the Doctors of Demonology, That a Devil or Witch can, for stupendiousness of the work do as much as ever Christ did. 1711 in *10th Rep. Hist. MSS. Comm.* App. v. 113 The Jewes..remained so stupendiously incredulous, that they putt him to death for an imposter.

Stupendous (stiūpe·ndəs), *a.* [f. L. *stupend-us* 'that is to be wondered at, amazing', gerundive of *stupēre* to be struck senseless, be amazed at: see -OUS.] Such as to cause stupor or astonishment; amazing, astounding; marvellous, prodigious; amazingly large or great.

1666 PEPYS *Diary* 21 May, It is stupendous to see how favourably..my Lord Ashly carries himself to Mr. Yeabsly. 1669 GALE *Crt. Gentiles* I. iii. 22 The strength of these Anakims was stupendous. 1697 DRYDEN *Æneis* IX. 705 There stood a Tow'r..of stupendous height. 1732 POPE *Ess. Man* I. 267 All are but parts of one stupendous whole. 1798 SOPHIA LEE *Canterb. T., Young Lady's T.* II. 412 They reached the foot of that stupendous natural barrier, the Alps. 1863 COWDEN CLARKE *Shaks. Char.* x. 261 The man who thinks to outwit three women, who are aware of his purpose, must indeed be a stupendous ass. 1863 Miss BRADDON *Aurora Floyd* iii, The young officer laughed aloud at the stupendous joke. 1914 *Eng. Hist. Rev.* Jan. 135 He is apt to attribute to his opponents stupendous oversights and elementary misunderstandings.

Hence **Stupe·ndously** *adv.*, **Stupe·ndousness.**

1712 Stupendously: see STUPENDIOUSLY, quot. 1662. 1727 BAILEY vol. II, *Stupendousness*, Astonishingness. 1742 *Lond. & Country Brew.* I. (ed. 4) 37, I have known some of the little Victualling Brewers, so stupendously ignorant, that [etc.]. 1743 J. ELLIS *Knowl. Div. Things* 219 Those very Works, which, from their Stupendousness, should have taught them the Greatness of the former. 1814 J. W. CROKER in *C. Papers* (1884) 7 Oct., Be..sure to make it [a column] stupendously high. 1848 DICKENS *Dombey* i, Her nose, stupendously aquiline. 1890 *Voice* (*N. Y.*) 17 July, This generation so familiar with stupendousness of all kinds.

†**Stupe·nduous**, *a. Obs.* [irreg. f. L. *stupend-us* (see STUPENDOUS), after adjs. in *-uous*: cf. *tremenduous*.] Stupendous.

1736 *Mrs. Manley's Secret Mem.* III. 17 Horatio, named *immortal* from his stupenduous [*ed.* 1720 III. 15 stupendous] Conquests in Iberia. 1760–72 H. BROOKE *Fool of Qual.* (1792) III. 241 Travellers..are apt to enquire by whom the stupenduous pile was erected. 1794 MORSE *Amer. Geog.* (1796) II. 12 A torrent, precipitating itself from stupenduous rocks.

• **Stupent** (stiū·pĕnt), *a. rare.* [ad. L. *stupent-em* pres. ppl. of *stupēre* to be stupefied or astounded.] That is in a state of stupor or amazement.

1843 CARLYLE *Past & Pr.* III. viii, We stand speechless, stupent, and know not what to say! 1851 — in Froude *C.'s Life in Lond.* (1884) II. xix. 68 Poor Simeon..sat stupent in the whirlpool of heterodox hail. 1912 G. B. SHAW *Pygmalion* II. (1916) 120 *Higgins* [*stupent*] Well!!! (*Recovering his breath with a gasp*) What do you expect me to say to you?

Stupeous (stiū·pĭəs), *a. Zool.* and *Bot.* Also **stuppeous** (stʊ·pĭəs). [f. L. *stūpe-us*, *stuppe-us* made or consisting of tow, f. *stūpa*, *stuppa*: see STUPE *sb.*[1] and -OUS.] Having, or covered with, matted or tufted hairs or filaments.

1826 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* IV. xlvi. 275 *Stupeous*, covered with long loose scales resembling tow. Ex. The *Palpi* of *Lepidoptera*. 1871 W. A. LEIGHTON *Lichen-flora* 104 Medulla stuppeous. 1900 B. D. JACKSON *Gloss. Bot. Terms*, *Stupeous*, woolly.

†**Stupex**. *Obs.* App. a jocular improvement on STUPE *sb.*[2]

1853 SURTEES *Sponge's Sp. Tour* (1893) 338 'The little stupexes!' exclaimed Miss Glitters. 1864 Miss YONGE *Trial* I. 82 The light of nature would show that to any one but a stupex.

Stuph(e, variant ff. STUPE *Obs.*, -STUPE *sb.*[1]

Stupid (stiū·pid), *a.* and *sb.* [ad. L. *stupid-us*, f. *stup-ēre* to be stunned or benumbed. Cf. F. *stupide* (Rabelais), Sp., Pg. *estúpido*, It. *stupidо*.]

A. *adj.*

1. Having one's faculties deadened or dulled; in a state of stupor, stupefied, stunned; esp. *hyperbolically*, stunned with surprise, grief, etc. *Obs.* exc. *arch.* (*poet.*)

Very common in Dryden.

1611 SHAKS. *Wint. T.* IV. iv. 409 Is not your Father growne incapeable Of reasonable affayres? Is'he not stupid With Age, and altring Rheumes? Can he speake? heare? Know man, from man? 1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.*, *Stupid*, dismaid, abashed, astonied, amazed, senceless. 1675 *Machiavelli's Prince* xix. Wks. (1883) 123 These remained..stupid and astonished. 1697 DRYDEN *Æneis* VII. 1104 Men, Boys, and Women stupid with Surprise, Where ere she passes, fix their wond'ring Eyes. 1725 POPE *Odyss.* XVIII. 214 Down drop'd he stupid from the stunning wound. 1737 in H. T. Waghorn *Cricket Scores* (1899) 19 The latter..receiving..so smart a blow by the ball that he was knocked down and lay stupid for a long time. 1859 TENNYSON *Geraint & Enid* 753 And Enid could not say one tender word, She felt so blunt and stupid at the heart.

† **b.** Belonging to or characterized by stupor or insensibility. *Obs.*

1607 CHAPMAN *Bussy d'Ambois* v. 64 Reuiue those stupid thoughts, and sit not thus, Gathering the horrors of your seruants slaughter,..Into an idle fancie. 1697 DRYDEN *Virg. Georg.* III. 781 His Eyes are settled in a stupid peace. 1702 POPE *Sappho* 128 No sigh to rise, no tear had pow'r to flow, Fix'd in a stupid lethargy of woe. 1818 KEATS *Endymion* I. 678 My sweet dream Fell into nothing—into stupid sleep.

† **c.** Of a part of the body: Paralysed. *Obs.*

1638 A. READ *Chirurg.* xi. 82 Touch the stupid parts [of a paralytic person] with quick nettles.

d. *Path.* ? *Obs.*

1822–9 GOOD *Study Med.* (ed. 3) IV. 519 *Cephalæa gravans.* Stupid head-ache. Pain obtuse; with a sense of heaviness extending over the whole head.

† **e.** Emotionally or morally dull or insensible; apathetic, indifferent. Const. *to* [cf. F. *stupide à*].

1605 BACON *Adv. Learn.* II. xxii. § 17 As for pleasure, wee haue likewise determined, that the minde ought not to bee reduced to stupide, but to retayne pleasure. 1641 J. JACKSON *True Evang. T.* II. 348 The Stoicks..patience..was..onely a stupid senselessnesse, and wretched carelessnesse. 1653 H. MORE *Antid. Ath.* II. vi. § 5 He is as stupid to these things [the beauties of nature] as the basest of Beasts. 1713 *Guardian* (1756) I. No. 19. 86 It was a cause of great sorrow and melancholy to me..to see a crowd in the habits of the gentry of England stupid to the noblest sentiments we have. 1758 S. HAYWARD *Serm.* xvii. 530 Oh stupid creatures that are not raised with the descriptions of his person! *a* 1770 JORTIN *Serm.* (1787) II. x. 199 Vice begets the dread of punishment, unless it be constantly attended with unbelief, and with a stupid carelessness about futurity.

† **2.** As the characteristic of inanimate things: Destitute of sensation, consciousness, thought, or feeling. *Obs.*

1626 BACON *Sylva* § 98 Tangible Parts in Bodies are Stupide things; And the Spirits doe (in effect) all. 1642 H. MORE *Song of Soul* II. iii. III. 60 Yet if the Earth stand stupid and unmov'd, This needs must come to passe. 1660 BOYLE *New. Exp. Phys.-Mech.* xxxiii. 251 And as for the Care of the Publique Good of the Universe ascrib'd to dead and stupid Bodies; wee shall only demand, why [etc.]. *a* 1664 KATH. PHILIPS *Poems* (1667) 40, *In Mem. of F. P.* 14 Alas! in vain, in vain on thee I rave; There is no pity in the stupid Grave. *a* 1694 TILLOTSON *Serm.* (1743) IX. 4110 The stone is stupid, and is not in the least conscious of any of those impressions, does not perceive what is done to it. *a* 1718 PRIOR *2nd Hymn of Callimachus* 141 Euphrates..copious runs, but Muddy; And carries forward with his stupid Force Polluting Dirt. 1722 WOLLASTON *Relig. Nat.* v. 74 Matter is incapable of acting, passive only, and stupid. 1744 BERKELEY *Siris* § 190 Were it not for this [fire], the whole wou'd be one great stupid inanimate mass. But this active element is supposed to be every where.

3. Wanting in or slow of mental perception; lacking ordinary activity of mind; slow-witted, dull.

1541 R. COPLAND *Galyen's Terap.* 2 B iij b, For the fyrste speake ouer lyghtly and to imprudently,..and the other are all togyther stupydes, sturdy, & lytygious. 1616 BULLOKAR *Eng. Expos., Stupid*, blockish, without wit: dull. 1649 MILTON *Tenure of Kings* 8 No man who knows ought, can be so stupid to deny that all men naturally were borne free. 1657 — *P. L.* XII. 116 O that men..should be so stupid grown While yet the Patriark liv'd, who scap'd the Flood, As to forsake the living God. 1692 DRYDEN *St. Euremont's Ess.* 290 But I esteem the Faith of a stupid Peasant, more than all the Lessons of Socrates. 1712 ADDISON *Spect.* No. 291 P 8 A Man, who cannot write with Wit on a proper Subject, is dull and stupid. 1778 Miss BURNEY *Evelina* (1791) II. xxvii. 161 'Why is Miss Anville so grave?' 'Not grave, my Lord,' said I, 'only stupid.' 1819 SHELLEY *Peter Bell* VII. iii, His lordship stands and racks his Stupid brains. 1829 HOGG *Sheph. Cal.* Wks. (1865) 368/2 'What a stupid idiot I was!' exclaimed Wat. 1838 LYTTON *Alice* II. iii, How stupid in Caroline not to show it to you. 1842 LOVER *Handy Andy* xliii, She felt the pique which every pretty woman experiences who fancies her favours disregarded, and thought Andy the stupidest lout she ever came across. 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xv. III. 560 Anne, who, when in good humour, was meekly stupid, and, when in bad humour, was sulkily stupid. 1865 CARLYLE *Fredk. Gt.* XXI. viii. (1872) X. 160 He knew how to listen..which no stupid man was ever capable of. 1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) I. 29, I remain as stupid as ever; for still I fail to comprehend. 1879 HARLAN *Eyesight* viii. 108 Children with astigmatism often appear stupid.

absol. 1692 R. L'ESTRANGE *Fables* xviii. 19 But Good Council is cast away, upon the Arrogant, the Self-conceited, or the stupid.

b. Of attributes, actions, ideas, etc.: Characterized by or indicating stupidity or dullness of comprehension.

1621 T. WILLIAMSON tr. *Goulart's Wise Vieillard* 131 Christians willingly lay downe their neckes vnder the light yoke..not with a stupid, or hastie mad braine-sicke, or fond toying ioy. 1687 A. LOVELL tr. *Thevenot's Trav.* I. 145, I went to that Burying-place on the Holy Friday of the Greeks ..that I might see what Ground they had for this stupid Belief. 1707 PATRICK *Disc. Prayer* II. xviii. 197 Let us not ..persist in such a stupid error. 1711 STEELE *Spect.* No. 2 P 3 It is a stupid and barbarous Way to extend Dominion by Arms. *a* 1770 JORTIN *Serm.* (1771) IV. ix. 184 Great reason have we to be thankful that we are not educated in such stupid and inhuman principles. 1819 SHELLEY *Peter Bell* VI. xxxii, 'Twould make George Colman melancholy To have heard him, like a male Molly, Chanting those stupid staves. 1871 C. GIBBON *Lack of Gold* ii, This cursed frenzy makes me say and think the stupidest things. 1891 E. PEACOCK *N. Brendon* I. 122 Our stupid passion for snugness.

† **c.** Of the lower animals: Irrational. Also of an individual animal, its propensities, etc.: Lacking intelligence or animation, senseless, dull. *Obs.*

a 1680 BUTLER *Rem.* (1759) I. 203 And trains him up with Rudiments more false, Than Nature does her stupid Animals. 1774 GOLDSM. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) IV. 328 [The badger] is a solitary stupid animal. 1815 STEPHENS in *Shaw's Gen. Zool.* IX. i. 19 The birds of this genus [*Bucco*]..are a solitary stupid race. 1867 MORRIS *Jason* VIII. 64 A monstrous cage, Of iron bars, shut in the stupid rage Of those two beasts.

4. Void of interest, tiresome, boring, dull.

1778 Miss BURNEY *Evelina* (1791) I. xxxiii. 179 Of all the stupid places ever I see, that Howard Grove is the worst; there's never no getting nothing one wants. 1832 LYTTON *Eugene A.* I. iii, 'I am sorry, dear Ellinor, my awkwardness should occasion you so stupid an evening', answered Madeline. 1845 Miss G. JEWSBURY *Let. to Mrs. Carlyle* (1892) 161, I..was getting quite fat till within the last few days, when I caught cold on the stupid Rhine. 1854 WHYTE MELVILLE *Gen. Bounce* xviii, For the first time in her experience of a London season, Blanche begins to think it a 'stupid ball.' 1862 Miss BRADDON *Lady Audley* ii, We were quartered at a stupid sea-port town. 1884 M. CREIGHTON *Let.* 22 May, in L. Creighton *Life & Lett.* (1904) I. 269 If my letter is very stupid, forgive me. 1901 W. R. H. TROWBRIDGE *Lett. her Mother to Eliz.* xviii. 89 We went once to the Empire; but it was awfully stupid, and I never want to go again.

5. Obstinate, stubborn. *north. dial.*

1788 W. H. MARSHALL *Yorksh.* II. 357 *Stupid*; obstinate (the common epithet). 1829 BROCKETT *N. C. Gloss.* (ed. 2), *Stupid*, obstinate, though possessing good talents. 1866 Mrs. LYNN LINTON *Lizzie Lorton* xii, 'So Miss Lizzie, my dear, divn't be stupid'—she meant obstinate—'but let yersel be guided by them as knaws best.' 1877 *Holderness Gloss.*, *Stupid*, obstinate. 'As stupid as a mule.' 1893 J. K. SNOWDEN *Tales Yorksh. Wolds* 170 Kit Harpur were main stupid ower it.

6. *Comb.*, as *stupid-looking* adj.; adverbial with another adj., as *stupid-honest*, *-sure* (nonce-wds.); **stupid-head**, a blockhead.

1838 DICKENS *O. Twist* XXXI, Think it's the same boy, *Stupid-head? 1877 TENNYSON *Harold* III. i, Be thou not *stupid-honest, brother Gurth! 1815 J. CAMPBELL *Trav. S. Africa* 502 How such a *stupid looking animal [as the turtle] finds out this speck of land [Ascension island]..is truly wonderful. 1877 TENNYSON *Harold* IV. iii, The people *stupid-sure Sleep like their swine.

B. *sb.* A stupid person. *colloq.*

1712 STEELE *Spect.* No. 468 P 6 Thou art no longer to drudge in raising the Mirth of Stupids..for thy Maintenance. 1819 *Metropolis* I. 222 His loudest applauders were..stupids, like Sir G. W. who scarcely could speak a word of French. 1880 Mrs. PARR *Adam & Eve* II. 17 Ain't there no place else for us to go to, eh, stupid? 1885 'Mrs. ALEXANDER' *Valerie's Fate* v, You do not know what a thoughtless, heartless stupid I have been.

†**Stupi·dious**, *a. Obs.* [f. STUPID + -IOUS. Cf. STUPIDOUS.] Stupid, grossly unintelligent, dull. Hence †**Stupi·diously** *adv.*

1600 G. ABBOT *Jonah* 109 The Saracens and Turkes, who ..may not so much as dispute of any point of their religion, and so do beleeve in Mahomet, most grossly and stupidiously. 1615 J. TAYLOR (Water P.) *Taylor's Rev.* Wks. (1630) II. 144/2 Can you, O can your senses be stupidious And see your selues abused thus perfidious!

Stupidish (stiū·pidĭʃ), *a.* [f. STUPID *a.* + -ISH.] Somewhat stupid.

1806 LOUISA GURNEY in A. J. C. Hare *Gurneys of Earlham* (1895) I. 153 On Monday we had a stupidish dinner at the Fellowes'. 1813 JANE AUSTEN *Lett.* (1884) II. 178 It was stupidish; Fanny did her part very well, but there was a lack of talk altogether. 1864 CARLYLE *Fredk. Gt.* XVI. xiii. IV. 463 Much can be done in that way with stupidish populations.

Stupidita·rian, *nonce-wd.* [f. STUPIDITY, after *humanitarian* etc.] One whose ruling principle is stupidity.

1846 WHIPPLE *Lit. & Life* (1851) 73 A heavy-headed stupiditarian in official station, veiling the sheerest incompetency in a mysterious sublimity of carriage!

Stupidity (stiūpi·dĭti). [ad. L. *stupiditās*, f. *stupid-us*: see STUPID and -ITY. Cf. F. *stupidité*, It. *stupidità*.]

† **1.** Numbness, incapacity for sensation. *Obs.*

Stupidity of the teeth = late L. *stupor dentium*: see STUPOR 1.

1607 TOPSELL *Four-f. Beasts* 83 It is also good against the inflammation of the eares, the stupidity and dulnesse of the teeth. 1653 R. SANDERS *Physiogn.* 186 A dull stupidity of the head and sences. 1661 R. LOVELL *Hist. Anim. & Min.* 201 The signes of their wounds are great paine,..blacknesse, and stupidity of the part. 1702 FLOYER *Cold Bathing* 1. (1709) 139 The Nature and Cure of a Torpor or Stupidity of the Limbs. 1737 BRACKEN *Farriery Impr.* (1757) II. 273 Those Things which take away Pain by causing a Stupidity.

† **2.** The condition of being deprived of the use of the faculties; a state of stupor. *Obs.*

1604 R. CAWDREY *Table Alph.*, *Stupiditie*, dulnesse: astonishment. 1608 WILLET *Hexapla Exod.* 267 Pharaoh was taken with such stupiditie that..hee had no power. 1615 CHAPMAN *Odyss.* VI. 252 As now thee To view (O Virgin) a stupiditie Past admiration strikes me. 1621 G. SANDYS *Ovid's Met.* V. (1626) 102 Stone-like stood Ceres at this heauy newes;..When griefe had quickned her stupiditie, Shee

tooke her Chariot, and ascends the skie. 1622 WOTTON in L. P. Smith *Life & Lett.* (1907) II. 236 One of my gondoliers ..was suddenly strucken with a silent stupidity, his feet going from him. 1627 DRAYTON *Agincourt* 39 The dreadfull bellowing..sounded like the dreadfull doome, And them with such stupidity benummes, As though [etc.]. 1684 tr. *Bonet's Merc. Compit.* VI. 169 Causing onely a gentle Sleep, in no wise a Stupidity. 1684 W. RUSSELL *Phys. Treatise* 117, I ..found her drowsie, tho the Cold and Stupidity were somewhat less. 1806 *Med. Jrnl.* XV. 381 The pain in her head became so acute, as to produce at times, actions of violence, which rendered confinement necessary, and the intervals were marked by stupidity. 1831 *Examiner* 764/2 'Locus' was a cant word to describe the act of putting a man in a state of stupidity.

†**3.** Incapacity for emotion; lack of feeling or interest, apathy, indifference. *Obs.*

1568 G. SKEYNE *Pest* (Bannatyne Club) 15 The cause quhairby few ar preseruit..is maist euident..the negligence & Stupiditie of mankynd, contemptioun of medicine, [etc.]. 1597 HOOKER *Eccl. Pol.* v. lxvii. § 3 Shall I wish that men would more giue *themselues* to meditate with silence what we haue by the Sacrament, & lesse to dispute of the manner how? If any man suppose that this were too great stupiditie and dulnes, let vs see whether [etc.]. 1668 CLARENDON *Contempl. Ps.* Tracts (1727) 688 The stupidity of the heart alone is the cause of all desperate incogitance. *a*1672 WILKINS *Nat. Relig.* 387 It supposes them to have..such a stupidity upon their consciences, as makes them past feeling. 1701 G. STANHOPE *Medit. St. Aug.* xl. (1720) 105 Awaken my stupidity, quicken my deadness. 1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* I. (Globe) 89 A certain Stupidity of Soul, without Desire of Good, or Conscience of Evil, had entirely overwhelm'd me. 1724 BOLINGBROKE *Let.* 12 Sept., in *Swift's Lett.* (1766) II. 37 It is neither sickness, nor journies, nor ill humours, nor age, nor vexation, nor stupidity, which has hindered me from answering sooner your letter. 1748 HARTLEY *Observ. Man* II. iv. § 4. 412 If indeed a Man's Despair should make him ..harden himself in a careless Stupidity with respect to his future Condition.

†**b.** Insensibility to pain or sorrow; blameable absence of resentment under injury or insult. *Obs.*

1627 DONNE *Serm.* xliv. (1640) 443 Without this [belief in the Trinity], all morall vertues are but diseases;..Active valour is but a fury, whatsoever we do, and passive valour is but a stupidity, whatsoever we suffer. 1661 COWLEY *Cromwell* Ess., etc. (1906) 362 The continuance of those oppressions upon the people, which will at last tire out their patience, though it be great even to stupidity. *a*1673 STILLINGFL. *Serm.* vi. (1673) 110 Stupidity then under sufferings can be no part of the excellency of a man; which in its greatest height is in the Beings the most beneath him.

4. Dullness or slowness of apprehension; gross want of intelligence.

1541 R. COPLAND *Galyen's Terap.* 2 Cij b, Nowe we must esteme the stupydyte or audacyte of the man. I say the stupidite yf he thynke to say well and the boldnes yf he fele hym selfe culpable to saye nothynge. 1598 B. JONSON *Ev. Man in Hum.* III. v, I forgive Mr. Stephen, for he is stupiditie it selfe! 1620 T. GRANGER *Div. Logike* 110 Stupiditie a naturall impotencie to vnderstand easily. 1675 in *Verney Mem.* (1907) II. 292 God watt his stupiditie will find it a hard Taske to learn one [*sc.* a trade]. 1690 LOCKE *Hum. Und.* II. x. § 8. 67 It moves slowly, and retrieves not the Ideas, that it has, and are laid up in store, quick enough to serve the Mind upon occasions. This, if it be to a great degree, is Stupidity. 1759 GOLDSM. *Pres. St. Pol. Learn.* iv, But let the Germans have their due: if they are dull, no nation alive..better understands all the decorums of stupidity. 1774 H. WALPOLE *Let. to C'tess Upper Ossory* 14 June, Mr. Anstey..has published the most complete piece of stupidity I ever read. It is a satire on a parson who [etc.]. 1831 CARLYLE *Sartor Res.* II. vii, With Stupidity and sound Digestion man may front much. 1880 'MARK TWAIN' *Tramp Abr.* viii. 58 'Have you engaged a hearse?' 'Bless my stupidity, I never thought of it!' 1896 *Law Times* CI. 516/1 On the average, stupidity in the Church gets better paid than brains at the Bar. 1913 WOODROW WILSON *New Freedom* iii. 70 In public affairs stupidity is more dangerous than knavery.

b. A stupid idea, action, etc.

1633 G. HERBERT *Temple, Ch. Militant* 153 Their hearts Are given over..To such Mahometan stupidities, As the old heathen would deem prodigies. 1707 *Curios. in Husb. & Gard.* 245 There..is an infinity of learned Men, who would think themselves Hereticks in Philosophy, if they..thought to search after Truth elsewhere...This is so great a Stupidity, that [etc.]. 1831 *N. Brit. Rev.* XV. 467 The dull stupidities and senseless flippancies of Roman architecture. 1868 E. EDWARDS *Ralegh* I. xxiii. 525 To..enlightened persons ..such themes..are of course, mere obsolete stupidities. 1870 DASENT *Ann. Eventful Life* III. iv. 74 Of all our escapades and stupidities on the journey I decline to dwell. 1874 MICKLETHWAITE *Mod. Par. Churches* 115 One of the stock stupidities of modern times is belief in *a vista*.

5. Obstinacy. *dial.*

1886 *S. W. Linc. Gloss.*, *Stupidity*, obstinacy, not dullness. They understood it well enough; it was stupidity, and nowt else.

Stupidly (stiū·pidli), *adv.* [f. STUPID *a.* + -LY 2.] In a stupid manner.

1. In a condition of stupor. Now *rare*.

1661 GLANVILL *Van. Dogm.* vii. 62 They that feel it not, are not less sick, but stupidly so. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 149 When ailing he sleeps long and stupidly.

†**b.** In consequence of stupefaction. *Obs.*

1667 MILTON *P. L.* IX. 465 That space the Evil One abstracted stood From his own evil, and for the time remained Stupidly good, of enmity disarmed.

†**2.** Apathetically, indifferently. *Obs.*

1647 CLARENDON *Hist. Reb.* II. § 127 Their wariness and wisdom could not be great enough to preserve them, if they did not stupidly look on without seeming to understand what they could in no degree control or prevent.

3. With gross lack of intelligence; foolishly; in a manner indicative of stupidity.

c 1611 CHAPMAN *Iliad* XIV. 199 Comment., How stupidly soeuer all his interpreters would haue Hector (being strooke into a trembling, and almost dead) turne about like a whirle-wind; 1699 BENTLEY *Phalaris* 250 Would a person of Learning..be..so stupidly negligent as not to examin the Stone-Cutter's Work. 1700 DRYDEN *Fables* Ded. C 1, There was engraven on it, Plans of Cities, and Maps of Countries, which Ajax could not comprehend, but look'd on them as stupidly as his Fellow-Beast the Lion. 1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* II. (Globe) 445 They were all stupidly ignorant as to Matters of Religion. 1743 WESLEY *Jrnl.* 27 June, I preach'd at Awkborough, on the Trent-side to a stupidly-attentive congregation. 1819 SHELLEY *Peter Bell* VII. xxi, And every neighbouring cottager Stupidly yawned upon the other. 1851 W. WHEWELL *Let.* 26 Jan. in Mrs. Stair Douglas *Life* (1881) 414 We English are as stupidly servile in looking with reverence on all German philosophy, as we are stupidly conceited about our social institutions and manners. 1865 LECKY in Eliz. Lecky *Mem.* i. (1909) 39 The only printed review I have seen is an exceedingly stupidly written one. 1865 E. C. CLAYTON *Cruel Fortune* I. 259 *It* stared at her, stupidly, its round, chubby face streaked with tears and dirt. 1885 *Manch. Exam.* 25 Mar. 5/1 Nothing could be more stupidly false than such an impression.

4. Obstinately: *dial.*

1884 *Methodist Mag.* 52 Moffat stuck stupidly (this last word, in Lancashire, means resolute persistence in either a wise or foolish saying, or course) that he would go and hear Roby.

Stupidness (stiū·pidnės). Now *rare*. [f. STUPID *a.* + -NESS.] The quality of being stupid (in various senses of the adj.); = STUPIDITY.

a 1628 LD. BROOKE *Treat. Hum. Learning* lxiii, Therefore ..to refige Her stupidnesse, as well as ostentation, Let vs set straight that Industrie againe. 1649 MILTON *Tetrach.* 17 What a stupidnes then is it, that in Mariage,..we should deject our selvs to such a sluggish and underfoot Philosophy, as to esteem the validity of Mariage meerly by the flesh. 1656 J. SMITH *Pract. Physick* 110 Stupidnesse in the Legs and the whole Body, that they can scarse feel the prick of a needle. 1689 SHERLOCK *Death* iii. § 6 (1731) 139 We may be cut off by a sudden Stroke, or seized with Distraction or Stupidness. 1725 *Bradley's Family Dict.* s.v. *Lethargy*, A Person is threaten'd with this Distemper, when..he grows sluggish, and percieves a Stupidness upon himself and is always inclin'd to Sleepiness.

†**Stu·pidous,** *a. Obs. rare*$^{-1}$. [f. STUPID *a.* + -OUS.] = STUPID.

1597 A. M. tr. *Guillemeau's Fr. Chirurg.* f iii, We shewe our selves stupidouse and involuntary to helpe, the one the other.

†**Stu·pnet.** *dial. Obs.* In 7 **stuppnett,** ?**stuppenet, stufnet.** [?dim. of STUPEN: see -ET.] A saucepan.

1600 in W. F. Shaw *Mem. Eastry* (1870) 226 Two chafing dishes fower stuppuetts [?*read* stuppnetts] five brass candlesticks [etc.]. 1649 in *Archæologia Cantiana* XVI. 205 It' rec'd for a Brass Stuggenet [?*read* stuppenet] oo 02 oo. 1674 RAY *S. & E. Country Wds.* 76 *Stufnet* [correctly placed, alphabetically, but erroneously printed *stusnet* (long ſ)]: a posnet or skillet. Suss. [Correctly printed in 1691.]

Stupor (stiū·pɔr; as scientific Latin ‖ stiū·pɔr). Also 5, 7 **stupour.** [a. L. *stupor*, f. *stup-ēre*: see STUPID. Cf. F. *stupeur*, Sp., Pg. *estupor*, It. *stupore*.]

1. A state of insensibility or lethargy; spec. in *Path.*, a disorder characterized by great diminution or entire suspension of sensibility.

Stupor of the teeth: tr. med.L. *stupor dentium*, the rendering, in the ancient translation of Galen, of Gr. *αἰμωδία*, 'a scorbutic affection of the gums' (L. & Sc.).

1398 TREVISA *Barth. De P. R.* VII. vii. (1495) 227 Stupor is a lettynge and stonyenge of lymmes and crokynge of the vtter partyes of the body for colde so that it semyth that the lymmes shrynke and slepe. 1656 tr. *Hobbes' Elem. Philos.* (1839) 395 For what is stupor but that which the Greeks call *ἀναισθησία*, that is, a cessation from the sense of other things? 1666 G. HARVEY *Morbus Angl.* x. (1672) 28 Various Diseases, as Catarrhs, stupors, [etc.]. 1678 GALE *Crt. Gentiles* IV. III. iii. 91 By the spirit of deep sleep, must be understood such a stupor of spirit as leaves men without al sense. 1746 R. JAMES *Moffet's Health Improv.* Introd. 12 Acid Eructations, which have in some Cases been so sharp as to induce a Stupor of the Teeth. 1752 *Phil. Trans.* XLVII. 413 There appear'd some signs of stupor from the medicine. 1822–9 GOOD *Study Med.* (ed. 3) IV. 500 The pricking pain like that of pins, or of a limb awaking from stupor. 1843 R. J. GRAVES *Syst. Clin. Med.* v. 71 An expergefaciant..was employed to rouse a patient from the lethargic stupor brought on by a large dose of opium. *a* 1849 POE *Tales, Oval Portrait* Wks. 1874 I. 281 The first flashing of the candles upon that canvas had seemed to dissipate the dreamy stupor which was stealing over my senses. *a* 1859 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* XXV. V. 289 James sank into a stupor which indicated the near approach of death. 1899 CONAN DOYLE *Duet* viii. 111 She had drunk herself into the stupor in which she had been found.

b. = DEMENTIA 1.

Anergic stupor, a form of dementia in which the patient is quiet, listless, and non-resistant. *Delusional stupor*, stuporous insanity or acute dementia. (Dorland *Med. Dict.* 1913.)

1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 297 Stupor, both in its melancholic and anergic varieties, is found much more frequently during the age of adolescence than in any other period of life.

2. A state of mental stupefaction; apathy or torpor of mind (now only, torpor or prostration of mind due to sorrow, painful surprise, or the like).

a 1672 WILKINS *Nat. Relig.* 267 That stupor and benummedness of spirit, whereby men are made unapprehensive of their afflictions. 1784 COWPER *Task* IV. 283 Laugh ye, who boast your more mercurial pow'rs, That never feel a stupor, know no pause, Nor need one. 1786 BURNS *Lament* x, Oh! scenes in strong remembrance set!..Scenes, if in stupor I forget, Again I feel, again I burn! 1837 CARLYLE *Fr. Rev.* I. II. iii, Our Church stands..like a dumb ox..with dumb stupor, expecting its further doom. 1838 DICKENS *Nich. Nick.* xv, The back parlour sat with her mouth wide open, staring vacantly at the collector, in a stupor of dismay. 1841 ELPHINSTONE *Hist. Ind.* XII. iii. II. 633 The inhabitants of Delhi remained in a sort of stupor. They had not yet recovered the terror of the past. 1850 GROTE *Greece* II. lx. VII. 457 A downcast stupor and sense of abasement possessed every man. 1863 MRS. OLIPHANT *Salem Chapel* xxii, It was very different from the stupor of agony.

transf. 1772 BURKE *Let. to W. Dowdeswell* (1844) I. 346, I do not suppose that there was ever anything like this stupor in any period of our history. 1855 DISRAELI in G. E. Buckle *Life* (1916) IV. i. 23 There has been a great stupor over affairs since we parted,..but there are now indications of events. 1879 MORLEY *Burke* iv. 62 The war with the American colonies was preceded by an interval of stupor.

b. Admiring wonder. Also (after med.L. *stupor mundi*), the object of wonder, 'the marvel *of*' (the world, etc.).

1482 *Monk of Evesham* (Arb.) 26 Yet beyng holde in a certeyn stupour and wondyr of mynde of suche thinges that he had seyne. 1599 *Broughton's Lett.* viii. 26 You Cynpsura and Lucifer of nations, the stupor and admiration of the world. 1619 PURCHAS *Microcosmus* lxxiii. 727 What shall we say of Him,..the great Stupor and Wonder of Diuines? 1633 'H. A.' (H. Hawkins) *Parthenia Sacra* 237 That Cæsar of Cæsars in captiuing..Caligula the Roman Monark, to the stupour and amazement of the world. 1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), *Stupor*,..Astonishment, Amazement; ..Wonder, Surprise.

3. Stupidity, dullness of comprehension. *rare.*

1845 CARLYLE *Cromwell* (1871) III. 126 One stupid Annotator..says [etc.]; which is evidently downright stupor and falsehood.

4. *Comb.*

1823 SCORESBY *Jrnl.* 376 A dripping stupor-struck sailor, clinging by the weather-raill, comes aft at the moment. 1833 LAMB *Elia, Producet. Mod. Art*, Bowed, bent down, so would they have remained, stupor-fixed, with no thought of struggling with that inevitable judgment.

†**Stu·porific,** *a. Obs. rare*$^{-1}$. [f. L. *stupōrem* STUPOR + -IFIC.] That causes stupor.

1771 J. GILES *Poems* 169 Then she presents a stuporific draught.

Stuporose (stiū·pĕrōus), *a.* [ad. med.L. *stupōrōsus* (Diefenb.) f. L. *stupōr-em*: see STUPOR and -OSE.] = STUPOROUS *a.*

188. BUCK *Med. Handbook* V. 53 (*Cent. Dict.* Suppl.). 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 297 The other 20 per cent. of the cases were mostly melancholic in character, seldom being deeply suicidal, but often tending to be stuporose. *Ibid.* 317 Chloral hydrate, if taken in very large doses, may cause stuporose dementia. 1901 *Brit. Med. Jrnl.* 29 June 1604 The amount of free hydrochloric acid was high when they were in a torpid and stuporose state.

Stuporous (stiū·pĕrəs), *a.* [ad. med.L. *stūpōrōsus*: see prec. and -OUS.] Affected with or characterized by stupor.

1892 E. C. SPITZKA *Insanity* II. v. 158 (Funk) Stuporous insanity consists in the simple impairment or suspension of the mental energies, unmarked by any emotional or other perversion. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* III. 357 The stuporous form of melancholia, occurring in young adults. 1899 *Ibid.* VIII. 353 The patient is less responsive to questions and appears to be more profoundly stuporous.

Stupose (stiū·pōus), *a. Bot.* [ad. med.L. *stūpōsus*, *stuppōsus* (Diefenb.), f. L. *stūpa*, *stuppa* tow: see -OSE.] (See quots.)

1835 LINDLEY *Introd. Bot.* I. ii. 125 In Anthericum [the filament is] bearded or stupose. 1849 BALFOUR *Man. Bot.* § 60 Bearded, or stupose,..when hairs occur in small tufts. 1900 B. D. JACKSON *Gloss. Bot. Terms*, *Stupose*, tow-like, with tufts of long hairs.

Stuppenet, variant of STUPNET.

Stuppeous: see STUPEOUS *a.*

Stuppin: see STUPEN.

†**Stupple.** *Obs. rare*$^{-1}$. [Prob. related in some way to STEP *sb.* and *v.*; cf. STOPEL.] ? A row of stepping-stones.

1611 CORYAT *Crudities* 89 [Vercellis] hath many faire streets through which diuers riuers doe runne, with many stupples to passe ouer from one side of the street to the other as in Sarisbury.

Stuppnett, variant of STUPNET.

†**Stu·prate,** *v. Obs.* Pa. pple. 6 *Sc.* **stuprat.** [f. L. *stuprāt-* ppl. stem of *stuprāre*, f. *stuprum*: see STUPRE and -ATE 3.] *trans.* To violate (a woman).

a 1548 HALL *Chron., Rich. III*, 56 Richarde..hath..compased all the meanes and waies yᵗ he coulde inuent how to stuprate and carnally know his awne nece vnder the pretence of a cloked matrimony. *a* 1560 ROLLAND *Crt. Venus* III. 582 Sichem..Had hir stuprat. 1624 HEYWOOD *Gunaik.* III. 143 Sextus had stuprated the faire Lucretia. 1647 LILLY *Chr. Astrol.* xlix. 318 There may be just suspition..the Mother was stuprated.

Hence †**Stu·prated** *ppl. a.*

1727 BAILEY vol. II, *Stuprated* [*stupratus*, L.] ravished.

†**Stupra·tion.** *Obs.* [a. OF. *stupration* or ad. L. *stuprātiōn-em* noun of action f. *stuprāre*: see STUPRATE *v.*] Violation (of a woman).

1533 BELLENDEN *Livy* III. xv. (S. T. S.) II. 2 The stupratioun and deforcement of lucres. 1535 STEWART *Cron. Scot.* (Rolls) II. 122 Stupr[at]ion to him wes sic plesour. 1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* V. xxi. 270 Incest, adultery, or stupration. 1656 BLOUNT *Glossogr.*

†**Stupre,** *sb. Obs. rare.* [a. OF. *stupre* (revived in 18th c.), ad. L. *stuprum*.] Defilement or violation (of a woman).

1382 WYCLIF *Gen.* xxxiv. 13 The sones of Jacob..waxynge cruel for the stupre of the sister. *Ibid.* 27. 1563 BECON

Demands Script. Wks. III. 457 Stupre, inceste, fornicacyon, and lyke abhominacyons.

† Stupre, *v. Obs. rare*⁻¹. [a. OF. *stupre-r*, ad. L. *stuprāre*: see STUPRATE *v.*] *trans.* = STUPRATE *v.*

a 1548 HALL *Chron., Hen. VIII*, 172 b, Thei violated Virgins, and stupred matrones.

† Stuprous, *a. Obs. rare*⁻¹. [ad. L. *stuprōsus*, f. *stuprum*: see STUPRE *sb.* and -OUS.] 'Corrupt, naught, given to adultery or whoredom, whoreish' (Blount *Glossogr.* 1656).

1603 FLORIO *Montaigne* II. xxxiii. 418 [Her father] seeing himselfe engaged in so stuprous a necessity [Fr. *en si vil laine necessité*], resolved vpon an haughtie enterprize.

Stupulose (stiū·pizlōus), *a. Ent.* [= mod.L. *stūpulōsus* (Kirby), f. **stūpula* dim. of L. *stūpa, stuppa*: cf. STUPOSE.] (See quot.)

1826 KIRBY & Sp. *Entomol.* IV. xlvi. 276 *Stupulose*... Covered with coarse decumbent hairs. 1848 MAUNDER *Treas. Nat. Hist.* 807.

† Stur. *Obs. rare.* Also 6 sture. [? subst. use of STOUR *a.* 7.] A hard variety of apple. Only in comb. *stur-apple, -tree.*

1483 *Cath. Angl.* 370/2 A Sturtre, *Duracenus.* 1500 *Ortus Vocab.* (W. de W.) M ij, *Durascenus*, a sture tree. *Durascenum*, a sture appell.

Stur, obs. form of STIR, STOUR, STURE 2.

† Sturb, *v. Obs.* Also 4–5 storb, stourb, 5 sturbe, stourbe. [Aphetic var. of DISTURB *v.*] *trans.* To disturb, trouble, upset.

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 428 Al so efter þe ancre cumplie uort midmorwen ne don no þing, ne ne siggen, hware þuruh hire silence muwe beon i-sturbed. 1382 WYCLIF *Gen.* xlii. 28 And thei stonyed al aboute and sturbed, seiden togideres, What forsothe is this that God hath doon to vs? *a* 1400-50 *Wars Alex.* 513 þan was ser Philip of þat fare ferly mekill sturbid. *c* 1400 *Rule St. Benet* (1902) 34 Sho ne sal make noise for to sturbe the othir. *c* 1425 *Eng. Conq. Ireland* xlix. 124 (Dubl. MS.) Through that thynge, al the contrey forth ther-aftyr worth so I-storbet, that [etc.]. *a* 1450 MYRC *Par. Pr.* 686 We accursen al them that broken the pece of holy chirch or sturben hit. *Ibid.* 1459 Hast þou I-storbet prest or clerk þat were bysy in goddes werk? *a* 1450 in *Eng. Gilds* (1870) 448 And þat no brother presume to take vp-on him..to lette, stourbe, ne geynseye, þat ellecciour.

Hence **† Sturbing** *vbl. sb.*

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 154 Heo fluwen monne sturbinge, & wenden bi ham one. *c* 1250 *Meidan Maregrete* 48 Wo þe hider sende, to maken stourbing. 13.. *Guy Warw.* 5751 (Auchinleck MS.) Gij werd him fast in þat sturbing.

† Sturbance. *Obs. rare.* In 5 **sturbans.** = DISTURBANCE.

c 1450 *Mirk's Festial* 185 Herod..schapute..how Ion myght be don to deth wythout sturbans of þe pepyll.

† Sturblance. *Obs. rare.* In 5 **sturbelans.** Aphetic form of DISTURBLANCE (cf. STROUBLANCE).

1435 MISYN *Fire of Love* I. xxiii. 50 And in [in]warldly rest, all sturbelans put bak, swetely to byde.

† Sturble, *v. Obs.* Also 5 **sturbyl, sturbel.** [Aphetic var. of DISTURBLE *v.* Cf. STROUBLE *v.*] *trans.* To disturb, trouble.

1303 R. BRUNNE *Handl. Synne* 4713 So was he sturbled with þe mynstral, þat he hadde no grace to sey with-alle His graces ryght deuoutely. *c* 1330 — *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 4764 When þe kyng þys chaunce herd seye, þe feste was sturbled & aweye. 1382 WYCLIF *Ezek.* xxvi. 18 And ylis in the see shulen be sturblid [1388 disturblid]. 1435 MISYN *Fire of Love* 97 Oftyms also odyr noys happyns þat gaynes & swetnes of lufars sturbyls. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 481/2 Sturbelyn, or turbelyn, *conturbo, turbo, perturbo.*

Hence **† Sturbling** *vbl. sb.* Also **† Sturbler.**

13.. *St. Marg.* 223 in Horstm. *Altengl. Leg.* (1881) 231 Who be hider sent to make me sturbling. 1382 WYCLIF *Ezek.* xxi. 15 In alle the 3atis of hem Y 3aue togidre sturblynge [1388 disturbling] of swerd [Vulg. *conturbationem gladii*]. — *Acts* xix. 23 Therfore ther was maad in that day a sturbling [1388 troubling, Vulg. *turbatio*] not leest, of the wey of the Lord. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 481/2 Sturbelare, or turbelare (or stroblare, sturblar or trowblar) *turbator, turbatrix. Ibid.*, Sturbelynge, or turbelynge, [sturblinge or troublynge] *turbacio, perturbacio.*

Sturdied (stə·ːdid), *a.* [f. STURDY *sb.* + -ED 2.] Of sheep or cattle: Afflicted with 'sturdy'.

1807 *Prize Ess. & Trans. Highl. Soc.* III. 402, I catched every sturdied sheep that I could lay my hands on. 1822 SCOTT *Nigel* vi, I would as soon set out, with hound and horn, to hunt a sturdied sheep. 1844 H. STEPHENS *Bk. Farm* III. 877 The complaint may be cured, though it is seldom attempted, the sturdied hogg being killed whenever it is seen to be affected.

Sturdily (stə·ːdili), *adv.* Forms: see STURDY *a.*; also 4–6 **sturdely.** [f. STURDY *a.* + -LY 2.] In a sturdy manner; † with reckless daring (*obs.*); ruthlessly, cruelly, violently (*obs.*); † surlily, rudely, harshly, mutinously, rebelliously (*obs.*); obstinately, unyieldingly, resolutely.

c 1374 CHAUCER *Compl. Mars* 82 Til him fel a drede, Through Phebus, that was comen hastely Within the paleys-yates sturdely. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* II. 363 Thai.. Swappyt owt swerdis sturdyly. *c* 1440 *Partonope* 6154 The wind..blew so sturdely. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* II. 42 Full sturdely he coud befor him stand. 1538 ELYOT *Dict., Torue*, sturdyly in looke. 1544 in *Sel. Cases Cr. Requests* (Selden Soc.) 107 The whiche to doo the said complaynaunte..obstynatly and sturdyly then & there refusyd. 1549 CHEKE *Hurt Sedit.* (1569) H ij b, What say ye to the number of vagabonds and loytring beggers, which..will..stande sturdely in Cities, and begge boldly at euery dore. *a* 1674 CLARENDON *Hist. Reb.* x. § 68 The Scots now begun again to talk sturdily. 1674 PRIDEAUX *Lett.* (Camden) 13, I assure you they dispute the case most sturdyly. 1810 SCOTT *Lady of Lake* IV. xxv, It was a stag, a stag of ten, Bearing his branches sturdily. 1858 FROUDE *Hist. Eng.* III. xvii. 456 Wyatt answered sturdily that Brancetor was his master's subject. 1893 J. EDGAR *Hist. Early Scott. Educ.* 211 The University of Aberdeen held out sturdily against the reformers. 1901 RASHDALL & RAIT *New College* vi. 115 The soul of the sturdily Protestant Bishop Horne was moved by the tidings which reached him from Oxford.

Sturdiness (stə·ːdinės). Forms: see STURDY *a.*; also 4 **stordenesse.** [-NESS.] The quality or condition of being sturdy.

1. The condition (in animals) of being 'sturdy' or dizzy; *spec.* in sheep. = STURDY B. 1.

1552 HULOET, Sturdynes or desynes of a beast,..*gangilion.* 1756 *Compl. Body Husb.* 695 Sturdyness..is a kind of vertigo or giddiness in the Head of Sheep.

† 2. Fierceness, violence; harshness, sternness.

1382 WYCLIF 2 *Cor.* xii. 20 Sturdynessis [Vulg. *animositates*]. *c* 1386 [see STURDY *a.* 4]. *c* 1430 LYDG. *Min. Poems* (Percy Soc.) 198 Tempest on se, and wyndes sturdynesse.

† 3. Refractoriness, rebelliousness, contumacy, obstinacy. *Obs.*

a 1400 *Gloss* in *Rel. Ant.* I. 7 *Contumacia*, a sturdynesse. *c* 1440 *Jacob's Well* 77 þe laste cornere of wose in pride is sturdynesse, þat is, whanne þou excusyst þin opyn or pryue synne,..& wylt not knowyn þi defawte, ne wylt not suffryn to ben vndertakyn. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 481/2 Sturdynesse, *rebellio, inobediencia, contumacia.* 1544 BETHAM *Precepts War* II. xvii. K iij, Of disobedience and sturdynesse. 1549 CHEKE *Hurt Sedit.* (1569) C ij b, What counsayle taketh place, where sturdinesse is lawe, and churlishe aunsweres be counted wisedome? 1673 *Ladies' Calling* I. ii. § 10 The stupid sturdiness of an asse has rendered it proverbial for folly.

4. Strength of character; firmness, resoluteness.

1675 J. SMITH *Chr. Relig. Appeal* I. 70 Their Nurture and Education..had..so much effeminated their innate sturdiness, as they were not able to sustain the sharpness of that War. *a* 1716 SOUTH *Serm.* (1727) VI. 273 The natural Sturdiness of some Tempers might be sufficient to enable some Persons to endure such exquisite Torments. 1727 BAILEY vol. II, *Sturdiness*, Lustiness, Resoluteness. 1768–74 TUCKER *Lt. Nat.* (1834) II. 287 What degree of sturdiness we can acquire, to maintain the determinations of our impartial judgment. 1822 HAZLITT *Table-t., Knowl. Charac.* II. 346 All they want is imagination and sturdiness of moral principle! 1914 *Q. Rev.* Apr. 487 The virility and sturdiness of the Cretan Greeks.

5. Rough vigour of body; solidity of build. Also of things.

1863 GEO. ELIOT *Romola* xxx, His limbs had got back some of their old sturdiness. 1916 *Glasgow Herald* 1 Sept. 8 Craft that, despite their sturdiness, move in rough weather like buck-jumping ponies.

Sturdy (stə·ːdi), *a.* and *sb.* Forms: 4 **stourdi, sturdi,** (**stourde**), 4–6 **stourdy, stordy,** 6 **stourdie, sturdye,** 6–7 **sturdie,** 7 **stirdy,** 4– **sturdy.** [a. OF. *estourdi, estordi, esturdi*, stunned, dazed, reckless, violent (mod.F. *étourdi* feather-brained, thoughtless), = Pr. *estordit*, It. *stordito*, Sp., Pg. *aturdido*; pa. pple. of OF. *estourdir* (mod.F. *étourdir*) to stun, daze, = It. *stordire*, Sp., Pg. *aturdir* (? from Fr.):—vulgar L. **exturdire*, of obscure origin.

Some scholars think that it is f. *ex-* (see EX-) + *turd-us* thrush (for the sense cf. the Fr. proverbial phrase *soûl comme une grive*, 'drunk as a thrush'); some regard it as a contraction of **extorpidire* (L. *torpidus* TORPID) or of **exturbidire* (L. *turbidus* TURBID). All these conjectures are open to grave objection; another hypothesis, of derivation from Teut. **sturdjan* to overthrow (see START *v.*), is on phonological grounds inadmissible.]

A. *adj.*

I. 1. In the primary etymological sense: Giddy. Said of sheep affected with the 'sturdy': see B. Now *dial.* (see *Eng. Dial. Dict.*).

1641 BEST *Farm. Bks.* (Surtees) 73 If there bee any of the hogges that bee sturdy, lame, weake.

II. † 2. Impetuously brave, fierce in combat.

1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 7936 þe heyemen of engelond..mid gret ost wende uorþ & mid stourdi [*v.r.* stourde] mode. *c* 1300 *K. Horn* 893 (Laud MS.) We neuere ne hente Of man so harde dunte Bute of þe king Mory þat was so swyþe stordy. 1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* v. 506* He sa sturdy wes and stout, That he wes the mast vorthy man That in-to Carrick liffit than. *c* 1425 *Engl. Conq. Ireland* xlvi. 116 The northeren men ben stordyer & smerter to fyght than other. *Ibid.* 118 Thegh he wer yn wepne vnmetly stordy, & sterne, out of wepne natheles, he was meke and sobre. 1630 R. JOHNSON *Kingd. & Commw.* 23 Able, and hardy bodies, and stout and sturdy stomacks. 1684 BUNYAN *Pilgr.* II. (1900) 258 They so belabored him, being sturdy men at Arms, that they made him make a Retreat.

† b. Of a battle: Fierce, violent. *Obs.*

c 1450 LOVELICH *Grail* xiii. 782 Therfore was that stour ful Stordy. 1579 E. K. *Gloss. to Spenser's Sheph. Cal.* Feb. 149 Sterne strife, said *Chaucer*, s. fell and sturdy.

† 3. Recklessly violent, furious, ruthless, cruel.

1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 3842 He adrou sire calibourne, is suerd..& anowarde þe helm, mid wel stourdy mod, þen oþer he smot. *c* 1374 CHAUCER *Boeth.* III. met. ii. (1868) 68 þe liouns of þe contree of pene..dreden her sturdy maystres [L. *trucem..magistrum*] of whiche þei ben wont to suffren betinges. *a* 1513 FABYAN *Chron.* VII. (1811) 643 Lewys the xi...of Gaguinus is called the sturdy or fell Lewys. 1531 ELYOT *Gov.* III. ix. (1883) II. 272 So no violence or sturdye mynde lackynge reason and honestie is any parte of fortitude. 1589 PUTTENHAM *Eng. Poesie* I. iii. (Arb.) 22 To redresse and edifie the cruell and sturdie courage of man.

† b. Of waves, a stream, a storm, etc.: Violent, rough. *Obs.*

1375 BARBOUR *Bruce* III. 698 And entryt sone in-to the rase, Quhar that the strem sa sturdy was. 1426 LYDG. *De Guil. Pilgr.* 16670 Fordryven with many sturdy wawes off adversyte. 1569 T. NEWTON-*Cicero's Old Age* 33 In the sturdy and nipping cold of winter. 1588 CHURCHYARD *Spark Friendship* Ep. Ded. A 3 b, The brute beastes that auoydes a sturdie storme, vnder the sauegard of a strong and flourishing tree. 1648 KENTISH *Serm. to Commons* 10 The highest Houses are subject to the sturdiest storms. 1660 RIDERS *Brit. Merlin* Oct., Sturdy storms of rain or snow, with extream ill weather, to the moneths end. 1823 COBBETT *Rur. Rides* (1885) I. 226 A pretty decent and sturdy rain began to fall.

† c. Of movement: Furious. Of a blow: Violent.

c 1386 CHAUCER *Somp. T.* 454 And forth he gooth, with a ful angry chere..A sturdy [*v.rr.* stourdy, stordy] paas doun to the court he gooth. 1579 SPENSER *Sheph. Cal.* Feb. 201 But to the roote [he] bent his sturdie stroke, And made many wounds in the wast Oake. 1603 KNOLLES *Hist. Turks* (1638) 40 With many wounds and sturdy blows both giuen and receiued.

† 4. Of or with regard to countenance, speech, demeanour: Stern, harsh, rough, surly. *Obs.*

1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 3287 After mete he nom is wif mid stourdi mod ynou, & wiþoute leue of þe kinge toward is contreye drou. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Clerk's T.* 642 What koude a sturdy housbonde moore deuyse To preeue hire wyfhod or hir stedefastnesse, And he continuynge euere in sturdinesse? *c* 1440 *Partonope* 2573 And to my men dyspitous and sturdy. 1531 ELYOT *Gov.* I. vii. (1883) I. 40 Retaynyng his fiers and stourdie countenance. *Ibid.* II. v. II. 48 Litle and litle he withdrewe from men his accustomed gentilnesse, becomyng more sturdy in langage, and straunge in countenance, than euer before had ben his usage. 1552 HULOET, Sturdy, *superbus, superciliosus.* 1611 SPEED *Hist. Gt. Brit.* VIII. ii. § 13 Their sturdy behauiour, and Lord-like carriage against the English.

† 5. Hard to manage, intractable, refractory; rebellious, disobedient. *Obs.*

13.. *K. Alis.* 1332 Thider he wendith with gret pres, This stordy citeis for to dres. *c* 1400 *Master of Game* (MS. Digby 182) xv, Alauntes beeth inly fell and euyl vndrestondynge and more fooliche and more sturdy þan any oþer manere of houndes. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 481/2 Sturdy, vnbuxum, *rebellis, contumax, inobediens. c* 1440 *Jacob's Well* 296 To be sturdy to fadyr & modyr. 1514 BARCLAY *Cit. & Uplondyshman* (Percy Soc.) 17 The fyrste plowman and tyller of the grounde, Was rude and stordy, dysdaynynge to be bounde. 1603 DRAYTON *Bar. Wars* I. l, Sturdie to manage, of a haughtie Spright. 1604 F. HERRING *Mod. Defence Caveat* 6 A sturdie horse requires a rough rider. 1611 SPEED *Theat. Gt. Brit.* II. xiii. 121 The ancient Inhabitants of this Country [Flint] were the Ordouices, a sturdy people against the Romans, but now most kinde and gentle towards the English. *c* 1635 in *Verney Mem.* (1907) I. 122 My sonn doth begine to be toe sturdie for my government. 1655 FULLER *Ch. Hist.* IX. 187 The most sturdy and refractory Non-conformists. 1688 PENTON *Guardian's Instruct.* (1897) 10 Beware of setting up that stirdy Resolution which some make, never to give off what they have once begun. 1782 COWPER *Hope* 182 Man is the genuine offspring of revolt, Stubborn and sturdy—a wild ass's colt.

† b. Obstinate, immovable in opinion. *Obs.*

1664 H. MORE *Myst. Iniq.* Apol. 522 If men would not bring their own sturdy Preconceptions, but listen to the easy and natural aire of the Text. 1680 *Tides* (MS. Bodl. Add. A. 202) 10 Seafareing men..grow as sturdy and deafe to all the reason and argument that can be employed to undeceive them, as the Eliments wherein they converse. 1687 R. L'ESTRANGE *Answ. to Dissenter* 4 If they be not either too Sturdy, or too Stately, to Hearken to Reason. 1780 COWPER *Progr. Error* 539 Your blund'rer is as sturdy as a rock. 1781 — *Expost.* 298 Where obstinacy takes his sturdy stand, To disconcert what policy has plann'd.

c. [With mixture of sense 7.] Epithet of beggars or vagabonds who are able-bodied and apt to be violent: see BEGGAR *sb.* 1 b., VALIANT *a.* 1 b. Also *sturdy and valiant.*

1402 *Jack Upland* in *Pol. Poems* (Rolls) II. 96 For in many places thai damnen suche sturdy beggyng. 1535-6 *Act* 27 *Hen. VIII*, c. 25 § 1 Suche poore creature or sturdie vacabund. 1556 in *Vicary's Anat.* (1888) 174 *note*, Sturdie & valiente Beggers. 1577 tr. *Bullinger's Decades* II. iii. (1592) 129 The sturdie roag vnworthie of almes. 1656 BEALE *Heref. Orchards* (1657) 39 Where Trade thrives not,..all doors and highwayes are oppressed with idle and sturdy vagabonds. *a* 1680 BUTLER *Lady's Answ.* 43 Like sturdy Beggars, that intreat For Charity at once, and threat. *a* 1700 B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew, Sturdy-beggers*, the fifth and last of the most ancient Order of Canters. 1789 J. WILLIAMS *Min. Kingd.* I. 202 When I reprove a sturdy beggar for being idle, he tells me roundly, that he cannot get employment.

6. Of material things: Refractory, defiant of destructive agencies or force; strong, stout.

c 1374 CHAUCER *Troylus* II. 1380 þe sturdy ok On which men hakketh ofte for þe nones. *c* 1400 *Rom. Rose* 4155 Vpon the whiche also stode Of squared stoon a sturdy wall. 1575 *Gammer Gurton* I. ii. 16 Chwold rend it, though it were stitched wath sturdy pacthreede. 1577 B. GOOGE *Heresbach's Husb.* I. 41 b, Suche Grayne as hath the sturdiest strawe. 1600 FAIRFAX *Tasso* XV. ii, Euerie tender lim In sturdie steele and stubburne plate they dight. 1663 BUTLER *Hud.* I. i. 305 His Doublet was of sturdy Buff. 1671 MILTON *P. R.* IV. 417 On the vext Wilderness, whose ..sturdiest Oaks Bow'd thir Stiff necks. 1697 EVELYN *Numism.* i. 10 Foliated with Silver upon this sturdy and inflexible Metal [Iron]. 1841 DICKENS *Barn. Rudge* xxxiii, A violent gust of wind and rain..seemed to shake even that sturdy house to its foundation. 1858 HAWTHORNE *Fr. & It. Jrnls.* (1871) I. 141 The old triumphal arch of Drusus—a sturdy construction, much dilapidated [etc.]. 1870 BRYANT *Iliad* XIII. 359 Hasten thou And bring a sturdy javelin from the tent.

† b. Of wine: Rough or harsh to the taste. *Obs.*

a 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* XI. 390 Also a man may in oon dayes while So trete a stordy wyn that hit shal smyle, And of a rough drynker be cleer and best.

† c. Of an ailment: Refractory to treatment. *Obs.*

1643 J. M. *Sov. Salve* 1 For a sturdy sore many plaisters are but sufficient. 1658 A. Fox *Wurtz' Surg.* III. viii. 239 The named remedies will availe nothing, because the Imposthumation is too sturdy for them.

d. Of a plant: Hardy.

1695 Woodward *Nat. Hist. Earth* VI. (1723) 296 The more sturdy and vigorous Vegetables. 1784 Cowper *Task* III. 530 Thence straight succeed The branches, sturdy to his utmost wish. 1853 Christina G. Rossetti *Poet. Wks.* (1904) 156/1 Lichen and moss and sturdy weed.

7. Of persons or animals; Characterized by rough bodily vigour; solidly built; stalwart, strong, robust, hardy.

c 1386 Chaucer *Somp. T.* 46 A sturdy harlot wente ay hem bihynde. 1456 Sir G. Haye *Law Armis* (S. T. S.) 195 And he war stark and sturdy, and mycht wele bere armes. 1561 Hoby tr. *Castiglione's Courtyer* II. (1900) 120 Like as the armes of a smith that is weake in other thinges, because they are more exercised, be stronger then an other bodyes that is sturdy, but not exercysed to worke with his armes. 1580 Blundevil *Curing Horses Dis.* clxxxiv. 74 Weake, delicate, and tender Horses may not be purged in such sort, as those that be of a strong sturdie nature. 1705 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 4102/4 A short squat sturdy Lad. 1774 Goldsm. *Nat. Hist.* (1776) IV. 325 The brown bear is made rather strong and sturdy, like the mastiff. 1784 Cowper *Tiroc.* 341 Great schools suit best the sturdy and the rough. 1837 Kirkbride *Northern Angler* 55 His tackle must be strong; for lake-trout are in general rather sturdy customers. 1848 L. Hunt *Jar of Honey* x. 141 The sturdy youth, for the first time in his life, fainted away. 1875 Jowett *Plato* (ed. 2) V. 267 A rugged land..well fitted to produce a sturdy race.

b. Of movements: Displaying physical vigour. Also as epithet of health, vigour, etc.

1697 Dryden *Virg. Georg.* III. 639 And labour him with many a sturdy Stroak. 1710 Prior *Two Riddles* 14 With sturdy steps he walks. 1750 Gray *Elegy* 28 How bow'd the woods beneath their sturdy stroke! 1861 Stanley *East. Ch.* vi. (1869) 187 All were struck by the sturdy health and vigour of his frame. 1863 Geo. Eliot *Romola* liii, His thickset frame had no longer the sturdy vigour which belonged to it.

8. *transf.* Of persons, their actions and attributes: Characterized by rough mental vigour; robust in mind or character; 'downright', uncompromising.

1775 Johnson *West. Isl., Ostig* Wks. 1787 X. 464 A Scotchman must be a very sturdy moralist, who does not love Scotland better than truth. 1802 Mar. Edgeworth *Forester* xiii, His sturdy principles of integrity could not bend to any of the arguments, founded on expediency, which [etc.]. 1828 Hazlitt *Self-Love & Benev.* Sk. & Ess. (1872) 77, I respect that fine old sturdy fellow Hobbes. 1866 Kingsley *Herew.* ix, They were distinguished..for sturdy independence, and for what generally accompanies it—sturdy common sense. 1874 Green *Short Hist.* vii. § 1. 344 The sturdy good sense of the man shook off the pedantry of the schools.

b. Of expressions: Vigorous, lusty.

1822 Byron *Vis. Judgem.* lix, Here crash'd a sturdy oath of stout John Bull. 1856 Emerson *Eng. Traits, Literature* Wks. (Bohn) II. 105 The more hearty and sturdy expression may indicate that the savageness of the Norseman was not all gone.

9. *Comb.*, as *sturdy-chested, -hearted* adjs.; † **sturdy-boots** [see Boots[1] 3], jocularly, an obstinate person.

1531 Elyot *Gov.* III. ii. (1883) II. 196 The infinite numbre of the sturdye harted Jues could neuer haue ben gouerned by any wisedome, if they had nat ben brideled with ceremonyes. 1762 Bickerstaff *Love in Village* I. x, Well said, sturdy-boots. 1836 Dickens *Sk. Boz, Medit. Monmouth St.*, A stout, broad-shouldered, sturdy-chested man.

B. *sb.*

1. A brain-disease in sheep and cattle, which makes them run round and round; the turnsick.

1570 Levins *Manip.* 97/37 Ye sturdy, *vertigo*. 1598 *Fitzherbert's Husb.* II. xxvii. 63 Of the turne, otherwise called the sturdy. 1610 Markham *Masterp.* I. xxx. 59 The horse will turne round like a beast that is troubled with the sturdy. 1718 Ramsay *Christ's Kirk Gr.* III. xx, Fast frae the company he fled, As he had tane the sturdy. 1799 A. Young *Agric. Surv. Lincs.* 329 The sturdy, or bladder on the brain. 1869 E. A. Parkes *Pract. Hygiene* (ed. 3) 187 The so-called 'gid', 'sturdy' or 'turnsick'.

b. A sheep afflicted with 'sturdy'.

1807 *Prize Ess. & Trans. Highl. Soc.* III. 402 A large parcel of lambs, whose bleating brought all the sturdies of the neighbourhood to them.

2. A name for darnel or some similar stupefying weed.

1683 R. Dobbs *Descr. Antrim* in *Antrim & Down Gloss.* s. v., A sort of Poyson..called darnell, rises in the oats and other grain,..ye country people call it sturdy, from the effects of making people light-headed. 1802 G. V. Sampson *Statist. Surv. Londonderry* 409 Another very injurious grain is thrown into the malt without reserve. It is called *sturdy*, and is the *lolium secalinum* of the botanists. *Ibid.* App. 15 *Bromus Secalinus*, field brome-grass; called by the farmers *sturdy*. 1824 Mactaggart *Gallovid. Encycl.* 441.

3. A sturdy person.

1704 Penn in *Pennsylv. Hist. Soc. Mem.* IX. 305 Those sturdies will never leave off until they catch a Tartar. 1895 Meredith *Amazing Marr.* xxx. II. 339 The boy'll be a sturdy. She'll see he has every chance. He's a lucky little one to have that mother.

† **Sture**[1]. *Obs.* Also 6 **stuer**, *Sc.* **stuir**. [? a. AF. **estuir* :—popular L. *sturio* (nom.); see Sturgeon.] A sturgeon.

1456 Sir G. Hay *Gov. Princes* Wks. (S. T. S.) II. 137 The best fische has the maist hard skyn, as is gueddes,..sturis and syk lyke. 1496 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* I. 277 Item, the ix day of Junii, giffin to the man that brocht the sture fra Glasgo, v s. 1585 Higins *Junius' Nomencl.* 64/1 *Acipenser*,..a stuer or sturgion. 1595 Duncan *App. Etym.* (E. D. S.), *Acipenser* a fish called the stuir. 1598 Florio, *Accipensero*,..Some take it for the sturgion or elops, or stuer.

Sture[2]. *Sc.* Also 7 **stuir**, 8–9 **stur**. Contracted form of Stiver. In Shetland used for: A penny.

1493 Halyburton *Ledger* (1867) 6 [He has] 700 ducatis, the quhilk makis 107 crounis and 5 sturis. 1575 *Reg. Privy Council Scot.* II. 473 The Commissaris of Burrowis..hes..grantit to Maister George Halkett, Conservatour of the privilegis of the Scottis natioun in Flanderis, sex sturis of every sek of gudis. 1606 in *Rec. Convent. Burghs Scot.* (1870) II. 227 Frae the merchand tuelf sturis and the skipper and schip thre stuiris for the sek. 1709 Lady G. Baillie *Househ. Bk.* (S.H.S.) 77, 16 gulders 3 sturs. 1892 G. Stewart *Shetl. Fireside Tales* (ed. 2) 252 Some evil thing wi' a face at first da size o' a copper stür.

Sture, obs. form of Steer *v.*, Stir, Stower.

Sture, -ly, obs. forms of Stour, Stourly.

Sturen, -li, obs. forms of Stern, Sternly.

Sturgeon (stɔ̈·ɹdʒən). Forms: *α.* 3 **sturgiun**, 3–4 **sturgun**, 4 **sturgin**, **sturgon**(**n**, **storgon**, **sturgeown**, 5 **storgeoun**, **sturgyn**, **storgyn**, 5–6 **sturgyon**, 5–7 **sturgion**, (6 **-ione**), 6 **strogyon**, **struggen**, 6–7 **sturgian**, 7 **sturgeon**, 4– **sturgeon**; *β.* 4 **sturioun**, **sturion**, 4–5 **storion**, 5 **storjon**, **storyon**, **storioun**, **sturyon**, **sturione**, **-iowne**. [a. AF. *sturgeon*, *esturgeoun* etc., OF. *sturg*(*i*)*un*, *esturgeon* (mod.F. *esturgeon*, † *étourgeon*), a Com. Rom. word = Pr. *esturjon*, *estorjon*, Sp. *esturion*, Pg. *estrião*, *esturjão*, It. *storione* :—popular L. *sturiōn-em* (nom. *sturio*), a. OTeut. **sturjon-*, whence OHG. *sturjo*, *sturo* (MHG. *stüre*, *störe*, mod.G. *stör*), MDu., MLG. *störe* (mod.Du. *steur*), OE. *styrga*, ON., mod.Norw. *styrja* (Sw. *stör*, Da. *stør*, are from LG.). Cf. Sture[1].

The origin of OTeut. **sturjon-* is obscure. If not a loan-word, it may be f. the root of Stir *v.*]

1. A large fish of the family *Acipenseridæ*, having an elongated, almost cylindrical, body protected by longitudinal rows of bony scutes and a long tapering snout, found widely distributed in the rivers and coastal waters of the north temperate zone; esp. a fish belonging to either of the genera *Acipenser* and *Scaphirhynchops*, *A. sturio* being the common sturgeon of the Atlantic. It is a 'royal' fish (see Fish *sb.*[1] 2), esteemed as an article of food, and the source of caviar and isinglass.

α. *a* 1300 *Havelok* 753 He tok þe sturgiun, and þe qual, And þe turbut. *Ibid.* 1727 Lax, lampreys, and god sturgun. 134. *Durham Acc. Rolls* (Surtees) 37 Et 7 pec. de sturgeon. *c* 1460 J. Russell *Bk. Nurture* 627 in *Babees Bk.*, Then kut ye þe whelk asondur,..and ley þe pecis þerof vppon youre sturgeoun. *c* 1475 *Pict. Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 765/20 *Hic rumbus*, a sturgyn. 1533 Elyot *Cast. Helthe* (1539) 69 b, Greatte fyshes of the see, as thurlepole, porpyse and sturgeon. 1591 Sylvester *Du Bartas* I. v. 143 Feast-famous Sturgeons. 1594 *Extracts Munic. Acc. Newcastle* (1848) 35 A cagge of struggen, 12*s.* 1618 J. Smyth *Berkeleys* (1883) II. 435 All whale fishes, Sturgeons, and all other great and royall fishes in whatsoever free fishings within the river of Seavern. 1620 Venner *Via Recta* iv. 78 Sturgion is a very acceptable dish. 1677 Wood *Life* (O. H. S.) II. 378 A sturgeon of 8 foot long was taken up at Clifton ferry. 1711 Swift *Jrnl. to Stella* 5 Sept., I ate sturgeon, and it lies on my stomach. 1769 Pennant *Zool.* III. 97 The sturgeon annually ascends our rivers. 1834 Griffith tr. *Cuvier* X. 627 The sturgeon is much esteemed for food, and is said to eat like veal. 1836 Yarrell *Brit. Fishes* II. 360 *Acipenser Sturio*, Common Sturgeon. 1862 Couch *Brit. Fishes* I. 150 The head of the Sturgeons is lengthened into a snout, which is slightly turned up. 1881 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* V. 45 The Sturgeons form a small and natural group of fishes, distinguished by having a cartilaginous skeleton.

β. 13.. *Guy Warw.* 3895 Pilke lord þat..in þe se made þe sturioun. 1390 *Earl Derby's Exped.* (Camden) 42 Jacobo Cremer pro ij barellis de sturion.., viij marc. viij scot. *c* 1425 *Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 642/7 *Hic rumbus*, storjon. *c* 1430 *Two Cookery-bks.* I. 13 Storion in brothe.—Take fayre Freysshe Storgeoun, an choppe it in fayre water.

b. With qualifying word indicating a particular species, as **black, lake, Ohio, red, rock, stone sturgeon**, *Acipenser rubicundus*, the sturgeon of the great lakes of N. America; **great white, isinglass, Russian sturgeon**, *A. huso*, the Beluga or Huso; **small** or **Ruthenian sturgeon** = Sterlet.

1804 Shaw *Gen. Zool.* V. 375 Isinglass Sturgeon. * *Acipenser Huso.* A larger fish than the common Sturgeon... Native of the Northern, Caspian, and Mediterranean seas.

2. Applied to other fishes.

1683 Poyntz *Pres. Prosp. Tobago* 20 The Indian Sturgeon (so called by the English) frequents the Bays.

† **3.** ? A kind of cloth (? of the colour of a sturgeon). *Obs.*

1405 *Will of Culmer* (Somerset Ho.), Meam optimam togam videlicet de viride et de sturgeon parti[to] cum capicio partito de sturgeon & scarlet. 1420 *N. C. Wills* (Surtees) 29 Jupam meam nigram bene foderatam cum grey, et capicium de sturgon.

† **4.** (See quot. 1708.) *Obs.*

1708 *Brit. Apollo* I. No. 54. 3/2 There a Custom it was, A *Sturgion* to call, That same Animal, Which here for a Cods-head does pass. *Note.* A *Sturgion* is a Term they give one at *Dublin*, whom they think a fit Subject for Banter.

5. *attrib.* and *Comb.*, as *sturgeon oil, spawn, tribe*; **sturgeon-boiler**, one who extracts sturgeon-oil; **sturgeon glue**, isinglass glue; **sturgeon-head** (see **quot.**); † **sturgeon lips** *jocular*, ? lips protruded like those of a sturgeon; **sturgeon-pickle**, a pickle for preserving sturgeon for food; † **sturgeon voyage**, ? a fishing-voyage for sturgeon.

1673 *Mass. Stat.* (1887) 210 The *sturgeon boyler or importer shall pay for the viewing and heading after 3*s.* 4*d.* p. score for all kegs and firkins. 1907 C. Hill-Tout *Brit. N. Amer., Far West* vii. 128 The gum of the black pine was ..employed..where the *sturgeon glue was not procurable. 1892 W. Pike *Barren Ground N. Canada* 6 These inland boats..are..classified according to shape as York boats, *sturgeon-heads, and scows. 1599 Nashe *Lenten Stuff* 45 On his (Leander's) blew iellied *sturgeon lips, she was about to clappe one of those warme plaisters. 1881 *Spons' Encycl. Industr. Arts* IV. 1376 *Sturgeon-oil is prepared in Russia from the fat surrounding the intestines of the sturgeon. 1669 *Sir K. Digby's Closet opened* 254 Put it into pickle, like *Sturgeon-pickle. 1888 Goode *Amer. Fishes* 37 *Sturgeon spawn or live minnows are used as bait. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXIII. 168/1 The *Sturionidæ*, or *Sturgeon tribe, have moreover but one opening to the gills. 1612 Middleton & Dekker *Roaring Girl* II. ii. E 1 b, You make as much hast as if you were a going vpon a *sturgion voyage.

† **Sturgion.** *Obs.* = Turdion.

1579 J. Jones *Preserv. Body & Soul* I. xi. 22 Bargenets, Pauions, Galiardes, Sturgions and Roundes.

Sturgion(e, -giun, -gon(n, -gun, -gyn, -gyon, obs. forms of Sturgeon.

Sturie, Sturion(e, obs. ff. Stir, Sturgeon.

Sturionian (stiū·riō·niăn). [f. mod.L. *Sturiōn-es* (see below; pl. of pop.L. *sturio* Sturgeon) + -ian.] A fish belonging to the *Sturiones*, a former order of fishes including the sturgeons (*Acipenseridæ*) and related families.

1835 Kirby *Hab. & Inst. Anim.* II. xxi. 391 The Sturionians agree with the Ossean Fishes in their gills, but their skeleton is cartilaginous. 1842 Brande *Dict. Sci.* etc., *Sturionians*, the name of the family of Cartilaginous fishes of which the sturgeon is the type.

Sturio·nic, *a. rare.* [f. popular L. *sturiōn-em* Sturgeon + -ic.] Pertaining to the sturgeon.

1852 Badham *Halieut.* (1854) 267 In the rivers of Astrachan a..flotilla sails yearly on the sturionic fishery.

Sturioun, -iowne, obs. forms of Sturgeon.

Sturk(e, Sturly, obs. forms of Stirk, Stourly.

† **Sturme**, *v. Obs.* [OE. *styrman* = OHG. *sturman*, *-en* (MHG., mod.G. *stürmen*), ON. *styrma* :—OTeut. type **sturmjan*, f. **sturmo-z* Storm *sb.* Cf. Storm *v.*]

1. (*OE.* only.) *intr.* **a.** Of the weather: To storm, rage. **b.** To cry out loudly.

Beowulf 2552 (Gr.) Stearcheort styrmde. *c* 888 Ælfred *Boeth.* vii. § 3 Styrmendum wedrum. *c* 900 *Bæda's Hist.* II. x. [xiii.] (1890) 134 Hit rine & sniwe & styrme ute. *c* 1000 *Ags. Ps.* (Th.) cxli. 1 Min stefn to þe styrmeð, Drihten.

2. *trans.* To overwhelm as with a storm; to attack with overpowering force.

c 1205 Lay. 1670 Þa Freinsce weoren isturmede [*c* 1275 iwraþþed] & nodelas heo stal makeden. *Ibid.* 18327 Þat hæðene uolc þa ufere hond hafeden & mid muchelere strengðe sturmden [*c* 1275 sweinde] þa Bruttes.

Sturmian (stɔ̈·rmiăn), *a.* and *sb. Math.* [f. *Sturm* (see below) + -ian.] **a.** *adj.* Pertaining to or discovered by the Swiss mathematician, J. C. F. Sturm (1803–55), esp. with reference to his researches in the theory of equations. **b.** *sb.* = *Sturmian function* or *residue.*

1853 Sylvester in *Phil. Trans.* CXLIII. 483 Reverting now to the simplified Sturmian residues, since..these differ from the unsimplified complete residues required by the Sturmian method only in the circumstance of their being divested of factors, which are necessarily..positive, these simplified Sturmians may of course be substituted for the complete Sturmians for the purposes of M. Sturm's theorem. *Ibid.* 458 The Sturmian process. *Ibid.* 469 The simplified *i*th Sturmian residue R_i. *Ibid.* 473 The Sturmian convergents. *Ibid.* 483 The simplified Sturmian series given. *Ibid.* 485 My formulæ for the Sturmian functions. 1861 Cayley *Math. Papers* IV. 473 A discussion of the Sturmian constants for cubic and quartic equations.

† **Sturmye.** *Cookery. Obs.*

c 1430 *Two Cookery-bks.* I. 26 Cxij. Sturmye. Take gode mylke of Almaundys y-drawe with wyne, [etc.].

Sturne, obs. form of Stern *a.*

Sturnine (stɔ̈·rnəin), *a. Ornith.* [ad. L. *sturnin-us*, f. *sturn-us* starling.] Resembling a starling.

1809 Shaw *Gen. Zool.* VII. 470 Sturnine Grakle. *Gracula sturnina.* Grey Grakle,..Native of the Southern parts of Dauria,..building a nest similar to that of a Starling.

Sturnoid (stɔ̈·rnoid), *a. Ornith.* [f. L. *sturnus* starling + -oid.] Resembling the *Sturnidæ* or Starlings in form or characteristics.

1874 A. R. Wallace in *Ibis* Ser. III. IV. 412 Sturnoid Passeres. 1879 E. P. Wright *Anim. Life* 264 The Sturnoid Perchers,..are almost exclusively natives of the Old World.

Sturope, obs. form of Stirrup.

Sturre, obs. form of Star *sb.*[1], Stir *sb.*[1] and *v.*

Sturrop(p, obs. forms of Stirrup.

Sturt (stɔ̈ɹt), *sb.*[1] Chiefly *Sc.* Also 5, 7 **sturte**, 6 **stourt**. [Metathetic form of Strut *sb.*[1]]

1. Contention, violent quarrelling; contentious or violent behaviour.

Usually associated in the context with *strife*, esp. in the set phrase *sturt and strife*.

[1303 R. Brunne *Handl. Synne* 3743 Ȝyf þou yn any strut, For Ire wundedyst a man, or hurt.] *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* xliii. (*Cecilia*) 478 He sad til hire with sturt & schore: 'til ydolis þu mak sacryfice.' *a* 1500 *Ratis Raving* 3679 Oyss

noght flityng, sturt, na stryf. 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* xxvi. 31 Than Yre come in with sturt and stryfe; His hand wes ay vpoun his knyfe. *a* 1598 D. FERGUSON *Sc. Prov.* (1785) 28 Sturt pays nae debt. 1786 BURNS *Nature's Law* i, Let other heroes boast their scars, The marks of sturt and strife. 1831 J. WILSON *Noctes Ambr.* (1856) III. 337 Goodwife—without a' sturt or strife, Bring ben the siller bowl wi' care. 1832 HOGG *Queer Bk.* 15 And I will thrill thy frigid blood With marvellous tale of sturt and strife. 1881 *Blackw. Mag.* Mar. 399/1 He who..amid all the sturt and strife of his manhood, had composed a system of philosophy. 1891 R. FORD *Thistledown* xviii. 326, I liv'd aw my deyes, but sturt or strife.

†2. Disquiet of the mind, vexation of the spirit.

1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* II. ii. 59 Dolorous my life I led in sturt and pane. *Ibid.* IV. Prol. 89 Lo, quhow from grace to all mischef they flit, Fra weill to sturt, fra pane to deid! 1560 ROLLAND *Seven Sages* 83 The Emprice..For verie sturt in hir minde was richt wo. 1596 DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* I. v. 279 In presoun, throw sturt and dule, he dies. *a* 1627 A. CRAIG *Pilgr. & Heremite* (1873) 8 But where thou wouldst seeme to salue all my sore, And by thy strait statutes to stay all my sturt. 1681 COLVIL *Whigs Supplic.* (1751) 130 Fighting is a fool thing, What doth it else but sturt and dool bring. 1724 RAMSAY *Tea-t. Misc.* (1733) I. 99 My heart take neither sturt nor wae For Meg, for Marjory or Mause, But be thou blyth.

†**Sturt**, *sb.*2 *Obs. rare*—1. [? var. of START *sb.*2] A sudden impulse. Hence **Sturt** *v.*2 *intr.*, to start suddenly.

1674 N. FAIRFAX *Bulk & Selv.* 129 When we give a dart-ingness to outcasts, we betemme them but one or a few springs, which by often sturts and flashes of motion, cracker-like, weaken themselves. *Ibid.* 139, 140 A body having bequeath'd it one degree of sturt or yerk,..may upon taking in ten or twenty degrees of the same, in the next, sturt to many atoms in length.

Sturt (stɜ̈t), *sb.*3 *Tin-mining.* [Perh. identical with prec.] (See quots.)

1849–50 WEALE *Dict. Terms*, *Sturt*, in mining: when a tributer takes a pitch at a higher tribute, and cuts a course of ore, he sometimes gets two, three, or five hundred pounds in two months: this great profit is called 'a sturt'. 1860 *Eng. & For. Mining Gloss.* 25 [Cornw. terms]. 1894 *Cornishman* 19 Sept. (E.D.D.) A good 'sturt'. At Levant mine, during the past month, tributers, who found a rich pocket of tin at the 278 f. m. level, have divided between them £101 13*s.* 4*d.*

†**Sturt**, *a. Sc. Obs.* [? Belongs to STURT *sb.*1] (See quot.)

1726 R. FLEMING *Fulfilling Script.* (ed. 5) Table of Scots Phrases, *Sturt*, turbulent, or contentious.

Sturt (stɜ̈t), *v.*1 *Obs:* exc. *Sc.* [f. STURT *sb.*1] 1. †a. *intr.* To contend, make trouble *with. Obs.*

c 1395 *Plowman's Tale* 868 Such beren yvell heven-kay They mowen.., With trewe tillers sturte and stryve.

b. *trans.* To attack, trouble, molest, disturb. *Sc.*

1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* VII. vi. 40, I..nevir wald ceis, Quhen thai wer chasit of thair native land, To sturt thame on the streme fra hand to hand. 1786 BURNS *Twa Dogs* 199 They mak enow themsels to vex them; An' ay the less they hae to sturt them, In like proportion, less will hurt them. 1892 G. STEWART *Shetl. Fireside Tales* (ed. 2) 247 She could staand at da briest o' wir hoose an' skyle wir lum withoot ever sturtin' her.

2. *intr.* To be startled or frightened. Cf. START *v.* 5.

1786 BURNS *Halloween* xviii, He marches thro' amang the stacks, Tho' he was something sturtan. 1808 JAMIESON, *Sturt*, to startle, to be afraid. 1830 in OGILVIE.

Sturt *v.*2: see STURT *sb.*2

†**Sturtful**, *a. Sc. Obs.* [f. STURT *sb.*1 + -FUL.] Contentious.

c 1475 HENRYSON *Want of Wyse Men* 62 Poems (S.T.S.) III. 174 Sic sturtfull stering in to godis neiss it stinkis.

†**Sturting**, *ppl. a. Sc. Obs.* In 5 **sturtand**, 6 **sturtyn**. [f. STURT *v.*1] a. Of a person: Contentious. b. Of a thing: That causes vexation or disquiet.

a 1500 *Ratis Raving* 656 Mar is lowable to god with a..pacient man na a Irfull, and a sturtand, quhilk makis reddy dyscord. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* VIII. Prol. 15 Sturtyn study hes the steyr, distroyand our sport.

†**Sturtsome**, *a. Sc. Obs.* [f. STURT *sb.*1 + -SOME.] Disturbing, troublesome, vexatious.

1570 *Satir. Poems Reform.* xi. 51 Throw the is raisit sturt-sum stryfe. *a* 1585 POLWART *Flyting w. Montgomerie* 135, I..counsell thee For to eschew this sturtsome strife.

Hence †**Sturtsomeness.**

a 1586 in Pinkerton *Anc. Sc. Poems* (1786) 201 Schò list nocht at my layr to leyr: In all this land, forouttin dout, Of sturtsumnes scho hes no peir.

Sturtup, variant of STARTUP.

16.. in *Tarlton's Jests* (1844) Introd. 44 Hee..The counterfet expreste Of clowne, with cote of russet hew And sturtups with the reste.

Sturty (stɜ̈·ti), *a. Sc.* [f. STURT *sb.*1 + -Y.] = STURTSOME.

a 1807 J. SKINNER *Christmas Ba'ing* xxviii. (Jam.), The lave their thumbs did blythly knack To see the sturty [ed. 1809 stalwart] strife.

Sturun, Sturyon, obs. ff. STERN *a.*, STURGEON.

Stuse, obs. pl. of STEW *sb.*1

Stut (stʊt), *sb. Sc. local.* [Perh. a. or cogn. w. Du. *stut* (see etym. note s. v. STUD *sb.*1); perh. a dial. var. of STUD *sb.*1]. A prop.

1559 *Extracts Aberd. Reg.* (1844) I. 325 Sum remeid to wphald the ruff of the northt yll with propis and stuttis [*printed* scuttis] for this wyntir sessoun, quhill fair wedder cum, to mend the samen. 1808 JAMIESON, *Stut*, a prop, a support.

Stut (stʊt), *v.*1 *Obs.* exc. *dial.* Forms: 4–7 **stutte**, 6 **stutt**, (7 **stoott**), 6– **stut.** [ME. *stutte-n*, f. Teut. root **stut-*, ablaut-var. of **staut-* as in MLG. *stôten*, OHG. *stôzen* (mod.G. *stossen*) to knock, strike against, collide. Cf. STOTE *v.* 2.]

1. *intr.* To stutter.

1388 [see STUTTING *ppl. a.*]. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 3825 Neptolon..stutid full stithly, þat stynt hym to speke. *a* 1500 *Medulla Gram., Blatio*, to stutt or stamer. 1516 *Life St. Birgette* in *Kal. New Leg. Eng.* (Pynson) 120 b, Nat stuttynge lyke the maner of other children that begynne to speke, she speke complete and full wordes. *a* 1529 SKELTON *E. Rummyng* 339 Her felow did stammer and stut. 1529 FRITH *Rev. Antichrist* 68 He offendeth also that doth stammer or stutte in the wordes of the canon. 1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 178/35 To stoote, stutte, *titubare*. 1571 GOLDING *Calvin on Ps.* v. 5, 13 After the manner of a broken speeche, according as the sainctes in praying doe oftetymes stutte. 1601 B. JONSON *Poetaster* IV. v, Hee lookes bigge and begins to stut, for anger. 1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* I. iii. III. i. 264 They stutte or faulter in their speech. 1626 BACON *Sylva* § 386 They that Stut, doe Stut more in the first Offer to speake, than in Continuance. 1638 JUNIUS *Paint. Ancients* 315 They are deservedly laughed at, who going about to tell a tale doe nothing but stutte and stammer. *a* 1650 CALDERWOOD *Hist. Kirk* (1843) III. 414 The King said blushing, and somwhat stootting: 'Least anie man sould [etc.].' 1688 HOLME *Armoury* II. 389/1 A Man..[doth] Stammer, Stut, when the Voice or Words come not freely, that hath an impediment in his Speech. 1797 *Gentl. Mag.* LXVII. 456 They [*sc.* cuckoos] stammer (or *stut*, as it is called in the North of England).. in the month of June. 1818 WILBRAHAM *Chesh. Gloss.*, *Stut*, to stutter or stammer. 1825 BROCKETT *N. C. Gloss.*, *Stut*, to stutter.

b. *transf.* and *fig.*

1577 tr. *Bullinger's Decades* (1592) 965 The Lorde..hath a singular care of mans infirmitie, whereby hee framing him selfe to our capacitie, dooth after a sorte stut and stammer with us. 1613 PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* I. xi. 51 Megasthenes (whom Annius hath set out as truly as he hath done Berosus, saue that he stutted at the name and called him Metasthenes).

2. To stumble in walking.

1573 BARET *Alv.* S 905 To Stut; to stagger in speaking or going: to stumble, *titubo*. 1582 STANYHURST *Æneis* II. (Arb.) 89 In steps he stutted, apaled: And fixt his footing. 1583 GOLDING *Calvin on Deut.* xci. 563 It is as though such as haue not learned Gods Word do stut and stumble and go astray.

†**Stut**, *v.*2 *Sc. Obs.* Also 7 **stoot.** [f. STUT *sb.*; cf. MDu. *stutten* to prop.] *trans.* To prop up, support. Hence **Stutted**, **Stutting** *ppl. adjs.*

1638 A. CANT *Serm.* 13 June (1699) 6 Noblemen, these Artificial and stooted Mountains [*sc.* the bishops], have overtoped you who are the Natural Mountains. *Ibid.* 12 These are the two Pillars whereupon our Mountain of Prelacie is Stooted. 1808 JAMIESON, *Stut*, to prop, to support, with stakes or pillars. 1819 W. TENNANT *Papistry Storm'd* (1827) 218 Frae her fotur stuttin' pillars stout Lumps of out batter't stane fell out.

Stut(e: see STOUT, STUTE *v.*

Stuth, variant of STOUTH.

Stuthe, variant of STOOTHE.

1502 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* II. 199 For brasses and stuthes of fattoun to the harnessingis of thir sadilis. 1507 *Ibid.* III. 254 Item for 2 stuthes with ruffis callit ulseatis for the Kingis panses and mailzeis. 1513 DOUGLAS *Æneis* XII. xiv. 132 The fey gyrdill hie set dyd appeyr, With stuthis knaw and pendeis schynand cleyr. 1539–40 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* VII. 287 Stuthis and bukellis to ane blak harnesing of the Kingis.

Stuthe, variant of STOOTHE *v.*

1483 *Cath. Angl.* 370/2 To Stuthe [*v.r.* Stuche], *stipare*. 1501 *Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot.* II. 27 Item, for vj dog collaris tane to the King, thre of thaim stuthit, vj s.

†**Stutte**, *v. Obs.* Also 3 **stute**, **stitte.** Pa. t. **stutte.** [Early ME. *stutte-n* (ii), a. ON. *stytta* = OE. *styntan*: see STINT *v.* (Chiefly in texts of 'the Katherine group', the lang. of which, mainly southern, has some Scandinavian words.)] a. *intr.* To stop, cease; to stay, remain. b. *trans.* To cease, desist from.

a. *a* 1225 *Leg. Kath.* 1529 Stute nu þenne, & stew þe, & stille þine wordes. *a* 1225 *Juliana* 70 As ha stutte oþe stude þer ha schulde deþ drehen, þa com þe ilke belial of helle þat [etc.]. *c* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 42 Hwo se wule mei a-stunten beruppe [*v.r.* mei stutten þruppe]. *a* 1240 *Sawles Warde* in *Coll. Hout.* 267 Þu schal[t] ful bliðeliche beon under-fon in as ofte as liues luue stutteð forto spekene. ?*a* 1300 *St. Kenelm* 239 in *E. E. P.* (1862) 54 Hi seȝe hire stitte [*MS. Laud 108* sitte] adai..Meteles stille in one stede.

b. *c* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 72 Þeone kuðen heo neuere astunten hore cleppe [*v.r.* þa ne cuðen ha neauer stutten hare cleppen].

Stutter, *sb.*1 *Obs.* exc. *dial.* [f. STUT *v.*1 + -ER1. (Cf. STOTER *sb.*1)] = STUTTERER.

1529 RASTELL *Pastyme* (1811) 79 Lews the Stutter [= Louis the stammerer]. 1530 PALSGR. 277/2 Stuttar, *begue*. 1547 BOORDE *Brev. Health* xli. 21 If it [*sc.* stuttering] do come with beying in the company of a stutter or stamerer, a man must refrayne the company of a stutter. 1560 BIBLE (Geneva) *Isa.* xxxii. 4 The tongue of the stutters shalbe ready to speake distinctly. *a* 1618 SYLVESTER *Little Bartas* 988 The Spirit..Which..Gives Stutters Tongues, & makes the bash-full bold. 1626 BACON *Sylva* § 386 Many Stutters..are very Cholericke Men. 1825 JAMIESON *Stuter*.

Stutter (stʊ·tər), *sb.*2 [f. STUTTER *v.*] An act or a habit of stuttering.

1854 SURTEES *Handley Cr.* iii. (1901) I. 20 After a long string of stutters, he (the would-be orator) slunk back into the crowd amid the laughter and applause of the company. 1883 S. C. HALL *Retrospect* I. 119 He had an awkward impediment of speech, not quite a stutter. 1886 RUSKIN *Præterita* I. 253 Attempting even some stutter of apology which made matters worse. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VII. 451 Suddenly the stumbling-block is removed,.. and the subsequent words tumble out rapidly..until checked by a fresh stutter.

attrib. 1878 tr. *von Ziemssen's Cycl. Med.* XIV. 836 Schultheiss compared the stutter-spasm to the convulsive movements of photophobia and hydrophobia.

Stutter (stʊ·tər), *v.* [Freq. f. STUT *v.*1: see -ER5. Equivalent forms in other Teut. langs. are MDu. *stoteren* (Du. *stotteren*), MLG. *stoteren* (mod.LG. *stötern*), mod.G. *stottern* (from LG.), Sw. dial. *stutra*, Norw. *stotra* (Ross).

The late date of the appearance of the word in Eng. is remarkable; possibly the frequentative formation was suggested by the Du. form.]

1. *intr.* To speak with continued involuntary repetition of sounds or syllables, owing to excitement, fear, or constitutional nervous defect; to stammer.

1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 79/7 To stutter, *titubare*. 1586 B. YOUNG *Guazzo's Civ. Conv.* IV. 187b, All the companie laughed at this word (*Aripistus*) who stuttering, and against his will, hastelie spake it. 1598 MARSTON *Sco. Villanie* To Judicial Perusers B 4 b, I dare defend my plainnes gainst the veriuyce face of the crabbed'st Satyrist that euer stuttered. 1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* I. ii. I. iv. 77 Those that stutter and are balde, will be soonest melancholy. 1686 *Lond. Gaz.* No. 2128/4 James Wybert, a well-proportioned tall man,..stutters much in his speech,..went away..with a chesnut coloured Horse. 1711 J. GREENWOOD *Engl. Gram.* 31 He had taught ..several of our own Countrymen who stutter'd extreamly. 1730 SWIFT *Traulus* I, And though you hear him stut-tut-tut-ter, He barks as fast as he can utter. 1764 FOOTE *Patron* II. ii, This gentleman has..a small natural infirmity; he stutters a little. 1856 J. W. CROKER in *C. Papers* (1884) I. 6, I..stuttered; for..I had a most distressing impediment in my speech. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VII. 452 Several patients always stuttered on the initial letter if the word subsequently contained an *r*, which they pronounced as *w*.

b. *transf.*

1831 SCOTT *Jrnl.* 5 Apr., I have a hideous paralytic custom of stuttering with my pen. 1911 [see STUTTERING *vbl. sb.*].

2. *trans.* To say or speak with a stutter. Also with *out*.

c 1645 HOWELL *Lett.* (1655) IV. vii. 16 The Pagan Poet who stutter'd out this verse, that ther are but two good hours of any woman. 1709 [W. KING] *Usef. Trans. Philos.* Mar. & Apr. 42 The Eloquence of the Vice-Roy..who stutters Gibberish of the Author's own Composing. 1849 JAMES *Woodman* x, He attempted to stutter some vain excuses. 1855 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* xvii. IV. 7 The nonsense stuttered by the tipsy nobles of the Empire. 1864 BURTON *Scot Abr.* II. ii. 178 The brave and reckless prince, who could not speak French, and only stuttered German.

Stutter, var. of STOTTER *v. dial.*, to walk hesitatingly or staggeringly.

1845 S. JUDD *Margaret* II. viii, I stuttered up to No. 4 yesterday arter the funeral. 1875 JACQUE *Hope* etc. 194 And age took up its staff and stuttered out, To see what all the hubbub was about.

Stutterer (stʊ·tərəɹ). [f. STUTTER *v.* + -ER1.] One who stutters.

1598 MARSTON *Sco. Villanie* III. ix. G 8 b, The wildest stumbling stutterer That euer hack'd and hew'd our natiue tongue. *c* 1643 LD. HERBERT *Autobiog.* (1824) 187 His words were never many as being so extreme a stutterer, that he would sometimes hold his tongue out of his mouth a good while before he could speak so much as one word. 1771 SMOLLETT *Humphry Cl.* 30 June (1815) 152 The stutterer had almost finished his travels. 1822–9 GOOD *Study Med.* I. 566 Children..ought never to be intrusted in the company of a stutterer, till their speech has become steady and confirmed. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VII. 449 It is the difficulty of performing the necessary movements of the tongue and lips which usually obtrudes itself on a stutterer's attention.

Stuttering (stʊ·təriŋ), *vbl. sb.* [-ING1.] The action of STUTTER *v.*

1594 PARSONS *Confer. Success.* I. viii. 168 Luys the second surnamed le begue, for his stuttering. *c* 1618 MORYSON *Itin.* IV. v. v. (1903) 482 Nicknames, given them from the Colour of their haire, from lameness, stuttering, diseases or villanous inclinations, which they disdayne not. 1741 MRS. MONTAGU *Lett.* I. 290 We must cure people of errors and lying, as they do of stuttering, by a long course of silence.

b. *transf.* and *fig.*

1665 GLANVILL *Def. Van. Dogm.* 85 Yea, and..persecuted them by his reproaches, calling the Philosophy of Empedocles, and all the Antients Stuttering. 1911 *19th Cent.* Jan. 126 In the case of some of the older carillons the apparent hesitation or 'stuttering' (to use the bell-maker's phrase), which is due to the imperfect mechanism, has a quaint and pleasing effect.

Stuttering, *ppl. a.* [-ING2.] That stutters.

1589 R. HARVEY *Pl. Perc.* Ded., As farre as Will. Solnes stuttring pronunciation may stumble ouer at a breath. 1594 PARSONS *Confer. Success.* I. viii. 168 This Luys, the stuttering, left two bastard sonnes. 1598 MARSTON *Pygmal.*, Reactio 67 Who cannot stumble in a stuttering stile? And shallow heads with seeming shades beguile? *a* 1647 BOYLE *Wks.* (1744) I. Life 6 Some children whose stuttering habitude he so long counterfeited that at last he contracted it. *a* 1721 PRIOR *Journ. Copt-Hall* 26 Wks. 1907 II. 287 Sung to Stuttring Durfey's *Ge sol-re*. 1786 BURGOYNE *Heiress* I. i, Like a Miss at her stuttering harpsichord, with a nimble finger, but no ear. 1834 J. FORBES *Laennec's Dis. Chest* (ed. 4) 197 The intensity of the rhonchus..the stuttering soumd of the pectoriloquy..are additional signs which in most cases leave no room for doubt. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VII. 450 Imitation, as from a stuttering nurse, is an occasional cause [of stuttering].

Hence **Stutteringly** *adv.*

1563–83 FOXE *A. & M.* 2010/1 Then did the vnder Sheriffe bid him say the Lordes prayer, which he coulde not say neyther, but stutteringly. 1615 CROOKE *Body of Man* 701 Those which be halfe deafe do speak but stutteringly. 1876

Meredith *Beauch. Career* III. xii. 229 Colonel Halkett argued stutteringly with the powerful man.

† **Stu·tting,** *vbl. sb. Obs.* [f. Stut *v.*[1] + -ing [1].] = Stuttering *vbl. sb.*

c 1430 *Pilgr. Lyf Manhode* III. xxxii. (1869) 153 Swich manere of langwetynge and of stutinge and turnynge vpsodoun þe wrong in to þe riht. 1483 *Cath. Angl.* 370/2 A Stuttynge, *balbicies.* 1547 Boorde *Brev. Health* xli. 21 As stuttynge that doth come by nature it can not be holpen except it be reformed in youth by some discrete tutor. 1571 Golding *Calvin on Ps.* v. 3, Under the first sort he betokeneth a confused stutting [L. *confusum strepitum*]. 1621 Burton *Anat. Mel.* I. iii. I. i. 231 Stutting, or tripping in speech, &c. hollow eyes, grosse veines, and broad lippes. 1626 Bacon *Sylva* § 386 *marg.*, Experiment Solitary, touching Stutting. 1661 Lovell *Hist. Anim. & Min.* 359 Stutting and stammering from humidity.

† **Stu·tting,** *ppl. a. Obs.* [f. Stut *v.*[1] + -ing [2].] = Stuttering *ppl. a.*

1388 Wyclif *Isa.* xxxii. 4 The tunge of stuttynge men schal speke swiftli. 1575 Vautrollier *Luther on Ep. Gal.* iv. 3, 173 Banish this stutting and stammering Moises farre from thee, with his lawe. 1591 Sylvester *Du Bartas* I. vii. 68 If my dull, stutting, frozen eloquence May dare conjecture of his high intents. *a* 1603 T. Cartwright *Confut. Rhem. N. T.* (1618) 650 The stutting tongue of the lisping babe deserueth more favour then the gracious speech of the eloquent man.

Hence † **Stu·ttingly** *adv.*

1548 Cooper *Elyot's Dict.*, *Titubanter*, stameryngly, stutyngly, vnconstantly.

Stutting sail: see Studding sail.

Stuue, Stuver: see Stew *sb.*[2], Stiver.

Stuward, obs. form of Steward.

Stuwe, obs. form of Stew *sb.*[1], *sb.*[2], and *v.*[2]

Stuy, Stuyll: see Stew *sb.*[1], Stool.

Stuyrne, obs. form of Stern *a.*

Stuyue, Stuyver: see Stew *sb.*[2], Stiver.

Stwansyon, obs. form of Stanchion *sb.* (sense 2).

1481–90 *Howard Househ. Bks.* (Roxb.) 138 And to my Lord of Hely a stwansyon of seluer to pote in henke.

Stw(e, obs. forms of Stew *sb.*[1], *sb.*[2], *v.*[2]

Stwle, stwyll, obs. Sc. forms of Stool.

Stwnys, Stwrly: see Stonish *v.*, Stourly *adv.*

† **Sty,** *sb.*[1] *Obs.* Forms: 1 stíʒ (stiiʒ), 2, 4 stiʒ, 3 *Orm.* stiʒhe, stih, 3–4 sti, 4 stighe (steghe, stieghe, stighte), styʒe, 4–5 stie, stye, 4–6 sty, (6 *dial.* stee). [OE. *stíg* fem. = MDu. *stíge* (early mod.Du. *stijghe*), OHG. *stíga* (MHG. *stíge*):—OTeut. **stīgō*; a parallel masc. form **stīgo-z* is represented by MLG. *stich, stig-*, OHG., MHG. *stîc-, stîg-* (mod.G. *steig*), ON. *stíg-r* (MSw. *stigher*, mod.Sw. *stig*, Da. *sti*). From Teut. root- **stīg-* to go, climb: see Sty *v.*[1]

Synonymous words from other grades of the root are Goth. *staiga*, OHG. *steiga* (MHG. *steige*):—OTeut. **staigō*; MLG. *stech, steg-* (LG. *steg*); MDu. *-stege* (mod.Du. *steeg* fem., path, *steg* masc., narrow bridge):—OTeut. **stigu-z.*]

A. path or narrow way.

Beowulf 320 Stræt wæs stan-fah stíg wisode gumum ætgædere. *c* 725 *Corpus Gloss* 651 *Devia callis*, horweg [= orweg] stig. [*c* 875 *Erfurt Gloss* 340 *Devia callis*, horuaeg stiiʒ.] *c* 1000 *Ags. Ps.* (Th.) cxviii [cxix]. 105 Þæt ys þæt strange leoht stiʒe minre. *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 7 Þe witeza het þet we sculde makien his stiʒes [rihte]; þenne make we ham rihte ʒef we haldet his beode. *c* 1200 Ormin 5228 Tatt narrwe stih þatt ledeþþ ʒunnc till heoffne. *c* 1250 *Gen. & Exod.* 3958 Balaam .. bet and went it to ðe sti Bi-twen two walles of ston. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 4575, I folud siben, me-thoght, a sti Vntil a feild. *c* 1330 R. Brunne *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 14191 To Souþhaumptone he tok þe sty. 1382 Wyclif *Job* xix. 8 My sty he hegide aboute, and I mai not gon ouer. *a* 1430 *Sev. Sage* (Cott Galba) 3621 Þan sho toke þe preue sty Into þe toure ful hastily.

b. Alliterative phrase, *by sty and street.*

c 1205 Lay. 16366 Ten þusend Scottes he sende bi-halues þe hæðene to imete bi stiʒen & by straten. *c* 1425 *Cast. Persev.* 364 Leue hym nowth, but cum with me, be stye & strete! *a* 1600 *Flodden F.* ii. (1664) 18 He brought them on by stee and street.

Sty, *sb.*[2] *north. dial.* Forms: 3–4 sti, 5 stegh, stiʒe, 5–7 stye, 5, 6, 9 stie, 8 steeigh, sty, 9 stey, 5– stee. [a. ON. *stíge, stege* wk. masc. (MSw. *stighi*, mod.Sw. *stege*, Da. *stige*), f. OTeut. root **stīg-*: see Sty *v.*[1] Cf. OE. *stíge* str. masc., 'ascension', MLG. *stege* fem. step, staircase, OHG. *stega* fem. (MHG. *stege*) step, staircase, ladder.

The Eng. word has always been confined to northern dialects showing strong Scandinavian influence. The form *stee* shows that the original form had a short *i.*]

A ladder.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 3779 In slepe he sagh stand vp a sti, Fra his heued right to þe ski. *a* 1400–50 *Wars Alex.* 1437 Sum stepis vp on sties to þe stane wallis. *c* 1440 *Alphabet of Tales* 309 Sho..gatt a stye & clam vp at a hy wall to a wyndow of þe prison. *c* 1440 *York Myst.* xxxiv. 90 And sties also are ordande þore, With stalworthe steeles as mystir wore. Bothe some schorte and some lang. 1567–8 in *Fabric Rolls York Minster* (Surtees) 114 To Mr. Watson for a great long stie, 8s. 164 Best *Farm. Bks.* (Surtees) 137 Our longe styes lye allsoe under this helme all winter. 1674 Ray *N. C. Words*, A *Stee*: a ladder. *c* 1746 J. Collier (Tim Bobbin) *View Lanc. Dial* Wks. (1862) 44 We reeart th' Steeigh sawfly ogen th' Wough under th' Eawlhoyle. 1804 J. Hodgson in Raine *Life* (1857) I. 25, I could always frighten them well by going a few steps up the stee and showing my black head. 1881 *Cornh. Mag.* Jan. 126 Our Nancy's husband's brother fell off the stee.

b. *attrib.*

1483 *Cath. Angl.* 360/2 A Stee staffe, *scalare.*

Sty (stəi), *sb.*[3] Pl. **sties** (stəiz). Forms: 3 sti, 6, 7, 9 stie, 4– sty, stye. [OE. *stí* (in comb. *stí-fearh* 'sty-pig'), prob. identical with *stig* (*g* from *j*), ? hall (cf. *stig-weard* Steward *sb.*); corresp. to ON. *stí* neut., once (*A'grip* 26, 12th c.) in comb. *svín-stí* 'swine-sty' (Da. *sti, svinsti*; Norw. *sti* flock of sheep or goats, also 'household work, esp. with regard to the feeding of the animals'; repr. OTeut. type **stīja-m*, f. root **stī-*: **stai-*). A parallel formation, OTeut. **stijōn-* wk. fem., is represented by ON. *stía* pen, fold, MSw. *stía* in *svína stía* (mod.Sw. *svinstiga*) and *stiogalder* 'sty-pig', MLG. *stege*, sty, MDu. *stije, swijn-stije* (mod.Du. *stijg*). Cf. also OHG. *stîga* (MHG. *stige*, but also *stîje*) cattle-stall, which is perh. cognate, but influenced in form by derivatives of the root **stīg-*: see Sty *sb.*[1], Sty *v.*[1]]

1. An enclosed place where swine are kept, usually a low shed with an uncovered fore-court, a pigsty.

a 1225 *Ancr. R.* 128 Nout ase swin ipund ine sti uorte uetten. *c* 1386 Chaucer *Somp. T.* 121 He groneth lyk oure boor lith in oure sty. *c* 1400 Maundev. (Roxb.) xxxiv. 154 Þai..liffez in lust and lyking of þe flesch, as a swyne fedd in stye. 1573–80 Tusser *Husb.* (1878) 32 Put bore in stie For Hallontide nie. 1577 B. Googe *Heresbach's Husb.* I. 13 There is also a thirde stie..for the fatting of my Porkes. 1606 Shaks. *Ant. & Cl.* IV. xv. 62 Shall I abide In this dull world, which in thy absence is No better then a Stye? 1615 Chapman *Odyss.* XIV. 21 Euery Sty Had roome and vse, for fifty Swine to lye. 1688 Holme *Armoury* II. 181/2 A Stie is the out-courts, or limits of the Swine coat in which they walk and eat their Meat; but generally we call both the Cote and its outlet a Stie. 1725 Pope *Odyss.* X. 459 She.. hast'ning to the styes set wide the door, Urg'd forth, and drove the bristly herd before. 1864 Miss S. P. Fox *Kingsbridge Estuary* viii. 91 His wife went as usual to feed her pig... For some cause she entered the stye. 1882 Jessopp *Arcady* ii. (1887) 33 The tottering old crone..can give the alarm if the pig is in danger of breaking out of the sty.

2. *transf.* and *fig.* in opprobrious uses.

a. A human habitation (or sleeping-place) no better than a pigsty.

1598 Sylvester *Du Bartas* II. i. IV. *Handicrafts* 363 Some others yet more gross Their homely Sties in stead of wals inclose. 1684 Otway *Atheist* I. i, A foul-feeding Witch, that lived in a thatch'd Sty upon the neighb'ring Common. *a* 1687 Sir W. Petty *Pol. Anat. Irel.* (1691) 14 Local Wealth I understand to be the building of 168,000 small Stone-wall Houses..instead of the lamentable Sties now in use. 1712 Motteux *Quix.* III. ii. (1749) I. 115 By this time Sancho.. was crept into his sty, where he did all he could to sleep. 1826 Renton in *Trans. Med.-Chirur. Soc. Edin.* II. 376 The lower orders of the inhabitants, its principal victims, live huddled together in close and crowded sties.

b. An abode of bestial lust, or of moral pollution generally; a place inhabited or frequented by the morally degraded.

a 1400 *Fest. Church* 142 in *Leg. Rood* App. 215 Þenk on hellestynkyng stye, Where goostis bren in bynde. 1599 Sandys *Europæ Spec.* (1632) 36 On the one side of the Street a Cloyster of Virgins: on the other a stie of Courtizans. 1602 Shaks. *Ham.* III. iv. 94. 1640 Grinston *Sp. Impeachment Abp. Laud* (1641) 2 The Arch-Bishop of Canterbury..is the stye of all Pestilent filth, that hath infected the State, and Government of the Church and Common-wealth. 1645 Milton *Tetrach.* II What is this but to abuse the sacred and misterious bed of marriage to be the compulsive stie of an ingratefull and malignant lust. 1648 Jenkyn *Blind Guide* i. 5 Could more be said for the removall of any stewes or stie of sin? 1790 Burke *Refl. Fr. Rev.* (ed. 2) 238 The painted booths and sordid sties of vice and luxury. 1849 Macaulay *Hist. Eng.* iii. I. 403 But whatever our dramatists touched they tainted. In their imitations the houses of Calderon's stately and highspirited Castilian gentlemen became sties of vice. 1855 Motley *Dutch Rep.* I. Introd. § 14. 89 A people which had neither sunk to sleep in the lap of material prosperity, nor abased itself in the sty of ignorance and political servitude.

3. *Comb.*

1611 Cotgr., *Bacquier*..a stye-fed hog. 1864 Trevelyan *Compet. Wallah* (1866) 33 No pork appears on a Calcutta table except such as has been sty-fed. 1917 *Times* 22 Mar. 7/2 French fields revive and the defilers flee Sty-ward driven back.

Sty (stəi), *sb.*[4] [Prob. a back-formation from Styany (interpreted as *sty-on-eye*). But cf. early mod.Du. *stijghe* (Kilian), WFris. *stiich*, Norw. *stig.*] An inflammatory swelling on the eyelid.

1617 Fletcher *Mad Lover* v. i, *Fool.* I have a Stye here, Chilax. *Chi.* I have no Gold to cure it. *a* 1667 Skinner *Etymol. Ling. Angl.*, A Sty, (i. e.) Tumor Palpebræ Phlegmonodes. 1712 tr. *Pomet's Hist. Drugs* I. 191 It cures the Sty in the Eye-Lids. 1823 E. Moor *Suffolk Words, Sty*—or *Styney*, a troublesome little excrescence or pimple on the eye-lid. 1835 Marryat *J. Faithful* xvi, I hope your lordship's sty is better in your lordship's eye. 1902 W. W. Jacobs *Sunwich Port* v. 44 You've got a sty coming on your eye.

† **Sty,** *v.*[1] *Obs.* Forms: see below; also with prefix I ȝe-, 2–3 i-. [OE. *stígan* (*stáh, stigun, stigen*); a Com. Teut. str. vb. corresponding to OFris. *stîga*, OS. *stîgan*, MDu. *stîghen* (mod.Du. *stijgen*), OHG. *stîgan* (MHG. *stîgen*, mod.G. *steigen*), ON. *stíga* (MSw. *stîgha*, mod.Sw. *stiga*, Da. *stige*), Goth. *steigan*:—OTeut. **stīg-* (:**staig-*):—Indogermanic **steigh-* (:**stoigh-* **stigh-*) to go, represented by Skr. **stigh* to step, stride, Gr. στείχειν to go, στοῖχος, στίχος a row, line, L. *ve-stigium* footstep, trace.

Of the weak inflexion a doubtful trace appears in ONorthumbrian; otherwise it has not been found earlier than the 13th c.]

A. Inflexional Forms.

1. *Inf.* and *pres. stem.* 1 stíʒan, *North.* stíʒe, 2–5 stiʒe-n, (2–3 *Orm.* stiʒhenn); 3 stihe-n, 4–5 styʒe, 3–4 stighe, 4 stiyhe, *north.* steich, 5–7 stygh, 3 steo, ste-n, 3–4 stei(e, 5–6 stey, 5 stey-yn, 4–5 stegh, 4 steʒe, steye, steyʒ(e, (6 stee), 2–7 stie, 4–7 stye, 5–7 sty.

c 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Matt. xx. 18 Heonu we stiʒes vel we scilon stiʒe [Vulg. *ecce ascendimus*]. *c* 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 111 Siððen he is buuen alle heȝnesse hwider sholde he stiȝe. *Ibid.* 145 Ure drihten wolde..deð þolien and arisen of deaðe and to heuene stie. *a* 1240 *Ureisun* in *O. E. Hom.* I. 201 Ne wene nomon to stihen wið este to þe steoren. *a* 1250 *Five Joys* in *Rel. Ant.* I. 49 [Þou] iseie him in to heuene sten. *c* 1250 *Long Life* 38 in *O. E. Misc.* 158 Weilawei deþ þe schal adun browe þer þu wenest heȝest to steo. 13.. *Bonaventura's Medit.* 208 He ros fro deþ to heuene to stye. *c* 1315 Shorehам *Poems* v. 252 Hi seȝ ihesus..Op in-to heuene steȝe. *a* 1325 *Prose Psalter* cxxxviii. 7 [cxxxix. 8] ȝif ich steiȝe to heuen þou art þer. *a* 1340 Hampole *Psalter* xxiii. 3 Who sall stegh in þe hill of lord. *c* 1374 Chaucer *Boeth.* III. met. ix. (1886) 69 O fadyr yiue thow to the thowht to styen vp in to the streyte sete. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 473/1 Steyyn vp, *scando, ascendo. c* 1450 *Mirk's Festial* 153 When þay seen hym..bodyly stey vp wyth soo gret multitude of angeles. 1460–70 *Pol. Rel. & L. Poems* 229 Take þi crosse to þee, and folewe me, If þou wolt to my blis up stiȝe. ? *a* 1500 *Chester Pl., Ascension* 96 You shall haue here my Blessinge for to heaven I must stye. 1593 G. Harvey *Pierce's Super.* Wks. (Grosart) II. 234 Lightest phantasies that sty abooue the highest region of the cloudes. 1605 R. B. *Commend. Verses* in *Verstegan's Dec. Intell.*, Industrious then Verstiegan forwards stygh, Raise vp thy nations ancient woorthy fame.

b. *3rd pers. sing. pres.* 1 stíʒeþ, stíʒþ, stiiþ, 3 stiheð, stihð, styhð, 4 stegth, steþ, 4–5 styeþ, 6 stithe, 7 sties.

c 888 [see B 1]. *a* 1000 *Boeth. Metr.* xiii. 61 His [*sc.* the sun] ofer moncyn stihð á upweardes. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 216 Uor stench stihð uppard. 13.. *Seuyn Sag.* (W.) 2288 Up to the halle rof he stegth. *c* 1300 *Cast. Love* 1490 Þat from heuene com, to heuene he steþ? ? *c* 1400 *Erthe upon Erthe* App. I. 42 Wanne eorthe ouer eorthe þorw prude styeþ. *a* 1535 More *Fortune* III in *Songs, Carols*, etc. (E. E. T. S.) 75 He holdeth faste, but vpward as he stithe, She whippeth her whele abowt, & þer he lieth. 1613 J. Davies (Heref.) *Muse's Tears* E 2 b, And, (as a Flame) she still, by Nature, sties Where her Originall reposed lies.

2. *Pa. t.* a. *sing.* a. 1 stáʒ, stáh, 2–3 stah, steah, steh, steȝ, steȝh, 3 stawe, 2–4 steiȝ, 3–5 stegh, stey, 4 steigh, steyʒ, steegh, steaȝ (*Kent.*), stee3, steghe, steye, steyȝe, stehe, steiȝe, steihe, styh, stih, sti, 4–5 stigh, 5 stygh, sty.

c 1000 *Ags. Gosp.* Luke xix. 4 He stah up on an treow. *c* 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 3 Seðen ure louerd ihesu crist steh to heuene. *Ibid.* 23 Þo he steah to heuene. *Ibid.* 165 Þreo siðes steȝh þis holie maiden. *c* 1200 Ormin 5987 He stah upp till heoffne. *a* 1225 *Ancr. R.* 250 Þoa he steih into heouene. *c* 1275 *Five Joys* 26 in *O. E. Misc.* 88 Þo þi sone to heouene steyh. *a* 1300 *Fall & Pass.* 107 in *E. E. P.* (1862) 15 An after he steiȝ to heuen aboue. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 19009 (Edin.) Til heuin he steich. *Ibid.* 22723 Til heuin he stehe. 13.. *K. Alis.* 5827 The Kyng..steegh [*Laud MS.* stee3] on the wal. *c* 1315 Shorehам *Poems* I. 50 Heron ihesus stawe vppe bi-fore. *a* 1325 *Prose Psalter* xlvi[i]. 5 God steȝ up in swete songe. 1340 *Ayenb.* 13 He..steaȝ into heuene. *c* 1375 *Lay-Folks Mass-Bk.* (MS. B.) 223 He stegh til heuen. 1387 Trevisa *Higden* (Rolls) I. 213 Out of þat mount Crist steihe vp into heuene. 1390 Gower *Conf.* I. 273 He styh up to his fader. *c* 1394 *P. Pl. Crede* 810 He steiȝ vp to heuene. *a* 1400 *Relig. Pieces fr. Thornton MS.* 4 He steye in till Heuen. *a* 1400 *Minor Poems fr. Vernon MS.* xxiv. 219 Þi sone in to heuene stih. 1400 Gower *To Hen. IV* 176 in *Pol. Poems* (Rolls) II. 9 Er Crist ..stigh to hevene. *a* 1400–50 *Wars Alex.* 3467 He þat stiȝe to þe sternes. *c* 1400 Maundev. (1839) viii. 96 Fro that Mount, steighe..Jesu Crist to Hevene. *c* 1430 Hoccleve *New Ploughman's T.* 114 Shee vp to heuene ascendid up and sty. *c* 1440 *Floriz & Bl.* 892 Vp in to þe Toure he steyȝ. *a* 1450 Myrc *Par. Pr.* 518 Cryst..Steigh in-to heuene.

β. *weak forms.* 1 *north.* ? stíʒade, 3–5 stide, 4–5 stiede, (4 sticht *Sc.*), 4 stiȝ-, styʒede, stighede, steȝede, steiȝed, -ide, styede, steiede, 5 steyt, 5 steyy(u)d, 5–6 steyyid, steyde, 6 steyed, 4–6 styed, 5–6 stied.

c 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* John v. 4 Of dune staȝade [? *for* stiȝade]. *c* 1275 Lay. 10737 Þe eork..letten louke þe ȝates and stide to walle. *c* 1375 *Sc. Leg. Saints* I. (*Catherine*) 759, & sayand þis, he sticht in hewyn with mekill Ioy & angelis stewyne. 1382 Wyclif *Prov.* xxi. 22 The wise man steȝede vp. — *Matt.* xiv. 23 He steiȝide [1388 stiede] vp in to an hill aloone for to preye. — *Luke* xix. 4 And he rennynge bifore, stiȝede in to a sycamoure tree. *c* 1400 *Brym* 1592 A marynere..Styed in-to the topcastell. *c* 1436 *Libel Engl. Policy* in *Pol. Poems* (Rolls) II. 204 He that..came frome hevyne, and stiede up with our nature. *c* 1450 *Mirk's Festial* 152 He..steȝt vp ynto Heuen. *Ibid.* 154 Þus..Crist steyd ynto Heuen. *c* 1450 *Godstow Reg.* 7 He stied to heuen. *c* 1460 *Play Sacram.* 423 How he styed by hys own powre. *c* 1485 *Digby Myst.* (1882) III. 1341 He steyyd to hevyn. 1492 Ryman *Poems* xlvi. 7 in *Archiv Stud. neu. Spr.* LXXXIX. 213 He..rose ayene..and to blis steyde. *a* 1500 *Adrian & Epotys* 342 in *Brome Bk.* 36 He steyed to heuyn. *Ibid.* 446, 40 And yn to heuyn he steyyud [*printed* steyynd]. 1557 Phaer *Æneid* v. (1558) O iij, He spake, and thynne from sight as smoke, in skyes disperst he styed.

γ. 5 steut.

c 1459 *Mirk's Festial* 232 Yn to þe tyme þat he steut ynto Heuen.

b. *2nd pers. sing.* 3 stihe, stuhe, 4 stehe, stey, stei, 5 stiʒ.

a 1225 *Juliana* 62 þu..stihe [*Bodl. MS.* stuhe] abuuen þe steorren to þe heste heouene. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 25580 þat ilk time til heuen stei [*Fairf. MS.* stey] þou,..suete iesu! *a* 1310 in Wright *Lyric P.* xxv. 69 Jhesu, for love thou stehe on rode. *c* 1430 *Hymns Virg.* (1867) 102 Þou stiȝ to heuen in þi manhede.

c. *pl. a.* 1 **stiȝon, -un, steoȝun, 2–3 stiȝen, 4 styȝe, stowe(n.**

a 1000 *Cædmon's Gen.* 1375 Sæs up stiȝon ofer stæþweallas. *c* 1205 LAY. 26005 Ouer þan watere heo comen..& stiȝen up þan hulle. 13.. *King Alis.* 1209 They into the walles stowe. 13.. *E. E. Allit. P.* B. 389 Summe styȝe to a stud & stared to þe heuen.

β. weak forms. 4 **styeden, stiȝeden, stei-, steyden,** 4–5 **stieden,** 5 **stiden,** 6 (as sing.).

1382 WYCLIF *Exod.* xiii. 18 And armed steyden vp [1388 stieden] the sones of Yrael. *c* 1400 *Destr. Troy* 4948 Two chere men..Stiden vpon stithe horse. 1449 PECOCK *Repr.* II. xviii. 259 The vij kijn thynne and leene, whiche stieden up after tho. 1503 HAWES *Examp. Virt.* xiv. 288 To heuen we styed a place moost gloryous.

3. *Pa. pple. a. strong forms.* 1 **stiȝen,** 2–3 *Orm.* **stiȝhenn,** 3 **i-stihe(n,** 2–4 **stoȝen,** 3–4 **stei** (*north.* **steich**), 4 **stiȝe, steie.**

c 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 107 For he mai findan fele þe beoð bet iþoȝen and istoȝen þene he. *c* 1200 ORMIN 8488 Affterr þatt daȝȝ þatt Crist himm sellf Wass stiȝhenn upp till heoffne. *a* 1300 *Cursor M.* 20908 (Edin.) Seix and xxx winter euin fra ihesu criste was steich [*Cott. MS.* stei] till heuin. *c* 1380 *Sir Ferumb.* 5027 By þat were stoȝen vp wyþ vygour An hundren Sarsyns oppon þe tour. 1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) VI. 227 Oo Kyng of bliss, Lord of vertues, þat..art þis day i-steiȝ up above alle hevenes.

β. weak forms. 4 **steied(e, steyed, -id, stiȝed, styȝed,** 5 **steȝid, steyt, styet, steyut, (steuet),** 5–6 **styed,** 4–6 **stied.**

c 1375 *Cursor M.* 20831 (Fairf.) Ofter [*sic*] hir sone til heiuen was steyed. *c* 1380 WYCLIF *Serm.* Sel. Wks. I. 25 Aftir þat Crist was steied to hevene. *c* 1400 *Three Kings Cologne* (1886) 31 Aftir tyme þat oure lord was styed vp into heuene. *c* 1450 *Mirk's Festial* 27 Whan Cryst was styet vp into Heuen. *Ibid.* 159 When our Lord Crist was steyut ynto Heuen, his dyscyples were in care and mornyng. *Ibid.* 232 Aftyr þat hur sonne was steuet ynto Heuen. *Ibid.* 262 Tyll he was steyt vp ynto Heuen. 1583 MELBANCKE *Philotimus* R ij, When thou haste..stied to the seate of my dignitie. 1587 GOLDING *De Mornay* i. (1592) 5 As from the Earth we haue styed up to the aire.

B. Signification.

1. *intr.* To ascend, mount up, rise or climb to a higher level. Said of persons and things. Also *fig.* Often with *up, upwards.*

Often used of the ascension of Christ or of Elijah (for examples see A). In the last quarter of the 16th c. the verb survived only as a literary archaism, and in the 17th c. it became wholly obsolete.

c 825 *Vesp. Psalter* lxvii. 19 Stiȝende in heanisse [L. *ascendens in altum*]. *c* 888 ÆLFRED *Boeth.* xxv, Eft heo [*sc.* the sun] secð hire gecynde & stiȝð on þa dæȝlan wegas wiþ hire uprynæs. *c* 1175 *Lamb. Hom.* 5 Heo stiȝen uppeon þe godes cunnes treowe & nomen þa twigga. *c* 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 217 An 3erd sal spruten of iesse more and an blosme stiȝen of þare more. *c* 1200 ORMIN 10673, & forrþrihht alls he fulhtnedd wass He stah uppo þe strande. *Ibid.* 11827 3iff anis mann uss lærepþ, To stiȝhenn upp till haliȝ lif & upp till heȝhe mahhtess. *a* 1225 *St. Marher.* 13 Þe stench þæt of þi muð stiheð. *c* 1250 *Owl & Night.* 1405 Þe gost.. styhþ on heyh þur modynesse. 1297 R. GLOUC. (Rolls) 6579 It [*sc.* the tide] watte is brech al aboute & euere vpward it stey. *a* 1300 *Fall & Pass.* 9 in *E. E. P.* (1862) 13 Þo lucifer steiȝ in pride. 13.. *Bonaventura's Medit.* 635 Cryst Ihesu hys body vpp stey, By þat short ladder, þat cros an hy. *c* 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 8341 Þe lowe was mikel, & vp-ward stey, So þat hit in to þe castel fley, & vp in to þe tour hit went. *c* 1374 CHAUCER *Boeth.* IV. pr. vi. (1868) 143 Whan þou art wel refresshed..þou shalt ben more stedfast to stye in to heyere questiouns. *c* 1380 WYCLIF *Wks.* (1880) 191 But mannus foly & pride stieþ vp euere more & more in þis veyn nouelrie. 1387–8 T. USK *Test. Love* I. i. (Skeat) 45 Steyers to steye on is none. *c* 1400 tr. *Secreta Secret., Gov. Lordsh.* 73 Moistures styen vp to þe croppys of trees and to þe heuedys of braunches. *c* 1450 *Godstow Reg.* 4 That we may stye and glorlfied be Where crist is kyng þat dyed on tre. 1450–1530 *Myrr. our Ladye* II. 172 And oute of the rowte therof shal stye vp a flowre. *c* 1530 *Judic. Urines* II. xiv. 45 b, Coler..styeth vp & puttet hym selfe in to the vteryst partis of the body. 1545 RAYNALDE *Byrth Mankynde* 9 The womb passage..takith his begynnyng at the passage port: and from thense styeth..right vpward vnder ye share bone. 1567 GOLDING *Ovid's Met.* v. 319 Till now that she [Pallas] did stie From Seriph in a hollow cloud. 1583 — *Calvin on Deut.* xxiii. 135 Their wit styeth not high. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* I. xi. 25 The beast..Thought with his winges to stye above the ground. 1590 — *Muiop.* 42 From this lower tract he dar'd to stie Up to the clowdes. 1596 NASHE *Saffron Walden* Q 4 b, These great men..had seperately contended to outstrip Pindarus in his Olympicis, and sty aloft to the highest pitch. 1599 PEELE *David & Bethsabe* xv. 125 The eagle..is emboldened With eyes intentive to bedare the sun, And styeth close unto his stately sphere. 1601 VERSTEGAN *Odes Imit. Penit. Ps.* etc. 92 And as her feet did trauaile on the ground, Her inward mynde did vp to heauen stie. 1621 BP. MOUNTAGU *Diatribæ* 382 Led along, as some Creatures are, by the Noses, and voluntarily hood-winked; or like seeled Doues, stye vp, you know not whither, nor how farre. 1652 BENLOWES *Theoph.* VI. xviii, That She might stye to th' Seat of Beatifick Mirth!

2. To climb *over* something.

c 1380 *Sir Ferumb.* 2388 'Maubyn,' saide þe Amyral 'wolt þou hit vndertake, To steȝe out ouer þe castel wal.' 1382 WYCLIF 1 *Sam.* xiii. 23 Forsothe the stacioun of Philistym went out, for to stye ouer into aspijs to fiȝt.

3. With *down* adv., or other contextual indication: To descend. Also *gen.* to ascend or descend.

c 825 *Vesp. Hymns* iii. 21 Ða ofdune steoȝun in seað [L. *qui descendunt in lacum*]. *c* 1000 *Ags. Gosp.* Mark xiii. 15 Se þe is ofer þecone ne stiȝe he on his hus. *c* 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 111 Erest he steȝ neoðer and siðen on hegh. *c* 1200 ORMIN 16700 Wiþþutenn himm þatt stah forr menn Off heffne dun till erþe. *a* 1300 *E. E. Psalter* xxi. 30 In his sight sal be falland Alle þat doune stighen in land [Vulg. *qui descendunt in terram*].

4. *trans.* **a.** To ascend, climb up (a hill).

1491 CAXTON *Vitas Patr.* (1495) 129 Wherof some wold haue styed the mountayn.

b. To convey up hill.

1511 GUYLFORDE *Pilgr.* (Camden) 80 At the sayd Noualassa we toke moyles to stey us vp the mountayne.

Sty (stəi), *v.*[2] Also **stye.** [OE. *stigian*, f. *stig, stí* STY *sb.* Cf. ON. *stía.*]

1. *trans.* To place or confine (swine) in a sty. Also with *up.*

a 1100 *Gerefa* in *Anglia* IX. 262 Swyn stiȝian. 1573–80 TUSSER *Husb.* (1878) 40 At Mihelmas safely go stie vp thy Bore. 1614 MARKHAM *Cheap Husb.* v. xvi. 96 First, you shall stie vp those Swine which you intend to feede. 1655 MOUFET & BENNET *Health's Improv.* viii. 67 As for the common way of brawning Bores, by stying them up in so close a room that they cannot turn themselves round about. 1674 FLATMAN *Belly God* 76 The Hampshire Hog with Pease and Whey that's fed Sti'd up, is neither good alive nor dead. 1725 *Bradley's Family Dict.* s.v. *Swine*, In Champain Countries they must sty up thin Hogs. 1886 STEVENSON *Kidnapped* xvi, The inn..was the most beggarly vile place that ever pigs were styed in. 1899 LUMSDEN *Edin. Poems* 108 The times wad be amiss When I styed here my soo.

b. *transf.* To confine as in a sty; to place in narrow and uncomfortable quarters; to pen *up.*

1610 SHAKS. *Temp.* I. ii. 342 And here you sty me In this hard Rocke, whiles you doe keepe from me The rest o' th' Island. 1622 MASSINGER & DEKKER *Virg. Mart.* v. i, Bandogs (kept three dayes hungry) worried 1000. British Rascals, styed vp, fat Of purpose. 1646 TRAPP *Comm. John* xxi. 2, 144 God dwels in the Assembly of Saints: shall we, like Stoicks stie up our selves, and not daily runne into their company?

2. *intr.* To share a sty *with*; to dwell as in a sty.

1748 RICHARDSON *Clarissa* (1768) VIII. 61 What woman.. did she know what miry wallowers the generality of men of our class are in themselves, and constantly trough and sty with, but would [etc.]. 1829 FONBLANQUE *Eng. under 7 Administr.* (1837) I. 283 See in your public estate too the havoc the pigs make,..who..devour your cabbages,..stye in your house, and grunt in your Parliament. 1894 H. NISBET *Bush Girl's Rom.* 145 A nice piggery for successful squatters to sty in, I must say.

Hence **Styed** *ppl. a.*, set in a sty.

1829 E. ELLIOTT *Village Patriarch* III. ix, Yet, unlike thee Is minion'd Erin's sty'd and root-fed clown.

Sty, stye (stəi), *int. Sc.* and *north.* Chiefly in *To say* (or *know*) *neither buff nor stye*: see BUFF *sb.*[5] A. b.

?*a* 1750–1824: see BUFF *sb.*[5] A. b. 1823 GALT *Entail* li, He was clean dementit at that time,..he would neither buff nor stye for father nor mother, friend nor foe. 1885 'J. STRATHESK' *More Bits Blinkbonny* i. 5 Ye can neither make buff nor stye o' them.

Styan (stəi·ăn). Now *dial.* Forms: 1 **stiȝend,** 6 **staying,** 7 **stian,** 9 **styan, stine,** etc. (see *Eng. Dial. Dict.*). [OE. *stiȝend* (lit. 'riser'), agent-n. (related to *stiȝende* pres. pple.) f. *stiȝan* STY v.1] = STY *sb.*[4]

c 1000 ÆLFRIC *Gloss.* in Wr.-Wülcker 114/10 *Ordeolus* stiȝend. 1597 LOWE *Chirurg.* (1634) 163 Hordelium..In vulgar language, the Staying. 1601 HOLLAND *Pliny* XXVIII. xi. II. 324 A soveraigne liniment for the Stian or any other hard swelling in the eyelids. 1736 AINSWORTH *Lat. Dict., Hordeolus*,..a little swelling in the eye-lids, like a barley corn; a stian, or stithe. 1834 DE QUINCEY *Autob. Sk.* Wks. 1853 I. 70, I knew that a *styan* (as it is called) upon the eyelid could be easily reduced..by the slight application of any golden trinket.

Styany (stəi·əni). Now *dial.* Forms: 5 **styanie,** 6 **styonie, styony,** 8–9 **stiony,** 9 **styney, stine-eyé, sty-on-eye,** etc. (see *Eng. Dial. Dict.*). [f. STYAN + EYE *sb.*; the etymological sense is therefore an eye with a 'styan' on it.] = STY *sb.*[4]

c 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 475/1 Styanye yn the eye, *egilopa.* 1552 HULOET, Styony, disease growyng within the eye lyddes, *sycosis.* 1570 LEVINS *Manip.* 102/24 Ye styonie, *sycosis.* 1572 HULOET (ed. Higins), Styony. 1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), *Stiony*,..a Disease in the Eye-lids. 1823 Styney [see STY *sb.*[4]]. 1825 FORBY *Voc. E. Anglia, Stiony*, a small itching and inflamed pimple among the eye-lashes. 1881 *Leicestersh. Gloss.*, Sty-on-eye.

†**Stybill.** *Obs.*[—0] [Prob. an error for TWYBILL.] Some kind of axe.

c 1475 *Pict. Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 807/25 *Hic bipennus, Hic bidens*, a stybyllê.

Styborn(e, -urne, obs. forms of STUBBORN.

Styca (stəi·kă). *Numism.* Also 8 **stica, sticca,** 9 **stika, styka.** [Assumed sing. from ONorthumb. *stycas*, dial. pl. of OE. *stycce* str. neut. (WS. pl. *styccu*) piece (of money): see STITCH *sb.*[2]

The sense 'piece of money' occurs only in the following passage, where it is applied to the 'widow's mite'. The OE. word was certainly never the distinctive name of a coin.

c 950 *Lindisf. Gosp.* Mark xii. 42 An widua ðorfend sende tuoge stycas þ is feorðung pennizes.]

The name given in modern times to a small copper coin current in Northumbria in the seventh, eighth, and ninth centuries. The extant specimens weigh about 17 grains.

1705 FOUNTAINE in Hickes *Thesaurus* II. Diss. 164 Quod Styc vel Styca ab antiquis Anglis vocabatur. 1745 LEAKE *Engl. Money* (ed. 2) 14 They [Saxons] had Copper Stycas also, smaller than the Penny, having the King's Name on one Side [etc.]. 1753 *Scots Mag.* Apr. 200/2 Two small silver Saxon coins of a sort called *Sticaes*. 1756 *Gentl. Mag.* XXVI. 284 Mr. Thoresby says in relation to the *Sticas*, namely, that the three in his collection were all that were known at Oxford. 1778 *Engl. Gazetteer* (ed. 2) s.v. *Rippon*, A considerable number of Saxon coins were found here anno 1695, particularly the brass ones, called sticcas, eight whereof made a penny. 1844 LINGARD *Anglo-Saxon Ch.* (1858) II. App. O. 388 The *styca* was the one-fourth of a penny. 1845 *Proc. Berw. Nat. Club* II. No. xiii. 123 Mr. Donaldson Selby exhibited two Saxon Stycæ. 1851 D. WILSON *Preh. Ann.* 521 By far the greater number are stykas of Eadgar. 1915 *Proc. Soc. Antiq. Scot.* 201 The small disc referred to above..is not a styca—for that it is too thick; possibly it has been a Roman minim.

Stychling, var. STICHLING (see STICHLE *v.*).

Styd, obs. form of STUD *v.*[1]

Styd(e, obs. forms of STEAD *sb.*

Styddie, styd(d)y, obs. forms of STITHY.

Stye: see STY *sbs., vbs.*, and *int.*

†**Sty·er.** *Obs.* Forms: 4 **steghere, steȝere, stier(e, steier, steyer, steyȝer.** [f. STY *v.*[1] + -ER[1].] One who ascends or mounts; in quots. a rider (tr. L. *ascensor*).

a 1340 HAMPOLE *Cant. Moses* (Exod. xv) 1 in *Psalter* 503 The hors and the steghere he kast down in the see. 1382 WYCLIF *Gen.* xlix. 17 An horned eddre..biting the cleen of an hors, that the steyer [1388 stiere] vp of hym falle backward. 1382 — *Isa.* xxi. 9 Lo! this cam, a man steȝere [1388 stiere] of the carte of horse men.

Styewe, obs. form of STEW *sb.*[1]

Styf(e, styff(e, obs. forms of STIFF *a.*

Styfer, obs. form of STIVER.

Styful (stəi·ful), *rare.* [f. STY *sb.*[3] + -FUL.] As many (swine) as a sty will hold.

1875 BLACKMORE *Alice Lorraine* III. xx. 267 Mr. Bottler had designed..to slay a large styful of pigs.

†**Sty·gial,** *a. Obs.* [ad. L. *Stygiālis*, f. *Stygi-us*: see next and -AL. Cf. F. *stygial.*] = next.

1523 SKELTON *Garl. Laurel* 1327 By the Stigiall flode, And the stremes wode Of Cochitos bottumles well.

Stygian (sti·dʒiăn), *a.* and *sb.* Also 6 **Stygion,** 6–7 **stigian,** 7 **stigean, (stageoun).** [f. L. *Stygi-us* (a. Gr. Στύγιος, f. Στυγ- : see STYX) + -AN. Cf. F. *Stygien.*]

A. *adj.*

1. Pertaining to the river Styx, or, in wider sense, to the infernal regions of classical mythology.

Stygian Jove, Jupiter (= L. *Juppiter Stygius*): Pluto, the god of the lower world.

1566 STUDLEY *Agam.* 545 Wher as the stygion porter doth aduaunce with lustye crakes. 1590 SPENSER *F. Q.* II. vii. 27 If euer he transgrest the fatall Stygian lawes. 1594 KYD *Cornelia* III. i. 138 It eyther turneth to the Stygian Lake, Or staies for euer in th' Elisian fields. 1602 *Narcissus* (1893) 658 Stray, soule..vnto the Stingian [*sic*] strand. 1606 SHAKS. *Tr. & Cr.* III. ii. 10 Like a strange soule upon the Stygian bankes Staying for waftage. *c* 1610 SIR J. SEMPLE in *Sempill Ballatis* (1872) 242, I sweere..by the stageoun stankes of hell, by which the gods do swein. 1631 KNEVET *Rhodon & Iris* v. iii. H 3, Where..Thou mai'st a thousand heroicke soules send packing Vnto the Stygian shore. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* III. 14 Thee [holy light] I re-visit now with bolder wing, Escap't the Stygian Pool, though long detain'd In that obscure sojourn. 1697 DRYDEN *Æneis* IV. 916 Thus will I pay my Vows, to Stygian Jove. 1827 HOOD *Ode to Melancholy* 49 Ay, let us think of Him a while, That, with a coffin for a boat, Rows daily o'er the Stygian moat. 1860 THACKERAY *Lovel* vi. (1861) 225 In that omnibus I had been carried over to t'other side of the Stygian Shore. I returned but as a passionless ghost. 1900 BRIDGES *Recoll. Solit.* 49 Ere ye the mournful Stygian river crost.

transf. and *fig.* 1600 W. WATSON *Decacordon* (1602) 46 As men inuolued in laberinths of errours, drowne themselues in the Stigean lake of their owne folly. 1802 BRITTON & BRAYLEY *Beauties Eng.* III. 111 The plain [near Solway Moss] that was covered by this stygian torrent, has since been reclaimed. 1879 FARRAR *St. Paul* I. II. vii. 119 Content to wallow, like natural brute beasts, in the Stygian pool of a hideous immorality.

b. Of an oath: Supremely binding, inviolable like the oath by the Styx, which the gods themselves feared to break.

1608 CHAPMAN *Byron's Trag.* v. ii. P 3, His vowes And othes so Stygian. 1647 H. MORE *Philos. Poems* 301 But O that envious Destinie, Or Stygian vow, or thrice accursed charm Should [etc.]. 1682 SIR T. BROWNE *Chr. Mor.* III. xvi. (1716) 104 They [astrologers] Kill us not with Stygian Oaths and merciless necessity, but leave us hopes of evasion. *Ibid.* xix. 107 But Honest Men's Words are Stygian Oaths, and Promises inviolable.

2. Infernal, hellish.

1601 YARINGTON *Two Trag.* IV. viii. in Bullen *O. Pl.* IV, We have such evidence, To ratifie your Stigian cruelty, That cannot be deluded any way. *a* 1627 MIDDLETON *Mayor Queenb.* v. ii, If this be not the man, whose Stygian Soul Breath'd forth that counsel to me. 1635 QUARLES *Emblems* I. x, Sometime they whoop, sometimes their Stygian cries Send their black-Santos to the blushing skies. 1648 JENKYN *Blind Guide* i. 3, I know not one..left him to contend with for mastery in the..art of lying.., unlesse it be his stygian teacher. *a* 1652 J. SMITH *Sel. Disc.* ii. 32 The broad gates of hell are opened, the rivers of fire and Stygian inundations run down as a swelling flood. 1663 DRYDEN *Wild Gallant* I. ii, What a Stygian woman's this, to talk thus? 1667 MILTON *P. L.* x. 453 Amaz'd At that so sudden blaze the Stygian throng Bent thir aspect. 1784 COWPER *Task* III. 738 To be preferred to smoke, to the eclipse That Metropolitan volcanoes make, Whose Stygian throats breathe darkness all day long. 1876 HARDY *Hand Ethelberta* xxvii, But what Stygian sound was this?..'We are close to a kennel of hounds,' said Ethelberta.

3. Black as the river Styx; dark or gloomy as the region of the Styx.

1599 MARSTON *Antonio's Rev.* I. i, Will I not turne a glorious bridall morne Unto a Stygian night? 1634 MILTON *Comus* 134 Mysterious Dame, That ne're art call'd, but when the Dragon woom Of Stygian darknes spets her thickest gloom. 1742 YOUNG *Nt. Th.* VI. 80 Life In stronger thread of brighter colour spun..; dipt by cruel fate In Stygian dye, how black, how brittle here! 1814 WORDSW. *Laodamia* 66 The conscious Parcæ threw Upon those roseate lips a Stygian hue. 1876 EMERSON *Lett. & Soc. Aims. Immortality* Wks. (Bohn) III. 277 Swedenborg..announced many things true and admirable, though always clothed in somewhat sad and Stygian colours. 1910 *Bible in World* Jan. 28/1 Old prints show us the Irwell, whose stygian waters are now walled in .., flowing through green fields and wooded banks.

†4. *Stygian water, liquor* [tr. mod.L. *aqua Stygia*]: in Old Chemistry, a name for nitrohydrochloric acid and other strong mineral acids. Also applied to virulent poisons. *Stygian liquor* (jocularly): a black nauseous drink. *Obs.*

1638 SIR T. HERBERT *Trav.* (ed. 2) 220 In the evening many Mussulmen assemble to sip a sort of Stigian liquour; a black, thick, bitter potion, brewed out of Bunchie or Bunnu berries. *a* 1661 BOYLE *Cert. Physiol. Ess.* iv. (1669) 140 Upon the mixture of these two Liquors there also obtrudes it self upon the Sense a very strong and offensive smell..which perhaps occasion'd some Chymists to call a Menstruum (wherein that nitrous spirit and smell is predominant) the Stygian water. 1706 PHILLIPS (ed. Kersey), *Stygian Liquors*, are Acid Spirits, so call'd by Chymists, from their Power to destroy or dissolve Mixt Bodies. 1797 W. JOHNSTON tr. *Beckmann's Invent.* I. 100 The means Mr. Bell employed to analyse these stygian drops. *Ibid.* 101 That there are more kinds than one of this stygian water. *Ibid.* II. 44 The horns of a Scythian animal, in which the Stygian water that destroyed every other vessel could be contained.

B. *sb.* A dweller by the Styx. *nonce-use.*

1860 THACKERAY *Roundabout P., Dessein's*, And so..even among these Stygians this envy and quarrelsomeness..survive?

Styile, styill, obs. forms of STILE, STYLE.

†**Sty·ing,** *vbl. sb.*[1] *Obs.* [f. STY *v.*[1] + -ING [1].] The action of ascending; an ascent.

c 1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 167 Salomon þe wise..seh3 þese wunderliche stienge [*sc.* the three ascents of the Virgin Mary] alse suterliche alse he þis dai were. *a* 1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* cxix [cxx]. 1 Sang of degres, that is, ioy of thoght in gastly steghynge. *c* 1380 WYCLIF *Wks.* (1880) 448 Aftir his steying to heuene. 1382 — *Ps.* lxxxiii [lxxxiv]. 6 Ste3ingus vp [1388 stiyngis, Vulg. *ascensiones*] in his herte he disposide. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 473/2 Steyynge, *scansio, ascensus.* 1493 *Dives & Pauper* (W. de W. 1496) I. lvi. 97/1 Prayer is a styeng up of a mannes herte to god.

b. *concr.*

1382 WYCLIF *Cant.* iii. 10 His pileris he made siluerene,.. the ste3ing vp [1388 a stiyng, Vulg. *ascensum*] purpur. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 473/2 Steyle, or steyynge vp, *ascensus, scansile.*

Stying (stəi·iŋ), *vbl. sb.*[2] [f. STY *v.*[2] + -ING [1].] The placing of swine in sties.

1905 A. T. SHEPPARD *Red Cravat* II. ix. 149 The farmyard, where..I once assisted in the stying of a refractory pig.

†**Sty·ing,** *ppl. a. Obs.* [f. STY *v.*[1] + -ING [2].] That ascends.

1593 G. HARVEY *Pierces Super.* 8, I, that sought the winges of a mounting Pegasus, or a stying Phenix.

Styk, Styka: see STEEK *v.*[3], STYCA.

Styl, obs. form of STEEL, STILL.

Sty·lagalma·tic, *a. rare. Arch.* (In Dicts. erron. -aic.) [f. Gr. στῦλος column + ἀγαλματ-, ἄγαλμα image + -IC.] Pertaining to, containing, or supported by, figures serving as columns.

1828 J. ELMES *Metrop. Improv.* 113 The stylagalmatic termini, which support the shop cornice. 1837 *Antiq. Athens* 45 The stylagalmatic portico of the Caryatides. [1842 BRANDE *Dict. Sci.* etc. *Stylagalmaic.* 1846 B. H. SMART Suppl., *Stylogalmaic.*]

Stylar (stəi·lăr), *a.* Also **stilar.** [f. mod.L. type *stylāris*, f. *stylus*: see STYLE *sb.* and -AR.]

†1. Pertaining to the 'style' or gnomon of a dial. *Obs.*

1614 E. WRIGHT *Dialling* xvi. E 2, Draw a right line out of the intersection of the line of contingence, and substilar perpendicularly ouerthwart the stilar line. 1668 MOXON *Mech. Dyalling* 12 Draw a Line from the Center through that number of Degrees for the Stilar Line. 1836 SMART.

†2. Pertaining to (literary) style. *Obs.*

1814 *Sporting Mag.* XLIV. 191 Stylar analogy between the preface and the text.

3. 'Having the character of or pertaining to a style for writing' (*Cent. Dict.* 1891).

Stylary (stəi·lări), *a. Zool.* [f. STYLE *sb.* + -ARY.] Pertaining to a style or stylet.

1885 H. O. FORBES *Nat. Wand. E. Archip.* 93 The rostellum..is not invaginated down to the stylary canal.

‖ **Stylaster** (stəilæ·stəɹ). *Zool.* [mod.L. (Gray 1831), f. Gr. στῦλ-os column + ἀστήρ star.] A genus of hydrozoa, closely related to the *Millepora*; a species or an animal of this genus, or of the family Stylasteridæ, of which it is the type. Hence **Stylastera·cean, Stylas·terid,** an animal of the family Stylasteridæ.

1831 J. E. GRAY (*title*) Description of a new genus (Stylaster) of Star-bearing Corals. 1872 DANA *Corals* (1875) 48 There are a number of genera in this Stylaster family, the Stylasteridæ. 1875 H. N. MOSELEY in *Phil. Trans.* CLXVI. 115, I examined a specimen of a Stylasteracean dredged by the 'Challenger'..with the same result. 1879 — *Notes Nat. 'Challenger'* 530 In the case of another Stylasterid, *Allopora nobilis*, the development of regular systems of polyps is commenced. 1882 *Cassell's Nat. Hist.* VI. 277 The coloured Stylasters of the deep sea.

Stylate (stəi·lĕt), *a.* [ad. mod.L. *stylātus*, f. *stylus*: see STYLE *sb.* and -ATE.] a. *Bot.* 'Having a persistent style' (*Treas. Bot.* 1866). b. *Zool.* Having a style or stylet. Also, having the form of a pen or pin, styliform, styloid. (In recent Dicts.)

Style (stəil), *sb.* Forms: 4 stycle, styyl, stele, 4–6 still, 5 stiel, styll, 5–6 styill, 6 steill, stylle, 6–7 steele, 4–9 stile, 4– style. [a. OF. *style, stile, stil, estile*, etc. (mod.F. *style*), ad. L. *stilus* (also incorrectly written *stylus*) a stake or pale, pointed instrument for writing, style of speaking or writing; f. root **sti-* (? to prick): cf. STIMULUS. Cf. Pr. *estil*, Sp., Pg. *estilo*, It. *stilo, stile*, G. *stil.*

The spelling *style*, originally a meaningless variant of *stile*, owes its modern currency, both in Fr. and Eng., to the erroneous notion that L. *stilus* is an adoption of Gr. στῦλος column. In senses 7 and 8, the early history of which is obscure, the word may possibly be ad. Gr. στῦλος; but without further knowledge it is impossible to say whether those who first used the word in these senses were thinking of the Gr. or the L. word; quite probably they regarded the two as identical. As these senses may quite easily have been developed from senses of the L. *stilus*, there is no sufficient reason against treating them as belonging to the present word.]

I. Stylus, pin, stalk.

1. *Antiq.* An instrument made of metal, bone, etc., having one end sharp-pointed for incising letters on a wax tablet, and the other flat and broad for smoothing the tablet and erasing what is written: = STYLUS 1. Also applied to similar instruments in later use.

1387 TREVISA *Higden* (Rolls) V. 297 Seinte Barnabe his body was founde in a den..with þe gospel of Mathew þat he hadde i-write wiþ his owne stile. *c* 1470 HARDING *Chron.* LXIII. viii, Whiche me nede not with my stile auaunce. 1585 HIGINS *Junius' Nomencl.* 7/2 *Graphium*, a writing wyer, or a steele wherewith to write or note. 1621 G. SANDYS *Ovid's Met.* IX. (1626) 187 Then fits her trembling hands to write: One holds the wax, the style the other guides. 1710 HEARNE *Collect.* (O.H.S.) II. 395 *Liber Ceylonicus*, writ with a style upon the Leaves of Trees. 1766 *Complete Farmer* s. v. *Surveying*, A Welsh slate with a sharp stile..is more convenient at such a season, than pen, ink, and paper. 1840 ARNOLD *Hist. Rome* II. xxxii. 295 He had his tablets and his style in his hands, to record the votes. 1840 LARDNER *Geom.* 270 To trace a curve..by the continued motion of a pencil or stile. 1864 TICKNOR *Life Prescott* x. 134 The whole apparatus is called a noctograph. When it has been adjusted..the person using it writes with an ivory style, or with a style made of some harder substance, like agate, on the upper surface of the blackened paper. 1885–94 BRIDGES *Eros & Psyche* Nov. x, All which he took his silver stile to write In letters large upon a waxèd board.

b. Used as a weapon of offence, for stabbing, etc.

1669 *Addr. Hopeful Yng. Gentry Eng.* 67 Methinks every point I direct my pen to should be the Sharp Execution of a Stile at their hearts. 1770 LANGHORNE *Plutarch, C. Gracchus* (1879) II. 892/1 They immediately killed Antyllius with long styles, said to have been made for such a purpose. 1845 LINGARD *Anglo-Sax. Ch.* II. xii. 246 *note*, A vague tradition that the boys, whom the sophist taught, provoked by his severity, had stabbed him with their styles for writing. 1856 MERIVALE *Rom. Emp.* xlviii. (1865) VI. 94 The senators fell upon the wretched man and stabbed him to death with their styles.

c. *fig.*, or as a symbol of literary composition.

1579 FENTON *Guicciard.* Ep. Ded., Suche as for the grauitie and fidelitie of their penne and style were cherished with the greatest Princes of those dayes. 1614 C. B. *Ghost Rich. III* (Shaks. Soc. 1844) 27 Crown'd be his stile with fame, his head with bayes. 1640 DENHAM *Cooper's H.* 132 But Princes swords are sharper then their styles. 1820 HAZLITT *Lect. Dram. Lit.* 329 Their swords and their styles carved out their way with equal sharpness. 1827 HOOD *Ode to Melancholy* 55 Where Death, with his keen-pointed style, Hath writ the common doom.

†d. Phrase. *To turn one's style*: to change *to* another subject; also, to speak on the other side. [So *stilum vertere* in late L.] Similarly to *address, bend, direct, dress, gye*, etc. *one's style. Obs.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 13001 Leue we him a littel quille And turn we to sant Iohn vr still. *c* 1407 LYDG. *Reson & Sens.* 4890 To declare yt and expresse, A noon I wil my style dresse. *c* 1410 — *Life Our Lady* lxvii. (1484) k iij, That thorow thyn helpe I may my style gye Somwhat to sey of thyn epyphanye. *c* 1412–20 — *Chron. Troy* IV. 3362 Wher, for a tyme, I wil leue him dwelle, And to Grekis..directe ageyn my stile. 1420–22 — *Thebes* 2124 Thus leue I hym ride forth a while, whilys that I retourne ageyn my style Vnto the kyng. *a* 1529 SKELTON *P. Sparowe* 772, I..cannot in effect My style as yet direct With Englysh wordes elect. 1535 STEWART *Cron. Scot.* I. 220 At this dewys I leif thame heir ane quhile, And to the Romanis turne I will my style. 1581 LAMBARDE *Eiren.* III. i. (1588) 333 Here let us..addresse our stile to other statutes. 1605 BACON *Adv. Learn.* I. vii. § 16 But saith hee, Turne your stile, and let vs heare what you can say against vs. 1639 DU VERGER tr. *Camus' Admir. Events* 159 This young man quite turning his stile when his Master had strayed from the right way of vertue, beganne to cry out against his inconstancy. *a* 1656 BP. HALL *Revelat. Unrevealed* § 4 Reverend and holy Dionysius bent his style in two Books of the Promises of God. 1664 BUTLER *Hud.* II. iii. 202 Where, leave we Him and Ralph a while, And to the Conj'rer turn our stile. 1700 DRYDEN *Pal. & Arc.* II. 34 To gentle Arcite let us turn our Style.

2. An engraving-tool; a graver.

1662 EVELYN *Chalcogr.* (1906) 7 The γλυφεῖον Style, or Scalprum. 1682 DRYDEN *Medal* 22 The Style that copy'd every grace, And plough'd such furrows for an Eunuch face. 1785 COWPER *Task* I. 706 Nor does the chissel occupy alone The pow'rs of sculpture, but the style as much. 1801 FUSELI in Barry etc. *Lect. Paint.* (1848) 350 The outlines were traced with a firm but pliant style, which they called *cestrum.*

†3. A pointed instrument used for marking. *Obs.*

1659 TWYSDEN *S. Foster's Miscell.* XV. 12 With some stile or dent make a mark where the point of the Gnomon is reposed through the water, upon the side of the Vessel.

4. *Surg.* A blunt-pointed probe.

1631 H. C[ROOKE] *Expl. Instrum. Chirurg.* 7 Then it will be necessary to seare the Vlcer with a Style blunt at the end, and red hot running in a hollow pype. 1846 J. MILLER *Pract. Surg.* 98 To accomplish this, styles—or small bougies—are employed. 1895 *Arnold & Sons' Catal. Surg. Instrum.* 157 Style for Fistula Lachrymalis (Walton's), silver.

5. A hard point for tracing, in manifold writing; the marking-point in a telegraph or phonograph.

1871 CULLEY *Pract. Telegr.* (ed. 5) 205 A lever carrying a point or style, which embosses a mark upon a band of paper carried forward by wheelwork. 1878 M. FOSTER *Physiol.* III. iii. § 1. 451 A very light style attached to the incus or stapes is made to write on a travelling surface. 1881 *Nature* 20 Oct. 582/2 A style concentric with the shaft presses lightly against a compound sheet of tracing and carbonised paper attached to the under side of the table.

6. *gen.* A fixed pointer, pin, or finger for indicating a point or position. Cf. STYLUS 4.

1555 EDEN *Decades* (Arb.) 390 We must tary vntyll the poynt or style of the clocke do exactly come to the poynt of sum houre. 1594 BLUNDEVIL *Exerc., Mercator's Globes* (1597) 209 A little round Squire of brasse,..the head or stile whereof is to shew the shadow of the Sunne being set vpon the Globe. 1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* II. iii. 76 Placing therein two stiles or needles composed of the same steele, touched with the same Loadstone, and at the same point. 1664 EVELYN tr. *Freart's Parall. Archit. etc.* 152 The Style is a streight Ruler, one end whereof is fixt in the center of the said Circle, the other end moves about at pleasure, so as that it may be easily transfer'd and directed from one division of the Circle to another.

7. The pin, rod, or triangular plate which forms the gnomon of a sun-dial.

1577–87 HARRISON *England* II. vi. 171/1 in *Holinshed*, Among the Persians onelie the king dined when the sunne was at the highest, and shadow of the stile at the shortest. 1594 BLUNDEVIL *Exerc., Descr. Tables of Sines* (1597) 52 b, That shadowe is called *Vmbra versa*, which proceedeth from some right style or pearch being thrust into a wall or post standing right vp, and not leaning. 1651 J. WHITE *Rich Cabinet* (1677) 44 The Stile may be made of a thin Iron plate, and cemented in, or of a stiffe wire. 1764 J. FERGUSON *Lect.* 197 The edge of the plane by which the time of the day is found, is called the stile of the dial. 1834 MRS. SOMERVILLE *Connex. Phys. Sci.* xiii. 104 The shadow of the stile of a dial. 1868 LOCKYER *Elem. Astron.* § 402. 193 In practice,..all we want is a projection called a style, parallel to the earth's axis,..and a dial.

b. defined as a *line.*

1690 LEYBOURN *Curs. Math.* 704 Draw the Line CF for the Axis, or Stile of your Dial. 1704 J. HARRIS *Lex. Techn.* I, *Style*, in Dyalling, is that Line whose Shadow on the Plane of the Dyal, shews the true Hour-Line. This is always supposed to be a part of the Axis of the Earth; and therefore must always be so placed, as that with its two extreme Points it shall respect the two Poles of the World, and with its Upper-end, the elevated Pole. This Line is the Upper-edge of the Cock, Gnomon, or Index.

8. *Bot.* A narrowed prolongation of the ovary, which, when present, supports the stigma at its apex.

1682 S. GILBERT *Florists Vade-Mecum* (1702) 122 The flowers..opening into five fair broad leaves, with a stile and small threds in the middle of a Saffron colour. 1691 RAY *Creation* I. (1692) 92 The figure of the Stile and Seed-vessel. 1784 J. KING *Cook's 3rd Voy.* VI. vi. III. 335 From the centre of the flower rises a style of a triangular form, and obtuse at the end. 1872 OLIVER *Elem. Bot.* I. i. 9 In many plants the stalk of the stigma is of considerable length,..whether long or short, however, it is called a style.

9. *Ent.* a. A slender bristle-like process in the anal region. b. The bristle or seta of the antenna of a dipter.

1826 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* III. xxxiii. 392 *Styli* (the Styles). Rigid, exarticulate, long and narrow anal organs. Ex. *Staphylinus.* 1895 D. SHARP *Insects* I. 238 The ninth pair [of abdominal appendages]..form the ventral styles. *Ibid.* II. 442 The part of the antenna beyond the scape is called the 'flagellum'; an appendage of the flagellum is called 'arista' when bristle-like, when thicker 'style'.

10. *Zool.* A small slender pointed process or part; a stylet.

1851 WOODWARD *Mollusca* 67 Octopodidæ:..shell represented by two short styles, encysted in the substance of the mantle. 1875 HUXLEY in *Encycl. Brit.* I. 762/1 There are five digits in the manus of the *Anura*; but the pollex is rudimentary, being represented only by a cartilaginous or more or less ossified style. 1876 — in *Nature* 11 May 34/2 A horse-like animal..with three toes,..but having, in addition, a little style of bone on the outer side of the fore foot.

b. A sponge-spicule pointed at one end.

1879 H. N. MOSELEY *Notes Nat. 'Challenger'* 530 The 'style,' a rod of the calcareous skeleton, which in many genera of *Stylasteridæ* acts as a support to the mouth-bearing polyp within its pore. 1888 W. J. SOLLAS in *Challenger Rep.* XXV. p. lviii, When the single actine is strongylate at the origin and oxeate at the termination the term style is used without qualification.

¶ 11. A post, stake. *nonce-use* (tr. L. *stilus*).

1579 HAKE *Newes out of Powles* (1872) G ij, Entending..to ..seuer places by themselues, with styles and parting stakes. 1609 HOLLAND *Amm. Marcell.* XXIII. iii. 222 When as..a round stone is put into the sling, foure lustie young men.. unfolding the barres whereto the ropes are incorporate, draw backe the style or standard up to the hooke.

II. [Developed in L. from sense I.] Writing; manner of writing (hence also of speaking).

†12. A written work or works; literary composition; in later use occas. a composition spoken or sung. *Obs.*

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 21293 þe stile o matheu, water it was, And win þe letter o lucas. *c* 1430 LYDG. *Min. Poems* (Percy Soc.) 87 As seynt Jerom rehersithe in his style. 1500–20 DUNBAR *Poems* lxxxiv. 22 And sen thir clarkis hes writtin in thair stylis To 3oungar folk and thair successioun. 1508 — *Goldyn Targe* 68 Noucht thou, [H]omer, als fair as thou coud wryte, For all thine ornate stilis so perfyte. 1579 W. WILKINSON *Confut. Fam. Love* To Rdr. *iiij b, Against whose opinions my whole stile and writyng is especially directed. 1579 SPENSER *Sheph. Cal.* Jan. 10 Well couth he tune his pipe, and frame his stile. 1595 *Locrine* v. iv. 200 Addresse your eares to heare a mournfull stile!

† b. An inscription or legend. *Obs.*

c 1512 *Earl Northumb. Housek.-Bk.* (1770) 199 And a Still on the Hede of every Quarter of the Parcellis that is provided forre. 1640 SANDYS *Christs Passion* IV. 110 The Governour intreating to take down That glorious Stile [the superscription on the Cross]. 1689 LUTTRELL *Brief Rel.* I. 502 There is a new great seal made, with this stile round it: Willielmus 3. et Maria 2 [etc.].

† c. An entry, clause, or section in a legal document. Also ? the heading or introductory formula of a will, a writ, or other document. *Obs.*

1570–6 LAMBARDE *Peramb. Kent* (1826) 192 Without shewing for what auncient service..the same Rent grew due and payable, as in the first stile or entrie is expressed. 1619 *Depositions Bk. Archdeaconries Essex & Colchester* 103 b, Robert Wistocke..had begun to write the stile of the will, but went no farther. 1648–9 WHITELOCK *Mem.* (1853) II. 492 That the name of any one particular person should not be inserted as the style of any common writ.

13. The manner of expression characteristic of a particular writer (hence of an orator), or of a literary group or period; a writer's mode of expression considered in regard to clearness, effectiveness, beauty, and the like.

† *In frankis stile* (quot. 1330): in the French language.

c 1330 R. BRUNNE *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 16705 (Petyt MS.) Pers of Langtoft..On frankis stile þis storie wrote. *c* 1386 CHAUCER *Clerk's T.* 1092 Therfore petrak writeth This storie, which with heigh stile he enditeth. 1412–20 LYDG. *Chron. Troy* I. 3090 After þe maner of my rude stile. *c* 1440 *Promp. Parv.* 475/2 Style, forme of indytynge, or spekynge or wrytynge, *stilus*. 1517 H. WATSON *Ship of Fools* Argt. Aj, In facyle sentence and famylyer style. *a* 1548 HALL *Chron., Edw. IV.* 227 A letter of diffiance, bothe for the stile & the pennyng excellently endited. 1609 B. JONSON *Epicœne* II. ii, So shee may censure Poets, and Authors, and stiles, and compare 'hem. 1721 SWIFT *Let. Yng. Gentl. Holy Orders* Wks. 1898 III. 201 Proper words in proper places, make the true definition of a style. 1728 LAW *Serious C.* vii. (1732) 96 She will sometimes read a book of Piety..if it is much commended for stile and language. *a* 1817 T. DWIGHT *Trav.* (1821) I. 510 The Boston style is a phrase, proverbially used ..to denote a florid, pompous manner of writing. 1845 PATTISON *Ess.* (1889) I. 13 St. Gregory of Tours has no style, barely grammar. 1870 RUSKIN *Lect. Art* iii. 68 No man is worth reading to form your style, who does not mean what he says. 1889 SWINBURNE *Stud. B. Jonson* 174 The incomparable style of Mr. Ruskin.

b. Used for: A good, choice or fine style.

1589 *Pappe w. Hatchet* (1844) 17 All this is but bad English, when wilt thou come to a stile?

14. In generalized sense: Those features of literary composition which belong to form and expression rather than to the substance of the thought or matter expressed. Often used for: Good or fine style.

1577 HARRISON *England* Ep. Ded., I neuer made any choise of stile, or picked wordes. *c* 1618 E. BOLTON *Hypercrit.* in § 1 Language and Style, the Coat and Apparel of matter. 1713 STEELE *Englishm.* No. 7. 46 The Rules of Method, and the Propriety of Thought and Stile. 1749 CHESTERF. *Let. to Son* 24 Nov., Style is the dress of thoughts. 1840 DE QUINCEY *Lang.* Wks. 1858 IX. 93 It is certain that style, or..the management of language,..is able..to yield a separate intellectual pleasure quite apart from the interest of the subject treated. 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* iii. I. 331 Some cultivated rhetoric with such assiduity and success that their discourses are still justly valued as models of style. 1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) IV. 121 The Parmenides in point of style is one of the best of the Platonic writings.

15. A manner of discourse, or tone of speaking, adopted in addressing others or in ordinary conversation.

1567 TURBERV. *Epit.* etc. 77 Stop vp thine eares this Syren to beguile,..be sure To lend no eare vnto hir flattring stile. 1614 BACON *Charge touching Duels* 28 No man tooke himselfe fowled by them [*sc.* reproaches], but tooke them but for breath, and the stile of an enemy. 1667–8 PEPYS *Diary* 23 Feb., But here talking, he did discourse in this stile: 'We', and 'We' all along, 'will not give any money' [etc.]. 1711 SWIFT *Cond. Allies* 32 This hath been the Style of late Years; which whoever introduced among us, they have taught our Allies to speak after them. 1722 WODROW *Hist. Suff. Ch. Scot.* II. 362 When Threats moved him very little, some others of them changed their Stile, and calmly asked him, What is the Reason you will not comply as your elder Brother hath done. 1791 BOSWELL *Johnson* an. 1768, May, He talked in his usual style with a rough contempt of popular liberty. 1807 CRABBE *Par. Reg.* III. 907 To a new style his reverence rashly took; Loud grew his voice, to threat'ning swell'd his look. 1832 GREVILLE *Mem.* (1874) II. 289 Able as he is, he has adopted a tone and style..unusual on the Episcopal bench. 1875 JOWETT *Plato* (ed. 2) V. 5 The Athenian talks to the two others..in the style of a master discoursing to his scholars.

†16. A form of words; phrase, or formula, by which a particular idea or thought is expressed.

1594 T. B. *La Primaud. Fr. Acad.* II. 571 Neuerthelesse wee meane according to the stile of the holy scriptures, that hee [etc.]. 1642 D. ROGERS *Naaman* 589 To use Saint Iames his stile..saying, If God will blesse it, it shall heale. 1649 JER. TAYLOR *Gt. Exemp.* II. Disc. viii. 60 Every sinner in the stile of Scripture is a fool. 1653 T. WATSON *Art Div. Contentm.* vii. (1668) 42 *Ipse dixit* was enough among Pythagoras his Scholars; *Be it enacted*, is the Royal Style. 1654 H. L'ESTRANGE *Chas. I* (1655) 4 In the stile of the Court he [James I.] went for Great Britain's Solomon. 1710 PRIDEAUX *Orig. Tithes* i. 9 The Stile and Phrase of the Text plainly speaks of it as such. 1736 BUTLER *Anal.* I. iii. 64 The eastern Stile would be literally applicable to him, that all People, Nations, and Languages should serve him.

17. *Scots Law.* The authorized form for drawing up a deed or instrument.

c 1480 HENRYSON *Sheep & Dog* 8 For by the vse, and cours, and commoun style On this maner maid his Citatioun. 1490 *Munim. de Melros* (Bannatyne Club) 600 In þe sikkyrast forme & styill of obligatioune wsyt..within the Realme. 1585 *Sc. Acts Jas. VI* (1814) III. 377/2 That euerie writtair subscribe his name on þe bak of þe signatour or lettre as allowit be him That it is writtin according to þe ordiner stile and forme. 1697 G. DALLAS (*title*) System of Stiles, as now Practicable within the Kingdom of Scotland. 1708 J. SPOTTISWOODE *Introd. Stile of Writs* (1727) 28 When the Bond of Provision is made by a Father, in favours of his whole Children, the Stile is thus. I A. for the paternal Love and fatherly Affection that I have and bear to B, C, &c. my lawful Children, by these Presents [etc.]. 1868 HENDRY (*title*) Styles of Deeds and Instruments..Second Edition.

b. In generalized sense: Legal technicality of language or construction; as in *words* or *clauses of style*.

1743 KAMES *Decis. Crt. Sess. 1730–52* (1799) 75 The extent of the obligation is to be gathered from the nature of the transaction, rather than from clauses of style slightly or imperfectly framed. 1765–8 ERSKINE *Inst. Law Scot.* III. 11. § 1 Their *verborum obligatio*, to the forming of which it behoved both parties to utter certain *verba solennia*, or words of style. 1912 BLACK & CHRYSTAL *Life W. R. Smith* vi. 237 Libels were drawn up in the old ratiocinative form, bristling with words of style and verbosities of all kinds.

18. A legal, official, or honorific title; the proper name or recognized appellation of a person, family, trading firm, etc.; the ceremonial designation of a sovereign, including his various titles and the enumeration of his dominions.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 16082 He es na godd ne godds sun, of him we knan þe stile. *c* 1412 HOCCLEVE *De Reg. Princ.* 2832 He pat noble is of blode, and a lorde In stile. 1414 *Dede is worchyng* 115 in *26 Pol. Poems* 59 To ffraunce kyng Edwarde had queryle, Hit was his kynde heritage; And 3e han þe same style. *c* 1470 HENRY *Wallace* IX. 87 The Rede Reffayr thai call him in his still. 1543–4 *Act* 35 *Hen. VIII*, c. 3 (*title*) The Bill for the Kinges Stile. 1625 BACON *Ess., Prophecies* (Arb.) 537 The Kings Stile, is now no more of England, but of Britaine. 1639 FULLER *Holy War* III. x. (1640) 126 King Richard, with some of his succeeding English Kings wore the title of Jerusalem in their style. 1667 MILTON *P. L.* II. 312 Or these Titles now Must we renounce, and changing stile be call'd Princes of Hell? 1758 *Payne's Universal Chron.* 29 July–5 Aug. 141/1 A Grant..of the dignity of an Earl of the said kingdom, by the name, stile and title of Earl of Wandesford, in the county of Kilkenny. 1796 MORSE *Amer. Geog.* I. 232 Articles of Confederation..in which they took the style of 'The United States of America.' 1849 MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* x. II. 667 The title of king of France, assumed by the conqueror of Cressy, was not omitted in the royal style. 1863 H. COX *Institit.* III. viii. 715 Conferring the whole Admiralty jurisdiction..on one person, under the style of High Admiral. 1865 M. ARNOLD *Ess. Crit.* Pref. p. xiv, My native modesty is such, that I have always been shy of assuming the honourable style of Professor. 1886 *Law Rep.* Weekly Notes 198/1 The covenant was..that he would not use a particular name or style in trade. 1913 *Times* 13 Sept. 17/6 Partnerships Dissolved..P. Lawford and P. W. Billing,..under the style of A. S. Wilson and Co.

b. *gen.* Any distinguishing or qualifying title, appellation, or denomination. Now *rare* or *Obs.*

c 1400 *Pilgr. Sowle* IV. xx. (Caxton 1483) 67 And eke of moder hast thou lost the style. 1508 KENNEDIE *Flyting w. Dunbar* 282 Wallace..callit Corspatrick tratour be his style. *a* 1592 GREENE *Jas. IV*, I. i, The name of father, and the style of friend. 1605 BACON *Adv. Learn.* I. vi. § 2 The one carrying the stile of a Manufacture, and the other of a lawe, decree, or Councell. 1611 MIDDLETON & DEKKER *Roaring Girl* K 4, A ruffler is my stile, my title, my profession. 1631 HEYWOOD *2nd Pt. Fair Maid of West* I. C 2 b, T' impose on me The hatefull stile and blot of pandarisme, That am a Gentleman. 1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseud. Ep.* I. iii. 10 Their soberest adversaries have ever afforded them the stile of fooles and mad men. 1673 PENN *Chr. Quaker* vii. Wks. 1726 I. 542 Which excellent Principles..do worthily deserve, in my Esteem, the Stile of Divinity. 1711 SWIFT *Cond. Allies* 30 The Style of *Maritime Powers*, by which our Allies, in a sort of contemptuous manner, usually couple us with the Dutch. 1742 YOUNG *Nt. Th.* IV. 788 A Christian is the highest *stile of man*.

III. Manner, fashion.

†19. A method or custom of performing actions or functions, esp. one sanctioned by usage or law. *Style of court*: see quot. 1726. *Obs.*

c 1430 *Pilgr. Lyf Manhode* III. xxxi. (1869) 152 But whan i wole, þe style i haue, and hippe a while bi lesinges and lyinge. 1530 PALSGR. 276/1 Style a processe, *stile*. 1535 STEWART *Cron. Scot.* II. 10 Tua legatis he hes send..To execute the law in Romane stylis. 1549 *Registr. Aberdon.* (Maitl. Club) I. 434 Togyddyr with seruice in ostijng and vthir generall raidis furneist þairto efter þe forme and styill of þe schyir. 1647 CLARENDON *Hist. Reb.* I. § 20 According to the style of that Court and the slow progress in all things of ceremony. 1721 STRYPE *Eccl. Mem.* (1822) I. i. 145 He did an act against the custom and common style of the Court. 1726 AYLIFFE *Parergon* 193 The Style of Court is properly the Practice observ'd by any Court in its way of Proceeding. 1773 GOLDSM. *She stoops to Cong.* II. i, I like to give them a hearty reception in the old style at my gate.

† b. A particular manner of life or behaviour.

c 1412 HOCCLEVE *De Reg. Princ.* 4024 Allas! þat Kynges nobleye Turne schulde into style of tiannye! *Ibid.* 4516 [addressing a miser] Thus may thy style likned be to thefte.

† c. ? Outward demeanour. *Obs.*

1596 SPENSER *F. Q.* IV. ii. 29 Ne certes can that friendship long endure, How euer gay and goodly be the style, That doth ill cause or euill end enure.

†20. Condition with regard to external circumstances. *Obs.*

c 1450 HOLLAND *Howlat* 658 The stern Empriouris Style thus staitly restord is. *Ibid.* 709 Quhar sic statis will steir, thar stylis till ostend, 3e wait all worschip and welth dayly induris. *c* 1480 HENRYSON *Robene & Makyne* 57 Robene, I stand in sic a styll [*rimes* quhyle, begyle]; I sicht, and þat full sair.

21. A particular mode or form of skilled construction, execution, or production; the manner in which a work of art is executed, regarded as characteristic of the individual artist, or of his time and place; one of the modes recognized in a particular art as suitable for the production of beautiful or skilful work.

1706 *Art of Painting* (1744) 63 When a curious person has well consider'd the different pictures of a master, and has form'd a perfect idea of his stile. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl., Style*, in Music, the manner of Singing and Composing. Thus we say, the Style of the Charissimi, of Lully, of Lambert; the Style of the Italians, the French, the Spaniards, &c. 1743 FRANCIS tr. *Hor., Odes* III. i. 61 On Columns, rais'd in modern Style. 1763 J. BROWN *Poetry & Mus.* xii. 210 It [Modern Church Music] is infected with the same Puerility of Stile, with their Opera Airs. 1777 ROBERTSON *Hist. Amer.* (1778) II. VII. 286 The hardest Egyptian stile, stiff and imperfect as it was, is more elegant [than that of Mexican painting]. 1801 FUSELI *Lect. Paint.* ii. 69 Michael Angelo lived to see the electric shock which his design and style had given to art. 1812 CRABBE *Tales* v. 533 The shining tables, curiously inlaid, Were all in comfortless proud style display'd. 1832 G. DOWNES *Lett. Cont. Countries* I. 84 At Lausanne we only stopped for dinner (which we obtained in sufficiently bad style at the *Lion d'Or*). 1858 HINGESTON *Capgrave's Chron.* (Rolls) p. xxvi, The style of the writing corresponds very closely with that of those MSS. of Capgrave which are known..to have been written by his own hand. 1865 *Nat. Hist. Rev.* 338 The 'style' in which the book has been produced is excellent. 1910 *Encycl. Brit.* II. 28/1 British manufacturers are building [fishing-] rods after the American style.

b. In generalized sense. Often used for: Beauty or loftiness of style.

1802 FUSELI in Barry, etc. *Lect. Paint.* (1848) 381 The few nudities which he [Fra Bartolomeo] allowed himself to exhibit show sufficient intelligence and still more style.

c. A definite type of architecture, distinguished by special characteristics of structure or ornamentation. Often with prefixed designation, as the *Grecian, Gothic, Italian, Romanesque style*; the *Norman, Early English, Decorated, Perpendicular, Tudor, Renaissance, Palladian style*; and the like.

1777 DALRYMPLE *Trav. Sp. & Port.* cxxxiii, A very handsome church..in the Gothic stile. 1817 RICKMAN *Styles Engl. Archit.* 46 The first or Norman style. *Ibid.* 56 The Second, or Early English Style. *Ibid.* 71 The Third, or Decorated English Style. 1838 *Civil Eng. & Arch. Jrnl.* I. 157 The beauties or defects of either the Egyptian, Grecian, Roman, or Gothic style. 1874 MICKLETHWAITE *Mod. Par. Churches* 251 A man can no more invent a new style than he can invent a new language. *a* 1878 SIR G. SCOTT *Lect. Archit.* I. 6 Each age had its architectural style distinctly and strongly marked.

d. *Printing.* The rules and methods, in regard to typography, display, etc., observed in a particular printing-office.

1871 *Amer. Encycl. Printing* (ed. Ringwalt) 451 It is highly important for a compositor to thoroughly familiarize himself with the style of the office in which he is employed, as well as the style adopted for any special work. *Ibid.*, After a compositor has been at an office for years, where, habituated to the style of the house, he sets up words in type as follows, 1894 *Amer. Dict. Printing*, etc. 530 Most printing-offices have their own particular method in the matter of display, spelling, &c., and this is known as the style of the house.

e. *Calico printing.* (*a*) See quot. 1844. (*b*) Any of the various methods in use for producing the coloured design.

1844 G. DODD *Textile Manuf.* ii. 58 Among calico-printers the term pattern is applied to disposition of forms, while style is applied to disposition of colours. 1874 CROOKES *Dyeing & Calico-Printing* 566 The madder styles have for a long time played the most important part in calico-printing. 1892 ARLIDGE *Dis. Occupations* 523 The art of dyeing is one characterised by very diverse methods, or, as they are called, 'styles'.

22. A kind, sort, or type, as determined by manner of composition or construction, or by outward appearance.

1794 MRS. RADCLIFFE *Myst. Udolpho* xxxii, Of the latter style of countenance..were those of the peasant and his wife. 1797 JANE AUSTEN *Sense & Sensib.* xxxiii, There was something in her style of beauty to please them [*i.e.* men] particularly. 1836 DICKENS *Sk. Boz, Visit Newgate*, The former [murderer]..exhibiting a style of head and set of features, which might have afforded sufficient moral grounds for his execution at any time. 1849 *N. Brit. Rev.* XI. 479 Emilia Wyndham is a complete example of the style of novel in which MRS. MARSH is qualified to succeed. 1899 *Allbutt's*

Syst. Med. VII. 659 The 'style' of the symptoms, as I am in the habit of calling it.

b. *transf.* Said predicatively of a person or thing: What suits (a person's) taste; the 'sort' that (a person or set of persons) would choose or approve.

1811 Miss L. M. Hawkins *C'tess & Gertr.* I. 358 Had he continued to live *en garçon*, his own Chariot, little less weight than a farmer's loaded waggon, with gilt springs.. would have been his style. 1880 'Ouida' *Moths* I. 145 She is not the style of the day at all, you know.

† c. *In a . . style.* (*a*) Of a (specified) kind; (made) on a certain scale. (*b*) In a (good or bad) condition as regards health, mode of life, etc. *Obs.*

1772 *Test Filial Duty* II. 24 Every thing here is in a great stile; I shall hence forward look on the middle-part of England as the miniature of nature. 1789 Charlotte Smith *Ethelinde* II. 269 By all accounts he's in a bad style. He was always, I thought, a giddy unpromising boy. *Ibid.* III. 5 Nor should I have thrown away a thought on this [lady], had not she had the reputation of an understanding in a superior style. *Ibid.* 264 My horses are all in a fine style.

23. Manner of executing a task or performing an action or operation. Often with reference to athletics, racing, games: The manner of action of a particular performer, racehorse, etc.

1774 Burke *Sp. Amer. Tax.* Wks. 1792 I. 551 To repeal by a denial of our right to tax in the preamble.. would have cut, in the heroic style, the Gordian knot with a sword. 1815 J. Smith *Panorama Sci. & Art* II. 157 The bold adventurer ascended from Belvidere Ground-s, Dublin,..and in a gradual and majestic style left the shores of Ireland. 1819 in *Lond. Gaz.* (1820) No. 17629. 1670/1 That the service entrusted to him has been executed in a stile most creditable to the professional skill of the Major-General himself. 1833 Ht. Martineau *Tale of Tyne* i. 11 A barge was coming up in fine style. 1833 *Q. Rev.* XLIX. 382 The style in which he [a horse] ran, his nose almost sweeping the ground. 1879 Proctor *Rough Ways* (1880) 159 They row in a style, which without being actually identical with that of the London waterman, resembles it in all essential respects. 1879 *Oxf. & Camb. Undergrad. Jrnl.* 13 Mar. 291/2 If his staying powers can be trusted he is perhaps the best man in the boat, his style being very good. 1891 B. Harte *First Fam. Tasajara* x, It was like you to..say all those mean, silly things to dad,..in your regular looney style.

b. Used *absol.* for: Good or fine style.

1864 *Times* 21 Mar. 9/6 Mr. Hawkshaw, in speaking for the Cambridge crew, said they had been beaten by style.

24. A mode of deportment or behaviour; a mode or fashion of life, esp. in regard to expense; display, etc.

1770 C. Jenner *Placid Man* III. iv. I. 163 He found Lady Clayton in a very high stile of passion. *a* 1775 *Hobie Noble* xv. in Child *Ballads* IV. 3 Then Hobie Noble is that deer's I wat he carries the style fu hie! 1780 *New Newgate Cal.* V. 161 Living in the stile of a gentleman. 1788 Mrs. Hughes *Henry & Isab.* III. 66 An opportunity of marrying in such a manner as would enable her to live in a certain style, among a certain class. *c* 1789 Gibbon *Autobiog.* Misc. Wks. 1796 I. 117 Between the expensive style of Paris and of Italy it was prudent to interpose some months of tranquil simplicity. 1792 Gouv. Morris in Sparks *Life & Writ.* (1832) I. 374 The society is noisy and in bad style. 1798 Sophia Lee *Canterb. T., Young Lady's T.* II. 14 [He] had already brought home an immense fortune from the East, and was now to return in a high style. 1814 Scott *Wav.* lxii. P 1 That gentleman..lived in what is called great style. 1816 *Remarks Eng. Manners* 87, I was convinced by their style that any overture on my part would be deemed an intrusion. 1825 Lamb *Lepus Papers* v. Wks. 1903 I. 278 What a style you *do* live in! what elegant curtains! 1847 C. Brontë *Jane Eyre* xv, I began the process of ruining myself in the received style, like any other spoony. 1885 'E. Garrett' *At any Cost* xiii. 246, I don't say your Miss Chrissie did anything in that style, but she lost her place here through her carryings on. 1892 E. Reeves *Homeward Bound* 270 So we left in great style, with bands playing and soldiers presenting arms.

b. Used *absol.* for: Fashionable air, appearance, deportment, etc.

1807-8 W. Irving *Salmag.* viii. (1860) 176 Style..consists in certain fashions, or certain eccentricities, or certain manners, of certain people, in certain situations, and possessed of a certain share of fashion or importance. 1835 Willis *Pencillings* I. xxv. 175 A plain German city, with little or no pretensions to style. 1848 Alb. Smith *Chr. Tadpole* xxvi. 233 An evident wish to throw a little style into their costume. 1885 Howells *Ind. Summer* ii. 16 The refined and indefinite perfume which exhaled from the ensemble of her silks, her laces, and her gloves, like an odorous version of that otherwise impalpable quality which women call style.

c. *In style*: splendidly, showily, according to fashionable requirements. Also † *in a style.*

1781 W. Blane *Ess. Hunting* (1788) 31 *note*, All other kind of Hounds are now entirely laid aside by those who affect to hunt in style. 1782 Miss Burney *Cecilia* IV. ii, We began with cotillons, and finished with country dances. It was the most elegant thing you ever saw in your life; everything quite in a style. 1807 *Sporting Mag.* XXIX. 23 Every gentleman who perambulates Bond-street and the Steyne in style. 1835 Dickens *Sk. Boz, Publ. Dinners*, The driver.. —no doubt that you may do the thing in style—turns a deaf ear to your earnest entreaties to be set down at the corner. 1874 Ruskin *Fors Clav.* IV. 39 This is what the modern British public thinks is 'living in style'.

d. *transf.* Attractive quality (in a thing).

1807 *Daily News* 18 Mar. 8/7 They found that the beer had 'more style,' as it was called, when there was a certain admixture of foreign barley.

25. A particular mode or fashion of costume.

1814 Jane Austen *Mansf. Park* xxiv, A better style of dress. 1833 Ht. Martineau *Brooke Farm* viii, His daughters look very well in their better style of dress. 1860 *Draper & Clothier* I. 129/1 The dress is of the style called in Paris, the *robe Impératrice*. 1866 Geo. Eliot *F. Holt* xvi, Got up, both inside and out, as candidates in the style of the period. 1891 *Truth* 10 Dec. 1240/2 The front was all white satin, made in Empire style.

26. A person's characteristic bearing, demeanour, or manner, esp. as conducing to beauty or striking appearance.

1826 Disraeli *Viv. Grey* v. xv, Most amusing, delightful girl, great style! 1861 Mrs. H. Wood *Shadow of Ashlydyat* I. ii, I do not see much beauty in Charlotte Pain. I do not like her style. 1870 Dickens *E. Drood* iv, Mr. Sapsea is very proud of this, and of his voice, and of his style. 1869 Mrs. Stowe *Oldtown Folks* vi. (1870) 61 There are some very homely women who have a style that amounts to something like beauty.

IV. 27. A mode of expressing dates. *Chiefly*, Either of the two methods of dating that have been current in the Christian world since the introduction of the Gregorian calendar in 1582: viz., the *New Style* (abbreviated N.S.), which is the result of the Gregorian reform, and the *Old Style* (O.S.) which follows the unreformed calendar. The New Style is occasionally called the *Roman Style*, and the Old Style the *English Style*. In historical dates earlier than 1582, however, *Roman Style*, as used by modern writers, means only that the year mentioned is to be understood as beginning on 1 Jan.

The Julian calendar was based on the assumption that the tropical year consisted of 365¼ days. In order that the average calendar year should have this length, it was provided that the normal year should contain 365 days, but every fourth year 366 days. Down to A.D. 1582 the Julian calendar continued to be used by all Christian nations. In calendars and almanacs, the year began on 1 Jan. (like the Roman consular year); but for ordinary purposes the time of beginning the year was different in different places; in England, after some fluctuations, the beginning of the legal year was fixed for 25 March. After the adoption of the Christian era, the leap years were those whose number A.D. (reckoned from 1 Jan.) was divisible by 4.

The Julian estimate of 365¼ days for the length of the tropical year was too great by about 11 minutes, an error which amounts to one day in about 128 years. Hence in 1581 the date of 21 March for the vernal equinox, assumed since the early 4th c. in the rule for computing Easter, was 10 days too late. To remedy this inconvenience, and to prevent its recurrence, Pope Gregory XIII, acting on the advice of the Jesuit Clavius and other eminent astronomers, ordained that in A.D. 1582 the day after 4 Oct. should be reckoned as 15 Oct., and that in future the years which had a number ending in two cyphers should not be leap years unless the number were divisible by 400. The Julian date of 1 Jan. for the beginning of the year was retained. The difference between the old and new calendars continued to be 10 days until 1700 (the first disputed leap-year), when it became 11 days; in 1800 it became 12 days, and in 1900 13 days, from which there will be no further increase till 2100.

The Gregorian calendar (so called from the name of the Pope) was speedily adopted in all Roman Catholic countries, while the other nations of Europe adhered to their traditional reckoning. In the 17th and 18th centuries, it was often found necessary to state whether a date was according to Old or New Style, or to give both datings. As the nations which accepted the reform usually began the year on 1 Jan., not, as in England, on 25 Mar., there was for the March quarter (in addition to the other difference) a discrepancy in the number of the year between the Old Style and New Style dates.

In England and Scotland the Gregorian calendar was established by the Act 24 Geo. II. c. 23 (1751), which provided that the year 1752 and all future years should begin on 1 Jan. instead of 25 Mar. (in Scotland this rule had been adopted in 1600), that the day after 2 Sep. 1752 should be reckoned the 14 Sep., and that the reformed rule for leap year should in future be followed. Ireland followed in 1788. The use of New Style is now universal throughout the Christian world with the exception of certain countries of the Greek Church; in Russia it was officially adopted by the revolutionary government in 1918.

The use of *stilus* for 'mode of dating' was current in med.L., as a specific application of the sense 'usage' (cf. 19 above). In France the expression New Style (*nouveau style*) had been current before the time of the Gregorian reform, with reference to the change in the beginning of the year from Easter to 1 Jan., which took place in that country in 1563.

[1589: cf. Stilo novo]. 1590 Wotton *Life & Lett.* (1907) I. 239 Written the xxv of September, 1590, style of England. 1615 Cocks *Diary* 18 June (Hakl. Soc.) I. 11, I receved a letter from Jorge Durois, dated in Langasaque, le 22nd of June, new stile. 1617 Moryson *Itin.* I. 63 The ninth of September, after the old stile (for the new style is vsed in Poland) I tooke my iourney to Crakaw. 1625 *Docum. Impeachm. Buckhm.* (Camden) 160 The eight and twentieth day of this presente moneth of March, Old Stile of England. 1664 Sir R. Fanshawe *Let.* in *Mem. Lady Fanshawe* (1829) 329 Madrid, Wednesday, the 15th June, 1664; English Style. 1674 Moxon *Tutor Astron.* II. (ed. 3) 84, I look in the Calender of Old Stile for June 1. 1678 *Trial of Coleman* 28 In the month of April old stile, May new stile. 1712 Budgell *Spect.* No. 395 P 3 Telling me she looked upon the Month as then out, for that she had all along reckoned by the New Style. 1716 Mar *Jrnl.* in Patten *Hist. Rebell.* (1717) 269 It was about the middle of December (our Style) before he could reach Dunkirk. 1753 in Wilkins *Polit. Ballads* (1860) II. 311 In seventeen hundred and fifty three The Style it was chang'd to Popery. 1809 R. Langford *Introd. Trade* 35 Russia is.. the only country in which bills are dated by the Old Style. 1829 S. Shaw *Staffordsh. Potteries* vi. 137 At the time of altering the Style, in 1752. 1862 L. F. Simpson *Autob. Chas. V*, p. v, Where he was born on February 24, 1500, according to Roman Style. 1879 Froude *Cæsar* xxii. 387 The 9th of August, old-style [*i. e.* according to the pre-Julian reckoning], or towards the end of May by real time, Cæsar had [etc.].

¶ b. *transf.* (in nonce uses).

1749 Fielding *Tom Jones* XV. ii, Then they parted to dress, it being now past three in the morning, or to reckon by the old style, in the afternoon. 1755 J. Shebbeare *Lydia* (1769) II. 80 By which manner of computation he was but fifty in his style, and sixty in that of all others.

V. 28. *Comb.*, as *style-like* adj.; (in sense 8) *style-flag, -flap*; **style-book**, (*a*) a book containing 'styles' of writs, etc., according to Scots law (see 17); (*b*) *U.S.* a book containing the methods and regulations observed in a particular printing-office (W. 1911).

1708 J. Spottiswoode *Introd. Stile of Writs* Pref. (1727) a 6 b, I have thought fit to communicate the Scheme of a *Stile-book, form'd by James Hay of Carribber for the Use of the Gentlemen educated in his Writing-Chamber. 1873 Burton *Hist. Scot.* V. lvii. 178 A narrative of the method of the deed has a certain old quaintness that may relieve it of the stiffness of the modern style-book. 1815 Kirby & Sp. *Entomol.* (1816) I. ix. 295 The petal-like expansion or *style-flag [in Iris]. 1907 Scott Elliot *Romance Pl. Life* 197 In Mimulus the *style-flaps close when touched. 1822 J. Parkinson *Outl. Oryctol.* 72 A round, lamellated star, with a projecting *style-like axis in the centre. 1847-9 *Todd's Cycl. Anat.* IV. 11/2 Urocentrum..is furnished posteriorly with a sharp style-like process.

Style (stəil), *v.* Also 6–9 **stile**, 6 *Sc.* **styell**, 7 **still(e**, *Sc.* **stylle**, (8 *pa. pple.* **stilen**). [f. Style *sb.* F. *styler* means 'to train, practise, instruct'.]

1. *trans.* To give a name or style to; to call by a name or style. Const. with complement; † also with *for, with.*

1563-83 Foxe *A. & M.* 812/2 Howsoeuer it pleaseth..Syr Tho. Moore..to stile Richard Hunne for a knowne and desperate heretique. *c* 1580 Montgomerie *Misc. P.* I. Luiffaris, leif of to loif so hie 3our ladyes; and thame styell no mair, But peir, the erthlie A per se. 1607 Hieron *Wks.* (1613) I. 249 Hee..is therefore stiled, A murtherer from the beginning. 1614 Ralegh *Hist. World* I. II. xvii. § 8. 491 So they [the Psalms] are intituled in the old Hebrew copies, though the vulgar and Septuagint..stile them otherwise. 1630 *Reg. Mag. Sig. Scot.* 1634, 1½ Wmquhill Johnne lord Halyruidhous, then styllit Mr Johne Bothuell. 1648-9 Whitelocke *Mem.* (1853) II. 497 Now the commons styled what were before ordinances at this time *acts of parliament.* 1663 in *Verney Mem.* (1907) II. 229 Such strainge and unbeseeming titles I forbeare to stile you with. 1667 Milton *P. L.* VI. 289 The strife which thou call'st evil, but wee style The strife of Glorie. *a* 1700 Evelyn *Diary* 12 Mar. 1686, One Hall, who styl'd himselfe his Majesty's printer. 1711 Hearne *Collect.* (O. H. S.) III. 251 The present Queen (as she is styl'd). 1796 Burke *Regic. Peace* ii. Wks. VIII. 251 That liberty was found, under Monarchies stiled absolute, in a degree unknown to the ancient commonwealths. 1849 Cassan *Bps. of Bath & Wells* iii. 24 That from henceforward the Bishop should be stiled from both places. 1838 De Morgan *Ess. Probab.* 151 What we have called a fixed error is in fact a part of the phenomenon, styled an error because it is not a part of the result we wish to observe. 1855 Browning *Fra Lippo Lippi* 39 Yes, I'm the painter, since you style me so. 1894 Lady M. Verney *Verney Mem.* III. 95 The old man is still styled bailiff in 1639.

† b. Of a thing: To invest with a right to be called (so-and-so). *Obs.*

1634 Sir T. Herbert *Trav.* 19 Both sexe goe naked, a linnen cloth only about their middles, which stiles them modest.

† c. To sign (a letter) with one's name and title. *Obs.*

1618 Bolton *Florus* II. xii. (1636) 128 When hee wrote to the Roman Generall..and styled the letter, he put himselfe down in it by the name of 'King'.

† 2. To name or address with honorific titles; to honour with a title. *Sc. Obs.*

1508 Dunbar *Flyting* 3 Quhilk hes thame self aboif the sternis styld. *Ibid.* 103 Sen thow with wirschep wald sa fane be styld, Haill, souerane senȝeour. 1535 Lyndesay *Satyre* 599 Howbeit I haif lang tyme bene exyllit, I traist in God my name suld ȝit be styllit. 1552— *Monarche* 4666 The pure Preist thynkis he gettis no rycht, Be he nocht stylit lyke ane Knycht, And callit 'schir' affore his name.

† 3. To relate or express in literary form. With adv.: To express or phrase in a specified style. *Obs.*

1605 Bacon *Adv. Learn.* II. iv. § 1 In the later [sense] it [*sc.* poesy] is..one of the principall Portions of learning: and is nothing else but Fained History, which may be stiled as well in Prose as in Verse. 1605 *First Pt. Jeronimo* I. ii. 43 The phraise he vseth must be gently stylde, The king hath warned him to be smooth and mild.

† 4. To order, direct to a purpose. *Obs.*

1584 Hudson *Du Bartas' Judith* IV. (1608) 58 So wise Merari all his studie stilde, To facion well the maners of this childe.

5. To pierce with a stylet.

1736 Bracken *Farriery Impr.* (1757) II. 10 The Substance of the Ears should be..free from Flesh; and their Points when stiled or pricked should be nearer than their Roots.

6. To execute (a design) with a stylus on a prepared ground.

1864 Maelise in *Builder* 27 Feb. 150/3 The cartoon to be punctured or styled on the wall and slavishly copied.

Style, obs. form of Steel, Stile, Still.

† Styled, *ppl. a. Obs. rare.* [f. Style *v.* + -ed 1.] Having a certain style or designation.

a 1625 Gorges in Farr *S. P. Jas. I* (1847) 315 When Tyme our styled yeare did end, And chaunge beganne your raigne, Then Time reft vs a soueraigne blisse, Which chaunge repay'de with gaine.

Styleless (stəi·l,lės), *a.* [f. Style *sb.* + -less.]

1. Devoid of style, in various senses. Hence **Stylelessness.**

1796 Anna Seward *Lett.* (1811) IV. 196 An abode which,

though a mansion..spacious to my utmost wish, breathes of nothing above the level of mere common and stileless life. 1886 *Contemp. Rev.* July 106 The modern *styleless* Parisian images..which are now the eyesore of most Roman Catholic churches. 1893 STEVENSON *Lett.* (1899) II. 314 The British pig returns to his true love, the love of the styleless, of the shapeless, of the slapdash and the disorderly. 1911 H. O. TAYLOR *Mediæval Mind* II. vi. xxxi, The only trouble is stylelessness. In fine, an absence of quality characterizes Carolingian prose. 1912 *Nation* 20 Apr. 96/1 All his novels ..are styleless, formless, abounding in digressions.

2. *Bot.* Of an ovary: Having no styles.

1821 S. F. GRAY *Brit. Plants* I. 152 Ovary..Style-less, *acephalum*. Not having any styles.

Stylet (stəi·lĕt). Forms: 7–9 **stilet**, 8 **stillet**, 9 **stillette**, 8– **stylet**. [a. F. *stylet*, ad. It. *stiletto*: see STILETTO.]

1. *Surg.* A slender probe. Also, a wire run through a catheter or canula in order to stiffen it or to clear it.

1697 *Phil. Trans.* XIX. 458, I thrust a Stilet or Probe into the Cavity of the Vertebres. 1722 *Ibid.* XXXII. 84 First, Pass the Catheter,..then draw out the Stillet. 1806 *Med. Jrnl.* XV. 226, I found the instrument [a, catheter] advance suddenly for the space of half an inch, but on withdrawing the stillette, nothing but a few drops of blood followed. 1846 BRITTAN tr. *Malgaigne's Man. Oper. Surg.* 271 Ware accidentally observed that when a metallic stylet is placed in the canal, the overflow of tears almost immediately ceases,..His stylet is a metallic wire about an inch and a quarter long...The patient wears it all his life. 1864 *T. Holmes' Syst. Surg.* IV. 1047 In addition to these, the Surgeon should have a dozen elastic catheters, in graduated series, fitted with wire stilettes, and a few straight solid bougies. 1871 MEADOWS *Man. Midwifery* (ed. 2) 349 The first step to be taken is to puncture the membranes. This may readily be done by means of a stilet, or a common hair-pin. 1894 *Lancet* 3 Nov. 1033 If necessary, a stylet, passed through the puncture for stop, can be used for introduction. The fixation with two catheters, done in the first instance, is useful on emergency.

2. † a. *Bot.* = STYLE *sb.* 8.

1720 P. BLAIR *Bot. Ess.* i. 14 The Pistillum or Pestil, the Stylus or Stiflet, the Apices or Tops. 1723 *Phil. Trans.* XXXII. 444 This Stylet ordinarily splits into 3 Parts, just opposite to the Top of the Stamina.

b. *Zool.* = STYLE *sb.* 9, 10.

1834 MCMURTRIE *Cuvier's Anim. Kingd.* 456 In Stratiomys ..the antennæ are much longer than the head, the first and last joint being greatly elongated; the latter is fusiform,.. consisting of at least five distinct rings, without an abrupt stilet at the extremity. 1838 *Penny Cycl.* XII. 492/2 In the Dragon-flies there are small flattened appendages..which are called stylets. 1872 A. S. PACKARD *Guide Study Insects* (ed. 3) 58 The abdomen is now pointed at the extremity and divided into the rudiments of the two anal stylets, which form large, acute tubercles. 1889 *Hardwicke's Sci.-Gossip* XXV. 213/1, A crystalline stylet..found in the stomach of some snails. 1899 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* VIII. 944 This veneno-salivary gland is situated in the head of the mosquito, communicating by means of a long duct with the base of the middle stylet or lingula.

† 3. = STYLE *sb.* 1, STYLUS 1. *Obs.*

1750 FREEMAN *Herculaneum* in *Phil. Trans.* XLVII. 139 A sort of standish, or inkhorn, in which were found many stylets or pens, with which they wrote in those days.

b. A kind of pencil for the use of the blind.

1819 tr. *Guillié's Ess. Blind* (1894) 97 The stilet, or pencil should be held with the thumb, the fore-finger, and the middle-finger...The blind, in general, have the fault of holding the stilet too close between their fingers. 1883 *Daily News* 17 May 2/3 Girls and lads..writing their exercises with stylets with great rapidity...Others were taking notes with great rapidity by the familiar aid of the stylet and the brass perforated rule.

c. A pointed marking instrument; a graving tool.

1853 C. BRONTE *Villette* xx, The strong hieroglyphics graven as with iron stylet on his brow. *Ibid.* xli, Her eye grazing me with its hard ray like a steel stylet. 1872 S. MOSTYN *Perplexity* I. xiii. 260 Already I seem to trace the stylet of life in certain lines about my lineaments. 1874 J. GEIKIE *Gt. Ice Age* vi. 179 Stones used as chisels and stylets by the ice. 1902 *Westm. Gaz.* 23 Oct. 6/1 Sand was placed on the floor, and each time the pendulum passed over it a new track was marked by the stylet in regular deviation.

4. A stiletto, dagger.

1820 SCOTT *Abbot* iv, Whether it be a stilet, which we have borrowed from the treacherous Italian, or a dirk. 1842 BROWNING *In a Gondola* 108 While..Gian pinions me, Himself has past His stylet thro' my back; I reel. 1866 MEREDITH *Vittoria* viii, One sharp scar..he owed to the knife of a friend, by name Sarpo, who had got things ready to betray him, and struck him..but, striking, like a novice, on the bone, the stilet stuck there.

5. *Comb.*

1878 BRADY *Copepoda* I. 19 Artotrogidæ..Mandibles stilet-shaped. 1880 *Ibid.* III. 12 Stylet-shaped.

Stylewort (stəi·lwŭrt). *Bot.* [f. STYLE *sb.* (assumed to be equivalent to Gr. *στῦλος*, whence STYLIDIUM) + WORT *sb.*] Lindley's name for a plant of the genus Stylidium, or of the N.O. *Stylidiaceæ*, of which this is the type. Also *attrib.*

1846 LINDLEY *Veg. Kingd.* 696 Stylidiaceæ.—Styleworts. 1849 BALFOUR *Man. Bot.* § 921 Stylidiaceæ, the Stylidium or Stylewort Family. 1887 BENTLEY *Man. Bot.* (ed. 5) 600 Stylidiaceæ, the Stylewort Order.

Styliard, etc. obs. ff. STEELYARD 1.

‖ **Stylidium** (stəili·dĭəm). *Bot.* [mod.L. (Swartz 1807), f. Gr. *στῦλ-os* column + *-ίδιον* dim. suffix (here used loosely).] A genus of gamopetalous plants, native in Australia, India, and Ceylon, remarkable for the irritability of the column formed by the union of the stamens and style.

The genus had been named *Candollea* by Labillardière in 1805; this older name has been recently revived in accordance with the rule that the earliest botanical name given to a genus should be preserved. Hence the N. O. of which the genus is the type is now often called *Candolleaceæ* for the earlier *Stylidiaceæ* or *Stylidieæ*.

1829 T. CASTLE *Introd. Bot.* 154 A New Holland genus named stylidium. 1837 P. KEITH *Bot. Lex.* 340 The shrinking of the Mimosa, the collapsing of Dionæa, and the elastic spring of Stylidium [may be due to galvanism]. 1878 DARWIN *Life & Lett.* III. 287 As far as I know, Stylidium is the sole case of sensitive pistil. 1880 BESSEY *Bot.* 512 Species of Stylidium are grown in conservatories.

Styliferous (stəili·fĕrəs), *a. Bot.* and *Zool.* [f. mod.L. *stylifer*, f. *styl-us* STYLE *sb.*: see -FEROUS.] Bearing a style or styles. a. *Bot.* (see STYLE *sb.* 8). b. *Zool.* (see STYLE *sb.* 10).

a. 1835 LINDLEY *Introd. Bot.* (1848) I. 387 The inferior opening of the styliferous canal. 1878 HOOKER *Stud. Flora* (ed. 2) 78 The styliferous and placentiferous axis.

b. 1826 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* IV. xlvii. 370 Anus styliferous. 1871 T. R. JONES *Anim. Kined.* (ed. 4) 171 Nemertean Helminthozoa...Other glandular structures..are in communication with the styliferous cavity.

Styliform (stəi·lifŏm), *a. Anat., Zool., Min.* [ad. mod.L. *styliformis*, f. *styl-us* STYLE *sb.*: see -FORM.] Shaped like a stylus.

1578 BANISTER *Hist. Man* I. 9 These stiliforme, or spurre-like processes are prominent. 1741 A. MONRO *Anat.* (ed. 3) 114 From near the Point..a sharp-pointed Process is frequently produced downwards, which some call *Styliform*. 1819 SAMOUELLE *Entomol. Compendium* 292 Styliform joint of antenna. 1822 J. PARKINSON *Outl. Oryctol.* 172 The solid styliform axes projecting beyond the tubes. 1826 KIRBY & SP. *Entomol.* III. xxix. 167 They have no anal.. styliform appendages. 1828 STARK *Elem. Nat. Hist.* II. 433 Polypi...Gen. 30. Stylina, Lam. Stony, forming simple masses,..axis styliform. 1839–47 T. R. JONES in *Todd's Cycl. Anat.* III. 961/2 A long styliform bone generally composed of two pieces. 1861 R. E. GRANT *Tabular View Rec. Zool.* 53 Rhipiptera...Mouth furnished with a pair of small styliform palpigerous mandibles. 1886 J. J. QUELCH *Coral-Reefs* in *Challenger Rep.* XVI. III. 56 The styliform prolongation of the columella generally absent.

Hence † **Styliformed** *a.*, in the same sense.

1578 BANISTER *Hist. Man.* I. 10 The fourth processe [of the temporal bone]..beginnyng nere vnto the roote of the stiliformed. *Ibid.* III. 42 The stiliformed Processes of Hyoides.

Styline (stəi·lən), *a. Bot. rare.* [f. STYLE *sb.* + -INE.] Of or belonging to the style; stylar.

1866 *Treas. Bot.* 1107/2.

Styling (stəi·liŋ). [f. STYLE *v.* + -ING 1.] Ornament consisting of patterns traced by a style.

1867 *Morn. Star* 19 July, The ceilings..are coloured pale blue, with panels of pink styling.

Stylish (stəi·liʃ), *a.* Also † **stilish**. [f. STYLE *sb.* + -ISH.]

1. Of persons, their appearance or manners, also of dress, equipage, etc.: Noticeable for 'style' or conformity to the fashionable standard of elegance; showily fashionable.

1797 JANE AUSTEN *Sense & Sens.* xxx, A smart, stilish girl, they say, but not handsome. 1800 ELIZA SOUTHGATE BOWNE *Girl's Life Eighty Yrs. Ago* (1888) 23, I must either cut my hair or have one [a wig], I cannot dress it at all stylish. 1807–8 W. IRVING *Salmag.* (1824) 132 All who would be considered as admitted in the stylish arcana. 1815 CHALMERS in Hanna *Life* (1850) II. 8 My lodgings..consist of a dining-room and bed-room, perhaps not so stylish as I could have wished, but [etc.]. 1831 O. W. HOLMES *My Aunt* 21 He sent her to a stylish school. 1847 C. BRONTE *Jane Eyre* xxi, Her dress..looked as stylish as the other's looked puritanical. 1851 J. H. NEWMAN *Pres. Posit. Catholics* 16 They prowl about with handsome stocks and stylish waistcoats, and gold chains about their persons. 1883 *Manch. Exam.* 30 Oct. 8/4 A large farmer..attired in good broad-cloth of stylish cut. 1884 LADY F. VERNEY *Peasant Properties* etc. (1885) II. 250 But 'stylish' is of the shop, shoppy, and belongs to the dialect of milliners' apprentices and waiting-maids alone..in England. 1884 *Punch* 1 Nov. 215/1 Rather stylish to have a double-barrelled name. 1902 S. E. WHITE *Blazed Trail* lvii, Occasionally he might have noticed..a besilvered pair champing before a stylish vehicle.

2. In occasional uses: Having 'style' (in various senses: see STYLE *sb.* 14, 23, 25 d).

1892 WALSH *Tea* 86 An exceedingly black, 'silky' and stylish leaf tea. 1895 *Daily News* 17 May 3/7 Hearne was bowled for a most patient and stylish innings of 65. 1900 *Athenæum* 7 July 12/1 He has produced..a piece of lively and stylish writing.

Hence **Sty·lishly** *adv.*, **Sty·lishness**.

1798 JANE AUSTEN *Northanger Abb.* viii, Her air, though it had not all the decided pretension, the resolute stilishness of Miss Thorpe's, had more real elegance. 1879 MISS BRADDON *Vixen* III. 280 Why should you..leave off dressing stylishly? 1898 *Daily Chron.* 8 Oct. 6/6 The plaintiff, a stylishly-dressed young lady.

Stylist (stəi·list). [f. STYLE *sb.* + -IST. Cf. F. *styliste* (late 19th c.), G. *stilist*.] A writer who is skilled in or cultivates the art of literary style; a writer as characterized by his style.

1795 W. TAYLOR in *Monthly Rev.* XVIII. 522 He even delights in assisting the reader to trace his eternal allusions to their source; in pointing out..the stylist whose epithet he transplants, or the philosopher whose inference he impresses. *a* 1849 POE *Henry Cary* Wks. 1865 III. 68 A style that, as times go—in view of such stylists as Mr. Briggs for example—may be termed respectable. 1873 FITZEDWARD HALL *Mod. Engl.* 10 The latter [Addison] while notably distinguished, as a stylist, for ease,..combines with it the extreme of inexactness. 1882 M. PATTISON *Ess.* (1889) I. 127 Cotton's version 'orator' here misrepresents the French 'orateur,' which means 'stylist,' not speaker. 1882 JEBB *Bentley* 208 By his Latin compositions..Scaliger is connected with the Italian age of Latin stylists. 1882 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 2 June 5 She has evidently adopted for her model two great living stylists, Mr. Pater and Mr. J. A. Symonds. 1911 G. MACDONALD *Roman Wall Scot.* i. 15 Herodian.. was too much of a stylist to live up to his own professions.

Stylistic (stəili·stik), *a.* and *sb.* Also **stilistic**. [f. STYLE *sb.* + -IST + -IC; after G. *stilistisch* adj., *stilistik* sb.] A. *adj.* Pertaining to literary style.

1860 G. P. MARSH *Lect. Engl. Lang.* 82 Njála,.., which, as an example of pure stylistic excellence, may fairly be pronounced altogether unsurpassed. 1864 CARLYLE *Fredk. Gt.* XVI. IX. IV. 380 Mere grammatical stylistic skin-deep work. 1877 E. W. GOSSE *North. Studies, 4 Danish Poets* (1890) 227 Paul Heyse..with his lyrical drama of *Amor and Psyche*, a work displaying stilistic gift of the first order. 1883 R. L. STEVENSON in *Mag. of Art* Nov. 26/2 The engendering idea of some works is stylistic; a technical preoccupation stands them instead of some robuster principle of life. 1888 *Jewish Q. Rev.* I. 77 Historical, linguistic, and stylistic peculiarities converge, he thinks, to prove this. 1911 H. O. TAYLOR *Mediæval Mind* VI. XXXI. II. 152 The stylistic genius of Augustine and Jerome.

B. *sb.* The science of literary style; the study of stylistic features. Also (more commonly) **Stylistics** [see -ICS].

[1846 WORCESTER, *Stylistic*, the art of forming a good style in writing; a treatise on style.] 1882–3 SCHAFF *Encycl. Rel. Knowl.* II. 965 Giving proper place to New Testament stylistics and rhetoric. 1906 *Month* Feb. 215 A question of 'Stylistic,' to adopt a convenient, though to English ears an uncouth, German expression.

So **Styli·stical** *a.* = STYLISTIC *a.* **Styli·stically** *adv.*, with regard to literary or artistic style; also, in a stylized or conventional manner.

1889 A. J. EVANS in *Archæol. Rev.* II. 323 An ivory object ..so stylistically carved as to remind us of the treatment of some late Celtic bronze articles. 1889 *Class. Rev.* III. 87/2 The reproductions look pretty, but are far from being stylistically satisfactory. 1897 *Ibid.* XI. 284/1 Great numbers of stylistical peculiarities are required for correct inferences. 1911 H. O. TAYLOR *Mediæval Mind* II. xiv. I. 346 Stylistically, these great church mosaics belonged to antique art. 1915 *Nation* (N. Y.) 10 June 650/1 Several glazed pieces, notably the Visitation, [etc.] seem stylistically to belong before 1440.

Stylite (stəi·ləit). *Eccl. Hist.* Also in Gr. form **stylites** (stəilə·i·tīz). [ad. Eccl. Gr. *στυλίτης*, f. *στῦλ-os* pillar: see -ITE.] An ascetic who lived on the top of a pillar. Also *attrib.* or as *adj.*

a. a 1638 MEDE *Apostasy Later Times* (1641) 156 Peter à Metra, a famous *Stylite*, or Pillar-Monk. 1753 R. CLAYTON *Jrnl. fr. Cairo to Mt. Sinai* 12 Sept. 1722, The second (chapel is) of St. Simon the Stylite. 1831 K. H. DIGBY *Mores Cath.* (1845) I. II. ii. 114 St. Gregory, of Tours, relates his conversation with the monk Wulfilaich, who had lived the life of a Stylite in the diocese of Trèves. 1877 *Smith & Wace's Dict. Chr. Biog.* I. 14/2 In conjunction with a Stylite monk, Daniel, he placed himself at the head of the opposition to the Emperor Basiliscus. 1882–3 SCHAFF *Encycl. Rel. Knowl.* III. 2256 Stylites are mentioned as far down as the twelfth century. 1905 *Daily Chron.* 5 Jan. 4/6 Many as are the various eccentric sects that have appeared in America.. no one seems to have thought of reviving the Stylite mode of life.

β. 1776 R. CHANDLER *Trav. Greece* lxii. 250 At Patræ was one of the living statues, then not infrequent; a madman standing on a column. To this Stylites did Luke minister for ten years. 1867 EMILY F. BOWDEN tr. *Ctess. Hahn-hahn's Fathers of Desert* 369 Another renowned Stylites was Simeon the younger, who died in 596, after he had stood for sixty-eight years upon columns.

Hence **Stylitic** (stəili·tik) *a.*, pertaining to or characteristic of the Stylites. **Stylitism** (stəi·li·tiz'm), the mode of life or the ascetic principles of the Stylites.

1839 D. D. BLACK *Hist. Brechin* 268 These anchorites were called Stelites, from their living on pillars...The Styletic [*sic*] system began in the east in the year 460. 1843 CARLYLE *Past & Pr.* III. XV. 312 Stylitisms, eremite fanaticisms and fakeerisms. 1882 H. C. MERIVALE *Faucit of B.* II. II. v. 207 Your little tirade just now was a disguised farewell to the stylitic life, and to roots and water. You are tired of misanthropy as a profession.

Stylize (stəi·ləiz), *v.* [f. STYLE *sb.* + -IZE, after G. *stilisiren*.] *trans.* To conform (an artistic representation) to the rules of a conventional style; to conventionalize. Chiefly in pa. pple. Hence **Sty·lized** *ppl. a.*; also **Stylization**.

1898 *Q. Rev.* July 97 The stylized and eclectic art of Tyre. 1901 A. J. EVANS in *Oxf. Univ. Gaz.* 12 Feb. 339/1 A highly stylized bull's leg of ivory, from a stool. 1904 *Q. Rev.* Apr. 428 The comparison of form in real objects and form as modified, 'stylised,' by art. 1908 A. J. EVANS in *Anthropol. & Classics* 12 The progressive degeneration and stylization of the heads of horses, goats, deer and oxen. 1912 H. G. SPEARING *Childh. of Art* v. 118 Stylisation..is now generally admitted to be a sort of degeneration, though some consider it only as a stage in the evolution of art to a higher plane.

Styll, obs. form of STILE, STYLE.

Stylle, obs. forms of STILL.

Stylleathre, obs. form of STILLATORY *sb.*

Stylleche, Stylly(che, obs. ff. STILLY.

Stylo (stəi·lo). Short for STYLOGRAPH (*pen*).

1890 *Stationery & Bookselling* 30 Apr. 111/2 The arrangements of the 'British Stylo' are such as to secure an immunity from that 'getting out of order' so common to the stylo when first introduced. 1902 *Daily Chron.* 29 July 3/1 All that is needed is a writing-pad and a stylo pen.

Stylo- (stəi·lo), before a vowel **styl-**, used as combining form of Gr. *στῦλος* pillar in scientific words. **Styloglo·ssal** [Gr. *γλῶσσα* tongue], *a.*

pertaining to the styloid process and the tongue; *sb.* = *styloglossus* (in recent Dicts.). ‖ **Stylogloˈssus** († *-glossum*), a muscle arising from the styloid process and inserted in the tongue. **Stylomandiˈbular, Stylomaxiˈllary** *adjs.*, used to designate a ligament which connects the styloid process and the lower jaw-bone. **Stylommatoˈphorous** *a.* [Gr. ὀμματ-, ὄμμα eye, *-φόρ-ος* bearing] belonging to the suborder *Stylommatophora* of pulmonate gastropods (land-snails and slugs), which have eyes borne on the tips of a pair of retractile tentacles. **Stylopharyˈngeal,** *a.* belonging to the styloid process and the pharynx; *sb.* = *stylopharyngeus*. (in recent Dicts.). ‖ **Stylopharyˈngeus,** a muscle arising from the styloid process and separating the superior and middle constrictions of the pharynx. ‖ **Styloste·mon** [Gr. στήμων: see STAMEN] (see quot.).

1671 PHILLIPS, **Styloglossum.* 1684 *Blancard's Phys. Dict.*, *Styloglossum*, is that pair of Muscles which lift up the Tongue. 1728 CHAMBERS *Cycl.*, *Styloglossus*, a pair of Muscles, running off sharp and fleshy, from the *Processus Styloides*. 1831 R. KNOX *Cloquet's Anat.* 177 The stylo-glossus muscle. 1897 *Proc. Zool. Soc.* 376 The *stylo-mandibular ligament. 1831 R. KNOX *Cloquet's Anat.* 177 *Stylo-maxillary Ligament. 1888 ROLLESTON & JACKSON *Anim. Life* 477 The *Stylommatophorous *Pulmonata*. 1684 tr. *Blancard's Phys. Dict.*, **Stylopharyngæus* is a pair of Muscles that dilate the Gullet. 1897 *Proc. Zool. Soc.* 377 The stylo-pharyngeus is always present though small. 1856 HENSLOW *Dict. Bot. Terms*, **Stylostemon*, an epigynous stamen, originating in adhesion of the filament to the style.

Stylobata (stəilǫˈbătă). *Arch.* [a. L. *stȳlobata*, ad. Gr. στυλοβάτης, f. στῦλο-ς pillar + *-βατης*, f. *βαίνειν* to walk, step.] = next.

1563 SHUTE *Archit.* C ij b, If ye will set Stylobata, or Pedestal, vnder your pillor, thus ye shal begin. 1664 EVELYN tr. *Freart's Parallel Archit.* etc. 123 The Stylobata and Pedistals of Columns. 1771 W. NEWTON tr. *Vitruvius' Archit.* III. iii. (1791) 55 The stylobatæ should be wrought in such a manner, as to leave in the middle the adjection for the unequal scamilli. 1828–9 *Encycl. Metrop.* (1845) V. 311/2 Under each column in the range the stylobata is generally broken so that its face projects a little forward.

Stylobate (stəiˈlǫbēt). *Arch.* Also 9 **-bat.** [ad. L. *stȳlobata*: see prec.] A continuous basement upon which a row of columns is supported. See STEREOBATE.

1694 MOTTEUX *Rabelais* v. xliii, Its Stylobates or Foot-steps. 1823 P. NICHOLSON *Pract. Builder* 314 Fifty-two columns..standing on a circular stylobat. 1827 *Gentl. Mag.* XCVII. II. 11 A circular temple, raised on a stylobate of three steps. 1887 *Times* (weekly ed.) 9 Dec. 15/1 The temple rests on a stylobate, having a finely moulded base and surbase. 1902 A. J. EVANS in *Ann. Brit. Sch. Athens* 1901–2, 48 A raised base or stylobate which formed a division between the two halves of the Megaron.

Stylograph (stəiˈlǫgraf). [f. mod.L. *styl-us*, incorrect form of L. *stil-us* STYLE + -GRAPH.]

†1. (See quot.) *Obs. rare*—1.

1866 J. HOGG in *Trans. R. Soc. Lit.* (1870) IX. 25 On a profane stylograph of the Crucifixion, at Rome. *Ibid.*, I venture to form the new title stylograph—signifying a sketch, or drawing, or writing, made with a style.

2. A stylographic pen. Also *stylográph pen.*

1882 *Knowledge* 9 June 28/2 Glass stylographs. *Ibid.* 29/1 Most people who use mine think them superior to the ordinary stylographs. 1888 RYE *Records & Rec. Searching* 106 He must not use ink—not even from a stylograph. 1899 SOMERVILLE & ROSS *Experr. Irish R. M.* ii, I took out my stylograph pen and finished a letter to Philippa.

Stylographic (stəilǫgræˈfik), *a.* [Formed as prec. + -GRAPHIC.]

1. Relating to stylography or writing with a style (see quots.). ? *Obs.*

1808 R. WEDGWOOD *Patent Specif.* No. 3119 An apparatus for producing several original writings or drawings at one and the same time which I call a Pennæpolygraph or pen and stylographic manifold writer. 1846 WORCESTER, *Stylographic, Stylographical*, relating to stylography. *Crosman.* 1847–54 WEBSTER, *Stylographic*, pertaining to or used in stylography; as, *stylographic cards*, cards which may be written upon with a style. *Stylographic pencil*, a pencil or style for this kind of writing.

2. *Stylographic pen*: a variety of fountain-pen, having no nib, but a fine perforated writing-point fed with ink from the reservoir in the stem; in this point is fitted a fine needle, which when pushed back in the act of writing opens a valve so as to permit the flow of the ink.

1880 *Harper's Monthly Mag.* LX. 624 A ream of paper, and a stylographic pen. 1892 G. & W. GROSSMITH *Diary of a Nobody* xviii, A new patent stylographic pen, which cost me nine-and-sixpence.

Hence **Stylograˈphical** *a.* (Worcester 1846), **Stylograˈphically** *adv.* (Webster 1864).

Stylography (stəilǫˈgrăfi). ? *Obs.* [Formed as prec. + -GRAPHY.] A method of writing, drawing, or engraving with a style (see quots.).

1840 SMART, *Stylography*, art of writing with a style. 1846 WORCESTER, *Stylography*... A name given to a new method of engraving or drawing, invented by Mr. J. C. Crosman, performed by the use of a style on a tablet. *Hale.* 1852 R. HUNT *Sci. Exhib.* in *Art Jrnl. Illustr. Catal.* IV. p. xvi*/1 'Stylography'—a [Danish] process bearing much analogy to our glyphography.

Stylohyal (stəilǫhəiˈăl), *a.* and *sb. Anat.* [f. STYLO- + HY-OID + -AL.] Epithet of one of the bones of the hyoid arch, constituting in man the styloid process of the temporal bone. Chiefly as *sb.* = stylohyal bone.

1846 OWEN in *Rep. Brit. Assoc.* I. 236 A slender styliform bone, the 'stylohyal'. 1880 GÜNTHER *Fishes* 64 A stylohyal process..may be distinguished. 1884 COUES *N. Amer. Birds* 186 A bone called stylo-hyal, or 'styloid process of the temporal'.

Stylohyoid (stəilǫhəiˈoid), *a.* and *sb. Anat.* [ad. mod.L. *stylohyoid-eus* (see below), f. STYLO- + *hyoideus* (see HYOIDEAN and HYOID).] **a.** *adj.* Of or pertaining to the stylohyal and the hyoid bone. **b.** *sb.* The stylohyoid muscle or *stylohyoideus*, a muscle connecting the styloid process and the hyoid bone.

[1710 J. HARRIS *Lex. Techn.* II, *Stylo-Hyoideus*, is a Muscle of the *Os-Hyoides*, arising..from near the middle of the *Processus Styliformis*.] 1840 E. WILSON *Anat. Vade M.* 377 The stylo-hyoid branch [of the facial nerve] is distributed to the stylo-hyoid muscle. 1873 G. FLEMING tr. *Chauveau's Comp. Anat. Dom. Anim.* 722 The stylo-hyoid nerve. 1897 *Proc. Zool. Soc.* 377 The typical carnivorous stylo-hyoid seems to consist of two parts, superficial and deep.

Hence **Stylohyoiˈdean** *a.* = prec. (Cf. F. *stylo-hyoïdien.*) 1891 *Century Dict.* 1898 *Syd. Soc. Lex.*

Styloid (stəiˈloid), *a. Anat.* and *Zool.* [ad. mod. L. *styloid-es*, a.. Gr. στῑλοειδής (Galen) like a style, f. στῦλο-ς pillar: see -OID. Cf. F. *styloïde.*] Resembling a style in shape; styliform. Applied chiefly to several slender pointed processes of bone, e.g. the spine that projects from the base of the temporal bone.

[1615 CROOKE *Body of Man* 917 Which runneth from the processe called Styloides vnto the fourth bone of the wrest. 1684 *Blancard's Phys. Dict.*, *Styloeides*, are Processes of Bone fashioned backward like a Pencil, fastened into the Basis of the Skull itself.] 1709 *Phil. Trans.* XXVII. 143 Two Styloid Processes. 1822 J. PARKINSON *Outl. Oryctol.* 72 The styloid projecting axis rises from a depression in the centre. 1846 OWEN in *Rep. Brit. Assoc.* I. 237 A styloid piece of the os hyoides. 1873 G. FLEMING tr. *Chauveau's Comp. Anat. Dom. Anim.* 54 By its inferior extremity, the styloid bone is united either to the styloid nucleus or the styloid cornu. 1897 *Proc. Zool. Soc.* 377 *Styloglossus.*—This ..is by far the best developed of all the styloid muscles in Carnivora.

Stylolite (stəiˈlǫləit). *Geol.* [f. Gr. στῦλο-ς pillar + -LITE.] (See quots.) Also *attrib.*

1866 LAWRENCE tr. *Cotta's Rocks Classified* 99 Stylolites are a very singular formation in certain limestones, dolomites, or marls; they consist of irregular and longitudinally striped cylinders standing at right angles to the rocks' stratification. 1882 A. GEIKIE *Textbk. Geol.* 313 The so-called 'lignilites,' 'espomites,' or 'stylolites', are cylindrical or columnar bodies varying in length up to more than four inches, and in diameter to two or more inches. 1888 *Proc. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist.* XXIII. 495 The stylolite structure often seen in massive limestones.

Hence **Stylolitˈic** *a.*, of the nature of, or containing, stylolites.

1866 LAWRENCE tr. *Cotta's Rocks Classified* 289 Dolomite is seldom oolitic, slaty, fibrous, or stylolotic [*sic*].

Stylomastoid (stəilǫmæˈstoid), *a. Anat.* [f. STYLO- + MASTOID.] Common to the styloid and mastoid processes of the temporal bone.

1797 *Encycl. Brit.* (ed. 3) I. 681/2 The stylo-mastoid hole, so called from its situation between the styloid and mastoid processes. 1840 E. WILSON *Anat. Vade M.* 369 The stylo-mastoid vein. 1877 W. TURNER *Introd. Hum. Anat.* II. 467 A stylo-mastoid branch, which enters the stylo-mastoid foramen.

Stylopized (stəiˈlǫpəizd), *pa. pple.* and *ppl. a.* [f. *stylop-s* (see def.) + -IZE + -ED[1].] Of a bee: Infested by a parasite of the genus *Stylops* or a kindred genus.

1850 *Zoologist* VIII. 2827, I have observed that Stylopized bees are the first to make their appearance in spring. 1899 D. SHARP *Insects* II. 26 A stylopised male bee.

Stylopod (stəiˈlǫpǫd). *Bot.* Anglicized form of next.

1849 BALFOUR *Man. Bot.* § 888 Ovary..crowned with a double disk or stylopod. 1888 HENSLOW *Orig. Floral Struct.* 72 It is this cord which constitutes the stylopod when the fruit is ripe.

Stylopodium (stəilǫpōˈʊdiŭm). *Bot.* Pl. **-podia** (-pōˈʊdiă). [mod.L. (Hoffmann), f. Gr. στῦλο-ς pillar (see STYLE *sb.* 8) + ποδ-, πούς foot.] The double fleshy disk from which the style of the *Umbelliferæ* arises.

1832 LINDLEY *Introd. Bot.* 137. 1868 ROYLE & HEADLAND *Mat. Med.* (ed. 5) 466 Narthex Assafœtida,..Stylopodia urceolate and plicated.

Stylospore (stəiˈlǫˌspōəɹ). *Bot.* [a. F. *stylospore*, f. Gr. στῦλο-ς pillar (see STYLE *sb.* 8) + σπορά SPORE.] A name for the naked spores in certain fungals, which are produced at the tips of short thread-like cells. Hence **Stylosporous** *a.*, pertaining to, of the nature of, a stylospore.

1851 tr. *Tulasne* in *Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist.* Ser. II. VIII. 119 We may apply the name of stylospores to those which originate naked, that is to say, from linear stalk-like cells. *Ibid.* 120 The stylosporous *perithecia*. 1887 W. PHILLIPS *Brit. Discomycetes* 390 Stylosporous stage: *Ceuthospora phacidioides*. *Ibid.* 420 *Stylospores*, stalked spores.

‖ **Stylostegium** (stəiˌlǫstiˈdʒiŭm). *Bot.* [mod. L., f. Gr. στῦλο-ς (see prec.) + στέγ-η or στέγ-ος roof. (App. intended as a more correct substitute for STYLOTEGIUM.)] The inner corona enveloping the style in Stapelia and other asclepiads.

1856 HENSLOW *Dict. Bot. Terms*, *Stylostegium* (στυλος a style, στεγη a roof). A peculiar form of cucullus surrounding the style.

Stylote (stəiˈlōut), *a. Zool.* [f. STYLE *sb.* or STYL-US + -OTE.] Of sponge-spicules: Having the form of a style or stylus.

1886 *Proc. Zool. Soc.* 590 Spicules..tylostylote or stylote. 1887 S. O. RIDLEY in *Challenger Rep.* XX. 96 Megasclera stylote to tylostylote.

‖ **Stylotegium** (stəiˌlǫtiˈdʒiŭm). *Bot.* [mod.L. f. Gr. στῦλο-ς pillar (regarded as the source of STYLE *sb.* 8) + τέγ-ος roof.] Earlier synonym of STYLOSTEGIUM.

1821 S. F. GRAY *Brit. Plants* I. 163 Hood, *Stylotegium*. A hollowing out of the united filaments of the stamens, covering the ovary like a hood. 1832 LINDLEY *Introd. Bot.* 121. 1866 *Treas. Bot.*

‖ **Stylus** (stəiˈlŭs). Also **stilus.** [a. L. *stylus*, incorrect form of *stilus*: see STYLE *sb.*]

1. = STYLE *sb.* 1.

1807 J. LANDSEER *Lect. Engraving* iii. 119 Lines drawn with a stylus or steel point (commonly called an etching needle) on copper. 1821 CRAIG *Lect. Drawing* etc. ii. 101 The early Babylonians had a practice of tracing out various figures, with a stylus or point. 1834 LYTTON *Pompeii* III. i, A stilus and tablets of no ordinary size. 1881 A. WAIT *Mech. Industr.* 126 The next operation [in etching] is to employ the stylus, or point. 1882 *Chamb. Jrnl.* 4 Feb. 81 The pencil outlines are then cut sharply on the friable surface with a stylus. 1884 J. PAYN *Some Lit. Recoll.* (1885) 75 This delicate microscopic writing, looking as if it were done with a stylus.

2. The tracing-point applied to the record of a phonograph.

1878 KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.* 2518/2 (*Telephone*), The other arm terminates in a stylus which normally rests upon an ink-ribbon over the bed of the receiving-table. 1879 G. PRESCOTT *Sp. Telephone* 295 The membrane carries a stylus, which also participates in the motion, and records it upon the blackened paper. 1892 W. GILLETT *Phonograph* 13 *note*, In some of Mr. Edison's recent instruments..two styluses are used.

3. The gnomon of a sun-dial; = STYLE *sb.* 7.

1796 MORSE *Amer. Geog.* I. 18 A species of sun-dial, having a stilus or gnomon erected perpendicularly upon an horizontal plane.

4. A pointer or finger; = STYLE *sb.* 6.

1884 *Manch. Exam.* 16 Sept. 6/2 A curious Kalender, with an astronomical volvelle of which the stylus had been preserved.

5. *Bot.* = STYLE *sb.* 8.

Used as mod L. in Ray *Meth. Plant. Emend.* (1703) 202.

1728 J. DOUGLASS in *Phil. Trans.* XXXV. 570 They..fall to picking out the Filamenta Styli, or Chives, and together with them a pretty long Portion of the Stylus itself, or String to which they are joined. 1771 *Encycl. Brit.* III. 457/1 Both have one stylus, and one long seed. 1856 HENSLOW *Dict. Bot. Terms*, *Stylus.* The style. Also the Ostiolum of certain Fungi.

6. *Zool.* A style or stylet.

1856–8 W. CLARK *Van der Hoeven's Zool.* I. 53 Trichodina.—Body oval, with vibratile cilia, without cirri or styli. 1887 SOLLAS in *Encycl. Brit.* XXII. 416/2 (*Sponges*) By the suppression of one of the rays of an oxea, an acuate spicule or stylus results. 1887 S. O. RIDLEY in *Challenger Rep.* XX. 84 Spicules.—Megasclera; long but very slender styli.

Styly, obs. form of STILLY *adv.*

Styme, stime (stəim), *sb.* Chiefly *Sc.* and *north.* Forms: 3–4, 7– **stime,** 5– **styme,** (9 **steyme, stim**). [Of obscure origin.

The Icel. *sktma* ('Fra dagmálum til nóns sá ekki skímu úti heldr en menn væru blindir,' *Isl. Ann.* 254, *c* 1685) coincides in use with the Eng. word.]

1. In the phrase *not to see a styme*: to be unable to see at all.

a 1300 *Cursor M.* 19652 Noþer he ete þaa thre dais time, Ne he iwiss moght se a stime. *c* 1475 HENRYSON *Poems* III. 86 To kene þe self a styme it [the spirit] may nocht se, For stammeris [*MS.* scammeris] on eftir effectioun. *a* 1568 A. SCOTT *Poems* xxxiii. 23 Thow [Cupid] markis quhair nevir styme thow seis, Bot hittis be gaiss. 1635 JACKSON *Creed* VIII. iv. 36 If a man cannot see (as we say) a *stime*, but with one eye, we account it no solecisme to say, hee hath lost the other. 1683 [G. MERITON] *Yorksh. Dial.* 8 My Neen..are seay Gummy and Furr'd up sometime. I can nut leauke at 'th Leet, nor see a stime. 1785 BURNS *There's naething like* ii, I've seen me daez't upon a time; I scarce could wink or see a styme. 1808 R. ANDERSON *Cumbld. Ball.* 142 Deil a wink cud I sleep, nay nor yet see a steyme. 1841 LEVER *C. O'Malley* cvii, The night was murthering dark; you could not see a stim. 1901 J. MOLLISON *Poems* 94 They feared that never again War their e'en tae see a stime.

2. A glimpse or glance; the least bit or quantity (of anything); *a* glimmer (of light); a moment (of time).

1776 *Herd's Coll. Sc. Poems* II. 150 And ne'er a blyth styme wad he blink, Until his wame was fou. 1794 *Har'st Rig* xxiii, To cut their fur, and tak their share O' their nane rig. But ony mair? The fient ae stime! *a* 1807 J. SKINNER *Amusem. Leis. Hours* (1809) 108 Else you may..wiss ye had ne'er seen a styme O' Louse nor Bonnet. 1888 BARRIE *Auld Licht Idylls* vii. (1892) 151 Even with three wicks it [the lamp] gave but a stime of light. 1895 JANE BARLOW *Strangers at Lisconnel* vi. 120 You've ne'er a stim of light to be workin' in, sittin' there in the corner. 1897 E. W. HAMILTON *Outlaws* ix. 102 There's never a styme to choose betwixt him and James Hepburn.

Hence **Styme** *v. intr.* (see quot. 1808).

1808 JAMIESON, To *styme*, to open the eyes partially, to look as one does whose vision is indistinct. 1886 J. J. H.

Burgess *Shetl. Sk.* 66, I lookit an' stimed inta da black dark aroond me, but I could see naethin'.

Stymie (stəi·mi), *sb.*[1] *Sc.* In 7 *pl.* **stymeis.** [? f. Stymie *v.* + -IE.] One who does not see well.

1616 in *Pitcairn's Crim. Trials* (Bannatyne Club) III. II. 588 Gif those howlattis and stymeis [*i.e.* the courtiers] war schote away. 1808 Jamieson s.v. *Styme* v., It also denotes the aukward motions of one who does not see well. Hence a person of this description is vulgarly called *a blind stymie.*

Stymie (stəi·mi), *sb.*[2] *Golf.* Also **steimy, stimy.** [Of obscure origin: cf. prec. and Stymie *sb.* and *v.*] An opponent's ball which lies on the putting green in a line between the ball of the player and the hole he is playing for, if the distance between the balls is not less than six inches; also, the occurrence of this; often in the phrase *to lay a stymie.*

1857 H. B. Farnie in *Golfiana Misc.* (1887) 173 Wooden putters are used to play stimies when the intercepting ball is at some distance from that of the player. A curving-in motion is imparted to the ball, causing it to pass the stimy. 1862 *Remarks on Golf* 17 The iron is..used for lofting what are called steimies. A steimy occurs when your opponent's ball lies so directly in a line between the hole and your own ball that you cannot hole by putting. The only resource ..is to take the iron and 'loft' your ball over the steimy and into the hole. It is not considered quite fair to play intentionally so as to lay a steimy. 1894 *Times* 28 Apr. 13/3 Mr. Ball left his opponent a stimie and Mr. Laidlay in trying to hole out sent his opponent's ball in. 1897 *Westm. Gaz.* 10 Dec. 9/3 His partner laid him a stimie.

attrib. 1857 H. B. Farnie in *Golfiana Misc.* (1887) 172 These clubs are handled for stimy-playing on the same principle.

Hence **Sty·mie** *v. trans.*, to put (one's opponent or oneself) into the position of having to negotiate a stymie; also *intr.* (of a ball) to intervene as a stymie. Hence **Stymied** *ppl. a.*

1857 H. B. Farnie in *Golfiana Misc.* (1887) 172 The ball stimying may be lifted if within six inches of that of the player, until the stroke is done. 1862 *Remarks on Golf* 17 Steimies..frequently occur, and often cause the hole to be halved which the steimied man felt confident of winning. 1894 A. Lang in *Daily News* 5 July 5/2 A man often stimies himself, by a bad putt. 1896 R. B. Mansfield *New & Old Chips* 320 When he stimied me, I managed to play round him into the hole. 1901 *Scotsman* 5 Sept. 7/3 Mr. Worthington was stimied and in trying to loft, knocked Mr. Williamson's ball into the hole.

Stymmer, variant of Stimmer.

Stymphalian (stimfē·liăn), *a. Myth.* [f. L. *Stymphali-us* (f. *Stymphalus* or *-um*, a Gr. Στύμφαλος) + -AN.] Of or belonging to Stymphalus, a district in Arcadia haunted by a species of odious birds of prey, the destruction of which was the sixth of the 'labours' of Hercules.

1653 H. Cogan tr. *Hist. Diod. Sic.* IV. xiii. 129 He [*sc.* Hercules] chaced away the Birds which infested all the Countrey about the Stymphalian Fen. 1704 Swift *T. Tub* iii. 78 A sort of dangerous Fowl, who have a perverse Inclination, to plunder the best Branches of the Tree of Knowledge, like those Stymphalian Birds that eat up the Fruit. 1888 A. H. Smith *Catal. Engr. Gems Brit. Mus.* 152 Herakles kneeling to right, and drawing bow at Stymphalian birds (two) flying before him.

So **Stymphalid** *a.* [L. *Stymphalid-, -is*, Gr. Στυμφαλιδ-, Στυμφαλίς fem. adj.] = Stymphalian *a.*; also *sb.*, a Stymphalian bird. † **Sty·mphalist** (see quot. 1595).

1560 B. Googe tr. *Palingenius' Zodiac* III. (1561) F vj b, He hath expelde the Stymphalides by force of valeant bowe. 1584 Hudson *Du Bartas' Judith* v. (1608) 74 Ye Stymphalids, who with your youth vptaks, You rauens that from vs our riches raks. 1595 'Dando & Rust' *Maroccus Extat.* (Percy Soc.) 16 This stymphalist is hee, that with five or nixe tenements, and the retinue thereunto belonging, infectes the aire with stench, and poisons that parish. 1620 Sylvester *Tobacco Battered* 775 Our Alcides..Hath, as with Arrowes, from His sacred Sides, All-ready chac't These stinking Stymphalides. 1831 Keightley *Mythol.* II. iv. (1854) 316 His sixth task was to drive away the Stymphalid birds.

Stynch(e, Styney: see Stench, Styany.

Styng(k, Styngill: see Stink *v.*, Stingle.

Styonie, -y, obs. ff. Styany.

Stypand, -end(e, obs. forms of Stipend.

Stype, Stypell, obs. ff. Steep, Steeple.

Styphnate (stĭ·fnēt), *sb. Chem.* [f. Styphn-ic + -ate[1].] A salt of styphnic acid.

1857 Miller *Elem. Chem., Org.* (1862) 663 The styphnates ..are decomposed with explosion, when gently heated.

Styphnic (stĭ·fnik), *a. Chem.* [f. supposed Gr. **στυφν-ός* (a mistake for *στρυφνός*) astringent + -IC. The name (G. *styphninsäure*) was given by the discoverers, Böttger and Will, *Liebig's Ann. der Chemie* 1846, LVIII. 269.]

Styphnic acid, a dibasic astringent acid obtained by the action of nitric acid on asafœtida and other gum resins. Also called *oxypicric acid.*

1850 Fownes *Chem.* (ed. 3) 524 To these may be added the styphnic acid recently described by MM. Boettger and Will.

Stypium (stĭ·pĭŏm). *Pharm.* [quasi-L., f. Gr. στύπη tow.] A superior kind of carded oakum, used for surgical dressings.

1871 *Lancet* 17 June 826/2 Stypium is antiseptic, and has an agreeable odour. 1895 *Arnold & Sons' Catal. Surg. Instrum.* 726 Stypium, per lb., £0 1 0.

Styple, styppyl, obs. ff. Steeple.

‖ **Stypsis** (stĭ·psis). *Med.* [late L. *stypsis*, a. Gr. στῦψις, n. of action to στύφειν (whence Styptic).] The application or use of styptics.

1890 Billings *Med. Dict.* 1911 in Webster.

Styptic (stĭ·ptik), *a.* and *sb.* Forms: 5 **stiptik, -tyk,** 5–6 **styptyke,** 6–7 **-tike,** 5–7 **stiptike,** 6 **-tyke,** 5–8 **stiptick(e, styptique,** (7 **stiptict, stitticke**), 7 **stypticke,** 7–8 **styptick, stiptic,** 7– **styptic.** [ad. late L. *stypticus*, a. Gr. στυπτικός, f. στύφ-ειν to contract, have an astringent effect upon. Cf. F. *styptique.*] **A.** *adj.*

1. Having the power of contracting organic tissue; having an austere or acid taste; harsh or raw to the palate; having a binding effect on the stomach or bowels.

c 1400 *Lanfranc's Cirurg.* 98 Diete him with colde metis & stiptik. *c* 1425 tr. *Arderne's Treat. Fistula*, etc. 81 Al stiptik þingz bene repressiue of humours. *c* 1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* XI. 281 The stiptyk whyte [wine] a stomak that is laxe Wole helpe. 1477 Norton *Ord. Alch.* v. in Ashm. (1652) 74 And so is Sowerish tast called Sapor Pontick, And lesse Sower allso called Sapor Stiptick. 1533 Elyot *Cast. Helthe* II. vii. (1541) 18 b, Meates stiptike or rough ou the tonge, byndeth and comforteth appetite. 1578 Lyte *Dodoens* VI. lxviii. 745 The gal [of the oak] is also very binding and stiptique. 1610 B. Jonson *Alchemist* II. v, What's that? A Lullianist? a Ripley?..Know you the sapor pontick? sapor stiptick? 1620 Venner *Via Recta* viii. 188 Take.. some stypticke thing after meale..that may inhibit the ascending of vapors, by closing vp the mouth of the stomack. 1646 Sir T. Browne *Pseud. Ep.* VI. xii. 338 There is a sowre, stipticke salt diffused through the earth, which passing a concoction in plants, becommeth milder and more agreeable unto the sense. 1732 Arbuthnot *Rules of Diet* in *Aliments*, etc. (1735) 250 Austere, astringent, vegetable Substances..; as Several sorts of Plumbs,..distinguishable by their rough styptick Taste...Pomegranates, which contain a Juice styptick, and extremely cooling. 1804 *Med. Jrnl.* XII. 30 Dogberry trees..The berries of this tree have a styptic quality, and are bitter to the taste. 1871 Garrod *Mat. Med.* (ed. 3) 88 An orange-brown solution, with a strong styptic taste.

b. Of a medicament, etc.: That arrests hæmorrhage.

c 1425 tr. *Arderne's Treat. Fistula*, etc. 27 Puluer of alum, zucarin combust, 'bole armenic', [etc.]..ar..of þe same vertu in regeneracion of flesch an cicatrizacione and þat þai bene al stiptik. * 1543 Traheron *Vigo's Chirurg.* III. xi. 200 b/2 Ye shal minister this..which is stiptike, & consoundeth or foyneth together, ye woundes in the guttes. 1658 A. Fox tr. *Wurtz' Surg.* II. xiii. 97 These Wounds..ought to be healed with stiptick Plaisters. 1673 *Phil. Trans.* VIII. 6115 The Royal Styptique liquor was used in the last engagement against the Dutch by the Chirurgions. 1717 Pope *Iliad* XI. 983 A bitter root he bruised; The wound he wash'd, the styptic juice infused. 1745 R. James *Med. Dict.* III. s.v. *Styptica*, I found that many little Trials were made there, also, with a Styptic Ball, mixed with French Brandy. 1872 F. G. Thomas *Dis. Women* 107 Both these cases readily yielded to the recumbent posture, and the application of cold and styptic compresses. 1880 W. MacCormac *Antisept. Surg.* 167 Pure spirit is a good application; it is slightly styptic and quite antiseptic.

c. *fig.*

1583 Stubbes *Anat. Abus.* I. (1879) 98 Find the sawce sowre and stiptick enough in Hell. 1637 Heywood *Dial.* ii. Wks. 1874 VI. 118 By her the Boy would be so much insenc'd, To aime a shaft in stipticke poison dipt. 1641 Milton *Ch. Govt.* II. iii. 56 Not meddling with that restraining and stypticke surgery which the law uses;..against the eruptions and outermost effects thereof [malice]. 1648 J. Beaumont *Psyche* III. xcviii, That stiptic Word full in the Priest's face flew, And fastned mystic chains upon his Tongue.

d. In plant-names.

1847 Darlington *Amer. Weeds* 110 *Cassia occidentalis*.. Styptic Weed. 1864 Grisebach *Flora Brit. W. Ind.* 788/1 Styptic- or velvet-bur, *Priva echinata.*

† **2.** Of a person, etc., the bowels: Costive. *Obs.*

1582 Hester *Secr. Phiorav.* III. lv. 77 This Diatartaro is good..for those that are stiptike of bodie. 1607 Topsell *Four-f. Beasts* 381 A belly neither continually loose nor stiptike.

B. *sb.*

1. A substance having the power of contracting organic tissue.

a 1400 *Lanfranc's Cirurg.* 226 Þou schalt avoide þe matere, & þou schalt comforte þe place [the mouth of the stomach] with stiptikis. 1638 tr. *Bacon's Life & Death* (1650) 37 This inconvenience is remedied..by shutting the mouth of the Stomach strongly, with Stiptickes. 1712–14 Pope *Rape Lock* II. 132 Gums and Pomatums shall his flight restrain,.. Or Alum styptics with contracting pow'r Shrink his thin essence like a rivel'd flow'r. 1756 C. Lucas *Ess. Waters* I. 13 That austere, rough styptic, called alum.

b. as a remedy for hæmorrhage.

c 1425 tr. *Arderne's Treat. Fistula*, etc. 74 Afterward [after phlebotomy] be per done suffumigacion or fomentacion of gall, or of..wormode, horsmynt, and sich oþer stiptikez. 1676 Wiseman *Chirurg. Treat.* V. ix. 399 There was an effusion of bloud..: but having Dossils ready dipt in the Royal Stiptick, we applied them. 1755 Mrs. Delany *Life & Corr.* (1861) III. 322 Her nose..has already bled 15 or 16 ounces: it is at present stopped by Eaton's Stiptic. 1825 Scott *Talism.* xiv, The physician..withdrew from the wounded shoulder the fragment of the weapon, and stopped with styptics and bandages the effusion of blood which followed. 1842 *Penny Cycl.* XXIII. 180/2 Those astringents are alone entitled to be called styptics which can be applied directly to the bleeding orifice; and of these some act chemically, others vitally, and others merely mechanically. 1884 T. Bryant *Pract. Surg.* (ed. 4) I. 481 Astringents or styptics are valuable agents in the arrest of bleeding..'Cold' is a powerful styptic.

c. *fig.*

1785 Geo. A. Bellamy *Apology* (ed. 3) VI. 119 Hope, celestial Comforter! that only Styptic for a bleeding heart. 1855 Thackeray *Newcomes* II. xii. 120 Again the flow of words is checked by the styptic [*sc.* a kiss] previously applied. 1858 Mrs. Oliphant *Laird of Norlaw* III. 92 Vulgar, needful business, the very elements of daily necessity —these are the best styptics for thrusts in the heart. 1879 Dowden *Southey* ii. 28 He had been squandering his emotions; he had been indulging in a luxury and waste of passion. Here was a tonic and a styptic.

† **2.** A mordant. *Obs. rare.*

1685 W. Cole in *Phil. Trans.* XV. 1281 The last and most beautifull colour..will..be..of a fair bright Crimson..; which afterwards (notwithstanding there is no use of any Stiptic to bind the colour) will continue the same.

Styptical (stĭ·ptikăl), *a.* ? *Obs.* [f. as prec. + -AL.] = Styptic *a.*

1528 Paynell *Salerne's Regim.* Q iiij, Prunes that be nat rype be stypticall. 1612 *Benvenuto's Passenger* I. ii. 205 Let vs take something stiticall, without drinking therevpon, and those be Peares, Medlers, [etc.]. 1652 *Hermeticall Banquet* B 3, Aluminous and Pontick [Salts], which are Stegnoticall, Stypticall, and Corroborating the Retentive faculties. 1686 Plot *Staffordsh.* 165 Every body knows what stiptical qualities, always attend ferrugineous bodies. 1762 B. Stillingfleet tr. *Beyerstein's Obst. to Impr. Physic* in Misc. Tracts (1791) 215 Thus watery mixed with dry,..glutinous with stiptical,..mutually weaken each other. 1820 Scoresby *Acc. Arctic Reg.* I. 519 He has been observed to,..as if conscious of the styptical effect of cold, apply snow with his paws to the wound.

Hence † **Sty·pticalness,** stypticity.

1528 Paynell *Salerne's Regim.* R ij, Medlars make one costife throughe their sowernes and stipticalnes. 1727 Bailey vol. II, *Stipticalness*, stiptick Quality, or Aptness to stop Blood, &c.

Stypticite (stĭ·ptisəit). *Min.* [f. Gr. στυπτικός Styptic + -ite.] Named by J. F. L. Hausmann in 1847.] An obsolete synonym of fibro-ferrite (see Fibro-). 1854 Dana *Syst. Min.* (ed. 4) II. 388.

Stypticity (stĭpti·sĭti). Forms: 5–6 **stipticite,** (6 **styp-**), 6–7 **stipticitie,** 7–8 **-ty,** 7 **styptycitie,** 7– **stypticity.** [ad. med.L. *stypticitās*, f. *stypticus* Styptic *a.* Cf. F. *stypticité* (14th c. in Littré).]

1. Styptic quality; astringency.

c 1400 tr. *Secreta Secret., Gov. Lordsh.* 98 þe sensibilyte of þe tonge ys by way of tastynge & sauour, And þarof er ix maneres; Swetnesse, bitternesse,..ponticite, stipticite, [etc.]. 1527 Andrew *Brunswyke's Distyll. Waters* O j, Dronke of the same water [of crab-apples] stoppeth the laske with his styptycite. 1575 J. Banister *Treat. Chyrurg.* 134 b, Consolidatiua.–By their stipticitie and drying they haue power to skinne and heale, equally incarnating fleshe and skinne. 1666 Boyle *Orig. Forms & Qual.* 218 Qualities..such as are Properties peculiar to it [Vitriol], as Greenness, easiness of Fusion, Stypticity of Tast. 1702 Floyer *Cold Bathing* I. 22 Marle-Waters taste smooth, and have a little Stipticity. 1772 *Phil. Trans.* LXII. 462 The spring possesses some slight degree of stypticity, by means of a chalybeate impregnation. 1834 T. J. Graham *Dom. Med.* (1844) 181 The gentle stypticity, or astringency in genuine claret, renders it ..the most wholesome of any strong liquor.

† **2.** Costiveness (of the stomach or bowels). *Obs.*

1620 Venner *Via Recta* viii. 190 If it [the stomach] be subiect to laxitie, then a lesse portion of drinke; if to stypticitie, then a greater is to be assumed.

Stypticize (stĭ·ptisəiz), *v.* [f. Styptic *sb.* + -ize.] *trans.* To dress or treat with a styptic.

1866 Blackmore *Cradock Nowell* xxxviii, Wena's tail was stypticized.

Stypticness (stĭ·ptiknĕs). ? *Obs.* [f. Styptic *a.* + -ness.] = Stypticity.

c 1425 tr. *Arderne's Treat. Fistula*, etc. 81 [Zucaryne] mundifieth, forsoþ, with a stiptiknez. 1580 T. Newton *Approved Medicines* 58 b, The fruite with tartnes or stiptickneesse hath a certayne waterishe sweetenesse. 1669 W. Simpson *Hydrol. Chym.* 82 Acidities..may be turn'd..to a spurious saltishness or stypticknes. 1727 Bailey vol. II, *Stypticknes*, astringent or binding Quality.

† **b.** Costiveness (of the stomach or bowels). *Obs.*

1612 Woodall *Surg. Mate* Wks. (1653) 145 Abstersive medicines .. leaving a certain stipticknesse behind them. 1620 Venner *Via Recta* viii. 190 The drinke is to be increased, and diminished, according to the..disposition of the stomack in..loosenes, or stipticknes.

† **Sty·ptive,** *a. Obs. rare.* [Alteration of Styptic: see -ive.] = Styptic *a.*

1640 Parkinson *Theatr. Bot.* 446 It [Rupturewort] hath a little stiptive or astringent taste.

Styr, obs. form of Stir.

Styracin (stəi·răsin). *Chem.* Also **-ine.** [a. F. *styracine*, f. L. *styrac-* Styrax: see -in, -ine.] A crystalline substance obtained from storax and balsam of Peru.

1838 T. Thomson *Chem. Org. Bodies* 522 When the balsam is treated with alcohol, about a fourth part remains undissolved, constituting a white crystalline mass. This is the substance which M. Bonastre has distinguished by the name of styracin. 1863 Fownes *Chem.* (ed. 9) 563 This compound described respectively under the name of cinnamein (when oily), and styracin (when solid). 1871 Garrod *Mat. Med.* (ed. 3) 270 Styracin..or cinnamate of cinnyl.

Styrage, Styrer, obs. ff. Steerage, Steerer.

Styrax (stəi·răks). [a. L. *styrax*, a. Gr. στύραξ, storax, storax-tree.]

1. An aromatic gum; = Storax 1.

1558 Warde tr. *Alexis' Secr.* I. 45 Take..Ambergryse,.. *Styrax calamita*, [etc.]..And the Ambre, *Styrax*, and other thinges that remaine in the bottome of the sayd vessel,..will be excedinge good to make muske or swete balles. 1621 Burton *Anat. Mel.* II. ii. III. 336 Belzoin,

Ladanum, Styrax, and such like gummes, which make a pleasant and acceptable perfume. 1783 *Phil. Trans.* LXXIII. 239 It is but too common to find it adulterated.. with styrax or other resins. 1882 *Encycl. Brit.* XIV. 687/2 It is from the bark of this latter tree [*Liquidambar orientalis*] that the storax of the ancients.., the medicinal styrax of to-day, is prepared.

2. A styrax-tree (see 3). Cf. STORAX 2.

1832 MACGILLIVRAY *Trav. Humboldt* xxiii. (1836) 329 The truncated cone of Tolima..rises amidst forests of styrax.

3. *Comb.*, as *styrax-flowing* adj.; **styrax tree**, a tree of the genus *Styrax*, esp. *S. officinalis*.

1786 ABERCROMBIE *Gard. Assist., Arrang. Plants* 30 Liquidambar, or sweet gum tree *Styrax-flowing. 1579 NORTH *Plutarch, Lysander* (1595) 493 Not far from thence there grow great plenty of *Styrax [*printed* Styrap] trees. 1767 ABERCROMBIE *Ev. Man his own Gard.* (1805) 685/1 Styrax-tree, officinal.

Styre, obs. f. STEER *sb.*[1] and *v.*[1]; var. STIRE.

Styria, erron. form of STIRIA.

Styrian (stiˑriăn), *a.* and *sb.* [f. *Styria* (see below: in Ger. *Steier, Steiermark*) + -AN.]

A. *adj.* Of or belonging to Styria, a crownland and duchy of the Austrian empire.

1825 J. RUSSELL *Tour Germany* II. 345 An irruption of the Tartars had driven a Styrian priest to save himself by flight. 1890 D. DAVIDSON *Mem. Long Life* x. 246 The happy faces and picturesque costume of the Styrian peasantry. 1907 *Athenæum* 21 Dec. 794/3 An isolated mountain village in the Styrian Alps.

B. *sb.* An inhabitant of Styria.

1621 BURTON *Anat. Mel.* 1, ii. II. i. 95, I. Aubanus Bohemius referres that Struma, or poke of the Bauarians & Styrians to the nature of their waters. 1867 H. P. LIDDON in J. O. Johnston *Life & Lett.* v. (1904) 105 The Tyrolese and Styrians.

Styrk(e, Styrlyng, Styrn(e, obs. ff. STIRK, STARLING[1], STERN *a.*

Styrol (stəiəˑrɒl). *Chem.* Also **styrole**. [f. STYR-AX + -OL.] An oil obtained from storax and the resin of balsam of Peru; oil of storax.

1845 *Builder* 28 June 312/1 Styrole is a volatile oil, obtained by distilling the balsam styrax or storax, although only in small quantity, and has a general analogy to benzoin. 1871 GARROD *Mat. Med.* (ed. 3) 270 *Styrol* (C^8H^8), a colourless oil, of an aromatic odour.

Styrolene (stəiəˑrɒlīn). *Chem.* [f. prec. + -ENE.] = STYROL.

1881 WATTS *Dict. Chem.* 3rd Suppl. 1832 Styrolene, C^8H^8. Syn. with Cinnamene. 1891 J. E. MARSH tr. *van 't Hoff's Chem. Space* 33 Styrolene of Storax $C_6H_5.CH.CH_2$, reported active by Berthelot.

Styrone (stəiəˑroun). *Chem.* [f. STYR-AX + -ONE.] An alcohol in crystalline form obtained from the decomposition of styracin; used as an antiseptic and a bleaching agent.

1852 W. GREGORY *Handbk. Org. Chem.* (ed. 3) 296 The hydrated oxide of styryle, called also styrone, exists in two forms, as an oil and in a crystalline form. 1883–4 *Medical Ann.* 6/1 Styróne..one of the most powerful antiseptics known. 1893 W. R. DAWSON tr. *Schenk's Man. Bacteriol.* 224 Styrone, glycol, or equal parts of glycerine and ether are used as bleaching agents.

Styrpe, Styrre, obs. forms of STIRP, STIR.

Styrrep, -op, etc., obs. ff. STIRRUP.

Styryl (stəiəˑril). *Chem.* Also **-yle**. [f. STYR-AX + -YL.] A synonym of CINNYL. Also *attrib.*, as in *styryl alcohol* = STYRONE. Hence **Styryˑlic** *a.*

1852 [see STYRONE]. 1877 WATTS *Dict. Chem.* V. 446–7.

Stythe, styth (stəiθ, stəiþ). *dial.* Also 8 stith, 9 **s**ithe. [Of obscure origin; perh. altered from **stéve* cogn. w. STIVE *v.*[3]]

1. Foul air in a mine; = CHOKE-DAMP.

1708 J. C. *Compl. Collier* (1845) 23 He may loose his Life by Styth, which is a sort of bad foul Air. 1765 *Phil. Trans.* LV. 240 The choak-damp, or stith, found in the coal-mines. 1818 W. PHILLIPS *Geol.* 101 The after-damp or stythe, which follows these blasts, is a mixture of the carbonic acid and azotic gases. 1863 *Tyneside Songs* 12 But did they face the deadly styth, where scarce a single breath Held life..! 1885 *Standard* 5 June 3/4 They have.. succumbed to the effects of the stythe.

2. A suffocating smell.

1823 E. MOOR *Suffolk Words, Stithe.* Rhyming to *tithe*. ..'The stithe is very oppressive.' 1850 T. BEWICK *Howdy & Upgetting* 15 She thout she wad ha' been skumfeesht wi the steyth. 1897 *Allbutt's Syst. Med.* II. 968 In burning off the old paint there is usually considerable stithe.

Stythe, obs. form of STITHY.

Styue, obs. form of STEW *sb.*[2], STIFF *a.*

Styuye, obs. form of STEW *sb.*[1]

Styward(e, Stywerd(e, obs. ff. STEWARD.

Stywe, stywye, obs. ff. STEW *sb.*[1] and *sb.*[2]

‖ **Styx** (stiks). *Myth.* In 4 **Stige**, 6 **Styxe**, 6–7 **Stix**. [L. *Styx*, a. Gr. Στύξ (Στυγ-) related to στυγεῖν to hate, στυγνός hateful, gloomy.] A river of the lower world or Hades, over which the shades of the departed were ferried by Charon, and by which the gods swore their most solemn oaths.

1390 GOWER *Conf.* II. 164 Be Segne and Stige he swor also, That ben the depe Pettes tuo Of helle the most principal. 1560 T. H. tr. *Ovid's Fable Narcissus* A iiij b, And when he was receyued, into that hyllye [*read* bellye] place be [*read* he] yeke wythin the ogly stype [*read* Styxe], behelde hys wretched face. 1588 SHAKS. *Tit. A.* I. i. 88 Why suffer'st thou thy Sonnes vnburied yet, To houer on the dreadfull shore of Stix? 1602 WARNER *Alb. Eng.* VI. xxx. 150 By Styx I vowe..Venus would be Vulcans, and he knowes I truely sware. 1614 RALEGH *Hist. World* V. iv. § 8. 613 There is not any forme of oath, whereby such articles of peace can bee held inuiolable, saue onely *by the water of Styx*, that is, by Necessitie. 1642 H. MORE *Song of Soul* II. i. i. 5 That foul lore..and quill Steep'd in sad Styx, and fed with stinking gore. 1679 TRAPHAM *Disc. Health Jamaica* 27, I have observed it matter of Fact where such care hath been omitted, more lives then elsewhere have flooded into Styx. 1797 BURKE *Lett. Regicide Peace* iii. Wks. (1808) VIII. 280 This would be a never-failing source of true glory, if springing from just and right; but it is truly dreadful if it be an arm of Styx, which springs out of the profoundest depths of a poisoned soil. 1819 'R. RABELAIS' *Abeillard & Heloisa* 197 To pass o'er Bot'ny Bays dread styx. 1852 THACKERAY *Esmond* II. ix, He told a falsehood as black as Styx.

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